

**WELCOME TO  
NASA APPLIED REMOTE SENSING TRAINING (ARSET)  
WEBINAR SERIES**



**NASA REMOTE SENSING OBSERVATIONS FOR  
FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

**COURSE DATES: EVERY MONDAY, JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29  
TIME: 8 TO 9 AM AND 1 TO 2 PM EDT**



Applied Remote Sensing Training



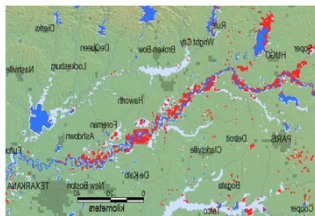
# Webinar Outline

## Week 1



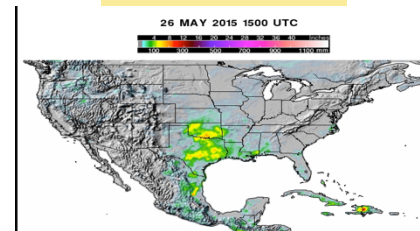
**NASA Remote Sensing Data for Flood Management, Introduction to Flood Monitoring Tools**

## Week 3



**Regional Flood Management over Africa, Demonstration of the MODIS-based Inundation Mapping**

## Week 2

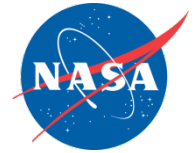


**TRMM-based Flood Monitoring Web-tools**

## Week 4



**Floodplain Management of the Mekong River, Demonstration of Selected Flooding Cases using Multiple Web-Tools and GIS**



# Training Team

## Instructors:

- ❑ Amita Mehta (ARSET): [amita.v.mehta@nasa.gov](mailto:amita.v.mehta@nasa.gov)
- ❑ Brock Blevins (ARSET): [bblevins37@gmail.com](mailto:bblevins37@gmail.com)

## Guest Speakers:

- ❑ Ashutosh Limaye (NASA): [ashutosh.limaye@nasa.gov](mailto:ashutosh.limaye@nasa.gov) (Week-3)
- ❑ John Bolten (NASA): [john.bolten@nasa.gov](mailto:john.bolten@nasa.gov) (Week-4)

## Spanish Translation:

- ❑ David Barbato (ARSET): [barbato1@umbc.edu](mailto:barbato1@umbc.edu)

## General inquiries about ARSET:

- ❑ Brock Blevins (ARSET) [bblevins37@gmail.com](mailto:bblevins37@gmail.com)
- ❑ Ana Prados (ARSET) [aprados@umbc.edu](mailto:aprados@umbc.edu)



# Important Information

## **Certificate of Completion (upon request):**

**You must attend all 4 live sessions**

**You must submit the homework assignment**

(homework assignment link will be provided after Week-4)

Contact : Marines Martins

Email: [marines.martins@ssaihq.com](mailto:marines.martins@ssaihq.com)

# Access to ARSET Trainings

<http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov>



The screenshot shows the ARSET website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for **DISASTERS**, **ECO FORECASTING**, **HEALTH & AIR QUALITY**, and **WATER RESOURCES**. The left sidebar contains a menu with **Webinars** circled in red. A red arrow points from this menu item to a detailed view of a webinar titled **NASA Remote Sensing Observations for Flood Management**. Below this, a section titled **Presentations and Recordings** contains a table with the following data:

Week	Date	Title	Presentation	Recording	Homework
1	June 8, 2015	NASA Remote Sensing Data for Flood Management, Introduction to Flood Monitoring Tools	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>	<a href="#">View Week-1</a>	N/A

# Agenda for Week-2

## Overview of the TRMM-based Flood Tools



- Overview of TRMM and GPM
- Overview of TRMM-based Flood Tools:
  - i) Current Heavy Rain, Flood, and Landslide Estimates*
  - ii) Extreme Rainfall Detection System 2*
  - iii) (**Experimental River Discharge**) Dartmouth Flood Observatory and The Flood Observatory and Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System/Global Flood Detection System*
  - iv) Global Flood Monitoring System ([Live Demo](#))*



# Overview of TRMM and GPM

Joint missions between NASA and the Japan Aerospace  
Exploration Agency (JAXA)

# TRMM: Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission



<http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov>

- ❑ The first satellite mission dedicated to measuring tropical and subtropical rainfall - Launched on 27 November 1997
- ❑ First satellite to carry a microwave Precipitation Radar
- ❑ Predecessor to Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)



TRMM ended in April 2015

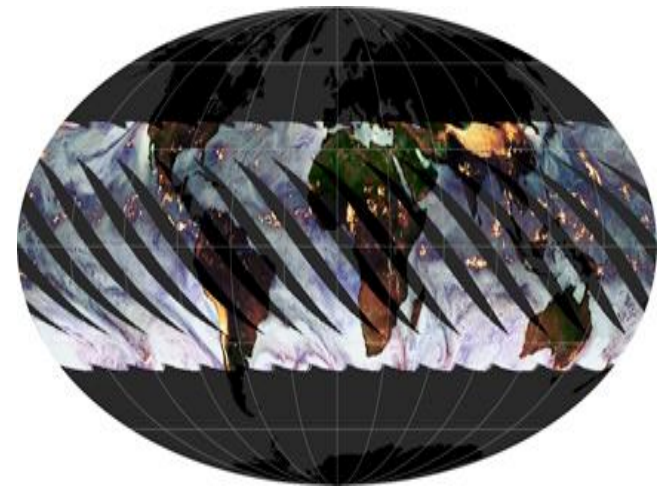


# TRMM



<http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov>

- ❑ **A non-polar, low inclination orbit**  
Revisit time ~11-12 hours, but time of the observation changes daily
- ❑ There are 16 TRMM orbits a day **covering global tropics between 35° S to 35°N latitudes**
- ❑ Altitude - of approximately 350 Km, raised to 403 Km after 23 August 2001

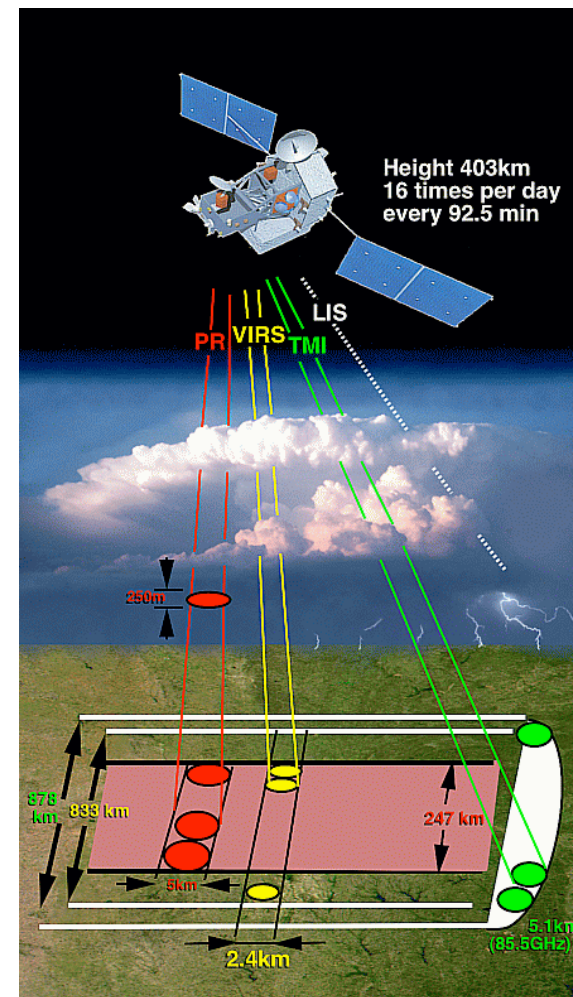


# TRMM



<http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov>

- ❑ Multiple sensors
- ❑ One active and two passive rain sensors  
*Precipitation Radar (PR)*  
*TRMM Microwave Imager (TMI)*  
*Visible and Infrared Scanner (VIRS)*
- ❑ Multiple rain products available from individual sensors, at varying spatial resolutions

