

# Fast high-resolution 1D-2D compound flood model for urban coastal adaptation planning and design

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3. Hydroinformatics Institute

4. Stelling Hydraulics

# Singapore's climate

- Mixed diurnal and semi-diurnal tide (tidal range 1.2- 3.8m)
- Seasonal monsoon (NE and SW)
- Minimal wave of about Hs 0.3m, occasional 1m in the southwest coast
- High rainfall: >3000mm annually
  - High river discharges from Johor

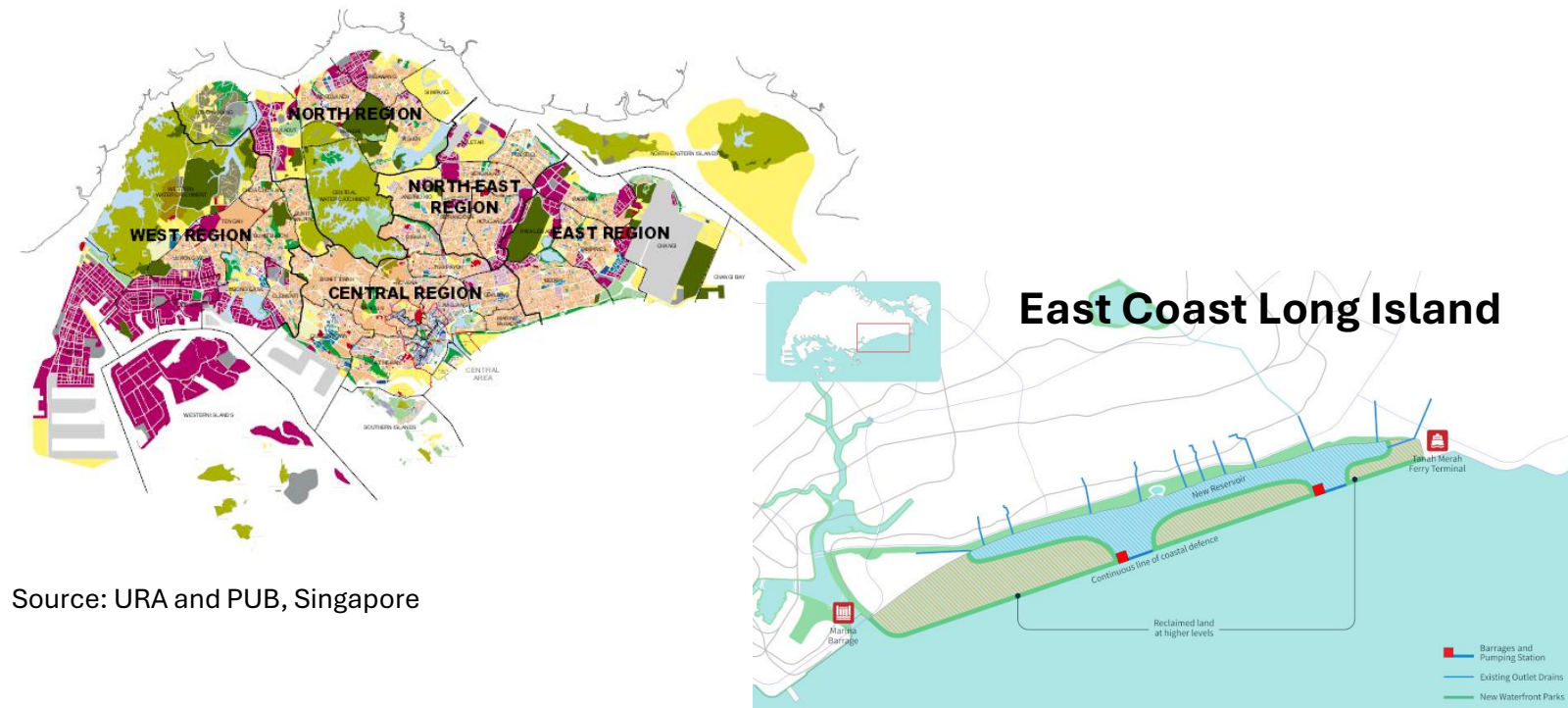




# Urbanized city state island with limited land space 736km<sup>2</sup>

Increasing land space since 1960s by expanding towards the sea through land reclamation.

Singapore government agencies need better design and planning tool that can account for existing water/coastal infrastructures and potential new designs.



Source: URA and PUB, Singapore



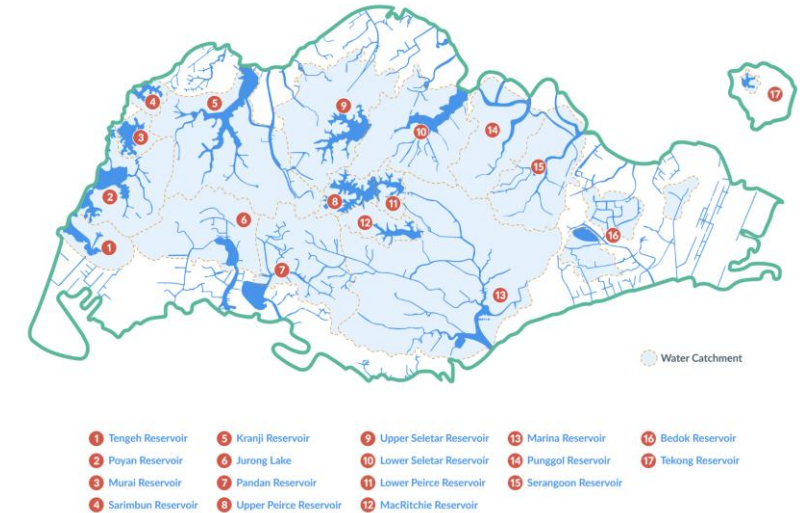


# The Requirement

Complex water management system

Singapore has

- over 8000km drains, canals, culverts and rivers within 736 sq. km
- 17 controlled reservoirs with pumps and flood gates



