

A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water, creating a series of concentric ripples. The droplet is captured mid-fall, just above the point of impact, with a small air bubble visible just below it. The background is a deep blue gradient.

gewex

Global Energy and Water Exchanges

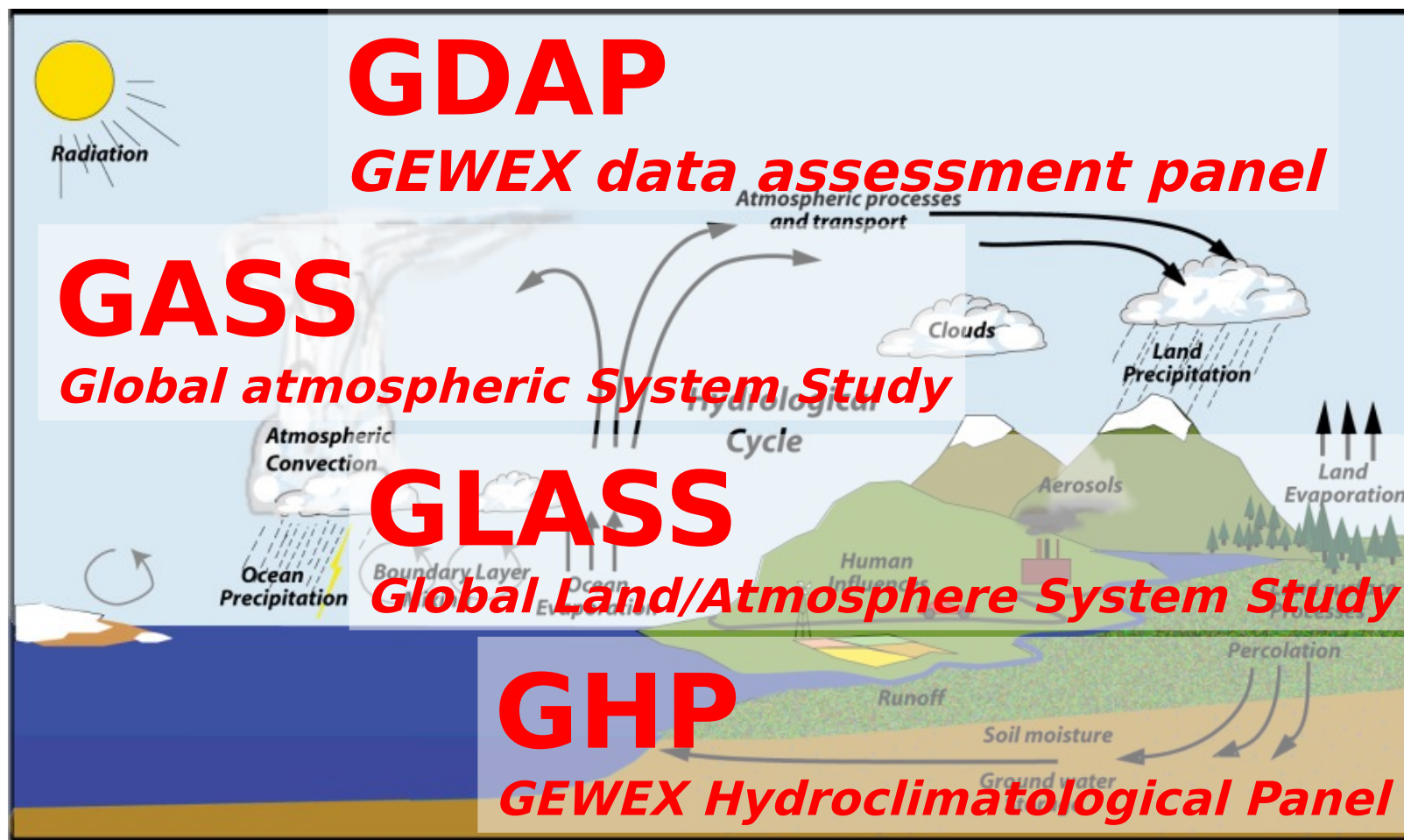
World Climate Research Programme

**GEWEX Hydro-meteorological Panel
(GHP)**

WCRP Grand Challenges

- Actionable regional climate information (mainly CLIVAR lead)
- Regional Sea-Level (CLIVAR lead, with CliC and **GEWEX**)
- Cryosphere in a changing climate (CliC lead)
- Cloud and Climate Sensitivity (WGCM lead, with **GEWEX** and SPARC)
- Changes in water availability (**GEWEX** lead) (*more regional*)
- Prediction and attribution of extreme events (**GEWEX** lead) (*more project input*)

GEWEX : Major components



GEWEX Science questions

- 1) How can we better understand and predict **precipitation variability** and **changes**?
- 2) How do changes in the **land surface** and **hydrology** influence **past** and **future changes** in **water availability** and **security**?
- 3) How does a warming world affect **climate extremes**, and especially **droughts, floods** and **heat waves**, and how do **land area processes**, in particular, contribute?
- 4) How can understanding of the **effects** and **uncertainties** of **water** and **energy exchanges** in the current and changing climate be improved and conveyed?

