



Correlation of Impacts of Pumping between Agricultural Pumping Wells and Domestic Pumping Wells in Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, Using GIS

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Outline

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Essential Terminologies
- ❖ Why the Eastern Province?
- ❖ GIS-Enabled Well Locations
- ❖ Conceptual View – Numerical Model
- ❖ Analytical Model
- ❖ Results
- ❖ Conclusions and Recommendations



Background

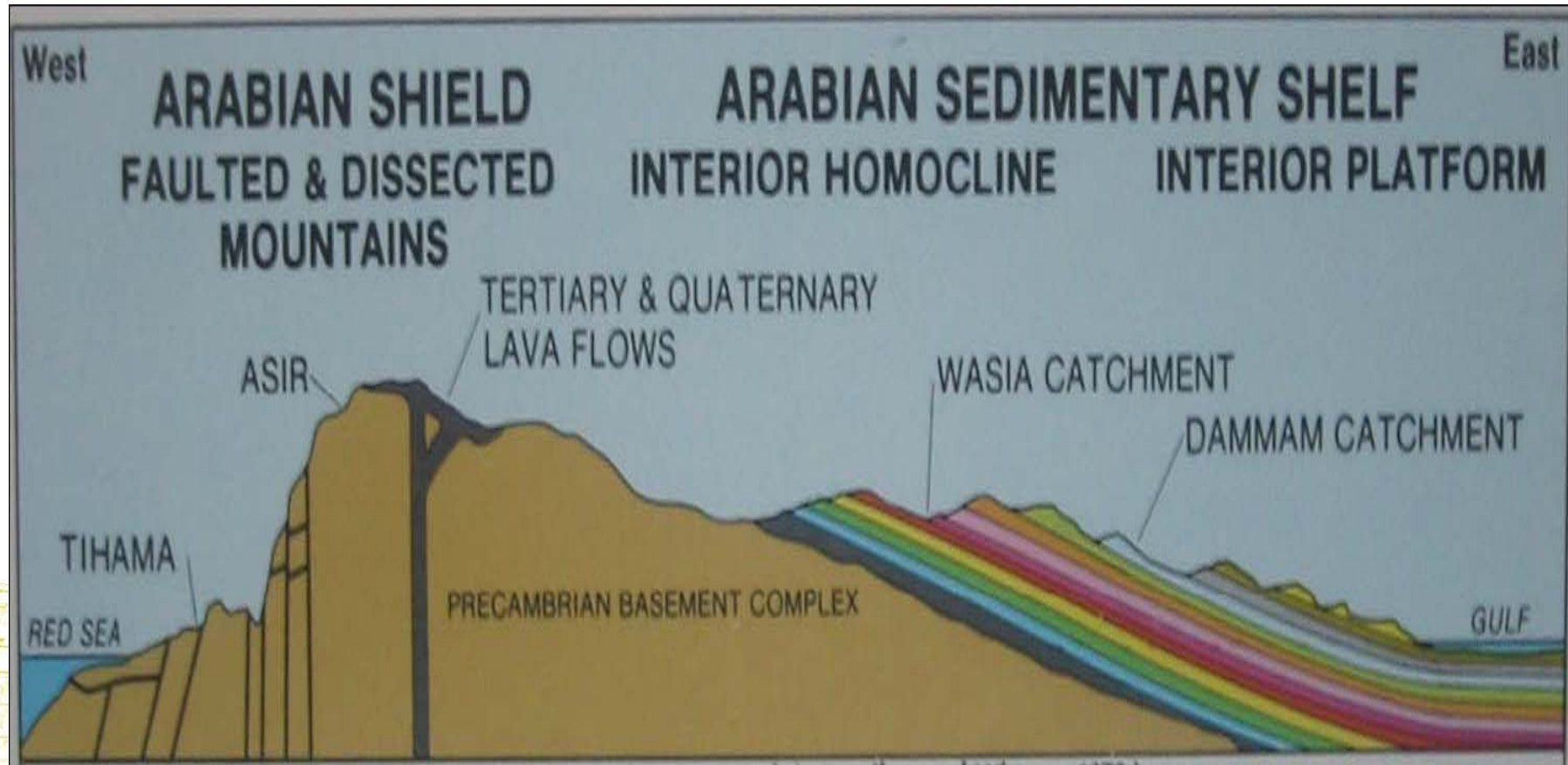
- ❖ During the 1970s and 1980s, the government undertook a massive restructuring of agriculture in Saudi Arabia
- ❖ The stated objectives were food security through self-sufficiency and improvement of rural incomes
- ❖ In order to meet the agricultural water demand, groundwater use has increased drastically in the last four decades (1980 – 2010)
- ❖ This has posed enormous stress on the aquifer system resulting in environmental impacts



