



**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE  
SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES**

**GEOLOGICAL AND GEOTHERMAL MAPPING OF BUTAJIRA  
GEOTHERMAL PROSPECT, CENTRAL MAIN ETHIOPIAN RIFT  
(CMER); ETHIOPIA**

**BY  
AMARE KASSIE ANDARGE**

**ADVISORS  
GEZHAGN YIRGU (Prof.)  
SOLOMON KEBEDE**

**A Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis Ababa University, in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in  
resource geology (geothermal energy)**

**JAN, 2019  
ADDIS ABEBA, ETHIOPIA**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES**  
**SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES**

**SURFACE GEOLOGICAL AND GEOTHERMAL MAPPING OF  
BUTAJIRA GEOTHERMAL PROSPECT, CENTRAL MAIN  
ETHIOPIAN RIFT (CMER)**

**BY**

**AMARE KASSIE ANDARGE**

**ADVISORS**

**Prof. GEZHAGN YIRGU**

**Mr. SOLOMON KEBEDE**

**A Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis Ababa University, in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in  
Resource Geology (Geothermal Energy)**

**Jan , 2018**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

## Abstract

Butajira geothermal prospect is located in Central Main Ethiopian Rift nearby Western escarpment associated with SDZFZ and geographically bounded between UTM 427000-437000E, 882000-891000 N with area coverage of 90 Km<sup>2</sup>. This is among 23 geothermal prospects in Ethiopia which has undergone limited geological and geothermal investigations. The main objective of the study is to assess the existence of promising geothermal system components at the Butajira geothermal prospect through investigating the geology and surface geothermal manifestations. To achieve the desired objectives various methodologies were adopted including review of secondary data, geological field observation, Petrographic study, and XRD geochemical analysis. As a result, geological and geothermal mapping was carried out at the scale of 1:50,000, promising sites were identified and a preliminary conceptual model was presented to related identified geothermal play type.

The main lithological units encompassed in the area are Basaltic Scoria, Basaltic lava flow, unwelded Tuff, welded Ignimbrite, Phreatomagmatic deposits comprising rock fragments of trachyte and Diorite as well as alluvial and reworked pyroclastic deposits. Cinder cones, Crater Lake, faults, lineaments, fractures, and joints were noticed with general fault orientation NNE-SSW, and NE-SW which dip 60<sup>0</sup>-65<sup>0</sup> SE. Surface geothermal manifestations such as hot spring, mud pool, altered ground, and hot drill well and Abandoned well sites were identified. They prominent distributed in the south-west and apparently aligned in NE-SW direction around Ashute and Gerbi Ber villages, suggesting they are manifested along fault planes and at their intersection point. Moreover, high degree of hydrothermal alterations is vigorous predominantly associated with those structures. The recognized mineral assemblage consists of Titanite, Actinolite, Chlorite, Rutile, Albite, Adularia, Biotite, Calcite, Quartz, Stishovite, Cristoblite, Trydimite, and, Sulfur.

A preliminary geothermal conceptual model has been developed which resemble convective dominated geothermal play type and consistence with CV1b: Extinct Magmatic Play Type. This accommodates surface manifestations and geological structures and elucidates the expected geothermal system components like heat source, reservoir, recharge and discharge area, and an impermeable cap rock. Regarding to the local heat source anomaly that expressed by numerous surface manifestations two possible scenarios could be put forward related to the intrusive body. The first one is a series of mantle-derived basaltic dyke intrusions emplaced at shallow depths. The second one is a series of elongate and interconnected basaltic sills or magma chambers related to dyke intrusions emplaced beneath the young basaltic scoria cones and lava flows. Alteration minerals and fluid geothermometer estimate suggests that the expected reservoir temperature lies between 150<sup>0</sup>C-200<sup>0</sup>C indicating sufficient heat-generating capability and warrant further exploration work to assess their suitability for energy generation. The source of permeability of the system has apparently related with tectonic structures while impermeable layer found in upper 1km depth resulted from hydrothermal alterations. Hence, two promising areas were identified to execute next exploration phase on Ashute and Gerbi Ber villages.

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES**  
**SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES**

**SURFACE GEOLOGICAL AND GEOTHERMAL MAPPING OF BUTAJIRA  
GEOTHERMAL PROSPECT, CENTRAL MAIN ETHIOPIAN RIFT (CMER)**

**BY**

**AMARE KASSIE ANDARGE**

**Approved by the Examining Committee**

**Dr. Balemwal Atnafu**

**Head, School of Earth Sciences**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Prof. Gezhagn Yirgu**

**Advisor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Solomon Kebede**

**Advisor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Prof. Dereje Ayalew**

**Examiner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Dr . Ameha Atnafu**

**Examiner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Jan, 2019**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

## **Acknowledgement**

First of all I would like to acknowledge the Almighty God for the guidance and the good overall performance throughout the thesis work. I would like to thank my advisors **Prof. Gezhagn Yirgu** and **Mr. Solomon Kebede** for their kindness support, encouragement and supervision. They offered a continuous and valuable comments, follow up and guidance from the pre-proposal formulation until the end of my thesis work.

I would like also thank Addis Ababa University and School of Earth Sciences for providing me the opportunity and necessary support to pursue my master study. Special thanks go to Dilla University for giving me an opportunity and being a sponsorship to study my master's degree in Addis Ababa University.

My greatest appreciation also goes to my colleagues at AAU, School of Earth Science, especially to those who helped and assisted me in Arc GIS part: **Mr. Belete Baycheken; Mr. Teshome Beyene and Mr. Wendiferaw Negussie**. My acknowledgement spirits to my family for giving me courage and unforgettable support while I'm in the project work. The last but not the least my gratitude goes to government officials and local people of **Kibet** town and the surrounding for permitting and helping me during the field work.

### **Declaration of originality**

I hereby declare that this is my original work prepared for the partial fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Science in the School of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University during 2018 under the supervision of Prof. Gezahagn Yirgu and Ato Solomon Kebede. In addition, I am assuring that this work is not presented and published anywhere else. All sources are well referenced and acknowledged.

**Amare Kassie**

**Student**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**date**

This is to certify that the above declaration made by the candidate is correct to the best of my knowledge as part of his Master of Science in resource geology (Geothermal energy).

**Prof. Gezahagn Yirgu**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**date**

**Ato Solomon Kebede**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**date**

## Table of contents

Contents	
Abstract.....	i
Acknowledgement .....	ii
Table of contents.....	iii
List of figures and table.....	vi
List of acronyms .....	viii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background .....	1
1.2 General overview of geothermal resource .....	3
1.2.1 Geothermal play types.....	4
1.3 General descriptions of the study area.....	8
1.3.1 Location and accessibility .....	8
1.3.2 Physiography and drainage pattern.....	9
1.3.3 Climate condition.....	10
1.3.4 Land use and land cover .....	11
1.4 Statement of the problem .....	11
1.5 Objectives of the study .....	13
1.5.1 General Objective .....	13
1.5.2 Specific objectives.....	13
1.6 Research questions .....	13
1.7 Significances of the study .....	14
1.8 Organization of the thesis.....	14
CHAPTER TWO .....	16
2. METHODOLOGY USED IN THE STUDY.....	16
2.1 Review of secondary data sources.....	16
2.2 Geological field work .....	16
2.3 Petrographic studies .....	17

2.4 XRD analysis .....	17
CHAPTER THREE .....	20
3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS WORKS .....	20
3.1 Geological setting of Main Ethiopian Rift (MER).....	20
3.2 Geological setting of CMER.....	21
3.3 Previous investigations in the study area .....	25
3.3.1 Hydrogeology of the area .....	25
3.3.2 Fluid chemical analysis.....	26
3.3.3 Magnetic survey.....	28
3.3.4 Soil temperature survey.....	29
3.3.5 Magneto-telluric methods .....	30
CHAPTER FOUR .....	32
4. RESULTS OF FIELD WORK, PETROGRAPHIC AND XRD ANALYSIS .....	32
4.1 Local geology.....	32
4.1.1 Lithology and their petrographic description .....	32
4.1.1.1 Basaltic Scoria .....	33
4.1.1.2 Phreato-magmatic Deposit .....	35
4.1.1.3 Basaltic lava flow.....	37
4.1.1.4 Welded Ignimbrite .....	40
4.1.1.5 Unwelded Tuff .....	42
4.1.1.6 Alluvial and reworked pyroclastic deposits .....	44
4.1.2 Geological structures .....	45
4.2 Surface geothermal manifestations.....	46
4.2.1 Hot springs .....	49
4.2.2 Mud pools .....	50
4.2.3 Silica sinter and sulfur deposits .....	51
4.2.4 Hot drill well and Abandoned well sites .....	52
CHAPTER FIVE .....	62
5. ASSESSMENT ON GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM COMPONENTS OF BUTAJIRA GEOTHERMAL PROSPECT .....	62

5.1 Geothermal system components ..... 62

    5.1.1 Heat source..... 62

    5.1.2 Reservoir /permeable formations..... 63

    5.1.3 Impermeable Cap rock..... 64

    5.1.4 Geothermal Fluid and recharge mechanism..... 64

5.2 Preliminary conceptual geothermal model of the Prospect area ..... 65

5.3 Proposed target areas for further exploration..... 67

CHAPTER SIX..... 68

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION ..... 68

    6.1 Conclusion ..... 68

    6.2 Recommendation ..... 70

References ..... 71

Appendix-II: Sample locations for XRD Analysis ..... 78

Appendix-III: Location of Geothermal Surface manifestations..... 79

Appendix-IV: Petrographic analysis result ..... 80

Appendix-V: XRD analysis result ..... 85

## List of figures and table

Figure1.1. Location of the study area with other geothermal fields in Ethiopia modified from (Meseret Teklemariam and Kibret Beyene, 2005).....	3
Figure1.2. Generalized conceptual models geothermal play type: (A) CV1a with eruptive magma chamber; (B) CV1a; (C) CV1b ;(D) CV1b; (E) CV2 (F) CD1 an intracratonic sedimentary (G) CD2 Orogenic Belt Type i.e. conductive; (H) Moeck, 2014.....	8
Figure1.3. <i>Location map of the study area</i> .....	9
Figure1.4. <i>Physiography of the study area I 3D view</i> .....	10
Figure 2.1. <i>Sample preparation for XRD analysis</i> .....	18
Figure2.2. <i>Methodology flow chart</i> .....	19
Figure 3.1. Tectonic sketch map of the MER adopted from (Giacomo Corti 2009; modified from Boccaletti et al., 1998).Inset shows the en-echelon, right-stepping arrangement of the volcano-tectonic segments of the Wonji Fault Belt. AAE: Addis Ababa Embayment; BT: Boru .....	21
Figure 3.2. A) Piper diagram B) Giggenbach C) Ternary diagram plot adopted from GSE, 2017.....	28
Figure3.3. Magnetic map A) Tilt angle derivative B) analytical signal map adopted from GSE, 2017).....	29
Figure 3.4. <i>1- m depth Soil temperature map modified from GSE,2017</i> .....	30
Figure3.5. 2D Occam model along Profile A) P1, B) P2, C) P3and D) P4 adopted (GSE.2017). .....	31
Figure 4.1. Geological map and cross section of the study area.....	33
Figure 4.2.(A) Basaltic Scoria field exposure; (B) & (C) petrographic view of sample (TS-2) under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Ol-Olivine; Plg - Plagioclase feldspar; Px –pyroxene; Gm-ground mass; Vs-void space.....	35
Figure 4.3. Phreatomagmatic deposits: A & B Har-Shetan Lake and field exposure; C & D petrographic view of sample (TS-3) and E & F (TS-6) under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Ol-Olivine; Plg - Plagioclase feldspar; px -pyroxene; Op- opaque	37
Figure 4.4. Har-Shetan Lake field exposure A & B; C & D petrographic view of sample (TS-4) and E & F (TS-5) under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Olv-Olivine; Plg - Plagioclase feldspar; Op- opaque; Gm-ground mass. ....	40

Figure 4.5. Welded ignimbrite A & B field exposure; C & D; E & F petrographic view of sample TS-7 and TS-8 under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Qrz-quartz, plg –plagioclase, Op- opaque,Bt-Biotite ,and vg- volcanic glass.....	42
Figure 4.6. Unwelded Tuff field exposure field exposure A & B; C & D petrographic view of sample TS-10 under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Plg - Plagioclase feldspar; Qrt –quartz; Vs-void space. ....	44
Figure 4.7. Alluvial and reworked pyroclastic deposit.....	45
Figure 4.8. Geological structures A) fault B) Joints filled by secondary minerals C) basalt as sill in basaltic scoria D) Joint sets in Unwelded Tuff. ....	46
Figure 4.9. Geothermal map of the study area and proposed target areas overlap with geological map and soil temperature data.....	49
Figure 4.10. Hot water pools with gas outlet and Spa .....	50
Figure 4.11. Mud pool .....	50
Figure 4.12. Altered ground and Sulfur deposits (A-C), borehole drilled for irrigation purpose (D).....	52
Figure 4.13. <i>XRD graph of Adularia</i> .....	54
Figure 4.14. <i>Altered Albite minerals;A-PPL and B-XPL view.</i> .....	55
Figure 4.15. <i>Biotite Altered mineral; A-PPL and B-XPL view.</i> .....	55
Figure 4.16. <i>XRD graph of Calcite.</i> .....	56
Figure 4.17. <i>XRD graph of Cristobalite.</i> .....	57
Figure 4.18. <i>Alteration minerals chlorite, rutile and Actinolite ; A-PPL and B-XPL view.</i> ....	58
Figure 4.19. <i>XRD graph of Stishovite.</i> .....	59
Figure 4.20. <i>A-PPL and B-XPL view of Titanite mineral.</i> .....	60
Figure 4.21. <i>XRD graph of Triydmite.</i> .....	61
Figure 5.1. Preliminary conceptual model of Butajira geothermal prospect. ....	67
Table 1: Altered mineral formation temperature adopted from (Agnes G. Reyes, 2000) .....	61

## List of acronyms

- CMER- Central Main Ethiopian Rift.
- DEM- Digital elevation model
- EAR- East African Rift
- EARS- East African Rift System
- ESE- East South East
- ESE-WNW – East southeast – West northwest
- E-W- East west
- GSE-Geological Survey of Ethiopia
- IGA-International Geothermal Association
- JICA-Japan International Cooperation Agency
- Km- Kilometer
- Kms - Kilometers
- m- Meter
- MER- Main Ethiopian Rift
- NE- North east
- NE-SW – North east- South west
- NG- Nazreth Group
- NMER- Northern Main Ethiopian Rift
- NNE-SSW- North north east- South south east
- N-S- North south

NW- North West

NW-SE- North West - South east

PPL – Plane Polarized Light

SES- School of Earth Sciences

SMER- Southern Main Ethiopian Rift

SW- Southwest

UNDP- United nation development program

UNU-GTP-United Nation University Geothermal Training Program

MOWS-Ministry of Water Resources Ethiopian Water Technology Centre

WFB- Wonji fault belt

Wt%- Weight percent

XPL- Cross polarized light

YTVL- Yerer- Tulu Welel volcano tectonic lineament

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Geothermal energy is the energy stored in the form of heat beneath the earth's surface that can, or could be, recovered and exploited (Wouter, V., 2006). It is a clean (carbon-free), renewable, and sustainable form of energy that provides a continuous, uninterrupted supply of heat. It used to generate electricity and for direct heat utilization in various applications like greenhouse, agriculture, aquaculture purpose as well as heating and cooling of buildings (Mary, H. & Fanell M., 2003). Geothermal energy is essential energy supply components that play a vital role to satisfy future energy demands. However, it requires the development of new geothermal sites and improves the performance of existing systems to satisfy this demand (Stober, I. & Bucher, K., 2013). The productivity of a geothermal field mainly depends on the geological and tectonic setting of the area preferred by adequate subsurface fluid flow within the system. Thus different geoscientific approaches should be combined to assess the favorability and potential of a new geothermal field as well as to improve the efficiency of existing geothermal systems (Moeck, 2014).

The East African Rift System is the volcano-tectonically active region where heat energy from the Earth's interior escapes to the surface in the form of volcanic eruptions and geothermal surface manifestations like hot springs, fumaroles, geysers, and mud pools (Pürschel, M., 2013; Teklemariam, M., 2008). In addition, the presence of shallow heat sources, intense faulting as well as the circulation abundant of water with high geothermal gradient indicates the presence of high-temperature geothermal systems in the rift valley (Abiye, 2003; Omenda, P., and Teklemariam, M. 2010).

Ethiopia has an enormous capacity to generate electricity from geothermal energy and geothermal investigation was began since 1969 by GSE with the collaboration of United Nations research project UNDP (UNDP, 1973; Peter Omenda and Meseret Teklemariam, 2010; Madlen Pürschel, *et al.*, 2013; Abebe *et al.*, 20016). Geothermal surface manifestations are more pronounced and vigorous within the axis of the rifts than on the flanks due to the favorable hydrology and relatively shallow heat sources (Tadiwos Chernet, 2011). Currently, there are about 22 geothermal prospects and only 7.2 MW is generating from the Aluto-Langano geothermal power plant (Omenda and Teklemariam, M., 2010; JICA, 2015;

Solomon Kebede, 2015). In the short term a total of 675 MW geothermal powers is planned to be developed from six selected prospects by 2018 and in the long term, 2000 MW is to be developed by 2030 (Meseret T. 2008; 2012; Solomon Kebede, 2015; 2016). The exploration were focused on the selection of potential geothermal sites in the Lakes District and the Tendaho Graben using remote sensing, geological, geochemical as well as geophysical methods (Madlen Pürschel, et al, 2013; JICA,2015).

According to JICA (2015) Project Team report the geothermal reservoir and target sites in Ethiopia are grouped into three categories namely; Volcano type, Caldera type and Graben type based on the analysis and interpretation of satellite image and site survey. These were determined with reference to the characteristics of the existing detail information of Aluto-Langano, Corbetti and Tendaho-Dubti areas where detail survey was already conducted. Volcano type is assumed to have a geothermal reservoir with a maximum plane area equivalent to the area coverage of young volcanic body identified in Dallol, Boina, Damali, Meteka (Ayelu and Amoissa), Dofan, Tulu Moye, Aluto (Langano, Finkilo, Bobesa), Abaya , Fantale and Boset geothermal areas. Caldera type is assumed to have a geothermal reservoir equivalent to the inner area of caldera comprising Gedemsa, Kone, Nazareth, and Corbetti areas; whereas graben type has equivalent to the area of geothermal manifestations in graben structure including area in Tendaho-(Allalobeda, Ayrobada, Dubti), Teo, Danab, Meteka, Arabi and Butajira geothermal areas.

The present study was applied in a new area of Butajira geothermal prospect that found in the western part of central main Ethiopian rift nearby Silite Debre Zeit fault zone (SDZF). Even though limited geological and geothermal knowledge available previously, there are promising geothermal features in the area to conduct the study. Thus, the primary focus of the study presented here is to assess the geothermal system components of the surveyed area through surface geological and geothermal investigations that leads to the preparation of preliminary conceptual model and selection of the promising site for further exploration.

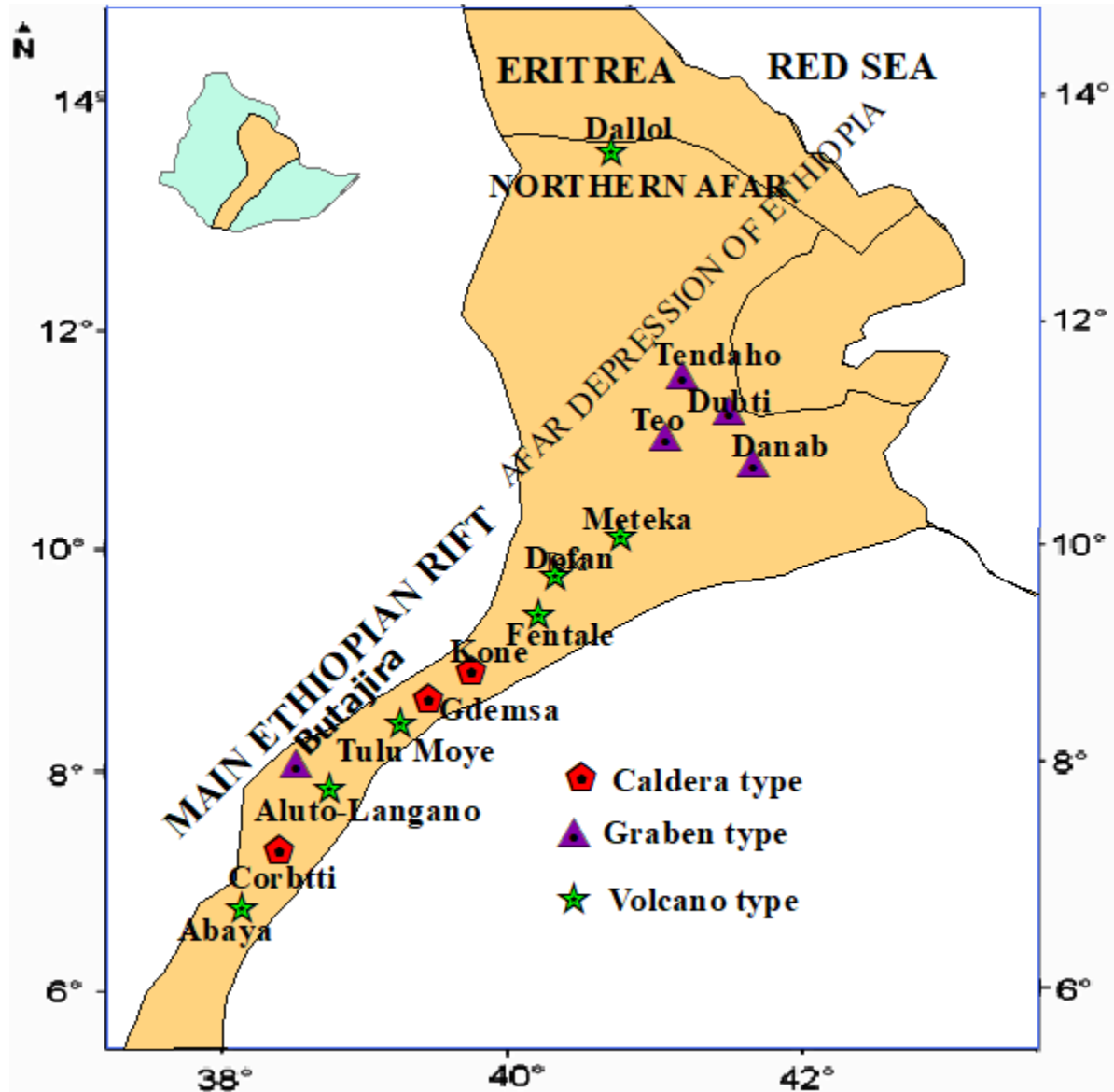


Figure 1.1. Location of the study area with other geothermal fields in Ethiopia modified from (Meseret Teklemariam and Kibret Beyene, 2005)

## 1.2 General overview of geothermal resource

Geothermal exploration and exploitation is a multidisciplinary science, starting with surface exploration followed by collection of drill-hole data and finally reservoir engineering modelling and utilization monitoring. Each discipline looks at the geothermal system from a certain view of point, having a tendency to define the geothermal system from that perspective. Geothermal exploration is an examination of the subsurface of an area in pursuit of viable active geothermal regions with the goal of building a geothermal power plant or/and

various utilizations (Charles Wanjie, 2012). The following features are essential for the existence of viable a hydrothermal geothermal system for worth exploitation.

- ❖ **Heat source:** could be shallow magmatic body, decaying radioactive elements or heat from overburdened pressures. In most cases high temperature geothermal areas show a close connection with eruptive centers that have produced silicic lava (Moeck, 2014).
- ❖ **Chemical composition of the fluids:** sufficient amount of fluid will be obtained from rainfall and percolate through geological structures to a permeable rock layer. Thus portions of the Earth's thermal energy may be extracted from natural or artificially induced circulating fluids transported through production well to a point of use.
- ❖ **Recharge system:** As hot geothermal fluids are withdrawn from wells or from surface manifestations the hydrological balance of the system is restored or partially restored by the inflow of new recharge water.
- ❖ **Permeable formation(s):** that accumulate the geothermal fluid which in turn the circulating fluids extract heat through Structures that allow water to percolate to deeper levels and also host the gas, vapor and water found within the reservoir
- ❖ **Cap rock** is a layer of rock of low permeability overlying the reservoir that allows the retention of heat and restricts the upward movement of fluids from a reservoir. It may be produced by self-sealing due to deposition of minerals from the solution mainly silica or by hydrothermal alteration of rocks to clays and/or zeolites.

### 1.2.1 Geothermal play types

The key to the successful exploration, development (including drilling) and utilization of any type of geothermal system is a clear definition and understanding of the nature and characteristics of the system in question, based on all available information and data (Kristján S., 2009; IGA , 2014). This is best achieved through the development of a conceptual model. A conceptual model is descriptive or qualitative model incorporating, and unifying, the essential physical features of the systems in question (Grant and Bixley, 2011) more prominence in cooperation of the different disciplines rather than each discipline developing their own models or ideas independently. Conceptual models are an important basis of field development plans, i.e. in selecting locations and targets of test wells to be drilled and

ultimately the foundation for all geothermal resource assessments, particularly volumetric assessments and geothermal reservoir modelling (Axelsson, 2013, Cumming 2009).

A geothermal play is defined as the model which comprises the geological factors controlling a technically and economically recoverable geothermal resource (Moeck, 2013, Wouter A., 2016). It represents a geological setting that includes a heat source, heat migration pathway, heat/fluid storage capacity, and the potential for economic recovery of the heat (Moeck, 2014). The aim of the geothermal play concept is to group similar geological settings that might host exploitable geothermal resources, and to develop site-specific exploration strategies that may lead to resource discovery and estimates of reserves independent of the subsequent heat recovery strategy. The characteristics of individual geothermal systems are a function of site-specific variables such as the nature and depth of the heat source; the dominant heat transfer mechanism; permeability and porosity distribution; rock mechanical properties; fluid/rock chemistry; and fluid recharge rates/sources. According to plate tectonic setting, the nature of the heat source (magmatic or non-magmatic), and whether the dominant heat-transfer mechanism is convection or conduction, geothermal systems can largely be grouped into Convection-dominated plays; Extensional domain type and Conduction-dominated play type (Moeck, 2014).

### **A ) Convection-Dominated Play Types (CD)**

In this plays type, heat is transported efficiently from depth to shallower reservoirs or the surface by the upward movement of fluid along permeable pathways. Laterally extensive, porous high-permeability formations act as the primary reservoirs with temperature greater than 200°C at shallower depth < 3 Km. These invariably lie in regions of high tectonic activity (Nukman and Moeck, 2013; Hickman et al., 2004), high volcanic activity (Bogie et al., 2005), young plutonism (less than three million years old), or regions with elevated heat flow due to crustal thinning during the extension of the crust (Faulds et al., 2009; 2010). The age of magmatism is an important indicator of the presence of a heat source and heat accumulations. Active and recent magmatism often indicates an excellent underlying heat source (McCoy-West et al., 2011), while inactive or extinct magmatism may be associated

with large-scale intrusions of igneous rock (plutons) at greater depth (>5 km depth) with remnant heat and additional heating by radioactive decay in granitic rock.

CV play type are subgrouped in to CV1a, CV1b and CV2.

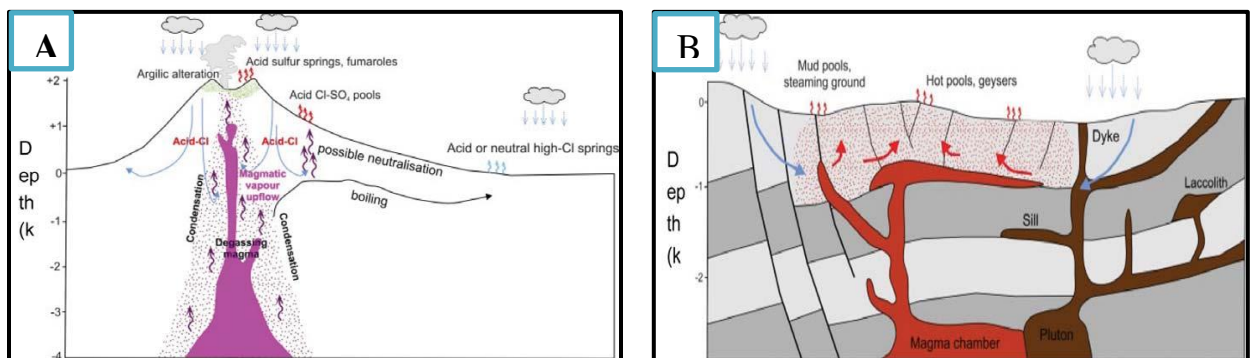
**CV1a: Magmatic Play Type, Active or Recent Magmatic Intrusion:** in this play type fluid movement occurs in two zones: the outflow is generally modified from the original fluid, and has a lower temperature and higher pH than the upflow due to lateral migration (with associated heat loss) and loss of gases (during boiling) towards the flank of the volcano (Hochstein, 1988). Vertically extensive, low- permeability, clay-rich layers in steep terrain, such as andesitic stratovolcanoes, can cap high temperature reservoirs. A vapor-dominated zone may develop in regions of a high heat-generating, localized magma body and moderate to high topographic relief. Steam heated discharge at higher elevation and chloride spring discharge at lower elevation are typical surface manifestations of these vapor dominated plays. In areas influenced by active faulting, deep rooted magmas can intrude beneath flat terrain with no volcanism. It can lead to the upflow of liquid and the formation of hot springs, fumaroles, boiling mud pools, and other geothermal surface manifestations (Bogie et al., 2005).

**CV1b: Magmatic Play Type, non-active /Extinct Magmatic Intrusion:** it incorporates a heat source in the form of a pluton consisting of crystalline rock enriched in radioactive elements or a young, crystallized but still cooling, intrusive igneous body . Such play types are located where surrounding mountain ranges provide high recharge rates of circulating meteoric water, driving a hydrothermal system with possible vapor partition above the hot rock. The system includes a vapor-dominated layer above a fluid-dominated layer (Bertani et al., 2006). Faults and fractures control the recharge of meteoric water into the system and a low permeability barrier may act as cap-rock preventing the escape of steam or hot fluids to the surface.

**B) CV2: Extensional Domain geothermal Play Type:** In CV2 type the uprising mantle is the principal source of heat for geothermal systems due to crustal extension and thinning. The resulting high thermal gradients facilitate the heating of meteoric water circulating through deep faults or permeable formations. These non-magmatic play types are either “fault zone controlled” or “fault-leakage controlled” at the system scale. In first case,

meteoric water infiltrates down a shallow fault, circulates and heats through deep-seated faults, and rises along other faults (Reed, 1983). In later case, water circulates through a combination of faults and permeable buried formations, typically recharging and discharging along fault zones. In general, segmented faults are more favorable for geothermal systems than large faults with large offsets. The local stress regime and its orientation relative to fault geometry has a controlling impact on permeability pathways, with faults oriented perpendicular to the minimum compressive stress direction more likely to be permeable (Barton et al., 1997).

**C) Conduction-Dominated Geothermal Play Types (CD):** In CD play type the dominant heat transfer mechanism is conduction due to an absence of fast convective flow of fluids or short-term variations in fluid dynamics within passive tectonic settings. Geothermal gradient increases steadily and higher values can be detected in regions of high heat flow due to elevated concentrations of heat generating elements in the crust, or where overlying strata are thermally insulating (Beards more and Cull, 2001). Favorable geological settings for CD include extensional, divergent margins and grabens, or lithospheric subsidence basins. Faults do not naturally channel heat in CD while they serve as a fluid conduit or barrier during production from geothermal reservoirs associated with these play types, and may cause compartmentalization of the reservoir into separate fault blocks. Conduction-dominated geothermal play types with naturally low permeability reservoirs such as tight sandstones, carbonates, or crystalline rock can only be developed using engineered geothermal systems (EGS) technology. Inga Moeck (2014) subdivided CD into Intracratonic Basin Type (CD1), Orogenic Belt Type (CD2), and Basement Type (CD3).



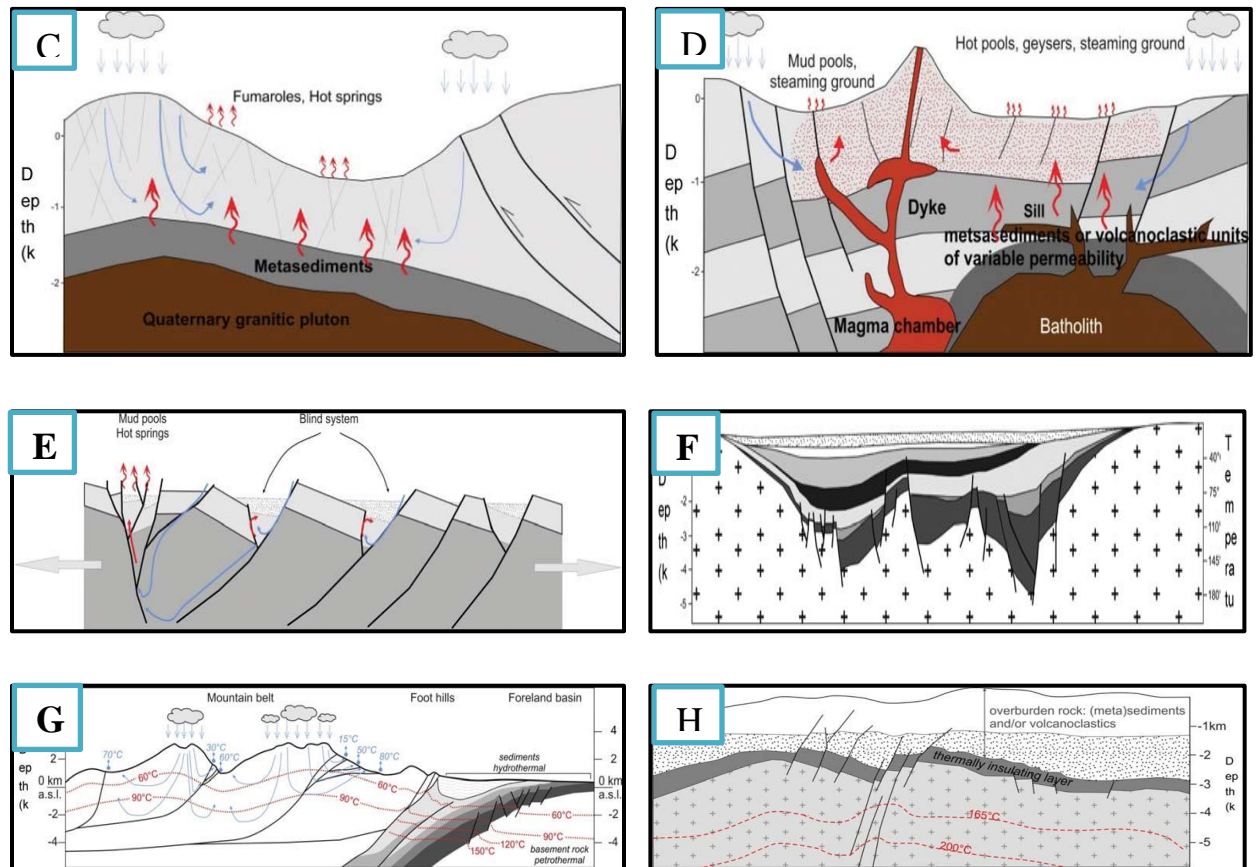


Figure 1.2. Generalized conceptual models geothermal play type: (A) CV1a with eruptive magma chamber; (B) CV1a; (C) CV1b ;(D) CV1b; (E) CV2 (F) CD1 an intracratonic sedimentary (G) CD2 Orogenic Belt Type i.e. conductive; (H) Moeck, 2014

### 1.3 General descriptions of the study area

#### 1.3.1 Location and accessibility

The study area "Butajira geothermal prospect" is found in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia (SNNP) Regional state within Siliti zone that lies just south of Butajira town, east of Kibet town, south-west of Inseno town and west of Koshe, north of Lake Abaya and north-west of Tora and north of Lake Abaya. Its geological setting is placed within central main Ethiopian rift valley 145 km south west of Addis Ababa. Geographically it is bounded between UTM 37 882000N- UTM 910000N and UTM 37 42700E- UTM 437000E with total area coverage 90 Km<sup>2</sup>. The area is accessible through Addis Ababa-Alem Gena-Butajira –Werabey asphalt main road until Kibet town. Numerous concrete roads as well as foot trails are available to perform fieldwork activities.

