

de nos attentes à nos actions sous le changement climatique

# Water in mountains and responsible development:

from expectations to actions under climate change



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#### **AIMS**

- What are our expectations concerning water resources under climate change?
- How does water use fit into the current issue of climate-neutral role models?
- Suggest how to best adapt to rapid climate and socio-economic change

# Problem: climate change



> in snow-line altitude

< in reservoir levels

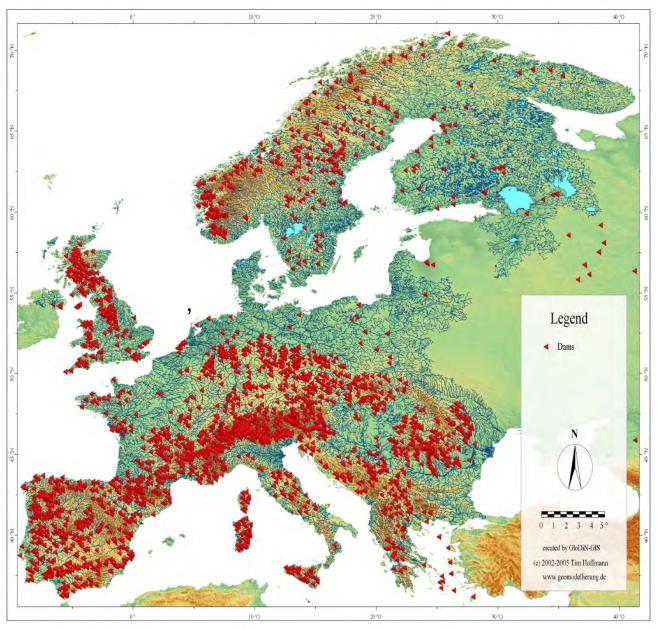
#### Water scarcity in dam reservoirs

(lack of input discharge and/or extreme evaporation and over-use)



