

Building and disseminating local hydrological narratives under regional warming levels

Jean-Philippe Vidal¹, Blaise Calmel^{1, 2}, Louis Héraut¹, Eric Sauquet¹

¹INRAE, UR RiverLy

²Now at Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (CNR)

6 May 2026



Projections over mainland France and Corsica

Some figures

- ▶ 3 RCPs with up to 17 EURO-CORDEX GCM-RCM
- ▶ 2 bias-correction methods
- ▶ up to 9 distributed hydrological models

→ Up to 153 daily streamflow time series 1976-2100 at up to 4 000 stations

Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci., 30, 2277–2300, 2026
https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-30-2277-2026
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A large transient multi-scenario multi-model ensemble of future streamflow and groundwater projections in France

Eric Sauquet¹, Guillaume Evin², Sésun Sissare³, Ryma Aissani⁴, Patrick Arnaud⁵, Maad Bérel⁶, Jérémie Bonneau^{1,7}, Flora Branger¹, Yvan Caballero⁸, François Collinot⁹, Agnès Duchaux¹⁰, Joël Gaillard¹¹, Florence Habets¹², Frédéric Hendricks¹³, Louis Héran¹⁴, Benoît Hingray¹⁵, Peng Huang¹⁶, Tristan Jaean¹⁷, Alexis Jeantet¹⁸, Sandra Lamine¹⁹, Mathieu Le Lay²⁰, Claire Magand²¹, Louise Mammou²², Céline Montali²³, Simon Munier²⁴, Charles Perrin²⁵, Olivier Robelin²⁶, Fabienne Roussel²⁷, Jean-Michel Soubeyras²⁸, Laurent Strohmenger²⁵, Guillaume Thiriel^{29,30}, Flore Tiquet³¹, Yves Trambloy³², Jean-Pierre Vergnes³³, and Jean-Philippe Vidal³⁴

¹UR Riverly, INRAE, Villeurbanne, France
²Univ. Grenoble Alpes, INRAE, CNRS, IRD, Grenoble INP, IGE, Grenoble, France
³OMÉA, Limoges, France
⁴BRGM – French Geological Survey, Orléans, France
⁵UMR RECOVER, INRAE, Aix-Marseille University, Le Tholonet, France
⁶MTECPR, La Défense, France
⁷INSA Lyon, DEEP, UR 7429, Villeurbanne, France
⁸UMR IRI G-Eat, INRAE, CIRAD, IRD, AgroParisTech, Institut Agro, BRGM, Montpellier, France
⁹Sorbonne Université/CNRS/EPHE, METIS-IPSL, Paris, France
¹⁰Département Eau Environnement, EDF-DTU, Saint Martin de Vinoson, France
¹¹Geology Laboratory of Ecole Normale Supérieure, Pierre Simon Laplace Research University, CNRS UMR 8538, Paris, France
¹²Département LNHE, EDF-R&D, Chatoen, France
¹³CNRM, Université de Toulouse, Mézio-France, CNRS, Toulouse, France
¹⁴NOPI, Direction de la recherche et de l'appui scientifique, Nantes, France
¹⁵Université Paris-Saclay, INRAE, UR HYCAR, Antony, France
¹⁶Univ. Toulouse, CNRS/BRDCNRS/INRAE, CESBIO, Toulouse, France
¹⁷Méziou-France, Direction de la Climatologie et des Services Climatiques, Toulouse, France
¹⁸UMR Espace Dev, Univ. Montpellier, IRD, Montpellier, France

Correspondence: Eric Sauquet (eric.sauquet@inrae.fr)

Received: 22 April 2025 – Discussion started: 20 May 2025
Revised: 6 February 2026 – Accepted: 12 March 2026 – Published: 22 April 2026

Abstract. A large transient multi-scenario and multi-model ensemble of future streamflow and groundwater projections in France developed in a national project named Explore2 was recently made available. The main objective of Explore2 is to provide rich and spatially-consistent information for the future evolution of hydrological (surface and groundwater) resources and extremes in France to support adaptation strategies. The Explore2 dataset was obtained using a nested multi-scenario multi-model approach to estimate future uncertainty and to assess local climate at the catchment scale:

three greenhouse gas (GHG) emission scenarios, a set of 17 combinations of Global Climate Models and Regional Climate Models (GCM/RCM), and two bias correction methods provide the meteorological forcing for nine surface hydrology models and four groundwater hydrology models (one to simulate groundwater recharge and three to simulate groundwater levels). In this paper, we present the methodology underlying the dataset, the evaluation of the hydrological models against daily observations of streamflow and groundwater

Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

Sauquet et al. (2026). A large transient multi-scenario multi-model ensemble of future streamflow and groundwater projections in France. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences* 30 8, pages 2277–2300. DOI: 10.5194/hess-30-2277-2026

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In summary

- ▶ **Large** ensemble (Sauquet et al., 2026)

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¹³CNRM, Université de Toulouse, Mézio-France, CNRS, Toulouse, France

¹⁴NOFIR, Direction de la recherche et de l'appui scientifique, Nantes, France

¹⁵Université Paris-Saclay, INRAE, UR HYCAR, Antony, France

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¹⁸UMR Espace Dev, Univ. Montpellier, IRD, Montpellier, France

¹⁹UMR Espace Dev, Univ. Montpellier, IRD, Montpellier, France

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²⁰⁰UMR Espace Dev, Univ. Montpellier, IRD

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- ▶ **Complex** ensemble (Evin et al., 2026)

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Uncertainty sources in a large ensemble of hydrological projections: Regional Climate Models and Internal Variability matter

Guillaume Evin¹, Benoît Hingray¹, Guillaume Thiéry^{1,2}, Agnès Ducharme³, Laurent Strohmenger⁴, Loïc Carré⁵, Yves Tramblay⁶, Jean-Philippe Vidal⁷, Jérémie Bonneau^{1,8}, François Colletti⁹, Joël Gaillardet¹⁰, Florence Habets¹¹, Frédéric Hendricks¹², Louis Héran¹³, Peng Huang¹⁴, Matthieu Le Lay¹⁵, Claire Magnan¹⁶, Paola Marocco¹⁷, Céline Monteil¹⁸, Simon Munier¹⁹, Alys Reverdy²⁰, Jean-Michel Soubeyrès²¹, Yvan Robin²², Jean-Pierre Vergnes²³, Mathieu Vaze²⁴, and Eric Sauquet²⁵

¹Univ. Grenoble Alpes, INRAE, CNRS, IRD, Grenoble INP, SISE, Grenoble, France

²Université Paris-Saclay, INRAE, UR HYCAR, Antony, France

³Univ. Toulouse, CNRS/IRD/CNRS/INRAE, CESBIO, Toulouse, France

⁴Geospatial University/CNRS/EPHE, METIS-IPSL, Paris, France

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⁸INSA Lyon, DEEP, UR 7429, Villeurbanne, France

⁹UMR RECOVER, INRAE, Aix-Marseille University, Le Tholonet, France

¹⁰Département Eau Environnement, EDF-DTO, Saint Martin le Vinoux, France

¹¹Geology Laboratory of Ecole Normale Supérieure, Pierre Simon Laplace Research University,

CNRS UMR 8531, Paris, France

¹²Département LNHE, EDF-RAE, 78401 Chalon, France

¹³OFB, Direction de la recherche et de l'appui scientifique, Nantes, France

¹⁴Météo-France, Direction de la Climatologie et des Services Climatiques, Toulouse, France

¹⁵ACE, IPSL, CEA-CNRS-UVSQ, Univ. Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

¹⁶BRGM – French Geological Survey, Orléans, France

Correspondence: Guillaume Evin (guillaume.evin@inrae.fr)

Received: 9 June 2025 – Discussion started: 25 August 2025

Revised: 27 January 2026 – Accepted: 29 January 2026 – Published: 20 February 2026

Abstract. Multi-scenario, multi-model ensembles of hydrological projections are widely used to describe possible futures of regional hydrology and inform adaptation strategies. The Explore2 dataset is such an ensemble of river flow projections for 1735 catchments with modeling chains composed of different hydrological models forced by 36 regional climate projections based on bias-adjusted EURO-CORDEX simulations. This study assesses the uncertainties of this ensemble with QUALIPRO, a method specifically designed to deal with incomplete ensembles and to disentangle and quantify all uncertainty sources, including that due to internal variability.

Focusing on results obtained at the end of the century, this study shows a strong agreement between modeling chains towards decreases in low flows in a large southern part of France for a high-emission scenario, and very uncertain changes for the annual mean and high flows. Emission scenario uncertainty is the dominant source of uncertainty for low flows over the whole of France, and for mean annual flows in southeastern France. The contribution of the global and regional climate models is important for mean and high flows, especially in rainfall-dominated areas. Regional climate models contribute considerable uncertainty to low flows, much more than global models. The contribution of hydrological model uncertainty is large for low flows, mod-

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Some figures

- ▶ 3 RCPs with up to 17 EURO-CORDEX GCM-RCM
- ▶ 2 bias-correction methods
- ▶ up to 9 distributed hydrological models

