

# Global hydrology 2015: state, trends, and directions

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Universiteit Utrecht



## The Emergence of Global-Scale Hydrology

PETER S. EAGLESON

*Department of Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge*

- Hydrology is an *earth system science*: human impacts on the land surface surpass the catchment scale
- We need a *global hydrological models* to understand and tackle imminent environmental problems involving climate, agriculture and biodiversity where the hydrological cycle is central.
- We need the *data* to feed these models.
- We need to *educate young hydrologists* in global hydrology and its role in the earth system.

# This talk:

1. What happened to global hydrology since 1986?
2. Taking stock.
3. Recent trends
4. What are the imminent challenges?
5. The future and beyond?



# 1. Development of global hydrology

Field of development:

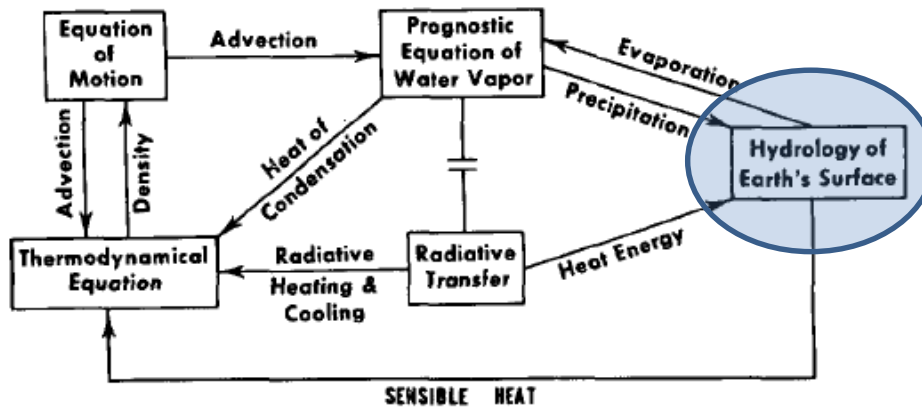
- Atmospheric science
- Hydrology and water resources
- Vegetation and Carbon



# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Atmospheric science

First primitive land surface model:  
Bucket model of Manabe (1969)



- Soil a single bucket with soil moisture  $W$  (in cm)
- Creating runoff when  $W > 15$  cm
- $E = E_{\text{pot}}$  if  $W > 12.5$  cm
- $E = E_{\text{pot}} * (W/12.5)$  if  $W \leq 12.5$  cm

### MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW

VOLUME 97, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1969

UDC 551.513.13 : 556.013 : 556.1 : 551.511.33

#### CLIMATE AND THE OCEAN CIRCULATION<sup>1</sup>

#### I. THE ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION AND THE HYDROLOGY OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE

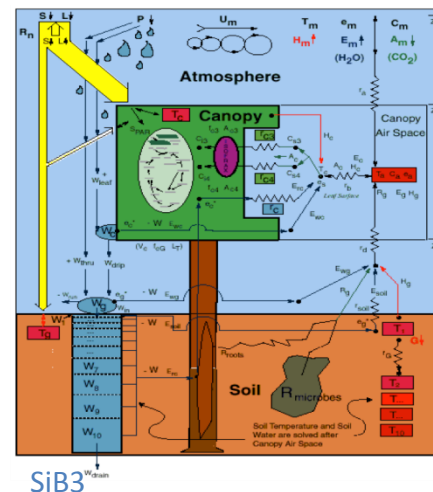
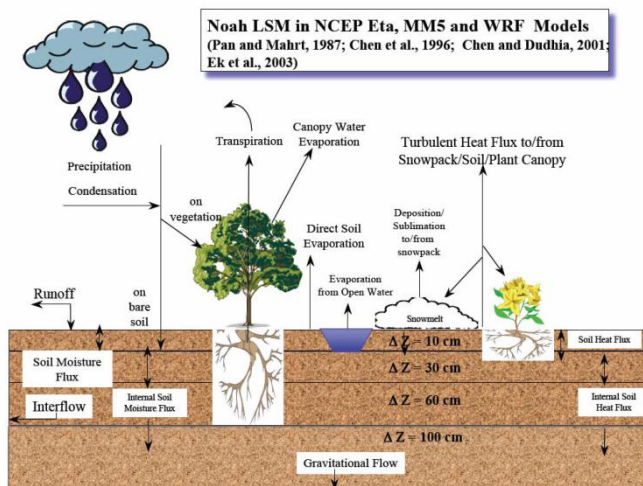
SYUKURO MANABE

Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, ESSA, Princeton, N.J.

# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Atmospheric science: LSMs

- Deardorf (1978): first complete LS-scheme: vegetation layer, soil heat flux, effective two-layer soil hydrology, and canopy interception.
- 1980s: First generation: OSU-LSM: BATS, SiB -> focus on sophisticated SVAT
- 1990s: Second generation: TESSEL, BATS2, MOSES, NOAH-LSM, VIC -> more sophisticated hydrology (Richard's Eq., Subgrid hydro)
- From year 2000 on: development into Land Earth System Models (LESM): CLM, JULES, Noah-MP, ORCHIDEE , LM3, (dynamic vegetation, routing)



# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Atmospheric science: LSMs

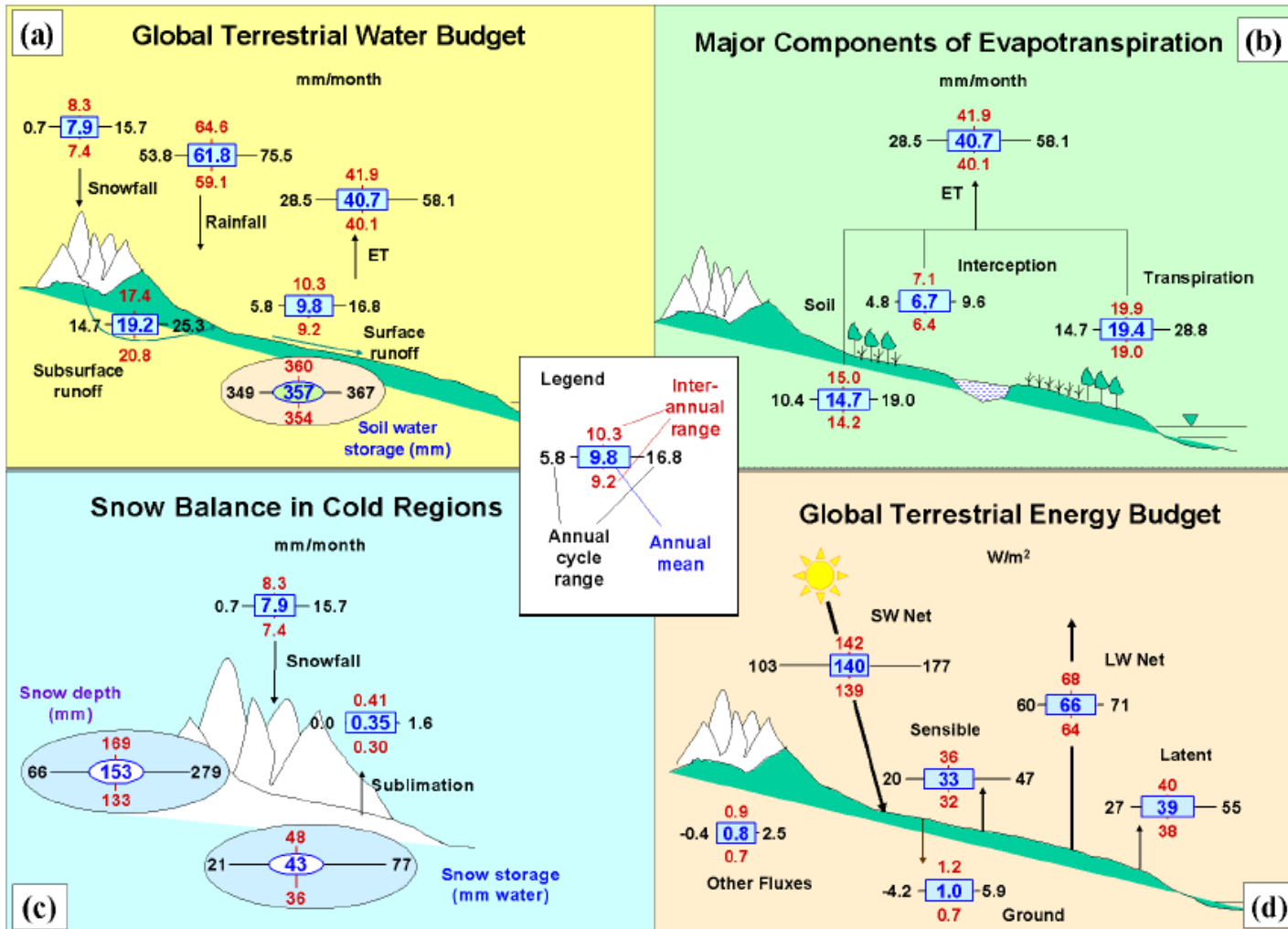
### MIPs: Multi-model Inter-comparison Projects

- Examples: PILPS [Henderson-Sellers et al., 1995] and the Global Soil Wetness projects I and II [Entin et al., 1999; Guo and Dirmeyer, 2006].
- Goals:
  - Model improvement
  - Global assessment of the hydrological cycle (fluxes)
  - Feedback studies
- Critique on MIPs:
  - They further model entanglement
  - Participating models is haphazard
  - Difficult to pinpoint where differences come from

# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Atmospheric science: LSMs

MIPs in global water resources assessments:  
GSWP II



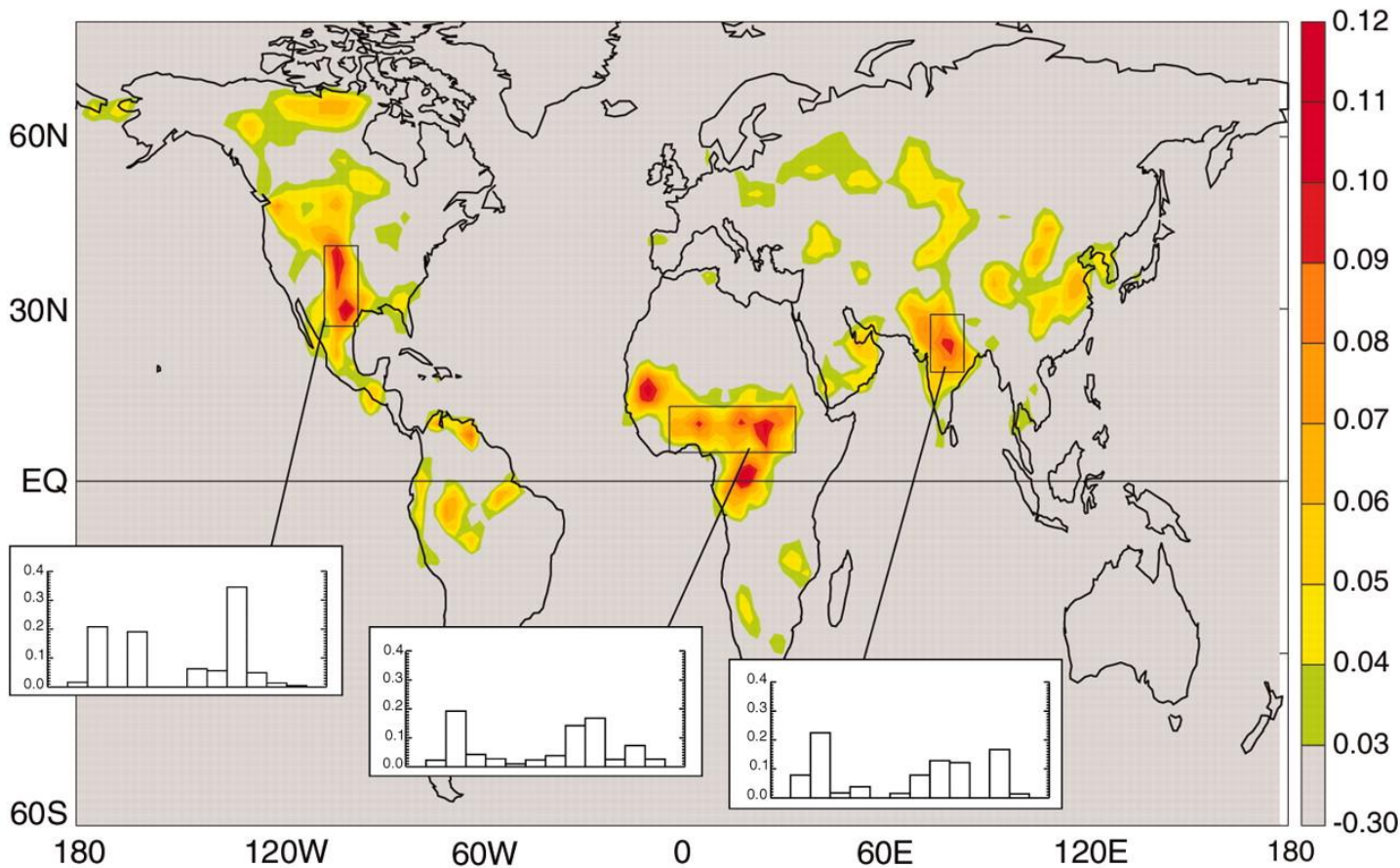


# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Atmospheric science: LSMs

MIPs in coupled model: e.g. GLACE  
Koster et al. (2006)

Land-atmosphere coupling strength (JJA), averaged across AGCMs



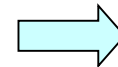
# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Hydrology and water resources

- Late 1980s and early 1990s: awareness of the shortage of global water resources (Falkenmark, 1989; Gleick, 1989, 1993)
- Late 1990: First detailed global water resources assessments comparing water availability with water use (Shiklomanov, 1997). mostly relied on statistics of water use (e.g., AQUASTAT) and observations of hydrology.
- Shortly thereafter: first Macroscale hydrological models (MHMs): WaterGap (1997), WBM (1998) and MacPDM (Arnell, 1999).
- **New features: modelling human water use (inspired by Integrated Assessment Models)**

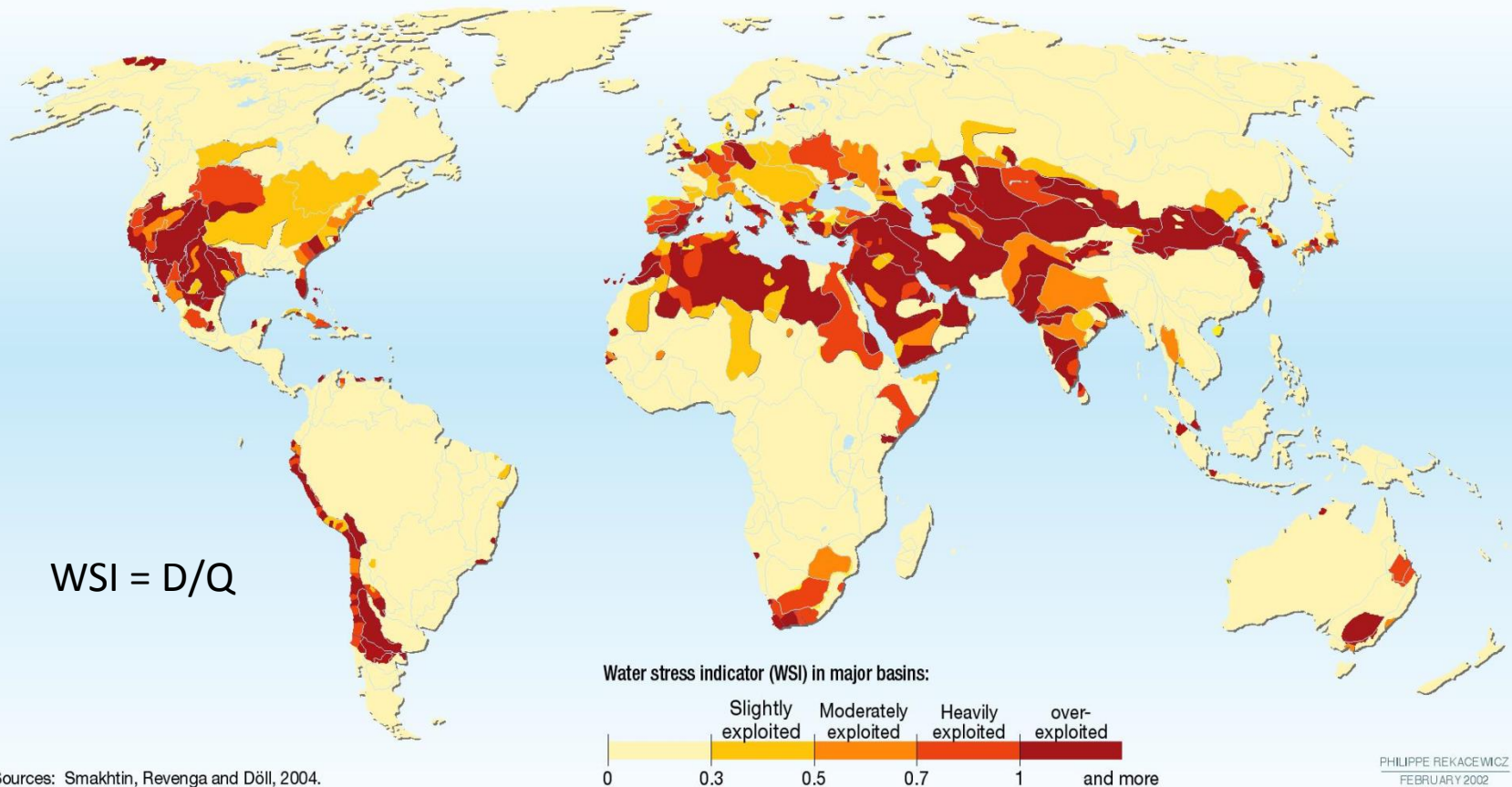


Livestock densities, Irrigated areas,  
Population (Total, urban and rural),  
GDP, Electricity production,  
Energy and household consumption,  
Access to water (Total, urban and rural),  
Climate data (Temperature, radiation,  
cloud cover, wind speed, etc)



# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Hydrology and water resources

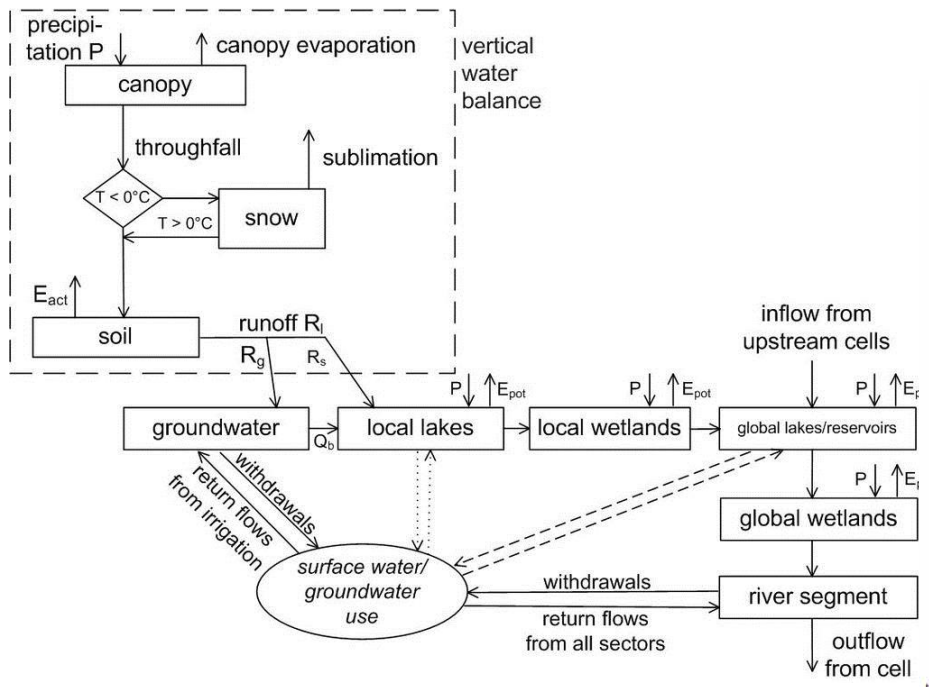


Sources: Smakhtin, Revenga and Döll, 2004.

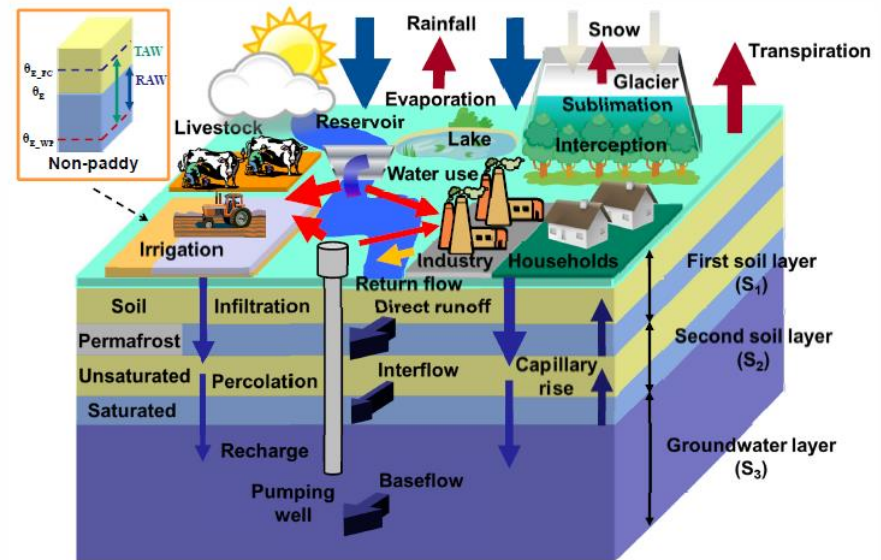
PHILIPPE REKACEWICZ  
FEBRUARY 2002

# 1. Development of global hydrology

After 2010: Integrated hydrology and water resources modelling: reservoirs, water use and return flows, routing, monthly to daily analyses, 5 arcminute resolution (10x10 km)



WaterGAP 3

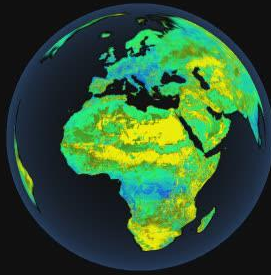


PCR-GLOBWB 2.0



# Simulation of global terrestrial water by the integrated global hydrological model PCR-GLOBWB 1980-2010 daily time step (time in months) at 5 minutes resolution

Soil saturation 0-30 cm



Time: 383

satDegLow030150

River discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)



