

1 Comparison of Various Spectral Indices for Optimum Extraction 2 of Tropical Wetlands Using Landsat 8 OLI

3
4 **Abstract** This research specifically aims to investigate the most accurate spectral indices in extracting wetlands
5 geospatial information taking South Kalimantan, Indonesia, as an example of wetlands in tropical areas. Ten
6 spectral indices were selected for testing their ability to extract wetlands, those are NDVI, NDWI, MNDWI,
7 MNDWIs2, NDMI, WRI, NDPI, TCWT, AWEInsh, and AWEIsh. Tests were performed on Landsat 8 OLI path/row
8 117/062 and 117/063. The threshold method which was used to separate the wetland features from the spectral
9 indices imagery is Otsu method. The results of this research showed that generally MNDWIs2 was the most optimal
10 spectral indices in wetlands extraction. Especially tropical wetlands that rich with green vegetation cover. However,
11 MNDWIs2 is very sensitive to dense vegetation, this feature has the potential to be detected as wetlands. Furthermore,
12 to improve the accuracy and prevent detection of the dryland vegetation as wetlands, the threshold value should be
13 determined carefully.

14
15 **Key words:** wetlands; spectral indices; Landsat 8 OLI; South Kalimantan

16
17 **Abstrak** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menginvestigasi indeks spektral yang paling akurat dalam ekstraksi
18 informasi geospasial lahan basah di Kalimantan Selatan, Indonesia, sebagai sampel lahan basah di daerah tropis.
19 Sepuluh indeks spektral dipilih untuk diuji kemampuannya dalam mengekstrak lahan basah, yaitu NDVI, NDWI,
20 MNDWI, MNDWIs2, NDMI, WRI, NDPI, TCWT, AWEInsh, dan AWEIsh. Uji coba dilakukan pada Citra Landsat
21 8 OLI path/row 117/062 and 117/063. Metode pembatasan nilai yang digunakan untuk memisahkan fitur lahan
22 basah dari citra indeks spektral adalah metode Otsu. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa, secara umum
23 MNDWIs2 merupakan indeks spektral yang paling optimal dalam ekstaksi lahan basah. Khususnya lahan basah
24 tropis yang kaya dengan penutupan vegetasi hijau. Akan tetapi, MNDWIs2 sangat sensitif terhadap vegetasi rapat,
25 fitur ini berpotensi untuk terdeteksi sebagai lahan basah. Lebih jauh, untuk meningkatkan akurasi dan mencegah
26 vegetasi lahan kering terdeteksi sebagai lahan basah, nilai threshold harus ditentukan secara hati-hati.

27
28 **Kata kunci :** lahan basah; indeks spektral; Landsat 8 OLI; Kalimantan Selatan

29
30
31
32
33

1 **1. Introduction**

2

3 Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently (EPA,
4 2004). According to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1993 (Matthews, 2013), based on the
5 habitat, wetlands classified into marine and coastal wetlands, inland wetlands, and man-made
6 wetlands. In the South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia, wetlands are one of the main features
7 of the landscape.

8 The characteristics of tropical wetlands located in South Kalimantan Province are quite
9 varied. For example, shallow water has a main characteristic, that is rich with green vegetation
10 cover. On the deep water bodies (rivers) in this area, the waters have high enough levels of
11 turbidity. In South Kalimantan, there are also quite a lot of open pit coal mining activities. The
12 water inside the pits the rest of the coal mine will be mixed with the toxic minerals out of the
13 mine. Hence, on the ground the pits look green. The green colour was formed distinct spectral
14 signatures in multispectral optical imagery.

15 So far, various methods have been developed for the extraction of wetlands geospatial
16 data automatically. For example, the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) (McFeeters,
17 1996), Modified Normalized Difference Water Index (MNDWI) (Xu, 2006), and so forth.
18 NDWI and MNDWI are the two most popular spectral indices for the extraction of water
19 features or wetland features. Their ability to extract open water features or wetland features has
20 been tested from several research results (McFeeters, 1996; Xu, 2006; Li et al., 2013; Jiang et al.,
21 2014; Ashraf and Nawaz, 2015; Das and Pal, 2016; Du et al., 2016). Besides NDWI or MNDWI,
22 there are also a number of other spectral indices that can potentially be used to separate wetland
23 features from other features.

24 In general, spectral indices such as NDWI or MNDWI are actually developed to
25 separate open water features from other features. Some research indicates that the spectral
26 indices are very accurate in extracting the boundaries of water features. For example, Xu (2006)
27 proved that MNDWI more accurate than NDWI when applied to the three water features, i.e.
28 lakes, oceans, and rivers. Similar to Xu (2006), Li et al. (2013) also found that MNDWI more
29 accurate than NDWI to the TM, ETM +, and ALI imagery. To further test MNDWI's

1 capabilities, Jiang et al. (2014) developed the Automated Method for Extracting Rivers and
2 Lakes (AMERL) for the extraction of rivers and lakes automatically from Landsat TM/ETM +.
3 It was found that in general, MNDWI remains the best among the three other spectral indices.

4 Du et al. (2016) used MNDWI on the Sentinel-2 imagery, where the SWIR band of
5 Sentinel-2 sharpened to 10 meters by a number of pan-sharpening method. Du et al. (2016)
6 found that MNDWI with a combination of Principle Component Analysis (PCA) is more
7 accurate than the NDWI and MNDWI with a combination of other pan-sharpening.

8 In other cases, other spectral indices have proven to be more accurate in extracting open
9 water or wetlands features. For example, when Ashraf and Nawaz (2015) detect changes in the
10 wetlands of the Baraila Lake (India) using four spectral indices, they found that in general
11 NDWI is the most accurate method when verified using the field data. Similar to Ashraf and
12 Nawaz, Das and Pal (2016) also found that NDWI was the most accurate spectral indices, when
13 they compared six spectral indices. While Zhai et al. (2015) when comparing surface water
14 extraction performances of four indices using Landsat TM and OLI, they found that
15 Automated Water Extraction Index (AWEI) has the highest overall accuracy.

16 Kwak and Iwami (2014) developed a Modified Land Surface Water Index (MLSWI),
17 they use it on flood inundation mapping using MODIS imagery and they test its accuracy using
18 ALOS AVNIR 2. They found that MLSWI more accurate than Normalized Difference
19 Vegetation Index (NDVI) and Land Surface Water Index (LSWI).

20 Several other researchers, such as Xie et al. (2016), they make further use of the spectral
21 index to extract water features at the sub pixel level. They used MNDWI to separate the pure
22 land pixel and pure water pixel in Spectral Mixture Analysis (SMA), for mapping the surface
23 of the water of lakes and rivers automatically at sub pixel level.

24 Other researchers, such as Yang et al. (2015) combined spectral indices and single band
25 multispectral imagery simultaneously to extract water features. They use a number of spectral
26 indices and single band on Landsat 8 OLI to extract the water bodies. Those are, the single-
27 band threshold in band 5, multiband spectral relationship b2, b3, b4, b5, NDVI, NDWI,
28 MNDWI, Normalized Difference Built-up Index (NDBI), TCT, and Hue, Intensity and

1 Saturation (HIS). Where all of the spectral indices and bands are combined using deep learning
2 algorithm, called Stacked Sparse Autoencoder (SSAE).

3 Although the spectral indices such as NDWI, MNDWI, NDVI, or others are accurate
4 to separate open water features from other features, but it still needs to be studied further,
5 whether these spectral indices are also accurate when used to separate wetland features from
6 dryland features. Because, most of the wetlands in tropical areas has a spectral characteristic of
7 water and green vegetation simultaneously. This research aimed to compare the accuracy of
8 some of the spectral indices for optimizing the extraction of wetlands, by taking the case of the
9 tropics area, that is, the South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia.

