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PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM GEOCIÊNCIAS E MEIO AMBIENTE

**Methodological proposal for integrating debris flow hazard index with
environmental sensitivity index in pipelines**

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Instituto de Geociências e Ciências Exatas
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**METHODOLOGICAL PROPOSAL FOR INTEGRATING
DEBRIS FLOW HAZARD INDEX WITH ENVIRONMENTAL
SENSITIVITY INDEX IN PIPELINES**

Tese de Doutorado apresentada ao
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Universidade Estadual Paulista “Júlio
de Mesquita Filho”, como parte dos
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Resumo

Este trabalho aborda o desenvolvimento de metodologia complementar na gestão de desastres naturais incorporadas ao Índice de Sensibilidade Ambiental ao Derramamento de Óleo (ISL) ou Carta SAO para trechos de travessia de drenagens transpassados por dutovias. Embora muitas abordagens de mapeamento se concentrem em áreas costeiras e marinhas, o estudo destaca a necessidade de aprimorar as metodologias aplicadas a trechos continentais que apresentam alto potencial para ocorrência de desastres naturais associados a eventos geodinâmicos. O estudo inicia com uma revisão bibliográfica e uma análise histórica, identificando lacunas metodológicas no uso do Índice de Sensibilidade Ambiental e da Carta SAO no Brasil e no mundo. A partir disso, sugere abordagens para o avanço no desenvolvimento de mapeamentos de perigo ao derramamento de óleo em áreas continentais, focando na gestão de riscos e na prevenção de desastres tecnológicos desencadeados por desastres naturais (Natechs). São apresentados procedimentos metodológicos para contribuir nas estratégias de prevenção e resposta em áreas sensíveis ao derramamento de óleo em dutovias continentais, por meio da criação de um índice de perigo para a ocorrência de fluxos de detritos em trechos de travessia de drenagem nos municípios de Cubatão e São Sebastião (SP). Esse índice foi baseado na relação entre suscetibilidade e vulnerabilidade e se mostrou eficaz para hierarquizar áreas de perigo iminente, considerando os potenciais impactos ambientais e vazamentos de óleo. A metodologia foi validada por um evento de fluxo de detritos ocorrido entre os dias 18 e 19 de fevereiro de 2023 na bacia hidrográfica de Toque Toque Grande, em São Sebastião, permitindo a calibração dos modelos e o ajuste dos valores do índice. Adicionalmente, o trabalho propõe um sistema de monitoramento pluviométrico em tempo real, baseado em limiares de precipitação crítica e coleta de dados em tempo real, para complementar o índice de perigo a fluxos de detritos nas áreas de dutovias selecionadas. O trabalho indica um plano de gestão de risco dividido em duas partes: (i) mapeamentos estáticos e (ii) monitoramento dinâmico. Os mapeamentos estáticos referem-se à representação cartográfica das áreas de estudo, considerando a hierarquização do índice de perigo a fluxos de detritos. O monitoramento dinâmico, diz respeito ao sistema de monitoramento pluviométrico e em tempo real, baseado nos limiares de precipitação crítica, sistematizado em níveis operacionais que definem o grau de risco das chuvas responsáveis por deflagrar eventos de deslizamentos e fluxos de detritos, que possam impactar as dutovias nas áreas mapeadas.

Palavras-chave: Environmental Sensitivity Index, Real-time Monitoring Disasters, Debris flows, Hazard Management, Oil Spill, Disaster Reduction

Abstract

This work addresses the development of a complementary methodology in natural disaster management, incorporated into the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) or ESI Maps, for segments of drainage crossings intersected by pipelines. Although many mapping approaches focus on coastal and marine areas, this study emphasizes the need to improve methodologies applied to continental segments, which have a high potential for natural disasters associated with geodynamic events. The study begins with a literature review and historical analysis, identifying methodological gaps in the use of the Environmental Sensitivity Index and ESI Maps in Brazil and globally. Based on this, it suggests approaches for advancing the development of oil spill hazard mapping in continental areas, focusing on risk management and the prevention of technological disasters triggered by natural hazards (Natechs). Methodological procedures are presented to contribute to prevention and response strategies in areas sensitive to oil spills in continental pipelines, through the creation of a hazard index for the occurrence of debris flows in drainage crossing segments in the municipalities of Cubatão and São Sebastião (SP). This index was based on the relationship between susceptibility and vulnerability and proved effective in prioritizing areas of imminent danger, considering potential environmental impacts and oil spills. The methodology was validated by a debris flow event that occurred between February 18 and 19, 2023, in the Toque Toque Grande watershed in São Sebastião, allowing for the calibration of models and adjustment of the index values. Additionally, the study proposes a real-time rainfall monitoring system, based on critical precipitation thresholds and real-time data collection, to complement the hazard index for debris flows in the selected pipeline areas. The study outlines a risk management plan divided into two parts: (i) static mapping and (ii) dynamic monitoring. Static mapping refers to the cartographic representation of the study areas, considering the prioritization of the debris flow hazard index. Dynamic monitoring involves the real-time rainfall monitoring system based on critical precipitation thresholds, systematized into operational levels that define the risk degree of rainfall events capable of triggering landslides and debris flows that may impact the pipelines in the mapped areas.

