

Introduction

It is argued that global warming over the last century has affected the frequency and the scale of natural disasters. This climate change has impacted sea levels which have been rising about 3mm per year since 1993 and a total increase of 200mm in the global average sea level since 1870. Today, floods, landslides, tsunamis and coastal erosion are becoming more frequent and with greater intensity. Furthermore, there is a close interaction between these different natural disasters so that they tend to occur together or one can trigger another, increasing the potential damage and loss.

Natural disasters not only affect people and communities but also economies, governments and the international systems on which we all rely. Any response to floods and emergencies must be rapid and effective in order to restore the natural status of the impacted region, to contain the damage and lives can be restarted.





Source: UNISDR-USAID CRED

Natural disaster occurrence by disaster type		
Natural disaster	2002-2011	2012
Drought	16	19
Earthquake (incl.Tsunami)	29	26
Extreme Temperature	21	49
Flood	175	121
Mass movement: Dry	1	1
Mass movement: Wet	19	13
Storm	102	77
Volcano	6	1
Wild Fire	11	3
Total 2012	380	310

Data

- There were an average of 270 million people per year affected by natural disasters from 2002 to 2011.
- In the last 10 years, natural disasters have caused over \$910 Billion in damages, equivalent to 18% of global GDP.
- Asia is the most affected continent. In 2011 seven out of twelve deadliest disasters occurred in the continent.

To deal with flood and emergency situations, speed and efficiency of installation are vital. Maccaferri FlexMac[®] DT offers an efficient and effective response to these phenomena.

FlexMac® DT for Flood and Emergency Works

- Rapid and simple to deploy
- Flexible and light
- Simple connection between units
- Uses locally available fill material
- Easy transportation
- Re-usable

FlexMac® DT Emergency works

FlexMac[®] DT is used to rapidly construct large barriers to protect assets from rising flood water. Filled onsite using locally available materials, FlexMac[®]DT is up to 40 times faster to construct than sandbags. The versatility of FlexMac®DT enable it to be an effective solution for many emergency situations involving flooding. The main applications of FlexMac® DT are as follows:

- Floods
- · Emergency river works
- · Landslide and erosion control or emergency works
- Bank restoration
- Emergency dam problems
- · Coastal erosion
- · Protection of plants and storage facilities
- · Provision of basins for sediment storage
- · Ground failure control

Within these emergency situations, FlexMac® DT can also be used in sympathy with other Maccaferri solutions and products.

Reliability

Since 1893, with the installation of early gabions on the River Reno in Italy, Maccaferri has developed and enhanced its know-how in hydraulic and flood engineering.

The heritage of FlexMac[®]DT can be traced back to the

early 1900's, when the solution was used in place of sandbags.

Maccaferri solutions are used successfully every day around the world. Its products are made with high quality materials and comply with the most rigorous international standards.



Speed of Response

The versatility, simplicity and rapid deployment of Flexmac[®]DT make it ideal for emergency situations.

FlexMac[®] DT is a multicellular structure engineered from double twisted wire mesh which is reinforced with vertical steel bars and internally lined with geotextile. The geotextile lining enables FlexMac[®] DT to be filled with locally available materials such as sand, general fill or other materials. These can be easily placed within the structure using mechanical means or by workers. The simplicity of the structure as well as its lightness enables FlexMac[®]DT to be deployed easily and quickly assembled without the need of trained labour or special equipment. As it does not have a base panel (the fill material is placed on the geotextile skirt within the cells), FlexMac[®]DT can be easily emptied and removed for storage and reuse.

The global presence and manufacturing facilities of Maccaferri around the world support a rapid and cost effective response to an emergency. FlexMac[®]DT is delivered to site in wrapped bundles, ready for use.

4 Easy deployment and Easy filling





Manual and rapid transportation of the unit



FlexMac[®] DT unit ready for filling (5.0x1.0x1.0 m type)



Filling operation

Productivity FlexMac® DT vs Sandbags

The great advantage of FlexMac[®]DT is clear when compared with traditional sand bags. In 3 hours, 30 people can construct a 10m embankment using sand bags, compared with 5 people constructing a 60m embankment using FlexMac[®]DT units. To deploy and assemble a single unit requires only 2-3 people and 20-30 seconds.