Essential Terminologies

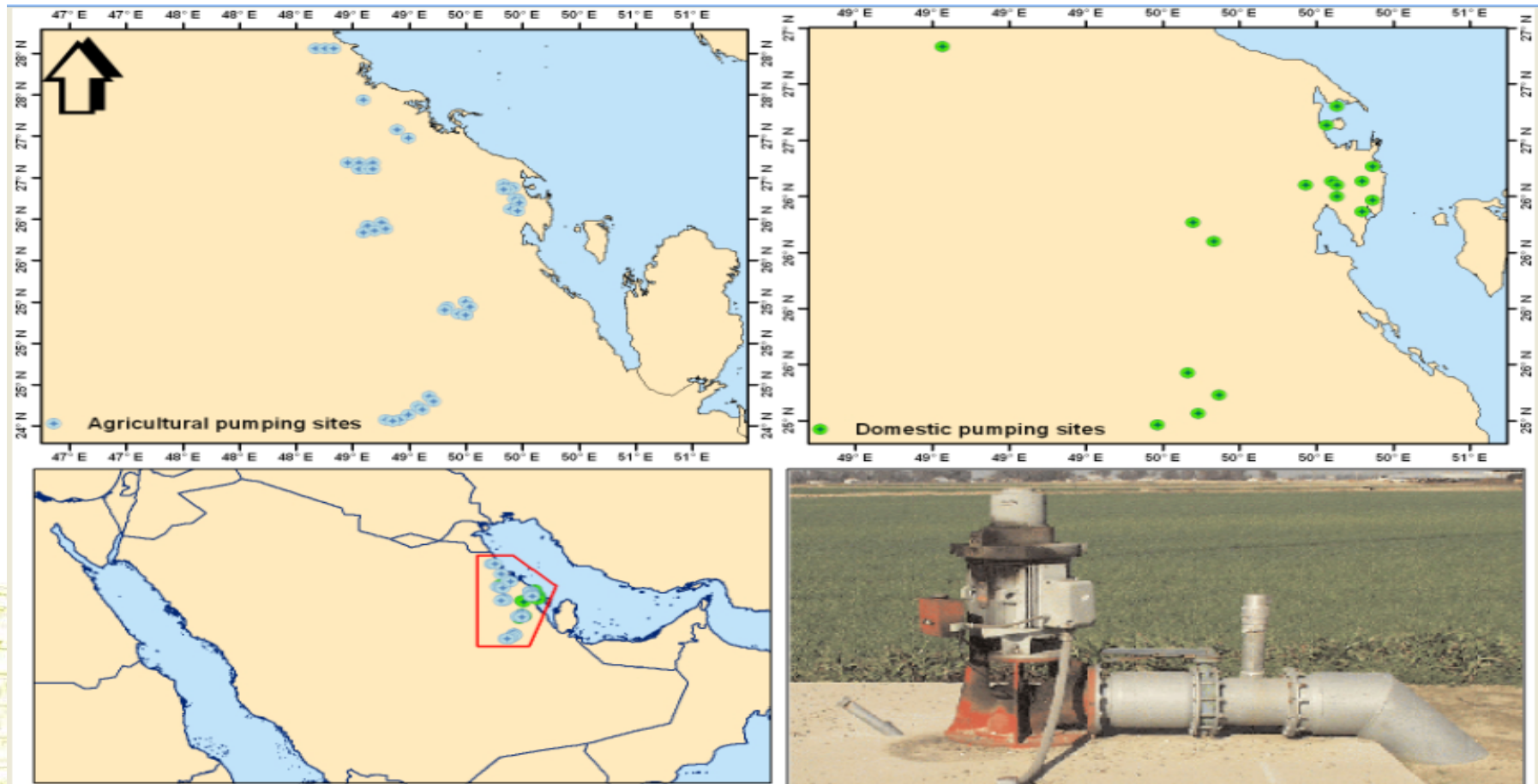
- ❖ **Aquifer** is a saturated region of the subsurface that produces economically feasible water to a well
- ❖ **Aquitard** is an impermeable zone that restricts the flow of water
- ❖ **Formation** is the fundamental unit which consists of rock strata that have comparable properties
- ❖ **Member** is a subdivision of a formation
- ❖ **Drawdown** is the change in hydraulic head observed at a well in an aquifer due to pumping

