

Participatory risk assessment of pluvial floods in four towns of Niger

*Original*

Participatory risk assessment of pluvial floods in four towns of Niger / Tiepolo, Maurizio; Braccio, Sarah; Fiorillo, Edoardo; Galligari, Andrea; Massazza, Giovanni; Katiellou, Gaptia Lawan; Tarchiani, Vieri. - In: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION. - ISSN 2212-4209. - ELETTRONICO. - 84:(2023), pp. 1-16. [10.1016/j.ijdr.2022.103454]

*Availability:*

This version is available at: 11583/2973381 since: 2022-11-26T10:07:42Z

*Publisher:*

Elsevier

*Published*

DOI:10.1016/j.ijdr.2022.103454

*Terms of use:*

This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository

*Publisher copyright*

(Article begins on next page)



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijdrr](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijdrr)

# Participatory risk assessment of pluvial floods in four towns of Niger

Maurizio Tiepolo<sup>a, \*</sup>, Sarah Braccio<sup>b</sup>, Edoardo Fiorillo<sup>c</sup>, Andrea Galligari<sup>d</sup>,  
Gaptia Lawan Katiellou<sup>e</sup>, Giovanni Massazza<sup>f</sup>, Vieri Tarchiani<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST) Politecnico of Turin, Viale Mattioli 39, Turin, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Piedmont Region, Turin, Italy

<sup>c</sup> Institute for Bio Economy CNR, Bologna, Italy

<sup>d</sup> DIST Politecnico of Turin, Viale Mattioli 39, Turin, Italy

<sup>e</sup> Direction de la Meteorologie Nationale, Niamey, Niger

<sup>f</sup> Interregional Agency for the Po River, Turin, Italy

## ARTICLE INFO

### Keywords:

Disaster risk reduction  
Flood exposure  
Pluvial flood  
Public participation  
Residual risk  
Urban expansion

## ABSTRACT

Intense rainfalls in Sub-Saharan Africa are increasing in frequency. Land degradation, watercourses siltation, and flood defence failure turn these events into disastrous floods. Over the last decade flood risk assessments have been prepared to face these disasters. However, they have frequent limitations in design, accuracy, and completeness. The objectives of this study are (i) to integrate local and scientific knowledge into a participated pluvial flood risk assessment (ii) to identify assets and (iii) to estimate the potential impact and efficiency of risk-reduction measures. The assessment is developed in four rapidly expanding towns of Niger, flooded several times in recent years. Flood-prone areas and assets are identified according four flood scenarios using local knowledge, 2D hydraulic modelling, and visual photointerpretation of very-high-resolution satellite images. Risk-reduction measures are singled-out through public participation. The residual risk and benefit/cost analyses provide a decision-making tool to accept or treat risk. During the last decade the expansion of the four towns has been more rapid in flood-prone zones than in safe areas. Nowadays more than half of the housing stock could be flooded by rainfalls with 20 years return period. Catchment treatment and building retrofitting can reduce risk. from 100 to 29–82. Nevertheless, the benefit/cost of risk reduction is high for towns settled in small catchments only.

## 1. Introduction

In the last 40 years, floods have affected 80 million people in sub-Saharan Africa [1]. More intense rainfalls [2–6] caused by atmospheric circulation and rising ocean surface temperatures [7], together with soil degradation, have increased flood damages [8,9]. Other factors influencing this problem include the siltation of watercourses [10], soil moisture [11], and failure of flood defences [12]. Additionally, 18% of urban areas in sub-Saharan Africa are located in floodplains [13]. Moreover, the buildings in these areas

*Abbreviations:* B, current baseline condition; FRA, flood risk assessment; PD, potential damage; R, risk; RP, return period; T, risk treatment.

\* Corresponding author.

*E-mail addresses:* [maurizio.tiepolo@polito.it](mailto:maurizio.tiepolo@polito.it) (M. Tiepolo), [sarah.braccio@regione.piemonte.it](mailto:sarah.braccio@regione.piemonte.it) (S. Braccio), [edoardo.fiorillo@ibe.cnr.it](mailto:edoardo.fiorillo@ibe.cnr.it) (E. Fiorillo), [andrea.galligari@polito.it](mailto:andrea.galligari@polito.it) (A. Galligari), [Katielloulaw@gmail.com](mailto:Katielloulaw@gmail.com) (G.L. Katiellou), [giovanni.massazza@agenziapo.it](mailto:giovanni.massazza@agenziapo.it) (G. Massazza), [vieri.tarchiani@ibe.cnr.it](mailto:vieri.tarchiani@ibe.cnr.it) (V. Tarchiani).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2022.103454>

Received 18 February 2022; Received in revised form 24 September 2022; Accepted 19 November 2022

Available online 25 November 2022

2212-4209/© 2022 Published by Elsevier Ltd.

are typically built using non-durable materials [14]. Although asset exposure to flooding is a disaster driver [15], it has not been extensively investigated [16]. The United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction encourages member countries to extend their risk knowledge on a local scale [17]. In sub-Saharan Africa, flood-prone zones remain roughly mapped, 70% of cases are not validated, and asset identification is uncommon (Table A1 in Appendix A). Undetailed mapping [18], hampers risk reduction; therefore, the first research problem is mapping flood-prone assets in towns characterised by scarce information and resources.

Flood risk assessments (FRAs) in sub-Saharan Africa typically identify generic risk-reduction measures only (Table A2). Consequently, the residual risk and benefit/cost ratio of risk-reduction [19] cannot be assessed. This information is essential for the decision-making regarding the treatment or acceptance of risks [20]. Therefore, the second research problem is identifying risk-reduction measures accurately.

The literature reports that smaller settlements suffer more flood damage than larger settlements [21–23]. The third research problem relates to the risk reduction efficiency according to settlement size.

Three-quarters of FRAs are conceived and developed using a top-down approach, limiting risk knowledge and ownership of results by local communities (Table A1). Moreover, public participation has been investigated more in risk management [24] than in the evaluation, decision-making [25], and integration of local and scientific knowledge [26]. Thus, the fourth research problem relates to integrating public participation and local knowledge within the ISO 31010 risk-assessment framework [20].

This study aimed to co-develop pluvial FRA with local communities, identify assets and risk-reduction measures, and estimate their potential impact. We used a multidisciplinary approach integrating citizen science, climatology, geomatics, hydraulics, hydrology, and urban planning. We hypothesise that public participation and knowledge integration into FRAs will identify appropriate risk-reduction measures for individual communities and contribute to decision-making.

This study is novel in accurately identifying assets and risk treatment, integrating local knowledge into all stages of FRA according a participatory process, and in its suggested policy implications.

## 2. Study sites

FRAs were developed in four towns belonging to those more severely affected by flooding in the Dosso region of Niger [27]. Guecheme and Tessa are located in the Maouri and Fogha valleys, respectively, and are the capital towns of the homonymous municipalities. Sabon Birni and Gagila are two small towns in the rural municipalities of Tounouga and Kieche, respectively, located in the Maouri Valley (Fig. 1).

According to the National Population Census (2012) [28], Guecheme, Tessa, Sabon Birni, and Gagila have 8412, 5000, 5970, and 1740 inhabitants, respectively. These towns are located at a slightly higher position than the floodplain. Therefore, they are only exposed to the impact of intense rainfall on the roofs of buildings and the runoff generated in their ungauged catchments. Stream flow is intermittent and linked to intense precipitations typically concentrated in July and August. Guecheme, Gagila, and Sabon Birni lie in small catchments (6, 9, and 12 km<sup>2</sup> respectively). By contrast, Tessa lies in catchments exceeding 21 km<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2). These towns are only equipped with manual pluviometers characterised by daily time series with lengths between 17 and 38 years [29].

Guecheme and Tessa expanded along a regular unpaved road network on an almost-flat site with some micro-depressions. Except for one street in Guecheme, there were no stormwater drains in the four towns. However, Gagila and Sabon Birni expanded with the addition of irregularly shaped lots along irregular road networks.

In recent years, the frequency of intense rainfall has increased. Runoff has increased following to the conversion of forest and shrubland to range and agricultural land to cater to a growing population and demand for more fuel-wood, meat, cowpea, millet, and sorghum crops. Consequently, runoff increased in many areas of Niger [30,31] and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa [32]. Some runoff drivers were specific to individual towns. For example, in Guecheme and Tessa, expansion through land subdivisions along straight roads in the direction of the largest slope exposes these towns to runoff from the catchment. This runoff strikes houses, barns, latrines, warehouses, schools, and wells. Moreover, it can cause temporary isolation (Guecheme), interruption of school attendance, and diseases (Sabon Birni). This is because many assets in flood-prone areas are unprotected, the houses have earthen roofs, walls are made from adobe bricks covered with earthen plaster, and entrance doors have no thresholds. Additionally, the barns are insufficiently high above the ground and were built from crude earth with earthen roofs. The wells and latrines were also unelevated (Fig. 3).

Pluvial floods damaged buildings and infrastructure in two of the four towns more than once a decade (Table A3).

## 3. Material and methods

The methodology is summarised with respect to the detailed description provided by the authors in a previous study [29]. Risk is “a combination of the consequences of an event and the associated likelihood of occurrence” [32]. For disaster risk, consequences or impacts can be expressed in terms of loss of life, injury, and damage [33]. Therefore, many studies consider risk as the probability of damage [34,35]. Disaster damages are usually expressed in monetary terms [36]. This facilitates residual risk and benefit/cost analyses with respect to the risk equations based on hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity determinants. In this assessment, risk (R) is the product of the hazard (H) and potential damage (PD). H is the probability that a rainy day will causes damage. In the four towns, daily rainfall with 3-year and 20-years (RP3 and RP20, respectively) return periods were considered. Longer return periods were excluded, because they would involve events that flooded entire towns and exceeded the lifetime of involved assets. PD is the substitution costs for houses, latrines, barns, schools, and warehouses in flood-prone areas.

