

## Accepted Manuscript

Application of isotopic tracers as a tool for understanding hydrodynamic behavior of the highly exploited Diass aquifer system (Senegal)

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PII: S0022-1694(14)00059-6

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.01.037>

Reference: HYDROL 19353

To appear in: *Journal of Hydrology*

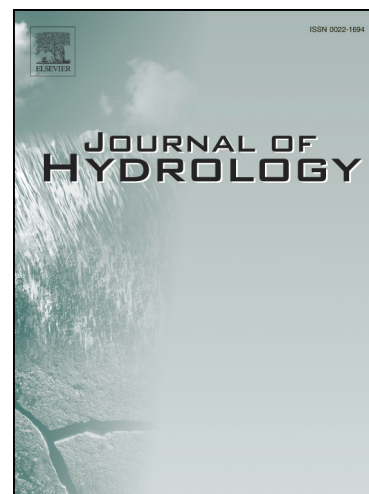
Received Date: 6 May 2013

Revised Date: 7 January 2014

Accepted Date: 20 January 2014

Please cite this article as: Madiounea, D.H., Faye, S., Orban, P., Brouyère, S., Dassargues, A., Mudry, J., Stumpp, C., Maloszewski, P., Application of isotopic tracers as a tool for understanding hydrodynamic behavior of the highly exploited Diass aquifer system (Senegal), *Journal of Hydrology* (2014), doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.01.037>

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1 **Application of isotopic tracers as a tool for understanding hydrodynamic behavior of the**  
2 **highly exploited Diass aquifer system (Senegal)**

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49

50 **Abstract:** The Diass horst aquifer system located 50 km east of Dakar (Senegal) is exploited in two  
51 main aquifers covered by a sandy superficial aquifer: the confined/unconfined Palaeocene karstic  
52 limestone and the confined Maastrichtian sandstone aquifer underneath. This system has  
53 experienced intensive groundwater abstraction during the last 50 years to supply increasing water  
54 demand, agricultural and industrial needs. The high abstraction rate from 1989 to 2009 (about  
55 109,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d) has caused a continuous groundwater level decline (up to 30 m), a modification of  
56 the groundwater flow and salinization in parts of the aquifers. The objective of the study is to  
57 improve our understanding of the system functioning with regards to high pumping, identify the  
58 geochemical reactions that take place in the system, infer origin and timing of recharge by using  
59 mainly stable ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^2\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) and radioactive ( $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$ ) isotopes.

60 Water types defined in the Piper diagram vary in order of abundance from Ca-HCO<sub>3</sub> (65%), Ca/Na-  
61 Cl (20%), Na-HCO<sub>3</sub> (3%) and Na-Cl (12%). Values of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}$  for the superficial aquifer  
62 range between -5.8 and -4.2‰ and between -42 and -31‰, respectively. For the Palaeocene aquifer  
63 they range from -5.8 to -5.0‰ and from -38 to -31‰, respectively; values in the Maastrichtian  
64 aquifer are between -5.9 and -4.3‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and -38 to -26‰ for  $\delta^2\text{H}$ . Plotted against the  
65 conventional  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\delta^2\text{H}$  diagram, data from the upper aquifer exhibit a dispersed distribution with  
66 respect to isotopic fractionation while those of the Palaeocene and Maastrichtian aquifers are  
67 aligned parallel and slightly below/or on the Global Meteoric Water Line (GMWL) evidencing  
68 ancient waters which had evaporated during infiltration.

69 The low tritium (generally <0.7 TU) and  $^{14}\text{C}$  (0.7-57.2 pmc) contents indicate predominance of  
70 older water being recharged during the Pleistocene and Holocene periods. However, few boreholes  
71 which exhibit high tritium (1.2-4.3 TU) and  $^{14}\text{C}$  (65.7-70.8 pmc) values indicate some mixture with  
72 recent water likely through faulting and vertical drainage from the upper to deeper aquifers as well  
73 as lateral flow along flow paths to the piezometric depressions created by pumping.

74

75 **Keywords:** Environmental isotopes, recharge, Palaeocene, Maastrichtian, Diass horst

76

77 **1 Introduction**

78 Each atmospheric precipitation event is unique as far as its deuterium and oxygen 18 content are  
79 concerned. As stable isotopes of the water molecule are nearly conservative, they preserve the  
80 signature of atmospheric condition and carry it to the subsurface. Therefore, they can help reveal  
81 the origin and age of groundwater. Stable isotopes oxygen-18 ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) and deuterium ( $\delta^2\text{H}$ ) as well as  
82 radioactive isotopes tritium ( $^3\text{H}$ ) and carbon-14 ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ) have been proven to be important tools in  
83 answering important mechanisms in hydrogeology such as the origin of water, recharge and mixing  
84 processes, flow regime, residence time and changes in climatic conditions (Clark & Fritz, 1997;  
85 Zongyu *et al.*, 2003; Mazor, 2004; Maduabuchi *et al.*, 2006; Demlie *et al.*, 2007; Bouchaou *et al.*,  
86 2009; Jirakova *et al.*, 2009; Kumar *et al.*, 2009). In the context of confined reservoirs with  
87 groundwaters revealing palaeorecharge and palaeoclimate conditions, several studies have been  
88 carried out around the world (Zongyu *et al.*, 2003; Edmunds *et al.*, 2006; Zhu *et al.*, 2007, Jirakova  
89 *et al.*, 2009; Huneau *et al.*, 2011); they pointed out the importance of palaeorecharge and also  
90 difficulties in clearly delineating chronology and evolution of recharge history. These isotopes were  
91 also used to study the dynamics of overexploited aquifers including the origin of water and the  
92 hydraulic connectivity between superposed aquifers (Kamel *et al.*, 2005, El-Naqa *et al.*, 2007) as  
93 well as the origin and process of groundwater contamination in complex systems (Vengosh *et al.*,  
94 2002).

95 In Dakar, the Capital city of Senegal which concentrates about 23% (2,300,000 inhabitants of the  
96 total population) (estimation DPS, 2004) and large proportion of the industrial activities, water  
97 supply is ensured by surface water piped from the Guiers Lake (250 km distant from the capital)  
98 and groundwater resources. Among these, the Diass aquifer system contributes to a substantial  
99 proportion (36%) of the total water supply distribution due to growing demand as consequence of  
100 the rapid demographic growth.

101 Due to its importance in water supply, several works have been carried out since the early 1970's to  
102 better understand the geometry and structure, flow regime and chemical characteristics of this  
103 aquifer system (Martin, 1970; Arlab, 1981; 1983; Fall, 1981; Faye, 1983; Faye, 1994). In addition,  
104 environmental isotopes are used to infer recharge (BRGM, 1971; IAEA, 1972; OMS, 1972; Faye,  
105 1983; Travi, 1988; Faye, 1994; RAF, 1998; Sarr, 2000). These studies undertaken at the Senegal  
106 sedimentary basin scale pointed out the existence of palaeowaters that had been recharged during  
107 the late Pleistocene period as well as potential recharge zones in the outcropped Maastrichtian  
108 aquifer located in the Diass horst and in the South East and East of the basin. In the Diass multilayer  
109 system, relatively high tritium contents and high  $^{14}\text{C}$  activities in part of the region evidenced  
110 modern recharge likely occurring through the upper aquifer and percolation from the Palaeocene  
111 aquifer. Water yield of this upper aquifer is limited and it is just exploited by small, dug wells  
112 delivering water for some villages. Faye (1994) compiled previous data (BRGM, 1971; IAEA,  
113 1972; OMS, 1972; Faye, 1983; Travi, 1988) and provided additional information by use of long  
114 periods radionuclides (series of uranium,  $^4\text{He}$ ,  $^{36}\text{Cl}$ ) and noble gases (He, Ne, Kr, Xe) to better  
115 understand the past and present Maastrichtian system functioning at the Senegal sedimentary basin  
116 scale. He argued that the Diass compartment had functioned as a recharge zone for the  
117 Maastrichtian aquifer between 4000 and 3000 years BP. This present study particularly focuses to  
118 the Diass aquifer to infer its functioning with regards to recharge processes and flow exchange in  
119 the context of high exploitation and particular complex geometry setting. In fact, since 1983,  
120 abstraction in the five pumping fields to supply Dakar and the localities of Mbour, Sébikotane, Pout  
121 increased from 63,000 to 97,000  $\text{m}^3/\text{day}$  for the two aquifers. At present, the total pumping rate is  
122 estimated to be 109,000  $\text{m}^3/\text{d}$  (National Water Society database) in addition to industrial and  
123 agricultural activities needs.

124 This high yield has caused a continuous groundwater level decline (more than 30 m in 50 years) in  
125 some parts of the system, a change in the flow regime and quality patterns which are evidenced by  
126 salinization of few boreholes located at Sébikotane and Mbour pumping fields (Madioune, 2012).

127 This high demand and exploitation of the system coincided with the occurrence of drought  
128 conditions since the 1970's where inducing deficit in groundwater replenishment as well.

129 In this system, due to the complexity of the structure and the substantial groundwater abstraction,  
130 characteristics such as the hydraulic connectivity between the Palaeocene and Maastrichtian  
131 aquifers (vertically and horizontally), the relative significance of present day recharge as well as  
132 location of recharge zones need to be investigated.

133 The present study aims to improve our understanding of groundwater dynamics in order to foster  
134 more appropriate groundwater management with regards to high exploitation in the Diass aquifer  
135 system scale after 50 years of intensive pumping. Specifically, it intends to: (1) identify the  
136 geochemical reactions that take place in the system, (2) infer origin and timing of recharge. This  
137 will help to evaluate the recharge mechanism and system functioning needed for management  
138 purpose in order to ensure sustainability of the groundwater resources with regards to demand and  
139 water quality conservation.

140

## 141 **2 Geology and hydrogeology**

142 The study area is located at the western part of Senegal between Dakar and Thiès and extends a  
143 surface area of 1340 km<sup>2</sup> (Figure 1a). It is characterized by a tropical climate with two distinct  
144 seasons: a dry season (from November to May) and a rainy season (from June to October). Climate  
145 data (precipitation, temperature, relative humidity, insolation and wind speed) during the period  
146 from 1977 to 2001 were collected from the Senegal National Meteorological Agency in Dakar Yoff,  
147 Thiès and Mbour weather stations. The average annual precipitation and temperatures are 440 mm  
148 and 27°C, respectively.

149 Rainfall spatial and temporal distribution is highly variable and since the 1970's, a rainfall deficit  
150 occurs through most of the Sahel zone (Mahé & Olivry, 1995, Paturol *et al.*, 1998, Lebel & Ali,  
151 2009) inducing deficit in groundwater replenishment (Aguillar *et al.*, 2010; Madioune, 2012) as  
152 well as variations of the hydrologic regime (e.g. Sircoulon, 1987; Hubert *et al.*, 2007, Mahé *et al.*,

153 2010). Potential and actual evapotranspiration (1977 to 2001) calculated from the Penman method  
154 (Allen *et al.*, 1998) are 2057 and 371 mm/yr, respectively (Madioune, 2012). The hydrography of  
155 the region consists mainly of lakes and fossil valleys (Figure 1a).

156 The geological structure of the system is updated using hydraulic and petroleum boreholes data  
157 (271 in total), previous cross sections (Martin, 1970; Fall, 1981; Faye, 1983) and geological map  
158 (1:50,000) established recently by Roger *et al.*, (2009). The system is bordered by the Ponty-Kayar  
159 fault in the West, the Atlantic Ocean in the North and South and the Thiès fault in the East. Table 1  
160 resumes the geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the system aquifer. The  
161 hydrogeological map in Figure 1a presents the top main aquifer.

162 The Diass aquifer system consists of a complex multilayer structure, compartmentalized by four  
163 major faults oriented NE-SW (Figure 1a). These faults configure the region into a horst system with  
164 three compartments: the Diass compartment in the center (between Sébikotane and Pout fault)  
165 where the Maastrichtian sandstones outcrop surrounded by two Palaeocene karstic limestones  
166 compartments (Martin, 1970) namely the Sébikotane compartment in the West (between Ponty-  
167 Kayar and Sébikotane fault) and the Pout compartment in the East (between Pout and Thiès fault)  
168 (Figure 1a). The geological formations from bottom to top are composed as follow (Martin, 1970;  
169 Fall, 1981; Faye, 1983; Roger *et al.*, 2009) (Table 1):

- 170 • the Maastrichtian formations, they are heterogeneous both laterally and vertically and are  
171 composed of clay with interbedded sand, sandstone, calcareous sandstone and clayey sands at  
172 the top. Towards the West, they are mainly composed of clayey sediments.
- 173 • the Palaeocene consisting of a succession of marly and clayey calcareous and limestone. These  
174 latter formation are karstified in the Sébikotane and Pout compartment while in the Western  
175 part, they are made of clay and clayey limestone.
- 176 • the Eocene formations made up of marl and clay, they cover the Palaeocene limestone in the  
177 Sébikotane compartment and in the northern Pout compartment.



178 • the Mio-Plio-Quaternary sediments composed of clayey sand and laterites, they constitute the  
179 top formations (Figure 1b).

