

Geospatial Techniques for the Assessment and Analysis of Flood Risk along the Niger-Benue Basin in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

River flooding has become a widely distributed and devastating natural disaster that has caused significant damages both economically and socially. Recently, it displaced millions of people in Nigeria and submerged several square kilometres of landed area in general and farmlands in particular. Although, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) predicted the occurrence of the flood disaster and advised the relocation of residence from the floodplain to the high ground, but spatial information pertaining to the areal extent vulnerable to the hazard was not made available. This study attempted to assess the spatial impact of the October 2012 flooding of the Niger-Benue basin on the surrounding areas using the moderate resolution imaging Spectroradiometre (MODIS) data of NASA Terra satellite and developed a geospatial methodology for detecting and extracting the flood risk areas and the vulnerable population to flooding within the basin. The integration of remotely sensed data and other spatial and non-spatial data within the GIS platform was able to produce series of thematic maps which was used to generate a geospatial database for flood risk analysis and assessment. The result of the analysis effectively demonstrated the contribution of geospatial methods in mitigating and monitoring the effect of flooding along the Niger-Benue basin. It was therefore, suggested that government agencies and policy makers should adopt this powerful technique for reliable and well synthesized information which is a vital component of flood risk assessment and planning.

Keywords: Geospatial; MODIS; Buffer; Flood Disaster; Niger-Benue Basin

1. Introduction

Floods have become a common natural disaster which has claimed many lives, displaced millions and resulted to the destruction of properties and degradation of contiguous farmlands. It is the most frequent and devastating natural disaster in the world. It is widely distributed leading to significant economic and social damages than any other natural disaster ([1] DMSG, 2001). Flood can simply be defined as a flow of water above the carrying capacity of a channel ([2] NOAA, 1998). It was defined loosely ([3] Olajuyigbe *et al.*, 2012) as a large amount of water covering an area that was usually dry. [4] Nwafor (2006) defined flood as a natural hazard like drought and desertification which occurs as an extreme hydrological (runoff) event.

There are basically three major types of flood—river flood, coastal flood and urban flood. River flooding is a function of rainfall and runoff volumes within the river

valley. Coastal flooding is typically a function of storm surge, waves (driven by wind) and heavy rainfall. Urban flooding results when development is concentrated within or along stream floodplains or channels. In Nigeria, documented evidence ([5] Ologunorisa, 2004; [6] Folorunsho; Awosika, 2001) have shown that these basic flood types are the major and frequent flood disaster that have occurred in the country over the years. Among these, river flooding is the most enormous and destructive. Unlike coastal and urban flooding, river flooding is much more widespread with respect to its catchment area. For instance, the prominent rivers found in Nigeria are Niger and Benue and they flow through numerous large urban centres. River flooding occurs in the floodplains of the larger rivers, while sudden, short-lived flash floods are associated with rivers in the inland areas where heavy rainfall can change them into destructive torrents within a short period ([5] Ologunorisa, 2004).

However, the fundamental cause of river flooding is excess runoff induced by heavy rainfall. This runoff is

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often obstructed by anthropogenic factors which involve the concentration of developmental activities along the river natural flow path (river valley). River flooding is a function of man's interaction with the environment and consequently, this interaction has left man susceptible to flooding hazard which is an outcome of man's interactive activities with the environment involving designing and locating infrastructure, exploiting natural resources, concentrating of population etc ([7] Hualou, 2011). Empirical researches ([8] Okereke, 2007; [9] Kolawole *et al.*, 2011) have highlighted the basic consequences of flooding; these are loss of human lives, submerging of residences and streets, inflow to sewage, municipal pollution, and damage to properties, health hazards, cleanup cost, and disruption of services, traffic obstruction, aesthetic discolouring, economic loss and infrastructural damage. Numerous devastating river flood disaster in Nigeria have been reported by previous studies ([10] Adedeji *et al.*, 2012; [3] Olajuyigbe *et al.*, 2012; [9] Kolawole *et al.*, 2011).

Recently, a widespread devastating flood disaster hit the country cutting across major cities in about 14 states that borders the Niger-Benue River. The worst affected states are Adamawa, Taraba, Benue, Kogi and Anambra in the east-central part of the country. This flood incident has been characterised as the most devastating since the last 40 years. The flood submerged houses, severed transportation routes throughout the affected areas (**Figures 1 and 2**).

Overall, an estimated 1.3 million people were displaced and about 431 people lost their lives. In addition, over 1525 square kilometres of farmland were destroyed ([11] MISNA, 2012). Although, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) predicted the imminence of the flood disaster and advised the relocation of activities and residence from the floodplain to the upland, but spatial and synthesized information was not made available. Such information involves the detection of the areal extent along the Niger and Benue rivers that is at risk or vulnerable to flooding.

It is evident that planners and policy makers lack the required platform for producing such information. This is because, report ([12] NASA, 2012) shows that the numerous refugee camps which were setup in the presumed safe ground were equally overwhelmed by the flood. The substantive and sustainable approach to mitigate the effects of river flooding is to ensure that all areas that are vulnerable are identified for precautionary measures ([13] Ishaya *et al.*, 2009). In addition, systematic (spatial) information is also needed for post impact assessment and quick estimation of the extent of damage. To deal with this, it is pertinent to adopt a powerful framework with geo-visualization capability to analyse, model and visualise output for effective decision making. The geospatial



Figure 1. Submerged houses along Niger River in Lokoja.



Figure 2. Severed major transportation route (Lokoja-Abuja) in Lokoja left travelers stranded.

technology involving the integration of geographical information system (GIS) and remote sensing technique is design in such a way that multi-dimensional data can be entered, manipulated, checked, analysed and displayed as data referenced to the earth. The utilisation of remotely sensed data in GIS environment has proved to be the most resourceful approach for river flooding assessment and risk analysis ([14] Jayasselam, 2006; [13] Ishaya *et al.*, 2009; [15] Irimescu *et al.*, 2010). Therefore, the substantive objectives of this paper are to: assess the spatial impact of the October 2012 flooding of the Niger-Benue basin on the surrounding areas using the moderate resolution imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) data of NASA Terra satellite; and develop a geospatial methodology for detecting and extracting the flood risk areas and the vulnerable population to flooding within the basin.

