

**ABOUT**  
*WATER, ENERGY,  
& CLIMATE*



The continued importance of global climate  
processes monitoring: precipitation

Peter van Oevelen  
Remy Roca  
Tristan L'Ecuyer  
Graeme Stephens  
Jan Polcher

*Global Energy and Water EXchanges*

*A Core Project of the World Climate Research Programme*

# A GEWEX 'science and applications traceability matrix'

Provides traceability from WCRP strategies, to core science, to defined metrics to applications and to programs

The **GEWEX Mission: Quantitative understanding and prediction of the coupling of energy and water in the changing Earth system**

WCRP SP	GEWEX Goals	Overarching Science Questions	Objectives	Quantified metrics	Societal applications	Programmatic Links	WCRP IP
<p><b>GEWEX SATM is still work in progress</b></p>							



SSG



SSG

WCRP strategy

Panels : Bedrock science



International Science Council





# GEWEX Goal 1





WCRP SP	GEWEX Goals	Overarching Science Questions	Objectives	Quantified metrics	Societal applications	Programmatic Links	WCRP IP
<p><b>WCRP science Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Contributes to :</b></p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Determine the extent to which Earth's water cycle can be predicted?</b></p>	<p><b>1) Reservoirs:</b> What is the rate of expansion of the atmospheric reservoir, what is its spatial character and and what factors determine this?</p> <p><b>2) Fluxes:</b> To what extent are the fluxes of water between Earth's main reservoirs changing and are these changes predictable?</p> <p><b>3) Extremes:</b> How will local rainfall and its extremes change under climate change across the regions of the world?</p>	<p><b>O1</b> Quantify and explain space time changes to water vapor and clouds and associate to processes that influence them</p> <p><b>O2</b> Soil moisture characterization</p> <p><b>O3</b> Provide quantitative assessment of fluxes of water between Earth's water reservoirs, including their space/time variability and uncertainty.</p> <p><b>O4</b> Global assessment of the weather features that cause rainfall including extremes</p> <p><b>O5</b> Assessment of climate models' ability to simulate the rain-bearing weather systems?</p> <p><b>O6</b> Reduction of model systematic errors in rainfall to within the observational uncertainty</p> <p><b>O7</b> Reduction of observational uncertainty in global daily rainfall products</p>	<p>Assessment reports on rain-bearing weather features</p> <p>Assessment report on model's ability to simulate the weather-to-rainfall connection</p> <p>Model systematic error in rainfall is within observational uncertainty</p> <p>Observational uncertainty reduced by 30%</p>	<p>Hazard prediction Adaptation Planning Insurance Risk assessment ...</p>	<p>WWRP Hydrology activities CLIVAR ...</p>	<p><b>WCRP science Objective</b></p> <p><b>4</b></p>



# GEWEX Goal 2

WCRP SP	GEWEX Goals	Overarching Science Questions	Objectives	Quantified metrics	Societal application	Programmatic Links	WCRP IP
<p data-bbox="104 339 270 444"><b>WCRP science Objectives</b></p> <p data-bbox="104 482 287 546">Contributes to :</p> <div data-bbox="145 579 282 1275">  </div>	<p data-bbox="346 339 631 518"><b>Determine the interrelationships between Earth's energy and water cycles.</b></p>	<p data-bbox="657 339 983 596">1) How can we improve the understanding of climate forcings and feedbacks formed by energy and water exchanges?</p> <p data-bbox="657 639 983 932">2) To what extent are the properties of the the ABL defined by energy and water exchanges at the Earth's surface and within the atmosphere?</p> <p data-bbox="657 975 983 1232">3) To what extent are exchanges between water and energy determined by the circulations of the atmosphere and oceans?</p>	<p data-bbox="1029 339 1370 596"><i>Comment - the objectives will address forcings that involve aerosol and aerosol-cloud and water based feedbacks including water vapor, cloud, precipitation and surface related feedbacks</i></p> <p data-bbox="1029 639 1370 882"><i>Comment - will involve fluxes of energy and water exchanges, P, E and ET at surface, PLBL clouds, etc I can imagine a PROES - we have global PBL heights for decade + that are barely studied</i></p> <p data-bbox="1029 925 1309 953"><i>O# - PBL diurnal cycle</i></p>		<p data-bbox="1679 339 1905 396">Climate policy, et ...</p>	<p data-bbox="1956 339 2219 596">WWRP Hydrology activities CLIVAR CLIC SPARC CFMIP and CMIP6 Clouds/ circulation GC</p>	<p data-bbox="2257 339 2405 444"><b>WCRP science Objective</b></p> <div data-bbox="2283 489 2415 672">  </div>

