Triangulation Approach for Mapping Groundwater Suitability Zones in Coastal Areas Around Lagos, Nigeria. Using Multi-Criteria Decision-Making Technique

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ABSTRACT
Water quality in Lagos’s coastal area is prone to constant seawater intrusion due to its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. Seawater intrusion in the coastal aquifer is a major challenge to human survival and therefore needs urgent attention due to deficiency in groundwater quality. This study applies integrated techniques to map groundwater suitability zone (GSZ) around the Lagos coastal area for sustainable development. The objectives were achieved by preparing eight different thematic layers that influence groundwater suitability viz; drainage density, geology, geomorphology, lineament density, rainfall, longitudinal conductance, slope, and transverse resistance. Weighting assignment, normalization and, pair-wise comparison of the thematic maps were done using Saaty’s Analytical Hierarchical Process (AHP) model before being integrated through the geographical information system (GIS) spatial analyst model with weight overlay to generate the overall groundwater suitability map. The integrated result reveals that 7% of the research location has very low suitability, 32.2% low, 47.8% moderate, and 13% high groundwater suitability. Thus, the groundwater suitability zone (GSZ) was validated via Electrical conductivity (EC) and total dissolved solids (TDS) and the result reveals a good correlation. The research has proven the efficacy of integrating different surface and subsurface data for effectively mapping the groundwater suitability zone (GSZ).

1. Introduction

Population increases in the coastal areas around the world, especially in the Lagos province coupled with increasing urbanisation and industrialisation have warranted greater demands for potable water supply for socio-economic development. Also, the demand for water has put more pressure on the coastal aquifer systems since it is the only source of water used for human consumption and other anthropogenic events in the metropolitan city of Lagos and the surface waters present are somewhat contaminated. Also, improper waste management from household sewages disposal and hazardous industrial chemicals have led to degradation in groundwater resources (Bachaer et al. 2018). More so, the coastal regions are prone to seawater intrusion (SWI) because the equilibrium of hydrostatic balance between the groundwater protective capacity and seawater interface has been broken. The main causes of seawater intrusion into freshwater are high demographic density. This has a result of over-exploitation and intensive pumping (Bagyaraj et al. 2012). Also, high relief slope, topographical depression, precipitation, and high drainage density can increase surface runoff that infiltrates into the coastal aquifer (Demiroglu and Dowd 2014). However, poor economic situation, inadequate infrastructural facilities from the government like pipe-borne water, and alternative water supplies have made people living around metropolis source for alternative water supply which is solely groundwater. A balance between human demands for water consumption and groundwater supply has not been attained for their sustainability. Also, the quantity and quality of groundwater have been changing due to the effect of anthropogenic activities coupled with natural geological influence (Chawla et al. 2010; Akintunde 2018).

Groundwater is found in the subsurface of the earth’s crust. It is void occupying water in rock cracks and pore space in sands. It serves as a reservoir for water storage and slowly moves within the geological formation of the subsurface litho-stratification. Groundwater occurrence at any place on the earth is due to consequential interaction of climate change, geological formation, hydrological and ecological factors (Scibeka et al. 2007). Soil porosity, topography, and permeability of the underlying lithologies are the dynamic factors controlling groundwater storativity and transmissivity. The study area lithologies are the constituent that forms the stratigraphy of various geomorphic units, porosity media, and permeability thereby causing some noticeable change in the groundwater potential (Surajit and Ramakar 2015). Hydrogeological parameters such as topographic slope,
geological formation, lineament extraction, drainage network, rainfall, geomorphological structure, and geophysical surveys are factors that can be used in groundwater recharge investigation. Recently, geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing (RS) are valuable tools for spatial modelling of hydrogeological exploration of a large surface area with more dependability (Gyetshen et al. 2020). GIS and RS are time-saving tools and economical ways of demarcating groundwater monitoring management. The multi-criteria decision model (MCDM) using the Analytical Hierarchical Process (AHP) technique has become an effective tool adopted by numerous researchers for an accurate description of groundwater suitability studies (Pinto et al. 2015; Fashae et al. 2014).

In recent times, researchers have used a different integrated approach to map and monitor groundwater in some parts of Lagos province (Adeoti et al. 2010; Oyede and Oladele 2011; Aladejana et al. 2020). In some of these studies, saltwater intrusion has been identified in the first aquifer unit, such as Sangotedo, Ajah, Lakowe, Lekki, and Agboyi creek. The degradation of groundwater quality around the Oniru and Eputu-Lakowe environs may be due to the high infiltration of saltwater in the freshwater aquifer zone (Ozebo and Ajiroba 2011; Oyede and Oladele 2011). (Anthony 2016; Adiati et al. 2012) have successfully combined geophysical methods and geospatial techniques using multi-criteria decision analysis to develop groundwater potential and water monitoring models. It is, therefore, necessary to identify and map potential areas around the Lagos coastal area for sustainable development. The present study focuses on applying an integrated approach to identify and map quality groundwater suitability zone (GSZ) around the Lagos lagoon metropolis using geospatial and geophysical techniques. These objectives will be achieved by preparing the thematic maps of contributing parameters such as drainage, lineament, geology, geomorphology, rainfall, and slope through the GIS environment. Also, a geophysical investigation was carried out to corroborate the results from the geospatial data. Then, Groundwater suitability zones (GSZ) map was generated for the study areas. Finally, the GSZ map was validated with the physico-chemical analysis of some collected groundwater samples.

