Supplementary Material

A first collective validation of global fluvial flood models for major floods in Nigeria and Mozambique
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Contents
1. Description of DFO JPEG to GeoTIFF conversion ................................................................. 1
2. Individual Global Flood Model Details .................................................................................. 4
3. Comparison of DFO extents and new database’s extents ....................................................... 5
   3.1 Lokoja ................................................................................................................................. 5
   3.2 Idah ........................................................................................................................................ 6
   3.3 Chemba ............................................................................................................................... 7
Supplementary References .............................................................................................................. 7

1. Description of DFO JPEG to GeoTIFF conversion

The 2007 flood event vector data was not available from the Dartmouth Flood Observatory (DFO) website and instead the JPEG of the observed event (Figure 1) had to be georeferenced in QGIS (v2.18) for analysis. The QGIS ‘Raster Georeferencer’ tool was used to add latitudinal and longitudinal information to a raster image. As the DFO image in Figure 1 displays latitude and longitude on a simple grid, it was possible to input the exact coordinates of the four grid intersections in the Georeferencer tool. Coordinates were input as WGS84 as stated on the DFO event header (Figure 1).

The DFO inundation map in Figure 1 maps observed flooding in different shades of red depending on the recorded date of inundation. To allow for analysis, the range of colours representing flooded areas needed to be condensed into one common ‘wet’ type. To do this the ‘RGB to PCT’ tool in QGIS was used which creates a classified raster by grouping colours by similarity. Through trial and error, the optimal number of colour classes to use was found to be 150. This is compared with the original 25,000 colour classes present before. The various colour values of red were merged into one ‘flooded’ value using the GRASS GIS ‘r.reclass’ tool in QGIS. All remaining colours were redefined as zero.
An issue that was encountered when georeferencing the DFO image was the town names and markers which overlap onto the river and the observed flood extents. A zoomed in image of this issue can be seen in Figure 2. Determining whether the pixels behind the text in the map were flooded or not was found to be a highly subjective exercise. To prevent any user bias these regions were reclassified as ‘no data’ regions, thereby excluding these areas from further analysis.
Figure 2. Zoomed in example of the issue caused with town names and markers. The green circle indicates a particularly difficult pixel to identify as either ‘flooded’ or ‘not flooded’.
## 2. Individual Global Flood Model Details

This table was taken from the supplementary material of the Trigg et al global flood model intercomparison paper as it provides key model structure information that is useful to the reader of the validation study [2].

**Table 1. Model Details. Reproduced from [2]. © IOP Publishing Ltd. CC BY 3.0.**

| MODEL        | Climate Forcing                          | Land Surface Model | River Routing | Floodplain Frequency | Down-scaling | Output Data Resolution | Smallest River size or upstream catchment area considered |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| GLOFRIS      | EU-Watch reanalysis 1960-1999            | Hydrological model PCR-GLOBWB 0.5 degree | Kinematic 0.5 deg | 30 arc sec SRTM model | Flood volume Gumbel distribution for 1960 to 1999 | 30 arc sec ~900m | Strahler order >=6 only |
| CaMa-Flood   | JRA-25 Reanalysis 1979-2010 +GPCP rain gauge correction | MARSIRO=GW Energy and Water Balance (1 degree) | Inertia 0.25 deg | Sub-grid topo. Upscaled from 3 arc sec HydroSHEDS & SRTM | Water Level Gumbel distribution for 1979 to 2010 | Flood depth downscaled onto 18 arc sec DEM | 18 arc sec ~540m | Drainage area > 0.25 degree grid box (Approximately ~500 km$^2$) |
| ECMWF        | ERAInterim reanalysis 1979-2014           | HTESSEL, T255 (~80km) | 3 methods Kinematic, Inertia (x2) 0.25 deg | Sub-grid topo. Upscaled from 3 arc sec HydroSHEDS & SRTM | Flood depth GEV distribution for 1979 to 2014 | Depth downscaled onto 19 arc sec DEM | 18 arc sec ~540m | ~500 km$^2$ |
| JRC          | GloFAS, ERA-Interim reanalysis 1980-2013 | HTESSEL | Sub-grid topo. Upscaled from 3 arc sec HydroSHEDS & SRTM | Gumbel distribution for 1980 to 2013 | N/A | 30 arc sec ~900m | 5000 km$^2$ |
| SSBN         | Regional Flood Frequency Analysis (FFA) from global gauge data | N/A | Inertia 30 arc sec | HydroSHEDS & SRTM 30 arc sec | From FFA | Depth downscaled onto 3 arc sec DEM | 3 arc sec ~90m | ~50 km$^2$ |
| CIMA-UNEP    | Regional FFA from global gauge data + ECEarth bias corrected | Continuum Model to improve FFA Manning’s at multiple points | Reconditioned HydroSHEDS & SRTM | From FFA, GEV fitting | Native at 3 arc sec | 3 arc sec ~90m | ~1000 km$^2$ |
3. Comparison of DFO extents and new database’s extents

3.1 Lokoja

![Figure 3](image)

**Legend**
- Agreement
- DFO extent
- New database extent

**Figure 3.** Overlap of DFO observed extent and new database observed extent for Lokoja.
3.2 Idaho

Figure 4. Overlap of DFO observed extent and new database observed extent for Idaho.
3.3 Chemba

![Diagram showing overlap of DFO observed extent and new database observed extent for Chemba]

**Figure 5.** Overlap of DFO observed extent and new database observed extent for Chemba

**Supplementary References**

[1] Anderson E and Brakenridge G R 2007 DFO Event #2007-003 - Zambezi and Shire Rivers - Mozambique and Malawi - Rapid Response Inundation Map 1. (Dartmouth Flood Observatory)

[2] Trigg M A, Birch C E, Neal J C, Bates P D, Smith A, Sampson C C, Yamazaki D, Hirabayashi Y, Pappenberger F, Dutra E, Ward P J, Winsemius H C, Salamon P, Dottori F, Rudari R, Kappes M S, Simpson A L, Hadzilacos G and Fewtrell T J 2016 The credibility challenge for global fluvial flood risk analysis *Environ. Res. Lett.* **11** 10