

Interactive comment on “Quantifying the impact of climate change on water resources at the basin scale on five continents – a unified approach” by M. C. Todd et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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[0] There is a potential problem with overlap with other papers in the special issue. For example, Table 1 and Figure 1 are both used in Gosling et al. (2010, HESSD) as well, and some of the conclusions shown here are also in the other paper. The authors need to explain the differences between this paper and the one by Gosling et al. and why it would be warranted to published both! If this paper is meant as a preface to the special issue then it should be marked as such and significantly shortened. If not, then it seems like the same models, same data, and basically the same results are presented in both papers.

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In general, this manuscript seems to represent the summary of the individual papers submitted to the special issue in which it is published. As such it attempts to provide a discussion of the methodology in as far as it is similar between the papers. It also tries to look across the papers and to provide some overall conclusions. At this point, I believe that the manuscript achieves the first point quite well (i.e. present common methodology), but leaves one dissatisfied with respect to an assessment of the overall outcome of the special issue. It has to be clear (including in the abstract) what the added value of this summary paper is! Below some detailed comments in this regard:

[1] The title of the manuscript does not lead one to think that it provides a discussion across the papers published within the special issue. It would be very helpful for readers if the authors would adjust the title in this regard. Otherwise readers will miss the opportunity to benefit from this assessment.

[2] The assessment of the overall contributions, relative between the study basins, and with respect to overall previous conclusions drawn by other studies is not taken as far as it could and somewhat hidden in the manuscript. What are the main conclusions? I suggest that the authors add a table that summarizes the main conclusions drawn. This would be very helpful. This table can provide the comparative analysis, but also conclusions regarding whether previous statements by others (e.g. drier will become drier) have been confirmed.

[3] There are references missing, e.g. Chiew (2007) is not listed. Please check all your references.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 7, 7485, 2010.

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