

GLOSSARY ACRONYMS

GLOSSARY

Definitions marked (IGH) are from the WMO/UNESCO International Glossary of Hydrology, though some have been simplified.

Catchment or River basin

The area drained by a river

Direct runoff

That part of the precipitation that flows directly to the river, without infiltrating into the soil.

Design flood

Flood hydrograph or instantaneous peak discharge adopted for the design of a hydraulic structure or river control. (IGH)

Evapotranspiration

Quantity of water transferred from the soil to the atmosphere by evaporation and plant transpiration. (IGH)

Flash flood

Flood of short duration with a relatively high peak discharge. (IGH)

Flood

Relatively high flow as measured by water level or discharge. (IGH)

Flooding (synonym inundation)

Overflowing by water of the normal confines of a stream. (IGH)

Hurricane

The name given to a tropical cyclone in the Caribbean.

Infiltration

Flow of water through the soil surface into the soil pores below.

Infiltration capacity

The maximum rate at which water can be absorbed by a given soil per unit area under given conditions. (IGH)

Interflow

Flow of water down slope through the upper layers of the soil towards the river at a rate much in excess of normal base flow seepage.

Return period

Average interval in years between successive occurrences of some event, such as a flood exceeding a certain level or discharge.

Storm surge

Elevation of sea or estuary level caused by the passage of a low pressure centre. (IGH)

Tropical Cyclone

A cyclone of tropical origin of small diameter (some hundreds of kilometres) with minimum surface pressure in some cases less than 900 hPa, very violent winds and torrential rain. (IGH)

Typhoon

The name given to a tropical cyclone in the North-West Pacific.

ACRONYMS

FEMA	United States Federal Emergency Management Administration
DHA	United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
KNMI	Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute
MOFFS	Management Overview of Flood Forecasting Systems
NWS	United States National Weather Service
NFIP	United States National Flood Insurance Programme
QPF	Quantitative Precipitation Forecast
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

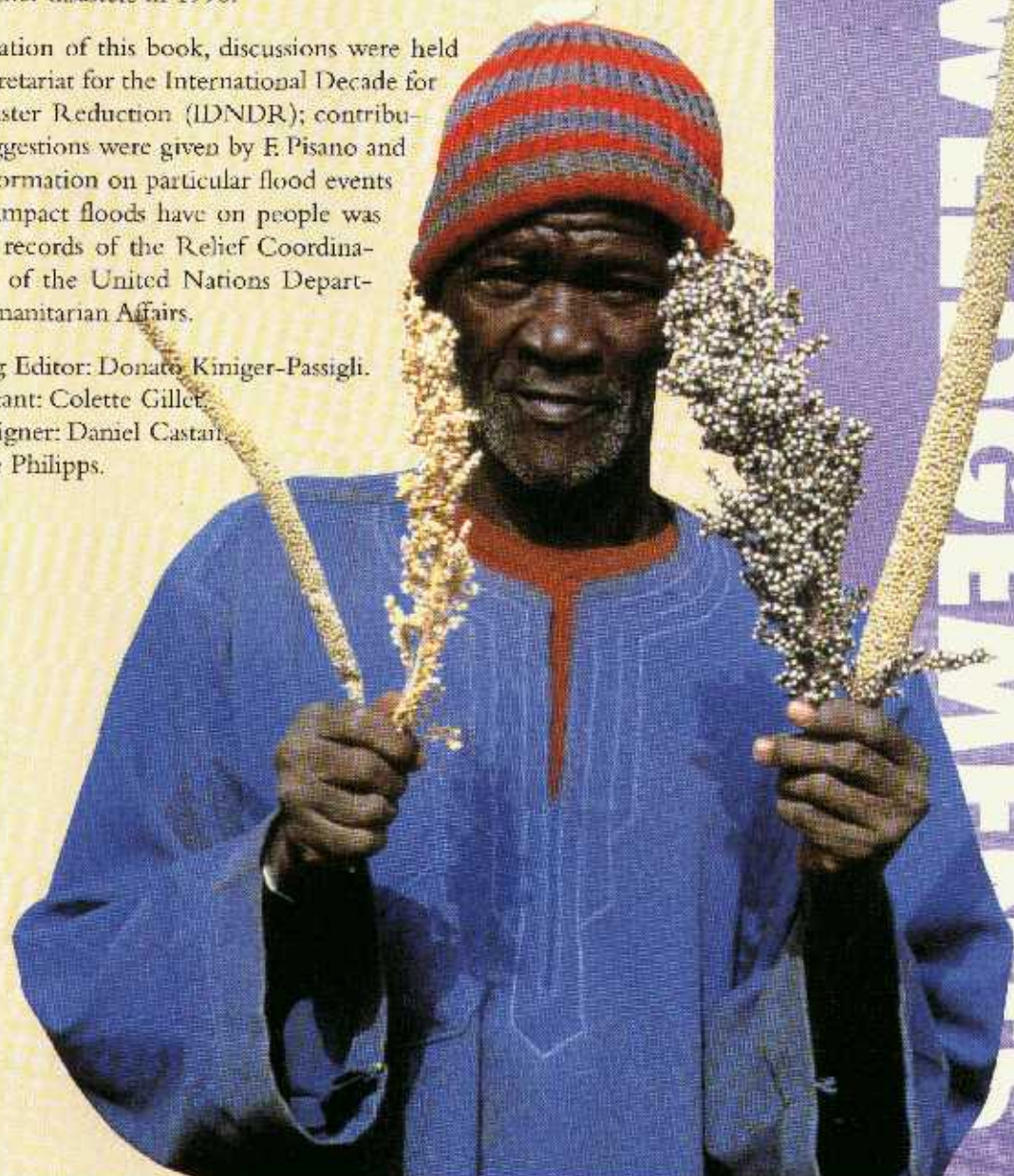
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is written by Dr. J. B. Müller, former Senior Scientific Officer in the Hydrology and Water Resources Department of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). During his career Dr Müller specialized in flood hydrology and while at WMO was responsible for demonstration projects for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) of the United Nations wishes to thank the WMO for assistance in obtaining materials for this book. The Institute of Hydrology in Wallingford United Kingdom assisted by providing access to the Institute library and discussions with Mr. R. J. Moore on flood forecasting and Mr. F. Law on dam safety. Professor K. Hofius of Bundesanstalt fuer Gewaesserkunde Koblenz Germany provided copies of reports on the Rhine floods of 1993/1994 and 1995. Mme. Claudine Misson of the Centre for Research in the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) Brussels, made available data on the occurrence of flood disasters from CRED's Emdat database and Mr. Wolfgang Kron of Munich Reinsurance provided statistics on floods and other disasters in 1996.

In preparation of this book, discussions were held with the Secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR); contributions and suggestions were given by E. Pisano and T. Jeggle. Information on particular flood events and on the impact floods have on people was drawn from records of the Relief Coordination Branch of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS