

**POSSIBILITY OF USING CAPILLARY BARRIERS FOR
LANDSLIDE RISK REDUCTION**

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DECLARATION

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Date

The above candidate has carried out research for the Master's thesis under my supervision.

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Prof. S.A.S. Kulathilaka

Date

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ABSTRACT

Possibility of Using Capillary Barriers for Landslide Risk Reduction.

Rainfall induced slope failures are a very critical issue in Sri Lanka. The risk of rainfall induced slope failures has increased over the past few years in Sri Lanka due to the introduction of new cut slopes as a part of development, as well as due to an increase in the number of intense rainfall events with climate change effect. Natural or cut slopes which remain stable during the dry season due to prevalence of high matric suction undergo failure because of loss of matric suction and pore water pressure buildup during prolong intense rainfalls. Presently cut off drains, berm drains and cascade drains together with vegetation cover and impermeable material on surface are used to reduce infiltration into cut slopes. But these techniques are not effective enough to cut off the infiltration into the slope during prolong intense rainfall events.

Capillary barrier cover system is a cost-effective system with natural soils that could minimize infiltration of rainwater. Capillary barriers are unsaturated cover system that functions in response to change in negative pore water pressure. This research on applicability of capillary barrier cover system on local Sri Lankan cut slopes was done through rainfall experiments on laboratory physical model and 2-D & 3-D numerical simulation using GeoStudio, 2012 SEEP/W software, and Midas GTS-NX software.

The research study concludes that 20cm thick river sand placed over 10cm thick M-sand(coarse) develops a capillary barrier effect which can significantly cut off the rainfall infiltration into the cut slopes even during 20mm/hr rainfall for 5 continuous days. Performance of this cover increase with slope angle and when the layer materials are sufficiently dry.

Keywords: landslides, matric suction, capillary barrier, infiltration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xvi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 General	1
1.1.1 Climate of Sri Lanka	1
1.1.2 Rainfall induced slope failures	1
1.1.3 Measures for mitigation of slope failures	3
1.1.4 Introduction to Capillary Barriers	5
1.2 Problem statement	8
1.3 Objective of the study	8
1.4 Methodology	9
1.5 Outline of thesis	10
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Effect of rainfall on cut slopes and mitigation of slope failures	11
2.2 Design of capillary barrier cover	12
2.2.1 Theoretical modelling of capillary barrier	13
2.2.2 Materials of Capillary barrier cover	15
2.2.3 Diversion length and diversion capacity	18
2.2.4 Fine soil & Coarse soil layer thickness	20
2.3 Experimental studies on capillary barrier effect	21
2.4 Numerical studies on capillary barrier effect	26

2.5	Research gap	33
3	LABORATORY PHYSICAL MODEL TO STUDY THE EFFECT OF CAPILLARY BARRIER COVER	34
3.1	Design of physical model.....	34
3.2	Soil materials used in the physical model.....	35
3.2.1	River sand	36
3.2.2	Manufactured sand.....	38
3.2.3	Sri Lankan Residual soil	42
3.3	Instrumentation in the physical model.....	42
3.4	Development of the physical model with 15 ⁰ slope angle	44
3.4.1	Building up of the model	44
3.4.2	Instrumentation layout for model with 15 ⁰ slope.....	47
3.4.3	Rainfall simulations used in the model with 15 ⁰ slope	48
3.5	Development of the physical model with 30 ⁰ slope angle.....	50
3.5.1	Building up of the model	50
3.5.2	Instrumentation layout for model with 30 ⁰ slope.....	51
3.5.3	Rainfall simulations used in the model with 30 ⁰ slope	52
3.6	Results of the rainfall experiments.....	53
3.6.1	Model with 15 ⁰ slope angle.....	53
3.6.2	Model with 30 ⁰ slope	58
3.7	Discussion	61
4	NUMERICAL STUDY OF CAPILLARY BARRIER THROUGH THE LABORATORY MODEL	63
4.1	Numerical study to establish model dimensions and fine & coarse layer thickness.....	63
4.1.1	Establishment of model parameters	63

