

# Impatti dei cambiamenti climatici sulle risorse idriche: approcci e strumenti integrati a supporto delle politiche di adattamento

Silvia Torresan, Fondazione Centro Euromediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici



## CReIAMO PA

Per un cambiamento sostenibile



# Climate change impacts on water resources

Climate change is likely to affect the quantity, quality and availability of water resources in multiple ways (Jiménez-Cisneros et al., 2014);



## Extreme precipitation, storms, and floods:

- Increase urban and agricultural runoff into surface waters;

## Extended droughts and dry soil conditions:

- Soils more susceptible to erosion
- Rapid transit of chemicals into groundwaters;

## Increase in CO2 level:

- Water acidification;

## Extreme temperatures:

- Thermal Stratification
- Salinity changes



## Changes in structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems

- Shifts in timing and magnitude of phytoplanktonic blooms & consequent effects on higher trophic levels;
- Loss of habitat and biodiversity;
- Harmful algal blooms;
- Hypoxic and anoxic events.
- Reduced ecosystem services (regulation, provisioning, cultural, supporting);



# Climate change impacts on water resources

The assessment of climate change impacts on water resources is notoriously difficult due to the **multiplicity of physical processes involved** and the **dynamic nature of socio-ecological systems**:

- **Multiple scale** (temporal and spatial);
- **Multiple agents** or stressors (environmental, social and economic);
- **Complex and non-linear relations and responses**;
- High degree of **uncertainty**.

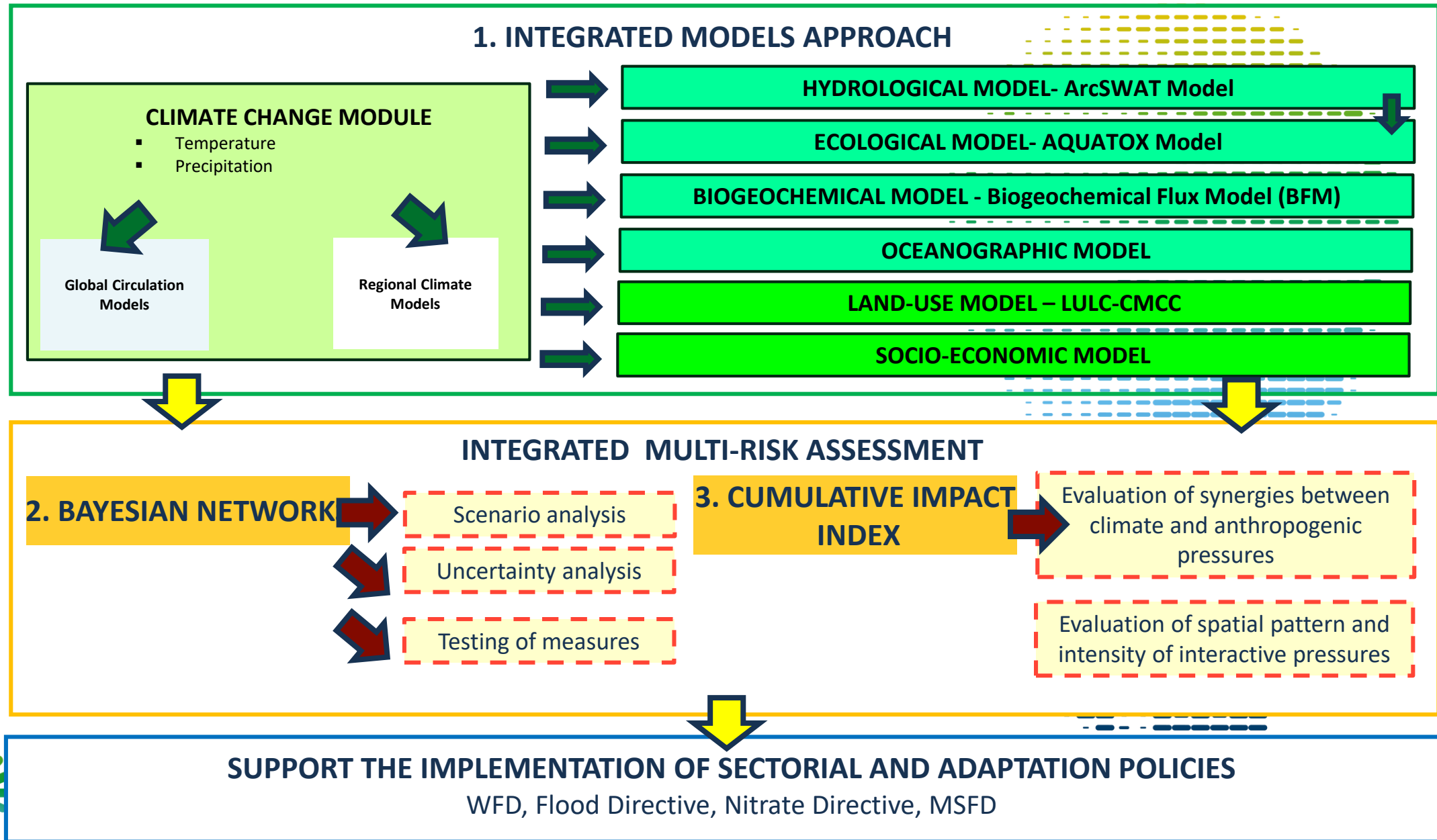
**Predicting the conjoined impact** of multiple stressors **is required to support the implementation of well targeted management strategies** exploiting potential synergies between climate change adaptation and sectorial water policies (e.g. **WFD, Flood Directive, Nitrate Directive, MSFD**).



