

Landslide susceptibility assessment in the rocky coast subsystem of Essaouira – Morocco

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Abstract

During the last few decades, many multiple researchers have produced landslide susceptibility maps using different techniques and models, including the information value method, which is a statistical model that is widely applied to various coastal environments. This study aims-aimed to evaluate the susceptibility tofor the occurrence of landslides in the Essaouira coastal area using the bivariate statistical methodmethods. In this studyHere, 588 landslides of distinct landslide types were identified, inventoried, and mapped. They mostly-primarily result from the observation and interpretation of different data sources, namely, high-resolution satellite images, aerial photographs, topographic maps, and extensive field surveys. The rocky coastal system of Essaouira is located in the middle part of theMorocco Atlantic coast of Morocco. The study area was split into 1534 cliff terrain units of 50 m in width. For training and validation purposes, the landslide inventory was divided into two independent groups: 70% for training and 30% for validationvalidating. Twenty-two layers of landslide-conditioning factors were prepared, includingnamely: elevation, slope angle, slope aspect, plan curvature, profile curvature, cliff height, topographic wetness index, topographic position index, slope over area ratio, solar radiation, presence of faulting, lithological units, toe lithology, presence and type of cliff toe protection, layer tilt, rainfall, streams, land-use patterns, the-normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI), lithological material grain size, and presence of springs. The statistical relationship between the conditioning factors and the different landslide types of landslides waswere calculated using the bivariate information value method, in a pixel and in the elementary terrain unit's-based base model. CoastalValidation of the coastal landslide susceptibility maps were validated usingwas done using the landslide training group partitions. The receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC curve) and area under the curve were used to assess the accuracy and prediction capacity of the different coastal landslide susceptibility models. Two methodologies, considering a pixel-based approach andor using coastal terrain units, were adopted to evaluate the-coastal landslide susceptibility. The results allowed maps-allowed-classifyingfor the classification of 38 % of the rocky coast subsystem with high susceptibility to landslides, which were mostly located in the southern part

Commenté [A1]: Thanks for providing this opportunity to assist you with this manuscript. I have edited the text for language, grammar, and improved clarity. As no formatting instructions were provided, I have not looked into this aspect. I have, however, ensured that the style used predominantly by you is consistently maintained throughout the manuscript. Please check your target journal's guidelines and ensure that you comply with all the recommended guidelines.

My best wishes for your success with the manuscript.

Mis en forme : Portugais (Portugal)

Commenté [A2]: It is only necessary to abbreviate a term in the Abstract when it is used more than once.

Commenté [A3]: The unnecessary repetition of the same article in a series tends to cause wordiness. Identify the repeated words and eliminate them.

For example,

Original: We verified the samples using *the source, the original, and the final images.*

Revised: We verified the samples using *the source, original, and final images.*

of the Essaouira coastal area. These susceptibility maps ~~would~~ will be useful for ~~general~~ future planned development activities ~~in the future~~ as well as for environmental protection.

Keywords: Coastal landslide susceptibility mapping, coastal landslide inventory, conditioning factors, Information Value, Essaouira coastal area, Morocco

1. Introduction

Landslides are common processes in the rocky coastal system of Essaouira ~~province~~. They ~~essentially~~ result from the interaction of sub-aerial, marine, and anthropogenic processes (Trenhaile 1987; Sunamura 1992; Hampton ~~&and~~ Griggs 2004; Greenwood ~~&and~~ Orford, 2007), making this system ~~exposed~~ more susceptible than any other natural system to ~~Anthropie~~ anthropogenic activities pressure and erosional processes ~~more than any other natural system~~. ~~Consequently, In consequence, the~~ fast dynamic evolution imposes restrictions on the way ~~the human~~ humans occupy coastal areas (Teixeira 2006; Marques 2009; Teixeira 2015; Moore and Davis 2015; Gilham *et al.*, 2018).

The ~~processes~~ process of ~~building~~ creating landslide susceptibility maps generally ~~involve~~ involves several qualitative or quantitative approaches, ~~started~~ starting with ~~by~~ landslides-landslide inventory as the first step for assessing ~~landslides~~ landslide susceptibility, hazard, and risk (e.g., Aleotti ~~&and~~ Chowdury 1999; Dai ~~&and~~ Lee 2002; Van Westen *et al.*, 2008; Corominas *et al.*, 2014; Oliveira *et al.*, 2017; ~~and~~ Meena *et al.*, 2018). For rocky coastal areas, landslide susceptibility/hazard ~~assessment~~ assessments mainly ~~addresses~~ address the evaluation of ~~the~~ cliff retreat (Oliveira *et al.*, 2008; Rocha *et al.*, 2007; Oliveira *et al.*, 2017), landslide inventorying, ~~and~~ susceptibility mapping (e.g., Marques *et al.*, 2011). The identification of factors controlling the rocky coast system is a critical step ~~to for~~ better ~~understand~~ understanding how this system is evolving and ~~to~~ predict its future evolution (Neves ~~&and~~ Ramos Pereira 1999). Landslides are responsible for significant erosion in rocky ~~coast system~~ coastal systems (Andriani ~~&and~~ Walsh 2007; Violante 2009; ~~and~~ Sunamura 2015). Therefore, by knowing the set of predisposing factors that ~~conditioned~~ condition the landslide occurrence, it is possible to spatially predict where future landslides will occur (Varnes, 1984). ~~Many~~ There are many different landslide-conditioning factors ~~play~~, with an important role in the preparation of ~~the~~ landslide susceptibility maps (e.g., Zêzere 2002). These factors, ~~although~~ which are dependent of the analysis scale and ~~landslide~~ type, of ~~landslides~~ —generally include: elevation, slope, aspect, plan- and profile curvature, topographic wetness factor index (TWI), topographic position index (TPI), slope over area ratio (SOAR), solar radiation, faulting, lithology, lithological layers tilt, precipitation, streams, land-use patterns, ~~normalized~~ difference vegetation index (NDVI) or vegetation density factor, grain size, and spring presence (e.g., Van Westen *et al.*, 2008; Reichenbach *et al.*, 2018; Pereira *et al.*, 2020). When related ~~to~~ with sea cliffs susceptibility ~~assessment~~ assessments of sea cliffs, landslide-conditioning factors also include ~~the~~ cliff edge height ~~and~~ coastal slope toe protection (e.g., Marques *et al.*, 2011, 2013; Marques 2018; Guilham *et al.*, 2018; Letortu *et al.*, 2019; Queiroz and Marques 2019). In this ~~study~~ work, we ~~follow~~ followed the classification ~~of~~ by Cruden and Varnes (1996), Varnes (1978), WP/WLI (1993), and Dikau *et al.* (1996), to differentiate the types of landslides that may occur in coastal cliffs: falls, slides, topples, lateral spreads, and flows. Identifying landslide types remains challenging, even ~~when~~

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Commenté [A4]: Collocations are combinations of words often used together. When certain expressions do not sound “natural” or “right”, consult a dictionary for usage.

For example,
Original: We *arrived on* the same conclusion.
Revised: We *arrived at* the same conclusion.

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supported by intensive fieldwork, ~~which that~~ often faces the lack of clear evidence associated with ~~the degradation of~~ landslide features ~~degradation~~ or inaccessibility to cliff ~~face-faces~~ (Neves *et al.*, 2012). ~~Datasets~~ ~~To overcome these~~ ~~field limitations, datasets~~ of aerial photographs ~~ea-can~~ be used ~~to overcome these limitations~~ (Oliveira *et al.*, 2017).

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75 ~~Many-Multiple~~ bivariate and multivariate statistical models are used to ~~analyzeanalyse~~ the landslide susceptibility, and most ~~of~~ of these models require a subdivision of territory ~~in-into~~ terrain units and the selection of the appropriate type of terrain mapping units (e.g. grid cells, slope units, geo-hydrological units, unique condition units, ~~and~~ administrative units [Van Den Eeckhaut *et al.*, 2009; Marques *et al.*, 2011, 2013; Epifânio 2014; Corominas *et al.*, 2014; Zêzere *et al.*, 2017]).

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80 Data-driven approaches are the most ~~commonly~~ used for landslide susceptibility and hazard zonation (Kanungo *et al.*, 2006; Girma *et al.*, 2015; Hamza and Raghuvanshi 2017; Mengistu *et al.*, 2019; Shano *et al.*, 2020) whereas other approaches, such as ~~the~~ bivariate, multivariate, and active learning statistical ~~methods~~, are also suitable ~~for assessingto~~ ~~assess~~ susceptibility (Corominas *et al.*, 2014). ~~The bivariate-Bivariate~~ statistical methods use ~~on-an~~ inductive logic, which assumes that the combination of conditions pertaining to various conditioning factors, ~~analyzedanalysed~~ separately, may lead to landslide prediction in a given area. The evaluation of ~~the~~ conditioning factors and their relationship with ~~the~~ past landslides in the study area ~~form-forms~~ the basis for the prediction of places where ~~future~~ landslides may occur ~~in the future~~ (Varnes *et al.*, 1984; Van Westen *et al.*, 1997; Dai *et al.*, 2002; Lan *et al.*, 2004; Girma *et al.*, 2015; Chimidi *et al.*, 2017; Shano *et al.*, 2020).

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90 The information value (IV) method (Yin and Yan 1988), is considered ~~appropriate for an appropriate method to~~ ~~evaluate-evaluating~~ landslide susceptibility (Corominas *et al.*, 2014). ~~It~~ It has been widely used worldwide ~~within~~ different geomorphological backgrounds (Yin and Yan, 1988; Jade and Sarkar, 1993; Lin and Tung, 2003; Yalcin, 2008; Balasubramani and Kumaraswamy, 2013; Zêzere *et al.*, 2017; Mengistu *et al.*, 2019). The IV model is based on the weighted presence or absence of drivers of slope instability. ~~Thus, the~~ landslide density for conditioning factor classes can be determined by overlaying ~~both~~ maps of ~~both~~ conditioning factors and inventoried landslides (Mengistu *et al.*, 2019; Shano *et al.*, 2020). ~~If the resulted-resulting information valueIV~~ is positive, the causative factor class represents ~~a~~ strong interdependence with ~~the~~ landslides in the area (Yin and Yan 1988; Shano *et al.*, 2020), and the weighted value of a conditioning factor class can be represented as the natural logarithm of ~~the landslide density-of~~ ~~landslide~~ in a factor class, divided by ~~the~~ landslide density in the total map area (Van Westen *et al.*, 1997; Shano *et al.*, 2020).

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100 ~~The validation-Validation~~ of the landslide susceptibility map is ~~an-essential step-for-the~~ ~~evaluatingevaluation-of~~ the predictive capacity of the model. It can be ~~consideredseen~~ as a test of the ~~model's~~ ability ~~of-the-model~~ to reflect the real environment trough and ~~evaluation-of-evaluate~~ its accuracy and predictive capacity (Beguería 2006; Frattini *et al.*, 2010; Shano *et al.*, 2020; Mateus *et al.*, 2021). ~~The Receiver-receiver~~ operator characteristic (ROC) is a ~~recognized~~ ~~recognised~~ technique used in statistical ~~approaches-approach~~ validations to check the performance of the prediction ability of ~~the~~ bivariate methods (Shano *et al.*, 2020). ~~ThisIt~~ represents a plot of the probability ~~of-with~~ correctly identified landslides, against the probability of incorrectly identified landslides (Gorsevski *et al.*, 2006a; Shano *et al.*, 2020).

Commenté [A5]: Concise writing means using the fewest words necessary. One way to achieve conciseness is to use a direct verb rather than its noun form.

For example,
Original: We *performed an evaluation* of all methods used previously.
Revised: We *evaluated* all methods used previously.

110 However, ~~the~~ dynamics of ~~the~~ Essaouira coastal area ~~have been~~ poorly studied. A beach granulometric technical study was ~~conducted~~~~carried out in the~~ Essaouira ~~bay~~ Bay in 1955 by the hydraulic laboratory of Neyrpic (El Mimouni A. and Daoudi L., 2012). Other ~~existing~~ studies have focused on the general morphology of ~~the~~ sandy dunes in the upper part of the beach and on the mainland (Gentile, 1997; Simon, 2000; and Lharti *et al.*, 2006). ~~Alternatively, This~~ ~~this work~~ ~~study, on the other hand,~~ aims ~~to~~: i) ~~to~~ define the type and emplacement of each landslide by an inventory validated ~~by using a~~ field survey; ii) ~~to~~ identify the most important predisposing variables that control the spatial distribution of different landslide types; iii) ~~to~~ set and weight the different conditioning factors ~~by applying the~~ ~~information value~~ IV statistical method; iv) ~~to~~ assess landslide susceptibility in Essaouira coastal cliffs for different ~~landslide~~ types of ~~landslides~~ and ~~to~~ classify susceptible areas to the occurrence of ~~landslides~~; and, ~~finally,~~ v) ~~to~~ validate the susceptibility map.

2. Study Area

120 The Essaouira coastal area is located along the middle ~~section of the~~ Atlantic coast of Morocco (Fig. 1); ~~and which~~ extends over 134 ~~km long~~. It has high coastal ~~systems~~ ~~system~~ diversity, including estuaries, bays, beaches, sandy spits, cliffs, and ~~rock~~ ~~rocky~~ shore platforms (Weisrock, 1980; Simon, 2000; Lharti *et al.*, 2006), ~~where we adopted a~~ ~~A~~ classification ~~was applied~~ based on ~~tree~~ ~~three~~ subsystems: sandy coast, rocky coast, and anthropic coast. The study site (Fig. 1) is ~~characterized~~ ~~characterised~~ by stretches of sandy coast (48%), rocky coast (51%), and anthropic coast (1%, the ~~Port of~~ Essaouira ~~port~~), delimited ~~to~~ on the north by the Tensift estuary, ~~to~~ in the south by Timzguida Oufas village, ~~to~~ in the east by Essaouira province municipalities, and ~~to~~ in the west by the Atlantic Ocean and the island of Mogador in front of Essaouira City (Fig. 1). This coastal area has ~~a~~ predominantly ~~a~~ semi-natural landscape which is locally interrupted by heavily anthropized coastal areas, ~~especially~~ ~~particularly~~ ~~in at~~ the city of Essaouira City (Fig. 1).

Commenté [A6]: The phrase “on the other hand” is a part of a correlative conjunction pair (on the one hand...on the other hand). It is not used without its preceding pair. Moreover, it is meant to indicate a strong contrast which is not the case here. Hence, I have replaced with a more suitable connective word.

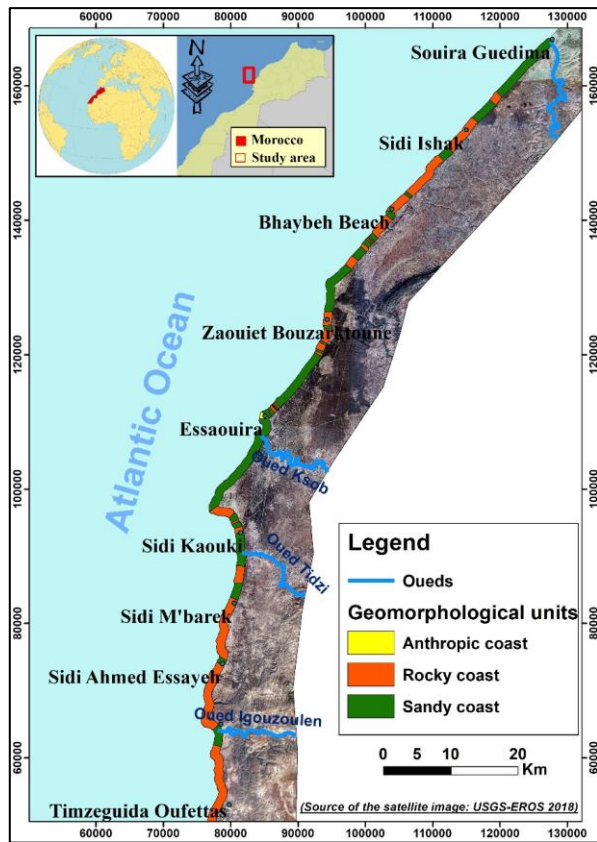


Figure-Fig. 1: Geographic location of Essaouira coastal area and its sandy and rocky coast subsystems (Coordinate systems: Lambert Zone I projection)

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Geologically, the study area is located in the Atlantic Atlas, which is considered to beas the westernmost part of the High Atlas mountains-Mountains (Weisrock 1980),- with its northern and largest plateau (Haha and Chiadma) part dropping gently from SE to NW, in accordance with the overall structural framework. However, theThe landscape is however varied, crossed by cuestas and vigorous crests, turned towards the SE, and associated with the frequent alternations of sandstone, dolomitic, limestone, or marl, clay, and gypsum layers. The landscape is interrupted by sudden isolated anticlinal folds, such as the Jbel Hadid (725 m high), quite to the north, or the Jbel Ouamsitten (900 m high) to the south. Towards to-the west, the abundance of consolidated dunes and sandstones with oblique stratification and conglomeratic levels is relevantgain relevance the (Weisrock 1980). To the south, a coastal basin with original sedimentary material known as the "Haha Basin" (Dufaud et al.,- 1966) is associated with the opening of the North Atlantic, which is generally consistent with the end of the Triassic (Choubert et al., 1971; Hallam; 1971;

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Le Pichón, 1971; Weisrock 1980). It ~~mainly~~ consists mainly of sandstones, pelites, conglomerates, and red salt clays, with essentially continental facies. ~~Deep marine sedimentation was successful from~~ From the Lower Liassic to the Upper Cretaceous ~~succeed deep marine sedimentations~~. During these long periods, the sedimentation of the coastal basin ~~has~~ constantly oscillated between an epicontinental regime, with terrigenous deltaic or alluvial contributions and marine organogenic or evaporitic deposits, and a more ~~openly open~~ marine regime with neritic limestones and marls. Towards the north, the coastal platform is largely developed, also called the "Moghrebien platform", from the name attributed to the sandy and sandstone deposits that cover it (Choubert and Ambrogi, 1953; Weisrock 1980), and thus tapers off at the southern mountainous part.

From a structural point of view, the study area is ~~characterized~~ characterised by a double structural division marked by a close adaptation to ~~with~~ the hydrographic network (Weisrock 1980). The first one is linked to the opening of the Atlantic, ~~includes including~~ the extensional faults fundamentally oriented NNE-SSW, ~~this~~ for the ~~entire whole~~ Atlantic Atlas and its northern edge. This second direction may have the same origin as the first; these Hercynian breaks in the basement influenced sedimentation and then reappeared, affecting the cover; during the Atlasic phases (Saadi, 1972). This second direction, WNW-ESE, related to the opening of the Atlantic, is ~~increasingly more and more~~ evident (Oued Ksob, northern fallout anticlines, Oued Tensift). This direction is attenuated towards the S, while in the central region (Tamanar ~~plateau~~ Plateau), a W-E direction appears as a result of the ancient Hercynian direction (Saadi, 1972). In addition to these two fundamental systems, ~~the Essaouira region~~, and because of the thickness of the saliferous clay layer, the Essaouira region is marked by the development of a ~~a~~ diapiric ~~style~~ tectonics, well represented ~~especially particularly~~ in the SE of Essaouira (Weisrock 1980).

From a geomorphological point of view, landform distribution in the study area is asymmetrical: all the plateaus dominate to the N and NW sectors, and are almost absent to the S and SE, occupied by the mountain. ~~In~~ ~~in~~ accordance with the general layout of the High Atlas, the altitudes ~~rise~~ increase towards the south and east. ~~Thus, The~~ ~~the~~ morphogenesis of the Atlantic Atlas ~~thus~~ depends on general physical geography, in addition to the structural morphology of the folded chains, the phenomena of encrustation, coastal eolian constructions, and glaciation (Weisrock 1980). The Atlantic Atlas is open to oceanic ~~influeene~~ influences. This area is particularly ~~characterized~~ characterised by its dual character as a mountainous and coastal region, which makes it possible to link continental and marine morphology; ~~the latter offering offers~~ the advantage of being able to establish a solid chronological base from the Pliocene onwards by comprising a whole series of stepped fossil beaches. The coastal ~~area has part takes on~~ a uniform appearance from north to south. On average, the Mesozoic bedrock disappears under a sandy cover shaped into innumerable encrusted hills ~~all~~ along the ocean (Weisrock 1980).

From a hydrological point of view, ~~we note~~ the presence of two large watersheds, Oued Tensift and Oued Ksob, ~~were noted~~, to which ~~are added~~ coastal Oueds are added: Oued Tidzi and Oued Igouzoullen. These hydrographic networks ~~present are~~ an important source of sediment supply ~~and~~; ~~they~~ are ~~characterized~~ characterised by a flow which is roughly carried out ~~very roughly~~ from E to W, rather faithfully adapted to the topographic framework; however, the courses of the valleys, more often monoclinical or orthoclinical than cataclinal, reveal a long evolution and successive re-adaptations (Weisrock 1980).

Commenté [A7]: Compound adjectives jointly modify the noun they precede. For clarity, hyphenate the compound adjectives.

For example,
Original: There was no correlation with *butyric acid producing bacteria*.
Revised: There was no correlation with *butyric acid-producing bacteria*.

Commenté [A8]: Try to avoid referencing previously mentioned information with "former" and its counterpart with "latter." Using such vague references forces your audience to read backward, which should be avoided as much as possible in academic writing.

The Essaouira cliffed coastal sector is ~~characterized~~ characterized by the presence of ~~many multiple landslide types of~~ ~~landslides~~, which are ~~being~~ the dominant hazards responsible for the ~~constraint~~ constraints of human activities and a safe land use (e.g., Moore and Griggs, 2002). The seismic context shows that the coast between Safi and Essaouira ~~have has~~ landslide activity ~~that is probably likely~~ related to ~~the~~ seismic events (Elmrabet *et al.*, 1989). The most significant of which, capable of causing disproportionate effects on a highly unstable cliff, occurred in 1757, ~~on~~ 7th March 1930 (32° N, 11.5° W, M = 5.1, felt in Casablanca, Safi and Essaouira, intensity IV), and ~~on~~ 2nd August 1963 (34.7° N, 8.9° W, M = 4.1, felt in Casablanca and Mohammedia, intensity IV). In the 1757 event, the landslide could also have been conditioned by an aftershock of the earthquake on 1st November 1755 affecting the ~~cliff~~ natural instability ~~of the cliff~~, which had been enhanced by the effects of the tidal wave (Elmrabet *et al.*, 1989).

Mis en forme : Non Expositif/ Indice

Climatically, the Atlantic Atlas is located ~~at in~~ a relatively low latitude (~~approximately around~~ 31° parallel), which places it under the predominant influence of subtropical anticyclonic cells; at the limit of the great displacements of polar air masses. It is a position sensitive to the slightest deviations of these ~~centre~~ centers of action; ~~and thus, it is~~ particularly interesting to reconstitute the possible conditions of ~~the~~ past climatic oscillations, identified by their morphogenetic marks (Weisrock 1980).

The Essaouira province ~~is characterized~~ characterized by a steppe climate of type BSh according to the Köppen-Geiger classification, ~~with with~~ low rainfall, ~~the an~~ average annual temperature in Essaouira city ~~is of~~ 18.7 °C, and ~~the~~ average annual rainfall ~~reaches of~~ 295 mm (Climate-data.org). The dominant climate in the Essaouira region is semi-arid, with ~~a diversity~~ diverse of both temperature and precipitation values. This is ~~because due of to~~ the oceanic (Atlantic) setting on one side and ~~to the~~ height of the mountains on the other. The Essaouira region is an area where hot summer ~~winds~~ and humid winter winds change. The "Chergui" (the hot wind from the Sahara), ~~and~~ the northeast wind that blows almost all year round. It ~~is characterized~~ characterized by a mild climate ~~throughout the year~~ all-year-round. The average temperatures are 16.4 °C in January and 22.5 °C in August. ~~The As for the~~ annual rainfall, ~~it is~~ around approximately 280 mm. Two main seasons can be distinguished: i) ~~the a~~ wet season that includes winter and autumn, with a monthly maximum fluctuating between December and November. Precipitation peaks are clearly marked in autumn and winter, before gradually decreasing from February to May; ~~and ii) a the~~ dry season from April to September. This season is ~~marked~~ characterized by scarce rainfall. July and August are the driest months throughout the year, with almost no rainfall. ~~About Regarding~~ the spatial distribution, both the precipitation and ~~the~~ humidity are higher in the coastal zone, ~~for this last it is and they are~~ always ~~higher than~~ > 75%. Summer fog is particularly important ~~at in~~ Essaouira, and other sites ~~that are~~ exposed to maritime influences (Hander, 1988).

Using the rainfall data from stations of Adamna, Chichaoua, Talmest, Abadla, and Igrounzar, which were provided to us by the Tensift Water Basin Agency, ~~we analyzed~~ the average monthly variability of rainfall ~~was analysed~~ for the period ~~1965--2015~~, and ~~main results~~ ~~shows show~~ the existence of a rainy season between October and April with a maximum in March for the ~~two stations~~ Abadla and Chichaoua ~~stations~~ and a maximum in December and November for the ~~stations~~ Talmest, Igrounzar, and Adamna ~~stations~~. The dry season extends between June and September, ~~with~~ ~~where~~ the lowest rainfall ~~is~~ recorded in July and August. The monthly variation in rainfall ~~shows showed~~ an average of 15.3 mm for Chichaoua and 14.4 mm for Abadla. ~~The rainfall~~ Rainfall ~~was is~~ similar over the same period for

Commenté [A9]: For ranges, an "en dash" (–) should be used instead of a hyphen.

Chichaoua and Abadla. The values observed ~~from in the months of~~ October to April ~~exceed~~~~exceeded~~ the average rainfall for each of these two stations, with a maximum in March (27 mm) and a minimum in July (0.5 mm) and August (1 mm). Thus, the evolution of monthly precipitation ~~is was~~ the same ~~at for~~ these two stations. It argues in ~~favor~~~~favour~~ of a simple hydrological regime ~~characterized~~~~characterised~~ by a regular annual alternation of high and low water. The monthly rainfall ~~at of~~ the three stations Adamna, Talmest, and Igrounzar ~~show~~~~showed~~ that the maximum rainfall ~~is was~~ recorded in ~~the months of~~ November and December, while the average rainfall ~~is was~~ ~~approximately~~~~about~~ 20 mm for Igrounzar and Talmest and 26 mm for Adamna.

Regarding the annual variations ~~in of~~ rainfall at the five stations, the ~~first three concern the stations of~~ Adamna, Igrounzar, and Talmest ~~stations~~ have mean annual rainfall of 322 mm, 229.1 mm, and 255.4 mm, respectively. At the ~~Adamna station of Adamna~~, there ~~are were~~ several rainy years with values that greatly ~~exceed~~~~exceeded~~ the interannual average, namely 1987/88, 1988/89, 1994/95 to 1996/97, 2008/09 to 2010/11, with a maximum rainfall of ~~approximately~~~~about~~ 718 mm in 1995/96 and a minimum of ~~approximately~~~~about~~ 136 mm in 2006/06. For the ~~station of Igrounzar station~~, the highest rainfall was observed during ~~the years~~ 1987/88, 1988/89, 1994/95 to 1996/97, 2008/09, and 2009/10. However, the least rainy years ~~are were~~: 1968/69, 1976/77, 1991/92, and 2014/15. For the Talmest station, the wettest year ~~is was~~ 1995/96 ~~which recorded with~~ 559.5 mm and the ~~least rainy~~~~driest~~ year ~~is was~~ 2014/15. For this station, we ~~de did~~ not have data for the years 1971/72 until 1975–76.

From a hydrogeological point of view, the Essaouira ~~basin~~~~Basin~~ and its coastal zone constitute a set of independent but very similar hydrogeological systems that correspond to synclinal basins. ~~Within these systems, groundwater~~~~Groundwater~~ exists only in ~~very localized~~~~localised~~ areas ~~within these systems~~. ~~The water~~~~Water~~ generally circulates at depth in different limestone or sandstone levels by karstic pathways; ~~and it~~ comes out in the form of springs at low points in contact with an impermeable clay or marl level (Cochet and Combe 1975). The combination of the effects of tectonics and diapirism ~~have has~~ caused the ~~compartmentalisation~~~~compartmentalization~~ of the basin into several aquifer systems.

~~For example, the~~The piezometry of the Plio-Quaternary aquifer, ~~for example~~, shows an overall flow direction from E-SE to W-NW, conditioned by the straightening of its bedrock to the east following the uplift of the Tidzi diapir (Mennani, 2001). ~~There are it presents~~ significant fluctuations between periods of high and low water (Fekri, 1993; Mennani, 2001; Bahir *et al.*, 2002; Bahir *et al.*, 2017), ~~which these~~ are related to precipitation which thus controls the regime of the phreatic aquifer. Several problems related to water scarcity and long recurrent periods of drought, have been ~~observed~~~~noticed~~ in the Essaouira region ~~during the last in recent~~ decades (Bahir *et al.*, 2002; Chkir *et al.*, 2008; Chamchati and Bahir, 2013; Bahir *et al.*, 2017). For this reason, the piezometric level in the study area tends to a ~~generalized~~ decline with the inability of some other wells to recover their initial water level, aggravated ~~by under~~ the combined effect of the year 1995, the driest year that Morocco ~~has~~ experienced during the 20th century (Bahir *et al.*, 2002), and overexploitation (Chkir *et al.*, 2008; Bahir *et al.*, 2017).

3. Methodology

Commenté [A10]: The word “about” is commonly used when rough estimations are made. I suggest using the word “approximately” with numerical values, as it indicates that it is very close to the actual value. Moreover, “approximately” is a more formal alternative. The use of either word, however, is acceptable.

The current research ~~uses-used~~ different data sources for landslide susceptibility analysis, and their preparation was supported by field ~~survey-surveys~~ and validation. The methodological steps considered for training and validation of the coastal landslide susceptibility models are ~~showed-shown~~ in the Fig. 2 and follow this sequence: i) elaborate the landslide inventory, classifying the landslides by type and depth of the rupture surface (shallow and deep);- ii) prepare a set of 22 conditioning factors grouped ~~in-into~~ 7 ~~seven~~ categories (topographical, geomorphological, lithological, geotechnical, hydrogeological, climatic, and tectonic);- iii) model coastal ~~landslides-landslide~~ susceptibility using with the ~~information valueIV~~ method for the Essaouira coastal area, using pixels and elementary ~~terrains-terrain~~ units (ETUs);- and iv) independently validate the predictive susceptibility models using ROC curves and ~~area under the curve~~ (AUC).

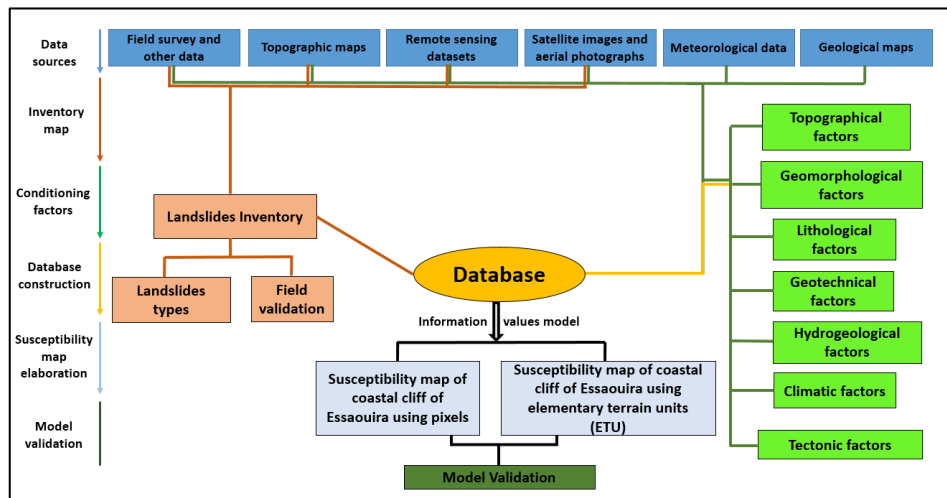


Fig. Figure 2: Schematic diagram of the used methodology used

~~Coastal~~A classification of coastal systems ~~were classified~~ into sandy and rocky subsystems ~~was done~~ according to a morphometric and operational ~~critierioncriteria~~, and the ETU ~~waswere~~ defined based on the methodology proposed by (Marques *et al.* (2011)); ~~the~~ upper and lower limits of the terrain units, ~~are-were~~ defined by the bottom and the top of the cliff, respectively, while ~~the~~ lateral limits were geometrically drawn perpendicular to the contour lines of the topography; and defined by the segmentation of the ridge line into 50 m wide sections. In total, ~~we-there werehad~~ 1534 terrain units ~~of-on the~~ rocky coast. Each terrain unit was classified as stable or unstable based on the quantification of the percentage of ~~the~~ unstable area of each slope unit.

3.1. Landslide inventory

The most essential part of ~~the~~ landslide susceptibility assessment framework is the landslide inventory, ~~which including-includes~~ the identification of their location, size, ~~and~~ type, and depth; to understand the relationship between landslide occurrence and the dataset of predisposing factors (Ercanoglu and Gokceoglu 2004; van Westen *et al.*,

2006; Petley 2008; Epifânio *et al.* - 2013). The ~~Landslide~~-~~landslide~~ inventory ~~is~~-~~was~~ of the historical type, with no past date of occurrence limits, ~~and~~~~it~~ was based ~~in~~-~~on~~ the interpretation of different data sources ~~covered~~~~covering~~ all the ~~entire~~ study area (Tab. Table- 1), such as historical records, 10 m resolution Sentinel satellite imagery, ~~High~~~~high~~-resolution ~~Ortho~~~~ortho~~-imagery analysis, and ~~an~~-intensive field investigation.