Time: 383

disChanWaterBody

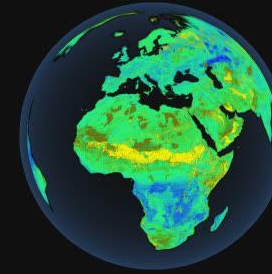
Fractional snow cover



Time: 383

snowCoverSWE

Soil saturation 30-100 cm



Time: 383

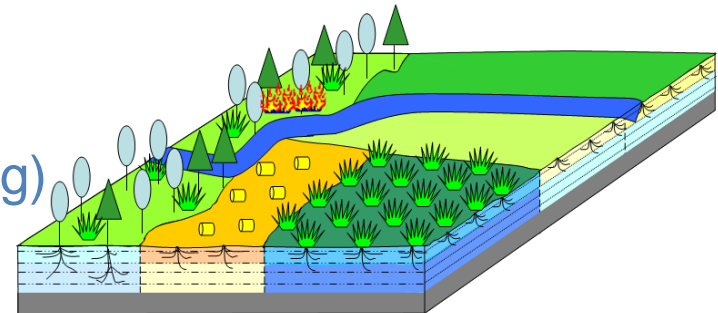
satDegUpp000005



# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Vegetation and carbon

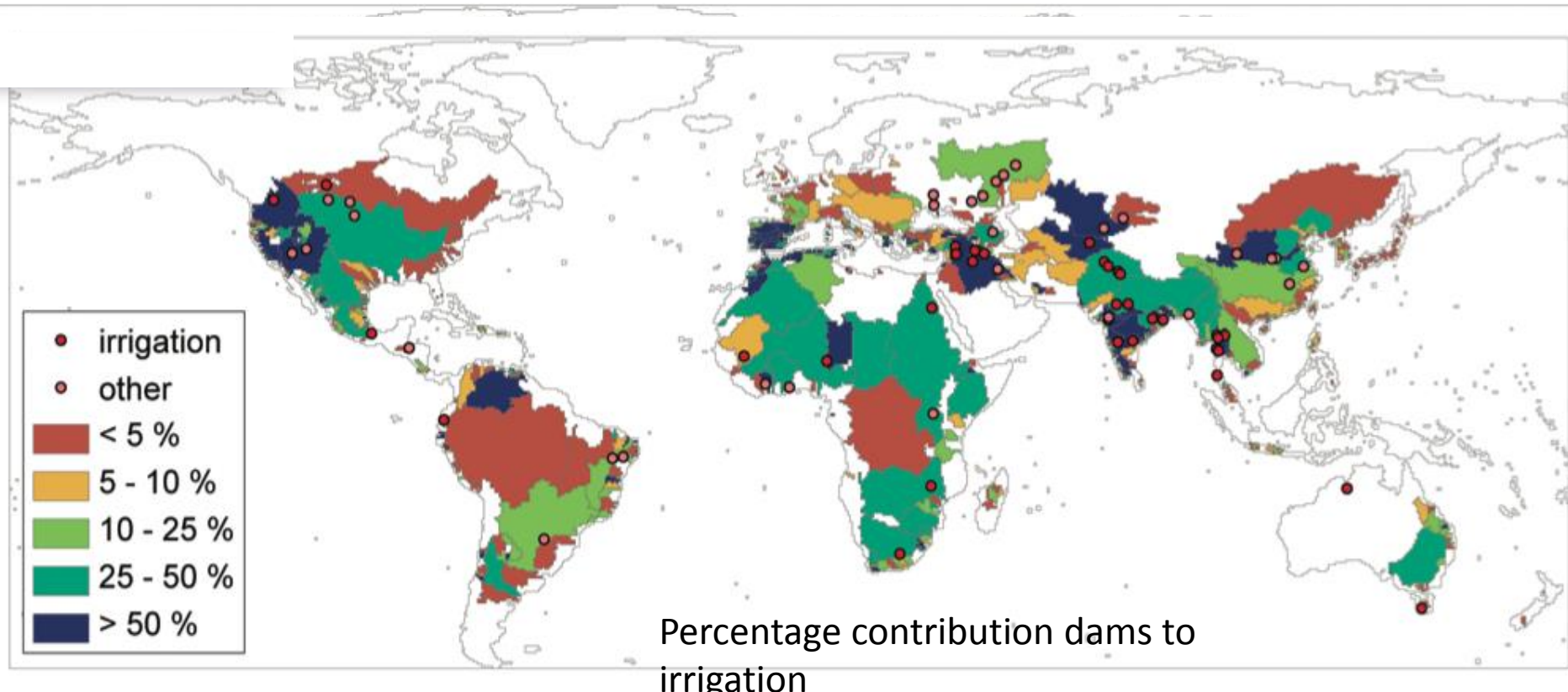
- Vegetation model: BIOME (Prentice et al., 1992): quasi-steady state; driven by monthly average hydroclimatology.
- LPJ (Sitch et al., 2003): dynamic vegetation model:
  - Plant physiology + stomatal response
  - Carbon-assimilation and transpiration and growth
  - Biogeochemistry including carbon
  - Simple soil hydrology only
- Two new tastes:
  - LPJ-Geuss: more complex vegetation structure and species distribution
  - LPJml: agriculture and more complete hydrology (reservoirs, routing)



# 1. Development of global hydrology

## Vegetation and carbon

Biemans et al. (2011): hydrology in LPJml – impact of reservoirs on irrigation



**Table 1.** Some Important Data Sets Used in Global Modeling

### *Model Parameterization*

GLCC land cover data: <http://landcover.usgs.gov/landcoverdata.php>

GLiM—Global surface lithology at 1 km: <http://www.clisap.de/research/b:climate-manifestations-and-impacts/crg-chemistry-of-natural-aqueous-solutions/global-lithological-map/> [Hartmann and Moosdorf, 2012]

GLHYMPS—Global HYdrogeology MaPS of permeability and porosity [Gleeson et al., 2014]

Global map of irrigated areas: [http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/45218039/Global\\_Irrigation\\_Map](http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/45218039/Global_Irrigation_Map) [Döll and Siebert, 2000]

SoilGrids1km—Global soils and soil properties at 1 km: <http://soilgrids.org> [Hengl et al., 2014]

GRanD—Global reservoirs and dams database; contains 6862 records of reservoirs and their associated dams with a cumulative storage capacity of 6197 km<sup>3</sup> (>75% of the total volume of storage of reservoirs >0.01 km<sup>3</sup>; <http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/grand-v1-dams-rev01>)

HYDRO1k—1 km hydrological DEM and drainage network derived from GTOPO30: <https://lta.cr.usgs.gov/HYDRO1K> [Verdin and Greenlee, 1996]

HYDROSHEDS—Multiscale hydrological DEM and drainage network (finest resolution 90 m) as derived from the Shuttle Topography Mission. <http://hydrosheds.cr.usgs.gov/index.php> [Lehner et al., 2008]

MIRCA2000—Global data set of monthly irrigated and rainfed crop areas around the year 2000. <http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/45218023/MIRCA> [Portmann et al., 2010]

### *Meteorological Forcing*

CRU—Monthly meteorological forcing from observations 1901-current: <http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/hrg/>. TS V 1.0 [New et al., 2000]; TS V 3.22 [Harris et al., 2014]

ERA-40 1.25° daily meteorological forcing from ECMRWF reanalysis 1958–2001: [http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/data/era40\\_daily/](http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/data/era40_daily/) [Uppala et al., 2005]

ERA-Interim 0.8° daily meteorological forcing from ECMRWF reanalysis 1979-current: [http://data-portal.ecmwf.int/data/d/interim\\_daily/](http://data-portal.ecmwf.int/data/d/interim_daily/) [Dee et al., 2011]

GPCP—Global precipitation climatology project: daily, monthly, and climatology data sets at 1° composed from combinations of multi-satellite data (microwave, infrared), 6000 gauges and sounding observations: <http://www.gewex.org/gpcp.html> [Huffman et al., 2001]

MERRA—Daily meteorological forcing from the NASA Goddard Earth Observing System Data Assimilation System Version 5: <http://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/research/merra/> [Rienecker et al., 2011]

NCEP-CFSR 0.5° hourly reanalysis data from NCEP/NOAA for the period 1979–2011: <http://nomads.ncdc.noaa.gov/> [Saha et al., 2010]

WFD—Watch forcing data set: 0.5° 3/6 hourly meteorological forcing from ECMRWF reanalysis (ERA40) bias-corrected and extrapolated by CRU TS and GPCP (rainfall) and corrections for under catch. <http://www.waterandclimatechange.eu/about/watch-forcing-data-20th-century> [Weedon et al., 2011]

### *Model Calibration and Validation*

EWA-Friend European catchment data: [http://www.bafg.de/GRDC/EN/04\\_spcldtbss/42\\_EWA/ewa\\_node.html](http://www.bafg.de/GRDC/EN/04_spcldtbss/42_EWA/ewa_node.html)

FLUXNET: Water vapor, energy, and CO<sub>2</sub> land-atmosphere fluxes from towers: <http://fluxnet.ornl.gov/obtain-data>

GRACE—Gravity recovery and climate experiment: <http://grace.jpl.nasa.gov/>

GRDC global runoff data: [http://www.bafg.de/GRDC/EN/Home/homepage\\_node.html](http://www.bafg.de/GRDC/EN/Home/homepage_node.html)

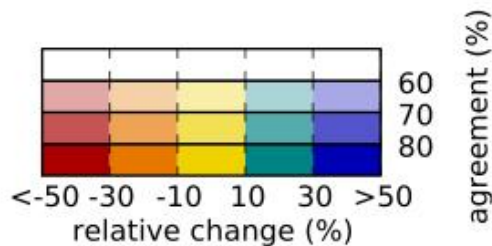
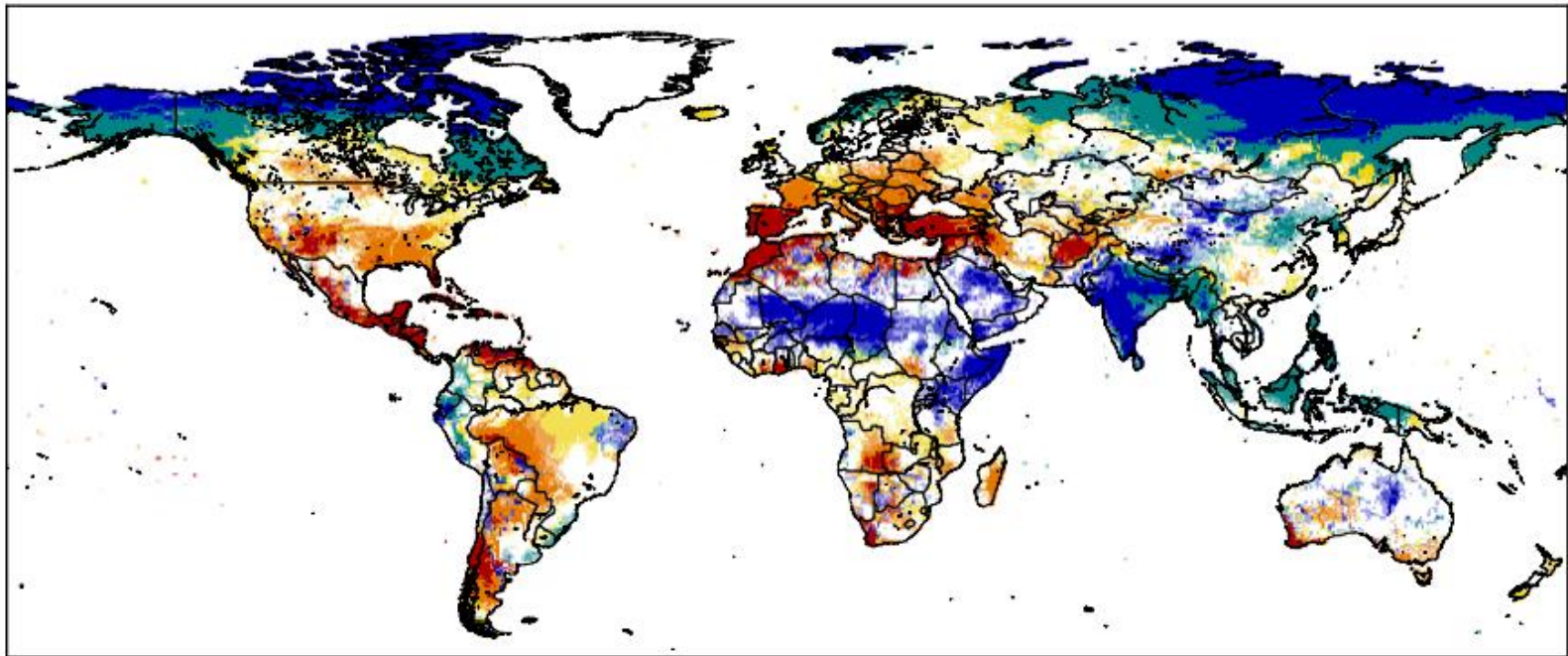
ISMN—Global network of soil moisture data: <https://ismn.geo.tuwien.ac.at/ismn/> [Dorigo et al., 2011]