Dried up Sylvenstein reservoir, Bavaria, April 2007

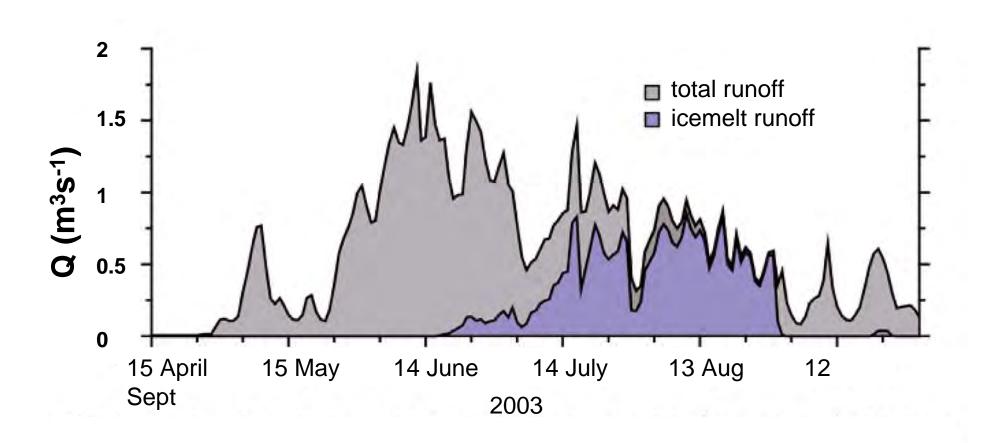
#### Distribution of dams in Europe

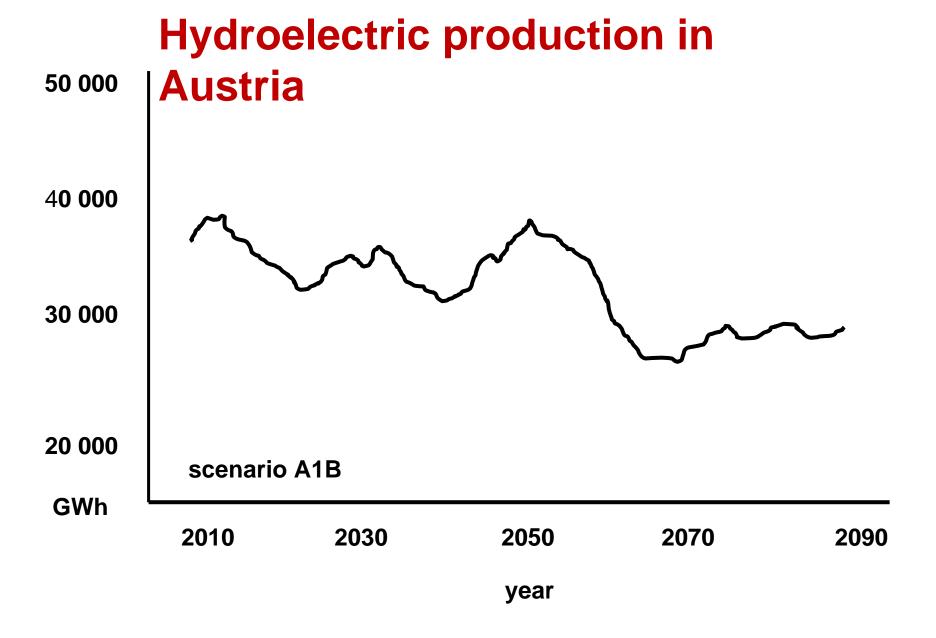


(Rödel and Hoffmann 2005 based on ICOLD database 1998)

#### Simulated Daily Average Flow

(from Goldbergkees Glacier, Austria)



