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The First 30 years of GEWEX

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The First 30 years of GEWEX
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Abstract:	The Global Energy and Water Cycle EXchanges (GEWEX) project was created more than thirty years ago within the framework of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). The aim of this initiative was to address major gaps in our understanding of Earth's energy and water cycles as there was a lack of information about the basic

	<p>fluxes and associated reservoirs of these cycles. GEWEX sought to acquire and set standards for climatological data on variables essential for quantifying water and energy fluxes and for closing budgets at the regional and global scales. In so doing, GEWEX activities led to a greatly improved understanding of processes and our ability to predict them. Such understanding was viewed then, as it remains today, essential for advancing weather and climate prediction from global to regional scales. GEWEX has also demonstrated over time the importance of wider engagement of different communities and the necessity of international collaboration for making progress on understanding and on the monitoring of the changes in the energy and water cycles under ever increasing human pressures.</p> <p>This paper reflects on the 30 years of evolution and progress that has occurred within GEWEX. This evolution is presented in terms of three main phases of activity.</p> <p>Progress toward the main goals of GEWEX is highlighted by calling out a few achievements from each phase. A vision of the path forward for the coming decade, including the goals of GEWEX for the future, are also described.</p>
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The First 30 years of GEWEX

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46 **Abstract**

47

48 The Global Energy and Water Cycle EXchanges (GEWEX) project was created more
49 than thirty years ago within the framework of the World Climate Research Programme
50 (WCRP). The aim of this initiative was to address major gaps in our understanding of
51 Earth's energy and water cycles given a lack of information about the basic fluxes and
52 associated reservoirs of these cycles. GEWEX sought to acquire and set standards for
53 climatological data on variables essential for quantifying water and energy fluxes and for
54 closing budgets at the regional and global scales. In so doing, GEWEX activities led to a
55 greatly improved understanding of processes and our ability to predict them. Such
56 understanding was viewed then, as it remains today, essential for advancing weather and
57 climate prediction from global to regional scales. GEWEX has also demonstrated over
58 time the importance of a wider engagement of different communities and the necessity of
59 international collaboration for making progress on understanding and on the monitoring
60 of the changes in the energy and water cycles under ever increasing human pressures.

61

62 This paper reflects on the first 30 years of evolution and progress that has occurred within
63 GEWEX. This evolution is presented in terms of three main phases of activity. Progress
64 toward the main goals of GEWEX is highlighted by calling out a few achievements from
65 each phase. A vision of the path forward for the coming decade, including the goals of
66 GEWEX for the future, are also described.

67

68 **Capsule**

69 Progress on advancing our understanding of and ability to predict Earth's water and
70 energy cycles over the thirty years of the Global Energy and Water Cycle EXchanges
71 (GEWEX) is reviewed.

72

73 **1.0 Introduction**

74

75 The presence of water in all three phases is fundamental to the Earth system. Water is
76 essential to the operation of the Earth's heat engine, in the chemical and biological
77 molding of the Earth's surface and, indeed, to life itself. As the key to all climate

78 problems is the redistribution and storage of the sun's energy over the Earth's surface and
79 its loss to space; it is through the coupling to energy that water exerts its fundamental
80 influence on the physical climate system and on climate change. The meridional
81 redistribution of heat by the atmospheric transport of water vapor, and by ocean gyres
82 strongly constrains the atmospheric circulation and limits the strength of the winds and
83 shapes the distribution of clouds around Earth. Clouds in turn control the planetary
84 albedo and the amount of solar radiation reaching the surface. The inflow of fresh water
85 at high latitudes seas is a major source of buoyancy, which modulates the deep ocean
86 circulation. The ocean circulation, in turn, determines and modulates the climate of many
87 regions of the world. The scavenging of chemicals by precipitation is a major cleansing
88 process of the environment. For these and many other reasons, a quantitative
89 understanding and clear appreciation of how water cycles through the Earth system are of
90 fundamental importance for understanding environmental change on all scales, from
91 global to local.

92

93 A realization emerged from the Global Atmosphere Research Programme (GARP, Bolin,
94 1969) in the latter part of the 1970s: qualitatively little was known about the global and
95 regional aspects of water and energy budgets and even less was understood about the
96 processes that connect these two major components of the Earth system. The acquisition
97 of climatological data on these basic budgets was viewed then, as it is today, as essential
98 to advance global weather and climate prediction. The existence of this major gap in
99 weather and climate science at that time would not be remedied by the major programs
100 being planned like the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE, WCRP, 1986) and
101 the Tropical Ocean and Global Atmosphere Project (TOGA, WCRP, 1985) as they
102 mainly addressed slower components of the climate system.

103

104 A new joint water and energy initiative germinated at the Memorial Symposium for Prof.
105 Verner Suomi in honor of his retirement (Figure 1). At that conference, partly in response
106 to the presentation of the then-new NASA Earth Observing System (EOS) program by
107 Shelby Tilford promoting satellite measurements for global change research, Verner
108 Suomi, Lennart Bengtsson and Pierre Morel formulated a comprehensive research

109 program focused on the ‘fast’ atmospheric and hydrologic processes. This initiative was
110 the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX). GEWEX was intended to
111 address gaps in knowledge through the combination of promised new observing systems
112 to augment the existing operational systems and advances to global atmosphere-ocean-
113 land-ice models. This was deemed especially timely, given the potential to exploit
114 technological advances expected to happen with the advent of the emerging NASA’s
115 Earth Observing System (EOS) era (e.g., Dozier, 1994) coupled with the introduction of
116 ever-more powerful computers.

117



118

119 **Figure 1** Professors Pierre Morel and Verner Suomi at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 13 May
120 1994. Their earlier meeting in 1984 laid the foundation for GEWEX.

121

122 GEWEX became a core project of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and
123 its first scientific plan was published in December 1990. As was pointed out by GEWEX
124 first Scientific Steering Group chair Moustafa Chahine: *“By virtue of its breadth,*
125 *GEWEX is not an ‘experiment’ in the traditional sense; rather, it is an integrated*
126 *‘program’ of research, observations, and science activities ultimately leading to*
127 *prediction of variations in the global and regional hydrological regimes.”* The plan from
128 the outset was to implement this program as a series of phases that reflect evolution and
129 progress on this broad topic.

130

131 Today, GEWEX is now over thirty years old and has survived because it continues to
132 address the most basic aspects of Earth system science with a focus on those processes
133 that uniquely establish Earth’s climate. GEWEX also continues to advance the use of

134 long-established scientific methods rooted in confronting theory and models with
135 observations. Although the vision of GEWEX has evolved in ways that reflecting
136 advances made, the aspiration of GEWEX has remained broadly similar since its
137 inception:

138 *To measure and predict global and regional energy and water variations, trends,*
139 *and extremes (such as heat waves, floods and droughts), through improved*
140 *observations and modeling of land, atmosphere and their interactions; thereby*
141 *providing the scientific underpinnings of climate services.*

142 Using largely the same methodologies, GEWEX continues to actively engage field-based
143 experimental research, with operational forecasting; involve global modeling centers
144 towards advancing model development expressed through process models, hydrological
145 models, large eddy resolving to the convection permitting climate models of today (refer
146 to sidebars 1 and 2); and exploit observations from Earth orbiting satellites both for basic
147 understanding and for assessing and advancing models and prediction systems.

148

149 The purpose of this paper is to reflect on the 30 years of evolution and progress that has
150 occurred within GEWEX. This is presented as three main phases of activity that define
151 GEWEX and its evolution over time. While many projects and achievements of GEWEX
152 have been recorded over its lifetime, this review provides only a narrow selection of
153 examples that are chosen more to motivate discussion of issues broader than the
154 illustration itself hinting at the future directions of GEWEX described in section 5.

155

156 **2.0 Phase I – The formative period (1990–2002)**

157

158 The earliest phase of GEWEX intended to “*maximize the use of the operational and*
159 *research satellite data of the period to address its stated goal.*” It laid the groundwork for
160 subsequent phases preparing for the exploitation of the new global observations expected
161 to emerge later in the period. A principal part of the strategy for Phase I was to observe
162 the key energy and water cycle elements globally; to move toward better understanding
163 and improved parameterizations of land surface coupling and cloud processes within
164 mesoscale models through regional process studies; to upscale to global models for

165 prediction; and to downscale for local water resource applications. Phase I also inherited
166 a number of important ongoing activities managed by the WCRP Joint Scientific
167 Committee (JSC) Working Group on Radiative Fluxes (WGRF). This working group
168 provided oversight for a number of developing satellite-based global data projects
169 including the surface radiation budget project with the supporting surface radiation
170 networks (the Baseline Surface Radiation Network, BSRN), the International Satellite
171 Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP) that started in 1984 (e.g., Rossow and Schiffer,
172 1991), global precipitation climatology activities that became the Global Precipitation
173 Climatology Project (GPCP, Huffman et al., 1997), a general oversight of Earth
174 Radiation budget observations, and the lead in the Global water Vapor Project (GVaP,
175 Randel et al., 1996), among other efforts.

176

177 A programmatic structure was adopted part way through the phase defining activities in
178 three separate areas, namely radiation, hydrometeorology, modeling and prediction.
179 These activities were organized under panels. GEWEX Modeling and Prediction Panel
180 (GMPP) consisted of the GEWEX Cloud System Study (GCSS) and the GEWEX Land
181 Atmosphere System Studies (GLASS), the latter being built on the success of the Project
182 for Intercomparison of Land-Surface Parameterization Schemes (PILPS). These two
183 project activities later morphed into GEWEX panels. The WGRF of the JSC transitioned
184 into the GEWEX Radiation Panel (GRP) midway through the decade. In some respects,
185 this was a misnomer, as the GRP oversaw much more than just projects on radiation. The
186 GEWEX Hydrometeorology Panel (GHP) was home to the Continental Scale
187 Experiments (CSEs) as well as the International Satellite Land Surface Climatology
188 Project (ISLSCP) and the Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC).

189

190 Activities during Phase I were guided by four main objectives under the following
191 themes:

192

193 ***2.1 Global fluxes of water and energy***

194 *Objective: Determine the Earth's hydrological cycle and energy fluxes using global*
195 *measurements (GRP)*

196 Most of the activities under this theme involved the stewardship of the global climate
197 data records inherited from the WGRF. ISCCP pioneered the construction of global data
198 using the global constellation of geostationary satellites. It was realized that these data
199 could be more effectively used as a tool to assess global weather and climate models and
200 to study the role of clouds in climate by first simulating the observations directly within
201 the models and then mimicking the ISCCP analysis. This provided a more direct and
202 rigorous means of comparison. The ISCCP simulator developed for this purpose is
203 widely used by most major climate modeling centers since its creation over 20 years ago
204 [e.g., Klein and Jakob (1999) and others]. It laid the foundation for a much wider
205 development of satellite simulators that have become important diagnostic tools in
206 assessing present-day climate models (e.g., Bodas-Salcedo et al., 2011).

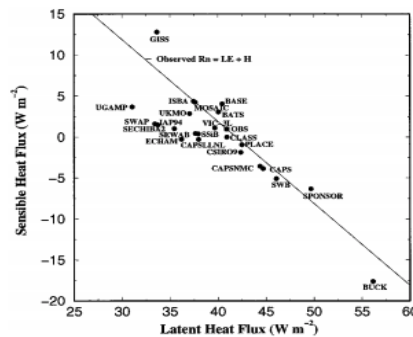
207 The International Satellite Land Surface Climatology Project (ISLSCP) was also initiated
208 during this same period. With the coordination of GEWEX, ISLSCP initially produced a
209 global $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ land surface dataset for period of 1987-1988 (Sellers et al., 1996). This
210 included boundary conditions, initialized state variables, and near-surface meteorological
211 and radiative forcings needed to drive land-atmosphere models and assess climate
212 models.

213 ***2.2 Modeling the global hydrological cycle***

214 *Objective: Model the global hydrological cycle and assess its impact on the atmosphere,*
215 *oceans and land surfaces (GMPP)*

216 Three important elements relating to water and energy exchanges were the focus of this
217 theme: (i) clouds, (ii) the atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) and (iii) land surface
218 processes. It was realized from the outset that advances to land surface models (LSMs)
219 were needed (Sidebar 1) and this would require that LSMs be compared to and assessed
220 against observational data. GEWEX has been instrumental in evolving these land models
221 (Figure SB1) and GLASS continues to promote such improvement using both point
222 observations, from individual station data like that presented in Figure 2, to data collected
223 from the continental scale experiments (CSEs) described below as well as global
224 assessments of LSMs (e.g. Polcher et al. 2000). It was also recognized that model
225 evaluation needed to be done within a common framework such as adopted by PILPS

226 (Henderson-Sellers et al., 1993). PILPS was co-sponsored by the World Meteorological
 227 Organization's Working Group on Numerical Experimentation (WGNE) and GEWEX.
 228 Figure 2 exemplifies the PILPS approach highlighting how analysis of point-like data
 229 from the Cabauw site could identify shortcomings in LSM representations of latent heat
 230 flux (i.e., evapotranspiration) from the surface compared to the observations (Chen et al.,
 231 1997). This was one of the most highly-cited papers in land surface modeling at that time,
 232 exposing the weaknesses inherent in the Manabe "bucket" (Manabe, 1969) scheme that
 233 was then widely-used (Figure SB1). Increasingly well-constrained experiments then
 234 followed, although focused mainly on mid- and high-latitude regions.



235

236 **Figure 2** (from Chen et al., 1997) Comparison of LSMs and observations is a philosophy of GLASS
 237 that has been sustained from the outset. In this example, annually averaged surface sensible (H)
 238 versus latent heat (LE) fluxes (Wm^{-2}) are shown. The observed annual net radiation (R_n) is $41 Wm^{-2}$
 239 and the line shown is this net radiation value expressed as the sum of the two coordinates with any
 240 single point falling on the line being simply the surface energy balance relation $R_n = LE + H$. Although
 241 some models simulate the annual net radiation close to that observed, the components of the balance
 242 differ markedly from observations with many models failing to conserve energy.

243

244 The Global Soil Wetness Project (GSWP, phase 1), a modeling activity of ISLSCP, also
 245 formed at the same time, but with a more global, rather than local, focus on LSM
 246 assessment (Dirmeyer et al., 1999). A pilot phase of GSWP created a two-year global
 247 dataset of soil moisture, temperature, runoff and surface fluxes by integrating uncoupled
 248 land surface schemes using externally specified surface forcings from observations and
 249 standardized soil and vegetation distributions (Dirmeyer et al., 1999).

250

251 A far-reaching modeling initiative of Phase I that laid the foundation for developments to
252 come, including those anticipated of the current decade (Sidebar 2), was an initiative that
253 developed around the concerted use of higher-resolution models to advance the
254 parameterization of clouds in global models. This was the underlying motivation of
255 GCSS (GEWEX Cloud System study team, 1993). GCSS aimed to develop better
256 parameterizations of cloud systems for weather and climate models by seeking an
257 improved understanding of cloud physical processes, including convection, leading to a
258 better representation of these models. GCSS was an embodiment of the broader GEWEX
259 methodology. It brought together the observational community and the disparate cloud
260 modeling communities. It seeded the evolution of the convection-permitting regional and
261 global models of today (sidebar 2) and applied their early versions to the development of
262 parameterizations for global prediction systems. In so doing, GCSS transformed
263 parameterizations with a philosophy that continues today in numerical weather prediction
264 (NWP) and climate modeling centers. Although successful, there was a general over-
265 reliance on models in shaping these parameterization developments and not enough
266 emphasis on critical evaluation of them. Consequently, biases inherent to these process
267 models, such as the bias of vertical motion in deep convection (e.g., Varble et al., 2014)
268 or with respect to the microphysics properties of clouds and precipitation (Kay et al.,
269 2018), persist today with important consequences to current climate change projections
270 (e.g., Mülmenstadt et al., 2021). While some progress has occurred in using observations
271 especially through the application of simulators noted above, much more needs to be
272 done to exploit the ever-improving observational capabilities. Recognition of this need
273 led to the formation of the GEWEX Aerosol Precipitation project (GAP, Stier et al.,
274 2022) and the Process Evaluation Study (PROES, Stephens et al., 2015) both created in
275 the latter phases of GEWEX to promote the development of observational-based
276 diagnostic tools for studying important climate processes.

277

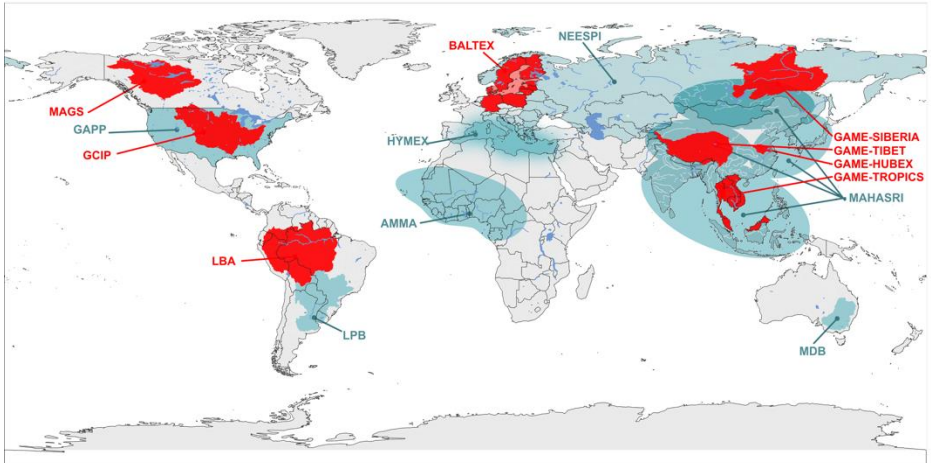
278 ***2.3 Regional hydrology and water resources***

279 *Objective: Develop the ability to predict variations in global and regional hydrological*
280 *processes and water resources as well as their responses to environmental change (GHP)*

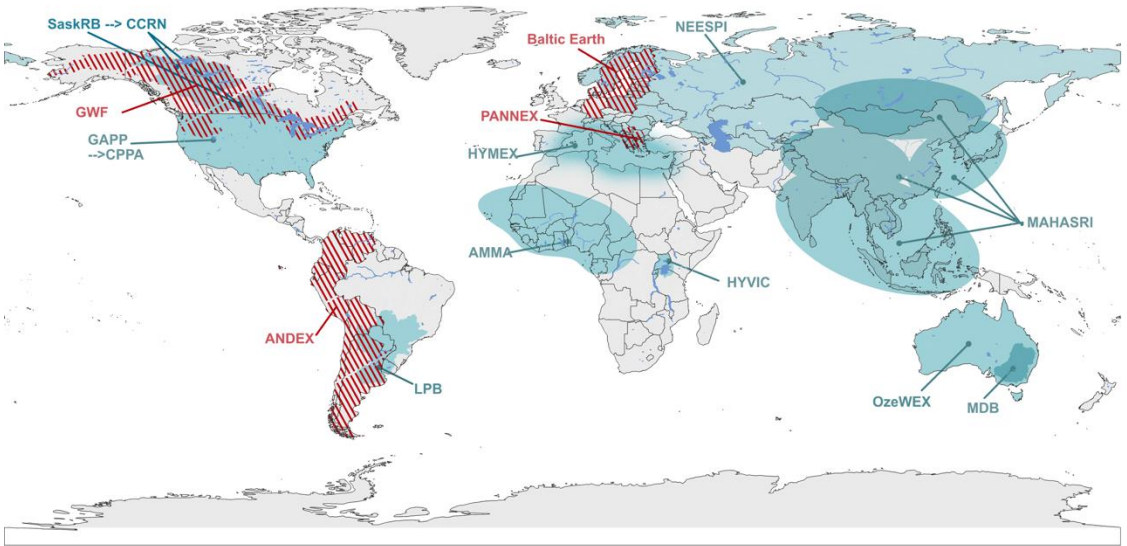
281 Although GEWEX provided the stewardship of a number of global data records, it was
282 decided that addressing some of the important goals of GEWEX, including climate
283 impacts on water resources, required a focus that is a scale-up from the traditional
284 catchment-by-catchment studies traditionally adopted by the hydrology science
285 community to regional and continental scales. The concept of continental-scale
286 hydrological experiments was developed (see Lawford et al., 2004 for review) and
287 addressing its hydrological objectives on these scales made it possible to deduce the main
288 water and energy fluxes by combining meteorological, remote sensing and hydrological
289 data using various methods to close the water and energy cycle as they have compatible
290 footprints. What emerged was the formation of the CSEs, the first being the Continental-
291 Scale International Project (GCIP, Coughlan and Avissar, 1996, Lawford 1999) centered
292 around the Mississippi River basin. This basin was chosen because it was considered to
293 be one of the better-instrumented basins in terms of in situ atmospheric and land-based
294 observations. It would also be an ideal place to evaluate and exploit the new remotely-
295 sensed observations coming on-line during that time. Other regional hydrometeorological
296 projects were also developed in parallel, providing ways to explore other regional
297 climate-related features of the water cycle not represented in the Mississippi River basin,
298 such as permafrost and other cold processes (the Mackenzie GEWEX Study, MAGS; the
299 Baltic Sea Experiment, BALTEX), seasonal high intensity rainfall during monsoons (the
300 GEWEX Asian Monsoon Experiment, GAME), and high year-round evapotranspiration
301 fluxes in tropical forests (the Large-Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experiment in
302 Amazonia, LBA).