Science question 1

How can we better understand and predict variations and changes in precipitation?

- use and development of expected improved **datasets** on: precipitation and soil moisture from ongoing and planned satellite missions, as well from in-situ observations;
- evaluation and **analysis** into various products;
- document the mean, variability, patterns, extremes and full probability density functions,
- **confront models** in new ways;
- improve understanding of atmospheric and land surface **processes** and their **modeling** that improve simulations of precipitation;
- employ new techniques of data assimilation and forecasts that improve predictions of the hydrological cycle.

These results should lead to improved climate services.



Extreme rainfall events in the Mediterranean

La Méditerranée sous haute surveillance

Le programme Hymex vise à mieux prévoir les événements climatiques extrêmes.

KÉVIN LAMOTHE

MÉTÉOROLOGIE Il y a vingt ans, Vaison-la-Romaine, petite commune du Vaucluse, était dévastée par une inondation spectaculaire. Des torrents de pluie s'abattaient sur la région et, en quelques heures, l'Ouvèze, la petite rivière qui traverse la ville, sort de son lit, tuant 47 personnes. La tragédie, encore présente dans les mémoires, a profondément marqué les esprits. Pourtant, ces événements « extrêmes », couramment appelés épisodes cévenols, ne sont pas rares sur le pourtour méditerranéen. Au nord comme au sud : en novembre 2001 sur les côtes algériennes, l'un d'eux a coûté la vie à 800 personnes et provoqué plus de 3 milliards de dommages.



L'inondation de septembre 1992 à Vaison-la-Romaine a provoqué la mort de 47 personnes. PARROT / SYGMA / CORBIS

C'est quoi, un épisode cévenol ?

MÉTÉOROLOGIE | L'étude de ce phénomène de Méditerranée est au cœur du programme HyMeX

VALENTIN MINASSIAN

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À la fin de la nuit, il y a eu de la pluie, mais elle n'a pas été suffisante pour déclencher le phénomène. Le phénomène est dû à la convergence de masses d'air humides venant du sud et du nord, ce qui provoque une accumulation d'humidité et une élévation de la pression atmosphérique. Cette situation est favorisée par la présence de fronts météorologiques et de systèmes de haute et basse pression.



Les épisodes cévenols sont à l'origine d'orages répétés. Ici, les inondations de Vaison-La-Romaine en 1992. COURTESY OF MUSEUM

Après deux passages au-dessus et dans la zone, les conditions sont favorables à la formation d'un épisode cévenol. Il est donc possible d'anticiper ces événements et de prendre des mesures pour réduire les risques. Le programme HyMeX vise à mieux comprendre ces phénomènes et à améliorer les prévisions météorologiques.

Le programme HyMeX vise à mieux comprendre ces phénomènes et à améliorer les prévisions météorologiques. Il est financé par le CNRS et le gouvernement français. Le programme a pour objectif de mieux comprendre les mécanismes de formation des épisodes cévenols et de développer de nouveaux outils de prévision.

Programme

Phase d'observation intensive d'un programme de dix ans, financé pour quatre ans à hauteur de 5 millions d'euros, la campagne HyMeX de cet automne va mobiliser jusqu'à 6 novembre des moyens sans précédent dans l'histoire de la météorologie en France. L'objectif est de mieux comprendre les mécanismes de formation des épisodes cévenols et de développer de nouveaux outils de prévision.

« Les épisodes cévenols sont à l'origine d'orages répétés. Ici, les inondations de Vaison-La-Romaine en 1992. COURTESY OF MUSEUM »



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Valencia 1957

Extreme rainfall events in the Mediterranean are part of the geography :

★ They have structured cities (los ramblas)

★ They have lead to the deviation of rivers (Valencia)

★ Today they cause damage to infrastructures and cause death.

Understanding the processes involved is the first step to forecasting.

Science question 2

How do changes in the land surface and hydrology influence past and future changes in water availability and security?

- *Address terrestrial water storage changes and **close the water budget over land***
- *Exploit new datasets, data assimilation, improved physical understanding and modeling skill across scales,*
- *Catchments to regional to global to the entire hydrological cycle including hydrogeological aspects of ground water recharge.*
- *Use of **realistic land surface** complexity with all anthropogenic effects included instead of a fictitious natural environment.*

Science question 2 ... cont.

