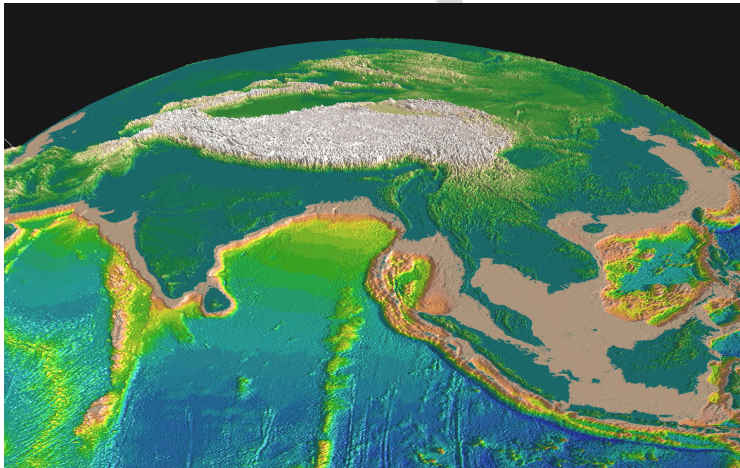


# Mechanisms and Prediction of Earthquake and Climate Change Induced Cascading Hazards

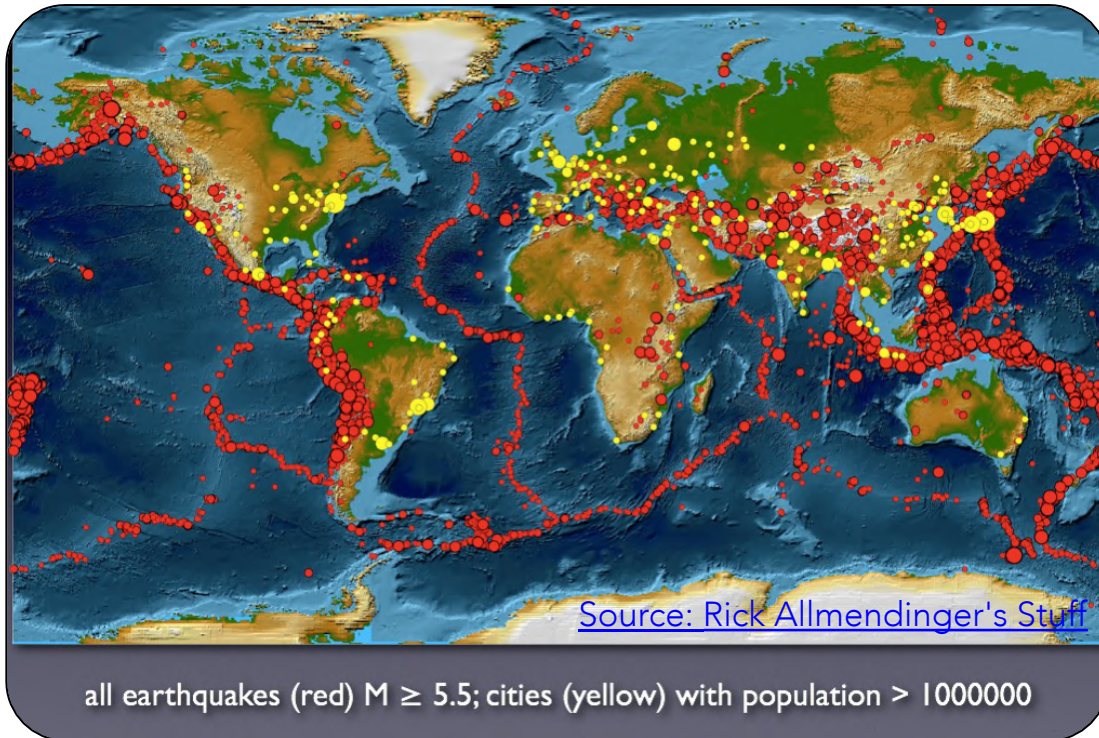
Xuanmei Fan





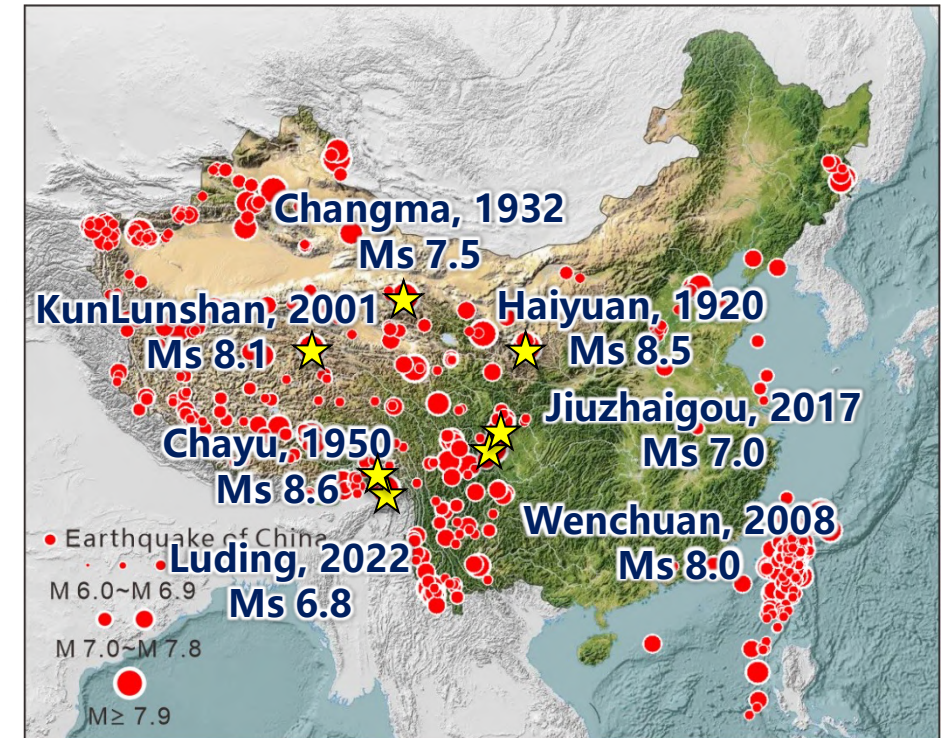
# Strong earthquakes are the primary triggers of geological hazards

## Global Earthquakes and Major Cities



A substantial proportion of the world's largest cities lies in regions with significant seismic risk.

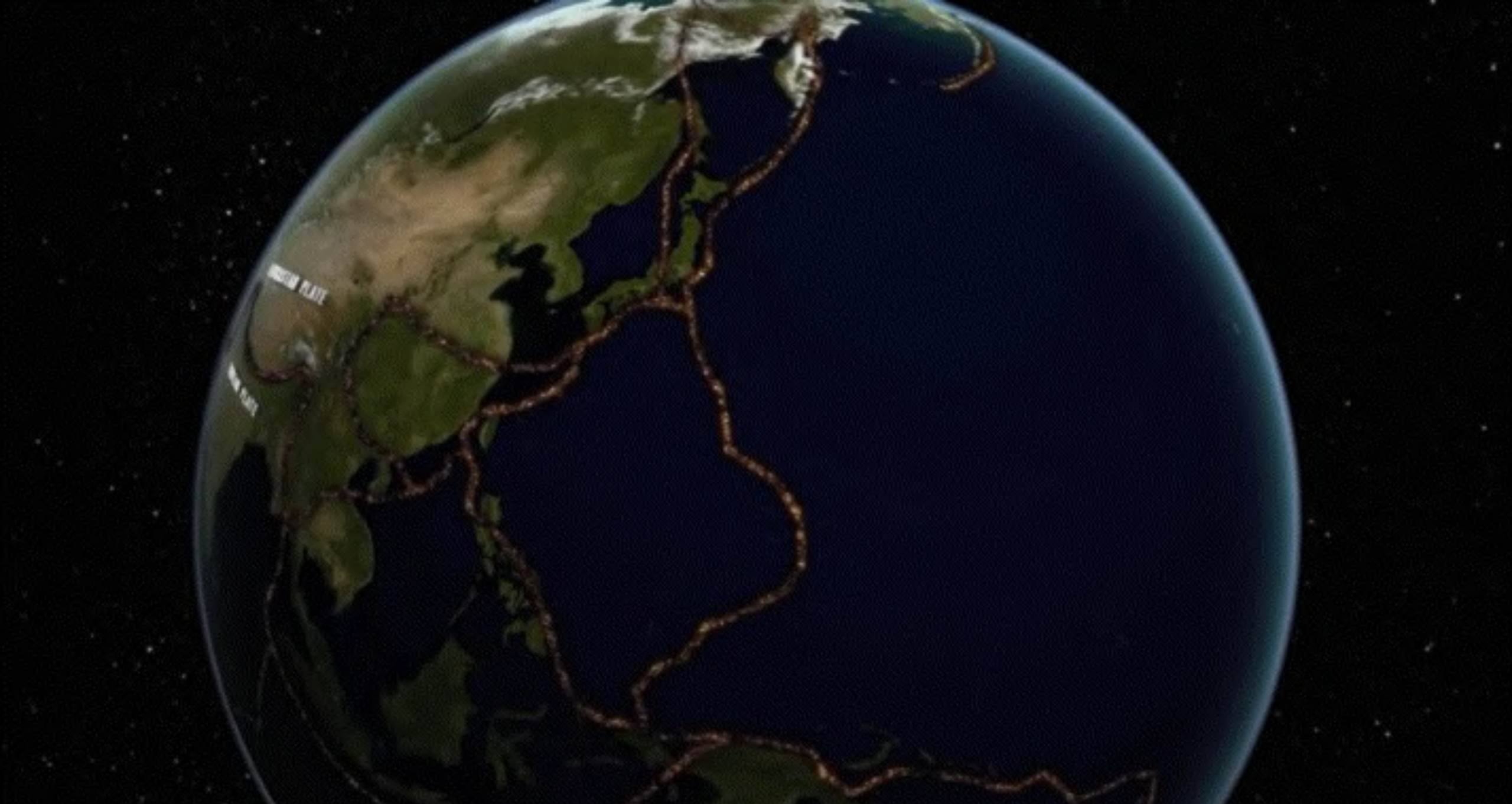
## Distribution map of earthquakes in China



The main reasons for death toll are:

- (1) Earthquake-caused collapse of buildings
- (2) Earthquake-induced landslides







# Earthquake-induced hazards have strong cascading effects

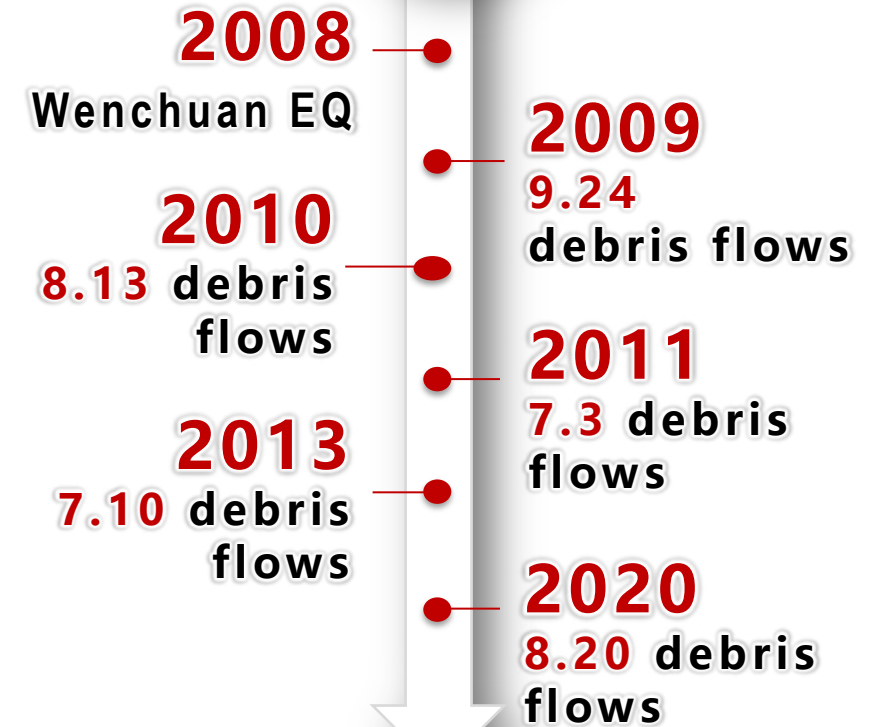
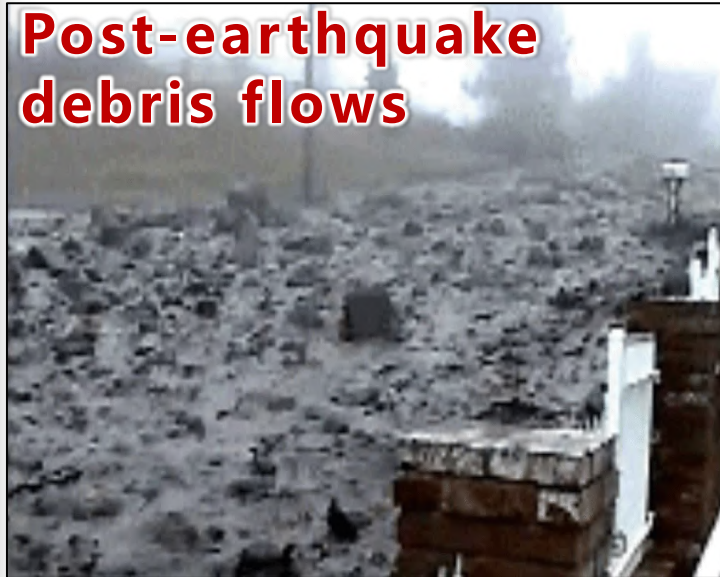
The 2008 Wenchuan earthquake triggered  
**>200,000** landslides



Control works were  
destroyed



Post-earthquake  
debris flows



Caused **hundreds of deaths**  
and **over 10 billions RMB** of  
economic loss



# Main Challenges

## Type 1



Earthquake



Coseismic  
landslides



Landslide  
dams



Dam-  
breach  
flood

- The failure mechanism of earthquake-triggered large landslides is poorly understood;
- There is no models that can accurately predict the coseismic landslides and landslide dams

## Type 2



Coseismic  
landslides



Post-earthquake  
remobilized  
landslides



Post-earthquake  
Debris flows

- Post-earthquake landslides and debris flows have dynamic mechanism, evolving with time
- Early warning of post-earthquake debris flows is challenging

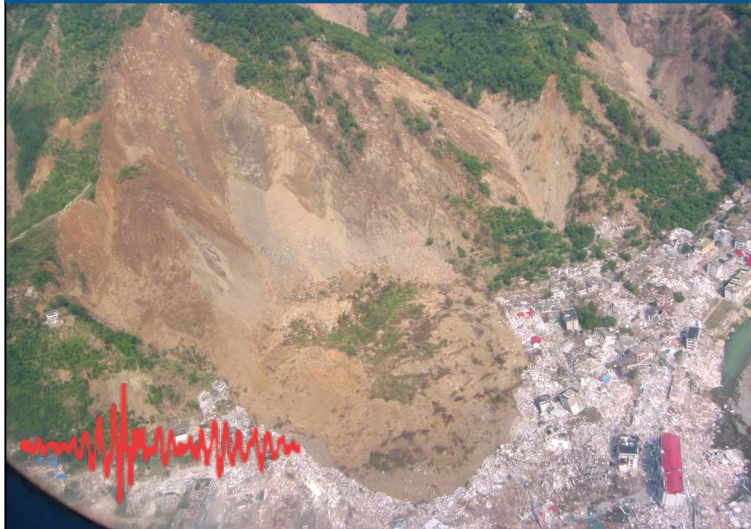


# Key Findings

## Finding 1

**Prediction of coseismic  
landslides and dam-  
breach flood**

### Coseismic hazards



## Finding 2

**Mechansims and predition  
of post-seismic landslides  
and debris flows**

### Post-seismic debris flows



## Finding 3

**Early warning model of  
future chains of  
geololgical hazards**

### Early warning





## Challenges:

**How to predict coseismic landslides?**

**How to predict dam-breach flooding risk?**

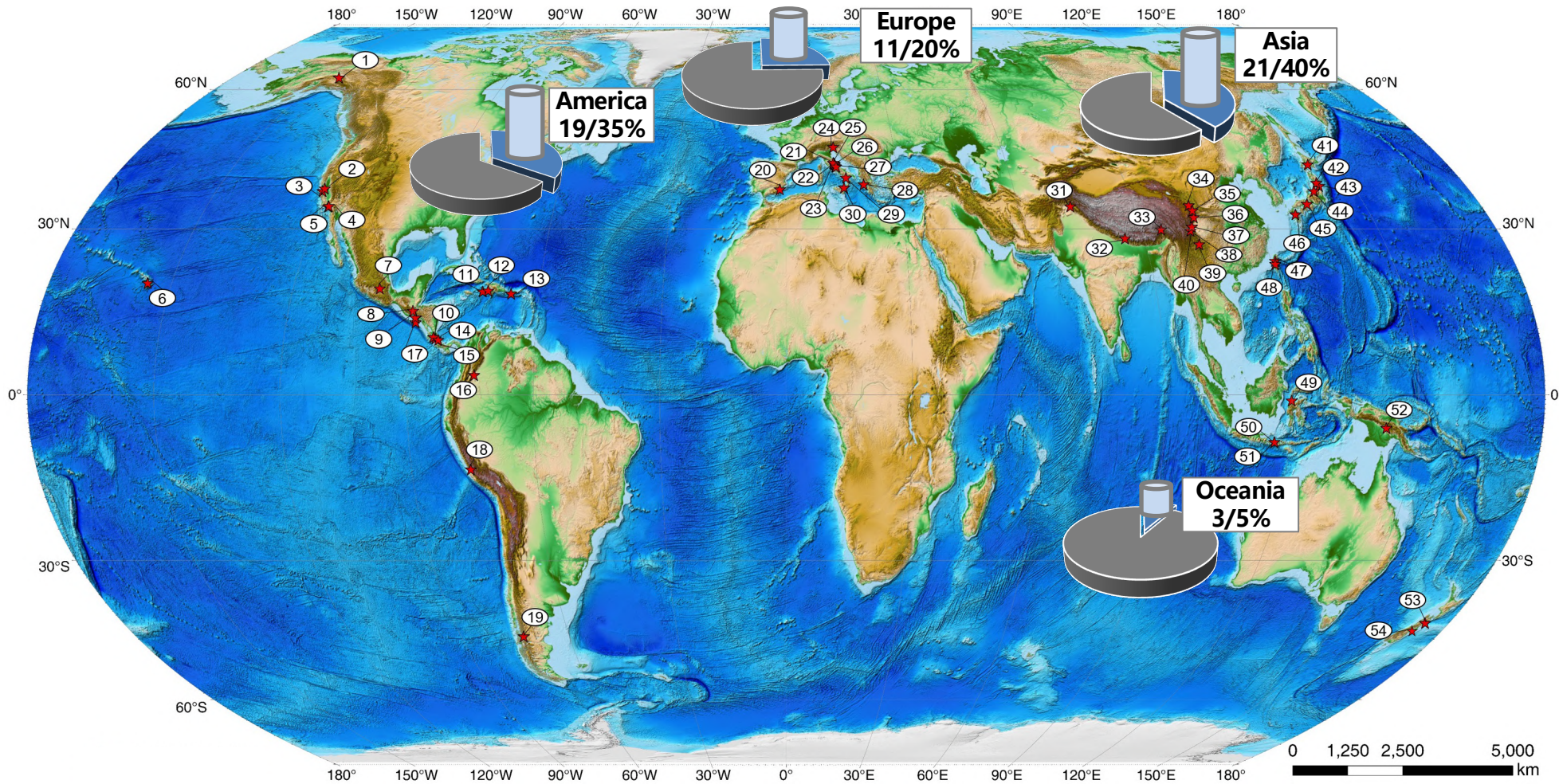


<https://www.hrr.mlit.go.jp/bosai/110920kasenbu/kekai.html>



# Coseismic landslide prediction

## □ Global earthquake-triggered landslide inventory



- **54** historical strong earthquakes
- including **more than 400,000** coseismic landslides

Acknowledgment: Hakan Tanyaş and many others who contributed to the inventory

Hakan T et al., JGR: Earth Surface, 2017  
Fan et al., *Reviews of Geophysics*, 2019



