# Industry Case Study: Accelerating Disaster Response with Computer Vision for Satellite Imagery using Amazon SageMaker and Amazon Augmented AI

#### Introduction:

In a time characterized by unpredictable changes in the environment, there is an urgent need to combine technological expertise with empathy towards humanity. This case study within the industry takes us on a revealing exploration, showcasing how harnessing advanced technology, specifically machine learning capabilities, can greatly enhance our ability to respond effectively to increasingly severe natural disasters. By integrating computer vision, satellite imagery, and machine learning techniques together, this initiative exemplifies a harmonious integration of human creativity and technological advancements.

This approach is built upon the integration of two powerful tools, namely Amazon SageMaker and Amazon Augmented AI. Through leveraging these tools, our capacity to address and manage the extensive effects of natural disasters is significantly enhanced. Acting as a foundational element, Amazon SageMaker provides a comprehensive platform for machine learning that enables us to create and implement advanced algorithms. These algorithms are further empowered by the vast dataset derived from satellite imagery, enabling us to identify crucial patterns and gain important insights amid chaotic calamities.

Moreover, the integration of Amazon Augmented AI brings about a fundamental human aspect to the procedure. This enhancement enables experts to validate and improve automated evaluations, adding an invaluable level of precision and subtlety to disaster response endeavors. By combining technological expertise with human discernment in tandem, this initiative surpasses the constraints of traditional disaster response approaches, guaranteeing an essential degree of accuracy and timeliness that is crucial when confronted with increasing environmental obstacles. The endeavor is in line with the overall goal of "Sustainable Future through Natural Disaster Prediction," aiming to reduce the negative effects of disasters on our ecosystems, natural resources, and environment. This study demonstrates how combining innovation and compassion can create a more sustainable and resilient world for current and future generations.

# **Key Learnings:**

Satellite Imagery Integration:

The project utilizes a strong integration of high-quality satellite images obtained from a
network of Earth observation satellites. These images consist of various spectral bands,
allowing for detailed evaluation of areas affected by disasters. It is important to note that
this analysis goes beyond what can be seen with the naked eye and provides a thorough
understanding of the condition of the terrain.

## Machine Learning and Computer Vision Techniques:

- The implementation of Amazon SageMaker showcases the project's commitment to cutting-edge machine learning and computer vision methods. This adaptable platform provides an extensive range of tools and materials for constructing, training, and deploying machine learning models at a large scale. By utilizing SageMaker, the project benefits from a powerful framework that simplifies the process of development.
- The underlying principle of this approach lies in the careful selection and organization of annotated datasets. These curated datasets form the basis for training algorithms. Through this procedure, the models acquire the ability to identify and distinguish crucial characteristics related to disasters, such as infrastructure damage, flooded regions, and smoke columns seen in satellite images.
- The extensive training procedure enables the algorithms to acquire exceptional skills in
  accurately recognizing and examining these essential components. This expertise plays a
  pivotal role in delivering practical observations for disaster response endeavors. Through
  utilizing the functionalities of Amazon SageMaker, this project optimizes its capacity to
  make a noteworthy contribution to the field of disaster management and readiness.

## Human-in-the-Loop AI for Validation:

 To further enhance the accuracy and reliability of assessments, Amazon Augmented Al plays a pivotal role. This tool incorporates human knowledge by engaging experts to validate and fine-tune automated predictions. These experts meticulously examine and confirm identified elements, contributing an additional level of accuracy to the assessment process.

## Geospatial Data Integration:

• In addition to utilizing satellite imagery, the project incorporates other geospatial data layers. These encompass important details like altitude of the terrain, land classification, and population density. The combination of these diverse datasets improves our understanding of disaster-stricken regions within their relevant contexts. Ultimately, this plays a vital role in efficiently allocating resources and devising effective response plans.

## Early warning capabilities:

• One of the key benefits of this solution is its ability to provide early warnings. By promptly identifying any damage in its initial phases, the system enables first responders and emergency management teams to respond quickly and effectively. This proactive approach greatly reduces the potential consequences of disasters.

