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**Hydrogeological Assessment and Water Resources Management of Hodein
and Rahaba Hydrographic Basins, Halaib-Shalatin Area, South Eastern
Desert, Egypt**

**A Thesis submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the requirement for the
Master Degree in Science in
Geology**

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Note

The present thesis is submitted by Rania Mohsen Ragab to the faculty of science, Ain Shams University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Geology (Hydrogeology).

In addition to the research work performed in this thesis, the candidate has attended eleven post-graduate courses for the academic year (2013-2014), in the following topics:

- Field Geology.
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- Formation Evaluation.
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ABSTRACT

Water scarcity is the main problem in arid and semiarid regions such as Halaib-Shalatin area, southeastern part of the Eastern Desert. The present work concerning with study of the water resources which represent very vital for developing new Settlements and domestic infrastructures. In the present study several controlling factors on the water resource such as geomorphologic features, geologic setting, soil characteristics, hydromorphometric analysis, climatic condition, runoff estimation, hydrogeologic condition, hydrochemical characteristics and quality evaluation of surface and groundwater. Nonconventional methods and techniques are applied to study these controlling factors such as Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) landsat satellite images (EarthExplorer), geographic information systems, The SRTM 90 m DEM's have a resolution of 90 m and Watershed Modeling System (WMS 8.4 @ Aquaveo). Rahaba - Hodein surface areas are built up of Precambrian basement rocks, Upper Cretaceous rocks and Quaternary deposits. The elevation of the study area ranged from 2 to 1400 m above sea level with slope degree less than 5° (very gentle) at down stream portions and slope degree more than 35° (very steep) at up stream portions. The Red Sea Mountains represent about 80 % of the surface area which represent the most important groundwater bearing due to its great extension and high fracture system in the form of igneous and metamorphic rocks. The mean annual precipitation ranges between 25-100 mm. Quantification of surface runoff estimated from rainfall depth by using HEC-1 (SCS) and TR-55 Modelling from WMS 8.4© (Watershed Modeling System). Hutib subbasin has the highest peak and runoff values but flash flood probability is low. Al Abyad sub-basin has the high peak and runoff values and flash flood probability is very high, so some dams and dykes must

be constructed at the crossing point between the third and fourth stream order for infiltrating and recharging the shallow aquifer.

Kirayjah, Naam, El Dif and Madi sub-basins have high peak and runoff values, these basins reflect high probability of flash flood. The suggested protection system at Hodein catchment area must be at Kirayjah sub-watershed.

Applying weighted spatial probability model (WSPM) for determining the potential sites for runoff water harvesting. High to very high runoff water harvesting potentiality classes are occupied Rahaba main channel and El Dif Hodein sub-basin. The optimum area for water resources/land use and groundwater recharge in Rahaba basin is Hutib sub-watershed and El Naam, El Dif and Emrit Hodein sub-watersheds.

The water resources in the study area are Shalatin sea water desalination plant for domestic purposes, the drinking water and cooking water are brought from vehicles transport water from the city of Idfo on the River Nile to Shalatin and natural springs, hand dug wells and shallow drilled wells.

The groundwater is available from two main aquifers belonging to Upper Cretaceous and Precambrian times. Twelve water points are hydrogeologically investigated which comprise 4 springs, 6 hand dug wells and 2 shallow drilled wells. Eight samples are collected from Upper Cretaceous sandstone aquifer; the TDS varies from 487 mg/L (Fresh water) at Abu Saafa 2 to 1433 mg/L (Slightly Saline) at Abu Saafa 4. Most of them are characterized by fresh water (Abu Saafa 3, 2, 1, Gombeet, Ain Abraq and El Sunta) while other points are slightly saline (Abu Saafa 4 and Bir Abraq). Four water samples collected from fractured basement with salinity values varies from 458 mg/L (fresh water) at Bir Gahelia 2 to 2153 mg/L (slightly saline) at Bir Mekeel. Water samples of Bir Gahleia 1 and 2 are dominated by calcium and magnesium bicarbonate salts which reflect meteoric origin

(fresh water), while Bir Iqaat and Mekeel groundwater due to leaching of evaporates terrestrial salts by meteoric water. Upper Cretaceous sandstone aquifer groundwater samples of Abu Saafa1, 2, 3 and El Sunta occupied mixed zone these water samples are dominated by calcium, magnesium chloride and sulphate salts. Bir Abraq, Ain Abraq and Gombeet placed near mixed zone and sodium chloride zone. Bir Abu Saafa 4 reflects sodium chloride water type. All groundwater samples are suitable for drinking except Bir Iqaat and Bir Mekeel due to their high salinity. Evaluation of groundwater quality for irrigation purposes Ain Abraq and Bir Gahelia 2 are categorized under good quality and non-limited use while Abu Saafa1, 2, 3, El Sunta, Bir Abraq, Gombeet for Upper Cretaceous aquifer and Bir Gahleia 1 are under some limited use. Abu Saafa 4, Mekeel and Iqaat are under moderate limitation which need leaching at higher range to use in irrigation.

