

IAF EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)  
International Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions (1)

Author: Mr. Ciro Farinelli  
Airbus Defence and Space, Germany, ciro.farinelli@airbus.com

Mrs. Nora Meyer zu Erpen  
German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), Germany, nora.meyerzuerpen@gfz-potsdam.de

EARTH OBSERVATION SAR DATA TO SUPPORT DISASTER MANAGEMENT: COASTAL  
FLOODING AND RIVER INUNDATION USE CASES, DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH  
UNSPIDER PARTNERS FROM GHANA AND GUATEMALA.**Abstract**

Within a framework between Airbus Defence and Space and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), in collaboration with the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), different use cases have been developed using the WorldDEM<sup>TM</sup> as an input for river inundation and coastal flood modelling. The aim of the joint effort has been the development of a scalable approach independent of size and location, using open source software.

Disasters triggered by natural hazards considerably affect human populations in exposed regions and due to climate change the number and the magnitude of the events are continuously growing. Satellite-based Earth observation data can serve as an input to model and simulate potential disaster events or to monitor exposed areas. In this context, earth observation using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology, allows multiple benefits, thanks to the weather-independent acquisitions and capability of capturing data with distinctive features. In particular, the satellite constellation of TerraSAR-X, TanDEM-X and PAZ, offers high acquisition frequency regardless of area of interest or weather conditions. Beside the very high-resolution imagery, the elevation data WorldDEM<sup>TM</sup> is a key data set for modelling applications and simulations. Due to its global coverage, the WorldDEM<sup>TM</sup> products can be used for modelling applications even in remote areas, where there is usually a scarcity of available data.

One recommended practice has been developed to identify coastal areas that are likely to be flooded due to storm surges in a fast and cost-efficient way. The method can serve as a first assessment for a more in-depth analysis. This is intended to facilitate access to hazard information for emerging countries and can serve as a first step towards preventive actions in exposed regions. Different use cases have been developed in Guatemala for potential river inundation also using WorldDEM<sup>TM</sup>. This paper considers also the case of Ghana where a storm-surge hazard modeling has been developed for the coastal area of Accra, in cooperation with the National Disaster Management Organization of Ghana (NADMO). The capital of Ghana is indeed regularly affected by coastal flooding mainly caused by storm surges.