### Improved situational awareness:

 The solution offers a thorough and in-depth perspective of the area affected by the disaster, providing a clear and practical comprehension of the circumstances. This increased awareness of the situation is crucial for enabling better decision-making and efficiently allocating resources.

#### Automated Damage Assessment:

Computer vision algorithms conduct a thorough analysis of satellite imagery, effectively
identifying and categorizing compromised structures, roads, and vegetation. This detailed
evaluation contributes to obtaining a comprehensive overview of the disaster's effects,
thereby assisting in prioritizing response measures.

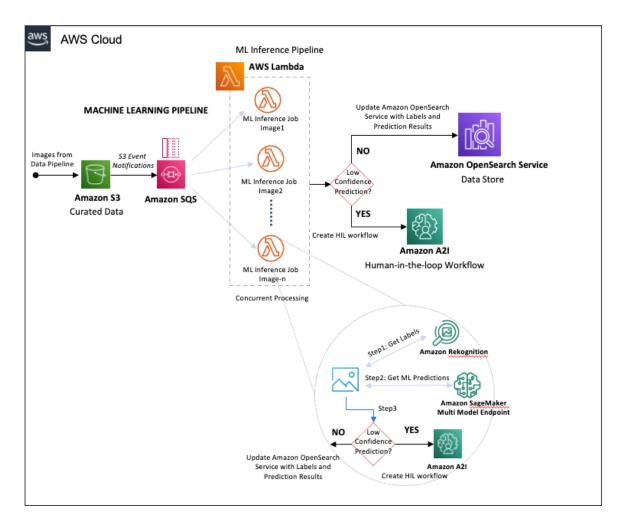
## Rapid Response and Resource Allocation:

Real-time analysis of satellite imagery offers a critical advantage in disaster response. It
enables the rapid identification of areas requiring immediate attention, allowing for swift
resource allocation and the efficient deployment of emergency response teams.

# Scalable and Cost-Effective Solution:

The integration of Amazon SageMaker and Amazon Augmented AI ensures that the
project's solution is both scalable and cost-effective. This technology stack is proficient in
handling large volumes of satellite imagery across extensive geographic areas. This
scalability not only enhances the project's effectiveness but also makes it a financially
viable solution for disaster response efforts.

Amazon SageMaker in the Machine Learning Pipeline:



#### Here,

- 1. Curated images arrive in the designated S3 data bucket, initiating the process. For each newly added image, Amazon S3 generates a message in a separate SQS queue.
- 2. Concurrently, the SQS queue triggers Lambda functions, one for each image.
- 3. The Lambda functions perform the following tasks:
  - Send the image to Amazon Rekognition for object detection. The detected labels and their corresponding confidence scores are stored for further processing.
  - Organize the output from Amazon Rekognition to create input parameters for the Amazon SageMaker multi-model endpoint.
  - Amazon SageMaker, a comprehensive machine learning platform, plays a pivotal
    role in the pipeline. It provides a versatile environment for building, training, and
    deploying machine learning models at scale. In this context, it hosts a multi-model
    endpoint that is capable of handling various classifiers specifically trained for
    identifying damage labels.
- 4. The results from the SageMaker endpoint are then passed on to Amazon Augmented AI (Amazon A2I) for further evaluation and processing.
- 5. The pipeline uses Amazon OpenSearch Service to improve data indexing and querying. By utilizing OpenSearch, the system can search through a large dataset of disaster-related imagery more efficiently, resulting in improved responsiveness and effectiveness during the disaster response process.

This pipeline efficiently processes curated images, leveraging a combination of Amazon S3, SQS, Lambda functions, Amazon Rekognition, and Amazon SageMaker with Amazon A2I integration for accurate and streamlined identification of damage labels. Amazon SageMaker's capabilities enhance the model deployment and inference steps, ensuring robust and scalable machine learning operations.

# Impacts/Results:

## Reduced response time:

 Automated image analysis offers a significant decrease in the time it takes to assess damage and identify areas that require immediate help. Through quick processing and interpretation of visual data, emergency response teams can work more efficiently, reducing crucial delays in disaster relief operations.

