



# High up and deep below - Dynamic 3D Cartography at the Roof of the World and in Sea-Level Caves

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55th Photogrammetric Week "Excellence in Photogrammetry, Computer Science and Geoinformatics"  
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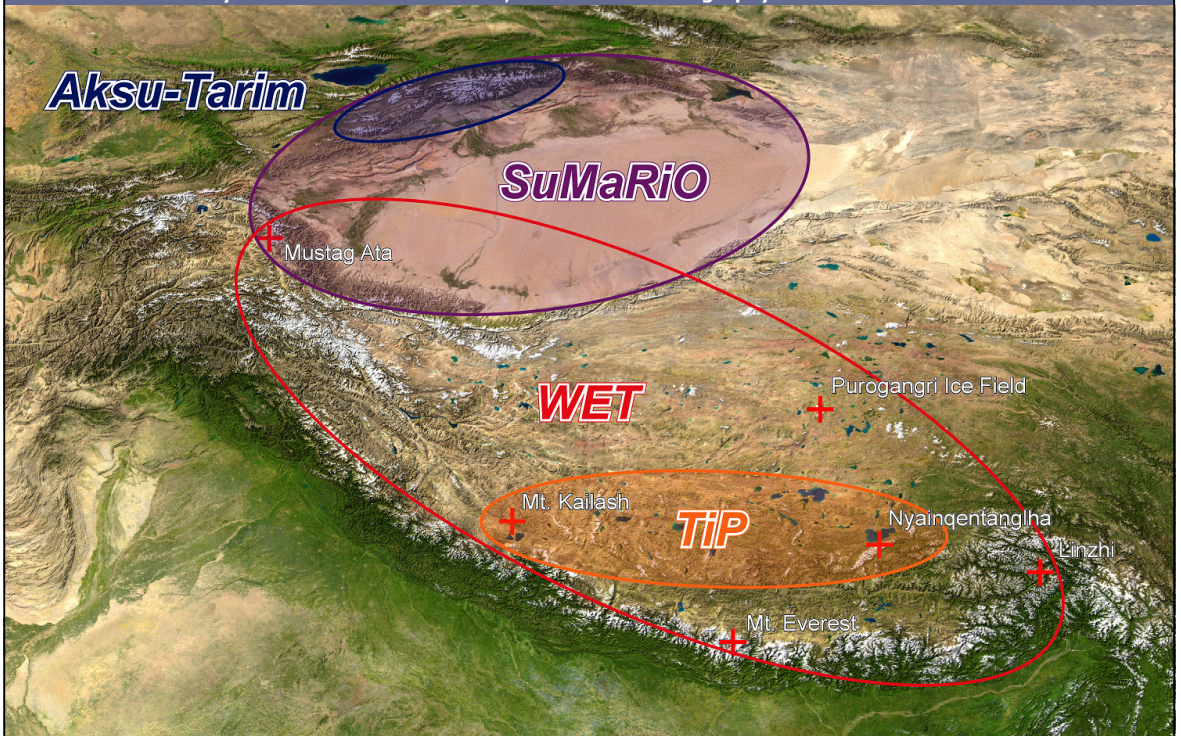
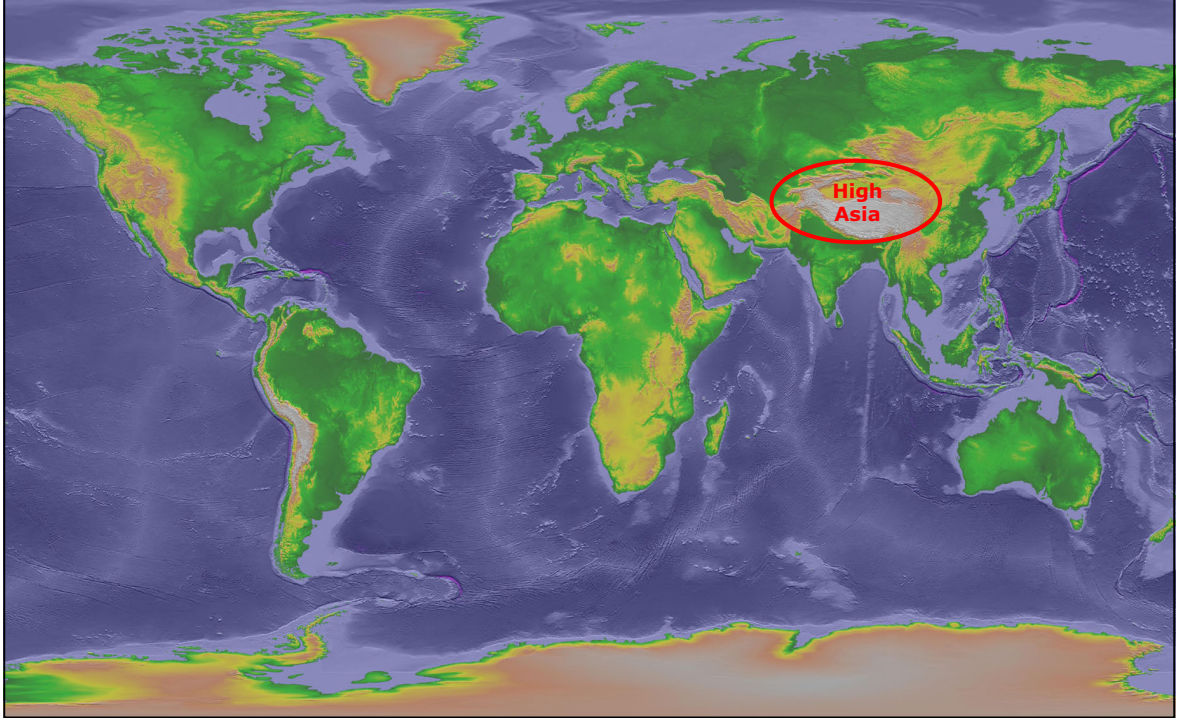


