

MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM Nexus Module: Integrating water sector and climate impacts

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Abstract. The Integrated Assessment Model (IAM) MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM developed by IIASA is widely used to analyse global change and socioeconomic development scenarios within the energy and land systems across different scales. However, until now, the representation of impacts from climate impacts and water systems within the IAM has been limited. We present a new nexus module for MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM that improves the representation of climate impacts and enables the analysis of interactions between population, economic growth, energy, land, and water resources in a dynamic system. The module uses a spatially resolved representation of water systems to retain hydrological information without compromising computational feasibility. It maps simplified water availability and key infrastructure assumptions with the energy and land systems. The results of this study inform on the transformation pathways required under climate change impacts and mitigation scenarios. The pathways include multi-sectoral indicators highlighting the importance of water as a constraint in energy and land-use decisions and the implications of global responses to limited water availability from different sources, suggesting possible shifts in the energy and land sectors.

1 Introduction

Multiple inter-sectoral objectives, including economic, environmental, and social goals, are integrated into formulating effective, sustainable policies over the long term. Nexus approaches have been increasingly used and considered in policy analysis, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to exploit synergies and avoid negative trade-offs and unintended consequences considering the increased awareness of the interdependencies between the energy, water, and land sectors (EWL) sectors. Climate policy assessment helps identify pathways that can help achieve the 'well below 2°C' global warming target and other SDGs, such

40 as access to clean energy, water and sanitation, and food security (Parkinson et al., 2018; Khan et
al., 2017, 2018; Parkinson et al., 2019b). In addition to climate change risks, limited resources
compounded by population and GDP growth pose an additional challenge (Byers et al., 2018).
Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) help researchers and policymakers understand the long-
45 term consequences of varying socioeconomic development and climate change scenarios. These
scenarios ~~are widely used for assess~~ accessing the ~~costs~~ cost and benefits of climate change impacts
and mitigation strategies. These models integrate ~~different~~ sectors (global economy, energy,
water, agriculture, and forestry) to provide policy insights relevant to climate change scenarios
(Weyant, 2017). IAMs provide long-term transformation pathways to answer critical questions
on climate change transition to ambitious climate policy goals (Riahi et al., 2017).

50 Substantial efforts have been made ~~to~~ develop ~~developing~~ scenarios that
inform ~~informing~~ a range of futures with varying societal and socioeconomic assumptions. (Riahi
et al., 2017) The most used set of scenarios in IAMs includes the Shared-Socio-economic
Pathways (SSPs), a group of five quantified narratives for the evolution of socioeconomic
development globally for the 21st century (O'Neill et al., 2017), and Representation
55 Concentration Pathways (RCPs), a set of four scenarios spanning a range of radiative forcing
values (van Vuuren et al., 2011). These narratives have been translated into assumptions for
economic growth, population change, and urbanization to analyse baseline and climate mitigation
scenarios (Riahi et al., 2017).

60 Although SSPs were designed to analyze the challenges for mitigation and climate
adaptation, integration of climate impacts and adaptation of energy and land sectors to water
sector constraints has, until recently, been limited in the IAM scenarios due to substantial
challenges in technical implementation and representation of climate impacts. Long-term
assessment of climate mitigation scenarios often neglects the climate impacts on system
performance, resulting in avoiding adaptation costs in the analysis (Calvin et al., 2013; Piontek et
65 al., 2021). IAMs typically operate at a regional or continental scale to inform future pathways,
whereas adaptation strategies require a more nuanced, localized focus emphasizing national and
sub-national levels (Andrijevic et al., 2023). Many IAMs are modelled at an aggregated spatial
regions or continents as their level of spatial resolution to inform pathways for the future consider
costs of resources in an aggregated spatial region/continent. In the case of an adaptation, the key
70 element for change is required from a local/national scale. More detailed information on the
spatial distribution of costs and benefits of impacts and adaptation is required to inform adaptation
actions and policies (Patt et al., 2010).

Impact ~~modelling~~ modeling activities across diverse ~~modelling~~ modeling groups, such as
the Intercomparison Model project (ISIMIP) (Frieler et al., 2017), have been carried out to
understand the impacts of climate change better individually. These sectoral ~~exercises include~~
75 assessments of evaluate biophysical impacts such as changing yields, runoff changes, food
production, and groundwater. Economic impacts are subsequently estimated using
various ~~estimate that economic impacts have been estimated using a variety of~~
methodologies, methodologies, chosen based on the specific type of impact considered, such as

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~~the correlation between climate damages and temperature variations depending on the types of impacts considered, such as the relationship between climate damages and temperature.~~ Some studies have empirically linked climate conditions with socioeconomic systems and incorporated distributional factors into cost-benefit models, resulting in increased social costs of carbon and more stringent mitigation pathways (Parry and Carter, 2019; Howard and Sterner, 2017). Incorporating ~~the representation of biophysical climate impacts into integrated assessment models is crucial to understand how various sectors influence techno-economic scenarios and to identify appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies~~ (van Maanen et al., 2023; Andrijevic et al., 2023). ~~It is becoming quite evident to have the representation of biophysical climate impacts into integrated assessment models to comprehend the effects of different sectors on the techno-economic outlook and to determine mitigation and adaptation pathways.~~ (Piontek et al., 2021) ~~analyzed the economic impacts analysed the economic impacts of climate change of climate change~~ using the REMIND IAM model, but biophysical climate impacts were not represented. (Soergel et al., 2021a) emphasized the significance of considering the consequences of climate impacts and evaluating how integrated scenarios respond to these impacts, especially regarding sustainable development pathways. (Schultes et al., 2021) ~~highlights the economic impact of climate change, advocating for immediate mitigation to reduce long-term damages and align with cost-effective Paris Agreement targets. This study addresses these gaps by proposing a framework that integrates climate impacts, strengthens the water sector (which is essential in the context of climate change), and formulates scenarios in conjunction with sustainable development assumptions to assess the impacts of climate change under mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development pathways. This study proposes a framework incorporating high-resolution model outputs of biophysical climate impacts into IAMs, strengthening the water sector's resilience, and crafts scenarios with sustainable development objectives to evaluate climate change effects across various pathways, including mitigation, adaptation, and sustainability.~~

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New analytical approaches and solutions are required to address the challenges of impact and adaptation in long-term policy analysis (Wang et al., 2016; Patt et al., 2010; Riahi et al., 2017). ~~By introducing climate impacts in the development trajectories, such as the SSP framework, the regional inequality of climate impacts' exposure can also be considered.~~ There is a need for a balanced synthesis of Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSP) narratives with climate impacts, adaptation, and resilience pathways to assess water, food, and energy security to access sectoral adaptation costs and impacts (Rasul, 2016; Schleussner et al., 2021). Regions highly exposed to climate impacts, highly vulnerable populations (Byers et al., 2018), and developing regions face the biggest challenge in adapting to climate change impacts and; simultaneously; meeting growing population-driven demands in the EWL sectors (Rasul and Sharma, 2016). ~~Integrating The integration of~~ cross-sectoral ~~Energy-Water-Land~~EWL nexus analysis in IAMs can help identify trade-offs and synergies, integrate policy implementations, and address equity dimensions, such as the population exposed to hunger or lacking access to sanitation and electricity. This holistic approach ~~enhances~~ ~~is designed to elicit a model endogenous response to climate impacts and~~

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~~SDGs constraints, thereby enhancing systemic resilience and advancing sustainable development. However, it does not delineate specific adaptation policies at the community level. the resilience of communities and promotes sustainable development.~~

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~~Due to the hydrological data's spatial and temporal complexity of hydrological data, it is challenging to translate hydrological information into the IAMs. Usually, the spatial extent of IAMs is macro-regions, and the aggregated hydrological information loses adequate information at a macro-level. There is 105 always a need to find a middle ground between showing the hydrological process more accurately and lowering the cost of computing (Fricko et al., 2016; Parkinson et al., 2019b). There have been efforts to link a higher spatial resolution water sector to account for hydrological balance and constraints in IAMs, such as (Yates, 1997) and (Kim et al., 2016).~~

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~~Addressing the identified gaps, this study proposes a framework that integrates climate impacts with an emphasis on the water sector's role in climate change and develops scenarios in sync with sustainable development assumptions to evaluate the effects of climate change within the contexts of mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development pathways.~~

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~~This study addresses these gaps by proposing a framework that integrates climate impacts, strengthens the water sector (which is essential in the context of climate change), and formulates scenarios in 100 conjunction with sustainable development assumptions to assess the impacts of climate change under mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development pathways.~~

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This paper introduces a new module of the global MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM framework (Riahi et al., 2021; Krey et al., 2016). The ~~Nexus~~nexus module attempts to fill the gap in integrated assessments by improving the representation of biophysical climate impacts across the ~~Energy, Water Land (EWL)~~ sectors and enhancing the water sector representation. ~~We~~Using this module, ~~we~~ develop scenarios that can effectively capture climate impacts across multiple sectors using this module. Then, these scenarios are combined with SDG targets in EWL sectors to capture the synergies and trade-offs of climate impacts and sustainable development pathways.

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The manuscript is structured as follows: Section 2 comprehensively explains the ~~model~~module's structure, improvements, and modular procedures, with detail on specific components of the ~~model~~module, such as the water sector, biophysical climate impacts, Sustainable Development Goals, and flexibility at different scales (with Zambia as an example), described in section 3. Section 4 presents the results ~~of~~as the ~~model~~module's ability to answer different research questions, and Section 5 concludes with a summary of the study's significant findings and contributions.

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2. Model structure & workflows

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Least-cost optimization using engineering-economic modelling is a common approach for long-term energy, water, and land planning (Barbier, 2012; Khan et al., 2017). However, it is not typically performed in a holistic manner that jointly considers system solutions across sectors in a single algorithm. These approaches have been a vital component of the MESSAGEix framework in analysing sustainable transition in climate change mitigation and sustainable socioeconomic development (Khan et al., 2018; Huppmann et al., 2019). Engineering-economic modelling methods to quantify impacts, ~~and~~ resource potential, and costs across different spatial and temporal scales are employed within the nexus module. The approach is both engineering and economical in scope because it combines physically based models of infrastructure systems with cost functions and decision rules for operation, expansion, and retirement at the process level through time. The theoretical underpinning of decision modelling is that system design choices are made at least cost over the planning horizon in a ~~perfectly~~perfect foresight, integrated way. The ~~end-user~~end-use prices for consumers are minimized, and flexibilities across sectors to absorb sectoral trade-offs are fully utilized and planned for in advance.

The "nexus" module of the MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM framework, MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM Nexus v1 presented in this paper, contains endogenous spatially- and temporally explicit climate impact constraints and water allocation algorithms. This module extends the foundational work carried out by (Parkinson et al., 2019b). It addresses the gaps in the previous study by improving the water sector resolution, water constraints, and climate impacts. The module here refers to expanding the core global framework of MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM to represent specific dimensions straightforwardly at the cost of increased computational complexity and cost. The MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM Integrated Assessment framework is a global energy-economic-agricultural-land use model that evaluates the interconnected global energy systems, agriculture, land use, climate, and the economy. ~~Using a linear programming approach,~~†The MESSAGEix framework optimizes the total discounted system costs across all energy, land-use, and water sector representations using Linear Programming. It provides options for both perfect foresight and recursive-dynamic modes. Its adaptability and flexibility make it a powerful instrument for optimizing transformation pathways at various scales, emphasizing minimizing system costs. It comprises five complementary ~~models or~~modules: the energy model MESSAGEix (Huppmann et al., 2019), the land use model GLOBIOM (Havlík et al., 2014), the air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) model GAINS, the aggregated macro-economic model MACRO, and the simple climate model MAGICC (Meinshausen et al., 2011). The framework combines the MESSAGEix and GLOBIOM models to assess and model policy scenarios' economic, social, and environmental implications. The framework comprehensively examines the trade-offs and synergies between numerous policy objectives, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, boosting food security, and safeguarding natural resources. To access sustainable development targets, the framework is utilized to evaluate the feasibility and implications of alternative policy choices and to guide decision-making.

200 The nexus module simultaneously determines energy portfolio, land use, ~~and~~ associated
water requirements, ~~and~~ feedback from constrained resources, such as limited water
availability for energy and land use resource usage. It includes a framework for connecting
information from hydrological models. It is designed to adapt any Global Hydrological Model
205 (GHM) output and be flexible across different spatial scales (regional definitions, global and
country scales). A higher-resolution spatial layer at the basin scale is embedded within the module
to retain valuable hydrological data. The information from the water sector is then mapped to the
global MESSAGEix energy system at the MESSAGEix native region level. This ~~connects~~enables
~~converting~~ valuable water resource data to the energy sectors and vice versa. The framework
210 balances basin-level water availability and demand while mapping water necessary for energy and
land usage at the MESSAGE native region level. The nexus module tracks annual municipal and
industrial water demand, water required for power plant cooling technologies, energy extraction,
and irrigation water use, balancing through water supply from several sources, such as surface
water, groundwater, and desalinated water.