MOPEX—US catchment data: [ftp://hydrology.nws.noaa.gov/pub/gcip/mopex/US\\_Data/](ftp://hydrology.nws.noaa.gov/pub/gcip/mopex/US_Data/)

RIVDIS—Global river discharge, 1807–1991, Version 1.1: <http://www.daac.ornl.gov/> [Vörösmarty et al., 1996]

# 1. Development of global hydrology

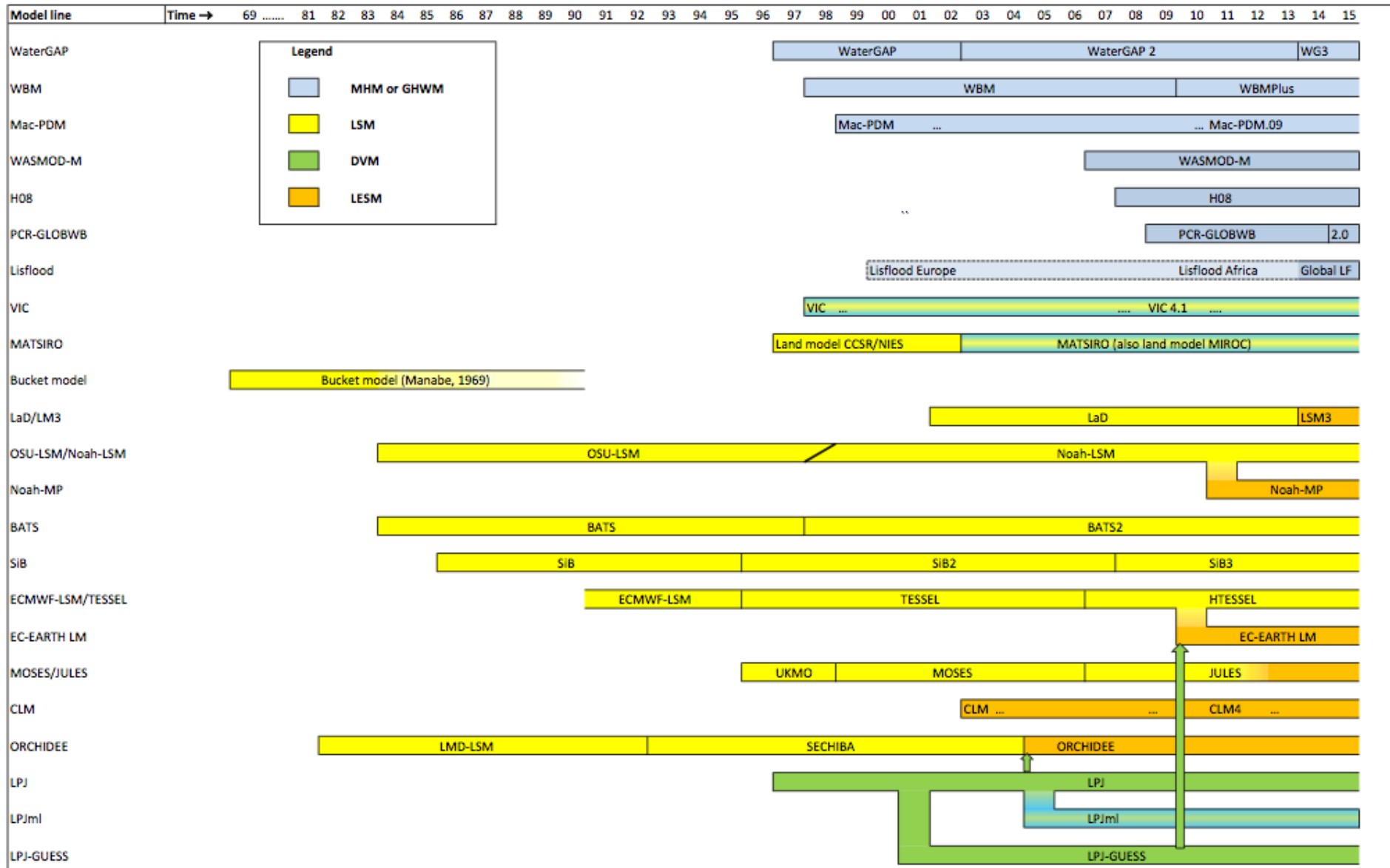
## Inter-Sectoral MIPs: ISI-MIP



Schewe et al., PNAS (2014)  
Multi-model changes in discharge by  
2100 under RCP 8.5



# Genealogy of global hydrological models





## 2. Taking stock

### Looking back at Eagleson (1986):

All things that Eagleson called for or wished for have come true

- Global hydrology is now a mature field of research: multiple disciplines
- Global hydrology is central to earth system science
- Large number of global datasets are readily available
- Students are growing up with global modelling skill

### Missed opportunities

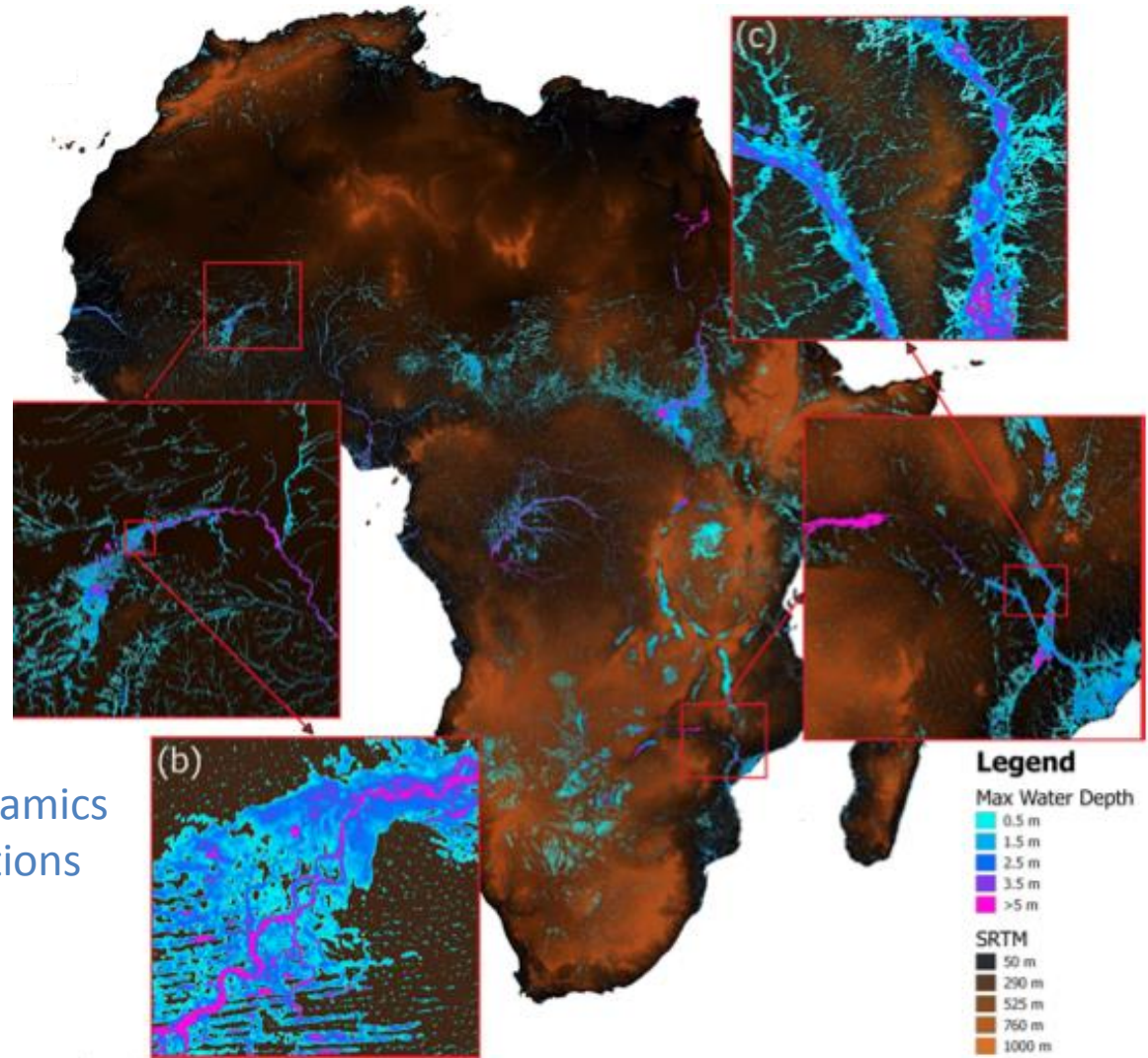
- Connecting with catchment hydrology to improve runoff representation
- Adopting better regularization and calibration procedures

# 3. Recent trends

## 3a. Technological advances: global flood (risk) modelling

1. Bates et al. (2010),  
Samson et al. (2015)
2. Yamazaki et al. (2011),  
Hirabayashi, et al. (2013)
3. Winsemius et al. (2013),  
Ward et al. (2014)

