

# Hydrology from Space – A bilateral cooperation program for the monitoring of the Amazon Basin from satellite to improve water management and cities resilience under climate extremes .



AND



IN PATERNSHIP WITH :

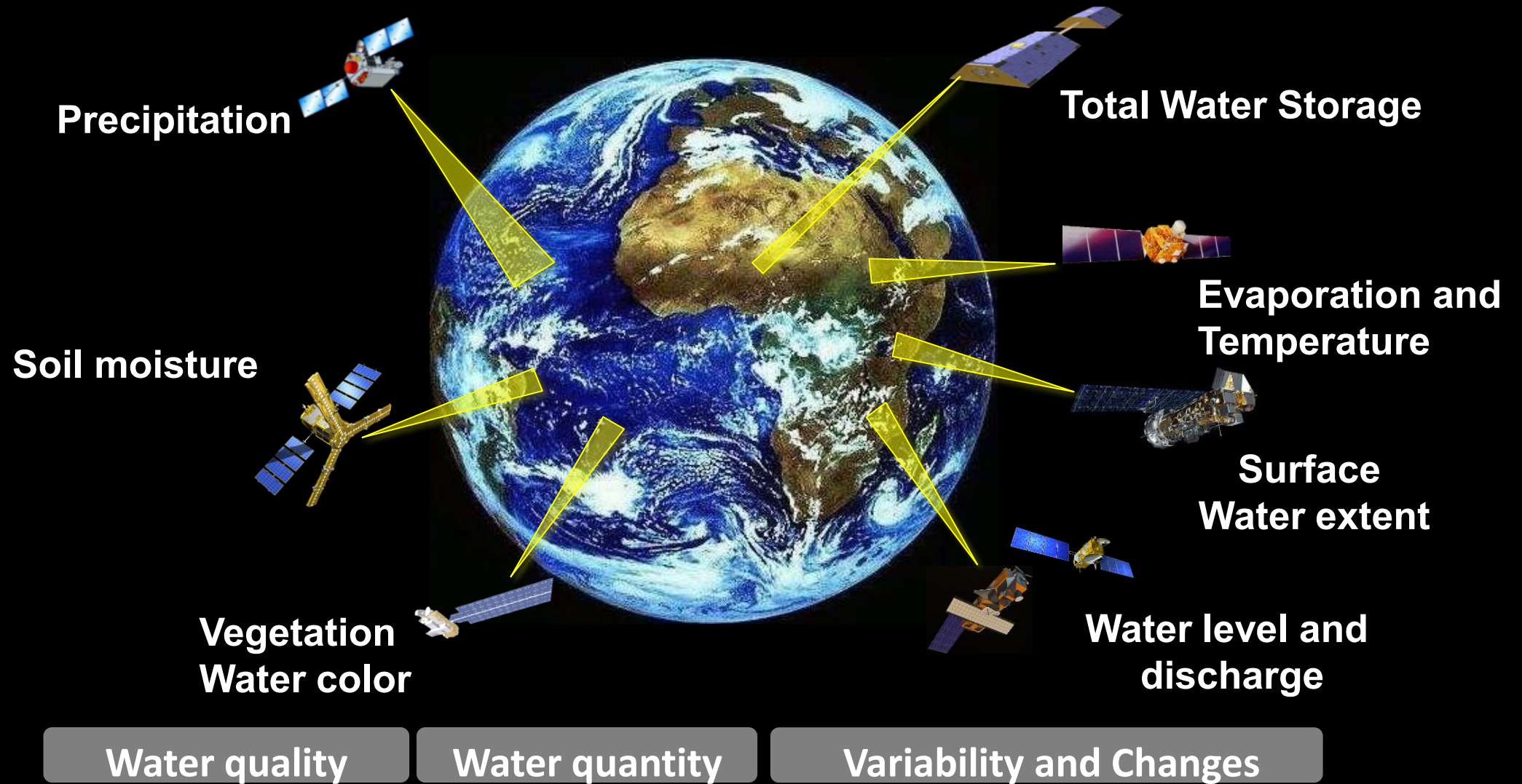


**Daniel Moreira, Fabrice Papa, Fabien Durand, Alice Fassoni-Andrade, Ayan Fleischmann, Sly Wongchuig, Rodrigo Paiva, Adrien Paris, Frederic Frappart, Paul Coulet, Leandro Guedes, Jefferson Santos Melo, Jean-Francois Crétaux, André Martinelli Santos, Pierre-André Garambois, Benjamin Kitambo and Stéphane Calmant**

In the context of the research project:  
**SAMBA, SWOT for the Amazon Basin**

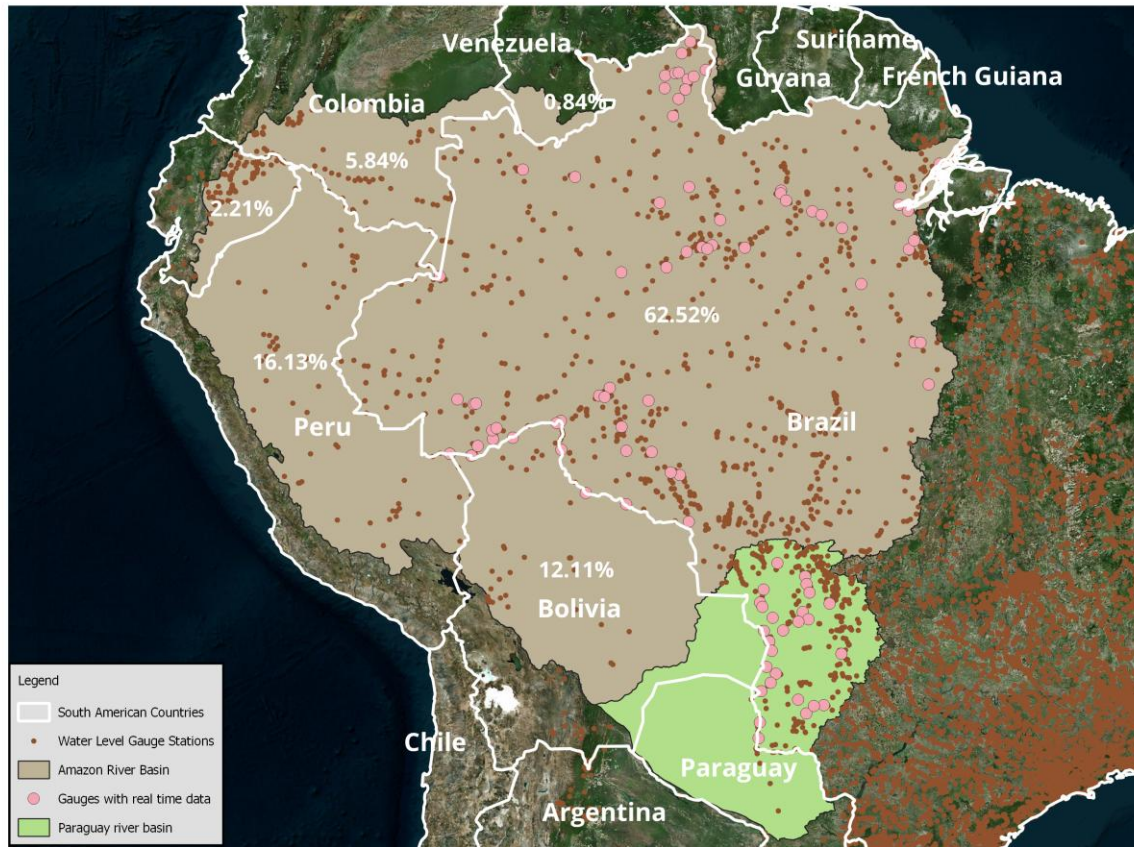
# Hydrology from Space

Satellites have changed the way we observe the water cycle and hydrology



# Why SWOT and remote sensing is so important for hydrological monitoring over Amazon river Basin?

## Sparse water level gauge network over transboundary basins



Extreme floods and droughts that affects all the population.

The frequency of the extremes events increased a lot in the last two decades .

### Cheia no Amazonas causa prejuízo de mais de R\$ 66 milhões, diz Sepror

Produção de farinha de mandioca foi a mais afetada no setor agrícola. Município de Iranduba concentrou as maiores perdas em 2015.



