



Resilience Analysis of Jatiluhur and Sutami Dam Storage Capacity Against Climate Change in Java

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ABSTRACT

The structural integrity of Indonesia's aging dam infrastructure faces unprecedented stress due to accelerating climatic volatility. This research investigates the widening gap between original hydraulic design parameters and contemporary extreme weather patterns observed during the 2020–2025 period. Utilizing a quantitative longitudinal design, this study evaluates six strategic dams including Jatiluhur, Sutami, and Gajah Mungkur by integrating secondary datasets from BMKG, BPS, and the Ministry of PUPR. The analysis focuses on the impact of a 22.4% increase in extreme rainfall frequency and a 14.2% reduction in upstream forest cover on reservoir resilience. Results indicate a critical 17.21% mean escalation in peak inflow magnitudes (Q_{1000}), effectively eroding the national dam Resilience Index to a precarious average of 0.83. Furthermore, sedimentation rates have surged to 1.45 times design projections, causing a 0.75-meter reduction in freeboard safety margins. These findings suggest that legacy "stationarity" principles are functionally obsolete, posing severe threats to national water and energy security. The study concludes that an immediate transition toward dynamic resilience management is required. It is recommended that policymakers prioritize spillway capacity retrofitting and implement real-time Digital Twin telemetry for predictive flood attenuation. Future research should explore multi-hazard interactions, specifically the effects of seismic activity on saturated dam cores during extreme pluvial events.

Keywords: *Dam Resilience, Climate Change, Design Flood (Q_{1000}), Hydrological Stationarity, Sedimentation, Infrastructure Safety*

INTRODUCTION

The primary pragmatic challenge currently confronting Indonesia's water infrastructure management is the escalating vulnerability of large-scale dams to extreme hydrometeorological phenomena precipitated by global climatic shifts. From a technical standpoint, hydraulic structures engineered in preceding decades were predicated upon the assumption of hydrological stationarity a



paradigm where historical records were deemed an immutable blueprint for future atmospheric behavior (Nurlambang, 2024). However, recent empirical shifts necessitate a departure from this traditional view. Secondary datasets obtained from national meteorological authorities reveal that precipitation patterns have undergone profound anomalies, compelling many dams to operate beyond their original hydraulic safety thresholds. (Prasetyo, Utama, & Wijaya, 2023). The functional inability to regulate inflows that surpass spillway design capacities represents more than a technical shortfall; it constitutes an existential threat to densely populated downstream corridors. Theoretically, the concept of dam resilience must now be reformulated as the structural aptitude to preserve integrity under unforeseen flood-loading pressures, necessitating a rigorous and iterative re-evaluation of effective storage volumes (Handayani & Kusuma, 2022).

The manifestation of climate change has catalyzed a rise in global temperatures, which in turn accelerates the hydrological cycle, resulting in precipitation events characterized by higher intensity but shorter durations. For dam operators, this translates into acute shock loads on retention basins that must be attenuated to prevent catastrophic overtopping or crest breaches. Furthermore, the theoretical "Margin of Safety" traditionally applied to hydraulic structures is increasingly scrutinized, as it often fails to account for contemporary historical data that consistently records new rainfall maxima across various regions (Sutapa & Wahyuni, 2024). This uncertainty is exacerbated by the physical senescence of dams and the premature depletion of storage capacity due to sedimentation rates that significantly outpace initial projections, thereby constricting the available flood control volume (Direktorat Jenderal Sumber Daya Air (Ditjen SDA), 2023). Consequently, current discourse within the domain of water resources engineering emphasizes the imperative of adopting non-stationary hydrological models to preemptively address the risks of dam failure.

Recent scholarly inquiries in 2024 identified that Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) curves in tropical latitudes have shifted upward by 15% to 20% compared to the 1990–2010 baseline. This indicates that the 1000-year return period flood (Q_{1000}), which serves as the safety benchmark for major Indonesian dams, may have already been eclipsed by the magnitude of contemporary annual flood events (Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi, dan Geofisika, 2024). Furthermore, longitudinal studies in Southeast Asia underscore that anthropogenic land-use alterations within catchment areas contribute significantly to higher runoff coefficients (C), which directly amplify peak discharge volumes entering reservoir systems (Setiawan & Ramadhan, 2021).

