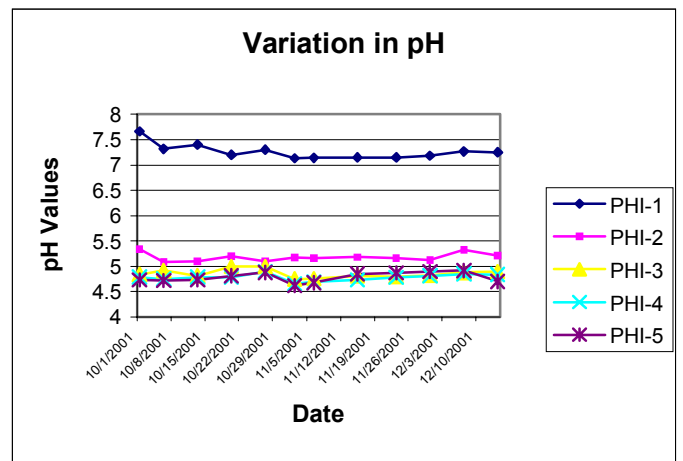
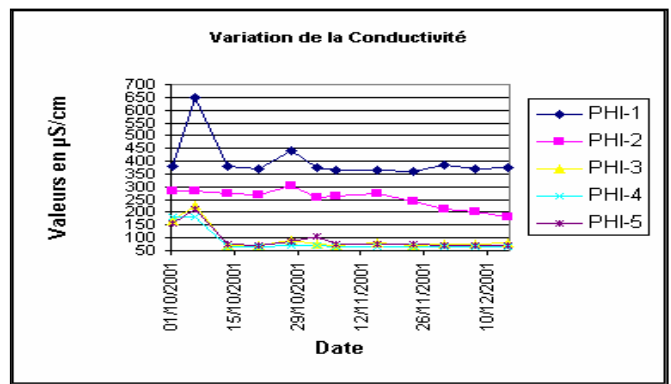
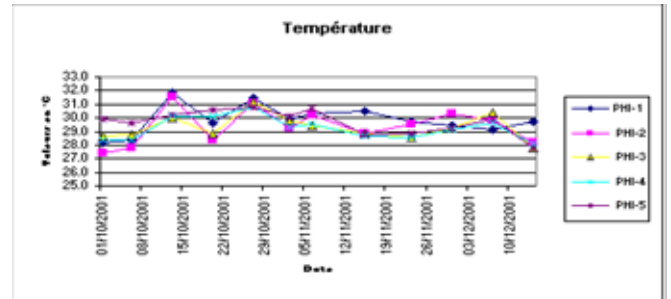
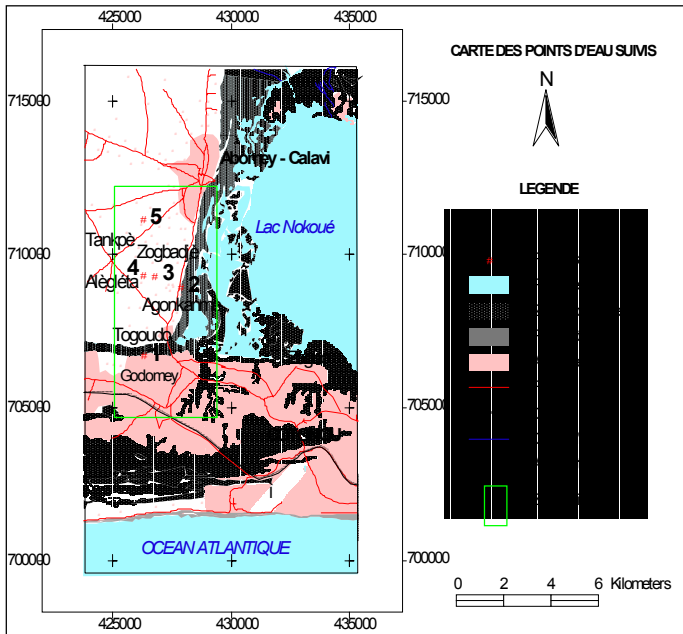


**EARLY WARNING BULLETIN No. 1 ON GROUNDWATER QUALITY
IN COTONOU, BENIN - JANUARY 2002**



Preliminary data suggests that the groundwater in Cotonou's aquifers is still within acceptable bacteriological levels, despite widespread salt intrusion due to the excessive abstraction of water from local wells and boreholes. After 48 hours, the concentration of total fecal coliforms was estimated at between 0 and 5, while the Mac Conkey's scientific approach of coliform identification was negative, with the counting of fecal coliforms not revealing any trace. The physico-chemical data and bacteriological analysis of water in surficial aquifers tapped by traditional wells showed up some pollution traces, which require further monitoring. The probability of rainwater percolating into the PH/2 sampling point through a fracture recently discovered at its base should also be investigated. The data proceeding from the monitoring process shall form the topic of the next Early Warning Bulletin.

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