303 The initial five CSEs that emerged during Phase I are called out in Figure 3a as well as
304 other CSEs that were considered later. Each CSE included explicit connections to
305 hydrological and weather prediction centers and much was achieved during this phase
306 laying the foundations for more to come in subsequent phases. These activities influenced
307 and even accelerated the development of the land components of regional models at that
308 time, including, for example, the Eta model in NOAA (e.g. Black, 1994) used in the
309 NOAA forecast system, in subsequent developments of the Land Data Assimilation
310 System (LDAS, Mitchell et al., 1999), and in regional reanalysis carried out in the early
311 2000s. NCEP's link to both GCIP and PILPS accelerated the development of the Eta

312 model and the sophistication of the representation of land-atmosphere interactions (Ek et
 313 al., 2003).
 314



315



316
 317 **Figure 3** (a) (upper panel) The five original CSE’s of GEWEX in red and others that were developed
 318 later in phase II in green, and (b) (lower panel) A summary of the RHPs created over the course of
 319 GEWEX including the initial 5 CSEs.

320

321 **2.4 Observing systems**

322 *Objective: Foster the development of observing techniques, data management and*
323 *assimilation systems for operational application to long-range weather forecasts,*
324 *hydrology and climate predictions*

325 During Phase I, and before the appearance of the decadal surveys conducted within the
326 USA more than a decade later, the GEWEX community was an important voice in
327 defining gaps in Earth observations, deemed a priority for the science of that community
328 (e.g., Morel and Readings, 1989). These priorities, at that time, aligned in three areas: i)
329 precipitation, ii) clouds and radiation and iii) winds. While some of these priorities have
330 been addressed in part over time with measurements of winds from ESA's Aeolus, cloud
331 vertical structure from CloudSat, measurement of the radiation budget from Clouds and
332 the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES), and precipitation provided by Tropical
333 Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) and now the Global Precipitation Mission (GPM),
334 major gaps in our global Earth observing system remain today (e.g., NAS, 2018).
335 Strategies for sustained monitoring of the essential variables of the Earth system also
336 remains a work in progress. Morel and Readings also identified soil moisture as an
337 important but missing global measurement. This gap was subsequently addressed by both
338 the soil moisture and ocean salinity (SMOS) mission of ESA and the soil moisture active
339 passive (SMAP) mission of NASA launched in 2009 and 2015 respectively. GEWEX
340 played important roles in these missions forming the International Soil Moisture Working
341 Group in 2005 and later the development of the International Soil Moisture Network
342 (Dorigo et al., 2011) funded by ESA to serve as a calibration source for these missions.

343

344 **3.0 Phase II – A period of consolidation (2002–2013)**

345

346 Phase II was intended to utilize GEWEX *"prediction capabilities, datasets and tools for*
347 *assessing the consequences of global change"*, particularly as they relate to water
348 resources and the related applications communities. While the original objectives of
349 Phase I remained, the transition from Phase I to Phase II was characterized by a greater
350 emphasis on water resources and on the impact of a changing climate on the water cycle.
351 This phase focused on the full exploitation of the tools developed for Phase I and the
352 understanding that also resulted and benefited from expanding data records, along with

353 increased reliance on upgraded models and assimilation systems and new environmental
354 satellite systems that promised even greater contributions to climate science and large-
355 scale hydrology. Notable were the long-awaited EOS satellites of NASA (e.g., Terra,
356 Aqua) that were about to provide important data for the GEWEX community especially
357 with the promise of more definitive precipitation measurements from TRMM, as well as
358 the European Space Agency Environmental Satellite, ENVISAT, launched in 2002 (a
359 precursor to the Sentinels of today), and the Advanced Earth Observation Satellite II
360 (ADEOS II) of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency launched in 2002 after ADEOS
361 I failed 10 months after launch in 1996.

362

363 Phase II set forth four principal scientific questions related to variability of the water and
364 energy cycles and subsequent change to these cycles. This was a natural progression from
365 Phase I, given that the growing length of data records and the emergence of climate-
366 quality reanalysis that offered the potential to document Earth system change and
367 improve methods to understand it. These questions were:

- 368 ● Are Earth's energy budget and water cycle changing?
- 369 ● How do processes contribute to feedbacks and causes of natural variability?
- 370 ● Can we predict these changes on seasonal to interannual time scales?
- 371 ● What are the impacts of these changes on water resources?

372

373 Assessments were a common theme of phase II. These ranged from the evaluation and
374 analysis of the lengthening observational data records with emphasis on uncertainty
375 quantification, assessment of the degree to which water and energy budgets could be
376 “closed” notably on a continental scale, and assessments of models of varying
377 complexity.

378

379 ***3.1 Evaluation of Earth’s energy budget and water cycle datasets***

380 This objective sought to produce consistent research-quality datasets complete with error
381 descriptions of the Earth’s energy budget and water cycle necessary for understanding the
382 context of variability and trends on interannual to decadal time scales, for use in climate
383 system analysis and for model development and validation. Consequently, the growing

384 emphasis on assessment of data records during this period brought a sharper focus on
385 understanding and quantifying uncertainties attached to the different GEWEX products.
386 Notable were the cloud assessment of Stubenrauch et al. (2013) which continues today in
387 a second phase and the assessment and validation of a 20-plus year record of surface
388 radiation balance (SRB, Zhang et al., 2009). The latter depended heavily on the continued
389 oversight, stewardship and procedures of the BSRN (Ohmura et al., 1998) that has been a
390 flagship data effort of GEWEX (Driemel et al., 2018). The SeaFlux project was also
391 initiated within the GRP with the aim to produce a high-resolution satellite-based dataset
392 of surface turbulent fluxes over the global oceans to complement existing global surface
393 radiation fluxes and precipitation products (Curry et al., 2004). SeaFlux and the SRB
394 assessment were part of a larger concerted effort that revolved around both addressing
395 gaps and quantifying the errors of individual energy and water cycle components that,
396 from the energy balance perspective, were summarized for the first time in Stephens et al.
397 (2012). The importance of the planetary Earth Energy Imbalance (EEI) and challenges
398 associated in quantifying it also began to come into focus (e.g., Trenberth and Fasullo,
399 2010; and later von Schuckmann et al., 2016). The error characterization of Earth's
400 energy budget that was being constructed during Phase II became an essential ingredient
401 of the more integrative and objective water and energy balance assessments that emerged
402 later in Phase III and highlighted in Sidebar 3.

403

404 During Phase II, the first data initiatives of ISLSCP were expanded upon extending the
405 global data archives of the first initiative to 10 years (1986–1995) and included data on
406 vegetation, carbon cycle components, hydrological fluxes and stores, soils and
407 topography, radiation and clouds, near-surface meteorology, snow and sea ice and
408 socioeconomics relating to the water cycle (Hall et al., 2006). The communities that
409 drove the definition of this initiative II data collection were investigators within GEWEX,
410 the International Geosphere/Biosphere Program (IGBP), <http://www.igbp.kva.se>; and the
411 U.S. Global Change Research Program, (USGCRP) (<http://www.usgcrp.gov/>).

412

413 ***3.2 Continental scale water and energy balance closures***

414 Roads et al. (2002) presented a preliminary water and energy budget synthesis (WEBS)
415 study of the GCIP Mississippi basin that was initiated during Phase I. This synthesis was
416 for the period 1996–1999 and used the “best available” observations and models of that
417 time. The observations available, however, could not adequately characterize or “close”
418 budgets since the contributions of too many fundamental processes were missing from
419 the observations. Roads et al. (2002) argued for a synthesis of models and observations
420 with models fillings gaps in representing the many complicated atmospheric and near-
421 surface interactions not reflected in the observations. This was the forerunner to more
422 advanced analysis systems that would begin to develop years later (see also Figure 4). A
423 qualitative understanding of the water and energy budgets was then gleaned from this
424 early model and observation synthesis.

425

426 The GHP framed its activities around obtaining unique and concentrated observations
427 from the Continental Scale Experiments noted in Figure 3a. Phase II saw more efforts to
428 integrate across the CSEs. There was an emphasis on collaborative research that links the
429 CSE of this phase (Lawford et al., 2004). A selected time period for simultaneous
430 investigations of water and energy cycles was chosen to develop this cross CSE
431 collaboration. This initiative was the Coordinated Enhanced Observing Period (CEOP).
432 The purpose was to provide data from a multitude of sources in a common format to
433 address two main science themes: the simulation and prediction of the water and energy
434 cycles, with a focus on monsoon systems. Monsoons also became an important cross
435 cutting topic pursued jointly by GEWEX and Climate and Ocean: Variability,
436 Predictability and Change (CLIVAR) during this time (refer also the discussion of section
437 3.4).

438

439 ***3.3 Water resource impacts and the emergence of CORDEX***

440

441 GEWEX sought to develop more explicit links to water resource applications including
442 stronger links to hydrological forecasting activities. The Water Resources Applications
443 Project (WRAP) established in 2000, for example, connected the GEWEX research
444 community with the water resources community by developing relations between each of

445 the CSEs and a number of international hydrology associations and organizations. The
446 Hydrological Ensemble Prediction Experiment (HEPEX) was also created being
447 motivated by a desire to explore ways hydrological forecast activities might take
448 advantage of the progress gained in understanding the atmospheric branch of the water
449 cycle (e.g. Hall et al. 2007). This effort brought the international hydrological and
450 meteorological communities together with a goal to demonstrate how to produce and
451 utilize reliable hydrological ensemble forecasts.

452

453 The scope of the CSEs also expanded beyond just the observation of the physical
454 processes associated with the water and energy cycle to connect both to other disciplines
455 and stakeholder interests. Three CSEs that exemplified this expanded reach were the
456 Baltic Sea Experiment (BALTEX), the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analyses
457 (AMMA) and CLARIS-LPB. Each in its way had a trans-disciplinary approach to the
458 water cycle. In BALTEX, the understanding of the water cycle and its interaction with
459 the biogeochemical cycles provided a way to perform in-depth assessments of how
460 climate change would modify the ecological and marine system (Reckermann et al.,
461 2012). Over West Africa, AMMA observations of the atmospheric and hydrological
462 processes offered operational services with concrete guidance on how to improve weather
463 and climate forecasting as well as how to improve early warning systems for drought,
464 famines and public health (Polcher et al., 2011). CLARIS-LPB provided a better
465 understanding of the interactions between the water cycle of the La Plata basin, ecology,
466 the food production and the challenges posed by climate change (Boulanger et al., 2016).
467 Along with other RHPs, these three experiments illustrate the greater level of outreach
468 and exposure to local science communities than had been previously achieved, the CSEs
469 also supported the development of regional meteorology and hydrology (Lawford et al.,
470 2004,2007).

471

472 Another important outcome of the more trans-disciplinary evolution of the CSEs was the
473 emergence of the Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX), which
474 sought to address the need for downscaled climate change predictions and impacts at the
475 scales more immediately relevant to society. AMMA was an especially important source

476 of motivation to CORDEX, with the international community being asked to downscale
477 various scenarios so that they could be evaluated with the new knowledge brought by the
478 CSE and disseminated to the scientific community of the region (e.g., Paeth et al. 2011;
479 Nikulin et al., 2012).

480

481 ***3.4 Toward the prediction challenge: Model representation of hydrometeorological*** 482 ***processes and feedbacks involving water and energy***

483 A number of activities aimed at various aspects of prediction were initiated during Phase
484 II. Model assessment initiatives were introduced under the GMPP as a step toward
485 developing a process understanding of critical hydrological feedbacks. The GEWEX
486 Atmospheric Boundary Layer Study (GABLS) activity, introduced in 2002, aimed at
487 improving understanding and representation of the atmospheric boundary layer in
488 weather-forecast and climate models on regional to global scales. The Continual
489 Intercomparison of Radiation Codes (CIRC, Oreopoulos and Mlawer, 2010) was another
490 initiative aimed at providing regularly updated reference sources for evaluation of
491 radiative transfer (RT) codes used in global climate models and other atmospheric
492 applications. CIRC called out issues with respect to the treatment of shortwave radiative
493 transfer in schemes used in global models (Pincus et al., 2015). This was a topic that
494 emerged later in the context of the hydrological sensitivity of climate models and the
495 constraint radiation provides on this sensitivity, underscoring again the central
496 importance of coupling energy and water in shaping changes to the hydrological cycle
497 (e.g., DeAngelis et al., 2015).

498

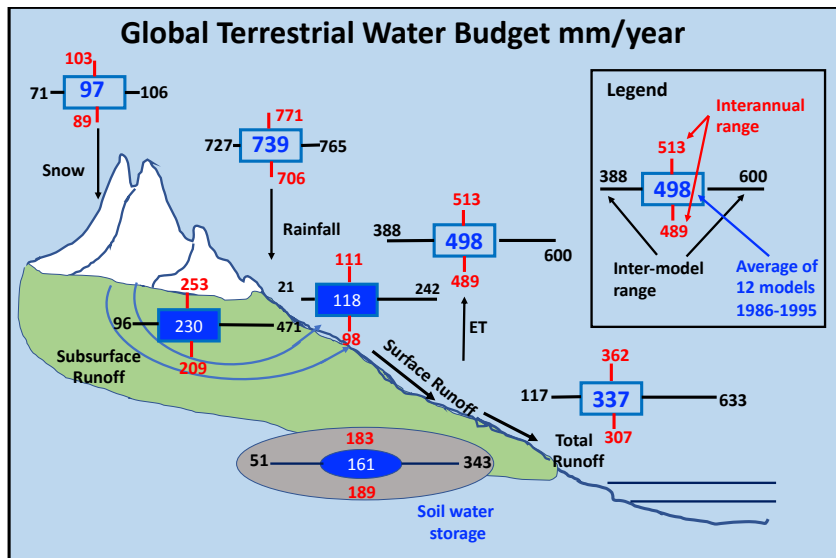
499 The North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME) was also created during Phase II.
500 This was a joint CLIVAR and GEWEX process study experiment aimed at determining
501 the sources and limits of predictability of warm season precipitation over North American
502 (Higgins and Gochis, 2007). The NAME strategy revolved around improving
503 understanding of the key physical processes that must be parameterized for more realistic
504 simulations and accurate predictions with coupled ocean–atmosphere–land models. The
505 NAME field experiment highlighted the importance processes associated with lower-
506 atmospheric circulations and their modulations via interactions with the land surface, the

507 diurnal cycle, the influence of synoptic conditions and the important role of atmospheric
 508 boundary layer all affecting the onset of the North American Monsoon.

509

510 The second phase of the Global Soil Wetness Project (GSWP-2) produced the first global
 511 gridded multi-model land surface analysis (Dirmeyer et al., 2006) developed from multi-
 512 model simulations forced by common "hybrid" observational and reanalysis forcing
 513 datasets. This forcing included observed precipitation, radiation and near-surface
 514 meteorology interpolated using model fields on finer space-time resolutions not available
 515 in the observations but required to force the models. The analysis was presented on a
 516 regular 1° x 1° grid and reported for the same 10-year core period of ISLSCP (1986–
 517 1995). Figure 4 is a highlight of this analysis showing a multi-model analysis of the
 518 hydrological cycle over global land presenting global land means of the water fluxes and
 519 soil water stores (box values), as well as the range of interannual variability of these
 520 global values for the 10-year period. The horizontal black bars and values represent the
 521 ranges of these global mean annual hydrological cycle components and are an indicator
 522 of model uncertainty. The fact that there existed such wide variability among LSMs
 523 driven by the same forcing data suggests there is still much room for improvement in the
 524 modeling of this part of the Earth system.

525



526

527 **Figure 4** Multi-model mean terrestrial water budget from GSWP-2 data analysis. Both the inter-model
 528 spread (values in black) and the inter-annual variability (1986-1995; values in red) are shown for each

529 term. Model spread in precipitation terms reflect the distribution of total precipitation over snowfall
530 and liquid precipitation. Variability of the estimates of evapotranspiration (ET), soil moisture storage
531 and runoff from the model ensemble is much larger than the interannual range, reflecting the
532 limitations of understanding of the hydrological partitioning processes (modified from Dirmeyer et al,
533 2006).

534

535 **4.0 Phase III – The quantitative understanding of water and energy coupling (2013–** 536 **2022)**

537

538 Building both upon the results and experience from Phases I and II, GEWEX reorganized
539 its panels splitting GMPP into two panels, the Global Land/Atmosphere System Study
540 (GLASS) Panel and the GEWEX Atmospheric Systems Study Panel (GASS) and
541 renamed GRP as the GEWEX Data Assessments Panel (GDAP) to reflect more
542 appropriately the activities of that panel. GEWEX formulated its activities during this
543 phase around four main themes, each defined by specific science questions and a number
544 of cross-panel activities began to emerge making connections across panels.