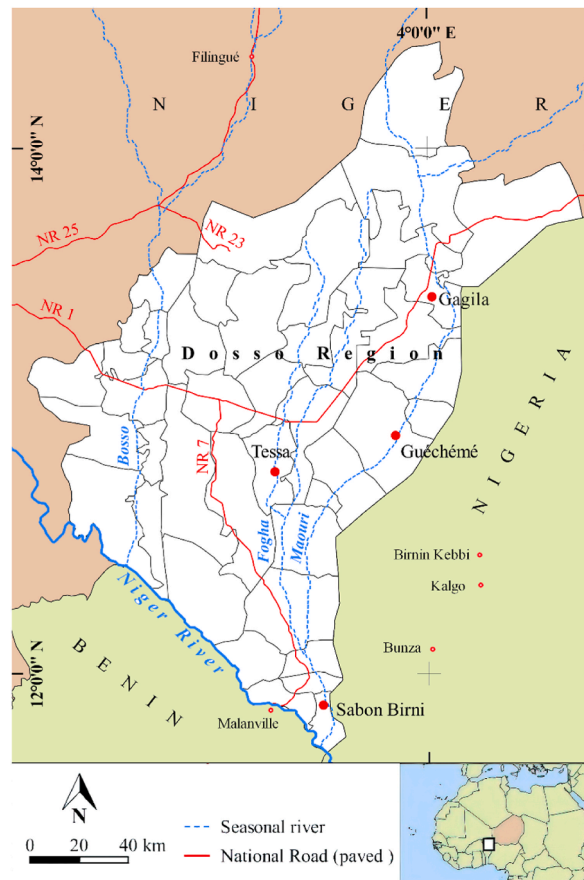


Fig. 1. Four test sites in the Dosso region of Niger.

### 3.1. Flood prone areas and assets

Various methods have been used to determine flood zones, such as indices [37], satellite observations of flooded areas [38], and modelling. This study used hydraulic modelling because it allows the residual risk and the risk treatment efficiency to be estimated according to different scenarios.

The analysis begins with identifying the daily precipitation that triggers damage (critical rainfall). The damage caused by events occurring over the last 20 years, as recorded in the open-access database of floods in Niger (BDINA) [39], was compared with the amount of daily precipitation observed at the rain gauge of each town (Table 1).

Recent trends in critical rainfall levels, flood drivers, and impacts have been determined through meetings with technicians, local administrators, residents, and inspections in the catchments.

Four return periods (3, 20, 50, and 100 years) were analysed by applying the extreme value theory to the maximal daily rainfall for each year. Four probability distribution functions were tested (generalised extreme value, Gumbel, exponential, and log-normal), and fitting tests (Pearson and Anderson–Darling) were used to select the best distribution [40]. The longer rainfall time series (Guechemé and Sabon Birni) had the best performance with the generalised extreme value probability distribution. By contrast, the shorter ones (Tessa and Gagila) best reflected the Gumbel distribution [41].

The estimation of flood-prone zones involves hydrological and hydraulic analysis. The dimensionless runoff coefficient ( $R_c$ ) was calculated using the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) software [42,43]. The SWAT is a continuous and deterministic hydrological model at the catchment scale, developed by the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Because the investigated catchments were ungauged, calibration and validation of the related SWAT models were impossible; therefore, a regionalisation approach [44] was implemented. This approach implies that the model parameters of similar, but gauged catchments are transferred to ungauged catchments. Spatial proximity assumes that neighbouring catchments have homogenous physical and climatic characteristics; thus, they have similar hydrological responses [45,46]. Therefore, the SWAT model parameters implemented in this assessment were extracted by modelling the Sirba catchment [47], located in South-west Niger.

The  $R_c$ s in the current, baseline (B), and catchment post-treatment (T) conditions increased with the length of the return period [48] and decreased with treatments applications [29].  $R_c$  was fundamental determining the net input rainfall and discharge resulting from soil infiltration which could not be evaluated with the hydraulic model.

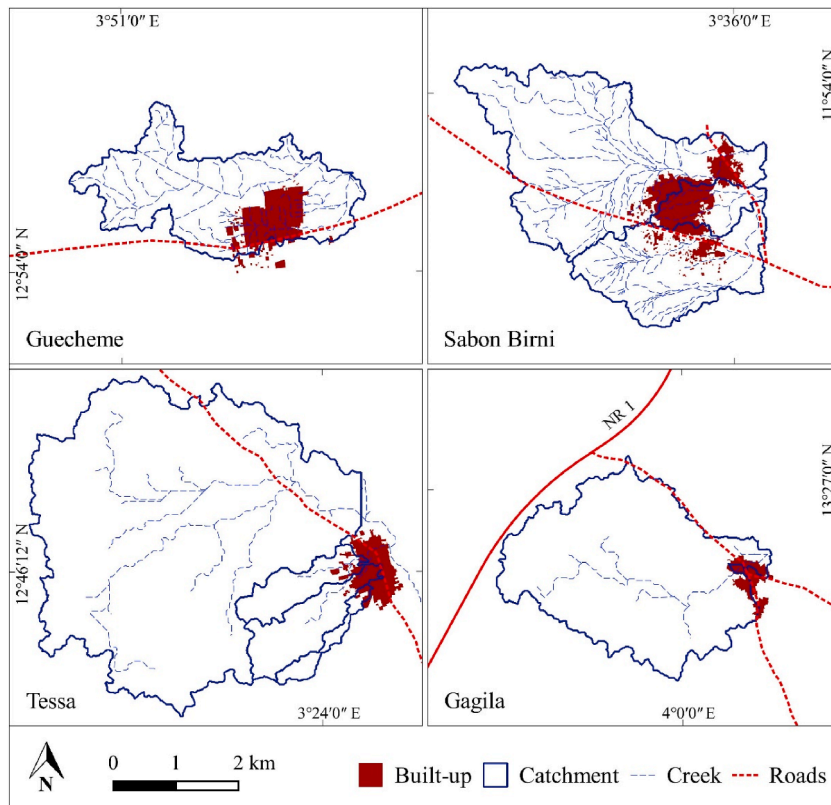


Fig. 2. Catchments in which the four settlements are located.

The hydraulic analysis of the towns was performed using two-dimensional hydraulic models created using the Hydrologic Engineering Centre-River Analysis System software (HEC-RAS) (version 5.0.7) [49]. The flow conditions of the models were simulated by rainfall distributed in the modelled areas and hydrographs concentrated along the primary hydrography. The hyetographs reflect the typical Sahelian storms parameterised by Balme [50] with a symmetrical form and a duration of 1 h. The hydrographs were constructed in a triangular shape with an increasing phase equal to the concentration time (CT) of the basin and a decreasing phase equal to the storm duration. CT was calculated using the Ventura formula  $CT = 0.127 \cdot \sqrt{(a/S)}$  where  $a$  is the area (km<sup>2</sup>) and  $S$  is the adimensional slope of the riverbed. The model geometry was determined using a digital terrain model with a cell size of 10 m (provided by Intermap Technologies Inc.), more accurate than the 30 m currently used by FRAs in sub-Saharan Africa. Soil roughness conditions were defined based on land-cover data [29]. The calibration process included roughness adaptations at the ground and high-resolution satellite imagery to improve the channel shape where the width was finer than a 10 m digital terrain model (DTM) cell. Four simulations were performed for each town according to the 3- and 20-years RPs under the (B) and (T) conditions. Flood-prone zones are the maximum area in which the hydraulic depth exceeds 10 cm, which surpassing the height of the entrance threshold to homes, as observed after systematic field inspections. As in other FRAs in sub-Saharan Africa [51,52], the flood hazard maps were validated with ground control points (GCPs) acquired where the last known floods struck the assets. Twelve to twenty GCPs were completed using a picture, a description of asset materials and use where detected by a local team in each town.

The assets exposed in the RP3 and RP20 flood-prone zones were identified by visual photointerpretation of World View-2 very-high-resolution (VHR) satellite images with a 0.5 m geometric resolution captured on September 1–6, 2019. Each asset measured on the VHR satellite imagery was assigned a replacement value calculated from that of the corresponding standard asset determined in situ. However, barns and latrines were not always identifiable. Therefore, one barn and one latrine were estimated for each flood-prone developed lot. The contents of buildings were not considered in the FRA. The stage-damage curve was redundant for the analysis because the homes were typically built using nondurable materials. These homes collapsed shortly after water intrusion owing to missing thresholds, low thresholds, or earthen roofs.

### 3.2. Risk reduction measures

In each town, a focus group was established with three distinct categories of participants: mayor and municipal technicians, community women, and community of men. Trapezoidal bunds, half-moons, stone lines (rows of 20–30 cm high stones placed transversely to the slope of the ground), gabions [53], flood maps, corrugated iron roofs, door flood barriers, raised pit latrines, raised wells, and stormwater drains were identified to reduce risk. The areas to be treated with trapezoidal bunds, stone lines, and half-moon soil embankments were identified within the catchments.



Fig. 3. Asset vulnerability in the different towns (photo by M. Tiepolo).

**Table 1**  
Occurrence of critical rainfall over a decade (2010–2019) in the four towns.

| Town daily precipitation | Gagila    | Guecheme  | Sabon Birni | Tessa    |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| mm                       | 69.4      | 67.5      | 125         | 90       |
| Return period, years     | 3         | 3         | 20          | 5        |
| Date                     | 14/8/2013 | 15/8/2014 | 7/8/2012    | 2/8/2016 |

### 3.3. Residual risk and risk reduction efficiency

Residual risk (RR) results from the difference between the risk levels before (B) and after treatment (T). The treatment condition (T) was calculated considering the measures to be implemented in the catchment upstream of each town (trapezoidal bunds, half-moons, and stone lines) and within it (protection of buildings with corrugated iron roofs, door flood barriers, and raised latrines). Storm water drains and raised wells were not included in the residual risk estimation. Treating the catchments resulted in a smaller flooding perimeter, as calculated using the hydraulic model. The replacement value of the assets found within the smaller perimeter multiplied by the probability of precipitation with RP3 and RP20 determined the risk of flooding under T condition. The replacement costs of flood-exposed assets with RP3 and RP20 and costs of risk reduction measures are required to assess the RR. The former was determined using information from the local communities (Table A4). The latter was based on the costs of implementing similar measures [54] (Table A5). In the built-up area, the surface area of the earth roofs was determined to quantify the retrofitting requirements of corrugated iron roofs.

