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## Nile and GERD Conference

# Advances in Water Resources Assessment and Optimal Management of Multipurpose Cascade Reservoirs in the Nile River Basin

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# 1. The Nile River Basin

- ✓ The Nile River Basin includes portions of 11 countries:  
[Ethiopia](#), Eritrea, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, [Sudan](#), and [Egypt](#).
- ✓ Area coverage:  $3.18 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$
- ✓ The average monthly flow of the [White Nile](#) ranging from 580 to 1,270 m<sup>3</sup>/s at [Malakal](#) in South Sudan. 15% of the annual Nile discharge. Fairly stable flow throughout the year
- ✓ The average monthly flow of the [Blue Nile](#) ranging from 150 to 5,600 m<sup>3</sup>/s at the [Soba](#) gauging station in Khartoum. 85% of the annual Nile discharge. Highly seasonal.

## Water resources development in the Nile River Basin

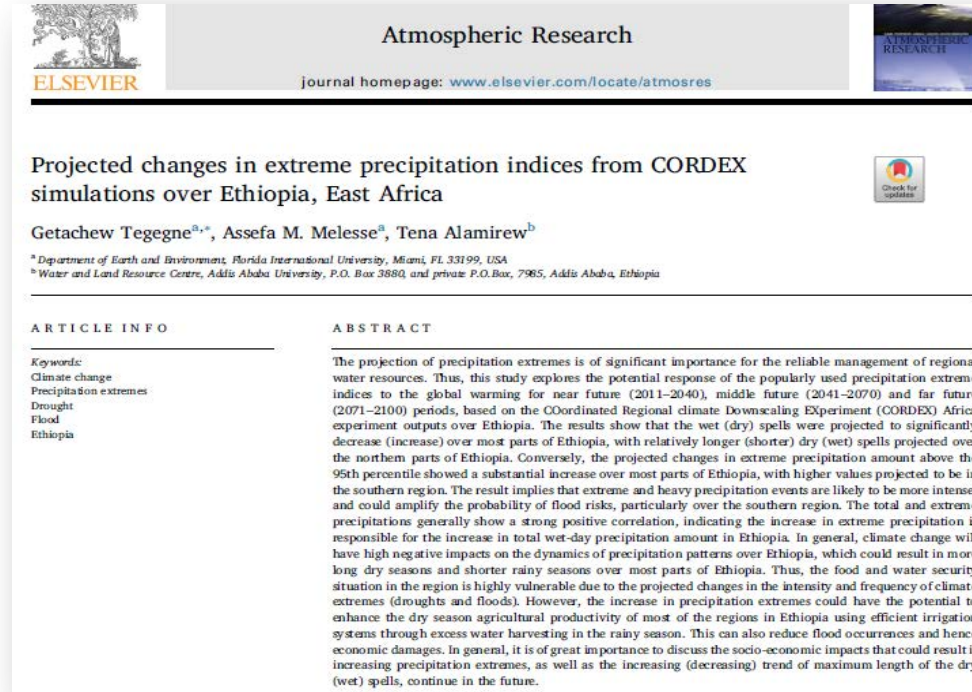
- ✓ The [Low Aswan Dam](#) (1902) in Egypt across the main Nile
- ✓ The [Sennar Dam](#) (1925) and [Jebel Aulia Dam](#) (1937) in Sudan across the Blue Nile and White Nile, respectively.
- ✓ A 1959 agreement between Egypt and Sudan initiated the construction of the [Roseries Dam](#) (1966) and [Khashm El Girba Dam](#) (1964) in Sudan.
- ✓ The [High Aswan Dam](#) (1970) in Egypt.
- ✓ Sudan's modern expansion: The [Merowe Dam](#) (2009), the [Upper Atbara](#) and [Setit Dam](#) complex (2016), and the [heightening of the Roseries Dam](#) (2013).
- ✓ Ethiopia's major project: The [Finchaa](#) (1973, expanded in 2012), [Tekeze Dam](#) (2009), and the [Tana-Beles hydropower](#) project (2010).

# Motivation: why is the water demand growing in the Nile basin?

- ✓ This is due to climate change and population growth



- The climate projection over Ethiopia showed that the wet (dry) spells are projected to significantly decrease (increase).
- However, the climate projection also showed the increase in extreme precipitation amount above the 95th percentile, which may cause floods in Sudan and Egypt.



Nile Basin needs more water infrastructures!!!

