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Reply to comments from reviewers

We appreciate the comments from the reviewers who have given very constructive and thorough reviews. We have tried to answer the questions best possible and we believe that it has improved the manuscript considerably. Below you can find the reply to each of the two reviewers.

Yours sincerely

Torben O. Sonnenborg

Reviewer #1:

The authors provide an interesting and up-to-date analysis of the impacts of climate model uncertainty and geological model uncertainty on hydraulic head, stream flow, travel time and capture zones. The manuscript is very well written, concise, includes a clear motivation and fits well in the scope of HESS. I enjoyed reading the manuscript and recommend to accept it after a few technical corrections (see comments below).

MINOR COMMENTS:

Q1: Page 4357, lines 19-20: "no model is generally superior to the others". Looking at the Nash-Sutcliffe coefficients (E) in Table 1, I would conclude that L1 and L2 are not suitable for any streamflow simulations...

Reply: It is correct that the Nash-Sutcliffe coefficient of some models, especially model L2 (E = -0.12), is relatively low and might be less suited for stream flow simulations. We have tried to make a more balanced description of the calibration/validation results, see below.

Modifications: The description of the calibration/validation results has been changed to: "Some models are more suitable for stream flow simulations (e.g., N2) while other models are stronger on hydraulic heads (e.g., L2). However, based on an integrated evaluation of the calibration/validation statistics no model is generally superior to the others."

Q2: Table 3 is not entirely needed, as it is not that relevant for the results of this paper.

Reply: We agree that Table 3 takes up a lot of space and that it is not essential for the paper.

Modifications: Table 3 has been removed from the revised manuscript. Instead, a reference to the PhD thesis by Lauren Seaby has been added (Seaby, 2013).

Q3: Page 4358, lines 6-20: I don't believe that the DC method is the most appropriate method that should have been used here. Even though the authors argue that van Roosmalen et al. (2011) have shown that changes in the dynamics are not important when mean variables are considered, Teutschbein and Seibert (2013) proved that the DC method is the least reliable under changing conditions even when considering only the mean value (it can't deal with bias non-stationarity). This drawback should be addressed in 1 or 2 sentences.

Reply: We know the excellent study by Teutschbein and Seibert (2013) and agree to their conclusion that more sophisticated methods such as distribution based scaling in general are likely to be more robust and hence more reliable than the simple DC method for future projections. For the particular Danish situation, Seaby et al. (2013) compared the DC method producing the factors in Table 3 (removed from revised manuscript) with a double gamma distribution based scaling (DBS) showing that both the DC and the DBS methods are able to capture the mean monthly and seasonal climate characteristics in temperature, precipitation and potential evapotranspiration when tested against observed data for the period 1991-

2010. Seaby (2013) further showed that, when propagating climate projections for 2071-2100 through the same hydrological model type as used in our study, the results for the projections based on DC and DBS bias corrections were almost identical with respect to mean annual discharge, 1th percentile discharge, 99th percentile discharge and mean groundwater heads. We therefore firmly believe that using DBS corrected climate data would have resulted in almost identical results and would definitely not have affected the conclusions of our study.

Modifications: The original text “The DC method does not include changes in precipitation dynamics such as number of dry/wet days but as shown by van Roosmalen et al. (2011) this is not important when mean variables, e.g., mean monthly stream discharge or mean annual hydraulic head, are considered.” has been changed to: “The reliability of the DC method for projecting changes has rightfully been questioned by Teutschbein and Seibert (2013) who found that more advanced methods were more reliable. In our specific case Seaby et al. (2013) compared the DC method with a double gamma distribution based scaling (DBS) showing that both methods were equally good in capturing the mean monthly as well as the seasonal climate characteristics in temperature, precipitation and potential evapotranspiration when tested against observed data for 1991-2010. Seaby (2013) further showed that, when propagating climate projections for 2071-2100 through the same hydrological model type as used in our study, the results for the discharge and groundwater head characteristics used in our study are almost identical for the two bias correction methods. This confirms the results of van Roosmalen et al. (2011) and justifies the use of the simple DC method for our particular application.”

Teutschbein and Seibert (2013) has been added to the reference list.

REFERENCES:

Teutschbein, C. and Seibert, J.: Is bias correction of regional climate model (RCM) simulations possible for non-stationary conditions?, *Hydrol Earth Syst Sci*, 17(12), 5061–5077, doi:10.5194/hess-17-5061-2013, 2013.

Van Roosmalen, L., Sonnenborg, T. O., Jensen, K. H. and Christensen, J. H.: Comparison of Hydrological Simulations of Climate Change Using Perturbation of Observations and Distribution-Based Scaling, *Vadose Zone J*, 10(1), 136–150, doi:10.2136/vzj2010.0112, 2011.

Thank you for a constructive review.

Reviewer #2:

Major remarks

The authors present an uncertainty analysis on groundwater and discharge related future projections using an ensemble of climate change projections from 11 GCM-RCM combinations that are used to force various versions of a distributed hydrological model (HM) with 6 different geological model setups. This analysis is a valuable contribution to HESS, but it requires a few clarifications and revisions before it may be published.

Q1: Future changes are considered by comparing two 20-year periods. While this may be sufficient for temperature changes, this might be too short if hydrological changes are considered. For precipitation, at least 30 years need to be considered to get a robust climatology as for shorter periods decadal variability may significantly impact the temporal precipitation averages over such periods, and this is usually impacting other hydrological variables in the same way, at least those that strongly depend on precipitation. In this study this is certainly the case for discharge. Thus, it should be either shown that decadal variability does not play a role in the considered region, especially for discharge, or the considered time periods need to be extended to 30 years.

Reply: This problem was addressed by Seaby et al. (2013) for the same geographical area as considered here. Monthly DC factors for precipitation were calculated for 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 year periods using six different climate model data. The analysis showed that reference periods of 10 years and below had high variability between DC factors while period lengths over 15 years appeared suitable, see Figure below.

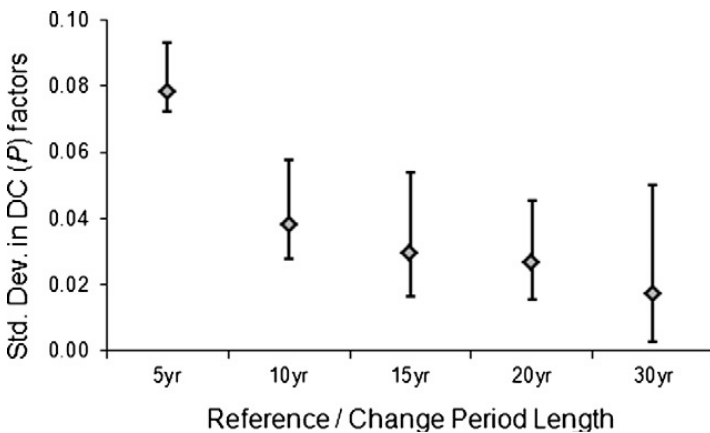


Fig. 7. Mean std. dev. of annual DC values for precipitation in six climate models from 5, 10, 15, 20, and 30 year reference periods compared to far-future periods of the same length. Error bars show the range in std. dev. across the six models.

Modifications: The following sentence has been added to the revised manuscript: “Seaby et al. (2013) analyzed the impact of the length of the reference and the future periods and found that period lengths over 15 years appeared suitable for precipitation. Hence, comparing two 20-years periods is assumed to be adequate for the particular study area.”

Q2: The treatment or behaviour of the capture zone is not clear to me. I understand that a capture zone defines the area from which a specific well gets its water from. In my opinion this is purely defined by geological characteristics and should not depend on any climate forcing, i.e. the capture zone should

neither depend on the climate model nor should it change under climate change conditions. Thus, if there are such dependencies on climate, then the definition of the capture zone seems to be wrong or there are some model errors.

Reply: The location of the capture zone indeed depends strongly on the geology, and so does the shape of the capture zone. However, it is well known that the size of the capture zone depends on groundwater recharge, which again is a function of precipitation. The volume of water abstracted at the well should correspond to the spatially integrated groundwater recharge. Hence, at low precipitation the recharge area (and hence the capture zone) will be relatively large while at high precipitation the capture zone will be relatively small. Therefore, the shape of the capture zone will among other factors depend on geology and the areal distribution of recharge (and hence precipitation).

Modifications: The following sentences have been added to the revised manuscript (in section 3.3 Capture zone): “The location and shape of the capture zone depends on geological characteristics. However, it also depends on groundwater recharge since the water abstracted at the well corresponds to the spatially integrated groundwater recharge which in turn depends on precipitation. Thus, the less groundwater recharge the larger the capture zone will be. Therefore, climate change is expected to affect the capture zone area.”

Q3: Similarly, simulated travel times may only depend on climate if, in addition to their dependency on geology, they also depend on the amount of flowing water. Thus, to understand the behaviour of travel time with respect to climate forcing, it should be indicated how the travel times/flow velocities in each of the HM versions used depend on the flow volume.

Reply: Precipitation may affect the hydraulic heads and the hydraulic gradients in a specific area which affects groundwater discharge and hence the flow velocity. Additionally, flow paths to the abstraction well may change as the size of the recharge area changes. For example, in a situation with low precipitation a larger recharge area is required and larger volumes of the subsurface are activated in the particular capture zone compared to a situation with relatively high precipitation.

Modifications: The following sentences have been added to the revised manuscript (section 3.2 Travel time): “Precipitation may affect the hydraulic heads and the hydraulic gradients in a specific area which affects groundwater discharge and hence the flow velocity. Additionally, flow paths to the abstraction well may change as the size of the recharge area changes, see below. Climate change is therefore expected to impact travel time to the abstraction wells.”

In summary, I suggest some revisions to be conducted before the paper may be accepted for publication.

Minor Comments

In the following suggestions for editorial corrections are marked in *Italic*.