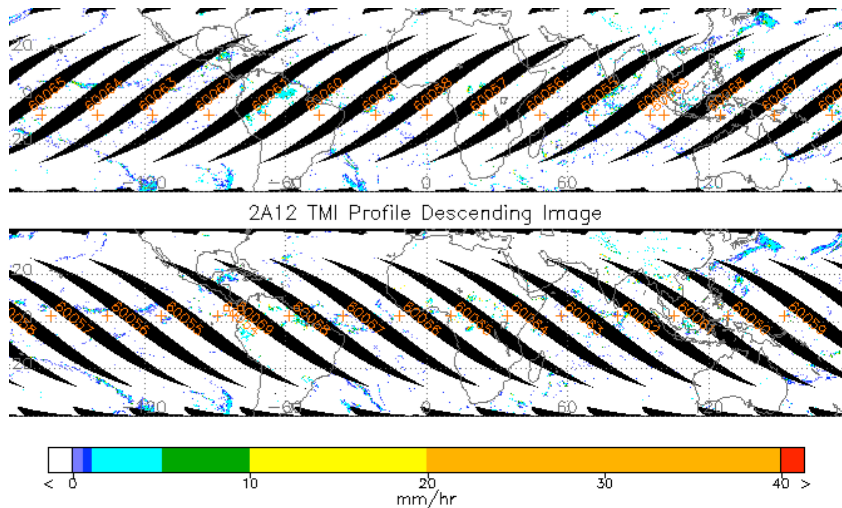


# TRMM TMI and PR Measurements

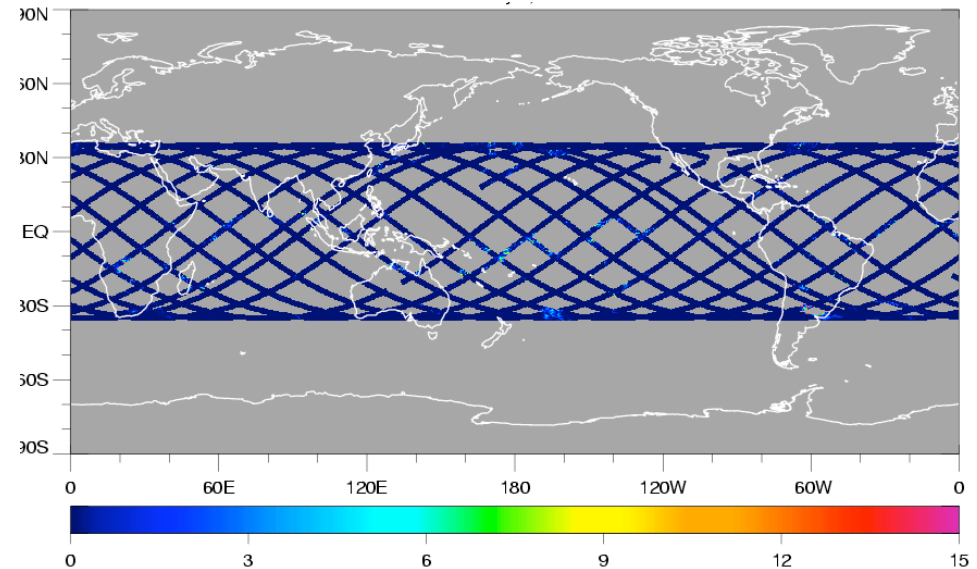


TMI

PR<sup>+</sup>



2008/05/31 image contains 16 orbits, orbit numbers from 60054 to 60069



Frequencies: 10.7, 19.4, 21.3, 37, 85.5 GHz  
 Swath: 760 km (870\* km)  
 Resolution: 5 to 45 km (channel-dependent)

Frequencies: 13.6 GHz  
 Swath: 220 km (247\* km)  
 Resolution: 5 km

\* After the orbit was raised in August 2001    \*Stopped after October 7, 2014

**Strength:** High pixel resolution, Accurate measurements  
**Limitation:** No global, diurnal coverage on daily basis

# TRMM Multi-satellite Precipitation Analysis (TMPA)



**(Widely used for Flood Monitoring)**

Also referred to as TRMM 3B42 combines data from TRMM and several other satellites to get improved spatial/temporal coverage:

- ❑ Combines PR and TMI rain rates
- ❑ Inter-calibrates passive microwave rain rates from other satellite sensors  
**SSM/II, AMSR and AMSU-B**
- ❑ Inter-calibrates with national and international **geostationary and NOAA low earth orbiting satellites infrared measurements** by using **VIRS**
- ❑ Final rain product is calibrated with rain gauge analyses on monthly time scale.

Temporal Resolution :  
3-hourly

Spatial Resolution:  
0.25°x0.25°

Spatial Coverage:  
Global 50°S to 50°N

SSM/II: Special Sensor Microwave Imager – sensor on Defense Meteorology Satellite Project  
AMSR: Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer – a sensor on NASA Aqua satellite  
AMSU:Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit – a sensor on NOAA operational satellite

# Global Precipitation Measurement Mission (GPM) Designed to extend, enhance, and improve TRMM Precipitation Data



## TRMM Data Limitations:

The mission has ended!

Did not provide measurements beyond 35°S-35°N

TRMM sampling frequency was 15 hours to 4 days at any point which introduces substantial uncertainties in rain estimates

TRMM provided rain measurements but not frozen precipitation, also can not detect light rain (<0.5 mm/hr)

**GPM is designed to obtain measurements over tropics and higher latitudes, with advancement of observing light rain and snow**

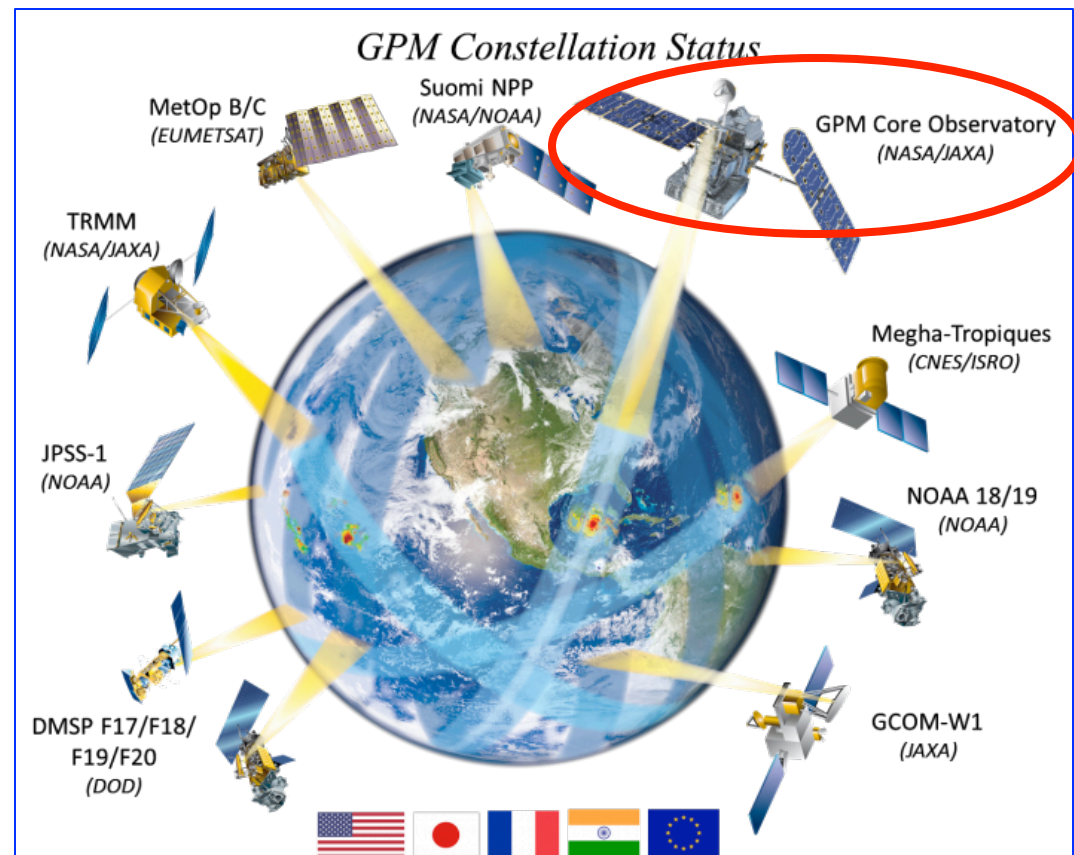
# Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)

<http://pmm.nasa.gov/GPM>

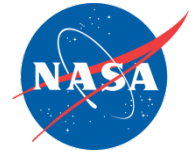


- An international network of satellites with GPM Core satellite designed to provide global observations of rain and snow
- Initiated by NASA and the JAXA as a successor to TRMM

GPM Core satellite was launched on February 27th, 2014

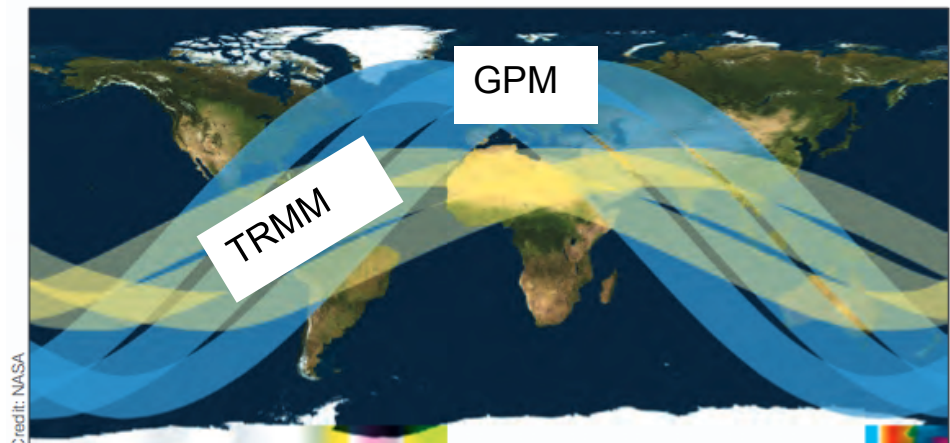


# GPM



<http://pmm.nasa.gov/GPM>

- ❑ GPM Core satellite is in a **non-polar orbit**, but along with the constellation satellites has a revisit time of 1-2 hours over land
- ❑ There are 16 orbits per day **covering region between 65° S to 65°N latitudes**
- ❑ Altitude – 407 km



