

**Por lo
demás,
todo lo que
atañe el agua
es poético
y nunca deja
de
inquietarnos**

*La jonction,
in:
Atlante,
Jorge Luis
Borges,
1984*



UNIVERSITIES
FOR EXPO 2015
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
CITY OF MILAN



POLITECNICO
DI MILANO



cmcc
Centro Euro-Mediterraneo
sui Cambiamenti Climatici



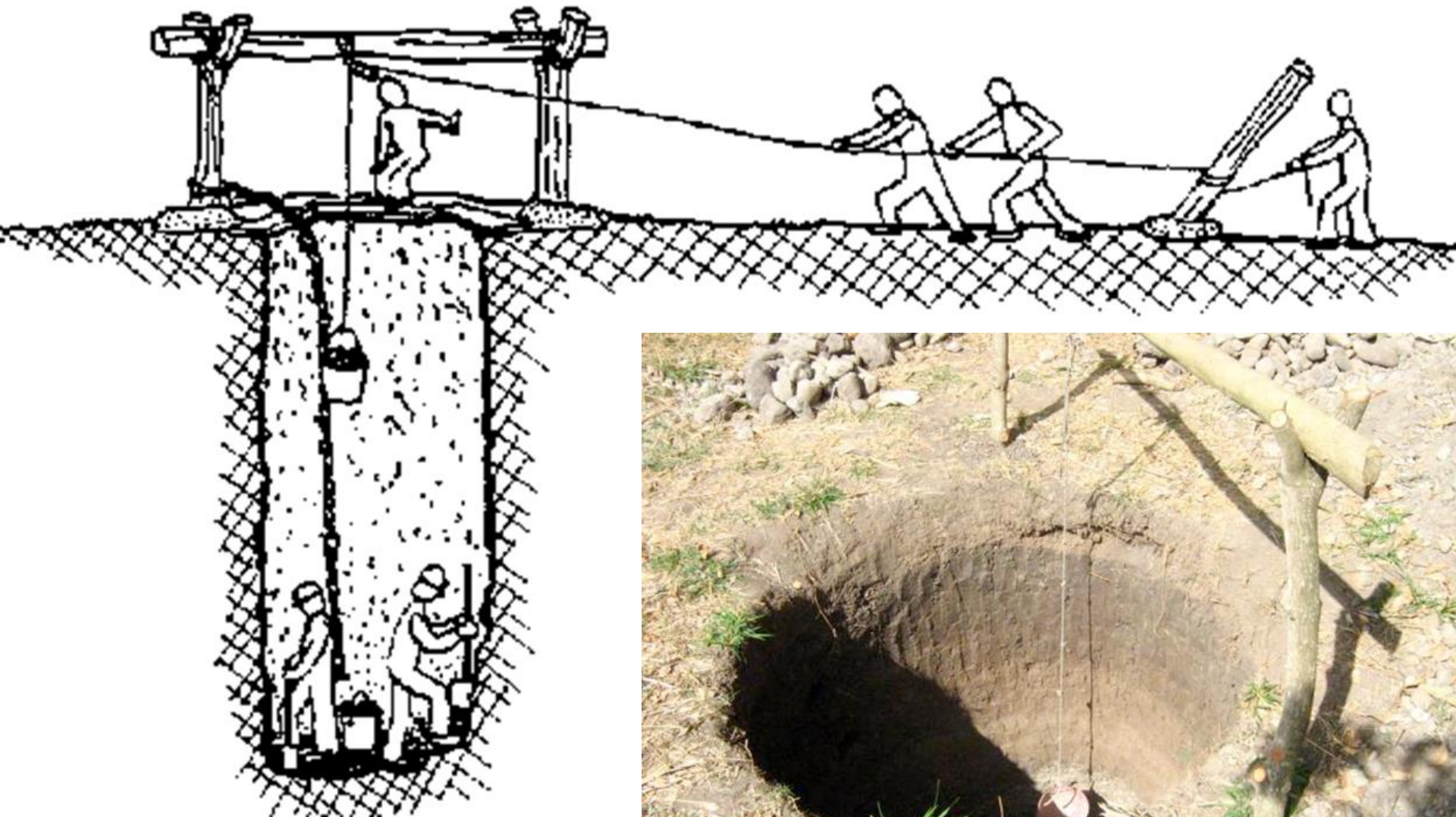
CoNISMa
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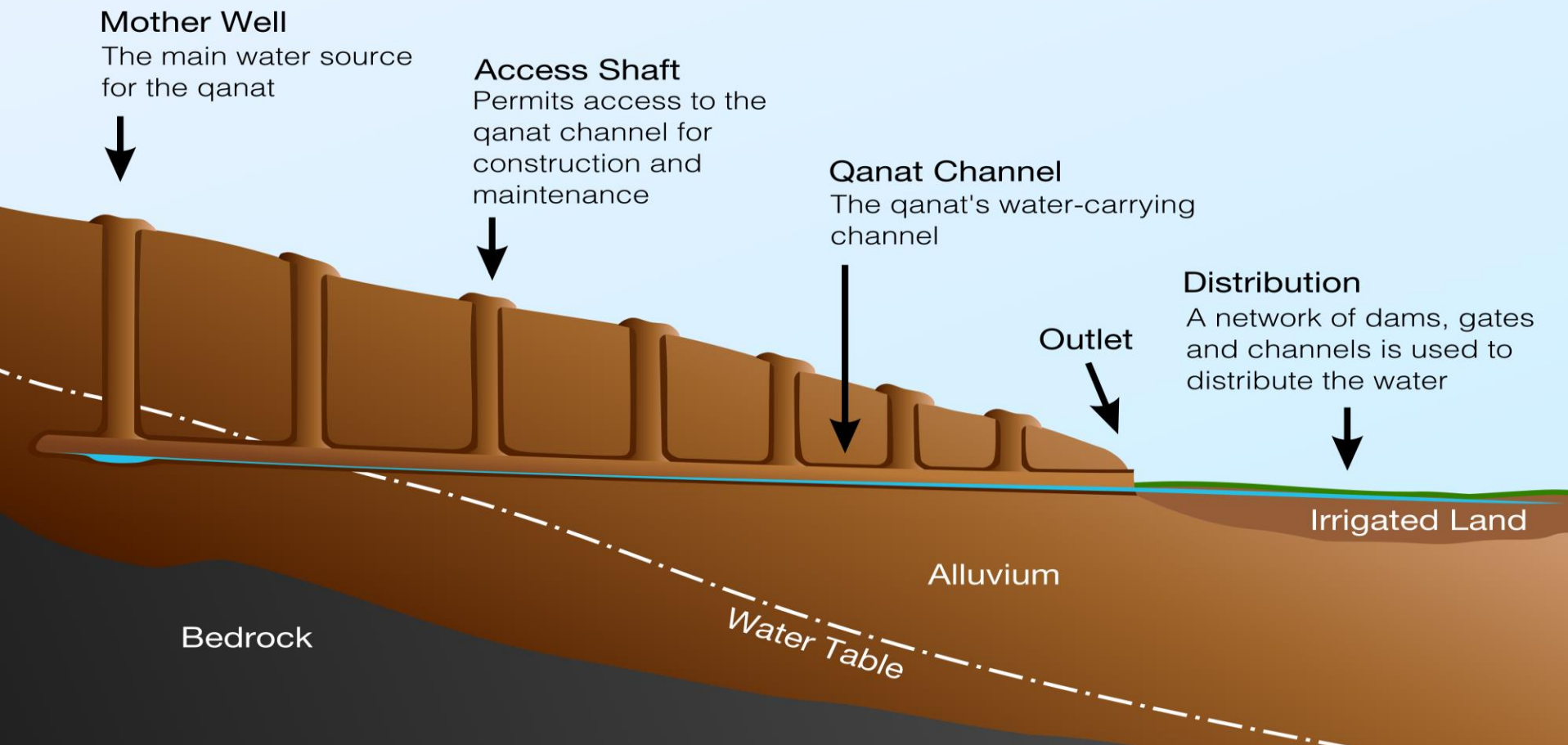


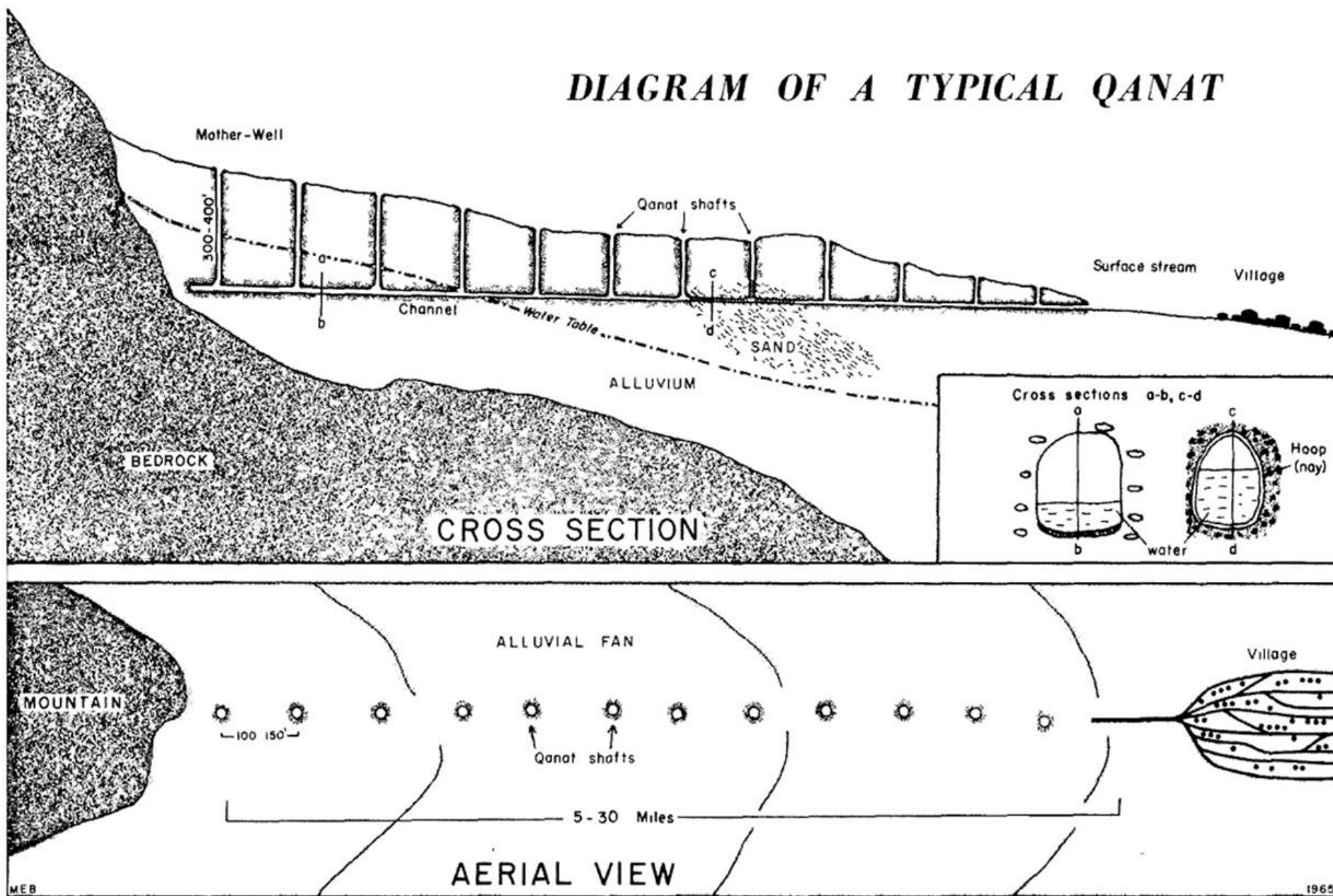
ISTITUTO LOMBARDO
ACCADEMIA
DI SCIENZE E LETTERE











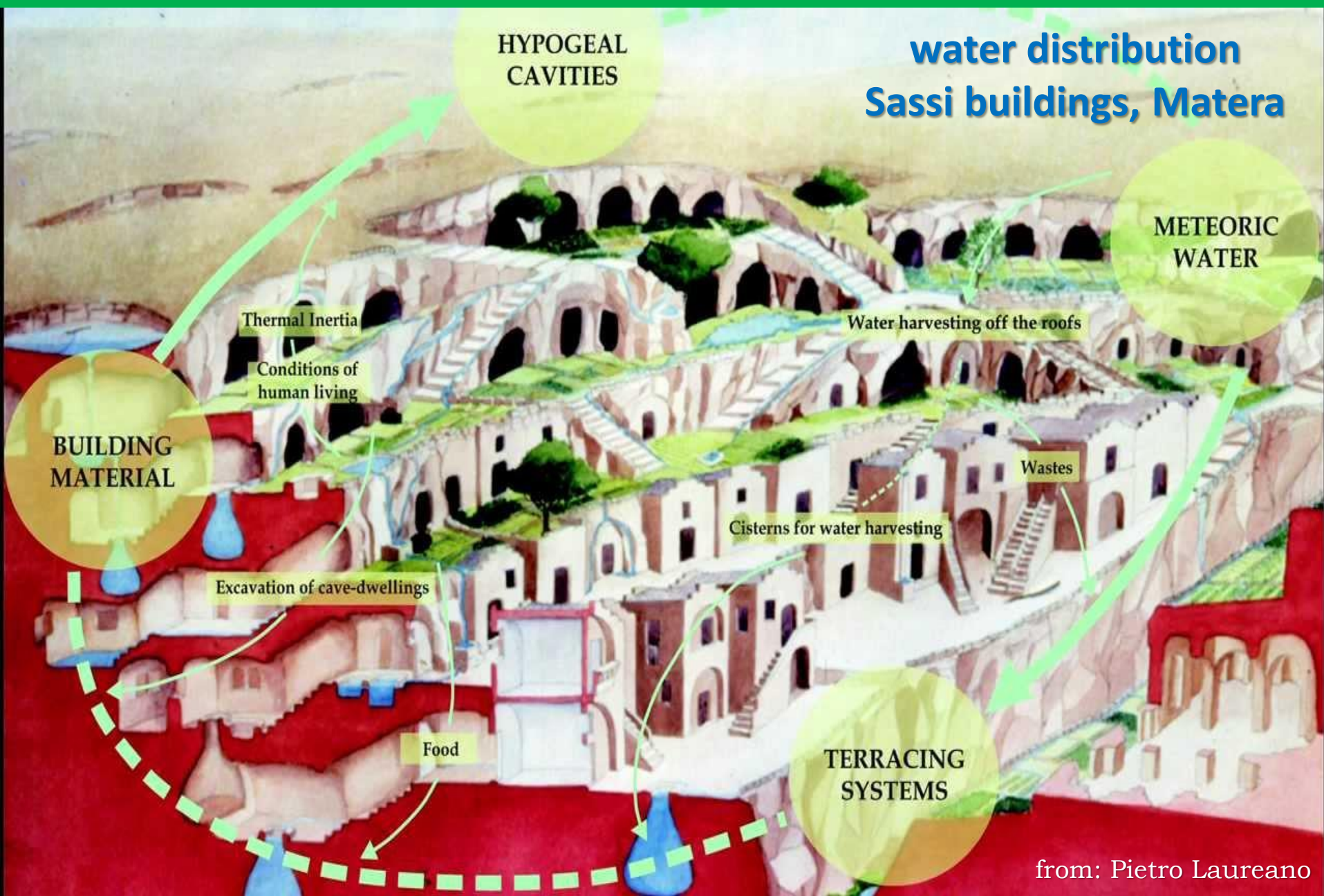


Anshan qanat (Iran) seen from the air (estimated 1000 BC)

water distribution in a sub-saharian oasis khattara eco museum, morocco

Pietro Laureano

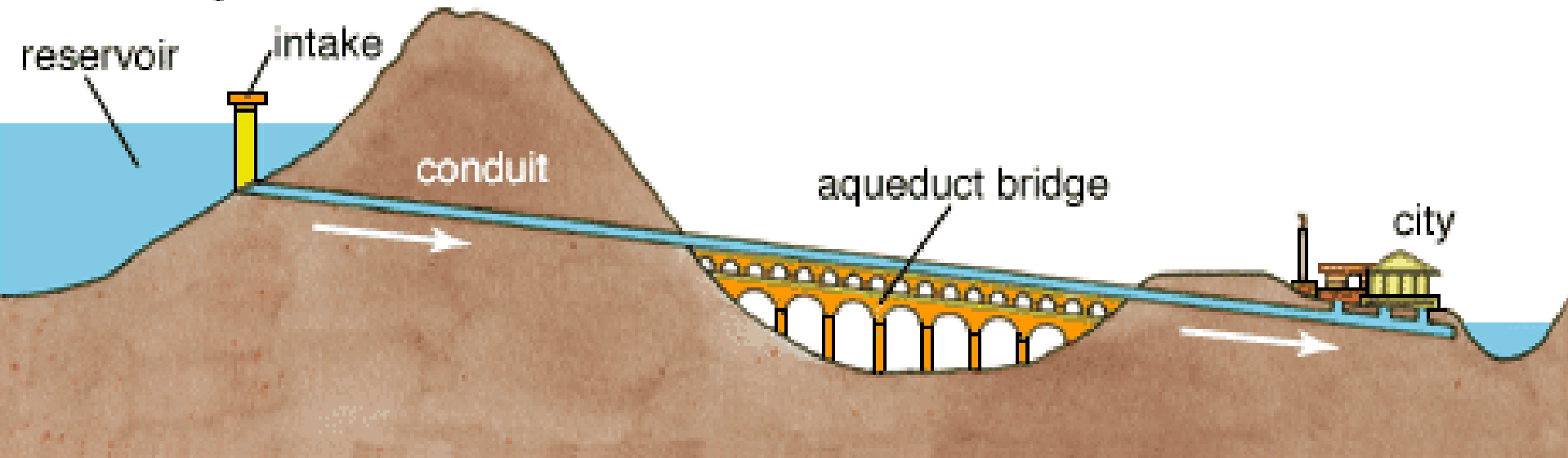




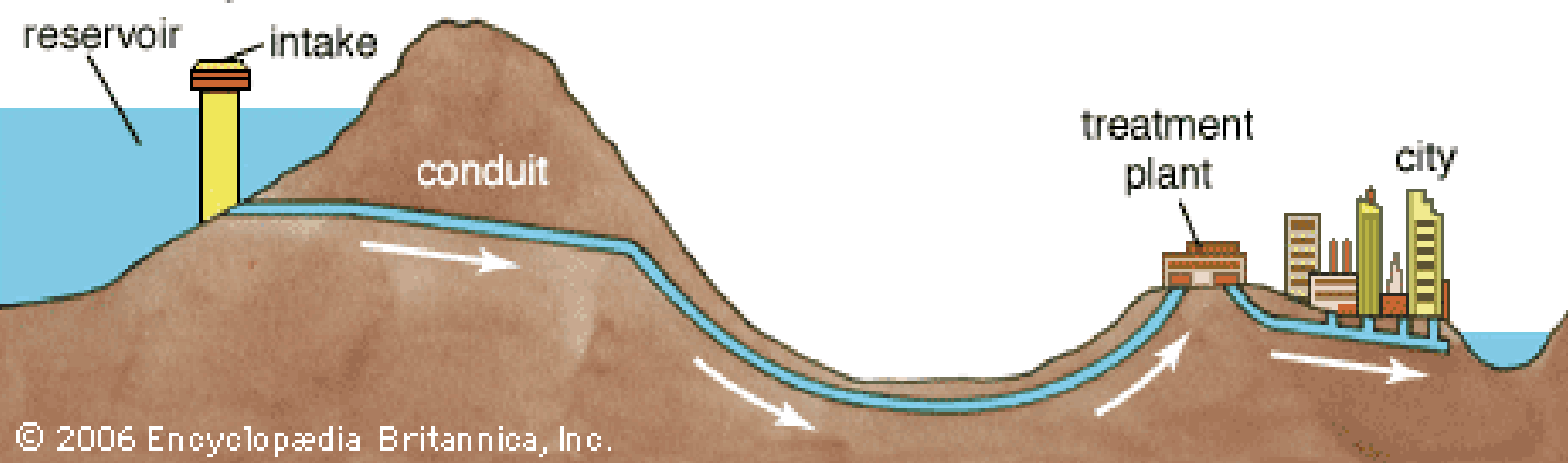


The Segovia Aqueduct (Spain)
erected in the 1st century AC

Roman Aqueduct



Modern Aqueduct



© 2006 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.



The Cornalvo Dam (Spain) was erected in the 1st–2nd century AD

water availability and consumption

Although the Earth has **35 million cubic kilometres of freshwater**, it is unevenly distributed across the planet or is located in areas that are expensive to tap or access: 70% is trapped in the form of ice or snow, or deep underground.

The remaining **11 million cubic kilometres** of readily **available freshwater** reserves are under increasing stress: human freshwater usage has tripled in the past 50 years alone.

Today, there are roughly **700 million people** across **43 countries** living in regions with **severe water scarcity**



water availability and consumption, 2

Water is a unique natural resource with the capacity to become **renewable**: water that has been “consumed” is not lost to the hydrologic cycle or to its future use – it is simply **recycled by natural systems**.

Therefore **consumptive uses** of water only refer to uses of water that make water unavailable for **immediate** or **short-term reuse** (evaporated, transpired, incorporated to crops or consumed).