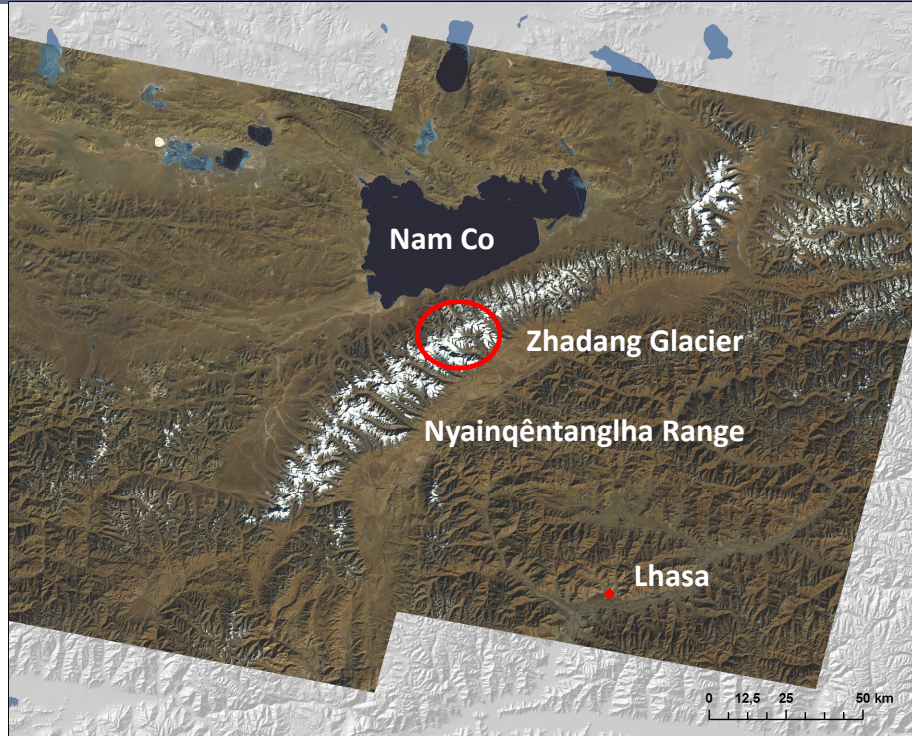
## Outline

1. Time-lapse photography Zhadang Glacier/China
2. GLOF monitoring Halji Glacier/Nepal
3. Terrestrial laser scanning Gomantong Caves/Malaysia

NB: „Dynamic Cartography“:

Either object (e.g. glaciers or snow) or viewer in motion (e.g. fly-through)





**Zhadang Glacier (5,515 – 6,090 m asl, 2 km<sup>2</sup>)**

## Terrestrial camera system, Zhadang Glacier



Photo: T. Pieczonka (2009)



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## Terrestrial camera system, Zhadang Glacier 2010/2011



22.05.2010

Picture series from 2010



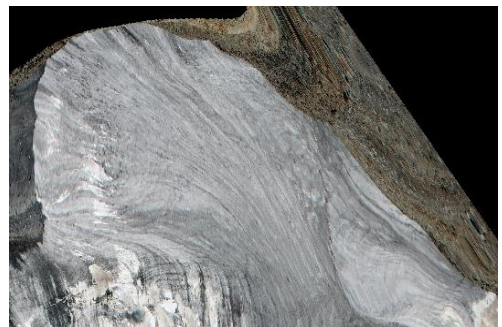
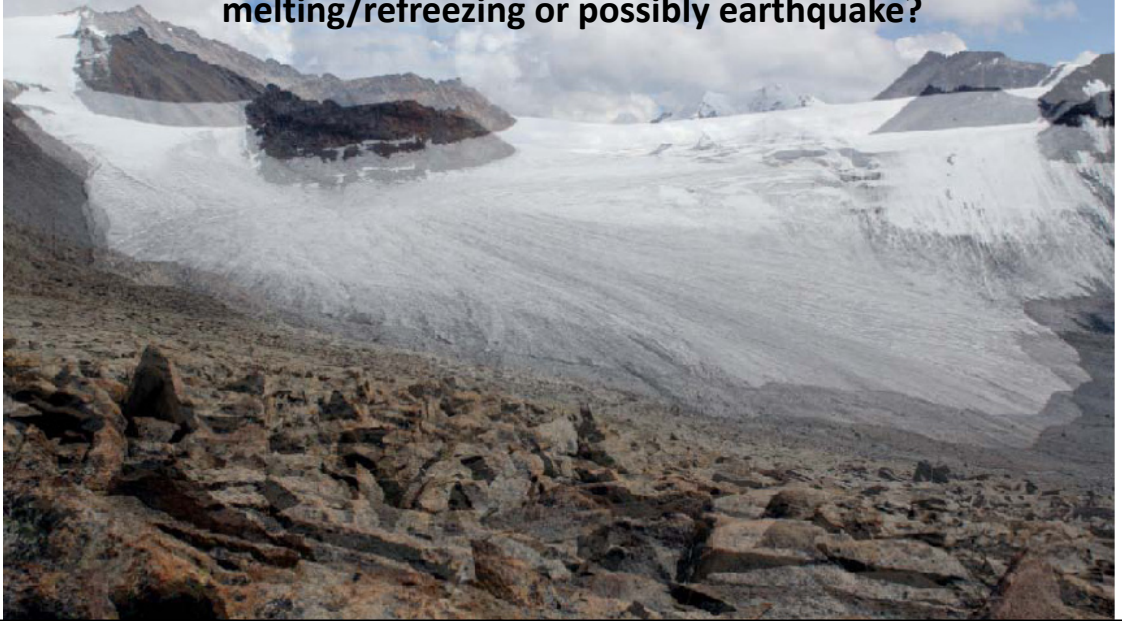
22.05.2011