2. The Study Location

Nigeria is located geographically in the West African

sub-region between latitude 4°9'N to 13°46'N and longitude 3°45'E to 16°54'E bordering the North Atlantic Ocean between Benin Republic and Cameroun. It covers a total area of about 923,770 km² and its total land mass is about 910,770 km² and water bodies of approximately 13,000 km², along the Gulf of Guinea, its coastline stretches to about 853 km. With respect to the topographical settings, Nigeria can be categorised into five major geographic regions: a low coastal zone along the gulf of guinea; hills and low plateaus north of the coastal zone; the Niger-Benue River valley; a broad stepped plateau stretching to the northern border that has an elevation of over 1200 metres above sea level and a mountainous zone along the eastern border (near Cameroun), which includes the country's highest point, Chappal Waddi (2419 metres above sea level) in Taraba State (**Figure 3**).

Three climatic types are experienced in the country, these are: arid in the north; tropical in the centre and equatorial in the south. Variations are governed by the interaction of moist southwest monsoon and dry north-east wind. Mean maximum temperature of 30°C to 32°C is experienced in the south and 33°C to 35°C is experienced in the north. High humidity is characterised from February to November in the south and from June to September in the north. Low humidity coincides with the dry season. Annual rainfall decreases northward, it ranges from about 2000 mm in the coastal zone (with an average of about 3550 mm in the Niger Delta) to 500 to 750 mm in the north. There are two principal water systems in Nigeria; these include the Niger-Benue basin and the Chad basin.

The Niger-Benue River constitutes the major surface water that drains almost all part of Nigeria (**Figure 3**). It is divided into three sections-the upper Niger (in the north-west); the lower Niger (in the south) and the Benue (in the north-east). The Benue basin which originated from the Mandara mountains in Cameroun is the major

tributary of the Niger River (it empties its water into the Niger at Lokoja where confluence is formed).

The major tributaries of the Benue River in Nigeria are Katsina-Ala, Donga, Taraba, Gongola and Pai. The upper Niger River originated from the Fouta Djallon Massif in Guinea at an altitude of about 800 metres and flows northeast, traversing the inland Delta in Mali down to the Niger Delta in the gulf of Guinea. At the Nigeria section of the Niger River, numerous rivers such as Zamfara, Gulbin Ka, Kaduna, Gurara, Gbaka, Kontagora and Swahi empty's their water into the Niger as it flows southward.

3. Data

The use of earth observation system (EOS) technology and GIS platform has become an integrated, well developed and reliable approach in disaster and risk management. This paper utilised the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometre (MODIS) terra satellite image acquired through remote sensing technique and instruments onboard the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) earth observing system, this can be downloaded from the NASA's website

(<http://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/data>). MODIS radiometer of the NASA's terra satellite scans the earth with 36 spectral bands extending from the visible to the thermal infrared wave lengths ([16] Running *et al.*, 1994). The first seven bands are designed basically for remote sensing to capture features on the earth surface at spatial resolutions of 250 metres for bands 1 and 2 and 500 metres for bands 3 to 7.

The MODIS instrument is operating on both terra and aqua spacecraft. It views the entire earth surface every one to two days with a swath width of 2330 km. Terra's orbit around the earth is timed so that it passes from north to south across the equator in the morning, while aqua passes south to north over the equator in the afternoon. However, because of its numerous advantages, MODIS satellite image has become a reliable and popular data for disaster assessment and management. It has been use widely for flood mapping, flood assessment, warning, vulnerability analysis and mitigation ([17] Brakenridge *et al.*, 2003; [18] Zheng *et al.*, 2008; [15] Irimescu *et al.*, 2010; [19] Islam *et al.*, 2009). The major disadvantages of MODIS data is related to the amount of cloud cover and the resolution of 250 metres. This paper used the level B visible bands 1 and 2 (250 metres resolution) for detecting flooded area along the Niger-Benue River in Nigeria.

Other data includes topographic and hydrographic maps which were obtain from the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASDRA) in Abuja, Nigeria. Administrative maps (containing such elements



Figure 3. Location of the study area showing the Niger-Benue basin.

as the national, state and local government area limits) and the 2006 population data disaggregated to the local government area (LGA) level were obtained from the National Population Commission (NPC) in Nigeria.

4. Methods and Instruments

The objectives of this paper are grouped into two—the assessment of the spatial impact of October 2012 flooding disaster on the affected areas and the detection of the potential flood risk zones along the Niger-Benue basin. Based on this, the methodology and analysis is approached from two perspectives.

MODIS time-series data was used to detect flooded surface along the Niger-Benue River by applying the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and Normalised Difference Water Index (NDWI). These techniques use the short-wave infrared (which is highly sensitive to moisture content in the soil and vegetation) to detect water surface and discriminate it from the vegetative surface. This paper utilised MODIS image for two different years, the first was acquired in October 2008 and it shows the actual river width and channel of the Niger-Benue (**Figure 4**) and the second was acquired in October 2012 when flood disaster hit the country (**Figure 5**).

The latter captured the flood water which over flow the Niger-Benue banks and submerged several square kilometres of landed areas and engulfed lakes and ponds. These images use a combination of visible and infrared light to distinguish between river surface and land surface. The water surface ranges in colour from electric blue to navy blue and lighter shades of blue indicate shallow depths or heavy loads of sediments. Vegetation reflects bright green and the pale of blue to green represent clouds.

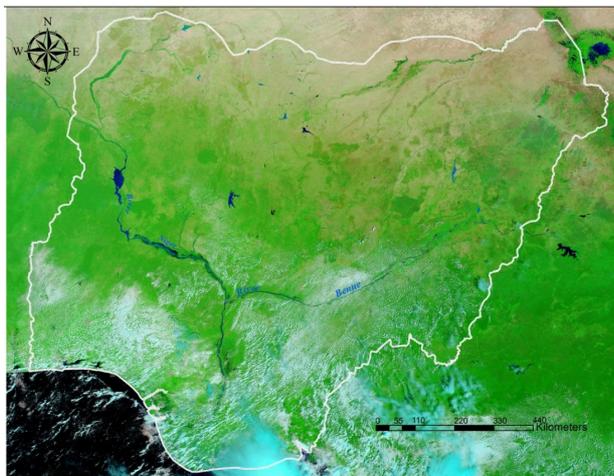


Figure 4. MODIS image of Nigeria (2008) showing the true width of the Niger-Benue River which is braided and characterised with isolated water bodies along its floodplain.