180 Hydraulically, the system is composed of two main aquifers namely the Maastrichtian (lower  
181 aquifer) and the Palaeocene (middle aquifer) covered by the superficial quaternary aquifer. Due to  
182 the structure of the horst system, these aquifers are also compartmentalized into three  
183 hydrogeological units: the Diass compartment in the center, the confined Sébikotane compartment  
184 in the West and the confined/unconfined Pout compartment in the East (Figure 1a). Geographically,  
185 the Pout compartment is divided into three zones: the Northern Pout zone where the Palaeocene is  
186 overlaid by the marly Eocene, the Southern Pout area and the Mbour zone where the Palaeocene  
187 layers outcrop.

188 The Maastrichtian aquifer is composed by an important series of calcareous sandstone, clayey sand  
189 and sandstone, separated from the Palaeocene karstified limestone aquifer by the Danian marly  
190 limestone. Its thickness increases from West (50 m) to East (450 m). Hydraulic conductivities range  
191 from  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $1.9 \times 10^{-3}$  m/s and the storage coefficient from  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  (Table 1)  
192 (Géohydraulique & OMS, 1972; Arlab, 1983; Faye, 1983; BRGM, 1988; Sarr, 2000). In the  
193 Palaeocene karstic limestones aquifer, hydraulic conductivities are highly variable and range from  
194  $6.6 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $2.0 \times 10^{-2}$  m/s. The storage coefficient varies from  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $7 \times 10^{-2}$ . In the Mio-Plio-  
195 quaternary aquifer, mean values of hydraulic conductivities and effective porosity are about  
196  $1.5 \times 10^{-4}$  m/s and 20%, respectively (Géohydraulique & OMS, 1972).

197

### 198 **3 Data and methods**

199 Piezometric and pumping data series were compiled from databases and technical reports (Senegal  
200 Hydraulic Ministry and Water Supply Companies). These data were completed within the present  
201 study during the years 2007, 2008. A total of 5 campaigns were carried out for measuring water  
202 depth, sampling for chemical (major elements) and isotopic analyses ( $^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{14}\text{C}$ ).

203 The network comprised 62 piezometers for measuring water depth, 75 boreholes and dug wells for  
204 sampling and chemical analysis and 6 climatic stations for rainwater sampling.

205 The sampling network (Figure 2) was spatially distributed to represent the three aquifers in the three  
206 compartments. Rainwater was also collected during the 2008 rainy season (from July to September)  
207 for every events at 6 weather stations, Popenguine (76), Mbour (77), Kirène (78), Pout (79), Yenn  
208 (81), Thies (80), relatively well distributed in the area. Table 2 resumes the numbers, periods and  
209 aquifers sampled. In this paper, we focus the discussions and interpretations on data collected in  
210 June 2008 (which is more complete) in addition to isotopic data drawn from previous studies in the  
211 region.

212 Isotopic ( $^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^3\text{H}$ ) analyses of the rainwater samples were performed on a biweekly interval  
213 basis; rain events smaller than 5 mm were discarded. Prior to groundwater sampling (which was  
214 taken in boreholes that were continuously pumped for water supply), on site measurements relative  
215 to geographical position, depth to water table, potential Hydrogen (pH), Electrical Conductivity at  
216  $25^\circ\text{C}$  (EC), Temperature (T) and alkalinity were conducted at each sampling points. These wells did  
217 not need to be purged due to the fact that they are boreholes used for water supply. Physico-  
218 chemical parameters (pH, EC, T) were measured using a multiparameter electrochemical analyzer  
219 and alkalinity was analyzed on the field. Chemical and isotope analyses of the water samples were  
220 performed at the Liege University, Hydrogeology Lab (Belgium) and at the Helmholtz Zentrum  
221 München, Institute of Groundwater Ecology (Neuherberg/Germany), respectively.

222 The major ions ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) were measured using flame atomic  
223 absorption, potentiometry and titration with charge balance ranging between  $-4.9$  and  $2.25\%$   
224 suggesting reliable analyses. Stable isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen were measured using dual-  
225 inlet mass spectrometry (Coplen, 1988) with a precision of  $\pm 0.1\%$  for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\pm 1\%$  for  $\delta^2\text{H}$ . D-  
226 excess was calculated as  $\text{D-excess} = \delta^2\text{H} - 8 \times \delta^{18}\text{O}$ .

227 Tritium samples were enriched electrolytically and analysed by the liquid scintillation counting  
228 method (Thatcher *et al.*, 1977) with 0.7 TU detection limit. Four samples were collected for  $^{14}\text{C}$  and

229  $^{13}\text{C}$  analyses which were performed at Gliwice Radiocarbon Laboratory/Institute of Physics/Silesian  
230 University of Technology. The analysis of  $^{14}\text{C}$  and the  $^{13}\text{C}$  are reported in pmc (percent of modern  
231 carbon) and in ‰ vs PDB respectively and the analytical errors are  $\pm 0.3\text{‰}$  for  $^{13}\text{C}$  and between  
232 0.052 and 0.12 pmc for  $^{14}\text{C}$ . The carbon analyses were completed with existing data in the region  
233 (BRGM, 1971; IAEA, 1972; OMS, 1972; Faye, 1983; Travi, 1988).

234

## 235 **4 Results and discussions**

236

### 237 **4.1 Piezometry**

238 Fifteen monitoring wells in the system record variably long term groundwater level since 1965.  
239 They feature groundwater depletion in both compartments (Figure 3b, c, d, e). By interpreting this  
240 evolution in term of groundwater regime with regards to pumping (Figure 4a, b), piezometric level  
241 variations show two types of evolution: seasonal variations (on an annual basis) related to seasonal  
242 recharge and long term piezometric level evolution (interannual variations) which reveal two  
243 periods of groundwater regime (Figure 4a). A steady state period from 1965 to 1971 with similar  
244 seasonal variations indicates recharge (Figure 4a (I)) in both two aquifers. During this period, only  
245 the Palaeocene was really exploited (Figure 4b (I)) and its measured head is slightly lower than the  
246 Maastrichtian head (Figure 4a (I)).

247 A transient period from 1971 to the present day (Figure 4a (II)) is characterized by a generalized  
248 and continuous decline of the groundwater levels due to increasing of exploitation (Figure 4b). With  
249 regards to the pumping regime, three stress periods can be distinguished.

250 In stress period (1), which spans from 1971 to 1983, the groundwater regime is characterized by a  
251 decline of the levels in the two aquifers. This is likely the result of a decrease in rainfall (37% from  
252 1938 to 1983) started in 1970 and increase of the pumping in the Palaeocene while pumping in the  
253 Maastrichtian is relatively low and constant (Figure 4b (II, 1)). During this period, the head in the

254 Maastrichtian is higher and seasonal fluctuations still occurred (Figure 4a (II, 1)) but muted by  
255 pumping effects.

256 The stress period (2), which spans from 1983 to 1992, corresponds to an increase of pumping in the  
257 Maastrichtian and a decrease in the Palaeocene (Figure 4b (II, 2)); the hydraulic heads in the two  
258 aquifers are relatively in equilibrium (Figure 4a (II, 2)) but are still both decreasing.

259 In the stress period (3), which spans from 1992 to the present day, pumping from the Maastrichtian  
260 is almost constant and maintained at a high level (Figure 4a, b (II, 3)) while it is reduced in the  
261 Palaeocene (Figure 4b (II, 3)). The general drawdown of the groundwater level has increased and an  
262 inversion of hydraulic head between the two aquifers occurred; here, the Maastrichtian level  
263 became lower than the Palaeocene (Figure 4a (II, 3)).

264 Due to the complex structure of the system into compartments in addition to the low density and  
265 location of piezometers in the vicinity of the pumping fields (Figure 5), a reliable piezometric map  
266 cannot be drawn. However, hydraulic heads (relative to sea level) measured in June 2008 are highly  
267 variable and range between +3.9 m and -47.9 m in the Maastrichtian aquifer (Figure 5b) and  
268 between +3.7 m and -36.9 m in the Palaeocene aquifer (Figure 5a) with the lowest values measured  
269 at the vicinity of the pumping fields which reveal the dynamic of the system.

270

#### 271 **4.2 Chemical characteristics**

272 Physico-chemical, chemical and isotopic parameters as well as saturation indexes with respect to  
273 calcite and dolomite calculated with PHREEQC (Parkhurst & Appelo, 1999) are statistically  
274 resumed in Table 3.

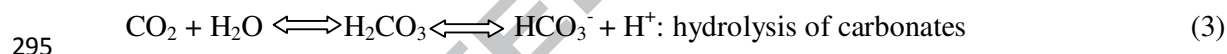
275 The average temperature increases with depth from 28.7°C to 32.3°C in the upper to the lower  
276 aquifers, respectively. The average pH is relatively circumneutral and ranges from 6.6 to 8.3 in the  
277 upper aquifer, 6.7 to 7.5 in the Palaeocene aquifer and 6.2 to 7.8 in the Maastrichtian aquifer.

278 Electrical Conductivity (EC) values range between 180-5080  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , 470-4340  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  and 182-  
279 2990  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  for the Quaternary, Palaeocene and Maastrichtian aquifers, respectively. Two groups

280 can be distinguished: (1) Freshwater with conductivities below 1000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ; this group concerns the  
 281 majority of samples (83%) representing the wells tapping the upper aquifer except well 3 located  
 282 upstream the Tanma Lake and wells 12, 13, 14 at Mbour; (2) Saline waters with higher conductivities  
 283 greater than 1000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  are located in the Eastern part of the system, in Sébikotane, Mbour and  
 284 Takhoum areas (wells 24, 25, 28, 37, 40, 53, 56, 61, 73) in both the Palaeocene and Maastrichtian  
 285 aquifers.

286 Water types defined in the Piper diagram (Figure 6) are Ca-HCO<sub>3</sub> (65%), Ca/Na-Cl (20%), Na-  
 287 HCO<sub>3</sub> (3%) and Na-Cl (12%). Freshwaters exhibit a dominant Ca-HCO<sub>3</sub> facies, Ca/Na-Cl,  
 288 Na-HCO<sub>3</sub> while for saline water, Na-Cl and Ca/Na-Cl facies occur.

289 The Ca-HCO<sub>3</sub> facies dominates and represents 65% of the samples. This predominance can be  
 290 explained by the carbonate matrix of the reservoir where dissolution of calcite (Eq. 1) and dolomite  
 291 (Eq. 2) combined with the hydrolysis of carbonates (Eq. 3) in the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> are likely the  
 292 main processes of mineralization.



296 These processes are confirmed by the alignment of the samples on the calcite-dolomite dissolution  
 297 line with stoichiometric coefficient of 1:2 (Figure 7a) and by their saturated to supersaturated index  
 298 values with respect to calcite and dolomite (Figure 7b).

299 In the Palaeocene aquifer, within the Ca-HCO<sub>3</sub> facies, 3 groups can be differentiated (1, 2, 3)  
 300 characterizing the confined Palaeocene of Sébikotane and Northern Pout and the unconfined  
 301 Palaeocene of Southern Pout, respectively (Figure 6c). In groups 1 and 2, there is an enrichment of  
 302 Ca<sup>2+</sup> and ( $\sum\text{HCO}_3^- + \text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ) ions and a decrease in Na<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> concentrations towards the main  
 303 groundwater flow directions as it is shown by the Ca/Na ratio (Figures 6c-1, c-2) and reverse  
 304 gradient in the Southern Pout compartment (Figure 6c-3).

305 With regards to the hydrogeological configuration, increasing trend of Ca/Na ratio occurs from the  
306 confined to unconfined part of the Palaeocene of Sébikotane and Northern Pout where pumping are  
307 highest. The reverse trend of Ca/Na ratio in the unconfined Southern Pout may be related to  
308 contribution of calcite dissolution and exchange process from infiltrated water. In the Maastrichtian  
309 aquifer, water types evolve laterally from Ca-HCO<sub>3</sub> facies, Na-HCO<sub>3</sub> facies to Na-Cl (Figure 6a).  
310 This trend is accompanied by a decrease in Ca<sup>2+</sup>, (ΣHCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> + CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) concentrations and an increase  
311 of Na<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> in the Diass, Southern Pout, Northern Pout and Mbour directions (Figure 6b). These  
312 trends correspond to the passage from freshwater to saline water in some part of the Mbour sectors.  
313 The Palaeocene and Maastrichtian aquifers are characterised by low NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> contents (with respect to  
314 drinking water standard) ranging from <0.3 to 28 mg/l with 44% (Palaeocene) and 85%  
315 (Maastrichtian) of the wells exhibiting NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> content less than the detection limit (0.3).  
316 The Quaternary upper aquifer is characterized by a Ca/Na-Cl facies, related probably to  
317 contribution of rainwater. NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations reaching 129 mg/l is an indication of the  
318 vulnerability of groundwater to pollution and a considerable modern component (Curell *et al.*,  
319 2010) and recharged water from irrigation.