Picture series from 2011

2 cameras, each 6 pictures/day = 6,225 images between  
May 2010 and September 2012 (**no missing data!**)



**Problem: movement/shift of both cameras due to melting/refreezing or possibly earthquake?**





## Example of workflow image to ortho-image with snowline mapping

Camera 1:  
view towards  
south



Orthorectified area of Zhadang Glacier  
(Image distortion due to very gentle rise of the  
upper part of the glacier)



Nadir view, northened



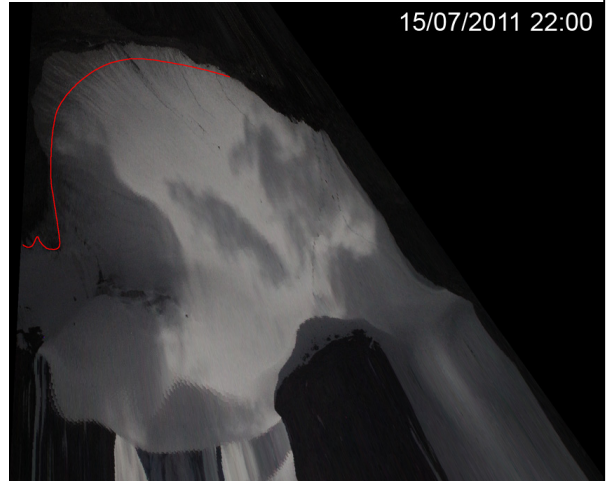