- *Includes all aspects of **global change**: water management, land use change and urbanization; water quality and especially water temperature; nutrients ...*
- *The **ecosystem response** to climate variability and responsive vegetation must be included.*
- *Cryospheric changes such as permafrost thawing and changes in mountain glaciers must be included.*
- *Feedbacks, tipping points, and extremes are of particular concern.*

The results should enhance the evaluation of the vulnerability of water systems, especially to extremes and which are vital for considerations of water security. They should increase resilience through good management and governance.

Science question 3

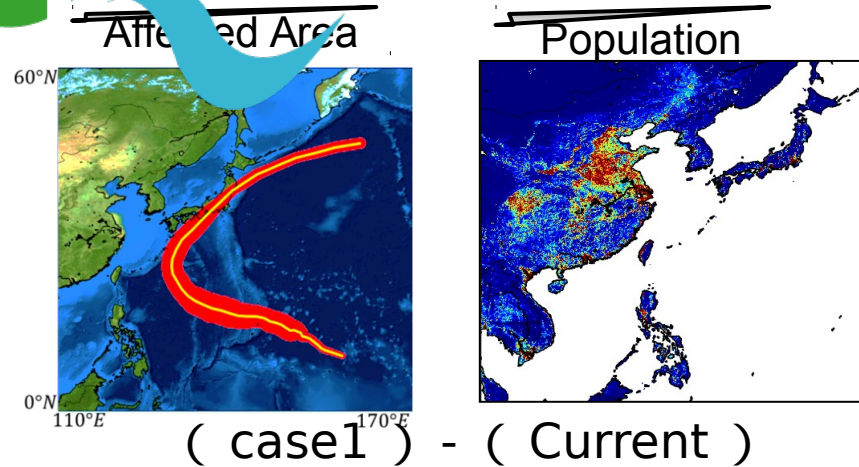
How does a warming world affect climate extremes, and especially droughts, floods and heat waves, and how do land area processes, in particular, contribute?

A warming world is expected to alter the occurrence and magnitude of **extremes** from droughts to rainfall intensity, and the geographic distribution of rain and snow.

Such changes are related to an acceleration of the hydrologic cycle and circulation changes as well as to the direct impact of warmer conditions on atmospheric water vapor amounts, rainfall intensity, and snow-to-rain occurrence.

How well are models able to handle extremes and how can we improve their capability?

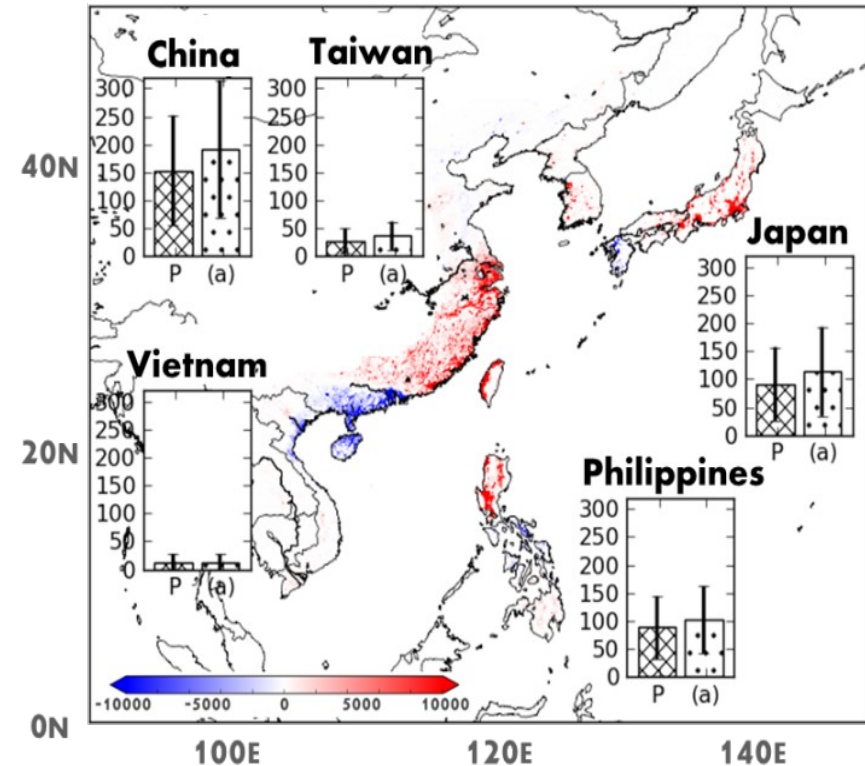
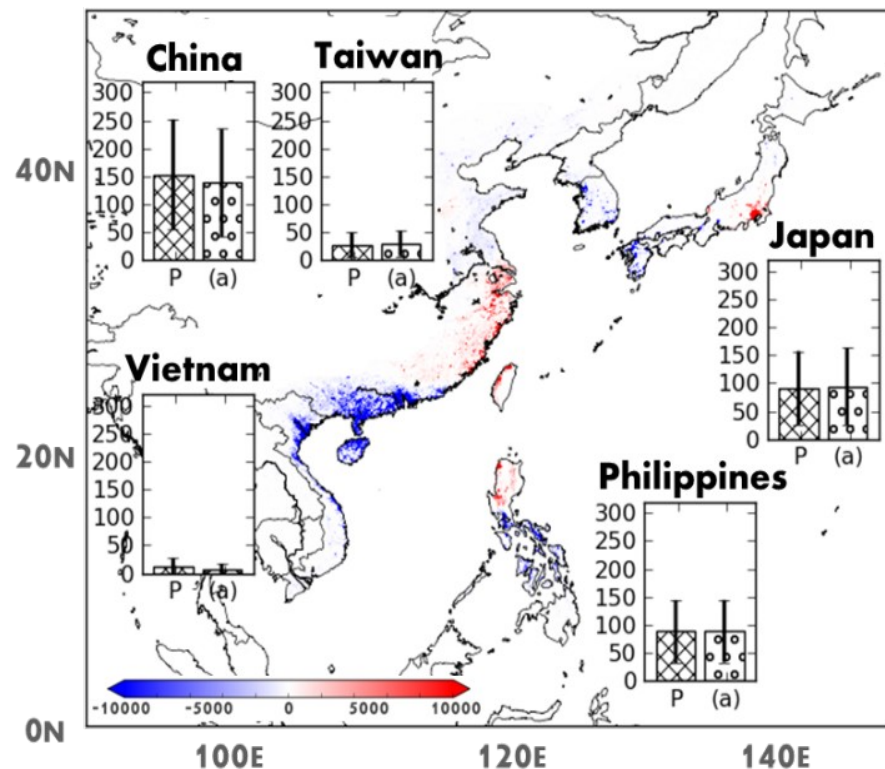
Tropical cyclone Exposure Changes (Above 25m/s by TC) (2000 → 2100)