Source: PUB, Singapore



*Small drains and sub-surface drains (culverts) are not represented in the DEM.*

*Therefore, 1D drains are required in the model.*

# The Requirement

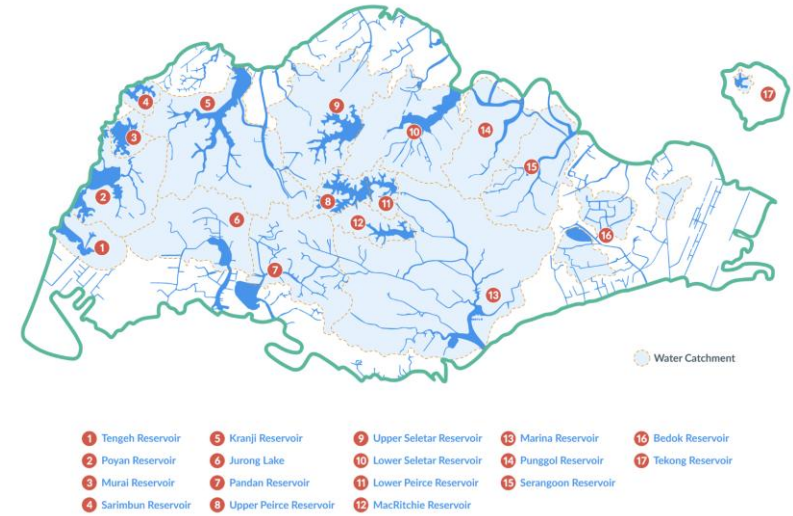
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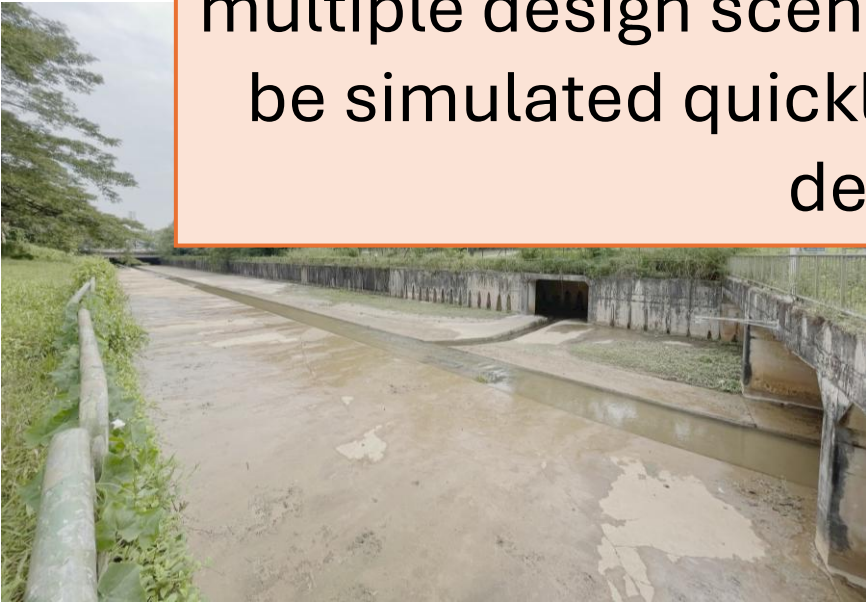
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## Objective

To have a fast 1D-2D compound flood model that enables multiple design scenarios under various climate conditions to be simulated quickly so that an optimal coastal adaptation design can be evaluated.



Source: PUB, Singapore



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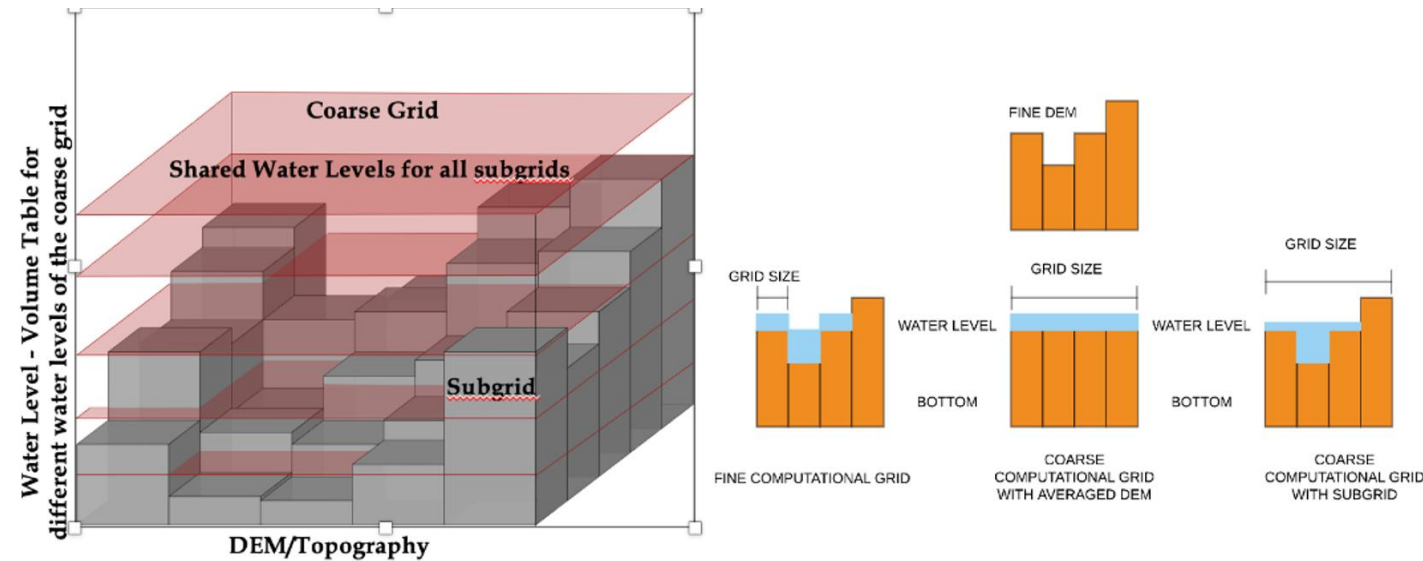
# The Challenges

