

Assessment of Geohazards along Highways Based on the Weights of Evidence and GIS: A Case Study in Guangxi Province, China

Yue Zhao

Chang'an University

Hongzhi Yang (✉ yhz@chd.edu.cn)

Chang'an University <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6152-8739>

Lixiang Yin

Chang'an University

Junnan Li

Chang'an University

Research Article

Keywords: Highway, geohazards, risk assessment, weights of evidence method, intensity index, sensitivity index

Posted Date: March 23rd, 2022

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1002401/v1>

License:  This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

[Read Full License](#)

1 **Title**

2 Assessment of Geohazards along Highways Based on the Weights of Evidence and GIS:
3 A Case Study in Guangxi Province, China

4 **Author Information**

5 Yue Zhao (the first author)

6 School of Highway, Chang'an University

7 ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1938-9904>

8 2020121223@chd.edu.cn

9
10 Hongzhi Yang (the second author & the corresponding author)

11 School of Highway, Chang'an University

12 Middle section of Nan'er Huan Road Xi'an, ShaanXi Province, 710064, China

13 ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6152-8739>

14 yhz@chd.edu.cn

15
16 Lixiang Yin (the third author)

17 School of Highway, Chang'an University

18 2020221310@chd.edu.cn

19
20 Junnan Li (the fourth author)

21 School of Highway, Chang'an University

22 2021221328@chd.edu.cn

23 **Abstract**

24 Geological disasters damage highways and disrupt traffic, which reduces the service
25 level of roads. We collected 15,435 geohazards in Guangxi Province. The geohazards
26 within 1km of the highway buffer were selected to study its spatial distribution
27 characteristics and risk assessment methods. Geohazard intensity index and sensitivity
28 index are proposed to establish the highway geohazards assessment model. Based on
29 the weights of evidence (WOE) method, the influencing factors of the sensitivity index
30 and the weight of each factor are obtained. By analyzing the spatial distribution
31 characteristics of geohazards, collapses, landslides, ground collapse and unstable slopes
32 are identified as major geohazards along the highway. Based on the Getis-Ord G_i^*
33 statistic methods, the hotspot map of four disasters was drawn, and the intensity index
34 along the highway was calculated. The relationship between slope, aspect, topographic
35 relief, annual average rainfall, land use, lithology type and geohazards was analyzed.

36 The sensitivity index was calculated using the WOE method. The intensity index and
37 the sensitivity index were superimposed to obtain the geohazard index, and the
38 geohazard risk of the highway is divided into five levels. The model accuracy-test based
39 on the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve shows that Area Under Curve
40 (AUC) equals 0.71, indicating high reliability for the risk assessment.

41 **Keywords**

42 Highway; geohazards; risk assessment; weights of evidence method; intensity index;
43 sensitivity index

44 **Statements and Declaration**

45 This research was funded by Chang'an University (Xi'an, China) through the National
46 Key Research & Development Program of China (2020YFC1512003).
47 No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

Assessment of Geohazards along Highways Based on the Weights of Evidence and GIS: A Case Study in Guangxi Province, China

Abstract

Geological disasters damage highways and disrupt traffic, which reduces the service level of roads. We collected 15,435 geohazards in Guangxi Province. The geohazards within 1km of the highway buffer were selected to study its spatial distribution characteristics and risk assessment methods. Geohazard intensity index and sensitivity index are proposed to establish the highway geohazards assessment model. Based on the weights of evidence (WOE) method, the influencing factors of the sensitivity index and the weight of each factor are obtained. By analyzing the spatial distribution characteristics of geohazards, collapses, landslides, ground collapse and unstable slopes are identified as major geohazards along the highway. Based on the Getis-Ord G_i^* statistic methods, the hotspot map of four disasters was drawn, and the intensity index along the highway was calculated. The relationship between slope, aspect, topographic relief, annual average rainfall, land use, lithology type and geohazards was analyzed. The sensitivity index was calculated using the WOE method. The intensity index and the sensitivity index were superimposed to obtain the geohazard index, and the geohazard risk of the highway is divided into five levels. The model accuracy-test based on the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve shows that Area Under Curve (AUC) equals 0.71, indicating high reliability for the risk assessment.

Keywords: Highway; geohazards; risk assessment; weights of evidence method; hot spot analysis; intensity index; sensitivity index

1 Introduction

In the context of global climate change, the risk of natural hazards facing humanity continues to increase (Church et al. 2013). China is a country with frequent geohazards, and 50% of the arterials are in areas prone to geohazards. Traffic interruptions caused

75 by geohazards such as landslides, collapses, and debris flow increased from more than
76 5,800 in 2010 to more than 18,000 in 2019 (Liu et al. 2020). Studying the spatial
77 distribution, influencing factors, and risk assessment methods of geohazards along
78 highways can provide a basis for road network design and emergency traffic
79 management.

80 Studies on the evaluation of geological hazards along the highway focus on the regional
81 highway geohazard zoning, the risk prediction of geohazards along the highway, and
82 the geological risk evaluation methods.

83 Regional geohazard zoning is based on the analysis of topography, geology, rainfall and
84 other influencing factors, and the area is divided into different risk areas based on the
85 overlap of weights and various factors. Based on statistical analysis, Xiao et al. (2019)
86 adopted an improved backward cloud algorithm and integrated internal and trigger
87 factors to conduct a risk analysis of Taiwan's highway collapse. J. et al. (2015)
88 conducted a sensitivity analysis on the subsidence of karst areas based on the WOE
89 method. Researchers use logistic regression models (Behnia et al. 2018, Kim et al.
90 2016), frequency ratio methods (Regmi et al. 2016, Yusof et al. 2015), the analytic
91 hierarchy process (AHP) method (Lyu et al. 2018, Vaani et al. 2012, Zhang, He, et al.
92 2018), machine learning method (A.H.Al-Najjar et al. 2021, Kai et al. 2018) and other
93 models, and select various influencing factors to classify geological disasters such as
94 landslides and collapses, and determine the prone areas.

95 The geological risk prediction along highways is to predict the risk level of different
96 sections by analyzing the spatial distribution and influencing factors of geohazards
97 within the highway buffer zones, using statistical and mathematical models (Huang et
98 al. 2018). Based on big data mining, Wen et al. (2018) selected 13 landslide
99 susceptibility factors such as elevation, slope, and lithology to predict the landslide
100 susceptibility along mountain highways. According to the risk zoning of the highway
101 slope disaster in northern Shaanxi, Zhao et al. (2018) selected five factors such as slope,
102 annual precipitation, and vegetation coverage to establish a highway slope risk
103 assessment model. Amatya et al. (2019) took 3km along the road as a buffer zone, and

104 select factors such as slope, aspect and land cover based on the logistic regression
105 method to divide the sensitivity along the Karnali highway.

106 The geological risk assessment method includes two aspects: weight determination and
107 model framework. Models framework include supporting entropy method, information
108 method, WOE method and logistic regression model, etc. (Boyu et al. 2020, Du et al.
109 2016, Guo et al. 2015, Trigila et al. 2015, Vakhshoori et al. 2016, Yusof et al. 2015).
110 The weight determination can be divided into deterministic methods and subjective
111 uncertainty methods. The deterministic method incomplete additive linguistic matrix is
112 applied to determine the weight of each impact factor based on (Yang et al. 2020). Cui
113 et al. (2018) uses the expert scoring method to determine the weights of four types of
114 factors such as the risk of heavy rain disasters and the vulnerability of the carrying body,
115 and builds a heavy rain disaster risk zoning model for Shanghai-Wuhan-Chengdu high-
116 speed railway.

117 The current studies focus on the risk assessment of geohazards for a single hazard, a
118 certain section of the highway, or the study of the relationship between natural factors
119 and geohazards (Ma 2013). The multi-hazard and multi-factor geohazard assessment
120 research for the road network is relatively lacking (Qiao 2006, Tian et al. 2019). Based
121 on the geohazard data along the highway in Guangxi, this paper studies the distribution
122 characteristics and influencing factors of various geohazards. Based on the WOE
123 method, the geohazard intensity index and sensitivity index are calculated, and the
124 Guangxi road network's geohazard risk classification map is obtained, which provides
125 a basis for road network hazard prevention and control.

126 **2 Study area**

127 The study area is Shandong Province located in south China (20°54 ' to 26°24'N and
128 104°28 ' to 112°04'E). The landform is mountainous and hilly, and karst is the main
129 feature. Guangxi has a subtropical and tropical monsoon climate with abundant rainfall
130 and an average annual rainfall of about 1800mm.

131 The types and distribution of geohazards are closely related to regional geological
132 conditions and environmental conditions. Guangxi is a typical mountainous and hilly

133 area. Collapse and landslide are the two most common geohazards (Peng et al. 2015).
134 The total number of geohazards in the study area is 15,435, of which collapse accounted
135 for 48.6%, landslide accounted for 27.4%, ground collapse accounted for 13.1%,
136 unstable slope accounted for 8.5%, ground fissure accounted for 1.5%, and debris flow
137 accounted for 0.9%. The total number of geohazards in the 1km highway buffer zone
138 is 3303, accounting for 21.4% of the total. Fig 1 shows the distribution of geohazards
139 along the highway in Guangxi Province.

140 The number of geohazards of debris flow in the buffer is 22, only 0.7% of the total.
141 Therefore, the debris flow is not considered for geohazard risk assessment. Table 1 lists
142 the types and sources of data used in the research.

143 Data used in the article include road network, topography, rainfall, geology, etc. These
144 data come from different institutions and field surveys. Using GIS tools, we carried out
145 projection transformation and calibrated the data. Table 1 lists the type and data sources.

146 **3 Methodology**

147 By revealing the relationship between historical geohazards and environmental factors
148 along highways in Guangxi Province, this paper analyzes the intensity and sensitivity
149 of multi-hazard geohazards suffered by highway infrastructure and makes an evaluation.
150 Fig 2 is the methodology diagram for analyzing multi-hazard geohazards along
151 highways based on the WOE method.

152 **3.1 Geohazard assessment indicators**

153 The geohazard assessment model along the highway should reflect the current
154 development of geohazards and evaluate the possibility of geohazards in the future.
155 Therefore, the geohazard risk index includes two parts: intensity index and sensitivity
156 index. The intensity index is calculated by analyzing the spatial characteristics of
157 geohazards along the highway. The sensitivity index analyzes the environmental factors
158 related to geohazards and then superimposes calculations to reflect the possibility of
159 geohazards' risk. Thus, the geohazard risk index is obtained by superimposing the
160 intensity index and the sensitivity index. The calculation formula can be expressed as:

$$161 \quad C_i = T_i W_t + S_i W_s \quad (1)$$

162 where, C_i is the i^{th} grid multi-hazard geohazard risk index along the highway; T_i is
 163 the value of the geohazard intensity index in i^{th} grid, and S_i is the value of the
 164 geohazard sensitivity index in i^{th} grid; W_t and W_s are the weights of the intensity
 165 index and the sensitivity index, respectively.

166 The geohazard intensity index reflects the damage to the highway by the multi-hazard
 167 geohazards in the geographic unit (Shang et al. 2005). The geohazard intensity index
 168 along the highway in Guangxi is mainly determined by four geohazards: collapse,
 169 landslide, ground collapse, and unstable slope. The calculation of the intensity index of
 170 multi-hazard geohazards along the highway in Guangxi is shown in formula (2):

$$171 \quad T_i = \sum_{j=1}^N Q_{ij} W_j^Q \quad (2)$$

172 where, Q_{ij} is the intensity index score of the j^{th} geological hazard in the i^{th} grid,
 173 and W_j^Q is the weight of the j^{th} geological hazard.

174 The geohazard sensitivity index reflects the relationship between the various
 175 influencing factors in the geographic unit and geohazards (Behnia et al. 2018). This
 176 paper selects six influencing factors such as slope to determine the sensitivity index of
 177 geohazards along the Guangxi highway. The calculation method is expressed in formula
 178 (3):

$$179 \quad S_i = \sum_{j=1}^N P_{ij} W_j^P \quad (3)$$

180 where, P_{ij} is the intensity index score of the j^{th} impact factor in the i^{th} grid, and
 181 W_j^P is the weight of the j^{th} impact factor.

182 **3.2 Weights of evidence method**

183 WOE method is a geological statistical method proposed by Canadian mathematical
 184 geologist Agterberg (Carranza 2004). The principles of WOE in geohazard risk analysis
 185 are as follows.

186 The study area is divided into equal-area $N[T]$ evaluation units. Definition D means
 187 that geohazards have occurred, the number of units with geohazards in the study area

188 is $N[D]$, and the number of units without geohazards is $N[\bar{D}]$, which can be calculated:

$$189 \quad N[\bar{D}] = N[T] - N[D] \quad (4)$$

190 The prior probability of geohazards in any unit is:

$$191 \quad P_{prior} = P[D] = \frac{N[D]}{N[T]} \quad (5)$$

192 Define the evidence factor related to the geohazard as B , then the j^{th} evidence layer
193 can be expressed as $\{B_j\}$, the number of units with the evidence factor in the study area

194 is $N[B_j]$, and the number of units without the evidence factor is $N[\bar{B}_j]$, the

195 corresponding positive weight W_j^+ and negative weight W_j^- are calculated as

196 follows:

$$197 \quad W_j^+ = \ln \frac{P\{B_j|D\}}{P\{B_j|\bar{D}\}} = \ln \frac{\frac{N\{B_j \cap D\}}{N[D]}}{\frac{N\{B_j \cap \bar{D}\}}{N[\bar{D}]}} \quad (6)$$

$$198 \quad W_j^- = \ln \frac{P\{\bar{B}_j|D\}}{P\{\bar{B}_j|\bar{D}\}} = \ln \frac{\frac{N\{\bar{B}_j \cap D\}}{N[D]}}{\frac{N\{\bar{B}_j \cap \bar{D}\}}{N[\bar{D}]}} \quad (7)$$

199 Where, $N\{B_j \cap D\}$ represents the number of units that contain both evidence layers

200 $\{B_j\}$ and geohazards, $N\{B_j \cap \bar{D}\}$ represents the number of units that contain evidence

201 layers $\{B_j\}$ without geohazards, $N\{\bar{B}_j \cap \bar{D}\}$ represents the number of units that do not

202 contain the evidence layer $\{B_j\}$ and geohazards occur, and $N\{\bar{B}_j \cap D\}$ represents the

203 number of units that neither contains the evidence layer $\{B_j\}$ nor have geohazards

204 occurred.

