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Studying the influence of mudflows on the geomorphological structure of rivers using by GIS technologies

Abushova Samira Nasib[*1], **Maharramova Aytan Rufat**[*2]

[1] *The Minister of Science and Education, İnstitute of Geography, Baku, Azerbaijan*
[2] *Baku State University, Baku, Azerbaijan*

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Abstract

This scientific article aims to investigate the influence of mudflows on the geomorphological structure of rivers through the utilization of Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies. By integrating field observations with GIS data, the study assesses the impact of mudflows on river channels, sediment dynamics, and overall river morphology. The results highlight the significant role of mudflows in shaping river systems and emphasize the importance of incorporating GIS technologies in the study and management of these dynamic environments.

1. Introduction

Rivers are intricate and dynamic natural systems that are shaped by various processes, one of which is mudflows. Mudflows, characterized by the rapid movement of water and sediment, have the potential to significantly alter the geomorphological structure of river channels. These events result from factors such as heavy rainfall, slope instability, and land cover conditions. Understanding the interactions between mudflows and river morphology is crucial for effective river management, hazard assessment, and the development of mitigation strategies. By studying the influence of mudflows on river systems, we can gain valuable insights into the dynamics of these environments.

The use of GIS (Geographic Information System) technologies has revolutionized the study of natural phenomena, including the impact of mudflows on the geomorphological structure of rivers. GIS technologies provide powerful tools for data acquisition, integration, visualization, and analysis, enabling researchers to gain comprehensive insights into the complex interactions between mudflows and river systems. In the context of studying the influence of mudflows on river geomorphology, GIS technologies offer several key advantages and methodologies that enhance our understanding of this dynamic process.

Firstly, GIS technologies enable the collection and integration of various geospatial data sets essential for studying the impact of mudflows on river morphology. These data sets may include topographic maps, aerial imagery, satellite images, LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data, bathymetric surveys, and hydrological data. By combining these data sets within a GIS framework, researchers can create detailed and accurate representations of the study area, providing a solid foundation for further analysis.

One important aspect of studying the impact of mudflows on river geomorphology using GIS is the analysis of channel morphology changes. GIS allows researchers to compare pre- and post-mudflow channel conditions by utilizing high-resolution topographic data. By employing techniques such as digital elevation models (DEMs), researchers can assess changes in channel width, depth, cross-sectional area, and planform geometry. These spatial analyses provide quantitative data on the alterations caused by mudflows, aiding in the characterization of channel response and understanding the processes of channel widening, deepening, and avulsion.

The primary objective of this study is to comprehensively investigate the influence of mudflows on the geomorphological structure of rivers by utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies. We aim to examine the changes occurring in channel

* **Corresponding Author**

*(samira.abushova88@gmail.com) ORCID ID 0000-0002-2567-8876
(meherremova.ayten@inbox.ru) ORCID ID xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx

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morphology, sediment transport patterns, and river hydraulics resulting from mudflow events. By doing so, we seek to gain insights into the long-term effects of mudflows on river systems, including their ecological implications and potential risks to human activities and infrastructure.

2. Method

To address the research questions and achieve the objectives, this study employs a comprehensive research methodology comprising field observations, data collection, and GIS analysis. Field observations and sampling activities are conducted in areas prone to mudflows to gather detailed information on channel morphology and sediment characteristics. These activities include surveying cross-sections of river channels, measuring sediment grain sizes, and recording channel roughness.