- Data is large; DEM of high-resolution (1m x 1m)
- Design space is large
  - Multiple design scenarios – depending on the varying design parameters
  - Running at high-resolution (1m x 1m) means:
    - 12,200 x 16,000 (Case Study) = 195,000,000 computational grid cells per time step for the area of interest using classical shallow-water solvers in 2D (e.g. Delft3D)



# The Solution

- 1D-2D shallow water equation solver using sub-grid method <sup>1,2,4</sup>
- Infiltration and 2D shallow subsurface flow <sup>3,5</sup>
- The sub-grid and quadtree approach compresses the computational grid cells by a factor of ~600 times (Case Study)



1. Stelling, G.S. Quadtree Flood Simulations with Sub-Grid Digital Elevation Models. *Proc. Inst. Civ. Eng. - Water Manag.* **2012**, 165, 567–580, doi:10.1680/wama.12.00018.
2. Casulli, V.; Stelling, G.S. A Semi-implicit Numerical Model for Urban Drainage Systems. *Int. J. Numer. Methods Fluids* **2013**, 73, 600–614, doi:10.1002/fld.3817.
3. Casulli, V. A Conservative Semi-implicit Method for Coupled Surface–Subsurface Flows in Regional Scale. *Int. J. Numer. Methods Fluids* **2015**, 79, 199–214, doi:10.1002/fld.4047.
4. Stelling, G.S. Boosted Robustness of Semi-Implicit Subgrid Methods for Shallow Water Flash Floods in Hills. *Comput. Fluids* **2022**, 247, 105645, doi:10.1016/j.compfluid.2022.105645.
5. Saha, A.; Stelling, G.; Vuik, C. Modified Horton's Infiltration Model Integrated with a Sub-Grid Shallow Water Equation Solver for High-Resolution Flooding Simulation. *J. Hydrol.* **2025**, 660, 133326, doi:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2025.133326.

# Case study: Pulau Tekong Island and polder



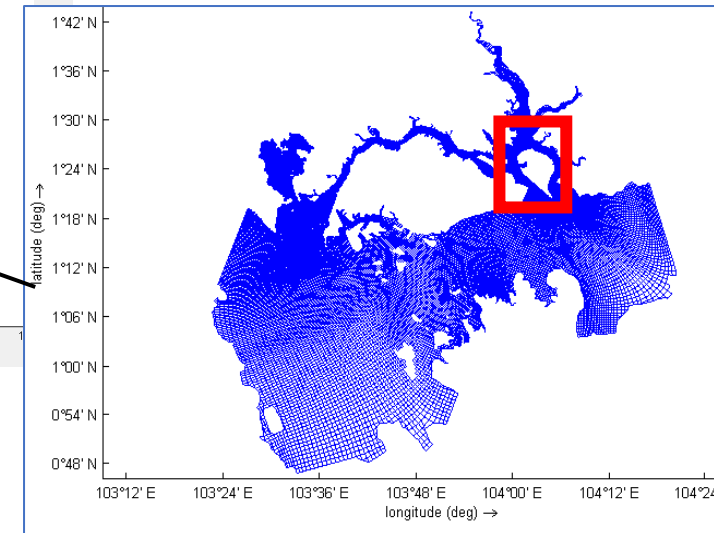
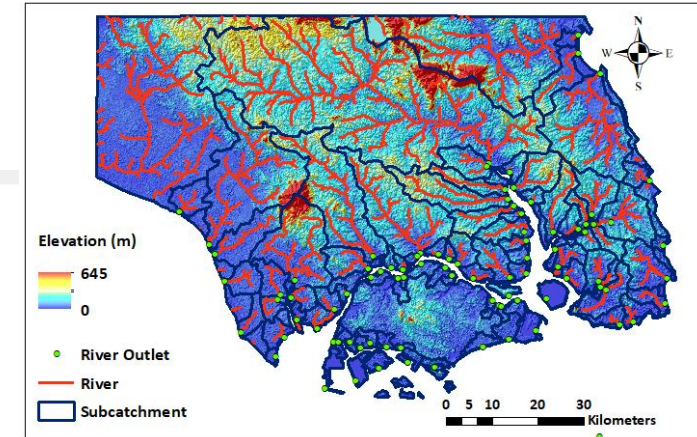
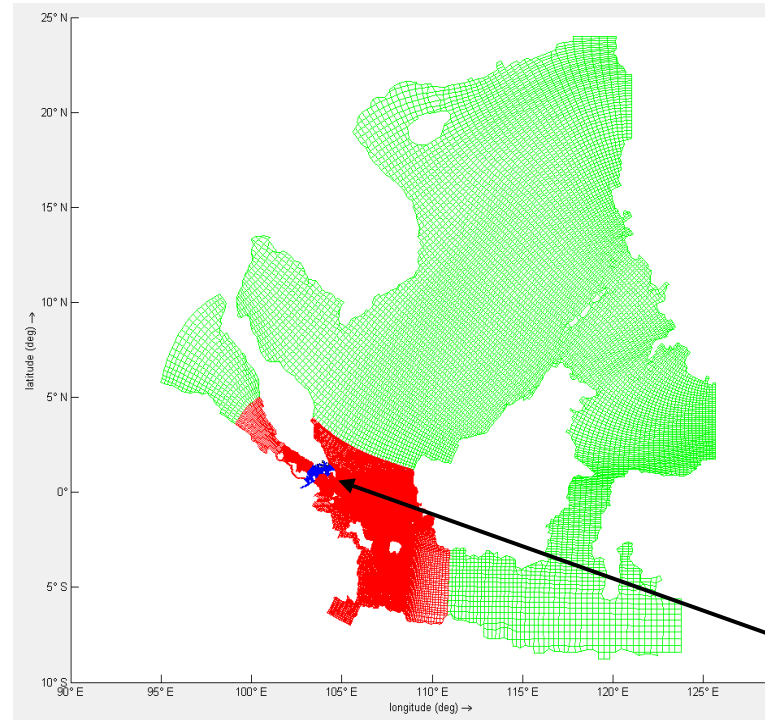
- DEM
  - Maxar and FabDEM composite at 1m x 1m
- Structures: pumps
- Drainage system traced from satellite imagery

