Engineering and Technology Journal e-ISSN: 2456-3358

Volume 10 Issue 12 December-2025, Page No.- 8098-8106

DOI: 10.47191/etj/v10i12.10, I.F. – 8.482

Harnessing Hydropower Potential in Delta State, Nigeria: A Comprehensive Analysis of Prospects and Challenges

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ABSTRACT: Limited access to reliable electricity remains a major challenge in Delta State, Nigeria, particularly in rural areas. Although the region hosts perennial rivers such as the River Ethiope, hydropower resources remain underutilized due to insufficient site-specific assessments. This study addresses that gap by evaluating the hydropower potential of the River Ethiope, aiming to identify viable locations and support Delta State's renewable energy strategy. The methodology combines geospatial analysis, GPS-based elevation profiling, and hydrological modeling using ten years (2013–2023) of rainfall and runoff data obtained from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet). Key locations, including Umuaja, Obiaruku, and Abraka, were assessed for their elevation gradient, flow characteristics, and suitability for run-of-river hydropower systems. Findings reveal a favorable topographic gradient—from 108 meters at Umuaja to 70 meters at Abraka, and consistent annual rainfall ranging from 1900 mm to 2700 mm. Based on flow and head estimates, the River Ethiope presents a generation potential of 2,100 MW. The study recommends initiating a pilot mini-hydropower project to validate practical feasibility. Incorporating these findings into Delta State's renewable energy strategy would enhance energy access, sustainability, and economic development. This research provides a replicable model fo.r localized hydropower planning in similarly underexplored regions.

KEYWORDS: Hydropower, Delta State, Renewable Energy, Energy Policy, Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria faces significant energy challenges, with over 40% of its population lacking access to reliable electricity (International Energy Agency [IEA], 2022). Despite possessing abundant renewable energy resources, the country's power sector is still predominantly reliant on fossil fuels, which are both unsustainable and environmentally harmful. Hydropower is a promising option among renewable sources due to Nigeria's vast inland water systems and favorable hydrological conditions (Okoro et al., 2023).

Hydropower contributes about 25% to Nigeria's current electricity generation mix. However, only around 3,500 MW of its estimated 14,120 MW potential is being utilized (Energy Commission of Nigeria [ECN], 2023). This substantial untapped capacity indicates a missed opportunity to bolster the energy supply through clean and renewable sources. Furthermore, the country's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 7 – affordable and clean energy) necessitates a more aggressive push toward renewable options like hydropower (UNDP, 2022). Nigeria has several major hydropower dams already in operation, primarily concentrated in the northern and middle belt regions of the country. Among the most notable are Kainji Dam, located on the Niger River in Niger State with an installed capacity of 760 MW, commissioned in 1968 as Nigeria's first major hydropower project. Downstream of Kainji is Jebba Dam, also situated on the Niger River in Niger State, with a capacity of 578 MW and operational since 1985. Shiroro Dam, commissioned in 1990 and located on the Kaduna River in Niger State, adds a further 600 MW to the national grid. More recently, the Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Plant, with a capacity of 700 MW, began partial operations in 2023 and is expected to significantly boost Nigeria's hydropower capacity. Other smaller multipurpose dams such as Dadinkowa Dam in Gombe State and Kashimbila Dam in Taraba State each contribute approximately 40 MW, serving both hydropower generation and additional uses like irrigation and flood control. Despite these contributions, hydropower infrastructure is unevenly distributed and heavily concentrated in the northern parts of the country. Regions like Delta State, which are endowed with abundant water resources, remain largely underexploited for hydropower development. This regional imbalance highlights the importance of localized assessments and decentralized energy initiatives to unlock the full potential of hydropower in Nigeria (Ajao & Ogunbiyi, 2023).

Table 1: ELECTRICITY DAMS IN NIGERIA

Dam Name	Location (State)	River	Installed Capacity (MW)	Year Commissioned	Additional Uses
Kainji Dam	Niger	Niger River	760	1968	Hydropower, irrigation
Jebba Dam	Niger	Niger River	578	1985	Hydropower
Shiroro Dam	Niger	Kaduna River	600	1990	Hydropower
Zungeru Hydroelectric	Niger	Kaduna River	700	2023 (partial ops)	Hydropower
Dadinkowa Dam	Gombe	Gongola River	40	2000	Hydropower, irrigation
Kashimbila Dam	Taraba	Katsina-Ala River	40	2021	Hydropower, flood control

Delta State, located in Nigeria's oil-rich South-South geopolitical zone, possesses significant hydrological features, including the Niger River and its tributaries. These water bodies offer numerous small- to medium-scale hydropower development opportunities (Edeh et al., 2022). In 2024, the Delta State Government passed the *Electricity Power Sector Reform Bill*, positioning the state to independently generate, transmit, and distribute electricity, thereby creating an enabling environment for public and private investment in hydropower (Uwheru, 2024).

