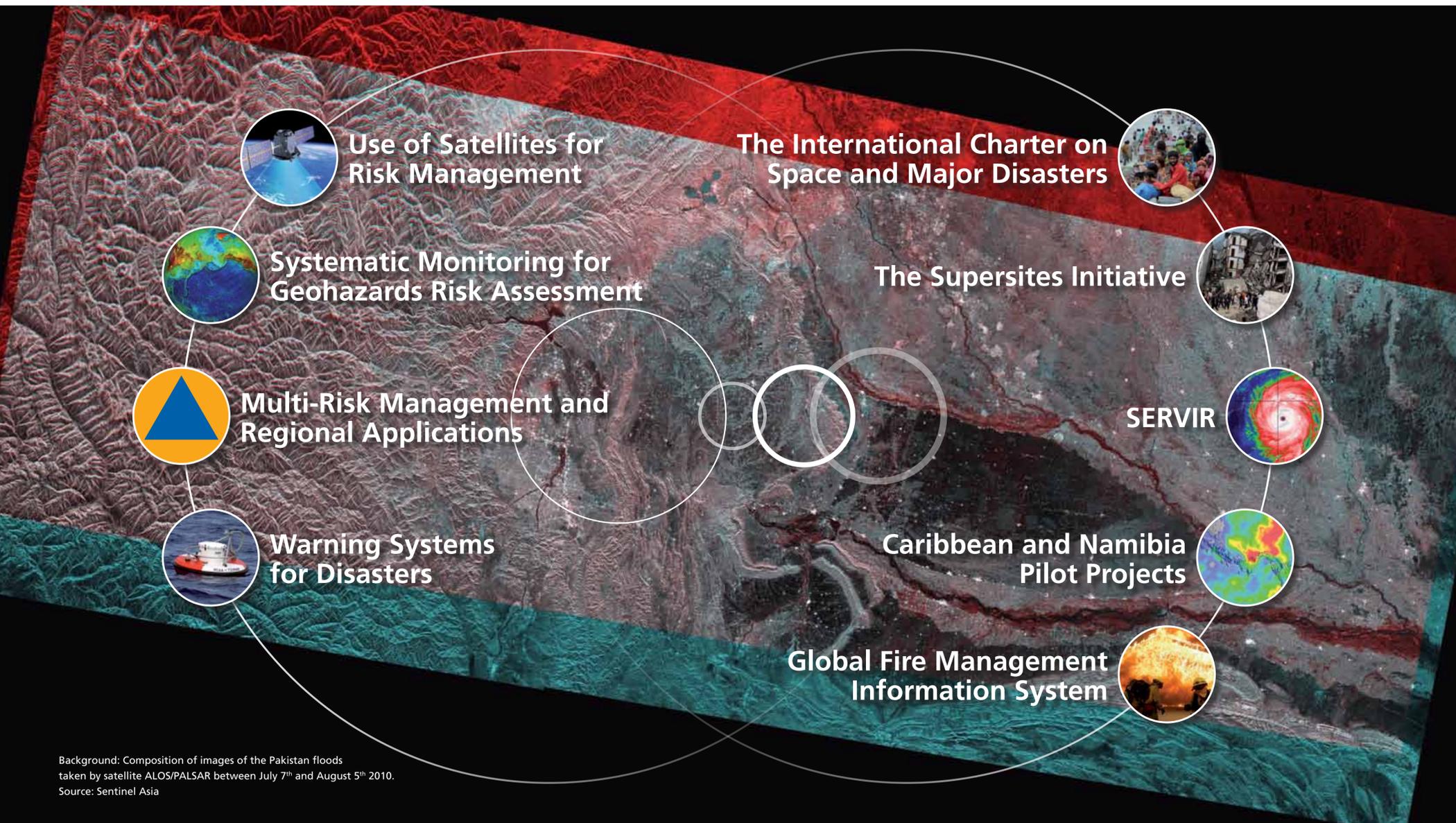


# GEOSS: INFORMATION SERVICES FOR PREDICTING AND RESPONDING TO DISASTERS



Earthquakes, wildfires, floods, tsunamis, typhoons and volcanic eruptions – the list of disasters that can kill and injure people and destroy property is a lengthy one. Fortunately, from early warning to disaster response to long-term reconstruction, the right mix of Earth observation and socio-economic data and information can help to relieve human suffering. This is why the GEO community is working together to support critical societal benefits in the field of Disasters:

- **Better access to satellite data for monitoring and managing risk.** Space agencies and other partners are working together to expand the use of satellite images and maps for managing the risks posed by fires, floods, earthquakes and other hazards. The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters plays a major role in this effort.
- **Improved vulnerability mapping and risk assessment for geohazards.** Several powerful and devastating earthquakes have recently highlighted the value of seismic vulnerability mapping. The GEO Supersites initiative was established in 2009 to advance this goal.
- **Regional end-to-end solutions for disaster management.** Member agencies of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) are conducting regional demonstrations in the Caribbean and in Africa of a multi-hazard, end-to-end approach to disaster management.
- **Stronger early-warning systems for wildfires.** A globally-coordinated warning system for wildland fires will improve prediction and response at the local, national and regional levels. Working through the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the GOFC-GOLD consortium, governments are establishing and coordinating their national early warning systems.

## About GEO and GEOSS

Eighty-plus governments, the EC and 58 international organizations are collaborating through the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to coordinate their observation strategies and interlink their observation, computing and modelling capabilities.

They are also assessing user needs, developing interoperability standards, promoting the full and open sharing of data, identifying gaps in existing systems, improving information dissemination, and offering end-to-end information products and services.

The resulting Global Earth Observation System of Systems is supporting decision-makers, managers and researchers as they address the challenges of global environmental change.

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