



Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura



Programa
Hidrológico
Internacional

Oficina Regional de Ciencia para
América Latina y el Caribe



Managing Water Resources in Arid and Semi Arid Regions of Latin America and Caribbean

A focus on climate risk management...

Koen Verbist

UNESCO

International Hydrological Programme



WITH THE SUPPORT OF
THE FLEMISH GOVERNMENT



Climate Risk Management

Development of a Climate Risk Management system for the region, based on three pillars:

1. Identify Vulnerabilities and Opportunities

➡ Evaluation of water use efficiency and vulnerabilities in pilot areas

2. Reduce Uncertainties:

- a) Learn from the Past
- b) Monitor the Present
- c) Assess Future scenarios

3. Identify Technological Interventions that reduce climatic vulnerability

➡ Evaluate water management alternatives (water harvesting, deficit irrigation)

Courtesy





Climate Risk Management

Development of a Climate Risk Management system for the region, based on three pillars:

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IWRM

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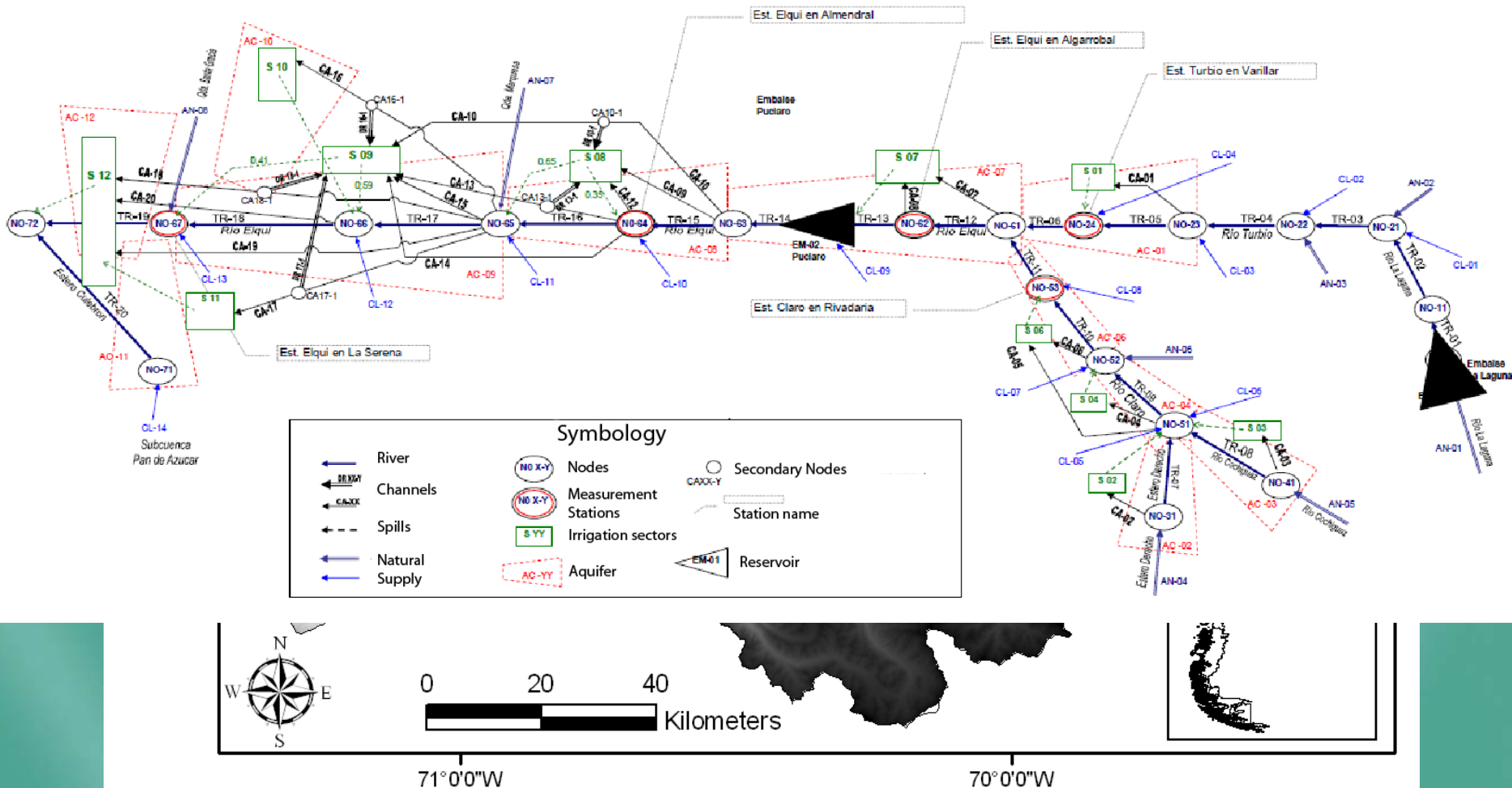
Courtesy



Identify Vulnerabilities

- MAGIC water management model

Extraction wells



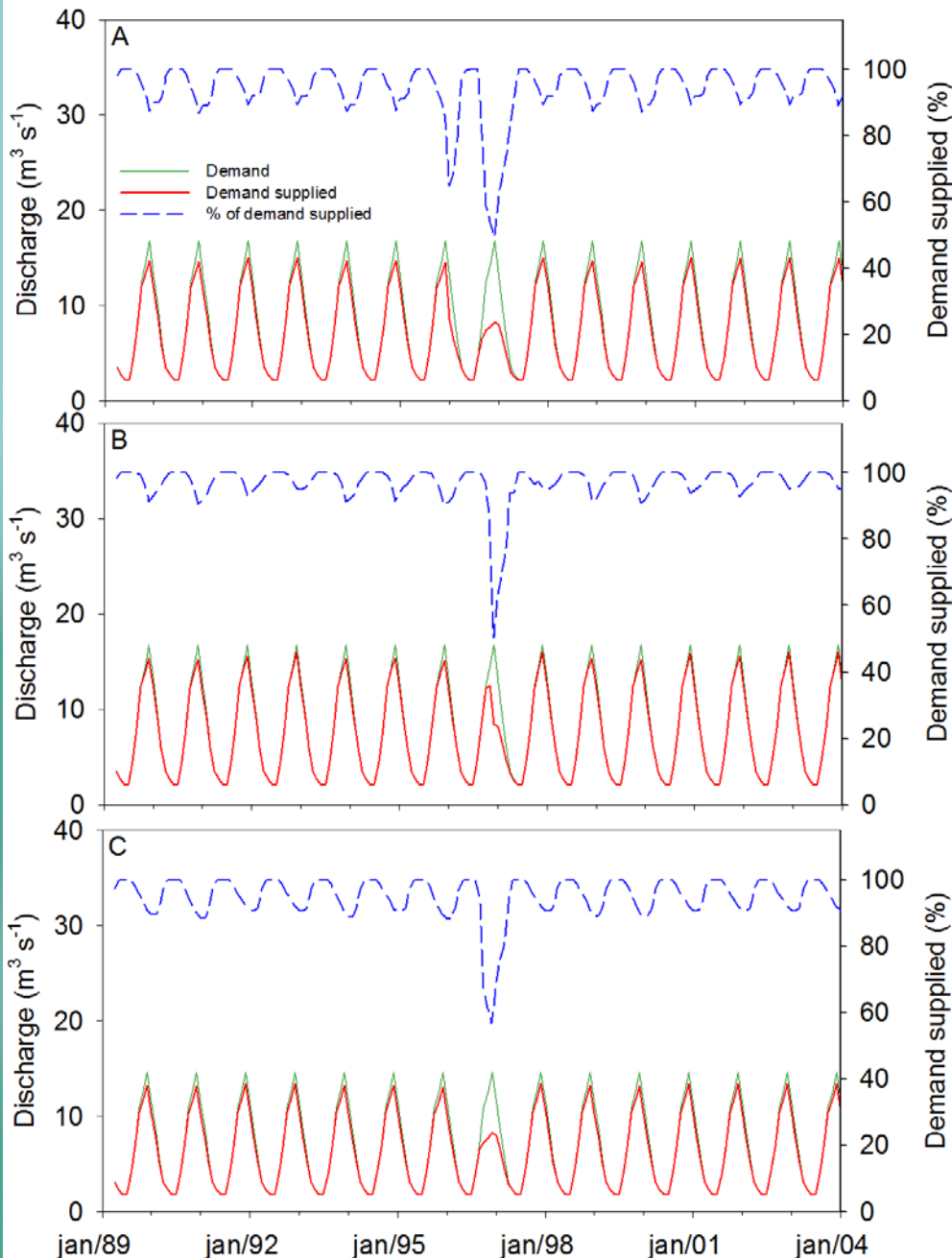
Identify Vulnerabilities

Base Case

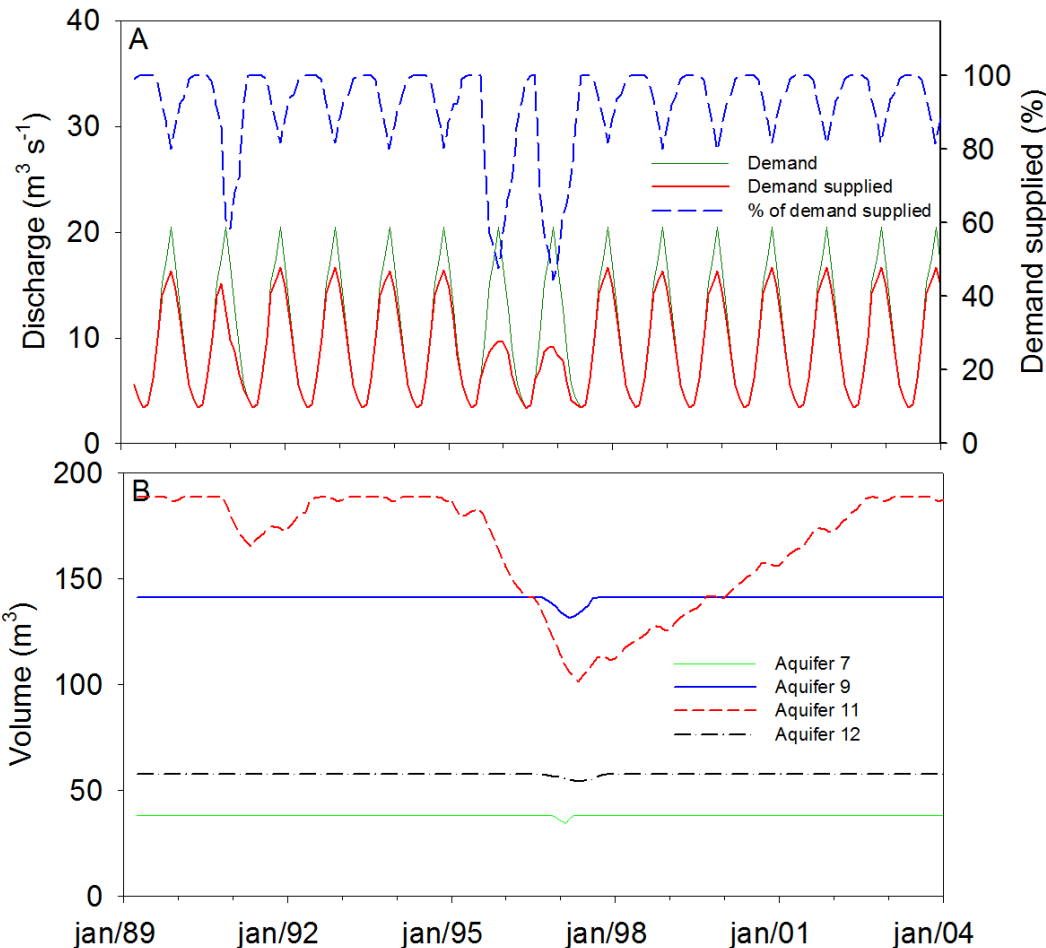
Improved water use efficiency

Improved irrigation efficiency

(Orphanopoulos et al., SCAR, 2012)



Identify Vulnerabilities



Increase in the cultivated area
with 37%

Aquifer response

(Orphanopoulos et al., SCAR, 2012)



Climate Risk Management

The Water Centre for Arid Zones in Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) has been developing a Climate Risk Management system for the region, based on three pillars:

1. Identify Vulnerabilities and Opportunities

➡ Evaluation of water use efficiency and vulnerabilities in pilot areas

2. Reduce Uncertainties:

Eventos Extremos

a) Learn from the Past

➡ b) Monitor the Present

c) Assess Future scenarios

3. Identify Technological Interventions that reduce climatic vulnerability

➡ Evaluate water management alternatives

Courtesy



Extreme events and drought

LAC Drought atlas

Capacitate the Caribbean countries

Establishing the first LAC drought Atlas (annual)

