



## JULY 2017 UPDATES

### UN-SPIDER at a glance

#### **Stakeholders from eight countries convene in Mexico for Regional Expert Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean**

The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), a programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), conducted its Regional Expert Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean from 11 to 13 July in Mexico City. The event “Enhancing the Use of Space-based Information in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems” was co-organized with the Mexican Space Agency (AEM), with the support of Mexico’s National Centre for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED) and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC). Around 50 participants representing 20 organizations from eight countries in Latin America took part in the meeting to address ways in which space-based technologies can be used to improve multi-hazard early warning systems in the region.

Read more on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

#### **Report on 8th annual meeting of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices published**

The report from the 8th annual meeting of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, which took place in June in Vienna, has been published and can be accessed on the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal along with presentations delivered at the event. The report provides an overview of the discussions RSO representatives engaged in and outlines envisioned future activities. The RSO network now comprises 21 institutions around the world and is a strong pillar of the UN-SPIDER programme.

Read more on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

#### **UN-SPIDER joins CONVERCIENCIA 2017 event in Guatemala**

The National Secretariat for Science and Technology of Guatemala (SENACYT) organized a week-long event

called CONVERCIENCIA 2017 to showcase the research conducted by Guatemalan researchers living abroad and in Guatemala. UN-SPIDER participated in this event held in Guatemala City from 24 to 28 July and took the opportunity to showcase the use of space technologies in disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and response efforts. Particular attention was given to the Strengthening Early Warning Systems for Droughts (SEWS-D) project conducted by UN-SPIDER and nine international, regional and national partners.

Read more on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

#### **UN-SPIDER and DGPC conduct training course in El Salvador**

UN-SPIDER conducted a week-long training in El Salvador from 24 to 28 July. With the support of the Directorate of Civil Protection of El Salvador (DGPC), 20 members of an inter-institutional technical team were trained on how to use remote sensing techniques for effective disaster risk reduction, preparedness and emergency response. The training also covered practical exercises on UN-SPIDER’s Recommended Practices focusing on droughts and floods.

Read more on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

#### **UN-SPIDER engages in EVIDENZ project**

The EVIDENZ project (Earth Observation Based Information Products for Drought Risk Reduction at the National Level) builds on the fact that international conventions increasingly feature goals, targets, and priorities for action that require the assessment of indicators. The overall objective of the EVIDENZ project is to develop products for drought risk reduction responding to national needs and to develop Earth observation-based methods to contribute to the assessment of selected Sendai Framework targets and indicators. Based on examples from South Africa and Ukraine, EVIDENZ concentrates on the value adding chain from data to informed decision-making in the field of agricultural drought risk to better address the two Sendai Framework targets of “people





affected” and “economic loss”. The developed workflows will be tested and so-called Recommended Practices will be developed and integrated into the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal.

Read more about the project on the [website of the Center for Remote Sensing of Land Surfaces \(ZFL\)](#).

### **UN-SPIDER visits Mexico campus of the Regional Centre for Space Science Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean**

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its programme on for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), visited the Mexico

campus of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC). The visit included meetings with the Director of the Mexican Institute for Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics (INAOE) and with the Director of the Mexico campus of CRECTEALC. The meetings were used to discuss synergies between UNOOSA and CRECTEALC as well as ongoing efforts. Staff members of INAOE and CRECTEALC were also made aware of the activities of UNOOSA in the region and the UNISPACE+50 process. The visit complemented the UNOOSA/Mexican Space Agency (AEM) Regional Expert Meeting that took place from 11 to 13 July in the premises of the Mexican National Centre for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED) in Mexico City, Mexico.

Read more on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

## News from our Regional Support Offices

### **New research report suggests methods for mapping multiple climate hazard risks in South Asia**

A recent collaborative research study by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) focuses on methods of mapping multiple climate hazard risks in South Asia. Regional, national and sub-national assessments of five related risks - floods, droughts, extreme rainfall, extreme temperature and sea-level rise - were carried out in the study. The report shows how remote sensing and GIS can be used to map both exposure and vulnerability of individual hazard risks in the region.

Read more on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

### **7th International Geomatic Week 2017 organized by Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi (IGAC) of Colombia**

The Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi (IGAC) of Colombia, a UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office (RSO) in Latin America, is organizing the 7th International Geomatic Week from 14 to 18 August in the city of Bogotá. This year, the International Geomatic Week addresses the topic of information technologies for the environmental and productive consolidation of the territory. The objective is to show the evolution of geomatics and its applications in order to contribute to the well-being of the population, higher levels of governance, and social and productive land planning.

Read more on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

## News from our community

### **International Charter activated for wildfires in Montenegro**

The International Charter Space and Major Disasters was activated once in the month of July. It was activated for the wildfires in Montenegro on 25 July at the request of the

United States Geological Survey on behalf of the Sector for Information System of the Real Estate Administration of Montenegro.

For more information, please visit the [website of the Charter](#).



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## Upcoming events

### **Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Across the Americas: A Regional Summit on the Contribution of Earth Observations**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Argentina's National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE), on behalf of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), will be holding "Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Across the Americas: A Regional Summit on the Contribution of Earth Observations" from 3 to 8 September in Buenos Aires. The event offers an opportunity to strengthen the collective ability to meet the multiple challenges of disaster risk reduction in the Americas, with an overarching objective of promoting the use of Earth observation (EO). CONAE is a UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office.

Additional information is available on [the event page](#).

### **United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction - Building Resilience through Integrated Applications, 23-25 October 2017**

The Office for Outer Space Affairs will host the 7th United Nations International Conference on "Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction – Building Resilience through Integrated Applications Risk" in Beijing from 23 to 25 October 2017. The conference will be organized by the UN-SPIDER Beijing Office and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The event follows six conferences held since 2011 and will offer a forum for disaster management communities and experts to strengthen their capabilities in using space-based information to identify, assess, monitor and respond to disaster risks and integrating space technology into long-term disaster risk management efforts. An international training course

on "Integration of Multisource Earth Observation Data for Disaster Damage Assessment" will be organized for 25 participants of the conference with the support of the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation, the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China, and Beihang University.

For more information on the conference and how to register, [please visit the event page](#).

### **United Nations/Germany International Conference on International Cooperation Towards Low-emission and Resilient Societies, 22-24 November 2017**

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs / UN-SPIDER and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), will host the International Conference on International Cooperation Towards Low-Emission and Resilient Societies from 22 to 24 November 2017 at the UN Campus in Bonn. The conference will bring together decision-makers from government agencies, high-ranking officials from regional and international agencies, representatives and experts from UN agencies, UNOOSA/ UN-SPIDER National/Regional Focal Points and experts, and experts from the space and remote sensing communities working on disaster risk management or disaster response efforts. The International Conference will be used to discuss ways to incorporate satellite technologies to achieve a better system-wide understanding of disaster risk and the manifestations and effects of climate change. Registration for the conference is open until 5 September for participants seeking funding and 29 October for self-funded participants.

For more information on the conference and how to register, please see [the event page](#).



The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and assisting developing countries in using space science and technology. In its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006 the United Nations General Assembly agreed to establish the "United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response - UN-SPIDER" as a programme within UNOOSA. UN-SPIDER focuses on the need to ensure access to and use of spacebased solutions during all phases of the disaster management cycle.