## 2. Statement of the problem

Lack of sufficient  
water storage

Poor water use  
efficiencies in  
agriculture

Insufficient  
knowledge on  
the hydrology of  
the Nile system

Lack of  
cooperation for  
mutually beneficial  
mechanisms

### Climate change - I

**Temperature increases**  
evaporation increases  
water scarcity

### Climate change - II

15% increase in flow  
amount – **50% increase in  
flow variability**

### Impact

Increasing the risk  
of flooding and  
droughts

### Problem

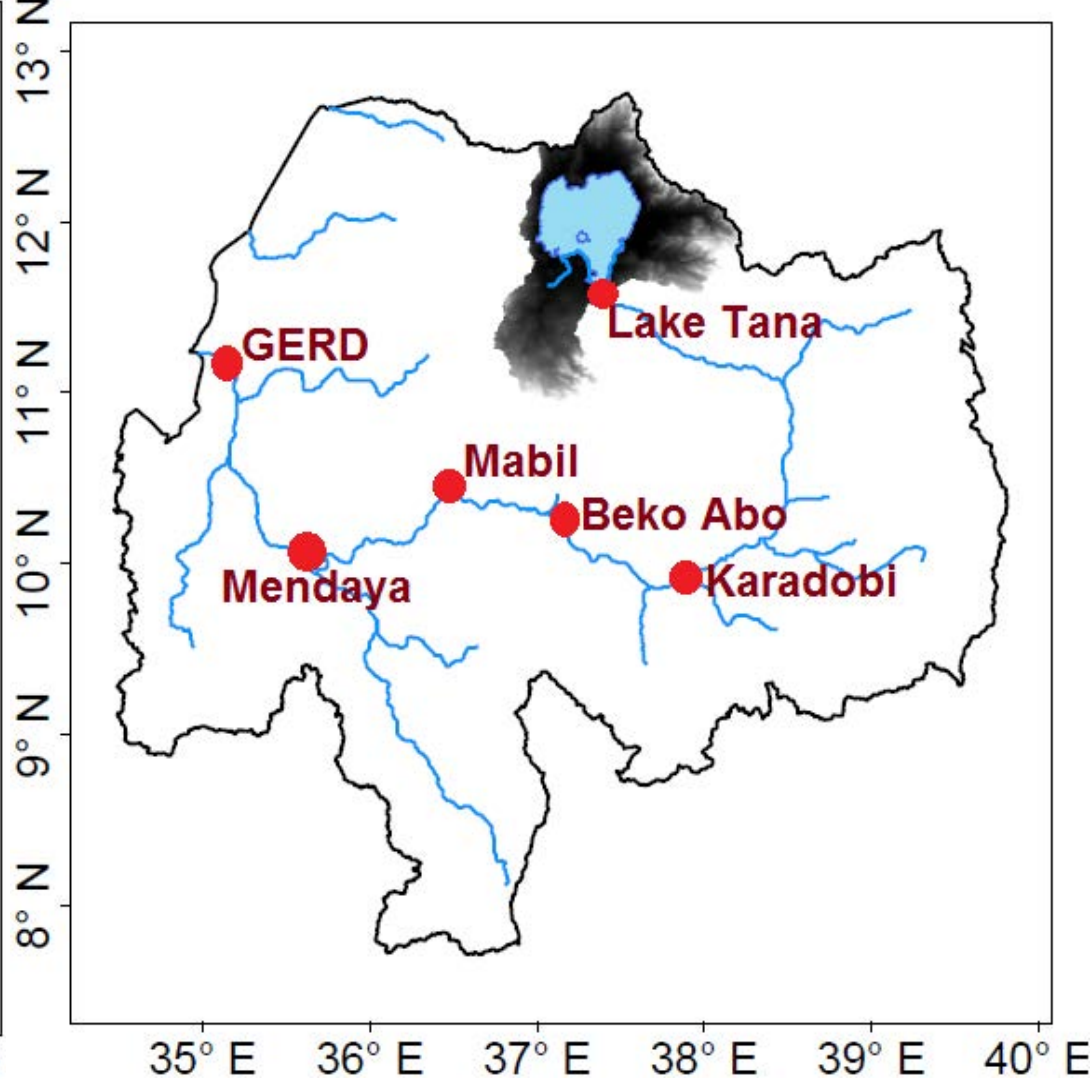
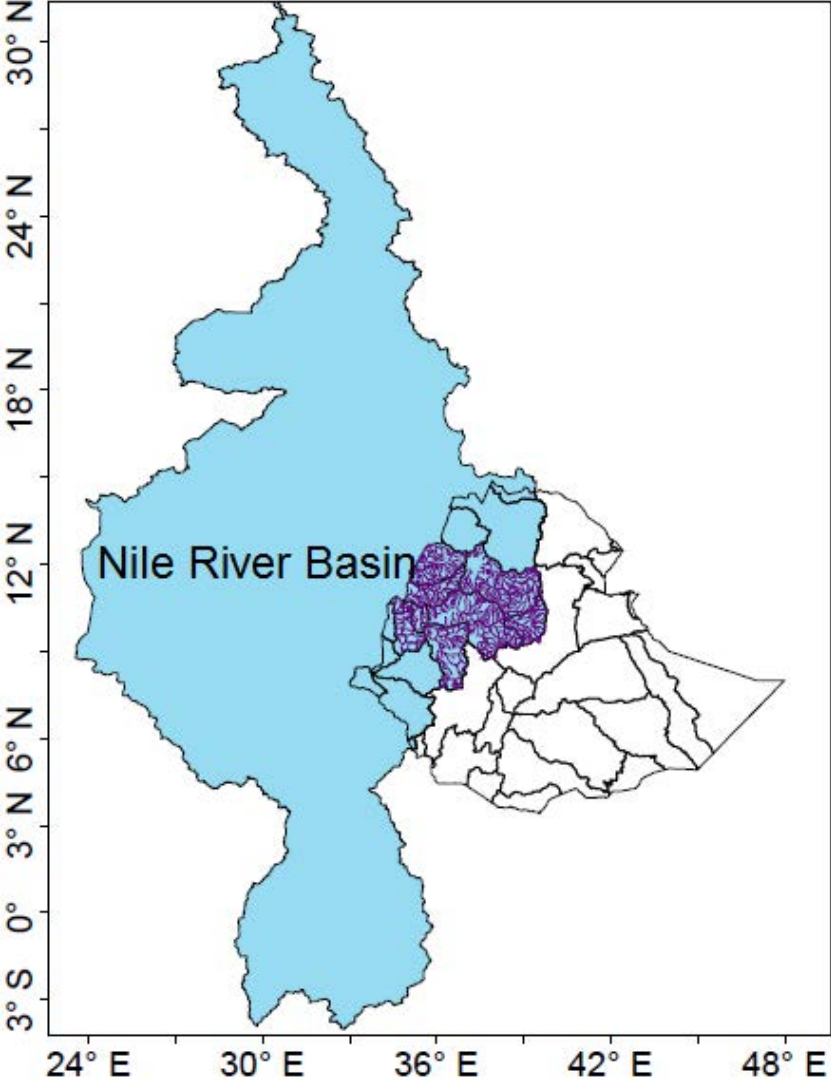
The inter-annual flow  
variability reduces  
reliability of  
maintaining flows

### Solution

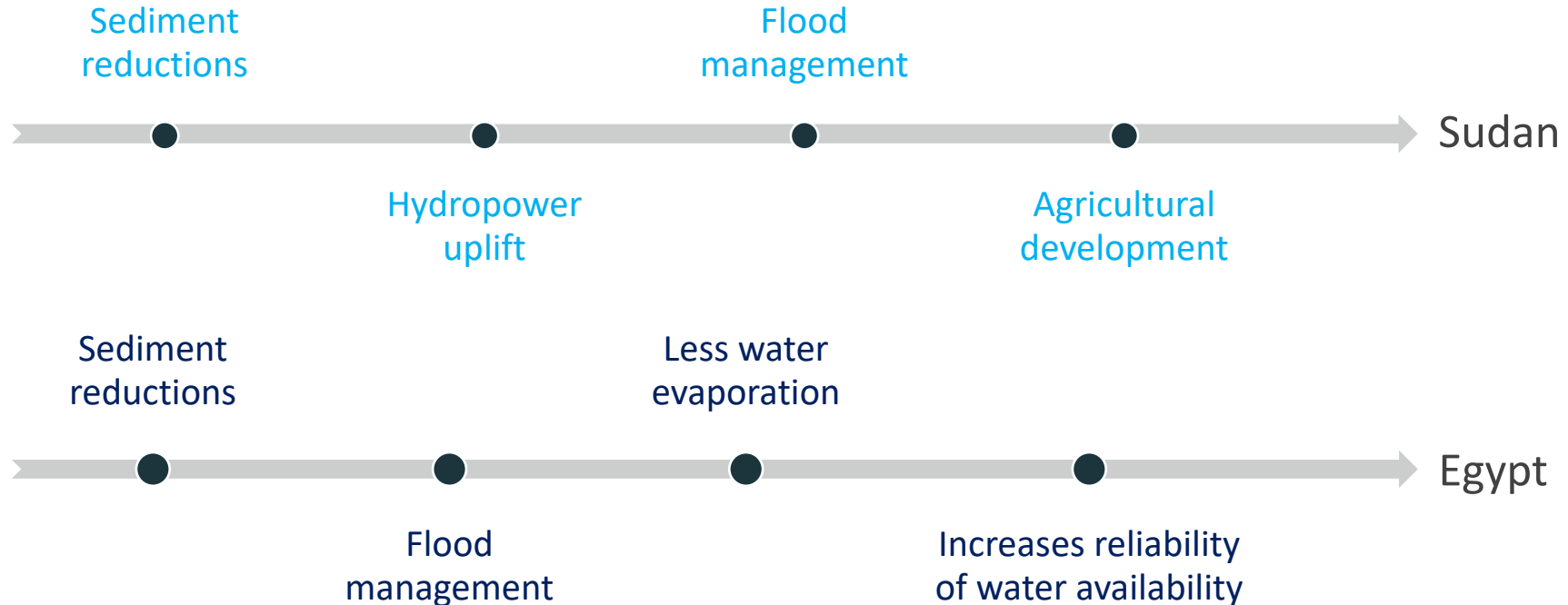
Implement  
additional storage  
reservoir

### How much?

55% additional storage  
capacity to achieve  
existing levels of  
reliability



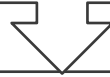
- The water resources development in Ethiopia would likely to provide a wide-range of benefits for Sudan and Egypt. For example, the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)** is likely to provide:



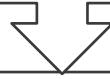


## Sustainable water resources management of the Nile river

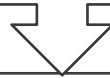
Establish Nile Basin wide cooperative framework agreement



The water resources assessment and management approach need to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis



Assess the outcomes for various users in the region under a range of different development, allocation, and hydrological scenarios



The multi-objective evolutionary and/or direct policy search algorithms need to be considered to search solutions along the Pareto frontier with an aim to satisfy various actors in the region

