

Geomorphic history - a complex, but crucial variable in flood disaster prediction and management

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During the last six years alone, Namibia (southwestern Africa) experienced three abnormal rainy seasons causing local, regional and even nationwide catastrophic effects and structural damage. The paper presents case studies from these rainy seasons, namely 1999/2000, early 2004, and 2005/2006. The focus is on the role of the long-term landscape history including past weathering, saprolite thickness and sedimentary fills, on catchment properties, drainage dynamics, response times and implications for sustainable flood management during such extreme events.