### Com seca no Amazonas, navios deixam de levar cargas a Manaus e fábricas podem parar

Situação pode afetar polo industrial de Manaus, onde está concentrada a produção nacional de eletrodomésticos, aparelhos eletrônicos e motocicletas

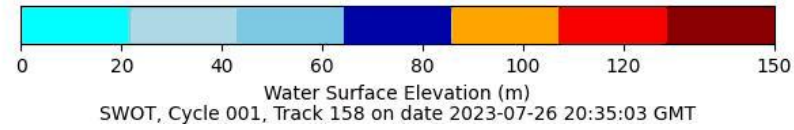
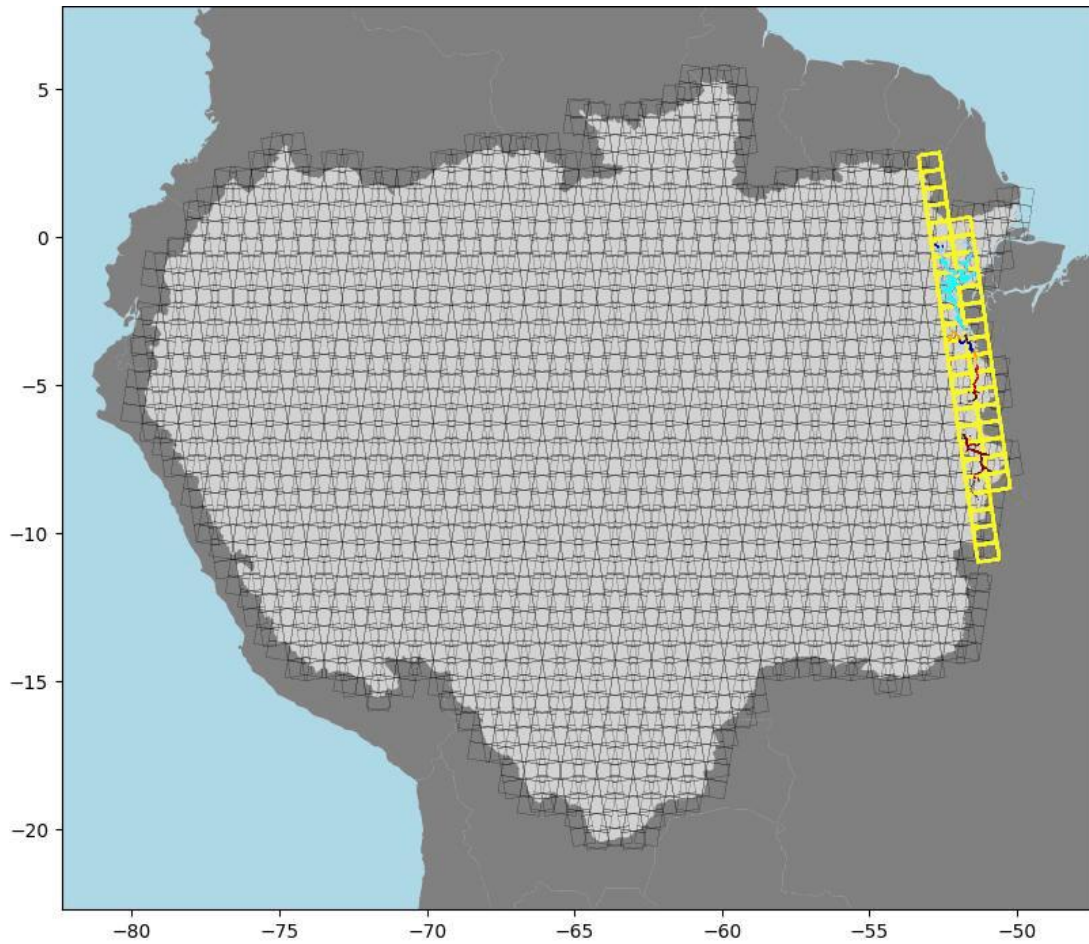
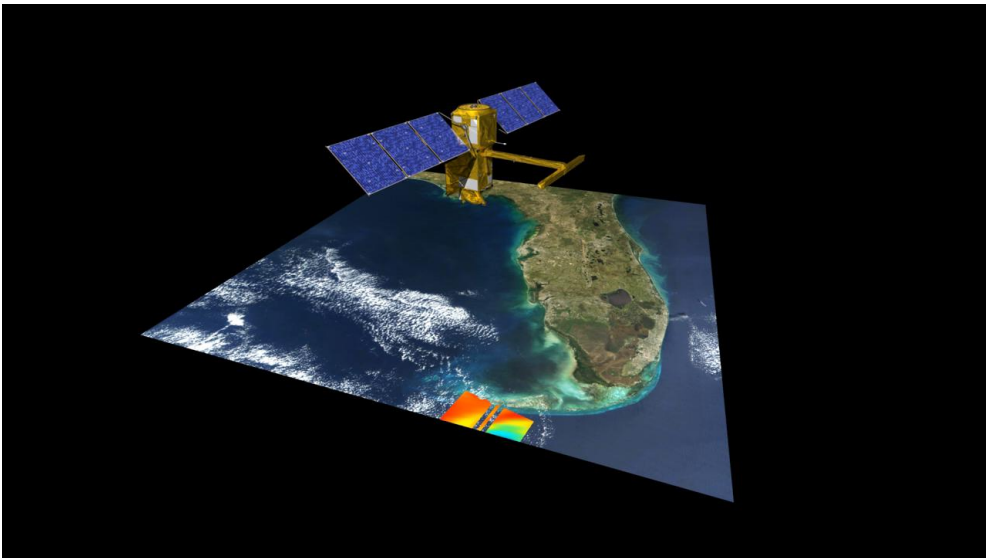
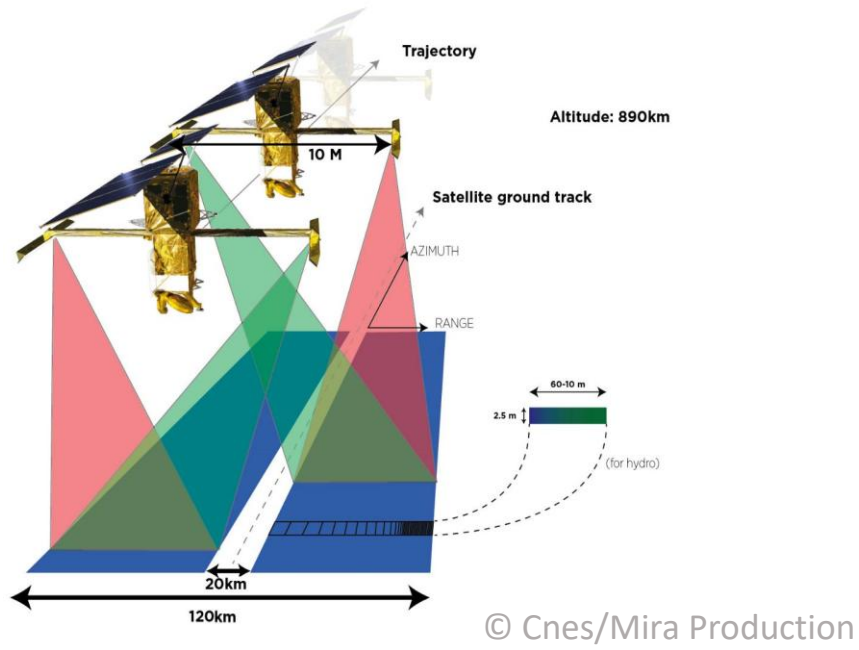
14 out 2023 - 12h19 (atualizado às 12h41) Compartilhar Exibir comentários

### Amazon lakes became 'simmering basins' as temperatures spiked to 105 degrees — above recommended limits for hot tubs

NOV 6, 2025  
By Laura Paddock



# Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) <https://swot.jpl.nasa.gov/>



# Global lakes & rivers survey from SWOT

## SWOT measurements and products

### Lakes

Height, extent & volume changes on lakes larger than 250 m x 250 m

- ⇒ This will allow calculating water storage changes
- ⇒ This will allow understanding the role of lake in water cycle

### Rivers

Height, slope and width of rivers larger than 100

- ⇒ This will allow calculating discharges along pre-defined reaches of 10 km
- ⇒ This will allow understanding the role of rivers in water cycle and on sea level changes
- ⇒ This will allow understanding the interaction with floodplain and groundwater dynamics at basin scale