4.1.2	Results.....	64
4.1.3	Discussion.....	70
4.2	Numerical verification of rainfall experiment	71
4.2.1	Numerical study of capillary barrier cover on 15 ⁰ slope	71
4.2.2	Numerical study of capillary barrier cover on 30 ⁰ slope	72
4.2.3	Results.....	74
4.2.4	Discussion	85
5	NUMERICAL STUDY OF RAINFALL INFILTRATION INTO AN ACTUAL SLOPE WITH CAPILLARY BARRIER COVER.....	87
5.1	Numerical study on capillary covers on single level cut slopes in Sri Lanka 87	
5.1.1	Properties of materials used in the numerical study	87
5.1.2	Geometry and boundary conditions	88
5.1.3	Stability analysis	90
5.1.4	Results.....	90
5.1.5	Discussion	95
5.2	3-D Numerical study of laboratory level capillary barrier with MIDAS... 97	
5.2.1	Geometry and boundary conditions	97
5.2.2	Results.....	98
5.2.3	Discussion	101
5.3	3-D numerical study of a multi-level cut slope with MIDAS..... 103	
5.3.1	Materials and boundary conditions	103
5.3.2	Results.....	105
5.3.3	Discussion	115
6	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	117
6.1	Conclusions.....	117

6.2	Recommendations	119
REFERENCES	120
APPENDICES	127
Appendix A – Calibration of moisture sensors	127

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Pore water distribution in an unsaturated slope(Sujeewan & Kulathilaka, 2011)	2
Figure 1.2: (a) Kegalle bypass - Steep cut slope remain stable during dry weather due to presence of high matric suction, (b) Kegalle bypass -Slope failure immediately after one rainy season	3
Figure 1.3: Capillary Barrier soil cover(Harianto Rahardjo, Kim, & Satyanaga, 2019)	6
Figure 1.4: (a) SWCC of fine/coarse soil layer(Tami, Rahardjo, Leong, & Fredlund, 2004b), (b) Development of a capillary barrier effect(Mancarella & Simeone, 2012).	6
Figure 2.1: Hydraulic conductivity function to select the best capillary barrier cover materials(Parent & Cabral, 2005)	17
Figure 2.2: Lateral diversion length & removal of infiltration from cover(Stormont, 1996a)	19
Figure 2.3: Experimental data and results, (a) rainfall during the experiment, (b)variation of calculated permeability with depth, (c)variation of soil water storage and lateral diversion – layered cover, (d)variation of soil water storage and lateral diversion – homogeneous cover(Stormont, 1996b)	22
Figure 2.4: (a) Soil column test apparatus setup, (b) matric suction variation for different soil combinations during breakthrough(Stormont & Anderson, 1999b).....	23
Figure 2.5: Performance of capillary barrier cover with the fine layer thickness(Qian et al., 2010)	24
Figure 2.6: Measured pore water pressure and groundwater table variation, (a) slope with capillary barrier cover, (b) slope without capillary barrier cover(Rahardjo, Hua, Leong, & Santoso, 2010)	25
Figure 2.7: Experimental & numerical results, (a) measured infiltration rate into capillary barrier cover with time, (b) effect of saturated hydraulic conductivity of clay on infiltration(Ng et al., 2015)	26
Figure 2.8: Numerical verification of experimental results, (a) analysis with wetting path, (b) analysis with drying path(Tami et al., 2004a)	27