215 Furthermore, a wastewater treatment infrastructure representation tracks the water
during collection, treatment, and reuse. Water demands are tracked across urban and rural
components to enable a more comprehensive understanding of future development and adaptation
needs. Additionally, biophysical climate impacts are integrated across EWL sectors, including
water availability, desalination potential, hydropower potential, air-conditioning cooling demand,
power plant cooling potential, and land-use variables (bioenergy, irrigation water) to account for
the feedback associated with climate change within the ~~model~~module. GLOBIOM was also
220 adjusted to capture water supply, availability, scarcity, and demand from other sectors based on
~~GHM's~~the hydrological data ~~of GHM~~ under different climate-forcing scenarios. In this case,
GLOBIOM and the MESSAGEix nexus module are configured to use outputs from gridded
GHMs from the Inter-Sectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Project (ISIMIP) (Frieler et al.,
2017). This information is specified for 210 river basins based on the Hydro SHEDS basin
225 delineation (Lehner et al., 2006) (Figure 3).

230 One of the critical features of the Nexus module is its ability to simulate global
interactions across multiple sectors and systems. It allows the ~~model~~module to represent the
complex feedback and spillover effects from policy interventions, such as the potential
implications of land use changes on the global food system and the energy sector or the water
footprints of the energy system. ~~The framework allows a realistic and complete study of policy~~
~~possibilities by incorporating many facts and hypotheses, such as population and economic~~
~~growth predictions, technology advancement, and resource restrictions.~~ The framework facilitates
a comprehensive assessment of policy options by integrating scenario-based projections,
including population and economic growth, technological advancements, and resource
235 limitations.

The integrated approach thoroughly considers the trade-offs and synergies between
diverse policy objectives, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing food security,
and protecting natural resources. Considering biophysical climate impacts across different sectors

240 helps to access different adaptation needs and responses in different sectoral outputs across
different pathways. In the context of sustainable development, it can analyse the viability and
implications of various policy alternatives and inform decision-making.

245 The MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM framework allows flexible integration with different
modules, such as those on water, transport, materials, and buildings. The development process of
the nexus module is divided into four phases: (i) identifying databases and literature studies for
key assumptions; (ii) data processing to make the data model compatible; (iii) setting the core
module, which compiles the data and populates it into the core model; and (iv) ~~post-computing~~
processing of the model outputs to provide ready-to-use results in a database and for visualization
tools such as IASA-scenario explorer (Huppmann et al., 2018).

250 The module uses SSP-RCP (Shared Socioeconomic Pathways – Representative
Concentration Pathway) combinations as narratives for creating a baseline scenario. Each scenario
is developed using SSP-RCP combinations, national policies, and Sustainable Development Goal
(SDG) assumptions aggregated at the R11 region, a spatial delineation of 11 global regions used
in the MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM. National policies, including energy use and emission
trajectories, are formulated based on the existing MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM MESSAGE-at-ata
255 0.5° x 0.5° spatial resolution, distributed monthly over the growing season based on local cropping
calendars for a 10-year time step. These requirements are used as input to the GLOBIOM model.
We used the ~~ISIMIP database, and~~ Global Hydrological Models (GHMs) outputs from the
ISIMIP database (Frieler et al., 2017) for water availability and hydropower potentials for
biophysical impact indicators. The GLOBIOM model upscales these water requirements and
260 provides irrigation requirements at an aggregated 37 regions based on land-use allocation
decisions.

265 A typical scenario from the MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM is used to develop and extend the
nexus module and consists of several crucial components (Riahi et al., 2021). Socioeconomic
assumptions on population and GDP are used to form energy demand projections. Nationally
Determined Contributions (NDCs) are applied to various sectors and configurations as policy
implications, including but not limited to emission targets, energy shares, capacity or generation
targets, and macro-economic targets. The reference energy system in this scenario features a
comprehensive set of energy resources and conversion technologies from extraction to
transmission and distribution. This scenario's outcome estimates technology-specific multi-sector
270 responses and pathways for various sectoral targets. The analysis is based on the Shared
Socioeconomic Pathway (SSP) 2, which builds on historical trends as the starting point. The time
horizon for the optimization framework of MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM extends from 2020 to 2100,
with a non-regular distribution of time steps.

Further information on the typical scenarios of MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM can be found in (Krey et al., 2016). The scenario is further extended from the typical scenario in the nexus module using certain policy and technological assumptions. The configuration can handle any SSP-RCP combinations to allow access to accessing a diverse range of pathways compared to each other and the Reference scenario.

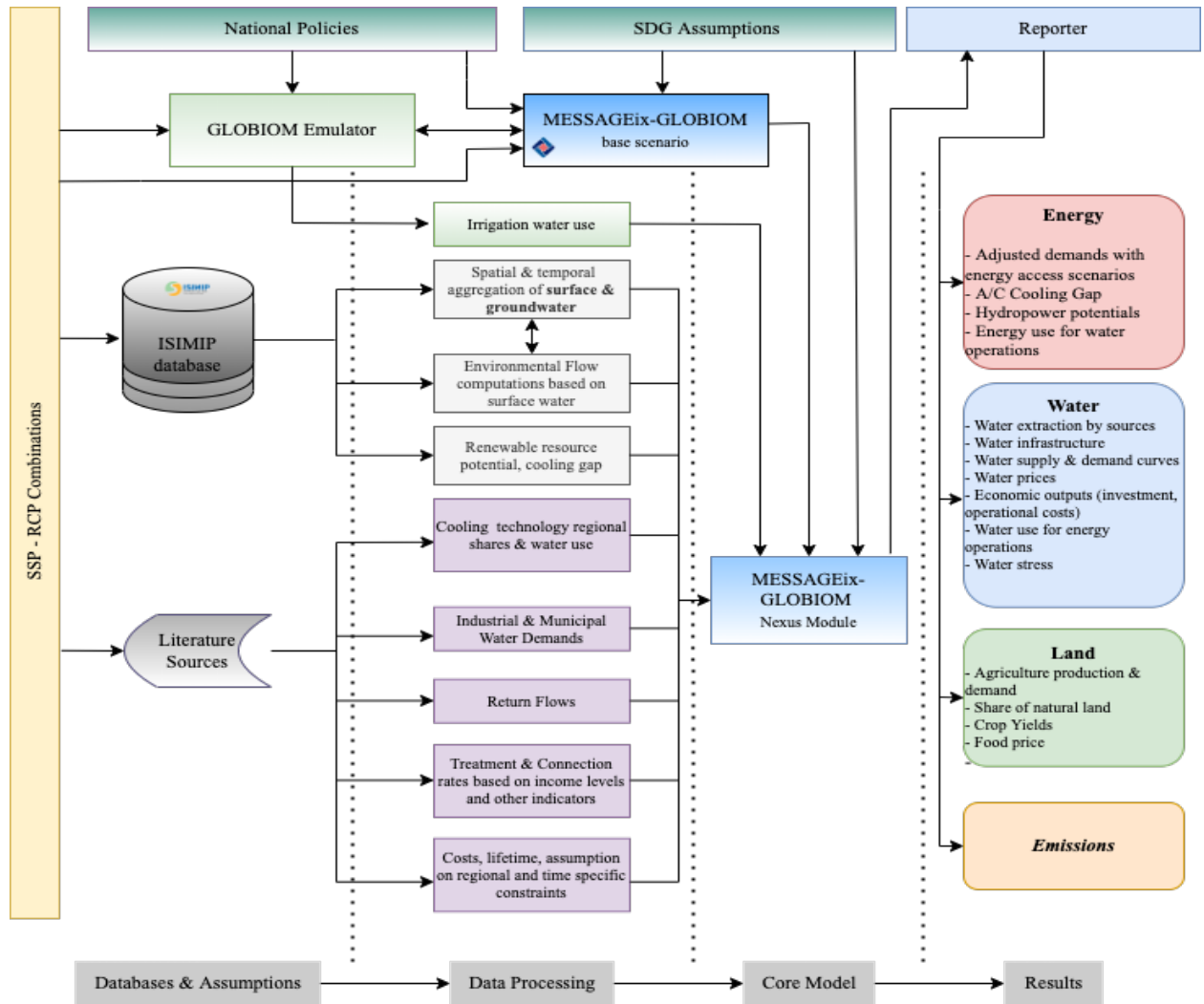


Figure 1 Structure & data flows of MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM Nexus Module. SSP-RCP combinations of scenarios are used as basis for development of nexus module. The module is built on the typical MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM scenario. The typical scenario has updated biophysical climate impacts in the energy and land sectors and then the water system is model added. The database assumptions, structure and processing are the main components of this study besides the core model. Using the computational tools and post-processing methods, multi-dimensional sectoral results inform the pathways for different scenarios.

3 Water, Climate, and SDG implementation and results

The subsequent sections explain the modelling modelling framework's water resource structure (supply, demand, and infrastructure) (Section 3.1), and Sections 3.2 and 3.3 discuss integrating biophysical climate impacts and SDG-related assumptions within the model module.

3.1 Water resources and the water sector

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The reference system for the water sector in the nexus module of MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM is shown in Figure 3. This study ~~represents~~ applies the MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM (energy system model) in native R11 global macro-regions via its energy and land systems. The data sources used across the water sector are detailed in Table 1. The water sector loses important spatial information if aggregated on a macro scale. As a first step toward balancing water demand and supply, we have selected the HydroShed River Basin Level 3 (Lehner et al., 2006), intersected with the R11 region and annual timestep, as the ideal standard scale. This spatial layer results in 210 basins (B210, see Figure 2), providing a more powerful depiction of the supply-demand system (Figure 2). The energy demand for water uses and water withdrawals for irrigation and thermal power plant cooling are mapped from B210 to R11. This allows for balancing water supply and demand estimates at a suitable scale where the economic decision incorporates information on all processes, including water availability. We acknowledge ~~the fact~~ that aggregating water needs across vast regions may underestimate the cascading effect of binding water limitations at the local level and the local level adaptation components.

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~~The usage of further high-resolution basin definitions adds additional complexity to the model due to upstream and downstream interdependence. Our initial effort identifies the primary long-term regional and global drivers of gross imbalances in the supply and demand for water resources. Our ongoing research focuses on determining the most appropriate geographical (grid, sub-basin, or basin) and temporal (daily, monthly, or annual) scales for reconciling water demands and supplies in the global IAM for more robust climate extremes and adaptation needs. To better understand the spatial distribution and water balance of regions, we can look at the Nile River basin, which extends across South Africa and the Middle East (R11 native regions). Due to the overlapping of these two R11 regions, we come up with two distinct spatial units: Nile Middle East and Nile-South Africa. Now for Nile-South Africa, using proxy indicators such as basin area and the proportion of available water in each basin, we calculate the proportion of renewable water resources available from the Nile and the total water 265 availability in the South African region. This 'downscaled' value plays a crucial role in the model, allowing us to reconcile the available water supply options with the region's varying water demands.~~

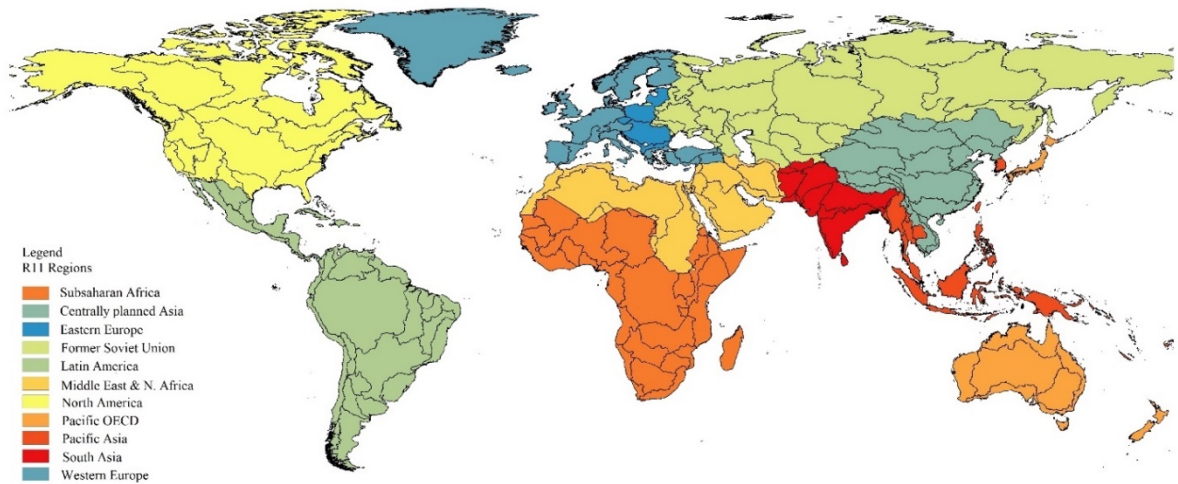


Figure 2 Delineation of basins within the MESSAGE R11 regions. The HydroSHEDs basin level 3 is intersected with MESSAGE R11 regional delineation, and the new polygon are used as decision units in the water sector. The distinct colors in the maps represent R11 regions however polygons inside each distinct colored R11 regions are the B210 basins intersected by R11 region. The complete list of basin names along with the area in km² can be looked in the GitHub repository (data/node/B210_R11.yaml)

