

Recommendations on improving current work

Incorporating climate change and
tracers into water resources studies

Presenters : Nicole Blin &
David Boutt



SOSTENIBILIDAD DE LA INDUSTRIA DEL LITIO: Monitoreo y desafíos ambientales ante el cambio climático

Santiago
15/03/2024

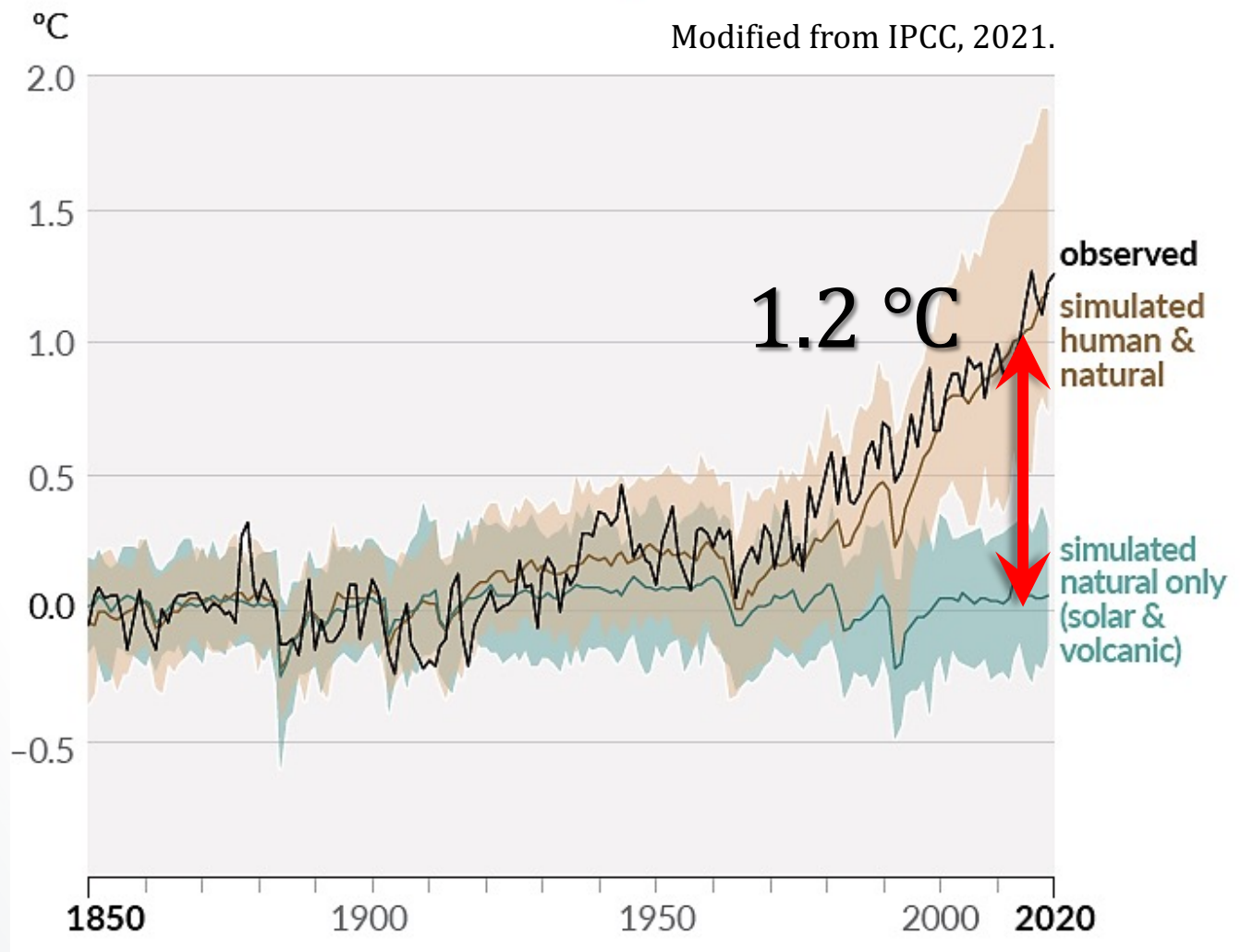
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**Incorporating
climate change into
water resources
assessment studies**

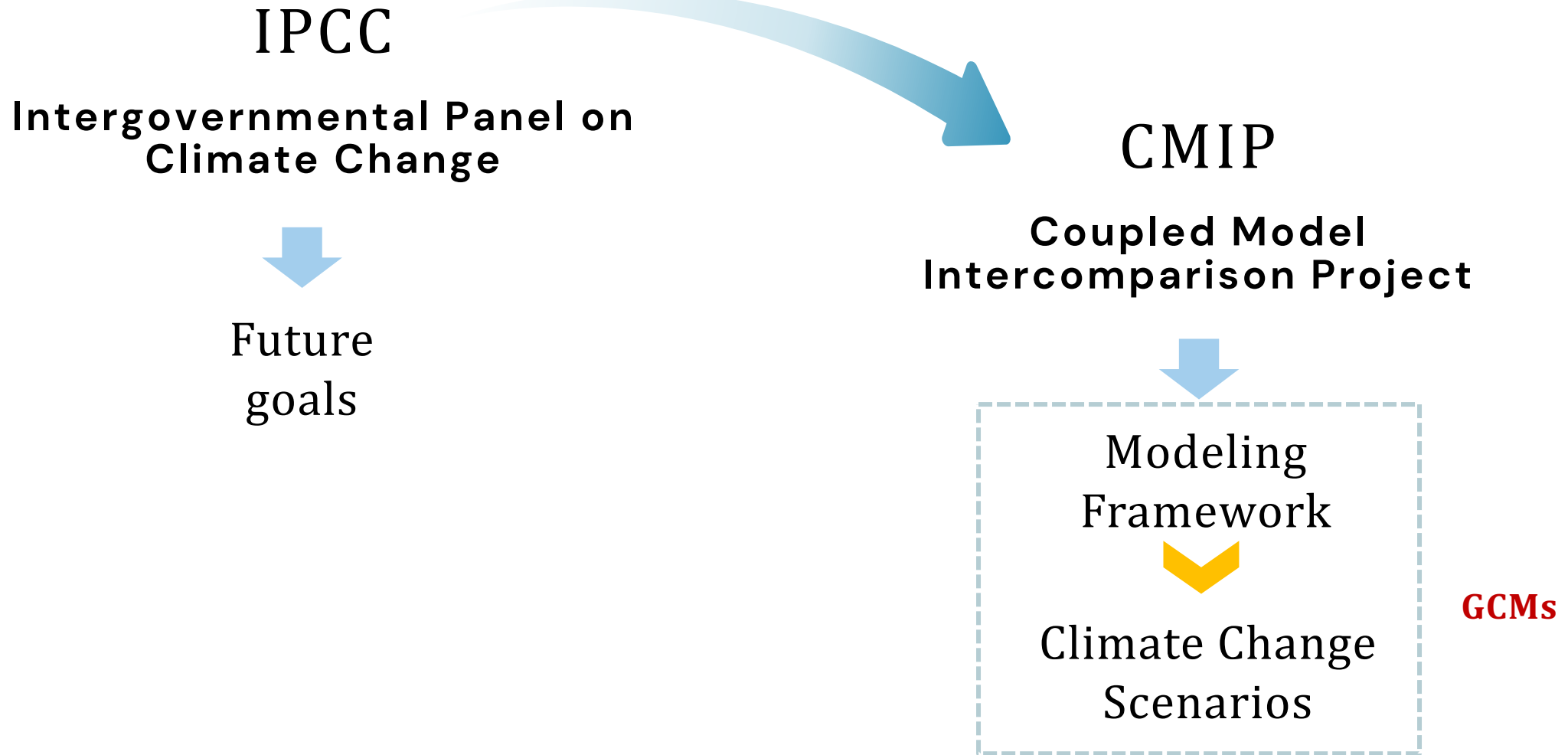


climate change

Change in global surface temperature (annual average) as **observed** and simulated using **human & nature** and **only natural** factors (both 1850-2020)