While water can eventually be recovered for future use and even desalinated, population growth, urbanization and modernization **demand** that policy-makers be prepared to respond to inextricably linked and time-sensitive water and **food** and **energy security** concerns.



stress e scarsità

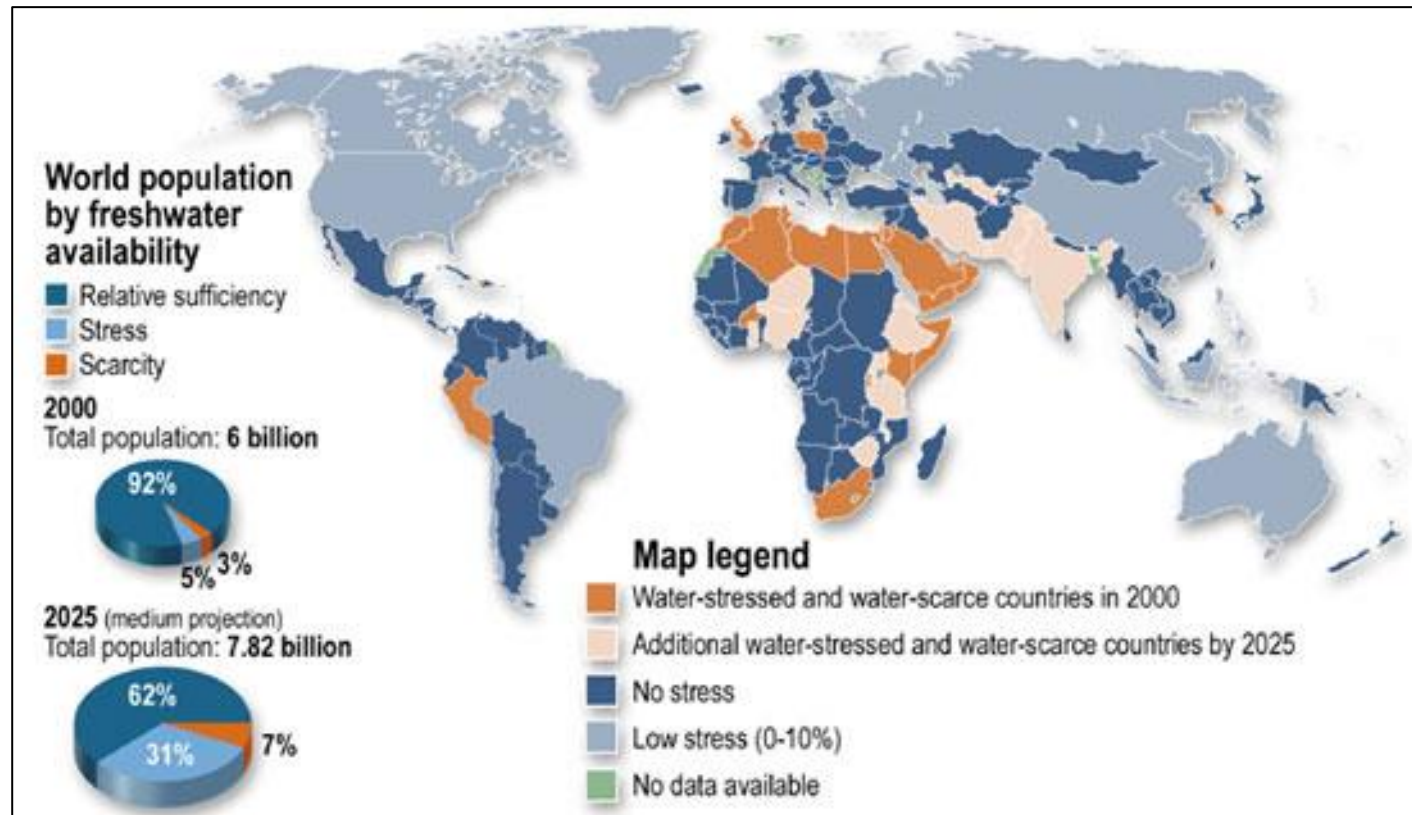
water stress = freshwater availability < **1,700 m³/year per-capita**

water scarcity = freshwater availability < **1,000 m³/year per-capita**

absolute water scarcity = < **500 m³/year per-capita**

in next future **stress** & **scarcity** will spread around the world

PHYSICAL WATER SCARCITY



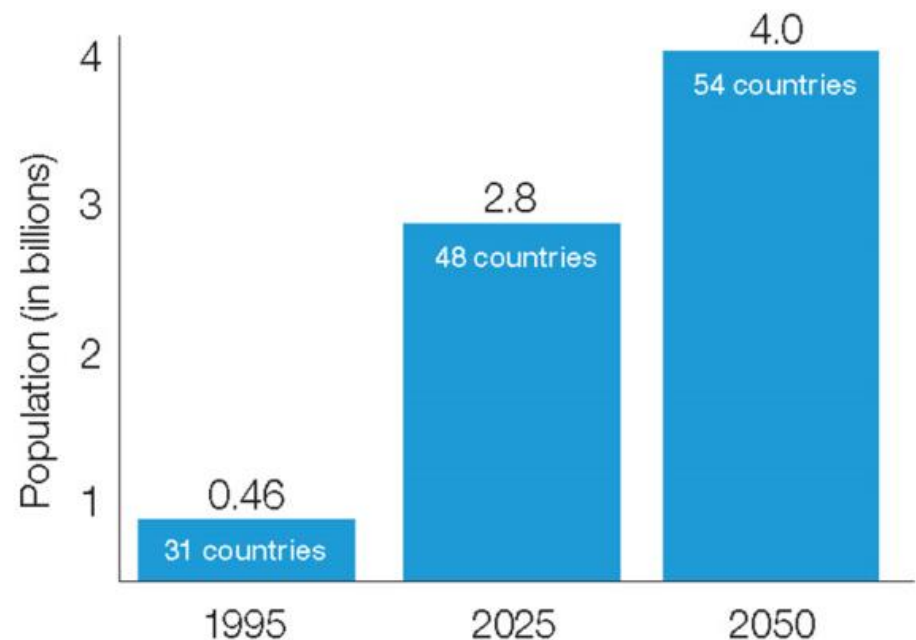
Following Population Action International, **more than 2.8 billion people in 48 countries** will face water scarcity scenarios starting from year 2025 as resulting from matching the projection of world population by United Nations with available freshwater resources,

40 countries out of 48 are in Western Asia, North Africa or Sub-Saharan Africa

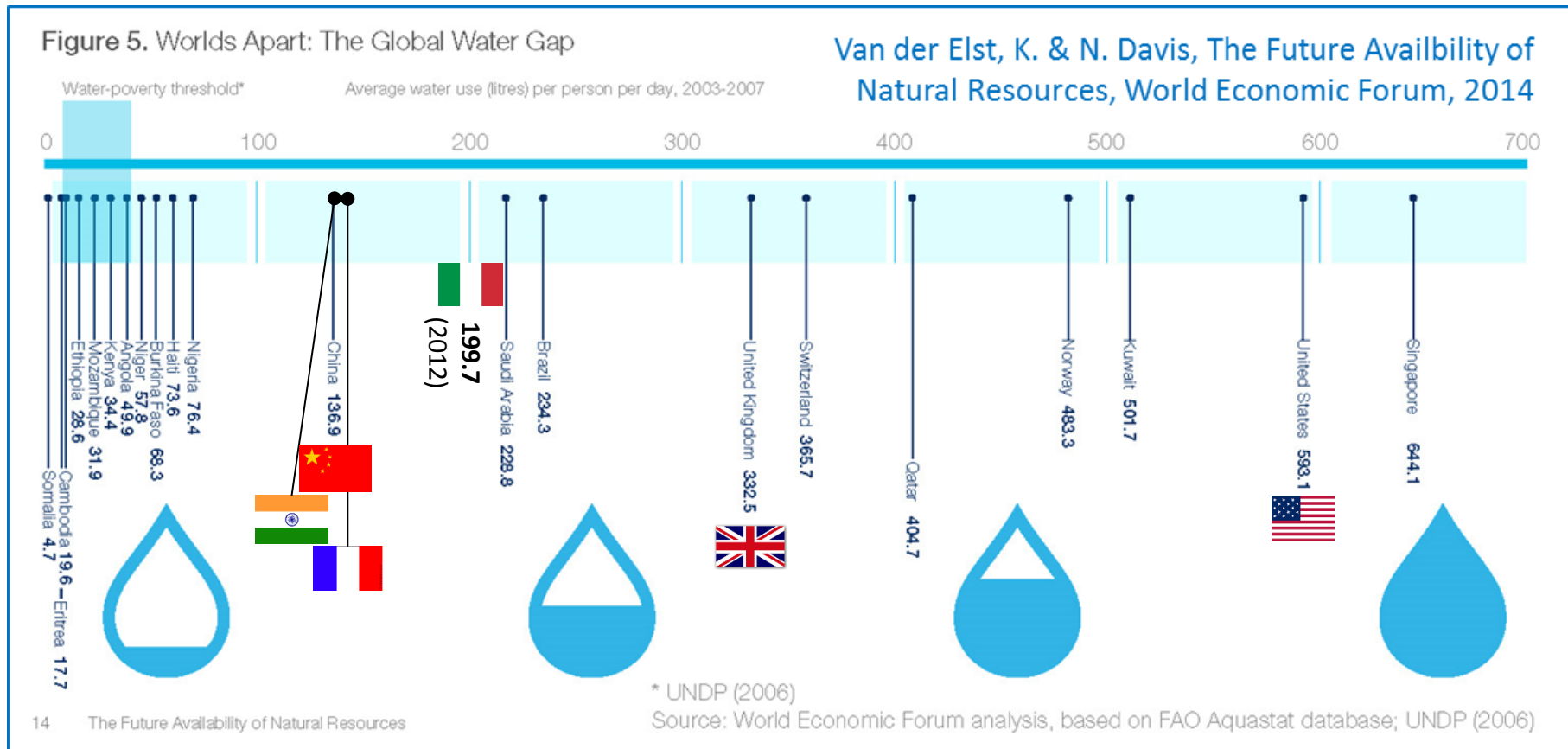
In year 2050, water scarcity scenarios could involve 54 countries, where 40% of world population will live

Figure 5: Water Scarcity and Stress

Population in water-scarce and water-stress countries, 1995-2050

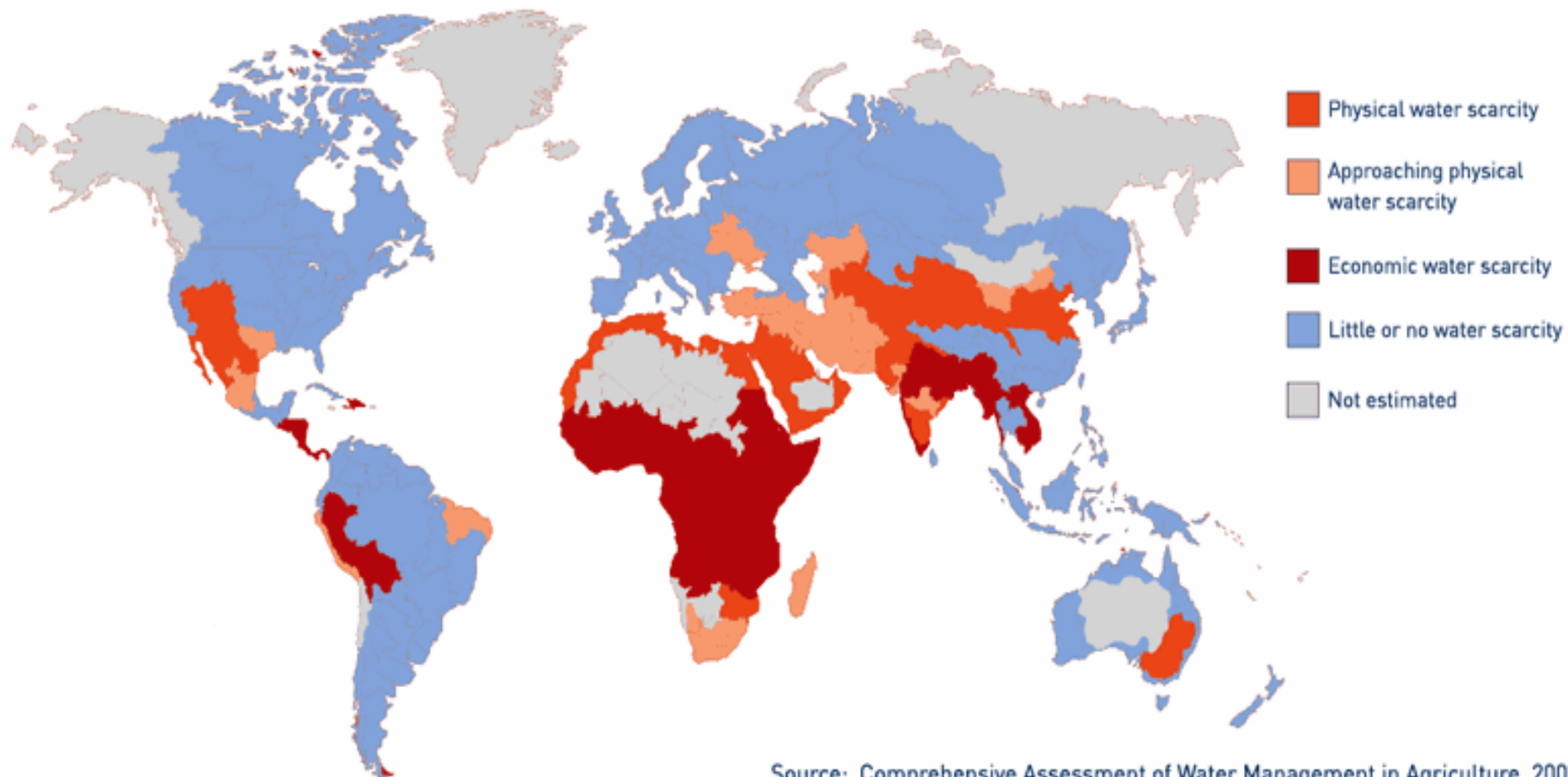


Focusing on absolute freshwater availability is a **weapon of mass distraction**, because the major issue is not only geographic distribution, but **social distribution** too within a given geographic unite



Current tenency of world population to increse networking amplifies people consciousness of inequality of distribution, so pushing towards ovecoming inequalities

WATER SCARCITY (physical and economic)



Source: Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, 2007

water and food

water and energy

water and climate

the role of water towers

water and the city



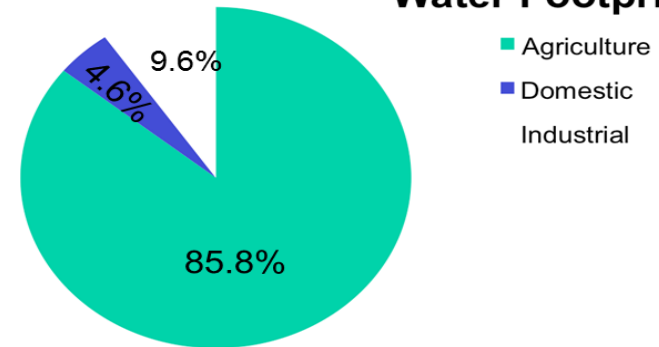
water and food

Major water use is associated with food production

Freshwater Withdrawal by Sector in 2000



Water Footprint



(Chapagain and Hoekstra, 2004)



Virtual Water

The **water footprint** is the amount of water you use in and around your home throughout the day

It includes the water you use directly (i.e., from a tap) and the water that is used to produce the food you eat, the products you buy, the energy you consume and even the water you save when you recycle

You may not drink, feel or see this virtual water, but it makes up the majority of your water footprint

(Allan, 1998)

Virtual Water, 2

HOW MUCH WATER GOES
INTO THE PRODUCTS WE USE

1608
LITRES/KG



132
LITRES PER
125 ML CUP

3178
LITRES/KG



255
LITRES PER
250 ML GLASS

17196
LITRES/KG



109
LITRES FOR
A 125ML GLASS

4325
LITRES/KG



27
LITRES PER
250ML CUP

1222
LITRES/KG



1259
LITRES PER PIZZA

GLOBAL
AVERAGE

WATER USAGE IN EUROPE

IN KM³ PER YEAR

61KM³



COMMUNAL USE
HOMES, OFFICES ETC

204KM³

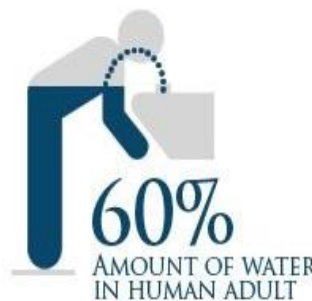


INDUSTRY

109KM³



AGRICULTURE



+7 BILLION
GLOBAL POPULATION



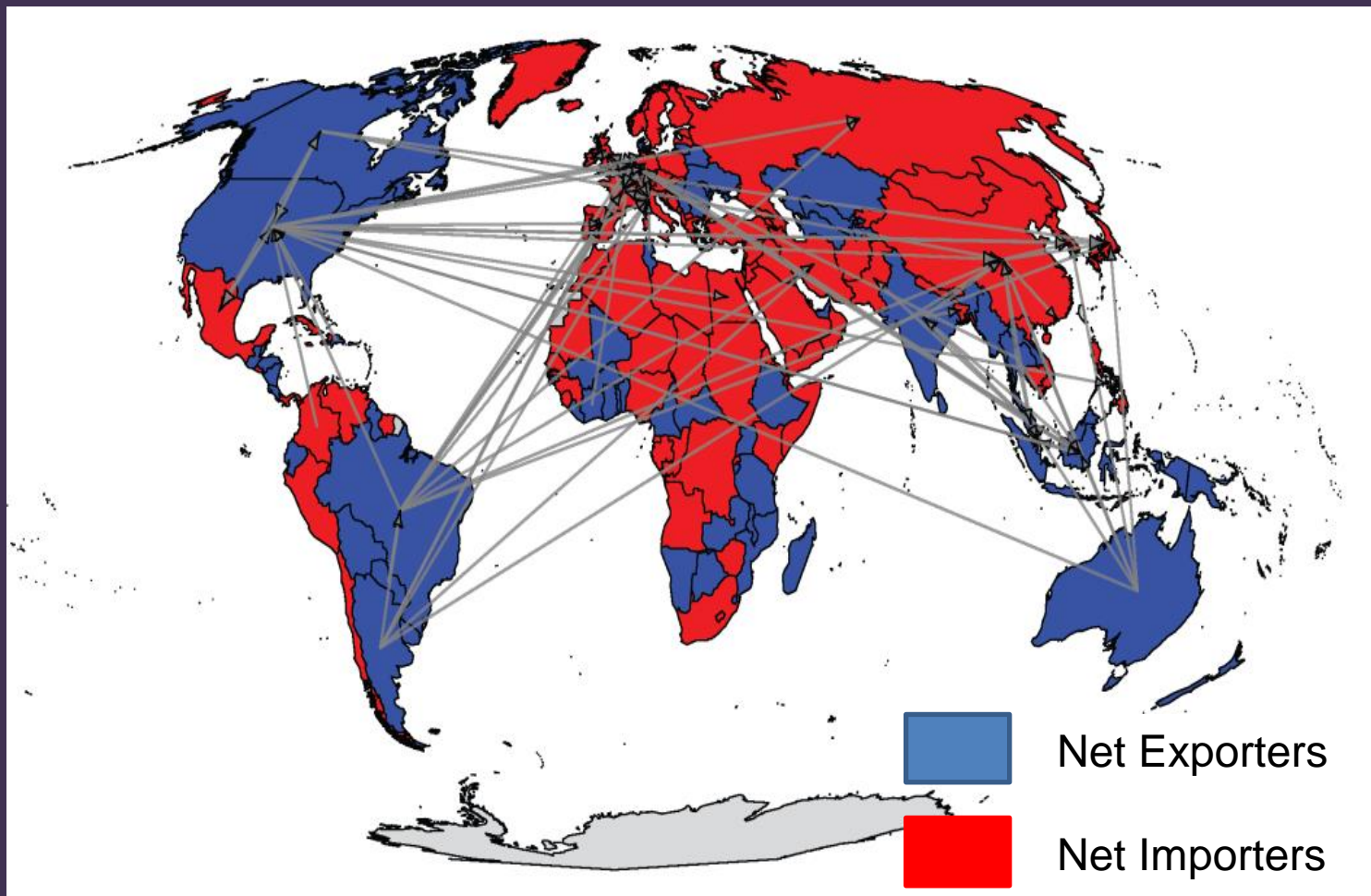
2.4 BILLION

PEOPLE WITH NO ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

Sources: Waterfootprint.org, FAO, UNESCO, UNFPA

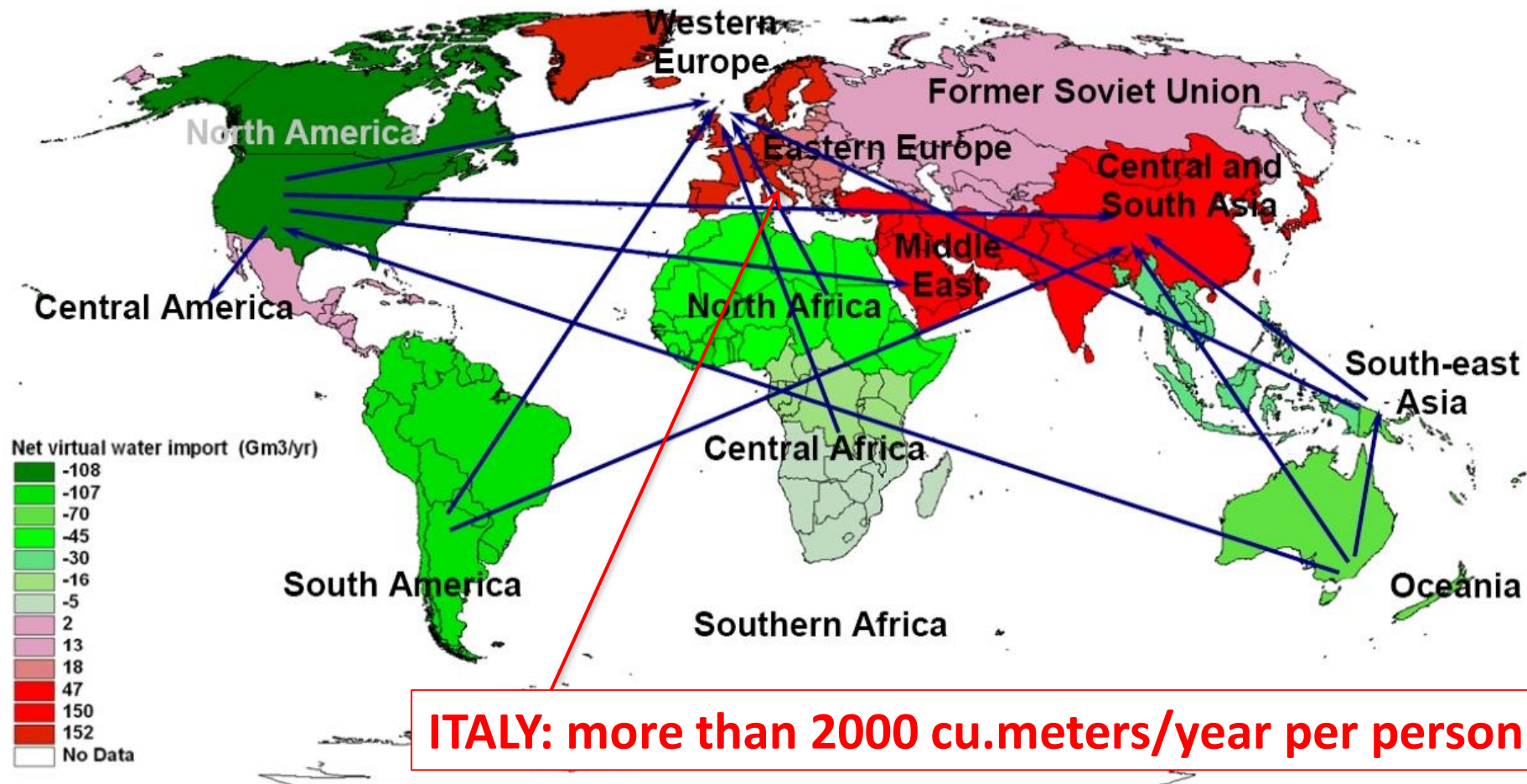
Global Water Trade

virtual water “fluxes” associated with import-export of goods



Suweis et al., 2011; Carr et al., 2013

NET IMPORT OF VIRTUAL WATER (Giga m³ / YEAR)



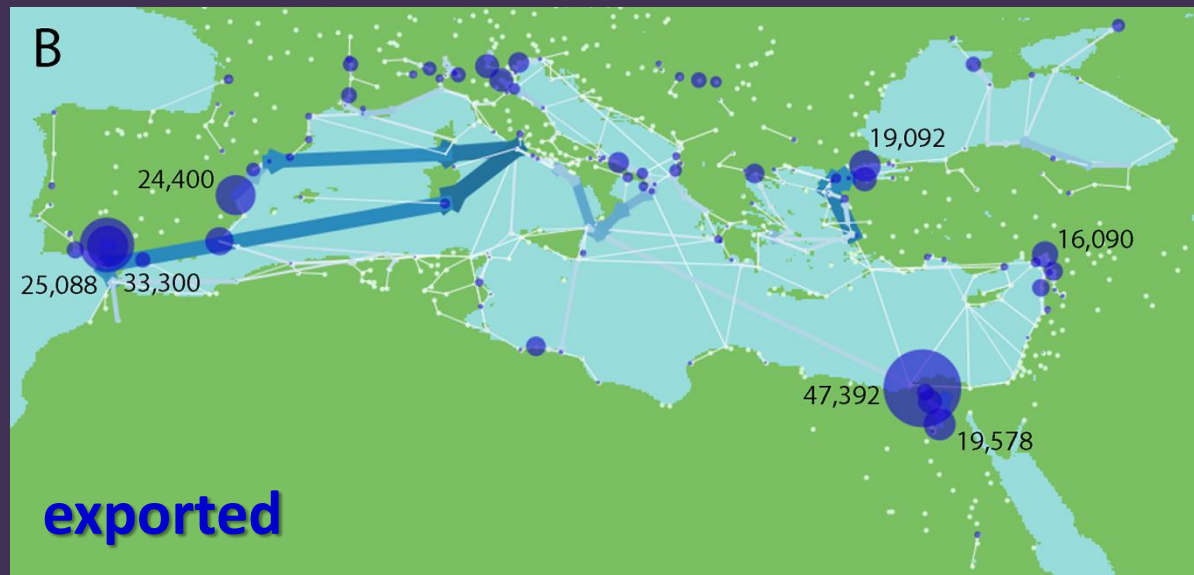
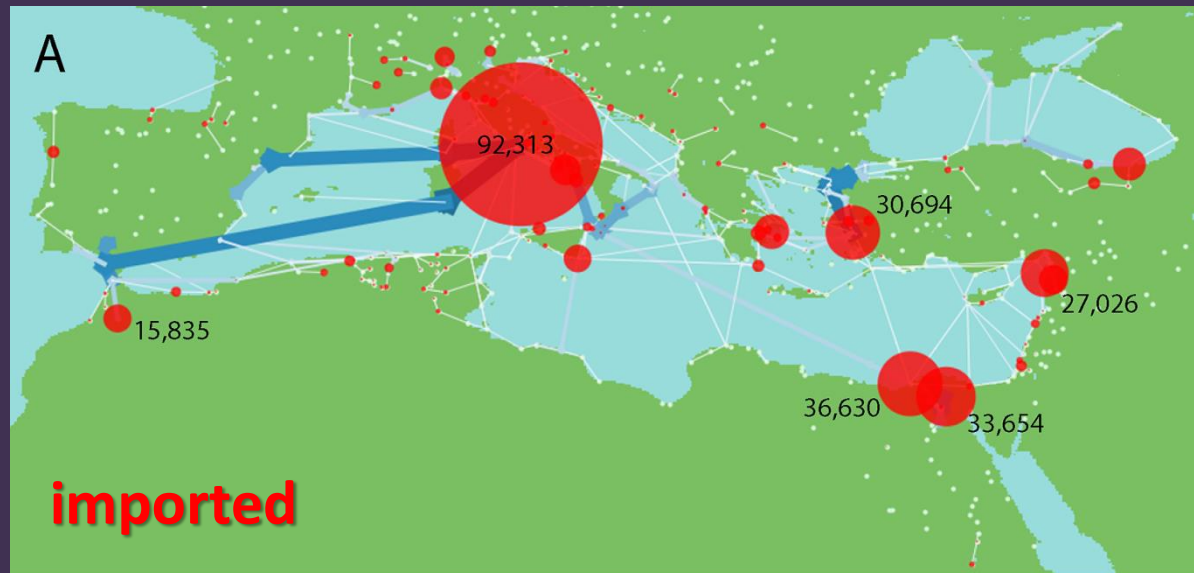
i.e. ITALY: 168 mm/year of rain over total country area
358 mm/year of rain over total arable country area

Virtual water imports and exports (tonne grain / year).

