

EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
Earth Observation Applications and Economic Benefits (5)

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THE ROLE OF EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE DURING THE INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATION ON THE 2012 NIGERIA FLOOD DISASTER

Abstract

The year 2012 flood in Nigeria is said be the worst flood to have ever devastated the country in the last fifty years. It displaced tens of thousands of people and affected over half of the thirty six states destroying properties running into billions of naira. Farmlands and fertilizers were destroyed, settlements were totally submerged in some affected communities and cultural artefacts' were lost. The flood was as a result of many underlying factors such as the release of dam waters within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the persistent rain fall which some have alluded to as a result of the changing global climate. In response to the flood UN-CHARTER activation calls were made and satellite images were accessed. The disaster led to the collaboration of World Bank, National Emergency and management agency (NEMA), National Space research and development agency (NASRDA) and the office of the surveyor general of Nigeria (Osgov) to carry out a rapid assessment of the extent of the disaster. The use of Space technology during the course of the Disasters proved to be of great economic benefit because it was used to assist the government to determine how the disaster impacted on the livelihood of the affected citizens and how compensations can be made. Also the foray of Nigeria into Space technologies has opened up its economy in the diverse ways especially in the areas of local and international collaborations, employment creation and Technological spinoffs. This paper highlights how Earth Observation satellites were applied to mitigate disasters in Nigeria within the last year and the economic benefits of using E.O satellites during the course of the floods.