

# ***GLIMS***

## **Global Land Ice Measurements from Space**

Annual satellite imaging of the world's glaciers

Assessment of glacier extent and change

Development and population of a digital glacier data inventory

# ***HIGH ICE***

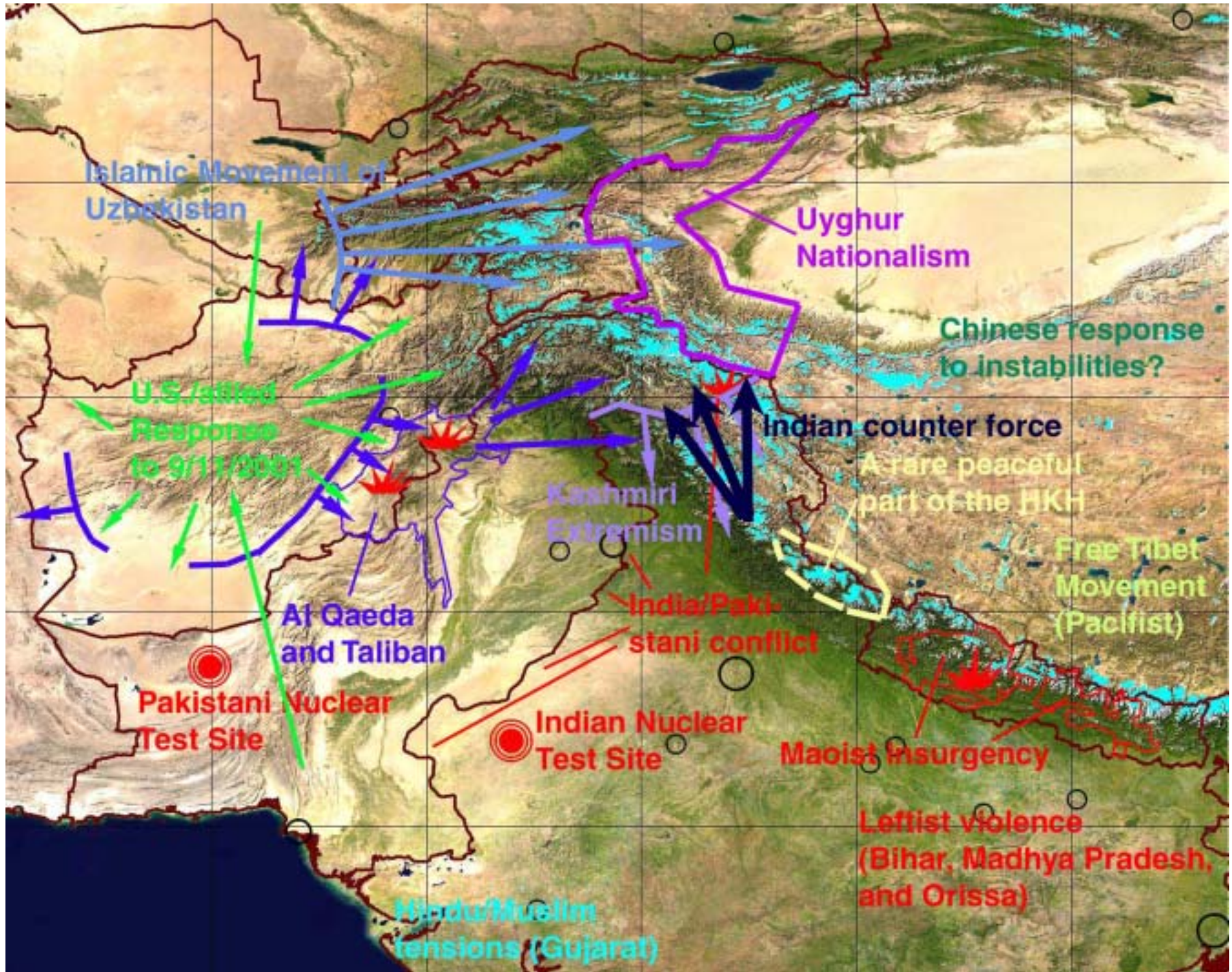
High Asia Institutes for Glaciology:

Hydrology, Ice, Climate, and Environment

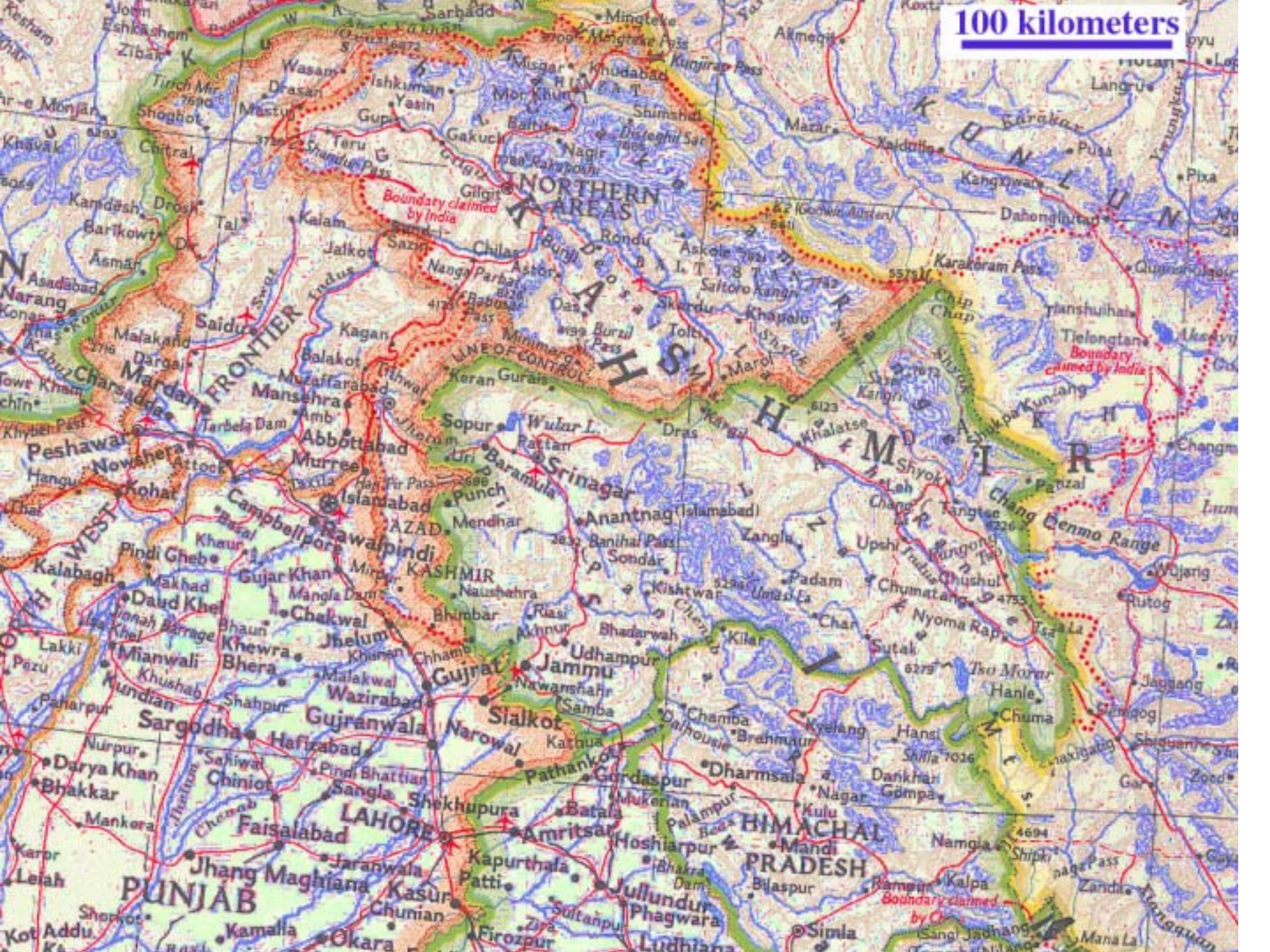
*"Science for Peace for the High Asia Region of Chaos"*