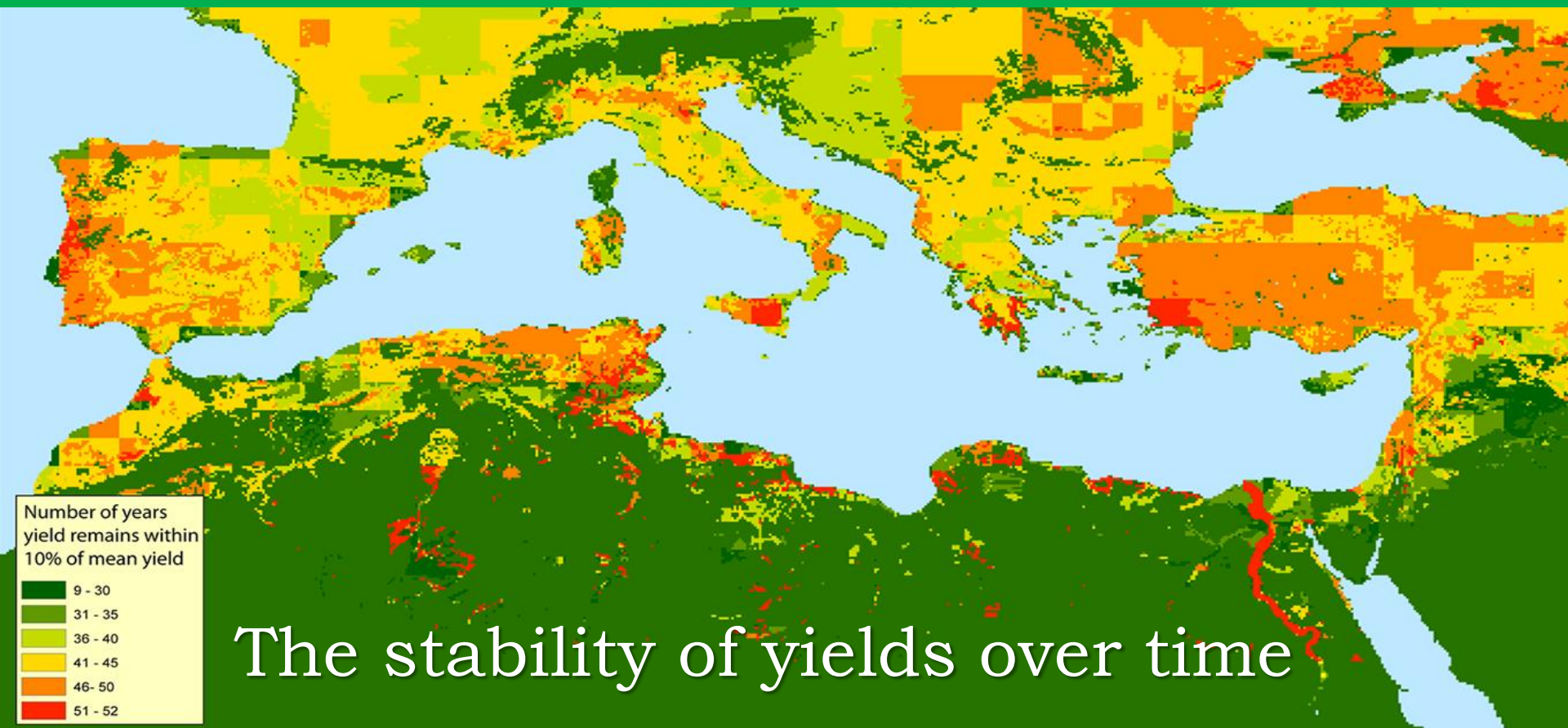
Relative amount of WT from each node: size of the nodes.

The associated numbers show the average VW imported or exported each year. The edge colour and thickness indicates the relative volume of VW flow between nodes.

The largest flows are between Spain and Italy, locally within Egypt, from south-eastern Italy to western Italy and along the Aegean coast of Turkey. Rome is by far the largest importer of VW, followed by Alexandria and Memphis in Egypt, Ephesus on the west coast of Turkey, Antioch in south-eastern Turkey and Corinth in Greece



Dermody, B.J., R. P. H. van Beek, E. Meeks, K. Klein Goldewijk, W. Scheidel, Y. van der Velde, M. F. P. Bierkens, M. J. Wassen, and S. C. Dekker, A virtual water network of the Roman world, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 18, 5025–5040, 2014.



The stability of yields over time

The map shows in how many years the total annual yield in each cell remains within 10% of the average yield for the same cell calculated over 52 years of climate forcing. In the Nile Valley, yields remain within 10% of the average yield in all years, meaning that yields are exceptionally stable. Regions of northern Spain and northern France are relatively unstable with yields dropping below 10% in at least 40 out of 52 years.

Dermody, B.J., R. P. H. van Beek, , E. Meeks, , K. Klein Goldewijk, , W. Scheidel, Y. van der Velde, M. F. P. Bierkens, M. J. Wassen, and S. C. Dekker, A virtual water network of the Roman world, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 18, 5025–5040, 2014.

“Panis et Circenses”

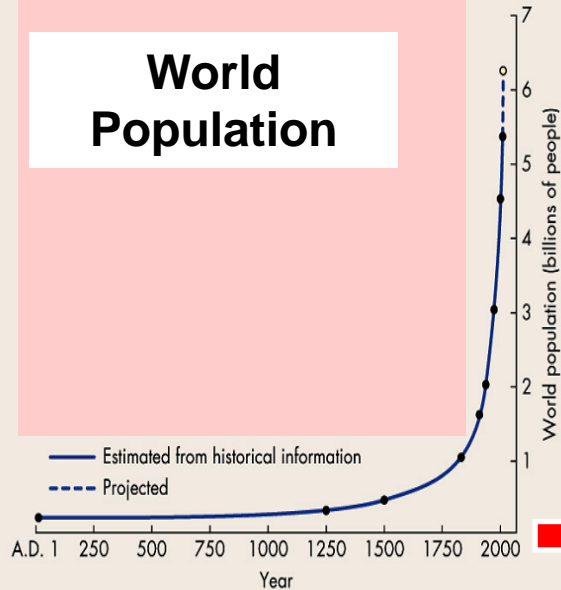
- How could the Roman empire persist so long, under pressures of:
 - urbanisation
 - climate change (temperature)
- High resilience to climate variability
 - combining rainfed with irrigated agriculture
 - flexible trade network

Virtual Water Trade (VWT) was a fundamental factor for **stability** of Roman Empire across several centuries, because they developed an efficient virtual water network trade, capable of facing inter-annual climate variability in a large geographic area

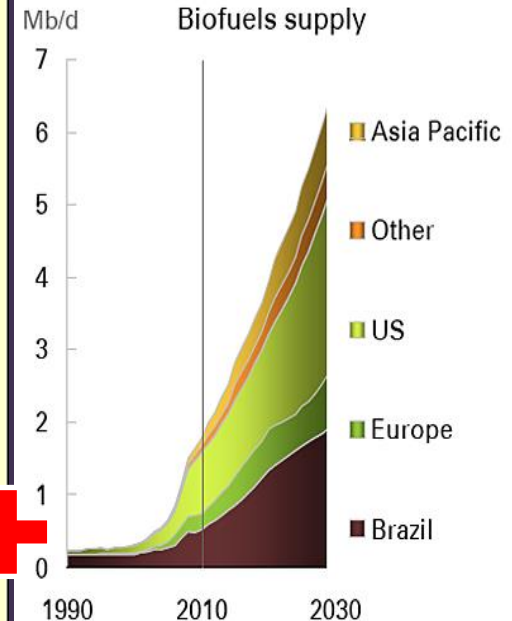
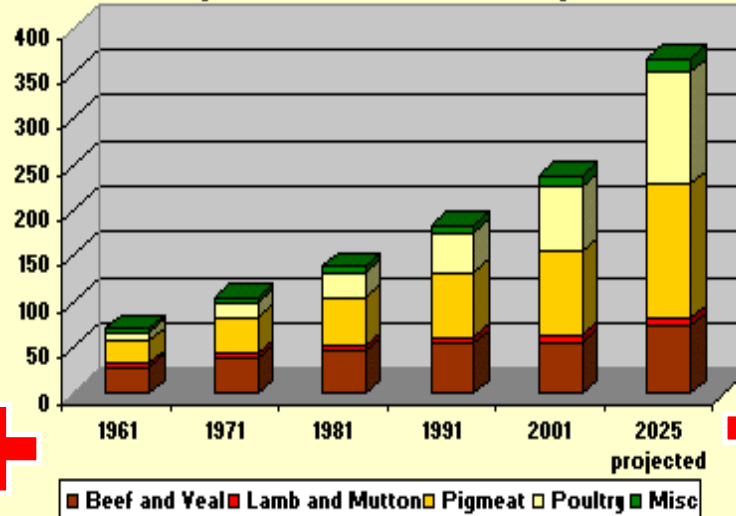
Advanced **Irrigation Methods** e the efficient **virtual water trade network** were key factors of Empire **resilience**

Conversely, **virtual water trade** increased **urbanisation** towards approaching sustainable limits of growth in terms of water availability. This increased water trade costs, so **diminishing long term climate resilience**

World Population



Global Meat Consumption by Type, 1961-2025
Millions Metric Tonnes
[Source: FAO and Dr. Thomas Elam]



**Competitive
Scenario of Water
Resources
exploitation for
Food production
versus Energy
production?**

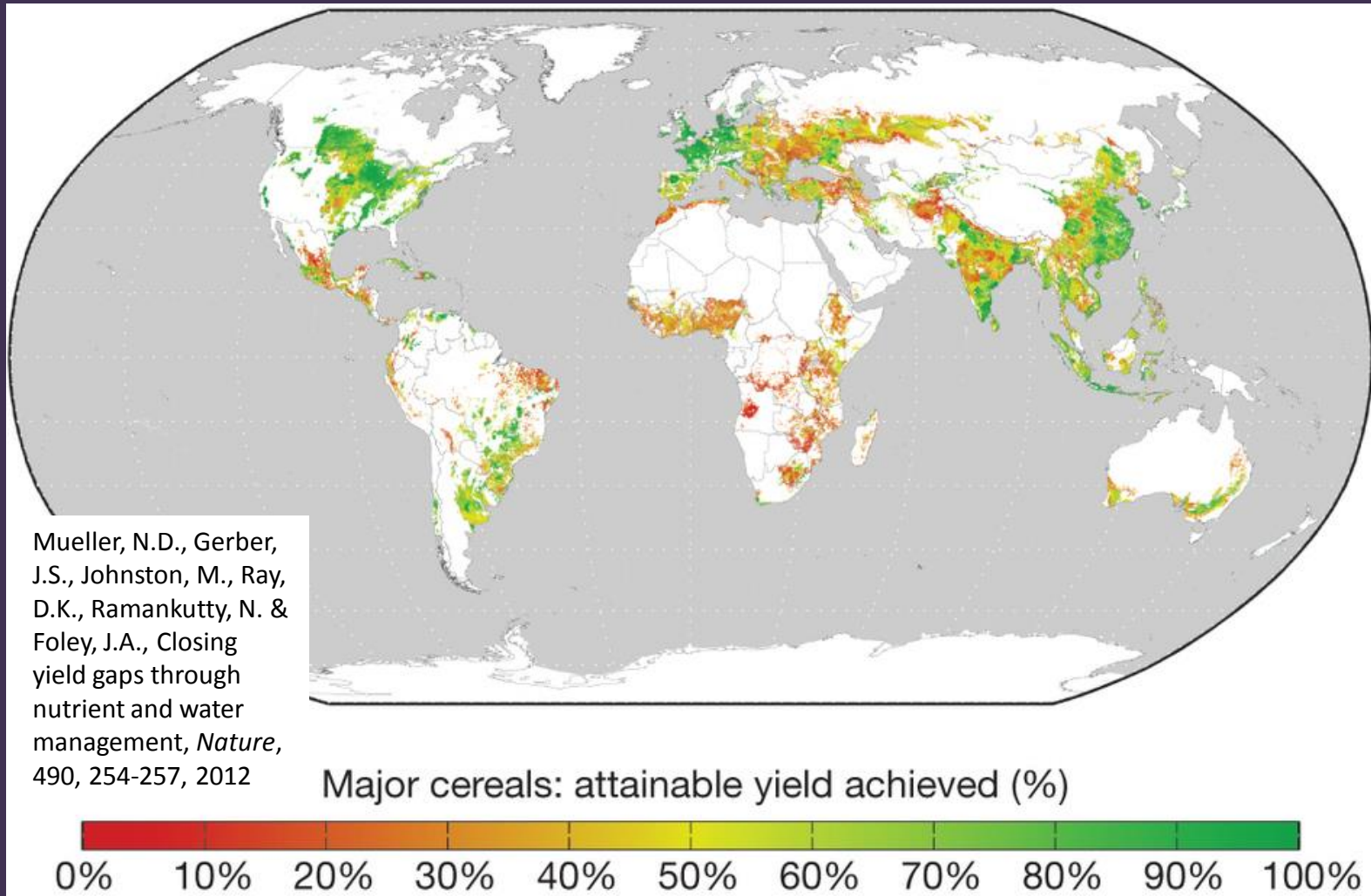


emerging issues

- **need to increase food production because of population increase and fight of malnutrition**
- **need of direct access to food in those countries that export food, so increasing the need of food production in the net importing countries**

Solutions (1/4)

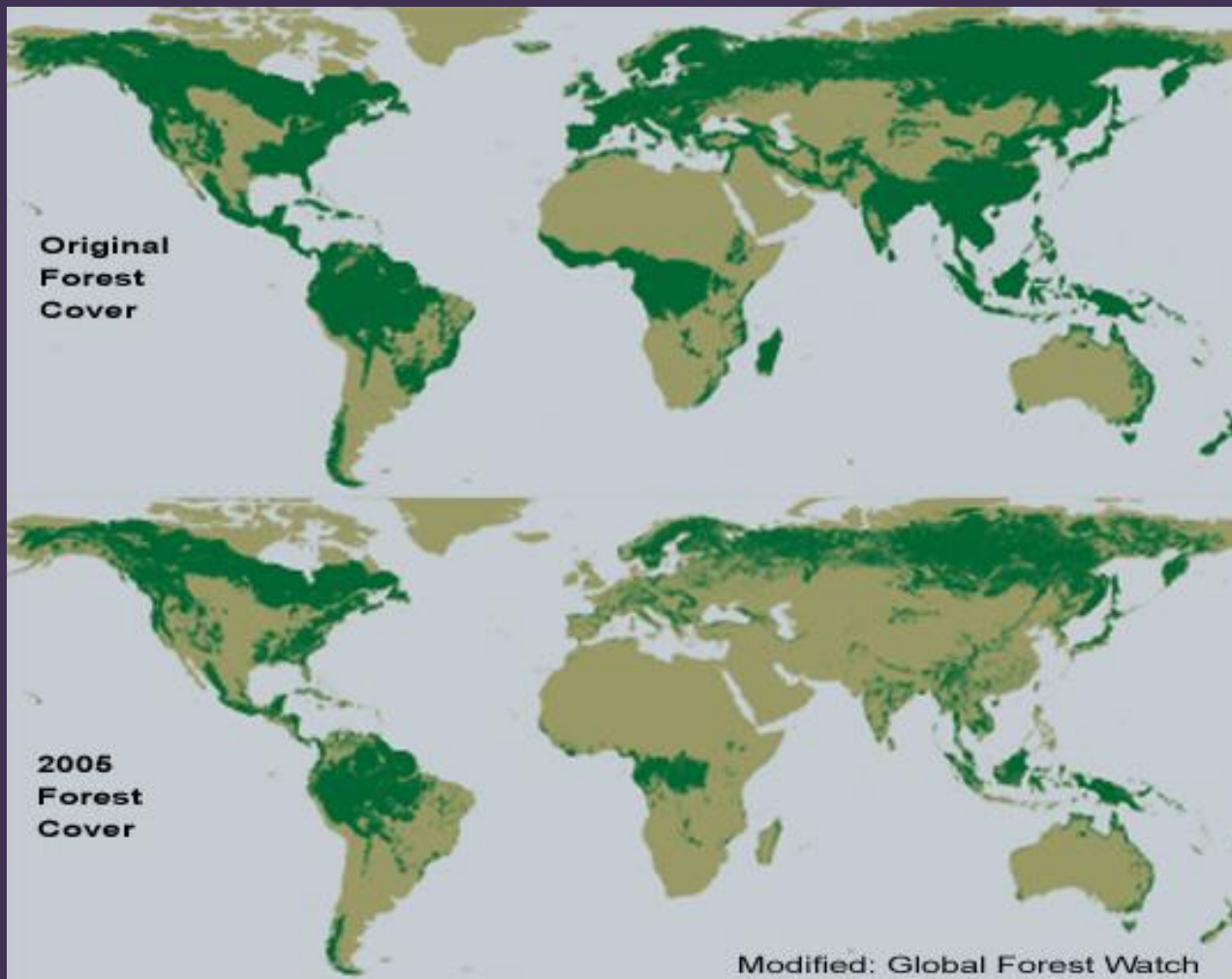
Enhancing efficiency of agriculture: *yield gap closure* where possible



Solutions 2/3

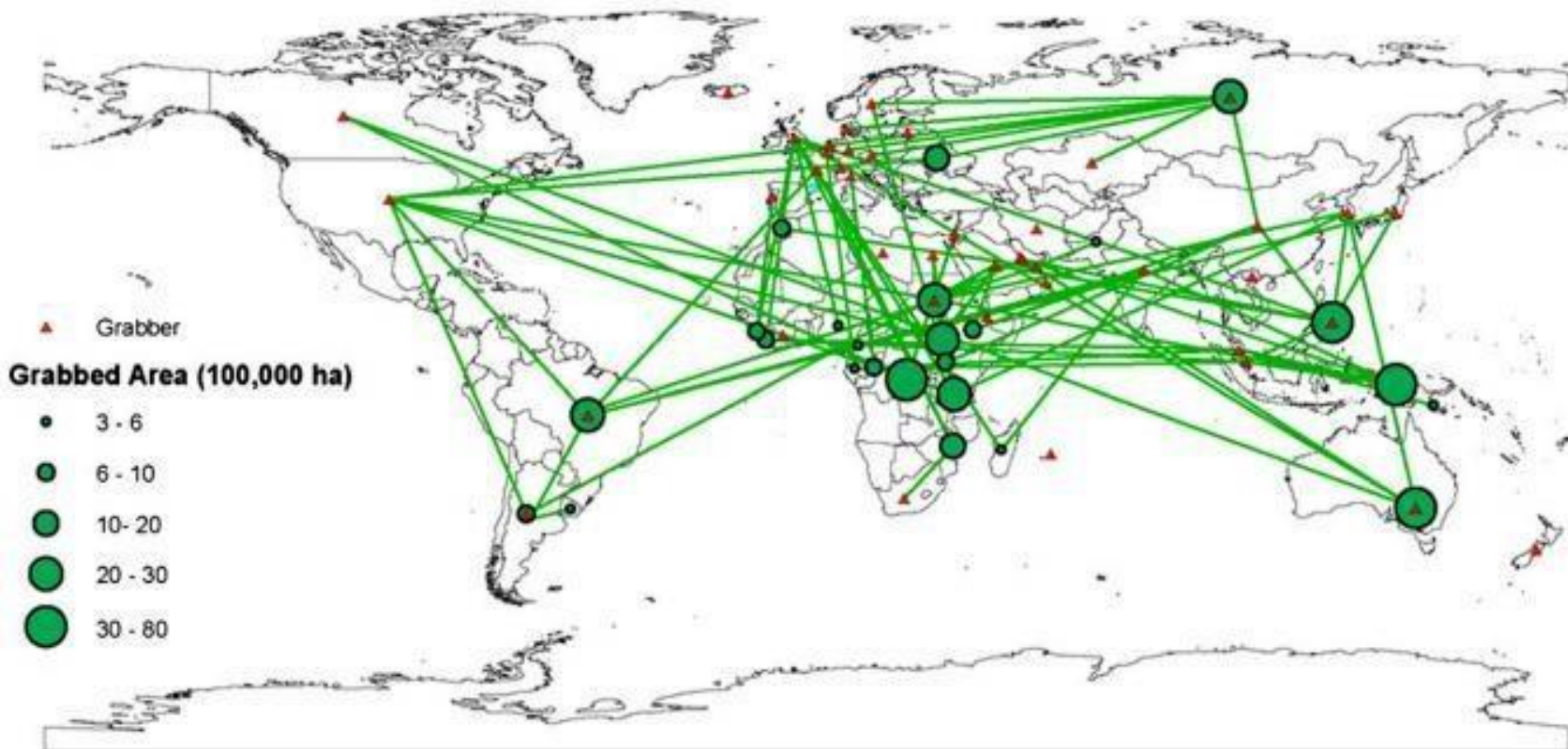
increase agricultural areas

(so decreasing those available for other ecosystems, mainly forest)



Solutions 3/3

Large scale land reclamation for agricultural use



Rulli, M.C., Saviori, A. & P. D'Odorico, Global land and water grabbing, *Proc. Natnl Acad. Sci., USA, PNAS*, 110(3), 892-897, 2013.

- *Water is the major factor limiting food production*
- *Some countries currently face persistent and inherent water deficit*
- *In next future, in spite of any policy to avoid food waste that nevertheless can no longer put off, there will be the need of increasing food production*
- *Net import countries must improve local direct access to food*

*Virtual water trade does not respond to
long term issues*

because both import and export countries rely on the
same resources to support their growth

- *Direct access to food →
direct resources control →
this yields to large scale land acquisition
(land grabbing)*

*Closing agricultural efficiency gap →
transferring technologies*

need to introduce rules in order to preserve the rights of local population associated with equity in the exploitation of available water resources



water and energy

growing energy implies growing water consumption

The EIA's International Energy Outlook 2013 predicts 2.2% annual growth in electricity delivered to end-users through 2040

With this staggering growth projection, the ability to produce affordable, sustainable energy becomes more essential than ever to secure economic stability and growth

And since most major sources of energy require large amounts of water, this means that existing water sources will be put under even more strain beyond the effects of increasing population and growing agricultural demands

growing energy implies growing water consumption, 2

Reports indicate that an estimated **78% to 90%** of **power plants** across the world heat water into steam to turn large turbines attached to a generator

Additionally, water serves as the **primary coolant** in power generating stations, maintaining appropriate temperatures for everything from coal boilers to nuclear reactors

And water is the **engine of hydro-electrical production**



growing energy implies growing water consumption, 3

It is not only on-site electricity generation that relies on water **drilling, extraction and processing of fuels** also require significant amounts of water

Methods such as **mining** or **hydraulic fracturing**, which releases trapped oil and natural gas deep underground, are water-intensive practices, accounting for the use of billions of gallons of water worldwide every year

38% of shale gas fields worldwide is located in areas where water supply faces water stress or scarcity and, among these sources, 40% of major resources is facing severe freshwater supply constraints
(Financial Times, September 2014)

growing energy implies growing water consumption, 4

All forms of energy require water at some stage of their life cycle: from production to distribution and use.

water is a major component in thermoelectric and hydropower generation today but....

even producing **photovoltaic solar panels** consumes significant amounts of water: the average solar panel manufacturing facility uses more than 1,000 cubic metres of water a day

water scarcity implications for energy generation

Water scarcity has direct implications for energy security

The potential for economic development and stability enabled by a reliable, stable and sustainable supply of energy at affordable prices is limited in a growing number of areas by a lack of access to water

To date, energy and water infrastructure and policy decisions have been made independently of one another, often with outdated assumptions regarding rising demand and resource scarcity

water scarcity implications for energy generation, 2

Any energy policy being drafted in these regions will have to consider that power plants across these areas will face some form of water scarcity

The life cycle of power plants is estimated at on average 20-40 years, so any electric generation facility being planned or under construction in these regions will have to factor water scarcity into the equation.

lack of planning

Today, the use of additional energy extracts more water and speeds the depletion rate of groundwater and rivers.

