



## **Natural hazards along the oil and gas transport pipelines in Northwest China**

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The northwest China, including the provincial districts of Xinjiang, Qinghai, and Gansu, is the key area for transporting oil and gas from the west to the east, through where runs the China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline linking the Central Asia resources of oil and gas. The area is 283.6 km<sup>2</sup> and the pipeline is 15 650 km long, suffering severe disasters destroying the operation of oil and gas transport. Major disasters are torrential floods, debris flows, rockfalls, landslides, wind erosion, and ground subsidence, having the following characteristics: 1) most disasters are distributed along the rivers; 2) special strata are effective in controlling some types of disasters; 3) landslides, collapses and debris flows are especially concentrated in steep landforms; 4) the disasters are highly likely to occur under the extreme climate; 5) the disasters are distributed in parallel to the earthquake zones.