Key-words: Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI), Real-time Monitoring Mass Movements, Debris flows, Hazard Management, Oil Spill, Disaster Reduction

List of figures

Figure 1 - Representation of Serra do Mar and the Brazilian pipeline network.....	27
Figure 2 -Location of the 20 largest oil spills throughout the world. (ITOPF, 2022)	28
Figure 3 - Timeline of the main accidents throughout the world and methodological milestones that advanced the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI)	29
Figure 4 - Timeline of the central accidents and methodological milestones that advanced the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) in Brazil.	33
Figure 5 - Distribution of oil spill events in Brazil (2006-2021) (IBAMA)	39
Figure 6 - Pipeline network present in Serra do Mar and the main stretches of registered accidents (2006-2022)	42
Figure 7 - Distribution of accidents related to pipelines in Brazil and their relationship with the occurrence of oil spills and debris flows.	43
Figure 8 - Images of the disaster in Caraguatatuba in 1967. 8-A) The Serra do Mar after widespread landslides. 8-B) The coastal strip of Caraguatatuba destroyed by debris flows and the Serra do Mar is in the background where several widespread landslides occurred. 8-C) Destruction caused by the debris flows in the municipality of Caraguatatuba. (Source: Municipality of Caraguatatuba Archive).....	45
Figure 9 - Images of the disaster in Cubatão 1985. A) The Serra do Mar in Cubatão with widespread landslides and the main drainages filled with rock. B) Another stretch of Serra do Mar in Cubatão with widespread landslides. (Source: Kanji et al., 2017)	46
Figure 10 - Images of the disaster in Cubatão in 1994. A) The Presidente Bernardes refinery (RPBC) flooded by mud from the debris flow process. B) Photo of plant debris that impacted the refinery infrastructure. C) Serra do Mar in Cubatão with widespread landslides. (Source: Massad et al. 2009).	47
Figure 11 - Images of the disaster in Timbé do Sul in 1995.A) Serra do Mar in the background in Timbé do Sul 1995 with widespread landslides, B) Image of a house impacted by plant debris. C) Aerial view of Serra do mar with widespread landslides and main drainages eroded by debris flow	48

Figure 12 - Images of the disaster in Guaratuba/PR 2017.A) The Serra do mar in the background with evidence of the passage of the debris flow. B) The main drainage where it is possible to verify the erosive effect of the debris flow, the volume of transported material and destruction. C) Image of the main drainage where it is possible to notice the destruction caused by the passage of the debris flow and the large amount of mobilized rock blocks. D) The section where the pipeline network was affected under reconstruction after being impacted by the flow of debris. (Source: Victor Carvalho Cabral/Vinicius Q. Veloso)	49
Figure 13 - Example of environmental sensitivity index mapping for oil spills on the coast of São Paulo-SP, where it is possible to notice the concentration of information on the coastline. Note the insertion of an icon for hazard mapping the occurrence of debris flows in stretches of pipelines crossed by rivers.	50
Figure 14 - Data integration scheme for implementing a dynamic environmental monitoring system	52
Figure 15 - Location of the studied areas.	57
Figure 16 - A) Location of the river basins in the municipality of Cubatão and the surrounding infrastructure. B) Geomorphological context of Cubatão. C) Geological context of Cubatão.	59
Figure 17 - Location of the river basins in the municipality of São Sebastião and the surrounding infrastructure. B) Geomorphological context of São Sebastião. C) Geological context of Sebastião. .	61
Figure 18 - Matrix of hazard classification for debris flow occurrence	66
Figure 19 - Definition of Critical Precipitation Scenario for the Study Areas	68
Figure 20 - Pipeline crossing mapped in the catchments of Cubatão.....	69
Figure 21 - Pipeline crossing mapped in the catchments of São Sebastião.....	69
Figure 22 -Documentation of the situation of a watercourse crossing section intersected by pipelines and their respective construction patterns. A) Record of an aerial pipeline construction pattern. B) Example of a structure for the containment of potential flows in the pipeline zone. C) Crossing section segment marked with an underground pipeline. D) Section with signage indicating a submerged pipeline	70