Risk Assessment

Pressure Course	No Change	21% Change
No Change	Current	—
With Change	Case1	Case2

(case2) - (Current)



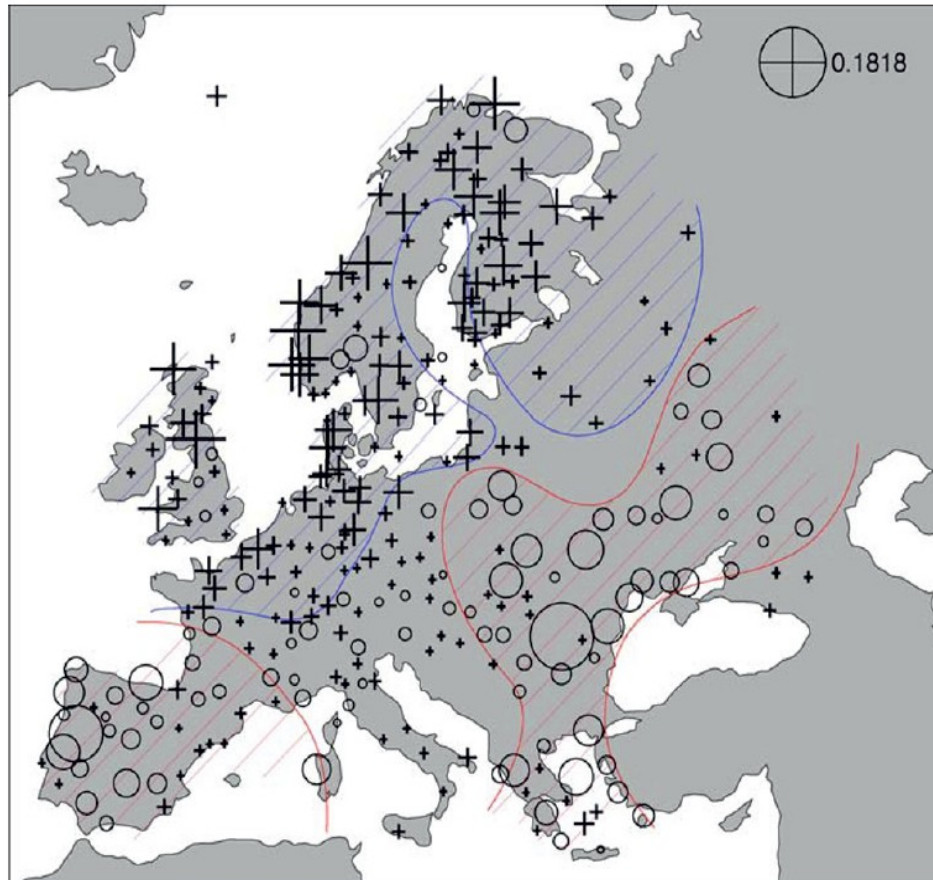
(Kanae S. et al. in preparation)

