Mexican Collaborations - Projects XPLORE, XIBALBA, and XIB TCS 22/09/2017 Extended Karst Studies with Innovative Methods in Area of Tulum/Mexico

Aerogeophysics – hydr. Modeling – 3d Laserscanning – Laser Flux Imaging – TCS-Monitoring





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## The Survey Area – Tulum Karst Plain

huge and difficult accessible coastal karst plain covered with forests, mangroves and lagoons

variably consolidated limestones several 1000 metres thick.

thin soil cover - limestone exposed at the surface

flat topography (0 - ~50 m above mean sea level)

NO Consumas productos de

known conduits/caves system explored by cave divers

freshwater layer above saltwater body

tidal variation of groundwater and halocline level reaching inland

socio-economic impact due to urban development and increasing water demand climate change. Hol Box fracture zone

Tulum





121°30

Cancun

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Plava del Carmer

# AEM Surveys Tulum 2007, 2008 and 2015: approx. 250 km<sup>2</sup>



## **Project XPLORE** – Problem Statement and Methodology

- Can **AEM** map the underground conduit system?
- Can a Karst water regime be modelled by **combining aerogeophysical** and **hydrogeological** input data?

### Methodology:

Pilot surveys, simulation of measurement situation – estimation of expected measurement signal

**AEM-Survey** 

**El.** Conductivity



*electrical conductivity* in the subsurface (through 1D-inversion)

lateral and vertical distribution of **hydrogeological relevant structures** (due to distribution of porosity, water saturation, ion concentration, permeability, GWL, halocline) – Map of potential conduits.

### Structural information from AEM and underwater cave surveys

#### Groundwater model (UNINE)

### Archie's law (Archie 1942)

**Calibration** of AEM-measurements and groundwater model by ground survey data (ERT, bore hole geophysics, piezometry, GPR)

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 $\rho_e = a \varphi^{-m} S^{-n} \rho_w$ 

2.28

- $\rho_e \ldots$  spezifischer elektrischer Widerstand der Formation
- $\rho_w$ ... spezifischer elektrischer Widerstand der Porenflüssigkeit (zumeist Wasser)
- φ... Porosität

S... Sättigung (Anteil des Porenvolumens das mit Flüssigkeit gefüllt ist) a, m, n... empirisch bestimmte Konstanten

### The measurement system



# Helicopter provided by the Mexican Marina (MilMi - 8)



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# Survey area as seen from helicopter







## load specialist



### Bird 30 m below the helicopter



# The 2007/2008 AEM surveys –first results known caves are detected – some indication of further conduits

Edited and height reduced raw signal (ppm) of all inphase components (2007)





### AEM-data inversion surface layer and two sections (software: UBC EM1DFM)



# Estimated topography of halocline



Resistivity ranges found: Above halocline: 10 to 200 Ohmm Below halocline 0.7-50 Ohmm

Seawater: 0.2-0.25 Ohmm Freshwater: around 4 Ohmm Brakish water: around 1 Ohmm

# How to get out more information?

adapting AEM pre/post-processing for enhancing signals of possible conduits

- \* Pre-Inversion-Processing (on raw/ppmdata)
- 1) System drift analysis
- 2) Automatic drift correction
- 3) Estimation and correction of residual drift by analysis of vertical field gradient.
- 4) De-stripping (type of levelling)
- 5) Qualitycontrol/editing
- \* 1D-Inversion (UBC EM1DFM)
- \* Processing of inversion results:
- De-stripping (type of levelling).
- Reduction of vertical gradient



2007/2008 f3\_in , reduced to 40 meters above ground, meanfree.

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### Sections

Detection of fresh water layer, mixing zone and salt water saturared limestone



Electrical Conductivity Log10[S/m]



Line YUK001, 2008-survey



Salt water body (yellow-red)



22/09/2017

# Background reduced sections crossing surveyed cave system



# Results: Overview of conduit network (from 2007 and 2008 AEM data )



# Inversion line YUK001 (2008) – section of reef structure?



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# Example: Geoelectrics and GPR







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# Conclusion of AEM survey in Tulum Karst:

- Halocline level is well resolved.
- GWL is not clearly resolved in AEM (capillary effects ? Frequency problem?).
- Interpretation of Halocline with conductivity isosurface problematical (varying porosity).
- Distribution of electrical conductivity derived from AEM correlates to surveyed caves and yields picture of potential karst conduit distribution lateral and in depth.
- Structures also visible at the reef (saltwater cover) and in lagoon area (brakish water cover)
- Questions:
- How can the GWL be better resolved?
- Is it possible to resolve structures below seawater (shielding?)



FШF



## Models

## System

	Frequenz [Hz]	Konfiguration	Abstand (Tx-Rx) [m]
Messwert 1 (f1)	340	vertikal koplanar	4.53
Messwert 2 (f2)	3200	horizontal koaxial	4.53
Messwert 3 (f3)	7190	vertikal koplanar	4.49
Messwert 4 (f4)	28850	horizontal koaxial	4.66



## Layered halfspace



## Halfspace with conduits





### Emigma, 1d

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