Figure 23 - RAMMS modeling results showing maximum flow height. A) Cubatão, catchment 1. B) Cubatão, catchment 2. C) Cubatão, catchment 3. D) Cubatão, catchment 4. E) São Sebastião, catchment 1. F) São Sebastião, catchment 2. G) São Sebastião, catchment 3. H) São Sebastião, catchment 4.	73
Figure 24 - Comparison of Calibrations using coverage index (Ω) from debris flow simulations for selected basins in the study areas.	74
Figure 25 - Classification of the debris flow hazard index at crossing sections in the selected watersheds	76
Figure 26 - Cartographic representation of the Debris Flow Hazard Index in the watersheds intersected by pipelines in the municipality of Cubatão.....	77
Figure 27 - Cartographic representation of the Debris Flow Hazard Index in the watersheds intersected by pipelines in the municipality of São Sebastião.....	78
Figure 28 - Location of the study area. A) Location of the Toque-Toque Grande watershed, São Sebastião - SP. B) Location of the study area in the Brazilian territory. C) Location of the study area in the municipality of São Sebastião - SP.	85
Figure 29 - A) Geological context of São Sebastião. B) Geomorphological context of São Sebastião	86
Figure 30 - Rain gauges used for evaluating the extreme event in the study area.	87
Figure 31 - Matrix of hazard classification for debris flow occurrence	88
Figure 32 - A) Daily precipitation analyzed for February 18th and 19th, 2023, for the Toque-Toque Pequeno rain gauge (closest to the study area, located 2.8 km away). B) Precipitation recorded by the rain gauge between February 18th and 19th, indicating the onset of the main events responsible for triggering the debris flow.	91
Figure 33 - Analysis of the phenomenon through GOES 16 satellite images.....	92
Figure 34 - Representation through interpolation of Cemaden's automatic rain gauges, highlighting the orographic factor in extreme precipitation in São Sebastião, SP.	93
Figure 35 - Topographic map of the study area and transversal and longitudinal profiles of the main drainage	93

Figure 36 - Comparison of the Toque-Toque Grande waterfall before and after the debris flow. A) Frontal record of the waterfall taken on 04/05/2022, where it is possible to observe a large number of trees, wooden and blocks fallen from the upper parts of the watershed. B) Aerial record by drone on the date of 13/11/2023, showing the waterfall completely exposed due to the significant erosive power of the debris flow. To watch the video, please access the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwcrSpGc4iE].....	95
Figure 37 - Slope profile of the basin's main drainage.....	96
Figure 38 - Documentation of erosion caused in the main drainage by the debris flow. A) Record of metric blocks and deposits in the main drainage. B) Documentation of imbrication of large woods and metric blocks deposited in the main drainage after the passage of the debris flow. C) Aerial view of the section crossing the Petrobras pipelines where the construction managed to protect the infrastructures after the passage of the debris flow. To watch the video of the debris flow passing through this section, please access the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2EuEz2mEeo]	97
Figure 39 - A) Height of the modeled flow along its trajectory in the basin. B) Estimated velocity of the modeled flow along its trajectory in the basin.	98
Figure 40 - Record of the path taken by the flow in the study area. A) Path taken by the debris flow overlaid with the Highway (BR-101), pipeline system, and the most affected residential areas. B) Frontal view of one of the residences affected by the impact of the flow. C) Record of the protective structure responsible for maintaining the integrity of the pipeline at the crossing section with the main drainage. To view the video of the waterfall situation, access the link: [https://vimeo.com/user214436941]	99
Figure 41 - A) Record of the coastal zone with the deposition of the debris flow. B) Record of a residence destroyed by the impact of the debris flow. C) Record of a car completely destroyed, dragged along the drainage and deposited on the coastline.	100
Figure 42 - Record of the passage of the debris flow in the final third of the drainage, already at the shoreline. A) Deposition of large tree trunks dragged from the upper portions of the hydrographic basin. B) Record of the deposition of rocky material interlocked with trunks on the coastline. C) Record of the	