# GEWEX Goal 3

WCRP SP	GEWEX Goals	Overarching Science Questions	Objectives	Quantified metrics	Societal application	Programmatic Links	WCRP IP
<p><b>WCRP science Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Contributes to :</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">        </div>	<p><b>Quantify the anthropogenic influences on the water cycle</b></p>	<p>1) To what extent has the changing greenhouse effect modified the water cycle over the continents?</p> <p>2) To what extent do water management practices modify the water cycle on regional to global scales?</p> <p>3) How do hydrological processes and water &amp; land use affect the variability of the continental water cycle ?</p>	<p>O1 Quantify the effects of water withdrawals and usage on the freshwater flows into the oceans</p> <p>O2 Attribute observed changes to the continental water cycle to climate change and water management.</p> <p>O3 Quantify effects of water withdrawal on river discharge within climate variability</p> <p>O4 Quantify effects of irrigation on land-atmos interaction</p> <p>O4 Extremes in a managed environment.</p>	<p>1) Add human influence to coupled high res models (eg USRHP/water GC)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Water resources</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Water management</p>	<p>ILEAPS, CORDEX, IHP, WMO-Hydro, ...</p>	<p><b>WCRP science Objective :</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>



# Rationale

- Precipitation ↓ and Evapotranspiration ↑ are the fluxes that 'represent' the key processes within the water cycle
- To better understand and predict these fluxes we need to observe all relevant aspects of the relevant processes
- Just monitoring of the fluxes itself although crucial is not sufficient!

# The WCRP Grand Challenge on Water Availability

## *Water for the Food Baskets of the World*



- Water Cycle the Main Driver of Food Production (~70% of water usage worldwide)
- A Warmer Climate Pushes the Water Cycle into Unknown Territory
- The Terrestrial Water Cycle is not Natural Anymore
- Urgency to Understand the New State of the Water Cycle and Food Production in which Natural and Anthropogenic Processes Interact
- Precipitation key input variable!!

# Why monitoring Precipitation?

- Precipitation is central to the energy and water cycle,
- Key hydrological input -> runoff, water resources modeling
- Strong impact -> floods/drought -> water resources
- Strong perturbation under climate change in time and space
  - Global
  - Regional
  - Extremes (high impact events)
- GEWEX Science Questions: Reservoirs and Fluxes, Human Foot Print



# A cursory view of precipitation research in GEWEX panels

- GDAP – GEWEX Data Analysis Panel
  - **Assessments** of data sets related to (global) water and energy fluxes and their consistency
  - **Uncertainty and error characterization** and understanding in flux observations from space borne observation (again mostly global)
  - GEWEX/GDAP has played a big role in supporting global data sets such as ISCCP and GPCP now it is time to let those evolve on their own, and shift the focus to where and how to **improve these (type of) products in a long term consistent approach**
- GHP - GEWEX Hydroclimatology Panel
  - Cross cut on Precipitation Extremes Observations
  - Mounterrain
- GASS – GEWEX Global Atmospheric System Studies
  - Process Evaluation Studies (PROES) – Warm Rain, Cloud Physics
- GLASS – GEWEX Global Land Atmosphere System Studies
  - Land Atmosphere Feed Backs and precipitation

# Quality of Precipitation Observations

- Assessment of quality is difficult (both for in situ and remotely sensed)
- Intermittent, non-continuous process in both space and time
- Large dynamic range from 0.1 to 300 mm/h
- Phase changes: snow, ice, liquid precipitation is a challenge
- No established reference data sets

