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Anthropogenic Land Use/Cover Change Detection and Its Impacts on Hydrological Responses of Genale Catchment, Ethiopia

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Abstract: Change in land use land-cover (LULC) is a paramount dynamic present-day challenging landscape process capable of altering the hydrological responses in the catchment. As the land use planners require updated and high-resolution land resources information, understanding land cover change-induced status due to anthropogenic activities is significant. In this study, multitemporal cloud-free satellite imageries for periods (1990, 2002, and 2013) were used to quantify the spatiotemporal dynamics of land-use change detection and examine the effect on hydrological response using Geographical Information System (GIS) and Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model in the Genale watershed, Ethiopia. The model performance was evaluated through sensitivity, uncertainty analysis, calibration, and validation process. The analysis of LULC change patterns for the area under study over 24 years showed that most parts of the green forest, barren land, and range shrubs were changed into agriculture, built up, wetlands, and water body with an increase of agriculture by 60%, built up 68%, pasture 37%, range shrubs 9%, and water body 57% over (1990 to 2013), which increased surface runoff, water yield, and sediment yield in the catchment. Significant changes in hydrological elements were observed at the sub-basins scale, mainly associated with the uneven spatial distribution of LULC changes compared to the whole watershed. The impacts of individual LULC change on hydrological response show a good correlation matrix. The regional government needs to modify land development policies and sustainable plans for examining LULC change detection using satellite imagery to avoid illegal land expansion activities.

Keywords: Land use/cover, Genale watershed, Image processing, GIS, Change detection, Satellite imagery, SWAT, Hydrological responses

Introduction

The land is one of the non-renewable/dynamic resources, and mapping of land-use land-cover (LULC) is fundamental for designing and developing land, water resources with appropriate tools (Manjunatha and Basavarajappa 2020).

Image accuracy assessment is an essential step in the LULC map classification process. The target is to quantitatively evaluate how effectively pixels were grouped into the correct feature classes in the area under investigation (Bharatkar and Patel 2013; Kaya and Görgün 2020). The accuracy assessment determines how well a classification worked

36 between the ground truth data and classified image by pixels to interpret the use of someone else's classification. The
37 analysis revealed the classification is that all pixels in an image/map are assigned to particular classes/themes, which
38 results in a classified image that is a thematic map of the original image (Hussain et al. 2019; Abdelkareem et al. 2017)
39 Supervised classification is the approach most often used for the quantitative investigation of remote sensing image
40 data. The concept of separating the spectral domain into different regions associated with the ground truth covers
41 classes of interest to a particular classification by features/pixels present in a scene (Elimy et al. 2020). Most
42 investigator prefers it because it generally gives more class definitions and higher accuracy than unsupervised
43 techniques (Adam 2011). Supervised classification uses a maximum likelihood classifier principle on statistical
44 decision making, and then classification is done by overlapping signatures and pixels input bands to the class of highest
45 probability (Bharatkar and Patel 2013). The Maximum Likelihood decision rule is still one of the most widely used
46 supervised classification algorithms, and its accuracy is well documented (Rwanga and Ndambuki 2017). The major
47 elements of a sampling technique include sampling units (pixels/features or polygons), sampling design, and sample
48 size in image processing. Bharatkar and Patel (2013) suggest that at least 50 coaching pixels per class are meaningful
49 during image classification. If the area of interest exceeds 500 km² or the number of LULC categories exceeds 12,
50 then a minimum of 75 - 100 training feature classes should be taken per class. The idea of quantitative accuracy
51 assessment is to identify the sources of errors. Apart from classification errors, other sources of errors, such as
52 interpretation errors, position errors resulting from the registration, and low quality of training samples, all affect
53 classification accuracy. The most common means of asserting classification accuracy is to compare a class by class
54 basis the relation between known reference data (ground truth) from google earth and the corresponding results of an
55 evaluated classification (Adam 2011; Abdelkareem et al. 2017; Erasu 2017). In the LULC map, classification error
56 occurs when a pixel (or feature class) associated with one category is assigned. The name of accuracy classification
57 error arranged in a square matrix establishes a standard category representing the end product of a created map, which
58 helps find a site-specific error in the process known as an error/confusion matrix. The most common/suited accuracy
59 classification error estimator, the confusion matrices/overall accuracy, and Kappa coefficient (K_{hat}) measure statistical
60 analysis for accuracy agreement between ground truth data and evaluated classification. Kappa coefficient analysis is
61 accepted as a powerful technique for monitoring a single confusion matrix and for comparing the differences between
62 individual error matrices (Rwanga and Ndambuki 2017).

63 The use of remote sensing and GIS techniques is delightful to meet the mapping and monitoring changes over time to
64 point out the impact of built-up and agriculture on the forest and natural heritage of the waterbody (Tomar 2017; Erasu
65 2017). LULC is a dynamic aspect that modifies through time and space due to human-made burden (anthropogenic)
66 and development (Gwenzi 2014; Guse et al. 2015). Evaluating the present LULC and its unscientific change is
67 good to know for urban planners, policymakers, natural resources managers, and remote sensing action is an effective
68 mechanism for detecting and analyzing temporal changes and should be monitored regularly as it causes irreversible
69 impacts on the environment (Navin and Agilandeewari 2019; Manjunatha and Basavarajappa 2020). The detailed
70 process of LULC change detection is essential in gathering the specific information about the quantitative change of
71 land cover area (percentage of area) for different years' maps. There is a rapid and large-scale alteration of LULC
72 globally due to a high rate of climatic changes, industrialization, urbanization, rapid population growth, and the

73 growing socio-economic resources (Negewo and Sarma 2021a; Sansare and Mhaske 2020). The current target is to
74 detect LULC pattern changes and their aerial extent due to different socio-economic factors in the study area. LULC
75 changes on the earth's surface are generally divided into land use and land cover, which are two concepts and are
76 usually used interchangeably. LULC dynamic change affects the hydrological process (runoff generation, water yield,
77 sediment yield, streamflow, etc.) with the increasing urbanization & agriculture.

78 The consequences of different LULC are required to review sustainable water resources management, land use
79 planning, and development (Sansare and Mhaske 2020). Generally, most of the registered LULC changes were the
80 results of the anthropogenic activities achieved to satisfy the immediate needs of human beings. These spontaneously
81 rapid LULC changes bring adverse impacts on the environment and water resources potential of a nation.

82 In the Horn of African countries, primary in Ethiopia, water resources management and planning challenges are the
83 extreme hydrological variability and seasonality of its most fascinating surface and groundwater resources. However,
84 the primary water resources contributor for the Genale watershed is mainly groundwater (Negewo and Sarma 2021a).
85 Erosion of soil by water action is also one of the major restraints of agricultural production in Ethiopian highlands
86 that affects productivity and the primary sources of reservoir sedimentation (Negewo and Sarma 2021b; Negewo and
87 Sarma, In press). Although the country is blessed with sufficient water resources, recent 21st-century natural forest
88 cover has been dismissed and causes land degradation and water flow extremes (Negewo and Sarma In press; Choto
89 and Fetene 2019). In this view, LULC plays a significant role in water transport in the hydrologic system and chiefly
90 aids in reducing overland flows. As a result of its effect on evaporation, transpiration, and solar radiation interception,
91 LULC is a propulsive factor in the energy balance equation in the hydrological process (Tadesse et al. 2015). Genale
92 watershed is one of Ethiopia's Genale Dawa River Basin system sub-basins, with different tributaries, different
93 distributaries, and dendritic drainage patterns.

94 The watershed is a degraded field with anthropogenic land use activities with agricultural on steep slopes and built-
95 up areas (Negewo and Sarma, In press). In the Genale watershed, no research has been done to investigate the impacts
96 of LULC change on the hydrological response of the watershed. Therefore, the dynamics of LULC change in this
97 catchment require hydrologic modeling that provides a helpful tool in water resources management & plan for many
98 years and is usually used to predict land-use impacts on streamflow and sediment yield. For water resources,
99 stakeholders, and decision-makers, knowing how and how much LULC changes will influence water availability at
100 the sub-basin/HRUs scale is more important for planning appropriate soil and water mitigation measures (Aragaw et
101 al. 2021). Therefore, research is required at the sub-basin/HRUs scale to recognize the hydrological response
102 conditions to LULC changes. Notably, water resources for energy generation may face severe problems due to changes
103 in hydrological regimes, particularly increases in sediment yield of the watershed due to LULC change. The SWAT
104 model has been used to predict land use/cover change impacts on soil and water losses. The results illustrate that even
105 nearly limited land-use change, from forest to arable/cultivable land or vice versa, significantly affects regional and
106 local soil erosion rates and sediment supply to rivers (Huang and Lo 2015; VanRompae et al. 2002). The SWAT
107 model's quantitative hydrological investigation due to land use/cover change is a good approach for identifying the
108 LULC change detection and impact of land-use change on the hydrological process of the Genale watershed (Li 2020;
109 Kumar et al. 2017; El Harraki et al. 2021). This suggests quantitative knowledge allows stakeholders and decision-

