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GIS and statistical analysis for landslide susceptibility mapping in the Daunia area, Italy

F. Mancini, C. Ceppi, and G. Ritrovato

Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Technical University of B Italy

Abstract. This study focuses on landslide susceptibility mapping in Daunia area (Apulian Apennines, Italy) and achieves this by using multivariate statistical method and data processing in a Geographical Information System (GIS). The Logistic Regression (hereafter LR) was chosen to produce a susceptibility map over an area of 130 000 ha where small settlements are historically threatened by landslide phenomena. By means of LR analysis, the tendency to landslide occurrences was, therefore, assessed by relating a landslide inventory (dependent variable) to a series of causal factors (independent variables) which were managed in the GIS, while the statistical analyses were performed by means of the SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software. The LR analysis produced a reliable susceptibility map of the investigated area and the probability level of landslide occurrence was ranked in four classes. The overall performance achieved by the LR analysis was assessed by local comparison between the expected susceptibility and an independent dataset extrapolated from the landslide inventory. Of the samples classified as susceptible to landslide occurrences, 85% correspond to areas where landslide phenomena actually occurred. In addition, the consideration of the regression coefficients provided by the analysis demonstrated that a major role was played by the "land cover" and "lithology" causal factors in determining the occurrence and distribution of landslide phenomena in the Apulian Apennines.

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