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Toward Regional Rainfall Threshold For Landslide Occurrence In Yogyakarta And Central Of Java

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Abstract: Landslides are one of the most widespread natural hazards in the world, responsible for thousands of deaths and billions of dollars in property damage every year. However, predicting landslide potential at a global scale using real-time monitoring is very difficult and expensive in terms of time and money. This is especially true in developing countries where expensive ground observation networks are prohibitive and in mountainous areas where access is minimize. This paper studies the relationship between rainfall and landslides event in Yoqyakarta and Central of Java area. Landslides events and the triggering rainfall are collected from Kalibawang (Yogyakarta), Kebumen, Karanganyar, Banjarnegara (Central of Java). The landslide type at those locations is identified as shallow, deep-seated, and debris flow. Loss and damages of settlement and people was reported during the landslide occurrence. Based on the data collection from those landslide occurrences, an empirical rainfall threshold was determined based on intensity-duration (ID) and cumulative-intensity (EI) relationship. The threshold curve was obtained from the rainfall data using an objective statistical technique. The proposed ID and El curves are also compared with the global existing rainfall threshold. The ID curve for the studied region is higher than the global rainfall threshold that proposed by several investigators. However, new regional rainfall thresholds for Yogyakarta and Central of Java can be used in a regional operational landslide warning system based on local or regional precipitation measurements where local and regional thresholds are not available.

Keywords: landslides, rainfall intensity, duration, accumulated rainfall, rainfall-threshold.

1. INTRODUCTION

It has been noted that landslides may occur in some slopes, but many other slopes is remaining stable under a similar severe triggering condition such as typhoon and earthquake. Some landslides occurred in natural slopes and some other happened in engineered slopes with counter measured protection. So, it is of interest to find out why does a landslide happen but others do not. If landslide will happen, where and when it will happen? In other words, "why, where, and when" (3W) will a slope failure occur are the key issues for the landslide research.

Rainfall is a recognized trigger of landslides, and investigators have long attempted to determine the amount of precipitation needed to trigger slope failures, a problem of scientific and societal interest. Landslides triggered by rainfall are caused by the build up of water pressure into the ground (Campbell 1975; Wilson 1989). Groundwater conditions responsible for slope failures are related to rainfall through infiltration, soil characteristics, antecedent moisture content, and rainfall history (Wieczorek 1996). These phenomena are poorly understood, and prediction of rainfall induced landslides is problematic. Since landslides are one of the most widespread natural hazards in the world, responsible for thousands of deaths and billions of dollars in property damage every year. However, predicting landslide potential at a global scale using real-time monitoring is very difficult and expensive in terms of time and money. This is especially true in developing countries

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where expensive ground observation networks are prohibitive and in mountainous areas where access is minimize. This paper studies the relationship between rainfall and landslides event in Yogyakarta and Central of Java area.

Generally speaking, 'rainfall threshold' can be defined as the critical level (minimum or maximum) of rainfall values for a process to take place Reichenbach et al. 1998. Rainfall thresholds can be divided in global, regional and local thresholds. A global empirical threshold is obtained by using the available data from different regions world-wide. The meaning of these thresholds consists in the possibility of having a general threshold which is independent of local conditions and of typical rainfall patterns. The easiest way to define a global threshold consists in tracing a lower limit line embracing all the recorded rainfall conditions that resulted in landslides. Regional thresholds are defined by grouping data from regions of similar meteorological, geological and physiographic characteristics. A local rainfall threshold explicitly or implicitly considers the local climatic regime and geomorphologic setting. Landslide-triggering rainfall thresholds separate events that resulted from those which failed to triggered landslides. Rainfall thresholds can be defined by means empirical based model, physical-process based model, and statistic-based model. In this paper, empirical-based model is analyzed to obtain rainfall threshold. Two empirical models are established that is rainfall intensity - duration relationship and rainfall intensity - accumulated rainfall relationship.