Keywords: Shalatin, Eastern Desert, Egypt, Rahaba hydrographic basin, Hodein hydrographic basin, Hydro-morphometric parameters, runoff water harvesting, Hydrogeology and Flash floods.



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CONTENT

Item	Page No.
ABSTRACT	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. General outline	1
1.2. Location of the study area	2
1.3. Problem definition	4
1.4. Scope and target	3
1.5. Materials and methods	3
1.6. Previous works	4
CHAPTER II GEOLOGIC SETTING	10
2.1 Overview of the Geologic Setting	10
2.1.1 Precambrian basement rocks	11
2.1.2 Basalt or Tertiary Basic Volcanics	12
2.1.3 Upper Cretaceous	12
2.1.4 Quaternary Deposits	21
2.1.5 Geological Structures	23
2.1.6 The structural lineaments and their relation to the drainage systems	24
2.1.7 Drainage lineation system	28
CHAPTER III GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SETTING AND SOIL CHARACTERISTICS	31
3.1 Geomorphological Setting	31
3.1.1 Red Sea coast	32
3.1.2 Red Sea mountainous area	33
3.1.3 Sandstone plateau	34
3.1.4 Inland tectonic depressions	35
3.1.5 Tertiary volcanic ridges	35
3.1.6 Piedmont and Coastal Plain	35

3.2 Soil Characteristics	37
3.2.1 General Soil Description	37
3.3 Soil classification and mapping	42
3.4 Land capability	44
3.4.1 Soils with fair land capability	44
3.4.2 Soils with poor land capability	45
3.4.3 Soils with very poor land capability	45
3.4.4 Soils with Non-agriculture land capability	45
3.4.5 Mountains and hills	46
CHAPTER IV HYDRO-MORPHOMETRIC ANALYSIS	47
4.1 Hydro-Morphometric Analyses	47
4.1.1 Drainage Network	49
4.1.2 Basin Geometry	58
4.1.3 Drainage texture	63
4.1.4 Relief characterizes	65
4.2 Flash floods propability at Wadi Rahaba and Hodein watersheds	73
CHAPTER V CLIMATIC CONDITIONS	78
5.1 Climatic conditions	78
5.1.1 Air temperature	84
5.1.2 Evaporation	84
5.1.3 Relative Humidity	84
5.1.4 Rainfall intensity	84
5.1.5 Degree of aridity	89
5.1.6 Surface wind	90
CHAPTER VI RUNOFF CALCULATIONS, POSSIBILITIES OF WATER HARVESTING AND GROUNDWATER RECHARGE	93
6.1 Surface runoff estimation of the studied hydrographic watersheds	93
6.1.1 General outline	93
6.1.2 Runoff Prediction and Analysis	93
6.2 Possibilities of water harvesting and groundwater recharge at Wadi Rahaba and Hodein	116

6.2.1 Thematic Layers	116
6.2.1.1 Length of overland flow distance	116
6.2.1.2 Volume of Annual Flood	119
6.2.1.3 Basin Slope	119
6.2.1.4 Drainage density	119
6.2.1.5 Basin Length	120
6.2.1.6 Basin Area	120
6.2.1.7 Basin infiltration number	120
6.2.1.8 Maximum Flow Distance	121
6.2.2 The Weighted spatial probability models (WSPMs) for determining the runoff water harvesting potentialities	130
6.2.2.1 The Weighted spatial probability models Scenario I (equal weights to criteria)	130
6.2.2.2 The Weighted spatial probability models Scenario II (Justified Weights by the Sensitivity Analysis) for W. Hodein and W. Rahaba Hydrographic Watersheds	137
6.3 Water /Land use Mapping of W. Rahaba – W. Hodein watersheds	173
6.3.1 Thematic Layers	173
6.3.1.1 Volume of annual flood	174
6.3.1.2 Basin Slope	178
6.3.1.3 Land capability units	178
6.3.1.4 Groundwater prospectively units	178
6.3.2 The weighted spatial probability models for water/land use potentiality mapping; Scenario I (equal weights to criteria)	182
6.3.3 The Weighted spatial probability models Scenario II (Justified Weights by the Sensitivity Analysis) for Water/Land Use Potentiality Mapping in W. Rahaba and Hodein Watersheds	188
6.3.4 Water/Land Use Master Plan of W. Rahaba Watershed	207
6.3.5 Water/Land Use Master Plan of W. Hodein Watershed	209
CHAPTER VII HYDROGEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS	211
7.1 General Outlines	211
7.2 Aquifer characteristics	211
7.2.1 Upper Cretaceous aquifer	214
7.2.2 Precambrian (fractured basement rocks)	217