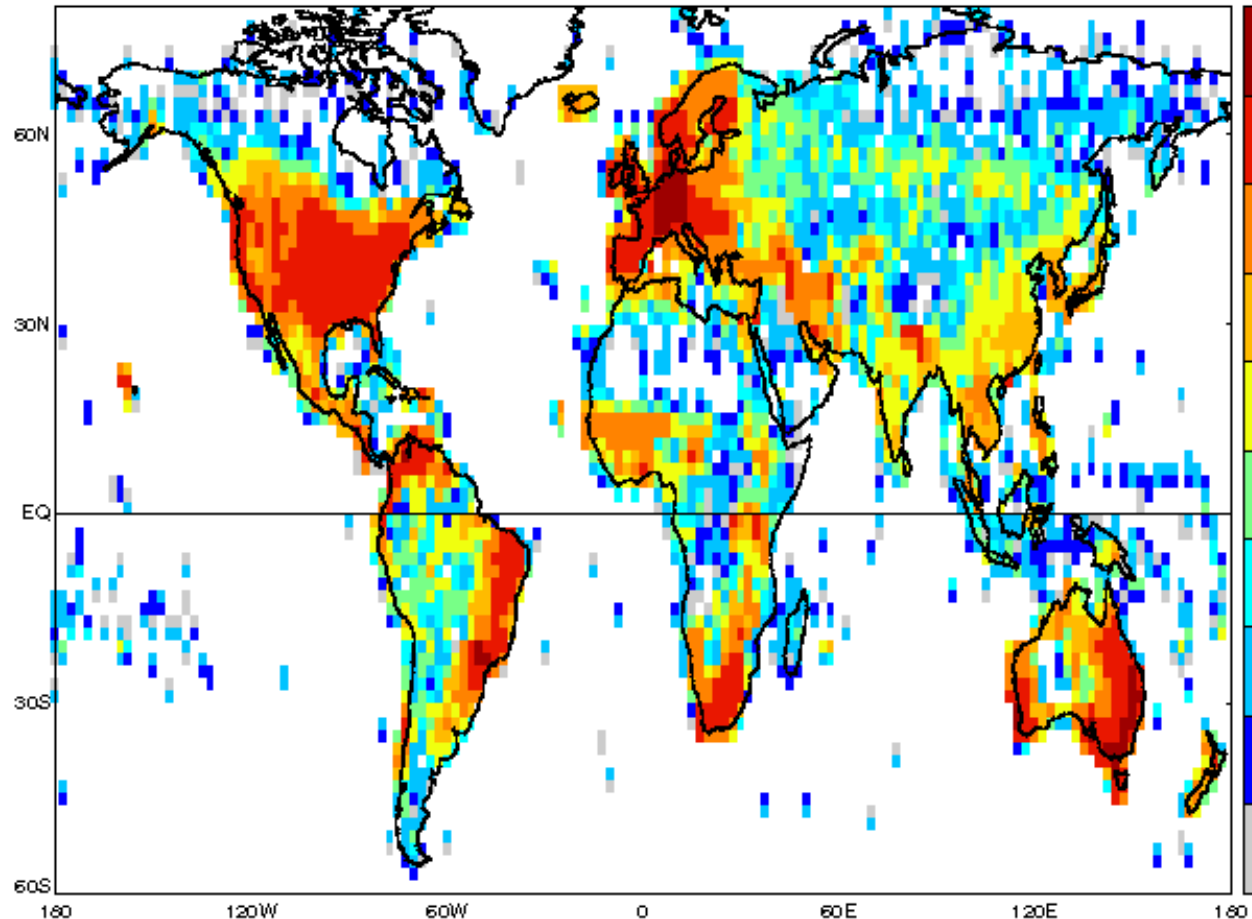
## *Note:*

- *Changing considerations for CDRs and other long term satellite data records*
  - *what is the baseline? -> Longest possible sat. record? 'Best' possible product? Highest spatial/temp. res?*
  - *Cf. ReAnalyses - Data Reprocessing more costly at higher resolutions*
  - *Recurring issue and answers might vary depending upon community/field of application*