In several places the use of singular and plural is erroneous. Thus, the manuscript should be carefully checked to correct those grammar errors, e.g. p.4356 – l.21 “is” instead of “are”, p.4363 – l.18 “show”, p.4364 – l.6 “depend”, p.4364 – l.13 “are”, p.4367 – l.11 “depend”. In addition, cross-references to tables and figures (and even some literature references) are often set within Commas, which interrupts the text flow. In my opinion they should be placed in brackets. Examples: p.4356 – l.24, p.4357 – l.11, p.4357 – l.15.

Reply: We appreciate the advice concerning the grammar and the cross-references. We went carefully through the manuscript and checked singular and plural as good as possible. Cross-references were changed according to the suggestions.

p. 4353 – line 16
... uncertainty *due* to the climate ...

Reply: Done

p. 4356 – line 23
... models *using* between ...

Reply: Done

p. 4356 – line 25
... models *comprises* two ...

Reply: Done

p. 4358 – line 4
...Model *pairings* ...

Reply: Done

p. 4359 – line 9/10
... hydrological *variables* is ...

Reply: Done

p. 4361 – line 3
No reference geology is defined and *as due to the DC method, the same reference climate is used for all projections, the uncertainty* ...

Reply: Done

p. 4362 – line 10
Figure 4 also shows that ...

Reply: Done

p. 4363 – line 8
It is written: “The relative change is almost constant for the six models ...”
In this paragraph, you are still dealing with the absolute values of discharge and the respective

standard *deviations*, not with the future changes. Thus, I don't understand this sentence.

Reply: The formulation of this sentence was indeed not good and has been changed in the revised manuscript, see below.

Modifications: The sentence has been changed to: "The ratio between the standard deviation and the median value is almost constant for the six models."

p. 4363 – line 25

...than to *the* geological ...

Reply: Done

p. 4364 – line 6

... on *the* geological ...

Reply: Done

p. 4376 - Table 5

The figure caption suggests that all numbers in Table 5 are standard deviation. But this does not make sense for the column denoted as mean change. The overall standard deviation of the change relative to the reference climate cannot be significantly smaller (or even zero) than the standard deviations associated with the sub-ensembles of geology and climate, such as is the case for Head and summer discharge. I assume that mean change does not denote a standard deviation but the projected mean change. This should be made clear in the caption.

Reply: We agree that the caption was not clear in the original manuscript. It has been changes such that it is now clear that the column "Mean change" do not denote a variance component.

Modifications: The last sentence in the table caption has been changed to: "All variance components (columns denoted "Geology" and "Climate") are presented as standard deviations. The column "Mean change" denotes the projected mean change."

p. 4379 – Figure 3 caption

... are forced by ...

Reply: Done

p. 4379/80 – Figure 3/4

I suggest using the same y-axis scaling in Fig. 3b and Fig. 4 to allow an easier comparison between the two figures.

Reply: Done

References

Seaby, L.P., J.C. Refsgaard, T.O. Sonnenborg, S. Stisen, J.H. Christensen, and K.H. Jensen (2013), Assessment of robustness and significance of climate change signals for an ensemble of distribution-based scaled climate projections, *Journal of Hydrology*, 486, 479-493, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2013.02.015>.

Thank you for a careful and constructive review.

1 **Climate model uncertainty versus conceptual geological un-**
2 **certainty in hydrological modeling**

3

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10

11 **Abstract**

12 Projections of climate change impact are associated with a cascade of uncertainties in-
13 cluding CO₂ emission scenario, climate model, downscaling and impact model. The
14 relative importance of the individual uncertainty sources is expected to depend on sev-
15 eral factors including the quantity that is projected. In the present study the impacts of
16 climate model uncertainty and geological model uncertainty on hydraulic head, stream
17 flow, travel time and capture zones are evaluated. Six versions of a physically based and
18 distributed hydrological model, each containing a unique interpretation of the geological
19 structure of the model area, are forced by 11 climate model projections. Each projection
20 of future climate is a result of a GCM-RCM model combination (from the ENSEM-
21 BLES project) forced by the same CO₂ scenario (A1B). The changes from the reference
22 period (1991-2010) to the future period (2081-2100) in projected hydrological variables
23 are evaluated and the effects of geological model and climate model uncertainties are

24 quantified. The results show that uncertainty propagation is context dependent. While
25 the geological conceptualization is the dominating uncertainty source for projection of
26 travel time and capture zones, the uncertainty ~~on~~due to the climate models is more im-
27 portant for groundwater hydraulic heads and stream flow.

28

29 **1 Introduction**

30 Climate change will have major impacts on human societies and ecosystems (IPCC,
31 2007). Climate change adaptation is, however, impeded by the large uncertainties aris-
32 ing from climate projection uncertainties as well as the uncertainties related to hydro-
33 logical modelling (Foley, 2010; Refsgaard et al., 2013). Uncertainties related to climate
34 projections are often considerable (Déqué et al., 2007; Seaby et al., 2013; IPCC, 2013),
35 and may be divided into internal variability, model uncertainty and scenario uncertainty.
36 Several studies (e.g., Hawkins and Sutton, 2011; Kjellström et al., 2011) have shown
37 that model uncertainty dominates for lead times exceeding a couple of decades, while
38 uncertainties on greenhouse gas emissions will take over towards the end of the present
39 century. Assessments of uncertainties on climate change impacts on water resources
40 become complicated, because climate projection uncertainties should be propagated
41 through hydrological models, where a range of additional uncertainty sources needs to
42 be considered. These sources include uncertainties in input data, parameter values and
43 model structural uncertainties, i.e. conceptualisation of the representation of vegetation,
44 soils, geology, etc. and process descriptions (Refsgaard et al., 2007). In hydrological
45 modelling of groundwater conditions, the conceptual geological uncertainty often turns
46 out as the dominant source of uncertainty (Neumann, 2003; Bredehoeft, 2005;
47 Refsgaard et al., 2012).

48

49 Because of the complexities and computational aspects involved, it is not feasible to
50 explicitly consider all sources of uncertainty in a single study. It is therefore interesting
51 to know in which contexts the different sources of uncertainties will be dominating.
52 Several studies have assessed the uncertainty propagation from climate projections
53 through hydrological modelling (Minville et al., 2008; Bastola et al., 2011; Poulin et al.,
54 2011; Dobler et al., 2012) concluding that in some cases climate model uncertainty
55 dominates over hydrological model uncertainty and vice versa in other cases. These
56 studies have focussed on surface water hydrological systems, while we are not aware of
57 studies that have investigated the relative importance of conceptual geological model
58 uncertainty versus climate model uncertainty.

59

60 The objective of the present study is to assess the effects of climate model uncertainty
61 and conceptual geological uncertainty for projection of future conditions with respect to
62 different river flow and groundwater aspects.

63

64 **2 Study area and model setup**

65 2.1 Study area

66 The study site has an area of 465 km² and is located in the central part of Zealand,
67 Denmark (Fig. 1) where focus is given to the area covered by the Langvad Stream val-
68 ley system. The model area is bounded by Køge Bay in the east and by Roskilde Fjord
69 in the north. The area is relatively hilly, with maximum elevations of approximately 100
70 m above sea level. Land use within the model area is dominated by agriculture (80 %),

71 while the remaining area is covered by forest (10 %), urban areas (10 %) and lakes (<1
72 %). The main aquifer in the area, the Limestone formation, is overlain by Quaternary
73 deposits of interchanging and discontinuous layers of clayey moraine till and fluvial
74 sand. Groundwater is abstracted at six main well fields in the focus area and exported to
75 Copenhagen for water supply. The study area is described in details in Seifert et al.
76 (2012).

77

78 2.2 Model setup

79 Based on the national water resource model developed by the Geological Survey of
80 Denmark and Greenland (Henriksen et al., 2003; Højberg et al., 2008; Højberg et al.,
81 2013) a hydrological model of the catchment area has been developed. The model is
82 constructed using the MIKE SHE / MIKE 11 modeling software (DHI, 2009a and DHI,
83 2009b). MIKE SHE includes a range of alternative process descriptions and here the
84 modules for evapotranspiration, overland flow, a two-layer description of the unsaturat-
85 ed zone, and the saturated zone incl. drains ~~are~~is used. The river model MIKE 11 links
86 to MIKE SHE, so that water are exchanged between streams and the groundwater aqui-
87 fers.

88

89 Six alternative geological models ~~comprising~~using between 3 and 12 hydrostratigraph-
90 ical layers; (Table 1~~;~~) have been established (Seifert et al., 2012). The basis of the geo-
91 logical models ~~is~~comprises two national models (N1 and N2), two regional models (R1
92 and R2) and two local models (L1 and L2). All models consist from bottom to top of
93 Paleocene Limestone, Paleocene clay and Quaternary deposits. In the more complex
94 geological models the Quaternary unit is divided into several alternating sand and clay

95 layers. The location of the limestone surface and the extent of the sand aquifers differ
96 significantly between the geological models. The six geological models were incorpo-
97 rated into the hydrological model resulting in six alternative hydrological models (Sei-
98 fert et al., 2012). Horizontally, the models are discretized in 200 x 200 m cells. Vertical-
99 ly, the numerical layers are discretized according to the geological layers, though in
100 model N1 and N2 the three top layers are combined into one numerical layer. Between
101 three and ten numerical layers are used in the six models.

102

103 The models are calibrated against hydraulic head and stream discharge data from 2000-
104 2005 and validated in the period 1995-1999, (Seifert et al., (2012)), where the validation
105 period is characterized by a groundwater abstraction that is about 20% higher than in the
106 calibration period. Generally, the simulation results for the validation period are slightly
107 inferior to the results for the calibration period, but the statistical values have the same
108 magnitude for the two periods. The calibration results, (Table 1), reveal quite large dif-
109 ferences in the match to hydraulic head (represented by the mean error, ME, and the
110 root mean squared value, RMS), the stream discharge (given by the Nash-Sutcliffe coef-
111 ficient, E, and the relative water balance error, F_{bal}) using the different geological mod-
112 els. Some models are more suitable for stream flow simulations (e.g., N2) while other
113 models are stronger on hydraulic heads (e.g., L2). However, based on an integrated
114 evaluation the calibration/validation statistics no model is generally superior to the oth-
115 ers. More details on the model setup including historical climate data and model calibra-
116 tion and validation can be found in Seifert et al. (2012).