Table 1: Data sources ~~Table~~-~~table~~

Data type	Data denomination	Source	Scale / resolution / Duration
Topographic maps	Sidi Ishaq 2008	National Agency of Land Conservation, Cadastre and Cartography (ANCFCC)	1/25000
	Berrakat Erradi 2008		
	Sebt Akermoud 2008		
	Bir Kaouat 2008		
	Moulay Bouzarqtoune 2008		
	Jbel lahdid 2008		
	Essaouira 2008		
	Chicht 2008		
	Ras Sim 2008		
	Essaouira El Jadida 2008		
	Sidi Kaouki 2008		
	Tidzi 2008		
Sidi Ahmed Essayeh 2009			
Tafdna 2009			
Geological maps	Tamanar map	Ministry of Energy and Mines, Water and Sustainable Development	1/100000
	Taghazout map		1/100000
	Marrakech map		1/500000
Aerial photographs	Mission TAMANAR 07/2016	National Agency of Land Conservation, Cadastre and Cartography (ANCFCC)	1/7500
Meteorological Meteorological data	Adamna station	Hydraulic basin agency of Tensift (ABHT)	1977–2015
	Igrounzar station		1968–2015
	Talmest station		1984–2015
	Chichaoua station		1965–2014
	Abadla station		1969–2014
Satellite images	Sentinel	https://scihub.copernicus.eu/ (Copernicus 2021)	10 m
	High resolution Ortho-imagery	https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/ (USGS-EROS 2018)	0.3 m
	Digital elevation model	https://search.asf.alaska.edu/ (JAXA/METI 2020)	12.5 m

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The identification of the landslides was based on the interpretation of their specific morphological features ~~that are~~ noticeable in high-resolution imagery, including ~~the~~ crown, main scarp, flanks, body, and toe (Pawluszek 2019). Other features ~~include~~~~were detected by~~ the presence of flow materials along gullies, streams with different erosional features, flow tracks, scars along ~~the~~ cliff face, and block deposits on the cliff base (Epifânio *et al.*, 2013; Elkadiri *et al.*, 280 2014). In addition ~~to these~~, extensive field observations were used to validate the inventory and add new landslides ~~that were~~ not observed in satellite ~~image images~~ or identified in other data sources.

3.2. Conditioning factors

Conditioning factors describe terrain conditions that are directly or indirectly associated with landslide occurrence, ~~and they~~ are essential for landslide susceptibility mapping based on data-driven methodologies. Different 285 types of variables (conditioning factors) were compiled and/or generated in a ~~geographical information system (GIS)~~ for susceptibility analysis. According to Marques *et al.* (2011, 2013), all conditioning factors influencing the stability of coastal cliffs and ~~coastal~~ slopes should be considered because they may contribute to ~~predict~~~~predicting~~ the spatial occurrence of future instability. ~~It is important to mention that~~ ~~Notably~~, the selection of conditioning factors associated ~~with~~ these processes ~~seems~~~~appears~~ to be a difficult task ~~because~~~~since~~ ~~those~~~~these~~ factors ~~usually~~~~typically~~ work in 290 combination, in a multivariate system (e.g. Epifânio *et al.*, 2013; Reichenbach *et al.*, 2018).

Based on ~~the~~ geomorphological characteristics, bibliography, and field surveys, 22 landslide conditioning factors were selected for ~~this~~~~the~~ study area. From ~~these~~~~these~~, 10 conditioning factors were computed from a freely available digital elevation model (ALOS PALSAR RTC DEM) with a 12.5 m ~~of~~ resolution (source: <https://search.asf.alaska.edu/>); ~~namely~~; elevation, slope angle, slope aspect, slope plan curvature, slope profile curvature, cliff height (calculated by 295 the average of top pixels in each ~~elementary terrain units~~ ETU), topographic wetness index, topographic position index (~~elased~~~~classified~~ considering the distance of SD to the mean value for both sides of the distribution), slope over area ratio (using a base 10 logarithmic progression of class limits), and solar radiation (Tab. Table -2).

Solar radiation was used as a proxy variable for slope aspect, because it enables the quantification of the weight of trivial qualitative ~~quadrant~~~~quadrants~~ (Epifânio, *et al.*, 2013). Slope angle is the most important predisposing factor 300 for the occurrence of landslides (Mancini *et al.*, 2010); ~~but~~~~however~~, in our study area, ~~the~~ slope angle does not have the same importance for all ~~type of landslides~~~~landslide types~~, and plan and profile curvatures can be associated ~~with~~ the acceleration and deceleration of the flow, as well as the convergence or divergence of the flow, and can influence the local drainage systems and the kinematics of landslides (Mancini *et al.*, 2010).

The land use map and the ~~Normalized Difference Vegetation Index~~ (NDVI) were extracted from Sentinel images 2021 305 (10 m resolution, Tab. Table 1). The lithology, toe lithology, and faulting data were obtained from the compilation of a bibliographical review and from three ~~digitised~~~~digitalized~~ geological maps; Tamar and Taghazout 1/100000-scale in the southern section, and Marrakech 1/500000-scale for the northern section, completed with the field survey.

~~The meteorological~~~~Meteorological~~ data and ~~the~~ historical rainfall records ~~are~~~~were~~ used for extracting the rainfall factor; using the arithmetic mean method (Smajj, 2011), which consists of calculating the annual arithmetic mean of 310 the values obtained at the weather stations, and projecting them using ~~the~~~~Inverse~~~~inverse~~ Distance~~distance~~ Weighting

weighting (IDW) interpolation. While, field survey Field surveys, topographic maps (1:10,000), and digital elevation models (DEM) were used to identify and map the stream networks. The Presence-presence and type of cliff toe protection, lithology tilting, and the presence of springs were extracted from the observation of satellite images-image observations and by field surveys-surveys.

315 Field work revealed that most landslides occur above the weak or friable layers, therefore, making geotechnical properties a factor to account for. Moreover, the grain size was added to the variables-variable list after data extraction from 16 samples using the BetterSize Lazer Particle Size Analyzer-Analyser 9300S (Tab-Table- 2). The Grain-grain size-sizes of clay, silt, and sand (Tab-Table- 2) are were spatially identified as in the same predisposing factor-factors. The sampling sites are showed-shown in the Fig. 6 (red arrow-arrows). The organic-Organic matter content analysis is 320 was also applied to on these-the samples using the loss on ignition (LOI) method (Heiri *et al.*- 2001), as an important factor that has a strong relationship with the presence of vegetal cover (Tab-Table 2), and who says the presence of vegetation, says-which indicates that the presence of water that-promotes the occurrence of landslides.

Table 2: Input conditioning factors

Conditioning Factor	Number of classes	Minimum value	Maximum value	Variable Type
Elevation (m)	13	0	261	numerical
Aspect	10 or 9	Flat (-1)	North 337.5-22.5°	numerical
Slope (°)	11	0	75	numerical
Curvature profile	3	-17.81 (concave)	21.1 (convex)	numerical
Curvature plan	3	-9.82 (convergent)	11.35 (divergent)	numerical
Height (m)	13	0	254	numerical
TPI	6	-88	69.37	numerical
TWI	6	-1.55	29.35	numerical
SOAR	6	0	4.72	numerical
Solar radiation (kWh/m2)	6	400	1000	numerical
Land-use	6	Bare ground, Light vegetation, Breakwater area, Dense vegetation, Cultivated areas, Roads and habitation		categorical
NDVI	5	Water-, Bare soil, Sparse vegetation-, Moderate vegetation, Dense vegetation		categorical
Layers tilt	2	Towards sea tilting, Sub horizontal tilting		categorical
Grain size Clay-clay (% Clays < 2 µm)	6	3	35	numerical
Grain size Silt-silt (% Silt 2 µm < < 63 µm)	6	6	72	numerical
Grain size Sand-sand (% Sand 63 µm < < 2 mm)	6	0	91	numerical

Organic Matter (LOI%)	6	0.94	7.41	numerical
Precipitation (mm)	5	252	306	numerical
Drains network	2	0	1	categorical
Spring	2	0	1	categorical
Faulting	2	0	1	categorical
Lithology	20	See the results section		categorical
Toe lithology	5	Grey marls, Marley limestones, Essaouira sandstone, Dolomitic sandstone, Dolomitic limestones		categorical
Toe Protection	4	Rock platform protection, Slope deposit protection, Beach protection, No protection		categorical

325

3.3 Susceptibility modelling and validation

The method used to evaluate the susceptibility to the occurrence of coastal landslides is the Information Value IV (Yin & Yan, 1988; Zêzere, 2002), which is a bivariate statistical method particularly suited to study relationships between the dependent variable (landslides) and the set of independent conditioning factors. This method has been successfully applied into coastal areas worldwide (Marques *et al.*, 2011, 2013; Epifâneo *et al.*, 2013, 2014).

330

Using this bivariate statistical method, it is possible to weight each class of each predisposition factor of slope instability in an objective and quantified mannerway.

The Information Value IV score (Ii) for any class Xi of an independent variable (X) was determined for each landslides-landslide type Y using by the following equation:

335

$$I_i = \ln \frac{S_i/N_i}{S/N} \quad (1)$$

Where:

- › Si = n° of cells with landslides and variable Xi in the Essaouira coastal area;
- › Ni = n° of cells with variable Xi in the Essaouira coastal area;
- › S = total n° of cells with landslides in the Essaouira coastal area;
- › N = total n° of cells in the Essaouira coastal area.

340

When a class of the conditioning factor does not have registers of landslides (Si = 0), the Ii score is not calculated because of the impossibility of logarithmic normalization, and it was assumed that that class has an Ii score lower than the minimum registered. For example, the minimum IV index was -5.7014031 for Slope Aspect Class 1 (Flat areas) for deep translational slides; therefore, we took -5.702 for variable classes without any landslide.

345

The final value of susceptibility to landslides calculated for each cell j corresponds to the sum of ~~the~~ Ii scores present in that unit, given by the following equation:

$$I_j = \sum_{i=1}^m X_{ij} I_i \quad (2)$$

Where:

- 350 > m = number of variables;
- > Xij is equal to 1 or 0, depending on whether variable Xi is present ~~or not~~ in cell j, ~~respectively~~.

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To assess coastal landslide susceptibility, 15 predictive models ~~are-were~~ individually developed for each inventoried landslide type in this coastal area, considering the landslide partitions defined ~~on Tab. in Table~~ 3, and the standard model procedures defined ~~in previously on section Section~~ 3. ~~Tab. Table-~~ 3 shows the 15 different landslide partitions according ~~to~~ the landslide type used for ~~assess-assessing~~ landslide susceptibility: total landslides, deep landslides, shallow landslides, deep rotational slides, shallow rotational slides, deep translational slides, shallow translational slides, rock ~~topple~~ ~~topples~~, rock ~~fall~~ ~~falls~~, rock ~~slides~~ ~~slides~~, debris ~~fall~~ ~~falls~~, debris ~~flow~~ ~~flows~~, and debris ~~slides~~ ~~slides~~. With ~~those-these~~ landslide dataset partitions, we expect to ~~better~~ understand ~~better~~ the ~~different~~ drivers responsible for the occurrence of ~~the~~ different ~~landslide~~ types ~~of landslides~~ in this coastal area. Each landslide ~~-~~ type inventory dataset was then sub-divided into a training and a validation ~~group-groups~~ (Remondo *et al.*, 2003). ~~The Training-training~~ group containing 70% of the inventory was used in the model building and ~~the~~ validation group containing 30% of the inventory was used to ~~carry-out~~ ~~conduct~~ an independent cross validation process over the model first results; ~~The~~ ~~the~~ 70/30 partition was selected randomly, because ~~it~~ agrees with the commonly used partitions used for landslide susceptibility ~~models-model~~ training and validation (e.g., Chen *et al.*, 2020). We ~~also~~ ~~adopted~~ ~~also~~ a sensitive approach ~~to eliminate~~ ~~of eliminating~~ some landslide conditioning factors, that have ~~little or no~~ ~~or less~~ contribution ~~to in~~ ~~landslides~~ ~~landslide~~ occurrence ~~basin~~ ~~based on~~ ~~the~~ IV score results.

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370 Additionally, to assess the importance of the representativeness of the inventory, ~~the~~ susceptibility modelling was ~~also~~ considered ~~also~~, for some landslide types, splitting them ~~in-into two~~ ~~2~~ subgroups considering the depth of the rupture surface: shallow and deep-seated; for rotational and translational slide types.