10

11 **2.The Methods**

12

13 2.1.Materials

14

15 This research used two scenes of Landsat 8 OLI, the path/row 117/062 and 117/063, the
16 acquisition on April 22, 2015. Most of the wetlands in South Kalimantan to be in these two
17 scenes. Imageries acquiring date selected on April because it was the rainy season. Therefore,
18 the condition of wetlands is at the maximum extends.

19 Overall spectral indices in this study applied to Landsat 8 Operational Land Imager (OLI)
20 surface reflectance imageries. Atmospheric correction methods used in this research was the
21 Dark Object Subtraction 4 (DOS4) (Chavez, 1988; Chavez, 1996; Zhang et al., 2010; Hong et
22 al., 2014).

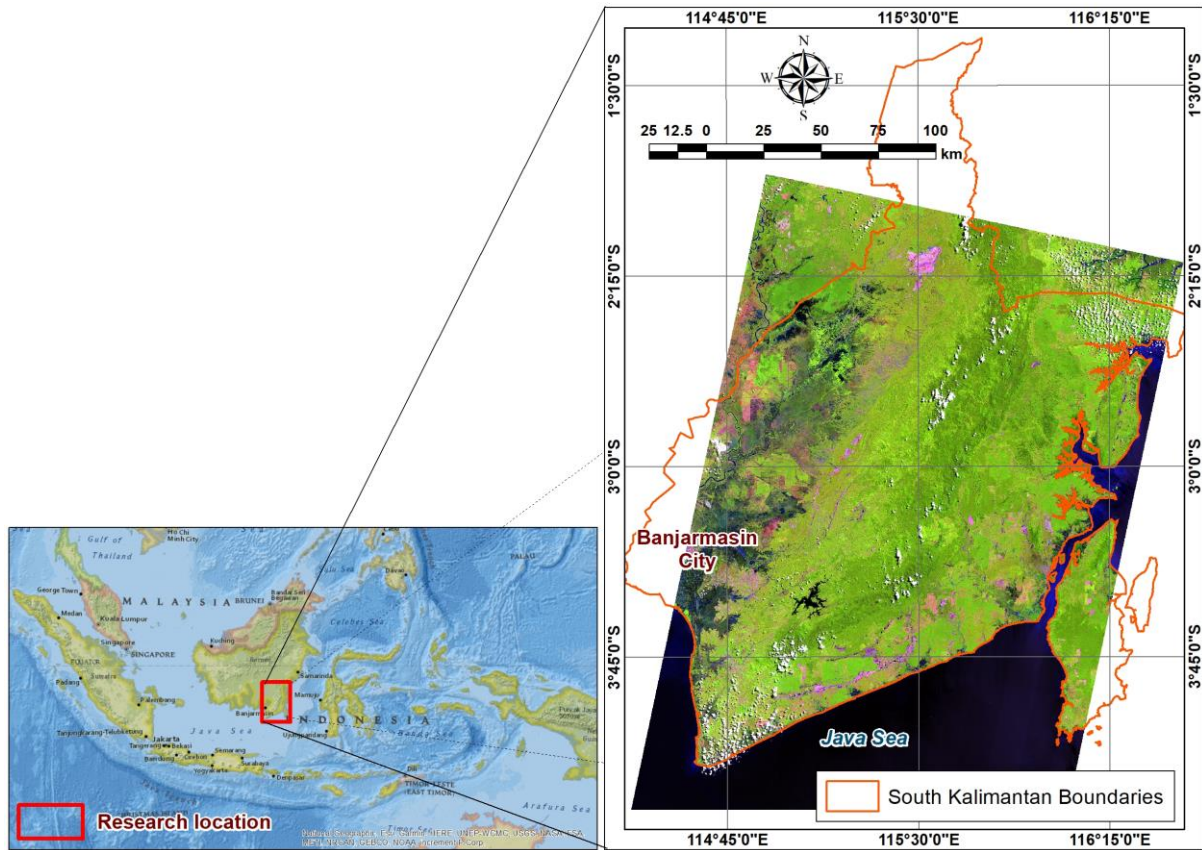


Figure 1. Research location

2.2. Water Indices

Water indices is a generic term for all of the spectral indices intended to sharpen the water features. One of the water indices which is most extensively used is NDWI (McFeeters, 1996). According to McFeeters (1996), if the pixel values of NDWI are positive means the water features. Thus, the value of 0 by McFeeters (1996) is set as the threshold value. NDWI formulated by McFeeters (1996) as follows:

$$NDWI = \frac{\rho_g - \rho_n}{\rho_g + \rho_n}$$

Where:

- ρ_g : green band
- ρ_n : near infrared band

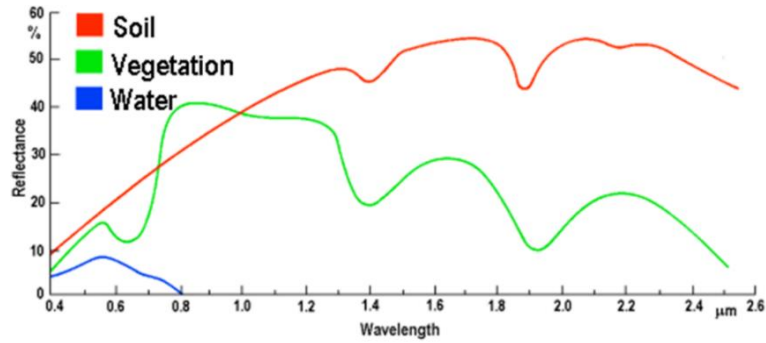


Figure 2. Spectral value curves on three base surface features

Due to lack of NDWI in error detection features of the building, Xu (2006) modifying NDWI become MNDWI, by changing NIR band into SWIR. In this case, Xu (2006) using the SWIR1. The replacement of NIR with SWIR1 aims to suppress soil features (including buildings) in McFeeters's NDWI, because in the SWIR1 soil reflectances are higher than NIR. As seen in the spectral value curves in Figure 2.

$$\text{MNDWI} = \frac{\rho_g - \rho_s}{\rho_g + \rho_s}$$

Where:

- ρ_s : shortwave infrared band

In this research, we were also adding a water index modified from MNDWI, by replacing the SWIR1 in MNDWI with SWIR2. Thus, the MNDWI_{s2} formula that we modified in this research is as follows:

$$\text{MNDWI}_{s2} = \frac{\rho_g - \rho_{s2}}{\rho_g + \rho_{s2}}$$

Where:

- ρ_{s2} : shortwave infrared 2 band

Xu (2006) replaces NIR with SWIR1 in NDWI (McFeeters, 1996) with the aim to suppress building features, because in the SWIR1, soil and building reflectance higher than NIR. In this research, we replace SWIR1 into SWIR2, with the aim to capture the spectral vegetation located above the wetlands. Because vegetation reflectance in SWIR2 is not as high as SWIR1 and NIR.

Besides NDWI, MNDWI and MNDWI_{s2}, there are various other spectral indices to be tested in this research. Table 1 shows the full list of spectral indices which are capabilities will be compared in this study.

