

Before and After Landsat Satellite Imagery of the Northwest Sumatra Coast

The impact of the 2004 tsunami which hit the northwest coast of Sumatra can be seen in a comparison of Landsat coverage acquired in 2001 with coverage acquired days after the disaster. Emergency response managers used the imagery to evaluate the destruction along coastlines, river channels, and estuaries. Additionally, the tsunami intruded as far inland as 3 kilometers and the Landsat imagery were used for evaluating the destruction to forests and cropland along the coast and areas where population centers were destroyed. The evaluated data will aid in plans for re-location population groups and help determine sites for emergency evacuation routes.

