

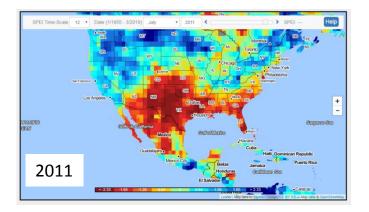


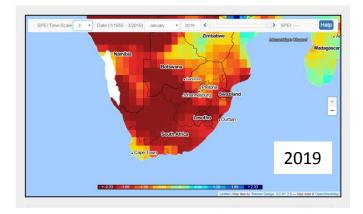
The complex influence of the Atmospheric Evaporative Demand on Drought severity

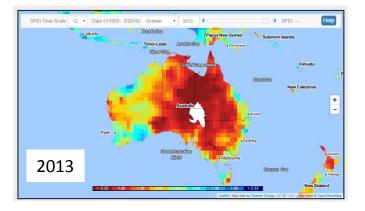
Sergio M. VICENTE-SERRANO

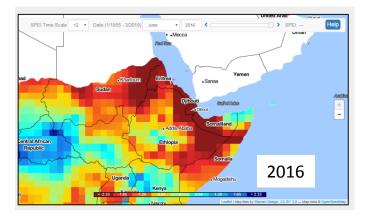
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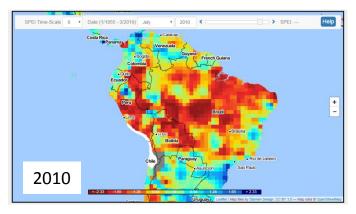


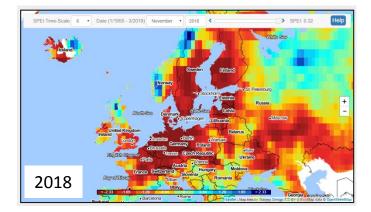




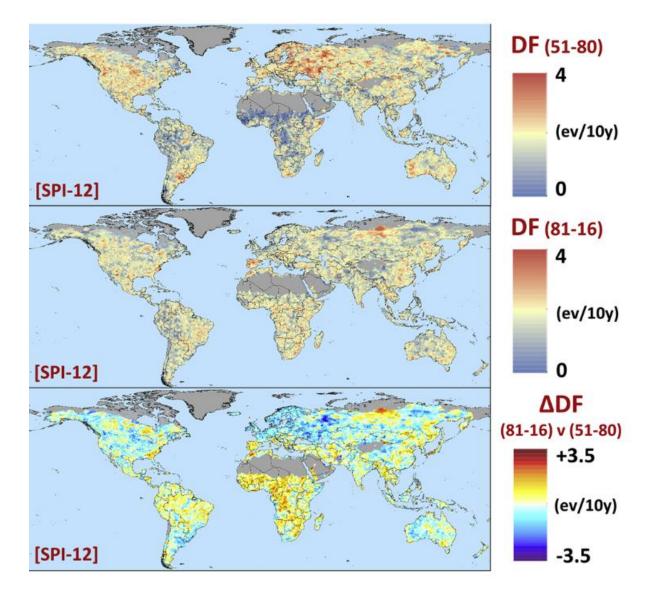




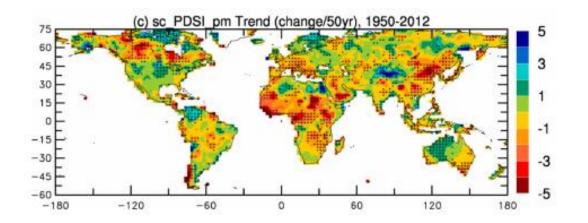


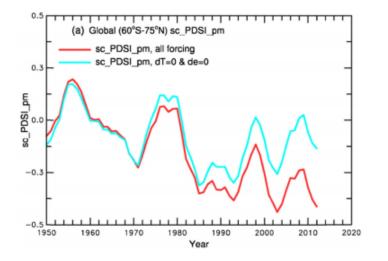


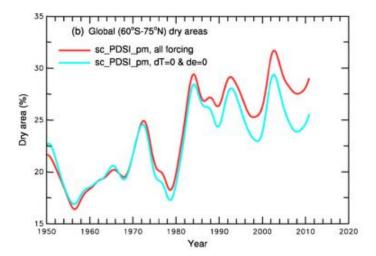
Changes in precipitation droughts



Spinoni et al. 2019

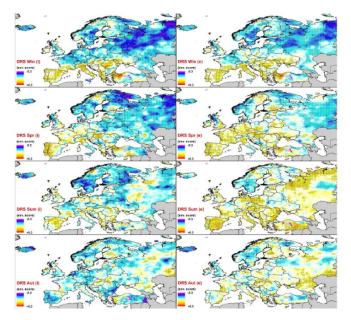


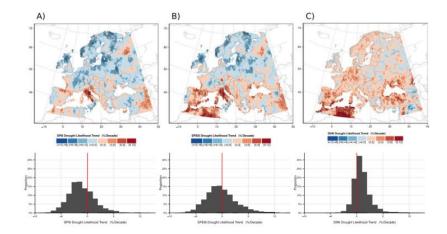




Dai and Zhao, 2017

SPI SPEI



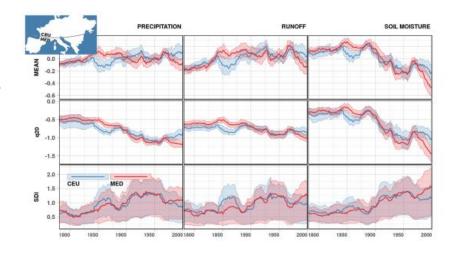


Stagge, J., et al. (2017) Sci. Reports

Spinoni et al. 2018

Revisiting the recent European droughts from a long-term perspective

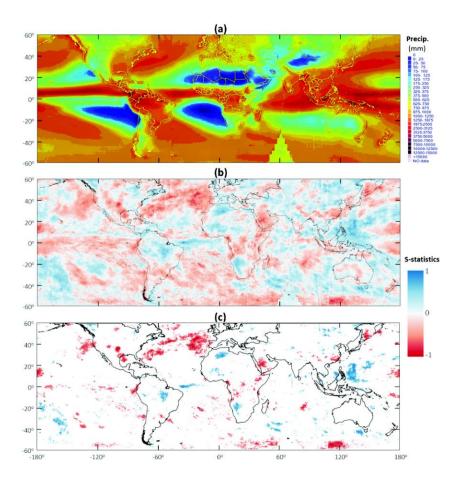
Martin Hanel^{®1}, Oldřich Rakovec^{®2,1}, Yannis Markonis¹, Petr Máca¹, Luis Samaniego^{®2}, Jan Kyselý^{1,3} & Rohini Kumar^{®2}



Global Precipitation Trends across Spatial Scales Using Satellite Observations

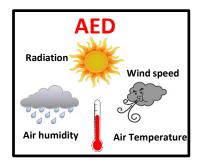
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Phu Nguyen, Andrea Thorstensen, Soroosh Sorooshian, Kuolin Hsu, Amir Aghakouchak, Hamed Ashouri, Hoang Tran, and Dan Braithwaite



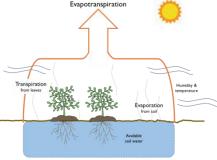
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ATMOSPHERIC EVAPORATIVE DEMAND

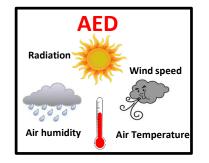


Evapotranspiration vs. AED

The **evapotranspiration (ET)** represents a upward water flux from soil, free water and plant leaves to the atmosphere.



The AED does not correspond to a land-atmosphere flux but to *the capacity of the atmosphere to demand water* (the drying –or evaporating- power of the atmosphere is another common word to refer to the same concept) as a function of its atmospheric condition, including *radiative* (determined by the net solar radiation) and *aerodynamic* (determined by the air temperature, wind speed and air humidity) components.