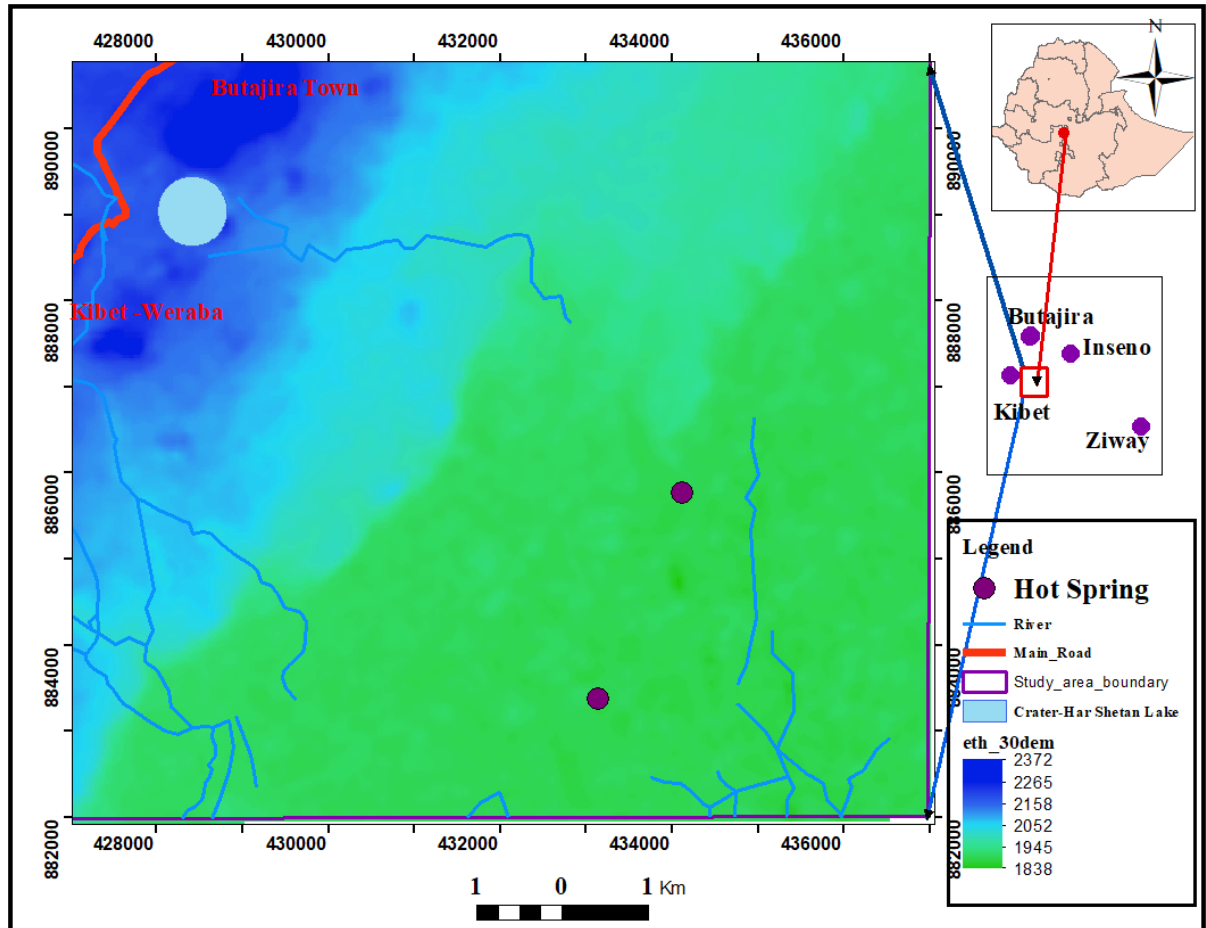


Figure 1.3 Location map of the study area

### 1.3.2 Physiography and drainage pattern

The study area covers a small sector adjacent to western portions of the CMER that featured by various landscapes resulted by major faulting, volcano-tectonic activities, and lacustrine sedimentation. The main landscapes observed in the area are cinder cones, crater, fault escarpments, and fault-controlled depressions. The elevated topography is commonly observed at aligned scoria cones and along fault escarpments in western and northwestern corner whereas alluvial sediments have tended to flatten out and forms relatively flat plain areas in the eastern, southeastern portion of the mapped area. The highest elevation is measured about 2065 meter above mean sea level north of Har Shetan Lake and the lowest elevation is 1810 meter above mean sea level at Kontane Marsh that found the southeast corner of the study area. The area found inside the western parts of Meki River basin which shows low drainage density indicating the presence of high permeable strata or weak zone that favors the infiltration of surface water. The highest river is Lebu River which flows from northern highland

areas towards the southern flat plain and eventually it changes its name to Garore River and drains to the flat plain of Kontane Marsh and Abaya Lake. The tributaries of Waja River, which found nearby East and South East of the study area, drain towards Kontane Marsh in north and northwest direction as well as minor in East-West and North East directions. The Kontane Marsh got water from runoff of North-West highland and South-East fault Controlled Waja River in addition to the contributions from groundwater and precipitation that makes it always wet. Consequently, the dominant surface water flow is from cinder cones to plain land area towards lower topography. In some localities the flowing river deviate its direction sharply and dry out follows the orientation of geological structures. The presence of this features leads to an expectation of internal lineament beneath that serve as the main recharge zone for the geothermal system if linked to the reservoir.

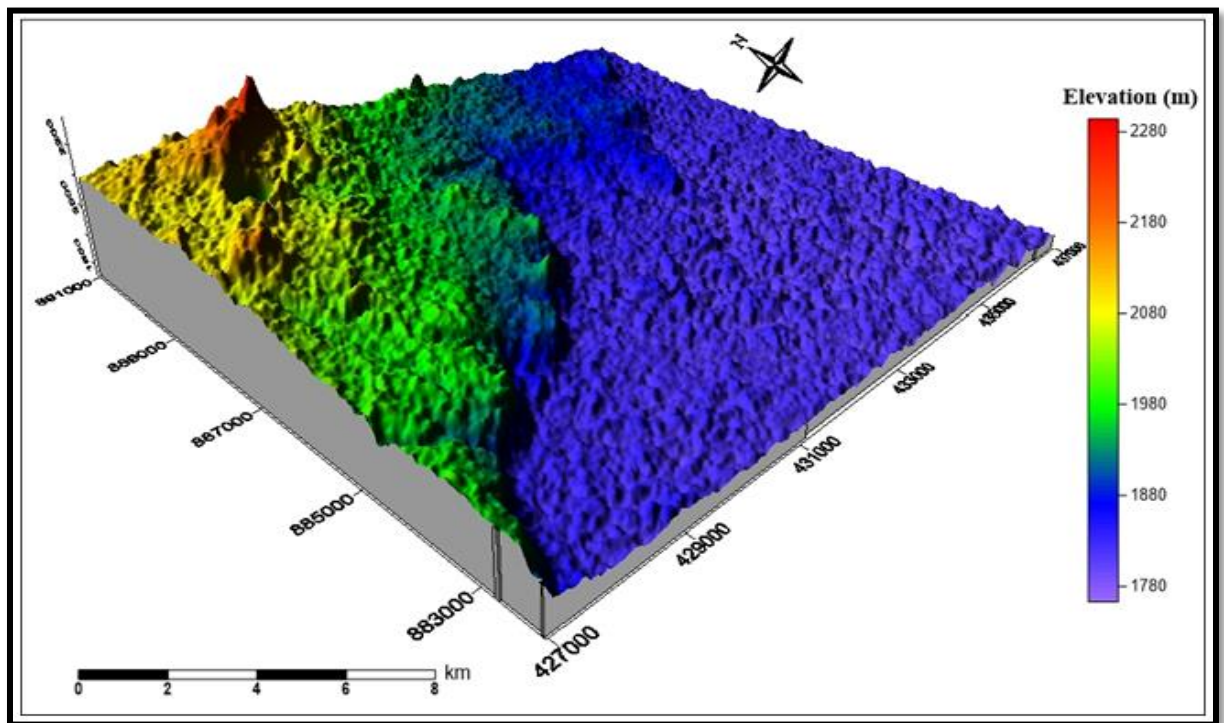


Figure1.4. Physiography of the study area I 3D view

### 1.3.3 Climate condition

The MER climate is influenced by the annual shifts of the intertropical convergence zone and physiography. Since the area is located in CMER within Ziway–Shala region that is mainly characterized by alternating wet and dry seasons (Nicholson, 1996; Elisabeth Gibert et al 1998). Climate condition of the study area is classified as warm and temperate. In winter, there is much less rainfall than in summer. In this location, the highest temperature record

has in March, on average around 18.9 °C while the lowest average temperature is recorded in July around 18.9 °C and an average annual temperature of 17.4 °C. In a year, the average rainfall is 1055 mm, in which the least amount of rainfall occurs in November (11mm on average) and most precipitation falls in July, with an average of 17 mm. The variation in the precipitation between the driest and wettest months is 168 mm and the average temperatures vary during the year by 2.5 °C (<http://en.climate-data.org>).

#### **1.3.4 Land use and land cover**

In the northern part is high elevated area dominated by scoria cones that have excavated quarry sites that used as a raw material for road construction. The low land area is covered by weathered fertile soil that used for agricultural crop production like Taff, Maize (corn), Millet (Sorghum), Wheat etc. While the plain land area on the southern and eastern part is beneficial for the sugar plantation in the specific locality. Generally, the area has sparsely vegetated and relatively good vegetation is observed on fault escarpments such as Acacia, Bush, deciduous woodland, bamboo forest etc. The plain land of the eastern part of the study area is covered by different types of dry savanna grass along swampy area as well as around the top of cinder cones.

#### **1.4 Statement of the problem**

With the increase in world population, industrialization and improvement in the standard of living, there has been a continuous increase in the consumption of energy. As consequence, there has been a growing recognition for the use of renewable energy sources like geothermal energy which supplements hydroelectric and crude oil, especially in rural and remote areas. Even though most geothermal systems around the world at different geological setting have been successfully exploited for electrical production and different purposes like district heating, exploration and development of new geothermal prospect are commonly restricted by the risk of unsuccessful drilling. A basic problem is that the geothermal systems in the prospect area (Butajira-Silte) is poorly characterized in terms of favorable geological settings and tectono-stratigraphic controls.

To increase the renewable energy supply of Ethiopia extensive and intensive investigations have been conducted almost five decades within main Ethiopian rift to exploit the available geothermal resource. At present, more than 22 geothermal prospects are identified and

expected to have the capacity to generate electricity. Among these prospects, only one geothermal pilot power plant generating 7.2 MW was installed at Aluto - Langano geothermal field (Omenda & Meseret Teklemariam, 2010; JICA, 2015; Solomon Kebede, 2015). In addition, temperature gradient wells at Tendaho and temperature gradient wells at Corbetti were drilled for feasibility studies while others prospects are at reconnaissance to prefeasibility phase of exploration (Solomon, 2013; Selamawit worku, 2015).

UNDP, (1973) report proposed further investigation in other geothermal areas namely; Butajira- Siliti area, Belbo springs, Nech Sar springs, and Lake Ziway areas. Butajira - Siliti area is the focus of the study because only limited geological and geothermal knowledge is currently available. According to Di Paola (1970), geothermal fresh water temperature with 48 °C emerges at the base of a small rhyolite dome, isolated completely from southern parts of a swampy plain about 10 km south-east from a phreatic explosion crater (Har-Shetan lake), near the main road about midway between Butajira and Siliti as well as many springs are found in the swamp area. Recent basalt scoria cones with steep outer flanks and shallow summit craters are associated with the western limit of the rift in Butajira – Siliti region (Di Paola, 1970; UNDP, 1973).

A geothermal phreatic eruption occurred during deep well drilling for irrigation purpose on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Siliti Wereda Buraku Kebele (Demise A., Salahadin A., and Solomon K., June 2014). According to the final report of Geological Survey of Ethiopian (GSE), a technical team concluded that the geothermal system is vapor-dominated at depth of 234 m to 255 m with a temperature of 200 °C -250 °C and reaches the surface as shown in Figure 4.11 D at chapter 4. The cold water was heated by a heat source that found beneath groundwater level. Onward this circumstance, Geological Survey of Ethiopian; geothermal energy directorate performed reconnaissance geo-scientific investigations (Magnetic, soil temperature survey and fluid geochemistry) but detail geological and geothermal investigation wasn't yet performed.

## 1.5 Objectives of the study

### 1.5.1 General Objective

The main objective of this study is to assess the existence of promising geothermal system components at the Butajira geothermal prospect through investigating the geology and surface geothermal manifestations.

### 1.5.2 Specific objectives

The following are the specific objectives

- ❖ Prepare a geologic map at a scale of 1: 50,000 with an appropriate cross-section.
- ❖ Prepare a geothermal map at a scale of 1: 50,000 that incorporate geothermal surface manifestations, young volcanic centers, and major tectonic structures.
- ❖ Develop a preliminary geothermal conceptual model in 2-D view in reference to the identified geothermal play type.
- ❖ Suggest promising sites for further explorations i.e. to attain deep-seated information about geothermal system components.

## 1.6 Research questions

Even though, the geothermal surface indicators lead to an expectation of a convenient geothermal field, the study area raises a number of scientific questions that need to be addressed.

- ❖ What kind of lithology the study area comprises that offers a clue for probable heat sources, reservoir, and capping layer?
- ❖ Where are the major tectonic structures that serve as a conduit /fluid pathway that favors fluid circulation from the surface to a reservoir and vice versa?
- ❖ Which types of surface geothermal surface manifestations are observed in the study area? Where they are found intensively?
- ❖ Where is recharge and up flow zones located in the prospect area?
- ❖ Under which geothermal play type the prospect area categorized?

- ❖ Where are the promising sites recommended for further detail studies and test well drilling?

These research problems have been identified from the review of previous works and emphasis was not given yet to answer these questions. Those problems were the motivations to conduct research work in the prospect area. Therefore some of the identified problems have been addressed, since new data incorporated with previous studies.

### **1.7 Significances of the study**

In the study area, Butajira geothermal prospect, detail geological and geothermal investigation yet not studied and this research work will be accomplished through field observation and petrographic and XRD analysis that will have the following worth:

- ❖ The study will provide the basic geological and geothermal knowledge of the geothermal resource and system components of the prospect area.
- ❖ The study will be used as a backbone to perform further exploration phases such as detailed geochemical and geophysical studies, and test well siting.
- ❖ The study will also serve as documented information and used as guidance in a specific subject matter for the concerned body for various purposes.

### **1.8 Organization of the thesis**

This thesis was organized into six chapters: started by introduction part and finish up with conclusion and recommendation in the last chapter.

**Chapter one:** familiarizes background of the study and general overview about geothermal resources, description of the study area (location physiography and drainage pattern, climate and temperature), plus problem of the statement, objectives and research questions, as well as significance and limitation of the study.

**Chapter two:** focused on the methodology used in the study. The summaries of methods adopted were presented in four categories: review of secondary data sources, geological fieldwork, petrographic studies and XRD analysis.

**Chapter three:** states about the review of previous works through investigating previous works i.e. magnetic, soil temperature, magnetotelluric (MT), and fluid geochemical data accomplished in the study area besides regional literatures.

**Chapter four:** investigates results of field work, petrographic and XRD analysis. This part comprehends three subdivided namely local geology, geothermal manifestations and hydrothermal alteration minerals noticed in the Butajira geothermal prospect. As a result, geological map with appropriate cross section were prepared likewise the geothermal map.

**Chapter five:** deals about an assessment of geothermal system components that focused on the existence of favorable geological setting in the surveyed area by relating what has been known previously with what is revealed from the results presented in chapter 4. It then discusses the characteristics of the Butajira geothermal system components i.e. heat source, reservoir, cap rock, geothermal fluids and permeable structures of the system. At the end, a preliminary conceptual model of the Butajira geothermal prospect was prepared and discussed.

**Chapter six:** deals about conclusion and recommendations, which concludes the final output of the thesis and provide an evaluation on characteristics of geothermal system components of the study area .It then accomplished by a recommendation through endorsing the promising geothermal site location that suggested for detail investigations need to be performed regarding the future development.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2. METHODOLOGY USED IN THE STUDY

In order to achieve the desired objectives of the research different tasks have been performed sequentially from office pre-field secondary data collection up to post field laboratory analysis and data interpretation to attain the desired result. Those data have been obtained from review of secondary data, geological field observations accompanied by data generated from Petrographic studies and XRD geochemical analysis. Systematic organization and interpretation of these information support to acquire the general overview of the geological and tectonic setting of the area and its favorability in geothermal system point of view. Amalgamation of those data used for the development a preliminary geothermal conceptual model for siting promising areas for next step of geothermal exploration.

#### 2.1 Review of secondary data sources

All existing relevant secondary data that obtained from different websites, public institutions/ organizations such as geological, hydrogeological, geochemical and geophysical data were collected and reviewed. Unpublished reports prepared by Geological Survey of Ethiopia that attained within the study area were engaged to comprehend the study such as geophysical investigations reports i.e. magnetotelluric survey (MT), magnetic survey and soil temperature survey and fluid geochemical analysis. The combinations of this information were used to forecast heat source at depth, predict reservoir temperature, to trace lineaments structures in the area that controls the fluid flow path and enhances the permeability of the reservoir and impermeable cap rock. In addition, it helps for preparation of preliminary conceptual model that comprise geothermal system components.

#### 2.2 Geological field work

Understanding the geological and tectonic setting of the area is the first most important part in geothermal resource exploration. A geothermal geological field work was performed during December - January, 2017. During the survey different lithological unit were described, identified and their contact were traced, geological structures were measured, labeled and geothermal surface manifestations were pointed out in the topographic map with precise location and appropriate measurement. A total of 60 rock samples were collected through each traverse line from various rock outcrops. Among these, 10 (ten) representative

rock samples for thin section analysis and 9 (nine) for XRD sample preparation were selected. Different geothermal surface manifestations such as hot spring, mud pool, and hot drill hole were identified and exactly marked on the map and try their relation with the observed and inferred tectonically features.

Accordingly geological and geothermal map were prepared. Then the geothermal map overlaid by soil temperature and magnetic map to assess the relationship of tectonic structures with surface geothermal manifestations. Different mapping equipment has been used for various purposes to accomplish field work activities like Global positioning system (GPS), Compass, hammer and sample bag. Moreover different software tools were relevant in the preparation of geological and geothermal map like ArcGis10.3, Sulfur 10, and Global mapper.

### **2.3 Petrographic studies**

During surface geoscientific studies, petrological techniques are employed to identify lithology units, to recognize alteration mineral assemblages. Consequently, petrographic analysis was focused on textural description and mineral identification from selected rock samples. It involves through examination of the optical properties of minerals from thin sections using petrographic microscope taken under plane-polarized light (PPL) and cross-polarized light (XPL). The abundance of identified minerals noticed in thin section used as the basis to characterize, differentiate and confirm various rock units and also altered index minerals were identified. Ten (10) representative samples from all the lithology units encountered in the field were selected and thin sections will be prepared at Ethiopian geological survey laboratory and inspected at the AAU Earth science, petrography laboratory.

### **2.4 XRD analysis**

It is a fingerprint technique, which the crystalline sample exposed to X-ray radiation; the sample diffracts X-rays into a pattern which is unique to each crystalline substance. Nine (9) samples were selected from major rock units and altered grounds aimed to identify alteration mineral assemblages. These samples were crushed into powder and sieved by 0.425 $\mu$ m for separating wanted elements from an unwanted material as well as the particle size distribution of a sample is mixed. Powder XRD was accomplished using diffractometer model DX-2700 SSC held at Mekelle University. The instrument configured with K radiation

of Cu,  $\lambda=1.54056 \text{ \AA}$ , 30 mA, and 40 kV; analysis was done in 2-theta geometry and Bragg–Brentano configuration, with a step size of 5 degrees/ min and a step time of 0,02 degrees. The diffractometer is equipped with fixed slits 1deg &1deg 2mm monochromatic. Samples were scanned from 4 to 70 degrees two theta, at 0.02 degrees per step and a count time of 1 second per step. The acquired data matched against to diffraction pattern database for compound identification by means of Match software. In this study, since the concentration of major rock-forming minerals are abundant at this sieve size the clay minerals are masked within the XRD graphs and non-clay alteration minerals are used to predict the nature of alteration.

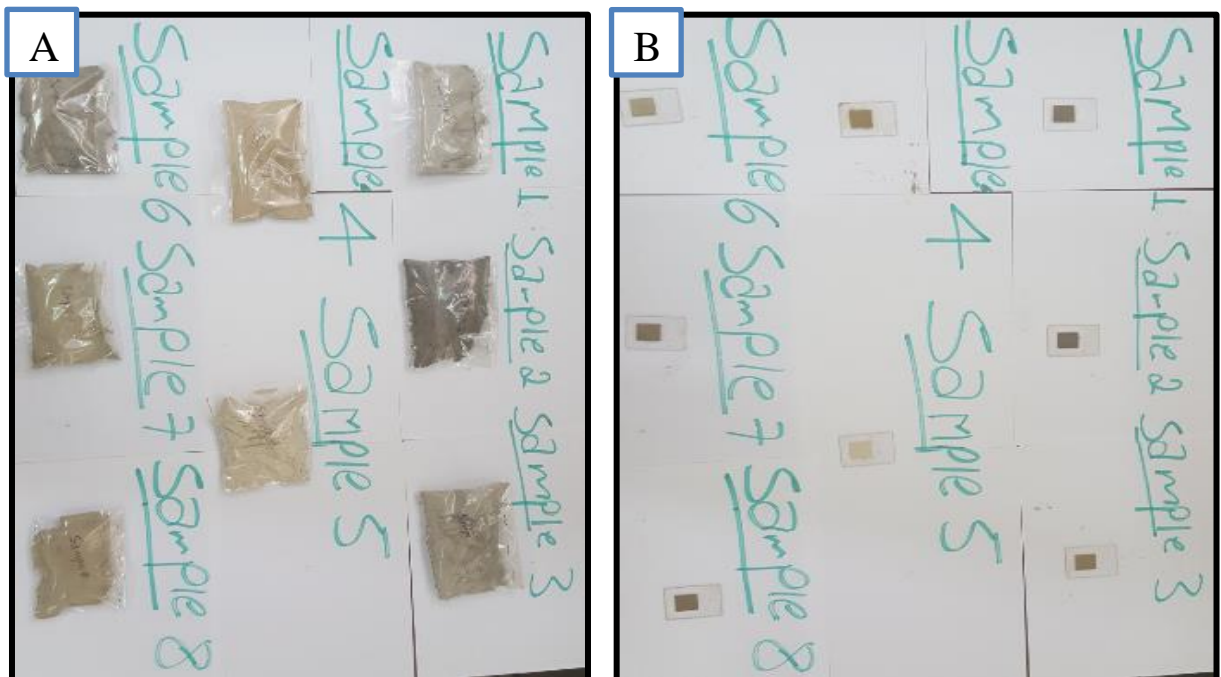


Figure 2.1. Sample preparation for XRD analysis

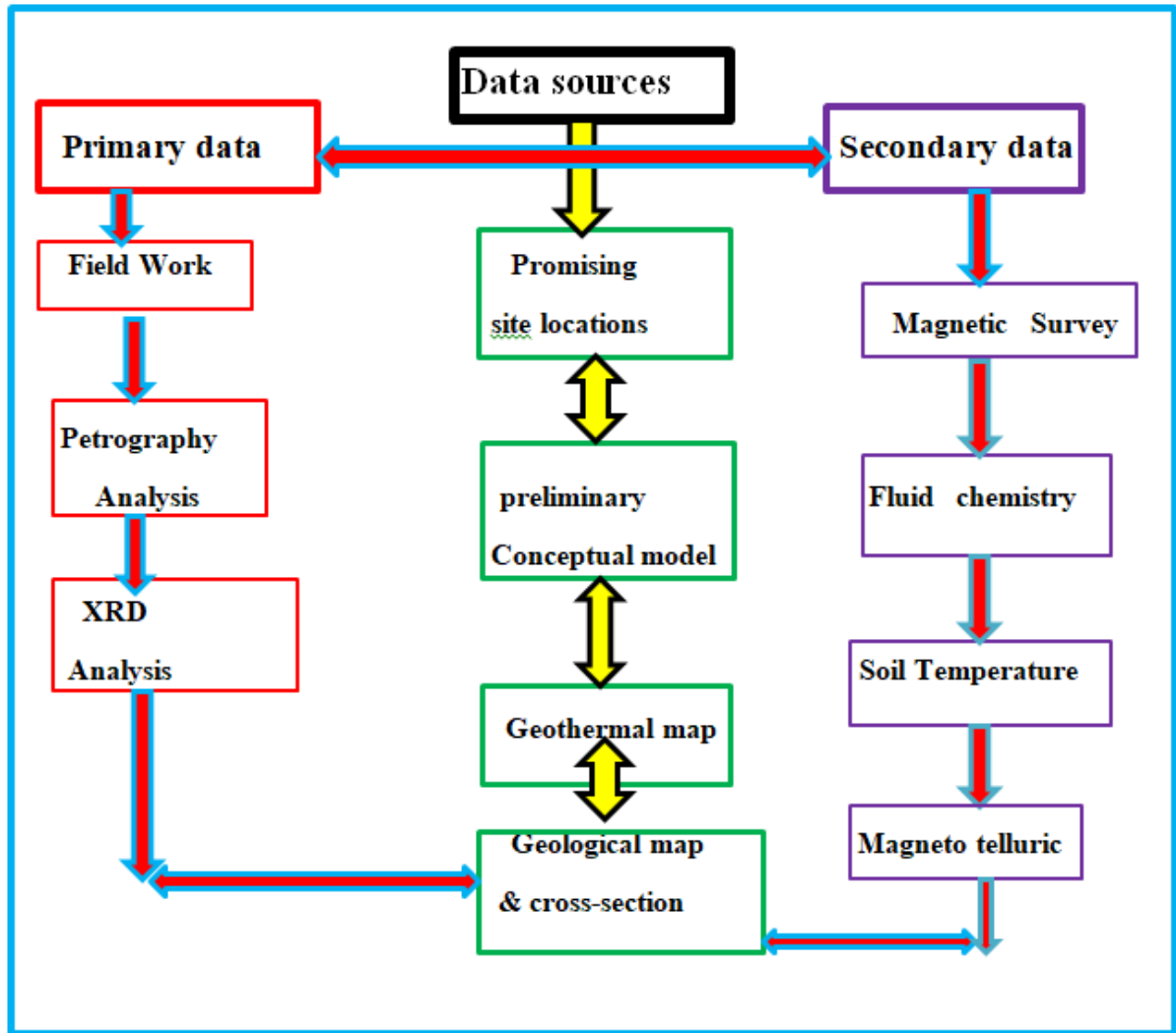


Figure2.2. Methodology flow chart

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS WORKS

#### 3.1 Geological setting of Main Ethiopian Rift (MER)

The Ethiopian rift system is an active continental rift, formed by up-doming followed by volcanism and rifting that outspreads about 1000 km in a direction of NE–SW from the Afar depression southwards up to the Turkana depression through main Ethiopian rift valley (MERV). The MER is a complex system that rift propagation preceded both from the south Ethiopia Rift (SER) and northern Ethiopia Rift (Afar Rifts) towards the CMER (Bonnini et al., 2005; Corti et al., 2013). Rifting in the MER did not start until about 8 Ma (Abebe et al., 2010), possibly due to the presence of transversal structures of GBL and YTVL to the south and to the north of MER, respectively, that stopped propagation of rifting for a long geological period. During the early stages of the MER, several central volcanoes erupted forming very thick pyroclastic deposits, thought to have been partially produced from fissures. These volcanic products have about 5 Ma and are known as the Nazret group (Kazmin and Berhe, 1978; WoldeGabriel et al., 1999; Boccaletti et al., 1999; Chernet et al., 1998; Abebe et al., 2005). MER is subdivided into three segments that reflect different stages of the continental extension and characterized by different fault architecture, the timing of volcanism and deformation, crustal and lithospheric structure (Boccaletti et al., 1998; Corti G., 2009).

In the NMER, the boundary faults are oriented  $\sim$ N40°E started to develop at around 11 Ma. This sector is marked by Arboye and Sire faults characterized by a right-stepping en-echelon pattern which dip towards the NNW down to the rift depression and the major western Ankober border fault system which in turn characterized by the structurally complex ‘corner’ between the NE-trending MER and the N–S trending Red Sea rift (Wolfenden et al., 2004). The central part of this rift sector form asymmetric rift basin which tilted to the southeast toward the large-offset Arboye normal faults indicates E–W extension direction (MacKenzie et al., 2005). While, the SMER sector have trend from N0°E to  $\sim$ N20°E located within the major fault escarpments of Chenchu which is marked by a curvilinear boundary fault having an orientation between N–S and N40°E and Agere Selam eastern margin have linear fault system and is characterized by NNE–SSW trend (Boccaletti et al., 1998; Bonini et al., 2005).

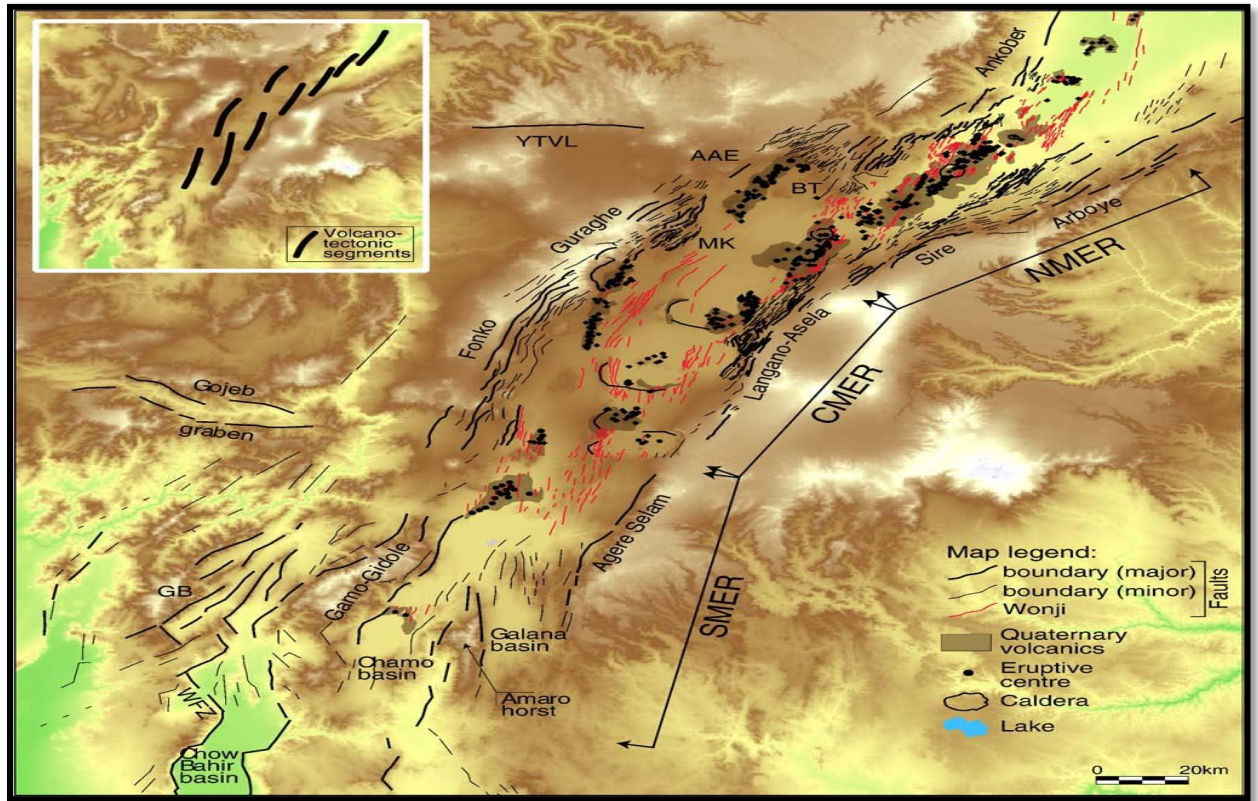


Figure 3.0.1. Tectonic sketch map of the MER adopted from (Giacomo Corti 2009; modified from Boccaletti et al., 1998). Inset shows the en-echelon, right-stepping arrangement of the volcano-tectonic segments of the Wonji Fault Belt. AAE: Addis Ababa Embayment; BT: Boru

### 3.2 Geological setting of CMER

Formation of the rift margins of the Central MER took place about 8 Ma ago when the Munesa and Guraghe escarpments were formed (WoldeGabriel et al., 1999). The CMER fault systems give rise to a roughly symmetric rift valley oriented between N25°E and N45°E characterized by an extension direction of roughly ESE–WNW, with local variations between E–W and NW–SE that formed in the late Miocene–Pliocene (post ~6 Ma) (Bonini et al. 2005). The western margin of this segment is well expressed by the N25°E–N35°E-trending and ESE-dipping Guraghe and Fonko faults, whereas the eastern margin is well represented by the N30°E-trending and WNW-dipping Asela–Langano fault system. Both systems are characterized by high-dip angle ( $> 60^\circ$ ) normal faults, with a large cumulative vertical throw. The border faults are normally segmented and characterized by the presence of minor transversal structures and local complex geometries. These two intersecting trends result in the typical S- or Z-shaped pattern of Fault System e.g. Langano (Haroresa) (Mohr, 1987;

Boccaletti et al., 1998; Bonini et al., 2005; Pizzi et al., 2006). This gives rise to a sinistral component oblique-slip on the NE–SW-trending fault planes, as supported by local structural features as pull apart, en-echelon tensional fissures and the en-echelon right-stepping arrangements of the boundary fault segments accommodated by the internal Wonji faults belt (Boccaletti et al., 1998; Corti, G., 2009; Bonini et al., 2005).

