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Major parts of the central hills of Sri Lanka covering seven administrative districts are prone to landslides. The hazard associated with landslides has become serious threat to lives, property and transportation arteries in the area. A great majority of these landslides involves formation such as colluvium overburden, residual soil etc. and are triggered by high intensity rainfalls of North-East, South-West monsoon periods and occasionally during inter-monsoon periods.

National Building Project (LHMP) in the District of Ratnapura since early 1996. Data from 200 Sq. Km have been collected under this study considering both landslides and potential areas with landslide hazard and compiled into zonation maps.

Charnockite is the major bed rock formation underlain by far the greatest proportion of the area. In consequence most landslides occur in soils associated with that lithology. However, in terms of slides per unit area, charnockite and granulitic gneiss formations were found to be in almost equal susceptibility.

Slides occur on dip slopes, scarp slopes and intermediate slopes in roughly equal proportions. Over 90% of the landslides have been reported when the dip of the bedrock lithology ranges from 11° to 50°.

Majority of the landslides is associated with morphological elements such as slopes ranging from 15° to 35°. At the same time, slopes facing South-West direction which is the major monsoon direction are found to be the most susceptible to occurrence of landslides.