Snowline on nadir view







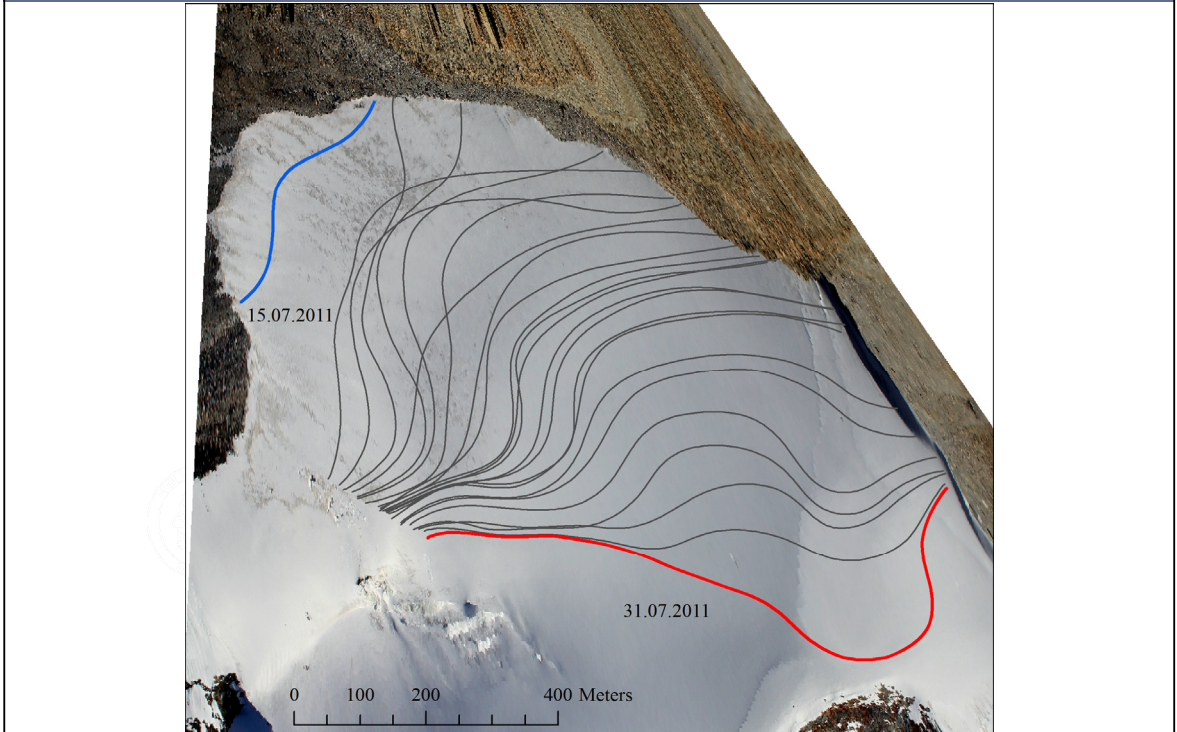












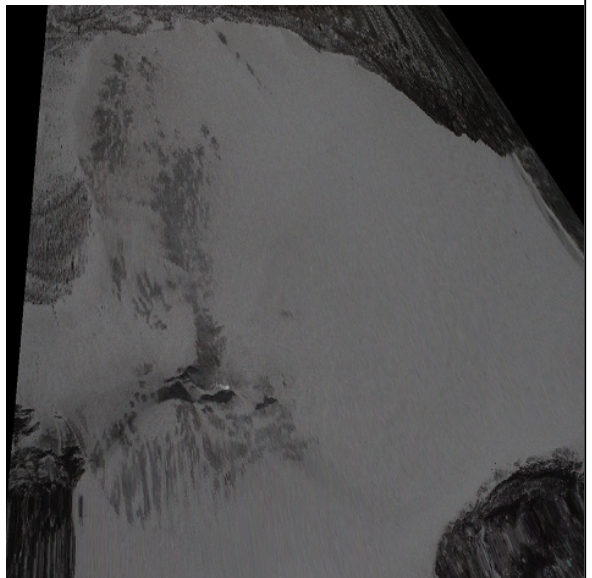


## Major Finding

One remarkable result is the proof of the existence of *complete* ablation due to *heavy snow drift* and *sublimation* on high-altitude glaciers during the winter months (DJFM).



Image from **February 6 2012** at 22:00



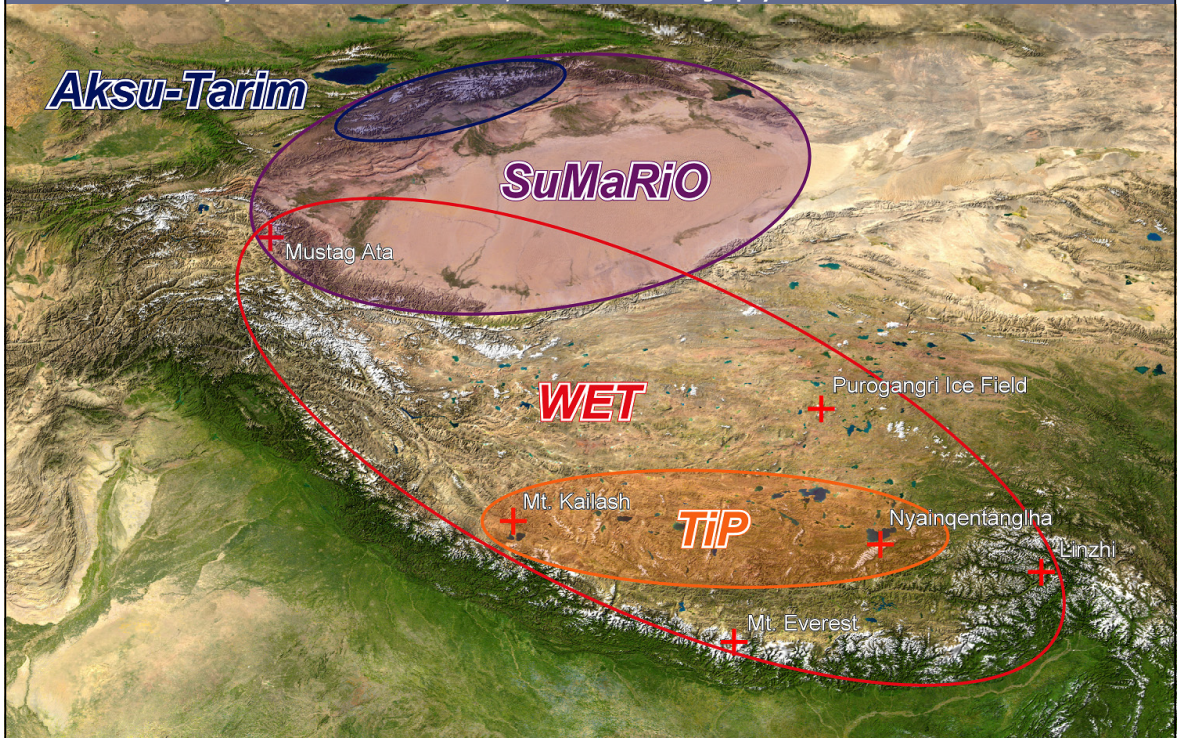


Photo: B. Schröter (2013)





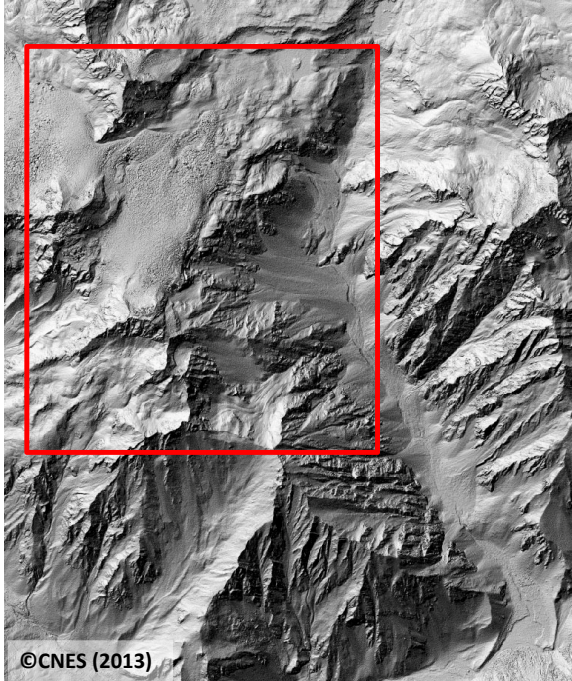
Photo: B. Schröter (2013)



