



Past events and disappeared settlements – a cartographic and archive based analysis

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Understanding of natural phenomenon is based on detailed analysis of past events. The social impact of those events is difficult to quantify but it still the one who reveals past perspectives and increase the objectivity of present perception and management of risk.

The Eastern Carpathian lowland is one of the most affected regions in matter of natural hazards. Nowadays and also in the past, landslides and floods have been an important agent in landform and landscape evolution. In analyzed region, during the last century we have identified a direct relation between natural hazards and settlement evolution, various examples of disappeared and displaced villages, defining the landscape. A higher vulnerability and the recurrence of each landslide and flood, had determined a collapse in settlement expansion or definitive abandonment by inhabitants.

In this paper we have identified and analyzed dozens of disappeared and displaced settlements between Prut and Siret Rivers. Landslides and floods impact in this region, had triggered frequent damages and several changes in river bed evolution in case of floods and slope stability and land degradation in case of mass movement processes. We have made an inventory based on old maps (Moldavian Topographic Map, 1:50,000, 1894-1896 ed.; Road Atlas 1:200,000 1897 ed., Shooting Directory Plans 1:20,000 1915-1940 ed.) and deep research in National Archives, overlapped with the present situation, in order to obtain a timing evolution and to forecast possible future events. Another important tool in investigation is represented by high resolution DAMs which confers an overview of all changes and damages caused to the landscape.