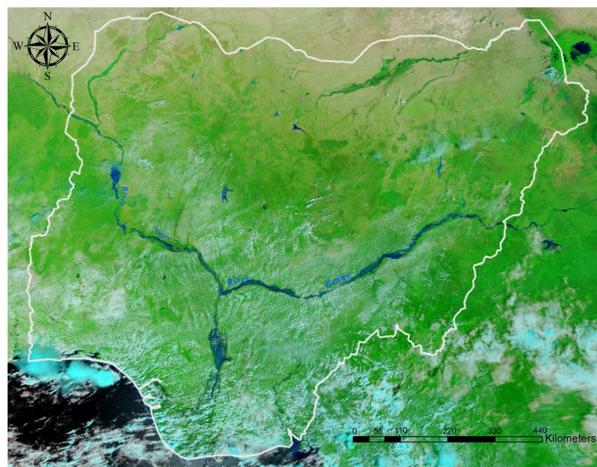


Figure 5. MODIS image of Nigeria (2012) showing the flooded area along the Niger-Benue River.

4.1. Extracting the Spatial Extent of the Flooded Areas along the Niger-Benue River

To extract and map the flood-affected areas, the time-series MODIS data were entered into the Integrated Land and Water Information System (ILWIS) version 3.3 for projection. The Albers equal area conic projection method was applied according to the nearest neighbor re-sampling routine, and then entered into the ArcGIS version 9.3 for on-screen digitalisation. The true width of the river channel was extracted from **Figure 4** as polygons (shape file) and in the same process, the flood mask along the river channel in **Figure 5** was digitalised as polygons within the ArcMap/ArcInfo platform. The reason for the extraction of these water features from MODIS data and convert to GIS format is to facilitate topological overlay of such spatial data on other spatial and non-spatial data.

Accordingly, the Niger-Benue River layer and the flood mask layer were both overlaid on the administrative map layer which is disaggregated to the LGA level (**Figure 6**). Spatial erase was carried out on the new map to erase the river feature that falls within the area of the flood polygon; this also removed the true width of the Niger-Benue River from the area affected by flood (**Figure 7**). This procedure was able to separate the flooded area from the actual river channel so as to reveal the spatial extent of the flood.

With the application of GIS spatial analysis, water covered area is synthesized. After the spatial erasing of the true river channel, the flooded area marked by red color is mapped out (**Figure 7**). The overall affected area along the river basin is 13,702 km². For the purpose of further analysis, the maximum width of the affected area (*i.e.* from side to side) is approximately 40 km, this occurred at the lower part of the basin and the minimum width is 1.5 km.

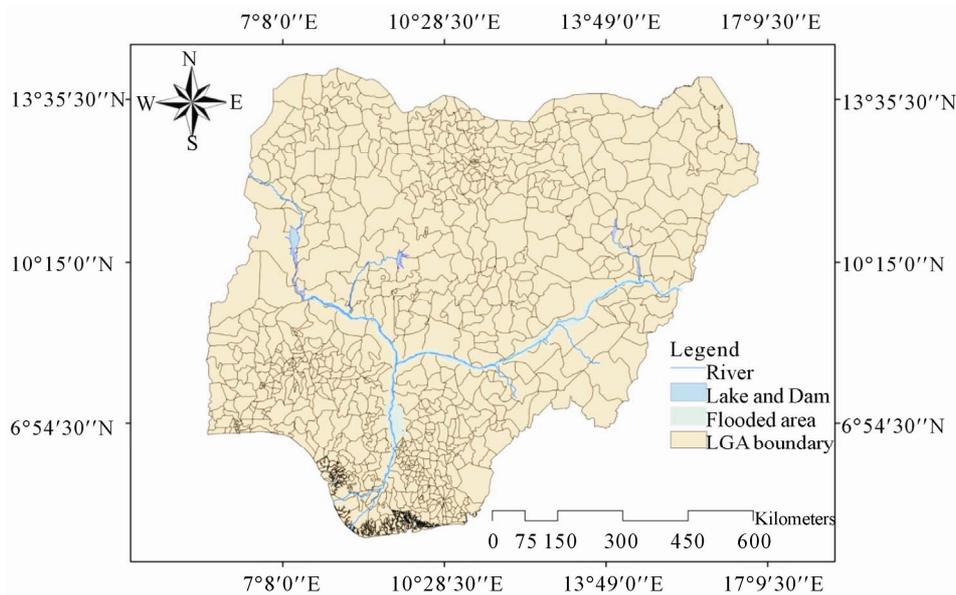


Figure 6. An overlay analysis of administrative element and spatial data extracted from MODIS data. The polygons represent the 774 LGAs of the country.

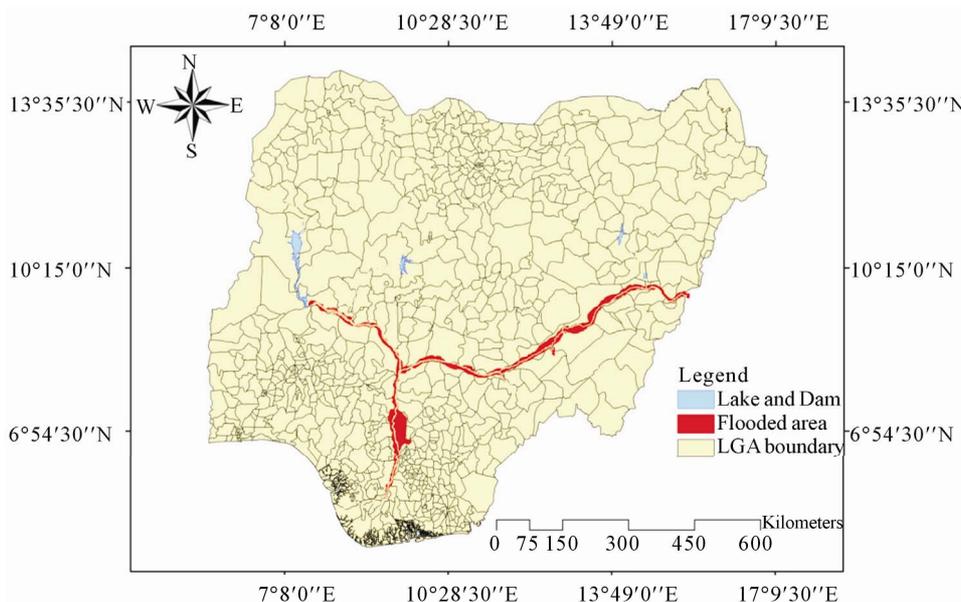


Figure 7. Spatial extent of the October 2012 flood disaster along the Niger-Benue River.