In the CMER, voluminous eruption of rhyolitic ignimbrites and the collapse of very large calderas occurred in Early Pliocene (Di Paola, 1972; Woldegabriel et al., 1990). The western escarpment shows 1000 m thick of basaltic lava flows, with inter-bedded ignimbrite horizons, overlain by massive rhyolites, tuffs, and basalts (Di Paola, 1972; Woldegabriel et al., 1990). The active marginal graben called SDZFS contains lacustrine sediments and welded tuff on which are interspersed coalescing nested scoria cone aligned parallel to Guraghe escarpment. The active marginal graben called SDZFS contains lacustrine sediments and welded tuff on which are interspersed coalescing nested scoria cone aligned parallel to Guraghe escarpment. While the eastern plateau is characterized by shield volcanoes of Pliocene to early Pleistocene (4.6–1.6 Ma) consisting of main trachyte with subordinate basalts and phonolites (Di Paola, 1972).

From period to the present, tectonic and volcanic activity was concentrated along the Wonji Fault Belt (WFB) to the east, and along the Silti Debre Zeit Fault Zone (SDZFZ) to the west (Di Paola, 1972). Volcanism in WFB started about 0.83Ma and shifted from the median towards the marginal zone as indicated by a pattern of decreasing the age of volcanic rocks towards the margin of the rift (WoldeGabriel et al., 1990). Unlike the Silti Debre Zeit Fault Zone (SDZFZ), WFB has peralkaline silicic centers along it rather than Calc-alkaline (William Hutchison et al., (2016). Pre-Tertiary crystalline basement and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks that are unconformably overlain by Oligocene to Pliocene basalt flows and silicic tephra are also exposed in the western margin of the central main Ethiopian rift at the Gurage at Kella typical locality (Woldegabriel et al., 1990).

At the western margin of CMER around the Guraghe escarpment at Kella typical locality, a crystalline basement is exposed with altered Biotite Gneiss intruded by swarms of North-West trending quartzo-feldspathic pegmatites (Woldegabriel et al., 1990). Mesozoic sedimentary formation unconformably overlies this rock unit, which has about 200m, i.e. 150

early Jurassic Adigrat Sand Stone, 20 m of variegated shale, 30m of Jurassic Antalo limestone (Weldegebriel et al, 2009). Above these formations, a thin about 40-60m, fine-grained Oligocene basaltic flows (32 Ma), and overlying thin fluvial strata (2m-10m) is exposed along fault scarp. All of them overlain by a thick sequence of Pliocene Basalt flows (4.2-2.5Ma) and particularly crystal-rich welded Tuff which have a thickness about 150m-200m and 200m-250m respectively. A number of thin ash fall tuffs (2m-10m) that cover the individual step up faulted blocks in front of Guraghe escarpment are Pliocene (2.72Ma-2.59Ma) in age and thicken against the rift wall (Di Paola, 1972; Woldegabriel et al 1990, Abebe et al, 2010). According to Woldegabriel et al 1990 the CMER set chronostratigraphic units and classified with regional stratigraphic framework age wise as follow.

#### **A. Kella Basalt (26-32Ma)**

They are the oldest volcanic rock found in Agere Selam, Ambo and Kella, dominantly contains fine grained Oligocene basalt with localized rhyolite and sedimentary strata. This thick basaltic lava flow (40m-60m) is exposed along fault controlled stream cut traverses to the rift margin that overlain by thin (2m-10m) fluvial strata.

#### **B. Shebele trachyte (12Ma-17 Ma)**

This group of mid Miocene age exposed in deep river canyon of Omo and Wabi Shebele and Mount Chike is the shoulder volcano that is made upon. It is chiefly consists of basalt, trachyte, phonolite, rhyolite, and intercalated pyroclastic strata.

#### **C. Guraghe Basalt (8.3Ma- 10.6Ma)**

This group was formed during Late Miocene that composed basalt and subordinate silicic flows and exposed in Omo River Canyon basalt (10.6Ma) overlies mid Miocene age (15-16.9Ma) Shebele group rhyolite and Trachyte. South along the strike of the pre Tertiary rocks, the rift escarpment is off set sharply to the west at the arcuate Guraghe escarpment. There are at least 14 thick, generally aphyric, basalt flows and intercalated vitric ash are exposed; these yielded ages of 10.6 and 9.1Ma for the basal and top flows of the section respectively. Along the foot hills of the main Guraghe scarp, a geologically significant glassy and perlitic welded tuff abuts and thickens against the rift wall with consistent date 8.3 Ma, and provides the

minimal age of the boundary fault. The top of the section at Guraghe is capped by 20 m thick Pliocene welded tuff (3.85Ma).

#### **D. Butajira Ignimbrite (3Ma-4.2Ma)**

This group of rocks is formed in early-middle Pliocene epoch, characterized by voluminous eruption of silicic pyroclastic material and subordinate basaltic flow. This Butajira Ignimbrite is distinguished from Quaternary Wenji group as being calcalkaline or mildly peralkaline rather than peralkaline.

#### **E. Chilalo trachyte (1.6Ma-3.5Ma)**

This middle to upper Pliocene stratigraphic unit includes trachyte, silicic rocks, and basalt that overlie either the Shebele trachyte or the Butajira Ignimbrite units. The pre Tertiary rock, Oligocene basalt, and the fluvial strata unconformably overlain by thick sequences of Pliocene basalt flow (4.2-2.5Ma) and particularly crystal rich welded Tuff (15-40 % crystals, 3.5Ma), that together exceed a total thickness of 400m.

#### **F. Wenji Group (<1.6Ma)**

This group consists of various Quaternary lava, pyroclastic rocks, volcanoclastic strata younger than 1.6Ma confined to Wenji Fault Belt and Siliti Debre Zeit Fault Zone (Kazmin, 1979; Woldegabriel et al 1990). A number of thin Ash fall tuffs (2-10 m) that cover the individual step-faulted blocks in front of main Guraghe scarp are late Pliocene, having age range from 2.72 Ma to 2.59Ma. Adjacent to the Guraghe escarpment, the western marginal graben, here called Siliti-Debre Zeit fault zone, contains lacustrine sediment and welded tuff on which are interspersed coalescing nested scoria cones aligned to the Guraghe escarpment. Basaltic flows erupted along the axis of this graben for more than 60Km along strike. An age of 0.13Ma was obtained on one of the aphyric flow which is younger than the 0.24 Ma reported from this general area (Mohr et al, 1980) faulting and stream erosion along the Meki river along the Dugda expose a stratigraphic section more than 100m thick. This step scarp fault forms the eastern wall of the western marginal graben. The bulk of this section (60m thick) consists of reworked pyroclastic rocks separated by a thin (30cm) spherulite obsidian flow

that yielded an age of 1.58Ma. The top of the section is blanketed by bedded ash falls erupted from Quaternary silicic centers of the rift axis.

### **3.3 Previous investigations in the study area**

#### **3.3.1 Hydrogeology of the area**

Ministry of Water Resources (MoWS, 2008), report categorized the area into two based on observable topographic feature having their own hydrogeological characteristics within the aquifers. These are Cinder cones and basaltic flow areas, and Kuntane – Inseno-Kela Plain, which is bounded by Butajira Crescent and Tora – Koshe – Dugda Ridge in the western and eastern direction respectively.

Basaltic cinder cones region is located East of Butajira crescent on topographic upland area dominantly composed of scoria cones and associated vesicular basalts. The thickness of the basaltic lava flow is highly variable over 100m where the volcanic vents are situated and becomes thinner away from the volcanic centers. Other Quaternary volcanic rocks like ignimbrite and unwelded tuff lie beneath the scoria cones and associated vesicular basalts besides Tertiary volcanic rock and Mesozoic Sedimentary formations are expected at depth under these formations (MoWS, 2008).

The existing borehole data indicates the aquifers in the area are composed of scoria and vesicular basalt and at some places outside the study area at Shereshera sand and gravel deposit underlying thin layer of flows contribute to the aquifer. Groundwater monitored at reasonably deeper level with respect to surface topography as compared with Butajira crescent and Kontane-Inseno-kela plain. The main recharge source of the aquifers is from subsurface groundwater inflow from the Butajira Crescent to east ward to the area and direct recharge from rainfall put minute contribution. A Crater Lake, Har-Shetan, is connected to the groundwater in the area having low transmissivity. The aquifer varies from unconfined to semi confined within the basaltic formation and in alluvial sediment respectively.

Kontane -Inseno -Kela plain is plain trough is bounded by scoria cones and associated vesicular basalts and to the east by Tora-Koshe Dugda ridge (horst). This region is covered by pyroclastic fall and reworked water lain pyroclastic deposits, lacustrine, alluvial, debris flow deposits. These sediments shows thickness variations from few meters in the west to

several meters and becomes thicker that exceed 260 meters in the central part the area and along Woja River. Quaternary and Tertiary volcanic rock formations and Mesozoic Sedimentary strata are expected to occur in deeper parts underneath. The surface runoff from Butajira and Kibet areas during raining seasons drains to Kontane Marsh and Slight to Lake Abaya. Abundant groundwater is generally found at shallower depth confirmed from hand dug and shallow wells. The aquifer in this area is basically unconfined; however, since the aquifer materials are variable it is possible that some confined or semi confined layers may be happened at various depths. Moreover, thermal springs are observed in two localities of Kontane marsh, groundwater heated up probably related to the development of the young volcanism of the cinder cones and associated basaltic eruption.

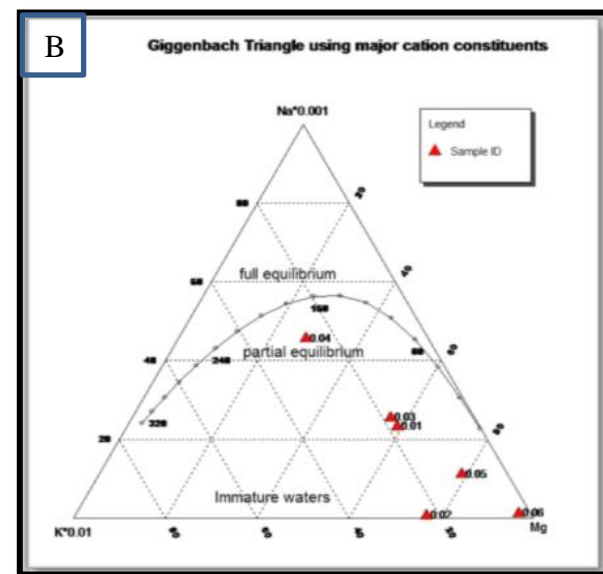
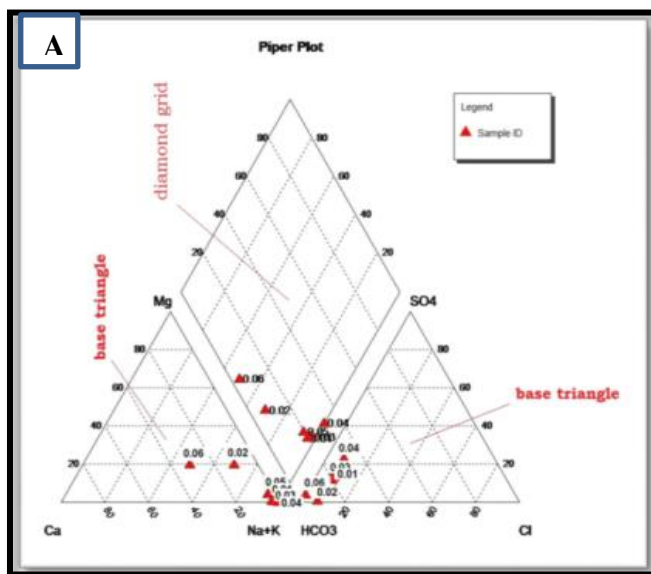
### 3.3.2 Fluid chemical analysis

Fluid geochemical sampling and analysis from 6 different hot springs and cold spring, and lake have been performed by GSE starting from February, 8 – 24, 2017. As a result, the discharge temperature has been noticed in a range from 23°C - 91.06°C and pH values near neutral to slightly alkaline in nature (7.0 - 8.92) immature, peripheral waters types (Figure 3.4 A). Molecular ratios of anions were used to show origin (source rock) of water samples. According to Ternary diagram plot result (Figure3.4C), the chemical composition of the sampled waters is classified as peripheral waters (water with a high percentage composition of HCO<sup>3-</sup>). In piper diagram (Figure 3.4B), the clustering nature of samples has seen between sample labeled as 0.06 and 0.02(cold water samples), while the other is between samples labeled as 0.01, 0.03 and 0.05(hot springs). According to Giggenbach diagram (Figure 3.4A), most of collected water samples from the study area falls on the zone of immature waters except the one which is labeled as sample code 0.04 (Butajira hot pool) that fall above the partial equilibrium line.

The Na-K is higher than the silica geothermometer that have an estimated temperature of 170.9 °C-274.7 °C and 117.59°C-158.86°C. The difference in the results between various geothermometers may indicate shallow conditions of mixing with groundwater. Results of those geothermometers indicate that some hot springs and hot pools have sufficient heat-generating capabilities and warrant further exploration work to assess their suitability for energy generation. Regional heat flow anomalies exist within the rift due to an upper mantle

intrusion beneath the very thin crust layer. The variation in temperature between samples may confirm the presence of local intrusion of the magma chamber that induces heat flow anomalies.

During the exploration phase, water or solute geothermometer is used to estimate subsurface temperatures, i.e., temperatures expected to be encountered by drilling, using the chemical and isotopic composition of the hot spring and fumarole discharges (Cyrus W. Karingithi, 2010). The Na-K geothermometers as shown in appendix VI have extremely high-temperature (897 °C) for the sample feature labeled as sample code 0.02(at Har Shetan). This might not be acceptable /reasonable temperature values for such cold surface water bodies (Crater Lake). The reason for such anomalously high-temperature values is because of the low concentration of Na<sup>+</sup> (sodium ion) and relatively high concentration of K<sup>+</sup> (potassium ion)(GSE,2017). From the silica geothermometers, it is observed that the hottest spring is Ashute hot spring-1 (sample code 0.03) with a subsurface temperature of about 158.86 °C, followed by Ashute hot spring-1(sample code 0.01) with a subsurface temperature of about 151.8 °C. Based on Silica and molecular ratio geothermometers applied in the study; Butajira geothermal prospect area may be considered as a geothermal field with intermediate to high enthalpy resources (GSE, 2017).



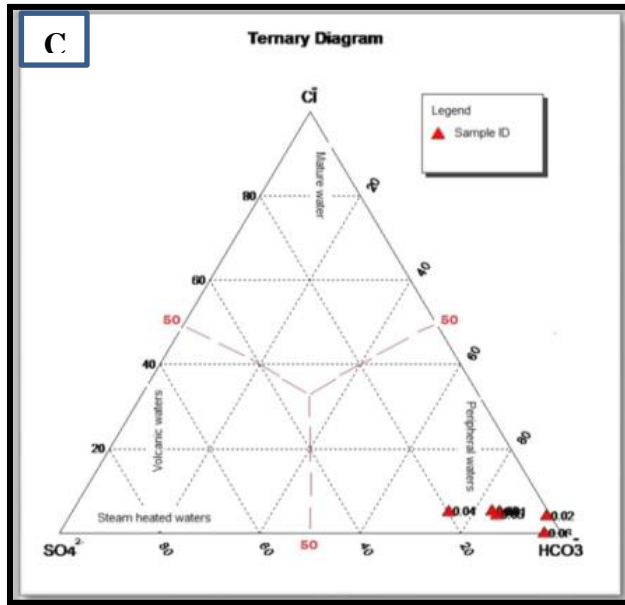


Figure 3.2. A) Piper diagram B) Giggenbach C) Ternary diagram plot adopted from GSE, 2017.

### 3.3.3 Magnetic survey

The magnetic surveys were conducted by GSE over Ashute area, covering an area of 5 Km<sup>2</sup>. The analytical signal map reveals high magnetic anomalies in the western and northeast, associated with presence occurrences of recent basaltic lava flow and scoria cones, revealed roughly by circular high values in NE-SW extension direction. The low magnetic anomaly is observed in the southern and southeastern part characterized by areas pyroclastic ash fall, alluvial deposits and associated with lineaments, whereas ignimbrite rocks are mapped by medium magnetic values. Tilt angle derivative map shows structures with a general alignment of NE-SW; but there are structures oriented to the NE-SW, NNE-SSW and N-S directions. The striking direction coincides with the direction of the main Ethiopian rift margin, associated graben and different local faults. The alignment of the geothermal manifestations is also in line with the lineaments outlined from the magnetic anomaly. This implies the presence of hidden normal faults or fractures parallel with the general NE-SW direction of the MER along the flat plain Ashute area.

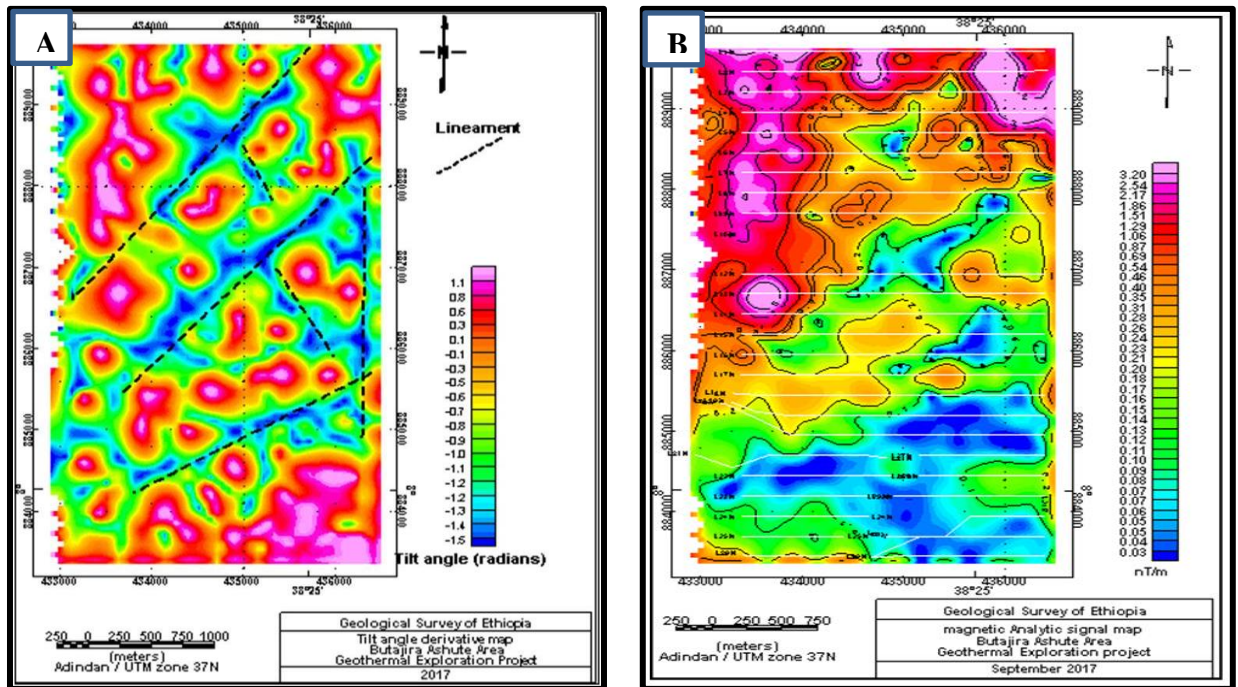


Figure 3.3. Magnetic map A) Tilt angle derivative B) analytical signal map adopted from GSE, 2017)

### 3.3.4 Soil temperature survey

Near-surface soil temperature measurement increase the efficiency of geothermal exploration program by locating thermal anomaly zones in an early stage of exploration, mapping thermal aquifers and by reducing the number of gradient wells needed thereby reduce costs (Sladek. et al., 2007). One meter depth temperature survey was carried out on and around surface manifestation of the study area by GSE in 2017. The survey covered 188 measurement points, distributed along a 2.3x3.5 km grid with an interval of 200 m. Results found from the measured 1 m temperature record ranges from 20.04 to 101.3 °C and high-temperature anomaly is concentrated on two zones of the area; identified as area A and area B. Structural lineaments are outlined from the temperature anomaly oriented in NNE-SSW, NE-SW, and NW-SE directions. This implies the presence of a hidden fault and fractures associated with the general NE-SW direction of the main Ethiopian rift along the flat (Fig 3. Ashute area. On the soil temperature map below(Fig 3.4), dotted line '2' and '3' show respective NE and NNE trending lineaments corresponding to the general direction of the rift margin including Guraghe fault escarpment. Both liniments are also along the lines of the local faults called Dobo-Sabola Fault zone and Ajira faults (MOWR, 2008). They are also

parallel to the youngest geological feature of the area, a series of cones representing the active part of the area. The other lineament, line '1' aligned on N-S direction might follow the regional structures that are located to the south and northeast of Mt. Guraghe that are characterized by N-S orientation (Boccalleti et al., 1998).

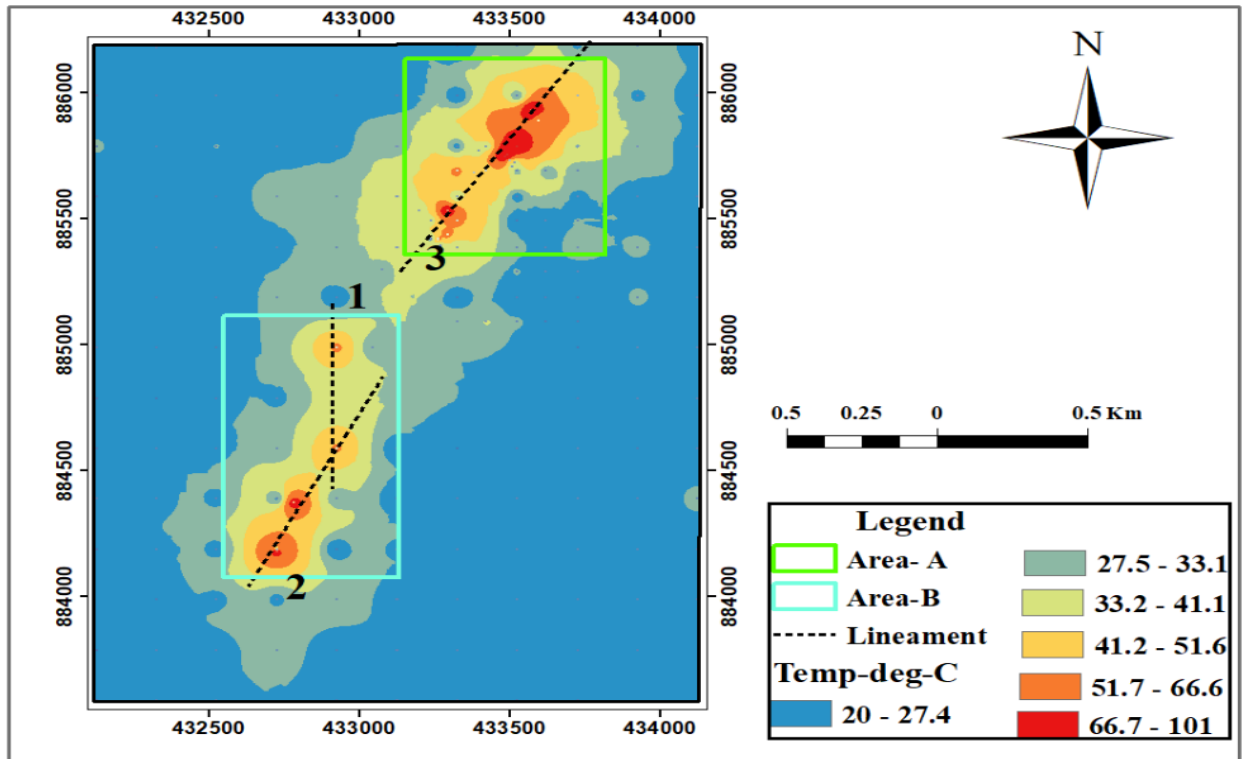


Figure 3.4. 1- m depth Soil temperature map modified from GSE,2017

### 3.3.5 Magneto-telluric methods

The 1D and 2D inversions were carried out by GSE in 2017. The sounding locations were assigned to four profiles oriented almost N-S, namely P1, P2, P3, and P4. The result (Fig3.5) depicts that three main resistivity layers were observed. The first one is a low resistive surface layer ( $< 10 \Omega\text{m}$ ) of up to about 1.5 km depth; this can be correlated with alteration zones caused by geothermal activity or with lacustrine sediments or with a hydrothermally altered clay cap. Below this low resistive layer resistivity increasing up to ( $10\text{-}60 \Omega\text{m}$ ) is observed. This indicates the advancement to a possible reservoir at the depth below about 1 km with a thickness of up to 1.5km. Lastly the third one is beneath the thick high resistivity layer; here a deep conductor is revealed that could be associated with a heat source (Yohannes Lemma, 2007). Faults have been discovered on the profiles 1, 2 and 3.

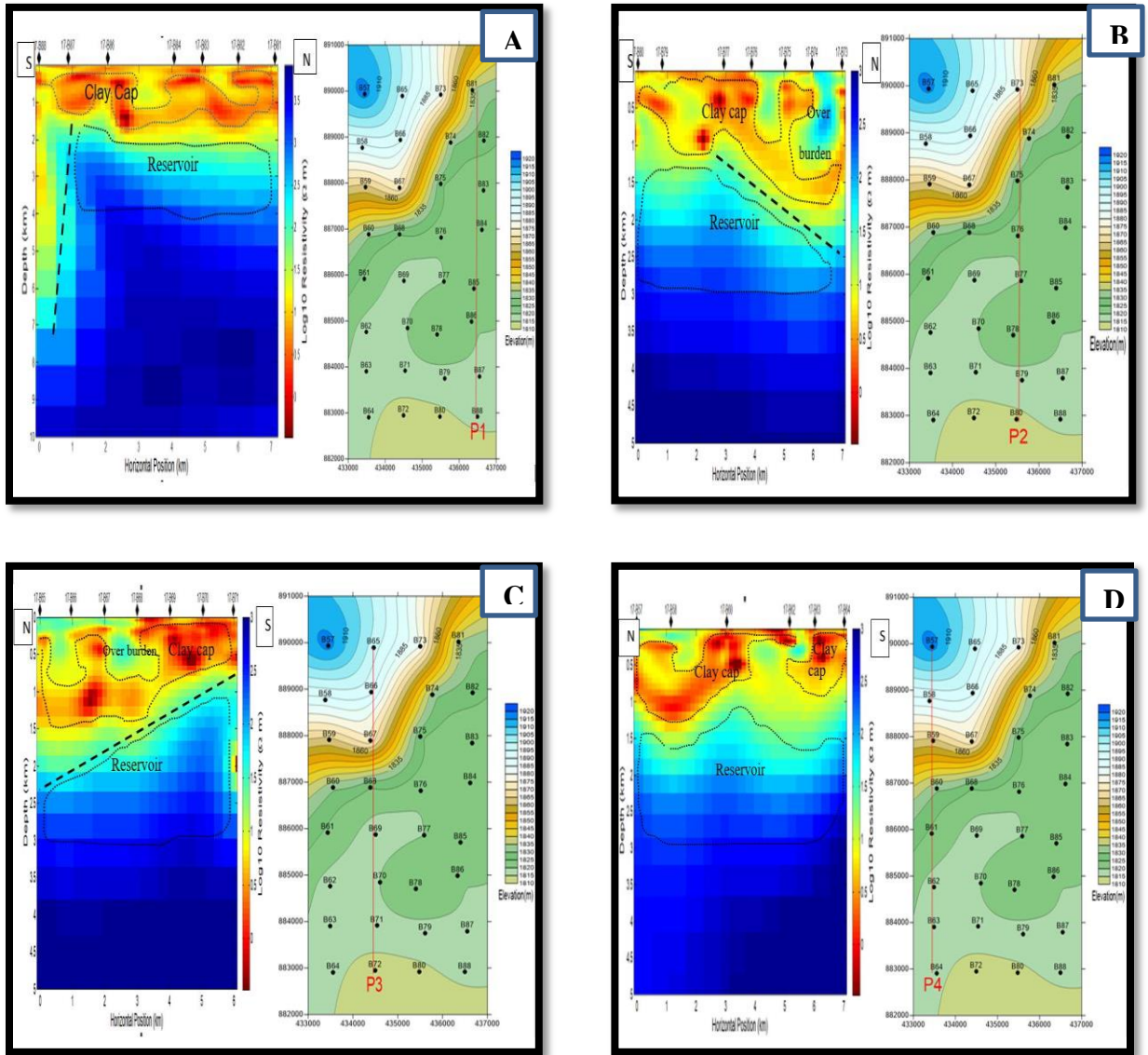


Figure 3.0.5. 2D Occam model along Profile A) P1, B) P2, C) P3 and D) P4 adopted (GSE.2017).

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4. RESULTS OF FIELD WORK, PETROGRAPHIC AND XRD ANALYSIS

The study area is located in central main Ethiopian rift nearby Western escarpment associated with SDZFFZ that is dominantly covered by both quaternary basaltic rock and pyroclastic deposits and pronounced with the presence of numerous geological structures and surface geothermal manifestations. Results obtained from geological field observation, petrographic description, and geothermal surface mapping as well as XRD analysis have been played a vital role in the preparation of geological and geothermal mapping and selecting promising area besides preliminary conceptual model preparation. This chapter covers two major parts i.e. local geology and surface geothermal manifestations. In a local geology portion more emphasis has been given to characterize and mapping of lithologic units of the study area by means of field observations and petrographic analysis as well as to recognize different geological structures. In geothermal surface manifestations, various surface manifestations like hot spring, mud pool, altered ground and abandoned well sites were described and their distribution was drawn besides volcanic vents in the geothermal map. Moreover, secondary alteration minerals were identified and characterized from petrographic as well as XRD analysis.

#### 4.1 Local geology

##### 4.1.1 Lithology and their petrographic description

The recent findings from geological field work and petrographic thin section analysis revealed that the study area is dominantly covered by five (5) major lithological units namely; alluvial and reworked pyroclastic deposits, Basaltic Scoria, Basalt lava flow, Welded Ignimbrite, unwelded tuff and Phreatomagmatic deposits that comprise rock fragments of trachyte and Diorite around Har-Shetan Lake. Compositionally these rock units varied from basaltic up to felsic igneous rock and recent sediments intercalated with miscellaneous reworked volcanic fragments. These rock units are shown in different landscape from a relatively low-lying flat area up to highly rugged topography features. The study area was affected by tectonic activity triggering different secondary structures, like fault, joints and quartz veins. All lithologic units encountered in the study area were described and detailed petrographic optical property explanations are outlined in appendix IV for each rock sample.

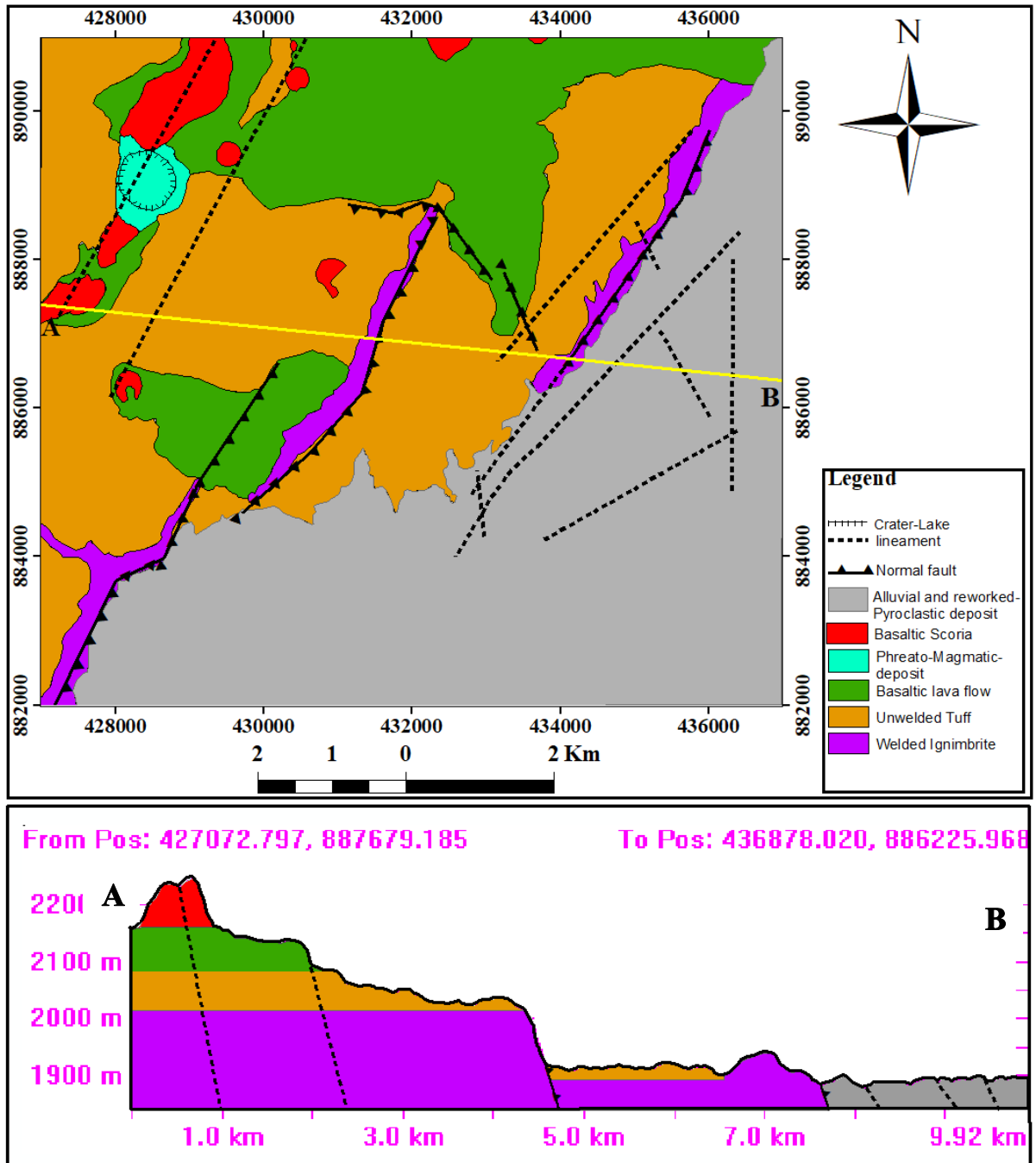


Figure 4.1 Geological map and cross section of the study area

#### 4.1.1.1 Basaltic Scoria

Most of the scoria fall to the ground near the volcanic vent to build up a cone-shaped hill called a "cinder cone". They are generally small volcanoes produced by short-lived eruptions with a total vertical relief of less than a few hundred meters. Scoria cones are dominated in the northern and northwestern parts of the mapped area aligned in NE –SW direction

analogous to the orientation of Selti - Debre Zeit fault zone (SDZFFZ). These fault controlled fissural eruptions of scoria cones and associated basaltic lava flows are the youngest product in the study area (Weldegebriel et al, 1990). They are numerous and continue up to Debre-Zeit to the north beyond the study area following the axis, whereas in the SW of Lake Abaya they follow different orientation in WNW – ESE direction (GSE, 2017). Cones in the area are characterized by steep flank with the maximum height of 120 m and < 800 m diameter. This rock unit has red- dark brown in color and shows vesicular texture with larger void space without filling material in hand specimen view.