The hydrological systems of local ecosystems struggle to compensate and adapt

Aquifer replenishment can take hundreds or even thousands of years, so once the extraction of water in aquifers outpaces the rate of infiltration, water scarcity exerts pressure on the operations of end users

In regions affected by water scarcity, electricity generation competes for water against other uses, like drinking water and agricultural irrigation. When this occurs, case studies show that water use for human consumption and agriculture is given priority over energy generation. This means that, in some extreme cases, power plants have to lower their output and incur high financial losses.

lack of planning, 2

Year 2006 drought in Europe (and Italy, mainly in the Po river valley) resulted in energy losses from both

- hydro-electrical plants (also to sustain downstream river drought)
 - thermo-electrical plants (lack of cooling water supply)
- nuclear plants in France and Germany (this enhancing failure risk)

In 2011, Texas experienced the **worst single-year drought** in its history
The drought ruined **cotton crops** and forced ranchers to **sell cattle that would have otherwise died**

This drought also affected **regional energy sources**, raising concern among grid operators

It became apparent that **there would not be enough water** for all the usual demands

lack of planning, 3

Brazil drought 2013-2014

(Brazil is the second largest hydro-energy producer in the world)

- reduced hydropower production
- dramatic energy price increase
- this has pushed towards wind energy exploitation

California current drought

Hydropower dams in California have the capacity to generate
14,000 MW

On average, **25,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh)** are generated
In a **dry year**, about **15,000 GWh** of energy are produced
(roughly the same as solar)

and in a **wet year**, about **40,000 GWh** can be generated

ALMONDS vs POWER....?

lack of planning, 4

India is another prime example of the trade-offs that come with water scarcity.

Farmers have desperately attempted to draw crops from the land despite a lack of water, often using enormous amounts of energy to pump water from deep underground.

Some estimates suggest that energy usage in certain drought-stricken areas has increased by 25%.

This energy used to collect water comes from electricity generating stations that must use even more water to satisfy, so producing a **dramatic positive feedback effect**

Meanwhile, India has approved a plan to build new hydropower with a total of **50 TeraWatt *g.i.p.*** in forthcoming 10 years



solutions?

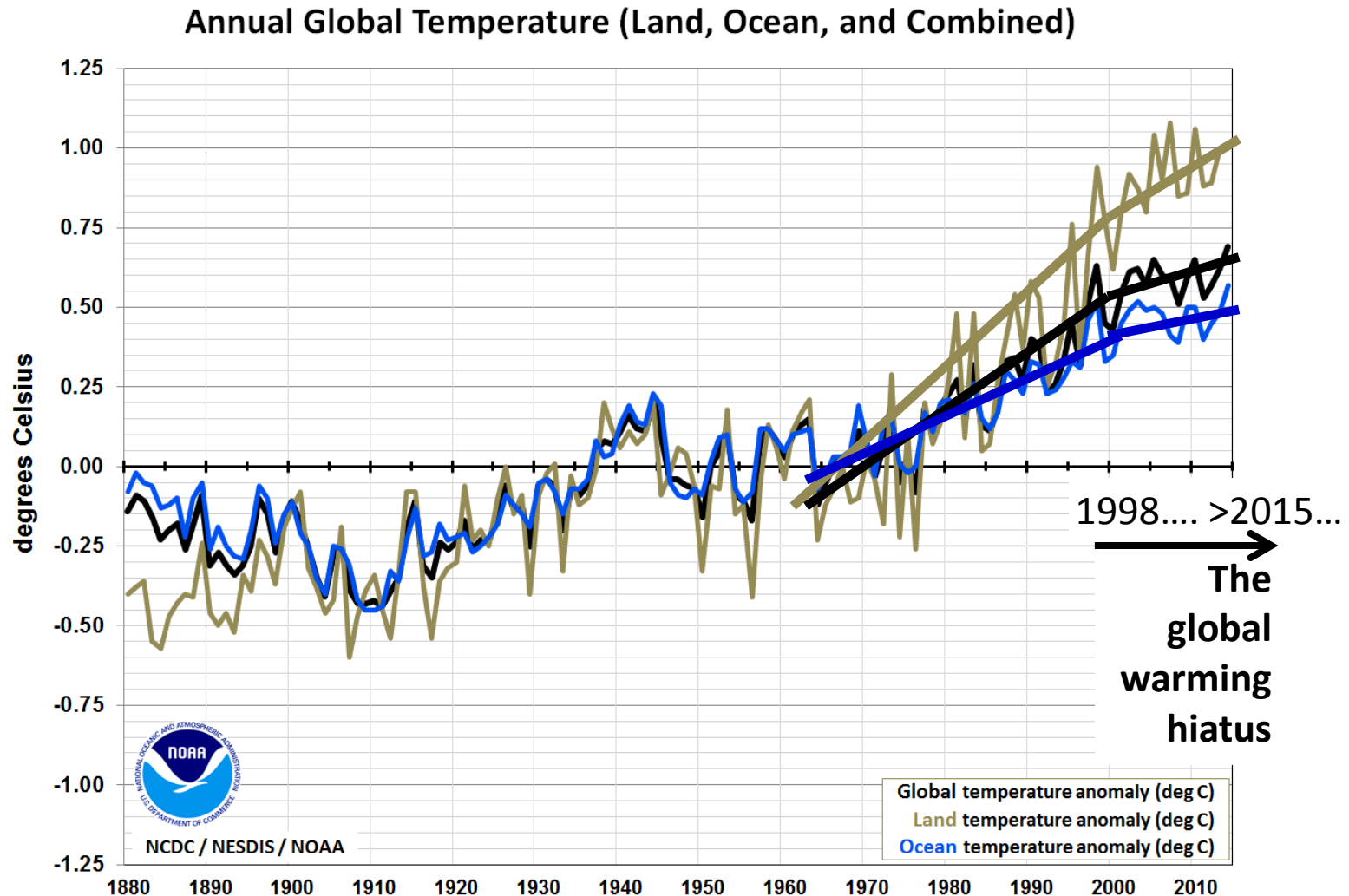
de-couple the growth of energy demand from water demand

revise current water and energy policies and infrastructure

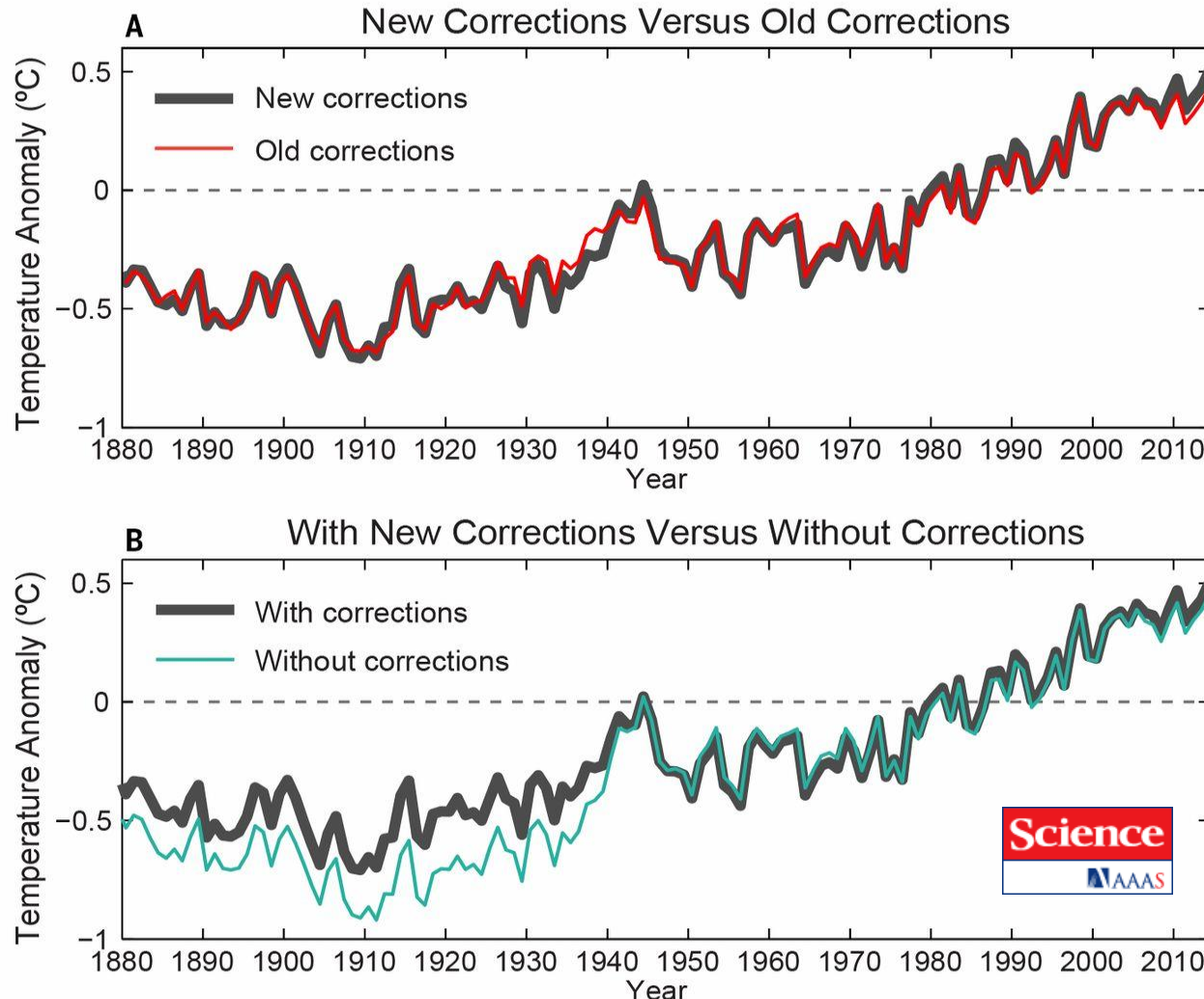
emphasize the economic value of water

focusing on innovation

water and climate

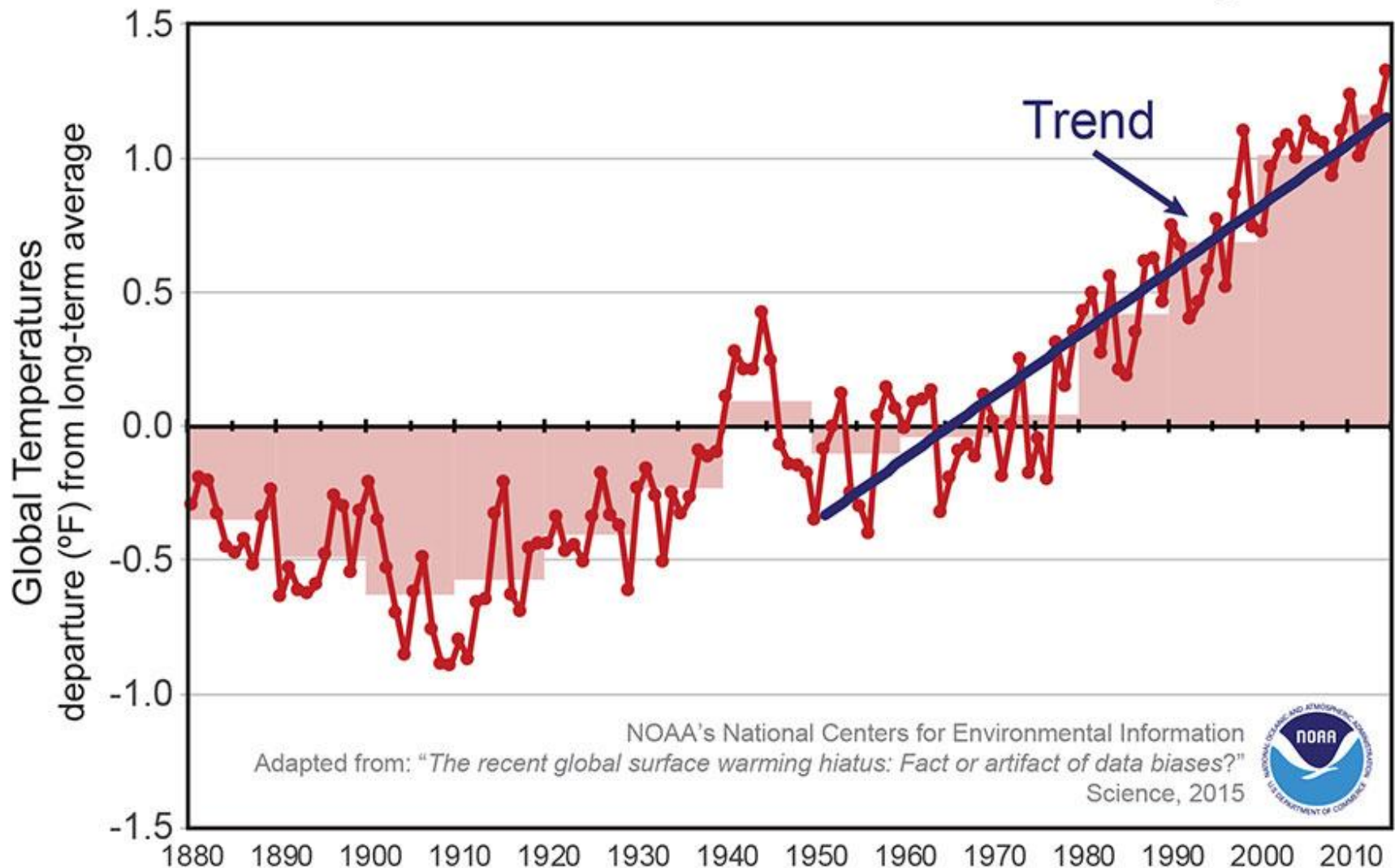


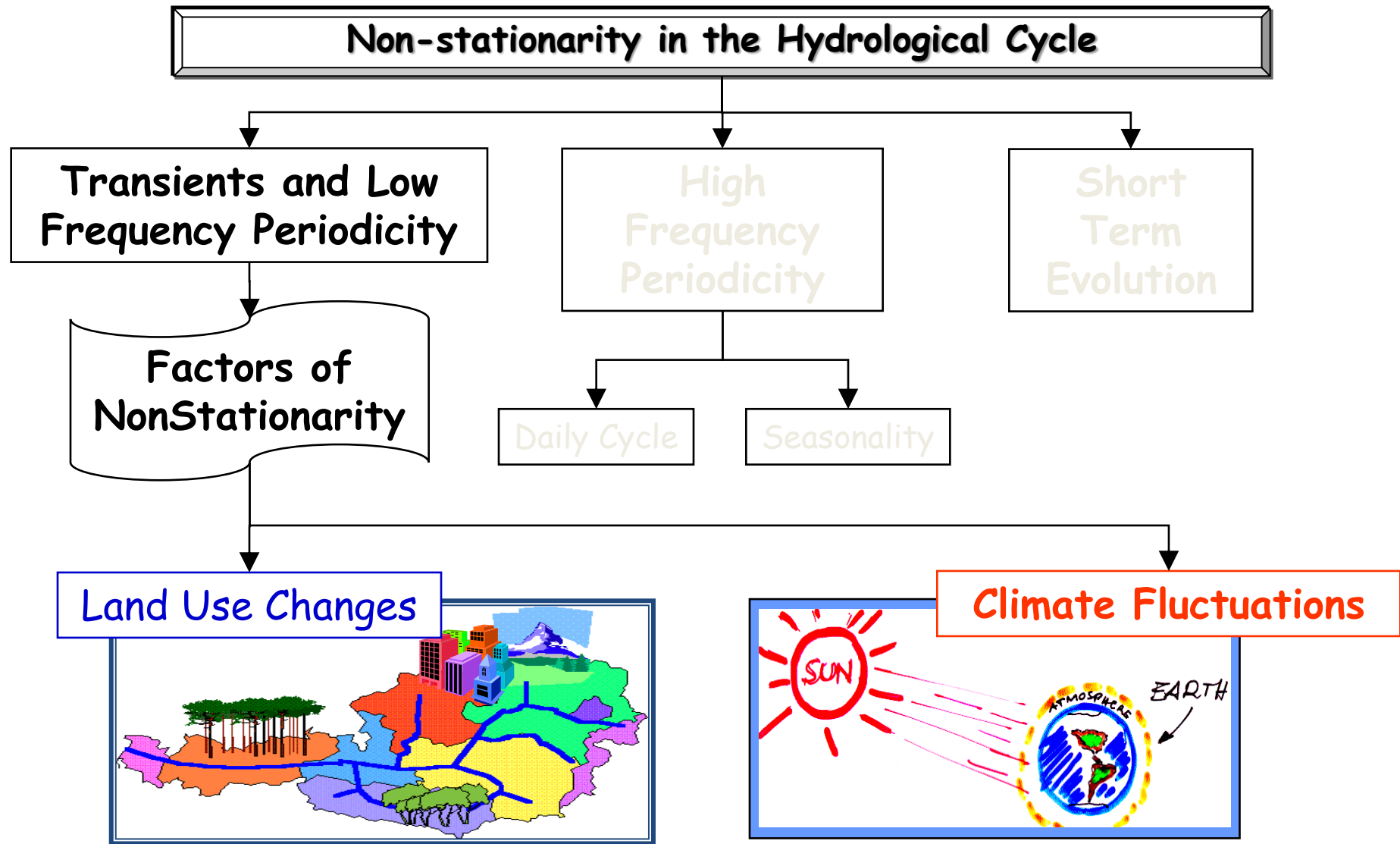
Temperature Time-Series for land-only, ocean-only,
and combined land-and-ocean (source: NOAA, 2014)

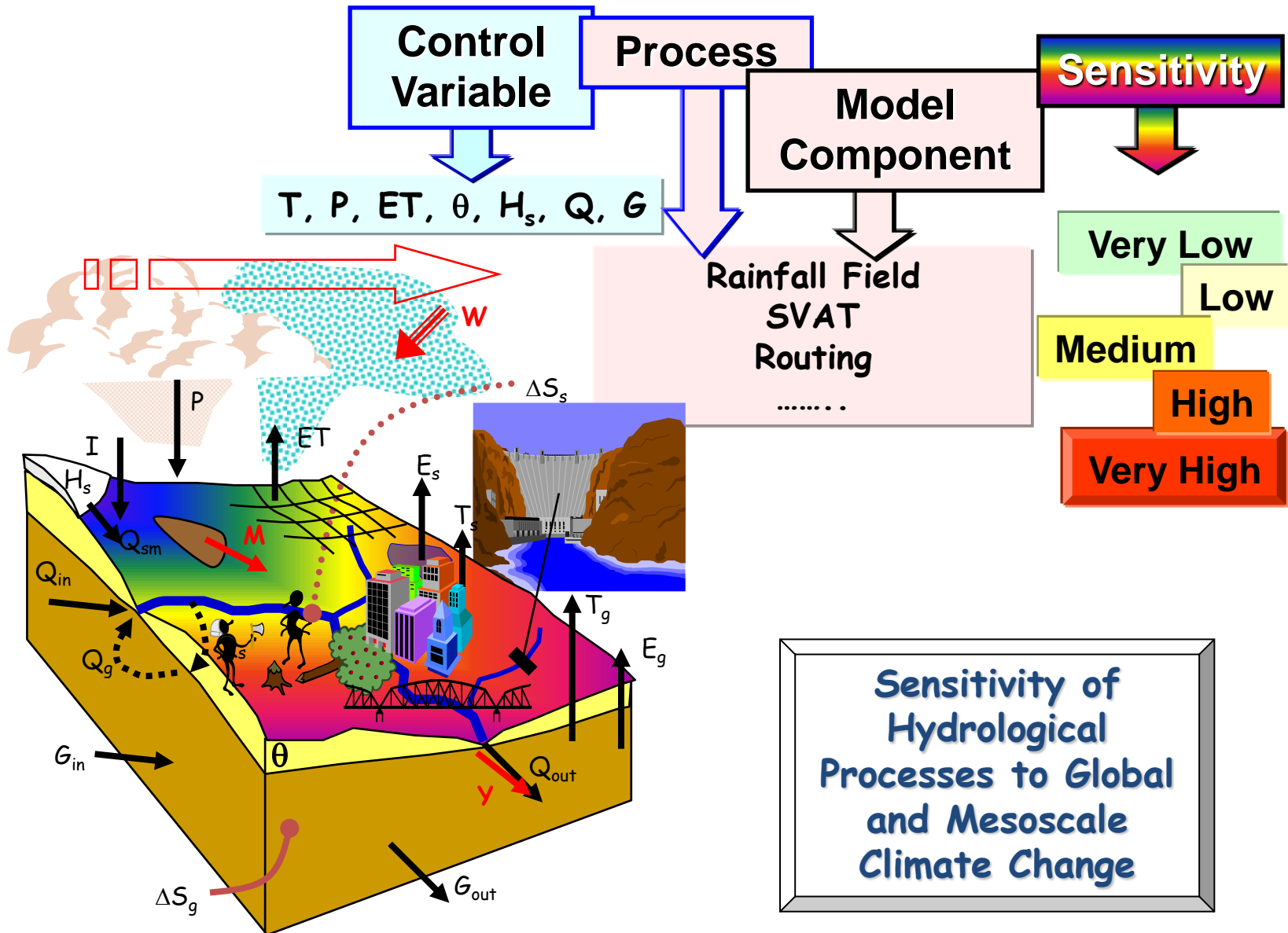


Global (land and ocean) surface temperature anomaly time series with new analysis, old analysis, and with and without time-dependent bias corrections (source: Karl, T.R. et al. Science 2015;science.aaa5632)

