



1 **Earthquake-induced landslides in Haiti: seismotectonic**  
2 **and climatic influences, size-frequency relationships**

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24 **Abstract.** First analyses of landslide distribution and triggering factors are presented for the region  
25 affected by the August, 14, 2021, Nippes, earthquake ( $M_w=7.2$ ) in Haiti. Landslide mapping was mainly  
26 carried out by comparing pre- and post-event remote imagery ( $\sim 0.5$  - 1-m resolution) available on Google  
27 Earth Pro® and Sentinel-2 (10-m resolution) satellite images. The first covered about 50% of the affected  
28 region (for post-event imagery and before completion of the map in January 2022), the latter were  
29 selected to cover the entire potentially affected zone. On the basis of the completed landslide inventory,  
30 comparisons are made with catalogues compiled by others both for the August 2021 and the January  
31 2010 seismic events, including one open inventory (by the United States Geological Survey) that was  
32 also used for further statistical analyses. Additionally, we studied the pre-2021 earthquake slope stability  
33 conditions. These comparisons show that the total number of landslides mapped for the 2021 earthquake  
34 (7091) is smaller than the one observed by two other research teams for the 2010 event (e.g., 23,567, for  
35 the open inventory). However, these fewer landslides triggered in 2021 cover much wider areas of slopes  
36 ( $>80$  km<sup>2</sup>) than those induced by the 2010 event ( $\sim 25$  km<sup>2</sup> – considering the open inventory). A simple  
37 statistical analysis indicates that the lower number of 2021-landslides can be explained by the ‘under-  
38 mapping’ of smallest landslides triggered in 2021, partly due to the lower resolution imagery available  
39 for most of the areas affected by the recent earthquake; this is also confirmed by an inventory  
40 completeness analysis based on size-frequency statistics. The much larger total area of landslides  
41 triggered in 2021, compared to the 2010 earthquake, can be related to different physical reasons: a) the  
42 larger earthquake magnitude in 2021; b) the more central location of the fault segment that ruptured in  
43 2021 with respect to coastal zones; c) and possible climatic preconditioning of slope stability in the 2021-  
44 affected area. These observations are supported by (1) a new pre-2021 earthquake landslide map, (2)  
45 rainfall distribution maps presented for different periods (including October 2016 - when Hurricane  
46 Matthew had crossed the western part of Haiti), covering both the 2010 and 2021 affected zones, as well  
47 as (3) shaking intensity prediction maps.

## 48 **1 Introduction**

49 This paper presents a first overview of landslide hazards induced by the August 14, 2021, Nippes (Haiti)  
50 earthquake. The epicenter ( $18.434^\circ$  N /  $73.482^\circ$  W, hypocentral depth of 10 km) of this event is located



51 in the western part of the southern Haitian peninsula (see Unites States Geological Survey, USGS,  
52 Earthquake Hazard Program page, [earthquake.usgs.gov](https://earthquake.usgs.gov), presenting first information on the 2021 M 7.2  
53 - Nippes, Haiti, event). Similar to the January 12, 2010, earthquake, the epicenter is located near the  
54 surface expression of the Enriquillo-Plantain-Garden Fault (EPGF) that crosses the peninsula from East  
55 to West, marking one of the highest seismic hazard zones of the island (see location of the epicenters on  
56 the seismic hazard map completed by Frankel et al. in 2011, as well as on the topographic map shown in  
57 Fig. 1).

58 For the 2010 event, Calais et al. (2010) and Symithe et al. (2013) showed that this earthquake was caused  
59 by the oblique rupture of a formerly unknown fault dipping towards the North and located immediately  
60 in the North of the EPGF. Data provided by the [earthquake.usgs.gov](https://earthquake.usgs.gov) webpage (considering the provided  
61 moment tensor solution; see also Okuwaki and Fan, 2022) indicate that the situation could be similar for  
62 the 2021 event, with a ruptured fault segment dipping towards the North, and mostly located in the North  
63 of the EPGF. Thus, also the recently ruptured fault segment would not belong to the EPGF (which is  
64 essentially a left-lateral strike-slip fault). It could be related to an adjacent blind fault segment with  
65 oblique slip character (left-lateral strike-slip combined with reverse movement) according to the  
66 information available on [earthquake.usgs.gov](https://earthquake.usgs.gov). As by now there is no clear answer to this question, below  
67 we will use the term of the 'EPGF zone' that includes the main strike-slip fault and annexed oblique slip  
68 fault segments (the two that are now known, i.e., the one ruptured in 2010 and the one that produced the  
69 last earthquake) to denominate the tectonic structure that produced those two events.

70 Even though the magnitude of the 2021 earthquake is slightly larger than the one of 2010 ( $M_w=7.2$  and  
71  $M_w=7.0$ , respectively, see information on the [earthquake.usgs.gov](https://earthquake.usgs.gov) webpage and by Stein et al., 2021),  
72 the recent event was far less catastrophic as it hit a less populated area compared to the 2010 earthquake  
73 that occurred just near the western entrance of the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince. The 2021 earthquake  
74 accounts for about 2250 fatalities (2/3 of which occurred in the provincial city of Les Cayes, located in  
75 Fig. 1), while the 2010 death toll is up to 300,000. However, it quickly became clear that the last event  
76 caused widespread slope failures that could be more intense than in 2010. Therefore, members of our  
77 research teams completed some ground control during field visits along segments of important roads hit  
78 by rock falls near the epicentral region. Additionally, we mapped all landslides visible on high-resolution  
79 ( $\leq 1$  m) satellite imagery available on Google Earth Pro® (GEP, zooming to a scale of about 1/2500),



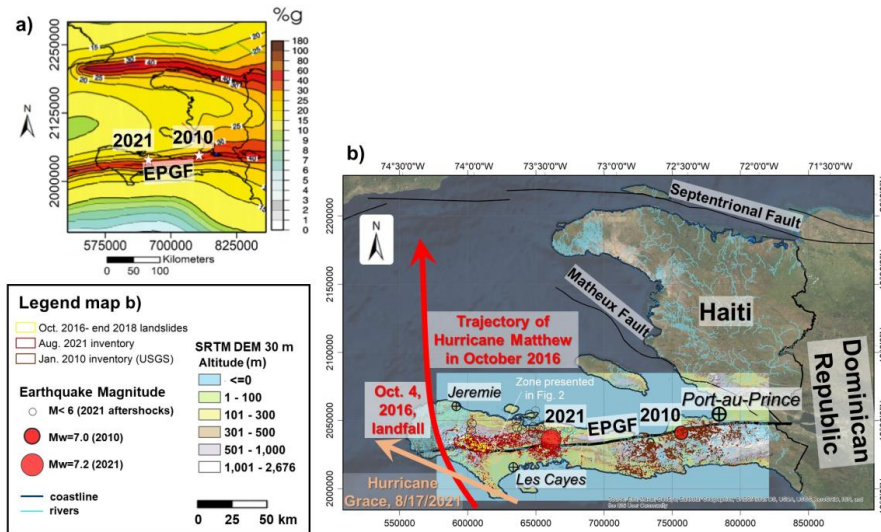
80 starting from August 28, 2021 (the first post-seismic high-resolution imagery available on GEPPro), until  
81 the end of October 2021 (comparing also with available pre-2021 imagery). This study was  
82 complemented by landslide identification on Sentinel-2A and 2B products (10-m spatial resolution)  
83 sensed for the period from August 14, 2021, until the end of September 2021 (especially for areas not  
84 covered by higher resolution imagery on GEPPro). This way, we could map landslides over the whole  
85 area potentially hit by the 2021 event by using this imagery, as it will be explained in section 2.

86 After completion of the 2021 landslide inventory, statistical characteristics of the latter were compared  
87 with equivalent results obtained for the 2010 USGS catalogue by Harp et al. (2016); some statistical data  
88 are also compared with those of one other inventory completed by Martinez et al. (2021, USGS Open  
89 File report) for the 2021 event and of two additional catalogues compiled for the 2010 event (by Gorum  
90 et al., 2013 and Xu et al., 2014). A size-frequency analysis was carried out to assess the inventory  
91 completeness (using the method proposed by Malamud et al., 2004) for our 2021 and the USGS open  
92 2010 landslide catalogues.

93 We also mapped landslides existing before the 2021 earthquake by using high-resolution ( $\leq 1$  m)  
94 imagery available on GEPPro starting from October 2014 until the end of 2017, to study some  
95 preconditioning of slope instability that was induced in 2021. In particular, it is known that the region is  
96 regularly affected by hurricanes – the last catastrophic hurricane had impacted the target area in October  
97 2016: ‘Matthew’ or ‘Mathieu’ in French (see track roughly outlined in Fig. 1b). Also, just two days after  
98 the main shock, on August 16, another Hurricane, ‘Grace’, hit the area and hampered help convoys to  
99 reach the areas most impacted by the earthquake. Right after this event, it was not immediately clear if  
100 ‘Grace’ had contributed to landslide activity or not; this question will be analyzed in the following  
101 sections by comparing landslide distributions with monthly precipitation maps produced by the ‘Global  
102 Precipitation Measurement’ (GPM) Mission (NASA) for different periods.

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106 **Figure 1: Location of the study region in Haiti. a) Seismic hazard map of Haiti (modified from Frankel et al.,**  
107 **2011) with location of the January 12, 2010, and August 14, 2021, main epicenters. b) Topographic map of**  
108 **Haiti (by © ESRI) ‘with study region highlighted. See also location of the 2010 and 2021 epicenters and of the**  
109 **cities with the largest number of victims caused by each of the events (the capital Port-au-Prince, hit in 2010**  
110 **and the provincial city of Les Cayes with largest effects in 2021), the outline of the main active fault system in**  
111 **the southern part of Haiti, the Enriquillo-Plantain-Garden-Fault (EPGF), and indication of the approximate**  
112 **trajectory of Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Landslides mapped by Harp et al. (2016) are shown by**  
113 **brownish polygons (near the 2010 M=7 epicenter), and recently mapped landslides triggered in August 2021**  
114 **are outlined in dark red (mainly in the West and South of the 2021 epicenter). Other digital outlines, including**  
115 **faults and coastline, were provided by the Centre National de l’Information Géo-Spatiale (CNIGS) of Haiti.**  
116 **See also location of the zone presented in Fig. 2.**

117

118 Finally, we also present a comparison of the 2010 and 2021 landslide distributions with respect to Arias  
119 Intensity (Ia, see Arias, 1970) prediction maps, computed for each event by using the attenuation law  
120 proposed by Keefer and Wilson (1989).

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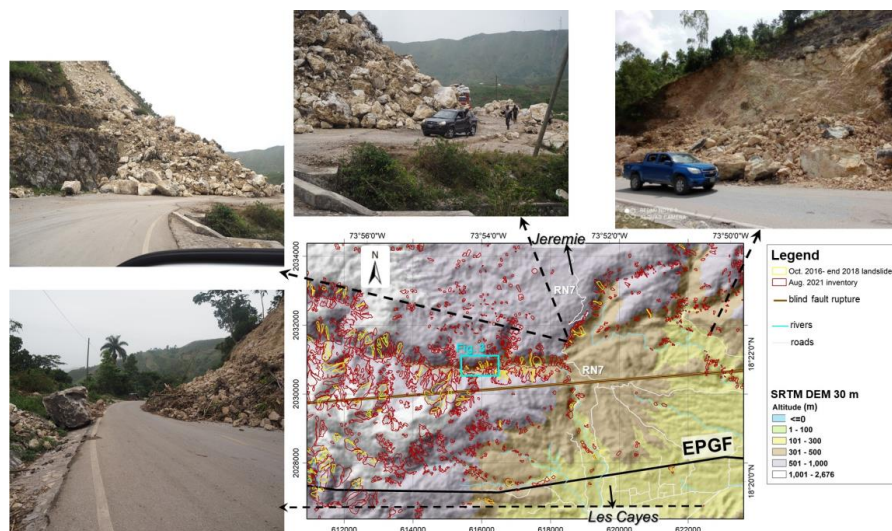


## 122 2 Methodological aspects of landslide and seismic trigger factor mapping

### 123 2.1 Landslide mapping

124 Right after the main shock that hit Haiti on August 14, 2021 (precisely at 12:29:08 UTC, about 8:30 am  
125 local time), it became clear that many landslides were triggered by this earthquake. Within a few hours  
126 after the main shock, there were reports about rock falls cutting the main road RN7 connecting the large  
127 provincial cities of Les Cayes in the South and Jeremie in the North. Therefore, members of our local  
128 research teams checked the situation to support local administration with cleaning the roads. Photographs  
129 of rock falls in the central part of the target area are shown in Fig. 2 (those shown below all occurred in  
130 limestone rocks), together with the locations of the affected sites on a map.