320

### 321 **4.3 Isotopes composition of water**

#### 322 **Stable isotopes composition of rainwater**

323 The δ<sup>18</sup>O values vary from -7.2 ‰ to -2.6 ‰ with an average of -5.3‰ and those of δ<sup>2</sup>H from -47‰  
324 to -12‰ with an average of -32‰ (Table 3). Plotted in the conventional δ<sup>18</sup>O vs δ<sup>2</sup>H diagram they  
325 define a Local Meteoric Water Line (LMWL) with a regression line δ<sup>2</sup>H = 7.23×δ<sup>18</sup>O + 5.9 (Figure  
326 8a) close to that defined by Travi *et al.* (1987) and the Global Meteoric Water Line (GMWL)  
327 (Craig, 1961). This is an indication that rainfalls in Senegal are not evaporated during precipitation  
328 due to short and heavy event storms occurring.

329 The mean monthly weighted  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of rainwater of all stations correlated with rainfall  
330 quantities (Figure 8b) show that low rainfall events in July (beginning of the rainy season) are more  
331 enriched than events in August and September which constitutes the maximum of the rainy season.

### 332 **Stable isotopes composition of groundwater**

333 In order to better understand the system functioning, isotopic data are scrutinized according to  
334 superficial (Quaternary), middle (confined/unconfined Palaeocene) and lower (Maastrichtian)  
335 aquifers and plotted against the GMWL (Figure 9).

#### 336 *Superficial aquifer*

337 Eighteen samples were analyzed in the Quaternary upper aquifer.  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  content range between -5.8  
338 and -4.3‰ and  $\delta^2\text{H}$  between -42 and -31‰, with respective mean values of -5.3‰ and -36‰ (Table  
339 3). These latter values are close to the mean  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}$  values in modern precipitation (-5.3‰  
340 and -32‰). The D-excess (equal to 6.5) compared to that of precipitation (10) suggests a present  
341 recharge of rainwater or soil water affected by evaporation or even mixing of irrigation water.

342 The poorly clustering of the data in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\delta^2\text{H}$  diagram that deviated from the GMWL (Craig,  
343 1961) and aligns along an evaporation line of equation:  $\delta^2\text{H} = 4.10 \times \delta^{18}\text{O} - 14.2$ ,  $R^2 = 0.47$  (Figure  
344 9a) indicates that fractionation by kinetic evaporation and/or mixing of isotopically different rainfall  
345 events in addition to agriculture return water flow occurred. In fact agriculture practices are well  
346 developed in the region as evidenced by high nitrate contents.

#### 347 *Middle and lower aquifers: Palaeocene and Maastrichtian*

348 For the Palaeocene aquifer,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  content vary from -5.8‰ to -5.0‰ and for  $\delta^2\text{H}$  between -38‰ and  
349 -31‰ with an average of -5.5‰ and -35‰, respectively. For the Maastrichtian aquifer, they range  
350 from -5.9‰ to -4.3‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and -38‰ to -26‰ for  $\delta^2\text{H}$ , with a mean value of -5.1‰ and -32‰,  
351 respectively (Table 3). Plotted in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs  $\delta^2\text{H}$  diagram (Figure 9b, 9c), the data of the  
352 Palaeocene and Maastrichtian aquifers align on trends parallel and slightly offset the GMWL with  
353 respective equations of  $\delta^2\text{H} = 8.03 \times \delta^{18}\text{O} + 8.89$ ;  $R^2 = 0.63$  and  $\delta^2\text{H} = 7.72 \times \delta^{18}\text{O} + 7.05$ ,  $R^2 = 0.92$ .

354 This June 2008 data used in the paper evidenced distinct scatters of the different aquifers (Figure 9)

355 with the Palaeocene aquifer exhibiting narrower and slighter range probably evidencing recharge  
356 during a cool and humid regime in the past. Scrutinizing the data, it appears that groundwater  
357 sampled in the Pout compartment exhibit lightest stable isotopes comparing to those of the  
358 Sébikotane compartment which values are wider. On the other side, values of the Maastrichtian  
359 aquifer show a large range, aligned on a line parallel and below the GMWL (Figure 9c) but with  
360 average D-excess of 8.5.

361 A clear grouping with regards to geographical zones is not shown, but it appears that a relatively  
362 similar lighter isotope composition ( $-6 < \delta^{18}\text{O} < -5\text{‰}$ ) (Figure 9b, 9c) is observed in all  
363 Palaeocene (confined and unconfined) and Maastrichtian in Southern Pout and Diass sectors. This  
364 similarity may reflect water of same origin and period of recharge. Conversely, a heavier isotope  
365 composition ( $\delta^{18}\text{O} > -5\text{‰}$ ) (Figure 9c) is observed in the Maastrichtian in Mbour and Northern Pout  
366 sectors.

367 This enrichment can be explained by difference in recharge period and/or mixing with recently  
368 recharge water by lateral flow along flow paths from the potential recharge zone (located in the  
369 Mbour compartment, the northern part of the Pout compartment) towards the piezometric  
370 depressions created by pumping or vertical leakage from the more enriched shallow aquifer. The  
371 latter is replenished by highly evaporated water ponds created during the rainy season.

372 The trailing depleted trend along a line parallel and below the GMWL indicates that groundwaters  
373 in the Palaeocene and Maastrichtian aquifers are palaeowaters recharged during different periods in  
374 the past. This is confirmed by the respective average D-excess values of 8.7 and 8.5 that are 13%  
375 and 15% lower than value of modern rainfall (10). As shown by Herczeg *et al.*, (2011), in arid and  
376 semi-arid zones, groundwater resources are often thought to be largely derived from relatively  
377 higher recharge regimes during past wetter climates. Gat (1983), Gat & Issar (1974), Issar *et al.*,  
378 (1984) reported in Herczeg *et al.* (2011) observed that groundwater stable isotope compositions  
379 ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}$ ) are more negative than those of weighted mean contemporary rainfall as observed in  
380 this paper. Moreover, Moser *et al.* (1983) reported by Herczeg *et al.* (2011) evidenced that



381 palaeowaters from arid areas in Saudi Arabia and North Africa are depleted in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}$  relative  
382 to modern rainfall and lie on a palaeowater line that is parallel and below to the global meteoric  
383 water line (GMWL). However, Herczeg *et al.* (2011) pointed out some difficulties in interpreting  
384 palaeorecharge data which can only be done by comparison of data values and patterns displayed by  
385 present day values and ancient period. Despite that, signatures in arid zones are ambiguous due to  
386 large variability of rainfall isotopes values, modifications of the isotopic signature at the land  
387 surface as well as during infiltration through unsaturated zone which can yield a far greater range of  
388 possible final values than those imposed by palaeoclimatic.

389 Ultimately, the heterogeneity of the data shows some variability in patterns and recharge periods.  
390 Therefore, it is conceivable to assume that groundwater in the aquifer system is of palaeorecharge  
391 origin, and the large range of stable isotopes contents may reflect variable mass flux of isotopically  
392 different circulating water (Figure 9c).

393

#### 394 **4.4 Groundwater age and origin**

395 Radioactive isotopes  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  were used to assess the age of water, recharge periods and probable  
396 mixing in the system. The data used for the interpretation are those obtained in this study and from  
397 previous studies (IAEA, 1972; Faye, 1983; Travi, 1988; RAF, 1998) (Table 4).

398 Tritium is a valuable tracer for water flow and can give an indication of the relative age of waters  
399 varying on a timescale of 50 years before present. It is a naturally occurring isotope of hydrogen not  
400 affected by reactions other than radioactive decay. Detectable tritium concentrations in groundwater  
401 evidence that recharge has occurred after nuclear bomb test (1952-1953) or mixing had occurred  
402 between recent tritiated water and water recharges prior to 1952.  $^{14}\text{C}$  can be used as a tracer of the  
403 movement and the relative age of water on a timescale ranging from several hundreds to 35,000  
404 years. Used in conjunction with  $^3\text{H}$ , mixing of older groundwater with post nuclear water can be  
405 investigated.

406 ***Tritium***

407 Tritium contents in rainwater measured in June 2008 range from 1.3 to 4.8 TU with a mean value of  
408 2.6 TU (Table 3). They are very close to values measured in the Dakar region in 2008 which range  
409 from 1.5 to 2.8 TU with an average of 2.2 TU (Diedhiou, 2011).

410 In groundwater, tritium contents are mostly below the detection limit (0.7 TU) in percentage of  
411 17%, 87% and 91% for the Quaternary, Palaeocene and Maastrichtian aquifers, respectively. They  
412 indicate predominance of old water that has been recharged before 1952 in most of the Palaeocene  
413 and Maastrichtian aquifers (Table 3). However, few values above this limit (13% for the Palaeocene  
414 and 9% for the Maastrichtian) correspond to mixing between recent and paleowaters (Clark & Fritz,  
415 1997).

416 In the upper aquifer, the detectable tritium contents -greater than 0.7TU (83%) and ranging from 1.9  
417 to 4.3 TU- are similar to those measured in modern rainwater (Figure 10a) evidencing present  
418 recharge. Potential recharge zones of the upper aquifer are identified through the spatial distribution  
419 of these high tritium values and are located in the Mbour compartment (cities of Mbour, Ngekokh,  
420 Djilakh), in the Diass compartment and in the northern part of the Pout compartment (Mont  
421 Rolland, Sao) (Figure 10b). On the other hand, high tritium values greater than 0.7 TU in the  
422 Palaeocene (13%) and Maastrichtian (9%) ranged between 1.2 and 1.6 TU and between 1.2 and 1.7  
423 TU, respectively. Occurrence of tritium contents in few wells tapping these aquifers in Northern  
424 Pout, Southern Pout and Sébikotane compartments at piezometric depressions (Figure 10b) created  
425 by pumping probably reflects a mixing with recent water from upper aquifer through vertical  
426 leakage or inferred lateral flow from the potential recharge zones described above.

#### 427 *Carbon isotope ( $^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{14}\text{C}$ )*

428 The limited carbon data obtained within this study were combined with existing data for age  
429 calculation. Our dataset range for  $^{13}\text{C}$  between -9.81 and -6.35‰ vs PDB and for  $^{14}\text{C}$  between 7.08  
430 and 48.57 pmc (Table 4) and are consistent with data from previous study which are -1.2 to -17.2‰  
431 vs PDB for  $^{13}\text{C}$  and between 0.1 to 70.8 pmc for  $^{14}\text{C}$ .

432 Carbon data were recomputed using different age correction models and results show that ages  
433 calculated from Fontes & Garnier (1979), Ingerson & Pearson (1964) models are very similar to  
434 those computed by IAEA (1972) (Figure 10, Table 4) and a best fit (closer to 1/1 ratio) is obtained  
435 between ages calculated from the Fontes & Garnier (1979) model and ages calculated by IAEA  
436 (1972). Therefore, the Fontes & Garnier (1979) was used to calculate groundwater age. In fact, this  
437 model which is based on the stoichiometric balance of carbonate species, assumes that the  
438 carbonate dissolution reactions occur in a closed system where groundwaters, initially in equilibrium  
439 with soil CO<sub>2</sub>, are isolated from this system before any addition in solution of inactive carbon.

440 The isotopic content of the Total Dissolved Inorganic Carbon depends not only on the soil CO<sub>2</sub>, but  
441 also on the isotopic content of the “death” carbon from the aquifer. This model does not take into  
442 account an additional contribution of Dissolved Inorganic Carbon other than carbonate dissolution  
443 and isotopic exchange. This model is considered in this study due to geochemical reactions that  
444 occur in the system characterized by a predominance of carbonate dissolution, and therefore it is a  
445 good approximation of the groundwater age of the water.

446 Our dataset give computed age between actual and 14,500 years BP, while age from previous  
447 studies (IAEA, 1972; Faye, 1983; Travi, 1988; RAF, 1998) are from actual to 28,000 years BP  
448 (Table 4) and therefore confirm the predominance of palaeowaters in the system. Scrutinizing our  
449 dataset they range from 1000 years in Sébikotane and 14,500 years in Northern Pout for two  
450 Palaeocene samples and from actual to 730 years for two samples of the Maastrichtian in Mbour  
451 and Pout Kirène sectors, respectively.

452 These results are in accordance with previous studies that give values between 3500 and 17,500  
453 years for the Palaeocene in Sébikotane and 3000-3500 years in the Maastrichtian of Kirène.

454 The spatial distribution of groundwater age in the Maastrichtian aquifers (Figure 12a) shows sectors  
455 of variable ages:

456 ✓ groundwater of age greater than 15,000 years BP range between 15,500 and 28,000 years are  
457 observed East of the study area and South-West of the system;

458 ✓ groundwater of variable age less than 15,000 years BP to actual inequally distributed in the  
459 Mbour and Diass sectors.

460 The few age data obtained in the Palaeocene aquifer show older groundwater age greater than  
461 10,000 years in the Northern part of the Sébikotane and Pout compartment while the relatively  
462 recent groundwater from actual to 2600 years BP occurs southward of these compartments.

