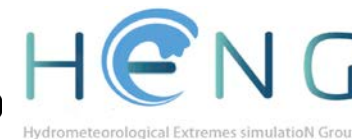




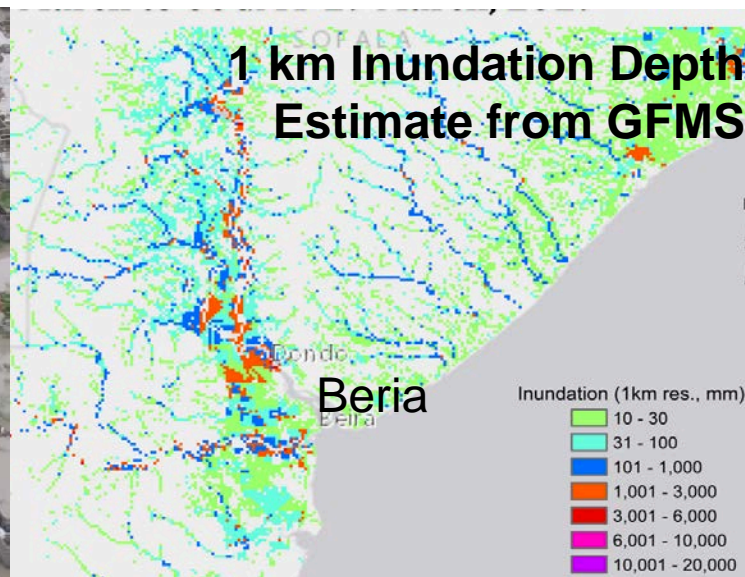
# Advances and Challenges in Observation and Modeling of Floods for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Huan Wu (吴欢)**

Hydrometeorological Extremes simulationN Group (HENG),  
School of Atmospheric Sciences, Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU)



Robert Adler (U. Maryland), Lorenzo Alfieri and Peter Salamon (JRC),  
Albert Kettner and Robert G. Brakenridge (U. Colorado), Patrick Matgen (LIST),  
Guy Shalev (Google)



**Mozambique**

**Cyclone Idai**

**14-19 March  
2019**

**A global network initiated by scientists, users, from private and public organizations, active in global flood monitoring, forecasting, response and risk management.**

## Bridging gap between science and operations – a multidisciplinary challenge



14 September 2015



GO GROUP ON  
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

**Global Flood**  
Partnership

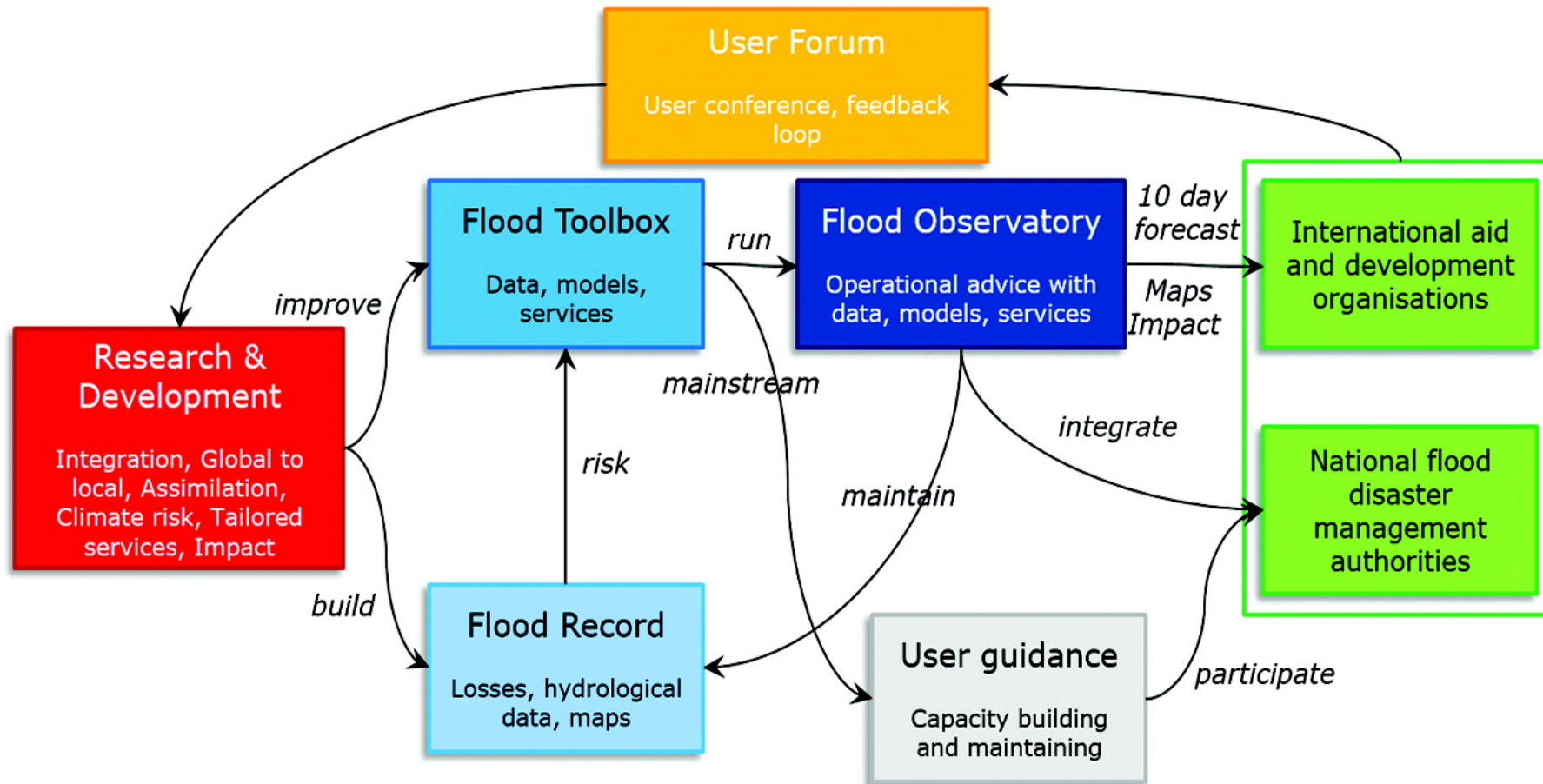




# JOINING FORCES IN A GLOBAL FLOOD PARTNERSHIP

BY T. DE GROEVE, J. THIELEN-DEL POZO, R. BRAKENRIDGE, R. ADLER, L. ALFIERI, D. KULL, F. LINDSAY, O. IMPERIALI, F. PAPPENBERGER, R. RUDARI, P. SALAMON, N. VILLARS, AND K. WYJAD

Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, 2015



## Launching the Global Flood Partnership

*Partnering for global flood forecasting, monitoring and impact assessment to strengthen preparedness and response and to reduce disaster losses*



Global Flood Working Group, 4-6 March 2014, ECMWF, UK



## GFP Community development

- ❖ 2011: JRC, Ispra, Italy  
(working group)
- ❖ 2012, Deltares, Delft, Netherlands
- ❖ 2013: ESSIC/GSFC NASA, Maryland, USA
- ❖ 2014: ECMWF, Reading, UK  
(informal partnership)
- ❖ 2015: NCAR, Colorado, USA  
(formal partnership)
- ❖ 2016, JRC, Ispra, Italy
- ❖ 2017: Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA
- ❖ 2018: Delft, Netherland
- ❖ 2019: SYSU, Guangzhou, China





**Guangzhou  
June 10-13, 2019**





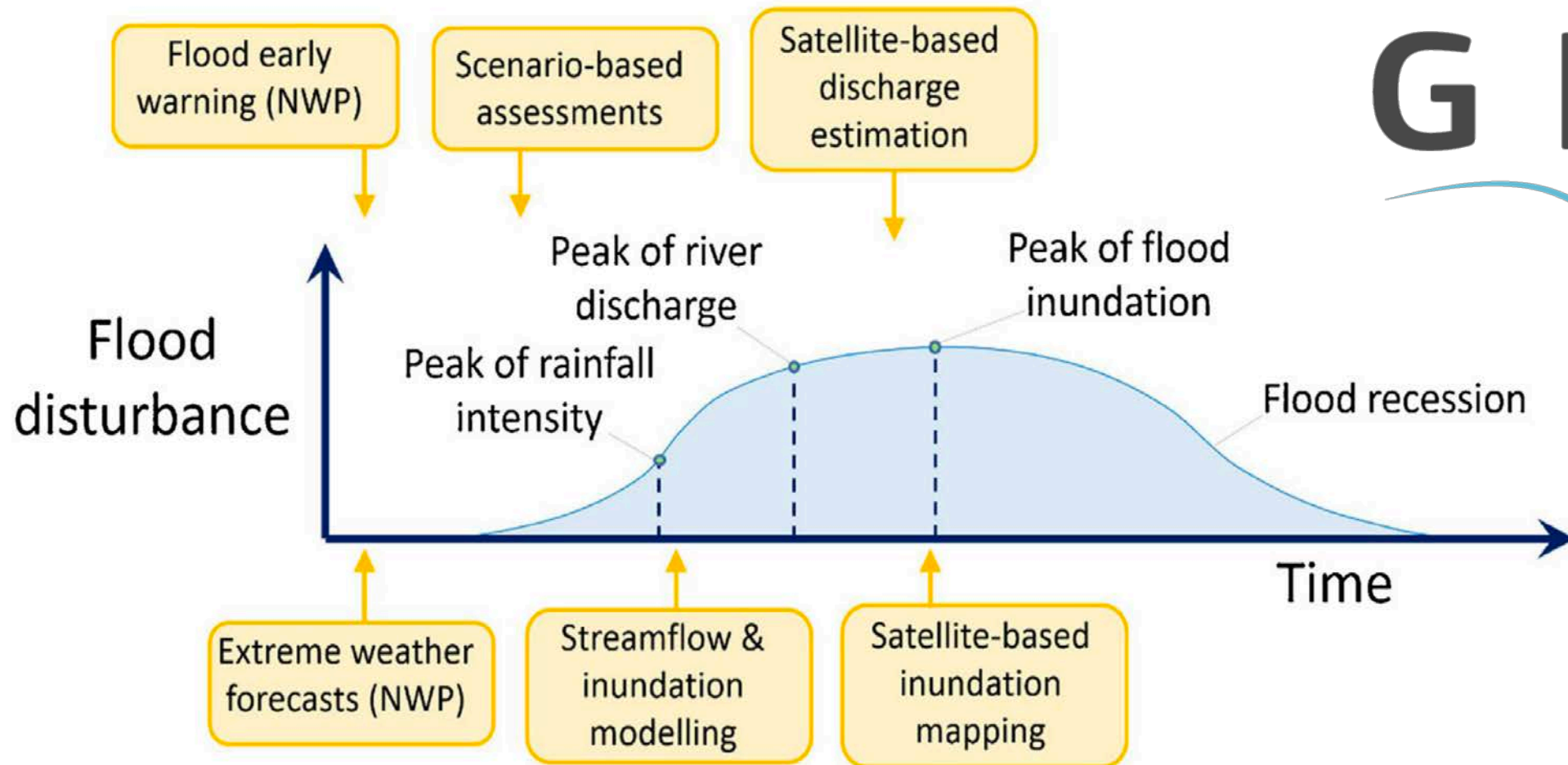
## A global network for operational flood risk reduction

Environmental Science and Policy

Lorenzo Alfieri<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sagy Cohen<sup>b</sup>, John Galantowicz<sup>c</sup>, Guy J-P. Schumann<sup>d,e</sup>, Mark A. Trigg<sup>f</sup>, Ervin Zsoter<sup>g</sup>, Christel Prudhomme<sup>g,h,i</sup>, Andrew Kruczkiewicz<sup>j,k</sup>, Erin Coughlan de Perez<sup>j,k,l</sup>, Zachary Flamig<sup>m</sup>, Roberto Rudari<sup>n</sup>, Huan Wu<sup>o,p</sup>, Robert F. Adler<sup>q</sup>, Robert G. Brakenridge<sup>r</sup>, Albert Kettner<sup>r</sup>, Albrecht Weerts<sup>s,t</sup>, Patrick Matgen<sup>u</sup>, Saiful A.K.M Islam<sup>v</sup>, Tom de Groeve<sup>a</sup>, Peter Salamon<sup>a</sup>



2018



G F P

global flood partnership



**G F P**  
global flood partnership

Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 storm at the Texas Gulf Coast (near Rockport) on August 25, 2017, causing wind damage and storm surge-induced coastal flooding. The storm slowly moved east along the coast (meandering in and out of Gulf waters), in effect, stalling over southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana until September 1st. The slow-moving storm produced historically high amounts of rain over the region, with maximum accumulated rainfall of over 1,500 mm in southeast Texas. This led to catastrophic riverine and flash flooding in the region. Houston Metropolitan area (Texas) received over 750 mm of rainfall between August 24 and September 1, leading to widespread urban flooding, displacing scores of people and damaging properties and infrastructure. It was estimated that the Hurricane Harvey was the costliest natural disasters in US history, with a total estimated damage of over \$180 billion.