## □ Spatial distribution pattern and controls of coseismic landslides

### □ Controlling factors

#### Seismic factors

- Distance to fault
- Fault type
- Hanging/foot wall effect
- Locking section effect

#### Terrain factors

- Slope; Aspect
- Internal relief
- Micro-topography

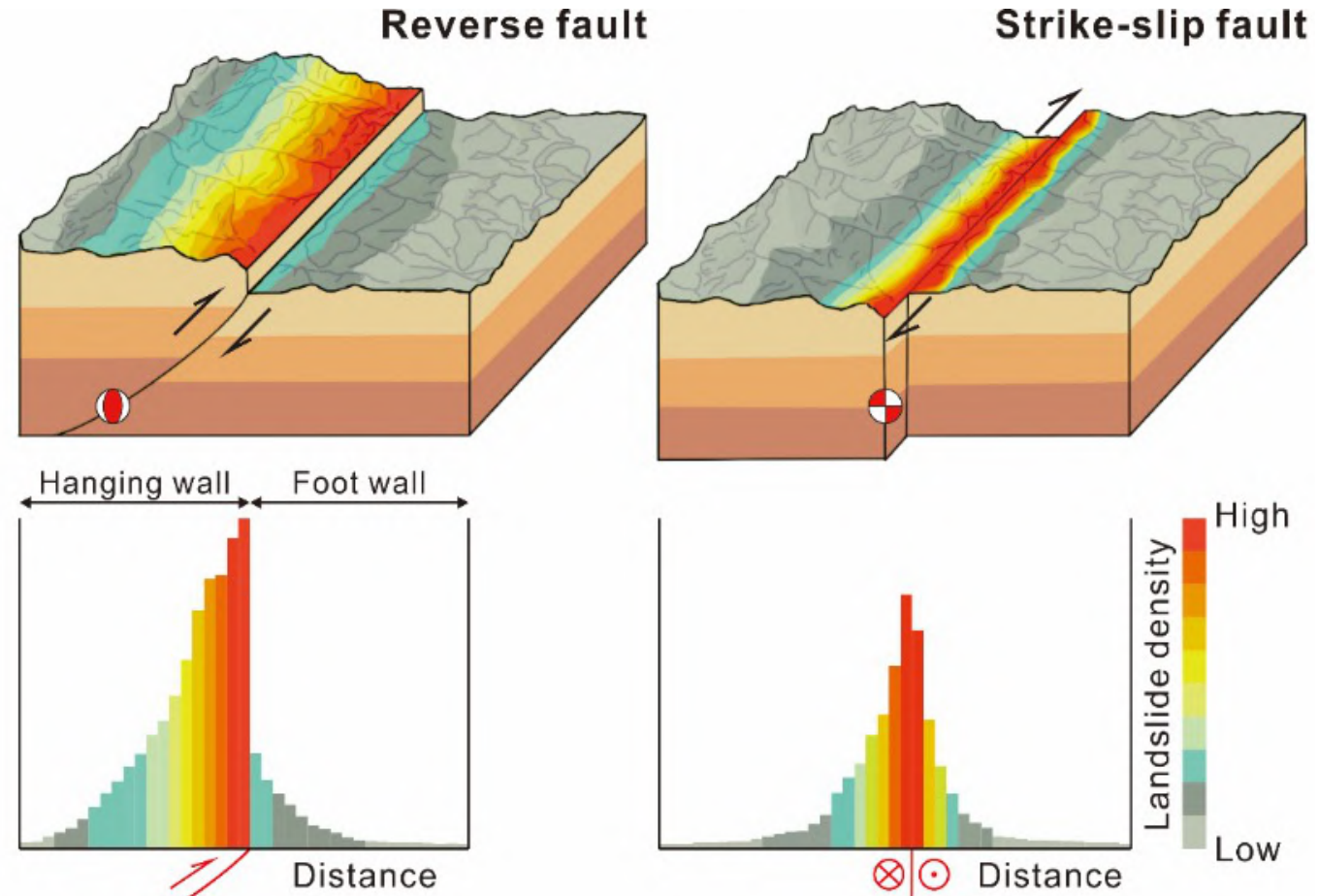
#### Geological factors

- Lithology
- Geological structure

#### Hydrological factors

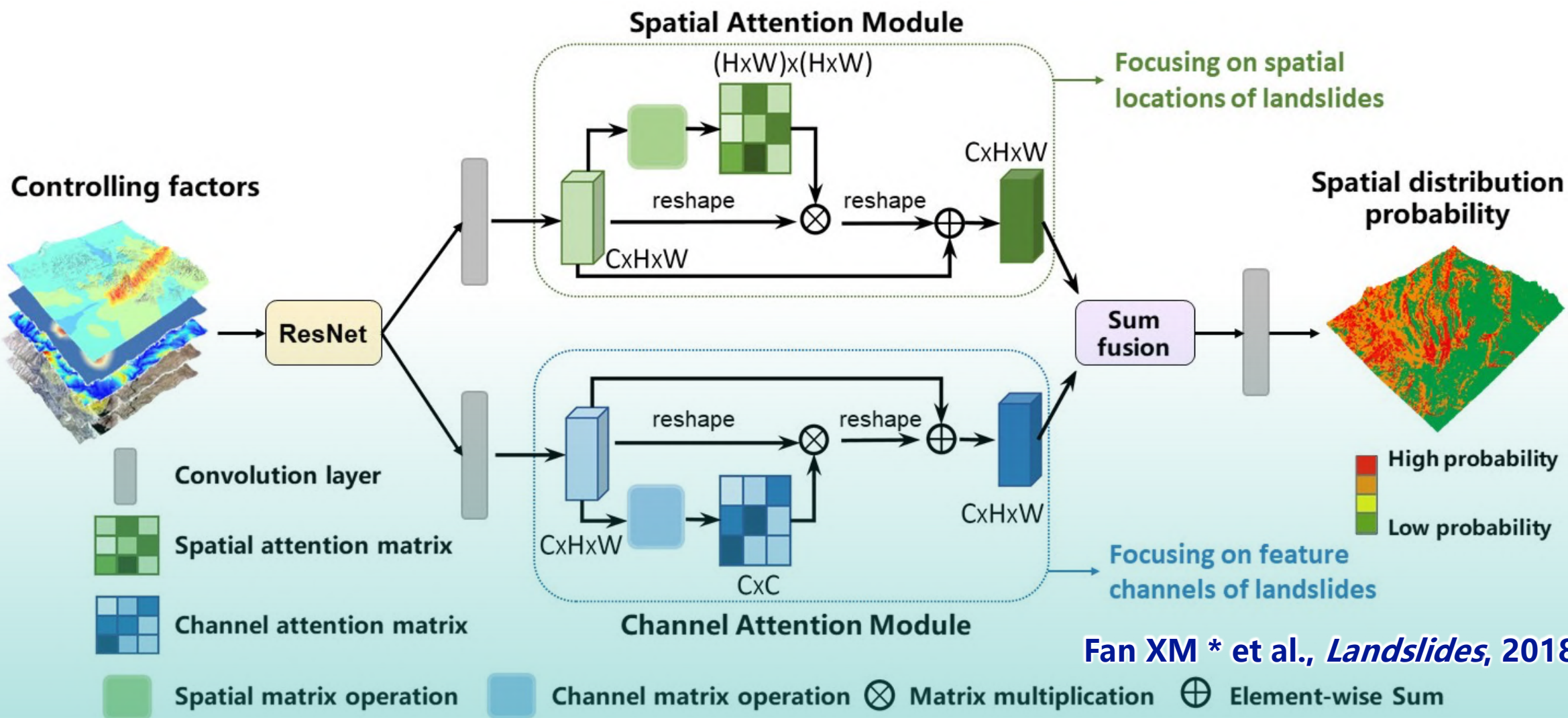
- Distance to river
- Stream power index
- Drainage density

### □ Fault type, distance and hanging wall effect





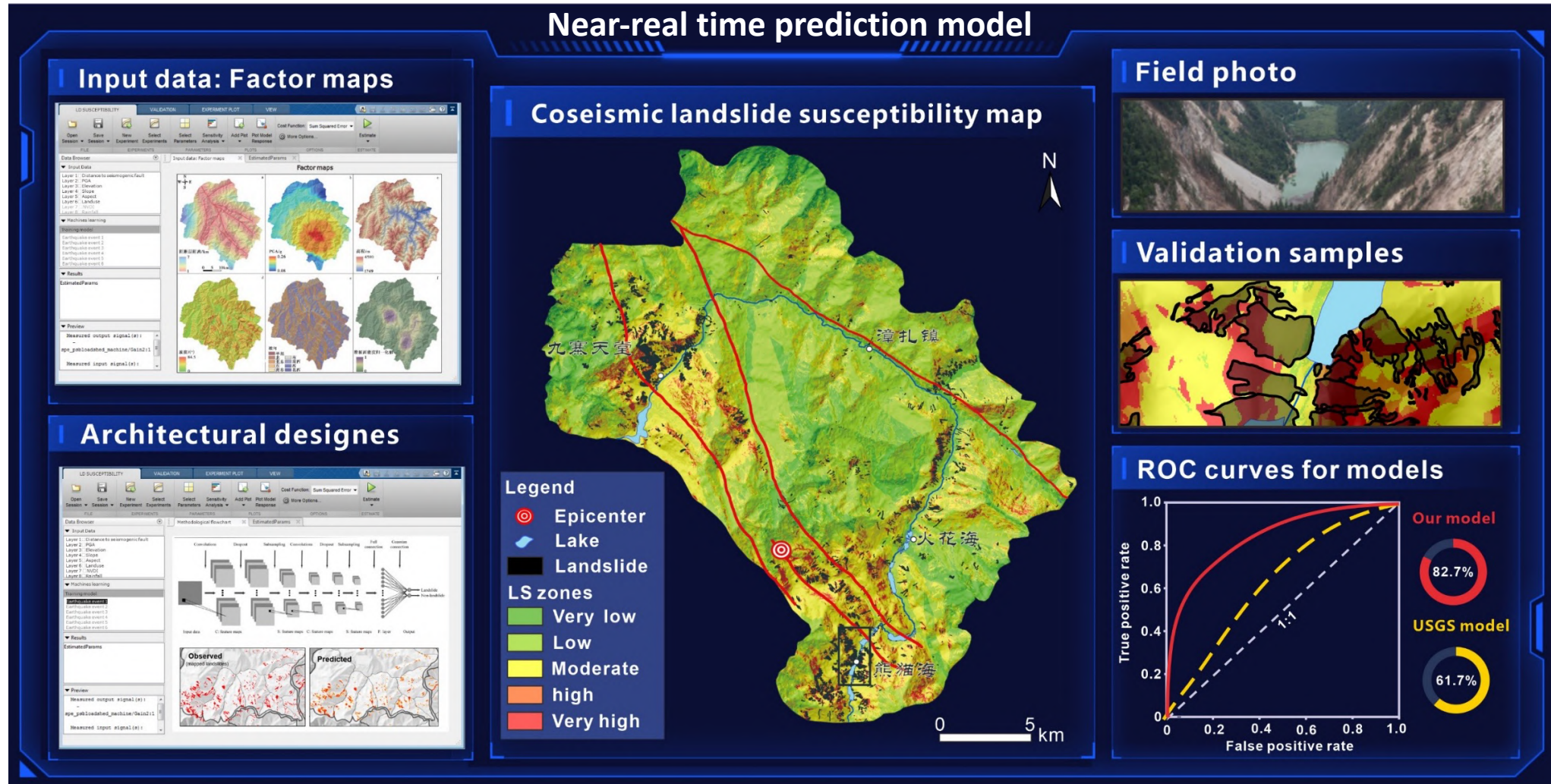
## AI algorithms (CNN、FCN (Fully Convolutional Network)、RF.....)





# Coseismic landslide prediction

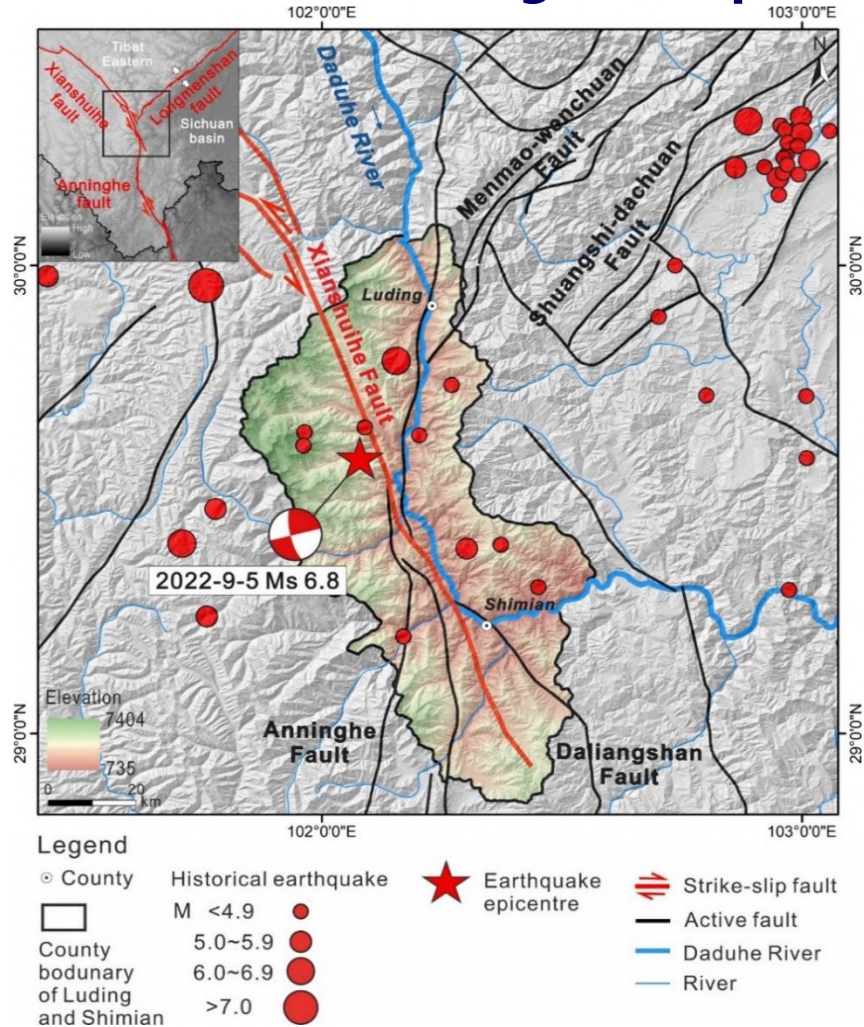
## □ Near-real time prediction model of co-seismic landslides





