

Webinar 20 January 2025

Hessel Winsemius (Rainbow Sensing)

Contributions by the OPEN-PROFILE team Hubert Samboko, Olivier Hoes, Stephen Mather, Kawawa Banda, Boyd Mutale Mutengo

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Key Messages

- Dry and wet combined bathymetry can be obtained with off-theshelf materials (< 12,000 US\$ including spare materials):
- This can be done at very high quality in satisfactory amount of man-hours (3-5 persons team)
- It does require *skills* to work with several observation techniques Discussion: OPEN-PROFILE move to local services?





Objectives

Develop a turnkey low-cost bathymetry/topography survey kit (drones + fishfinder + open-source software)

- Affordability
- Easy to deploy
- Enable local service providers





Source: https://openrivercam.com

Use cases

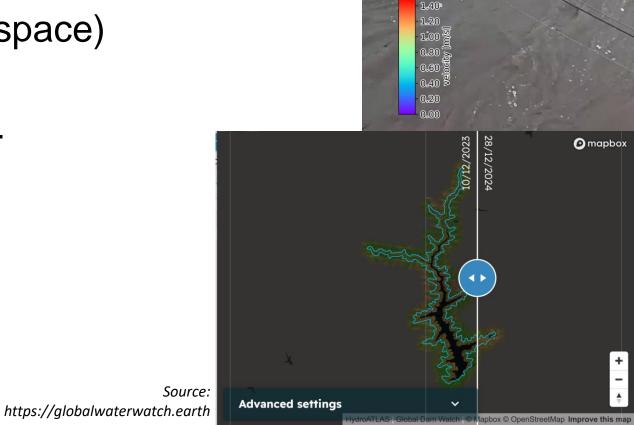
Hydraulic modelling

Reservoir monitoring (inc. from space)

Discharge estimation (inc. Data-Assimilation)

...and more





Wet bathymetry

- Floater (for river) or small boat (for lake / reservoir)
- Fish finder (+2 smartphones, one for depth tracking, one for location)
- GNSS equipment (+base station)















Dry bathymetry

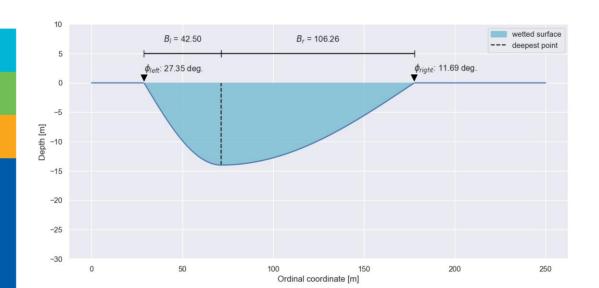
- Simple RGB drone
- Control points, or...
- Shoreline, or...
- RTK module (more \$ but less man-hours)



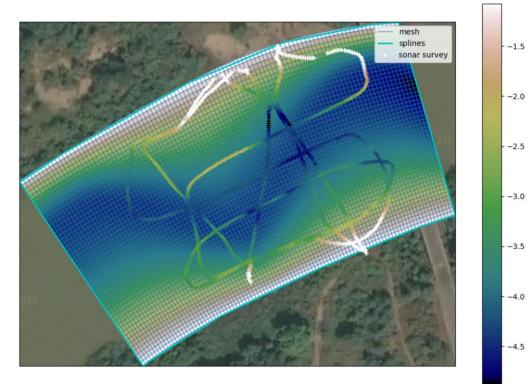


Software (all free and open source)

- OpenDroneMap (for dry-bed)
- ORProfile (for interpretation of alluvial streams, conveyance / wetted profile)
- QGIS for integration and presentation







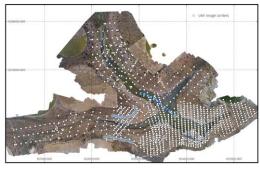
Procedure

- Set up base station (GNSS)
- Dry: flight planning
- Wet: survey planning (equally spaced lines / contours)
- Perform flights / bathymetry tracks / control points / lines
- Office work: make wet bathymetry / dry bathymetry
- Merge