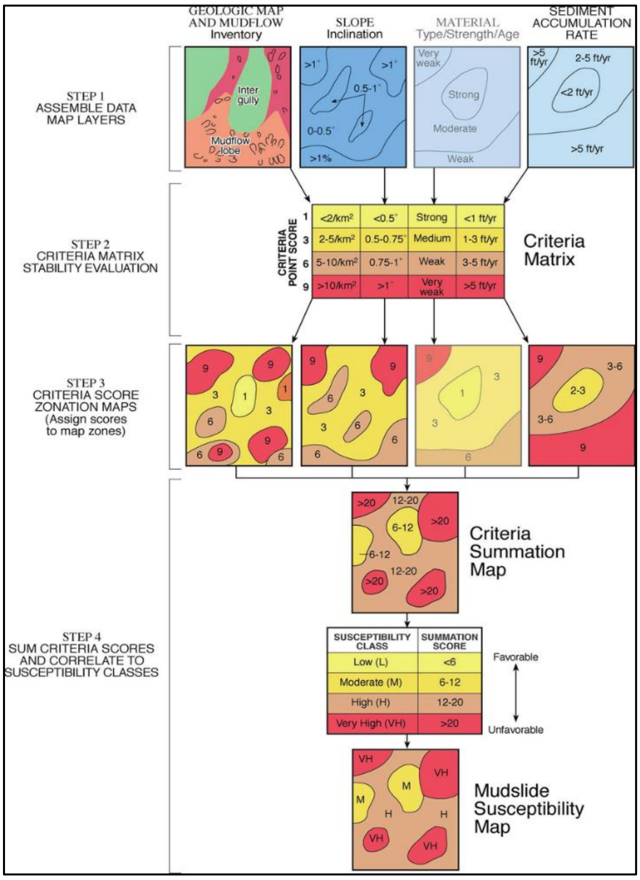

Figure 1. Analysing geomorological effect of mudflow by GIS

GIS data acquisition is a crucial component of the methodology, involving the collection of topographic, hydrological, and geological data for the study area. This includes obtaining high-resolution digital elevation models (DEMs), river network data, land cover information, and geological maps. These datasets serve as essential inputs for subsequent analysis and modeling.

The field and GIS data are integrated and analyzed within a GIS environment to assess the influence of mudflows on the geomorphological structure of rivers. Various GIS techniques are employed, such as spatial analysis, data interpolation, and hydrodynamic modeling. These methods facilitate the examination of channel changes, sediment transport patterns, and hydraulic impacts resulting from mudflows (Figure 1).

The analysis of the collected data and GIS-derived outputs provides valuable insights into the influence of mudflows on river systems. The results contribute to a better understanding of the complex interactions between mudflows and river geomorphology, aiding in the development of effective river management strategies and hazard mitigation measures.

Furthermore, GIS technologies facilitate the study of sediment transport patterns associated with mudflows. By integrating flow velocity data, sediment concentration measurements, and hydraulic modeling within a GIS environment, researchers can simulate and analyze the movement and deposition of sediment during mudflow events. This analysis helps identify sediment deposition areas, erosion hotspots, and patterns of sediment transport along the river course. GIS also allows for the visualization of sediment dynamics through thematic maps, contouring, and flow path analysis, providing a comprehensive understanding of the spatial distribution of sediment deposits and erosion zones.

Another key aspect of studying the impact of mudflows on river geomorphology using GIS is the assessment of river hydraulics. GIS technologies enable the integration of hydraulic models with spatial data, allowing for the simulation of flow characteristics, water velocities, and water depths under different scenarios. By incorporating mudflow-induced changes, such as alterations in channel roughness or increased flow resistance due to sediment deposition, researchers can evaluate the impacts on flow regimes and hydraulic conditions. This analysis helps in understanding the potential for increased flood risk, changes in water levels, and the effects on riverine ecosystems.

In addition to studying immediate impacts, GIS technologies also facilitate the analysis of long-term effects of mudflows on river systems. By integrating historical data, long-term monitoring data, and paleo-environmental records, researchers can examine the evolutionary changes in river morphology and the response of river systems to multiple mudflow events over time. GIS allows for the creation of time-series analyses, trend mapping, and change detection techniques, enabling the identification of long-term trends, patterns, and thresholds in river system response to mudflows.

Overall, GIS technologies offer a comprehensive and powerful approach to studying the impact of mudflows on the geomorphological structure of rivers. They provide the means to acquire, integrate, visualize, and analyze geospatial data, enabling researchers to examine changes in channel morphology, sediment dynamics, river hydraulics, and long-term effects on river systems. By employing GIS technologies, scientists and practitioners can gain a better understanding of the complex interactions between mudflows and river geomorphology, contributing to effective river management strategies, hazard assessment, and the preservation of riverine ecosystems.

2.1. Impact on River Hydraulics

Mudflows have a significant impact on river hydraulics, altering flow regimes and water velocities within the river system. The presence of mudflow deposits can modify the flow path, channel roughness, and cross-sectional shape, ultimately affecting the hydraulic conditions of the river.

