

# TSUNAMI HAZARDS: IMPACT MITIGATION BY BIO-SHIELDS

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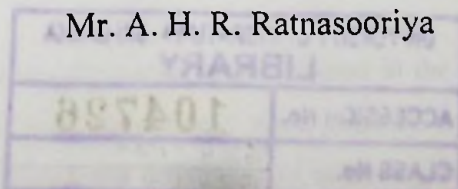
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## ABSTRACT

In the consequences of the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 and subsequent alerts in 2005 and 2007, the protection offered by bio shields such as sand dunes, coral reefs and coastal vegetation became evident in many countries affected and the role of coastal green belts in mitigating tsunami impacts has now been clearly recognized. In this research, exploring the effectiveness of bio shields as an environmental friendly and cost effective measure of tsunami impact mitigation was mainly concerned. The preliminary experimental and numerical model studies in investigating of resistance offered by coastal vegetation to tsunami overland flow were expanded to determine the energy dissipation characteristics and reduction in inundation extent in detail, in order to assess the effectiveness of coastal green belts in tsunami impact mitigation.

The resistive forces offered towards the flow which depend on the characteristics of an individual plant and characteristics of the vegetation as a whole, have been assessed. For an individual plant, the inundation of the stem of plants without the aerial root system, and branch structure perhaps representing the most common type of coastal vegetation, was considered in the tests as well as the vegetation as a whole can be characterized by its location from the shoreline, extent of spread, density or spacing between plants, distribution pattern and the size of plants. Detailed experimental studies were conducted to assess energy dissipation characteristics in which the vegetation was represented by geometrically similar small scale models (approximately 1:100). Similar to preliminary studies, this study was also conducted in a hydraulic flume. The energy dissipation of flow through vegetation was determined under steady flow conditions and reduction in inundation extent was assessed under unsteady flow conditions where mass of water was released over a sloping surface.

Reduction levels in energy dissipation were obtained in the range up to 48 % and the levels of reduction in inundation extent were obtained nearly up to 35 % in the experiments, which indicates the possibility of achieving significant levels of energy reduction of tsunami inundation by coastal green belts. The dependence of the level of inundation reduction on the level of energy dissipation was also investigated.

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*T.D.H.M. Hemanthi*

## DECLARATION

This thesis is a report of research carried out in the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, between August 2009 and July 2012. Except where references are made to other work, the contents of this thesis are original and have been carried out by the undersigned. The work has not been submitted in part or whole to any other university. This thesis contains 62 pages.



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## CONTENTS

Abstract .....	i
Acknowledgement .....	ii
Declaration .....	iii
Contents .....	iv
List of Figures .....	vii
List of Tables .....	ix

### Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Exposure of Sri Lanka to Tsunamis .....	1
1.2 Tsunami Mitigation Measures for Sri Lankan Context .....	2
1.3 Evidence of Protection offered by Bio-shields during 2004 IOT in Sri Lanka ...	3
1.4 Objectives .....	4

### Chapter 2: Tsunami Hazards and Impact mitigation

2.1 Introduction .....	5
2.2 Theory behind Tsunami Generation, Propagation & Inundation .....	5
2.2.1 Generation .....	5
2.2.2 Tsunami Dynamics in Propagation .....	7
2.2.3 Run-up and Inundation .....	9
2.3 Countermeasures and Impact Mitigation of Tsunami .....	11

### Chapter 3: Review of Previous Studies on Impact Mitigation by Coastal Vegetation

3.1 Introduction .....	16
3.2 Literature Review .....	16
3.2.1 Evidence for Tsunami Impact Mitigation By Coastal Vegetation .....	16
3.2.2 Theoretical Studies .....	18
3.3 Field Investigations .....	22
3.3.1 Vegetation Distribution along Sri Lankan Coast .....	23