Table 1. List of the spectral indices used in the research

No.	Spectral Indices	Formula	Value of Water	Reference
1.	NDVI Normalized Difference Vegetation Index	$\frac{\rho_n - \rho_r}{\rho_n + \rho_r}$	Negative	Rouse et al. (1973)
2.	NDWI Normalized Difference Water Index	$\frac{\rho_g - \rho_n}{\rho_g + \rho_n}$	Positive	McFeeters (1996)
3.	MNDWI Modified Normalized Difference Water Index	$\frac{\rho_g - \rho_{s1}}{\rho_g + \rho_{s1}}$	Positive	Xu (2006)
4.	MNDWI _{s2} Modified Normalized Difference Water Index with SWIR2	$\frac{\rho_g - \rho_{s2}}{\rho_g + \rho_{s2}}$	Positive	This research
5.	NDMI Normalized Difference Moisture Index	$\frac{\rho_n - \rho_s}{\rho_n + \rho_s}$	Positive	Gao (1996); Wilson and Sader (2002); Xiao et al. (2002); Lacaux et al. (2007)
6.	WRI Water Ratio Index	$\frac{\rho_g + \rho_r}{\rho_n + \rho_s}$	Greater than 1	Shen (2010)
7.	NDPI Normalized Difference Pond Index	$\frac{\rho_s - \rho_g}{\rho_s + \rho_g}$	Negative	Lacaux et al. (2007)
8.	TCWT Tasseled-Cap Wetness Transformation	$0.1877\rho_{ca} + 0.2097\rho_b + 0.2038\rho_g + 0.1017\rho_r + 0.0685\rho_n - 0.7460\rho_{s1} - 0.5548\rho_{s2}$	-	Li et al. (2015)
9.	AWEI _{insh} Automated Water Extraction Index with no shadow	$4(\rho_g - \rho_{s1}) - (0.25\rho_n + 2.75\rho_{s2})$	-	Feyisa et al. (2014)
10.	AWEI _{sh} Automated Water Extraction Index with shadow	$\rho_b + 2.5\rho_g - 1.5(\rho_n + \rho_{s1}) - 0.25\rho_{s2}$	-	Feyisa et al. (2014)

Information:

- ρ_{ca} : aerosol coastal bands (bands 1 Landsat 8)
- ρ_b : blue band (band 2 Landsat 8)

- 1 • ρ_g : green band (band 3 Landsat 8)
- 2 • ρ_r : red band (band 4 Landsat 8)
- 3 • ρ_n : near infrared band (band 5 Landsat 8)
- 4 • ρ_s : shortwave infrared band (band 6 or 7 Landsat 8)
- 5 • ρ_{s1} : shortwave infrared 1 band (band 6 Landsat 8)
- 6 • ρ_{s2} : shortwave infrared 2 band (band 7 Landsat 8)

7

8 2.3. Wetlands Extraction

9

10 For the purpose of separating wetland features and non-wetland features from spectral
11 indices imageries, some literature recommends a specific threshold value. However, in certain
12 cases, the threshold value is often not optimal. According to Ji et al. (2009), the NDWI threshold
13 is not a constant value, an appropriate NDWI threshold needs to be determined.

14 There are several methods of automatic thresholding used to classify digital imageries. One
15 of the most popular automatic thresholding methods is Otsu thresholding (Otsu, 1979). In this
16 research, the Otsu thresholding process is done using free open source public domain software,
17 namely ImageJ (Schneider et al., 2012; Schindelin et al., 2015).

18

19 2.4. Accuracy Assessment

20

21 Accuracy assessment was conducted using the Confusion Matrix (Stehman and
22 Czaplewski, 1997), using a number of sample locations were selected purposively. In this case,
23 the location of the sample represents multiple characters wetlands in South Kalimantan.
24 Namely, mangroves, salt marshes, deep water (include reservoirs, canals, and coal open pits),
25 peatlands, peatswamps, shrub-dominated wetlands, tree-dominated wetlands, fish ponds,
26 swamp rice fields, irrigated land, freshwater marshes, and freshwater lake. Therefore, there are
27 a total of 12 samples for wetland classes. Meanwhile, the number of sample pixels for each
28 wetlands class are 4,495, 4,245, 10,904, 2,309, 6,739, 14,396, 2,265, 3,217, 6,597, 2,307, 5,020 and
29 2,330 pixels respectively.

1 For the purpose of assessing the deeper capabilities of each spectral index, the sample
2 locations were also chosen purposively on various dryland features that have the potential to
3 be detected as wetlands. In the appointment of the samples, the method used is knowledge-
4 based. There are a total of 10 samples for dryland classes. Namely, built-up lands, barelands,
5 grass, roads, dryland forest, dryland farms, garden (include mix garden, rubber plants, palm
6 oil), and shrub and bushes. The number of sample pixels for each of these drylands classes are
7 1,236, 4,003, 2,377, 323, 6,445, 2,169, 4,694, and 8,075 pixels, respectively.

8 A confusion matrix is constructed for each spectral index, for example for NDWI a
9 confusion matrix will be constructed, as well as for other spectral indices. The first accuracy
10 assessment is done in general, where each spectral index is tested for its ability to separate
11 wetlands and drylands. From the resulting confusion matrix, the overall accuracy, kappa
12 coefficient, producer's accuracy, user's accuracy, commission error, and omission error are
13 calculated to obtain quantitative descriptions of the capabilities of each spectral index. The
14 recapitulation results of overall accuracy, kappa coefficient, producer's accuracy, user's
15 accuracy, commission error, and omission errors can be seen in Table 2.

16 Furthermore, to test the ability of each spectral index to recognize each wetland class, a
17 confusion matrix was constructed for each spectral index in each wetland class. For example,
18 for NDWI in the Mangroves class, a confusion matrix will be constructed. Furthermore, from
19 the resulting confusion matrix the Producer's Accuracy value will be taken, to obtain a
20 quantitative description of the ability of the spectral index to recognize one type of wetland. So
21 we will get an overview of NDWI's ability to recognize Mangroves for example. Recapitulation
22 of producer's accuracy values for each spectral index in each wetland class can be seen in Table
23 3.

24 The final step, to test the ability of each spectral index to avoid the detection of dryland
25 features, a confusion matrix is constructed for each spectral index in each dryland class. For
26 example, for NDWI in the Dryland Forest class, a confusion matrix will be constructed.
27 Furthermore, from the resulting confusion matrix the Commission Error value will be taken,
28 to obtain a quantitative description of the ability of the spectral index to avoid the detection of
29 one type of dryland. So that a description of NDWI's ability to avoid detecting Dryland Forest