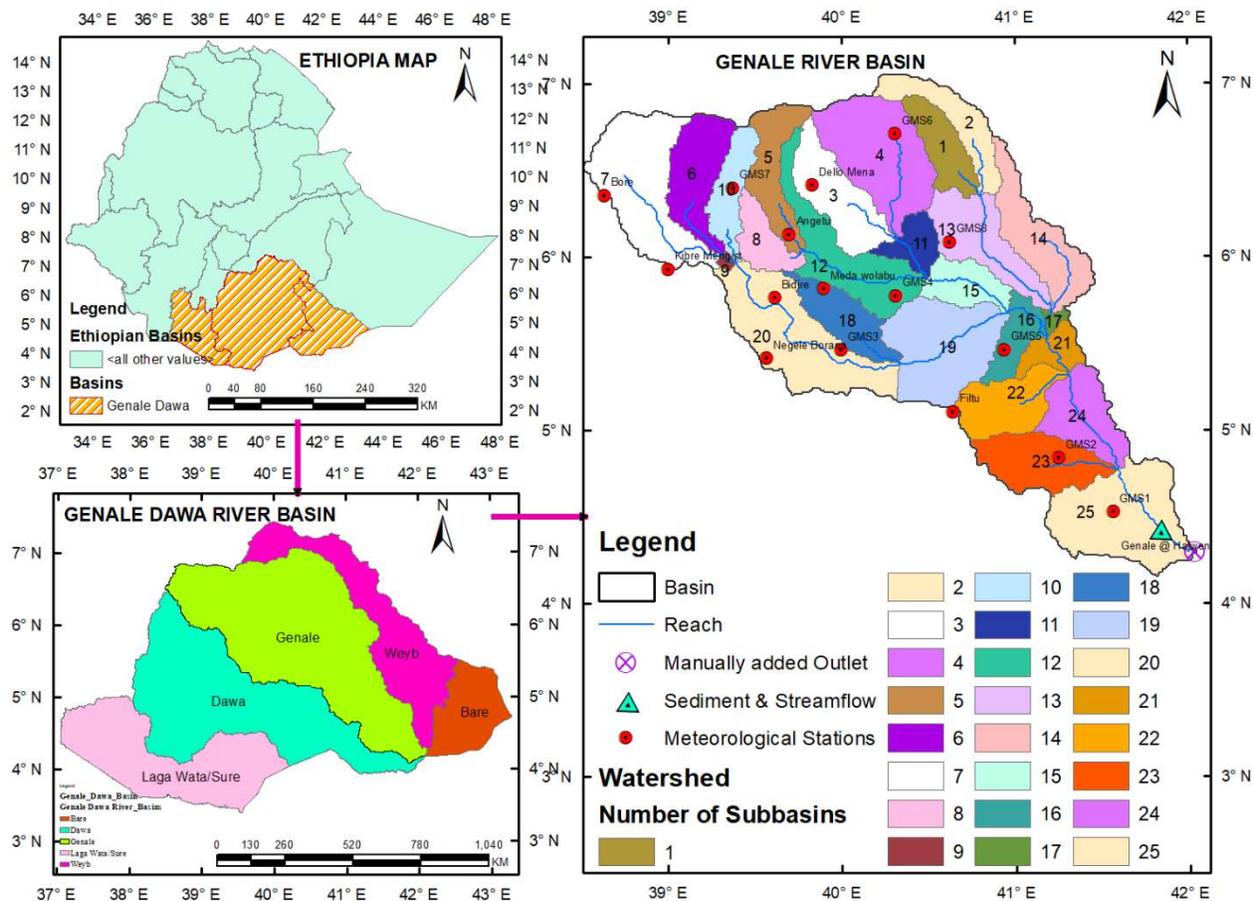
110 makers to make better land, soil, and water resource management and plan choices. Besides quantifying the gross
111 impacts of LULC changes on hydrological responses by applying a hydrological model, it is also informative to
112 evaluate the effect and contribution of individual LULC change on different hydrological components of a catchment
113 (Gashaw et al. 2018). The multivariate statistical design is helpful to explore the interaction of each LULC type
114 (independent variable) with different hydrological responses (dependent variables) and confirm whether the observed
115 LULC change is significant enough to induce the change in hydrological processes. It can be applied to address the
116 LULC class responsible for changing hydrological components (Shawul et al. 2019). Moreover, this approach is
117 applicable for solving multicollinearity problems, which occur when at least two predictors (independent variables)
118 in the model are correlated. The study is interacting with the individual LULC changes to hydrological elements using
119 multivariate statistical correlation to quantify the contribution of changes in hydrological responses.
120 The main spotlight of this study is (1) Appraisal of image processing/assessment of image classification accuracy, (2)
121 to examine the LULC change detection of different periods, (3) to evaluate the impacts of different LULC changes on
122 hydrological responses in Genale watershed, Ethiopia.

123

124 **Description of the Study Area**

125

126 Genale catchment (54,942 Km²) was situated in Genale Dawa River Basin in Ethiopia, covering Oromia, SNNP, and
127 Somali regions. The catchment gets its first maximum rainfall during spring (March to May) and secondary maximum
128 rainfall during autumn (September to November). The yearly average precipitation experienced in the study area is
129 about 810 mm, and the rainfall distribution in a watershed ranges from 300 to 1302 mm per year. The Genale River
130 joins the Dawa River at the Dolo Ado border, which then forms Genale Dawa River Basin is geographically located
131 between 4° 16' to 7° 02' North and 39° 00' to 42° 00' East. The Monthly temperature ranges from 14.5 °C to 24.6 °C,
132 with an average of 19.5 °C. The maximum and minimum elevation of the study area is 4280 and 176 m, respectively
133 (Negewo and Sarma 2021b). **Fig. 1** the study area map with the Digital Elevation Model (DEM) extracted from the
134 Genale Dawa River Basin and Ethiopia map. The weather data needed for the study was collected from the 'National
135 Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia, ' which covered from 1987 to 2013 for different measure stations and GMS
136 (Global Meteorological Stations 1, 2,3...8) detailed in **Fig. 1**. The streamflow and sediment data were taken from the
137 Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Electricity (MoWIE). The streamflow and sediment data of Genale River was
138 recorded at the halwen gauging station from 1990 – 2013, which is about 25 km upstream of the outlet (**Fig. 1**). It was
139 then transferred to the outlet as calibration was done at the outlet location.



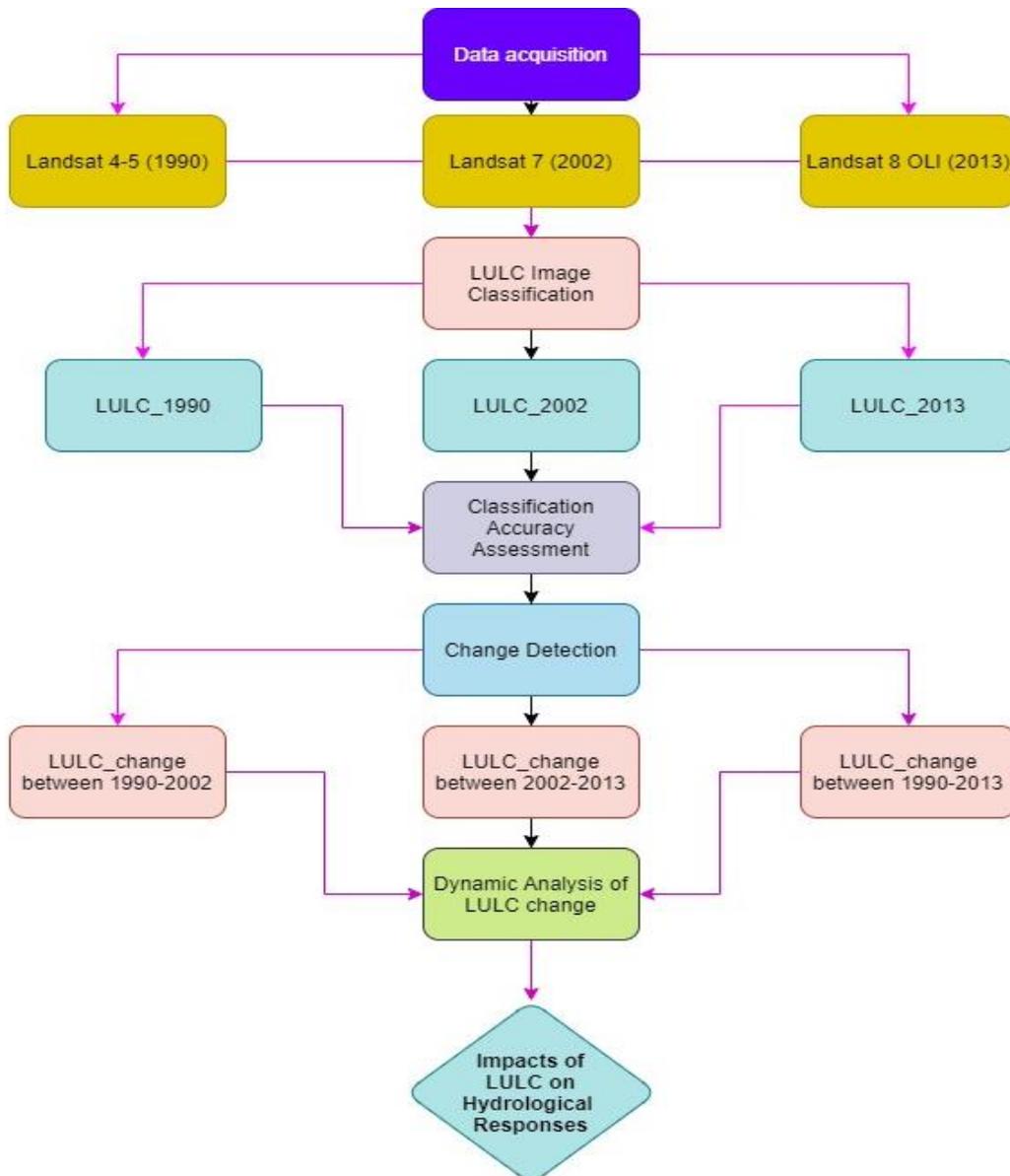
140
 141 **Fig. 1** The study area of Genale watershed, Ethiopia

142
 143 **Materials and methodology**

144
 145 The study aims analysis of land use/cover change by classifying satellite imageries of the Genale watershed. The
 146 criterion used to monitor LULC change detection was the 24-year data collection period from 1990 to 2013. The
 147 mechanism contains four stages: 1) pre-processing (image rectification and restoration), 2) image classification, 3)
 148 post-processing (information extraction), and 4) land-use change detection. Remote sensing and GIS are essential for
 149 producing land use/cover maps through image classification.

150 In this finding, the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model interfaced with GIS was used to inspect the
 151 impacts of LULC change on hydrological responses of the catchment (**Fig. 2**).

152



153
 154 **Fig. 2** Flow chart and methodology of the study area

155
 156 **Data sources, preparation, and image processing**

157
 158 For the present study, Landsat 4-5, Landsat-7, and Landsat 8 OLI (operational land imager) spatial resolution of 90 m
 159 The USGS (united states geological survey) earth explorer database system was used for generating LULC maps.
 160 Processing satellite imageries before detection changes are imperative and have a unique aspiration to build a more
 161 direct association between the biophysical development on the ground and the data acquisition (Coopin et al. 2004).
 162 The main aim of image processing and classification is to automatically categorize all pixels in an image into LULC
 163 categories to draw out helpful, confined information. Image classification was done to designate multi-spectral

164 signatures from the landsat datasets to different years of LULC. LULC types are frequently mapped from digital,
 165 remotely sensed data through supervised digital image classification (Campbell and Wynne, 2011).