**Aug 25**  
Landfall

**Aug 27**  
GFP Partial Activation:  
Dartmouth Flood Observatory (DFO) sent a limited-distribution email (not via GFP mailing list) informing about the activation of the 'International Charter', setting up of a DFO event webpage, and outlining available satellite imagery resources from before the flooding. The email led to inclusion of the recipients in the FEMA daily Remote Sensing Coordination and Geospatial Coordination calls which was later proved instrumental in connecting GFP products to the hurricane response community (including for the following flood events in Florida and Puerto Rico). The email was shared with NOAA National Water Center. A few hours following the initial email, precipitation and inundation predictions from GFMS were shared.

**Aug 28**  
GFP Full Activation:  
The first email was sent to the GFP mailing list, proposing using this event as a case study to study GFP-members flood prediction systems. The same email also included streamflow predictions from the Flooded Locations And Simulated Hydrographs Project (FLASH). These predictions were re-distributed to a range of stakeholders (e.g. FEMA, NASA), an action which thereafter became standard operating procedure, with growing list of recipients.

**Aug 29**  
Initial Remote Sensing Mapping:  
DFO shared (via FEMA Geospatial Coordination email distribution) an update on flood mapping and modeling efforts, including using Radarsat images (from Aug 28) to map flooding, and sharing JPL-produced flood maps from the ALOS-2 satellite. The confidence in these products were relatively low. Atmospheric and Environmental Research (AER) shared (via GFP mailing list) a large-scale 90-m resolution flood map of the impacted area, analyzed from the AMSR2 (passive microwave) sensor using an experimental configuration of the FloodScan system. Link between DFO/GFP to the State Operations Center of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) was established which initiated data sharing via the TDEM data server (restricted access).

**Aug 30**  
SAR-based Mapping:  
Following a pass by Sentinel-1 satellite, SAR-based flood maps were shared by Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), JPL and DFO. DFO ftp server was used to store and distribute the GIS files of these, and future, products relating to this event. AER produced an updated maximum flood map for the region using new AMSR2 imagery, which was shared via the GFP mailing list. It was then distributed to the FEMA Geospatial Coordination mailing list (now over 300 recipients) and was uploaded to the TDEM data server.

**Aug 31**  
Additional Sentinel-1 imagery was shared by LIST via the GFP mailing list. DFO provided an updated inventory of GFP-produced flood maps and links to its event-dedicated web-portal and ftp server. The Surface Dynamics Modeling Lab (SDML) shared a floodwater depth map based on the AER maximum flood extent map and a DEM. AER shared updated large-scale maximum flood extent maps incorporating AMSR2 data from August 30 and set up a FloodScan web interface with daily Hurricane Harvey maps. LIST shared SAR-based flood map covering the Houston area from a 30 August Sentinel-1 pass. Aerial photography was becoming available via NOAA but with limited coverage outside the coast.

**Sep 1**  
AER shared updates from AMSR2 passes on 31 August, revealing the extent of flooding in east Texas (Beaumont area). SDML shared a building impact map based on AER maximum flood extent map and address points layer from the TDEM server (uploaded by University of Texas, Austin).

**Sep 2 onward**  
AER shared final maximum flood extent estimates incorporating all AMSR2 data 26 August - 2 September with expanded coverage into Louisiana. LIST shared flood maps from two Sentinel-1 passes on 4 September. DFO shared a maximum extent map based on Sentinel-1 imagery. DFO website was updated to include these and other final products: [http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/Events/2017\\_USA4510/2017USA4510.html](http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/Events/2017_USA4510/2017USA4510.html)

**GFMS Predictions**  
Flood Detection/Intensity (depth above threshold [mm])  
Inundation map, 1km res. [mm]  
Flood Detection/Intensity (depth above threshold [mm])  
GFMS Predictions

**AER FloodScan**  
AER FloodScan  
SDML Floodwater Depth  
SDML Floodwater Depth and building impact  
AER FloodScan  
LIST  
LIST  
LIST  
DFO Flood map

**GF P** global flood partnership  
**GFMS**

<https://efp-irc.europa.eu/support-services>

<https://gfp.jrc.ec.europa.eu/support-service>





NATIONAL AERONAUTICS  
AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

GODDARD SPACE  
FLIGHT CENTER

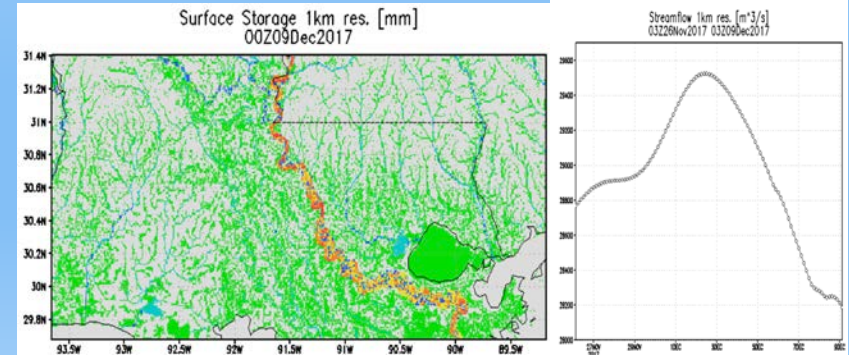
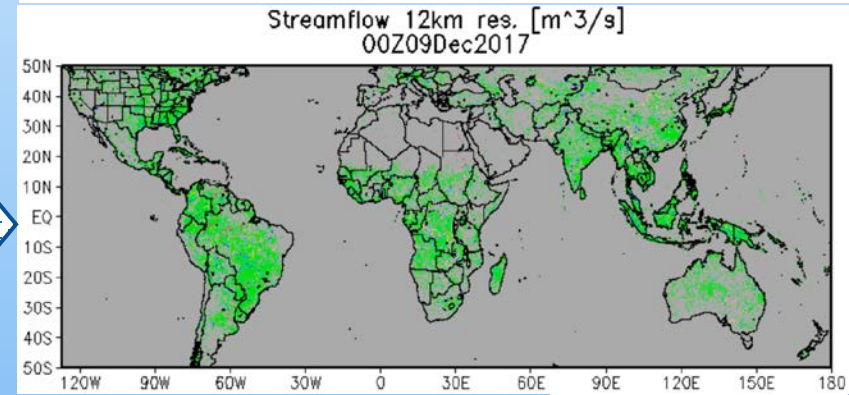
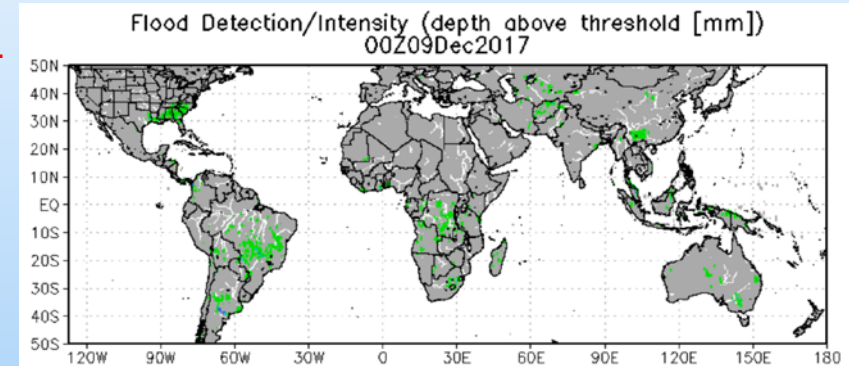
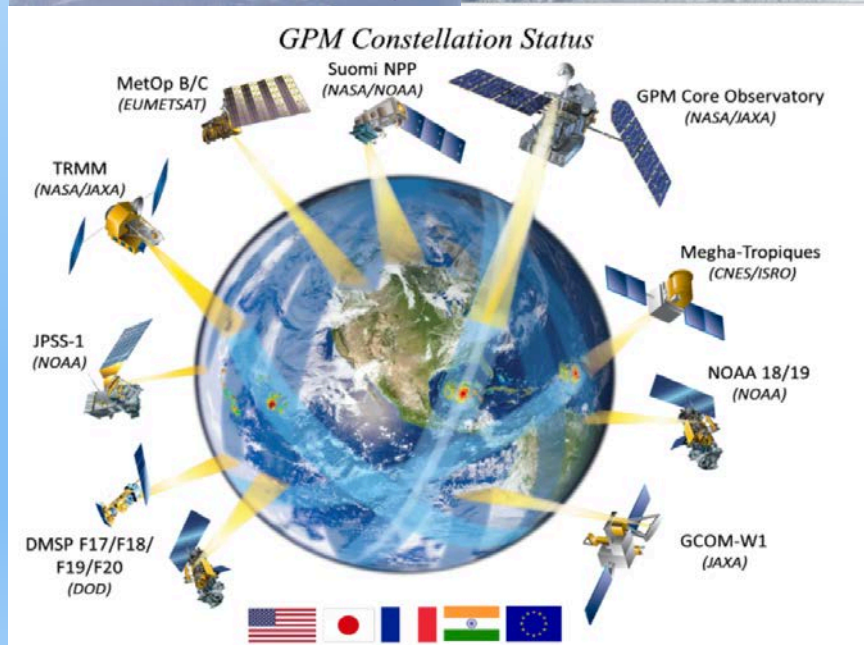
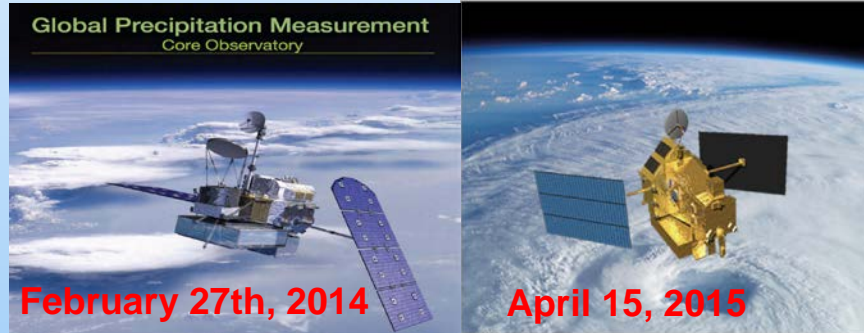
# GFMS from TRMM to GPM