Extreme events

Precipitation

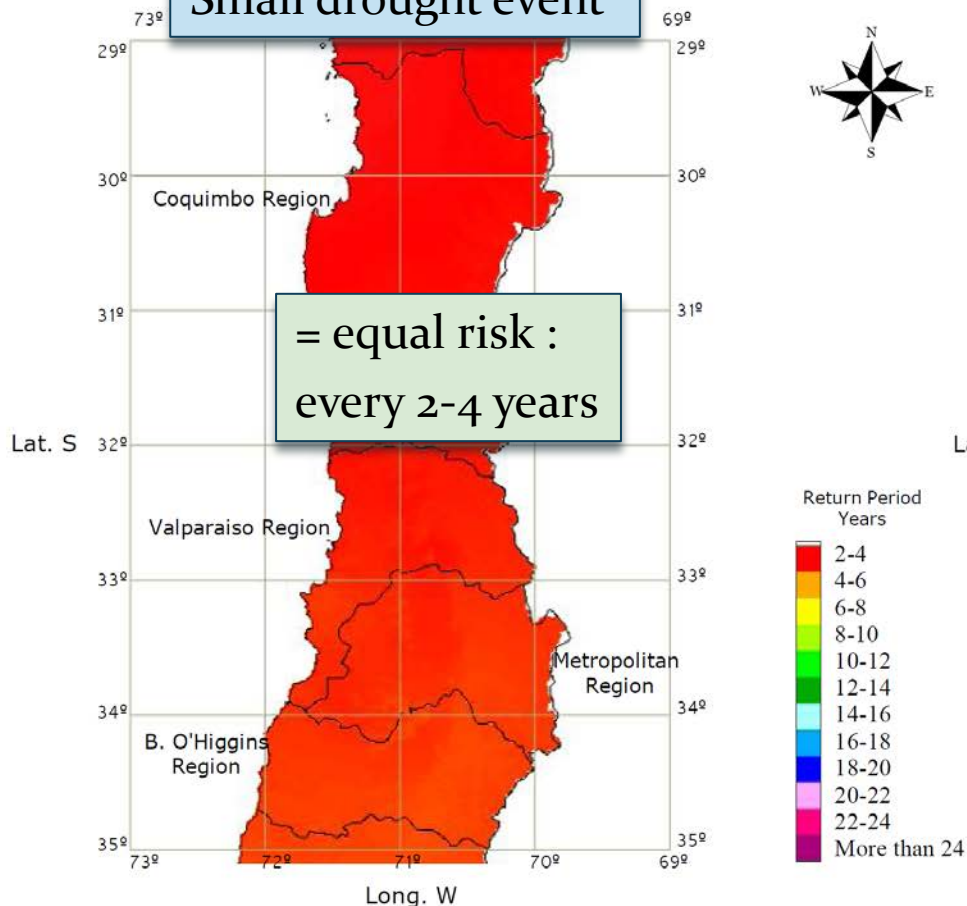
Intensity – Duration –
Frequency Maps

Discharge

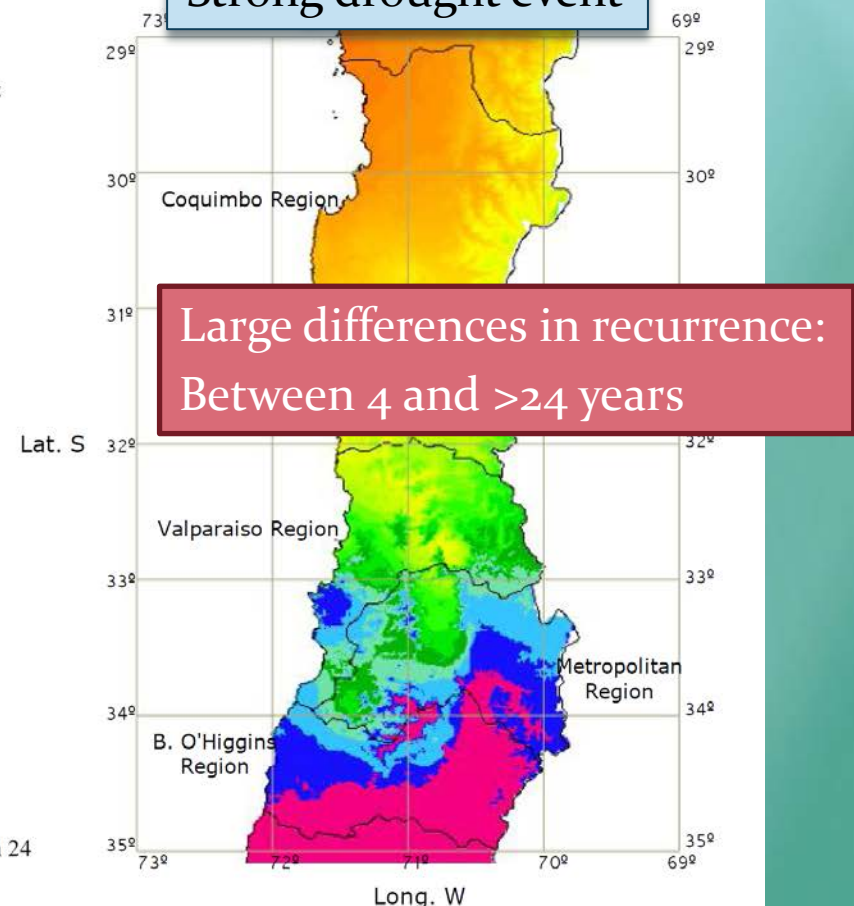
Maximum/Minimum
Discharge

Case Study: Frequency Analysis of Droughts in the Central Northern Region of Chile

Small drought event

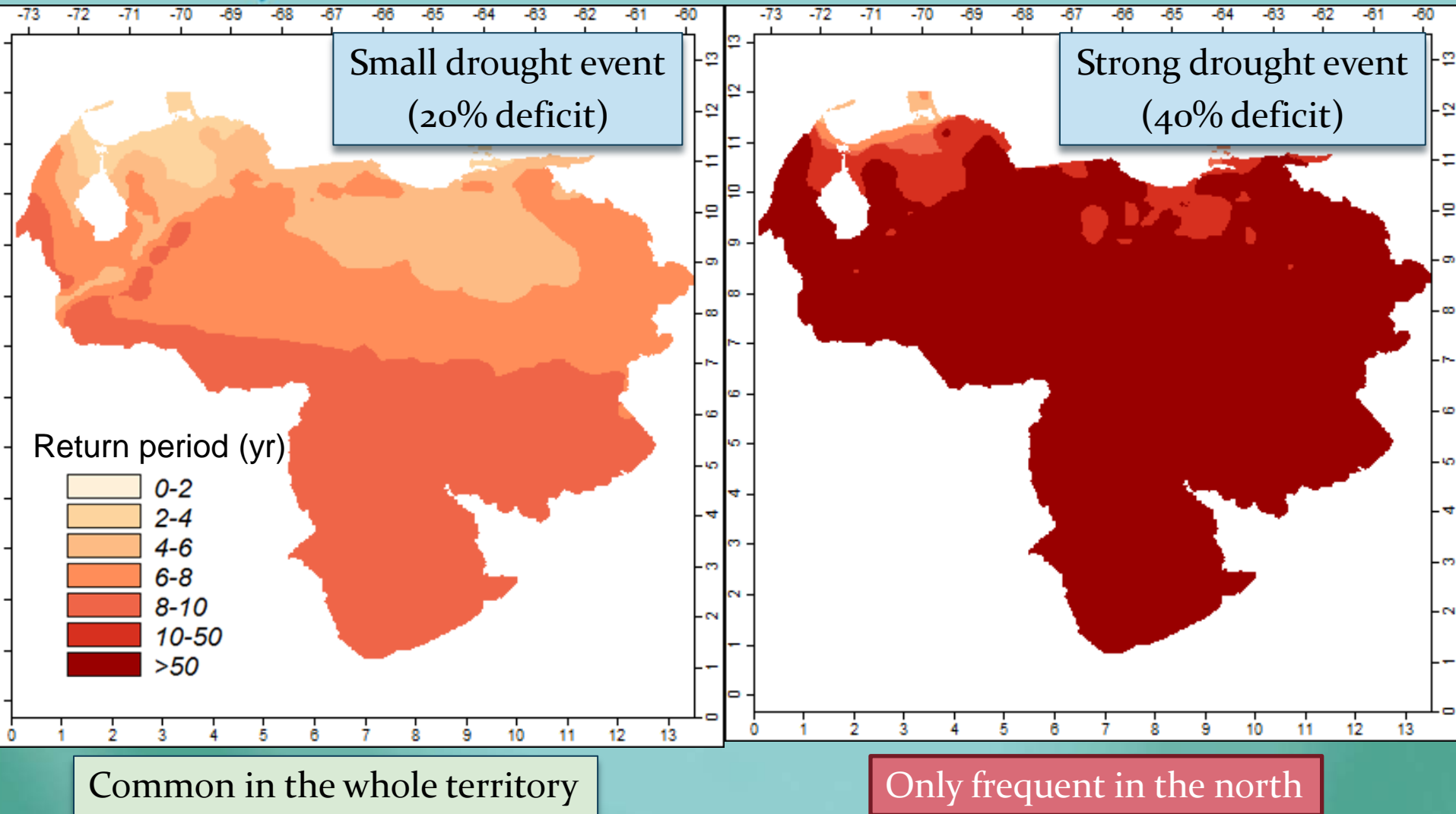


Strong drought event

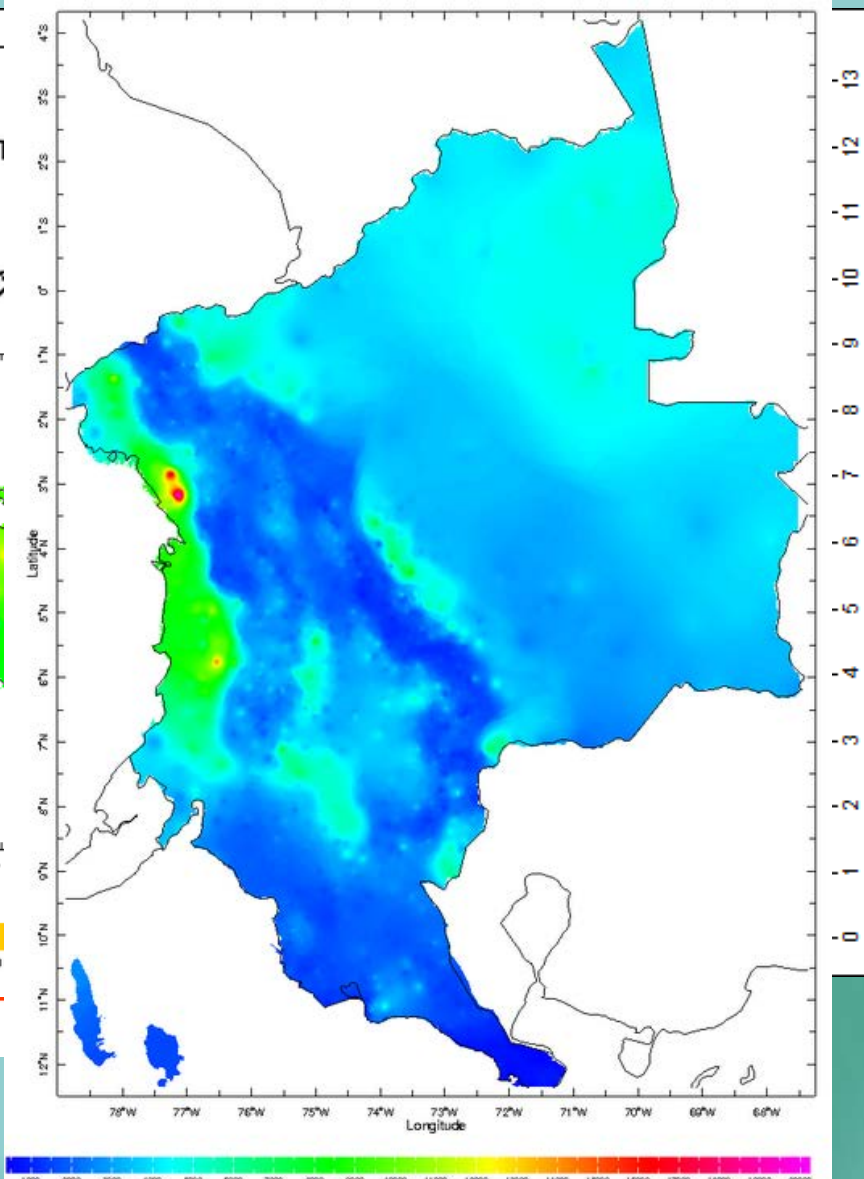
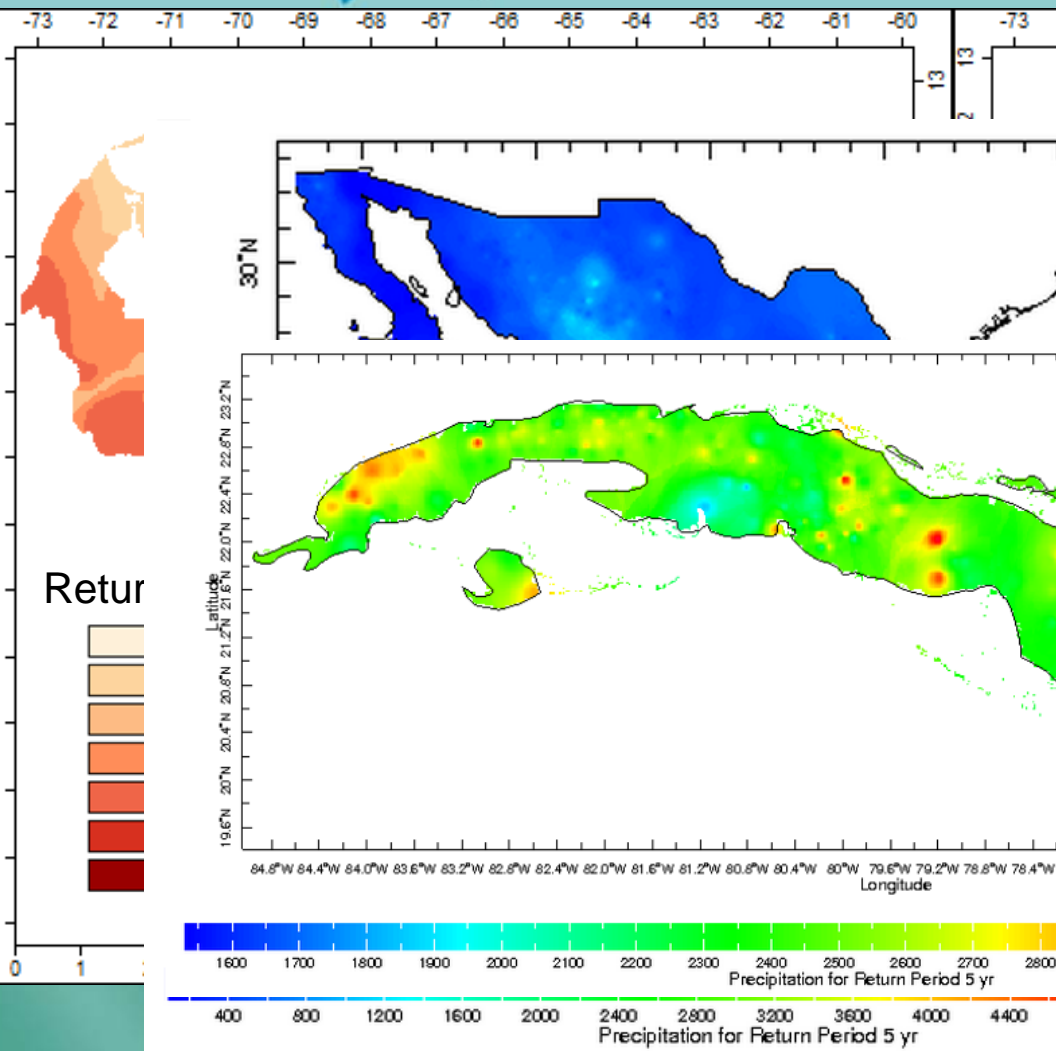


(from Nunez et al., 2011, Journal of Hydrology)