166 **Table 1** Detail sources of satellite imageries used in this study with the output file are in GeoTIFF format

167

Landsat satellites Type	Sensor onboard	Availability	Path/Row (Mosaiced is done respectively)	Pixel size (m)	No of spectral bands	Date of acquisition
Landsat 8	OLI and TIRS (Thermal Infrared Sensor) Level-1	February of 2013 to present	(166), (167) & (168)/ (56&57), (55, 56 & 57) & (55 & 56)	90	11	December 10, 2013
Landsat 7	Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) Level-1	July, 1999 to present)	(166), (167) & (168)/ (56&57), (55, 56 & 57) & (55 & 56)	90	8	January 27, 2002
Landsat 4-5	Thematic Mapper (TM) Level-1	July 1982 to May 2012	(166), (167) & (168)/ (56 & 57), (55, 56 & 57) & (55 & 56)	90	7	December 18, 1990

168

169 **Land-Use/Land-Cover Supervised Classification System**

170 Supervised (known spectral signatures) is the process commonly used for quantitative analyses of remote sensing
 171 image data and assigns each pixel in the image to which its signature is most comparable categories. Finally, eight
 172 types of LULC classes were generated in the study area (**Table 2**).

173 **Table 2** Description of the different LULC classification systems of the Genale watershed

S. No	LULC Categories	General description of different sub-class included	SWAT Code
1	Shrub/bush land	Scrubland, brush/bushland, herbs, vegetation types, sparse woodland, rangelands, orchard stemmed woody plant, and other grasslands	RNGB
2	Agricultural land	Farm plantations, croplands, palms, bamboo plantation, terraced land, vegetable/fruit land, irrigated arid land, wooded/cultivated areas	AGRL
3	Forest	Reserved and protected forest, mixed forest, deciduous forest, Arboreal forest, shrubbery area, and economic forest, scrub forest	FRST
4	Built up land	Towns, villages, buildings, huts, churches, mosques, tombs, graves, post-office, power lines, transportation roads, bridges	URBN
5	Pasture land	Grassland, savanna, heathland, moorland, machair, rangeland, legumes	PAST
6	Barren land	Vacant land, barren rocky, land with/without scrub, Mining/ industrial wastelands, exposed soil, salt-affected area, and land that cannot be utilized	BARR
7	Water bodies	Lakes, rivers/streams, reservoirs, swamps, springs, canals, ponds, bays, etc.	WATR
8	Wetlands	Swamps, flora, fauna, coastal lagoons, Inland and maritime wetland	WET

174

175 **Assessment of Classification Accuracy**

176 Accuracy assessment is the most important final step in the image classification process, and the objective is to assess
 177 qualitative and quantitative sampling of different pixels effectively into the correct land cover classes. Errors arise
 178 when a pixel (or feature) belonging to one class is assigned to another category. In order to execute accuracy
 179 assessment precisely, we need to compare two sources of information which include: interpreted land use/cover map
 180 image derived from the remote sensing data and reference land use map of high-resolution images or ground truth

181 data (google earth pro) (Treitz and Rogan 2004). Accuracy in image classification is influenced by inclusion errors
 182 (commission error) and exclusion errors (omission error). The landsat classified imagery needs to be assessed for
 183 accuracy before the same could input any hydrological applications.

184 **Error/confusion matrix**

185 A *confusion matrix* is a square cluster of columns and rows ($n \times n$ array where n represents the number of classes) in
 186 which each row and column represents one class in the defined map. Error matrix match on a class by class basis, the
 187 relationship between land-use map of ground truth data, and the corresponding results of an automated classification
 188 on Arc GIS.

189 **Reliability or User's Accuracy** corresponds to an error of commission (inclusion); it refers to the probability that a
 190 category on the classification image will be correct when used on the ground and a pixel/features designated as a
 191 specific class in the land use map is this category. Commission error is the number of spectral signatures mistakenly
 192 included in an information class.

193
$$\text{User's accuracy} = \frac{\text{Total number of correctly classified pixels in each category}}{\text{Total number of classified pixels of reference category (User's Total)}} * 100\% \quad (1)$$

194 Producer's accuracy corresponds to an error of omission (exclusion): it is the amount of a land category correctly
 195 classified on the classification image or the probability that any feature/pixel of an area on the ground in that class has
 196 been correctly classified as such, which indicates how well the training sample sets pixels of a given cover type are
 197 classified. Omission error is the number of spectral signatures mistakenly excluded from an information class.

198
$$\text{Producer's accuracy} = \frac{\text{Total number of correctly classified pixels in each category}}{\text{Total number of classified pixels of reference category (Producer's Total)}} * 100\% \quad (2)$$

199 Where: a_{ii} number of samples correctly classified, a_{i+} column total for class i , a_{+i} row total for class i .

200 **Overall accuracy:** is a measure of accuracy assessment for the entire land use map image across all classes present
 201 in the categorized image and is the percentage of correctly categorized samples of a confusion matrix.

202
$$\text{Overall accuracy} = \frac{\text{Total number of correctly classified pixel (sum of diagonal elements)}}{\text{Total number of reference pixels (accuracy sites)}} * 100\% \quad (3)$$

203 **Kappa coefficient analysis (K_{hat})** is a distinct multivariate technique for accuracy assessment between two maps
 204 considering all elements of the confusion matrix and having several advantages over other techniques. Its value ranges
 205 from 0 to 1. If the kappa coefficient is equivalent to 0, there is no compromise between the classified image and the
 206 reference ground truth image, and if it equals 1, then the categorized image and the reference image are precisely the
 207 same.

208
$$K_{hat} = \frac{N \sum_{i=1}^r X_{ii} - (\sum_{i=1}^r X_{i+} * X_{+i})}{N^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^r X_{i+} * X_{+i})} = \frac{\text{Observed} - \text{Expected}}{1 - \text{Expected}} \quad (4)$$

209 Where r = number of columns/rows in the confusion matrix, X_{ii} is the number of the observations in row i and column
 210 i (on the major diagonal), and X_{i+} and X_{+i} are the marginal totals for row i and column i , respectively, and N is the
 211 total number of observations included in the matrix.

212 **Table 3** Rating criteria of kappa statistics efficiency (Rwanga and Ndambuki 2017)

ID	Kappa statistics analysis	Strength of the agreement
1	< 0	Poor
2	0.00 - 0.20	Slight
3	0.21 - 0.40	Fair
4	0.41 - 0.60	Moderate

5	0.61 – 0.80	Substantial
6	0.81 – 1.00	Almost perfect

213

214 **Change detection**

215

216 This paper aimed to detect and estimate the amount of change from different classified land use maps during the period
 217 from 1990 to 2013 analysis the change in the agricultural, built-up areas, and forest by subtracting the classified image
 218 over (1990-2002, 2002-2013, and 1990-2013) from each other using RS jointly with GIS technique (Esam et al.,
 219 2012). LULC change detection was used to identify, characterize, and quantify differences between imageries of the
 220 same study area and different periods, while percentage changes were evaluated by dividing it by the total area and
 221 multiplying by hundred. The dynamic indicator of land use/cover is used to quantitatively investigate/monitor the
 222 change in intensity of one land use type (Yuhai 1999). The value of dynamic index K is computed as;

223
$$K = \frac{U_b - U_a}{U_a} * \frac{1}{T} * 100\% \quad (5)$$

224 where U_a and U_b are the area of a particular land-use/cover type at the beginning (previous) and end (recent) of the
 225 study period, respectively, T is the interval length of period/ the duration of the study (in years), K is the rate change
 226 of area per year of a specific land-use/land-cover categories.

227

228 **Description of Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model**

229

230 The SWAT model was developed by a united state department of agriculture research service (USDA-RS). It is a
 231 conceptual, physically based, basin-scale, daily time step, a semi-distributed model that operates continuously. The
 232 model elements include weather, hydrology, erosion/sedimentation, plant growth, nutrients, pesticides, agricultural
 233 management practice, channel routing, and pond/reservoir routing. The model estimations are performed on
 234 hydrologic response units (HRUs) basis, flow and water quality variables are routed from HRUs to sub-basin and
 235 finally to the watershed outlet. In the land phase of the hydrological system, SWAT simulates the hydrological process
 236 based on the water balance equation.

237
$$SW_t = SW_o + \sum_{i=1}^t (R_{day} - Q_{surface} - E_a - W_{seep} - Q_{gw}) \quad (6)$$

238 Where; SW_t = Final soil water content on a day i (mm/day), SW_o = Initial soil water content on day i (mm/day), t =
 239 time in days, R_{day} = amount of precipitation on a day i (mm/day), $Q_{surface}$ = amount of surface runoff on a day i
 240 (mm/day), E_a = amount of evapotranspiration on day i (mm/day), W_{seep} = amount of water entering the vadose zone
 241 from the soil profile on a day i (mm/day), Q_{gw} = amount of return flow on a day i (mm/day).

242 The current SWAT model evaluates surface erosion and sediment yield due to runoff for each HRUs using the
 243 following equation (MUSLE) (Williams 1975).

244
$$Q_{SED} = 11.8 * (Q_{peak} * Q_{Surface} * A_{hru})^{0.56} * K * C * P * LS * CFRG \quad (7)$$

245 Where; Q_{SED} = Sediment yield(ton/ha/day) from specific HRU, A_{hru} = Area of HRU in(ha), Q_{Peak} = peak
 246 discharge(m^3/s), K_{USLE} = soil erodibility factor, C_{USLE} = Cover and management practice factor, P_{USLE} = Conservation
 247 support practice factors, LS_{USLE} = Topographic factor, $CFRG$ = Coarse Fragment Factor.

248 SWAT model attempts two techniques for estimating surface runoff ($Q_{Surface}$): Soil Conservation Service (SCS)
 249 curve number procedure (USDA-SCS 1972), and the Green and Ampt infiltration approach (Green 1911; Andualem
 250 and Gebremariam 2015). Using daily or sub-daily basis rainfall, SWAT simulates surface runoff and peak runoff rates
 251 for each HRUs. For this research, the SCS curve number method was used to evaluate surface runoff because of the
 252 unavailability of sub-daily basis data for the Green and Ampt technique. The model further calculates the streamflow
 253 in the HRUs/sub-basins as a result of the total daily rainfall using the SCS curve number (CN) method:

$$254 \quad Q_{Surface} = \frac{\{R_{Day}-0.2S\}^2}{\{R_{Day}+0.8S\}}; \text{ for } R_{Day} > 0.2S \quad (8)$$

255 The retention parameter(S) and lateral flow prediction by the SWAT model is expressed as;

$$256 \quad S = 254 \left(\frac{100}{CN} - 1 \right) \quad (9)$$

$$257 \quad CN = \frac{25400}{S+254}; \text{ where CN is between } 0 < CN < 100$$

258 $CN = 100$; shows zero potential retention (i.e., impervious catchment), $CN = 0$, shows an infinitely abstracting
 259 catchment with $S = \infty$, where; R_{Day} = daily rainfall (mm/day), S = Potential retention (mm/day), CN = curve number.

