Spatio-temporal evaluation of rock glacier activity in the semi-arid Andes using optical and radar satellite imagery

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General aspects | Societal issues



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PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE INSTITUTO DE GEOGRAFÍA UNIDAD DE GESTIÓN DE PROYECTOS UC

DINÁMICA DE GLACIARES ROCOSOS EN EL CHILE SEMIÁRIDO: **VOLUMEN II INVENTARIO DE GLACIARES ROCOSOS CUENCAS DE LOS RÍOS ELQUI, LIMARÍ Y CHOAPA REALIZADO POR:** UNIDAD DE GESTIÓN DE PROYECTOS UC

IANIGLA CONICET U.N.CUYO GOBIERNO DE MENDOZA

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Subcuencas de los ríos Blancos y del Cordón del Plata de Ambiente Provincia de Mendoza

Fecha de elaboración: Octubre 2012





Photo: A. Brenning, 2012

General aspects | Societal issues



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Semi-arid Andes of Chile and Argentina *Mean elev. = 4300 m asl*

371 rock glaciers in the study area 266 in Arg. 105 in Ch.

TSX images from 2014-2015

Sentinel-1 images from 2015-2017

Landsat images from 2013 to 2018

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50 m

El paso rock glacier



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Las Tortolas collapsed rock glacier

A

Area affected by the 2006 destabilization Area affected probably in 2001-2002

Contour lines (25m interval) from ASTER DEM Projection UTM 19S (WGS84)

El paso rock glacier

4200

409500

410000

Bodin et al., 2012

410500

411500

Methods | Detecting movement with d-InSAR



Methods | Detecting movement with d-InSAR



Methods | Detecting movement with d-InSAR



Classification (estimated surface velocity)	Class	TSX InSAR signal	Sentinel InSAR signal
< 1 cm/y	1	1 - 2 years c	1 - 2 - 3 years c
1-3 cm/y	2	1 year c/d - 2-3 months c	2 years c/d - 1 year c - (1 month c)
3-10 cm/y	3	2-3 months c/d - 1 month c	1 year c/d - 1 month c
10-30 cm/y	4	1 months c/d - 22 days c	1 month c/d - 12 days c
30-100 cm/y	5	22 days c/d - 11 days c	12 days c/d - 6 days c
> 100 cm/y	6	11 days d	6 days c/d













Filtering of the raw displ. = f(dir. mvt, coher. slope, larger patches)



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229 detected rock glaciers



Results | Evolution of surface kinematics





Results | Evolution of surface kinematics



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Results | Evolution of surface kinematics



Results | Comparison InSAR / Optical



Low coherence between both...

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Results | Comparison InSAR / Optical



Conclusion & perspectives

Insights:

- Reliable evaluation of surface movements
- Significant improvement of the existing inventories
- Suited for monitoring local dynamics

To be continued:

- Evaluating the accuracy of both InSAR and optical image correlation
- Analyzing topo-environmental controls on rock glacier kinematics
- Improving the inventoring and monitoring of regiona rock glacier activity using remote sensing

Merci de votre attention !

Photo : P. Pitte, 2014