

Contents

Executive summary	vii
Acknowledgments	viii
Note	viii
1 Introduction and background	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Study area	1
1.3 Background	3
1.3.1 Erosion hazard models	3
1.3.2 Landform evolution models	4
1.3.3 Basin analysis with GIS	6
2 GIS Establishment	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 High temporal resolution data	10
2.3 Raster data	10
2.4 Vector (dGPS) data	11
2.5 Geomorphological modelling with GIS	11
2.5.1 DistFW hydrology model	12
2.5.2 SIBERIA landform evolution model	13
2.6 Conclusions	15
3 Rapid erosion assessment	16
3.1 Introduction	16
3.2 Erosion hazard model	16
3.3 Data	16
3.4 Derivation of input factors	18
3.4.1 Soil erodibility factor	18
3.4.2 Slope angle factor	18
3.4.3 Slope length factor	18
3.4.4 Cover management factor	19

3.5	Results and validation	19
3.5.1	Elevation data resolution	19
3.5.2	Field data validation	21
4	Initial landform evolution modelling and basin analysis as a basis for risk assessment	24
4.1	Introduction	24
4.2	Landform evolution modelling	24
4.2.1	DistFW hydrology model	25
4.2.2	Sediment transport model	27
4.2.3	Average SIBERIA input parameter values	27
4.2.4	Initial model application	30
4.3	Basin analysis	31
4.3.1	Hypsometric curve	31
4.3.2	Width function	33
4.3.3	Cumulative area diagram	33
4.3.4	Area-slope relationship	35
4.4	Application to risk assessment	35
5	Future research	37
5.1	Introduction	37
5.2	Incorporation of spatial variation in parameters	37
5.2.1	Parameter value derivation	37
5.2.2	Spatial variability in SIBERIA	38
5.3	Sensitivity analysis of SIBERIA	38
5.4	Application to the assessment of mining impact	40
6	Conclusions	41
	References	43

Figures

Figure 1 Location of the Ngarradj catchment in the Northern Territory of Australia	2
Figure 2 Modelled landform evolution on a proposed post-mining landform, showing the development of gullies and depositional fans	4
Figure 3 A conceptual diagram of the tight coupling approach to model/GIS integration	5
Figure 4 The approach used in the development of a GIS as a focal point for datasets generated during the geomorphologic impact assessment of the ERA Jabiluka Mine	9
Figure 5 The land units of the Ngarradj catchment	17
Figure 6 The relative soil erosion risk distribution for the Ngarradj catchment	20
Figure 7 The relationship between relative soil loss and area for both the measured and predicted values	23
Figure 8 A flow diagram depicting the processes involved in the parameterisation of the SIBERIA landform evolution model	25
Figure 9 An example of a predicted hydrograph produced by DistFW compared with the observed hydrograph	26
Figure 10 The peak discharge/area relationship exhibited by the field data	27
Figure 11 Differences in elevation, indicating areas of erosion and deposition, between the Ngarradj catchment at 0 years and after being modelled for a period of 1000 years	31
Figure 12 The hypsometric curves and integrals (HI) for the Upper Main, Swift Creek (0 and simulated 1000 year catchments) and total Ngarradj catchments	32
Figure 13 Simplified width functions for the Ngarradj catchments using the 0 year and simulated 1000 year catchments	34
Figure 14 Original width functions for the Ngarradj catchments using the 0 year and simulated 1000 year catchments where stream channels are defined as areas with drainage areas greater than 10 ha	34
Figure 15 The cumulative area diagrams for the 0 year and 1000 years simulated Ngarradj catchments	35
Figure 16 The area-slope relationship for the Ngarradj catchment	36

Tables

Table 1	Descriptions of the tools developed to facilitate the automatic generation of the topographic input requirements of the DistFW hydrology model	13
Table 2	Descriptions of the menu items added to the ArcView® 'View' GUI, under the menu 'Siberia', when using the ArcEvolve extension for interacting with the SIBERIA landform evolution model	14
Table 3	Descriptions of the menu items added to the ArcView® 'View' GUI, under the menu 'Geomorph', when using the ArcEvolve extension for interacting with the SIBERIA landform evolution model	14
Table 4	Soil properties of the land units of the Ngarradj catchment	18
Table 5	Slope statistics for the Ngarradj catchment using a 100 m resolution DEM	18
Table 6	The qualitative descriptions of soil and vegetation cover provided by Wells (1978) and the corresponding cover management factor value derived for this project	19
Table 7	Cross-tabulated frequency data for the land units grid and 100 m DEM predicted relative erosion risk classes	20
Table 8	A contingency table for the IC slope length and AF slope length 100 m erosion grids	21
Table 9	Sediment delivery ratios and measured and predicted soil loss ratios between the sampled sub-catchments	22
Table 10	The observed and predicted discharges for the 1998/1999 Wet season in the Ngarradj catchment	26
Table 11	Summary of flood frequency distribution for each gauging station	28
Table 12	Calculation of the long-term average soil loss for the Ngarradj catchment	29
Table 13	Probability of having no failures for a set number of realisations	40