463 The analysis of the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs radiocarbon age graph (Figure 12b) evidenced two periods of  
464 groundwater recharge corresponding to the late Pleistocene period between 10,000 and 20,000 years  
465 in the Mbour and Thiès compartment in the eastern part (Figure 12a) and the Holocene period  
466 between the present day and 10,000 years in the Diass aquifer system except few samples from  
467 Mbour and Northern Pout compartment.

#### 468 *Uncertainties in radiocarbon age dating*

469 Groundwater age estimated in this study with radiocarbon may be associated with uncertainties due  
470 to the relative small number of measurements during different periods and the large potential errors  
471 associated with model calculation. A major difficulty is estimating the initial  $^{14}\text{C}$  concentration at  
472 the time of recharge. One of the reasons for this is the variability of chemical and isotopic end  
473 members such as soil gas  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  and  $\text{pCO}_2$ , and assigning carbonate mineral  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$ ,  
474 which are used in the various  $^{14}\text{C}$  correction schemes (Herczeg *et al.*, 2011). Furthermore, the  
475 reactions taking place in these systems are quite complex and difficult to accurately assess.

476 Groundwater age is defined as the average over the water molecules in a sample of the time elapsed  
477 since recharge. This simple definition points to a complex reality and a rigorous understanding of  
478 groundwater age, then requires a detailed description of how water molecules are transported in a  
479 flow regime. A rigorous understanding of groundwater age then requires a detailed description of  
480 how water molecules are transported in a flow regime (Bethke & Johnson, 2002). As discuss in  
481 Bethke & Johnson (2002) and Park *et al.* (2002) systematic errors induced by the molecular  
482 diffusion, dispersion and mixing of different waters arise from application of the radioactive decay  
483 equation. When radioactive isotopes are lost from the aquifer by diffusion into confining layers or

484 gained from fine-grained sediments where the rate of subsurface production is high, age calculated  
485 from the radioactive decay equation, therefore, is respectively younger and older than the actual  
486 age. Sanford (1997) realized a simple model in steady-state flow in regional systems by used of a  
487 formula that allows an approximate age correction if necessary for a quick graphical assessment of  
488 whether diffusion may be affecting  $^{14}\text{C}$  based ages. This study elucidates that a significant loss of  
489  $^{14}\text{C}$  occur through molecular diffusion in many types of aquifer system.

490 Furthermore, mixing between aquifer and aquitard by hydrodynamic dispersion may increase or  
491 decrease the radioisotopes concentration and lead to respectively younger and older age than the  
492 actual age. A mixture of groundwater of differing ages also increases the level of uncertainty  
493 associated with groundwater age dating because of the closed system hypotheses used for  
494 calculating age. Therefore, applying this method to a mixture of two fluids however, predicts an age  
495 that falls systematically younger than the average age of the mixture because the concentration of  
496 the radioisotope decays along not a linear but a negative exponential trend. The error becomes  
497 especially significant when one fluid is much older than the isotope's half-life.

498 In the context of the Diass aquifer system, due to high pumping, diffusion, dispersion and cross-  
499 formational flow are supposed to be high and then allow mixing between younger (superficial  
500 aquifer) and older (Palaeocene and Maastrichtian) as well as between deeper aquifers. Therefore,  
501 signatures can be enriched or depleted and calculated ages differ from the average age of the mixed  
502 waters. Considering the models proposed by Park *et al.* (2002), the groundwater age calculated  
503 from the Fontes & Garnier (1979) model which used the radioactive decay equation that did not  
504 take in consideration diffusion, hydrodynamic dispersion and mixing of different waters lead to an  
505 overestimation of the calculated groundwater ages. The resulting groundwater ages are interpreted  
506 in terms of recharge and hydrogeological system functioning and can be therefore taint with  
507 uncertainties.

508

509 **4.5 Hydrogeological system functioning**

510 The radiocarbon and tritium groundwater age indicate that the majority of groundwater pumped in  
511 the Palaeocene and Maastrichtian reservoirs in the aquifer system originates from paleowater.  
512 However, the high pumping rates in both aquifers which induce vertical to lateral drainage as well  
513 as mixing may blur the occurrence of present day rainfall infiltration. At Mbour, the tritium  
514 contents (1 to 3.1 TU) and  $^{14}\text{C}$  activities (48 pmc) observed respectively in the Quaternary and  
515 Maastrichtian aquifers confirm the hypothesis of mixing with recent infiltrated water in this area.  
516 On the other hand, in the Northern Pout pumping field, very low activities could be related to the  
517 high pumping rate (44,500 m<sup>3</sup>/day) that induces lateral flow exchanges with the old waters from the  
518 eastern part (Figure 12) through the Thies fault according to the regional Maastrichtian flow which is  
519 from East to West.

520

## 521 **5 Conclusions**

522 The Diass horst multilayered aquifer constitutes a complex hydrogeological system and an  
523 important reservoir. Increasing exploitation with regards to water demand and the continuous  
524 decline of water level are of concern for the water authorities to ensure sustainability of this  
525 valuable resource. This study presents results of stable isotope and age dating in an attempt to  
526 clarify the origin of recharge water, the age of groundwater resources and flow regime.

527 Geochemical data mainly indicate low mineralization of the groundwater with EC less than 1000  
528  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , except for few wells in the Palaeocene at Sébikotane, the Maastrichtian at Mbour and at the  
529 Mio-Plio-Quaternary indicating salinisation from saline lakes, marine intrusion. The water type is  
530 dominantly  $\text{Ca-HCO}_3$  type, reflecting the calcareous and dolomite nature of the aquifers with a  
531 predominance of calcite and dolomite dissolution reactions.

532 Stable isotopes show that the waters had undergone evaporation during infiltration into groundwater  
533 in the upper aquifer where present recharge occurs. This aquifer is locally recharged by present  
534 precipitation in the Mbour sector (area of Mbour, Ngekokh, Djilakh) and Northern Pout  
535 compartment (Mont Rolland and Sao). The results of stable isotopes, age dating using  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$

536 data confirm that most of the investigated groundwater are palaeowaters and recharge occurred  
537 mainly during the Pleistocene and Holocene period between 28,000 years BP to present with a gap  
538 between 15,000 and 9000 years BP for the Maastrichtian aquifer. Mixing of old waters and recently  
539 recharged (tritiated) waters existent in few exploited boreholes indicating vertical and/or lateral  
540 leakage of recent superficial water to deeper aquifers. Calculated groundwater ages may be  
541 overestimated because of uncertainties due to mixing of waters of different age. The results of this  
542 study, including information about recharge areas and groundwater age, will be used to  
543 conceptualize and also to calibrate groundwater flow model, in order to develop and/or refine  
544 groundwater management plans for an adequate exploitation of this fragile water resource.

545

546 **Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by the Belgian Technical Cooperation and the  
547 “Coopération Française” through the U3E fellowship to Diakher Helene PhD research program at  
548 the Liege University. The authors particularly thank staff of the isotopes laboratory at  
549 IGOE/Helmholtz Zentrum/Germany and hydrochemistry laboratory at Liege University. Thanks go  
550 also to anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments.

551

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

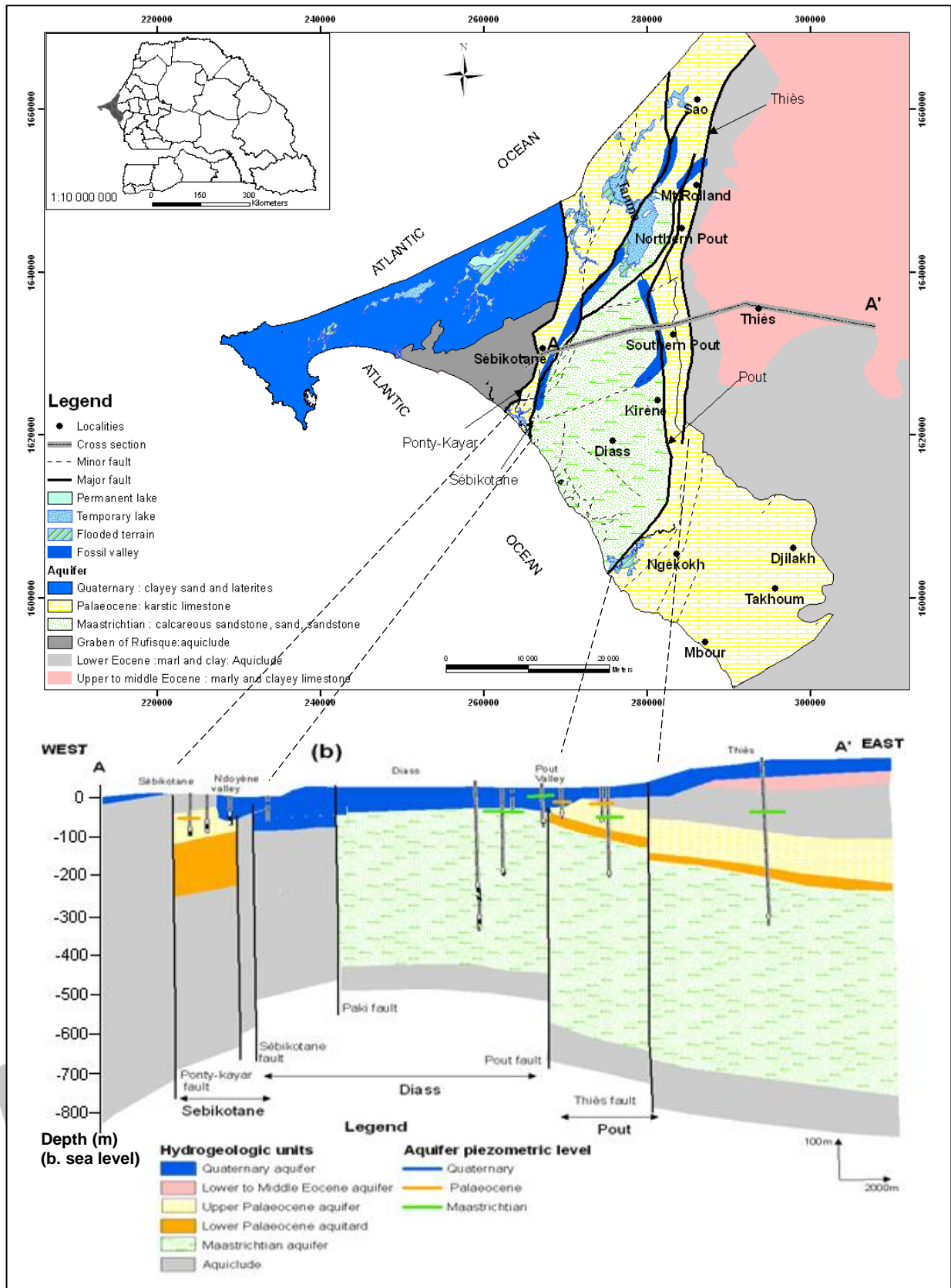


Figure 1: Hydrogeological map presenting the top main aquifer (a) and cross section of the study area (b) modified from Martin (1970)