Past and current climate change

Precipitation extremes in winter



BACC



+ Increase in the number of extreme precipitation events

O Decrease in the number of extreme precipitation events

Number of extreme precipitation events over Northern Europe has increased in winter

Fig. 2.25. The linear trend in number of precipitation events above the 90th percentile (R90N) during winter (December to February) for 1958–2000. A '+' signifies an increase and a 'O' shows a decrease. The size of the symbol is linearly proportional to the magnitude of the trend. Units are days/year and the maximum trend magnitude is shown in the top right (from Haylock and Goodess 2004, modified)

Science question 4

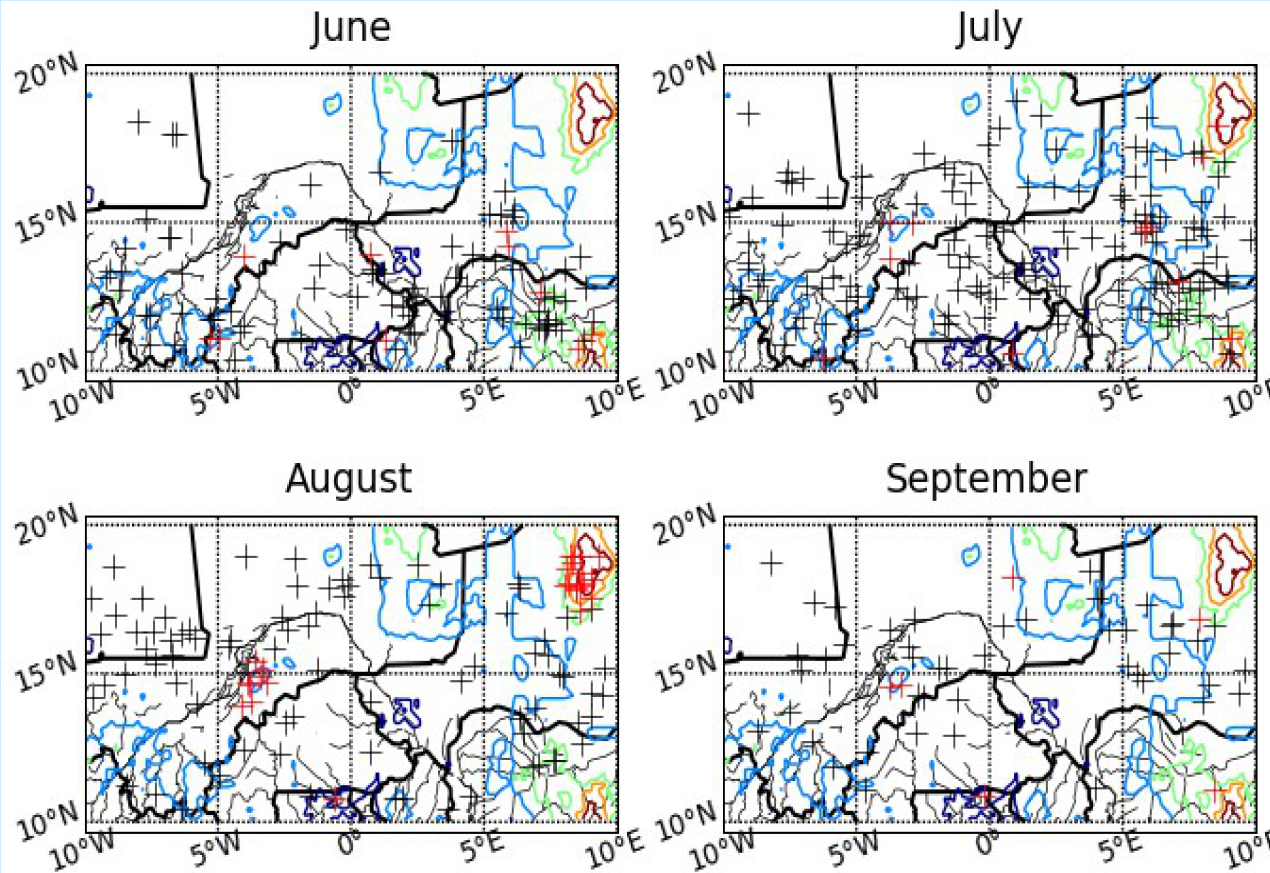
How can understanding of the effects and uncertainties of water and energy exchanges in the current and changing climate be improved and conveyed?

- *improve **consistency** between net solar and infrared radiation and sensible and latent heat fluxes at the surface*
- *understand **cloud-aerosol-precipitation interactions** and their **feedbacks** on the climate system.*
- *determine **processes** that must be replicated in climate models.*
- *better understand **uncertainties** in observations and models*

New satellite, in situ observations, upgraded GEWEX datasets, global reanalyses of atmosphere and ocean, improved modeling, and advanced diagnostics play key roles.

