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- Volumes
- Library Search
- Title and Author Search

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Review

Production

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Adv. Geosci., 7, 223-229, 2006  
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## Socio-economic impacts of major floods in Italy from 1951 to 2003

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**Abstract.** Meteorological and hydrological monitoring and modeling, with particular regard for extreme hydrological events, represent important activities carried out by the Hydrological and Inland Waters Service of the Italian Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services (APAT).

Recently, a study on the socio-economic effects of floods was published in the Italian Environmental Data Yearbook by APAT. It is based on processed data related to the major floods (i.e., events with at least a casualty or that have generated economic damages higher than 0.001% of the Gross Domestic Product) striking Italy between 1951 and 2003. Information was gathered from technical reports and/or databases belonging to APAT, Italian Regional Environmental Agencies (ARPAs), central and local authorities, research institutions and newspaper reports. These data are collected in tables reporting the number of flood events and of casualties and the amount of financial resources required for environmental restoration and/or for risk mitigation purposes.

For year 2003, when APAT has begun a systematic monitoring of flood events in Italy, data concerning rainfall, number of persons involved, evacuation and urgent measures introduced to face the event (laws and acts) are also included. In this way, it was possible to realize a new database, in which flood events that caused the declaration of the state of emergency have been collected. Because of the difficulties in finding sufficiently reliable data for the period before the II World War, the collection of historical data started from 1951. During this period, about 50% of the flood events examined have caused at least 5 victims each, and about 10% more than 100; these data highlight the considerable social impact of flood events and suggest the importance of creating an integrated database to collect information about flood events involving all Europe.

These two databases (the historical and updating archives) could be useful for taking into account the different anthropic impacts during the time, the real effectiveness of protection measures already realized and could represent a valid reference for further interventions.

Full Article in PDF (PDF, 237 KB)

Citation: Lastoria, B., Simonetti, M. R., Casaioli, M., Mariani, S., and Monacelli, G.: Socio-economic impacts of major floods in Italy from 1951 to 2003, Adv. Geosci., 7, 223-229, 2006. Bibtex EndNote Reference



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