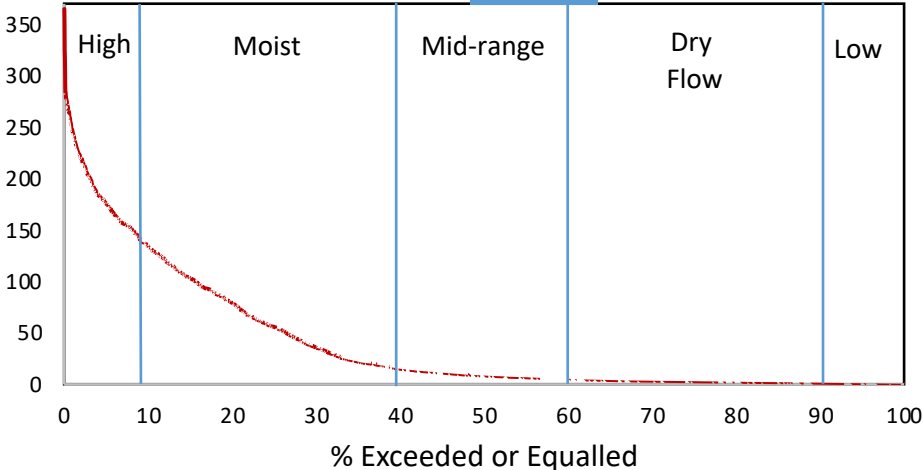
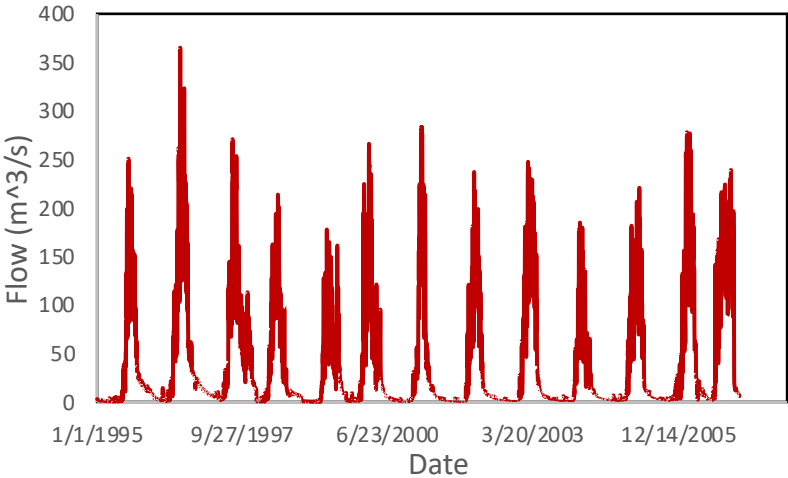
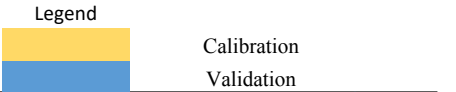
# 3. Water resources assessment from both the gauged and ungauged basins

## 3.1 Hydrologic model parameterization in the gauged basins

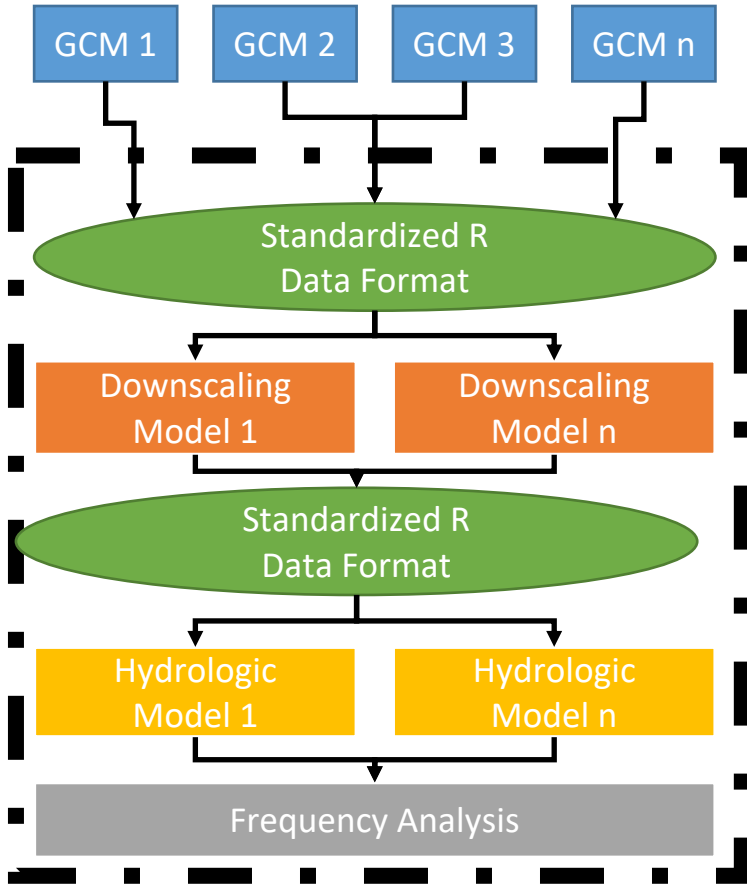
*k-fold cross-validation: k = 4 folds,  
9 yrs = calibration and 3 yrs = validation*

Assessment	Time-domain	Quantile-domain
Hydrology	Real-time operation	Climate Change
Simulation	Process wise	Water Balance
Water System	Management	Planning

Fold-I	Fold-II	Fold-III	Fold-IV
2001	2001	2001	2001
2002	2002	2002	2002
2003	2003	2003	2003
2004	2004	2004	2004
2005	2005	2005	2005
2006	2006	2006	2006
2007	2007	2007	2007
2008	2008	2008	2008
2009	2009	2009	2009
2010	2010	2010	2010
2011	2011	2011	2011
2012	2012	2012	2012



# Automation of Integrated hydro-climatological models



## Geophysical Research Letters

RESEARCH LETTER  
10.1029/2019GL083053

### Key Points:

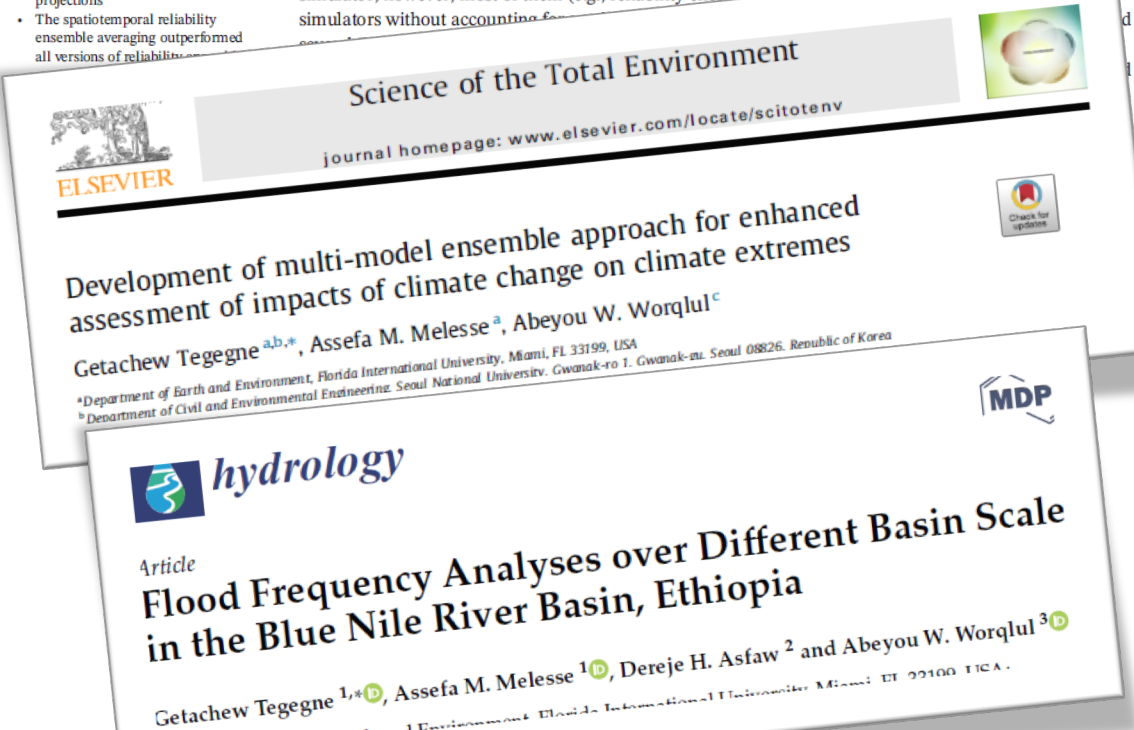
- Three augmented versions of reliability ensemble averaging were proposed to achieve reliable precipitation projections over South Korea
- The spatiotemporal variability of climate model skills within a multimodel approach improved the overall reliability of precipitation projections
- The spatiotemporal reliability ensemble averaging outperformed all versions of reliability