117

118 The period 1991-2010 is used as a reference to the future scenarios. In this period the
119 abstraction decreased from 23 million $\text{m}^3 \text{yr}^{-1}$ in 1990 to less than 15 million $\text{m}^3 \text{yr}^{-1}$ in
120 2010. To minimize transient effects a constant groundwater abstraction of about 16 mil-
121 lion $\text{m}^3 \text{yr}^{-1}$ (based on average data from 2000-2005) is used for both the reference peri-
122 od and future scenarios.

123

124 2.3 Climate data

125 Climate projections representing the period 2081-2100 are obtained from Seaby et al.
126 (2013) using results from 11 climate models from the ENSEMBLES matrix (Christen-
127 sen et al., 2009) of Global and Regional Climate Model pairings (GCM-RCM), Table 2.
128 Seaby et al. (2013) analyzed the impact of the length of the reference and the future
129 periods and found that period lengths over 15 years appeared suitable for precipitation.
130 Hence, comparing two 20-years periods is assumed to be adequate for the particular
131 study area.

132

133 The delta change (DC) method (Hay et al., 2000; van Roosmalen et al., 2007) is used as
134 downscaling approach on precipitation (P), reference evapotranspiration (ET_{ref}) and
135 temperature (T). The delta change factors for Zealand are derived by comparing month-
136 ly mean values of past and future climate data from the climate models (Seaby ~~et al.~~,
137 2013), ~~see Table 3~~. The model projections of the future climate changes vary signifi-
138 cantly with both drier and wetter future climate indicated by delta change factors on
139 precipitation ranging between 0.83 and 1.17 on an annual basis. However, major differ-
140 ences between the models are also found with respect to the seasonal signal. To obtain
141 time series of future climate, observed records of P and ET_{ref} in the control period

142 (1991-2010) are multiplied by the monthly delta change factors (ΔP and ΔET_{ref}), while
143 the temperature delta change values (ΔT) are added to the observed time series of T.

144 The reliability of the DC method for projecting changes has rightfully been questioned
145 by Teutschbein and Seibert (2013) who found that more advanced methods were more
146 reliable. In our specific case Seaby et al. (2013) compared the DC method with a double
147 gamma distribution based scaling (DBS) showing that both methods were equally good
148 in capturing the mean monthly as well as the seasonal climate characteristics in temper-
149 ature, precipitation and potential evapotranspiration when tested against observed data
150 for 1991-2010. Seaby (2013) further showed that, when propagating climate projections
151 for 2071-2100 through the same hydrological model type as used in our study, the re-
152 sults for the discharge and groundwater head characteristics used in our study are almost
153 identical for the two bias correction methods. This confirms the results of van
154 Roosmalen et al. (2011) and justifies the use of the simple DC method for our particular
155 application. The DC method does not include changes in precipitation dynamics such as
156 number of dry/wet days but as shown by van Roosmalen et al. (2011) this is not im-
157 portant when mean variables, e.g., mean monthly stream discharge or mean annual hy-
158 draulic head, are considered.

159

160 Here, an ensemble of results based on eight RCMs and four GCMs are used and only
161 one downscaling method is used. Using another ensemble of climate models or another
162 downscaling method would probably affect the mean/median of the results. However, in
163 the present study the results from different climate projections are only used for com-
164 parison against results obtained using different geological models, and not for predict-
165 ing the actual changes in the hydrological system as a result of climate changes. Hence,

166 the ensemble used here is assumed to represent the (unknown) full variability found in
167 climate model projections.

168

169 **3 Methodology**

170 Results from the six hydrological models forced by climate projections from the 11 cli-
171 mate models (total of 66 model simulations) are extracted and the variance caused by
172 geological model and climate model is derived. The results are also compared to results
173 representing the reference period 1991-2010 that covers both the calibration and valida-
174 tion periods, to quantify the changes in hydraulic head, (Δh), in the Limestone aquifer in
175 the focus area, (Fig. 1), changes in stream discharge, (ΔQ), at a downstream gauging
176 station in the Langvad Stream system, travel time, (ΔT), and capture zone area, (ΔA_{cap})
177 for the well fields in the focus area. The change in hydrological variables is caused by
178 climate change only as the geology is the same for both reference and scenario climate.

179

180 **3.1 Hydraulic head and stream discharge**

181 The mean hydraulic head (h) in the Limestone aquifer within the focus area are extract-
182 ed from all model simulations and the change in hydraulic head (Δh) as a result of
183 changing climate is calculated.

184

185 A large part of the precipitation is expected to flow directly to the streams, either as
186 surface runoff or through the drains, especially during the winter season. Hence, the
187 total stream discharge is expected to be highly sensitive to changes in climate. In order
188 to capture the effect of climate change on the groundwater dominated base flow, stream

189 discharge results from the summer period (June, July and August) are extracted at the
190 downstream discharge station, st. 52.30 (see Fig. 1).

191

192 3.2 Travel time

193 Travel times from the water table to the well fields are estimated by forward particle
194 tracking using MIKE SHE. Particles are initially located randomly in the upper 1-3 nu-
195 merical layers depending on how the geology is represented by the numerical layers in
196 the models. The sum of particles in the vertical direction is 200 particles per cell, result-
197 ing in about 2 mio. particles per model. The flow solution on which the particle tracking
198 simulation is based is obtained by recycling the flow results for the simulation period
199 (1991-2010 for the reference period and 2081-2100 for the future climate period). After
200 1000 years of simulation the end points are registered and particles with end points at
201 the well fields are extracted. Since the thickness of the numerical layers vary considera-
202 ble between the models, only particles originating from the upper 10 meters of the satu-
203 rated zone are used for the travel time assessment in order to get comparable results.

204 The median travel time, (T) , at each well field is calculated for each of the 11 future
205 climate projections and for the reference climate. The changes in travel time, (ΔT) , from
206 the reference climate to the future climate projections are also calculated. Precipitation
207 may affect the hydraulic heads and the hydraulic gradients in a specific area which af-
208 fects groundwater discharge and hence the flow velocity. Additionally, flow paths to the
209 abstraction well may change as the size of the recharge area changes, see below. Cli-
210 mate change is therefore expected to impact travel time to the abstraction wells.

211

212 3.3 Capture zone

213 The capture zones to the well fields are also simulated by forward particle tracking
214 where the particles are tracked for 1000 years as described above. Particles are initially
215 located randomly in the upper layers and in all aquifers. Particles with end points at the
216 well fields are extracted and the origin of the particles is projected to the 2D horizontal
217 plane. The capture zones are delineated as the grid cells that contain particle start loca-
218 tions (Fig. 2) and the capture area (A_{cap}) is defined as the area of these grid cells. The
219 change in capture zone area from the reference climate to a future climate is defined as
220 the capture area included in the future climate simulation but not in the reference cli-
221 mate simulation ($\Delta A_{cap, future}$). The location and shape of the capture zone depends on
222 geological characteristics. However, it also depends on groundwater recharge since the
223 water abstracted at the well corresponds to the spatially integrated groundwater recharge
224 which in turn depends on precipitation. Thus, the less groundwater recharge the larger
225 the capture zone will be. Therefore, climate change is expected to affect the capture
226 zone area.

227

228 4 Results

229 4.1 Uncertainty on hydraulic head

230 The matrix of results on mean hydraulic head within the focus area as a function of cli-
231 mate scenario and geological model is presented in Table 43. In the two columns to the
232 right and the two bottom rows the mean and standard deviation of the results are listed.
233 Changes in hydraulic head between the reference climate simulation and the scenario
234 climate simulation are indicated in brackets.

235 No reference geology is defined and as due to the DC method, the same reference cli-
236 mate is used for all projections, the uncertainty~~No reference geology is defined and the~~
237 ~~uncertainty~~ on the change in hydraulic head caused by climate (Std. dev. climate, bot-
238 tom row) therefore equals the uncertainty on the absolute heads. In Table [54](#), the uncer-
239 tainty on the absolute head values ~~are~~is summarized together with results on the change
240 in heads due to climate change. In Fig. 3 the results are illustrated using box plots both
241 with respect to absolute values (Fig. 3a) and with respect to changes from the reference
242 to the future period (Fig. 3b). Hence, Fig. 3a corresponds to the left two columns in Ta-
243 ble [54](#) while Fig. 3b illustrates the results summarized in the three columns to the right
244 in Table [54](#). With respect to the absolute hydraulic head values, Fig. 3a and Table [54](#),
245 the impact of geological model and climate model is comparable. The difference be-
246 tween the mean hydraulic head using the six geologies is primarily caused by differ-
247 ences in calibration results given by the mean errors (ME), see Table 1, since climate
248 change affects the mean hydraulic head of the individual geological model comparative-
249 ly. For model R2 changes in mean head between -1.12 m and 0.82 m are found with a
250 standard deviation of 0.66 m. The mean standard deviation on all six models is 0.52 m,
251 Tables [34](#) and [45](#), which is in the same order of magnitude as the standard deviation
252 caused by the different geological models amounting to 1.03 m.

253

254 When the changes in hydraulic head are compared across geological models, Fig. 3b
255 and Table [54](#), it is clear that the effect of geology is relatively small. Some of the geo-
256 logical models are more sensitive to the changes in climate (e.g., R2) than others (e.g.,
257 L2), represented by the length of the whiskers for each geological model in Fig 3.
258 Changes in hydraulic head that are up to twice as high are found for the most sensitive

259 models compared to the models that are relatively insensitive. However, larger differ-
260 ences in hydraulic head change are found across climate models represented by the dif-
261 ference between the upper and lower end of the whiskers. A two-factor analysis of vari-
262 ance shows that the climate model has more impact on the change in hydraulic head
263 than the geological model, as $F_{\text{climate}} = 104.6$ ($\gg F_{\text{crit}} = 2.0$) and $F_{\text{geology}} = 1.2$ ($< F_{\text{crit}} =$
264 2.4). The same conclusion can also be drawn from Table 54 by comparing the standard
265 deviation on the changes in hydraulic head, (h) , caused by geological models (0.11 m)
266 with the standard deviation caused by climate models (0.52 m).