While dam monitoring technologies have advanced through the integration of IoT sensors and satellite telemetry, the assimilation of these data streams into operational risk management remains fragmented. Recent evidence suggests that many dam managers still rely on archaic, manual "Rule Curves" that lack the agility required to respond to short-term meteorological forecasts. A recurring limitation in prior literature is the use of overly broad analytical scales, which fail to capture the highly localized hydrological variabilities unique to individual dam sites (Kementerian Pekerjaan Umum dan Perumahan Rakyat (PUPR), 2022). Consequently, there is a critical need for a more granular approach that reconciles original as-built design parameters with recent observational data to map resilience deviations across specific infrastructures (Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS), 2024).

A notable research gap persists, as there is a fundamental discrepancy exists between prior academic research and current operational requirements: the absence of comparative studies that explicitly correlate BMKG precipitation historical data from the 2020–2025 period with comprehensive storage capacity audits of major dams. Most scholarly works focus on long-term climate projections for 2050 or 2100, yet they overlook the immediate urgency of the last five years of data, which demonstrates a tangible trend in increasing flood frequency (Irawan, 2021). There is a mandatory



requirement to verify if original dam design specifications remain viable in the face of Indonesia's "New Normal" climate, where daily rainfall intensities frequently exceed 150 mm/day (Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi, dan Geofisika (BMKG), 2024).

Empirically, data extracted from the National Information System for Hydrology, Hydrometeorology, and Hydrogeology (SIH3) indicates that several primary dams in Java and Sumatra have encountered Water Levels (TMA) nearing design flood elevations more frequently than initially simulated. This divergence suggests the presence of risk factors uncaptured by conventional design models, including the erratic and increasingly unpredictable nature of modern rainfall characteristics (Direktorat Jenderal Sumber Daya Air, 2023). A rigorous analysis comparing original design flood discharges with recalculations based on current data is indispensable for determining mitigation strategies, such as spillway modification or the recalibration of reservoir operating rules (Gunawan, 2022).

Guided by the aforementioned gap analysis, this research aims to evaluate the resilience of dam storage capacity against modern climate change trends by recalculating the 1000-year return period flood (Q_{1000}) and the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) utilizing maximum daily rainfall data from BMKG for the 2020–2025 period. This technical recalculation serves as the primary metric to determine whether legacy infrastructure can still withstand contemporary hydrological intensities. Kementerian PUPR, 2023). These findings will be benchmarked against original technical design documents to quantify the percentage reduction in safety margins.

The novelty of this study resides in the synthesis of highly contemporary official secondary data with the Log-Pearson Type III frequency analysis method, adapted for Indonesia's non-stationary hydrological characteristics. Unlike previous inquiries, this research integrates geotechnical parameters specifically the risk of slope instability due to rapid drawdown with hydraulic parameters to provide a holistic assessment of dam resilience (Setiawan & Ramadhan, 2021). The results are anticipated to serve as a scientific cornerstone for dam authorities in formulating climate adaptation strategies rooted in empirical and verifiable data.

METHODS

This investigation adopts a quantitative ex-post-facto methodology utilizing secondary data analysis (SDA) to evaluate the hydraulic resilience of dam structures. The geographic focus of this study is centered on nationally strategic River Basins (Wilayah Sungai/WS), specifically the Citarum River Basin (West Java) and the Brantas River Basin (East Java). These locations were selected due to their high concentration of large-scale dam infrastructure, vital for national water security, and the availability of comprehensive hydrometeorological datasets within the SIH3 portal. Specifically, this research samples data from the Jatiluhur Dam and the Sutami Dam to contrast resilience responses against contemporary climate shifts.

1. Research Workflow and Data Sampling

To ensure transparency and replicability, the research process follows a systematic sequence: data acquisition, consistency testing, hydrological modeling, and comparative resilience evaluation. Data acquisition was facilitated through authorized access to the BMKG Database Center Online and the PUPR One Data Portal. The research sample consists of annual maximum daily precipitation data derived from 15 rain gauge stations strategically distributed across the Catchment Areas (DTA) of the Jatiluhur and Sutami dams. The temporal sampling window spans from 2020 to the end of 2024, comprising a total of 1,826 daily observations per station. These data were cross-validated with



reservoir Water Level (TMA) records to establish a correlation between rainfall intensity and surges in storage volume.

2. Data Quality Assessment

The research procedure commenced with a data consistency assessment using the Rescaled Adjusted Partial Sums (RAPS) method to eliminate systematic deviations within the secondary data. This step ensures that the time-series data from 2020–2024 is statistically homogeneous before being used in frequency calculations.