2. Location, hydrology, and geology the study area

This study area falls within the Lagos coastal plain which is accessible through waterways within the metropolis. According to Badejo et al. (2014), the Lagos Lagoon is very significant because it not only extends across the southern region of the metropolis but also serves as a linkage to the Atlantic Ocean especially along the western and southern as well as Lekki Lagoon in the eastern part of the lagoon. The study location lies between longitude 3°20’E to 4°15’E and Latitude 6°23’N to 6°44’N as shown in Figure 1. The proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and the variation

![Figure 1. Map of the study area showing borehole points, VES points and elevation (Nigeria Geological Survey Agency 2006 and Agagu 1985).](image-url)
in both seasonal and semi-diurnals are the main sources of salinity (Medina-Gómez et al. 2014; Mohamed et al. 2014). The weather season in Lagos varies significantly throughout the year, the wetter season lasts 6.8 months, from April to October while the drier season lasts for 5.2 months, from November to March (Adenodi 2018). The study area is characterised by a multi-aquifer system that consists of three major aquifer horizons differentiated by silty or clay layers. The first aquifer unit is the water table aquifer and is highly prone to pollution due to its closeness to the ground surface (Oyedele and Oladele 2011). The second aquifer unit is a confined aquifer that consists of discontinuous arrangements of sand and clay. These aquifer units are embedded within the continental Ilaro Formation and are harnessed through the borehole. Though some of this aquifer is slightly contaminated, and it is the most exploited (Adeoti et al. 2010; Olorode et al. 2016). The third aquifer consists of fine and medium sand and it is the most reliable aquifer used by industries and waterworks in Lagos metropolis. The groundwater in this aquifer exists as confined to the semi-confined aquifer (Longe et al. 1987).

Dahomey represents one of the sedimentary basins that can be found at the Guinea Gulf continental boundary. The basin is a marginal pull part-system of the West African margin which erupted during the rifting era that separated the African and South American plates and subsequently create the Gulf of Guinea from the late Jurassic era to the early Cretaceous time (Burke et al. 1971; Whiteman 1982). However, Wilson and Williams (1979) suggested that Dahomey is belted to the western part of Ghana escarpment that is essentially an adjunct of the Romancha fracture belt and bounded to the eastern part of the Benin Hinge line. Furthermore, the basement ridge that differentiates the Niger Delta Basin from the Okitipupa Structure and consequently became the Chain Fracture extension zone of the continent (Billman 1976). The stratigraphic column and the geology map of the study area are present in Table 1 and Figure 1, respectively (GAF et al. 2016 and Agagu, 1985). The major geological features of the study area are the Coastal Plain sand and Coastal Alluvium which belongs to the Quaternary to the Recent Formation with an alternating sequence of clay, clayey sand, pebbly sand, sandy clay, sand, lignite, and silt (Jones and Hockey 1964). While the minor geological units are the Ilaro formation, Ewekoro formation, Oshosun formation, and Abeokuta complex basin which are the shale, sandstone, limestone, marls gastropod, and siltstone (Omatoola and Adegoke 1981). High explorations of groundwater in the alluvia belt are proportional to the high rate of upward movement of saline water in this zone (Longe 2011).

### 3. Materials and methods

The method employed in this study is centred on three basic phases; Firstly, is the use geospatial approach to create thematic layers such as lithological layers, drainage patterns, lineament networks, hydrological cycle, and geomorphological data. Secondly, in-situ data using the geophysical electrical resistivity, digital image processing (DIP) from the remote sensing data were used for spatial classification of groundwater suitability zone (GSZ). In the third phase, a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) approach based on the analytical hierarchical process (AHP) was used to integrate the multiple data set in an ArcGIS environment.

### 4. 3.1: Geo-spatial data acquisition

**Drainage Network**: The Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission Digital Elevation Model (STRM DEM) 30 m resolution (1 arc-second) data was acquired from USGS Earth Explorer. The topographic data was georeferenced to UTM coordinate Systems in Minna Datum 32 N using a geographic information system (GIS). The Arc-Hydro tool of ArcMap employed involves a start from the sink fills up to the stream to feature function for extracting stream channels from the topographic map in Figure 4. Researchers like (Prasad et al. 2008; Singh et al. 2013; Olornfemi and

### Table 1. Eastern Dahomey basin stratigraphic units.

| Era   | Age       | Formation          | Age     | Formation    | Age     | Formation            | Lithology          |
|-------|-----------|--------------------|---------|--------------|---------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Tertiary | Pleistocene - Oligocene Eocene Palaeogene | Coastal Plain sands Ilaro Ewekoro | Pleistocene - Oligocene Eocene Palaeogene | Coastal Plain sand Ilaro Oshosun Akinbo | Pleistocene - Oligocene Eocene Palaeogene | Coastal Plain sand Ewekoro Oshosun Akinbo Ewekoro Araromi Afowo Ise |
| Cretaceous | Late Senonian | Abeokuta | Maastrichtian – Neocomian | Araromi Afowo Ise | Maastrichtian – Neocomian | Araromi Afowo Ise |

Conglomerates, Sandstones, Shales and Minor Carbonate Precambrian Crystalline Basement Rocks.
Oni (2019) have successfully used the fill tools for different spatial analysis modules. The drainage network was used to indicate hydrological conditions. The density of the drainage network is restrained by its lithology and the precipitation infiltration rate of the sub-surface runoff (Edet et al. 1998). The Drainage density is the total length of the drainage line via the sub-basin zone and was expressed in terms of km/km². For the purpose of the research, a high drainage density zone is allocated with higher weight while a low drainage density zone is assigned with lower weight as presented in Table 2 (Shaban et al. 2006). The drainage network is distinctively classified with a natural break (Jenks) into five categories as presented in Table 2.