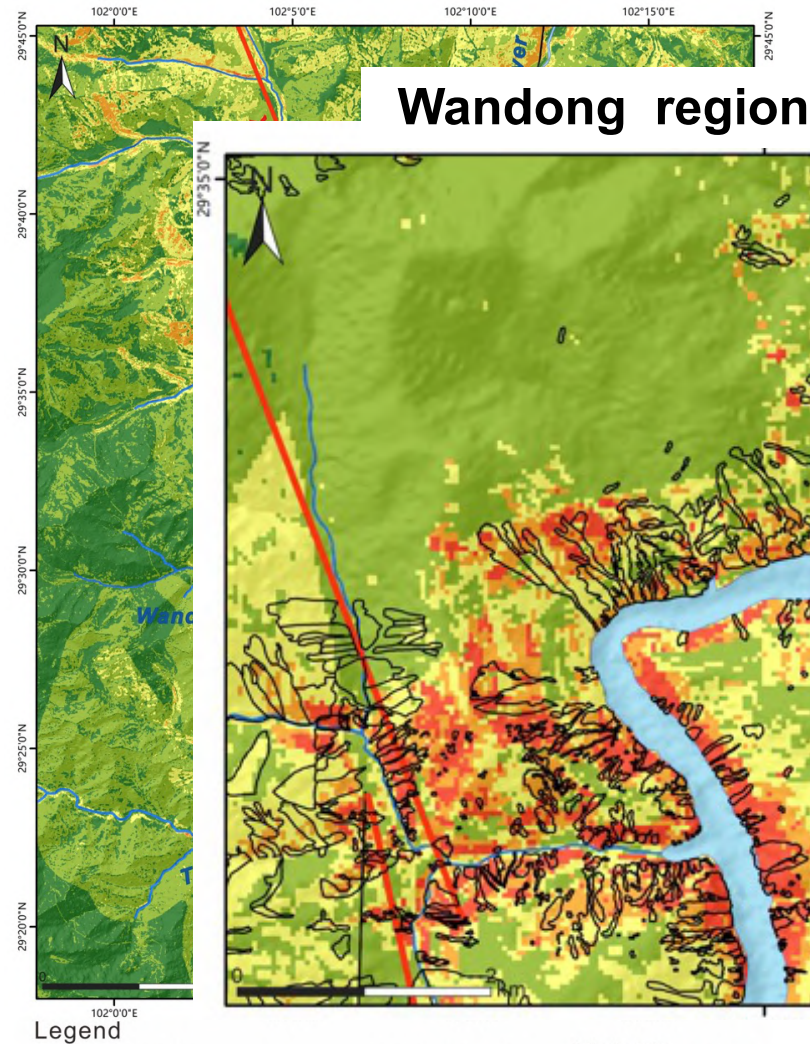
# Coseismic landslide prediction

## 2022 Ms 6.8 Luding earthquake

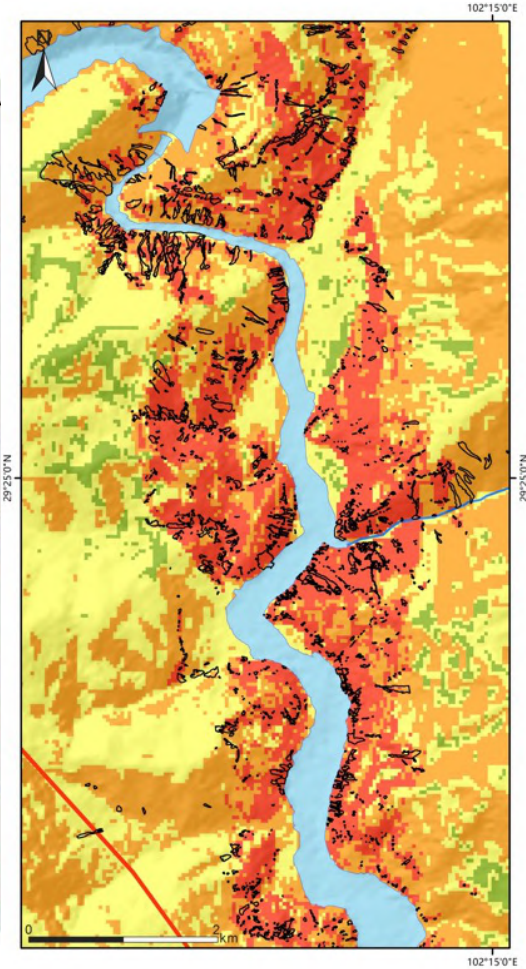


Dai LX, Fan XM \* et al., *Landslides*, 2023

□ Prediction results were released 2 hours after the EQ



Wajiao village

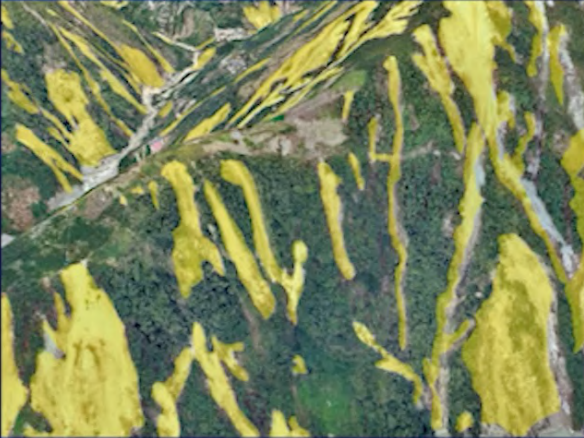


Accuracy 83.70%, Kappa coefficient is 0.54

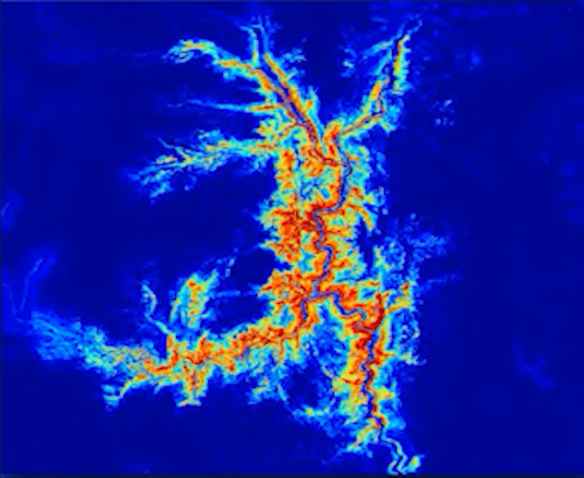


## Data Visualization Screen

### Landslide Detection



### Landslide Susceptibility



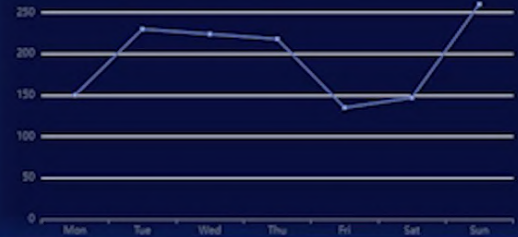
### Visualization Information



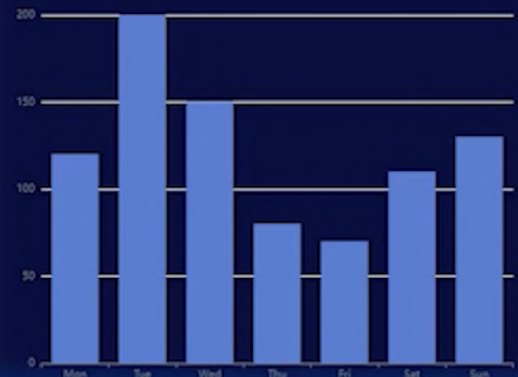
### Landslide Information

- test4
- 20230626
- 333
- test
- luding
- wangdonghe
- 

### Visualization Information



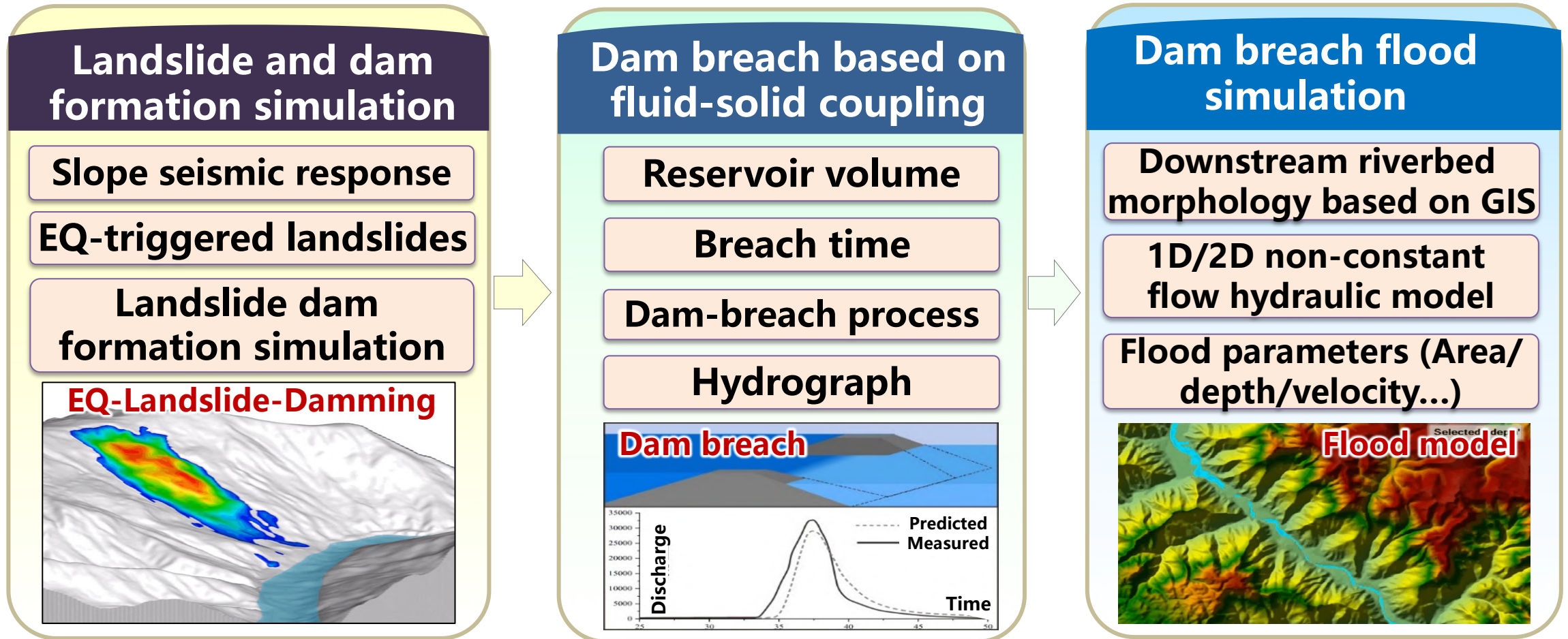
### Visualization Information



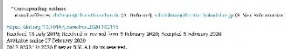
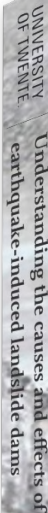


# Coseismic landslide dam and dam-breach flood prediction

- Developed an integrated model for earthquake-induced landslide dam and dam-breach flood hazard chain evaluation





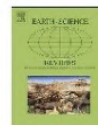






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Invited review

## The formation and impact of landslide dams – State of the art

Xuanmei Fan<sup>a,\*</sup>, Anja Dufresne<sup>b,c</sup>, Srikrishnan Siva Subramanian<sup>d,e</sup>, Alexander Strom<sup>c</sup>,  
Reginald Hermanns<sup>f,g</sup>, Carlo Tacconi Stefanelli<sup>h</sup>, Kenneth Hewitt<sup>i</sup>, Ali P. Yunus<sup>a</sup>,  
Stuart Dunning<sup>j</sup>, Lucia Capra<sup>k</sup>, Marten Geertsema<sup>l</sup>, Brendan Miller<sup>l</sup>, Nicola Casaghi<sup>l</sup>,  
John D. Jansen<sup>m,k</sup>, Qiang Xu<sup>n</sup>

<sup>a</sup> State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection, Chengdu University of Technology, 610059 Chengdu, Sichuan, People's Republic of China

<sup>b</sup> Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology, RWTH Aachen University, Lochstr. 4-20, 52066 Aachen, Germany

<sup>c</sup> Geodynamics Research Centre, Volcanoes House 2, 125080 Moscow, Russia

<sup>d</sup> Geohazards and Earth Observation, Geological Survey of Norway, Trondheim N-7491, Norway

<sup>e</sup> Department of Geoscience and Petroleum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

<sup>f</sup> Department of Earth Sciences, University of Firenze, Via Le Pira, 4, Florence 50121, Italy

<sup>g</sup> Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, 75 University Avenue West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3C5, Canada

<sup>h</sup> School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU, UK

<sup>i</sup> Centro de Geociencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, México

<sup>j</sup> Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada

<sup>k</sup> Czech Institute of Geophysics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia



## ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**  
landslide dam  
worldwide database  
classification  
seismicity  
geomorphological impacts  
landscape evolution

## ABSTRACT

The blocking of river courses by mass movements is very common in mountainous areas with deep and narrow valleys. Landslide dams may pose serious threats to people and their livelihoods downstream in the case of abrupt dam failure. Since the publication of benchmark reviews of Costa and Schuster (1988) and Korup (2002), there is a growing number of studies focusing on the formation, stability, and short-term impacts of landslide dams. This review combines the insights of all these studies, builds on current concepts of landslide dams, and suggests ways to unify terminologies and classifications. We furthermore present a new worldwide database compiled from literature data. It contains 410 landslide dams > 1 million m<sup>3</sup> in volume that were formed since 1900 since these have the most complete data entries. These data show that dam longevity is, among other factors, correlated with the type of landslide forming the dam. Those formed by rock/debris avalanches and rockslides have longest lifespans. However, the influence of landslide type or material on dam longevity decreases with time after dam formation. To ensure consistency in the next database generation, we suggest guidelines for data collection to provide a solid basis for evaluating dam stability and governing factors. A preliminary classification matrix for landslide dam stability that combines topographic setting and the internal structure of the dam body is another outcome of our review. Furthermore, an evaluation of the various geomorphic stability indices proposed in the literature regarding their suitability and limitations in assessing dam formation and stability shows that they predict the probability of dam formation reasonably well, but that their application to longevity estimates requires further assessment. The geomorphic impacts of landslide dams in the short-, medium- and long term are summarized and illustrated with key examples. Finally, for a better understanding of the factors controlling dam stability, we recommend to (1) include dam composition and sedimentary structures in future case studies, (2) maintain and update the worldwide database for sound statistical analyses, (3) refine landslide dam stability indices and test them for different landslide types, and (4) study hazard cascades related to multiple dams in one watershed. For long-term landscape evolution studies, we suggest to (5) quantify terrestrial sediment flux related to landslide dams, (6) detect ancient landslide dams in river profiles, and (7) further exploit the sediment archives in former impoundment areas.

\* Corresponding authors.

E-mail addresses: [dufresne@ltb.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:dufresne@ltb.rwth-aachen.de) (A. Dufresne), [srikrishnan@frontier.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:srikrishnan@frontier.hokudai.ac.jp) (S. Siva Subramanian).

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## Recent technological and methodological advances for the investigation of landslide dams

Xuanmei Fan<sup>a</sup>, Anja Dufresne<sup>b,c</sup>, Jim Whiteley<sup>c,d</sup>, Ali P. Yunus<sup>a</sup>,  
Srikrishnan Siva Subramanian<sup>e</sup>, Chukwueloka A.U. Okeke<sup>f</sup>, Tomáš Pánek<sup>g</sup>,  
Reginald L. Hermanns<sup>h,i</sup>, Peng Ming<sup>j</sup>, Alexander Strom<sup>k</sup>, Hans-Balder Havenith<sup>k</sup>,  
Stuart Dunning<sup>l</sup>, Gonghui Wang<sup>m</sup>, Carlo Tacconi Stefanelli<sup>n</sup>

<sup>a</sup> State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection, Chengdu University of Technology, 610059 Chengdu, Sichuan, People's Republic of China

<sup>b</sup> Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology, RWTH Aachen University, Lochstr. 4-20, 52066 Aachen, Germany

<sup>c</sup> School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RJ, United Kingdom

<sup>d</sup> British Geological Survey, Environmental Science Centre, Nicker Hill, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG, United Kingdom

<sup>e</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, Covenant University Ota, Ota State, Nigeria

<sup>f</sup> Department of Physical Geography and Geology, University of Osnabrück, Chilowstr. 10, 49069 Osnabrück, Germany

<sup>g</sup> Geohazards and Earth Observation, Geological Survey of Norway, Trondheim N-7491, Norway

<sup>h</sup> Department of Geoscience and Petroleum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

<sup>i</sup> Department of Geotechnical Engineering, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

<sup>j</sup> Geodynamics Research Centre LLC, IP-1 Novosibirskobnorskoye Passage, 9, 125008 Moscow, Russia

<sup>k</sup> Department of Geology, Université de Liège, Belgium

<sup>l</sup> School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU, UK

<sup>m</sup> Section of Mountain Hazards, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

<sup>n</sup> Department of Earth Sciences, University of Firenze, Via Le Pira, 4, Florence 50121, Italy

## ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**  
Landslide dam  
Sedimentology  
Embankment dam  
Hazard mitigation  
Geophysics  
Numerical modelling  
Remote sensing  
Dating  
Rockslide dam

## ABSTRACT

River-damming by landslides is a widespread phenomenon around the world. Recent advances in remote sensing technology and the rising commercial availability of their products enable the assemblage of increasingly more complete inventories and improve monitoring efforts. On the ground, multi-method dating campaigns enhance our understanding of the timelines of dam formation and failure. In comparison to single-dating methods, they reduce uncertainty by using different materials from the landslide deposits, facilitate the advantages of each method, and consider the deposit and the source area. They can pin dates on the time of lake drainage where backwater sediments are included in the dating campaign and thus inform about dam longevity. Geophysical methods provide non-invasive and rapid methods to investigate the properties and interior conditions of landslide dams. By identifying, e.g. evolving zones of weakness and saturation they can aid in the monitoring of a dam in addition to providing information on interior stratification for scientific research. To verify results from geophysical campaigns, and to add details of dam interior structures and geotechnical properties, knowledge of their sedimentology is essential. This information is gathered at sections from breached dams, other (partially) eroded landslide deposits, and through laboratory testing of sampled material. Combining the knowledge gained from all these methods with insights from blast-fill and embankment dam construction, physical and numerical modelling in multi-disciplinary research projects is the way forward in landslide dam research, assessment and monitoring. This review offers a broad, yet concise overview of the state-of-the-art in the aforementioned research fields. It compiles the review of Fan et al. (2020) on the formation and impact on landslide dams.

\* Corresponding author.

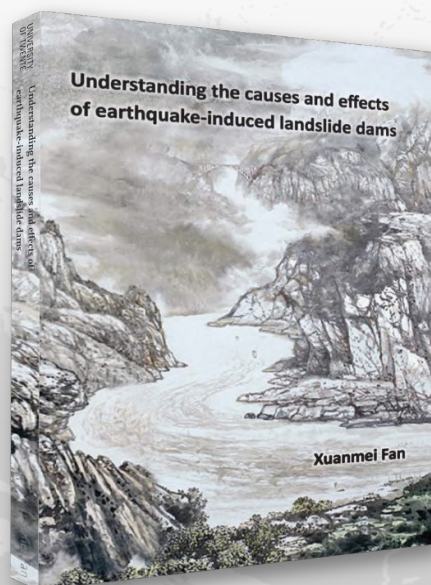
E-mail address: [dufresne@ltb.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:dufresne@ltb.rwth-aachen.de) (A. Dufresne).

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## Challenges:

How do post-earthquake  
landslides and debris flows  
evolve?

What are the mechanisms and  
how to simulate?

The Wenjia debris flow after the Wenchuan earthquake

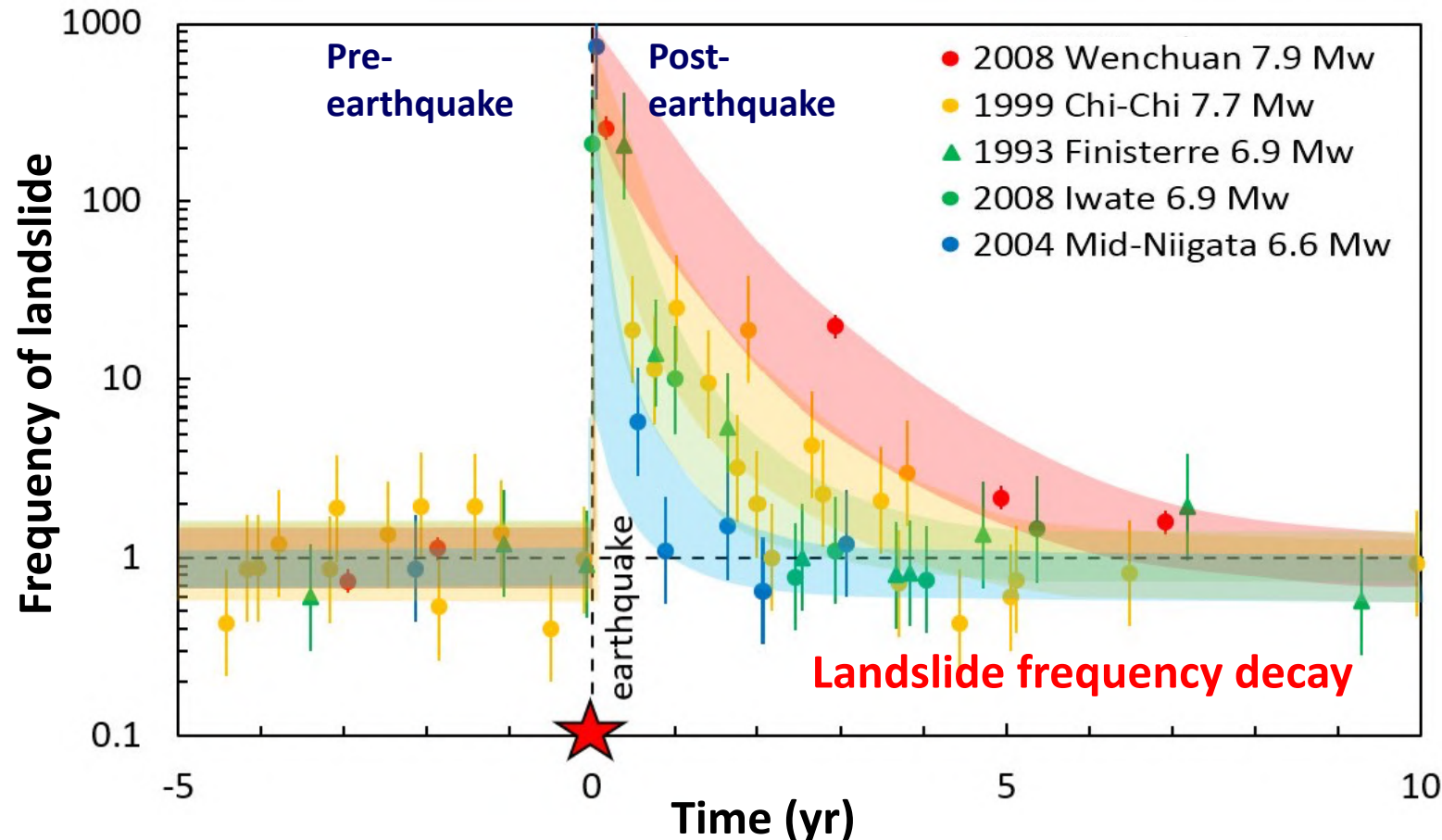




# Post-earthquake landslides evolve

## □ Evolution of post-seismic landslide in time

### Evolution of Landslides Over Time After Strong Earthquakes Worldwide



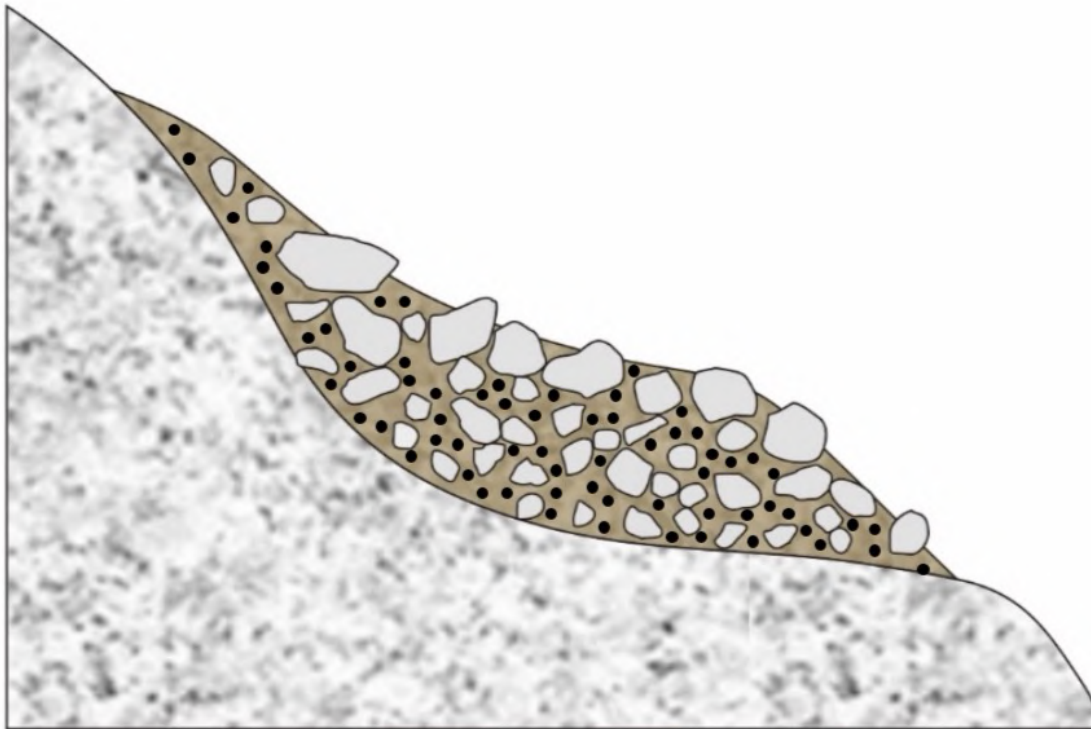
□ The frequency of landslides increases significantly after earthquakes and then **decays** within a decade following a **power-law** to the pre-earthquake level