erosive potential of the flow passage in the lower portions of the hydrographic basin. Source: Mariano Araújo Caccia Gouveia.	100
Figure 43 - Debris flow hazard index classification matrix in the study area	103
Figure 44 - Hazard index for debris flows on pipelines in the study area.....	104
Figure 45 - Rainfall threshold (Tatizana et al. 1987).	111
Figure 46 - Monitoring operating system.....	112
Figure 47 - Integrated system logic with critical precipitation thresholds.	113
Figure 48 - Monitoring system interface. A) Rain Gauge Selection Button B) Rain Gauge Identification C) Legend with Levels of Operation of the Preventive Civil Defense Plan D) Representation of Real-time Precipitation and its Evolution.	113
Figure 49 - Screen with all rain gauges grouped in descending order of accumulated precipitation. A) Accumulated Rainfall Viewing Period Selection Button B) Identification of Monitored Sites C) Critical Precipitation Threshold 2 (150 mm) D) Critical Precipitation Threshold 1 (80 mm) E) Representation of Precipitation by Rain Gauge F) Identification of Rain Gauges at Monitored Sites Grouped by Order of Highest Accumulation. https://dash.upsensor.com/new/desenv1/index_barra_sp.php?periodo=72...	114
Figure 50 - Location of monitored sites	115
Figure 51 - Municipality of Cubatão with the distribution of events registered as geodynamic in origin (2000-2013). Source: IPT.....	117
Figure 52 - Municipality of São Sebastião with the distribution of events registered as geodynamic in origin (2000-2013). Source: IPT.	118
Figure 53 - Spatial distribution of events in the municipality of Cubatão and representation of automatic rain gauges selected for monitoring.	118
Figure 54 - Spatial distribution of events in the municipality of São Sebastião and representation of automatic rain gauges selected for monitoring.....	119
Figure 55 – Operating levels of the monitored rain gauges in 2023.	121
Figure 56 - Operating levels of the monitored rain gauges in 2024.....	122

Figure 57 – Record of the São Sebastião 2023 disaster conditions. A) Satellite image of Vila do Sahy before the event. B) Satellite image of Vila do Sahy after the extreme precipitation, showing scars from widespread landslides. C) Correlation of the area with the highest precipitation with the highest incidence of widespread landslides. D) Spatial distribution of rainfall during the disaster, highlighting the highest concentration in Vila Sahy..... 123

Figure 58 - Record of the Barra do Una rain gauge monitoring during the extreme precipitation event 124

Figure 59 - Record of the widespread landslides in São Sebastião. A) Landslide that affected homes in Vila Sahy. B) Record of homes impacted by landslides. C) Record of a broken slope blocking vehicle flow on the highway, isolating the area and complicating the rescue operations for injured and displaced victims. 125

Figure 60 - Aerial image records of the disaster area in Vila Sahy, São Sebastião. A) Record of several landslides along the Serra do Mar, including the one that claimed multiple families. B) Landslide on a section of the highway, resulting in its obstruction. C) Landslide on another section of the highway, causing blockage. 126

List of tables

Table 1 - Main works on the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI).....	31
Table 2 - Typologies of accidents related to mass movement on pipelines in the USA, Canada and Europe	34
Table 3 - Typologies of accidents related to mass movement on pipelines in the USA, Canada and Europe	37
Table 4 - Origin of the primary oil spill occurrences in Brazil (2006-2021) (IBAMA)	40
Table 5 - A map of recorded debris flows in the three main states that comprise the Serra do Mar (Cabral et al. 2023a).....	43
Table 6 - Parameters used for evaluating susceptibility to debris flow occurrence	62
Table 7 - Determination of vulnerability classes.....	65
Table 8 - Historical Survey of Debris Flow Occurrences in the Study Areas.....	67
Table 9 - Classification of susceptibility in the watersheds	71
Table 10 - Simulation results performed with RAMMS 2D and vulnerability classification.....	72
Table 11 - Description of the construction pattern of the pipelines at the drainage crossing sections in the watersheds.	75
Table 12 - Estimation of debris flow hazard index in the selected watersheds.....	75
Table 13 - Parameters used for evaluating susceptibility to debris flow occurrence	89
Table 14 - Determination of vulnerability classes.....	90
Table 15 - Classification of susceptibility in Toque Toque Grande watershed	101
Table 16 - Results vulnerability classification	102
Table 17 – Record of rain gauge operation levels in São Sebastião and Cubatão in 2023 during the event from February 16 to 2023.....	120
Table 18 - Record of the operational levels of rain gauges in São Sebastião and Cubatão in 2024 during the event from January 23 to 26	121