The benefit/cost ratio of the pluvial flood risk reduction was calculated. The benefits were calculated as the difference between the PD under conditions B and T. Costs refers to the expenses incurred by T. The more the benefit/cost ratio exceeded 1, the more the treatment was efficient [19].

### 3.4. Public participation and local knowledge

Public participation and local knowledge contribute to every step of the FRA. In hazard characterisation, the recent lowering of the critical threshold of daily precipitation beyond which pluvial flooding produces damage was based on local knowledge. According to the hydraulic model, the areas inundated by daily precipitation with RP3 were validated with the georeferenced and photographed inventory of all assets inundated during the 2019 season prepared by a local team in each town. Local knowledge determines the replacement value of flood-prone assets.

Public participation during the two meetings in each town enriches the criteria for selecting measures, identifies the benefits of treating the risk, and decides whether to accept or treat the risk (Fig. 4).

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Flood prone area and assets

The mean flow depth in the built-up area ranged between 14–51 cm and 20–61 cm for RP3 and RP20, respectively (Table A6). The flow velocity was typical of a torrential flow and presented very high values, particularly in the hydrological networks of Tessa, Sabon Birni, and Guecheme. The average shares of the towns in the flood-prone zones with RP3 and RP20 were 21% and 32%, respectively. These values reached 54% and 79% after considering the housing stock in the flood-prone zones with RP3 and RP20, respectively [29] (Figs. 5 and 6).

The pluvial flooding risk following rainfall with RP3 varied between €51,000 (Gagila) and €473,000 (Sabon Birni); following rainfall with RP20, the risk varied between €20,000 (Tessa) and €109,000 (Guecheme).

Over the past decade, the built-up areas of the four towns have increased by 43% (Gagila) and 10% (Tessa). Gagila and Guecheme expanded more in the flood-prone zone with RP3, than in the non-flood-prone zone (Table 2). Between 2009 and 2019, the number of homes in the flood-prone zone with RP20, increased by 18–70%, depending on the location (Table 3).

### 4.2. Risk-reduction measures

As previously discussed, runoff can be reduced and slowed down with trapezoidal bunds, stone lines [55], and half-moons [56] in the catchment area upstream of each town. Protecting the creek banks with gabions is necessary for places where the flow velocity is high (Figs. 7 and 8).

In the flood-prone zones with RP3 and RP20, applying a portable flood barrier at the home entrances and raising barns, wells, and latrines could protect assets. In non-flood-prone built-up areas, corrugated iron roofs should replace earthen roofs. Constructing stormwater drains removes runoff from earthen homes and prevents water stagnation after rainfall (Fig. 9).

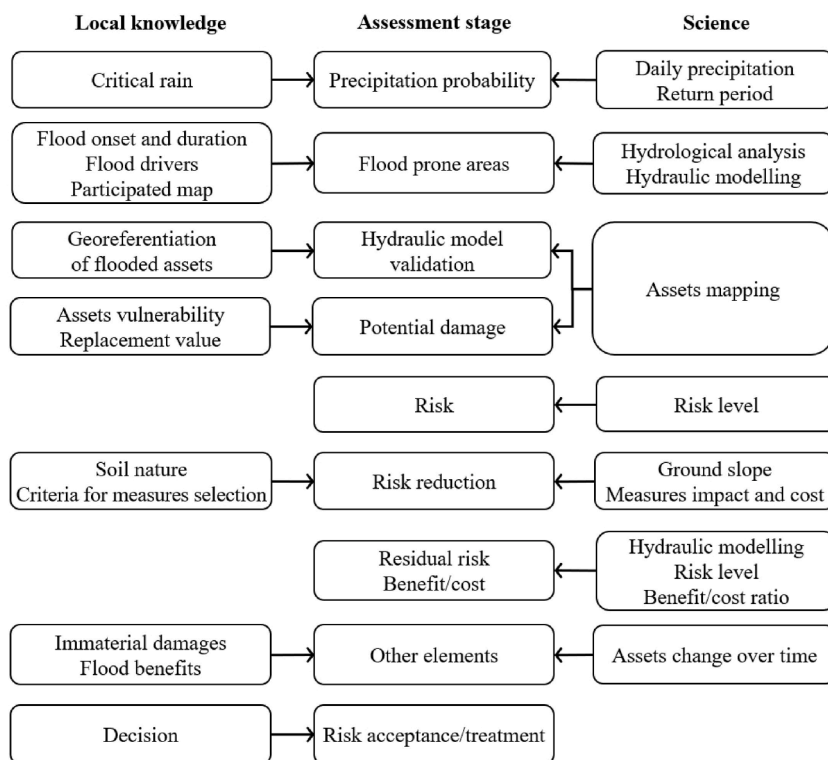


Fig. 4. Integration of local and scientific knowledge into FRA.

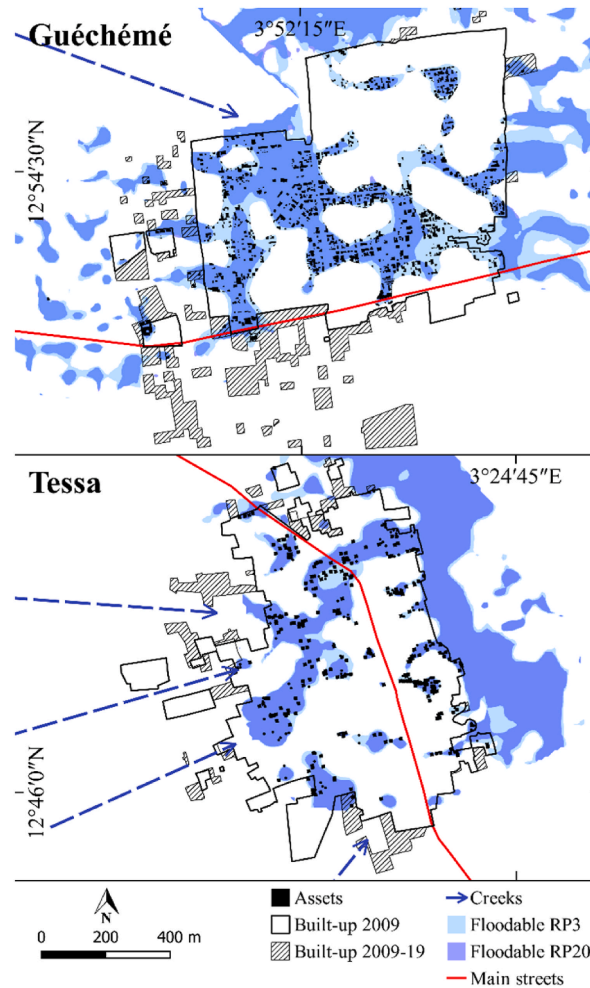


Fig. 5. Guechémé and Tessa hazard maps showing the flood-prone assets.

#### 4.3. Risk reduction efficiency

Implementing measures reduced runoff by 10% and 8% for events with RP3 and RP20, respectively. The flood-prone built-up area decreased by 10–24% for RP3 and 21–48% for RP20. The risk level in condition B decreased by 18–71% and 23–49% in the event of rainy days with RP3 and RP20, respectively (Table 4).

The benefit/cost ratio indicated that the measures were efficient in Guechémé for rainfall with RP3, and lower in Tessa for RP20 (0.6) (Table 5).

#### 4.4. Public participation and local knowledge integration

The achievements through public participation and local knowledge are extensive. Depending on the town, the daily rainfall amount that can trigger a damage-causing flood ranged 70 and 90 mm. However, this range, has dropped to 50–60 mm in recent years. This information is essential for setting scenarios in the hydraulic model. The georeferentiation of inundated and collapsed assets after last critical rainfall allowed the hydraulic model. Each community identified flood onset, typically occurring at night, and duration. Information on the alteration of the catchment land cover over time owing to crop expansion, deforestation, pastoral pressure resulting from population increase, and vulnerability of assets and their replacement value are further contributions of local knowledge. Communities helped define the criteria for choosing how to treat risk. They emphasized that measures should be known and accepted by the community, feasible with local labour and resources, implemented through mutual aid, require limited maintenance, positively impact the environment, and increase agro-forestry production. Catchment and built-up environment treatment satisfy these criteria.

## 5. Discussion

Generally, FRAs on a local scale in sub-Saharan Africa rarely identify assets exposed to pluvial flooding and detailed measures to protect them, or co-develop with local communities. Therefore, asset mapping is the first problem when information and resources

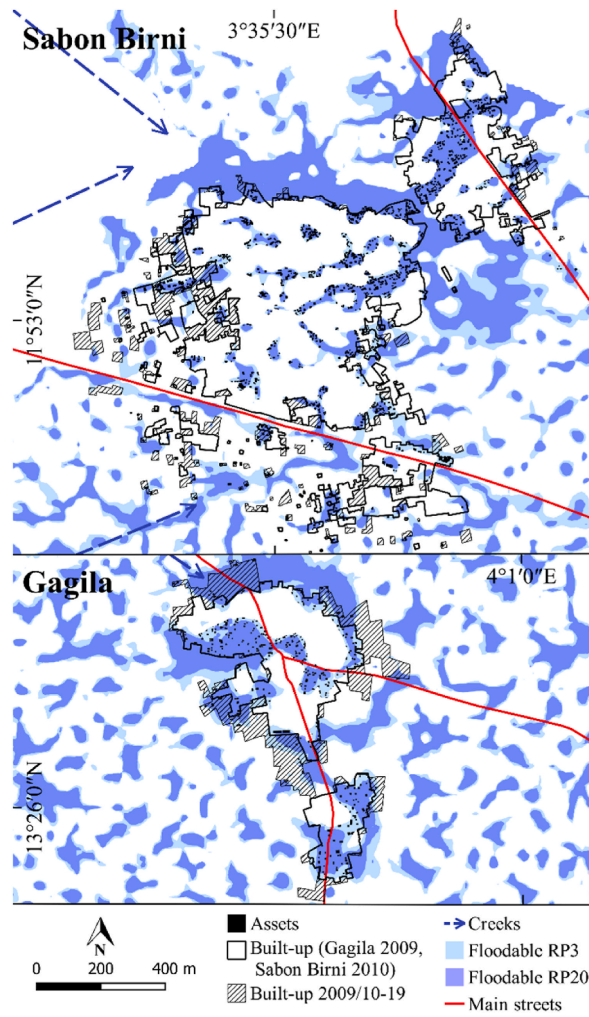


Fig. 6. Sabon Birni and Gagila hazard maps showing the flood-prone assets.

