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Challenges of River Basin Information System (RBIS) as a Framework for the Assessment and Monitoring of Surface Water in Nigeria

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Most developing countries, especially in Africa, have been characterized by poverty and hunger, a situation that has been traced to the daily rapid reduction in the quality and quantity of available water resources. Less than 1% of the global water resource is reliably available for human consumption. A larger proportion of this percentage is polluted in most settlements in the developing nations. This therefore necessitates the call for adequate management of the existing source in these countries. One of the management options is the Geospatial information technology (GIT) as decision support tool in water resources management. Evidently, knowledge of this technology in the developing countries is low. Its application to some human endeavours in these countries is often fraught with some challenges. This paper presents the potentials of adopting the technology in the management of Nigerian surface waters. It envisages that the efficacy of the technology could reduce the present level of slow response to water quality assessment, fund wastage, duplication of duties, and ensure adequate distribution of good water to the people.