

Flood damage functions: a lesson from Australia

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Science and Management of Climate Change



About Australia



Natural hazards and Risk management

Slow, extensive

Queensland 2011 6.7 billion tangible losses 7.4 billion Intangible losses

Floods are the most expensive natural hazard in Australia, causing an average annual damage of \$377 million based on 1987-2005 period (gov.au)

Canberra and ANU







ANU is ranked 22nd in the world and first in Australia



Canberra and ANU



Internal farm components

My research topic: Flood Risk Assessment

Direct, tangible impact of floods in Italy



APPLICATION IN ITALY

Uneven quality of spatial data across regions

Lack of a broad national study on loss functions

Damage records for model validation are poor, fragmented and inconsistent



(H) Hazard depth



Reliable risk assessment strongly depends on the quality of basedata and on the calibration of the method

Improve Flood Damage Modelling

Expected annual losses: 500-800 million Euro (Feyen et al., 2012)



Likely to be more than double by 2050 (Jongman et al., 2014)

Risk Management needs precise, detailed and reliable information about potential impacts in order to adopt cost-effective measures to reduce losses

- Test existing depth-damage functions
- Improve the description of exposed value
- Calibrate a new loss function

Population exposed to medium flood hazard (100-200 years RP) at municipality scale



Dasymetric map of Population and GVA for Italy

Multiple ancillary data sources

- Soil sealing
- Land use
- Buildings (limited to Emilia-Romagna)
- Macrocategories of Gross Value Added for Local Market Areas
- Population tracts from ISTAT census (2011)



Dasymetric map of Italy GVA (250m) on the basis of land use and population



Dasymetric map of Population and GVA for Italy

Two dasymetric methods are compared to the GHSL population dataset



Better land-use description = More reliable population density projection

Flood Loss Modelling with FLF-IT

Study collaboration on Flood Loss Functions for residential structures



Transferability of an Australian method employed to produce a relative, synthetic loss function for residential structures based on empirical damage records (21 million EUR for structural damage alone)

Flood Loss Modelling with FLF-IT

$$d_h = \left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \times D_{max}$$

Bootstrapping approach

Damage records are resampled and the most appropriate value of the root function and maximum damage share are selected by chisquare test of goodness of fit.



A function to describe the relationship between floodwater depth and structural damage to residential buildings.

Damage is compared to pre-event mean market value.

A three-fold crossvalidation procedure has been applied on damage records in order to validate the curve.

Learning to code a .netCDF statistical tool



An increasing number of datasets, especially from climatic models, are released in .cdf format which allows multiple spatial layers for different time steps.

