



The observed (blue) and predicted (red) changing water levels of Lake Chad. By determining the relationship between the water levels of Lake Chad and the river levels of the Chari-Logone system 600 km upstream, both measured from satellite altimetry, scientists can predict the Lake Chad height variations 39 days in advance. Gaining knowledge of the expected amplitude of the floodwaters more than one month ahead is an example of the importance of satellite measurements as a tool for the local peoples. (Data from the NASA radar altimeter on the TOPEX/Poseidon satellite.)