4.2. Flood Risk Analysis

Risk analysis involves the determination of the population exposed or susceptible to a particular hazard. In this paper, the elemental factors of flood exposure, such as the topographical, hydrologic structure and population distribution are taken into consideration. Combining with demographic data, the spatial distribution of population at risk to flood hazard is derived based on overlay analysis and buffer analysis ([18] Zheng *et al.*, 2008). These spatial data, retrieved in raster format were converted to vector within the ArcGIS platform. To integrate these

data from disparate sources, it was necessary to perform various analytical operations such as data layers coordinate systems projection. In order to estimate the potential population at risk for mitigation purposes and quick response, the Nigeria census data of 2006 was applied and mapped (**Figure 8**). The three vector layers to be integrated (elevation, hydrographic and population distribution layers) were projected to WGS 1984 web Mercator coordinate system. With respect to the population layer, the spatial (administrative elements) and non-spatial (population figures) data were integrated to create a database of the population spatial spread.

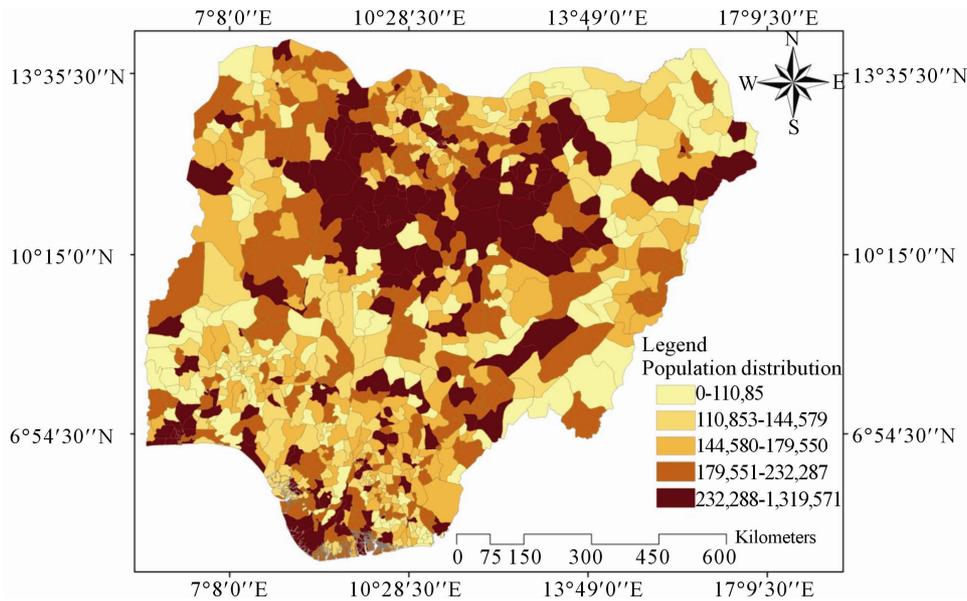


Figure 8. Population distribution of Nigeria by LGA.

The methodology developed in this study pertaining to flood risk mapping and analysis is based on various GIS operations on graphic and non-graphic data. This method is summarised in the methodological flow chart (Figure 9). The vectorised river basin (which includes the Niger-Benue and their major tributaries) was buffered and a 20-kilometre buffer distance was chosen on both side of the river channel (which is equivalent to 40 km across). Progressively, a 6-kilometre and 13-kilometre buffer distances on both side (equivalent to 12 km and 26 km across respectively) were identified within the 20-kilometre buffer. The 20-kilometre and 6-kilometre buffer distances were derived from the maximum and minimum width respectively of the flooded area detected in previous analysis. The 13-kilometre buffer distance is derived from the mid-point (average) between the maximum and minimum buffer distances. This multi-ring buffered layer was overlaid on the vectorised topographic layer within the ArcGIS platform (Figure 10).

To extract the potential flood risk areas, from the buffered river basin and topographic map, spatial intersect and erase overlay techniques were applied. Classification of the flood prone areas by magnitude was carried out based on elevation and distance from the rivers. This is because the impact of river flooding decreases with increasing distance from the river channel. Elevation on the other hand, is a paramount feature of river flooding determinant. It has been used to assess the spatial distribution of potentially endangered flood areas ([20] Taubenbock *et al.*, 2011; [13] Ishaya *et al.*, 2009). However, the classification was done in such a way that the 6 km buffered distance at both sides of the rivers that falls between 0 - 153 m elevation above sea level was classified

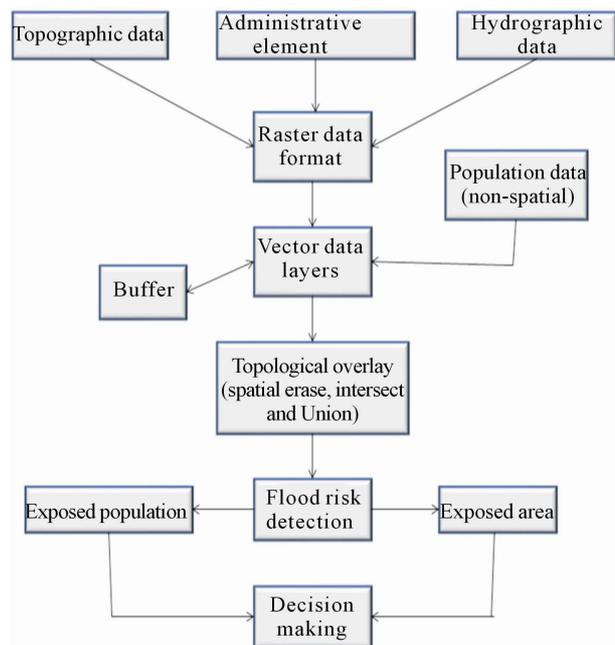


Figure 9. Methodological flow chart of flood risk analysis.

as high flood risk area. The medium flood risk area was derived from 13 km buffered distance from the rivers of the basin that falls between 0 - 153 m heights. The low risk area includes the 20 km buffered distance which falls between 154 - 306 m elevations (Figure 11).