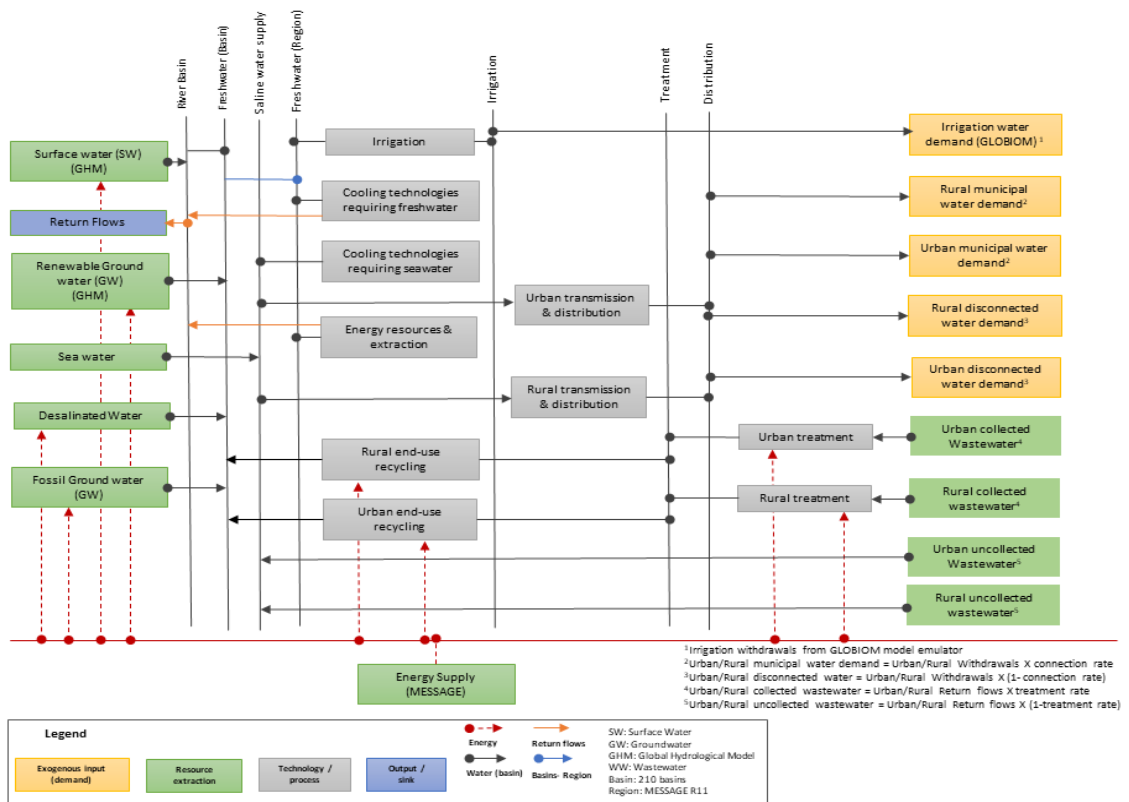


Figure 3: Reference System of the water system representation in the nexus module. The arrows show the direction of input/output of different technologies within the framework. Energy footprint of water system is tracked at different supply steps and infrastructure technologies.

East and Nile South Africa. Now for Nile South Africa, using proxy indicators such as basin area and the p. In addition to climate change risks, limited resources compounded by population and GDP growth pose an additional challenge.

Due to hydrological data's spatial and temporal complexity, it is challenging to translate hydrological information into the IAMs. Usually, the spatial extent of

IAMs is macro regions, and the aggregated hydrological information loses adequate information at a macro level. There is always a need to find a middle ground between showing the hydrological process more accurately and lowering the cost of computing

The water balance in the water sector of the IAM is

$$Fr_{B,t} + Gw_{B,t} + FGw_{B,t} + Ww_{B,t} + D_{B,t} \geq Mc_{B,t} + (Irr_{B,t} + Ew_{B,t}) + Ef_{n,t} \quad (1)$$

$$(Irr_{B,t} + Ew_{B,t}) \leq \sum(Irr_{R,t} + Ew_{R,t}) \times share_B \quad (2)$$

Where Fr is the surface freshwater supplied from the river basin, Gw is freshwater supplied from groundwater aquifers, FGw is the non-renewable groundwater extractions, Ww is treated water provided from wastewater recycling facilities, D is desalinated water, Mc represents municipal and industrial sectoral demands, Irr defines the irrigation water withdrawals from the GLOBIOM emulator, Ew is the water demand for the energy system. Irrigation and energy water demands are balanced at the regional level, and Ef is Environmental flows calculated using the Variable Monthly Flow (VMF) method (Supplementary Figure S2.1.3) (Pastor et al., 2014). R represents MESSAGE energy regions. In contrast, B represents river basins within the given MESSAGE regions, and t is time periods at a 5-year annual time interval. $share$ is the share of freshwater in basins (B) per region (R) used as a proxy to balance irrigation and energy demands at the basin (B). All the values are in km³/yr. In GLOBIOM, irrigation water withdrawals are treated as residual claimants, with the water demands for municipal and energy taking priority (Palazzo et al., 2019; Frank et al., 2021). The water withdrawals are balanced with the supply of each model decision-making period and region.

~~Where Fr is the surface freshwater supplied from the river basin, Gw is freshwater suppl. There have been efforts to link a higher spatial resolution water sector to account for hydrological balance and constraints in IAMs, such as Fr is freshwater supplied from groundwater aquifers, FGw is the non-renewable groundwater extractions, Ww is treated water provided from wastewater. Substantial. Now for Nile-South Africa, using proxy indicators such as basin area and the p . R represents MESSAGE energy regions. In contrast, B represents river basins within the given MESSAGE regions, and t is time periods at a 5-year annual time interval. $share$ is the share of freshwater in basins (B) per each region (R) used as a proxy to balance irrigation and energy demands at the basin (B). All of the values are in km³/yr. In GLOBIOM, irrigation water withdrawals are treated as residual claimants, with the water demands for municipal and energy taking priority. The water withdrawals are balanced with the supply of each model decision-making period and region.~~

~~The energy footprints of various components of the water sector, including supply (surface water and groundwater extraction), distribution (urban and rural), and wastewater treatment (treatment, recycling, and re-use), are interconnected with the electricity needs of the energy sector. This connection is established through basin-region mapping, which enables the spatial aggregation of appropriate fractions of electricity requirements to the region (R11) where the water sector's electricity consumption is managed. Table 1 indicated different references used for electricity requirements per unit of water infrastructure activity at different stages. Within the ~~model~~ module, the choice between the supply system is motivated by the associated investments and operational costs. Renewable surface and groundwater freshwater are prioritized based on the cost. The other priority choice of supply between wastewater reuse, desalination, and fossil groundwater varies across regions, and the available potential in each region varies. On the supply~~

side, we use global gridded runoff and groundwater recharge data from the Community Water Model (CWatM) (Burek et al., 2019) and GHM outputs from ISIMIP (Friele et al., 2017). (Friele et al., 2017) Three bias-corrected meteorological forcing data driving from different climate models (GFDL-ESM2M, HadGEM2-ES, IPSL-CM5A-LR) are used to estimate surface runoff and groundwater recharge. We use multi-model ensemble mean runoff and groundwater recharge as an available renewable freshwater resource. We aggregate the gridded data (0.5° X 0.5° spatial, daily timestep) onto the B210 basins and 5-year annual average. For spatial aggregation, the spatial sum is used to sum the grid hydrological outputs (runoff and groundwater recharge) to the B210 basins. The detailed process has been summarized in Supplementary Table S2.

~~We~~For temporal aggregation, we apply a quantile approach with monthly freshwater (surface and groundwater) resources for temporal aggregation to incorporate hydro-climate variability and prolonged dry periods. For example, for the 10th percentile, the monthly mean is first calculated from daily data. Then, we use the 10th percentile (Q90) of monthly freshwater runoff for a 20-year rolling window to determine what is considered a reliable flow for 90% of the time. This type of percentile methodology applied to multi-decadal periods is frequently used in water resource and environmental flow assessments (Prudhomme et al., 2014; Satoh et al., 2022; Gleeson and Richter, 2018) to account for the seasonal low flows experienced in typical wet and average years, although not the driest 10% of months (over 20 years). Figure S2.1.2-B shows the Q90 flows overlaid on the monthly flow data for the significant basins to show their reliable flows. We have run the scenarios for testing the model's sensitivity based on the flow quantiles.

~~We~~For calculating the municipal water demands, we used the approach followed by the methodology by (Graham et al., 2020) to estimate the municipal water demands, where urban and rural components are derived from gridded population and income-level projections based on the SSPs, as detailed in. ~~Urban and rural components of municipal water demand projections are calculated using gridded population and income-level projections data by~~ (Wang and Sun, 2022). Manufacturing demands are generated following a similar approach used by (Hejazi et al., 2014). Historical country-level data for 2015 is estimated by subtracting energy sector withdrawals from total industrial sector withdrawals. Future changes in manufacturing demands are projected, assuming convergence towards a log-linear model between GDP and manufacturing withdrawals. Demands are distributed across countries based on growth in GDP and then downscaled to 7.5 arcminutes and re-aggregated at the B210 basins. Supplementary Figure S shows urban and rural components of municipal demands and industrial demands for 2050, whereas the data is provided in the GitHub repository (See Data Availability). Supplementary Figures S3.1 & S3.2 shows shows average municipal and industrial demands across the basins. The wastewater treatment system is adapted and improved from the previous implementation by (Parkinson et al., 2019b). (Parkinson et al., 2019b) Figure 3 shows the framework's conversion steps from wastewater collection to wastewater reuse. The ~~model~~module includes two generalized urban wastewater treatment

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technologies to simplify the number of decision variables. The first represents a standard secondary-level treatment facility commonly found in a mid-sized city.

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-In contrast, the second includes recycling capabilities and is parameterized to represent a standard facility suitable for upgrading municipal or manufacturing wastewater to potable standards, such as a membrane bioreactor. In addition, the ~~model~~module includes a rural wastewater treatment technology that meets the United Nations guidelines for clean water and sanitation in rural areas and is equivalent to a standard septic system. It ensures enough wastewater treatment capacity, including recycling and conventional treatment, to support the projected return flow connected to treatment. The desalination potentials have been estimated following the approach in (Parkinson et al., 2019b), where desalination capacity data are inferred against GDP trends using a logistic function. Here, data on water stress from (Byers et al., 2018) have been added to the function to include the climate dimension in the projections (see Figure S 4.1.4).

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~~Wc~~For calculating water withdrawal and return flows from energy technologies, we use the approach detailed by (Fricko et al., 2016) to calculate water withdrawal and return flows from energy technologies. Each energy technology requiring water is provided with a withdrawal and consumption intensity (e.g., cubic ~~kilometres~~kilometres per GWh). ~~This allows, which then allows~~ the ~~model~~module to translate technology outputs into water requirements and return flows, which ~~in turn~~ balance with the available supply. For power plant cooling technologies, where the water requirements are calculated as a function of heat rate, the efficiency change in the energy technologies (e.g., lower heat rates) impacts the cooling requirements per unit of electricity produced. The withdrawal and consumption intensities for power plant cooling technologies align with the range reported by (Meldrum et al., 2013a). ~~In contrast, while the electricity balance computation includes~~ additional electricity demands from recirculating and dry cooling technologies ~~are included in the electricity balance computation~~. Other technologies adhere to the data ~~in~~ (Fricko et al., 2016)

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The energy footprints of various components of the water sector, including supply (surface water and groundwater extraction), distribution (urban and rural), and wastewater treatment (treatment, recycling, and re-use), are interconnected with the electricity needs of the energy sector. This connection is established through basin-region mapping, which enables the spatial aggregation of appropriate fractions of electricity requirements to the region (R11) where the water sector's electricity consumption is managed. Table 1 ~~indicates~~indicated different references used for electricity requirements per unit of water infrastructure activity at different stages.