Why the Eastern Province?



Generalized geological section of Saudi Arabia (modified from MAW, 1984)

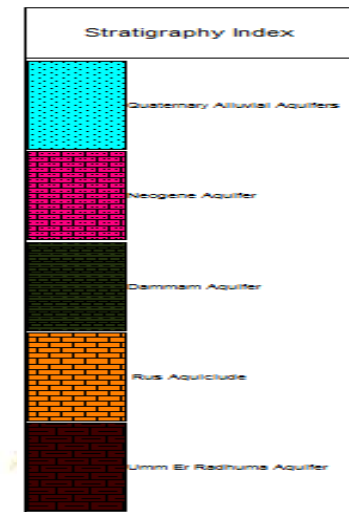
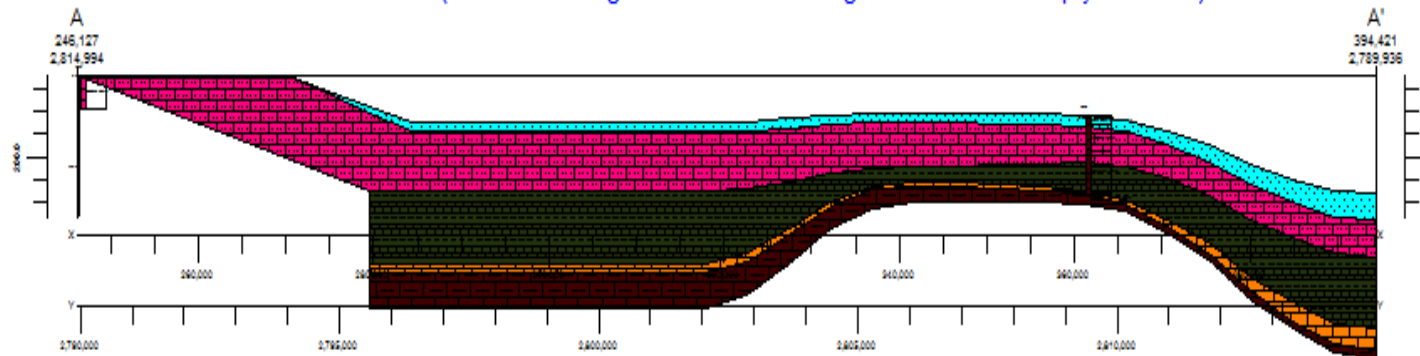
GIS-Enabled Well Locations