Initiation of convection in 2006

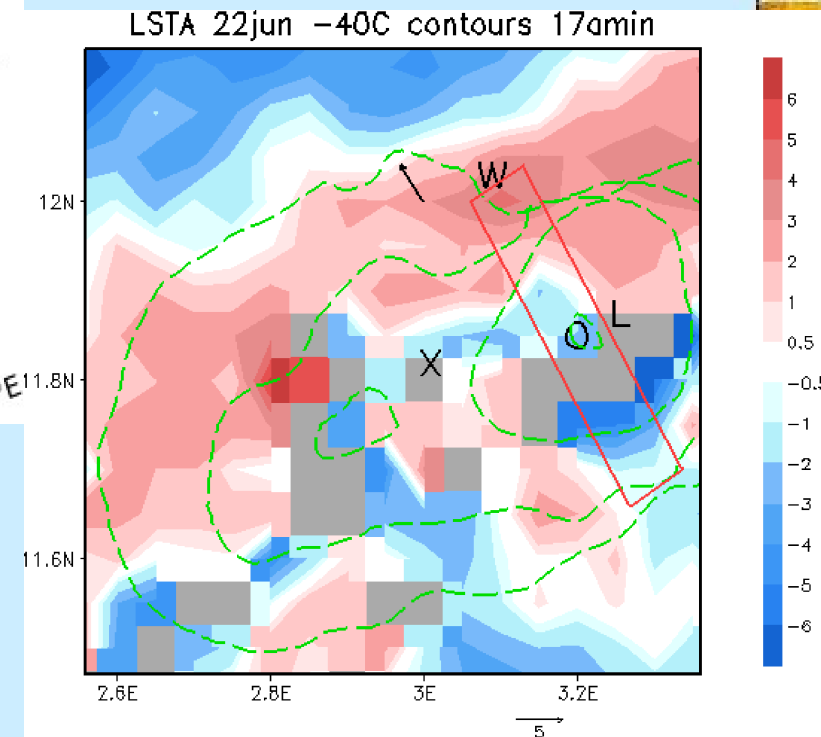
Using the ISIS system of Météo-France and Meteosat images the initial location of storms could be traced back .



(ISIS picks-up most systems around 16Z but first cold clouds are visible 2 hours earlier.)

