



JANUARY 2008

UNOSAT IS A PEOPLE-CENTRED PROGRAMME INTEGRATING SATELLITE SOLUTIONS FOR HUMAN SECURITY, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS.

2008 – the year ahead

It is with great enthusiasm the UNOSAT team is embarking on yet another year of supporting UN sister agencies, implementing partners and Member States with dedicated satellite solutions. Last year we concentrated on consolidating the internal technical capacity of UNOSAT, as well as new constructive partnerships with public and private sector entities. This effort led to expanding our focus to include satellite imagery, satellite communication and satellite navigation, which provide us with the possibility of a wide range of new application areas and integrated solutions for the benefit of the communities and people that the United Nations system is mandated to serve.

In 2008, we will develop further our training and research activity, including capacity building at the regional, national and local level, coupled with the application of the latest proven technologies. UNOSAT will further scale-up the transfer of technology and know-how to empower less developed nations with the tools needed for territorial management and adaptation to a changing climate.

The coming year will also see UNOSAT involved in several large development projects through our dedicated field of geographic information management and satellite applications. The work will range from water management, to environmental change, and agriculture management, involving appropriate technologies put in the hands of local actors. Together with our long-standing partner CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), we are embarking on an ambitious project, AfricaMap, in partnership with several African universities, to develop collaborative approaches for updating geographic information, such as roads and location of new villages, using satellite imagery.

Our dedication to supporting humanitarian assistance will further develop, building on the strong partnership with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and others. UNOSAT's rapid mapping support is now well integrated and diversified based on the various UN entities we support. In addition there is a growing trend in the use of these maps and analyses by national disaster risk management actors and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

It is UNOSAT's objective to contribute towards a more efficient United Nations using our dedication to make a difference through the provision of satellite solutions, in close partnership with the donor community, sister agencies and beneficiaries, bearing in mind our belief that, in the domain of space applications, working in isolation is no longer possible, and that new synergy and new combined efforts must be sought at all levels.

Encouraged by your positive feedback, we of course look forward to continuing to issue our e-newsletter to keep you informed of our work and the benefits it brings.

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Humanitarian rapid mapping support, January 2008

Two major humanitarian emergencies were extensively supported with satellite image derived analyses and maps during January:

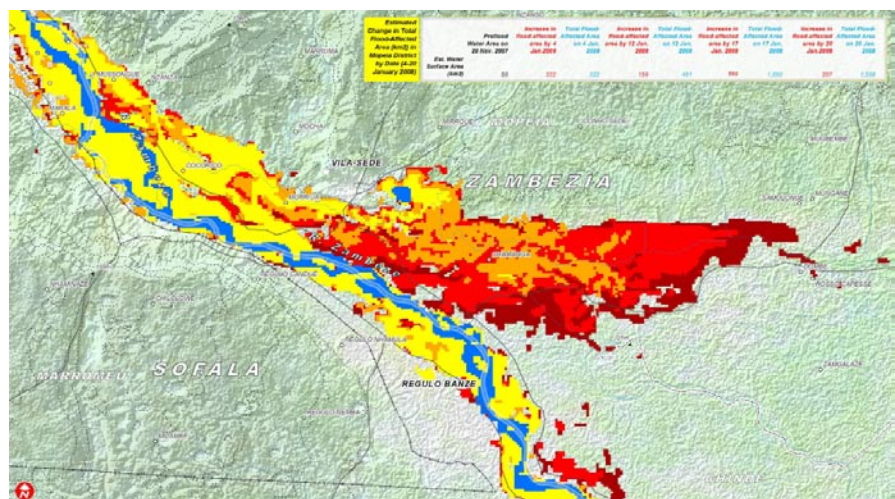
- Kenya post-election violence
- Southern Africa floods (with focus on Mozambique and Zambia)

Following national elections in Kenya on 27 December 2007, disagreement of the outcome resulted in significant violence in several parts of the country, including the capital Nairobi and the Rift Valley province. Using satellite imagery, UNOSAT was able to monitor the spread of fire locations in the Rift Valley using large area overview imagery, as well as to detect burnt areas from more detailed data. Detailed damage assessments of the most affected areas in Nairobi were also performed. These analyses were widely used by the international humanitarian community in particular due to the limited physical access to the most affected areas by UN agencies and their partners.



Left: Burnt housing, source: IRIN. Right: Burnt areas from satellite (red), source: UNOSAT

Southern Africa saw wide spread flooding and UNOSAT responded to requests for satellite mapping over Mozambique and Zambia. Mozambique's Sofala, Tete and Zambezia provinces were particularly affected. Using large area coverage satellite sensors, UNOSAT was able to cover all of the most affected areas and also to provide statistical baseline data on the flooded areas over time.



Chronology of rising flood waters, Mozambique. Source: UNOSAT