Control points/lines



Dry survey

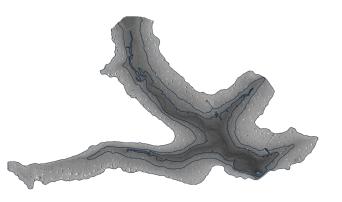


Wet survey

Dry bathymetry



Wet bathymetry

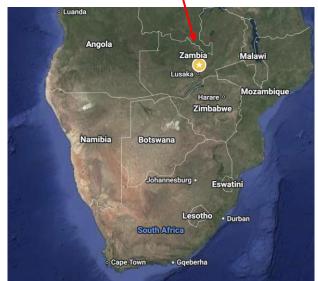


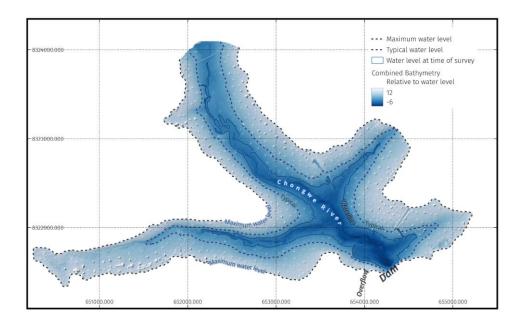
Products for use cases

Demonstration case: Ray reservoir – Zambia (~5 days surveying)

- Maps
- Hypsometry (stage area / stage volume)

Time series (if combined with water level or area observations)





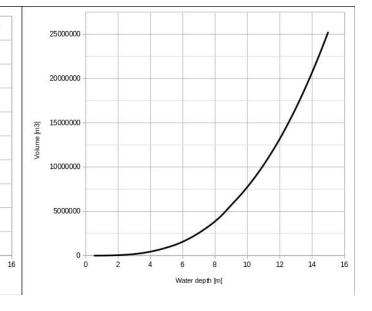


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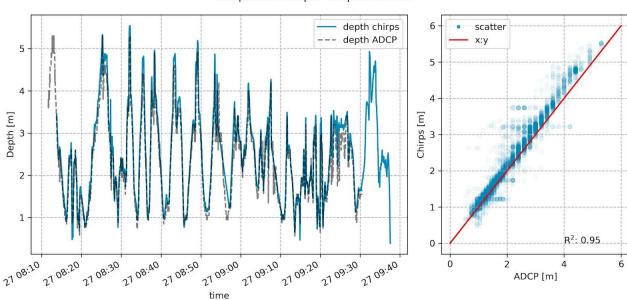
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Comparison Deeper Chirps and ADCP