Figure 2.9: Numerical simulation results, (a)variation of diversion length with saturated hydraulic conductivity of fine soil, (b)variation of diversion length with thickness of fine layer(Aubertin et al., 2009).....	28
Figure 2.10: Numerical results, (a) variation of normalized water content change with van Ghenucten parameter β , (b)variation of normalized water content with van Ghenucten parameter α , (c)matric suction profile with different layer thickness, (d)moisture content variation along depth(Mancarella, Doglioni, & Simeone, 2012)	28
Figure 2.11: Numerical results (a) pore water pressure variation at toe endpoint along the fine-coarse interface with different initial moisture content, (b) breakthrough time variation with different slope angle(Li et al., 2013)	29
Figure 2.12: Numerical results, (a)variation of diversion length with $K_{s(\text{fine/coarse})}$, (b)variation of deep percolation to inflow ration with $K_{s(\text{fine/coarse})}$, (c)rainfall history used in the study, (d)variation in degree of circular slip risk(Sato & Matsumaru, 2018)	30
Figure 3.1: Schematic diagram of the proposed laboratory experimental model	34
Figure 3.2: Construction of box for laboratory model with steel frame and acrylic sheet walls on all four sides	35
Figure 3.3: River sand.....	36
Figure 3.4: Particle size distribution curve – River sand	36
Figure 3.5: Established SWCC through various methods(Muthuhetige & Kulathilaka, 2020)	38
Figure 3.6: Particle size distribution curve – Manufactured sand	39
Figure 3.7: M-sand sieved and retained on 1.1.8mm sieve.....	40
Figure 3.8: Particle size distribution curve - M-sand(coarse).....	40
Figure 3.9: Established SWCC through various methods(Muthuhetige & Kulathilaka, 2020)	41
Figure 3.10: (a) moisture sensor, (b) Wisco DL2200 data logger	43
Figure 3.11: (a) KU tensiometer, (b) sealed end of tubes in which the tensiometers were installed	44
Figure 3.12: Schematic diagram of the constructed laboratory model, (a) side view, (b) front view	44

Figure 3.13: Construction stages, (a) sample preparation, (b) bottom drainage layer filling, (c) use of geotextile in between drainage and residual soil layer, (d) placing soil in layer and compacting using a wooden hammer, (e) installed PVC pipes for installing tensiometers at different depth in completed residual soil fill, (f) completely developed physical model	46
Figure 3.14: Installation of thin polythene layer along soil-acrylic sheet wall interface.	46
Figure 3.15: Perforated PVC pipe used as a drain	47
Figure 3.16: Installed toe drain in the model	47
Figure 3.17: Locations where moisture sensors and tensiometers were installed in the model.....	48
Figure 3.18: (a) installation of moisture sensor along mid of river sand (CH5), (b) fully instrumented model with moisture sensors and tensiometers.....	48
Figure 3.19: Simulated short-term rainfall pattern – 15 ⁰ slope.....	49
Figure 3.20: Simulated prolong intense rainfall pattern – 15 ⁰ slope.....	50
Figure 3.21: Construction stages, (a) air drying the river sand, (b) air drying the M-sand, (c) air dried M-sand sample ready for filling, (d) Fully constructed and instrumented 30 ⁰ slope model	51
Figure 3.22: Schematic diagram of the experimental model, (a) side view, (b) front view.....	51
Figure 3.23: Locations where moisture sensors and tensiometers were installed in the model.....	52
Figure 3.24: Simulated prolong intense rainfall pattern – 30 ⁰ slope.....	52
Figure 3.25: Variation of volumetric water content along mid of fine layer during low intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope.....	53
Figure 3.26: Variation of volumetric water content along the fine-coarse interface during low intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	54
Figure 3.27: Variation of volumetric water content along mid of coarse layer during low intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	55
Figure 3.28: Variation of matric suction in tensiometers CH1, CH2 and CH3 during low intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	55

Figure 3.29: Variation in volumetric water content along the mid depth of the fine layer during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	56
Figure 3.30: Variation in volumetric water content along the fine-coarse interface during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	57
Figure 3.31: Variation in volumetric water content in mid of coarse layer during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope.....	57
Figure 3.32: Variation in matric suction CH1, CH2, CH3 during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	58
Figure 3.33: Variation in volumetric water content along mid depth of the fine layer during prolong intense rainfall – 30 ⁰ slope	59
Figure 3.34: Variation in volumetric water content along the fine-coarse interface during prolong intense rainfall – 30 ⁰ slope	59
Figure 3.35: Variation of volumetric water content along the mid depth of the coarse layer during prolong intense rainfall – 30 ⁰ slope	60
Figure 3.36: Variation in matric suction CH1, CH2 during prolong intense rainfall – 30 ⁰ slope.....	61
Figure 4.1: Geometry used in study to determine effective fine & coarse layer thickness, (a) model with 45 ⁰ slope angle, (b) model with 30 ⁰ slope angle.....	64
Figure 4.2: Pore pressure variation in 45 ⁰ slope for fine/coarse layer thickness – 100mm/100mm, (a) 5mm/hr rainfall, (b) 20mm/hr rainfall	65
Figure 4.3: Pore pressure variation in 45 ⁰ slope for fine/coarse layer thickness – 200mm/100mm, (a) 5mm/hr rainfall, (b) 20mm/hr rainfall	65
Figure 4.4: Pore pressure variation in 45 ⁰ slope for fine/coarse layer thickness – 300mm/100mm, (a) 5mm/hr rainfall, (b) 20mm/hr rainfall	66
Figure 4.5: Pore pressure variation in 45 ⁰ slope for fine/coarse layer thickness – 100mm/200mm, (a) 5mm/hr rainfall, (b) 20mm/hr rainfall	67
Figure 4.6: Pore pressure variation in 30 ⁰ slope for fine/coarse layer thickness – 100mm/100mm, (a) 5mm/hr rainfall, (b) 20mm/hr rainfall	67
Figure 4.7: Pore pressure variation in 30 ⁰ slope for fine/coarse layer thickness – 200mm/100mm, (a) 5mm/hr rainfall, (b) 20mm/hr rainfall	68
Figure 4.8: Pore pressure variation in 30 ⁰ slope for fine/coarse layer thickness – 300mm/100mm, (a) 5mm/hr rainfall, (b) 20mm/hr rainfall	69