Table 3: Predictive susceptibility ~~models-model~~ strategy and landslide inventory dataset partitions

Model ID	Description of the landslide partition dataset used for assess susceptibility	Training – 70%			Validating – 30%		
		Area	Slides number	ETU number	Area	Slides number	ETU number
Model 1	All landslides (no landslide type or depth of the rupture surface differentiation)	3149643	412	682	1349847	176	292

Model 2	Deep-seated landslides (no landslide type differentiation)	2570471	92	371	1101630	40	159
Model 3	Shallow landslides (no landslide type differentiation)	208086	75	180	89180	32	77
Model 4	Rotational slides (no depth of the rupture surface differentiation)	553238	100	281	237102	43	120
Model 5	Deep-seated rotational slides	490737	67	207	210316	29	89
Model 6	Shallow rotational slides	64840	34	74	27789	14	32
Model 7	Translational slides (no depth of the rupture surface differentiation)	2222341	67	270	952432	29	116
Model 8	Deep-seated translational slides	2082644	26	165	892562	11	71
Model 9	Shallow translational slides	143551	41	106	61522	18	45
Model 10	Rock topple (source areas)	41086	85	136	17608	36	58
Model 11	Rock fall (source areas)	175529	104	219	75227	45	94
Model 12	Rock slides	21920	11	26	9394	5	11
Model 13	Debris fall (source areas)	39314	4	21	16849	2	9
Model 14	Debris flow (source areas)	204500	33	67	87643	14	29
Model 15	Debris slide	14206	8	20	6088	3	8

375 For the pixel terrain unit approach, susceptibility was assessed for the different landslide types, and all dependent and independent variables were transformed into a spatial grid database with 12.5 × 12.5 m resolution following the DEM pixel size, and all the data are projected in the Lambert-Lambert conformal conic Zone 1 coordinate system with Merchich datum.

380 For the ETU approach, in order to assess landslide susceptibility, the application of any statistical method, requires the partitioning of the study area into smaller terrain units. In the present work, the main modelling is developed on a pixel-based model, and the conditioning factors layers were transformed into elementary terrain units (ETUs), considering the weight of each factor in each ETU, in order to apply the terrain units method and make a comparison between the two approaches (pixel and ETU).

385 However, susceptibility results are harmonized in elementary terrain units (ETUs). The ETU use is done because: i) they have a strong relationship with the morphology and geometry of the system that we are trying to model; ii) they are fitting to the most used land-use planning formats as they are mostly vector approaches and system-based, either that is a physical system or a human settlement; and iii) and they are also a factor of uniformity and help dealing with heterogeneous data (e.g. Calvello *et al.*, 2015). Additionally, for planning purposes, ETU are it is easier to clearly identify the ETU in the territory when compared to pixel.

4. Results and discussion

4.1. Landslides in cliffs and coastal slopes of Essaouira

390 The detected landslides were assigned according to the classifications of Varnes (1978); WP/WLI's (1993); Cruden and Varnes (1996); and Dikau *et al.* (1996), and 10 landslide types were identified: debris fall, debris flow, debris slide, rock fall, rock slide, rock topple, deep rotational slidesslide, shallow rotational slidesslide, deep translational slidesslide, and shallow translational slidesslide.

395 Expert and fieldwork inventory validation allowed for landslide limit corrections and the new landslide identification of new landslides. Some examples of landslides examples are shown presented in Fig. 3.

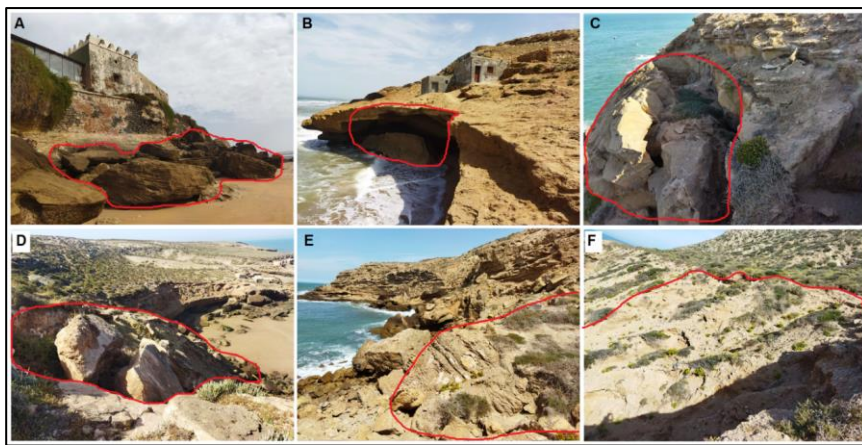


Fig. Figure 3: Some landslide types type examples from the study area; A, B: Rock-rock falls, C: Rock-rock topple, D: Translational-translational slide, E: Rotational-rotational slide with back tilting, and F: Debris-debris flow.

400 The final inventory of the study area is composed by comprised 588 landslide records (Fig. 4). Rock falls are were the most frequent slope instability phenomena in the study area, with 149 records, followed by rotational slides, while the least frequent landslide type is was the debris fall, with only six-6 records. Most of the study area is was occupied by translational slides (68%); followed by rotational slides. These landslide types have usually typically have bigger larger area-areas per landslide, have deeper rupture surfaces, and frequently occur along the entire whole cliff-/coastal slope profile.

405 Slope instability is was present along the whole study area, resulting in the identification of 974 elementary terrain units ETUs with landslides (63.5%), and 28797 unstable pixels (46.5%).

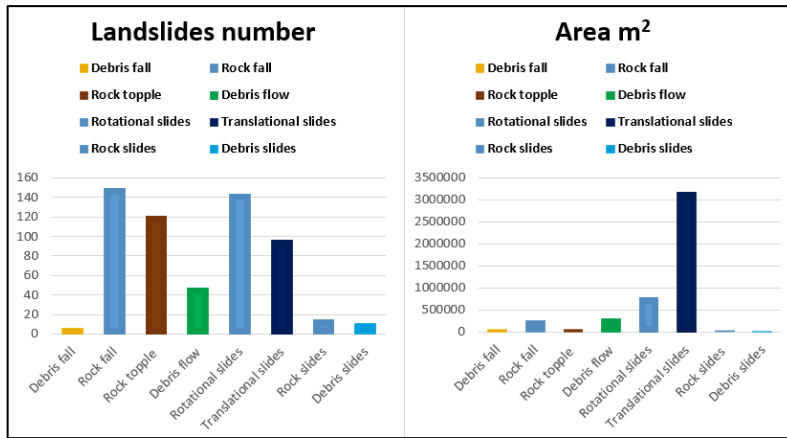


Figure 4: The relative distribution of landslides by type and area in the ETUs of the study area

Nevertheless, the heterogeneity of the spatial distribution of landslide types (Fig. 5) over the study area ~~shows was~~ higher ~~concentration~~ in the southern section ~~because due of~~ the higher ~~concentration concentrations~~ of rotational and translational slides.

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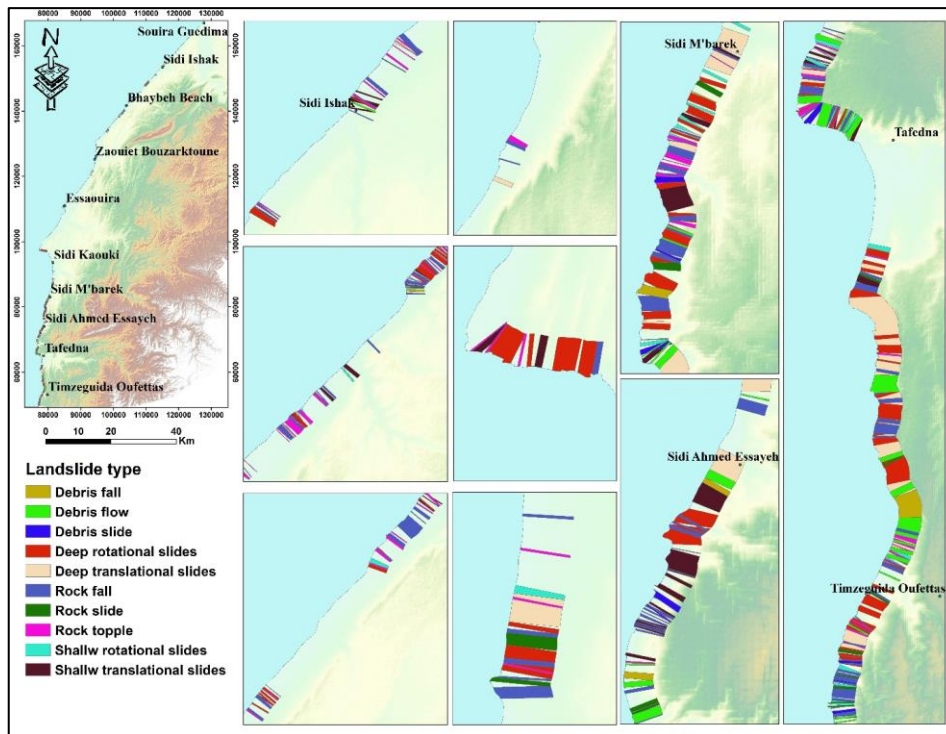


Fig.Figure 5: Spatial distribution of landslide types in the study area

4.2. Driving forces of instability in Essaouira

415 Lithology, and structure, and landslide deposits are important conditioning factors for susceptibility analysis. These can be proxies for permeability, shear strength, and propensity for physical and chemical weathering of rock and soil materials (Varnes, 1984, Epifanio *et al.*, 2013). Twenty main lithological units were found-identified in the study area-including: (1) calcareous crusting; (2) clay and sandstone; (3) conglomerate and dune sediments; (4) conglomerate with sandy matrix; (5) dolomitic limestones; (6) dolomitic sandstones; (7) dune sandstone with oblique stratification; (8) Essaouira Sandstonesandstone/Calcarenitcalcarenite; (9) friable sandstone layer; (10) 420 graygrey clays; (11) graygrey marls; (12) heterogeneous conglomerate; (13) limestone bar; (14) lumachelic clayey limestones; (15) marls; (16) marly limestones; (17) pudding conglomerate; (18) sandstone dolomites; (19) sequence of marls and marly limestone; and (20) -terigenous red deposit (Tab.Table-4).

425 The spatial distribution of the lithological units (Tab.Table- 4), shows that, in general, the limestone units are more frequent in the southern sector, often-frequently combined with grey marls and clays of the Hauterivian and Aptian (Cretaceous). Calcareous crusting, friable sandstone layers, and terrigenous deposits arean-be found in all coastal

areas. The Conglomerate-conglomerate and sandstone units are more concentrated in the northern sector, where consolidated dunes can also be found.

430 Regarding the number of ETUs per lithology type, calcareous crusting and Essaouira Sandstone-calcarenite are the two lithological formations most funded in the majority of ETUs, present in 1216 and 1270 ETUs, respectively. This can be explained because, in the encrustation phenomena, coastal eolian constructions become dominant in the study area as we mentioned in geological settings.

435 The most lithological formations occupied by the instabilities are: Dune-dune sandstone with oblique stratification, Friable friable sandstone layers, Gray-grey Marlsmarls, Heterogeneous-heterogeneous conglomerate, Limestone limestone barre, Marlsmarls, Sequence-sequence of Marls-marls, and Marly-marly limestone.