The reason of the confusion among these two very different variables is that under the "umbrella" concept of the AED, there are some AED metrics that also contain the term "evapotranspiration". They are the **Potential Evaporation (ETp)**, **the Reference Evapotranspiration (ETo)** and the **pan evaporation (Epan)**, which is a measurement of the AED.

 ET_p would correspond to the evaporation from a saturated surface (free water or 100% of humidity in natural vegetation or crops). ETp can be calculated using the Penman equation (Penman, 1948):

$$ET_p = \frac{1}{\lambda} \frac{\Delta(R_n - G) + \rho c_p \frac{(e_s - e_a)}{r_a}}{\Delta + \gamma}$$

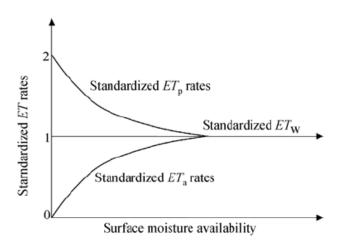
There are other procedures to calculate ETp [e.g., the Priestley-Taylor equation, Milly and Dunne, 2016], but they are suboptimal since they do not consider both **radiative** and **aerodynamic** terms of the AED.

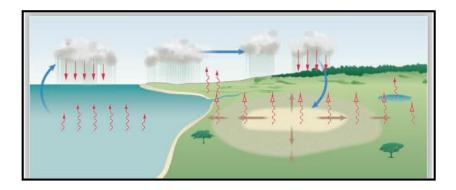
There are other **two terms** that are used to refer to the AED that are **not recommended**:

- the first one is the saturation Vapour Pressure Deficit (VPD) e_s-e_a. Under conditions of non-saturated air the actual vapor pressure is lower that the saturation vapor pressure, so the difference among them is an indicator of the evaporative capacity of the air but it does not fully capture both radiative and aerodynamic components of the AED. VPD is involved in the calculation of the aerodynamic component, and it is one of the variables used to calculate ETp and ETo,
- ii) the second term is the Potential Evapotranspiration (PET). The PET concept cannot be considered a universal concept since it does not represent a climate variable and strongly depends on the characteristics and type of the vegetation and the type of surface. Thus, PET would be close to the agronomic term of "water requirement" under non-limited water conditions, in which differences in vegetation height, leaf anatomy, stomatal characteristics, and even albedo are key variables and they would cause that the requirement differs from ETo under similar atmospheric conditions.

Atmospheric Evaporative Demand is driven by different mechanisms:

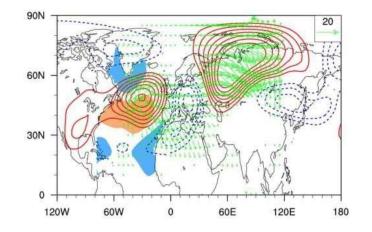
 Thermodynamic forcing (Bouchet's complementary relationship under low soil moiture and differential warming trend between oceanic and continental regions) connected with increased warming and no constant relative humidity.

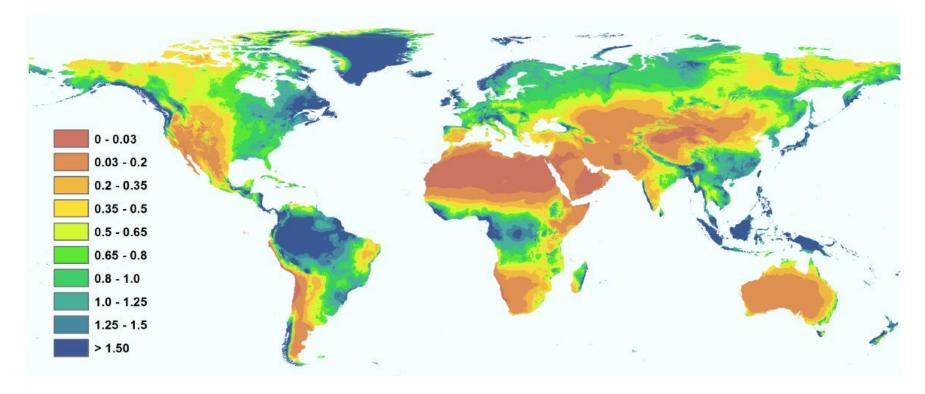




Atmospheric circulation







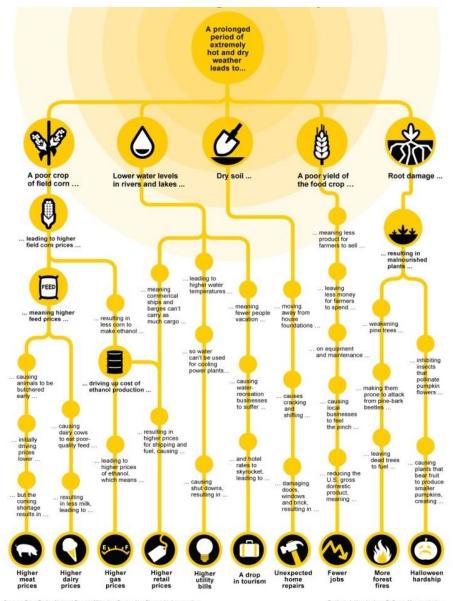
The role of the AED is different on climate aridity and on drought

AED will always have a **negative role on the climate aridity**. It has been discussed the use of aridity indices for future climate projections given possible AED regulation by CO2 fertilization (further discussion next slides).

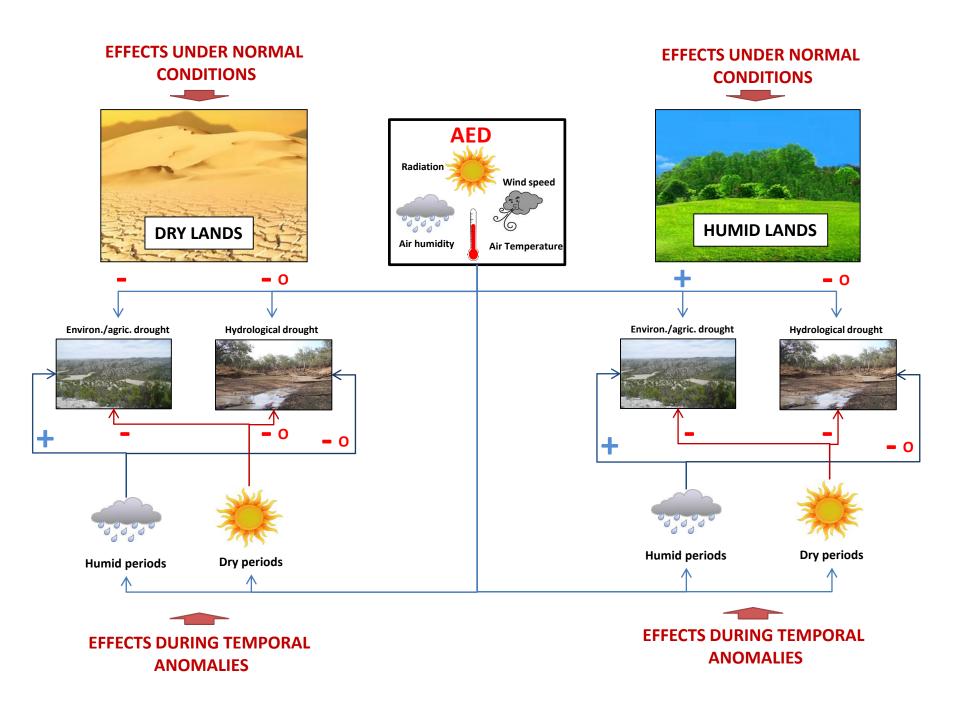
Nevertheless, it is doubtless that increased AED under constant precipitation will always increase drought severity.

• Thus, AED effects on drought severity are extremely complex given <u>different economic sectors</u> and natural systems affected and geographic differences.

Under an idealized scenario in which precipitation does not show temporal variations, the effect of the AED on drought severity can be completely different as a function of the precipitation climatology, and also the type of drought (hydrological vs. environmental/agricultural).

