

10

points that everyone should know about **FLASH FLOODS**

WHAT ARE FLASH FLOODS?

- Floods can provide environmental and social benefits but are also one of the most significant and widespread natural hazards
- In many drylands, flash floods are the most common flood types, affecting both rural and urban areas
- Flash floods happen very quickly (floodwaters rise in minutes to hours) and these unexpected and rapidly evolving events can cause widespread damage to property and infrastructure, and may lead to loss of life

10 points that everyone
should know about

Flash Floods



PRIFYSGOL
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Sheffield
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1

Many river landscapes are shaped
by flash floods, which involve
movements of mass

2

Flash flood processes
are influenced by
many different
factors

3

Flash flood
processes
operate
at many
different scales

4

Flash flood-prone
landscapes
are dynamic

5

Flash flood characteristics
and landscape dynamics
are often complex

6

Many landscapes are archives
of past flash floods

7

Global change is
influencing flash flood
characteristics

8

Human activities
are influencing
flash flood
characteristics
and landscape
dynamics

9

Many landscapes
are becoming more
susceptible to
hazardous flash floods

10

Successful flash flood
management needs
geomorphological knowledge

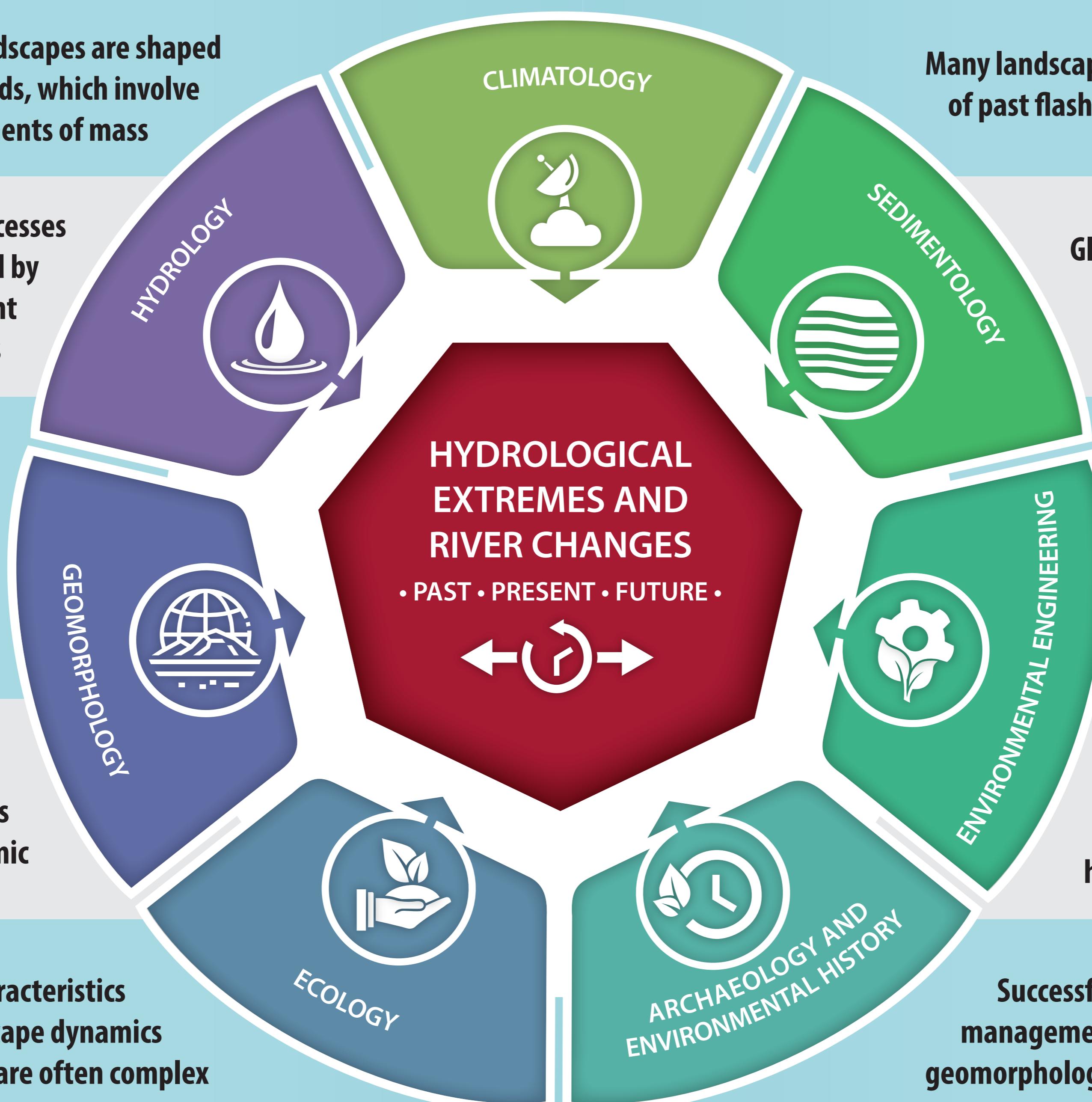


FIGURE 1: Many different disciplines across the earth, environmental and social sciences contribute to the study of hydrological extremes and river changes.

Many studies are carried out in interdisciplinary contexts, with specialists from many different disciplines working alongside each other in an attempt to answer common questions.

Increasingly, disciplinary specialists are working in wider teams that include local communities, health professionals, and environmental managers and policymakers to develop sustainable management practices.

HOW CAN WE BETTER MANAGE FLASH FLOODS?

- Management of flash floods requires an interdisciplinary approach (FIGURE 1)
- Environmental management, environmental policy and public discussions about flash floods could benefit from greater grounding in some of the key principles of flash flood science, as outlined in the 10 points

For more information about this
key global challenge, download
the '10 points' booklet:
wetlandsindrylands.net/downloads-2

