



METEOR: Modelling Exposure Through Earth Observation Routines to Aid Sustainable Development

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METEOR (Modelling Exposure Through Earth Observation Routines) is a three year Official Development Assistance (ODA) project funded by the UK Space Agency International Partnership Programme. The outcome is innovative applications of Earth Observation (EO) technologies to improve understanding of exposure and multi-hazards with a specific focus on Nepal and Tanzania. <http://meteor-project.org/>

The escalating impacts of natural hazards are caused mostly by increasing exposure of populations and assets. A major challenge when making Disaster Risk Management (DRM) decisions is poor understanding of the distribution and character of exposure, vulnerability and hazard in ODA countries. Exposure needs to be mapped, monitored and modelled by Governments, NGOs, affected communities and businesses, seeking to bolster resilience and growth. Robust, quantitative methods are required to justify resilience decisions and risk mitigation. Projects have aimed to map exposure using Earth Observation (EO) using a range of approaches, though the application of these in DRM has been greatly limited by the fact that many have been poorly calibrated, for instance by being based solely upon readily available data, or were designed only for a particular setting.

METEOR takes a step-change in the application of EO exposure data by co-developing and delivering rigorous and open routines (protocols) and standards to allow quantitative assessment of exposure, with explicit uncertainties. These protocols and standards will be co-developed for broad application to ODA countries and will be tested and validated in two contexts (Nepal and Tanzania) to ensure they are fit-for-purpose. EO-based geohazard footprints (earthquake, flooding, landslides and volcanic) will also be co-developed for those two countries. The process of building capacity and co-delivering new consistent data will promote welfare and economic development in these countries, and demonstrate the applicability of the techniques elsewhere. METEOR will deliver country-wide openly-available exposure data for the 47 least developed countries on the DAC list. Better-informed DRM decisions that meet the demands of international drivers (e.g. SDGs, Sendai Framework) will be underpinned by our national-scale data.

The project is led by the British Geological Survey with partners from Disaster Management Department of the Prime Minister's Office, Tanzania; the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Nepal; Fathom Global; Global Earthquake Model Foundation; Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team; ImageCat Inc; and Oxford Policy Management Limited.