Table 4: Predominance lithology by area and ETU

Lithology	Predominance area	Number of ETUs	Number of unstable ETUs	% Of unstable ETUs	IV Results
Calcareous crusting	All coastal area	1216	240	19.74	-0.01
Clay and Sandstonesandstone	Southern coastal area	33	25	75.76	-1.68
Conglomerate and dune	All coastal area	1340	782	58.36	-0.31
Conglomerate with sandy matrix	Northern coastal area	33	3	9.09	-5.70
Dolomitic limestone	Southern coastal area	320	183	57.19	-1.03
Dolomitic Sandstonesandstones	Southern coastal area	13	4	30.77	-5.70
Dune sandstone with oblique stratification	Southern coastal area	284	243	85.56	0.64
Essaouira Sandstone sandstone -calcarenite	All coastal area	1270	628	49.45	-1.67
Friable sandstone layers	All coastal area	479	343	71.61	0.39
Gray-Grey Clays	Southern coastal area	50	23	46.00	-2.96
Gray-Grey Marls	Southern coastal area	229	167	72.93	-1.01
Heterogeneous conglomerate	Southern coastal area	147	119	80.95	1.03
Limestone barre	Southern coastal area	159	154	96.86	0.56
Lumachelic clayey limestone	Southern coastal area	50	32	64.00	0.24

Marls	Southern coastal area	69	60	86.96	0.61
Marly limestone	Southern coastal area	67	63	94.03	0.27
pudding Conglomerate conglomerate	Northern coastal area	152	33	21.71	-2.23
Sandstone dolomites	Southern coastal area	50	28	56.00	-0.35
Sequence of Marls-marls and Marly-marly limestone	Southern coastal area	282	275	97.52	0.70
Terrigenous red deposit	All coastal area	48	12	25.00	-1.18

Stratigraphic profiles (Figs. 6 and 7) show detailed lithological ~~change~~ changes over the study area; and allow for a better understanding of cliff ~~lithology~~ lithological variations and, the emplacement of friable layers that have a direct influence on the occurrence of landslides.

In the southern section, ~~we noted a large~~ big variation in the lithological units ~~was noted with respect to~~ regarding the spatial distribution; therefore, the majority of stratigraphic logs ~~are~~ were concentrated in the southern section (from log 1 to log 13), while there ~~was little~~ is no much variation in the northern section (from log 14 to log 16). ~~Regarding~~ About the lithological materials, ~~we note~~ the presence of friable ~~layers~~ or weak layers (~~it could be~~ friable sandstone, sand, clays, and marls) ~~were noted~~ in all logs except ~~log~~ logs 3, log-7, log-9, log-13, and log-14.

As tilting layers are more ~~favorable~~ favourable to instabilities because of the gravitational forces, the predominant sub-horizontal layering ~~has~~ also has a contribution, while the majority of those layers are deposited on weak or friable layers, which are stimulated the instability in ~~many~~ multiple locations in the study area referring to the field survey. ~~Those~~ These friable layers are ~~usually~~ typically placed between the impermeable or competent layers, ~~which~~ they are the result of: either the different diagenesis degrees or compaction; or the high ~~clay~~ content of ~~clays~~—according to grain size analysis, ~~which~~ that makes them more friable than adjacent layers. According to the field survey, ~~those~~ these layers are ~~usually~~ generally behind the occurrence of ~~many~~ numerous landslides, ~~which~~ that is why ~~we consider~~ them they are considered important, ~~especiallly~~ particularly because some of them are in contact with springs; and others are in the bottom part of the cliff, which means more lithostatic pressure, ~~and~~ thus more susceptibility ~~to~~ of landslides-landslide occurrence.

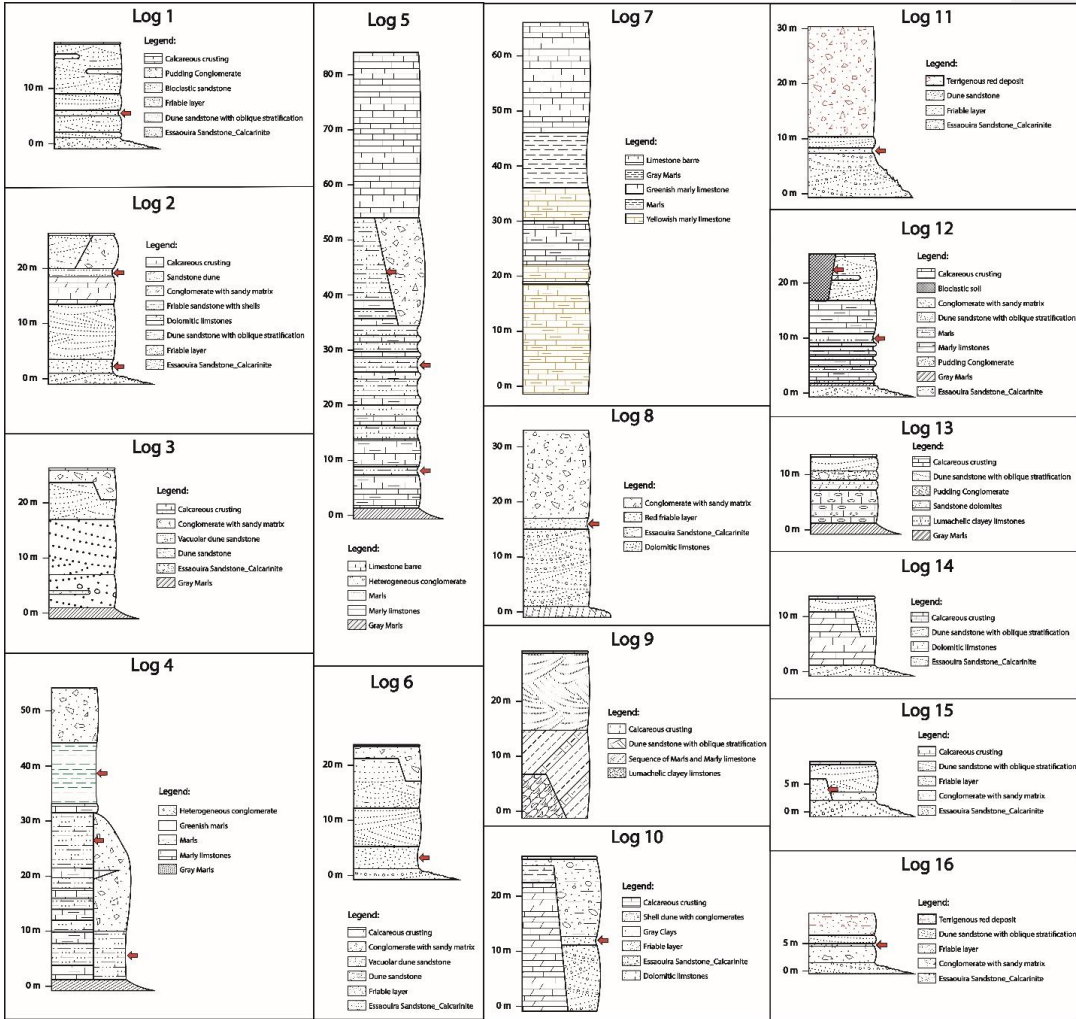
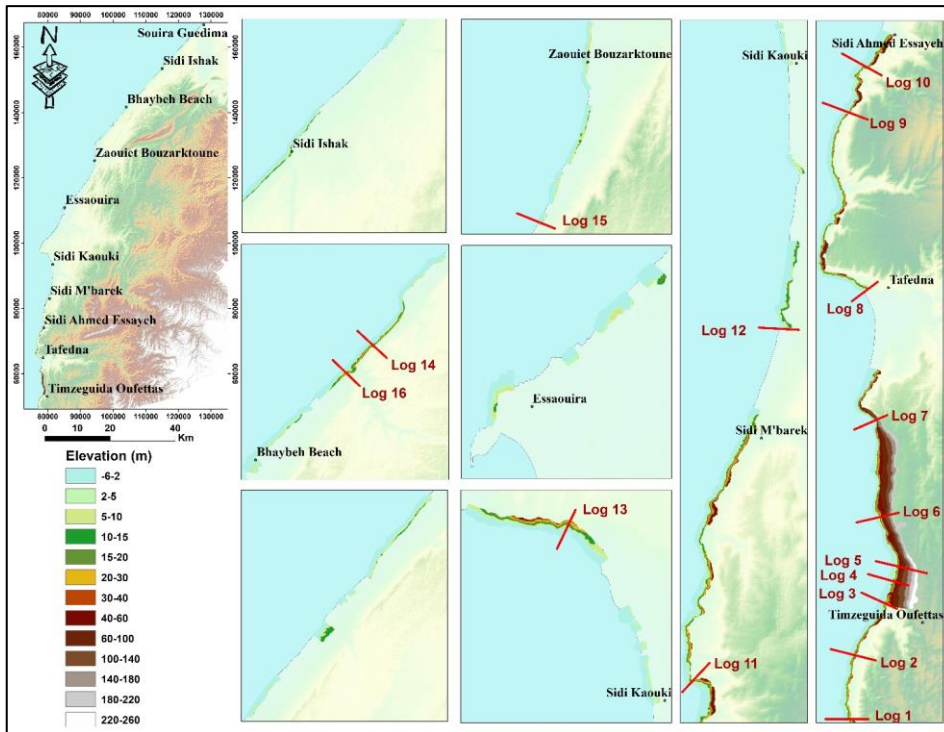


Fig.Figure 6: Stratigraphic columns for the Essaouira coastal area

460 Elevation is ~~Another~~ another important factor ~~infor~~ in landslide susceptibility mapping ~~is elevation factor~~. The Fig. 7 shows the spatial distribution of these ~~factor~~ factors, and it can be seen that ~~we can remark~~ the southern section cliffs

present higher elevation ~~because, for the reason that those area-areas are more closed-closer~~ to the feet of the High Atlas Mountains ~~feet~~.



465 **Fig. Figure 7:** -The spatial distribution of elevation factor in the study area with ~~the profiles~~ profile emplacement.

470 ~~Others-Other~~ conditioning factors are provided by the fieldwork: i) the presence and type of cliff toe protection, as ~~it showed-shown~~ in the Fig. 8 A, B, and C, either rock platform, slope deposit, or beach protection; ii) lithology tilting, ~~which that~~ has a big impact on the ~~landslides-landslide~~ occurrence, as ~~shown in-we remark~~ in the Fig. 8 D and E; iii) ~~the presence of stream networks and springs in the cliff face which stimulate the~~ ~~landslides-landslide~~ occurrence; ~~and~~ ~~iv) the presence of springs, we localized-9~~ ~~Nine~~ springs were localised, ~~four-4~~ of which are ~~them~~ concentrated around Timzeguida Oufettas village which has a locally-a visible impact on ~~landslides-landslide~~ occurrence, especially ~~particularly~~ considering the presence of marls, which ~~are-beeomingbecome~~ more sliding ~~when~~ in contact with the water. ~~The Other-other~~ springs are in the southern section, except ~~for~~ one in the north between Bhaybeh beach and Sidi Ishak village. ~~There-are~~ ~~They~~ considerably affect the mechanical processes that lead to slope failure and to the subsequent post-failure movements, ~~especially-particularly~~ in the case of ~~where we have~~ marls or clays.

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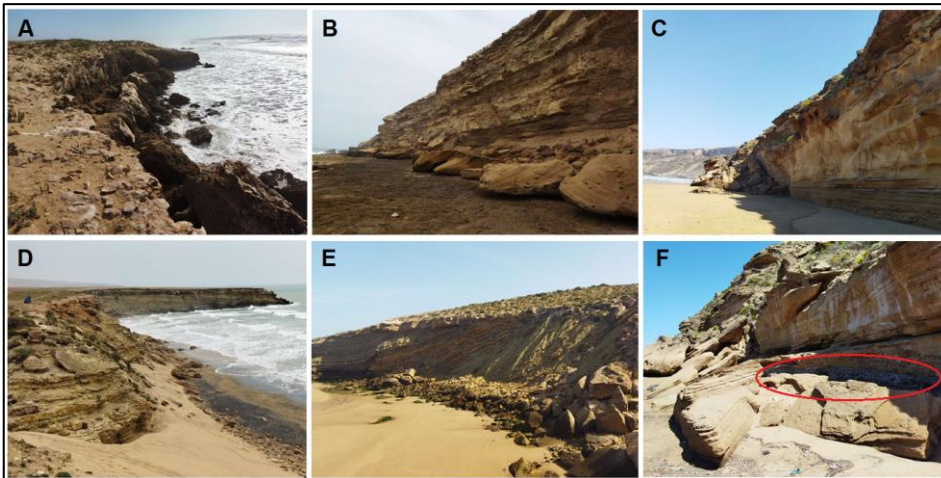


Fig.Figure 8: Examples of some conditioning factors; A: ~~Absence-absence~~ of toe protection, B: ~~Rock-rock~~ platform protection, C: ~~Beach-beach~~ protection, D and E: tilted layers towards sea, and F: ~~Cliff-cliff~~ toe lithology effect-

480 For ~~the-rainfall-factor~~, the interpolation of rainfall records from ~~four~~4 meteorological stations, from 1968 to 2015, ~~was~~were used to assess the spatial distribution of this conditioning factor. ~~The, the~~ results ~~shows~~-showed that the maximum average of 306 mm of precipitation ~~falls~~-fell around Essaouira city, while the precipitation values ~~decrease~~ decreased towards the two extremities of the study area, reaching a minimum average precipitation of 252 mm.

