



**BUSITEMA  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Pursuing Excellence*

## **FACULTY OF ENGINEERING**

**DEPARTMENT OF MINING AND WATER RESOURCES  
ENGINEERING**

**WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING PROGRAMME**

**FINAL YEAR PROJECT REPORT**

**APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING AND GIS IN GROUND  
WATER PROSPECTING**

**Case Study: Busitema Sub County, Busia District**

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## ABSTRACT

Since last decade, the value per barrel of potable ground water has outpaced the value of a barrel of oil in many areas of the world. Hence proper assessment of groundwater potential and management practices are the needs of the day. Establishing relationship between Remotely Sensed data and hydrologic phenomenon can maximize the efficiency of water resources development projects.

Present study focuses on ground water potential assessment in Busitema Sub county of Busia District and its field verification. For the same, all the basic factors determining the existence and movement of ground were identified and their thematic layers were formulated, digitized and integrated in the GIS environment using Weighted Index Overlay Analysis (WIOA) method. The weights of different parameters/ themes were computed using Analytic Hierarchy process (AHP) Multi-Criteria Evaluation (MCE) technique. Through this integrated GIS analysis, ground water prospects map of the study area was prepared qualitatively.

Field verification at existing wells was used to verify identified potential zones and depth of water measured at observation wells. Ground water flow nets (Ground water table contours) were generated using the water levels of the existing wells.

Generated map from weighted overlay using AHP performed very well in predicting the groundwater potential zones since the existing wells were found in the most promising zones and hence this methodology proves to be a promising tool for future.

## APPROVAL

This is to certify that this project report was written under the guidance of my supervisors on the topic "*Application of Remote Sensing and GIS in Ground Water Prospecting – A Case Study of Busitema Sub County, Busia District*" and is now ready for submission to the senate of Busitema University.



.....  
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DATE

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DATE

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I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the almighty GOD who has gifted me with life and has enabled me to reach this academic height as he has been the provider of all the necessary requirements.

Great thanks to my beloved MUM Mrs. Kasande Meble for her financial and moral support and I promise her that as long as I live, she will live.

Let me convey my heartfelt appreciation to my supervisors, Mr. Oketcho Yoronimo and Mr. Mugisha Moses for their advice as well their guidance during the preparation of this paper.

I can't forget my great friends especially class mates; Twesigye Keneth,

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this final year project proposal report to all my family members; Mum; Ms. Kasande Mable, Brothers; Musinguzi Julius, Taremwa Boaz, Nuwarinda Amon and Abaho Lindon, Sisters; Kyomuhangi Mellon and Namara Miria, Inlows; Ms. Asingwire Mellon and Ainomugisha Oliver for mentoring me.

To my late sister Ms. Kiconco Midius for the courage she had always given me before she passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, as well as her moral and financial support towards my academic struggle. I will live to remember you even in your absence, May your soul rest in peace and may our heavenly father grant you eternal life.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AHP – Analytical hierarchy process  
DEM – Digital Elevation Model  
DGSM – Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines  
DWD – Directorate of Water Development  
DWRM – Directorate of Water Resources Management  
ETM – Enhanced Thematic Mapper  
GIS – Geographical Information System  
MWE – Ministry Of Water and Environment  
NARO – National Agricultural Research Organization  
NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
NFA – National Forestry Authority  
NRSA – National Remote Sensing Agency  
RS – Remote Sensing  
UNMA – Uganda National Meteorological Authority  
USGS – United States Geological Survey  
UTM – Universal Transverse Mercator  
WGS – World Geodetic System  
WIOA – Weighted Index Overlay Analysis

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| ABSTRACT.....                     | ii   |
| DECLARATION.....                  | iii  |
| APPROVAL.....                     | iv   |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....              | v    |
| DEDICATION.....                   | vi   |
| LIST OF ACRONYMS.....             | vii  |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS.....            | viii |
| LIST OF TABLES.....               | xii  |
| LIST OF FIGURES.....              | xiii |
| CHAPTER ONE.....                  | 1    |
| 1. INTRODUCTION.....              | 1    |
| 1.1. Preamble.....                | 1    |
| 1.2. Back ground information..... | 1    |
| 1.3. Problem statement.....       | 3    |
| 1.4. Purpose of the study.....    | 3    |
| 1.5. Justification.....           | 4    |
| 1.6. Objectives.....              | 4    |
| 1.6.1. Main objective.....        | 4    |
| 1.6.2. Specific objectives.....   | 4    |
| 1.7. Scope of the study.....      | 4    |
| 1.8. Project Area.....            | 5    |
| 1.8.1. Topography.....            | 5    |
| 1.8.2. Climate.....               | 5    |
| 1.9. Geology and Soils.....       | 6    |
| CHAPTER TWO.....                  | 7    |
| 2. LITERATURE REVIEW.....         | 7    |
| 2.1. Preamble.....                | 7    |
| 2.2. Definitions of terms.....    | 7    |