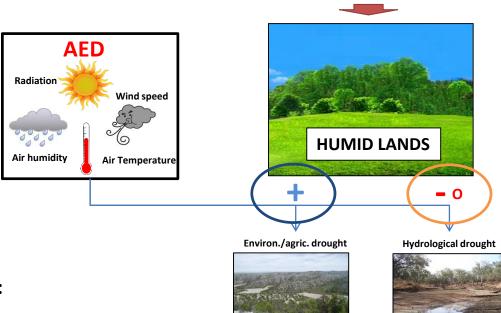


Sources: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Miligation Center, Aex Sisnowski, Accurveathe Jay Famigletti, University of California-Irvine, Aon Benfield, George Kigore, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department By Kevin A. Kepple, Anne R. Carey, Mauren Linke Joan Murphy, Jeny Mosemak, Denny Gainer, Doyle Rice, USA Today



POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL/AGRICULTURAL:

Under unlimited water availability, AED effect would be positive for plant activity and growth since enhanced AED would favor plant transpiration, plant leaf area and the primary production (NPP).



EFFECTS UNDER NORMAL

CONDITIONS

NEGATIVE HYDROLOGICAL INFLUENCE:

DIRECT: evaporation in free water (streams, lakes and reservoirs)

INDIRECT: increase in plant transpiration, which importance is higher than direct evaporation from the soil and water bodies.

During normal or humid periods, although the water losses by enhanced AED can have even a higher magnitude than in dry periods, they would not have relevance given sufficient water availability.

Nevertheless, the effects could increase **downstream**, in areas in which water uses depend on the water resources generated in other areas [e.g., the Mediterranean region in which the mountain headwater are strongly relevant for urban water supply and irrigation in the lowlands].

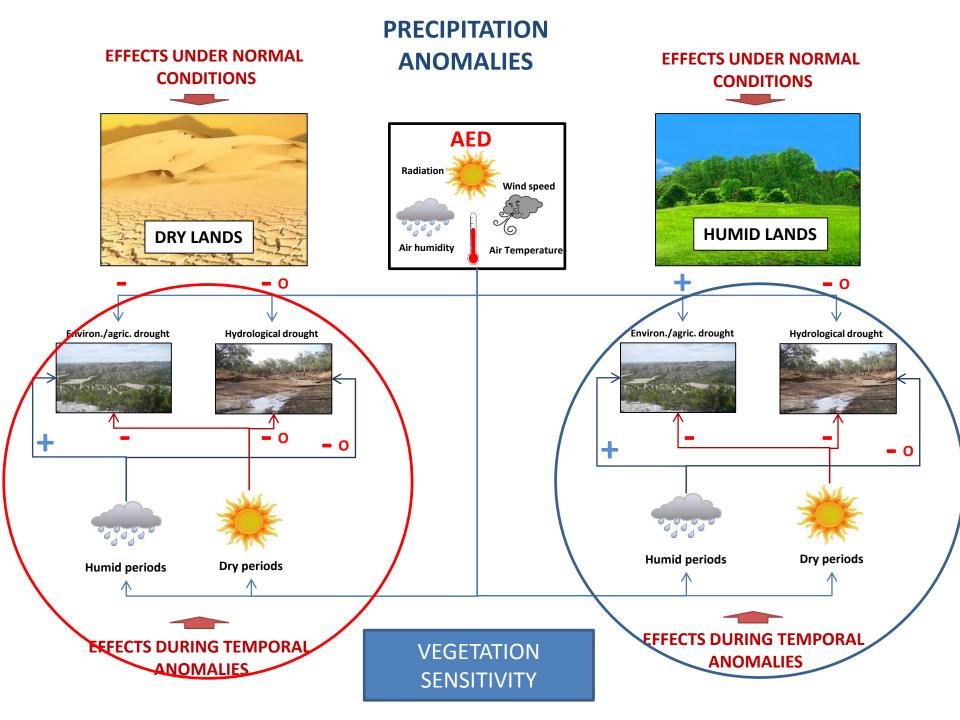
EFFECTS UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS

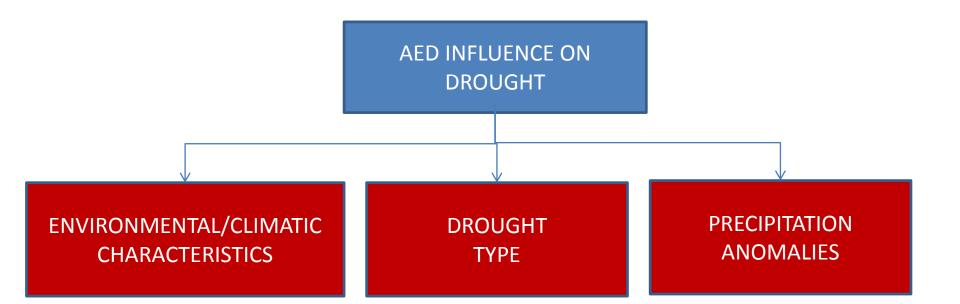
NEGATIVE HYDROLOGICAL

INFLUENCE: It is expected that hydrological effects of the AED are small given low available water to evaporate. EXCEPTION: evaporation in big reservoirs and irrigated lands.

VERY NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL/AGRICULTURAL INFLUENCE:

Although AED would not increase ETa in these areas, it increases the water stress by vegetation, causing an **evapotranspiration deficit** (i.e. the difference between the available water for transpiration and the water demand by the atmosphere). **If evapotranspiration deficit is stronger than the tolerated by plants**, it causes **reductions in photosynthesis** and net primary production, aboveground biomass and ultimately cause crop yield failure and forest mortality, as the most evident impacts.





MAGNITUDE AND TEMPORAL VARIANCE OF AED AND PRECIPITATION



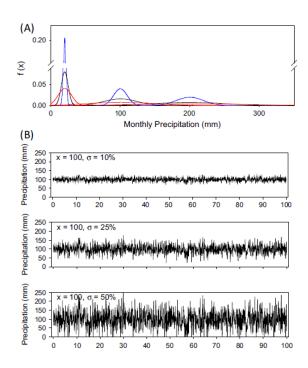
Contribution of precipitation and reference evapotranspiration to drought indices under different climates

CrossMark

Sergio M. Vicente-Serrano ^{a,*}, Gerard Van der Schrier^b, Santiago Beguería ^c, Cesar Azorin-Molina ^a, Juan-I. Lopez-Moreno ^a

^aInstituto Pirenaico de Ecología, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IPE-CSIC), Spain ^b Royal Netherlands Meteorologícal Institute (KNMI), 3730 AE De Bit, Netherlands ^c Estación Experimental de Aul Dei (EEAD-CSIC), Zaragoza, Spain

PDSI



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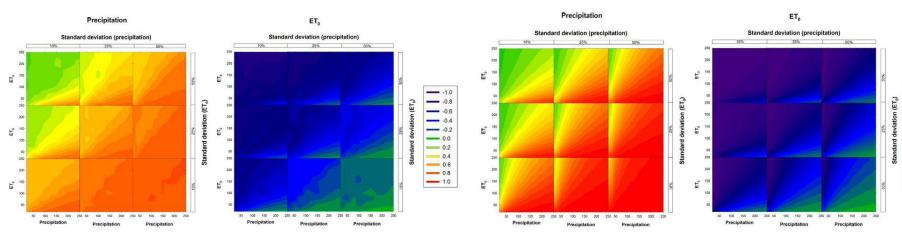
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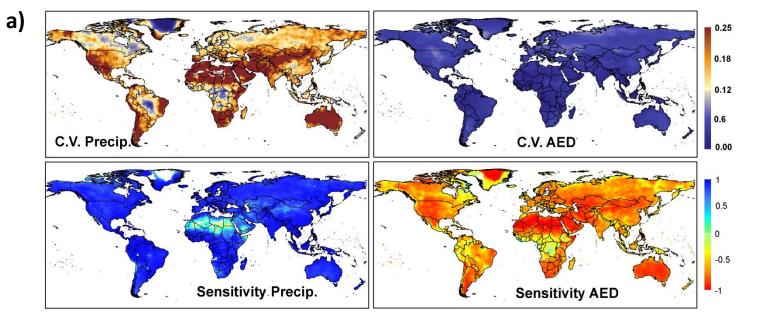
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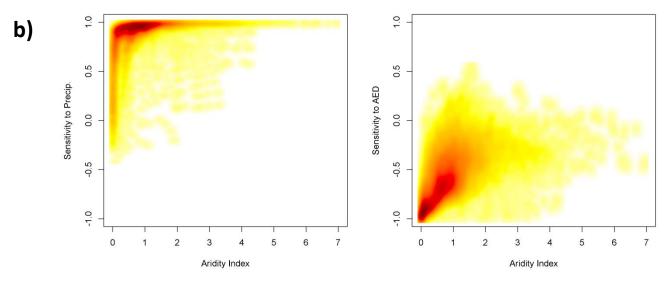
SPEI





Precipitation





It is necessary to stress that these general patterns may vary for specific drought events as a consequence of the particular precipitation and/or AED anomalies.



