



# The Influence of Climate Change on the Hydraulic Heritage





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#### Abstract

The hydraulic heritage is a collection of building sites that combine work and social organization between human being and nature, showing the use that our ancestors have done for water resources. However, in recent decades there has been an accelerated loss of this cultural heritage due to the effects of climate change. This research analyzes the impacts caused by climate change on the hydraulic heritage, both in reducing the flow that goes through a network of acequias for irrigation and in physical appearance and disappearance of other cultural heritage (wells, dregs and chain well) sites. Moreover, problems of environmental degradation and sustainable development are increasingly linked to the protection and management of this landscape heritage. This work, in addition to its applicability in mind, examines the traditional landscape configuration, its historical and cultural legacy and the impact that climate change has caused on its hydraulic heritage.

Keywords: Hydraule Heritage. Climate Change. Cultural Heritage.

#### Introduction

The hydraulic heritage is a collection of building sites that combine work and social organization between human being and nature, showing the use that our ancestors have done for water resources. This resource is a set of integral elements of territorial units that are traditional landscapes, and having a high vulnerability, resulting from the loss of cultural heritage sites (Payano Almanzar, 2011; Vecco, 2010). The current situation suggests the enhancement of our hydraulic heritage to the effects of climate change: extreme weather events (floods, droughts and climate), natural and human events. Therefore, it is appropriate to know the heritage of water from a reasonable prospect for new strategies and policies for management, seeking to expand and clarify the knowledge of these resources and decode their meanings and their associated values. Climate change can be subtle and can occur over a long period of time. However, some climate change parameters such a freezing, temperature and relative humidity shock can change by large amounts over a short period of time. To identify the greatest global climate change risks and impacts on cultural heritage, the scientific community uses the climate parameters tabulated (Table 1) (UNESCO, 2007). These risks and impacts of climate change are occurring on the hydraulic heritage.

This work, in addition to its applicability in mind, examines the traditional landscape configuration, its historical and cultural legacy and the impact that climate change has caused on its hydraulic heritage.

# Tendencies, changes and hydraulic heritage

The Earth has experienced climate changes continuously. Without going into detail on obtaining variation and temperature changes each time period considered by the IPCC, we can say that the increase in global average temperature rose  $0.6 \pm 0.2^{\circ}$  C over the twentieth century.

It is expected that the global average surface temperature increase between 1.4 °C and 5.8 °C during the period 1990 to 2100 (Fig. 1). According UNSECO (2007), the total content of water vapor and precipitation increase during the twenty-first century, and are highly likely over-year variations in rainfall in most areas that are expected to increase in the average. Also expected changes in extreme weather events and dangerous as heat waves, droughts, intense rains and tropical cyclones. Therefore, the hydraulic heritage will be affected in different ways and to varying degrees by climate change, according to their vulnerability.

Thus, the greatest damage occurs during the drying process, so that the most relevant data are related to dryness and the temperature of the time after precipitation. For this reason, there is a reducing the flow that goes through a network of acequias for irrigation and in physical appearance and disappearance of other cultural heritage (wells, drees and chain well) sites.

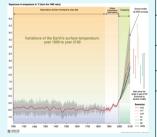


Fig. 1. Evolution of temperature on the earth's surface between 1000 and 2100.

Sources. Nakicenovic et al. (2000), in GRID-Arendal-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Available in http://www.grida.no/graphicsib/detail/temperature-ternds-and-projections\_8790@

Figure 2 shows the effects of droughts and

ospheric moisture change	- Flooding (sea, river)	<ul> <li>pH changes to buried archaeolog</li> </ul>
	- Intense rainfall	<ul> <li>Loss of stratigraphic integrity du</li> </ul>
		heaving from changes in sediment
	- Changes in water-table levels	- Data loss preserved in waterlogg
		conditions
	- Changes in soil chemistry	- Eutrophication accelerating micr

- Changes in lamined years of the many control of the many contro

 Crystallisation and dissolution of salts caused by wetting and drying affecting standing structures, archaeology, wall paintings, frescos and other decorated surfaces
 Tension of inorganic and organic materials due to flood waters
 Biological attack of orannic materials by insects moulds.

waters

- Biological attack of organic materials by insects, moulds, faingi, inva-sive species such as termites

- Subsoil instability; ground hoves and subsidence

- Bedraive humidity cycles/shock causing splitting, cracking flaking and dusting of materials and surfaces

- Corrosion of metals

- Other combined effects og, increase in moisture

comboded with fertilities and postcides

and, seasonal, extreme events (heat waves,

- Fraces than first change

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Heat seves - Heat

Source. Climate Change and World Heritage: Report on predicting and managing the impacts of climate change on World Heritage and Strategy to assist States Parties to implement appropriate management responses (UNESCO, 2007).

floods caused by climate change on two heritage properties: Water Reserve in Cespedosa and Historic medieval structure affected for climate Change- Cordoba (Spain).





Fig. 2. Water Reserve in Cespedosa , Salamanca (A) and Historic medieval structure affected for climate Change- Cordoba, Spain Sources. http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2012/03/12/espana/1331584056.html and

The lack of harmony, balance and specific policies for management, conservation and management of the cultural heritage, does not take into account practical reflection as a particular issue (Lempert et al. 2004). Thus, as the environmental performance of traditional water infrastructure under the effects of adverse weather conditions.

## Discussion and Conclusion

The hydraulic heritage posse important values: natural, economic, aesthetic, productive, symbolic, and others, whose consideration is closely related to water management within a given territory. There is a need to evaluate the hydraulic heritage by the danger and risks that this subject due to the conditions of climate change and the frequency of use and intervention of man, a responsibility we must assume, by developing new methodologies and effective management policies.

This will make better environmental decisions with regard to these natural assets, with solid and sustainable foundations. It is necessary to disseminate knowledge, prediction and modeling of climate change and its relationship to hydraulic heritage.

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