**Lineament extraction:** Lineament analysis shows the relationship between the surface water penetration and weathering zones that control the water mobility and infiltration rate (Recep 2019). The Landsat 8 (OLLI_TIRS) enhanced thematic mapper (ETM+) sensor of path 190 and raw 055 and 056 acquired in May 2019 from USGS Earth Explorer was employed to extract the lineament pattern. The Landsat data reflectivity was enhancement via radiometric correction and the principal component analysis (PCA) using forward PC rotation in the ENVI 5.1 software. The automated lineament extraction was completed with the PCI Geomatica 2018 software using the LINE extraction tool from the algorithm librarian. The algorithm of the LINE extraction modular consists of edge detection, thresholding, and curve extraction, which were the three stages of extracting the Lineaments pattern. Rockwork 17 software was used to identify the bearing of the lineament lines using the rose diagram. The rose diagram tools are used to analyse lineament orientation and the directional frequency of the extracted lineament over the area. Layers of the lineament features were enhanced and improved using the panchromatic band of the ETM+ to increase details on the GIS model, especially layer grouping and classification. The lineament density was calculated by dividing the total lineament length by the cross-sectional area of the basin and its expressed in km/km². The lineament density was classified into five categories as presented in Table 2 with natural break (Jenks) intervals.

**Geological structures:** The geological map was geo-referenced, digitised, and classified from the 1:50,000 topsheet 279 SW of the Nigeria Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) using ArcGIS Tools. More so, the geology of the study area was reclassified (Table 2) by their influence on saltwater intrusion. The Abeokuta complex basin is given the magnitude of 5, the Ewekoro formation is given the magnitude of 4, the Ilaro and Oshosun formation were classified as 3 while the coastal plain and the coastal Alluvium were classified as 2 and 1 respectively (Figure 6).

**Hydro-geomorphological map:** The geomorphology features are the topographic features that illustrate the various landform and landscapes of the study environment. The geomorphology map was extracted from the world geological map (One-Geology database, which is affiliated with the British Geological Survey (BGS)). The extracted data was geo-referenced using the ArcGIS referencing tool, then ratified into the tiff format for layer integration before being digitised for classification. Also, the geomorphology map was enhanced by different geomorphology features presented by (Allen 1965) and updated from the field survey. Weight was assigned to each geomorphological feature regarding their influence on saltwater intrusion (Offodile 2014). Features with higher influence were assigned the lowest value and vice versa (Table 2).

**Slope and elevation:** To determine the groundwater controlling factors, the slope map plays a significant role (Kadam et al. 2012). The research zone slope map was

### Table 2. Categorisation of factors influencing of groundwater suitability zones.

| Factors          | Assigned Weight | Normalised Weight (w) | Domain Effect | Rank |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|------|
| Geology (Ge)     | 7               | 0.175                 | Abeokuta Basin | 5    |
|                  |                 |                       | Ewekoro formation | 4    |
|                  |                 |                       | Oshosun formation | 3    |
|                  |                 |                       | Ilaro formation  | 3    |
|                  |                 |                       | Coastal plain sand | 2    |
|                  |                 |                       | Coastal Alluvium | 1    |
| Geomorphology (Gm) | 2              | 0.050                 | Beach ridge     | 4    |
|                  |                 |                       | Coastal creek    | 2    |
|                  |                 |                       | Mangrove Swamp   | 3    |
|                  |                 |                       | Floodplain       | 4    |
|                  |                 |                       | Lagoon           | 1    |
|                  |                 |                       | Pedi plain       | 5    |
| Lineament Density (Ld.) | 6       | 0.150                 | 0–0.319         | 5    |
|                  |                 | 0.320–0.562           |               | 3    |
|                  |                 | 0.56–1.76             |               | 1    |
| Drainage density (Dd) | 5    | 0.125                 | 4              | 5    |
|                  |                 | 3                     |               | 4    |
|                  |                 | 2                     |               | 3    |
|                  |                 | 1                     |               | 2    |
|                  |                 | 0                     |               | 1    |
| Slope            | 4               | 0.100                 | 0.001–0.262    | 5    |
|                  |                 | 0.262–1.442           |               | 4    |
|                  |                 | 1.442–2.360           |               | 3    |
|                  |                 | 2.360–3.541           |               | 2    |
|                  |                 | 3.541–33.44           |               | 1    |
| Longitudinal conductance (Lc.) | 3  | 0.075                 | 0.03208–0.4157 | 6    |
|                  |                 | 0.4158–0.7994         |               | 5    |
|                  |                 | 0.7995–1.617          |               | 4    |
|                  |                 | 1.618–2.457           |               | 3    |
|                  |                 | 2.458–5.762           |               | 2    |
|                  |                 | 5.763–14.010          |               | 1    |
| Transverse Resistance (Tr.) | 8  | 0.200                 | 7.006–25.00    | 1    |
|                  |                 | 25.01–100.00         |               | 2    |
|                  |                 | 100.01–250.00        |               | 3    |
|                  |                 | 250.01–500.00        |               | 4    |
|                  |                 | 500.01–1000.00       |               | 5    |
|                  |                 | 1000.01–2000.00      |               | 2    |
| Rainfall (Rf)    | 5               | 0.100                 | 178.888        | 1    |
|                  |                 | 135.039               |               | 2    |
|                  |                 | 219.779               |               | 3    |
| Total Sum       | 40              | 1                     | 37             |      |
generated from the STRM DEM topographic map 30 m resolution (1 arc-second) data downloaded from USGS Earth Explorer and was processed with the ArcGis spatial tools. The slope was classified based on the SOTER model in the ArcGis environment and then reclassified into a close level, very gentle, somewhat gentle, somewhat steep, and highly steep as presented in Figure 6 (European Commission 1995). The lowest classes slope is ranked as five and one is given the highest step of the slope as presented in Table 2.

Rainfall: Rainfall is a vital factor that affects the hydrological cycle and represents a direct recharge source in groundwater. Rainfall data can be used to determine the quantity of water present in groundwater. Rainfall data were collected from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) stations in Lagos state. The annual rainfall data used covers from 2003 to 2017 and the average annual rainfall data for 15 years is plotted in Figure 2. Rainfall distribution is affected by the slope gradient because it increases the infiltration rate of water runoff and groundwater rechargeability (Gyeltshen et al. 2020). The rainfall data were processed in the ArcGis platform using the Thiessen polygons tools to get the rainfall spatial distribution map. Researchers have used Thiessen polygon to analyse climate data when there are fewer weather stations in the state. The Thiessen polygon contains a single influential point input feature so that any location within the study area is closer to its associated point than to any other input point (Heywood et al. 1998).