205 When $W_j^+ > 0$ or $W_j^- < 0$, it means that the evidence factor is positively correlated

206 with geohazards, when $W_j^+ < 0$ or $W_j^- > 0$, the evidence factor is negatively

207 correlated with geohazards, when $W_j^+ = 0$ or $W_j^- = 0$, the evidence factor is not

208 related to geohazards. The C value represents the comprehensive weight, that is, the

209 weights of the evidence layer's influence on the occurrence of geohazards (Fan et al.
 210 2015, Hu et al. 2020, Xiao 2013). The calculation is shown in the following formula.

$$211 \quad C = W_j^+ - W_j^- \quad (8)$$

212 The WOE method assumes that the evidence factors are conditionally independent, and
 213 the independence test of the evidence factors is required (Sun et al. 2019). In order to
 214 simplify the calculation, the symbol $O\{D\}$ is introduced, which is defined as the prior
 215 probability $O\{D\}$, then:

$$216 \quad \ln[O\{D|B_1^k \cap B_2^k \cap \dots \cap B_n^k\}] = \ln[O\{D\}] + \sum_{j=1}^n W_j^k \quad (9)$$

217 where, n is the number of evidence layers, k is the existing status of the evidence layers,
 218 W_j^k calculated for the existence of k is W_j^+ , if the evidence does not exist, W_j^- , if the
 219 data is missing, then $W_j^k = 0$.

220 **3.3 Hot spot analysis**

221 Based on the classified and weighted geohazards, this paper uses the ArcGIS hotspot
 222 tool to analyze the intensity of geohazards along the highway in Guangxi. The hot spot
 223 analysis calculates Getis-Ord G_i^* statistics for each element in the data set, and obtains
 224 the z-score and p-value, so that the spatial concentration positions of high-value and
 225 low-value elements are obtained (Shen et al. 2021). The local statistics of Getis-Ord
 226 can be expressed as:

$$227 \quad G_i^* = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n w_{i,j} x_j - \bar{X} \sum_{j=1}^n w_{i,j}}{S \sqrt{\frac{[n \sum_{j=1}^n w_{i,j}^2 - (\sum_{j=1}^n w_{i,j})^2]}{n-1}}} \quad (11)$$

228 where, x_j is the attribute value of element j, $w_{i,j}$ is the spatial weight between
 229 elements i and j, n is the total number of elements, and:

$$230 \quad \bar{X} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n x_j}{n} \quad (12)$$

$$231 \quad S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{j=1}^n x_j^2}{n} - (\bar{X})^2} \quad (13)$$

232 The G_i^* statistic returned for each element in the data set is the z-score. For a

233 statistically significant positive z-score, the higher the z-score, the tighter the clusters
234 of high values (hot spots). For statistically significant negative z-scores, the lower the
235 z-score, the tighter the clustering of low values (cold spots).

236 **3.4 Receiver operating characteristic curve**

237 ROC curve, also known as sensitivity curve, was initially used in the military and then
238 widely used in medical diagnosis. The most intuitive application of ROC is to reflect
239 model sensitivity (FPF) and specificity (TPF), so it is also widely used in the assessment
240 of geohazard susceptibility (Quanfu et al. 2017).

241 Based on the confusion matrix shown in Table 2, the calculation formula of ROC's False
242 Positive Fraction (FPF) on the abscissa and True Positive Fraction (TPF) on the ordinate
243 is as follows.

$$244 \quad \text{FPF} = \frac{FP}{TN + FP} \quad (14)$$

$$245 \quad \text{TPF} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad (15)$$

246 AUC is defined as the area under the ROC curve to reflect the model's accuracy
247 intuitively, and its value is generally between 0.5-1 (Yang et al. 2021). When AUC=0.5,
248 just like random guessing, the model has no predictive value. When $0.5 < \text{AUC} < 1$, model
249 prediction is better than random prediction and has predictive value.

250 **4 Geohazard Intensity Index**

251 Geohazard intensity index reflects the spatial characteristics of geohazards (Yang et al.).
252 The density and intensity of geohazards reflect the degree of geological risk in a specific
253 highway section. The Getis-Ord G_i^* statistic method can effectively identify
254 statistically significant hotspots and is used for geohazards intensity analysis. This
255 paper uses the Getis-Ord G_i^* statistic method to calculate the z-score of collapses,
256 landslides, ground collapses and unstable slopes, and draws the hot spot analysis map.
257 For hot spot analysis, it is necessary to classify geological disasters by intensity. As
258 shown in Table 3, according to China's geohazard classification system, geohazards can
259 be divided into four levels: minor, medium, large, and extra-large hazard. Based on the
260 classification of geohazards, the GIS platform is used to analyze the hot spots of various

261 geohazards in the buffer zone and obtain the intensity index of different geohazards on
262 the road network, as shown in Fig 3.

263 The multi-hazard intensity index of geohazards in the buffer zone is a weighted
264 superposition of the hotspot analysis of individual geohazards. The weights are
265 determined by expert scoring. We invited 15 geohazard experts, 11 highway experts
266 and 6 traffic safety experts, and 28 valid questionnaires were recovered. This survey
267 determined the degree of damage caused by different geohazards to the highway, and
268 the weights are shown in Table 4. The multi-hazard intensity index is obtained by GIS
269 weighted superposition according to the hazard weight, as shown in Fig 4.

270 From the intensity index, we can get the following conclusions about the spatial
271 distribution of geohazards along the highway in Guangxi:

- 272 1. The geohazards along the highway in Guangxi mainly collapses, accounting for 45%
273 of the total geohazards. The risk levels of geohazards along the highway are divided
274 into four levels: minor, medium, large and extra-large according to the degree and
275 scale of geohazards. Minor geohazards accounted for 71.5%.
- 276 2. The hot spots of geohazards along highways are concentrated in mountainous and
277 hilly areas, while the distribution of geohazards in the Guangxi Basin is relatively
278 small. Collapses and landslides are mainly distributed in mountainous areas with
279 steep slopes around the basin. The ground collapse is widespread in the
280 northeastern. The areas with prominent development of unstable slopes are
281 concentrated in the northeast and southeast.

282 **5 Geohazard Sensitivity Index**

283 The geohazard sensitivity index reflects the relationship between the natural
284 environment and geohazards (Quancheng et al. 2015, Yang et al. 2020). Variables
285 related to environmental characteristics and geohazards can be divided into four
286 categories: meteorological, surface, geological, and hydrological.

287 **5.1 Impact factor**

288 This paper selects average annual rainfall, lithology type, land use, slope, aspect and
289 topographic relief to calculate the sensitivity index and reflect the possibility of

290 geohazards.

291 **Average Annual Rainfall**

292 Rainfall is one of the direct factors that induce geohazards (Chen et al. 2016, Zhang,
293 Zhao, et al. 2018). Precipitation-induced geohazards have the characteristics of group-
294 occurring, simultaneity, sudden breakout, and serious consequences (Li 2005).

295 Fig 5 is the distribution map of the average annual rainfall over the 20 years (1999-
296 2019) in the study area. Fig 6 shows the relationship between the average annual rainfall
297 and the frequency of geohazards. Geohazards mainly occur in areas with an average
298 annual rainfall of 1600mm-1800mm, accounting for 60.5% of the total. The distribution
299 density of geohazards is the highest, where the average annual rainfall is greater than
300 1700mm.

301 **Lithology Type**

302 The lithology types in the study area can be divided into hard rock, medium rock, soft
303 rock, and soft and hard rocks alternate-layered, as shown in Fig 7. The relationship
304 between lithology and the frequency of geological disasters is shown in Fig 8.
305 Geohazards mainly occur on hard rock, accounting for about 50%, followed by medium
306 rock and soft and hard rocks alternate-layered.

307 **Land Use**

308 The vegetation coverage in the study area is very high, and the relationship between
309 geological disasters and vegetation coverage is not obvious. From the relationship
310 between land use types and geohazards in Figs 9 and 10, it can be seen that the
311 relationship between the two is apparent. More than half of the geohazards occurred in
312 forest land, followed by agricultural land. In mountainous forest land, the disturbance
313 of highway construction increases the risk of geohazards.

314 **Slope**

315 The slope is one of the main factors affecting geohazards. Based on DEM, the slope
316 distribution of the study area can be obtained. After reclassifying the results, the slope
317 distribution is shown in Fig 11. From Fig 12, geohazards mainly occur in the Guangxi
318 Basin, where the slope is less than 3%. When the slope is greater than 10%, the

319 geohazards are the least. The reason is that the design of Guangxi highway often
320 bypasses steep slopes or uses tunnels.

321 **Aspect**

322 The aspect is one of the essential factors affecting the intensity of the mountain surface
323 sunshine and solar radiation. It is related to mountain ecology and surface morphology,
324 and affects geohazards to a certain extent. Fig 13 and Fig 14 show the relationship
325 between aspect and geohazards.

326 **Topographic Relief**

327 Topographic relief is a quantitative indicator to describe the morphology of landforms.
328 Using the spatial analysis function of ArcGIS, the topographic relief of the study area
329 can be extracted based on DEM, and the natural discontinuity method can be used to
330 reclassify it, as shown in Fig 15. As shown in Fig 16, geohazards mainly occur in the
331 range of topographic relief of 0-63.6, and the number of geohazards shows a decreasing
332 trend with the increase of topographic relief. This trend is related to avoiding areas with
333 complex terrain as much as possible in highway design.

334 **5.2 Sensitivity index calculation**

335 After determining the environmental factors affecting geological disasters, the
336 sensitivity index can be calculated. The study area is divided into $100\text{m} \times 100\text{m}$ grid
337 units ($N[T]=23745736$), of which 15197 grids have hazard points, that is, $N[D]=15197$.

338 The prior probability of geological hazards is: $P_{prior} = \frac{15197}{23745736} = 6.4 \times 10^{-4}$.

339 The weights and contrasts of the evidence factors of each evidence layer are shown in
340 Table 5.

341 After calculating the weight of each evidence layer, each evidence layer is binarized
342 and the conditional independence test is performed based on the chi-square (χ^2) test.

343 The calculation results are shown in Table 6.

344 Table 6 shows that all evidence factors meet the conditional independence test. The
345 geohazard sensitivity index along the highway is obtained after normalization of each
346 evidence layer and weighted superposition, as shown in Fig 17. In the figure, when the
347 value is greater than 2.75, the density of geological disasters is the highest. The index

348 in the eastern region of Guangxi is larger than that in the western region. The reason is
349 that the eastern region has more precipitation, mainly hard rock and medium hard rock.

350 **6 Risk of Multi-hazard Geohazards along Highways**

351 Determining the risk index of geohazards along the highway is significant for highway
352 management, maintenance, and emergency rescue in hazard situations. According to
353 expert scores, the intensity index and sensitivity index weights are 0.41 and 0.59,
354 respectively. The geohazard risk along the highway is obtained by overlapping these
355 two indexes, as shown in Fig 18. The risk index along the highway is divided into 5
356 levels, where 1 represents the lowest risk, and 5 represents the highest risk.

357 The ROC curve is used to test the accuracy and sensitivity of the model, as shown in
358 Fig 19. The AUC of the geohazard risk index model is calculated as 0.71. It means the
359 success rate of predicting geohazards along the highway using the model in this paper
360 is 0.71.

361 From Fig 19, there are the following conclusions:

- 362 1. The geohazards risk of highways in the east and southwest of Guangxi Province is
363 relatively high. The east is related to high rainfall, while the southwest is related to
364 the hard rock lithology and the greater disturbance of the ground surface caused by
365 highway construction.
- 366 2. The road network in Guangxi Province has many sections with medium and high
367 risks. On the one hand, Guangxi has heavy rainfall and complex terrain, and on the
368 other hand, road construction has a greater disturbance to the ground.
- 369 3. When building a highway in areas with high risks, geological disasters should be
370 avoided, and bridges and tunnels should be constructed as far as possible to reduce
371 the occurrence of geohazards.

372 **7 Summary and Conclusion**

373 This paper proposes a highway geohazards risk model with a superimposed intensity
374 index and sensitivity index to provide a basis for highway design, construction, and risk
375 management. Based on the statistical analysis of the existing geological disasters in the
376 highway buffer in Guangxi Province, four typical geohazards are identified as

377 landslides, collapses, ground collapses, and unstable slopes. The geohazard intensity
378 index obtained by superimposing the hot spot maps of geohazards shows that the
379 current geohazards along the highway are mainly minor, accounting for 71.5%.
380 Landslides and collapses have a high proportion and are closely related to the highway
381 disturbance to the ground. Based on the WOE method, the sensitivity index obtained
382 by superimposing slope, aspect, land use, lithology, rainfall and relief can predict the
383 possibility of geohazards. The sensitivity index shows that the value in eastern Guangxi
384 is higher than that in the west, which is related to rainfall and lithology. The risk index
385 indicates that the risk of geohazards on the highways in eastern and southwestern
386 Guangxi is relatively high, and the natural environment is closely related to highway
387 construction. Therefore, when building highways in high-risk areas, bridges and tunnels
388 should be used as much as possible to avoid geological disasters and reduce disturbance
389 to the ground.

390 This paper uses the ROC curve to verify the geohazard risk model, and $AUC=0.71$
391 indicates high prediction accuracy. There are still subjective factors that need to be
392 improved using the expert scoring method to determine the weight. This research takes
393 the macroscopic road network as the object and seldom considers the relationship
394 between the technical indicators of the highway and the geological disasters. Further
395 research should collect more data and establish a more accurate geohazards risk model
396 based on the relationship between geometric characteristics, slope types, geological
397 disasters, and environmental factors to serve the entire life cycle of the highway.

