Active faulting and magmatism in the East African Rift: a satellite perspective

Juliet Biggs University of Bristol What are the controls on strain localization and migration?



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An 'interferogram' : contoured map of ground displacement in satellite line of sight.

Suswa Volcano

> Longonot Volcano

How is strain accommodated and partitioned?



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Biggs et al, 2009; Biggs et al, 2011





Nature. 2006



Biggs et al, GJI, 2009



D,F,M

D,F,M

D,F,M

D,M

Time Sequence

Days 1-3: Fault Slip

Days 3-5: Dyke opening begins

Days 5-7: Shallow collapse (graben)

Day 5-: Dyke continues opening, but does not lengthen.

Day 7-: Magma chamber deflation clearly visible.

Biggs et al, GJI, 2009

2008-2010

Continuing subsidence of the graben along faults





Intrusion of E-W and subsidence assoiciated with change in behaviour at Ol Doinyo Lengai

los displacement (cm)



Kervyn et al, 2012



Biggs et al, GJI, in rev.



С









Conclusions

InSAR: Global coverage and high spatial resolution

- Wide range of processes: Individual earthquakes; Seismic swarms; Dyke intrusions; Eruptions; Volcanic unrest.
- Plate boundary scale comparisons
- Identifying areas for detailed, ground-based investigation.
- Hazard assessment of un-monitored volcanoes with poorlydocumented eruptive histories.

But: Dataset is short (Envisat 2003-2010). Expansion with Sentinel 2013-



Hazard Assessment:



Aspinall et al, World Bank 2012

2000% percent increase when strain accumulation on major faults is included Hodge et al, in prep

Seismic Hazard Map for Malawi (10,000 years, SA@2s)_.