Photo: A. Hovden (2008)

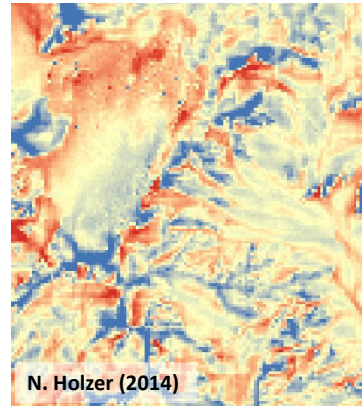


**Pléiades DEM (2013), 1 m resolution**



**Halji-Glacier**

**Pléiades DEM (2013)  
versus SRTM-3 (2000)**



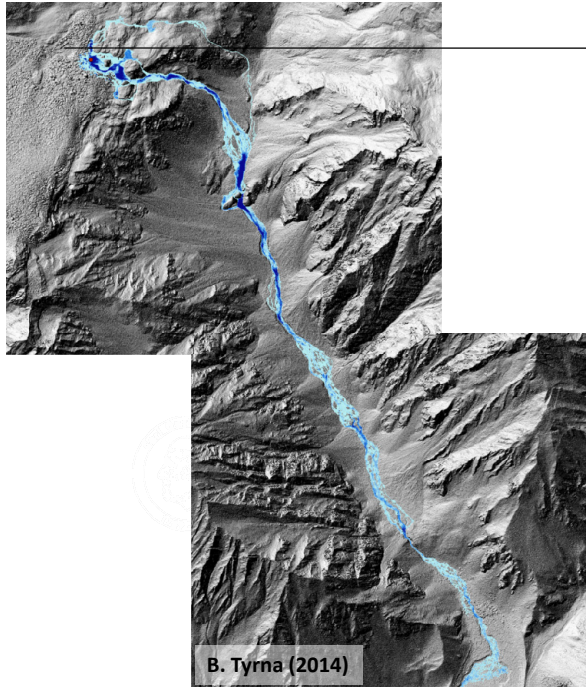
**N. Holzer (2014)**



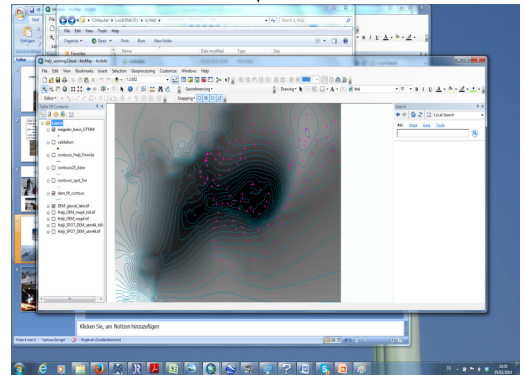
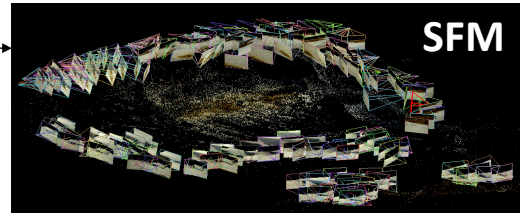
**Photo: B. Schröter (2013)**