## Spatiotemporal Reliability Ensemble Averaging of Multimodel Simulations

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**Abstract** Multimodel combining approaches can extract reliable climate information from a large number of climate projections by exploiting the strengths and discounting the weaknesses of each individual simulator; however, most of them (e.g., reliability ensemble averaging) require additional information about the simulators without accounting for the spatiotemporal variability of climate model skills.



hydrology

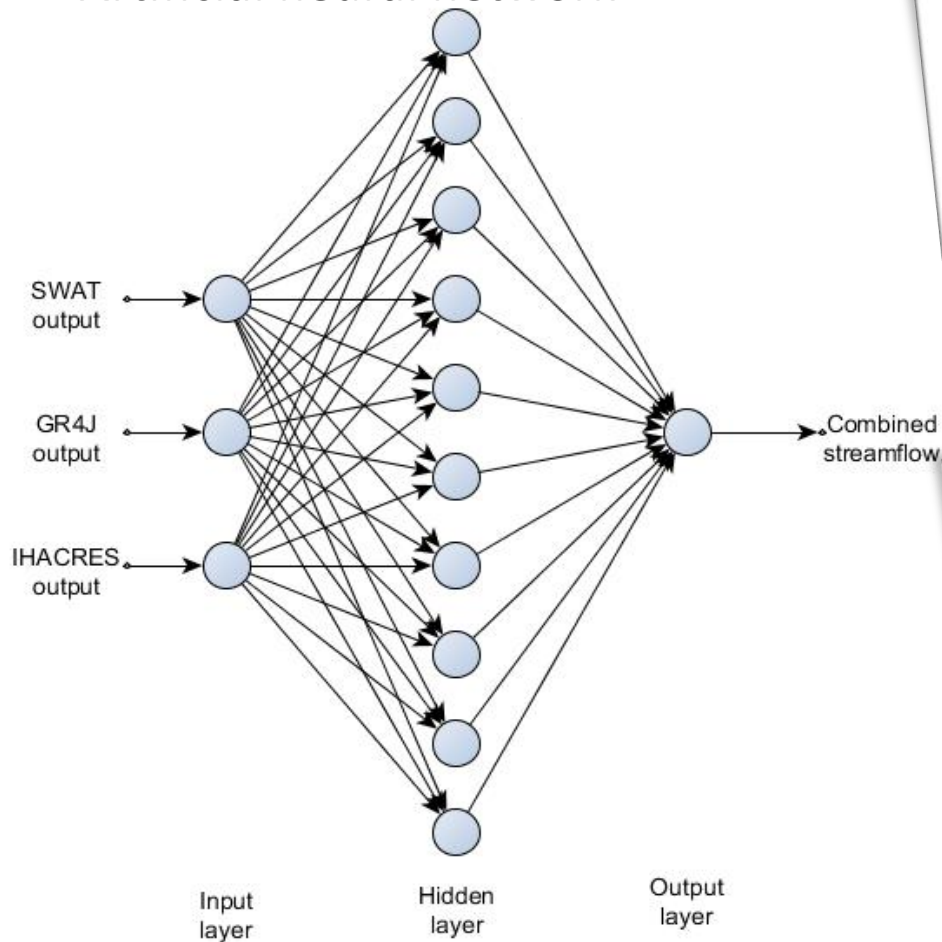
Article

## Flood Frequency Analyses over Different Basin Scale in the Blue Nile River Basin, Ethiopia

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# Artificial neural network



Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ejrh](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ejrh)

Comparison of hydrological models for the assessment of water resources in a data-scarce region, the Upper Blue Nile River Basin

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## ARTICLE INFO

### Keywords:

Simple conceptual model  
Semi-distributed model  
Model comparison  
Lake Tana Basin

## ABSTRACT

Study region: The Lake Tana Basin (15,114 km<sup>2</sup>) in Ethiopia, which is a source of the Blue Nile River Basin.  
Study focus: We assessed daily streamflow predictions by applying two simple conceptual models and one complex model for four major gauged watersheds of the study area and compared the model's capabilities in reproducing observed streamflow in the time and quantile domains.

HYDROLOGICAL SCIENCES JOURNAL  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2019.1587562>

Hydrological modelling uncertainty analysis for different flow quantiles: a case study in two hydro-geographically different watersheds

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## ABSTRACT

This study focuses on analysis of hydrological model parameter uncertainty at varying sub-basin spatial scale. It was found that influence on the entire flow simulations a significant impact on the reproduction of spatial scale provided a better coverage closer to the observations. In general, the finer sub-basin spatial scale (entire watershed size) in the two test and 2–4% for good simulation of high flow while to put more effort into reproducing appropriate sub-basin spatial scale.

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## ARTICLE HISTORY

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## EDITOR

Selecting hydrologic modelling approaches for water resource assessment in the Yongdam watershed

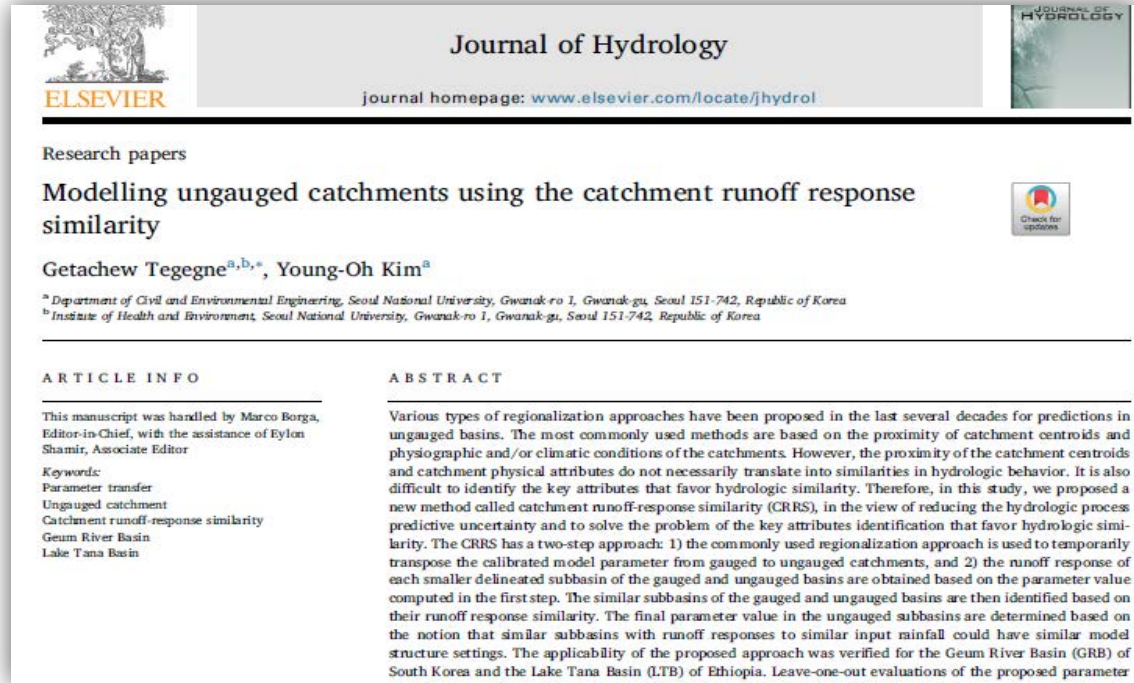
Getachew Tegegne,<sup>1</sup> Dong Kwan Park,<sup>2</sup> Youngil Kim<sup>1</sup> and Young-Oh Kim<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Seoul National University, Gwanak-ro 1, Gwanak-gu, Seoul 151-742, Republic of Korea.

