

# inTERRAgate

Developing global hazard preparedness

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## INTRODUCTION

The tragic events of the 2004 and 2005 global hazards such as the Asian tsunami have highlighted the fundamental lack of hazard information held by disaster management NGOs and humanitarian agencies across the world. Although large magnitude hazards capture global attention and generate volumes of post disaster data, there are numerous areas across the world that are often experience or are overdue for medium or small scale hazard events, which have very little information held on them.

Collation of fundamental information such as, the countries most prone to hazards and the types they face, potential future events, and the impacts of past events is sorely lacking across the world. It is this information that is vital in order to provide effective pre-, during- and post- disaster analysis that will enable full utilisation of resources to save lives and develop informed hazard planning and mitigation strategies.

inTERRAgate is aimed at filling this knowledge gap through the development of an online gateway aimed at disaster management NGOs and humanitarian agencies, which will provide a natural hazard inventory for every country in the world.

## PARTNERSHIPS & SERVICES

In conjunction with Professor Bill McGuire, both the Benfield Hazard Research Centre (UCL - London) and the UK Rescue Team SARAID (Search And Rescue Assistance In Disasters) will work together to develop inTERRAgate - a global database consisting of:

- The associated hazards within each country of the world
- Scientific information listing predicted or feasible natural cataclysmic disasters
- Past disasters and their impacts to identify the potential scale and consequences of the events along with most likely affected areas
- Contact details of government departments, NGOs, and scientific contacts working in each country
- And links to online sources of information, including any online GIS applications available

The Benfield Hazard Research Centre is able to draw on the services of a range of hazard and risk expertise from within UCL and through an extensive research and operations network, which will be combined with logistical and primary contact data about access to and mobility across the world collected by SARAID.

## WEBSITE DELIVERABLES

inTERRAgate will allow disaster management NGOs and humanitarian agencies to be better prepared for the occurrence of natural hazards through country specific pages that will continuously be updated with possible scenarios and effects.

Users will also be able to submit details of contacts and research from the relevant countries online, which will enable the site to facilitate links between groups for better preparedness. Users will also be able to sign up to the site to receive details of important developments and events.

Upon database completion and continuous updating, International Response Teams will be 90% prepared for all eventualities through the:

- Identification of the most vulnerable countries and their most likely variety of anticipated hazards
- On-tap relevant information about the host country
- Up to date data of likely consequences and effects of each type of disaster in conjunction with details of the available range of logistics and host country contacts to assist with the international response
- Links to online data providers such as Map Action
- and an embedded map application that will combine Google Maps functionality and imagery, with a variety of data streams



Figure 1 – inTERRAgate system and development user interface: a development page on Iran can be seen online at <http://www.interragate.info/countries/iran/> (Images: Benfield Hazard Research Centre, SARAID, NASA)

## CONCLUSION

The inTERRAgate gateway will fill a vital gap in disaster preparedness and knowledge transfer, bringing vulnerable areas to the forefront of awareness and allowing vital information to be shared in times of disaster.

Project sponsors:



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Enquiries and requests for further information can be submitted to Lucy Stanbrough via email at [Lucystanbrough@interragate.info](mailto:Lucystanbrough@interragate.info) or in writing to: Benfield Hazard Research Centre, Department of Earth Sciences, 136 Gower Street, UCL, London, WC1E 6BT