

# Distributed hydrological model application for estimating the groundwater resource at Cu De river catchment, Viet Nam

Ngoc Duong VO<sup>1,2</sup>, Quang Binh NGUYEN<sup>1</sup>, Philippe GOURBESVILLE<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Water Resource Engineering,  
University of Science and Technology, the University of Da Nang, Viet Nam.

<sup>2</sup> Innovative City lab URE 005  
Polytech'Nice Sophia, Nice Sophia Antipolis University, France.  
vo.ngoc.duong@dut.udn.vn; ngbinh@dut.udn.vn;  
Philippe.GOURBESVILLE@unice.fr

## Abstract

Groundwater is a fundamental component in the water balance of any watershed. It affects considerably on flow regime, especially on base flow. However, it is not easy to survey this component, notably towards the lack of data catchment and developing countries. This study is to present a new approach to overcome the limitation in simulating the ground water. By using the deterministic distributed hydrological model, the study is hope to provide basic information about ground water for a catchment in Vietnam coastal central region, Cu De river catchment. The modelling is realized for an area of 425.2 km<sup>2</sup> in period of 2006 – 2010. The results are analyzed in many aspects such as: groundwater spatial distribution, groundwater flow process, groundwater storage, and groundwater recharged volume.

**Keywords:** Cu De river catchment; Groundwater spatial distribution; Groundwater flow process; Groundwater recharged volume; Deterministic distributed hydrological.

## 1 Introduction

Groundwater is a fundamental component in the water balance of any watershed. It affects considerably on flow regime, especially on base flow. However, it is not easy to survey this component, notably towards the lack of data catchment and developing countries. This study is to present a new approach to overcome the limitation in simulating the ground water. By using the deterministic distributed hydrological model, the study is hope to provide basic information about ground water for a catchment in Vietnam coastal central region, Cu De river catchment.

## 2 Study area

The Cu De is second largest river and is one of main supplied water resource of Da Nang city. It covers an area up to 425.2km<sup>2</sup> (Figure 1). This is located at the edge of the largest rainfall region Quang Nam - Da Nang.

The catchment's average annual rainfall is quite high, approximately 1800 mm. However, there is a difference in the season, 65%-80% of annual rainfall concentrated in the period August - December. Moreover, this area is under attack every year from 2 - 4 storm bringing heavy rains and whirlwinds (To, 2005). This severe weather pattern makes the natural disaster occurs frequently and seriously.