# Why Satellite Observations of Precipitation?

Low number of rain gauges over land, none basically over the ocean

Ave # GPCP rain gauges in 2x2.5 grid cell



**Figure:** Koster et al. (2011)

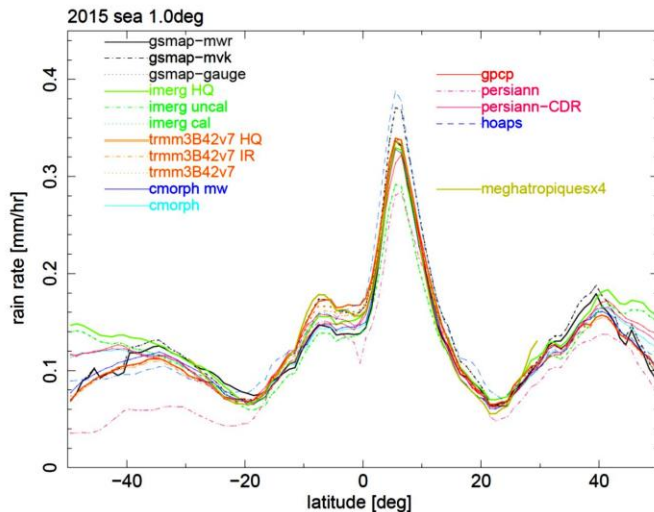
doi:10.1175/2011JHM1365.1.

Each grid box is ~50,000 km in area

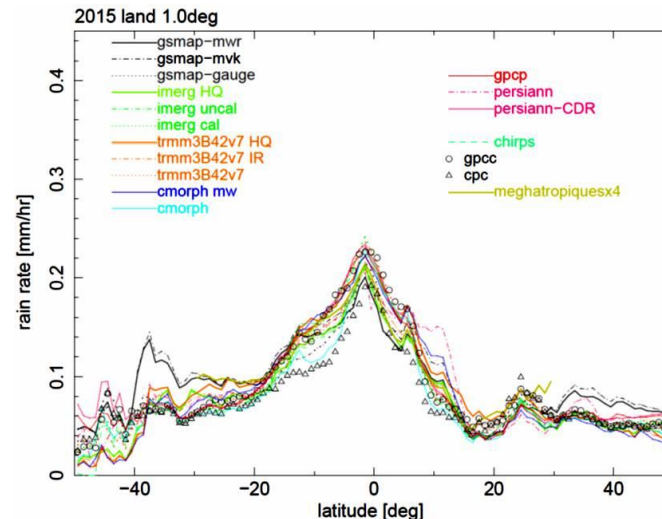
# Satellite Observations of Precipitation

- 30+ years record of SSM/I
- New Gen. of Satellites with active sensors (GPM) and constellation based approach
- From the GPCP only era to currently 20+ products (monthly 2.5° to instantaneous 3h at 0.1 °)
- Large uncertainty in these observations that are poorly understood
- large random error at fine scale -> 1° x 1° x 1 day is a good tradeoff for most applications and for the products perspective

Zonal mean precipitation over ocean



Zonal mean precipitation over land



# Example List of the products: Resolution

表 1: Table of the used data

Product	Spatial resolution[ ° ]	Time resolution	Version
GSMaP	0.1	Hourly	V04–V7.0000(gauge:7.0001) V03–V6.4133(201504~)
IMERG	0.1	30 min.	V04A V03D
TRMM3B42	0.25	3 hrly	V7
CMORPH	0.25	3 hrly	V1.0
GPCP	Mon.:2.5/Daily:1.0	Monthly/Daily	Monthly:V2.3/Daily:V2.3
CMAP	2.5	Monthly	V1604,1703
PERSIANN	0.25	3 hrly(CDR:Daily)	m6s4
HOAPS	0.5	6 hrly	V3.2
meghatropiques(TAPEER)	1.0	Daily	V1.00
CHIIRPS	0.05	Daily	V2.0
CPC	0.5	Daily	V1.0/V1.0RT
GPCC	0.5/1.0(2014~)	Monthly	full–V7/monitor–V4,5(2014~)