**Need of integrated models and approaches**



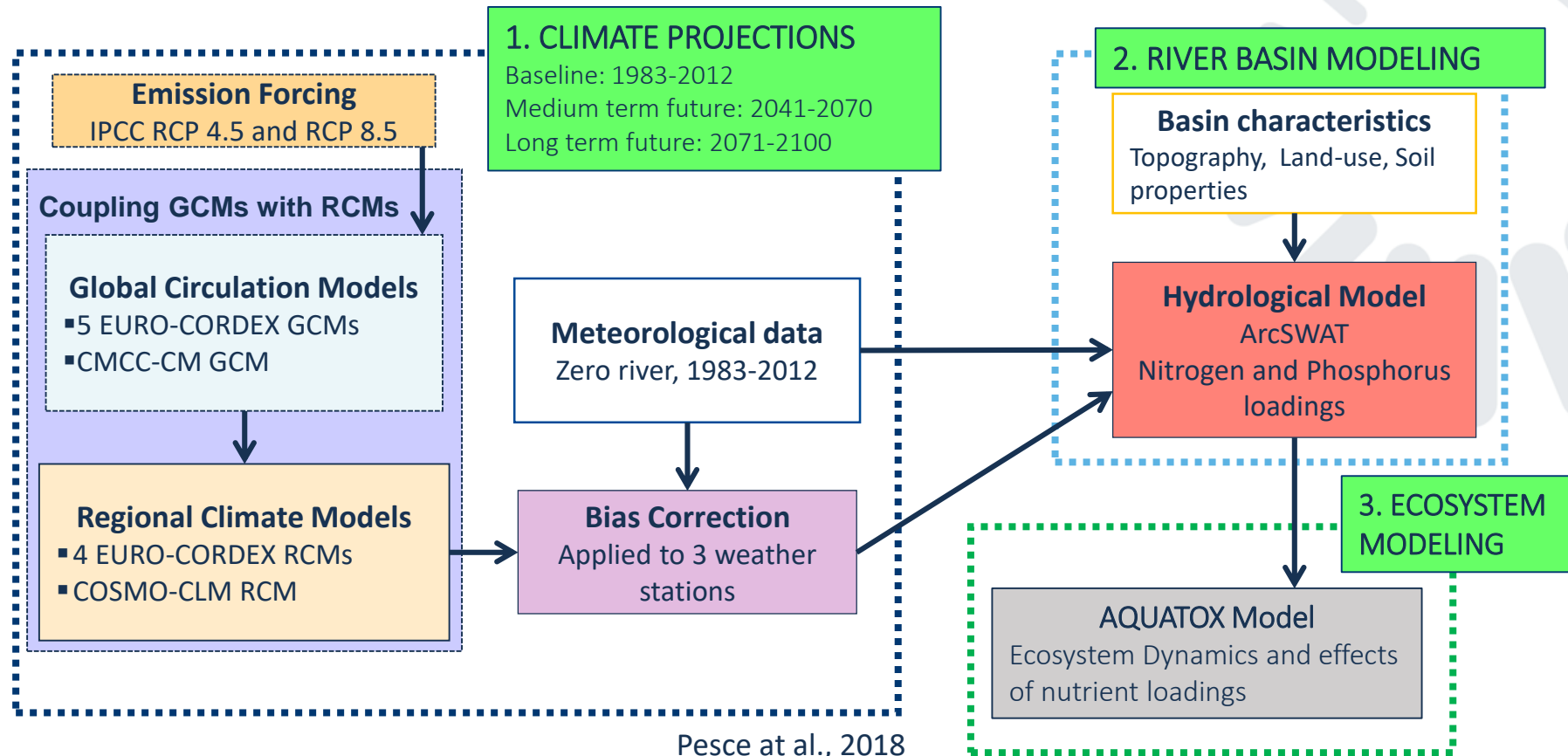
# Tools and methods for climate change impact assessment