545

546 ***4.1 Observations and predictions of precipitation: How can we better understand and*** 547 ***predict precipitation variability and change?***

548 *4.1.1 Observations*

549 Advances that occurred were a result of the ever improving and expanding global
550 precipitation data records accrued from observations and overseen by GDAP and GHP
551 (Kummerow et al. 2019). Observational developments initiated during this period
552 included the INTElligent use of climate models for adaptatioN to non-Stationary
553 hydrological Extremes (INTENSE, Blenkinsop et al., 2018). The INTENSE project
554 created (i) a new data record for study of short-duration rainfall extremes (discussed
555 below), (ii) assessments of current global precipitation products for addressing different
556 science questions including those related to precipitation extremes (e.g., Masunaga et al.,
557 2019; Roca, 2019) and (iii) identification of gaps in precipitation observations, such as in
558 regions of high terrain with steps toward addressing these shortcomings. This latter effort
559 was part of a broader cross-cut project initiated by GHP, namely the International

560 Network for Alpine Research Catchment Hydrology (INARCH, Pomeroy et al., 2015).
561 Its goal is to understand alpine cold region hydrological processes, improve prediction of
562 these processes and diagnose their sensitivities to global change. The project has
563 accumulated and evaluated crucial data, including precipitation, from 29 experimental
564 research basins in 14 countries covering most continents and mountain regions of the
565 world (e.g., Pomeroy and Marks, 2015). The initial phase of INARCH (2015–2020) saw
566 significant advances in understanding and predictive modeling of the high mountain
567 water cycle (e.g., López-Moreno et al., 2020).

568

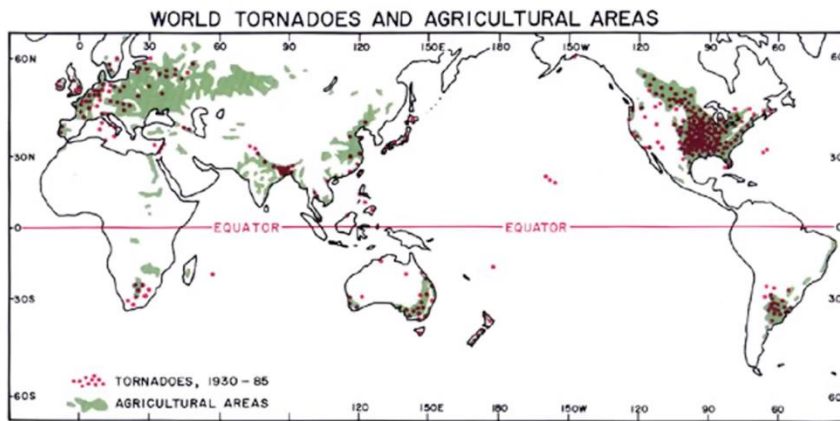
569 4.1.2 *Modeling and prediction*

570 The GEWEX strategy to advance precipitation prediction, beyond the obvious and central
571 role observations play, involved coordinating efforts to improve the representation of
572 precipitation-related critical processes in models. GEWEX launched projects to
573 understand and model the local and remote effects of land surface processes and state
574 variables (soil moisture, soil temperature, vegetation water and energy fluxes and snow
575 water equivalent, among other factors, Sidebar 1) on precipitation as well as activities
576 aimed at understanding and simulating the diurnal cycle of precipitation. An important
577 and perhaps defining activity, not only for Phase III, but also one that is expected to
578 shape the science of WCRP in the coming decade, is the desire to simulate the coupled
579 atmosphere, ocean, ice and land Earth system at a resolution of an order of 1 km
580 (hereafter *km-scale* Earth system models and information systems, e.g., Bauer et al.,
581 2021; also Sidebar 2).

582

583 While it can be argued that modeling at the km-scale is essential for representing many
584 critical hydrological processes, it should not be misconstrued as also being entirely
585 sufficient for such progress. Modelling on the km-scale introduces a different set of
586 challenges that GEWEX is now beginning to confront. LSMs suitable for km-scale
587 simulations, for example, will have to abandon the hypothesis that evaporation is fed only
588 by local precipitation and include explicit hill slope processes to redistribute water
589 horizontally over continents (e.g., Swenson et al., 2019; Fan et al., 2019; also Sidebar 1).
590 Higher resolution modeling also exposes the need to address important dependencies of

591 processes, such as convective initiation and intensity, that are increasingly sensitive to local
592 mechanisms typically obscured in a more coarse, global view. Convective precipitation
593 and storm severity, for example, are sensitive to local factors like topography, the
594 heterogeneity of land surface characteristics including snow cover, vegetation type and soil
595 moisture, as well as human influences resulting from land and water management (e.g.,
596 urbanization, irrigation for crop cultivation or forest degradation to create agricultural land)
597 among other factors. Figure 5, from Fujita (1987), suggests such a connection between
598 convective storm intensity, expressed as tornado occurrence between 1930–1985, with
599 areas of agriculture world-wide. Although anecdotal, the tight location of tornadic storms
600 in areas of agriculture hints at connections between storm intensity and soil moisture, a
601 topic of considerable past and ongoing research within GEWEX (e.g. GLACE, Koser et al.,
602 2006) as well as ongoing research today (e.g., Wallace and Minder, 2021).
603



609

610 **Figure 5** A hint at the coupling between soil moisture and convection storm intensity underscoring the
611 importance of soil moisture feedbacks on convection. Shown are the occurrences of tornadoes
612 overlying areas of agriculture suggesting a connection between the enhanced soil moisture of these
613 regions and severity of convective storms (from Fujita, 1987).

614 ***4.2 Global water resource systems: How do changes in land surface and hydrology***
615 ***influence past and future changes in water availability and security?***

616 The continental scale projects, aimed at addressing questions about water resource
617 systems, evolved further during Phase III. The Regional Hydroclimate Projects (RHPs)

618 (Figure 3b) continued to evolve from activities more concerned with geophysical
619 processes to efforts that include effects of human processes on water resource systems,
620 thus preparing GEWEX to be much more societally-relevant in grappling with the
621 challenges of changing water resources in the coming decade. The RHPs became
622 increasingly more trans-disciplinary, addressing explicitly the interactions between
623 climate change and the human management of land and water resources. The Changing
624 Cold Regions Network (CCRN, DeBeer et al., 2021), grew out of earlier activities like
625 MAGS, examined how the rapid warming experienced over the Canadian Rockies and
626 plains interacts with the hydrological processes and the water management of the region.
627 The Hydrological cycle in the Mediterranean Experiment (HyMeX, Drobinski et al.,
628 2014) studied how intense rainfall events, projected to intensify in a warmer climate,
629 influence the hydrology of the region.

630 Land surface models also morphed into land models (LMs) that capture not only surface,
631 but also sub-surface process interactions (Sidebar 1). During Phase III of GEWEX,
632 observations also advanced with new insights emerging on continental water storage
633 gleaned from a multi-decadal record that emerged from the Gravity Recovery and
634 Climate Experiment (GRACE) mission (Tapley et al., 2019) (Sidebar 4). Land models
635 that represented only the components of the natural land water and energy cycles evolved
636 to include human water management and usage. One area worth noting is that during the
637 latter two phases of GEWEX, significant advances were made in accounting for land and
638 water use changes and in representing these effects in models. The task of simulating
639 water use, however, is complex. Steps toward accounting for this influence in land
640 surface models are advancing, albeit in simple ways (see, e.g., Nazemi and Wheeler,
641 2015a, 2015b; Blyth et al., 2021, for an overview). For example, the largest consumptive
642 water use is irrigation, which is being progressively added to models (e.g., Blyth et al.,
643 2021). In the coming years, LMs will need evolve such that irrigation also satisfies the
644 water continuity equation. Abstraction points for each demand will also have to be
645 predicted (Zhou et al., 2021). GLASS and GHP continue to lead the community in this
646 direction.

647 ***4.3 Changes in extremes: How does a warming world affect climate extremes,***
648 ***especially droughts, floods and heat waves, and how do land area processes, in***
649 ***particular, contribute?***

650 INTENSE was the first major international effort to focus on global sub-daily rainfall
651 extremes, enabling progress in quantifying observed historical changes and providing
652 some physical understanding of processes necessary for improved regional prediction of
653 change. It delivered a rain-gauge-based data record to study short duration precipitation
654 and its changes. The data have been used in a number of studies, and Fowler et al. (2021)
655 summarize the main findings so far as well as provide suggestions for future directions of
656 research. Evidence from analysis of INTENSE data suggests, for example, that the
657 intensity of long-duration (on the order of a day and longer) heavy precipitation increases
658 at a rate close to the Clausius-Clapeyron (CC) rate ($6-7\% \text{ K}^{-1}$) for the warming observed
659 during the period defined by the data record whereas the rate of change of sub-daily
660 precipitation often exceed this implied CC rate of change (e.g. Guerreiro et al., 2018).
661 Many uncertainties in understanding the scaling of precipitation either of localized heavy
662 short-duration (hourly and sub-hourly) or only even larger spatial and longer temporal
663 scales remain and mechanistic understanding is still rudimentary. The influences of large-
664 scale circulation versus the more local convective storm-scale dynamics on changes to
665 precipitation extremes, in particular, are also yet-to-be understood (e.g., Stephens et al.,
666 2018).

667

668 While the early studies of extremes concentrated on analysis of data records of individual
669 variables, like precipitation, the coordinated joint GEWEX/CLIVAR study of extremes
670 pointed to how extreme events are often linked and effects compound. Floods, wildfires,
671 heatwaves and droughts, for instance, often result from a combination of interacting
672 physical processes across multiple spatial and temporal scales. A more systems-based
673 approach to understanding extremes as compound events is needed, and from a better
674 understanding of compound events, improving projections of potential high-impact
675 events is likely to result with better quantification of risks associated with them (e.g.,
676 Zscheischler et al., 2018).

677 ***4.4 Water and energy cycles and processes: How can understanding of the effects and***
678 ***uncertainties of water and energy exchanges in the current and changing climate***
679 ***be improved and conveyed?***

680 It is well understood that water and energy are intimately coupled, and in most respects
681 this understanding has been the foundational principle of GEWEX. It was also
682 recognized from the outset that quantitative assessment of the uncertainties attached to
683 individual fluxes of water and energy, an emphasis of Phase II, was seminal to any
684 representation of respective budgets and the degree to which closure could be claimed.
685 Many of the GEWEX activities in the earlier phases culminated in Phase III with a joint
686 synthesis of the water and energy budgets, performed either on the regional scale of the
687 HyMeX RHP (e.g., Pellet et al., 2019) or globally as supported under the NASA Energy
688 and Water Cycle Study (NEWS) program and ESA's Water Cycle Multi-mission
689 Observation Strategy (WACMOS) projects (Sidebar 3).

690
691 Although major progress on closing Earth's energy budget (sidebar 3) has occurred, at
692 least in the global mean, our ability to define this closure at Earth's surface or establish a
693 closure more regionally remains rudimentary. The adjustments developed so far and used
694 to produce constrained budgets of the form illustrated in Figure SB3 are constructed
695 primarily using Earth's energy imbalance as a global constraint. While we have not yet
696 established ways to define constraints more regionally, progress is occurring. Regional
697 constraints on energy budgets over ocean basins, for example, were introduced in the
698 study of Thomas et al. (2020) in the form of the additional horizontal transports in oceans
699 derived from re-analyses. Furthermore, our lengthening data records on the TOA balance
700 are also now adding new insights about how these budgets change overtime. With the
701 development of advanced tools to diagnose these changes and link them to correlative
702 properties of the Earth system, we are able to identify those processes that shape these
703 changes (e.g. Loeb et al., 2021; Kramer et. al., 2021; Stephens et al., 2022) hinting at
704 important feedbacks within the Earth system.

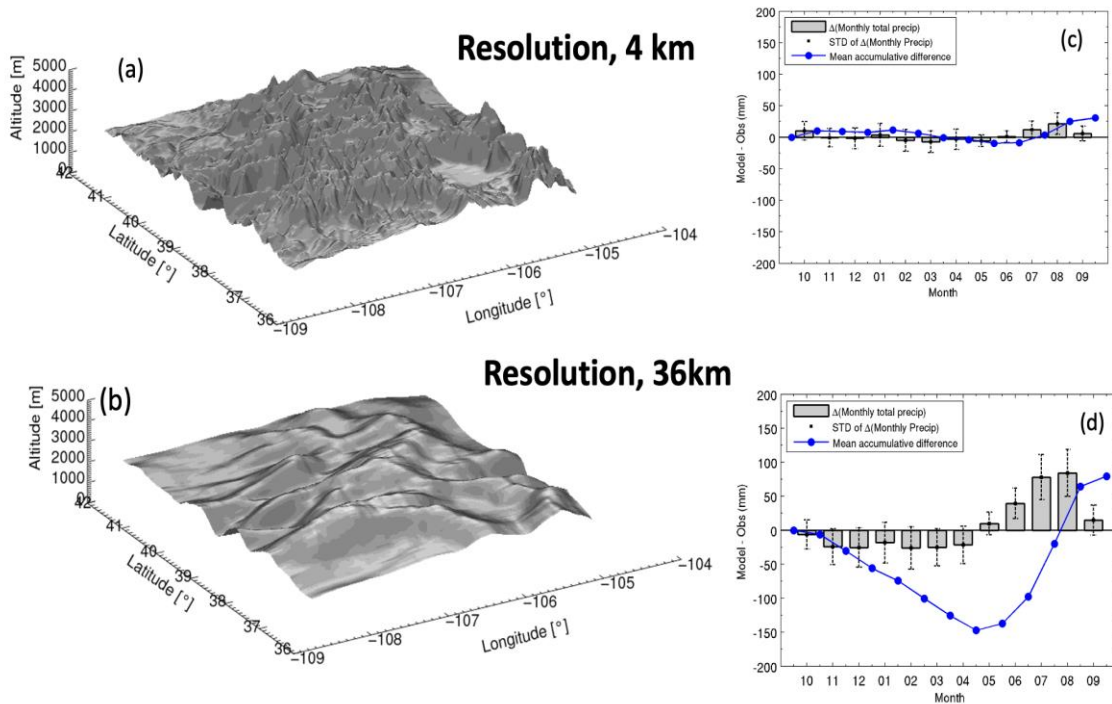
705

706 ***4.5 Remaining challenges emerging from the Phase III era***

707

708 4.5.1 *Hydrology of high terrain*

709 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II (IPCC WG II)
710 Report (2014) notes that the changing nature of precipitation, and changes to the degree
711 of snow and ice melt, are altering hydrological systems and affecting water resources
712 both in terms of quantity and quality. Understanding the sensitivity of hydrological
713 processes to the warming being experienced in high elevation snowy and glacierized
714 headwater catchments is of paramount importance for improving our ability to
715 understand and predict the climate, ecology and water system changes not only within
716 those regions, but also for large portions of the world population dependent on snow melt
717 (Immerzeel et al., 2020). The development of reliable alpine datasets for advancing such
718 understanding combined with developing and testing models continues to define
719 INARCH's goals going forward. Modelling the hydrology of these regions of high
720 mountain terrain, however, remains challenging. Lack of model resolution profoundly
721 limits our ability not only to characterize regional hydrology and predict how water
722 resources are likely to be impacted as Earth warms (Sidebar 2, also section 4.5.3 below)
723 but especially so in regions of high mountain terrain. Figure 6 illustrates this point,
724 showing how better resolving the topography of the Colorado Rockies (Figures 6a and b)
725 improves precipitation simulation in the region (Figures 6c and d, adapted from
726 Rasmussen et al., 2014). The large differences between modeled and observed
727 precipitation apparent for the 36 km resolution model, in part because of the highly
728 smoothed topography at that resolution, are largely eliminated with finer resolution that
729 significantly improves the representation of precipitation both locally and regionally and
730 in both cold and warm seasons. In a more recent study, Müller et al. (2021) use the global
731 discharge from rivers to assess the representation of precipitation in two versions of the
732 Hadley Centre Global Environmental Model, version 3 (HadGEM3) of differing
733 resolutions. They find that not only do models with higher resolution produce more
734 discharge owing to increased precipitation over the more-resolved topography, but that
735 the different estimates of discharge from observations and reanalysis are also dependent
736 on the coarseness of the resolution of the data itself. The more spatially resolved are the
737 data, the greater is the discharge estimated.



738

739 **Figure 6** a) and b) The topography of the Colorado Rockies at two different resolutions that define the
 740 head waters as described in Rasmussen et al (2014). c) and d) The 8-yr average of the model bias
 741 (model minus observations) in monthly total precipitation (bars) and accumulation difference (blue
 742 line) over a full year from the c) 4-km (upper) and d) 36km simulations.

743

744 Kilometer scale modeling of the Earth system improves our ability to represent
 745 hydrological processes in more explicit ways (e.g., Sidebar 2), including prediction of
 746 extreme events such as flood and drought in regions with complex topography. Moving
 747 the attention of the GEWEX communities to these higher resolutions can be expected to
 748 lead to even more important collaborations with the hydrological and agronomic sciences
 749 for developing the process knowledge needed to improve climate, weather and
 750 hydrological forecasts of phenomena critical for society. The emergence of km-scale
 751 modeling, however, comes with new challenges noted above that, in one way or other,
 752 are concerned more broadly with how different components of the Earth system couple
 753 on these scales.

754

755 *4.5.2 Earth's energy imbalance (EEI)*

756 The imbalance between incoming and outgoing radiation at the top of the atmosphere
757 (TOA), referred to as EEI, is a basic measure of the warming of the planet and careful
758 monitoring of it is essential for understanding many aspects of the changing Earth system.
759 Given that absolute accuracy of TOA radiometric measurements is approximately $\pm 4 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$,
760 the EEI which needs to be quantified, between $0.5\text{--}1 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ (Figure SB3), is small and is
761 challenging to observe from space alone (e.g., Stephens et al., 2012). It is obvious that
762 reliable estimates for long-term global mean EEI from TOA fluxes are not possible and
763 even more challenging from the perspective of surface fluxes presented in Figure SB3.
764 Thus, we are forced to resort to more indirect ways to deduce the EEI. As over 93% of the
765 EEI is stored in the ocean, the global ocean heat content (OHC) provides our strongest
766 global constraint on the EEI and the ability to determine the global ocean heat storage
767 change continues to be essential assessing the state of climate and its future evolution.
768 A joint GEWEX and CLIVAR workshop was devoted to the topic of EEI and an
769 assessment of our ability to estimate it. Meyssignac et al. (2019) provide an overview of
770 the key outcomes of that workshop noting that none of the techniques available today
771 enable us to estimate the EEI with the perceived required accuracy less than $\pm 0.3 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$,
772 let alone with an aspirational accuracy of $\pm 0.1 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$. Significant improvements in
773 existing observing systems are necessary to achieve this target.