|                     |  |    |
|---------------------|--|----|
| 2.2.1.              | Ground water .....   | 7  |
| 2.2.2.              | Remote sensing.....  | 8  |
| 2.2.3.              | Geographical information system .....                              | 8  |
| 2.2.4.              | History of development.....  | 9  |
| 2.3.                | Relationship between ground water, remote sensing and GIS.....     | 9  |
| 2.4.                | Factors that affect the existence of ground water in an area ..... | 12 |
| 2.4.1.              | Lithology.....   | 13 |
| 2.4.2.              | Land use/cover.....  | 13 |
| 2.4.3.              | Lineaments.....  | 14 |
| 2.4.4.              | Drainage.....  | 14 |
| 2.4.5.              | Rain fall.....   | 15 |
| 2.4.6.              | Soil.....  | 17 |
| 2.4.7.              | Slope .....  | 18 |
| 2.5.                | Digital terrain models/Digital Elevation models (DEM) .....        | 19 |
| 2.5.1.              | Definition of a DEM.....   | 20 |
| 2.5.2.              | Types of DEMs .....  | 20 |
| 2.5.3.              | Sources of digital elevation data.....                             | 20 |
| 2.5.4.              | Estimation of attributes from raster DEM .....                     | 21 |
| 2.5.5.              | Calculation of slope from the DEM.....                             | 22 |
| 2.5.6.              | Determination of flow direction.....                               | 22 |
| 2.5.7.              | Drainage Pattern Extraction from DEM .....                         | 23 |
| 2.6.                | Groundwater Flow Nets .....  | 23 |
| 2.7.                | Suitability analysis .....   | 24 |
| 2.7.1.              | Standard procedure for MCE.....                                    | 24 |
| 2.7.2.              | Weighted overlay .....   | 25 |
| 2.7.3.              | Determining weights.....   | 25 |
| 2.7.4.              | Implementation of the AHP .....                                    | 27 |
| CHAPTER THREE ..... |  | 30 |
| 3.                  | METHODOLOGY .....  | 30 |



|                   |  |    |
|-------------------|--|----|
| 3.1.              | Materials and Equipment .....  | 30 |
| 3.1.1.            | The equipment's used .....   | 30 |
| 3.1.2.            | Software's employed .....  | 30 |
| 3.1.3.            | Methods employed .....   | 31 |
| 3.1.4.            | Thematic layers used.....  | 31 |
| 3.2.              | Source of data and methods of data collection.....   | 31 |
| 3.2.1.            | Data Types and Sources.....  | 32 |
| 3.3.              | Identification the basic factors determining the existence and quantity of ground water in an area.....          | 33 |
| 3.3.1.            | Hydrological factors.....  | 33 |
| 3.3.2.            | Geographical factors .....   | 33 |
| 3.3.3.            | Geomorphological factors.....  | 34 |
| 3.4.              | Identification the GIS layers, remote sensed data and maps of the basic factors to be used in interpolation..... | 34 |
| 3.4.1.            | Formulation of Lithology map.....  | 35 |
| 3.4.2.            | Formulation of Lineament density map.....  | 36 |
| 3.4.3.            | Formulation of Land use map.....   | 36 |
| 3.4.4.            | Formulation of Slope map .....   | 36 |
| 3.4.5.            | Formulation of Drainage density map .....  | 36 |
| 3.4.6.            | Formulation of Soil map .....  | 37 |
| 3.5.              | Application of GIS .....   | 37 |
| 3.6.              | Application of Remote Sensing.....   | 37 |
| 3.7.              | Analyzing and interpolating GIS layers and maps of the study area .....  | 38 |
| 3.7.1.            | Weightage calculation.....   | 38 |
| CHAPTER FOUR..... |  | 41 |
| 4.                | PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS OF RESULTS.....   | 41 |
| 4.1.              | Preamble.....  | 41 |
| 4.2.              | Analysis of hydrological and geological data .....   | 41 |
| 4.2.1.            | Hydrological analysis of the rainfall data .....   | 41 |
| 4.2.2.            | Rainfall–runoff relationships .....  | 42 |

|                     |  |    |
|---------------------|--|----|
| 4.2.3.              | Soil Infiltration potential.....                       | 42 |
| 4.3.                | Thematic layers .....                                  | 42 |
| 4.3.1.              | Drainage density map .....                             | 43 |
| 4.3.2.              | Lineament density map.....                             | 44 |
| 4.3.3.              | Land use map .....                                     | 45 |
| 4.3.4.              | Slope map.....   | 46 |
| 4.3.5.              | Soil map.....  | 47 |
| 4.3.6.              | Lithology map.....                                     | 48 |
| 4.3.7.              | Ground water flow direction.....                       | 50 |
| 4.4.                | Weighted overlay analysis .....                        | 51 |
| 4.4.1.              | Analysis of Drainage density layer.....                | 51 |
| 4.4.2.              | Analysis of Slope layer .....                          | 52 |
| 4.4.3.              | Analysis of Lithology layer .....                      | 52 |
| 4.4.4.              | Analysis of Lineament density layer.....               | 53 |
| 4.4.5.              | Analysis of Land use layer.....                        | 54 |
| 4.4.6.              | Analysis of soil layer .....                           | 54 |
| 4.5.                | Model development.....                                 | 54 |
| 4.6.                | Ground water potential map.....                        | 55 |
| 4.6.1.              | Ground water prospective zones.....                    | 57 |
| 4.7.                | Validation of the model.....                           | 57 |
| CHAPTER FIVE: ..... |  | 59 |
| 5.                  | CHALLENGES FACED, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..... | 59 |
| 6.                  | REFERENCES .....                                       | 61 |