Table 2

Variation of the built-up area in the non-flood-prone and flood-prone areas with RP3 and RP20 between 2009 and 2019 in the four towns.

| Built-up area  | Gagila | Guecheme | Sabon Birni | Tessa |
|----------------|--------|----------|-------------|-------|
|                | %      | %        | %           | %     |
| Total          | 43     | 20       | 18          | 10    |
| Not floodable  | 46     | 28       | 18          | 13    |
| Floodable RP3  | 50     | 45       | 17          | 3     |
| Floodable RP20 | 48     | 11       | 0           | 3     |

Table 3

Variation of the number of assets between 2009 and 2019 in the RP 20 area.

| Asset      | Gagila | Guecheme | Sabon Birni | Tessa |
|------------|--------|----------|-------------|-------|
|            | %      | %        | %           | %     |
| Houses     | 18     | 29       | 70          | 56    |
| Schools    | 0      | 33       | 0           | 0     |
| Warehouses | 0      | 115      | 0           | 0     |
| Barns      | -116   | -94      | -14         | -23   |

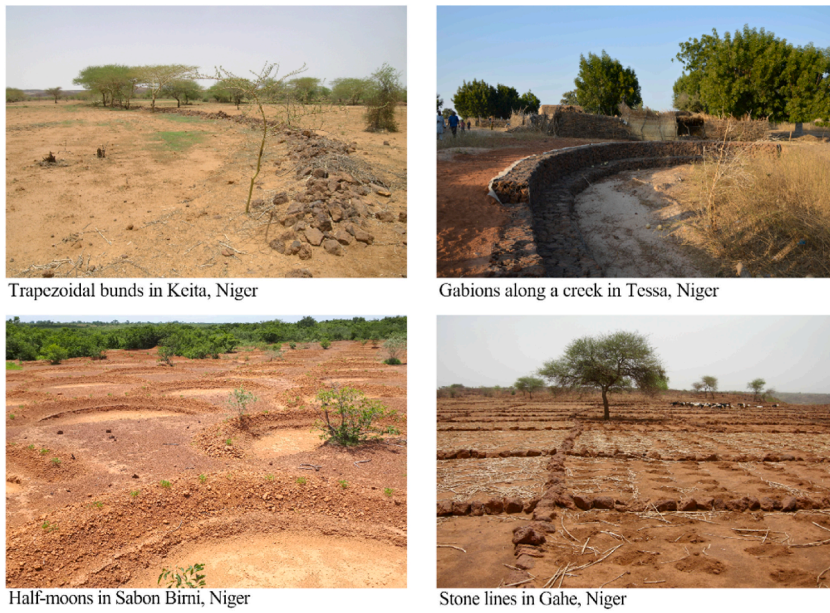


Fig. 7. Trapezoidal bunds, stone lines, half-moons, and gabions (photos by M. Tiepolo).

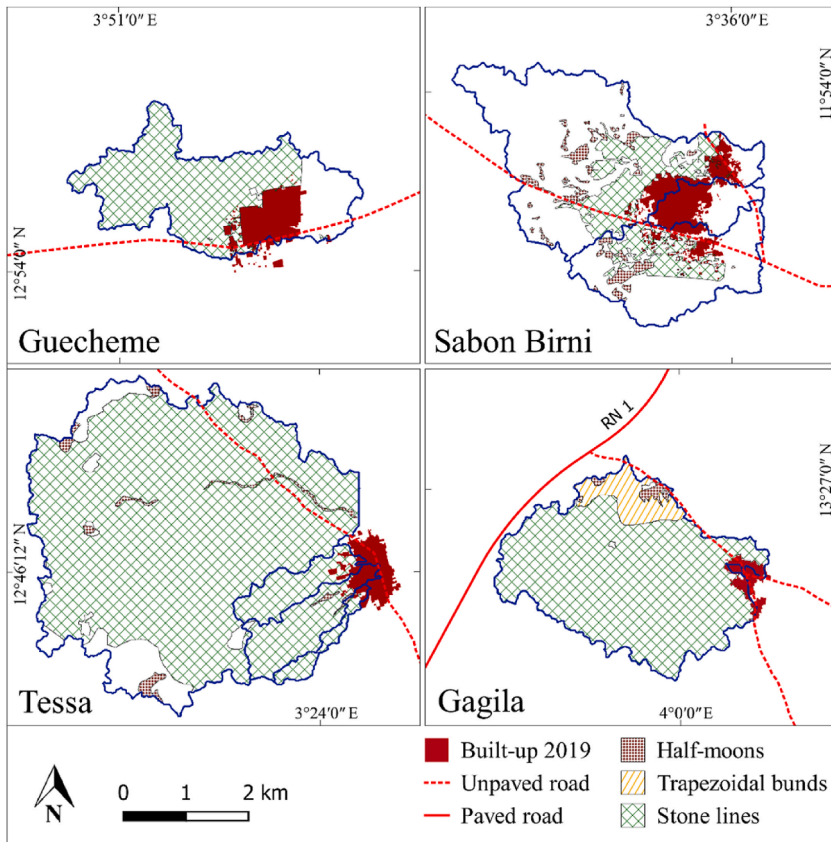


Fig. 8. Localisation of the risk-reduction measures in the catchments of the four towns.

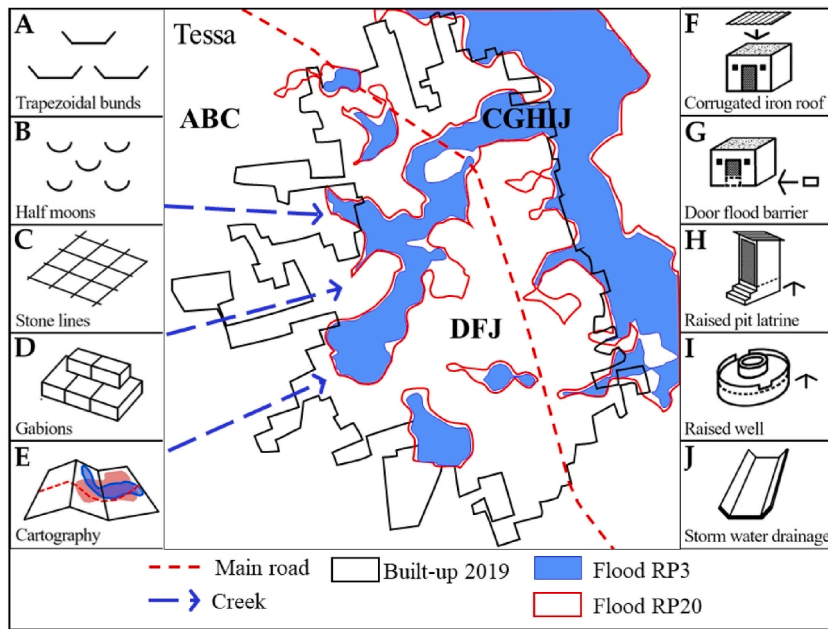


Fig. 9. Ten proposed risk-reduction measures for Tessa town.

Table 4  
Risk and residual risk expressed in thousands of Euros (K€) for daily rainfall with RP3 and RP20.

| Risk   | Gagila | Guecheme | Sabon Birni | Tessa |
|--------|--------|----------|-------------|-------|
|        | K €    | K €      | K €         | K €   |
| B RP3  | 51     | 358      | 473         | 43    |
| T RP3  | 35     | 104      | 266         | 36    |
| B RP20 | 25     | 109      | 85          | 20    |
| T RP20 | 10     | 44       | 65          | 9     |

Table 5  
Benefit/cost of risk treatment for pluvial flood RP3 and RP20.

| RP | Benefit/cost | Gagila | Guecheme | Sabon Birni | Tessa |
|----|--------------|--------|----------|-------------|-------|
| 3  | Benefit, K € | 444    | 756      | 349         | 629   |
|    | Cost, K €    | 205    | 104      | 164         | 280   |
|    | Benefit/cost | 2.2    | 7.3      | 2.1         | 2.3   |
| 20 | Benefit, K € | 260    | 768      | 274         | 175   |
|    | Cost, K €    | 183    | 182      | 208         | 280   |
|    | Benefit/cost | 1.4    | 4.2      | 1.3         | 0.6   |

are scarce. The second problem is identifying appropriate risk-reduction measures and their potential impact estimations. The third problem focuses on risk reduction efficiency. The fourth problem relates to public participation and local knowledge integration in a risk assessment process already standardised by ISO 31010.

5.1. Mapping the assets exposed to pluvial flood

The four towns extended to 21% in a frequently flooded zone and 32% in a less frequently flooded zone. These values exceeded 18% of the urban surface in flood zone observed in sub-Saharan Africa [13]. The flood-prone zone contained 54% (RP3) to 79% (RP20) of housing stock. The gap between the extension of the flood-prone zone and assets it contains is substantial that FRAs should prefer the latter to calculate the risk level [51,57–59]. This consideration also arises from the observation that, during the last decade, half of the settlements expanded more in the flood-prone zones than in non-flood-prone zones. This dynamic can be explained by a lack of perception of the hazard when almost-flat sites are developed [60] compared with riparian settlements, where the flood threat is visible [61,62]. In a fast-growing population context, such as in rural Niger, another possible cause is the false sense of security that new inhabitants may have if they had not previously experienced a severe flood [57,63]. Finally, access to safe sites may be restricted owing to the lack of affordable lots. For policy implications, this study suggests increasing awareness of dangerous sites using hazard maps (Figs. 5 and 6) and flood sign warnings. In addition, we recommend identifying areas of town expansion where land pooling can

be practised. This technique consists of temporarily pooling the land holdings in the expansion zone in public hands to plan the land subdivision, marking the lots corners, keeping part of the land for affordable lots, and selling another part of the lots on the market. The proceeds fund the construction of the stormwater drains. Lots provided with the utilities are returned to landowners in proportion to the land area with which they have contributed to land pooling [64]. Without land pooling, future housing remains undrained and prone to flooding.