131



132

133 **Figure 2: Examples of landslides photographed in the field, especially along the national road RN7, connecting**  
134 **the two provincial cities of Les Cayes in the South and Jeremie in the North. This map (located in the map of**  
135 **Fig. 1) also shows the different ground failure effects mapped before (yellow polygons) and after the**  
136 **earthquake (dark red polygons). See blue rectangle marking the outline of the view extent shown in Fig. 3,**  
137 **presenting a more detailed analysis of the co- versus pre-earthquake landslide activity. Other digital outlines,**  
138 **including rivers (light blue lines) and roads (white lines), were provided by the Centre National de**  
139 **l'Information Géo-Spatiale (CNIGS), Haiti.**



140 These rock falls were typically not very large (with a volume of generally less than 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>), but there  
141 were many of them and in some cases, it took several days before the street could be reopened. For that  
142 reason, our research groups, who have been working for several years on earthquake risk mitigation and  
143 communication in some areas hit by the 2021 event, started to detect and map all landslides caused by  
144 the earthquake. During field visits in August 2021, just after the main shock, our teams could confirm  
145 that this earthquake had triggered more extensive slope failures (covering wider surface areas) than the  
146 previous M=7.0 event in January 2010.

147 For the latter, several research groups had mapped co-seismic landslides (Gorum et al., 2013; Xu et al.,  
148 2014; Terrier et al., 2014, for urban areas and Harp et al., 2016). In the following section, a few statistical  
149 characteristics of the new 2021 landslide inventory are compared with those of the two first catalogues;  
150 a more detailed comparison is completed with the Harp et al. (2016) inventory, freely available online.

151 For the landslide mapping over the whole potentially affected area we have used medium-resolution  
152 imagery available from the Copernicus Open-Access Hub: Sentinel-2, with 10-m spatial resolution bands  
153 B2 (490 nm), B3 (560 nm), B4 (665 nm) and B8 (842 nm) collected for 8 different dates, every five to  
154 six days, between August 14, 2021 (the first one was available about two hours after the main shock),  
155 and the end of September 2021. Analyzing all images was necessary due to the extensive (but spatially  
156 variable) cloud cover present on each image. Considering that only this medium-resolution imagery was  
157 freely available in the beginning, we had decided to outline coalescent debris slides and flows marked  
158 by a main common part by one single coherent landslide polygon; this aspect will have to be taken into  
159 consideration when interpreting the landslide size-frequency statistics presented in the next section. As  
160 introduced above, during the following months, higher resolution (0.5-1 m) imagery became available  
161 on GEPPro, which was then used to refine the initial landslide outlines, and to map smaller slope failures.  
162 At the end of October 2021 (and still in the beginning of 2022), about 50% of the potentially affected  
163 area was covered by higher resolution imagery (especially for the eastern part of this area). However, to  
164 maintain a coherence within the catalogue, the main rule to map coalescent slides with a major common  
165 part (and presenting the same aspect and type of failure) as one single mass movement was still respected.  
166 Examples of landslides mapped by applying this technique are presented in Fig. 3. Areas covered both  
167 by Sentinel-2 imagery and higher resolution images were also used to refine landslide mapping based on  
168 the first type of imagery, as by the end of 2021, only this one with 10-m resolution was available for the





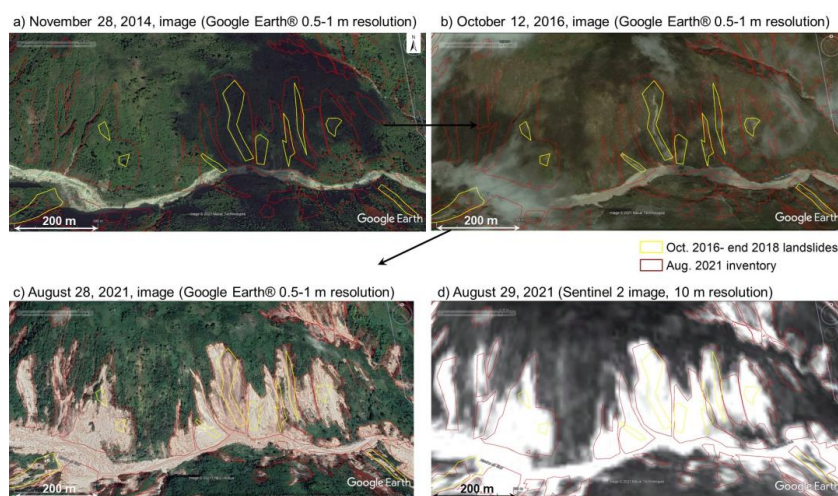
169 western zone (compare Fig. 3c and 3d). As a comparison with pre-event imagery was necessary in many  
170 cases to be sure that only ‘co-seismic’ (or nearly co-seismic – see explanation below) slope failures had  
171 been mapped, the whole area was screened by using high resolution (0.5-1 m) imagery available on  
172 GEPro for the period between 2014 and August 2021. A pre-earthquake image (of November 28, 2014)  
173 is shown in Fig. 3a, highlighting the contrast between the densely vegetated slopes present in the target  
174 region and the extensive denudation that occurred during the earthquake of August 2021 (see images  
175 shown in Figs. 3c and 3d). However, we could also observe by comparing multiple images available for  
176 the pre-event period that some denudation had already appeared for smaller zones before 2021. Zones  
177 marked by narrow debris slides and flows could be outlined especially on images available for the period  
178 between October 10, 2016 and the end of 2017. Fig. 3b presents an image of October 12, 2016 that shows  
179 the ‘freshest’ type of denudation since 2014 (see yellow polygons outlining such denudation zones), some  
180 of which disappeared after two years, due to revegetation of the slopes (rapid revegetation can be  
181 observed as the whole area is located in tropical regions). This image and others available for the same  
182 period were added to GEPro after Hurricane Matthew had impacted, in early October 2016, the same  
183 area as the one hit by the 2021 earthquake. The consequences of this ‘double’ impact on the target region  
184 will be analyzed in the sections 3 and 4 on the basis of precipitation distribution maps.

185 Actually, Haiti is quite often (at least once per year) crossed by hurricanes or tropical storms, some of  
186 which can trigger slope failures over wide areas. One such tropical storm that later developed into the  
187 hurricane called ‘Grace’ had also crossed southern Haiti, just two to three days after the August 14, 2021,  
188 main shock. We introduce this fact here in the methodological part as it had two consequences for the  
189 landslide mapping: first, right after the earthquake wide areas were covered by clouds during several  
190 days (some higher mountain parts even for weeks); thus, multiple satellite images of different dates (both  
191 Sentinel-2 and higher resolution imagery on GEPro had to be inspected to map landslides over the whole  
192 area. Second, we had to consider that ‘Grace’ might also have induced slope failures and that landslides  
193 mapped by using post-hurricane imagery were not all seismically triggered, or were at least enlarged by  
194 the effects of ‘Grace’. Therefore, by comparing the post-seismic, August 14, Sentinel-2 image (collected  
195 before the Hurricane Grace event) with the one of August 29, 2021 (post-seismic and post-hurricane),  
196 we checked if additional or enlarged slope failures had appeared on the latter. An example of such a  
197 comparison is presented in Fig. 4, where red arrows point to zones marked either by new or by larger





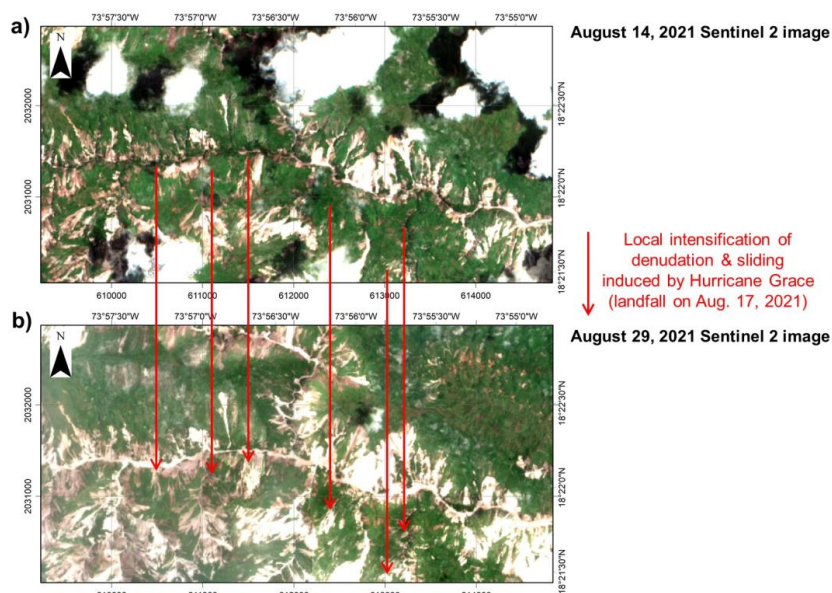
198 slope failures on the Sentinel-2 image of August 29, 2021, which were thus most likely caused by rainfall  
199 during the Grace climatic event (disregarding here the possible additional influence of aftershocks  
200 occurring during the same time in the region, which will be discussed below). Unfortunately, due to the  
201 extensive cloud cover in mid-August 2021, such a comparison could only be completed for about 10%  
202 of the seismically impacted area. For those cloud-free zones, we estimate that Grace had induced a  
203 widening of slope denudation of about 10-15% compared to the purely seismically triggered slope  
204 failures. As most images were available after the Grace event, the total number of 7091 landslides  
205 mapped for the period between August 14 and the end of October 2021 inevitably also includes  
206 precipitation-induced or reactivated slope failures (thus increasing the initial total number and area of  
207 co-seismic landslides by about 10-15%). This aspect has also to be taken into consideration when the  
208 landslide impact of the 2021 earthquake is compared with the one of 2010 (as analyzed in the next  
209 section).



210  
211 **Figure 3: Outlines of landslides mapped between October 2016 – November 2017 (in yellow; most by using**  
212 **October 10-12, 2016, images, directly after Hurricane Matthew) and after August 14, 2021 earthquake (dark**  
213 **red polygons), plotted on © Google Earth Pro, (a) high-resolution image available in GEPPro for November 28,**  
214 **2014, on (b) high-resolution image available in GEPPro for October 12, 2016, on (c) high-resolution image**  
215 **available in GEPPro for August 28, 2021, and on (d) 10-m resolution Sentinel-2 image of August 29, 2021**  
216 **(appearing in Black-White only in GEPPro – in color in our GIS database).**



217



218

219 **Figure 4: Comparison between Sentinel-2 images (10-m resolution) for the same area obtained for (a) August**  
220 **14 (about 2h after the main shock) and for (b) August 28, 2021 (12 days after impact by Hurricane Grace that**  
221 **crossed the region on August 16, 2021). Red arrows point to zones where an intensification of denudation and**  
222 **sliding can be observed.**

## 223 2.2 Landslide distribution statistics and size-frequency analysis

224 In sub-section 3.2, observed total landslide numbers and surface areas as well as other parameters  
225 characterizing the statistics of the two inventories, the new one presented here for 2021 and the one for  
226 2010 by Harp et al. (2016), are compared with ‘predicted’ ones. The latter numbers are computed  
227 according to prediction laws proposed by Havenith et al. (2016) and Malamud et al. (2004). To estimate  
228 the total number ( $N_{LT}$ , see Eq. 1) of landslides triggered by a specific earthquake, Havenith et al. (2016)  
229 recommend to take into consideration the shaking intensity factor, ( $I$ , based on the Arias Intensity and  
230 thus on the earthquake magnitude,  $M$ ; see Eq. 6b in the next sub-section), the fault factor  $F$  (depending  
231 on the type,  $FT$ , and size of the fault rupture, considering also the influence of a possible surface rupture),  
232 the topographic energy ( $TE$ , using mainly as parameter the maximum altitude difference in the affected



233 region), the climatic background (CB) conditions, and the lithological factor (LF, depending on the  
234 presence of soft soils for instance).

$$235 \quad N_{LT} = 1000 \times I \times F \times TE \times CB \times LF, \quad (1)$$