Area covered by three TRMM orbits [yellow] versus orbits of the GPM Core Observatory [blue]

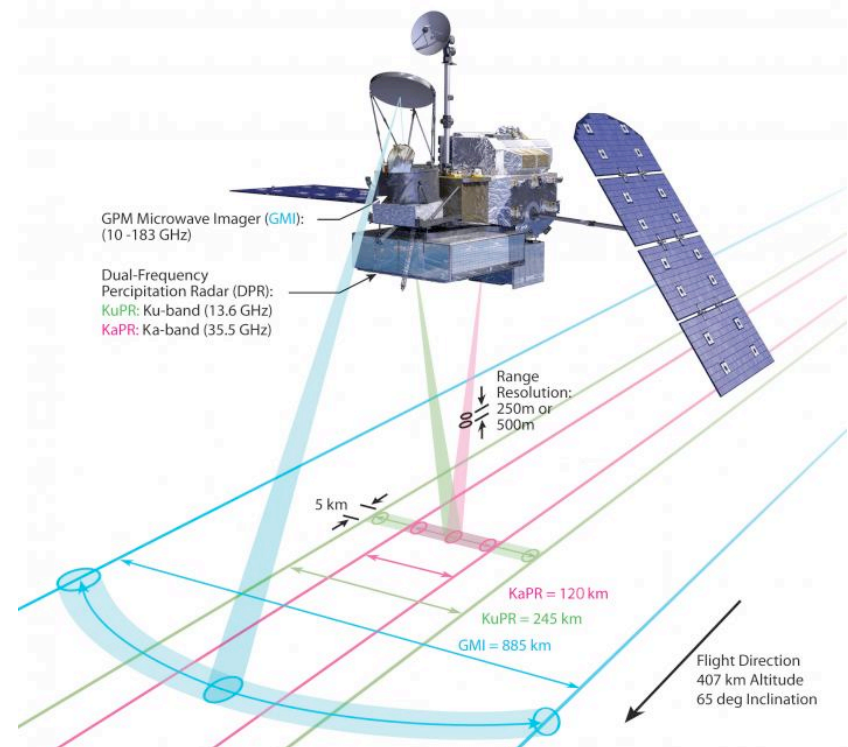
**GPM measurements span middle and high latitudes**

# GPM



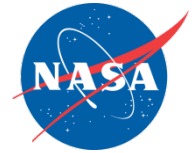
<http://pmm.nasa.gov/GPM>

- ❑ Multiple Sensors
- ❑ One active and one passive rain sensor
  - Dual-frequency *Precipitation Radar (DPR)*
  - GPM Microwave Imager (GMI)*
- ❑ DPR and GMI – improvement over TRMM PR and TMI



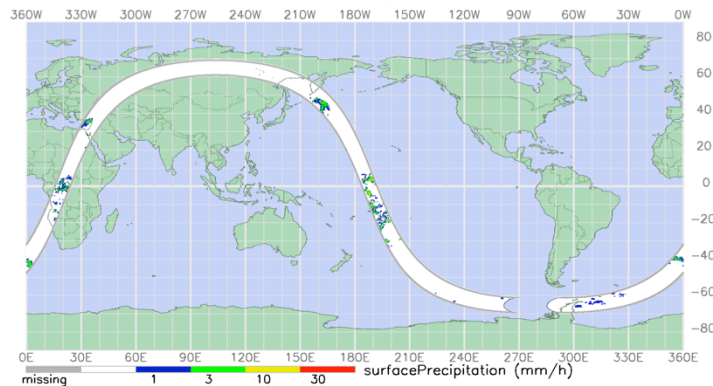


# GPM GMI and DPR Measurements

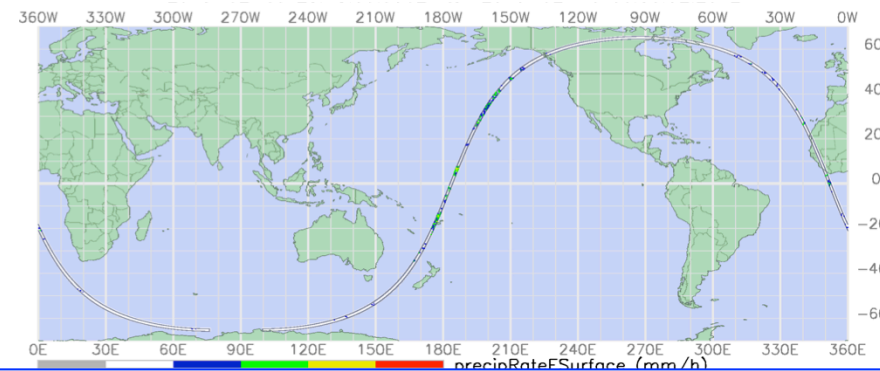


<http://pmm.nasa.gov/GPM>

GMI



DPR



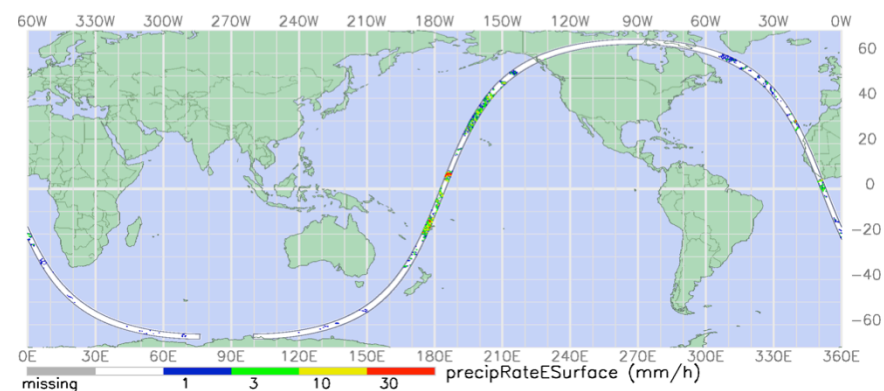
Ka 35.5 GHz, Swath Width 120 km, Resolution 5.2 km

GMI Frequencies:  
10.6, 18.7, 23.8, 36.5, 89, 166 & 183 GHz

Swath width 885 km

Resolution: 19.4km x 32.2km (10 GHz)  
to 4.4km x 7.3km (183 GHz)

Higher spatial resolutions than TMI  
High frequencies help measure snow



Ku 13.6 GHz, Swath Width 245 km, Resolution 5.2 km

# GPM GMI and DPR Measurements



<http://pmm.nasa.gov/GPM>

## GMI

### Compared to TRMM TMI:

- ❑ Higher spatial resolutions
- ❑ Improved light rain and snow detection
- ❑ Reference for constellation radiometers calibration

## DPR

### Compared to TRMM PR:

- ❑ Higher sensitivity to light rain and snow
- ❑ Better accuracy of measurements
- ❑ Better identification of liquid, ice, mixed-phase precipitation particles
- ❑ Reference standard for inter-calibration of constellation precipitation measurements

# IMERG: Integrated Multi-satellitE Retrievals for GPM



Conceptually similar to TRMM TMPA, combines GPM GMI/DPR data with the GPM constellation satellites to yield improved spatial/temporal precipitation estimates:

	IMERG	TMPA
Temporal Resolution :	30-minutes	3 hours
Spatial Resolution:	0.1°x0.1°	0.25°x0.25°
Spatial Coverage:	Global 60°S to 60°N	Global 50°S to 50°N

## Constellation Satellites:

GCOM-W, DMSP, Megha-Tropiques, MetOp-B, NOAA-N', NPP, NPOESS

# TMPA and IMERG



Many flood monitoring tools and flood models use TRMM TMPA and will be transitioning to GPM IMERG

TRMM satellite is no longer flying, but TRMM-based calibration is used to provide near-real time rainfall from a constellation of national/international satellites for flooding applications

Near-real time IMERG data are now also available from <ftp://jsimpson.pps.eosdis.nasa.gov>

Please view ARSET Webinar on TRMM and GPM <http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/disasters/webinars/global-precipitation> for more details about GPM data and access



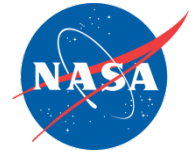
## Overview of TRMM-based Flood Tools:

- i) Current Heavy Rain, Flood, and Landslide Estimates*
- ii) Extreme Rainfall Detection System 2*
- iii) The flood Observatory and Global Disaster Alert and  
Coordination System/Global Flood Detection System*
- iv) Global Flood Monitoring System ([Live Demo](#))*



*Overview of Current Heavy Rain, Flood and  
Landslide Estimates*

[http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications\\_dir/potential\\_flood\\_hydro.html](http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications_dir/potential_flood_hydro.html)



NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER | [+ NASA Homepage](#)

