

## Determining the Uncertainty of Evaporation from Reservoir by Considering the Climate Change Conditions (Case Study: Dez Dam Reservoir)

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### Abstract

Human activities have led to increased greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere area and it caused internal climate changes. These influences are effective on the climate parameters, which increases the temperature rate and, consequently, elevates the rate of evaporation from the free surfaces. The reservoirs of dams are influenced directly by this temperature rise as the main place of water storage, causing the annual loss of a large amount of water in them due to the evaporation phenomenon. In this research, the effect of climate change on the evaporation from Dez dam reservoir was studied considering the uncertainty of climate change scenarios. Also, the changes occurring in temperature ranges and evaporation rates in future periods were examined under climate change scenarios. The results suggested that in the coming period of 2020-2044, the annual evaporation rate will increase in all three greenhouse gas emissions scenarios, and with a probability of occurrence of 90%, the highest evaporation rate would occur in May under the A1 scenario.

**Keywords:** Evaporation, Climate Change, Climate Change Scenarios, Uncertainty, Dez Dam.

Received: 26 July 2018; Accepted: 12 December 2019

### 1. Introduction

Global warming caused by human activities (greenhouse gas emissions) has caused changes outside the range of internal climate variations in different climatic parameters such as temperature, precipitation, air humidity and solar radiation. The Fourth Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [1] shows that the rise of temperature in the late

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20th century has intensified in most regions. This trend is expected to continue in the 21st century. The increase in the global temperature due to climate changes has been confirmed between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Celsius by 2100 [2]; therefore, this hypothesis can be true that the evaporation rate will increase in the future climate change conditions. In a study focusing on the data and information using the Magic software, Montazeri and Fahmi [3] analyzed the results obtained in different scenarios at the time horizon up to 2100. The results of climate change scenarios indicated that as the temperature rises, the evaporation will increase in most river basins throughout the year. An increase in temperature of 2 to 6 degrees Celsius causes an increase of 6% to 12% in the evaporation rate. Chattopadhyay and Hulme [4] studied the evaporation under the recent conditions and future climate changes. According to available data from recent years, it was found that the rate of evaporation has reduced; however, considering the three climate change models, it was revealed that the amount of evaporation will increase in the future. Dankers and Christensen [5] investigated the effect of climate changes on evaporation rate in the area of Tana Basin in the northern Finland and Norway. They estimated the evaporation rates due to the spatial distribution model of water balance and using the regional climate models and climate change scenarios related to the late of this century. The results showed that the evaporation rate increases during the mentioned period. Considering the effects of climate change on the Sparkling Lake in North Wisconsin in the United States, Lenters et al. [6] estimated the evaporation rate from the lake using the energy balance method through analyzing a 10-year data. The results indicated that the average evaporation rate in the studied period has had a change rate of 3.1 mm with a deviation coefficient of 25%. Donohue et al. [7] evaluated 5 formulas for estimating the potential evaporation rate under the climate change conditions. In this study, the Penman's formula presented the best value of evaporation potential rate compared to other methods. Finally, due to climate changes, it was seen that the temperature is rising followed by an increased rate of evaporation. Helfer et al. [8] evaluated the effect of climate change on the rates of temperature and evaporation from the surface of the Vinewell large reservoir in Australia for two periods, from 2030 to 2050 and from 2070 to 2090. According to the results, the surface temperature in the coming first and second periods compared to the base period from 1990 to 2010 will rise from 20.4 to 21.5 and 23.2 degrees Celsius, respectively. The evaporation rate from this reservoir will also increase by 15% in maximum rate. Yang and Yang [9] investigated the climate parameters affecting the evaporation pan rate under the conditions of climate change. In this research, the meteorological data were used from 54 stations in China from 1961 to 2001. The results suggested that the evaporation rate from the evaporation pan was 1.8% more for every decade, and the temperature rate increases by an average of 0.27 per decade. Wu et al. [10] assessed the quantitative effects of climate change and human activities in the SW basin in China. The results suggested that the evaporation rate would increase in the next period. Reshmidevi et al. [11] estimated the effects of climate change on the waterfall of the Malaprabha Basin in India. One of the results indicated an increase in the evaporation rate during the period of 2081-2100. No comprehensive study has been done in the Middle East and Iran regarding the effects of climate change on the evaporation rate from water reservoirs. Therefore, the aim of this study is to estimate the rate of evaporation from the Dez dam reservoir as one of the largest reservoirs in Iran for the incoming periods under climate change. By considering AOGCMs based on greenhouse gas emission scenarios of A1B, A2, and B1, including a total of 27 scenarios of climate change.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Area of study

Dez dam reservoir located in Khuzestan province, has been constructed in 1961 at 25 km from Dezful city on the Dez River. The reservoir volume of Dez dam is about 3500 million cubic meters with a height of 203 meters [12]. The area of the basin is 17430 km<sup>2</sup> with a length of 515 km [13]. Three important goals of this dam included the water supply for agricultural uses for 120,000 hectares of crop lands, the generation of 520 MWH of hydroelectric power, flood control and preventing the seasonal flooding of the Dez River. The power plant of this dam is responsible for regulating the country's (Iran) electricity frequency. Hence, the role of this dam and the need for permanent and continuous monitoring and supervision of its power plant becomes more evident than ever [12]. The study area is shown in Fig. 1.