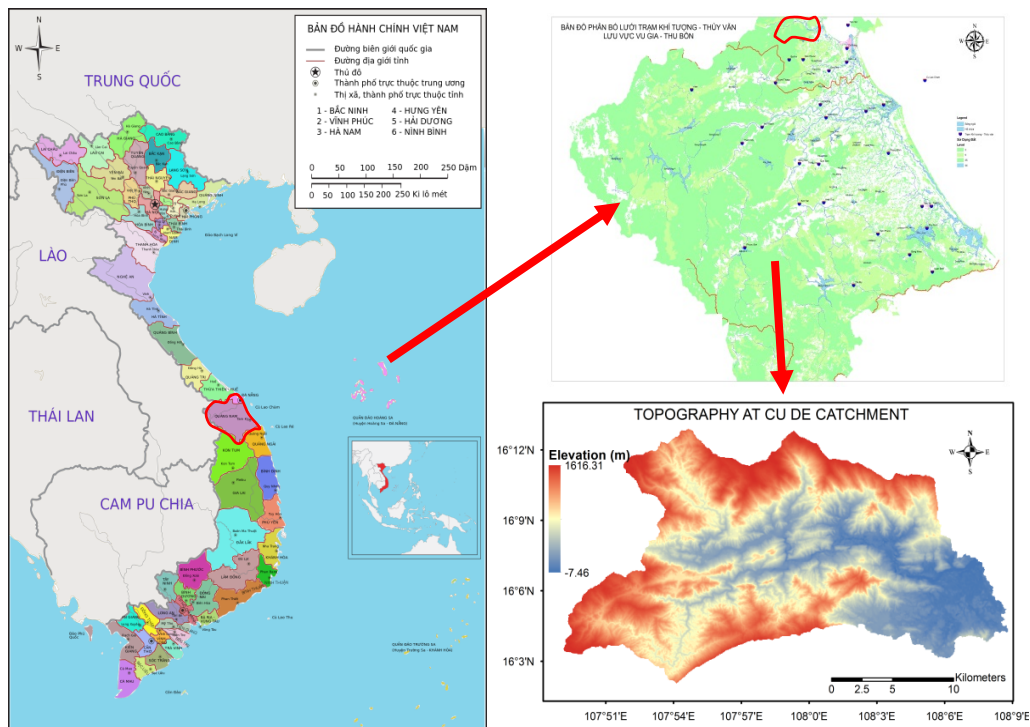


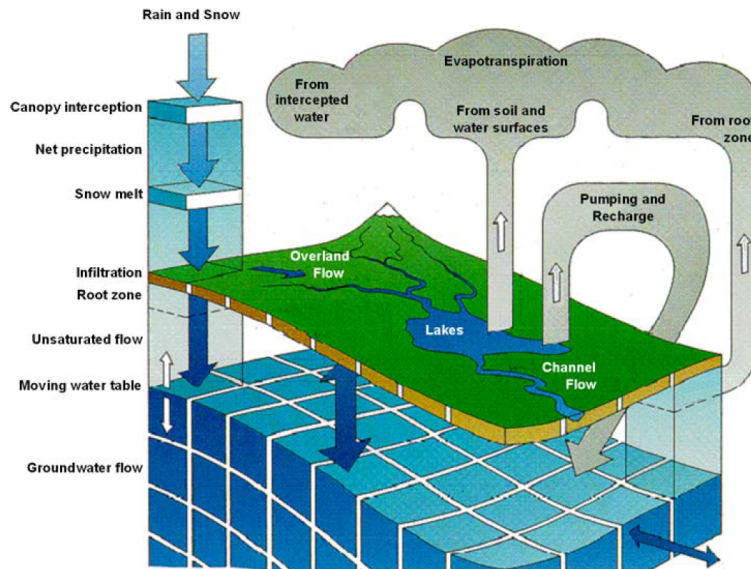
Figure 1: Cu de catchment

## 3 Methodology

The proposal method presented in this study is:

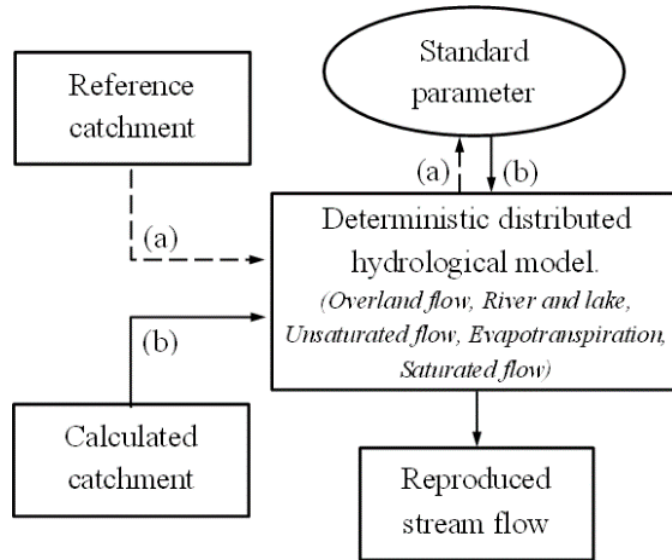
The first step, applying a distributed deterministic hydrological model – MIKE SHE which was developed by (Duong, Binh, Ma, & Gourbesville, 2016) for simulating the hydrological process in Cu De catchment. This model covers the major processes in hydrologic cycle including rainfall, evapotranspiration, overland flow, unsaturated flow, groundwater flow, channel flow, and their interactions is expected to give an overall about the hydrology of the catchment, including groundwater. The second step is to analyze the modelling result for assessing the groundwater resource and proposing the solution to extract more reasonable.

The proposal method presented in this study is:



**Figure 2:** Schematic of MIKE SHE model (DHI, 2012)

The proposed principle for Cu De river’s flow reproduction is based on the similar of its catchment characteristic with another one and on the deterministic distributed model as scheme in Figure 3.