**TRMM** Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission **TRMM** HOME

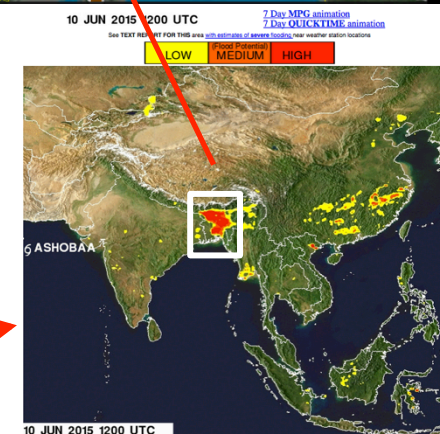
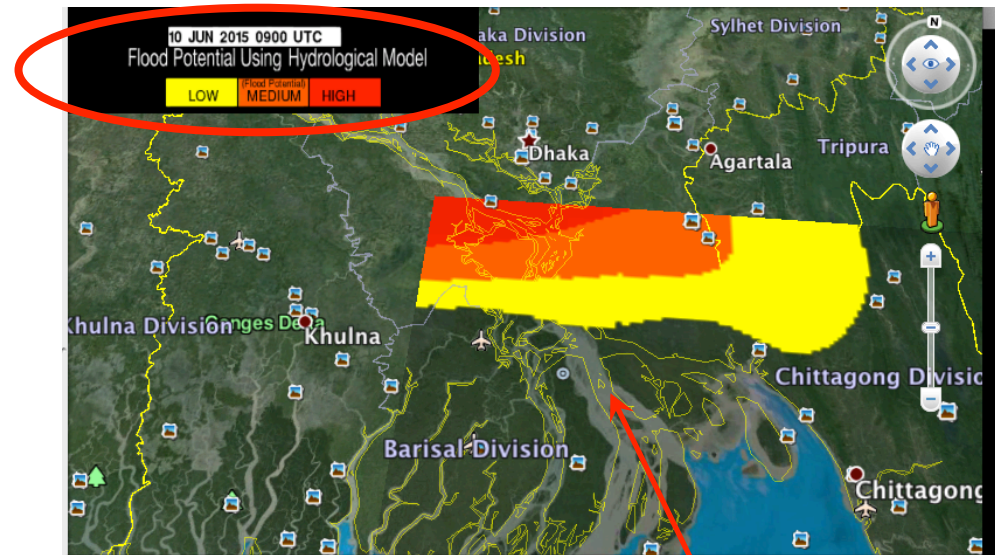
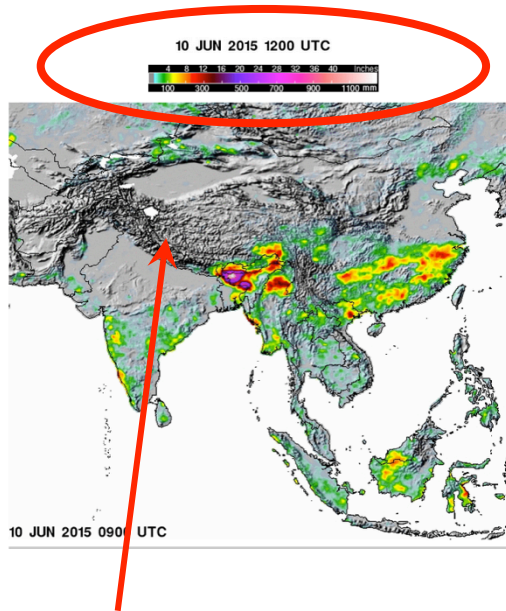
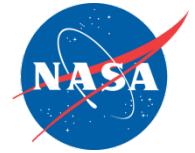
+ ABOUT TRMM | + NEWS | + PUBLICATIONS | + SEARCH | + CONTACTS | + DATA | + IMAGE POLICY

### Current Heavy Rain, Flood and Landslide Estimates

(Rain information from Real-Time TRMM Multi-Satellite Precipitation Analysis [TMPA/3B42])

**10 JUN 2015 0900 UTC**  
(Observation Time of Last Data Processed)

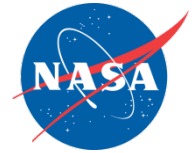
Click on the maps below for regional displays with more information



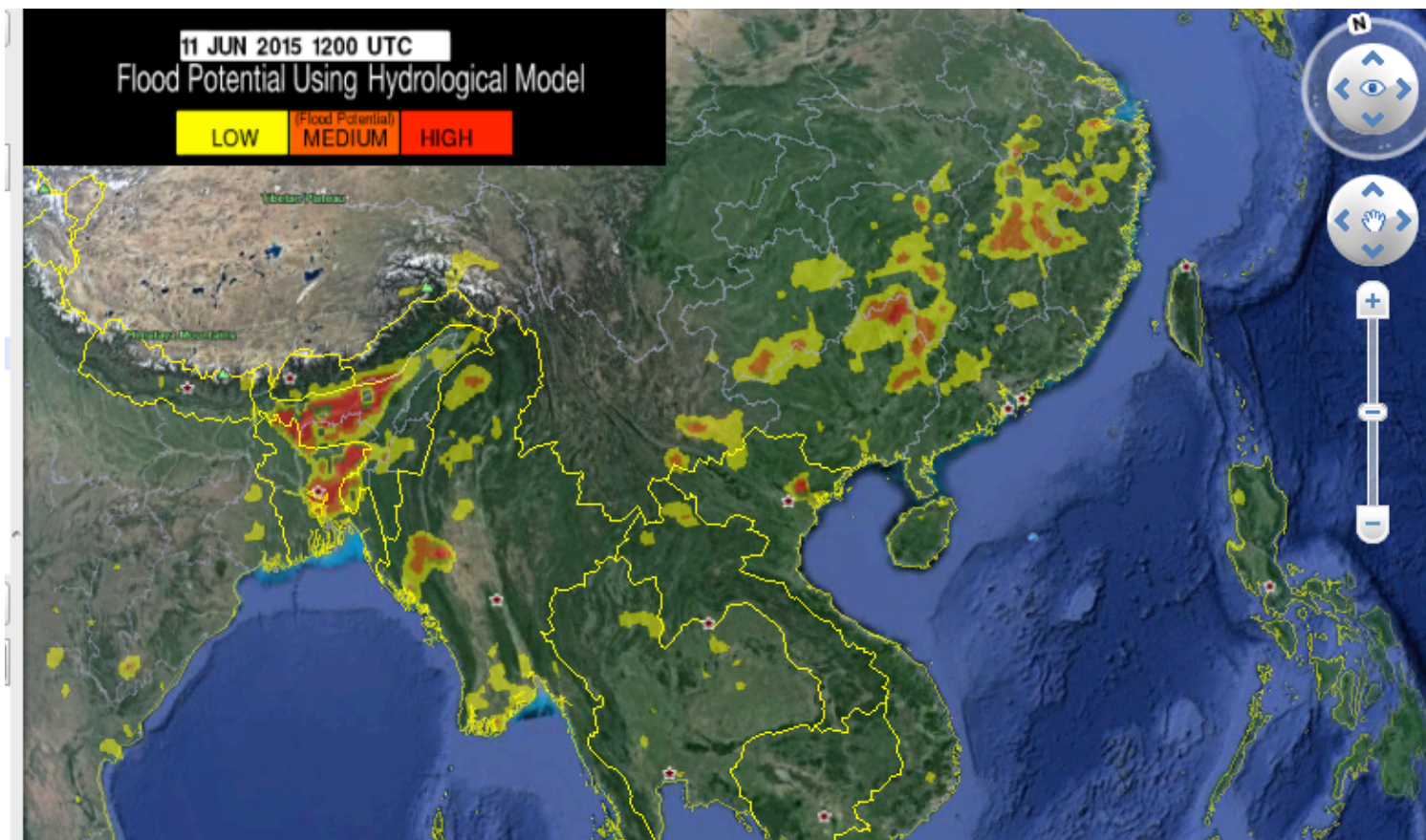
## Provides global maps (50°S-50°N) of:

- Heavy rain
- Accumulated rain over 24, 72 and 168 hours
- Potential Landslide
- **Flood Potential**





## 24-hour Flood Potential Forecast



**Maps available on Google Earth**



# Extreme Rainfall Detection System (ERDS)

<http://playground.ithacaweb.org/apps/world/leaflet/erds2.html#7/30.751/-110.413>

***Elena CRISTOFORI*** <sup>(1,2)</sup>, ***Adriana ALBANESE*** <sup>(1,3)</sup>,

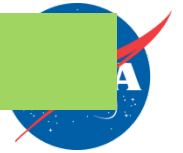
<sup>(1)</sup> *ITHACA - Information Technology for Humanitarian Assistance, Cooperation and Action, Torino, Italy*

<sup>(2)</sup> *Politecnico di Torino, Torino, Italy*

<sup>(3)</sup> *World Food Programme (WFP) - Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch (OMEP), Roma, Italy,*

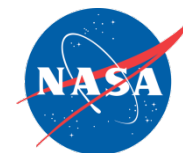


# MISSION AND COMPETENCES



Provide scientific analysis and services to the World Food Programme and the broader humanitarian community in support of environmental emergencies for disaster preparedness and response

