

Floods and their classification

Giorgi Bregvadze

e-mail: giorgi.bregvadze@tsu.ge

Department of Geography, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences,
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University,
3, I. Chavchavadze Avenue, 0179, Tbilisi, Georgia

Humans often build dwelling houses and engineering facilities at the coastal areas of rivers, lakes and seas, despite the fact that the threat of natural disasters, including floods, is aggravated at these territories. Under flood is understood the spontaneous inundation of earth surface by water and its overflow as a result of intensive precipitation and snow melting.

Classification of floods, the mechanism, conditions and hydrometeorological factors of their initiation predetermine spatial scale, intensity and duration of floods. Observed and anticipated climate change of these factors causes and will cause respective changes in the nature of floods, which may be assessed from quantitative viewpoint.

Economic development of coastal regions during the period of high waters significantly heightens the risk of inundation and material damage. The extent of damages caused by floods is depended on the number of reasons, such as the height of hazardous level of water and flood duration. Timely and precise forecasting of floods is of great importance for mitigation of undesirable results caused by this phenomenon.