ESA Earth Observation Summer School Earth System Monitoring & Modelling UiO **Department of Geosciences** University of Oslo



Remote Sensing of Glaciers and Ice Caps

Glacier hazards

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New challenges

 Air- and spaceborne remote sensing

Final remarks



Shahdara (Tadjikistan/Pamirs): 7Aug2002, 1.2mio m³, 24[†]



Shahdara (Tadjikistan/Pamirs)









Mauvausin / Giétro: 1818, 20 mio m³, 44⁺



Perito Moreno



ISS / Johnson Space Centre / NASA

Afghanistan



R. Frauenfelder

Ice avalanches (Gutz glacier, Swiss Alps, 1996)



Caucasus/Kazbek, 20 September 2002



International Space Station

Up to 300 km/h fast



Karmadon, 18 km and 5 minutes later, 120 Mio m^3 , 130 \dagger



Mudflow, another 15 km far



Huascaran, 1970, 18000†



Elbrus (Caucasus)

Aletsch Glacier (Swiss Alps)



1850

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Debris flows from permafrost





Instability of perennially frozen debris



Permafrost - ice - geology interactions

0 to -5°C

-5 to -10°C



Cases and processes

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- Climate change induces shifts of cryospheric hazard zones beyond historical limits
- Human activities extend towards endangered zones
 > increasing vulnerability
- Chain reactions

- >>> Historical data alone not any more sufficient for hazard assessment
- >>> Remote sensing + spatial modelling needed

Cases and processes

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Karmadon



Lugge Tsho (Bhutan): 7 Oct 1994, 28mio m³, >20†















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Elevation differences



SRTM3

ASTER

Elevation differences





ASTER 2002 - SRTM 2000

Turtmann valley: instability of creeping permafrost



Turtmann valley: instability of creeping permafrost



Tasman Glacier







75°0'0"E

Kazakhstan

Almaty He Ala-Tau Range Kungoy Ala-Too Range Chong Kyzylsuzz watershed Ysyk-Köl Ala-Too Range Tesker Fig.3 Fig.2

Kazakhstan

77°0'0'E

42°0'0"N





Karakoram

Radar interferometry

AN ...

1.h



Radar interferometry (Aug-Sep 2008)



Strozzi et al.

Photogrammetry (1995-2006)



Radar interferometry + photogrammetry + GPS





Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe Image © 2010 TerraMetrics

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Pointer 9°13'10.01" S 77°32'48.20" W elev 4463 m

Streaming ||||||| 100%

Eye alt 11.01 km A. Kaab

Glacier lake monitoring from high-res SAR



Cases and processes

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Cordillera Laguna Palcacocha (Peru): 13 Dec 1941, 4mio m³, ca. 6000†

Blanca



Cordillera Blanca



Cordillera Blanca



Cordillera Blanca



Laguna Palcacocha



- Remote sensing (and related modelling) key technology in geohazard management
- Facilitated access to remote sensing data for experts and public
- "Hazard assessment" by everyone and everywhere
- Socio-economic damage; loss of confidence
- Responsibility

Thank you !