

**United Nations / Pakistan / Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water -  
4th International Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management  
Islamabad  
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# **Tools and Services for the Humanitarian Community for Groundwater Exploration and Water Management**

## Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics – Z\_GIS



Quality of Life and Smart  
Mobility



Risk and Social Vulnerability



Environment and Resource  
Efficiency



Humanitarian Action and  
Human Security

## Mission:

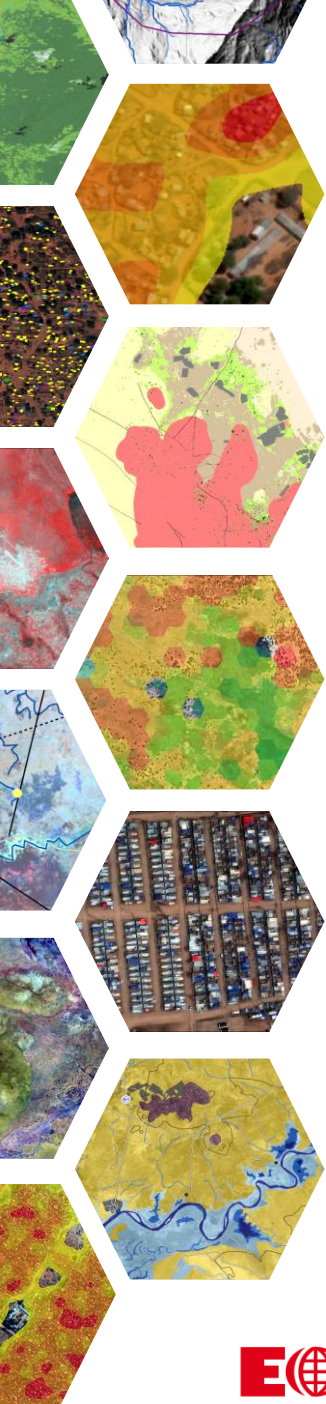
Provide Earth-Observation based geospatial information products to humanitarian actors

## Constraints:

- Difficult security situation on the ground
  - Limited time frame
  - Limited knowledge about region
  - Decision makers are not experts

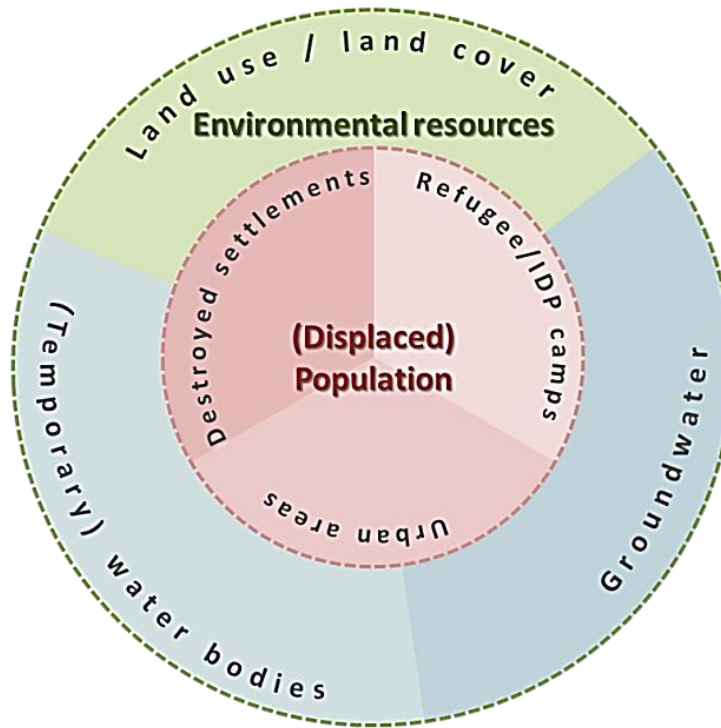
*What can remote sensing do to help?  
(it should be the perfect tool, right?)*





**Mission:**  
Provide Earth-Observation based geospatial information products to humanitarian actors

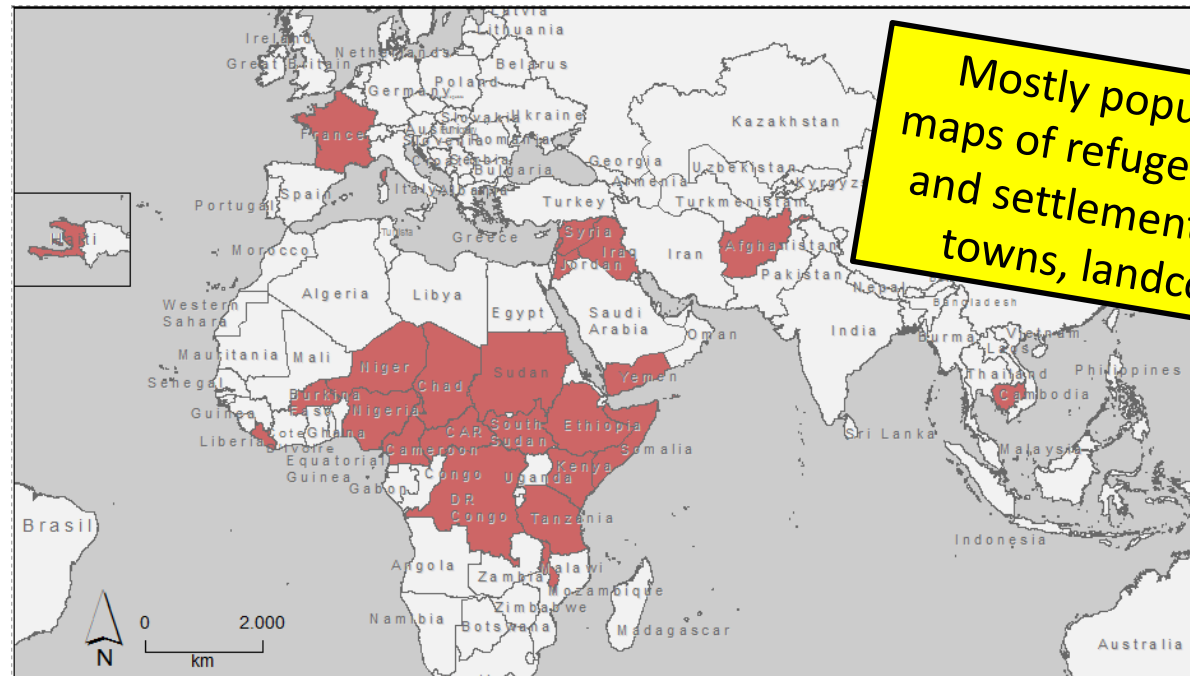
**Population**



**Environmental Resources (including water)**

## Mission:

Provide Earth-Observation based geospatial information products to humanitarian actors