- Original Area: 24 sq. km
- Reclaimed area until now: 21.5 sq. km
- Area of interest: 8.2 sq. km



# Model forcing/Boundary condition

- Surface forcing: Rainfall
- Lateral forcing is based on offline nesting within Delft3D model that is forced with:
  - Tide <sup>1,2</sup>
  - Wind and surface pressure field to generate surge <sup>1,2</sup>
  - Johor River discharges (computed using WFLOW) based on rainfall <sup>3</sup>

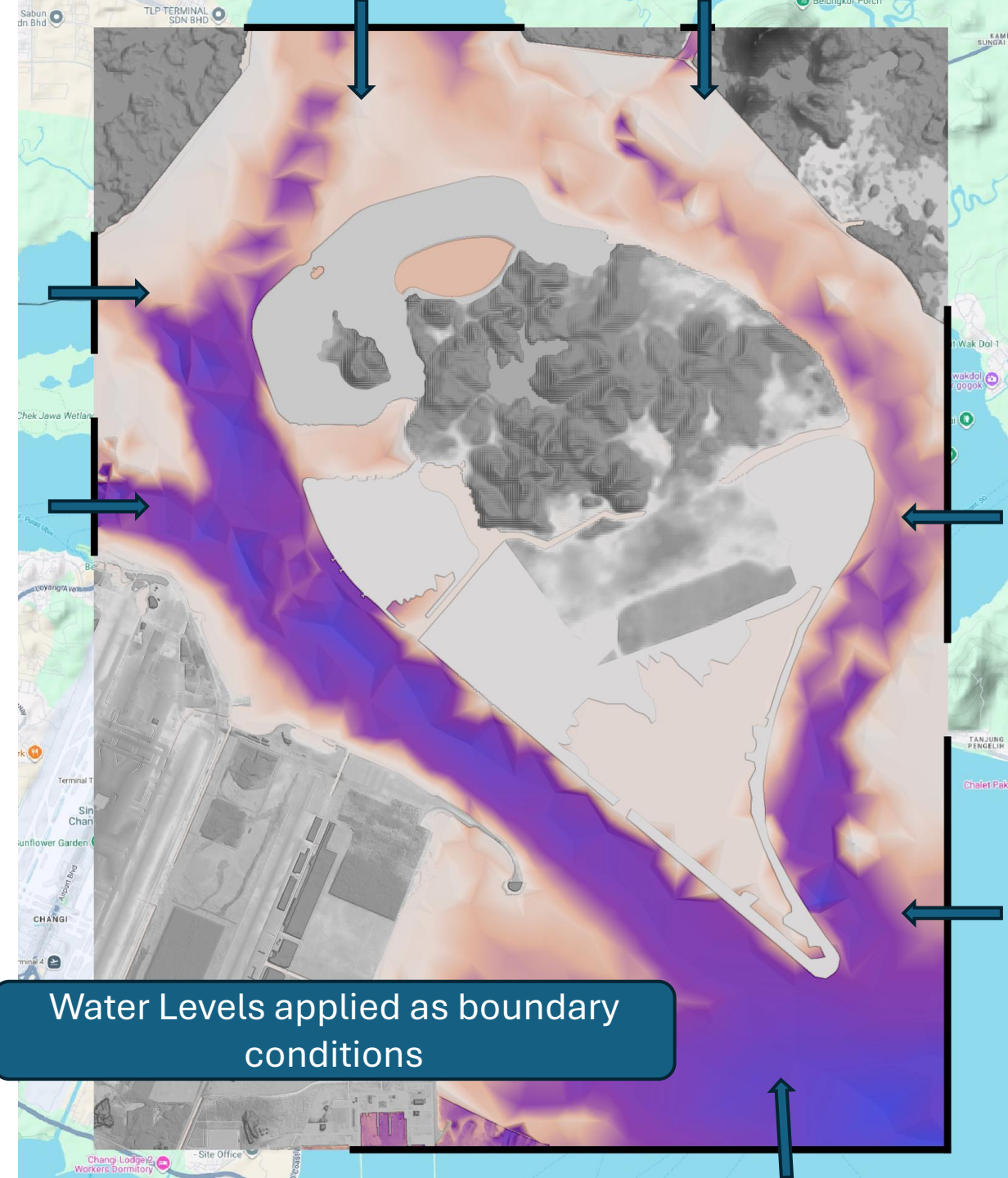
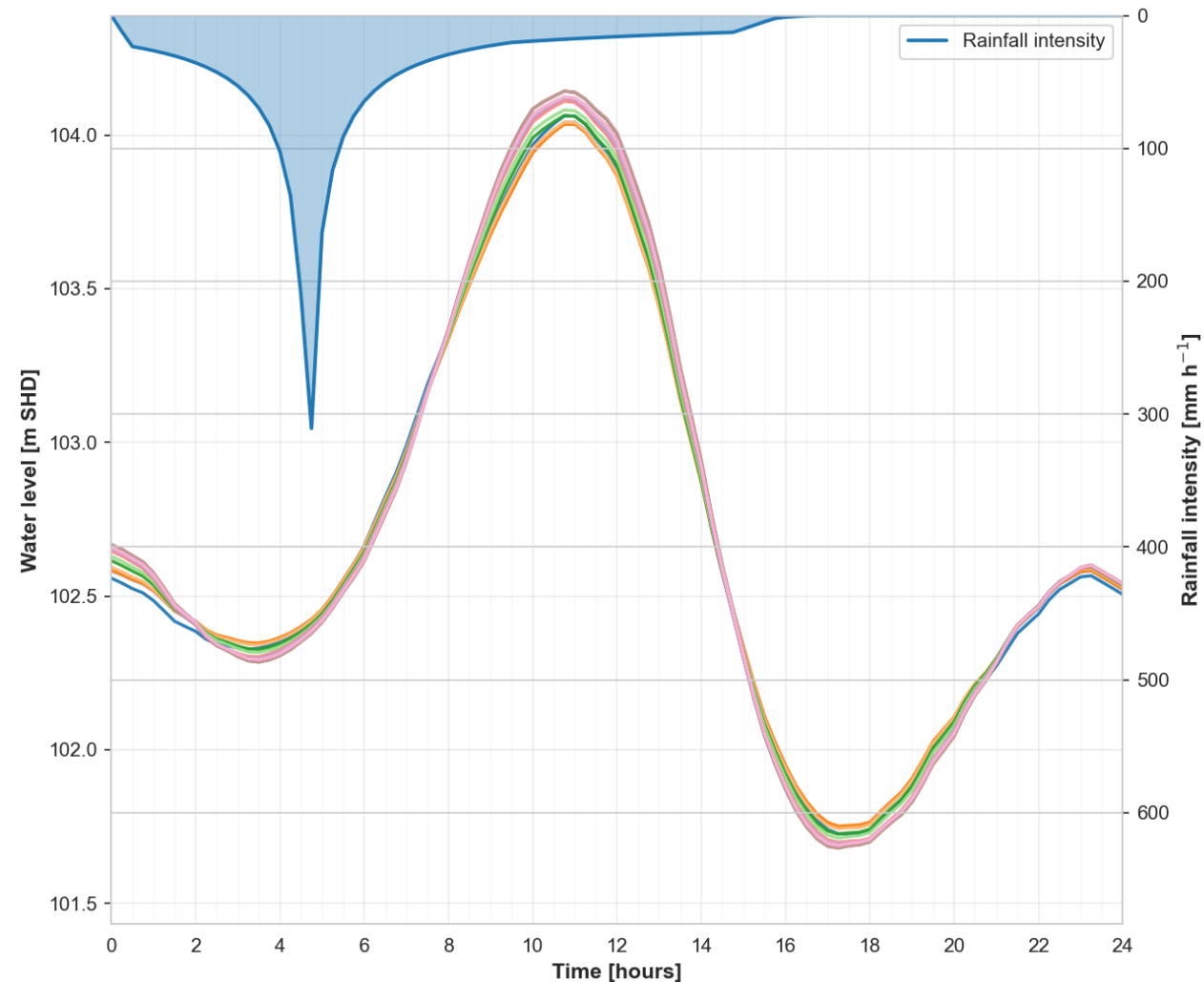