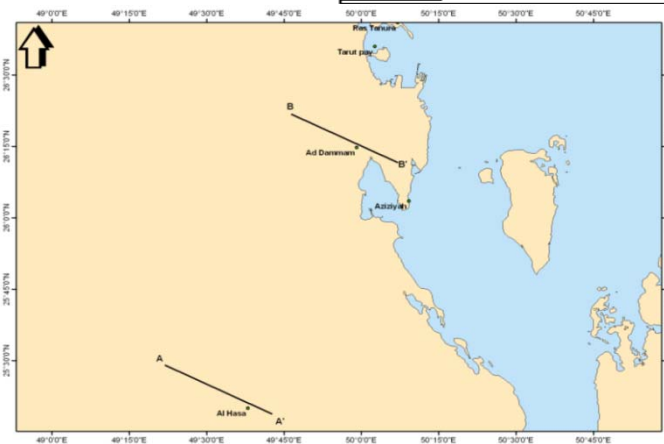
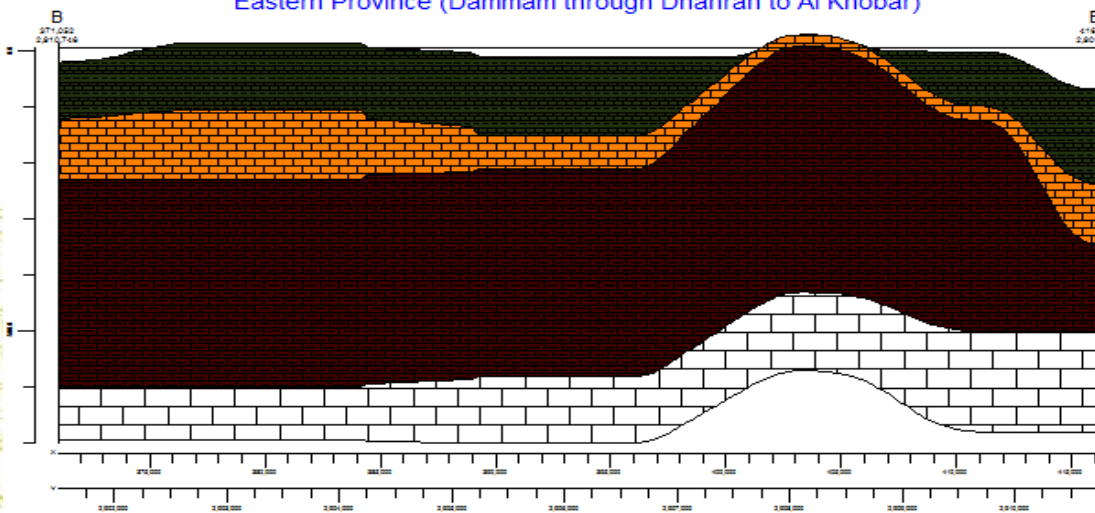
Well Locations in Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia (data were collected from KFUPM Report, 2009)

Conceptual View – Numerical Model

Eastern Province (Al Hassa through Hofuf to some Villages North of the Empty Quarters)



Eastern Province (Dammam through Dhahran to Al Khobar)



Analytical Model

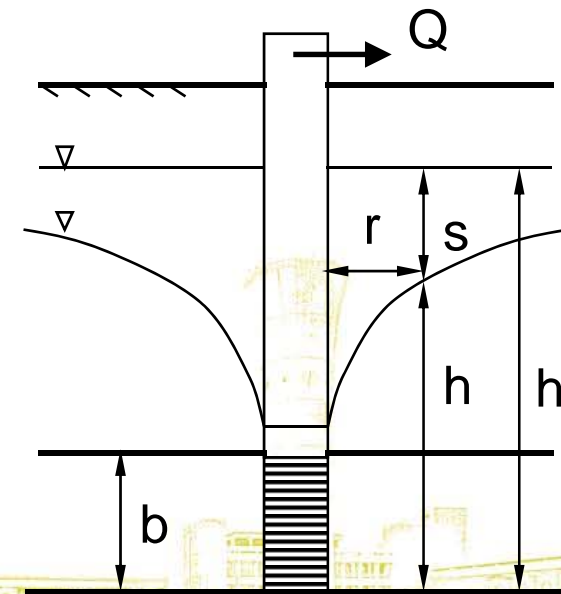
- ❖ T. V. Theis (1935) postulated a theory that let us evaluate the behavior of a well pumping in a confined aquifer under transient condition