Figure 4.9: Pore pressure variation in 30 ⁰ slope for fine/coarse layer thickness – 100mm/200mm, (a) 5mm/hr rainfall, (b) 20mm/hr rainfall	69
Figure 4.10: Flow vectors in the system with capillary barrier cover.....	70
Figure 4.11: Geometry and boundary conditions used in numerical analysis – 15 ⁰ slope angle.....	71
Figure 4.12: Geometry and boundary conditions used in numerical analysis – 30 ⁰ slope angle.....	73
Figure 4.13: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along mid of fine layer during low intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	74
Figure 4.14: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along fine/coarse interface during low intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope.....	75
Figure 4.15: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along the mid depth of the coarse layer during low intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	76
Figure 4.16: Comparison between experimental and numerical results during low intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	77
Figure 4.17: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along mid of fine layer during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope.....	78
Figure 4.18: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along fine/coarse interface(upper part) during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope.....	78
Figure 4.19: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along fine/coarse interface (lower part) during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope.....	79
Figure 4.20: Comparison between experimental and numerical results -along mid of coarse layer(upper part) during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope.....	79
Figure 4.21: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along mid of coarse layer(lower part) during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope.....	80
Figure 4.22: Comparison between experimental and numerical results during prolong intense rainfall – 15 ⁰ slope	81
Figure 4.23: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along mid of fine layer during prolong intense rainfall – 30 ⁰ slope.....	81
Figure 4.24: Comparison between experimental and numerical results – along fine/coarse interface during prolong intense rainfall – 30 ⁰ slope.....	82

Figure 4.25: Comparison between experimental and numerical results - along the mid depth of the coarse layer during prolong intense rainfall – 30 ⁰ slope.....	83
Figure 4.26: Comparison between experimental and numerical results during prolong intense rainfall – 30 ⁰ slope	84
Figure 4.27: Flow velocity vectors in the capillary barrier model at the end of prolonging intense rainfall event - slope angle 15 ⁰	86
Figure 4.28: Flow velocity vector diagram (slope angle 30 ⁰ during prolong intense rainfall), (a) during the presence of capillary barrier effect, (b) after the failure of the capillary barrier effect.....	86
Figure 5.1: Geometry of cut slopes having, (a) multi-level cuts similar to field conditions, (b) idealized single level cut used in the numerical study.....	87
Figure 5.2: (a) Volumetric water content variation, (b) hydraulic conductivity variation	88
Figure 5.3: Geometry, boundary conditions used & studied sections – cut slope (45 ⁰)	89
Figure 5.4: Pore water pressure profile variation during 10mm/hr rainfall – Section BB(without capillary barrier).....	91
Figure 5.5: Pore water pressure profile variation during 10mm/hr rainfall– Section AA(without capillary barrier)	91
Figure 5.6: Pore water pressure profile variation during 20mm/hr rainfall – Section BB(without capillary barrier).....	92
Figure 5.7: Pore water pressure variation profile variation during 20mm/hr rainfall – section AA(without capillary barrier)	93
Figure 5.8: Pore water pressure profile variation during 20mm/hr rainfall– section AA(with capillary barrier)	93
Figure 5.9: Pore water pressure profile variation during 20mm/hr rainfall– section BB(with capillary barrier).....	94
Figure 5.10: Factor of safety variation for 5 continuous days rainfall.....	95
Figure 5.11: (a) 3-D geometrical model and boundary conditions, (b) Mesh used in the analysis.....	97
Figure 5.12: Locations where readings were taken.....	98

