

Date of Submission	30 th July, 2024
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IPL Project (IPL-263) Annual Report Form

**Period of activity under report
from June 2022 to December 2023**

1. Project Number and Title

IPL-263 ; Title: **Societal and Environmental Determinants of Landslide Risk Perception towards Landslide Disaster Risk Reduction.**

2. Main Project Fields

Capacity Building – Capacity building to High end level to the grass root level ; i.e. government and private sector level to the affected communities; Enhancing human and institutional capacities; Collating and dissemination of knowledge

Mitigation, Preparedness and Recovery – Preparedness, mitigation and recovery related to socioeconomic infrastructure, vulnerability, and risk assessment at targeted landslides

3. Name of Project leader: **Ms. N. N. Katuwala** - B. Sc. (Computational Chemistry), Reading for M. Sc. (Environmental Management) **e-mail: nkatuwala@gmail.com**

Affiliation: **Environmental Chemist**

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Core members of the Project :

Eng. A. A. Virajh Dias – B.Sc.(Civil Eng.), M.Phil(Earth Science); C.Eng, MASCE, MIESL

Ms. K. P. C. Perera – B.Sc. (Chemistry), Reading for M. Sc.(Environmental Science)

4. Objectives:

The objective of this research is to identify the insights, perceptions and expectations from a cross section of the society towards the existing mitigation measures developed on landslide disaster risk reduction and to identify the environmental sensitivity on the same.

5. Study Area:

Athwelthota in Baduraliya region in Kaluthara District, Sri Lanka

6. Project Duration:

Four years (January 2022 –December 2025)

7. Report

1) Progress in the project

A questionnaire was prepared in order to collect the socio-economic characteristics of the households that are greatly affected. Demographic characteristics such as age, gender, locality, educational level, livelihood and their perceptions about landslides were included in the questionnaire.

Information related to household disaster preparedness behavior was also included.

Since the individuals are reluctant to resettle in a safer location even though the landslide risk warning has been publicized, questions related with their preference of a resettlement plan were also counted in.

These questions were collated in to a Google form in order to circulate among the individuals. It is expected to carry out an online survey via Google forms to obtain the perception and views from schoolchildren to academics and professionals; and face to face interviews with impacted communities from the grass root levels in landslide prone areas are expected to be projected.

These perception surveys will be analysed. This analysis will be done in terms of positive and negative perceptions of the existing mitigation measures using a software- NVivo 12. This will provide results to identify the actual requirement or the view of the majority so that it can be useful in future decision making.

The result of these indicator measurement should be useful to authorities to include it as a complementary data to their geological mapping of disaster risk management based on the location of the landslide events.

2) Planned future activities or statement of completion of the Project

Although people may experience the same hazard or disaster, it does not mean that all individuals go through the same processes of destruction, recovery and evaluation as others.

It depends on;

- Own experience (death/injury of a relative):
- Visual observer of such a scenario:
- Experience of a neighbourhood:

For example, the neighbourhood of a landslide occurred locality may have a different perception. Even though they haven't experienced a property damage, they are emotionally sensitive that their land value is zero/ they have no valuable asset.

Likewise, it is expected to streamline the affected communities in to different level of experiencing the landslide impact and incorporate the social determinants into these different levels.

3) Project Beneficiaries:

- The landslide professionals
- Academics
- Researchers
- Physical Planners
- People residing in landslide prone areas in Sri Lanka are the beneficiaries of this project

4) Results

Presentation was conducted during the **13th Dealing with Disasters Conference (2022)**, held from 9th -10th June, 2022.