Search



## PRECIPITATION MEASUREMENT MISSIONS

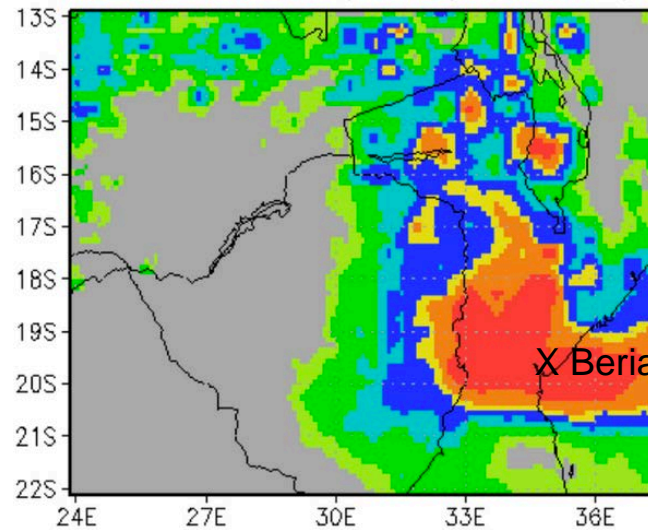
3-hourly, 8<sup>th</sup> and 1km global flood detection and inundation mapping with hydrological model



Global Flood Monitoring System (GFMS)

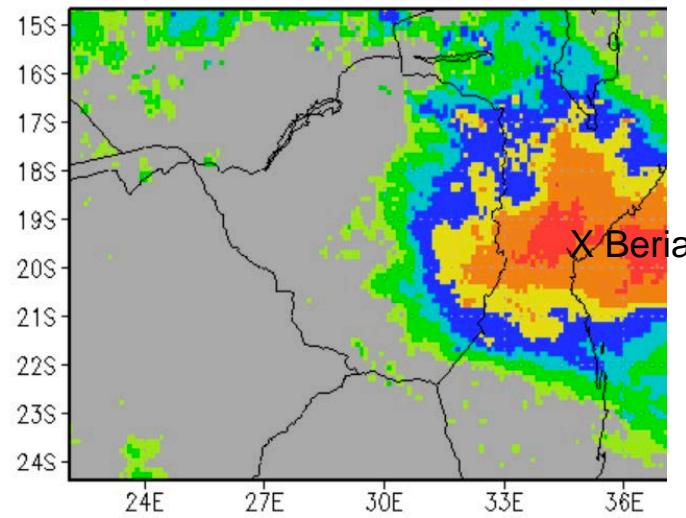


# Forecast Rain Before Cyclone Hit

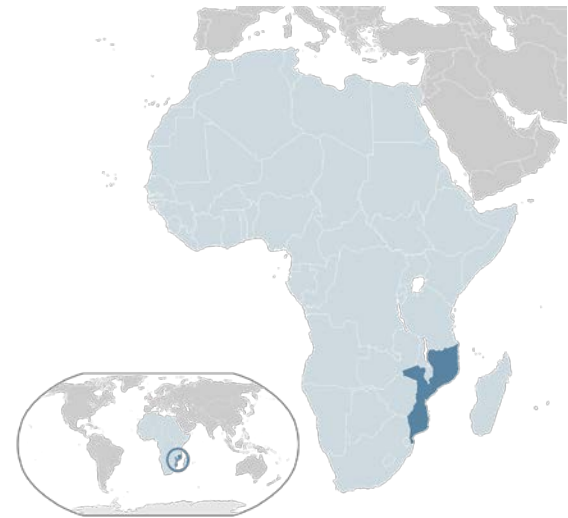
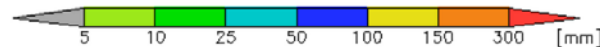


3-Day Forecast Rain from 14 March (from NASA GEOS NWP model)

*NWP forecast peak totals were ~ 1000 mm, while peak satellite estimates (IMERG) were ~ 600 mm. Ground validation was missing/questionable.*



3-Day Satellite-based Rain from 14-17 March

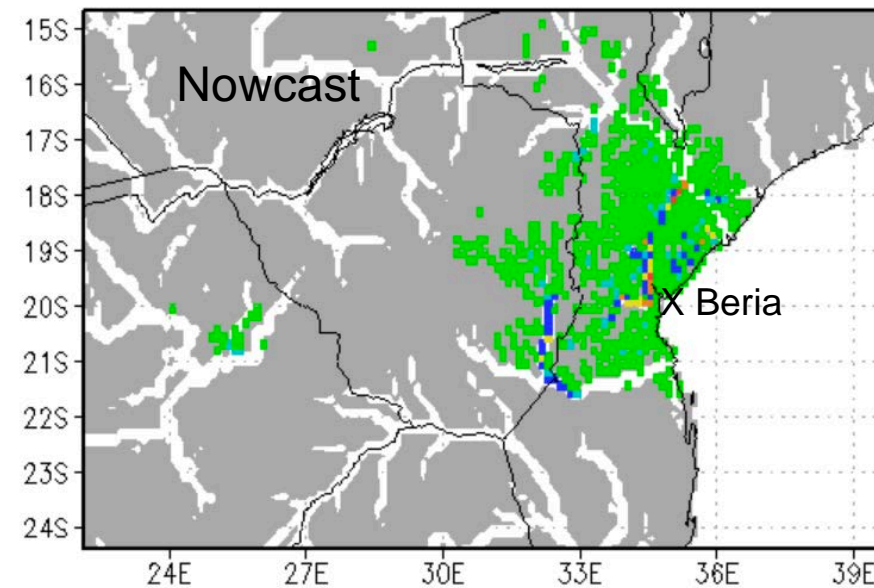
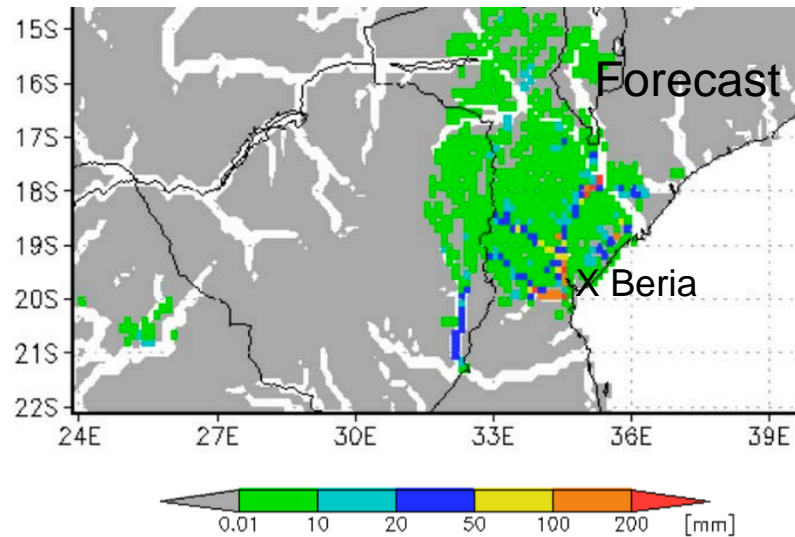


# Flood Forecasts from NWP Rain vs. Nowcast Using Satellite Rain

Forecast from 14 March  
for 17 March

Nowcast using Satellite Rainfall  
for 17 March

Flood Detection/Intensity (Depth)



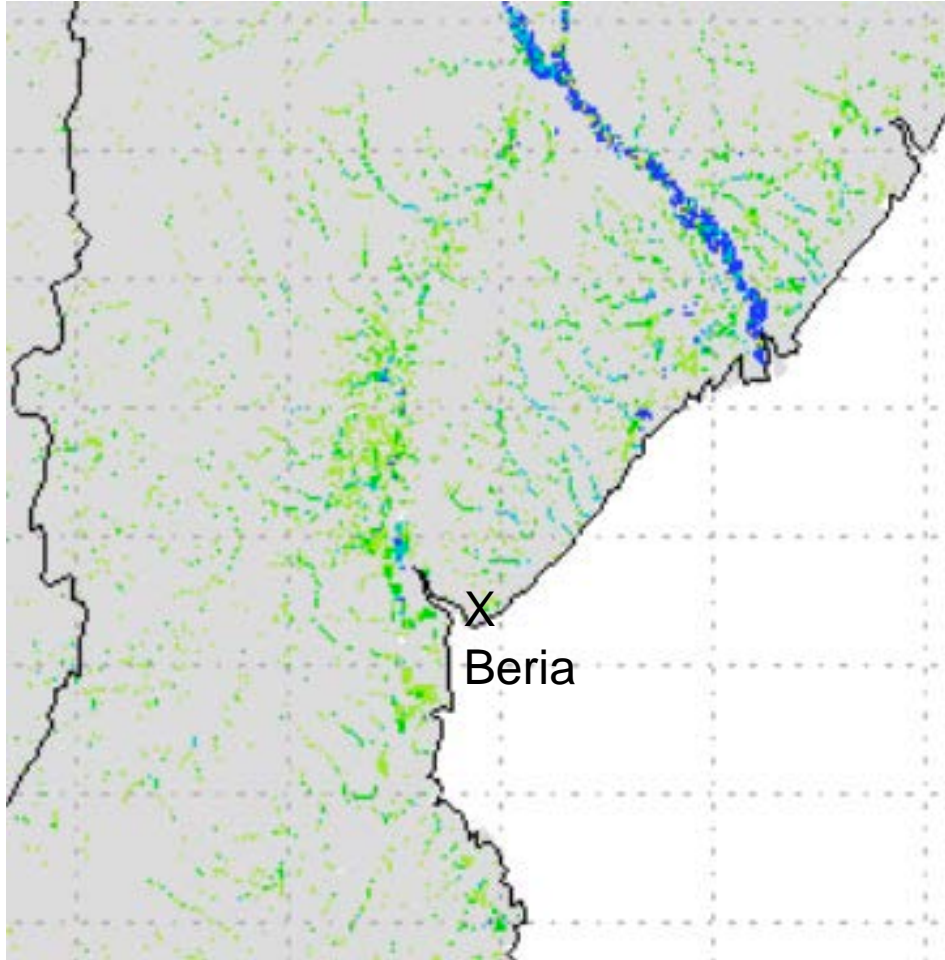
*Forecast at coarse (12 km) resolution gives good warning of where flooding may occur both in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, with less intensity due to difference in peak rain amounts*



## First Estimate of Inundation—from GFMS

15 March

17.5 S



21.0 S

33.0  
E



37.0  
E

## Timeline of Useful Inundation Maps

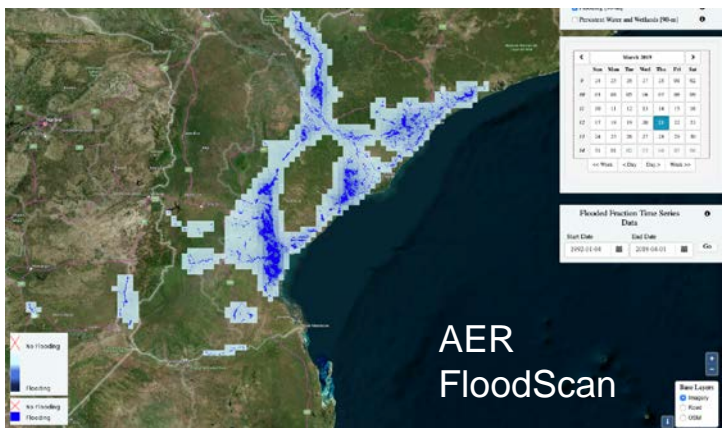
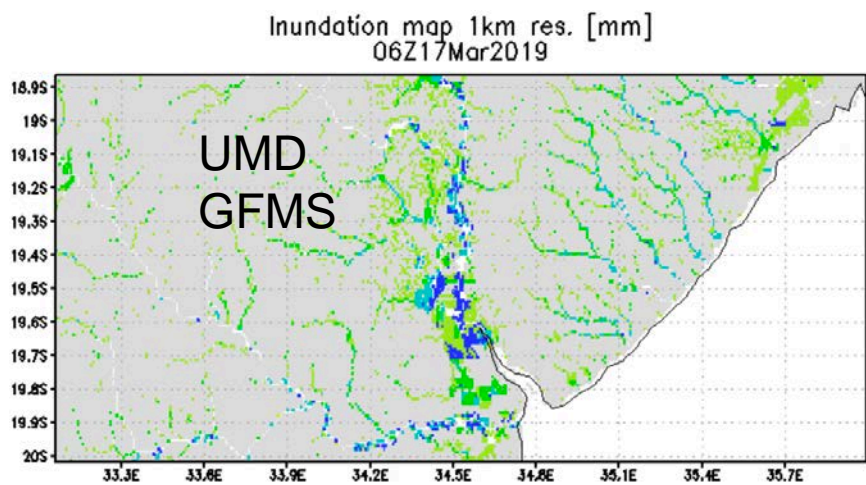
15 March--GFMS 1 km  
(calculation based on Satellite  
rainfall and land-surface/routing  
models—every 3 hrs.)