1. remote sensing
2. hydrology
3. meteorology
4. cartography
5. GIS

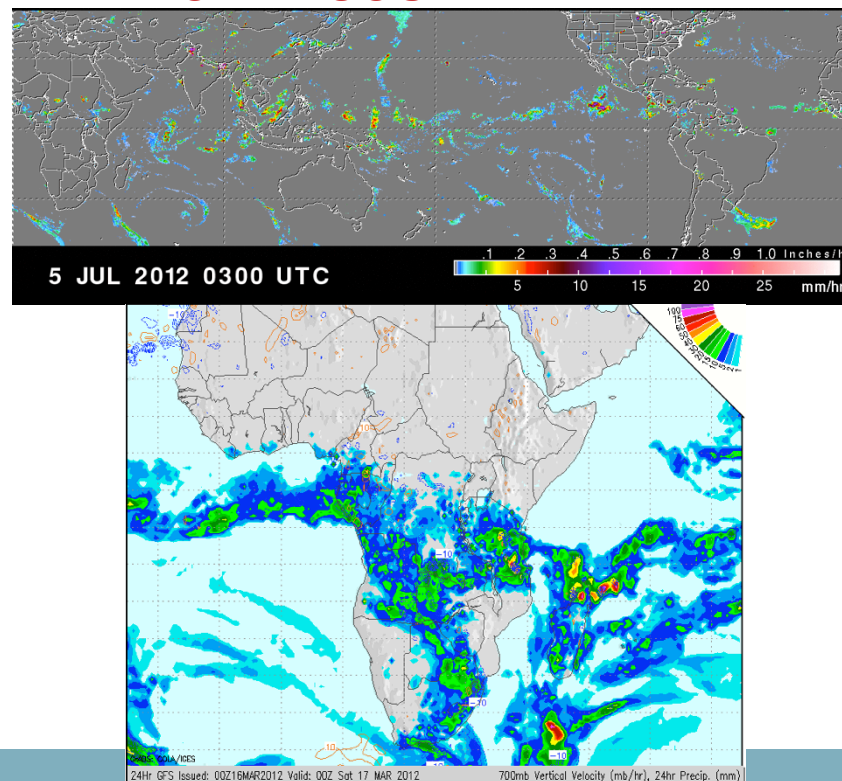


The **Extreme Rainfall Detection System (ERDS)** is a service aimed at providing **timely** and **easy to understand alerts** related to **exceptional rainfalls** and **potential flood events** at a global scale.

## INPUT DATA

1. Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) Multisatellite Precipitation Analysis (TMPA) necessary for the **near-real time detection** of heavy rainfall ( **$0.25^\circ$  spatial resolution**)
2. NOAA-GFS (Global Forecast System) deterministic model necessary for **forecasted precipitation alerts** ( **$0.5^\circ$  spatial resolution**)

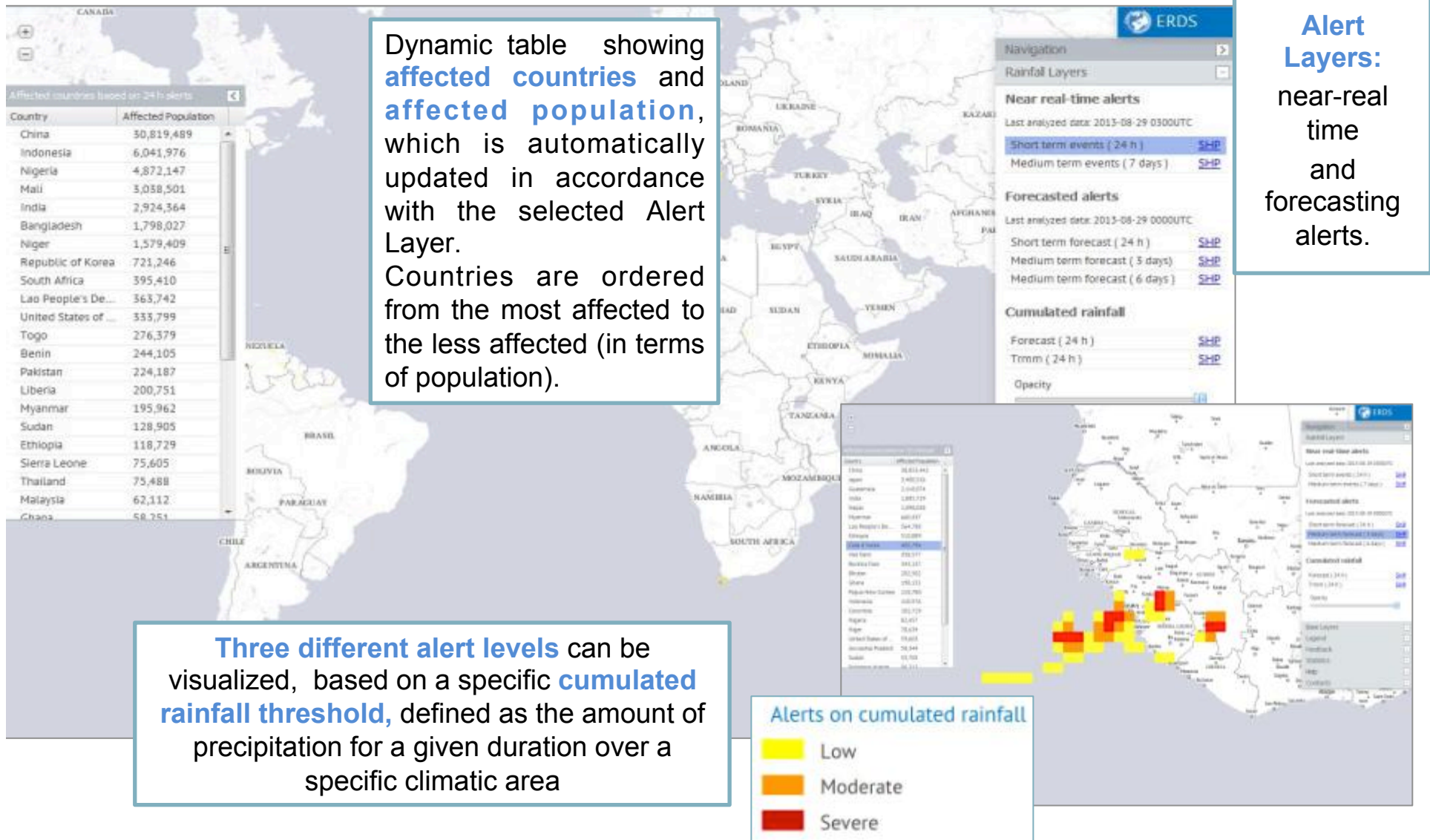
## OPEN SOURCE DATA





# OUTPUTS

<http://playground.ithacaweb.org/apps/world/leaflet/>





## ***TRMM/GPM-based Experimental River Discharge***

- *Dartmouth Flood Observatory (DFO)*
- *Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System/Global Flood Detection System (GDACS/GFDS)*

Note: DFO also provides inundation mapping. GDACS, in addition to flooding, provides information about other disaster events (e.g. earthquakes and cyclones) using additional remote sensing and in situ data