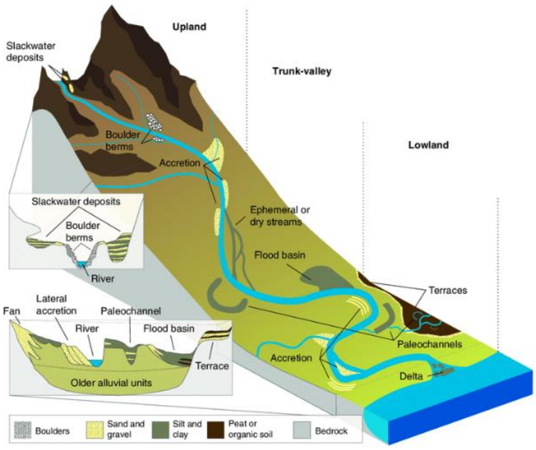

Figure 2. Simulation

The accumulation of mudflow sediments in the channel can impede flow, creating obstacles that cause flow diversions and changes in the velocity distribution. These sediment deposits can act as barriers, influencing the hydraulic capacity of the river channel and leading to increased water levels during flood events. The altered hydraulic conditions resulting from mudflows can have significant implications for flood risk management, river engineering, and the maintenance of navigation channels.

Additionally, the changes in hydraulic conditions induced by mudflows can have ecological consequences. Altered flow patterns may affect the distribution of aquatic habitats, the availability of food resources, and the movement of sediment-dependent species. These impacts highlight the intricate relationships between mudflows, river hydraulics, and riverine ecosystems.

2.2. Methods of data analysis for mudflow prevention using GIS technologies

Mudflows are natural hazards that can cause significant damage to human settlements, infrastructure, and the environment. To effectively prevent and mitigate mudflow risks, it is crucial to employ advanced technologies such as GIS (Geographic Information System). GIS technologies offer powerful tools for data analysis, visualization, and decision-making, enabling researchers and practitioners to assess potential mudflow hazards, identify vulnerable areas, and design effective prevention strategies. In the context of mudflow prevention, several key methods of data analysis using GIS technologies can be employed.

2.3. Terrain Analysis

Terrain analysis is a fundamental method for mudflow prevention using GIS. It involves the analysis of topographic data to identify areas susceptible to mudflow initiation and pathways of potential flow. GIS can process high-resolution digital elevation models (DEMs) to extract relevant terrain parameters such as slope, aspect, curvature, and flow accumulation. By applying slope and flow accumulation thresholds, GIS can delineate areas with high potential for mudflow initiation and route the flow paths through the terrain. This analysis helps identify critical zones where preventive measures can be implemented, such as the construction of debris basins, retention ponds, or channel diversions.

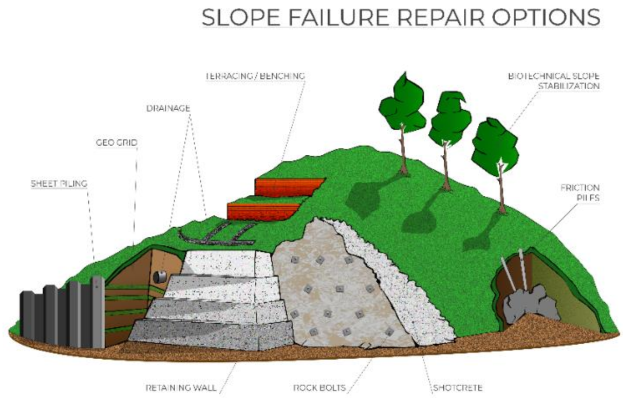

Figure 3. Simulation

2.4. Hydrological Analysis

Hydrological analysis using GIS allows for the assessment of surface water runoff and the estimation of flow volumes during rainfall events, which can trigger mudflows. GIS can incorporate rainfall data, land cover information, and digital hydrological models to simulate the runoff generation and flow paths. By analyzing the hydrological connectivity of the landscape, GIS can identify areas prone to high runoff accumulation, which increases the likelihood of mudflow occurrence. This analysis aids in the identification of potential areas for the implementation of hydrological measures, such as the installation of drainage systems, erosion control structures, or vegetative buffers.

2.5. Hazard Zoning and Risk Assessment

GIS technologies enable the creation of hazard zoning maps and risk assessment models to prioritize areas for mudflow prevention measures. By integrating multiple datasets, such as topography, hydrology, soil characteristics, land use, and infrastructure vulnerability, GIS can assign hazard levels and risk scores to different zones. This analysis helps identify areas with high susceptibility to mudflows and their potential impacts on critical infrastructure, human settlements, and environmentally sensitive areas. The outputs can be used to inform land-use planning, infrastructure development, and emergency response strategies.

