Sentinel Vision
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2D Layerstack

Makgadikgadi Pan, World's largest salt pans, Botswana

Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired from **14 April 2020** to **14 April 2020** at 16:48:02 UTC
Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on **17 April 2020** at 08:05:59 UTC
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Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on **09 October 2020** at 08:08:41 UTC
Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on **11 October 2020** from 16:47:46 to **11 October 2020** at 16:48:11 UTC

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Fig. 1 - S3 SLSTR (27.07.2020) - Makgadikgadi Pan lies in the Central Province of Botswana. 2D view

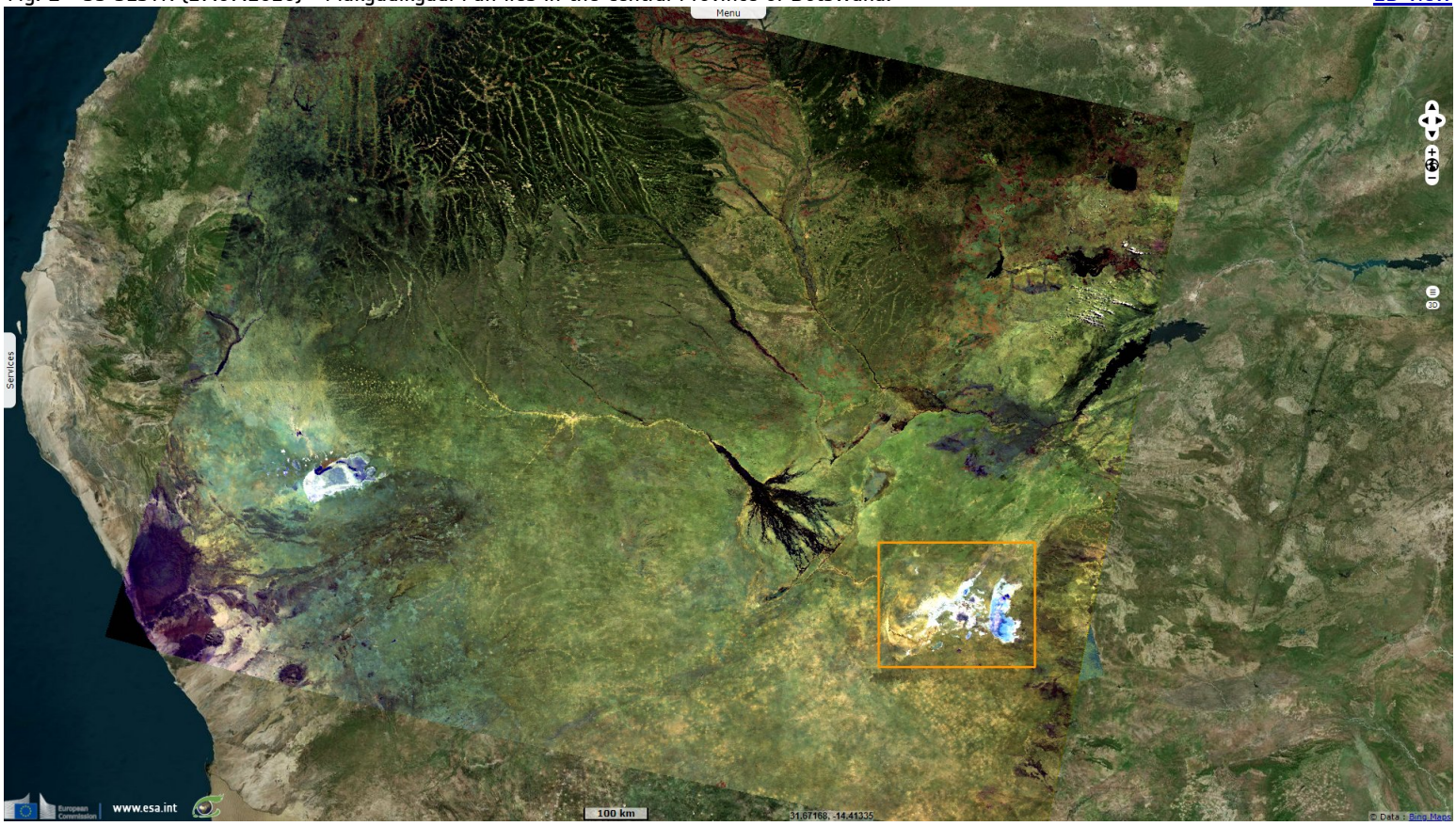
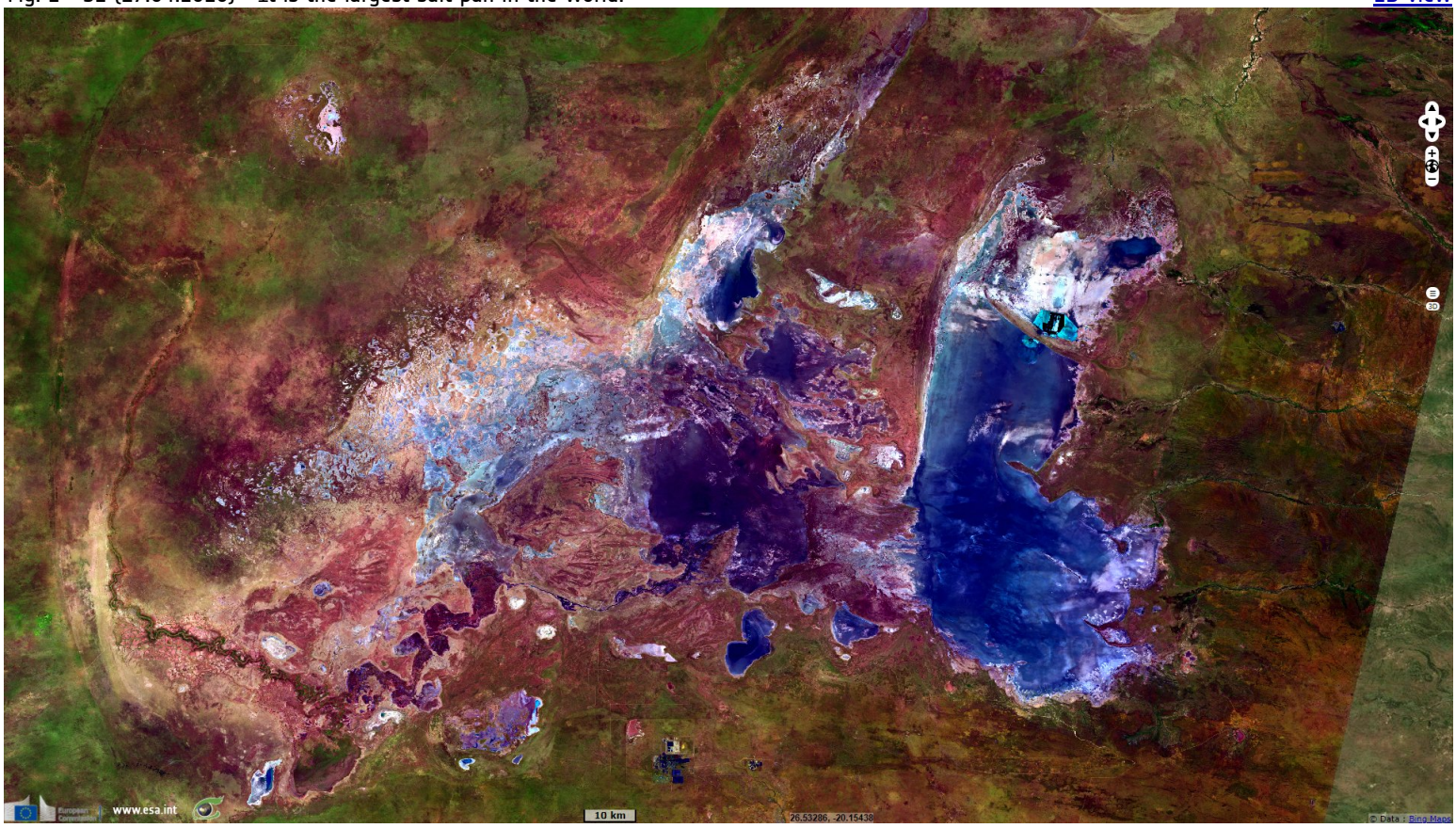
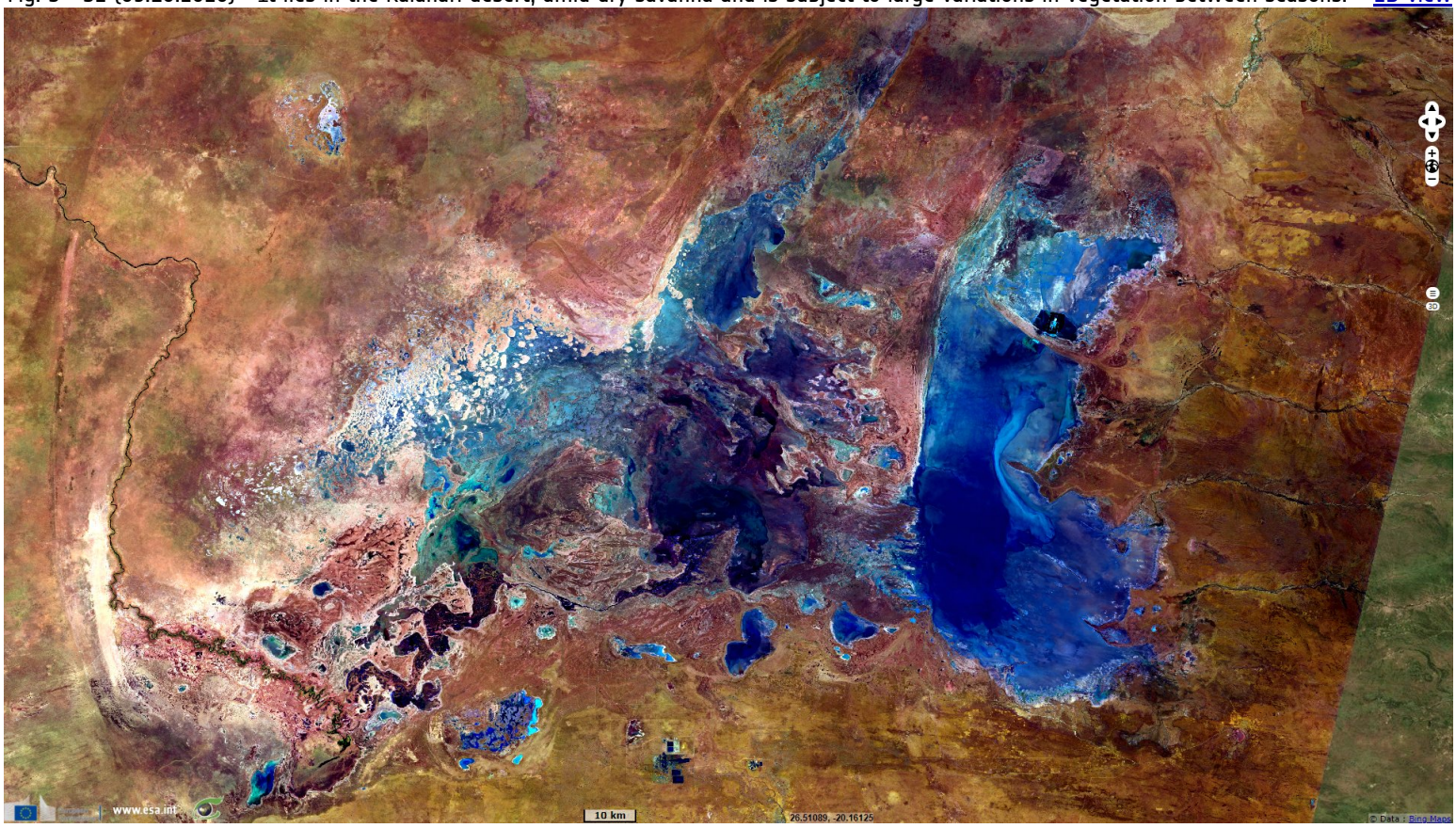