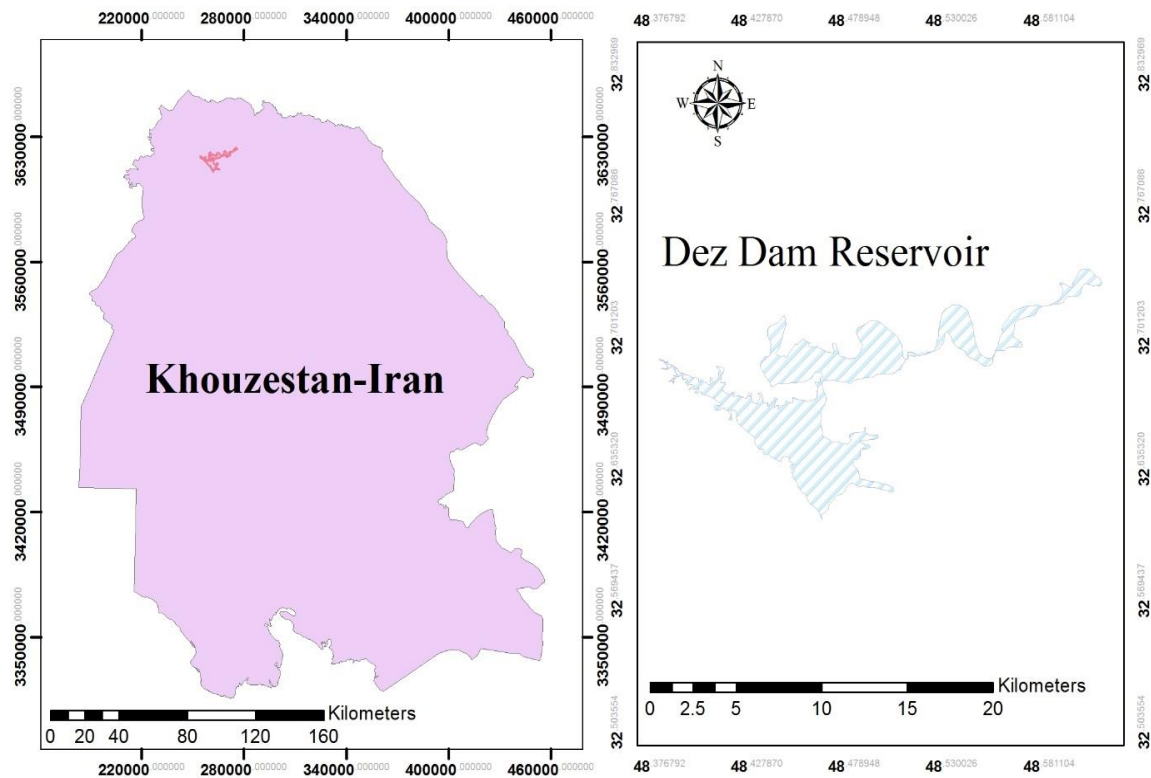


Figure 1. Study area

To determine evaporation, the best equation for estimating the evaporation rate from the water are Hamoun, Jensen-Hayes, Macking, Mayer, Rover, Priestley-Taylor, DeBruin-Kejiman and Penman methods that approaches were compared with the Energy Budget Method as the reference method [14]. The comparison results indicated that in the study area the best formula for estimating evaporation rate is the Priestley-Taylor equation [15]. This method estimates the rate of evaporation merely based on the radiation and the stored heat [15, 16].

$$E = 1.26(\Delta/(\Delta + \gamma)) (R_{net} - S)/\lambda \quad (1)$$

$$R_{net} = \sum_{i=1}^n [(1 - \alpha_{sw})r_{swd}(i) + (1 - \alpha_{lw})r_{lwd}(i) - r_{lwu}(i)] \quad (2)$$

$$S = S_2 - S_1 = \rho_w c_w / a_{s2} \sum_{j=1}^{m_2} T_2(j) a_2(j) Z_2(j) - \rho_w c_w / a_{s1} \sum_{j=1}^{m_1} T_1(j) a_1(j) Z_1(j) \quad (3)$$

$$(\Delta/(\Delta + \gamma)) = 0.439 + 0.01124 T_a \quad (4)$$

In the above relations,

E: Evaporation rate

*R<sub>net</sub>*: Net radiation

S: Change in the heat storage in the reservoir

$\lambda$ : Latent heat of evaporation

$\alpha_{sw}$ : Short wavelength reflection from water, with a value of 0.07

*r<sub>swd</sub>*: Downward daily short wavelength

$\alpha_{lw}$ : Long wavelength reflection with a value of 0.03,

*r<sub>lwd</sub>*: Downward daily long wavelength

*r<sub>lwu</sub>*: Upward daily long wavelength

$\rho_w$ : Density of water

*c<sub>w</sub>*: Water specific heat capacity

*a<sub>s</sub>*: Surface area of the water in the primary and secondary periods

T: Water temperature in the intended period and depth

*a*: Area of water in the intended period and depth

Z: Layer thickness of the in the considered period

*T<sub>a</sub>*: Air temperature

More details are given in the studies of Gorjzade et al. [15], YAO [16] and Winter et al. [17].

### 3. Climate Change

The IPCC has examined the future of the world in terms of distribution scenarios, considering the effects of climate change varied according to each of them. Thus, the increase rate of CO<sub>2</sub> will rise in the incoming course according to the IPCC report. The rates of increase in 2050 under three scenarios of A1B, A2, and B1 are as the table below. It should be explained that in the implemented models for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), the Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) scenarios were defined, which indicate the radiation driving [19]. Among them, the RCP 2.6 and RCP 8.5 scenarios show low emissions and radiation driving scenarios (almost consistent with scenario B1) and the high emissions and radiation driving scenarios (roughly consistent with scenarios A1 and A2), respectively. The RCP 4.5 and RCP 6 scenarios are also moderate model [18].

Table 1- CO<sub>2</sub>\* increase rate in 2050

emissions scenarios	A1B	A2	B1
Year 2050	500	500	450

\*Numbers are in terms of PPMV.

In this research, the output of 10 general atmosphere-ocean circulation models under three different greenhouse gas emission scenarios were used, which in total include 27 different climatic scenarios.