Table of contents

1 Introduction	17
2 Thesis Objectives and Structure	21
Chapter 1: Challenges and perspectives in applying the environmental sensitivity index to pipelines: a review on the prevention and management of oil spills disasters	23
1 Introduction.....	24
2 The global applications of the environmental sensitivity index.....	28
3 The environmental sensitivity index in Brazil.....	32
4 Analysis of accidents in pipelines induced by natural disasters around the world	36
5 Analysis of onshore oil spills in Brazil	38
5.1 Pipelines in Serra do Mar and Debris Flows	40
5.1.1 São Paulo State	44
5.1.2 Paraná and Santa Catarina States.....	47
6 Discussion	49
7 Conclusions.....	53
Chapter 2: Methodological proposal for applying a hazard index to debris flows in drainage crossing sections of pipelines in mountainous areas.....	54
1 Introduction.....	55
2 Studied Areas	57
2.1 Cubatão	58
2.2 São Sebastião	60
3 Materials and Methods.....	61
3.1 Risk scenario identification	61
3.2 Definition of susceptibility	62
3.3 Definition of vulnerability	63
3.4 Estimation of the Hazard Index	65

4 Results and Discussions	66
4.1 Definition of Risk Scenarios.....	66
4.1.1 History of Debris Flow Events in the Study Areas.....	66
4.1.1 Sections of drainage crossings at risk	68
4.2 Susceptibility Classification	70
4.2 Vulnerability Classification	71
4.3.1 Modeling and calibration	71
4.3.2 Pipeline construction pattern	74
4.4 Debris flow hazard index at drainage crossing sections	75
5 Conclusions	79

Chapter 3: Application of the Debris-flow Hazard Index for pipelines in the context of the hydrogeological disaster of February 2023 in São Sebastião, Serra do Mar, Brazil .81

1 Introduction	83
2 Study Area	84
3 Materials and Methods	86
3.1 Meteorological analysis	87
3.2 Geomorphological analysis	87
3.3 Estimation of debris flow hazard index in drainage crossing sections of pipelines.....	88
4 Results	90
4.1 Meteorological analysis	90
4.2 Geomorphological analysis	93
4.2.1 Slope conditions.....	94
4.2.2 Drainage conditions	95
4.2.3 Debris flow occurred in the study area	97
4.4 Estimation if debris flow hazard index in drainage crossing sections ...	101
4.4.1 Susceptibility definition.....	101
4.4.2 Vulnerability definition	101
4.4.3 Debris flow hazard index.....	102
5 Conclusions	104

Chapter 4: Proposal for real-time rainfall monitoring of gravitational mass movements in Serra do Mar - SP – Brazil	106
1 Introduction.....	107
2 Methodology	108
2.1 Landslides monitoring	109
2.2 Rainfall thresholds	109
2.3 Proposed monitoring system.....	111
2.4 Definition of Monitored Sites	114
2.4.1 Description of monitoring sites	115
3 Results	118
3.1. Monitoring assessment	118
3.1.1 Monitoring of the event during the 2022-2023 rainy season (16-20 FEB)	119
3.1.2 Monitoring of the event during the 2023-2024 rainy season (23-26 JAN)	121
3.2 The disaster that occurred in 2023 in São Sebastião, São Paulo	123
4. Discussions.....	127
5. Conclusions.....	129
3 Thesis Conclusions.....	131
4 References.....	134

1 Introduction

In recent decades, in Brazil, the oil industry has experienced rapid expansion, driven by new exploration fronts, newly discovered fields, and substantial investments across its industrial chain. Within this context, significant advancements have been made in pipeline infrastructure for the transportation of oil and its derivatives. However, despite the high technological level of these endeavors, the management of risks for oil spill accidents caused by mass movements still lacks significant improvements.