## LIST OF TABLES

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Table 2.1: The multi-influencing factors of ground water existence and movement .....       | 13 |
| Table 2.2: Different soil types and their respective porosity .....                         | 17 |
| Table 2.3: Soil infiltration rates .....  | 18 |
| Table 2.4: Weighting system for AHP .....   | 27 |
| Table 2.5: Relative scores in AHP .....   | 28 |
| Table 3.1: Presentation of Relative Weight of influencing factors generated using AHP ..... | 39 |
| Table 4.1: Attributes and Weights for drainage density layer .....                          | 52 |
| Table 4.2: Attributes and Weights for slope layer .....                                     | 52 |
| Table 4.3: Attributes and Weights for Lithology layer .....                                 | 53 |
| Table 4.4: Attributes and Weights for lineament density layer .....                         | 53 |
| Table 4.5: Attributes and Weights for land use layer .....                                  | 54 |
| Table 4.6: Attributes and Weights for soil layer .....                                      | 54 |
| Table 4.7: Weights for WIOA of all multi-influencing factors. ....                          | 55 |
| Table 4.8: Potential zones and depth of water table .....                                   | 57 |
| Table 6.1: Rain fall data .....   | 65 |

## LIST OF FIGURES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Figure 1.1: (a) The location of the study area (b) Its slope (c) Its drainage.....   | 5  |
| Figure 2.1: Interrelationship between the multi influencing factors concerning the groundwater potential zone.....               | 19 |
| Figure 2.2: Calculating slope from DEM .....   | 22 |
| Figure 2.3: The principal of Weighted overlay of raster datasets.....  | 25 |
| Figure 2.4: GIS technology used in spatial integration and analysis to demarcate basin groundwater recharge potential zone.....  | 29 |
| Figure 3.1: Methodology flowchart for the delineation of groundwater potential zones.....  | 40 |
| Figure 4.1: a single mass showing the consistency of the rainfall data from Tororo.....  | 41 |
| Figure 4.2: The infiltration potential of different soil types in Busitema Sub County .....                                      | 42 |
| Figure 4.3: A thematic layer showing the drainage density of Busitema Sub County .....   | 44 |
| Figure 4.4: A thematic layer showing the lineament density of Busitema Sub County .....  | 45 |
| Figure 4.5: A thematic layer showing the land use of Busitema Sub County .....   | 46 |
| Figure 4.6: A thematic layer showing the slope of Busitema Sub County .....  | 47 |
| Figure 4.7: A thematic layer showing the soil of Busitema Sub County.....  | 48 |
| Figure 4.8: A thematic layer showing the lithology of Busitema Sub County .....  | 50 |
| Figure 4.9: A thematic layer of Busitema Sub County showing the ground water flow nets (water table contours) and direction..... | 51 |
| Figure 4.10: The model used to overlay all the multi-influencing factors of ground water.....                                    | 55 |
| Figure 4.11: Ground water map showing different potential zone .....   | 56 |
| Figure 4.12: The ground water map generated with the existing boreholes.....   | 58 |

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Preamble

This chapter includes the following: back ground to the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, justification, objectives of the study, scope as well as a brief description of Busitema sub-county's topography, climate and the land use.

#### 1.2. Back ground information

Water is the most essential natural resource on the planet earth. It is categorized into saline water which is ocean water and fresh water which is a finite resource essential for life, development and the environment. According to *UN annual report, 2010*, saline water (oceans) cover about 97% of earth's waters and fresh water is only a small proportion of the total water (3%) and mainly stored in the ice and glacier form. Fresh water resources are majorly ground water and surface water resources. According to *UN annual report, 2010*, Ice caps and glaciers contribute 68.7% of fresh water, ground water 30.1, surface water 0.3% and others 0.9%.

According to *Banks, D., Robins, N., (2002)*, Groundwater is a form of water held under the ground in the saturated zone that fills all the pore space of soils and geologic formations. It is formed by rainwater or snowmelt water that seeps down through the soil and into the underlying rocks (aquifers). It is the major resource of water supply as provides more than half of humanity's freshwater for everyday uses such as drinking, cooking, and hygiene, as well as thirty percent of irrigated agriculture and industrial development (*Zuppi, G.M,2007*).

According to *MWE; 2011*, the average sustainable available groundwater resources in the Uganda are 5,670 million cubic meters per year while the domestic water demand up to the year 2030 is estimated to be 326 million cubic meters per year which there is an indication that, there is enough sustainable ground water in the country. Groundwater will continue to be the main source of water supply in Uganda with domestic water supply expected to use less than 15% of the available groundwater resources up to the year 2030. (*Tindimugaya et al, 2011*).

Due to increased pollution of surface water sources as a result of population growth, the uncertainties related to climate change and consequent economic and agricultural development, it

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