The general circulation models are capable of simulating the climatic system by considering most of the processes on a global or continental scale to grid the atmosphere in three spatial directions and do the calculations at different time intervals in the nodes Masah Bavani and Morid [20]. The outputs of AOGCMs have a large spatial scale (250 to 600 km) [21], which cannot be used in studies on examining the effects of climate change [22, 23]. The micro-scaling illustrates the relationship between the output of the AOGCMs and observational data from meteorological stations [22, 24, 25]. In fact, the outputs of the general circulation models are changed by micro-scaling methods in such a way that the climate changes caused by the warming of the air can be predicted and examined on a regional scale [26]. The micro-scaling methods developed due to global climate models on a regional scale are categorized into two general dynamic and statistical micro-scaling groups. The statistical micro-scaling methods are also divided into three categories based on climatic patterns, meteorological generators approaches and the regression method [27]. In this research, the LARS-WG model was used to micro-scale the data. This model is one of the most commonly used micro-scaling methods employed in various studies (e.g., Hashmi et al. [30] Qian et al. [29] and Semenov and Barrow [28]). LARS-WG is one of the meteorological generators type. Meteorological generators are models reflecting the statistical distributions in a local climatic variable by using the mean and variance of the data. In fact, these models are random and complex generators, which outputs are meteorological data on a daily basis. The basis of this model for modeling includes the duration of dry and wet periods, daily precipitation, solar radiation series and quasi-experimental distribution [31, 32]. After calibrating the meteorological station parameters by the weather observed data at the same station, The LARS-WG model will be able to simulate the daily weather time series, which are statistically similar to the observed climate conditions. Then, through correcting the parameters by using the estimated climate change by atmosphere-ocean general circulation models, it can generate daily weather time series in the future periods [33]. In fact, the reason for choosing the LARS-WG model in this research was to model dry and wet periods, which makes it work better in estimating the precipitation parameter with having value only in the wet season and zero value on other days of the year. For micro-scaling the general atmosphere-ocean circulation models, using the LARS-WG model, the model calibration and verification were first performed (For more information see Manual et al. [31]). To this end, the daily observational data were studied, including precipitation rate and minimum and maximum temperatures collected from stations in the area. In its reports, the Pitari et al. [34] suggested the 1961-1990 period or 1971-2000 period as a desirable basic period for evaluating the climate change. In stations located in the region, due to complete information, the period of 1985-2009 was selected as the basic time. The station located at the Dez Dam site, belong to Khuzestan Water and Power Organization, was selected for micro-scaling during the statistical period.

After preparing the daily data for the period of 1985-2009 by the LARS-WG model input format, 27 different climate scenarios were made by using the output of the general circulation models for the next period of 2020-2044. Then, using these scenarios, the micro-scaling was

performed for each station individually.

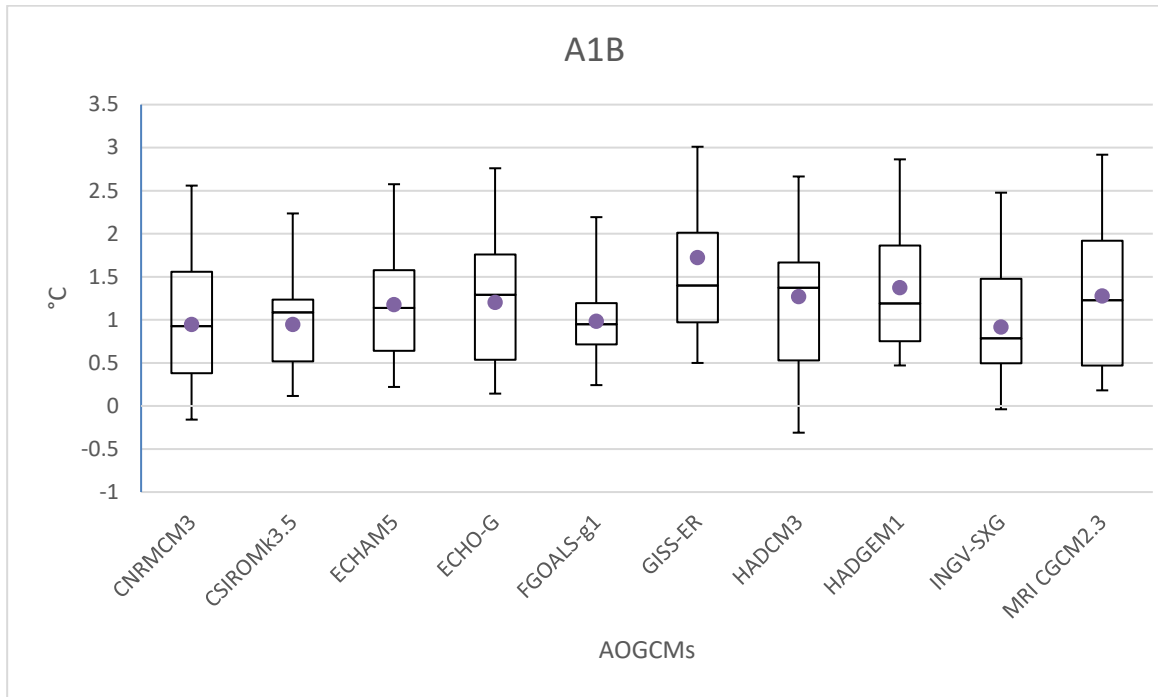
Each of the AOGCMs represents a climatic scenario under any distribution scenario. Since the outputs of these models are different, the consequences of climate change in the future cannot be definitely predicted [22, 35]. Therefore, a question is always raised that which climate scenario will occur in the future by what a probability. To examine the uncertainties, the parametric and non-parametric methods are commonly used. Both methods estimate a probability density function (PDF) for a random variable [35]. This random variable can be the precipitation rate parameter or the temperature parameter obtained from climate change scenarios related to the output of the AOGCMs. By doing so, the probability of occurrence of different scenarios of climate change will be outlined in the future. In a parametric method, it is assumed that the data are from a probability distribution family like normal with unknown parameters of  $\mu$  (mean) and  $\sigma^2$  (variance). In this case, the goal is to estimate the mean and variance parameters based on the data. In the nonparametric estimation, the density function of "f" is unknown. In this case, the data itself should determine the f-estimation [22]. In this research, to investigate the uncertainties, the nonparametric method was preferred to the parametric methods due to the low number of data. The kernel estimator, a nonparametric method, was also used. As the parameters of this distribution are unknown, these distributions are called nonparametric. The kernel estimator, with the core k, usually a symmetric density function such as Gaussian density, is defined as follows:

$$\hat{f}(x) = 1/nh \sum_{i=1}^n K(x - X_i)/h \quad (5)$$

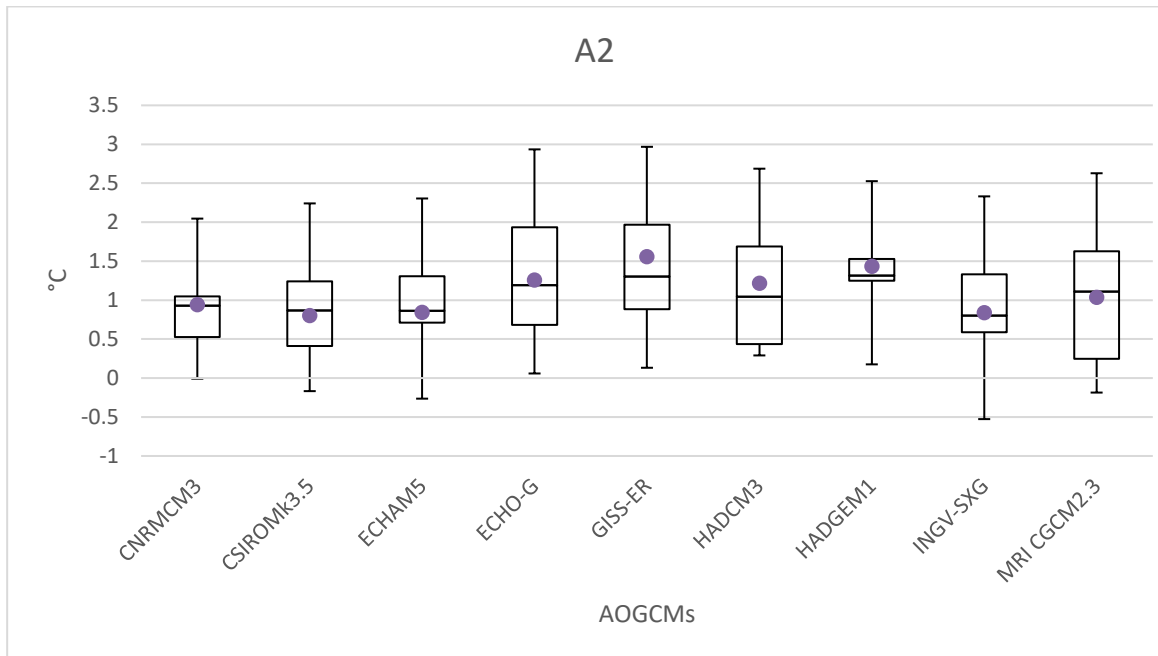
Where, h, denotes window size or bandwidth, and its amount determines the level of smoothing in the kernel estimation.

#### 4. Results & Discussion

The average temperature changes in the future relative to the base period are shown in Figs 2, 3 and 4 depending on the scenarios of distribution by considering the AOGCMs models. According to these Figs. which indicates the rare of temperature changes in the future period by considering climate change scenarios, it is determined that 9 scenarios predict a rise between 0.5 to 1 degree, 16 scenarios an increase between 1 to 1.5 degrees and 2 scenarios an increase of more than 1.5 degrees. The highest increase in the mean temperature is belong to the GISS-ER model in the A1B scenario, while the highest temperature reduction in average is related to the HADCM3 model in the B1 scenario. This result is consistent with the results presented by the IPCC. Also, according to Figs. 5, 6 and 7, indicating the evaporation changes rate in the future compared to the base period, it can be seen that 2 scenarios show evaporation changes less than zero, 9 scenarios between 0 to 1.5 mm, 14 scenarios between 1.5 to 3 mm and 2 scenarios show an increase of more than 3 millimeters. Thus, the GISS-ER-A1B scenario shows the highest evaporation rise rate, while the CSIROmk3.5-A1B scenario indicates the highest evaporation rate. The amounts of temperature and evaporation changes caused according to the scenarios of the climate change are given in Figures 2 to 7.