Petrographic observation of this rock unit from the prepared thin section (TS-2) shows glomeroporphyritic texture; is a variety of porphyritic texture which has clusters of clinopyroxene and plagioclase phenocryst in fine-grained plagioclase laths, pyroxene and a minor amount of opaque minerals as groundmass (Fig.4.1). Modal percentage of mineral assemblages embraces 2% olivine, 11% pyroxene, 14% plagioclase feldspar, and 21% ground mass holding plagioclase, pyroxene, and opaque minerals and the rest 52% portion is covered by of void space. The measured maximum length for pyroxene, plagioclase and olivine phenocryst is 8.2mm, 6mm and 0.4mm respectively. The olivine and pyroxene phenocrysts show alteration around the edges / rim of minerals grains into fine-grained biotite and opaque mineral. Vesicles in this rock show spherical in shape some of them are occupied with some amygdule (inclusions of secondary materials) in concentric layering within a void space. From the modal percentage and distribution of the minerals and overall texture and amount of void spaces we can conclude that the rock is basaltic scoria.



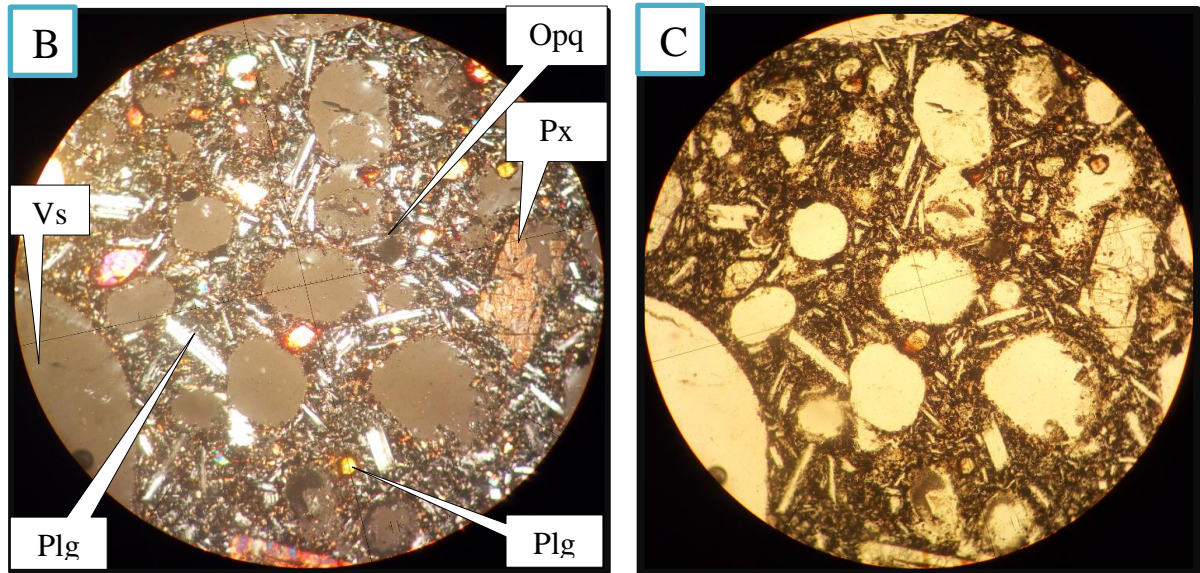


Figure 4.2. (A) Basaltic Scoria field exposure; (B) & (C) petrographic view of sample (TS-2) under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Ol-Olivine; Plg - Plagioclase feldspar; Px – pyroxene; Gm-ground mass; Vs-void space.

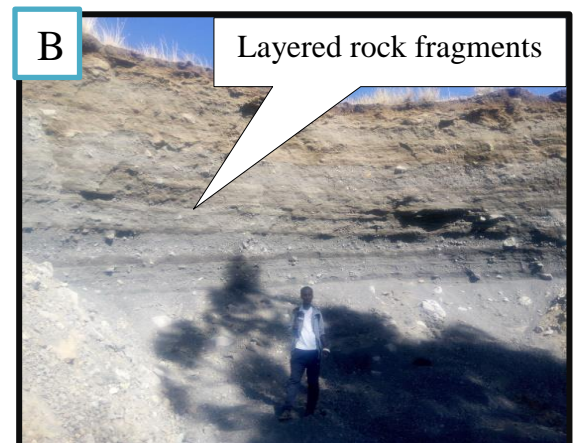
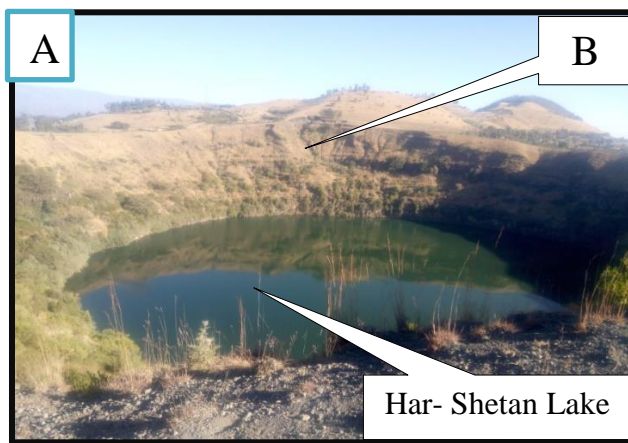
#### 4.1.1.2 Phreato-magmatic Deposit

Geological field observation and mapping reveals that Phreato-magmatic deposit is largely found in North West part of the study area and covers about 2km<sup>2</sup> with gentle outer flank circular tuff ring with central Crater Lake, named as Har-Shetan. The internal diameter of the crater rim measures about 750m and forms upright wall around the inside of the Lake. This upright wall comprises well stratified welded Ignimbrite as well as laminated lapilli sized Scoracious Basalt. Blocks of Trachyte and Diorite rock fragments lay over the pyroclastic deposit around the envelope of the Har-Shetan Crater Lake. This phreatomagmatic product interconnected to the base of the scoria cone as shown in figure 4.2B. These different sized blocks become dismantled and ejected from underlying country rock shown rock fragments layered also leave them disseminated around the Lake.

Petrographic thin section analysis from phreatomagmatic deposit (TS-3) exhibit trachytic texture i.e. a texture wherein plagioclase grains show a preferred orientation due to flowage, and the interstices between plagioclase grains are occupied by the glass or cryptocrystalline material. As shown in photograph below (Fig 4.2 C& D) minerals are aligned into preferred orientation and established in layer form. The abundance of minerals in modal percentage comprises 86% plagioclase feldspar; 7% potassium feldspar phenocrysts, 5% volcanic glass

and 2% volcanic glass. Alkali feldspar mineral grains are encountered in various sizes from fine-grained microlite up to relatively larger grain in the form of phenocrysts. Beside phenocrysts of mineral grains, rock fragments that were enclosed by dark brown, layered, glassy material and shows sieve texture (Moth eaten texture) wherein individual minerals grains show an abundance of glassy inclusions with a few opaque and alteration minerals. Among those alteration minerals Biotite, Chlorite, and Actinolite are noticed. The measured maximum lengths of plagioclase, orthoclase phenocryst, and rock fragment are 0.6mm, 5.6mm, and 7.2mm respectively. Considering the type and modal percentage of minerals and overall texture this rock is Trachyte.

Petrographic observation from the other rock fragment attained from phreatomagmatic deposits, sample (TS-6) shows both intergranular and ophitic texture which have coarser mineral grains with abundant opaque minerals. As notice at lower photography (Fig 4.2 E&F) ophitic texture is revealed phenocrysts plagioclase laths are oriented in precise path and encloses a coarse-grained matrix of pyroxene crystals. Moreover, it shows intergranular texture, thus the angular interstices are occupied by grains of ferromagnesium minerals such as olivine, pyroxene, or opaque iron-titanium oxides. The modal percentage of mineral composition of the rock unit is 3% opaque minerals, 3% olivine, 29% pyroxene, and 65% plagioclase feldspar. The maximum lengths of grains size of opaque, olivine, plagioclase feldspar, and pyroxene is 2.2mm, 2.4mm, 4.6mm, and 5.8mm respectively. Accordingly, the presence of a number of minerals, their modal percentage and texture make a distinction to identify the rock unit as Diorite.



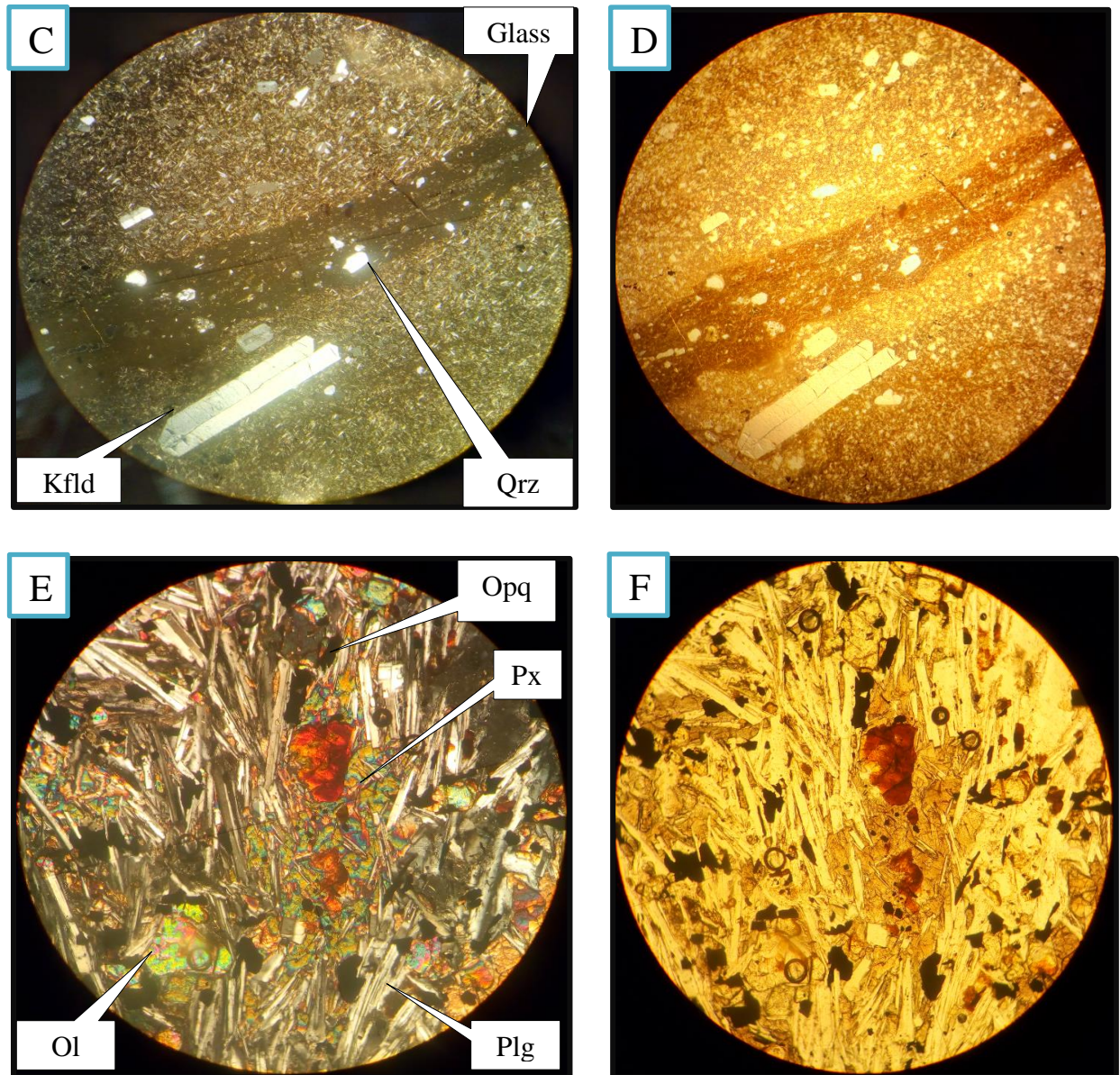


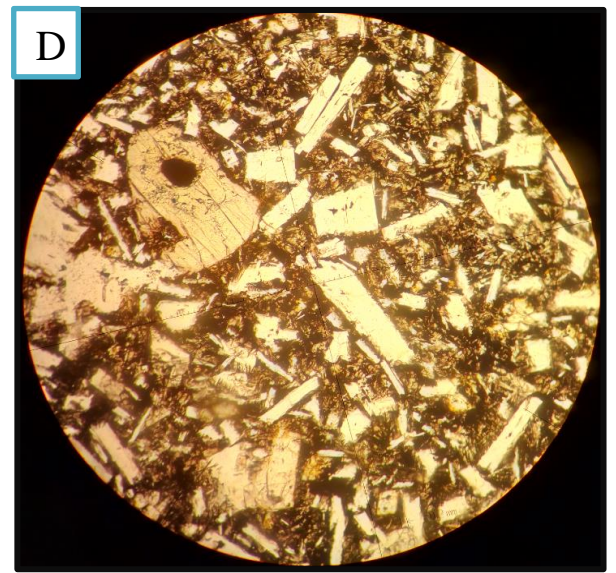
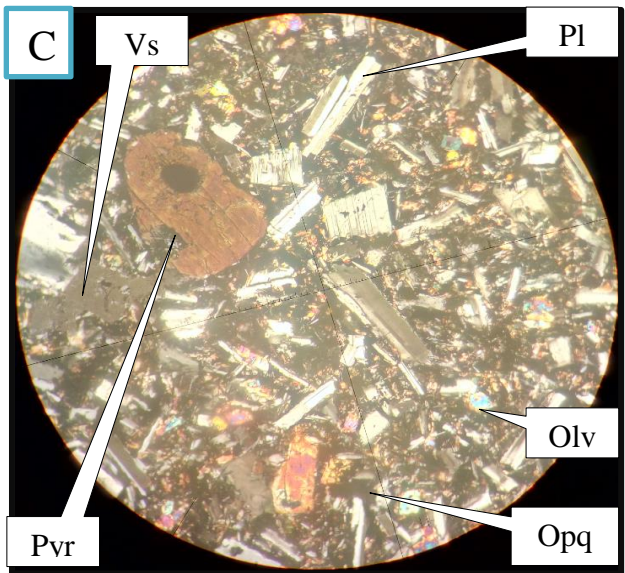
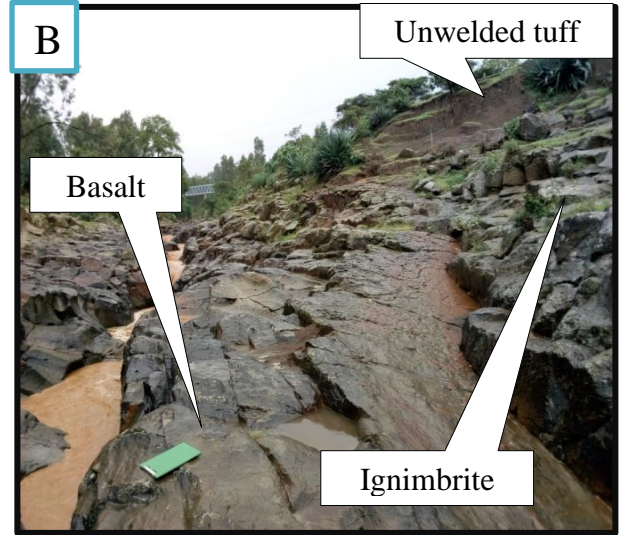
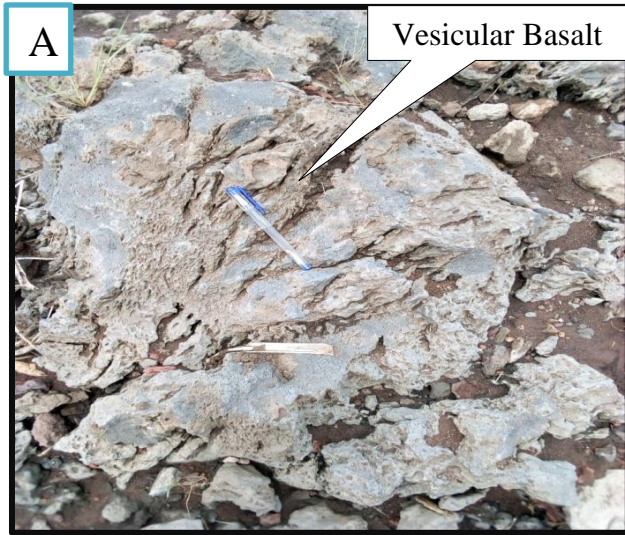
Figure 4.3 Phreatomagmatic deposits: A & B Har-Shetan Lake and field exposure; C & D petrographic view of sample (TS-3) and E & F (TS-6) under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Ol-Olivine; Plg - Plagioclase feldspar; px -pyroxene; Op- opaque

#### 4.1.1.3 Basaltic lava flow

Basaltic lava flows in the study area are associated with the eruption of basaltic scoria cones. This rock unit is dominant in northern and north western parts of the study area at the base of the cinder cone. The formation of this rock unit was associated with the later stage of eruptions from the scoria cones. Stratigraphically, the basaltic lavas lie on top of tuff and ignimbrite units in most areas, whereas in some localities, at the Lebu River bottom around Senena village, Tuff

deposit having greater than 20 m in thickness overlies the basaltic lava. Texturally, both porphyritic and vesicular textures are existed. The vesicular texture is especially dominated on the top of the flow around the cones flanks.

Two thin sections (TS-4 & TS-5) for petrographic analysis were selected from vesicular and porphyritic basalt to characterize the rock unit. Consequently both samples show similar minerals assemblages but differ in rock texture and a modal percentage of the phenocrysts. In both thin sections olivine, pyroxene, plagioclase and opaque minerals as ground mass are present in various proportions. The modal percentages of those minerals observed in TS-4 are 2% olivine, 23% pyroxene, 37% plagioclase feldspar and the rest of this portion is covered by of ground mass. In this sample Coronas / reaction rims, Moth eaten texture (sieve texture) and Oscillatory zoning were observed in plagioclase feldspar and olivine and pyroxene minerals altered into volcanic glass and opaque minerals. Crystal shapes of olivine and pyroxene grains are dominantly anhedral and alkali feldspar show euhedral prismatic laths. Phenocryst of olivine, plagioclase, and pyroxene has a maximum length of 1.2mm, 3.4mm, and 4.2mm respectively. While, sample (TS-5) displays more void spaces and little alteration have been observed. The modal percentages are 1% olivine, 22% pyroxene, 34% plagioclase feldspar, 36% of ground mass and the rest of this portion is void space. Crystal shapes of olivine and pyroxene grains are dominantly anhedral and alkali feldspar shows euhedral prismatic laths. The phenocrysts of olivine, pyroxene, and plagioclase have a maximum length of 0.4mm, 3.2mm and 3.6mm respectively. Generally this rock unit shows glomeroporphyritic texture; is a variety of porphyritic texture which has clusters of phenocryst olivine, pyroxene and plagioclase enclosed in fine grained groundmass. This sample shows different feature indifferent phenocryst like Coronas or reaction rims in olivine crystals besides Moth eaten texture (also called sieve texture) and Oscillatory zoning in plagioclase feldspar. Petrographic optical analysis of minerals and their modal percentage confirms this rock unit is vesicular basaltic.



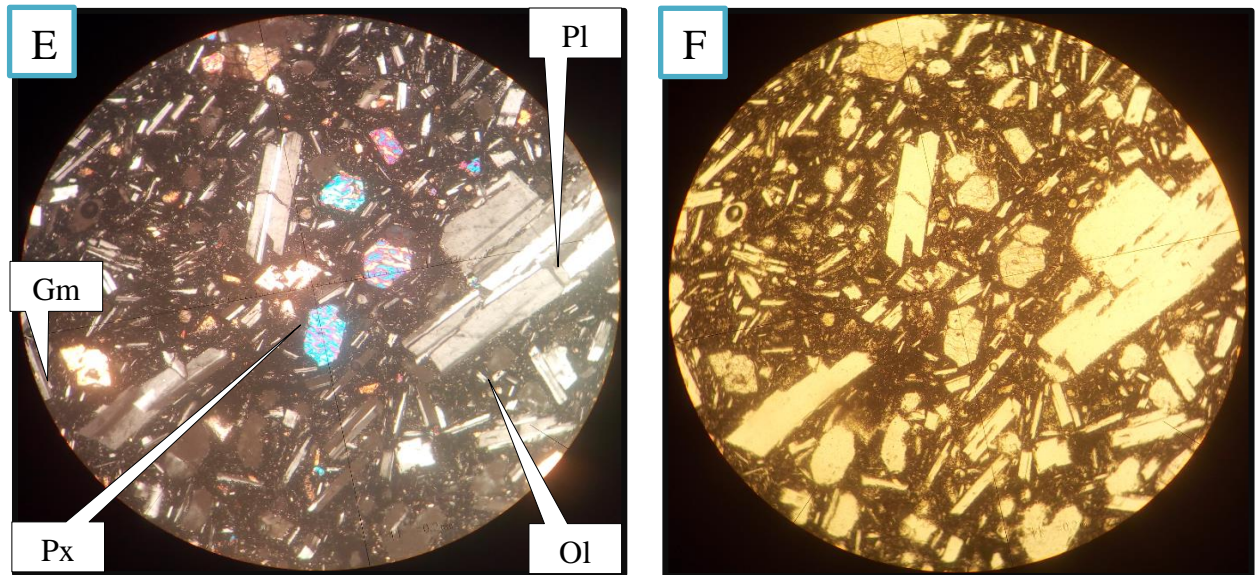


Figure 4.4. Har-Shetan Lake field exposure A & B; C & D petrographic view of sample (TS-4) and E & F (TS-5) under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Olv-Olivine; Plg - Plagioclase feldspar; Op- opaque; Gm-ground mass.

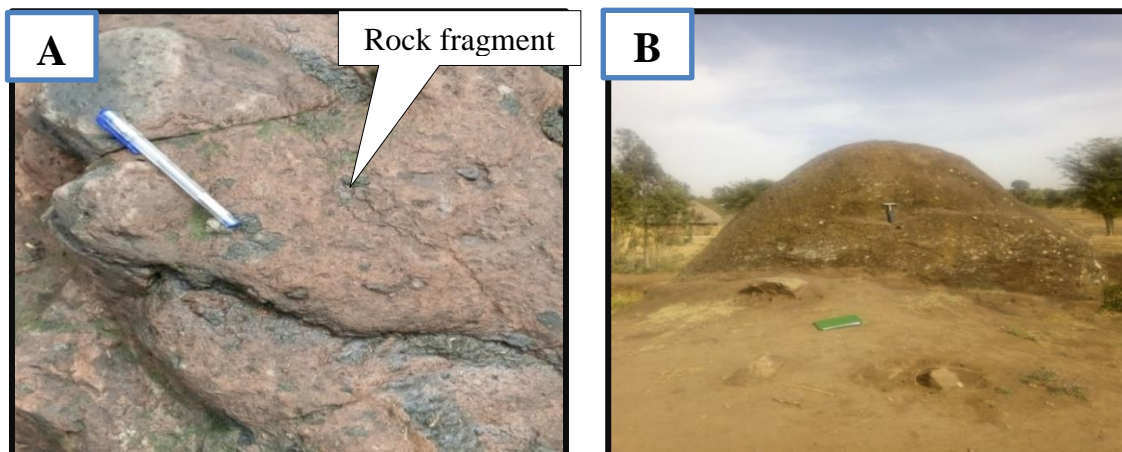
#### 4.1.1.4 Welded Ignimbrite

This lithological unit is located in central part of the study area exposed due to downward fault movement extends in NE direction. Consequently this rock unit covers relatively smaller area associated with fault escarpments which have thickness from 15m-45m. Texturally there are two varieties of welded pyroclastic deposit in the area. The first one is highly welded crystalline ignimbrites with crystals of quartz and K-feldspar. This ignimbrite type mostly exposed in north east margin towards the central part of the mapped area along down throw fault and also layered within rim of Lake Har-Shetan underneath phreatomagmatic deposit. The second variety of ignimbrite is mostly dominated by highly welded ash and bombs and blocks of lithic fragment (2cm-5cm). It located in south eastern side of the study area outcropped on fault zones and under riverbeds. There is also a top overlaying separate highly crystalline flow suspected from huge (>3m) transported blocks because it was not accessible. Stratigraphically the whole ignimbrite lies beneath by the surrounding unwelded tuff that covers the upland part of fault blocks.

Petrographic analysis from representative thin sections (TS-7&TS-58) reveals that quartz; plagioclase and rock fragments are available in various proportions. Moreover secondary alteration minerals like Biotite, Rutile, and Chlorite were distinguished. In sample TS-7 the modal percentage of major minerals constitutes are 3% opaque; 28% orthoclase; 30% quartz,

38% of volcanic glass. The maximum length for phenocryst is 0.68mm quartz 0.68mm plagioclase and 2mm rock fragment. The plagioclase phenocrysts and rock fragments altered in to fine grained biotite and opaque mineral around the edge of the mineral grains. Volcanic glass, fine grained alkali feldspar, quartz and opaque minerals form the groundmass. As a result the glass matrix has an apparent discontinuous lamination caused by extreme compaction and welding of original pumice fragment. This regular alignment of the flattened fragments is known as Eutaxitic texture. Crystal shapes of quartz grains are dominantly anhedral and alkali feldspar show euhedral prismatic laths.

Result from other thin section ( TS-8) analysis tell the modal percentages are 2% opaque; 24% plagioclase feldspar; 33% quartz ; 41% rock fragment that consists of fine grained ground mass and opaque minerals. This sample shows Moth eaten / sieve texture in rock fragments and spherulitic texture in quartz. Crystal shapes of quartz grains are dominantly anhedral while rock fragments are elliptical in shape. The measured maximum length for phenocryst is; 0.68mm quartz, 0.68mm plagioclase, and 5mm rock fragment. Dominant alteration is observed along layering and within rock fragments. The groundmass is predominantly composed of quartz, alkali feldspar and opaque minerals. Generally these rock units show porphyritic texture which phenocryst quartz and plagioclase enclosed in fine grained groundmass of volcanic glass. The modal percentage of the constituent minerals and their texture reveal the welded ignimbrite rock unit.



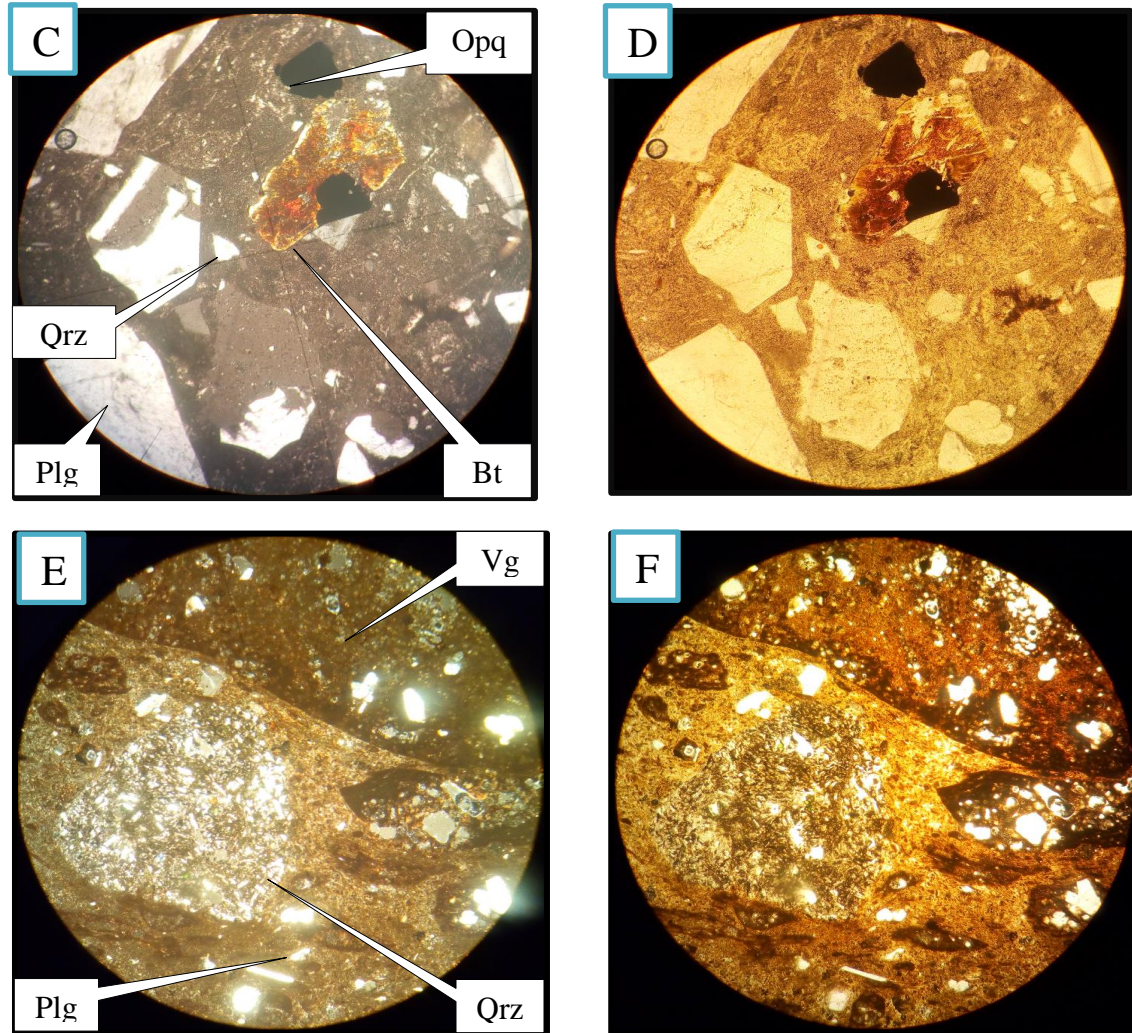


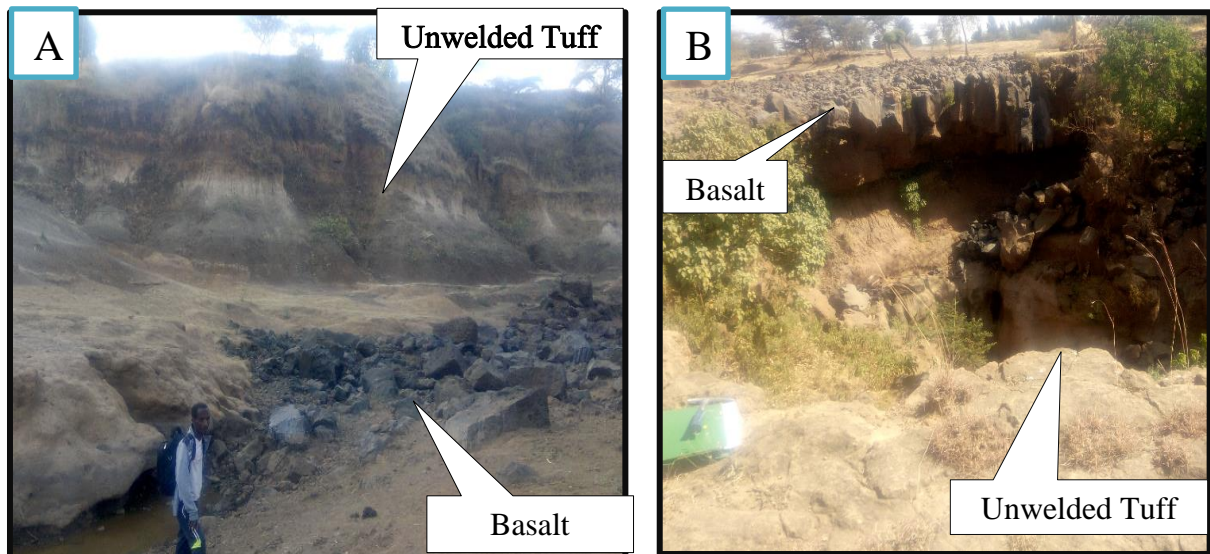
Figure 4.5 Welded ignimbrite A & B field exposure; C & D; E & F petrographic view of sample TS-7 and TS-8 under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Qrz- quartz, plg –plagioclase, Op- opaque, Bt- Biotite, and vg- volcanic glass.

