

**A PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING THE SPREAD OF WATER HYACINTH  
USING REMOTE SENSING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
SYSTEMS (GIS) - A CASE STUDY OF LAKE KARIBA**

**BY**

**CHRISPIN NAMAKANDO (COMP NO. 03538460)**

**A dissertation submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for the award of  
Degree of Master of Engineering in Geomatic Engineering**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA  
LUSAKA**

**Date: 2009**

**DECLARATION**

I, **CHRISPIN NAMAKANDO**, do hereby declare that this dissertation is entirely the outcome of my own work and that to the best of my knowledge, it has never been presented in part or wholly at this or any other University for the award of the degree.

All figures on tables are original except for those whose sources have been acknowledged or referenced, as defined in the University's policy on plagiarism.

**CHRISPIN NAMAKANDO**

SIGNED: .....

DATE: .....

Lusaka, Zambia

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL**

This dissertation of **MR CHRISPIN NAMAKANDO** has been approved as fulfilling the requirements for the award of the **Master of Engineering (M. Eng.) Degree in Geomatic Engineering** by the University of Zambia.

EXAMINER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMINER: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: .....

SIGNED: .....

DATE: .....

DATE:.....

## Abstract

Water hyacinth is, after eutrophication, the largest threat to waterways, lakes and dams throughout Africa. The aim of this study was to develop a procedure for monitoring the spread of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System. The spread of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba is influenced by nutrients (phosphates and nitrates), climate, wind and wave action and lake level variation. On the Lake the weed is found as fringe on the shore line, free floating and thick mats. A procedure for monitoring the spread of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba was developed considering its occurrence, the use of Global Positioning System and satellite imagery. The spread of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba was studied using satellite imagery and through boat surveys. Remote sensing software Idrisi 2.0 was used to process and classify the satellite image whereas ArcView GIS 3.2a was used for analysis. Idrisi 2.0 and ArcView GIS 3.2a software were used to test specific steps of the procedure. The hybrid classification procedure (Using the ISOCLUS module of Idrisi) was found to be better suited for monitoring the spread of water hyacinth than the supervised and unsupervised methods of image classification. Seven (Two Spot and Five Landsat) satellite images were used to assess the spread of water hyacinth in this study. The extent of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba was estimated at 572 ha in 1995 (Spot), 1422 ha in 1999 (Spot), 455ha in 2001 (Landsat) and not detected by Landsat satellite images captured in 2004 and 2005. The weed spread was initially estimated to be 50 ha in January 2004, 10ha in December 2005 and 20ha in July 2007 through boat surveys. Overall, water hyacinth spread from 682ha in 1992 to 4510ha in 1998 after which it reduced to very low levels not warranting the use of satellite imagery in 2007.

To my wife Pamela, sons Jahdai (James) and Nshibulwa (Nshibs) and daughter Tumelo (Tutu). Things have not been easy but the Lord has been with me.

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank:

The former Chief Executive of Zambezi River Authority, Dr M. J. Tumbare, for according me the opportunity (when he was Chief Executive) to use Authority data and information for this project.

The members of staff of Zambezi River Authority especially the Director (Mr C. F. G. Mukosa) and staff from the Department of Water Resources and Environmental Management for the corporation in quest to gather information.

UNZA and my supervisors Dr. Augustine Mulolwa and Professor Imasiku Nyambe for the much needed guidance.

The Department of Geomatic Engineering staff for their role in this project

Dr. J. K. Sakupwanya, Portia Chifamba and Lindah Mhlanga for their contribution to this project.

The audience in all my presentations for their challenging questions and contributions.

Special thanks to my family, members of the Deeper Christian Life Ministry and many others who I can't mention but contributed to my success.

God richly bless you all.

## Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1-Introduction</b> .....	1
1.1 General.....	1
1.2 Statement of the problem.....	2
1.3 Objectives of the study.....	5
1.3.1 General objective.....	5
1.3.2 Specific objectives.....	5
1.3.3 Research questions.....	5
1.4 Study area.....	7
1.4.1 General Description.....	7
1.4.2 Climate.....	9
1.4.3 Land use activities.....	10
1.5 Report Layout.....	15
<b>Chapter 2-Conceptual Background</b> .....	16
2.0 Introduction.....	16
2.1 Water hyacinth .....	16
2.1.1 Impact of water hyacinth.....	17
2.1.2 Distribution of Water hyacinth.....	19
2.1.3 Growth pattern of water hyacinth.....	23
2.1.4 Factors that contribute to the proliferation of water hyacinth.....	26
2.1.4.1 Water Nutrients.....	26
2.1.4.2 Climate.....	28
2.1.4.3 Wind and wave action.....	28
2.1.4.4 Water level fluctuations.....	29
2.2 Remote Sensing.....	30
2.2.1 Application of satellite imagery.....	32
2.2.1.1 Use of Remote Sensing in Water Resources Management.....	34
2.2.1.2 Mapping water hyacinth using satellite imagery.....	35
2.3 Geographic Information System (GIS) .....	38

<b>Chapter 3-Design of Monitoring Procedure</b> .....	41
3.1 Introduction.....	41
3.2 The Conceptual model procedure .....	41
3.1.1 Data acquisition.....	43
3.1.2 Data processing.....	65
3.1.3 Satellite image classification.....	69
3.1.4 Data analysis.....	71
<b>Chapter 4- Testing the Monitoring Procedure</b> .....	72
4.0 Introduction.....	72
4.1 Testing the designed procedure.....	72
4.1.1 Data acquisition.....	72
4.1.1.2 Acquired data.....	79
4.1.2 Data processing.....	90
4.1.3 Satellite image classification.....	97
4.1.4 Data analysis.....	108
<b>Chapter 5-Discussion</b> .....	142
5.0 Factors considered in developing the procedure for monitoring water hyacinth.....	142
5.1 Procedure for monitoring water hyacinth using Remote sensing and GIS.....	143
5.2 Analysis of results.....	145
<b>Chapter 6- Conclusion and Recommendation</b> .....	149
6.0 Preamble.....	149
6.1 Conclusion.....	149
6.2 Recommendation.....	151
<b>References</b> .....	153
<b>Appendices</b> .....	



## List of figures

Figure 1.1: Lake Kariba.....	7
Figure 1.2: The Zambezi River Basin showing the location of Lake Kariba in Southern Africa. ....	8
Figure 1.3: Sub-basins of Lake Kariba.....	9
Figure 1.4: Land use/ land-cover types around Lake Kariba .....	10
Figure 1.5: Agriculture in Matebeleland, Zimbabwe. Picture taken in November, 2003.. .....	11
Figure 1.6: Riverine forest –Gatche Gatche, Picture taken on 11/12/2005.....	12
Figure 1.7: Figure 1.7: Rock outcrops in Matebeleland, Zimbabwe. Picture taken on 07/11/2003.....	13
Figure 1.8: Miombo woodland in Sinazongwe, Zambia. Picture taken on 09/11/2003...14	
Figure 1.9: Shrub land with Mopane in Mlibizi, Zimbabwe. Picture taken on 12/11/2003.. .....	14
Figure 2.1: Water hyacinth on Nyaodza bay. Picture taken on 17/1/96.....	17
Figure 2.2: Water hyacinth at Kariba North Bank. Picture taken on 12/10/96.....	19
Figure 2.3: Water hyacinth showing leaf damage from biological control agents on Gatche Gatche bay. Picture taken in September 2003.....	24
Figure 2.4: The mean maximum petiole length, maximum root length and plant weight.....	25
Figure 2.5: The mean number of leaves per plant and the area covered by the water hyacinth.....	25
Figure 2.6: Mean number of ramets and flowers on each plant. ....	25
Figure 3.1: Activity diagram for the monitoring procedure.....	42
Figure 3.2: Pre- reconnaissance survey preparation activity diagram.....	47
Figure 3.3: Generalised spectral signatures of soil, vegetation and water.....	53
Figure 3.4: Image acquisition activity diagram.....	60
Figure 3.5: A 2003 SPOT image showing change of weed position in relation to boat path. ....	70