# 1. Integrated models

## INTEGRATING CLIMATE-HYDROLOGICAL-ECOLOGICAL MODELS:

Development & application of an integrated modeling approach to study medium to long-term impacts of climate change on nutrient loadings and the consequent effects on coastal aquatic ecosystems over the 21st century.



# 1. Integrated models

## CASE STUDY: The Zero river basin and Palude di Cona



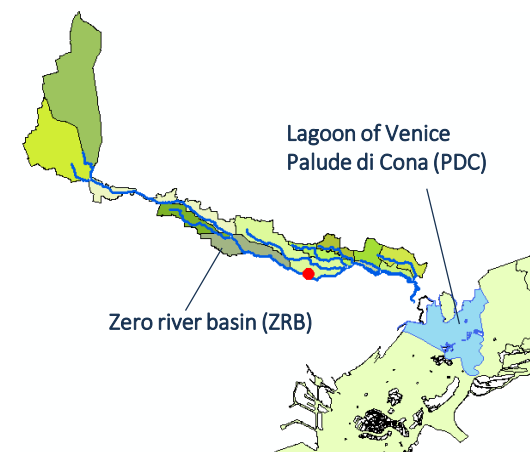
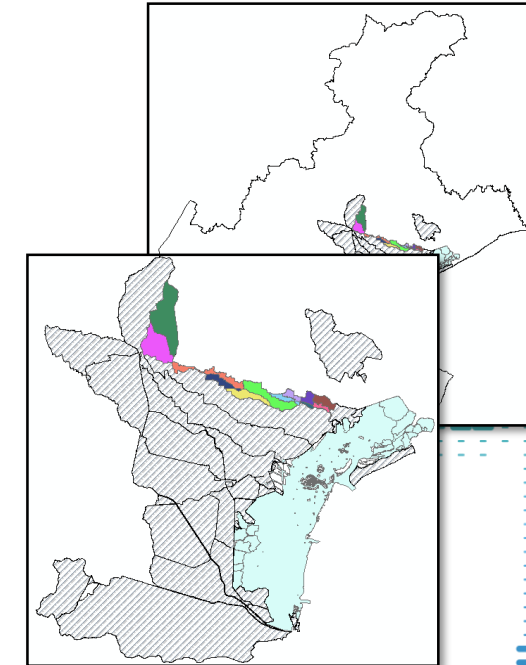
### Zero River Basin (ZRB)

- Drainage area: 140 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Urban areas: 24%
  - Agricultural areas: 69% (corn, soy, wheat)
  - Green & Pasture areas: 7%
- Jointly with Dese river, it delivers the greatest contribution of freshwater and nutrients into the Lagoon of Venice
- Complex hydrological network: *irrigation channels, emergency flow regulation, complex groundwater recharge system*



### Palude di Cona (PDC)

- Surface: 2 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Shallow waters (mean depth 0.5 m)
  - Main ecological features: salt-marshes & mudflats
  - Influenced by freshwater input of Zero & Dese rivers (average salinity: 23 PSU)

