



Evaluation of a grid-based river flow model using regional climate model output over Europe

S. J. Dadson (1), V. A. Bell (1), R. G. Jones (2)

(1) Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Maclean Building, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8BB, UK. (2) Met Office Hadley Centre (Reading Unit), Meteorology Building, University of Reading, Reading, RG6 6BB, UK, UK.

Regional Climate Models (RCMs) offer significant improvements over Global Climate Models in terms of their representation of rainfall at the spatial and temporal scales required for hydrological modelling. Here we test a new implementation of a grid-based hydrological model embedded in a model of land-surface climatology (the Joint UK Land Exchange Scheme; JULES) against observed river flows in several major NW European rivers, including the Rhine, Maas, Elbe, Danube, Loire, and Seine. Our hydrological model includes a probability-distributed model of soil moisture and runoff production (PDM) coupled with a discrete approximation to the one-dimensional kinematic wave equation to route surface and subsurface water downslope (G2G). The model was driven with hourly output from the Hadley Centre regional climate model, using results from the ERA-40 reanalysis experiment as boundary conditions (1961-2000). The results of simulations for river catchments in northwest Europe are presented and compared with measured river flows over the same time period, for the same locations. The success with which the runoff production and flow routing components of the land-surface model match observed flow data is evaluated.