Figure 4.1: Effect of cloud cover on Landsat ETM+ image. Preview for January 2005..	78
Figure 4.2: Fringe of water hyacinth in Mlibizi Bay. Picture taken on 04/12/04.....	80
Figure 4.3: Free floating patches of water hyacinth on Gatche gatche Bay. Picture taken on 02/12/04.....	80
Figure 4.4: Thick floating mats of water hyacinth on Gatche Gatche Bay. Picture taken on 02/12/04.....	81
Figure 4.5: Wind and wave action drifting water hyacinth on Sanyati Bay. Picture taken on 01/12/04. ....	81
Figure 4.6: Wind and wave action drifting water weeds on Gatche gatche Bay. Picture taken on 2/12/04.....	82
Figure 4.7: Comparison of daily Lake water levels for selected years.....	82
Figure 4.8: Variation of Lake Kariba's end-of -month water levels.....	83
Figure 4.9: Water balance of Lake Kariba from 2003 to 2005.....	84
Figure 4.10: Water hyacinth stranded in Gatche Gatche Bay after water level recession. Picture taken on 02/12/04. ....	84
Figure 4.11: Water hyacinth left stranded in Charara Bay after water level recession. Picture taken on 02/12/04.....	85
Figure 4.12: Water hyacinth – Mlibizi. Picture taken in December 2004. .....	87
Figure 4.13: Water hyacinth – Mlibizi. Picture taken in December 2005.....	87
Figure 4.14: Water hyacinth – Gatche Gatche. Picture taken in December 2004. ....	88
Figure 4.15: Water hyacinth – Gatche Gatche. Picture taken in December 2005.....	88
Figure 4.16: Image processing activity diagram.....	90
Figure 4.17: Setting the WORKING ENVIRONMENT.....	91
Figure 4.18: The Idrisi IMPORT utility.....	92
Figure 4.19: The reference parameters of the Idrisi IMPORT utility.....	93
Figure 4.20: The DISPLAY LAUNCHER.....	94
Figure 4.21: The COLOUR COMPOSITE utility.....	96
Figure 4.22: Spot 4 (28 <sup>th</sup> August 1999) Multispectral Image classified using the maximum likelihood module.....	97

Figure 4.23: Spot 4 (28 <sup>th</sup> August 1999) Multispectral Image classified using the CLUSTER module.....	98
Figure 4.24: Spot 4 (28 <sup>th</sup> August 1999) Multispectral Image classified using ISOCLUST module.....	98
Figure 4.25: Spot 4 (28 <sup>th</sup> August 1999) Multispectral showing the possibility of mistaking scattered weed for near shore vegetation.....	99
Figure 4.26: ISOCLUST Operation.....	100
Figure 4.27: The LEGEND EDITOR.....	103
Figure 4.28: The ERROR MATRIX Operation.....	104
Figure 4.29: IMAGE CALCULATOR Operation.....	106
Figure 4.30: Image classification activity diagram.....	107
Figure 4.31: Image analysis activity diagram.....	109
Figure 4.32: The Idrisi EXPORT Utility.....	110
Figure 4.33: The Untitled PROJECT window.....	112
Figure 4.34: The EXTENSIONS dialog box.....	113
Figure 4.35: A new empty VIEW.....	114
Figure 4.36: The ADD THEME dialog box.....	115
Figure 4.37: The IMAGE LEGEND EDITOR dialogue box.....	116
Figure 4.38: The IMAGE COLORMAP dialogue box.....	116
Figure 4.39: The COLOR dialogue box.....	117
Figure 4.40: Editing the image legend.....	118
Figure 4.41: The CONVERT TO GRID dialog box.....	119
Figure 4.42: The CONVERT TO SHAPEFILE dialog box.....	120
Figure 4.43: Editng a THEME.....	121
Figure 4.44: The SHAPEFILE LEGEND EDITOR.....	122
Figure 4.45: The Select by THEME dialogue box.....	124
Figure 4.46: Shapefile for each bay.....	125
Figure 5.47: The FIELD DEFINITION dialogue box.....	126
Figure 4.48: The FIELD CALCULATOR dialogue box.....	126
Figure 4.49: The THEME ATTRIBUTE TABLE showing the area (m <sup>2</sup> ) of each polygon in the shapefile.....	127