260 The SUFI-II optimization algorithm in the SWAT-CUP program (Abbaspour et al. 2007) was used for model
 261 sensitivity and uncertainty analysis and the necessary calibration/validation process. In SUFI-II, the model input
 262 parameters uncertainty is depicted as uniform distributions. On the other hand, output uncertainty is quantified using
 263 the 95% percent prediction uncertainty. The hydrological model performance was assessed using a coefficient of
 264 determination (R^2), Nash Sutcliffe Efficiency (NSE), and percent bias (PBIAS).

265 Coefficient of Determination (R^2)

$$266 \quad R^2 = \frac{[\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{si} - Q_{sm})(Q_{oi} - Q_{om})]^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{si} - Q_{sm})^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{oi} - Q_{om})^2} \quad (10)$$

267 Where, Q_{si} is the simulated value, Q_{oi} is the measured value, Q_{om} is the average observed value and Q_{sm} - the
 268 average simulated value.

269 Nash Sutcliffe Efficiency (NSE)

$$270 \quad NSE = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{oi} - Q_{si})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{oi} - Q_{om})^2} \quad (11)$$

271 where, Q_{oi} is the observed, Q_{si} is the simulated and Q_{om} is the observed average values of discharge.

$$272 \quad PBIAS = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{oi} - Q_{si})}{\sum_{i=1}^n Q_{oi}} \times 100\% \quad (12)$$

273 where, Q_{oi} is the observed discharge value and Q_{si} is the simulated discharge value.

274

275 **Results and Discussions**

276

277 The model was built with DEM, land use/cover, soil properties, and slope types for the Genale watershed, which
278 formed 25 sub-basins, 464 HRUs with a drainage area of 54,942 Km². A SWAT hydrological model adequately
279 simulates streamflow, and sediment load typically accounts for the precise calibration/validation of parameters under
280 different year land cover.

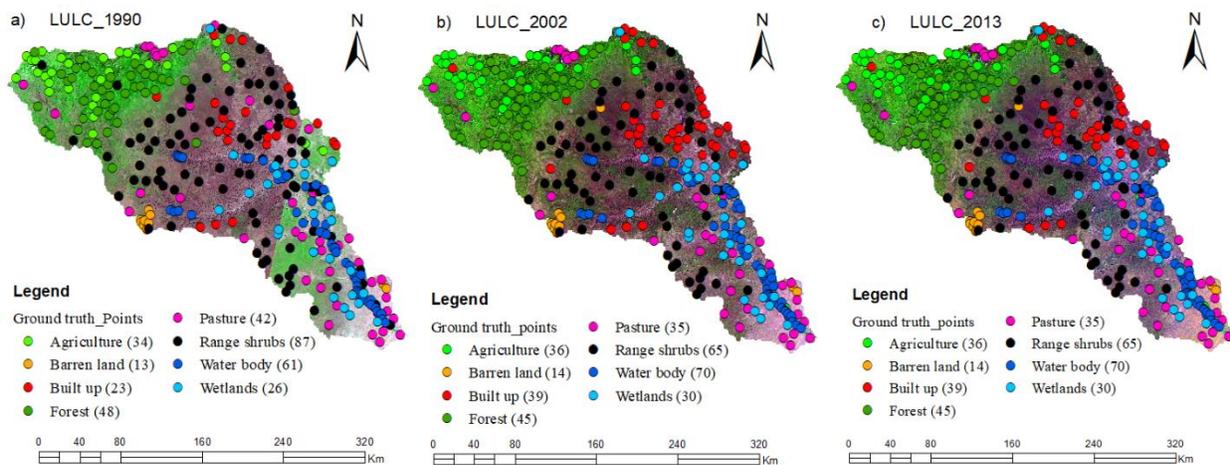
281

282 Land Use Land Cover Change Analysis

283

284 The LULC change detection map shows eight (shrub/bushland, built up, forest, agriculture, bare land, pastureland,
285 water bodies, and wetlands) categories of LULC through image processing and classification through image
286 processing and classification processing and classification created unifying these classes for 1990, 2002 and 2013.
287 The spatial analysis of LULC has been executed to describe the overall land use cover patterns throughout the
288 catchment. An image was checked with an accuracy matrix using 334 randomly selected control points. The accuracy
289 assessment was achieved using LULC maps and ground truth data on Google Earth Pro (**Fig. 3**). The supervised
290 classification based on maximum likelihood was done with the help of signature files and resulted in 8 major LULC
291 classes.

292



293

294 **Fig. 3** Image accuracy assessment points (ground truth points) over 1990, 2002, and 2013

295

296 Accuracy assessment, planning for future developments with the right decisions, and adequately managing resources
297 requires insightful the location of those resources and their spatial interaction (Congalton and Green 2019). In
298 designing the accuracy assessment sample, this finding utilized randomly selected points for each class of LULC and
299 thus used 334 points for each image (**Fig. 3**).

300

301 Overall classification accuracy and Kappa coefficient analysis

302

303 The classification accuracy assessment in terms of Kappa coefficient and error/confusion matrices are essential for
 304 classification results to be confident that to what extend the classification is accurate.

305

306 **Table 4** How to summarize and quantify accuracy assessment using confusion matrix for the LULC-2013

	Agriculture	Barren land	Built up	Forest	Pasture land	Range shrubs	Water body	Wetland	User (Total)	User's accuracy	Commission Error
Agriculture	30	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	36	83.33%	16.6%
Barren land	0	13	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	92.86%	7.1%
Built up	2	0	23	1	4	9	0	0	39	59%	41%
Forest	2	0	0	41	0	2	0	0	45	91.11%	8.9%
Pasture	0	0	0	0	32	3	0	0	35	91.4%	8.6%
Range shrubs	0	0	0	1	2	61	1	0	65	93.85%	6.15%
Water body	0	0	0	1	1	7	60	1	70	85.7%	14.28%
Wetlands	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	25	30	83.33%	16.67%
Producer (Total)	34	13	23	48	42	87	61	26	334		
Producer's accuracy	88.23%	100%	100%	85.4%	76.2%	70.1%	98.4%	96.2%			
Omission error	11.8%	0	0	14.6%	23.8%	29.8%	1.6%	3.85%			

307 The user and producer accuracy, the results revealed excellent for approximately all the classes in all years except in
 308 the built-up, pasture, and shrubs classes. In built-up land, the recorded user accuracy value is satisfactory and
 309 challenging (**Table 4**).

310 Overall accuracy = $\frac{\text{Total number of correctly classified pixel (sum of diagonal elements)}}{\text{Total number of reference pixels (accuracy sites)}} * 100\%$
 311 = $\frac{(30 + 13 + 23 + 41 + 32 + 61 + 60 + 25)}{334} * 100 = 85\%$

312
$$\text{Kappa coefficient} = \frac{N \sum_{i=1}^r X_{ii} - (\sum_{i=1}^r X_{i+} * X_{+i})}{N^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^r X_{i+} * X_{+i})}$$

 313
$$\text{Kappa} = \frac{334 * (30 + 13 + 23 + 41 + 32 + 61 + 60 + 25) - (34 * 36 + 13 * 14 + 23 * 39 + 48 * 45 + 42 * 35 + 87 * 65 + 61 * 70 + 26 * 30)}{334^2 - (34 * 36 + 13 * 14 + 23 * 39 + 48 * 45 + 42 * 35 + 87 * 65 + 61 * 70 + 26 * 30)} = 0.828$$

314 The value of kappa 0.828 means there is 82.8% better agreement than by chance only. These values illustrate that the
 315 Landsat and the methodologies used were accurate, and the classification is almost perfect since it is greater than 0.8.
 316 The advantage of kappa coefficient analysis in relation to overall accuracy is statistically compared products of two
 317 classifications. Unlike the overall accuracy, the kappa coefficient includes errors of commission and omission. The
 318 land use/cover classification has shown that user's Accuracy and producer's Accuracy are greater than 80%, except in
 319 pasture, shrubs, and built up and the overall accuracy of 85% (**Table 4**). The results revealed that the overall accuracy
 320 of the LULC classification was 77.6%, 81.5%, and 85% for 1990, 2002, and 2013 respectively, and coefficients of
 321 kappa for the same years were 74.8%, 78.5%, and 82.8%, respectively.

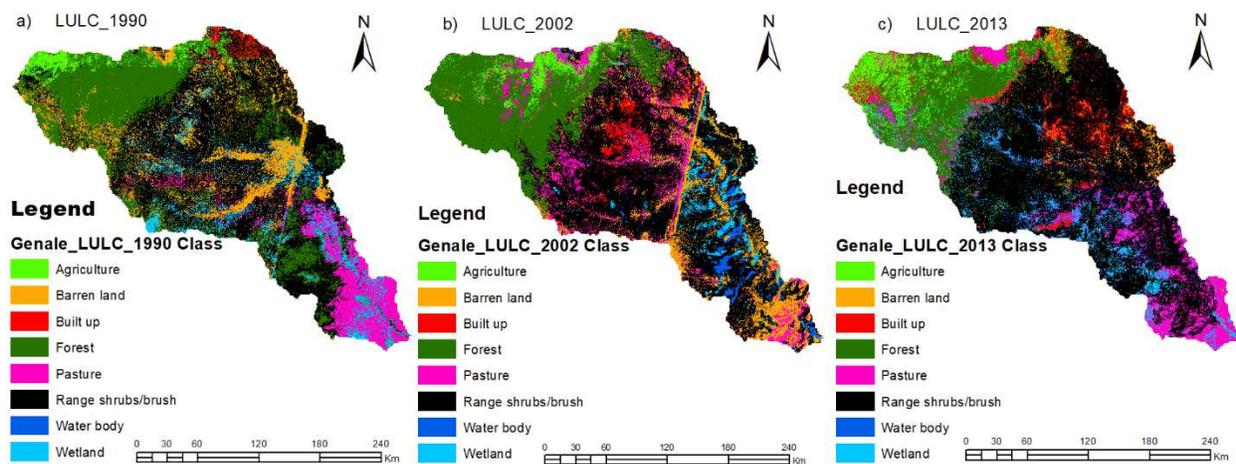
322

323 Change detection

324

325 LULC change detection process encompasses the application of multi-temporal data sets to differentiate areas of land
 326 cover change between two or more dates and conducts should comprise data acquired by the same sensor and be

327 registered using the exact spatial resolution viewing spectral bands, geometry, radiometric resolution. Change
 328 detection can be characterized as the process of identifying differences in the state of a phenomenon by observing it
 329 at different periods 1990, 2002, & 2013 (**Fig. 4**).