774

775 *4.5.3 km-scale Earth system modeling and the role of Convection – A prevailing theme of* 776 *Earth system science in the 2020s*

777 A prevailing theme not only of GEWEX, but one that cuts across WCRP including within
778 its new Lighthouse Activities (LHAs, <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/lha-overview>) and
779 beyond, is the emphasis on km-scale modeling called out above. Existing climate models
780 have significant shortcomings in simulating local weather and climate because of a lack
781 of resolution. They cannot resolve the detailed structure and lifecycles of systems such as
782 tropical cyclones, depressions and persistent high-pressure systems which are key in the
783 coupling of the energy and water cycle. These systems also drive many of the more costly
784 impacts of climate change, such as coastal inundation, flooding, droughts and wildfires.
785 Present-day global models are also unable to resolve ocean currents that are fundamental
786 to climate variability and regional climate change (Marotzke et al., 2017). Recent studies

787 illustrate the potential of the new generation of high-resolution models for
788 revolutionizing the quality of information available for mitigation and adaptation, from
789 global and regional climate impacts, to risks of unprecedented extreme weather and
790 dangerous climate change. A thread common across both GEWEX objectives and these
791 new modeling initiatives is the topic of convection, not only from the context of resolving
792 it with models, but also for its importance to the prediction of precipitation and severe
793 weather. Resolving convection is essential for understanding the future of our water
794 resources and for protection from flash flooding under climate change (Slingo et al.,
795 2022). This comes with the challenge in representing the couplings between the main
796 components of the systems across this range of scales ultimately moving these models to
797 km-scale Earth system models.

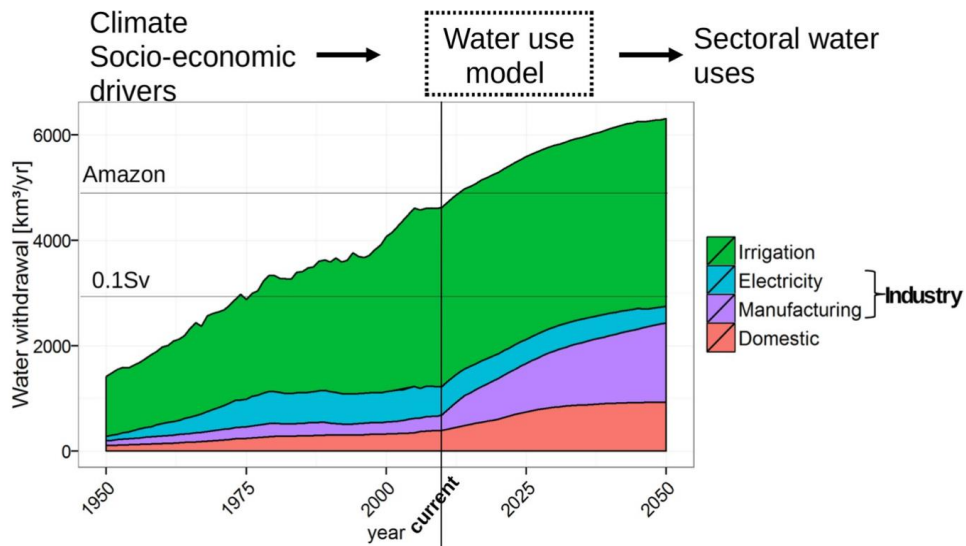
798

799 **5.0 GEWEX in the decade of km-scale Earth system science**

800

801 As GEWEX moves forward, it does so under a simple vision articulated at the 2018
802 GEWEX Open Science Conference by Dr. Alan Betts during his keynote address,
803 *“Water, Energy: Life on Earth”*, which underscores the very basic challenge of the next
804 phase of GEWEX and beyond: that humanity is deeply embedded in an interconnected
805 physical Earth system. That the Earth system influences humanity in profound ways is
806 well understood, but an appreciation for the wider and profound influences of humanity
807 on the Earth system, and on the hydrological and climate cycles in particular, continues to
808 be realized. The connections between water, energy and life become particularly acute as
809 we strive to bring Earth sciences down to the km-scale (e.g., Slingo et al., 2022), a point
810 further underscored by reference to Figure 7 that also hints at why we expect this
811 connection will become increasingly important as GEWEX moves into the next phase.
812 The figure offers a contrast between the natural water cycle, expressed here as a mean
813 discharge of the Amazon (5000 km³/yr), the largest river by volume, compared to the
814 volume of global water withdrawn by different sectors of human society. The
815 modification to the continental water cycle occurring from a continually increasing
816 human withdrawal is now larger than the mean discharge of the Amazon river. The
817 impact is more complex to evaluate as not all water abstracted by humans from the

818 natural system is consumed. Human water management practices impact river discharge,
 819 coastal processes and contribute non-trivially to sea level rise (e.g., Reager et al., 2016).



820

821 **Figure 7** Reconstructed time change of human water withdrawal by different sectors including
 822 projections to 2050 compared to an average discharge from the Amazon. The estimates of past
 823 consumptions are based on Flörke et al. (2013) while the projections are derived by Wada et al.
 824 (2016).

825

826 **5.1 The GEWEX Phase IV science goals**

827 In recognition of the emerging challenges in understanding how the water cycle is
 828 changing in response to these different pressures, and to make progress in addressing the
 829 issues central to them, GEWEX Phase IV proposes a focus around three overarching but
 830 connected goals. One goal is centrally focused on prediction, another on the critical
 831 interactions that define the physical system and the third delves more explicitly into
 832 anthropogenic influence on water and energy cycles with special focus on water
 833 resources at continental and regional scales.

834

835 **Goal # 1 (GS1):** Determine the extent to which Earth’s water cycle can be predicted.

836 This Goal is framed around making quantitative progress on three related areas posed in
 837 terms of the following questions:

838 **1) Reservoirs:** What is the rate of expansion of the fast reservoirs (atmosphere
839 and land), what is its spatial character, what factors determine this and to what
840 extent are these changes predictable?

841 **2) Flux exchanges:** To what extent are the fluxes of water between Earth's main
842 reservoirs changing and can these changes be predicted, and if so, on what
843 time/space scale?

844 **3) Precipitation Extremes:** How will local rainfall and its extremes change under
845 climate change across the regions of the world?

846

847 **Goal # 2 (GS2):** Quantify the inter-relationships between Earth's energy, water and
848 carbon cycles to advance our understanding of the system and our ability to predict it
849 across scales:

850 **1) Forcing-feedback understanding:** How can we improve the understanding of
851 climate forcings and feedbacks formed by energy, water and carbon exchanges?

852 **2) ABL process representation:** To what extent are the properties of the
853 atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) defined by sensible and latent energy and
854 water exchanges at the Earth's surface versus within the atmosphere (i.e.,
855 horizontal advection and exchanges between the ABL and the free atmosphere)?

856 **3) Understanding circulation controls:** To what extent are exchanges between
857 water, energy and carbon determined by the large-scale circulations of the
858 atmosphere and oceans?

859 **4) Land-atmosphere interactions:** How can we improve the understanding of
860 the role of land surface-atmospheric interactions in the water, energy and carbon
861 budgets across spatiotemporal scales?

862

863 **Goal # 3 (GS3):** Quantify anthropogenic influences on Earth's water cycle and our
864 ability to understand and predict it:

865 **1) Anthropogenic forcing of continental scale water availability:** To what
866 extent has the changing greenhouse effect modified the water cycle over different
867 regions and continents?

868 **2) Water management influences:** To what extent do water management
869 practices and land use change (e.g., deforestation and irrigation, among others)
870 modify the water cycle on regional to global scales?

871 **3) Variability and trends of water availability:** How do water and land use and
872 climate change affect the variability (including extremes) of the regional and
873 continental water cycles?
874

875 **6.0 Concluding comments: Prospects for progress**

876

877 The very first GEWEX newsletter released in spring 1991 contained contributions by both
878 Dr. Moustafa Chahine, the Chair of the GEWEX Scientific Steering Group (SSG), and
879 Professor Pierre Morel, Director of WCRP. While Dr. Chahine outlined the objectives of
880 GEWEX that shaped the program for many years to come and described above, Professor
881 Morel offered the insight that "*A little thought about the problem of climate and climatic*
882 *variations leads to an understanding that the main difficulty lies with getting the coupling*
883 *right between the different components of the climate system, the global atmosphere, the*
884 *world oceans, land and sea ice and the land surface hydrology including snow and*
885 *vegetation.*"

886

887 As WCRP undergoes its reorganization and develops its strategic plan for the coming
888 years via the WCRP Lighthouse Activities, the motivating focus of both WCRP and
889 GEWEX remains true to Morel's insight that the emphasis will be toward developing a
890 more quantitative understanding of climate processes, which are necessary for "*getting*
891 *the coupling right between the different components of the climate system.*" What has
892 sustained the relevance of GEWEX over time is a steadfast focus on the most basic of
893 processes that are fundamental to these couplings, those processes that intimately connect
894 water and energy. These processes are at the core of many pressing Earth's science
895 questions today, shaping Earth's climate and changes to it. A joint focus on the basic
896 processes and on stewardship of and support for sustained observations of essential water
897 and energy variables is the foundation of GEWEX's making it relevant to many of
898 today's Earth science and societal challenges. While GEWEX has provided the means for

899 major progress our understanding of key quantities that define, for example, the
900 couplings of water between its main reservoirs (e.g. Stephens et al., 2020) or energy
901 exchanges at Earth’s surface remains rudimentary and aspects of it still inadequately
902 observed.

903

904 We can anticipate progress over the next 5–10 years on the challenge expressed by Morel
905 because of major opportunities in observations, computing, modeling, artificial
906 intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) and emerging partnerships.

907

908 (i) New observations, both in situ and from space, will reveal new understanding of
909 processes in Earth’s energy, water and carbon cycles and identify where progress is still
910 lacking. This will come from the expansion of the Earth observing systems, including the
911 Sentinel program of the ESA, NASA’s designated observables identified as priorities for
912 the coming decade (NAS, 2018) and the sustained and enhanced observations from
913 operation observing systems that collectively establish the Program of Record (PoR). One
914 example of where progress can be expected from the PoR comes from the development
915 of the next-generation version of the ISCCP, a coordinated effort across major
916 operational satellite organizations and research communities to create global, high-
917 resolution in space and time data products (on the order of 2 km global, 10–30 minute) on
918 clouds and related information. The creation of a fundamental data record of spectral,
919 spatially and temporally homogenized radiances for this purpose serves as input to many
920 other Earth science applications. The development of smallsats and cubesats, drones and
921 other space and airborne platforms, and advances in space technology associated with
922 these developments (e.g., Stephens et al., 2020), opens a whole new era of observational
923 capabilities.

924

925 (ii) The length of existing data records will continue to expand and with the expansion
926 comes unforeseen evolution of the system being realized as new trends. Sea level rise
927 data records have revealed an increase in the rate of sea level rise over time with
928 surprising interannual variations (e.g., Boening et al., 2012) and recent studies of the
929 TOA radiation budget are hinting at an energy imbalance that is also increasing over time

930 (Loeb et al., 2021; Stephens et al., 2022, among others), suggesting an acceleration of
931 global warming. These expanding data records will test our understanding of the
932 changing Earth system that will force a re-examination of the contributions of the various
933 man-made changes to the energy and water cycles.

934

935 (iii) Evolving modeling techniques and exa-scale computers will enable research and
936 operational simulations at kilometric scales globally and at even higher resolutions
937 regionally with benefits that are only now becoming apparent. This evolution will also
938 reveal that some assumptions necessary for coarser resolutions (such as assumptions
939 inherent to convection parameterization, influences of surface topography and
940 heterogeneities in soil/vegetation and other landscape features that affect hydrological
941 processes) may not be valid. Over continents, these km-scale resolutions will reveal the
942 importance of human management on surface/atmosphere interactions with associated
943 environmental impacts and will thus need to be explicitly represented to gain the full
944 value for society of (sub)kilometric scale predictions. These developments, however, will
945 come with other challenges, including the couplings of the system on these finer scales
946 and in how to represent different natural and anthropogenic processes that emerge on
947 such scales (e.g. section 4.1.2)

948

949 (iv) Our enhanced observational capabilities and the promise of more spatially-refined
950 models will require new techniques to confront one with the other and to deduce essential
951 parameters of the system that are not yet directly measured by the current observational
952 systems. With the rapid progress in AI/ML, their applications become more important for
953 GEWEX activities in the physics-inspired AI/ML analysis of huge amounts of data from
954 observations and model output, in the AI/ML integration with modeling (e.g., to replace
955 some of the existing physical parameterizations in Earth system models), and in the
956 AI/ML assistance in data-based scientific discovery and understanding.

957

958 (v) Continued close collaboration of the research groups within GEWEX with operational
959 weather and hydrological services, a hallmark of GEWEX throughout the years, serves
960 to better formulate societal needs in terms of environmental monitoring and prediction

961 and ensures that the scientific topics proposed serve wiser management of the
962 environment and an adaptation to changing resources. The collaboration of GEWEX with
963 the Integrated Land Ecosystem-Atmosphere Processes Study (iLEAPS) and other
964 programs will facilitate improvements to the coupling of the energy and water cycle with
965 the carbon cycle in models and in Earth system analyses and studies of climate change at
966 decadal to centennial time scales.

967

968 **7.0 Acknowledgements**

969 *To the memory of Moustafa Chahine, The inaugural chair of the science steering*
970 *committee.* GEWEX's achievements over the last 30 years would not have been possible
971 without the scientific community collectively working on the Earth's water and energy
972 cycles. As not all can be thanked here, we especially want to express our gratitude to the
973 many who have contributed to GEWEX over the years and to those who have chaired the
974 Scientific Steering Group before us: Moustafa Chahine, Soroosh Sorooshian, Tom
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976 also benefitted greatly from interactions with other WCRP projects, and other
977 international projects, particularly IGBP and its successor, Future Earth, as well as the
978 UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme. The continuous support from
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987 Technology, under contract 80NM0018D0004 with the National Aeronautics and Space
988 Administration.

989

990 **8.0 Data Availability**

991 GEWEX provides the stewardship of many global and regional data sets and data producing networks.

992 The data are publicly available and an overview of these data is provided at

993 <https://www.gewex.org/panels/gewex-data-and-analysis-panel/gdap-matured-datasets/>

994

995 Specific links to important data sets that have been maintained over the many years of GEWEX

996 include:

997

998 **Matured Datasets**

999 International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP):

1000 <https://isccp.giss.nasa.gov>

1001 <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/international-satellite-cloud-climatology>

1002 Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP):

1003 https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datasets/GPCPDAY_3.2/summary?keywords=GPCPDAY_3.2

1004 (latest)

1005 <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/global-precipitation-climatology-project> (Historical)

1006 Surface Radiation Budget (SRB):

1007 <https://asdc.larc.nasa.gov/project/SRB>

1008 Regional Hydroclimate Projects:

1009 [https://www.gewex.org/panels/gewex-hydroclimatology-panel/regional-hydroclimate-](https://www.gewex.org/panels/gewex-hydroclimatology-panel/regional-hydroclimate-projects-rhps/)

1010 [projects-rhps/](https://www.gewex.org/panels/gewex-hydroclimatology-panel/regional-hydroclimate-projects-rhps/)

1011

1012 **Key network centers:**

1013 Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN):

1014 <https://bsrn.awi.de>

1015 Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCP):

1016 <http://gpcc.dwd.de/>

1017 Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC)

1018 https://www.bafg.de/GRDC/EN/Home/homepage_node.html

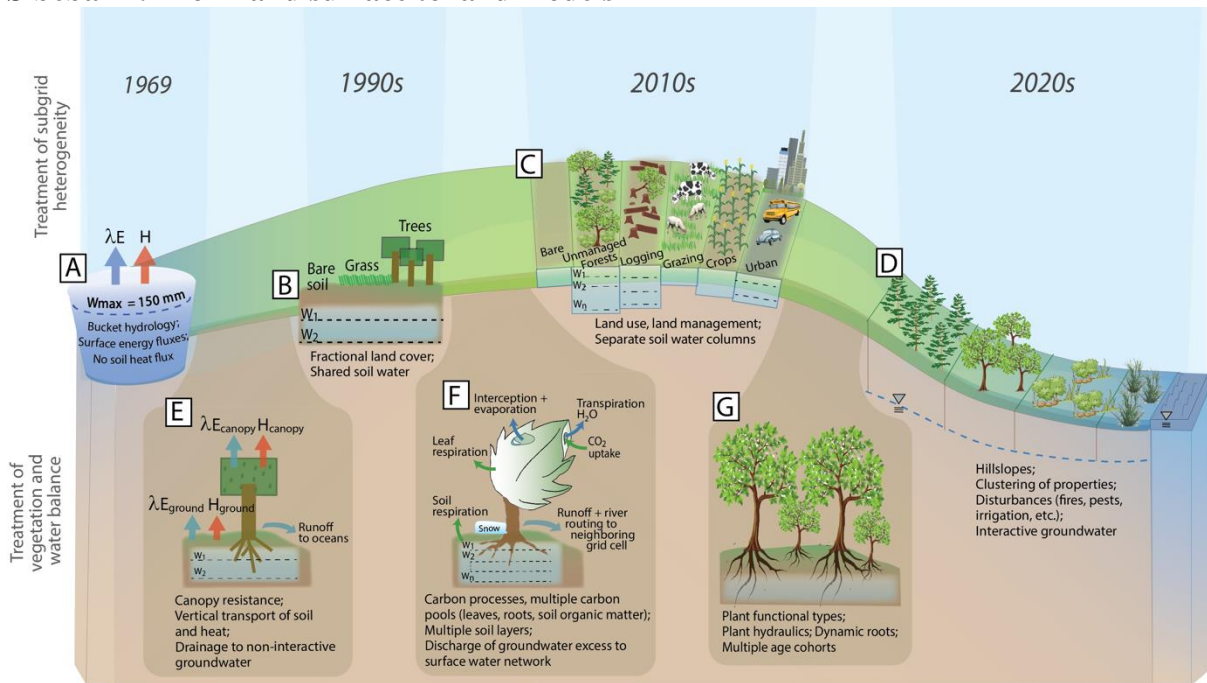
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1020

1021	Appendix A: List of Acronyms	
1022		
1023	ABL	Atmospheric Boundary Layer
1024	ADEOS II	Advanced Earth Observation Satellite II
1025	AI/ML	Artificial intelligence and machine learning
1026	AMMA	African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analyses
1027	BALTEX	Baltic Sea Experiment
1028	BSRN	Baseline Surface Radiation Network
1029	CC	Clausius-Clapeyron rate
1030	CCRN	Changing Cold Regions Network
1031	CEOP	Coordinate Enhanced Observing Period
1032	CERES	Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System
1033	CIRC	Continual Intercomparison of Radiation Codes
1034	CLIVAR	Climate and Ocean: Variability, Predictability and Change project
1035	CORDEX	Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment
1036	CRM	Cloud Resolving Model
1037	CSE	Continental Scale Experiment
1038	DO	Designated observables
1039	EEI	Earth Energy Imbalance
1040	ENSO	El Niño-Southern Oscillation
1041	ENVISAT	European Space Agency Environmental Satellite
1042	EOS	Earth Observing System
1043	ET	Evapotranspiration
1044	GABLS	GEWEX Atmospheric Boundary Layer Study
1045	GAME	GEWEX Asian Monsoon Experiment
1046	GAP	GEWEX Aerosol Precipitation
1047	GARP	Global Atmosphere Research Programme
1048	GASS	GEWEX Atmospheric Systems Study Panel
1049	GCIP	Continental-Scale International Experiment
1050	GCSS	GEWEX Cloud System Study
1051	GDAP	GEWEX Data Assessment Panel/ GEWEX Data Analysis Panel
1052	GEWEX	Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment / Global Energy and Water
1053		EXchanges project
1054	GHP	GEWEX Hydrometeorology Projects
1055	GLACE	Global Land–Atmosphere Coupling Experiment
1056	GLASS	GEWEX Land Atmosphere System Studies
1057	GMPP	GEWEX Modeling and Prediction Projects
1058	GPCP	Global Precipitation Climatology Project
1059	GPM	Global Precipitation Mission
1060	GRACE	Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment
1061	GRP	GEWEX Radiation Project
1062	GSWP	Global Soil Wetness Project
1063	GVaP	Global water Vapor Project
1064	HadGEM3	Hadley Centre Global Environmental Model, version 3
1065	HyMeX	HYdrological cycle in the Mediterranean Experiment
1066	iLEAPS	Integrated Land Ecosystem-Atmosphere Processes Study