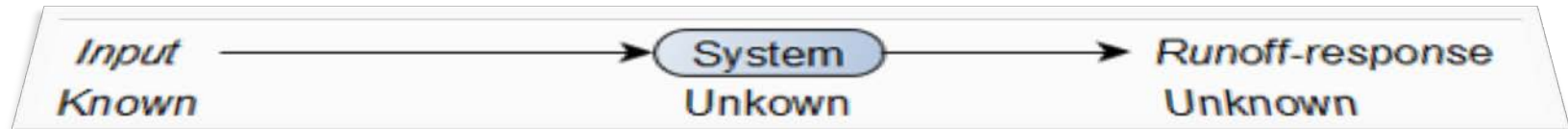
## 3.2 Water resources assessment in the ungauged basins

### ➤ Ungauged hydrology

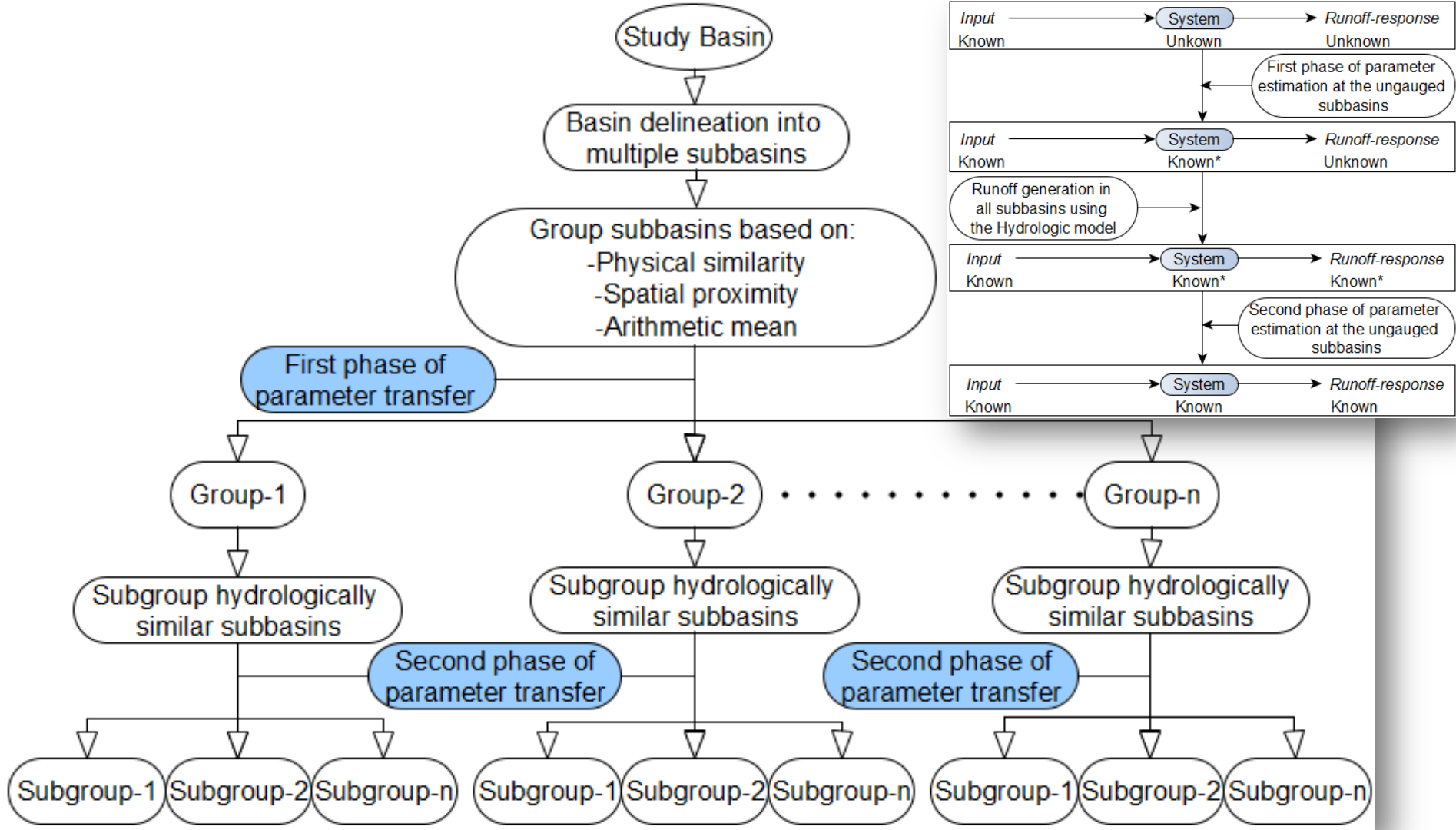
- Arithmetic mean
- Physical similarity
- Spatial proximity
- Catchment runoff response similarity



### ➤ Catchment runoff response similarity (CRRS)







## 4. Water resources management: multi-objective reservoir operation

- Mathematical formulation of a multi-objective reservoir operation

### *a. Objective functions*

- Minimize the total squared deviations (TSD) for irrigation annually

$$TSD = \sum_{n=1}^n \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{12} (D_{nt} - IR_{nt})^2 \right]$$

- Maximize annual hydropower production (HP)

$$HP = \sum_{n=1}^n \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{12} p(R_{nt}H_{nt}) \right]$$

### *b. Constraints*

- Storage continuity

$$S_{n(t+1)} = S_{nt} + I_{nt} - (IR_{nt} + R_{nt} + E_{nt} + O_{nt})$$
$$\forall t = 1, 2, \dots, 12, \text{ and } \forall n = 1, 2, \dots$$

- Storage limits

$$S_{nmin} \leq S_{nt} \leq S_{nmax}$$
$$S_{nmin} \leq S_{n(t+1)} \leq S_{nmax}$$
$$\forall t = 1, 2, \dots, 12, \text{ and } \forall n = 1, 2, \dots$$