## SWOT: a revolution!

In Situ Network



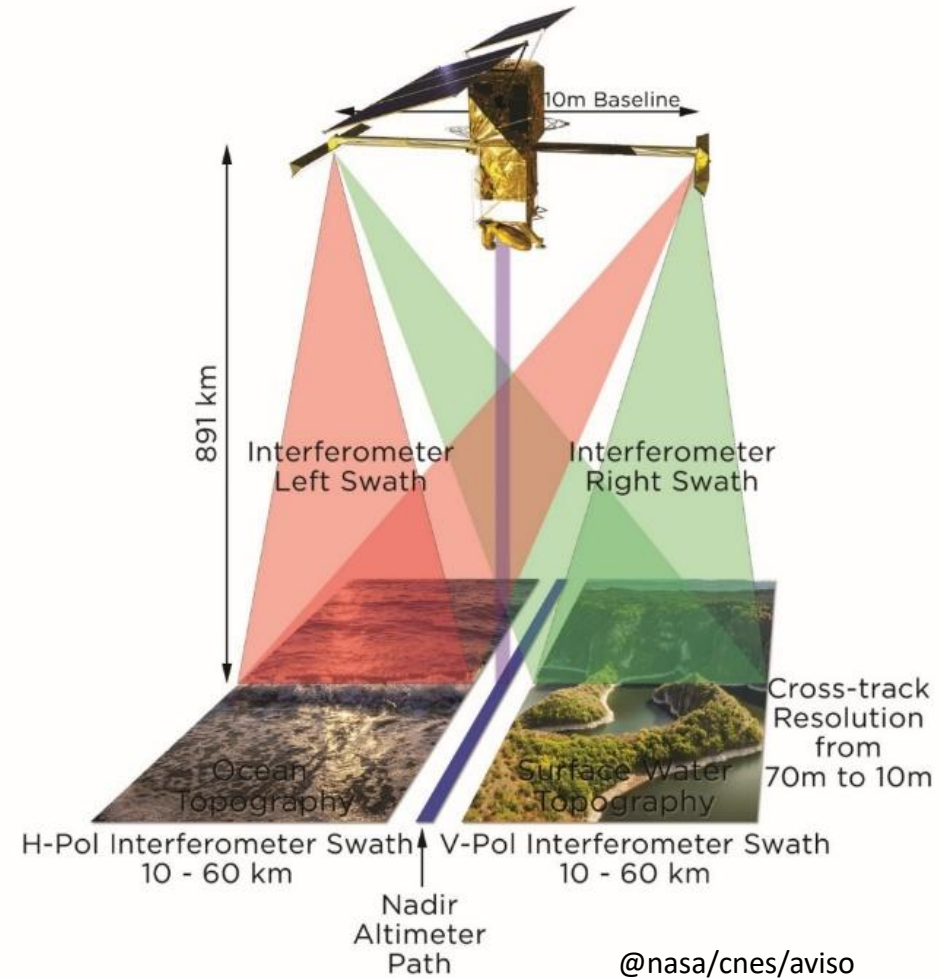
Classic altimetry  
Since 1990'S



SWOT  
Since 2022



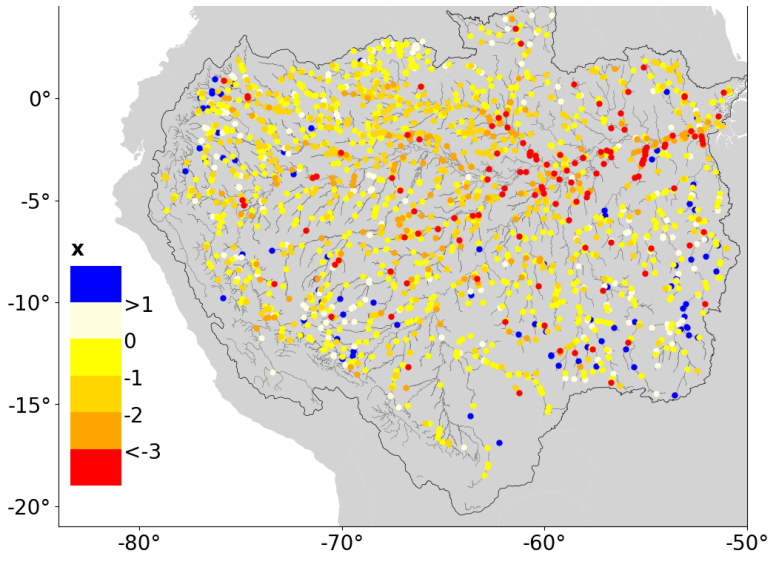
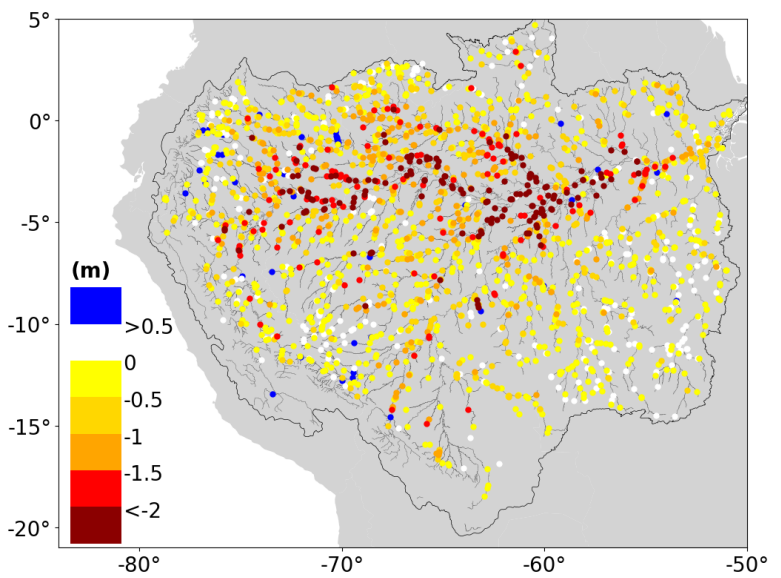
## SWOT is an interferometer in Ka Band



Measurements will be released every 21 days and every passes on shape of vector files, pixel cloud and rasters

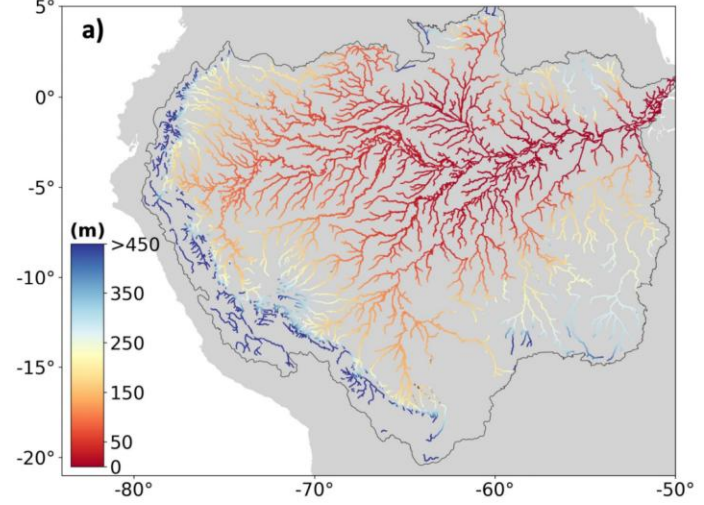
# AMAZON 2023 DROUGHT FROM THE VIEW OF SATELLITE ALTIMETRY AND SWOT

## WATER LEVELS ANOMALY

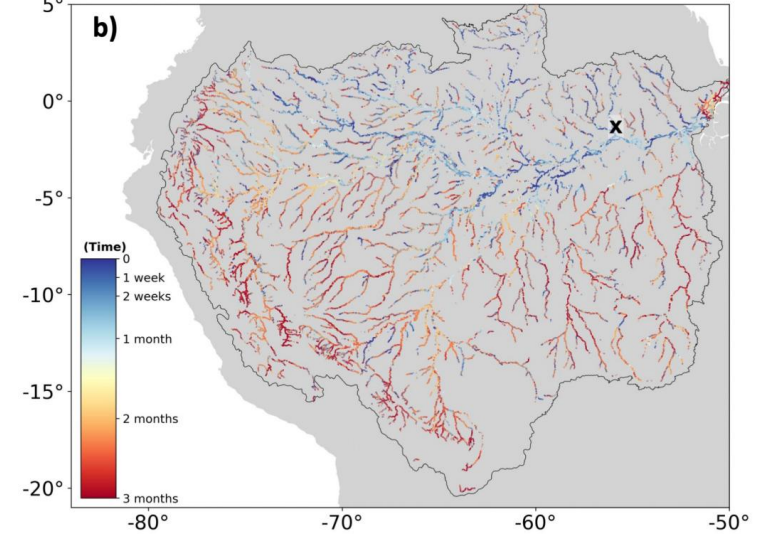


## SWOT

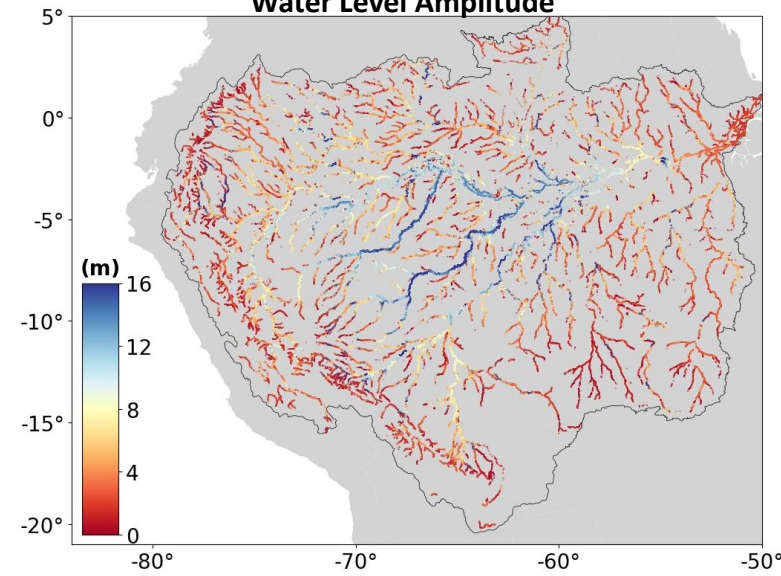
### Minimum River Water Levels



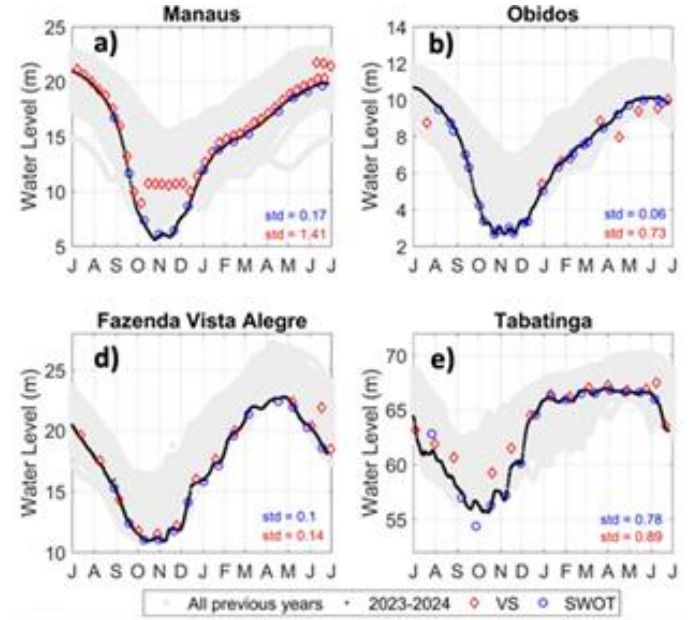
### WATER FLOW PROPAGATION



### Water Level Amplitude



How gauges, SWOT and satellite altimetry observe the water level from 2023 drought?