2. METHOD AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Empirical – based rainfall threshold

In this study, the threshold is defined as lower boundary of rainfall for a landslide to occur. Thus, an empirical-based model is applied to define the value. Empirical thresholds are obtained studying rainfall conditions, which resulted in slope failures. Most of the proposed thresholds perform reasonably well in the region where they were developed, but can not be exported to neighboring areas. Also, their temporal accuracy remains largely untested Crozier (1999). Most commonly, the empirical thresholds correlate rainfall intensity and duration (I-D curve) and cumulative precipitation during an event. The common expression for ID threshold has the general form:

$$I = c + aD^b \tag{1}$$

where *I* is rainfall intensity, *D* is rainfall duration, and *a*, *b* and *c* are empirical parameters. The parameters can be determined from the best-fit of the relationship. When c = 0 Eq. (1) is a simple power law.

In general, slope failure is as result of combination both rainfall intensity and accumulated rainfall. Some investigators have linked measures of the cumulative event rainfall to the average rainfall intensity, obtaining event-intensity (EI). Onodera et. al (1974), who were probably the first to propose quantitative rainfall thresholds for the initiation of landslides, further proposed a set of thresholds linking the hourly event intensity to the ratio between the average and the maximum rainfall intensity per hour.

Using the similar concept of power law and rainfall intensity – accumulated rainfall record, a threshold can be also devised between rainfall intensity and accumulated rainfall.

$$I = m + nR^p$$

where *I* is rainfall intensity, *R* is accumulated rainfall, and *m*, *n* and *p* are empirical parameters.

(2)

2.2 Landslides and rainfall Record

2.2.1 Kalibawang, Kulon Progo, Yogyakarta province

Kalibawang is the most active landslides area in Yogyakarta during rainy-session in December - March. Kalibawang is located 20 km west of Yogyakarta province. The landslide area is mostly occurred at Kalibawang channel which the area is approximate 75 km². The channel is situated at the foot of Kulon Progo mountain hill and has been disrupted by some landslides in the rainy season. This channel is vital for the agriculture of downstream side area. During 2001 - 2004, there were five landslide events near the Kalibawang channel. The triggering rainfall data is taken from Kalibawang station where the closest station point to the research area is presented in Table 1. Most the landslide events are characterized by the successive movement of sliding with gentle inclination angle (Kyi et al. 2007). The soil covering slope is predominantly clayey soil. When dry session, fissured on slope surface appear, and as consequence rainfall increased the pore water pressure in the slope during the wet session

	Rainfall					
Date of Occurrence	Daily	Duration	Accumulated			
	(mm/d)	(day)	(mm)			
20 November 2001	47.5	5	128. 9			
25 December 2002	7.1	5	185.2			
6 January 2003	3.8	3	237.1			
7 March 2003	115.5	5	248.1			
12 December 2004	32.9	6	245.6			
Source: Kvi et al. (2007)						

Table 1 The rainfall – triggering landslides at Kalibawang from 2001 – 2004

Source: Kyi et al. (2007)

2.2.2 Kebumen, Central of Java province

Landslide event at Kebumen, generally, was attributed by human activities near the hill slope such as land-use conversion and deforesting. Mostly, the land-use was converted improperly. The hill slope was converted to seasonal outgrowth. Agricultural was activated on the hill slope with the inclination angle greater than 20°. As a result, the slopes are susceptible to the landslide-induced rainfall although it is gently slope. A study carried out by Sukresno et al. (2004) reported that the triggering rainfall in several landslide occurrence in Kebumen is about 131 mm/day in average. Table 3 presents the landslides events and rainfall records in Kebumen. The slopes were predominantly covered with high-plasticity clayey-silt soils. The soil is rest on breccias and andesitic formation.

2.2.3 Mogol, Karanganyar, Central of Java province

It is interesting to study landslide that occur at Mogol village. The village is located at hillside of Tawangmangu, Karanganyar district, Central of Java province. The Mogol's landslide was reported to occur in daybreak of 26 December 2007. The slope failure was caused by change of land-use at hill slope. Human activities to cultivate the hilly land contribute to the landslide. Originally, the hill slope was covered with pines, but later the people replace the plant with seasonal plantation such as maize, cassava, banana etc. Heavy rainfall on 25 December 2007 can be identified as triggering factor for the slope failure. Rainfall record from the nearest station, Tawangmangu, estimated that the rainfall on 25 December 2007 reach up to

194 mm. The accumulated rainfall from 24 - 26 December 2007 is approximate 203 mm. The detail of rainfall record from several rainfall stations around the hazard area is presented in Table 3.