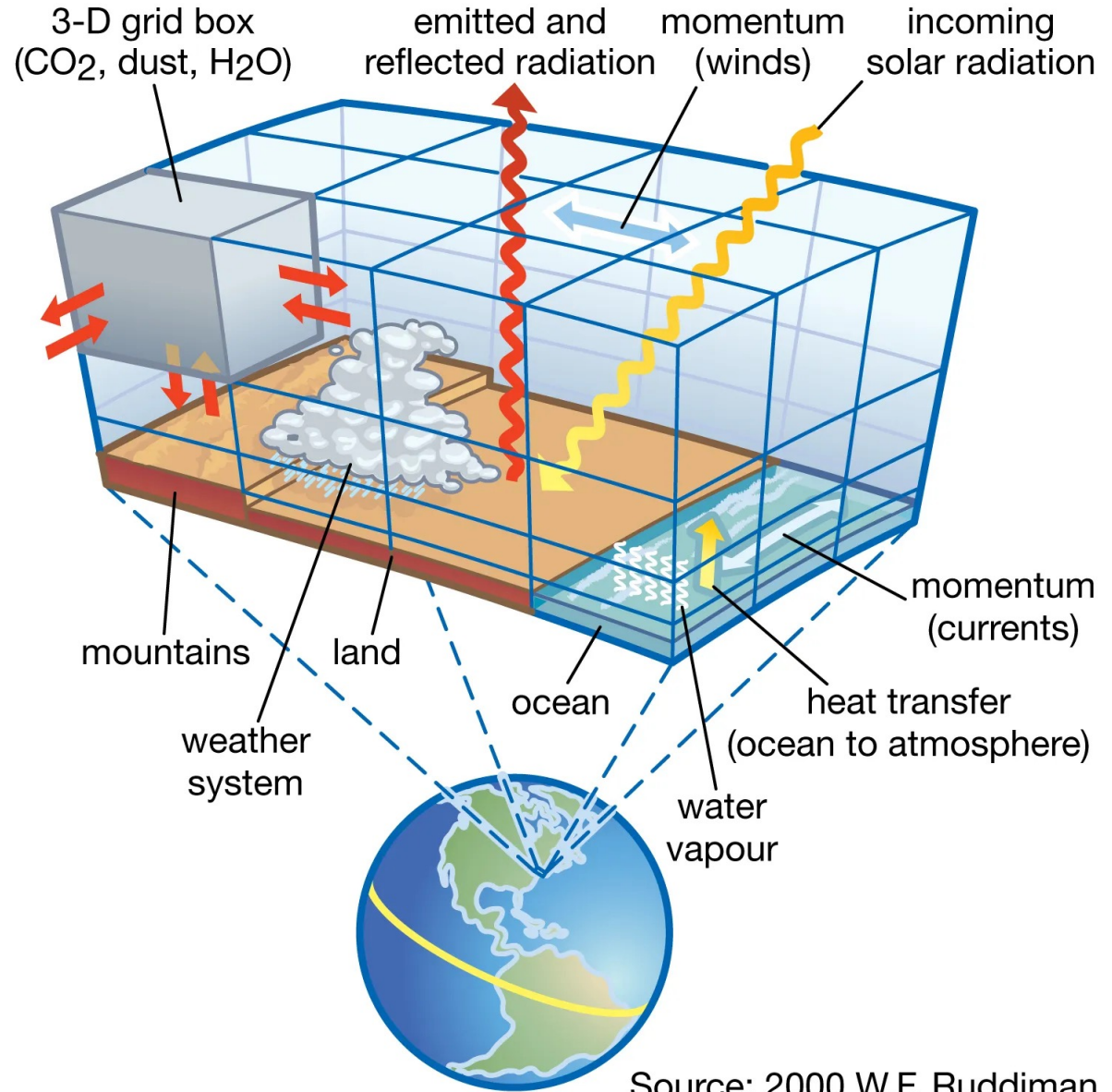
Some key concepts



GCM

General Circulation Model

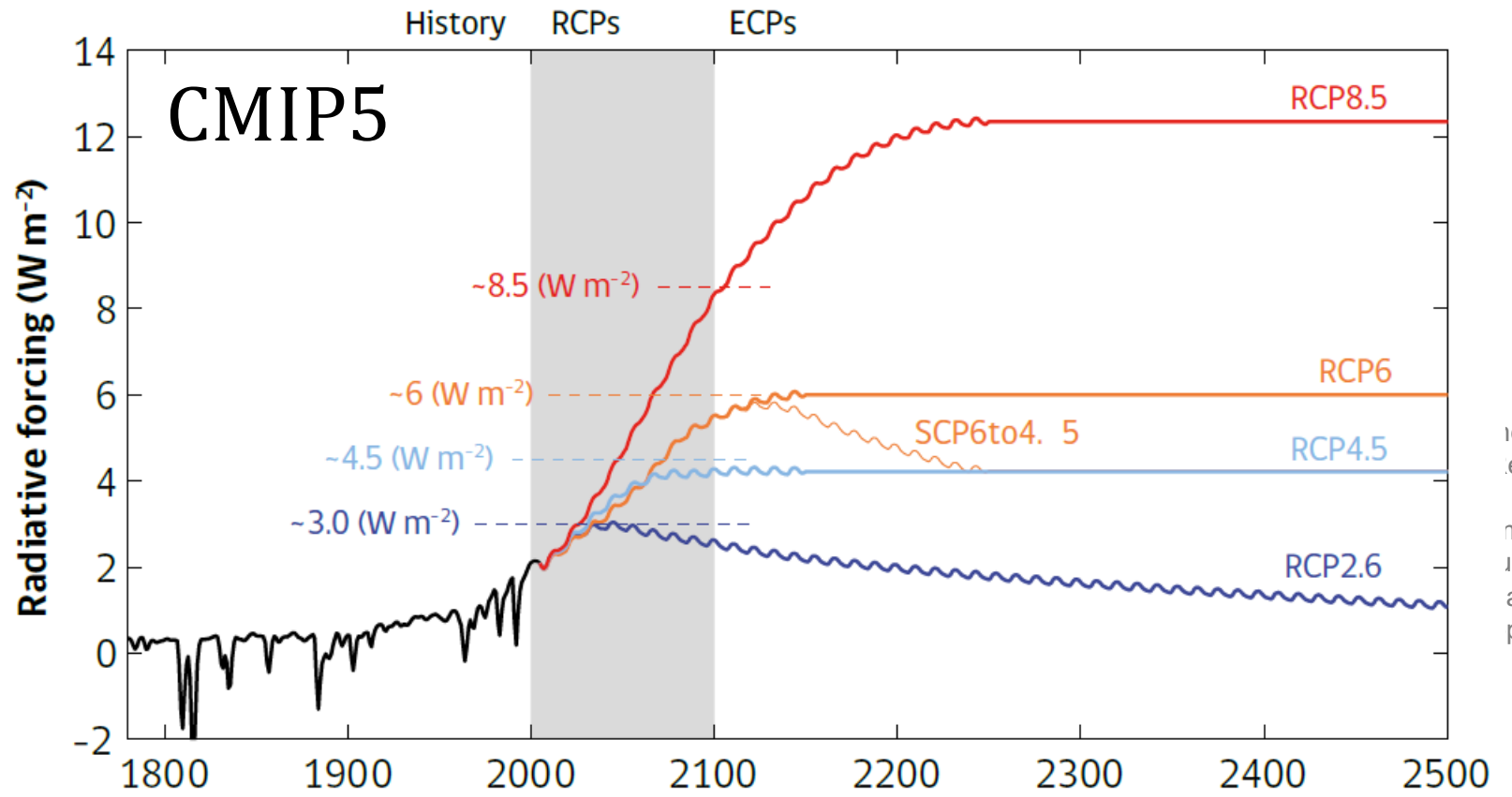
Concept diagram of climate modeling



Source: 2000 W.F. Ruddiman

Climate change scenarios

Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)



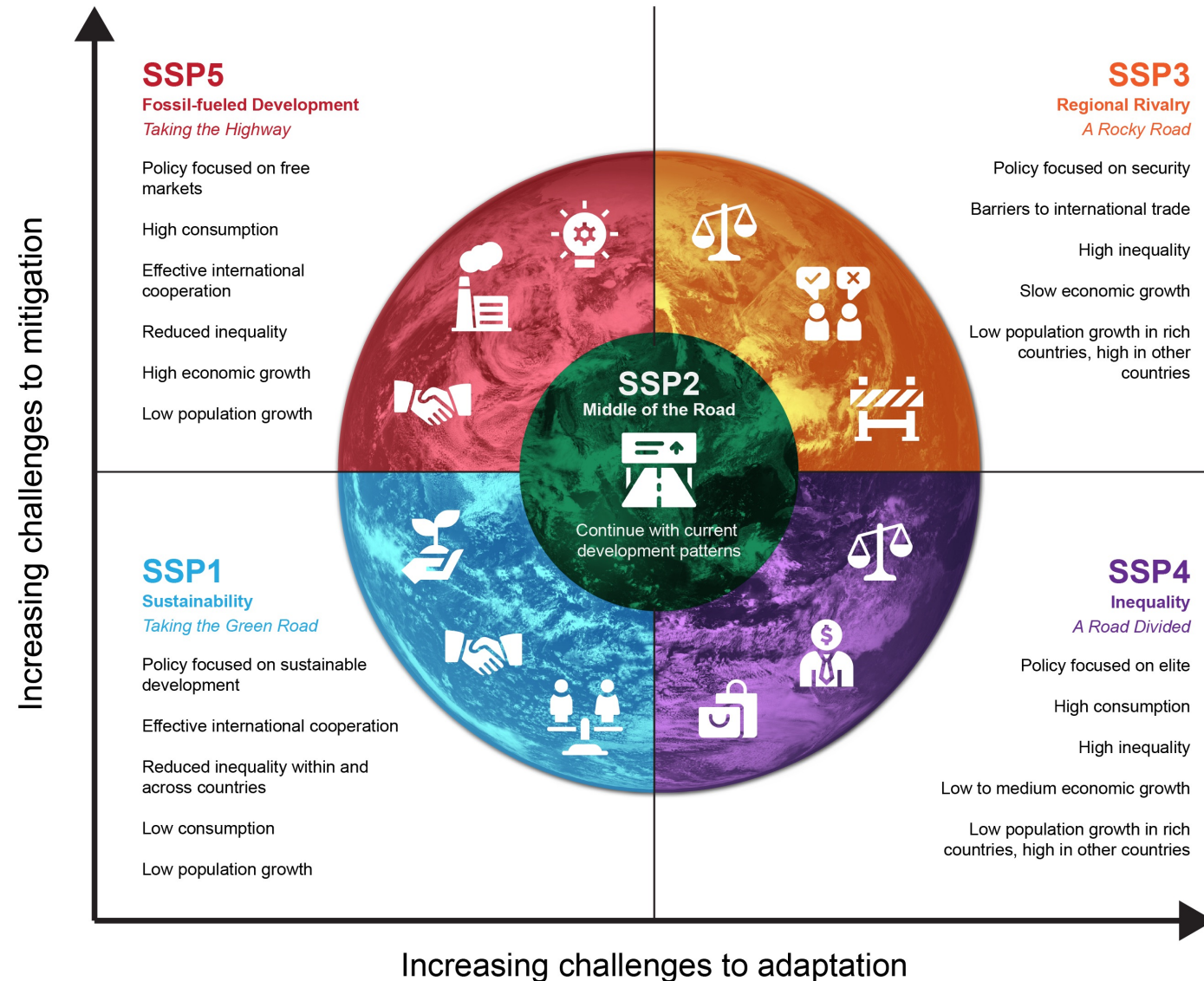
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Cubasch et al. (2013)

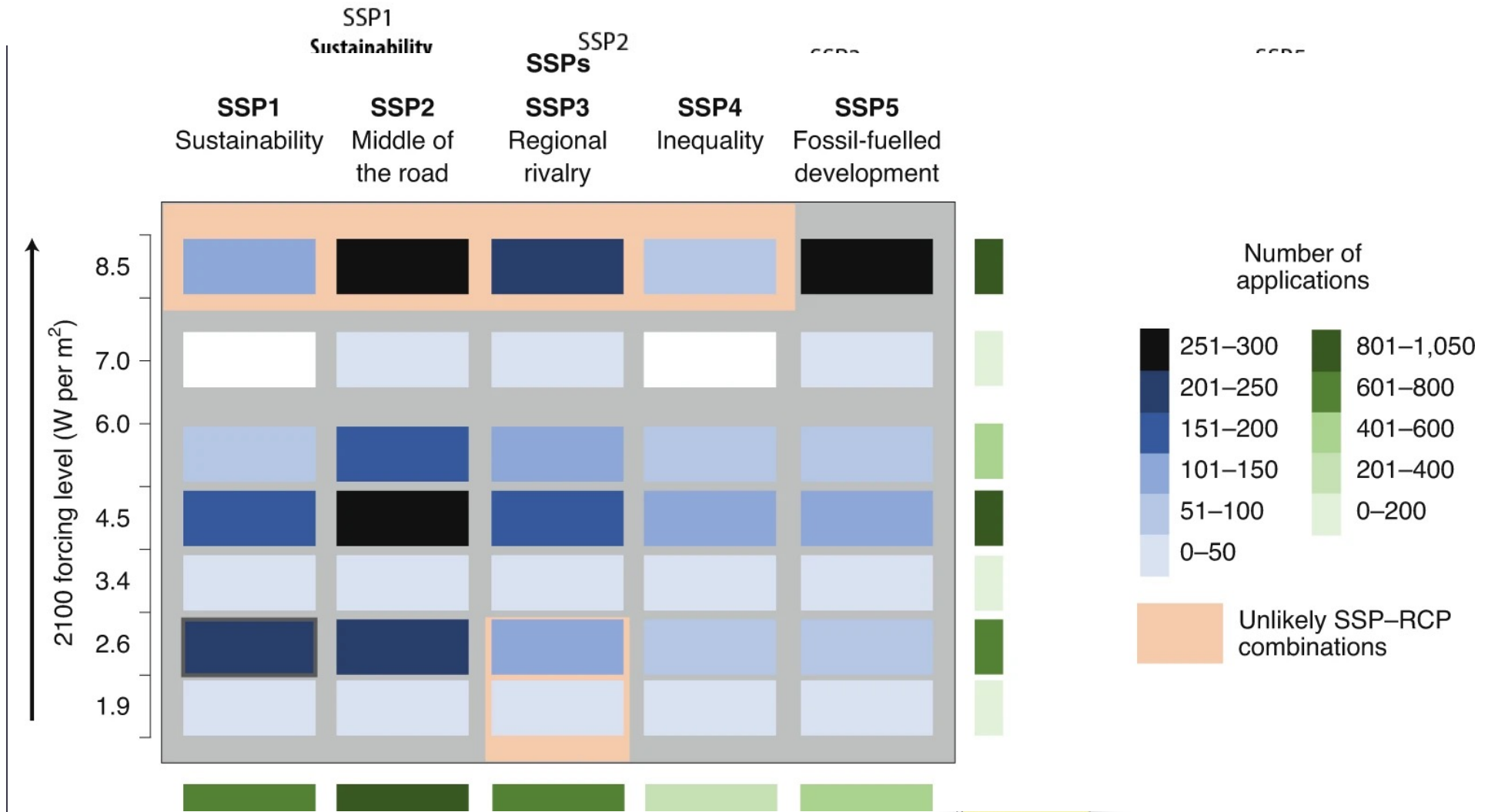
$$Rad. Forcing = \Delta(E_{in} - E_{out}) \rightarrow \begin{cases} > 0 \text{ planet warms} \\ < 0 \text{ planet cools} \end{cases}$$

Climate change scenarios

Shared Socioeconomic Pathways



Climate change scenarios



CMIP6: Combination of SSPs + RCPs

1750

**— How could all this be
incorporated into water
resources assessment
studies?**

Incorporating climate change into water resources studies

Recommendations

Model selection

- Model performance in study area
- Climate change signal based on raw GCM

Bias-correction

- Statistical vs dynamical methods
- Stat. method based on variable nature

Accounting for uncertainty

- Model ensembles



1. Model selection

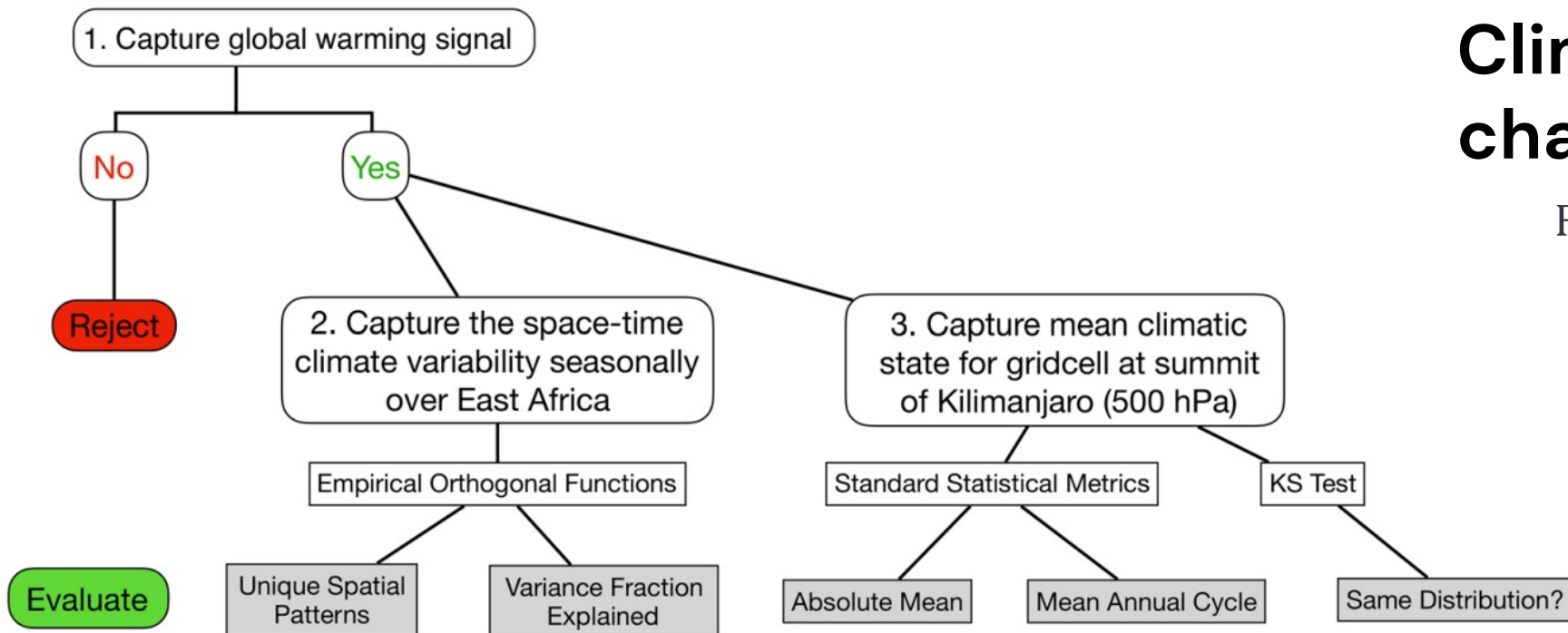
GCM performance

Different based on topography and region

Climate change signal

From raw GCMs

Pickler & Molg (2021)