→ Up to 153 daily streamflow time series 1976-2100 at up to 4 000 stations

In summary

- ▶ **Large** ensemble (Sauquet et al., 2026)
- ▶ **Complex** ensemble (Evin et al., 2026)
- ▶ ... to be used for adaptation

Sauquet et al. (2026). A large transient multi-scenario multi-model ensemble of future streamflow and groundwater projections in France. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences* 30 8, pages 2277–2300. DOI: 10.5194/hess-30-2277-2026

Evin et al. (2026). Uncertainty sources in a large ensemble of hydrological projections: Regional Climate Models and Internal Variability matter. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences* 30 4, pages 1023–1051. DOI: 10.5194/hess-30-1023-2026



Uncertainty sources in a large ensemble of hydrological projections: Regional Climate Models and Internal Variability matter

Guillaume Evin¹, Benoît Hingray¹, Guillaume Thiéry^{1,2}, Agnès Ducharme³, Laurent Strohmenger⁴, Loïc Carré⁵, Yves Tramblay⁶, Jean-Philippe Vidal⁷, Jérémie Bonneau⁸, François Colletti⁹, Joël Gaillardet¹⁰, Florence Habets¹¹, Frédéric Hendricks¹², Louis Héran¹³, Peng Huang¹⁴, Matthieu Le Lay¹⁵, Claire Magnan¹⁶, Paola Marocco¹⁷, Céline Monteil¹⁸, Simon Munier¹⁹, Alys Roverdy²⁰, Jean-Michel Soubeyrès²¹, Yann Robin²², Jean-Pierre Vergnes²³, Mathieu Vaze²⁴, and Eric Sauguet²⁵

¹Univ. Grenoble Alpes, INRAE, CNRS, IRD, Grenoble DNP, SISE, Grenoble, France

²Université Paris-Saclay, INRAE, UR HYCAR, Antony, France

³Univ. Toulouse, CNRS/IRD/CNRS/INRAE, CESBIO, Toulouse, France

⁴Geospatial University/CNRS/EPHE, METIS-IPSL, Paris, France

⁵CNRM, Météo-France, CNRS, Université de Toulouse, Toulouse, France

⁶UMR Espace Dev (Univ. Montpellier, IRD), Montpellier, France

⁷UR RiverLy, INRAE, Villeurbanne, France

⁸INSA Lyon, DEEP, UR 7429, Villeurbanne, France

⁹UMR RECOVER, INRAE, Aix-Marseille University, Le Tholonet, France

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CNRS UMR 8531, Paris, France

¹²Département LNHE, EDF-RAE, 78401 Chalon, France

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TRACC

Trajectoire de Réchauffement de Référence pour l'Adaptation au Changement Climatique

- ▶ National reference warming trajectory for climate change adaptation
- ▶ Regulatory framework since January 2026 (JO, 2026b, 2026a)

Regional Warming Levels (RWLs) & time horizon

- ▶ +2.0°C in 2030
- ▶ +2.7°C in 2050
- ▶ +4.0°C in 2100



Soubeyrou et al. (2024). *À quel Climat s'adapter en France selon la TRACC ?*. Partie 1 – Concepts et données de base pour les températures et précipitations. Météo-France. 20 pages. URL: <https://hal.science/hal-04797481v3>

Soubeyrou et al. (2025). *À quel climat s'adapter en France selon la TRACC ?*. Partie 2 : Variabilité, extrêmes et impacts climatiques. Météo-France. 47 pages. URL: <https://hal.science/hal-04991790v3>

Defining local hydrological narratives for the TRACC

The NarraTRACC

1. Selecting a basin with homogeneous responses

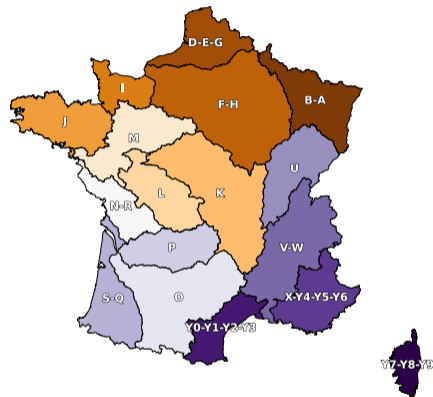
- ▶ Ensuring spatial consistency across local water resources studies
- ▶ Keeping regional diversity in hydrological responses

2. Selecting a RWL

- ▶ 20-yr window around RWL pivot year
- ▶ Specific to each climate projection (Soubeyroux et al., 2024)