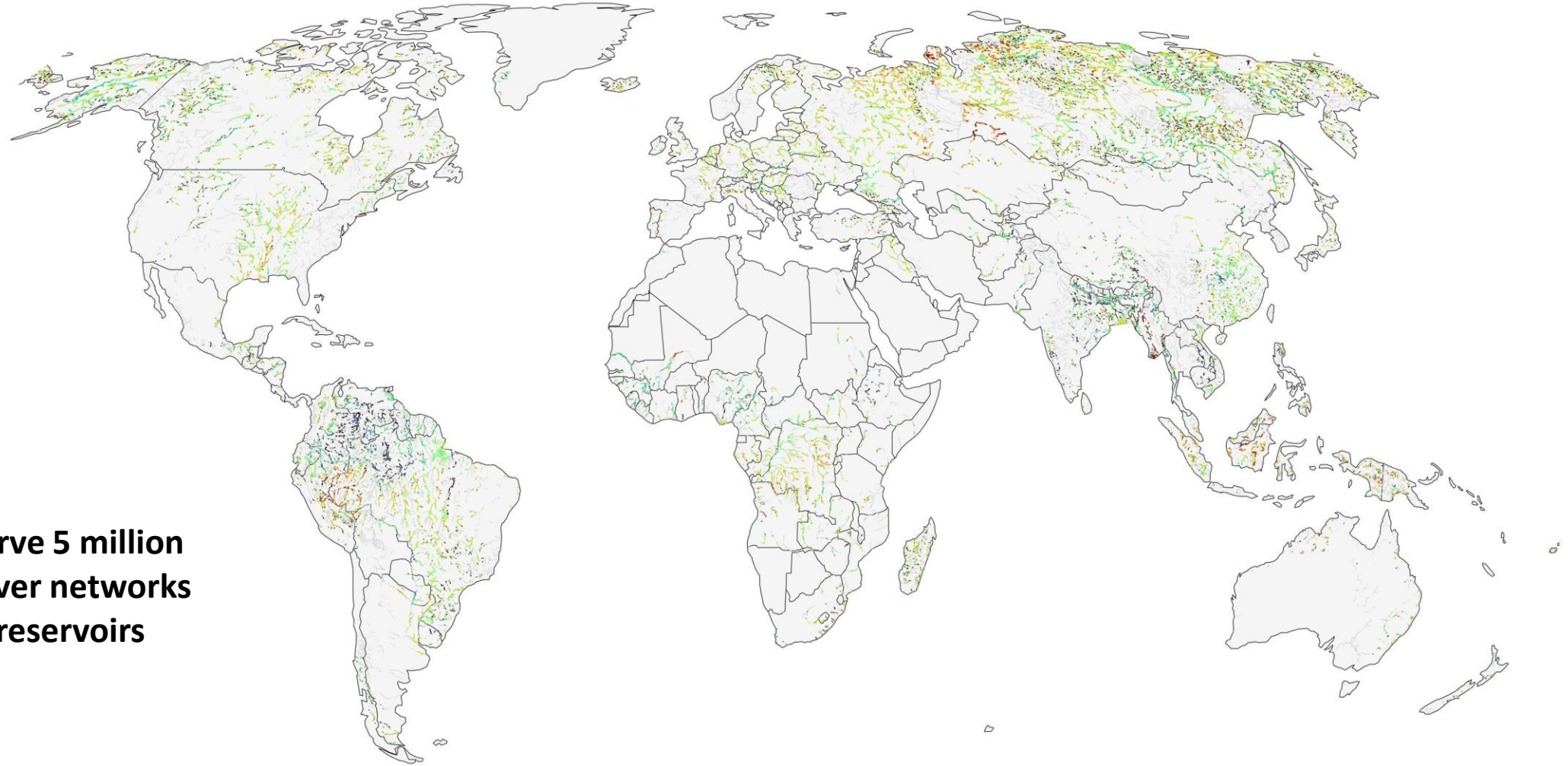


## HOW STRONG AS THIS DROUGHT?

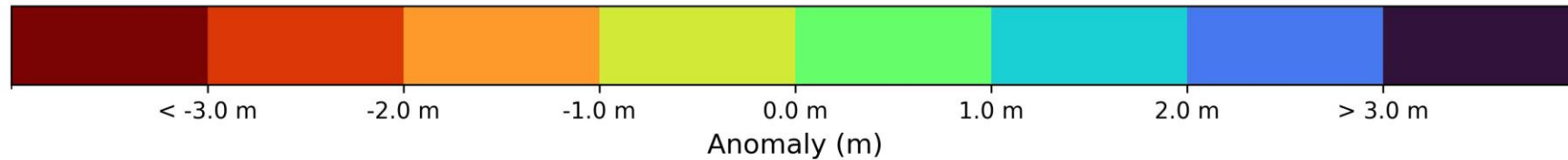
X - Represents X times of Drought Magnitude from Normal Standard Deviation of all droughts observed by Satellite Altimetry

Moreira, D., Papa, F., Fassoni-Andrade, A., Fleischmann, A., Wongchuig, S., Paiva, R., et al. (2025). Widespread and exceptional reduction in river water levels across the Amazon Basin during the 2023 extreme drought revealed by satellite altimetry and SWOT. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 52, e2025GL116180. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2025GL116180>

# River Water Level Anomaly - July 2023



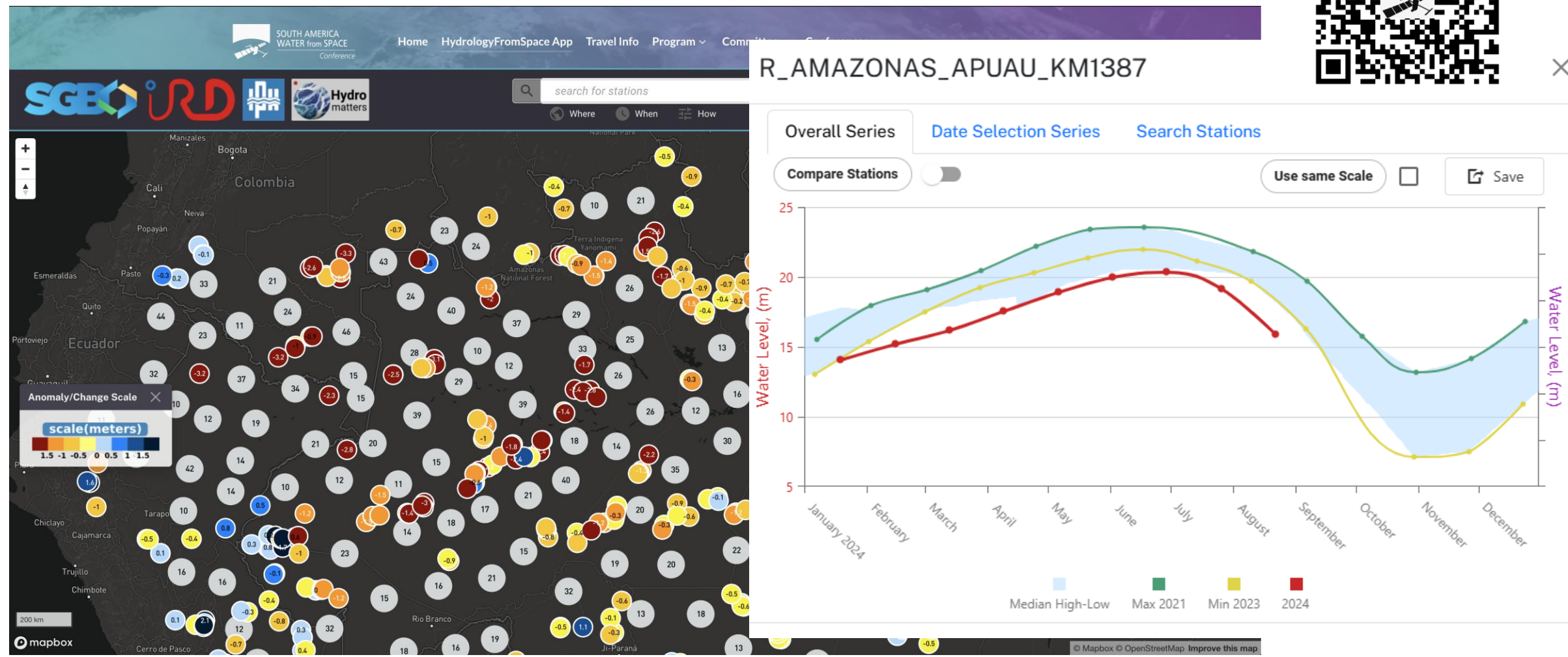
**SWOT can observe 5 million kilometers of river networks and millions of reservoirs worldwide.**