### 5.2. Risk-reduction measures

Generally, house retrofitting and flood-prone asset awareness are not recommended in the literature on sub-Saharan Africa (Table A2) because FRAs using low-resolution digital terrain models do not identify the assets in the flood zone [16]. This study explains the possible reasons of this problem. First, there is a widespread lack of knowledge among practising scholars regarding the standardised definition of FRA, which includes analysis and evaluation [20]. The risk evaluation phase is based on risk-reduction measures and their potential impact, and is finalised for decision-making in accepting or treating risk. Consequently, these measures remain generic or unspecified. Second, in sub-Saharan Africa, FRA is rarely required in local planning processes. Regarding policy implications, it is crucial to integrate residual risk analysis into local development plans.

### 5.3. Risk-reduction efficiency

Catchment treatment (trapezoidal bunds, half-moons, stone lines, and gabions), house retrofitting (metal roof and door flood barrier), raised latrines and barns, and hazard mapping can reduce the flood-prone zone by 10–24% and 21–48% on rainy days for RP3 and RP20, respectively. Therefore, treatment can reduce risk levels by 18–71% (RP3) and 23–59% (RP20). These values confirm the positive effect of soil and water conservation measures on agro-pastoral activities [65] and downstream settlements.

A benefit/cost analysis [19] indicated that efficiency is related to the size of the catchments to which the towns belong. When the catchment was small (Guecheme, Gagila, and Sabon Birni), the area to be treated was smaller; therefore, the cost component was lower, and the efficiency was higher. Risk reduction is less efficient for large catchments (Tessa). Thus, flood risk reduction is related to the size of their catchments but not to the size of the towns [21–23]. This implies that the catchment area in the Dosso region must be known and be part of the criteria for prioritising treatment with trapezoidal bunds, half-moons, stone lines, and gabions.

### 5.4. Public participation

Public participation provides information on the critical rain threshold trends over time, triggers of material and immaterial flood damage, and vulnerability and replacement value of assets. In addition, public participation contributes to the criteria for choosing measures, and recall the benefits of pluvial floods in semi-arid sites (Fig. 4). Thus, its contribution extends beyond providing local observers to monitor water bodies [66], identifying the exposed assets [67], in-place coping strategies [52], and causes of disasters and hazards [68], and implementing new coping strategies [24,69]. Therefore, this study provides an example of local and scientific knowledge integration in an under-investigated field [26]. For policy implications, public participation at all stages of an FRA should be encouraged, and the process should be legally defined.

### 5.5. Limitations

This study has several limitations. First, the accuracy of the flood-prone zones was limited by the cell size (10 m) of the digital terrain model. A significant improvement could be achieved with a more detailed morphology using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV cell size 0.1–1 m), as reported for the settlements along the Sirba River [62] where poor vegetation coverage makes this photogrammetry technique feasible. A more accurate perimeter of flood-prone areas is essential for determining sites for settlement development. This further study is only justified in settlements with the highest benefit/cost ratio and which are undergoing the most rapid physical expansion.

Second, SWAT modelling was performed over ungauged catchments; therefore, a regionalisation approach was implemented. As previously assessed [44], this solution is commonly accepted and implemented today; it has enabled researchers to exploit the potentials of hydrologic models in data scarce catchments. However, it must be considered that the procedure is exposed to higher uncertainty since the calibration and validation processes are conducted outside the target catchment.

Third, the identification of assets was limited because they were partly ascertained (homes, warehouses, and schools) and partly estimated (latrines, barns, and wells). In this case as well, images from a UAV would provide a more precise inventory of assets.

Fourth, indirect damages, such as road temporary road inaccessibility, closure of markets, and an increase in water-borne diseases from pluvial flooding were not considered.

Despite these limitations, the findings confirmed the hypothesis that participation and local knowledge integration, within the FRA standardised by ISO 31010 provide a valuable decision-making tool in situations characterised by scarce information availability and limited resources.

Suggestions for future research may include (i) using UAVs to increase digital terrain model accuracy and to accelerate asset identification, (ii) stage placement and registration of water depth during critical rainfall, and (iii) estimating the monetary cost of immaterial damages.

## 6. Conclusion

This study proposes a novel approach to overcome the limited design, accuracy, and completeness of current FRAs by accurately identifying assets, risk treatment, public participation, and local knowledge integration in all FRA steps. Through this approach we

discovered that Guecheme, Tessa, Sabon Birni, and Gagila contained 21% and 32% of the built-up areas in the flood-prone zones with RP3 and RP20, respectively. Additionally, the built-up areas in flood-prone zones with RP3 and RP20 contained 54% and 79% of the housing stock exposed to floods, respectively. The deviation between the flood-prone zones and housing stock is large enough to question the significance of FRAs that consider only the flood-prone area to estimate risk.

The study proposed 10 measures. When implemented at catchment and building scales, these measures can reduce the pluvial flood risk following frequent and less frequent rainfalls by 18–71% and 23–59%, respectively. These measures had a higher benefit/cost ratio (2.2–7.3) for frequent floods for small catchments and a lower benefit/cost ratio (0.6) for infrequent floods for large catchments. Moreover, mapping the flood-prone zone is essential for the safer expansion of the built-up area.

FRAs may appear unsuitable for towns such as those considered in this study. However, if these towns grow at the rate observed in the last decade, they will be significantly larger and more populous in ten-years. These towns could extend into flood prone areas without knowledge of flood zones. This justifies the strengthening of local governance and modernisation of decision-making tools. Immediate action is important because training local officers and operationalising a geodatabase to reduce flood risk will take a considerable time.

To contribute to implementing the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction, in sub-Saharan Africa FRAs at the local scale must be far more detailed than they currently are. Therefore, merely identifying flood-prone areas is insufficient. The catchment surface, exposed assets, and numerous measures must be identified within a framework built on public participation. Only then will public participation be significant on deciding whether to treat or accept risk.

### Author credit

Maurizio TIEPOLO: Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Supervision, Writing and editing, Visualization, Funding acquisition, Sarah BRACCIO: Formal analysis, Visualization, Edoardo FIORILLO: Methodology, Formal analysis, Writing, Andrea GALLIGARI: Formal analysis, Visualization, Gaptia Lawan KATIELLOU: Investigation, Giovanni MASSAZZA: Methodology, Formal analysis, Resources, Writing & editing, Vieri TARCHIANI: Writing and editing, Funding acquisition.

### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

### Data availability

Data are available at the 5 tables included in the text and in the 6 tables at Appendix A of the manuscript.

### Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the AICS-Italian Agency for Development Cooperation: ANADIA 2.0 project (AID 10848). The authors also thank the communities of Gagila, Guecheme, Sabon Birni, and Tessa for sharing their knowledge.

### Appendix A

**Table A1**  
Nineteen flood assessments in Africa 2009–2022.

| Settlement, Country ISO | Hazard           | Flood prone area % | Receptors | Public participation | Validation | Reference |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Abidjian, CDI           | Pluvial          | 34                 | No        | No                   | No         | [57]      |
| Ambo, ETH               | Pluvial          |                    | No        | No                   | No         | [70]      |
| Asanta, GHA             | Fluvial          |                    | No        | Yes                  | No         | [71]      |
| Beira, MOZ              | Pluvial, storm   |                    | No        | Yes                  | Yes        | [72]      |
| Cairo, EGY              | Pluvial          |                    | Building  | No                   | No         | [73]      |
| Dire Dawa, ETH          | Fluvial          |                    | Building  | No                   | Yes        | [46]      |
| Douala, CAM             | Pluvial          | 55                 | No        | No                   | No         | [74]      |
| Ifo, NIG                | Pluvial          | 32                 | Building  | No                   | No         | [75]      |
| Kigali, RWA             | Fluvial          |                    | Building  |                      |            | [76]      |
| Lagos, NIG              | Pluvial          | 30                 | No        | No                   | No         | [59]      |
| Matola, MOZ             | Pluvial          |                    | No        | No                   | No         | [77]      |
| Mono, TOG               | Fluvial          |                    | No        | Yes                  | No         | [78]      |
| Oti, TOG                | Fluvial          | -                  | No        | No                   | Yes        | [79]      |
| Ouagadougou, BFA        | Pluvial          |                    | No        | No                   | No         | [58]      |
| Pantedo, STP            | Storm surge      |                    | No        | No                   | No         | [80]      |
| Port Louis, MUS         | Pluvial          |                    | No        | No                   | No         | [81]      |
| Sheeva Robit, ETH       | Pluvial          | 18                 | No        | No                   | Yes        | [45]      |
| Sirba, NER              | Fluvial, pluvial |                    | House     | Yes                  | Yes        | [61]      |
| Tarkwa, GHA             | Fluvial          | 42                 | No        | No                   | No         | [83]      |