Frequency Analysis of Droughts in Venezuela



The Latin American Drought Atlas

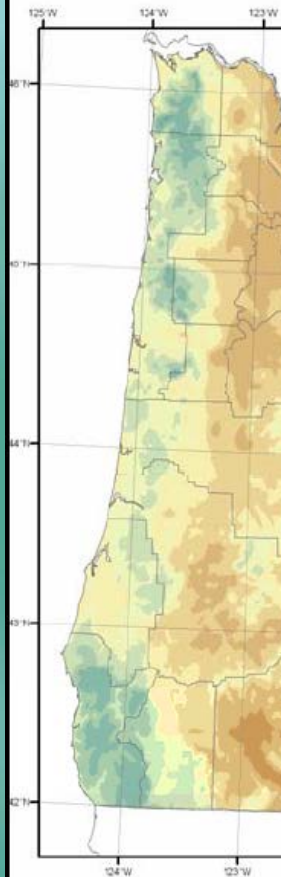


(Nuñez, Verbist et al., 2011, J. of Hydrology)

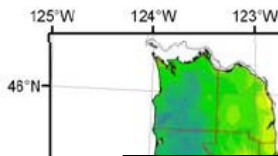
Extreme Events

Intensity – Duration – Frequency Maps

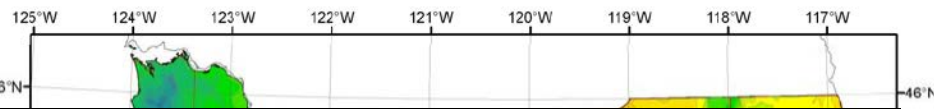
24-hour Mean Annual Maximum Precipitation, Oregon



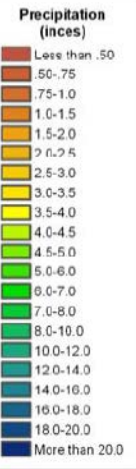
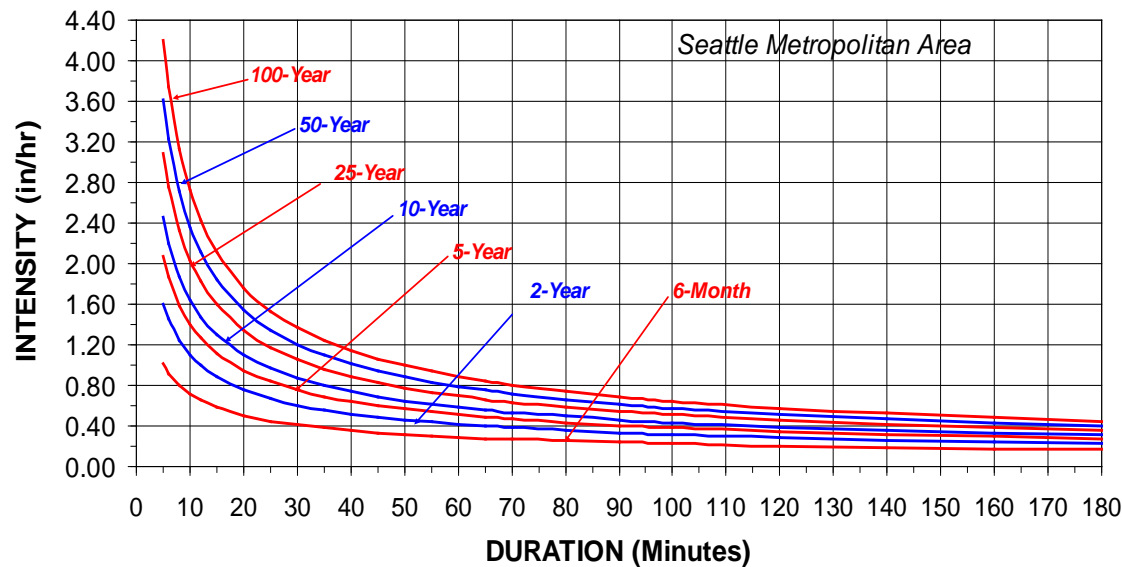
24-hour 100-year Precipitation, Oregon



24-hour 1000-year Precipitation, Oregon



Intensity-Duration Frequency Curves



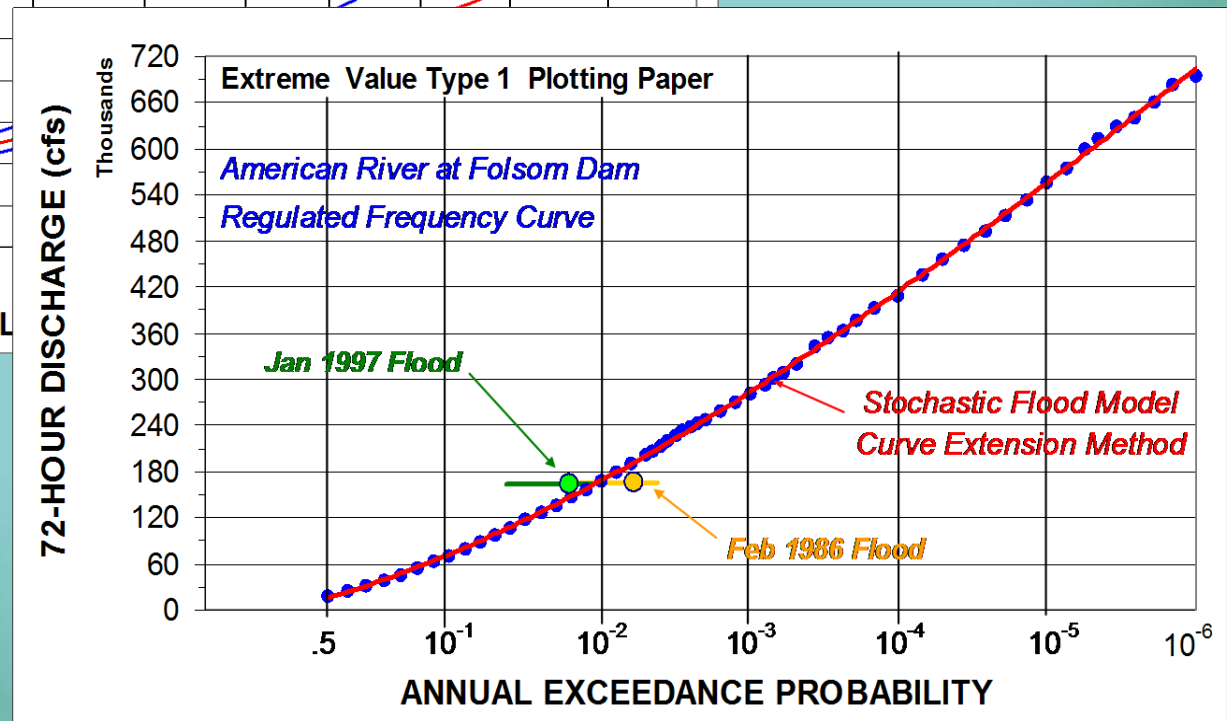
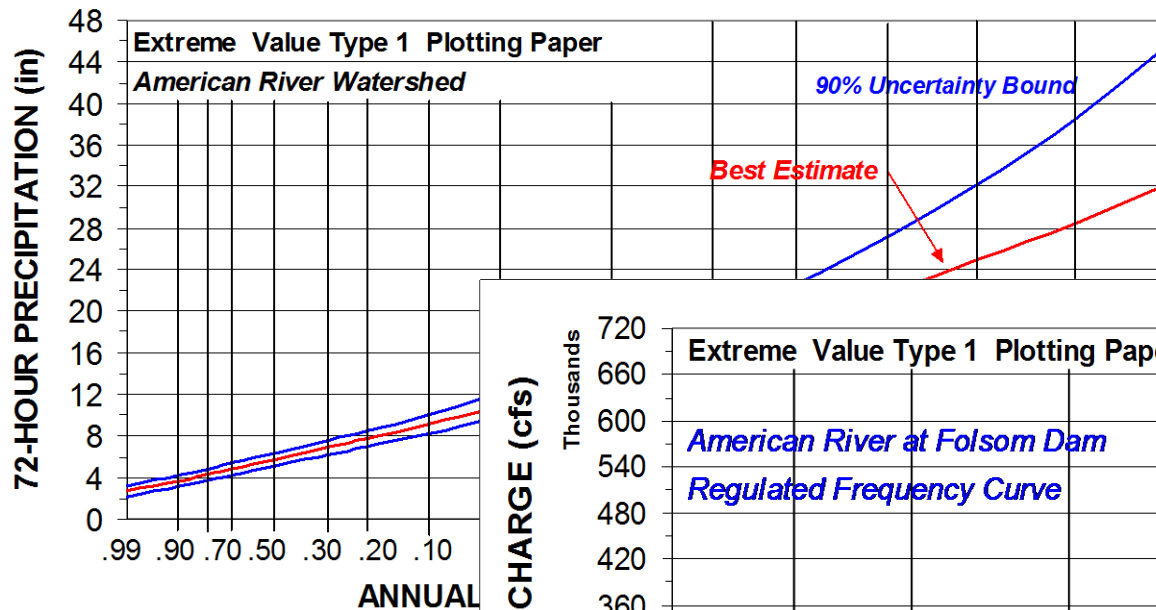
Map produced by MGS
Engineering, Inc. and
Oregon Climate Service

July, 2007



P-5: Methodology

Extreme discharge – frequency analysis





Climate Risk Management

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➡ Evaluate water use efficiency and vulnerabilities

2. Reduce Uncertainties:

a) Learn from the Past

➡ b) Monitor the Present

Drought Monitoring

c) Assess Future scenarios

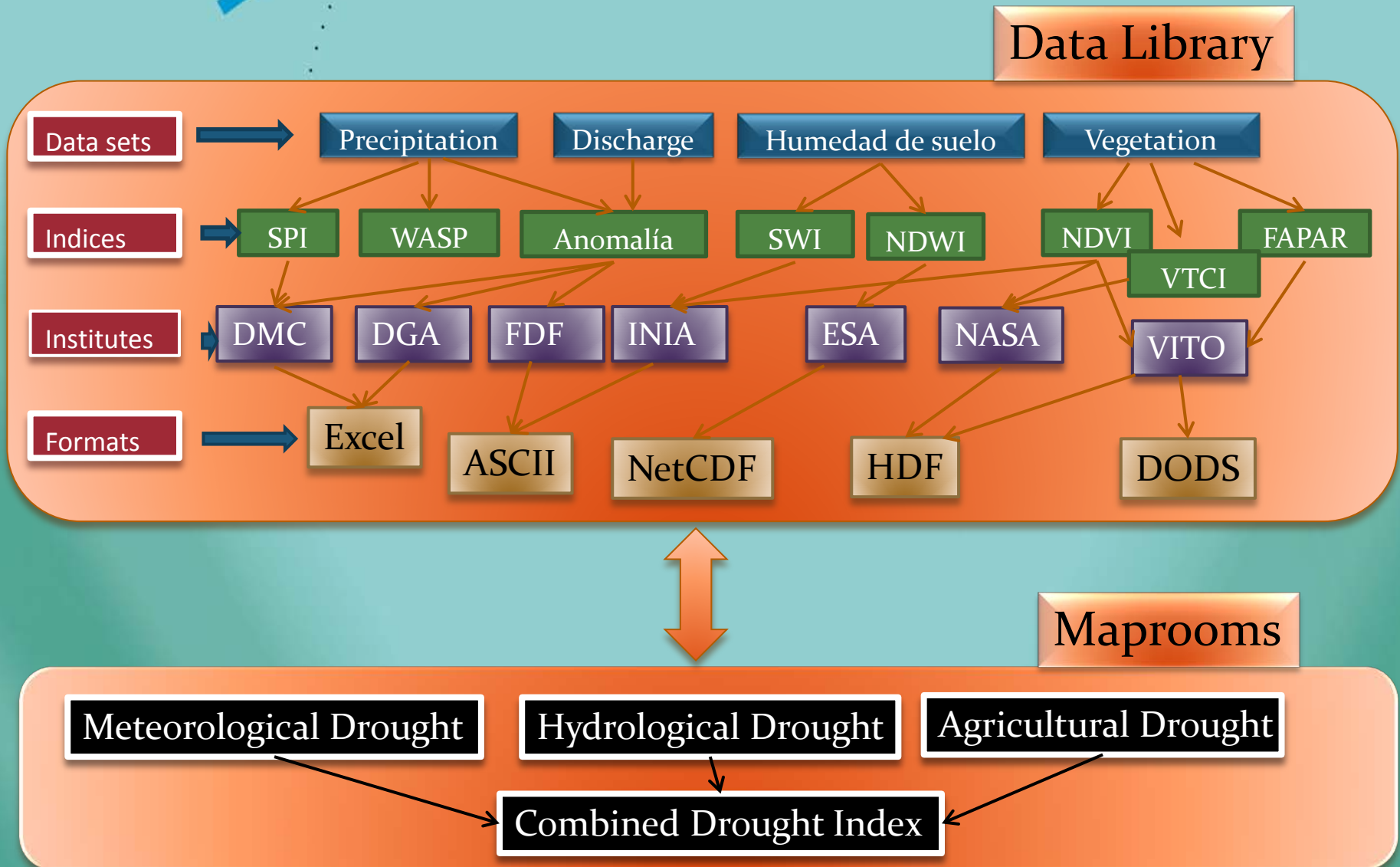
3. Identify Technological Interventions that reduce climatic vulnerability

➡ Evaluate water management alternatives

Courtesy



Drought Observatory



Drought Observatory

Data Library

- Data Input
- Data Manipulation
- Visualization
- Output

data: USGS LandDAAC MODIS version_005 SSA NDVI - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

data: USGS LandDAAC MODIS version_005 SSA NDVI

iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/SOURCES/USGS/LandDAAC/MODIS/version_005/SSA/NDVI/

Most Visited BNP DB Tijl De Morgen Home TIAdaptiveManage... Google Maps connect IWRM as a tool for ada...

IRI

Data Library

Finding Data
Tutorial
Questions and Answers
Function Documentation

USGS LandDAAC MODIS version_005 documentation

help

USGS LandDAAC MODIS version_005 SSA NDVI options

Help Expert Mode

Views

Data Selection Filters Data Files

old Viewer

SOURCES USGS LandDAAC MODIS version_005 Southern South America NDVI

served from IRI/LDEO Climate Data Lit

USGS LandDAAC MODIS version_005 SSA NDVI

LandDAAC MODIS version_005 SSA NDVI from USGS: United States Geological Survey.