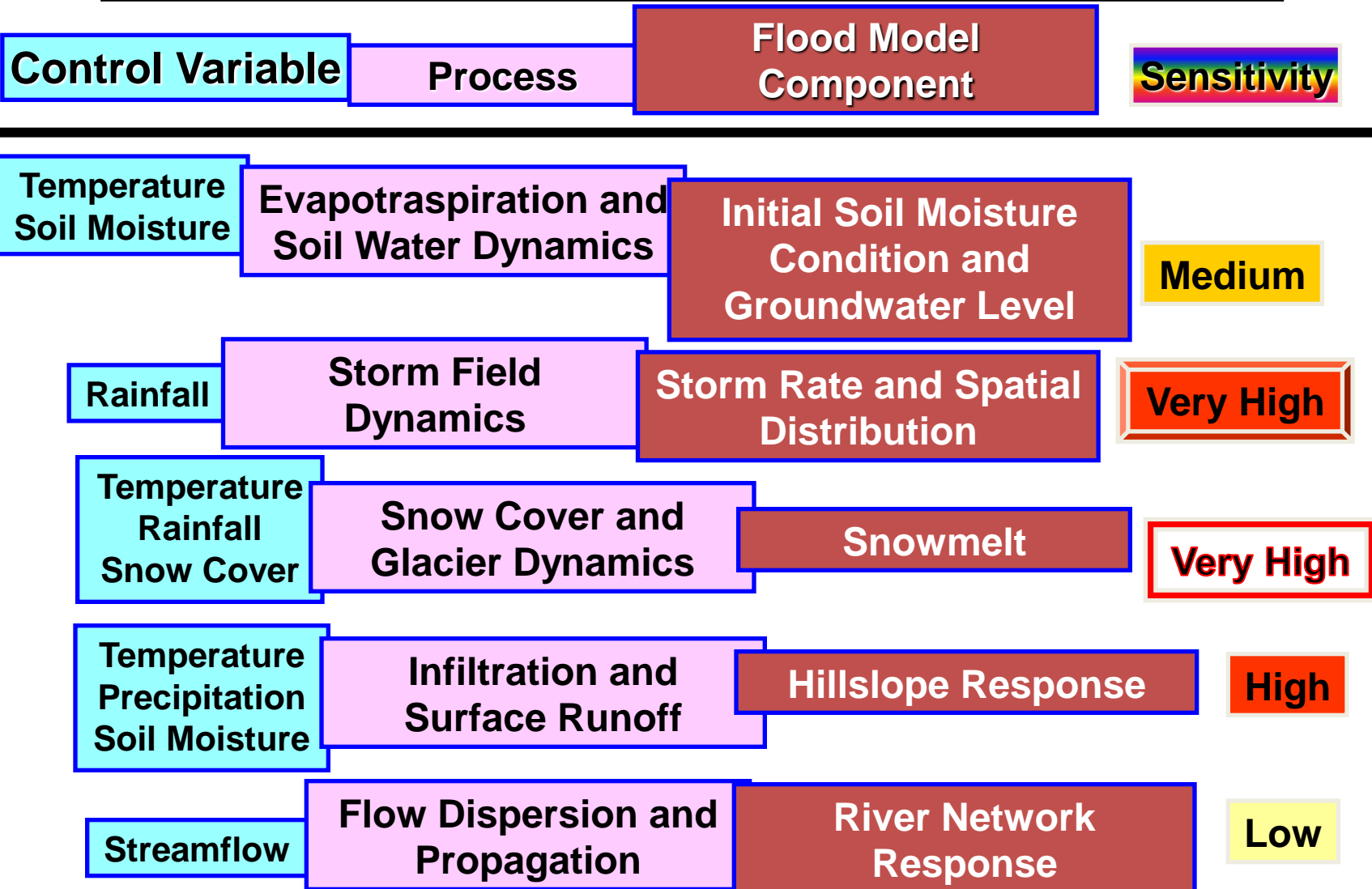
No Slow Down in Global Warming



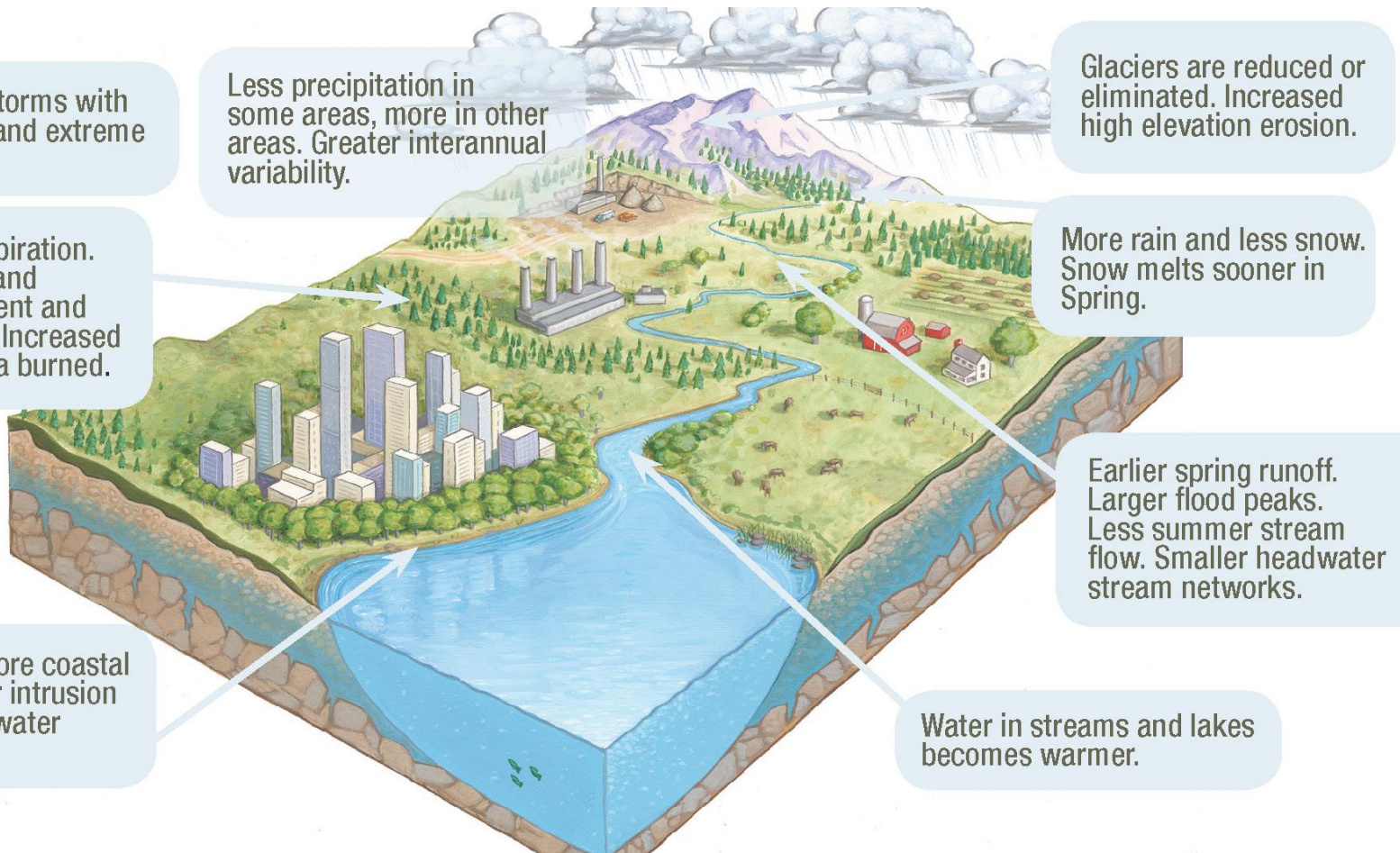




Sensitivity of Flood Hydrology Processes to Global and Mesoscale Climate Change



predicted climatic changes to the hydrological cycle



METHODS for ANALYSING the INTERACTION between

Climate



Hydrology



Paleo Climate Analogues

- geologic shifts may differ from anthropogenetic change
- farther going back, the more difficult to recover data
- past change predate human activity:
- no evidence of impact on society

HELP UNDERSTANDING THE EVOLUTION OF CLIMATE

Recent Climate Analogues

- ✂ short records yield strong uncertainties
- ✂ causal effects (natural or anthropogenic) may differ

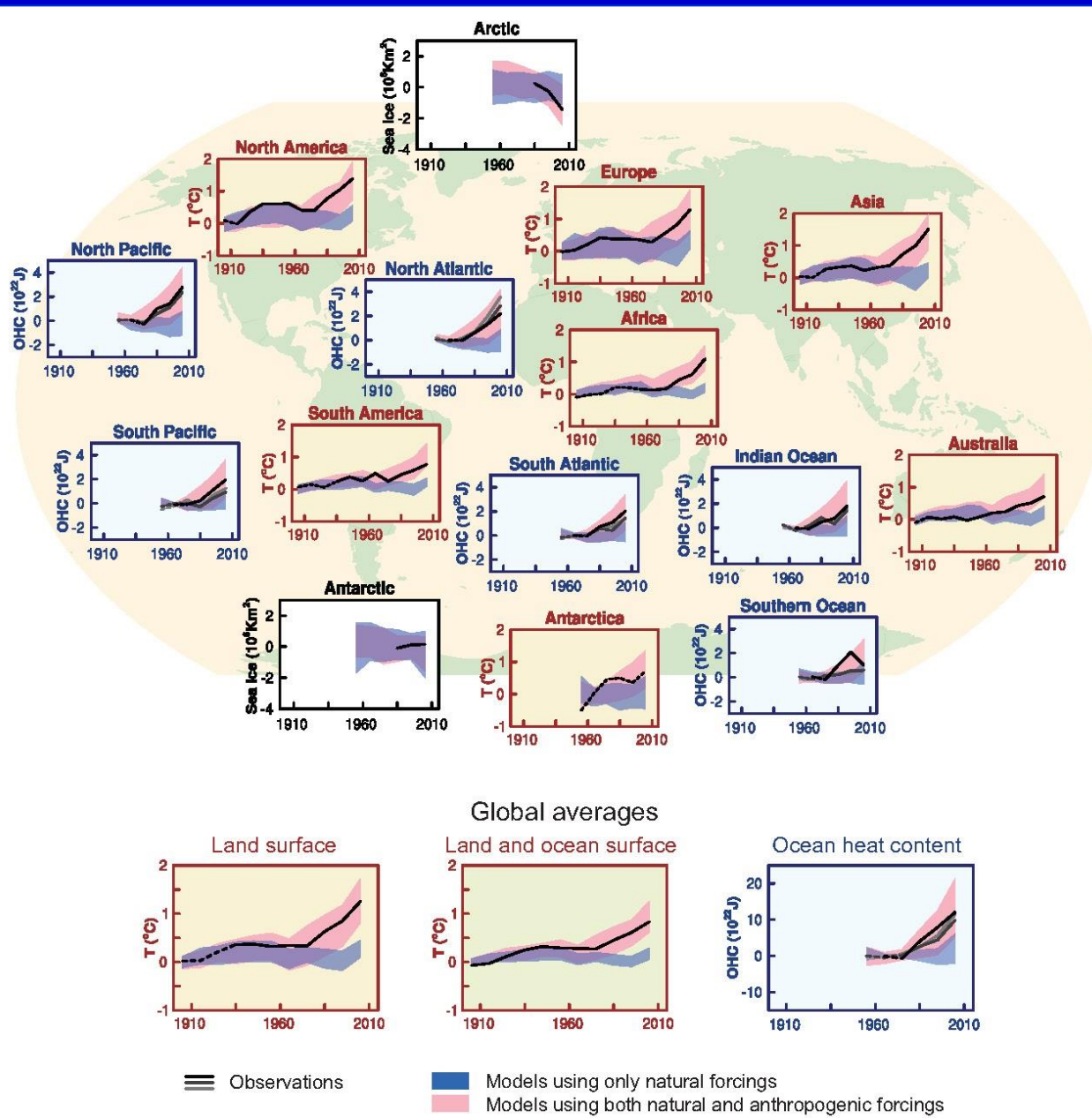
GIVE AN INSIGHT OF VULNERABILITY OF PRESENT
SOCIETY TO FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGES

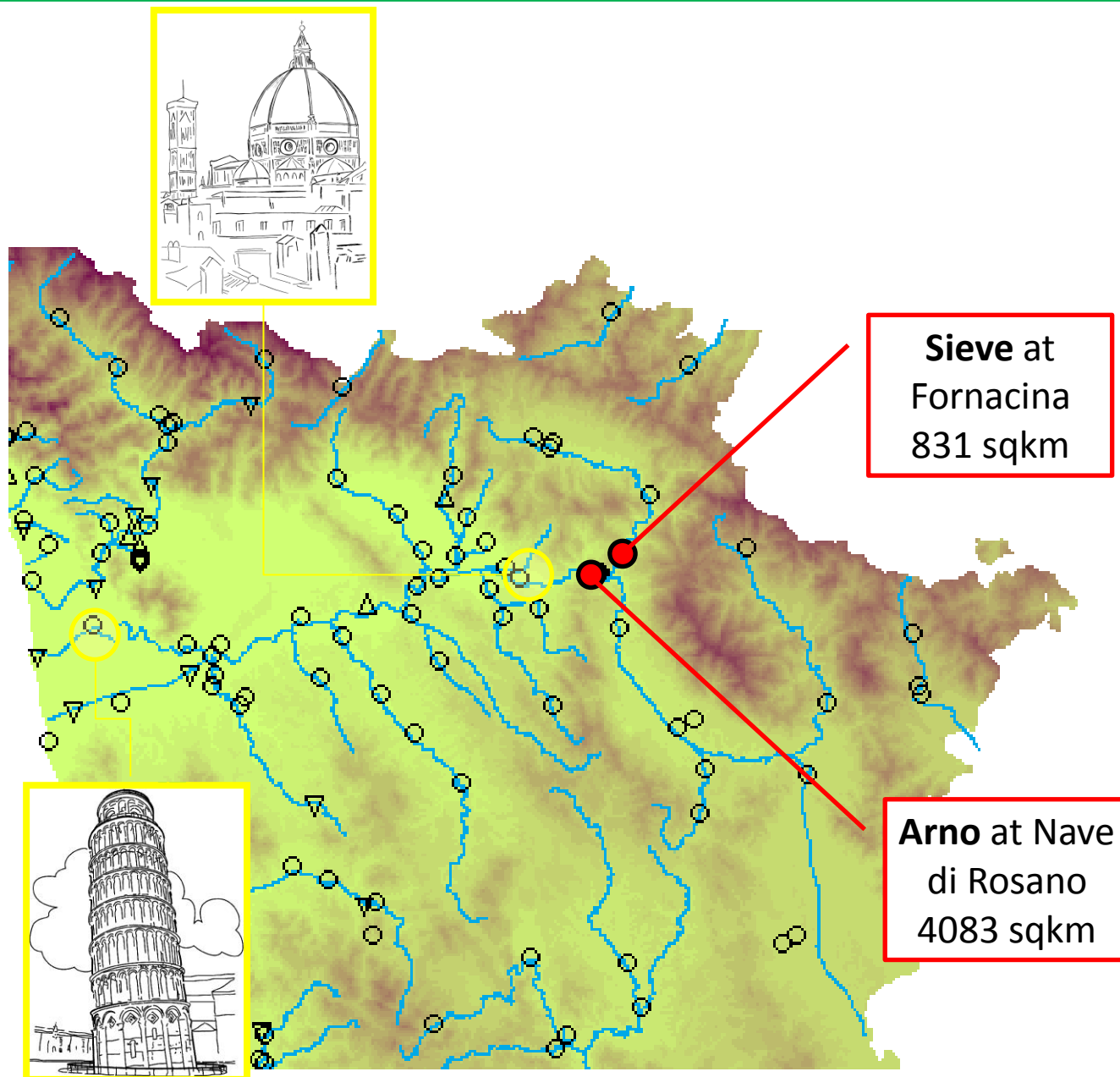
HELP DETECTING THE STRUCTURAL PROPERTIES OF
CLIMATOLOGIC VARIABLES AND PROCESSES

Mathematical Models

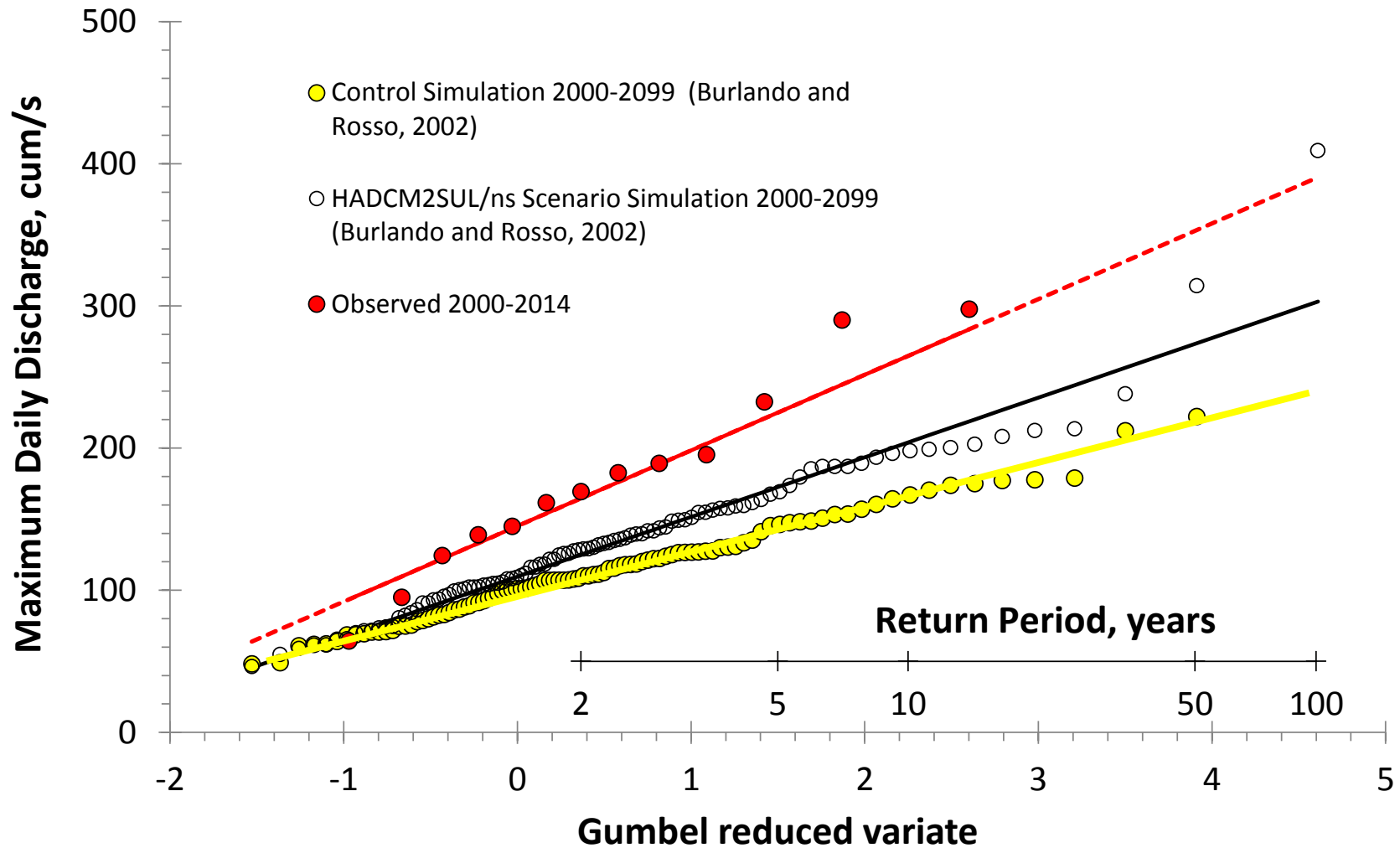
- ❖ large uncertainties in climatologic dynamics
- ❖ poor control observations from the monitoring network

A LABORATORY TO INVESTIGATE GLOBAL CLIMATE
DETAILED DESCRIPTION FROM 1D TO 3D EFFECTS
ALLOW FOR "CONTROL" AND "PERTURBED" SIMULATIONS

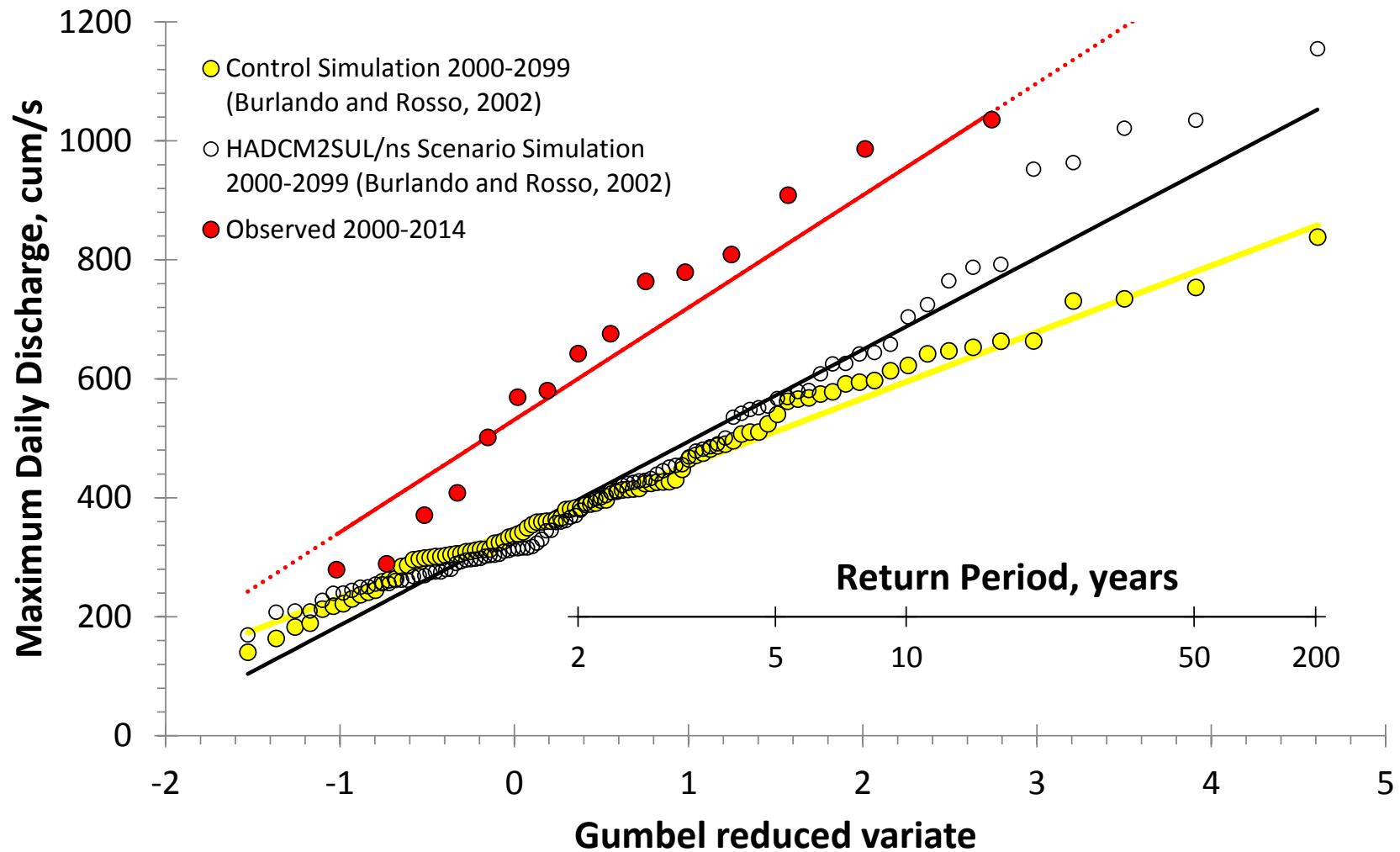




Sieve a Fornacina (831 sqkm)



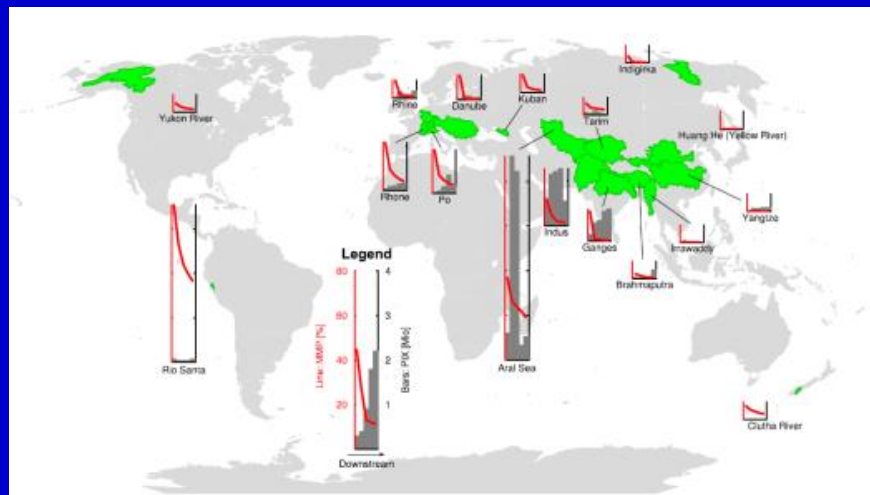
Arno a Nave di Rosano (4083 sqkm)





water towers and climate

Basin name	Basin area, km ²	Glacier area, km ²	Glacier area, %	Population, 10 ⁶	PIX, 10 ⁶
Aral Sea	1,234,075	11,319	0.92	41.01	10.29
Indus	1,139,814	20,325	1.78	211.28	4.82
Ganges	1,023,609	12,659	1.24	448.98	2.40
Po	73,297	818	1.12	16.55	0.81
Rhone	97,702	1,162	1.19	10.12	0.57
Rhine	190,713	459	0.24	59.07	0.52
Yangtze	1,746,593	1,895	0.11	383.04	0.37
Brahmaputra	527,666	16,118	3.05	62.43	0.31
Danube	794,133	617	0.08	81.38	0.31
Tarim	1,053,180	20,494	1.95	9.22	0.30
Rio Santa	11,901	503	4.23	0.57	0.27
Kuban	59,120	215	0.36	3.45	0.05
Huang He	988,702	172	0.02	162.70	0.02
Indigirka	341,577	338	0.10	0.04	0.00
Irrawaddy	410,376	25	0.01	35.26	0.00
Yukon River	830,257	9,070	1.09	0.13	0.00
Clutha River	17,182	147	0.86	0.03	0.00





**CARESER
GLACIER,
1967** (Foto G. Zanon)



retrieved from: C. Casarotto, *Lo stato dei ghiacciai del Trentino*, 2010



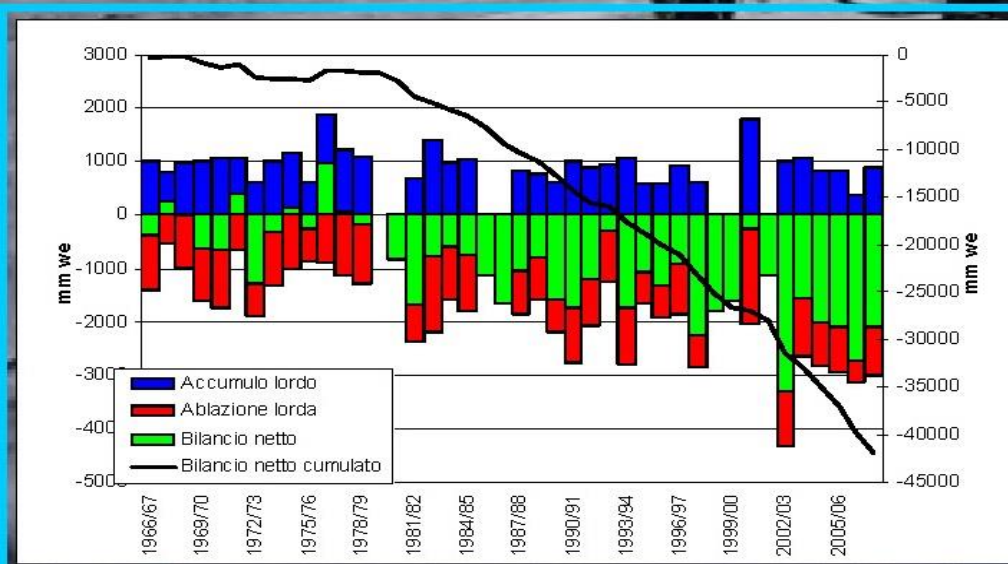
**CARESER
GLACIER,
2006**

Perdita cumulata 1967-2009: - 43,4 m w.e (pari a circa 47,7 m di ghiaccio)

Bilancio netto stagione 2008-09: -1500 mm w.e. (1,6 m ghiaccio)

retrieved from:

C. Casarotto, *Lo stato dei ghiacciai del Trentino*, 2010



water resources from Asian water towers (3a)

the RONGBOK GLACIER (Everest, HIMALAYA)
LOST 106m (in depth) from 1921 to 2008



Shrinking glaciers may initially provide more melt water, but later their amount may reduced.