398 **Reference**

- 399 A. H. Al-Najjar H, Pradhan B. (2021) Spatial landslide susceptibility assessment
400 using machine learning techniques assisted by additional data created with
401 generative adversarial networks. *Geoscience Frontiers* 12:625–637.
402 <http://doi.org/10.1016/J.GSF.2020.09.002>
- 403 Amatya P, Kirschbaum D, Stanley T. (2019) Use of Very High-Resolution Optical Data
404 for Landslide Mapping and Susceptibility Analysis along the Karnali Highway, Nepal.
405 *Remote Sens* 11:1–23. <http://doi.org/10.3390/rs11192284>
- 406 Behnia P, Blais-Stevens A. (2018) Landslide susceptibility modelling using the
407 quantitative random forest method along the northern portion of the Yukon Alaska
408 Highway Corridor, Canada. *Nat Hazards* 90:1407–1426. [http://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-
409 017-3104-z](http://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-017-3104-z)
- 410 Boyu W, Chong X, Xiangli H, Siyuan MA, Xiaoyi S, Kai L, Zhongjian Z, Zhengfang L.
411 (2020) Hazard Assessment of Co-seismic Landslides Based on Information Value
412 Method: A Case in 2018 M_W6.6 Hokkaido Earthquake, Japan. *Earthquake Research in
413 China* 34:64–80. <http://doi.org/10.19743/j.cnki.0891-4176.202001001>
- 414 Carranza EJM. (2004) Weights of Evidence Modeling of Mineral Potential: A Case
415 Study Using Small Number of Prospects, Abra, Philippines. *Natural Resources
416 Research* 13:173–187. <http://doi.org/10.1023/B:NARR.0000046919.87758.f5>
- 417 Chen X, Pei Z, Wang F. (2016) GIS-based assessment of rainstorm-induced geological
418 hazards risk in Enshi Autonomous Prefecture. *Journal of Geo-information Science*
419 18:343–352. <http://doi.org/10.3724/SP.J.1047.2016.00343>
- 420 Church J, Clark P, Cazenave A, Gregory J, Unnikrishnan A. (2013) Climate Change
421 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth
422 Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- 423 Cui X, Fu J, Dai J, Liu J, Zhou X. (2018) GIS-based rainstorm disaster risk zoning
424 over Shanghai–Wuhan–Chengdu high-speed railway. *Journal of the Meteorological
425 Sciences* 38:113–120. <http://doi.org/10.3969/2017jms.0031>
- 426 Du Y, Peng J, Zhao S, Hu Z, Wang Y. (2016) Ecological risk assessment of landslide
427 disasters in mountainous areas of Southwest China: A case study in Dali Bai
428 Autonomous Prefecture. *ACTA GEOGRAPHICA SINICA* 71:1544–1561.
429 <http://doi.org/10.11821/dlxb201609007>
- 430 Fan Q, Ju N, Xiang X, Huang J. (2015) Landslides susceptibility assessment using
431 weights of evidence in the Tongzi watershed, China. *Journal of Catastrophology*
432 30:124–129. <http://doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1000-811X.2015.01.024>
- 433 Guo C, Montgomery DR, Zhang Y, Wang K, Yang Z. (2015) Quantitative assessment of
434 landslide susceptibility along the Xianshuihe fault zone, Tibetan Plateau, China.
435 *Elsevier* 248:93–110. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2015.07.012>
- 436 Hu Y, Li D, Meng S, Sun Y. (2020) Landslide susceptibility evaluation in Badong
437 County based on weights of evidence method. *Bulletin of Geological Science and
438 Technology* 39:187–194. <http://doi.org/10.19509/j.cnki.dzkq.2020.0320>
- 439 Huang X, Wang X, Pei J, Xu M, Huang X, Luo Y. (2018) Risk assessment of the areas
440 along the highway due to hazardous material transportation accidents. *Nat Hazards*

441 93:1181-1202. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-018-3346-4>

442 J. P, C. C, G. N, E. V. (2015) A multicriteria approach to karst subsidence hazard
443 mapping supported by weights-of-evidence analysis. *Eng Geol* 197:296-305.
444 <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.enggeo.2015.09.001>

445 Kai L, Ming W, Yinxue C, Weihua Z, Guiling Y. (2018) Susceptibility of existing and
446 planned Chinese railway system subjected to rainfall-induced multi-hazards.
447 *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* 117:214-226.
448 <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.tra.2018.08.030>

449 Kim HS, Chung CK, Kim SR, Kim KS. (2016) A GIS-Based Framework for Real-Time
450 Debris-Flow Hazard Assessment for Expressways in Korea. *Int J Disaster Risk Sci*
451 7:293-311. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s13753-016-0096-3>

452 Li Y. (2005) Method for the Warning of Precipitation-induced Landslides.
453 Dissertation, China University of Geosciences (Beijing)

454 Liu Y, Ju N, Liu X, Zhang C, Xie M, Zhao W. (2020) Susceptibility Assessment on
455 Influencing Factors of Collapses and Landslides in Guizhou Province. *Journal of*
456 *Catastrophology* 35:201-207. <http://doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1000-811X.2020.03.037>

457 Lyu HM, Shen JS, Arulrajah A. (2018) Assessment of Geohazards and Preventative
458 Countermeasures Using AHP Incorporated with GIS in Lanzhou, China. *Sustainability*
459 10:1-21. <http://doi.org/10.3390/su10020304>

460 Ma J. (2013) GEOLOGICAL HAZARD SUSCEPTIBILITY ASSESSMENT FOR RAILWAY NETWORK IN
461 GUIZHOU PROVINCE. Dissertation, Southwest Jiaotong University

462 Peng SH, Wang K. (2015) Risk evaluation of geological hazards of mountainous
463 tourist area: a case study of Mengshan, China. *Nat Hazards* 78:517-529.
464 <http://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-015-1724-8>

465 Qiao X. (2006) Research on Risk Assessment of Geological Disasters Along Highways
466 in Complex Mountainous Areas Based on GIS. Dissertation, Chang'an University

467 Quancheng Y, Chunmei Y, Shanjun L, Feng G. (2015) Correlation analysis of
468 geological hazards and topography in hilly areas in Shandong province. *The Chinese*
469 *Journal of Geological Hazard and Control* 26:93-96.
470 <http://doi.org/10.16031/j.cnki.issn.1003-8035.2015.02.16>

471 Quanfu N, Feng Z, Zhang Y, Dang X. (2017) Susceptibility Assessment of Disaster
472 Environment for Landslide Hazard based on GIS in Lanzhou Area. *Journal of*
473 *Catastrophology* 32:29-35. <http://doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1000-811X.2017.03.006>

474 Regmi AD, Cui P, Dhital MR, Zou Q. (2016) Rock fall hazard and risk assessment
475 along Araniko Highway, Central Nepal Himalaya. *Environ Earth Sci* 75:1-20.
476 <http://doi.org/10.1007/s12665-016-5905-x>

477 Shang YJ, Park HD, Yang ZF. (2005) Engineering geological zonation using
478 interaction matrix of geological factors: An example from one section of Sichuan-
479 Tibet Highway. *Geosci J* 9:375-387. <http://doi.org/10.1007/bf02910326>

480 Shen D, Guo J, Wang Z, Chen J. (2021) Sensitivity assessment of geological hazards
481 based on hot spot analysis and geographic detectors. *Environmental Ecology* 3:83-89.
482 <http://doi.org/CNKI:SUN:HJSX.0.2021-04-017>

483 Sun L, Ren N, Li Y, Hu L. (2019) Risk assessment on karst collapse of the highway
484 subgrade based on weights of evidence method. *The Chinese Journal of Geological*

485 Hazard and Control 30:94–100. <http://doi.org/10.16031/j.cnki.issn.1003->
486 [8035.2019.03.15](http://doi.org/10.16031/j.cnki.issn.1003-8035.2019.03.15)

487 Tian S, Tang Q, Zhang S, Han P, Fan X. (2019) Vulnerability Evaluation of Highway
488 Geological Diasters on the Upper Stream of Min River Based on Road Network
489 Structure. HIGHWAY 64:203–208.

490 Trigila A, Iadanza C, Esposito C, Scarascia-Mugnozza G. (2015) Comparison of
491 Logistic Regression and Random Forests techniques for shallow landslide
492 susceptibility assessment in Giampilieri (NE Sicily, Italy). Elsevier 249:119–136.
493 <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2015.06.001>

494 Vaani N, Sekar SK. (2012) Regional Landslide Hazard Zonation and Vulnerability
495 Analysis using AHP and GIS – A Case study of Nilgiris District, Tamil Nadu, India.
496 Disaster Adv 5:171–176. <http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1752-1688.2012.00669.x>

497 Vakhshoori V, Zare M. (2016) Landslide susceptibility mapping by comparing weight
498 of evidence, fuzzy logic, and frequency ratio methods. Geomat Nat Hazards Risk 7:1–
499 22. <http://doi.org/info:doi/10.1080/19475705.2016.1144655>

500 Wen H, Li Y, Xue J, Xie P. (2018) Landslides susceptibility microzoning along
501 highway in mountainous region based on mining the big data. Journal of Natural
502 Disasters 27:159–165. <http://doi.org/10.13577/j.jnd.2018.0421>

503 Xiao J. (2013) A Research in the Application of the Weights of Evidence Method in
504 the Risk Analysis of Karst Collapse. Dissertation, South China University of
505 Technology

506 Xiao W, Tian W-P. (2019) Hazard assessment and zoning of collapse along highways in
507 China based on backward cloud algorithm. Geomat Nat Hazards Risk 10:1227–1241.
508 <http://doi.org/10.1080/19475705.2018.1502691>

509 Yang H, Zhao Y, Cheng Q. (2020) Geohazards regionalization along highways in
510 Shandong Province, China. Geomatics, Natural Hazards & Risk 11:1760–1781.
511 <http://doi.org/10.1080/19475705.2020.1810139>

512 Yang S, Li D, Yan L, Huang Y, Wang M. (2021) Landslides Susceptibility Assessment
513 in High and Steep Bank Slopes along Wujiang River Based on Random Forest Model.
514 Safety and Environmental Engineering 28:131–138.
515 <http://doi.org/10.13578/j.cnki.issn.1671-1556.20200956>

516 Yusof NM, Pradhan B, Shafri HZM, Jebur MN, Yusoff Z. (2015) Spatial landslide
517 hazard assessment along the Jelapang Corridor of the North–South Expressway in
518 Malaysia using high resolution airborne LiDAR data. Arab J Geosci 8:9789–9800.
519 <http://doi.org/10.1007/s12517-015-1937-x>

520 Zhang J, He P, Xiao J, Xu F. (2018) Risk assessment model of expansive soil slope
521 stability based on Fuzzy-AHP method and its engineering application. Geomat Nat
522 Hazards Risk 9:389–402. <http://doi.org/10.1080/19475705.2018.1445664>

523 Zhang S, Zhao L, Delgado-Tellez R, Bao H. (2018) A physics-based probabilistic
524 forecasting model for rainfall-induced shallow landslides at regional scale.
525 Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences 18:969 – 982.
526 <http://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2016-348>

527 Zhao H, Tian WP, Li JC, Ma BC. (2018) Hazard zoning of trunk highway slope
528 disasters: a case study in northern Shaanxi, China. Bull Eng Geol Environ 77:1355–

529 1364. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10064-017-1178-1>

530

531 **Figure Captions**

532 **Fig 1.** Distribution of geohazards points in the buffer zone

533 **Fig 2.** Methodology diagram

534 **Fig 3.** Hot spot analysis of geohazards (a) collapses (b) landslides (c) ground collapses (d)
535 unstable slopes

536 **Fig 4.** Map of comprehensive intensity index along highways in Guangxi

537 **Fig 5.** 20-year average annual rainfall distribution map

538 **Fig 6.** Relationship between average annual rainfall and geohazards

539 **Fig 7.** Lithology type distribution map

540 **Fig 8.** Relationship between lithology type and geohazards

541 **Fig 9.** Land use distribution map

542 **Fig 10.** Relationship between land use and geohazards

543 **Fig 11.** Slope distribution map

544 **Fig 12.** Relationship between slope and geohazards

545 **Fig 13.** Aspect distribution map

546 **Fig 14.** Relationship between aspect and geohazards

547 **Fig 15.** Topographic relief distribution map

548 **Fig 16.** Relationship between topographic relief and geohazards

549 **Fig 17.** Map of geohazard sensitivity index along highways in Guangxi

550 **Fig 18.** Geological hazard risk zoning map along highways in Guangxi Province

