Water resources, scarcity and climate change. The case of Spain

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Introduction

Evidence and climatic projections suggest that water resources will be seriously affected by climate change in EU areas prone to water scarcity and droughts.



Source: 5th Evaluation Report (AR5) (IPCC, 2014)



EU projects in water COPERNICUS Programme

EDGE project

Object: A pan-European hydroclimate impact indicators to users of the water sector to help them improve decision making as regards mitigation and adaptation strategies facing climate change.

EDgE will provide CC predictions and seasonal forecast for Europe

MENBO is a partner of the project





Climate scenarios of the Spanish Meteorological Service

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http://www.aemet.es

Droughts, scarcity and climate change

In Spain, the CC impacts will be aggravated in regions affected by frequent droughts and water scarcity and thus it will cause imbalances between water demand and resources.



Map of reduction of runoff with a decrease of 5% in the mean annual precipitation and increase of 1°C in the temperature (MMA, 2000)





DILIURA, ALIMENTACIÓN MBIENTE CONFEDERACIÓN HIDROGRÁFICA DEL JÚCAR Map of Water Exploitation Index in Spanish water resource systems (MMA, 2000)

Detecting effects of climate change

- Detecting CC effects on water resources is not an easy task.
- The natural variability of the hydrological regime and the abstractions for water uses makes it difficult to establish trends.





Hydrological modelling

•Need to evaluate the impact of climate change on water resources through hydrological modelling.

- Inputs: scenarios of climate change(P, T)
- Outputs: runoff, evapotranspiration, river inflows, aquifers recharge, soil moisture..



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First studies about impact on water resources





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The Spanish Plan of Adaptation to CC

- Study of potential effects of climate change on:
 - The water resources in a natural regime
 - The water demands (irrigation, urban supply and industry)
 - The available water resources in the water resources systems.
 - The ecological status of water bodies.
- The Centre for Hydrographical Studies of CEDEX has carried out these studies for Directorate General for Water.



Impacts on water resources

- Distributed hydrological model SIMPA (CEDEX, 1995)
- Inputs to the model:
 Regionalised climate scenarios
 provided by the Spanish
 Meteorological Agency, AEMET
- Outputs from the model: monthly maps of river inflows, aquifers recharge, actual evapotranspiration, soil moisture... with a resolution of 1 km x 1km





• Scenario A2: reduction of runoff of 8% over the period 2011-2040, 16% between 2041-2070 and of 28% for the period 2071-2100.

•Scenario B2: reduction of runoff of 8% over the period 2011-2040, 11% during 2041-2070 and of 14% between 2071-2100.



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Impacts on water resources



Current Water Exploitation Index (WEI)

Water Exploitation Index (WEI) 2041-2070 Scenario A2



The climate change in the water planning

In Spain, the **RBMPs** have considered the effects of climate change on natural water resources, as it is required in the Regulation of Hydrological Planning.



Scenario 3 includes, with respect to scenario 2, the effect of the reduction of inflows due to climate change and water reuse and modernisation of irrigation measures.



The way forward

- To make studies and information about climate change and effects available and accessible to all stake-holders.
- To incorporate the studies on the effects of the water demands and on the ecological status of water bodies in the river basin management plans.
- Develop studies in order to link the programme of measures of the plans to the impacts of Climate Change.



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