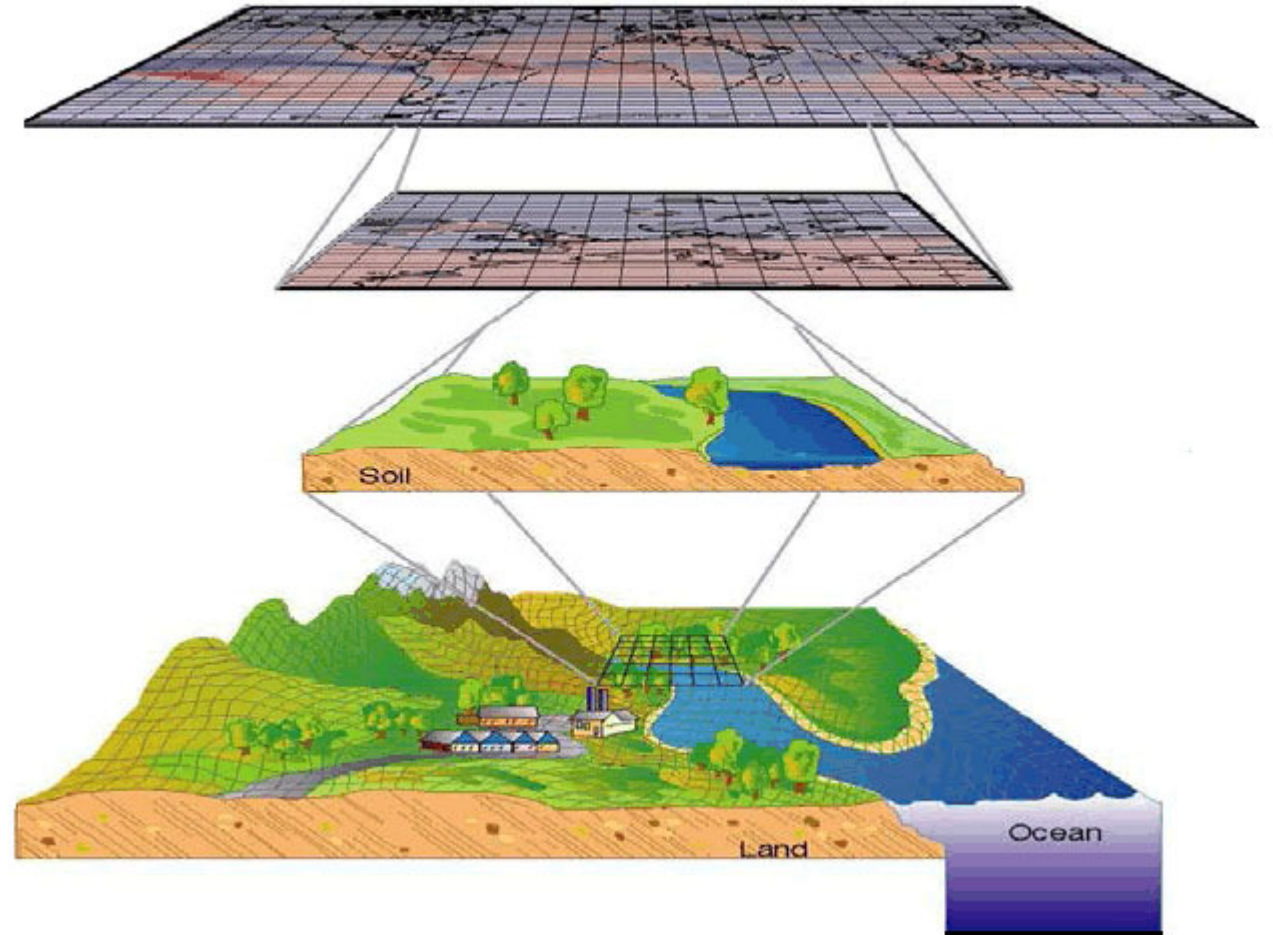


2. Bias-correction

Khan & Pilz (2018)

Why is it necessary?

- GCM resolution
 - Not representative of basin scale dynamics



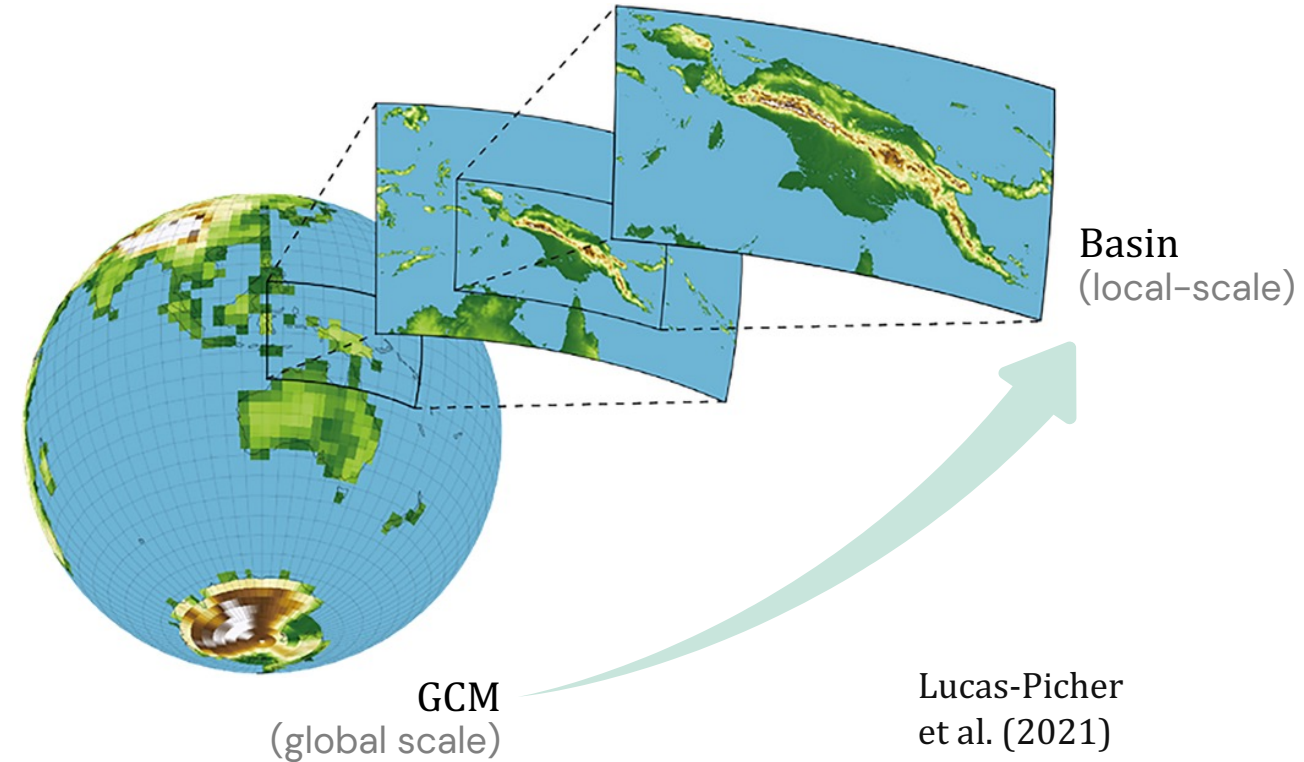
2. Bias-correction

Dynamical methods

using regional climate models (RCMs) or limited-area models (LAMs) to simulate climate processes at a much finer resolution over a specific region of interest

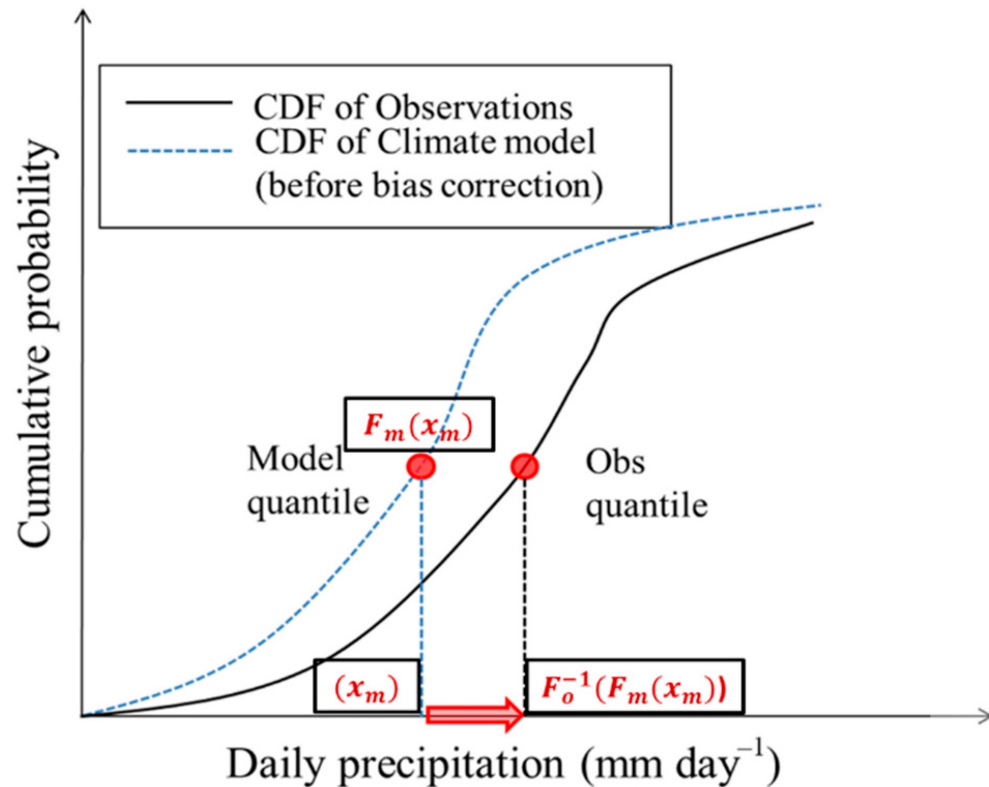
Statistical methods

establishes a statistical relationship between large-scale atmospheric variables (from GCMs) and local-scale climate variables based on historical observations



Statistical methods

Bias-correction of GCMs



Gupta et al. (2019)

— What method should we use? How could we select the method?

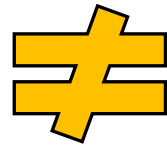
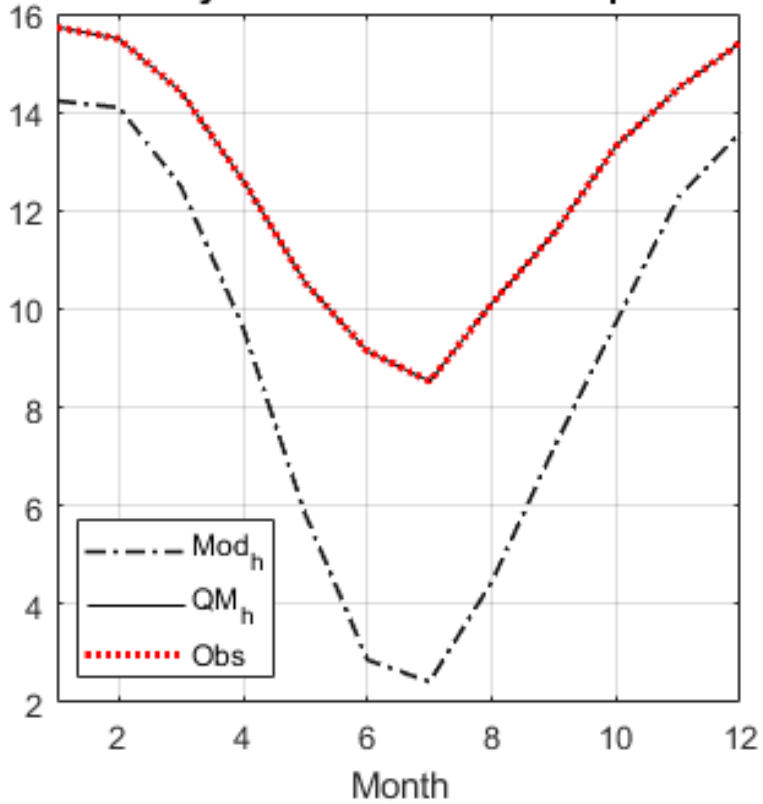
Bias-correction with quantile mapping-based techniques

