

Resume of Dr. C.J. (Cees) van Westen

Background

Dr. Cees van Westen graduated in 1988 for his MSc (doctoraal) in Physical Geography from the University of Amsterdam. He obtained his PhD in Engineering Geology from the Technical University of Delft in 1993, with a research on "Geographic Information Systems for Landslide Hazard Zonation", carried out in the Caldas department in Colombia.

After working with the University of Amsterdam for one year on landslide related problems in Austria and Switzerland, he joined the Division of Applied Geomorphology of ITC in 1988, and specialized in the use of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for natural hazard and risk assessment. During his work at ITC he has been working in various positions. Starting as an AIO (PhD student), he changed to working as lecturer, and assistant professor before being appointed as associated professor in 2000. In 1997 he worked as training material coordinator on preparation of the training materials for the ILWIS (Integrated Land and Water Information System) version 2.1. He has made over 10 application case studies on the use of GIS for hazard assessment, dealing with floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. From 1998 to 2000 he was Programme Director of one of the educational programmes in ITC, dealing with "Earth Resources and Environmental Geosciences".



Dr. Van Westen has worked on research projects, training courses and consulting projects related to natural hazard and risk assessment in many different countries, such as Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, India, Nepal and Philippines. He is currently Project Supervisor of institutional strengthening projects in India (with the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing) and Central America (within the UNESCO CBNDR project). He is also principal investigator in a research project "Strengthening local authorities in risk management", which deals with the development of a methodology for the application of Geoinformation for urban risk assessment and management. He has been project coordinator for several capacity building projects on Geoinformation for Disaster Management, and has helped establishing joint degree programs with several Universities in Developing Countries (such as in Colombia, Bolivia, Mexico, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka). He is currently Director of the [School for Disaster Geo-Information Management](#), which is a collaboration between the United Nations University and the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) at ITC the Netherlands.

Publications

ISI Journal Articles

Sekhar, L.K., Jetten, V.G., **van Westen, C.J.**, Sankar, G. and van Beek, L.P.H. (2008) Pore water pressure as a trigger of shallow landslides in the western Ghats of Kerala, India : some preliminary observations from an experimental catchment. In: *Physical geography*, 29(2008)4, pp. 374-386. [Full text](#)

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van Westen, C.J. and Lulie Getahun, F. (2003) Analyzing the evolution of the Tessina landslide using aerial photographs and digital elevation models. In: Geomorphology : an international journal of pure and applied geomorphology, 54 (2003)1-2, pp. 77-89. [Full text](#)

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PhD Theses

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Peters Guarin, G., Frerks, G. (promotor) , **van Westen, C.J.** (promotor) and de Man, W.H.E. (promotor) (2008) Integrating local knowledge into GIS based flood risk assessment, Naga city, The Philippines. Wageningen, Enschede, Wageningen University, ITC, 2008. ITC Dissertation 157, 352 p. ISBN: 978-90-8585-295-7. [Full text](#)

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