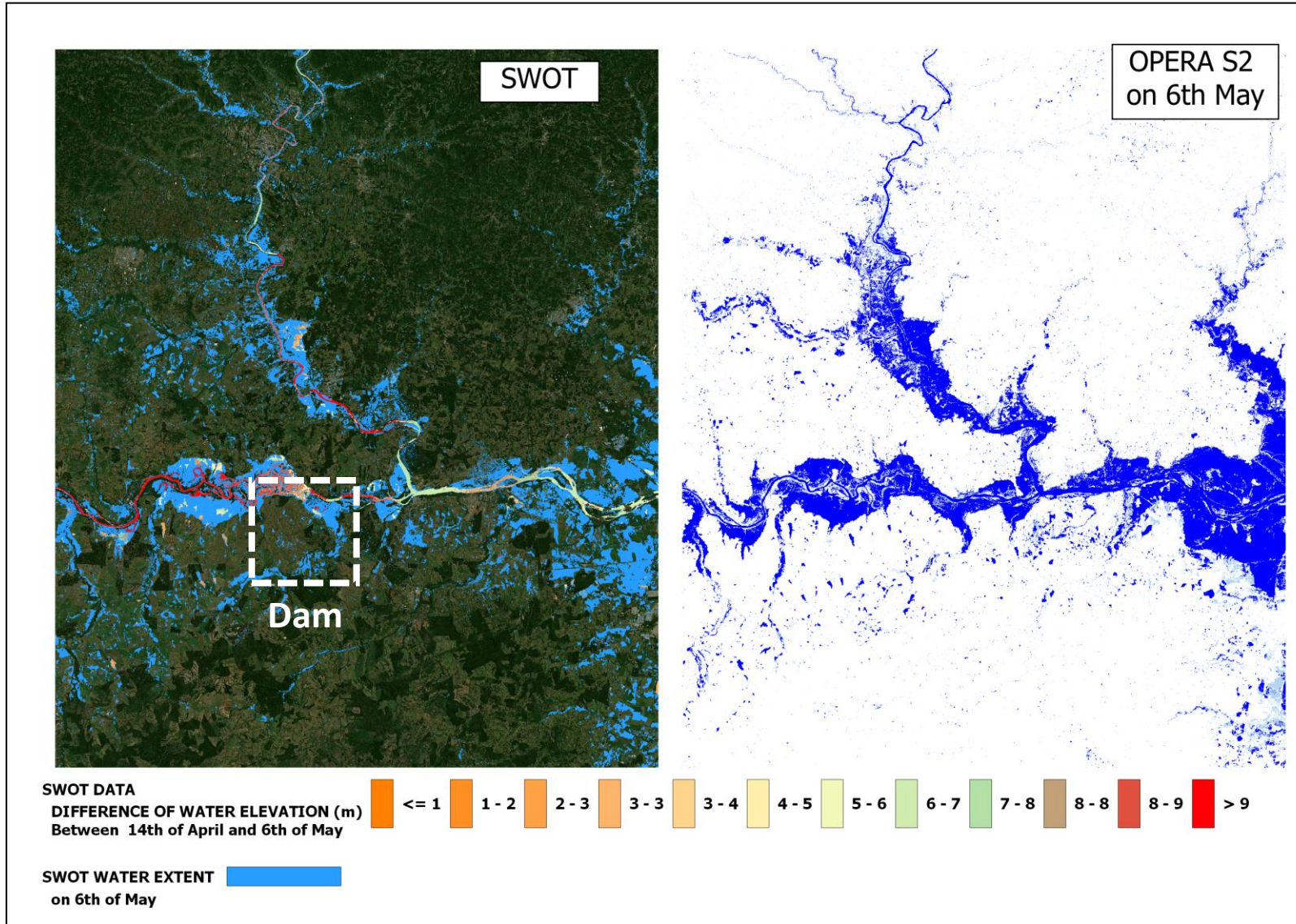
Through all these fruitful partnerships leads by IRD and SGB, we are able to provide important information to society, which we are already using in our warning systems to monitor the Amazon drought.



hydrologyfromspace.org : an augmented regional Hydroweb.next App for altimetry in the Amazon



# SWOT WAS ABLE TO SHOW THE AREAS IMPACTED BY THE FLOOD IN SOUTH OF BRAZIL



# SWOT OBSERVED DAM OVERFLOW DURING THE FLOOD

14th of April 2024 (CYCLE 13)



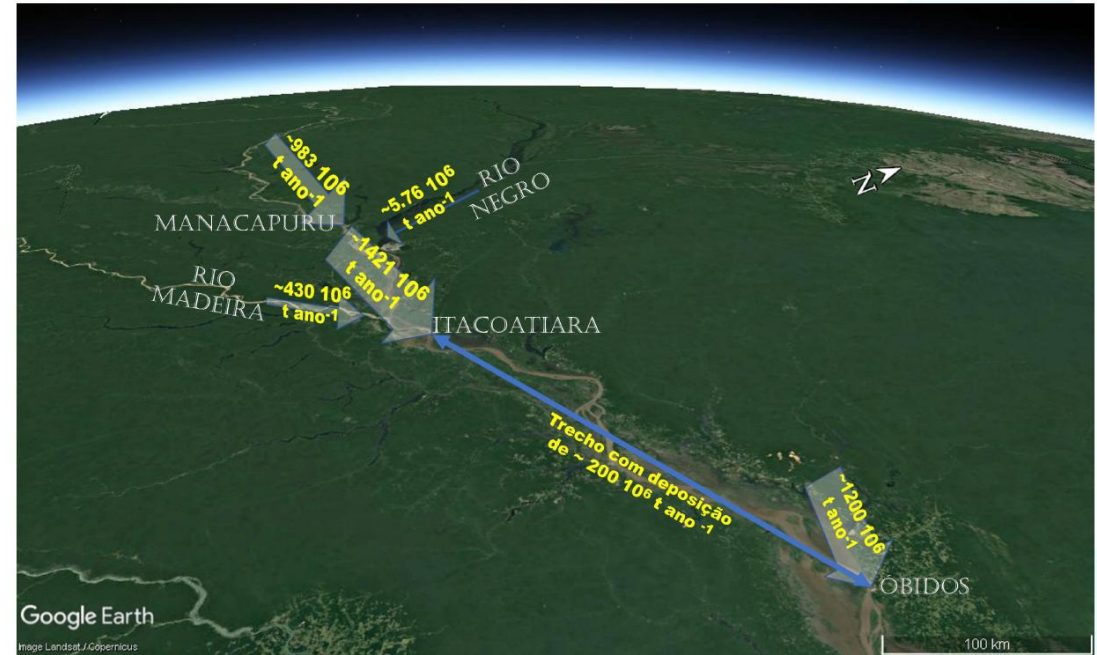
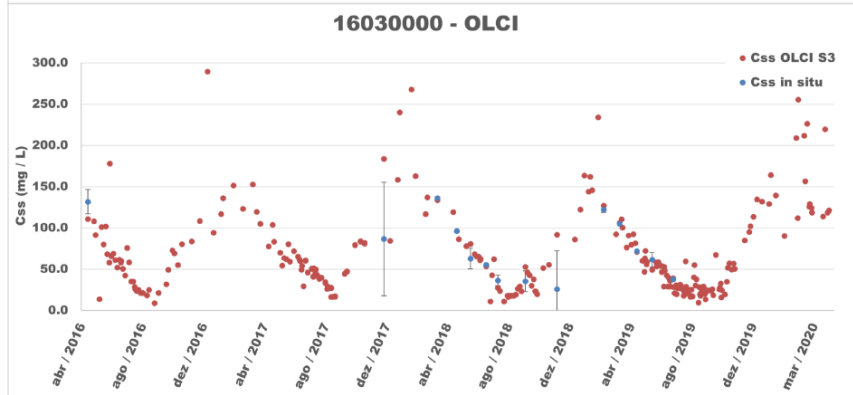
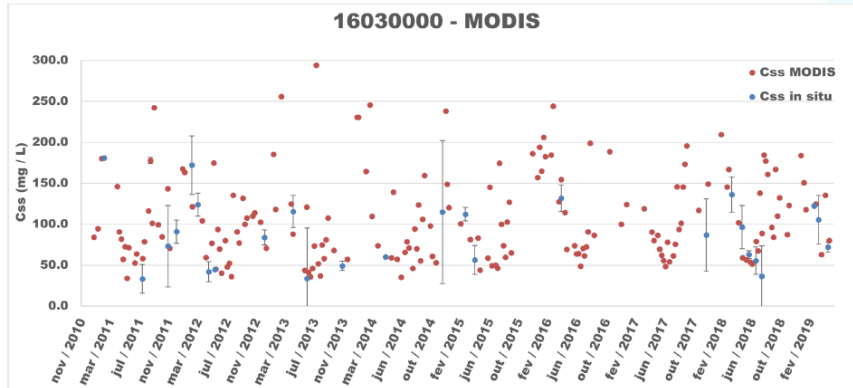
6th of May 2024 (CYCLE 14)



