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The 2009 damaging hydrogeological event in Calabria: damage assessment using a simplified procedure

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Between November 2008 and March 2009, intense and prolonged rainfall affected the whole Calabria region (southern Italy). As a result, a huge number of landslides were triggered and several rivers experienced one or more flood peaks.
According to the place in which these phenomena developed, various kind of damage was recorded: road network and private houses was the most frequently hit elements, and two victims caused by a landslide increased the total amount of damage.
Data concerning damage caused by this event were gathered by mean of a systematic review of a daily regional newspaper. In this work, basing on a systematic damage-assessment approach, presented in previous works, we propose an appraisal of direct, indirect and intangible damage caused by this event on the whole Calabria region.
The results are compared to damage caused by similar events occurred in the past century.
The comparison aims to divide the analysed area into sectors characterised by similar response, in terms of damage, to intense and prolonged rainfall events. The results of this activity can be used for practical purposes, to define strategies for risk management, disaster mitigation and preparedness which take into account the different level of susceptibility to be damaged which characterises each sector of the region.