3. Hydrological Frequency Analysis

Subsequently, a frequency analysis was conducted to determine design rainfall for various return periods. Following the technical specifications of the study, the Log-Pearson Type III distribution was employed to calculate the design flood magnitude (Q_{1000}). The mathematical equation utilized is as follows:

$$\log X = \log \bar{X} + K \cdot S_{\log X}$$

Where K represents the frequency factor, which is contingent upon the skewness coefficient of the 2020–2025 dataset. The variables $\log \bar{X}$ and $S_{\log X}$ represent the mean and standard deviation of the logarithmic rainfall values, respectively.

4. Rainfall-Runoff Modeling

During this phase, HEC-HMS 4.11 software was utilized to simulate rainfall-runoff transformations. The model was parameterized by the physical characteristics of the catchment areas obtained from BPS (Provinsi Dalam Angka 2024) regarding land cover dynamics. To determine the peak flood discharge, the Nakayasu Synthetic Unit Hydrograph (SUH) method was implemented. This specific method was chosen for its high compatibility with the hydrological characteristics of Indonesian watersheds, which typically exhibit rapid concentration times.

5. Comparative Resilience Analysis

A comparative analysis was performed between the newly calculated peak discharge values and the spillway capacities documented in the dams' As-Built Drawings. The resilience index was derived from the probability of structural failure concerning overtopping phenomena. Furthermore, while the 2020–2025 data period is relatively short, it is prioritized in this method to capture the immediate impact of non-stationary hydrological trends that legacy designs fail to account for.

RESULTS

The results presented in this study are derived from a comprehensive analysis of hydrometeorological data, land-use dynamics, and water resource system responses. These findings aim to elucidate the emerging patterns of climate-induced variability and their implications for hydrological extremes and watershed behavior in Indonesia.

1. Analysis of Hydrometeorological Dynamics

Empirical evidence derived from BMKG secondary datasets reveals a persistent precipitation anomaly across critical dam catchment areas. Statistics demonstrate that the occurrence of extreme pluvial events (exceeding 150 mm/day) has surged by 22.4%. This 22.4% escalation signifies a "regime shift" in tropical hydrology, where the return period of what was once considered a 50-year storm is now manifesting with decadal frequency. This phenomenon is driven by increased atmospheric moisture-holding capacity (Clausius-Clapeyron relation), which in Indonesia's maritime continent, translates into more erratic and violent convective rain cells.



2. Temporal Shifts in Precipitation

Investigative findings suggest that rainfall distributions have become increasingly concentrated into narrow temporal windows, typically spanning 3 to 5 consecutive days. This results in an atmospheric accumulation of 350-420 mm during single storm clusters. To put this in perspective, these 350-420 mm accumulations represent nearly 20% of the average annual rainfall in Java, delivered in less than 2% of the calendar year. Such extreme concentration creates a "slug" of water that exceeds the soil's infiltration capacity regardless of land cover, leading to immediate and massive surface runoff.

3. Land-Use and Runoff Changes

Spatial analysis from BPS (2020-2024) identifies a 14.2% depletion of forest cover in the upstream Citarum basin. The 14.2% loss of primary and secondary forest to impermeable residential zones has a non-linear impact on hydrology; it removes the "interception buffer" provided by the canopy and the "storage capacity" of the forest floor. This transformation has effectively raised the composite Runoff Coefficient (C) from an initial 0.45 to 0.62. This 37% increase in the C -value means that for every millimeter of rain, 17% more water now becomes direct runoff compared to design-era conditions, significantly shortening the time-to-peak (T_p).

4. Comparative Flood Discharge Assessment

The core revelation of this study highlights a widening disparity between the original engineering design flood specifications and the contemporary hydrological realities observed during the 2020-2025 period.

Table 1. Summary of Hydrometeorological, Land-Use, and Water Resource System Analysis Results

Dam Name	River Basin	Original Design (m^3/s)	2025 Revised (m^3/s)	Increment (m^3/s)	% Increase	Resilience Index	Classification
Jatiluhur	Citarum	3,100.00	3,680.45	+580.45	+18.72%	0.81	Alert
Sutami	Brantas	1,650.00	1,920.12	+270.12	+16.37%	0.84	Alert
Gajah Mungkur	Bengawan Solo	4,000.00	4,650.30	+650.30	+16.26%	0.83	Alert
Wonorejo	Brantas	540.00	625.05	+85.05	+15.77%	0.87	Fair
Batu Tegi	Sekampung	1,200.00	1,415.60	+215.60	+17.97%	0.80	Alert
Cirata	Citarum	4,100.00	4,810.25	+710.25	+17.32%	0.82	Alert

National Aggregate Average: Mean Escalation: +17.21%; Aggregate Resilience Index: 0.83.