Statistical methods

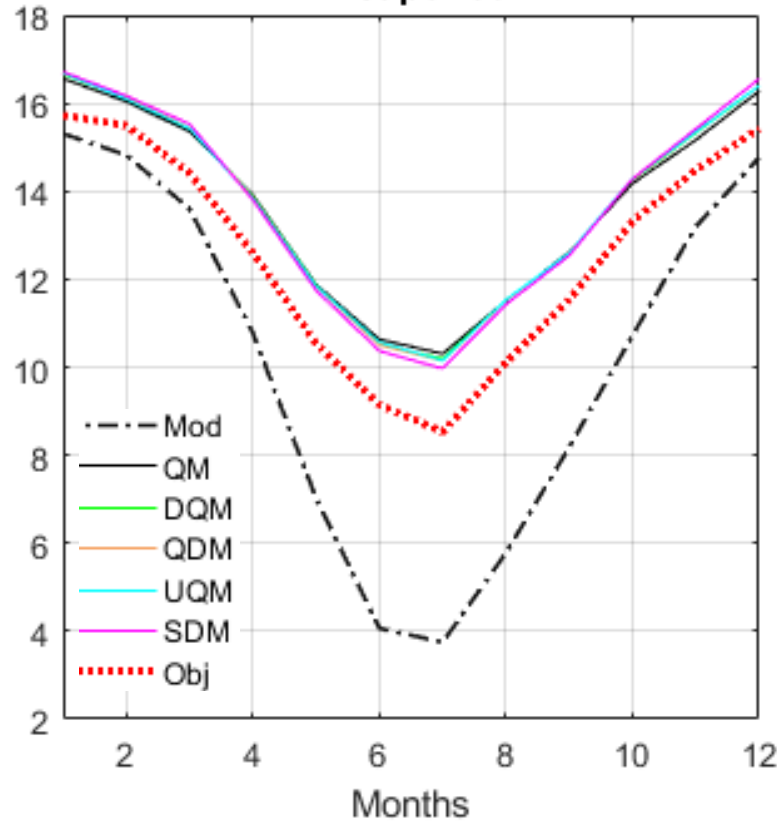
Bias-correction of GCMs

Performance of the downscaled series is also different in the historical period vs future

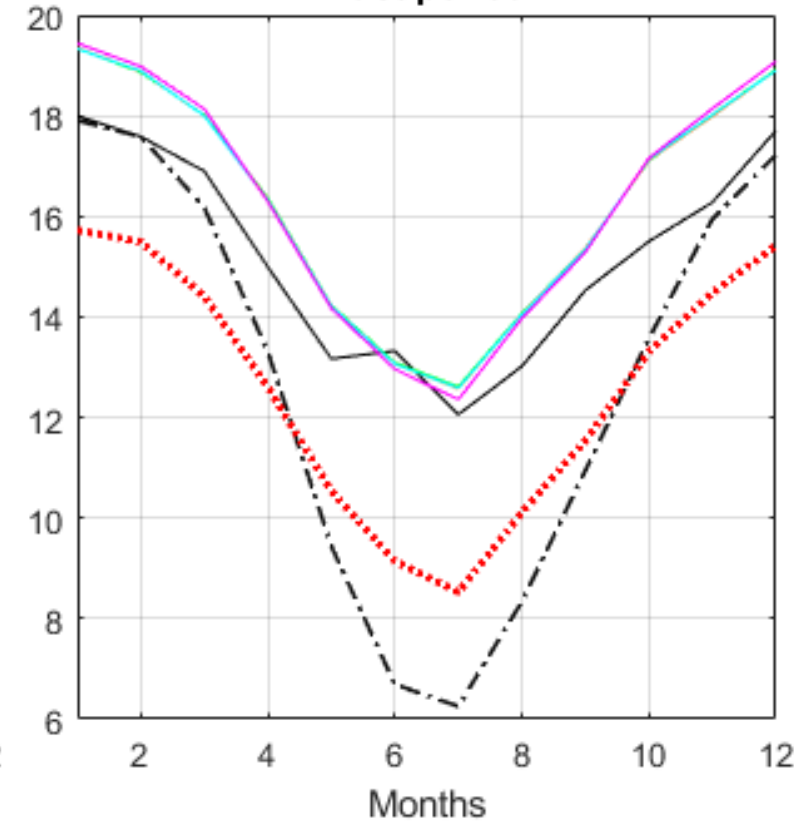
Monthly mean of the historical period



First period



Last period



Bias-correction method for precipitation in arid regions

Quantile Delta Mapping (QDM)

1. Relative changes in quantiles between future and historical periods of **modeled data**

$$\Delta_m(t) = \frac{F_{m,p}^{(t)-1}[\tau_{m,p}(t)]}{F_{m,h}^{-1}[\tau_{m,p}(t)]}$$

2. Future-period quantiles are bias corrected by the inverse CDF of observations (regular **QM between modeled future and obs**)

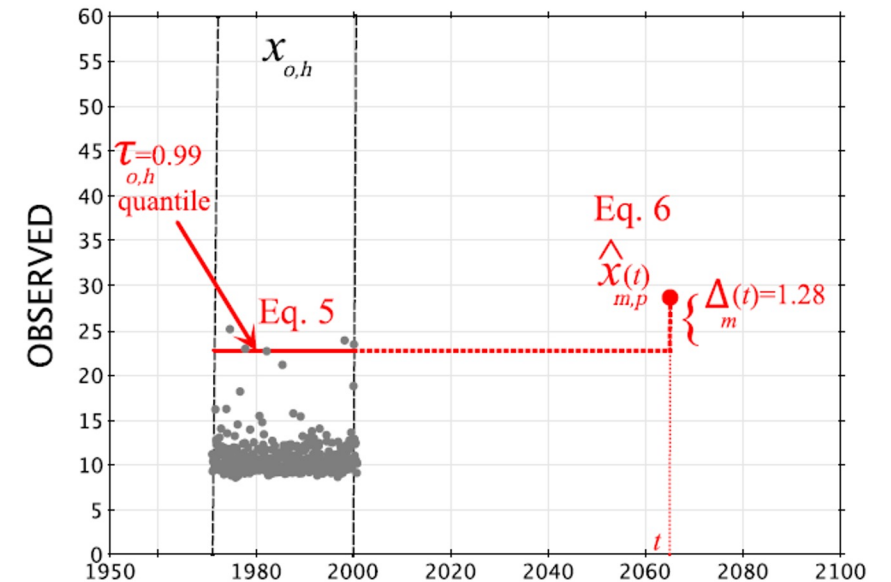
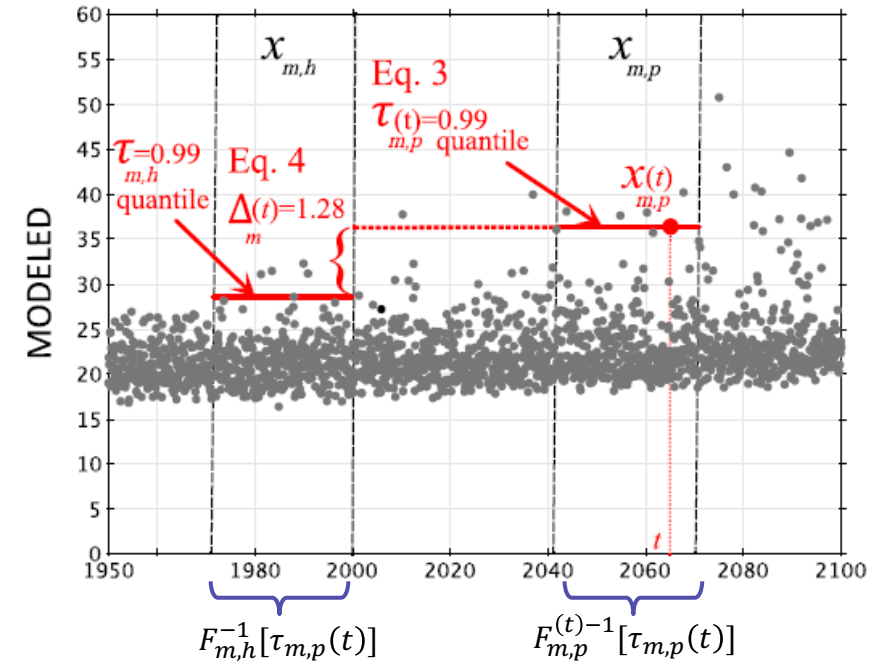
$$\hat{x}_{o:m,h:p}(t) = F_{o,h}^{-1}[\tau_{m,p}(t)]$$

3. Relative changes in quantiles ($\Delta_m(t)$) are applied to the bias corrected $\hat{x}_{o:m,h:p}(t)$

$$\hat{x}_{m,p}(t) = \hat{x}_{o:m,h:p}(t) \cdot \Delta_m(t)$$



Cannon et al., 2015.





Bias-correction method for precipitation in arid regions

Unbiased Quantile Mapping (UQM)

Preserves GCM changes of the mean and the standard deviation

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2023, VOL. 68, NO. 8, 1184–1201
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2023.2201450>



OPEN ACCESS Check for updates

Bias adjustment to preserve changes in variability: the unbiased mapping of GCM changes

Cristián Chadwick ^a, Jorge Gironás ^{b,c,d,e}, Fernando González-Leiva^b and Sebastián Aedo^c

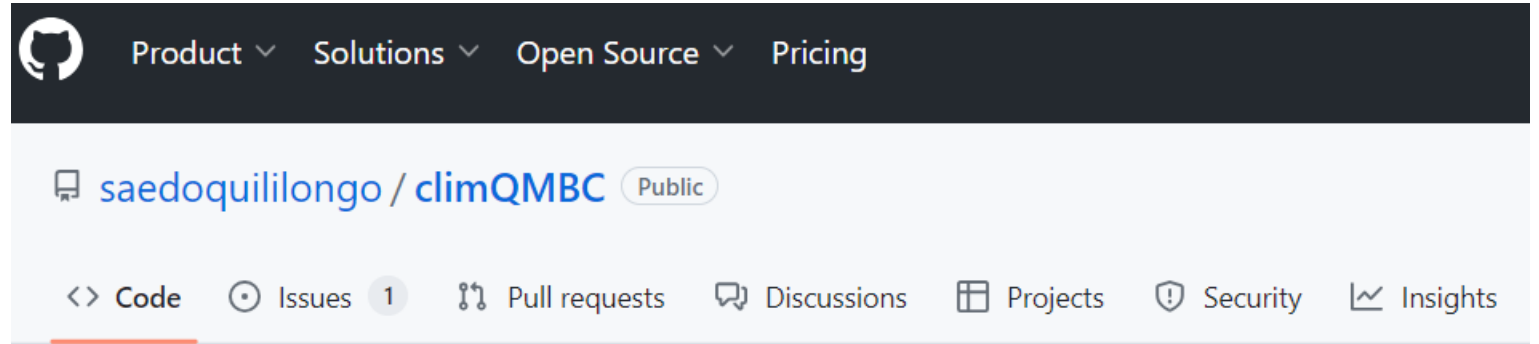
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Tools to support the decision

climQMBC

<https://github.com/saedoquililongo/climQMBC>



Getting started

Installation or importing

Within the [Python](#), [Matlab](#), and [R](#) directories you will find the installation and importing procedure for each programming language.

Quick start

Within the [Python](#), [Matlab](#), and [R](#) directories you will find scripts with examples of the capacities of the package and suggestions of its use.