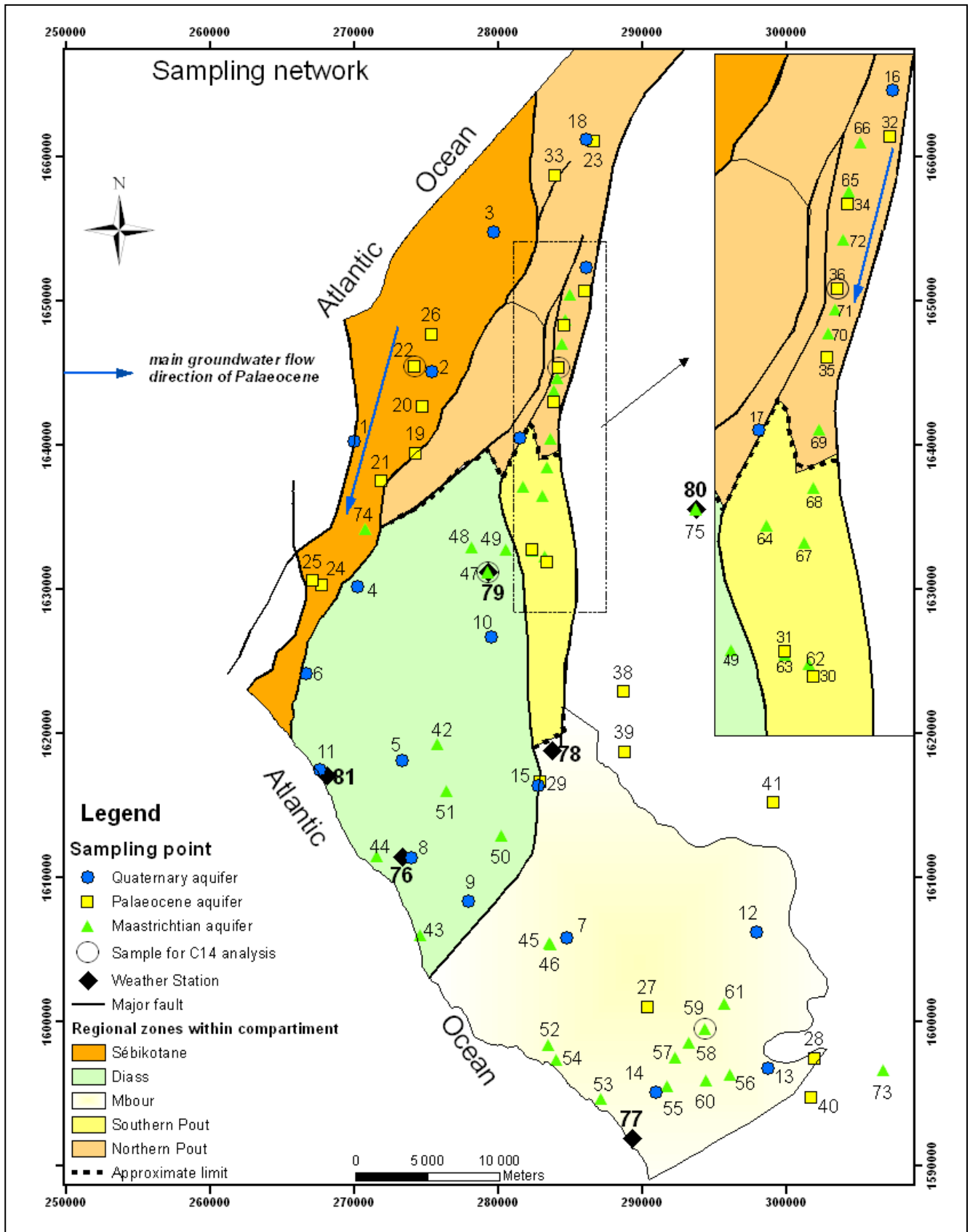


Figure 2: Map of the study area and location of the groundwater sampling network

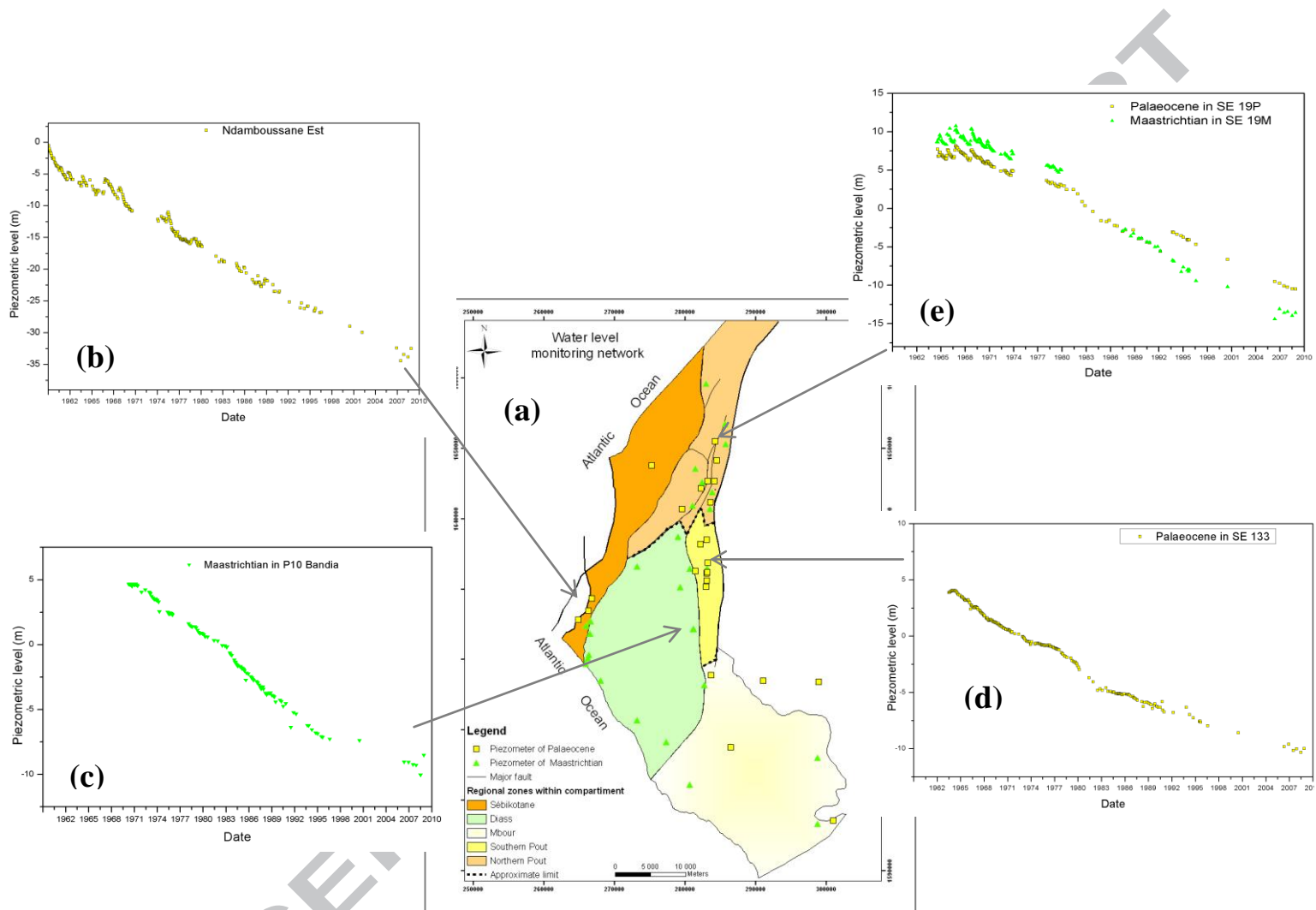


Figure 3: Groundwater level monitoring network (a), evolution in time of the measured piezometric level in Sebikotane (b), in Diass (c), in the Southern Pout zone (d), and in the Northern Pout area (e).

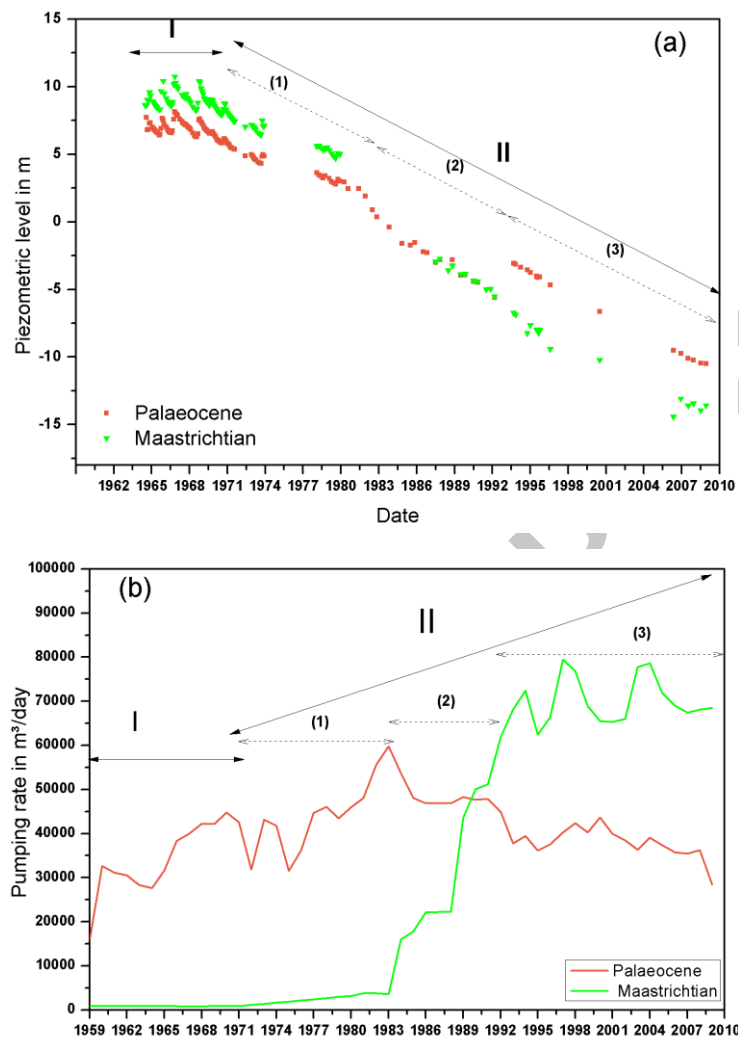


Figure 4: Evolution of piezometric level with groundwater pumping from 1959 to 2009

(a) = Evolution of piezometric level with time; (b) = Evolution of pumping rate with time

I = Steady state period, II = Transient period

(1) (2) (3) are respectively considered as stress periods 1,2 and 3 of the transient period

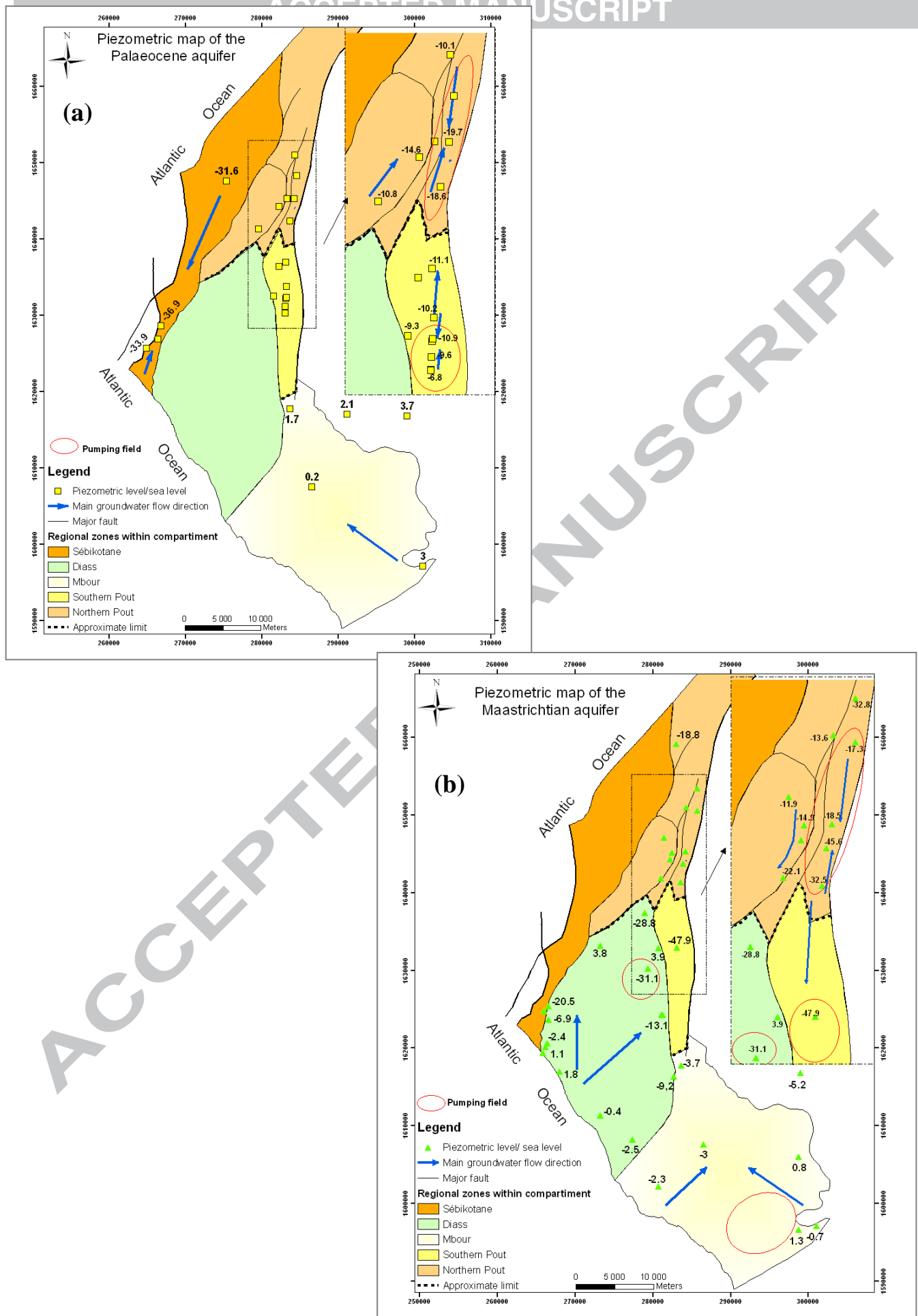


Figure 5: Piezometric map of the Palaeocene (a) and Maastrichtian aquifers (b) in June 2008