$$u = \frac{r^2 S}{4Tt}$$

$$s = \frac{Q}{4\pi T} W(u)$$

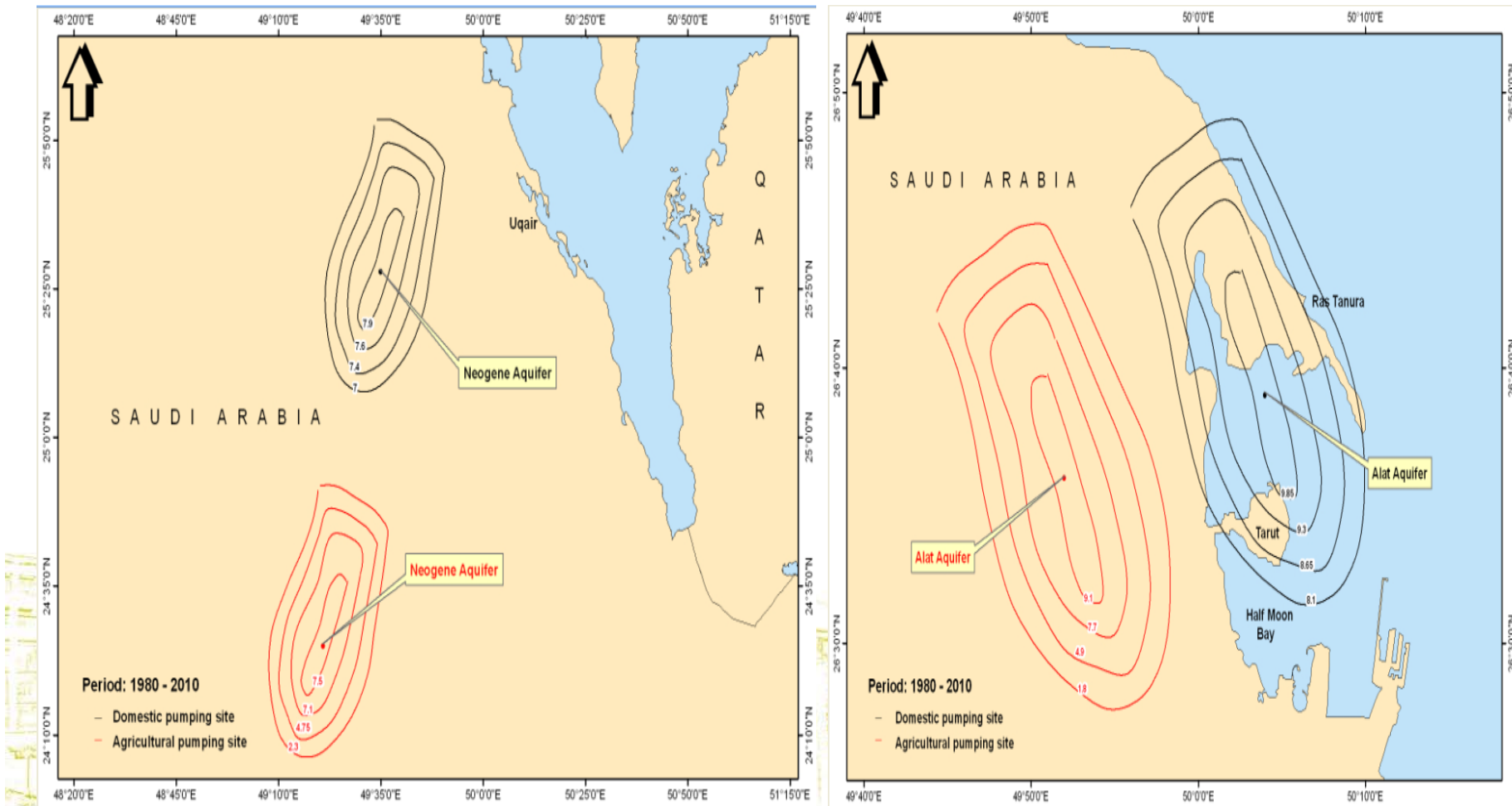
$$s = b - (b^2 - 2s'b)^{1/2}$$

- **Assumptions**
Isotropic, homogeneous, infinite aquifer, 2-D radial flow
- **Initial Conditions**
 $h(r,0) = h_0$ for all r
- **Boundary Conditions**
 $h(\infty,t) = h_0$ for all t