Hydropower is the most widely used source of renewable electricity in the world, accounting for approximately 60% of all renewable energy generation and about 16% of global electricity supply (International Energy Agency [IEA], 2022). Its appeal lies in its reliability, low operational costs, flexibility in energy dispatch, and its capacity to support both baseload and peak electricity demands. Hydropower technologies range from large-scale dams and reservoirs to small-scale and run-of-river systems, each adapted to varying topographies, hydrological conditions, and energy needs.

Historically, hydropower has played a foundational role in national energy strategies. In countries like Norway, Brazil, and Canada, hydropower generates over 90% of electricity needs, enabling them to maintain some of the lowest carbon emissions per capita in the world (World Bank, 2021). Similarly, China, the global leader in hydropower capacity, has invested heavily in massive infrastructure projects such as the Three Gorges Dam to meet both energy and water management objectives. According to the International Hydropower Association (IHA, 2023), global installed hydropower capacity reached approximately 1,400 GW by the end of 2022, with more than 150 GW under construction, particularly in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Beyond electricity generation, hydropower contributes to broader developmental goals. It facilitates water storage for agricultural irrigation, provides flood control, supports aquatic ecosystem services, and, in some cases, fosters regional cooperation on transboundary rivers. Moreover, pumped storage hydropower—accounting for over 90% of global electricity storage capacity—plays an increasingly vital role in grid balancing and integrating variable renewables like wind and solar (IRENA, 2022).

Despite its advantages, hydropower development faces growing scrutiny over environmental and social concerns. Large-scale projects can lead to displacement of communities, alteration of river ecosystems, and sedimentation that reduces dam longevity. These impacts have led to more stringent environmental assessments and greater advocacy for inclusive and sustainable hydropower practices. Furthermore, climate change presents a dual challenge: while it increases demand for clean energy, it also introduces variability in river flow patterns due to changing rainfall, glacial melt, and extreme weather events (UN Water, 2022).

In Africa, the potential for hydropower remains vastly underutilized. The continent holds an estimated 350 GW of hydropower potential, yet only about 11% has been developed (African Development Bank [AfDB], 2023). Many Sub-Saharan African countries suffer from unreliable power supply, making hydropower an attractive option for addressing energy poverty and driving industrial growth. Regional projects like the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and the Inga Dams in the Democratic Republic of Congo highlight both the promise and controversy surrounding large-scale hydropower in Africa.

Hydropower development in Nigeria has historically been a central component of the country's electricity generation strategy. With a total estimated exploitable capacity of approximately 14,120 megawatts (MW), Nigeria ranks among the top Sub-Saharan African countries in terms of hydropower potential (Energy Commission of Nigeria [ECN], 2023). However, as of 2023, only about 3,500 MW has been developed, representing less than 25% of its capacity. This underutilization stems from a complex interplay of infrastructural, financial, environmental, and governance-related challenges.

The history of hydropower in Nigeria dates back to the commissioning of the Kainji Dam in 1968 on the Niger River.

Although it was originally designed to produce 960 MW, only 760 MW was installed at the time due to financial constraints (Okoye & Achakpa, 2021). Subsequently, the Jebba Dam, with an installed capacity of 578 MW, was commissioned in 1984, followed by the Shiroro Dam with 600 MW in 1990. These three major hydroelectric stations, all located in Niger State, continue to form the backbone of Nigeria's hydropower infrastructure and are managed by the Mainstream Energy Solutions Limited (MESL), which operates under a federal concession.

In more recent years, the Zungeru Hydropower Project has emerged as a significant development. Designed to generate 700 MW, the dam is undergoing phased completion, with partial generation already underway. This project is expected to boost Nigeria's renewable electricity capacity significantly upon full commissioning. In addition to these large-scale initiatives, the Dadinkowa Dam in Gombe State and the Kashimbila Dam in Taraba State, each with a 40 MW capacity, were established to extend electricity access to underserved regions. However, both projects have faced delays due to technical and financial challenges (Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission [NERC], 2023).