236 Compared with the prediction of the total number of landslides triggered by a specific earthquake  
237 proposed by Havenith et al. (2016), the one recommended by Malamud et al. (2004) is much simpler (Eq.  
238 2) and only based on the earthquake magnitude,  $M$ .

$$239 \quad N_{LT} = 10^{(1.29M - 5.65)}, \quad (2)$$

240 For the calculation of the total area potentially affected by landslides ( $A_{Lext}$ , area within the maximum  
241 extent of landslide occurrence) Havenith et al. (2016) propose the following Eq. (3), which also directly  
242 considers the earthquake magnitude,  $M$ , and the hypocentral Depth,  $D$ :

$$243 \quad A_{Lext} = I \times FT \times TE \times CB \times LF \times M \times D^2, \quad (3)$$

244 As Havenith et al. (2016), Keefer and Wilson (1989) also propose an equation to estimate the total area  
245 potentially affected by landslides during one earthquake event. Their estimate of  $A_{Lext}$  is purely based on  
246 the earthquake magnitude, similar to Eq. (2) proposed by Malamud et al. (2004) to estimate  $N_{LT}$ :

$$247 \quad A_{Lext} = 10^{(M - 3.46)}, \quad (4)$$

248 Malamud et al. (2004) do not propose any formula to estimate the total area potentially affected by  
249 landslides during an earthquake event as Havenith et al. (2016) (see Eq. 3), but recommend the following  
250 prediction law (Eq. 5) to estimate the total area effectively covered by co-seismic landslides,  $A_{LT}$ , based  
251 on the observed or predicted (using Eq. 2, or any other related prediction law, such as the one in Eq. 1)  
252 total number of landslides:

$$253 \quad A_{LT} = 0.00307 N_{LT}, \quad (5)$$

254 All the previous equations were used to compute the respective values presented in Table 1 in sub-section  
255 3.2.

256 Size-frequency relations were computed for the 7091 landslide outlines in terms of frequency-density  
257 function (FDF) on the basis of the measured surface areas,  $f(A_L)$ . The same statistics were also computed  
258 for the 23,567 landslides mapped by Harp et al. (2016). Therefore, we used the method introduced by



259 Malamud et al. (2004) for surface areas (Eq. 6):

$$260 \quad f(A_L) = \frac{\delta N_L}{\delta A_L} \quad (6)$$

261 where  $\delta N_L$  is the number of landslides with areas between  $A_L$  and  $A_L + \delta A_L$  (representing the difference  
262 between two landslide surface area classes). Surface areas were calculated in km<sup>2</sup>. Related distributions  
263 computed, respectively, for each landslide catalogue (for the 2010 one by Harp et al., 2016; and for the  
264 new 2021 inventory) are then compared with theoretical frequency-density distributions, as proposed by  
265 Malamud et al. (2004). The latter are based on the three-parameter inverse-gamma probability  
266 distribution (see equation 3 in Malamud et al., 2004) that is multiplied by the total number of landslides  
267 of simulated events (100, 1000, etc.). In this regard, it should be noted that the original technique  
268 proposed by Malamud et al. (2004) to complete the size-frequency statistics is based on the probability-  
269 density values, corresponding to the frequency-density values divided by the total number of mapped  
270 landslides,  $N_{LT}$  (which can be fit by the aforementioned three-parameter inverse-gamma probability  
271 distribution). However, as indicated above, due to the limited amount of high-resolution imagery  
272 available for the area potentially affected by seismic shaking in August 2021, not all small landslides  
273 could be mapped; therefore, the total number of landslides seismically triggered in August,  $N_{LT}$ , is likely  
274 to be higher than 7091 (even if the potential ‘hurricane-effect’ is removed, as explained below), and the  
275 probability-density function cannot be correctly computed. For such cases, Malamud et al. (2004)  
276 recommend the computation of the frequency-density function to assess the completeness of the  
277 inventory by comparison with the aforementioned predefined theoretical frequency-density functions, as  
278 it will be shown for the 2010 and 2021 inventories in the following section.

### 279 **2.3 Mapping of seismic landslide triggering factors**

280 Above, we highlighted the climatic influence on slope stability in the target area that must be taken into  
281 consideration when interpreting the landslide distribution statistics. However, it is obvious that for such  
282 an event the main trigger factors are still related to earthquake shaking; those have to be assessed to  
283 understand why extensive slope instability could be observed in one zone and only isolated minor failures  
284 occurred in another one. Such an analysis is completed both for the 2010 and 2021 events, by computing  
285 the Arias Intensity distribution maps (for 2010, comparing the results with the landslide distribution as



286 observed by Harp et al., 2016).  
287 The Arias Intensity (Arias, 1970),  $I_a$ , can be considered as a quantitative measure of the degree of shaking  
288 (in m/s) on the surface. With respect to any other intensity characterization (including the one based on  
289 surveys) it has the advantage to be more objective and comparable for different earthquakes (according  
290 to Harp and Wilson, 1995). Wilson and Keefer (1985) were the first to try to correlate seismically  
291 triggered landslide distributions with this intensity measure. They also defined the following attenuation  
292 relationship (Eq. 7a) in terms of magnitude ( $M$ ) and hypocentral distance ( $R$ ):

$$293 \log(I_a) = -4.1 + M - 2 \log(R) + 0.5P, \quad (7a)$$

294 where  $P$  considers a possible deviation from the main law ( $P=0$  stands for the average value).

295 Afterwards, Keefer and Wilson (1989) have reviewed the application of this formula and defined a new  
296 one (Eq. 7b), for magnitudes greater than 7:

$$297 \log(I_a) = -2.35 + 0.75M - 2 \log(R), \quad (7b)$$

298 We applied the latter equation as both the 2010 and 2021 can be considered as  $M \geq 7$  events. The  $R$ -  
299 value represents the hypocentral distance map, here computed by using as source zone the blind fault  
300 rupture segments of the 2010 and 2021 events (with 0 km epicentral distance and 10 km hypocentral  
301 depth along the respective segment).

302 All equations introduced above have been applied to obtain the computation results presented below, in  
303 the sub-sections 3.2 and 3.4.

### 304 **3 Results: landslide inventory statistics and analysis of trigger conditions**

305 This section first summarizes a series of landslide type and general distribution characteristics. Second,  
306 landslide inventory and size-frequency statistics are presented and supported by an inventory  
307 completeness analysis. Third, a study of possible climatic slope failure preconditioning and post-seismic  
308 landslide surface changes is presented, which also compares landslide distributions with monthly  
309 precipitation maps (using output maps of the Global Precipitation Measurement Mission, GPM, produced  
310 by the NASA, for different periods, according to Acker and Leptough, 2007). Fourth, the landslide  
311 occurrence observed in 2010 and in 2021 is compared with respective shaking intensity prediction maps.



### 312 **3.1 Landslide type and distribution characteristics**

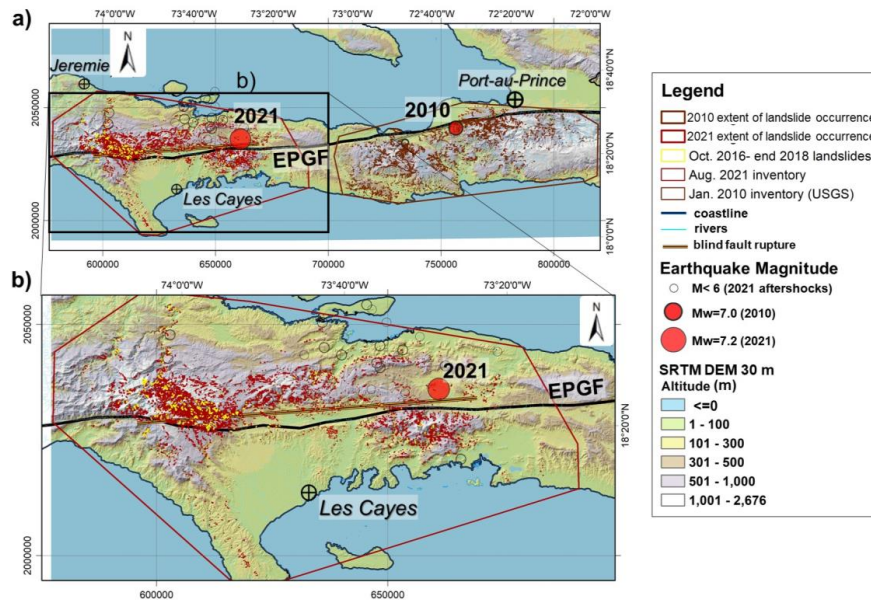
313 Before analyzing specific statistical values of the two landslide inventories, the one compiled by Harp et  
314 al. (2016) for the 2010 event and ours completed after the August 2021 earthquake, we first have a look  
315 at the general respective spatial landslide distributions and provide basic information on the type of the  
316 mapped landslides.

317 The map presented in Fig. 5a shows that the global extent of landslides triggered in 2010 (brown outlines  
318 within the brown maximum extent polygon) and in 2021 (dark red outlines within the dark red maximum  
319 extent polygon) is quite similar (exact values are presented in Table 1). However, the 2010 landslide  
320 distribution appears a bit more dispersed than the one of 2021 that is marked by two focal areas, one in  
321 the southeastern part and one in the central western part of the total area affected in 2021. A major  
322 difference between the two landslide distributions can be observed with respect to the location of the  
323 EPGF zone. While most landslides occurred in the South of the fault zone in 2010, a relatively symmetric  
324 distribution of landslides with respect to the location of the EPGF zone can be observed for the 2021  
325 event. This is mainly due to the fact that the fault segment that ruptured near EPGF in 2010 is located  
326 close to the coast (actually just in the South of the coast, as can be seen in the map in Fig. 5a), and thus  
327 only limited onshore surface areas could be affected by landslides in the North of the EPGF zone in 2010,  
328 while the location of the fault segment that ruptured in 2021 is more central within the southwestern  
329 peninsula of Haiti.

330 Another important observation is that there seems to be a gap between the zone affected by landslides in  
331 2010 and the one affected in 2021. This means that, according to our present observations, the 2021  
332 earthquake did not reactivate landslides triggered in 2010 – due to the large distance (> 60 km) between  
333 the fault ruptures. Actually, this point still has to be confirmed as the westernmost part of the area affected  
334 by the 2010 earthquake shaking is not covered (since August 14, 2021, until January 2022) by higher  
335 resolution imagery in GEPro. This check could only be done so far with the 10-m resolution Sentinel-2  
336 imagery.

337





338

339 **Figure 5: a) Study region with areas affected, respectively, by the two  $M_w \geq 7$  events. Individual landslides**  
340 **triggered in 2010 (Harp et al., 2016, inventory) are mapped as small brown polygons (appearing as points at**  
341 **this scale) and the maximum extent of landslides triggered in 2010 is outlined by the large brown polygon.**  
342 **Landslides mapped for the 2021 event are shown as small dark red polygons within the maximum landslide**  
343 **extent area outlined by the large dark red polygon. b) Focus on the region hit by the August 2021 earthquake,**  
344 **with 7091 landslide locations shown by dark red polygons. See also main shock and after-shock (empty circles)**  
345 **location (from earthquake.usgs.gov) and outline of the (roughly 80 km long) blind fault rupture (extracted**  
346 **from USGS page: <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us6000f65h/finite-fault>).**

347

348 An important consequence of the specific location of the ruptured fault segments is that quite large  
349 landslides had occurred along the shore in 2010, where some of them had massively impacted the ocean  
350 and, thus, had produced up to 3 m-high Tsunami waves (see Olson et al., 2011; Poupardin et al., 2020;  
351 Fritz et al., 2013; Sassa and Takagawa, 2018) while there is not a single report of a major coastal landslide  
352 for the 2021 event – as the fault rupture occurred at a distance of minimum 10 km away from the nearest  
353 shoreline. Instead, a wider onshore area was exposed to high intensity earthquake shaking during the  
354 2021 event. The related impact will be analyzed below on the basis of the statistical values presented in