17 March—AER FloodScan  
(surface passive microwave  
signal disaggregated spatially  
by terrain, but obscured by rain  
[not cloud])

20 March—Synthetic Aperture  
Radar (SAR) published by  
UNOSAT from Sentinel-1 data  
19-20 March. *Number of groups  
analyzing Sentinel and other SAR data*

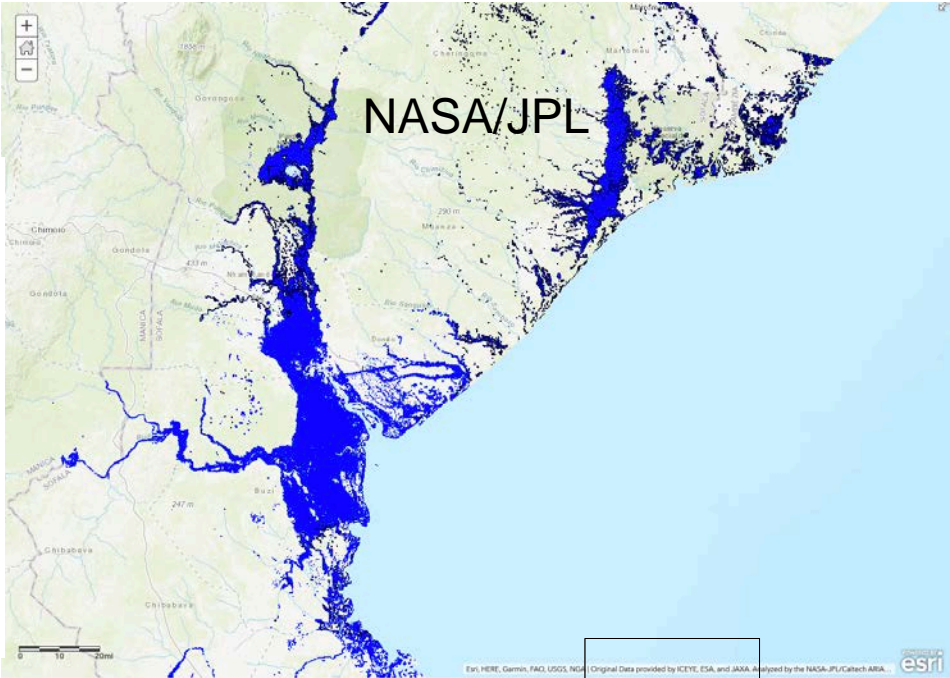
Later—Optical (e.g., MODIS)  
obscured by clouds

# Mozambique Cyclone Idai March 2019

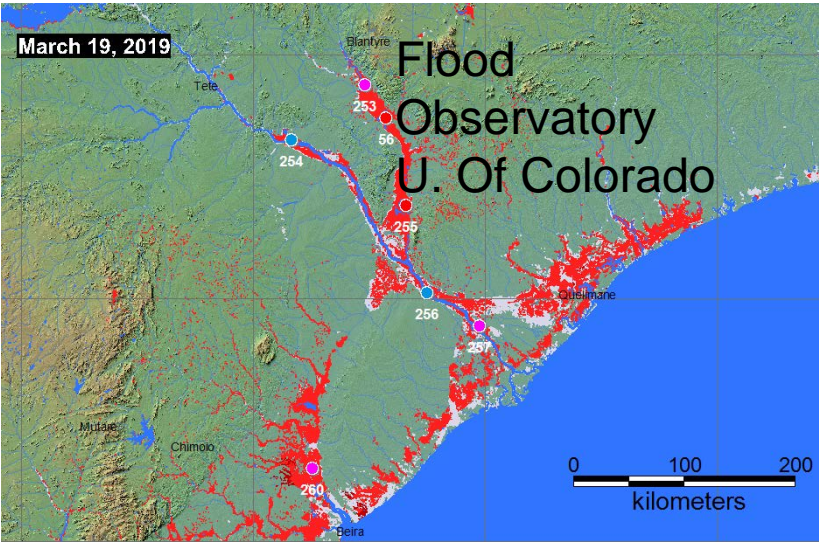
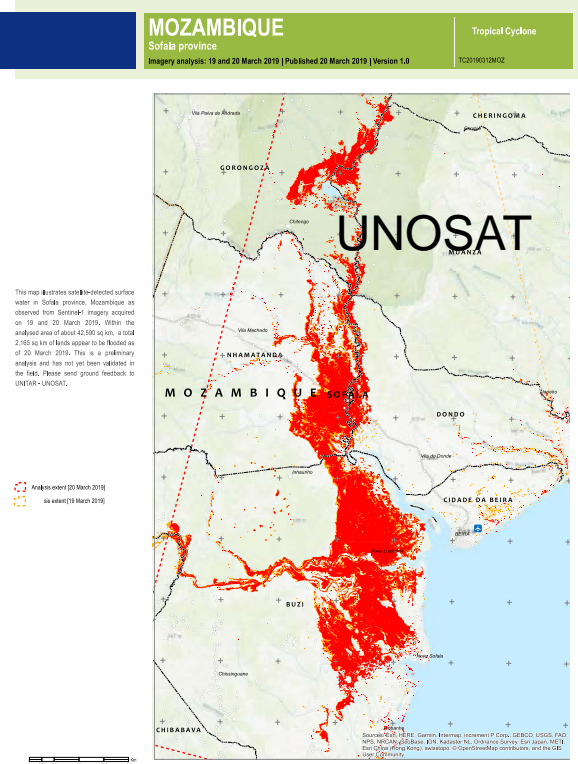
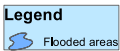


Numerous Remote Sensing-based flood products

## SAR-based Inundation Maps



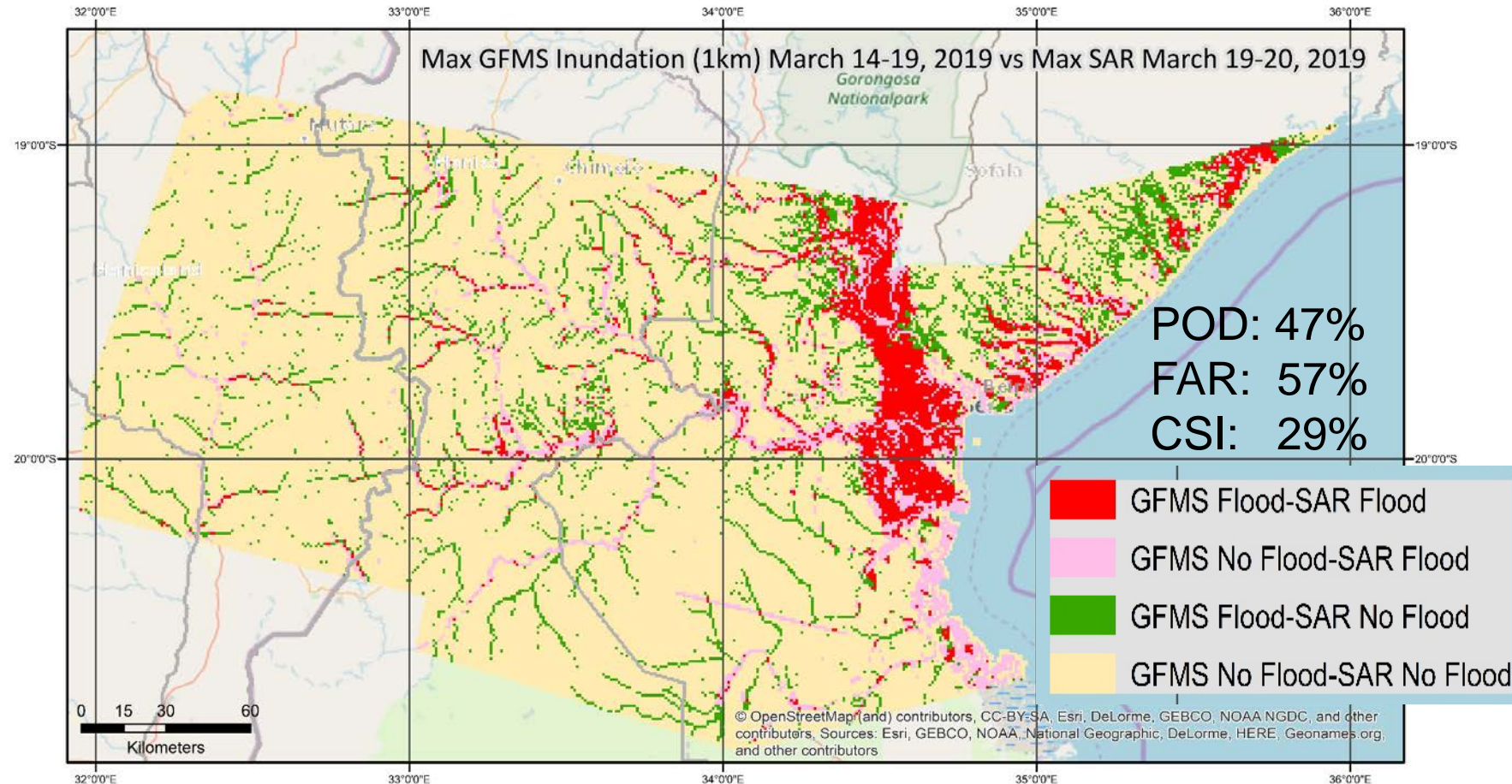
LIST  
Luxembourg





# Time Integrated Inundation from GFMS

Maximum Inundation from GFMS (14-19 March) vs. Max Inundation from SAR (LIST)

