



Streamflow variability in the Swiss Alps

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The paper focuses on the influence of climate change on water resources in the Swiss Alps. Changes in the streamflow behaviour during the 1900 to 2006 period were analysed and quantified based on daily observations from different unregulated basins. Modifications in the streamflow probability density functions, especially in volume (expressed by the median) and variability (inter-quartile range), were investigated for different seasons. The strongest changes in streamflow have been detected for the winter (December to February): Since the beginning of the 20th century both volume and variability have increased significantly. For the summer season (June to August), however, flows tend to decrease in quantity as well as in year-to-year variability.