#### 4.1.1.5 Unwelded Tuff

This lithologic unit is un-welded fine grained pyroclastic Ash flow Deposit with large area of coverage among other lithology units. Even though, this lithology exposed in various localities, 3 thick flows outcropped along river cut in south western and western parts of the study area. In eastern parts of mapped area they occur as intercalation and form thin layering between thick overlying basalt and underlying ignimbrite with a range in thickness from less than 10m to 90m. General stratigraphy of this unit overlies the welded ignimbrite and underlie with basalt. It has white to yellow brownish color and predominantly consists of volcanic ash with minor amount of crystals and rock fragments occur in two types; the glassy

and the fragmental tuff. The glassy (vitric) tuff is wholly glassy whereas the fragmental tuff is made up of lithic fragments with subordinate quartz and feldspars.

Petrographic analysis of sample (TS-10) exhibits a glassy texture with few phenocrysts of quartz and Orthoclase. The modal percentage of mineral constitutes are potassium feldspar (~2%); quartz (2%); opaque minerals (1%) and rest enclosed by glassy material. The crystal shape of quartz grains show dominantly anhedral and alkali feldspar show euhedral to subhedral with maximum length 1.84mm and 0.68mm for the largest grains of each phenocrysts respectively. The groundmass is composed microcrystalline of volcanic glass, quartz and potassium feldspar. They and the crystals of quartz and feldspar were embedded by in fine grained glassy particles (ash). Some of glassy fragments are slightly flattened even if not well welded to one another. Based on the modal proportion and grain size distribution of the phenocrysts, texture and nature of ground mass this rock is unwelded Tuff. Quartz grains relative to the other phenocrysts doesn't show any preferred orientation and also they are not welded to each other.



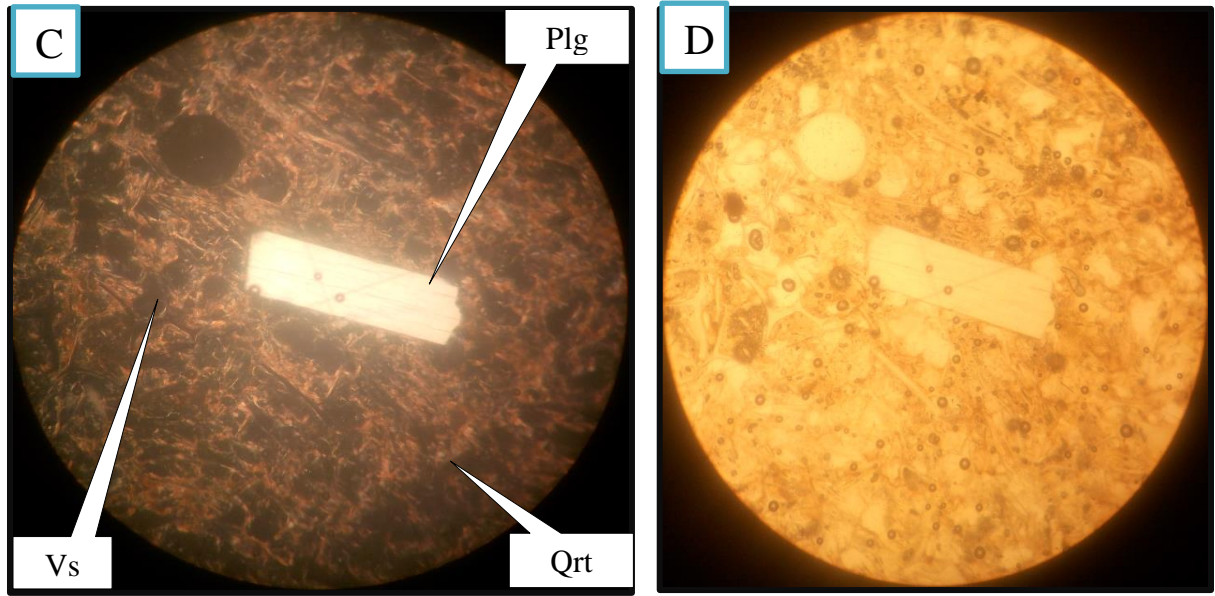


Figure 4.6 Unwelded Tuff field exposure field exposure A & B; C & D petrographic view of sample TS-10 under XPL and PPL respectively. The labels stand for: Plg - Plagioclase feldspar; Qrt –quartz; Vs-void space.

#### 4.1.1.6 Alluvial and reworked pyroclastic deposits

This lithology unit found in the southern and south eastern part of the study area which forms flat-lying topography within Kontane Marsh along with plain land of Ashute and Gerbi Ber villages. Both pyroclastic and sediments are intermixed and stratigraphically they are set together one on another in undefined pattern. Since the area of this unit fully covered by water and grass the exact thickness is not known. But evidences confirmed by drilling in nearby area thickness exceed 70m (GSE, 2008). The rock unit is less indurated and consists of lithic fragments derived from northern part of high lands and fault scarps. This unit consists of graded sediment deposited from ash to gravel size. It is dominantly a product of reworked pyroclastic ash flow deposit and water laid turbid debris. The matrix is dominated by ash size particles of glass, quartz, obsidian and pumice.



Figure 4.7 Alluvial and reworked pyroclastic deposit

#### 4.1.2 Geological structures

The CMER is characterized by border faults and active fault system in the rift floor. It is mainly clustered on two major fault systems namely; Selti - Debre Zeyit fault and Wonji fault belt with associated Quaternary volcanic rocks. This rift zone strikes in NNE–SSW and is characterized by a series of normal faults that obliquely cut the rift floor in the MER. The rift floor is strongly affected by dense fault swarms with right stepping arrangement. Strike  $\sim 0^{\circ}$ - $20^{\circ}$  exhibits small throw relative to the trend of regional rift margin (Woldegabriel et al., 1990). Butajira geothermal field situated in the western margin of CMER is characterized by faults and associated aligned cinder cones and lava apron. Thus the structural features identified from aerial photograph interpretation and actual field observation display a narrow half graben. These aligned step up faults have a general orientation of  $N25^{\circ}$ - $40^{\circ}$ E and dip  $30^{\circ}$  -  $65^{\circ}$  SE directions. In the south western flank of the area fault with vertical displacement about 70m along NE extension similar to the trend of border fault system. Another small scale transverse fault with bearing  $N35^{\circ}$  W,  $38^{\circ}$  SW is found following the river flow direction. These faults are found in the east central parts of the study area and form escarpments between ignimbrite and basalt rock units.

Lineaments were noticed in various orientations that are buried under recent basaltic lava flow and alluvial deposits. They are aligned in linear to curvilinear features observed in the mapped

area and approved from magnetic and geophysical survey. They have various trend; NW-SE, NE-SW, N-S and E-W. Moreover, joints were observed within unwelded Tuff, ignimbrite and within sinter units provide awareness to the past stress. In particular, sinter-hosted joints could be recently generated and therefore they provide a measure of currently active movements and stresses. Field observations in the area indicates joints are mostly develop in a direction of NE-SW, N-S and E-W, and to some extent NW-SE. E-W and N-S sets or corresponding NE-SW and NW-SE striking presumably indicate a fault-related stress-regime. The aperture of joints is filled by secondary minerals of quartz and the surrounding rocks are highly altered suggesting circulation of hot fluids. Mineral precipitations from supersaturated geothermal fluids in the joints are evidence of extensional processes.

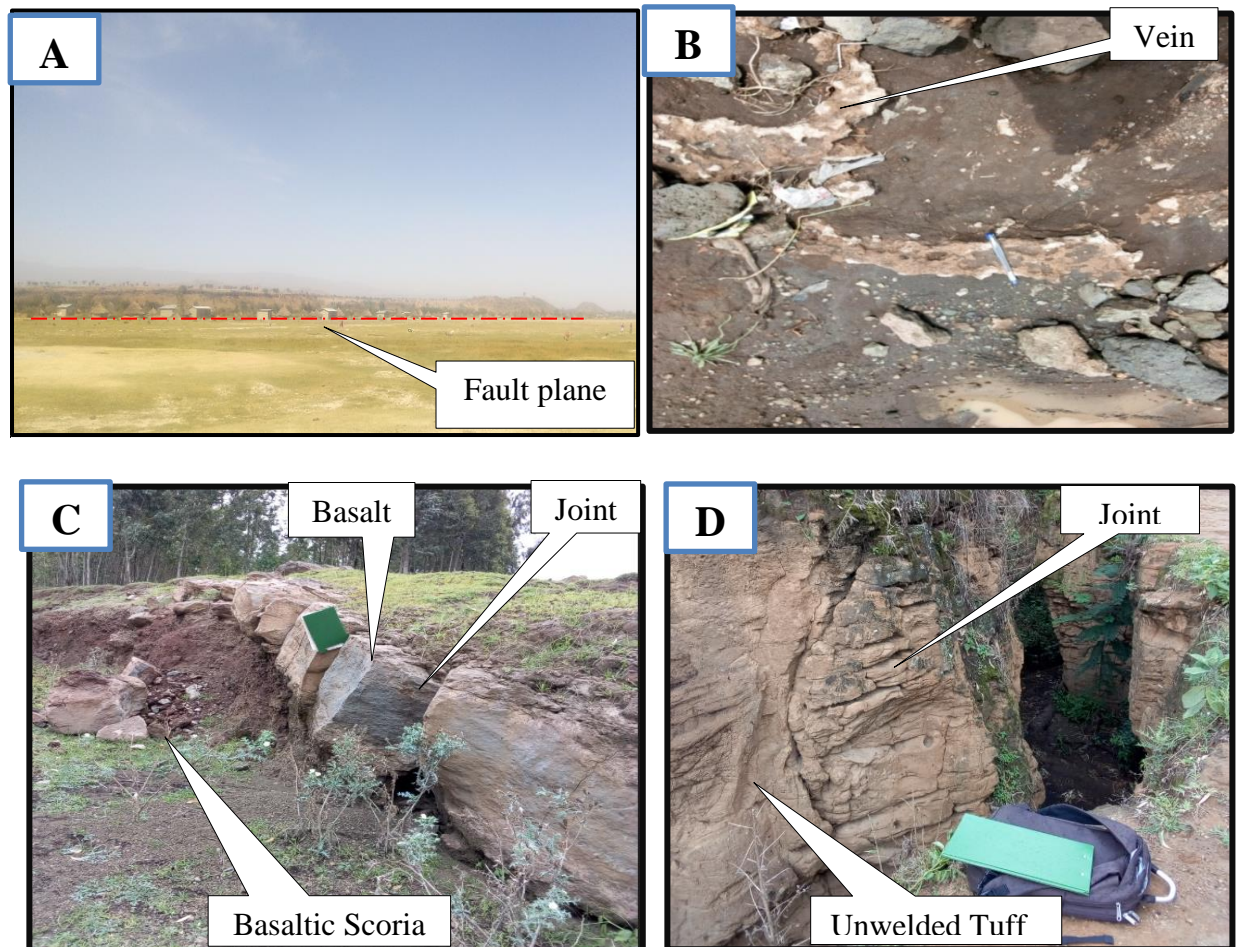
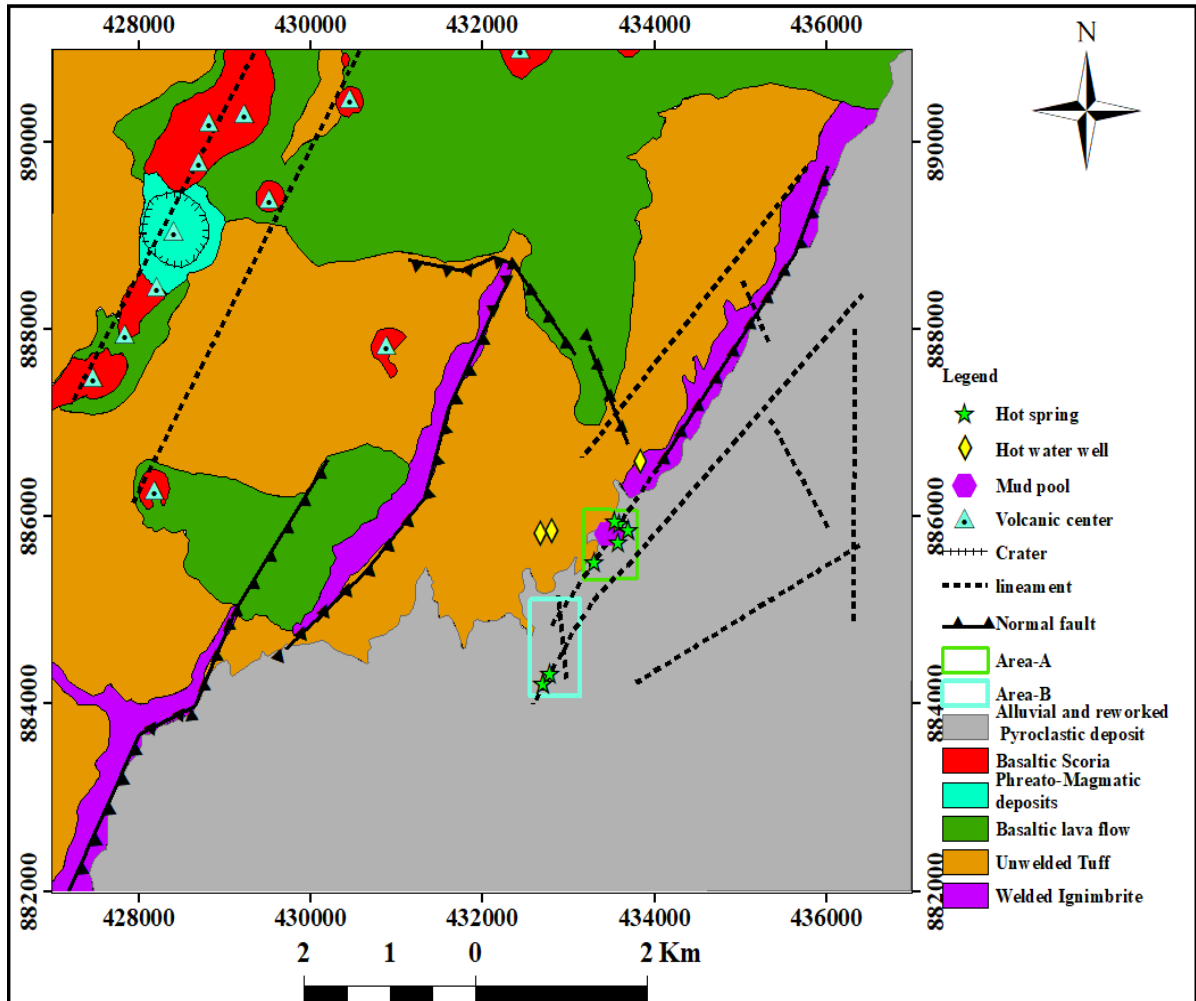


Figure 4.8 Geological structures A) fault B) Joints filled by secondary minerals C) basalt as sill in basaltic scoria D) Joint sets in Unwelded Tuff.

## **4.2 Surface geothermal manifestations**

The geothermal map was conducted analogous to geological mapping at the same scale throughout the study area. The geothermal mapping encompasses different surface manifestations like hot springs, hot water pools, mud pool, volcanic centers, hydrothermal surface alteration, Silica sinter and sulfur deposits and Hot drill well and Abandoned well sites. In addition to these DEM used to display surface conditions as shown in figure 4.11 besides the geothermal map at a reduced scale embracing soil temperature survey having 5<sup>0</sup>C isotherm accomplished around geothermal surface manifestations.

Geothermal surface manifestations of the study area comprises hot springs, hot water pool, mud pool, steaming ground and associated altered grounds. Temperature measurement of these surface manifestations obtained 48<sup>0</sup>C and 101<sup>0</sup>C in extinct thermal spring and Mud pools respectively. These manifestations are dominantly concentrated in the eastern part at Ashute and Gerbi Ber plain land of the mapped area. All these features aligned in parallel pattern associated with the trend of major fault system having a general NE strike direction. At the intersection of NE fault system with NW-SE strike fault system surface manifestations are prominent in area. Indeed, a surface manifestation may be observed fairly on the up flow zone resulted from fault structure that serves as permeability pathway for a fluid flow pattern. The presence of surface manifestation and their temperature measurement as well as the type and intensity of rock alteration indicates the south eastern part of the study area encompass better prospect to hold geothermal resource. Thus the type and distribution of geothermal manifestations of mapped area might relate to the convection of fluid through deep rooted fault zone that could be heated and rise due to the presence of shallower magma intrusions.



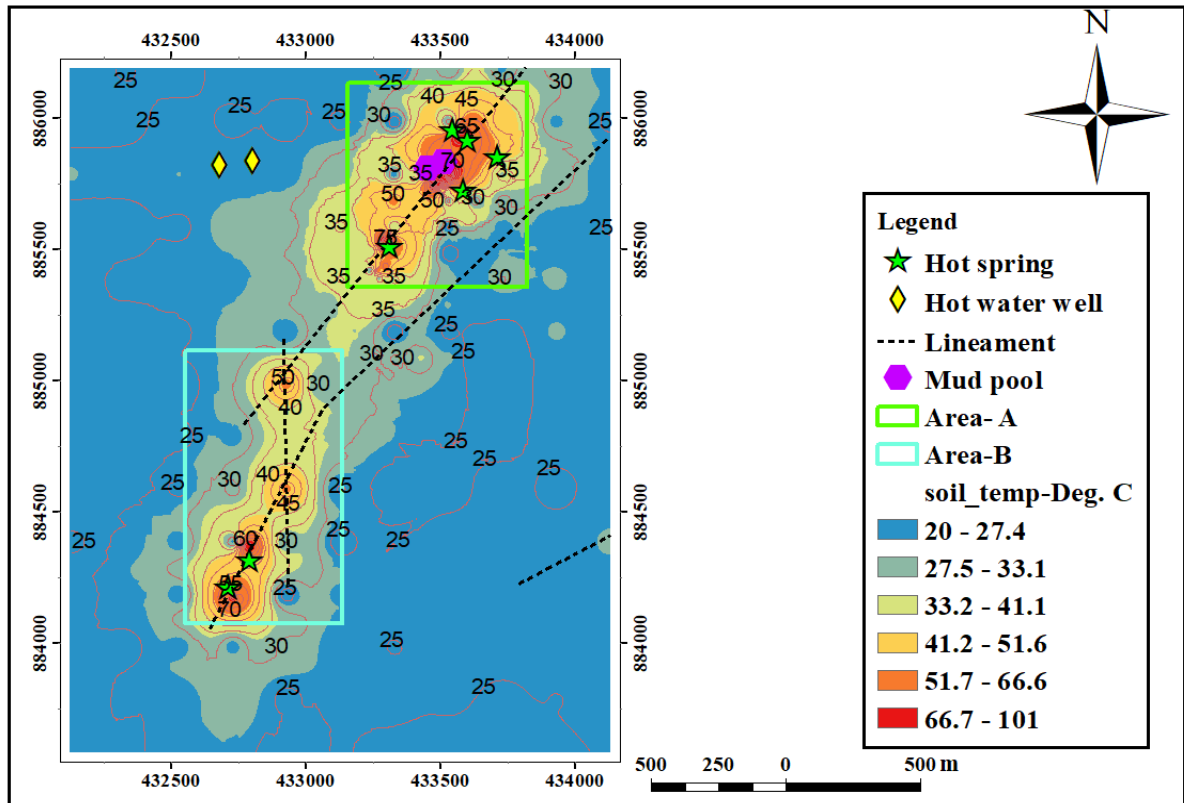


Figure 4.9 Geothermal map of the study area and proposed target areas overlap with geological map and soil temperature data

#### 4.2.1 Hot springs

Fumaroles, Steam and muddy-water ejecting vents are concentrated in particular location, near Ashute village at 433552 E, 88592N and Gerbi Ber village at 432808 E, 884390N. They are found on big hot swampy ground covered by large grass. These surface manifestations are generally aligned and elongated along NE- SW directions. Ashute hot springs and mud pools encompass small lake with hot gas outlet. This typical high temperature surface expression indicates that of the intersection of the two fault lineaments in the area. There are numerous at least 14 small holes ejecting muddy water and steam and at most 8 hot springs are found around the mapped area. These Ashute and Gerbi Ber hot springs are used for bath and spa purpose in the local community.

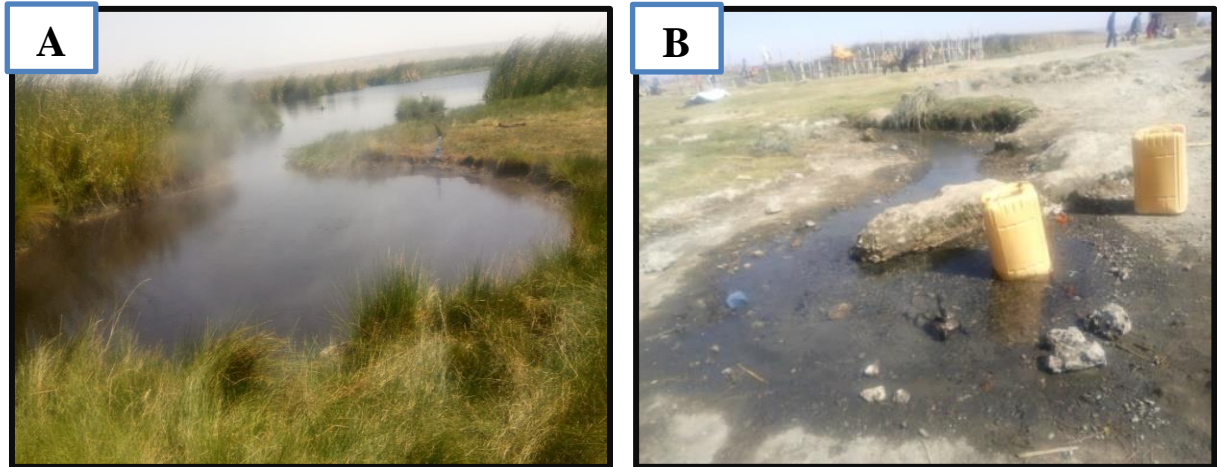


Figure 4.10 Hot water pools with gas outlet and Spa

#### 4.2.2 Mud pools

It is a type of hot springs or fumaroles formed under limited water supply that typically forms a pool of bubbling mud. This surface manifestation situated in south eastern part of the study area at plain land adjoining other surface manifestations such as hot springs and small hot water pool area along NE-SW trend extension. They are characterized by ejecting mud and fumarolic activities enclosing more than 60 mud-ejecting eyes inside. The mud pool having an area coverage about 250m in SW and 85m in SE direction from 433157E, 885150N. The hot mud pool has a maximum temperature of 101°C mud ejected bubbles (GSE, 2014). It is black in color associated with yellow colored very thin sulfur deposits that enclosed by relatively light gray grass.

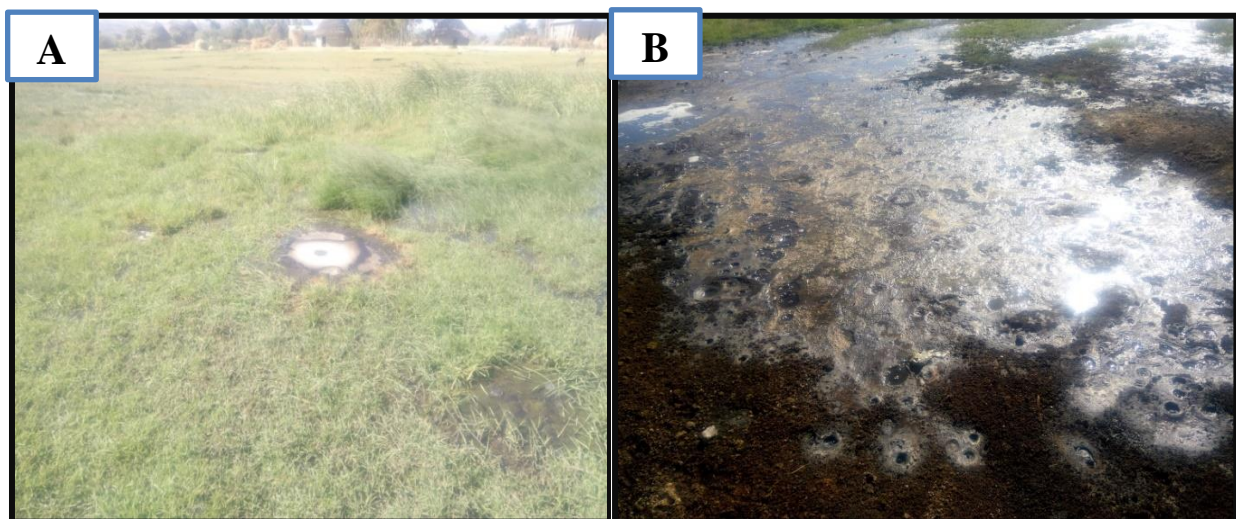


Figure 4.11 Mud pool

#### 4.2.3 Silica sinter and sulfur deposits

Hydrothermal alteration is change in mineralogy, texture and chemistry of rocks facilitated as a result of rock interaction with geothermal fluids (hot water and gas). The intensity of alterations in geothermal area are dependent on change in prevailing conditions of temperature and composition of geothermal fluid and host rock, type of rock and its permeability, as well as duration of rock- fluid interactions (Reyes, 2000). Hydrothermal fluids cause alteration of rocks by passing through the rocks leaching out the nearby rocks and changing their composition by adding or removing or redistributing the dissolved ions.

The degree of alteration is more dominant in south eastern part of the plain area along fault zones while slightly alteration has been observed in northern and north western parts of the mapped area. Basaltic lava flow and Basaltic scoria cones show slight alterations i.e. primary rock texture and minerals are recognizable through thin section analysis. While high degree of alteration, when the principal primary minerals and rock textures are replaced by new mineral and rock texture, were detected at ignimbrites and Unwelded Tuff.

In highly altered areas silica sinters and sulfur with halite deposits are the dominant features observed in the field resulted from hydrothermal activity. Silica sinter dominantly found near hot spring and hot water pools filled in altered ignimbrite rock unit. It forms spongy like aggregate of secondary quartz mineral dominantly found adjoining hot spring and hot water pool following the NE – SW direction. It has white to dull gray color with radial growth. During field observation hydrothermal native sulfur mineral deposited around hot spring and mud pool in association with halite and clay minerals. It is identified by yellowish color and rotten egg smell. These deposits have thin layer less than 2cm and cover large extent in NE-SW trend following other surface manifestations. Observation from field and thin section analysis reveals the degree of alteration in the study area controlled by geological structures and topography rather than lithological variations.

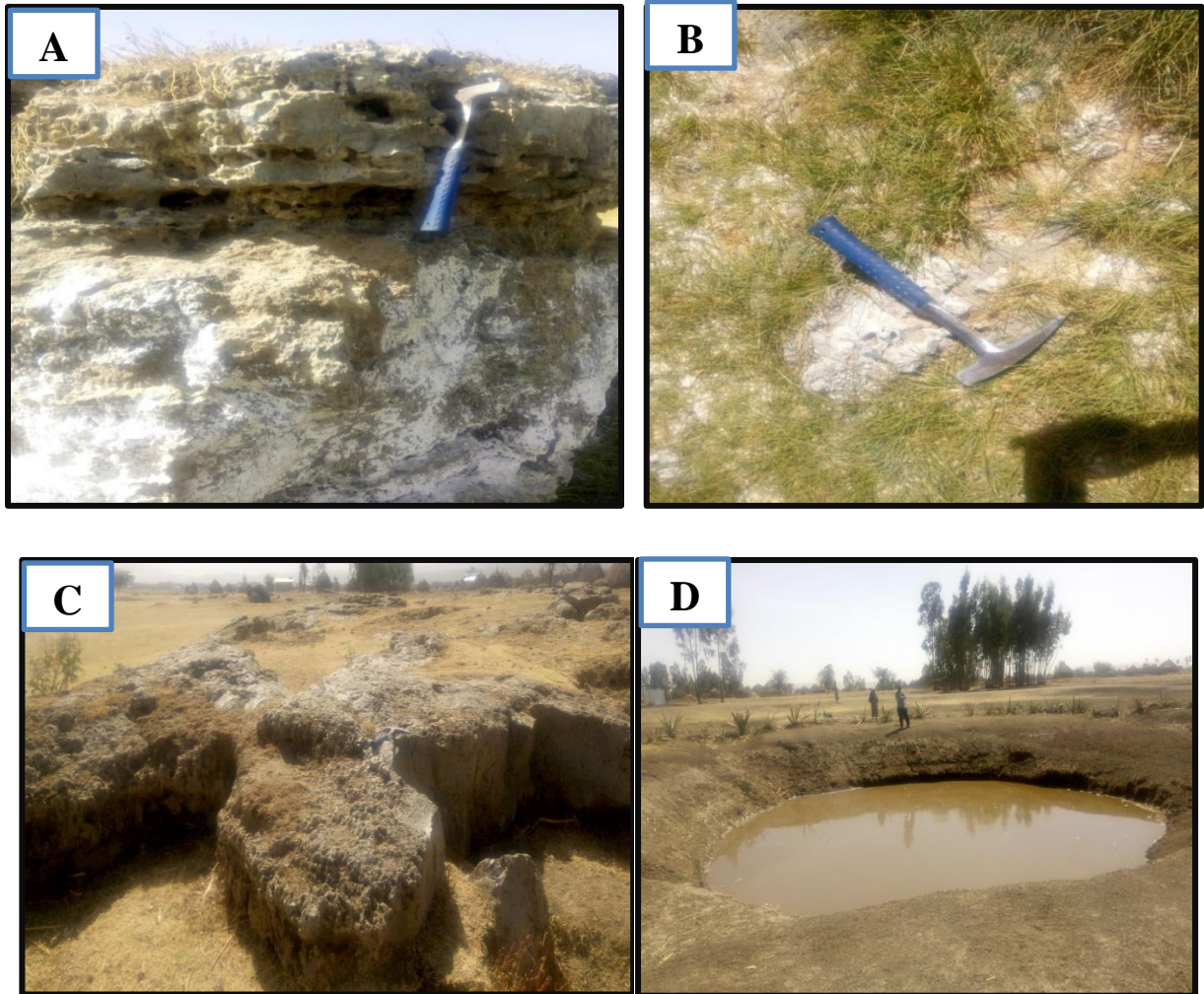


Figure 4.12 Altered ground and Sulfur deposits (A-C), borehole drilled for irrigation purpose (D)

#### 4.2.4 Hot drill well and Abandoned well sites

There are a number of drilled well that provides hot water for domestic purpose alongside south-east of Ajira –Afuno fault. Among these wells at 4333858E, 86559N with a temperature of roughly 40<sup>0</sup> C and well out of use due to corrosion at 432691E, 885766N are noticed. At the location of 432842E, 886073N deep water well up to 255m depth drilled for irrigation purpose in 2014. During drilling different rock unit are encountered and loss of circulation and blow out occurred on 234 and 255m respectively. Initially hot water and steam ejected explosively up to 30m from the wellhead and it forms small pit with temperature reaches up to 90°C (Solomon et al., 2014). Even though there is no thermal activity nowadays, it becomes active at summer as confirmed from local people.

#### 4.3 Hydrothermal alteration minerals

The distribution and characteristic of alteration mineral in terms of composition, texture and the distribution of coexisting mineral assemblages documents the historical formation of the rock and provide a first order assessment for its environment formation and commonly used as geothermometer, and used to reveal the nature of the geothermal system to provide information on reservoir fluid characteristic and evolution of geothermal system whether it is heating or cooling (Giovanni Gianelli et al., 1998; Reyes, 1990; Thompson et al., 2001).

In the Butajira geothermal field, study area, qualitative mineral identification has been performed during field work investigation besides petrographic studies and XRD analysis performed from representative samples obtained from different parts of the study area. Alteration minerals that occurred under various circumstances are contemporaneous with neutral pH alteration and structurally-controlled and forms sharp boundary alteration zone. Those minerals are resulted by means of vesicle filling along joints besides replacement of the primary minerals. Generally, investigation confirms that the distribution and magnitude of alteration in the surveyed area mainly controlled by lithology and geological structures. Various hydrothermal alteration minerals were identified with the aid of petrographic observation and XRD analysis and described below.

- ❖ **Actinolite:** it is pale green, green and sometimes dark green in colour and occurs as fibrous, radial crystals and massive to granular aggregates in the groundmass. In thin sections it shows moderate relief with weak pleochroism of pale yellow, deep green blue and pale green colors. It is observed as filling in vesicles and is sometimes seen in veins. The mineral is formed as a replacement of pyroxenes. This mineral indicates formation temperatures of above 280<sup>0</sup>C (Lagat, 2007; Gylfadóttir et al., 2011). In active geothermal systems hosted by intermediate to mafic igneous rocks, it is present at temperature greater than 280<sup>0</sup>C up to 300<sup>0</sup>C and is characteristic of alteration proximal to intrusive body.
- ❖ **Adularia:** it is detected from altered crystal rich ignimbrite (Ts-5) taken along fault scarps. It occurs as replacement of plagioclase or primary K- feldspars and is occasionally deposited in veins as well as forming incrustations in fissured rocks. In XRD graph it shows strong peaks at 21 Å, 23.5 Å and 27 Å.