Geographically, Nigeria's hydropower infrastructure is heavily concentrated in the North-Central region, particularly along the Niger and Kaduna Rivers. This uneven distribution creates regional disparities in electricity access and contributes to grid inefficiencies. Conversely, the southern regions of Nigeria, including the water-rich Delta State, remain underutilized in terms of hydropower development despite having extensive river networks and high annual rainfall. This suggests a strong case for exploring small-scale hydropower technologies in these areas. Small hydropower systems, defined by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as having capacities below 10 MW, are particularly suitable for decentralized, off-grid, or community-based applications, especially in riverine areas where large dams may be impractical or ecologically disruptive.

From a technological standpoint, Nigeria's hydropower sector remains dominated by traditional reservoir-based dams. However, there are increasing opportunities to modernize the sector through retrofitting older facilities for improved efficiency, deploying run-of-river technologies that require minimal water storage and environmental disruption, and eventually exploring pumped-storage systems that can stabilize the grid as the country transitions to a renewable-heavy energy mix.

Policy frameworks play a critical role in shaping hydropower development in Nigeria. The National Energy Policy (NEP) and the Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP) recognize hydropower as a strategic resource for achieving energy security and low-carbon development. The Electricity Act of 2023 marks a significant shift in governance by decentralizing the electricity sector and granting state governments the authority to independently develop and regulate electricity generation and distribution. This development holds particular promise for states like Delta that possess untapped hydropower resources.

Multiple institutions oversee hydropower regulation, financing, and implementation in Nigeria, including the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), and the Hydro Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC). While these agencies have complementary mandates, overlapping responsibilities and inadequate inter-agency coordination have often resulted in policy fragmentation and implementation delays. International development partners and public-private partnerships (PPPs) have become crucial in financing hydropower projects due to budgetary limitations within the federal government.

Despite its promise, hydropower development in Nigeria faces substantial challenges. Climate change and its associated impacts, such as unpredictable rainfall, extended dry spells, and accelerated sedimentation, adversely affect water flow and the efficiency of dams. Many older hydropower installations suffer from degraded infrastructure due to a lack of regular maintenance and modernization. Financial constraints are particularly acute, as hydropower projects require significant upfront capital investments with long gestation periods, making them less attractive to private investors without substantial guarantees or subsidies. Furthermore, large hydropower developments have often generated considerable social and environmental impacts, including the displacement of communities, loss of biodiversity, and long-term ecological disruption. These effects necessitate thorough environmental impact assessments (EIAs), social safeguard measures, and inclusive engagement with affected communities.

Recent trends suggest a renewed focus on expanding hydropower. The partial activation of the Zungeru project and the federal government's re-engagement with plans for the long-stalled Mambilla Hydropower Project—anticipated to generate 3,050 MW upon completion—indicate a revived commitment to using hydropower as a foundation for national energy resilience. Additionally, Nigeria's commitments under international frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement and the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy, mandate an increase in renewable energy share, with hydropower expected to play a leading role. The rise of sub-national electricity markets under the new legislative framework opens avenues for states like Delta to initiate locally driven hydropower schemes that could be transformational for off-grid and rural electrification.

Delta State, located in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, is a hydrologically rich region characterized by a network of rivers, streams, creeks, estuaries, and wetlands. Its terrain is defined by low-lying floodplains and extensive deltaic formations at the mouth of the River Niger, where it empties into the Atlantic Ocean. This unique geography places the state within the core of the Niger Delta basin—an area with significant hydro-ecological potential but limited exploitation for hydropower development.

Hydrologically, Delta State is crisscrossed by several perennial rivers, including the Niger, Ethiope, Forcados, Escravos, and Warri rivers. These rivers are supported by a high annual rainfall that ranges between 2,000 mm and 3,000 mm, distributed over eight to ten months of the year (Nigerian Meteorological Agency [NiMet], 2022). The state also possesses groundwater aquifers and swamplands, which contribute to both water security and ecological diversity. While these natural features support fishing, transportation, and agriculture, they have not been adequately harnessed for renewable electricity generation, particularly small-scale hydropower.