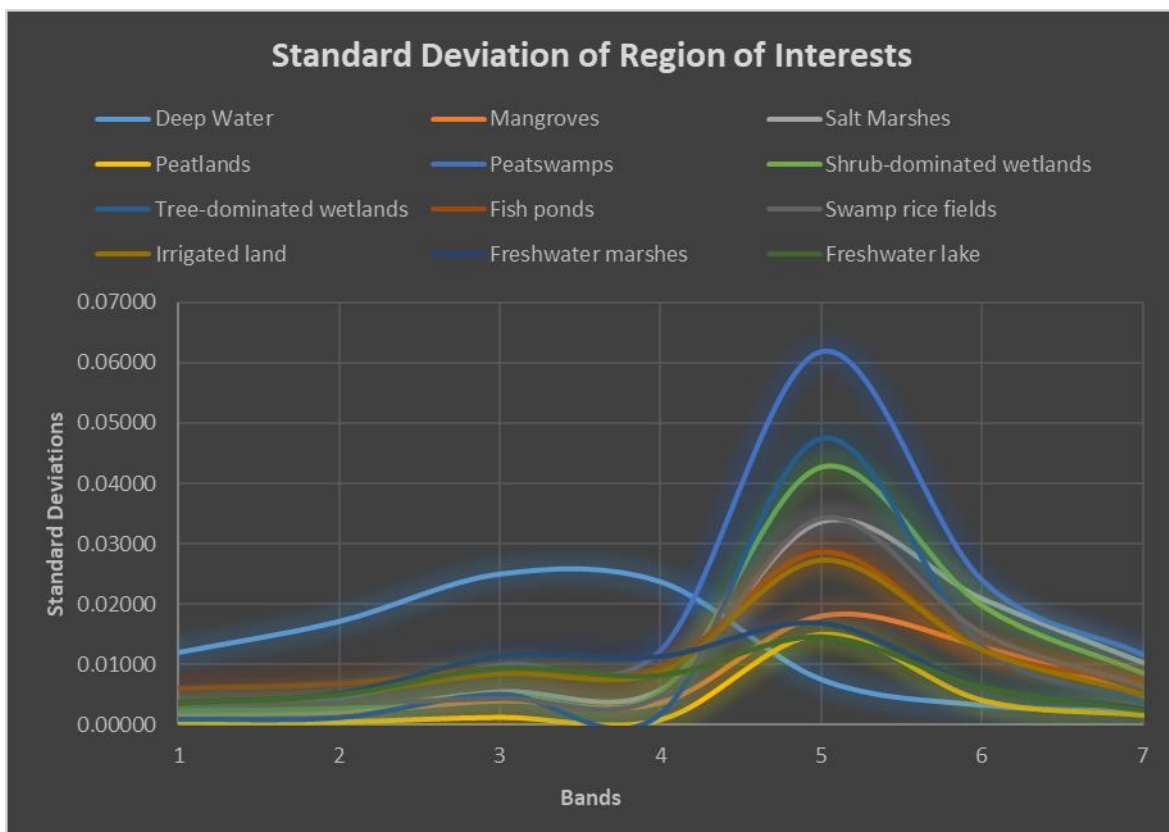
1 as a wetland will be obtained, for example. Recapitulation of commission error values for each
2 spectral index in each dryland class can be seen in Table 4.

3

4 3.Result and Discussion

5 Visual appearance of wetlands in South Kalimantan varies in tone/colour on
6 multispectral satellite imageries such as Landsat 8. This shows quite a high degree of variation
7 in spectral value of each type of wetlands. In the accuracy assessment, the samples were made
8 for each type of wetlands. For the purpose to ensure that variations in the class of all wetlands
9 are represented as possible, Region of Interest (ROI) made for every wetland types are
10 distributed in several different locations. Figure 3 shows the Standard Deviation (SD) ROI of
11 all wetlands in each band Landsat 8 OLI.

12



13

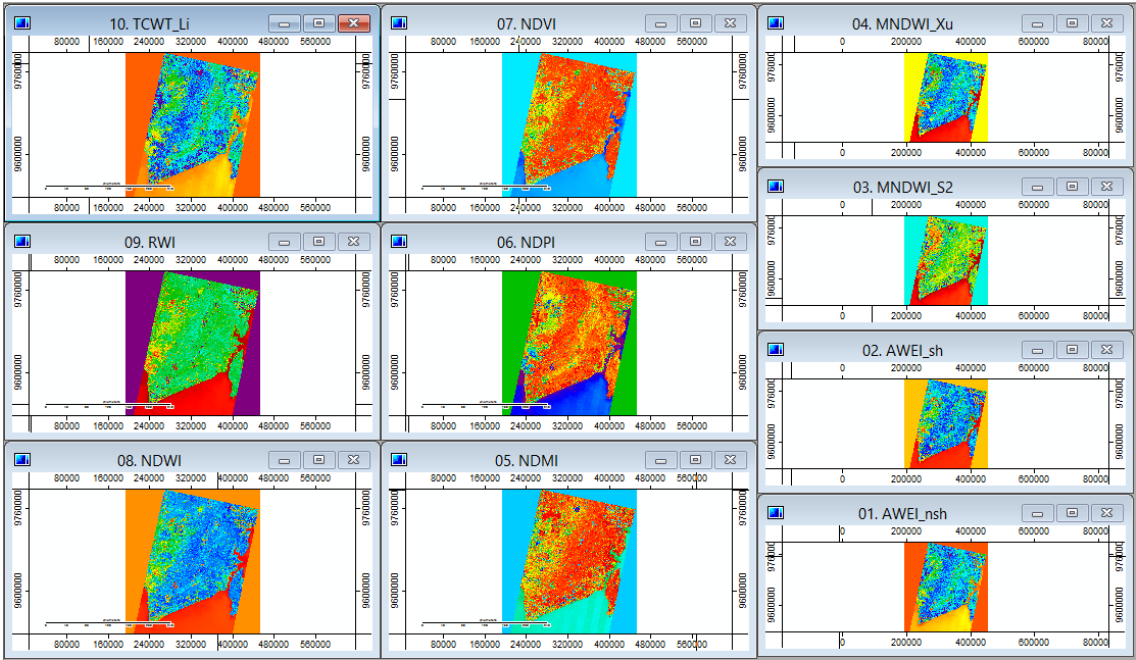
14 Figure 3. Standard Deviation of all wetlands types ROI in each band of Landsat 8 OLI

15

1 Of course, spectral indices such as NDWI cannot distinguish between mangroves and
2 peatswamps, for example. Because spectral indices such as NDWI are only designed to
3 recognize and separate water/wetlands from dryland features. While mangroves and
4 peatswamps are both wetland features. In fact, the thresholding imageries results of spectral
5 indices contains only two classes, namely Wetlands and Non-wetlands. But for the sake of
6 accuracy assessment, the accuracy assessment ROI is made on every types of wetlands in the
7 research locations. It is intended that the spectral character of each wetland represented, and
8 to provide an overview of each spectral indices extraction capabilities of each type of wetlands.

9 When the overall accuracy of the assessment is done, all types of wetland features are
10 combined into a single class, namely the Wetlands. And all types of drylands features are
11 combined into a single class, namely Non-wetlands. Figure 4 shows the results of the
12 transformation of spectral indices were selected in this research. While Table 2 shows the
13 results of Otsu thresholding and accuracy assessment results of each spectral index using the
14 Confusion Matrix.

15



16
17 Figure 4. The result of the transformation of spectral indices on the SAGA application

18
19 Table 2. The Otsu thresholding and accuracy assessment results using the Confusion Matrix

No.	Spectral Indices	Otsu Threshold	OA (%)	Kappa	PA (%)	UA (%)	CE (%)	OE (%)
1.	NDVI	≤ 0.21	44.20	0.18	43.59	88.49	11.51	56.41
2.	NDWI	≥ -0.17	45.19	0.19	44.84	89.73	10.27	55.16
3.	MNDWI	≥ -0.06	68.59	0.50	84.22	99.74	0.26	15.78
4.	MNDWI _{s2}	≥ 0.07	74.82	0.59	97.54	98.13	1.87	2.46
5.	NDMI	≥ 0.13	32.68	-0.14	38.86	60.48	39.52	61.14
6.	WRI	≥ 0.51	73.02	0.50	98.61	84.61	15.39	1.39
7.	NDPI	≤ 0.05	65.02	0.45	77.15	99.85	0.15	22.85
8.	TCWT	≤ 0.45	59.32	0.37	66.37	99.95	0.05	33.63
9.	AWEL _{nsh}	≥ -0.55	54.15	0.31	57.11	99.99	0.01	42.89
10.	AWEL _{sh}	≥ -0.20	62.46	0.41	72.53	98.87	1.13	27.47

1

2 Information:

- 3
- 4 • OA: Overall Accuracy
 - 5 • PA: Producer's Accuracy
 - 6 • UA: User's Accuracy
 - 7 • CE: Commission Error
 - 8 • OE: Omission Error

9 The use of a single method based on the spectral indices looks like it is not so qualified
10 in the extraction of wetlands, as well as the extraction of the open water features. Because
11 somehow wetlands are the composite features, which are mainly composed of water and
12 vegetation. Islam et al. (2014) research results are not much different from the results of this
13 research. Islam et al. (2014) found the spectral indices for mapping wetlands have the highest
14 overall accuracy of 78%.