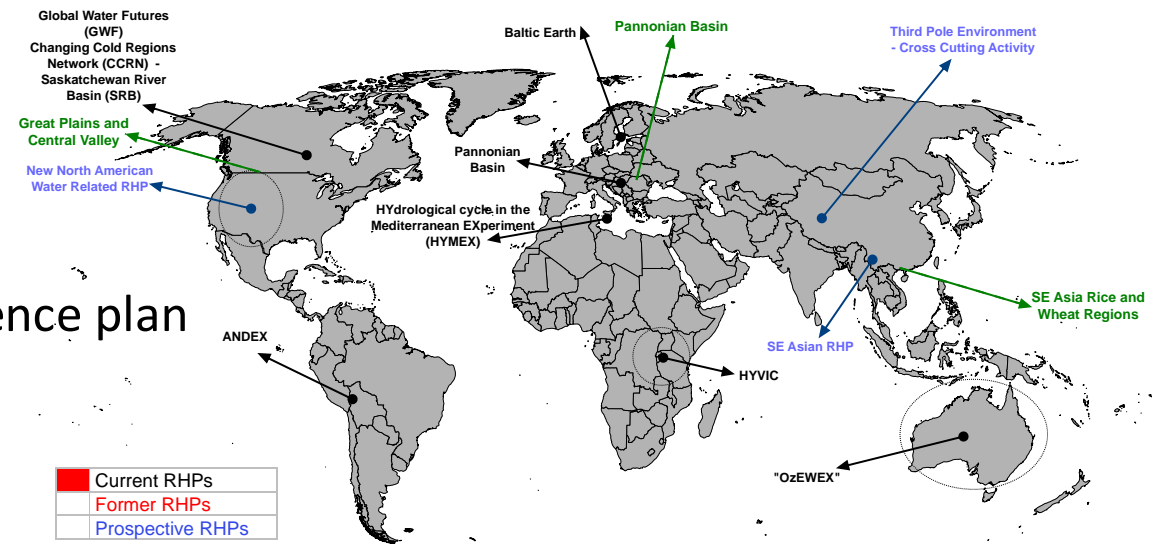
# Summary

- Upstream

- Assessment under GEWEX/GDAP identify some successes & issues with the 22 existing climate oriented datasets -> need for climate driven with uncertainty well characterized
- Validation sites are needed? Potentially GHP sites from Regionally Hydroclimate Projects?
- Consistency is key

- Downstream

- Link to core science questions of the GEWEX science plan
- Link to WCRP grand challenges on:
  - Water for the food baskets
  - Extremes



