

Catastrophe Report

November 2007 - March 2008

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As in the preceding period, flooding continues to be the dominant driver of natural disasters, with major and persistent floods striking southern Africa and north-eastern South America particularly severely. Other countries affected by flooding over the period include Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the UAE, and the Philippines, with serious flooding in Madagascar caused by the landfall of Cyclones Fame and Ivan.

While the tropical storm scene was relatively quiet, notwithstanding the impact of Tropical Storm Olga in the Dominican Republic and Typhoon Gene in Fiji, winter storms were abundant. In Europe, Paula and Emma caused significant damage, while a succession of blizzards and ice storms in the US and Canada led to record snow falls and ice accumulations. The US also suffered its worst tornado outbreak for more than 20 years.

A cold wave also affected Afghanistan, but China suffered most of all from winter weather, with resulting losses here put as high as USD15 billion.

Tectonically, the period was quiet, although a magnitude six quake took more than 40 lives in Rwanda and the DRC. Building damage was also sustained as a result of earthquakes in Kyrgyzstan and, more unusually, in the UK.

This report was first published in *Catastrophic Risk Management* in Spring 2008.



F5 tornado damage - Greensburg, Kansas

16 May 2007

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