- Maximum power production limit

$$p(R_{nt}H_{nt}) \leq HP_{nmax}$$

- Irrigation demands

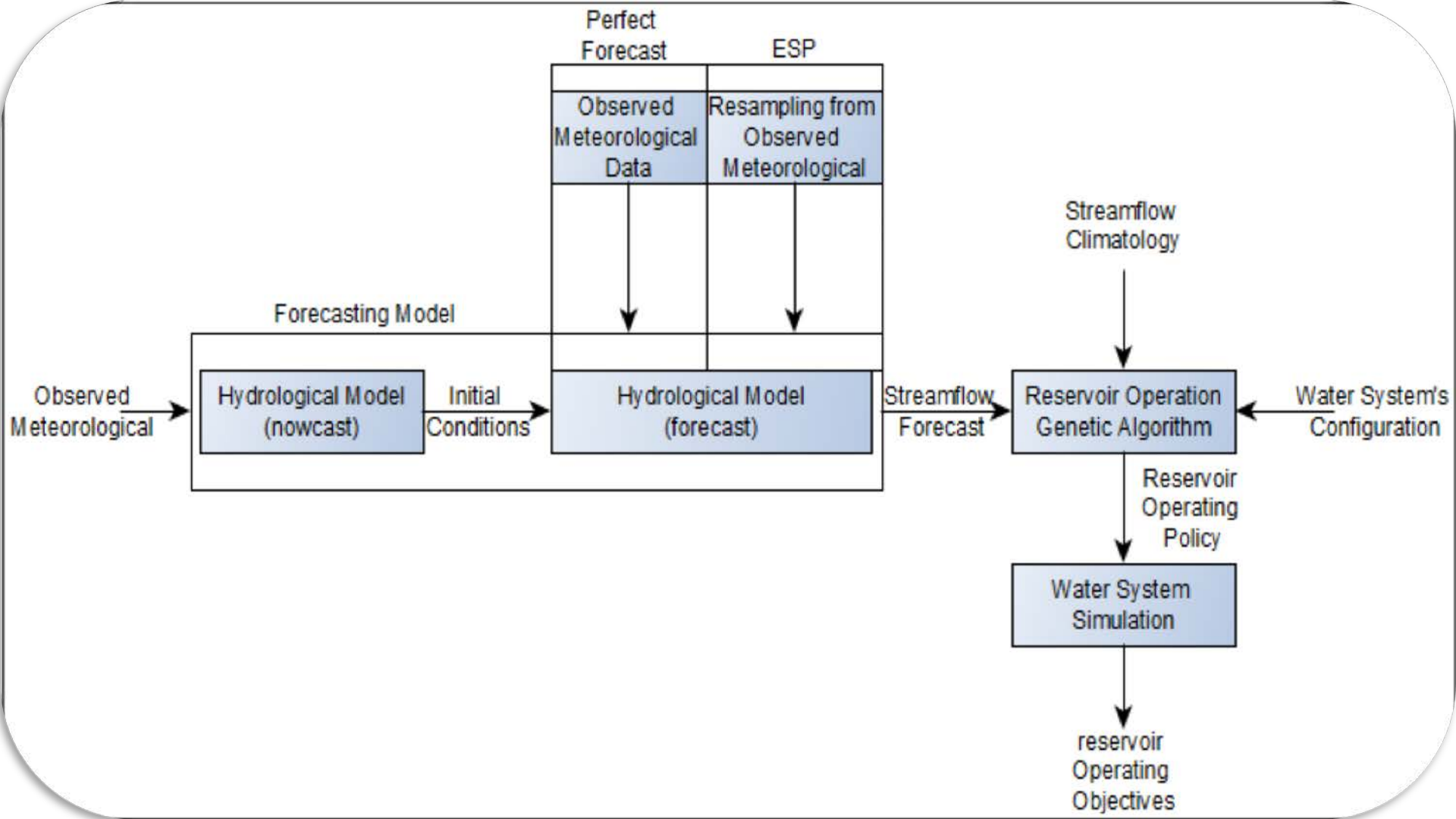
$$0 \leq IR_{nt} \leq D_{nt}$$

- Downstream requirement

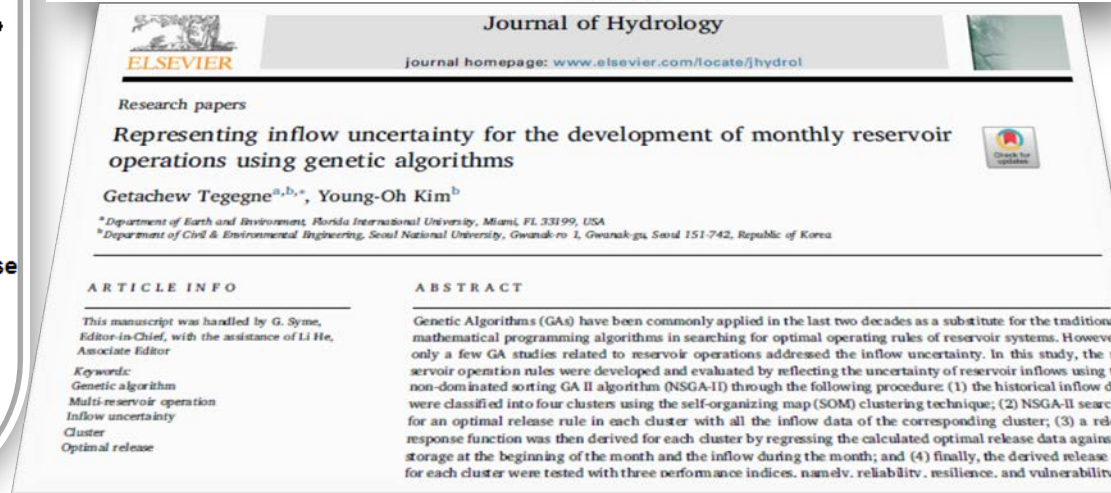
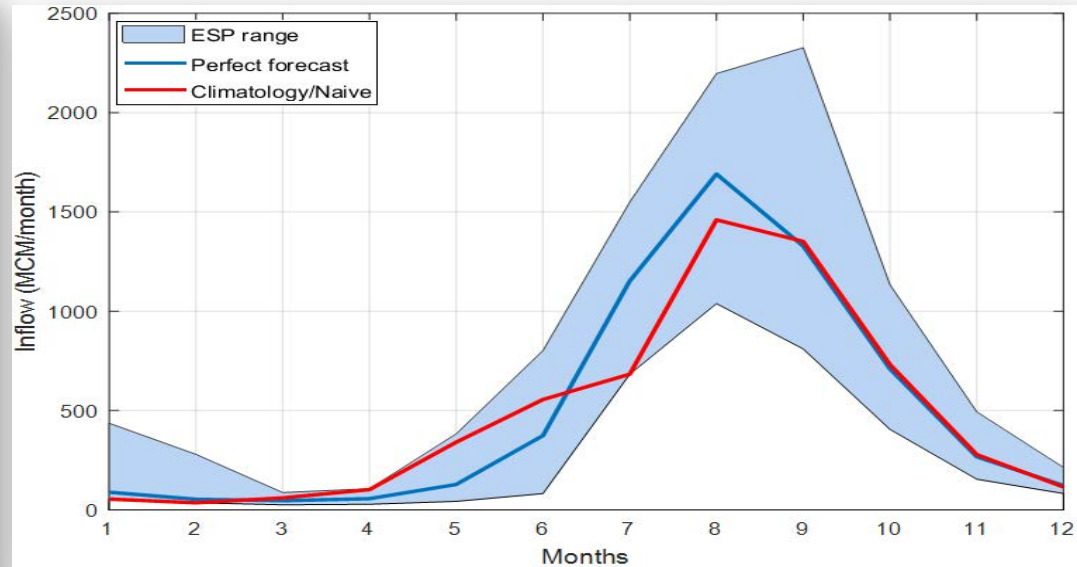
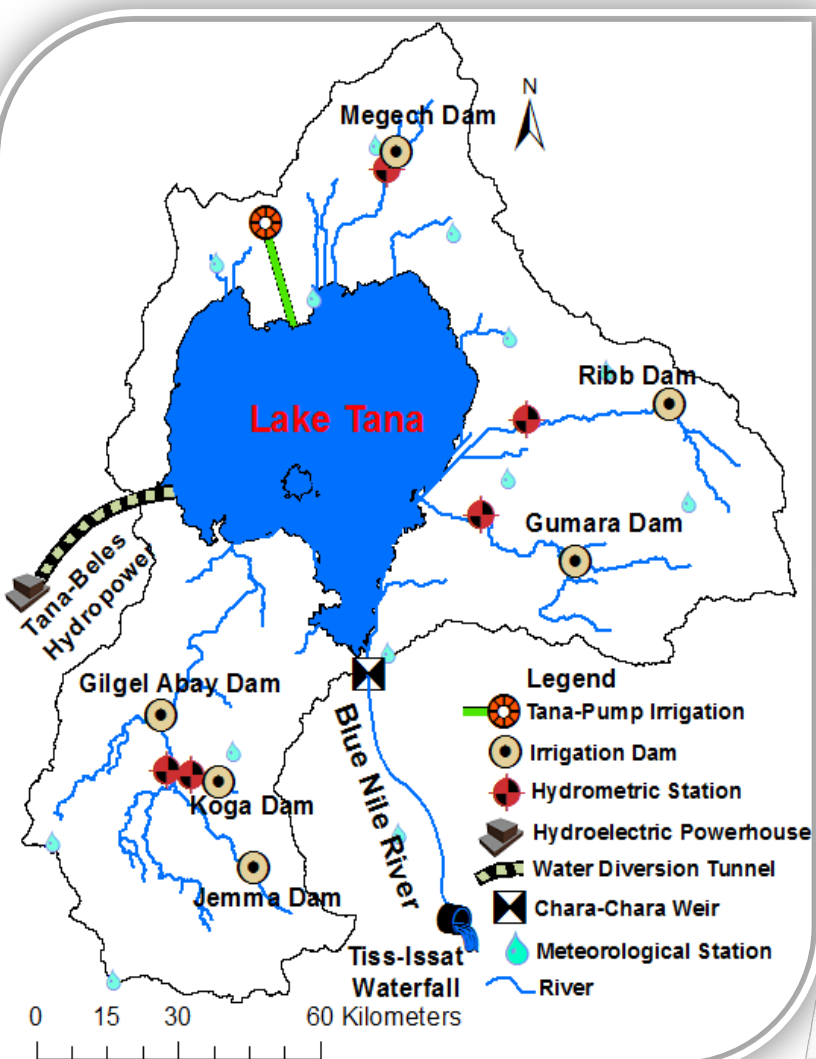
$$DR_{nt} \geq MDR_{nt}$$