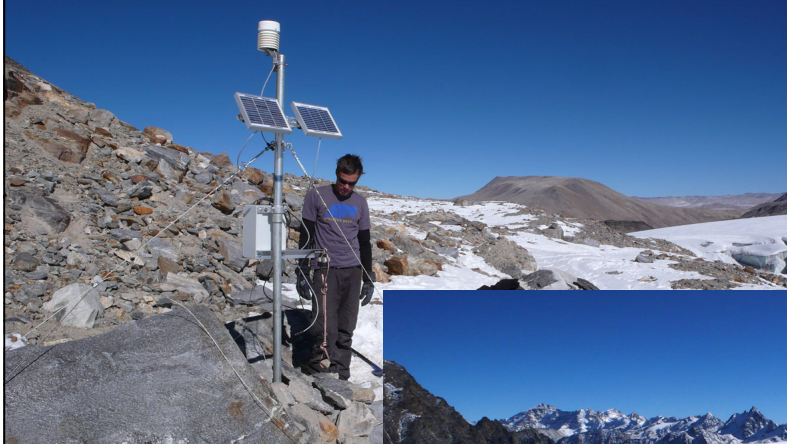
**First GLOF modeling results**



**Morphometry of the lake basin**



**DEM based on fusion of SFM  
and DGPS measurements**

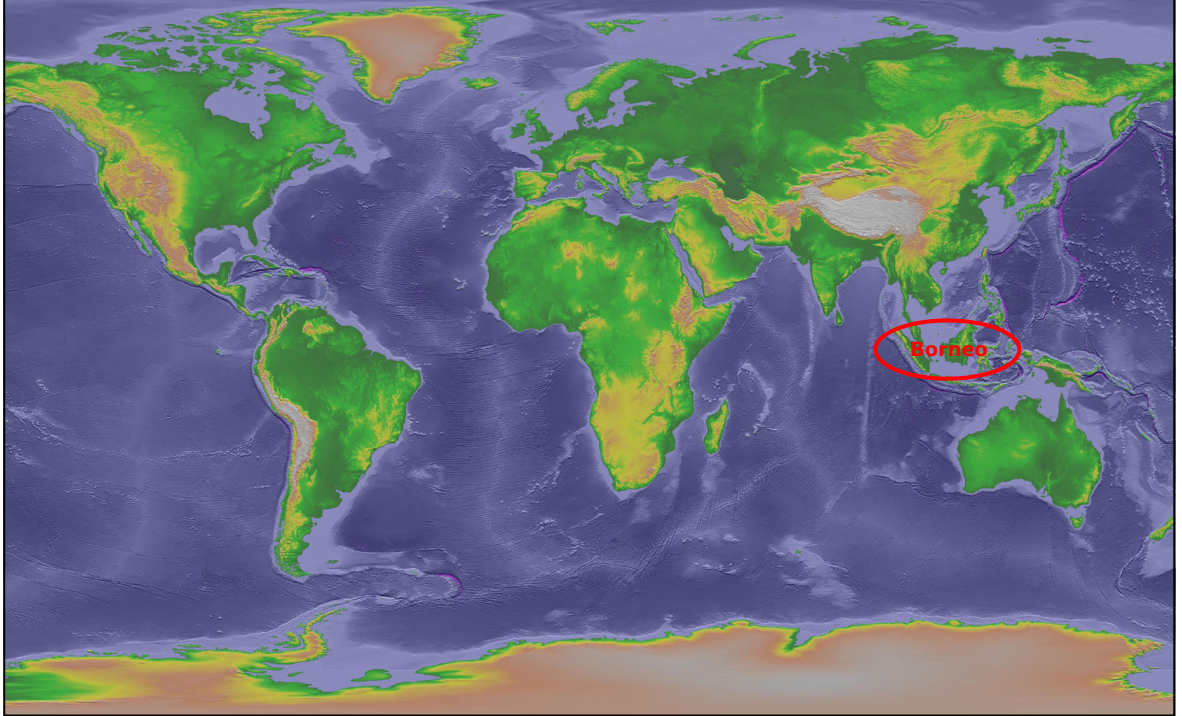


**Terrestrial Camera**

**Automatic Weather  
Station**



**Photos: B. Schröter (2013)**



## Gomantong Caves

Karst cave system on Borneo Island

Tourist attraction

Economic importance: swiftlet nest

harvesting + export to China

Two National Geographic Expeditions:

1. Cave scanning with TLS
2. Aerial stereo-imaging using an UAV







Photo: K. Christenson (2012)



Photo: B. Schröter (2014)



Photo: K. Christenson (2012)



Photo: K. Christenson (2012)



Photo: K. Christenson (2014)



Photo: K. Christenson (2014)



# Cave structure

Simud Putih  
= White cave

- Entrance 90 m above Black cave
- Not open to public
- Still not fully explored

Simud Hitam  
= Black cave

- Main entrance
- Ceiling up to 90 m high
- Open to public
- Walkway

322 meters

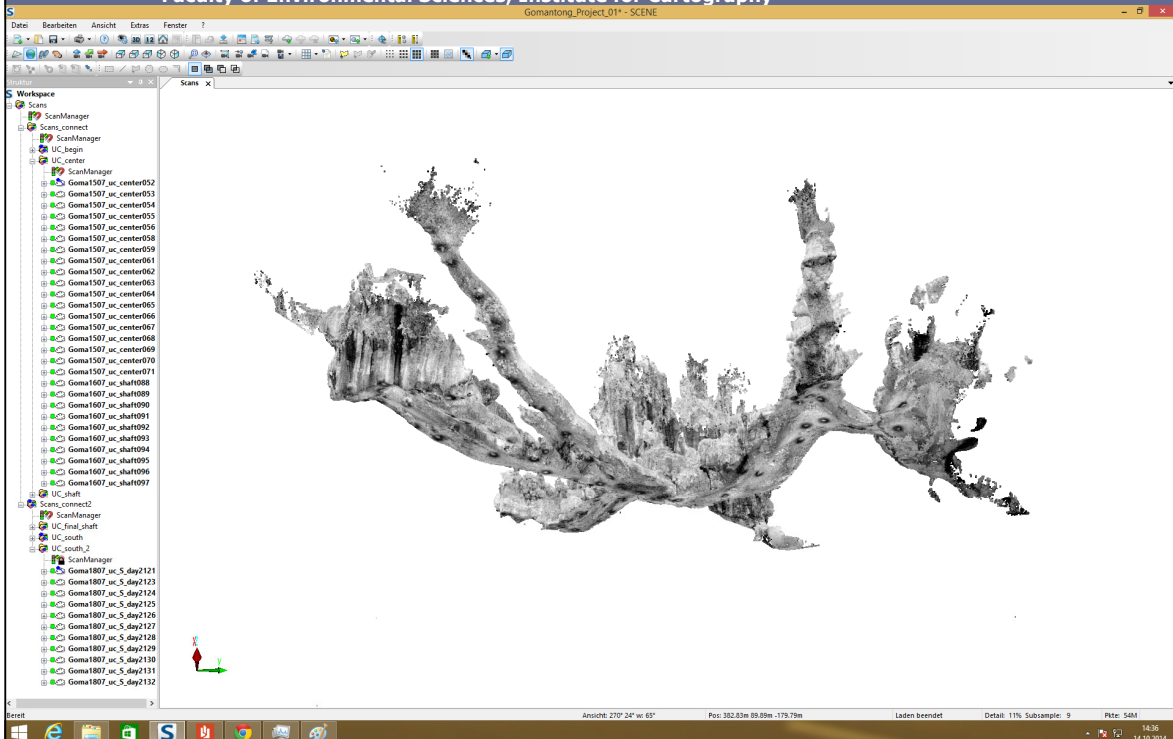
330 meters

○ entrance



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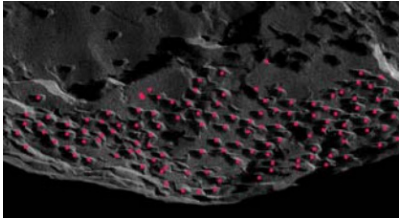
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## Application of 3D Model