25 countries, 350+ maps provided since 2011

## Information products related to **water** to support:

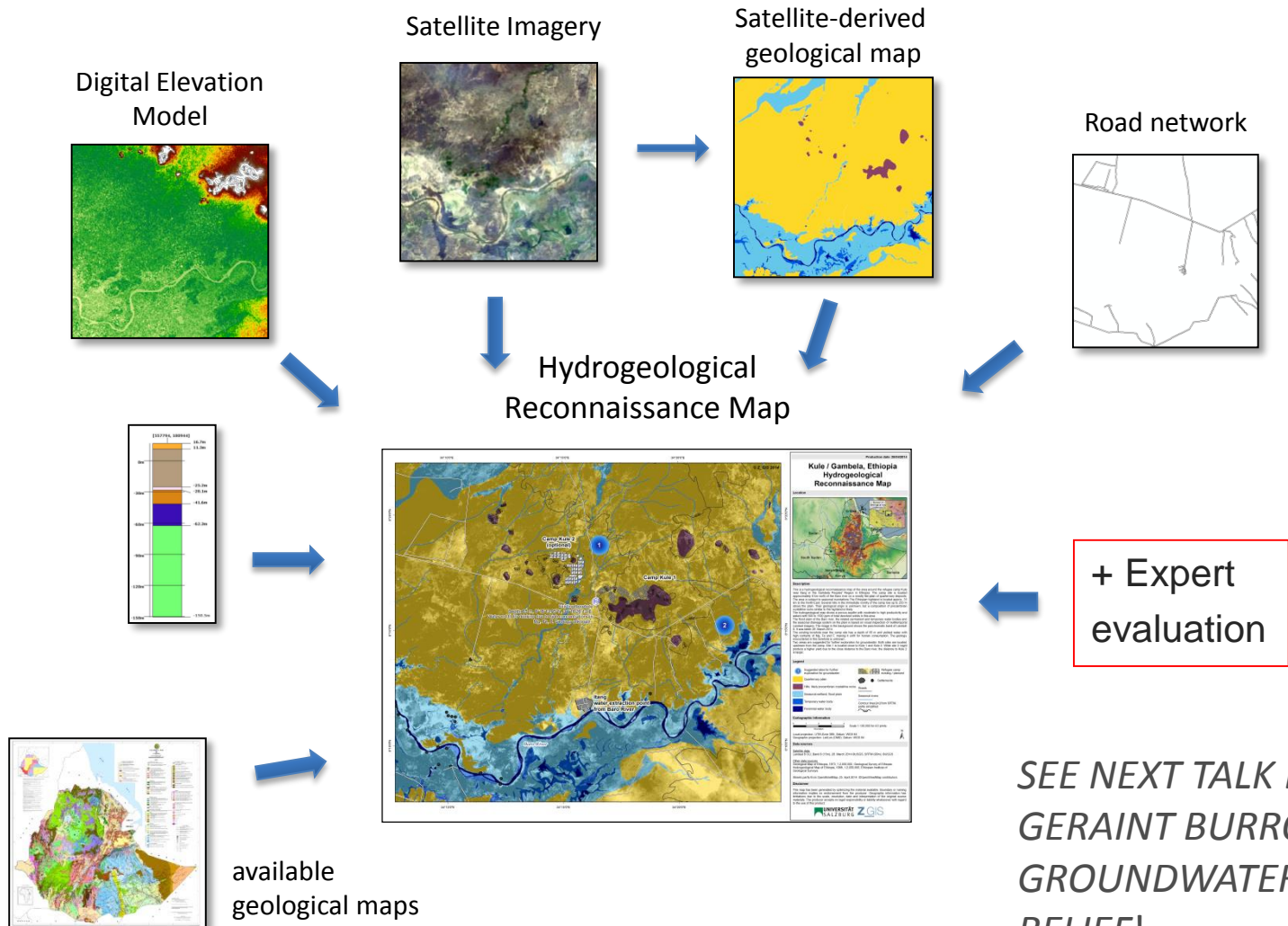
- groundwater exploration
- Installation /construction of infrastructure
- Water management

*Always key issue:*

*We can't see everything from above. Integration of existing information, field knowledge and remote sensing analysis is essential.*



# EO-based services for water: Groundwater exploration



SEE NEXT TALK BY  
GERAINT BURROWS,  
GROUNDWATER  
RELIEF!