Skeletal remains of what was a debris-covered glacier near Mt. Everest





100 kilometers





**GLIMS**

# Global Land Ice Measurements from Space

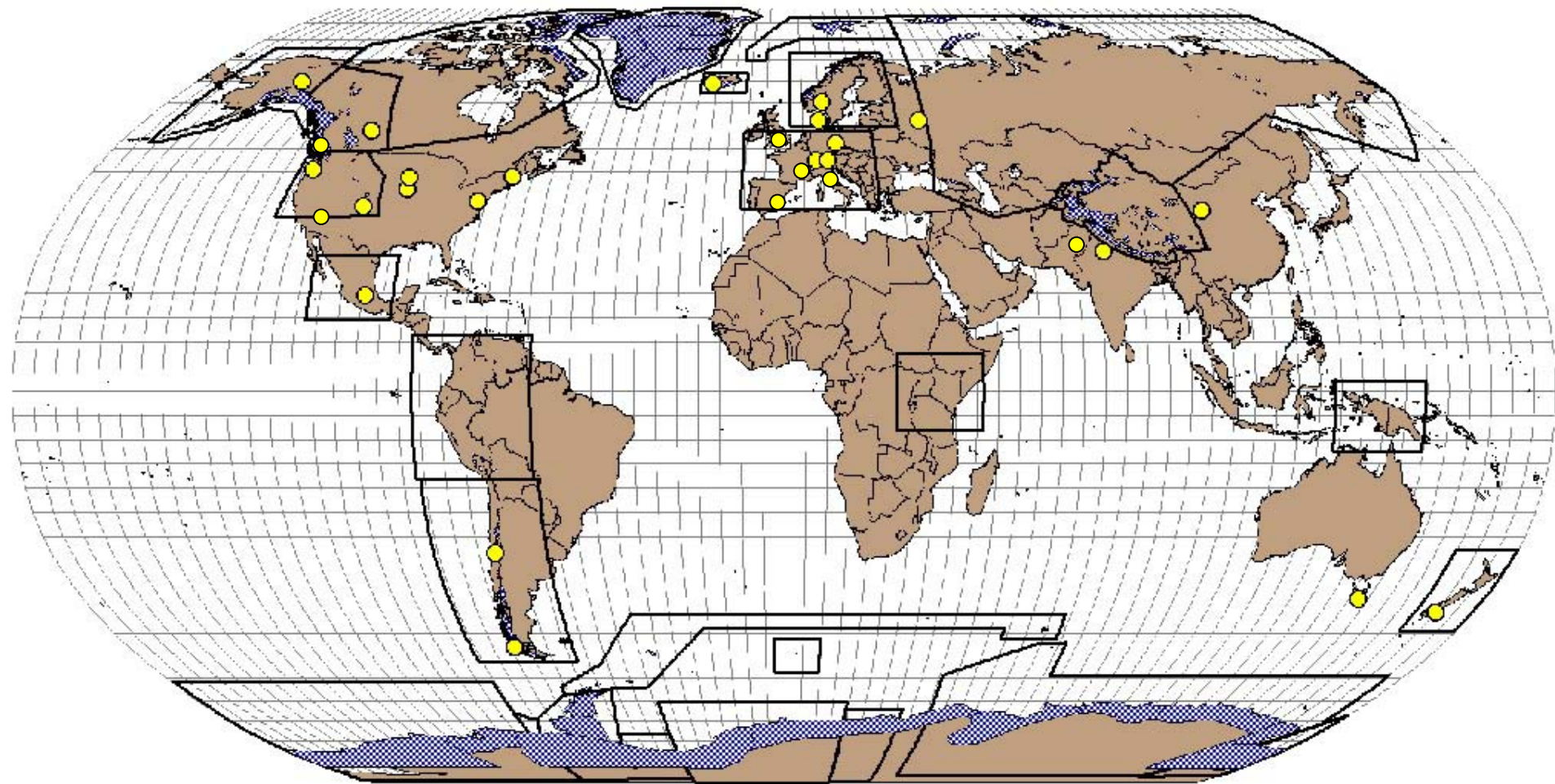
[www.GLIMS.org](http://www.GLIMS.org)

**GLIMS primary goal: to determine the extent of Earth's glaciers and the rate at which they are changing.**

## **RESULTS:**

- **Acquired >30,000 ASTER L1A scenes (of any quality)**
  - **Of these, we've archived and distributed over 5000 L1B scenes with:**
    - **Nominal gain settings and seasons for best snow and ice imaging**
    - **GLIMS uses all ASTER bands (VNIR,SWIR,TIR) for glacier mapping**
  - **Timely ASTER imaging response to recent glacier hazard events**
- **Purchased 150+ Landsat ETM+ scenes for RC ftp download**
- **Currently producing digital maps of glacier change**
  - **23 regional centers mapping current extent of exposed land ice**
  - **Producing high resolution surface displacement fields using ASTER**
  - **Automating data extraction from ASTER**
  - **Measuring glacier lake temperature variations using multi TIR bands**
- **Designed GIS digital database for GLIMS glacier inventory (NSIDC)**

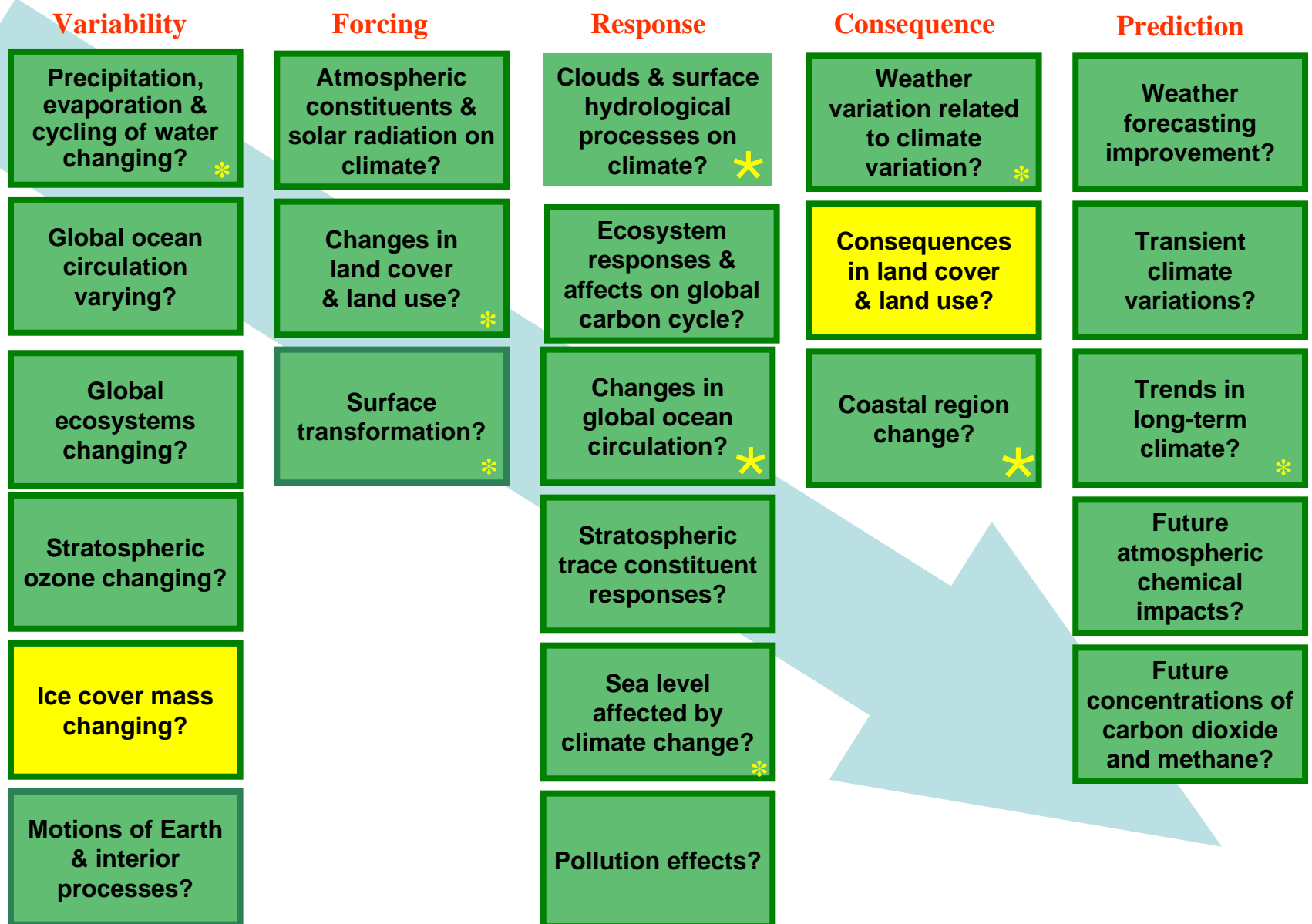
## GLIMS Regions and Regional Center locations