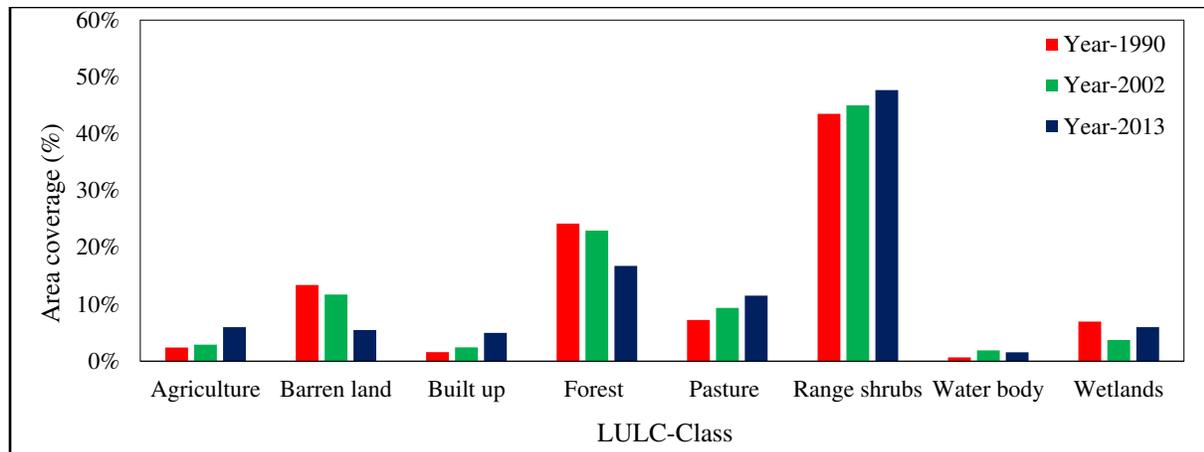
330
 331 **Fig. 4** Land use/cover classification of Genale watershed for the period 1990, 2002, and 2013

332
 333 **Table 5** Summary of the area and relative changes statistics in LULC over 1990 to 2013

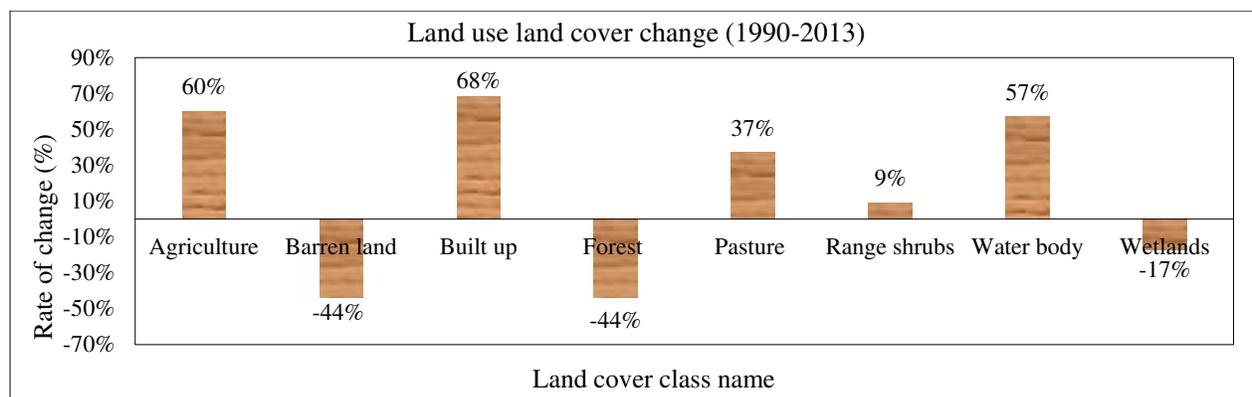
S. no	LULC-Type	1990		2002		2013		Change (1990-2002)		Change (2002-2013)		Change (1990-2013)	
		Area (Km ²)	Area (%)										
1	Agriculture	1322	2%	1593	3%	3288	6%	271	21%	1695	6%	1966	60%
2	Barren land	7361	13%	6442	12%	3014	5%	-919	-11%	-3428	-53%	-4347	-44%
3	Built up	874	2%	1339	2%	2730	5%	465	53%	1391	4%	1856	68%
4	Forest	13293	24%	12624	23%	9216	17%	-670	-5%	-3408	-27%	-4077	-44%
5	Pasture	3990	7%	5146	9%	6336	12%	1156	29%	1190	23%	2346	37%
6	Range shrubs	23902	44%	24717	45%	26208	48%	815	4%	1491	6%	2306	9%
7	Water body	365	1%	1040	2%	858	2%	675	84%	-182	-18%	493	57%
8	Wetland	3835	7%	2041	4%	3292	6%	-1794	-47%	1251	61%	-543	-17%

334
 335 **Table 5** shows all the major classes of LULC of the basin determined in the change analysis. The results revealed that
 336 there is a rapid decrease in the forest (5%, 27%, and 44%), barren land (11%, 53%, and 44%), wetland (47%, 61%,
 337 and 17%) from 1990-2002, 2002-2013, and 1990-2013 respectively which is due to the conversion of green forest &
 338 barren land into settlement area or fallow lands, and there is a significant increase in built-up (53%, 4%, and 68%),
 339 agriculture (21%, 6%, and 60%), and water body (84%, 18%, and 57%) from 1990-2002, 2002-2013, and 1990-2013
 340 respectively. From the 1990 land use/cover classes, about 44 % was devoted to range shrubs, whereas agricultural
 341 land and plantation shared 2%. The LULC changes include forestation, an increase in wetlands, and changes in
 342 agricultural and built-up (**Fig. 5**).

343



344
345 **Fig. 5** The dynamics pattern of LULC changes for the years 1990, 2002, and 2013
346



347
348 **Fig. 6** Change in area of LULC between 1990 and 2013 for Genale Basin
349

350 **Fig. 6** shows the LULC changes that have been taken place in the area through (bar graph) graphical representation.
351 There is a fall/decreased in the percentage of the barren land (44%), forest (44%), and wetlands (17%), which
352 deliberately shows replaced by other land cover changes like built up, agriculture, range shrubs, and pasture land.
353 Nevertheless, the change in a built-up, waterbody, pasture, and agriculture is significantly increased in the catchment
354 by 68%, 57%, 37%, and 60%, respectively (**Fig. 6**).

355
356 **Impacts of LULC change induced on hydrological responses**

357
358 **Model parameter sensitivity analysis for streamflow and sediment**

359 Sensitivity analysis was performed to navigate the calibration/validation process and identify the optimized parameters
360 that significantly impact the streamflow and sediment load. Sensitivity analyses were conducted based on the global
361 sensitivity produced by the sequential uncertainty fitting version-2 (SUFI-2) algorithm in SWAT CUP. Uncertainty
362 was performed with several iterations of 500 simulations number. Based on the p-value and t-stat values, 10 and 8

363 parameters revealed a meaningful effect on streamflow and sediment load, respectively, to finalize the model
 364 parameters. The simulated flow was the most sensitive for the initial SCS curve number II (CN2) and available water
 365 capacity (SOL_AWC.sol). Likewise, the simulated sediment was sensitive to the amount of sediment that can be re-
 366 entrained during channel sediment routing (SPCON.bsn), (SOL_AWC.sol), CN2, etc.

367 **Table 6** Fitted values and rank of parameters used in the SWAT model calibration and validation (1990-2013)

Process	Parameter Name	Description of the parameter	Range value	Fitted value	p-value	t-stat	Rank
Streamflow	CN2.mgt	SCS runoff curve number	35-98	-0.17	0.0	-42	1
	SOL_AWC.sol	Available water capacity of the soil layer	0-1	1.0	0.004	2.9	2
	SOL_K.sol	Saturated hydraulic conductivity	0-2000	0.566	0.12	-1.5	3
	SOL_BD.sol	Moist bulk density	0.9-2.5	0.984	0.20	1.2	4
	ALPHA_BF.gw	Baseflow alpha-factor (days).	0-1	0.570	0.21	-1.2	5
	REVAPMN.gw	Threshold depth of water in a shallow aquifer for "revap" to occur (mm)	0-500	408.6	0.308	-1.0	6
	GW_REVAP.gw	USLE support practice factor	0-1	1.2	0.49	-0.6	7
	ESCO.hru	Soil evaporation compensation factor	0-1	0.27	0.65	-0.4	8
	HRU_SLP.hru	Average slope steepness	0-1	0.578	0.72	0.34	9
	SURLAG.bsn	Surface runoff lag time	0.05-24	0.072	0.96	-0.05	10
Sediment	SPCON.bsn	The max amount of sediment that can be retrained during channel routing.	0.0001-0.01	0.0002	0.0	-29.5	1
	SOL_AWC(.)sol	Available water capacity of the soil layer	0-1	0.639	0.0	14.2	2
	CN2.mgt	SCS runoff curve number	35-98	-0.24	0.0	-10	3
	SOL_K(.)sol	Saturated hydraulic conductivity	0-2000	0.845	0.0	7.18	4
	SPEXP.bsn	Exponent parameter for calculating sediment retrained in channel sediment routing.	1-1.5	1.156	0.0	-5.63	5
	CH_COV1.rte	Channel erodibility factor.	-0.05-0.6	0.78	0.145	-1.44	6
	USLE_K(.)sol	USLE equation soil erodibility (K) factor.	0-0.65	0.012	0.57	-0.6	7
	USLE_P.mgt	USLE equation support parameter	0-1	0.029	0.73	0.35	8

368
 369 **Table 6** shows parameter sensitivity results; for example, flow estimation is highly sensitive to CN2.mgt and low
 370 sensitivity to GW_REVAP.gw. On the other hand, SPCON.bsn is highly sensitive to sediment flow, and USLE_K.sol
 371 is relatively low.