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Table 1: Data sources used for various parameters and input variables

Parameter	Description	Data
Basin boundaries	Basin boundaries used from the HydroSheds database (Lehner et al., 2006) to create new spatial units in the water sector	All the processed files are available in the GitHub repository in CSV format (~data/water/delineation)
Power plant water use	All power plants' water use and investments (Meldrum et al., 2013b) are updated based on the latest powerplant database from Platts (Platts	All the processed files are available in the GitHub repository in CSV format (~data/water/ppl_cooling_tech)

Market Data – Electric Power | S&P Global Commodity Insights, 2022)

<p>Water Availability</p>	<p>Hydropower use and investments (Grubert, 2016)</p>	<p>All the processed files are available in the GitHub repository in CSV format (~data/water/water_availability)</p>
	<p>Parasitic electricity requirements (Dai et al., 2016)</p>	
	<p>Regional shares of cooling (Raptis et al., 2016)</p>	
	<p>Runoff & groundwater recharge from the GHM CWatM model (Burek et al., 2019) outputs of the ISIMIP project (Frieler et al., 2017). The outputs are spatially and temporally processed for further use.</p>	
<p>WeTo parameterize the historical groundwater extraction, we use groundwater abstraction data from (Wada et al., 2014) and historical water withdrawals from (Wada et al., 2016) to parameterize the historical groundwater extraction. The fraction of groundwater abstraction to the overall withdrawals determined the 'groundwater fraction.'. This value is then used on the actual historical water demands included in the model to set the amount of pumping capacity for the future horizon.</p>	<p>The energy consumption values vary regionally based on the groundwater table depths. Thus, the processed file is available in the GitHub repository in CSV format (~data/water/water_availability)</p>	
<p>For the cost of groundwater pumping, depending on the aquifer depth, we use groundwater aquifer depth data (Fan et al., 2013) and energy consumption values from (Vinca et al., 2020) and (Liu et al., 2016).</p>		
<p>Freshwater Energy consumption per unit of water (Liu et al., 2016)</p>	<p>0.01883 (0.0011 - 0.03653) kwh/km3</p>	
<p>Techno-economic values from (Vinca et al., 2020) and (Burek et al., 2018)</p>	<p>Investment costs are assumed for the whole world. groundwater infrastructure: 155.57 million USD/km3, surface water extraction: 54.52 million USD/km3</p>	
<p>Water demands</p>	<p>Municipal water demands are spatially and temporally processed using the approach followed by (Wada et al., 2016) and using recent and updated data.</p>	<p>All the processed files are available in the GitHub repository in CSV format (~data/water/water_demands)</p>
	<p>Irrigation water demands are used from the GLOBIOM model for a set of scenarios aimed at achieving to achieve multiple, different SDG goals (Frank et al., 2021)</p>	
	<p>Treatment & access rates are re-calculated using the approach described in (Parkinson et al., 2019b) and using additional dependent variables in the regression analysis. These treatment and access rates are then used with the return flows from (Wada et al., 2016).</p>	
<p>Water Infrastructure</p>	<p>Water distribution & wastewater treatment energy footprints are used by (Liu et al., 2016)</p>	<p>GLOBIOM Emulator</p>
	<p>An upper constraint on desalination potential is implied in the model using multiple regression parameters (GDP, Water Stress Index (Byers et al., 2018), Governance (Andrijevic et al., 2020), and distance to the coast. We use the Desal Data dataset (Global Water Intelligence, 2016) to evaluate the existing (or historical) capacity of desalination units worldwide, gathered at the BCU level.</p>	
<p>All the processed files are available in the GitHub repository in CSV format (~data/water/water_infrastructure)</p>		

3.2 Climate Impacts

450 The following climatic impacts are covered in the nexus module and this study: Changes
 in crop yield, variations in precipitation patterns and drought severity, renewable energy
 potentials, cooling and heating energy demand, desalination potential, and cooling water
 discharge for energy use. Impacts on biodiversity are partially included in the evaluation whereby
 natural land serves as a high-level proxy indicator for the level of biodiversity. This method covers
 455 land-use change-induced consequences, which are the primary cause of biodiversity loss in the
 short term, but excludes direct climatic impacts. Thus, it primarily reflects the consequences of
 climate and SDG policies. All impact data is derived from the Intersectoral Model
 Intercomparison Project (ISIMIP) (Frieler et al., 2017) to maintain internal consistency across all
 indicators and models. The remainder of this section describes the model-specific representation
 of biophysical climate impacts across the energy, ~~and~~ water, ~~and~~ land sectors and the
 methodological steps required to implement or update new climate impacts. ~~We~~ ~~For considering~~
 460 ~~the climate impacts, we~~ use the data for RCP2.6 and RCP6.0 ~~to consider the climate impacts~~, i.e.,
 emission pathways reaching 2.6 W/m² and 6.0 W/m² forcing levels in 2100. We have not included
 GDP and labour productivity implications to focus solely on biophysical impacts.

Table 2 Summary of biophysical impacts

Biophysical climate impacts	Approach
Renewable supply (hydro)	Different costs supply curves based on 0.5x0.5 grid calculations (Gernaat et al., 2021)
Heating/cooling demand	Impact via population-weighted heating and cooling demands based on the work of (Mastrucci et al., 2021; Byers et al., 2018) 0.5 x 0.5 grid
Water availability	Runoff and groundwater recharge from CWatM calculated at 0.5 x 0.5 grid (Burek et al., 2020)
Crop yields	Climate impacts on crop productivity, nitrogen, and irrigation from the CMIP6 projections of the crop-model EPIC-IIASA are used in GLOBIOM. EPIC-IIASA estimates the impact of climate on rice, maize, wheat, and soy, which are accordingly mapped to the crops in GLOBIOM following (Müller and Robertson, 2014)
Cooling technology capacity factor	Climate impacts on cooling water discharges for cooling technologies of fossil power plants are used from (Yalew et al., 2020)
Desalination potential	Desalination potential climate impacts are based on water stress outputs from the combinations of GHMs & GCMs from (Byers et al., 2018)

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The climate impacts on hydropower energy supply have been based on (Gernaat et al., 2021). The difference between current and projected spatially explicit climate parameters is translated into spatially explicit energy supply estimates, translated to regional cost-supply curves. The climate data were used as input to calculate hydropower potential. It includes the theoretical potential; ~~of~~ the upper limit of resource availability based on physical and hydrological conditions. The climate impacts were calculated for the historical and future periods using the ISIMIP database. The maps of technical potential, combined with economic information, have been used to generate cost-supply curves. These curves show the cumulative technical potential against the production cost, showing that each location's production cost depends on its productivity. Cost-supply curves are widely used in IAMs to model the long-term cost development of renewable energy technologies. These curves indicate resource depletion, as the most productive sites are slowly being depleted, and thus, higher cost-incurring sites need to be used. On the other hand, note that climate impact on non-hydro renewables is not included in this study because excluding non-hydro renewables in the IAM is not expected to lead to significant discrepancies between the scenario results. (Gernaat et al., 2021) ~~Have~~ presented relatively small impacts on renewable energy supply.

Regional cooling and heating demand days are based on the dataset and study by (Byers et al., 2018)(Byers et al., 2018), who derived their climate data from an ensemble of downscaled and bias-corrected global climate models (ISIMIP2). The data represents gridded global surface air temperature data at the daily resolution, summarised to decadal timesteps and a monthly mean and subsequently aggregated to countries, weighted by SSP population. In this study, to estimate the corresponding energy demand in socioeconomic, technology, climate, and policy scenarios, we used two modules within the MESSAGEix-Buildings framework: CHILLED (Cooling and Heating gLobaL Energy Demand model), a bottom-up engineering model to estimate residential space heating and cooling energy demand; and STURM (Stock TURnover Model of global buildings), a stock turnover model based on dynamic material flow analysis (MFA) to assess the future evolution of the building stock (Mastrucci et al., 2021)(Mastrucci et al., 2021). The resulting estimates of ~~the country's~~ energy demand for cooling for SSP2 under RCP2.6; ~~and~~ RCP6.0; and the assumption of fixed historical temperature (~~no climate scenario~~) are aggregated from the country ~~level~~ to the MESSAGE region ~~level~~. They are added to the ~~model~~ module as a subcategory of the residential demand (Figure S5).

Climate impacts on agriculture and assessment of future hotspots are assessed in GLOBIOM by systematically integrating crop yield information from EPIC (Balkovič et al., 2014)(Balkovič et al., 2014) (run for the different GCMs) for 4 crops (corn, wheat, maize, and rice) and applying it using some assumption to our other crops (Jägermeyr et al., 2021)(Jägermeyr et al., 2021). IIASA's Global Forest Model (G4M) is used to model forest growth as a response to climate (Kindermann et al., 2008)(Kindermann et al., 2008). The G4M uses a dynamic net primary productivity model to consider how growth rates are affected by changes in temperature, precipitation, radiation, ~~and as well as~~ soil properties. G4M works with a monthly step, and the highest spatial resolution is 1 km². The model estimates the impact on net primary productivity,

mean annual increment, standing biomass, and harvestable biomass. Factor changes of mean annual increment and biomass accumulation under a certain degree of climate change compared to a no climate change scenario are multiplied by the default rates in GLOBIOM. GLOBIOM's biophysical model incorporates agricultural yield, input requirements, and water availability for irrigation from the CWatM. This integration allows us to evaluate the relative effects of climate change on production, consumption, and market conditions and the autonomous adaptation to the impacts resulting from the GLOBIOM. Irrigation water withdrawals from the GLOBIOM are then linked to the nexus module, which balances the water system across other uncertainties.

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3.3 SDGs

This section describes the energy, water, and land SDG measures in the ~~model~~module, which align with SDG2 (Zero hunger/food access), SDG6 (Clean water and sanitation/water access), SDG7 (Affordable and clean energy/energy access), SDG15 (Life on land/biodiversity). SDG13 (Climate action) is also implicitly included in the framework when emissions constraints are included in the scenario design. In this study, SDG13 is represented by achieving a 2.6 W/m² (or a ~~well below~~well-below 2 degrees) target in 2100. This is essentially the goal of the SDG, limiting climate change following the Paris ~~Agreement~~agreement. Table 3 provides an overview of all the (non-climate) nexus SDG measures, their representation in the ~~model~~modules, and the indicators to measure progress. The main criteria for including measures have been: 1) They should maximally benefit the overall goal, ~~and~~2) They should be unambiguous and quantifiable, and 3) They should allow for consistent implementation across ~~model~~modules. The interaction between these measures and the other SDG categories is relatively limited.

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The MESSAGE-Access-E-USE (end-use services of energy) model (Poblete-Cazenave and Pachauri, 2018; Poblete-Cazenave et al., 2021) is used for the analysis of households' energy access to modern energy services for heating and cooking and has already been used on a global level to study demand in different socioeconomic pathways (Poblete-Cazenave and Pachauri, 2021; Pachauri et al., 2021). An estimation model takes as input micro-level data from nationally representative household surveys covering different regions of the world to estimate behavioural preference parameters that explain the choices of appliances and energy demands for different end uses based on household socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. Then, a simulation module uses the preference parameters estimated in the first module and additional external drivers that present potential pathways of socioeconomic growth and energy prices to simulate future appliance uptake and household energy demand under each scenario. This process is not internalized in MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM, but instead, a first iteration is performed to estimate the share of the population with access to modern energy sources for cooking (as opposed to traditional biomass or kerosene) given a fixed GDP pathway (SSP2) and energy prices related to each policy scenario. The model also assesses the implication of additional SDG policies regarding costs and transformations in the ~~energy~~demand ~~for energy~~. This is, however, separated from the solution of MESSAGE because an iterative procedure would alter the GDP pathways in the macroeconomic component of the model (MACRO).

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The SDG6 narrative is incorporated by applying supply and demand-side development across the water system. The supply-side measure includes constraints on available surface water as environmental flows. ~~Maintaining environmental flows in rivers is instrumental in achieving SDG target 6.6, which aims to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, encompassing a range of natural landscapes from mountains and forests to wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes.~~

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~~The rivers' environmental flows help protect river-related ecosystems from achieving SDG target 6.6 (protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes).~~ We use the Variable Monthly Flow (VFM) method (Pastor et al., 2014) to constrain the monthly surface water available for human use based on environmental flow requirements (EFRs) for wet and dry seasons (Pastor et al., 2014).