The overlay operation (spatial intersect and erase) revealed the spatial distribution of flood risk areas along the Niger-Benue basin and this extracted component was further overlaid on the population distribution map of Nigeria to show the area and population that are vulnerable to flooding disaster. The spatial intersect overlay

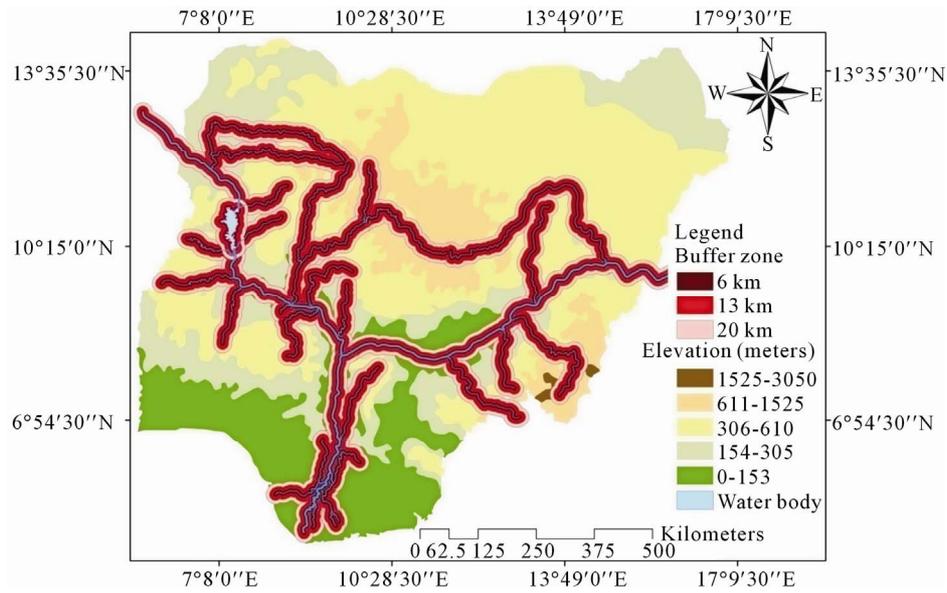


Figure 10. An overlay of the buffered river basin and the digitally generated elevation map.

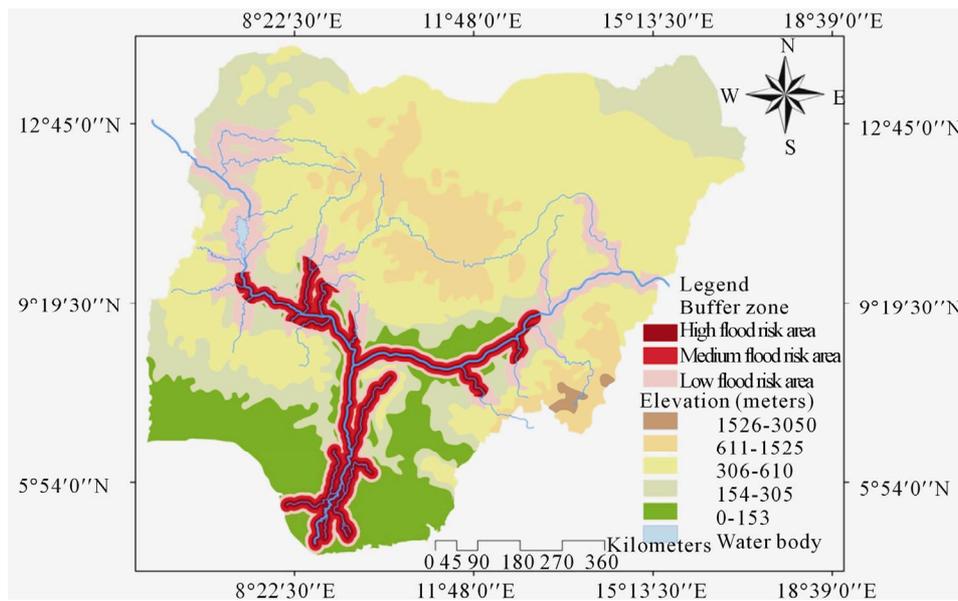


Figure 11. Flood risk detection of Nigeria along the Niger-Benue basin by magnitude of high medium and low risk areas.

method was able to copy the attributes of the population distribution layer and the flood risk magnitude layer (buffered distances) to create a new layer. Such attributes include the population figures by LGA, the size and administrative boundaries of each LGA that falls within the buffered distances. Spatial erase method was used to cut off the true river channel of the drainage basin from the high flood risk magnitude section. In the same way, the overlapping sections that lies between the high, medium and low flood risk magnitude were erased (this GIS operation includes cutting off the attribute and non-attribute data of these flood magnitude layers). The reason for applying this technique is to avoid overestimation; this is

because the buffered distances are independent of each other (*i.e.* each of the magnitudes was buffered directly from the river channel). Furthermore, the spatial union overlay method was applied; this is because it provides the platform to join the overall components (attribute and non-attribute data) of each layer into one layer. The output feature of this operation gives a quick, effortless and precise calculation of the spatial extent and population at risk by magnitude (**Figure 12**). In this paper, one weakness of the overlay method is that the overall population of a LGA that is affected is included, whether or not the LGA is entirely submerged. To check this weakness, the affected portions of each LGA (by magnitude) were cal-