On the other hand, growing glaciers store precipitation, reduce summer runoff, and can also trigger local hazards.

water resources from Asian water towers (3b)

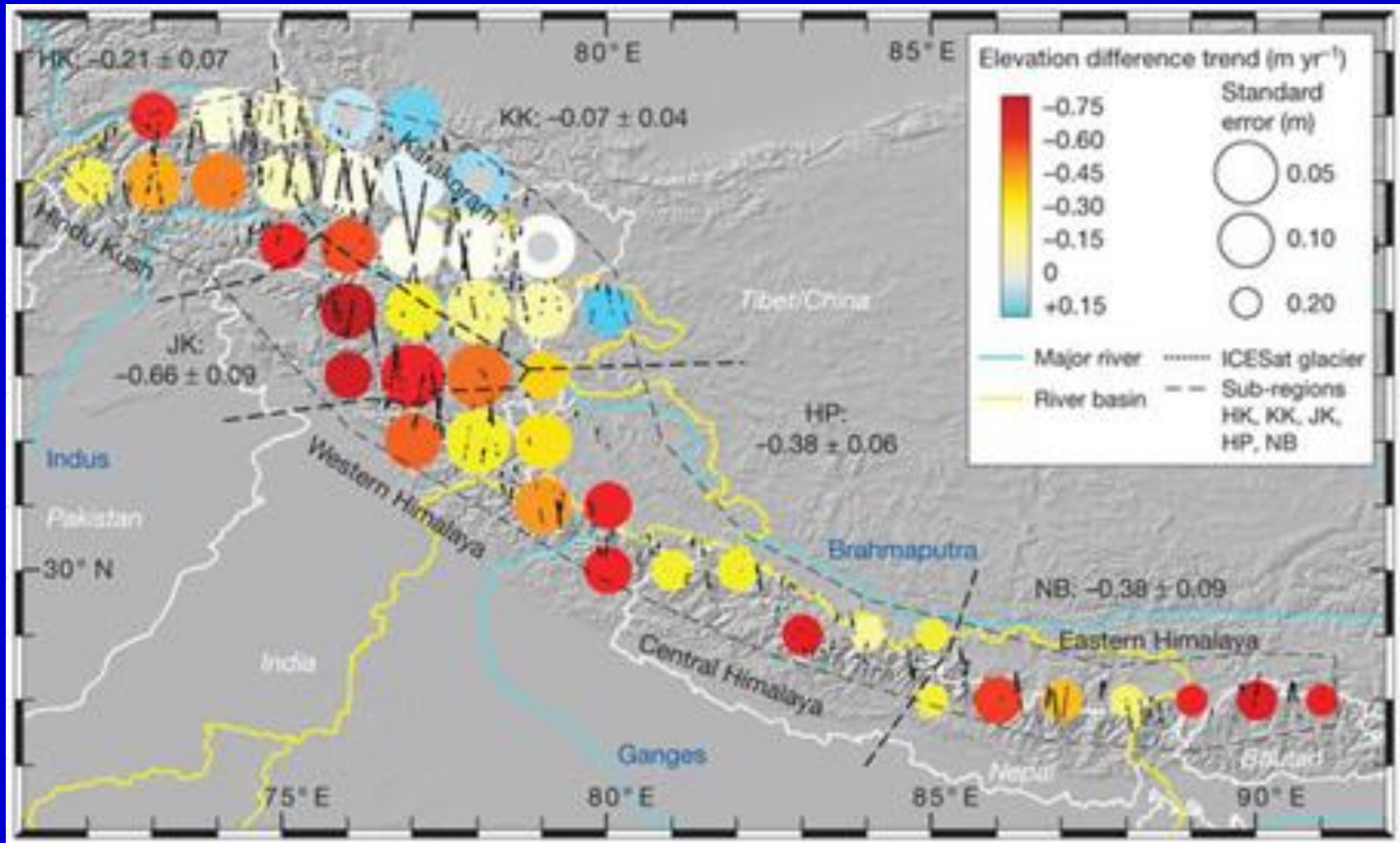
the front of BALTORO GLACIER (KARAKORAM) from 1954/1958 to 2013



Shrinking glaciers may initially provide more melt water, but later their amount may be reduced.

On the other hand, growing glaciers store precipitation, reduce summer runoff, and can also trigger local hazards.

the Karakorum anomaly



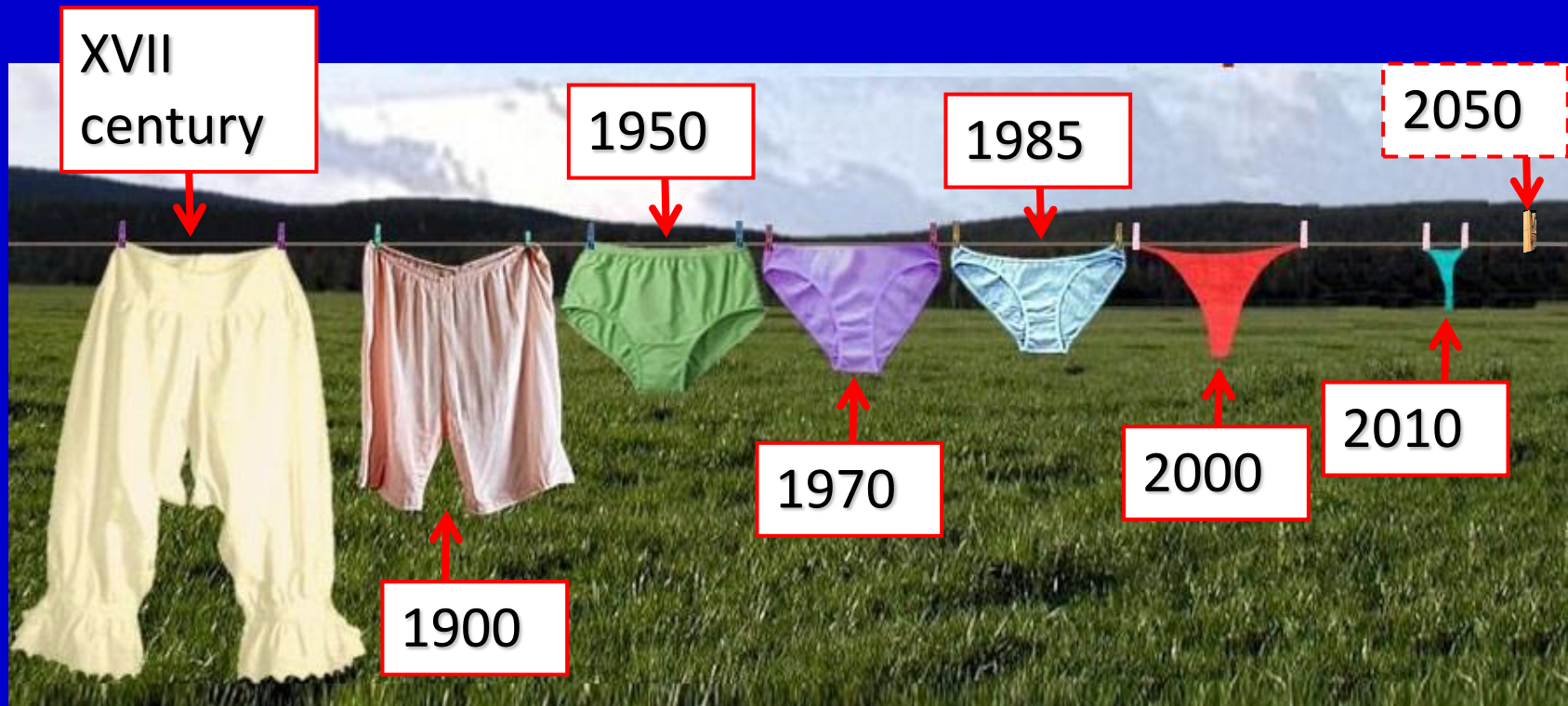
Kaab, A., Berthier, E., Nuth, C., Gardelle, J., & Y. Arnaud, Contrasting patterns of early 21st century glacier mass change in the Himalaya, *Nature*, 488, 495-498, 2012.



Baltor
Campaign,
Field
Experiment
2011-2012

SHARE
paprika
Stations at High Altitude for Research on the Environment





...such an interchange would not only require a clear delineation of the interface between hydrology and climatology but would probably also call for a clearer understanding of the relationship between theory and practice in each of the two areas
(James D.I. Dooge)

The DOWN-SCALING issue

Prediction of future climate scenarios requires use of climate feeding from AOGCMs
(Atmospheric Oceanic Global Circulation Models)



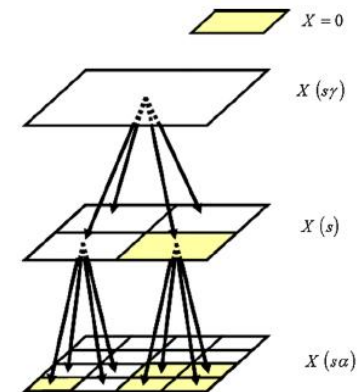
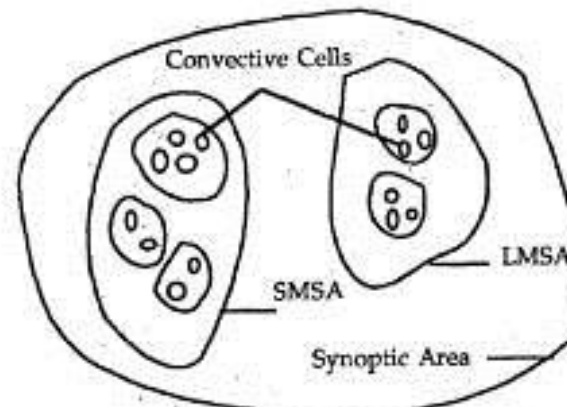
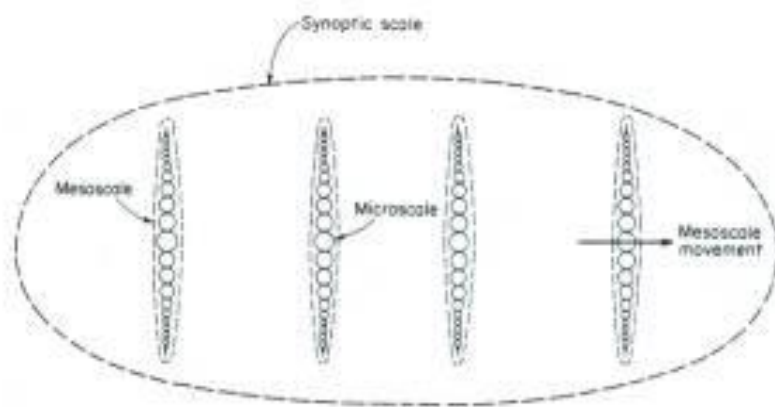
The crucial issue stems from the **bias**, and the **tremendous mismatch** in scales between AOGCMs (100 km), and the hydrological models (1-:-10 km), as required by topographic control

We need some tool to downscale projections of future precipitation from the AOGCM



DOWN-SCALING via **RC** + **SRE**

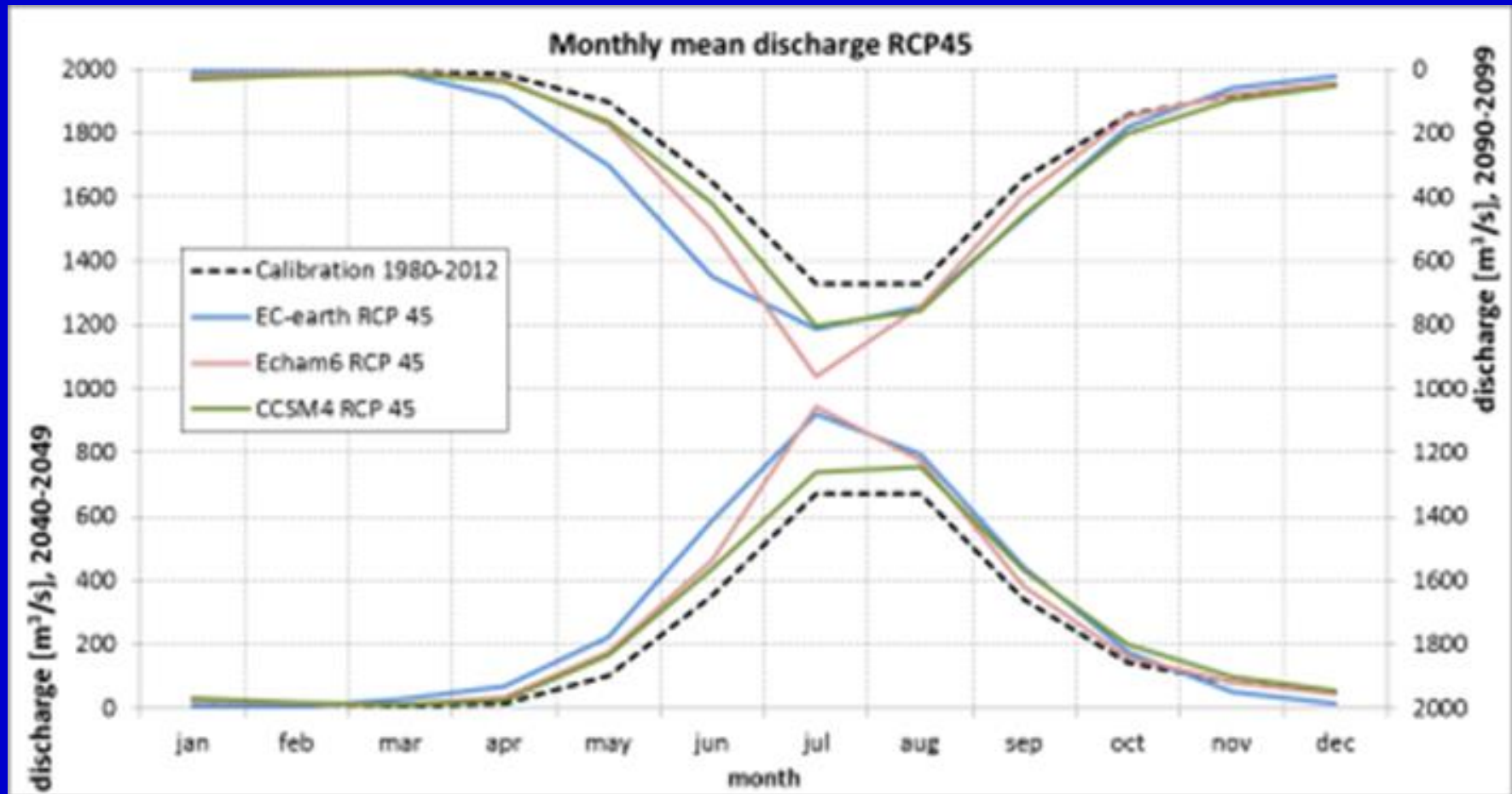
An effective and efficient downscaling approach uses concepts of scale variability of precipitation to obtain statistical downscaling techniques to convey information from GCMs to local scale of hydro-glacio investigation



Random Cascade (RC) theory provides an insight of intrinsic, physical structure of precipitation fields

Scale Recursive Estimation (SRE) provides efficient algorithms for model estimation

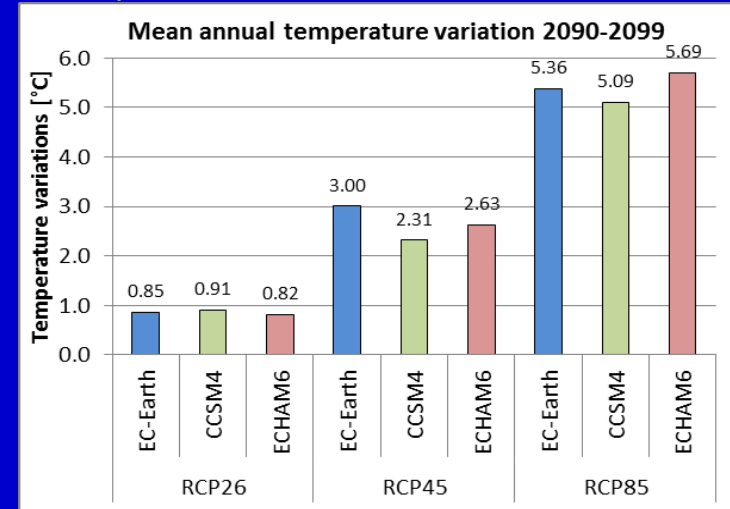
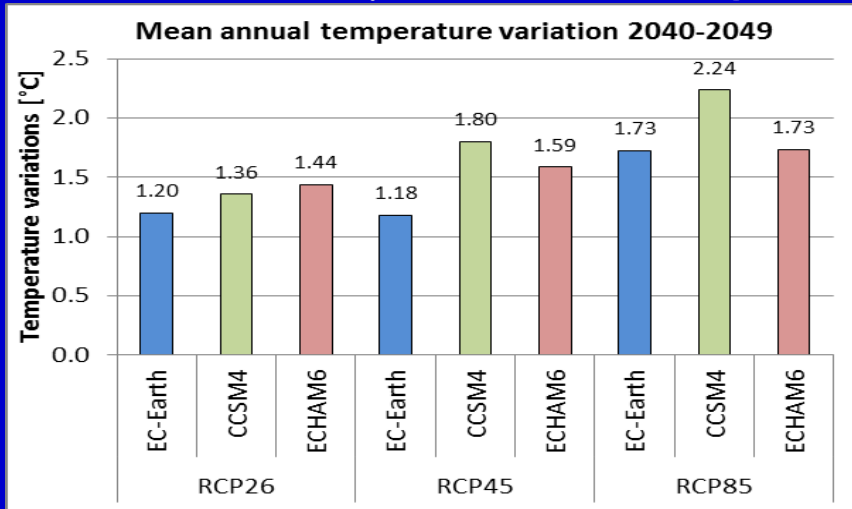
Streamflow will increase during the warm season, as sustained by ice melt, especially during July and August, but with a potential shift of high flows towards Spring months



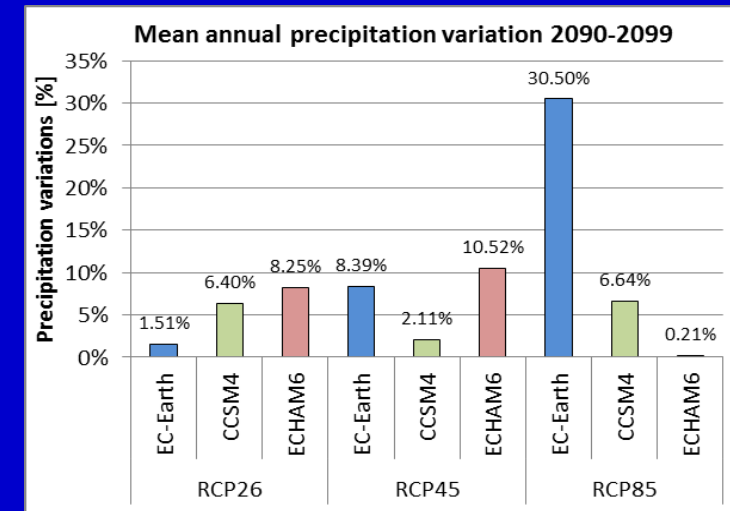
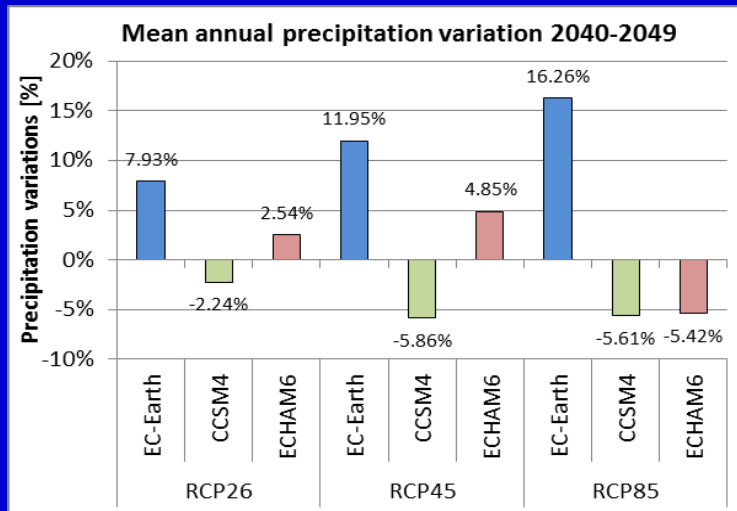
Soncini, A., D. Bocchiola, G. Confortola, A. Bianchi, R. Rosso, C. Mayer, A. Lambrecht, E. Palazzi, C. Smiraglia & G. Diolaiuti, Future Hydrological Regimes in the Upper Indus Basin: A Case Study from a High-Alitude Glacierized Catchment, *J. Hydrometeorology*, in print, 2014.