4.1. Geophysical field survey

A geo-electrical resistivity method was employed to determine the physical parameters of the sub-surface lithology based on its apparent resistivity. A total of one hundred and ninety-seven (197) Vertical Electrical Sounding (VES) were conducted at Twenty-five locations around the study area using the Schlumberger arrangement with maximum current electrode spacing (AB/2) of 200 m at each point (Figure 1). A period of four months (May to August 2019) was used in the acquisition of the geophysical data. The equipment used in acquiring data was Pasi Terameter (16-GL). The accessories were electrodes, hammers, tape measures, and Global Positioning System (GPS) for geo-referencing the study points. The measured apparent resistivity values were interpreted quantitatively and qualitatively using the partial curve matching technique and computer iterations (Win-Resist software) (Vander Velpen 2004). Out of the 197, VES stations sounded, 100 VES points were presented in Table 3 showing the longitude, latitude, layer resistivities, and layer thickness of each station. Four to six subsurface geo-electrical layers were delineated from the interpreted VES. The distribution of their curve types is presented in Figure 3. Due to the ambiguity in the interpretation of resistivity, and the similarities in geophysical subsurface lithology, the Dar Zarrouk parameter was employed.

Geoelectrical parameter: The importance of using the Dar Zarrouk parameter is to solve the problem of overlapping character and reduce the uncertainty in the interpretation of the VES result (Henriet 1976; Batayneh 2013). The Dar Zarrouk parameters were used to determine the resistivity regime of the water-bearing formations or water bodies while dealing with complicated situations of resistivity ranges intermixing for saline, brackish, and freshwater aquifers. Dar Zarrouk parameters were used to identify the longitudinal conductance and transverse resistance from the VES data. In demarcating groundwater suitability,
| NAME | LAT | LONG | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | H1 | H2 | H3 | H4 | LC | TR |
|------|-----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Owode-Ibeje | 63.66 | 178.9 | 588.4 | 2.6 | 22.8 | 75 | 74,190.67 | 0.045993 |
| Ofin Oreta | 63.59 | 180.9 | 603.9 | 11.52 | 40.2 | 369.3 | 1.2 | 3.8 | 8.8 | 31.4 | 73.5 | 348,240.0 | 2.1119 |
| Eputu-Lakowe | 63.56 | 184.0 | 611.5 | 2.47 | 17.2 | 52.7 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 12.6 | 41.9 | 75.4 | 262,293.0 | 1.8685 |
| Ejirin-Ikosi | 63.55 | 182.4 | 633.4 | 0.37 | 5.1 | 17.3 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 13.1 | 31.1 | 74,190.67 | 0.044524 |
| Lagasa | 63.54 | 186.5 | 651.0 | 2.27 | 13.0 | 32.9 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 15.4 | 32.6 | 74,190.67 | 0.044524 |
| Ijede | 63.52 | 187.8 | 652.9 | 2.49 | 17.1 | 52.7 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 12.6 | 41.9 | 75.4 | 262,293.0 | 1.8685 |
| Bayiku | 63.52 | 188.9 | 654.4 | 0.37 | 5.1 | 17.3 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 13.1 | 31.1 | 74,190.67 | 0.044524 |
| Eti-Osa | 63.51 | 192.5 | 611.5 | 2.47 | 17.2 | 52.7 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 12.6 | 41.9 | 75.4 | 262,293.0 | 1.8685 |
| Ilora | 63.50 | 194.8 | 633.4 | 0.37 | 5.1 | 17.3 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 13.1 | 31.1 | 74,190.67 | 0.044524 |
| Ikorodu | 63.48 | 195.8 | 651.0 | 2.27 | 13.0 | 32.9 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 15.4 | 32.6 | 74,190.67 | 0.044524 |
| Ikosi-Agbowa | 63.46 | 197.8 | 652.9 | 2.49 | 17.1 | 52.7 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 12.6 | 41.9 | 75.4 | 262,293.0 | 1.8685 |
| Lagos (orubga) | 63.46 | 199.1 | 633.4 | 0.37 | 5.1 | 17.3 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 13.1 | 31.1 | 74,190.67 | 0.044524 |
| Long | 63.46 | 200.2 | 651.0 | 2.27 | 13.0 | 32.9 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 15.4 | 32.6 | 74,190.67 | 0.044524 |
| Ikorodu | 63.46 | 200.2 | 633.4 | 0.37 | 5.1 | 17.3 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 13.1 | 31.1 | 74,190.67 | 0.044524 |

**Table 3.** 100 vertical electric sounding results and the estimated Dar Zarrouk parameters.
the transverse resistivity (Tr) and the Longitudinal conductance (Lc) were used in this study. Tr was used to identify target areas with good groundwater and is directly associated with groundwater transmissivity. Tr was obtained from the first order geoelectric parameters, which are the layer’s apparent resistivity and the thickness. Equation 1 was used in calculating the transverse resistance (Tr) values with the layer’s resistivity and h the layer thickness for n-layers (Zohdy et al. 1974).

\[
Tr = \sum_{i=1}^{n} h_{i} \times \rho_{i} + h_{2} \times \rho_{2} + \ldots + h_{n} \times \rho_{n} (\Omega m^{2})
\]

Also, the longitudinal conductance (Lc) value was obtained from the acquired VES results (\( \mu \text{mhos} \)). The Lc was estimated by using equation 2.

\[
Lc = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{h_{i}}{\rho_{i}} + \frac{h_{2}}{\rho_{2}} + \ldots + \frac{h_{n}}{\rho_{n}} (\mu \text{mhos})
\]

The result from both Tr and Lc was interpolated with the spatial tools in the ArcGIS Platform using the inverse distance weight (IDW) interpolation scheme and their classification is presented in Table 2. Moreover, the map was classified according to its influence on groundwater quality. Areas with high Tr were given a high class and vice versa as presented in

![Figure 3. Frequency distribution for qualitative analyses of the VES curve types.](image-url)
Finally, the calculated parameter of the longitudinal conductance (Lc) and transverse resistance (Tr) is presented in Table 3.