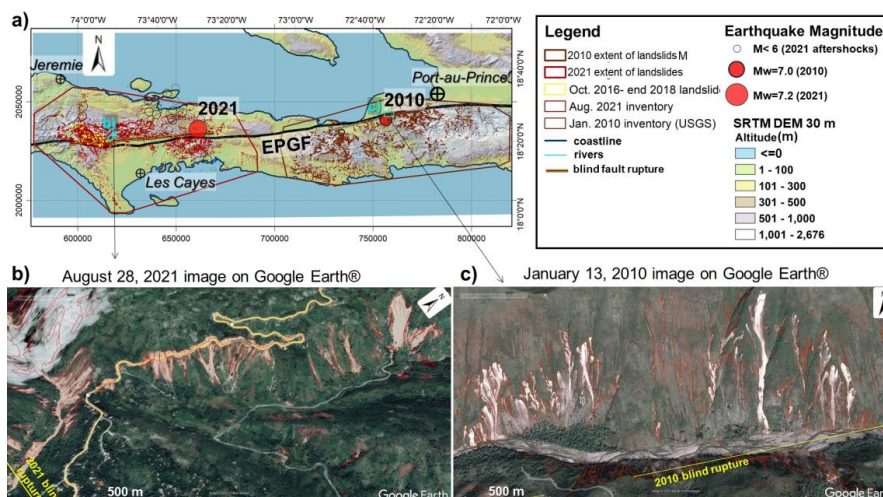




355 Table 1.

356 Concerning the types of landslides triggered by the 2021 earthquake, we can say that by far most of them  
357 can be classified as debris slides or flows (see examples in the GEPPro view presented in Fig. 6b) and as  
358 medium-size (most with a volume of less than 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>) rockfalls (as shown above in Fig. 2). Thus, at  
359 least 95% of all landslides mapped are relatively shallow (with a depth of less than 15 m). Actually, not  
360 a single large massive landslide (> 2\*10<sup>7</sup> m<sup>3</sup>) could be identified. A similar observation was made by  
361 Harp et al. (2016) for the landslides triggered in 2010 (see view in Fig. 6c). However, when comparing  
362 individual landslides induced in 2021 with those triggered in 2010, the latter are almost systematically  
363 narrower than those of 2021 (compare the very narrow slides and flows in Fig. 6c with the typically  
364 wider ones in Fig. 6b), while located in similar geological (limestone) and topographic (hilly-  
365 mountainous) environments. Actually, in the so-called Ravine du Sud (Gorge of the South), part of which  
366 is shown above in Figs. 3 and 4, numerous very extensive slope failures (but still relatively shallow)  
367 could be observed; most of them formed by coalescent neighboring debris slides. Thus, entire slope units  
368 (delimited by upper and lateral slope crests and the valley bottom) finally collapsed as one single mass  
369 movement. Such kind of extensive slope failures occurred far less frequently in 2010 – at least onshore,  
370 while at least a few aforementioned coastal and mostly submarine landslides must have been quite  
371 massive as their impact had triggered Tsunami waves, as indicated above.

372 The fact that no really massive landslides had occurred (onshore), both in 2010 and 2021, also explains  
373 why only a few longer lasting landslide dams had formed on the rivers. We could identify only about 100  
374 minor dams (with a volume of less than 50,000 m<sup>3</sup>, according to our estimate) after the August 2021  
375 main shock, most of which had disappeared before the end of October 2021; and, only a few dozens of  
376 them were impounding temporary lakes. In this regard it should be noted that Martinez et al. (2021), who  
377 had also mapped landslides triggered by the 2021 Nippes earthquake (4893, according to their open file  
378 report), have outlined almost 300 (at least partial) landslide dams after the event. However, they also  
379 indicate that most of them failed a few days after formation; still, at the time of publication of their open  
380 file report in December 2021, they consider 35 of the remaining dams as potentially hazardous. Here, we  
381 will not further analyze this aspect as any related hazard assessment would require a site-specific  
382 approach that is not targeted by this first study completed at regional scale.



383

384 **Figure 6: a) Landslide distribution map for the two events in 2010 and 2021. b) GEPro view (© Google Earth**  
385 **Pro) of landslides triggered by the August 2021 earthquake. c) GEPro view (© Google Earth Pro)**  
386 **of landslides induced by the January 2010 main shock (with landslide outlines by Harp et al., 2016).**

387

388 While debris slides are the predominant type of 2021 slope failures in the central mountain ranges,  
389 widespread soft soil slides (but of smaller volume, typically of less than  $10,000 \text{ m}^3$ ) had occurred along  
390 the hills (with a crest altitude of less than 400 m) of the peninsula located in the Southwest of Les Cayes  
391 (southern part of map in Fig. 5b). As the slopes are very gentle, often seem to be less than  $5^\circ$ , it could be  
392 that those failures, many of which affected agricultural areas (marked by brownish disrupted fields), are  
393 related to liquefaction phenomena. However, also this observation has to be reexamined, by ground-  
394 control and site-specific studies, as the remote analysis based on 1-m resolution imagery does not allow  
395 us to fully confirm this interpretation.

### 396 3.2 Landslide inventory and size-frequency statistics

397 Table 1 presents an overview of landslide inventory statistics, for both the 2010 and 2021 events. The  
398 numbers in the first row show that apparently fewer landslides have been triggered in August 2021  
399 (considering also the number of 4893 landslides published in the open file report by Martinez et al., 2021)



400 than in January 2010. At least two inventories, the one by Harp et al. (2016) and the one of Xu et al.  
401 (2014), include far more landslide outlines (23,567 for the first, 30,828 for the second) than our catalogue  
402 for 2021 (7091). Only the inventory by Gorum et al. (2013) that was the first one to be completed for the  
403 2010 event contains fewer data (4490 points – not polygons - marking the landslide location). However,  
404 paradoxically, a much wider surface area is covered by the apparently fewer 2021 landslides (a total area  
405 of 84 km<sup>2</sup>, see row 3 in Table 1) than by the more numerous 2010 landslides (sum of surface areas of  
406 about 25 km<sup>2</sup>, calculated for the Harp et al., 2016, inventory). This discrepancy can first be explained by  
407 the fact that 2021 landslides could only be mapped from higher resolution imagery for about half of the  
408 potentially affected area (in the eastern part). For the western zone, only Sentinel-2 images were available  
409 until the end of 2021. Those 10-m resolution images typically do not allow for the (complete) mapping  
410 of landslides smaller than 1000 – 2000 m<sup>2</sup>. The second reason is documented by the GEPPro views in Figs.  
411 3, 4 and 6, showing that in 2021 many primarily individual landslides merged to form one single wider  
412 mass movement – thus reducing the final number of single landslides; to this the aforementioned  
413 ‘enlargement’ effect of Hurricane Grace should be added, which might have contributed to the  
414 coalescence of numerous ‘small’ landslides to form fewer larger landslides. Such a coalescence of  
415 landslides seems to have occurred less frequently in 2010 (see parallel very narrow debris slides and  
416 flows in Fig. 6c). In addition, for the coalescent debris slides, the type of mapping applied by Harp et al.  
417 (2016) and most likely also by Xu et al. (2014) was different: they have created outlines for each single  
418 component of a debris slide, even if those components form together a larger mass movement. To better  
419 highlight the impact of the mapping technique and the availability of high-resolution imagery on the  
420 landslide inventory completeness, a size-frequency analysis is presented in the second part of this sub-  
421 section. Before, we first compare the observed landslide numbers with those predicted by Havenith et al.  
422 (2016) and Malamud et al. (2014), respectively, for the two earthquakes. As introduced above (see Eq.  
423 1), according to Havenith et al. (2016), this number depends on the seismic intensity ( $I$ , using as input  
424 the  $I_a$  value computed for the respective earthquake magnitude), the fault factor (type, size and possible  
425 surface rupture), the topographic energy (maximum difference of altitudes in the affected area), the  
426 climatic background (in this case marked by tropical wet climate), and the lithological factor (here using  
427 an average type, for rocks in general). For the precise classification of the different factors, the reader is  
428 referred to Table 1 in Havenith et al. (2016). Here, we used the values presented below in Table 2



429 (considering both events in 2010 and 2021), which indicate the following:

430 1) the shaking intensity values,  $I=0.74$ , in 2010, and  $I=1$  in 2021 are characteristic for the respective  
431 magnitudes (note, this factor can reach a value of up to 3.5 in the case of high-magnitude earthquakes,  
432 with  $M_w > 8$ );

433 2) the fault factor,  $F=2.25$ , can be considered as similar in both cases, marked by an oblique slip that  
434 occurred along a fault segment with a length of 50-100 km, with no clear surface rupture (note,  $F$  can  
435 reach a value of up to 6 in the case of a surface rupture of an activated reverse fault segment with a length  
436 of more than 300 km, such as observed for the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008);

437 3) the topographic energy value,  $TE=2$ , in both cases characterizes a surface morphology marked by local  
438 altitude changes of more than 500 m within a hilly region (only smaller mountains, with an altitude of  
439 less than 2500 m can be found in the regions affected by the 2010 and 2021 events; note, Havenith et al.,  
440 2016, selected a value 4 to mark the high steep slopes in the Longmenshan Mountains affected by the  
441 Wenchuan earthquake in 2008);

442 4) the climatic background factor,  $CB=1.5$  marks relatively wet conditions for the 2021 event while  $CB=1$   
443 indicates average conditions for the 2010 event (the higher value chosen for 2021 considers some  
444 preconditioning of slope instability by Hurricane Matthew, as explained in the next section; note,  
445 Havenith et al., 2016, selected a value  $CB=2$  for the very wet conditions that can be found in the  
446 Longmenshan Mountains affected by the Wenchuan earthquake, characterized by yearly precipitation  
447 values of more than 3000 mm – while the target areas in Haiti are marked by values of about 2000 mm);

448 5) the lithological factor,  $LF=2$ , indicates that both weathered rocks and soft soils can be found in the  
449 affected area (note, Havenith et al., 2016, selected a maximum value,  $LF=4$ , for the Haiyuan-Gansu-  
450 Ningxia earthquake event, China, in 1920, as it affected an area that is almost entirely covered by Loess  
451 deposits, which are highly susceptible to slope failure).

452 When these different factor values are combined according to Eq. (1) presented above, the total numbers  
453 of landslides,  $N_{LT}$ , predicted for the 2010 and 2021 events are, respectively, 6694 and 13,476. These  
454 values can be compared with the numbers predicted by the simple equation (Eq. 2), proposed by  
455 Malamud et al. (2004), using only the earthquake magnitude as input: 2399 for the 2010 event and 4345  
456 for the 2021 event. The latter prediction seems to clearly underestimate the observed numbers of  
457 triggered landslides, while those predicted by using Eq. (1) by Havenith et al. (2016) provide intermediate



458 values: larger than the number observed by Gorum et al. (2013) but smaller than the numbers observed  
459 by Harp et al. (2016) and by Xu et al. (2014). The two predictions (Eq. 1 and 2) were also applied to the  
460 2021 event; the first one producing a higher  $N_{LT}$  (=13,476) than the observed value, the second one  
461 producing a lower value (=4345).

462 As shown on the maps in Fig. 5, also the total area within the maximum extent of landslide occurrence,  
463  $A_{Lext}$ , was outlined and then measured for the 2010 and 2021 events. The latter is about 1.4 times larger  
464 than the first: 5100 km<sup>2</sup> for 2021 against 3700 km<sup>2</sup> for 2010. These values can be compared in Table 1  
465 with the predictions by Havenith et al. (2016) and by Keefer and Wilson (1989), corresponding,  
466 respectively, to 3124 and 3467 km<sup>2</sup>, for the 2010 event, and to 6470 and 5495 km<sup>2</sup>, for the 2021 event.  
467 In this case, the very simple equation proposed Keefer and Wilson (1989) provides an estimate of  $A_{Lext}$   
468 that is closer to the observed value than the one produced by the more complex relationship proposed by  
469 Havenith et al. (2016).

470 The third row of Table 1 compares the total observed slope areas affected by landslides,  $A_{LT}$ ,  
471 corresponding, respectively, to a value of 24.86 km<sup>2</sup> for the 2010 event and of 84.38 km<sup>2</sup> for the 2021  
472 event, with the values predicted by Eq. (5) by Malamud et al. (2004) for each event. For 2010, we applied  
473 this relationship to the three observed values indicated in the first row and by using the  $N_{LT}$ , predicted  
474 respectively by Havenith et al. (2016) and Malamud et al. (2004). Among all total landslide surface area  
475 values predicted for the 2010 event, it can be seen that the one based on the Havenith et al. (2016)  $N_{LT}$   
476 estimate produces the best fit (=20.55 km<sup>2</sup>) when compared with the observed value of 24.86 km<sup>2</sup>. For  
477 2021, the respective predictions all underestimate the observed total landslide surface area value,  $A_{LT}$ , by  
478 a factor of at least two, even when the highest  $N_{LT}$  estimate (using Eq. 1) by Havenith et al. (2016) is  
479 used.