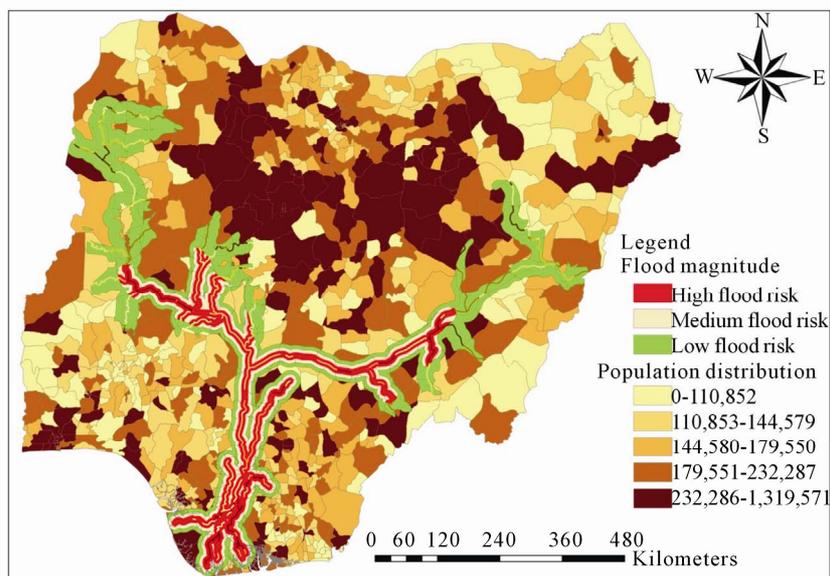


Figure 12. Spatial distribution of population at risk to flood disaster along the Niger-Benue basin. High, medium and low risk areas are represented by red, tourmaline green and leaf green colours respectively.

culated in percentage and the resulting values were used to update the attribute table. This was done so as to extract and estimate the proportion of the population corresponding to the affected portion of each LGA. Population spatial distribution which can be expressed as either the absolute number of people per mapping unit, or as population density has been used by researchers ([18] Zheng *et al.*, 2008; [20] Taubenbock *et al.*, 2011) to assess and estimate the number of people exposed to floor risk.

5. Results and Discussion

5.1. The Spatial Impact of the October 2012 Flood Hazard

In this study, the spatial impact is measured by the proportion of the submerged land territory. Overall, the result shows that 13,702 km² of landed area was submerged by the flood disaster (excluding the true water path) and the effect of the flood hazard is spread across 58 LGAs of 14 states (**Figure 13**). The result of the analysis indicates that Taraba state is the most affected with 3830 km² of its land territory submerged in 6 LGAs. This is followed by Kogi with 2787 km² of its land submerged in 9 LGAs and next to this is Niger with 1502 km² of its land submerged in 6 LGAs. Another group of high flood impact areas are Anambra, Adamawa, Benue and Nassarawa with submerged land territories of 1279 km², 1109 km², 1109 km² and 932 km² respectively. Others are Delta—323 km²; Edo—315 km²; Kwara—300 km²; Rivers—128 km²; Bayelsa—48 km²; Enugu—31 km² and Imo—9 km². **Table 1** and **Figure 14** reveal two outliers with respect to the proportion of submerged ar-

eas. The outliers are Anambra west and Onitsha south LGAs of Anambra state; these areas were submerged by 100 percent.

The water mask extracted from MODIS data which was integrated with other data provides the platform for the estimation of the spatial impact of river flood hazard. The result is a vital database for the assessment and identification of flood ravaged areas with respect to rapid response, provision of aids and for the purpose of further analysis.

5.2. Population and Area Vulnerable to Flood Disaster

The result of the previous analysis (with respect to the identified maximum and minimum width of the flooded area extracted from MODIS satellite image), assisted in the development of a flood risk analysis methodology which was applied to detect the areas and population exposed to the risk of flooding along the Niger-Benue basin. The result indicates that very high population concentrated areas exposed to high flood risk magnitude is found in Yenegoa (Bayelsa state), Aguata, Nnewi South, Ogbaru (Anambra state), etc. For example, in Yenegoa there are 302,782 people estimated to be exposed to high flood risk along the Niger-Benue basin with 630 km² of land susceptible to flooding. This is because it is located at the floodplain of the Niger delta and characterised with high population concentration. The summary of the flood risk analysis result is shown in **Table 2**.

The result of the analysis shows that the methodology of flood risk detection developed in this study is effective

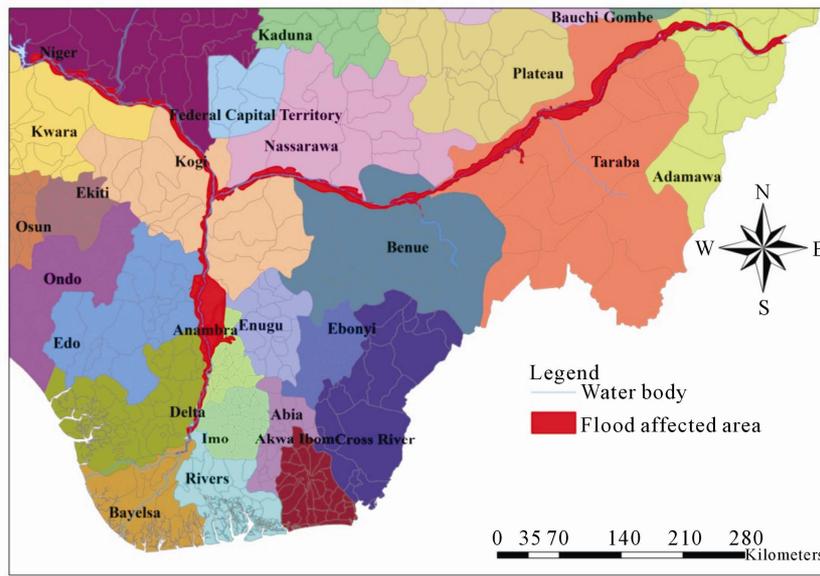


Figure 13. States affected by the October 2012 flood disaster.