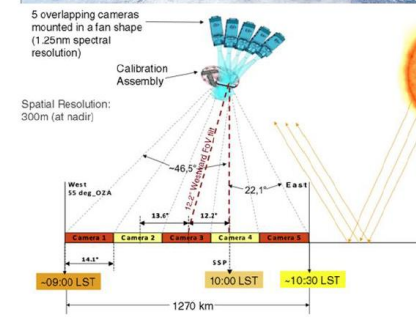
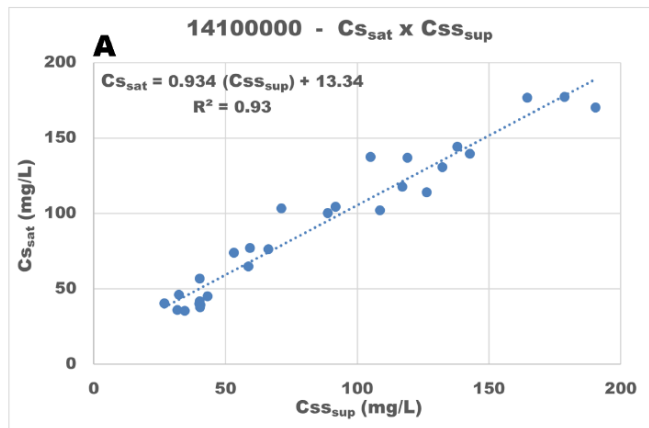
SWOT WSE (meters)



# Sediment concentration time series



## Possible adjustments and the importance of data validation with *in situ* information



X



# Other remote sensing applications (Fleischmann et al., 2025). <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adr4029>

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HOME > SCIENCE > VOL. 390, NO. 6773 > EXTREME WARMING OF AMAZON WATERS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

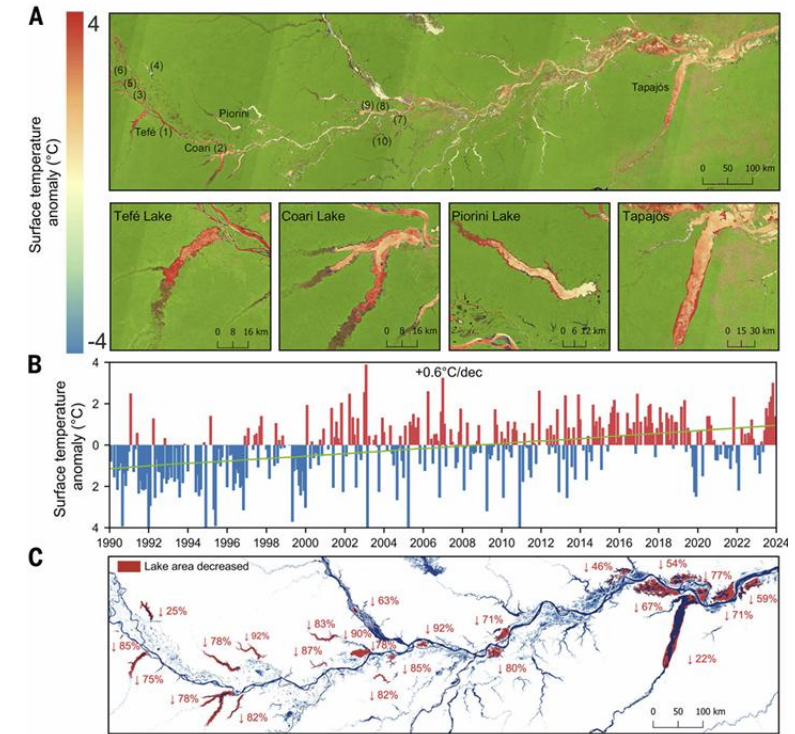
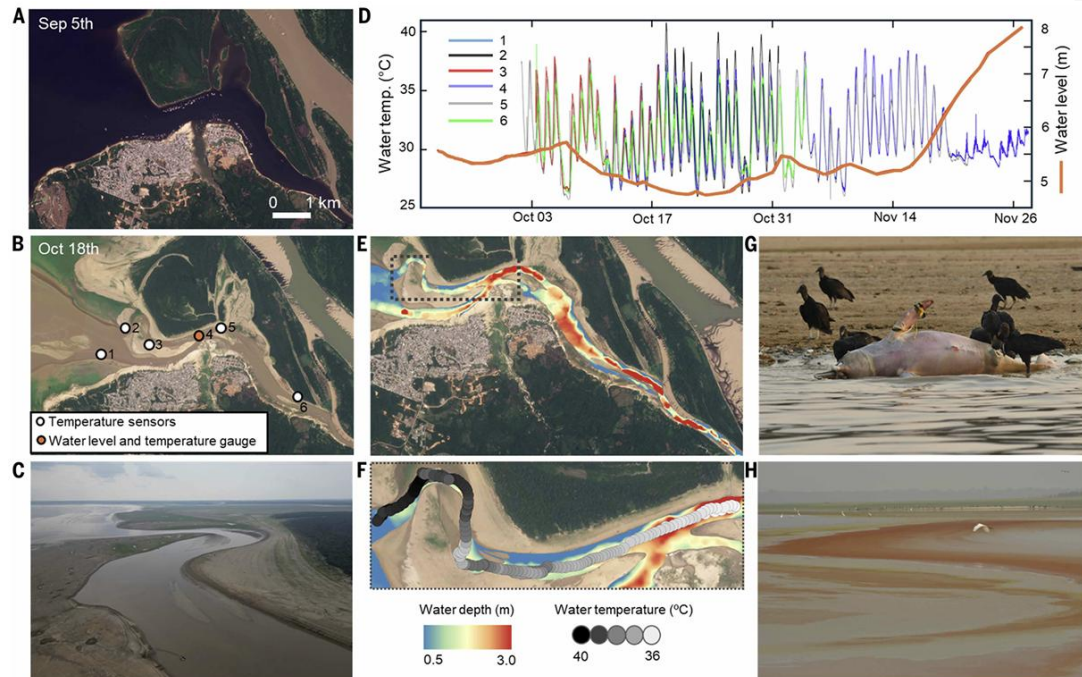
RESEARCH ARTICLE | CLIMATE IMPACTS

## Extreme warming of Amazon waters in a changing climate

AVAN SANTOS FLEISCHMANN · FABRICE PAPA · STEPHEN K. HAMILTON · JOHN MELACK · BRUCE FORSBERG · ADALBERTO VAL · WALTER COLLISCHONN · LEONARDO LAIPELT · JÚLIA BRUSSO ROSSI · BRUNO COMINI DE ANDRADE · BRUNA MENDEL · PRISCILA ALVES · MAIBY BANDEIRA · LADY CUSTÓDIO · MARIA CECÍLIA GOMES · DÉBORA HYMANS · ISABELA KEPPE · RAIZE MENDES · RENAN NASCIMENTO · PAULA DOS SANTOS SILVA · CAMILA VIEIRA · RODRIGO XAVIER · ANDRÉ ZUMAK · ANDERSON RUHOFF · WENCAI ZHOU · SALLY MACINTYRE · EDUARDO G. MARTINS · NAZIANO FILIZOLA · ROGÉRIO MARINHO · EDNALDO BRÁS SEVERO · MARIANA FRIAS · RENATA D. ALQUEZAR · LUCAS LAURETTO · WALESKA GRAVENA · ANDRÉ COELHO · HILDA CHÁVEZ-PÉREZ · SUSANA BRAZ-MOTA · MICHEL CHAMY · DANIEL MEDEIROS MOREIRA · LEANDRO GUEDES SANTOS · JOSÉ R. PACHECO PELEJA · AND MIRIAM MARMONTEL

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World US politics UK Climate crisis Middle East Ukraine Environment Science Global development Football Tech Business Obituaries

### The age of extinction Amazon rainforest

## Amazon lakes hit 'unbearable' hot-tub temperatures amid mass die-offs of pink river dolphins - study

Droughts and heatwaves causing water in some areas to reach 41C, killing fish and endangered dolphins, say researchers

### Amazon lakes became 'simmering basins' as temperatures spiked to 105 degrees — above recommended limits for hot tubs

EL PAÍS

### Clima y Medio Ambiente

## Cientos de delfines muertos por los 41 grados de récord en las aguas amazónicas: "Estaba tan caliente que no tenían refugio"

Un estudio documenta la temperatura extrema de los lagos de la Amazonía durante la sequía histórica de 2023, que golpeó a las especies acuáticas y dejó aisladas a comunidades ribereñas



AMÉRIQUE

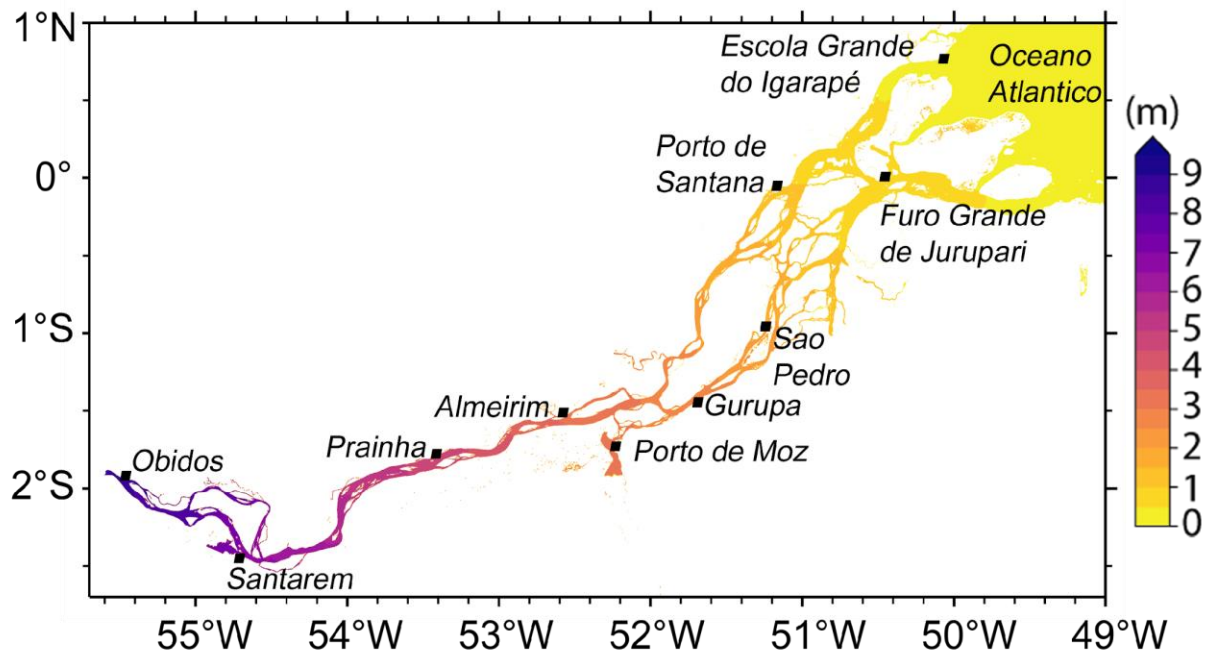
# Le changement climatique submerge l'estuaire de l'Amazon