*(a) Model calibrated and validated process.*

*(b) Flow reproduced process.*

**Figure 3:** Proposed methodology for steam flow reproduction

In this study, the model is set up over an area of 425.2 Km<sup>2</sup> and includes all of hydrological components in Cu De catchment with data as topography (Figure 1), precipitation (Figure 4a), land use (Figure 5a), soil map (Figure 5b), evapo transpiration, vegetation, river and lake (Figure 4b), overland flow, unsaturated zone and saturated zone.

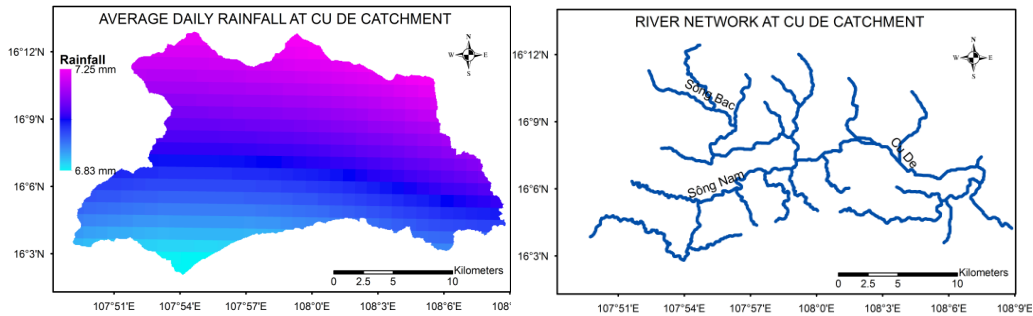


Figure 4: (a) Rainfall distribution and (b) River network at Cu De catchment

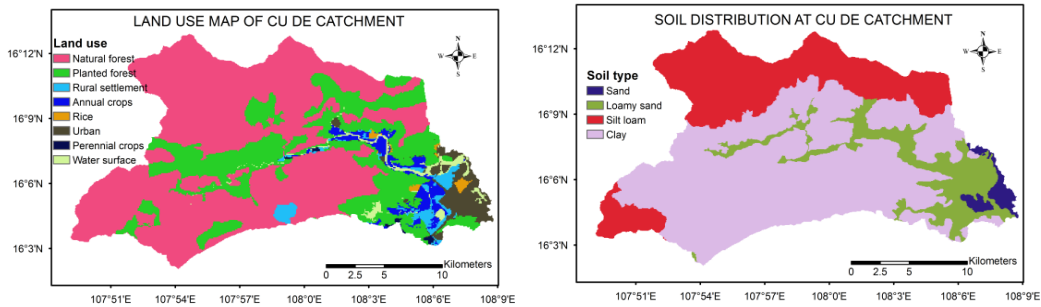


Figure 5: (a) Land use map and (b) Soil map at Cu De catchment

## 4 Results and Discussion

### 4.1 Model validation

The model is run in period of 5 years, from 2006 to 2010 with hourly rainfall data. In order to overcome the difficulty in model validation, reproduced flow is compared with flow module of past studies at Nam O bridge station. The comparison is showed in the Table 1, Figure 6, Figure 7 and Figure 8. The model result is seemly reasonable and acceptable in comparison with two last studies of CVIWR (2015), Nguyen (2005) and flow module of two stations (Nong Son, Thanh My) of neighboring catchment (Vu Gia Thu Bon) ( Vu et al., 2011). The annual value, seasonal values of simulated flow seemly catch the values in result of Nguyen (2005).

Table 1: Flow module comparion

	Study catchment		Reference catchment		
	RCCWRDN project	Nguyen (2005)	Simulation	Vu Gia	Thu Bon
Dry season	44.7	21	23.5	32.4	36.1
Flood season	229.9	120	161.1	162	233
Annual average	91	45.75	69.4	71.2	92.4

## 4.2 Groundwater analysis

By advantage of MIKE SHE model, the groundwater is extracted and analyzed over Cu De catchment. The analysis is realized in different aspects: Groundwater distribution, surface and ground water exchange.