Independent Variables (Grids)

Time

grid: /T (days since 2003-01-01) ordered [(22 Apr 2000 - 7 May 2000) (8-23 May 2000) (24 May 2000 - 8 Jun 2000) ... (2-1 Feb 2013)] N= 295 pts :grid

Longitude

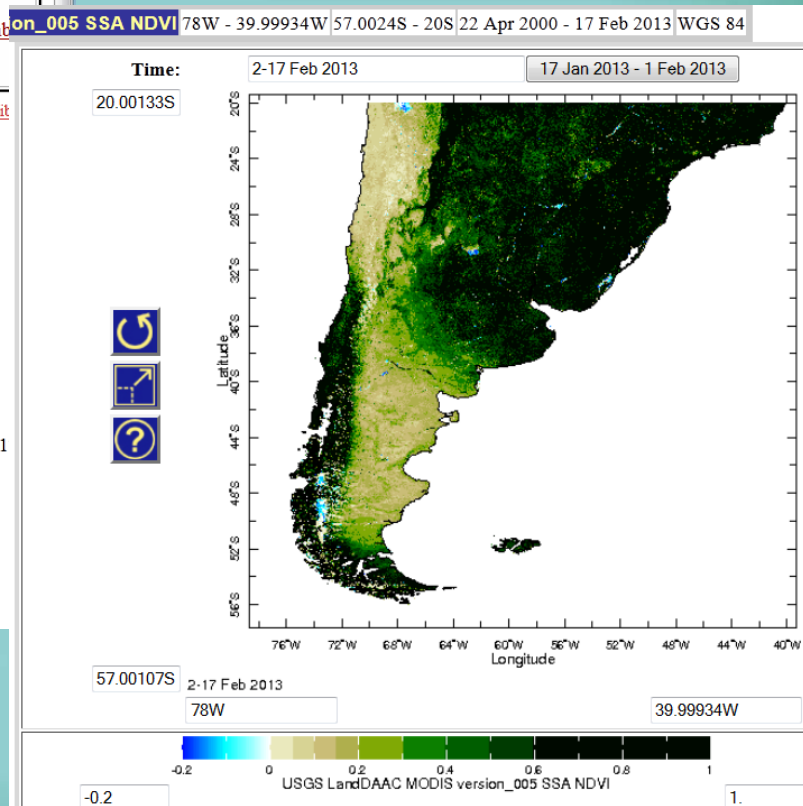
grid: /X (degree_east) ordered (77.99867W) to (40.00067W) by 0.002662043 N= 14275 pts :grid

Latitude

grid: /Y (degree_north) ordered (20.00133S) to (57.00107S) by 0.002662043 N= 13900 pts :grid

Other Info

- <http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/>
- <http://datalibrary.ceazamet.cl>



Drought Observatory

Maprooms

- Visualization for end user
- portal / observatorio

IRI/LDEO Climate Data Library x Normalized Difference Vegetation ind... x

datalibrary.ceazamet.cl/maproom/kverbist/maproom_koen/maproom/Monitoring/NDVI/NDVI.html?Set-Language=en

Most Visited BNP DB T Tjrd DM De Morgen Home TIAdaptiveManage... Google Maps connect IWRM as a tool for ada... IRI Wiki Pages | LAC / ...

Maproom Agricultural Drought Region Variable Spatially Average Over Language
Monitoring Vegetation status Southern South America NDVI 11x11 km box english

Description Dataset Documentation Dataset Contact Us Instructions

Vegetation status

The images on this page are derived from The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) sensor at 250m spatial resolution provided every 16 days. This interface facilitates access to the vegetation status from MODIS images provided by the United States Geological Survey.

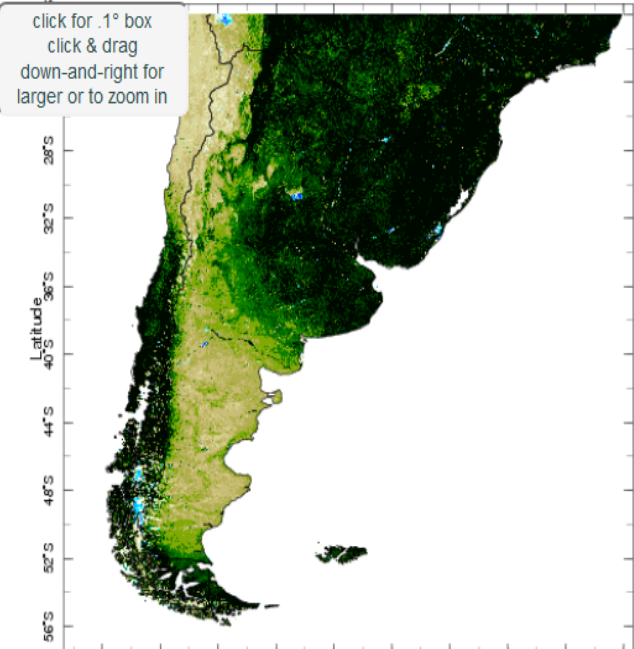
The interface allows users to select desired vegetation variables for a desired region using spatial averages. Refer to the instructions tab for help with customizing graphs.

NDVI: The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is the ratio of two wavelengths, red and near-Infrared (NIR). The index compares healthy and sparse areas of vegetation by examining their difference in wavelength absorption and reflection. Healthy vegetation growth, such as forests, will absorb more and reflect less visible light (red wavelengths) compared to sparse vegetation. For example, an area of forest would yield a NDVI ratio closer to 1 compared to 0 for a desert. The predictive value of NDVI is attributed to its ability to integrate general biological growth over long periods of time.

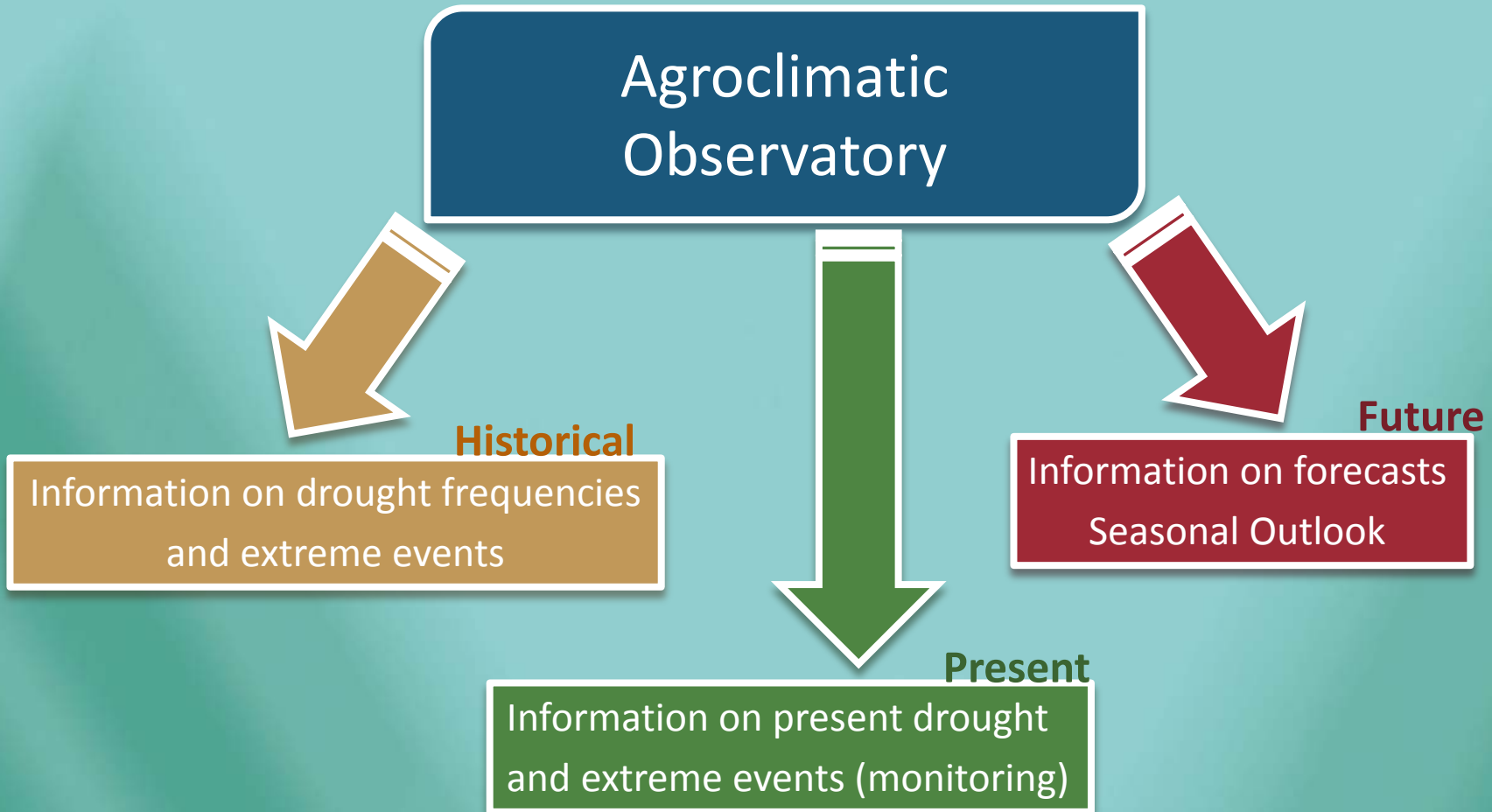
NDVI: The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is the ratio between the difference of red and near-Infrared (NIR) divided by the sum of red and near infrared reflectances. The index provides some information on healthy vegetation by examining their difference in wavelength absorption

Time 22 Apr 2000 - 7 May 2000 < 2-17 Feb 2013 > 2-17 Feb 2013

click for .1° box
click & drag
down-and-right for
larger or to zoom in



Structure of the Observatory



Structure of the Observatory



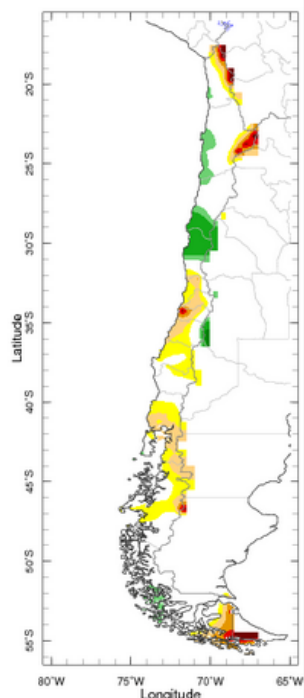
Language
english ▼

Drought Monitor

The maproom is a collection of maps and other figures that monitor drought at present, near future and in the recent past. The maps and figures can be manipulated and are linked to the original data. Even if you are primarily interested in data rather than figures, this is a good place to see which datasets are particularly useful for monitoring current conditions.

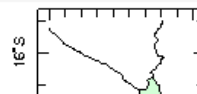
Drought Monitor

A drought monitor showing relevant drought indicators.



Historical Drought Frequencies

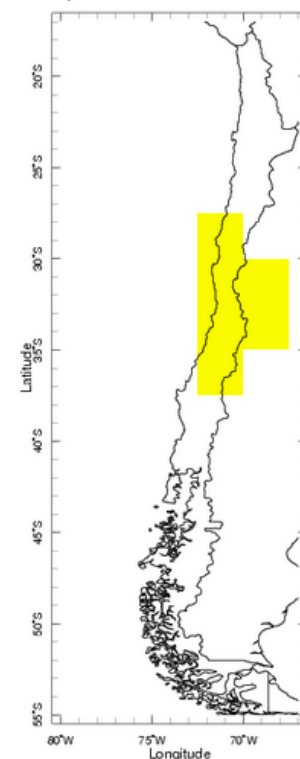
Historical drought frequency analysis for Chile.



Forecasts


Climate forecasts can be relevant instruments to prepare for upcoming climate risks. In this maproom, the results from international forecasts as well as national tailored forecasts are shown.

Jul-Sep 2008 issued Mar 2008



Historical

Information on drought frequency and extreme events



Maproom

Historical

Historical Drought Frequencies

Drought Return Periods

Region

Chile

Variable

60% Rainfall Deficit

Language

english

[Description](#)[Dataset Documentation](#)[Contact Us](#)

Drought Return Periods

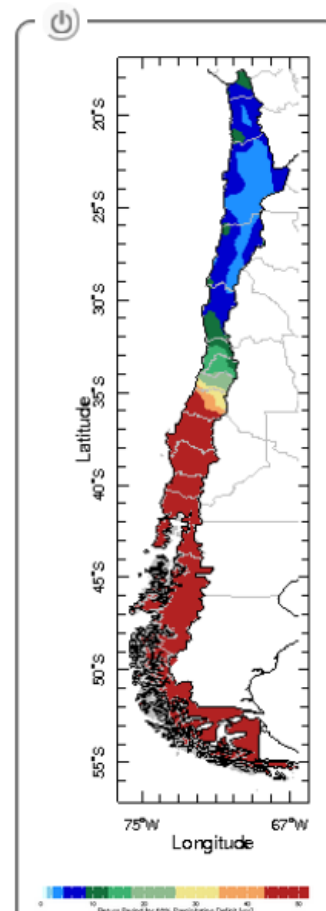
This map shows the return periods for droughts, expressed as a deficit compared to mean precipitation amounts, using a Regional Frequency Analysis using L-moments (RFA-LM).

The RFA-LM (Nunez et al., 2010) determines the frequency of drought events by pooling stations in climatologically homogeneous regions. This allows application of more robust statistics, especially in regions with limited datasets such as the drylands.

The L-moment-approach is an improvement over normal moment theory, as outliers and extreme events do not disproportionately influence distribution selection. As such, the RFA-LM method is the most appropriate method in regions with interannual variability and short record lengths. More information on the methodology of the RFA-LM can be found [here](#).







References

Nunez, J.H., K. Verbist, J. Wallis, M. Schaeffer, L. Morales, and W.M. Cornelis. 2011. Regional frequency analysis for mapping drought events in north-central Chile. *J. Hydrol.* **405** 352-366.