1067	INARCH	International Network for Alpine Research Catchment Hydrology
1068	INTENSE	INTElligent use of climate models for adaptatioN to non-Stationary hydrological Extremes
1069		
1070	IPCC WG II	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II
1071	ISCCP	International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project
1072	ISLSCP	International Satellite Land Surface Climatology Project
1073	JSC	Joint Scientific Committee
1074	LAI	Leaf Area Index
1075	LBA	Large-Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experiment in Amazonia
1076	LHA	Lighthouse Activities
1077	LSM	Land Surface Model
1078	LWE	Liquid water equivalent
1079	MAGS	Mackenzie GEWEX Study
1080	NEWS	NASA Energy and Water Cycle Study program
1081	NWP	Numerical weather prediction
1082	OHC	Ocean heat content
1083	PILPS	Project for the Intercomparison of Land-Surface Parameterization Schemes
1084		
1085	PoR	Programs of Records
1086	PROES	Process Evaluation Study
1087	RHP	GEWEX Regional Hydroclimate Projects
1088	SMOS	Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity mission
1089	SRB	Surface radiation budget
1090	SSG	Scientific Steering Group
1091	TOA	Top of atmosphere
1092	TOGA	Tropical Ocean and Global Atmosphere Project
1093	TRMM	Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission
1094	WACMOS	Water Cycle Multi-mission Observation Strategy
1095	WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
1096	WEBS	Water and energy budget synthesis
1097	WGNE	Working Group on Numerical Experimentation
1098	WGRF	Working Group on Radiative Fluxes
1099	WOCE	World Ocean Circulation Experiment
1100		
1101		

1102 **Sibear 1: From land surface to land models**



1103 **Figure SB1:** The evolution of land model formulations, beginning with the Manabe
 1104 bucket model in 1969 (A), gradually improving the treatment of water, heat and
 1105 vegetation, while also including increasingly complex and heterogeneous representations
 1106 of vegetation and soil processes both above and below the land surface. Dates are
 1107 approximate. Blue arrows: λE = evaporative flux (where λ = latent heat of vaporization
 1108 of water, E = evaporation rate). Red arrows: H = sensible heat flux. Green arrows:
 1109 carbon fluxes.
 1110

1111 Land models are numerical representations of processes within and below the land
 1112 surface and vegetation canopy. Output of these models include fluxes of water, energy
 1113 and carbon transferred from the land to the atmosphere. The early bucket model of
 1114 Manabe (1969) was designed to provide the surface fluxes of latent and sensible heat as
 1115 boundary conditions for the atmosphere (Element A in Fig. SB1). Initially, treatment of
 1116 the land was embedded within atmospheric model code. GEWEX facilitated the
 1117 important work of pulling land-relevant code out of the larger model code, allowing for
 1118 the broader creation and development of stand-alone land models while still serving as
 1119 the “surface” for the atmosphere (Polcher et al., 1998). These models have since evolved
 1120 to account for vertical moisture and heat transport within the soil column and separate
 1121

1122 evaporative terms from the vegetation canopy and the ground (Dickinson et al., 1984;
1123 Element E), to inclusion of carbon processes (photosynthesis, transpiration, leaf
1124 respiration; e.g., Shevliakova et al., 2009; Element F) and routing of runoff to
1125 neighboring grid cells through river routing schemes (e.g., Milly et al., 2014; Ngo-Duc et
1126 al., 2007), to finally the complex models at the cutting-edge today, including forest
1127 systems with a range of canopy heights and multiple age cohorts, dynamic roots, plant
1128 hydraulics and more (Element G).

1129

1130 A synergistic evolution of the treatment of sub-grid heterogeneity (Elements B–D)
1131 occurred in parallel to the evolution of more advanced process representation (Elements
1132 E–G). Early approaches to heterogeneity occurred by allowing for a few tiles of different
1133 surface types, but with access to a shared soil water reservoir (e.g., Koster and Suarez,
1134 1992, 1994; Element B), to treatment of land use and land management in tiles with
1135 separate soil moisture reservoirs (de Rosnay and Polcher, 1998; Element C). Recent
1136 advances include using machine learning techniques to cluster land properties (e.g.,
1137 elevation, soil textures, vegetation types) and better represent the hydrological
1138 connectivity between these subgrid clusters (Chaney et al., 2018; Element D).

1139

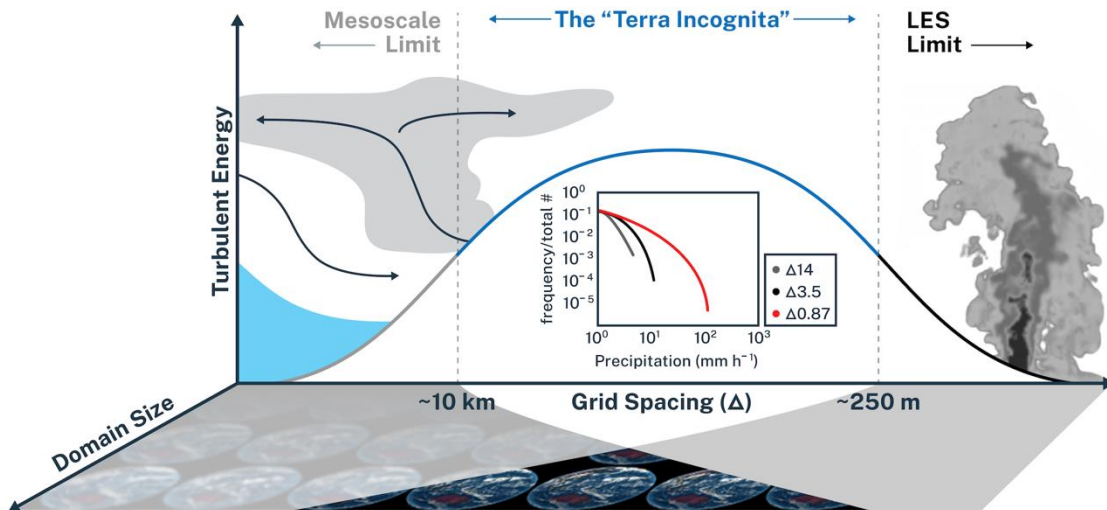
1140 The improved representation of the soil system was central to the evolution conveyed in
1141 Figure SB1. Modeling the soil system and its role within the Earth system has been topic
1142 of focus of different communities for many decades. The motivation has varied from
1143 interests in understanding how soils impact the environment and ecosystem (see
1144 Vereecken et al., 2016) to perspectives on both hydrology (e.g., Sood and Smakhtin,

1145 2015) and climate (e.g., van Looy et al., 2017; Fatichi et al., 2020), with a particular
1146 focus on land-atmosphere coupling. The defining roles of water and energy fluxes in
1147 coupling the land and atmosphere provide the motivation of both the formation and
1148 evolution of GEWEX-GLASS activities (e.g., van den Hurk et al., 2011; Dirmeyer, 2018;
1149 Santanello et al., 2018). Soils were initially viewed simply through the lens of the
1150 Manabe single layer “bucket” model, which parameterized the available soil moisture by
1151 assuming a 15 cm soil moisture holding capacity globally (Element A). Soil heat flow
1152 and storage was not accounted for in this simple scheme. Pivotal improvements occurred
1153 when Deardorff (1978) introduced a method for simulating soil temperature and moisture
1154 in two layers (Element E). Subsequently, analytical equations were replaced by numerical
1155 schemes that solve partial differential equations for the conservation of soil water and
1156 heat, thus allowing for the coupled heat and water transfer and providing a number of
1157 advantages, including the prediction of seasonally frozen soils. This approach also gave
1158 the modelers the soil matric potential, which allowed for the proper implementation of
1159 root water uptake and plant hydraulic theory, thus offering a more interactive land surface
1160 and sub-surface system. Further increases to the number of soil layers (~4 initially and
1161 currently up to 20; Element F) were required for appropriate treatment of soil thermal and
1162 hydrological lower boundary conditions (Decharme et al., 2013), which proved
1163 particularly important in cold regions (Stevens et al., 2007; Slater and Lawrence, 2013;
1164 Sapriza-Azuri et al., 2018). The inclusion of groundwater (Yeh and Eltahir, 2005;
1165 Maxwell and Miller, 2005) significantly improved simulation of the hydrological cycle.
1166 Most Earth system models are still working to add fully interactive groundwater (Element
1167 D). For further reviews and vision papers on land model development, see, e.g., Pitman

1168 (2003), Overgaard et al. (2006), Clark et al. (2015), Fisher and Koven (2020) and Blyth et
1169 al. (2021).

1170

1171 **Sidebar 2: From local to global cloud resolving modelling – A GEWEX legacy**
 1172



1173
 1174
 1175 **Figure SB2** A schematic of the turbulence energy spectrum (the multi-colored curve) in
 1176 the vertical plane as a function of the length scale of the turbulent energy. This scale
 1177 when contrasted against the horizontal grid spacing used to resolve flows defines three
 1178 regimes in which cloud models have evolved. Cloud models in the mesoscale limit
 1179 represent mesoscale and large-scale clouds and convection, the large eddy simulation
 1180 limit in which the turbulence eddies in clouds are resolved are in the LES limit and the
 1181 middle terra-incognita zone is what we now experience today in which the two
 1182 developments in the outer limits converge and overlap. The domain size has also
 1183 expanded over time giving rise the km-scale global cloud models of today. The inset
 1184 precipitation distributions, characteristic of a model in both the mesoscale and terra-
 1185 incognita domains, are from the NICAM model of different grid resolutions (in km),
 1186 after Miyamoto et al., (2013).

1187
 1188 Historically, numerical models of the cloudy atmosphere advanced along two separate
 1189 tracks that today are beginning to merge (Figure SB2) into a common space. The earliest
 1190 cloud models were of limited domain size and can be placed in the context of the
 1191 resolved scale of turbulent flow as suggested by Wyngaard (2004). The two broad
 1192 historical classes of cloud scale modeling fall either under a class of ‘mesoscale’ cloud
 1193 models also referred to as cloud resolving models (CRMs) typically set on larger domains
 1194 (10’s-100’s km) or a second class referred to as large-eddy simulation (LES) models
 1195 applied to much smaller domains (of order 1km). What sets these two classes apart,

1196 according to Wyngaard, can be expressed in terms of the ratio of the energy-containing
1197 turbulence scale ℓ and the grid spacing of the model Δ . The early cloud models assumed
1198 $\ell/\Delta < 1$ so none of the turbulence is resolved. Traditional LES models, on the other hand,
1199 fall into the parameter space $\ell/\Delta > 1$ meaning the energy- and flux-containing turbulence
1200 is explicitly resolved by these models. In between where $\ell \sim \Delta$ is the region of ‘terra-
1201 incognita’ which, more and more, is the region we find cloud modelling today made
1202 possible by the greater computing capabilities available. Cloud models are also now both
1203 being applied globally with grid spacing Δ at the km scale and even smaller (e.g.
1204 Miyamoto et al., 2013).

1205

1206 It can be reasonably argued that the modern discipline of cloud physics, and the
1207 development of CRMs in the ‘mesoscale limit’, was greatly shaped by the need to
1208 understand how seeding of clouds might affect the precipitation produced by them. There
1209 was no obvious simple way to contrast the observed behavior of seeded and unseeded
1210 clouds and thus no way to establish causality statistically from the small number of
1211 experiments conducted (NRC, 2003). The earliest cloud models thus grew out of a desire
1212 to simulate effects of cumulus dynamics on cloud microphysics in order to establish a
1213 basis to assert causality in seeding experiments that could not be statistically achieved
1214 otherwise. One of the earliest forms of cloud models developed for this purpose was that
1215 of Simpson and Wiggert (1968). Although this model was merely one dimensional, what
1216 emerged was a deep appreciation of the importance of resolved motions within clouds
1217 and on scales of dynamical organization referred to as the mesoscale (e.g. Cotton, 1972)
1218 – scales deemed critical to weather modification experiments (e.g. Cotton and Pielke,
1219 1976), thus giving early impetus to the modern cloud resolving models of today.

1220

1221 At the same time when these meso-scale cloud models were beginning to emerge, LES
1222 models were also being developed to study the intricacies of atmospheric turbulence.
1223 LES was first proposed in 1963 by Smagorinsky to study atmospheric flows and has been
1224 used widely to examine, for example, turbulent flows around objects. In a seminal LES
1225 study, Deardorff (1972) introduced an LES model to study clear air neutral and unstable
1226 boundary layers. This model was the basis for many following studies. For example,

1227 Sommeria (1976) extended it to produce the very first LES model study of the cumulus-
1228 topped boundary layer. Many LES studies of the cloudy boundary layer followed with
1229 LES emerging as an important tool for studying low cloud processes (e.g. Teixeira et al.
1230 2021ref).

1231

1232 From the outset GEWEX recognized the important role of these two streams of cloud
1233 model activities and developed specific initiatives to exploit both to study the important
1234 cloud systems on Earth, to elucidate the most critical processes that need to be
1235 represented in global modes and to develop ways to represent them. Early work with
1236 these models helped to develop and refine the physics of process models such as that of
1237 deep convection and the cloud-topped boundary layer, to serve as a substitute for
1238 observations that were not or could not be made as a way to both inform and test physical
1239 parameterizations of climate models. They also exposed several global model
1240 shortcomings, such as their inability to represent the organization of single convective
1241 clouds into larger systems, that are critical elements of Earth's radiation budget,
1242 important to climate feedbacks, a basic influence on precipitation extremes, and
1243 influential to circulation on all scales.

1244

1245 Through their use in GCSS and more recently GASS, the LES models and CRMs were
1246 continuously exposed to field observations (e.g. Siebesma et al., 2003), resulting in
1247 continued improvements to them. It soon became clear that these models could produce
1248 realistic simulations at the cloud system scale, and later work showed that the
1249 organization of clouds into mesoscale systems could emerge when the CRMs or LESs
1250 were run on larger domains. This created the exciting prospect to further increase the
1251 domain size of these models even on the domain of the whole globe, eventually using
1252 them to perform climate simulations. This first led to the implementation of simplified
1253 CRMs to replace parametrizations in the so-called super-parametrization approach
1254 (Grabowski, 2001) representing the first real shift of models into Wyngaard's terra-
1255 incognita regime.

1256

1257 There is now compelling evidence that the lack of resolution of coarse global models and
1258 even coarsely resolved meso-scale cloud models and the inability to explicitly resolve
1259 convection specifically is a major obstacle in making the advances needed to confront
1260 important Earth science challenges of today (Slingo et al., 2022). The inset example of
1261 Figure SB2, taken from the global model study of Miyamoto et al (2013), offers a clear
1262 example of the influence of model resolution on the properties of convection and why
1263 models are pushing further and further into the domain of the ‘terra-incognita’. Shown is
1264 a global composite of the pdf of convective precipitation deduced from model
1265 simulations with grid spacings that span the Wyngaard space ranging from mesoscale
1266 regimes of $\Delta=14$ km to the regime of terra incognita with $\Delta=0.87$ km. For the coarser
1267 simulations of $\Delta=14$ km and $\Delta=3.5$ km, the extreme precipitation is confined to less than
1268 20 mm h^{-1} in contrast to the $\Delta=0.87$ km simulation of intense precipitation of more than
1269 100 mm h^{-1} . This merely underscores just how important resolution is in representing
1270 the heaviest and most extreme rainfalls from convective storms.

1271

1272 Today the advantages of global, kilometer-scale (*km-scale*) models and associated
1273 information systems is becoming more widely appreciated (e.g. Bauer et al., 2021; Slingo
1274 et al. 2022) both for short term weather prediction (Palmer, 2014; Deuben et al., 2020)
1275 and regional and global climate prediction (Schär et al., 2019). GEWEX has advanced
1276 and continues to advance the agenda of such modelling and does so on a number of
1277 fronts, such as through its workshops (e.g., Prein et al.,2017), through the advances to
1278 observations of extremes (Fowler et al., 2021) and to the specific advances being made to
1279 land models (e.g. Box 1) and also to LES and CRMs. The various activities that focus on
1280 modelling Earth on the *km-scale* have also galvanized into a few large international
1281 efforts (e.g. Stevens et al., 2019) including those expressed by the new WCRP lighthouse
1282 activities that can be expected to shape future activities of GEWEX.

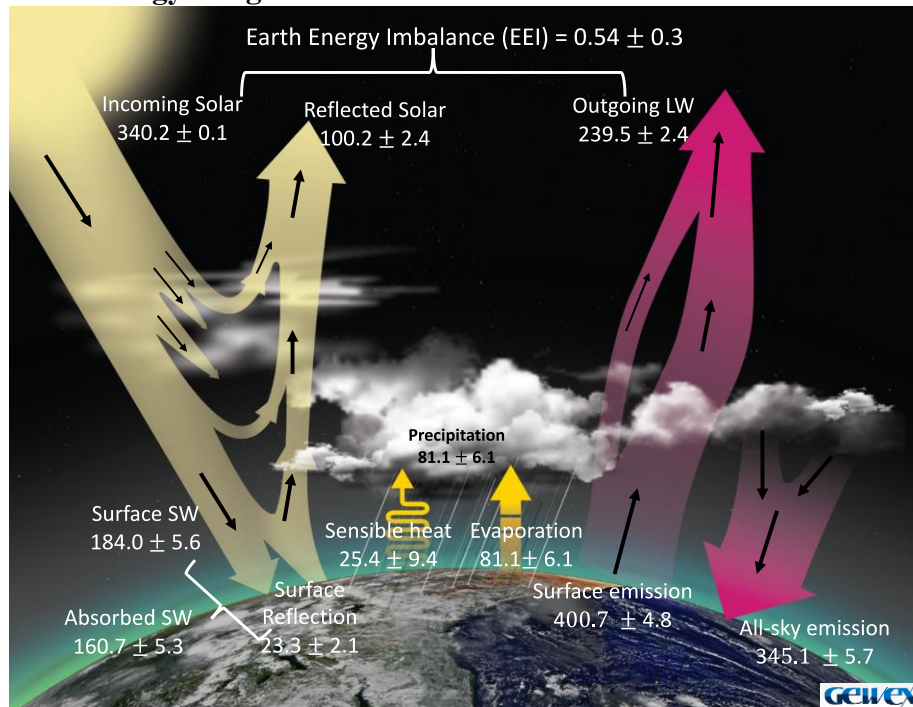
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1287 **Sidebar 3: Earth's energy budget**



1288 **Figure SB3:** An update on the mean annual fluxes of the global energy budget (all in
1289 Wm^{-2}) for the first decade of the millennium. This budget was achieved using a ‘global’
1290 optimization described in L’Ecuyer et al (2015) that requires quantitative uncertainties
1291 but uses data that produce more consistent set of fluxes.
1292
1293

1294 Quantifying the various ways energy flows through the Earth system has been a

1295 foundational activity of GEWEX from the outset and the latest version of the annual

1296 global mean depiction is presented in Figure SB3 based on the most up-to-date GEWEX

1297 data records. A number of sustained GEWEX activities, like the surface radiation budget

1298 project, land and ocean heat flux activities, maintenance of the GPCP precipitation

1299 climatology precipitation, TOA radiation budget assessments evolved over time with a

1300 focus on defining the uncertainties of the energy components of the budget which are

1301 reflected in Figure SB3. The NASA NEWS project produced a synthesis of a vast amount

1302 of these global data and provided, for the first time, a careful and more detailed

1303 assessment of the joint uncertainties attached to both global energy and water budgets.