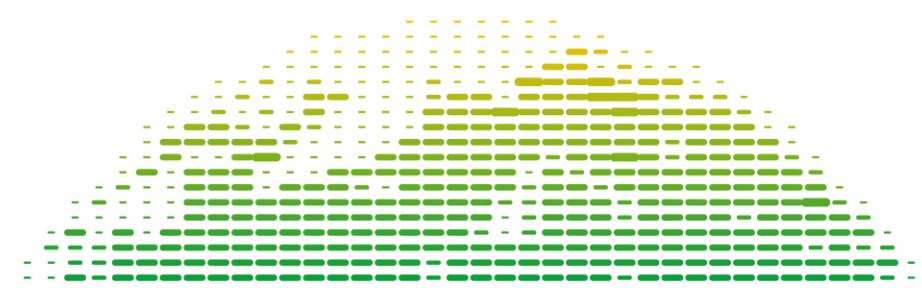


## INPUT DATA:

Climate projections obtained from an **ENSEMBLE** of global and regional climate models (**CMCC+ EUROCorTex**) under different radiative forcings (**RCP4.5-8.5**) were used to describe future climate conditions

- Precipitation (mm)
- Temperature (°C)

## 1. Integrated models

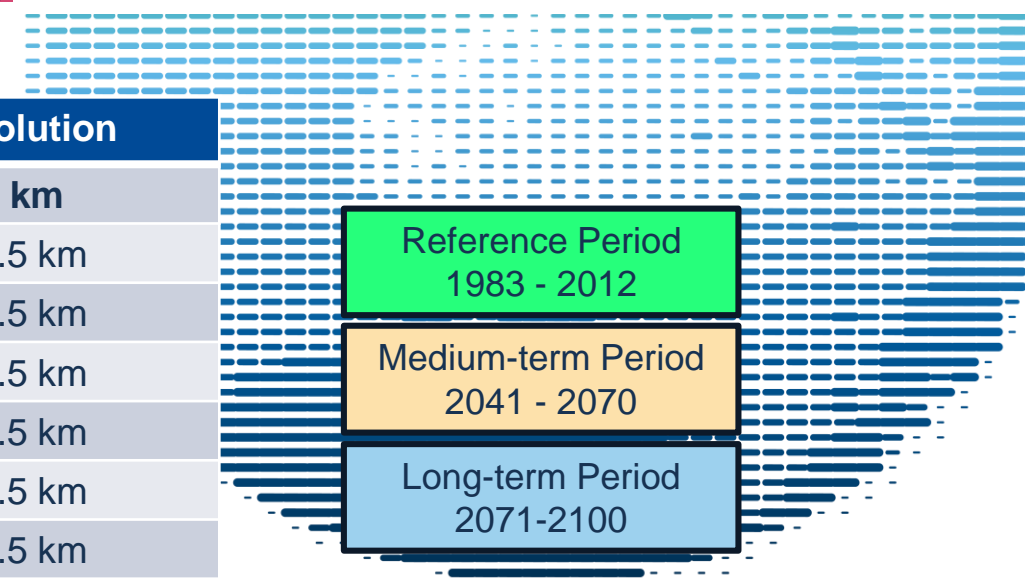


## 2 Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs): indicate the radiative forcing ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) by 2100:

RCP 4.5 ( $4.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  by 2100) → **+1.8 °C (1.1 to 2.6 °C)**

RCP 8.5 ( $8.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  by 2100) → **+3.7 °C (2.6 to 4.8 °C)**

GCM	RCM	RCPs	Resolution
CMCC-CM	COSMO-CLM	4.5, 8.5	8 km
ICHEC-EC-EARTH	RACMO22E	4.5, 8.5	12.5 km
IPSL-IPSL-CM5A-MR	RCA4	4.5, 8.5	12.5 km
MOHC-HadGEM2-ES	RCA4	4.5, 8.5	12.5 km
MPI-M-MPI-ESM-LR	RCA4	4.5, 8.5	12.5 km
ICHEC-EC-EARTH	RCA4	4.5, 8.5	12.5 km
ICHEC-EC-EARTH	HIRHAM5	4.5, 8.5	12.5 km
CNRM-CM5	CCLM4-8-17	4.5, 8.5	12.5 km
CNRM-CM5	RCA4	4,5, 8,5	12,5 km
MOHC-HadGEM2-ES	RCA4	4,5, 8,5	12,5 km