480 The fourth and fifth rows show the average and median landslide surface area values, respectively, for  
481 the 2010 landslide inventory by Harp et al. (2016) and the new 2021 inventory. Those values are clearly  
482 higher for the last inventory, confirming on the one hand that larger landslides were triggered in 2021,  
483 and, on the other hand, that many more small landslides were mapped by Harp et al. (2016) than by our  
484 team for 2021. Especially the large difference between the median landslide surface area values (the 2021  
485 value is almost twenty times larger than the 2010 value) highlights the ‘mapping-related’ factor, which  
486 becomes obvious when considering the values in the next four rows. On the one hand, the smallest



487 landslide mapped by Harp et al. (2016) has a surface area of 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> and their inventory contains 6587  
488 landslide polygons smaller than 100 m<sup>2</sup> while our inventory for 2021 only includes one landslide with a  
489 surface area smaller than this value. On the other hand, the largest landslide mapped for the 2021 event  
490 (>400,000 m<sup>2</sup>) has almost twice the size of the largest one that occurred in 2010, when actually only 2  
491 landslides larger than 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> had been triggered; in 2021, we could outline more than 100 landslides  
492 larger than this value.

493 Finally, Table 1 provides information about the distribution of the 2010 and 2021 landslides with respect  
494 to the blind fault rupture projected on the surface (near the EPGF outline). As already introduced above,  
495 a much larger number of landslides occurred in the North of the latter in 2021 (=4678) compared to 2010  
496 (=2548, at least for onshore slope failures); consequently, more landslides occurred in 2010 in the South  
497 of the respective blind fault rupture. As the total number of mapped landslides is much larger for the  
498 2010 event, the difference between those numbers is very high: 21,019 occurred in the South of the fault  
499 rupture in 2010 and only 2420 in the South of the respective fault rupture in 2021. However, when the  
500 total surface area affected by landslides is considered, the 2021 event affected more zones both in the  
501 South and the North of the fault rupture than the 2010 event, while the distribution of landslides for each  
502 event with respect to the fault rupture remains the same also when considering the affected surface areas:  
503 they are much larger in the South of the fault rupture for the 2010 event but larger in the North for the  
504 2021 event. The main explanation for this difference has already been provided above: the fault segment  
505 that ruptured in 2010 is located close to the coast, with limited onshore surface areas being exposed to  
506 landslide activity in the North of the respective fault rupture, while the location of the fault rupture in  
507 2021 is more central with respect to the shorelines of the southwestern peninsula of Haiti. Actually, the  
508 presence of more numerous and larger landslides in the North of the fault rupture of 2021 could be  
509 expected, according to the observations made by Fan et al. (2018) for the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008,  
510 which had triggered far more landslides on the hanging wall of the activated reverse fault segments than  
511 on the foot wall. Considering the oblique slip character along the fault ruptures of 2010 and 2021 dipping  
512 to the North, the hanging wall is located on the northside of the blind fault rupture projected on the  
513 surface and would logically host more landslides (as indeed observed for the 2021 event). Thus, if a  
514 larger ‘onshore hanging wall’ surface area (marked by a hilly or mountainous morphology) had been  
515 available onshore for the 2010 event, it can be assumed that even more landslides would have been



516 triggered (onshore). Now, we can only assume that in addition to the few known coastal failures also  
 517 massive submarine landslides must have occurred in the North of the 2010 fault rupture.

518

519 **Table 1: 2010 and 2021 landslide inventory characteristics – where not specified for the 2010 event, using the**  
 520 **Harp et al. (2016) inventory. The largest values for each specific observation/estimate (if more than 1 indicated)**  
 521 **are bold.**

Landslide inventory parameters/predictions	2010, Mw=7.0	2021, Mw=7.2
Observed number of landslides, $N_{LT}$	>4490 <sup>a</sup> / 23,567 <sup>b</sup> / <b>30,828<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>7091</b> /4893 <sup>d</sup>
Havenith et al. (2016) $N_{LT}$ prediction 1	6694	13,476
Malamud et al. (2004) $N_{LT}$ prediction 2	2399	4345
Area of region potentially affected by landslides, $A_{Lext}$ (km <sup>2</sup> )	3700	5100
Havenith et al. (2016) $A_{Lext}$ prediction 1	3124	6470
Keefer and Wilson (1989) $A_{Lext}$ prediction 2	3467	5495
Total surface area of landslides, $A_{LT2}$ (km <sup>2</sup> )	24.86	84.38
Malamud et al. (2004) $A_{LT}$ prediction :		
for the observed $N_{LT}$	13.8 <sup>a</sup> / 72.3 <sup>b</sup> / <b>94.6<sup>c</sup></b>	21.8
for the $N_{LT}$ prediction 1	20.55	41.4
for the $N_{LT}$ prediction 2	7.36	13.3
Average area (m <sup>2</sup> )	1055	11,886
Median area (m <sup>2</sup> )	254	4729
Smallest landslide (m <sup>2</sup> )	0.5	75
Number of landslides smaller than 100 m <sup>2</sup>	6587	1
Largest landslide (m <sup>2</sup> )	234,370	409,479
Number of landslides larger than 100,000 m <sup>2</sup>	2	103
Total number of landslides in the North (N) / South (S) of the fault rupture	N= 2548 S= <b>21,019</b>	N= <b>4678</b> S= 2420
Total surface area of landslides in the N / S of the fault rupture (km <sup>2</sup> )	N= 2.45 S= <b>22.41</b>	N= <b>58.31</b> S= 26.07

522 <sup>a</sup> Number of landslides observed by Gorum et al. (2013), <sup>b</sup> by Harp et al. (2016), <sup>c</sup> by Xu et al. (2014),  
 523 and <sup>d</sup> by Martinez et al. (2021).

524

525 In addition to the numbers shown in Table 1 and explained above, we also provide two values for the





526 smaller landslide inventory compiled for the period between October 10, 2016 and the end of 2017. For  
 527 this period, 324 landslide zones have been outlined (see yellow polygons shown on the views and maps  
 528 in Figs. 3 and 5), covering a total surface area of 7.92 km<sup>2</sup>. However, we must indicate that these values  
 529 represent approximations as the main focus was on the identification and the determination of the general  
 530 extent of those pre-2021 slope failures rather than on their detailed mapping.

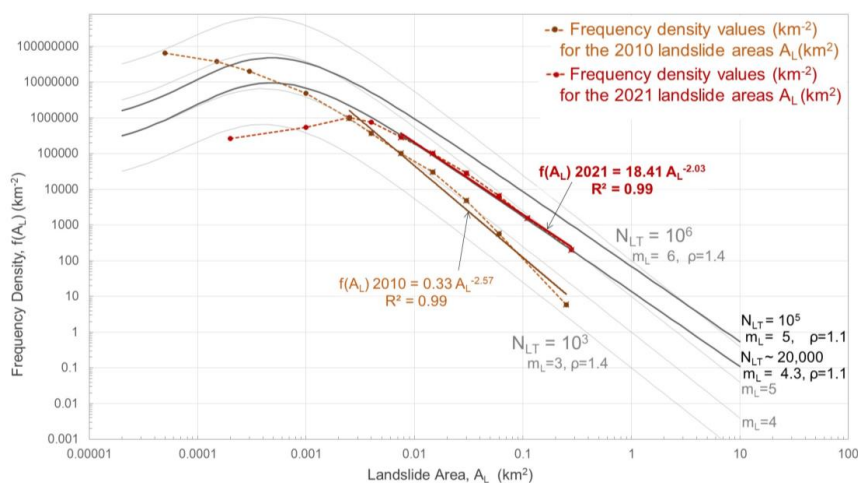
531 **Table 2: Factors contributing to the total number and surface area of landslides triggered by the 2010 and the**  
 532 **2021 earthquakes, according to the prediction proposed by Havenith et al. (2016). The minimum and**  
 533 **maximum values proposed by Havenith et al. (2016) are also indicated, the latter with information on the**  
 534 **event – region, to which this maximum factor value was attributed.**

Haiti Events/ Factors	Shaking Intensity, I	Fault Factor, F (type, FT)	Topographic Energy, TE	Climatic Background, CB	Lithological Factor, LF	Hypocentral Depth, D (km)
2010	0.74	2.25(1.5)	2	1.5	2	10
2021	1	2.25(1.5)	2	1	2	10
min. values	0.1	0.75	1	0.5	1	10
max. values (event - region)	3.4 (Chile, 1960)	6 (Wenchuan, 2008)	4 (Wenchuan, 2008)	2 (Wenchuan, 2008)	4 (Haiyuan-Gansu- Ningxia, 1920)	226 (Hindu Kush, 2002)

535  
 536 Considering the values presented in Table 1, we still have to explain why the total surface area covered  
 537 by landslides in 2021 is much larger than the one covered by the 2010 landslides: a) the first obvious  
 538 physical reason for the larger area hit by mass movements in 2021 is the higher triggering earthquake  
 539 magnitude of the last event (this effect will also be analyzed below by comparing the influence of shaking  
 540 intensity on landslide susceptibility); b) another physical reason could be the possibly higher  
 541 susceptibility to mass movements of the western part of the peninsula hit by the 2021 event, compared  
 542 to the eastern part (this factor still has to be analyzed on the basis of landslide susceptibility maps,  
 543 considering also the geological influence, which have been computed and will be presented in another  
 544 paper); c) a third reason for the larger area affected by landslides in 2021 could be related to the  
 545 aforementioned ‘hurricane’ effects that will be analyzed in the following sub-section; d) and fourth, the  
 546 more central location of the fault segment activated in 2021 with respect to the coasts of the peninsula  
 547 could also explain the larger (subaerial) slope failures triggered during the last event within the wider



548 onshore hanging wall part, as already introduced above.  
 549 However, we also have to admit that a small percentage of the larger landslide surface area mapped for  
 550 the 2021 event could be related to the aforementioned technique of outlining coalescent landslides as  
 551 single ones, where small unaffected areas have been included within the landslide polygon. For instance,  
 552 this ‘over-mapping’ of landslide areas became obvious after the first rapid mapping session, only based  
 553 on Sentinel-2 imagery. Thus, during the later refinement and splitting of the landslide polygons (using  
 554 the higher resolution imagery that became available on GEPro), wide surface areas initially mapped  
 555 within the landslide polygons were then excluded from them. Interestingly, the total surface area could  
 556 not be reduced by this refinement (the initial total surface area covered by landslide polygons was about  
 557 75 km<sup>2</sup>, which increased to 84 km<sup>2</sup>, as shown in Table 1), as during the second mapping phase also  
 558 numerous new smaller landslides could be mapped, the total area of which more than compensated the  
 559 reduced area of the refined initial landslide polygons.



