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Hazards in Karst in the Staszów area in Poland

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The author describes karstic sink-holes in the eastern part of the Niecka Polaniecka mezoregion (in the Staszów region, Swietokrzyskie Voivodship, Poland). It has been found that the area occupied by the sink-holes is much larger in comparison with the area described by Walczowski almost 50 years ago. The sink-holes have diameters between several dozen centimeters to 300 meters and depths between several dozen centimeters to at least a dozen or so meters (Zielinski 2007). Observed changes in the area show that the sink-holes area continuously develops. For example, a few years ago a sink-holes of 3,6 meters diameter and 2,3 meter deep unexpectedly appeared in this area. There are many small lakes of karst origin. The lakes are of considerable depth. The town of Staszów shows sincere settlement damages occurring in building structures as well as in road structures (Mohr 2005), due to active processes.