HYDROLOGICAL SCENARIOS, KARAKORUM

Temperature changes (yearly, Ref. 1980-2012)

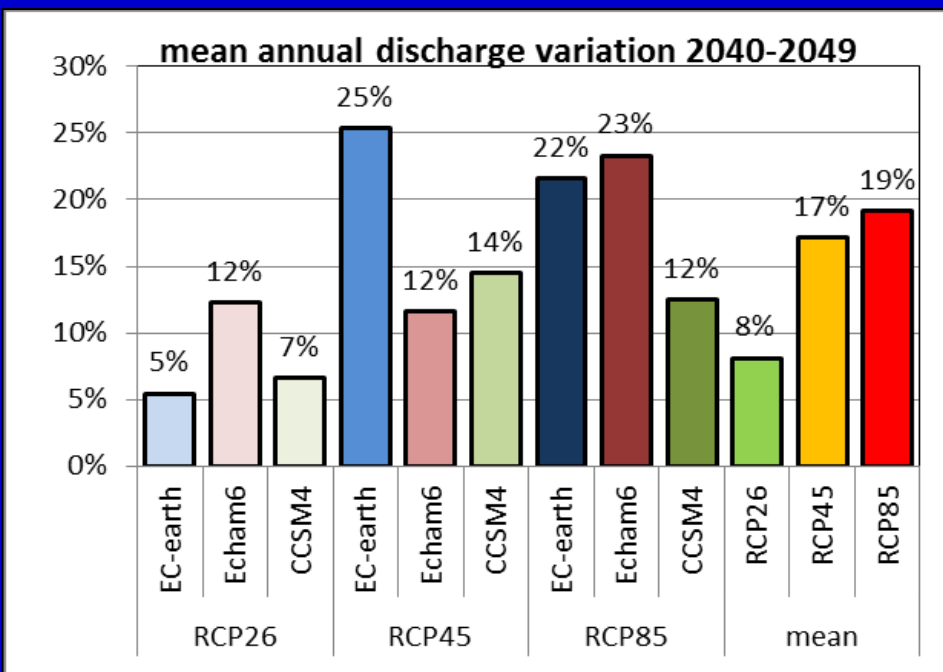


Precipitation changes (yearly, Ref. 1980-2012)

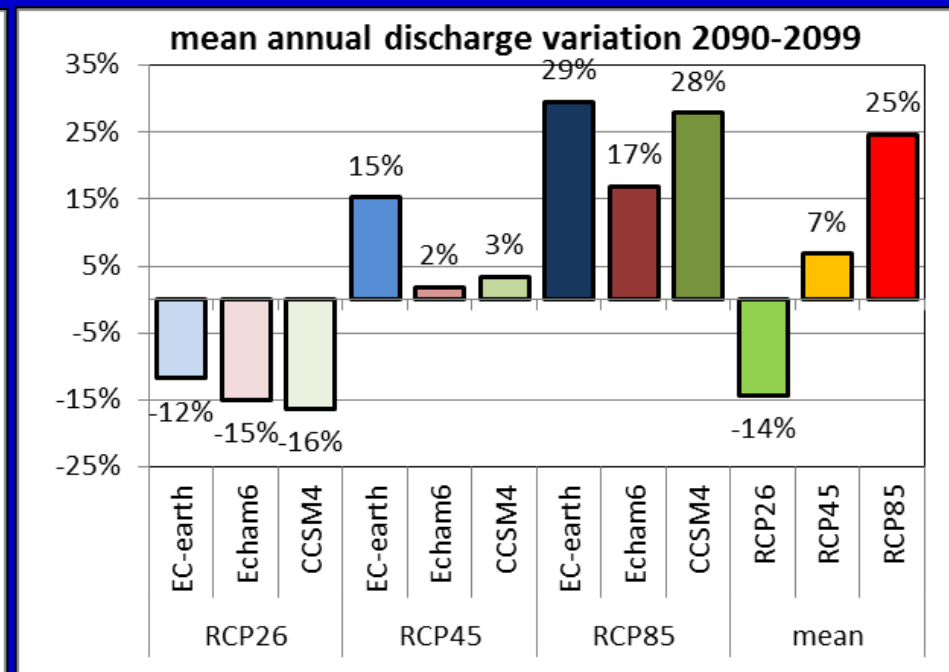


HYDROLOGICAL SCENARIOS, KARAKORUM: INDUS

Mean Annual Streamflow (yearly, Ref. 1980-2012)



The potential increase of freshwater availability in the Indus river around the middle of the 21st century

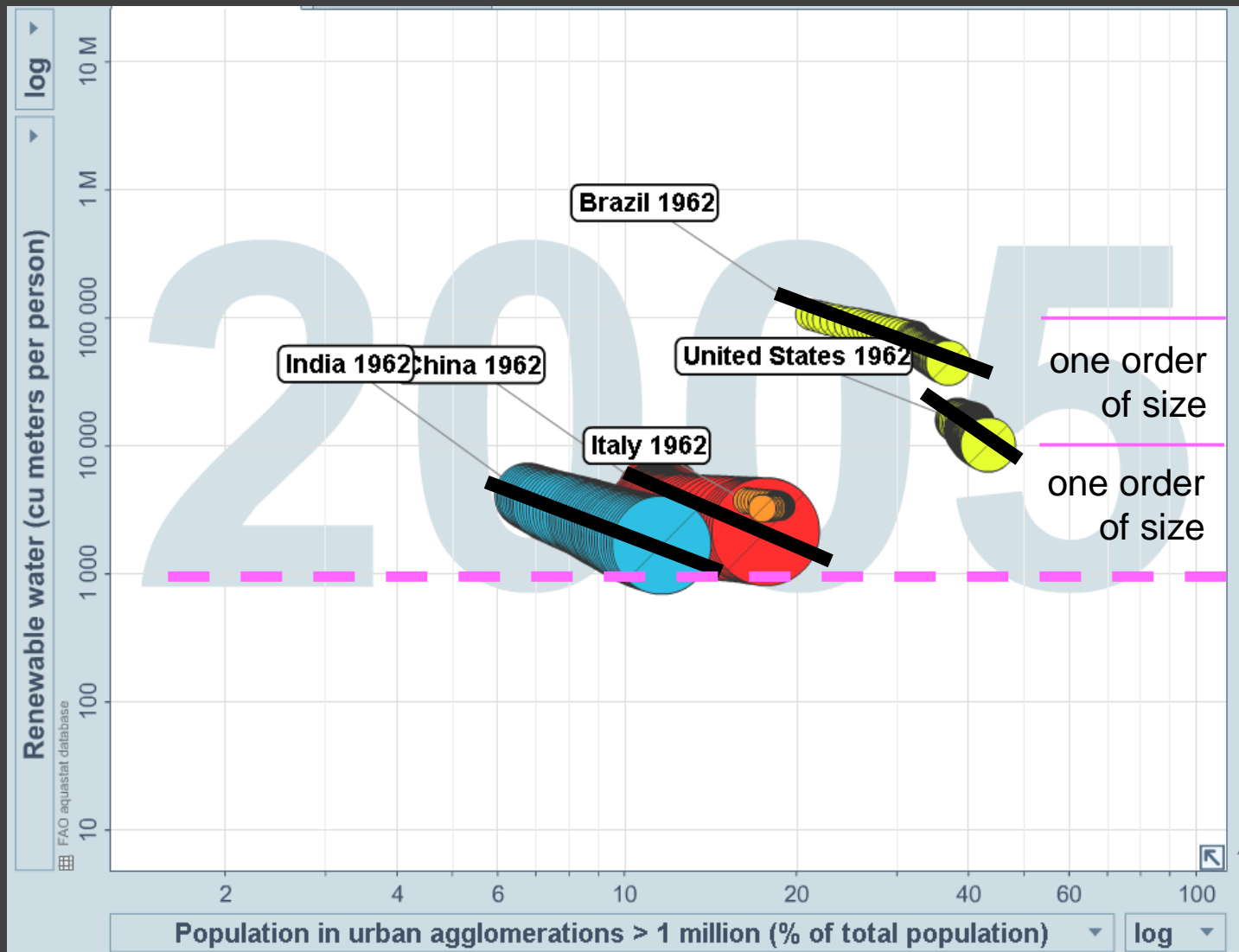


The potential sudden decrease of freshwater availability in the Indus river by end of the 21st century



water and the city

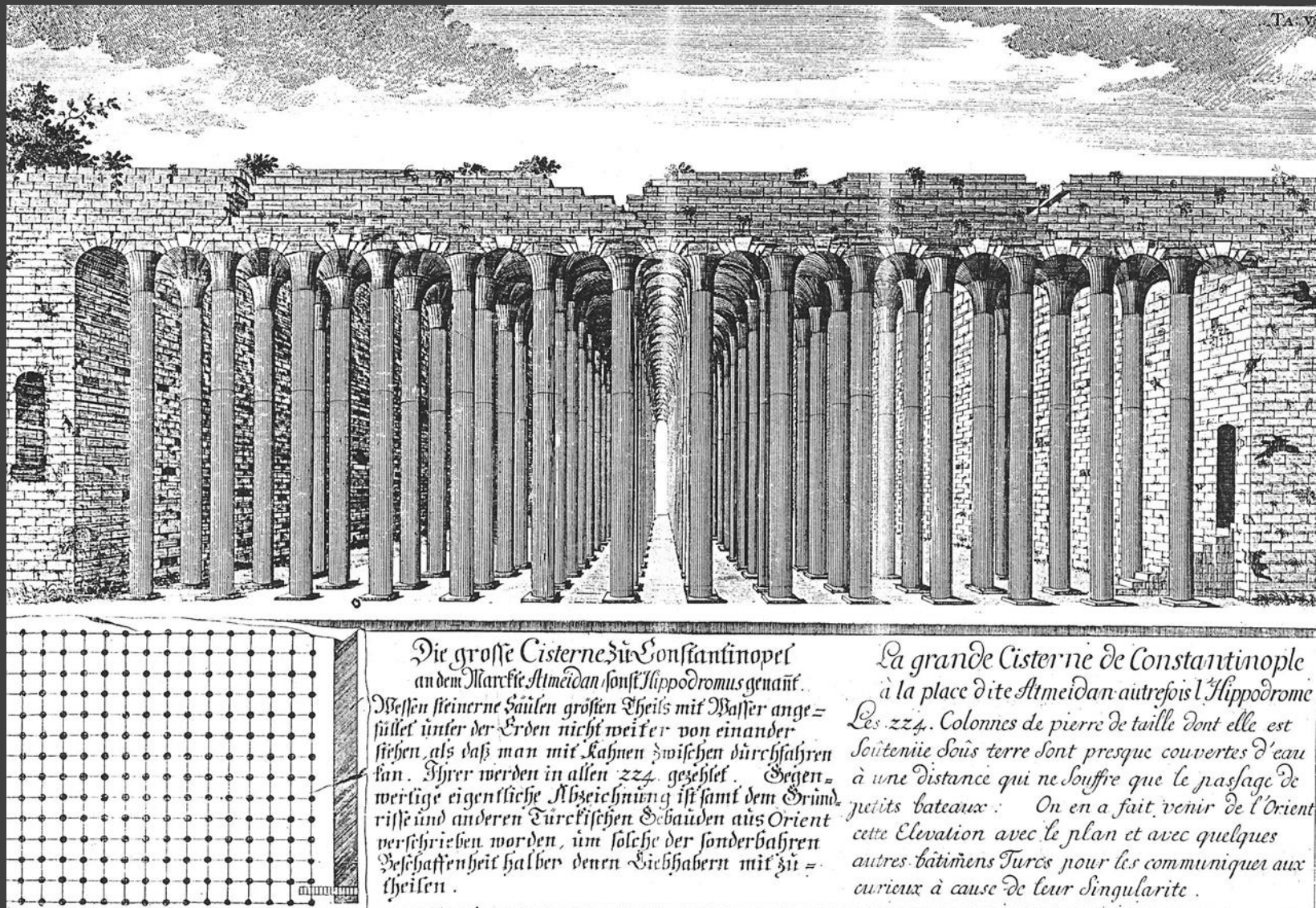
↑
ACQUA DOLCE
(mc per persona)



POPOLAZIONE URBANA (totale)

<http://www.gapminder.org>





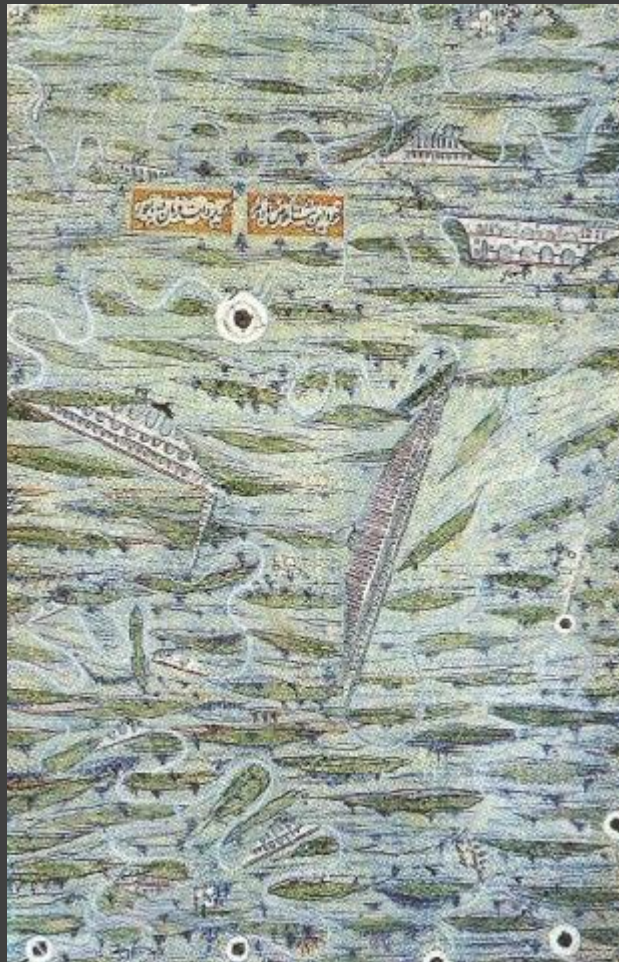
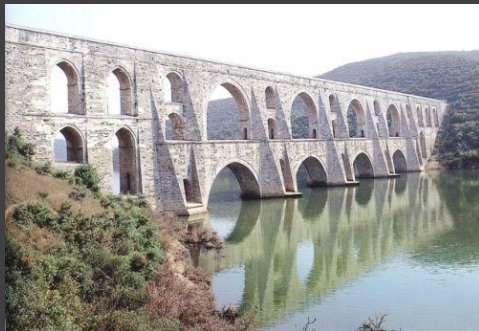


Kirkcesme water supply systems (1555:- 1564) Süleyman, Sultan, and Sinan, engineer and architect-in-chief



Uzunkemer
Aqueduct

Maglova
Aqueduct



Egrikemer
Aqueduct

Kovuk Aqueduct



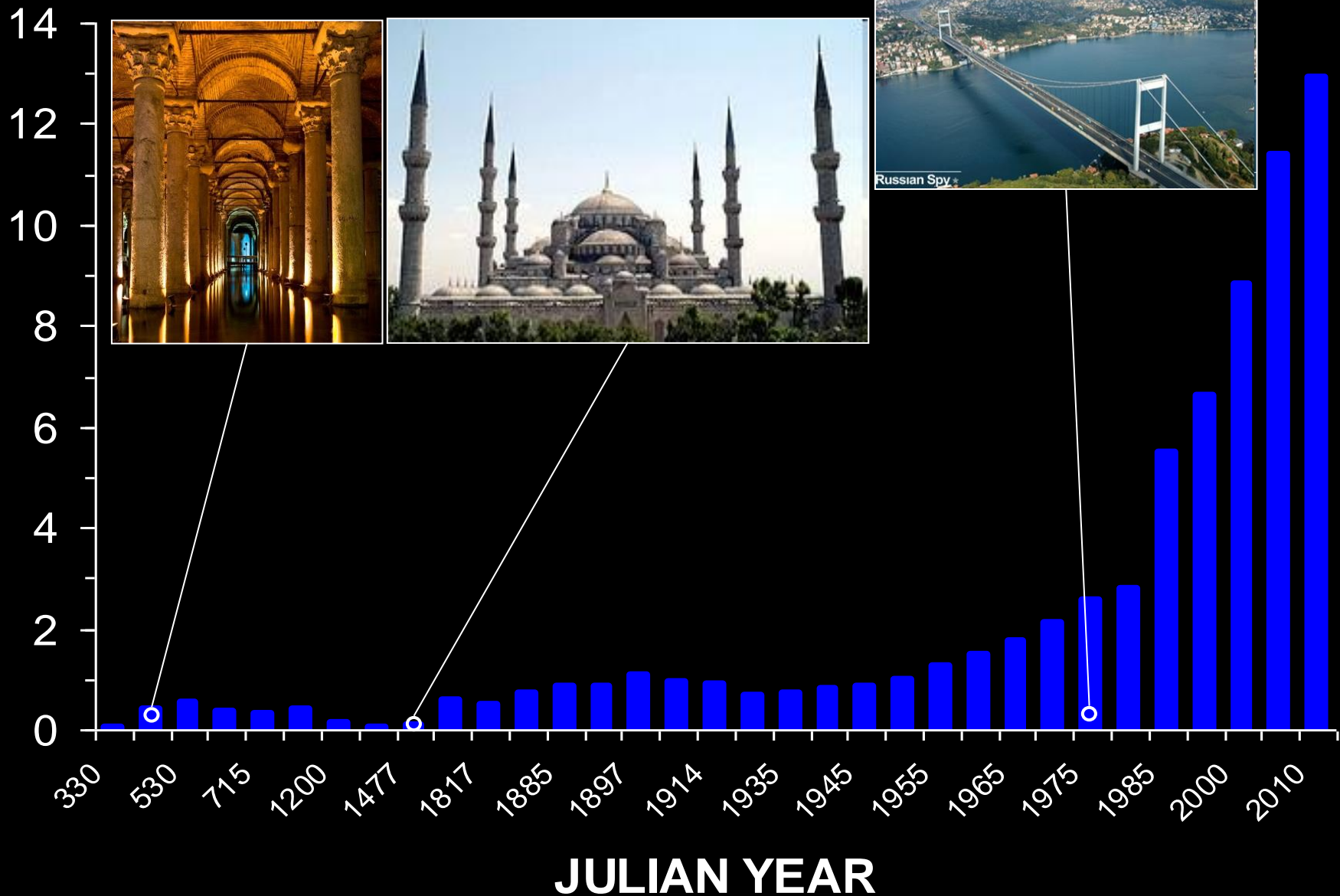


La grande piscine à Brusa (The great bath at Bursa Turkey) - Jean-Léon Gerome (1885)



18462, P. Z. - CONSTANTINOPLE, FONTAINE GUILLAUME

POPULATION





MELEN PROJECT

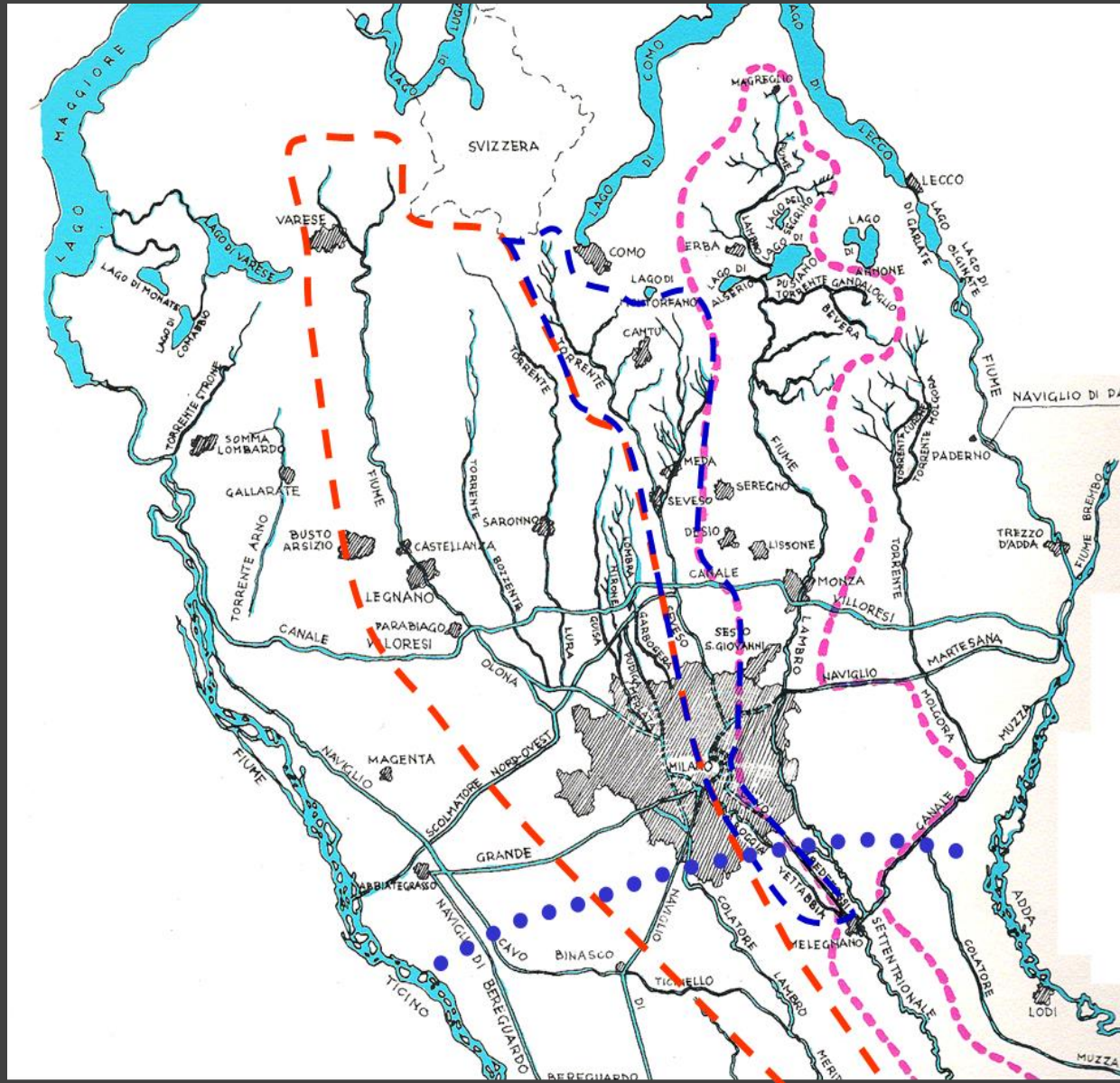






The metropolitan area of Milan, Italy, displays a complex surface water network, this including rivers and minor streams, and a lot of artificial channels that were build across the centuries in order to trasfer water from one drainage basin to another, to supply irrigation facilities, and to provide transportation routes.