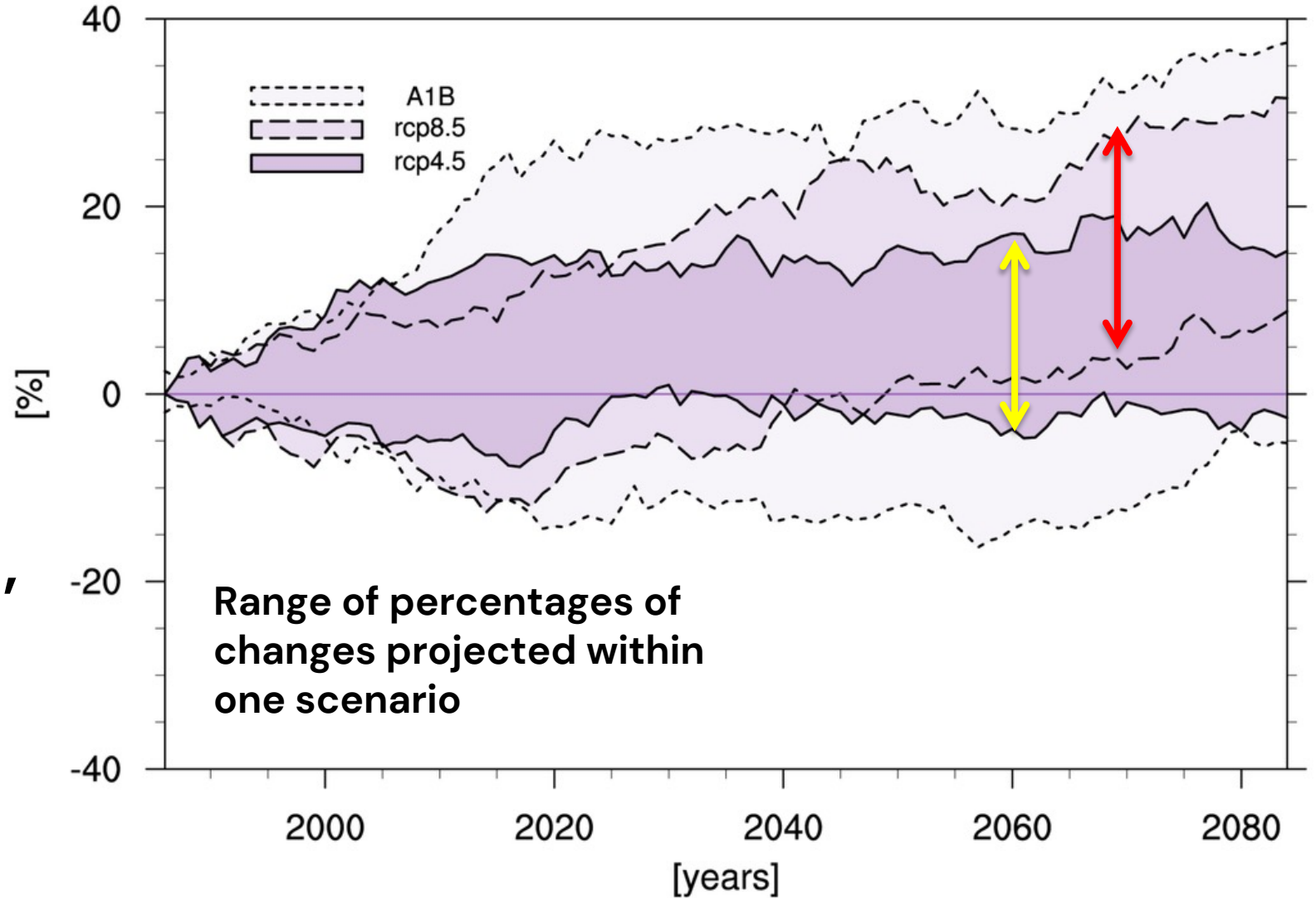
- Python: [climQMBC_tester_Python.py](#)
- Matlab: [climQMBC_tester_Matlab.m](#)
- R: [climQMBC_tester_R.R](#)

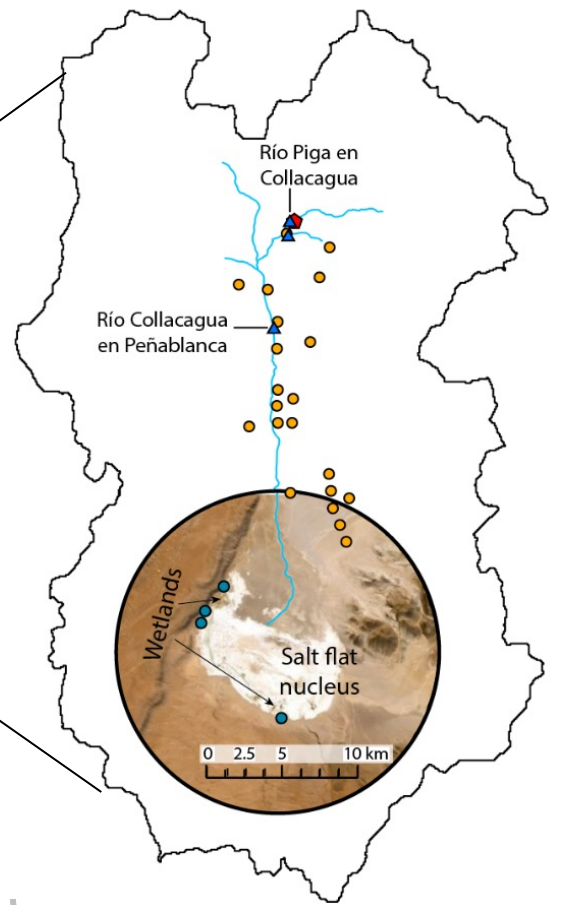
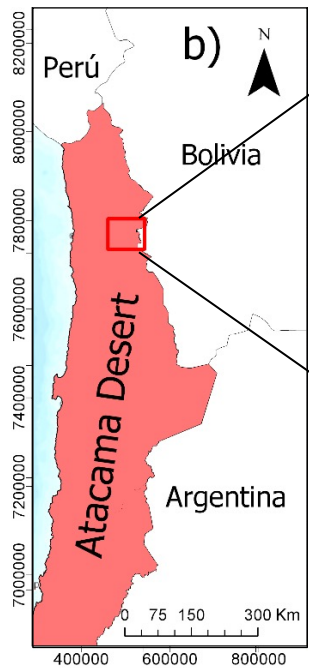
Additionally, the [Example_notebook.ipynb](#) is a notebook showing the usage of the package in Python and examples of the results of the methods and functions implemented.

3. Ensembles

Pfeifer et al. (2015)

1. There is no recipe
2. Accounting for uncertainty in:
the better, but:
future projections
3. At least 3 (min, med, max)

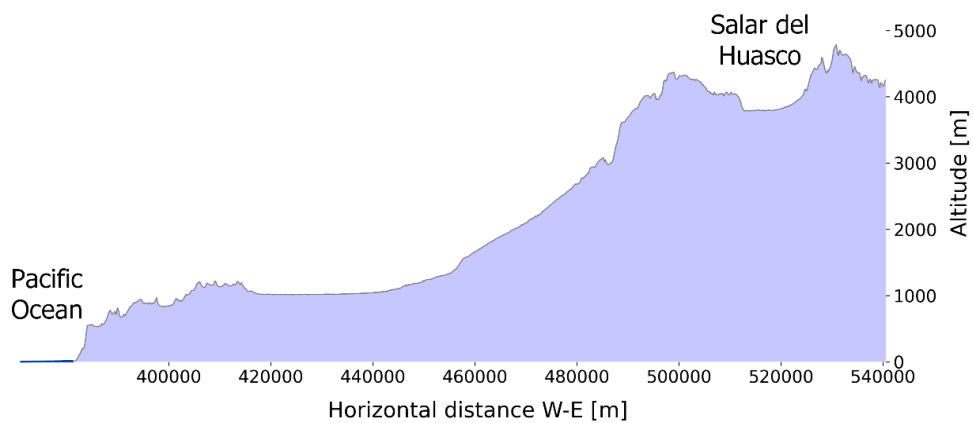




Ejemplo

Caso de estudio

Salar del Huasco



Climate change scenarios

– Spectrum of projected outcomes per scenario

SSP2 4.5

↑2 – 2.9°C



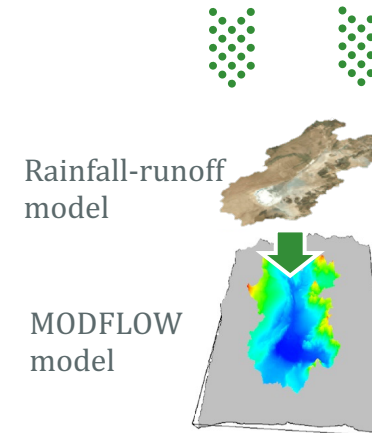
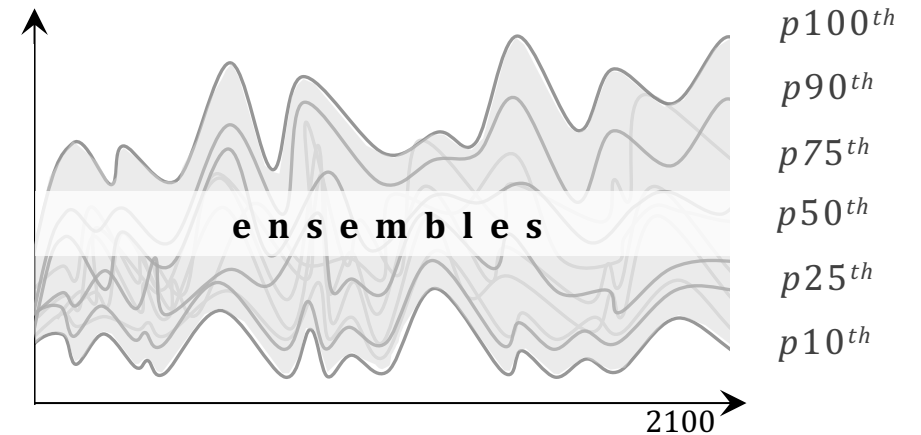
Moderate challenges in mitigation and adaptation