372
 373 **Model calibration and validation**

374 Calibrated parameters and the fitted values are the modeler's critical notes from the calibration process. The three
 375 years warm-up period 1987 to 1989 analysis of streamflow and sediment load sensitivity was carried out for 16-years
 376 calibration period 1990 to 2005 and 8-years validation period 2006 to 2013, and results showed a satisfactory
 377 performance, as statistical measures are in the allowable range for both streamflow and Sediment (**Table 7**)

378
 379 **Table 7** SWAT statistical performance index acceptable range (Abbaspour et al.,2011; Moriasi et al.,2007)

p-factor	r-factor	R2	NSE	PBIAS	RSR	Rating
----------	----------	----	-----	-------	-----	--------

				Flow	Sediment		
0.7 - 1	<1, (close to 0)	0.75-1	0.75-1	<±10%	<±15%	0-0.5	very good
		0.65-0.75	0.65-0.75	±10-15%	±15-30%	0.5-0.6	good
		0.5-0.65	0.5-0.65	±15-25%	±30-55%	0.6-0.7	satisfactory
Close to 0	>1, (infinite)	<0.5	≤0.5	>±25%	>±55%	>0.7	unsatisfactory

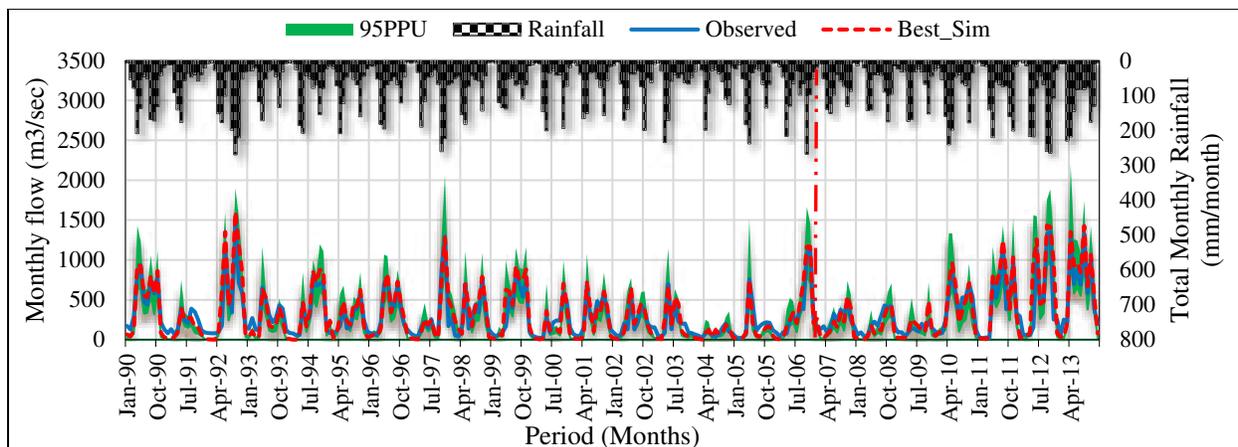
380

381 **Table 8** Actual index value for SWAT output during calibration/validation process

Types of assessment		p-factor	r-factor	R2	NSE	PBIAS	RSR	Rating
Flow	Calibration	0.51	0.78	0.87	0.81	-2.1%	0.50	good
	Validation	0.54	0.86	0.85	0.78	-0.5%	0.52	good
Sediment	Calibration	0.48	0.37	0.84	0.79	3.8%	0.61	satisfactory
	Validation	0.43	0.39	0.82	0.75	3.9%	0.67	satisfactory

382

383 Sensitivity measure of SWAT- CUP (SUFI-2) reflected that P-factor of 0.51 and R-factor of 0.78 for calibration and
 384 P-factor of 0.50 and R-factor of 0.86 for validation considering flow (**Table 8**).

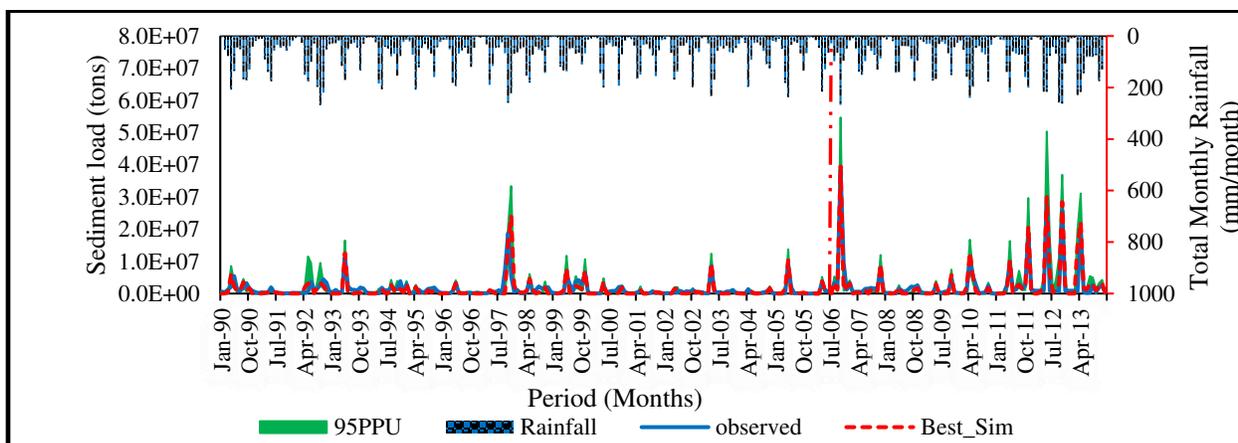


385

386 **Fig. 7** Monthly observed and simulated hydrograph for the calibration period (1990-2005) and validation (2006-2013)

387 **Fig. 7** shows the calibration and validation of the SWAT model where the model computed values are in good
 388 agreement with the monthly observed streamflow.

389



390

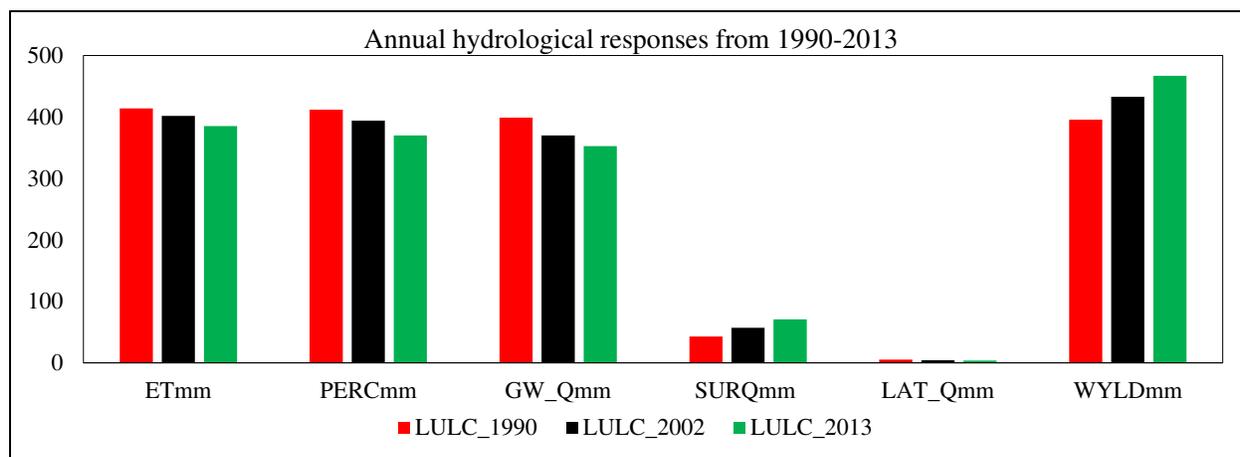
391 **Fig. 8** Monthly observed and simulated sediment load plot for the calibration (1990-2005) and validation (2006-2013).

392

393 As shown, the simulated model and observed sediment load and streamflow agreed to show a satisfactory performance
394 during the calibration/ validation process (**Fig. 7 and 8**).

395 The results exhibited that the SWAT model is an essential tool to simulate the spatiotemporal status of hydrological
396 responses about a different period of LULC change due to anthropogenic and socio-economic change in the Genale
397 watershed. The dynamics change in LULC classes between 1990 and 2013 continuously have shifted from the forest,
398 range shrubs, and barren land into agricultural, built up, pasture, and wetlands have significantly contributed to
399 increasing the groundwater flow and water yield while slight reduction of evapotranspiration and surface runoff
400 occurred (**Fig. 9**). As LULC changes in the study area (1990 to 2013), the generated annual average water balance
401 components also change. The average annual evapotranspiration (ETmm) decreased from 413.85 to 385.2 mm,
402 percolation (PERC) decreased from 408.81 to 383.29 mm, groundwater flow (GW_Qmm) decreased from 377.88 to
403 366.8 mm, and lateral flow (LAT_Qmm) decreased from 5.3 to 3.65 mm while surface runoff (SURQmm) increased
404 from 41.85 to 75.8 mm, water yield (WYLDmm) increased from 421.15 to 447.12 mm (**Fig. 9**).

405



406

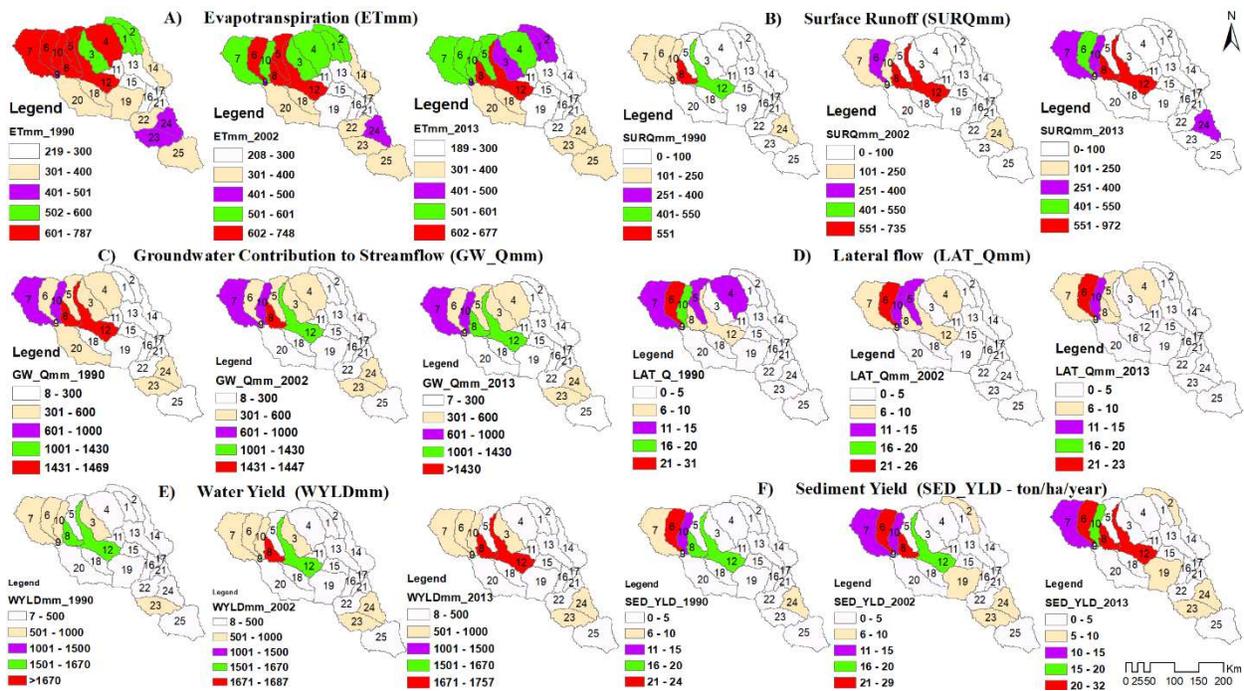
407 **Fig. 9** Average annual hydrological response of for three years LULC map of Genale catchment

408

409 The results point out that the consequence of deforestation, agriculture, and settlement in the study area decreased
410 ETmm, which again led to increased surface runoff, sediment yield, and water yield. The groundwater and lateral flow
411 showed a declined trend in the study area (**Fig. 9**) significantly from 1990 to 2013.