Fig. 2 - S2 (17.04.2020) - It is the largest salt pan in the world. 2D view



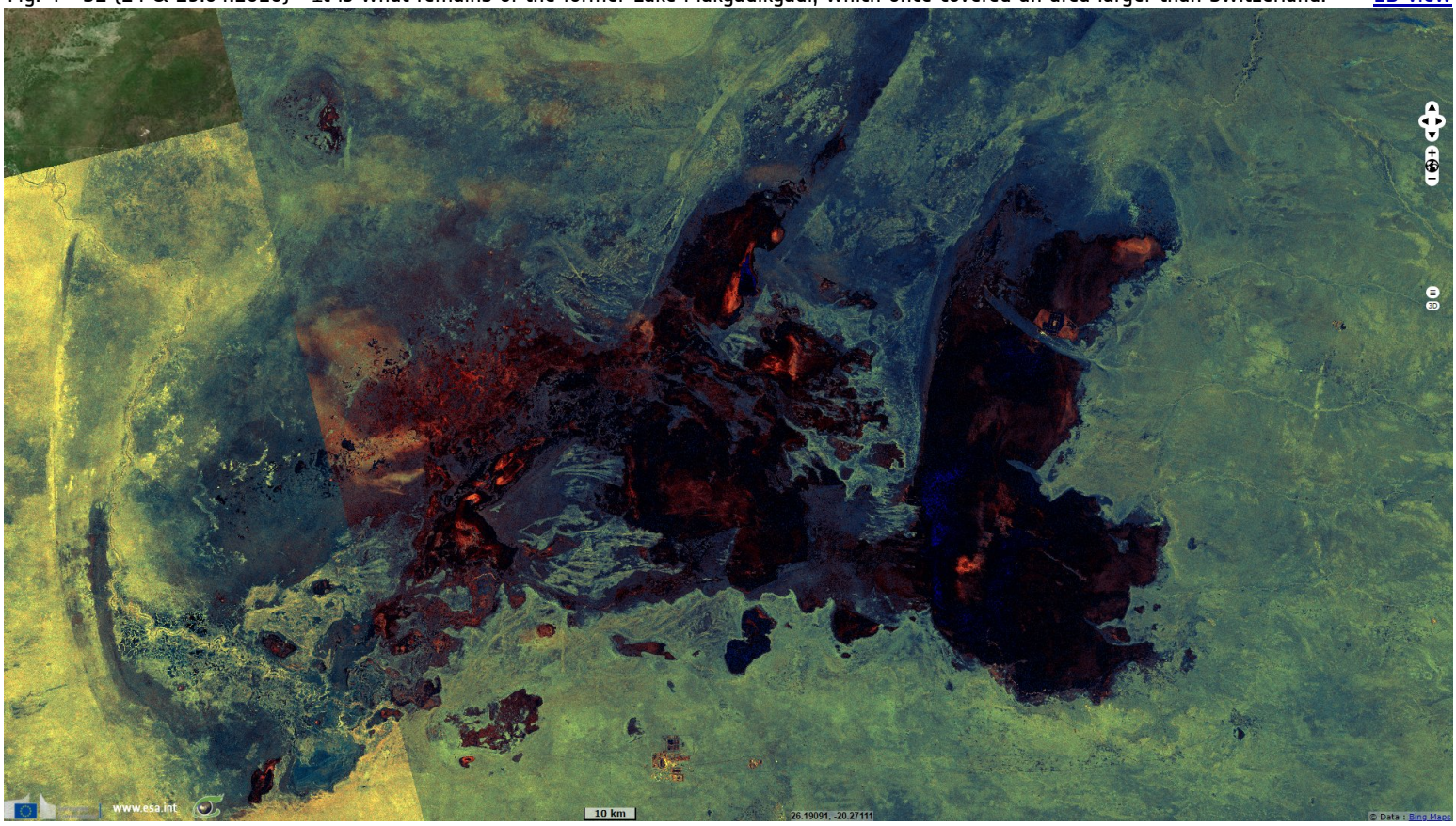
As the largest salt pans in the world, an important area for fauna and an archaeological site, Makgadikgadi Pans are on the UNESCO tentative list and it is in the process of becoming a Ramset wetland. Its UNESCO sheet describes it as follows: "*Makgadikgadi Pans Landscape is located in the north-east of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and south-east of the Okavango Delta. It is linked to Okavango Delta by the Boteti River and supplied with water from Zimbabwe by the ephemeral Nata River. This makes the area the largest salt pans in the world covering an area of over 30 000 km2 and one of the former largest inland sea in the world.*"