## Enhanced decision-making:

 The solution provides valuable real-time information that greatly improves decisionmaking during disasters. The ability to quickly access accurate data empowers responders and decision-makers to develop effective strategies that adapt to the changing circumstances of the crisis.

# Improved resource allocation:

 The effectiveness of response efforts is greatly improved by utilizing the solution's analytical capabilities to allocate resources, such as search and rescue teams and medical supplies, to the areas with the highest impact. This precise allocation guarantees that crucial resources are directed to where they are most needed, thereby optimizing resource utilization.

## Reduced Loss of Life and Property:

 A crucial aspect of efficient response efforts is the accurate and timely assessment of damage, which can be achieved through the use of automated image analysis. This approach enables quick identification of affected areas and prioritization for intervention, leading to a reduction in casualties and protection of property. In turn, this helps ensure the preservation of both lives and livelihoods.

# Accelerated Recovery and Reconstruction:

 Efficiently identifying compromised infrastructure and vital areas accelerates the implementation of recovery and reconstruction efforts. This prompt response helps to restore normalcy and economic viability in impacted regions, facilitating a quicker return to stability and prosperity.

## Improved Reliability through Human Expertise:

 The solution combines automated analysis with the valuable input of human experts to enhance reliability and accuracy. This collaborative approach minimizes the chances of incorrect assessments, strengthening the overall response strategy against potential errors or misjudgments. As a result, it creates a resilient and dependable disaster management framework.

#### Resolution of the Problem:

The combination of Amazon SageMaker and Augmented AI effectively tackles the task of efficiently and precisely processing and analyzing large amounts of satellite imagery. This approach utilizes both machine learning models and human validation to improve disaster response efforts, especially in situations where quick assessment is critical.

#### **Industry Case Source:**

https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/machine-learning/accelerate-disaster-response-with-computer-vision-for-satellite-imagery-using-amazon-sagemaker-and-amazon-augmented-ai/

AWS Machine Learning Blog - Accelerate disaster response with computer vision for satellite imagery using Amazon SageMaker and Amazon Augmented AI

#### **Presentation:**

We are dedicated to making sure our presentation has a significant impact. By combining technology and compassion in disaster response, we intend to connect with our audience and emphasize the potential for meaningful transformation. We will allocate sufficient time for questions, and our team is ready to provide confident and precise answers. With our comprehensive grasp of the project, we will convey its significance with authority and passion. Moreover, we are committed to providing a comprehensive explanation of the entire machine

learning pipeline process outlined in this case study. Our objective is to deliver an enlightening and captivating presentation that leaves a memorable mark, reinforcing our vision for a sustainable and robust future.

#### **Key Learning:**

From this industry case study, we have identified several important insights. These include the significant impact that advanced technology can bring about, the benefits of incorporating machine learning and computer vision, and the essential role played by human expertise in validating results.

## Contents relevant and significant to the course work:

The case study highlights the integration of technology and compassion in disaster management. It utilizes machine learning algorithms to forecast and reduce the effects of natural disasters, which aligns with the course's emphasis on applying machine learning to address environmental sustainability and disaster readiness. These factors make the content of the case study highly pertinent and meaningful for coursework purposes.

# Report:

This case study report explores the combination of advanced technology and human compassion to improve disaster response. It showcases the utilization of machine learning, computer vision, and human verification to rapidly and precisely evaluate areas affected by disasters. The study underlines the potential for these technologies to transform disaster preparedness and response initiatives.

#### **Source of the Case Study:**

The mentioned case study is sourced from the AWS Machine Learning Blog, which includes an article titled 'Enhancing Disaster Response with Computer Vision for Satellite Imagery using Amazon SageMaker and Amazon Augmented AI.' This informative piece outlines how advanced technology can be integrated into disaster response efforts through the utilization of Amazon SageMaker and Augmented AI. From this study, we have learned the potential of combining machine learning, computer vision, and human validation to revolutionize disaster preparedness and response efforts.

#### Slides:

We have created slides that are precise and easy to understand by incorporating appropriate visuals. This approach will facilitate the comprehension of important information and enhance retention.