- GLIMS is an international consortium of 23 regional centers
- Coordinated by U.S. Geological Survey - Flagstaff



# Science Questions from the Research Strategy



# Glacier Relevance to other Science Questions

- *R1. Clouds and surface hydrological processes on climate?*
  - Albedo feedbacks; thermohaline circulation of oceans.
- *R3. Changes in global ocean circulation?*
  - Thermohaline circulation.
- *C3. Coastal region change?*
  - Glacier/ice sheets are melting: effects on sea level.
- *V1. Precipitation, evaporation, and cycling water?*
  - Glaciers/ice sheets store most of Earth's fresh water.
- *F2. Changes in land cover and land use?*
  - Changing glacier cover changes water availability, hence land use in areas downstream.
- *F3. Surface transformation?*
  - Glacial isostasy/rebound and mountain uplift/erosion affect glacier stability.
- *R5. Sea level affected by climate change?*
  - Climate change alters land ice volume and ocean volume.
- *C1. Weather variation related to climate variation?*
  - Albedo and humidity feedbacks due to land ice.
- *P3. Trends in long-term climate change?*
  - Glaciers integrate climate signals in continental regions where other climate records may be lacking.



# Glaciers in the context of 12 major national research applications

 Major research applications

 Potentially significant research applications



Energy Forecasting



Carbon Management



Agricultural Competitiveness



Aviation Safety



Community Growth



Homeland Security



Public Health



Community Disaster Prep



Coastal Management



Invasive Species



Water Management



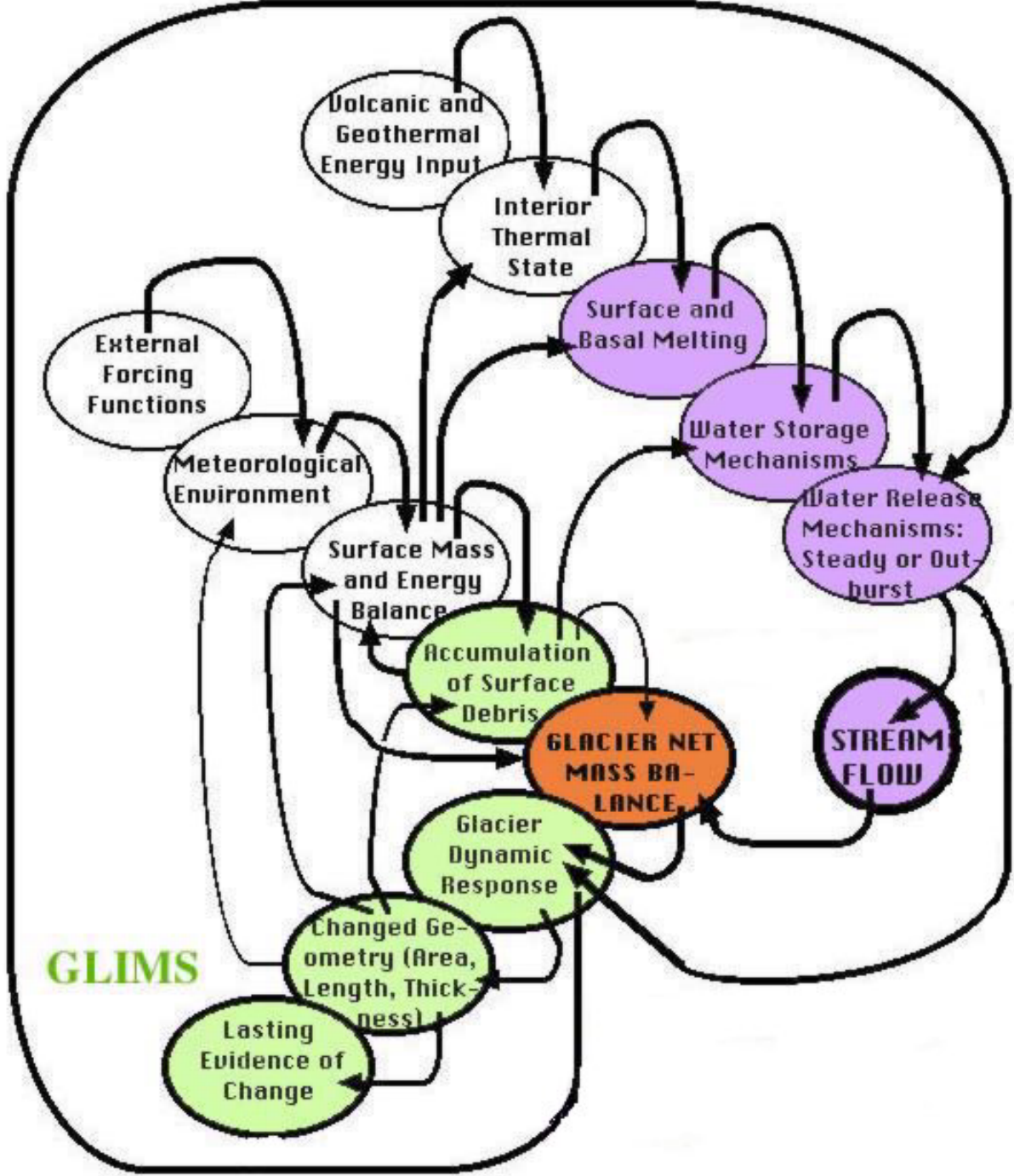
Air Quality Management

# *Major Glacier Applications among 12 U.S. National Research Applications:*

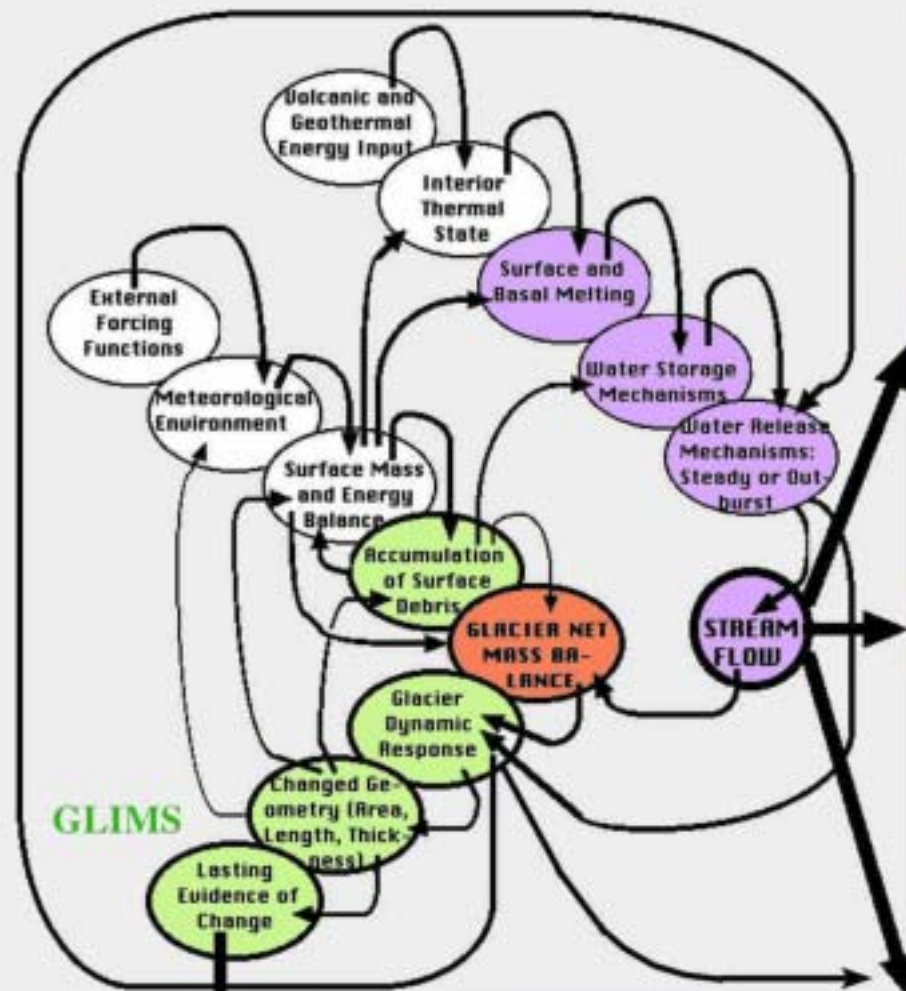
- **Energy Forecasting: Energy for U.S. Northwest derived partly from hydropower.**
- **Community disaster preparedness: Mt Rainer/Tacoma; Alaska.**
- **Water management: Washington and Oregon partly dependent on glacier meltwater (especially Canadian glacier sources)**
- **Agricultural competitiveness: Dependent on water resources, including glacier meltwater (especially Canadian glacier sources)**
- **Coastal management: Sea level issues related to global melting of glaciers and ice sheets.**

**Every U.S. research application has an international dimension and specifically an application in nations of High Asia. Glacier applications to energy, agriculture, and water management are of order magnitude greater importance to High Asia than to U.S. The issues are of critical economic interest to several nations, and hence, to regional and U.S. national security interests.**