SSP5 8.5

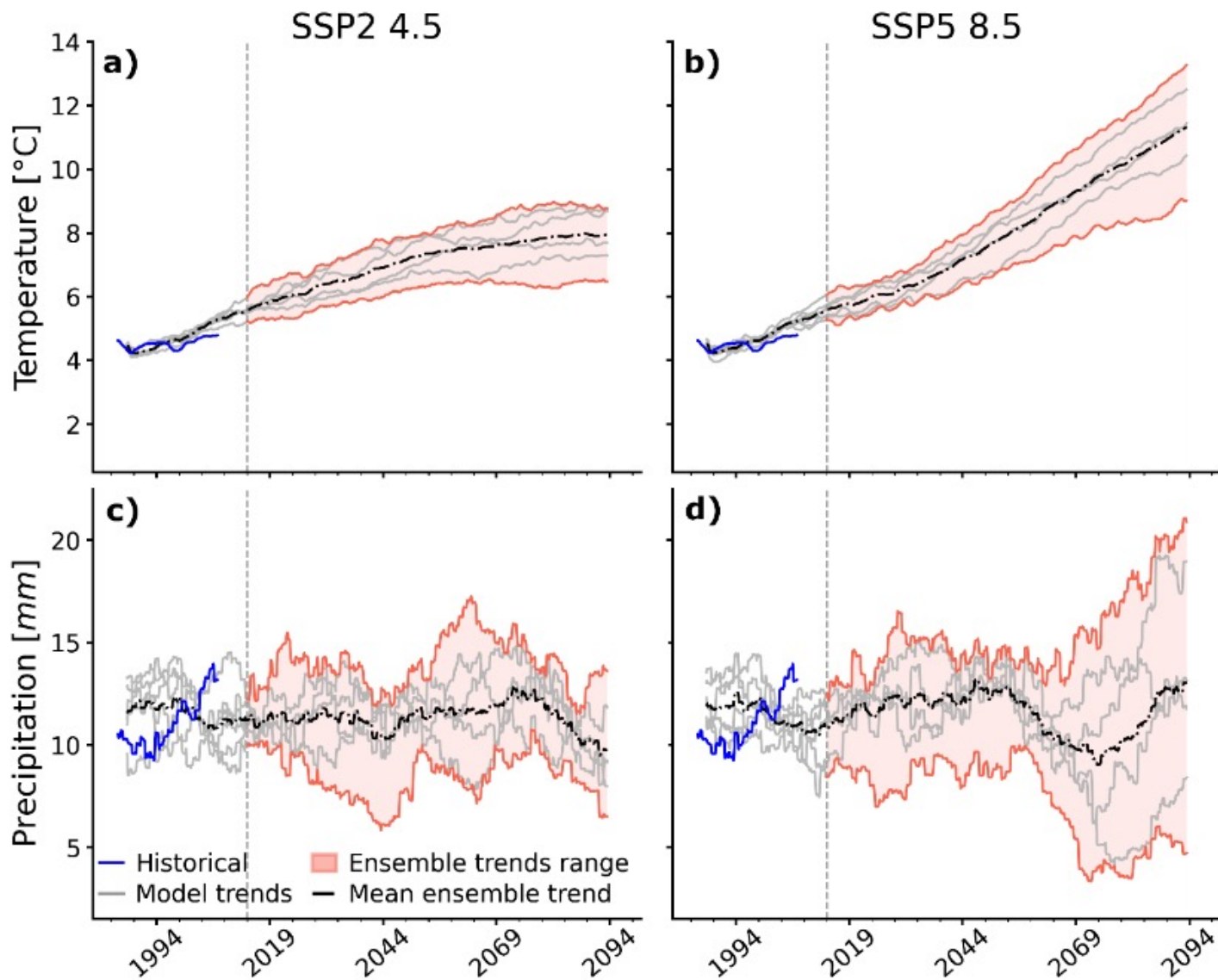
↑4 – 4.3°C



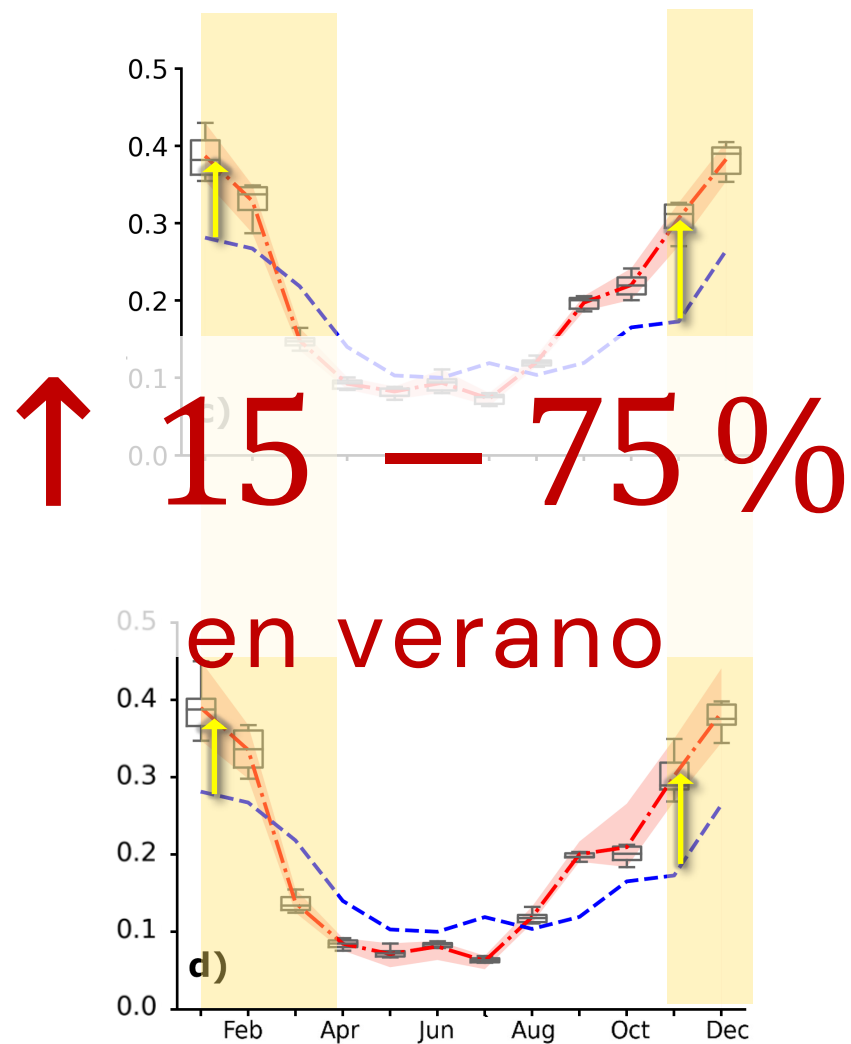
High mitigation challenges



Presenting the results



Evaporación desde la napa



Key Recommendations

+ + +

- **Climate change incorporation into studies:**
 - Model selection based on performance and raw GCM signal
 - Bias-correction method based on the nature of the variable in the study area
 - Use of ensembles
 - Provide ranges of change

02

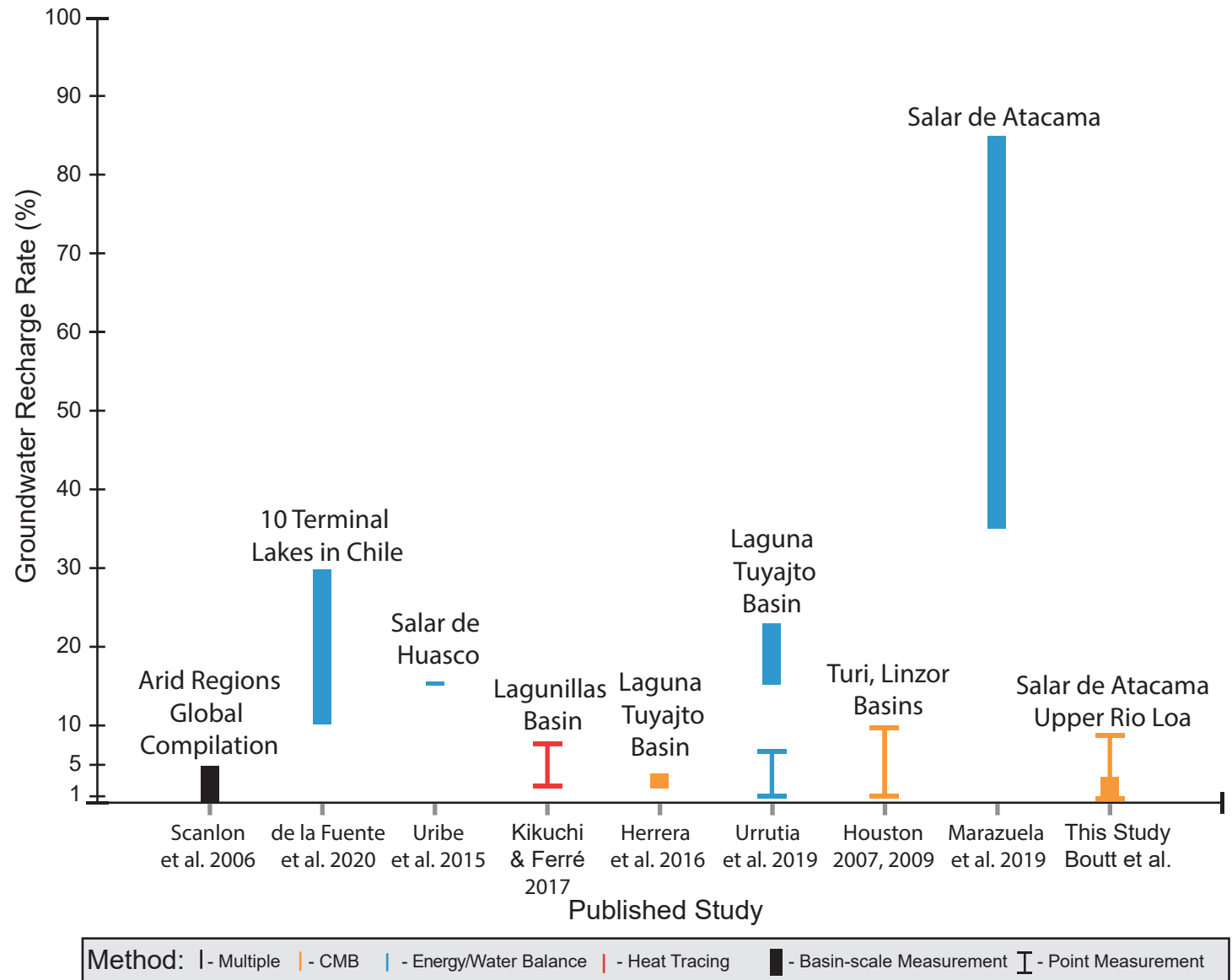
Improving the work done to date

Constraining Recharge Rates

Large Uncertainty in actual basin recharge

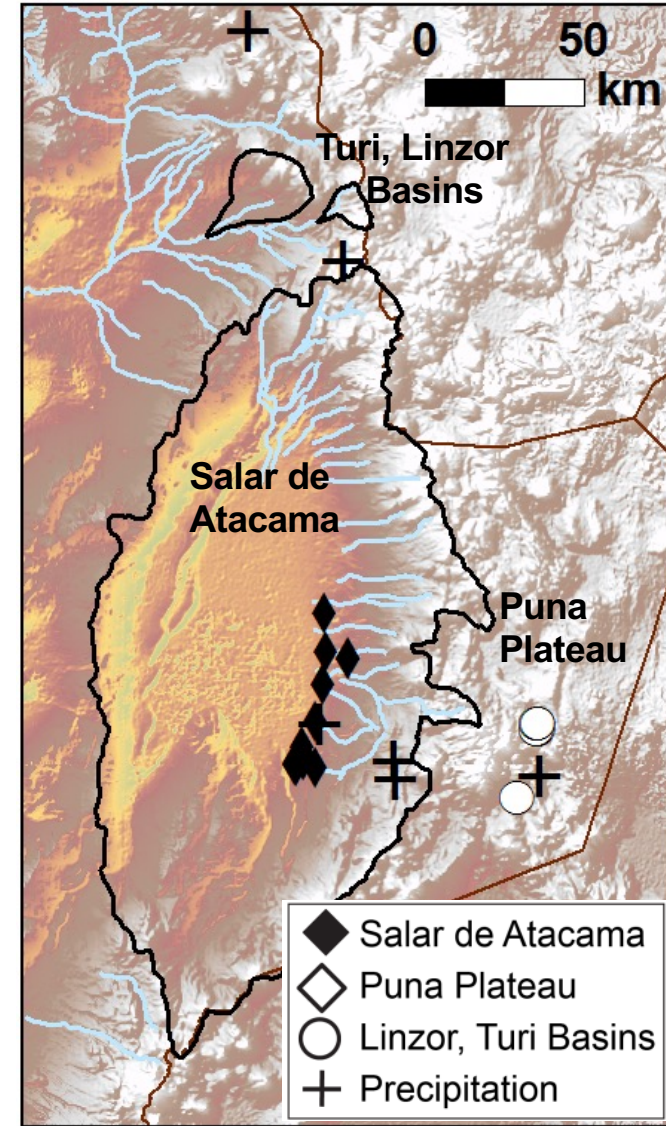
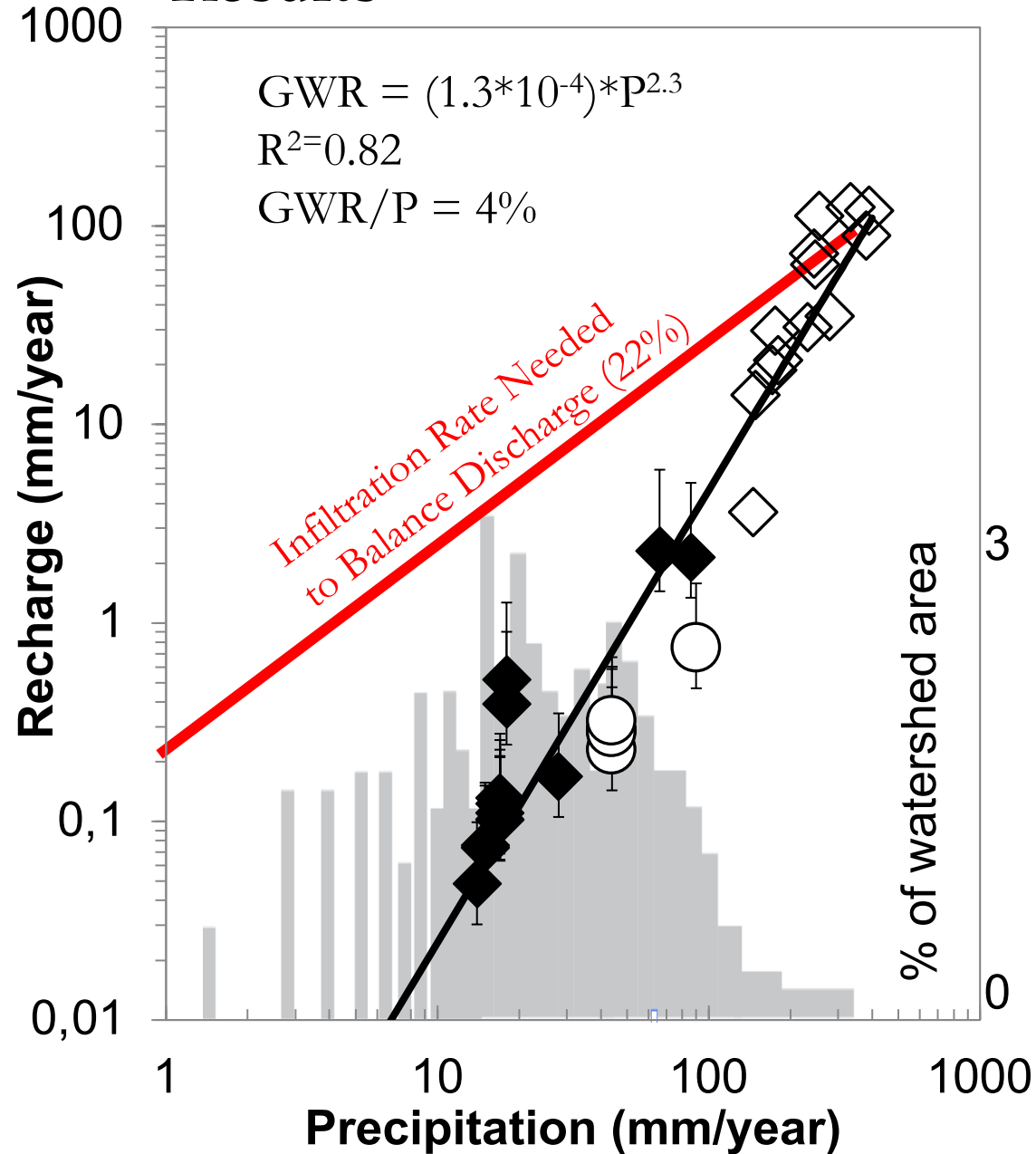
Boutt et al (2021) documents these estimates