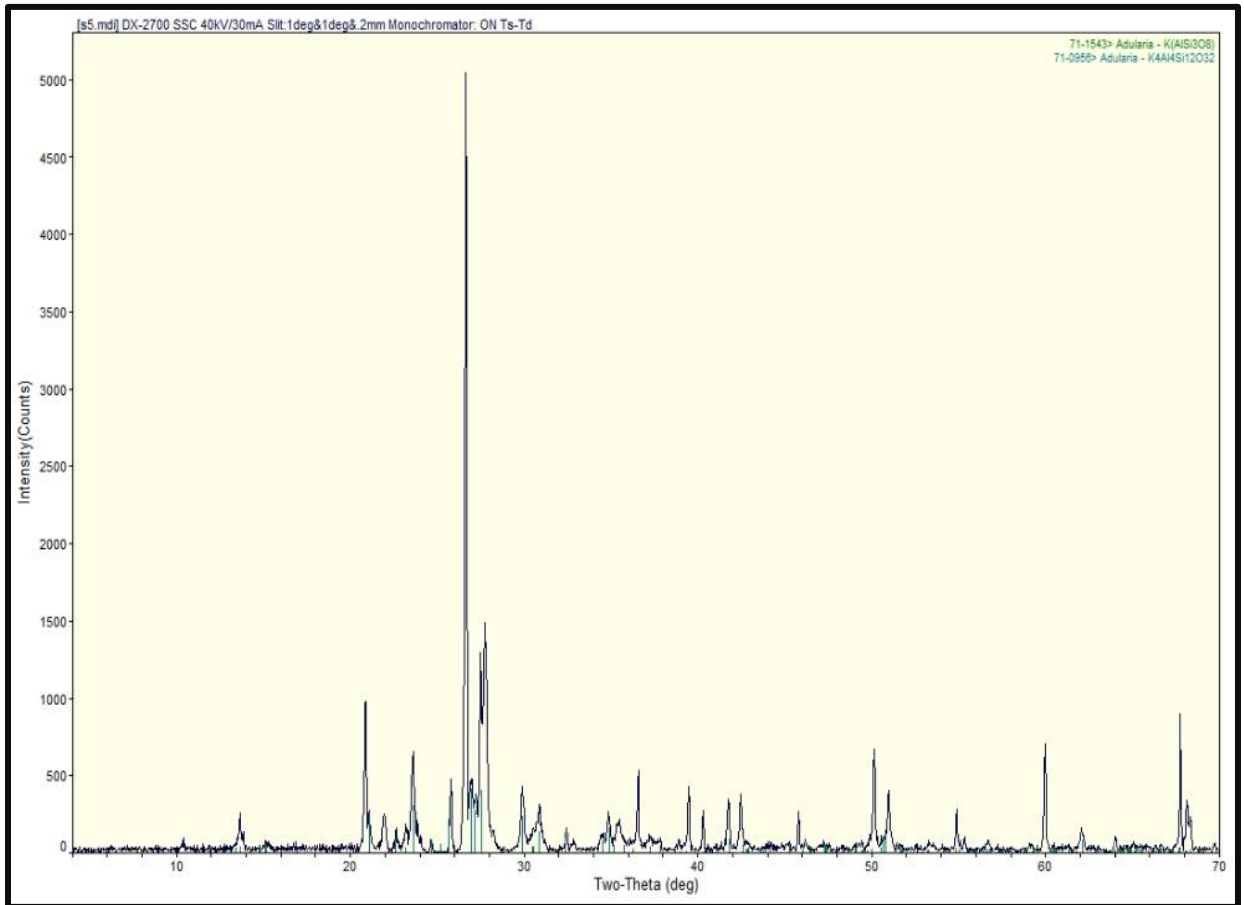


Figure 4.13. XRD graph of Adularia

- ❖ **Albite:** It is as an alteration product of Ca-rich plagioclase (Labradorite) and distinguished from primary plagioclase by their lower refractive index and extinction angle. Compositional variation (zoning) within a single mineral may be expressed changes of “natural” color from one zone to an adjoining one; or by changes in birefringence; or by changes in extinction orientation. These changes may be abrupt or gradational, and commonly occur as a sequence from the core of a mineral grain (the early-formed part) to its edge (the last-formed).

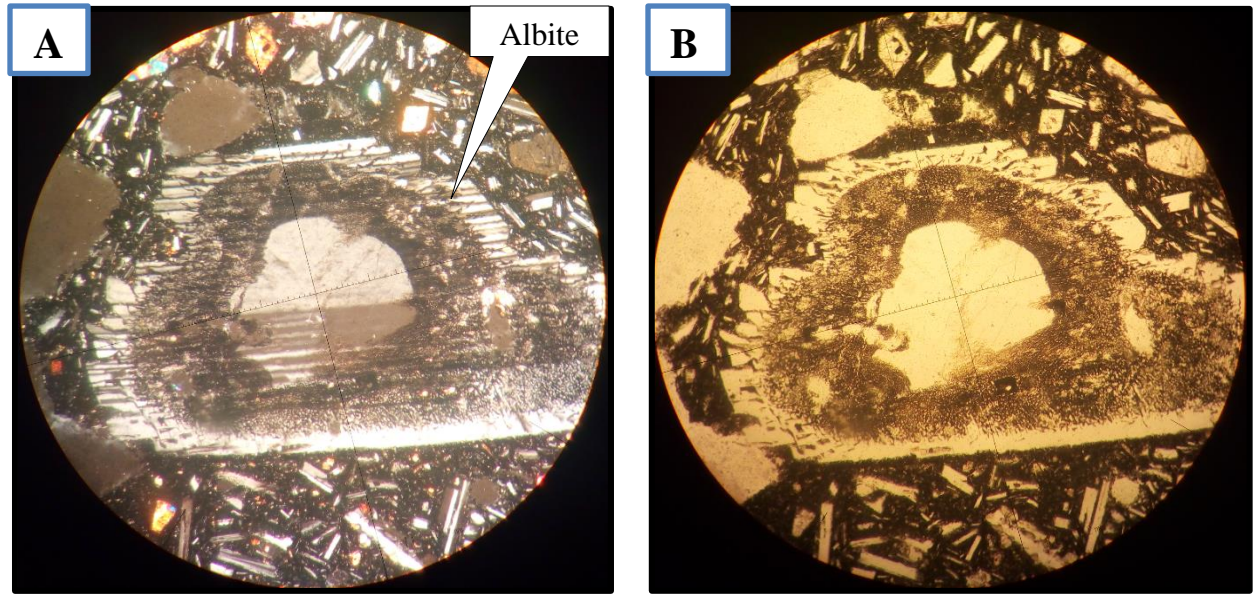


Figure 4.14 Altered Albite minerals; A-PPL and B-XPL view.

❖ **Biotite:** It is an alteration product of pyroxene in association with opaque minerals having brown color, cleavage and yellowish pleochroism. Its formation ranges from more than 250 °C (Reyes, 2000).

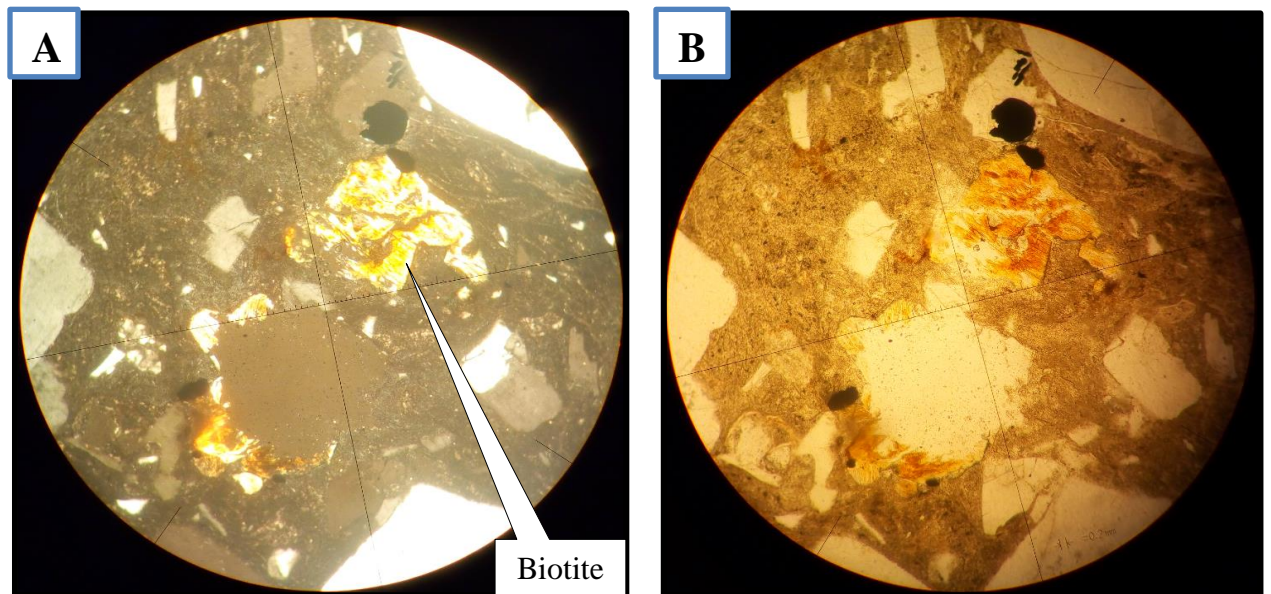


Figure 4.15. Biotite Altered mineral; A-PPL and B-XPL view.

- ❖ **Calcite:** It is identified through is detected from altered rock sample (Ts-7) taken around hot springs. It occurs as replacement of plagioclase or primary K- feldspars and is occasionally deposited in veins as well as forming deposits in fissured rocks. In XRD graph it shows strong peaks at 23 Å, 26 Å, 29.5 Å and 40 Å.

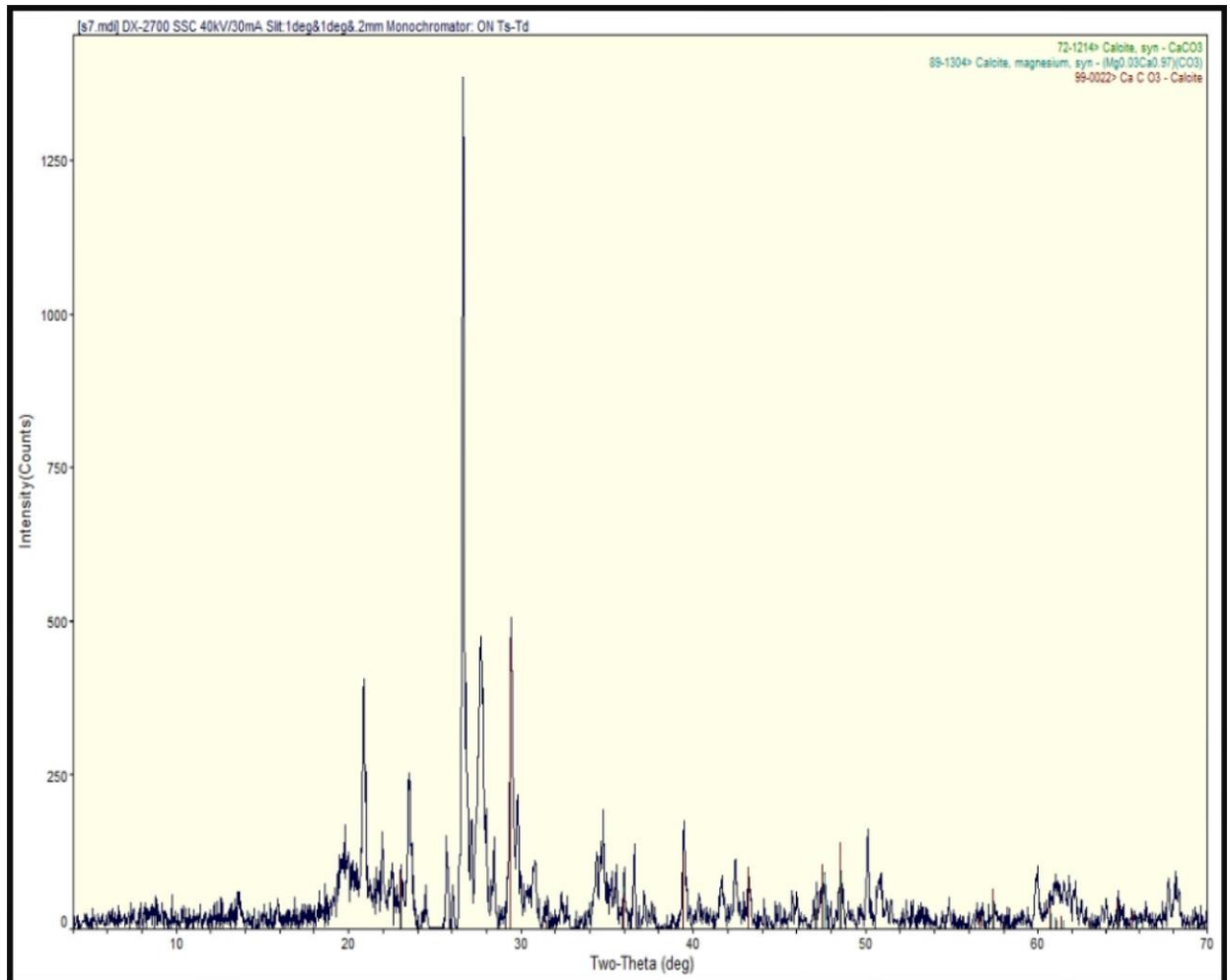


Figure 4.16. XRD graph of Calcite.

- ❖ **Chlorite:** it is usually light to medium green in thin section and pleochroic, expressed in shades of colorless, pale green, yellowish green, green, or brownish green. In thin-section it is coarse-grained and light green colored in plane polarized light in the pores, grey-blue in cross polarized light, shows tiny green needles texture and sometimes radial forms. In thin-section it was recognized in TS-3 as inclusions.
- ❖ **Cristobalite:** it is distinguished by its main common peak at 22 Å, 38.5 Å and 36 Å. It is detected from altered crystal rich ignimbrite taken along fault scarps. It occurs as

replacement of plagioclase or primary K- feldspars and is occasionally deposited in veins as well as forming incrustations in fissured rocks. In XRD graph it shows strong peaks at 27 Å and 21 Å. Cristobalite crystals rarely get larger than 1mm. This is a typical example of an occurrence in small cavities of a vuggy, silica-rich volcanic rock. Numerous small, white crystals have grown in these little cavities that apparently are outlined by tiny sanidine feldspar crystals.

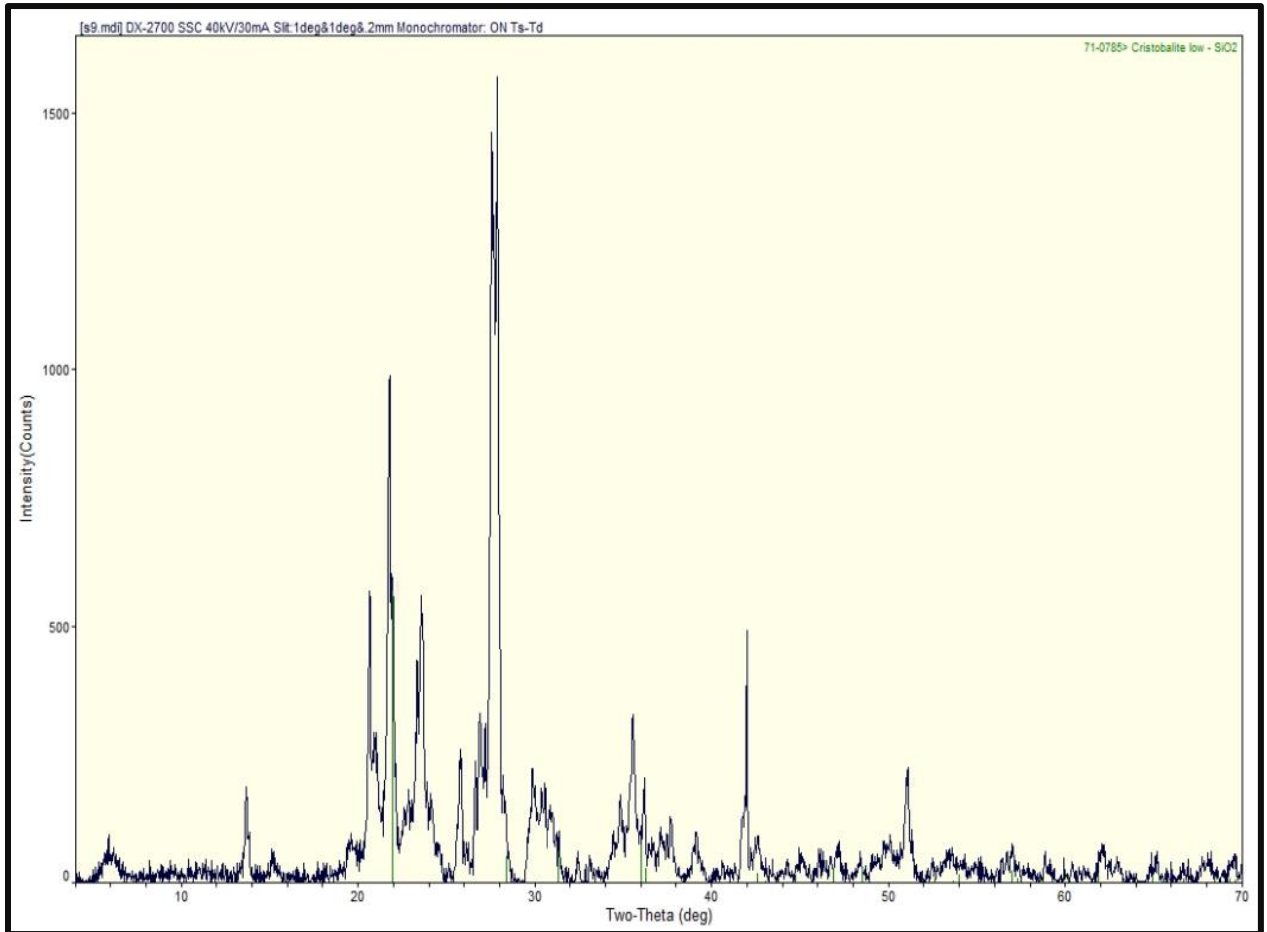


Figure 4. 17. XRD graph of Cristobalite.

- ❖ **Rutile:** Hydrothermal alteration rutile occurs as rugged aggregates of anhedral grains as small crystal. It exhibits high relief, red brown, and yellow brown color. It enclosed by Sieved texture interconnected, box shaped glass inclusions, giving the crystals spongy or porous appearance.

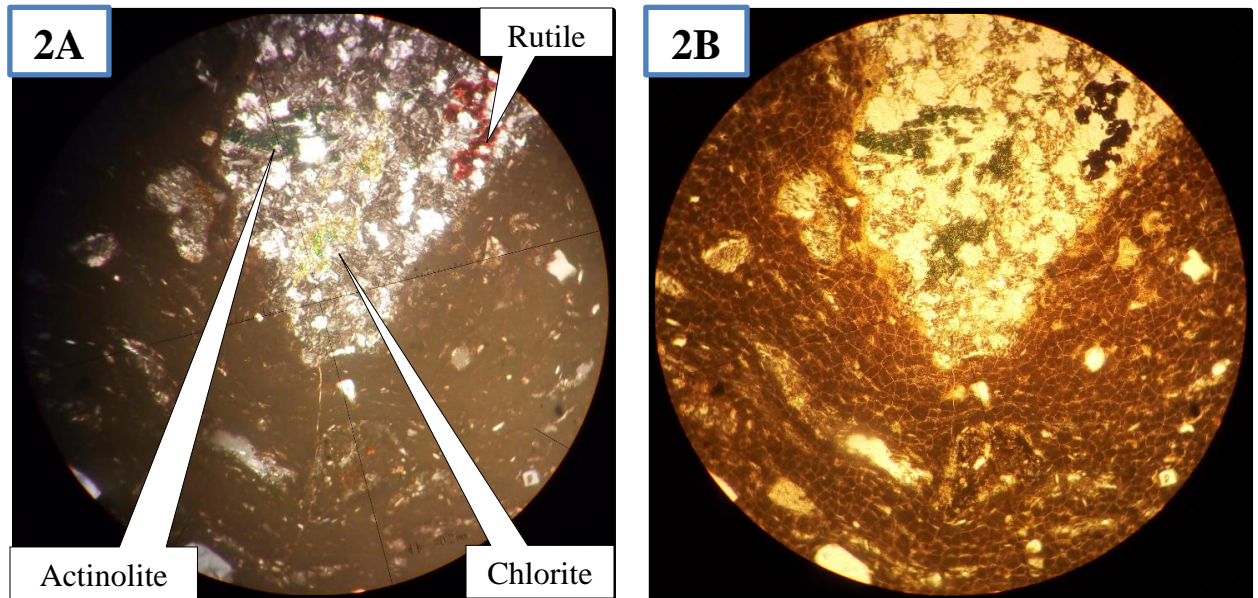


Figure 4.18 Alteration minerals chlorite, rutile and Actinolite ; A-PPL and B-XPL view.

- ❖ **Stishovite** is detected from altered crystal rich ignimbrite taken along fault scarps. It occurs during an extremely violent volcanic eruption and characterized by ultrahigh pressure conditions and low temperature. In XRD graph it shows strong peaks at  $31\text{\AA}$  and  $40\text{\AA}$ .

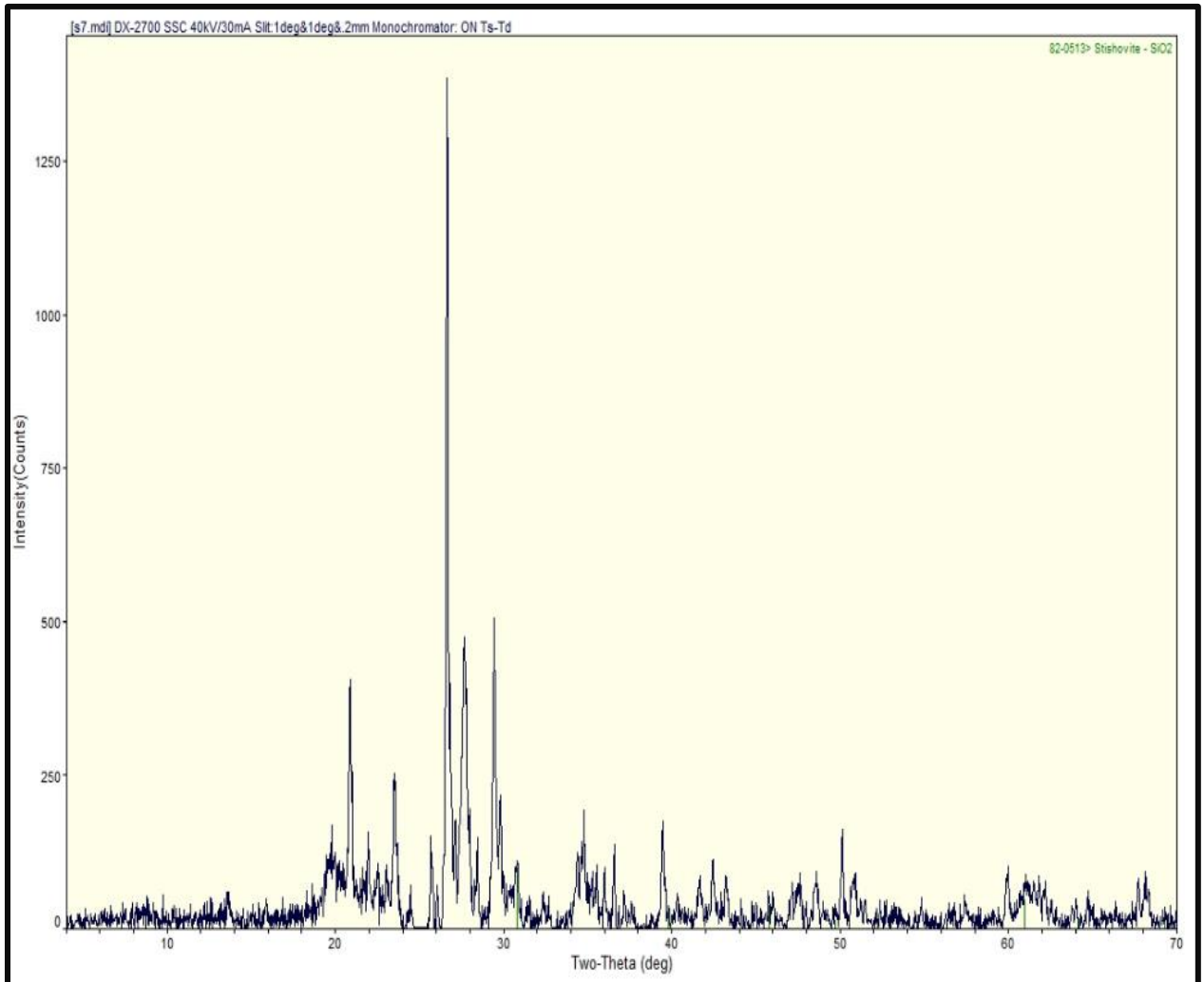


Figure 4.19 XRD graph of Stishovite.

❖ **Titanite:** it is occurred as an accessory mineral formed during the hydrothermal alteration of titanium bearing phases such as biotite, augite, hornblende and ilmenite. (Reyes, 1990). It identified in XRD analysis and it also recognized in petrographic microscope, where it is seen as red-brown and somewhat cloudy colored crystals. It is seen at highly altered sample (Ts-1) and (Ts-8) associated with biotite, kyanite, quartz, hornblende and glass. Titanite forms over a large temperature range of 200<sup>0</sup>C-400<sup>0</sup>C in various hydrothermal environments, including intrusive and skarn systems and the deeper parts of geothermal systems.

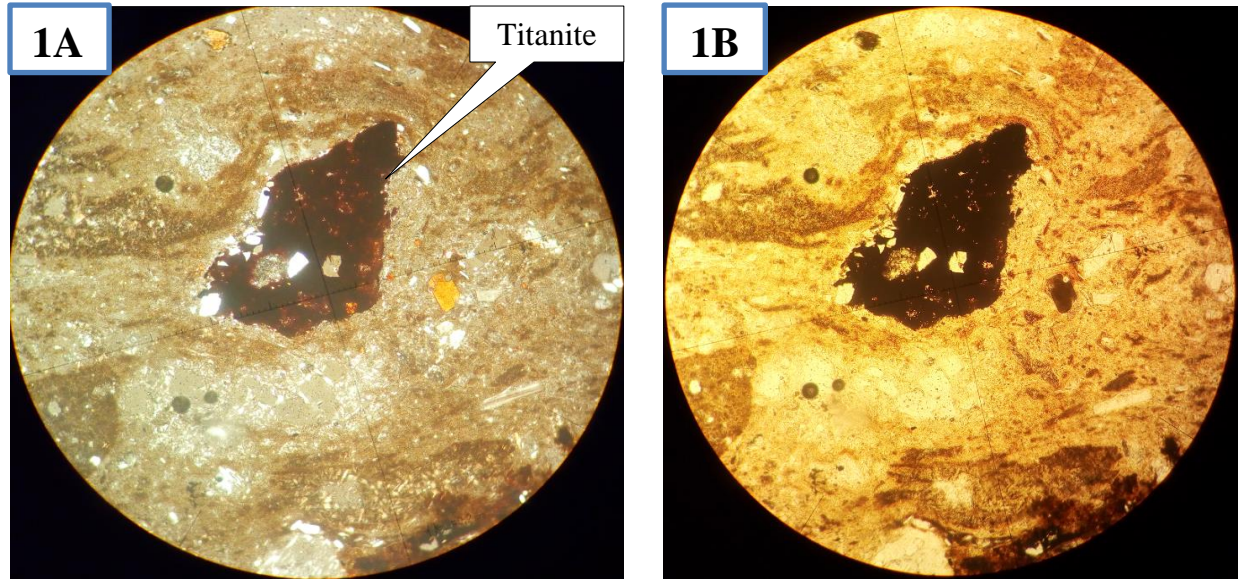


Figure 4.20. A-PPL and B-XPL view of Titanite mineral.

- ❖ **Triydmite:** It is silica polymorphs that are found principally in siliceous volcanic rocks. It is detected from altered crystal rich ignimbrite taken along fault scarps. It occurs as replacement of plagioclase or primary K- feldspars and is occasionally deposited in veins as well as forming deposits in fissured rocks. In XRD graph it shows strong peaks at 27 Å and 21 Å.

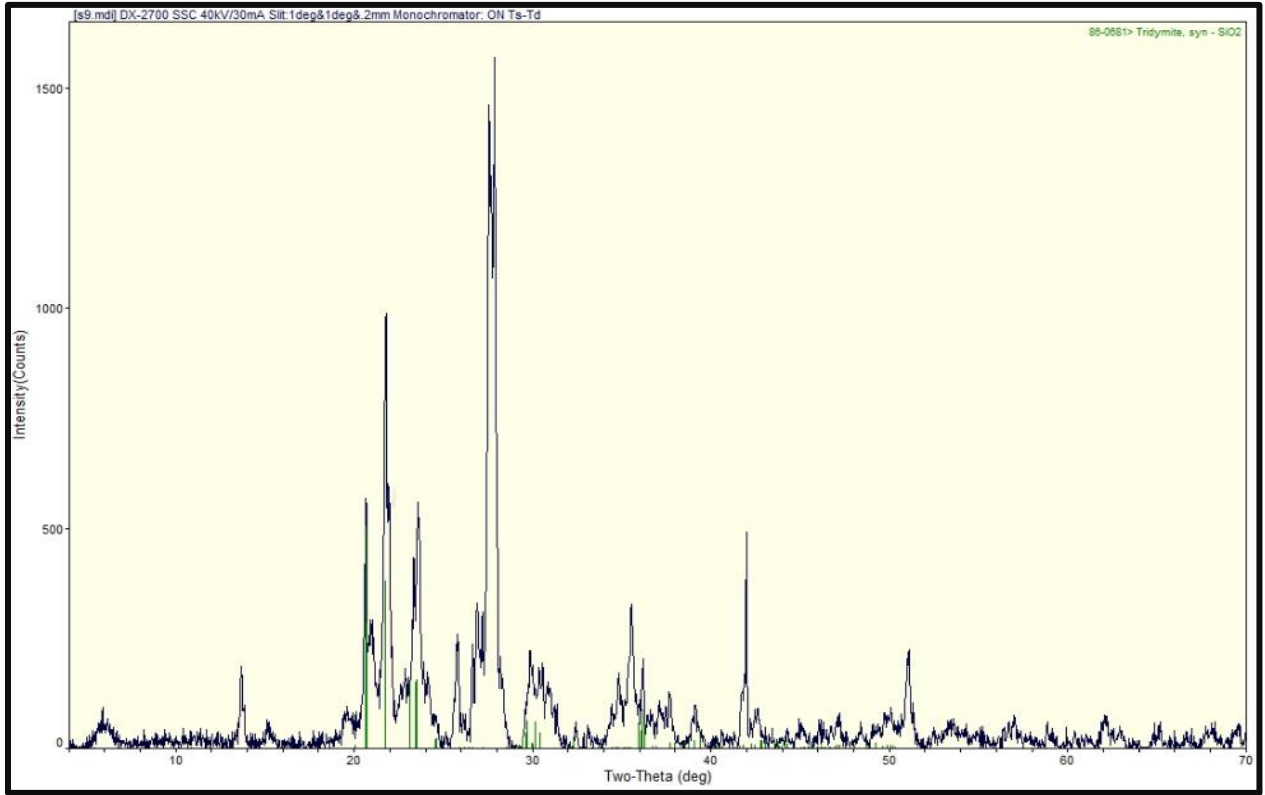


Figure 4.21. XRD graph of Triydmitite.

Table 4.1. temperature of formation of Alteration minerals adopted from (Reyes, 2000)

Alteration minerals	Temperature range (°C)					
	50	100	150	200	250	300
Actinolite	270-340					←
Adularia	165-320			←		→
Albite	175-320			←		→
Biotite	265-350					←
Calcite	50-320	←				→
Chlorite	120-340		←			→
Cristobalite	100-160		←			→
Quartz	180-340		←			→
Stishovite		←		←		→
Titanite	200-340				←	→
Triydmitite	140-200		←		→	
Rutile	180-340			←		→

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. ASSESSMENT ON GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM COMPONENTS OF BUTAJIRA GEOTHERMAL PROSPECT

#### 5.1 Geothermal system components

The present geological and geothermal investigations were integrated with secondary geophysical and geochemical data that offer optimistic information for geothermal system components. As noted above the nature and source of heat, reservoir characteristics, and the presence of confining rocks above the aquifers are essential in addition to the requirement of sufficient water and recharge mechanism. Thus the following discussion and interpretations were organized based on results obtained from surface geological and geothermal field work, petrographic and XRD analysis in order to evaluate the existence of favorable geothermal system components by considering the data sets.

##### 5.1.1 Heat source

Ethiopia rift system has undoubtedly a region of positive thermal anomaly attendant to volcanic and tectonic activity within which local anomalies are associated directly with volcanism and /or hydrothermal systems due to heat flow from shallow magma, impressively illustrated by the close association of surface geothermal manifestations. The manifestations are more pronounced and vigorous within the axis of the rifts than on the flanks due to the favorable hydrology and relatively shallow heat sources.

The presence of Basaltic eruptions of recent age with structural controlled unidirectional fissure swarm along NE-SW alignment and explosion craters and ejecta of voluminous pyroclastic deposits in the area infers the presence of sufficient heat anomaly beneath that locality. The most encouraging features indicative of the presence of promising heat source beneath the study area for development of adequate geothermal resource are surface manifestations like hot spring, mud pools, altered ground, and hot drilled wells. In addition the incident of high-temperature blow out arisen during drilling for irrigation purpose at depth of 256m clearly confirms the presence of worthy potential heat source beneath. The occurrences of aligned Pliocene age cinder cones and Har-Shetan Crater revealing recent volcanic activity and heat will be remain lively. Accordingly, geothermal resources in the

area associated with syn-rift volcanism, rifting along Siliti Debre Zeit fault zone (SDZ) of the cinder cone and associated basaltic flow (Rooney, 2011). There is also the possibility to have potential heat source derived from shallow silicic magma chamber indicated by evidenced of a single thermal spring on the contact of small rhyolite lava dome located 6 Km south-west of dominant thermal manifestations (Dipola, 1970, UNDP, 1972).

Dikes and sills as intrusion could be emplaced as a heat source at shallow depth voiced and reinforced laterally in northeast-southwest structural control with strong geothermal surface manifestations. The geothermal system at Butajira is still active and this can be attributed to tectonic leading to increased activity in the area as evident by the recent fissural eruption dated even younger than 0.13 Ma (Woldgebrial et al., 1990). Generally, two possible scenarios could be put forward regarding the local heat source anomaly that expressed by numerous surface manifestations are related to the intrusive body. The first one is a series of mantle-derived basaltic dyke intrusions emplaced at shallow depths. The second one is a series of elongate and interconnected basaltic sills or magma chambers related to dyke intrusions emplaced beneath the young basaltic scoria cones and lava flows.

### **5.1.2 Reservoir /permeable formations**

A strong lateral distribution of geothermal surface manifestations commonly controlled by superficial faults and lineament in NE-SW direction indicating the presence of permeable formation connected to younger fault system thus faults and fissures might possess good quality of secondary permeability in the underlying rock formations. Phreatic explosion blow out during drilling also deduces sufficient aquifer could be existed. Meanwhile much of the ground water is deep beneath surface, limits the usefulness of estimating the extent underground reservoirs from an appraisal of its surface expression, because the density of parallel faults may not provide an accurate indication of vertical permeability. One more useful indication of the presence of high temperature aquifers underground is the presence Crater Lake. Hydrothermal explosions which derive explosive energy by faulting of high temperature and high pressure water stored in a hydrothermal system can be triggered by several mechanism (Lloyd,1959;1962). The Har-Shetan Crater Lake, about 700m in diameter, resulted from phreatomagmatic explosion. It formed associated with scoria cones when the uprising magma interacts with shallow ground water. Thus indicates the presence of huge amount of water in permeable rock formation underneath the vicinity.