# Science of glaciers

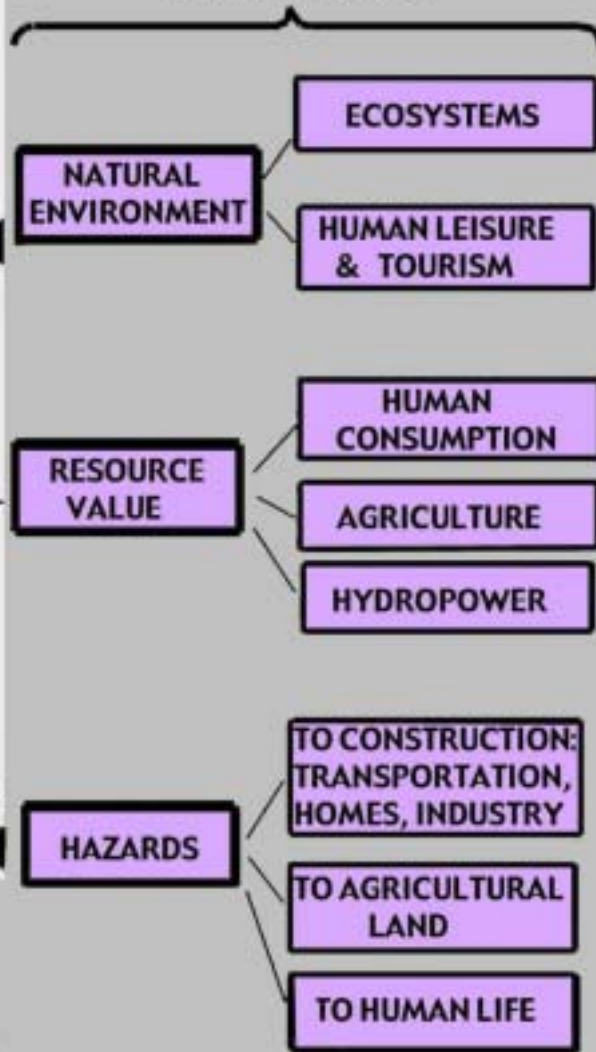


# THE SCIENCE

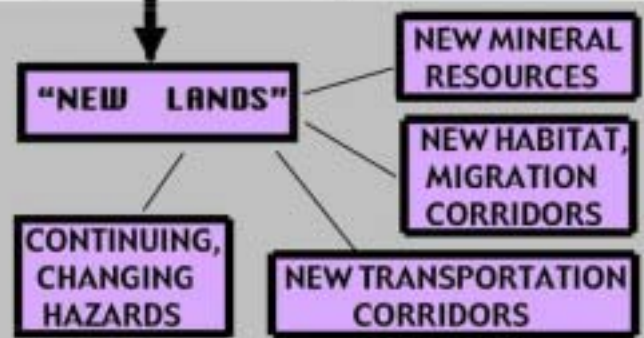


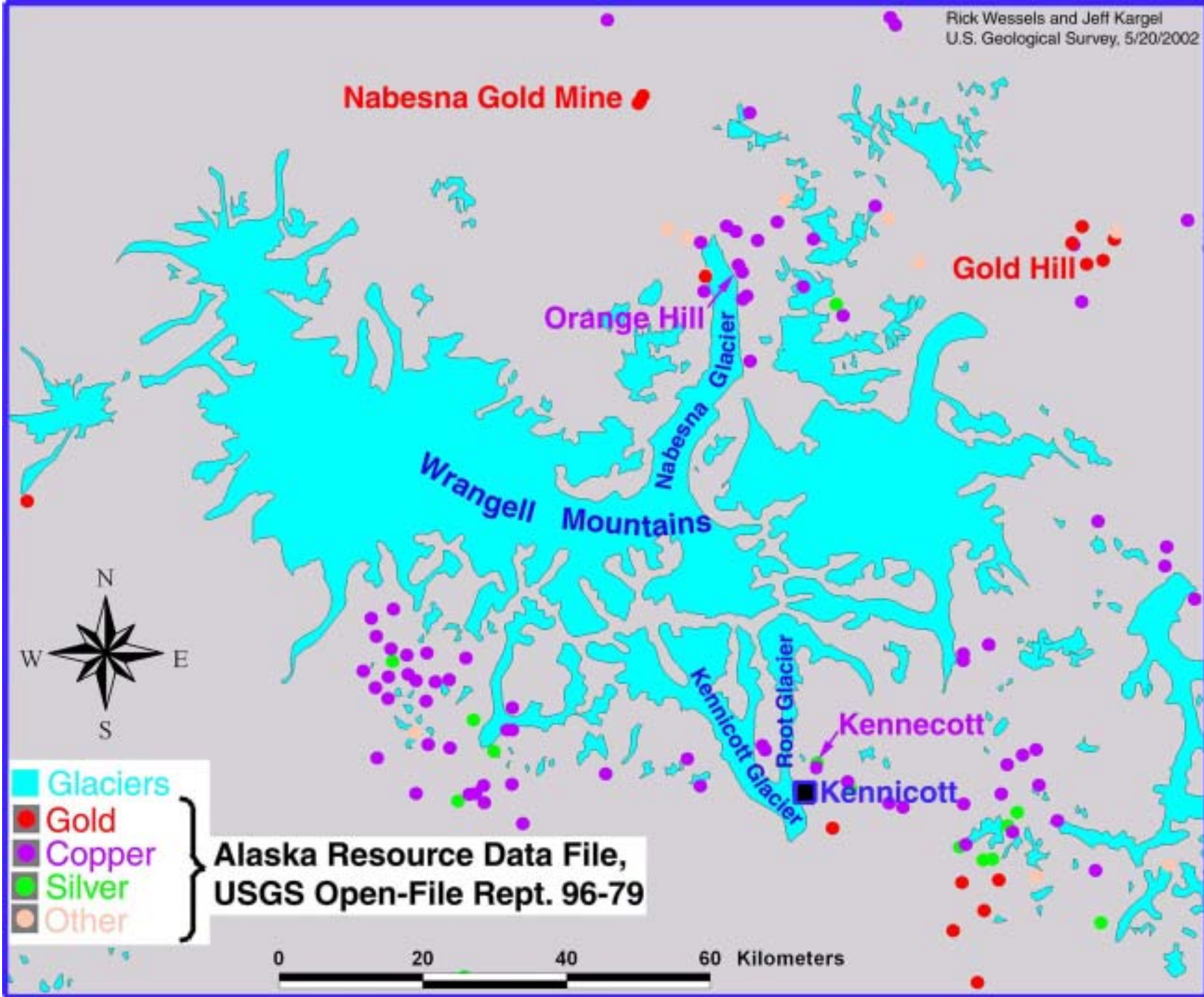
# THE IMPACTS

## PRESENT IMPACTS

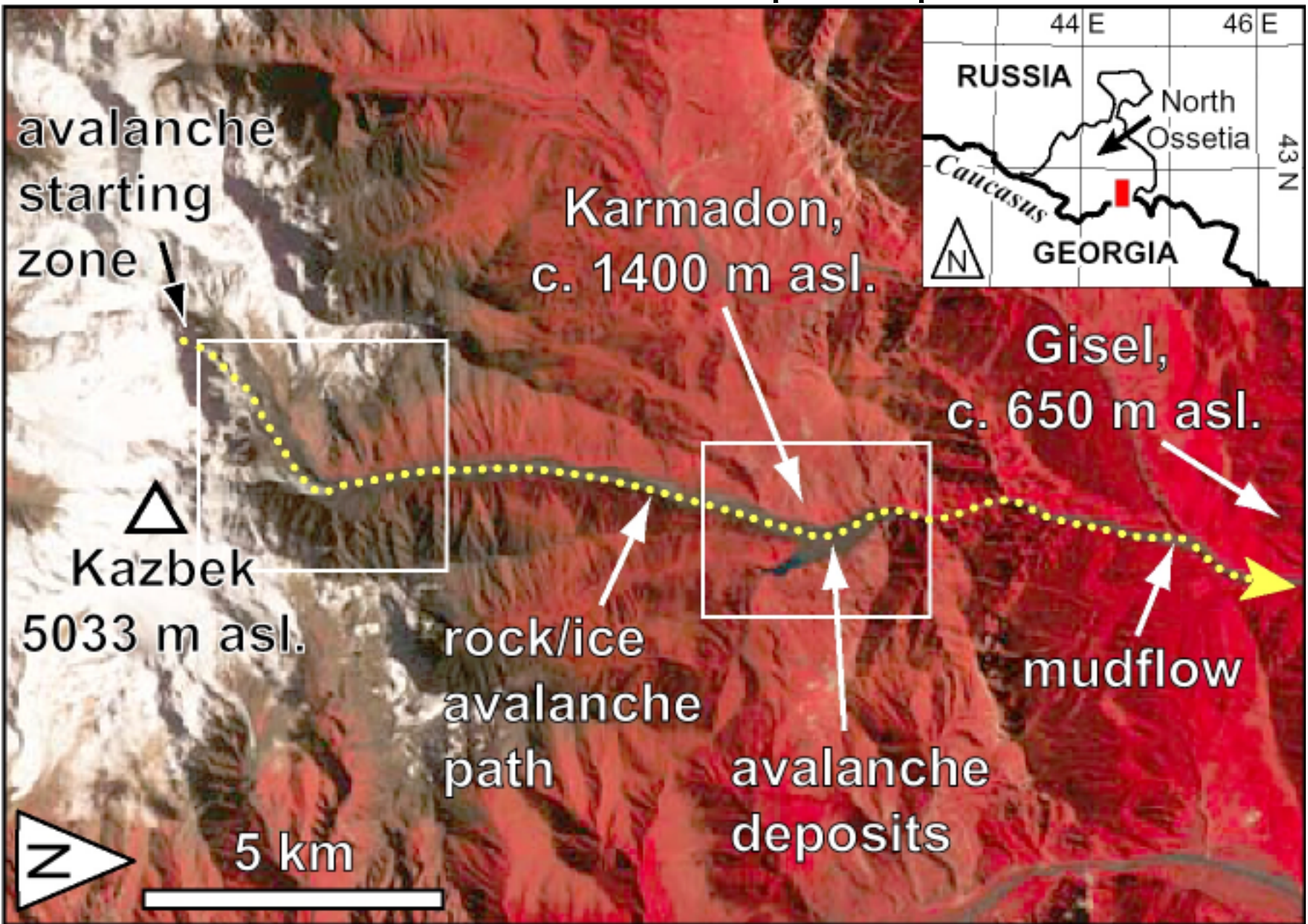


## FUTURE IMPACTS





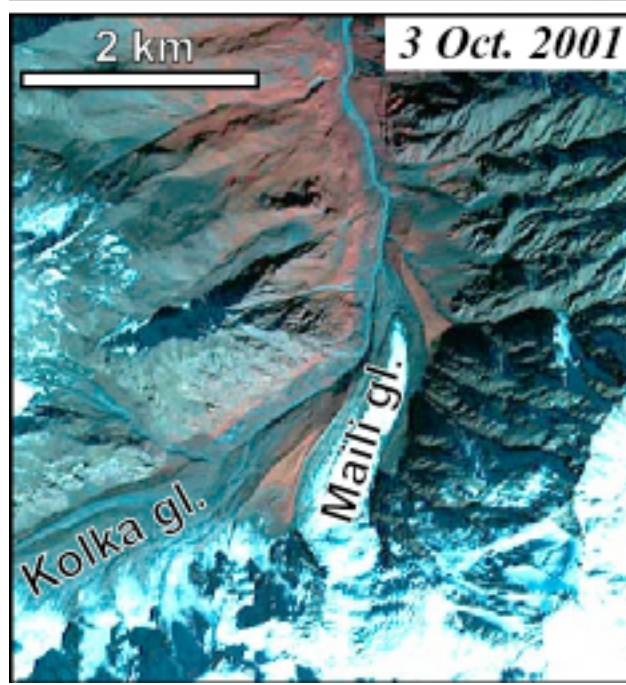
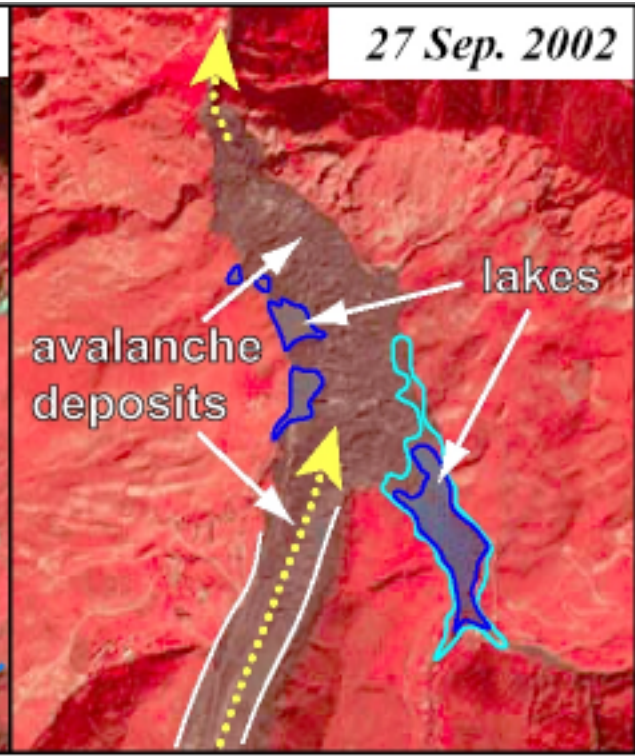
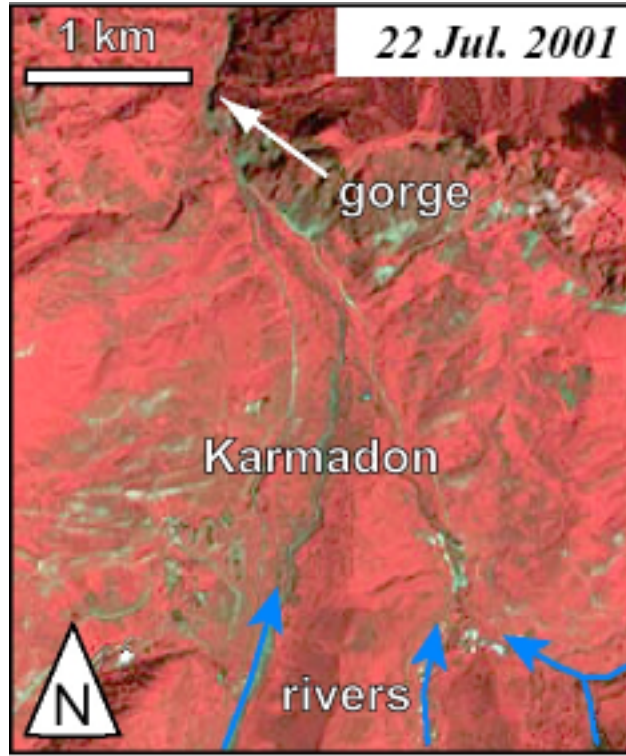