1. Kurniawan, A., Tay, S.H.X., Ooi, S.K., Babovic, V., Gerritsen, H., 2015. Analyzing the physics of non-tidal barotropic sea level anomaly events using multi-scale numerical modelling in Singapore regional waters. *Journal of Hydro-Environment Research*, 9, 404-419.
2. Tay, S.H.X., Kurniawan, A., Ooi, S.K., Babovic, V., 2016. Sea level anomalies in straits of Malacca and Singapore. *Applied Ocean Research*, 58, 104-117.
3. Tay, S.H.X., Trinh, D.H., Wang, M., Babovic, V., Ooi, S.K., 2018. Estimation of high temporal resolution river discharges into Singapore Coastal Waters for operational forecast. *E-proceedings of the 21st IAHR-APD Congress, Yogyakarta*.

# Extreme event forcing

1 in 100 year extreme scenario

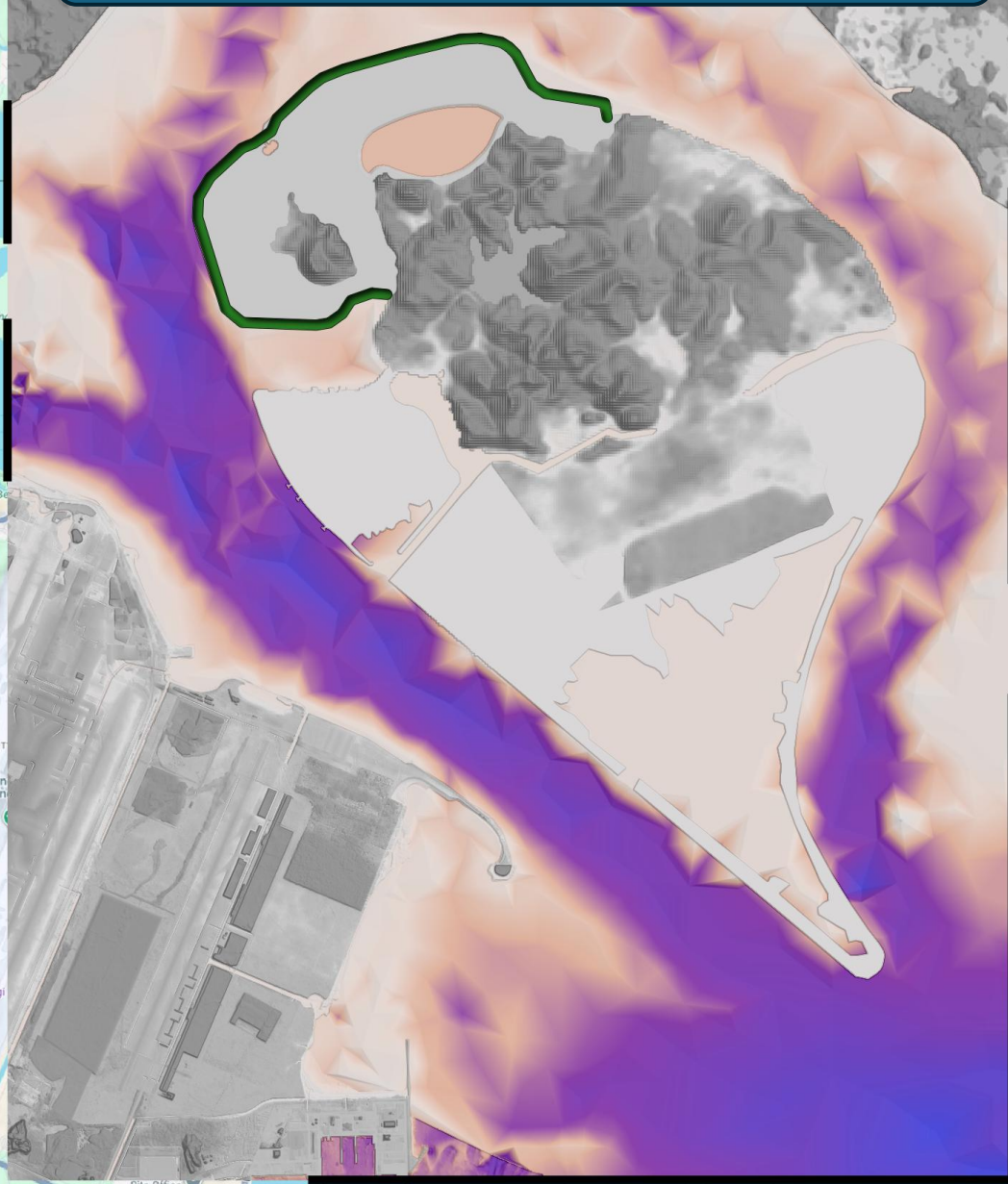
Extreme Rainfall + Tide + Surge<sup>1</sup> + Sea Level Rise<sup>2</sup>