560  
 561 **Figure 7: Frequency density graphs developed for the 2010 (in brown, by Harp et al., 2016) and the new 2021**  
 562 **landslide inventories (in dark red), compared with landslide frequency-density curves computed for different**  
 563 **landslide event magnitudes according to equation 3 in Malamud et al. (2004). For computing the light gray**  
 564 **curves, the decay exponent determined by Malamud et al. (2004) was used ( $=-2.4, =-(\rho+1)$ ), while for the dark**  
 565 **gray curves an exponent of -2.1 was used (similar to the one obtained for the 2021 landslide frequency-density**  
 566 **distribution).**



567

568 To better quantify the ‘mapping effect’ on the landslide distribution statistics, we carried out an inventory  
569 completeness analysis as proposed by Malamud et al. (2004), by computing and plotting frequency-  
570 density values for various landslide surface area classes as shown on the graph in Fig. 7. Related curves  
571 are compared with theoretical frequency-density distributions computed for various simulated landslide  
572 events, composed, respectively of 1000, 10,000, 100,000 and 1,000,000 elements, here marked by the  
573 landslide event magnitudes,  $m_L$  (3 to 6), corresponding to the logarithm (with base 10) of these values.  
574 There are two important parameters to be analyzed for the observed frequency-density distributions,  
575 through comparison with the theoretical curves: the first part is represented by the power-law decay (see  
576 introduction in Stark and Hovius, 2001) that appears as a linear decay in the log-log graph below; the  
577 second part is the so-called ‘rollover’, which can be observed for a landside surface area where the  
578 exponentially decreasing number of larger landslides turns into a decrease of the number of smaller  
579 landslides. According to Malamud et al. (2004) the main parameters characterizing these two parts should  
580 be identical for all landslide events: the decay of larger landslide numbers should have an exponent-value  
581 of about -2.4 ( $=-(\rho+1)$  for  $\rho=1.4$ , being the parameter controlling the power-law decay), which was used  
582 for the calculation of the light gray theoretical frequency-density curves, while the rollover should occur  
583 for all landslide events within the same landslide size class, marked by a surface area of about 400 m<sup>2</sup>.  
584 While a power-law decay can indeed be observed for both landslide inventories, the exponents  
585 characterizing this decay slightly differ from the value of -2.4 that Malamud et al. (2004) had determined  
586 for other inventories: for the 2010 inventory, the related absolute value is slightly higher (-2.57, for the  
587 brown line fitting the 2010 data) and for the 2021 inventory it is clearly lower (-2.03, for the red line  
588 fitting the 2021 data). Concerning the rollover, the 2010 landslide frequency-density distribution  
589 interestingly does not present any such feature, while the 2021 inventory is marked by a rollover that  
590 occurs for a landslide size class of about 3000 m<sup>2</sup>. The comparison of this value with the much smaller  
591 value determined by Malamud et al. (2004) clearly hints at the incompleteness of the 2021 inventory, at  
592 least for the smaller landslides. To estimate this incompleteness, the part of the power-law decay  
593 (supposed representing the ‘complete’ part of the landslide inventory) has to be compared with the  
594 theoretical frequency-density curves of the simulated landslide events with various magnitudes (light  
595 grey lines in the graph in Fig. 7). According to this comparison, the 2021 landslide event would have a



596 magnitude,  $m_L$ , close to 5 (=100,000 landslides!). For the 2010 event, the same comparison indicates a  
597 magnitude,  $m_L$ , close to 4 (=10,000 landslides!). While the theoretical landslide event magnitude of the  
598 2021 event seems to largely overestimate the observed number of landslides, the one obtained for the  
599 2010 event seems to underestimate the observed total number of landslides. Actually, the multiple  
600 predictions presented in Table 1 for the 2010 event also underestimate the high numbers of landslides  
601 observed by the two teams of Harp et al. (2016) and of Xu et al. (2014). Combining this comparison with  
602 the fact that the landslide inventory of Harp et al. (2016) does not present any rollover, and includes even  
603 more than 6000 landslides with a surface area smaller than 100 m<sup>2</sup>, this catalogue (and possibly also the  
604 one of Xu et al., 2014) can be considered as ‘superfine’ – at least, when compared with the type of  
605 landslide distributions (and related mapping of individual slope failures) analyzed by Malamud et al.  
606 (2004). And this ‘subtle refining’ of the landslide outlines, partly related to the separate mapping of  
607 landslide zones that are coalescent, may also explain the higher exponent value of the power-law decay  
608 of the 2010 landslide frequency-density distribution as well as the high number of mapped landslides  
609 compared to all predicted values (see Table 1). In contrast, the rollover observed for a much larger  
610 landslide size class than the one predicted by Malamud et al. (2004), the smaller decay exponent (-2.0  
611 instead of -2.4) obtained for our 2021, and the smaller observed total landslide number values compared  
612 to the one predicted by Havenith et al. (2016), all confirm the incompleteness of the latter catalogue, at  
613 least for landslides smaller than 3000 m<sup>2</sup>. In the discussion part, some tools to remediate this problem in  
614 the future will be presented. However, as proposed by Malamud et al. (2004), by comparing the  
615 frequency-density distribution with the theoretical curves, an estimate of the actual total number of  
616 landslides could be made. As introduced above, the one of the 2021 event would be close to 100,000.  
617 Here, we will first propose a comparison with the same type of theoretical frequency-density curves, but  
618 computed for a decay exponent of -2.1, similar to the one of decay of the observed 2021 landslide  
619 frequency-density distribution. The graph in Fig. 7 shows that the 2021 data are best fit by such a curve  
620 representing an inventory of 20,000 landslides. Actually, a similar value could also be obtained for an  
621 exponent of -2.4 if we consider a lower number of large landslides that would in fact be composed of  
622 smaller ones (the weight of the latter would then increase and the one of the larger ones decrease, which  
623 leads to a stronger decay). Below we will discuss, which assumption would be the best: (1) that really  
624 100,000 landslides might have occurred in 2021, or (2) that the decay exponent value of -2.4 is indeed



625 not as ‘universal’ as proposed by Malamud et al. (2004), or (3) that a future refinement of the 2021  
626 landslide inventory would result in a frequency-density distribution marked by a higher (absolute value  
627 of the) decay exponent, close to -2.4.

### 628 **3.3 Climatic (pre- and post-seismic) conditioning of slope instability**

629 The climatic influence on landslide occurrence (in 2021) has been introduced above, by considering the  
630 possible impacts of hurricanes on slope failure occurrence, marked both by preconditioning of slope  
631 instability and by post-seismic intensification. We first start analyzing the last effect, by considering the  
632 potential impact of Hurricane Grace on post-seismic landslide intensification, on August 16-17, 2021  
633 (when it had crossed the target region and was actually classified as tropical depression at that stage). A  
634 possible effect of related rainfalls on landslide occurrence has already been highlighted, for instance, on  
635 the AGU Landslide blog (by Petley, D., 2021, on [blogs.agu.org/landslideblog](https://blogs.agu.org/landslideblog)). This effect could be  
636 confirmed when we compared Sentinel-2 imagery collected right after the earthquake (2h after the main  
637 shock) with images remotely sensed after August 17, 2021. As indicated above and shown in Fig. 4, an  
638 intensification of denudation could indeed be observed after the tropical storm Grace event. However,  
639 one important limitation has to be highlighted: this comparison could only be completed for about 10%  
640 of the area potentially hit both by the earthquake and by Grace, due to the intense cloud cover present in  
641 the target region during that period. Furthermore, another effect could have contributed to slope failure  
642 intensification after the main shock on August 14, the one related to the aftershocks (see empty circles  
643 shown in all maps above), but analyzing this effect would require a refinement of the satellite image  
644 analysis both in space and time, which is hardly possible considering the extensive cloud cover present  
645 in the target area when all those seismic shocks occurred. Here, we will focus on the possible climatic  
646 influence, which can better be outlined when comparing the landslide distribution with actual  
647 precipitation maps. Therefore, we used the Global Precipitation Measurement Mission (GPM, by NASA)  
648 data obtained via the <https://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/> website, corresponding to the merged satellite-gauge  
649 monthly precipitation estimate (in mm), assessed with a resolution of 0.1°. Related maps were requested  
650 for all months between August 2000 and July 2021, and also for the specific months of October 2016  
651 and August 2021, as well as for all October months between 2000 and 2020. However, we need to  
652 indicate that these rainfall estimates could, unfortunately, not be confirmed by ground measurements due



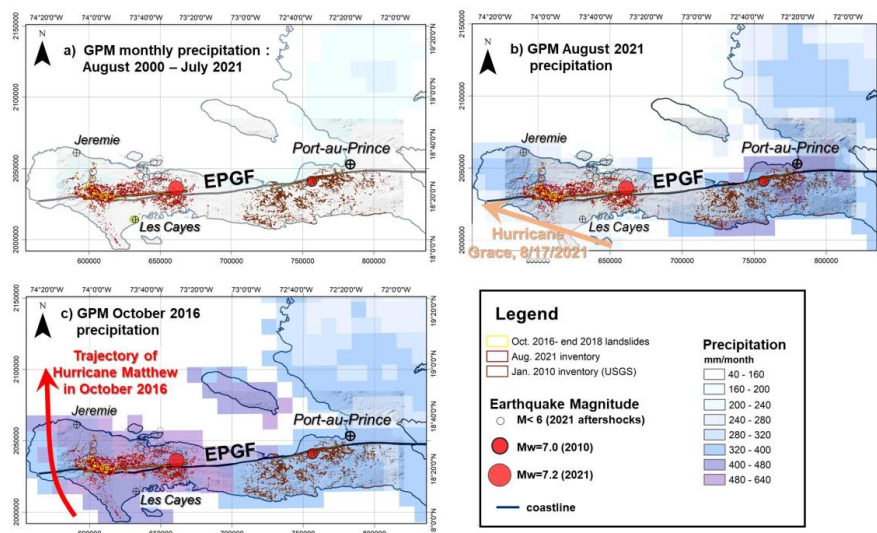
653 to missing data availability (information received by the Centre National de l'Information Géo-Spatiale,  
654 CNIGS, of Haiti). Fig. 8 presents the three first types of maps, while the last one is compared with the  
655 first and third type in Fig. A1, in the annex. By comparing the merged satellite-gauge precipitation  
656 estimate for August 2021 (Fig. 8b) with the monthly precipitation map averaged for all months of the  
657 previous 20 years (Fig. 8a), we can clearly see that August 2021 was indeed marked by a higher  
658 precipitation rate, which is most likely related to the Grace event. However, the most intense precipitation  
659 did not affect the region hit by the 2021 earthquake but the eastern part of the peninsula, roughly covering  
660 the same region as the one affected by the 2010 event (note, we did not check any landslide reactivation  
661 after Grace for that area). The region hit by the 2021 earthquake was not affected by much higher monthly  
662 precipitation rates than usual: for the central seismically affected zone, in the North of Les Cayes, about  
663 240-280 mm had been recorded in August 2021, against a monthly average of 200 mm. Thus, just by  
664 considering these data, one would not expect an important climatic contribution to slope failure  
665 occurrence in the region affected by the 2021 earthquake. Still, an influence could be observed and this  
666 is likely to be related to the concentration of most of the 'monthly precipitation' of August 2021 within  
667 the two days (Aug. 16 and 17) of the Grace tropical storm event, just two days after the 2021 main shock.  
668 As indicated above, we estimate that related precipitation has resulted in an increase of landslide surface  
669 areas of about 10-15%. Due to the limited extent of zones where this check can be made (only considering  
670 the cloud-free areas on the Sentinel-2 image of August 14, 2021), it was decided to map all areas covered  
671 by landslides after August 14, 2021, also those which are likely to have been (re)activated by rainfall –  
672 the total effect of which can barely be controlled and quantified outside the 10% of cloud-free zones  
673 visible on the image collected right after the main shock. The only 'correction' that can be made is to  
674 reduce the total surface area mapped as landslides by those 10-15% to estimate the one that was actually  
675 affected by co-seismic slope failures: thus, instead of considering the value of 84 km<sup>2</sup>, it is possible that  
676 co-seismic landslides covered a total surface area of 'only' 75-78 km<sup>2</sup> – which is still three times more  
677 than the total surface area covered by 2010 co-seismic landslides (close to 25 km<sup>2</sup>).

678 To explain this great difference between the total surface areas, we will analyze the possibility of a  
679 preconditioning of slope instability due to climatic events that occurred before August 2021. Therefore,  
680 we compare the average monthly precipitation rates between 2000 and 2021 (Fig. 8a) with the one of  
681 October 2016 (Fig. 8c). For that month, a peak of intensity of 626 mm can be observed for the area



682 between Gran Rivière De Nappe and Petite-Rivière-de-Nippes, situated immediately in the North of the  
683 epicentral area of the 2021 main shock. Actually, the whole area potentially affected by the August 2021  
684 earthquake had been exposed to abnormal precipitation rates of more than 400 mm in October 2016 (to  
685 be considered as abnormal also when comparing with the average precipitation of all months of October  
686 between 2000 and 2020, of 200-320 mm, as shown in Fig. A1). For October 2016, those values were also  
687 the highest ones compared with the rest of the country; this clearly indicates that they must be related to  
688 a specific climatic event, which can easily be identified as Hurricane Matthew that had crossed the  
689 western peninsula (including the region hit later by the August 2021 earthquake) on October 4-5, 2016.  
690 And, precisely for this region that had been exposed to abnormal precipitation rates in October 2016, we  
691 could outline 324 pre-seismic landslides (yellow polygons shown above in the maps in Figs 1, 3 and 5  
692 and below in Fig. 8), mapped for the period between mid-October 2016 and the end of 2017. In this  
693 regard, it should be noted that we had to extend the observation period (beyond the end of 2016), as not  
694 all regions were cloud-free right after the hurricane event or are still not covered by higher, 0.5-1 m,  
695 resolution imagery available for that period. Outside this region, no (or only very few) clear landslide  
696 activations could be identified between mid-October 2016 and the end of 2017. And, practically all 324  
697 landslide zones (at least 90% of them) are located within those mapped for the August 2021 seismic event  
698 (which are still marked by a much higher level of denudation compared to the October 2016 activation).  
699 These observations allow us to conclude that the Hurricane Matthew event has preconditioned slope  
700 instability over the region hit later by the August 2021 earthquake. This preconditioning factor could also  
701 explain why three times larger surface areas have been affected by landslides in 2021 compared with  
702 2010. Further, it must be added that the 2010 earthquake had not been preceded by any particular  
703 hurricane event during the previous ten years, at least not by any storm that had caused abnormal  
704 precipitation amounts specifically within the region hit by the 2010 earthquake. However, in the  
705 discussion, we will also consider a general influence of tropical storms on the distribution of the  
706 landslides triggered in 2010 (and also for those triggered in 2021, in addition to the Hurricane Matthew  
707 effect), notably to explain why numerous landslides had occurred very far from the seismic source zone.