3. Computing basin-average indicators

- ▶ Changes in indicators widely-used by local managers
 - ▶ high flows: annual daily maximum with 10-yr return period
 - ▶ average flows: interannual average
 - ▶ low flows: interannual average of annual 10-day minimum
- ▶ Computing spatial median over the target basin



Defining local hydrological narratives for the TRACC

The NarraTRACC

4. Clustering on basin-scale indicators

- ▶ Imposed number of clusters: 4
- ▶ k-means on PCA

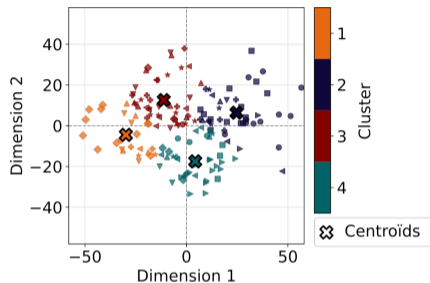
5. Filtering out projections

Removing projections with hydrological models

- ▶ with too low present-day performance across all calibration stations of the target basin
- ▶ with too few output stations across the target basin

6. Removing outliers

- ▶ Within each cluster
- ▶ Outside a sphere of median distance from centroid plus 2 standard deviations



Defining local hydrological narratives for the TRACC

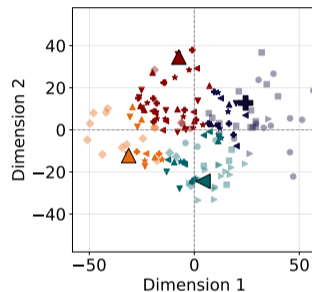
The NarraTRACCs

7. Selecting the NarraTRACCs

- ▶ Single projection within each cluster
- ▶ MinMax approach to ensure highest contrast across clusters

Raw results

- ▶ **Character chain:** Emission scenario / GCM / RCM / bias-correction / hydrological model
- ▶ Not that user-friendly...



Categorizing narraTRACCs

Imagining families

The four families

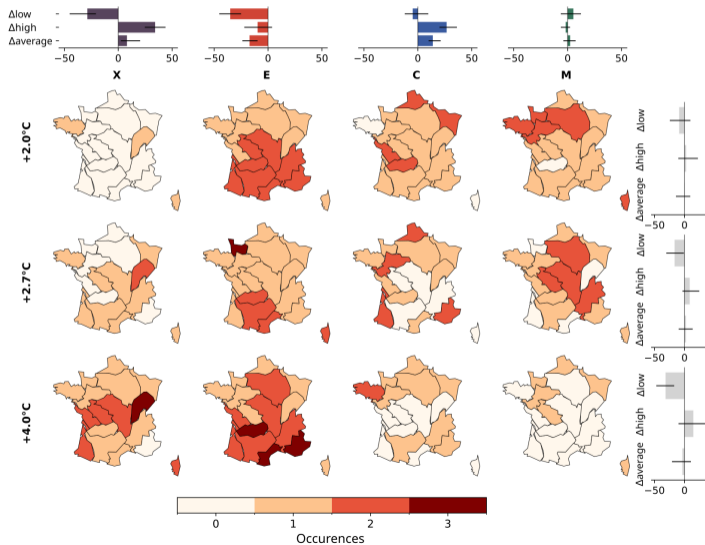
X	Intensification of extremes	$\Delta_{low} < -15\% \ \& \ \Delta_{high} > +15\%$
E	Intensification of low-flows	$\Delta_{low} < -15\% \ \& \ \Delta_{high} \leq +15\%$
C	Intensification of floods	$\Delta_{low} \geq -15\% \ \& \ \Delta_{high} > +15\%$
M	Moderate changes	$\Delta_{low} \geq -15\% \ \& \ \Delta_{high} \leq +15\%$

Example of region K (Upper Loire) under +4.0°C

historical-rcp85_IPSL-CM5A-MR_HIRHAM5_ADAMONT_MORDOR-TS	X1
historical-rcp85_CNRM-CM5_ALADIN63_ADAMONT_EROS	X2
historical-rcp85_HadGEM2-ES_CCLM4-8-17_ADAMONT_MORDOR-TS	E1
historical-rcp85_NorESM1-M_WRF381P_ADAMONT_SMASH	E2