1. Scientific analyses (speleological, geological, hydrological & volume estimation...)
2. Automated nest/bat count algorithm



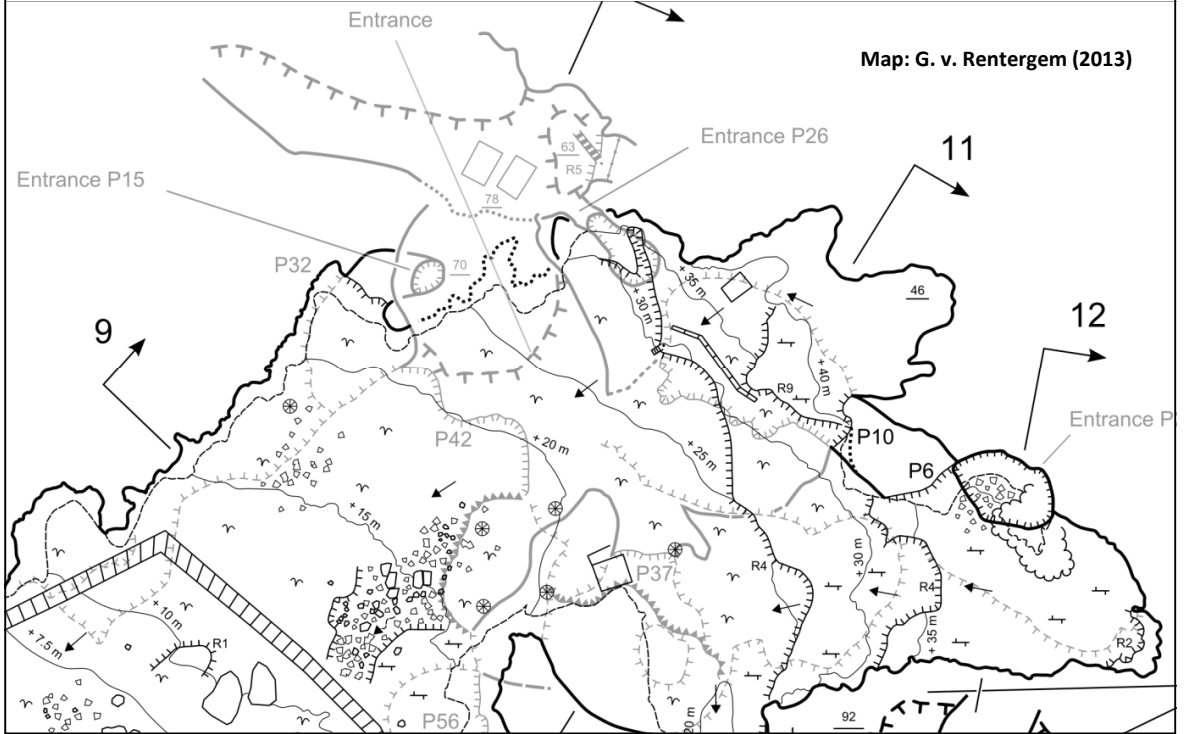
3. Visualisation: Video - TLS & UAV data combined  
(8550 frames, 5:42 min)



Photo: K. Christenson (2012)