Prevention, remediation, and assessment of these impacts can be conducted through systematic mapping instruments. One such instrument is called Environmental Sensitivity Maps for Oil Spills (ESM), which finds its greatest application and methodological advancements in coastal and marine areas. (Gunlach, E. and Hayes, M., 1978; Michel et al., 1978 Gunlach et al. 2001; Araujo et al., 2002 Araujo et al., 2006; Romero, 2009; Barbosa, 2010; Martins 2012, D’Fonseca et al. 2023).

Environmental Sensitivity Maps for Oil Spills (Carta SAO) constitute a fundamental source of primary information for planning contingency plans and response actions to oil spills. These maps aim to identify priority preservation areas, allowing for the allocation of available resources and the more efficient mobilization of protection and cleanup teams (Brazil, 2002; Araujo et al., 2002; Oliveira et al., 2003; Mendes et al., 2005; Barbosa, 2010; Martins et al., 2013; Costa, 2013; Martins, 2012).

According to Barbosa et al. (2010), the Carta SAO can be defined as a cartographic document legally required in contingency planning, in the overall assessment of damages, and in the implementation of response actions for incidents of oil and derivatives pollution. It is evident that the ESMs encompass a broad multidisciplinary in their development, with the most important characteristic being the determination of the Coastal Sensitivity Index (CSI). This index refers to the characteristics of the physical environment and active processes.

The most used methodology for developing an Carta SAO, up to the present, is based on the reference documents by Gundlach and Heyes (1978), Michel et al. (1978), NOAA (1995), and Michel and Dahlin (1993). This methodology consists of three main components: (1) Coastal Sensitivity Index (CSI), where areas are classified from 1 (lowest sensitivity index) to 10 (highest sensitivity index), (2) biologically sensitive and vulnerable resources to oil, and (3) human use of resources with commercial, recreational, or subsistence value (Jensen et al., 1998). In Brazil, significant advancements have been made in methodologies for mapping oil-

induced environmental sensitivity, referring to the NOAA guide (Araújo et al., 2006), Petrobras manual (Araújo et al., 2002), and Ministry of Environment specifications guide (MMA, 2002; MMA, 2004; Araújo et al., 2006), and by works of (Araujo et al., 2007; Bellotto, 2008; Cantagallo et al., 2008; GherardI et al., 2008; Lima et al., 2008; Noernberg et al., 2008; Rocha Oliveira et al., 2008; Silva et al., 2008). However, despite the significant contribution and progress resulting from these studies, they have mainly focused on coastal and marine areas, highlighting the importance of advancing this specific mapping type to continental areas. The bias towards marine and coastal environments in the early studies of environmental sensitivity to oil spills is now evident with the consolidation of methodologies oriented towards these settings.

There is a growing volume of studies proposing the use of Oil Environmental Sensitivity for environments beyond coastal and marine areas. In Brazil, studies for continental areas have been developed and presented such as the Environmental Risk Mapping (MARA), developed through cooperation between the Environmental Company of the State of São Paulo (CETESB) and Petrobras, as outlined by Mendes et al. (2005). Studies in the Amazon region were conducted by Araujo et al. (2006) and Ferreira and Beaumond (2008), in the Itajaí Valley, in the state of Santa Catarina. Characterization of the physical environment as a subsidy for Cartas SAO was carried out by de Paula (2007). Additionally, the application of ESMs in the road transport environment on the Tamoios Highway (SP-099), in the state of São Paulo, was conducted by Martins (2012).

In other parts of the world, reference works have been developed by NOAA, including lacustrine, riverine, and marsh environments (NOAA, 1995; Petersen et al., 2002). Subsequently, with NOAA's inclusion of inland environments, other studies began to emerge proposing similar methods: Hayes et al. (2005) for the Great Lakes of Canada, Hayes et al. (1997) for the southwestern region of the United States, Zengel et al. (2001a) for the Caribbean, and Zengel et al. (2001b) for the southern state of Florida (USA).

Thus, it has been observed that the majority of oil spill accidents occur in terrestrial environments, mainly linked to pipeline transportation (Costa, 2013), with pipeline rupture and leakage being the main causes. It is noteworthy that, according to the author, the number of accidents occurring in terrestrial environments is significantly higher than the number of oceanic accidents. The distinction lies in the fact that, in oceanic environments, the volumes of leakage are much larger. Consequently, a lack of more comprehensive studies within these

methodologies concerning surface dynamics phenomena directly associated with pipeline ruptures has been identified.

The pipeline system along the coast of the State of São Paulo presents a wide range of environmental factors that can impact the operational aspects of its activities. Among these factors, gravitational mass movements, such as debris flows, stand out due to their extent, destructive potential, and frequent recurrence in these areas.