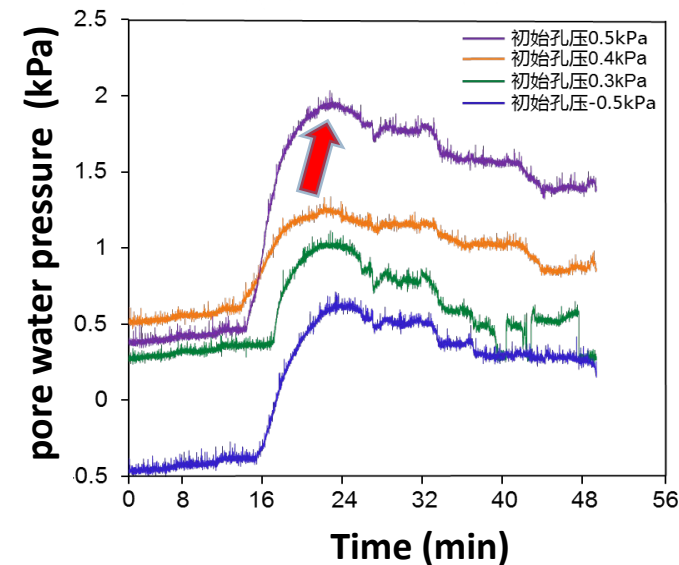
## □ Mechanism of post-earthquake landslides and debris flows

### Static liquefaction mechanism

Hydrodynamic force → fine particles migration → pore pressure increase → static liquefaction → slope instability



### Pore water pressure surge slope instability



### Grain coarsening

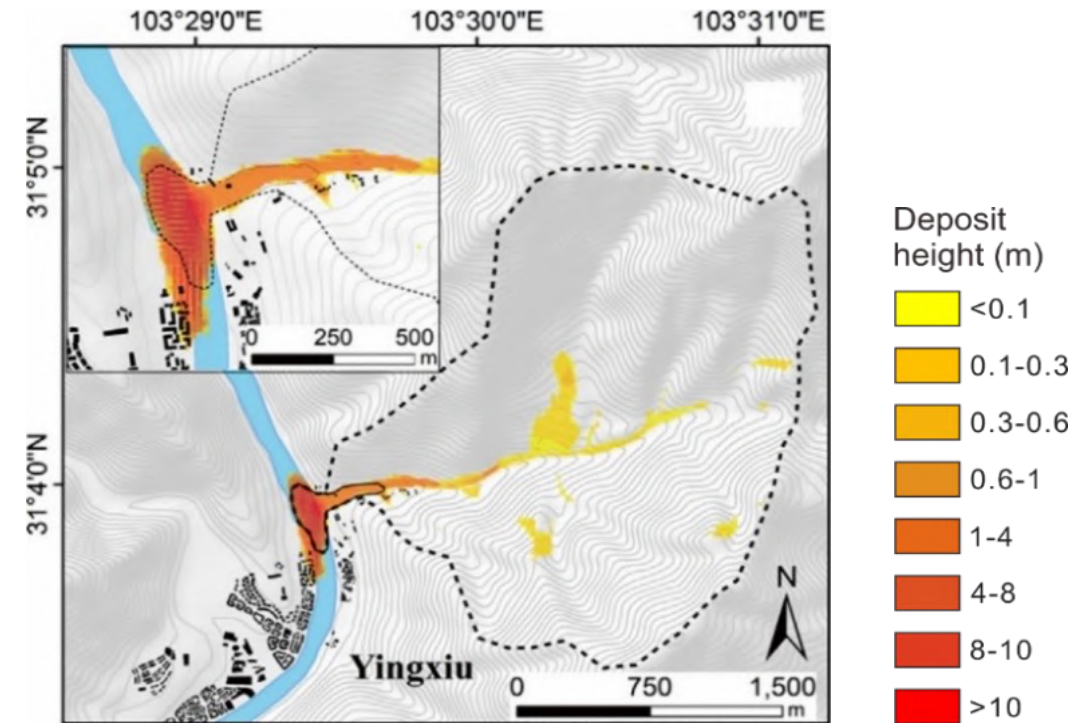
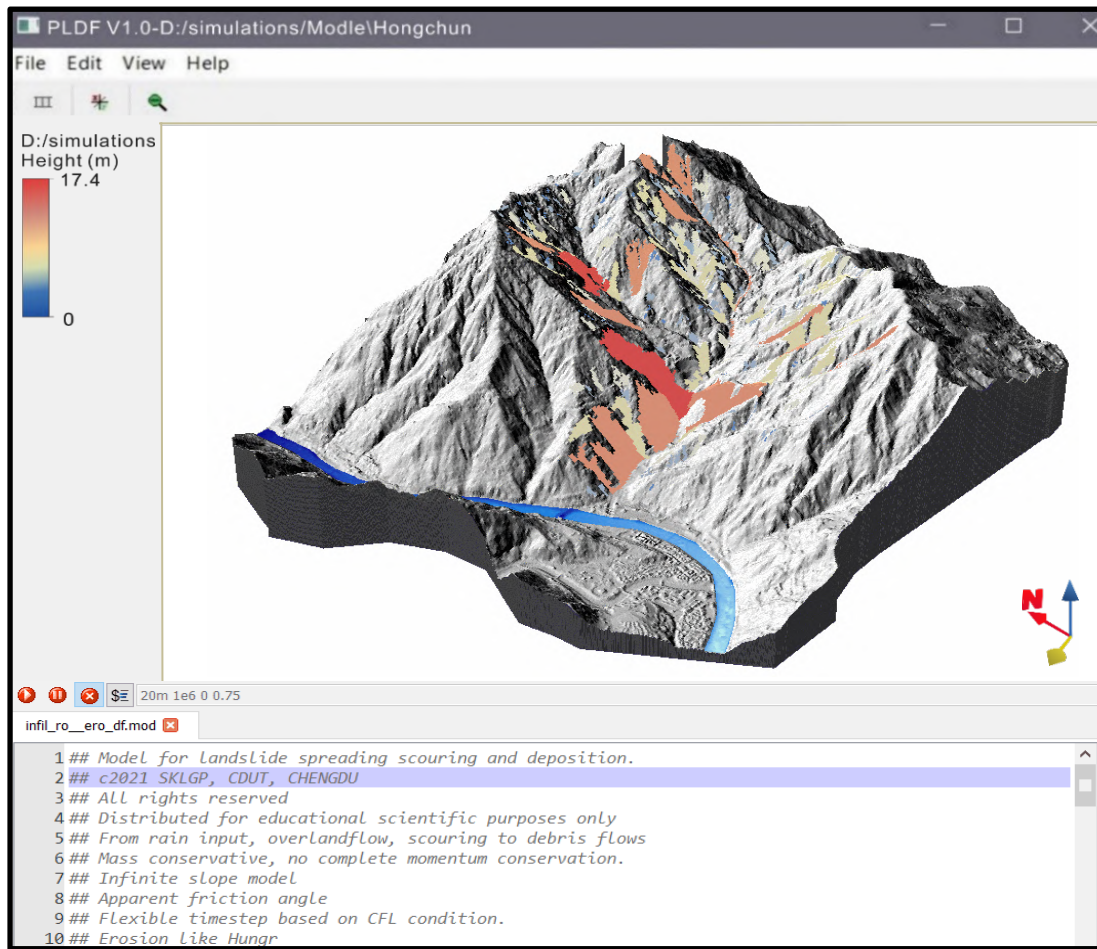




# Prediction of post-seismic hazard chain

## □ Developed a Numerical Model for Landslides-Debris Flows

Multi-hazard chain scenarios through an integrated numerical modelling approach:  
**Post-seismic landslides → debris flow → dammed river → outburst flood**



**Special thanks and memory of Prof. Theo van Asch**  
Domenech, Fan XM \* et al., *Engineering Geology*, 2019  
Yang, Fan XM\* et al., *Engineering Geology*, 2023



# Challenges:

How to prevent and early warn post-earthquake debris flows?





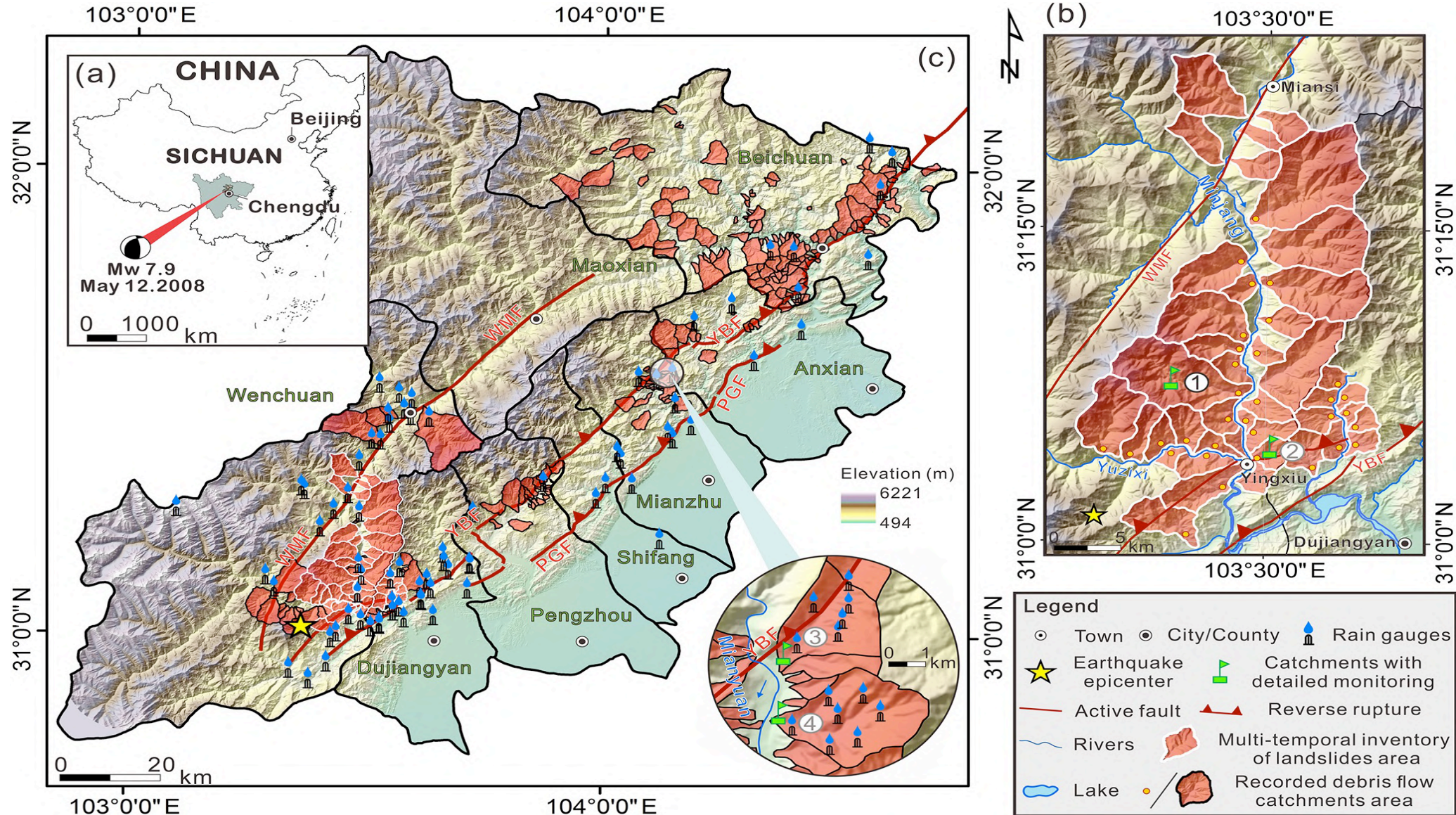
# Debris flows after the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake

## Images after the 20 August 2019 debris flow events





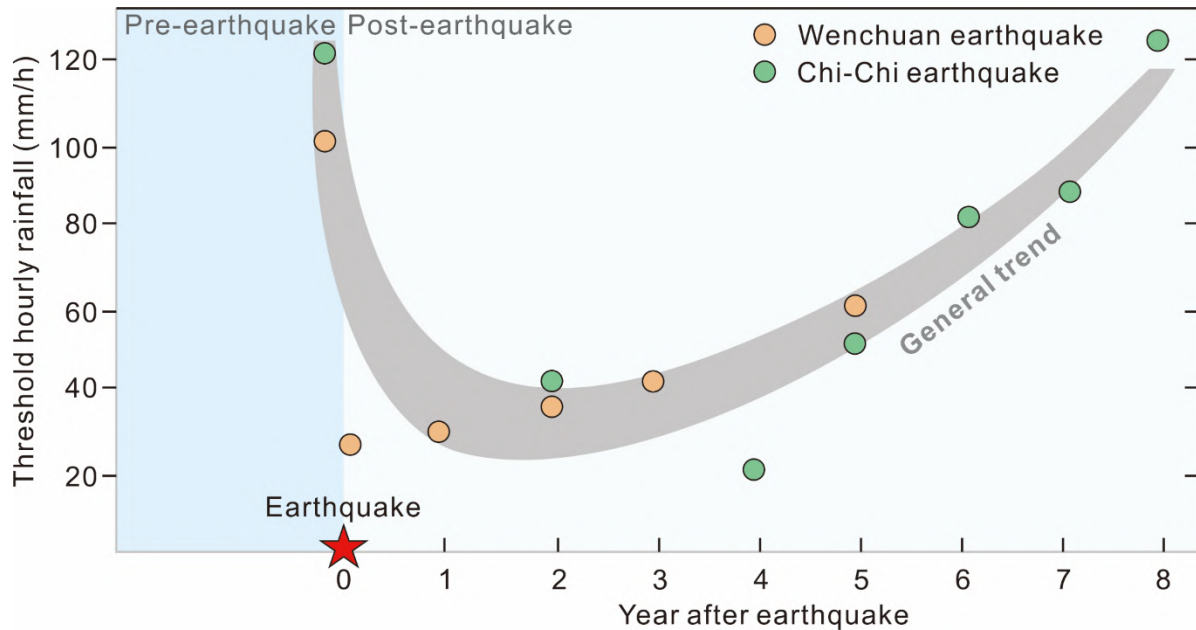
# A database contains >500 post-earthquake debris flows





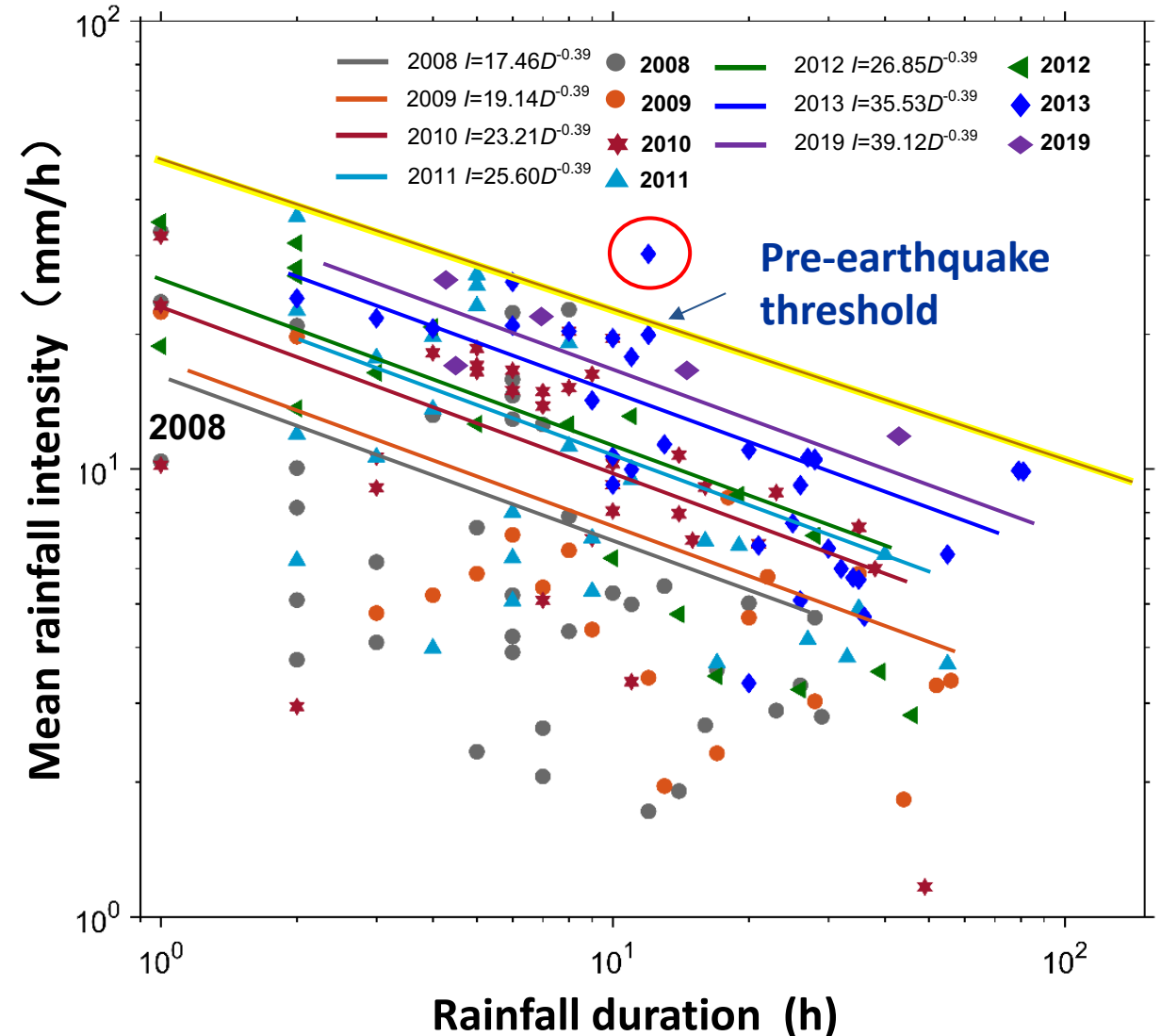
# Changing rainfall threshold of post-earthquake debris flows

## □ Evolution of rainfall threshold of debris flows after earthquake



The rainfall threshold of debris flows after earthquakes decreases to 1/3 of that before earthquake, and then increases gradually with time