**Table A2**  
Measures recommended by thirteen pluvial flood risk assessments in sub-Saharan Africa.

| Frequency | Recommendations                 | Settlements  | Reference           |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 8         | Storm water drainage            | Beira, Dar es Salaam, Douala, Garbey Kourou, Larba Birno, Talle, Tarkwa, Toure | [62,70,72,74,83,85] |
| 6         | Early warning system            | Ambo, Garbey Kourou, Ifo, Larba Birno, Talle, Toure                            | [62,70,75]          |
| 5         | Access to weather forecasts     | Chikafa, Chitsungo, Kanongo, Monozi, Mushumbi                                  | [84]                |
| 5         | Poverty reduction               | Chikafa, Chitsungo, Kanongo, Monozi, Mushumbi                                  | [84]                |
| 5         | Non structural                  | Chikafa, Chitsungo, Kanongo, Monozi, Mushumbi                                  | [84]                |
| 4         | Storm water storage             | Ambo, Cairo, Port Louis, Tarkwa  | [70,71,82,83]       |
| 4         | Contingency plan                | Garbey Kourou, Larba Birno, Talle, Toure                                       | [62]                |
| 4         | Drills                          | Garbey Kourou, Larba Birno, Talle, Toure                                       | [62]                |
| 4         | Rural radio                     | Garbey Kourou, Larba Birno, Talle, Toure                                       | [62]                |
| 4         | Raised wells, latrines          | Garbey Kourou, Larba Birno, Talle, Toure                                       | [62]                |
| 3         | Discourage lowlands development | Ga-Kgapane, Lenyenye, Nkwankowa  | [86]                |
| 3         | Building code enforcement       | Ambo, Port Louis, Tarkwa   | [70,82,83]          |
| 3         | Evacuation routes               | Ambo, Beira, Ifo   | [70,72,75]          |
| 2         | Flood hazard/risk maps          | Ambo, Sheva Robit  | [45,58]             |
| 2         | Shelters                        | Ambo, Ifo  | [70,75]             |
| 2         | Green infrastructure            | Port Louis, Shewa Robit  | [45,82]             |
| 1         | None                            | Ouagadougou  | [58]                |
| 1         | Participatory planning          | Ambo   | [70]                |
| 1         | Relocation                      | Dar es Salaam  | [85]                |
| 1         | Two floor buildings             | Ambo   | [70]                |
| 1         | Afforestation                   | Ambo   | [70]                |
| 1         | Rainwater infiltration          | Port Louis   | [82]                |
| 1         | River renaturation              | Port Louis   | [82]                |
| 1         | Catchment treatment             | Ambo   | [70]                |

**Table A3**  
Damage in the four towns 1998–2019 according to the open access database on floods in Niger (BDINA).

| Damage | Gagila | Guechemé |      |      |      | Sabon Birni | Tessa |  |
|--------|--------|----------|------|------|------|-------------|-------|--|
|        | 2015   | 2014     | 2015 | 2016 | 2019 | 2010        | 2016  |  |
| mm     |        | 67       |      |      |      |             | 90    |  |
| People | 183    | 1275     | 129  | 140  | 151  | 650         | 375   |  |
| Houses | 40     |          | 37   | 15   |      | 117         | 22    |  |
| Fields |        | 1.5      |      |      | 6    | 8           |       |  |

People: the number of affected persons; Fields: the number of flooded fields when the yield is lost.

**Table A4**  
Average replacement value of frequently flooded assets.

| Asset   | Quantity               | Euros |
|---------|------------------------|-------|
| House   | 30 m <sup>2</sup> unit | 750   |
| Latrine | 1                      | 225   |
| Barn    | 1                      | 76    |
| Class   | 1                      | 8140  |

**Table A5**  
Average costs of selected measures for pluvial flood risk treatment.

| Measures for risk treatment | Quantity             | Euros |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Well disinfection           | 1                    | 60    |
| Stone lines                 | 0.01 km <sup>2</sup> | 114   |
| Half-moons                  | 0.01 km <sup>2</sup> | 451   |
| Corrugated iron roof        | 30 m <sup>2</sup>    | 168   |
| Raised latrines             | 1                    | 229   |

**Table A6**

Average (Avg) and maximum (Max) hydraulic depth in the built-up area according to RP3 and RP20 in the four towns.

| Return period years | Gagila |       | Guecheme |       | Sabon Birni |       | Tessa |       |
|---------------------|--------|-------|----------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                     | Avg m  | Max m | Avg m    | Max m | Avg m       | Max m | Avg m | Max m |
| 3                   | 0.14   | 1.63  | 0.24     | 2.59  | 0.34        | 3.17  | 0.51  | 2.91  |
| 20                  | 0.20   | 2.07  | 0.42     | 2.82  | 0.39        | 3.29  | 0.61  | 3.33  |

## References

- [1] CRED-Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, the International Disaster Database, CRED-Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, <https://www.emdat.be> (accessed 13 January 2022).
- [2] M. Ly, S.B. Traore, A. Alhassane, B. Sarr, Evolution of some observed climate extremes in the West African Sahel, *Weather Clim. Extrem.* 1 (2013) 19–25 doi: [10.1016/j.wace.2013.07.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wace.2013.07.005).
- [3] F. De Longueville, Y.C. Hountondji, I. Kindo, F. Gemenne, P. Ozer, Long-term analysis of rainfall and temperature data in Burkina Faso (1950–2013), *Int. J. Climatol.* 36 (2016) 4393–4405, <https://doi.org/10.1002/joc.4640>.
- [4] C.M. Taylor, D. Belušić, F. Guichard, D.J. Parker, T. Vischel, O. Bock, P.P. Harris, S. Janicot, C. Klein, G. Panthou, Frequency of extreme Sahelian storms tripled since 1982 in satellite observations, *Nat* 544 (2017) 475–478, <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature22069>.
- [5] A.A. Barry, J. Caesar, A.M.G. Klein Tank, E. Aguilar, C. McSweeney, A.M. Cyrille, M.P. Nikiema, K.B. Narcisse, F. Sima, G. Stafford, L.M. Touray, J.A. Ayilari-Naa, C.K. Mendes, M. Tounkara, V.S. Gar-Clahn, M.S. Coulibaly, M.F. Dieh, M. Mouhaimouni, J.A. Oyegade, E. Sambou, E.T. Laogbessi, West Africa climate extremes and climate change indices, *Int. J. Climatol.* 38 (2018) e821–e938, <https://doi.org/10.1002/joc.5420>.
- [6] G. Panthou, T. Lebel, T. Vischel, G. Quantin, Y. Sane, A. Ba, O. Ndiaye, A. Diongue-Niang, M. Diopkane, Rainfall intensification in tropical semi-arid regions: the Sahelian case, *Environ. Res. Lett.* 13 (2018) 064013, <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aac334>.
- [7] S. Salack, C. Klein, A. Giannini, B. Sarr, O.N. Worou, N. Belko, J. Bliefenicht, H. Kunstman, Global warming induced hybrid rainy seasons in the Sahel, *Environ. Res. Lett.* 11 (2016) 1–11, <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/11/10/104008>.
- [8] L. Descroix, I.B. Moussa, P. Genthon, D. Sighomnou, G. Mahé, I. Mamadou, J.P. Vandervaere, E. Gautier, O.F. Maiga, J.L. Rajot, M.M. Abdou, N. Dessay, A. Ingatan, I. Noma, K.S. Yéro, H. Karambiri, R. Fensholt, J. Albergel, J.C. Olivry, Impact of drought and land-use changes on surface water quality and quantity: the sahelian paradox, in: P.M. Bradley (Ed.), *Current Perspectives in Contaminant Hydrology and Water Resources Sustainability*, InTech open, Rijeka, 2013, <https://doi.org/10.5772/54536>.
- [9] G. Massazza, M. Bacci, L. Descroix, M.I. Housseini, E. Fiorillo, G.L. Katiellou, G. Panthou, A. Pezzoli, M. Rosso, E. Sauzedde, A. Terenziani, T. De Filippis, L. Rocchi, S. Burrone, M. Tiepolo, T. Vischel, V. Tarchiani, Recent changes in hydroclimatic patterns over medium Niger River basins at the origin of the 2020 flood in Niamey (Niger), *Water* 13 (2021) 1659, <https://doi.org/10.3390/w13121659>.
- [10] O.N. Kimambo, H. Chikoore, J.R. Gumbo, Understanding the effects of changing weather: a case of flash flood in Morogoro on January 11, 2018, *Hindawi Adv. Meteorol.* (2019) 8505903, <https://doi.org/10.1155/2019/8505903>.
- [11] Y. Tramblay, G. Villarini, E.M. El Khalki, G. Gründemann, D. Huges, Evaluation of the drivers responsible for flooding in Africa, *Water Resour. Res.* 57 (2021) e2021WR029595, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021WR029595>.
- [12] B. Merz, G. Blösch, S. Vorogushyn, F. Dottori, J.C.H. Aerts, P. Nates, M. Bertola, M. Kemter, H. Kreibich, U. Lall, E. Macdonald, Causes, impacts and patterns of disastrous river floods, *Nat. Rev. Earth Environ.* 2 (2021) 592–609, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-021-00195-3>.
- [13] R. Dryden, M. Anand, B. Lehner, E. Fluet-Chouinard, Do we prioritize floodplains for development and farming? Mapping global dependence and exposure to inundation, *Global Environ. Change* 71 (2021) 102370, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102370>.
- [14] P.A. Dinis, J. Huvu, M. Cabral Pinto, J. Carvalho, Disastrous flash floods triggered by moderate to minor rainfall events. Recent cases in coastal Benguela (Angola), *Hydrology* 8 (73) (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/hydrology8020073>.
- [15] K. Abass, G. Dumedah, F. Frempong, A.S. Muntaka, D.O. Appiah, E.K. Garsonu, R.M. Gyasi, Rising incidence and risk of floods in urban Ghana: is climate change to blame? *Cities* 121 (2022) 103495, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2021.103495>.
- [16] A. Díez-Herrero, J. Garrote, Flood risk analysis and assessment, applications and uncertainties: a bibliometric review, *Water* 12 (2020) 2050, <https://doi.org/10.3390/w12072050>.
- [17] *United Nations, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 2015, p. 35.*
- [18] D. Henstra, A. Minano, J. Thistlethwaite, Communicating disaster risk? An evaluation of the availability and quality of flood maps, *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci.* 19 (2019) 313–323, <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-19-313-2019>.
- [19] R. Mechler, Reviewing estimates of the economic efficiency of disaster risk management: opportunities and limitations of using risk-based cost-benefit analysis, *Nat. Hazards* 81 (2016) 2121–2147, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-016-2170-y>.
- [20] *ISO-International Organization for Standardization, IEC/ISO 31010 Edition 1.0 2009-11 International Standard. Risk Management - Risk Assessment Techniques, IEC, Geneva, 2009.*
- [21] M. Tiepolo, A. Galligari, Urban expansion-flood damage nexus: evidence from the Dosso Region, Niger, *Land Use Pol.* 108 (2021) 105547, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2021.105547>.
- [22] D. Satterthwaite, The impact of urban development on risk in sub-Saharan Africa's cities with a focus on small and intermediate urban centres, *Int. J. Disaster Risk Reduc.* 26 (2017) 16–23, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2017.09.025>.
- [23] A. Jamshed, J. Birkmann, I.A. Rana, J.M. McMillan, The relevance of city size to the vulnerability of surrounding rural areas: an empirical study of flooding in Pakistan, *Int. J. Disaster Risk Reduc.* 48 (2020) 101601, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2020.101601>.
- [24] R.A. Atanga, The role of local community leaders in flood disaster risk management strategy making in Accra, *Int. J. Disaster Risk Reduc.* 43 (2020) 101358, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2019.101358>.
- [25] F.N. Buba, O.C. Ojinnaka, R.I. Ndukwu, G.I. Agbaje, Z.O. Orofin, Assessment of flood vulnerability in some communities in Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria, using participatory geographic information systems, *Int. J. Risk Reduct. Syst.* 55 (2021) 102111, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2021.102111>.
- [26] R. Šakic Trogljic, G.B. Wright, M.J. Duncan, M.J.C. van den Homberg, A.J. Adeloje, F.D. Mwale, J. Mwafuiriwa, Characterising local knowledge across the flood risk management circle: a case study of southern Malawi, *Sustainability* 11 (2019) 1681, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su11061681>.
- [27] M. Tiepolo, M. Bacci, S. Braccio, Multihazard risk assessment for planning with climate in the Dosso Region, Niger, *Clim.* 6 (3) (2018) 67, <https://doi.org/10.3390/cli6030067>.
- [28] *RN-République du Niger, ReNaLoc, Institut National de Statistique, Niamey, 2014.*
- [29] M. Tiepolo, A.S. Adamou, S. Braccio, E. Fiorillo, A. Galligari, G.L. Katiellou, G. Massazza, A. Tankari, V. Tarchiani, Method for pluvial flood risk assessment in rural settlements characterized by scant information availability, *MethodsX* 8 (2021) 101532, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mex.2021.101532>.
- [30] L. Descroix, G. Mahé, T. Lebel, G. Favreau, S. Galle, E. Gautier, J.C. Olivry, J. Albergel, O. Amogu, B. Cappelaeere, R. Dessouassi, A. Diedhiou, E. Le Breton, I. Mamadou, D. Sighomnou, Spatio-temporal variability of hydrological regimes around the boundaries between Sahelian and Sudanian areas of West Africa: a synthesis, *J. Hydrol* 375 (2009) 90–102, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2008.12.012>.
- [31] B. Hector, J.M. Cohard, L. Séguis, S. Galle, C. Peugeot, Hydrological functioning of western African inland valleys explored with a critical zone model, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.* 22 (2018) 5867–5888, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-22-5867-2018>.