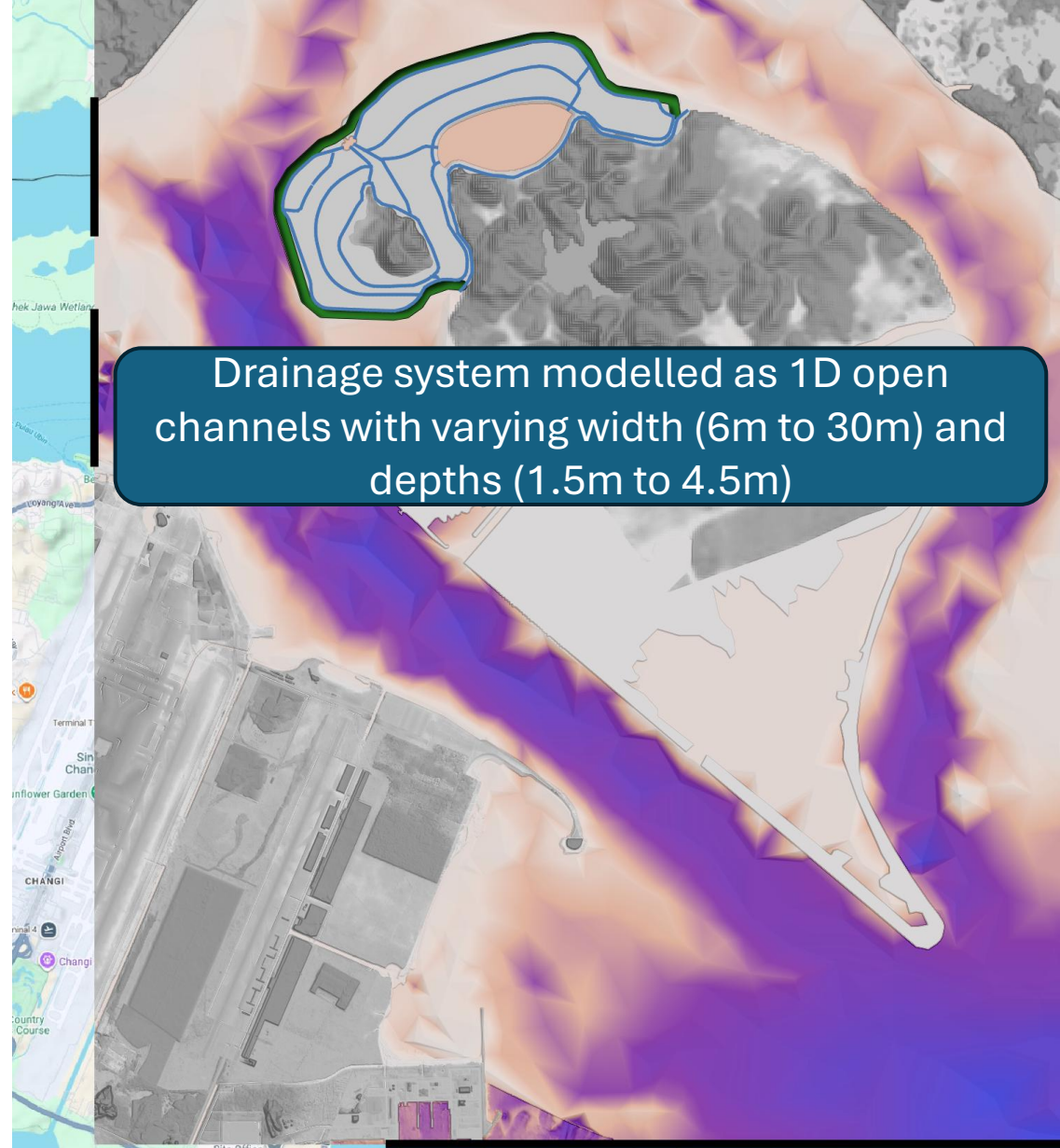
1. Tay, Trinh, Ooi (2024) Low Latitude Typhoon Induced Storm Tide in Singapore: A Monte Carlo Approach for Storm Tide Modelling. 38th International Conference on Coastal Engineering. Rome.
2. Singapore's Third National Climate Change Study Report, CCRS Singapore (2024)



