Towards Regional Technical Cooperation

Workshop2: Technical Issues Towards Effective Applications of Geospatial Technologies and Data in DRM

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Need for a Regional Technical Corporation

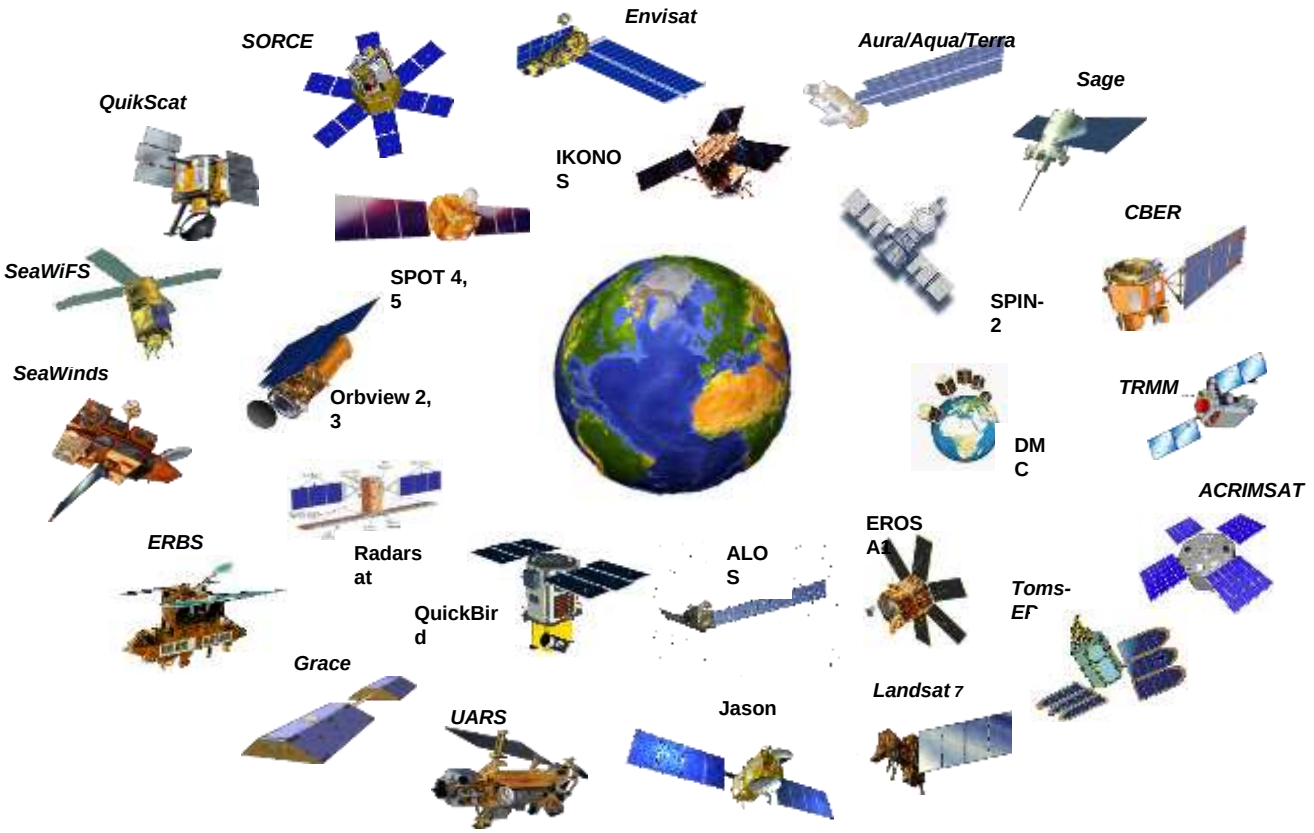
When one considers the resource management challenges of the Caribbean, the limited human and capital capacity, and the rapidly changing ICT environment, it is imperative that a coordinated and strategic approach be developed at regional level as opposed to local level to take full advantage of opportunities provided by Earth Observation Imageries.

Opportunities for Regional Corporation

- Space-based imageries provides the appropriate tools and techniques for mapping and monitoring the following natural resources in the Caribbean: Vegetation mapping; Land use change detection and environmental monitoring; Wetland identification, characterization, and monitoring of moisture conditions; Shoreline change detection; Floodplain delineation

- High awareness on the impact of disastrous events in the region.
- Improvement in the social and economic conditions
- The Charter and GEOSS
- Existing regional initiatives: CDEMA/CIMH/CMO /CEHI
- Increased awareness and use of GST/D

Age of Global Satellite Earth Monitoring



Benefits of a Regional Business Approach

- **A single forum for the negotiation, evaluation, and acquisition of remote sensing imageries from extra regional sources.**

- **This would lead to cost savings as CARICOM/CDEMA could use its regional status, strategic advantages and negotiating machinery to obtain imageries at little or no-cost or to Participating States.**

- **This would facilitate accessibility through a regular and sustained data acquisition programme in support of disaster risk management.**

A regional institute for the training of Caribbean nationals on the use and processing of satellite imageries.

A single one-stop processing centre for Caribbean remote sensing products.

A regional approach **would facilitate the development of regional standards for the acquisition, processing, integration, classification, and use of remote sensing imageries.**

Challenges

- Little regional experience in the use of space-based imageries and their application for disaster risk management.
- Practitioners rely mainly on visual analysis techniques.
- Limited capacity or expertise to select, acquire, analyse, or integrate remote sensing data
- Many institutions are not in a position to take advantage of space-based imageries and products due to: the lack of knowledge, technical capability, financial resources
- Lack of current and high-resolution maps of the natural and physical resources.
- Tradition of access restrictions
- Lack of ground stations for live-link

Way forward

a. Do not reinvent the wheels- adopt/ adapt well- known or used regional policies, law, standards, regulation
b. Establish a regional WG or work with CARIGEO
c. Establish a regional educational portal for the delivery of online short courses
d. Seek regional scholarships for at least 2 persons in each member state to form cohorts of personnel for some specified skill areas.

Way forward

- Develop a regional approach to the acquisition of Satellite Data, LiDar mapping and training
- Seek political support and regional champions
- Establish a regional website for the sharing of Good practices
- Create YouTube of ‘How to..’
- Collaborative regional projects for extra- regional funding
- Annual conference/ presence at CDEMA annual event to showcase GST/D applications
- Rewards/ incentives program for leadership in Training; Policy; Standard; Data management; Applications; and Regulations

Thank you!

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