Fig. 3 - S2 (09.10.2020) - It lies in the Kalahari desert, amid dry savanna and is subject to large variations in vegetation between seasons. 2D view



"*Makgadikgadi Salt Pans are the largest salt pans in the world and display a unique expanse of landscape with fascinating natural scenic beauty. It has a dramatic geological and climatic history in the sense that in its initial stages of development, it was one of the largest inland sea in the world covering over 275 000 km2.*"

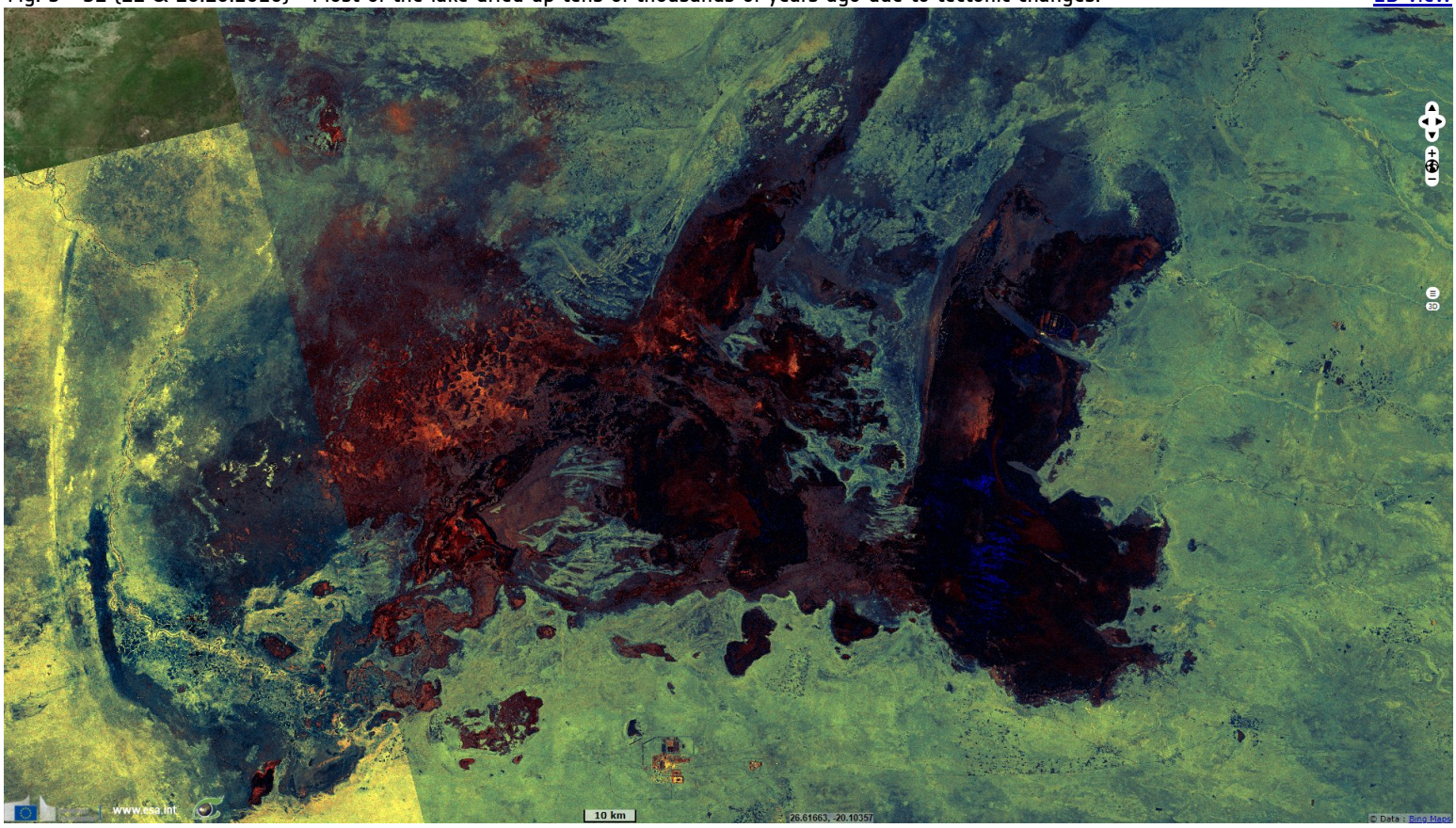
Fig. 4 - S1 (14 & 19.04.2020) - It is what remains of the former Lake Makgadikgadi, which once covered an area larger than Switzerland. 2D view