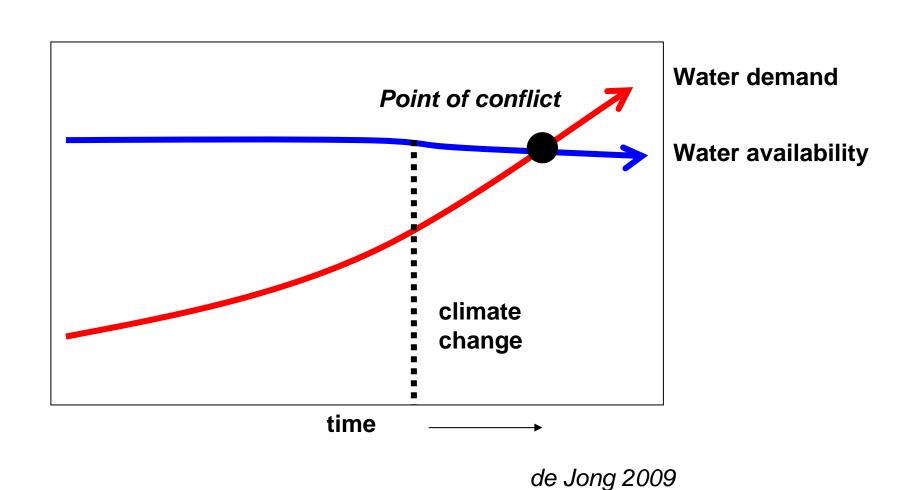


# Problem: human pressures

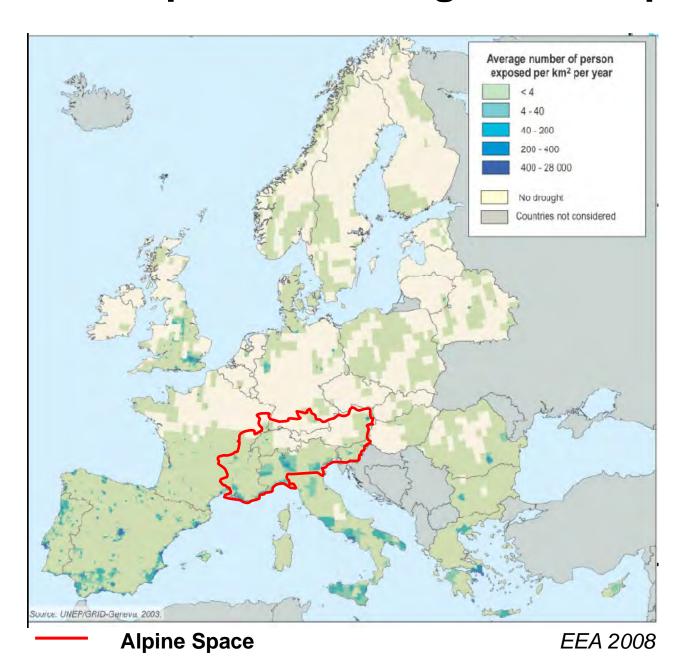


Water conflicts drinking water / tourism

# Projection of water availability and water demand as a function of time

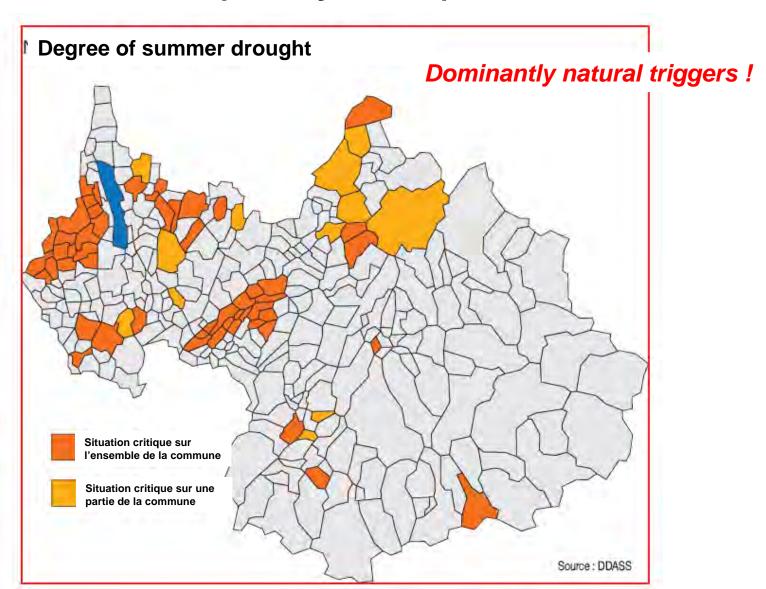


#### Population exposed to drought in Europe 2003



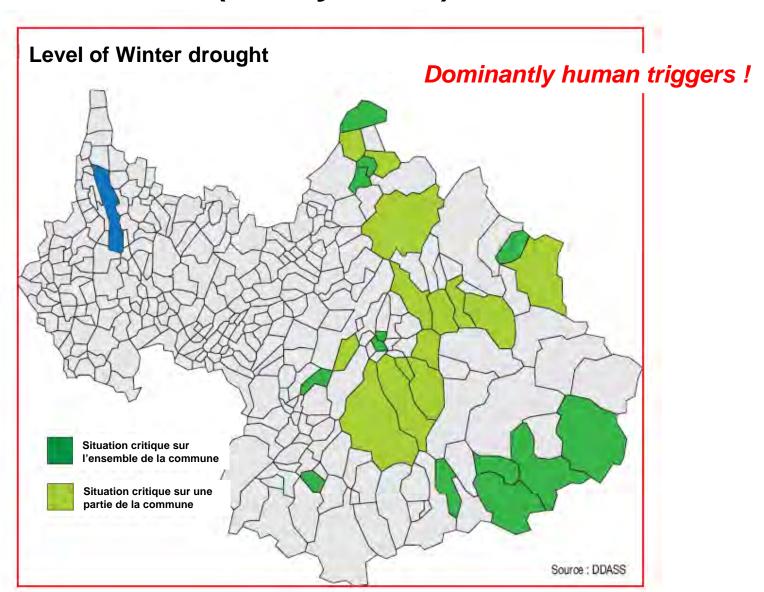
## **Summer drought**

(Savoy, 2003)