15 Although in this research was found the spectral indices which has overall accuracy
16 above 70%, but when seen from the small Kappa coefficient, it seems overall accuracy was more
17 to conditionally. However, this study is sufficient to provide an overview comparison of the
18 relative accuracy of each spectral index, if used specifically for the delineation of wetland
19 features.

1 In general, MNDWI, MNDWI_{s2}, and WRI, are three spectral indices overall most
 2 accurately. However, the value of OA and Kappa both is not enough to describe the accuracy
 3 or optimality a digital imagery transformation method in extracting particular features. From
 4 OA has been seen that MNDW_{s2} implemented in this study is more accurate than MNDWI.
 5 However, when seen from the CE, map of wetlands resulting from MNDWI a little more
 6 accurate. For the next, we want to see, in which object successes and failures of each spectral
 7 indices located. Based on this, we examine the PA on each of the spectral indices, for each type
 8 of wetlands.

9 In testing the PA, each ROI at each wetland type tested separately on each thresholding
 10 results imagery of spectral indices. This is because, each thresholding results imagery of spectral
 11 indices does not distinguish among types of wetlands. Table 3 shows the PA for each spectral
 12 index and each wetland type.

13 Table 3. Producer's accuracy for each spectral index and each wetlands type

No.	Spectral Indices	Producer's Accuracy (%)											
		Dw	Mg	Sm	Pl	Ps	Sw	Tw	Fp	Sr	Il	Fm	Fl
1.	NDVI	100	0	72.16	0	87.10	6.29	0	98.91	89.77	99.13	99.94	99.87
2.	NDWI	100	0	77.93	0	87.02	8.4	0	99.25	92.92	99.61	99.96	99.91
3.	MNDWI	100	92.77	98.87	0	98.71	90.28	41.41	99.97	99.94	100	100	100
4.	MNDWI _{s2}	100	100	96.11	99.52	97.91	97.19	99.65	99.81	99.97	100	100	100
5.	NDMI	0	100	89.61	100	24.69	99.89	100	20.14	80.39	45.69	6.99	2.40
6.	WRI	100	100	100	89.39	100	98.81	98.41	100	100	100	100	100
7.	NDPI	100	86.01	97.17	0	97.95	77.71	18.23	99.94	99.58	100	100	100
8.	TCWT	100	89.39	91.24	0	96.96	47.97	11.79	99.84	98.38	100	99.98	100
9.	AWEL _{nsh}	100	69.97	88.46	0	95.87	25.47	5.92	99.88	96.38	100	100	100
10.	AWEL _{sh}	100	5.81	99.95	0	97.92	88.55	15.45	100	99.83	100	100	100

14

15 Information:

- 16 • Dw: Deep water (include river, reservoir, dam, and coal mining pits)
- 17 • Mg: Mangroves
- 18 • Sm: Salt marshes
- 19 • Pl: Peatlands
- 20 • Ps: Peatswamps

- 1 • Sw: Shrub-dominated wetlands
- 2 • Tw: Tree-dominated wetlands
- 3 • Fp: Fish ponds
- 4 • Sr: Swamp rice fields
- 5 • Il: Irrigated land
- 6 • Fm: Freshwater marshes
- 7 • Fl: Freshwater lake

8

9 The entire spectral indices, except NDMI, do not have a problem when extracting the
10 deep water features. Exclusively for NDMI, it looks like it is not appropriate to extract the open
11 water features. NDMI successfully on lands that are quite dense vegetation cover. This is
12 because NDMI is designed to detect moisture vegetation canopy (Gao, 1996; Jackson et al.,
13 2004).

14 NDVI and NDWI have the same character in separating wetland features from other
15 features. Both can be said to be successful wetlands extracting, especially wetlands with high
16 concentration of water. However, they completely fail in identifying wetlands with dense
17 vegetation, such as mangrove or peatlands. This is because NDVI and NDWI using the same
18 NIR band, where vegetation will have a contrasting difference with water in NIR.

19 NDPI and TCWT ability in recognizing wetlands is almost similar to NDVI and NDWI.
20 Only NDPI more successful in recognizing wetlands with dense canopy. Compared to NDPI,
21 TCWT worse at recognizing wetlands topped with vegetations with a bright hue, which are
22 commonly found in shrub-dominated wetlands and freshwater marshes. $AWEI_{nsh}$ ability in
23 recognizing wetlands also similar to NDPI and TCWT. However, $AWEI_{nsh}$ failures in
24 identifying wetlands with dense canopy worse than TCWT. $AWEI_{sh}$ even worse at recognizing
25 wetlands with dense canopy. Although overall, $AWEI_{sh}$ better than $AWEI_{nsh}$.

26 MNDWI and $MNDWI_{s2}$ quite successful in identifying wetlands. Except MNDWI
27 failed to recognize the peatlands and tree-dominated wetlands. Where these two features are
28 wetlands with dense canopy. Not so with $MNDWI_{s2}$ capable of recognizing peatlands and tree-
29 dominated wetlands with almost 100% accuracy. Based on this fact, our assumption when

1 shifting SWIR1 into SWIR2 on MNDWI has been proven. MNDWI_{s2} able to recognize the
 2 characteristic spectral features that have water and vegetation spectral characteristics as well
 3 with better.

4 The ability of spectral indices for identifying wetlands (PA), is not directly indicated its
 5 ability to extract the wetlands. Because in automatic features extraction, the goal is not only
 6 that the method is able to recognize the desired features, but also how the method avoids
 7 recognizing other features. That is why, in this research we also tested the CE. In this case, CE
 8 tested using dryland features in research locations. These dryland features have been selected
 9 to investigate in which object the spectral indices encountered an error detection as wetlands.

10 Technical testing of CE is similar to the PA, which is any ROI dryland features tested
 11 separately on each thresholding results imagery of spectral indices. Table 4 shows the CE for
 12 each spectral index and each wetland type.

13

14 Table 4. Commission error for each spectral index and each drylands feature

No.	Spectral Indices	Commission Error (%)							
		Bu	Bl	Gr	R	F	Df	Gd	Sb
1.	NDVI	71.76	98.13	0	87.62	0	0	0	0
2.	NDWI	55.10	90.43	0	85.14	0	0	0	0
3.	MNDWI	0	0.05	0	37.15	0.47	0	0	0
4.	MNDWI _{s2}	0	0	0	0	18.65	0.05	0	0.15
5.	NDMI	1.70	0.10	100	5.57	100	91.47	100	100
6.	WRI	99.92	99.83	0	100	69.84	33.38	0.64	10.58
7.	NDPI	0	0.05	0	21.98	0.16	0	0	0
8.	TCWT	0	0	0	0	0.39	0	0	0
9.	AWEI _{nsh}	0	0	0	0	0.06	0	0	0
10.	AWEI _{sh}	20.47	1.27	0	95.05	0.14	0	0	0

15

16 Information:

- 17 • Bu: Built-up lands
- 18 • Bl: Barelands
- 19 • Gr: Grass

- 1 • R: Roads
- 2 • F: Dryland forest
- 3 • Df: Dryland farms
- 4 • Gd: Garden (mixgarden, rubber plants, palm oil)
- 5 • Sb: Shrub and bushes

6

7 Based on Table 3 and Table 4, it appears that NDMI cannot distinguish between dryland
8 forest and wetlands forest. Likewise, the overall WRI has high accuracy, and as if it is able to
9 recognize all types of wetlands with good, it fails on a number of dryland features and take it as
10 wetlands. This translates into an overall accuracy WRI does not mean anything, because in fact
11 it could not distinguish well between wetland features and some dryland features.