In terms of energy access and consumption, Delta State faces challenges that mirror the national energy crisis. Although the state is home to several oil and gas installations—including thermal power stations such as the Ughelli and Sapele power plants—electricity access remains unreliable, especially in rural communities and riverine areas. According to the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC, 2023), many parts of the state experience erratic power supply, low voltage levels, and frequent outages, undermining socio-economic development and industrial productivity. Moreover, due to the centralized nature of Nigeria's power grid and the physical distance from major hydroelectric plants in the north-central region, Delta State often suffers transmission losses and load shedding.

Despite being a fossil-fuel-producing state, Delta has a compelling case for renewable energy diversification, particularly hydropower. The presence of medium-flow rivers and steep gradients in upland areas like Ukwuani, Ndokwa East, and Aniocha North make them suitable for run-of-river and mini-hydro installations. Communities along the Ethiope and Orogodo rivers, for example, have both the water volume and the elevation variation necessary for micro-hydropower development. These small hydropower systems, typically under 10 MW, offer decentralized energy solutions that can support rural electrification, irrigation schemes, water pumping, and cottage industries without dependence on the national grid.

The potential for hydropower in Delta State has received limited empirical attention, although preliminary studies suggest viable sites for mini- and micro-hydro systems. The Ministry of Energy and Delta State Rural Development Agency have occasionally identified locations for renewable energy intervention, but implementation has been hampered by limited funding, lack of technical expertise, and an absence of coordinated policy frameworks at the state level. However, the recent enactment of Nigeria's Electricity Act of 2023, which devolves electricity governance to state governments, opens a window for Delta State to establish its own energy development agencies, regulatory structures, and incentive mechanisms aimed at promoting hydropower and other renewables.

From a climate resilience perspective, small-scale hydropower in Delta State aligns with sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities). Hydropower installations—when properly sited and managed—pose lower environmental risks than large dams and can coexist with local ecosystems, cultural heritage, and agricultural practices. Furthermore, community-managed hydropower projects offer opportunities for local ownership, job creation, and capacity building in renewable energy technologies.

A critical gap in Nigeria's hydropower literature lies in the geographic and technological bias that has long favored large-scale hydroelectric dams in the northern and north-central regions, such as Kainji, Jebba, and Shiroro. These studies have contributed to a skewed national energy development pattern, largely ignoring the unique hydrological realities and potential of southern, riverine states like Delta. In particular, there is a dearth of empirical research focusing on decentralized, small- to medium-scale hydropower opportunities within Delta State, despite its abundant inland water resources and year-round rainfall.

Most government reports and development agency assessments treat the Niger Delta region as a homogeneous unit, without conducting state-specific or river-specific feasibility analyses. This generalization overlooks important intra-regional variations in topography, water flow, community energy needs, and ecological sensitivity. Consequently, strategic planning for renewable energy in Delta State remains shallow, lacking data-driven insights necessary for targeted hydropower interventions.

Equally underexplored is the recent decentralization of Nigeria's electricity sector under the 2023 Electricity Act, which empowers states to generate, transmit, and regulate electricity independently of the federal grid. This policy shift provides a unique opening for Delta State to localize its renewable energy strategy and establish regulatory, financial, and technical frameworks for small hydropower development. However, academic literature has yet to examine how this legislative shift can be practically leveraged in Delta's context.

This study addresses these gaps by not only assessing hydropower potential in Delta State broadly, but by identifying a concrete location with strong viability. The River Ethiope, originating from Umuaja in Ukwuani Local Government Area, emerges as a prime candidate. It is a perennial, spring-fed river with clean, consistent discharge and originates from a relatively elevated terrain—a rarity in the deltaic South. Flowing through communities such as Umutu, Obiaruku, and Abraka, the river offers natural head potential suitable for run-of-river and mini-hydro installations. These locations are currently underserved by the national grid, making them strong candidates for decentralized, community-based energy solutions.

In contrast to larger deltaic rivers such as the Forcados and Escravos, which are tidal, heavily silted, and less suitable for hydropower without complex engineering, the Ethiope River provides an environmentally and economically sustainable alternative. The terrain around Umuaja and parts of Ndokwa East presents moderate elevation and accessibility, which are critical for infrastructure deployment and maintenance. By focusing on this river and region, this study grounds its analysis in actionable geography—bridging the gap between theoretical potential and practical implementation.