267

268 ~~The changes in mean hydraulic head are also illustrated in Fig. 4 as a function of the 11~~
269 ~~climate models. The Fig. 4 also shows that the~~ direction and the magnitude of the
270 change in hydraulic head depend primarily on the climate model. Three of the climate
271 models result in decreasing hydraulic heads, with values ranging between -0.28 m and -
272 1.16 m depending on the geological model and the climate model. The remaining eight
273 climate models all result in increasing hydraulic heads in the Limestone aquifer between
274 0.08 m and 0.82 m.

275

276 From Fig. 4 it is also observed that the difference between the head results from the six
277 geological models is larger when the mean change in hydraulic head caused by climate
278 changes increases in positive or negative direction. For example, climate model BCM-
279 HIRHAM5 that is characterized by delta change values for precipitation close to one
280 during winter season (~~Table 30.99 – 1.13~~) results in a small change in mean hydraulic
281 head and the response from the six geological models is almost the same. In contrast,
282 relatively large differences are found between the response from the geological models

283 when the climate model ECHAM-HIRHAM5 is used. Here, the delta change values
284 during winter, where groundwater primarily is generated, are relatively large ([Table 3 up](#)
285 [to 1.38](#)) and the mean change in hydraulic head is also relatively large. The same
286 tendency is found for the other climate models. Hence, since the mean change in
287 hydraulic head is expected to depend on the changes in precipitation and
288 evapotranspiration, the mean standard deviation on heads from the different geological
289 models are compared to the change in the net precipitation (here represented by
290 precipitation minus reference evapotranspiration, $P-ET_{ref}$). The result, ([Fig. 5](#)), reveals a
291 clear linear tendency for increasing uncertainty caused by geological model as the
292 changes projected by the climate model differs from the present climate, where the
293 model was calibrated. Hence, as the future climate moves away from the baseline, the
294 more sensitive the results are with respect to the conceptual geological model and the
295 higher projection uncertainty might be expected.

296

297 4.2 Uncertainty on stream discharge

298 Fig. 6a shows a box plot of the simulated mean summer stream discharge at the
299 downstream discharge station (st. 52.30, see Fig. 1). The projection of mean summer
300 discharge depends to a large degree on the geological model, with lower values for the
301 local models (L1 and L2) and higher values for the regional models (R1 and R2). The
302 uncertainty caused by climate model, represented by the length of the whiskers, is also
303 significant with a tendency for larger uncertainties for larger absolute mean summer
304 discharge. The [relative change uncertainty ratio between the standard deviation and the](#)
305 [median value](#) is almost constant [at 50%](#) for [the all the](#) six models, [from approximately](#)
306 [50% reduction to 50% increase relative to the median value](#). However, the geological

307 model has the strongest impact, resulting in a standard deviation of $0.21 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ compared
308 to a value of $0.14 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ caused by climate uncertainty, (Table 54).

309

310 In Fig. 6b the box plot of the change in summer discharge from the reference period to
311 the future scenarios shows that the response in summer stream discharge from the
312 different geological models is similar when the median value is considered. On average,
313 the mean change in summer discharge is zero, see Table 54. The difference between
314 upper and lower whiskers indicates that the impact of climate models on the projection
315 of the change in summer stream discharge is significant, with changes from -0.3 to 0.3
316 m^3/s . The standard deviations listed in Table 54 shows that the uncertainty on the
317 change in summer discharge caused by geology is $0.05 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ whereas the uncertainty
318 caused by climate model amounts to $0.14 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$, i.e. the climate uncertainty is largest
319 although the contributions are in the same order of magnitude. With respect to annual
320 mean discharge, ($Q_{a,r}$), see Table 54, climate uncertainty is much higher than geological
321 uncertainty, especially when the change in discharge is considered. This shows that the
322 uncertainty on annual mean stream discharge is much more sensitive to climate change
323 than to the geological model. Summer discharge, where groundwater-river interactions
324 are relatively more important, is much more affected by the uncertainty in geology.

325

326 4.3 Uncertainty on travel time

327 The travel time of the groundwater abstracted at each of the six well fields in the focus
328 area has been quantified and listed in Table 54. The results obtained at the six wells
329 fields are similar, and therefore only results on travel times and changes in travel time
330 are illustrated for one of the well fields, Lavringe, see Fig. 7.

331

332 | The absolute travel times; (Fig. 7a); depends strongly on the geological model. Median
333 | travel times from less than 50 years to nearly 200 years are found for the different geo-
334 | logical models. Based on results from all six well fields, differences in median travel
335 | time of up to a factor of 10 are found with a tendency for smaller travel times using the
336 | geological model R2 and larger travel times using N1. Compared to the results for hy-
337 | draulic head and stream discharge, Figs. 3a and 6a, respectively, it is clear that the effect
338 | of the geological model is crucial when travel times are considered. The standard devia-
339 | tions on geological models, in the order of 30-80 years; (Table 54); are significantly
340 | higher than the standard deviations on climate models, in the range of 2 – 6 years.

341 | Hence, the climate model has limited impact on the absolute travel time predictions.

342 | This indicates that climate changes do not notably change the flow pattern that controls
343 | the flow paths and hereby the travel time of the groundwater from the surface to, e.g., an
344 | abstraction well.

345

346 | If changes in travel time from the reference to future climate; (Fig. 7b and Table 54); are
347 | considered, it is seen that the role of the geological model on the change in travel time is
348 | similar to the impact of climate change. The mean standard deviation on the change
349 | caused by climate models and geological models are of the same magnitude with values
350 | of approximately 2 years for Lavringe well field. At the other well fields comparative
351 | results are also obtained with values in the range 2.5 to 7.1 years; (Table 54). This is in
352 | contrast to the results for hydraulic head and stream discharge where the climate signal
353 | was the most important factor for the changes.

354

355 4.4 Uncertainty on capture zones

356 Fig. 8a shows results on capture zone area from Lavringe well field. Capture zone areas
357 between 20 km² and 40 km² are found for the different geological models. If all six well
358 | fields in the focus area, (Fig. 1), are considered the capture zone area varies with a fac-
359 | tor of 2-3 using different geological models. In comparison, the effect of climate model
360 | on the uncertainty is relatively small. For most models the change in capture zone area
361 | caused by climate change, (Fig. 8b), amounts to less than 2 km² corresponding to less
362 | than 10% of the reference area. Hence, the results with regard to the capture zone area
363 | are very similar to those found for travel time, (Fig. 7).

364

365 The impacts of climate model and conceptual geology on the capture zone locations are
366 illustrated for Gevninge and Lavringe well fields in Fig. 9. At the left side the uncertain-
367 ty of the capture zones using different geological models are illustrated. To the right the
368 impact on using different climate models is shown. It is clear that relatively large differ-
369 ences between capture zone areas are found when multiple geological models are used
370 whereas almost identical capture zones are predicted for the 11 climate models.

371

372 5 Discussion

373

374 | In Table 54 the uncertainties caused by climate model and geological model are summa-
375 | rized, both with respect to the absolute level in the future situation and the change from
376 | the reference to the future situation. The results on the absolute values reflect the differ-
377 | ences in model calibration which in turn affects the results in the future climate. It

378 should be noted that no calibration has been carried out with respect to travel time and
379 catchment area.

380

381 For projections of hydraulic head, the impact of geological model and climate model on
382 the uncertainty on absolute heads is in the same order of magnitude with differences in
383 standard deviations of about a factor of two. If the changes in hydraulic heads from ref-
384 erence to future climate are considered, the climate model is more important for the
385 uncertainty than the geology (difference of a factor of five). Hence, in this case the
386 choice of climate model is very important for the hydrological projection and on the
387 uncertainty on the changes in future hydraulic head levels.

388

389 | The results for summer stream discharge, $(Q_{s\bar{t}})$ are somewhat similar. The uncertainty
390 | on the absolute discharge is almost equally controlled by geological model and climate
391 | model, which is comparable to the results for hydraulic head. If the change in summer
392 | discharge is considered, the uncertainty caused by climate model is a factor of three
393 | higher than geological uncertainty. Hence, climate model uncertainty is most important
394 | but both sources of uncertainty are significant. With respect to annual mean discharge,
395 | $(Q_{a\bar{t}})$ the impact from climate model uncertainties on the absolute discharge is a factor
396 | of four higher than the geological uncertainty. If the change from reference to future
397 | period is considered, the results are even more clear. Almost all the uncertainty is
398 | caused by the climate model whereas the geology has almost no impact on the results
399 | (standard deviations of $0.01 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ versus $0.32 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$). Therefore, the climate model pro-
400 | jection is extremely important for results on future annual mean stream discharge. The
401 | relatively small impact of the geological model is probably explained by the clayey top

402 soils in the catchment that cause discharge to be dominated by shallow flow compo-
403 nents such as overland flow and drain flow, especially in the wet season (winter).

404

405 | The uncertainty on absolute travel time (left two columns in Table 54) is dominated by
406 | the geological model with standard deviations of up to about 80 years, whereas the un-
407 | certainties due to climate model only amount to a few years. Hence, in this case the geo-
408 | logical model uncertainty is by far the most important source of uncertainty and the im-
409 | pact of climate model uncertainty can almost be ignored. However, the uncertainties on
410 | the changes (the column to the right) caused by geology is in the same order of magni-
411 | tude as the impact from climate model. The same type of results is obtained as for cap-
412 | ture zones, (Fig. 8). The geological model dominates the uncertainty on the absolute
413 | capture zone area while the uncertainties on geology and climate have a comparable,
414 | and relatively small, effect on the change in capture zone location.

