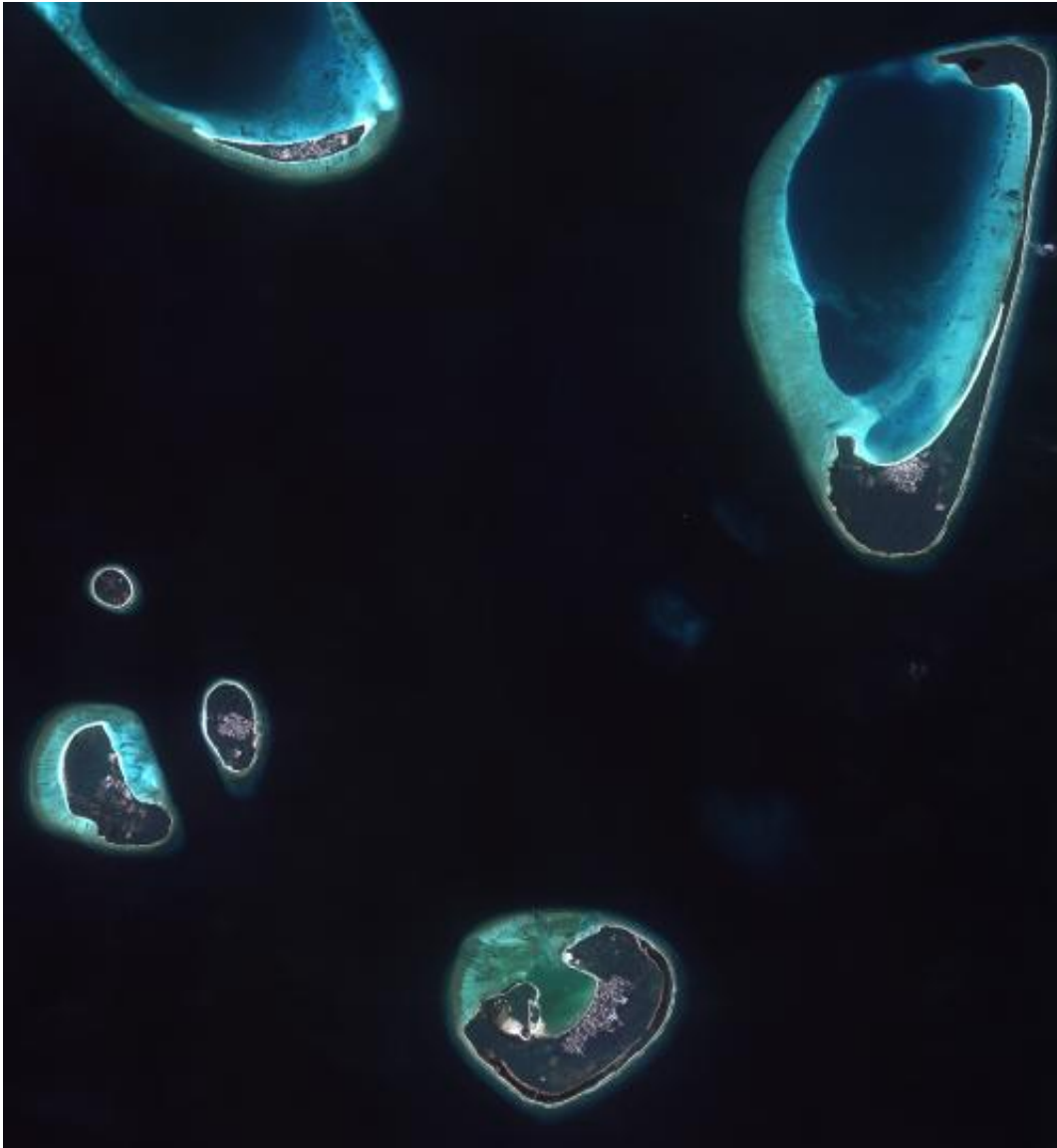


ESA image: Drowning islands

June 6 2014



Credit: KARI/ESA

'Raise your voice, not the sea level' is the theme for today's World Environment Day.

As 2014 is the UN-designated International Year of Small Island Developing States, this year's theme focuses on the effects of [climate change](#) on small islands.

Small islands and coastal areas are under threat from rising sea levels. An increase in [global temperatures](#) has accelerated the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. This influx of water together with thermal expansion is causing the global [sea level](#) to rise by about 3 mm a year.

Earth-observing satellites are continuously mapping global and regional sea-level change. Some of these spaceborne instruments collect data that can also be used to quantify the amount of water coming from various sources.

This image from the Kompsat-2 satellite, acquired on 9 January 2011, shows islands of the Haa Alif Atoll in northern Maldives. Maldives is a member of the Alliance of Small Island States, and is one of the world's most vulnerable nations to the effects of climate change.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: ESA image: Drowning islands (2014, June 6) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-06-esa-image-islands.html>

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