### 4.2.1 Groundwater distribution

Groundwater distribution in Cu De is considered by the change according to altitude: three area is defined: mountainous area (I) is representative for area which have the altitude higher than 538 m, midland area (II) is for area which the altitude is from 255m to 538m, lowland and coastal area (III) is for area which is lower than 255 m. The head elevation in saturated zone at fifty wells over three area will be analyzed. The well loction is presented in Figure 6.

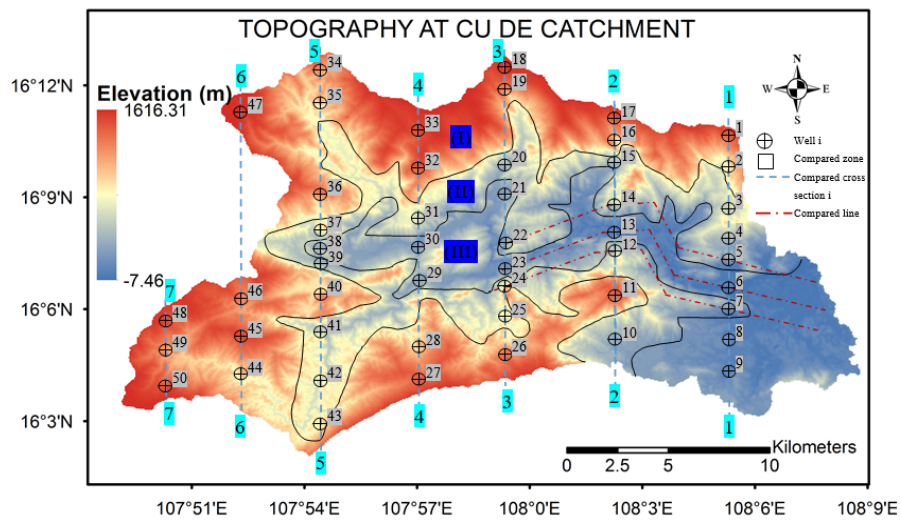


Figure 6: Well location for groundwater analysis

The role of surface elevation towards groundwater distribution is obvious. Groundwater resource in mountainous area is general not abundant as lowland area. It is seemly true for many catchments on over the world. This tendency is similar at Cu De catchment. It is represented via the difference in value of head elevation in saturated zone in fifty wells. Average head elevation in saturated zone at mountainous zone (zone I) is 641m, in midland zone (zone II) is 225m and in lowland zone (zone III) is 92m (Figure 7). The head elevation distribution is presented at figure 8.

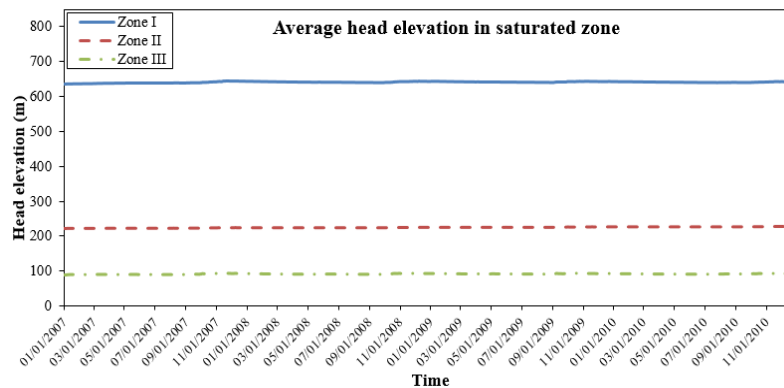
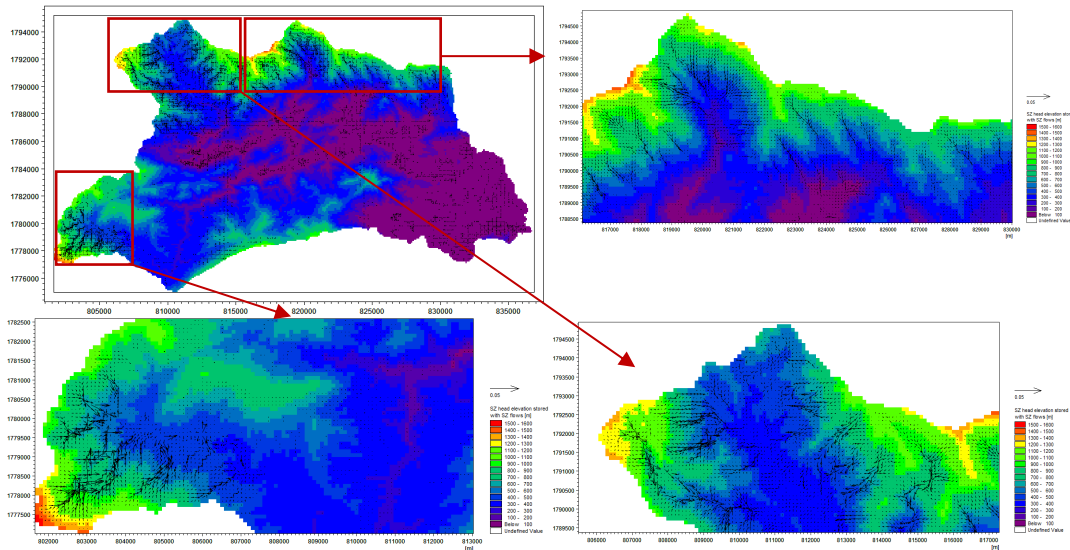