415

416 It should be noted that travel time and capture zone location were not included in the
417 model calibration where only observations on hydraulic head and stream discharge were
418 matched by the models. Hence, travel time and capture area were not constrained
419 against a common target and larger differences between the results from the six models
420 can therefore be expected. Additionally, only model parameters (e.g., hydraulic conduc-
421 tivity) but not the geological structure were adjusted to fit the observations and possible
422 structural errors in the geological models are therefore, at least partially, compensated
423 by the estimated model parameters. Hence, larger differences are expected between
424 model predictions of travel time and capture zone, especially since the geological struc-

425 ture has been shown to be crucial for variables as travel time and capture zone that de-
426 pends on flow path (Seifert et al., 2008; He et al., 2013).

427

428 It was also found that when the models are used for simulating conditions beyond the
429 calibration base, i.e., used to simulate situations or type of data, which they have not
430 been calibrated against, the differences in the geological models become more important
431 and significant differences in the model results should be expected. Hence, the uncer-
432 tainty caused by the conceptual geological model increases as the climate moves away
433 from the baseline conditions.

434

435 Our findings are based on results from a specific case study with specific geological
436 conditions and hence the general applicability of our conclusions for other locations
437 needs to be considered with caution. As we are not aware of other studies that have re-
438 ported results from comparison of climate model uncertainty and conceptual geological
439 model uncertainty we are not able to provide firm generic conclusions on this specific
440 aspect. However, our findings confirm the conclusions of previous studies that concep-
441 tual geological uncertainty is an important source of uncertainty in groundwater model-
442 ing (Neumann, 2003; Bredehoeft, 2005) and that it becomes more and more dominating
443 compared to other sources the further away model predictions are from the calibration
444 base (Refsgaard et al., 2012).

445

446 The fact that climate change uncertainty dominates over conceptual geological uncer-
447 tainty for projections of groundwater heads and river discharge, while the opposite is
448 the case for projection of groundwater travel time and capture zones, clearly illustrates

449 the context dependency of uncertainty propagation (Refsgaard et al., 2013), i.e. that
450 climate uncertainty may be amplified and dominate in some cases but may be reduced
451 to negligible importance in other cases. Similar conclusions were drawn by Velazquez
452 et al. (2012) where several hydrological models with different structures were forced by
453 climate projections from several climate models. They found that the uncertainty on
454 climate change impacts on high flows were dominated by climate model uncertainty,
455 while hydrological model structure uncertainty contributed significantly for low flows.
456 Hence, our results on the travel times and capture zones are examples where climate
457 change uncertainty does not matter in practice (Refsgaard et al., 2013).

458

459 **6 Conclusions**

460

461 Based on hydrological model simulation using a combination of six geological models
462 and projections from 11 climate models the following conclusions are derived. (1) Cli-
463 mate model uncertainty is important for projection of hydraulic head and stream dis-
464 charge. Especially for stream discharge the uncertainty is dominated by the climate
465 model. (2) Geological model uncertainty is important for projection of hydraulic head
466 and the uncertainty becomes larger as the climate signal moves away from the baseline
467 conditions. (3) Geological model uncertainty has a relatively small effect on the projec-
468 tions of stream discharge even though summer stream discharge is analyzed where
469 groundwater-river interactions controls a relatively high fraction of the total discharge.
470 | (4) The uncertainty on travel times and capture zones to well fields ~~is~~are dominated by
471 geological model uncertainty. This uncertainty is controlled by the geological structure

472 which is not constrained during the calibration process. The impact and hence the
473 choice of climate model is relatively insignificant.

474

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481 models.

482

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583 **Tables**

584

585 Table 1. Geological models of the Langvad Stream catchment area. Calibration statistics
 586 are indicated by the mean error (ME_{TS}) and root mean square error of hydraulic head
 587 time series (RMS_{TS}), the Nash-Sutcliff coefficient (E) and the water balance (F_{bal}) for
 588 stream discharge.

Name	R1	R2	L1	L2	N1	N2
No. of hydro- stratigraph. layers	3	5	7	7	11	12
No. of numerical layers in model	3	5	7	7	9	10
Reference	(Roskilde Amt, 2002)	(Roskilde Amt, 2003)	(København Energi, 2005)	(København Energi, 2005)	(Henriksen et al., 1998)	(Højberg et al., 2008)
ME_{TS} (m)	-1.41	-0.20	0.31	-0.16	1.38	-0.19
RMS_{TS} (m)	6.52	3.12	2.08	2.01	4.41	4.82
E (-)	0.58	0.58	0.17	-0.12	0.63	0.75
F_{bal} (%)	-17	-8	-2	-2	-2	-2

589

590

591 Table 2. Matrix of ENSEMBLES climate models with GCM-RCM pairings used for the
 592 climate models (GCM = Global Climate Model, RCM = Regional Climate Model).
 593 From Seaby et al. (2013).

GCM \ RCM	HadCM3	ECHAM5	ARPEGE	BCM2
HadRM3	X			
REMO		X		
RM5.1			X	
HIRHAM5		X	X	X
CLM	X			
RACMO2		X		
RegCM3		X		
RCA3		X		X

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Table 3. Monthly DC values for precipitation ΔP , reference evapotranspiration ΔET_{ref} and temperature ΔT for the Zealand submodel 1 for the National Water Resources Model of Denmark in the far future period 2071-2100.

ΔP (-)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
ARPEGE-RM5.1	0.96	1.04	0.91	0.85	0.97	0.91	0.78	0.58	0.53	0.90	0.87	1.25	0.88
ARPEGE-HIRHAM5	1.02	1.02	0.82	0.78	0.79	0.67	0.77	0.66	0.57	0.83	0.83	1.20	0.83
BCM-HIRHAM5	1.13	0.99	1.41	1.13	1.04	1.28	1.28	1.02	1.02	0.87	1.02	1.05	1.10
BCM-RCA3	1.29	0.89	1.20	1.27	1.15	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.10	1.01	1.10	1.21	1.12
ECHAM-HIRHAM5	1.38	0.89	1.19	1.33	1.24	1.03	1.13	1.14	0.98	0.98	1.41	1.34	1.17
ECHAM-RegCM3	1.30	1.01	1.03	1.05	1.04	0.98	0.95	0.87	0.91	0.98	1.32	1.23	1.06
ECHAM-RACMO2	1.33	1.08	1.18	1.09	1.33	0.89	1.08	0.89	0.97	0.95	1.29	1.34	1.12
ECHAM-REMO	1.24	1.00	1.15	1.04	1.19	0.85	1.03	0.86	0.87	0.88	1.26	1.27	1.05
ECHAM-RCA3	1.25	1.07	1.20	1.27	1.13	1.03	0.94	0.87	0.93	0.92	1.39	1.28	1.11
HADQ0-CLM	1.22	1.29	0.87	1.47	0.91	1.05	0.88	0.80	0.91	0.96	1.40	1.44	1.10
HADQ0-HadRM3	1.20	1.06	0.92	1.18	1.00	0.95	0.95	0.76	1.20	0.73	1.09	1.26	1.03
Mean	1.21	1.03	1.08	1.13	1.07	0.97	0.99	0.87	0.91	0.91	1.18	1.26	1.05
ΔET_{ref} (-)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
ARPEGE-RM5.1	1.31	1.27	1.14	1.15	1.07	1.12	1.19	1.29	1.40	1.18	1.45	1.58	1.26
ARPEGE-HIRHAM5	1.37	1.23	1.09	1.10	1.05	1.07	1.07	1.06	1.08	0.98	1.12	1.51	1.14
BCM-HIRHAM5	1.52	1.27	1.18	1.12	1.00	0.99	1.05	1.10	1.08	1.16	1.34	1.47	1.19
BCM-RCA3	1.49	1.11	1.13	0.96	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.98	1.07	1.10	1.21	1.33	1.11
ECHAM-HIRHAM5	1.41	1.25	1.06	0.94	0.98	1.03	0.91	0.94	1.04	1.12	1.33	1.42	1.12
ECHAM-RegCM3	1.17	1.04	1.03	1.15	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.20	1.12	1.16	1.22	1.10	1.13
ECHAM-RACMO2	1.40	1.18	1.06	1.10	1.06	1.13	1.09	1.08	1.17	1.10	1.23	1.18	1.15
ECHAM-REMO	1.56	1.24	1.05	1.00	0.97	1.08	1.04	1.07	1.12	1.06	1.25	1.17	1.13
ECHAM-RCA3	1.39	1.10	0.95	0.94	0.98	1.07	1.06	1.05	1.09	1.06	1.19	1.09	1.08
HADQ0-CLM	1.53	1.25	1.09	0.97	0.98	1.03	1.06	1.34	1.28	1.23	1.47	1.58	1.23
HADQ0-HadRM3	1.97	1.58	1.35	1.21	1.18	1.20	1.21	1.31	1.34	1.44	1.71	1.85	1.45
Mean	1.47	1.23	1.10	1.06	1.03	1.08	1.07	1.13	1.16	1.14	1.32	1.39	1.18
ΔT (°C)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
ARPEGE-RM5.1	2.08	2.12	2.01	1.80	1.56	1.78	2.05	2.49	2.42	1.81	2.06	2.92	2.09
ARPEGE-HIRHAM5	2.22	2.44	1.94	1.82	1.87	1.97	1.86	1.93	1.79	1.32	1.64	2.88	1.97
BCM-HIRHAM5	2.65	2.79	3.56	2.58	1.32	1.63	1.36	1.35	1.26	1.47	2.14	2.67	2.07
BCM-RCA3	2.57	2.82	3.01	2.05	1.45	1.53	1.04	1.61	1.21	1.06	1.78	2.34	1.87
ECHAM-HIRHAM5	2.73	2.55	1.76	1.51	1.39	1.41	0.78	1.07	1.66	2.44	3.22	3.10	1.97
ECHAM-RegCM3	2.72	2.45	1.53	2.03	2.30	2.21	1.84	2.33	2.14	2.76	2.86	2.96	2.34
ECHAM-RACMO2	2.51	2.30	1.91	1.91	2.17	2.09	1.86	2.05	2.03	2.54	2.50	2.85	2.23
ECHAM-REMO	2.71	2.60	1.92	1.94	1.97	1.92	1.67	1.98	2.14	2.39	2.59	2.77	2.22
ECHAM-RCA3	2.82	2.54	1.86	1.79	1.78	1.87	1.68	1.90	2.05	2.48	2.74	2.88	2.20
HADQ0-CLM	4.47	2.81	3.28	2.92	2.42	2.41	2.49	3.89	3.53	4.07	4.16	4.32	3.40
HADQ0-HadRM3	5.11	3.35	3.17	3.21	3.06	2.75	2.80	3.68	3.66	3.98	3.91	3.81	3.54
Mean	2.96	2.62	2.36	2.14	1.94	1.96	1.77	2.21	2.17	2.39	2.69	3.05	2.35

610

611 Table 34. Simulated mean hydraulic head in the Limestone aquifer in the focus area for
612 the reference scenario and the scenario climates. Changes in mean hydraulic head from
613 reference to scenario climate are listed in brackets. “Mean geology” and “Std. dev. ge-
614 ology” are the average and the standard deviation of the results from the hydrological
615 models for each climate scenario. “Mean climate” and “Std. dev. climate” the average
616 and the standard deviation of the results from the different climate models used in each
617 hydrological model.