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This method implies that w(ater withdrawals cannot exceed the available residual supply after considering the EFRs. Some regions may be unable to adapt environmental flow targets in 2030 based on historical trajectories due to high withdrawals or fewer governance capabilities. We categorized these basins based on the development status of countries specified by the World Bank, ~~and~~ implemented a lower environmental flow target in the respective regions from 2030 onwards and ~~increased~~ ~~increasing~~ the target till 2050, thus following the trajectory of basins with high adaptive capacity.

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~~These environmental flow targets also vary across climate impact scenarios. It enables assessing the response to mitigating future demand growth. The demand-side measures for SDG6 in the water system include targets for reaching sustainable water consumption across all sectors. We constrain the capacity of the water infrastructure system for integrating water access and quality targets. The connection and treatment rates are endogenized in the withdrawals and wastewater collection. These rates are changed to allow shifts in water withdrawals for universal piped access. Wastewater treatment capacity is increased to treat a minimum of half of all the wastewater collection in the infrastructure system. The connection and treatment rates are adjusted for the basins that can readily adapt; the targets for 2030 are assigned to the basins with more adaptive capacity than those with less adaptive capacity. Increasing the fraction of wastewater treatment also helps to protect ecosystems related to water, thus contributing to achieving SDG6 target 6.6. The rates are projected in the baseline (non-SDG) scenario using a logistic model by combining income projections fitting to national historical data using the approach described in (Parkinson et al., 2019b).~~

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~~The demand-side measures for SDG6 in the water system include targets for reaching sustainable water consumption across all sectors. We constrain the capacity of the water infrastructure system for integrating water access and quality targets. The connection and treatment rates are endogenized in the withdrawals and wastewater collection. These rates are changed to allow shifts in water withdrawals for universal piped access. Wastewater treatment capacity is increased to treat a minimum of half of all the wastewater collection in the infrastructure system. The connection and treatment rates are adjusted for the basins that can readily adapt; the targets for 2030 are assigned to the basins with more adaptive capacity than those with less adaptive capacity. Increasing the fraction of wastewater treatment also helps to protect ecosystems related to water, thus contributing to achieving SDG6 target 6.6. The rates are projected in the baseline (non-SDG) scenario using a logistic model by combining income projections fitting to national historical data using the approach described in (Parkinson et al., 2019b).~~

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~~The rates are projected in the baseline (non-SDG) scenario using a logistic model by combining income projections fitting to national historical data using the approach described in (Parkinson et al., 2019b).~~

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The irrigation conservation approach is implemented to reduce the irrigation withdrawals and reallocate water to other sectors, thus contributing to target 6.4 (Frank et al., 2021). (Pastor et al., 2019) mentions how the reduced water approach in the irrigation sector in the GLOBIOM model accounts for environmental flows, and the water is ~~reallocated~~ ~~re-allocated~~ to ~~the~~ environment and domestic uses by saving from the irrigation sector. The ~~model~~ ~~module~~ chooses the irrigation water withdrawals based on the land-use emissions and associated costs to keep the land-related trade-offs with water and energy intact through the GLOBIOM emulator. The ~~model~~ ~~module~~ enhancements do not cover all SDG6 targets, such as flood management and transboundary cooperation across basins. Concerning biodiversity protection, the GLOBIOM model assumes increased efforts and a doubling of the AICHI Biodiversity ~~Target~~ ~~target~~ 11 (e.g., increase the total

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~~increased efforts and a doubling of the AICHI Biodiversity Targettarget 11 (e.g., increase the total~~

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surface of protected areas to 17% by 2030 (Bacon et al., 2019). In addition, we use the UNEP-WCMC Carbon and Biodiversity Report (Kapos Ravilious C. et al., 2008) to identify highly biodiverse areas and prevent their conversion to agriculture or forest management from 2030 onwards. We consider the area highly biodiverse where three or more biodiversity priority schemes overlap (Conservation International's Hotspots, WWF Global 200 terrestrial and freshwater ecoregions, Birdlife International Endemic Bird Areas, WWF/IUCN Centre of Plant Diversity and Amphibian Diversity Areas).

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We estimate residential cooling gaps as the extent of the population needing space cooling without access ~~to it~~ and the additional energy demand required to close this gap and provide essential cooling comfort to all (Mastrucci et al., 2019). Minimum cooling requirements are calculated under the assumption of durable housing construction and conservative per-capita floor space and cooling operation to provide decent living standards (Kikstra et al., 2021), assuming the gap is covered with current cooling technologies, including fans and AC.

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Table 3: SDG measures and indicators. Where possible and relevant, measures are fully implemented in 2030 and maintained until 2100 (see this [link](#) for SDG description)

SDG	Measure	Indicators
SDG 2 FOOD	- < 1% undernourishment goal by 2030	- Food production - Food prices - Population at risk of hunger
	- Decrease animal calorie intake to 430 kcal/capita/day by 2030 from current levels in overconsuming countries (USDA recommendations for healthy diets)	
SDG6 Water	- 50% reduction in food waste compared to SSP2 assumptions	- Food production - Food prices - Population at risk of hunger - Water withdrawal (irrigation)
	- Limited irrigation water withdrawals to sustainable removal rates that do not jeopardize ecosystem services and environmental flows (Frank et al., 2021)	
	- Based on the variable monthly flow (VMF) method developed by (Pastor et al., 2014), (Pastor et al., 2014) where 60% and 30% of the mean monthly natural flow are reserved for ecosystems in low and high flow periods, respectively.	- Water and environmental flows
	- A minimum of half of all return flows will be treated by 2030 for developed regions and 2040 for developing regions.	- Population with access to clean drinking water
SDG7 Energy	- Results from the MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM are iterated through the MESSAGE-Access-E-USE (end-use services of energy) model by the provision of access targets based on income levels, and GDP pathways and population with access to modern energy access and the energy demand adjustments are calculated.	- Energy prices - Population with access to modern energy services

SDG15: Life on land

- 90 % access target to modern cooking energy for cooking by 2030
 - Based on (Frank et al., 2021), the expansion of protected lands to 34% in 2030 was assumed, and highly biodiverse areas were identified based on the UNEP-WCMC Carbon and Biodiversity Report (Kapos Ravilious C. et al., 2008) their conversion to agriculture or forest management from 2030 onwards was prohibited.
- Energy prices
 - Population cooking with traditional biomass
 - Natural land area

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3.4 Flexibility across scales

As mentioned in section 2, the module is flexible to adapt to a different spatial dimension with a higher resolution. In this case, we tested downscaling the global module for a particular country, Zambia. The energy sector is downscaled using the country model generator, which is used for various country-scale energy sector analyses, e.g., (Orthofer et al., 2019). However, the nexus module also allows the water system to be prototyped rapidly for a country/basin level. The water reference system described in previous sections is pre-processed onto the higher-resolution spatial units from the gridded datasets, and a base scenario is produced. The workflow diagram to produce the country scale ~~model~~ module is shown in supplementary Figure S6. The Zambian scale module is being used to develop an integrated platform combining different high-resolution sectoral models (Water Crop Evapotranspiration model to estimate crop water demand for different crops (Tuninetti et al., 2015), an electricity demand assessment platform, M-LED for communities without electricity supply (Falchetta et al., 2021), OnSSET tool to assess least-cost electrification technologies and investment requirements based on electricity demand and energy potentials (Korkovelos et al., 2019). (Falchetta et al., 2022) discusses the application of such linkages and further details.

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4 Results & Discussion

In our analysis, we have currently applied the SSP2 framework in conjunction with both RCP2.6 and RCP6.0 to establish the current module setup. Future work will incorporate a broader array of SSPs paired with various RCPs to ensure a more comprehensive and coherent set of assumptions across different scenarios. Our examination of the biophysical effects of climate change on energy, water, and land use sectors involved contrasting scenarios that integrate climate impacts—specifically designated as Impacts, Impacts-EN (focusing on the energy sector), Impacts-WAT (water sector), and Impacts-LU (land use)—alongside SDGs. We measured these against a Reference scenario, which is predicated on historical climatic patterns and excludes any projections of climate impacts or SDG considerations. The scenario assumptions are detailed in Table 4.
~~The MESSAGEix GLOBIOM nexus module generates outputs that allow for an understanding of the relationships between water, energy, and land at both the basin and global levels. These outputs include information on water availability in different regions, key indicators~~

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630 ~~related to the Sustainable Development Goals, and sector-specific climate impacts and it spans~~
~~multiple sectors to inform about integrated pathways. Figure 4 presents a summary of~~
~~configurations of sectoral outputs possible from the current module. One key feature is its ability~~
~~to produce scenario combinations, which help to reveal the sensitivities and assumptions~~
~~underlying different pathways. By analysing the energy, water, and land implications of these~~
~~scenarios, it is possible to identify robust pathways resilient to changing conditions and meet the~~
635 ~~needs of various stakeholders. Overall, the outputs generated by the module provide valuable~~
~~insights into these resources' interdependent nature and can inform regional decision making. As~~
~~mentioned in the previous section, any set of scenario combination is possible from the module,~~
~~but to test the model's applicability across climate and SDG scenarios in combination, we~~
~~formulated a total of six scenarios that alternate different assumptions. For the current setup we~~
640 ~~used combination SSP2 pathways combined with RCP2.6 & RCP6.0. The upcoming work will~~
~~include more SSP dimensions in combinations with RCPs to have more consistent assumptions~~
~~across scenarios.~~

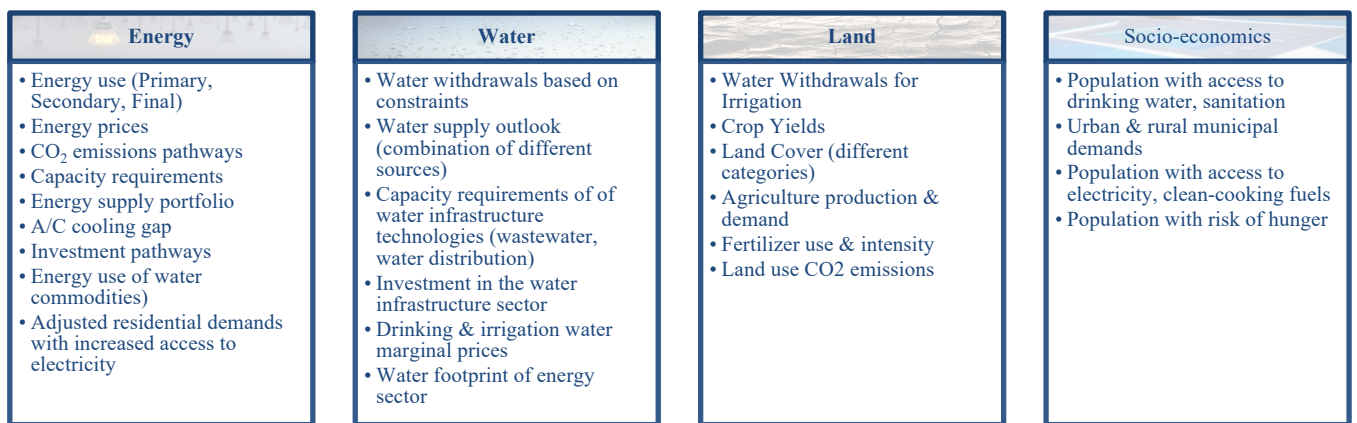


Figure 4: Summary of output indicators that are possible from the MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM nexus module. These outputs are long term pathways and much of these outputs can be further disaggregated onto the technology level.

645 ~~Our study presents detailed results of water balance flows, providing a critical examination of~~
~~global water management and the interdependencies within the water, energy, and land nexus. By~~
~~comparing our module's outputs with benchmark values from the literature, we establish a~~
~~validation baseline for EWL indicators, ensuring our findings resonate with recognized global~~
~~estimates. To understand the biophysical effects of climate change on multiple sectors, we~~
650 ~~compared the scenarios including climate impacts (Impacts, Impacts-EN (energy sector~~
~~impacts), Impact-WAT (water sector impacts), Impacts-LU (Land-use impacts) and SDGs to see~~
~~how some of the key EWL indicators respond to combined and individual sectoral impacts and~~
~~SDGs with a Reference scenario that includes historical climate assumptions (scenario without~~
~~any climate impacts or SDGs). Despite being physically impractical, the Reference scenario aids~~
655 ~~in our comprehension of the results of biophysical consequences by projecting historical climate~~
~~data into the future. The model incorporates the biophysical consequences, highlighting various~~
~~potential outcomes in numerous sectors.~~

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Our study allows the monitoring of water balance flows at varying stages, offering an in-depth understanding of global water management and the intricate nexus between water, energy, and land. These interactions are depicted in [Supplementary Figure S 4.1.4 \(Figure 5a in form of a Sankey diagram\)](#), along with input details and assumptions expounded in Section 3.1.