1304 This provided the basis for a more objective methodology to adjust fluxes to constrain

1305 jointly closure of the global water and energy budgets, finally moving away from past *ad*
1306 *hoc* flux adjustment methods that had little justification. This coupled, constrained
1307 depiction of the energy and water balances and methods developed are described in the
1308 joint studies of L'Ecuyer et al. (2015) and Rodell et al (2015) and the global budget
1309 portrayed in Figure SB3 uses these same objective methodologies.

1310

1311 It was also recognized within GEWEX that inconsistencies existed in data inputs that
1312 were used to determine some of the fluxes that define these global balances. GDAP
1313 introduced an effort to address this issue creating an integrated self-consistent range of
1314 products (Kummerow et al., 2019) that offer a better and more consistent source of
1315 information for determining all fluxes, but particularly those at the Earth's surface. The
1316 fluxes expressed in Figure SB3 are based on the use of these newer integrated and more
1317 self-consistent GEWEX products.

1318

1319 **Sidebar 4 Continental water storage**

1320

1321 A remarkable result derived from observations of continental water storage appears in the

1322 visible imprint of human water management on the evolution of regional ecosystems.

1323 This imprint is illustrated in Figure SB4b) and the greening of cropland regions in

1324 northern India over the past two decades (Figure SB4a). These regions also coincide with

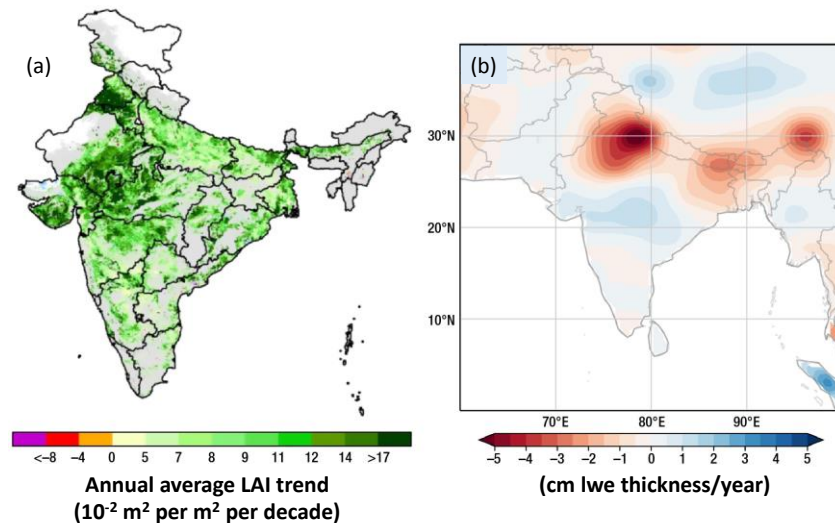
1325 the canals built in the early 20th century to support irrigated agriculture and which have

1326 raised the water table through their leakage. This comparison underscores an important

1327 point that to understand current trends in the continental water cycle one needs take into

1328 account both the influence of human water usage and the engineering developed to

1329 support it, as well as the influence of the physical climate system.



1330

1331 **Figure SB4** (a) Trends in annual average MODIS leaf area index (LAI) for 2000–2017 in croplands in
1332 India. Statistically significant trends (Mann–Kendall test, $p \leq 0.1$) are color-coded. Grey areas show
1333 vegetated land with statistically insignificant trends. White areas depict barren lands, permanent ice-
1334 covered areas, permanent wetlands and built-up areas. (b) GRACE record length trends (2002–2016) over
1335 the Indian subcontinent (in liquid water equivalent (LWE) units in cm per year), showing extensive
1336 groundwater depletion in Northwest India (adapted from both Chen et al., 2019 and Stephens et al., 2020).

1337

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Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer #1:

This paper discusses and summarizes the evolution of 30 years of the Global Energy and Water cycle EXchanges (GEWEX) project of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). It was initiated to improve the understanding of the water and energy cycles in the climate system. Substantial progress has been made in observations, data sets, modelling and process understanding, but given the uncertainty in models, the project is still highly relevant particularly in view of the ongoing rapid climate change.

The GEWEX project coordinates global research on many aspects of the climate system and as such it is impossible to be complete. However, the authors did an excellent job in selecting highlights, major developments and remaining issues. In the early days of modelling, very little data was available that could be used for verification on the process level. GEWEX has changed that by creating data sets, by unifying data formats and facilitating research with this data. GEWEX has also inspired model inter-comparison and verification studies, which led to many new insights and model improvements. I think it is fair to say that model processes are only as good as the data they can be verified with. Model innovation is equally important and is currently rather behind on available observations and process knowledge. It is good to see that the manuscript puts a lot of emphasis on multi-disciplinary aspects of the research. This is important because the climate system consists of many components (ocean, land, cryosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, hydrology), which all interact very strongly.

The paper is a pleasure to read with a nice selection of attractive sidebars, it is well written, and is very much of interest to scientists active in this area of research. The paper is also highly suitable for BAMS as it reports on a research programme that provides international coordination among research groups and research disciplines. I recommend publication in its current form.

Our Response

We thank the reviewer for his/her comments especially as these offer some affirmation that what we provide is a valuable and really long overdue documentation of an international and successful effort that has sustained science over 30+ years. As always it was a difficult judgment on what to include, what to exclude while being keenly aware of the need to juggle content for overall brevity (more in response to reviewer 3).

Reviewer #2:

This is an excellent and timely review of GEWEX. It is a fascinating read, and I certainly hope it will be published in BAMS. I have a few suggestions:

1. There is an interesting panel on land surface modelling. I think the paper would benefit from similar treatment of the evolution of climate models. In particular, it is important to recognise the inclusion of progressively more processes as we have evolved low resolution atmosphere-ocean coupled models to sophisticated, high resolution ESMs. The progressive coupling of land surface processes into the modelling process, and the development of free running dynamic vegetation schemes is relevant. Confronting such models with observations is a key challenge for GEWEX, in my opinion.

Response 1: We agree overall of the importance of confronting obs with models which was and continues to be a basic tenet of GEWEX (a notion mentioned in many places eg lines 132-133 and 141-146 and in a number of other places). We do not provide a sidebar on climate model evolution

per se as suggested as such evolution has been captured elsewhere (such as in introduction chapters of different IPCC assessment reports) and GEWEX contributes in a very specific way to the global Earth models with a focus on land and atmospheric processes. The sidebars relate more to GEWEX's roles in such 'process' models. This comment however made us realize that the second sidebar missed an opportunity to describe the evolution of cloud resolving models that has not been provided before to our knowledge so we changed some of the content of that sidebar to include this brief discussion along with a new figure created for this purpose. We feel this greatly adds to the paper much as the sidebar 1 has done.

2. During the early phases of GEWEX, there was some emphasis on the need to model extremes and hydrological hazard. It would be interesting to see some reflection on how the authors perceive GEWEX's role in climate services/risk assessment

Response 2: The engagement of GEWEX on the topic of extremes is called out in a few places, notably section 4.3. GEWEX engagement has occurred on a number of levels including at the level of creating important data resources to study extremes (like INTENSE, lines 550-552), co-leading the extremes grand-Challenge (noted in discussion, lines 666-674) and also advancing the topic of process modelling (like sidebar 2) that will be necessary for advancing our understanding of changing extremes in the future. This will continue to be an important theme for GEWEX to engage in more fully, especially on topics involving water related extremes (severe weather flooding, and droughts etc) and GEWEX is a major contributor of the WCRP lighthouse activity dealing with extremes.

3. When describing the move from catchment to continental scale hydrological observations and studies, it would be useful to explain why this was seen as necessary to understand climate impacts on water resources. I would argue that there is still a need for bespoke catchment models (driven by bias adjusted climate model output) because continental assessments cannot capture the complex man-made and geological interactions that govern water resources in land surface models.

Response: We call out this move to coarser scale in early days of GEWEX as being driven initially by the desire to 'close water budgets' on these coarser scales (notably section 3.2). GEWEX interests and efforts continue to move down scale and as we call out in a number of places this inevitably begins to engage the human influence more and more and hence this is an underlying focus of both Phase III and the next phase. In fact we think Figure 7 and its description graphically underscores this very point. Thus we absolutely agree with this sentiment and in fact the entire focus of Goal#3 (section 5) is aimed at advancing this topic. ESMs need to integrate in some way the human intervention in the continental water cycle so that its interaction with the climate can be understood. How to address this is still open and a convergence of land surface models and bespoke catchment model will most likely show us the best way forward.

In addition, there are a few typos (eg page 4, line 113, there is a rogue comma after GEWEX) and at least in my PDF copy, some of the figures are very blurry (this might be the BAMS preview software though!)

Response: Thanks, yes some figures were blurry (notably Fig 2 and perhaps Fig 3) and we are updating/reviewing all Figs in this cycle of revision to ensure much cleaner versions as part of the over revision process. The revised version includes a number of Figure updates too but fix ups of a few more blurry version is presently being done and we will complete this on acceptance of the

manuscript.

Reviewer #3:
Major revision required

OVERVIEW:

This is a helpful and timely review of GEWEX, and will serve as a useful introduction for those who are seeking to learn more about the program. The scientific descriptions are accurate and informative and presented at a level where the general BAMS reader should understand the scientific program descriptions. In fact, this is perhaps one of the better discussions in layman's terms of the energy aspects of the GEWEX program. The choice of elements to highlight is rather sensitive and hopefully the result reflects the priorities and interests of 24 authors.

Response1: First we thank this reviewer for a diligent and detailed review and his/her helpful suggestions that we have for the most part adopted. He/she is fully aware of the challenges we faced in producing such a document. There is no simple or optimal way to reflect on all achievements over such a long period while out of necessity selecting only a small number to highlight. On the one hand the reviewer suggests we need to make sure those highlighted are more of a consensus while suggesting we invite groups to submit their own highlights. In reality these examples were formulated and reviewed by the current SSG during the formulation of the new science plan introduced in section 5. The examples aren't so much chosen to highlight a particular activity, and indeed many activities weren't highlighted, but what were selected were chosen more to motivate discussion on broader issues that shaped GEWEX over time and will going forward. For example, Fig 2 is an early result that essentially encapsulates much of the philosophy of GLASS even today – that of using observations, in this case station data, to test land models. Figure 4 (and previous references to Roads) is an early example of a model observation analysis system in this case used to define global land water budget again foreshadowing what we expect to be the future - that of integrated model/obs approaches to address key budget questions. Figure 5 as described below underscores a deeper issue with respect to the move to higher resolution modelling underscoring the important role of coupling on local scales, Figure 6 further touches on even bigger challenges still to come in coupling high resolution atmosphere models with land and hydrology models. Figure 7 is a further simple illustration touching on the broad point raised by reviewer 2 that water management is increasing an essential part of the global water system and one that underscores a key goal of GEWEX going forward.

A revised version of this article should be published in BAMS because of its wide general interest and the insights it provides which contribute to climate, atmospheric, and hydrological sciences. I am recommending a major rewrite because the presentation needs to be shortened, a clearer message needs to be communicated, and the flow and uniformity of the style need to be improved. The word count also should be reduced by 30 to 40% to keep within the length of articles commonly featured by BAMS. The title "The 30 years of GEWEX" tends to make it sound like GEWEX is coming to an end. From the contents of the article this does not appear to be the case so this reviewer would suggest that the title be changed to "The first 30 years of GEWEX" or even "Reflections on the first 30 years of GEWEX". Putting together a paper like this is a herculean task and the authors can be assured up front that not everyone will be happy with the end result because some readers who are close to the GEWEX community may feel their favorite activity should have received more recognition. The following comments are

intended to help the authors strengthen the paper and improve the perception of balance in the presentation.

Response 2: We agree with the reviewer's suggestion on the title and changed it accordingly. We also appreciate the reviewer recognizing it is indeed not a simple job to capture the wide breadth of efforts over such a long period of time and we struggled with the length of the paper and realize some will feel their contributions have been overlooked. As hinted at in the response above, the review of activities chosen we think helps serve as a foundation to justify why the SSG feels that the 3 goals for phase IV should be priorities. We also compacted the text in places without removing real substance but cannot achieve the suggested reduction of 30-40%. Also we did not add all material suggested for the same reason as discussed further below.

The overall flow of the paper is somewhat uneven although most of the individual paragraphs are quite well written (but not to a uniform standard). The authors have indicated that this is not intended to cover every GEWEX development but to highlight some projects from each phase of the program. This will be very important for readers to bear in mind as they read through the full article looking for their favorite GEWEX project and finding no reference to it. The authors could have done a better job of setting out their criteria for what would be included making it clear why certain projects were not highlighted. This reaction could also be offset if after the highlights are given on a few projects the other projects were just listed by name.

Response 3: We have selectively added acknowledgements to more projects as noted explicitly below but again the paper is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all projects pursued in GEWEX over its 30 years. We emphasize to the reader much more is done than called out and add a terse statement along the lines in Response 2 qualifying the choices made (lines 148-153). The reviewer though raises here and elsewhere a valid point about the unevenness of our discussion and this is particularly true of some aspects of Phase I and Phase II which we think now is more balanced given response specifically to his/her comments below.

Some contributions are described as individual projects in the type of detail that would be suitable for a journal article and others describe the efforts of large groups of people doing complex modeling or field studies that seem to be dismissed with a single sentence or less. While the selection of projects is left with the authors' judgement, there should be standards for what is in and what is not, and what level of detail will be included in those projects that are included.

Linking certain types of activities to certain phases is not always easy to achieve when developing a narrative in retrospect. (The phases are still a good idea though, if implemented properly). The problems come because some Panels and projects move to the next phase early and others lag. This can result in a few paradoxes (as they do in this paper) where a few of the papers summarizing work associated with one phase have publication dates associated with the previous phase. These situations could cause a skeptic to question if the phases are just an imposed artifact. An alternate approach would be to introduce two or three major scientific advances for each panel during each phase and focus the discussion on individual project results in a way that indicates what they contributed to climate or atmospheric or water science. To a large extent, this information is included in the present manuscript but some repackaging would be required (along with help in achieving the needed significant word reduction.)

Response 4: The reviewer is correct in that the definition of phases (even their start and end) can be a little fuzzy although the definition of the first two phases was clearly documented from the

outset. The projects endorsed by GEWEX were not all in sync with the phases described. Thus, overlap occurred with some projects starting in one phase but developing and maturing in following phases. We attempt to call this out but there also were also clearly defined, distinct activities that aligned in these specific phases as described for example by the refining of science questions for phase III and then again for phase IV.

The paper focuses on the organization of the work and as such gives a perspective from the GEWEX SSG level. This is a suitable level for such an overview but as a historical document it should take into consideration all of the elements that make the program successful including those agencies which gave grants and provided funding (without which GEWEX would not have existed), the support from project offices and data services (IGPO and UCAR in the early stages), and the support from other international programs (IGBP, WCRP projects, UNESCO, and perhaps even Future Earth), which this reviewer feels have had a role in the success and shaping of GEWEX.

Response 5: This is a fair criticism and we included references to a number of the most pertinent organizations and agencies in the acknowledgements.

The text would be improved if some of the interactions among projects in each of the panels (GRP, GMPP, GHP) were included, perhaps in a summary of each phase. As written there really does not seem to be a good rationale for uniting these Panel activities under GEWEX instead of having them in three separate programs. In short, how did the GEWEX umbrella enrich the various projects rather than having them as stand-alone projects or projects under three independent Panels? What did they learn from each other and how did they support each other? This approach would add to an appreciation for the role of the GEWEX SSG. Also, in the conclusion it would be good to add some musings on why GEWEX has been able to last for 30 years while so many other programs have fallen by the wayside.

It also would be useful to assess the lessons that have been learned - Lessons from the analysis of failures as well as the promotions of successes that are included in this article. The obstacles and difficulties that were encountered by GEWEX and the resilient responses of GEWEX may have been as much a part of the evolution of GEWEX activities as the emerging technologies that have allowed research and science to be done in new ways.

Response 6: This is an excellent suggestion and we offer our thoughts on why GEWEX is able to sustain relevance over decades in the conclusion section (lines 888-899). We did not include a specific detailed discussion on lessons learned – merely because of space but feel this indeed I s needed and also needs more follow up with communities and review by the SSG and will be a topic of a special article perhaps in the GEWEX newsletter.

(I may be completely wrong, but after reading this paper twice it seems it may have been developed by inviting certain investigators to submit their contributions and those contributions were then packaged according to the phase and panel without having a one single individual who went through the collection with a heavy editorial hand to synthesize the inputs into a single style and promote one or a few integrative message(s). One of the authors should be conscripted to take on this role.)

Response 7: The lead author played this role of synthesizing inputs from the entire SSG, and collectively the group defined the messaging of them.

Review Comments regarding the quality of the manuscript (as measured by the BAMS review criteria)

With respect to the specific points raised under the BAMS review criteria for the quality of the manuscript, the following summary comments are provided.

- a) The scientific explanations given are logical and quite complete. Since this is a historical review there are not many requirements to provide alternative explanations. However the flow of the material is not always smooth nor does it always appear logical because the authors have not made the basis for their choices of topics to highlight entirely transparent.
- b) In addition to the concluding remarks there are conclusions sprinkled throughout the report because it is describing many individual projects each with its conclusions. The authors could provide more insights and conclusions if they refocused the paper to address the topic with an approach such as "Lessons from 30 years of GEWEX" or something of that nature. A few additional insights about lessons could be added to the present set of concluding remarks.
- c) See point (a)
- d) If there are biases they are not immediately apparent. The description of specific projects are generally stated without bias. In a paper of this nature bias could come in the selection of the projects that are highlighted. The authors have gone to some pains in trying to balance inputs by geographical region and by time fame. Bias may be perceived by some readers close to a particular project when it is not referenced. The potential possible perception of bias could be reduced by ensuring the criteria for choosing the highlighted projects is clearly stated and that all projects and experiments are at least mentioned by name in the appropriate time period. Biases may also be perceived if one investigator is much more frequently referenced than others who made similar levels of contributions. One author is the lead author for 7 references (one not cited in the text) but the references cover a large time interval so this should not be seen as a problem.
- e) In general, the work of the projects and the responsible experts are correctly represented. Any divergence of perspective is given in the reviewer's detailed notes that follow.
- f) All of the figures are useful. Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and SB1 could be improved as discussed below.