"*Makgadikgadi Salt Pans landscape is a superlative natural phenomenon that is of exceptional natural beauty with expanse of flat white baked featureless surface. The Makgadikgadi Pans landscape provides a spectacular contrasting scenario during wet and dry seasons whereby one of the*

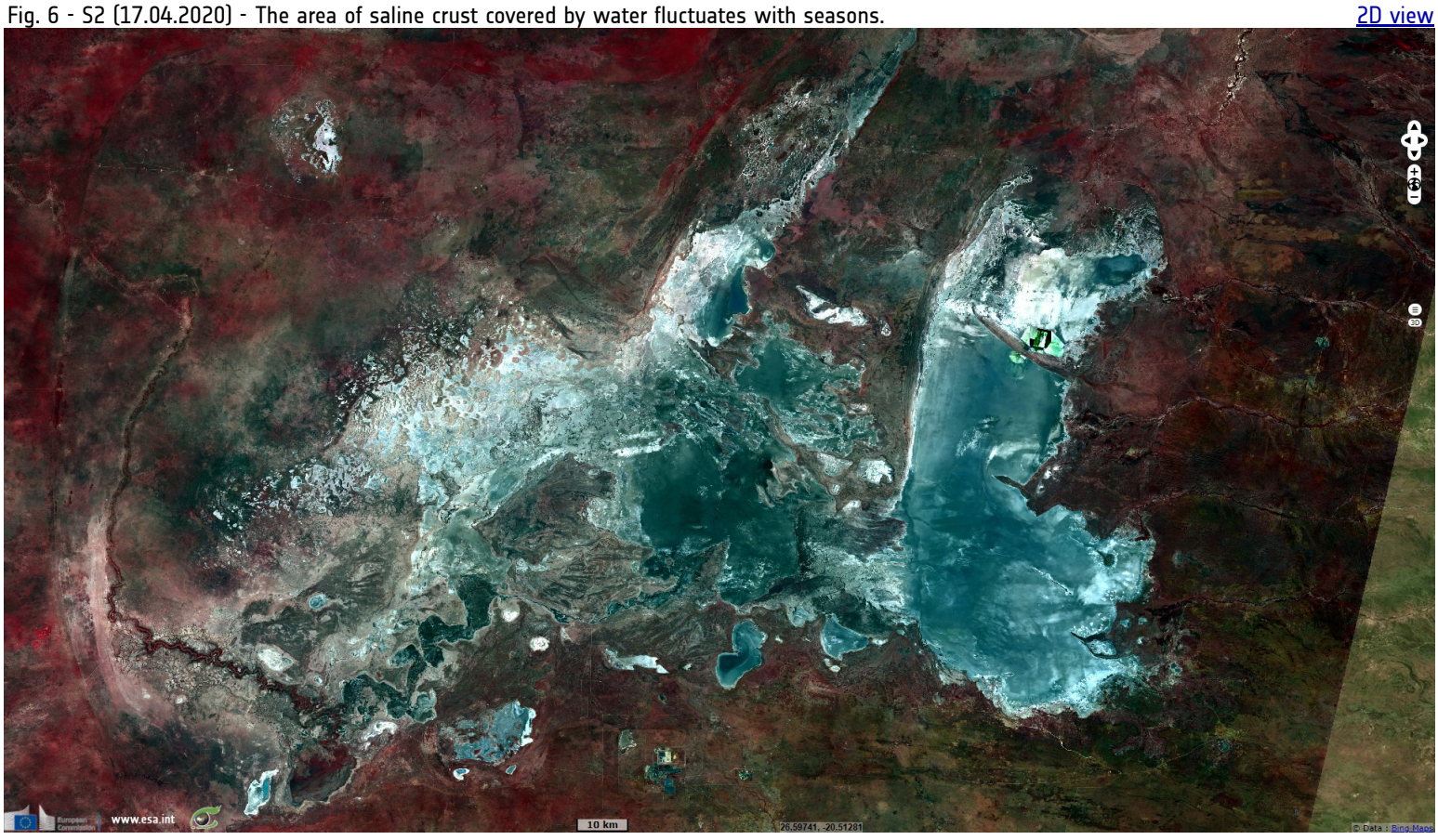
two major pans, Sowa, becomes flooded and turns into a sea of endless waters during wet summer season while during dry winter season the pans become white baked producing clouds of dust that travels as far as Johannesburg in South Africa."