412 The SWAT has classified the catchment into 25 sub-basins. Five were selected as critical based on sediment yield
413 (higher and lower) and forest coverage from these sub-basins.

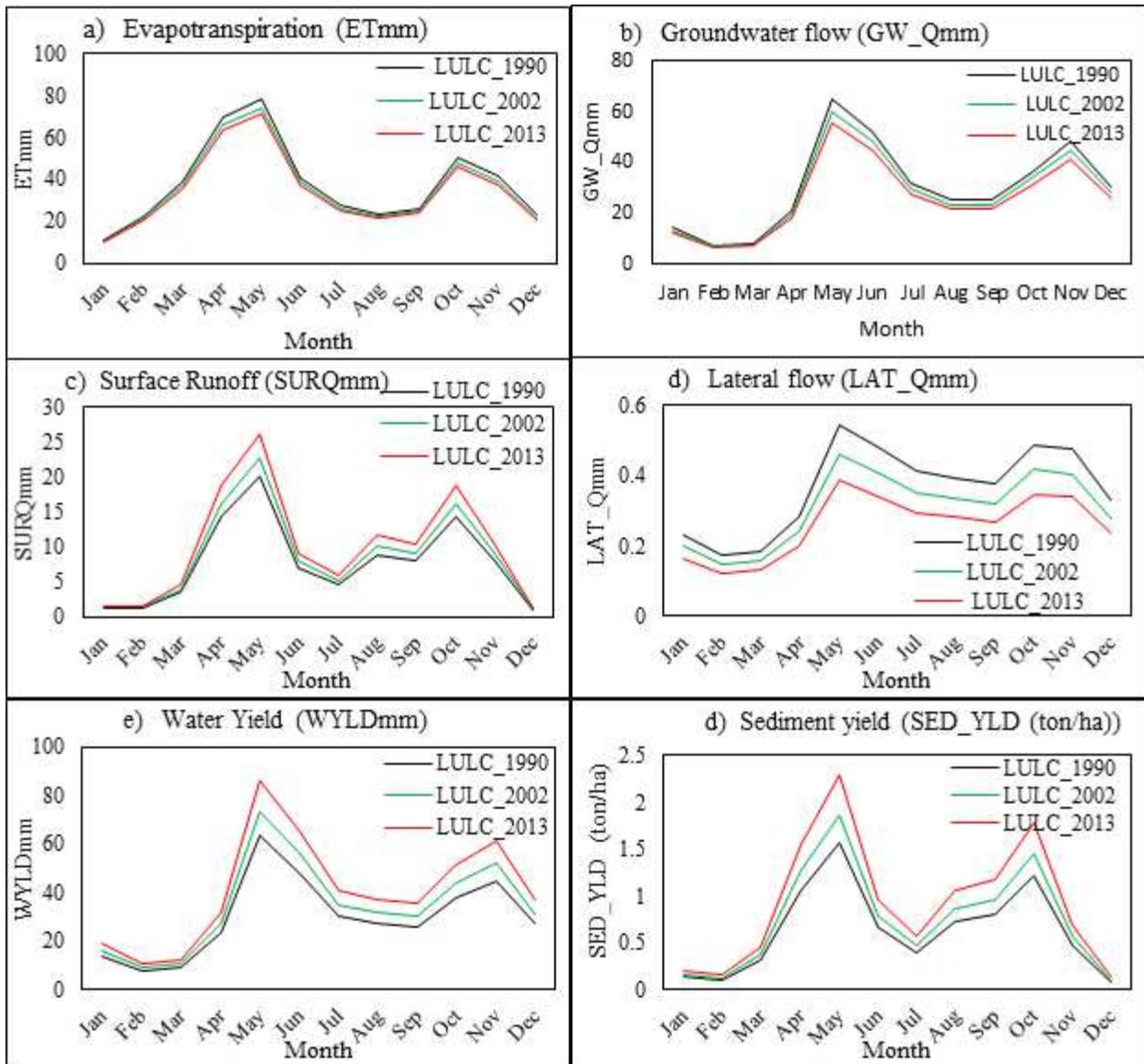
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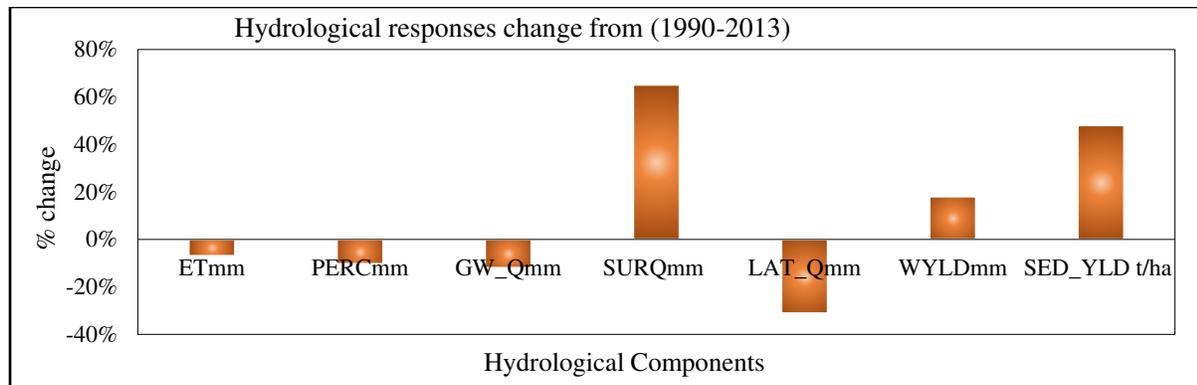
415
416

417 **Fig. 10** Spatial variability of hydrological responses at the sub-basin level between LULC maps 1990, 2002, and 2013
418 in Genale watershed.

419 The study results revealed an increase in generated surface runoff, water yield, and sediment yield in all indicated sub-
420 basins from land use/cover map 1990 to 2013 while evapotranspiration, groundwater flow, and lateral flow are reduced
421 the respective sub-basins. This was due to increased agricultural land, built-up area, pasture land, and decreased forest
422 land and shrubs (**Fig. 10**). Those sub-catchments having the lowest hydrological responses have made a very small
423 change in land use/cover. Sub-basins 6, 7, 10, 12, and 24 show an increasing surface runoff, and sub-basins 8, 12, and
424 24 show an increasing water yield in the watershed from 1990 to 2013 (**Fig. 10**). Sub-basins 2, 7, 8, 10, 12, 19, and
425 23 indicate an increase in sediment yield over different land use maps from 1990 to 2013 (**Fig. 10**). Evapotranspiration
426 significantly impacted surface runoff in each sub-basin (i.e., higher evapotranspiration contributes to lower surface
427 runoff and vice versa). Based on LULC change, the most significant change in hydrological components is an increase
428 in surface runoff and sediment yield and a decrease in groundwater flow and evapotranspiration, which mainly
429 occurred upstream of the watershed (**Fig. 10**).
430



431
 432 **Fig. 11** Monthly average (1990–2013) hydrological components in the different LULC periods (1990, 2002, and
 433 2013) of the Genale watershed
 434 The monthly time extent of the model shows the ETmm losses, groundwater flow, & lateral flow are showing a
 435 decreasing trend while surface runoff, water yield, and sediment yields are increasing over LULC map 1990, 2002,
 436 and 2013 in the catchment (**Fig. 11**). ETmm was a fundamental water availability determinant because it negatively
 437 impacted the generated surface runoff on the 1st and led to water yield and sediment yield.



438

439 **Fig. 12** Hydrological responses relative change under a different period of LULC map (1990 – 2013)

440 The annual mean catchment evaluates SURQ_mm, GW_mm, WYLDmm, LAT_Qmm, PERCmm, sediment yield,
 441 and ET with their relative changes at the watershed outlet under different LULC maps from 1990, 2002, and 2013.
 442 Therefore, it reduces infiltration rate due to the top layers of the soil being impervious, resulting in a consistent increase
 443 in surface runoff and sediment yield in the catchment (**Fig. 12**). Comparing the sub-basins scale (**Fig. 10**) and at the
 444 watershed level as a whole (**Fig. 12**), the impacts of LULC change on the responses of hydrological components are
 445 greatly reflected at the sub-basins scale because of the uneven spatial distribution of land cover modification. LULC
 446 change impacts were significant at a smaller scale whereas relatively small at the catchment scale due to compensating
 447 effects.

448 **Impacts of individual LULC change induced on hydrological responses changes**

449 Table 9 shows a correlation matrix of eight LULC classes and eight hydrological elements. The results exhibit that
 450 approximately all LULC classes have a fair correlation with various hydrological elements. Additionally, appropriate
 451 correlations among the hydrological components are also observed. For instance, agricultural land had a positive
 452 correlation with surface runoff (0.702), water yield (0.535), and sediment yield (0.348), while the correlation of
 453 agriculture with groundwater, lateral flow, percolation, and evapotranspiration is negative (**Table 9**). On the other
 454 hand, the correlation between surface runoff, water yield, and sediment yield is positive, but it is negative between
 455 surface runoff and groundwater, between surface runoff and lateral flow, water yield, and evapotranspiration (**Table**
 456 **9**). Forest land shows a high correlation with surface runoff, lateral flow, water yield, evapotranspiration with
 457 correlation coefficients of -0.958, +0.759, -0.760, and +0.729, respectively.