#En bref | 07/10/2025 | Auteur : Olivier Blot | photo: IRD - Francis Sontag

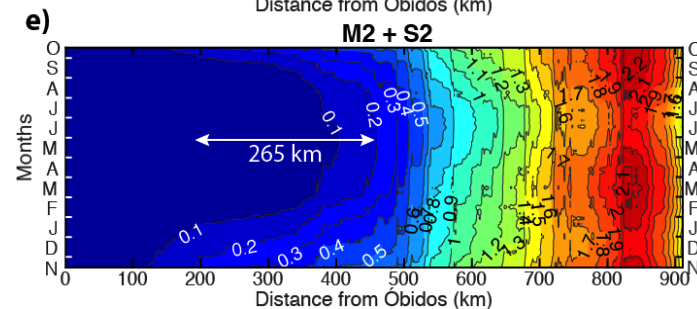
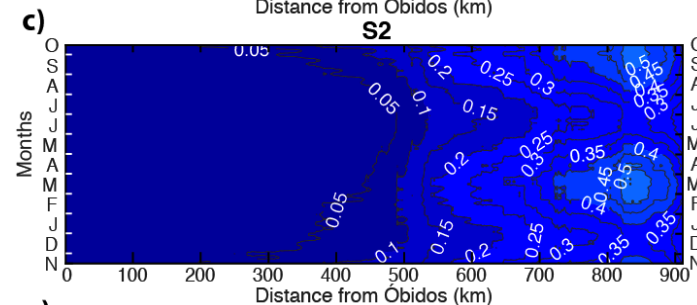
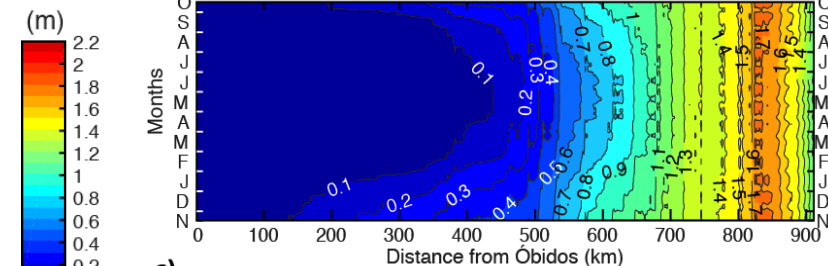
ACCESSIBILITÉ ÉCOUTER

PARTAGER

La modélisation haute résolution de l'estuaire du plus grand fleuve au monde révèle le rôle du climat dans la multiplication de crues extrêmes.



From Óbidos to ocean



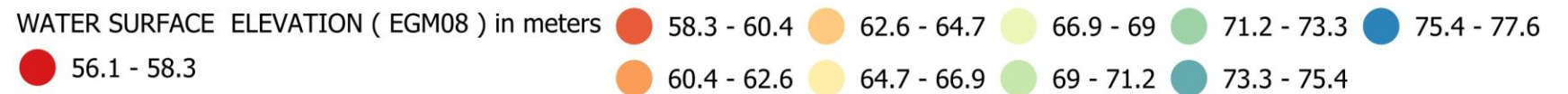
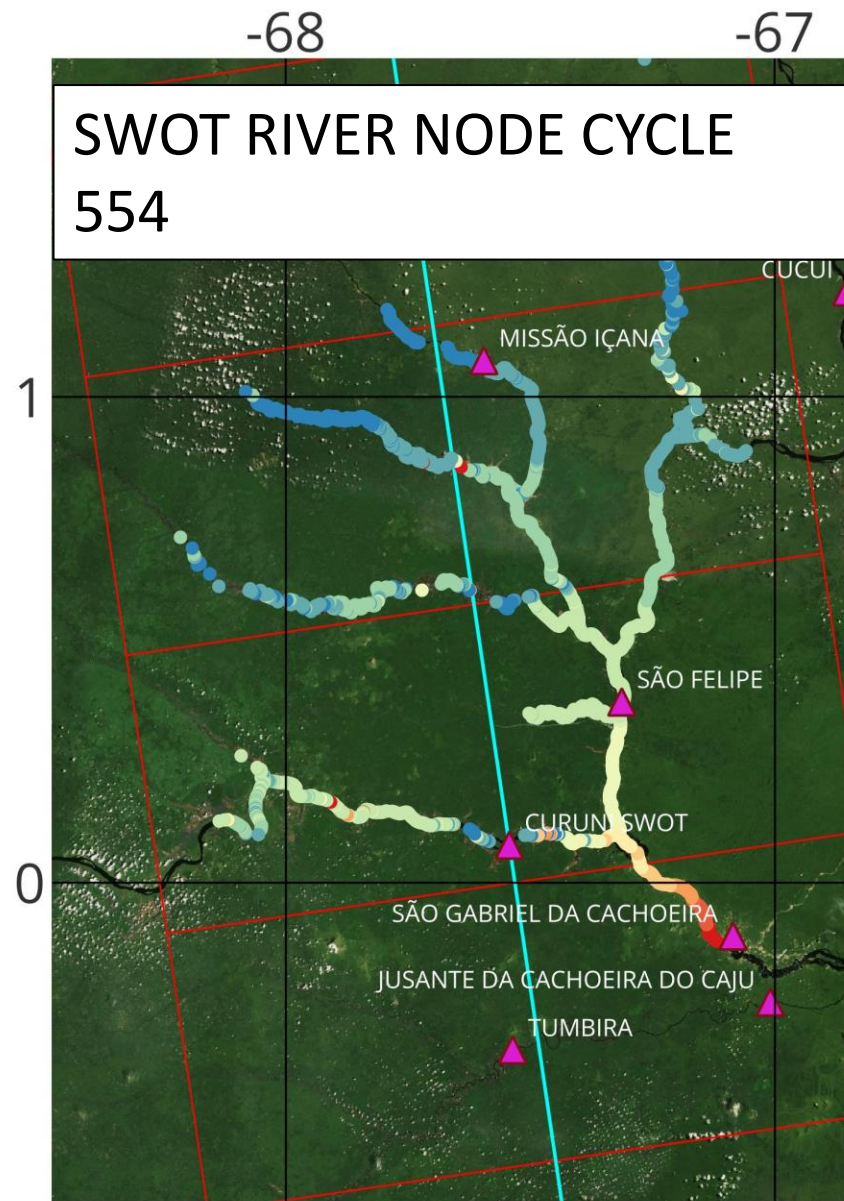
FASSONI-ANDRADE, ALICE CÉSAR ; DURAND, FABIEN ; AZEVEDO, ALBERTO ; BERTIN, XAVIER ; SANTOS, LEANDRO GUEDES ; KHAN, JAMAL UDDIN ; TESTUT, LAURENT ; MOREIRA, DANIEL MEDEIROS . Seasonal to interannual variability of the tide in the Amazon estuary. CONTINENTAL SHELF RESEARCH, , 2023

COULET, PAUL ; DURAND, FABIEN ; FASSONI-ANDRADE, ALICE ; KHAN, MD JAMAL UDDIN ; TESTUT, LAURENT ; TOUBLANC, FLORENCE ; SANTOS, LEANDRO GUEDES ; MOREIRA, DANIEL MEDEIROS ; AZEVEDO, ALBERTO . Dynamics of Yearly Maximum Water Levels in the Amazon Estuary. Estuaries and Coasts, 2025

COULET, PAUL ; DURAND, FABIEN ; FASSONI-ANDRADE, ALICE ; KHAN, JAMAL ; TESTUT, LAURENT ; TOUBLANC, FLORENCE ; SANTOS, LEANDRO GUEDES ; MOREIRA, DANIEL MEDEIROS . Assessment of the hydrodynamical signature of the record-breaking 2021 flood along the Amazon estuary. OCEAN MODELLING, 2025