Moreover, there are several alteration secondary minerals indicative of good permeability in prospect area such as Quartz, Adularia, and Calcite. The alteration minerals attained from XRD analysis such as adularia, calcite, and Quartz (Elizabeth T., 2007). The estimated reservoir temperatures obtained from alteration minerals and silica and Na-K geothermometer have medium temperature with range of 158 °C and 206 °C (GSE, 2014) also confirmed temperature estimated from alteration mineral geothermometer. Even though, the presence of high intensity alteration of dressy minerals associated abundant veins are predominant in sheared rock and indicative of possible aquifers, it is difficult to speculate suitable permeable formations for reservoir storage at depth without deep geological sections. Data gathered from magnetotelluric investigation reveals that a depth of geothermal reservoir is located from 1500m to 3,000m, from 10-70 Ωm and characterized presence of normal faults and lineaments and forms fault compartments. Below this conductive layer, a high resistivity zone has been noticed that can be correlated to the back ground resistivity of basalts or epidote alteration zone (GSE, 2017).

### **5.1.3 Impermeable Cap rock**

The lateral extent of surface geothermal surface manifestations and hydrothermal alteration along geological structure i.e. faults and lineament indicating that there is impermeable cap rock in the area that block the upward movement of steam and water. In addition, the occurrence of explosive phreatic eruption at depth of 252m during deep well drilling indicates a confined aquifer with thick impermeable cover. This layer could be associated with recent and sub-recent basaltic flow or due to volcanic over burden in the high land and alluvial sediments and clay alteration in lowland area.

### **5.1.4 Geothermal Fluid and recharge mechanism**

Undulating topographic feature from high elevation of cinder cone in the western and northwestern parts and low plain land elevation in the south and south eastern parts of the area have variances about 400 m. This may be affect the hydrology of the system such as the depth of the water table , phase separation within the reservoir, the distribution and type of thermal manifestations. Fluid chemical analysis from hot springs conducted by GSE, 2017 shows that water in the Butajira geothermal system is derived from rainfall and meteoric in nature recognized by various geothermal manifestations. These geothermal fluids are alkali-

chloride-bicarbonate type, immature and display geochemical evidence for interaction with shallow ground level.

Our observations of hydrothermal features in the prospect area confirm that the recharge zones located in high elevated cinder cones and from Abaya Lake towards the low land discharge area through major geological structures that serve as a key pathway for the inflow and up flow of geothermal fluids. Lineaments detected by magnetic and soil temperature survey found on reworked pyroclastic deposits located in south east of the study area will provide enormous geothermal fluid to the reservoir in summer time, in addition to fluids percolated from high land area through normal fault zones. Moreover, high degree of alteration is more vigorous around fault and become structurally-controlled having a sharp boundary and alteration minerals formed in the area are contemporaneous with neutral pH alteration. The situation in which surface geothermal manifestations aligned and occurrence periodic phreatic eruption in the area infers hydrothermal fluids passed through fault structures that serves as fluid circulation path way. As a result fractures might play two different roles in this geothermal system i.e. contribution for the onset of natural convection in geothermal systems to form geothermal resources at depth and serve as a key fluid pathway to connect the cooler inflow and hot outflow of geothermal fluids from the geothermal reservoir.

## **5.2 Preliminary conceptual geothermal model of the Prospect area**

A good conceptual model should encapsulate the geological framework, heat source, fluid migration pathways, reservoir characteristics, sealing cap layer, up flow and outflow zones, as well as recharge and discharge zones and surface geothermal features (Cumming, 2009; Corti, 2011). Preliminary geothermal conceptual model developed for Butajira geothermal prospect that was developed with limited geological, geochemical, and geophysical data. At this early stage the model was illustrated with 2-D cross section view in simple drawing relating to MT investigation tried to indicate the essential geothermal system components and identify the geothermal play type. In order to envisage the underground conditions of the researched area, a hydrothermal model was drawn corresponding with geological cross section profile (A-B). The model agreed to take the main source of recharge is meteoric water and recharge area are from high topographic areas of cinder cones and from Abaya

Lake that percolates to the reservoir through tectonic structures like fault, lineaments and joints. It shows schematically the role of fault serves as geothermal conduits from reservoir to surface expressed in the form of geothermal manifestations. Regard to the heat source of the field a shallow cooling intrusive complex is believed to be the principal heat source of the geothermal system interconnected to major geological structures.

It also assumes a boiling geothermal reservoir at depth ascending steam and gas, boiled off from the hot reservoir at depth; flows upwards along fractures and guide the geothermal fluids upwards. Surface temperature isotherms and forecasted reservoir temperature from geothermometer confirm that Ashute and Gerbi Ber areas are the hottest part of the field where maximum surface and expected reservoir temperatures were documented and soil temperature survey. Thus the up flow zone of the system is located in the plain land of Ashute and Gerbi Ber villages resulting lineament intersections and outlined by strong surface manifestations. Evidences from the above discussion specify the prospect area is consistence with CV1b: Magmatic Play Type, Extinct Magmatic Intrusion, controlled by late Cenozoic to Quaternary plutons or batholiths with associated volcanism. This intrusion provide heat source to the system and is capable to generate high temperature geothermal fluids that manifested through outlets.

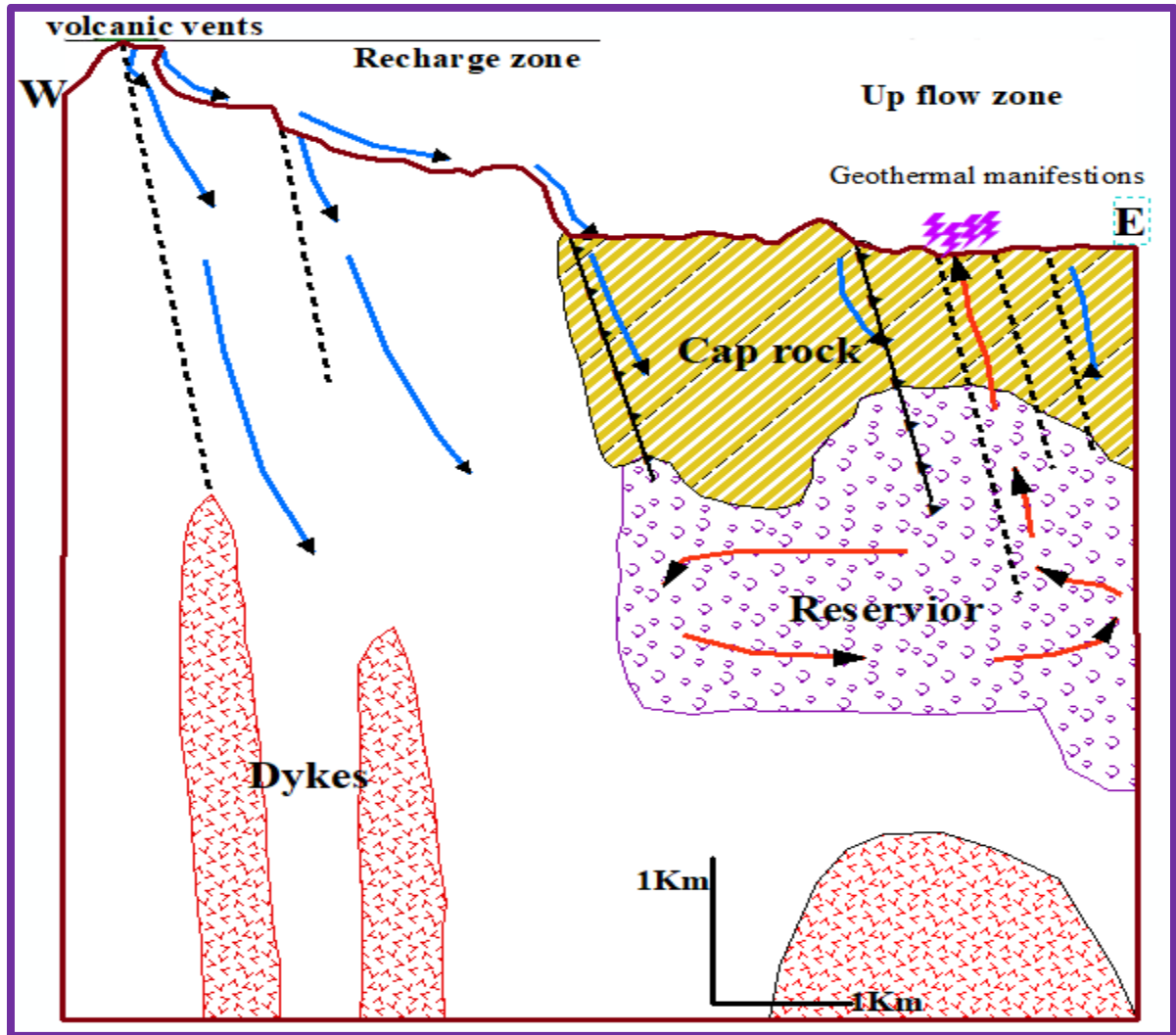


Figure 5.1. Preliminary conceptual model of Butajira geothermal prospect.

### 5.3 Proposed target areas for further exploration

The abundance of surface geothermal manifestations and the distribution of intense geological structures indicate nearness to an up flow zone and data combined secondary source aid to select and prioritize the target sites. Based on the current investigations two promising localities in Ashute village (area A) and Gerbi Beri village (area B) were selected as priority target areas for future geothermal exploration to gathering better information and become more confident about geothermal system components. The inferred presence of a conductive fracture zone or fault with hydrothermal fluid and shallow heat source magma intrusion makes the Ashute and Gerbi Ber areas are seemly a promising prospect for the development of convectional hydrothermal geothermal energy.

## CHAPTER SIX

### 6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 6.1 Conclusion

Geothermal fields are found in areas of active tectonism associated with young volcanism or enormous intrusions, where heat source localized at shallow crustal depths, adequate permeable formation and hydrothermal fluids occurred. The current study has been conducted in Butajira geothermal area where higher geothermal gradient were expected beneath at shallower depth. As an output of the thesis work the following findings are worth mentioned ideas stated and put as conclusion:

- ❖ The study area is dominantly covered by five lithology unit i.e. volcanic products of basaltic scoria and associated basaltic lava flows, welded ignimbrite, unwelded tuff, phreatomagmatic deposits comprising trachyte and diorite as well as alluvial and reworked pyroclastic deposits.
- ❖ The major structural features in the study area are faults, lineaments and joints. The orientation of faults is expressed by NE-SW dipping towards  $30^{\circ}$ - $65^{\circ}$  SE and lineaments are aligned in NE –SW, N-S and NW-SE directions. Cinder cones are aligned into NEE-SWW direction and controlled by SDZF.
- ❖ The geothermal manifestations are hot springs, warm water pools, mud pools, altered ground and sulfur laid deposits and hot drilled wells. They are intensively distributed along structural trends and seem to be fissure controlled at low-lying plain area
- ❖ The alteration mineral assemblages recognized in the area are quartz, stishovite, calcite, cristobalite, trydmite, rutile, titanite, adularia suggesting neutral PH alteration.
- ❖ Slight alteration perceived in high elevation area in welded ignimbrite along NE-SW fault plane while strong alteration is realized around hot spring along lineaments.
- ❖ Results obtained from hydrothermal alteration minerals the reservoir temperature has exceed  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  that is analogous to result gained from fluid chemical geothermometer.
- ❖ Presence of ample Sulphur in the geothermal manifestation relationship with the location of eruptive fissures shows increasing geothermal activity in the reservoir.

- ❖ Fractures and faults will increase permeability of geothermal reservoir in addition to primary porosity of the rock units. They also serve as the pathway for convection geothermal fluids from surface to reservoir and vice versa.
- ❖ The cap rock could be rocks formed from hydrothermal alterations of rocks and thick overburden of alluvial and reworked pyroclastic deposits in the lowland area.
- ❖ An anomalously high geothermal gradient expected there as a result of shallow intrusion that upraised to shallow depth associated with nearby cinder cones or and heat source derived from shallow silicic magma associated rhyolitic lava domes.
- ❖ The geothermal prospect is analogous to convection dominated V1b: Magmatic Play Type, Extinct Magmatic Intrusion, which controlled by late Cenozoic to Quaternary plutons or batholiths with associated volcanism which comprising promising geothermal system component.
- ❖ Two promising geothermal sites were identified and anticipated for further exploration around Ashute and Gerbi Ber villages found possible at up flow zone.

## 6.2 Recommendation

The main contribution of the study was to understand the nature of geothermal components through investigating surface geology and geothermal manifestation that provide insights for its certainty. Even though, investigating the distributions of different rock units and surface manifestation within the geothermal field is crucial for site selection and smart drilling strategies, it is worth revealing and endorses the following points

- ❖ Detailed fluid inclusion studies and clay mineral analysis should be carried out especially in the up flow zone to supplement information about alteration process and understand the evolution of the geothermal system whether it is cooling or heating.
- ❖ Trace element isotope analysis is required to distinguish the type of magma sources and to be familiar on magma evolution processes that provides heat source of the resource.
- ❖ Based on the present geological and geothermal knowledge, and ease of access, it is recommended to undertake follow-up test well drilling giving priority in positive anomalous areas demarcated as area A and area B.
- ❖ A more comprehensive conceptual model is necessary achieved through further incorporation of detailed well data that allow detail information to an estimate of reservoir depth, temperature, and geometry with sufficient confidence. This will help in the preparation of numerical modelling.
- ❖ 3D MT survey and Gravity survey are to delineate the geological structure and extension of all geothermal system components.
- ❖ In the area there are indications of accidental phreatic eruptions around thermal manifestation especially near to Asute village, and the concerned body should aware the local peoples to prevent them from hazard.

## References

- Abebe, T., Pasqua ,C., & Kebede,S. 2016: ‘Aluto-Langano geothermal field (Ethiopia), proposal of a new geo-volcanological model by combining the existing data with modern studies’. **In:** *Proceedings, 6th African Rift Geothermal Conference*, Geological Survey of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 2nd – 4th November 2016.
- Abebe, B., Acocella, V., Korme, T & Ayalew, D. ( 2007).Quaternary faulting and volcanism in the Main Ethiopian Rift, *Journal of African Earth Sciences*.**48**:115-124.
- Arturo Quezada Muño 2015: ‘Geological field mapping for geothermal exploration’, Paper presented at “Short Course VII on Surface Exploration for Geothermal Resources”,organized by UNU-GTP and LaGeo, in Santa Tecla and Ahuachapán, El Salvador, March 14 - 22.
- Barton, C.A., Zoback, M.D., and Moos, D.(1995). Fluid flow along potentially active faults in crystalline rock. *Geology*, Vol. 23, No. 8, pp. 683-686.
- Bronto, S., Sianipar, J. Y., & Pratopo,A. K., 2016: Volcanostratigraphy for supporting geothermal exploration. **In:** *Proceedings of the 5th ITB International Geothermal Workshop (IIGW2016)*. IOP Conf. Series: Earth and Environmental Science.
- Benvenuti etal.,(2002): The Ziway–Shala lake basin (main Ethiopian rift, Ethiopia): a revision of basin evolution with special reference to the Late Quaternary, *Journal of African Earth Sciences*. **35** :247–269.
- Bertani, G., Casinin, M., Gianelli, G., and Pandelli, E. (2006): Geological Structure of a long-living geothermal system, Larderello, Italy. *Terra Nova*, **18**:163-169.
- Ian Bogie & Jim Lawless 2010, ‘application of mineral deposit concepts to geothermal exploration’.**In:** *Proceedings World Geothermal Congress 2000: Kyushu - Tohoku*, Japan, May 28 - June 10.
- P.R.L.Browne, 2017: Hydrothermal alteration in active geothermal fields. New Zealand Geological Survey. Annu. Rev. Earth Planet.. Sci. 1978.6:229-248.
- Caroline Le Turdua, Jean-Jacques Tiercelin, Elisabeth Gibert, (1998). The Ziway–Shala lake basin system, Main Ethiopian Rift: Influence of volcanism, tectonics, and climatic forcing on basin formation and sedimentation, *Paleogeography, Paleoclimatology, Paleoecology*, **150**: 135–177

- Charles Wanjie, 2012. 'Overview of geothermal surface exploration methods': Presented at Short Course VII on Exploration for Geothermal Resources, organized by UNU-GTP, GDC and KenGen, at Lake Bogoria and Lake Naivasha, Kenya, Geothermal Development Company, Kenya. Oct 27-Nov 18.
- Corti, G., Bonini, M., Conticelli, S., Innocenti, F., Manetti, P., Sokoutis, D., (2003). Analogue modelling of continental extension: a review focused on the relations between the patterns of deformation and the presence of magma. *Earth Science Reviews*
- Cumming, W.2009. 'Geothermal resource conceptual models using surface exploration data'. **In: Proceedings, 34th workshop on Geothermal Reservoir Engineering**, Stanford University, Stanford, SGP-TR-187 CA, Feb 9-11.
- Demse Alamerew, Saladin Ali, and Solomon Kebede (June 2014). Technical team report about Siliti hot water explosion: Unpublished paper, Minister of Mine and Energy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Di Paola (1970). Geological-geothermal report on the central part of the Ethiopian rift valley: Unpublished paper. Minister of Mines, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Ebinger, C.J., Yemane, T., WoldeGabriel, G., Aronson, J.L., Walter, R.C., (1993). Late Eocene- Recent volcanism and faulting in the southern main Ethiopian rift, *Journal of the Geological Society of London* .**150**: 99–108.
- Endeshaw A., (1988). Current status (1987) of geothermal exploration in Ethiopia. *Geothermic*, **17**: pp.477-488.
- Engdawork Admassu & Selamawit Worku, 2015. 'Characterization of Quaternary Extensional Structures: Tulu-Moye Geothermal Prospect, Ethiopia'. *GRC Transactions*, Vol. 39, pp.225-232.
- Faulds M., 2010: 'Characterizing structural controls of geothermal reservoirs in the Basin and Range, USA, and western Turkey: Developing successful exploration strategies in extended terranes'. **In: Proceedings WGC 2010**, Bali, Indonesia, April 25-30.
- Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE) (2017). A Report on Geophysical investigation magnetic Surveys Report on Ashute, Butajira. Unpublished report, (GSE), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 22pp.

- Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE) (2017). A Report on result on 1 –meter temperature survey conducted at Butajira geothermal prospect, southern Ethiopia. Unpublished report, (GSE), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 20 pp.
- Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE) (2017). A Report on Geothermal Geochemistry of Butajira prospect area, Central Main Ethiopian: Implication for potential areas to Geothermal Energy in Ethiopia. Unpublished report, (GSE), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.43pp.
- Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE) (2017). A Report on 1D and 2D inversions of magnetotelluric data from Butajira geothermal field, Southern Ethiopia. Unpublished report, (GSE), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 30 pp.
- Corti, G. (2009). Continental rift evolution: From rift initiation to incipient break-up in the Main Ethiopian Rift, East Africa, *Earth-Science Reviews*.**96** : 1–53
- Corti, G. (2011). Fault architecture in the Main Ethiopian Rift and comparison with experimental models: Implications for rift evolution and Nubia–Somalia kinematics, *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*. **301**: 479–492.
- Grant and Bixley (2011).*Geothermal Reservoir Engineering*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data. ISBN 978-0-12-383880-3.
- Hickman et al., (2004).Tectonics and stratigraphic evolution of the Sarulla graben geothermal area, North Sumatra, Indonesia. *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences*. **23**: pp.435-448.
- Gianelli,G., Alessandro Chersicla, Paolo Garofalo , Giovanni Ruggieri, Mirco Manganelli, Zewde Gebregziabher(1998).Water–rock interaction and hydrothermal mineral equilibria in the Tendaho geothermal system: *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*. **86** : pp.253–276.
- Negussie Mekuria, Stefano Battaglia , Axelsson, G. 2013, ‘conceptual models of geothermal systems –introduction’, Paper presented at “Short Course V on Conceptual Modelling of Geothermal Systems”, organized by UNU-GTP and LaGeo, in Santa Tecla, El Salvador, February 24 - March 2.
- Axelsson, G. 2013, ‘Dynamic modelling of geothermal systems’, Presented at “Short Course V on Conceptual Modelling of Geothermal Systems”, organized by UNU-GTP and LaGeo, in Santa Tecla, El Salvador, February 24 - March 2.

- Gutema Megersa and Endalkachew Getaneh, (2006). A report on Geological, Surface Hydrothermal Alteration and Geothermal Mapping of Dubti-Semera area, Tendaho Geothermal Field. Geological survey of Ethiopia ,GSE, Addis Abeba Ethiopia.  
<http://en.climate-data.org> accessed on 14.06.2018.
- International Geothermal Association (IGA) (2014). *Best practices guide for geothermal Exploration* (Colin Harvey, Ed.) Bochum University of Applied Sciences Bochum, Germany, pp196.
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), (2015) .The project for formulating master plan on development of geothermal energy in Ethiopia. Unpublished report of geological Survey of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- John Lagat 2007: ‘Hydrothermal alteration mineralogy in geothermal fields with case examples from Olkaria domes geothermal field, Kenya’. **In: Presented at Short Course II on Surface Exploration for Geothermal Resources**, organized by UNU-GTP and KenGen, at Lake Naivasha, Kenya, November 2-17.
- Kristján S. 2009. ‘Geothermal systems in global perspective’. **In: Presented at Short Course IV on Exploration for Geothermal Resources**, organized by UNU-GTP, KenGen and GDC, at Lake Naivasha, Kenya, November 1-22.
- Keranen, K., & Klemperer, S.L. (2007). Discontinuous and diachronous evolution of the Main Ethiopian Rift: Implications for development of continental rifts. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, **265**: pp.96–111.
- Mackenzie, G.H., Thybo, G.H., & Maguire, P., (2005). Crustal velocity structure across the Main Ethiopian Rift: results from 2-dimentional wide-angle seismic modeling. *Geophysical International Journal*, **162**:pp.994–1006.
- Pürschel, M., Gloaguen, R. and Stadler, S. (2013). ‘Geothermal activities in the Main Ethiopian Rift: Hydrogeochemical characterization of geothermal waters and geothermometry applications (Dofan-Fantale, Gergedo-Sodere, Aluto-Langano)’, *Geothermics*, **47**: pp.1– 12.
- Meseret Teklemariam, Stefano Batfaglia, Giovanni Gianelli and Giovanni Ruggieri 1996, ‘Hydrothermal alteration in the aluto-langano geothermal field, Ethiopia’. *Geothermics*, Vol. 25, No. 6, pp. 679-702.

- Meseret Teklemariam and Kibret B. 2005: 'Geothermal Exploration and Development in Ethiopia'. **In:** *Proceedings World Geothermal Congress 2005*, Antalya, Turkey, 24-29 April 2005, Geological Survey of Ethiopia
- Meseret Teklemariam. 2008: 'Strategic plan for geothermal exploration and development in Ethiopia'. **In:** *Presented at Short Course III on Exploration for Geothermal Resources*, organized by UNU-GTP and KenGen, at Lake Naivasha, Kenya, October 24 – November 17.
- Meseret Teklemariam. 2012: 'overview of geothermal resource utilization and potential in the east african rift system' **In:** *Presented at Short Course III on Exploration for Geothermal Resources*, organized by UNU-GTP and KenGen, at Lake Naivasha, Kenya, Octo.24 – Nov.17.
- Mineyuki H., 2000: 'Two different roles of fractures in geothermal development'. **In:** *Proceedings World Geothermal Congress 2000*, Kyushu - Tohoku, Japan, May 28 - June 10.
- Minissale, A., Corti, G., Tassi, F., Darrah, T.H., Vaselli, O., Montanari, D., Montegrossi, G., Yirgu, G., Selmo, E. & Teclu, A. (2017): Geothermal potential and origin of natural thermal fluids in the northern Lake Abaya area, Main Ethiopian Rift, East Africa. *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*, **336**: 1–18.
- Moeck, 2013, 'Classification of geothermal plays according to geological habitats'. University of Alberta, Canada. IGA, Vol. 1.
- Moeck, (2014): Catalog of geothermal play types based on geologic controls. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, **37**: pp.867-882.
- Ministry of Water Resources Ethiopian Water Technology Centre (MoWS) 2008: Butajira – Ziway areas development study hydrogeology and groundwater modeling: Unpublished technical report, (MoWS), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Ministry of Water Resources Ethiopian Water Technology Centre (MOWS) (2008). Geology of Butajira – Ziway areas development study GEOLOGY. Unpublished technical report, (MoWS), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Nukman and Moeck (2013): Structural controls on a geothermal system in the Tarutung Basin, north central Sumatra. *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences*, Vol.74, Pp.86-96.

- Omenda, P.A. and Meseret Teklemariam 2010: 'overview of geothermal resource utilization in the east African rift system'. **In:** *Presented at Short Course V on Exploration for Geothermal Resources*, organized by UNU-GTP, GDC and KenGen, at Lake Bogoria and Lake Naivasha, Kenya, Oct. 29 – Nov. 19.
- Omenda, P.A. 2007: 'The geothermal activity of the east African rift' **In:** *Presented at Short Course II on Surface Exploration for Geothermal Resources*, organized by UNU-GTP and KenGen, at Lake Naivasha, Kenya, November 2-17.
- Reyes, (2000). *Petrology and mineral alteration in hydrothermal systems: From diagenesis to volcanic catastrophes*. Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science. Lower Hutt, New Zealand. ISBN - 9979-68-048-2.
- Selamawit Worku. (2015): Sub-surface geology, hydrothermal alteration and 3D modeling of wells LA-9D and LA-10D in the Aluto Langano Geothermal field, Ethiopia. Unpublished MSc Thesis, University of Iceland, Iceland.
- Solomon Kebede, 2015: 'country update on geothermal exploration and development in Ethiopia'. **In:** *Presented at Short Course IX on Exploration for Geothermal Resources*, organized by UNU-GTP, GDC and KenGen, at Lake Bogoria and Lake Naivasha, Kenya, Nov. 9 - Dec.1.
- Solomon Kebede, 2016: 'Country update on geothermal exploration and development in Ethiopia'. **In:** *Proceedings, 6th African Rift Geothermal Conference Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*, Geological Survey of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 2nd – 4th.
- Suryantini, 2015: 'Volcanological Approach for Evaluation of Geothermal Potential in Volcanic Associated Hydrothermal System at the Early Stage of Exploration'. **In:** *Proceedings World Geothermal Congress*, Melbourne, Australia, 19-25.
- Tadiwos Chernet, (2011): Geology and hydrothermal resources in the northern Lake Abaya area (Ethiopia), *Journal of African Earth Sciences*. **61**:pp.129–141.
- Tamiru A. Abiye & Tigistu Haile 2008. 'Geophysical exploration of the Boku geothermal area, Central Ethiopian Rift'. *Geothermic*. Vol. 37, PP. 586-596.
- Tsegaye Abebe, 2000: 'Geological limitations of a geothermal system in a continental rift zone: example the Ethiopian rift valley'. **In:** *Proceedings World Geothermal Congress*, Kyushu - Tohoku, Japan, May 28 - June 10.

- Tsegaye Abebe, Maria Laura Balestrieri and Giulio Bigazzi (2010): The Central Main Ethiopian Rift is younger than 8 Ma: confirmation through apatite fission-track thermochronology. *Terra Nova*. **22**: 470–476.
- Rooney, T.O. (2011): Insights into extensional processes during magma assisted rifting: Evidence from aligned scoria cones. *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*. **201**: 83–96.
- United Nation Development Program (UNDP) (1973). Investigation of geothermal resources for power development: Geology, geochemistry and hydrology of hot springs of the East Africa rift system within Ethiopia. Unpublished technical report, (UNDP), United Nations, New York, 146pp.
- Wolde Gabriel, et al (1990). Geology, Geochronology, and Rift basin Development in the Central Sector of the MER. *The Geological Society of America Bulletin*, V102, pp.439-458.
- Wolde Gabriel and Grant Heiken, 2000: Volcanism, tectonism, sedimentation, and the paleoanthropological record in the Ethiopian Rift System, *Geological Society of America, Special Paper 345*.
- Hutchison, W., David M. Pyle, Tamsin A. Mather, Gezahegn Yirgu, Juliet Biggs, Benjamin E. Cohen, Dan N. Barfod, & Elias Lewi (2016): The eruptive history and magmatic evolution of Aluto volcano: new insights into silicic peralkaline volcanism in the Ethiopian rift. *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*, **328**: 9–33.
- Wolfenden, E., Ebinger, C., Yirgu, G., Deino, A., Ayale, D., (2004). Evolution of the northern Main Ethiopian rift: birth of a triple junction. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 224, 213–228.
- Yiheyis Amdeberhan, 1998: a conceptual reservoir model and production capacity estimate for the Tendaho geothermal field, Ethiopia. *Ethiopian Institute of Geological Surveys, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*, pp.43.
- Yohannes Lemma, 2007: Magneto telluric and transient electromagnetic methods in geothermal exploration, with an example from Tendaho geothermal field, Ethiopia, *Geological Survey of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*, pp.47.

**Appendix-I: Sample locations for thin section preparation**

S. No	Sample code	Location (UTM)			Sample code	Rock type
		Longitude	Latitude	Altitude		
1	St-Ts-1	433012	885539	1819	BT-TS-1	Highly altered rock
2	St-Ts-2	430568	890772	2081	BT-TS-2	Scoria
3	St-Ts-3	428526	888847	2097	BT-TS-3	Trachyte
4	St-Ts-4	431412	890556	1985	BT-TS-4	Aphanitic basalt
5	St-Ts-5	430043	889158	2022	BT-TS-5	Vesicular basalt
6	St-Ts-6	428526	888847	2097	BT-TS-6	Rhyolite
7	St-Ts-7	436409	890336	1830	BT-TS-7	Welded ignimbrite
8	St-Ts-8	428542	884181	1884	BT-TS-8	Welded ignimbrite
9	St-Ts-9	432908	884490	1816	BT-TS-9	Altered rock
10	St-Ts-10	427195	885433	1970	BT-TS-10	Unwelded tuff
11	St -Ts-11	431880	886206	1824	BT-TS-11	Unwelded Tuff

**Appendix-II: Sample locations for XRD Analysis**

S. No	Sample code	Location (UTM)			Rock type	Identified Alteration minerals in each sample
		Longitude	Latitude	Altitude		
1	St-XRD-1	433012	885539	1819	Highly altered	Sulfur ; titanium oxide sulfate; barium iron sulfide -\$ beta
2	St-XRD-2	430568	890772	2081	Scoria	Albite -high; Calcium Aluminum Silicate
3	St-XRD-3	428542	884181	1884	Welded Ignimbrite	Lead tecto-dialuminosilicate; silicon oxide-\$-alpha; quartz low
4	St-XRD-4	435053	888315	1851	Welded ignimbrite	Albite high , microcline maximum ,Sanidine
5	St-XRD-5	436409	890336	1846	crystalized ignimbrite	Quartz , Silicon oxide-\$ alpha, Adularia
6	St-	432808	884390	1816	Altered	Quartz , Silicon oxide-\$ alpha,

	XRD-6				vesicular rock	Iron Hydroxide Phosphate, Oxo titanium Sulfate
7	St- XRD-7	433157	885150	1818	Alluvial deposit	Silicon oxide- $\alpha$ , calcite; Stishovite ; Chromium Titanium Hydroxide
8	St- XRD-8	433488	885749	1817	Black soil from mud pool	Quartz , Silicon oxide- $\alpha$ , Lead Indium Sulfide ; Barium Sulfide; sodium Borate
9	St- XRD-9	430685	886258	1922	Un welded Tuff	Albite ; Cristobalite ; Tridymite ; Sulfide

### Appendix-III: Location of Geothermal Surface manifestations

S. No	Location (UTM)			Surface manifestations	Temperature
	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude (m)		
1	432727	884183	1815	Thermal spring	91 <sup>0</sup> C
2	432785	884372	1815	Thermal spring	80 <sup>0</sup> C
3	433155	881367	1816	Extinct Thermal spring	48 <sup>0</sup> C
4	433292	885440	1825	Thermal spring	80 <sup>0</sup> C
5	433295	885530	1820	Thermal spring	71 <sup>0</sup> C
6	433488	885749	1831	Thermal spring with mud pool	101 <sup>0</sup> C
7	433493	886755	1838	Mud pool	101 <sup>0</sup> C
8	433552	885923	1821	Small hot lake	Not measured
9	433575	885934	1820	Thermal spring	52 <sup>0</sup> C
10	433602	885896		Thermal spring	61.9 <sup>0</sup> C
11	432691	885766	1853	Hot community well	Not measured
12	432842	886073	1824	Irrigation bore hole	
13	433858	886559	1826	Hot water borehole	Not measured
14	433102	885539	1819	Altered ground	115m *2Km

**Appendix-IV: Petrographic analysis result**

<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 1</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal Shape	Diagnostic features	Rock textures	Rock name
Chlorite and Fluorite	1	0.6	Anhedral	Dark green	Spherulitic texture	Altered volcanic rock
Titanite	3	2.4	Anhedral	Reddish ,dark brown color , relief		
Sanidine	4	1.8	Euhedral	Twinning		
Quartz	5	1.2	Anhedral	Dendritic and radiate layering		
Devitrified glass	87	2.8	Anhedral	spherulite devitrification		
<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 2</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal shape	Diagnostic features	Rock texture	Rock name
Olivine	2	0.4 mm	Anhedral	Altered at its rim into biotite and opaque	Vesicular Texture	Basaltic scoria
Pyroxene	11	8.2 mm	Subhedral	Inclusion of opaque minerals		
Plagioclase	14	6 mm	Euhedral	Prismatic laths , simple twinning		
Ground mass	21			Fine grained opaque minerals		
Void space	52			Spherulites amygdaloidal		

<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 3</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal abundance (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal Shape	Diagnostic features	Rock textures	Rock name
Rock fragment	2	7.2	Anhedral	Altered into chlorite, calcite , Epidote , Rutile	Trachytic texture	Trachyte
Volcanic glass	5		Anhedral	Dark brown color, covering rock fragment		
Orthoclase	7	5.6	Euhedral	Twining		
Plagioclase	86	0.6	Euhedral	Elongated laths		
<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 4</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal shape	Diagnostic features	Rock textures	Rock name
Olivine	2	1.8	Anhedral	Altered into Opx and opaque	Porphyritic texture	Aphanitic Basalt
Pyroxene	23	4.2	Subhedral	2 set of cleavage at right angle and altered into biotite		
Plagioclase	37	3.4	Subhedral	Melt inclusions and Corona texture		
Ground mass	38			Opaque, plagioclase and pyroxene		