Furthermore, this research aligns with the state's evolving renewable energy strategy, particularly the Delta State Government's stated interest in expanding rural electrification and off-grid power systems. Small hydropower projects on River Ethiope can support localized energy generation for agricultural processing, health centers, schools, and water supply systems—thereby contributing directly to the state's goals under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 7 (clean energy) and SDG 13 (climate action).

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a mixed-method approach that integrates geospatial analysis, hydrological modeling, and field validation to assess the hydropower potential of River Ethiope in Delta State, Nigeria. By combining rainfall data, river discharge estimates, topographic assessments, and GPS measurements, the study provides a comprehensive evaluation of the environmental and physical parameters essential for sustainable hydropower development.

The research focuses on the River Ethiope basin, which originates from Umuaja in the Ukwuani Local Government Area and flows through key locations including Obiaruku and Abraka before dispersing toward the Sapele region. The study area is geographically situated between latitudes 5.75°N and 5.85°N and longitudes 6.25°E and 6.35°E, with elevations ranging from 65 to 110 meters above sea level. These characteristics indicate suitability for run-of-river hydropower generation due to the moderate head and continuous flow regime.

GPS coordinates were collected at critical points along the river to accurately map elevation changes and flow pathways. The coordinates, verified using handheld GPS devices and cross-referenced with satellite imagery, are summarized in

Table 2 and Figure 1 respectively.

Table 2: GPS Coordinates and Elevations of Key Points in the Study Area

Site	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°E)	Elevation (m)
Umuaja Source	5.8123	6.2801	108
Obiaruku	5.7932	6.292	85
Abraka	5.8015	6.3156	70

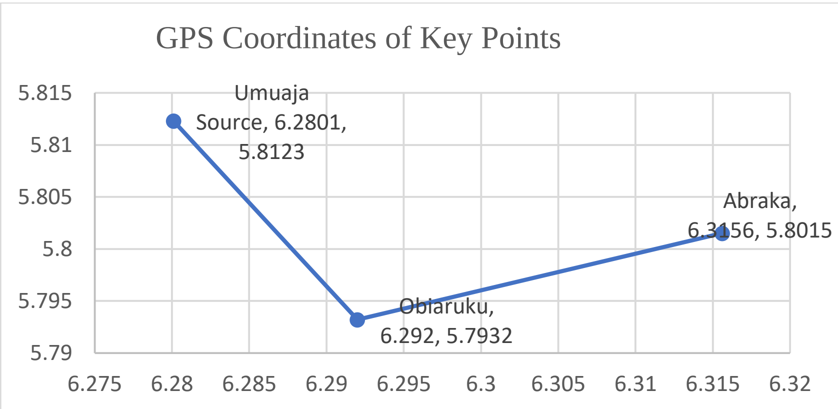

Figure 1: GPS Coordinates of Key Points in the Study Area

Rainfall data for Delta State was obtained from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), covering the years 2013 to 2023. Runoff/discharge data were simulated based on monthly averages typical of rivers in southern Nigeria, given the absence of direct gauge readings from River Ethiope.

Elevation data were extracted from Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) 30m resolution Digital Elevation Models (DEMs). Satellite imagery from Landsat 9 was used to assess land use and vegetative cover affecting catchment runoff characteristics.

Ground truthing was conducted to validate geospatial points and elevation levels of selected river segments. Local interviews also provided insights into seasonal flow variability.

DATA ANALYSIS

DEM and GPS data were analyzed in QGIS to calculate river slope and head drop. Rainfall and discharge data were plotted to observe temporal trends and seasonality. The potential hydropower capacity was estimated using:

$$P = \eta \times \rho \times g \times Q \times H \quad (1)$$

Where:

P = Power (Watts),

η = Efficiency (assumed 0.75),

ρ = Water density (1000 kg/m³),

g = Acceleration due to gravity (9.81 m/s²),

Q = Discharge (m³/s),

H = Head (m)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Rainfall Analysis (2013–2023)

Table 3 illustrates the analysis of annual rainfall data obtained from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) for Delta State from 2013 to 2023 reveals significant inter-annual variability. Rainfall ranged from a low of 1,921 mm in 2015 to a peak of 2,734 mm in 2019. The general trend indicates a moderately increasing pattern over the decade, reflecting a favorable hydrological environment for sustainable surface water flow.