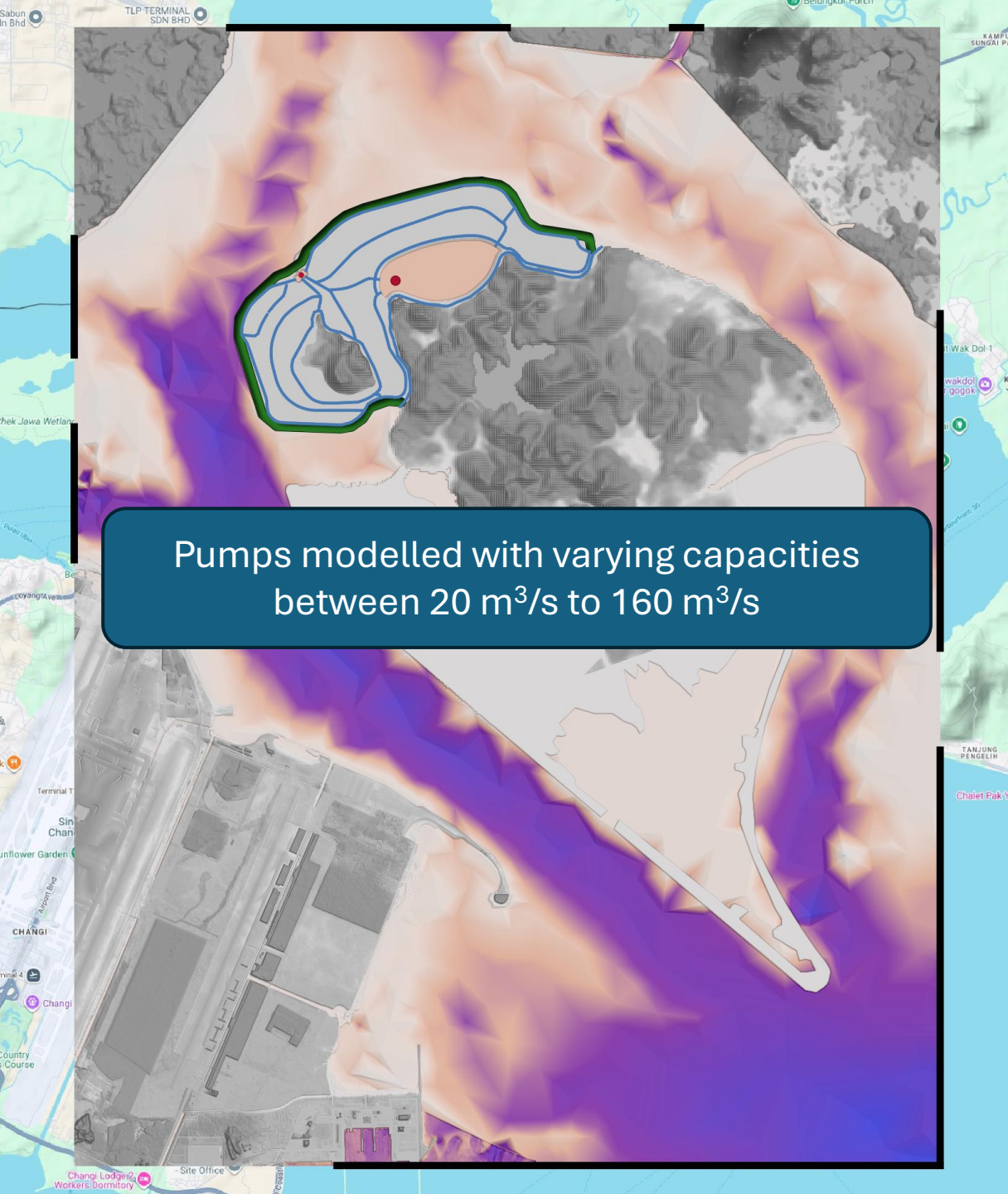
Dike around reclaimed area modelled as levees with height varying between 4m to 6m



Drainage system modelled as 1D open channels with varying width (6m to 30m) and depths (1.5m to 4.5m)







Quadtree computation grid size: 10-40m

Simulation period: 24 hours

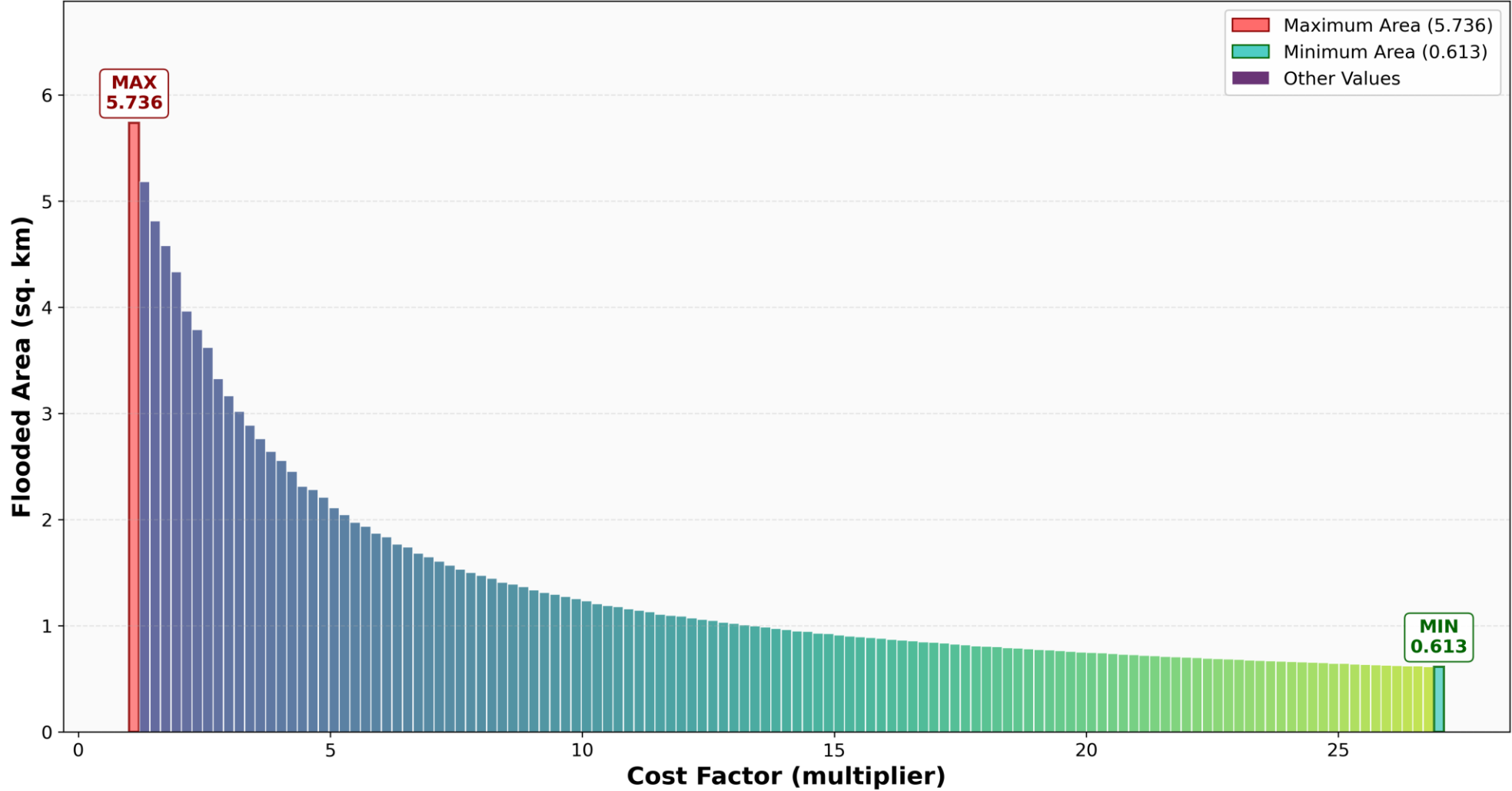
Varying parameters of structural measures