# Kolka Glacier disaster - ASTER rapid response



From: Käab, Wessels, Haerberli, Huggel, Kargel, and Singh Khalsa. Rapid ASTER imaging facilitates timely assessment of glacier hazards and disasters, in press, EOS

# Kolka Glacier disaster

- 80 million cubic meter rock/ice avalanche and subsequent debris/mud flows on September 20, 2002
- Overran Karmadon village 18 km down valley
- Over 120 killed
- Mudflow continued 15km further down valley
- Rapid ASTER imaging response over several days following emergency.
- ASTER data used by emergency response teams



# GLOF-wrecked bridge and replacement near Nepal/China border





# Tsho Rolpa, Nepal, GLOF threat and engineering mediation



Credit: ICIMOD

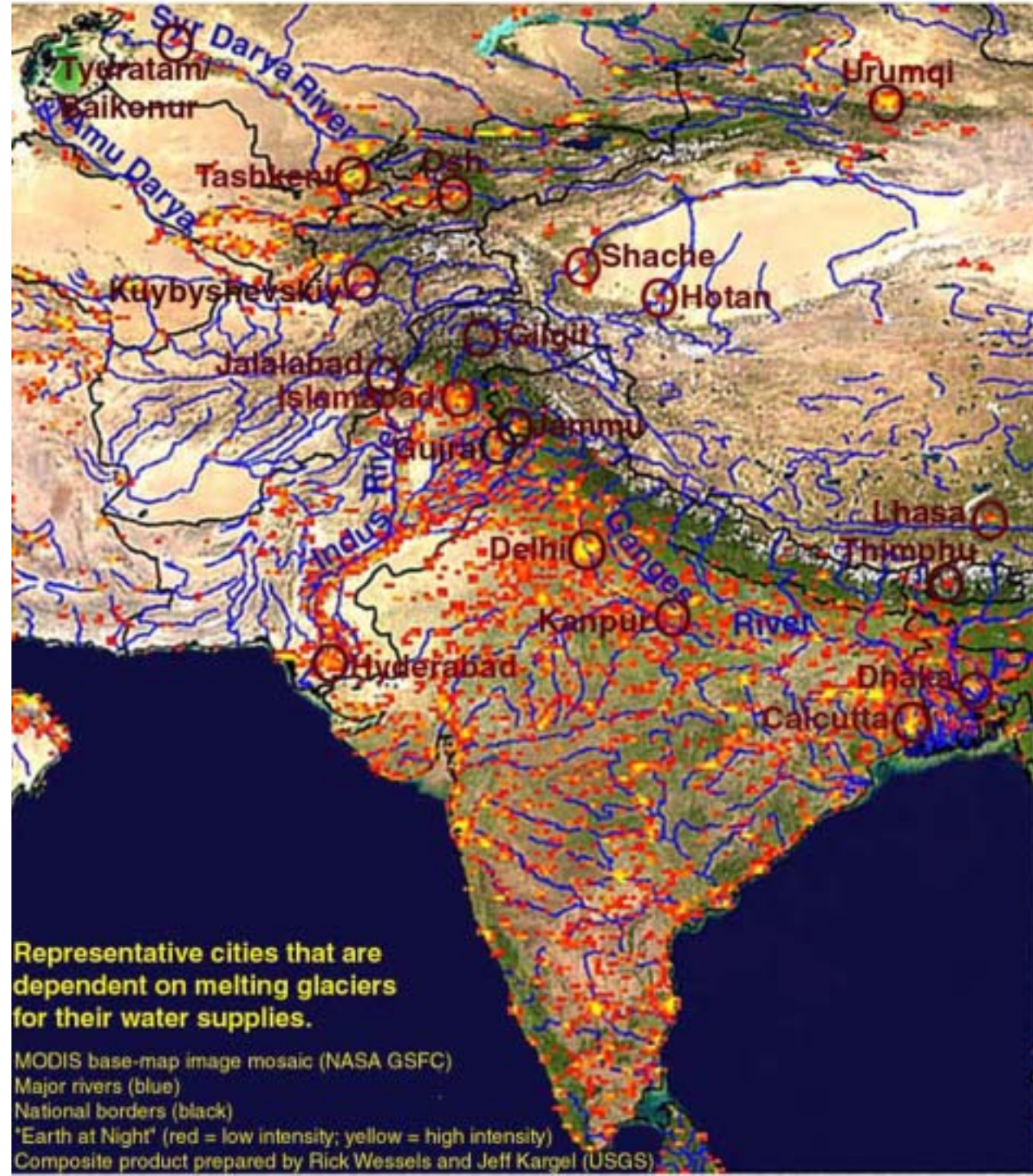
# Glacier impact on regional water resources