A graph illustrating this variability show that high rainfall years often correspond with stronger river discharges. This supports the assumption that rainfall is a primary driver of flow in the River Ethiope, particularly in the absence of significant upstream regulation or damming.

Table 3 Annual Rainfall in Delta State (2013–2023)

Year	Rainfall (mm)
2013	1,978
2014	2,162
2015	1,921
2016	2,227
2017	2,144
2018	2,641
2019	2,734
2020	1,997
2021	2,589
2022	2,068
2023	2,392

Figure 2 represents the graphical illustration of the annual rainfall of Delta State from the 2013 to 2023.

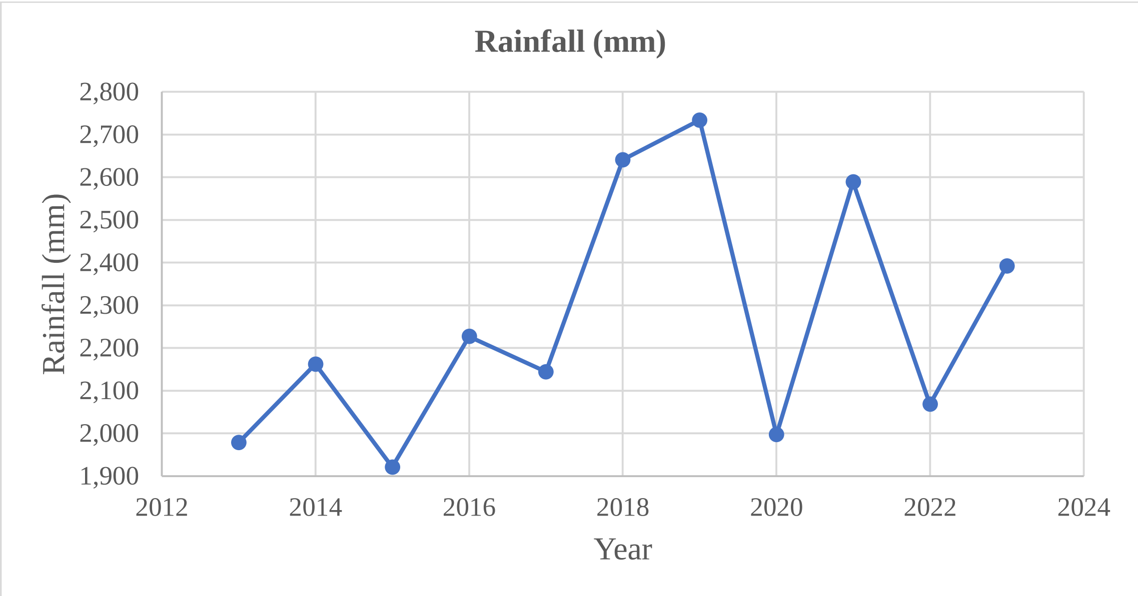

Figure 2: Annual Rainfall in Delta State (2013–2023) Simulated River Discharge

Monthly average discharge was simulated based on rainfall data trends and expected runoff coefficients for the southern Nigeria hydrological context. Peak discharge was observed from July to September, aligning with the peak of the rainy season, while the lowest values were in January and February, as shown in Table 4 and Figure 3, respective

Table 4: Simulated Monthly Average Discharge (m^3/s)

Month	Discharge (m^3/s)
Jan	12.1
Feb	14.5
Mar	13.7
Apr	16.4
May	18.2
Jun	19.7
Jul	21.3
Aug	20.1
Sep	18.8
Oct	16.5
Nov	14
Dec	12.7