Historical

Information on drought frequency and extreme events



Maproom

Historical

Historical Drought Frequencies

Drought Return Periods

Region

Coquimbo

Variable

60% Rainfall Deficit

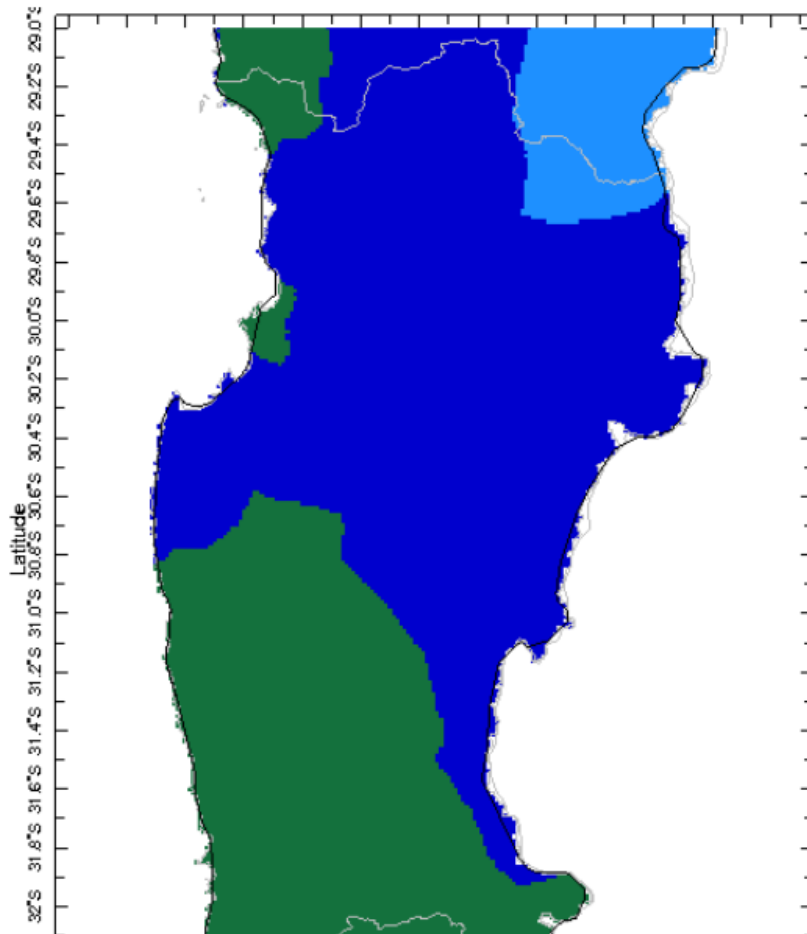
Language

english

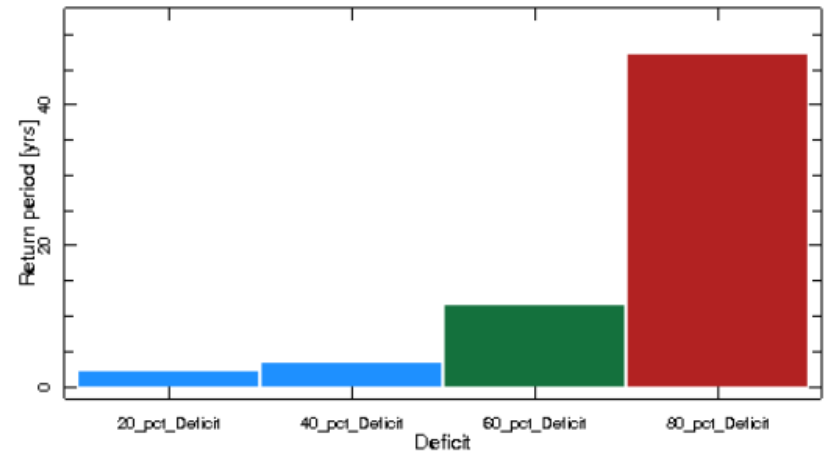
Description

Dataset Documentation

Contact Us




Observations for [71.325W-71.3125W, 31.925S-31.9125S]



Present

Information on present drought and extreme events (monitoring)



Maps

Maproom

Region

Chile

Language
english

Drought Monitor

A drought monitor showing relevant drought indicators.

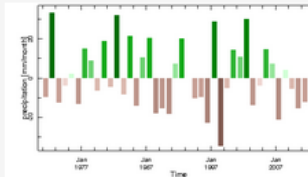
The indicators were selected to show conditions with respect to meteorological, hydrological and agricultural drought.

Meteorological Drought | Hydrological Drought | Agricultural Drought | Combined Drought Index

Meteorological Drought

Regional Precipitation

Precipitation observed and its anomaly for different regions of Chile is presented here.



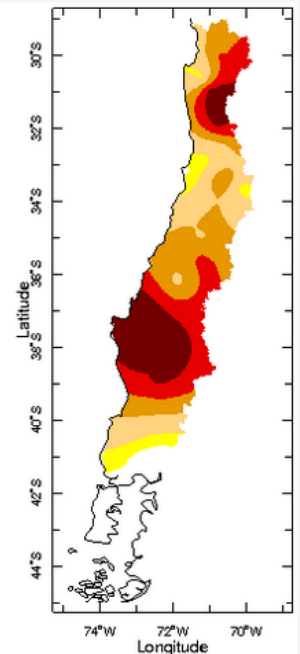
Observed Precipitation

Precipitation as observed in meteorological stations in Chile is presented here.



Standardized Precipitation Index - DMC

This map can be used to identify the intensity and duration of drought or excess of rainfall for each month. It shows the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI).



Sep 2013

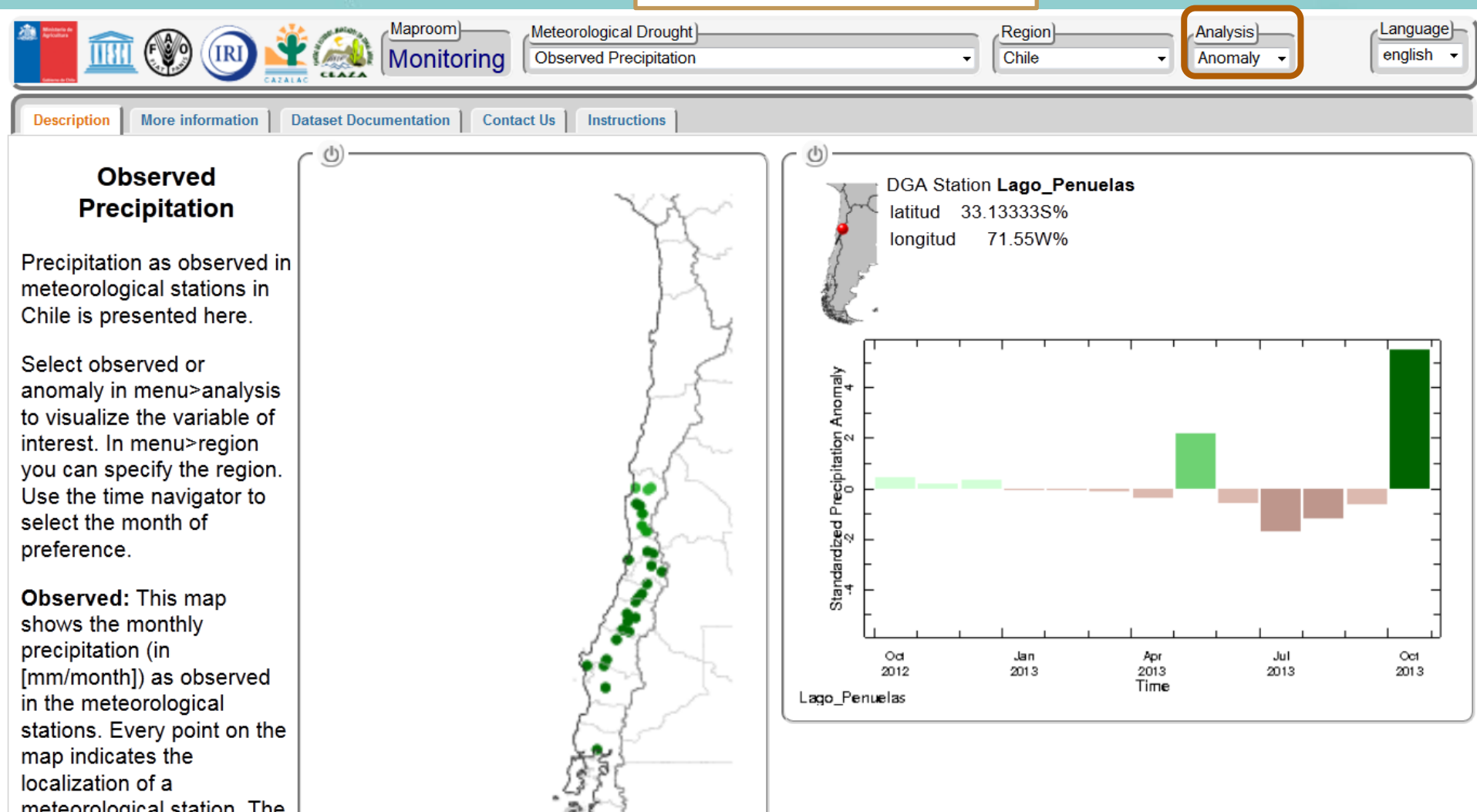
CPC Unified Precipitation

Precipitation as delivered by

Present

Information on present drought and extreme events (monitoring)

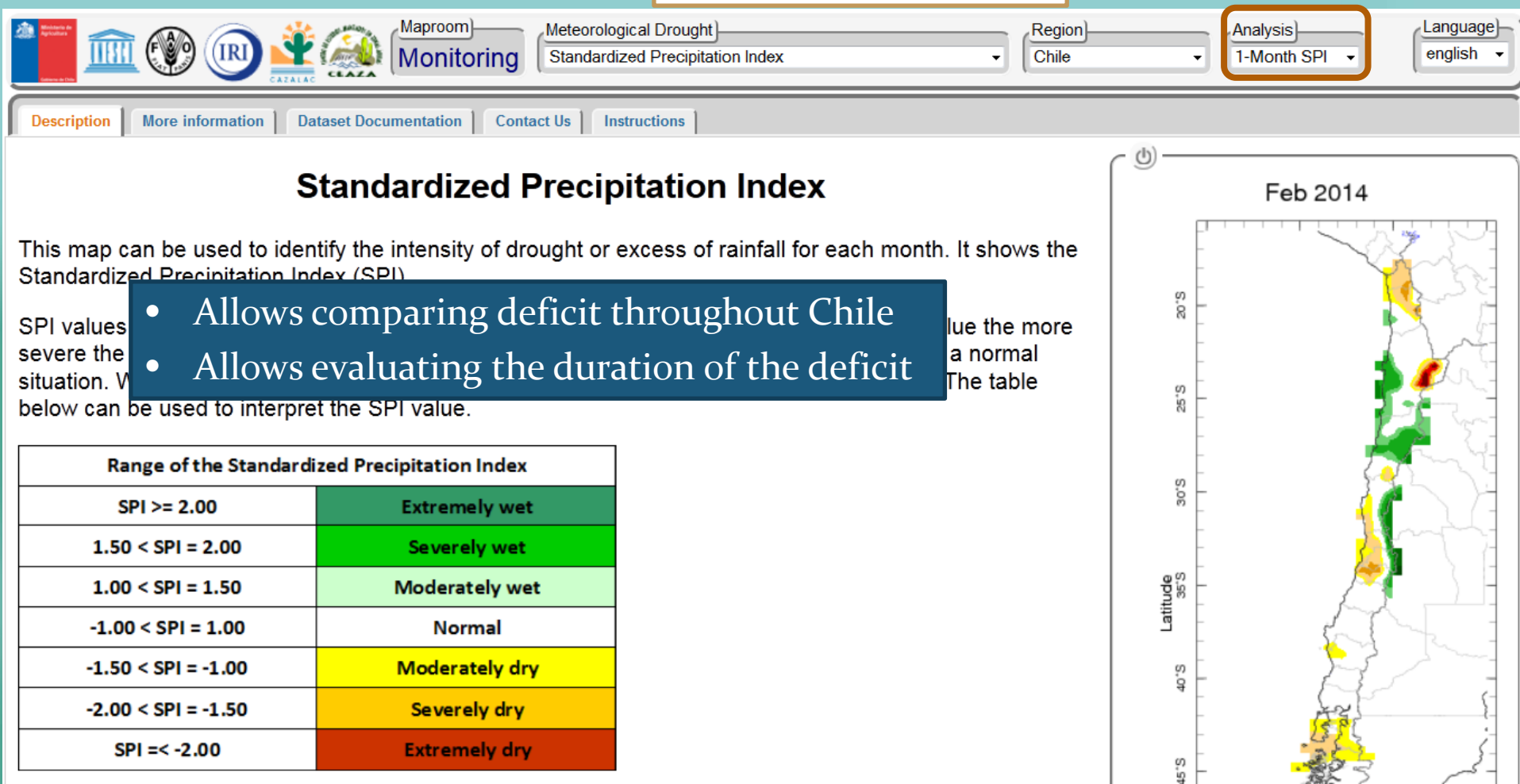
1. Meteorological Drought



Present

Information on present drought and extreme events (monitoring)

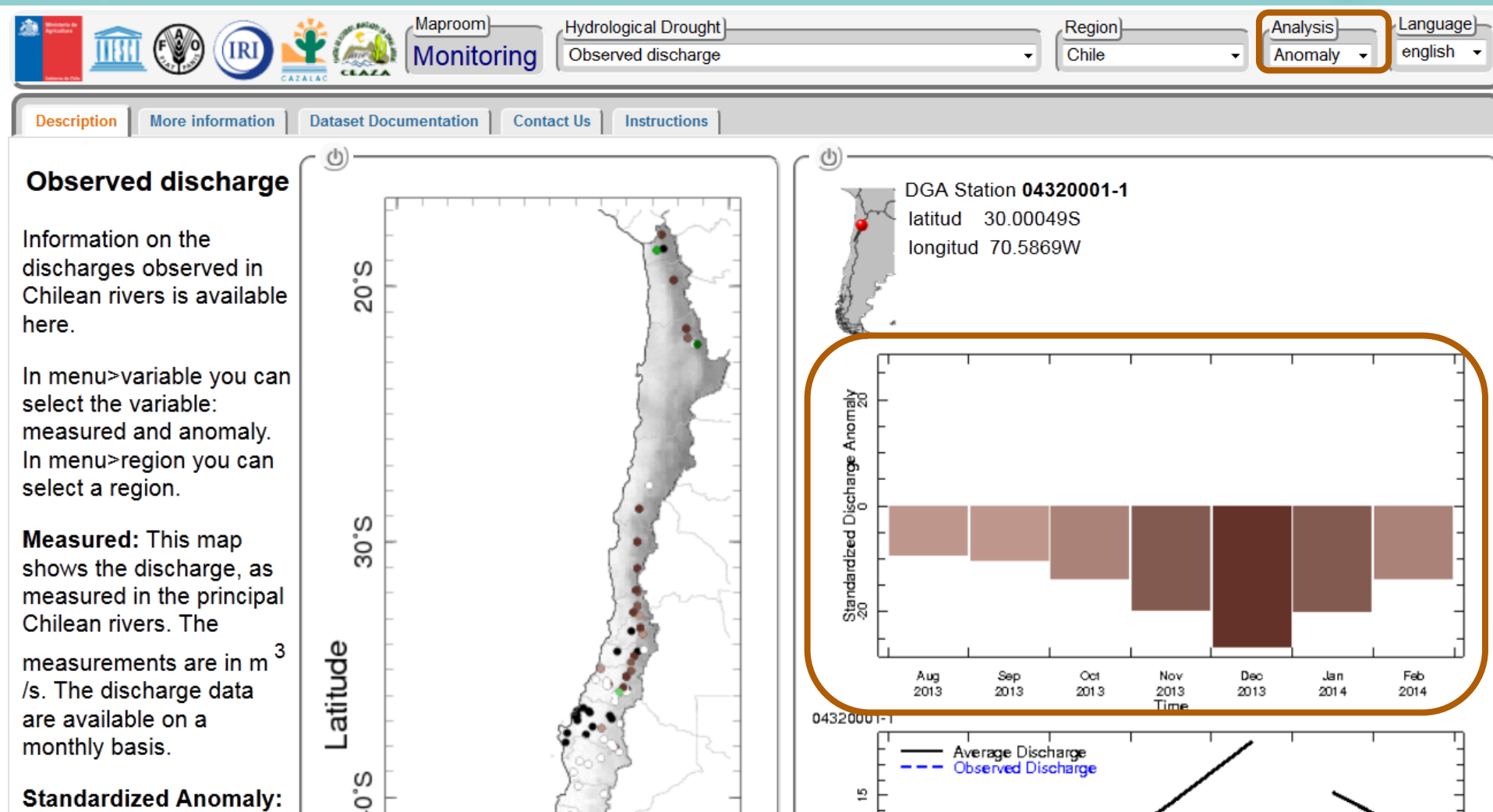
1. Meteorological Drought



Present

Information on present drought and extreme events (monitoring)