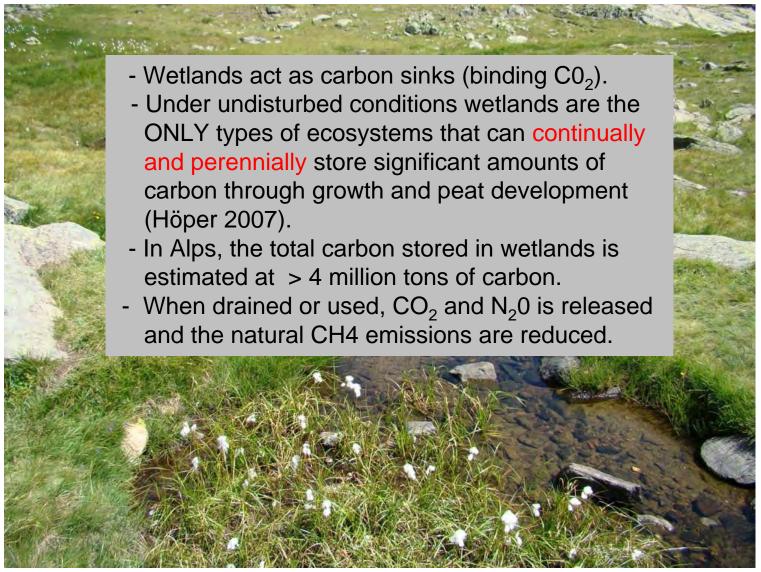


# **Winter Drought**

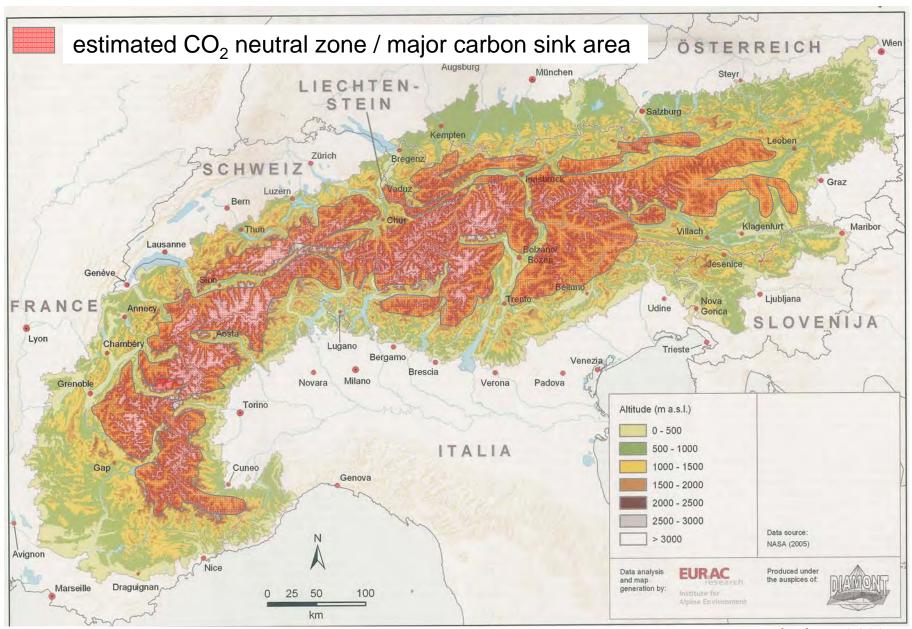
(Savoy, 2003)