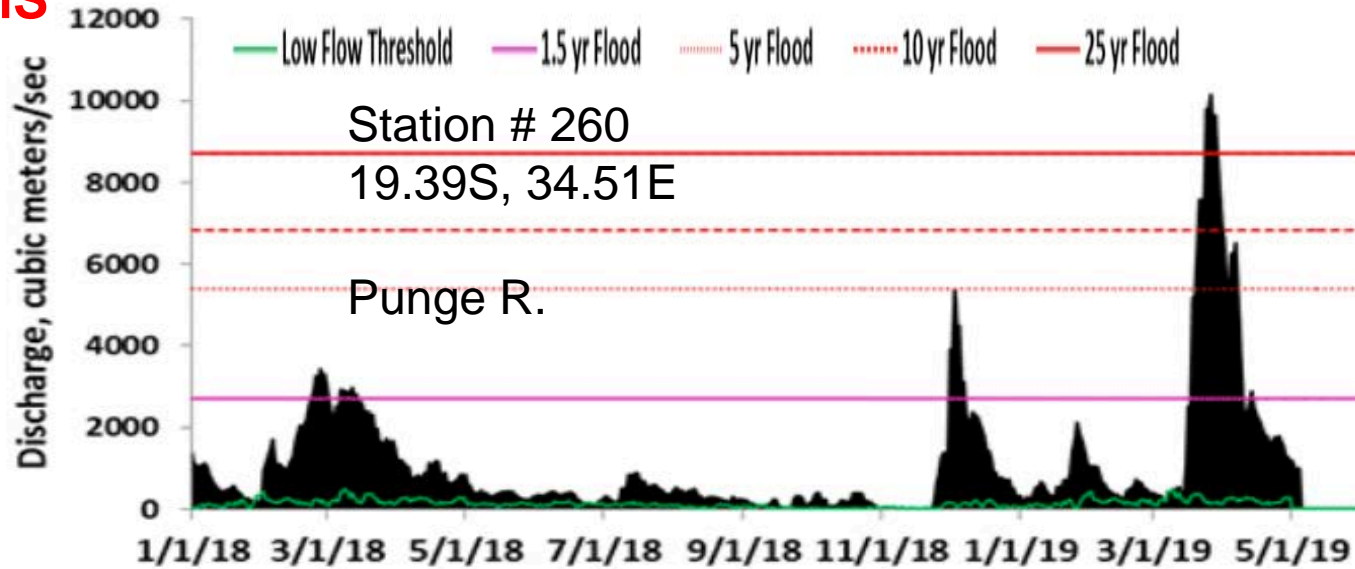


Better agreement with SAR—Higher POD, but lower FAR

# Streamflow/Flood Estimates from RiverWatch (Flood Observatory) and GFMS

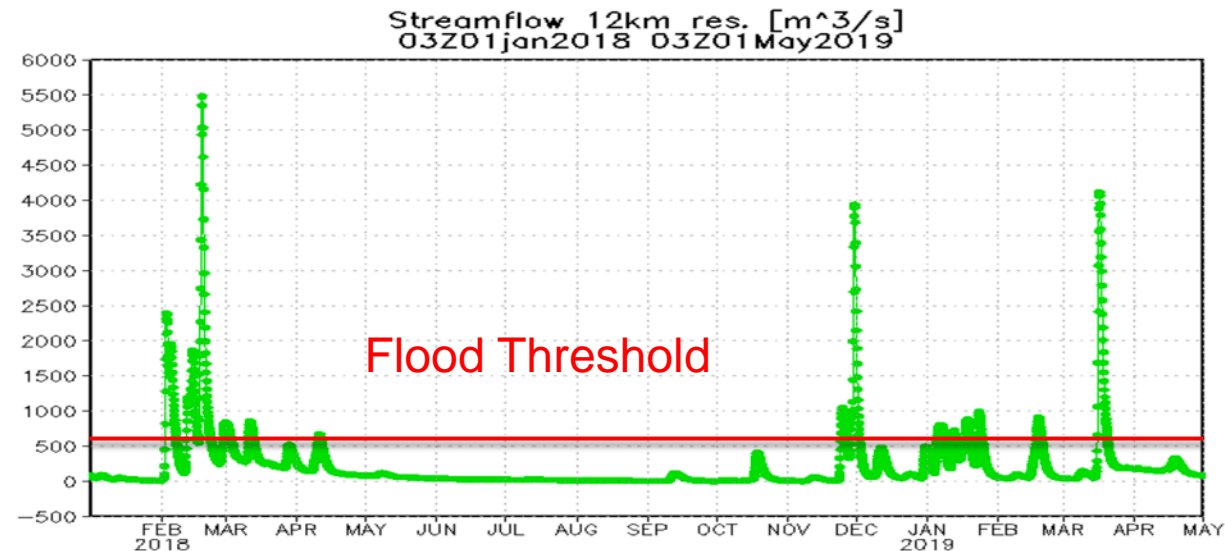
## RiverWatch

Uses  
surface  
microwave  
observations  
related to  
streamflow



**GFMS**  
Streamflow

Satellite  
rainfall into  
land  
surface/routin  
g models





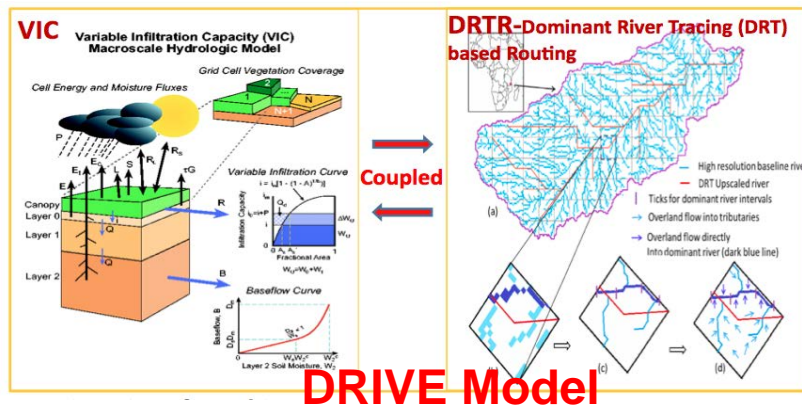
# Mozambique Flood Example → what do we learn?

- **Real-time users need accurate information, quickly.** Multiple sources are available, at different time and space resolutions (and different latencies) and with different positive qualities and limitations. With multiple sources, users need info. to be “easy to compare” or integrated.
- ***How to use these resources in an integrated fashion taking into account timelines and quality??***



Hydrograph

DEM



Precipitation

Air temperature, wind

soil

DEM

vegetation

...





- **Challenge one:** Global Validation of flood models
- **Challenge Two:** Precipitation Uncertainty and its impact on flood prediction
- **Challenge Three:** Global drainage network derivation and parameterization
- **Challenge Four:** Global optimization (calibration) of flood models
- **Challenge Five:** Baseline global flood event database
- **Challenge Six:** Human activity impacts on floods: urbanization, dam/reservoir
- **Challenge Seven:** Climate change and LUCC impacts on flood prediction and the uncertainty in the assessment

☐ *Working together with wide provider and user community!*

## HENG's Mission & Keywords



# Take home message

## *Integrating Products*

- Individual products (e.g., inundation estimates) will continue to improve with better observations, algorithms and modeling—but there will always be limitations in accuracy, availability, etc. **So we also need to be working toward melding or integrating our multiple estimates into a “best” estimate.**
- **For inundation, one possible approach:** Daily, model-based estimate as base, with optical and SAR products as additional options where/when available. All remapped and available as layers (if available); **possible merger or best estimate** as separate product.
- A **technical starting point is simple comparisons** to understand strengths/weaknesses, with possible **product approaches driven by user interests**.
- This type of work needs **programmatic integration too**; a great place for leadership by certain funding agencies working together, but also “steering” jointly by entities like the Global Flood Partnership (GFP), UN-SPIDER.

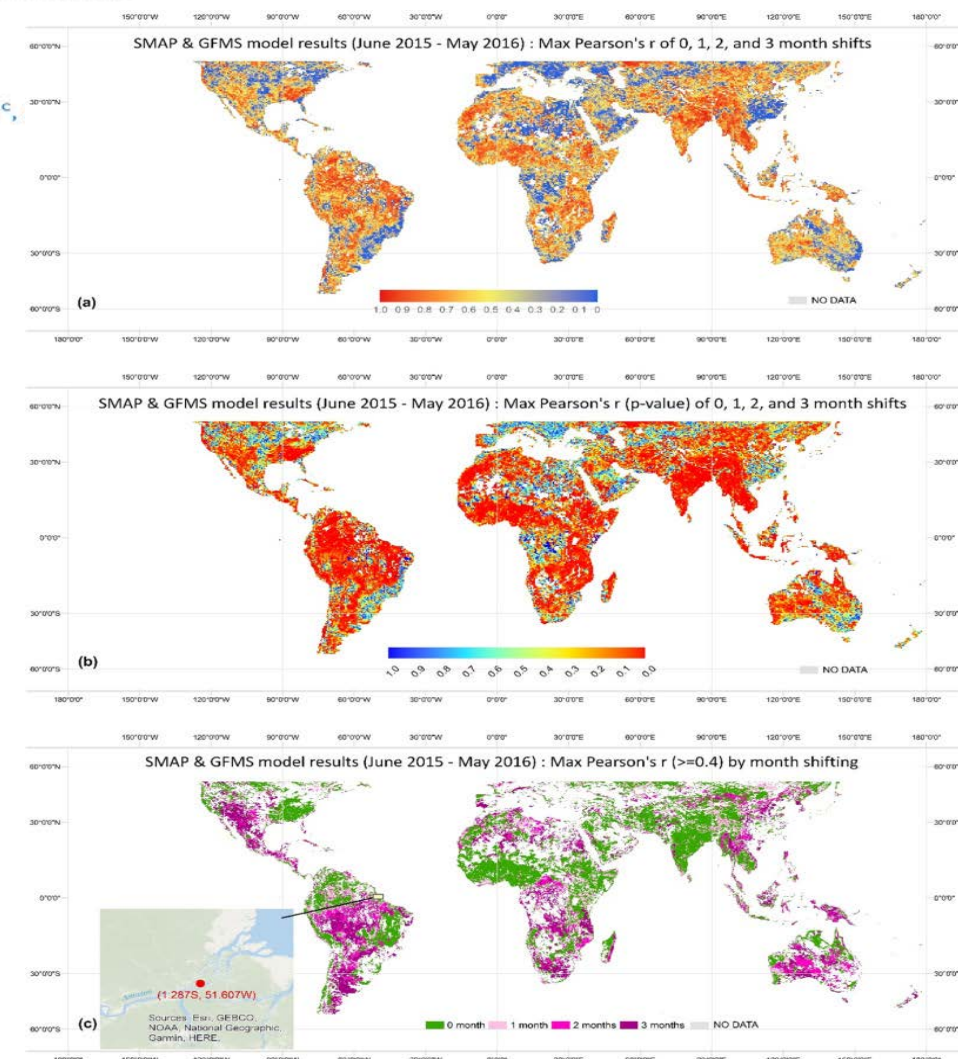
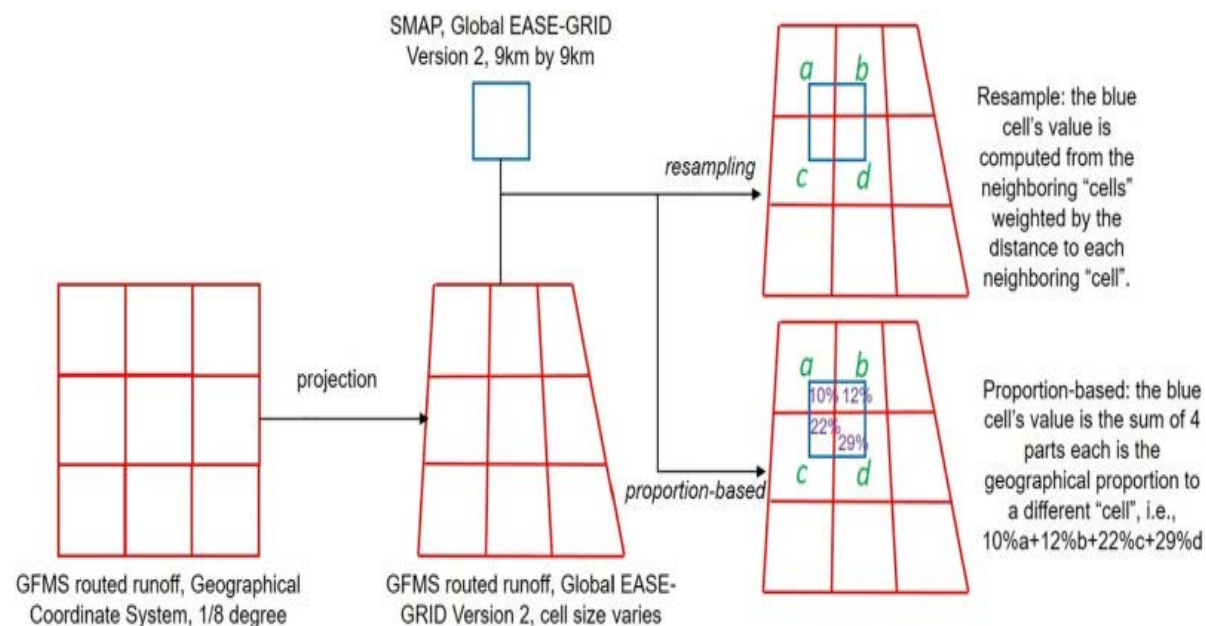