Response 8: As noted we like the idea of lessons learned, especially on the longevity of such a project, but we think this is a task the SSG needs follow up on and do a thoughtful review (see response 6).

2. Enhance the readability and interest of the article to non specialists

The article is less concise than it should be as some descriptions are quite long. I could not get the word count function to work in my version of Adobe but a conservative word number estimate based on the number of lines at 10,000 words or more (not including the sidebars) which is well beyond the BAMS maximum 7500 words for exceptional articles and 4500 on average. Priority 1 for the major revision rewrite is to cut the number of words to 30 to 40% of the current number. In shortening the article the authors should take full advantage of appendices including on-line appendices, footnotes, and sidebars, to help reduce the number of words in the article.

In terms of accessibility most aspects of this article can be understood by undergraduate students in the sciences and will be of particular interest to students involved with atmospheric, hydrological and remote sensing sciences. The manuscript is suited for the readership of BAMS. It is an overview of 30 years of research accomplished within GEWEX, an international science program that has contributed heavily to AMS publications, including BAMS, during that period. It should also be of interest to those who are planning to manage large scale projects, or are managing, or have managed, large scale projects. It also should be of interest to researchers and program managers in scientific government agencies.

The authors have used three sidebars to elaborate certain issues. They have also provided a list of acronyms but haven't used any appendices. Online appendices could be used to good effect with this

article especially where more detailed descriptions are given for projects and for a complete listing of the GEWEX projects, committees, and working groups over the years.

Response 9: This is an issue that we grappled with for some time. We had, for example, more discussion of where GEWEX fits within WCRP but cut that out, we limited our examples to just a few (note our comments above, response 1), we used sidebars and shifted materials to appendix. We are aware, as in the case of this reviewer, that we will be criticized for not having more or different examples but those criticisms are more likely coming from those close to GEWEX. We also abbreviated discussion on some topics and removed others as noted all in an effort to shorten the article. We could not both cut and add as the reviewer has requested and achieve overall significant reductions in length.

Detailed Comments:

Line by line comments

Lines 105 to 132: The introduction should be more concise and balanced. While the paper devotes several paragraphs to a symposium on GARP successes where the idea of GEWEX was floated by Prof. Morel and Dr. V. Suomi, it leaves a gap between the pronouncements by the leaders and the implementation of an actual program. The contributions and work of obtaining funding for GEWEX projects carried out by international project office, leading scientific groups in different countries, and program managers with grant programs in different agencies and governments allowed a broad funding mosaic to emerge enabling GEWEX to happen. This reviewer would argue that both the vision and the will to implement GEWEX were needed to make it happen and should be included briefly here.

Response 10: We understand this sentiment. The introduction has two paragraphs that offer a historical perspective on how GEWEX came about which we feel is necessary and not excessive. By far the majority of the article, in fact almost the entire document, describes the GEWEX implementation and its vision which, we think, goes without saying has only happened via dedications and commitment of the community. This we don't feel we need add more.

Line 204-206: Is there a standard for referencing a project in a certain phase to describe its benefits far into the future? In this case the system is being used 20 years later (which is great news I suppose). However the same could be said for a number of other GEWEX developments including some that were foundational to new systems that are in place 20 years later. If so, I suggest similar statements should be added in appropriately to improve the uniformity of the text and increase appreciation for GEWEX contributions.

Response 11: We have not added specific comments of this type throughout because its actually less relevant as for the most part GEWEX is an evolution of activities and developments, the LSM evolution described in sidebar 1 is one graphic illustration. The particular example noted is a somewhat different flavor being a discreet example of a fixed tool used for decades.

Line 210: The role of IGBP and BAHC in the early leadership of ISLSCP activities and its intensive field projects (FIFE, HAPEX-Sahel, BOREAS, CATCH, etc.) is not fully recognized. As I recollect it, the migration of ISLSCP to GEWEX began in 1994. E. Brown de Colstoun, F. G. Hall, B. Meeson, S. O. Los and D. Landis, "The International Satellite Land Surface Climatology Project (ISLSCP) Initiative II data collection," IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium, 2002, pp. 2326-2327 vol.4, doi: 10.1109/IGARSS.2002.1026533. represent the ISLSCP data initiative as a NASA Land Surface Hydrology project that was responsive to the needs of the IGPO, the IGBP/BAHC project and the ISLSCP

Community. Care should be taken by revising lines 201-211 for the sake of historical accuracy to clarify that GEWEX did not initiate ISLSCP and also probably not the ISLSCP data product.

Response 12: Here is a excerpt from Sellers, 1996 as cited describing the initial GEWEX workshop in 1992 *"A workshop sponsored by the International Satellite Land Surface Climatology Project (ISLSCP), a component of the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX), was held in Columbia, Maryland, 23 to 26 June 1992, with over 240 scientists and science managers attending. The goal of the workshop was to assess recent progress in the areas of modeling, satellite data algorithm development, and field experiments."* We don't agree that what we have stated about GEWEX and ISLSCP is misleading. The Brown de Colstoun reference is 2006 refers to the second phase of ISLSCP and "the communities that drove the definition of the Initiative II collection were investigators within the international scientific communities of the Global Energy and Water cycle Experiment, GEWEX, program (<http://www.gewex.org/>); the International Geosphere/Biosphere Program IGBP (<http://www.igbp.kva.se>); and the U.S. Global Change Research Program, USGCRP (<http://www.usgcrp.gov/>). This is now noted in phase II discussion of ISLSCP (lines 403-410).

Line 277- 279: This would seem to be a logical place to mention the potential role of aerosols in precipitation formation which was debated in GEWEX (D. Rosenfeld's work and GAP).

Response 13; Done and the recent Stier (co-lead of GAP) reference added (line 272)

Line 281 - 284: This is an example of where the breakdown by phase becomes confusing because work that would be associated with Phase II or Phase III is brought in to explain the scientific importance of a topic. The authors need to commit more strongly to the phases and keep the science in perspective if phases are to be the primary integrating theme of the paper.

Line 301 - 302: The text makes it sound like there was a time lag between the development of MAGS, BALTEX, and GAME with GCIP (questionable phrase, "this regional effort by the end of the decade." but in actual fact they were being developed almost simultaneously and were all fully operational and funded by 1995 (with lags of 1 or 2 years with GCIP). LBA came on line a little later with its complex funding arrangement but had a core ISLSCP/ BAHC arrangement before that time. (See A. Jochum, P. Kabat, R.Hutjies, 2000: The role of remote sensing in land surface experiments within BAHC and ISLSCP. DOI: 10.1007/0-306-48124-3_11, OAI.)

Response 14: We modified the text to avoid this suggestion of a time lag (line 294-296). We also added references that serve for the reader a place to go for more detailed review of CSE achievements (e.g Lawford et al. 2004 reference lines 284-289).

Lines 304 - 308: Given that other parts of GEWEX are promoting their connection with modeling centers it would be good to mention that these CSEs were all required to have well identified links with weather and/or water prediction centers as well as meeting other criteria before being accepted as a GEWEX CSE.

Response 15: Done- Line 302-311 but also added some further highlights on impacts of these connections per the immediate comments of the reviewer that follow.

Section 2.3 generally:

The descriptions of the CSEs are a little imbalanced with the other descriptions in that there are no mention of a number of elements of the CSEs that would interest BAMS readers such as:

1) The development of the land components of regional models such as the Eta model in NOAA which was used in the NOAA forecast system in subsequent LDAS developments, and in the regional reanalysis that was carried out in the early 2000s. For example, NCEP's link to GCIP accelerated the development of the ETA model and the sophistication of the representation of land-atmosphere interactions.

Response 16: Now added this highlight in section 2.3 as noted above (lines 302-311)

2) The interdisciplinary studies carried out in these early CSEs including assessments of runoff effects on Baltic Sea conditions and ecosystems, the impacts of deforestation in the Amazon forest, improvements of winter temperature forecasts in global models due to improved parameterizations of the annual cycle of larch forest foliage based field projects in Siberia, and the role of snow and ice melt for the flow regimes and flooding of high latitude north-flowing rivers in the Mackenzie Basin.

Response 17: The interdisciplinary nature of the RHPs and BALTEX specifically was called out in section 3.3 and we could not practically discuss the interdisciplinary activities of all CSE's but chose to call out just a few to highlight - the cited Lawford et al review of the earlier CSE offer more discussion.

3) The development of physics-based distributed hydrological models which were better suited for the uptake of satellite data than the conventional "bucket" and highly calibrated basin models used in traditional hydrology (e.g., reference to Wood and Lettenmaier and the VIC model)

Response 18: we feel this evolution is captured by sidebar 1

4) The inability of existing observations to define short interval intense moisture fluxes into and out of continental basins (e.g., Low level jet from the Gulf of Mexico into south central states) and the need to supplement observations with models to adequately define localized short-term jets that influenced regional water and energy budgets (see work by Berbery in South America in late 1990's). These findings should all be summarized in the published literature so one of the co-authors familiar with this literature should be able to provide more information to add them into the manuscript in a succinct way (even if it is mainly in the references).

Line 318 - 332: While Section 2.4 describes an important contribution that GEWEX made to defining operational systems but it seems like the link to decadal surveys was something that came later. If this is all that is considered it does not seem to merit a stand-alone section since the decadal survey is much broader than just GEWEX which is one of many sources of input. However, the section could be maintained if other contributions are added. For example, GEWEX has more ownership of the IGOS-P Water Cycle theme report (2004) where it led the preparation of the report or even the GEOSS Water Strategy report of 2014. As written now this section would fit in the introduction to Phase II. This would also be a good place to bring attention to GSWP and its influence on sensitizing the community to the importance of soil moisture and indirectly (or possibly directly) supporting the arguments made for the SMOS and SMAP missions.

Response 19- we added some notes on the way GEWEX also connected to SMOS and SMAP. Again this early guidance of GEWEX in identifying gaps was an early Phase I effort with a focus was mostly on global satellite observing systems (lines 335-341).

Lines 339-345: An important factor which does not appear to be included in this discussion of Phase II is the closer collaboration with CLIVAR on cross cutting issues such as monsoons and droughts that became priorities for GEWEX.

Response 20: We do note this point now in section 3.2 (lines 433-436) and also explicitly with the discussion of NAME under section 3.4.

Line 355 - 357: It would be useful to note that the reanalysis of satellite data sets was to upgrade them to climate research quality. The details may not need to be mentioned but some of the operational satellites left significant discontinuities in the long-term data record for derived variables because not enough attention was being given to calibration issues when one operational satellite was taken out of service and its replacement came on line.

Response 21: Noted Line 364-366.

Line 399: The publication by Roads et al. (2002) before the start of Phase II indicates that WEBS is more part of Phase I than Phase II (post 2003). Some adjustment is needed.

Response 22: This is one of the fuzzy examples where the initiative started in one phase and overlapped into another.

Line 421 to Line 430: While it is recognized that only certain RHPs are being singled out for mention it would seem to be important to note that GAPP (not mentioned) had a significant impact on prediction of water resources in the southwestern US through its combined study with CLIVAR/PACS in the NAME experiment. This directly supports the themes on water resources and interactions with monsoons which this Phase section is said to be highlighting.

Response 23: NAME is now briefly described section 3.4 lines 498-507.

Line 434 - 436: It would be helpful to provide a more substantive description of CLARIS-LPB and its outputs and a reference to its unique successes.

Response 24: Reference added (line 465)

Line 436: I would suggest writing this sentence as, "Along with other RHPs these three experiments provide" (Suggested to make sure that none of the RHP representatives who have also made progress on this Phase II objective but are not mentioned here feel ignored by the authors.)

Response 25: Done, 466

Line 494: It would be useful to clarify what is meant by the "surety" of each variable because the term can be interpreted in several ways and some BAMS readers may not relate to it.

Response 26: This sentence has been removed

Line 500: Figure 4 could be made a little larger so it can be more easily read. How well do the numbers in Figure 4 agree with the estimates that Rodell et al. 2015 have derived from satellite data?

Response 27: This has not been done given the length of paper but should be pursued.

Line 511 to Line 527: It is unclear why this particular decision by the JSC is included in such detail while the many other JSC decisions affecting GEWEX are not included. Did it have some major impact on the direction of science? If so these should be included. If not, this lengthy explanation is a distraction to the scientific focus of this GEWEX history. Lines 529 to 532 say something very similar to lines 511 to 526 in a much more concise way to provide this information. (Suggestion delete 511-526 but add the four themes for Phase III).

Response 28: Accepted and this has essentially been removed

Line 566: there have been some studies to support the "wet, wetter and dry drier over certain terrestrial areas such as arid lands or rainforests. To hedge one's bets one could say ... "and thus may not follow" (replace do not with may not)...

Response 29: We removed this paragraph of the paper in response to suggestions below

Line 584: LSMs are generally driven by estimates of evaporation that come from soil moisture. Soil moisture comes from precipitation (which may be the basis for this statement) but it also comes from lateral and vertical flows in the soil that bring moisture to a grid square or single point and do not always immediately respond to the precipitation (especially if the precipitation is in the form of snow). The plan to compute this ET at much higher resolution opens the door for many other processes to be added but it seems like an oversimplification to say all LSMs in the past derived ET from precipitation. In the case of the VIC model and other distributed hydrological models which serve as one type of LSM, the LSM ET calculations would include the moisture in the soil.

Line 620: It would be useful to discuss how the findings relate to the ways in which the management of land and water reserves are being altered by the effects of climate change on precipitation intensity and the occurrence of floods and in turn how land and water management can be used to reduce the impacts of climate change. (This point should be elaborated for the BAMS readers). (Also, the term "human management of land and water resources" leads one to ask is this distinct from other species that someone thinks may conceivably manage the land and water? - I suppose beaver could qualify as managers of land and water resources.)

Lines 651 to 671; In some ways this seem a bit out of order with the discussion of Climate Change and land and water management. If there is room to revise the order of 4.3 and 4.2 it should be considered to improve the logical flow.

Response 30: This order reflects the order of the GEWEX science question as documented at that time. We left it as is

Line 704-706: No doubt this an important problem for people who depend on glaciers and snow melt. How many people live in the areas where they are dependent on alpine snow melt? What percentage of the world's population is affected by this problem? (The description attracts scrutiny because it sounds like border-line over-sell.)

Line 705: "In high elevation snowy and glaciated headwater catchments is of paramount importance for improving our ability to understand and predict global climate, ecology and water system changes "...The statement about the importance for understanding global climate needs some qualifiers. What aspects of global climate does the study of impacts on mountain glaciers help to define? Why is it global climate and not regional climate? It is important to show what the consequences are but to keep them in context and scale.

Response 31: It is a global problem as glacial and snow melt are present on every continent and hence affects the population/ecosystems etc. in these regions on all continents (and that is including Antarctic region). The number of people that are affected per region or global those estimates vary quite a bit. Directly in Asia alone it is certainly more than 1 Billion and indirectly many more. We feel the original sentence is non-controversial and would be generally accepted by readers, and hence no further explanations are needed in the paper. To make it clearer, we have removed "global" from "...predict global climate, ecology ..."

There is enough literature pointing this important aspect out and we now add the reference (e.g.) Immerzeel, W.W., Lutz, A.F., Andrade, M. et al. Importance and vulnerability of the world's water towers. Nature 577, 364–369 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1822-y>

Line 714-731: The spatial resolution not only affects the precipitation simulation but it also improves the runoff simulation. The comment about the effects of the resolution of the data is unclear. This discussion would be clarified if the statement "the more resolved are the data ". was clarified. Is this spatial or temporal resolution and are these grid square values from a model or are estimates from in-situ data and satellite data systems used to help assess the results. Just interpolating data to 1-km resolution does not necessarily improve the data unless other factors such as topography, soil type, etc) are factored in.

Response 32: The word spatial has been added

Lines 773-788: It is not altogether clear why so many details are provided on this workshop when it addresses so much science that seems most relevant to CLIVAR except for the element that informs EEI variability. It would seem most appropriate to reference this workshop and keep one or two sentence that provide the relevant information about EEI. Given that this article must be reduced in size there is a certain opportunity cost to other GEWEX activity descriptions by keeping lengthy description of topics of primary interest to CLIVAR unless it is to feature GEWEX/CLIVAR collaboration. It would be useful to know if terrestrial processes have an impact on EEI.

Response 33: we reduced the discussion of this topic – as was noted in the text about 93% of the EEI is a result of heat uptake by oceans so the terrestrial uptake is proportionally small. Why this is a genuine GEWEX topic rather than merely one for CLIVAR is this EEI or its estimate is critical to closing the global energy budget, a topic seminal to GEWEX and one that is discussed in the papers cited in sidebar 3

Line 836: Section 5.1: Why are they proposed rather than planned goals?

Response 34: Noted the word proposed has been removed

Specific Questions:

Line 185: At one point the term project was used for initiatives being carried out under the GRP, GHP and GMPP which were called Panels to clarify they were higher in the hierarchy than the individual projects that made them out. This terminology seemed to avoid confusion. (Admittedly some agencies used different terminology considering GEWEX as a project) For an article like this devoted to GEWEX it might add clarification to retain the Panel/ project structure. Based on the discussion in lines 511 to 527, it seems clear that the JSC also uses the term "Panels" rather than projects.

Response 35: This is a fair criticism and indeed GEWEX over its time has muddled this up somewhat We try to make this clear now using panels as superseding projects (lines 176-187).

Line 339-340; 364-368: The discussion of Phase II indicates that a great emphasis was placed on water resources and the changing climate of the water cycle (Line 339-340). In Lines 364 to 368 reference is made to closing water and energy budgets on a regional scale. Both of these were priorities for the GCIP project because most of this effort occurred in the 1995-2002 time frame culminating in report by the late John Roads (listed in the references) and others.

Response 36: The statement made is accurate. Phase II came with a greater or at least a more concerted desire to focus on water resources reflecting the interests and drive of Soroosh Sorooshian who was the second chair of GEWEX assuming the reigns essentially at the end of phase I and beginning of phase II. The Roads study highlighted is an example of how some activities overlapped across phases. The emphasis placed on this example however is more for what it represents as a vision for future analysis systems as called out (lines 420-423)

Section 3.3: Although the goal for this section makes reference to water resources there is no reference to water resource applications during this period. References that could (should) be made include:

- WRAP (the Water Resources working group formed in the GHP that reached out to the water resources community
- GEWEX linkages with GWSP and its follow-on, SWFP.
- The HEPEX project initiated under GCIP and continuing during GAPP which addressed ways of bringing calibrated models for their use of small basins and the generalization of approaches for ungauged basins.

During that phase GEWEX initiated also a number of research activities to allow hydrological forecasting to take advantage of the progressing knowledge and predictions of the atmospheric branch of the water cycle (Hall, A.J., Lawford, R.G., Roads, J.O., Schaake, J.C. and Wood, E.F., 2007. GEWEX hydrology. *IAHS PUBLICATION, 313*, p.109.). The most notable example was the HEPEX project which aimed using the emerging ensemble meteorological forecasts for water resource applications.