		Rainfall					
Date of Occurrence	Location	Daily (mm/d)	Duration (day)	Accumulated (mm)			
4 November 2000	Kajoran	153	7	606			
4 Oktober 2001	Penusupan	148	4	221			
23 Oktober 2001	Mangunweni	375	10	633			
17 November 2002	Seboro	120	2	233			
1Januari 2003	Seboro	25	1	188			
4 Januari 2003	Padereso	223	3	256			
4 Januari 2003	Surotrunan	147	3	68			
4 Januari 2003	Sawangan	147	3	168			
28 Januari 2003	Kalibening	25	7	175			
29 Januari 2003	Wadasmalang	119	2	176			
3 Febuari 2003	Sampang	3	6	274			
7 Maret 2003	Giritirto	20	4	104			
9 Maret 2003	Penusupan	93	4	369			

Table 2 The rainfall and landslide records at Kebumen from 2000-2003

Source: Sukresno et al. (2004)

Table 3 Rainfall record at near station on 22-28 December 2007

Station Location	Date (December 2007)					Cumulative		
Station Location	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	(mm)
Waduk Nawangan	16	16	11	147	54	4	28	276
Tawangmangu	0	0	8	194	1	56	44	303
Palur	1	0	1	102	2	95	37	238
Pabelan	0	0	2	133	5	111	25	276

Source: Stasiun Klimatologi Semarang dan Balai Sungai Surakarta

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Proposal of Rainfall Thresholds

Generally, empirical thresholds are presented as lower limit curves separating areas with specific combinations of values of plotted variables. The number of the triggered slope failures (i.e., single vs. multiple or few vs. numerous) can also be considered. More rarely, the rainfall conditions that did not result in landslides are considered to better constraint an empirical rainfall threshold. Since, the threshold is defined empirically, so, the equations proposed may vary from one location to others. Based on the landslide events and rainfall record from the observed location, rainfall intensity and duration (ID curve) correlation is shown as in Figure 1. And, cumulative event rainfall and intensity (El curve) is shown in Figure 2. The lower boundary of the triggering-rainfall is expresses as given in Equation (3) and (4) respectively for the ID and El relationship

$$I = 331486R^{-2.0653} \tag{4}$$

where *I*: mean rainfall intensity (mm/d), *D*: antecedent rainfall period (day), and R: cumulative rainfall (mm). The threshold given by Equation (3) and (4) is the lower limit of rainfall-triggered landslides. Any values upper the equation line is categorized as triggering rainfall. In this case, the slope is probably will fail under the rainfall.

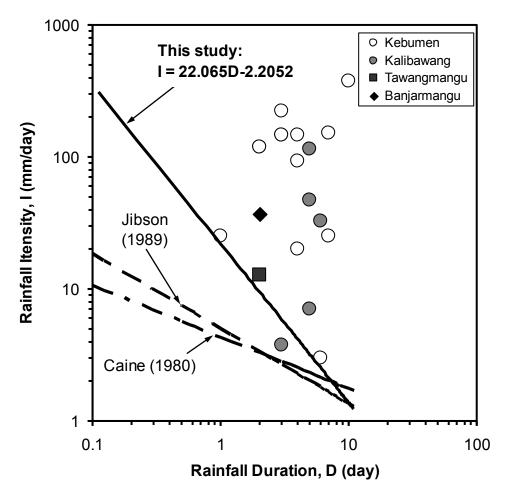


Figure 1. Intensity – Duration (ID) Curve for Rainfall threshold triggered landslides at Kulon Progo, Kebumen, dan Karanganyar.

