International Working Group on

Satellite-based Emergency Mapping (IWG-SEM)

Minutes of the second ad hoc teleconference held on 7.8M Earthquake in Nepal and neighboring countries

Friday, May 1st 2015, 11 UTC

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Yves	Hornet	DFID
2	Stefan	Voigt	DLR
3	Maya	Kamceva	ECHO/ERCC
4	Apostolos	Paralikas	ECHO/ERCC
5	Mamadu	Sissokho	ECHO/ERCC
6	Nathaniel	Raymond	HHI
7	Blake	Girardot	HOTOSM
8	John	Bevington	ImageCat
9	Lorant	Czaran	UN-SPIDER
10	Yves	Hornet	DFID
11	Stefan	Voigt	DLR

During the teleconference, the following points were discussed:

- **Update on current emergency mapping activities (round-table)**

  o **DLR**: had been working on some very high resolution reference maps for central parts of Kathmandu, including building height (@ 1:3750 scale)

  o **COPERNICUS/EMS** has extended its mapping activation to large areas north west of Kathmandu (see Annex 1) and is considering to further extend their mapping activities.

  o **ImageCat:** Is working with NASA on the loss assessment – exposure mapping. They have passed the information onto the WB, but not officially working for them. ImageCat would be able to contribute, but is currently not doing damage mapping. They are helping UNICEF to collate all the different incoming mapping/analysis data to arrive at an operational picture and understanding of the situation.

  o **HOT:** Is continuously updating of the base maps and is working intensively with people in Nepal (LivingLabs). HOTOSM has adopted the capacity for rapidly shifting mapping priorities according to actual needs on the ground. HOTOSM reports about urgent need for cloud free imagery directly north of the Kathmandu valley, as these areas are still cut off from any relief/aid. For the areas NE of Kathmandu some useful imagery is available. HOTOSM is still in need for WMS/TMS tiling server capacity to being able to host all the imagery online for web mapping/analysis. They get support by the Mapbox services. They would also still need support in handling and shifting around large

amount of satellite imagery. HOTOSM is still working to update and set in place the damage tagging procedure, however, the problem with tagging of objects vs. marking larger areas as damaged remains.

- o **HHI:** Working with PD to extract information on ad hoc IDP gathering areas from high optical resolution imagery. This is done in support and to provide examples for IDP mapping done at PDC. Results will be made available on the PDC page.

- o **UN-SPIDER:** Server problems with the heavy access load to the knowledge portal remain. UN-SPIDER is continuing its effort to list satellite mapping resources, match needs and satellite tasking and with networking imagery providers. All actors are encouraged to send more information on products as well as on needs/request for imagery and mapping to anne.pustina@unoosa.org, Lorant.CZARAN@unoosa.org or antje.hecheltjen@unoosa.org. UN-SPIDER points to the need of putting more efforts into the mapping of landslides and the use of radar satellite imagery due to the persistent cloud problems in current optical imaging

- o DLR reports that there is a lack of up-to-date pre-event radar imagery over the area, which limits the possibilities of interferometry and change detection using radar satellite systems.

- **Update on data and mapping needs**

    - o **HOTOSM** reports that for the mountain areas north of Katmandu cloud free imagery is needed urgently.
    - o **ECHO:** ERSCC experts on the ground in Nepal recommend moving towards assessment of damages in small towns and villages, mapping of landslides which may block rivers as well as to asses road accessibility.

- **Sharing of AOIs**

    - o No concrete suggestions were made on this point

- **Can we improve the communication and coherence in the mapping (e.g. by bringing results on OSM)?**

    - o HOTOSM is still working on its approach for damage tagging of OSM objects. This may well work for roads, bridges, dams, however, for larger areas there is a scaling problem as not full blocks of buildings or larger areas can be marked as damaged in the OSM data base. There is also an issue of accuracy with such labeling. HOTOSM still encourages to provide them with damage vectors which will be send to their LivingLabs team in Kathmandu to support assessment and local mapping efforts (contact: blake.girardot@hotosm.org)

- **Further actions**

    - o Several statements were made to focus on landslide mapping

    - o The increased use of Radar satellite imagery and wide area optical imagery for landslide mapping is encouraged.

    - o As for now an increased use of the emergency@iwg-sem.org distribution list is encouraged to exchange information and updates

    - o There is no new telecon date fixed for now. If need arises this will be arranged on an ad hoc basis within 3 to 4 days from now.

The conference call ended at 11:45 UTC

Annex 1:

Current extent of CopernicusEMS mapping activation