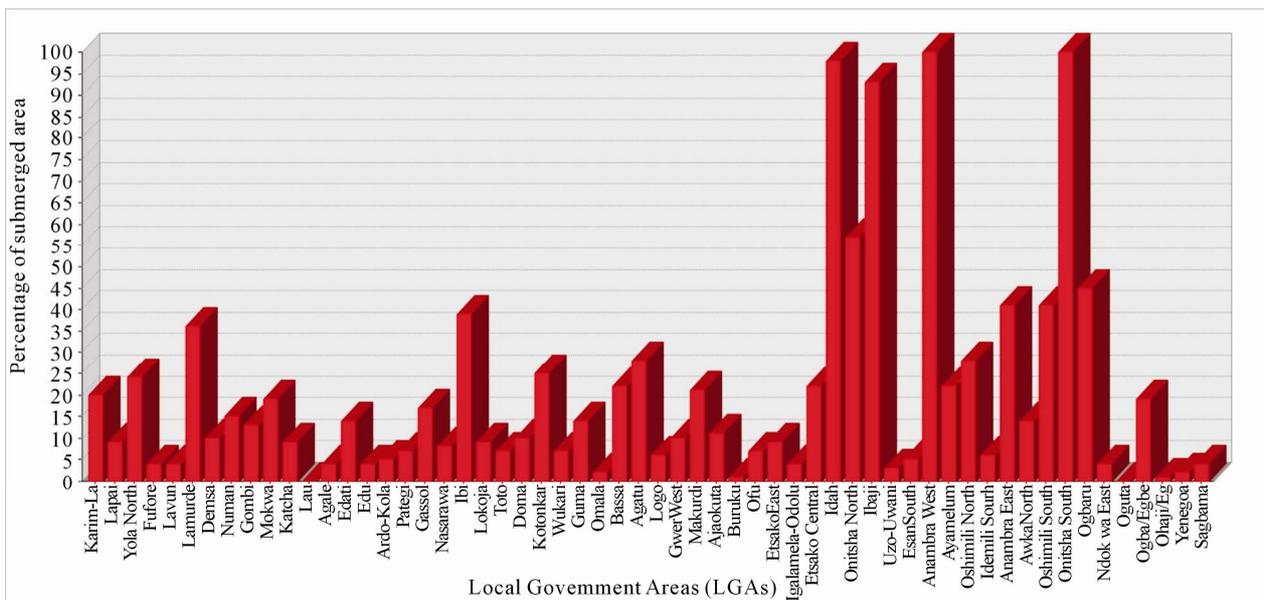


Figure 14. Percentage of the areas (LGA) submerged by flood.

and suitably applicable to identify the flood vulnerable areas and estimate the population at risk along the Niger-Benue basin. The GIS-assisted flood risk database generated can aid and facilitate spatial planning and quick response. It provides the platform for querying information about risk prone areas along the drainage basin (Figure 15). The classification of the flood vulnerable areas into magnitudes presents a wide range of options to explore with respect to planning and various levels of decision making processes. For example, the generated database has the potential to estimate the number of people living in flood prone areas and to identify flood risk disaster zones based on varying degree. It

can also assist disaster managers to select appropriate site for camping flood affected victims and give quick visual estimation of the potential high impact areas.

6. Conclusions and Policy Implication

Conventionally, flood emergency management, both public and private, usually responds to crises rather than being concerned with the fundamental issues of vulnerability and its management ([21] Shrubsole, 2001). The primary reason for this is the lack of information available to assess past and future flood events. The results of this study revealed the manifold and multi-dimensional

Table 1. Attributes of flood affected areas by states and LGAs.

No.	Area (km ²)	State	LGA	Flood section	Submerged area (km ²)	Submerged area (%)
1	6825	Taraba	Karim-La	Benue flood	1357	20
2	3004	Niger	Lapai	Upper Niger flood	277	9
3	138	Adamawa	Yola North	Benue flood	33	24
4	4222	Adamawa	Fufore	Benue flood	178	4
5	3908	Niger	Lavun	Upper Niger flood	146	4
6	1155	Adamawa	Lamurde	Benue flood	420	36
7	2265	Adamawa	Demsa	Benue flood	217	10
8	805	Adamawa	Numan	Benue flood	122	15
9	1073	Adamawa	Gombi	Benue flood	139	13
10	3942	Niger	Mokwa	Upper Niger flood	745	19
11	1713	Niger	Katcha	Upper Niger flood	146	9
12	1797	Taraba	Lau	Benue flood	3	0
13	1847	Niger	Agaie	Upper Niger flood	78	4
14	774	Niger	Edati	Upper Niger flood	110	14
15	2493	Kwara	Edu	Upper Niger flood	106	4
16	2388	Taraba	Ardo-Kola	Benue flood	120	5
17	2914	Kwara	Pategi	Upper Niger flood	194	7
18	5901	Taraba	Gassol	Benue flood	1005	17
19	5728	Nassarawa	Nassarawa	Benue flood	465	8
20	2810	Taraba	Ibi	Benue flood	1089	39
21	3360	Kogi	Lokoja	Upper Niger flood	305	9
22	2700	Nassarawa	Toto	Benue flood	200	7
23	2569	Nassarawa	Doma	Benue flood	267	10
24	1512	Kogi	Koton-karifi	Upper Niger flood	376	25
25	3747	Taraba	Wukari	Benue flood	256	7
26	2775	Benue	Guma	Benue flood	376	14
27	1728	Kogi	Omala	Benue flood	38	2
28	1896	Kogi	Bassa	Benue flood	408	22
29	1233	Benue	Agatu	Benue flood	348	28
30	1363	Benue	Logo	Benue flood	86	6
31	1227	Benue	Gwer West	Benue flood	118	10
32	825	Benue	Makurdi	Benue flood	172	21
33	1354	Kogi	Ajaokuta	Lower Niger flood	153	11
34	1565	Benue	Buruku	Benue flood	9	1
35	1632	Kogi	Ofu	Lower Niger flood	109	7
36	1213	Edo	Etsako East	Lower Niger flood	107	9