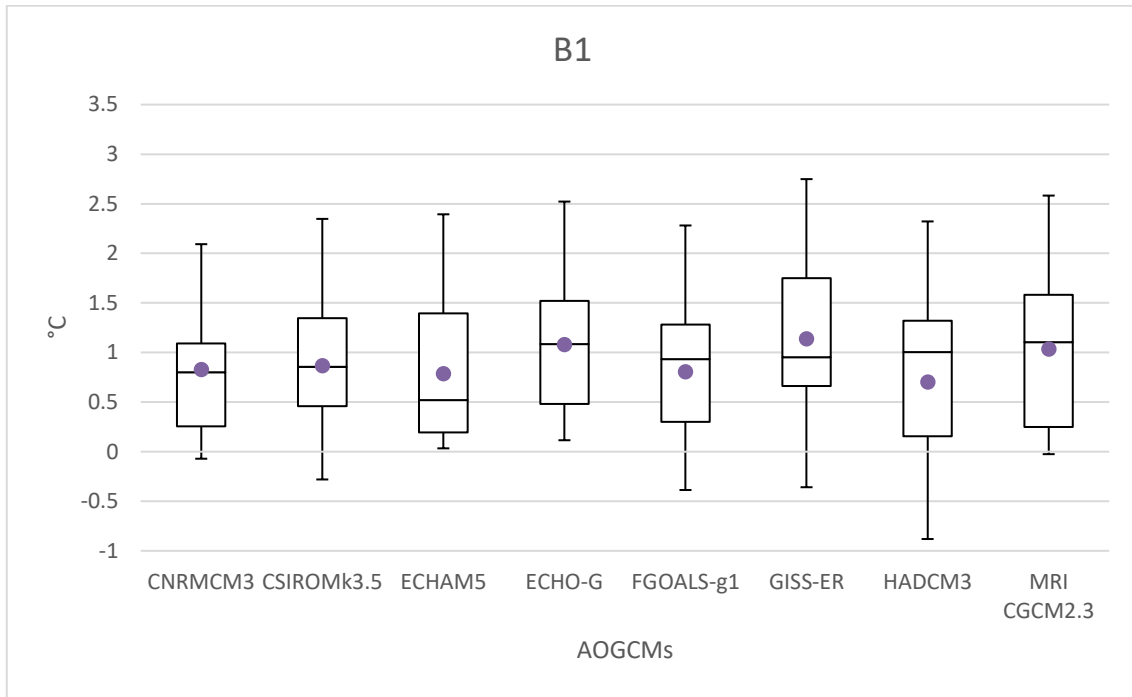


**Figure 2. Temperature variations under the future climate change models by considering the A1B emission scenario.**

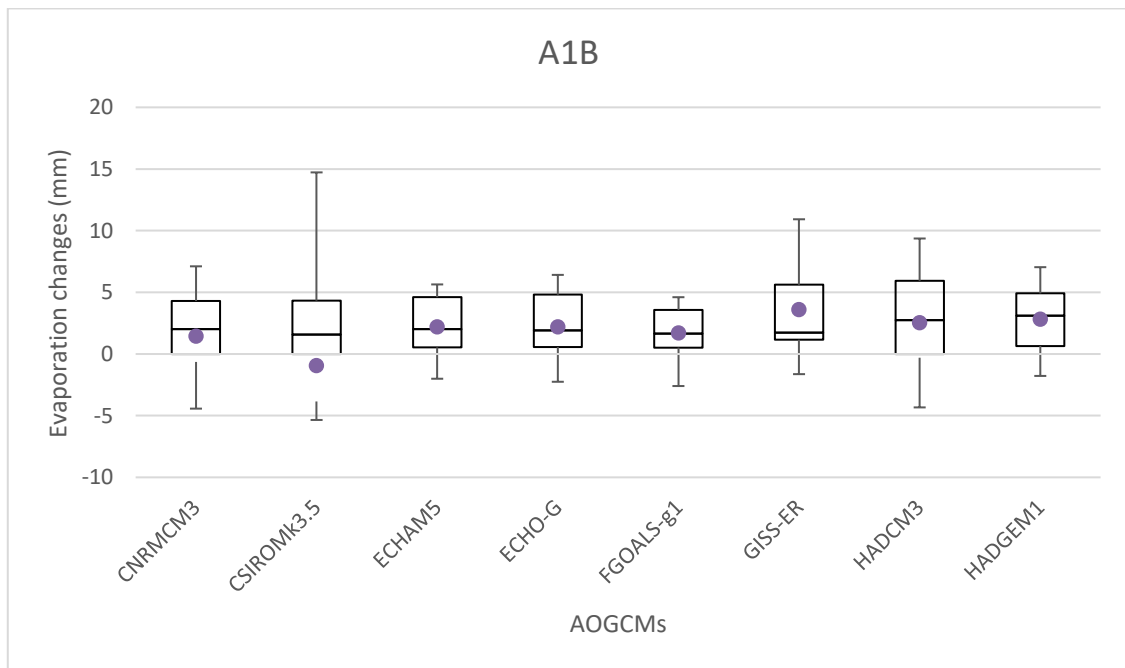


**Figure 3. Temperature variations under the future climate change models by considering the A2 emission scenario**



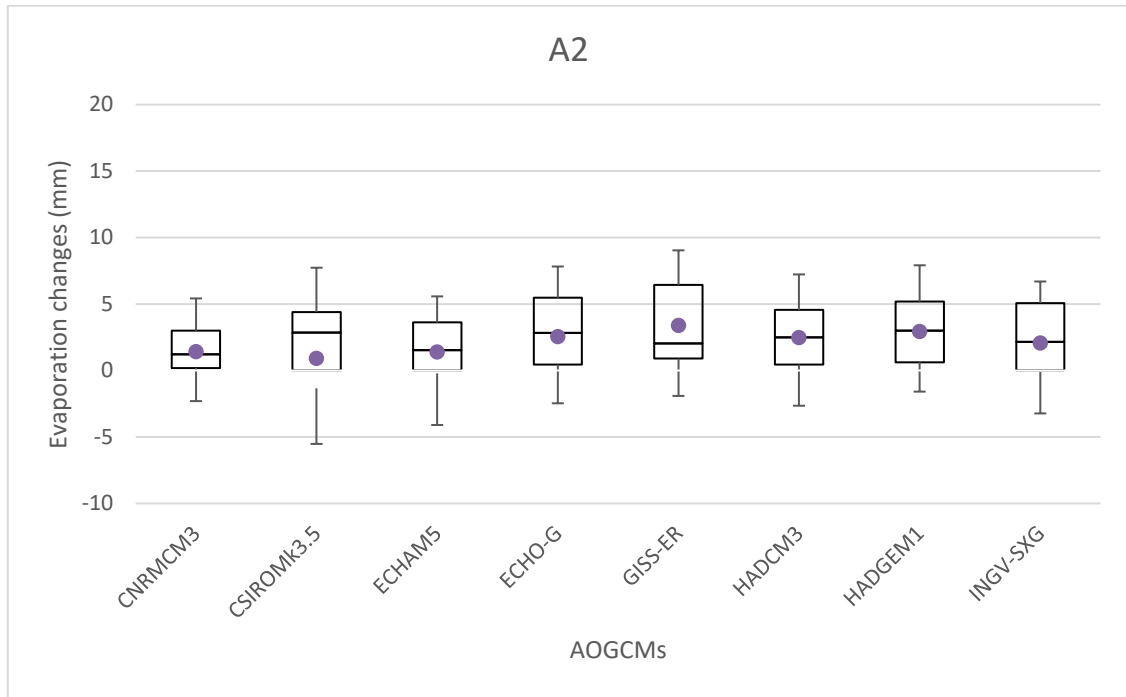


**Figure 4. Temperature variations under the future climate change models by considering the B1 emission scenario**

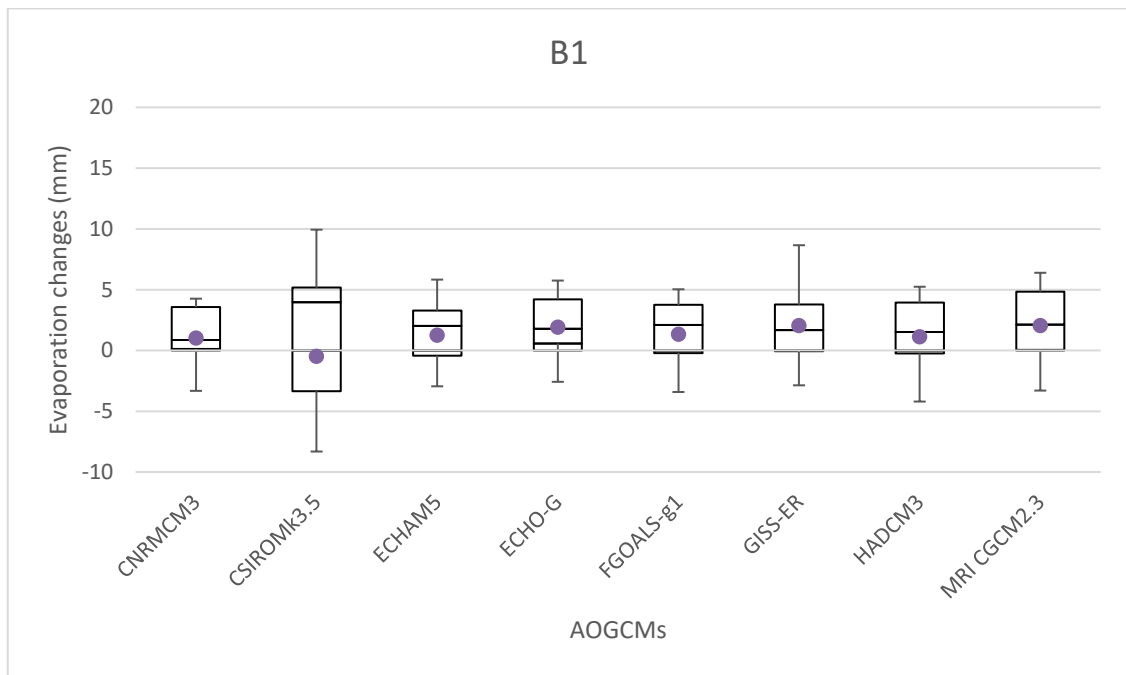


**Figure 5. Evaporation variations under the future climate change models by considering the A1B emission scenario**





**Figure 6. Evaporation variations the under future climate change models by considering the A2 emission scenario**



**Figure 7. Evaporation variations the under future climate change models by considering the B1 emission scenario**

As shown in the tables 2, the evaporation rate increases in the future in all models except for the models CSIROmk3.5-A1B and CSIROmk3.5-B1. With increased evaporation rate, the volume of the reservoir decreases, which affects the balance equation of the reservoir and reduces the hydropower production rate. This means with lower water level inside the reservoir, the production of electricity will reduce, which may affect on lives. In addition, the amount of water released for agriculture will decrease followed by a need for a change in the pattern of cultivation. This can also cause some losses in the industry sector. Also, in the environmental section, some changes will probably occur in demand for water due to increased salinity subsequent to increased evaporation rate.

The scenarios A1B and A2 have relatively similar results, but the results under scenario B1 show lower variations in the evaporation rates in the upcoming period.

According to the report provided by IPCC [34], the CO<sub>2</sub> emission level in the emission scenario A1B is more than the A2 scenario, and in the scenario A2 more than the B1 scenario. It was also found that the estimated evaporation rate was consistent with the results of this study, suggesting that the air temperature increases with increasing greenhouse gases followed by an increase in the evaporation rate.