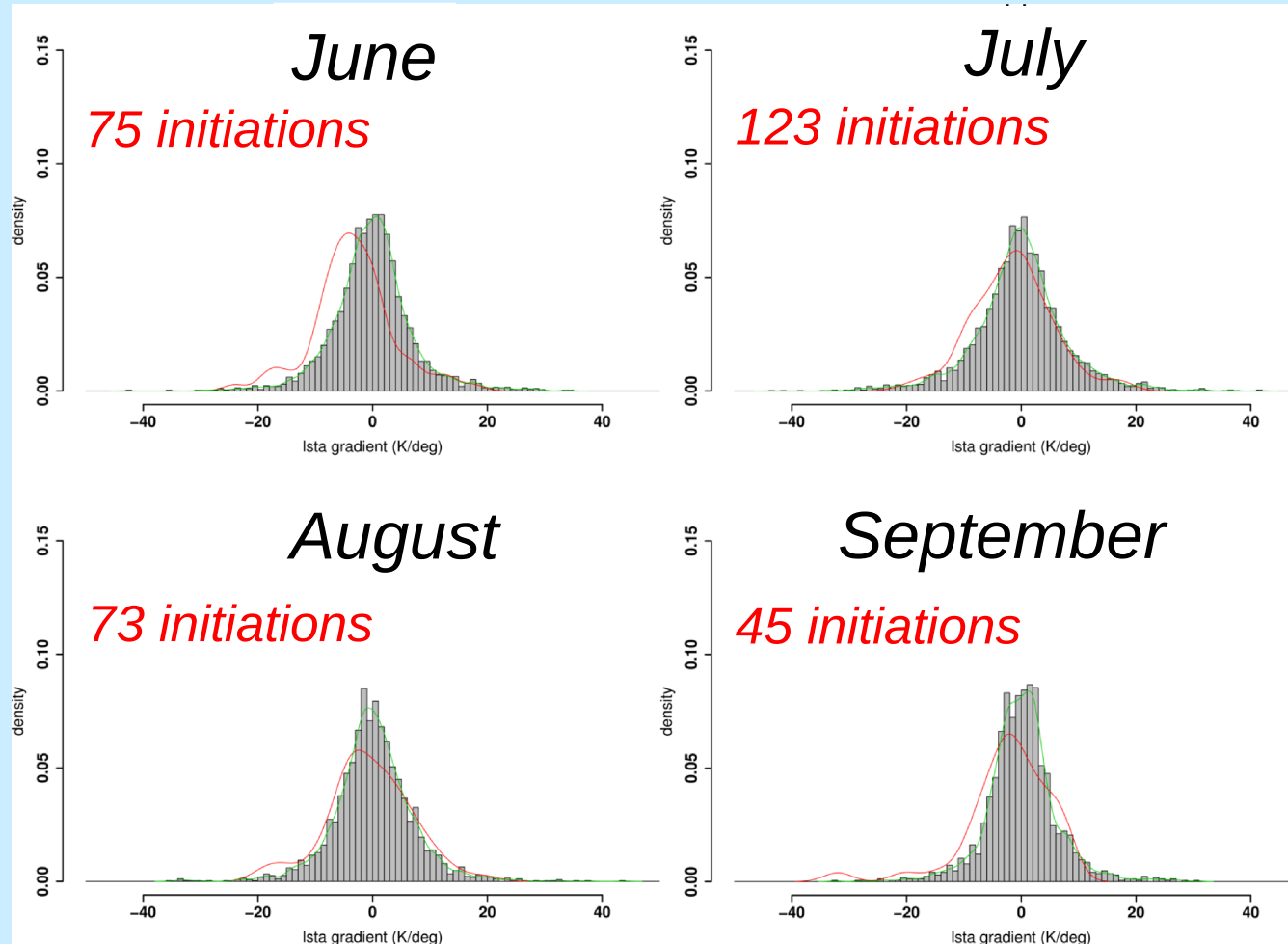
Taylor et al. 2011

The locations are then placed on the maps of surface temperature anomalies to compute gradients.



Initiation and temperature gradients

Gradients on randomly chosen points are computed to define a reference distribution.



Maximum initiation when :

- ★ T_s gradient is opposite to the direction of background wind.
- ★ Wind opposes the soil moisture induced circulation.
- ★ The length scale of grad. is 40km.

In this region soil moisture gradients enhance initiation of convection by 13% compared to 12% by orography. The role of soil moisture changes during the season.