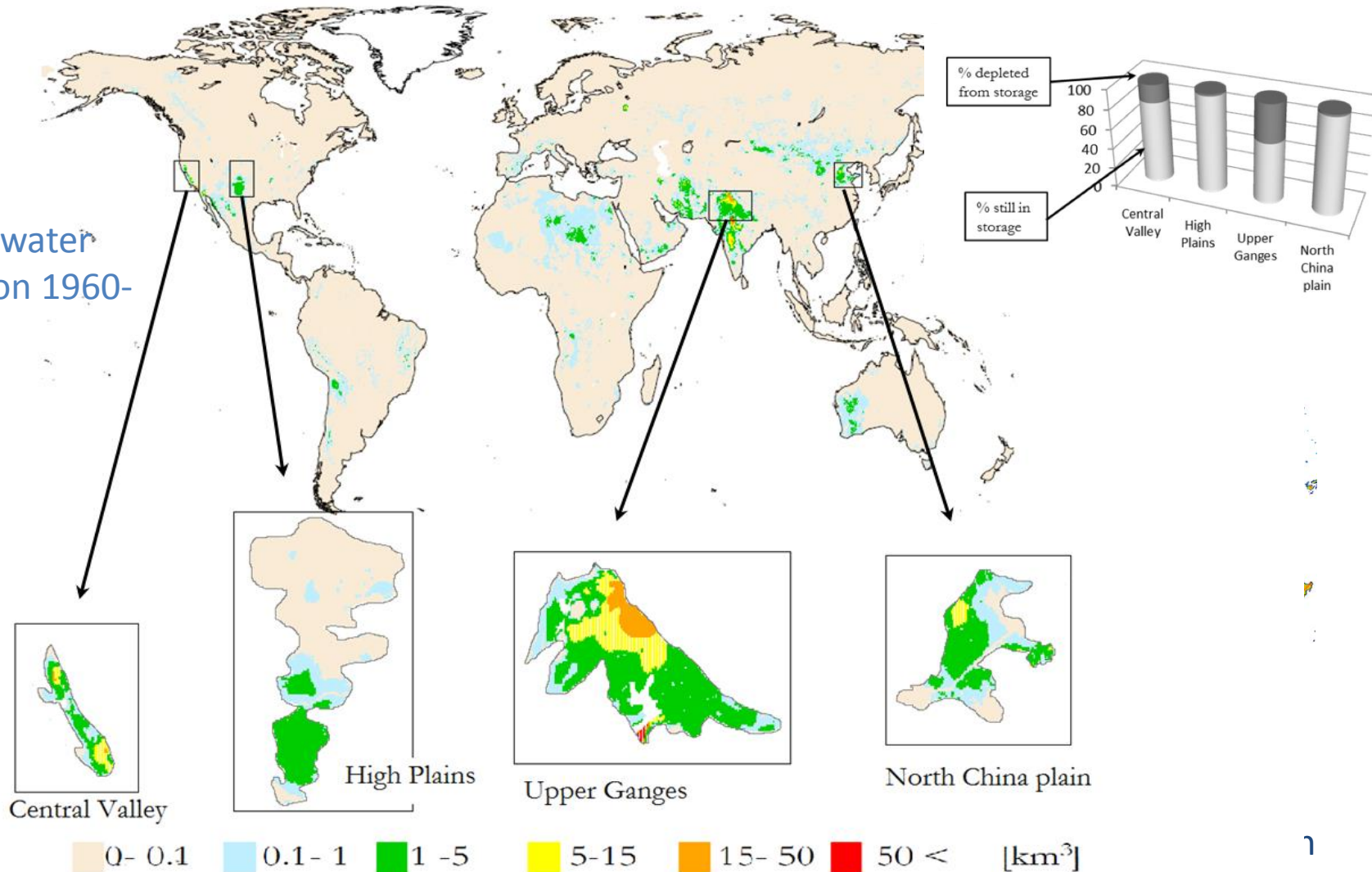
- Overbank redistribution
- 2D diffusive wave hydrodynamics
- Full 2D shallow water equations



# 3. Recent trends

## 3a. Technological advances: global groundwater modelling

Groundwater depletion 1960-2010

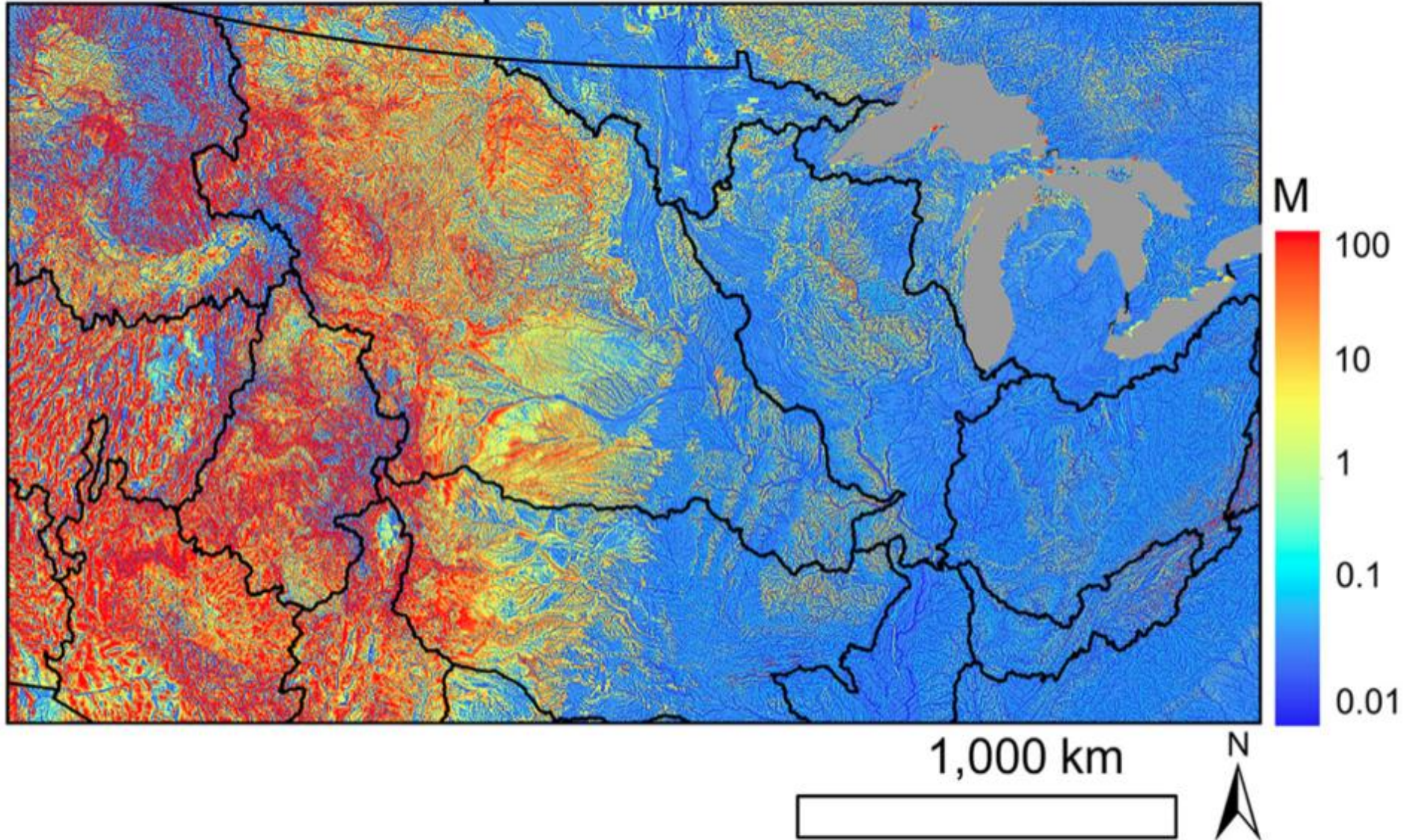




# 3. Recent trends

## b. Water Table Depth

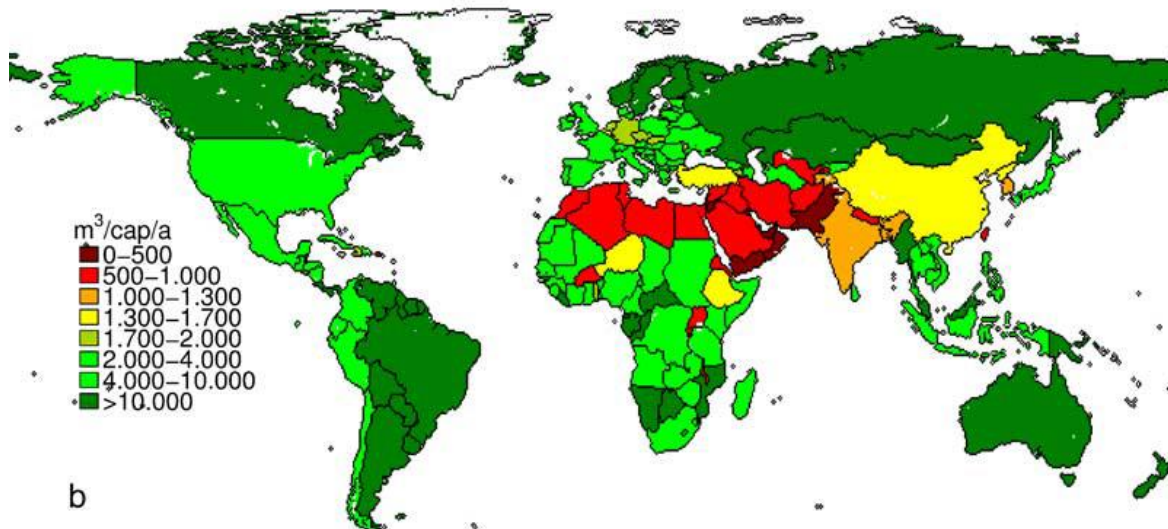
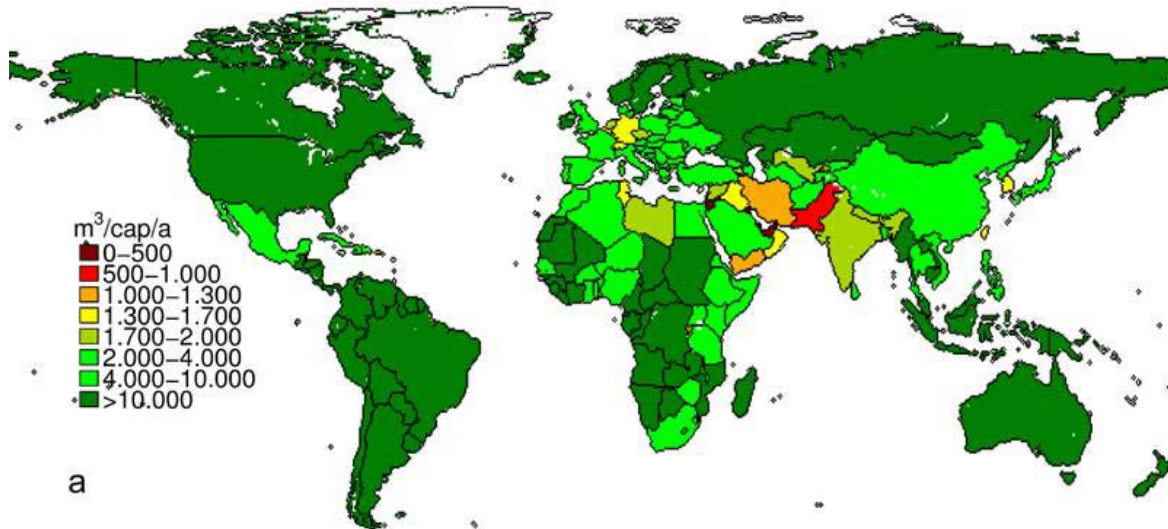
Laura Condon and Reed Maxwell, WRR (2015)





# 3. Recent trends

## 3b. New domains of application



### Food security

Change in green + blue water per capita by 2050 based on LPJml (Rockström et al., WRR (2009))