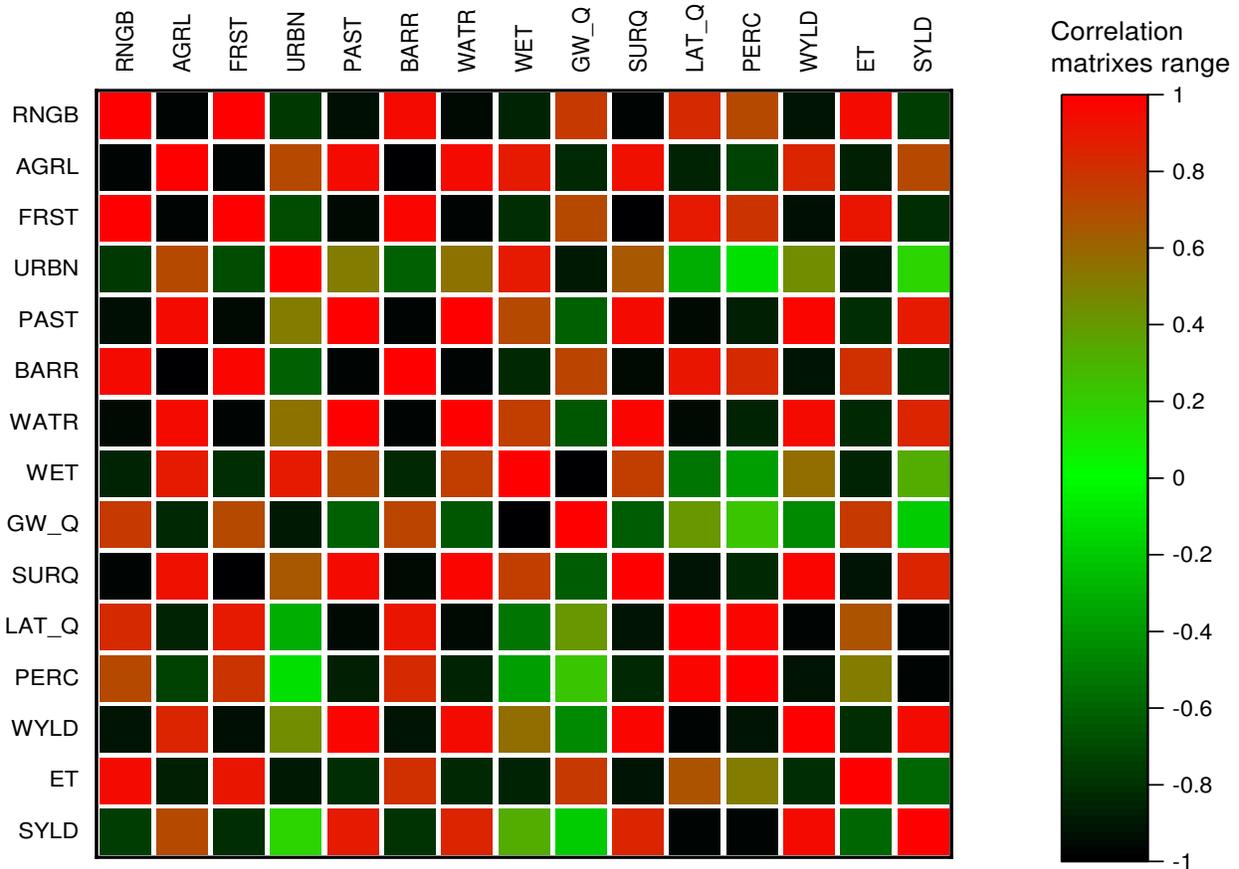
458 In contrast, Forest land shows a relatively low correlation with other hydrological elements (**Table 9**). Generally, from
 459 **Table 9**, a positive correlation coefficient illustrates that an increase in the first variable would correspond to an
 460 increase in the second variable, thus signify a direct relationship between the variables. A negative correlation
 461 illustrates an inverse relationship where the first variable increase, the second variable decreases.

462 **Table 9.** Correlation matrix for changes in LULC and hydrological responses between 1990 and 2013.

463 Note: RNGB: range shrubs; AGRL: agriculture; FRST: forest; URBN: built up; PAST: pasture; BARR: barren land;
 464 WATR: water body; WET: wetlands; GW_Q: groundwater; SURQ: surface runoff; LAT_Q: lateral flow; PERC:
 465 percolation; WYLD: water yield; ET: evapotranspiration; SYLD: sediment yield.

Variables	RNGB	AGRL	FRST	URBN	PAST	BARR	WATR	WET	GW_Q	SURQ	LAT_Q	PERC	WYLD	ET	SYLD
RNGB	1.000	-0.764	0.847	-0.683	-0.781	0.705	-0.817	-0.633	0.533	-0.877	0.526	0.307	-0.797	0.876	-0.510
AGRL		1.000	-0.766	0.453	0.772	-0.968	0.761	0.814	-0.733	0.702	-0.620	-0.475	0.535	-0.499	0.348
FRST			1.000	-0.532	-0.601	0.785	-0.698	-0.624	0.497	-0.958	0.759	0.591	-0.760	0.729	-0.578
URBN				1.000	0.145	-0.259	0.199	0.723	-0.691	0.495	0.129	0.346	0.174	-0.867	-0.180
PAST					1.000	-0.804	0.950	0.383	-0.298	0.667	-0.697	-0.577	0.815	-0.425	0.688
BARR						1.000	-0.814	-0.704	0.614	-0.718	0.778	0.663	-0.608	0.374	-0.488
WATR							1.000	0.482	-0.407	0.697	-0.728	-0.571	0.808	-0.444	0.637
WET								1.000	-0.986	0.453	-0.193	0.004	0.130	-0.512	-0.171
GW_Q									1.000	-0.306	0.064	-0.126	0.007	0.416	0.312
SURQ										1.000	-0.766	-0.615	0.879	-0.793	0.726
LAT_Q											1.000	0.966	-0.807	0.223	-0.857
PERC												1.000	-0.697	0.015	-0.847
WYLD													1.000	-0.610	0.921
ET														1.000	-0.313
SYLD															1.000

466



467

468 **Figure 13.** Qualitative pictorial heat map showing correlation matrixes of LULC and hydrological components

469 Note: RNGB: range shrubs; AGRL: agriculture; FRST: forest; URBN: built up; PAST: pasture; BARR: barren land;
 470 WATR: water body; WET: wetlands; GW_Q: groundwater; SURQ: surface runoff; LAT_Q: lateral flow; PERC:
 471 percolation; WYLD: water yield; ET: evapotranspiration; SYLD: sediment yield.

472 The qualitative image of the correlation matrix (**Fig. 13**) gives a descriptive/visual representation of the induced
 473 relationship between LULC types and hydrological elements. A heat map is a qualitative way of data analysis by

474 visualization to discuss which areas get the most attention, shows you in a visual way which can be easy to assimilate
475 and make decisions.

476

477 **Conclusions**

478

479 Remote sensing (RS) and Geographical information system (GIS) can be a powerful tools to convey good
480 opportunities for integrated analysis of different year spatiotemporal data, image accuracy assessment, mapping, and
481 evaluating LULC change detection process. The dynamic LULC change, notably settlement, forest, wetland, and
482 agricultural areas, is further fancy for obtaining up-to-date information regarding newly constructed houses,
483 cultivating, newly established industries, and commercial developments (human activities and modifications). Despite
484 the observed suspended sediment load data scarcity, the SWAT model showed a good performance in the Genale
485 watershed in predicting sediment load and other hydrological components under different LULC changes.

486 The utmost aim of this work was to determine the significant amount of LULC change taking place in the given study
487 area for a different twelve-year span of 1990 to 2002 and 2002 to 2013. This work simulates hydrological components
488 change impacted in response to different year LULC change induced by anthropogenic activities. The LULC changed
489 by increasing settlements, agriculture, water body by decreasing forest cover and barren lands from 1990 to 2013.
490 Based on an increase in agriculture, built-up, and pasture areas leads to a decline in forest, barren land, and wetlands,
491 the annual mean surface runoff demonstrated a continuously increasing trend, from 43.5 mm in 1990 to 57.85 mm in
492 2002, and to 75.5 mm in 2013. In contrast, groundwater, lateral flow, percolation, and ETmm showed declining trends.
493 Notably, changes in hydrological elements were observed at the sub-basins scale, mainly associated with the uneven
494 spatial distribution of LULC changes.

495 The accurate and comprehensive LULC change detection statistics are significant in estimating the rate, pattern, type
496 of LULC changes and developing strategies that reduce environmental impacts to promote the sustainable
497 development of future changes in land use areas. The statistical analysis is used for the correlation matrix of eight
498 LULC classes and eight hydrological elements to evaluate impacts of individual LULC change induced on
499 hydrological responses changes and shows good correlation.

500 This study provides the analysis that deforestation, agriculture, and settlement are the leading cause that should be
501 controlled, and the government should make aware of every human activity. Therefore, continuous, site-specific,
502 demand-driven, and integrated watershed conservation measures are required to arrest the catastrophic consequences
503 of LULC change induced in the Genale watershed.

504

505 **Authors' Contributions;** 1st Author (Tufa Feyissa Negewo): Conceptualizations, methodology, hydrological
506 modeling, formal analysis, investigation, writing original draft preparation. 2nd author (Prof. Arup Kr. Sarma): Critical
507 revision, guidance, and supervision, re-read and approved the final manuscript. All authors contributed equally to the
508 interpretation of the results and provided critical feedback.

509 **Data Availability Statement**

510 A third party provided streamflow, sediment concentration, and land use/cover data used during the study. Direct
511 request for these materials was made to the institutions as indicated in the Acknowledgments. Some used data during
512 the study were available online. The DEM was downloaded from USGS Earth Explorer
513 (<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>) SRTM (Shuttle Radar Topography Mission), and the soil map used in this study was
514 from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Digital Soil Map (<http://www.fao.org/geo-network/srv/en/metadata>) at the scale 1/5000000 for 2007.

516 **Declarations**

517 **Ethical Approval:** The authors certify that all ethical measures fixed by the journal have been respected. We also
518 declare that: this manuscript was not submitted to any other journal, original, and has not been published elsewhere in
519 any form or language (partially or in full).

520 **Conflict of interest/Competing interest:** There is a declaration from the authors that there is no conflict of
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522

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