# THANK YOU

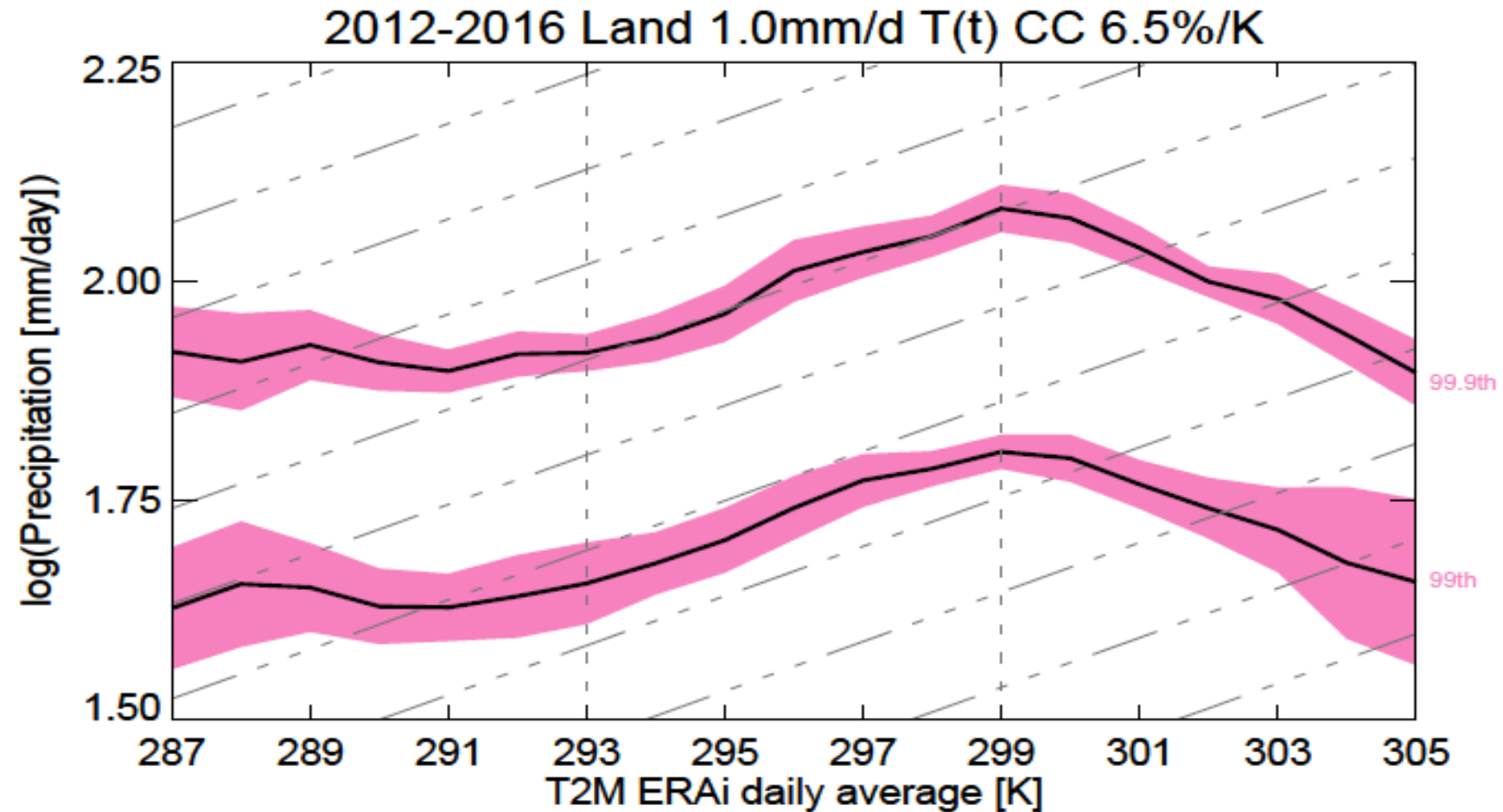
<https://www.gewex.org/>

# Joint GC Extremes and GDAP meeting (2/3)

$$P_e = -\epsilon \left\{ \omega_e \frac{dq_s}{dp} \Big|_{\theta^*} \right\}$$

$$\frac{\delta P_e}{P_e} \propto \frac{\delta q_s^{surface}}{q_s^{surface}}$$

~6-7%/K

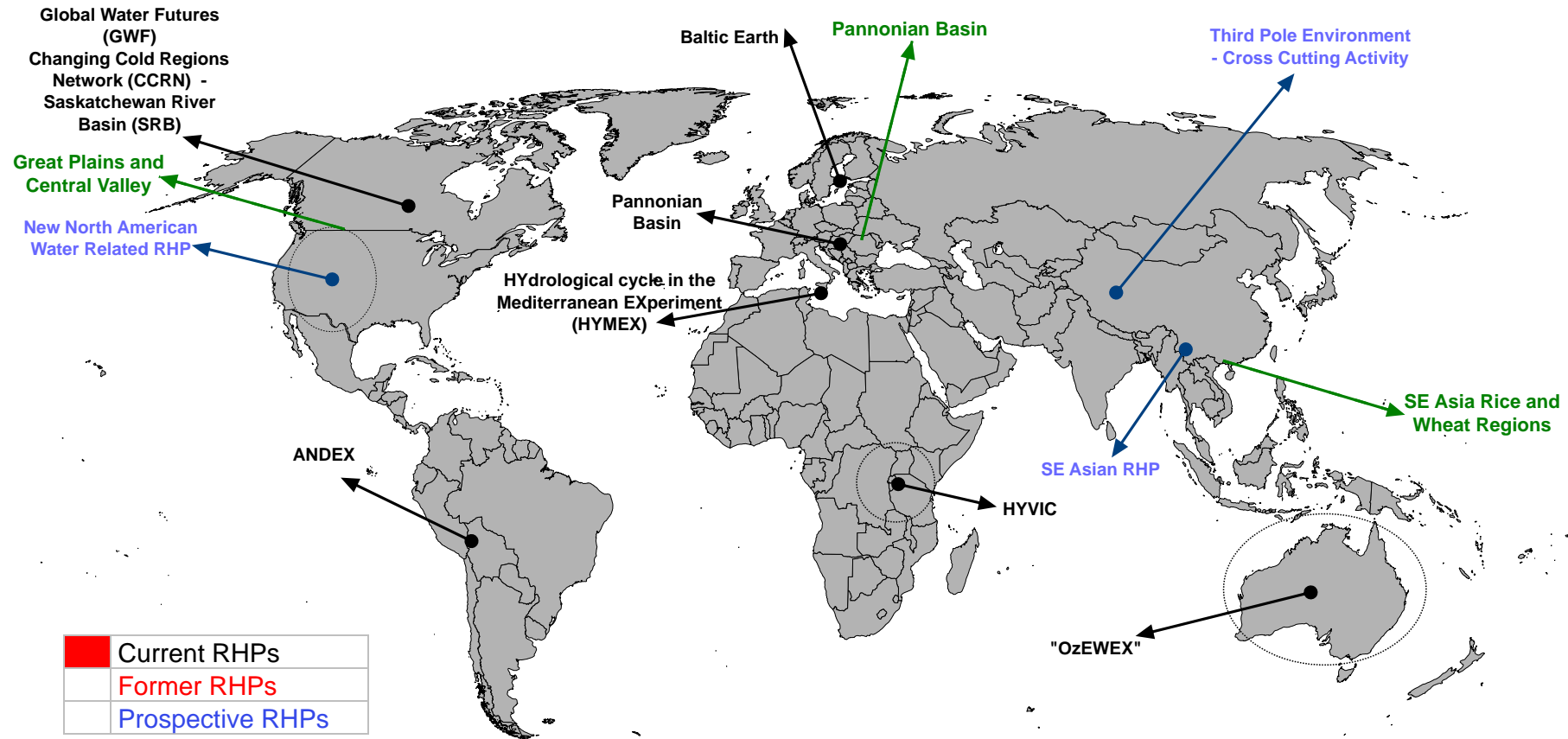


Ensemble of satellite precipitation data using the microwave constellation shows strong consistency with surf Temp confirms the theory for the tropics

- Some Questions:
- Is continuation of GPM or similar EO Precipitation necessary? And why-not-
- What are the alternatives?
- Precip obs. not assimilated in NWP (not yet....)
- Flood forecasting for longer lead times relies mostly on forecasted precip., for shorter lead times and flash floods often rain radar networks are used. Hence, where do the EO Precip come into play?
- How important is continuation of a CDR?