# EO-based services for water: Installation of Infrastructure



- Nepal: Reconstruction of water pipelines in Lapilang, Nepal
- Cooperation with Austrian Red Cross

## Where is the water needed?

→ Mapping of buildings in VHR images + local survey



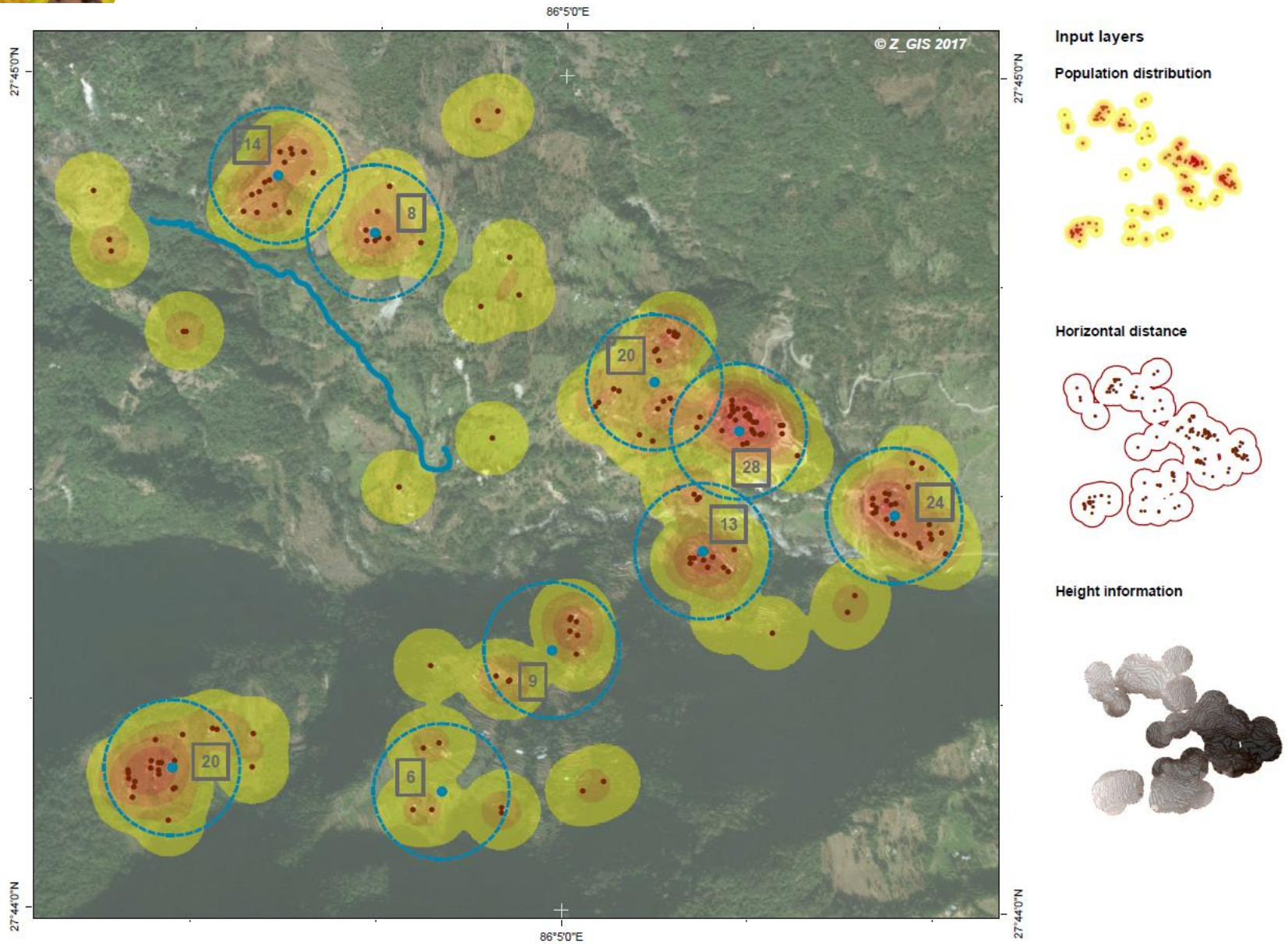
# EO-based services for water: Installation of Infrastructure

## Where to place communal water taps?

Requirements: Maximum distance 150 m horizontal, 50 m vertical

→ DEM from Spot 6 (2 m spatial resolution), spatial analysis

# EO-based services for water: Installation of Infrastructure



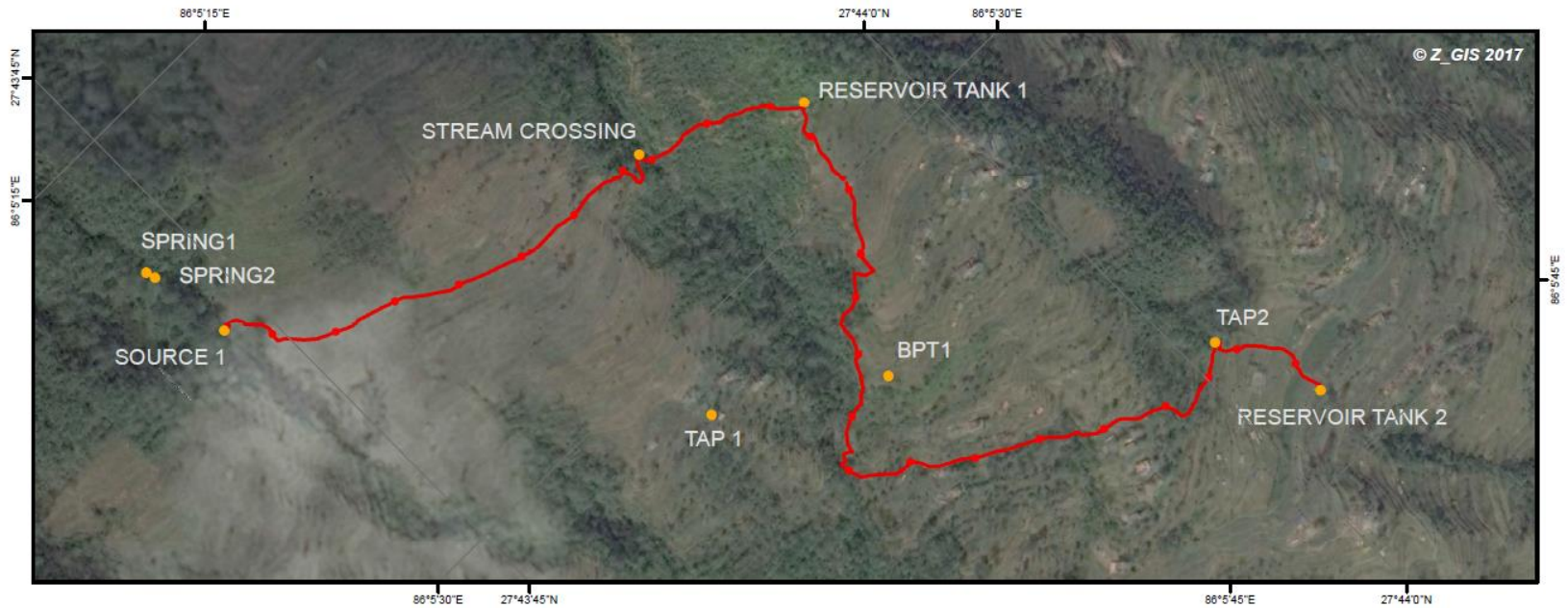
# EO-based services for water: Installation of Infrastructure

Where to build the pipelines from springs to taps?