	R1	R2	L1	L2	N1	N2	Mean geology	Std.dev. geology
h mean, m								
Reference Climate	21.0	20.7	20.0	20.4	18.5	19.1	19.9	1.0
ARPEGE-RM5.1	20.0 (-1.01)	19.6 (-1.12)	19.3 (-0.73)	19.8 (-0.61)	17.3 (-1.16)	18.1 (-0.94)	19.0 (-0.93)	1.07 (0.22)
ARPEGE-HIRHAM5	20.0 (-1.00)	19.6 (-1.07)	19.3 (-0.69)	19.8 (-0.59)	17.4 (-1.08)	18.2 (-0.88)	19.1 (-0.89)	1.04 (0.21)
BCM-HIRHAM5	21.2 (0.17)	20.9 (0.19)	20.1 (0.11)	20.5 (0.08)	18.6 (0.14)	19.2 (0.12)	20.1 (0.13)	1.00 (0.04)
BCM-RCA3	21.5 (0.47)	21.2 (0.52)	20.3 (0.31)	20.7 (0.25)	18.8 (0.40)	19.4 (0.33)	20.3 (0.38)	1.02 (0.10)
ECHAM-HIRHAM5	21.7 (0.71)	21.5 (0.82)	20.5 (0.48)	20.8 (0.39)	19.0 (0.60)	19.6 (0.49)	20.5 (0.58)	1.05 (0.16)
ECHAM-RegCM3	21.2 (0.23)	20.9 (0.23)	20.1 (0.13)	20.5 (0.09)	18.6 (0.14)	19.2 (0.11)	20.1 (0.15)	1.02 (0.06)
ECHAM-RACMO2	21.5 (0.45)	21.2 (0.48)	20.3 (0.28)	20.6 (0.21)	18.8 (0.34)	19.4 (0.27)	20.3 (0.34)	1.04 (0.11)
ECHAM-REMO	21.2 (0.21)	20.9 (0.21)	20.1 (0.13)	20.5 (0.10)	18.6 (0.15)	19.2 (0.12)	20.1 (0.15)	1.01 (0.05)
ECHAM-RCA3	21.5 (0.50)	21.2 (0.55)	20.3 (0.33)	20.7 (0.25)	18.8 (0.40)	19.4 (0.32)	20.3 (0.39)	1.03 (0.11)
HADQ0-CLM	21.4 (0.39)	21.1 (0.40)	20.2 (0.24)	20.6 (0.18)	18.7 (0.28)	19.3 (0.23)	20.2 (0.29)	1.03 (0.09)
HADQ0-HadRM3	20.6 (-0.39)	20.2 (-0.47)	19.7 (-0.32)	20.1 (-0.28)	18.0 (-0.47)	18.7 (-0.41)	19.6 (-0.39)	1.02 (0.08)
Mean climate	21.1 (0.07)	20.7 (0.07)	20.0 (0.02)	20.4 (0.01)	18.4 (-0.02)	19.1 (-0.02)	20.0 (0.02*)	1.03 (0.11**)
Std.dev. climate	0.60 (0.60)	0.66 (0.66)	0.42 (0.42)	0.34 (0.34)	0.60 (0.60)	0.49 (0.49)	0.52 (0.52***)	1.07 (0.51*)

618 * Mean and standard deviation based on all the numbers in the matrix.
619 ** Mean of the standard deviations of geological models.
620 *** Mean of the standard deviations of climate models.

621 Table 45. Results of variance analysis with respect to climate models and geological
 622 models on (1) absolute mean values and (2) changes in mean values compared to results
 623 obtained using reference climate with respect to hydraulic head, discharge (annual and
 624 summer dis.), travel time and catchment area. All variance components (columns denot-
 625 ed “Geology” and “Climate”) are presented as standard deviations. The column “Mean
 626 change” denotes the projected mean change.

	Location	Absolute values		Change relative to reference climate		
		Geology	Climate	Mean change	Geology	Climate
Head, m	Focus area	1.03	0.52	0.02	0.11	0.52
Annual dis., m ³ /s	St. 52.30	0.08	0.32	0.08	0.01	0.32
Summer dis., m ³ /s	St. 52.30	0.21	0.14	0.00	0.05	0.14
Travel time, year	Assermølle	30.7	6.4	-0.2	4.6	6.4
	Gevninge	60.3	4.1	0.6	2.5	4.1
	Hule Mølle	36.4	4.9	1.6	7.1	4.9
	Kornerup	81.0	2.8	0.6	2.7	2.8
	Lavringe	58.5	2.4	1.5	2.4	2.4
	Ramsø	66.5	4.2	0.8	3.4	4.2
Catchment area, km ²	Assermølle	13.0	1.6	2.4	1.4	1.6
	Gevninge	1.6	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6
	Hule Mølle	6.2	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
	Kornerup	15.9	1.0	2.9	1.6	1.0
	Lavringe	6.7	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.3
	Ramsø	10.5	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.4

627
628

629 **Figure captions**

630 Figure 1. Model area of the Langvad Stream catchment area with land surface elevation,
631 streams, abstraction wells and location of the main well fields in the focus area (the
632 clusters of wells along the streams).

633 Figure 2. Methodology for estimation of and change in capture zone area for a well field

634 | Figure 3. Based on results where each of the six hydrological models are forced by 11
635 climate model projections: a) boxplot of the simulated mean hydraulic head, h , in
636 the limestone aquifer in the focus area and b) boxplot of the change in h from
637 reference to future scenarios.

638 Figure 4. Simulated change in mean hydraulic head of the Limestone aquifer in the
639 focus area using six geological models and 11 climate models.

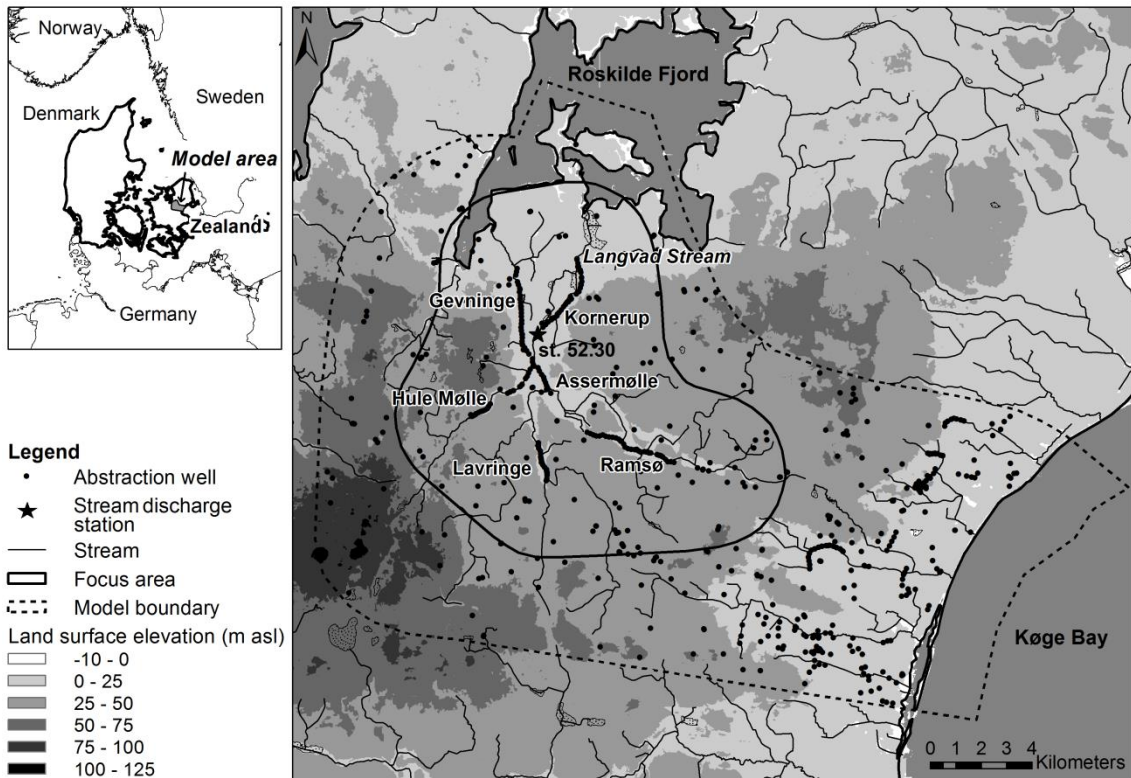
640 Figure 5. Standard deviations of the change in hydraulic head from the geological
641 models, Table 43, compared with the change in the reference net precipitation ($P-$
642 ET_{ref}).

643 | Figure 6. a) Boxplot of the simulated mean summer stream discharge $\bar{Q}_{s\bar{7}}$ in a
644 downstream discharge station (st. 52.30) using input from 11 climate models, and
645 b) boxplot of the change in (ΔQ_{summer}) from reference to future scenarios.

646 Figure 7. a) Boxplot of the simulated median travel time to Lavringe well field, and b)
647 boxplot of the percentage change in median travel time from reference to future
648 scenarios.