485 Finally, the NDVI and land-use map ~~were~~was prepared from the Sentinel satellite ~~images~~-image analysis, and six land-use types were extracted, including bare ground, cultivated areas, light vegetation, dense vegetation, roads and habitation, and breakwater ~~area~~areas.

4.3. Coastal landslide susceptibility assessment

490 Coastal landslide susceptibility using the ~~Information-Value~~IV method, as mentioned in the objectives, was produced considering two different susceptibility zonation approaches; ~~;~~ susceptibility assessed at the pixel scale and considering ~~elementary terrains units~~:ETUs.

4.3.1 By Pixel:

495 Table S1 ~~represent~~-presents the ~~information-values~~IV scores obtained for each class of each landslide conditioning factor used in the construction of each susceptibility model for 15 landslide inventory partitions defined according to their classification into shallow and deep-seated landslides, landslide type, or type of affected material (debris or rock).

The ~~information value~~IV scores represent a clear contrast between the most ~~favorable and least favourable~~ areas ~~and the less favorable areas~~ for the occurrence of different landslide type's ~~occurrence~~, and we ~~will~~ describe the most important conditioning factors for each landslide type:

500 -For all ~~landslides~~ landslide types (Model 1), ~~The~~ the most relevant conditioning factor ~~forte~~ the occurrence of all inventoried landslides are areas with slope angles > 45 (IV score = 1.377), followed by the solar radiation factor between 400 and 600 kWh/m² (IV score = 1.332) and ~~an~~ the elevation factor of 60–100 m (IV score = 1.320). The minimum value was obtained for the aspect class Flat-flat (IV score = -3.845). ~~These~~ ~~The~~ results ~~pointed out~~ revealed, considering no landslide type or depth of the rupture surface differentiation, that slope angle and elevation are the most influent factors for landslide occurrence especially particularly in dry climate areas like such as the Essaouira coastal cliff area, except for model 10 (rock topple), in which the slopes $> 15^\circ$ have negative scores.

505 -Deep-seated landslides (Model 2), ~~in~~ the Essaouira coastal area, occurred more in areas with 400–600 kWh/m² solar radiation (IV score = 1.536), in slope areas $> 45^\circ$ (IV score = 1.494), and in the high areas between 60 and 100 m (IV score = 1.480), where the minimum was in the same class as previous results. ~~Although~~ ~~However~~, shallow mass movements occurred more in friable layers with an IV score ~~=of~~ 3.011, in 600–700 kWh/m² solar radiation (IV score = 2.072), and in areas with 35–45° slopes.

510 -Rotational slides (~~Model~~ ~~Models~~ 4, ~~Model~~ 5, and ~~Model~~ 6) ~~generally~~ occur ~~in general~~, in Sandstone sandstone dolomites and dune sandstone with oblique stratification lithologies. For deep rotational slides, the grain size factor 38–51 (% Sand sand) presented the highest value of 1.550, followed by slope angle factor class 30–40° with an IV score ~~of~~ 1.441. ~~For~~ ~~While~~ ~~for~~ shallow rotational slides, the grain size factor was strongly presented a strong independence independent of with the occurrence of this landslide type, with an IV score ~~of~~ 2.323.

515 -Translational slides (~~Model~~ ~~Models~~ 7, ~~Model~~ 8, and ~~Model~~ 9), ~~deep and shallow~~ ones slides in the Essaouira coastal area, ~~occurs~~ occur more in areas with 400–700 kWh/m² solar radiation and in slope areas $> 40^\circ$.

520 -Rock topple (Model 10), ~~The~~ Grain grain size factor, especially particularly; classes 0–11% Silt silt (IV score = 2.092), 66–91% Sand sand (IV score = 2.037), and 0–7% Clay clay (IV score = 2.016), ~~are~~ contribute more contributing into the occurrence of Rock rock topples, ~~as~~ because they ~~are~~ usually happened typically occur next to friable layers in the Essaouira coastal cliff area.

525 -Rock falls (Model 11) ~~occurs~~ occur more in the “dune sandstone with oblique stratification” class of lithology factor, while the minimum IV value was -4.978 Heterogeneous heterogeneous conglomerate, which is normal as rock falls ~~does~~ do not happen occur in this lithology type.

-Rock slides (Model 12), ~~the~~ The lumachelic clayey limestones limestone lithology class presented a strong dependence on with rock slides, with an IV score ~~=of~~ 3.253, while the Flat flat (-1) areas for the aspect factor presented the a minimum IV score ~~=of~~ -3.960.

530 -Debris fall and flow (~~Model~~ ~~Models~~ 13 and ~~Model~~ 14), ~~the~~ The lithological material with grain size Sand sand 51–66% and Silt silt 11–23% are more favorable favourable to the occurrence of debris falls fall and debris flow in the

Essaouira coastal area, and the Slope-slope angle factor class $0\text{--}2^\circ$ is less favorable with an IV score of -4.822.

- Debris slides (Model 15) presented a strong dependence on with the Terrigenous-terrigenuous red deposit class, lithology factor, while the minimum was an IV score of -3.565 for the Flat-flat (-1) class aspect factor, which is normal because this landslide type occurs more in Terrigenous lithologies and in a-slope areas.

To represent landslide susceptibility for each model, we reclassify the final Information Value IV scores were reclassified into four classes: Very-very low susceptibility (IV score < -1), low susceptibility (-1 < IV score < 0), moderate susceptibility (0 < IV score < 1), and high susceptibility (IV score > 1). The Fig. 9 present presents the spatial distribution of susceptibility classes for pixel-based landslide susceptibility Model 1. It can be observed is possible to observe that a very low susceptibility class appeared more in the northern section of the study area, whereas while the southern section present presented higher susceptibility to the occurrence of landslides, especially particularly, because due to the weight of the translational and rotational slides in those areas.

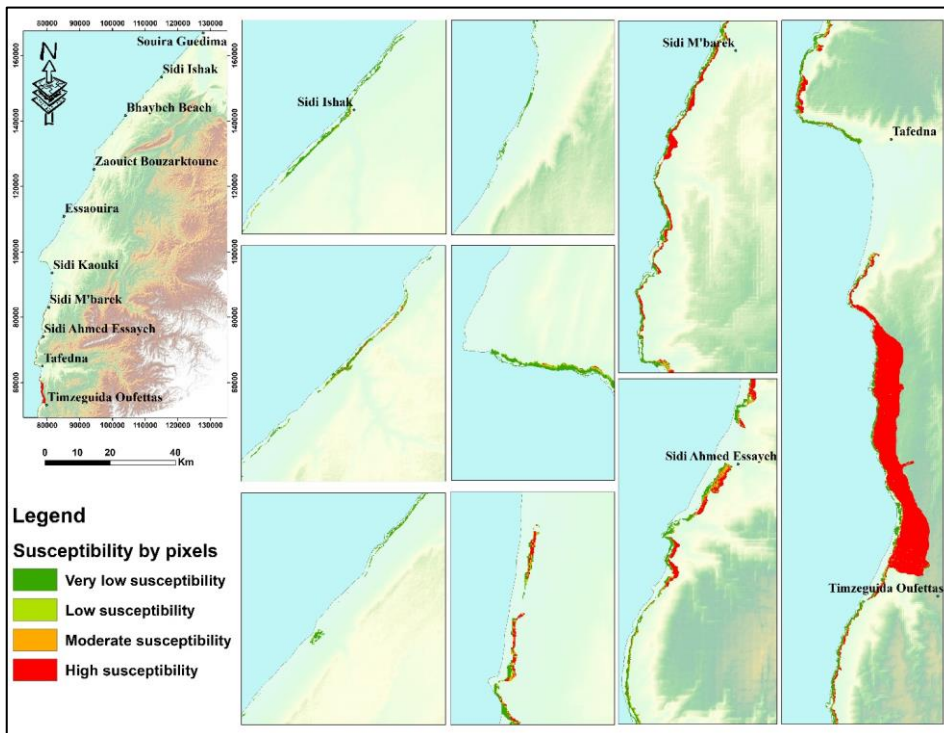


Fig. Figure 9: Landslides Landslide susceptibility map by using the pixels-pixel method

545 The ~~information value~~IV model allowed ~~classifying for the classification of~~ 38% of our study area with high susceptibility to ~~the occurrence of all landslides-landslide types-occurrence~~, while ~~the~~ very low susceptibility class ~~is~~ ~~was~~ present in 56% of the study area (Tab.~~Table-~~ 5).

All other landslide ~~types-type~~ susceptibility models presented high percentages for ~~the~~ very low susceptibility class, with a maximum of 89.76% for debris ~~slides~~slides. The exception is for debris flow, where the highest percentage was 530 for high susceptibility with 53.85% of the study area.

Table 5: Percentage of ~~landslides-landslide~~ susceptibility classes

		Very low susceptibility	Low susceptibility	Moderate susceptibility	High susceptibility
Model 1	All landslides	55.45	2.55	2.66	39.35
Model 2	Deep-seated landslides	60.22	2.32	2.22	35.25
Model 3	Shallow landslides	72.58	4.10	3.80	19.52
Model 4	Rotational slides	52.71	7.02	6.55	33.72
Model 5	Deep rotational slides	55.03	5.84	5.95	33.18
Model 6	Shallow rotational slides	71.29	3.75	4.55	20.40
Model 7	Translational slides	61.08	2.42	2.07	34.43
Model 8	Deep translational slides	63.99	1.42	1.44	33.15
Model 9	Shallow translational slides	74.35	3.41	3.02	19.21
Model 10	Rock topple	67.41	5.52	5.95	21.12
Model 11	Rock fall	71.39	3.21	3.65	21.75
Model 12	Rock slides	80.02	2.72	2.56	14.70
Model 13	Debris fall	59.75	5.82	5.32	29.10
Model 14	Debris flow	39.15	3.04	3.96	53.85
Model 15	Debris slide	89.76	1.67	1.50	7.07

4.3.2 By ~~elementary terrain units~~ (ETUs)

555 In general, the susceptibility assessment is ~~carried-out~~conducted by classifying the ~~elementary terrain units~~ETUs into two classes: ~~stabilized-stabilised~~ (37% of ETUs) and non-~~stabilized-stabilised~~ (63% of ETUs). The approach was ~~performed~~done individually for each type of landslide studied; and shows that, for all ~~type-of landslides~~landslide types, the unstable areas (classified as non-~~stabilized~~stabilised) are located more to the ~~south-southern~~ units of ~~the~~ study area.

To represent the ETU landslide susceptibility results, ~~we present~~a zoomed section of the southern section of the study area next to Timzeguida Oufettas ~~is presented~~ (Fig. 10), for which ~~is possible to observe~~ landslide susceptibility zonation ~~can be observed~~ for the ~~elementary terrains units~~ETUs. This map presents the same allure or same variation

as the susceptibility map produced by the pixels-pixel approach, except that, in the second ETU approach of ETU, we can use ETU ID can be used to define the susceptible area in situ.