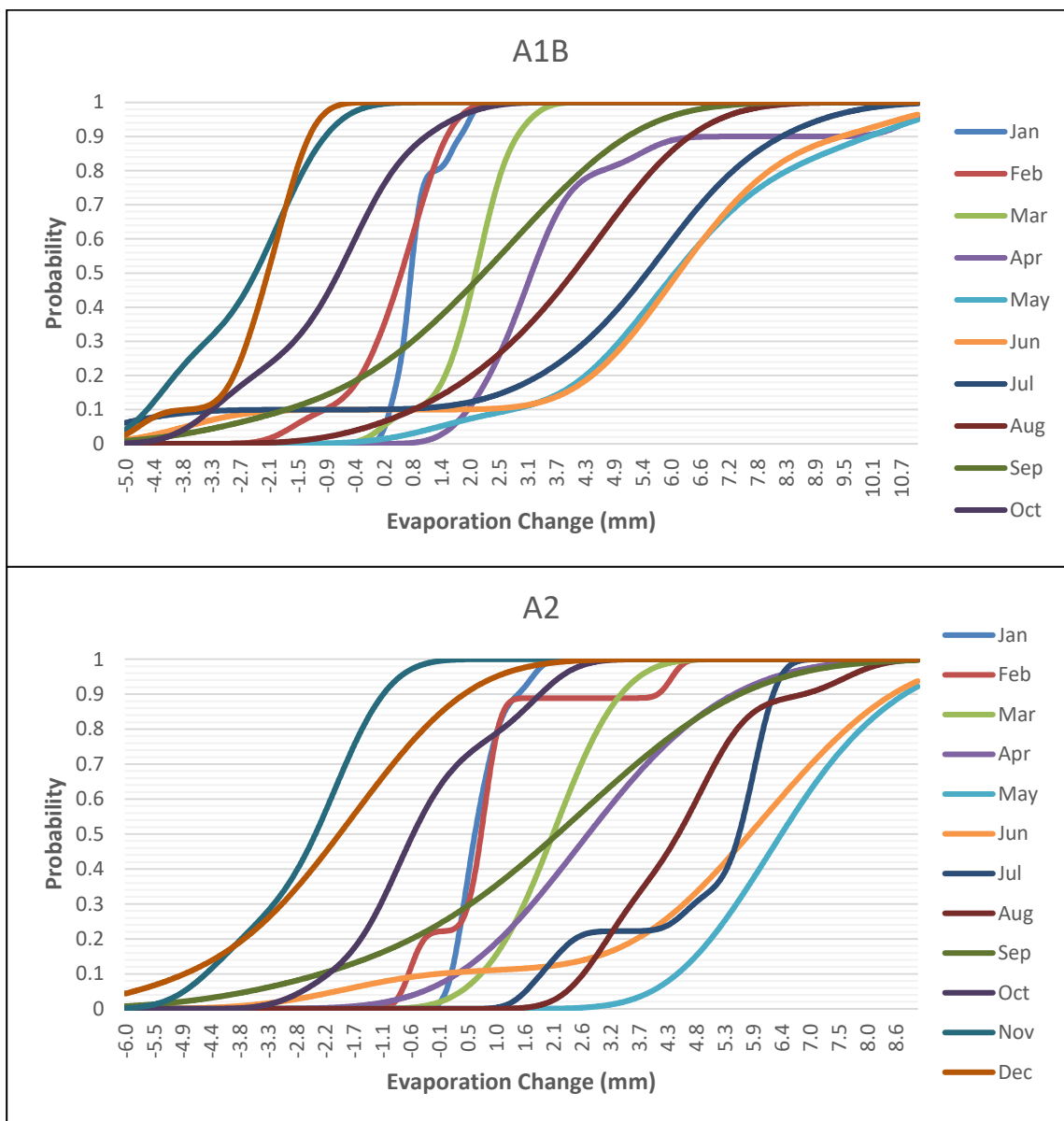
Given Fig. 8 the distributions with a wide range suggest that the evaporation rates vary greatly in different days, which according to equation (6) represents the higher standard deviation (S). The greater the standard deviation, the greater the error and the lower confidence in the considered scenario. As can be seen in fig. 8, in the colder months of the year, such as January and February, there are fewer variations and lower uncertainties in all three scenarios and In other months, depending on the type of greenhouse gas emission scenario, uncertainty is different for example variation range of A1B and A2 greenhouse gas emission scenarios, as a result, they have higher uncertainties while scenario B2 has less uncertainty, this could be due to the nature of the B1 scenario; Scenarios A1B and A2 indicate more use of fossil fuels in the future period, while scenario B1 indicates a reduction in fossil fuel use in the future.

$$\bar{X} - Z(S/\sqrt{n}) < \mu < \bar{X} + Z(S/\sqrt{n}) \quad (6)$$

With regard to the following figures, which show the evaporation variations versus the probability of occurrence, the probability of occurrence and the risk level of temperature and evaporation changes can be studied at any level.

**Table 2- The rate of temperature variation and evaporation due to the change scenarios**

Climate Change Scenario		Temperature increase (Centigrade)	Evaporation increase (mm)
CNRMCM3	-A1B	0.95	1.46
CSIROMk3.5	-A1B	0.95	-0.95
FGOALS-g1	-A1B	0.98	1.70
INGV-SXG	-A1B	0.92	1.54
CNRMCM3	-A2	0.94	1.42
CSIROMk3.5	-A2	0.80	0.91
ECHAM5	-A2	0.84	1.39
INGV-SXG	-A2	0.84	2.07
CNRMCM3	-B1	0.83	1.02
CSIROMk3.5	-B1	0.87	-0.49
ECHAM5	-B1	0.78	1.24
FGOALS-g1	-B1	0.81	1.33
HADCM3	-B1	0.70	1.12
ECHAM5	-A1B	1.18	2.20
ECHO-G	-A1B	1.20	2.19
HADCM3	-A1B	1.27	2.54
HADGEM1	-A1B	1.37	2.81
MRI CGCM2.3	-A1B	1.28	2.72
ECHO-G	-A2	1.26	2.55
HADCM3	-A2	1.21	2.47
HADGEM1	-A2	1.44	2.93
MRI CGCM2.3	-A2	1.03	1.29
ECHO-G	-B1	1.08	1.91
GISS-ER	-B1	1.14	2.06
MRI CGCM2.3	-B1	1.03	2.06
GISS-ER	-A1B	1.72	3.60
GISS-ER	-A2	1.56	3.37



