

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Definitions of Groundwater and Aquifer	1
1.2	History of Groundwater Development in Ethiopia	2
1.3	Groundwater Storage: General	5
1.4	Groundwater Occurrences in Ethiopia: General	7
1.5	Hydrostratigraphy: General	9
	References	12
2	Groundwaters Occurrence in Regions and Basins	15
2.1	The Broad (Oligo-Miocene) Volcanic Plateau and Associated Shields	15
2.2	The Shield Volcanics (Choke, Gugufu, Simen, Guna and Batu etc.)	22
2.3	The Lake Tana Basin	26
2.4	The Upper Tekeze River Basin and Associated Massifs	33
2.5	The Yerer Tulu Welel Volcanic Lineament Zone and the Wonchi Volcano	44
2.6	The Volcanic Aquifers Bounding Addis Ababa	47
2.7	Scoria Cones, Maars and Associated Groundwater Resources	55
2.8	The Alluvial Grabens Bordering the Rift	60
2.9	The Bulal Basalt Aquifer and Associated Aquifers	62
2.10	Groundwaters in the Main Ethiopian Rift and Flow Along Plateau-Rift Transects	65
2.11	The Mesozoic Sedimentary Aquifers of Ethiopia	73
2.12	The Karst Aquifers of Ethiopia	84
2.13	The Precambrian Basement Aquifers of Ethiopia	92
2.14	The Omo Delta and Chew Bahr Rift	113
	References	117

3	Very Shallow and Shallow Groundwaters	123
3.1	General	123
3.2	The Sediments of Shinile and Marginal Grabens of Southern Afar	125
3.3	The Quaternary Volcanic and Alluvio Acustrine Sediments of Lake Tana Basin	128
3.4	The Quaternary Sediments of Gambela and Associated Wetlands	128
3.5	The Quaternary Alluvio Lacustrine Sediments of Belesa Plain	131
3.6	The Dabus Swamp Area and Associated Quaternary Sediments	131
3.7	The Lake Alemeya-Lake Adele Basin	132
3.8	The Foot Hills of Hagerselam Volcanic Hills in Tigray	134
3.9	Alluvial Aquifers in the Headwater Regions of Didessa and Gibe	134
3.10	The Quaternary Sediments of Bonga Area	137
3.11	The Alluvio Lacustrine Sediments of Upper Bilate and Boyo graben	138
3.12	Landslide Bodies	139
3.13	The Alluvio Lacustrine Sediments of the Western Afar Marginal Grabens and the Afar Rift Floor	142
3.14	Alluvio Lacustrine Sediments of North Western Lowlands	148
3.15	Alluvial and Colluvial Plains of the Gofa Basin and Range Complex	148
3.16	Wadi Bed Aquifers	150
3.17	Inter-Trappean Sediments	154
3.18	Tectonic Valleys with Limited Sediment Accumulation	156
3.19	Alluvial Fans	157
3.20	Other Alluvial Aquifers of Limited Extent	159
	References	160
4	Geochemistry and Water Quality	163
4.1	Why Water Quality	163
4.2	Geochemical Characteristics of the Groundwaters	164
4.3	Geochemistry of Fluoride	165
4.4	The Geochemistry of Iodine	170
4.5	The Geochemistry of Selenium	172
4.6	Water Quality Groups of Ethiopian Aquifers—Origin of Water Quality Parameters	173
4.7	Highly Mineralized Groundwaters in Ethiopia	182
	References	184

5 Isotope Hydrology in Water Cycle Studies in Ethiopia 187

5.1 Why Isotope Hydrology? 187

5.2 Isotope Basics 187

5.3 Stable Isotopes of Water-Theory 190

5.4 Stable Isotope Composition of Ethiopian Meteoric Waters . . . 192

5.5 Isotope Application Cases Studies from Ethiopia 194

References 203

6 Functions of Groundwater 205

6.1 Environmental Function of Groundwater: General 205

6.2 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (Wetlands and Hyporehic Zones) 206

6.3 Groundwater Triggering Land Subsidence, Collapse and Ground Fissuring 214

6.4 The Expansion of Lake Beseka Through Groundwater Input 216

6.5 Groundwater, Dewatering and Mining Operations 217

6.6 Economic Function of Groundwater 217

6.7 Groundwater in Income Generation 218

6.8 Social Function of Groundwater 219

References 219

7 Groundwater Potential, Recharge, Water Balance: Vital Numbers 221

7.1 Criteria in Determining Groundwater Potential 221

7.2 Recharge Rates-Previous Studies 221

7.3 Recharge Mechanisms 222

7.4 Groundwater Recharge, Storage, and Groundwater Contribution to Surface Waters 226

7.5 Actual and Virtual Water Balance of Ethiopia Vital Groundwater Numbers 229

7.6 Vital Water Graphic 231

7.7 Paleo-Groundwater and Paleo-Hydrogeology 231

References 236

8 Groundwater Human Health and Sanitation 237

8.1 Groundwater as a Buffer Between Health Agents and Human 237

8.2 Groundwater Related Health Problems in Ethiopia 238

8.3 Groundwater Pollution 245

References 245

9	Groundwater as Strategic Resource	247
9.1	Groundwater as Moderators of Global Climate Change	247
9.2	Groundwater as Buffers of Rainfall Seasonality and Buffering Capacity of Aquifers	248
9.3	Groundwater as Instruments in Reduction of Poverty	251
9.4	Groundwater and Urban Development	255
9.5	Groundwater in Emergency Responses	257
9.6	Groundwater and Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Media	260
9.7	Opportunities Around Groundwater	262
9.8	Groundwater-Energy Nexus	263
9.9	Military Hydrogeology	263
	References	264
10	Groundwater Management	265
10.1	The Nature of Hydrogeological and Geological Sciences	265
10.2	Failed Groundwater Schemes in Ethiopia and Drilling Success Rate	266
10.3	Appropriateness of Water Schemes	267
10.4	International Practices, Laws and Regulations on Groundwater	277
10.5	Transboundary Aquifers	278
	References	282
	Index	283