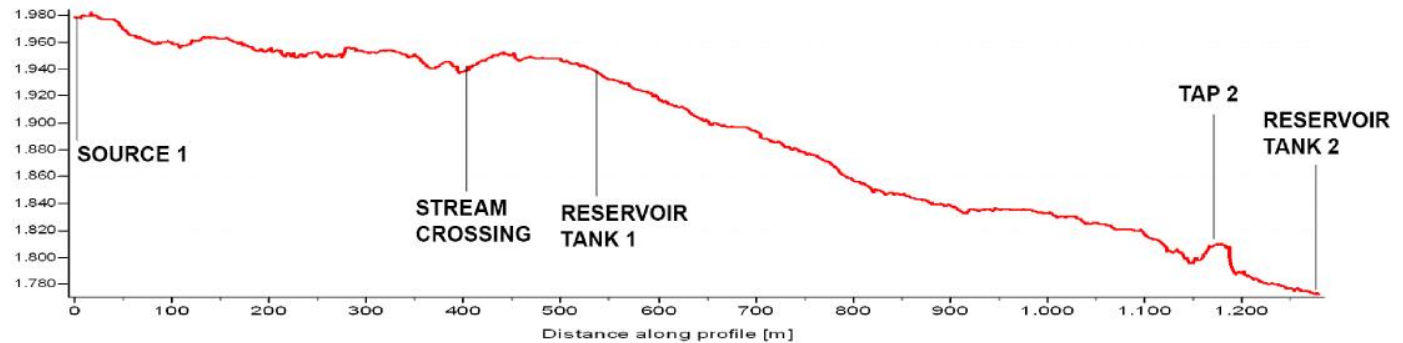
→ DEM from Spot 6 (2 m spatial resolution), longitudinal sections



# EO-based services for water: Installation of Infrastructure



Longitudinal cut along Suiri pipeline



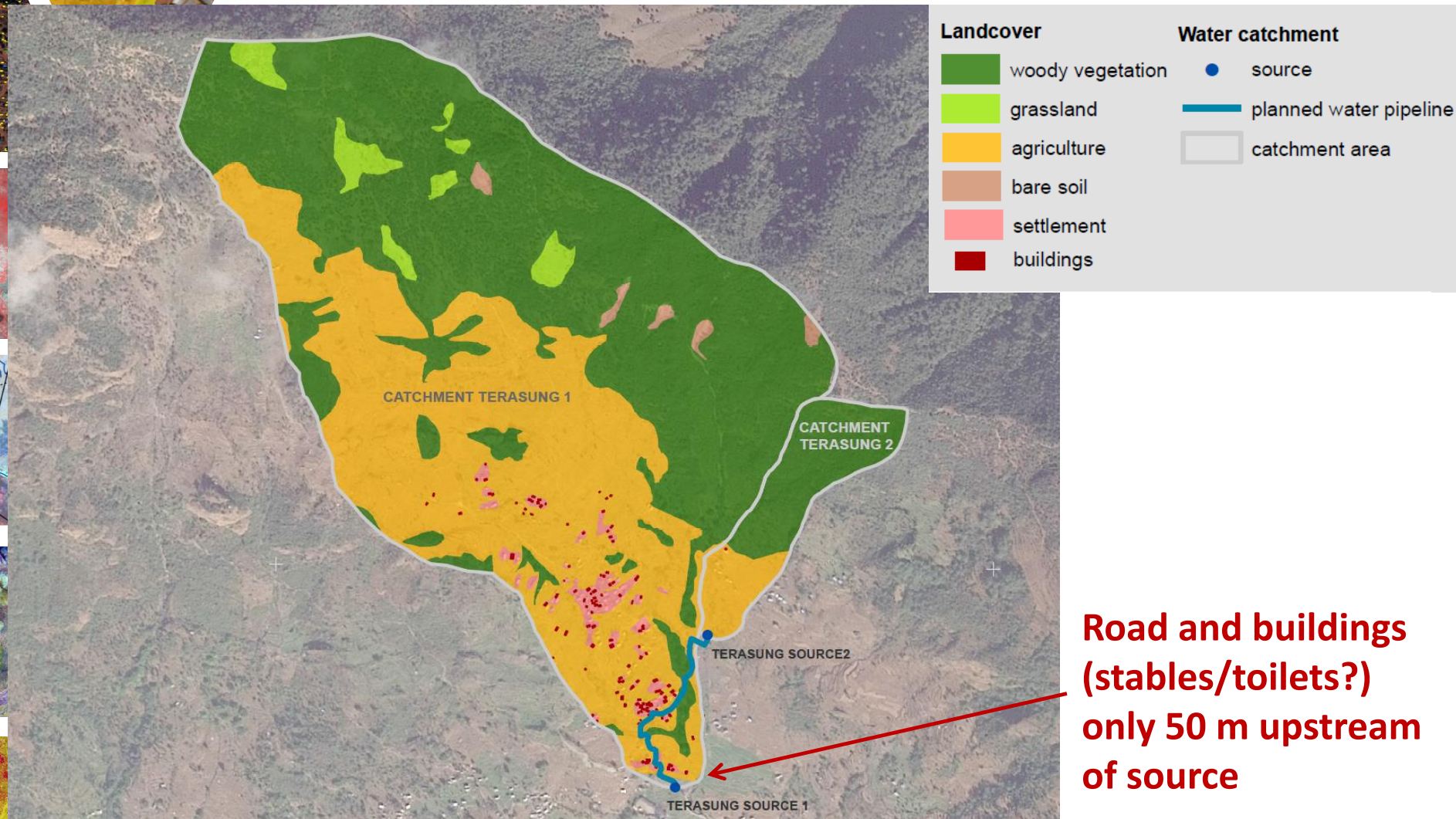
# EO-based services for water: Installation of Infrastructure

Are the sources safe against pollution?