Continued

37	1965	Kogi	Igalamela-Odolu	Lower Niger flood	83	4
38	671	Edo	Etsako Central	Lower Niger flood	150	22
39	47	Kogi	Idah	Lower Niger flood	46	98
40	28	Anambra	Onitsha North	Lower Niger flood	16	57
41	1359	Kogi	Ibaji	Lower Niger flood	1269	93
42	887	Enugu	Uzo-Uwani	Lower Niger flood	31	3
43	1254	Edo	Esan South	Lower Niger flood	58	5
44	730	Anambra	Anambra West	Lower Niger flood	730	100
45	560	Anambra	Ayamelum	Lower Niger flood	125	22
46	491	Delta	Oshimili North	Lower Niger flood	137	28
47	109	Anambra	Idemili South	Lower Niger flood	6	6
48	373	Anambra	Anambra East	Lower Niger flood	154	41
49	383	Anambra	Awka North	Lower Niger flood	55	14
50	302	Delta	Oshimili South	Lower Niger flood	125	41
51	17	Anambra	Onitsha South	Lower Niger flood	17	100
52	391	Anambra	Ogbaru	Lower Niger flood	176	45
53	1683	Delta	Ndakwa East	Lower Niger flood	61	4
54	471	Imo	Oguta	Lower Niger flood	1	0
55	686	Rivers	Ogba/Egbe	Lower Niger flood	128	19
56	1129	Imo	Ohaji/Egbema	Lower Niger flood	8	1
57	733	Bayelsa	Yenegoa	Lower Niger flood	16	2
58	877	Bayelsa	Sagbama	Lower Niger flood	32	4

Percentage is in absolute value (value less than 0.5% is approximated to 0).

Table 2. Summary of the flood risk analysis by magnitude.

Magnitudes	Area at risk (km ²)	Population at risk
High	31,216	5,909,455
Medium	28,138	5,128,254
Low	110,099	12,072,950
Total	169,453	23,110,659

capabilities of integrating multi-scale and multi-temporal data for flood risk analysis and assessment. Rapid response MODIS data showed the vital aspect that remotely sensed spatial data can play in the assessment of river flood impact. It was able to extract the flooded areas along the Niger-Benue River and assess the spatial impact. Furthermore, it assisted in producing inundation map of the spatial distribution of the typical October 2012 flood affected areas. Remotely sensed MODIS image is basically the most independent, up-to-date and

near real time data source for flood assessment and mapping.

Meanwhile, the integration of demographic data, digitally derived elevation map and administrative elements were effective in determining the vulnerable population and area to flooding hazard along the Niger-Benue basin. This was achieved by applying numerous GIS techniques within the geo-processing ability of the ArcGIS software. The robust methodology developed in the study being evidence for the effectiveness of the results, this can be seen in the series of thematic maps generated, which constitute a geospatial database for informed decision making. The results of the analysis have direct application in the formation of policies on disaster management, flood prediction, risk assessment, ad-hoc coordination of rescue measures and provision of aids. It provides integrative and collaborative framework for stakeholders in flood hazard management, emergency response and other government and non-governmental organisations to make vital decisions and policies on flood mitigation.

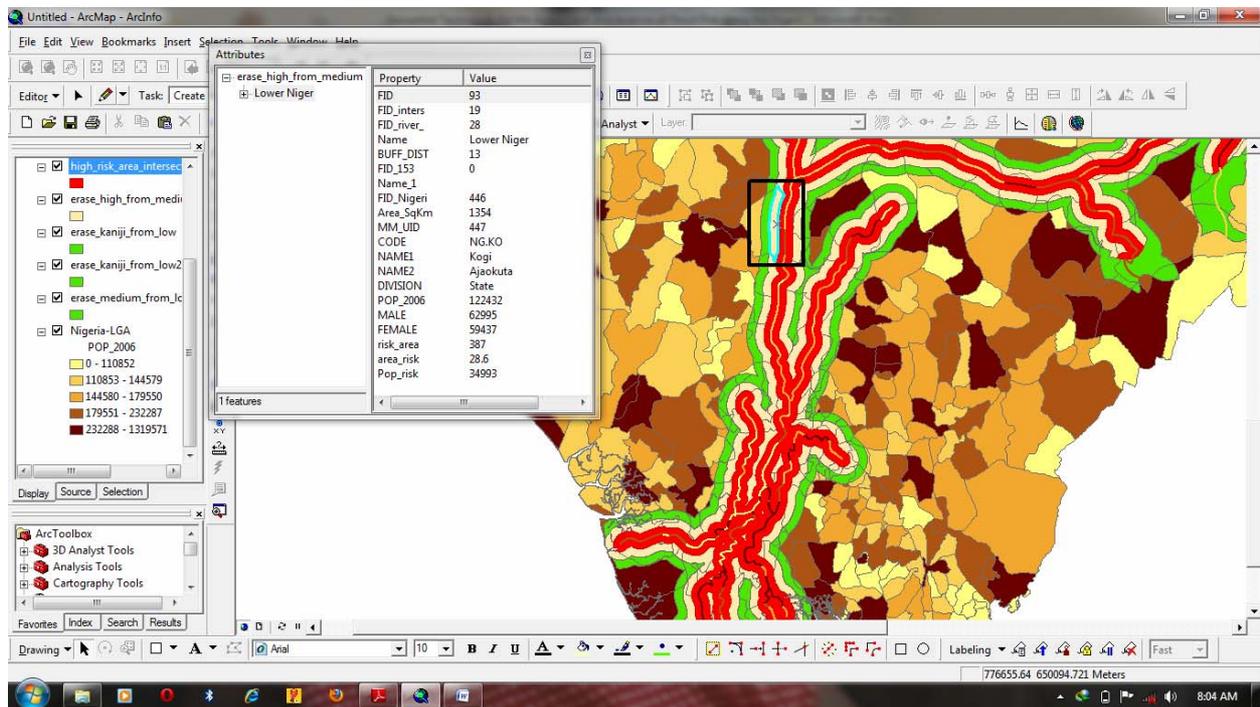


Figure 15. Query within the GIS platform. This query reveals that the selected medium flood risk section (marked by the rectangular feature) in Ajaokuta LGA of Kogi state has an estimated population of 34,993 and 387 km² of land exposed to the risk of flood hazard and this constitute 28.6% of the administrative territory of the LGA.

It is therefore suggested that there should be trans-disciplinary collaborations between geospatial scientists from federal and state research institutions and decision makers from National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Space Research and Development Agency (NASDRA), Niger-Benue River basin development commission, Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and other planning institutes in Nigeria. Furthermore, decision makers in Nigeria should consider the creation of a rapid mapping agency equipped with real-time satellite data for spatial planning, identification of disaster prone areas and coordination of plans and rescue measures. In conclusion, geospatial technology has opened up a new frontier for spatial planning and a diverse spectrum of capabilities in the area of flood risk analysis and assessment and must become an essential platform for decision making.

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