Fig. 5 - S1 (11 & 16.10.2020) - Most of the lake dried up tens of thousands of years ago due to tectonic changes. 2D view



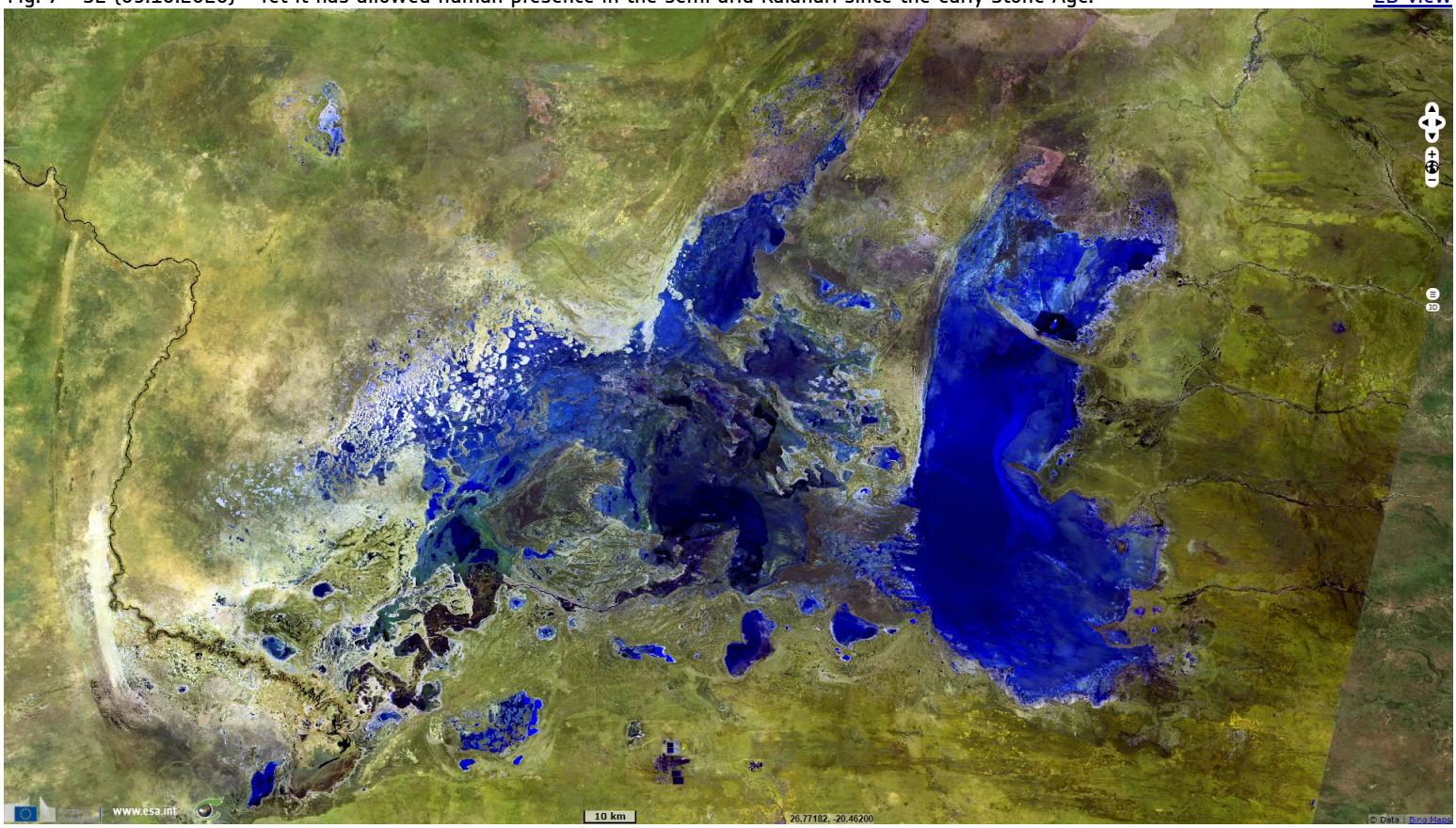
"*Makgadikgadi Salt Pans present a major geologic tectonic activity that led to diversion of major inflowing rivers subsequently resulting in drying up of what used to be the greatest inland lake to the largest salt pan in the world. It also presents a record of life as evidenced by diverse fossilised animal foot-prints and combined fossils of macro-mammals and stone tools.*"

Fig. 6 - S2 (17.04.2020) - The area of saline crust covered by water fluctuates with seasons. 2D view



"*The geology of the area consists of granite basement, flanked by the Karoo rocks, within the Kalahari Sand. The area comprises relics of paleo-climatic and ecological processes, harbours unique and threatened plant species (Hoodia, baobabs of historical importance). It is a breeding place for flamingos and major habitat for various wildlife species.*" according to UNESCO.

