Flood Forecasting System for the Río Polochic

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT SUMMARY

After the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch, Guatemala needed a reliable and accurate flood forecasting system. Riverside Technology, inc. helped develop and install a modern flood forecasting system for Guatemala's Río Polochic.

LOCATION
Guatemala

PERIOD
2001 – 2005

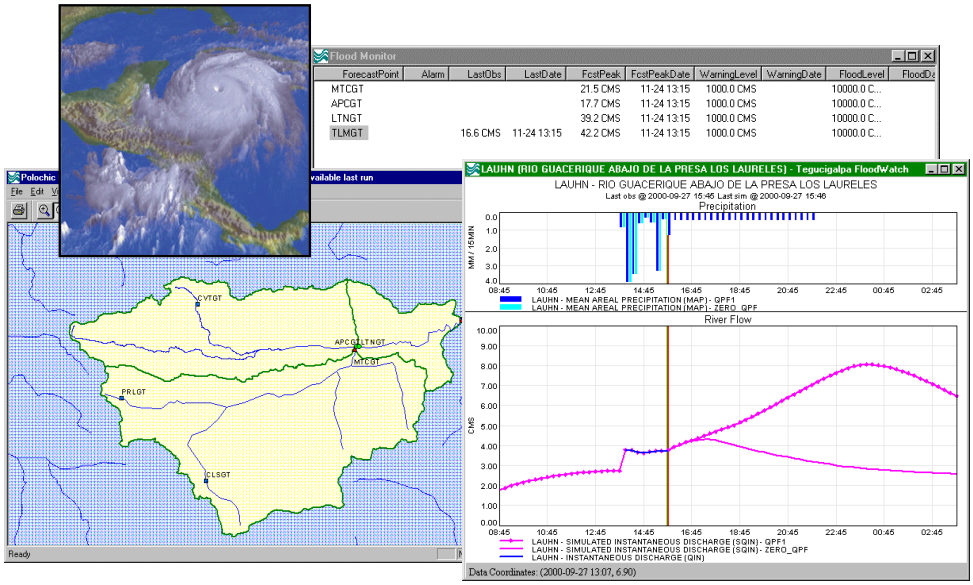
PROJECT DETAILS

Under funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Hurricane Mitch Reconstruction Program, Riverside Technology, inc. (Riverside) worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Northrop Grumman, and Guatemala's Instituto Nacional de Sismologia, Vulcanologia, Meteorologia, e Hidrologia (INSIVUMEH) to develop and implement a flood forecasting system for the Río Polochic in Guatemala.

The project included installation of a real-time data collection network and implementation of software for flood forecasting. Riverside was responsible for:

- Hydrometeorological data analysis
- Hydrologic model calibration
- A real-time data collection network design
- Forecast software implementation

The forecast system collects 15-minute rainfall and streamflow data from stations in and near the Río Polochic basin.



Riverside's RiverTrak® Forecaster software, installed at INSIVUMEH headquarters in Guatemala City, processes the data to produce forecasts for key points in the river basin. RiverTrak® Forecaster provides summaries of recent rainfall and streamflow observations as well as hydrograph displays of observed and forecasted streamflow. The system runs automatically, and allows the user to edit values and enter Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF), if they are available.

RELATED PROJECTS

Forecast System Development for Mexico

Panama Canal River Forecasting System

Regional Forecast System for the Río Lempa

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