551 **Fig 19.** Map of receiver operating characteristic

Figures

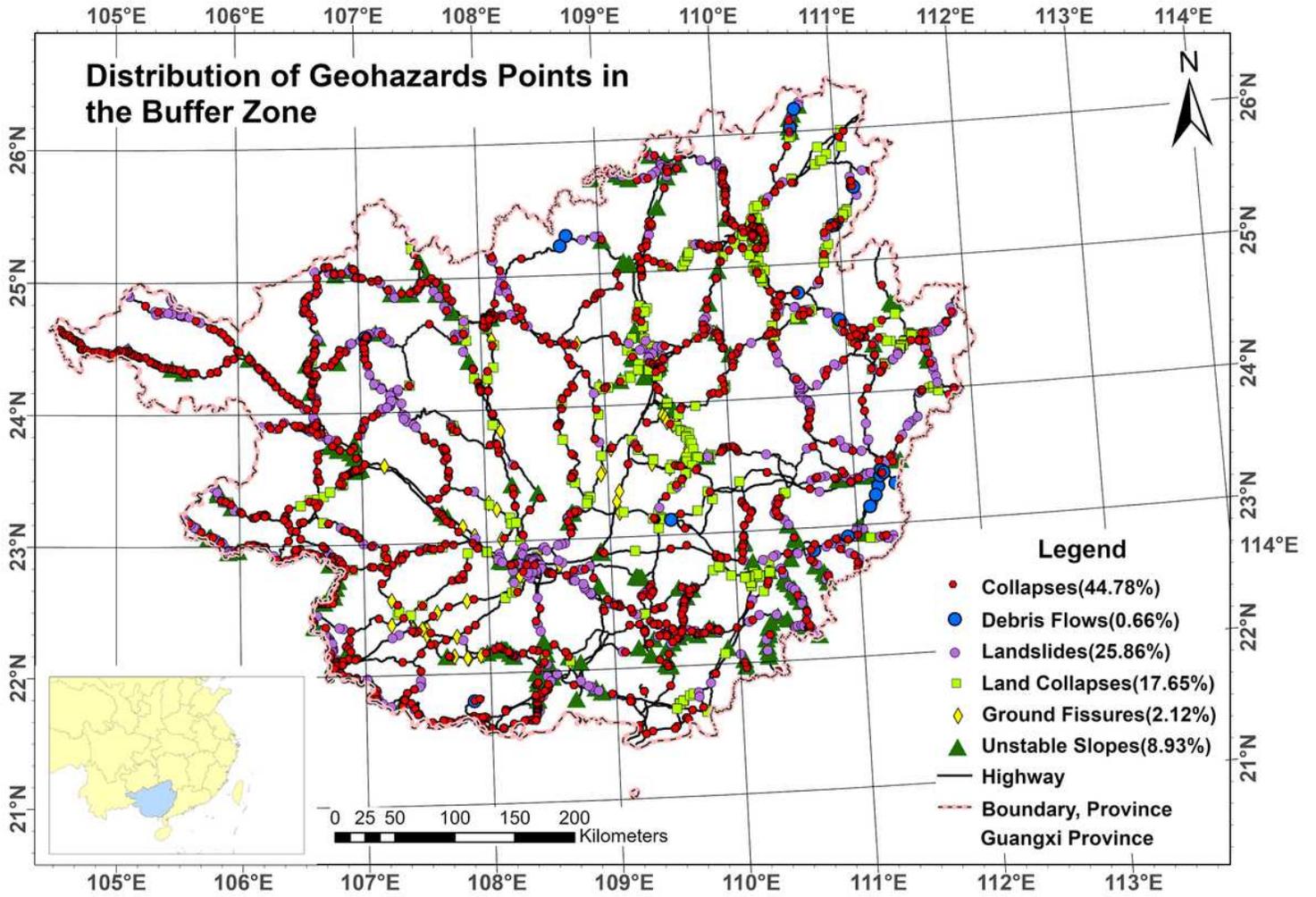


Figure 1

Distribution of geohazards points in the buffer zone

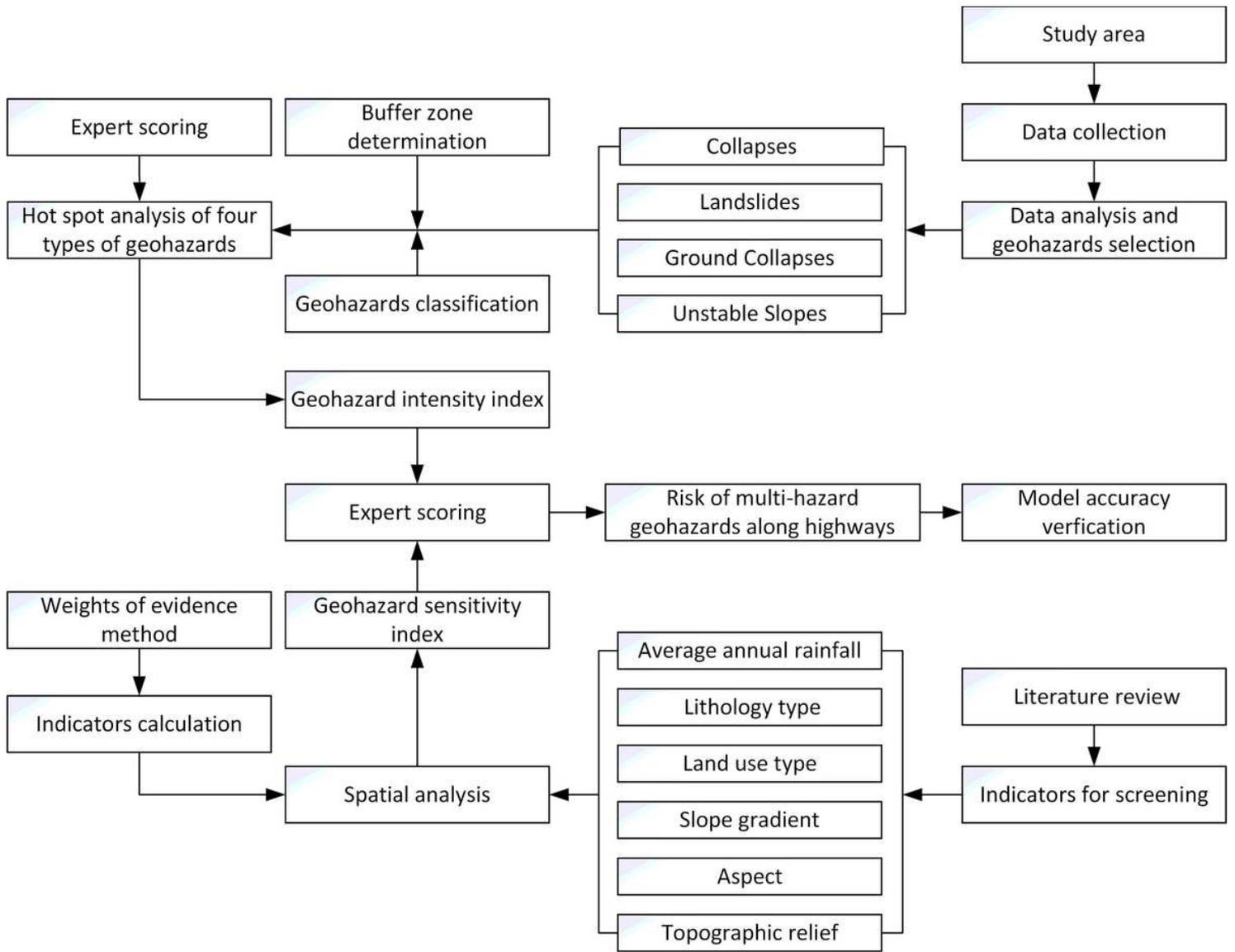


Figure 2

Methodology diagram

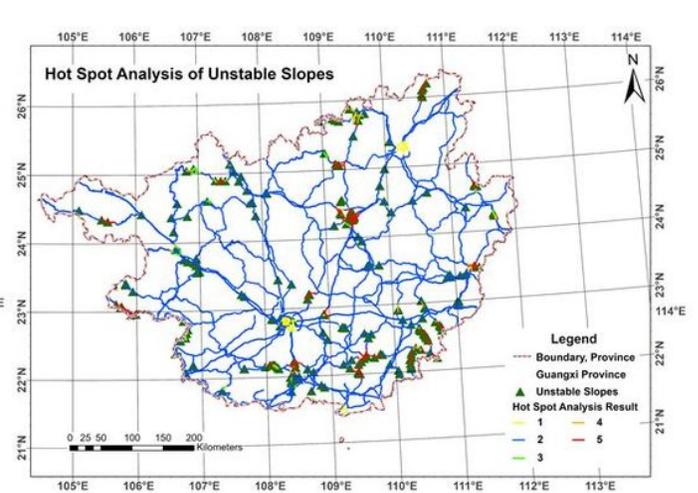
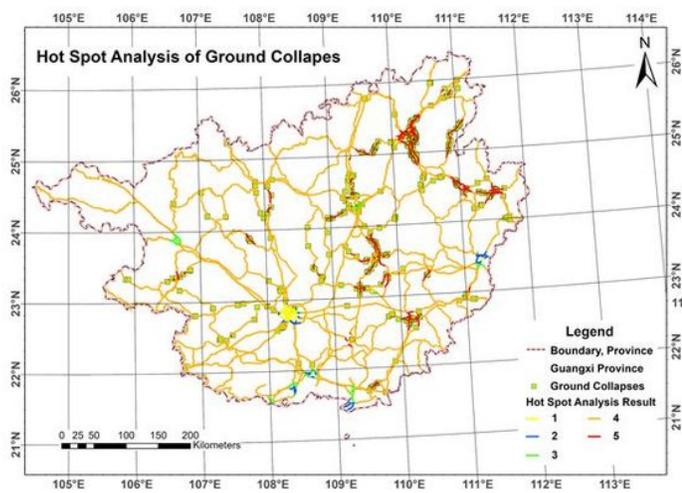
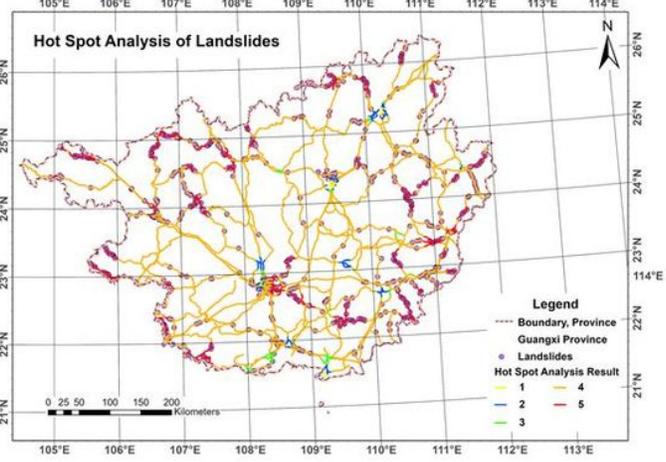
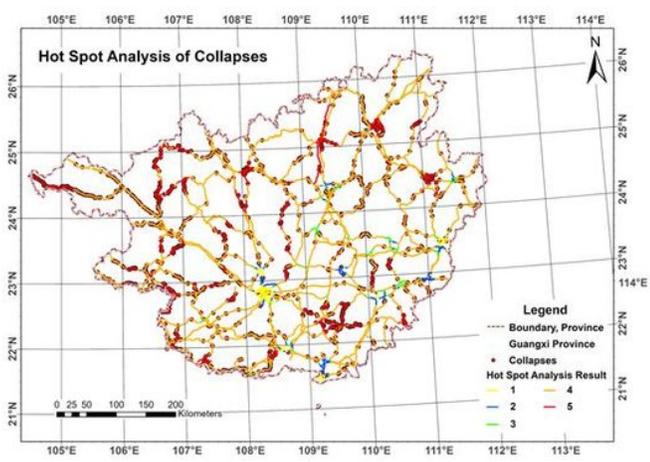


Figure 3

Hot spot analysis of geohazards (a) collapses (b) landslides (c) ground collapses (d) unstable slopes