Figure 5.13: Pore pressure variation along the mid depth of fine & coarse layer and fine-coarse interface	99
Figure 5.14: Volumetric water content variation along the mid depth of fine & coarse layer and fine-coarse interface	100
Figure 5.15: Flow velocity vectors – at end of 1hr rainfall	101
Figure 5.16: Flow velocity vectors – at end of 10hrs rainfall	102
Figure 5.17: Degree of saturation in capillary barrier cover – at end of 10hrs rainfall	102
Figure 5.18: Geometry of cut slope used in the study	103
Figure 5.19: Capillary barrier cover and berm drain used in the numerical study ..	105
Figure 5.20: Sections along which the pore water pressure graphs were plotted	105
Figure 5.21: Pore pressure variation (5mm/hr rainfall) – section AA(without capillary barrier).....	106
Figure 5.22: Pore pressure variation (5mm/hr rainfall) – section BB(without capillary barrier).....	106
Figure 5.23: Pore pressure variation (5mm/hr rainfall) – section CC(without capillary barrier).....	107
Figure 5.24: Pore pressure variation (10mm/hr rainfall) – section AA(without capillary barrier).....	107
Figure 5.25: Pore pressure variation (10mm/hr rainfall) – section BB(without capillary barrier).....	108
Figure 5.26: Pore pressure variation (10mm/hr rainfall) – section CC(without capillary barrier).....	108
Figure 5.27: Pore pressure variation (20mm/hr rainfall) – section AA(without capillary barrier).....	109
Figure 5.28: Pore pressure variation (20mm/hr rainfall) – section BB(without capillary barrier).....	109
Figure 5.29: Pore pressure variation (20mm/hr rainfall) – section CC(without capillary barrier).....	110
Figure 5.30: Pore pressure variation (5mm/hr rainfall) – section AA(with capillary barrier).....	110

Figure 5.31: Pore pressure variation (5mm/hr rainfall) – section BB(with capillary barrier).....	111
Figure 5.32: Pore pressure variation (5mm/hr rainfall) – section CC(with capillary barrier).....	111
Figure 5.33: Pore pressure variation (10mm/hr rainfall) – section AA(with capillary barrier).....	112
Figure 5.34: Pore pressure variation (10mm/hr rainfall) – section BB(with capillary barrier).....	112
Figure 5.35: Pore pressure variation (10mm/hr rainfall) – section CC(with capillary barrier).....	113
Figure 5.36: Pore pressure variation (20mm/hr rainfall) – section AA(with capillary barrier).....	113
Figure 5.37: Pore pressure variation (20mm/hr rainfall) – section BB(with capillary barrier).....	114
Figure 5.38: Pore pressure variation (20mm/hr rainfall) – section BB(with capillary barrier).....	114
Figure 5.39: Pore water pressure distribution diagram after 5continuous days rainfall of 20mm/hr (slope without capillary barrier cover).....	115
Figure 5.40: Pore water pressure distribution diagram after 5 continuous days rainfall of 20mm/hr (slope with capillary barrier cover).....	116

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 Properties of materials(Ng et al., 2015)	26
Table 2.2: Summary of Experimental & Numerical studies on capillary barrier cover	31
Table 3.1: Fredlund Xing best-fit parameters – River sand.....	38
Table 3.2: Fredlund Xing best fit parameters – M-sand(coarse)	41
Table 3.3: Basic soil properties – Residual soil	42
Table 3.4: Fredlund Xing best fit parameters – Residual soil.....	42
Table 3.5: Masses of each soil type used in the model	45
Table 5.1: Best fit parameters & saturated hydraulic conductivity of materials.....	88
Table 5.2: Mohr-Coulomb parameters used in the stability analysis.....	90
Table A.0.1: Experimental data from calibration of moisture sensors in M-sand...	127