Figure 6

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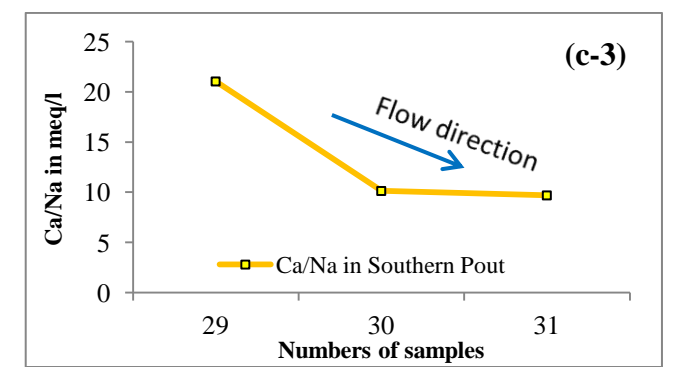
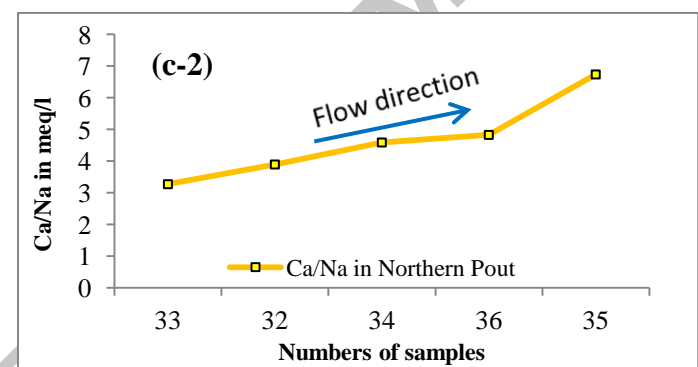
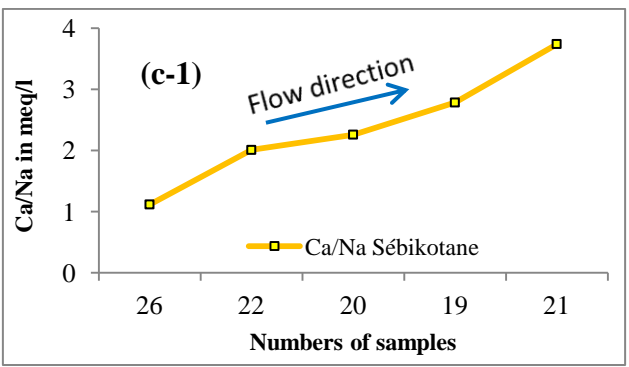
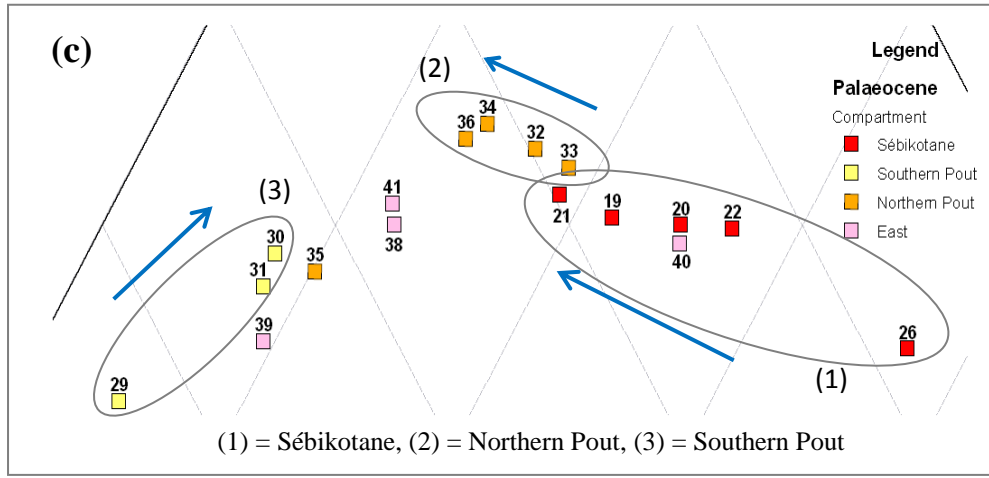
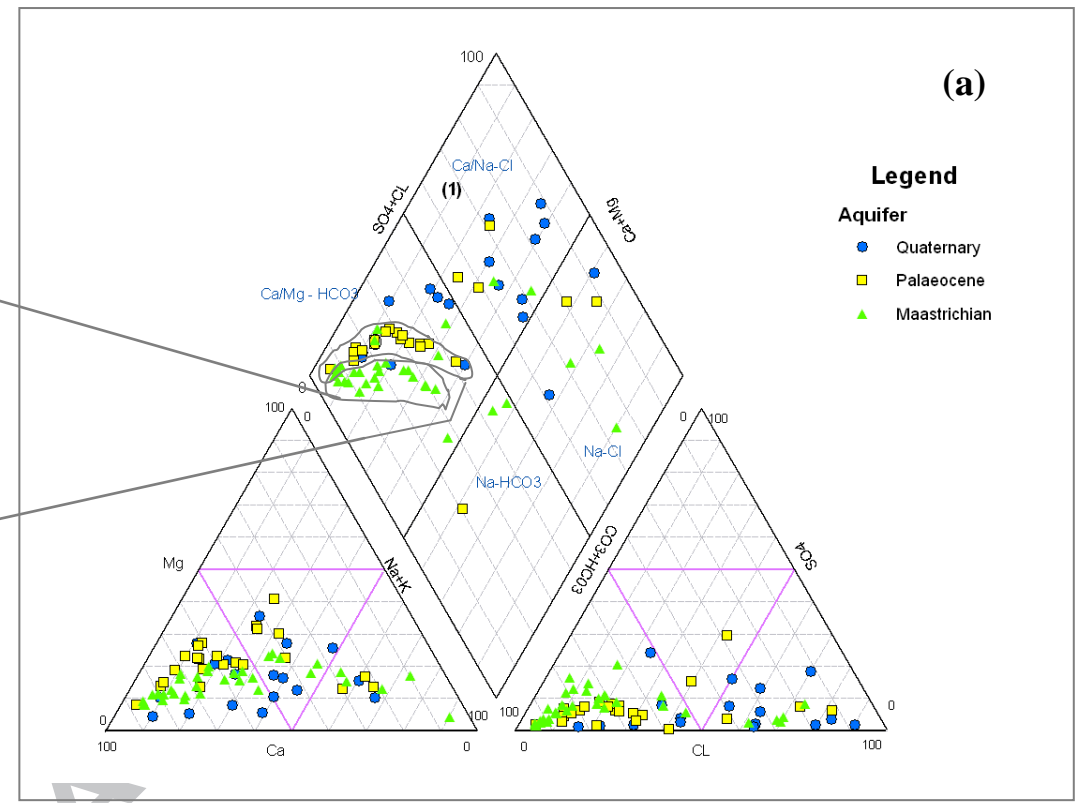
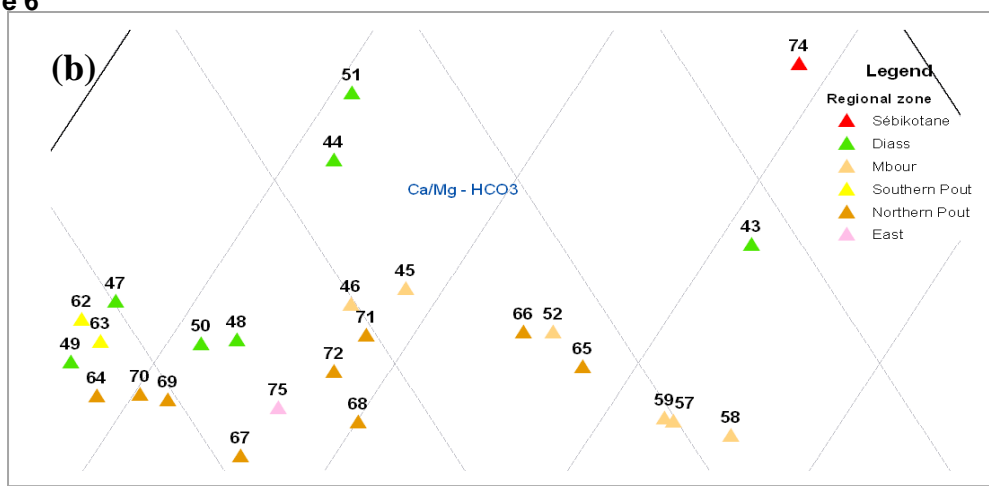


Figure 6: Piper diagram (a), spatial distribution of Ca/HCO<sub>3</sub> facies type in the Maastrichtian (b) and Palaeocene (c) aquifers, Ca/Na ratio of samples in the Sébikotane (c-1), Northern Pout (c-2) and Southern Pout (c-3) sectors

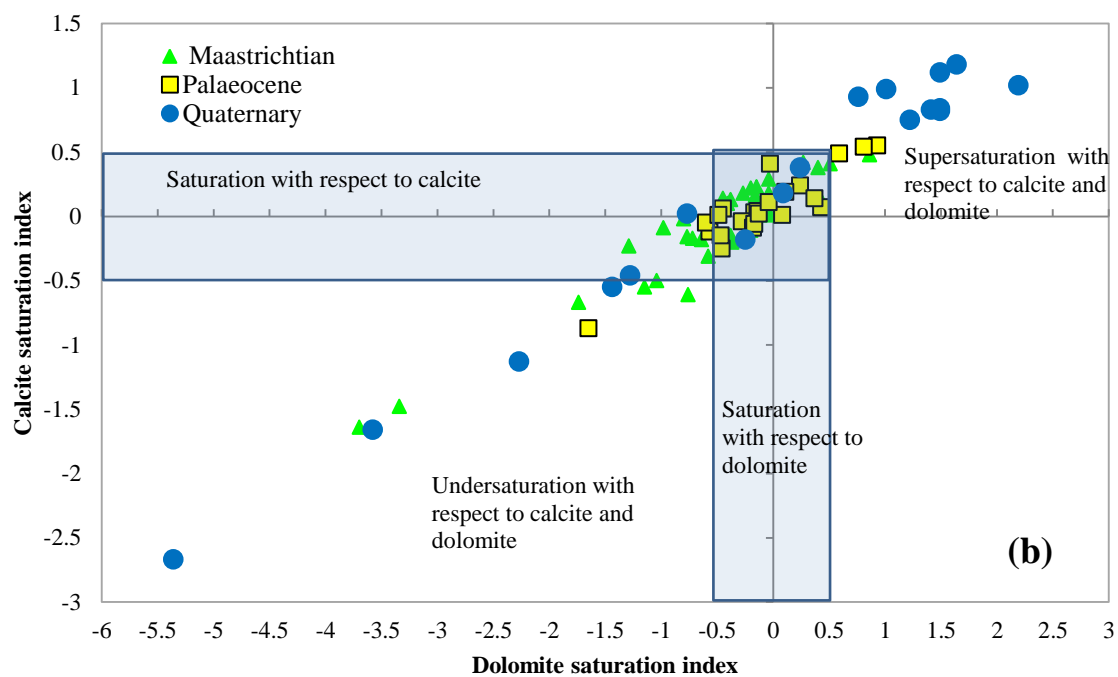
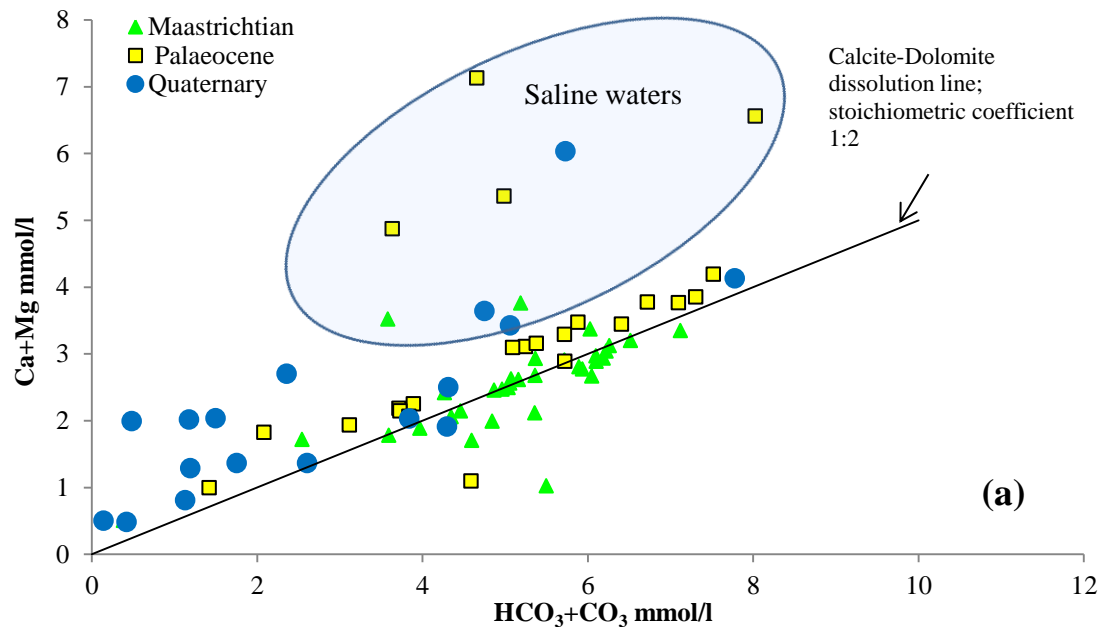


Figure 7:  $(\text{Ca}^{2+}+\text{Mg}^{2+})$  vs  $(\text{HCO}_3^-+\text{CO}_3^{2-})$  (a); Calcite and dolomite saturation index (b)