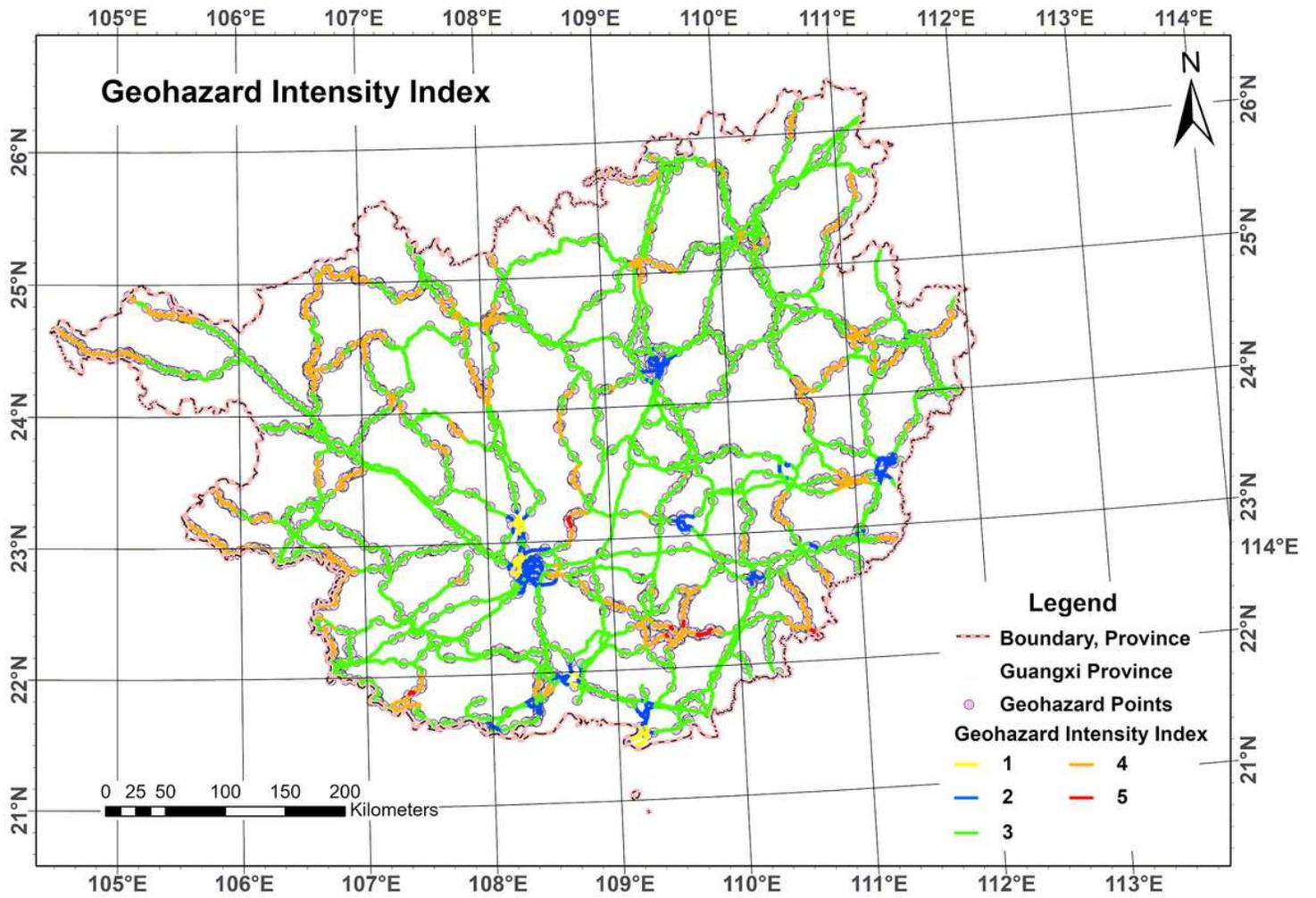


Figure 4

Map of comprehensive intensity index along highways in Guangxi

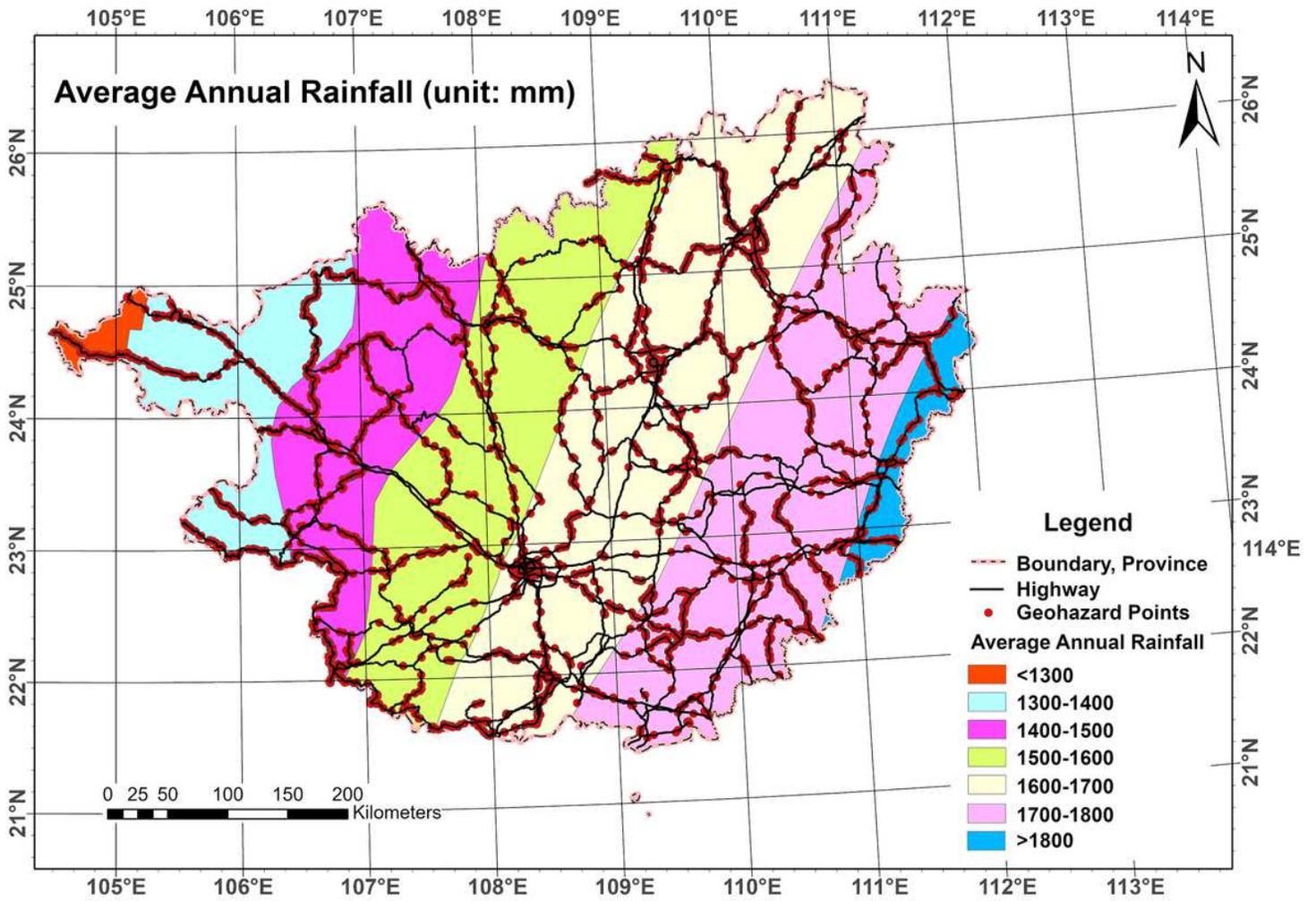


Figure 5

20-year average annual rainfall distribution map

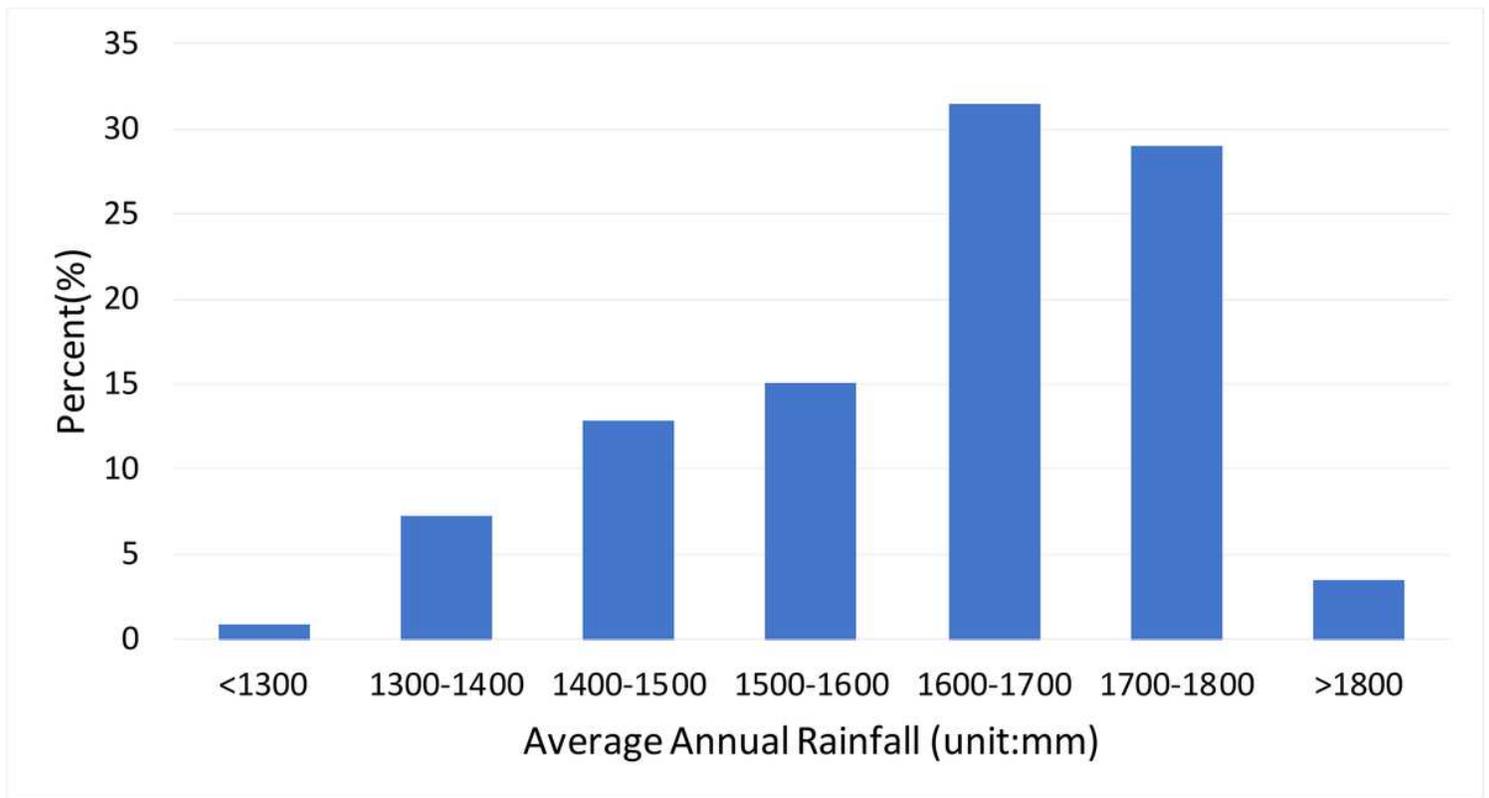


Figure 6

Relationship between average annual rainfall and geohazards

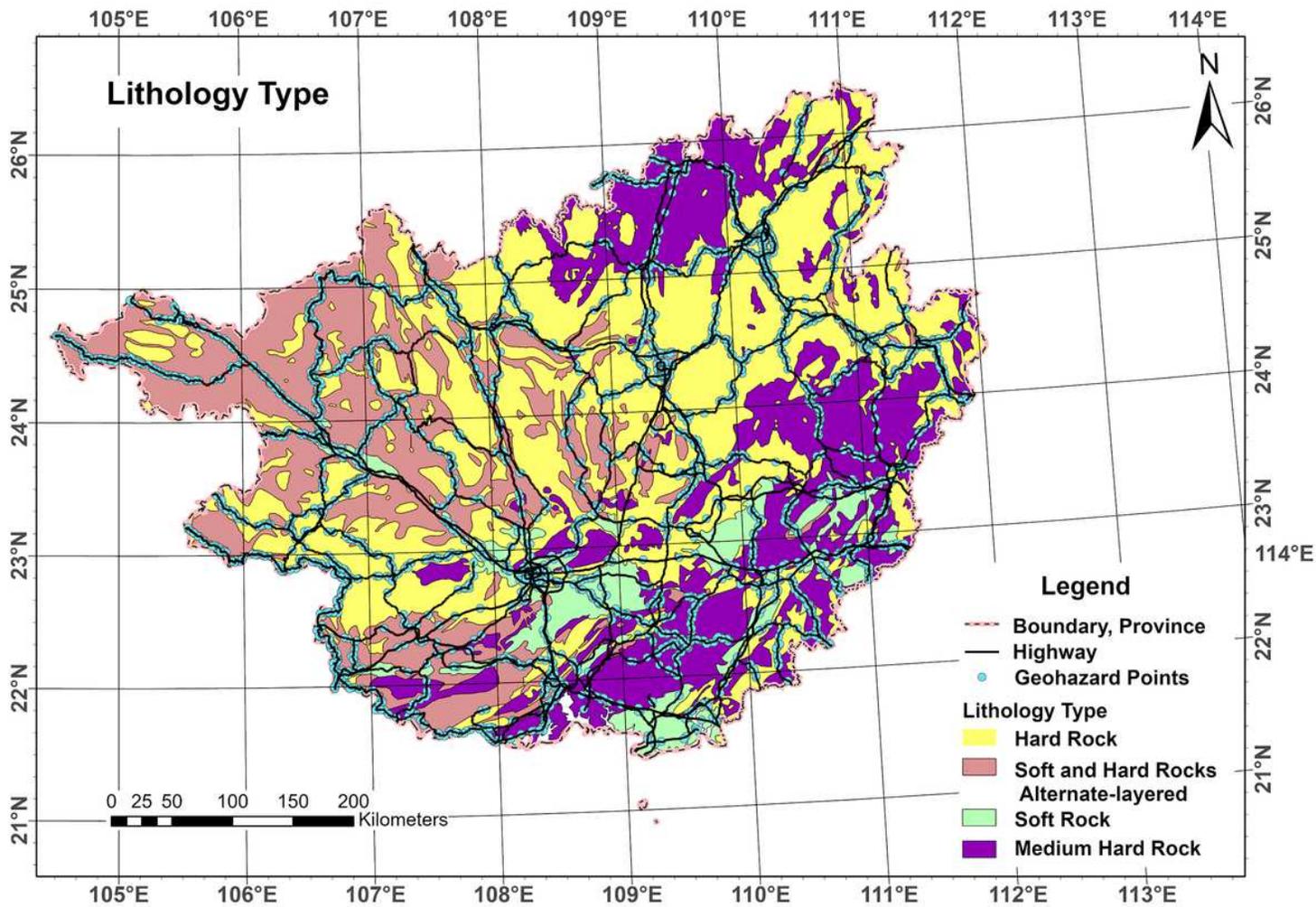


Figure 7