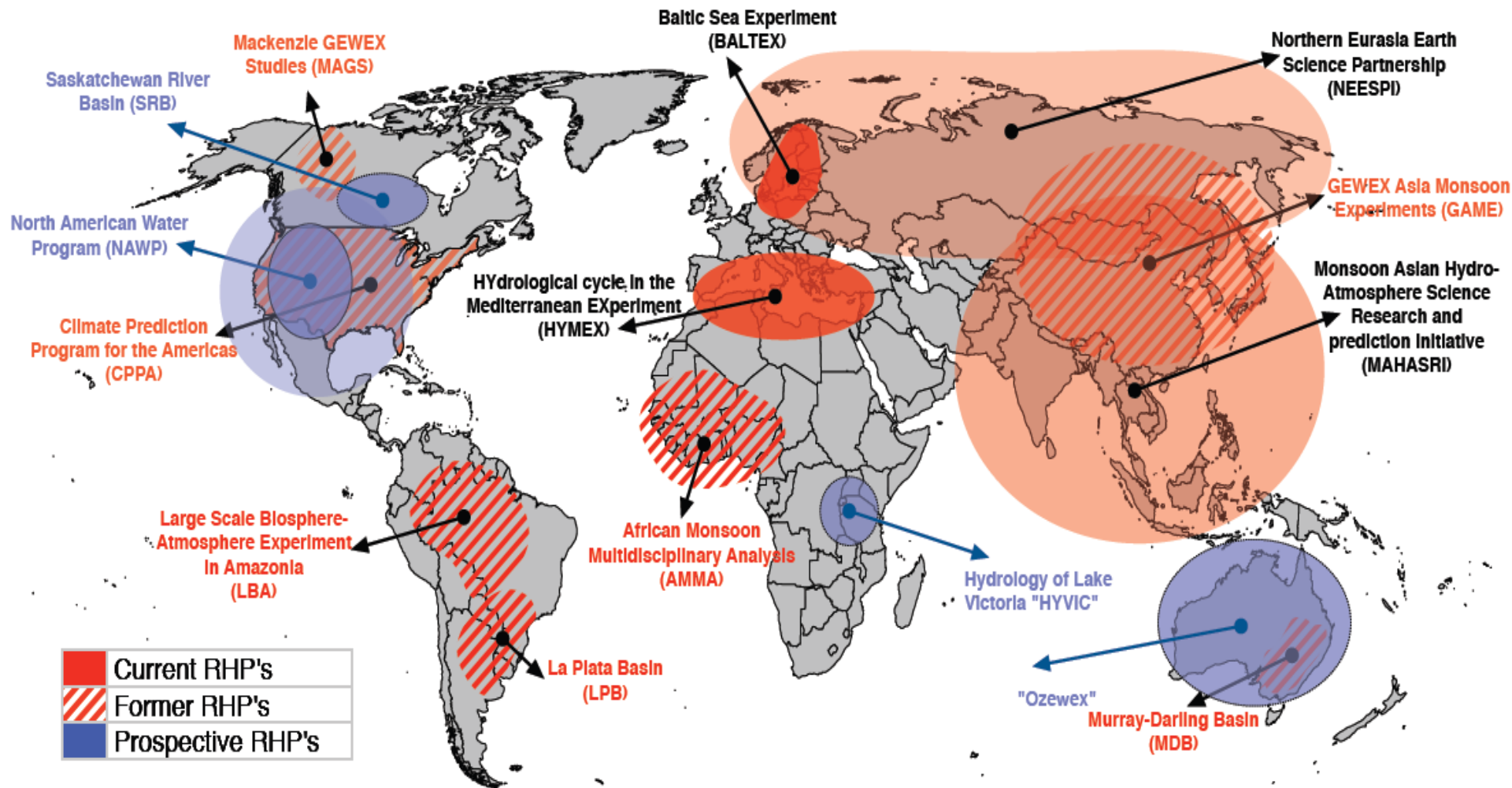


ID card of GHP within GEWEX

The GEWEX Hydrometeorological Panel aims to address these science questions from a regional and integrated perspective.

- ★ Only at the regional scale can the water cycle be addressed from its physical to human and socioeconomic aspects.
- ★ The Regional Hydrological Projects (RHPs) are an essential tool in this endeavor as they bring together various disciplines on the water issues.
- ★ The Cross-Cut projects allow GHP to propagate knowledge from one region to the other and synthesis results at the global scale. They also allow to develop and test applications developed with the new understanding (actionable science).

GEWEX REGIONAL HYDROCLIMATE PROJECTS



Objectives of Cross-cut projects

- ★ Push GEWEX grand science questions
- ★ Cross-cut projects should also test and evaluate applications of the knowledge produced in RHPs.
- ★ Keep completed RHPs involved
- ★ CC projects are also a tool for collaboration with other GEWEX panels and WCRP projects.
- ★ Generate interactions between RHPs
- ★ A way for the broader Community to get involved in GEWEX/GHP.
- ★ GHP calls for volunteers to propose and lead Cross-cut projects. Only a short proposal to the panel is needed.

On-going and proposed CCs

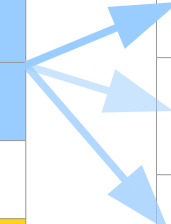
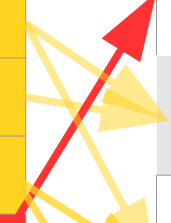
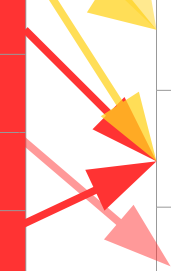
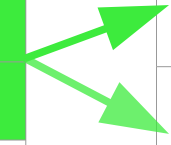
On-Going Cross-Cut Projects :

- ★ Phase transition precipitation
- ★ Sub-daily precipitation
- ★ Droughts
- ★ GDAP integrated product validation

Initiating Cross-Cut Projects :

- ★ Mountain precipitation
- ★ Mountain hydrology
- ★ Seasonal hydrological prediction
- ★ Human engineering in land surface models (LSM)
- ★ LSM validation and benchmarking

GHP activities in relation to GSQs

GEWEX Science Questions		Regional Hydroclimate Projects				Cross-cut activities
		MAHASRI	NEESPI	HyMex	SaskRB	
Observations and Predictions of Precipitation	How well can precipitation be described?	y	y	y	y	 Phase transition precipitation Mountain precipitation
	How do changes in climate affect the characteristics?	y	y	y	y	
	How much confidence do we have in predictions?	y		y		
Global Water Resource Systems	How do changes in the land surface and hydrology influence water resources?	y	y	y	y	 Sub-daily precipitation INTENSE Mountain hydrology INARCH
	How does climate change impact water resource systems?	y	y	y	y	
	How can new observations lead to improved management?	y			y	
Changes in extremes	Observing system requirements	y	y	y	y	 Human engineering in land-surface models Drought Seasonal Hydrologic prediction
	Modelling capabilities			y	y	
	Modelling processes involved in extremes			y	y	
	Improved early warning systems	y			y	
Water and energy cycles	Can we balance the budget at TOA?					 LSM validation and benchmarking GDAP integrated product evaluation
	Can we balance the budgets at the surface?			y		
	Can we track the changes over time?			y		
	Can we relate changes and processes?					
	Cloud-aerosol-precipitation feedbacks					

Conclusion

- ★ GHP is an essential element in GEWEX's strategy to answer key questions on the energy and water cycle.
- ★ The strategy to address GEWEX's scientific questions is through regional hydrometeorological projects and cross-cut activities.
- ★ The regional focus of GHP also allows to reach out to applications and transform our knowledge into actionable information.
- ★ The panel has gone through a reorganization and is thus looking for volunteers and opportunities for
 - ◆ Building new RHPs
 - ◆ Proposing cross cut projects.