

THE GARS-PROGRAM OF IUGS AND UNESCO

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The Geological Application of Remote Sensing (GARS) Program is an international co-operation program jointly sponsored by IUGS and UNESCO. It had been initiated 1983 in order to demonstrate the use of advanced remote sensing techniques for the solution of key geological questions, to ensure the transfer of information and technology through co-operative research in the field in combination with educational programs, and to ensure wide dissemination of the results. IUGS science policy asks for the promotion of new techniques in the field of earth sciences and UNESCO aims at an involvement of scientists from developing countries by training and technology transfer. Co-operative research is carried out between institutes of different countries. From now on, the GARS-Program will be oriented towards issues of global concern such as geo-environmental processes in response to Agenda 21 of the UN Conference for Environmental Development (UNCED, Brazil, 1992) and too the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990 - 2000). The GARS-Program will continue to address the geological application of remote sensing, especially issues related to risk of geological origin: volcanic hazards, neotectonics/active faulting, landslides, hydrogeology in arid and semi-arid countries and methods to applied in these fields by using digital terrain models, applying hyperspectral sensors, laser scanners, radar data- and interferometry.