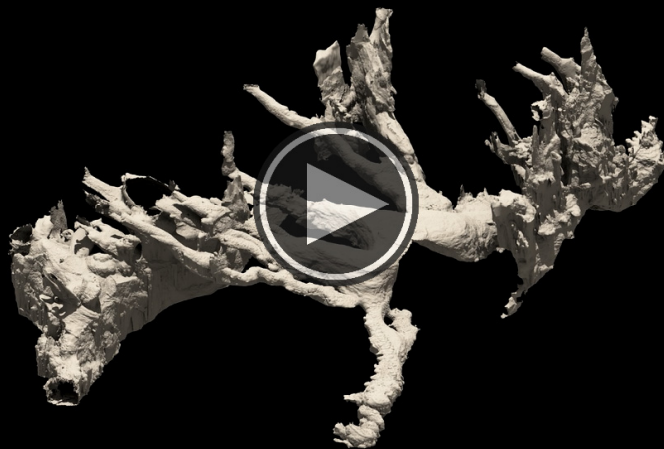


ORTHOGRAPHIC VIEW OF THE GOMAITONG CAVES

SCALE — 10 m

CAMERA INCLINATION -22°

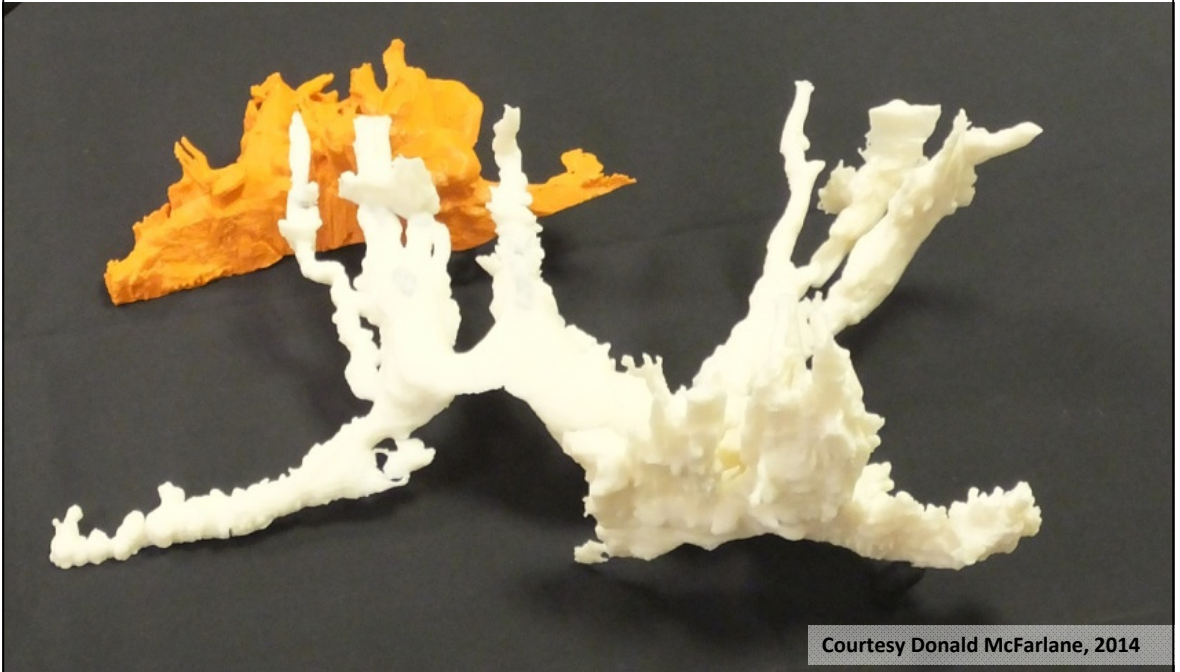
VIEW DIRECTION 178°





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Courtesy Donald McFarlane, 2014



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# Subterranean Mapping



Expedition to Gomantong  
Borneo 2012




## ***Conclusions***

**Photorealistic *mental* 3D map of complex cave systems can only be conveyed by**

- 1. physical models (3D printings) – however, cave-wall impression missing - and/or by**
- 2. dynamic outside views of the cave systems combined with simulated walk-throughs or fly-throughs displaying the cave-wall texture.**

**„Classical“ cave cartography is – unfortunately – in these cases by far not sufficient.**



**Thank you for your attention!**

**Thanks go to** Nicolai Holzer & Tino Pieczonka, TU Dresden  
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Guy van Rentergem, Ghent/Belgium  
Don McFarlane, Claremont/California

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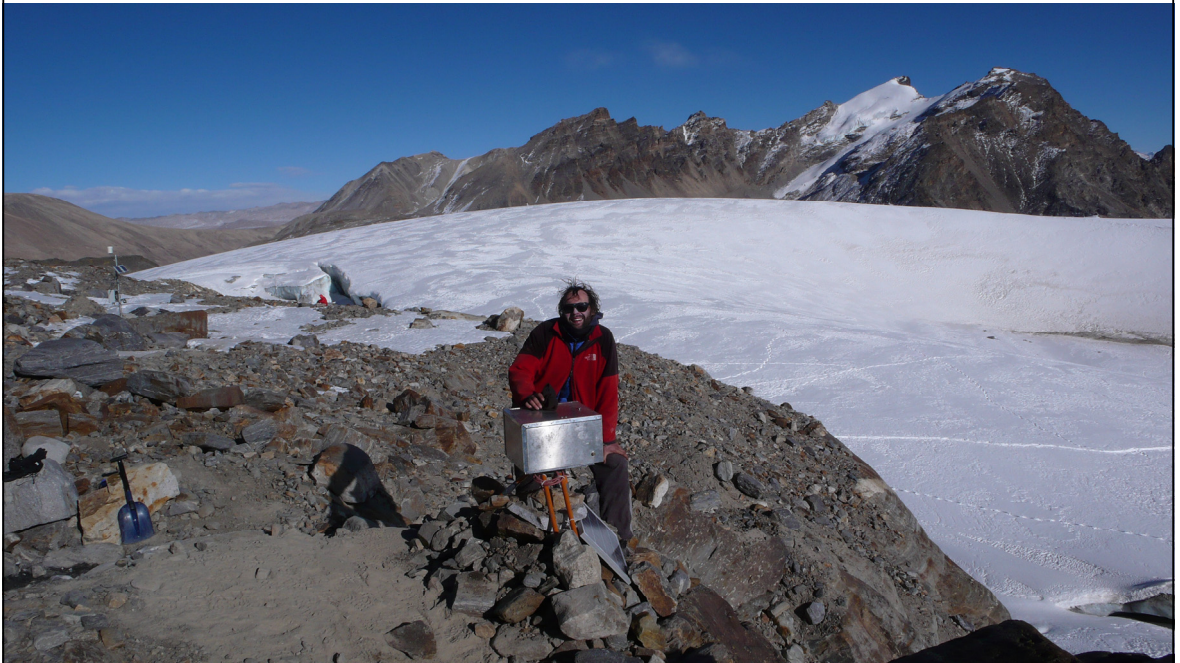


Photo: B. Schröter (2013)



Photo: K. Christenson (2012)





Photo: B. Schröter (2014)