### 4.2. Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP)

The AHP technique was used as a measurement for both subjective and objective evaluation of decision-makers, coupled with a provisional technique that checks and validates the consistency of the evaluated measurements. For this study, the eight contributing thematic parametric layers that influence groundwater suitability were ranked, then assigned weights by their importance. The AHP selects the likelihood of uncertainty in assignments via the principal Eigenvalue and the consistency index (Saaty 2004). A parameter weighted high was associated with the layer of high impact and the parameter weighted low was associated with a small groundwater impact. The weightage of each parameter and the pair-wise comparison was assigned based on standard Saaty’s scale 1–9 (Table 4) of relative importance value, with each factor, scored in accordance to its relative influence (Saaty 1980). The Saaty’s scale of relative importance presented in Table 4 show that each pair with a maximum difference is having one factor that is nine (9) times important than the other. The pair-wise comparison matrix for the selected groundwater parameter was developed by estimating the bulk value in every column in Table 5. The Sum of the columns was divided by every element in the matrix in order to normalise the matrix in Table 5. Also, in furtherance of validating the judgement consistency, the principal Eigenvalue was derived by multiplying the right matrix of the judgement by the normalised Eigenvector. The result of the pair-wise comparisons matrix (Weights, \( \lambda_{max} \)) is summarised in Table 6. Then, the consistency index was evaluated using equation 4.

\[
\lambda_{max} = \frac{\sum_{n} \lambda}{n} = 7.333 + 9.003 + 7.948 + 7.820 + 9.754 + 10.377 + 9.826 + 8.529 = 8.8239
\]

(3)

Where \( n \) is the number of factors (i.e. 8) and \( \lambda \) is the average eigenvalue of the consistency vector.

\[
CI = \frac{(\lambda_{max} - n)}{n - 1} = \frac{8.8239 - 8}{8 - 1} = 0.1177
\]

(4)

Also, the Consistency Ratio (CR) was used to measure the consistency of the pairwise matrix by using equation 5.

### Table 5. Pair wise comparison matrix of 7 criteria for the AHP process.

| \( i/j \) | Tr | Ge | Ld | Rf | Dd | Sl | Lc | Gm |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tr | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Ge | 1/2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1/3 | 1 | 1 |
| Ld | 1/3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Rf | 1/4 | 1/3 | 1/2 | 1 | 1/2 | 1/5 | 1 |
| Dd | 1/4 | 1/3 | 1 | 1 | 1/4 | 1/3 | 3 |
| Sl | 1/3 | 3 | 1/2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1/2 | 2 |
| Lc | 1/3 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Gm | 1/5 | 1 | 1/2 | 1 | 1/3 | 1/2 | 3/5 | 1 |
| Sum | 3.200 | 9.667 | 8.500 | 19.000 | 17.333 | 9.583 | 7.233 | 20.00 |
Table 6. Determining the relative criterion weights.

| i/j | Tr   | Ge   | Ld   | Rf   | Dd   | Sl   | Lc   | Gm   | Normalised value | Eigen value |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------|-------------|
| Tr  | 0.312| 0.207| 0.353| 0.211| 0.231| 0.313| 0.415| 0.250| 0.286            | 7.333       |
| Ge  | 0.516| 0.103| 0.118| 0.158| 0.173| 0.024| 0.138| 0.050| 0.116            | 9.003       |
| Ld  | 0.104| 0.103| 0.117| 0.105| 0.058| 0.209| 0.138| 0.100| 0.117            | 7.948       |
| Rf  | 0.078| 0.035| 0.059| 0.052| 0.058| 0.052| 0.027| 0.050| 0.051            | 7.820       |
| Dd  | 0.078| 0.035| 0.117| 0.052| 0.058| 0.026| 0.046| 0.150| 0.070            | 9.754       |
| Sl  | 0.104| 0.310| 0.059| 0.105| 0.231| 0.104| 0.069| 0.100| 0.135            | 10.377      |
| Lc  | 0.104| 0.103| 0.118| 0.263| 0.173| 0.209| 0.138| 0.250| 0.170            | 9.826       |
| Gm  | 0.063| 0.103| 0.059| 0.052| 0.019| 0.052| 0.028| 0.050| 0.530            | 8.529       |

Table 7. Saaty’s ratio index for different values of n.

| n   | RI |
|-----|----|
| 1   | 0.00|
| 2   | 0.00|
| 3   | 0.58|
| 4   | 0.90|
| 5   | 1.12|
| 6   | 1.24|
| 7   | 1.32|
| 8   | 1.41|
| 9   | 1.45|
| 10  | 1.49|
| 11  | 1.51|
| 12  | 1.48|
| 13  | 1.56|
| 14  | 1.57|
| 15  | 1.59|

\[ CR = \frac{CI}{RI} = \frac{0.1177}{1.41} = 0.0835 \]  

(5)

Where RI is the Ratio index calculated by Saaty (2004), using Table 7. For the comparison value to be considered acceptable, the consistency ratio must be smaller than or equal to 0.1. This implies that the judgement is consistent, and the derived weights can be used. For this study, n is 8, and CR is 0.0835.