708

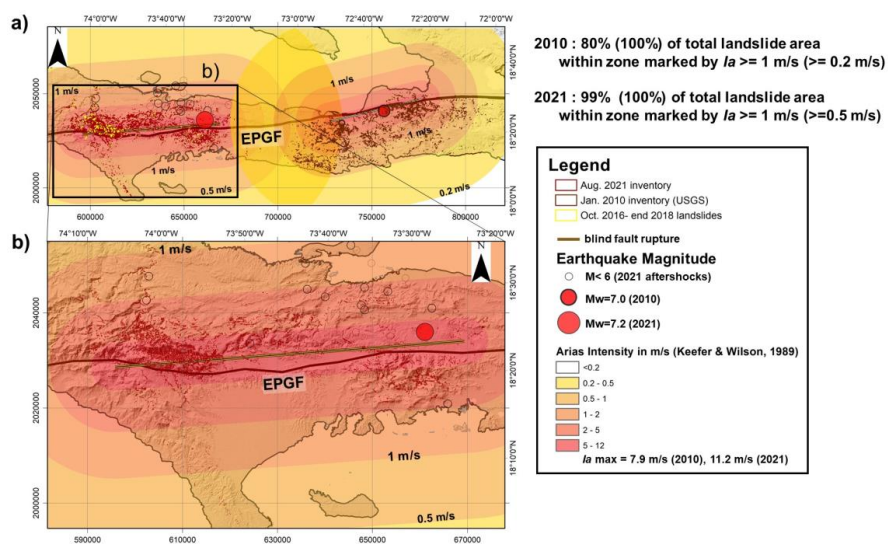
709 **Figure 8: Monthly Global Precipitation Measurement Mission (NASA) maps (0.1° resolution,**  
710 **values in mm/month) for southwestern Haiti, (a) for all months between August 2000 and July 2021,**  
711 **(b) for August 2021 (with indication of the track of Hurricane Grace – at that stage still to be**  
712 **considered as a tropical storm), and (c) for October 2016 (marked by the Hurricane Matthew**  
713 **event).**

#### 714 **3.4 Shaking intensity maps**

715 Above, we first analyzed the possible climatic influence on seismically induced slope failures as it could  
716 affect the landslide distribution and thus has to be taken into consideration when assessing and  
717 interpreting the seismic effect on landslide occurrence. The latter will only be analyzed here at regional  
718 scale. Therefore, we compare the landslide distributions observed for the 2010 and 2021 events with the  
719 respective estimated Arias Intensity (Ia) attenuation maps, computed by applying Eq. (7b) introduced  
720 above, as recommended by Wilson and Keefer (1985) and also by later studies (e.g., Harp and Wilson,  
721 1995, among many others). The map in Fig. 9a presents the 2010 and 2021 mainshock Ia attenuation  
722 values, with a maximum shaking intensity of 11.2 m/s computed for the 2021 event and 7.9 m/s for 2010  
723 (respective maps are partly overlapping in the central region, but not summed up, keeping the individual  
724 values). This map shows that all 2010 and 2021 landslides are included within a zone marked by an Ia



725 threshold of 0.2 m/s (close to the one proposed by Keefer and Wilson, 1989, for disrupted slides and  
726 falls). Actually, for 2021, 99% of the total landslide surface areas are even located within a zone marked  
727 by  $I_a$  values larger than 1 m/s; however, only 80% of the total surface areas of the 2010 landslides are  
728 included within the respective  $I_a \geq 1$  m/s zone. Thus, the latter mass movements appear as more  
729 ‘dispersed’ with respect to the estimated seismic intensity attenuation than the 2021 ones.  
730 Notwithstanding this dispersion, and the overlap of  $I_a$  values larger than 0.2 m/s in the central zone  
731 between the two blind fault ruptures of 2010 and 2021, not a single landslide of 2010 seems to have been  
732 reactivated in 2021. This observation raises the question if the central ‘landslide gap’ is due to an  
733 overestimation of the  $I_a$  values in this central zone (as this zone is marked by  $I_a$  values above the  
734 aforementioned minimum threshold of 0.2 m/s, for both events, and thus should have been affected by  
735 landslides both in 2010 and 2021, according to the shaking intensity prediction parameter), or if this zone  
736 is simply less susceptible to (seismic) slope failures.



737  
738 **Figure 9: a) Arias Intensity ( $I_a$ ) attenuation maps computed (by using Eq. 7b, by Keefer and Wilson, 1989)**  
739 **for the 2010 and 2021 main shocks in Haiti; see also indication of % of total surface area of landslides observed**  
740 **for different  $I_a$  thresholds. b) Focus on the respective map computed for the 2021 event.**  
741



742 To answer this and other related questions, a full landslide susceptibility analysis has been completed  
743 and will be presented in another paper. Here, only the possible links between landslide distribution the  
744 aforementioned seismotectonic and climatic factors will be discussed.

#### 745 **4 Discussion**

746 From the comparison of the two landslide catalogues (2010 and 2021), we could infer that apparently  
747 not a single landslide triggered in August 2021 occurred within the zone previously impacted by the 2010  
748 event. There is a gap of about 10 km between the westernmost 2010 and the easternmost 2021 landslide  
749 (see gap between the general outlines of the maximum extent of landslides triggered in 2010 and in 2021  
750 shown on the map in Fig. 5a). Thus, we assume that there was no obvious preconditioning of landslide  
751 generation in 2021 by the 2010 event, while landslide studies completed in other parts of the World (e.g.,  
752 by Parker et al., 2015, for events in New Zealand) could outline an influence of previous earthquakes on  
753 landslide occurrence during later events. The absence of this influence by the 2010 earthquake is  
754 probably due to the long distance (the ‘gap’) of about 60 km between the fault segments that ruptured in  
755 2010 and in 2021. However, by citing Saint Fleur et al. (2020), Stein et al. (2021) hint at an older event,  
756 of 1770, with an assumed magnitude of 7.5 and an epicenter located precisely in the gap between the  
757 2010 and 2021 blind fault ruptures, which could also have affected the region hit by the 2021 earthquake.  
758 At present, we cannot exclude that this older event had preconditioned some slopes (by soil weakening,  
759 rock fracturing) affected by some larger landslides in 2021; however, very shallow slope failures initiated  
760 in 1770 are unlikely to have stayed in place over such a long period of more than 250 years, as they  
761 would have been ‘washed’ away by the next tropical rains.

762 Second, none of the two earthquakes triggered very massive landslides, such as deep-seated rockslides  
763 with a volume of more than  $20 \cdot 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  (while extensive areas are covered by layered and weathered  
764 limestone that could also produce massive slope failures; the related geological influence on landslide  
765 occurrence will be analyzed in the landslide susceptibility paper presently under preparation). Such  
766 massive failures have been observed after many  $M7+$  events in other mountainous regions of the world:  
767 see Fan et al. (2018) for the 2008  $M_w=7.9$  earthquake in China, or Havenith et al. (2015) for a series of  
768  $M>7$  events that hit Central Asian mountain regions during the last 120 years. This is partly due to the



769 fact that the regions hit by the two earthquakes in Haiti are covered by mountains of limited elevation  
770 changes, typically less than 1000 m – while, for instance, the Longmenshan Mountains hit by the 2008  
771 Wenchuan earthquake, present elevation changes of up to 3000 m over relatively short (<6 km) distances  
772 (Fan et al., 2018). This fact, combined with the higher magnitude of the Wenchuan earthquake (Mw=7.9),  
773 could partly explain the much larger number of massive rockslides triggered by the latter event in China.  
774 As third general observation, we highlight the fact that the 2010 event triggered most landslides in the  
775 South of the activated fault segment, while in August 2021 about 2/3 of all landslides were triggered in  
776 the North of it, within the hanging wall (according to the fault mechanism provided by the USGS  
777 Earthquake Hazard Program page, [earthquake.usgs.gov](http://earthquake.usgs.gov)). In this regard, the Wenchuan earthquake has  
778 clearly marked the effect of the hanging wall on the landslide distribution: about 90 % of all landslides  
779 were triggered on top of the reverse fault dipping towards the West-Northwest, only a minor portion  
780 occurred on the more ‘stable’ foot wall (Gorum et al., 2011; Fan et al., 2018). The ‘hanging wall effect’  
781 on landslide triggering can be explained by stronger upward oriented shaking that contributes to a higher  
782 surface acceleration and more intense slope failures; additionally, all (or most of the) aftershocks  
783 occurred within the hanging wall, increasing the seismic shaking intensity cumulated over the active  
784 seismic period in the related surface area, which could have contributed to prolonged landslide activity  
785 as well (to be added to the climatic effect introduced above and discussed below). This effect may thus  
786 also be at the origin of the more widespread landslide occurrence in the North of the 2021 blind fault  
787 rupture. The reduced number of landslides induced on the hanging wall side of the 2010 fault rupture can  
788 be explained by the absence of high and steep slopes (onshore) on this side. Actually, a few known  
789 massive landslides occurred near the coast, but are mostly located on submarine slopes in the 2010  
790 hanging wall zone. Three of them reportedly also caused Tsunami waves (see Olson et al., 2011, among  
791 others) – a phenomenon that was not observed for the 2021 event, as the coasts are located farther away  
792 from the seismic source zone.

793 In section 2, we have outlined the two different types of landslide mapping techniques applied to the  
794 2010 event (by Harp et al., 2016) and to the August 14, 2021, earthquake (the new inventory presented  
795 here). Our somewhat ‘rougher’ mapping technique adapted to the lower resolution imagery immediately  
796 available right after the 2021 earthquake first explains the much smaller number of landslides (7091)  
797 mapped around the fault segment that ruptured in 2021, compared to the 2010 event (>23,000 landslides



798 mapped by Harp et al., 2016). Second, we acknowledge that the mapping of coherent landslide zones  
799 compared with the outlining of individual landslide sources and flows by Harp et al. (2016) can result in  
800 ‘over-mapping’ of large landslides and, thus, in decreasing the weight of the smaller ones, which also  
801 affects size-frequency statistics. Additionally, it is likely that thousands of smaller landslides could not  
802 be mapped from the medium-resolution Sentinel-2 imagery (10 m) and the higher resolution imagery  
803 (0.5 – 1 m) available on GEPPro for 50% of the target area before the end of 2021. To refine our landslide  
804 mapping in future, higher resolution imagery must be used for the whole area affected by the 2021 event,  
805 and automatic landslide identification techniques shall be applied by combining image analysis and  
806 machine learning as proposed by Amatya et al. (2021). Actually, the ‘manual’ mapping applied now  
807 would take too much time to outline the many thousands of very small landslides that have not been  
808 identified so far. Those would contribute to the increase of the weight of the smaller landslides in the  
809 2021 inventory, especially of those smaller than 2000 m<sup>2</sup>.

810 From the preceding we can infer that the mapping of additional smaller landslides will not really modify  
811 the power-law decay part presented in Fig. 7 (for which also the 2021 catalogue can be considered as  
812 complete), and increase the absolute value of the related decay exponent – which is smaller (2.0-2.1)  
813 than the one proposed by Malamud et al. (2004) as ‘universal’ value (2.4) for landslide events.  
814 Interestingly, the same graph in Fig. 7 shows that the exponent of the power-law decay part of the 2010  
815 landslide frequency-density distribution is even higher (2.6) than the value proposed by Malamud et al.  
816 (2004). One reason for the different values could be that the decay exponent value of -2.4 is simply not  
817 as universal as suggested by Malamud et al. (2004), a hypothesis that is supported by the findings of Van  
818 den Eeckhaut et al. (2007), Stark and Guzzetti (2009) and Tanyas et al. (2019) who also reported varying  
819 exponent values (that are still close to the one of -2.4, typically between -1.8 and -2.8). Especially, the  
820 higher value obtained for the Harp et al. (2016) inventory indicates that this value could be influenced  
821 by the mapping technique (also related to the availability of high-resolution imagery, and to the outlining  
822 of coherent landslides vs distinguishing between individual landslide zones within a larger mass  
823 movement).