# Thanks !



## Evaluation of real-time global flood modeling with satellite surface inundation observations from SMAP

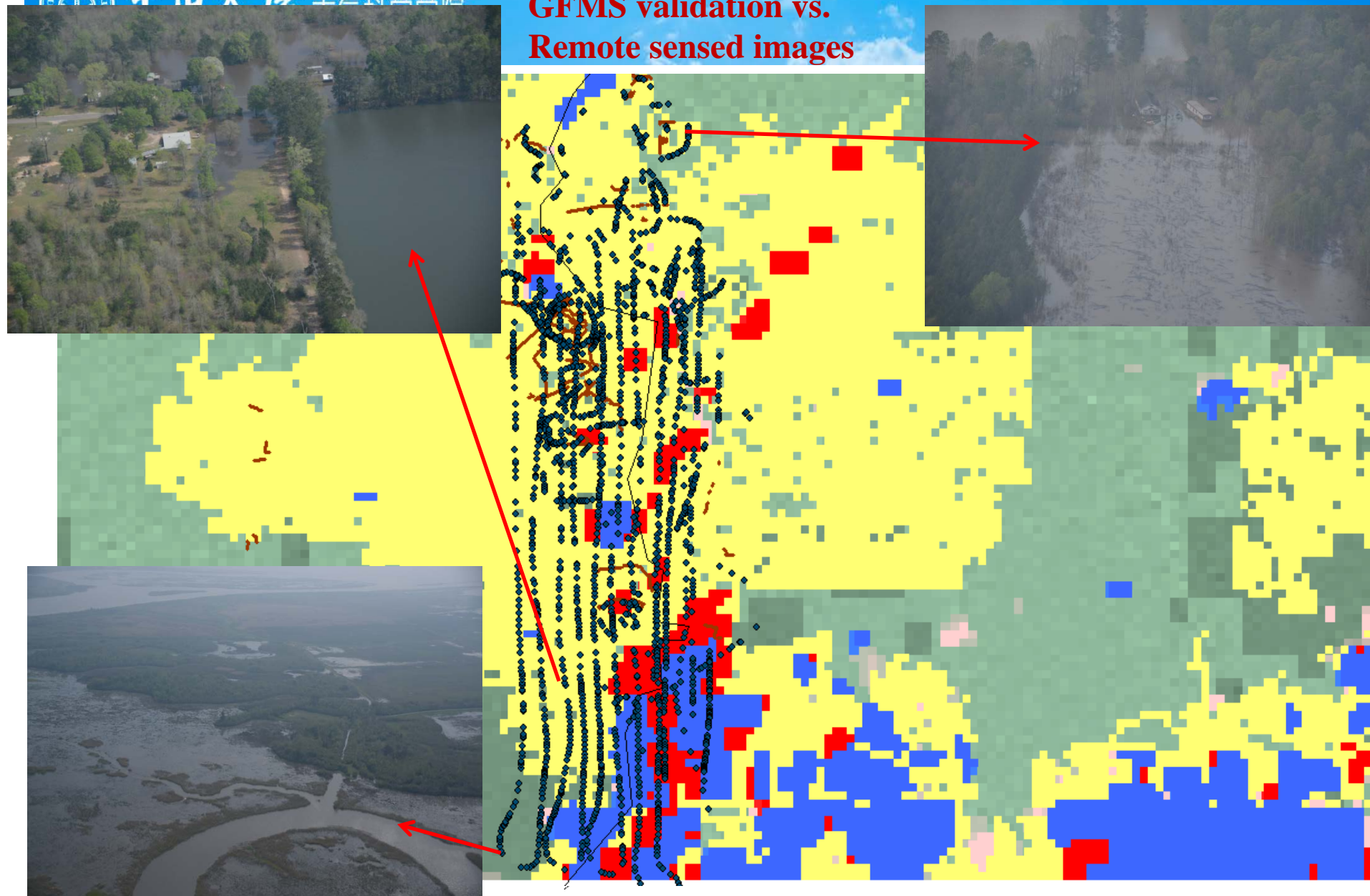
Huan Wu <sup>a, b</sup>, John S. Kimball <sup>c</sup>, Naijun Zhou <sup>d</sup>, Lorenzo Alfieri <sup>e</sup>, Lifeng Luo <sup>f</sup>, Jinyang Du <sup>c</sup>,



Wu et al., Remote Sensing of Environment (IF=8.12), 2019



## GFMS validation vs. Remote sensed images





## Urban Flood Monitoring Using an Integrated River Basin-Urban Flood Modeling Approach: A Case Study in Haikou City, Hainan, China

Weitian Chen<sup>1,2</sup>, Huan Wu<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Naijun Zhou<sup>3</sup>, Si Shi<sup>4</sup>, Qinbo Cai<sup>4</sup>, Yingchun Tao<sup>5</sup>, Shihu Zhao<sup>6</sup>

1) School of Atmospheric Sciences, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangdong, China

2) Guangdong Province Key Laboratory for Climate Change and Natural Disaster Studies, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

3) Department of Geographical Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

4) Meteorological Observatory of Hainan Province, Haikou, China

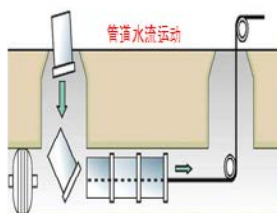
5) Beijing Institute of Surveying and Mapping, Beijing, China

6) Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center, NASG, Beijing, China

### Poster 5:



### 城市水流要素与概念模型



$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$Q = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0$$

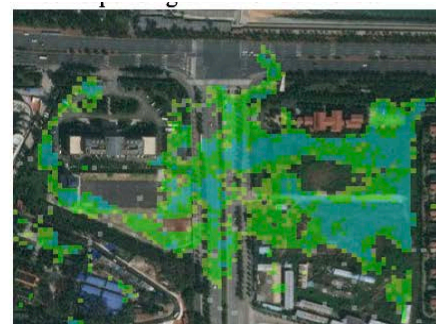
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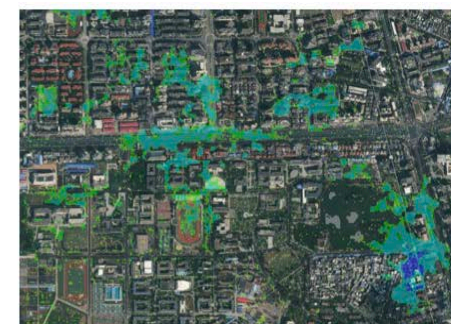
$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0$$

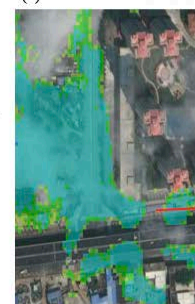
$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0$$



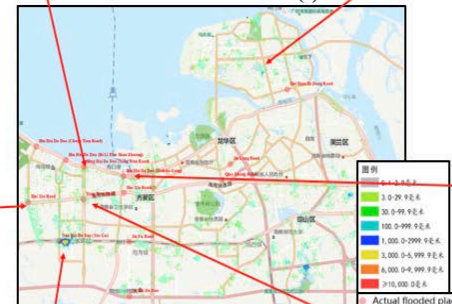
(a) Bin Hai Da Dao road



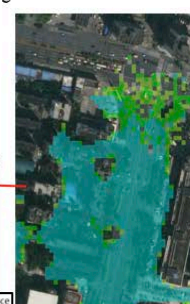
(b) Hai Dian Wu Dong Lu road



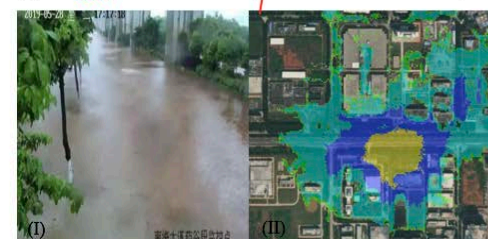
(c) Hai Xiu road



(d) The whole inundation map of Haikou city



(e) Hai Kou Gang road



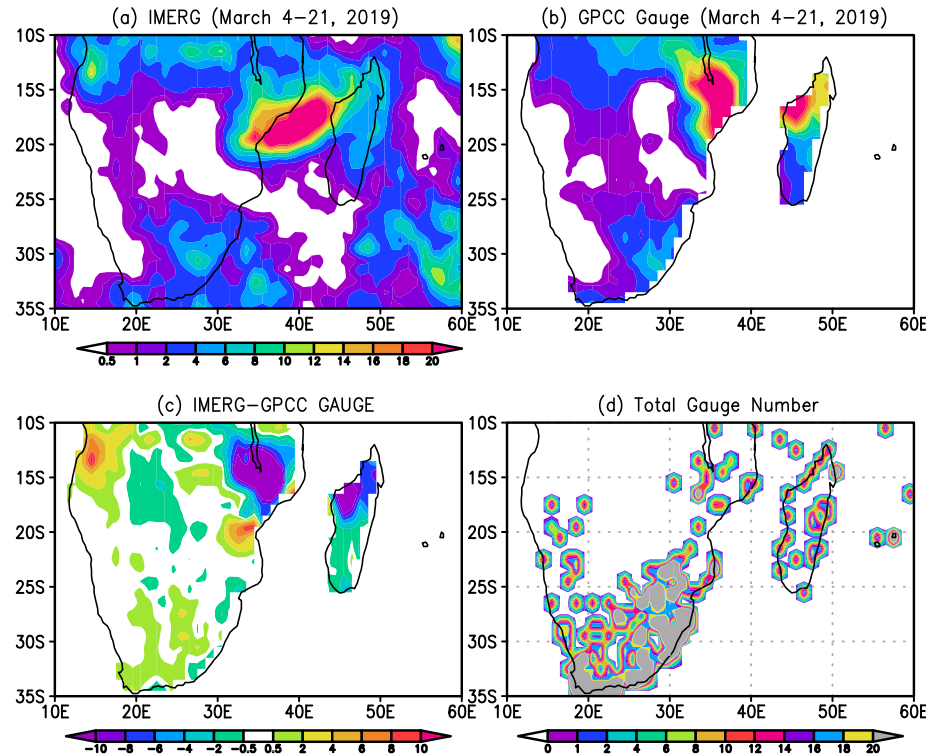
(I) Video photo (I) The



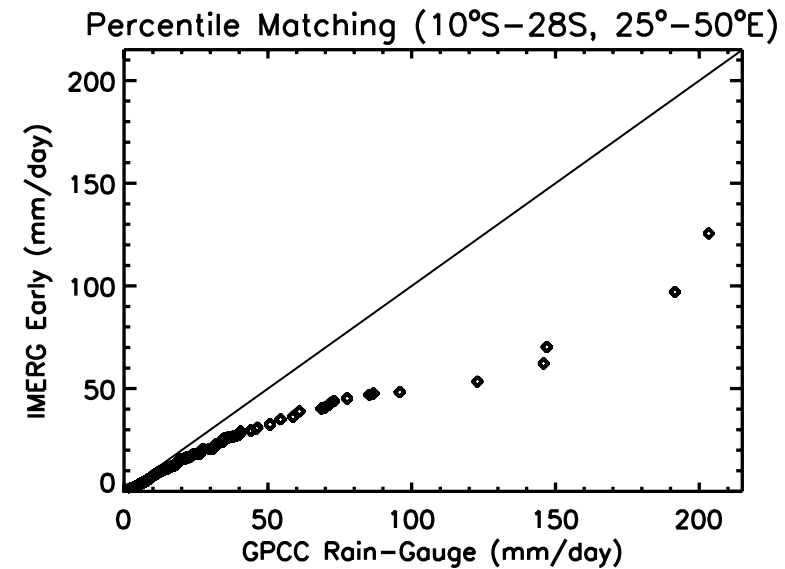
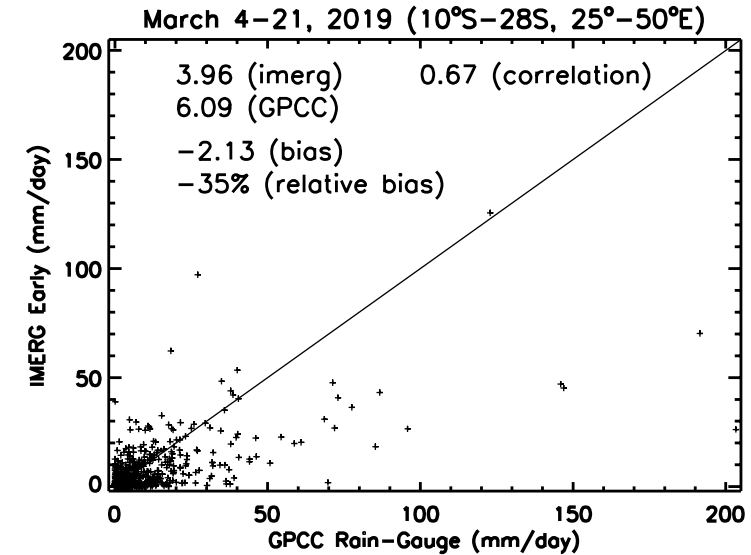
(II) Video photo (II) The