- Pump capacity
- Dike height
- Drainage capacity

Total numbers of scenarios generated: **125**



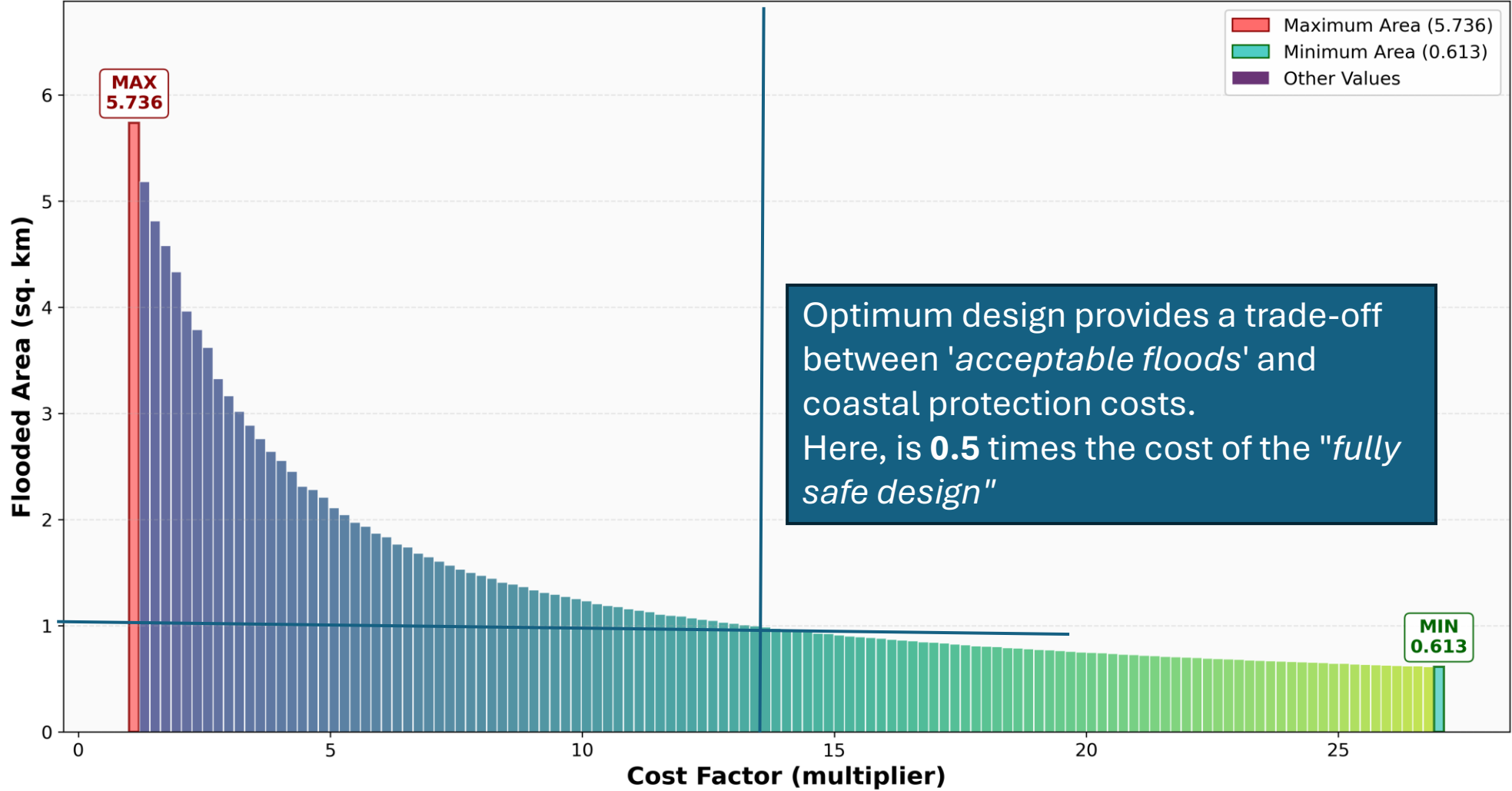
# Reduction in Flooded Area vs Cost Factor



Maximum Water Depth > 30 cm in the model is considered a flooded pixel

Every scenario is given a cost factor relative to the base scenario with minimum (dike height, drainage capacity and pump capacity). Costing is based on available estimates from consultants and government

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# Conclusion

- The fast 1D2D flood model presented allow us to explore all the **125 design scenarios**, which were completed **within 12 hours** (run in serial mode) on a single Desktop PC (32-cores); about **5 minute** per scenario.
- The optimal design scenario can be derived based on the acceptable flood and the coastal protection cost.

# Future work

## Application

- We are extending this model to the whole of Singapore (1m resolution: 61,000 by 38,000 cells). However, we are not allowed to publish.

## Development

- Automation by scripts to find optimal designs
- Incorporation of short waves, e.g. SnapWave



# Acknowledgement

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**STELLING HYDRAULICS**

Thank you

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