Common confusion: Drought indices are not using AED as substitute of ETa

ETa is suggested to be included in metrics of drought severity

The use of ETa instead AED shows uncertainties to measure drought severity in water limited regions in which ETa is constrained by Precipitation and not by the AED.

In these regions no changes in drought severity would be normally identified under enhanced AED since P – ETa will usually tend to zero, and trends in ETa are strongly driven by trends in precipitation.

The key aspect is to compare the highest possible ETa (or AED) with the current water availability (e.g. the ETa or the soil moisture, ultimately determined by precipitation).

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CLIMATOLOGY Int. J. Climatol. 34: 3001–3023 (2014) Published online 21 December 2013 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/joc.3887



Standardized precipitation evapotranspiration index (SPEI) revisited: parameter fitting, evapotranspiration models, tools, datasets and drought monitoring

Santiago Beguería,^a Sergio M. Vicente-Serrano,^{b*} Fergus Reig^b and Borja Latorre^a ^a Estación Experimental de Aula Dei, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (EEAD-CSIC), Zaragoza, Spain ^b instituto Pirenaico de Ecología, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IEAD-CSIC), Zaragoza, Spain ^b instituto Pirenaico de Ecología, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IEAD-CSIC), Zaragoza, Spain ^b

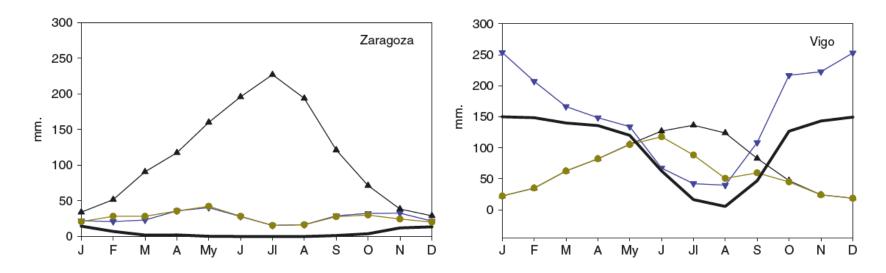


Figure 5. Average soil water content (W) (black line) (1961–2011), precipitation (P) (blue triangles), Reference Evapotranspiration (ET₀) (black triangles) and actual evapotranspiration (ET_a) (circles) in Zaragoza (left) and Vigo (right).

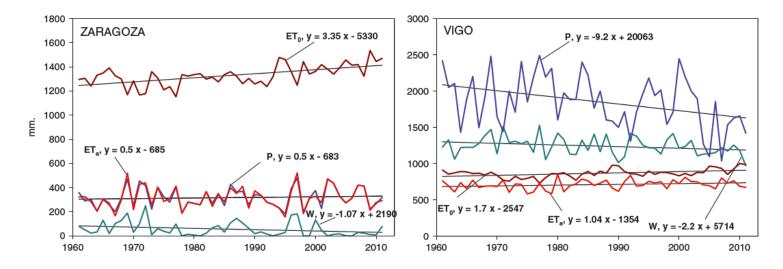
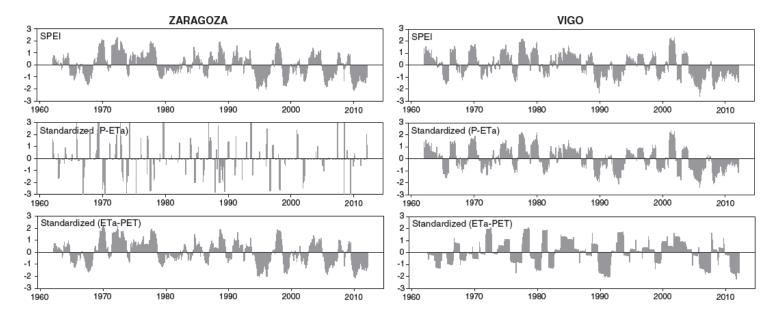


Figure 7. Evolution of annual P, ET₀, "W" and "ET_a" in Zaragoza and Vigo between 1961 and 2011.



 ETa would make sense as a replacement of precipitation or soil moisture in drought metrics since it would be better estimator of the amount of water actually used by the vegetation, but never as a substitute of the AED.

 The difference between ETa and AED could provide more optimal indicator of the environmental and agricultural drought stress than other drought indices. This seems to be an optimal approach to monitor drought severity in vegetation areas under limited moisture conditions since the ETa is better metric of the real water use by vegetation than precipitation or soil moisture.

Global Assessment of the Standardized Evapotranspiration Deficit Index (SEDI) for Drought Analysis and Monitoring®

SERGIO M. VICENTE-SERRANO,^a DIEGO G. MIRALLES,^b FERNANDO DOMÍNGUEZ-CASTRO,^a CESAR AZORIN-MOLINA,^c AHMED EL KENAWY,^{a,d} TIM R. MCVICAR,^{e,f} MIQUEL TOMÁS-BURGUERA,^g SANTIAGO BEGUERÍA,^g MARCO MANETA,^h AND MARINA PEÑA-GALLARDO^a

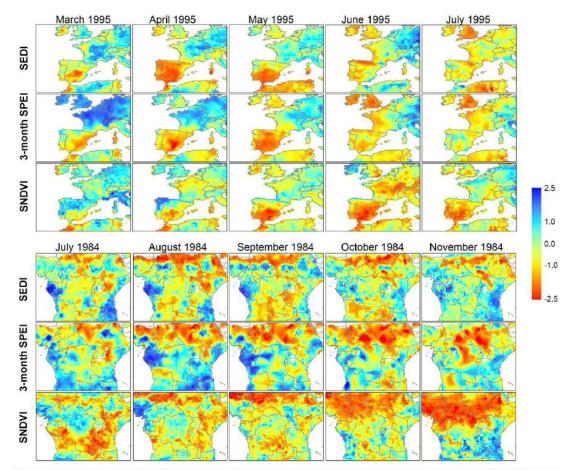
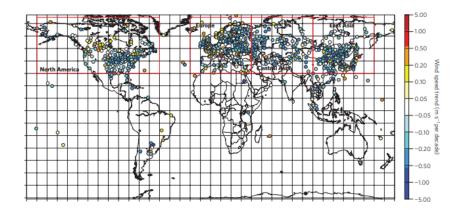
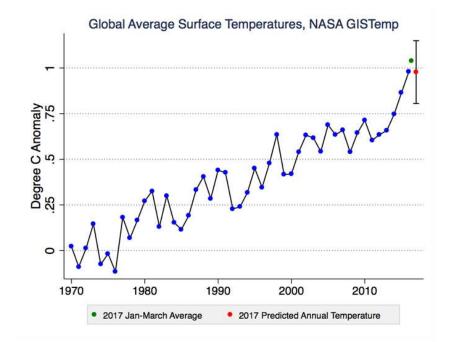


FIG. 12. Spatial distribution of the SEDI, 3-month SPEI, and sNDVI during two extraordinary drought events recorded (top) in 1995 over the Iberian Peninsula and (bottom) in 1984 over the Sahel.