# Mean Rainfall During March 4-21, 2019 IMERG (satellite) vs GPCC (gauges)

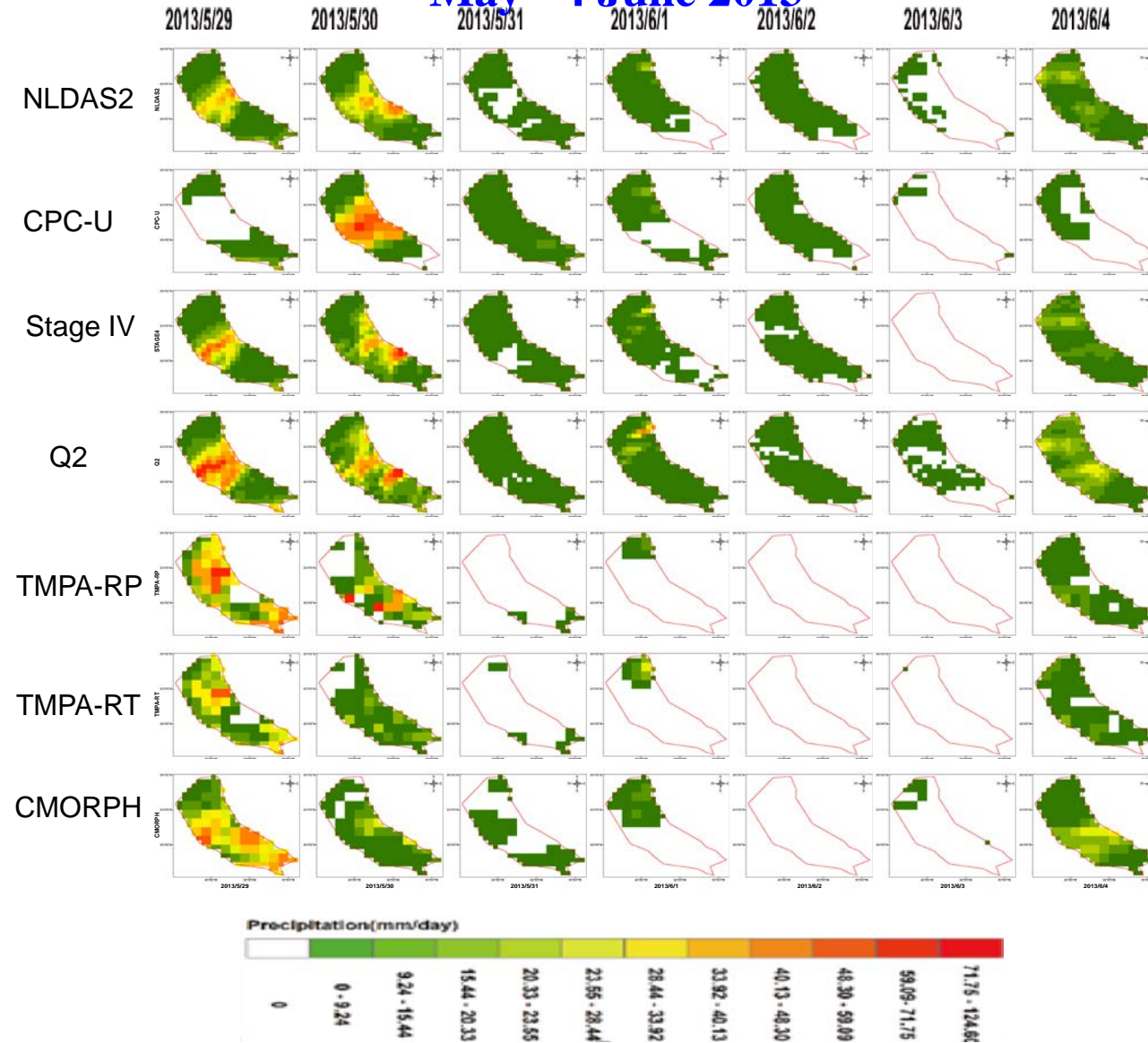


*Although validation (gauges) are missing/questionable, it appears IMERG underestimated, especially at high end.*



At least one gauge in each 1° grid

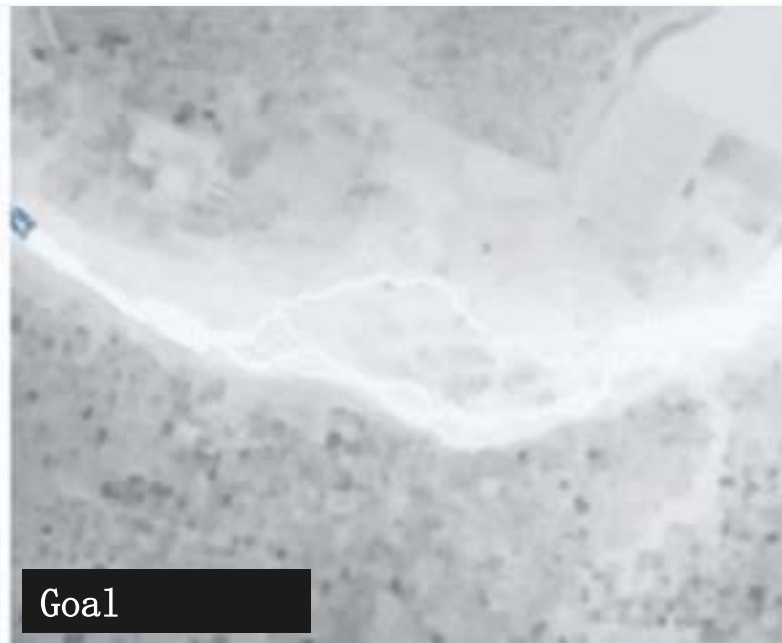
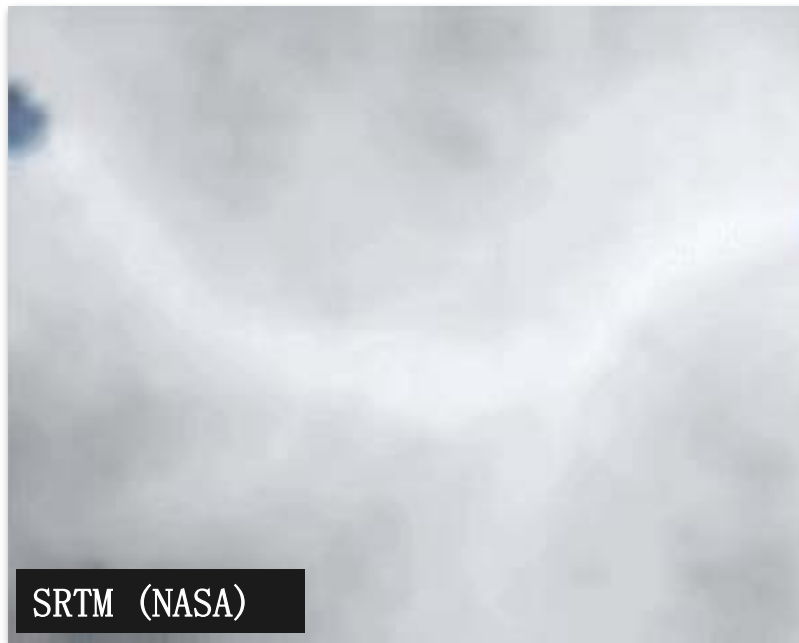
# Daily precipitation over Iowa-Cedar River Basin during the period between 29 May - 4 June 2013

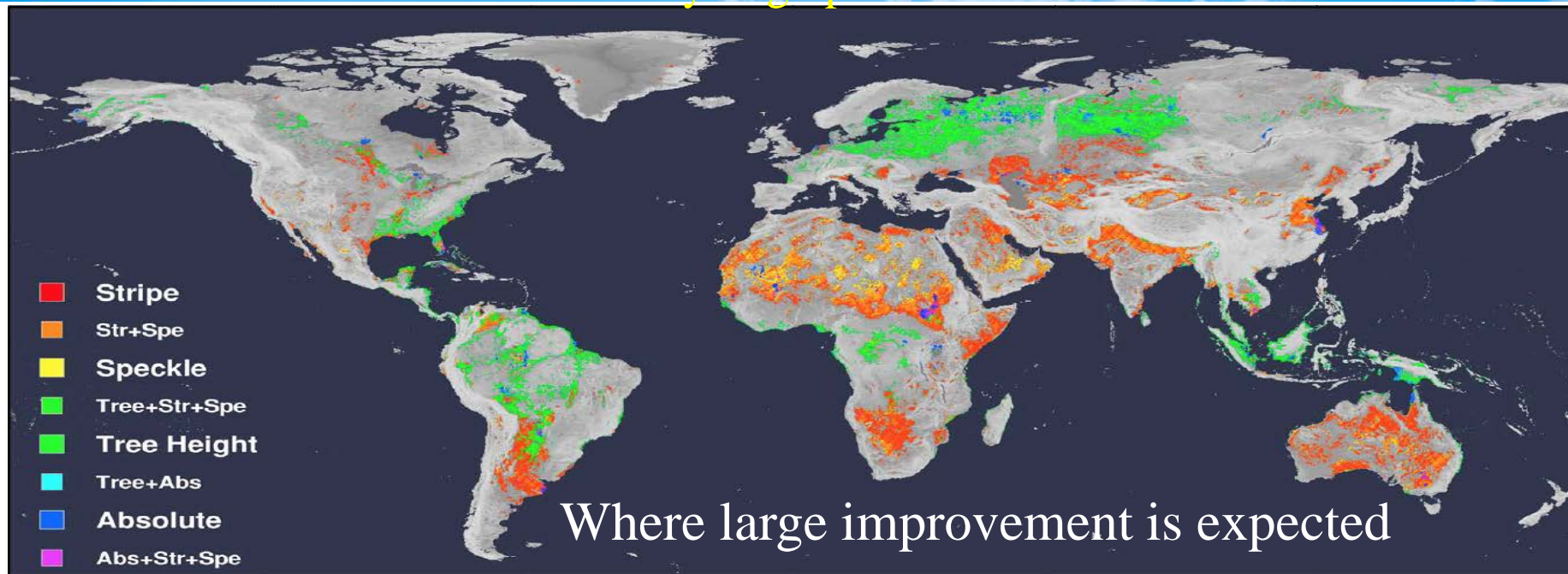






# Challenge: Elevation Maps





For slope-sensitive application, MERIT DEM is recommended.