Fig. 7 - S2 (09.10.2020) - Yet it has allowed human presence in the semi arid Kalahari since the early Stone Age. 2D view

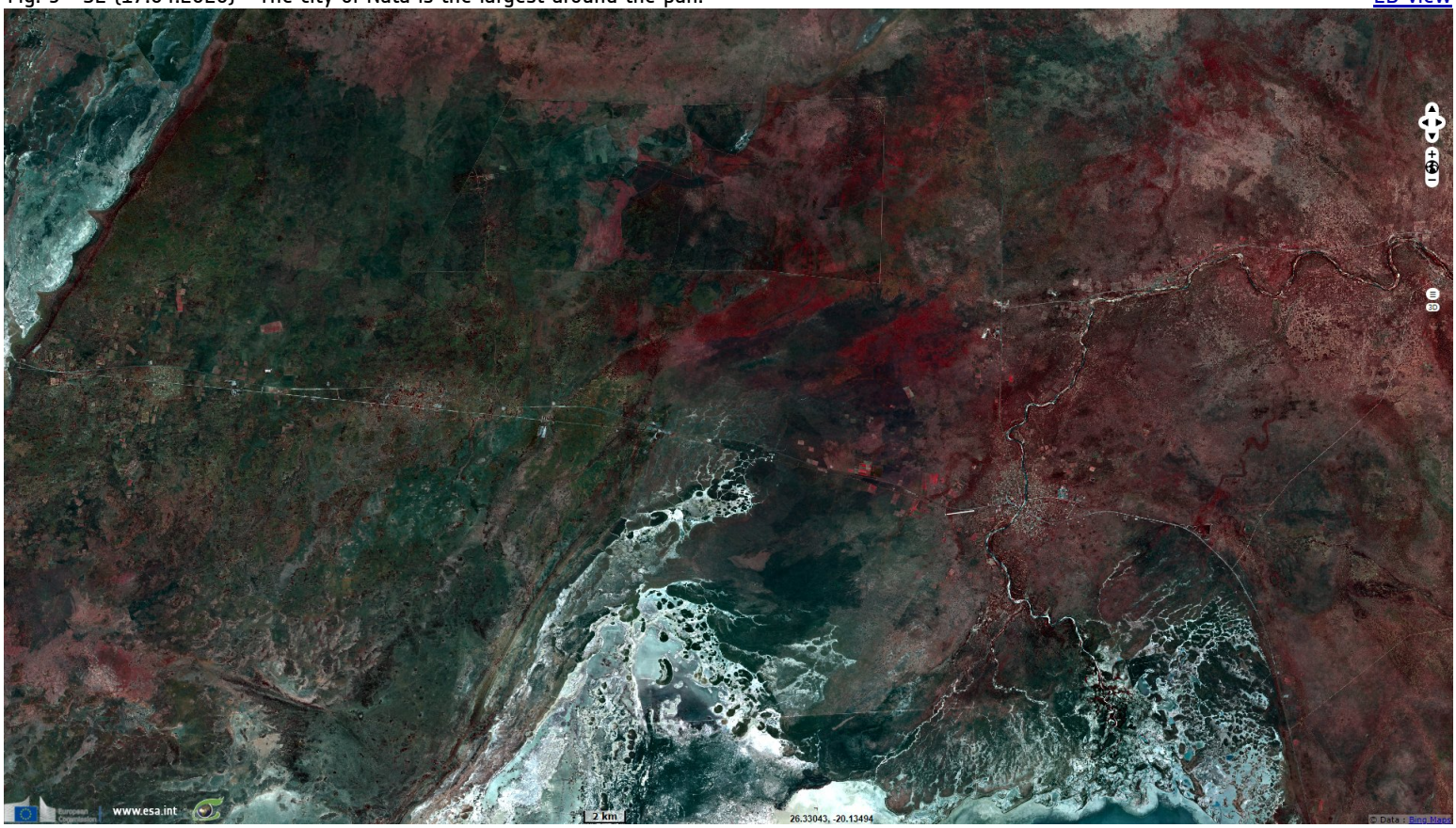


"*Makgadikgadi Salt Pans contain some of the most important natural habitats for in situ conservation such as Makgadikgadi National Parks, Nxai Pan National Park and particularly the Nata Bird Sanctuary which is one of the largest breeding sites of Lesser and Greater flamingo in the world.*"

Fig. 8 - 09.10.2020 - Reddish water in the salt ponds located in the north-east part of Makgadikgadi Pan. 2D view