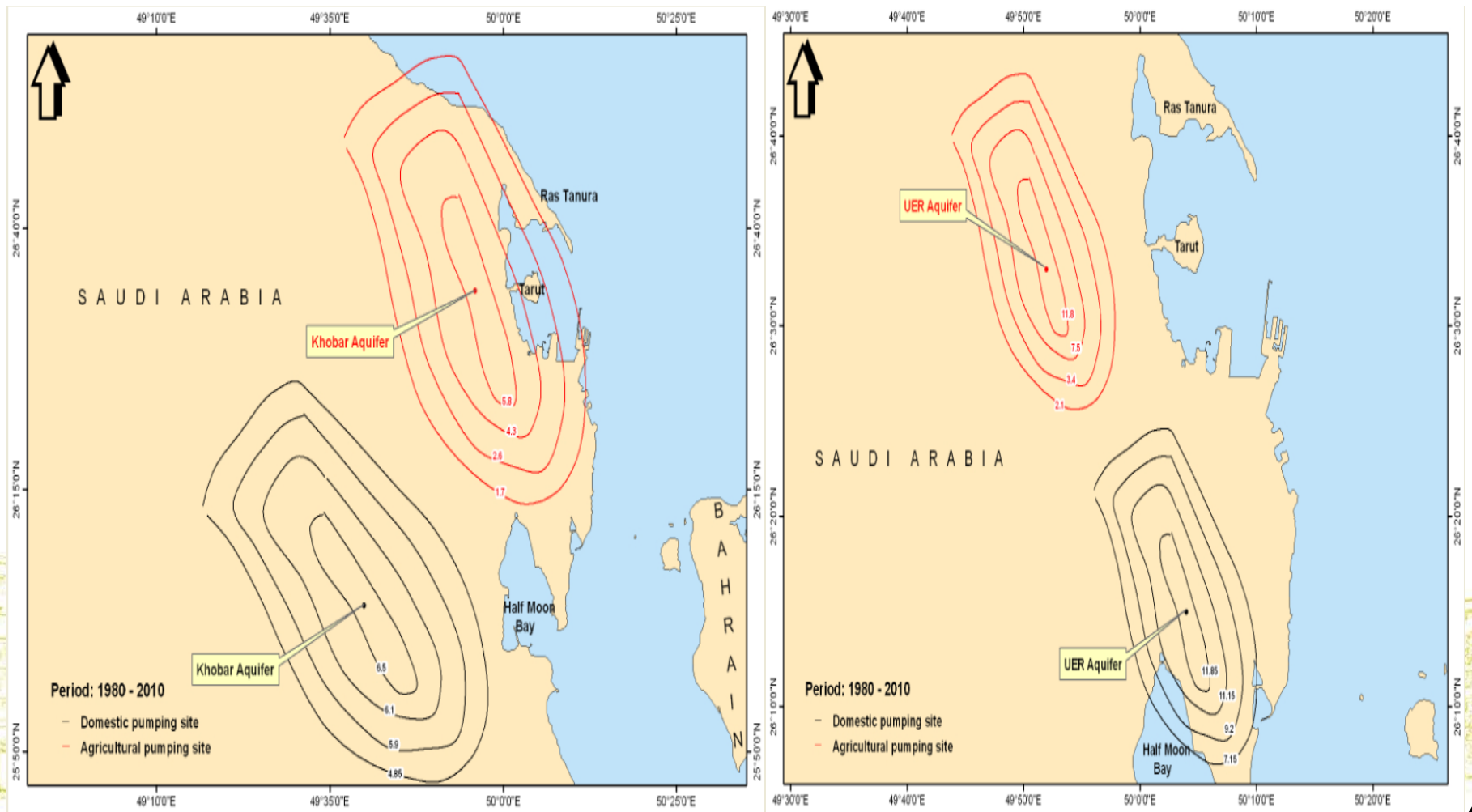


With the hydraulic parameters known, we can calculate the past, present and future drawdowns in a pumping well

Results



...Results





Conclusions and Recommendations

- ❖ GIS ensures precision and accuracy in the location of pumping sites on a real map
- ❖ It enables efficiency in the use of well data and enhances clear presentation of results
- ❖ Results of this work indicate that if the current trend of pumping is continued, especially in agricultural pumping sites, considerable additional impacts would occur
- ❖ Proper groundwater management and conservation scheme need to be adopted