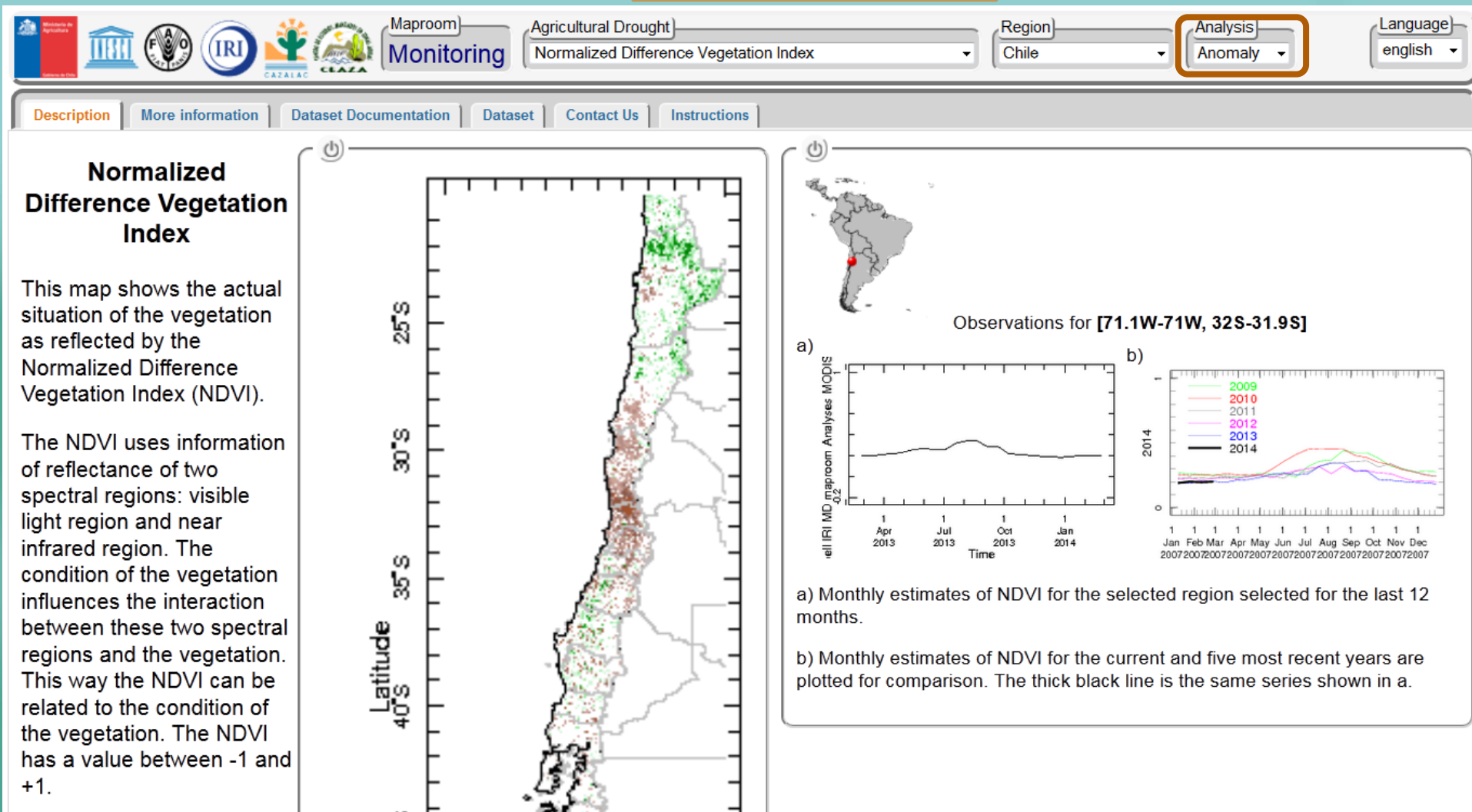
2. Hydrological Drought



Present

Information on present drought and extreme events (monitoring)

3. Agricultural Drought





Climate Risk Management

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c) Assess Future scenarios

Drought Forecasting

3. Identify Technological Interventions that reduce climatic vulnerability

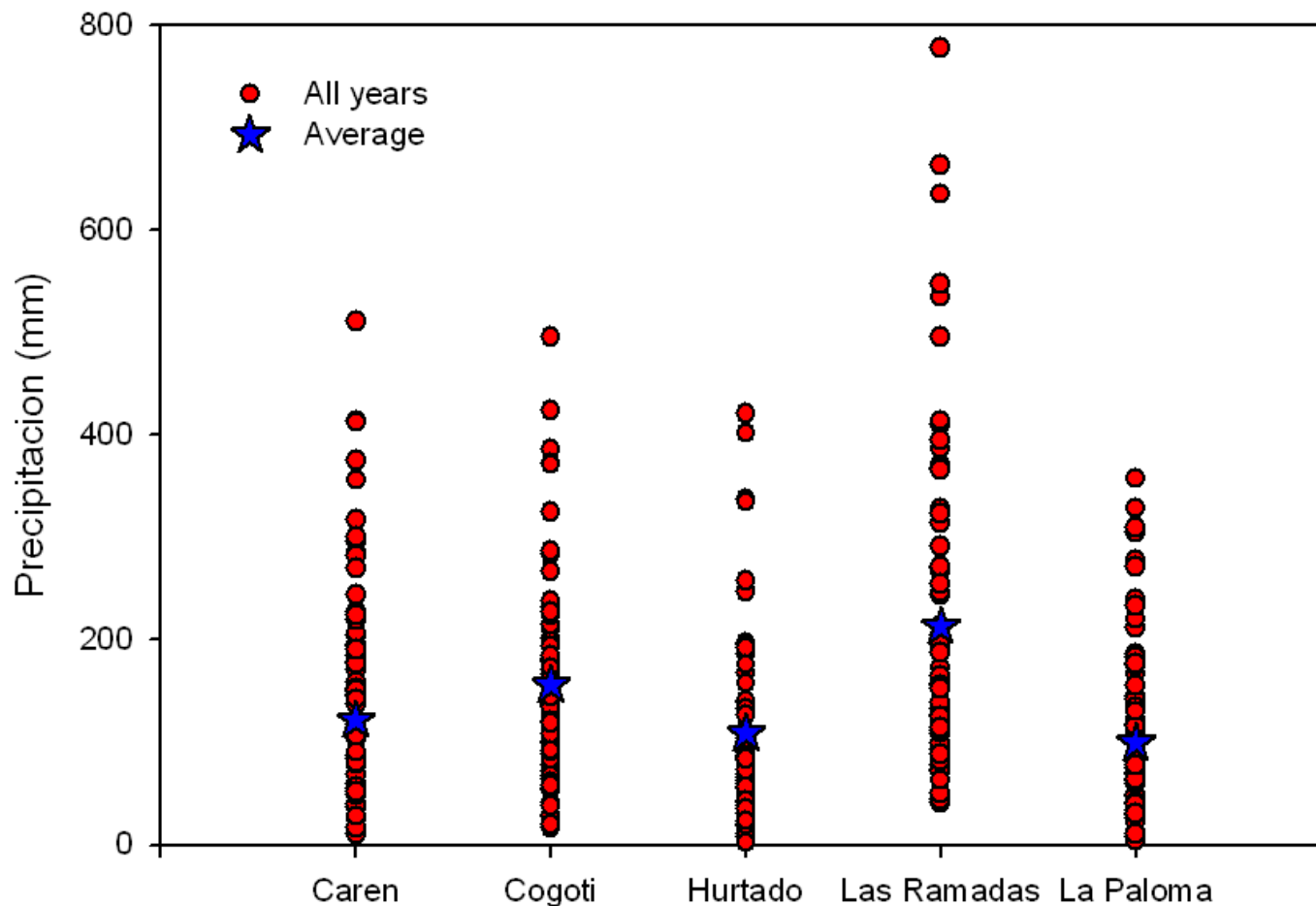
➡ Evaluate water management alternatives

Courtesy



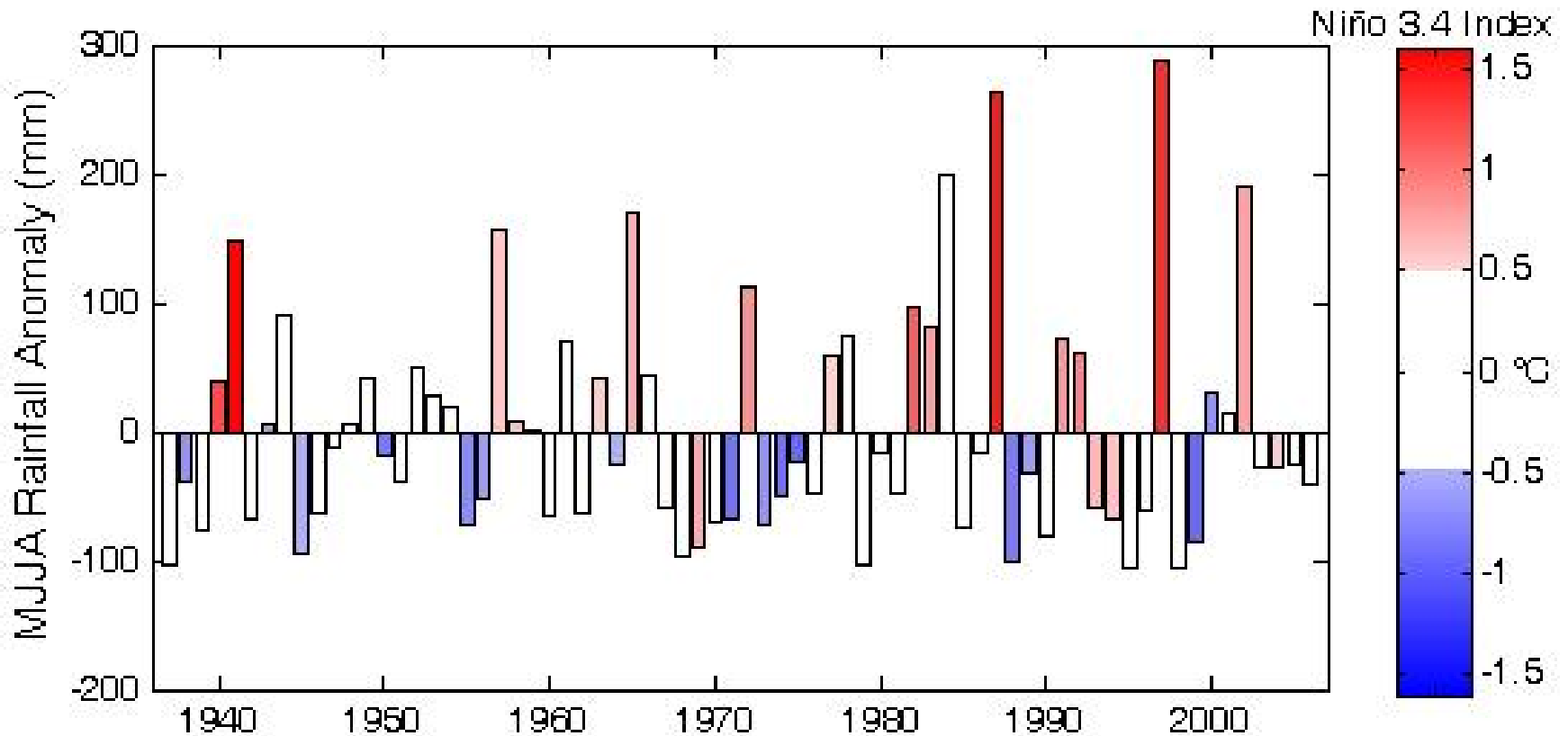
Climatic variability in the drylands

Example: What is the average rainfall in the 4th Region?