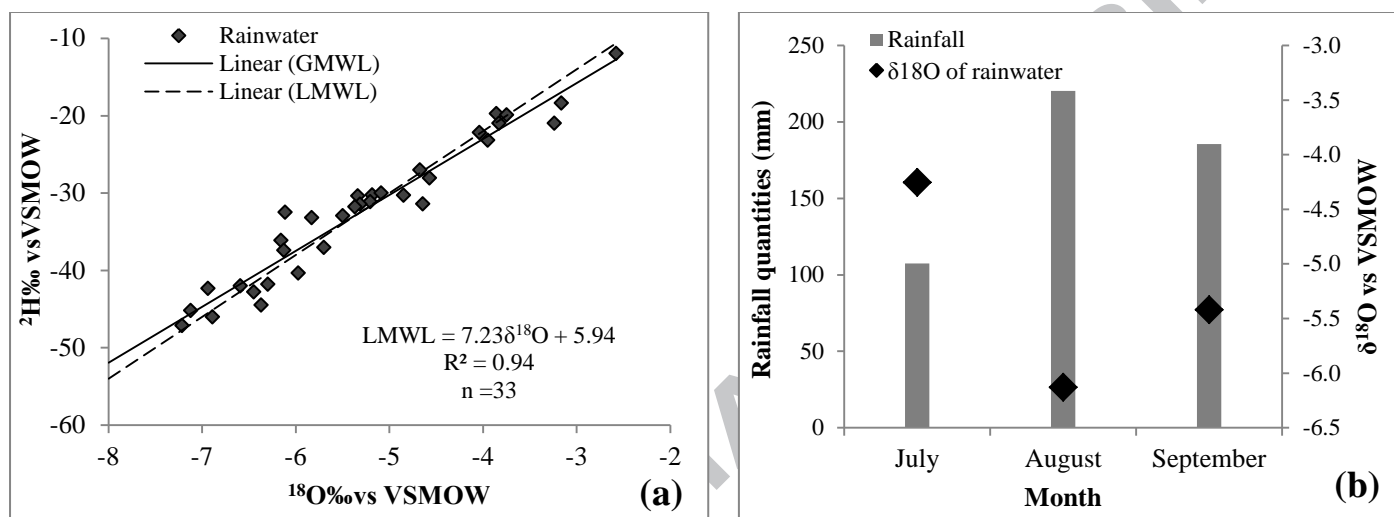


Figure 8:  $\delta^{2}\text{H}$  vs  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of precipitation (a), mean monthly weighted  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of all weather stations vs monthly rainfall quantities (b)

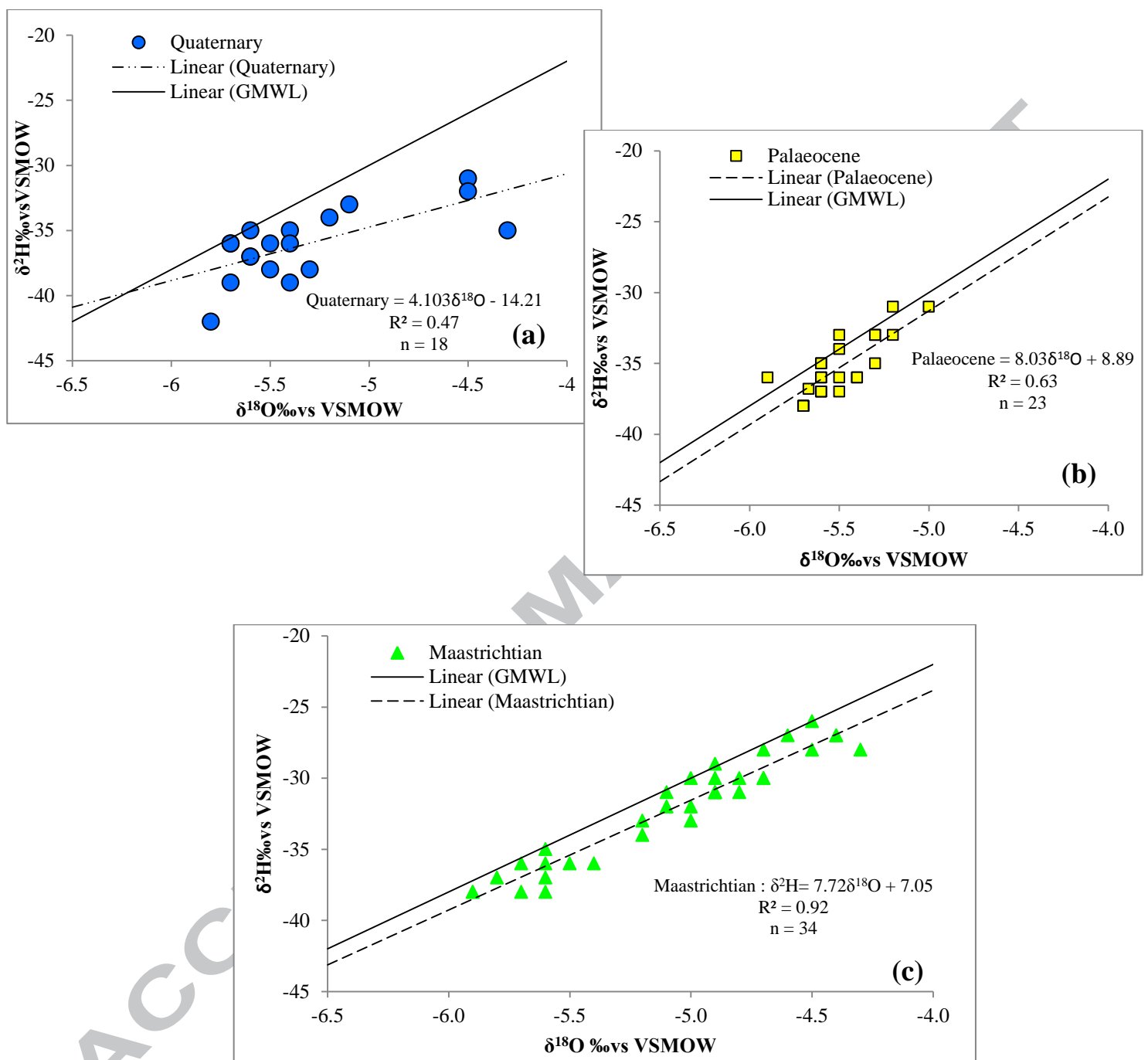


Figure 9:  $\delta^2\text{H}$  vs  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of Quaternary (a), Palaeocene (b) and Maastrichtian (c) aquifers



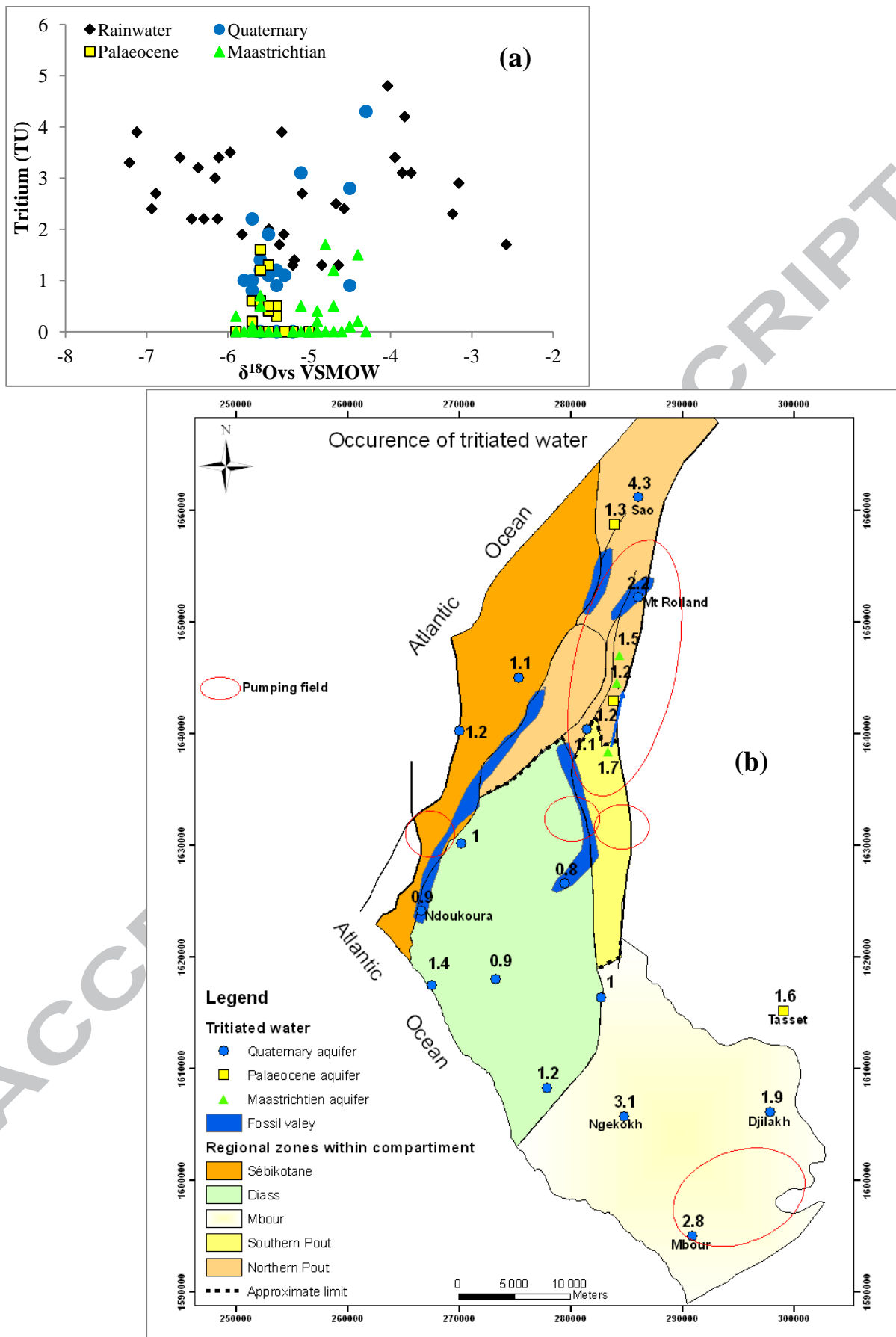


Figure 10: Tritium vs  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of groundwaters compared with rainwaters (a), spatial distribution of tritiated waters (b)

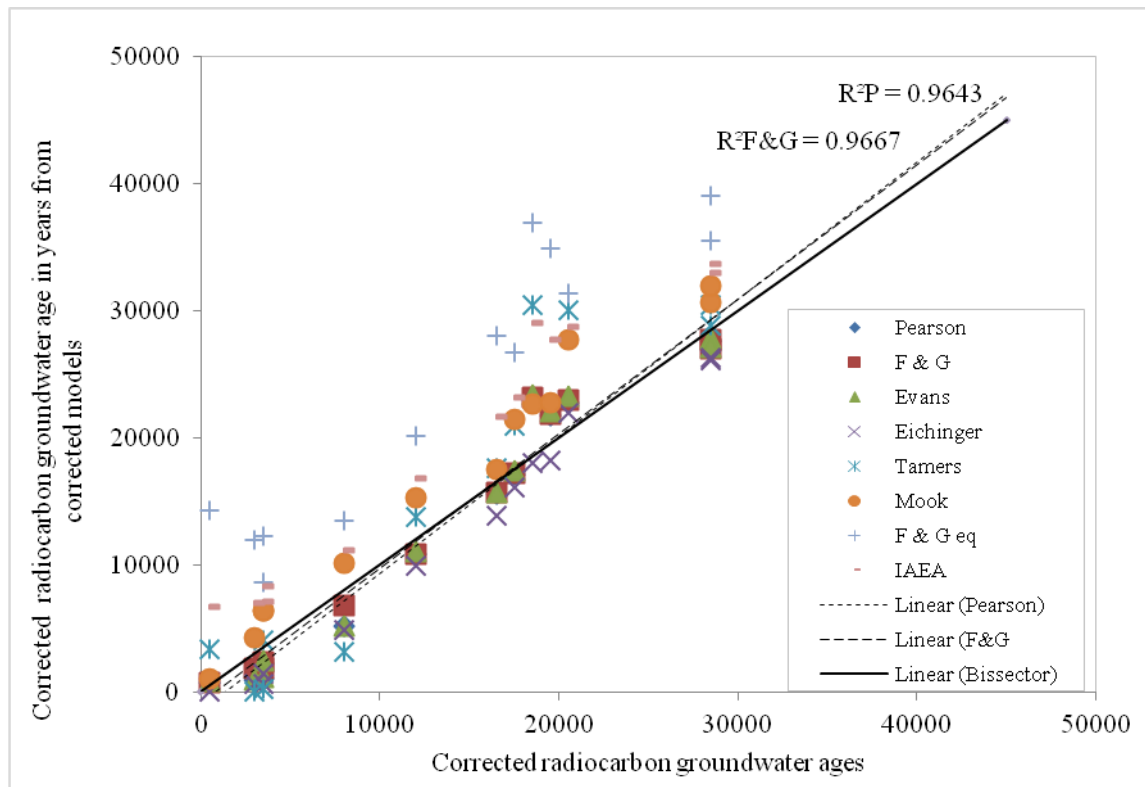


Figure 11: Estimation of groundwater radiocarbon age: comparison of IAEA (1972) corrected age with corrected age calculated from 9 correction models