This network, starting from the 10th and 11th century, includes the Navigli, a complex system contributed by Leonardo da Vinci among others

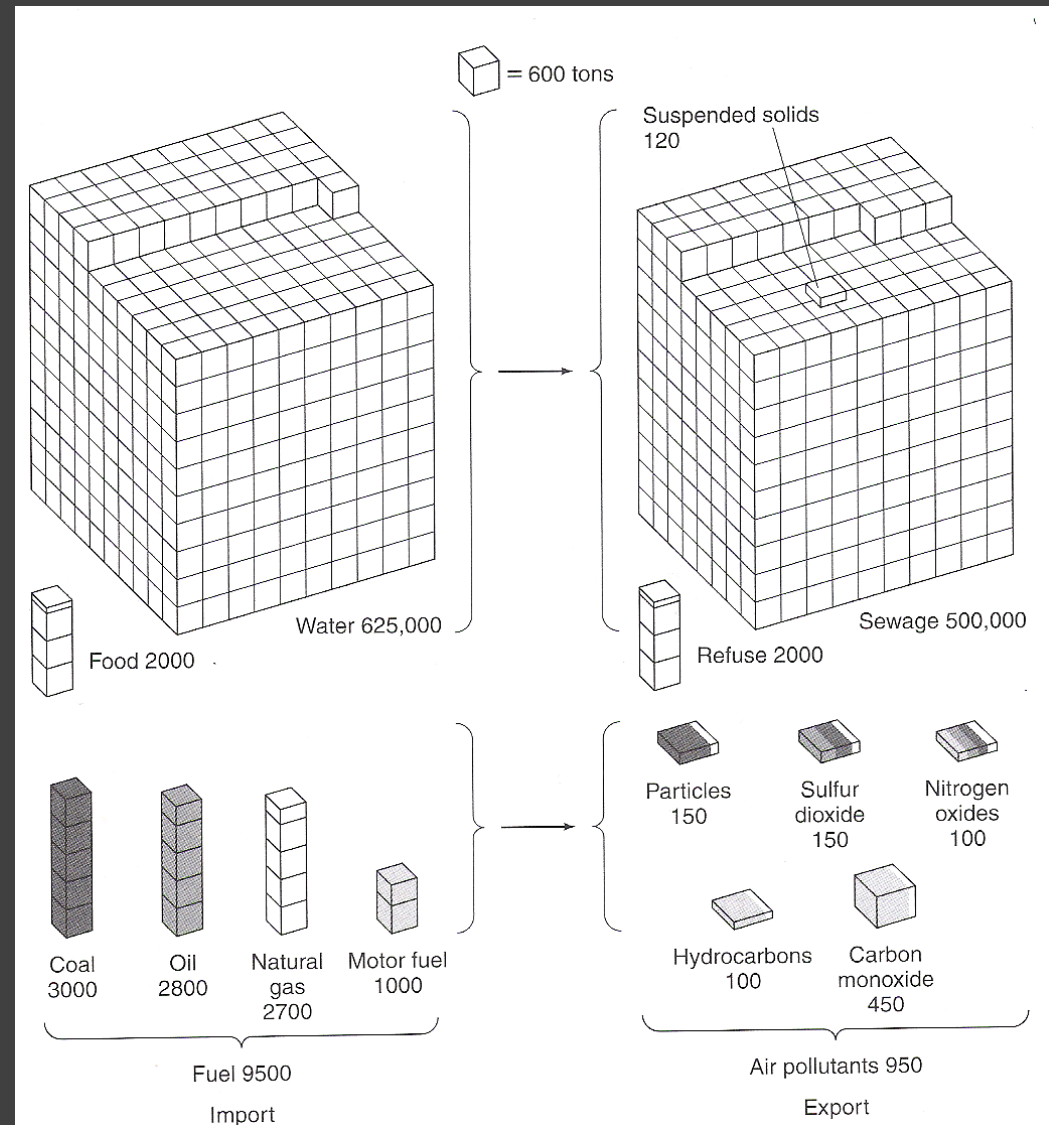


Water is a
fundamental
component of mass
balance of a city

in downtown Milan:
 $450 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$

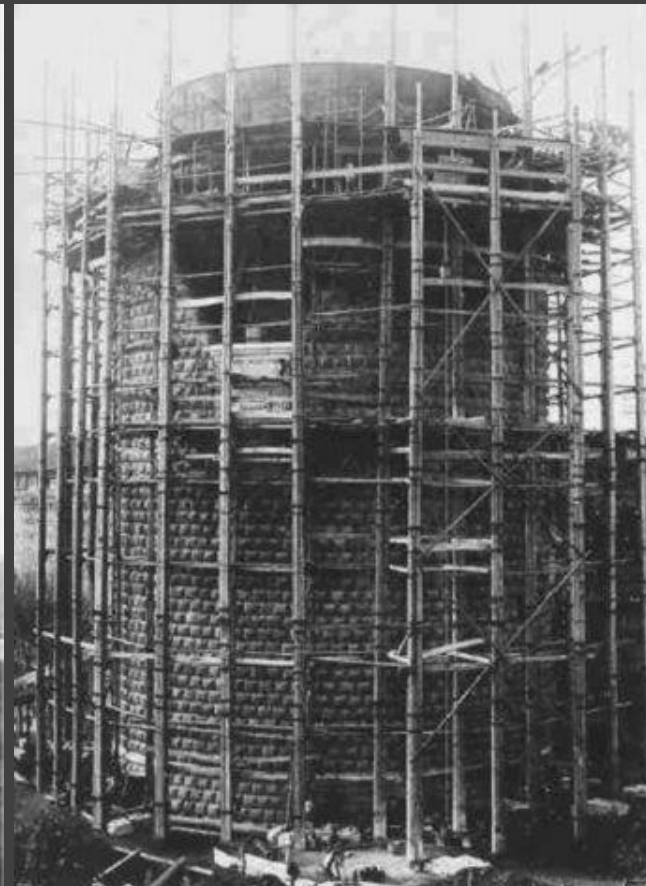
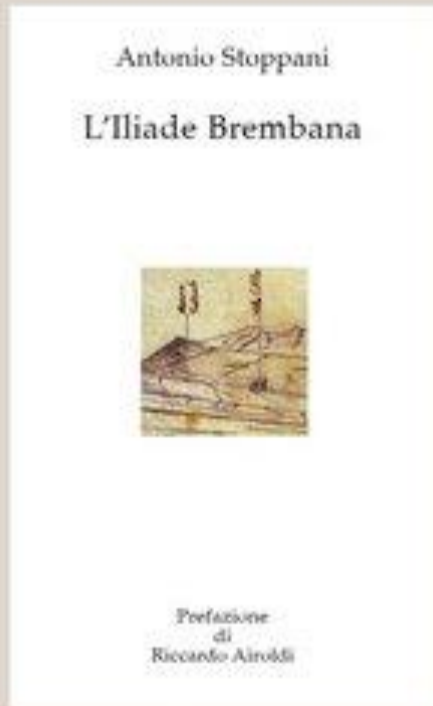
47% groundwater supply

53% areal precipitation



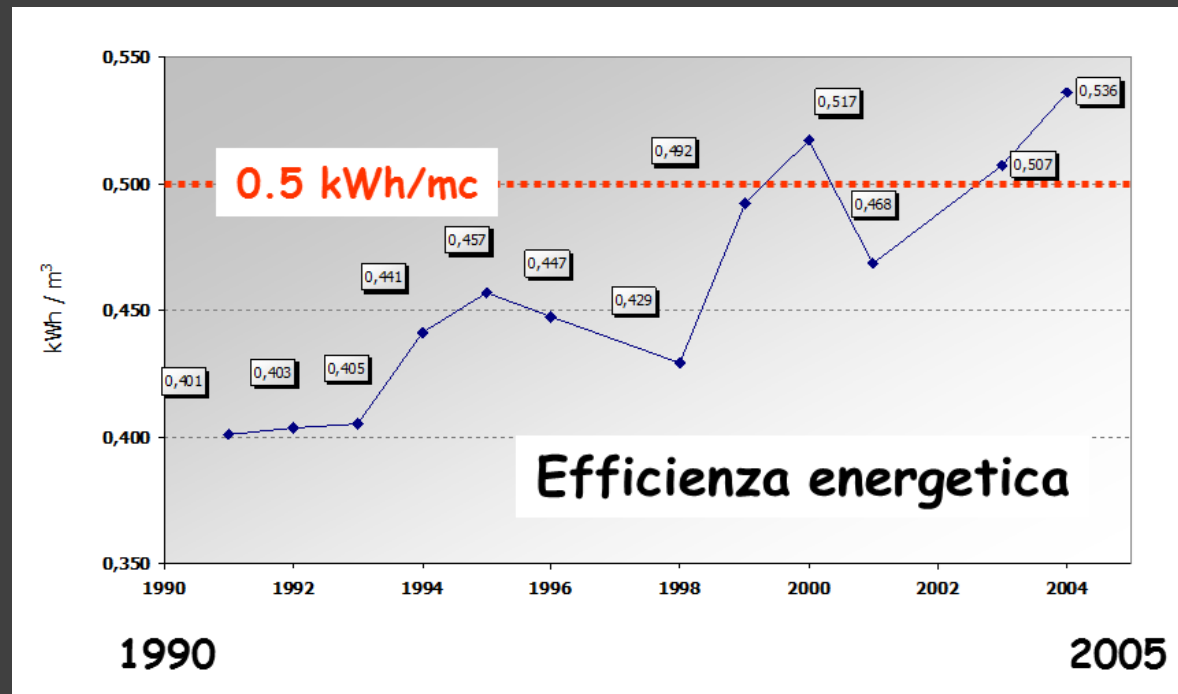
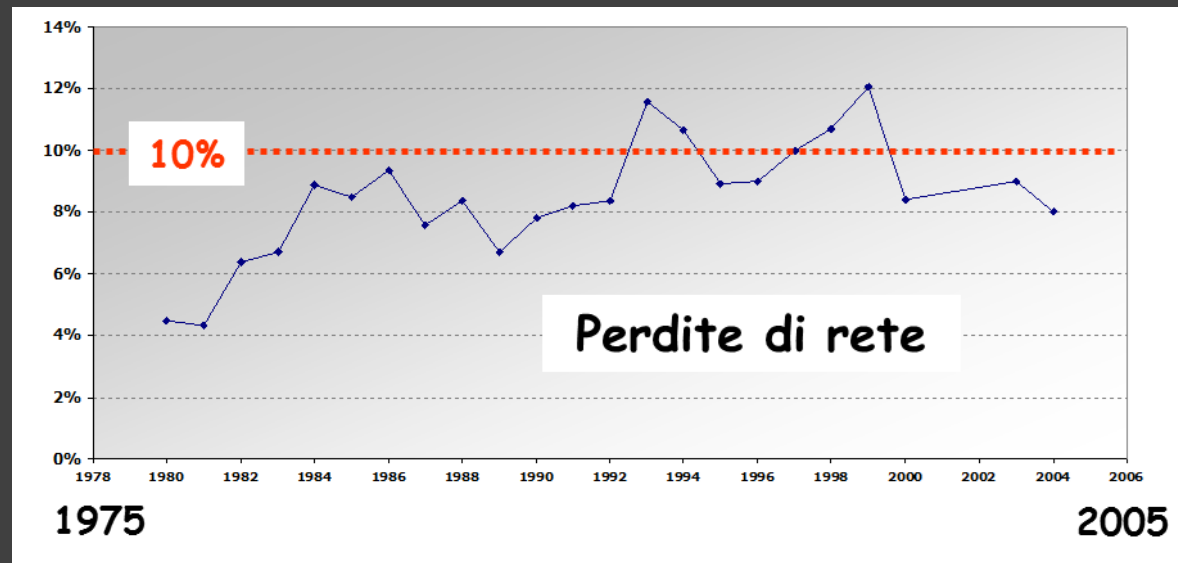
Bonvesin della Riva
reports that
in year 1200
there were 6.000 wells
of “acqua viva” ,
i.e freshwater,
in the area of Milan



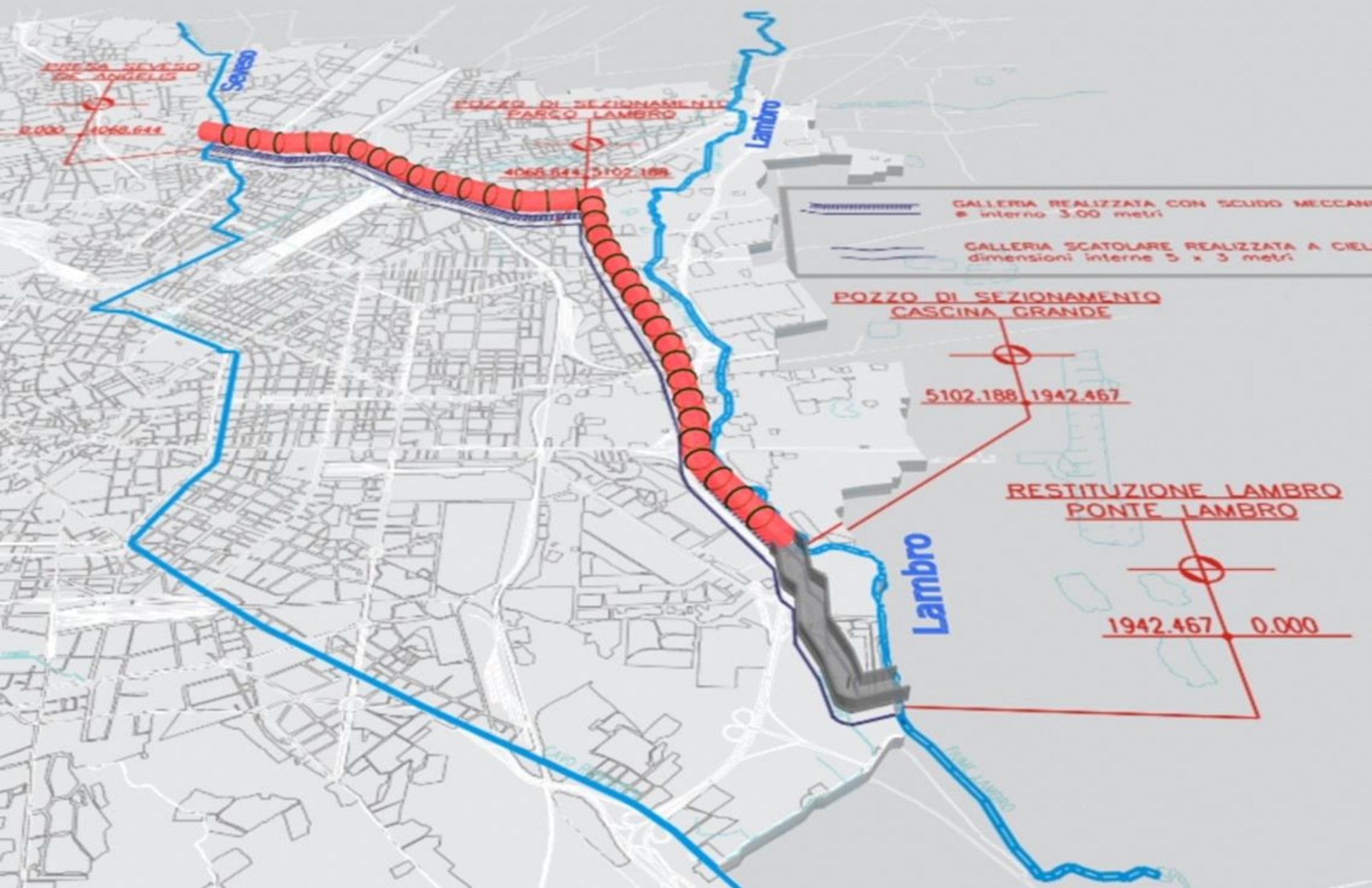


Nowadays, the
(downtown) Milan
city-aqueduct
relies on 550 wells
that are located
inside a circle of
about 10 kilometers
in radius







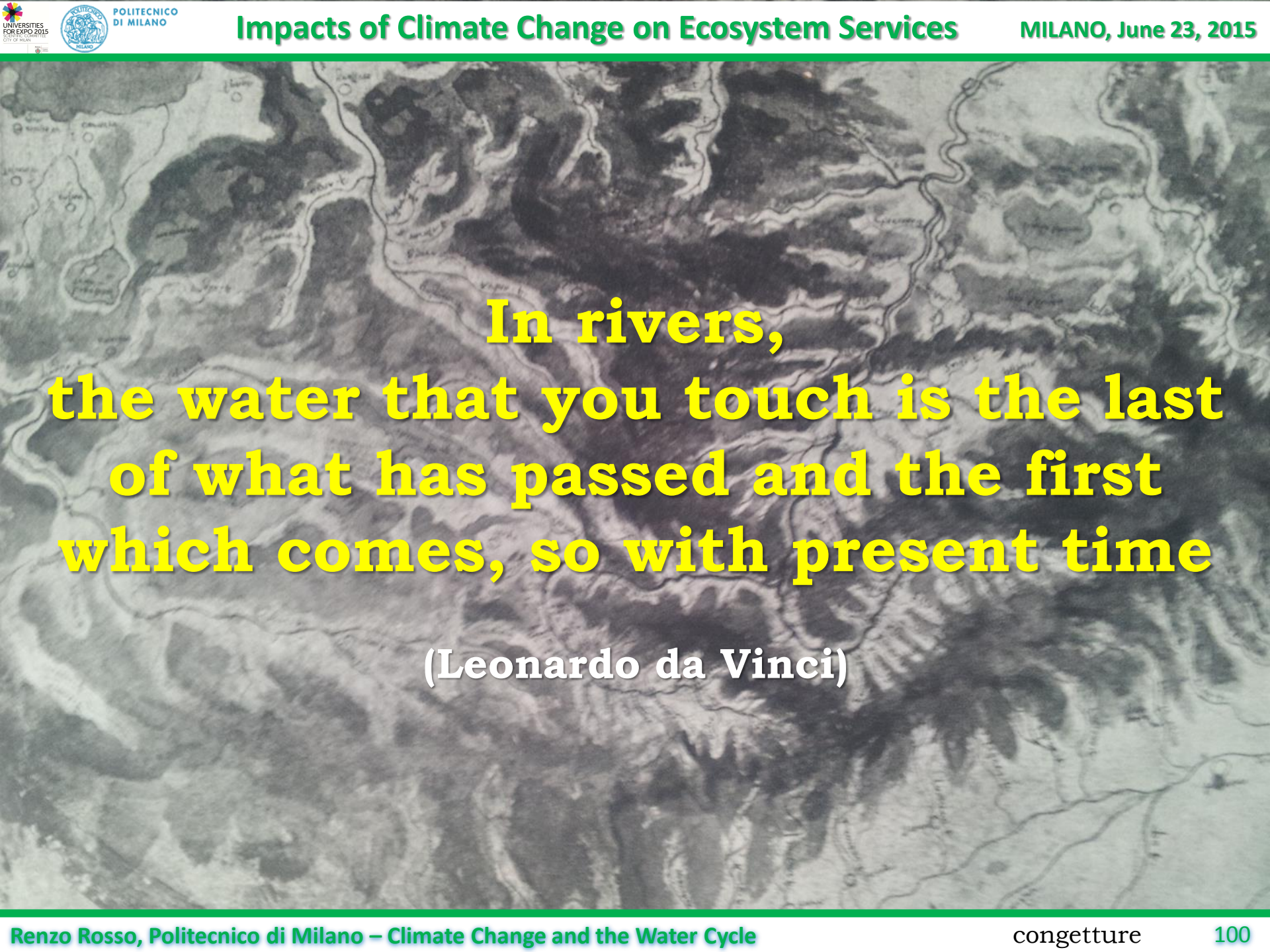


STUDIO DI FATTIBILITA' DELLA RIAPERTURA DEI NAVIGLI MILANESI NELL'AMBITO DELLA RIATTIVAZIONE DEL SISTEMA COMPLESSIVO DEI NAVIGLI E DELLA SUA NAVIGABILITA'



Progetto coordinato da Antonello Boatti

Giulia Bassi, Emilio Battisti, Elena Bertoni, Marco Boffi, Allegra Bonamore, Elio Borgonovi, Flavio Boscacci, Roberto Camagni, Claudia Candia, Giulia Carucci, Simone Carzaniga, Andrea Cassone, Alessandro De Carli, Alessandra Giannini, Giorgio Goggi, Paolo Inghilleri, Carlotta Lamera, Giada Longhi, Arianna Lugarini, Empio Malara, Fabia Malara, Linda Pola, Marco Proverbio, Marco Prusicki, Nicola Rainisio, Eleonora Riva, Renzo Rosso, Guido Rosti, Maria Cristina Sciandra, Stefano Sibilla, Ekaterina Solomatina, Umberto Vascelli Vallara



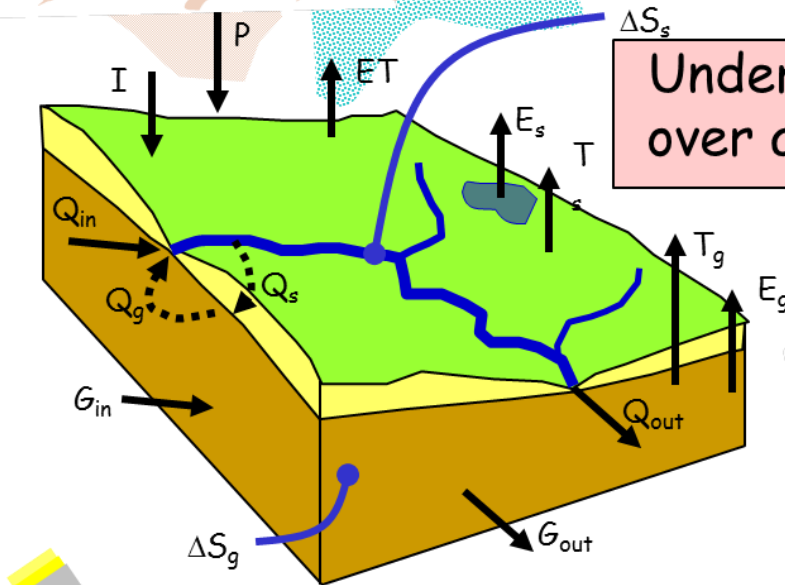
**In rivers,
the water that you touch is the last
of what has passed and the first
which comes, so with present time**

(Leonardo da Vinci)

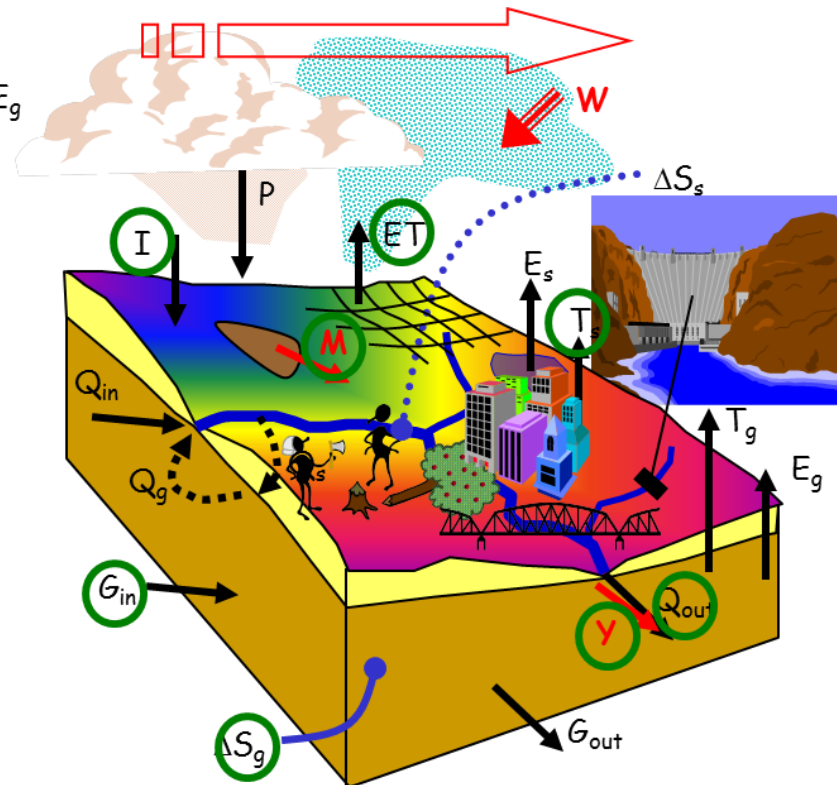
Expansion of Process Variables in Hydrology

Extension of the spatial scale of analysis

Understanding of process interactions over a wide range of space-time scales



complexity



expansion of process variables

Modern hydrology is an observational science originated after the late XVII century confutation of current theories on springs and river origin. The basic understanding was

1. that one must consider a combination of physical processes – i.e. precipitation, infiltration, transpiration, evaporation, and diversion, not only flow – to explain runoff and its variability at a river site

extension of the spatial scale of analysis


Modern hydrology is an observational science originated after the late XVII century confutation of current theories on springs and river origin. The basic understanding was

2. that one must consider a much larger spatial scale – i.e. the drainage basin instead of a river cross-section – to explain runoff and its variability at a river site

understanding of process interactions over a wide range of space-time scales

Modern hydrology is an observational science originated after the late XVII century confutation of current theories on springs and river origin. The basic understanding was

3. that one must consider process interactions – i .e. precipitation, infiltration, transpiration, evaporation, impounding and diversion – over a wide range of spatial and temporal scales – i.e. from a plot or a river transect to a creek and the watershed to explain runoff and its variability at a river site



Einstein's son (Hans Albert) was once asked by his father:
“How does rain fall?”
“In drops”, was the young boy's reply.
“That is very important as you will see”,
his father advised.

The discrete nature of rainfall may have inspired Einstein to introduce the idea of wave–particle duality to explain blackbody radiation as a particle noise added to the wave noise

(Kostinski and Shaw, 2009)

a large scale system can differ from the
sum of its individual components:
a forest is not just a collection of trees

(Fred I. Morton)

nobody accepts the model as true,
except
who built the model

everyone accepts the data as true,
except
who collected the data

(Gaylon S. Campbell)

Hydrology has developed slowly because it has been considered an appendage of hydraulic engineering rather than a natural science.

Vujica Yevievich
1968

In practice, hydrology is regarded mostly as a technological discipline rather than a science; this attitude is responsible for much bad science in hydrology which, in turn, has led to much bad technology in applied disciplines.

Vito Klemes
1988

Some one is going to...end up with an understanding of the relation of the physical basis for statistical variability in time and space.

David R. Dawdy
2008



**When we try to pick out anything by
itself, we find it hitched to
everything else in the universe**

(John Muir)

water acknowledgments:
Maria Cristina Rulli
Daniele Bocchiola
Hubert H.G. Savenije

thanks for attention