# The Dartmouth Flood Observatory



<http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/>

## River Watch

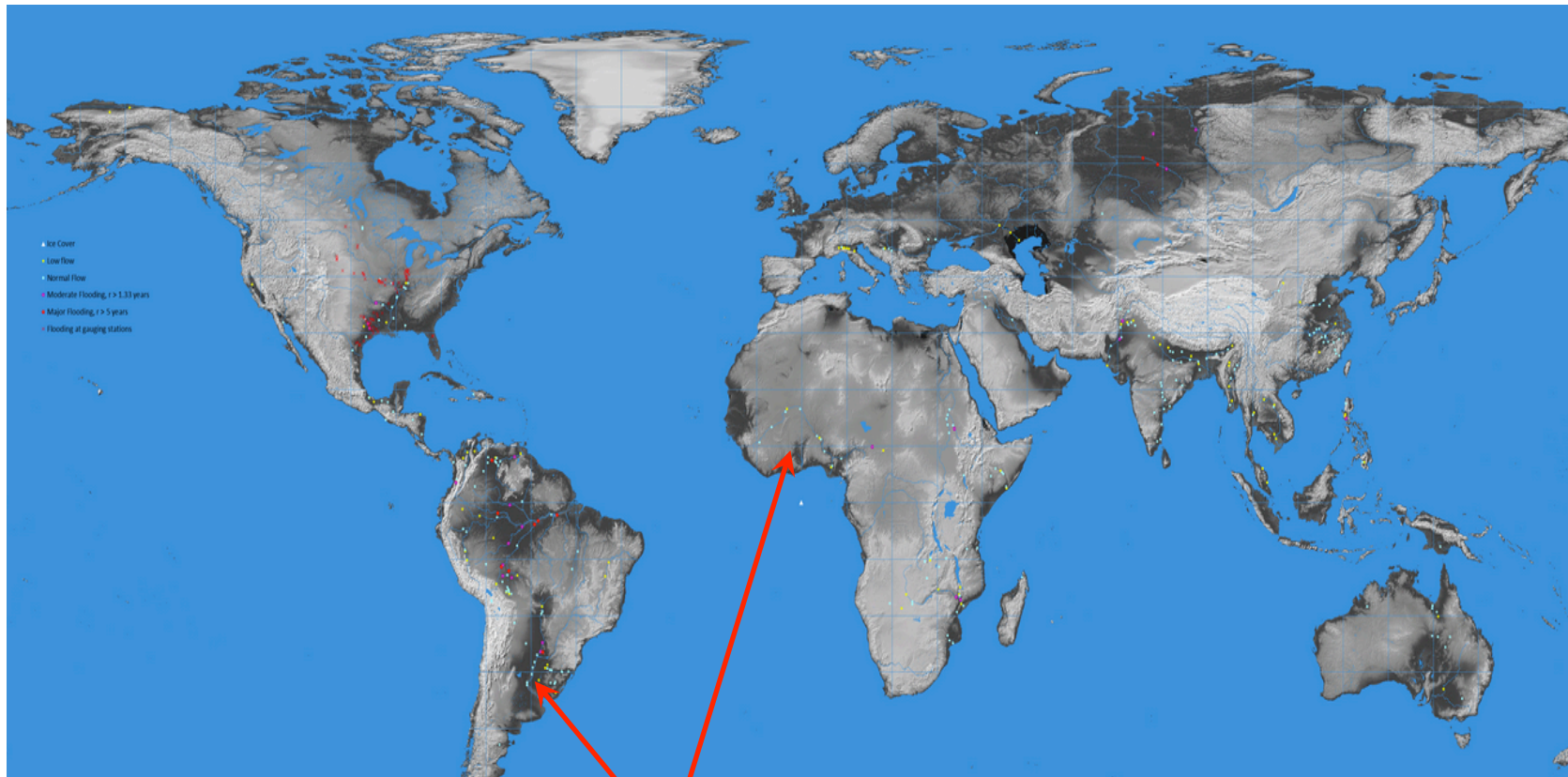
- Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer-2 from GCOM-W (a Japanese Space Agency mission), TRMM Microwave Imager, and GPM Microwave Imager observations are sensitive to the proportion of water and dry land.
- **These Microwave observations are converted to actual river discharge** (similar to streamflow, cubic meter of water flowing per second) by combining them with surface discharge measurements and then to runoff by using a Water Balance Model (WBM).
- Runoff calculations are available starting in 2003, seven-day runoff deviation started in 2003-2007. Mean runoff is mapped to indicate low, normal, moderate flooding, and major flooding.

# River Watch Version 2

## Satellite River Discharge Measurements



<http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/DischargeAccess.html>



Clickable Dots to see River Discharge Time Series



# River Watch Version 2

## Satellite River Discharge Measurements



<http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/DischargeAccess.html>

### River Watch Version 2

Experimental Satellite-Based River Discharge Measurements using passive microwave radiometry

DFO Site Number	Site 2009 (Pakistan)	Indus	Center:	70.605	Long.
GFOS Site Number	2000	River	Center:	29.024	Lat.
		Pakistan			
Last measured:	9-Jun-15			630577	sq km WBM contributing area
Average Discharge:	6031	m <sup>3</sup> /sec	Status:	3	(1, low flow; 2, normal flow; 3, moderate flood; 4, major flood; r >5 yr)
7-day Runoff	5.96	mm		155%	(7-day runoff compared to 10 yr average for this date, 2003-2012)
Recent Record					<a href="#">Technical Summary</a>

G. R. Brakenridge\*  
 T. De Groeve\*\*  
 S. Cohen\*\*\*  
 S.V. Nghiem\*\*\*\*  
 A. J. Kettner\*  
 J.P.M. Syvitski\*  
 \*CSDMS/INSTAAR, University of Colorado  
 \*\*Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy  
 \*\*\*University of Alabama  
 \*\*\*\*Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California

Sensors: AMSR-E, AMSR-2, TRMM

#### Annual Maximum Discharge

1998	10816	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
1999	8179	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2000	5209	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2001	4611	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2002	6835	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2003	11894	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2004	4179	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2005	17943	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2006	11515	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2007	4959	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2008	5797	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2009	8829	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2010	21818	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2011	8658	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2012	7260	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2013	15698	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
2014	9019	m <sup>3</sup> /sec

#### Flood Frequency Analysis, 1998-2013

30 yr*	22759	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
10 yr*	16434	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
5 yr (major flood)*	12854	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
1.33 yr (moderate flood)*	6013	m <sup>3</sup> /sec
20th percentile (low flow)	3398	m <sup>3</sup> /sec

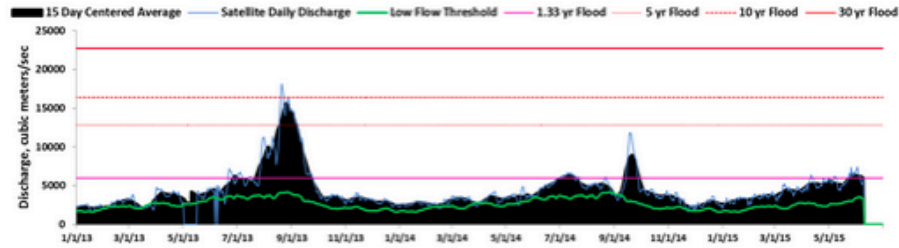
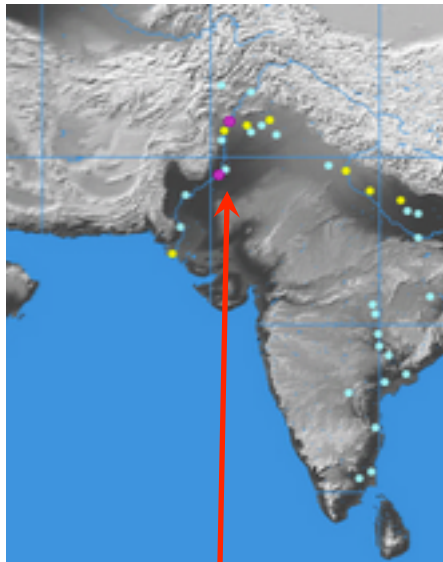
\*From Log Pearson III  
 Low Flow Threshold: 3398 (for today)

#### Site Characteristics

River Width:	1000	m
River Morphology:	Anastomosed	
Vegetation:	Agriculture	

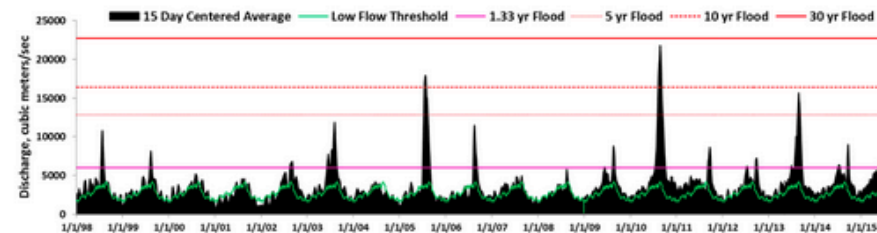
Signal Standard Deviation\*: 0.027  
 Standard Deviation of Departures from 15 day Avg\*\*: 0.004  
 \*Larger values = stronger signal  
 \*\*Larger values = more noise

Accuracy Estimate: Fair  
 Model/Remote Sensing r<sup>2</sup>: 0.49  
 Highest N S value\*: 0.37  
 \* See Technical Summary

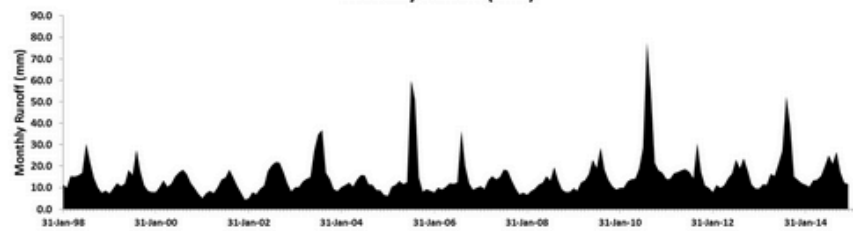


Notes: 15-day Centered Moving Average is applied

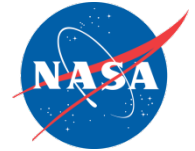
#### Complete record



#### Monthly Runoff (mm)



River Discharge at a river site in Pakistan



# Global Flood Detection System

<http://www.gdacs.org/flooddetection/>

An experimental system to detect and map in near-real time major river floods based on daily passive microwave satellite observations. The purpose is to identify and measure floods with potential humanitarian consequences.