- [32] ISO-International Organization for Standardization, Guide 73:2009 Risk Management Vocabulary, <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:guide:73:ed-1:v1:en>.
- [33] UNDRR-United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction, prevention web, disaster risk.
- [34] Global Water Partnership and World Meteorological Organization, Flood Mapping, WMO, Geneva (Switzerland), 2013.
- [35] C. Arrighi, M. Brugioni, F. Castelli, S. Franceschini, B. Mazzanti, Urban micro-scale flood risk estimation with parsimonious hydraulic modelling and census data, *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci.* 13 (2013) 1375–1391, <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-13-1375-2013>.
- [36] UNDRR, Prevention web, Direct & Indirect Losses, [www.preventionweb.net/understanding-disaster-risk/key-concepts/direct-indirect-losses](http://www.preventionweb.net/understanding-disaster-risk/key-concepts/direct-indirect-losses).
- [37] M. Ikirri, F. Faik, F.Z. Echogdali, I.M.H. Ribeiro Antunes, M. Abioui, K. Abdelrahman, M.S. Fnaï, A. Wanaim, M. Id-Belqas, S. Boutaleb, K.S. Sajinkumar, A. Quesada-Román, Flood hazard index application in arid catchments: case of the Taguenit wadi watershed, Lakhssas, Morocco, *Land* 11 (2022) 1178, <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11081178>.
- [38] M. Tiepolo, S. Braccio, Flood risk preliminary mapping in Niamey, Niger, in M. Tiepolo, E. Ponte, E. Cristofori (Eds.), *Planning to Cope with Tropical and Subtropical Climate Change*, Warsaw/Berlin, De Gruyter open, 201–220, doi: 10.1515/9783110480795-013.
- [39] E. Fiorillo, A. Crisci, H. Issa, G. Maracchi, M. Morabito, V. Tarchiani, Recent changes of floods and related impacts in Niger based on the ANADIA Niger flood database, *Clim.* 6 (3) (2018) 59, <https://doi.org/10.3390/cli6030059>.
- [40] J. Shiau, Return period of bivariate distributed extreme hydrological events, *Stoch. Environ. Res. Risk Assess.* 17 (2003) 42–57, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00477-003-0125-9>.
- [41] S. Galle, M. Grippa, C. Peugeot, I.B. Moussa, B. Cappelaere, J. Demarty, E. Mougin, G. Panthou, P. Adjomayi, E.K. Agbossou, A. Ba, M. Boucher, J.M. Cohard, M. Desclotres, L. Descroix, M. Diawara, M. Dossou, G. Favreau, F. Gangneron, M. Gosset, B. Hector, P. Hiernaux, B.A. Issoufou, L. Kergoat, E. Lawin, T. Lebel, A. Legchenko, M.M. Abdou, O. Malam-Issa, O. Mamadou, Y. Nazoumou, T. Pellarin, G. Quantin, B. Sambou, J. Seghier, L. Séguis, J.P. Vandervaere, T. Vischel, J.M. Vuillamoz, A. Zannou, S. Afouda, A. Alhassane, M. Arjounin, H. Barral, R. Biron, F. Cazenave, V. Chaffard, J.P. Chazarin, H. Guyard, A. Koné, I. Mainassara, A. Mamane, M. Oï, T. Ouani, N. Soumaguel, M. Wubda, E.E. Ago, I.C. Alle, A. Allies, F. Arpin-Pont, B. Awessou, C. Cassé, G. Charvet, C. Dardel, A. Depeyre, F.B. Diallo, T. Do, C. Patras, F. Frappart, L. Gal, T. Gascon, F. Gibon, I. Guiro, A. Ingatan, J. Kempf, D.O.V. Kotchoni, F.M.A. Lawson, C. Leauthaud, S. Louvet, E. Mason, C.C. Nguyen, B. Perrimond, C. Pierre, A. Richard, E. Robert, C. Román-Cascón, C. Velluet, C. Wilcox, AMMA-CATCH, a critical zone observatory in West Africa monitoring a region in transition, *Vadose Zone J.* 17 (2018) 180062, <https://doi.org/10.2136/vzj2018.03.0062>.
- [42] K.R. Douglas-Mankin, R. Srinivasan, J.G. Arnold, Soil and water assessment tool (SWAT) model: current developments and applications, *Transactions ASABE* 53 (5) (2010) 1423–1431.
- [43] A.M. Le, N.G. Pricope, Increasing the accuracy of runoff and streamflow simulation in the Nzoia basin, Western Kenya, through the incorporation of satellite-derived CHIRPS data, *Water* 9 (2017) 114, <https://doi.org/10.3390/w9020114>.
- [44] A.G. Mengistu, L.D. van Rensburg, Y.E. Woyessa, Techniques for calibration and validation of SWAT model in data scarce arid and semi-arid catchments in South Africa, *J. Hydrology Regional Stud.* 25 (2019) 100621, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrh.2019.100621>.
- [45] G. Blöschl, M. Sivapalan, H. Savenije, T. Wagener, A. Viglione, *Runoff Prediction in Ungauged Basins: Synthesis across Processes, Places and Scales*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2013, ISBN 978-1-107-02818-0.
- [46] A.R. Emam, M. Kappas, L.H.K. Nguyen, T. Renchin, Hydrological modeling and runoff 577 mitigation in an ungauged basin of Central Vietnam using SWAT model, *Hydrology* 4 (1) (2017) 16, <https://doi.org/10.3390/hydrology4010016579>.
- [47] K. Sittichok, A.G. Djibo, O. Seidou, H.M. Saley, H. Karambiri, J. Paturel, Statistical seasonal rainfall and streamflow forecasting for the Sirba watershed, West Africa, using sea-surface temperatures, *Hydrol. Sci. J.* 61 (5) (2016) 805–815, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrh.2015.05.001>.
- [48] B.N. Barasa, E.D.P. Perera, Analysis of land use change impacts on flash flood occurrences in the Sosiani river basin Kenya, *Int. J. River Basin Manag.* 16 (2) (2018) 179–188, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15715124.2017.1411922>.
- [49] G. Massazza, P. Tamagnone, C. Wilcox, E. Belcore, A. Pezzoli, T. Vischel, G. Panthou, M. Housseini, M. Tiepolo, V. Tarchiani, M. Rosso, Flood hazard scenarios of the Sirba River (Niger): evaluation of the hazard thresholds and flooding areas, *Water* 11 (2019) 1018, <https://doi.org/10.3390/w11051018>.
- [50] M. Balme, T. Vischel, T. Lebel, C. Peugeot, S. Galle, Assessing the water balance in the Sahel: impact of small scale rainfall variability on runoff, *J. Hydrol.* 331 (2006) 336–348, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2006.05.020>.
- [51] A. Dejen, S. Soni, Flash flood assessment using geospatial technology in Shewa Robit town, Ethiopia, *Modelling Earth Syst. Environ.* 7 (2020) 2599–2617, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40808-020-01016-0>.
- [52] S.H. Erena, H. Worku, F. De Paola, Flood hazard mapping using FLO-2D and local management strategies of Dire Dawa city, Ethiopia, *J. Hydrology Reg. Stu.* 19 (2018) 224–239, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrh.2018.09.005>.
- [53] N.W. Hudson, Soil and Water Conservation in Semi-arid Areas, vol. 57, FAO Soils Bulletin, Rome, 1987, ISBN 9251026068, p. 172.
- [54] D. Zaneidou, *Bordereaux des prix univertaires des principaux investissements réalisés par les projets FIDA au Niger-Capitalisation*, vols. 1–2, FIDA, Niamey, 2015.
- [55] R. Zougmore, S. Guillobez, N.F. Kambou, G. Son, Runoff and sorghum performance as affected by the spacing of stone lines in semiarid Sahelian zone, *Soil Tillage Res.* 56 (3–4) (2000) 175–183 doi: 10.1016/S0167-1987(00)00137-9.
- [56] P. Bayen, A.M. Lykke, A. Thiombiano, Success of three soil restoration techniques on seedling survival and growth of three plant species in the Sahel of Burkina Faso (West Africa), *J. For. Res.* 27 (2) (2016) 313–320, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11676-015-0159-0>.
- [57] J.H. Danumah, S.N. Odoi, B.M. Saley, J. Szarzynsky, M. Thiel, A. Kwaku, F.K. Kouame, L.Y. Akpa, Flood risk assessment and mapping in Abidjan district using multi-criteria analysis (AHP) model and geoinformation techniques, *Cote d'Ivoire*, *Geoenvironmental Disasters* 3 (10) (2016), <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40677-016-0044-y>.
- [58] R. De Risi, F. Jalayer, F. De Paola, S. Lindley, Delineation of flooding risk hotspots based on digital elevation model, calculated and historical flooding events: the case of Ouagadougou, *Stoch. Environ. Res. Risk Assess.* 32 (2018) 1545–1559, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00477-017-1450-8>.
- [59] I.U. Kajoje, I. Ishuaku, Urban flood vulnerability mapping in Lagos, Nigeria, *Int. J. Sci. Technol.* 3 (1) (2017) 244–236.
- [60] A. Galligari, F. Giulio Tonolo, G. Massazza, Floodplain settlement dynamics in the dallol at Guéchéme, Niger: a multidisciplinary approach, *Sustainability* 12 (14) (2020) 5632, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12145632>.
- [61] E. Belcore, M. Piras, A. Pezzoli, G. Massazza, M. Rosso, Raspberry PI 3 multispectral low-cost sensor for UAV based remote sensing. Case study in South-West Niger, *ISPRS Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spat. Inf. Sci.* (2019) 207–214, <https://doi.org/10.5194/isprs-archives-XLII-2-W13-207-2019>.
- [62] M. Tiepolo, M. Rosso, G. Massazza, E. Belcore, S. Issa, S. Braccio, Flood assessment for risk-informed planning along the Sirba river, Niger, *Sustainability* 11 (15) (2019) 4003, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su11154003>.
- [63] G. Buchenrieder, J. Brandl, A.R. Balgah, The perception of flood risk: a case study of Babessi in rural Cameroun, *Int. J. Disaster Risk Sci.* 12 (2021) 458–478, <https://doi.org/10.1017/s13753-021-00345-7>.
- [64] R.W. Archer, Urban redevelopment with landowner participation using the land pooling/readjustment technique, in: A.G.-O. Yeh, M.K. Ng (Eds.), *Planning for a Better Urban Living Environment in Asia*, Taylor and Francis, London, 2017, <https://doi.org/10.4323/9780429449611-14>.
- [65] K. Wolka, J. Mulder, B. Biazin, Effects of soil and water conservation techniques on crop yield, runoff and soil loss in Sub-Saharan Africa: a review, *Agric. Water Manag.* 207 (2018) 67–79, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2018.05.016>.
- [66] B. Weeser, J. Stenfer Kroese, S.R. Jacobs, N. Njue, Z. Zomboi, A. Rau, M.C. Rufino, L. Brewer, Citizen science pioneers in Kenya-A crowdsourced approach for hydrological monitoring, *Sci. Total Environ.* 631–632 (2018) 1590–1599, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2018.03.130>.
- [67] B. Sy, C. Frishknecht, H. Dao, Consuegra, G. Giuliani, Flood hazard assessment and the rôle of citizen science, *J. Flood Risk Manag.* 12 (2019) e12519, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfr3.12519>.
- [68] L. Petersson, M.C. ten Veldhuis, G. Verhoeven, Z. Kapelan, I. Maholi, H.C. Winsemius, Community mapping supports comprehensive urban flood modelling for flood risk management in a data-scarce environment, *Front. Earth Sci.* 8 (304) (2020), <https://doi.org/10.3389/feart.2020.00304>.
- [69] R. Obi, M.U. Nwachukwu, D.C. Okeke, U. Jiburum, Indigenous flood control and management knowledge and flood disaster risk reduction in Nigeria's coastal communities: an empirical analysis, *Int. J. Disaster Risk Reduc.* 55 (2021) 102079, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2021.102079>.
- [70] G.S. Ogato, A. Bantider, K. Abebe, D. Geneletti, Geographic information system (GIS)-based multicriteria analysis of flooding hazard and risk in Ambo town and its watershed, West Shoa zone, Oromia regional state, Ethiopia, *J. Hydrology Regional Stud.* 27 (2020) 100659, <https://doi.org/10.1016/>