12 NDVI and NDWI that have the same character, they are also sensitive to built-up lands,
13 roads, and barelands. NDPI better than NDVI and NDWI in distinguishing between built-up
14 lands or barelands and wetlands. However, NDPI also slightly failed in distinguishing the paved
15 roads to the wetlands. TCWT and AWEInsh are two spectral indices of the best in minimizing
16 error detection wetlands. Since both spectral indices have the lowest CE. Different from
17 AWEInsh, AWEIsh disadvantaged in distinguishing between the paved roads to the wetlands.

18 MNDWI turned out to be problematic with paved roads in the wetlands. However,
19 MNDWI failure to distinguish between wetlands and paved roads here occurs only as a result
20 of Otsu thresholding is negative. MNDWIs2 was almost no problems with all the dryland
21 features, except dryland forests. Furthermore, MNDWIs2 troubled with all the dense and dark
22 vegetation features. As with all other spectral indices, MNDWIs2 also failed to recognize the
23 wetlands on which there are very bright vegetation features.

24 Based on the results of the accuracy assessment, it appears that MNDWIs2 is the most
25 optimal spectral indices for the extraction of wetlands. Some experts previously also been
26 modified MNDWI using SWIR2. Among them was Chen et al. (2005), Ji et al. (2009), Boschetti
27 et al. (2014), and Islam et al. (2014).

28

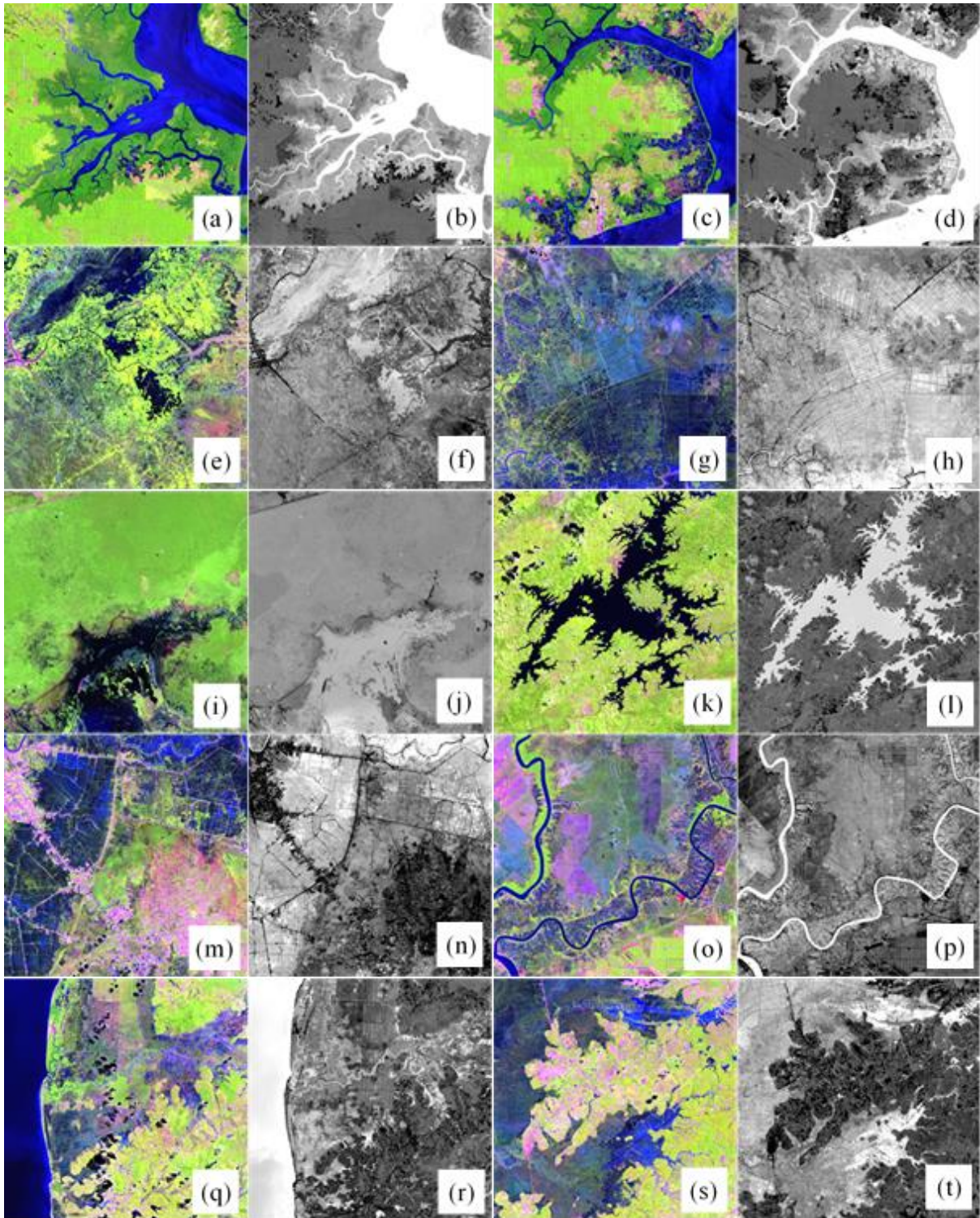


Figure 5. Comparison between Landsat 8 OLI composite 654 and MNDW_{s2}

(a) and (b) mangrove; (c) and (d) fishpond; (e) and (f) freshwater lake and freshwater marshes; (g) and (h) irrigated land; (i) and (j) peatlands and peatswamps; (k) and (l) deep clear water (reservoir); (m) and (n) swamp rice fields and tree-dominated wetlands; (o) and

1

2

3

4

5

(p) deep turbid water (river); (q) and (r) salt marshes; and (s) and (t) shrub-dominated wetlands.

MNDWI uses the green band and SWIR1 band. In SWIR1, vegetation features have a much higher reflectance value than in green. We can see this fact in wetlands which are dominated by dense vegetation, as seen in Table 5 and Figure 6. Table 5 and Figure 6 are constructed using the mangroves, peatlands, and tree-dominated wetlands samples from this research. Where in the wetlands which are dominated by dense vegetation, such as mangroves, peatlands, and tree-dominated wetlands, reflectance values for SWIR1 are higher than reflectance values for green. As a result, green subtraction with SWIR1 in MNDWI causes vegetation features to be depressed. So that wetlands with dense vegetation are not detected as wetland features in MNDWI.

Not so with MNDWIs2 which uses green bands and SWIR2 bands. Where in SWIR2, the reflectance value of vegetation features is not as high as in SWIR1. Even the spectral value tends to be lower than green. We can also see this fact in Table 5 and Figure 6. Where in the wetlands which are dominated by dense vegetation, the reflectance values for SWIR2 are lower than reflectance values for SWIR1 or green. Thus, green subtraction using SWIR2 will not suppress vegetation features as in MNDWI. As a result, wetlands with dense vegetation can still be detected in MNDWIs2. This makes MNDWIs2 the most optimal spectral index in extracting vegetation-rich wetlands such as tropical wetlands. Figure 5 shows the comparison between Landsat 8 OLI composite 654 imageries and the MNDWIs2 imageries.

