Modelling the dynamics of sediment and associated substances across temporal and spatial scales

TERENO-OZCAR Conference - Jantiene Baartman – 27 September 2023





Soils and sediment dynamics

- BSc & MSc Soil Science & Geomorphology
- PhD 'Mind the gap: modelling event-based and millennial-scale landscape dynamics'
- Assistant professor
 - Soil physics and land management group
 - Soil erosion
 - Land degradation & mitigation
 - Numerical modelling









Outline

- Background: sediment dynamics & landscape resilience
- Modelling soil erosion and sediment dynamics
 - Detailed: OpenLISEM
 - Long-term: LAPSUS
 - Index of Connectivity
- Outlook future work





Sediment dynamics & landscape resilience



Relevance

- Soil erosion remains the most widespread soil threat (FAO, 2019)
- Hydroclimatic extremes, environmental hazards:
 - Floods & droughts
 - Wildfires
 - Pollution (pesticides, plastics)







Research approach





Modelling in geosciences

Please indicate the degree of your (dis)agreement with the following statements:



Baartman et al., 2020 Catena

OpenLISEM – process based modelling

- Physically-based hydrology and soil erosion model (UTwente)
 - Event-based
 - Simulates splash & flow detachment, transport and deposition
- Test rainfall intensity & duration effects on erosion in SE Spain (Baartman et al., 2012)
- Soil & Water Conservation measures (Grum et al., 2017; MSc theses)
- Post-fire hydrology (Vieira et al., 2022) and sediment dynamics (Wu et al., 2021ab, Basso et al., 2023)



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- 18.5 km²
- Wildfire: August 2003

- Channel system

Complex crop patterns

- Mediterranean oaks

- Young eucalypts





Wu et al., 2021a

Testing the impacts of wildfire on hydrological and sediment response using the OpenLISEM model. Part 2: Analyzing the effects of storm return period and extreme events

Jinfeng Wu^{a,b,d,*}, Jantiene E.M. Baartman^b, João Pedro Nunes^{b,c}



Table 2

Rainfall intensity and total rainfall as input for the OpenLISEM model for different return periods.

	I (mm/h)		PP (mm)		
R (yrs)	6 h	12 h	6 h	12 h	
0.2	3.01	2.06	18.09	24.77	
0.5	6.33	4.33	37.97	51.99	
1	8.83	6.05	53.01	72.59	
2	11.34	7.77	68.05	93.19	
5	14.66	10.03	87.93	120.41	
10	17.16	11.75	102.97	141.01	





Vieira et al., 2022

LAPSUS – landscape evolution modelling

- LAPSUS Landscape Process Modelling at Multidimensions and Scales (Schoorl et al., 2000, 2002)
 - Long-term sediment redistribution



 Applied to explore sediment redistribution due to multiple wildfires

RESEARCH ARTICLE	ESPL WILEY				
How do large wildfires impact sediment redistribution over multiple decades?					
Dante Follmi ¹ Jantiene Baartman ¹	Nunes ^{1,3} 💿				

LAPSUS – multiple wildfires

- Águeda catchment (404 km²)
- 1000 2500 mm/y rainfall
- Wildfires: 1985, 1986, 1991, 1995, 2005, 2013 2016, 2017
- 41 year simulation





LAPSUS – multiple wildfires



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- <u>Connectivity</u> (e.g. Bracken and Croke, 2007):
 - i. Landscape connectivity = physical coupling of landforms
 - ii. Hydrological connectivity = passage of water through the catchment
 - iii. Sedimentological connectivity = transfer of sediment through a basin





- Index of Connectivity (IC)
 - Structural connectivity (terrain)
 - SedInConnect tool (Crema & Cavalli, 2018)

SedInConnect 2.3	- L ×
Input DTM (filled) raster (*tif) Use targets Use sinks	Computation of the Index of Connectivity (Cavalli et al., 2013) with regard to user-
Nomalize W as in Trevisani and Cavalli,	defined targets.
Save Surface roughness (*tif)	nput moving window pixel 5 All input rasters
Save W weight raster (*tif)	
Input cell size (map units) 2.5	
	and the second sec
Qutput IC raster (*tif)	SedinConnect
Save Upslope and Downslope rasters	Quit Qk
ndu .	



Borselli et al., 2008; Crema & Cavalli, 2018

- Index of Connectivity (IC)
 - Structural connectivity (terrain)

IC Class	Entry Points (%)	
Very low	0	
Low	1	
Medium low	3	
Medium	4	
Medium high	7	
High	21	
Very high	64	



Poeppl et al., 2019



- Index of Connectivity (IC)
 - Structural connectivity (terrain)
- Aggregated IC (AIC) (Lopez-Vicente & Ben-Salem, 2019)
 - Functional connectivity
 - Rainfall & Soil physical properties
- Applied AIC to Wei River Basin (Loess Plateau, China)

Intra-annual sediment dynamic assessment in the Wei River Basin, China, using the AIC functional-structural connectivity index

Zhenni Wu^{a,*}, Jantiene E.M. Baartman^a, João Pedro Nunes^{a,b}, Manuel López-Vicente^c



Borselli et al., 2008; Crema & Cavalli, 2018

Sediment connectivity in Wei River Basin (AIC)

Largest tributary of Yellow River (135,000 km²)



Fig. 1. Wei River Basin study area with (a) location of the sub-catchments, (b) elevation and (c) land use.



Wu et al., 2023

Sediment connectivity in Wei River Basin (AIC)



Combining IC & erosion modelling

- RUSLE IC SDR approach
 - Derive SDR based on IC map (Vigiak et al., 2012)
 - Combine with RUSLE as proxy for transport and deposition

The potential and challenges of the 'RUSLE-IC-SDR' approach to identify sediment dynamics in a Mediterranean catchment

Niguse Abebe^{a,c,d,*}, Joris Eekhout^b, Bart Vermeulen^a, Carolina Boix-Fayos^b, Joris de Vente^b, Berhane Grum^c, Ton Hoitink^b, Jantiene Baartman^d





Combining IC & erosion modelling





Abebe et al., 2023

Combining IC & erosion modelling



- RUSLE IC SDR approach
 - Low data-demanding
 - Identify source areas for soil erosion and sediment flux
 - RUSLE: no gully and channel erosion
 - Incorporate functional connectivity



Abebe et al., 2023





indicating sampling points. The letters (A,B and C) indicate the three fields of main interest in this study.

Commelin et al., 2023

Outlook – future work

Outlook – future work

Movement of pollutants with sediments – into OpenLISEM





Commelin et al., in prep.

Outlook – future work

Movement of pollutants with sediments

- Microplastics
- How many? Which types, sizes, etc?
- Move with runoff, erosion
- ...eventually: model this.



 MASTER project: How Microplastics Affect Soil structure and their TRansport with runoff and ERosion





Field experiment



Rainfall simulation _ experiment

Outlook – future work



Thank you!

TERENO-OZCAR Conference 27 Sept 2023 Jantiene Baartman Jantiene.baartman@wur.nl

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