Hindu Kush Himalaya Glaciers

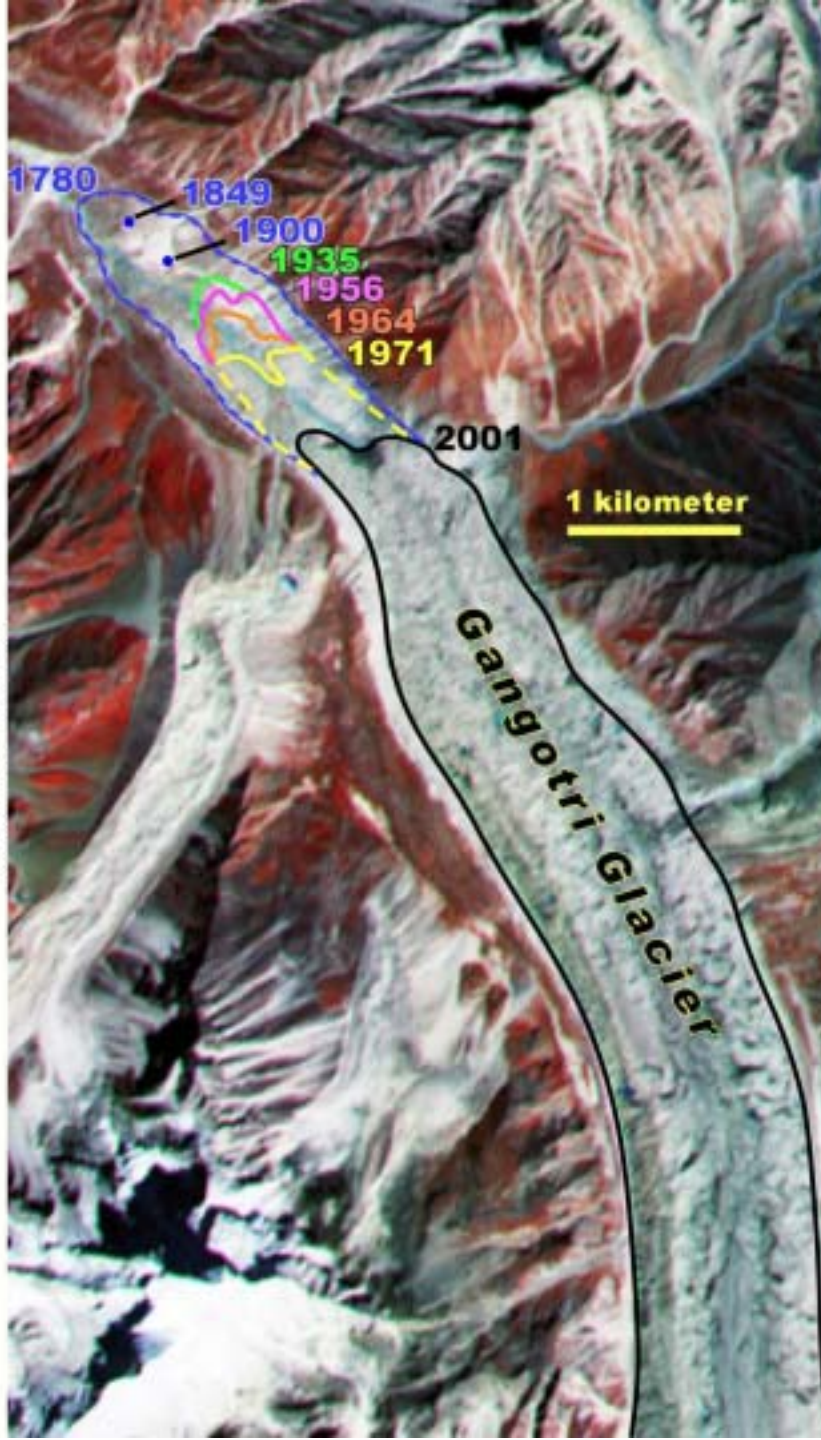
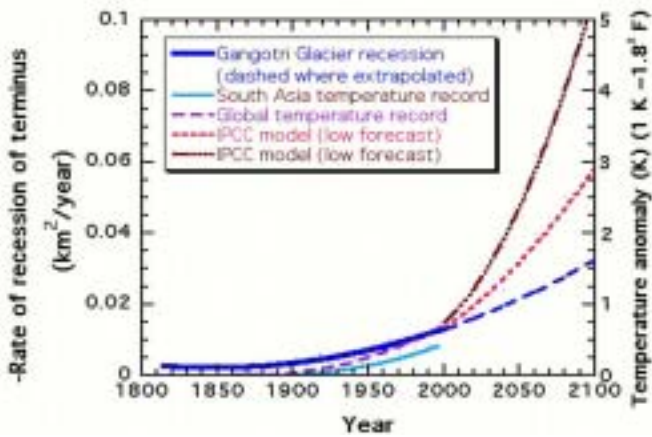
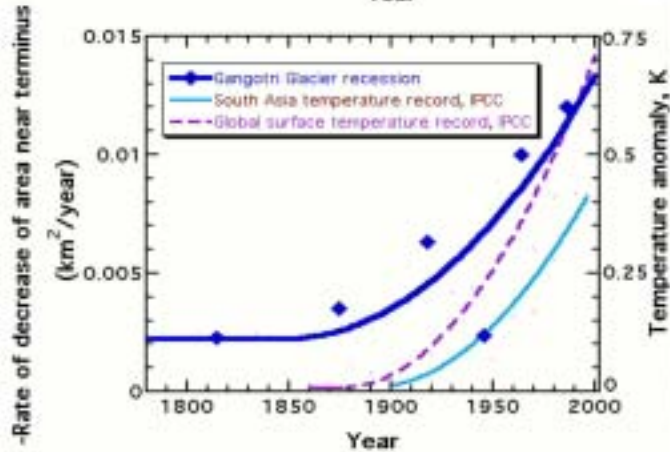
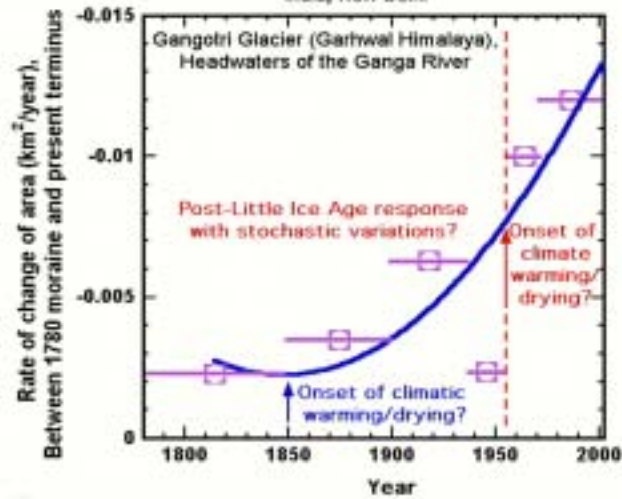
Fast glacier recession and wasting through most of the region

Impacts on South and Central Asia

500 million people partly depend on glacial meltwater



Data source: Vohra, C.P., 1989, Gangotri Glacier, Indian Mountaineer, Mountaineering Foundation of India, New Delhi