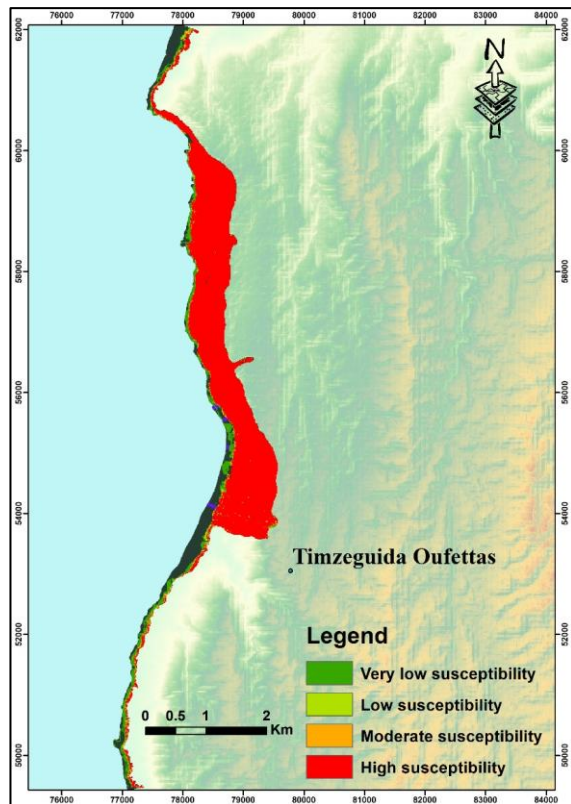


Fig.Figure 10: Landslide susceptibility map by-using the ETU method for Model 1

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4.4. Validation of Coastal-coastal landslide susceptibility models validation

All coastal landslide susceptibility models were validated by spatial confrontation, with the independent landslide partitions defined as validating subsets. ROC curves (Linden 2006; and Remondo *et al.*, 2013) (Tab.Table- 6) of the predictive models were computed, and the respective Area Under Curve (AUC) value-values were calculated. Tab.Table- 6 shows the AUC values obtained in the validation process for all models, as we We can remark that all landslide susceptibility models presented AUC values > 0.7-AUC values, and Model-Models 1, Model-4, Model-10, Model-13, and Model-14 (0.7 to 0.8) are-were considered acceptable. Model-Models 2, Model-5, Model-6, Model

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7, ~~Model-8~~, and ~~Model-9~~ (0.8 to 0.9) ~~are-were~~ considered excellent, and ~~Model-Models 3~~, ~~Model-11~~, ~~Model-12~~, and ~~Model-15~~ (~~more-than~~ \geq 0.9) ~~are-were~~ considered outstanding.

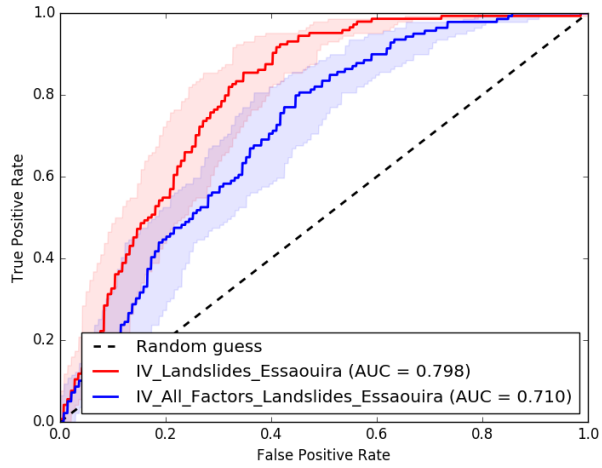
Table 6: AUC values obtained in the validation process for all models.

Models	Landslide type	AUC Low	AUC High	AUC values
Model 1	All landslides	0.751	0.842	0.798
Model 2	Deep-seated landslides	0.767	0.858	0.815
Model 3	Shallow landslides	0.735	1	0.92
Model 4	Rotational slides	0.694	0.872	0.794
Model 5	Deep rotational slides	0.709	0.889	0.813
Model 6	Shallow rotational slides	0.438	1	0.817
Model 7	Translational slides	0.759	0.854	0.809
Model 8	Deep translational slides	0.795	0.893	0.847
Model 9	Shallow translational slides	0.728	0.976	0.895
Model 10	Rock topple	0.25	1	0.75
Model 11	Rock fall	0.755	1	0.961
Model 12	Rock slides	0.827	1	0.948
Model 13	Debris fall	0.44	0.92	0.72
Model 14	Debris flow	0.561	0.878	0.731
Model 15	Debris slide	0.898	0.998	0.972

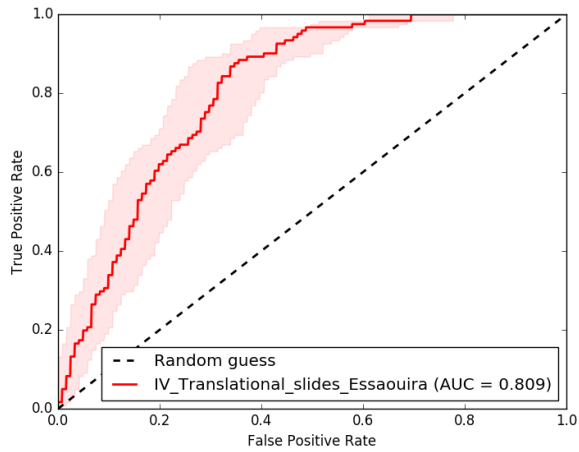
For total landslides (Model 1) with all factors, ~~we-obtained~~ 0.710 (Fig. 11) ~~was-obtained~~, then ~~we-eliminated~~ Next, the topographic wetness factor and ~~the-rainfall factor-factors were eliminated due to the-as we are in~~ dry climate of the area, and those factors did ~~notn-t~~ present a strong dependence ~~onwith~~ the occurrence of landslides; ~~we-obtained-a~~ value of ~~than~~ 0.798 (Fig. 11) ~~was-obtained~~, which means that the ~~performance of model-Model 1 performance-~~ was improved in ~~term-terms~~ of prediction, ~~adopting this sensitive approach especially-particularly~~ when ~~we-get~~ low values of AUC ~~values were obtained~~.

~~We-presented-also-the~~ AUC ~~graph-graphs were plotted~~ for translational slides (Model 7) 0.809; (Fig. 12) and rotational slides (Model 4) 0.794; (Fig. 13), as these two landslide types occupied ~~approximately-about~~ 85% of the unstable area in the ~~pixels-pixel~~ model approach. These results ~~shows-show~~ that susceptibility models have a good predictive skill and highlight the higher performance of predictive models when built for each type of landslide in comparison with the model built for the total landslides.

Commenté [A11]: Contractions refer to two words combined in casual contexts (e.g., "it's", "I'd", and "can't"). Avoid these in academic writing (use "It is," "I would," and "cannot", respectively).



590 **Fig.Figure 11: ROC curves of the susceptibility model for all landslides with all factors (AUC = 0.710) and without TWI and rainfall factor (AUC = 0.798).**



595 **Fig.Figure 12: ROC curves of the susceptibility model for translational slides (AUC = 0.809)**

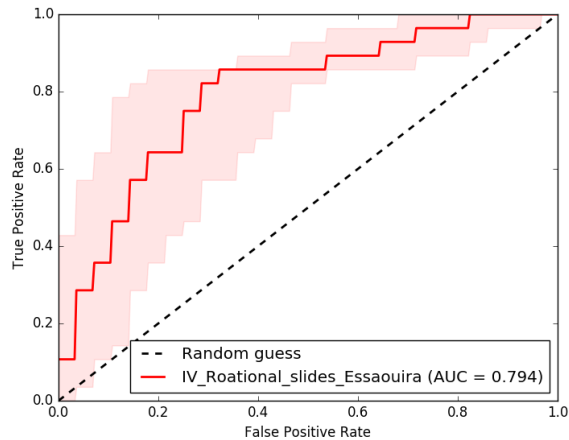


Fig. Figure 13: ROC curves of the susceptibility model for rotational slides (AUC = 0.794)

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5. Conclusion

The information valueIV bivariate statistical approach to assess landslide susceptibility assessment in the 134 km of coastal area of Essaouira, based in-on geological, and morphological analysis-analyses (interpretation of aerial photos, satellite images, and field survey), allowed classifying-for the classification of 38-% of our-the study area with high susceptibility to landslides-landslide occurrence (using the pixelpixels approach).

The translational slides followed by rotational slides are-occupying aboutoccupied approximately 85-% of the landslide area, we-which can explain that as a matter ofbe explained by the fact that, the conditioning factors that are contributingcontribute more in-to the occurrence of those landslides, namely > .45° slope angle, 400--700 kWh/m² solar radiation, and some-certain lithological formations, are-occupyingwere all present in the study area, especially particularly the southern section. Another reason is that those landslides type are usually occupiedthese landslide types typically occupy large areas.

Landslides are distributed along the entire study area, with a highermore concentration in the southern section because of it-s topographic characteristics, mainly next to Sidi M'bark, Sidi Ahmed Essayeh, and in the northern section sections of Tafedna and Timzguida Oufettas, while the less susceptible areas are more-located in the middle and northern section-sections of the Essaouira coastal area.

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620 For all ~~landslides-landslide~~ types, the most important ~~explanatory~~ explaining drivers are: slope factor, ~~especially~~ particularly $>45^\circ$, solar radiation factor class 400–600 kWh/m², and elevation class 60–100 m; ~~these-These~~ these factors ~~are-have~~ already been highlighted by ~~many-multiple~~ many authors as important conditioning factors of ~~many-several~~ ~~landslides-landslide~~ types. Most of the landslide susceptibility models (10 models out of 15) presented a strong interdependence with lithological ~~factor-factors~~ factors or factors extracted from lithology, ~~such~~ such as grain size and organic matter, which means that ~~the-landslides-landslide~~ landslide occurrence is highly ~~affected by lithological~~ impacted by lithology variations.

625 In the study area, precipitation ~~was does not~~ present ~~in our study~~ as a decisive conditioning factor, as a consequence of the spatial distribution of rainfall, since the highest values are concentrated around Essaouira ~~city~~ City, which is more related to sandy coast subsystems.

To define in ~~deep~~ detail the spatial distribution of ~~the~~ most susceptible areas to the different landslide types along the Essaouira coastal area, ~~especially-particularly~~ in the southern section; next to Timzeguida Oufettas village, more ~~in-depth~~ deep studies are recommended.

630 Both ~~the~~ pixel and ETU models ~~are holding approximately~~ hold approximately the same ~~value~~ allure in all ~~the study~~ ~~area~~ areas. ~~Basing-Based on those-these~~ Based on these models, this study ~~presented-presents an~~ presents an essential material for spatial planning and civil protection emergency actions; in ~~the~~ Essaouira coastal area, ~~especially-particularly~~ in ~~the~~ rocky coast subsystem.

635 ~~Because~~ Since ETUs are closer to the morphometry of the area, there is a more “guided” analysis in this approach; ~~comparing-compared~~ with pixel-based ~~analysis~~ analysis that is ~~no-not~~ related ~~to-with~~ to a particular morphology on the cliff area. Both approaches have advantages and ~~are inconvenient to use~~. ~~It is true that~~ The ETU approach ~~takes more into account~~ considers the cliff morphometry ~~more~~ and it's more useful for territorial management interventions, ~~but~~ however, it also leads to loss of susceptibility classification detail ~~comparing-compared~~ with ~~the~~ pixel approach, which is more relevant in ~~term-terms~~ terms of resolution.

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