4.3. Delineation of groundwater suitability zones

The groundwater suitability zones (GSZ) were delineated by the weighted linear combination (WLC) technique. (WLC) is a deterministic measure used to integrate non-parametric physical criteria in the ArcGIS module. The WLC was to calculate the groundwater suitability index by assigning weights of relative importance and then combine the standardised weights to design a suitability map. In order to generate a map that will portray a suitable area for potable water, all the contributing eight thematic parametric layers were integrated into the ArcGIS module and the overall weight of every map was computed using Equation 6:

\[
GPZ = (GmW \ast Gmr) + (Lcw \ast Lcr) + (Slw \ast Shr) + (Ddw \ast Ddr) + (Rfw \ast Rfr) + (Ldw \ast Ldr) + (Gew \ast Ger) + (Trw \ast Trr)
\]

(6)

Where \(w\) is the normalised weight and \(r\) is the influencing factor ratings. The weighted average was reclassified into five values to create a raster output file. A model builder was used to model all the influencing parameters. Each influencing parameter was represented with a band in the ArcGIS environment by using the normalised weights of each thematic layers. The vector thematic layer was transformed to raster thematic layers which later was reclassified for the optimisation of the integrated thematic map, then the groundwater suitability zone was estimated (Table 2). Moreover, the Groundwater Suitability Index Map was produce using the weight overlay model as presented in Figure 13. The groundwater suitability index of the study area was classified into Very Low, Low, Moderate, and High suitability using the natural breaks classification method.

4.4. Validation of groundwater suitability zones

Finally, the GSZ model was validated with physico-chemical data. Seventy-two (72) groundwater samples were collect sporadically within the study area with depths ranging from 28 to 87 m (Figure 1) to test for their electrical conductivity (EC) and total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations. The water samples were taken to the chemistry laboratory for EC and TDS analysis using the American Public Health Association (APHA) (2005) standard. Salinity in groundwater is associated with the amount of dissolved salt in water. When salt dissolves in water, their ions dissociate and increases the concentration of TDS and EC in groundwater (EPA, 2012). The statutory standard measures from World Health Organization (World Health Organization (WHO) 2018 and Nigerian standard for drinking water quality (NSDWQ 2015) for guidance on drinking water (Table 8) were used to corroborate the result of the EC and TDS. The descriptive statistical result of the EC and TDS was presented in Table 8 and the electrical conductivity (EC) and total dissolved solids (TDS) values were interpolated with inverse distance weight to produce the EC and TDS maps. Then, the EC and TDS maps were compared and correlated with the groundwater suitability map to validate the GSZ map, and to verify the effectiveness of the AHP method in demarcating GSZs in the study area. A very low electrical conductivity in groundwater is

Table 8. Descriptive statistical result of the physico-chemical analyses.

| Parameter | Minimum | Maximum | Mean  | WHO (2018) | SON (2006) |
|-----------|---------|---------|-------|------------|------------|
| EC (μS/cm)| 126     | 2380    | 925.79| 1000       | 1000       |
| TDS (mg/l)| 113     | 2264    | 481.03| 500        | 500        |
caused by the absence of impurities in groundwater. For groundwater to properly conduct electricity, there must be ions contained within it (EPA. 2012). Also, natural impacts like evaporation and rain, and human impacts which include agricultural runoff, road salt, and septic leachate) are factors that dictate the fluctuation of EC in groundwater (EPA. 2014).

5. Results and discussion

Drainage Network The estimated drainage density in the study area varies from 1 to 318,900 km/km² and the drainage patterns are dendrites (i.e. a tree root-like). High drainage density will make the surface runoff high and lower the infiltration rate, while low drainage density zones indicate a high rate of infiltration and probably high recharge zones (Vasanthavigar et al. 2011; Shailesh et al. 2019). The contributing influence of drainage density is low, with an overall percentage of 12.5% as presented in Table 2. The drainage density map presented in Figure 4, shows that lower density values are poor zones for groundwater accumulation while higher density value zone indicates good subsurface permeable materials and therefore enhances the rechargeability of groundwater

Lineament extraction: The analysed lineament result is presented in the lineament density map with some lineament lines in Figure 5. Concentrated lineament density zone indicates high permeable and porous zones, which enhances groundwater accumulation (Fashae et al. 2014). The lineament networks are criss-crossed by minor to major lineaments lines varying in length. The lineament rose diagram has a bearing of 284.3° with a population density of 2398 that covers a total polygon area of 68.69 Km². The rose diagram reveals three noticeable directions (NW-SE, N-S, and NE-SW) but in different ranges. The dominant orientation of the lineament direction tends towards the NW-SE direction. The lineament density map is classified into five categories: very low to low (lineament density less than 0.104 km/Km²), moderate (0.320–0.562 km/km²), and high to very high (0.56 – 1.76 km/km²) as shown in Table 2. Zones with a higher value of lineament density are weighted with high value and vice versa. The orientations of the lineament lines are indicative of the preferential flow path (Khalil et al. 2014).

Geological structures: The ability of the subsurface media to transports and accumulates groundwater is built upon its geological structures, mineral content, and lithological texture (Salako et al. 2019). The major geological features of the study area are the Coastal Plain sand and Coastal Alluvia which belongs to the Quaternary to the Recent Formation that has an alternating sequence of sand, clay, lignite, and silt/clay (Jones and Hockey 1964). While the minor geological units are the Ilaro formation, Ewekoro formation, Oshosun formation, and Abeokuta complex basin which is the shale, sandstone, limestone, marls gastropod, and siltstone. High explorations of groundwater in the alluvia belt are proportional to the high rate of upward movement of saline water in this zone (Longe 2011). The geological map of the study area is presented in Figure 6. The contributing influence of the geological structure has an overall percentage of 17.5% as presented in Table 2. More so, the geology of the study area was reclassified (Table 2) by their influence on saltwater intrusion.