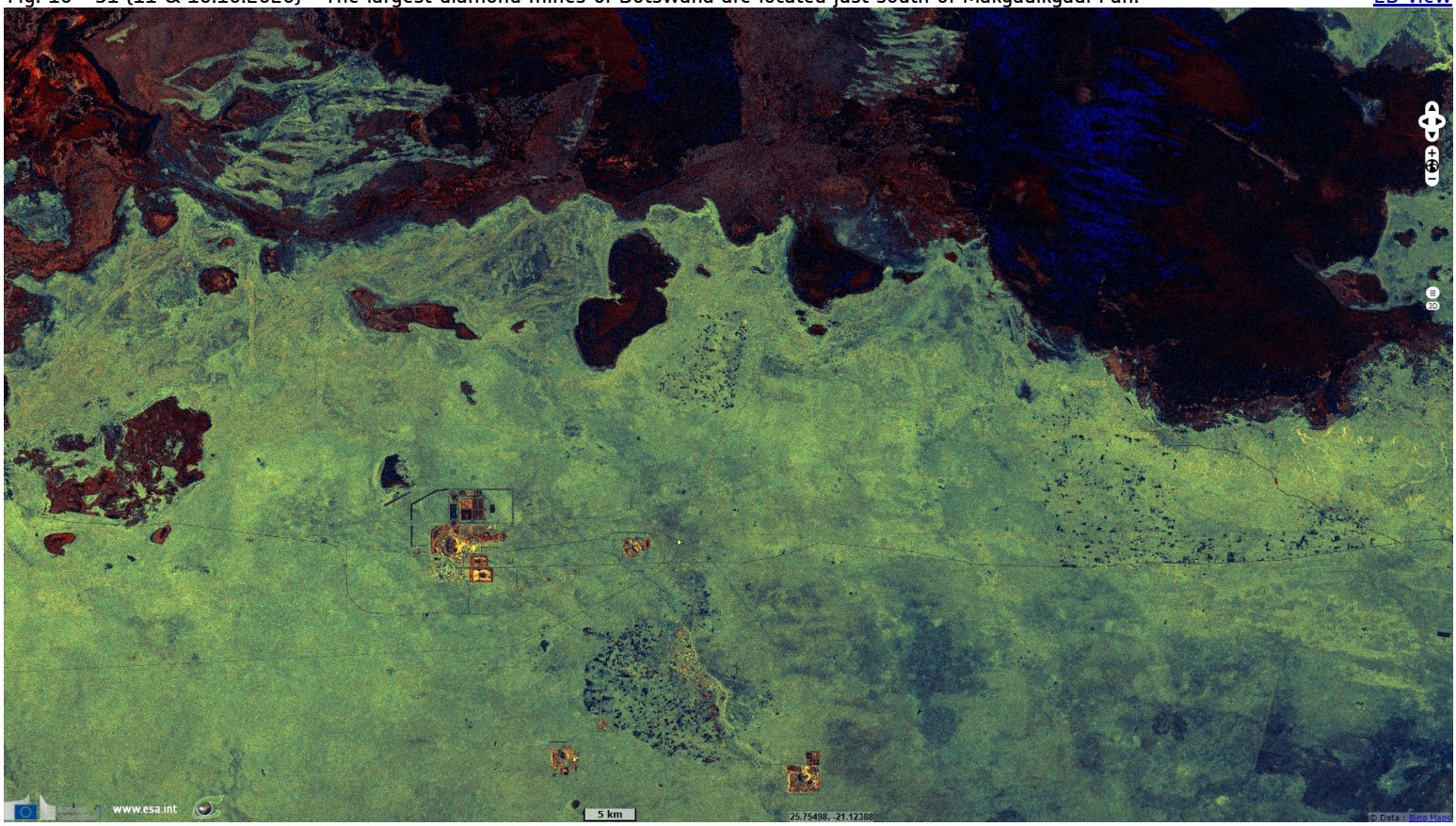
"*It is one of the most diverse in terms of ecological habitats ranging from the Lesser and Greater Flamingo breeding and feeding area to one of the most spectacular zebra-wildebeest migration on Earth as they move from Boteti River to Chobe during dry season.*"

Fig. 9 - S2 (17.04.2020) - The city of Nata is the largest around the pan. 2D view



"*The Makgadikgadi Pans has evidence of traditional human habitation and land use dating from the Early Stone Age to the historic times. One recorded prehistoric settlement has one of the largest concentrations of cultural material comprising 500 individual stone wall structures and 450 stone cairns.*"

Fig. 10 - S1 (11 & 16.10.2020) - The largest diamond mines of Botswana are located just south of Makgadikgadi Pan. 2D view



"*The Botswana Government aspires to maintain the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans in its natural form and cultural material context by continually reviewing management plans and encouraging research focused on conservation and management of the area. Plans are underway to formulate an integrated management plan that will also facilitate the site to being declared a Ramsar Site. Currently a framework management plan which will inform the above stated plan is under compilation and will be completed by the end of 2010.*"

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