- Spill

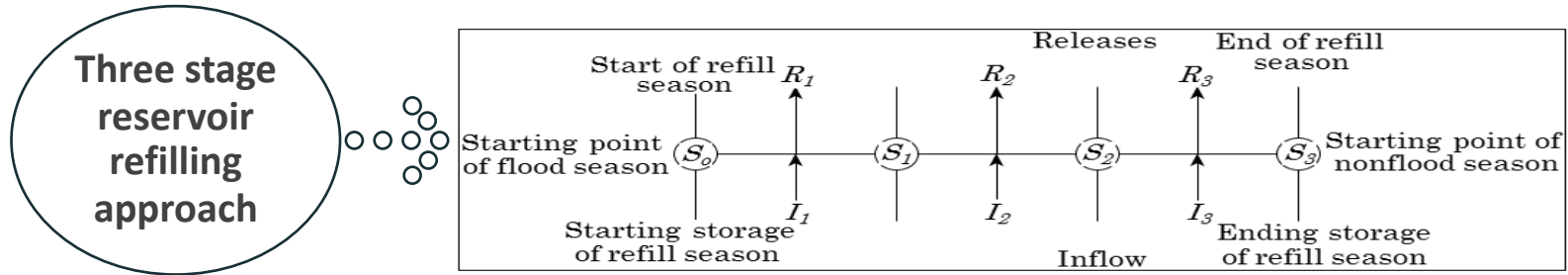
$$0 \leq O_{nt}$$







## Example: Reservoir operation with simple approach



a. Objective function: Minimization problem

$$f(R, S) = \omega \left[ \left( \frac{R_1 - D_1}{D_1} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{R_2 - D_2}{D_2} \right)^2 + \dots + \left( \frac{R_{12} - D_{12}}{D_{12}} \right)^2 \right] + (1 - \omega) \left[ \left( \frac{S_9 - S_9^T}{S_9^T} \right)^2 \right]$$

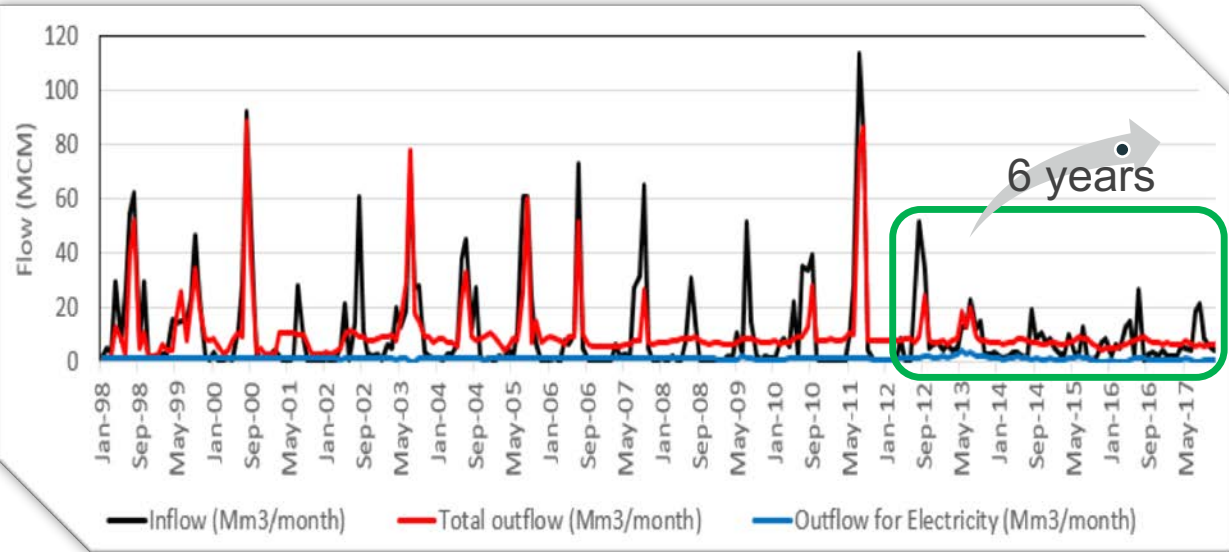
b. The Lagrangian function of the formulated reservoir operation problem

$$L = \omega \left[ \left( \frac{R_1 - D_1}{D_1} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{R_2 - D_2}{D_2} \right)^2 + \dots + \left( \frac{R_{12} - D_{12}}{D_{12}} \right)^2 \right] + (1 - \omega) \left[ \left( \frac{S_9 - S_9^T}{S_9^T} \right)^2 \right] + \lambda_1 (A_{12} - R_1 - R_2 - R_3 - R_4 - R_5 - R_6 - R_7 - R_8 - R_9 - R_{10} - R_{11} - R_{12})$$

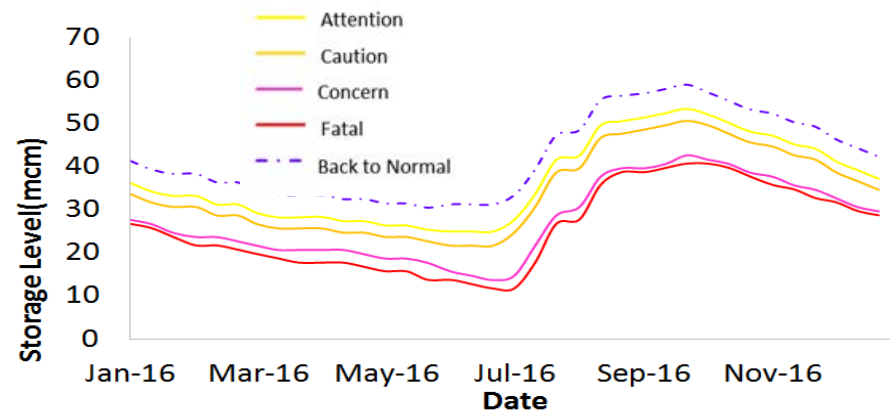
c. The Karush-Khun-Tucker (KKT) conditions

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial R_1} = 0 = \frac{2\omega R_1}{D_1^2} - \frac{2\omega}{D_1} - \lambda_1 \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial R_2} = 0 = \frac{2\omega R_2}{D_2^2} - \frac{2\omega}{D_2} - \lambda_1 \quad \dots \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial R_{12}} = 0 = \frac{2\omega R_{12}}{D_{12}^2} - \frac{2\omega}{D_{12}} - \lambda_1 \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial S_9} = 0 = (1 - \omega) \left( \frac{2S_9}{S_9^{T^2}} - \frac{2}{S_9^T} \right) - \lambda_1$$