The module provides a nuanced perspective, capturing the complexities of water resources and their utilization at both global and basin scales. Compared to the literature, global water resources (total runoff) ~~are to be~~ in the range of approximately 47,220~~19~~ km³/yr., aligning with those reported by (Burek et al., 2020) and (Sutanudjaja et al., 2018). ~~Across Water withdrawals or water extractions, across~~ our ~~model~~module's scenarios, ~~water withdrawals or water extractions~~ fell within the ~~range of~~ 3365–3656 km³/yr., echoing figures found in established literature (~~Table 5X~~ £). ~~In our module, global wastewater collection is considered an exogenous input, quantified at approximately 310 km³/yr for 2020, a figure that is broadly in line with the estimates from (Jones et al., 2021). Global wastewater treatment volumes range from 156 to 172 km³/yr, in close agreement with the 187 km³/yr reported by (Jones et al., 2021). An important constituent of water management, global wastewater collection, was quantified as an exogenous input in our model at approximately 310 km³/yr. for 2020. This figure resonates with the estimates of , albeit with slight discrepancies due to differences in underlying assumptions and calculation methodologies. Wastewater treatment ranges from 156 to 172 km³/yr., closely aligned with the figure of 187 km³/yr. and reported by .~~ For agricultural withdrawals, an essential water use sector, Our ~~model~~module's estimate for agricultural water withdrawals is 2670 km³/yr, which surpasses the 1250–2000 km³/yr range reported by (Burek et al., 2020), yet it is quite consistent with the 2735 km³/yr figure suggested by (Sutanudjaja et al., 2018). Figure 5b shows a range of water supply portfolios with varying water demands. Even though renewable energy sources are crucial overall, ~~the makeup of these portfolios~~portfolios' ~~makeup~~ shows significant regional ~~variation~~(~~variation~~ (supplementary sections S3 and S4). ~~Characterizing~~The ~~characterization of~~ supply portfolios across various river basins will be the focus of future research projects under varying scenarios and water supply reliability levels. However, this structure allows us to see the water management portfolios linked with the energy and land sectors under varying climate and sustainable development scenarios.

Table 4 Summary of Scenario assumption

<u>Scenario</u>	<u>Climate Scenario</u>	<u>SDGs</u>
<u>Reference</u>	<u>Historical climate assumptions for RCP 6.0 across EWL sectors.</u>	<u>Not included</u>
<u>Reference (Mitigation)</u>	<u>Historical climate assumptions for RCP 6.0 across EWL sectors.</u>	

	<u><i>This scenario, although is practically not feasible it is used to compare the responses of the new features</i></u>	
<u>Mitigation</u>	<u>RCP 2.6 (biophysical impacts of EWL sectors as outlined in Table 2 and section 3.2)</u>	
<u>Impacts</u>	<u>RCP 6.0 (biophysical impacts of EWL sectors as outlined in Table 2 and section 3.2)</u>	
<u>Impacts_LU</u>	<u>RCP 6.0 (biophysical impacts of land sector, e.g. crop yields)</u>	
<u>Impacts_WAT</u>	<u>RCP 6.0 (biophysical impacts of hydrology)</u>	
<u>Impacts_EN</u>	<u>RCP 6.0 (biophysical impacts of energy, e.g., cooling demand and renewable potential)</u>	
<u>SDGs</u>	<u>RCP 6.0 (biophysical impacts of EWL sectors as outlined in Table 2 and section 3.2)</u>	<u>SDG 2, 6, 7, 13, 15 – as outlined in Table 3 and section 3.3</u>

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It is worth noting that while these comparisons pertain to the year 2020, a key novelty of our study is its ability to depict prospective pathways in an integrated manner. The study accounts for socioeconomic assumptions, climate impacts, and sustainable development goals. Moreover, our model provides critical estimates of the investments and capacity requirements at each five year timestep, delivering comprehensive insights into future water management needs. Furthermore, these indicators have been juxtaposed with existing literature in Table 4, thereby reinforcing the robustness of our study. This research provides a holistic and dynamic perspective on the nexus of global water, energy, and land management. It is poised to inform and influence policymaking and investment decisions, guiding us toward sustainable future utilization of these vital resources.

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To capture the dynamic responses of the climate system, the model's response to climate impacts employs a multifaceted strategy that includes both endogenized and exogenous outputs. The use of the EPIC, which provides information on irrigation responses and their subsequent effects on crop yields, is one prominent example. Then, these yield outputs are incorporated into the GLOBIOM, where adaptation responses are endogenized, causing a reallocation of land use system resources based on climate impacts. Notably, this reallocation includes decisions regarding land use that directly affect water use in irrigation. The irrigation withdrawal computations are then used by the MESSAGEix GLOBIOM, which effectively balances water supplies by considering irrigation withdrawals in conjunction with withdrawals from other sectors under changing climate conditions. In contrast, responses in the water sector are contingent on the availability of resources under various climate scenarios. The effects of climate change on hydrology have a direct impact on the availability of resources, compelling the model to adapt and consider alternative supply sources. Similarly, the energy sector incorporates endogenized decisions based on the effects of climate induced changes in the capacity factor of thermal power

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715 ~~plants. These changes have implications for thermal power generation and the feasibility of~~
~~hydropower installations in various regions. Additionally, the demand for cooling is~~
~~acknowledged as a significant factor influencing energy demands. Through this integrated~~
~~approach, the model systematically accounts for and responds to the biophysical impacts induced~~
~~by a changing climate, providing a comprehensive assessment of the interdependence and~~
~~implications across multiple sectors.~~

720 Sectoral withdrawals primarily drive water extraction by source, with irrigation withdrawals from
the GLOBIOM model making up a sizable portion. ~~Supplementary~~ Figure S4.1.3 depicts the
outlook for water extraction under the reference scenario. ~~The effects of climate on crop yields~~
~~show variability, with sugar crops experiencing a significant impact at 16%, while cereals exhibit~~
~~a comparatively modest change of approximately 1%. The net yield effect is directly influenced~~
725 ~~by the intensity of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization, which enhances water use efficiency and~~
~~consequently reduces the demand for irrigation water. Furthermore, in our climate impact~~
~~scenarios, increased CO2 levels also increase crop yields and contribute to improved water use~~
~~efficiency, which is factored into our results. The effects of climate on crop yields vary, with sugar~~
~~crops experiencing a more significant impact (16%) than cereals (-1%). The net yield effect is~~
730 ~~affected by fertilization intensity, with increased water use efficiency reducing irrigation water~~
~~needs.~~ However, these results require cautious interpretation because our study did not account
for cultivar optimization. The results affect water withdrawals and consequently influence the
portfolio of water supplies. It is essential to highlight the role of enhanced irrigation efficiency
assumptions in the SDG ~~scenarios~~, which ~~results result~~ in a 29% average reduction in total water
735 withdrawals compared to climate impacts concurrent to the study by (Frank et al., 2021). In
addition, these effects contribute to a 28% decrease in the marginal price of potable water due to
adaptive responses to climate change ~~impacts in electricity and irrigation withdrawals~~. In contrast,
pursuing the SDGs can result in a significant price increase due to increased allocation to
environmental flows.

740 The results demonstrate that renewable surface water and groundwater are limited and vary across
different climate scenarios. These effects decrease renewable water consumption, which is more
evident in the land than in the water sector. In addition, our ~~model module~~ indicates an increase in
the use of alternative water sources such as brackish water, effluent, and desalination in certain
regions, indicating that renewable water resources are limited in these areas. These ~~observations~~
745 ~~highlight observations highlight~~ the significance of the SDGs further. For instance, when aligned
with SDG 6 targets, the ~~model module~~ estimates a 24% reduction in water consumption, resulting
in a more sustainable water allocation to environmental flows (Figure 4).

750 ~~Figure 5 presents a comparative analysis of key Energy-Water-Land (EWL) indicators across a~~
~~spectrum of modeled scenarios. The boxplot distributions visually depict selected model output~~
~~indicators for the period from 2030 to 2080, covering scenarios such as Reference, Impacts,~~
~~Impacts_LU (land use), Impacts_EN (energy), Impacts_WAT (water), and SDGs. The graph's~~
~~constant trend in energy-related metrics across scenarios stands in stark contrast to the pronounced~~

unpredictability of non-renewable water usage, suggesting that energy indicators are less vulnerable compared to water and land.

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Figure 5 also shows that, despite the biophysical impacts, agricultural production doesn't vary much. The SDG scenario, however, results in a considerable 20% decrease in agricultural output, with the biophysical implications of land usage having a particular influence on sugar crop yields. This noteworthy effect emphasizes how susceptible some crops are to changes in land use and how crucial it is to take these effects into account when developing agricultural plans and policies.

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Furthermore, the primary cause of the decrease in water withdrawals is the consequences of land use, wherein CO2 fertilization effects are a major factor. These effects on land usage decrease the overall need for irrigation and increase the efficiency with which agricultural operations use water. Additionally, the figure also indicates that the cost of potable water has increased by 80%, primarily due to the adoption of environmental flow allocations aimed at protecting freshwater ecosystems and the increased expenses linked to sophisticated wastewater treatment procedures.

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These elements highlight the intricate relationship that exists between water resource management and economic results as well as environmental care. The geophysical features and land use influences of various regions mostly determine the global consequences of climate change on the water sector, with certain areas experiencing gains while others may have negative effects.

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Adaptive responses to climatic impacts reduce the number of people exposed to hunger by an average of 11% according to the study. This is not as significant as the 30% reduction in the SDG scenario, which is based on specific actions to reduce the risk of hunger.

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It is imperative to exercise caution when interpreting the outcomes of the different scenarios, considering their reliance on several assumptions and their suitability for particular geographical and temporal circumstances. However, these results offer insightful information about the possible financial effects of various water management techniques. Different modeling methodologies may produce different results because assumptions, data inputs, and other elements are inherently variable. It is feasible to determine the most effective and successful tactics and to obtain a more thorough understanding of the probable consequences of different water management systems by comparing the outcomes from many models.

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785 Table 5 Comparison of EWL indicator results for the year 2020 with published literature sources for module validation.

~~The geophysical characteristics and land use effects of various locations significantly impact the global effects of climate change on the water sector. Some areas may obtain benefits, while others may suffer negative consequences. In addition, the study found that the adaptive response to climate impacts reduces by an average of 11% the number of individuals exposed to hunger. Compared to the SDGs (30%), where specific assumptions were made to reduce the danger of hunger, this reduction is less significant.~~

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~~The implications of climate change are interrelated and can have cascading effects on various sectors; thus, it is crucial to stress that these results should be viewed in the context of the complete model. Overall, the findings indicate the need for more research to fully comprehend the potential effects of climate change on diverse sectors and the possibility that incorporating biophysical consequences can substantially impact the outcomes of climatic scenarios. As a result of the effects of climate change, this shows that certain regions are transitioning to more sustainable energy sources. Overall, the study's findings illustrate the significant implications of climate impacts in mitigation scenarios on the energy mix and the possible co-benefits of adaptation while mitigating climate change. It is important to note that these results are based on a specific model and situation and should be interpreted as a general trend. Future research and forthcoming publications will expand on these findings and give policy relevant insights into the areas. This configuration can benefit policymakers, energy corporations, and other stakeholders in comprehending the effects of climate change on the electrical generating mix and developing adaptation measures.~~

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~~The coupling of the SDGs with climate policies and implications can give valuable insights into how to solve climate adaptation problems and is part of the upcoming publications. While there have been numerous publications on integrating SDG dimensions into Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) such as, this study stands out due to its novel approach of combining SDG policies with climate goals and impacts and evaluating their effectiveness in understanding the climate adaptation narrative. The findings emphasize the need to examine the regional heterogeneity of development objectives to comprehend how various areas might adapt to climate change impacts while concurrently reaching development goals. Overall, the SDG related outputs of the module may be utilized to broaden and improve our understanding of global and regional human development indices. The geographically variable insights gained from this study can aid in advancing our understanding of how various places might adjust to the effects of climate change while pursuing development objectives. We chose metrics and studied the percentage difference between scenarios that assumed the SDGs and those that did not (Figure 7). Although many IAMs scenarios already include the SDG dimensions, the innovation in this module combines SDG scenarios with climate impact scenarios. This type of scenario will be used in the upcoming studies to assess the benefits of mitigation and adaptation while also ensuring meeting sustainable development targets~~