Northern Hemisphere atmospheric stilling partly attributed to an increase in surface roughness

Robert Vautard¹*, Julien Cattiaux¹, Pascal Yiou¹, Jean-Noël Thépaut² and Philippe Ciais¹





(a) HadISDH (b) ERA-Interim

Figure 1. Spatial distribution of the magnitude of change of RH (% per decade) over the period 1979–2014 from the HadISDH (a) and ERA-Interim datasets (b). Results are provided for the boreal cold (October–March) and warm (April–September) seasons and annually.

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Earth Syst. Dynam., 9, 915-937, 2018

https://doi.org/10.5194/esd-9-915-2018 © Author(s) 2018. This work is distributed under

Recent changes of relative humidity: regional connections with land and ocean processes

Sergio M. Vicente-Serrano¹, Raquel Nieto², Luis Gimeno², Cesar Azorin-Molina³, Anita Drumond², Ahmed El Kenawy^{1,4}, Fernando Dominguez-Castro¹, Miquel Tomas-Burguera⁵, and Marina Peña-Gallardo¹

Earth System

nature

geoscience

Global Atmospheric Evaporative Demand over Land from 1973 to 2008

KAICUN WANG

State Key Laboratory of Earth Surface Processes and Resource Ecology, College of Global Change and Earth System Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

ROBERT E. DICKINSON

Department of Geological Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

SHUNLIN LIANG

Department of Geography, University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, Maryland

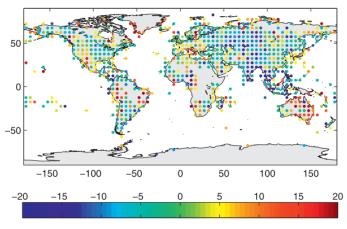
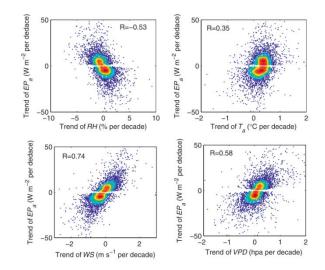


FIG. 8. The normalized linear trend of EP_a from 1973 to 2008 (% decade $^{-1}$). The trends were calculated where air temperature,



Water Resources Research

Annual

1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

RESEARCH ARTICLE

10.1002/2014WR015427

Sensitivity of reference evapotranspiration to changes in meteorological parameters in Spain (1961–2011)

Enrique Morán-Tejeda¹, Juan I. López-Moreno¹, and Francisco Espejo³

Key Points:

· ETo is sensitive to changes in relative humidity and maximum temperature There are spatial gradients in the ETo sensitivity Trends in ETo are explained by trends

1400

1350

1300

1250

1200

1150

1100

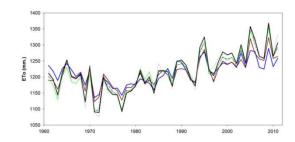
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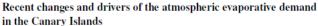
ETo (mm)

¹Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IPE-CSIC), Zaragoza, Spain, ²Department

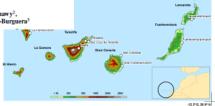
Sergio M. Vicente-Serrano¹, Cesar Azorin-Molina¹, Arturo Sanchez-Lorenzo², Jesús Revuelto¹,

of Physics, University of Girona, Girona, Spain, ³Agencia Estatal de Meteorologia, Spain





Sergio M. Vicente-Serrano¹, Cesar Azorin-Molina¹, Arturo Sanchez-Lorenzo¹, Ahmed El Kenawy², Natalia Martín-Hernández¹, Marina Peña-Gallardo¹, Santiago Beguería³, and Miquel Tomas-Burguera



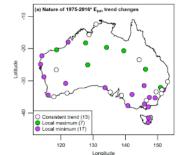
Geophysical Research Letters

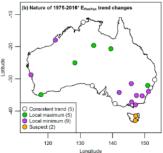
RESEARCH LETTER 10.1029/2018GL079332

Revisiting Pan Evaporation Trends in Australia a Decade on Clare M. Stephens¹ [0], Tim R. McVicar^{2,3} [0], Fiona M. Johnson¹ [0], and Lucy A. Marshall¹ [0]

Key Points: Pan evaporation decreases between the 1970s and mid-2000s were previously attributed to decreasing

¹Water Research Centre, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UNSW, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, ²CSI Land and Water, Canberra, ACT, Australia, ³Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science Sydney, New South Wales, Australia





2017 DROUGHT



MEDIO AMBIENTE

España se enfrenta en 2017 a una de las sequías más graves de la historia ¿Por qué ahora? ¿Podemos evitar una sequía igual el futuro?

MEDIO AMBIENTE

Radiografía de la seguía extrema en Esr.

· Las reservas de aqua de los embatees están altora en el rivel más bejo de los últimos 22 años i en la zona sureste perensular (cuencas de los rica Segura y Júcar) y en la cuenca de



Siccità, 10 Regioni pronte a chiedere lo stato di calamità e le misure di sostegno per le aziende

Il riconoscimento dell'emergenza sospenderebbe per le imprese il pagamento delle rate di mutuo e dei contributi. Secondo un'analisi Coldiretti, due terzi dell'Italia e delle coltivazioni sono a secco a causa della mancanza di precipitazioni e della scarsità di rifornimento idrico. Il bacino del Garda pieno per un terzo

Sécheresse : 21 départements classés en «crise hydrique»

Le Monde

30 départements en état de crise :

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ACTIM ITÉS

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Droogte van voorjaar 2017 officieel erkend als landbouwramp

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LE FIGARO .fr

+ Actualité + Spences & Environmentent

Secondo un'analisi Coldiretti, due terzi dell'Italia e delle coltivazioni sono a secco a causa della mancanza di

Allarme siccità: piogge e consumi d'acqua in

0.0 La Nggo dept 29 agests 2017 Ogni italiano consuma in media 89,3 metri cubi di acqua, ossia 245 litri al diorno. La spesa media mensile delle famiglie per l'acquisto di acqua minerale è di circa 11 euro. 13 euro è la spesa media mensile per la fornitura di acqua di uso domestico. Il 3% del volume d'acqua potabile immesso in rete viene 2 softratto senza autorizzazione o non misurato per imprecisione o maifunzionamerito dei contatori in Volumi di acqua immessa nelle reti comunali . Distributione dell'acqua ... ~



Sécheresse : la France atteint la cote d'alerte

L'Italie frappée par une sécheresse historique, le rationnement de l'eau courante envisagé à Rome

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Première publication: 25/07/2017 - 16:24 Demière modification: 25/07/2017 - 17:0



precipitazioni e della scarsità di rifornimento idrico. Ecco le mappe dei consumi e degli sprechi in Italia a cura di Pada Ciprian



ECONOMÍA

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Retrato de una España atrapada en la seguía