# NEGRO CAL/VAL SITE SURVEY FROM 06th to 18th of June - 2023

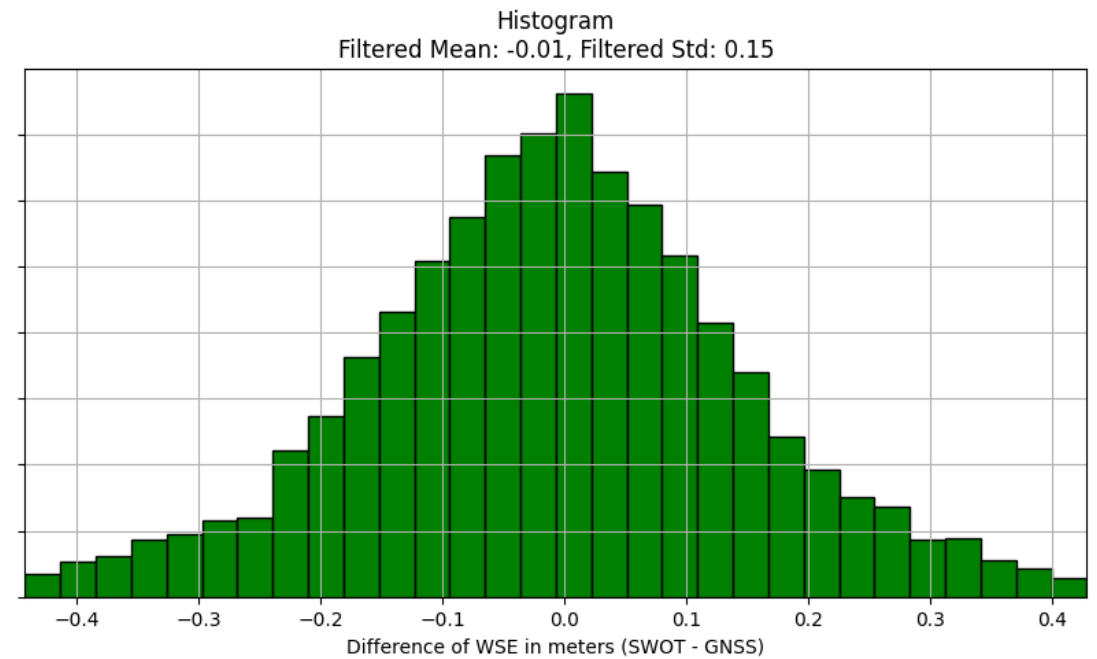
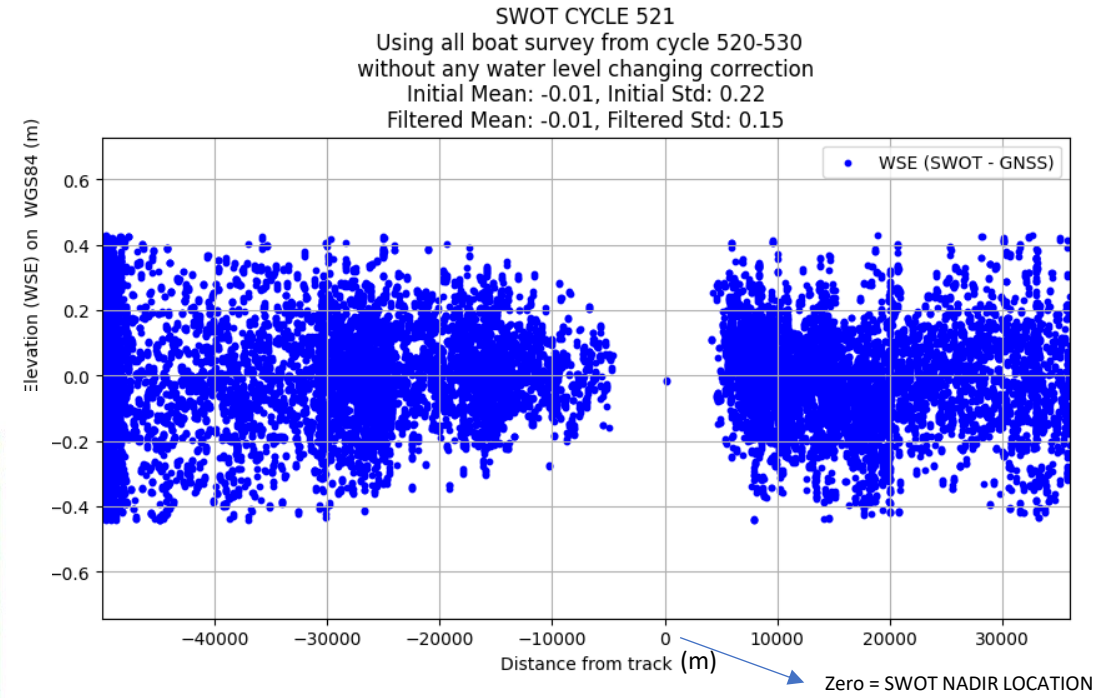
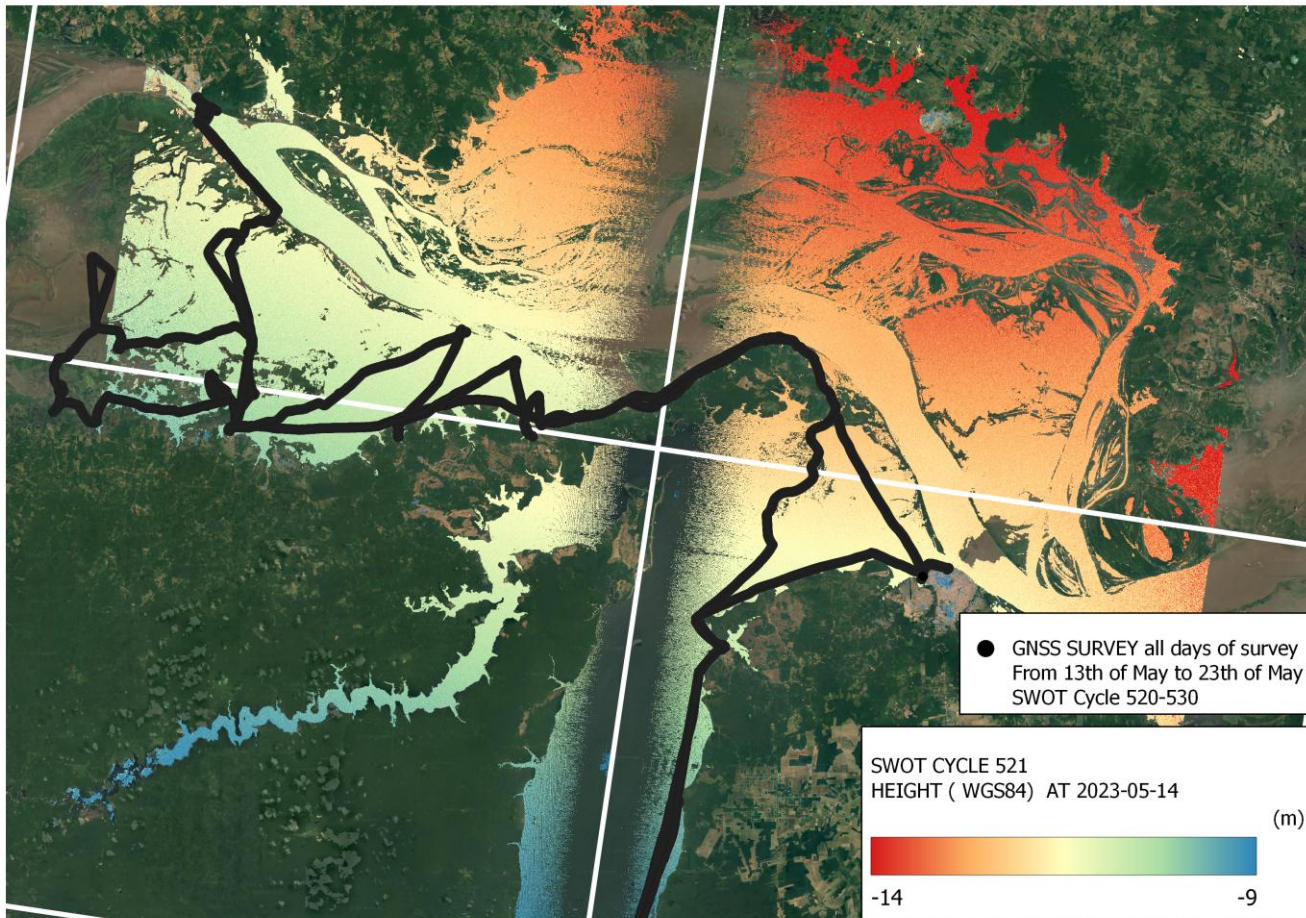
Team : Daniel Moreira, Fabrice Papa, Pauline Brossat, Jefferson Melo, Ricardo Oliveira, Robson Azevedo, Daniel Garcia, Malika, Arthur Abreu, Taina Conchy, Jacques Verron, Marquinho, Fábio Viveros, Ramos.



# WITH SMALL WATER LEVEL CHANGES (~4cm) during CAL/VAL SURVEY

We obtain very promising results for the entire  
survey coverage using SWOT CYCLE 521

(even if we don't correct this 4 cm of raise of water level)



BUT BEFORE USE IT WE NEED TO VALIDATE

From the last two decades IRD and SGB deeply worked for validation , research , development and application of remote sensing technologies for hydrology monitoring.



Creating a network of many institutions focused on validation, development and capacity building for use hydrology from space technologies.





COP 30

Difundindo Geociências para um Futuro Climático Seguro

**OBRIGADO**

[daniel.moreira@sgb.gov.br](mailto:daniel.moreira@sgb.gov.br)



MINISTÉRIO DE  
MINAS E ENERGIA