P = Pearson

Pearson = Ingerson & Pearson (1960)

F & G = Fontes & Garnier (1979)

Evans = Evans *et al* (1979)

Eichinger = Eichinger (1983)

Tamers = Tamers (1975)

Mook = Mook (1980)

F & G eq = Fontes & Garnier (1979) equilibrium

IAEA = IAEA (1972)

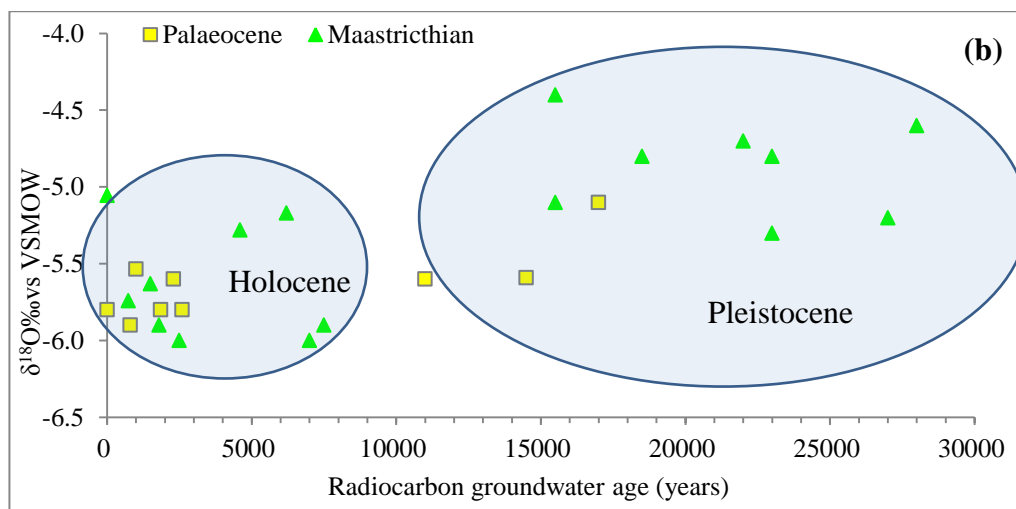
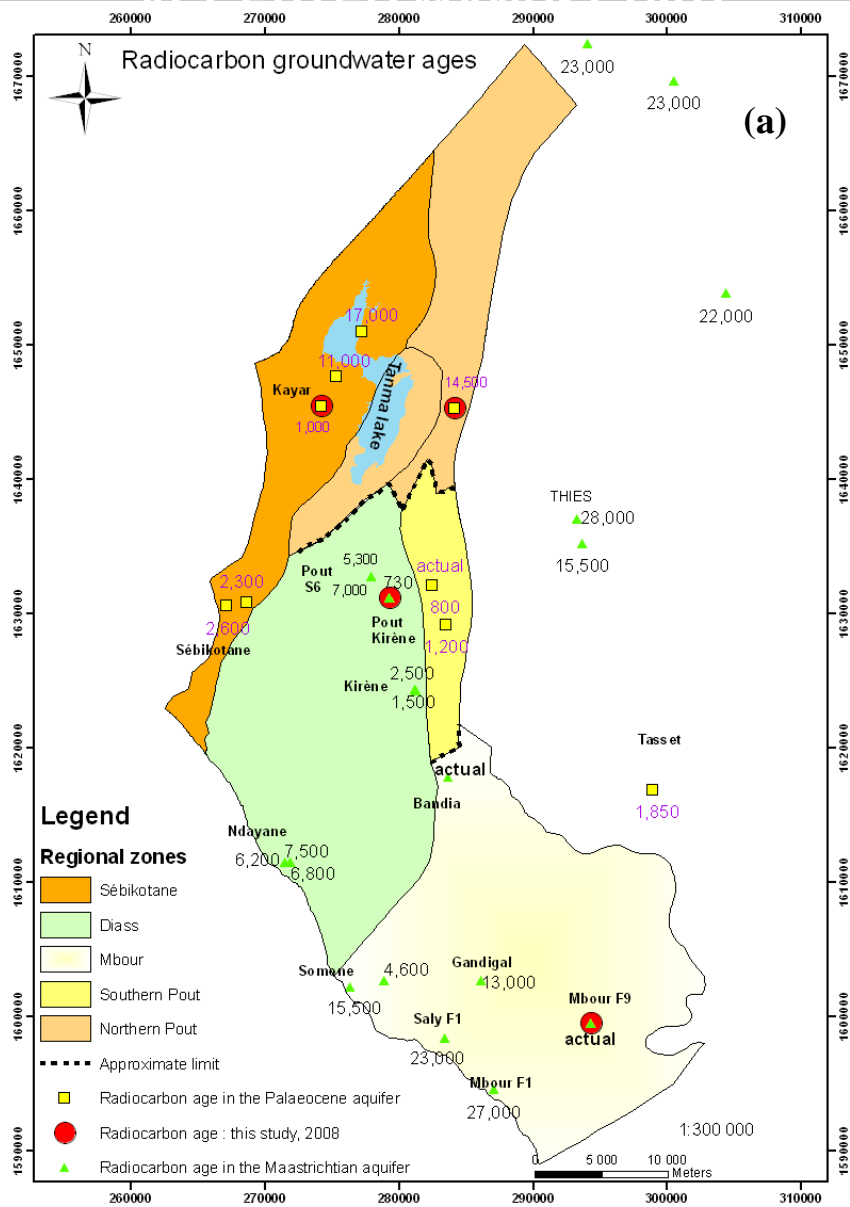


Figure 12: Spatial distribution of groundwater age (a);  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs radiocarbon age (b) in the Palaeocene and Maastrichtian aquifers

Table 1: Geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the aquifer system (K = Hydraulic conductivity; S = Storage coefficient)

Etage		Dominant lithology / Hydrogeological units /Hydrodynamic properties				
		Compartments				
		Sebikotane	Diass	Northern Pout	Southern Pout	Mbour
Mio-Plio-Quaternary		Clayey sand/ <b>Aquifer</b> / $K \approx 1.5 \times 10^{-4}$ m/s, S = 20%				Clayey sand and laterites/ <b>Aquifer</b>
Eocene	Upper to Middle	Marl and clay/Aquiclude	No occurrence	Marl and clay/Aquiclude	No occurrence	Marly and clayey limestone/ <b>Aquifer</b>
	Lower					Marl and clay/ Aquiclude
Palaeocene	Upper to Middle	Karstified limestone/ <b>Aquifer</b>	No occurrence	Karstified limestone / <b>Aquifer</b> / $K = 6.6 \times 10^{-6}$ to $2 \times 10^{-2}$ m/s, $S = 1 \times 10^{-4}$ to $7 \times 10^{-2}$		Not karstified limestone/Aquitard
	Lower (Danian)	Marly and clayey calcareous/ Aquitard		Marly and clayey calcareous / Aquitard		
Maastrichtian	Upper and Middle	Clay/Aquiclude	Sandstone, calcareous sandstone and clayey sand / <b>Aquifer</b> $K = 1 \times 10^{-5}$ to $1.9 \times 10^{-3}$ m/s, $S = 1 \times 10^{-4}$ to $6 \times 10^{-4}$			
	Lower		Clay with interbedded sand and sandstone/Aquiclude			
Camnanian		Clayey sand/Aquiclude				

Table 2: Number of samples, periods and sampled aquifers

Measures	Periods	Number of samples			
		Maastrichtian	Palaeocene	Quaternary	Rainwaters
Piezometric level	April 2007	28	24		
	November 2007	32	24		
	June 2008	35	27	18	
	November 2008	35	26	17	
Chemical	April 2007	34	15		
	November 2007	35	22		
	June 2008	34	23	18	
	November 2008	40	19	17	
	July-August-September 2008				148
Isotopic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , $\delta^2\text{H}$ , $^3\text{H}$ $^{14}\text{C}$ , $^{13}\text{C}$	April 2007	25	14		
	November 2007	35	22		
	June 2008	34	23	18	
	September 2008	2	2	17	
	July-August-September 2008				33

Table 3: Statistic values of physico-chemical, chemical (in mg/l) and isotopic parameters, saturation indexes with respect to calcite and dolomite (Q =Quaternary; P =Palaeocene; M=Maastrichtian; W = Well; B = Borehole; R = Rainfall; S = Weather station; min=minimum; max=maximum; b.d.=below detection limit)

Aquifer	Sampling date	Statistic	T(°C)	pH	EC (µS/cm)	Ca <sup>++</sup>	Mg <sup>++</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	% NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> <0.3	CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Free CO <sub>2</sub>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Calcite SI	Dolomite SI	TU	2Σ	% TU >0.7	δ <sup>18</sup> O (‰)	δ <sup>2</sup> H (‰)	A <sup>14</sup> C (pmc)	A <sup>14</sup> C error	<sup>13</sup> C (‰ vs PDB)	Corrected age in years Fontes & Garnier (1979)	
R	2008/7-9/	min		5.6	16	1.6	0.1	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.8	0.3		b.d.	1.5	0.3	b.d.				1.3	0.7		-7.2	-47.2				
		max		7.8	362	40.0	2.9	41.9	12.0	40.7	25.3	29.2		0.5	134.6	4.5	4.5				4.8	1.1	100	-2.6	-12.0				
		mean		7.0	92	12.0	0.8	7.3	1.9	8.1	5.8	4.5		0.1	40.2	1.7	0.8				2.6	0.7		-5.3	-32.1				
Q	2008/06	min	26.8	6.6	180	12.2	3.0	10.9	0.1	19.0	0.7	<0.3		b.d.	8.5	0.8	1.8	-2.7	-5.4	<0.7	0.7			-5.8	-42.0				
		max	30.2	8.3	5080	431.3	96.2	439.5	12.6	1371.5	108.2	129.7	5		2.9	473.5	13.2	19.1	1.2	2.2	4.3	0.8	83	-4.3	-31.0				
		mean	28.7	7.7	947	89.1	17.5	71.5	4.0	176.2	23.9	35.7		0.9	184.5	2.5	9.2	0.1	-0.1	0.7				-5.3	-36.0				
P	2008/06	min	28.8	6.7	474	24.8	5.9	5.8	0.7	10.4	1.6	<0.3		0.7	126.6	0.9	13.6	-0.9	-1.7	<0.7	0.7			-5.9	-38.0	7.1	0.05	-9.4	1,000
		max	34.2	7.5	4340	174.9	70.2	620.4	10.0	1194.0	182.9	21.0	44		5.2	487.2	3.5	75.1	0.6	0.9	1.6	1.5	13	-5.0	-31.0	38.7	0.11	-8.8	14,500
		mean	30.9	7.1	999	93.7	25.2	74.3	2.8	148.7	34.8	4.3		1.9	311.3	2.1	30.4	0.1	-0.1	0.9				-5.5	-35.0	22.9	0.08	-9.1	7,750
M	2008/06	min	27.6	6.2	182	16.3	2.4	6.4	1.1	10.4	1.3	<0.3		b.d.	23.2	0.8	12.1	-1.6	-3.7	<0.7	0.6			-5.9	-38.0	41.8	0.11	-9.8	actual
		max	38.2	7.8	2990	117.4	58.5	472.3	21.5	764.6	118.2	28.2	85		3.4	432.6	3.8	54.0	0.5	0.9	1.7	1.5	9	-4.3	-26.0	48.6	0.12	-6.4	730
		mean	32.3	7.0	818	76.7	13.9	64.5	6.1	87.8	28.4	1.8		1.8	301.4	2.2	24.7	-0.1	-0.5	1.0				-5.1	-32.0	45.2	0.12	-8.1	
M	1969-1995	min	29.0	5.8											79.3					0.1			-6.0	-36.0	0.1	0.3	-17.2	1,500	
		max	33.4	8.9												488.0					19.3			-4.4	-20.3	70.8	1.3	-1.2	28,000
		mean	31.5	7.0												268.4					5.7			-5.2	-29.7	24.0	0.7	-11.4	12,585
P	1969-1995	min	29.9	6.5												192.2				0.3			-6.4	-39.0	4.5		-12.6	800	
		max	32.4	7.6												416.0				15.4			-5.1	-34.0	56.2		-7.5	17,000	
		mean	31.2	7.1												299.7				3.2			-5.8	-36.3	37.3		-10.6	5,250	





- 736 Vulnerability problems with groundwater resources in Africa  
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738 Over-exploitation of heterogeneous Dias aquifer system in Dakar region (Senegal)  
739  
740 Environmental isotopes as a unique tool to understand hydrodynamic and geochemical processes  
741  
742 Estimation of the recharge origin, water geochemistry and water types  
743  
744 Mixture processes of old and young water components  
745

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