3.3.2 Mangroves .....	24
3.3.3 Other Important Species .....	25
<b>Chapter 4: Impact Mitigation by Coastal Vegetation</b>	
4.1 Introduction.....	28
4.2 Resistive Forces Offered By Vegetation.....	28
4.2.1 Drag Force.....	29
4.3 Influence Of Coastal Vegetation Characteristics in Mitigating Tsunami Flow ...	31
4.4 Parameter Selection for Modelling .....	33
<b>Chapter 5: Experimental Investigations</b>	
5.1 Introduction.....	34
5.2 Experimental Set-up.....	34
5.2.1 Steady Flow Set-up .....	35
5.2.2 Unsteady Flow Set-up .....	37
<b>Chapter 6: Numerical Model Investigations</b>	
6.1 Introduction.....	39
6.2 Theory behind the numerical program.....	40
6.3 Program input and outputs.....	41
<b>Chapter 7: Results and Analysis</b>	
7.1 Introduction.....	44
7.2 Results from Physical Modeling .....	44
7.3 Results from Numerical Modeling.....	49
<b>Chapter 8: Conclusion .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>54</b>



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Description	Page
Figure 1.1	Historical occurrences of earthquakes that caused Tsunamis in Indian Ocean	1
Figure 2.1	Measured tsunami run-up (in blue) and maximum tsunami heights (In black) along Sri Lankan coast. (Source: Goff et al. (2006))	10
Figure 3.1	Evidence for impact mitigation by coastal vegetation captured from Indonesia	18
Figure 3.2	Study area of field investigations (shown by a dashed line)	23
Figure 3.3	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> at Galle	24
Figure 3.4	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> belt at Wadduwa	24
Figure 3.5	Mangroves with complex root structure at Madu Ganga	25
Figure 3.6	Mangrove nursery at Puttalam lagoon	25
Figure 3.7	<i>Pandanus odoratissimus</i> belt at Kalutara	26
Figure 3.8	Mix vegetation belt at Kalutara	26
Figure 3.9	Aerial Root of <i>Pandanus</i> trees	26
Figure 3.10	Section of a branch	26
Figure 3.11	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> plantation at Hambantota	27
Figure 4.1	The drag force offered by an obstacle within a flow	29
Figure 4.2	Relationship between Drag coefficient and Reynolds number for a cylindrical obstruction submerged in a flow	30
Figure 4.3	Influence of group of solid bodies up on resultant Drag force	31
Figure 4.4	Characteristics of vegetation on drag force	31
Figure 4.5	Plant classification	32
Figure 4.6	Vegetation characteristics variables	33
Figure 5.1	Experimental set-up	35
Figure 5.2	Experimental set-up	35



Figure 5.3	Experimental set-up	38
Figure 5.4	Experimental set-up	38
Figure 6.1	One dimensional constant discharge vegetation resistance model	39
Figure 6.2	Execution structure for the computer program	42
Figure 6.3	Comparison of flow heights from numerical model with physical model test results	43
Figure 7.1	Levels of Impact mitigation and Energy dissipation	46
Figure 7.2	Levels of Impact mitigation and Energy dissipation	46
Figure 7.3	Relative Influence of various characteristics (Extent, Size and Density) of vegetation in Energy dissipation	47
Figure 7.4	Relative Influence of various characteristics (Extent, Size and Density) of vegetation in reducing inundation extent	48
Figure 7.5	Relative Influence of various characteristics (Pattern) of vegetation in Energy dissipation	49
Figure 7.6	Relative Influence of various characteristics (Size and Density) of vegetation in Bulk Drag Coefficient	51

CHAPTER 1

**LIST OF TABLES**

<b>Table</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page</b>
Table 2.1	Major Tsunami Disasters (Source: Takahashi (2009))	6
Table 5.1	Physical model parameters for Steady Flow tests	36
Table 5.2	Physical model parameters for Unsteady Flow tests	37
Table 7.1	Physical model test results	45
Table 7.2	Numerical model test results	50



Figure 1.1: [Illegible text describing the figure]