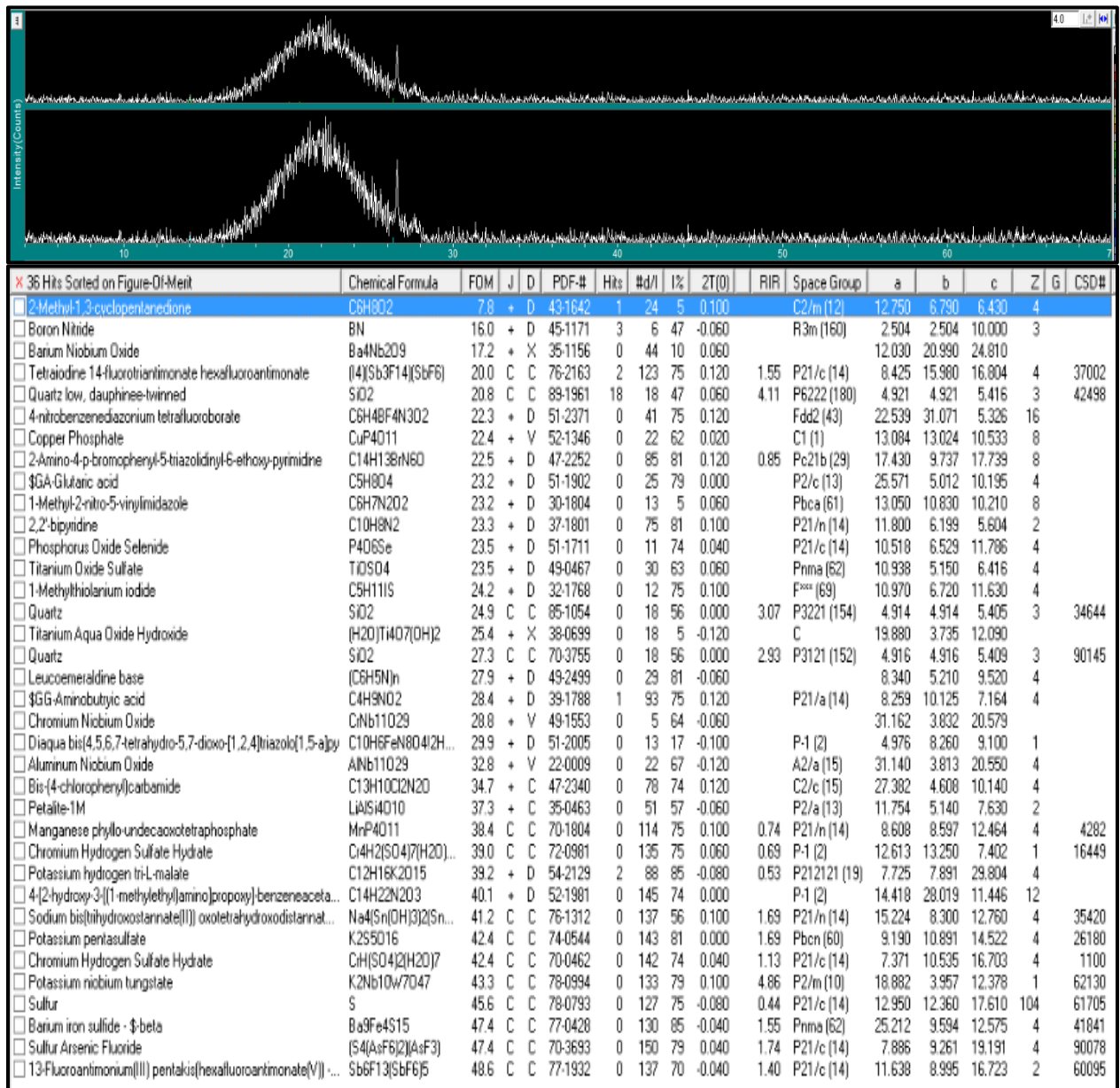
<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 5</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal shape	Diagnostic features	Rock textures	Rock name
Olivine	1	0.4	Anhedral	High interference color	porphyritic texture	Vesicular Basalt
Void space	7			Perfect circle with opaque inclusions		
Pyroxene	22	3.2	Subhedral	Melt inclusion		
Plagioclase	34	3.6	Euhedral	Compositional Zoning , exsolved opaque and fluid inclusions		
Ground mass	36			Opaque, plagioclase and pyroxene		
<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 6</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal shape	Diagnostic features	Rock textures	Rock name
Opaque	3	2.2	Anhedral	High relief , dark color	Ophitic texture- intergranular	Diorite
Olivine	3	2.4	Subhedral	Alteration along fracture		
Pyroxene	29	5.8	Subhedral	Brown color altered into hornblende		
Plagioclase	65	4.6	Euhedral	Elongated laths		

<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 7</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal shape	Diagnostic features	Rock textures	Rock name
Opaque	3	2	Subhedral	Graphic texture	Porphyritic texture	Crystalline ignimbrite
Orthoclase	28	7.4	Euhedral	Cleavage		
Quartz	30	6.8	Subhedral	Dendritic , spherulitic texture		
Volcanic glass	39		Anhedral	Brown dusty appearance		
<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 8</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal shape	Diagnostic features	Rock texture	Rock name
Opaque ,biotite	2	1.2	Anhedral	High relief black/red color	Porphyritic texture	Welded ignimbrite
K-feldspar (Orth& Sani)	24	6	Euhedral	Two set of cleavage and alteration		
Quartz	33	8.6	Subhedral	Lack of cleavage		
Rock fragments	41			Sieve texture		

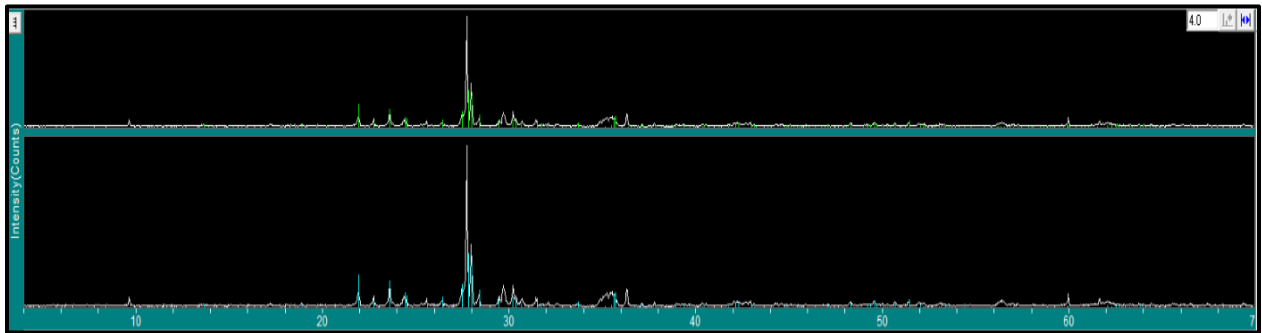
<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 9</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal shape	Diagnostic features	Rock textures	Rock name
Opaque	7	0.6	Anhedral	Black color	Sieve texture	Altered felsic rock
Plagioclase	15	2.2	Subhedral	Elongated laths		
Quartz	31	1.4	Anhedral	Lack of cleavage		
Glass	47			Brown color		
<b>Sample code: BT-TS- 10</b>						
Mineral composition	Modal proportion (Wt. %)	Max grain size (mm)	Crystal shape	Diagnostic features	Rock textures	Rock name
Sanidine	1	2.6	Euhedral	One perfect Cleavage	Glassy texture	Unwelded Tuff
Quartz	1	0.8	Anhedral	Undulose extinction		
Opaque	1	0.4	Anhedral	Black color		
Volcanic glass	97			Fine grained Brown color		

## Appendix-V: XRD analysis result

### St-XRD-1

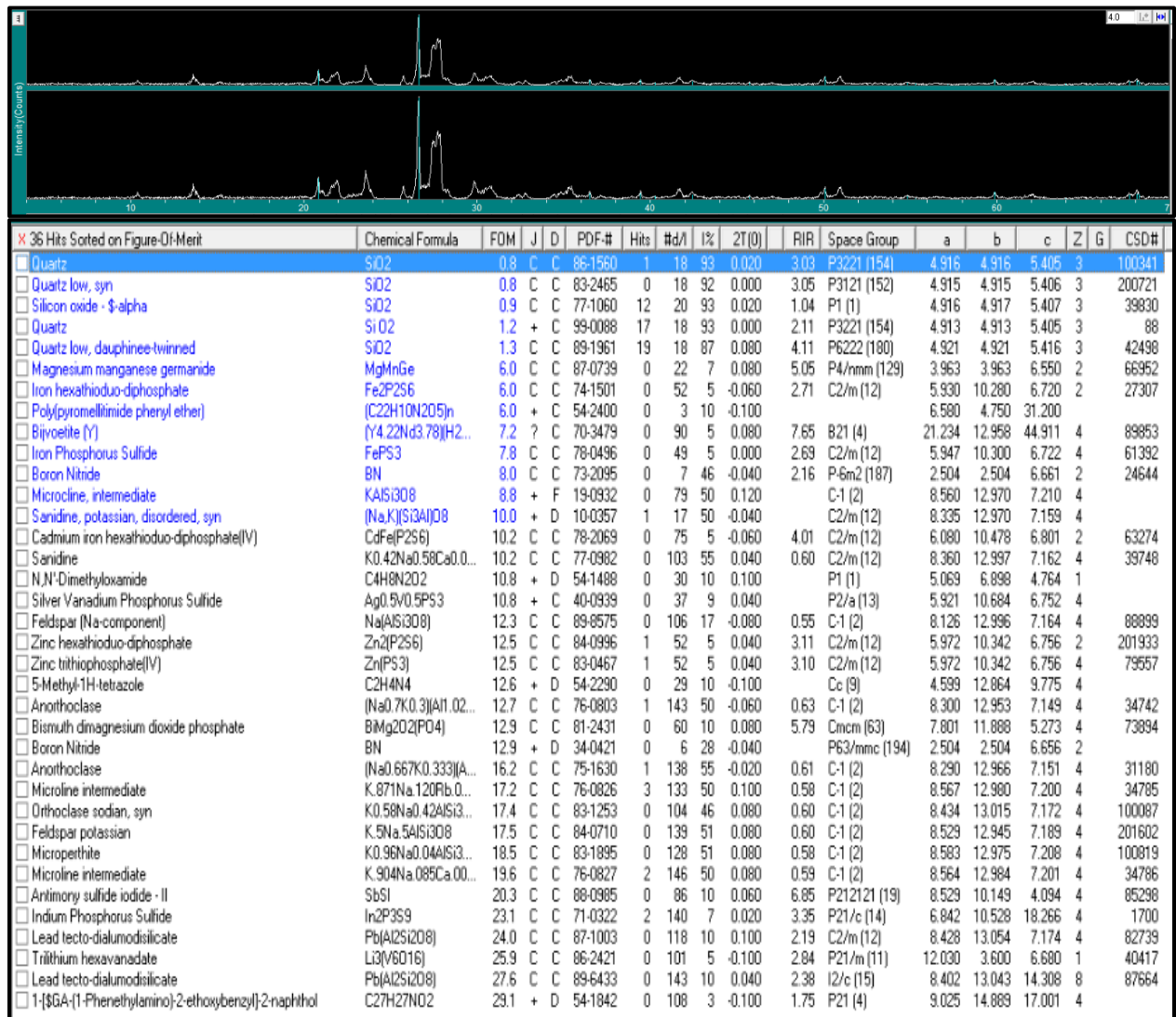


**St-XRD-2**

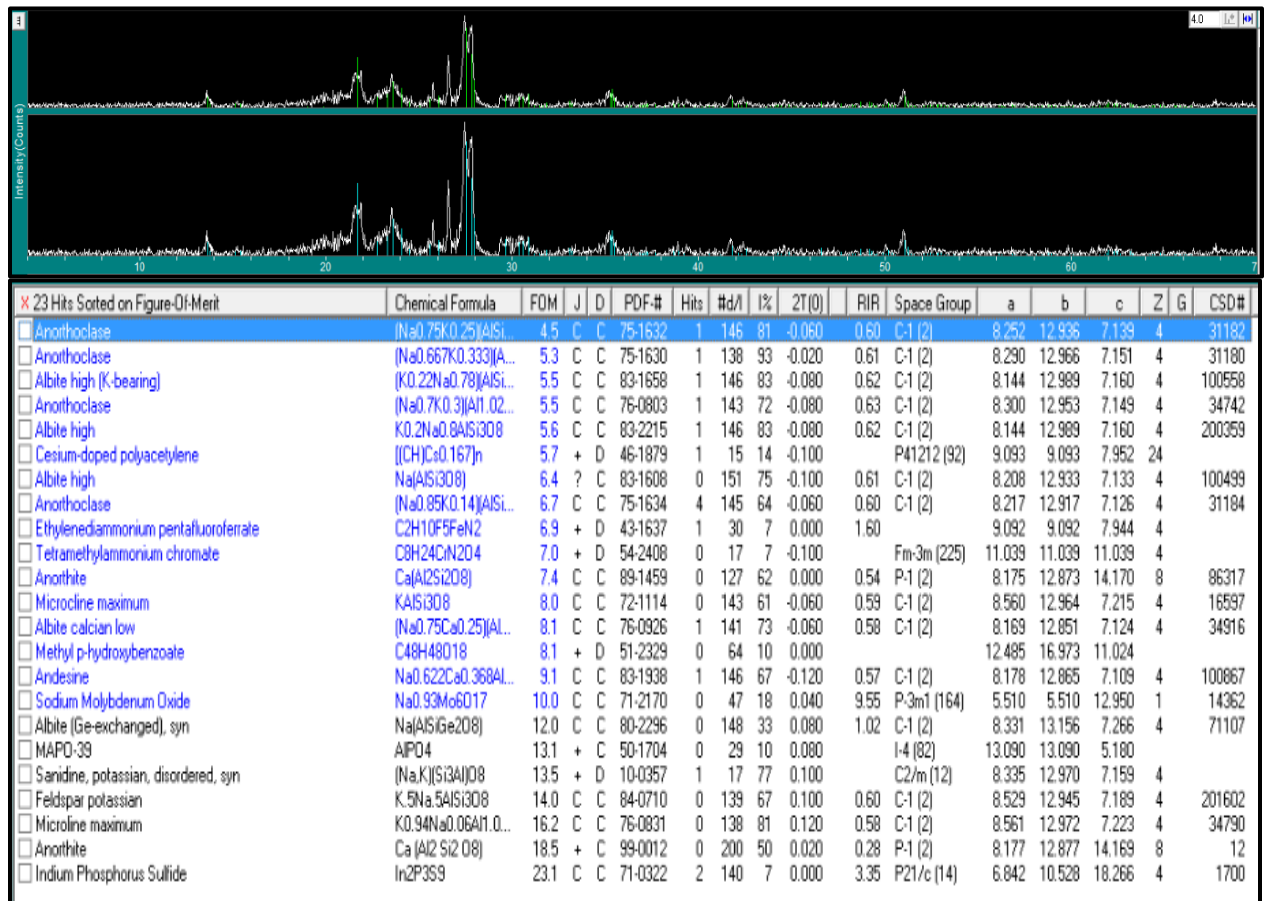


X 28 Hits Sorted on Figure-Of-Merit										Chemical Formula	FOM	J	D	PDF-#	Hits	#d/	I%	2T(θ)	RIR	Space Group	a	b	c	Z	G	CSD#
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Labradorite	Ca <sub>0.65</sub> Na <sub>0.32</sub> Al...	5.6	C	C	83-1367	0	148	31	-0.020	0.56	C-1 (2)	8.174	12.874	7.102	4	100232									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Albite, disordered	Na(Si <sub>3</sub> Al)O <sub>8</sub>	6.1	+	X	10-0393	0	42	31	-0.080		C-1 (2)	8.165	12.872	7.111	4										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labradorite	Ca <sub>0.65</sub> Na <sub>0.35</sub> Al...	6.9	C	C	83-1369	0	150	31	-0.020	0.57	C-1 (2)	8.175	12.871	7.101	4	100234									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labradorite	Ca <sub>0.68</sub> Na <sub>0.30</sub> Al...	7.0	C	C	83-1372	0	149	31	-0.100	0.56	C-1 (2)	8.152	12.834	7.079	4	100237									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labradorite	(Ca <sub>0.64</sub> Na <sub>0.31</sub> )Al...	7.3	C	C	83-1417	0	137	31	-0.020	0.53	C-1 (2)	8.175	12.871	14.203	8	100283									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anorthite, sodian, disordered	(Ca <sub>0.5</sub> Na <sub>0.5</sub> Si <sub>3</sub> Al)O <sub>8</sub>	7.8	+	D	41-1481	0	50	34	-0.060	0.73	P-1 (2)	8.181	12.874	7.097	4										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Augite	(CaMg <sub>0.74</sub> Fe <sub>0.25</sub> )...	7.9	C	C	70-3753	0	72	10	-0.100	1.11	C2/c (15)	9.750	8.901	5.274	4	90143									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unnamed	(Ca <sub>0.68</sub> Na <sub>0.32</sub> )Al...	8.1	C	C	89-1469	0	134	31	-0.020	0.54	I-1 (2)	8.173	12.869	14.200	8	86327									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Augite	(Mg <sub>0.7</sub> Fe <sub>0.3</sub> Al <sub>0.1</sub> Ti <sub>0.1</sub> )Ca <sub>0.9</sub> N <sub>0.1</sub>	8.5	C	C	88-0857	0	72	10	-0.080	1.24	C2/c (15)	9.756	8.903	5.283	4	85168									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Augite	(Mg <sub>0.7</sub> Fe <sub>0.3</sub> Al <sub>0.1</sub> Ti <sub>0.1</sub> )Ca <sub>0.9</sub> N <sub>0.1</sub>	9.4	C	C	88-0851	0	72	10	-0.080	1.22	C2/c (15)	9.749	8.888	5.289	4	85162									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calcium Aluminum Silicate	Ca <sub>0.88</sub> Si <sub>0.12</sub> Al...	9.6	+	D	52-1344	0	29	18	-0.060		C	8.165	12.871	14.171	8										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diopside	CaMgSi <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	10.4	C	C	72-1497	0	71	9	-0.060	1.21	C2/c (15)	9.750	8.926	5.251	4	17043									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diopside	(Ca <sub>0.95</sub> Fe <sub>0.05</sub> )Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	10.7	C	C	81-0487	0	79	10	-0.080	0.90	C2/c (15)	9.752	8.917	5.265	4	71835									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unnamed	(Ca <sub>0.72</sub> Na <sub>0.28</sub> )Al...	10.8	C	C	89-1468	0	139	31	-0.020	0.53	I-1 (2)	8.174	12.880	14.200	8	86326									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anorthite, sodian	Ca <sub>0.66</sub> Na <sub>0.34</sub> Al <sub>0.66</sub>	10.8	C	C	86-1650	0	139	31	0.020	0.54	I-1 (2)	8.175	12.871	14.230	8	201648									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unnamed annealed, mineral [NR]	(Ca <sub>0.78</sub> Na <sub>0.22</sub> )Al...	10.9	C	C	89-1480	0	137	18	-0.040	0.55	I-1 (2)	8.174	12.870	14.184	8	86339									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Augite	(Mg <sub>0.7</sub> Fe <sub>0.3</sub> Al <sub>0.1</sub> Ti <sub>0.1</sub> )Ca <sub>0.9</sub> N <sub>0.1</sub>	11.0	C	C	88-0848	0	73	10	-0.080	1.27	C2/c (15)	9.764	8.902	5.289	4	85159									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Albite calcian low	(Na <sub>0.84</sub> Ca <sub>0.16</sub> )Al...	11.0	C	C	76-0927	0	147	18	-0.100	0.61	C-1 (2)	8.155	12.821	7.140	4	34917									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andesine	Na <sub>0.49</sub> Ca <sub>0.49</sub> Al...	11.3	C	C	79-1149	0	150	75	0.000	0.56	C-1 (2)	8.179	12.880	7.112	4	66127									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diopside ferrian, syn	Ca <sub>1.007</sub> (Mg <sub>0.80</sub> Fe <sub>0.19</sub> )Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	11.7	C	C	89-0835	0	67	10	-0.040	1.38	C2/c (15)	9.772	8.918	5.284	4	85690									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anorthite, ordered	CaAl <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	11.7	+	D	41-1486	0	69	28	0.000	0.41	P-1 (2)	8.176	12.872	14.183	8										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diopside ferroan	(Mg <sub>0.99</sub> Fe <sub>0.01</sub> )Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	12.0	C	C	83-0100	0	74	10	-0.100	1.10	C2/c (15)	9.749	8.914	5.256	4	79184									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anorthite, sodian	Ca <sub>0.86</sub> Na <sub>0.14</sub> Al...	12.0	C	C	76-0832	0	139	10	-0.020	0.55	I-1 (2)	8.183	12.883	14.186	8	34791									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diopside ferrian, syn	Ca <sub>1.022</sub> (Mg <sub>0.85</sub> Fe <sub>0.17</sub> )Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	12.6	C	C	89-0834	0	73	9	-0.020	1.30	C2/c (15)	9.765	8.920	5.271	4	85689									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andesine	Na <sub>0.68</sub> Ca <sub>0.32</sub> Al...	12.7	C	C	83-1939	1	144	31	0.020	0.59	C-1 (2)	8.178	12.865	7.109	4	100868									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diopside, ferrian, syn	Ca <sub>1.022</sub> (Mg <sub>0.90</sub> Fe <sub>0.10</sub> )Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	12.9	C	C	89-0833	0	73	9	-0.040	1.30	C2/c (15)	9.758	8.923	5.264	4	85688									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diopside ferroan	(Mg <sub>0.998</sub> Fe <sub>0.002</sub> )Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	12.9	C	C	83-0102	0	73	9	-0.060	1.17	C2/c (15)	9.750	8.916	5.259	4	79186									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Albite - high	Na <sub>0.9</sub> (Al <sub>0.9</sub> Si <sub>0.1</sub> )O <sub>8</sub>	20.8	+	C	99-0001	0	200	18	-0.100	0.32	C-1 (2)	8.149	12.880	7.106	4	1									

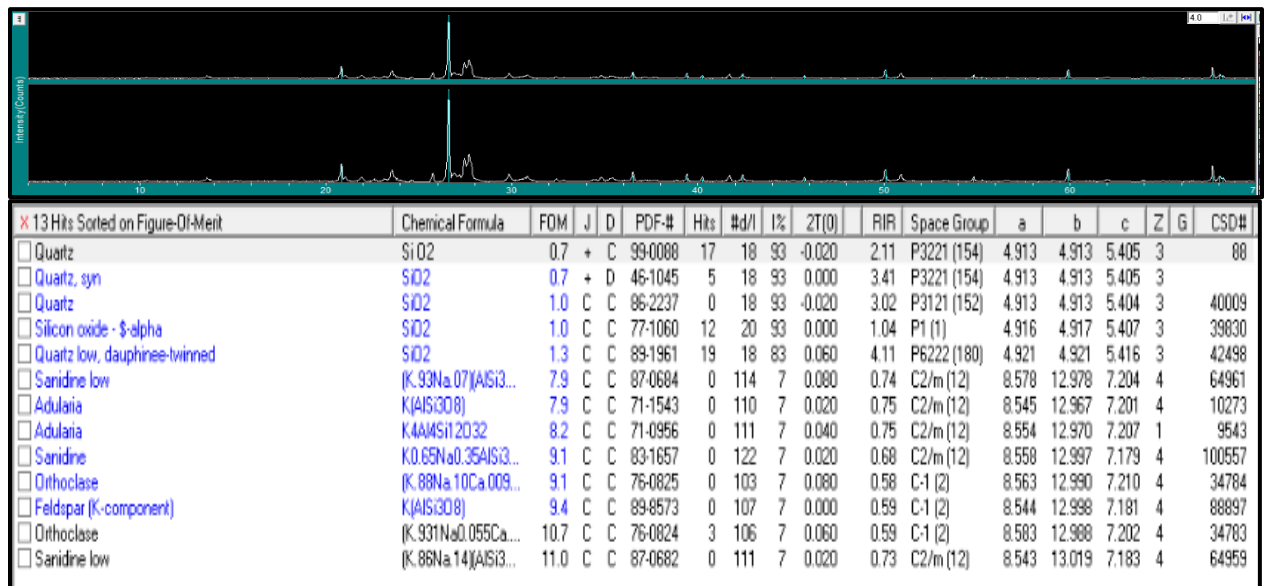
**St-XRD-3**



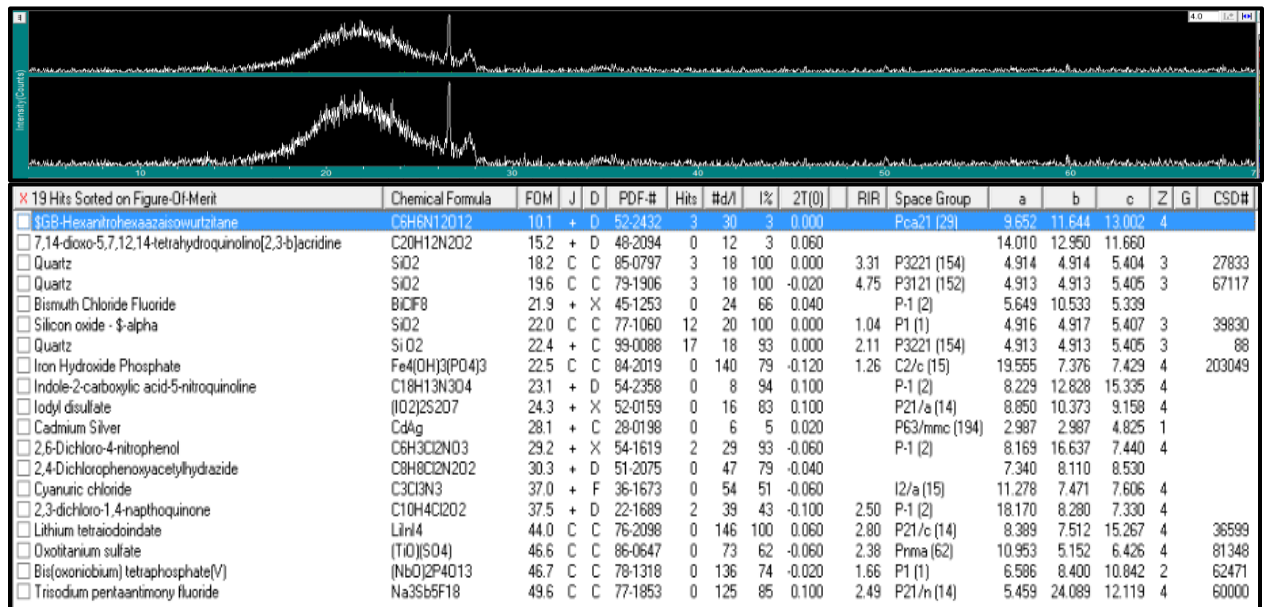
**St-XRD-4**



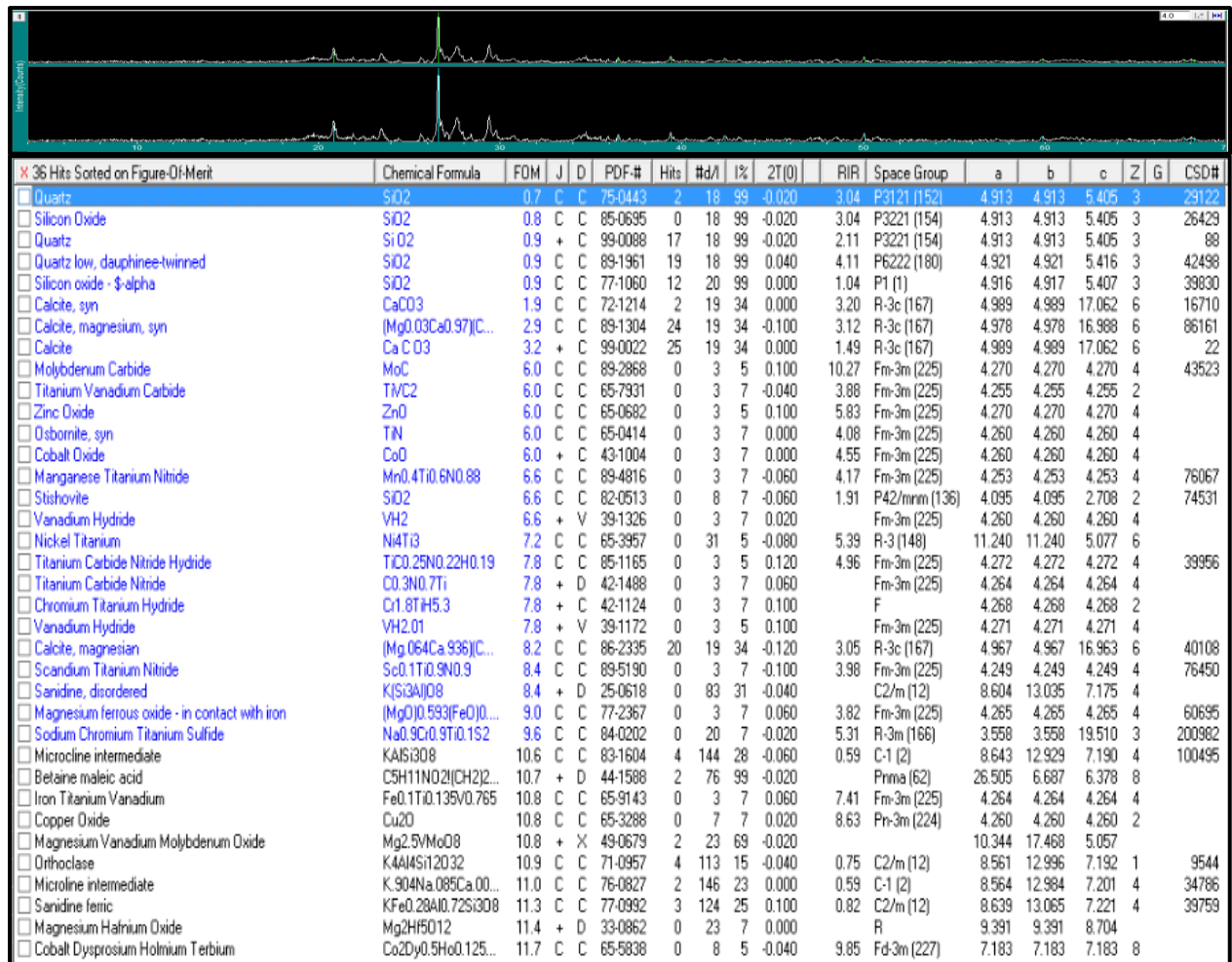
**St-XRD-5**



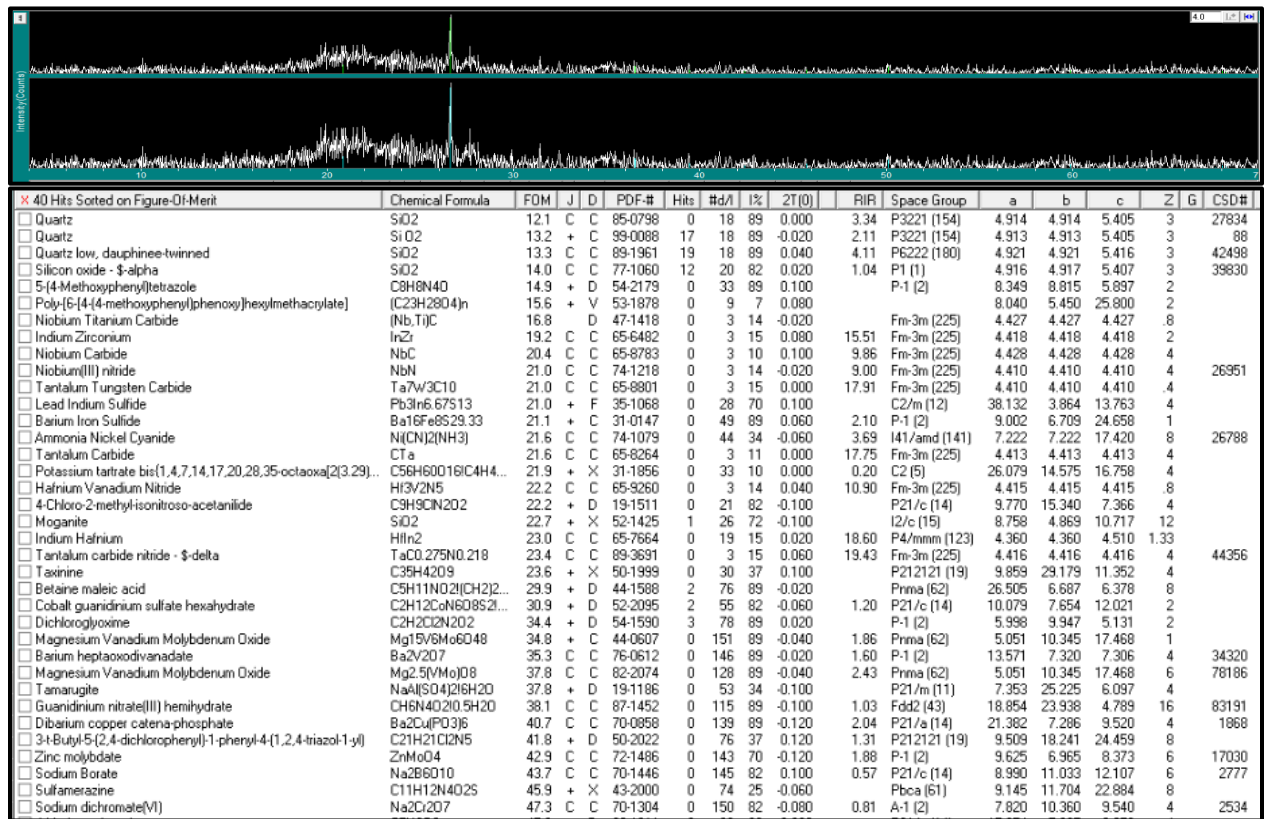
**St-XRD-6**



**St-XRD-7**



St-XRD-8



St-XRD-9