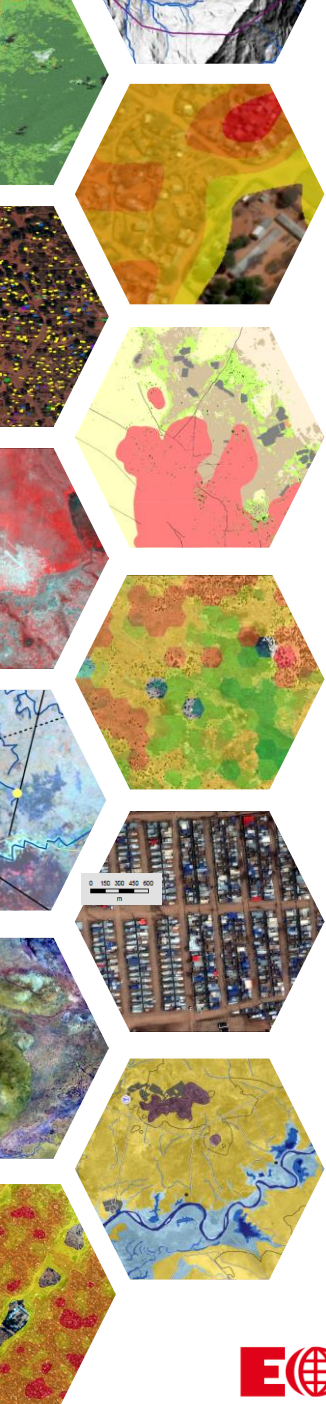
→ Land use/land cover mapping of catchment areas



# EO-based services for water: Installation of Infrastructure



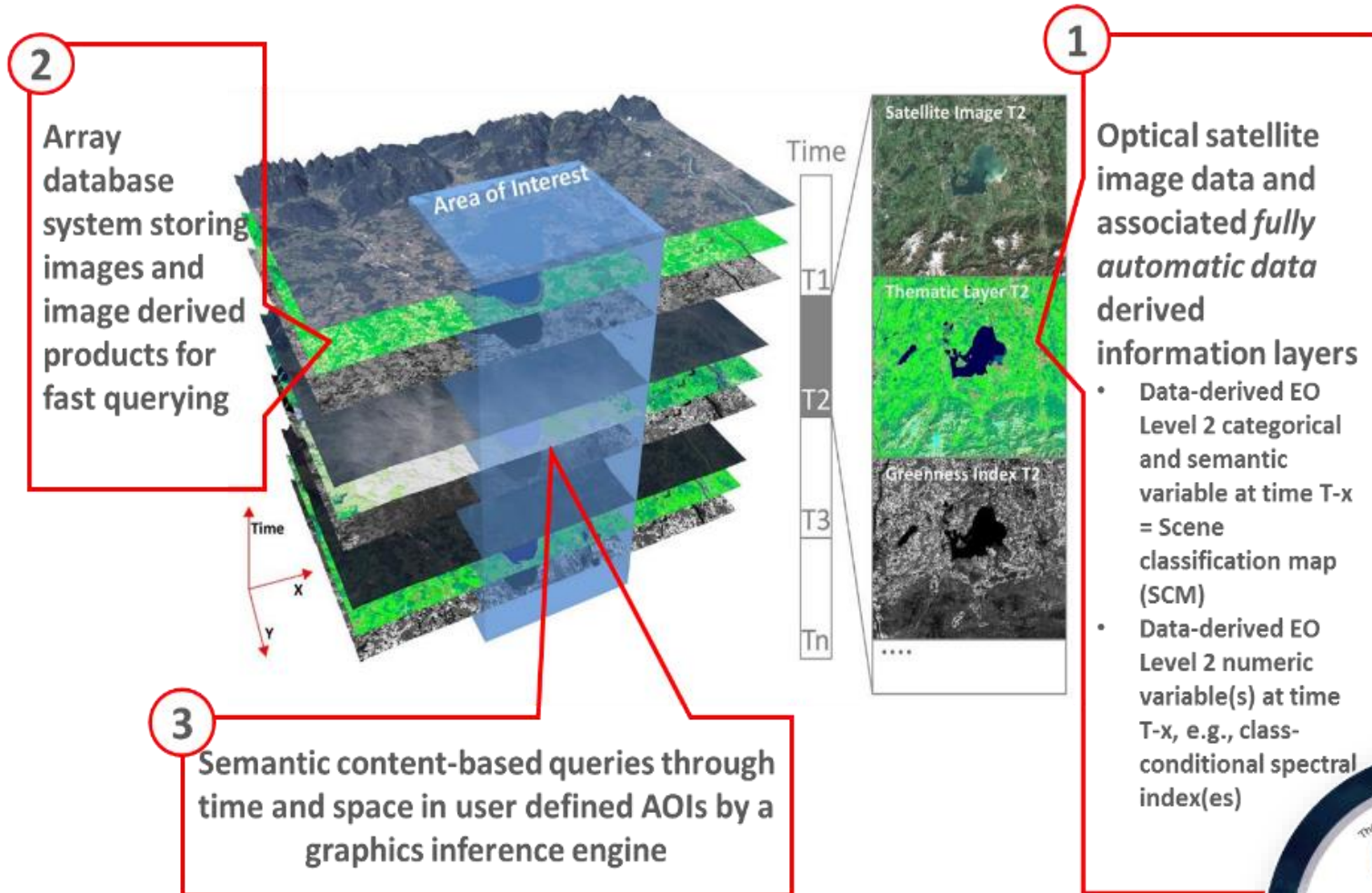




# Development of tools

(generic, but applicable to water)