Response 37: The reviewer is correct that these were all activities in which GEWEX was involved and contributed toward building the bridge between the climate view of the water cycle and water

resources view. We now have a new paragraph at the beginning of Section 3.3 that describes some of these also noting WRAP and HEPEX.

Line 476 - 506: Given that enhancing uniformity in the level of detail in GEWEX descriptions this level of technical detail could be reduced and details satisfied by references to earlier publications or reports.

Response 38: The text has been abbreviated

Line 498: Figure 4 could be enlarged.

Response 39: Done

Line 556 - 567: This description seems misplaced when it is referring to work in Phase III (2013 to 2022) when a) the work is not GEWEX work and b) with the exception of Greves et al. 2014 all of the reports referenced here were completed before 2013, the start of Phase III. It seems inappropriate to try to expand the reach of GEWEX this way when the GEWEX work done on evaporation from oceans though GEWEX Seaflux is not mentioned.

Response 40: in an attempt to reduce the size of the article, we removed the discussion of salinity and related topics that also includes the Greve reference . We also called out seaflux now appropriately in phase II (line 389-396).

Line 607: Is there not a GEWEX product (GSWP?) that shows the feedback of soil moisture on precipitation on a global basis. The Fujita map is OK but there are other factors affecting the formation of tornados as well including summer temperatures, topography, and the inadequate tornado observations in the period prior to 1987.

Response 41: The GSWP focused more on offline land modeling and hence does not address soil moisture feedbacks per se. However the GEWEX project hinted at was GLACE that specifically considered land atmosphere coupling including via soil moisture and mention of it is now added along with a seminal reference to it (lines 600-601). The Fujita figure however is meant to make some larger points called out in the discussion – that finer resolution modelling that will begin to address more directly land managed and related changes will inevitably involve more couplings to other aspects of the system. To reiterate, this particular discussion was not meant to review all soil moisture activities have been pursued in GEWEX but rather to make the point we anticipate these activities will become increasingly more important going forward.

Line 621: The CCRN, a northern regional project, is a good example but lack of documentation of linkages with former years tends to ignore some of the earlier work under MAGS. Another valuable linkage that is missing is the assessments of monsoon rains and drought in the Southwestern US examined through the joint GEWEX/CLIVAR NAME project in the early 2000s. (Higgins et al)

Response 42: We do note how CCRN in many respects indeed built upon earlier initiatives including MAGS and called this briefly (line 622-624). We also acknowledge NAME for its goal to improve our ability to predict warm season precipitation over the continental US (section 3.4).

Line 631-632: There is a reference to SMOS as a data source but the results from early GEWEX research that provided a rationale for missions like SMAP and SMOS is not mentioned.

Response 43: GEWEX formed the International Soil Moisture Working Group in 2005 and later the development of the International Soil Moisture Network (Dorigo et al., 2011) that was supported by ESA in part as a calibration network in support of both ESA and US soil moisture missions (SMOS and SMAP). But the rationale for space-based soil moisture was called out much earlier by Morel and Reading (1989) as cited. This involvement is now described in the revised section 2.4.

Lines 636 - 638: The evolution of LSMs to Land Models is important to note. This is still a developing area. It would be useful to note what aspects of water management and water use are likely to be included in these models: irrigation uses? Operations of reservoirs? Industrial water use? Domestic water use? More detail and a reference or two would strengthen this discussion.

Response 44 – GEWEX aspires to address or include all of these influences but the focus is first on irrigation. This point is now implicit in the text lines 637-644. Furthermore, the reviews by Nazemi and Wheeler and Blyth et al. called out provide more information and discussion. We feel we could not devote space to detail which anthropogenic water uses are being added to LSMs and with which strategies.

Line 678-681: Are there plans for how the study suggested by Zscheischler et al. (2018) will be advanced
Response 45: The explicit follow on is now taken up in the new light house activities of WCRP and thus can be viewed as cross core project efforts (as was the Grand Challenge project). This grand challenge has now ended. As noted previously though we have not devoted space to the details of how GEWEX connect to the past and future WCRP structures – this was merely a practical choice.

Line 684 - 694: Section 4.4: This section gives a summary of what has been done in linking the water and energy components but there is no clear conclusion about the progress. Do we know enough? Can we fully represent the interactions in models?; what still needs to be done? The section refers to projects with a lot of activity but does not provide an understanding of the state of knowledge in this important area.

Response 46: These are good questions and it was the intent of the discussion of section 4.5.3 to describe a few of the outstanding issues and other issues were noted later such as in the conclusions. We added more text to section 4.4. to address these questions more specifically (lines 689-702)

Line 698-736: Section 4.5.1. The first two paragraphs on high altitude precipitation areas have different styles and foci. However, given that they are both dealing with alpine precipitation consideration should be given to merging these two paragraphs.

Response 47: We adopted this suggested and merged them in ways we feel connects (see now the revised section 4.5.1)

Line 744: The emergence of km-scale modeling ... "comes with new challenges as noted above." (Where are the new challenges noted?)

Response 48: we cannot review all challenges but we do note some more at a high level as they relate to coupling the atmosphere models to for example hydrological models at these same km scales. Other challenges are noted wrt to how processes and couplings to components of the system not typically considered now will need to be revisited. These are amplified in section 4.1.2 and Fig 5 serves as a powerful, albeit, anecdotal illustration of this point. These challenges however will be topics of ongoing discussion and debate in the years ahead and outside the scope of the present article.

Line 790 - 809: The write-up does not address the question of how the temporal scale of models should change as the spatial scale of models comes down to 1 km resolutions. Similarly the effects of one-km models on the vertical resolution for the atmospheric models will need to be considered. Some comment would be helpful. The idea of constraints may be a useful approach for addressing the water use issue perhaps similarly to its use on the energy "imbalance" issue. Do the authors have any comments on approaches in one area that could also be applied in other areas?

Response 49: Again, as above, we cannot within the scope of the article delve into these matter with any depth other than to underscore as we have done that simply going to finer resolution is not enough and more needs to be considered (lines 582-585).

Line 833: This figure would make more sense if everyone from the world was meeting their water needs using water from the Amazon River but of course that is not possible. Why not show the growing use against the average total annual runoff for the world as reported by GRDC so a GEWEX product is being used?

Response 50: GRDC regrettably does not provide to the total freshwater discharge into the ocean. It does not include enough stations close to the estuaries and many rivers are not gauged. We can work with Dai & Trenberth's estimate of the total river discharge : $37288 \pm 688 \text{ km}^3/\text{y}$. It can be readily seen in figure 7 that this number is outside of the scale. The Amazon is the largest river, but it is only a fraction of the total runoff.

Line 854: The linkages between the goals statement and the sub goal is not always clear. How does subgoal 3 on precipitation extremes tie into goal GS1. It sounds like it links better with GS3.

Line 862: If goal 2 is intended to integrate carbon into GEWEX studies why is carbon not mentioned under item GS2.2 when flux towers frequently provide good CO₂ data along with fluxes of heat and moisture. Also for this goal under point 3 "large scale circulation controls of the water energy and carbon fluxes will be undertaken." Will this work be done alone or together with CLIVAR which has the remit for global circulation studies and the slower atmospheric processes,

Line 873: Under GS3 why is the emphasis on greenhouse warming rather than climate change which better represents the problem of extremes. Other anthropogenic forcing could include changing water use, effects of solar energy parks on local albedo, etc. Will these surface forcings and their possible effects on the water and energy cycles be considered as part of this issue?

Response 51: These are all legitimate questions but the purpose and scope of this was to introduce these goals only – other documentation not yet written will address the sorts of questions raised here.

Line 905;(which sounds like a statement of faith) "New observations ... will reveal new understanding of processes" ...This statement would benefit from an explanation clarifying where this new understanding is likely to come from.

Response 52: while this is true at face value we do offer some sense for what might be expected in the sentences that immediately follow and thus is not just based on hope. We just don't have space to elaborate.

Line 935: "benefits that are only now becoming apparent" What benefits are these?

Response 53: Those relating to all the improvements in representing water cycle processes on the km scale as described in sidebar 2.

Line 939: the statement that "current representations are not valid" sounds rather harsh for an article going to the broad BAMS audience. They are valid for the type of models being used and the data available which required substantial parametrization. It is less a matter of the model being invalid but rather the new data allowing the model to be improved making the original model obsolete.

Response 54: Rather than be categorical, we state now 'may not be valid' –its not necessarily the model per se but assumption about the parameterizations that have questionable validity

Line 956: Close collaboration between operational weather and hydrologic services has been one of the important principles of GEWEX since the days of GCIP. Is this going to be a new level of collaboration or will there be a special initiative to formulate society needs based on these interactions. More detail on what is new in this approach should be provided.

Response 55: We added 'Continued' to underscore the point this collaboration has and will continue to be an important ingredient in GEWEX success rather than make it sound like a new thing - line 955

Line 958: Is the reference about resources a reference to changing natural resources (such as water) or changing financial resources or research infrastructure (experts and computers)?

Response 56: Actually all of the above

Line 959 - 962: GEWEX interaction with iLEAPS is long standing. How is the activity referred to here different from those that have taken place in the past (e.g., joint iLEAPs - GEWEX conference in c.2006?)

Response 57:- There has been a historical linkage to iLEAPS but we don't choose to dwell on this rather to focus on the direction going forward and explicitly on the water/carbon cycle coupling over continents that will require the expertise of the groups in land surface modelling community represented by GLASS.

Line 969: the statement "who have chaired the SSC before us..." raises two questions - Is the SSG now the SSC? Also, since the only link between the co-authors and the SSG co-chairs is G. Stephens, it would be useful to reformulate this so that it is clear he is speaking for himself and not for all the authors of the paper. It may be worth noting the support by NASA for all (?) the SSG co-chairs as well as the IGPO for the past 30 years. (Truth spoken, this support is likely one of the main contributors to the program's longevity)

Response 58: It was always SSG for GEWEX so this reference to committee has been fixed. Peter v, one of the principal authors has also linked to all other chairs except the M. Chahine...so this isnt just a reflection of one author. The three co-chairs who have presided over the SSG over the last 8 years are the three first authors of the paper. However, we recognize many more need acknowledgement and now attempt to do so. Furthermore all authors have made important contributions to this and at least agree with the sentiment that past chairs be acknowledged – such an acknowledge is not just a reflection of one (or two) authors as well state. We have added due acknowledgments of agencies who have supported GEWEX over the years.

Under Matured Data sets:

Is the data from ISCCP still available and, if so, how can it be obtained?

Response 59: it is operational under NOAA NESDIS and the research component is (as it is continued under ISCCP-NG) is indeed fully available and will be in the future as ISCCP-NG gets underway. The way ISCCP-NG is accessed however will likely be very different than the traditional ISCCP. This is still work in progress.

Figure SB1: This figure is "OK" but it would be better if the listing of times was not so random (1969, 1990's, 2010's, 2020's). Could the authors modify the figure to make the time line more uniform.

Line 1095: It would be helpful; to know where the field measurements were taken that contributed to improvements in the LES and CRM models.

Response 60: SB2 has been revised and changes specifically related to LES responding to this comment is now contained in the cited reference of Seibesma et al

Line 1120: What are SRM capabilities?

Reference 61: reference to SRMs is removed in the re-write and the properties of CRMs are now, we believe, presented in a better way.

Line 1127: ...underpin society's ability to make decisions for implementing

Small typos and glitches to fix:

Line 113: no ",," after GEWEX within the parenthesis.

Line 182: Write out the name for WGRF since this is the first mention.

Line 185: In the past GHP was often referred to as the GEWEX Hydrometeorology Panel to keep it distinct from the individual Regional Hydroclimate Projects. Is there a reason for preferring the name GEWEX Hydrometeorology Projects in this report? (According to Line 515 even the JSC uses the term Panel for GRP, GMPP, GHP, etc.)

Line 187: GRDC is not listed in the list of acronyms.

Line 224: "LSMs" is missing from the list of acronyms

Lines 228, 232, 234: Some words can be eliminated by just using the acronyms for those names where their acronyms have already been defined (CSEs, PILPS, and WGNE) and do not need to be spelled out multiple times.

Lines 245, 246: H, LE, and Rn are missing from the list of acronyms.

Line 252: GSWP is missing from the list of acronyms.

Line 242, 244: The names of stations in Figure 2 are very small and difficult to read. The figure size should be enlarged.

Line 315: The legend says the initial 5 CSEs are included with the RHPs but the GCIP area does not show in Figure 3b. Either the Mississippi Basin should be added or the legend should be changed.

Line 327: For the layperson who reads BAMS it would be useful to include the definition of CloudSat in the acronyms.

Line 345: What is the problem that the authors are referring to with the reference to the "long awaited" EOS satellites. Is this a criticism of the government for being too slow in their decision making?

Line 402-403: Observations do not have processes within them. If I understand what the author is trying to say a more accurate way of expressing this is to say that observations for many fundamental processes were not available.

Line 410: ..synthesis of models and observations

Line 417: CEOP is missing from the list of acronyms

Line 417-419: Reference is made to two main science themes but the way the sentence is written it sounds like only one theme. Suggest the wording be changed to ... water and energy cycles and the impacts of monsoon systems on land processes, (If this is not correct please indicate what the two themes are).

Line 425 and 426: BALTEX and AMMA have both been defined so there is no need to repeat their full names.

Line 426: What is the full name for CLARISA-LPB? It is missing from the list of acronyms.

Line 455: Gables aims to improve the understanding

Line 458: "more difficult configurations" - in what sense are they more difficult configurations?

Line 472-48: In order to improve the accessibility of the article the reviewer suggests that the authors provide a little explanation for the following terms:

Line 472: constraint radiation

Line 480: soil wetness and its relationship to soil moisture

Line 520: GAPP is missing from the list of acronyms.

Line 540: INTENSE is not included in the list of acronyms.

Line 552: (Pomeroy and Marks, 2021). The reference listing gives a date of 2015 for Pomeroy and Marks. Which is correct?

Line 699-700: The IPCC report does not seem to be included in the references,

Line 771: ... continues to be essential for assessing....

Line 800: While Ocean currents are important and presumably will be considered by CLIVAR, for GEWEX it

will be more important to know how the 1-KM world will affect the modeling of soil moisture and the forcing on the atmosphere.

Line 804: Global and regional climate impacts (delete the first climate as it is repeated twice in the space of four words.)

Line 805: what is the definition of dangerous climate change?

Line 806: ... topic of convection not only in the context...

Line 808: Resolving convection is essential(drop the "an")

Line 809 (Suggestion) water resources and for protection from flash flooding under climate change.

Line 838: different pressures, and to make progress... (drop "in an attempt")

Line 845: What does GS refer to? Is this WCRP nomenclature?

Line 863: ABL is not mentioned in the list of acronyms,

Line 883: continental water cycles

Line 897: "As WCRP undergoes its reorganization." is a bit of a teaser. Like this reviewer many BAMS readers may not know what reorganization this refers to. More detail is needed. What aspect of the reorganizations do the authors have in mind?

Line 908: Why not use the acronym for the European Space Agency (ESA) as has been done for NASA.

Line 1183: Macdonald et al., 2016 is not included in the references.

Issues with the Acronym List:

The following acronyms which appear in the text are missing from this list: ABL, CEOP, CloudSat, CRM, ET, GCIP, GDAP, GRDC, NAS, GS1 (?), GSWP, INTENSE, LAI, LPB, LSMs, LWE, MODIS, NASA, RT, SRM.

Issues with References:

Why are some complete references underlined? Are they hyperlinked?

References from the reference list that are not included in the text:

Chaney et al. (2016)

Stephens et al. (2014)

Wang et al. (2019)

Reference with years missing or years that don't match the text:

Line 552: Pomeroy and Marks, Date of publication in the manuscript does not match the date in the references.

Line 1666-1667: Stevens, M.B. Date missing

References that are out of order:

Kajikawa, Y.

Prein, A.F.

Response 62: we have addressed these minor issues directly in revision

General Suggestions:

1. The links of GEWEX with other WCRP projects is a missed opportunity and gap in the paper. The links with CLIC activities in the precipitation section would be worth noting. Also the links with CLIVAR and work related to monsoons would be important to note. It would also be useful to mention the evolving relationship GEWEX had with IGBP and possibly with Future Earth.

Response 63 : while we agree, we chose to limit discussion on linkages (see also response above)

2. It seems worth mentioning that soil moisture/ precipitation linkages are long-standing issue in GEWEX. The CSEs in Phase 1 placed significant emphasis on exploring the role of soil moisture in the occurrence of precipitation. The assimilation of precipitation directly into models was a hallmark of the Regional Reanalysis led by NCEP using the Eta model in the early 2000s. Was any of this work foundational for the effects of the effort on precipitation prediction in Phase III?

Response 64: Soil moisture is mentioned across all phases

3. There are some GEWEX projects that were not referred to in the article. Whatever happened to GVap? What happened to Seaflux and GAP? Some other project acronyms that show up on GEWEX slides include AsiaPEX, GWF, MRB, NEESPI, OzeWEX, and TPE. Some of these may not be uniquely GEWEX projects but GEWEX would take some ownership for them and therefore they are entitled to a place in GEWEX History (even if just by name).

Response 65: GVap was mentioned (line 173), seaflux is now added and GAP is called out implicitly in line 272. The RHPs are called out on Figure 3

4. If it is too difficult to reduce the word count effectively, consideration could be given to having a Part A and a Part B by breaking the article into two articles.

Response 66: We are going to propose this to the editor- on the proposal to BAMS we did call out the length as not fitting general guidelines – the proposal was accepted

5. One of the hallmarks of a GEWEX technical document is a long list of acronyms but to make this article more reader-friendly the acronyms could be reduced by using them only when a particular name or variable is used more than three times in the article otherwise write the name out in full when used. This probably should be left for advice from the BAMS editor.

In compliance with data protection regulations, you may request that we remove your personal registration details at any time. (Use the following

URL: <https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.editorialmanager.com%2Fbams%2Flogin.asp%3Fa%3Dr&data=05%7C01%7Cstephens%40atmos.colostate.edu%7C73484c635d144ce0999608da5f90be83%7Cafb58802ff7a4bb1ab21367ff2ecfc8b%7C0%7C0%7C637927372533603235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IkhWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C&data=Ik6E1SZHOkqQM%2BxAyQefY0xsek7mfbQzIKLmpJwBLbE%3D&reserved=0>). Please contact the publication office if you have any questions.












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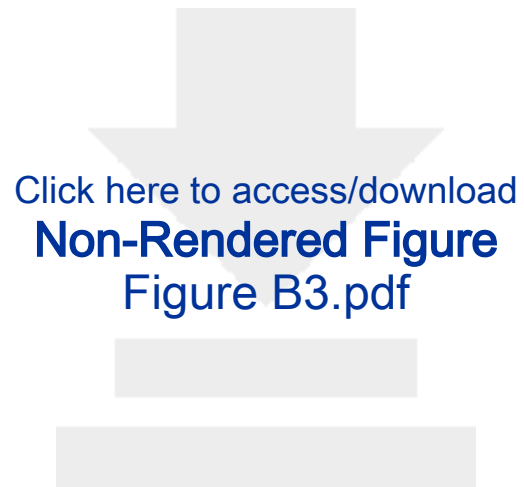
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