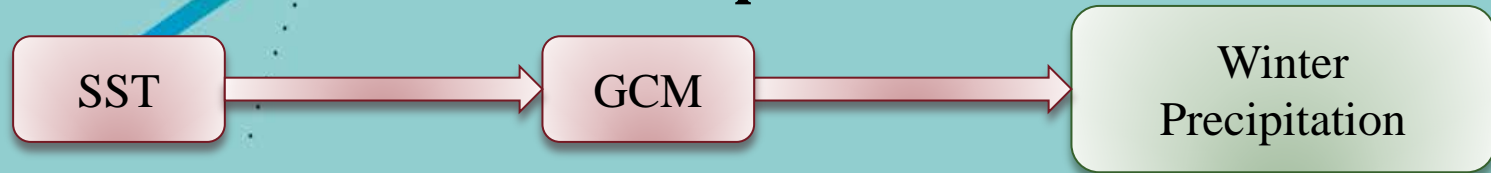


Drought Prediction

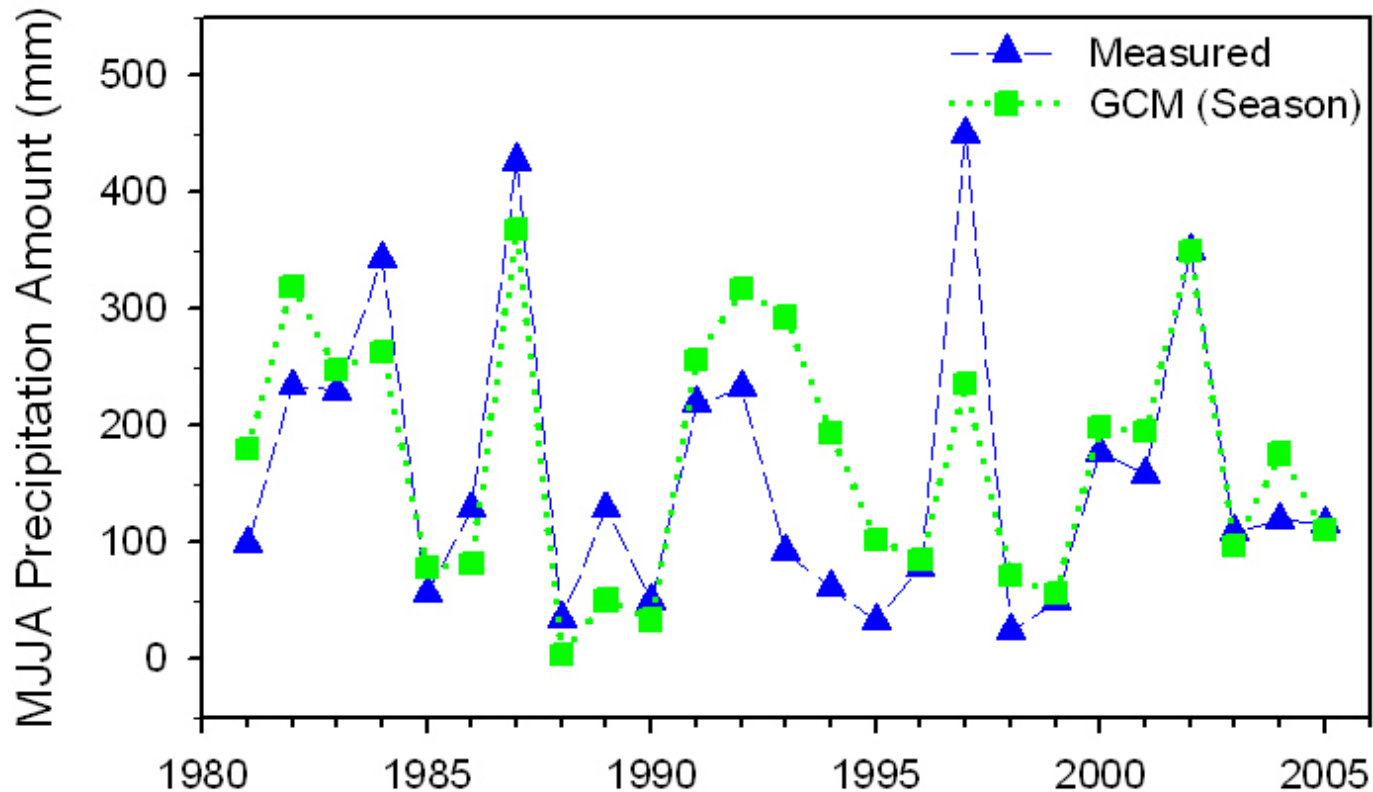
Can we identify a common regional influence on rainfall?



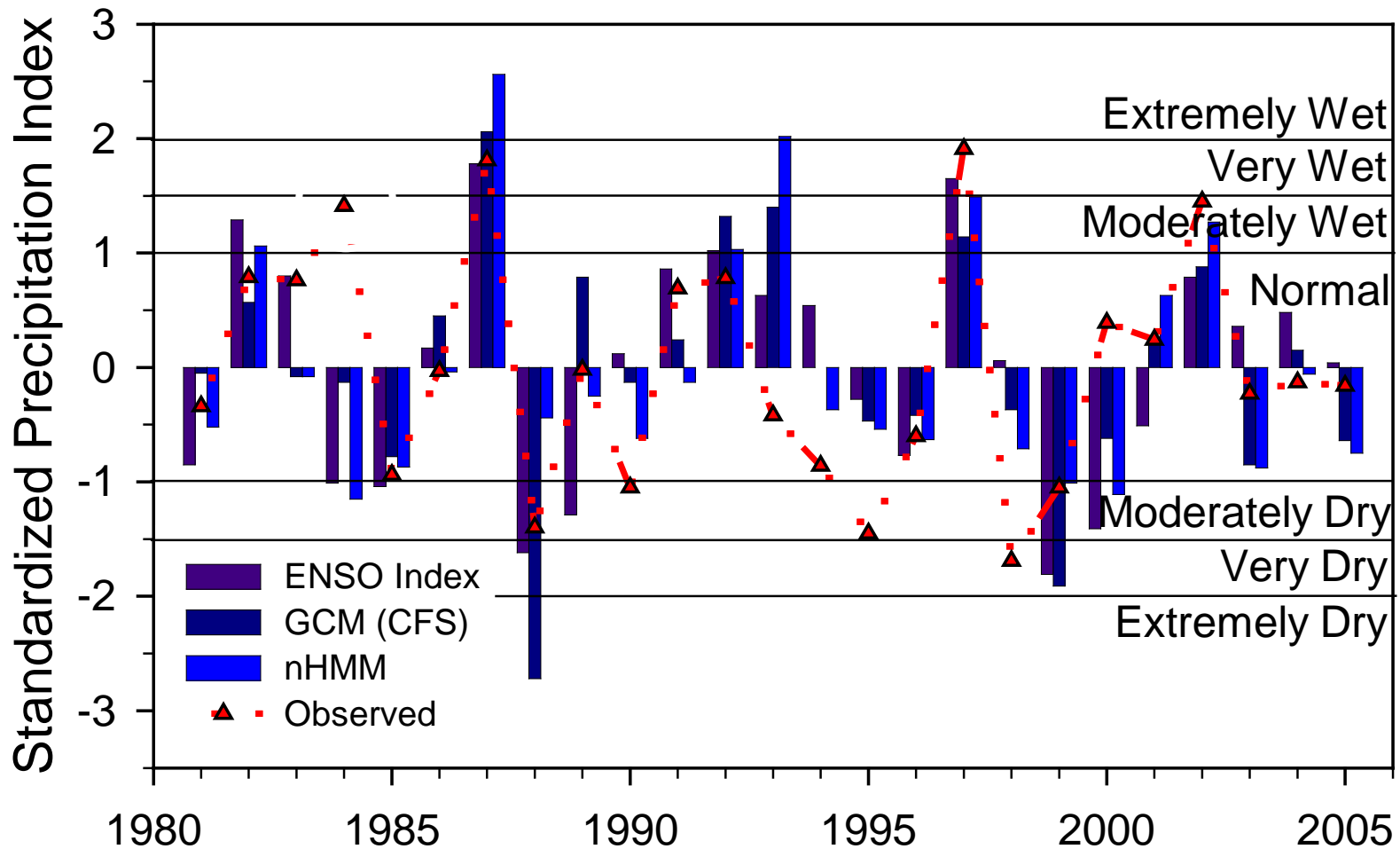
1. Seasonal prediction



Retrospective cross-validated prediction
4 months lead time



Can we use these approaches to predict drought?

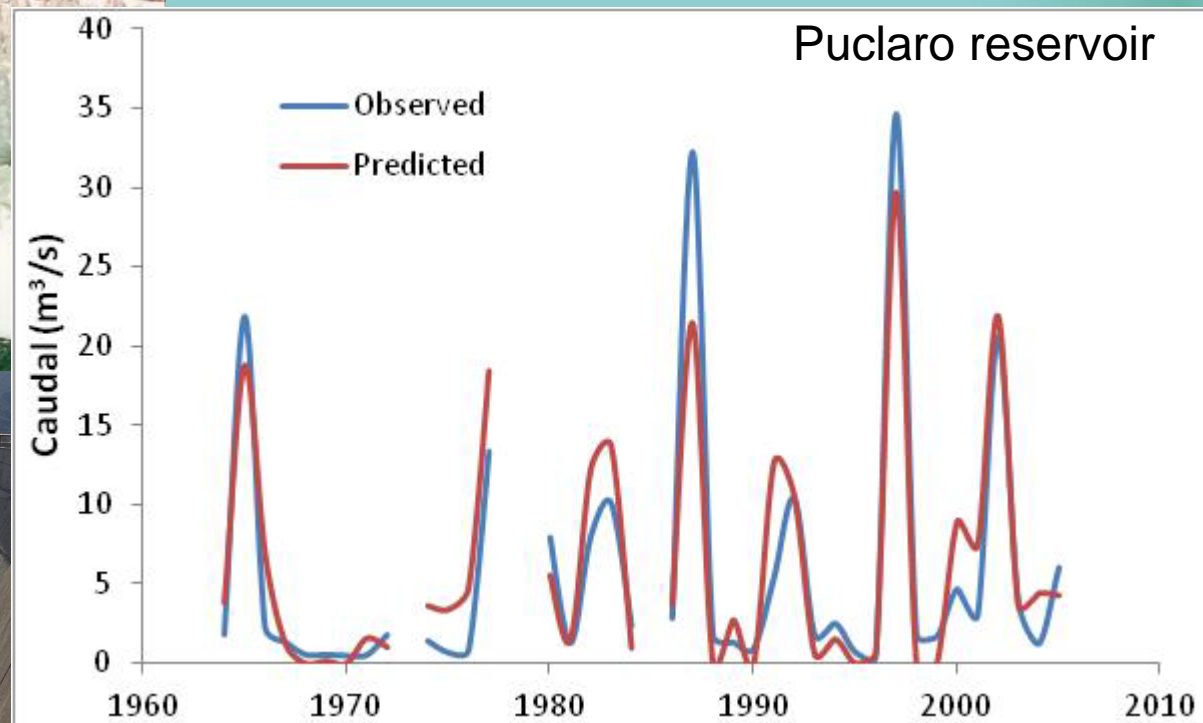
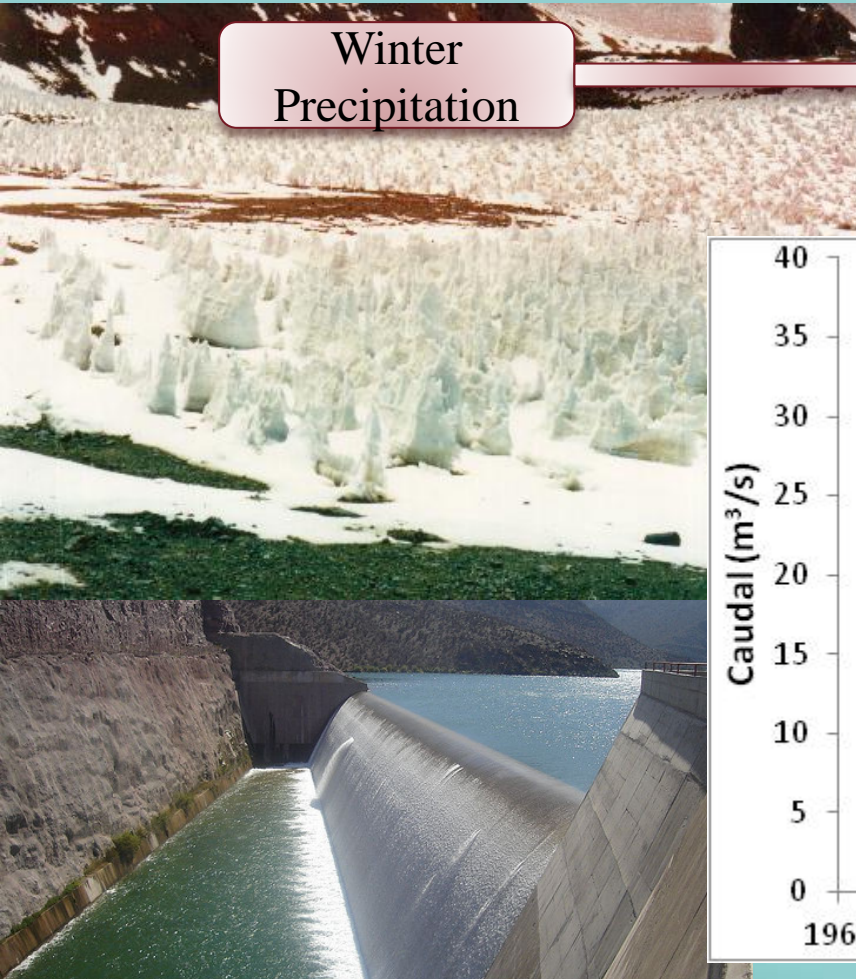


2. Streamflow prediction for reservoir management

Winter
Precipitation

Melting

Summer discharge



Support water allocation to agriculture, cities and industry (mining)



