

# Preface

The importance of studies on storminess and their effects has enlarged during the last decades, as the frequency and magnitude of hydrological disasters are enormously increased in many places.

The book is an excellent overview of the storminess action on the Earth, with particular care on the erosivity and environmental changes in the Mediterranean area. As known, this area is one of the most hit zones of the world because of its climate and urban conditions. Flash floods, debris flows, landslides and erosion, but also droughts and deterioration of the environment, are constant menaces for the safety in the Mediterranean area.

Only recently, two main events hit the town of Genua (4 November 2011) and some villages of North-Eastern Sicily (22 November 2012), causing deaths and urban and agricultural devastation. As these recent events highlight, we are still unable to forecast these events to avoid or limit their damages. Thus, studies in this field are very important.

Observations and model development have been described in Part I, whereas erosivity has been analysed in Part II. Some aspects about the environmental changes are described in Part III, where specific sites-examples have been analysed. Thanks to long data information, Part IV describes the historical climatology events for some Italian zones, and proposes an attempt to forecast the storminess in Naples area.

All topics are relevant, and I wish that this book will earn the deserved interest inside the scientific and management/government communities, as it collects many data and examples, and shows useful methods of testing.

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