Table 5. Average reflectance values on each Landsat 8 band on three types of dense vegetation wetlands

	Average reflectance values on each Landsat 8 band						
	Coastal/Aerosol	Blue	Green	Red	NIR	SWIR1	SWIR2
Mangroves	0.2259	0.2024	0.187	0.1609	0.393	0.1953	0.1476
Peatlands	0.2324	0.2082	0.1938	0.1639	0.4483	0.2341	0.1608
Tree-dominated wetlands	0.2342	0.2106	0.2014	0.1688	0.4041	0.2308	0.1614
Average	0.2308	0.2071	0.1941	0.1645	0.4151	0.2201	0.1566

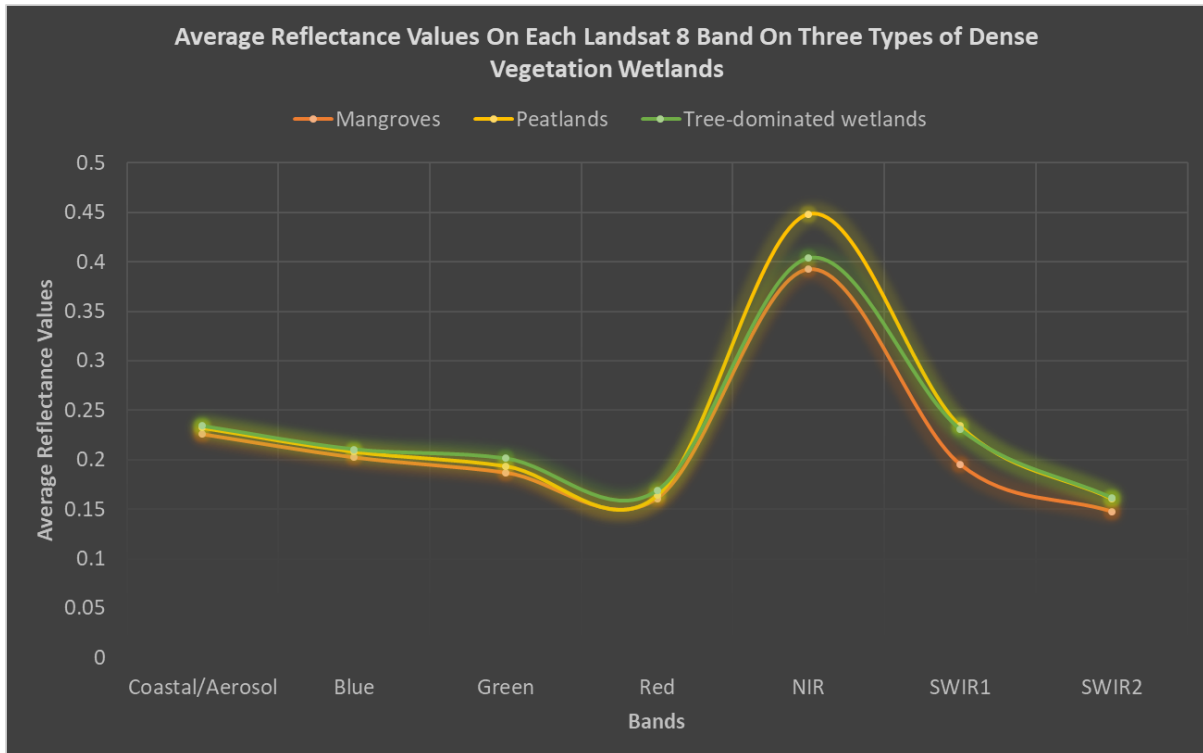


Figure 6. Average reflectance values on each Landsat 8 band on three types of dense vegetation wetlands

MNDWIs₂ can recognize deep water features as well as MNDWI. This is the implication of the use of green band that is able to capture reflections of open water features with high intensity, which is subtracted using SWIR2 band that do not capture reflections of open water features. Compared to MNDWI, MNDWIs₂ still able to capture the reflection of background water or soil moisture beneath the canopy. In the MNDWIs₂ imagery, built-up lands, road, and barelands, appear darker than MNDWI imagery. It is an implication of the subtraction with SWIR2. This can cause the dominant soil in wetlands background features will bring potential omission error to MNDWIs₂.

4. Conclusion

Based on this research, the spectral indices recorded the most accurate and optimal in extracting wetlands is MNDWIs₂. But MNDWIs₂ should be used wisely, given MNDWIs₂ very sensitive to dense vegetations. MNDWIs₂ also has potential error in wetlands with dominant soil background features. MNDWIs₂ not only able to recognize the deep waters as well as MNDWI, but still able to capture the wetlands with vegetations on it.

1 Like MNDWI, MNDWI_{s2} also uses a green band. In spectral value curves, green band
2 has the highest reflectance value of water features among all spectral bands. So that open water
3 features can be detected properly by MNDWI_{s2}. The advantage of MNDWI_{s2} is the use of
4 SWIR₂, where in spectral value curves SWIR₂ band has a lower reflectance value of vegetation.
5 So that subtraction green with SWIR₂ will not cause vegetation features to become depressed
6 as in MNDWI.

7 The ability of MNDWI_{s2} in detecting peatlands with dense canopy as wetlands was very
8 impressive. Given the peatlands actually not always saturated with water on the surface, most
9 of them just has a very high water content in the ground with very high moisture surfaces.
10 However, this condition is enough to make SWIR₂ have very low reflections, so that green
11 subtraction using SWIR₂ will enhance moist surfaces such as peatlands.

12 Based on the results of this research, MNDWI_{s2} can be considered as the Normalized
13 Difference Wetlands Index (NDWLI). Of course, further research are needed to verify the
14 accuracy of the NDWLI formula. Especially if the formula be examined in other regions with
15 different conditions, or be examined on other multispectral imageries.

17 **Acknowledgement**

18 The authors thank to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for providing the
19 Landsat 8 OLI imageries for free, as a main data of this research. This research was funded by
20 the Spatial Data Infrastructure Development Center (PPIDS), University of Lambung
21 Mangkurat. Digital image processing in this research was carried out at the Remote Sensing
22 and Geographic Information System Laboratory, Faculty of Forestry, University of Lambung
23 Mangkurat, Banjarbaru.

27 **References**

- 1 Ashraf, M. and Nawaz, R..(2015). A Comparison of Change Detection Analyses Using Different
2 Band Algebras for Baraila Wetland with Nasa's Multi-Temporal Landsat Dataset.
3 Journal of Geographic Information System, 7, 1-19.
- 4 Boschetti, M., Nutini, F., Manfron, G., Brivio, P.A., Nelson, A..(2014). Comparative Analysis
5 of Normalised Difference Spectral Indices Derived from MODIS for Detecting Surface
6 Water in Flooded Rice Cropping Systems.PLoS ONE 9 (2), e88741.
7 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0088741
- 8 Chavez, P.S..(1988). An Improved Dark-Object Subtraction Technique for Atmospheric
9 Scattering Correction of Multispectral Data. Remote Sensing of Environment, 24, 459–
10 479.
- 11 Chavez, P.S..(1996). Image-based Atmospheric Corrections—Revisited and Improved.
12 Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, 62, 1025–1036.
- 13 Chen, D., Huang, J., and Jackson, T.J..(2005). Vegetation Water Content Estimation for Corn
14 and Soybeans Using Spectral Indices Derived from MODIS Near- and Short-wave
15 Infrared Bands. Remote Sensing of Environment, 98, 225-236.
- 16 Conrad, O., Bechtel, B., Bock, M., Dietrich, H., Fischer, E., Gerlitz, L., Wehberg, J., Wichmann,
17 V., and Boehner, J..(2015). System for Automated Geoscientific Analyses (SAGA) v.
18 2.1.4.. Geoscientific Model Development, 8, 1991-2007, doi:10.5194/gmd-8-1991-2015.
- 19 Das, R.J. and Pal, S..(2016). Identification of Water Bodies from Multispectral Landsat
20 Imageries of Barind Tract of West Bengal. International Journal of Innovative Research
21 and Review, 4 (1), 26-37.
- 22 Du, Y., Zhang, Y., Ling, F., Wang, Q., Li, W., and Li, X..(2016). Water Bodies' Mapping from
23 Sentinel-2 Imagery with Modified Normalized Difference Water Index at 10-m Spatial
24 Resolution Produced by Sharpening the SWIR Band. Remote Sensing, 8, 354-372,
25 doi:10.3390/rs8040354.
- 26 Feyisa, L.G., Meilby, H., Fensholt, R., and Proud, S.R..(2014). Automated Water Extraction
27 Index: A New Technique for Surface Water Mapping Using Landsat Imagery. Remote
28 Sensing of Environment, 140 (2014), 23–35.