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725 millones

Italia

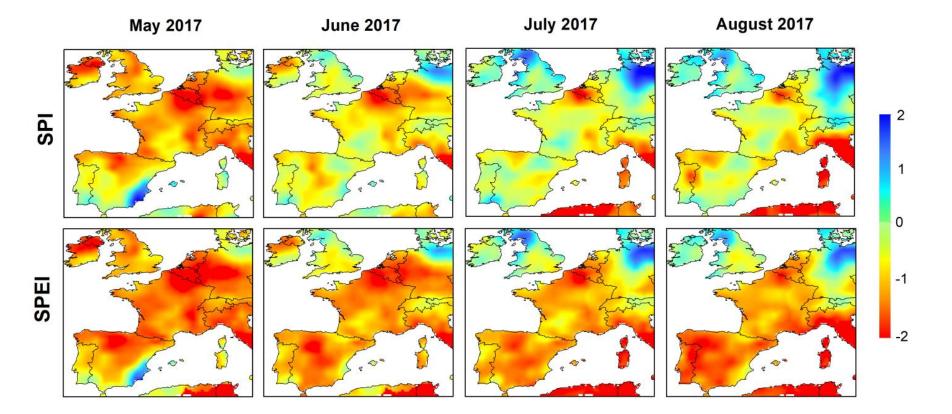
EN LA MANCOMUNIDAD DEL TORICÓN

EL PAIS

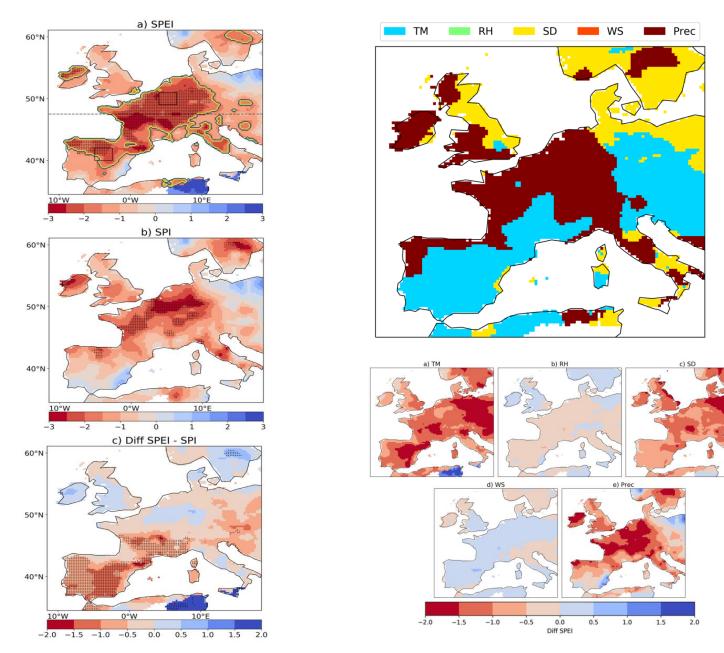
HIDROLOGIA

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MERCADOS MISAHORROS VIVIENDA MISDERECHOS FORMACIÓN TITULARES »



Drought 2016/2017



García-Herrera et al. (2019): Journal of Climate

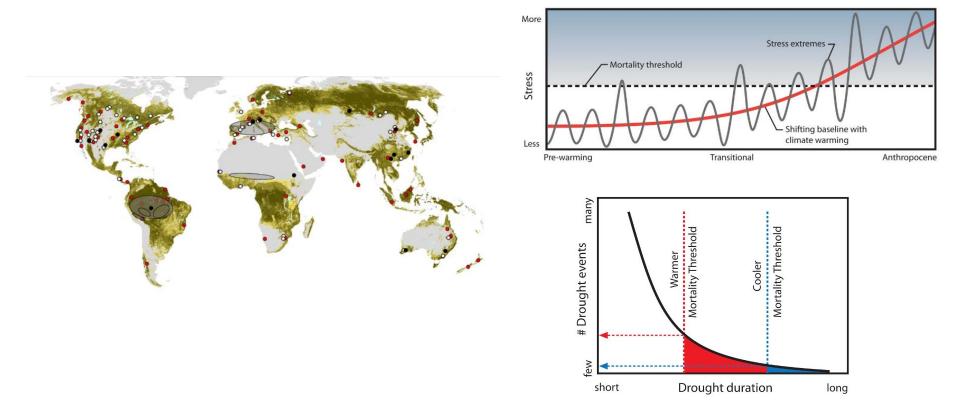
Ecosphere

ESA CENTENNIAL PAPER

On underestimation of global vulnerability to tree mortality and forest die-off from hotter drought in the Anthropocene

CRAIG D. ALLEN,¹[†] DAVID D. BRESHEARS,² AND NATE G. MCDOWELL³

¹U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center, Jemez Mountains Field Station, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544 USA ²School of Natural Resources and the Environment, joint with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85745 USA ³Earth and Environmental Science Division, MS-J495, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 85745 USA



10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24

Time-scale

Anthropogenic warming has increased drought risk in California

Noah S. Diffenbaugh^{a,b,1}, Daniel L. Swain^a, and Danielle Touma^a

*Department of Environmental Earth System Science and bWoods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

Edited by Jane Lubchenco, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, and approved January 30, 2015 (received for review November 22, 2014)

drought began in 2012 and now includes the lowest calendar-year and 12-mo precipitation, the highest annual temperature, and the

California is currently in the midst of a record-setting drought. The which steered Pacific storms away from California over consecutive seasons (8-11). Although the extremely persistent high a is at los

CrossMark

Evidence of increasing drought severity caused by temperature rise in southern Europe

Sergio M Vicente-Serrano¹, Juan-I Lopez-Moreno¹, Santiago Beguería², Jorge Lorenzo-Lacruz¹, Arturo Sanchez-Lorenzo³, José M García-Ruiz¹, Cesar Azorin-Molina¹, Enrique Morán-Teieda¹, Jesús Revuelto¹, Ricardo Trigo⁴, Fatima Coelho⁵ and Francisco Espejo⁶

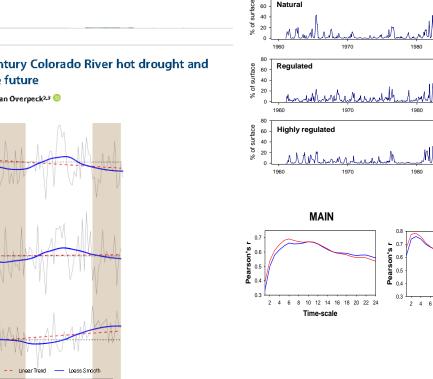
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10 12 14

Time-scale

16 18 20 22 24

2 4 6



RESEARCH ARTICLE On the Causes of Declining Colorado River Streamflows 10.1029/2018W/R023153

Water Resources Research

Mu Xiao¹ (0), Bradley Udall² (0), and Dennis P. Lettenmaier¹ (0)

◀

 The naturalized flow of the Colorado River has decreased about 15% over alian Jana 200 Janan

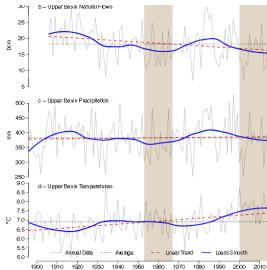
¹Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA, ²Colorado Water Institute, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA

Water Resources Research

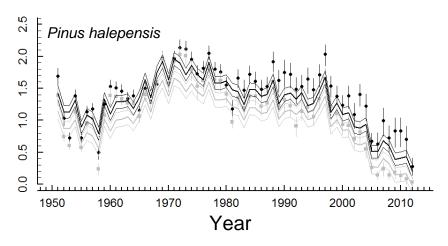
RESEARCH ARTICLE 10.1002/2016WR019638

The twenty-first century Colorado River hot drought and implications for the future

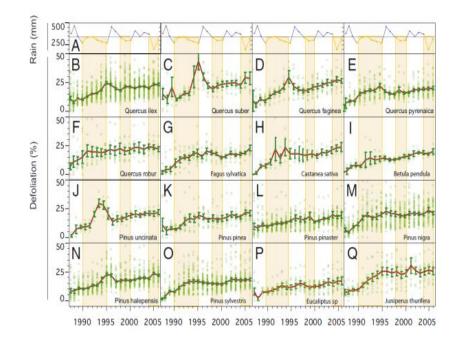
Key Points: Record Colorado Riverflow Bradley Udall^{1,2} 💿 and Jonathan Overpeck^{2,3} 💿



Key Points:

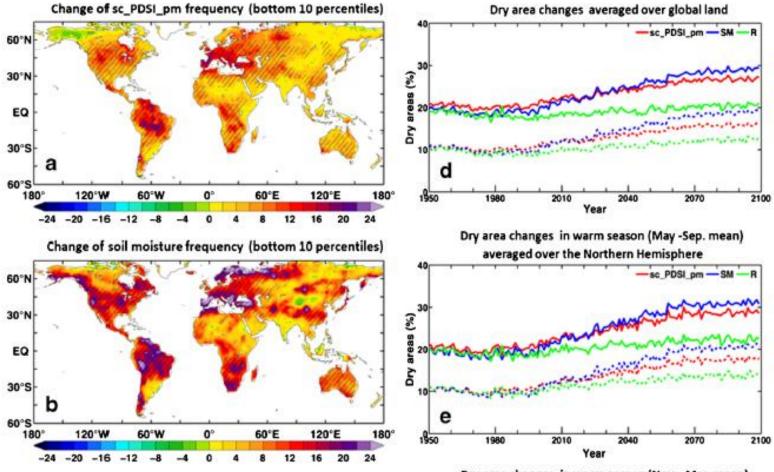


Camarero et al., (2015): Journal of Ecology



Carnicer et al., (2011): PNAS (2011), 108: 1474

FUTURE SCENARIOS?