Jiang, Fan XM \* et al., *Engineering Geology*, 2021

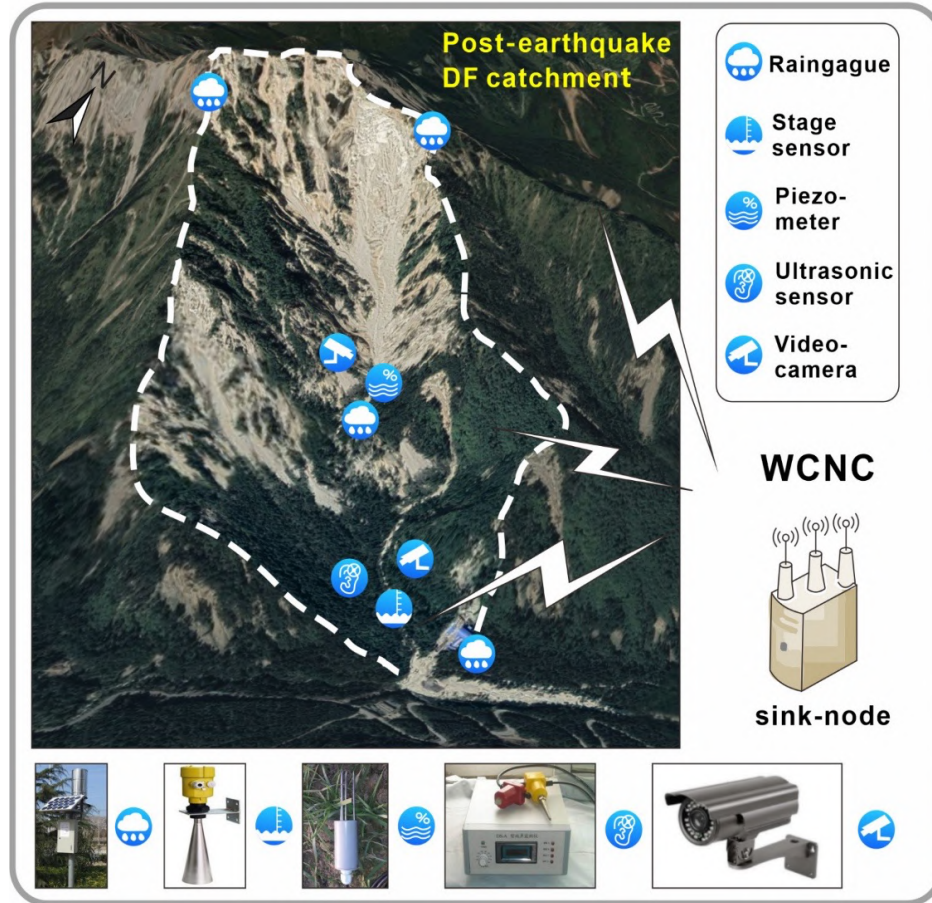




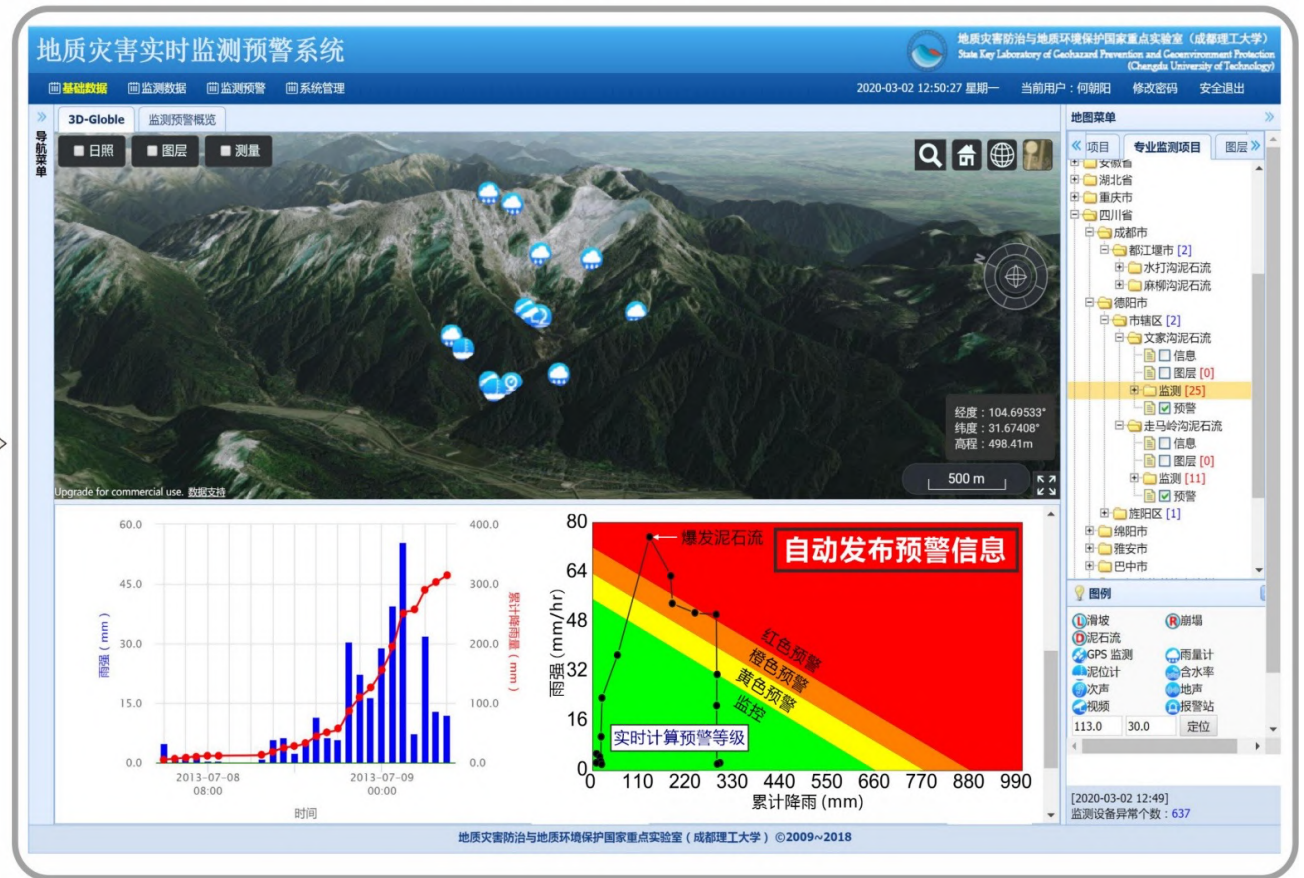
# Early warning system of post-earthquake debris flows

## Real-time Early Warning System for Landslides and Debris Flows

Debris-flow monitoring site

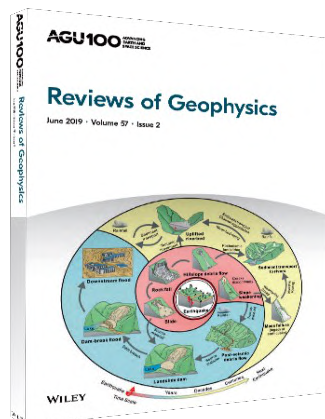
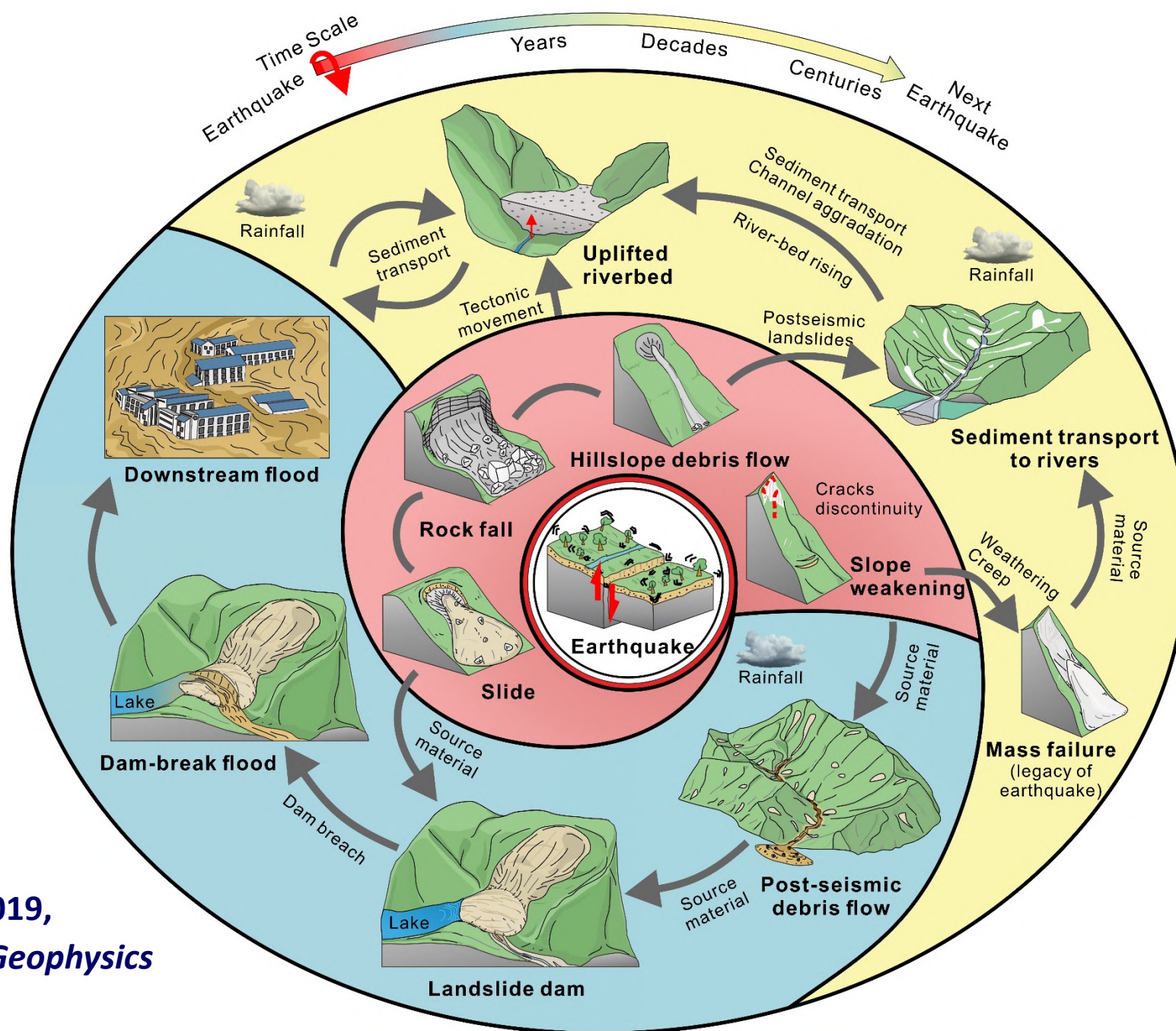


Real-time early warning system for landslides and debris flows



Successfully early warned more than 220 landslides and debris flows

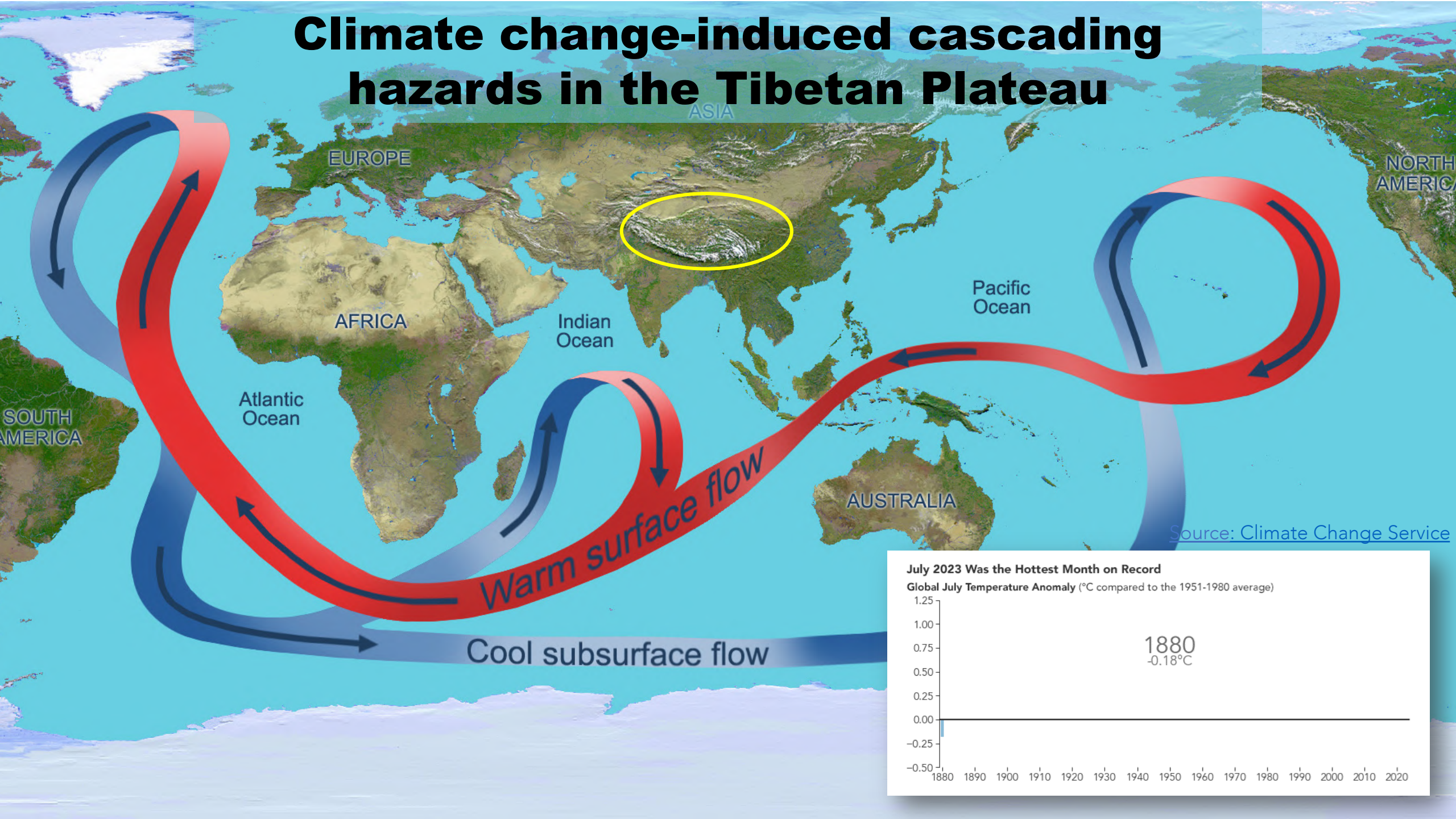




Fan et al., 2019,  
*Reviews of Geophysics*

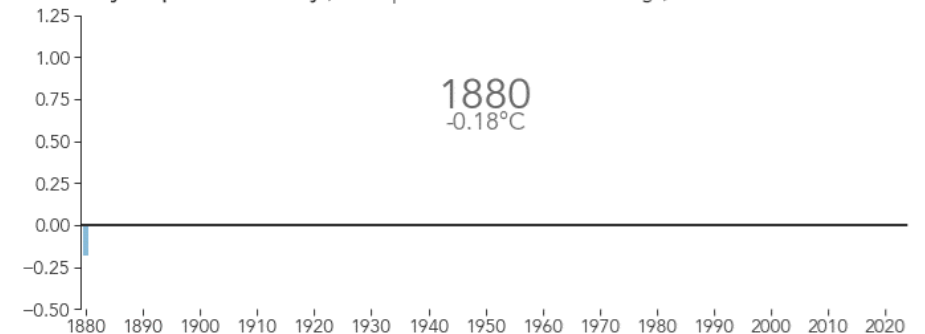


# Climate change-induced cascading hazards in the Tibetan Plateau



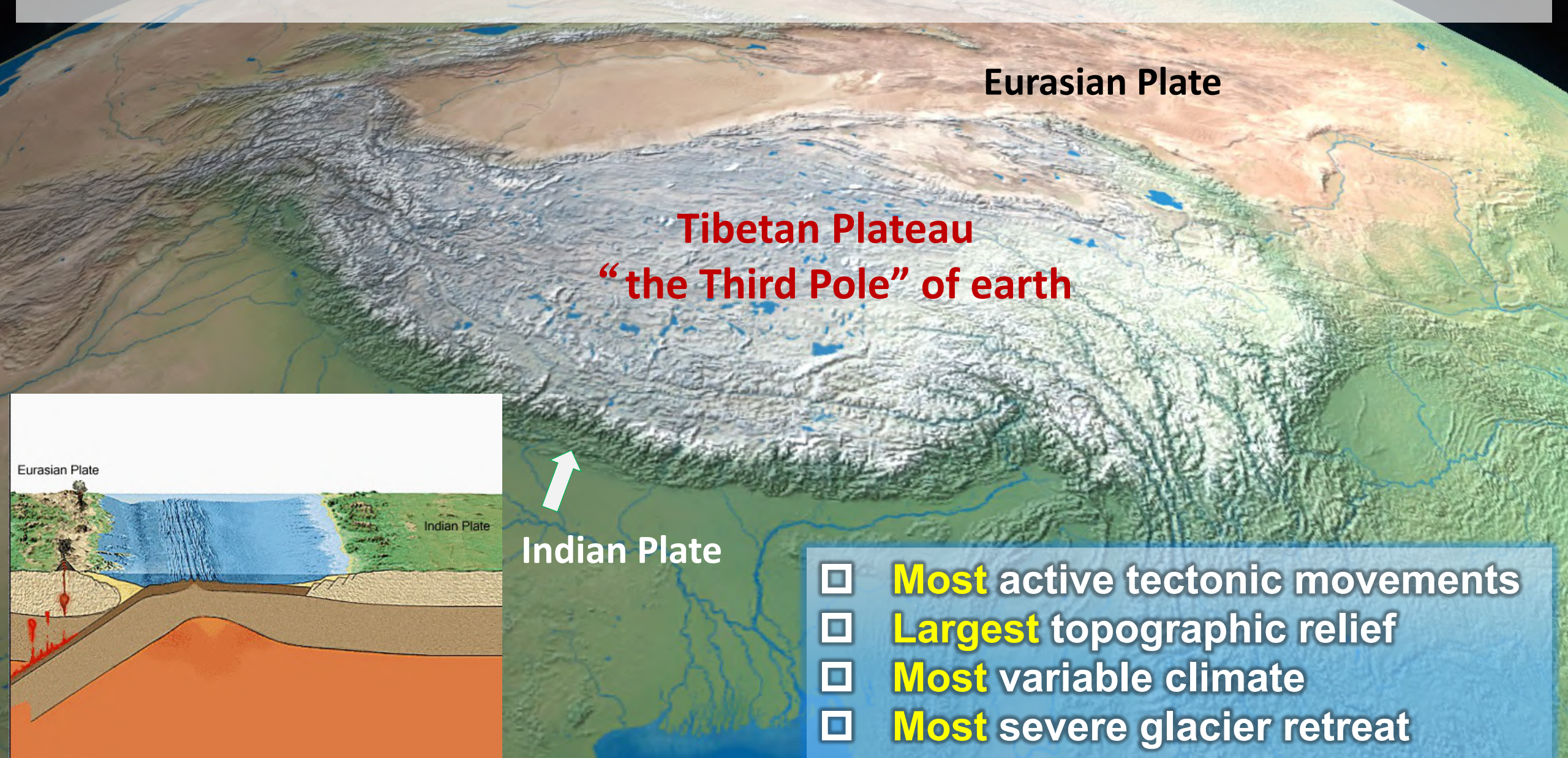
## July 2023 Was the Hottest Month on Record

Global July Temperature Anomaly (°C compared to the 1951-1980 average)





The Tibetan Plateau is one of the areas with the most complex geological conditions in the world, also called “**the Third Pole**” of earth.