Integrated tracer work with infiltration modeling must be explored



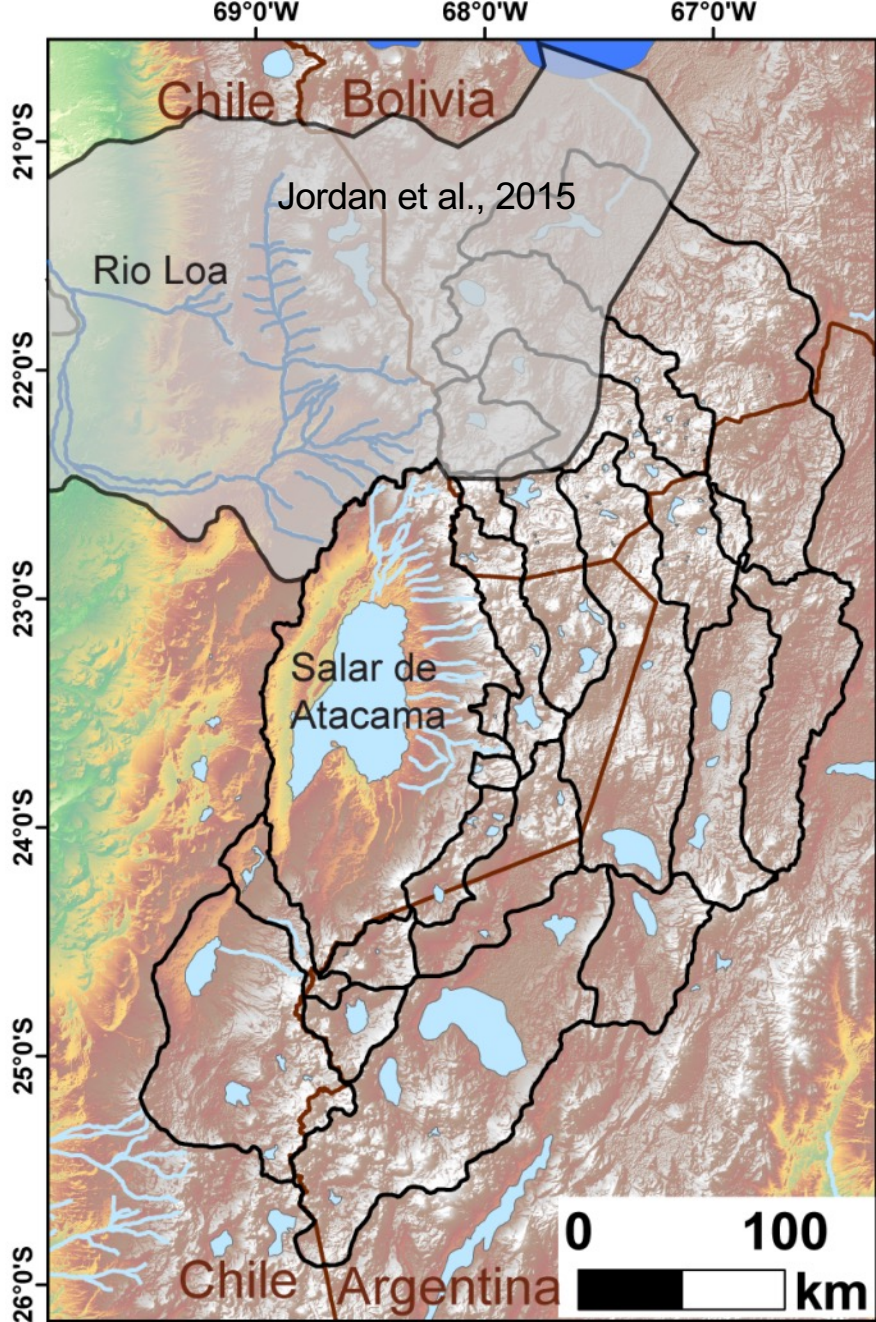
Chloride Mass Balance Recharge

Results

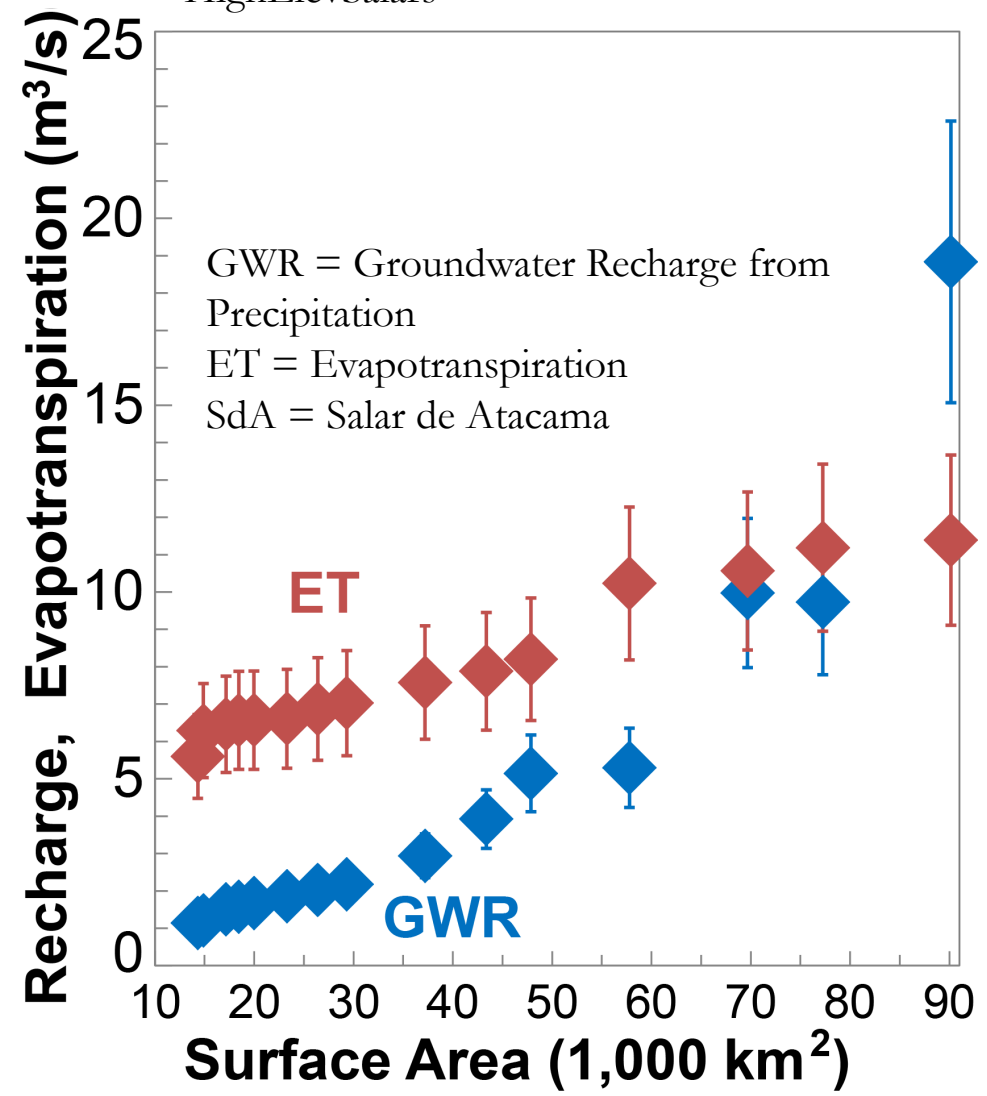


Puna Plateau: *Cervetto, 2012*

Turi and Linzor: *Houston, 2007, 2009*



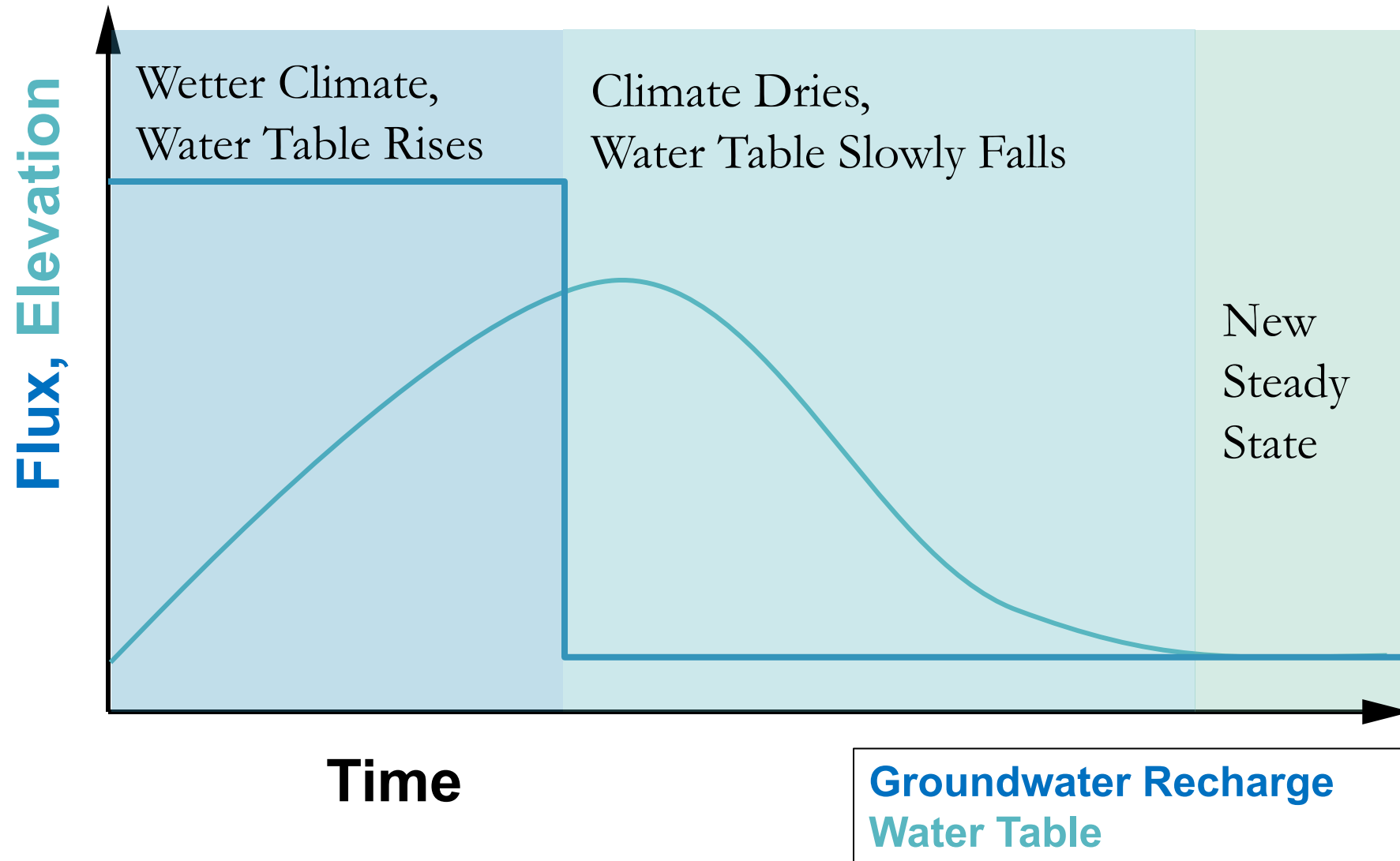
$$GWR - ET_{SdA} - ET_{HighElevSalars} = 0$$






Steady State Regional Flow?

TRANSIENT DRAINING OF STORED GROUNDWATER

$$\text{GWR} - \text{ET} = \text{Storage} \neq 0$$



What is the hydrologically effective area of a catchment?

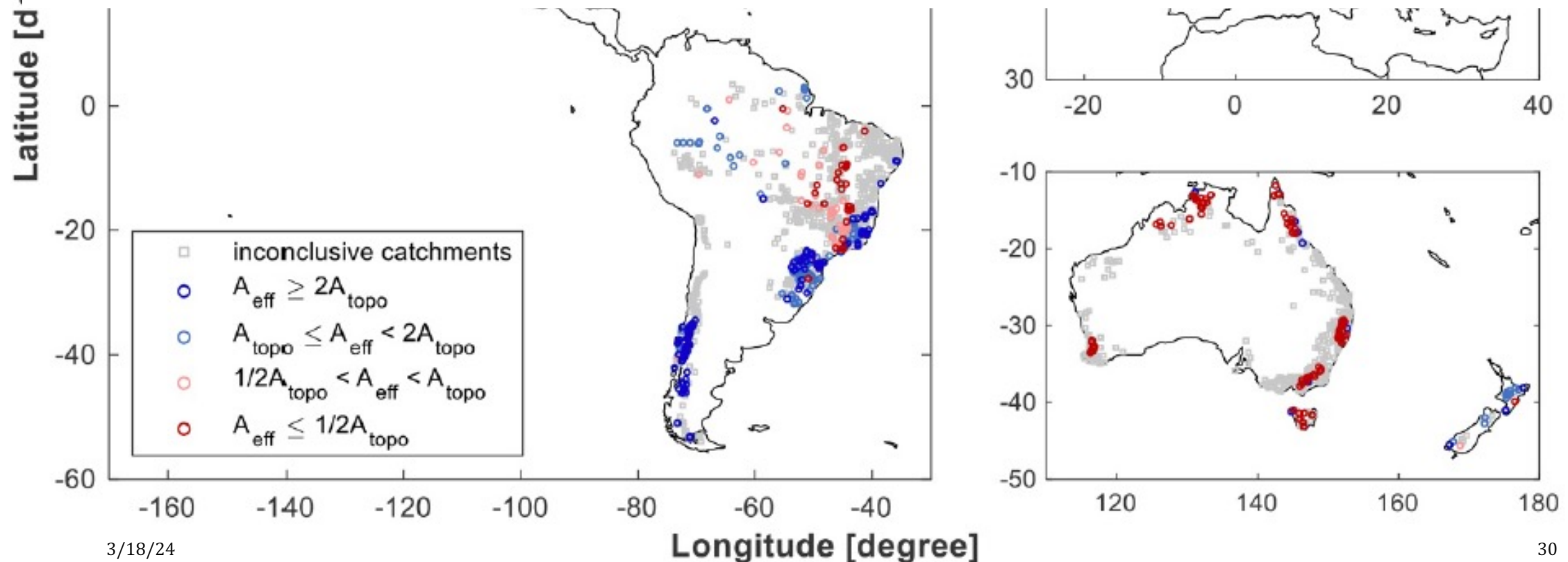
Yan Liu¹ , Thorsten Wagener^{2,3} , Hylke E Beck⁴ and Andreas Hartmann^{1,2} 

