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The 1993/94 flood
in the Rhine basin



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Introduction

Between December 1993 and January 1994, a number of **European** countries experienced damaging flood events, which had been **caused** by lasting abundant precipitation. In a zone stretching from South-Western **Ireland**, via Great Britain, Eastern France, Benelux, the Federal Republic of Germany into Poland, accumulated December precipitation was more than double the amount of the long-term averages for this month [1].

As a result **many rivers** in these countries overflowed their banks. Especially on Christmas and in particular on River Moselle and on the Middle and **Lower Rhine** River, a flood event with enormous **damages** attracted wide attention. In the Rhine River **basin** the event was **consisted** of two distinct flood peaks. It began **around** 19 December 1993 and ended in **mid-**January 1994. Other river basins in Germany saw only local floods or had just slightly increased discharges.

According to first estimates, **damages** on **Rivers** Rhine and Moselle exceeded the DM 1,000 million threshold, while other **European** countries also suffered **considerable damages**. The death toll of the whole flood counted ten. The Swiss insurance company **Schweizer Rück** [2] quotes a total **damage** figure of US\$900 million for Belgium, Germany, France, and the Netherlands. The German company **Münchener Rück** even published a **damage** figure of US\$ 2,000 million (including the UK) [3].

The following study is focussed on the German **Basin** of River Rhine.