Figure 7: Average head elevation in saturated zone in different zone

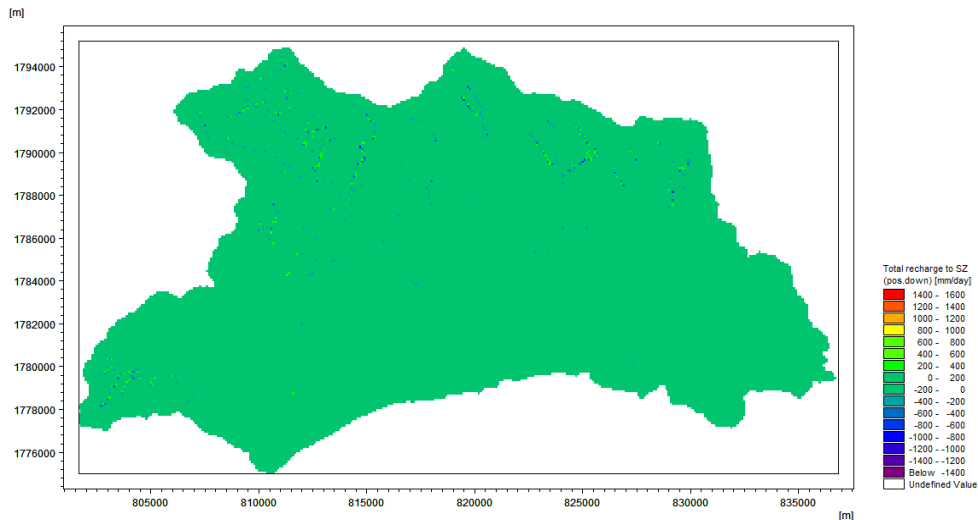


**Figure 8:** Head elevation stored in saturated zone, 01/2007

The results in figure 8 also show the saturated zone flow distribution. Following that, the saturated zone flow concentrates much in mountainous area, especially in left side of Cu de river, and at neighbouring area of large stream branches (Figure 4b).

### 4.2.2 Surface and groundwater exchange

The interaction between surface and groundwater are complex. However, the exchange between these components plays an important role in hydrological process of catchment. Analyzing the surface and groundwater exchange is necessary for getting more knowledge on groundwater distribution. In Cu de catchment, along the large stream and mountainous area are judged to be the principal recharged source for groundwater (Figure 9). These are the main sources for maintaining the Cu De flow river in drought season.



**Figure 9:** Total discharge recharging to saturated zone

## 5 Conclusions

The study aims to look for a new way to study the groundwater in lack of data catchment. By exploiting the advantage of deterministic distributed model and the result in neighboring catchment, the Cu De river's hydrological process is reproduced. By taking into account the unsaturated and saturated zone's flow process, the simulation also brings out results related to groundwater resource of the catchment. The result provides an overview about the groundwater distribution in Cu De catchment. Furthermore, the exchange between surface and ground water is expressed in the paper.

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