Theri Kang No 14

Ice velocity

Jan 2001 – Nov 2001



500 m

2 km

Silty Lake

**Himalaya-Tibet: Auto correlated velocity measurements from two high res. ASTER images.**

ASTER L1B 321 RGB

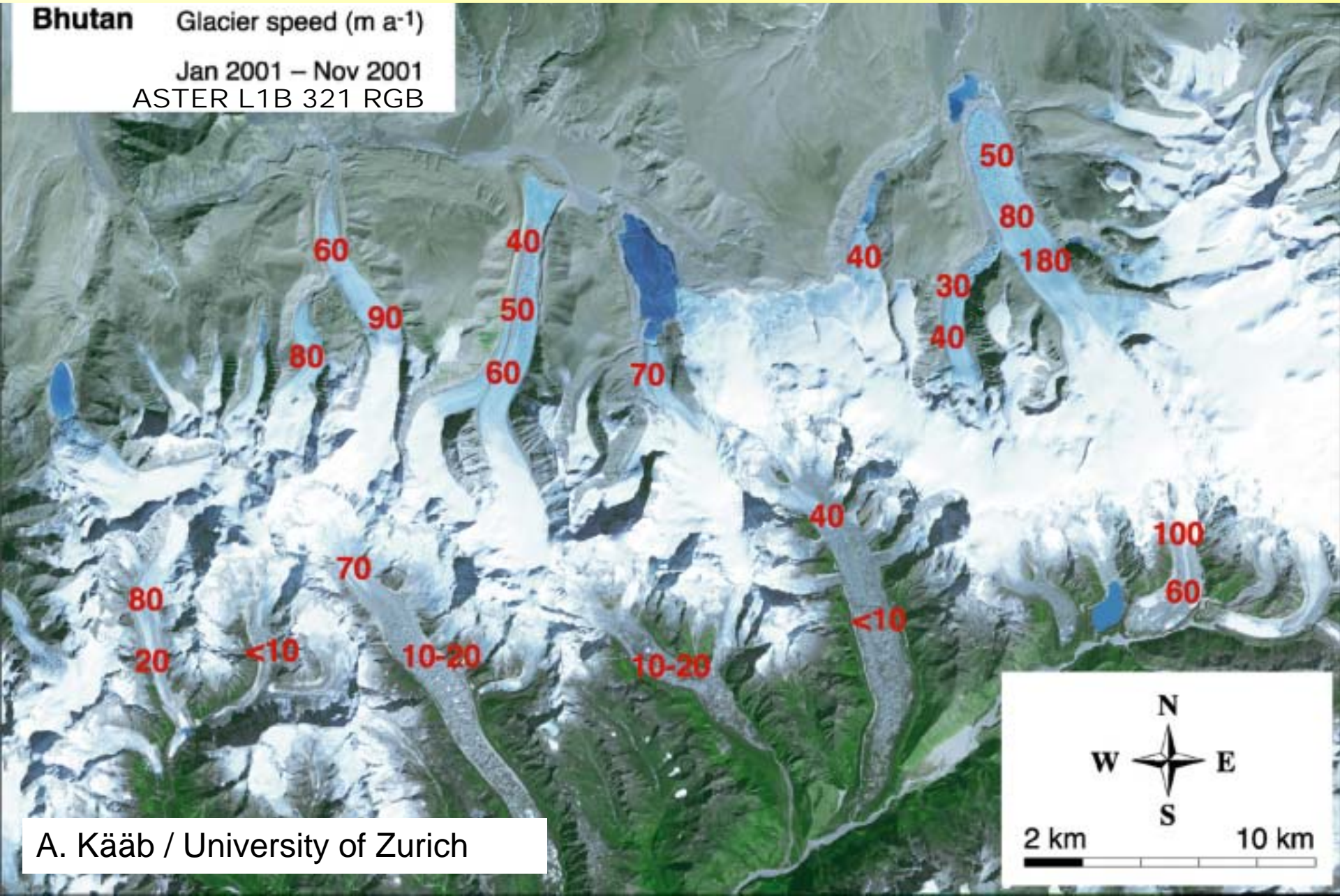
A. Käab / University of Zurich

# Himalayas

# Bhutan - Tibet

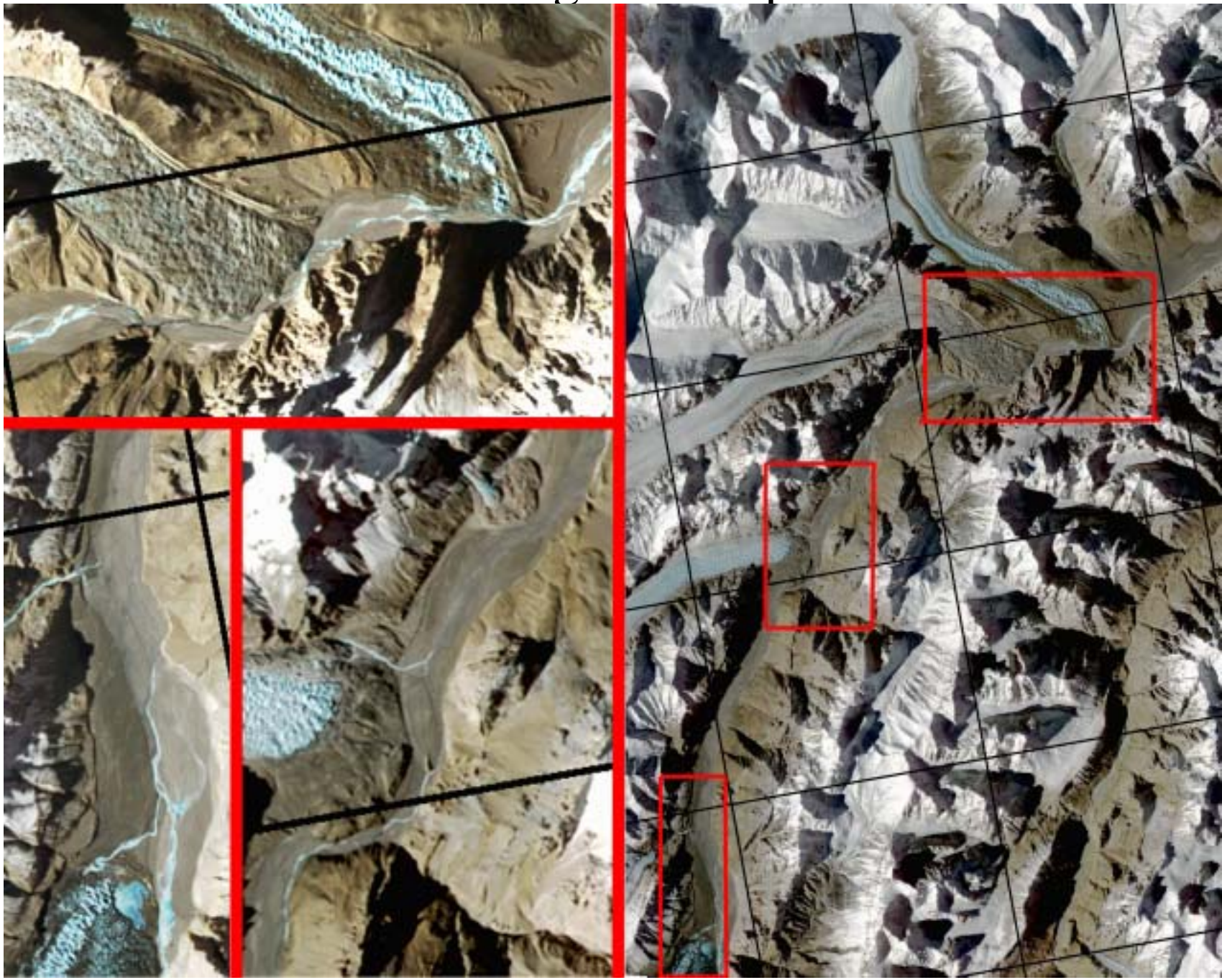
**Bhutan** Glacier speed (m a<sup>-1</sup>)

Jan 2001 – Nov 2001  
ASTER L1B 321 RGB



A. Kääb / University of Zurich

# Glacier Hazard Monitoring and Response: Ice Dam Threat



ASTER LIB 321RGB 2001 Dec. 28