Dry area changes in warm season (Nov. -Mar. mean)

Dai et al. 2018

@AGU PUBLICATIONS

Water Resources Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE On the assessment of aridity with changes in atmospheric CO₂ 10.1002/2015WR017031

Michael L. Roderick^{1,2,3}, Peter Greve⁴, and Graham D. Farquhar^{2,3}

4.1. A Flux-Based Approach for Assessing Changes in Aridity

We begin with the usual water balance equation,

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = P - (E_t + E_s) - Q, \tag{2}$$

where the rate of change in water storage (dS/dt) is determined by inputs of precipitation (*P*) and outputs of evaporation (*E*) and runoff (*Q*). The total *E* is separated into two components, (i) transpiration (*E*_t) and (ii) a residual term that includes all other sources of evaporation (*E*_s). Note that *E*_s includes fluxes such as evapo-

the steady state water balance can be rewritten as,

$$P \approx \frac{A}{W} + E_s + Q.$$

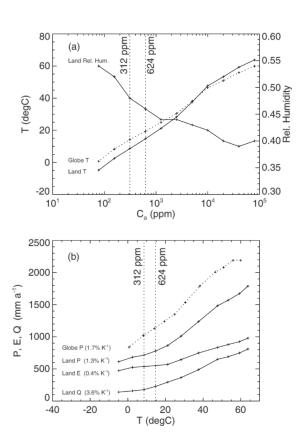
 $W = \frac{A}{E_t},$



CLIMATE CHANGE AND DROUGHT (Q FU, SECTION EDITOR)

Drought Indices, Drought Impacts, CO₂, and Warming: a Historical and Geologic Perspective

Jacob Scheff¹





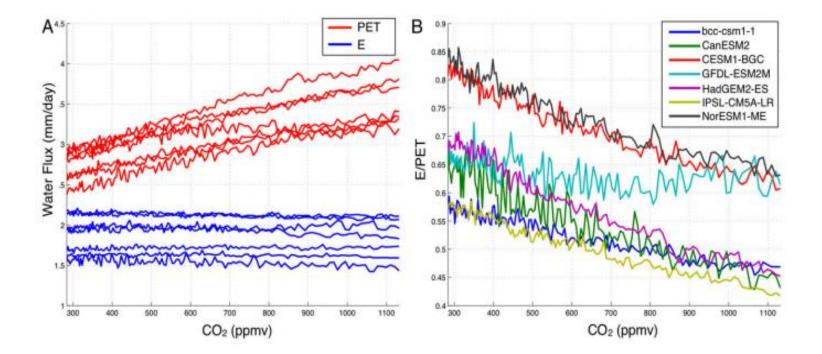


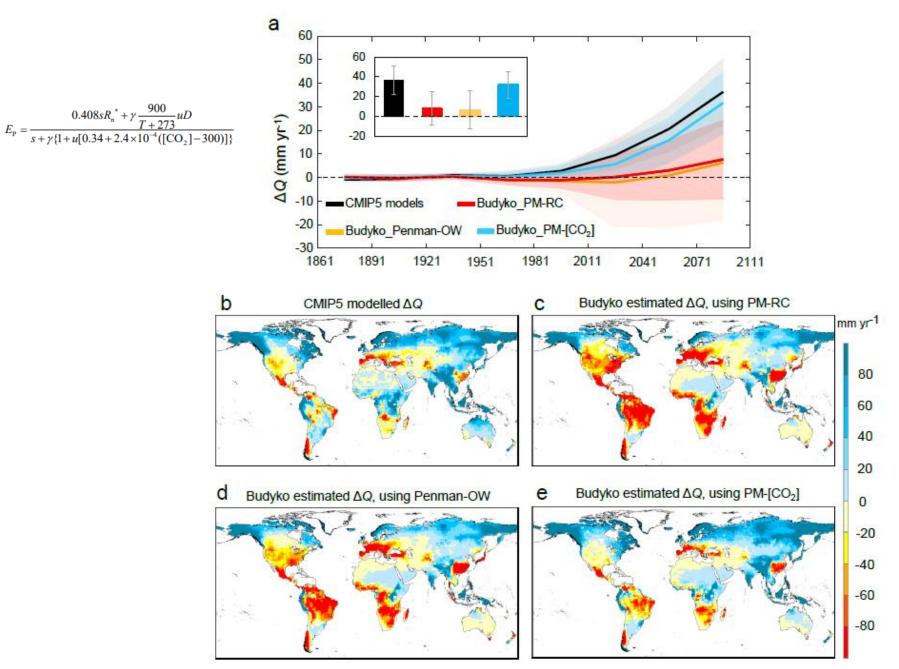
P

Plant responses to increasing CO₂ reduce estimates of climate impacts on drought severity

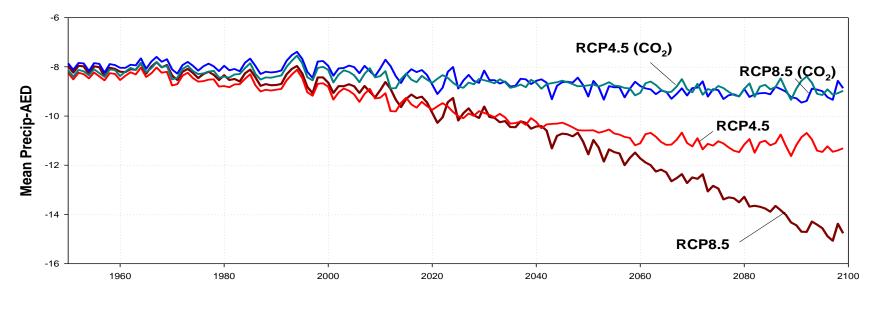
Abigail L. S. Swann^{a,b,1}, Forrest M. Hoffman^{c,d}, Charles D. Koven^e, and James T. Randerson^f

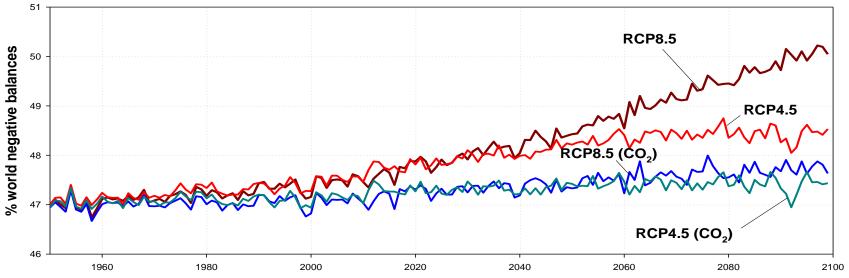
^aDepartment of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195; ^bDepartment of Biology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195; ^cComputer Science & Mathematics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831; ^dEnvironmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831; ^eClimate & Ecosystem Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720; and ^fDepartment of Earth System Science, University of California, Irvine, CA 92697