Eurasian Plate

**Tibetan Plateau**  
“the Third Pole” of earth

Indian Plate

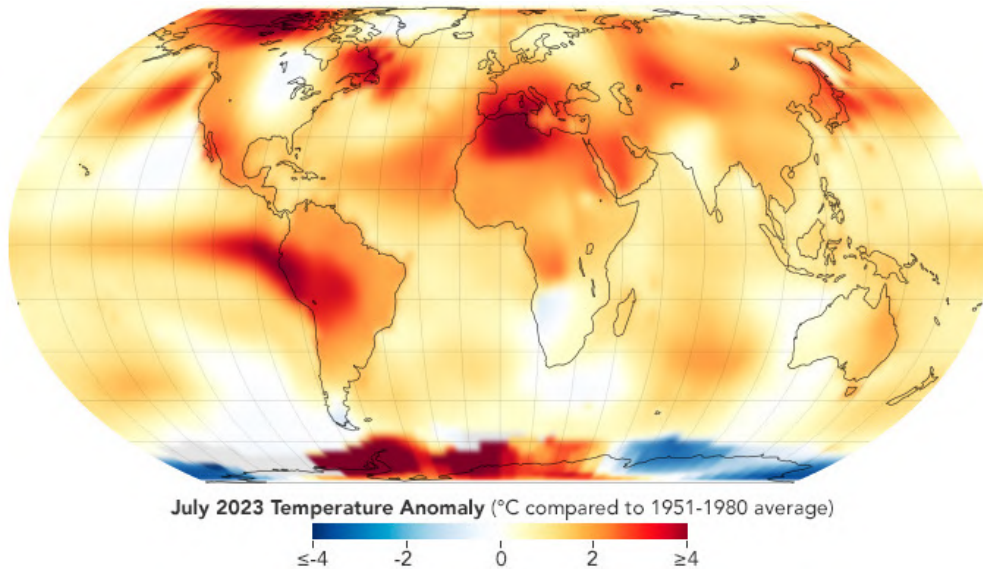
- ☐ **Most** active tectonic movements
- ☐ **Largest** topographic relief
- ☐ **Most** variable climate
- ☐ **Most** severe glacier retreat



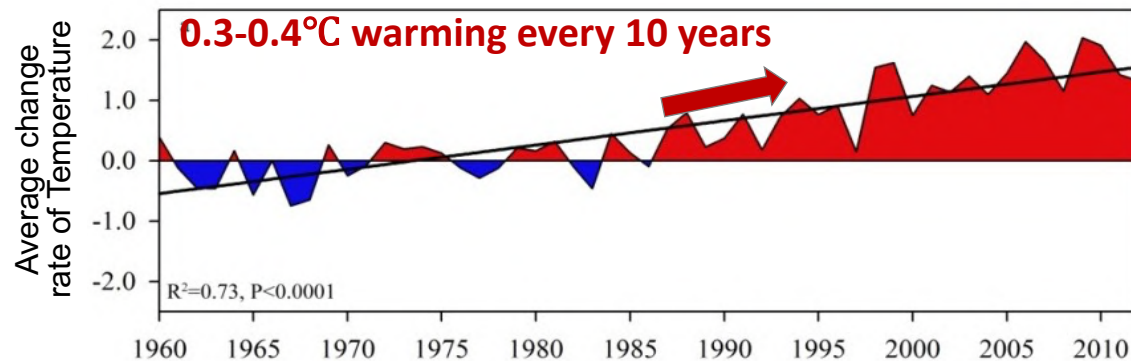
# Observed climate and environmental changes in the Tibetan Plateau

TP is the region with the **most intense climate change** in the world: **warming, wetting and greening**

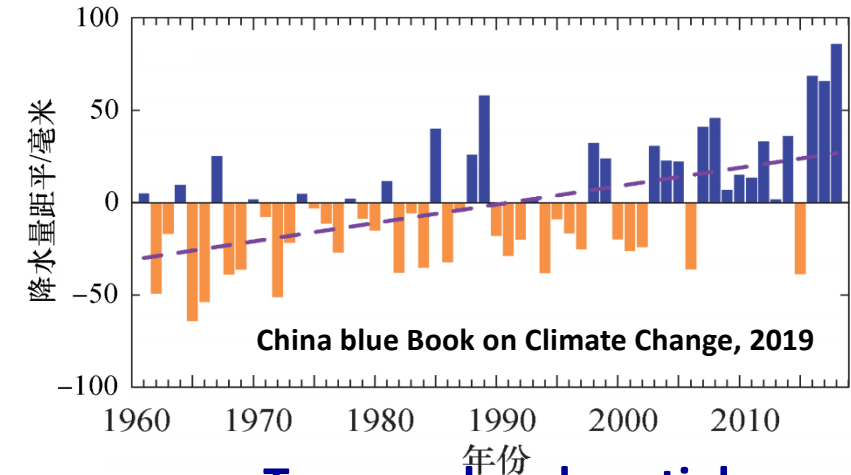
Global warming is unprecedented now



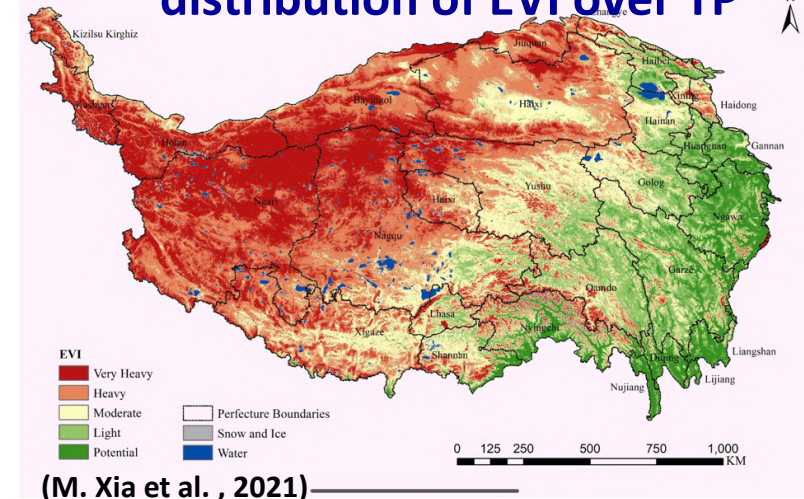
TP is warming twice as fast as the global average



Changes of precipitation in TP since 1960



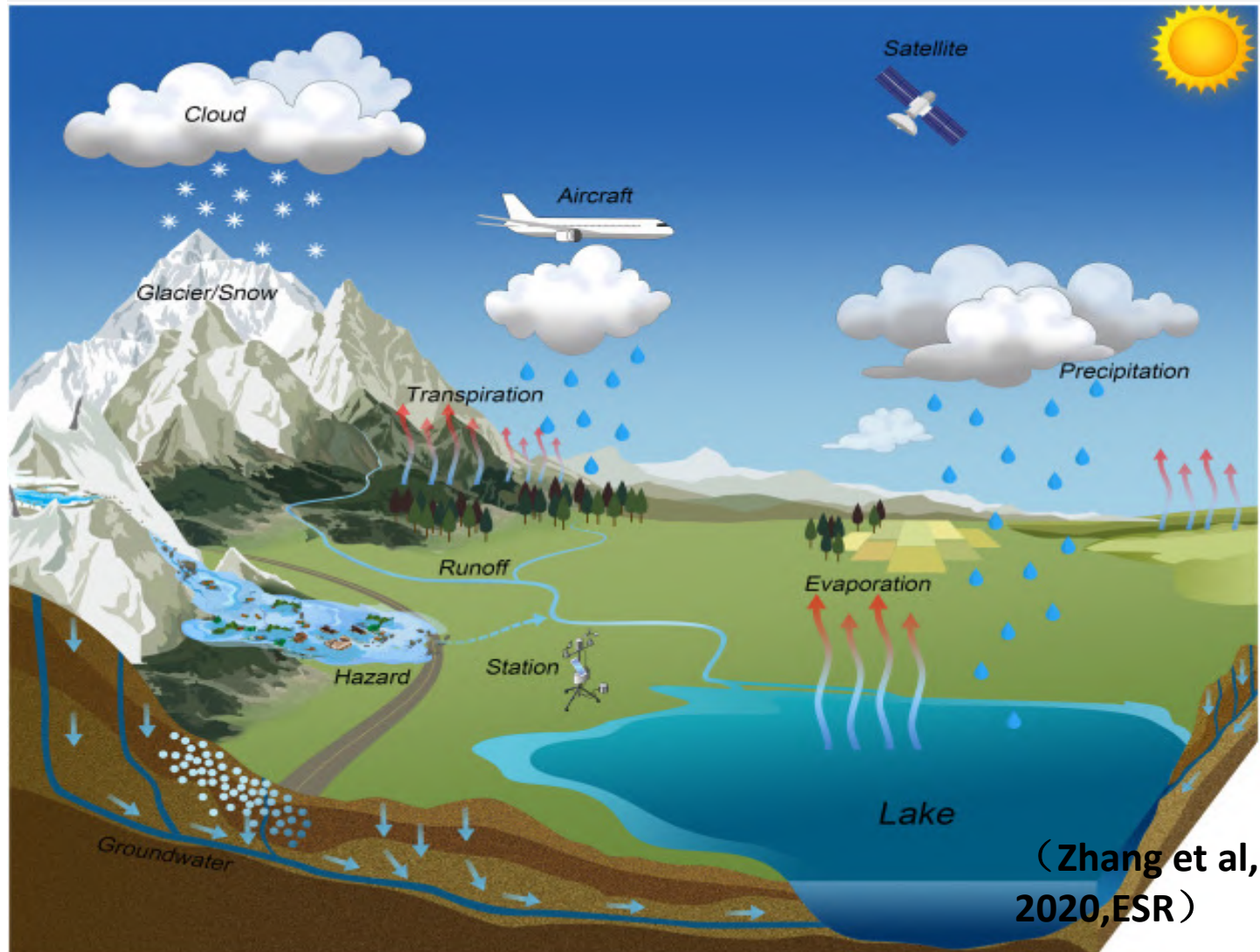
Temporal and spatial distribution of EVI over TP



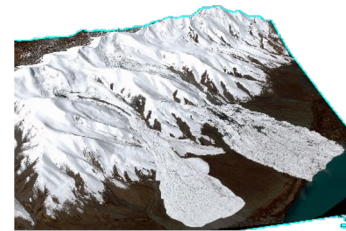


# Global climate change enhances various types of geological hazards

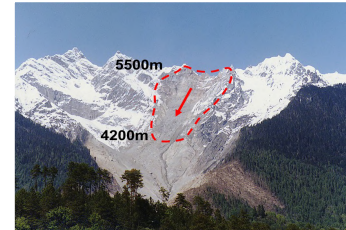
With climate change, glaciers retreat, glacier lakes expand, which induced various types of geohazards in the Tibetan Plateau



## Main hazard types



◆ Glacier collapses



◆ Ice-rock avalanches



◆ Glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs)

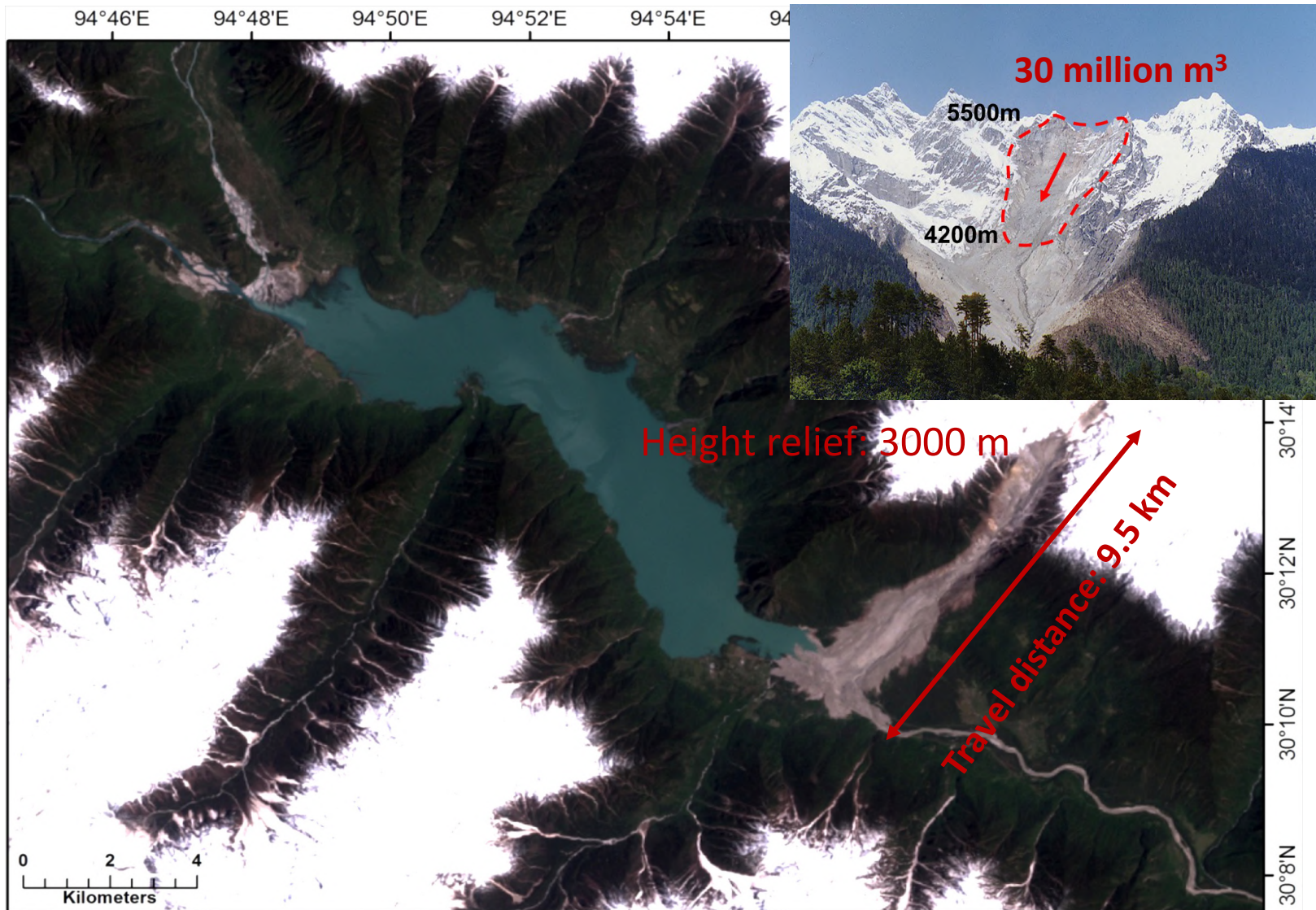


◆ Glacier-debris flows



# Yigong landslide and dam-breach flood (4 April to 10 June, 2000)

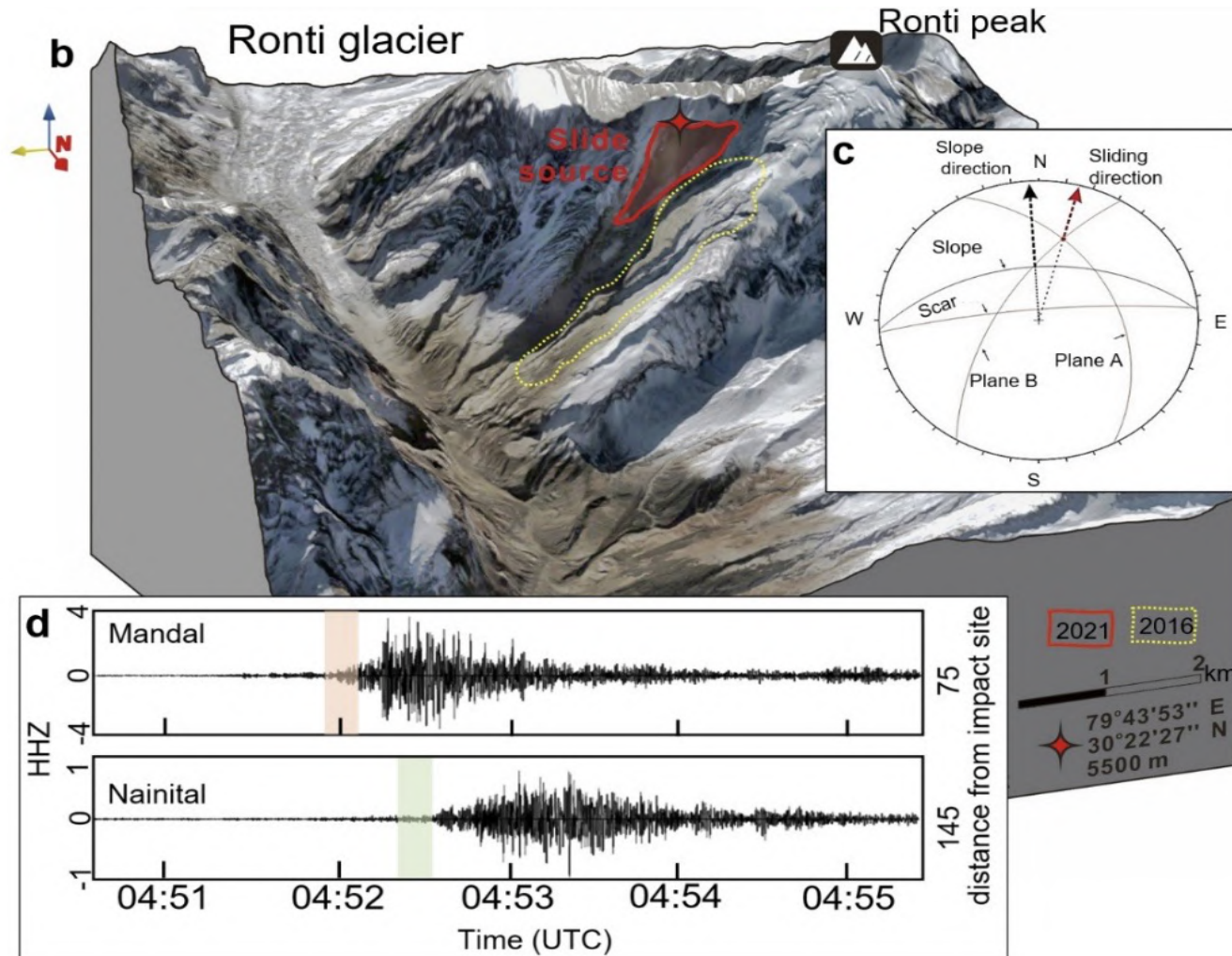
Cascading hazard: Rockslide → Mass flow → Damming river → Dam-breach flood





# Indian Chamoli ice-rock avalanche (7 February, 2021)

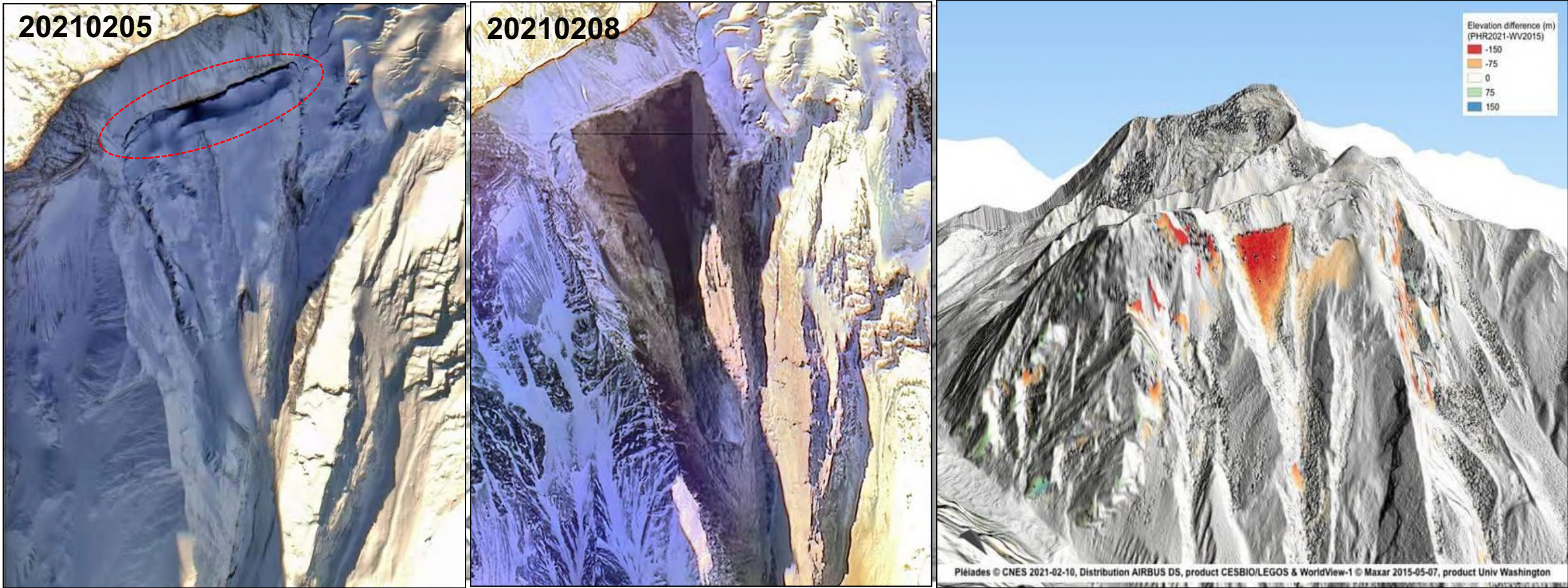
On February 7, 2021, a **ice-rock avalanche occurred in the Chamoli area of northern India, which triggered flash floods, destroyed 2 hydropower stations, and killed >200 people**