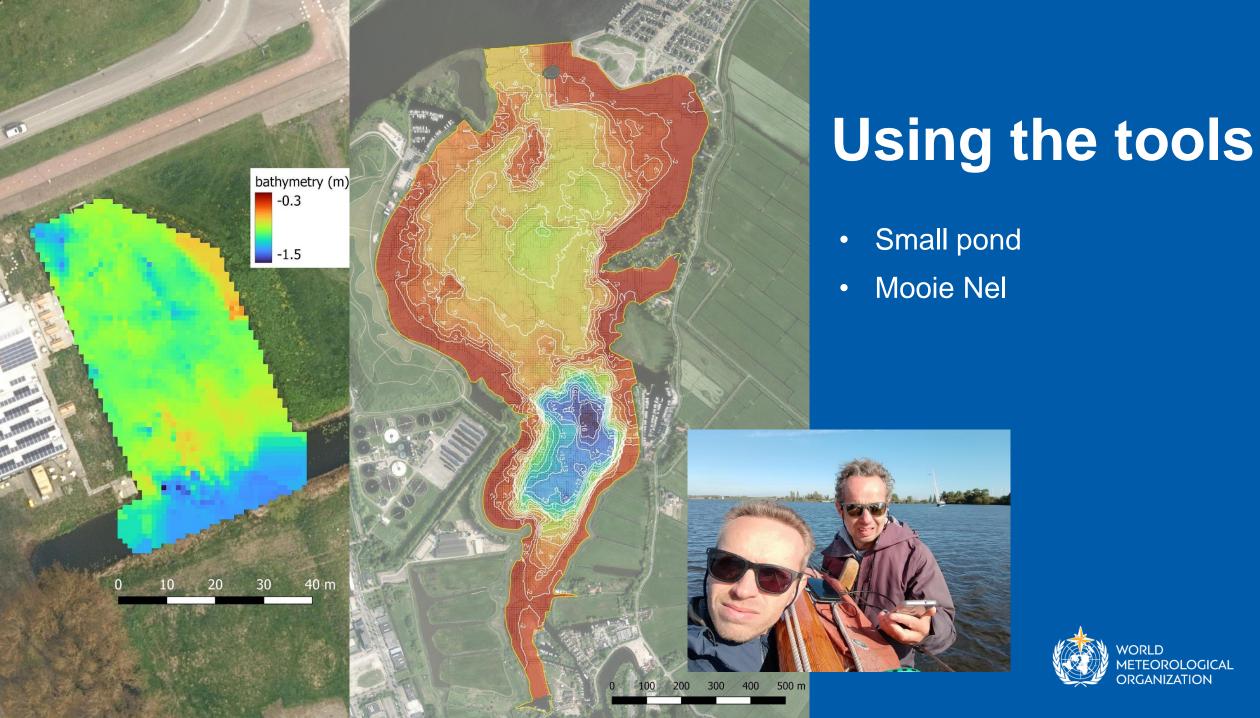


Validation

- ADCP tracks
- Difference less than 20cm, explainable by bottom-track resolution of ADCP (also 20cm)









Item	Unit cost	nr	Total cost
Tripod	\$150.00	1	\$150.00
fish finder	\$400.00	2	\$800.00
fish finder clamp	\$70.00	1	\$70.00
GNSS sets + XLR radio	\$853.00	2	\$1,706.00
20Ah power banks	\$20.00	2	\$40.00
Android phone	\$150.00	2	\$300.00
Boat	\$2,500.00	1	\$2,500.00
2.5Pk engine	\$1,000.00	1	\$1,000.00
Drone DJI Mavic 3	\$2,000.00	2	\$4,000.00
Extra batteries	\$165.00	5	\$825.00
Small generator (on petrol)	\$150.00	1	\$150.00
SD card	\$20.00	1	\$20.00
Landing pad	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Several cables+spares (USB-C, OTG)	\$100.00	1	\$100.00
Total costs			\$11,671.00

Local affordability

- Investment costs < 12,000 US\$
 including spare materials
- Only wet? Only about 3,000 US\$
- Incidental costs per survey, 2-5 km² reservoir: ~10,000 US\$
 - Personnel
 - Equipment / boat / vehicle hire
 - Travel
- With experience and scaling incidental costs will go down to \$3,000 5,000 per survey

Status, way forward

- Affordable local service is possible
- The quality of results is (very) high
- Loose software components, integration would make things easier (QGIS plugin?)
- Paper in the making
- First possible client: World Bank Zambia



Discussion

- Costs of materials and TCOO is very low, but...
- …integrated bathymetry surveying requires significant new skills
- Potential for several end users beyond NHMSs (hydropower, irrigation, IFIs)

Offer as a service by **local** entrepreneur?





Thank you.

Further reading: on hardware design and set up + hookup guide

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/local-affordable-bathymetry-service-hardware-rainbow-sensing-ki5te/?trackingId=avySRNVW3sj7Q9PaCyNafw%3D%3D

Full survey experience

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/local-teams-global-impact-bathymetry-as-a-service-zambia-myj7e/?trackingId=tQnrmmzAKZdtou86uzriLg%3D%3D