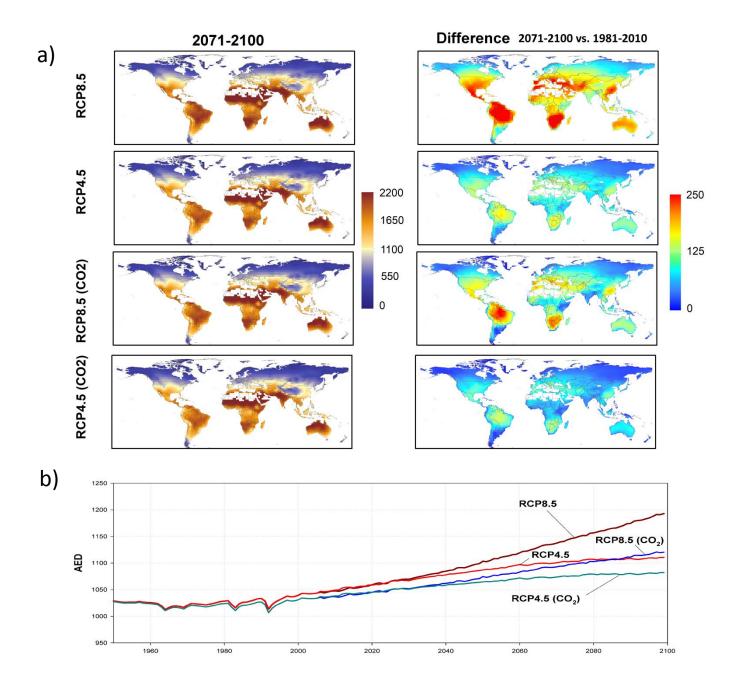


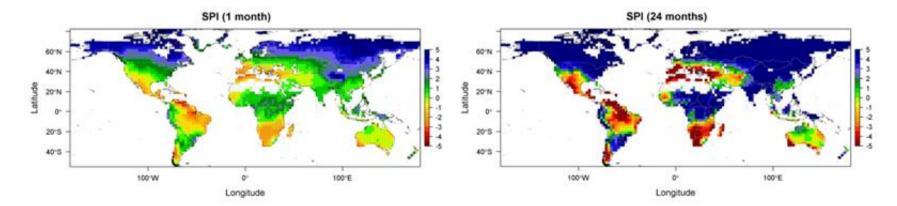


Yang et al. 2019: Nat Clim. Ch.



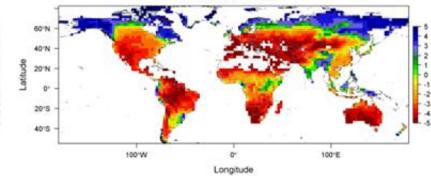


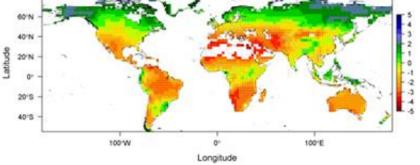


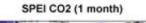


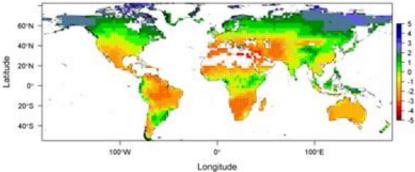
SPEI (1 month)



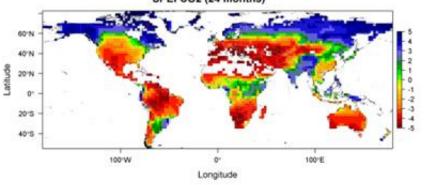






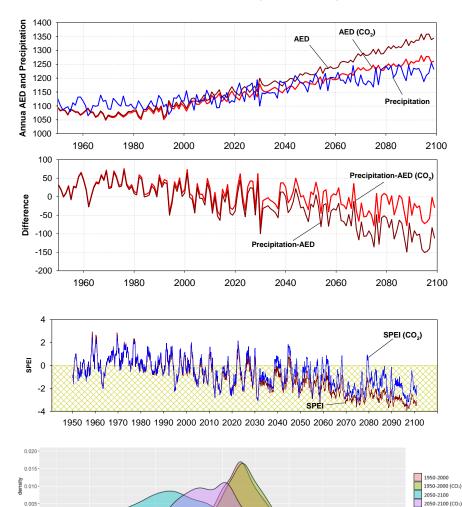


SPEI CO2 (24 months)



Humid site (East US)

Dry site (West US)



ò

Precipitation minus AED

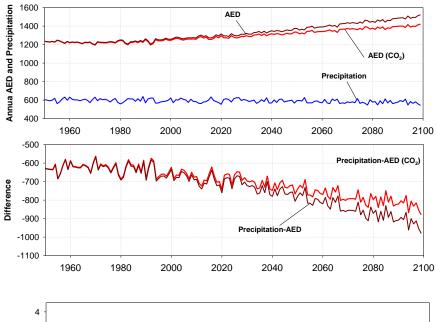
200

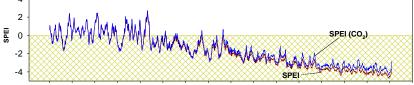
100

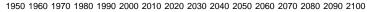
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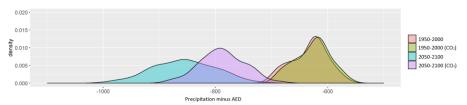
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-100





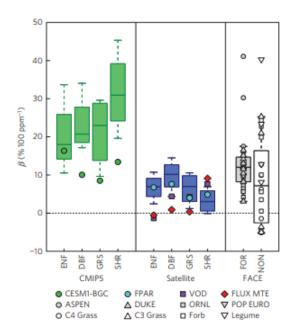






Large divergence of satellite and Earth system model estimates of global terrestrial CO₂ fertilization

W. Kolby Smith^{1,2*}, Sasha C. Reed³, Cory C. Cleveland¹, Ashley P. Ballantyne¹, William R. L. Anderegg⁴, William R. Wieder^{5,6}, Yi Y. Liu⁷ and Steven W. Running¹



Chapter 2

CO₂ Fertilization: When, Where, How Much?

Christian Körner · Jack Morgan · Richard Norby

nature climate change

Water-use efficiency and transpiration across European forests during the Anthropocene

2.1 Carbon a Limiting Plant Resource?

1990; Bowes 19 photosynthesi known among

Global Change Biology (2007) 13, 2498–2508, doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2486.2007.01467.x

Water savings in mature deciduous forest trees under elevated CO₂

SEBASTIAN LEUZINGER and CHRISTIAN KÖRNER Institute of Botany, University of Basel, Schönbeinstrasse 6, CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland

10% reduction at 540 p.p.m.

Increased WUE compensated by:

Legthened growing season Increased leaf area index Enhanced AED

• What about vegetation changes? E.g. the recent Mediterranean trends

Ecosphere

ESA CENTENNIAL PAPER

On underestimation of global vulnerability to tree mortality and forest die-off from hotter drought in the Anthropocene

CRAIG D. ALLEN, ¹,[†] DAVID D. BRESHEARS,² AND NATE G. MCDOWELL³

¹U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center, Jemez Mountains Field Station, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544 USA ²School of Natural Resources and the Environment, joint with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85745 USA ³Earth and Environmental Science Division, MS-J495, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 85745 USA

3. CO₂ Fertilization & WUE

Sufficient to compensate. CO₂ fertilization and water-use efficiency effects generally compensate for drought and heat stress, fostering increased tree growth and NPP, widespread woody plant expansion in dryland ecosystems, and an overall "greening" observed in many regions.

Effects limited; no benefit during severe drought. Mortality processes associated with growing drought and heat stress already are overcoming CO₂ fertilization and water-use efficiency buffering at times and across extensive regions, with forest "browning" and NPP declines, reductions in forest growth, and markedly greater tree mortality observed in multiple regions of growing water stress in recent decades despite concurrent rising [CO₂].

Correct assessment of the AED effect on drought severity:

Be carefull considering the region of interest, the drought type and the precipitation/soil moisture conditions

Multidisciplinary approaches:

Hydrology Agronomy Plant Physiology Meteorology