825 ~~It is important to emphasize that the results related to the various scenarios described in this study should be interpreted carefully. They depend on several assumptions and should be viewed in the context of the focal~~

region and time frame, even though they offer valuable insights into the potential economic implications of specific water management strategies. Due to variations in assumptions, data inputs, and other factors, various modelling methodologies may produce various conclusions. It is feasible to develop a more thorough understanding of the potential effects of various water management systems and to pinpoint the most successful

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and efficient methods by

<i>Variable/Indicator</i>	<i>Model/Module Value 2020</i>	<i>Comparison with other studies</i>
<i>Primary Energy (EJ)</i>	595-599	613 (GCAM5.3_NAVIGATE); 591 (IMAGE 3.2); 570 (REMIND-MAgPIE 2.1-4.2) ;575 (MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM_1.1) (Harmsen et al., 2021)
<i>Energy Supply Investments</i>	1325-1401	1148.13 (IMAGE3.2); 1036/41 (MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM_1.1); 1208 (REMIND-MAgPIE 2.1-4.2) (Harmsen et al., 2021)
<i>Agricultural Production</i>	3350	4400.6 (IMAGE3.2); 4045 (MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM_1.1); 1519 (REMIND-MAgPIE 2.1-4.2) (Harmsen et al., 2021)
<i>Cereal Yield (t DM/ha/yr.)</i>	3.7	3.7 (IMAGE3.2); 3.8 (MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM_1.1); 3.5 (REMIND-MAgPIE 2.1-4.2) (Harmsen et al., 2021)
<i>Yield Sugarcane (t DM/ha/yr.)</i>	18.7	8.6 (IMAGE3.2); 19.8 (MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM_1.1); 30.6 (REMIND-MAgPIE 2.1-4.2) (Harmsen et al., 2021)
<i>Water Withdrawals (km3/yr.)</i>	3656-33659	2200 – 4200 (Burek et al., 2020) , 3912 (Sutanudjaja et al., 2018)
<i>Water Resource (km3/yr.)</i>	47220	51800±1800 (Burek et al., 2020); 42393 (Sutanudjaja et al., 2018) ; 42000 – 66000 (Haddeland et al., 2014)
<i>Groundwater Recharge (km3/yr.)</i>	15000	19000 920 (Burek et al., 2020); 27756; 12666 – 29 900 (Mohan et al. 2018)
<i>Agriculture Withdrawal (km3/yr.)</i>	2666	2000 [1250-2400] (Burek et al., 2020) ;2735 (Sutanudjaja et al., 2018)
<i>Wastewater Collection (km3/yr.)</i>	310	224.4–226.9 km3 /yr (Jones et al., 2021)380 km3/yr. (Qadir et al., 2020)
<i>Wastewater Treatment (km3/yr.)</i>	155 - 180 km2/yr.	186.6 km3/yr. – 189 km3/yr (Jones et al., 2021)

contrasting the outcomes of several models.

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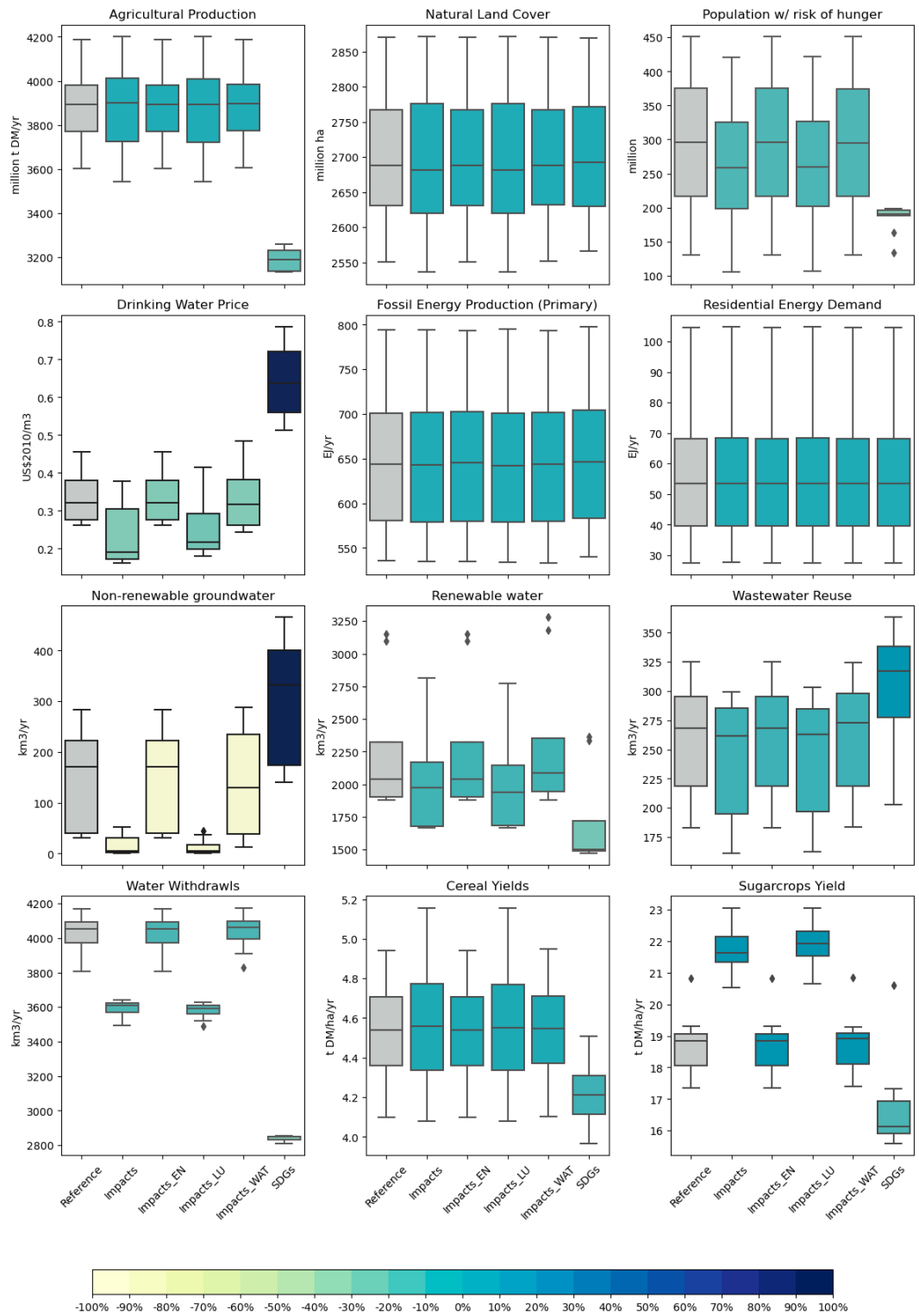
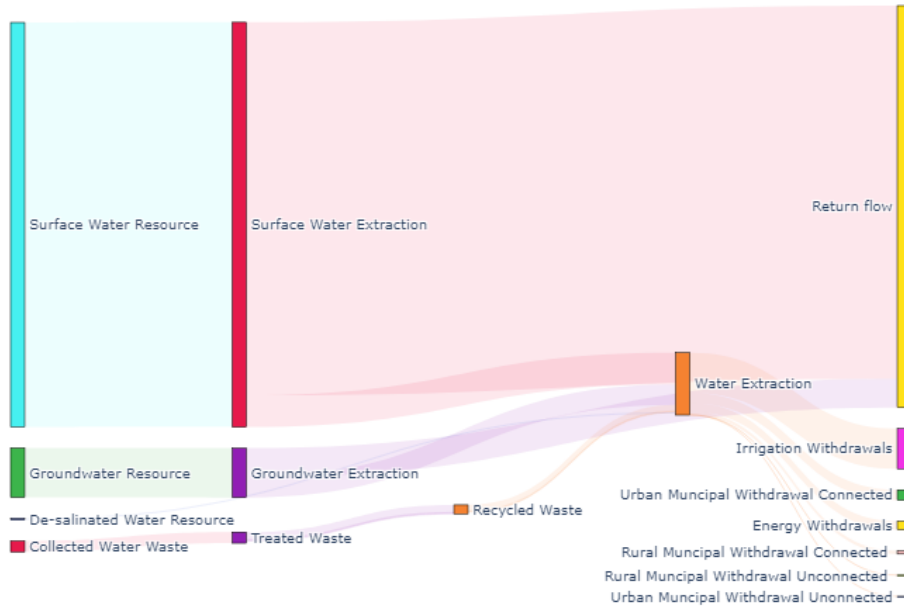


Figure 4 A Comparison of Key EWL Indicators across Multiple Scenarios It shows the boxplot distributions for selected indicators from the `model.module` output. From 2030 to 2080, these are displayed against five distinct scenarios: reference, impacts, impacts_LU, impacts_EN, impacts_WAT, and SDGs. The reference scenario, which stands out visually by having a `greygray` hue, serves as a benchmark for other scenarios. The variance in `coloureolor` between the remaining boxplots represents the percentage change from the reference scenario.

Water Balance 2050



Water supply and withdrawals (-) w/o climate feedback

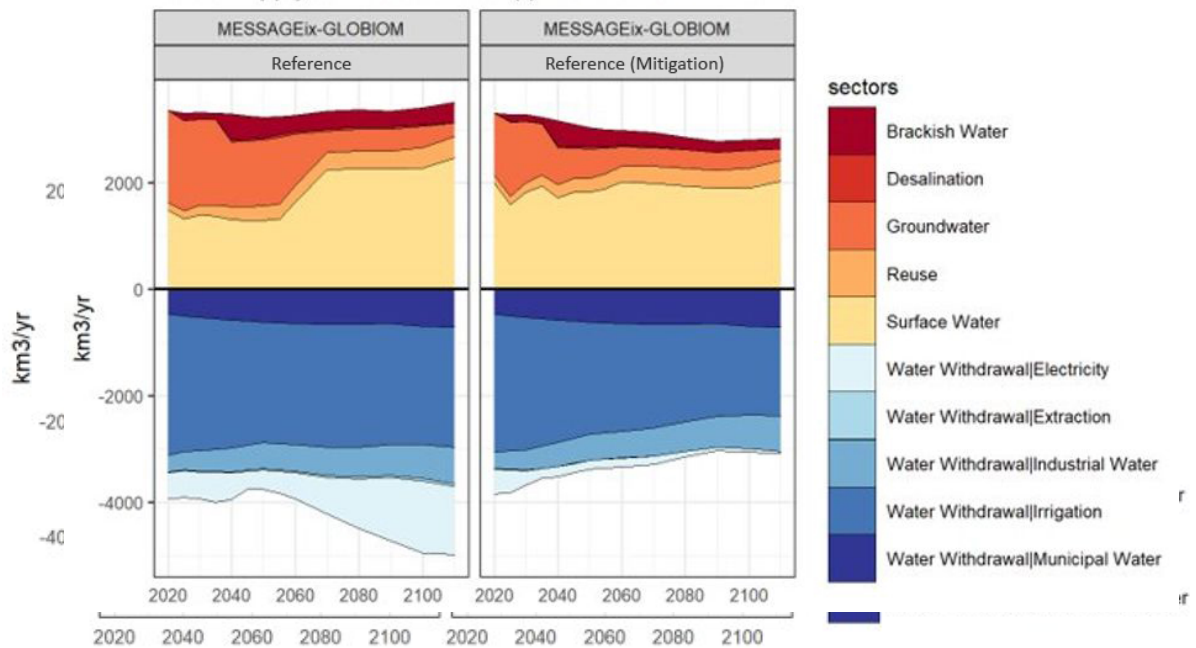


Figure 5 a) Water flows from supply to source in the water sector of the MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM nexus module. The flows and associated techno-economic parameters can be tracked as module outputs across the time horizon and scenarios. **b)** illustrates the supply and withdrawal components of the global water balance, which are reported from the module outputs for the Reference and Impact scenarios. A range of blue hues are used to represent the supply sources, and a range of red hues are used to represent the withdrawals.

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5 Discussion

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The MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM nexus module generates outputs that enhance our understanding of the complex interconnections of water, energy, and land, spanning from specific basins to the global scale. The outputs include assessments of water availability, indicators for Sustainable Development Goals, and climate impacts unique to different sectors. These outputs serve as the foundation for conducting integrated route analysis. Figure 6 provides a concise representation of the various outputs that can be generated by the module, emphasizing its ability to provide a wide range of scenario combinations. These combinations reveal the fundamental sensitivities and assumptions of various approaches, enabling us to identify effective methods that are adaptable to change and meet the needs of stakeholders.