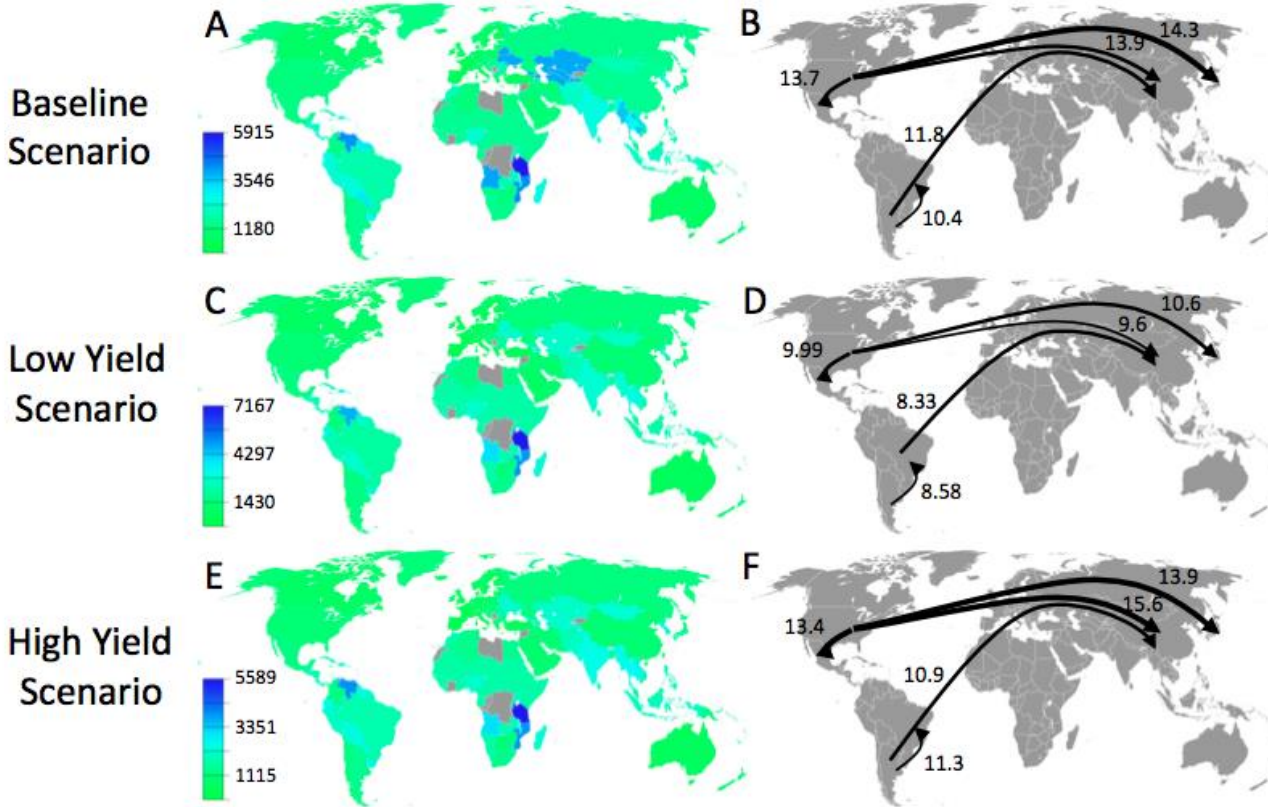
# 3. Recent trends

## 3b. New domains of application

### Hydro-economics

Mean Virtual Water Content

Largest Virtual Water Trade Links



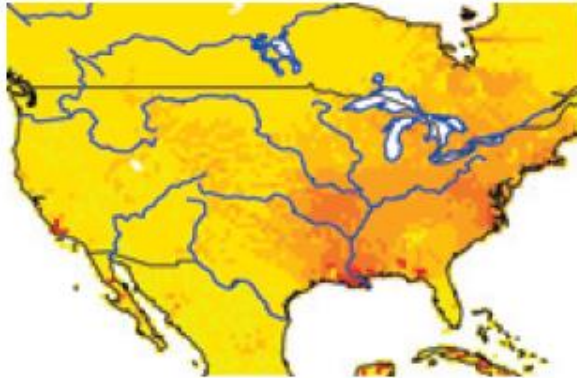
Climate change and socio-economic change on VWC (ET/Yield) per country and the effect on current food trade (trade links and future changes in trade volumes based on GTAP)

Konar et al.. HESS (2013)

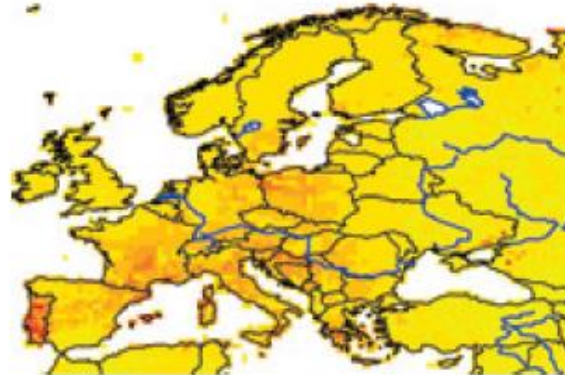
# 3. Recent trends

## 3b. New domains of application

A2



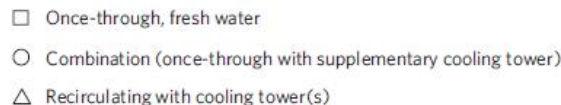
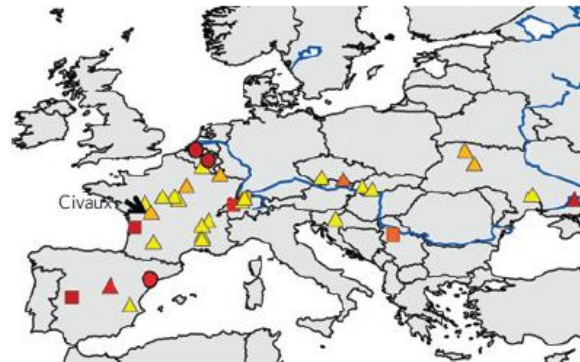
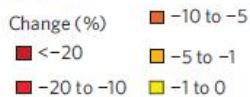
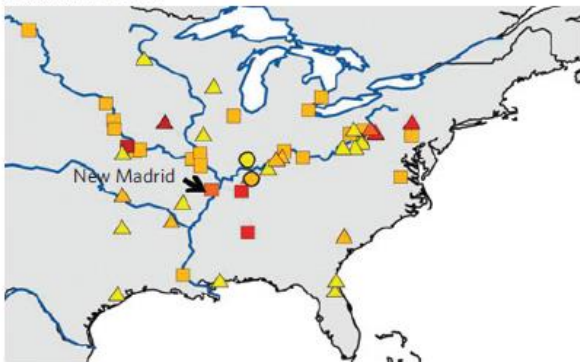
A2



## Energy

Effect of climate change on river water temperature (through dT and dQ) and the effect on power plant cooling capacity

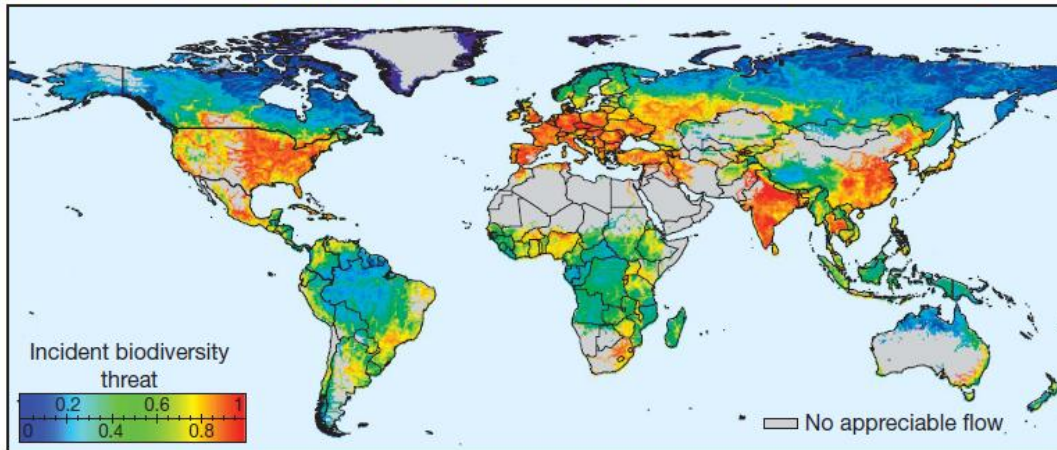
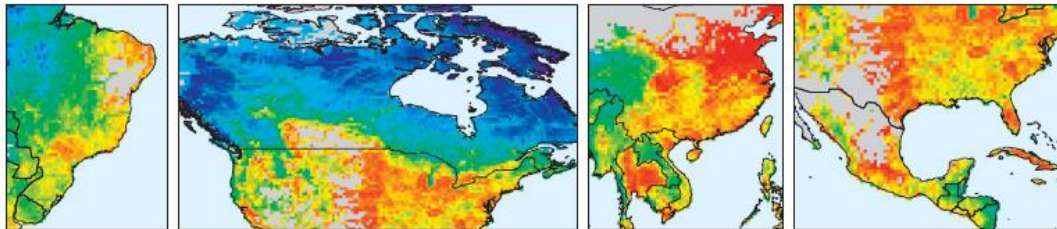
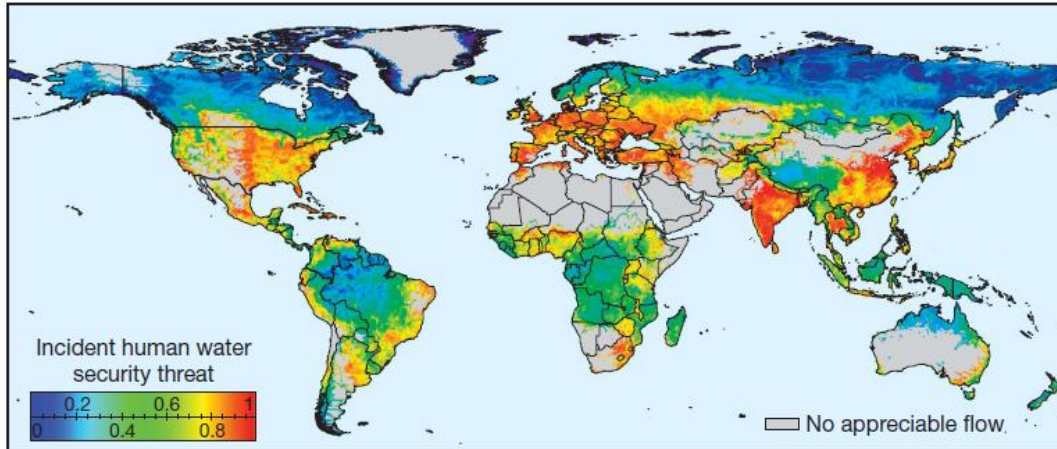
Summer A2 2040s



Van Vliet et al. Nature Climate Change (2012)

# 3. Recent trends

## 3b. New domains of application



### Biodiversity

Human (blue) water security and (mostly aquatic) biodiversity are tightly connected.

Global hydrological data and the global hydrological model WBM are central to the analysis.

Vörösmarty et al, Nature (2010)



