Kite Aerial Photography (KAP) has been used to collect images of the earth's surface since the 1880s (Aber 2008). Today, lightweight digital cameras and a variety of image processing software make KAP an appealing technique for generating geospatial data on a budget. From digital elevation models to GIS-ready basemaps, KAP offers compelling reasons to go fly a kite.

Advantages of KAP over conventional (aircraft-based) methods of collecting aerial photographs include the comparatively low cost of equipment, ease of assembly and disassembly, and the ability to reach remote locations. Disadvantages include dependence on local weather conditions and reduced control leading to unpredictable results.

Digital Model Statistics
TOTAL NUMBER OF INPUT PHOTOS: 367
NUMBER OF GROUND CONTROL POINTS: 38
AVERAGE GROUND RESOLUTION: 3 cm/pixel
ROOT MEAN SQUARE ERROR: 1.41 m

References

Special thanks to Auguin Auing, Mark Van Thiel, Yvo De Loecker and the crew of SV Mir for their support and good humor. Thanks also to Alan Glimm for inspiration.

DURAI ISLAND
IMAGERY DATE: 4 & 7 JULY, 2011
MAP DATE: 2 APRIL, 2013
1:1,600

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