Lithology type distribution map

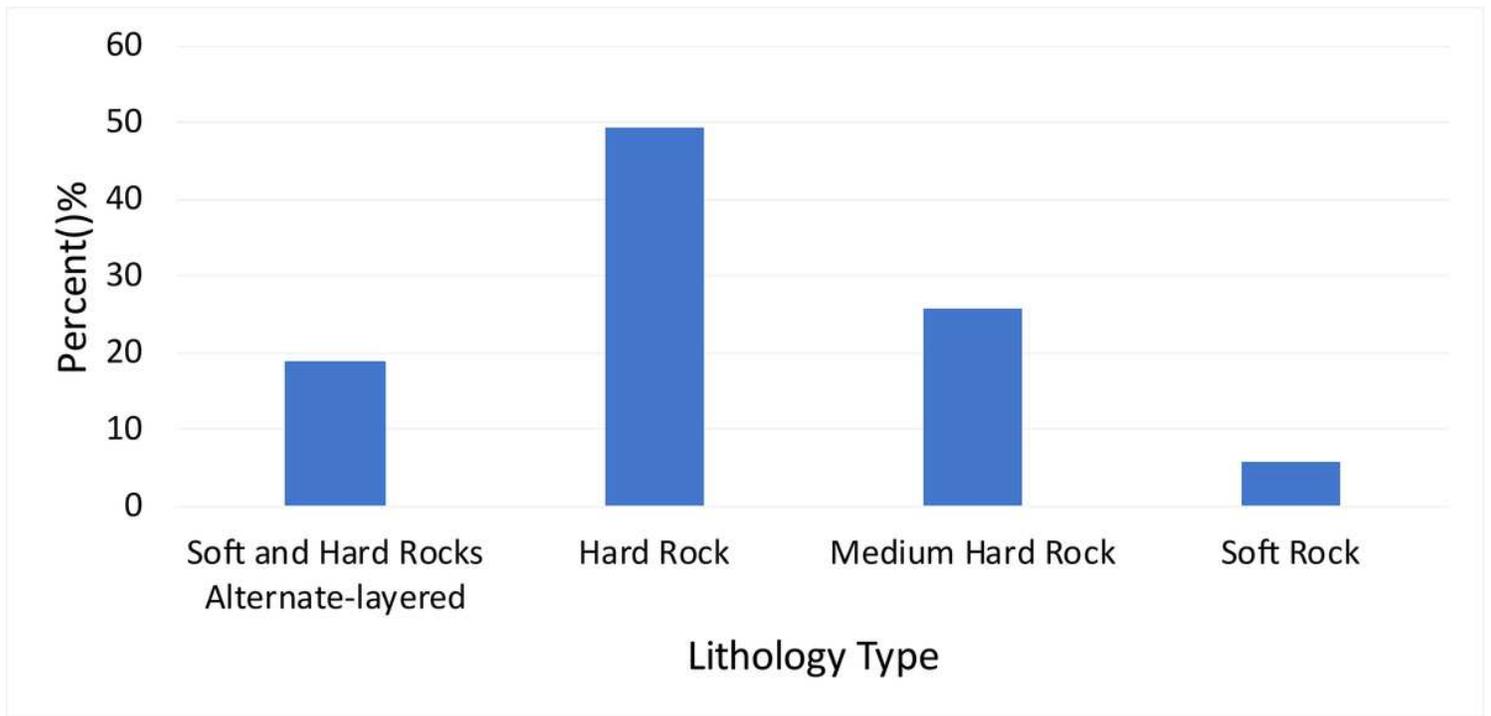


Figure 8

Relationship between lithology type and geohazards

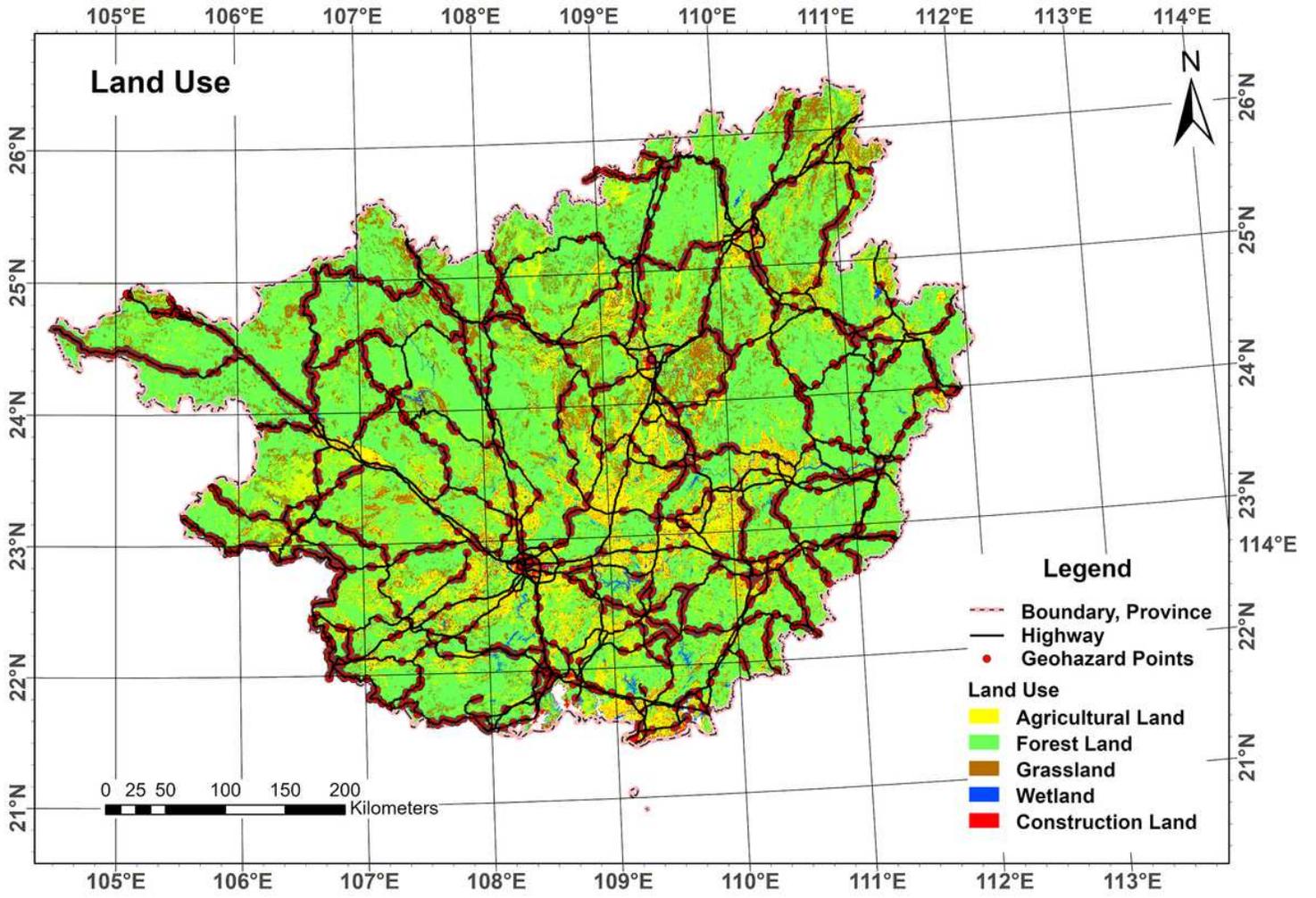


Figure 9

Land use distribution map

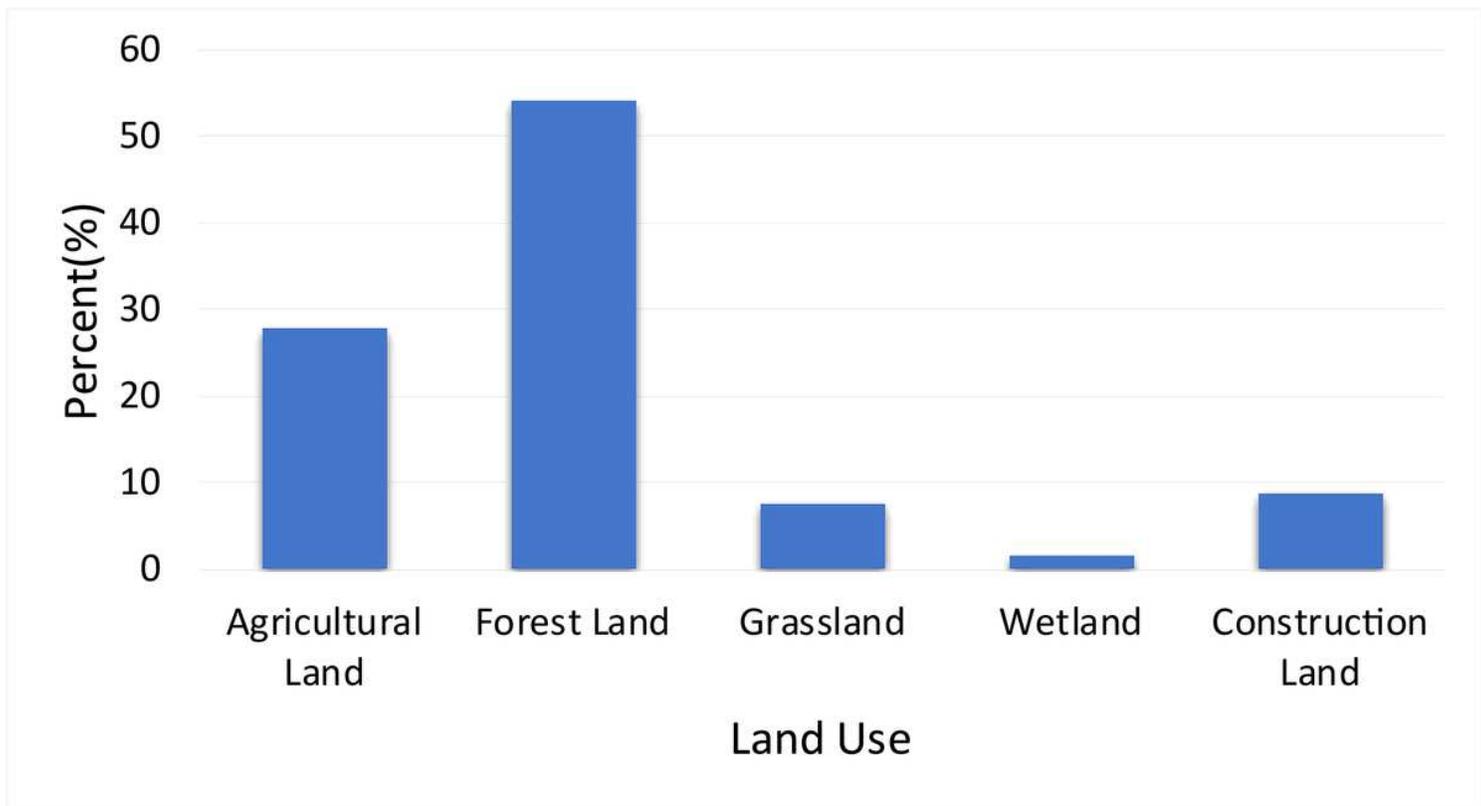


Figure 10

Relationship between land use and geohazards

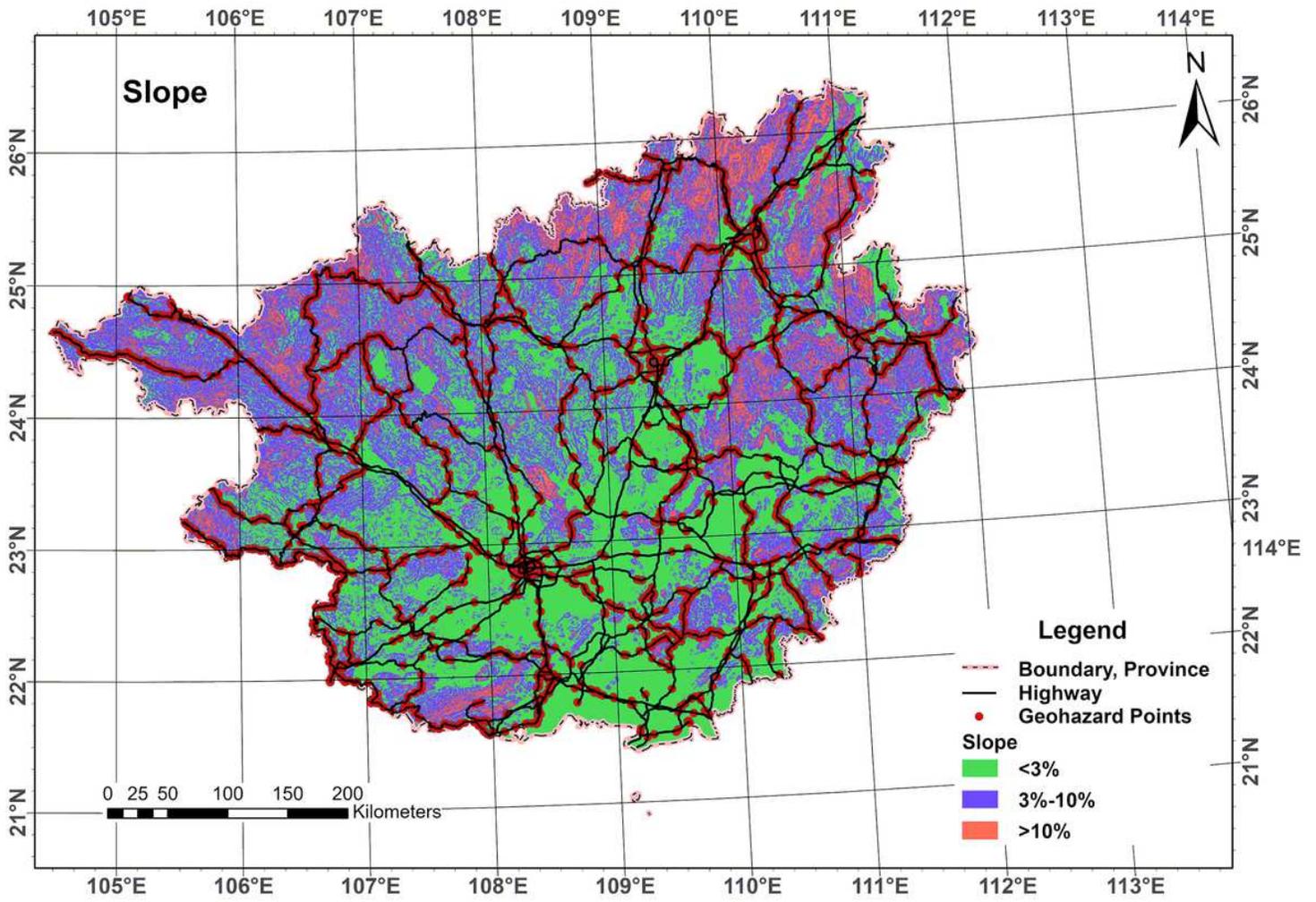


Figure 11

Slope distribution map