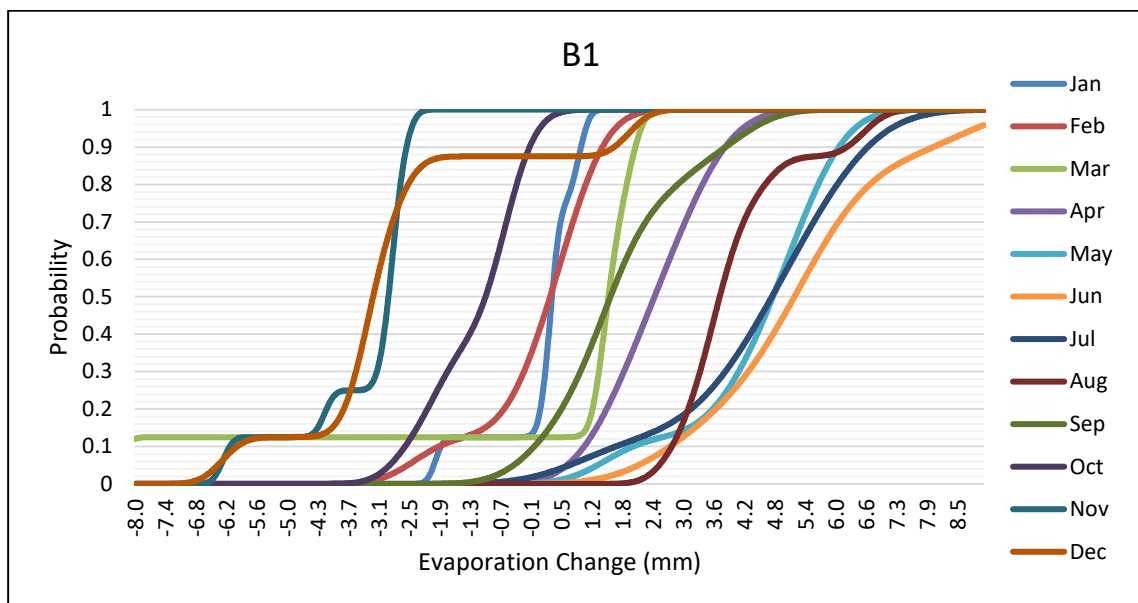


Figure 8. Uncertainty of the evaporation under climatic scenarios

Table 3- Determining the amount of monthly evaporation for future period by considering greenhouse gas emission scenarios

Month	Probability of 10%	Probability of 50%	Probability of 90%
<b>A1B Emission Scenario</b>			
Jan	0.36	0.77	1.77
Feb	-0.97	0.57	1.5
Mar	0.81	2.08	2.91
Apr	1.92	3.21	7.48
May	2.81	6.1	10
Jun	0.31	6.17	9.46
Jul	-1.14	5.54	8.6
Aug	-1.43	4.04	6.4
Sep	-1.74	2.24	5.15
Oct	-3.25	-0.7	1.07
Nov	-4.55	-2.37	-0.96
Dec	-3.75	-2.12	-1.29
<b>A2 Emission Scenario</b>			
Jan	0.17	0.62	1.44
Feb	-0.63	0.74	4.08
Mar	0.74	2.1	3.39

Apr	0.29	2.77	5.53
May	4.45	6.43	8.76
Jun	-0.08	5.82	8.53
Jul	1.87	5.62	6.27
Aug	2.67	4.48	6.84
Sep	-2.3	2.19	5.63
Oct	-2.15	-0.55	1.86
Nov	-4.47	-2.4	-1.11
Dec	-4.87	-1.94	0.42
<b>B1 Emission Scenario</b>			
Jan	-1.87	0.35	0.94
Feb	-1.91	0.32	1.37
Mar	-8.5	1.49	2.03
Apr	1	2.41	3.82
May	1.98	4.78	6.1
Jun	2.72	5.21	8
Jul	1.64	4.76	6.68
Aug	2.76	3.72	6.26
Sep	0	1.53	3.83
Oct	-2.59	-0.98	-0.09
Nov	-6.1	-2.92	-2.56
Dec	-5.95	-3.23	1.6

\* Negative numbers indicate a decrease in evaporation in future period.

Table 3 which results from Fig. 4, shows the probability of occurrence of evaporation changes for different months under greenhouse gas emission scenarios with three levels of 10, 50 and 90%. Considering the probability of occurrence of 10%, the maximum evaporation increase rate is related to May under scenario A2, while the highest evaporation reduction rate is in March under scenario B1. Hence, with the probability of occurrence of 50%, the highest increased evaporation rate is in June under scenario A2 and the highest reduction is related to December under scenario B1. Eventually, with 90% probability, the highest temperature rise is in May under scenario A1B and the highest temperature decrease occurs in November under scenario B1.

## 5. Conclusion

In this study, the evaporation rate in the future period was estimated for the next period of 2020-2044 relative to the base period of 1985-2009 by considering the scenarios of climate change. The results indicated that the evaporation rate estimated under scenarios A1B, A2, and B1 and all RCP scenarios in the upcoming period will show an increase in all seasons, except for the fall season in which we will have reduced evaporation rate. The annual evaporation rate increases in all three scenarios of greenhouse gas emissions in the next

period. The increase of evaporation is equal to 23.8 mm under the A1B scenario, 24.5 mm under A2 scenario and 15.4 mm under the scenario B1. As the surface area of the water is not available in the future period, by considering an average surface area of 60 km<sup>2</sup>, the volume of evaporated water under A1B, A2, and B1 scenarios will be respectively equal to 1.428, 1.47 and 0.924 million cubic meters, which become unavailable. This drop in the volume of the reservoir is also true under all RCP scenarios.

In addition, due to the calculated uncertainty, it was found that given the probability of occurrence of 10%, the greatest increase in evaporation is related to May under scenarios A2 and RCP 8.5, and the highest evaporation drop rate was observed in March under scenarios of B1 and RCP 2.6. Hence, with a probability of occurrence of 50%, the highest rise in the evaporation rate was observed in June under the scenarios A2 and RCP 8.5, while the highest evaporation reduction was seen in December under scenarios B1 and RCP 2.6. Finally, with the probability of occurrence of 90%, the highest increase in the evaporation rate was seen in May under the scenarios A1B and RCP 8.5, and the highest rate of evaporation reduction occurred in November under scenarios B1 and RCP 2.6.

Due to increasing evaporation in future periods and decreasing useful volume of water into the reservoir and water scarcity it is suggested to investigate the effects of climate change on Inlet runoff to dam reservoir, the rule curve and Water Allocation.

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