Reservoir operation rules during extended drought period



Actual Dam Level	Water Supply for
> Attention	Municipal + Agriculture + Instream
> Caution	M&I + <b>Agriculture</b>
> Concern	M&I
> Fatal	<b>Partial</b> M&I



Demand = Agricultural supply + Municipal supply + Environmental supply

## 5. Water resources planning and development in the Nile region

- ✓ Planning of new water infrastructures in the Nile basin should be carefully evaluated with **ROBUST** and **ADAPTIVE** decision making perspectives.
- ✓ **Robust**: an alternative performs satisfactorily over a wide range of scenarios
- ✓ **Adaptive**: reduction of risk over time (flexibility)

**Real Option Analysis (ROA)**

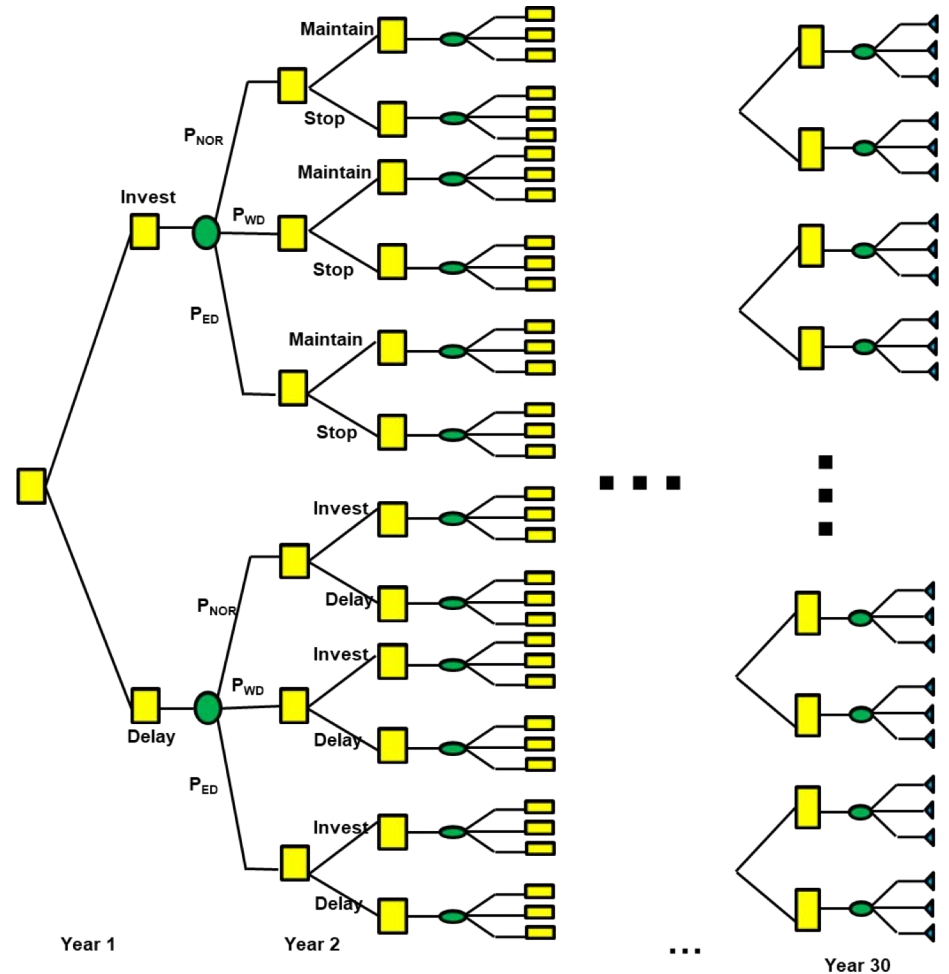
**Discounted cash flow?**

- ✓ ROA spread risks over time using options
  - which is consistent with the adaptive perspective.
- ✓ ROA can also consider uncertainty in a modelling framework
  - which is consistent with the robust perspective.

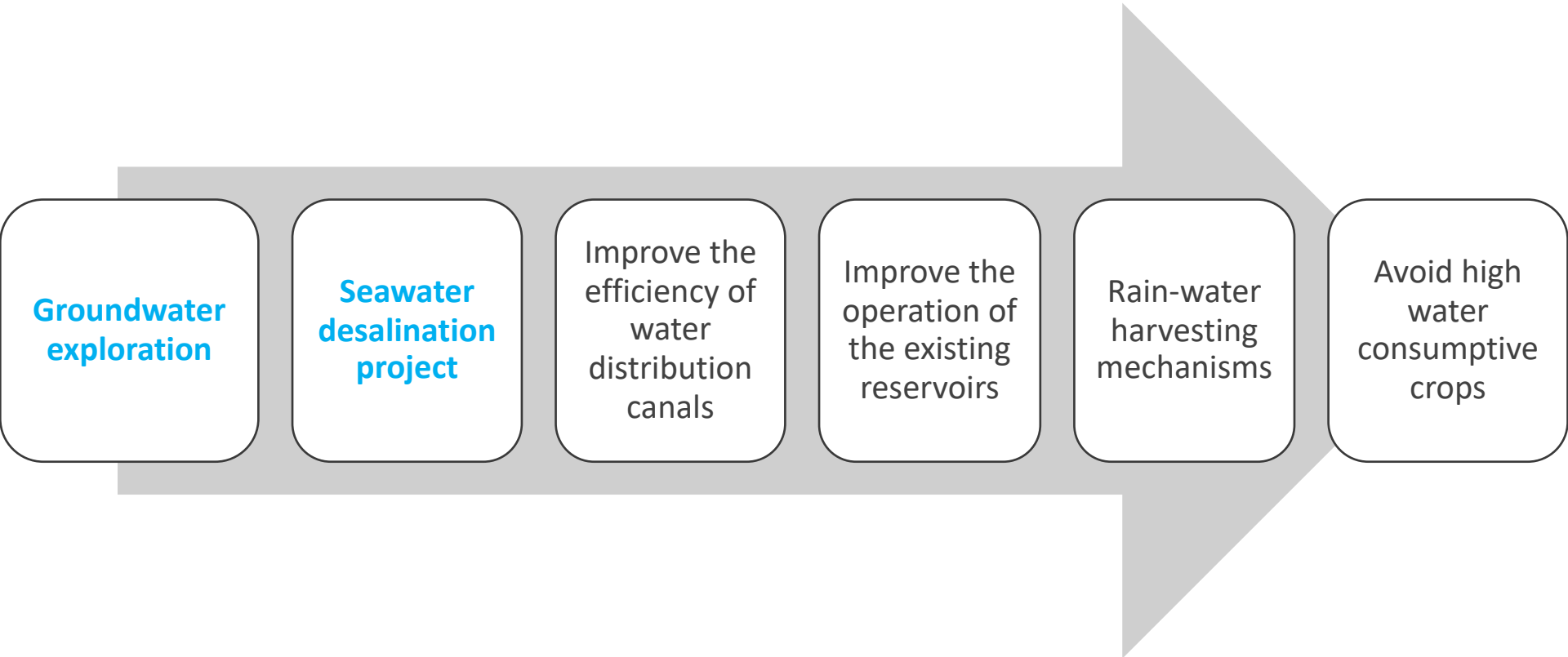
## Planning Period: 30 years

No of Nodes:  $(4 \times 3)^{12}$

- ✓ Decision node: 4 options  
*Invest, delay, stop, and maintain*
- ✓ Chance node: 3 Scenarios  
*Normal, moderate drought, and severe drought*



## Proposed adaptation plans for Egypt due to further upstream development





A person is kayaking on a body of water during sunset. The sun is a bright orange circle on the horizon, with its light reflecting on the water. The kayaker is a dark silhouette in the lower center, holding a paddle. The background shows a dark shoreline with trees and a thin vertical pole, possibly a sailboat mast.

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**Thank You!**

*Without water, the earth would look like the moon*