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In order to determine the effectiveness of the module in different climate and SDG scenarios, we developed a set of scenarios based on different assumptions. While theoretically impractical, the Reference scenario acts as a benchmark for determining the outcomes of biophysical impacts by extrapolating previous climatic data into the future. The module also provides crucial investment and capacity projections at five-year intervals, offering insights into the future of water management. In addition, we have compared these indicators to the available literature in Table 5, confirming the dependability of our findings. This research provides a thorough understanding of global water, energy, and land interconnections. It has the potential to influence policy and investment choices, guiding us towards the sustainable use of resources.

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Our module effectively addresses the ever-changing climate system by utilizing a combination of internal and external outputs. As an example, we utilize EPIC to gain valuable information about how irrigation affects crop yields. These findings contribute to GLOBIOM, a system that adjusts land use allocations based on the impacts of climate change. The reallocations, namely in the utilization of land for irrigation, contribute to the balancing of water supplies in MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM. This balancing takes into consideration the requirements of different sectors in the face of changing climate conditions.

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The reactions in the water sector are determined by the availability of resources. Climate change-induced changes in the water cycle determine how resources are distributed and require finding alternative sources. The energy industry is subject to similar levels of dynamism, as climate changes have an impact on the efficiency of thermal power plants and the feasibility of hydropower projects while also increasing the demand for cooling. Our module provides a comprehensive multi-sectoral assessment by taking into account these biophysical consequences.

Understanding the interconnectedness of climate impacts across all sectors is essential; the ripple effects they cause require a comprehensive perspective. The results of our study emphasize the need for additional research to fully understand the range of potential effects that climate change could have on many industries and how their inclusion could greatly influence scenarios for managing and reducing these effects. The adoption of sustainable energy sources in certain areas demonstrates the wider significance of our research, which reveals the interaction between climate effects and strategies for reducing them, along with their additional benefits, such as improved agricultural output and a transition from fossil fuels in the power industry.

Our forthcoming research will expand on these preliminary findings, offering insights that are pertinent to policy-making. The next articles will explore the integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with climate policies, providing a fresh outlook on how to tackle climate adaptation problems effectively. While previous research has included SDG components in IAMs, our approach stands out by simultaneously analyzing SDG policies, climate targets, and impacts. This provides a new perspective on the climate adaptation narrative. We utilize this novel methodology to analyze the regional discrepancies in development objectives, facilitating our comprehension of how diverse regions might effectively manage the consequences of climate change while attaining their development targets. The study's regional insights will enhance our understanding of the adaptive strategies that regions may employ to achieve their developmental goals.

To summarize, the outputs of our module connected to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have the potential to greatly transform our understanding of human development indicators on a global and regional scale. Through the examination of metrics and the comparison of scenarios with and without SDGs, as illustrated in Figure 7, we emphasize the novelty of integrating SDG scenarios with climate effect evaluations. This comprehensive scenario will support future studies, allowing us to assess the combined effects of actions to reduce and adapt to climate change to achieve sustainable development goals.

The MESSAGEix GLOBIOM nexus module generates outputs that allow for an

Energy	Water	Land	Socio-economics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy use (Primary, Secondary, Final) • Energy prices • CO₂ emissions pathways • Capacity requirements • Energy supply portfolio • A/C cooling gap • Investment pathways • Energy use of water commodities) • Adjusted residential demands with increased access to electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water withdrawals based on constraints • Water supply outlook (combination of different sources) • Capacity requirements of of water infrastructure technologies (wastewater, water distribution) • Investment in the water infrastructure sector • Drinking & irrigation water marginal prices • Water footprint of energy sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Withdrawals for Irrigation • Crop Yields • Land Cover (different categories) • Agriculture production & demand • Fertilizer use & intensity • Land use CO₂ emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population with access to drinking water, sanitation • Urban & rural municipal demands • Population with access to electricity, clean-cooking fuels • Population with risk of hunger

understanding of the relationships between water, energy, and land at both the basin and global

Figure 64: Summary of output indicators that are possible from the MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM nexus module. These outputs are long term pathways and much of these outputs can be further disaggregated onto the technology level.

levels. These outputs include information on water availability in different regions, key indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals, and sector specific climate impacts and it spans multiple sectors to inform about integrated pathways. Figure 4 presents a summary of configurations of sectoral outputs possible from the current module. One key feature is its ability to produce scenario combinations, which help to reveal the sensitivities and assumptions underlying different pathways. By analysing the energy, water, and land implications of these scenarios, it is possible to identify robust pathways resilient to changing conditions and meet the needs of various stakeholders. Overall, the outputs generated by the module provide valuable insights into these resources' interdependent nature and can inform regional decision-making. In order to test the model's applicability across climate and SDG scenarios in combination, we formulated a total of six scenarios that alternate different assumptions. Despite being physically impractical, the Reference scenario aids in our comprehension of the results of biophysical consequences by projecting historical climate data into the future. The model incorporates the biophysical consequences, highlighting various potential outcomes in numerous sectors.

The implications of climate change are interrelated and can have cascading effects on various sectors; thus, it is crucial to stress that these results should be viewed in the context of the complete model. Overall, the findings indicate the need for more research to fully comprehend the potential effects of climate change on diverse sectors and the possibility that incorporating biophysical consequences can substantially impact the outcomes of climatic scenarios. As a result of the effects of climate change, this shows that certain regions are transitioning to more sustainable energy sources. Overall, the study's findings illustrate the significant implications of climate impacts in mitigation scenarios on the energy mix and the possible co-benefits of adaptation while mitigating climate change. It is important to note that these results are based on a specific model and situation and should be interpreted as a general trend. Future research and

forthcoming publications will expand on these findings and give policy relevant insights into the areas. This configuration can benefit policymakers, energy corporations, and other stakeholders in comprehending the effects of climate change on the electrical generating mix and developing adaptation measures.

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The coupling of the SDGs with climate policies and implications can give valuable insights into how to solve climate adaptation problems and is part of the upcoming publications. While there have been numerous publications on integrating SDG dimensions into Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) such as (van Soest et al., 2019; Baumstark et al., 2021; Vuuren et al., 2022), this study stands out due to its novel approach of combining SDG policies with climate goals and impacts and evaluating their effectiveness in understanding the climate adaptation narrative. The findings emphasize the need to examine the regional heterogeneity of development objectives to comprehend how various areas might adapt to climate change impacts while concurrently reaching development goals. Overall, the SDG-related outputs of the module may be utilized to broaden and improve our understanding of global and regional human development indices. The geographically variable insights gained from this study can aid in advancing our understanding of how various places might adjust to the effects of climate change while pursuing development objectives. We chose metrics and studied the percentage difference between scenarios that assumed the SDGs and those that did not (Figure 7). Although many IAMs scenarios already include the SDG dimensions, the innovation in this module combines SDG scenarios with climate impact scenarios. This type of scenario will be used in the upcoming studies to assess the benefits of mitigation and adaptation while also ensuring meeting sustainable development targets

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54.1 Further development

While the module includes detailed implementation of the water sector and representation of biophysical climate impacts, we identify areas where our module lacks certain aspects and uncertainties. Since we look at the integrated systems, we do not include inter-basin or spatial unit transfers, which can be crucial for answering transboundary challenges in the river basins. Moreover, we currently do not account for water storage, a potentially important aspect of water resource management where we can see the water storage during a high flow season and its use during a low flow season. We use the flow percentiles approach to partially address this concern.

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While the Nexus module employs the robust outputs of the ISIMIP for depicting climate impacts, there are certain challenges from the current set of outputs that are not fully consistent with the input climate scenario assumptions. As soon as updated and aligned ISIMIP outputs become available, we will conduct a new model run to enhance consistency and reduce uncertainty in our analysis. In addition, the sensitivity of indicators to these impacts and the uncertainty of the Global Hydrological Model (GHM) are more significant than those of climate models. The module's representation of alternative water constraints, such as the economic

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consequences of fossil groundwater extraction to reduce water consumption, will be explored in future research by focusing on more realistic groundwater assumptions. The current module structure, which assumes an endogenous adaptation response, may not fully capture the complex dynamics, such as the feedback mechanisms between water availability and energy production, socioeconomic impacts of water scarcity on land use, and long-term societal adaptations to water stress within the EWL sectors. Future research will focus on integrating these inter-sectoral feedback and dynamic responses to enhance the module's accuracy in depicting the intricacies of the EWL nexus.

In future research, we plan to expand our exploration of climate impact dimensions to include a more robust handling of statistical climate extremes, aiming for greater resilience in our module's performance at sub-annual temporal resolutions. Future versions of the module will integrate up-to-date climate impact data and strive for more consistent data sources across sectors.

In addition, we aim to distinguish the roles of impacts and adaptation responses within the EWL sectors, which will allow for a better understanding of the role of climate and the responses triggered by these impacts in the models. This future work will contribute to the module's refinement and expansion, resulting in a more comprehensive and accurate representation of the intricate interplay between climate impacts, water policy, and reliability. Future research will explore additional climate impact dimensions. For instance, the sub-annual temporal resolution must be more tolerant of could better take into account statistical extremes under various circumstances. In addition, the model's portrayal of alternate water limitations, such as the costs involved with extracting fossil groundwater to limit water usage, will be improved in future versions. Currently, the model does not account for sub-annual irrigation withdrawals or inter-basin/spatial unit transfers, which might be crucial for basins crossed by MESSAGE areas. In addition, the model does not account for water storage, which may be an essential aspect of water resource management.

Furthermore, the nexus module depends on various data sources to represent climate effects, which might be challenging to reconcile for consistency. In the future, the model will need to be updated with the most recent data on climate effects, especially considering that the sensitivity of indicators to these impacts and the uncertainty of GHM is more significant than that of climate models. Consideration will also be given to the effect of sub-annual extreme values, which may be averaged out in the yearly study to reduce the impact of extreme behaviours. For

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~~more robust analysis, future studies will explore more consistent and reliable data streams from different sectors.~~

6.5 Conclusion

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This study addresses the research gap of improved EWL nexus, including biophysical climate impact representation within IAMs, by developing a nexus module for the global MESSAGEix-GLOBIOM integrated assessment model. It enhances the MESSAGEix framework to study the responses to biophysical climate impacts and water constraints across different scales. Representation of interactions with the water sector has been enhanced by implementing endogenous water sector spatial resolution and water constraints by balancing supply and demand at basin scales globally. It can address nexus synergies and trade-offs across EWL sectors on a global scale, showing regional results.

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~~To have a holistic outlook of the results, we investigate the sensitivity of various scenarios in regard to water and climate. The water sector results are based on water flow reliability to evaluate the amount of available renewable water that is reliable throughout the year. Based on the findings, increasing reliability from low to medium to high results in increased investment in alternate water sources such as desalination, fossil groundwater, and infrastructure, which incurs additional costs.~~

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Moreover, the study shows that regional differences influence the cost of alternate water sources and infrastructure. Furthermore, the research on climate impacts highlights the biophysical consequences of climate change on many sectors and the necessity for additional research to comprehend their prospective outcomes. The study also investigates the effects of climate change on the power generation mix, highlighting the transition from fossil to renewable technologies. The results suggest that integrating biophysical repercussions can considerably impact the outcomes of climatic scenarios, and these findings should be regarded in the context of the entire model.

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The ~~model~~ module is improved to implement river ecosystem constraints, increasing socioeconomic demands, and ecological uncertainties. The module is developed consistent with state-of-the-art software development practices. The whole framework is transparent and flexible to be downscaled to any basin or country worldwide. A ~~first order~~ first order model ~~module~~ can be rapidly prototyped and further used to answer cutting-edge policy questions on the impacts and adaptation potentials across different basins, utilizing a set of socioeconomic and climate ensemble scenarios. The research will ~~address~~ result in addressing the EWL nexus dynamics and interactions in terms of costs, and structural changes concerning future resilient pathways.

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Author's Contributions

MA, AV, EB, VK, KR conceived the modelling framework. MA & AV led the model development with support of EB, OF, PNK, KR, and VK. SF, EB, AM helped with the GLOBIOM scenarios. AM provided data on cooling gaps, MPC ran energy access scenarios, PB and YS provided the hydrological data. MM, KR, VK did overall supervision. MA led the manuscript,

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and preparation of results. AV & EB coordinated the overall research. All authors reviewed and contributed to the manuscript writing.

Data Availability

1065 The code, processed data, and documentation are available at
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7687578>

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Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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