Figure 5. Lineament map and lineament density map of areas around the Lagos Lagoon.
**Hydro-geomorphological map**: Geomorphology reflects the various structural behaviour, nomenclature processes of landforms and landscapes. Geomorphological features control the distribution of a surface water body and groundwater situation. The geomorphology of the research zone is categorised into coastal alluvium, beach ridge, mangrove swamp flats, pediplain, floodplain, a barrier beach complex, coastal creeks, and lagoons as shown in Figure 7 (Offodile 2014). The contributing influence of the geomorphology is given an overall percentage of 5 and the geomorphology features are classified and weighted according to their increasing significant influence on groundwater suitability as presented in Table 2. The southern zone of the study area is dominated by Barrier beach, beach ridge Mangrove swamp, and Alluvium plain which are lowland areas with low drainages and high infiltration rate while the Flood plain and pediplain are the higher land region with high drainages and low infiltration rate.

![Figure 6. Geology map of area around the Lagos Lagoon.](image)

![Figure 7. Geomorphology map of areas around the Lagos Lagoon.](image)
**Slope and elevation:** The slopes are terrain parameters that give a clue on the geologic nature and geodynamic process (Arulbalaji et al. 2019). It also expresses the steepness on which surface runoff and infiltration depend. The larger the slope, the smaller the recharge. This is because the flow of water is rapid down the steep slope during rainfall, thereby giving rise to low infiltration. The geospatial distribution of the slope steepness is presented in Figure 8. Areas with a steep slope (2.5° – 34.0°) are characterised by high runoff and low rainwater infiltration rate while, areas with a gentle slope (0.01° – 2.5°) allow a high infiltration rate due to slow runoff and promote appreciable groundwater recharge. This implies that the slope steepness is inversely proportional to the infiltration of surface runoff as presented in Table 2.

**Rainfall:** Rainfall is one of the most influencing hydrological parameters that contribute to the groundwater recharge zone. The average rainfall in the study location ranges from 135.039 to 219.778 mm. As presented in Figure 9, the amount of rainfall decreases towards the shore while the slope gradient directly influences the infiltration rate of water runoff. The rainfall data were reclassified into three classes as presented in Table 2.

![Figure 8. Slope map of areas around the Lagos lagoon.](image1)

![Figure 9. Mean annual rainfall map of areas around the Lagos lagoon.](image2)
Geoelectric Resistivity Result: The iterated VES result of some selected areas around the Lagos Lagoon is presented in Figure 10. The RMS errors were less than 4.6. The maximum and the minimum values at the study location are between 7469 Ωm northern zones and 1.1 Ωm at the southern zone respectively with a mean resistivity value of 469.79 m. The representative curve types (Figure 10) of the geoelectric layer signifies the alternating sequence of conductive to resistive layers of the subsurface and reflecting the unconsolidated nature of their lithologic composite and its decomposition characteristics. Seventeen curve types are obtained after plotting 197 partial curves. Figure 3 shows the frequency of the occurred curve types with QHA, QOH, and QKH having the highest frequency 17.65%, 11.76%, and 10.59% distribution respectively for the five-layer types and KQ and AK and KH are the four-layer curve types and the six-layer curve type is QHKQ.

For the study area, four to six geoelectric layers are delineated. The first layer is the topsoil having a resistivity value that varies from 0.8 to 8118 Ωm, with thicknesses between 0.4 and 1.6 m. The second layer is characterised as a shallow unconfined aquifer (Asseez 1972; Longe 2011; Oyedele 2019) due to litho-sequence of sand, sandy silt, and very low impermeable clay. The second layer has a resistivity value ranging from 1.2 to 3907.6 Ωm, with thicknesses between 0.3 and 8 m. Lower resistivity (<30 Ωm) is observed around Bariga, Agboyi, Irawo, Ibeju Lekki, Oworoshoki, and Makoko regions while high resistivity value (>500 Ωm) is observed at Bayiku, Agbowa,
Ejirin, Tin-can, and Ajaganbe environments. The higher resistivity values demarcated free polluted aquifer zones and the lower resistivity value shows the aquifer contamination description (Oyedele 2019). Although, some of the low resistivities areas towards the northern zone of the study location are characterised as clay and peat (Ejirin ikosi, Epe, and Orinsha). The third geo-electric layer has resistivity values in the range of 0.8 to 4490.6 Ωm with a mean thickness of 20.45 m indicating the mixture of sand and lateritic clayey sand. The fourth geo-electric sequence is characterised as the confined coastal plain aquifer, separated by impermeable sandy clay to silty clay and clay (Oyedele 2019). The resistivities value varies from 1.1 to 7884.6 Ωm with a mean thickness of 51.2 m at an average depth of 72.8 m. (Longe et al. 1996) noted that the aquifer layer at this depth is a multi-layer system with three distinctive sub-zones. The fifth and sixth geo-electric layers were delineated with resistivity values ranging from 53.1 to 8118 Ωm with a signature of the basement complex aquifer zone (Coode et al. (1996), Nton and Adeyemi 2014), although, the depth at this point could not be determine due to the termination of the current. Therefore, their depths and thicknesses at that point could not be determined. Most of the confined aquifer is located at the second to third strata of the subsurface and is dominant towards the north-eastern zone of the research location. The aquifer in this region shows high protective capacity as the thickness of clay in this region is high compared with the southwestern zone, which has low clay thickness.

**Geoelectrical parameter:** Environmental degradation such as surface water depletion and saltwater intrusion could be due to excessive abstraction of groundwater within the belt of the Lagos Lagoon and its proxy to the Atlantic Ocean. Furthermore, geoelectric parameters such as the longitudinal conductance, transverse resistance, thickness, and depth of the geological strata are essential in evaluating groundwater suitability. The result from Dar Zarrouk parameters was interpolated in the ArcGIS platform with the help of an inverse distance weight (IDW) module to generate the distributed spatial map. Also, the result of both Tr and Lc was presented in Table 3.