Figure 4.50: The TEMPLATE MANAGER.....	128
Figure 4.51: VIEW-LAYOUT dialogue box.....	128
Figure 4.52: Creating a map LAYOUT.....	129
Figure 4.53: The EXPORT dialogue box.....	130
Figure 4.54: Occurrence of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba in August 2001.....	131
Figure 4.55: Occurrence of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba in April 2005.....	132
Figure 4.56: Occurrence of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba in July 2007.....	133
Figure 4.57: Spot 4 Multispectral Image showing the spread of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba on 21 <sup>st</sup> September 1995. ....	136
Figure 4.58: Spot 4 Multispectral Image showing the spread of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba on 28 <sup>th</sup> August 1999. ....	137
Figure 4.59: Landsat 7 Multispectral Image showing the spread of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba on 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2001. ....	138
Figure 4.60: Landsat 7 Multispectral Image showing absence of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba in November 2004.....	139
Figure 4.61: Landsat 7 Multispectral Image showing absence of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba in March 2005.....	139
Figure 4.62: Landsat 7 Multispectral Image showing absence of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba in June 2005.....	140
Figure 4.63: Landsat 7 Multispectral Image showing absence of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba in November 2005.....	140

## List of tables

Table 2.1: Summary of the 2001 Lake-wide water hyacinth monitoring survey. ....	22
Table 2.2: Summary of weed-spread estimates on Lake Kariba.....	22
Table 2.3: Summary of the characteristics of some satellite imagery. ....	32
Table 2.4: Mean Light Reflectance of some plant species and water in three wavelengths.....	36
Table 3.1: Field Crew Composition.....	43
Table 3.2: List of field equipment.....	45
Table 3.3: Sample water hyacinth monitoring form.....	49
Table 3.4: Prices of archived Spot products.....	55
Table 3.5: Prices of Spot Programming Service.....	56
Table 3.6: Coordinate list for Lake Kariba.....	59
Table 4.1: Weed status at visited hot spot sites in January 2005.....	85
Table 4.2: Weed status at visited hot spot sites in December 2005.....	86
Table 4.3: Results by other researchers concerning nutrient levels in relation to water hyacinth growth.. ....	89
Table 4.4: Results of the sampling campaign done from 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2004. ....	89
Table 4.5: Results of the sampling campaign done from 19 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2005.....	89
Table 4.6: Water hyacinth monitoring survey.....	134
Table 4.7: Summary of Maps Produced.....	135
Table 5.1: Summary of weed-spread estimates on Lake Kariba (1992 – 2007).....	148

## **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

ASAR	Advanced Synthetic Aperture Radar
BRLi	BRL Ingénierie
BSQ	Band Sequential
B&W	Black and White
CNES	Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales
CPF	Calibration Parameter File
DEMs	Digital Elevation Models
<a href="#">DIMAP</a>	Digital Image Map
DNPWM	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc.
ETM+	Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus
FEMA	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FIRMs	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FSL	Full supply level
FSTL7	FastL7A format
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
GCC	Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia
GCPs	Ground Control Points
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GLCCD	Global Land Cover Characteristics Database
GPS	Global Positioning System
GWP	Global Water Partnership

HDF	<a href="#">Hierarchical Data Format</a>
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
IAS	Image Assessment System
ICPR	International Committee for Protection of the Rhine
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
Interpol	International Police
IRD	Institut de recherché pour le developpment
KIA	Kappa Index of Agreement
KNBC	Kariba North Bank
L0Rp	Level 0 Reformatted
L1G	Level 1 Geometrically Corrected
L1R	Level 1 Radiometrically Corrected
MOL	Minimum Operation Level
MRL	Maximum Retention Level
MSS	Multispectral Scanner
NACA	National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCSA	National Center for Supercomputing Applications
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NIR	Near Infra Red
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Radarsat	Radar Satellite
SADC	Southern African Development Cooperation
SAR	Synthetic Aperture Radar
SLC-off	Scan Line Corrector Off
SWIR	Shortwave Infrared
TIROS	Television Infrared Observation Satellite
TM	Thematic Mapper
ULKRS	University Lake Kariba Research Station
UML	Unified Modelling Language
UNZA	University of Zambia

USGS	United States Geological Survey
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
WGS	World Global Sphere
XML	Extensible Markup Language
ZRA	Zambezi River Authority