# 3. Recent trends

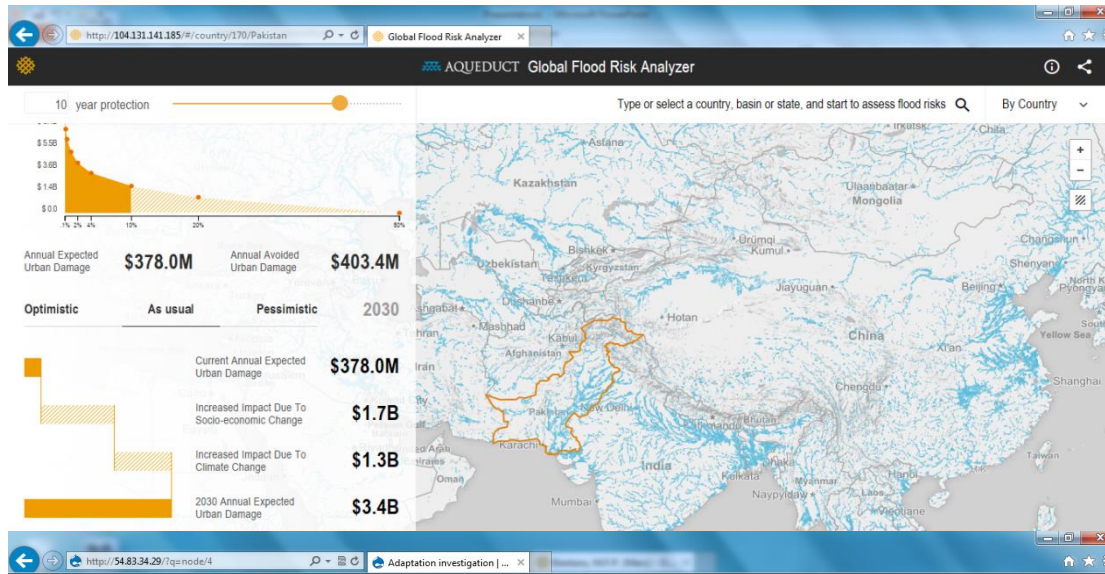
## 3b. New domains of application

## Hydro-climate services

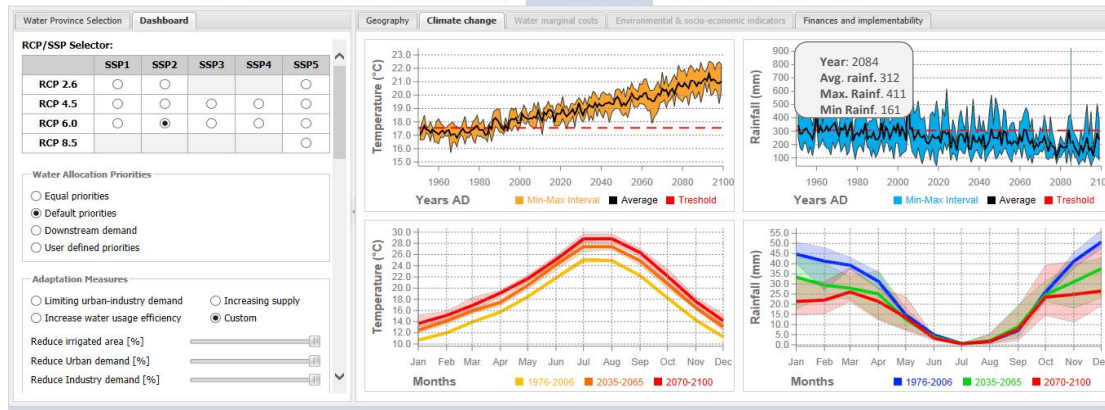
- Flood frequency
- Flood and drought forecasting
- Climate adaptation

<http://floods.wri.org>

<http://forecast.ewatercycle.org/>



Home Climate Research Overview Climate and water change Adaptation investigation Services Links Contact Partners



# 4. Imminent challenges

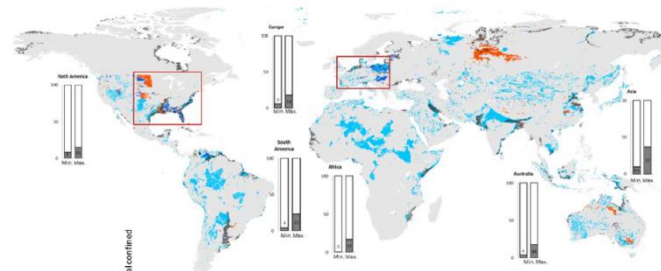
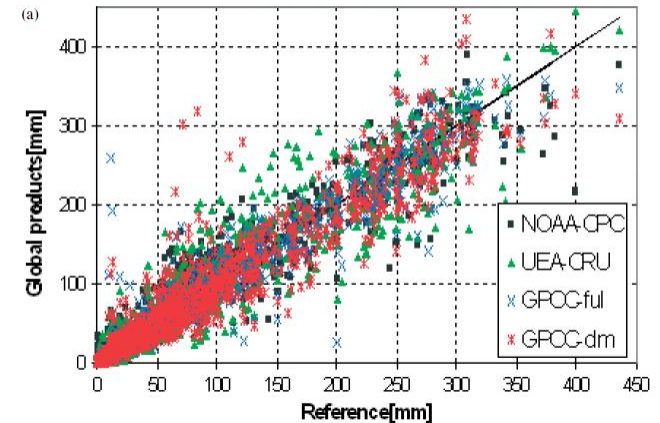
## 1. Long outstanding issues

- Relatively poor performance GHMs
- Accuracy rainfall products
- Runoff representations in GHMs

## 2. Missing data links

- Global river geometry and bathymetry
- River diversions
- Local redistribution networks
- Global hydrogeological data

COMPARISON OF GLOBAL GRIDDED PRODUCTS





# 4. Imminent challenges

## 3. Hyper-resolution modelling

HYDROLOGICAL PROCESSES

*Hydrol. Process.* (2014)

Published online in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com). DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10391

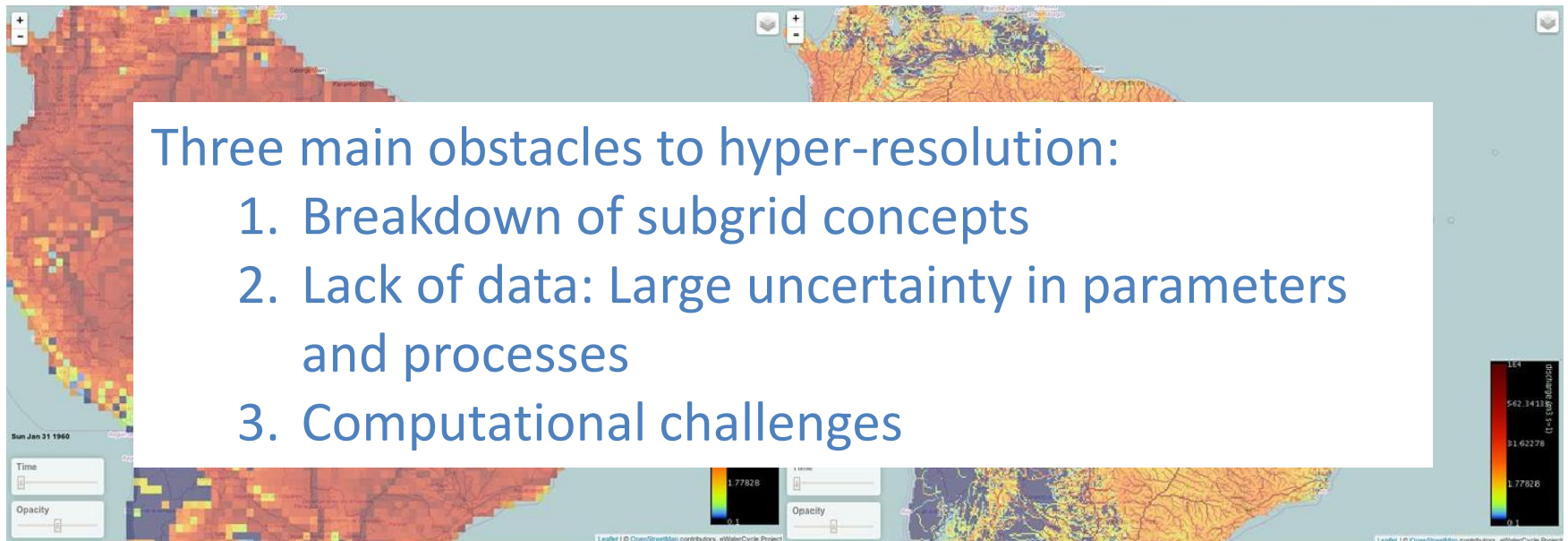
INVITED COMMENTARY



### Hyper-resolution global hydrological modelling: what is next? “Everywhere and locally relevant”

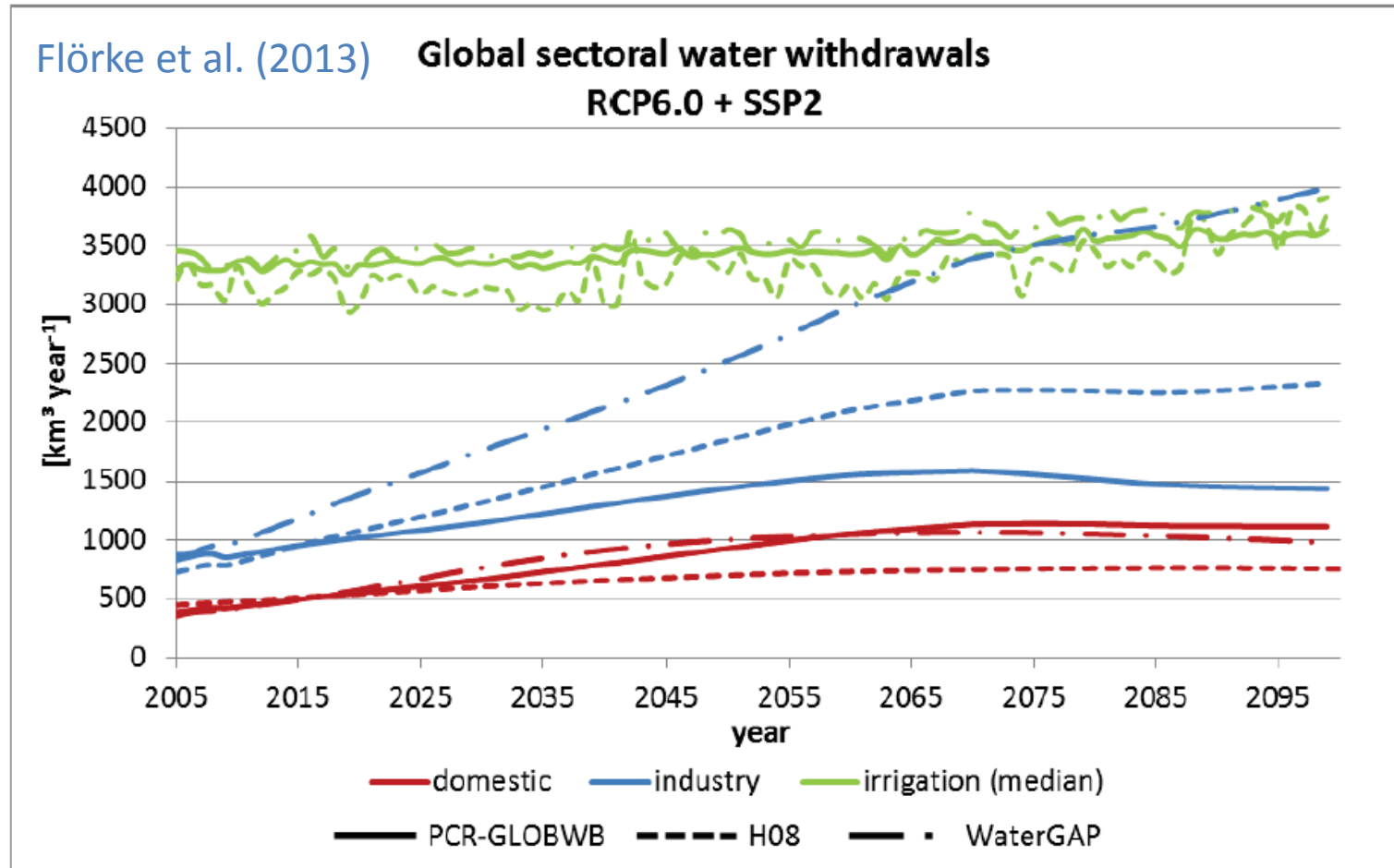
Three main obstacles to hyper-resolution:

1. Breakdown of subgrid concepts
2. Lack of data: Large uncertainty in parameters and processes
3. Computational challenges