7.2.2.1 Groundwater in gneisses rocks	217
7.2.2.2 Groundwater in Metagabbros	217
Chapter VIII HYDROCHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GROUNDWATER	221
8.1 General Outlines	221
8.2 Hydrochemical characteristics	221
8.3 Potable and non-conventional water resources in study area	239
8.4 Groundwater quality and evaluation for use	240
8.4.1 General outline	240
8.4.2 Evaluation of groundwater quality for drinking	240
8.4.3 Evaluation of groundwater quality for irrigation purposes	243
8.4.3.1 Electric Conductivity	243
8.4.3.2 Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR) or sodicity index	244
8.4.3.3 Residual sodium carbonate	246
8.4.3.4 Chloride	247
8.4.3.5 PH and Alkalinity	247
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION	252
REFERENCES	264

LIST OF TABLES

Table.		Page No.
3.1	Texture types and particles distribution	37
3.2	Gypsum, Calcium carbonate, Organic Matter, Cations Exchange Capacity and Exchange Sodium Percentage	40
3.3	Electric conductivity, potential of hydrogen, soluble cations and soluble anions	41
3.4	Soil classification according to USDA (1975)	43
3.5	Land capability classes	44
4.1	Morphometric parameter formulas	48
4.2	Linear aspect of the drainage network of Wadi Rahaba	53
4.3	Linear aspect of the drainage network of Wadi Hodein	54
4.4	Bifurcation ratio of Wadi Rahaba	56
4.5	Bifurcation ratio of Wadi Hodein	57
4.6	Morphometric parameters and hazards degrees of W. Rahaba and its sub-watersheds	71
4.7	Morphometric parameters and hazards degrees of W. Hodein and its sub-watersheds	72
4.8	Morphometric parameters affecting the determination of hazard degrees of flash floods in Wadi Rahaba sub-watersheds	77
4.9	Morphometric parameters affecting the determination of hazard degrees of flash floods in Wadi Hodein sub- watersheds	77
5.1	Geographic location of meteorological stations covering the study area	79
5.2	Mean values of the meteorological records of Ras Banas station (period: 1976 – 2005)	80
5.3	Mean values of the meteorological records of Aswan station (period: 1976 – 2005)	81
5.4	Mean values of the meteorological records of Shalatin station (period: 1997– 2001)	82
5.5	Mean values of the meteorological records of Shalatin station (period: 1997 – 2001)	83
5.6	Thunderstorms time and date in Ras Banas Station	86
5.7	Thunderstorms recorded in Ras Banas Station (1964-1995)	87

Table.		Page No.
5.8	prediction Values of Precipitation over mountainous areas in Rahaba Hodein Hydrograph watershed	88
5.9	Probability of annual occurrence and return period analysis	89
5.10	Calculation of aridity index depended on Emberger's formula (1955)	90
5.11	Surface Wind direction and percentage frequency at Ras Banas station	92
6.1	Soil hydrologic groups and their infiltration capacity (SCS, 1972)	95
6.2	Geologic rocks units versus Soil hydrologic groups (Elewa and Qaddah, 2011).	95
6.3	W. Rahaba sub-watersheds runoff CNs	97
6.4	W. Hodein Sub-watersheds runoff CNs	98
6.5	Travel time in W. Rahaba sub-watershed using the NRCS equation	105
6.6	Travel time in W. Hodein sub-watershed using the NRCS equation	105
6.7	W. Rahaba sub-watersheds peak discharges, time to peak flood and volume of runoff (SCS method)	107
6.8	W. Hodein sub-watersheds peak discharges, time to peak flood and volume of runoff	108
6.9	W. Rahaba sub-watershed peak discharge, time to peak flow and volume of runoff by TR-55 method	115
6.10	W. Hodein sub-watershed peak discharge and time to peak flow and volume of runoff by TR-55 method	115
6.11	Ranges of input criteria used in the weighted spatial probability model (WSPM) for W. Rahaba watershed	118
6.12	Ranges of input criteria used in the weighted spatial probability model (WSPM) for W. Hodein watershed	118
6.13	First weighted spatial probability model scenario (equal weights to criteria), ranks and degree of effectiveness of themes used in the runoff water harvesting potentiality mapping of study area	132
6.14	Areas of the runoff water harvesting potentiality classes for W. Rahaba hydrographic watershed (from the weighted spatial probability model Scenario I)	133
6.15	Areas of the runoff water harvesting potentiality classes for W. Hodein hydrographic watershed (weighted spatial probability model Scenario I)	134
6.16	The second weighted spatial probability model scenario (seven parameters with an equal weight of 10% and one parameter with 30%) for W. Rahaba and W. Hodein hydrographic watersheds	138