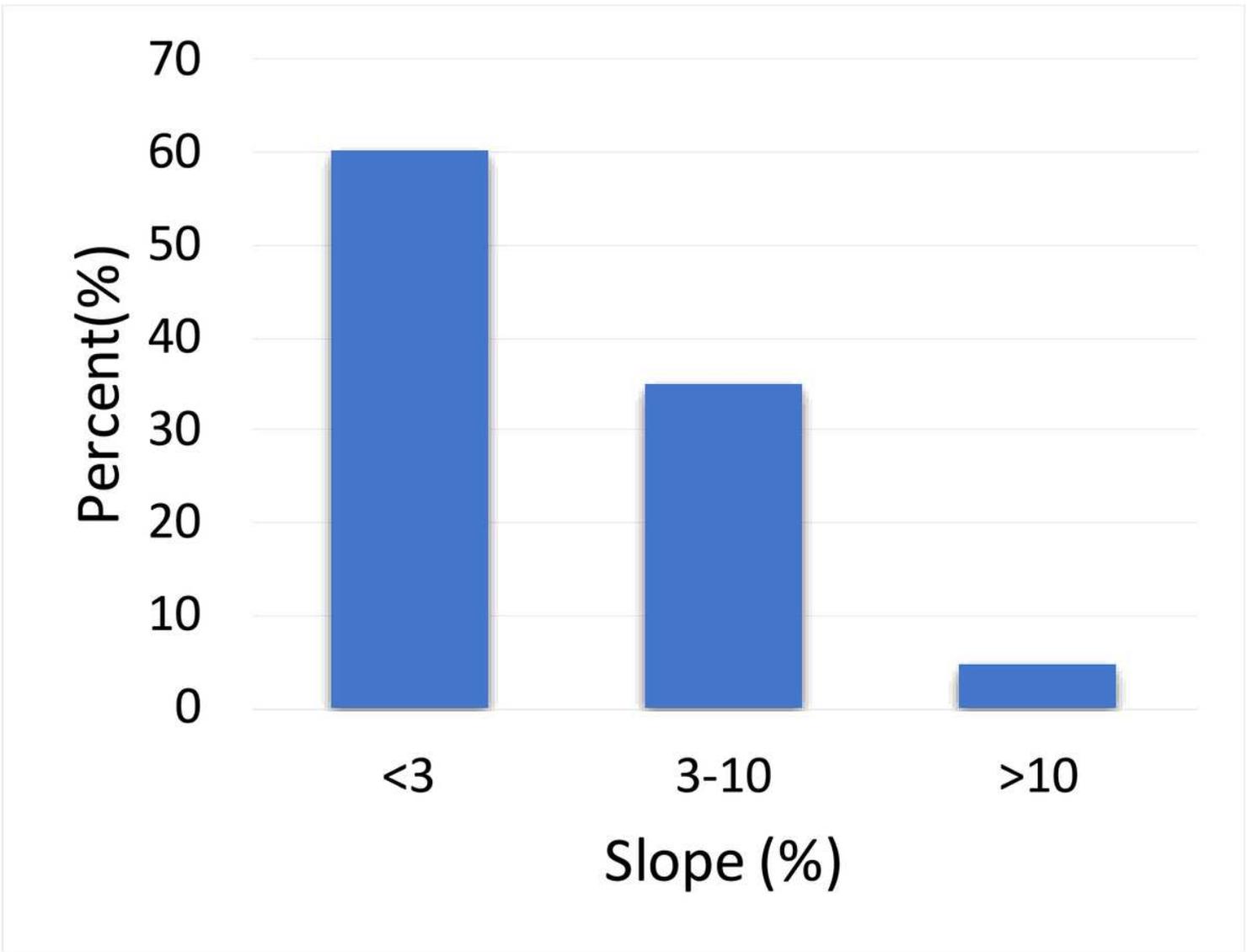


Figure 12

Relationship between slope and geohazards

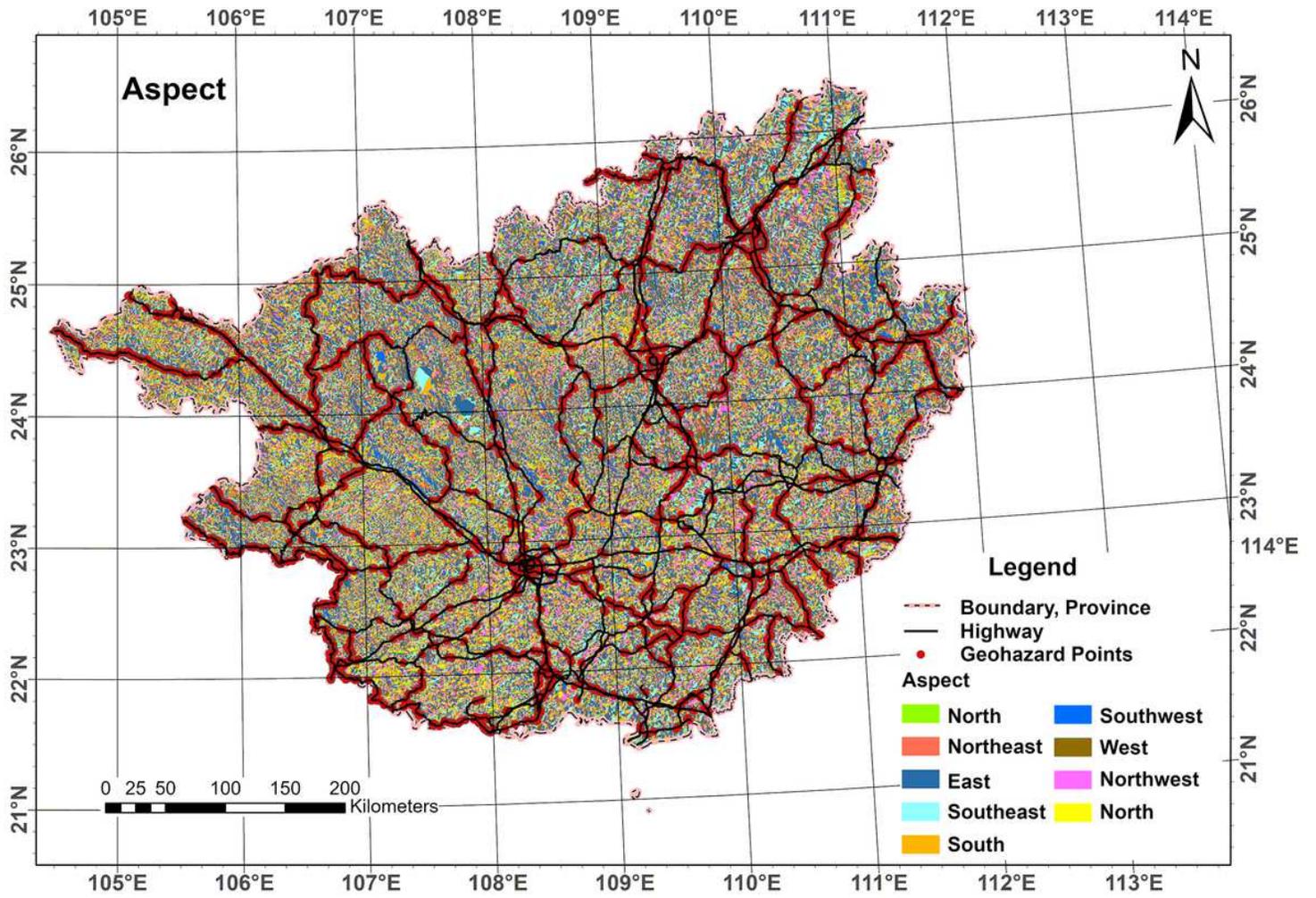


Figure 13

Aspect distribution map

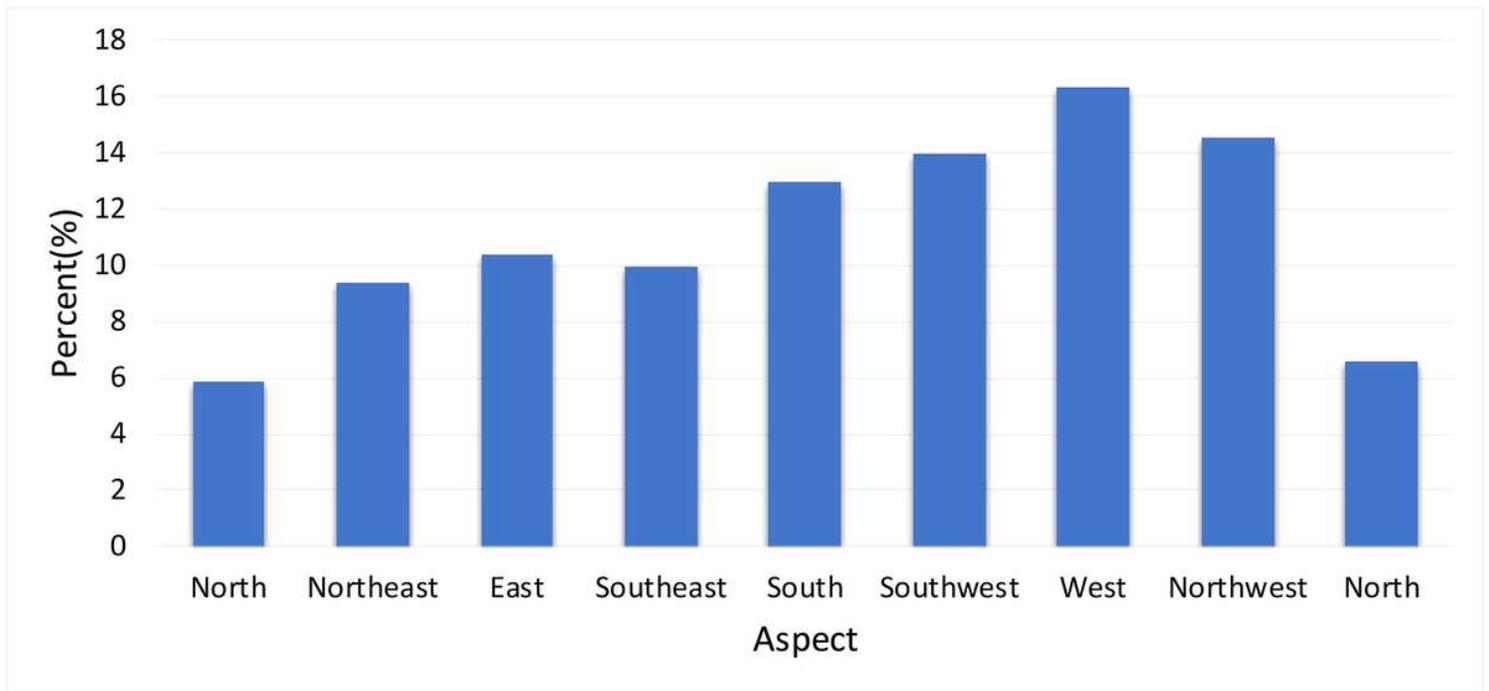


Figure 14

Relationship between aspect and geohazards

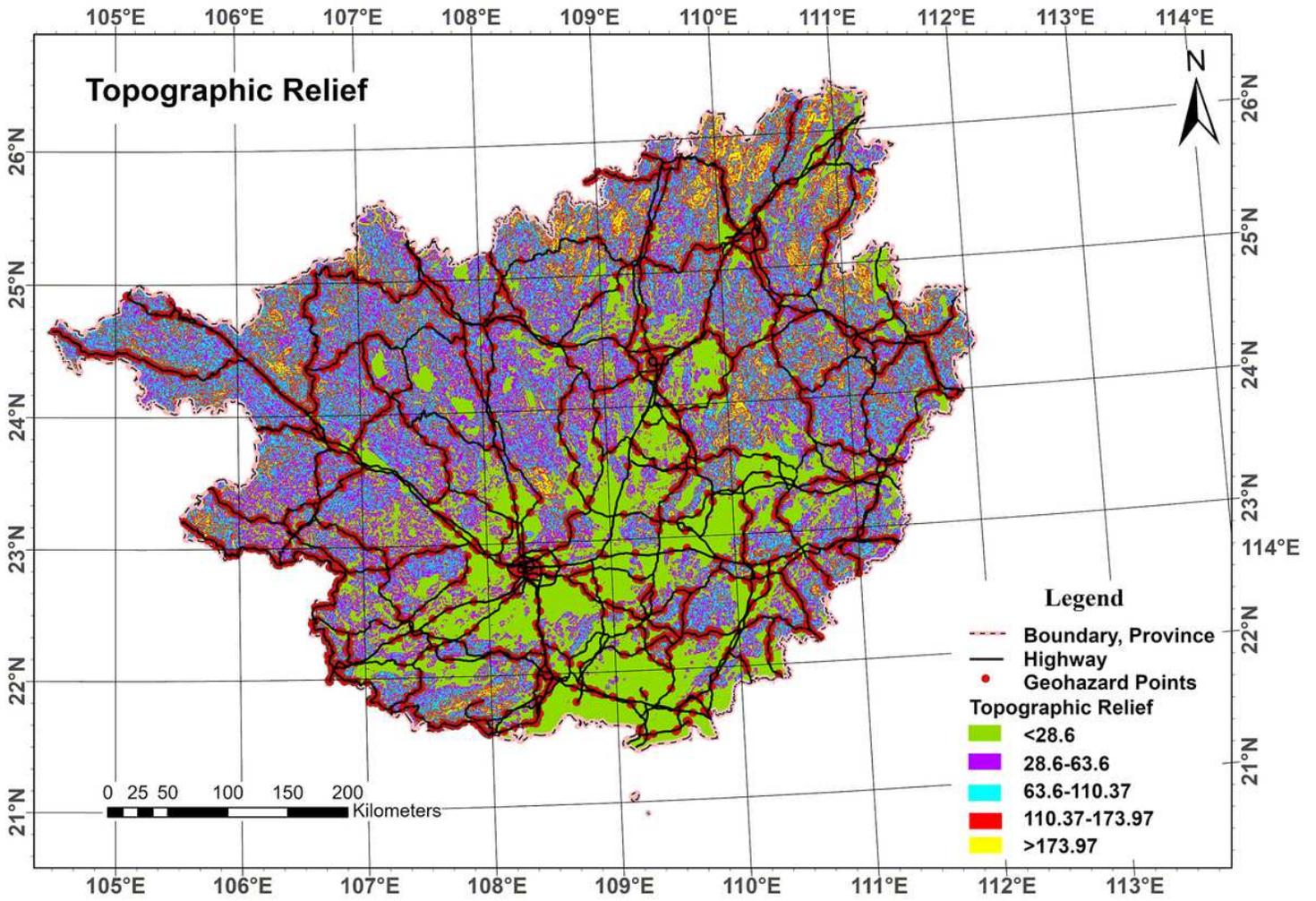


Figure 15

Topographic relief distribution map

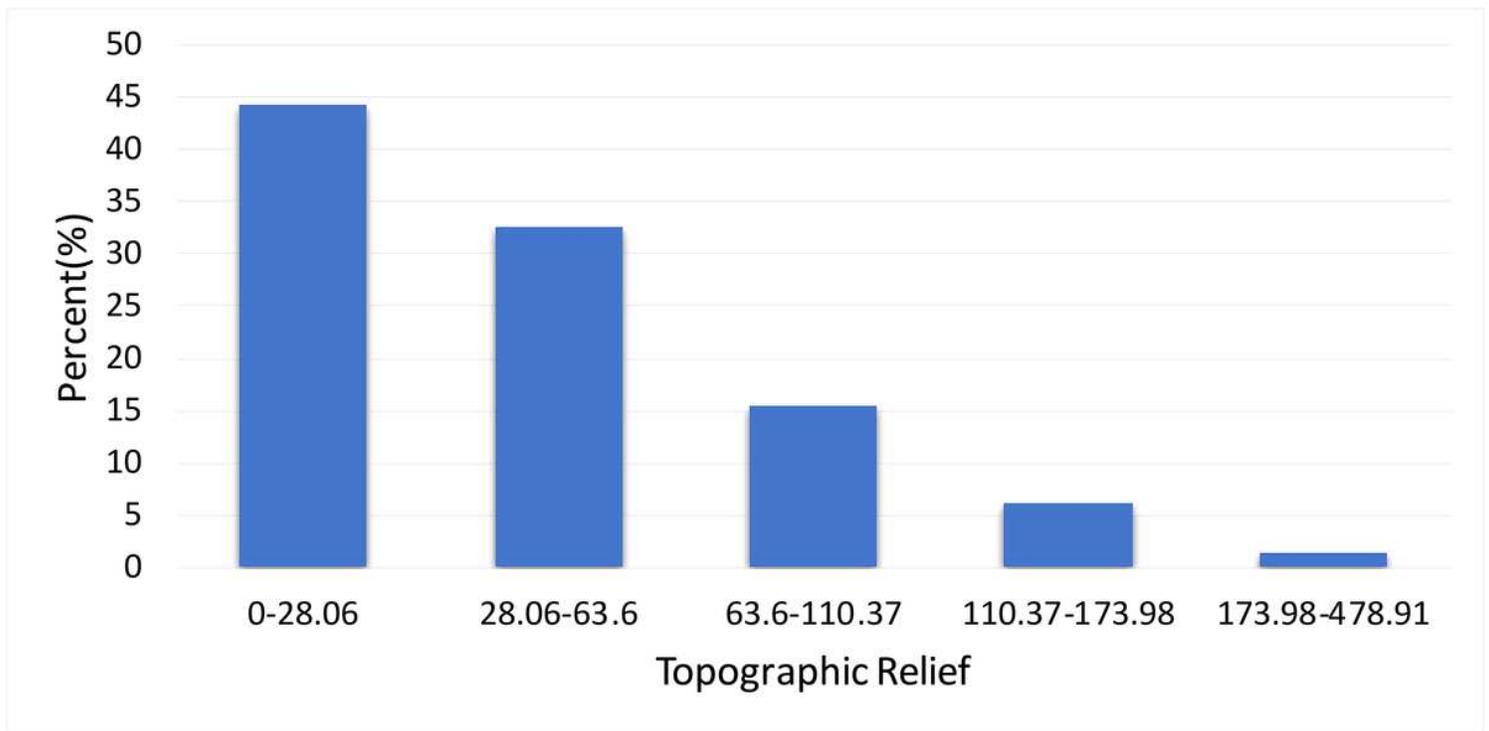