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Climate Change Impact

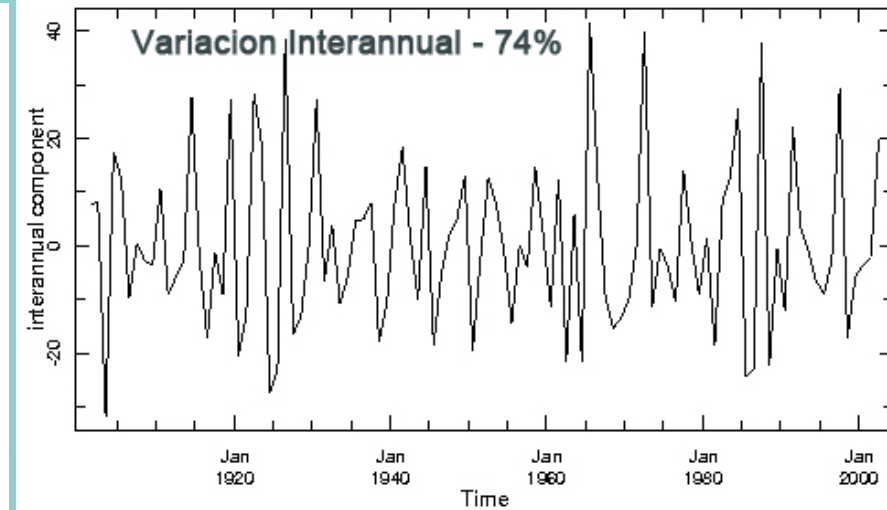
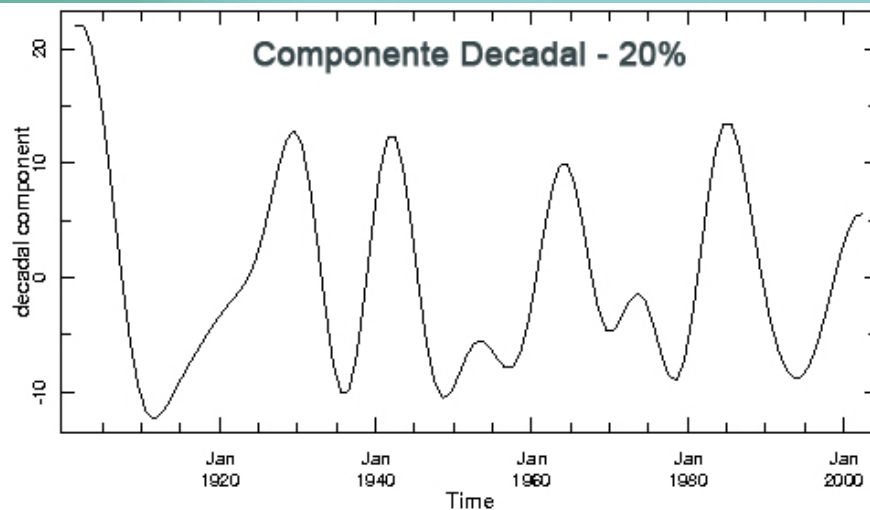
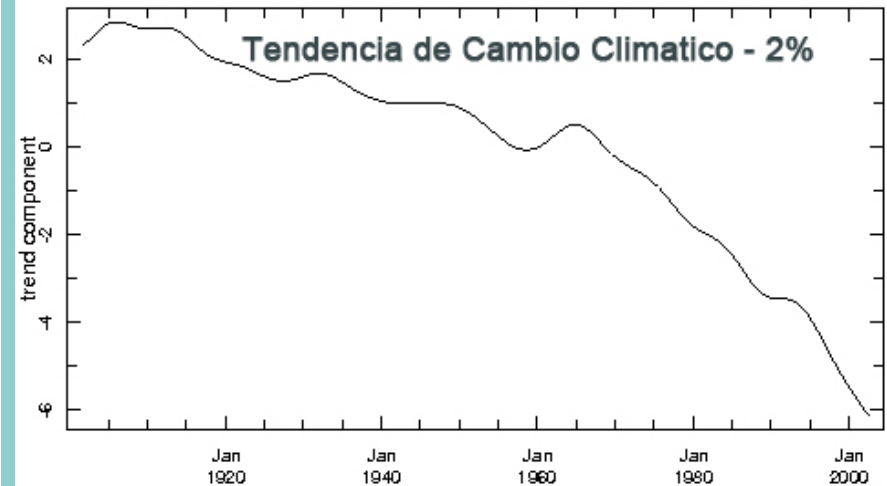
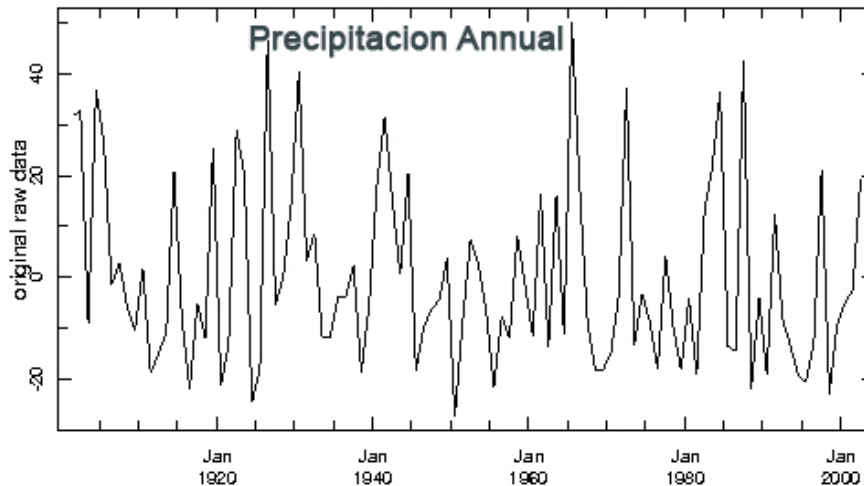
3. Identify Technological Interventions that reduce climatic vulnerability

➡ Evaluate water management alternatives

Courtesy

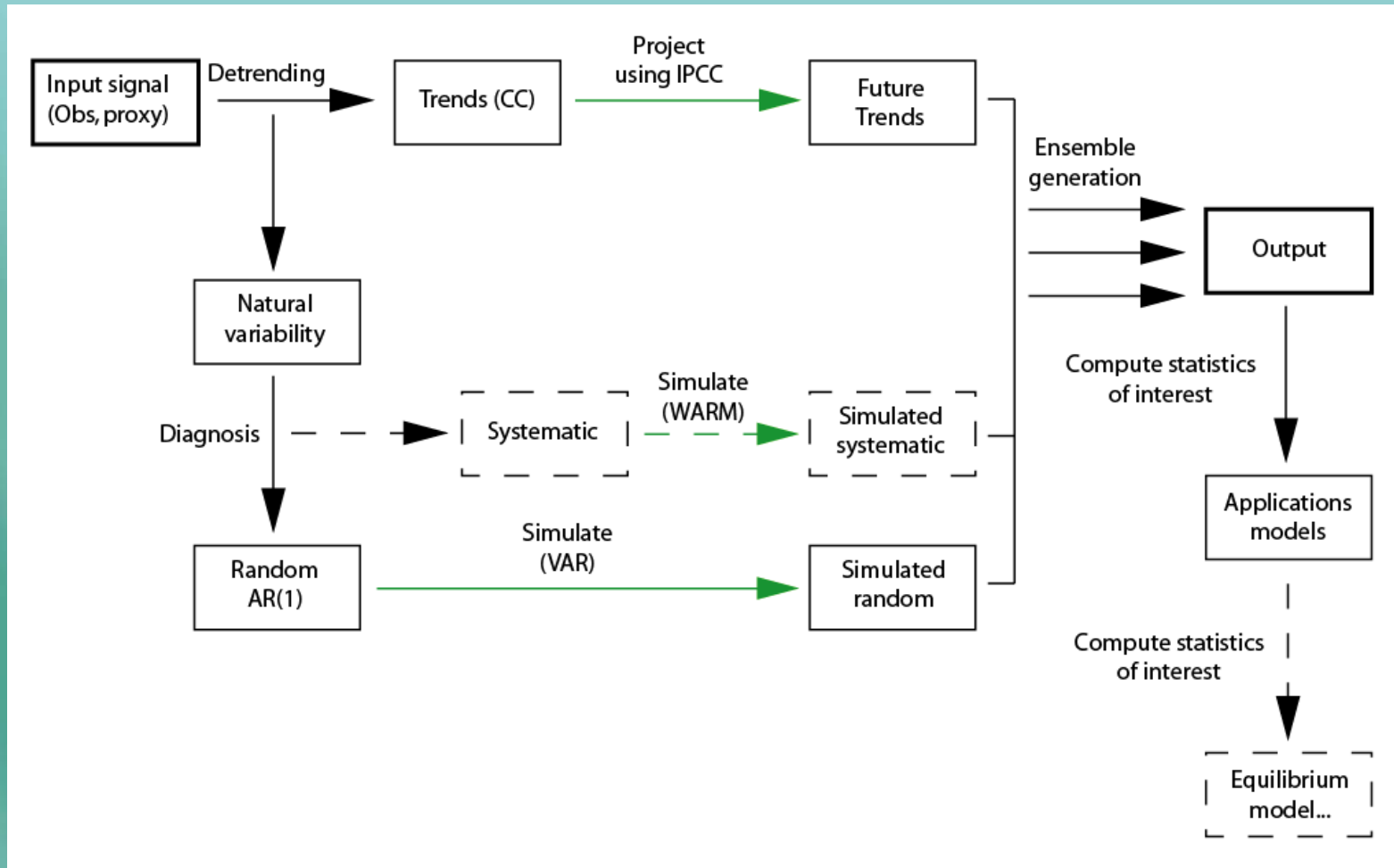


What are the components of variability?



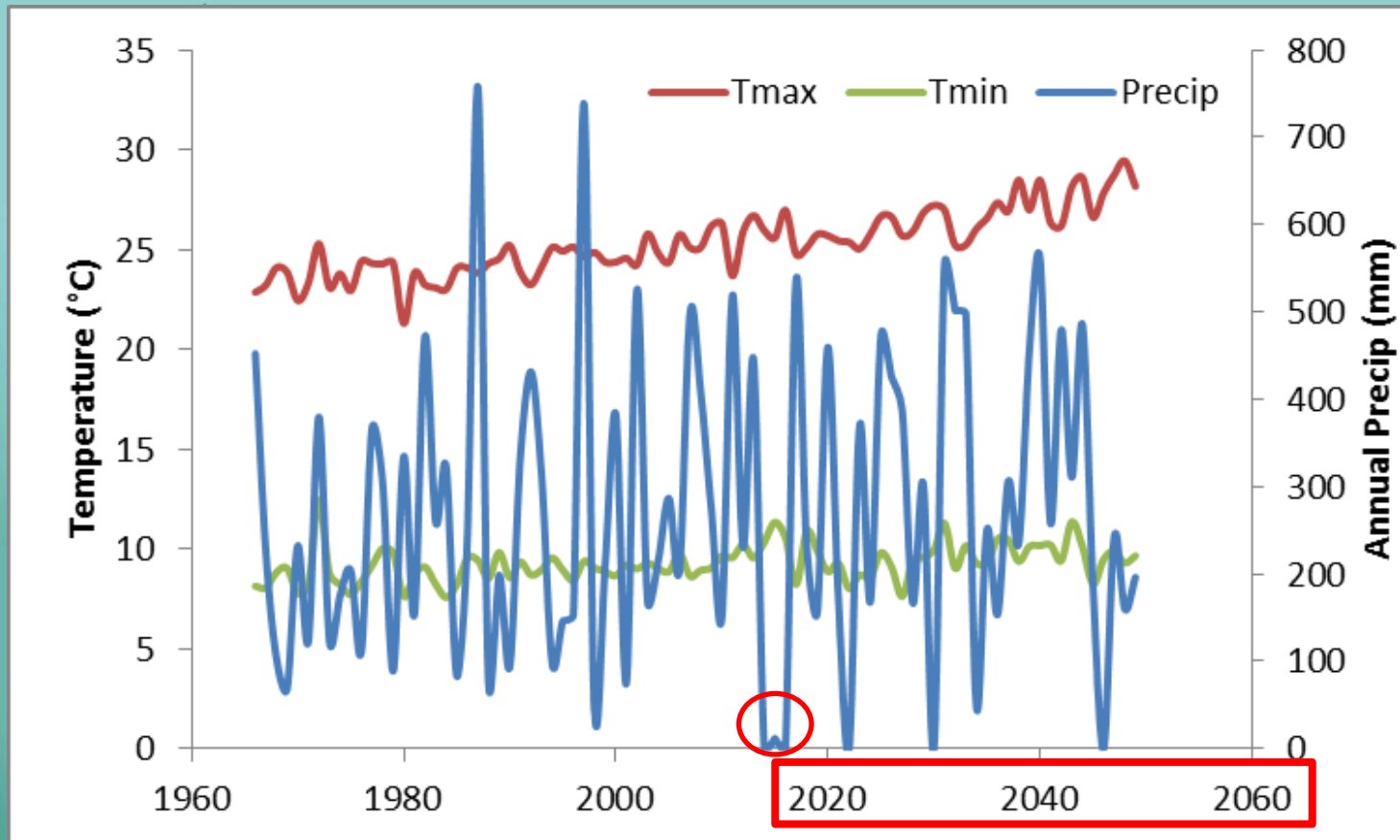
Methodology

Near-term climate change scenario analysis tool



(Greene, Hellmuth and Lumsden, 2012, WRR).

Downscaling of projections to the local level



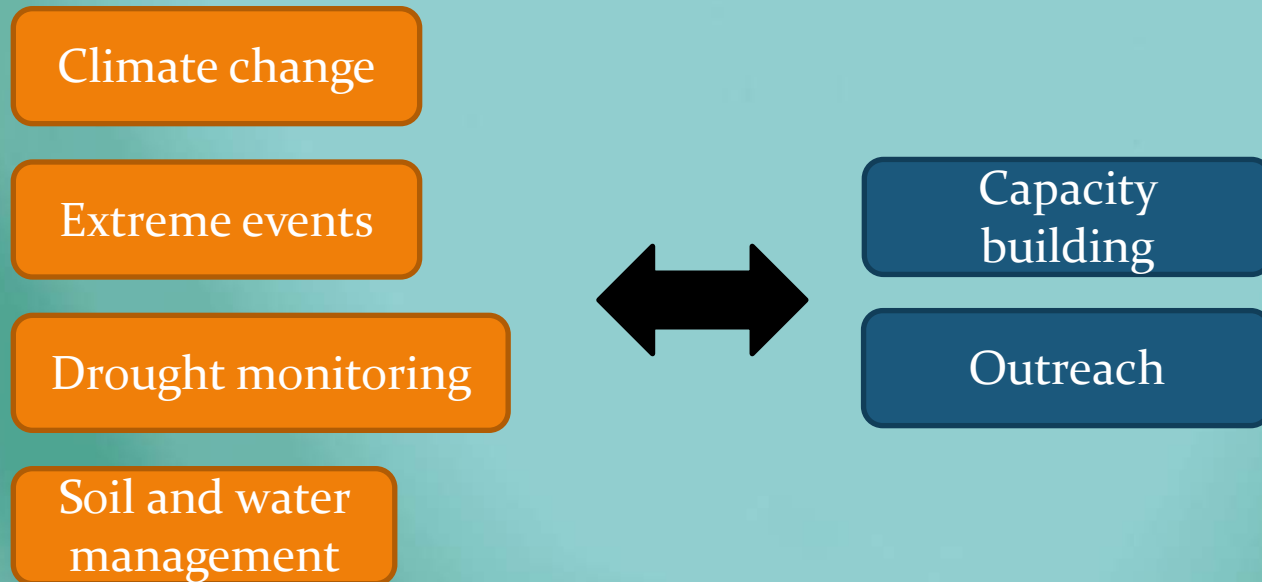
- Variables maintain their correlation and are consistent with past conditions
- Allows to evaluate the probability of droughts and extreme events and evaluate the potential impact on water resources



MWAR-LAC Project outlooks (2013-2014)

- **Overall objective**

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to a reduction in the vulnerability of water resources systems to global changes in local communities of arid and semiarid environments in LAC, based on sound scientific knowledge.





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A focus on climate risk management...

Project website: www.cazalac.org/mwar_lac

Koen Verbist
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kverbist@unesco.org



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