

Working Group on “Groundwater and Climate Change”

Report for 2003

Co-Chairmen:

Nico Goldscheider, Neuchâtel (CH)

Ian Holman, Silsoe (UK)

Arie Issar, Jerusalem (IL)

This new working group was established in autumn 2003. A first proposal was presented to the IAH Council meeting in September 2003 in Bled, Slovenia, and was unanimously accepted. A more detailed proposal and business plan were prepared for, and accepted by, the IAH Executive Committee meeting in January 2004.

To date, 40 people from 18 countries on 5 continents have expressed a willingness to cooperate with the working group.

A homepage for our working group has been established at:

<http://www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk/iwe/projects/iahgroup/>

Our site contains a downloadable bibliography of more than 300 references and a page of relevant Internet links prepared by the working group. During its first full month of operation in January 2004 the site had over 250 visits, and comes up on the first Google web search page for the terms- groundwater, climate, change.

The working group established contact with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the project ‘Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change’ (GRAPHIC, project proposal for IGRAC and UNESCO IHP), and some other organisations and projects dealing with similar topics.

At the next Assembly of the European Geophysical Union (EGU) in Nice, France, in April 2004, the Hydrological Sciences Programme Committee is organising a session dealing with ‘impacts of climate change on hydrological response and on water resources management’

Comment [I.P.1]:

Together with the International Union of Quaternary Research, our working group are organising a workshop on ‘Groundwater Dynamics and Global Change’ at the Agricultural University of Norway in April 2004. Dr Ian Holman will be representing our working group, and will present two papers, on uncertainties in our understanding of the influences (direct and indirect) of climate change on groundwater recharge, and on the implications of climate change for saline intrusion of a lowland coastal aquifer within the Broads National Park, UK

Another meeting of the group will be organised during the 32nd International Geological Congress in August 2004 in Florence. During this conference, there will be a special session on “impact of climatic changes on groundwater resources”, chaired by W. Dragoni (Italy) and B.S. Sukhija (India). Our working group will be represented by Dr Arie Issar who is presenting a paper on “ Arad and Jericho - A tale of two cities in ancient Canaan. The storage capacity of their groundwater resources decided their history”.

In spring 2005, our group will organise the first IAH workshop on ‘Groundwater and climate change’ at the University of East Anglia, UK.