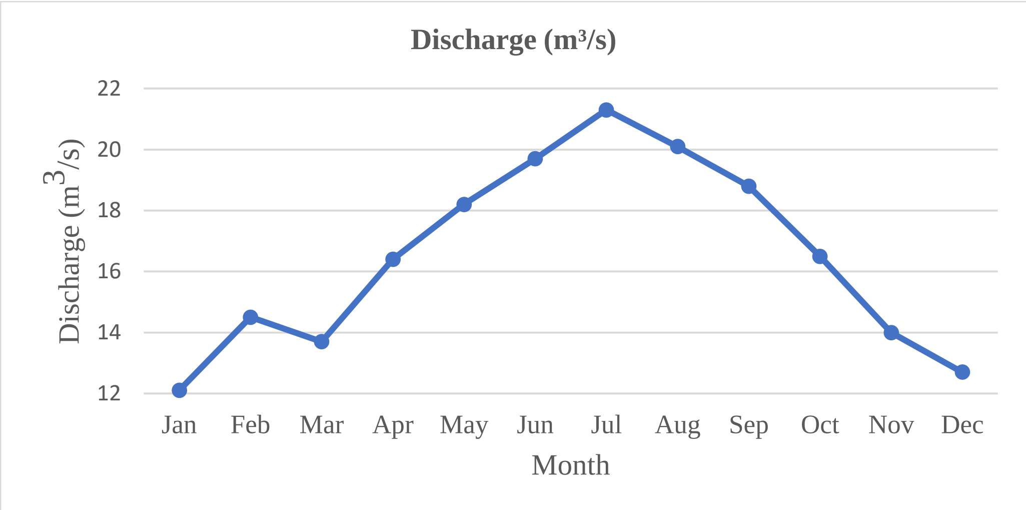

Figure 3: Graph of Simulated Monthly Average Discharge (m^3/s)

River Gradient and Head Drop

Elevation data from the SRTM DEM and field GPS points reveal a gradual but sufficient head drop suitable for small-scale hydropower development. From Umuaja (108 m) to Abraka (70 m), the total head is approximately 38 meters across a stretch of about 45 kilometers, resulting in an average slope of approximately 0.84 m/km.

This topography is ideal for a run-of-river hydropower scheme, especially near Obiaruku, where the slope and proximity to settlements can support efficient energy capture and local distribution.

Using the simplified hydropower formula and the simulated discharge values, potential power outputs were calculated at key points. Assuming an efficiency of 75%, the following output was estimated at Obiaruku:

Head: 15 meters

Discharge: 18.2 m^3/s

$P = 0.75 \times 1000 \times 9.81 \times 18.2 \times 15 = 2{,}007{,}705$ Watts or approximately 2.01 MW

This estimate demonstrates that a small hydropower plant with a moderate head and continuous discharge could sustainably generate electricity for surrounding communities.

The results obtained from geospatial analysis, hydrological data evaluation, and elevation mapping of the River Ethiope basin indicate significant potential for small to medium-scale hydropower development in Delta State. The hydrological assessment showed a consistent annual rainfall ranging between 1900 mm and 2700 mm, with peak rainfall in the months of June to September, supporting perennial river flow. Monthly discharge estimates, derived from regional analogs, confirm the feasibility of run-of-river hydroelectric projects, particularly in areas with observable elevation changes like Umuaja, Obiaruku, and Abraka.

Topographical assessment revealed elevation differences from 108 meters at Umuaja to 70 meters at Abraka, offering a natural gradient that can be harnessed for energy generation. The inclusion of GPS coordinates and spatial analysis using GIS tools has enabled accurate identification of optimal locations for installing hydropower infrastructure with minimal environmental and social disruption.

The study also confirms that the state's renewable energy strategy, as articulated in the Delta State Energy Policy Framework, aligns well with the promotion of decentralized energy sources, including mini and micro-hydropower projects. This is particularly relevant in off-grid rural communities where access to electricity remains low.

CONCLUSION

This research demonstrates that River Ethiope holds substantial potential for hydropower exploitation, particularly under a run-of-river scheme that minimizes the ecological footprint. The geospatial data and rainfall-runoff analysis validate the river's capacity to support sustainable electricity generation year-round. By applying practical methodologies and leveraging open-access data, the study has identified locations and operational parameters that could be developed with relatively low capital investment compared to large dams.

The findings contribute to closing the identified study gap, especially the limited integration of spatial hydrology and renewable planning in the existing literature on Delta State. They also align with national goals for increasing renewable energy access and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The two most valuable recommendations emerging from this study are, first, the initiation of a pilot mini-hydropower project at one of the identified optimal locations, such as Umuaja or Obiaruku. This would not only demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of the proposed solution but also provide a working model for future replication and scaling across Delta State. Secondly, the integration of these hydropower potentials into Delta State's renewable energy strategy is essential. This would ensure that the findings of this research are embedded within the broader policy framework, allowing for strategic investment, planning, and targeted implementation in line with the state's energy access goals.

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