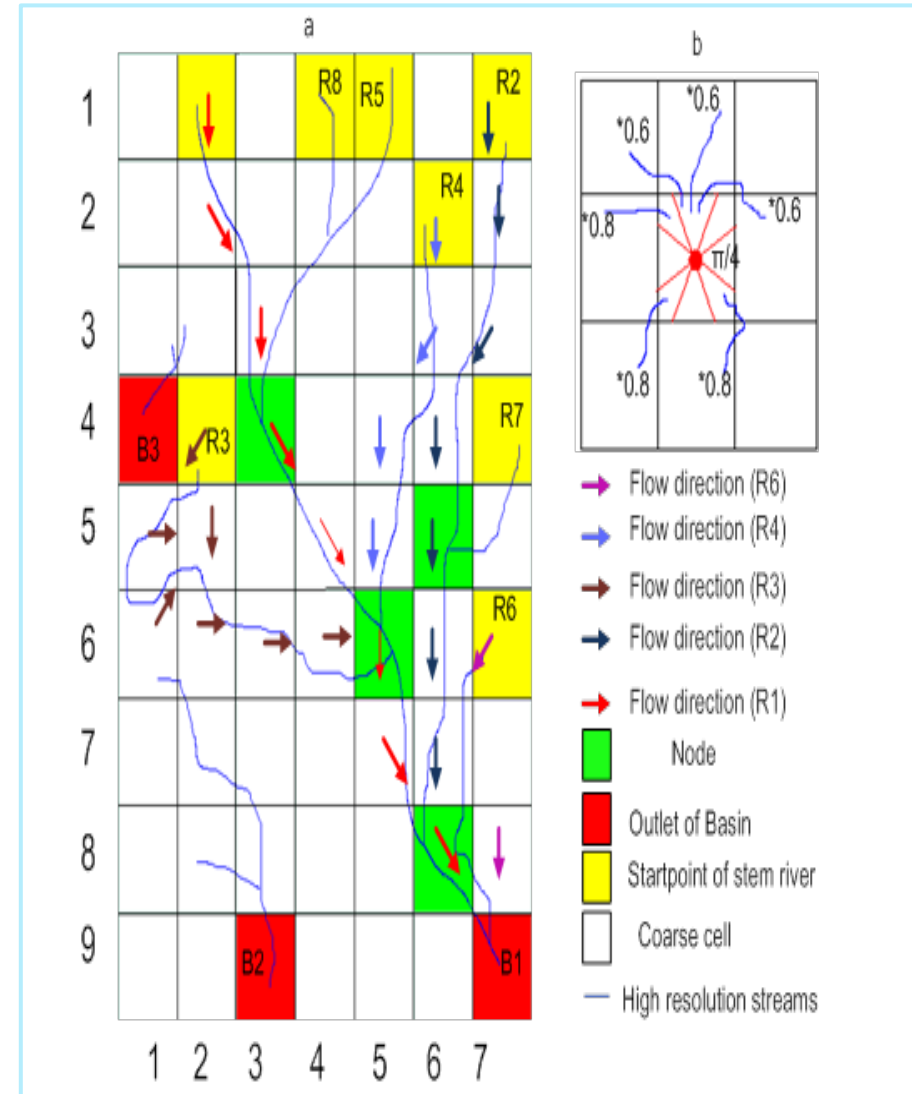
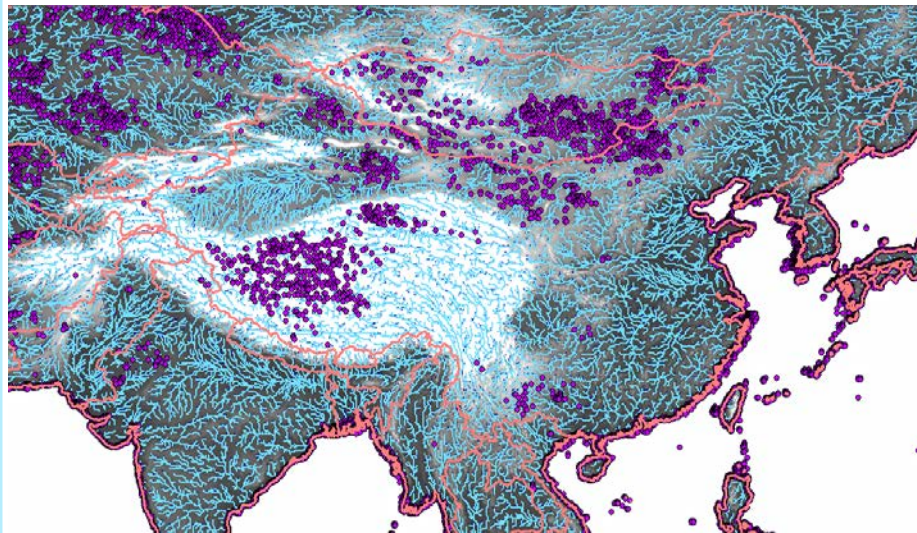
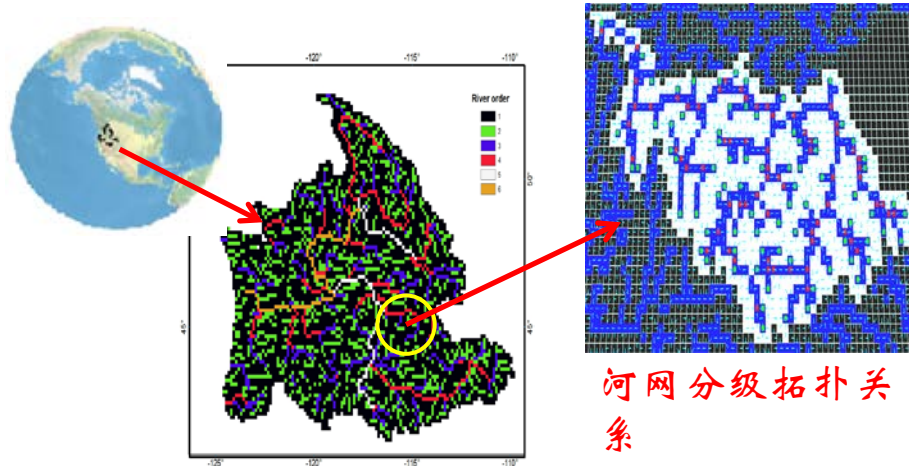
We applied the DRT algorithms to the MERIT global DEM and fine-scale hydrography derivations and produced a new upscaled global hydrographic dataset at multiple spatial resolutions from 1/120°(or 1km) to 1°.

We are comparing the MERIT DEM and HydroSHEDS in flow direction, flow accumulation, network, flow distance, slope, etc. , and the corresponding upscaled results.





1/20, 1/16, 1/12, 1/10, 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2 degrees



(Wu et al., *Water Resources Research*, 2011,2012)



## A Multi-Sourced Flood Inventory in Contiguous United States During TRMM Era

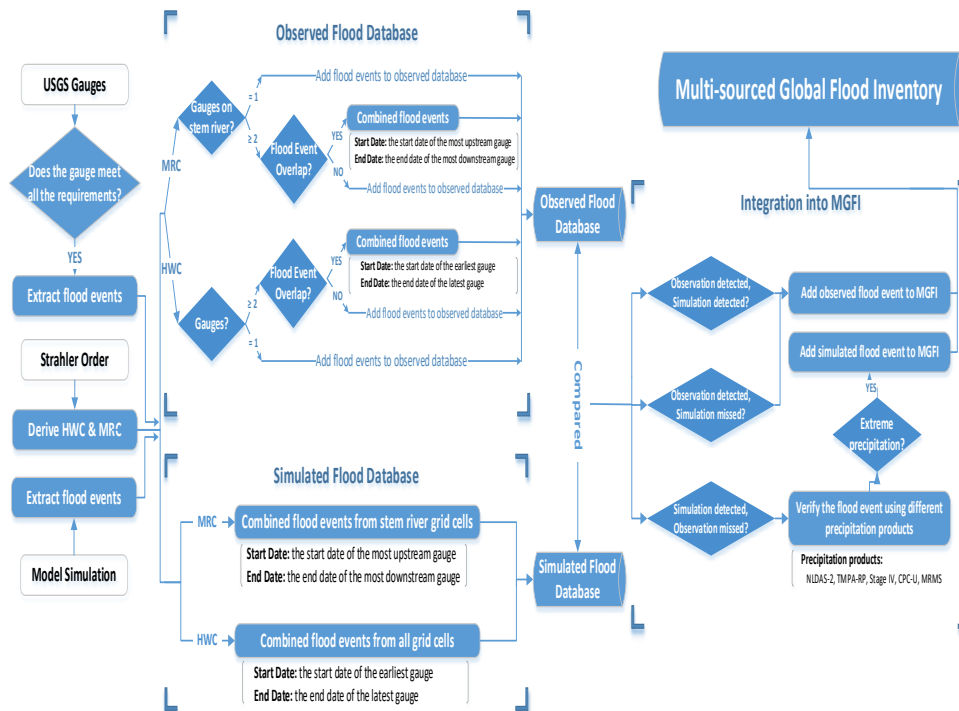
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<sup>2</sup> Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA



### Poster 4:



**HWC:** Head water catchment  
**MRC:** Major river catchment

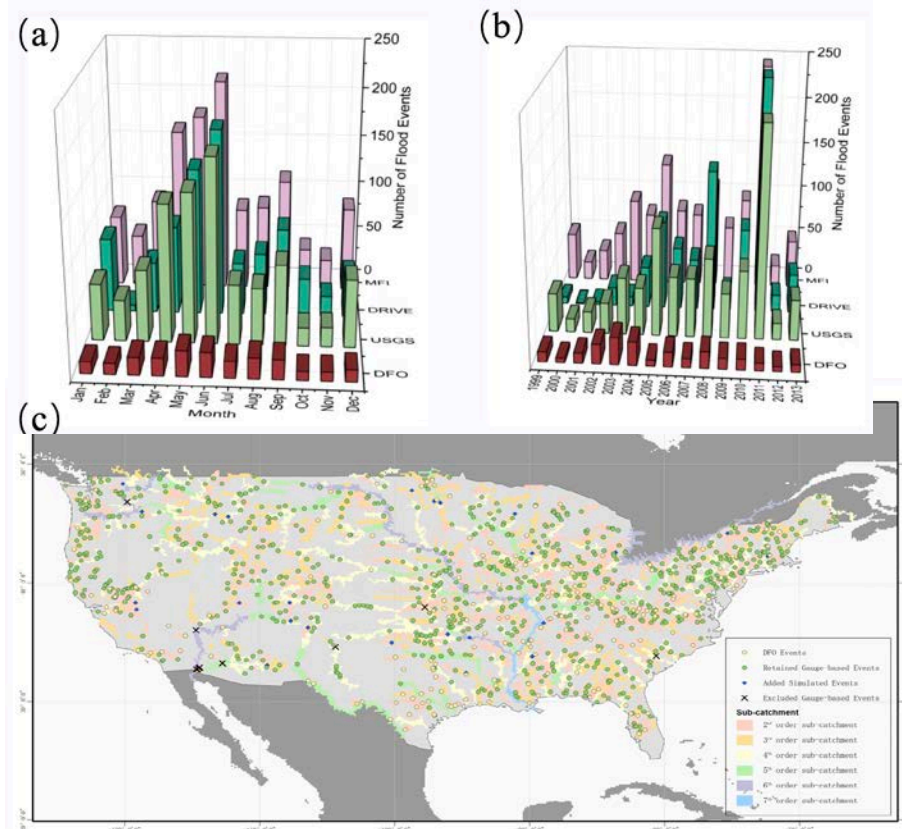


Fig 4. The distribution of preserved events, discarded events and recovered events

# Multi-source Global Flood Inventory (MGFI)