649 Figure 8. a) Boxplot of the simulated capture zone area for Lavringe well fields and b)
650 boxplot of the percentage change in capture zone area from reference to future
651 scenarios.

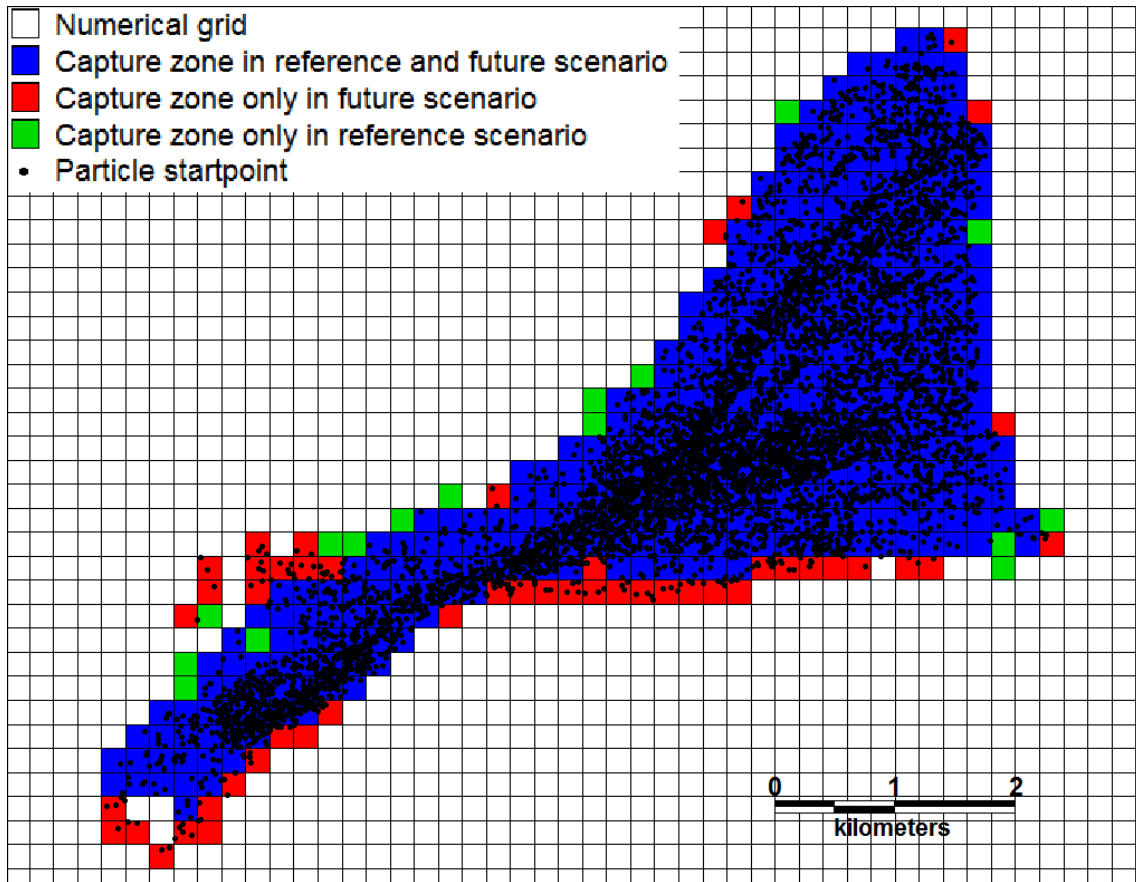
652 Figure 9. Uncertainty of catchment areas for two well fields using a) 6 geological
653 models with same climate model, and b) 11 climate models with the same
654 geological model.
655



656

657 | Figure 1. Model area of the Langvad Stream catchment area with land surface eleva-
 658 | tion, streams, abstraction wells and location of the main well fields in the focus area (the
 659 | clusters of wells along the streams).

660

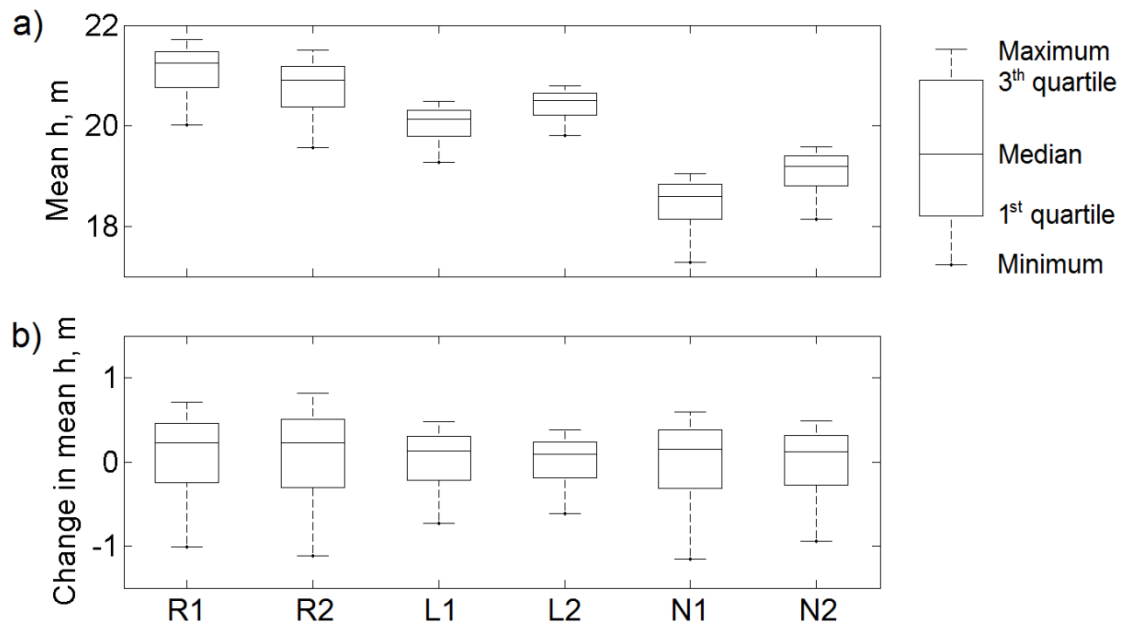


661

662 Figure 2. Methodology for estimation of and change in capture zone area for a well

663 field.

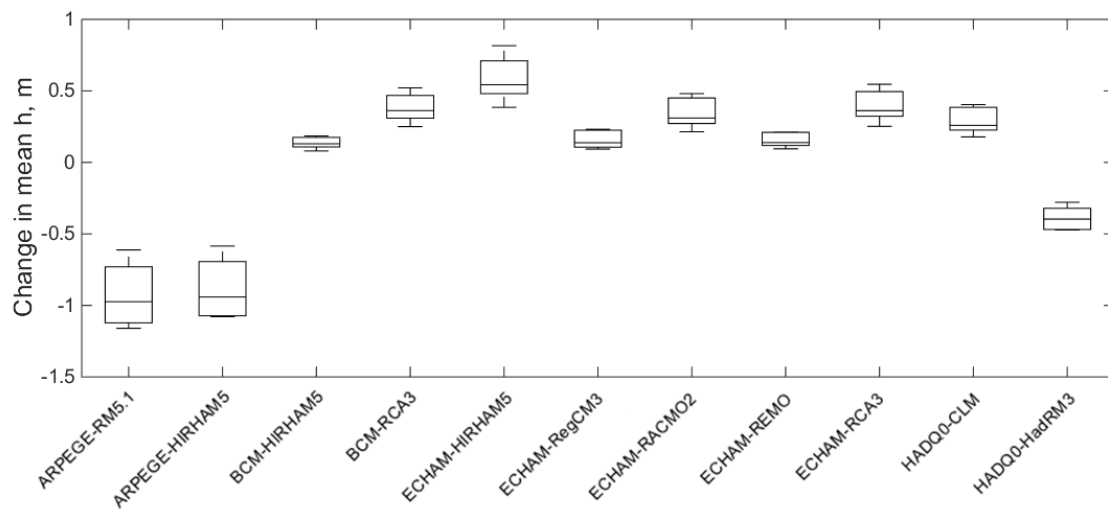
664



665

666 | Figure 3. Based on results where each of the six hydrological models are forced by 11
 667 climate model projections: a) boxplot of the simulated mean hydraulic head, h , in the
 668 limestone aquifer in the focus area and b) boxplot of the change in h from reference to
 669 future scenarios.

670



671

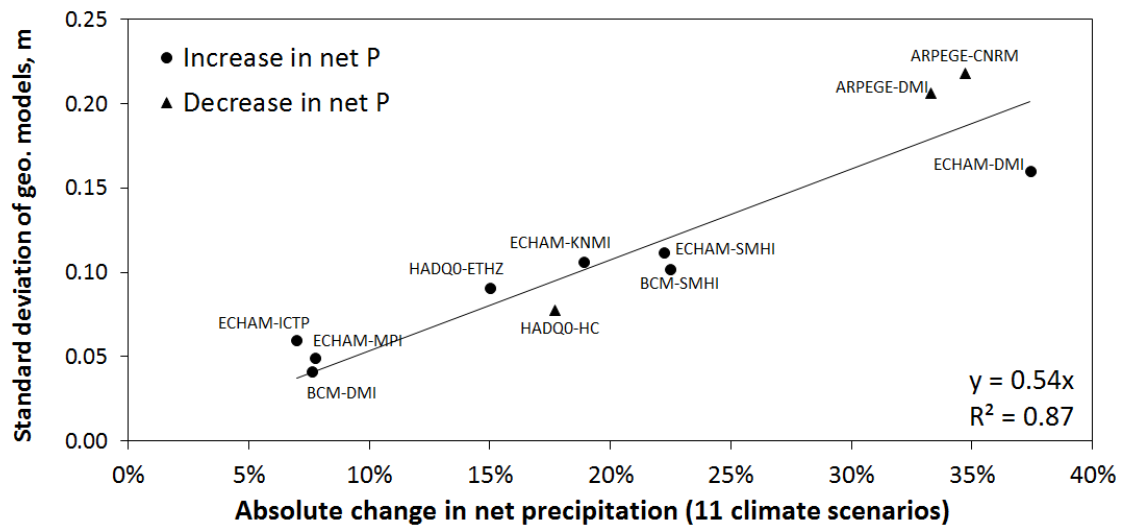
672 Figure 4. Simulated change in mean hydraulic head of the Limestone aquifer in the

673 focus area using six geological models and 11 climate models.