**Transverse resistance:** In this study, the transverse resistance values vary from 11.12 Ωm² to 137,789 Ωm² with a mean value of 13,419.78 Ωm² (Table 3). However, Zohdy et al. (1974), Suggest that an increase in Transverse resistance may be due to an increase in the resistive thickness of the subsurface. High transverse resistance (Tr) indicates regions with high aquifer transmissivity and porous media which can enhance the prospect contaminant flow into the groundwater (Tsepav et al. 2015; Senthikumar et al. 2019). Thus, the transverse resistance spatial distribution map of the research area is presented in Figure 11. A high value of Tr is observed (>1000 Ωm²) at the northern and northwest zone around the lagoon shore, as well as a low value of Tr less than 500 Ωm² is noted at the eastern and southern zone.

**Longitudinal conductance:** The longitudinal conductance (Lc) values range between 0.025 and 25.54 mhos with an average value of 2.85 mhos (Table 3). The contrasting longitudinal conductance along the coastal belt is indicative of Atlantic marine sediments (Evans et al. 2017). Relatively, high longitudinal conductance values (above 10 mhos) are observed at Ilae Bariga, Agboyi Ketu Owode-Ibese, and Erun-kan which scrutinise the presence of Brackish to saline

![Figure 11. Transverse resistance map of areas around the Lagos Lagoon.](image-url)
water and clay to slit dominated regions (Ayolabi et al. 2013). The average value of Lc was observed around areas close to the lagoon. This could indicate the brackish to saline groundwater nature as presented in Figure 12 (Laouini et al. 2017). The low conductance values, noticed around the central north and south zones, could indicate the influence of the Ewekoro and Ilaro formation (Yusuf et al. 2018; Akinlalu and Afolabi 2018). The high value of Tr and low Lc around the central northern part of the research location reveals the existence of a coastal plain sand formation.

**Groundwater Suitability Zone (GSZ):** The GSZ, is a dimensionless model that can identify the suitability of the groundwater zone within the study area map by the assignment and normalising weight to each influencing thematic layer (Figure 13). The groundwater suitability index map is classified into Very Low, Low, Moderate, and High suitability. The groundwater Suitability map shows that an excellent GSZ is concentrated around the central-western part (Ikosi–Agbowa, Lagasa, Ejirin–Ikosi Ajaganabe, and Ijede) of the study area due to the geological influence of Ilaro, Ewekoro, and the Oshosun formation with the high transverse resistance (Coode et al. 1996). In this research, 7% of research locations have very low suitability, 32.2% were low, 47.8% e moderate and 13% have high groundwater suitability. The transverse resistance and the geology feature play a very significant part in the suitability of groundwater in this

![Figure 12. Longitudinal conductance map of area around the Lagos Lagoon.](image1)

![Figure 13. Groundwater suitability index map of area around the Lagos Lagoon.](image2)
research with an influencing capacity of 37.5%. The drainage density, lineament density, rainfall, and slope also help in the rechargeability of the aquifer, aquifer mobility rate, and the steepness in which surface run-off and the infiltration capability of the groundwater resources. The geomorphology and longitudinal conductance have a reasonable effect of 15% on the physical features of geological structures and the aquifer protective capacity of saltwater infiltration (Jaroslav and Balthazar 2011).

**Groundwater Suitability Zones Validation:**
A validation assessment that demonstrates that the model is a reasonable representation of the actual aquifer system of the study area. In doing this, the groundwater suitability zone was validated with results obtained from the physicochemical analysis of groundwater. The descriptive statistical result of the EC and TDS is presented in Table 8. The EC and TDS results show different variations across the study area with a minimum value of (126 (µS/cm) and 113 (mg/l)) and maximum value of (2380 (µS/cm) and 2264 (mg/l)) respectively. The permissible limit of EC and TDS stipulated by World Health Organization (WHO) (2018) and NSDWQ (2015) are 1000 (µS/cm) and 500 (mg/l) respectively. The distribution maps of EC and TDS are presented in Figures 14 and 15.
15 respectively. High EC and TDS are observed towards the southern zone and, the western north zone of the study location. The high EC and TDS might be due to the influence of the Ogun river at the western north and the proximity to the Atlantic Ocean in the south zone of the study location respectively. It was observed that low EC and TDS are situated around the central north-eastern zone (Ikosi–Agbowa, Lagosa, Ejirin–Ikosi Ajaganabe, Orinsha, and Epe), probably due to high altitude and presumably lower water table with lesser groundwater abstraction (UNICEF 2008; Oyem et al. 2014). Similarly, the low concentration EC and TDS within this location ascertained that the GSZ model implemented is reasonable and the observation from the geological and geomorphological analysis have been correctly verified. The existence of the Ilaro and Oshosun formation has a high protective capacity that produces a shield that protects the aquifer from saltwater intrusion (Ayolabi et al. 2013). The EC and TDS measure of groundwater around this zone (southern to the eastern) corroborate to an agreeable degree to the GSZ model. Though there is a trivial significant difference between the GSZ model and the EC/TDS, yet both maps agree to a large extent.

6. Conclusion and recommendation

Both the AHP and GIS approaches have been used to integrate different geophysical, hydrological, and remote sensing maps to produce groundwater suitability zone around the Lagos coastal area. The integrated groundwater suitability zone (GSZ) map was categorised by assigning normalised weights to different thematic maps. The AHP was used for the pairwise comparison matrix for the various thematic layers like geology, geomorphology, lineament density, drainage density, slope, rainfall, transverse resistance, and longitudinal conductance. The integrated groundwater suitability zone map of the research locations reveals that 7% of research locations have very low suitability, 32.2% were low, 47.8% of moderate and 13% have high groundwater suitability. Subsequently, EC and TDS maps generated from the 72-borehole samples were used to validate the groundwater suitability model and to check the quality of the water. The GSZ model corroborated with EC/TDS maps. The GSZ model shows that the northern zone of the study locations is a suitable area for groundwater exploration. The GSZ map will assist in the decision-making of the state to plan a sustainable groundwater monitoring scheme. Finally, the study has been used to establish the efficacy of integrating approach between, MCDA (AHP), GIS-based module, remote sensing, rainfall precipitation, and geophysical method in effectively mapping groundwater suitability zone for human consumption.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

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