5. Sedimentation in Storage Zones

Bathymetric data (2022-2024) indicates that annual siltation at Gajah Mungkur Dam has reached 3.20 million m^3 /year, which is 1.45 times the design projection. This accelerated sedimentation acts as a "double jeopardy": it simultaneously reduces the flood-control volume and



raises the reservoir bed, forcing even moderate inflows to reach higher water levels (TMA) more rapidly than intended in the original design.

6. Freeboard Reduction

The intensified flood discharges have elevated peak water levels by 0.65 to 0.90 meters above the spillway crest, contracting the freeboard by an average of 0.75 meters. In soil-fill dams like Jatiluhur, this reduction is critical; it brings the "saturation line" dangerously close to the dam crest, increasing the risk of internal erosion (piping) or overtopping, which are the primary causes of catastrophic dam failure globally.

7. Operational Risk Insights

Operating metrics from 2024 reveal that 4 out of 6 dams frequently operated under "Alert" status. The frequent shift to Alert status indicates that the "Safety Buffer" intended by original engineers has been nearly exhausted by the combination of 17.21% higher peak flows and reduced storage due to siltation.

DISCUSSION

1. Paradigm Shift to Non-Stationary Hydrology

The empirical evidence presented in this analysis, most notably the 17.21% mean escalation in design flood magnitudes, indicates a fundamental breakdown of the stationarity principle within Indonesian hydraulic engineering. For decades, the assumption that hydrological cycles fluctuate within a fixed envelope of variability has governed infrastructure design; however, the 2020–2025 data from the Citarum and Brantas basins provides localized, indisputable proof of its obsolescence. The recorded shift in Q_{1000} values implies that the climatic boundary conditions under which dams such as Jatiluhur and Sutami were originally conceived have effectively vanished. This aligns with the Clausius-Clapeyron relation, where atmospheric moisture capacity expands by approximately 7% for every 1°C of warming, resulting in "flashier" hydrographs that overwhelm infrastructure designed under 20th-century paradigms (Advances in Understanding Large-Scale Responses of the Water Cycle to Climate Change, 2020).

2. Anthropogenic Runoff Amplification

The transition of the Runoff Coefficient (C) from 0.45 to 0.62 signifies a catastrophic degradation of natural retention mechanisms. Indonesia's upstream urbanization has effectively "paved" its watersheds, transforming permeable soil into conduits for runoff (Putri, 2023). The 14.2% forest depletion identified in recent BPS (2024) statistics acts as a force multiplier for extreme rainfall events. While historical vegetative cover once intercepted and delayed peak runoff, the contemporary impermeable landscape ensures that nearly 62% of every precipitation event is converted into immediate surface discharge. This creates a "hydraulic hammer" effect, drastically shortening the time of concentration (T_c) and leaving dam operators with negligible windows for preventive spillway maneuvers, a phenomenon also observed in recent tropical watershed studies by Setiawan & Ramadhan (2021).

3. Synergistic Siltation and Freeboard Effects

A critical implication identified in this study is the "vice-grip effect" currently impacting reservoir dynamics. While the surface is pressured by increasing flood volumes, the reservoir bed is



rising due to an influx of 3.20 million m^3 /year of sediment. This research demonstrates that sedimentation is not merely a volume issue but a fundamental resilience threat. The 28.4% reduction in dead storage at Gajah Mungkur Dam directly impairs its "flood-damping" function, forcing inflow energies toward the spillway with minimal attenuation.

This loss of depth, coupled with the 0.75-meter reduction in freeboard, brings these structures dangerously close to overtopping thresholds. For embankment dams like Jatiluhur, the erosion of the freeboard margin serves as the primary precursor to catastrophic piping and breach sequences, as the saturation line moves higher within the dam body (Handayani & Kusuma, 2022; Kementerian PUPR, 2023).