# Multi-purpose technology to exploit Big Earth Data: Applications for Water Management



Tiede, D., Baraldi, A., Sudmanns, M., Belgiu, M., Lang, S., 2017. Architecture and Prototypical Implementation of a Semantic Querying System for Big Earth Observation Image Bases. Eur. J. Remote Sens. 50, 452–463. doi:10.1080/22797254.2017.1357432

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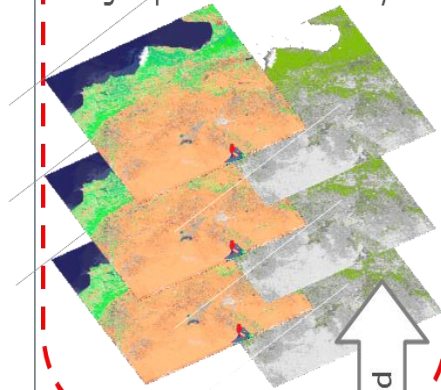


# Service architecture

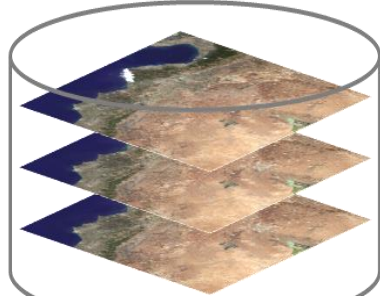
Application independent re-usable Big EO data approach

Situation (conflict/crisis) specific domain expert based indicator extraction through time

**1 Pre-classifications**  
Fully automatic, data-derived geospatial information layers

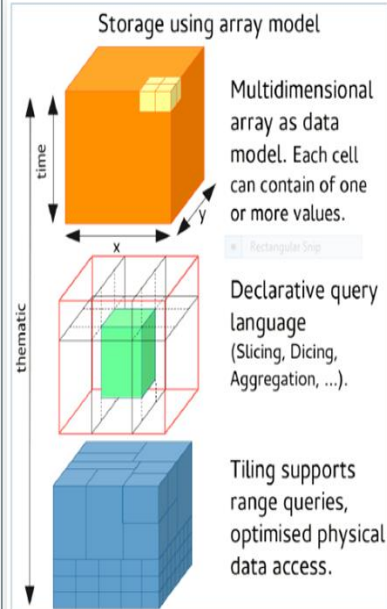


**Image database (e.g. Sentinel 2)**



associated

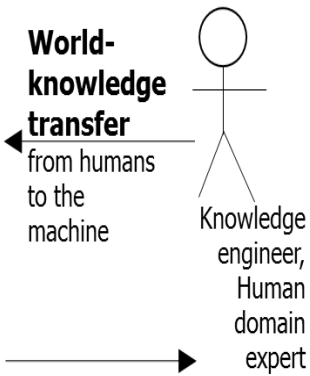
**2 Array-DBMS (Database Management System)**