- 1 Gao, B.C..(1996). NDWI A – Normalized Difference Water Index for Remote Sensing of
2 Vegetation Liquid Water from Space. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 58, 257-266.
- 3 Hong, G., Xing-fa, G., Young, X., Tau, Y., Hai-liang, G., Xiang-qin, W., and Qi-yue, L..(2014).
4 Evaluation of Four Dark Object Atmospheric Correction Methods Based on XY-3 CCD
5 Data [Abstract]. *Spectroscopy and Spectral Analysis*, 34 (8), 2203-2207.
- 6 Islam, Md.A., Thenkabail, P.S., Kulawardhana, R.W., Alankara, R., Gunasinghe, S., Edussriya,
7 C., and Gunawardana, A..(2008). Semi - automated Methods for Mapping Wetlands
8 using Landsat ETM+ and SRTM Data. *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, 29
9 (24), 7077-7106, doi: 10.1080/01431160802235878.
- 10 Jackson, T.J., Chen, D., Cosh, M., Li, F., Anderson, M., Walthall, C., Doriaswamy, P., and Hunt,
11 E.R..(2004). Vegetation Water Content Mapping Using Landsat Data Derived
12 Normalized Difference Water Index for Corn and Soybeans. *Remote Sensing of*
13 *Environment*, 92, 475-482.
- 14 Ji, L., Zhang, L., and Wylie, B..(2009). Analysis of Dynamic Thresholds for the Normalized
15 Difference Water Index, *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*, 75, (11),
16 1307-1317.
- 17 Jiang, H., Feng, M., Zhu, Y., Lu, N., Huang, J., and Xiao, T.. (2014). An Automated Method for
18 Extracting Rivers and Lakes from Landsat Imagery. *Remote Sensing*, 6, 5067-5089.
- 19 Kwak, Y. and Iwami, Y..(2014). Nationwide Flood Inundation Mapping in Bangladesh by
20 Using Modified Land Surface Water Index. ASPRS 2014 Annual Conference, Louisville,
21 Kentucky, March 23-28, 2014.
- 22 Lacaux, J.P., Tourre, Y.M., Vignolles, C., Ndione, J.A., Lafaye, M..(2007). Classification of
23 Ponds from High-spatial Resolution Remote Sensing: Application to Rift Valley Fever
24 epidemics in Senegal. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 106, 66–74.
- 25 Li, B., Ti, C., Zhao, Y., and Yan, X..(2015). Estimating Soil Moisture with Landsat Data and Its
26 Application in Extracting the Spatial Distribution of Winter Flooded Paddies. *Remote*
27 *Sensing*, 8, 38-55, doi:10.3390/rs8010038.

1 Li, W., Du, Z., Ling, F., Zhou, D., Wang, H., Gui, Y., Sun, B., and Zhang, X..(2013). A
2 Comparison of Land Surface Water Mapping Using the Normalized Difference Water
3 Index from TM, ETM+ and ALI. *Remote Sensing*, 5, 5530-5549.

4 Matthews, G.V.T..(2013). *The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: its History and Development*.
5 Ramsar Convention Bureau, Gland, Switzerland, p. 41.

6 McFeeters, S.K..(1996). The Use of the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) in the
7 Delineation of Open Water Features. *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, 17 (7),
8 1425-1432.

9 Otsu, N..(1979). A Threshold Selection Method from Gray-level Histograms. *IEEE*
10 *Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics*, 9, 62–69.

11 Rouse, J.W., Haas, R.H., Schell, J.A., Deering, D. W..(1973). Monitoring vegetation systems in
12 the Great Plains with ERTS. *Third ERTS Symposium, NASA SP-351 I*, 309-317.

13 Schneider, C.A., Rasband, W.S., and Eliceiri, K.W..(2012). NIH Image to ImageJ: 25 Years of
14 Image Analysis. *Nature Methods*, 9(7), 671-675, PMID 22930834.

15 Schindelin, J., Rueden, C.T., and Hiner, M.C. et al..(2015). The ImageJ Ecosystem: An open
16 Platform for Biomedical Image Analysis. *Molecular Reproduction and Development*,
17 PMID 26153368.

18 Shen, L. and Li, C..(2010). Water Body Extraction from Landsat ETM+ Imagery Using
19 Adaboost Algorithm. In *Proceedings of 18th International Conference on*
20 *Geoinformatics*, 18–20 June, Beijing, China, 1–4.

21 Stehman, S.V. and Czaplewski, R.L..(1997). Design and Analysis for Thematic Map Accuracy
22 Assessment: Fundamental Principles. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 1998 (64), 331-
23 344.

24 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)..(2004). *Wetlands Overview*, EPA 843-
25 F-04-011a. Office of Water, December 2004.

26 Wilson, E.H. and Sader, S.A..(2002). Detection of Forest Harvest Type using Multiple Dates of
27 Landsat TM Imagery. *Remote Sensing Environment*, 80, 385–396.

- 1 World Wildlife Fund (WWF).(2004). Global Lakes and Wetlands Database: Lakes and
2 Wetlands Grid (Level 3). Washington, D.C., [http://www.worldwildlife.org/
3 publications/global-lakes-and-wetlands-database-lakes-and-wetlands-grid-level-3](http://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/global-lakes-and-wetlands-database-lakes-and-wetlands-grid-level-3).
- 4 Yang, L., Tian, S., Yu, L., Ye, F., Qian, J., and Qian, Y..(2015). Deep Learning for Extracting
5 Water Body from Landsat Imagery. *International Journal of Innovative Computing,
6 Information and Control*, 11 (6), 1913–1929.
- 7 Xiao, X., Boles, S., Frohling, S., Salas, W., Moore, B., et al..(2002). Observation of Flooding and
8 Rice Transplanting of Paddy Rice Fields at the Site to Landscape Scales in China using
9 VEGETATION Sensor Data. *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, 23, 3009–3022,
10 doi:10.1080/01431160110107734.
- 11 Xie, H., Luo, X., Xu, X., Pan, H., and Tong, X..(2016). Automated Subpixel Surface Water
12 Mapping from Heterogeneous Urban Environments Using Landsat 8 OLI Imagery.
13 *Remote Sensing*, 8 (7), 584-599.
- 14 Xu, H..(2006). Modification of Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) to Enhance Open
15 Water Features in Remotely Sensed Imagery. *International Journal of Remote Sensing*,
16 27 (14), 3025–3033, doi: 10.1080/01431160600589179.
- 17 Zhai, K., Wu, X., Qin, Y., and Du, P..(2015). Comparison of Surface Water Extraction
18 Performances of Different Classic Water Indices using OLI and TM Imageries in
19 Different Situations. *Geo-spatial Information Science*, 18 (1), 32-42, doi: 10.1080/
20 10095020.2015.1017911.
- 21 Zhang, Z., He, G., and Wang, X..(2010). A Practical DOS Model-Based Atmospheric
22 Correction Algorithm. *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, 31 (11), 2837-2852.