The ID and El curves in Figure 1 and 2 compare the proposed threshold with other thresholds by Caine (1980), Jibson (1989), Onodera et al. (1974) and Hong et al. (2005). For ID curve, the proposed rainfall threshold in this study yields a moderate threshold if comparing with other thresholds. Guzzetti et al. wrote 52 empirical threshold of ID curves which are proposed by 34 researches. However, intensity-duration thresholds do not consider the antecedent rainfall events. For this reason, they are less suited to predict the occurrence of deep-seated landslides, or of slope failures triggered by low-intensity rainfall events. Further intensity-duration thresholds do not consider that landslides can occur several hours after the end of the rainfall event, and do not take into account site specific rainfall conditions. Besides, intensity-duration thresholds require data of high quality and resolution (at least hourly rainfall data), which are available only locally and since a few years (20-30 years at most). However, where information on landslides and rainfall is available, plots can be prepared and threshold curves can be fitted as lower bounds for the occurrence of slope failures.

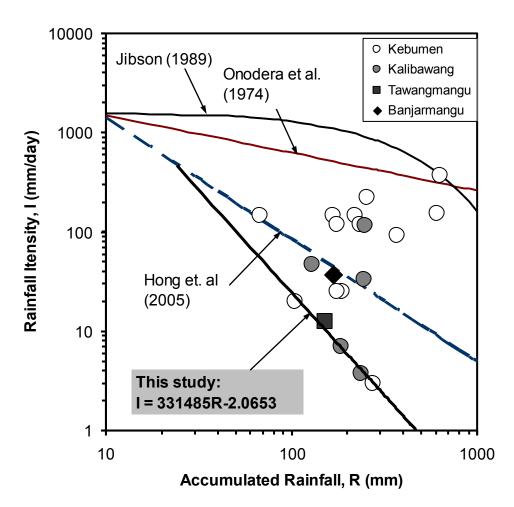


Figure 2. Intensity – Accumulated Rainfall curve (EI) for Rainfall threshold triggered landslides at Kulon Progo, Kebumen, and Karanganyar.

To overcome the disadvantage of ID curve, the El curve in Figure 2 plots intensity and cumulative rainfall induce landslides. It is only a few researches to correlate the intensity and cumulative rainfall. At least, there are 20 empirical thresholds of El curve which is developed by eight researches around the world Guzzetti et al. (2007). The proposed empirical threshold in this study gives lower boundary of rainfall if comparing with the other empirical thresholds that proposed by Onodera et al. (1974), Jibson (1989) and Hong et al. (2005). Guzzetti et al. (2007) reviewed that when using cumulative event rainfall measurements to predict landslide occurrence, a key difficulty is the definition of the period over which to accumulate the precipitation. Research carried out by Aleotti (2004) did not find a correlation between the critical and the cumulative rainfall and the occurrence of landslides in the Piedmont region, NW-Italy. However, combination of the empirical threshold with real-time rainfall monitoring will result significant estimation for landslide early warning system (LEWS) as suggested by Keefer et al. (1987).

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Fundamentally, the empirical thresholds are a basic element of the landslide early warning system. However, when using them, it should be combined with a real-time rainfall monitoring and instrumentation. A basic limitation that can be defined as conceptual

Reichenbach et al. (1998) is that thresholds inevitably represent a simplification of the relationship between rainfall and landslide occurrence. Rainfall is not the direct cause of failures which, in fact, are caused by the build-up of high pore water pressure in the slope, a phenomenon that is also related to hydraulic, physical and mechanical properties of terrain and to other environmental factors like slope, vegetation cover, and climatic characteristics of the area.

The ID and EI threshold in this study is new regional rainfall thresholds for Yogyakarta and Central of Java. Comparison with other thresholds pointed out the difference with those proposed by Onodera et al. (1974), Caine (1980), Jibson (1989), and Hong et al. (2005) for global thresholds. The empirical thresholds may be used in a regional operational landslide warning system based on local or regional precipitation measurements where local and regional thresholds are not available. The thresholds could be further refined by introducing other case studies in the analysis.

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