

Contents

<i>Acknowledgment</i>	3
<i>Extended Summary</i>	11
<i>Introduction</i>	13
1. Basic Characteristics of the Area	15
1.1 Location and Accessibility	15
1.2 Population, Settlements and Health Status	16
1.3 Land Use	23
2. Selected Physical and Geographical Settings	25
2.1 Geomorphology	25
2.2 Soil and Vegetation Cover	26
2.3 Climatic Characteristics	29
2.3.1 Climatic Zones and Measurements	29
2.3.2 Precipitation	31
2.4 Hydrography and Hydrology of the Area	36
2.4.1 Surface Water Network Development	36
2.4.2 Surface Water Regime	38
2.4.3 Baseflow	39
2.5 Drought and Climate Changes	43
3. Geological Settings	47
3.1 Previous Work	47
3.2 Stratigraphy	47
3.3 Lithology	48
3.3.1 Precambrian Crystalline Formations	48
3.3.2 Mesozoic Sedimentary Formations	49
3.3.2.1 Adigrat Sandstone (Tas)	49
3.3.2.2 Hamanlei Formation (Jhl)	50
3.3.2.3 Urandab Formation (Jul)	51
3.3.2.4 Gabredare Formation (Jgi)	51
3.3.2.5 Garbahare Sandstone (Jgs)	52
3.3.3 Tertiary Volcanic Rocks	52
3.3.4 Quaternary Volcanic and Sedimentary Rocks	52
3.4 Structure	53
3.5 Geological History	53
4. Hydrogeology	55
4.1 Water Point Inventory	55
4.2 Hydrogeological Classification/Characterization	58
4.3 Elements of the Hydrogeological System of the Area (Aquifers)	59
4.3.1 Extensive and Moderately Productive Porous Aquifers	59
4.3.2 Extensive and Highly Productive Fissured and Karstic Aquifers	61
4.3.3 Extensive and Moderately Productive Fissured Aquifers	65
4.3.4 Extensive and Low Productive Fissured Aquifers	68
4.4 Hydrogeological Conceptual Model	69
4.5 Annual Recharge in the Area	70
5. Hydrogeochemistry	73

5.1 Sampling and Analysis	73
5.2 Classification of Natural Waters	75
5.2.1 Rain Water	77
5.2.2 Surface Water	77
5.2.3 Groundwater in Volcanic Rocks	77
5.2.4 Groundwater in Mesozoic Sediments	78
5.2.5 Groundwater in Quaternary Sediments	78
5.3 Water Quality	78
5.3.1 Domestic Use	78
5.3.2 Irrigation Use	80
5.3.3 Industrial Use	81
5.4 Mineral and Thermal Water	82
6. Natural Resources of the Area	83
6.1 Economic Geology	83
6.2 Water Resources	83
6.2.1 Surface Water Resources Development	85
6.2.2 Groundwater Resources Development	86
6.3 Human and Land Use Resources and Development	88
6.4 Wind and Solar Energy Development	89
6.5 Environmental Problems and their Control / Management	89
6.6 Touristic Potential of the Area	92
<i>Conclusions</i>	93
<i>References</i>	95
<i>Annex 1 – Field Inventory Data</i>	97
<i>Annex 2 – Water Chemistry</i>	105
<i>Annex 3 – Well Logs</i>	109