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PROMPT REPORT OF NATURAL DAM FORMED IN THE WAY ELA RIVER, AM-BON, INDONESIA

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On July 13, 2012, a huge natural dam was formed by the large scale landslide in the Way Ela River, Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia. Its height is about 150 meter. It still remains and its water level keeps high. In the downstream of the natural dam, there is a village with populations of 5,000, which is exposed to the catastrophe in case of the collapse of the natural dam. In order to prevent the damage from collapse of natural dam, Indonesian government has been promoting the countermeasures such as constructing a spillway, and establishing the early warning system. We have investigated the site of the Way Ela River three times and collected information about the natural dam. Here, we promptly report the interim results about the natural dam based on the information obtained so far.

Keywords: natural dam, Indonesia, landslide