Home

Current floods

Global map

Search areas

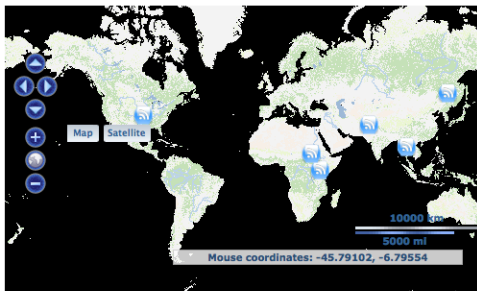
Custom areas

Regions

Download

About

The Global Flood Detection System monitors floods worldwide using near-real time satellite data. Surface water extent is observed using passive microwave remote sensing (AMSR-E and TRMM sensors). When surface water increases significantly (anomalies with probability of less than 99.5%), the system flags it as a flood. Time series are calculated in more than 10000 monitoring areas, along with small scale flood maps and animations.

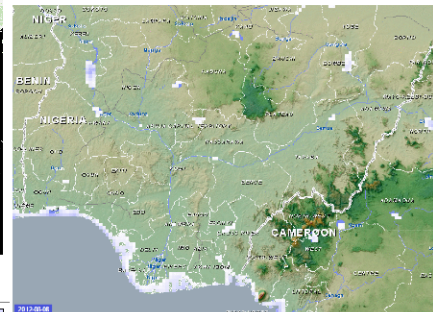


Full map view

Dfo | Emm | Floods

- Site 100119 in Bolivia (on river ), (12.0431828391734; Magnitude detected); Near Escoma
- Site 12173 in China (on river Brahmaputra) (11.4937393758129; Magnitude detected); Site 11756 ( River Brahmaputra)
- Site 2393 in New Zealand (on river Rangitikei) (10.1269463453337; Magnitude detected); Site 2402 (New Zealand)
- Site 1511 in Kenya (on river Nzoia) (8.83333333333333; Magnitude detected); Site 1520 (Kenya)
- Site 12165 in China (on river Brahmaputra) (8.34496401950551; Magnitude detected); Site 11748 (River Brahmaputra)

GFDS currently monitors around 10000 areas, defined in collaboration with partners. For these areas, the flood signal is further processed to generate time series, flood maps and flood animations. See a full list of [current floods](#) or [search for areas](#) by river, country or name.



All data are available as global raster maps. The brightness temperature measured by AMSR-E and TRMM sensors is normalized into a water signal (showing the amount of surface water in each pixel). For each pixel, anomalies in surface water are calculated by comparing the values to the normal surface water (see methodology). The flood magnitude is defined as the number of standard deviations above the mean.



We're open for collaboration with water authorities and researchers. You can [request](#) access to the data, [download client software](#) or set up your own monitoring sites.

- Information about current floods
- Global flood maps
- Data Download
- Interactive Maps



# Global Flood Detection System

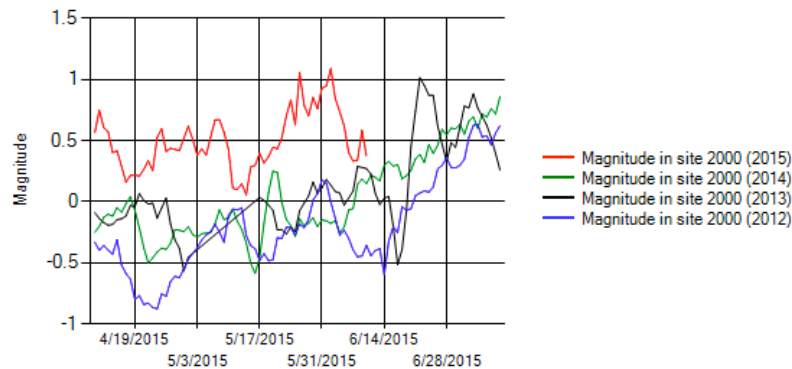
<http://www.gdacs.org/flooddetection/>

## Flood Detection and River Discharge Based on GPM GMI and GCOM-W Brightness Temperatures (Similar to the FDO)

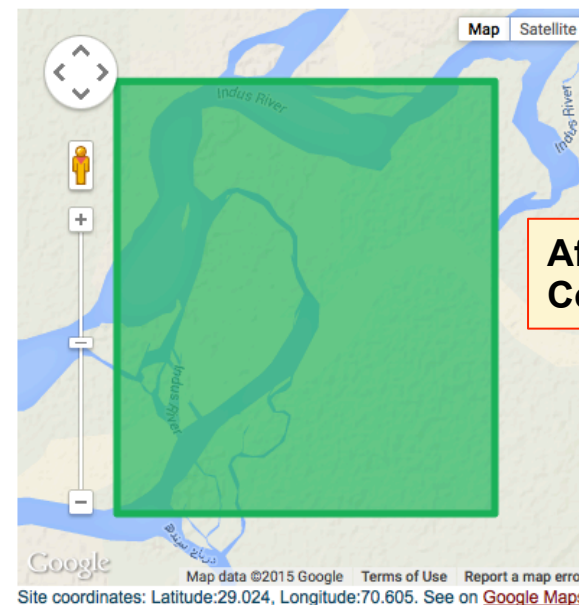
### Current Data

The flood magnitude is a measure of the size of the flood. Since lower signals generally accounts for increased water coverage, extreme events, or major floods, should represent anomalies in the time series of a given site. The reference value for normal flow is calculated as the average signal for the site since June 2002. Flood magnitude is defined as the number of standard deviations (sd) from the mean (avg). [Read more...](#)

Site 2009 (Pakistan) (2000) from 2015-04-10 to 2015-07-10 (coordinates 70.6, 29.02)



[Customize this graph](#) | [Download data:](#) [HTML](#) [RSS](#)



**Affected by Flood Conditions**

### Comparison with previous years

**River Discharge**

River Discharge at a river site in Pakistan

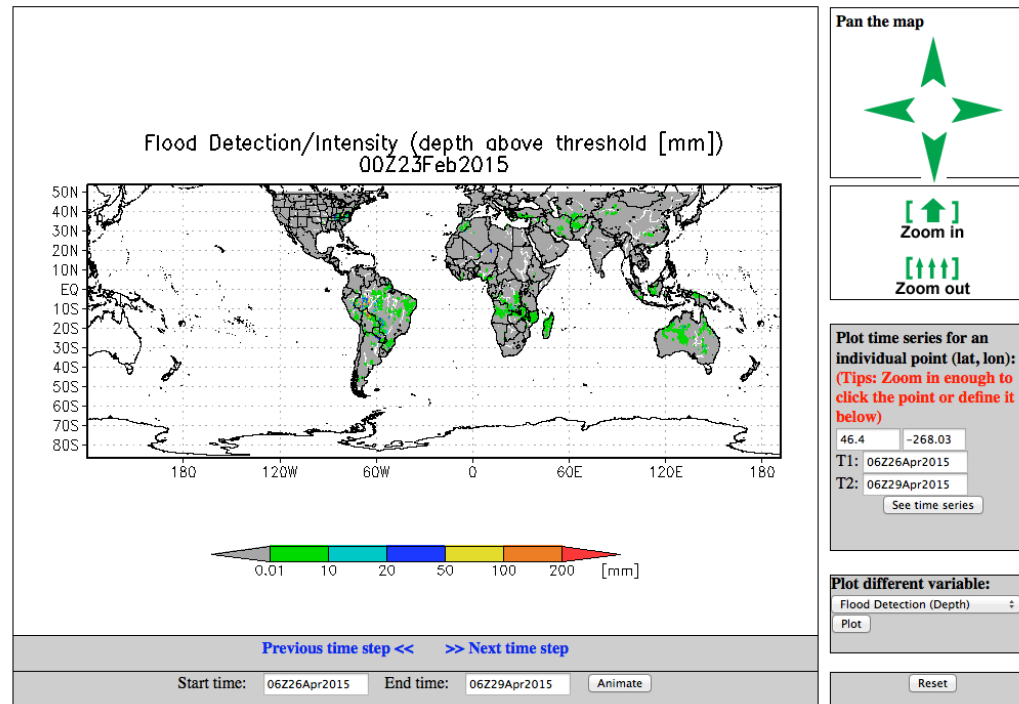


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# ***Global Flood Monitoring System (GFMS)***

# Global Flood Monitoring System (GFMS)

<http://flood.umd.edu>



Provides global maps, time series, and animations (50°S-50°N) of:

- Instantaneous Rain
- Accumulated rain over 24, 72, and 168 hours
- **Streamflow rates and flood detection at 1/8<sup>th</sup> degree (~12 km) and also at 1 km**

From: Robert Adler, Huan Wu, University of Maryland

# Global Flood Monitoring System (GFMS)

<http://flood.umd.edu>



**Uses a hydrological model together with remote sensing data for flood detection**

- **Inputs: TRMM and Multi-satellite Precipitation (TMPA)  
Surface temperature and winds from MERRA**
- Runoff generation from U. Washington Land Surface Model (Variable Infiltration Capacity - VIC)
- Runoff routing model from the U. Maryland