The dynamics of gravitational mass movements in Brazil have resulted in various economic, social, and environmental issues and losses. In mountainous regions such as the Serra do Mar in the southern and southeastern coast of Brazil, where occurrences of these natural disasters are frequent due to heavy rains, gravitational mass movement processes can manifest in various forms (Augusto Filho, 1992; Cerri et al., 2002; Gramani, 2001; Cruz et al., 2001).

The coast of São Paulo presents situations of potential risk, especially when examining the various patterns of land use and occupation found on slopes and adjacent alluvial plains located at the foot of the mountain range, as well as along various streams originating in the mountains with high flow energy and erosive potential. In these areas, the occurrence of mass movements such as debris flows is primarily triggered by extreme rainfall events and geomorphological, geotechnical, and geological factors.

The occurrences of these mass movements are widely influenced by extreme precipitation and factors related to geomorphology, geotechnical conditions, and geology (Petri and Suguio, 1971; Ogura et al., 2000; Znamensky et al., 2000; Massad, 2002; Cabral et al., 2023b).

Numerous studies address methodologies for the characterization, definition, and management of geological risks related to gravitational mass movements in urban and coastal areas in Brazil (Cerri & Carvalho, 1990; Cerri et al., 1990a, 1990b; Ogura & Augusto Filho, 1991; Cerri, 1992; Cerri, 1993; Zuquette et al., 1995; Augusto Filho, Alheiros, 1997; Augusto Filho, 2006; Gramani, 2000; Ogura and Santoro, 2002).

Works related to risk assessment and mapping are still in early stages. According to UN-ISDR (2004), the concept of environmental risks encompasses a wide range of physical phenomena within the earth system, including geophysical, meteorological, hydrological, geological, technological, biological, and socio-political factors, either individually or in complex relationships. While most risks are avoidable, disasters are not, making it essential to

study and investigate past risks, monitor the current situation, and understand and predict future risks to minimize the impact of disasters (Tominaga et al., 2009).

According to Tominaga et al. (2009), risk refers to the potential for a harmful natural process or phenomenon to occur at a specific location and within a certain period of time. Thus, risk mapping represents the spatial and temporal probability of a process or phenomenon with the potential to cause damage to occur (Varnes, 1984; Einstein, 1988; UN-ISDR, 2004; Tominaga, 2007).

Normally, two types of approaches are used for risk analysis and mapping: qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative methods are primarily based on field technician analyses, utilizing observations and aerial photographs, geomorphological analysis, and correlation of thematic maps. On the other hand, quantitative methods rely on statistical analyses through the comparison and combination of the spatial distribution of phenomena with the parameters involved in the processes (Tominaga et al., 2009).

The research area encompasses the Petrobras pipeline system along the coast of São Paulo, a section that comprises an important logistical axis of Brazil in the municipalities of Cubatão and São Sebastião. These areas are subject to persistent problems related to surface dynamics processes, especially landslides, runoff, and debris flows. Therefore, the execution of this research was justified by the following questions: (i) Is it possible to develop a methodology for mapping the danger of debris flow occurrence that can be integrated with environmental sensitivity indices to enhance action and contingency plans? (ii) Is it possible to develop a real-time rainfall monitoring system capable of assisting disaster prevention measures?

Thus, to answer these questions, this thesis aimed to: (i) present an overview of the challenges and perspectives of the environmental sensitivity index to oil spills in Brazil and worldwide, pointing out some pathways and challenges to be followed for mitigation and prevention; (ii) develop a hazard mapping methodology for debris flow applied to pipelines that could be integrated with the oil sensitivity index; (iii) evaluate the methodology in the studied areas and verify its replicability; and (iv) develop a rainfall monitoring system for gravitational mass movements, based on the association of critical precipitation thresholds and the real-time data collection and visualization.

The results obtained made it evident the complexity and urgency in addressing the challenges related to tackling climate change, environmental sensitivity, and natural disaster management, especially in sections traversed by pipelines. The proposed integrated approach

provides a promising framework for addressing the challenges related to natural disaster management and environmental sensitivity in critical areas, such as those crossed by pipelines. By combining methodologies for mapping debris flow hazards with environmental sensitivity indices and real-time rainfall monitoring systems, we can significantly strengthen action and contingency plans, empowering authorities to take more effective preventive measures. The urgency of this approach is underscored by the complexity of the challenges faced and the strategic importance of the areas in question, emphasizing the ongoing need for research and the implementation of innovative solutions to ensure the safety and sustainability of these critical regions.