Technical details

FlexMac[®]DT is a modular structure made from double twisted, heavily galvanised steel wire mesh panels, reinforced with vertical steel bars. The cells are connected together in the factory and then folded to reduce shipping volume and facilitate rapid deployment.

FlexMac[®] DT Characteristics

Mesh Type	8x10 Type mesh. 3.0 mm ø wire
Vertical reinforcing bars	4.9mm ø
Geotextile liner	250 g/m ²
Height (when deployed)	0.5 m - 1.4 m (varies per unit type)
Length (when deployed)	Multiples of 0.5 - 1.0 m lengths
Width	0.5 - 1.0 m (varies per unit type)

Each cell within the FlexMac[®]DT unit, is lined with a geotextile which is fastened to the double twist wire hexagonal mesh during the manufacturing process. Flexmac[®]DT units are supplied in bundles and wrapped in plastic for protection during freight and storage.

- Advantages of hexagonal double twist mesh
- 1. More flexible compared to welded mesh units
- 2. Minimal foundation preparation required prior to deployment & filling
- 3. Damage to wires does not compromise overall stability of system
- 4. Can accommodate differential settlements
- 5. Integral reinforcing bars, stiffen the structure
- 6. 250 g/m² geotextile provides robust containment of fill materials

Returning the Area

After temporary use, FlexMac®DT can be folded up and efficiently stored for another emergency.

FlexMac[®]DT can be a temporary or permanent solution. When used as a permanent solution after the emergency has passed, FlexMac[®]DT would be covered and re-vegetated in harmony with the environment.

Other Maccaferri solutions are also used as part of post-hazard rehabilitation measures:

- Erosion protection (TRM) blankets and mats
- MacTube[®] containment tubes
- Retaining structures
- Soil reinforcement
- Ground stabilisation



Project

GREAT FALLS, WASHINGTON DC, USA



Solution

Protection of ancient building

Hurricane Isabel caused increased water levels in the Potomac River, threatening buildings in the C&O National Park. FlexMac® DT was deployed with waterproof membranes to protect structures.



SAMOGGIA RIVER, ITALY

Solution Raising and repair of breached embankment.

Rising water breached the left embankment of the river. The embankment also experienced seepage through it. Embankment was raised and seepage contained and repaired.









GDANSK, POLAND

Solution River bank protection

Extreme rainfall caused washout of structures. FlexMac® DT was used to shore up defences, increase channel capacity and contain flows. The filled units were then covered with soil to form a reinforced embankment.



PESCIA ROMANA, ITALY

Solution River bank protection

The crest level of the river embankment was raised to increase the capacity of flow. The structure was covered in soil and revegetated to blend back into the environment.

Officine Maccaferri Group Profile

Founded in 1879, **Officine Maccaferri** soon became a technical reference in the design and development of solutions for erosion control and retaining structures.

Since then, through technological innovation, geographical expansion and focussed diversification, Maccaferri now offers solutions at a global level for a wide range of **civil and environmental engineering** applications.

Consultancy and Partnership

Maccaferri's motto is 'Engineering a Better Solution'; We do not merely supply products, but work in **partnership** with our clients, offering technical expertise to deliver versatile, cost effective and environmentally sound solutions. We aim to build mutually beneficial relationships with clients through the **quality of our service and solutions**.

Organisational Structure

Officine Maccaferri is at the heart of the Maccaferri Industrial Group. Its continued growth is based upon long-held values of innovation, integrity, excellent service and respect for the environment.

Maccaferri's vision is to become a leading international provider of advanced solutions to the civil engineering and construction market. Implementing a strategy of vertical integration, Maccaferri researches, manufactures, designs, supplies and constructs solutions within its target markets.

The capability of the business continues to expand due to a strategic plan to open new markets and grow existing ones; Maccaferri now offers advanced engineered solutions from **beach nourishment to reinforced soil structures** and from **rockfall mitigation to tunnelling systems**.

With approximately 3000 employees, over 30 manufacturing facilities and more than 65 companies around the world, Maccaferri can truly claim to have a global presence with local focus.

Maccaferri: Engineering a Better Solution







Bureau Veritas Certified Quality System Company with ACCREDIA's and UKAS's accreditation



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