#### The role of wetlands as carbon sinks



#### The concept of carbon neutral Alps



#### Newspaper article of 20 September 2010



## Artificial snow requires much water

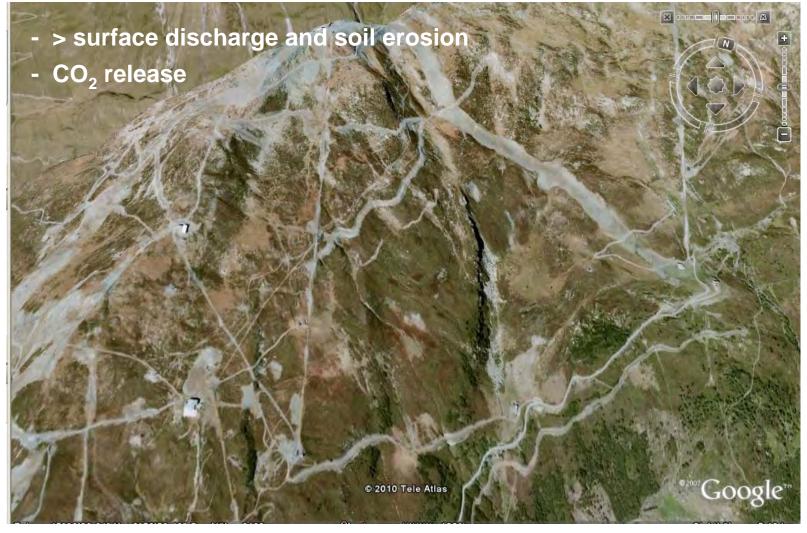


Zermatt 2007

# Man-made soil destruction releasing CO<sup>2</sup> approx. 4200 tonnes of carbon released

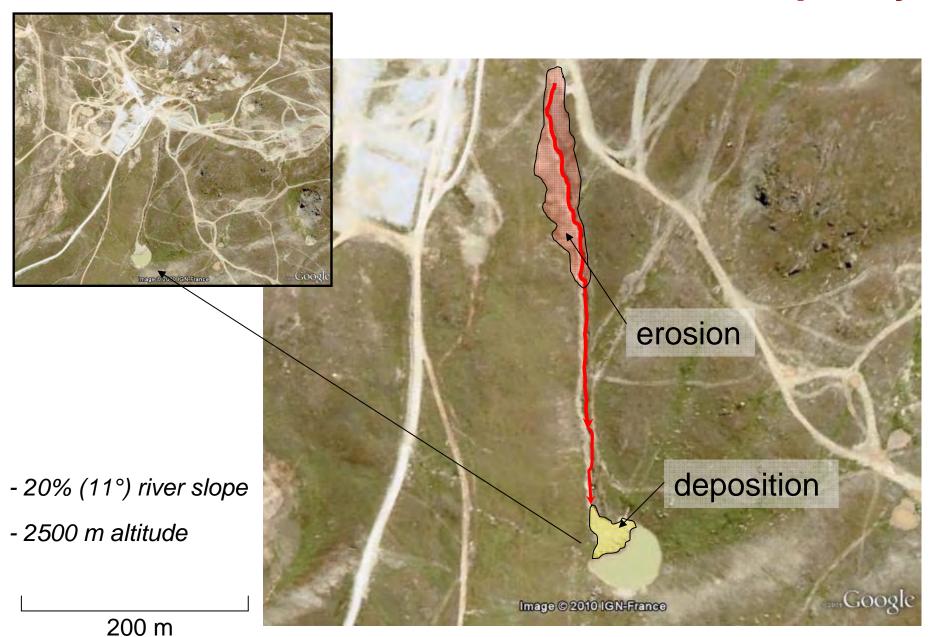


# High density construction of lifts, roads and ski runs

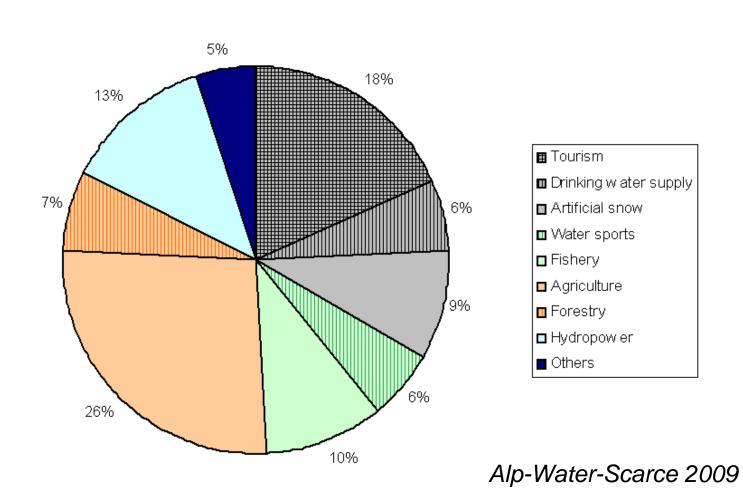


La Rossière, French Alps

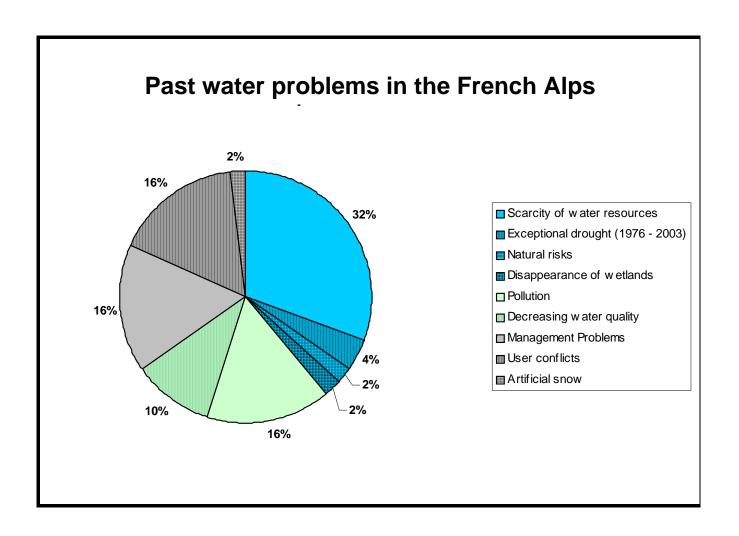
#### Road Erosion and influence on water quality



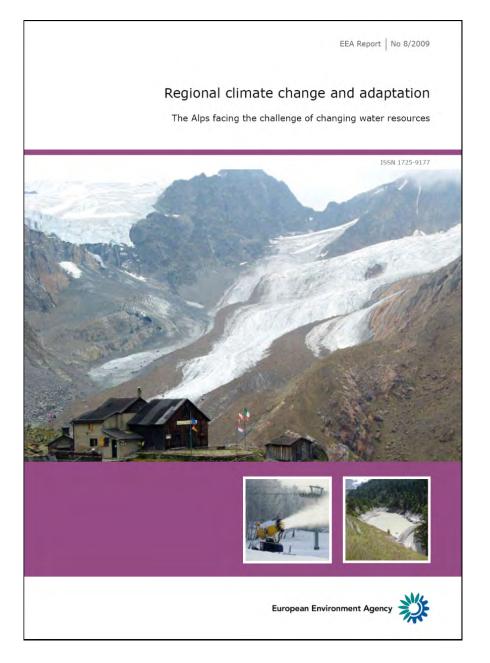
# Sectors influenced by water problems in the Alps



#### **Reasons for Water Problems**



# (Mal) Adaptation to climate change



#### The Farm Chamouset in Savoy, French Alps



## **Agri-toursim**



de Jong 2010

#### Natural agriculture in French Alps



## Cheeze cooling with wood chips





Absorbtion chiller with biomass Entlebucher Speciality Cheeze, Switzerland



#### Human Intuitiveness and Adaptation



CONSERVE WATER SHOWER WITH ME

de Jong 2010

#### CONCLUSIONS

- Water Scarcity in Mountains (especially Alps) is already a problem in certain hotpots over space and time and is expected to become a crucial issue in the future
- The potential of climate-neutral Alps is high and will require re-thinking water use, re-use and protection of water resources using interdisciplinary approaches of diversification
- Transboundary water management plans supported by EU funding, labelling and regulations have to be rapidly put into place and extended