3 Thesis Conclusions

This work aimed to develop a hazard index for the occurrence of debris flows to be incorporated into the mapping of the Environmental Sensitivity Index to oil spills in pipeline crossing sections in mountainous areas. The four presented chapters converge on the need to improve and, most importantly, implement methodologies for environmental risk mapping and monitoring, with an urgent focus on the prevention and mitigation of natural and environmental disasters.

The use of the Hazard Index for the Occurrence of Debris Flows in pipeline crossing sections has proven feasible for incorporation into the mapping of the Oil Spill Sensitivity Index (SSI) or Cartas SAO, being a fundamental tool in enhancing contingency plans specific to areas subject to natural disasters such as debris flows.

Its adherence stood out as a viable solution to define which watersheds are most critical from the perspective of the possibility of potential events, ensuring that structural and non-structural prevention measures are better specifically targeted. This highlights the need to consider the phenomenology of the geodynamic process and the relationship between susceptibility and vulnerability.

This methodology was validated in the Toque Toque Grande watershed, São Sebastião – SP, where a debris flow occurred during the fieldwork, demonstrating the urgency of structural protection measures and the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in risk management. The recorded debris flow occurred between February 18 and 19, 2023, during the largest 24-hour rainfall event ever recorded in Brazil since historical records began. In various parts of the municipality of São Sebastião, there were 65 deaths and more than 1,000 displaced people, resulting in damages amounting to USD \$122.4 million.

Additionally, with the aim of proposing a solution for dynamic monitoring, a real-time monitoring system for one of the main conditioning agents of mass gravitational movements, rainfall, was proposed. To this end, through data collection and data processing tools, a solution in the form of a real-time rainfall monitoring system for the municipalities of Cubatão and São Sebastião was developed.

The integration of critical precipitation thresholds with automated data collection and visualization systems proved satisfactory, and the data visualized during its validation in an event were reliable, making it an important instrument in the Preventive Civil Defense Plans. The strength of this system is its simplicity and low operational cost, but its efficiency depends

on an adequate network of automatic rain gauges and the continuous updating of critical precipitation thresholds for each monitored area. For this, it is essential to maintain the policy of managing historical and current data, as one of the major problems in Brazil is the lack of historical information for certain areas, largely due to discontinuities in government policies. Thus, the objective of integrating quantitative mappings of the physical environment with dynamic mappings proved to be feasible from an operational standpoint, much more than that, achievable in these sections, and could be of great value for contingency plans for these areas.

It is recommended that for future studies, watersheds classified with a High Debris Flow Occurrence Hazard Index (H3) undergo complementary research using appropriate instrumentation. These studies should encompass not only precipitation monitoring but also early detection of potential debris flows at the drainage heads of the watersheds. To achieve this, the use of flow meters, humidity sensors, and devices for monitoring slope movement is advisable. These instruments should be cost-effective and capable of remote data transmission.

The results presented reinforce that the state-of-the-art methods and techniques applied to the management of natural and environmental disasters can offer more suitable responses than those observed and recently adopted by managers and policymakers.

From an academic and technical standpoint, there exists a solid foundation built over decades, continuously evolving, capable of addressing needs and providing solutions to the challenges at hand. Therefore, public governance acceptance is crucial for the success of any policy related to disaster prevention and management, through its role in policy implementation and resource allocation.

It is crucial to recognize that investment in prevention is a strategic policy that needs to be incorporated into both public and private agendas worldwide, aiming to protect populations, the environment, and the economy. Preventive measures not only save lives and reduce costs but also promote sustainable and resilient development, preparing nations to face future challenges more effectively.

Allocating and transparently applying resources to policies for the prevention and reduction of natural and environmental disasters should not be seen as an expense, but rather as an investment in sovereignty, population security, the economy, the environment, and long-term sustainability.

The challenges for the coming decades, given climate change, are numerous and complex, impacting society as a whole and the global production chain. To address them, a

serious and integrated approach is vital, leaving no room for denialism. Government officials, technicians, and universities must work together, utilizing scientific knowledge for the benefit of society. Collaboration, technological innovation, and social equity are fundamental pillars for confronting these challenges and ensuring a sustainable future for the next generations.

4 References

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