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Recharge Is Most Sensitive To Climate Change

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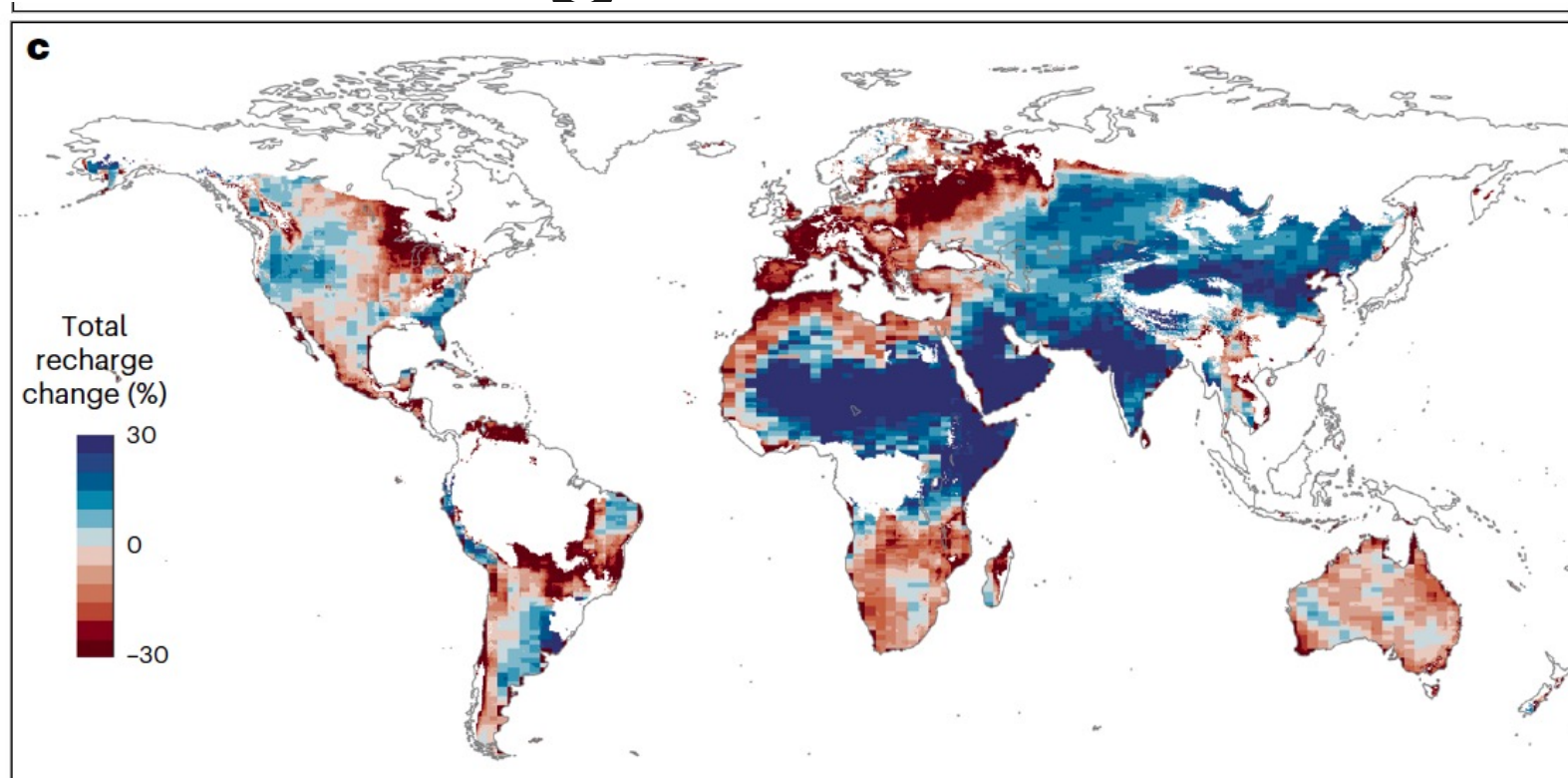
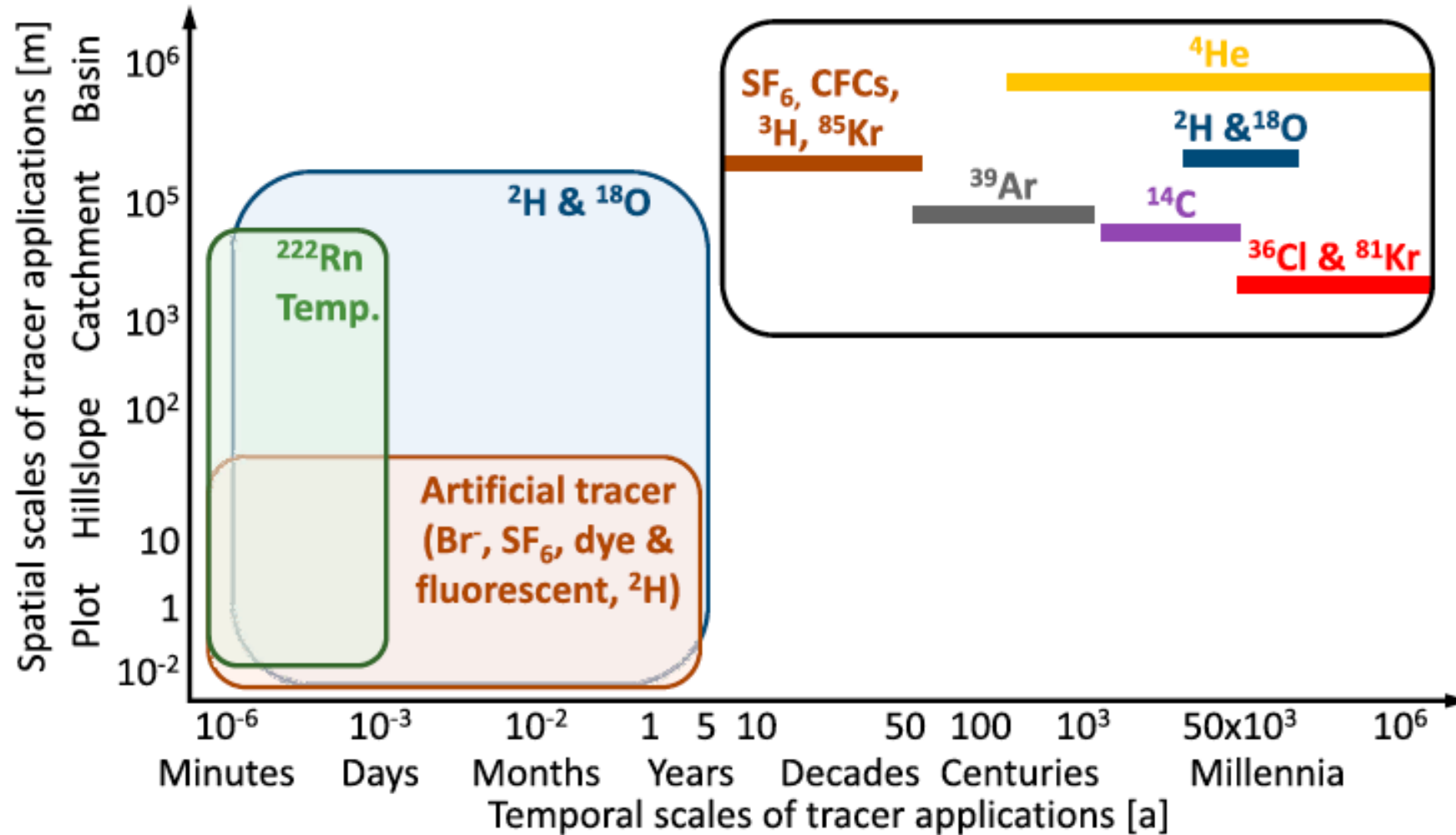


Fig. 4 | Impacts of projected climate changes on groundwater recharge.

Projected relative recharge changes (2050–2080 versus 1980–2010) (%) induced by changes in precipitation (a), potential evaporation (b) and climatic aridity (c). Results are depicted for SSP1–2.6, but comparable regional changes occur for other scenarios (SSP5–8.5) (Extended Data Fig. 2), with largely similar regional

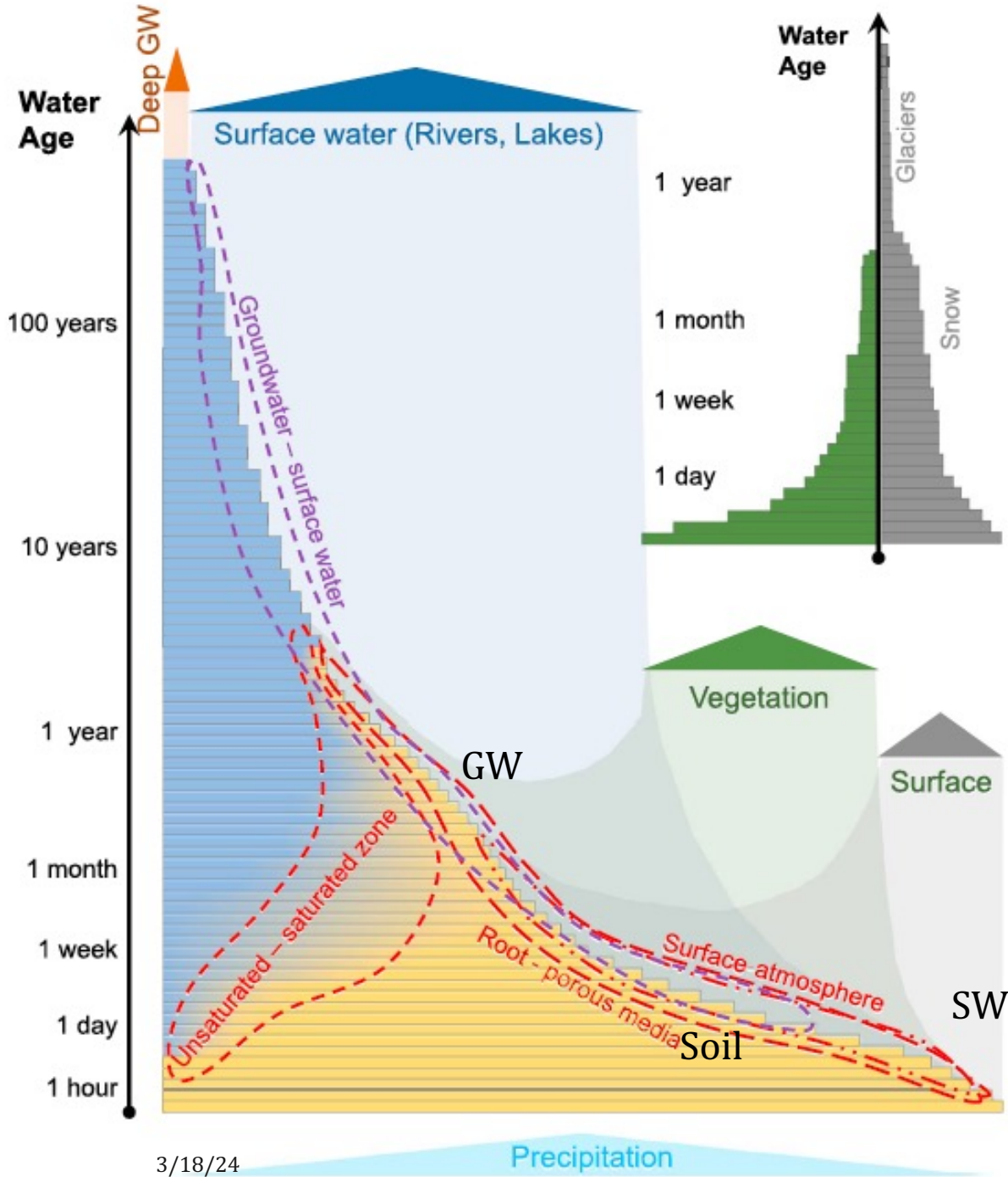
patterns. Projected precipitation increases are more common in regions with relatively high recharge sensitivity, whereas projected precipitation decreases are more common in areas with a relatively low recharge sensitivity, leading to typically larger relative recharge changes for the wetting regions than for the drying locations.

Common Environmental Tracers



Sprenger, M. et al. (2019). The demographics of water: A review of water ages in the critical zone. *Reviews of Geophysics*, 57.

WHAT DO ENVIRONMENTAL TRACERS TELL US ABOUT WATER “AGES”?



Sprenger, M. et al. (2019).
 The demographics of
 water: A review of water
 ages in the critical zone.
 Reviews of Geophysics, 57.

Key Recommendations

+ + +

- **Concerted effort must be placed on quantifying recharge to basin**
 - Multimethod approach must be used
 - Integrating physical and chemical tracers
 - Developing models that bound possible future recharge scenarios