**3 Spatiotemporal Semantic Queries / Information extraction through time**

**Graphical inference engine**

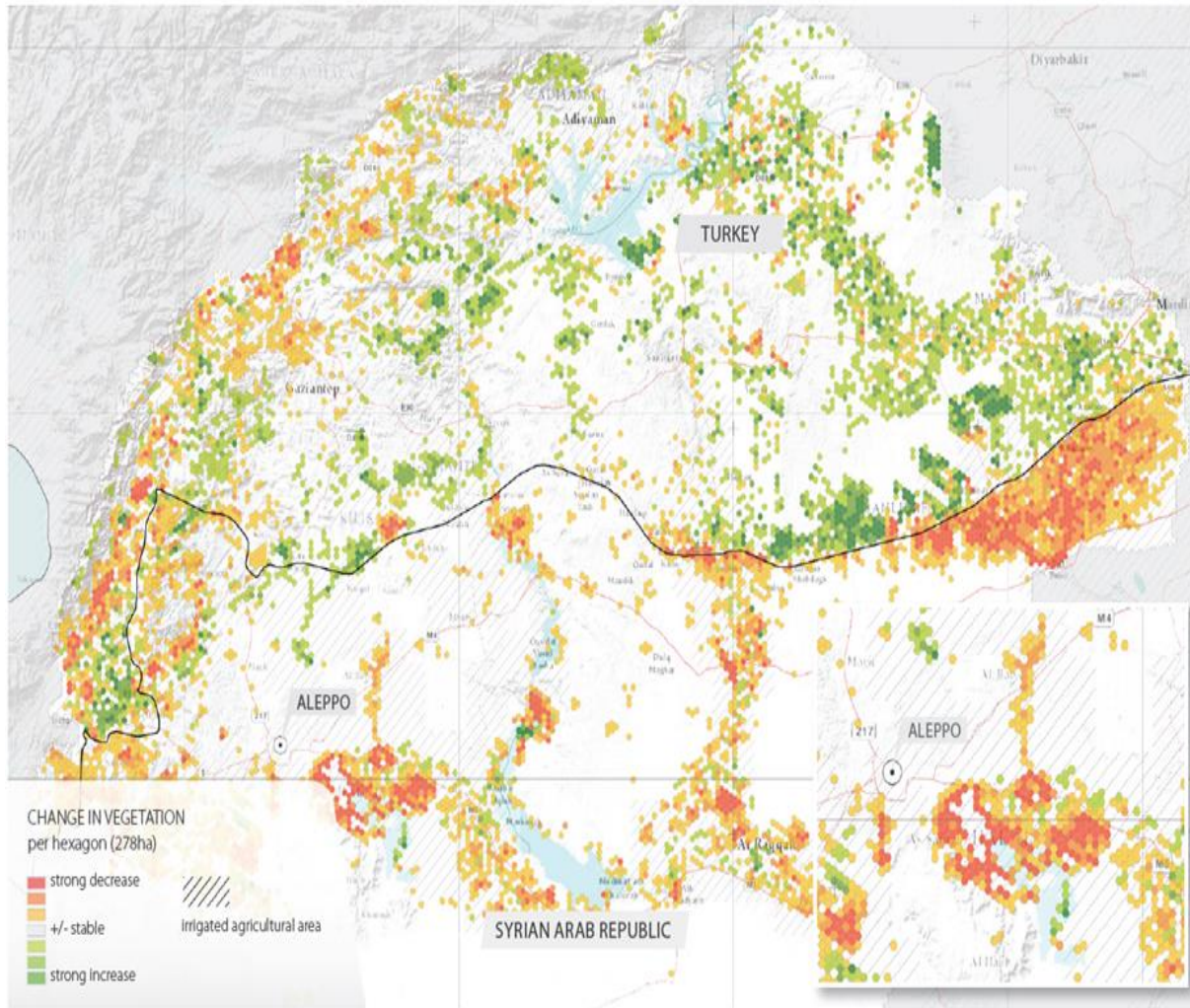
**Graphical User Interface**



**Answer** (OGC conform georeferenced analysis products as input for additional integrated analyses, data integration and/or cartographic map production)



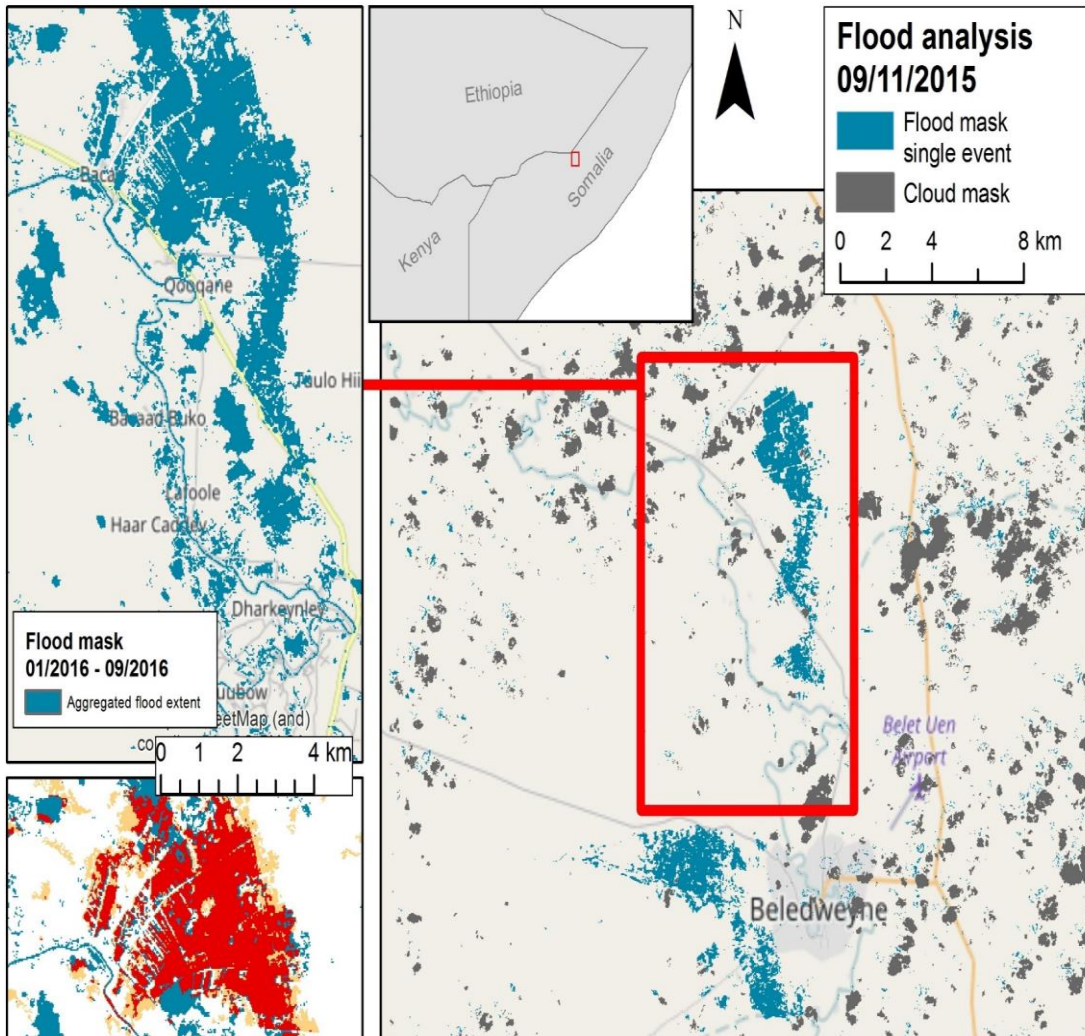
# Application example: Mapping of irrigated agriculture, border region Turkey- Syria



- Comparison August 2010 – August 2014
- Relevant for water management
- 
- The **generic approach** to extract such indicators **allows repetition on-the fly for different time intervals**

Tiede, D., Lühje, F., Baraldi, A., 2014. Automatic post-classification land cover change detection in Landsat images: Analysis of changes in agricultural areas during the Syrian crisis, in: Seyfert, E., Gülch, E., Heipke, C., Schiewe, J., Sester, M. (Eds.), Band 23: Geoinformationen Öffnen Das Tor Zur Welt, 34. Jahrestagung in Hamburg 2014. Publikationen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Photogrammetrie, Fernerkundung und Geoinformation (DGPF) e.V., Potsdam.