Table.		Page No.
6.17	Variance ratios and justified weights of the WSPMs criteria used in the RUNOFF WATER HARVESTING potentiality mapping of W. Hodein watershed (VAF calculated by the SCS method)	158
6.18	Variance ratios and justified weights of the WSPMs criteria used in the runoff water harvesting potentiality mapping of W. Hodein watershed (VAF calculated by the TR-55 method)	159
6.19	Variance ratios and justified weights of the WSPMs criteria used in the runoff water harvesting potentiality mapping of W. Rahaba watershed (VAF calculated by the SCS method)	159
6.20	Variance ratios and justified weights of the WSPMs criteria used in the runoff water harvesting potentiality mapping of W. Rahaba watershed (VAF calculated by the TR-55 method)	159
6.21	The weighted spatial probability models scenario II (justified weights by the sensitivity analysis) (VAF calculated by the SCS method) of W. Hodein watershed	164
6.22	The weighted spatial probability models scenario II WSPM's Scenario II (justified weights by the sensitivity analysis) (VAF calculated by the TR-55 method) of W. Hodein watershed	165
6.23	The weighted spatial probability modelsscenario II (justified weights by the sensitivity analysis) (VAF calculated by the SCS method) of W. Rahaba watershed	166
6.24	The weighted spatial probability models scenario II (justified weights by the sensitivity analysis) (VAF calculated by the TR-55 method) of W. Rahaba watershed	167
6.25	Areas of the runoff water harvesting potential classes in W. Hodein watershed (WSPM's Scenario II; VAF calculated by the SCS method)	168
6.26	Areas of runoff water harvesting potentiality classes in W. Hodein Hydrograph basin (WSPM Scenario II; based on the results of sensitivity analysis) - VAF calculated by TR-55 method	169
6.27	Areas of the runoff water harvesting potential classes in W. Rahaba watershed (WSPM Scenario II; VAF calculated by the SCS method)	170
6.28	Areas of the runoff water harvesting potentiality classes in W. Rahaba watershed (WSPM Scenario II; VAF calculated by the TR-55 method)	170
6.29	WMS 8.0© software hydrographical output criteria used for demarcating the watershed's characteristics of W. Rahaba for water/land use potentiality mapping	173

Table.		Page No.
6.30	WMS 8.0© software hydrographical output criteria used for demarcating the watershed's characteristics of W. Hodein for water/land use potentiality mapping	173
6.31	Ranges of input criteria used in the WSPM for water/Land use potentiality mapping of W. Rahaba watershed	174
6.32	Ranges of input criteria used in the WSPM for water/Land use potentiality mapping of W. Hodein watershed	174
6.33	WSPM Scenario I (equal weights to criteria), ranks and degree of effectiveness of themes used in the water/land use potentiality mapping of W. Rahaba - Hodein watersheds	183
6.34	Areas of water/land use classes for W. Rahaba watershed (equal weights to criteria)	184
6.35	Areas of water/land use classes for W. Hodein watershed (equal weights to criteria)	186
6.36	Variance ratios and justified weights of the WSPM's criteria used in the water/land use potentiality mapping for W. Rahaba watershed	200
6.37	Areas of water/land use potentiality classes of WSPM scenario II (based on sensitivity analysis) of W. Hodein Watershed	203
6.38	Areas of water/land use potentiality classes of WSPM scenario II (based on sensitivity analysis) of W. Rahaba watershed	205
6.39	Areas of water/land use potentiality classes of WSPM scenario II (based on sensitivity analysis) of W. Hodein watershed	207
6.40	Areas of water/land use master plan with their relative % to the total area of W. Rahaba watershed	209
6.41	Areas of water/land use master plan with their relative % to the total area of W. Hodein watershed	209
7.1	Hydrogeological data of water points of Wadis Rahaba – Hodein watersheds	213
8.1	The value of electric conductivity for various types of water	222
8.2	Ion dominance of aquifers in W. Hodein and W. Rahaba watersheds	226
8.3	Hypothetical salts combinations of the fractured basement and Nubian sandstone aquifer	230
8.4	Hydrochemical coefficients (ionic ratios)	233
8.5	Water quality guidelines for human drinking and domestic uses (Egyptian Higher Committee for water, 2007)	241 241
8.6	General guidelines for salinity hazard of irrigation water based upon electric conductivity.	243
8.7	Potential yield reduction from saline water for selected irrigated	246