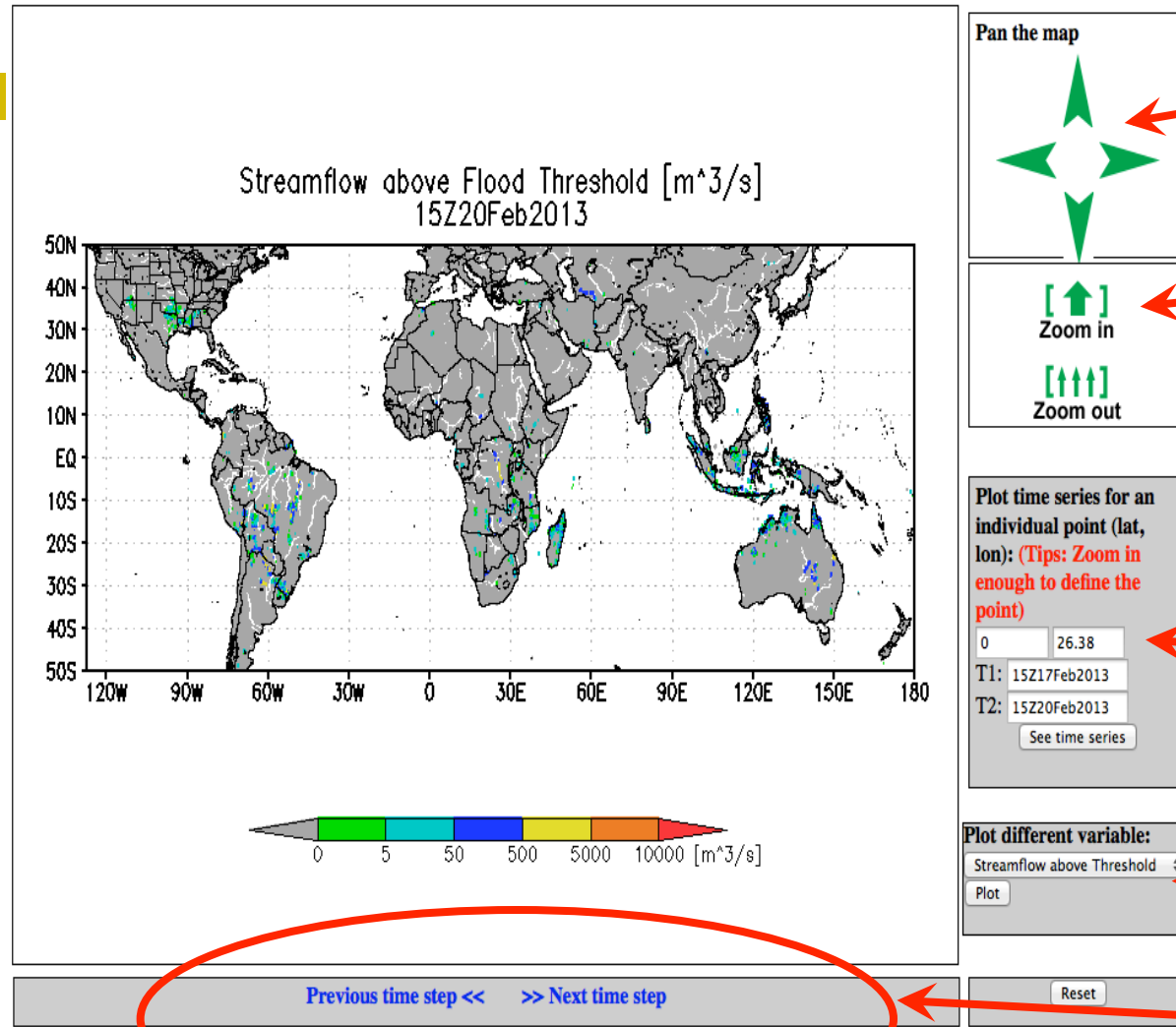
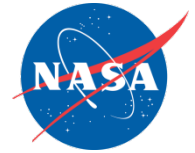
For details see:

Wu, H., R. F. Adler, Y. Tian, G. J. Huffman, H. Li, and J. Wang (2014), Real-time global flood estimation using satellite-based precipitation and a coupled land surface and routing model, *Water Resour. Res.*, 50, 2693.2717, doi:10.1002/2013WR014710.

Wu H., R. F. Adler, Y. Hong, Y. Tian, and F. Policelli (2012), Evaluation of Global Flood Detection Using Satellite-Based Rainfall and a Hydrologic Model. *J. Hydrometeor.*, 13, 1268.1284

# Global Flood Monitoring System (GFMS)

<http://flood.umd.edu>



- Map navigation

- Zoom in/out

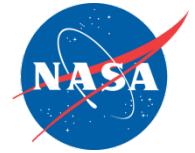
- Select individual grid point for data for time sequence

- Plot different variables

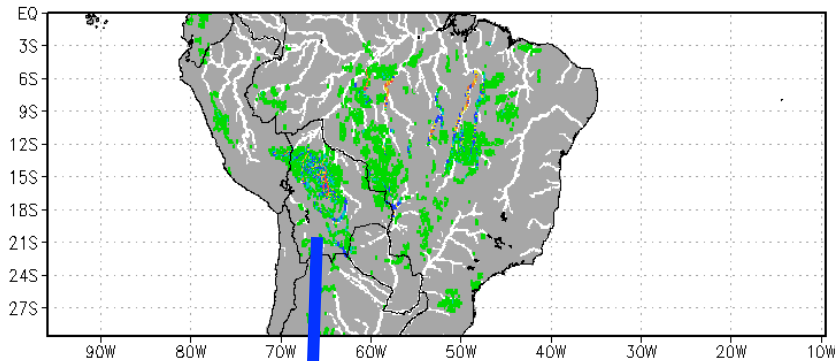
- 3-hourly output

# GFMS: Flood Intensity in Bolivia

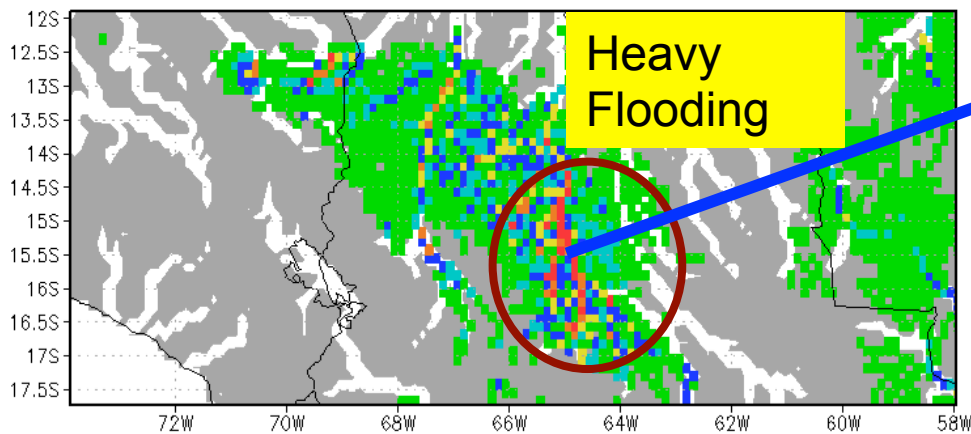
## 26 January, 2014



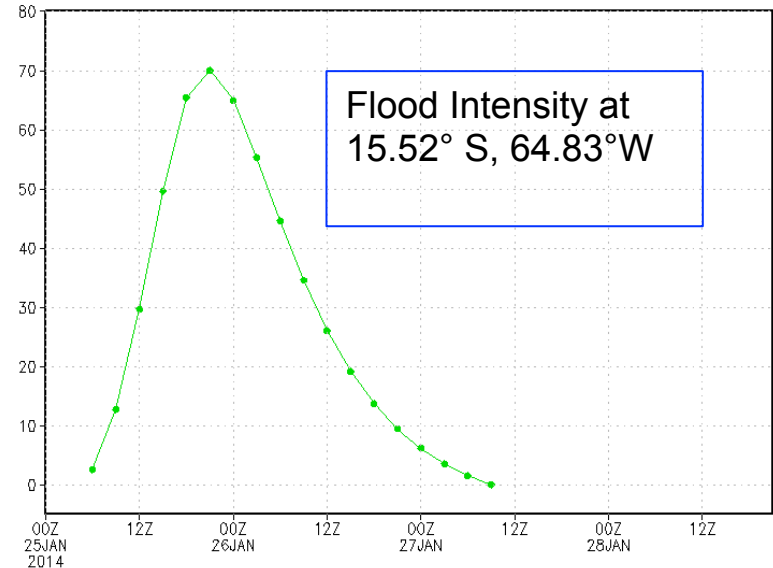
Flood Detection/Intensity (depth above threshold [mm])  
06Z26Jan2014



Flood Detection/Intensity (depth above threshold [mm])  
06Z26Jan2014



Flood Detection/Intensity (depth above threshold [mm])  
00Z25Jan2014 21Z28Jan2014







## Live Demonstration of GFMS

Case 1: Floods in Pakistan, September 7, 2014

Case 2: Flood over Philippines due to Typhoon Hagupit, December 7, 2014



Please see the following link for the Data useful for flood modeling:

[http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/users/S5\\_P1\\_HydrologyModel\\_final.pdf](http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/users/S5_P1_HydrologyModel_final.pdf)



## Next Week:

- 1) Example of Regional Flood Management over Africa, Overview
- 2) Demonstration of the MODIS Inundation Mapping Tool and the Dartmouth Flood Observatory



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# Thank You!

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