Figure 16

Relationship between topographic relief and geohazards

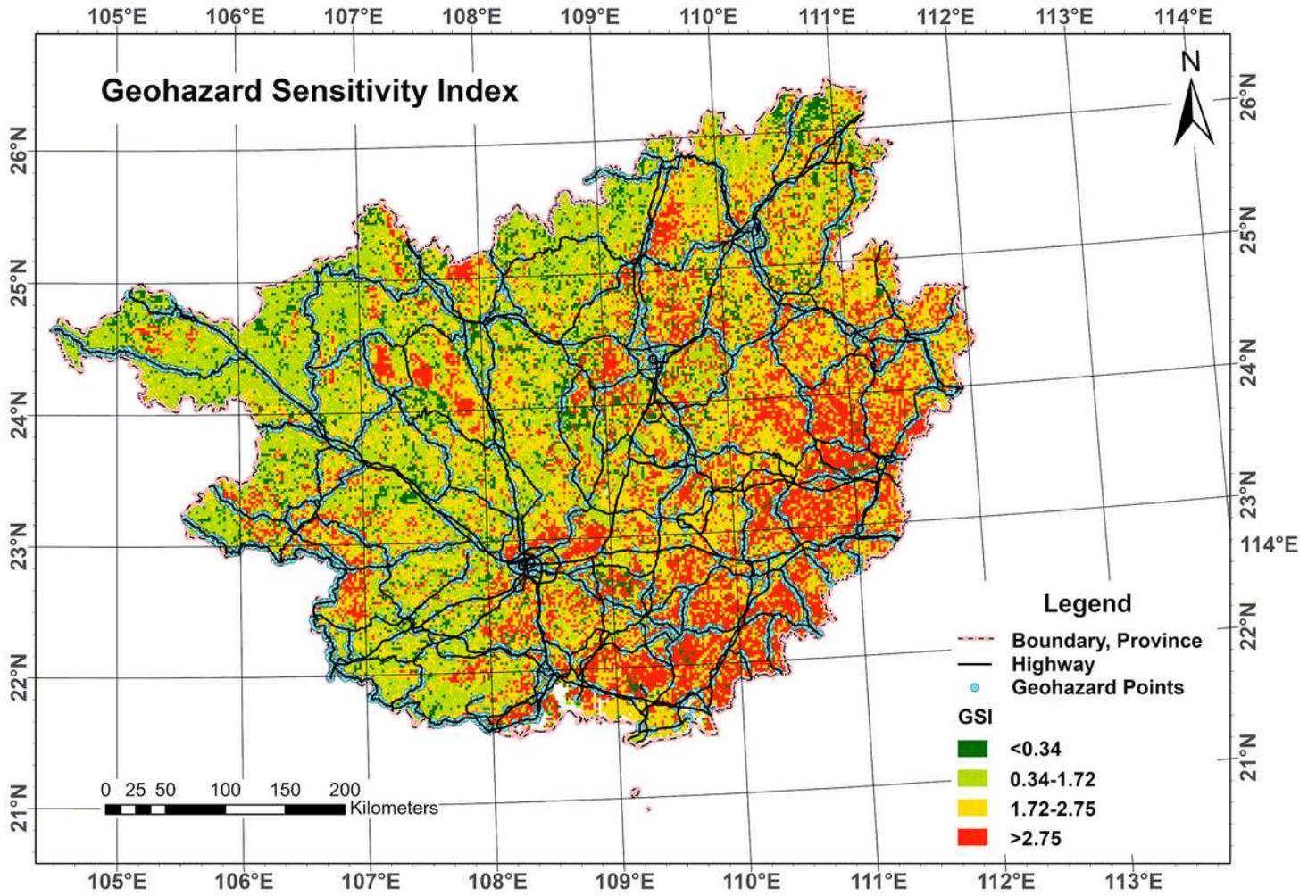


Figure 17

Map of geohazard sensitivity index along highways in Guangxi

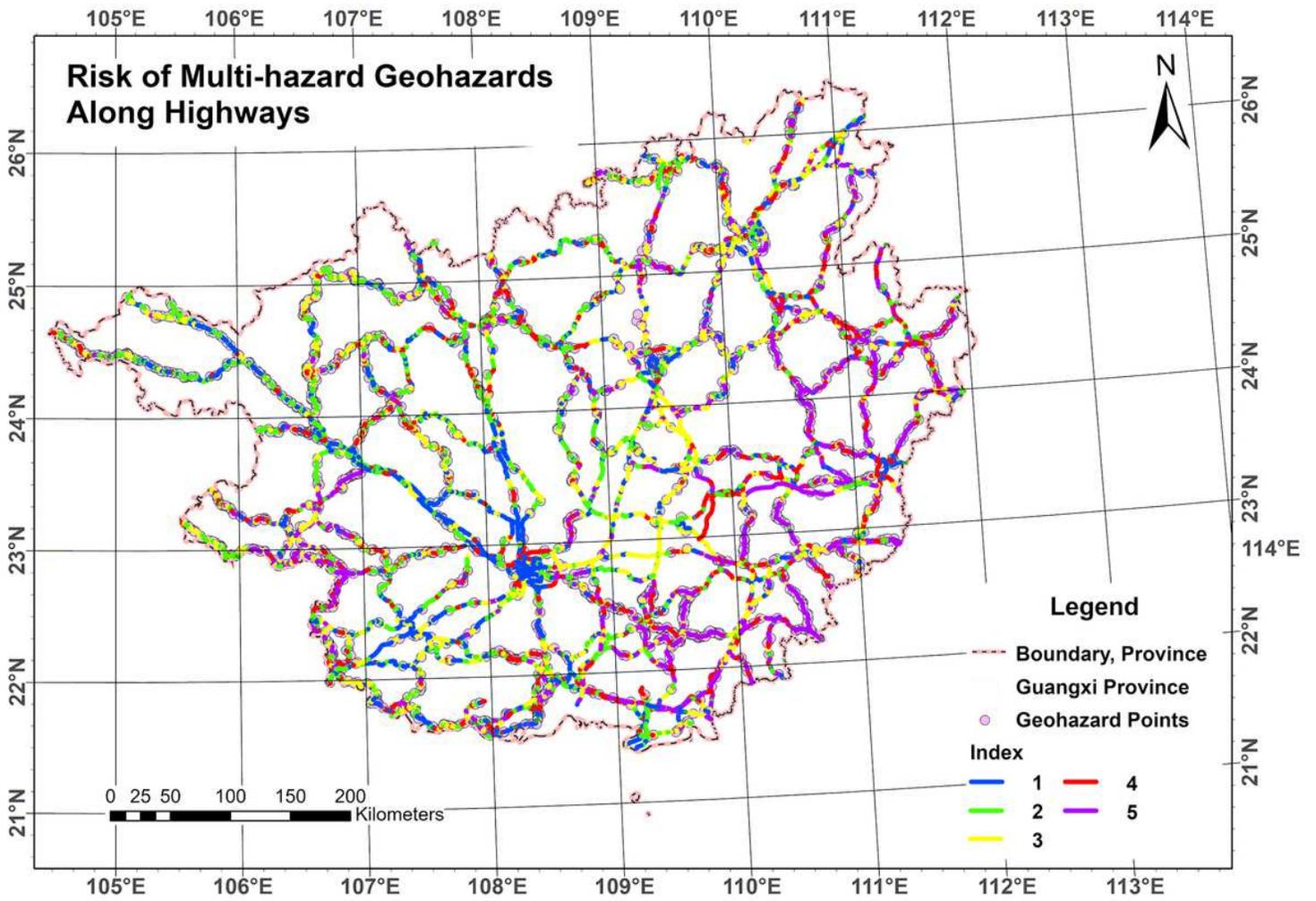


Figure 18

Geological hazard risk zoning map along highways in Guangxi Province

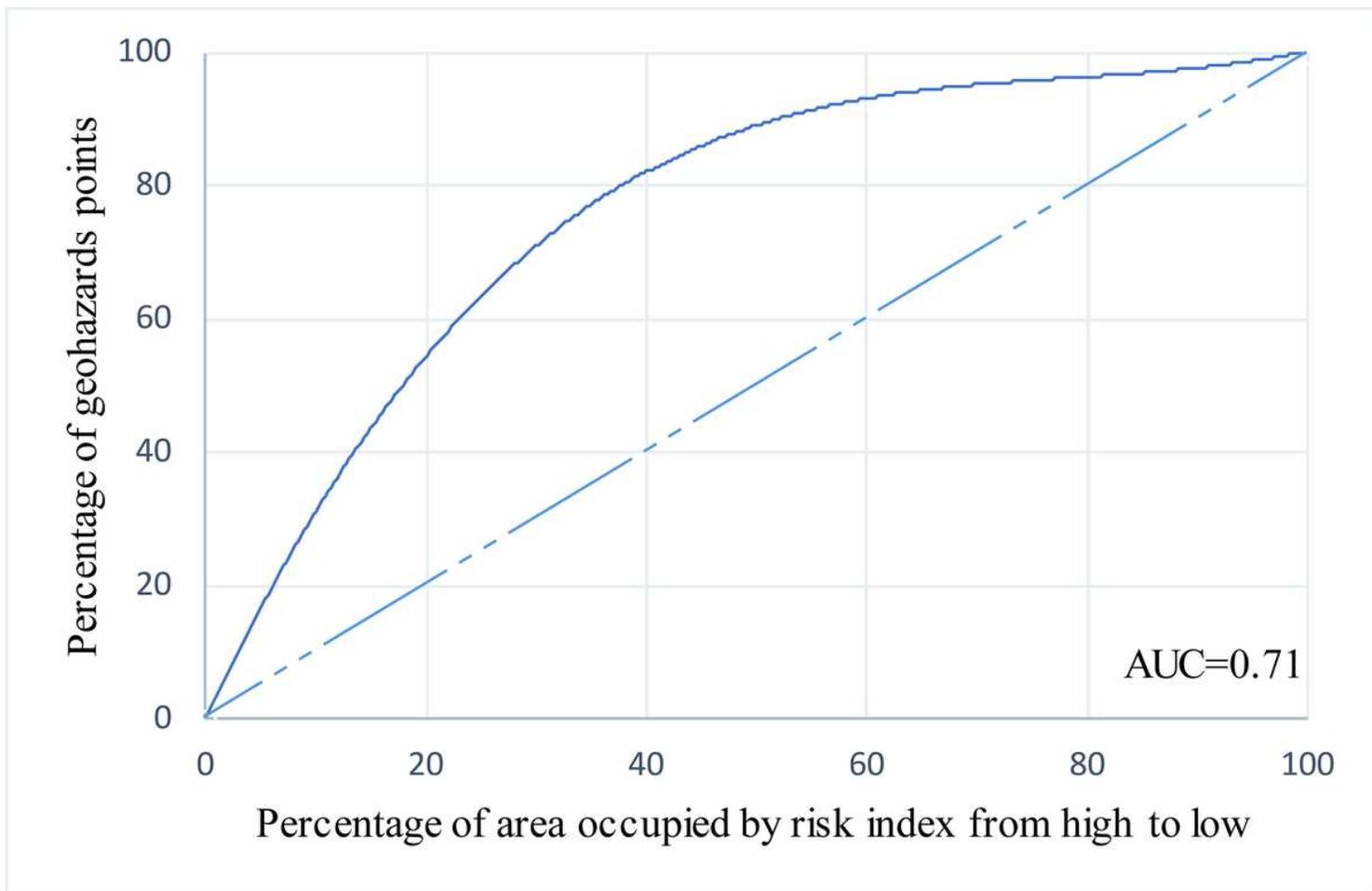


Figure 19

Map of receiver operating characteristic