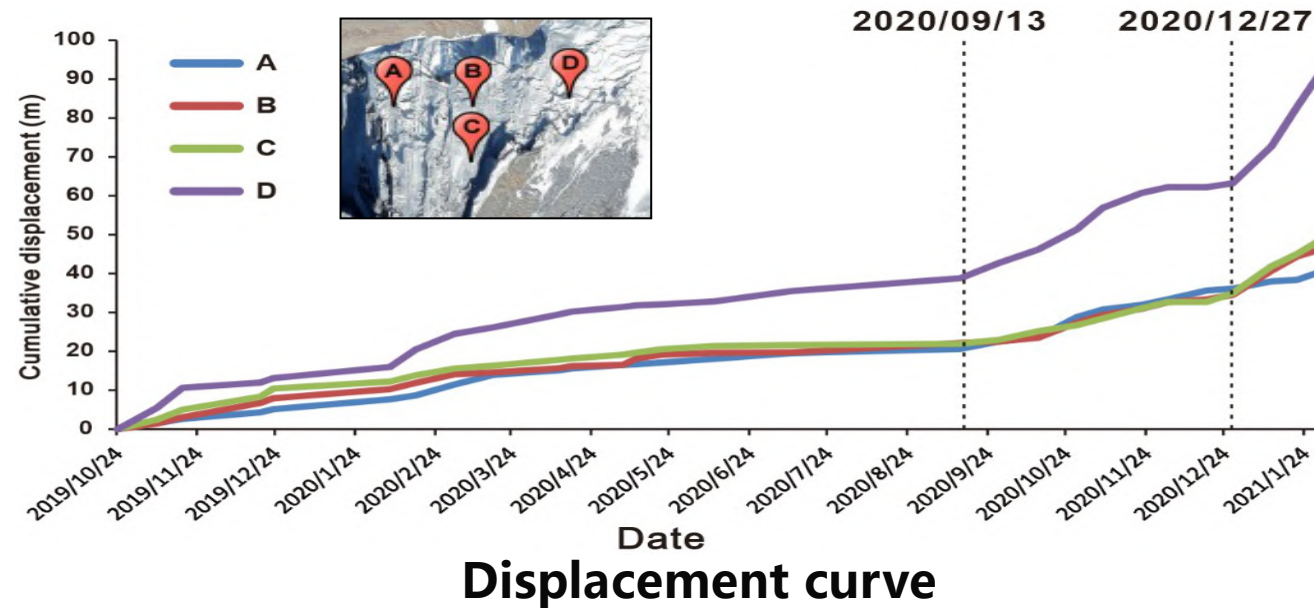
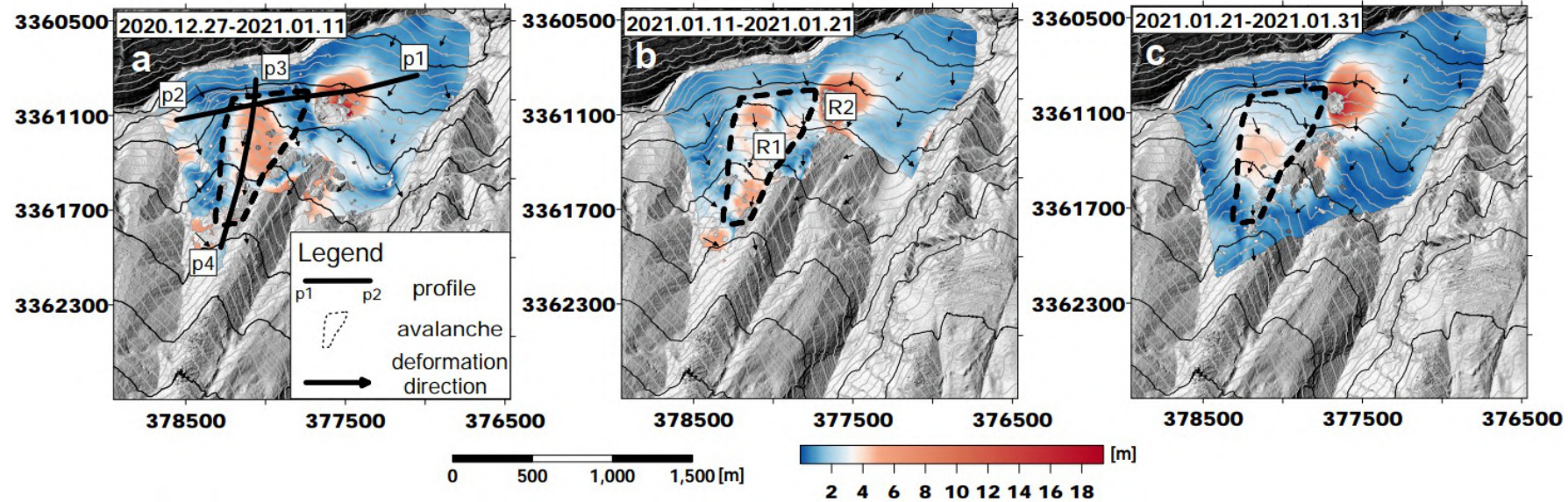
# Indian Chamoli landslide (7 February, 2021)

## □ The history of fracture expansion before the Chamoli rock-ice avalanche





# Indian Chamoli landslide (7 February, 2021)





# Typical Glacier-Related Hazards in Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon

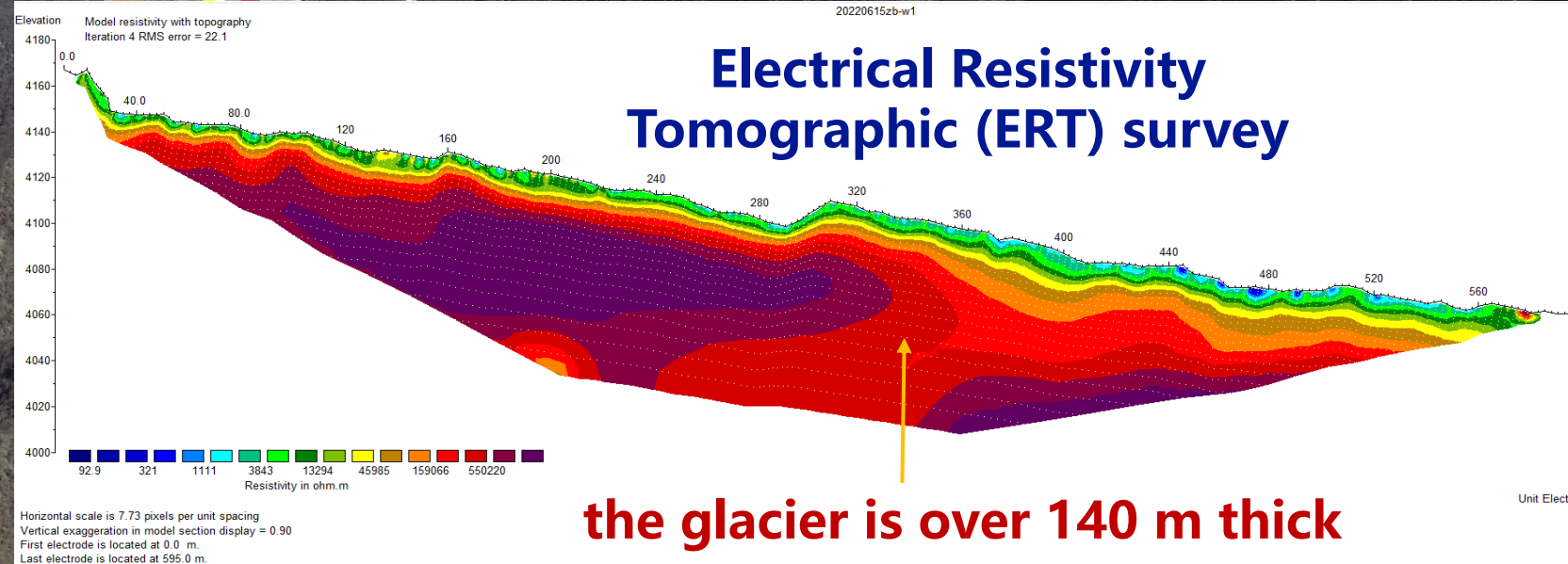




# Chains of Hazards in the Zelong-nong Glacier

Namcha Barwa  
(7782m)

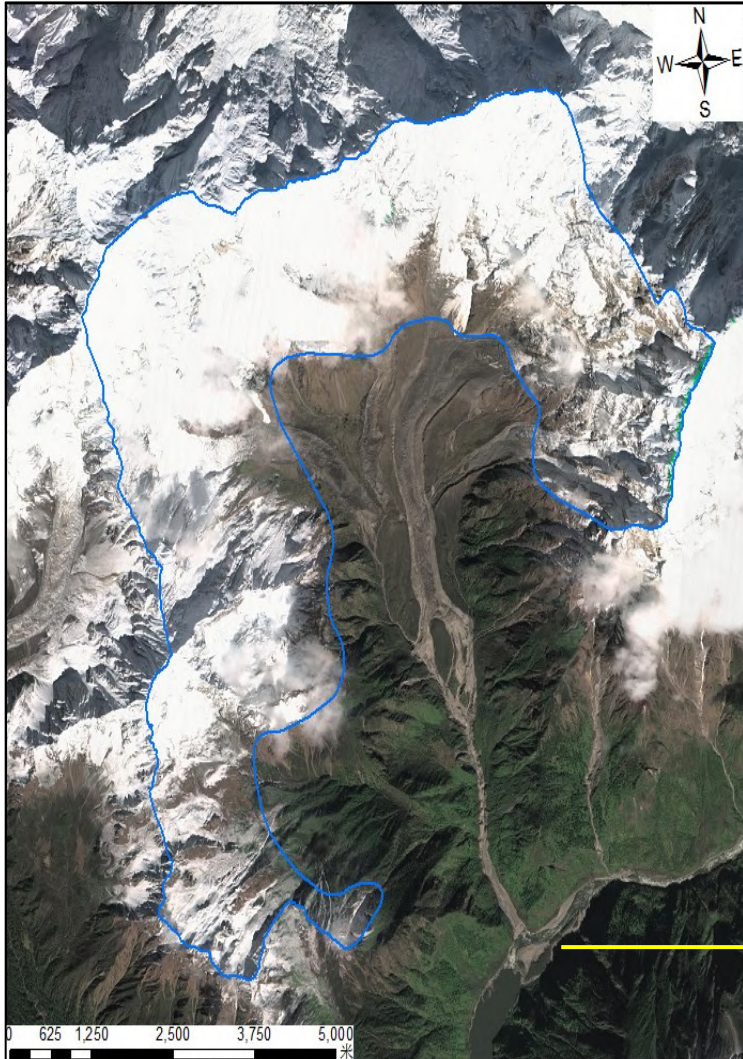
Zelunglung Glacier in 2023  
Credit by Xuanmei Fan





# Catastrophic chains of geohazard events in the Sedongpu catchment

Cascading hazard: **Ice/Rock avalanches → Debris flow → Damming → Dam-breach flood**



## Past damming events

1973.3-1974.11

1975.12-1979.4

2014.6.1~2014.8.23

2017.10.22

2017.12.21

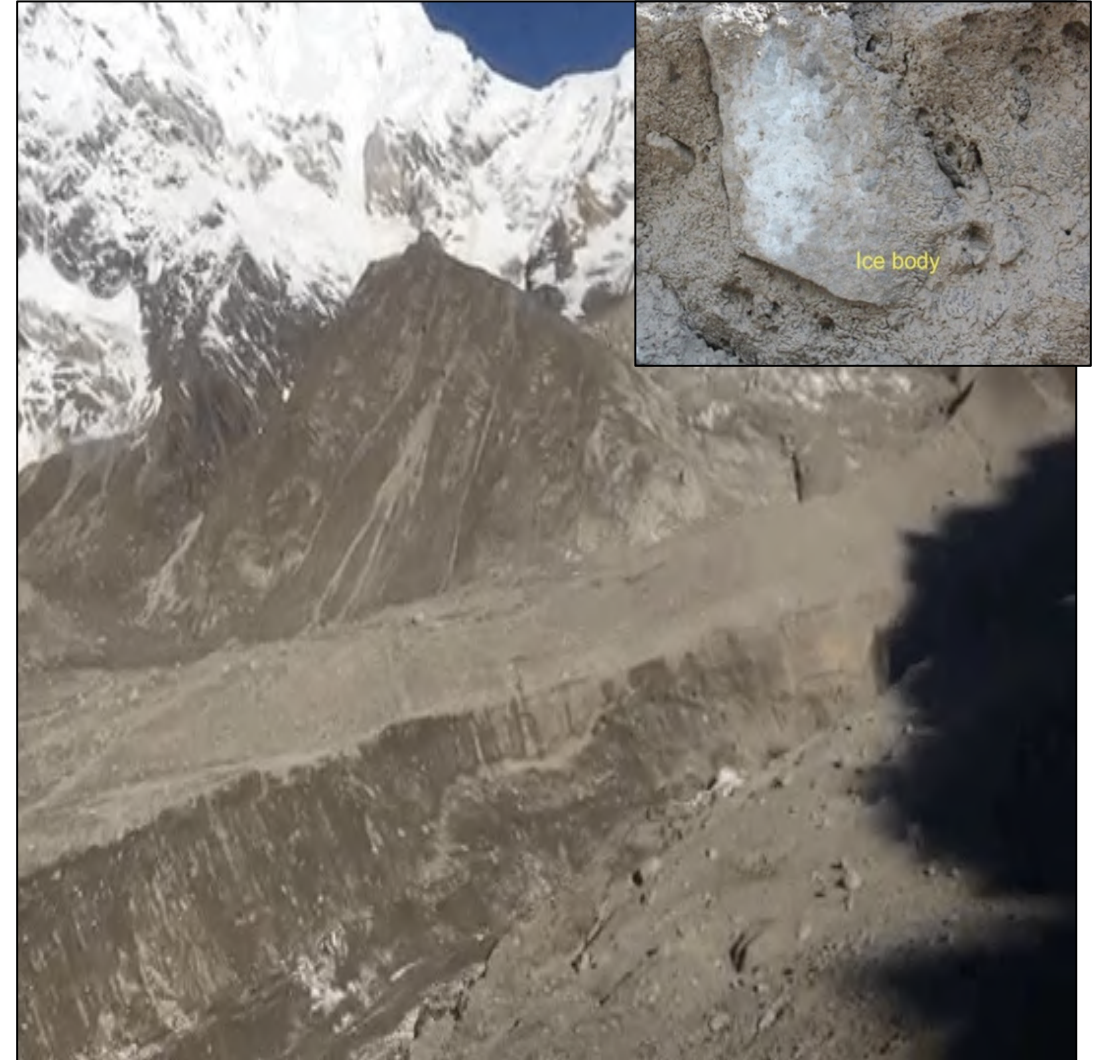
2018.10.16

2018.10.29

2021.3.22

2023.09.28

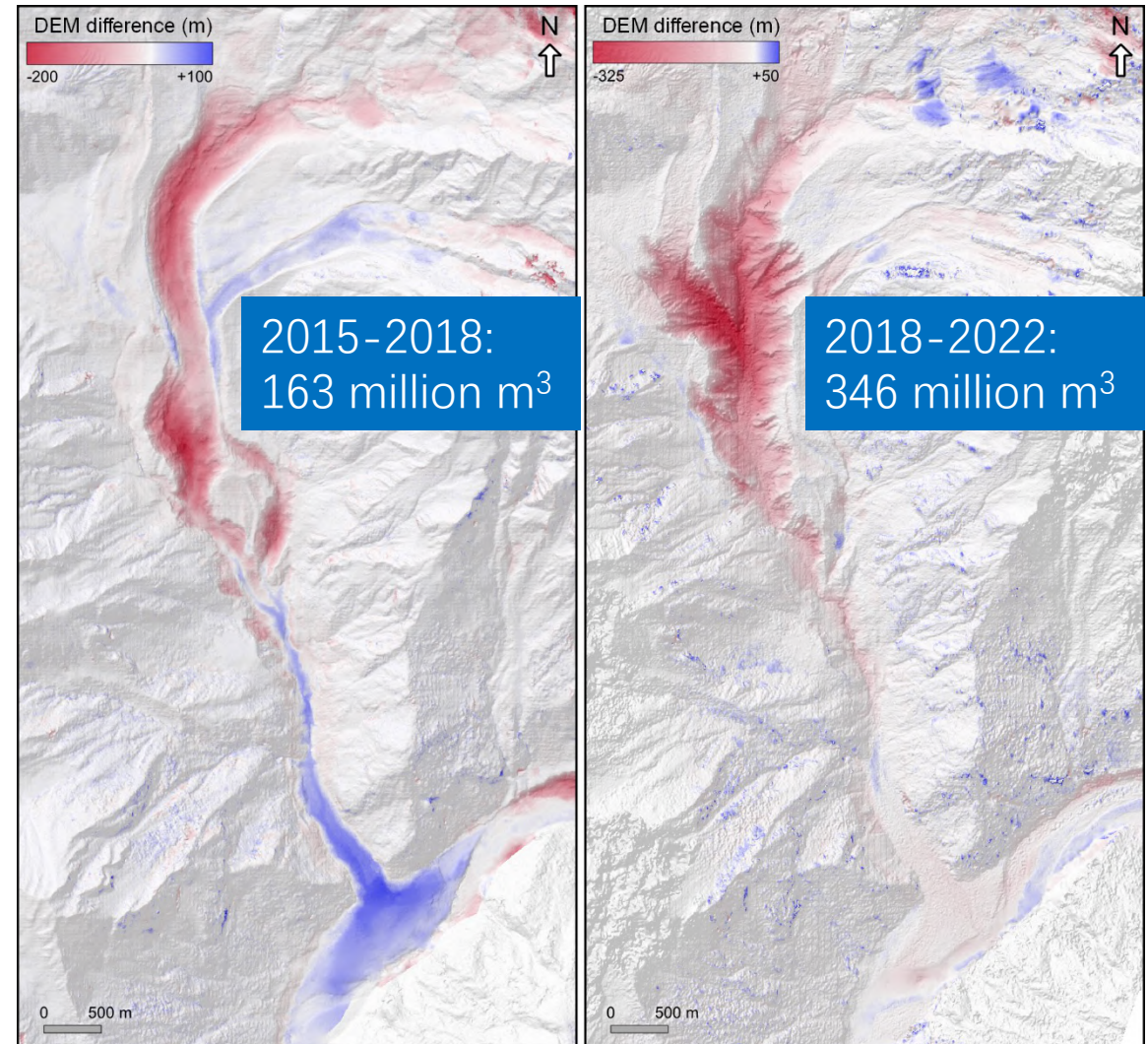
2023.10.03





# Highest erosion rate due to debris flow in Sedongpu Gulley

Frequent debris flow eroded about **500 million m<sup>3</sup>** of deposits between 2015-2022

