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Press Office: 202-712-4320

Public Information: 202-712-4810

Email: press@usaid.gov

www.usaid.gov

FACT SHEET

Earth Observations and Mapping for Development: SERVIR

- SERVIR is an earth observation, monitoring, and visualization system that integrates satellite and other geospatial data for improved scientific knowledge and decision-making by managers, researchers, students, and the general public.
- The SERVIR system is web-based (www.servir.net) and makes available previously inaccessible earth observation data; decision-support tools for interpreting the data; online mapping; and a three-dimensional, interactive visualization of the earth.
- SERVIR's decision support tools and data can be used to address issues related to climate change, biodiversity, disasters, ecosystems, health, water, and weather.
- Based in Panama at the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), SERVIR serves all seven countries of Central America, southern Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. The system is being used to monitor the weather, forest fires, and ecological changes, as well as respond to severe events such as red tides, tropical storms, and flooding.
- SERVIR has become critical for decision-making in the Meso-American region. The system has been used in 18 different cases ranging from assessment of economic losses due to forest fires in Belize, averting \$14 million loss in the fishing industry of El Salvador through monitoring of red tides, providing early warning of tropical storms in Panama and Dominican Republic, and mapping flood impacts from hurricanes in Mexico, Honduras and Nicaragua.
- Operational since 2005, SERVIR receives strategic direction, funding, and technical expertise from USAID and NASA, with support from multiple US government agencies, international non-governmental organizations, universities, the private sector, and World Bank.
- [SERVIR-Africa](#) launched in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2008 at the [Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development](#) (RCMRD), which has a membership of 15 countries in east and southern Africa. The system will serve as a common web-based platform for sharing geospatial information, maps, and satellite data; provide early warning tools for flash floods and vector-borne disease (Rift Valley Fever); map climate change projections; and serve as focal point for training and university coursework in geospatial applications for development.



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- In Meso-America, SERVIR is incorporating new capability for air quality monitoring and early warning of severe thunderstorms.
- SERVIR was selected as an “early achievement” under the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), and was highlighted at the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Ministerial Summit held in November 2007 in Cape Town. GEO has membership from 76 countries, the European Commission, and more than 45 participating organizations (<http://earthobservations.org/index.html>).

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