2.6. Spatial analysis of historical events

GIS can facilitate the spatial analysis of historical mudflow events to identify patterns, trends, and hotspots. By incorporating historical data on mudflow occurrence, GIS can analyze the spatial distribution of past events, their frequencies, and their relationships with terrain and hydrological variables. This analysis helps in understanding the spatial-temporal patterns of mudflows, identifying areas prone to recurring events, and assessing the effectiveness of previous prevention measures. The findings can inform targeted prevention strategies and the allocation of resources for high-risk areas.

2.7. Modeling and scenario analysis

GIS technologies enable the development of mudflow prediction and scenario modeling, which aid in understanding the potential impacts of different factors and interventions. GIS can integrate various data inputs, such as precipitation data, soil properties, vegetation cover, and land-use scenarios, into predictive models. These models can simulate mudflow initiation, propagation, and deposition patterns under different scenarios, such as varying rainfall intensities, land-use changes, or the implementation of preventive measures. This analysis helps in evaluating the effectiveness of different prevention strategies and optimizing resource allocation for maximum risk reduction.

2.8. Decision Support Systems

GIS can be utilized to develop decision support systems (DSS) for mudflow prevention. A DSS integrates all relevant data, analysis tools, and visualization techniques into a user-friendly interface. It allows decision-makers and practitioners to access and analyze data, run simulations, evaluate scenarios, and visualize results. By incorporating spatial analysis capabilities, risk assessment models, and cost-benefit analysis tools, GIS-based DSS assists in making informed decisions regarding mudflow prevention measures. It facilitates the evaluation of different intervention options, cost-effectiveness analyses, and the development of comprehensive prevention plans.

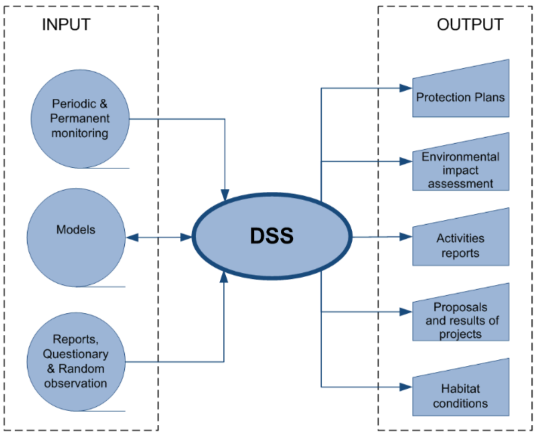

Figure 4. Simulation

In conclusion, GIS technologies provide a wide array of data analysis methods for mudflow prevention. These methods include terrain analysis, hydrological analysis, hazard zoning, risk assessment, spatial analysis of historical events, modeling, scenario analysis, and the development of decision support systems. By harnessing the power of GIS, researchers and practitioners can analyze and interpret geospatial data to identify high-risk areas, evaluate prevention strategies, and make informed decisions for effective mudflow prevention and mitigation. The application of GIS technologies in mudflow prevention plays a crucial role in safeguarding human lives, infrastructure, and the environment from the destructive impacts of these natural hazards.

3. Conclusion

The comprehensive study conducted on the influence of mudflows on the geomorphological structure of rivers using GIS technologies has yielded significant findings. The analysis revealed that mudflows have a profound impact on river systems, resulting in notable changes in channel morphology, sediment dynamics, river hydraulics, and long-term effects on river systems.

The examination of channel morphology indicated that mudflows lead to channel widening, deepening, and avulsion, altering the shape and dimensions of river channels. These changes have implications for river connectivity, sediment transport, and floodplain development. The study of sediment transport patterns associated with mudflows demonstrated the complex dynamics of sediment movement, with sedimentation occurring in certain areas and erosion in others. The spatial distribution of sediment deposits is influenced by flow velocity, channel morphology, and topographic characteristics.

The analysis of the impact on river hydraulics revealed that mudflows modify flow regimes and water velocities within the river system. The presence of mudflow deposits can impede flow, increase water levels, and alter hydraulic conditions, thereby affecting flood risk and riverine ecosystems. Furthermore, the long-term effects of mudflows on river systems encompass changes in the river network, floodplain development, nutrient cycling, and habitat availability.

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