# Regional Hydroclimate Projects

## Proposed Food Basket of the World Focus Regions

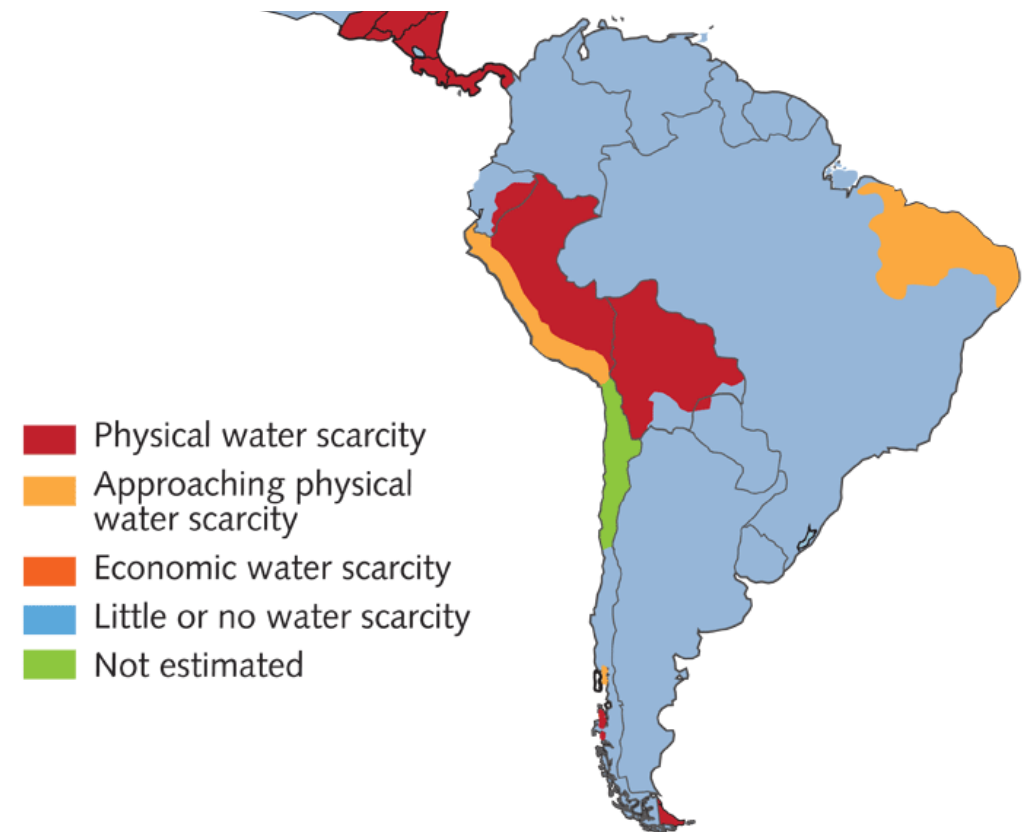
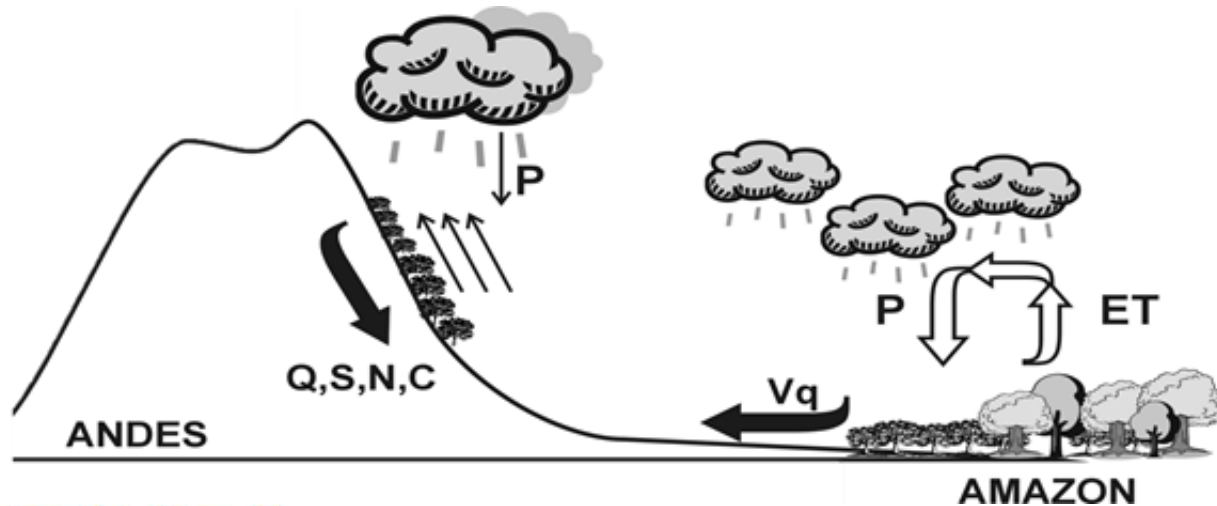




# ANDEX - A Prospective RHP in South America

## Water Scarcity in Latin-America

- How stable are –water- resources under climate change?
- How could it change?
- What needs to be adapted to?
- What can be mitigated?



*The Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, FAO, 2007*