674 [Change axis so it comply with Fig. 3b](#)

675

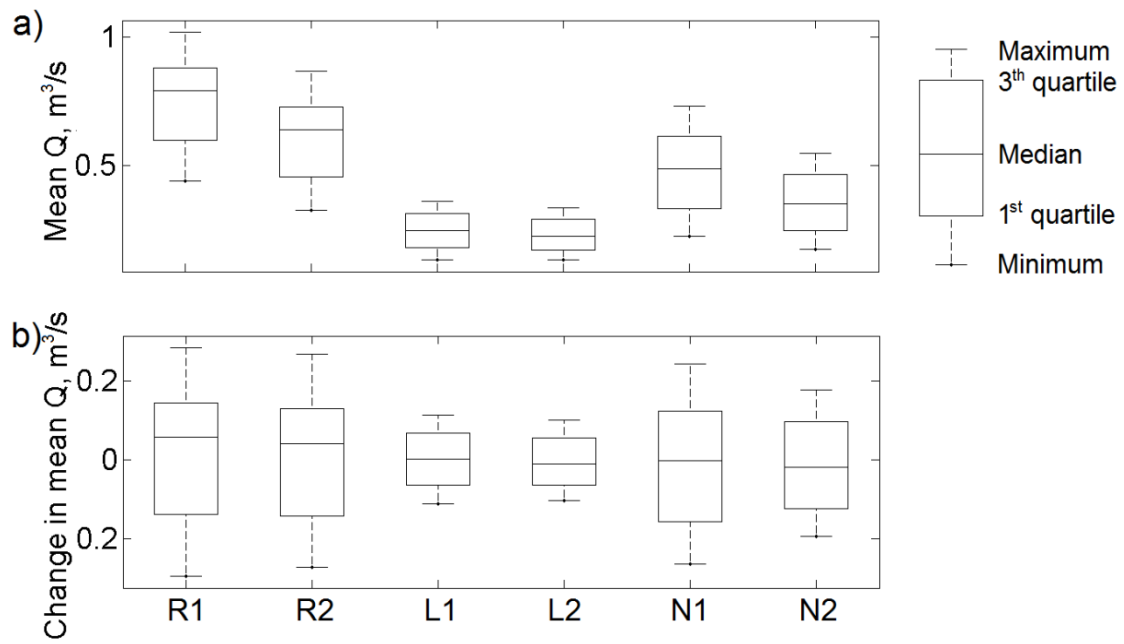
676



677

678 Figure 5. Standard deviations of the change in hydraulic head from the geological
 679 models, Table 34, compared with the change in the reference net precipitation ($P-ET_{ref}$).

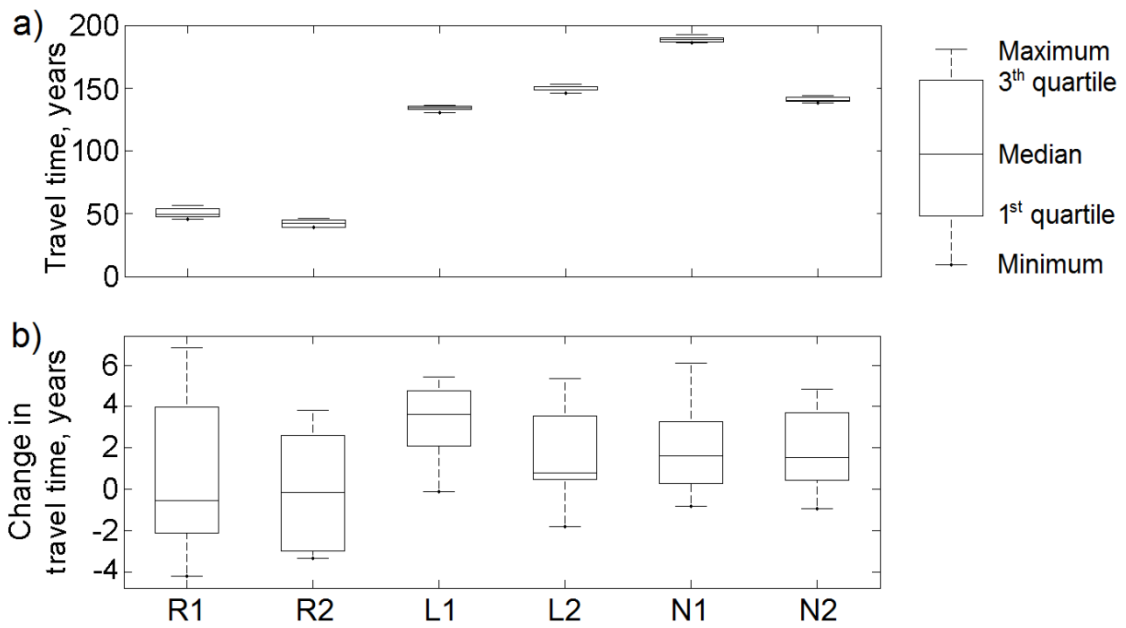
680



681

682 Figure 6. a) Boxplot of the simulated mean summer stream discharge, Q_s , in a
 683 downstream discharge station (st. 52.30) using input from 11 climate models, and b)
 684 boxplot of the change in Q_{summer} from reference to future scenarios.

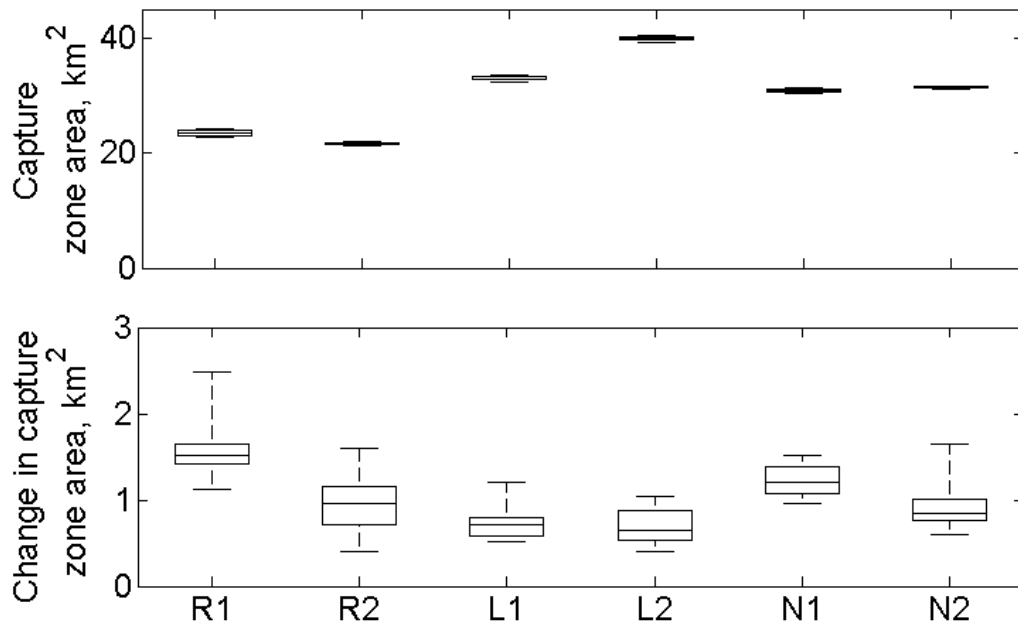
685



686

687 Figure 7. a) Boxplot of the simulated median travel time to Lavringe well field, and b)
 688 boxplot of the percentage change in median travel time from reference to future
 689 scenarios.

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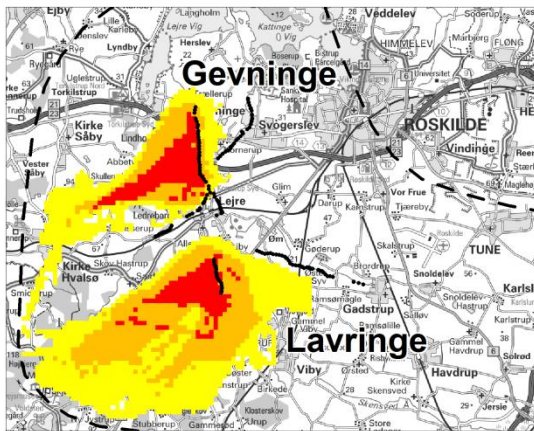
692 Figure 8. a) Boxplot of the simulated capture zone area for Lavringe well fields and b)

693 boxplot of the percentage change in capture zone area from reference to future

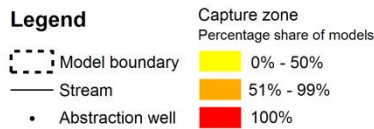
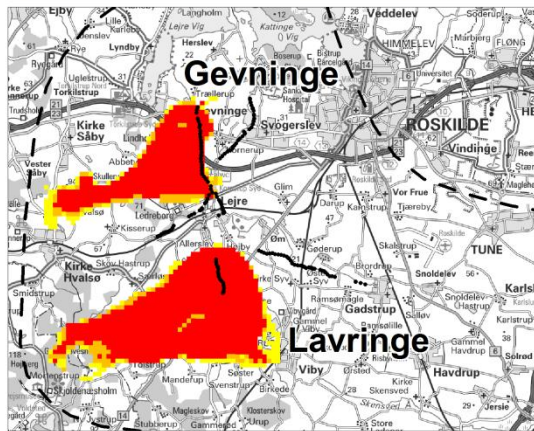
694 scenarios.

695

a) Six geological models - one climate model



b) Eleven climate models - one geological model



696

697 Figure 9. Uncertainty of catchment areas for two well filelds using a) 6 geological
 698 models with same climate model, and b) 11 climate models with the same geological
 699 model.