Categorizing narraTRACCs

Evolution of family occurrences with increasing RWLs



Describing narraTRACCs

From characters to sentences

Getting to actual narratives

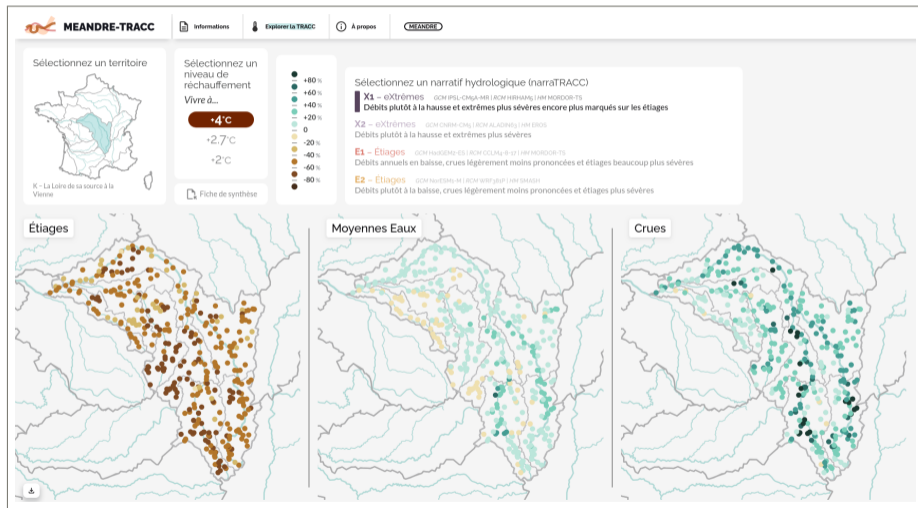
- ▶ Automating descriptions
- ▶ Based on changes sequentially in average flows, both extremes, and then refining on floods and low flows

Example of region K (Upper Loire) under +4.0°C

historical-rcp85_IPSL-CM5A-MR_HIRHAM5_ADAMONT_MORDOR-TS	X1	Slightly increasing annual streamflow, more severe extremes, and even more for low flows
historical-rcp85_CNRM-CM5_ALADIN63_ADAMONT_EROS	X2	Slightly increasing annual streamflow, and more severe extremes
historical-rcp85_HadGEM2-ES_CCLM4-8-17_ADAMONT_MORDOR-TS	E1	Decreasing annual streamflow, slightly less severe floods, and much more severe low flows
historical-rcp85_NorESM1-M_WRF381P_ADAMONT_SMASH	E2	Slightly decreasing annual streamflow, slightly less severe floods, and more severe low flows

Disseminating narraTRACCs

<https://meandre-tracc.explore2.inrae.fr/>



Thought as an extension to the <https://meandre.explore2.inrae.fr/> portal (see last year talk, Vidal et al., 2025)

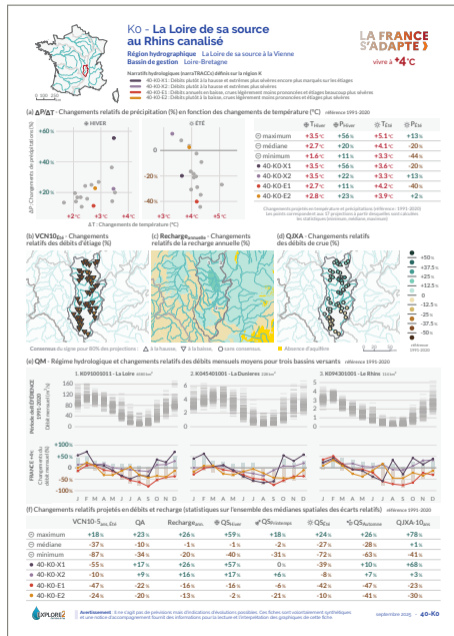
Documenting narraTRACCs

For traceability and reproducibility

In the **EXPLORE2** dataverse
Des futurs de l'eau

- ▶ Technical note (Calmel et al., 2025)
- ▶ Summary table of narraTRACS (Hérait et al., 2025b)
- ▶ Summary sheets for subbasins (Hérait et al., 2025a)
- ▶ Reading guide for summary sheets (Sauquet et al., 2025)

<https://entrepot.recherche.data.gouv.fr/dataverse/explore2-tracc>



Building and disseminating local hydrological narratives under regional warming levels








- ▶ Defining
- ▶ Categorizing
- ▶ Describing
- ▶ Disseminating
- ▶ Documenting

jean-philippe.vidal@inrae.fr





This work was funded and co-constructed with Julien Colin, Benoît Prévost, and Mathilde Hoareau (Loire-Bretagne Water Agency) within the EHCLLO project



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-  — (Jan. 25, 2026b). Décret n° 2026-23 du 23 janvier 2026 relatif à la trajectoire de réchauffement de référence pour l'adaptation au changement climatique. *Journal Officiel de la République Française*, TECR2530221D (21), page 11. URL: <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2026/1/23/TECR2530221D/jo/texte>.
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