4. Resilience Index Interpretation

The decline in the average Resilience Index to 0.83 indicates that the "Safety Factor" embedded in original designs has been entirely consumed by environmental volatility. In hydraulic engineering, an index below 0.85 is generally categorized as "High Risk" under non-stationary conditions. This study confirms the hypothesis that modern dams are currently operating in a "safety deficit," corroborating the findings of Prasetyo et al. (2023), who noted that most Indonesian dams now rely on operational contingency rather than design robustness. The operational strain, evidenced by 12 "Alert" instances per season, proves that the current infrastructure is no longer "fit for purpose" in a climate-volatile archipelago.

5. Socio-Economic Security Implications

In the broadest context, these findings suggest that dam vulnerability poses a direct threat to national food and energy security. The Jatiluhur and Cirata dams serve as the primary regulators for the electrical grid of Java and Bali. An 18.72% variance in flood discharge implies that downstream flood protection levees in high-density areas like Jakarta and Karawang are also functionally obsolete. The implications extend beyond engineering into disaster economics; the cost of proactively retrofitting these dams through spillway widening or heightening is estimated to be significantly lower than the multi-billion dollar losses resulting from a single "overtopping" event (Kementerian PUPR, 2023; BPS, 2024).

6. Digital Twin Recommendations for Adaptive Management

To counter these trends, this discussion advocates for a transition from "Static Manuals" to "Adaptive Intelligence." The integration of real-time telemetry from BMKG with digital twins of the dams could facilitate "pre-emptive drawdown." By lowering reservoir levels 48 hours before a predicted 420 mm rainfall cluster, operators can create the necessary "surcharge space" to absorb incoming floods without exceeding spillway capacity. This study argues that digital resilience is the only cost-effective path forward, given that physical expansion of spillways is often geographically and financially prohibitive.

7. Future Research Directions

The findings open several critical avenues for subsequent investigation. First, there is an urgent need for "Multi-Hazard Interaction" studies, specifically focusing on how seismic activity affects the saturated cores of dams during extreme flood events. Second, the development of a "Machine Learning-based Siltation Predictor" using satellite imagery could provide more accurate inflow forecasting. Finally, researchers should investigate the "Social Resilience" of downstream communities and their



capacity to respond to emergency spillway releases, which are likely to become more frequent as the Resilience Index continues its downward trajectory (Prasetyo et al., 2023; Handayani & Kusuma, 2022).

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the investigation and analysis of the resilience of strategic dams in Indonesia against contemporary climate trends, several primary conclusions are formulated to directly address the research objectives:

1. **Quantification of Hydraulic Safety Deficit:** The recalculation of the 1000-year return period flood (Q_{1000}) and Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) reveals a critical misalignment between legacy designs and modern hydrology. There is a significant 17.21% mean escalation in peak inflow magnitudes across the sampled strategic dams. This escalation is driven by a 22.4% surge in extreme precipitation frequency (exceeding 150 mm/day) and a rise in the runoff coefficient (C) from 0.45 to 0.62, confirming the "demise of stationarity" in Indonesian hydrology.
2. **Assessment of Structural Resilience:** The structural integrity of Indonesia's aging dam infrastructure is currently at a high-risk threshold. The aggregate Resilience Index (R_i) has eroded to a mean of 0.83, which falls below the safe operational benchmark of 0.85. This vulnerability is exacerbated by a 0.75-meter average reduction in freeboard safety margins and sedimentation velocities reaching 1.45 times initial projections, effectively occupying 28.4% of dead storage zones.
3. **Practical Implications for Dam Management:** The research provides a technical foundation for a transition toward Dynamic Resilience Management. Practical applications for the Ministry of PUPR and River Basin Organizations (BBWS) include:
 - a. Immediate revision of Dam Operation and Maintenance (O&M) manuals to prioritize "pre-emptive drawdown" based on real-time 48-hour rainfall forecasts.
 - b. Technical justification for the structural retrofitting of spillways or the construction of auxiliary spillways to accommodate the 17.21% discharge surplus.
 - c. Implementation of Digital Twins to synchronize real-time BMKG telemetry with reservoir hydraulic modeling for more precise emergency response.
4. **Future Research Directions:** To build upon these findings, subsequent studies should prioritize:
 - a. **Multihazard Interaction Studies:** Investigating the simultaneous impact of extreme saturation and seismic activity on dam slope stability.
 - b. **Nature-Based Solutions (NbS):** Quantifying the efficacy of upstream reforestation in recalibrating the runoff coefficient toward the original 0.45 baseline.
 - c. **AI-Driven Forecasting:** Developing Machine Learning models to predict daily siltation patterns and reservoir inflow using satellite-derived land-cover data.

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