# Application example: Ex-post flood extent mapping in Somalia, from Big Earth Data

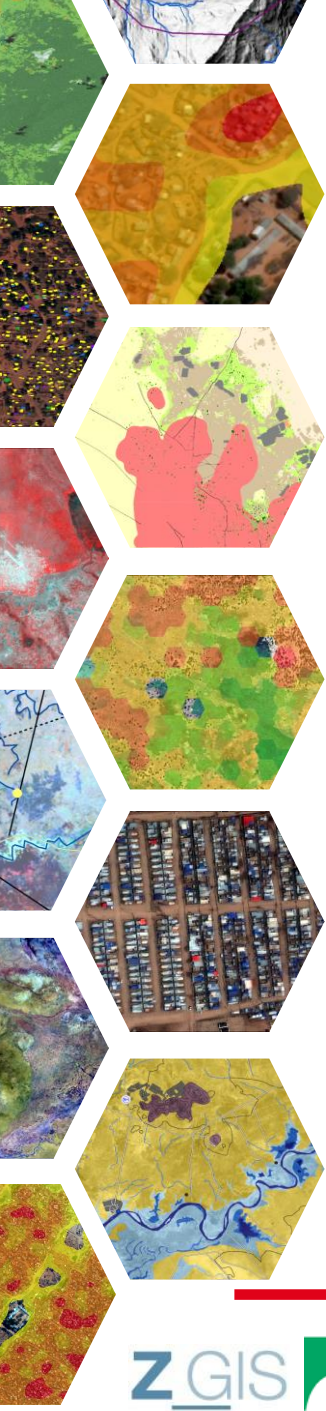
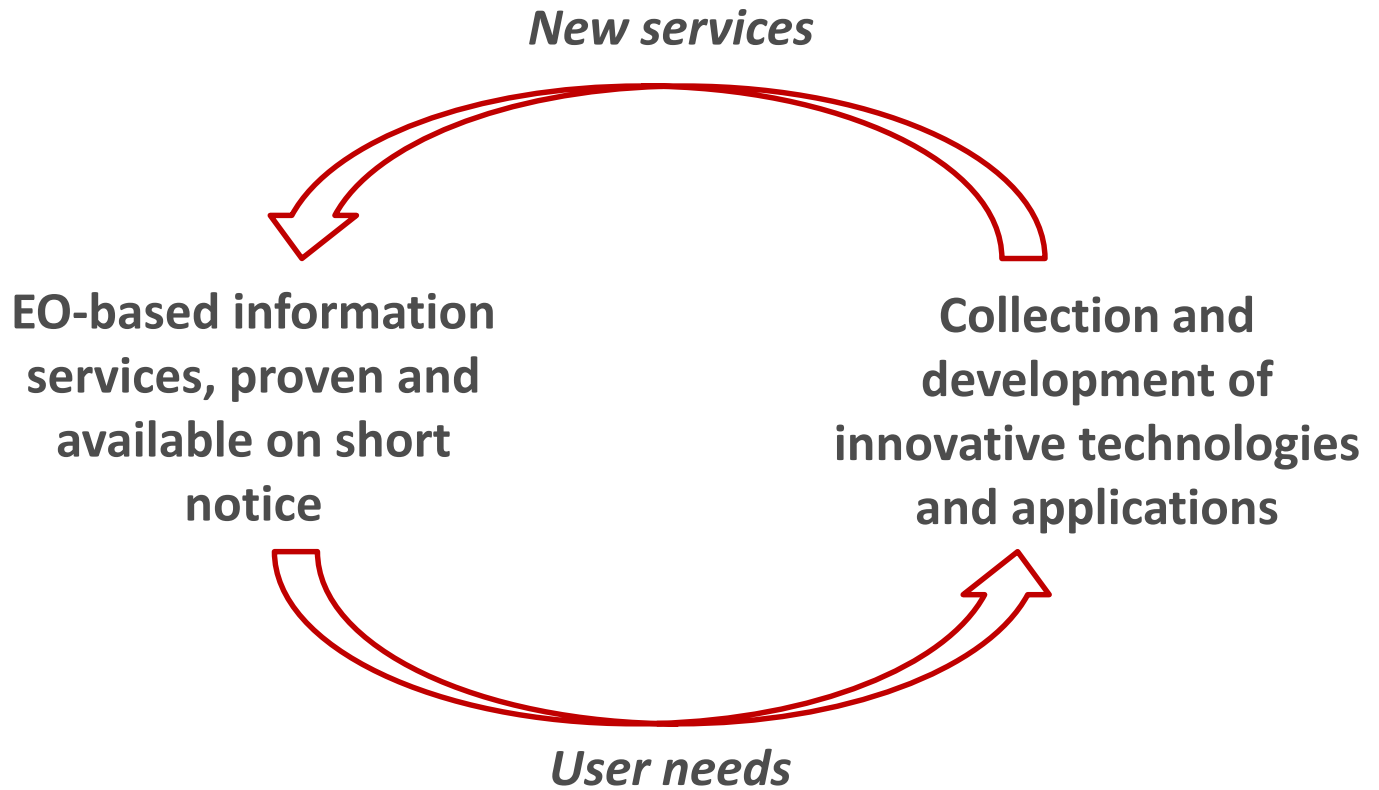


- The example is based on a **dense temporal stack of 78 Landsat 8 scenes**
- **Generic approach**
- Optimized database use → very little time of operator needed

Sudmanns, M., Tiede, D., Wendt, L., Baraldi, A., 2017. Automatic Ex-post Flood Assessment Using Long Time Series of Optical Earth Observation Images. *GI-Forum J. Geogr. Inf. Sci.* 1, 217–227. doi:10.1553/giscience2017\_01\_s217



# Humanitarian Services at Z\_GIS:





## Let`s be a littlebit provocative:

### Remote sensing for water:

Should make life easier, but requires (at the moment) **experts and/or**

**field data** for  
calculation of:

- Precipitation
- Evapotranspiration
- Run-off modelling
- Infiltration and permeability
- Storage of *volumes* in lakes...

### Solutions?

1. Tools become really  
simple and clear

2. We team up.  
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