- j.ejrh.2019.100659.
- [71] A. Osman, B.K. Nyarko, S. Mariwah, Vulnerability and risk levels of communities within Ankobra estuary of Ghana, *Int. J. Disaster Risk Reduc.* 19 (2016) 133–144 doi: 10.1016/j.ijdrr.2016.08.016.
- [72] E.C. van Berchum, M. van Ledden, J.S. Timmermans, J.H. Kwakkel, S.N. Jonkman, Rapid flood risk screening model for compound flood events in Beira, Mozambique, *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci.* 20 (2020) 2633–2646, <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-20-2633-2020>.
- [73] M. Wahba, H. Mahmoud, W. M. Elsadek, S. Kanae, H.S. Hassan, Alleviation approach for flash flood risk reduction in urban dwellings: a case study of fifth district, Egypt, *Urban Clim.* 42 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.uclim.2022.101130>.
- [74] L. Bruckmann, A. Amanejieu, M.O. Moffo, P. Ozer, Analyse géohistorique de l'évolution spatiotemporelle du risqué d'inondation et de sa gestion dans la zone urbaine de Douala (Cameroun), *Physio-Géo* 13 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.4000/physio-geo.8038>.
- [75] M.B. Adewara, A.O. Abiri, Assessment of flood risk in Ifo local government area of Ogun State, Afr. J. Land Pol. Geospatial Sci. 4 (2021) 4, <https://doi.org/10.48346/IMIST.PRSM/ajlp-gs.v4i4.19819>.
- [76] J.P. Bizimana, M. Schilling, Geo-information technology for infrastructure flood risk analysis in unplanned settlements: a case study of informal settlements flood risk in the Nyabugogo flood plain, Kigali city, Rwanda, in: P.S. Showalter, Y. Li (Eds.), *Geospatial Techniques in Urban Hazard and Disaster Analysis*, Springer, 2010, pp. 99–124, [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-90-481-2238-7\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-90-481-2238-7_6).
- [77] J.J.L. Neves, T.L. Sallick, A. Hasan, P. Pilessó, Flood risk assessment under population growth and urban land use change in Matola, Mozambique, *Afr. Geosci. Rev.* (2022) 101080/19376812.2022.076133.
- [78] J. Ntajal, B.I. Lamptey, L.B. Mahamadou, B.K. Nyarko, Flood disaster risk mapping in the lower Mono river basin in Togo, West Africa, *Int. J. Disaster Risk Reduc.* 23 (2017) 93–103, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2017.03.015>.
- [79] K. Komi, B.A. Amisigo, B. Diekkriiger, Integrated flood risk assessment of rural communities in the Oti river basin, West Africa, *Hydrology* 3 (2016) 42, <https://doi.org/10.3390/hydrology3040042>.
- [80] M.U. Parodi, A. Giardino, A. van Dongeren, S.G. Pearson, J.D. Bricker, A.J.H.M. Reniers, Uncertainties in coastal flood risk assessment in small island developing states, *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci.* 20 (2020) 2397–2414, <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-20-2397-2020>.
- [81] J. Lamond, O. Adekola, I. Adelekan, F. Ujoh, Information for adaptation and response to flooding, multi-stakeholder perspectives in Nigeria, *Clim. Past* 7 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.3390/cli7040046>.
- [82] J.R.S. Doorga, L. Magerl, P. Bunwaree, J. Zhao, S. Watkins, C.G. Staub, S.D.D.D. Rughooputh, T.S.M. Gunden, R. Lollchund, R. Boojhwaon, GIS-based multi-criteria modelling of flood risk susceptibility in Port Louis, Mauritius: towards resilient flood management, *Int. J. Disaster Risk Reduc.* 67 (2022) 102683, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2021.102683>.
- [83] B.K. Osei, I. Ahenkorah, A.E. Wusi, E.B. Fiadoru, Assessment of flood prone zones in the Tarkwa mining area of Ghana using a GIS-based approach, *Environ. Challenges* 3 (2021), 100028 10.016/j.envc.2021.100028.
- [84] E. Mavhura, T. Manyangadze, C. Mudavanhu, An assessment of riparian communities' preparedness to flood risk: the case of Mbire communities in Zimbabwe, *Geo J.* (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-020-10329-7>.
- [85] R. John, Flooding in informal settlements. Potentials and limits for household adaptation in Dar es Salaam city, Tanzania, *Am. J. Clim. Change* 9 (2020) 68–86, <https://doi.org/10.4236/ajcc.2020.92006>.
- [86] R.B. Munyai, H. Chikoore, A. Musyoki, J. Chakwizira, T.P. Muofhe, N.G. Xulu, T.C. Manyanya, Vulnerability and adaptation to flood hazards in rural settlements of Limpopo Province, South Africa, *Water* 13 (2021) 3490, <https://doi.org/10.3390/w13243490>.