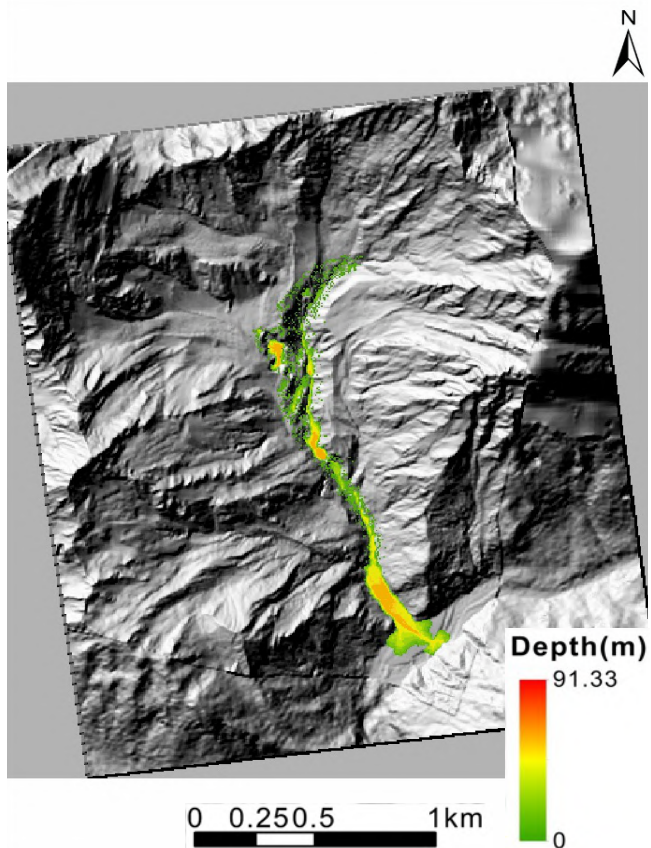




# DDA-DF model: Scenario-based prediction of future hazard

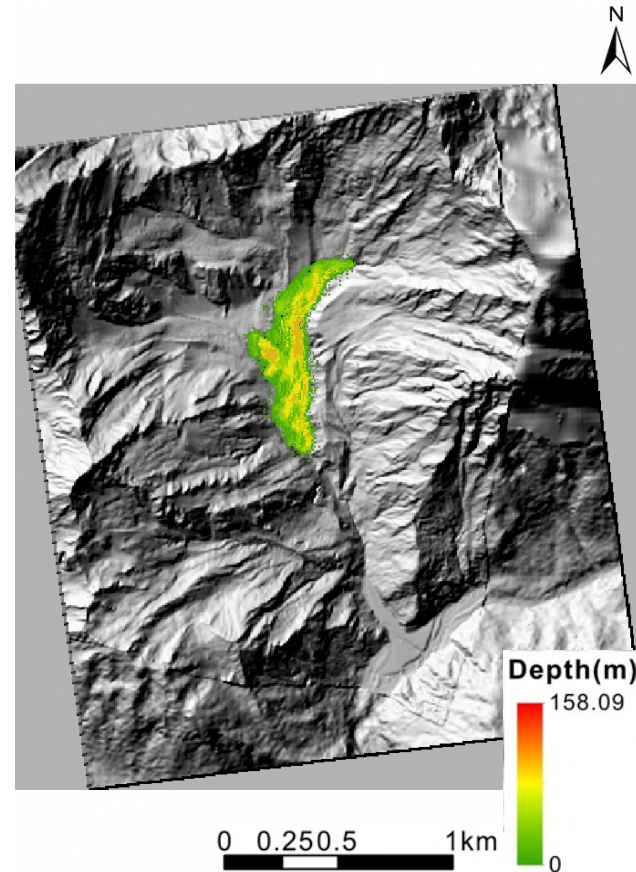
## Scenario 1

70 Mm<sup>3</sup> source volume



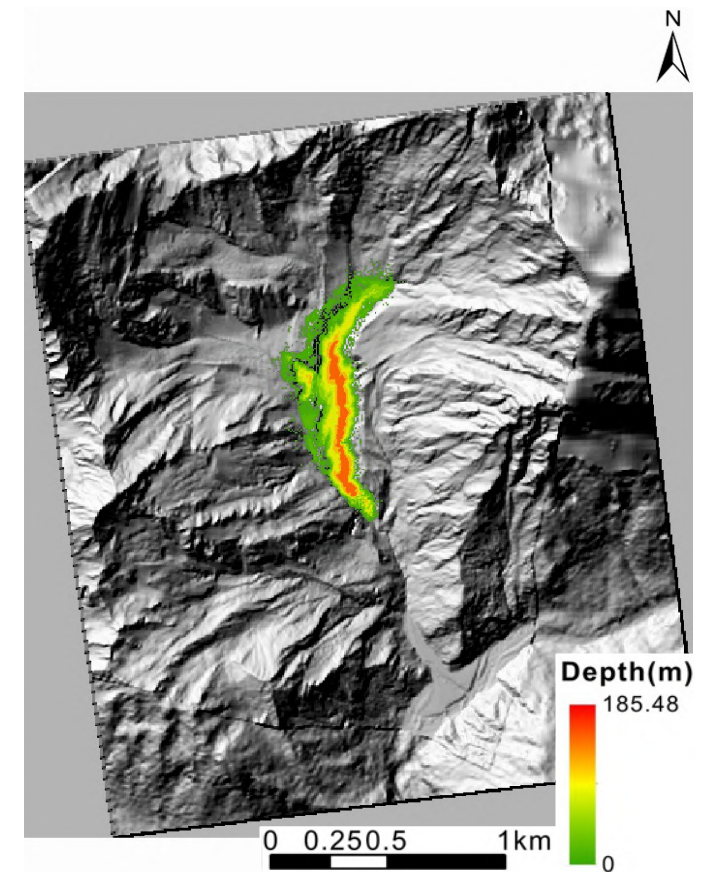
## Scenario 2

210 Mm<sup>3</sup> source volume



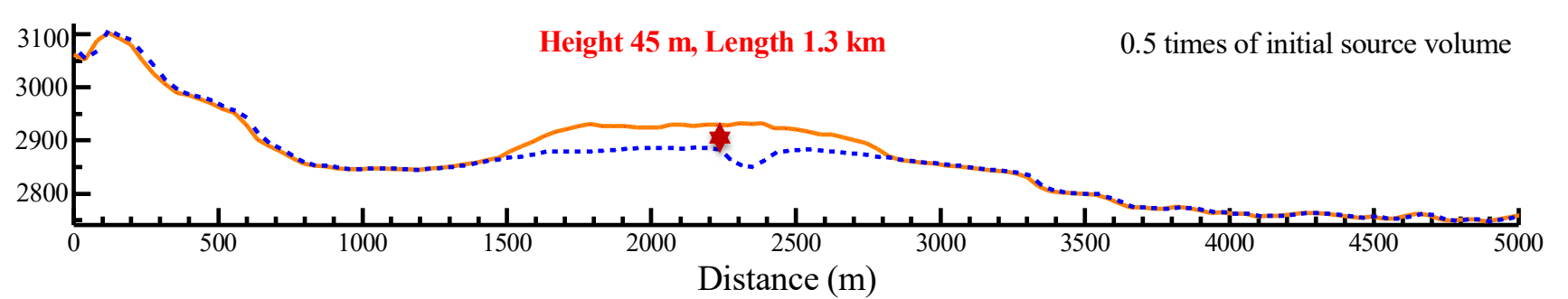
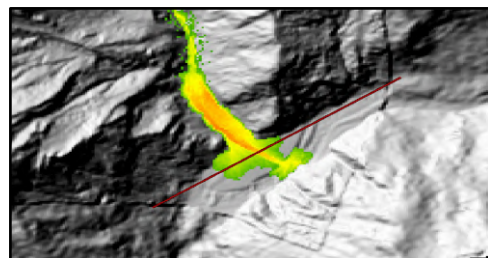
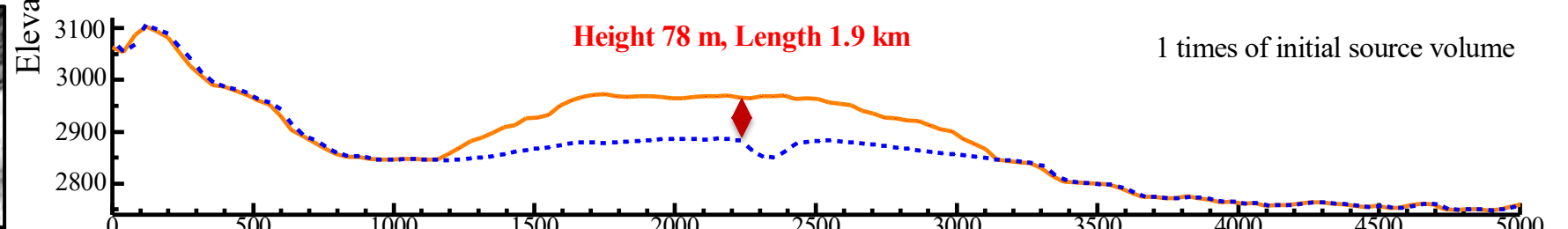
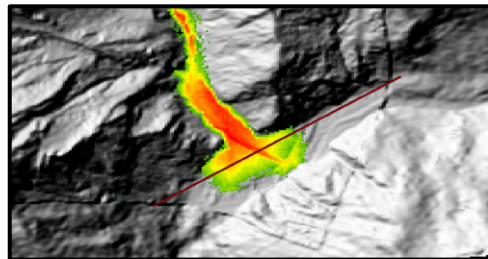
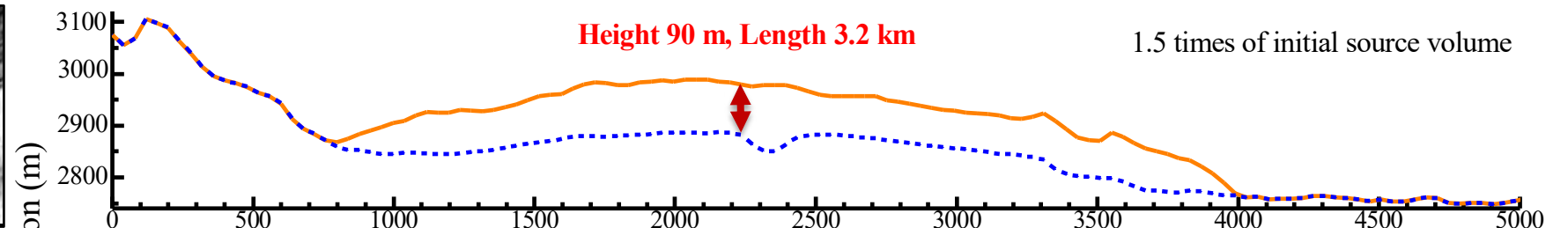
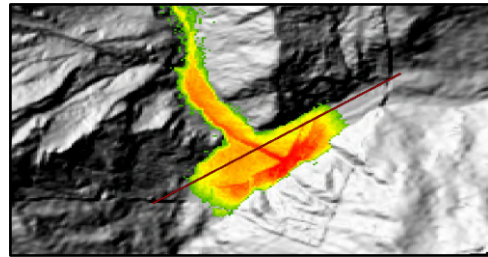
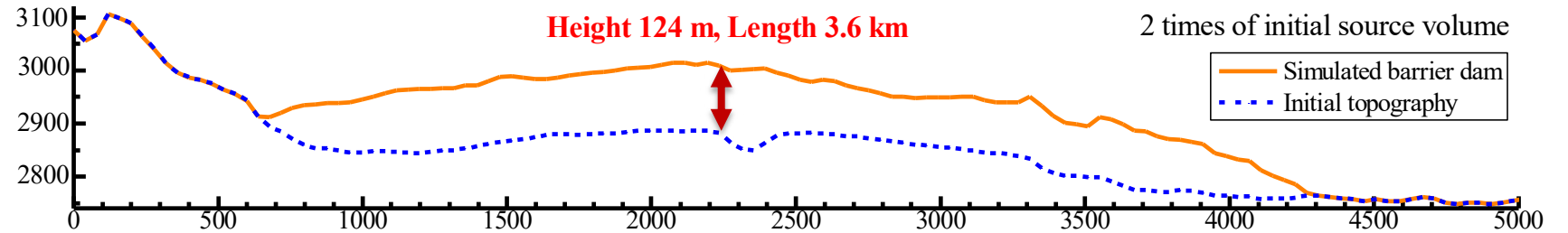
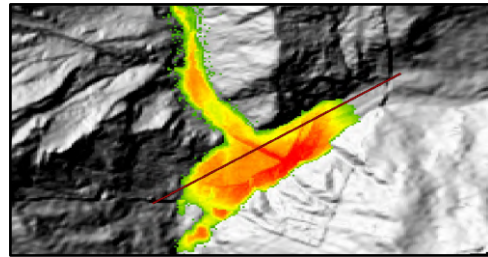
## Scenario 3

280 Mm<sup>3</sup> source volume





# Scenario-based prediction of future hazard





## JGR Earth Surface

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

10.1029/2023JF007115

## Key Points:

- The rock-ice segregation and its effect on the mobility of rock-ice avalanches have been analyzed by using the discrete element method
- Rock-ice particle size ratio and volumetric ice content together determine the ice spatial distribution
- Ice spatial distribution and rock-ice particle size ratios jointly affect the mixture's mobility by controlling the collision stress

## Correspondence to:

X. Fan and T. Ni,  
fmx\_cdut@qq.com  
nitao\_sklpp@cdut.edu.cn



## Citation:

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## How Ice Particles Increase Mobility of Rock-Ice Avalanches: Insights From Chute Flows Simulation of Granular Rock-Ice Mixtures by Discrete Element Method

Zetao Feng<sup>1</sup>, Xuanmei Fan<sup>1</sup> , Tao Ni<sup>1</sup> , Yu Deng<sup>1</sup>, Chengbin Zou<sup>1</sup>, Jing Zhang<sup>1</sup>, and Qiang Xu<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection, Chengdu University of Technology, Chengdu, China

**Abstract** Rock-ice avalanches occurring in cold high-mountain regions often cause catastrophic damages due to their extremely high mobility. Rock and ice have different physical properties, such as particle size, density, friction, etc., leading to the segregation of rock and ice in the mixture and impacting its mobility. However, how ice affects the mobility of rock-ice avalanches is still poorly understood. A series of numerical experiments were conducted by using the discrete element method to quantify the effect of rock-ice particle size ratio and ice content on the particle segregation and mobility of their mixtures. Results show that rock-ice particle size ratio and volumetric ice content determine the spatial distribution of ice, thereafter affecting the mobility of the rock-ice mixture by controlling the ratio of particle collision stress and coulomb friction stress. In particular, different from conventional understanding, the ice spatial distribution can have a significantly greater influence on the mixture's mobility compared to the volumetric ice content in some scenarios. This study provides insights into the effect of granular ice on the mobility law in the early phase of rock-ice avalanches and has important implications for their hazard assessment.

**Plain Language Summary** Rock-ice avalanche is a special type of earth surface process in alpine glacial regions, which has extremely high mobility, complex movement mechanisms, and enormous damage potential due to the existence of ice. Understanding how the ice affects the mixture's mobility is essential for assessing and preventing rock-ice avalanches and other related mass movements. In this study, the discrete element method was employed to conduct a series of numerical experiments aimed at investigating the influence of ice in rock-ice avalanches, where the mixtures of geomaterials were assumed to be composed of rock and ice particles associated with different particle sizes, densities and frictions. We found that the rock-ice particle size ratio and ice volumetric content control the segregation of rock and ice particles. The segregation determines the ice spatial distribution in the mixture, which together with the ice particle size affect the rock-ice mixture's mobility by controlling the ratio of particle collision stress and coulomb friction stress. Our finding has important implications in risk assessment and prevention of glacier-related mass movements.

### 1. Introduction

Alpine glacial regions are sensitive and generally respond quickly to climate change (Evans & Clague, 1988; Evans et al., 2021; Fan et al., 2022; Haeblerli, 1997; Yang et al., 2019). With global warming trends, rock-ice avalanches and its process chains may significantly increase in frequency and magnitude (Allen et al., 2011; Fan et al., 2022; Fischer et al., 2013; Huggel, 2009; Mergili, Emmer, et al., 2018; Mergili, Frank, et al., 2018; Mergili et al., 2017, 2020). Since 2014, several rock-ice avalanches and the resulting process chains have occurred in Sedongpu gully of the Yarlung Zangbo basin, Tibet, China, indicating that the frequency of hazards is gradually increasing (W. Li et al., 2022). On 7 February 2021, a catastrophic rock-ice avalanches disaster chain descended the Ronti Gad and other valleys in Chamoli, India, destroying two hydropower projects and causing widespread devastation (Fan et al., 2022; Shugar et al., 2021). The number of casualties, including both fatalities and missing individuals, has exceeded 200 in this incident. Rock-ice avalanches tragically demonstrate extremely high mobility and catastrophic potential (Evans & Clague, 1988; Huggel et al., 2007; Schneider, Huggel, et al., 2011; Schneider, Kaitna, et al., 2011; Sosio, 2015; Sosio et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2019), which are among the most dangerous natural disasters (Pudasaini & Krautblatter, 2014; Pudasaini & Miller, 2013; Yang et al., 2019).

Unfortunately, the low frequency, abrupt initiation, remote location, and unpredictable nature of rock-ice avalanches pose significant challenges for conducting direct field observations and measurements (Yang et al., 2019). The



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## Combining geophysics, remote sensing and numerical simulation to assess GLOFs: Case study of the Namulacuo Lake in the Southeastern Tibetan Plateau

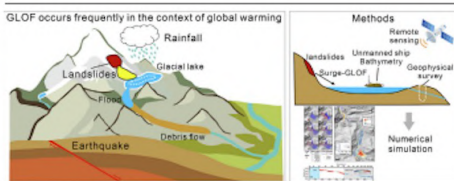
Liyang Jiang, Xuanmei Fan<sup>\*</sup>, Yu Deng, Chengbin Zou, Zetao Feng, Danny Love Wamba Djukem, Tao Wei, Xiangyang Dou, Qiang Xu

State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection, Chengdu University of Technology, Chengdu 610059, China

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Rare field survey data of high-altitude glacial lakes are obtained.
- Integrated diagnosis approach is proposed.
- Geophysical techniques are applicable to the diagnosis of glacial lake.
- Freeze-thaw cycles can lead to glacial lake outburst.
- The dam of the glacial lake may have been formed by multiple landslides.

## GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



## ARTICLE INFO

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<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author.  
E-mail address: [fmx\\_cdut@qq.com](mailto:fmx_cdut@qq.com) (X. Fan).

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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## The response of glaciers and glacial lakes to climate change in the Southeastern Tibetan Plateau over the past three decades

Xiangyang Dou<sup>✉</sup> | Xuanmei Fan<sup>✉</sup> | Xin Wang | Chengyong Fang | Marco Lovati | Chengbin Zou

State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection, Chengdu University of Technology, Chengdu, China

## Correspondence

Xuanmei Fan, State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection, Chengdu University of Technology, 610059, Chengdu, China.  
Email: [fmx\\_cdut@qq.com](mailto:fmx_cdut@qq.com)

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## Abstract

With global warming, changes in glaciers and glacial lakes on the Tibetan Plateau call for a serious inspection. The Southeastern Tibetan Plateau (SETP) is a typical monsoonal marine glacier area that is extremely vulnerable to climate change. It is affected by both humid and warm Indian Ocean currents. Outlines of glaciers and glacial lakes in SETP have been extracted from Landsat satellite images with an automatic extraction method based on image compositing with Google Earth Engine and Random Forest algorithm. Alongside the outlines, meteorological data have been collected from 1990 to 2021. The results show that since 1990 the glacier area of SETP has retreated by about 2165.33 km<sup>2</sup> (~25.28%), the glacial lake area has increased by about 36.41 km<sup>2</sup> (~21.45%), and their number has increased by 477 (~27.32%). The reliability and scientific validity of this study is proven by comparison with existing glacier inventories. By analyzing the meteorological data, the inverse correlation between the glacier area and temperature has been found. Despite decreases in cumulative precipitation, the glacial lake level rise and consequent area expansion have been observed. A fitting equation for the response pattern of glacier changes to temperature and precipitation change is presented and will provide a basis for future studies.

## KEYWORDS

climate change, glacial lake inventory, glacier inventory, quantitative relationship, Southeastern Tibetan Plateau

### 1 | INTRODUCTION

Tibetan Plateau (TP) incorporates the most glaciers outside Arctic and Antarctic both in terms of number and total area (X. Yao et al., 2017), for this reason, it is sometimes referred to “Third Pole” (Qiu, 2008; T. D. Yao, Thompson, et al., 2022). In conjunction, TP contains many great glacial lakes, thus acting as a sort of “Asian Water Tower” (T. D. Yao, Bolch, et al., 2022), where numerous Asian rivers originate (Barnett et al., 2005; Immerzeel et al., 2010). These rivers flow through many lands and nations, both in China and Southeast Asia, and are crucial to a diverse range of human and natural ecosystems (Dou et al., 2023; Immerzeel et al., 2010; Immerzeel & Bierkens, 2010).

Many studies about glaciers, glacial lakes, and their relation to climate change in TP have been published in recent years, which thoroughly illustrate the close connection of glaciers, glacial lake changes, and climate change in the TP (T. D. Yao et al., 2012; G. Q. Zhang, Yao, et al., 2020). Many global glacier mapping inventories have been published thanks to the Global Land Ice Space Survey (GLIMS) project, among these, some addressed the inventory gap in TP (Paul et al., 2013; Raup et al., 2007, 2013). Most relevant for the TP are as follows: the Randolph Glacier Inventory (RGI), which has been continuously updated till version 6.0 at the time of writing this study (Arendt et al., 2017; Pfeffer et al., 2014), and Glacier Area Mapping for Discharge from the Asian Mountains (GAM DAM), which is done



# Conclusions and outlooks

- Undertaking a hazard and risk assessment of the chain of geo-hazards (multiple cascading hazards) caused by large magnitude earthquakes. *The challenge is particularly great given the difficulties in quantifying the interaction between hazards.*
- The mechanism of **the initiation and runout dynamics** of geohazards in glacier-covered cold regions is almost unknown, needs more attentions.
- Developing **physics-based numerical models** for future hazard prediction is crucial for risk reduction;
- The **coupling effect of tectonic and climatic forces** on geological hazards is not well studied, and it requires multi-disciplinary research in the future.



# Thanks to my team and all the collaborators!