824 Another reason for the smaller number of landslides mapped for the 2021 event (that does not exclude  
825 the first one) would be related to the fact that the landslides triggered in 2010 mainly consisted of narrow  
826 slides and flows in weathered limestone rocks. Thus, the type of rock affected could have an influence



827 on the power-law decay of landslide size-frequency distributions. For instance, Havenith et al. (2015)  
828 showed for the Tien Shan Mountains that the landslide distribution in soft soils are marked by a higher  
829 decay exponent ( $\sim 2.1$ ) than the one in hard rocks (exponent of  $-1.9$  for mass movements in areas mainly  
830 made of magmatic or sedimentary hard rocks). Anyway, in order to be able to exclude any artificial effect  
831 on the size-frequency statistics, the new 2021 landslide event catalogue has to be revised once all the  
832 area is covered by higher resolution imagery (at least  $\leq 1$  m pixel size). After this work, we may then  
833 also provide a more definite answer to the related questions: first, is the new ‘complete’ inventory for  
834 2021 characterized by the same power-law decay exponent as the present one ( $= -2$ ) or do we obtain a  
835 new one closer to the value ( $= -2.4$ ) proposed by Malamud et al. (2004)? Second, shall we observe the  
836 rollover for a landslide class of about  $300 \text{ m}^2$ , or for a different class, or for none (at least not above  $100$   
837  $\text{m}^2$ ), just as it seems to be the case for the 2010 landslide inventory by Harp et al. (2016)? If all parameter  
838 values will be close to those predicted by the equations by Malamud et al. (2004), then, the future 2021  
839 inventory should contain close to 100,000 landslide polygons, according to the graph shown in Fig. 7 –  
840 which seems to be an unrealistically high number, even if that inventory will be refined as proposed  
841 above. If, however, a rollover is observed for a landslide class of about  $300 \text{ m}^2$  (now it appears for a  
842 much larger class of about  $3000 \text{ m}^2$ ) as proposed by Malamud et al. (2004), but the power-law decay is  
843 marked by a lower absolute value of the exponent (closer to present one, near  $-2.1$ ), then, the new  
844 inventory should contain about 20,000 landslides (closer to the number predicted by Havenith et al., 2016  
845 for such an event) according to the graphical prediction in Fig. 7. Certainly, there is also the possibility  
846 that none of the predictions proposed by Malamud et al. (2004) would be verified after landslide  
847 remapping on the basis of higher resolution imagery and applying automatic landslide detection  
848 techniques – and then no estimate of the number of landslides contained in the future inventory can be  
849 provided right now. Among the three possibilities, we think that option 2, combining a rollover for a  
850 landslide surface area of  $300 \text{ m}^2$  with a lower absolute power-law decay component ( $\sim 2.1$ ) shall be the  
851 most realistic one marking a complete 2021 landslide inventory. This assessment is based on our present  
852 mapping experience. Also, the total number of landslides of 20,000, predicted by the frequency-density  
853 curves proposed by Malamud et al. (2004) for those values (see graph in Fig. 7), would be of the same  
854 order of magnitude as the number predicted by Havenith et al. (2016) for such a  $M_w=7.2$  earthquake and  
855 the observed background conditions ( $\sim 13,500$ ).



856 Disregarding the likely influence of the inventory completeness on the different size-frequency statistics  
857 of the two landslides inventories related to the 2010 and 2021 events, the changing climatic conditions  
858 could also affect those statistics. Notably, it could be shown that the climatic contribution to landslide  
859 activity in 2021 might be twofold: first, some post-seismic intensification of slope failures could be  
860 observed after the tropical storm Grace event that had crossed the earthquake region on August 16-17,  
861 two days after the main shock. However, related effects cannot really be quantified as only 10% of the  
862 total surface area potentially affected by the earthquake appeared as cloud-free on imagery available right  
863 after the August 14 main shock and before August 16 (Grace event). For those limited areas, we estimate  
864 that storm Grace caused additional 10-15 % of slope failures with respect to the purely earthquake-  
865 induced landslide activation. Second, by comparing the 2016-2017 landslide distribution with the one  
866 observed after August 14, 2021, it can be seen that most of the October 2016 – end 2017 landslides  
867 occurred within the same region as the 2021 ones and most were clearly reactivated by the seismic  
868 shaking in August 2021 (while also many of them had been revegetated in between). Above we could  
869 show that Hurricane Matthew had crossed the western part of the peninsula in October 2016, producing  
870 an abnormal amount of precipitation precisely over the area recently hit by the earthquake (see GPM  
871 maps in Fig. 8), and where also numerous landslides had occurred just after mid-October 2016. Therefore,  
872 it is very likely that this climatic event has triggered many of the pre-seismic (pre-2021 and even pre-  
873 2018) landslides, which preconditioned slope instability all over the area hit by the 2021 earthquake. The  
874 double hurricane effect (by Matthew in 2016 and by Grace just after the 2021 main shock) observed in  
875 the area hit by 2021 earthquake could be responsible for the proportionally larger size of the 2021  
876 landslides (preconditioning of slope failures and post-seismic intensification) compared to the 2010 ones,  
877 and thus explain the lower absolute value of the power-law decay. As indicated above for other aspects,  
878 the related conclusion still requires some remapping of the 2021 landslides and ‘finetuning’ of their  
879 outlines.

880 Additionally, the combined seismic and climatic influence could also explain the very different spatial  
881 landslide distribution characteristics of the 2010 and 2021 catalogues: the relative dispersion of  
882 landslides observed after the 2010 event could thus be partly related to the spatially highly variable effect  
883 of tropical storms and hurricanes on landslide activity (acting over a longer period, with an influence that  
884 could last over tens of years), partly overprinting the more concentrated seismic effect (resulting in





885 clusters of mass movements near the seismic source zone). The same dispersion might also have been  
886 observed for the 2021 event if the central part of the seismically affected area had not been hit by that  
887 major climatic event just five years before – doubling the landslide concentration effect in that area  
888 (specifically for this event). However, we acknowledge that a quantification of these opposite effects of  
889 climatic events, both on landslide dispersion and on their concentration, requires a more detailed analysis,  
890 also focusing on specific sites, by completing numerical simulations of mass movements affected by  
891 variable climatic (modelling changing groundwater level) and seismic influences (including the effect of  
892 rock structures and types of lithologies and morphologies on shaking polarization and amplification). A  
893 related landslide spatial distribution analysis should then also consider the influence of extensive  
894 deforestation on slope destabilization, all over the country of Haiti. Actually, deforestation is responsible  
895 for the decrease of 90% of the primary forest over the last few tens of years, especially in the southern  
896 regions of Haiti where the two earthquake events had occurred (see Hedges et al., 2018). As mostly  
897 shallow landslides occurred in 2010 and 2021, the effect of deforestation on the destabilization of shallow  
898 soils and weathered rock cover must be taken into consideration for landslide occurrence prediction.  
899 Such an extensive study would thus require the creation of an integrated seismotectonic-morpho-  
900 geological-climatic-soil cover model allowing us to fully understand changing landslide activity in Haiti  
901 – which is not the target of the present analysis.

902 As for the climatic part, here, we only present regional data to outline some general seismic influences  
903 on landslide activity induced by the 2010 and 2021 earthquakes. Related maps (Fig. 9) show that the  
904 aforementioned gap of landslides between the areas affected by the earthquakes in 2010 and 2021 would  
905 indeed be marked both by a lower shaking intensity (but showing values that are still larger than the  
906 threshold  $I_a$  values observed elsewhere for landslide occurrence) and lower landslide susceptibility (still  
907 to be published).

## 908 **5 Conclusions**

909 In this paper we first presented the new landslide inventory created for the  $M_w=7.2$  Nippes earthquake  
910 that occurred on August 14, 2021, in Haiti. Related spatial and statistical characteristics have been  
911 compared with those of the landslides mapped by others for the previous,  $M_w=7.0$ , January 12 (2010),



912 earthquake that had occurred along the same fault zone (EPGF zone) but more to the East. Considering  
913 a series of uncertainties affecting the landslide statistics (related to the mapping technique, including the  
914 uncertain number of particularly small landslides triggered in 2021) and the environmental information  
915 (including the climatic and geological conditions), this comparison allowed us to highlight the following  
916 points: 1) the 2021 earthquake triggered landslides over wider surface areas than the one in 2010; 2) size-  
917 frequency statistics computed for the two landslide catalogues present a clear power-law decay, marked  
918 by different exponent values; however, a rollover is only observed for the 2021 inventory (but for a  
919 relatively large landslide area class, hinting at an incompleteness of the inventory, for the smaller  
920 landslides); for the 2010 data such feature does not appear, at least not for landslide sizes above 100 m<sup>2</sup>,  
921 hinting at an ‘over-completeness’ of that inventory (compared with others published); 3) climatic  
922 preconditioning of slope instability could be ‘proved’ for the 2021 event, mainly in connection with the  
923 impacts of recent hurricanes in the 2021 affected region, which could also partly explain the more  
924 extensive landslide activity observed in 2021; 4) the 2010 landslides seem to be more dispersed around  
925 the epicentral area than the 2021 slope failures, which could be due to the opposite climatic effect  
926 inducing spatially more variable slope destabilization (also as no particular storm had hit the 2010  
927 affected region just before or after the seismic event, as it was the case in 2021); this dispersion effect  
928 can also be enhanced by the spatially varying deforestation that is locally very intense in the target areas.  
929 We estimate that this proof of a combined seismic and climatic influence on landslide activity (possibly  
930 augmented by morpho-geological and soil cover effects not studied in detail here) opens new avenues  
931 for geohazard research, especially for regions like Haiti that are regularly hit both by severe earthquakes  
932 and weather events. We also think that preconditioning of slope failures by multiple events over longer  
933 terms, including by former earthquakes, should be studied more in detail as this preconditioning could  
934 highly contribute both to regional and local landslide hazards over short and longer terms. A full analysis  
935 of such a scenario would require the development of an integrated seismotectonic-morpho-geological-  
936 climatic-soil (and vegetation) cover model, which can only be completed through an extensive  
937 international multi-disciplinary collaboration around this target – which is obviously missing for Haiti.  
938 Assessment of related risk would further require the involvement of experts in social geography and  
939 economy. Only when this goal is achieved, we could really work on the prevention of at least parts of  
940 another future earthquake disaster in Haiti.



941

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947

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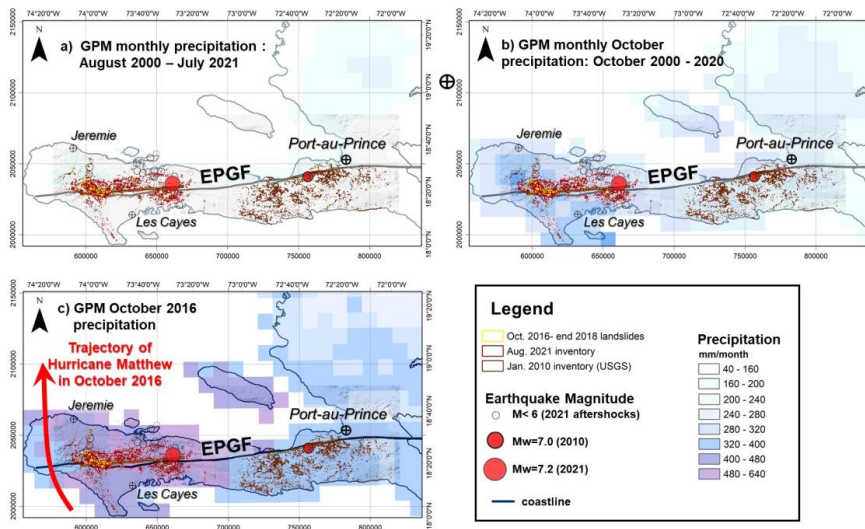
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1051 Annex



1052

1053 Figure A1: Monthly Global Precipitation Measurement Mission (NASA) maps (0.1° resolution, values in  
 1054 mm/month) for southwestern Haiti, (a) for all months between August 2000 and July 2021, (b) for the month  
 1055 of October between 2000 and 2020, and (c) for October 2016 (marked by the Hurricane Matthew event).