# 4. Imminent challenges

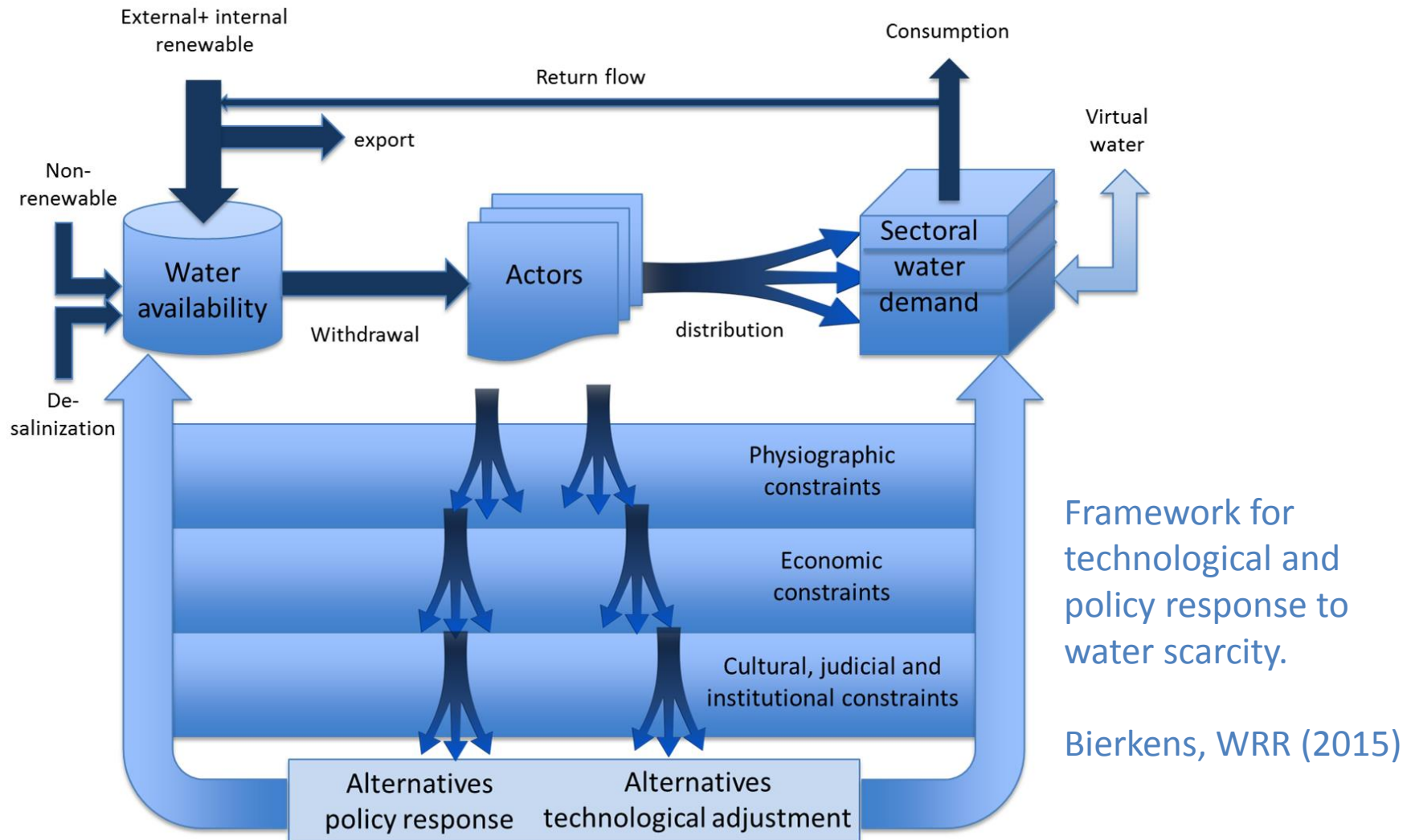
## 4. The human factor



Projections from three global hydrology and water resources models

# 4. Imminent challenges

## 4. The human factor: Enter Socio-hydrology

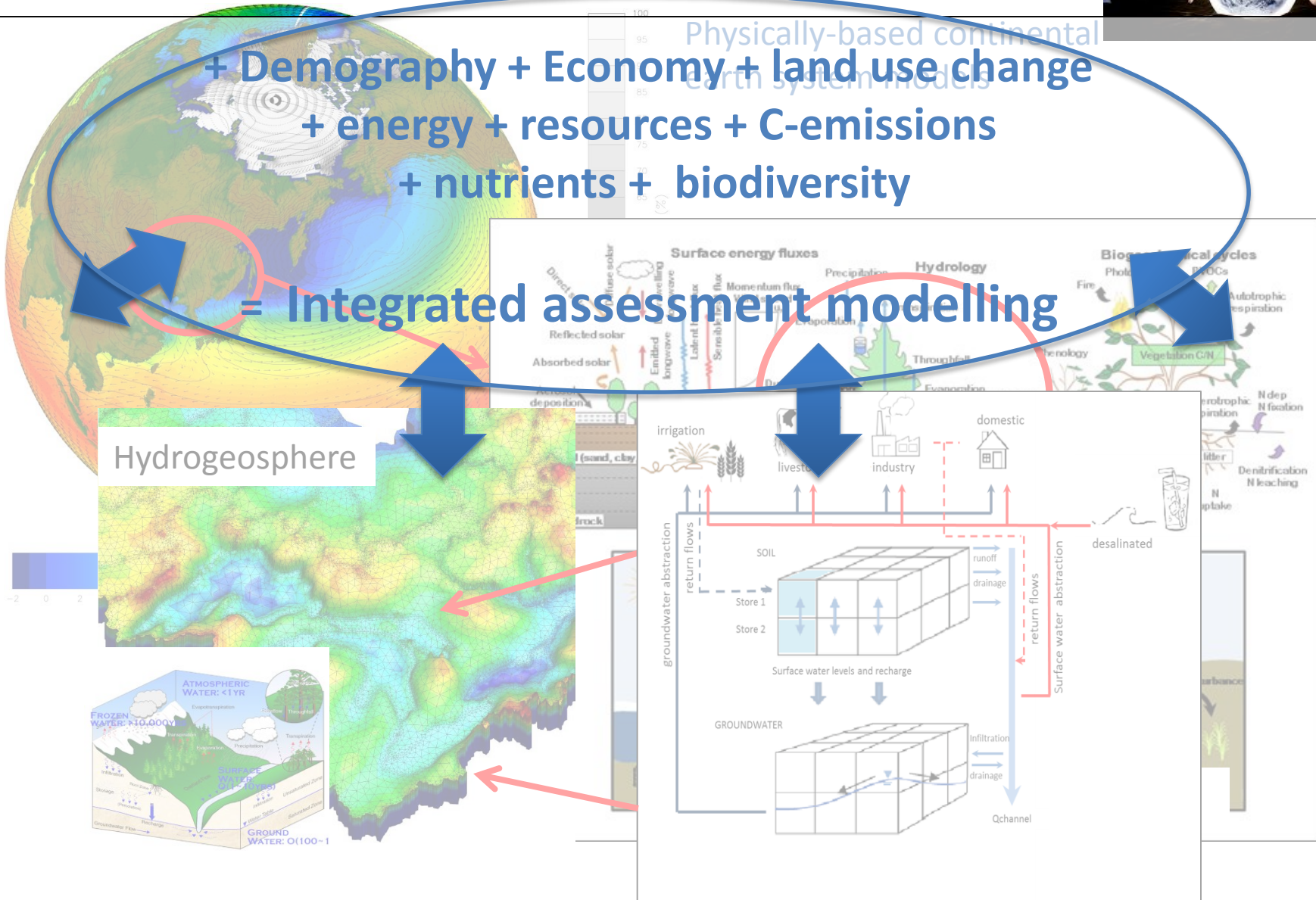


# 5. The future and beyond



+ Demography + Economy + land use change  
 + energy + resources + C-emissions  
 + nutrients + biodiversity

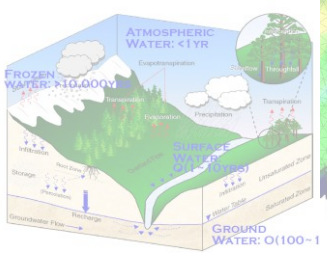
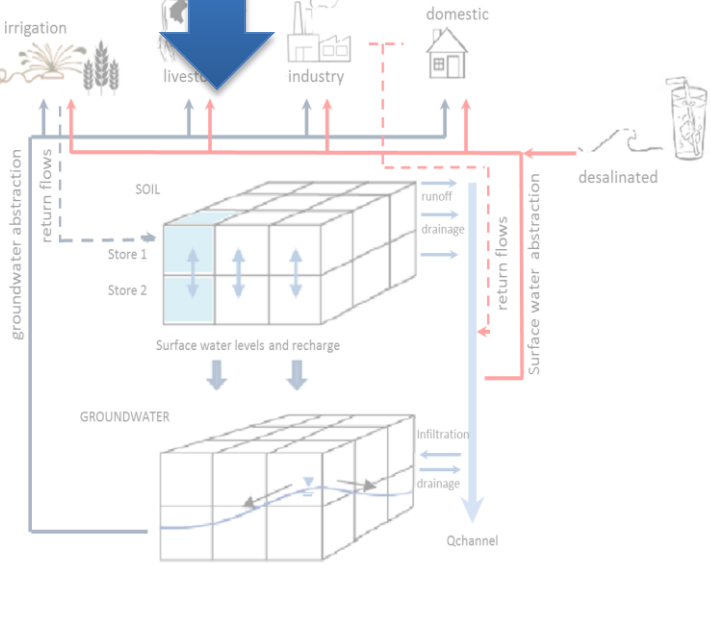
= Integrated assessment modelling



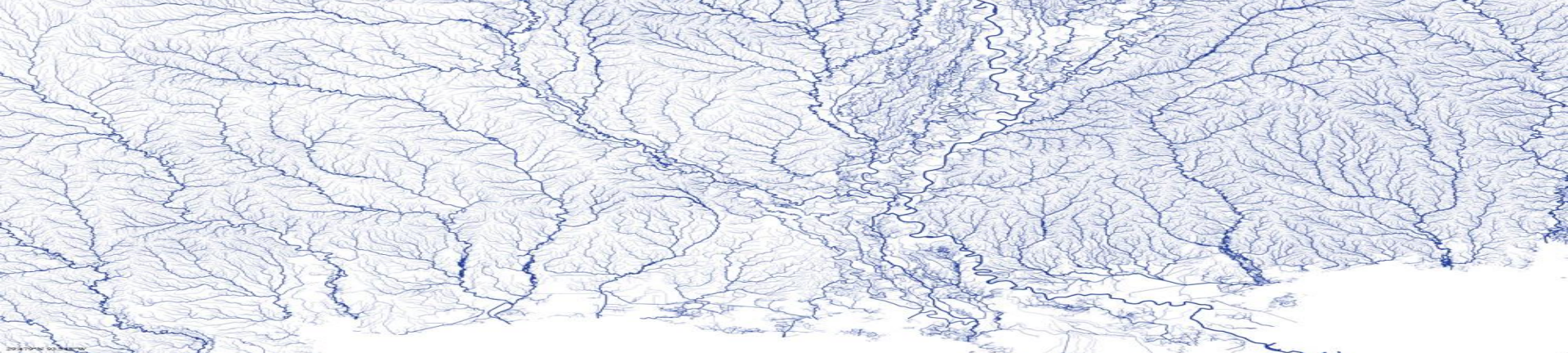
Hydrogeosphere

Physically-based continental earth system models

Surface energy fluxes  
 Hydrology  
 Biogeochemical cycles



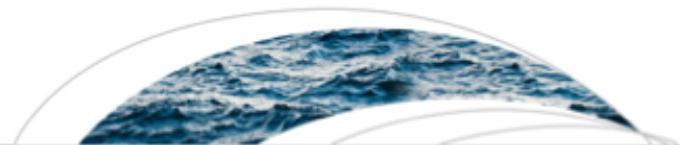




# Questions?



 **AGU PUBLICATIONS**



## Water Resources Research

### REVIEW ARTICLE

10.1002/2015WR017173

#### Special Section:

The 50th Anniversary of Water Resources Research

## Global hydrology 2015: State, trends, and directions

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