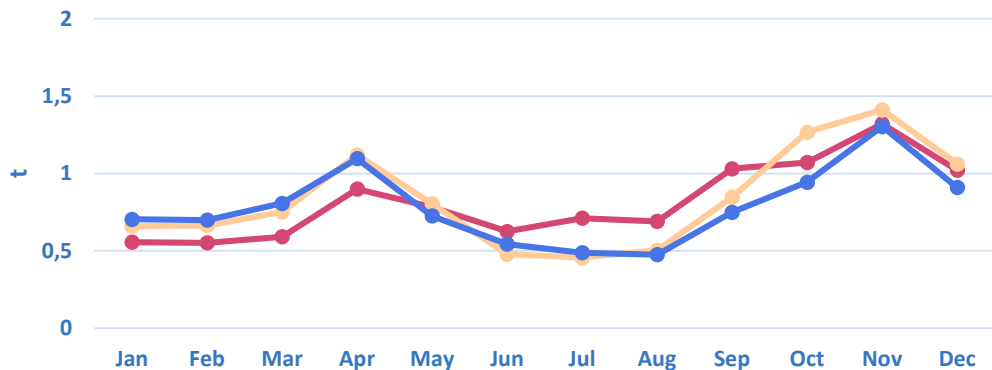


Future projections (30-year monthly mean)  
 Hydrologic modelling: Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT)-Zero river  
 CMCC-CM (GCM) / COSMO-CLM (RCM)

1. Integrated models

**RCP 4.5**

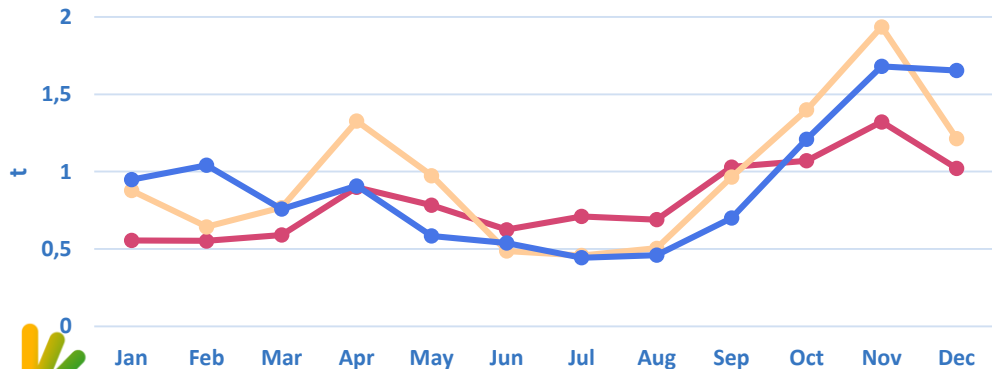
N-NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> loadings (t/mo.)



P-PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> loadings (t/mo.)

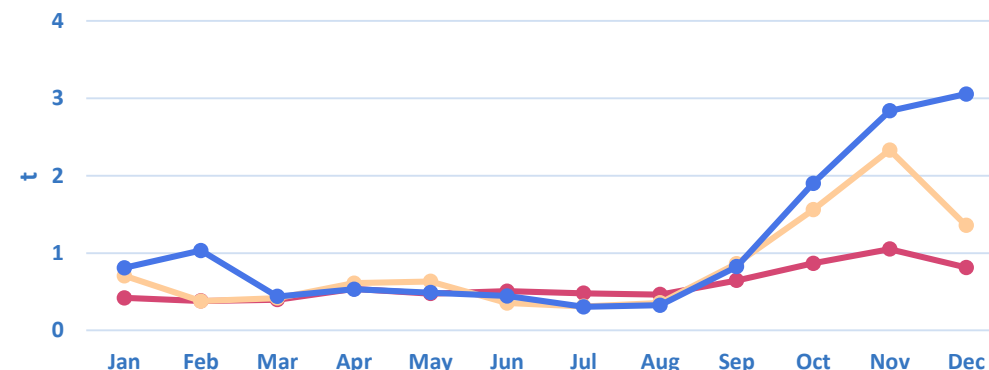


N-NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> loadings (t/mo.)



**RCP 8.5**

P-PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> loadings (t/mo.)



**CREIAMO PA**

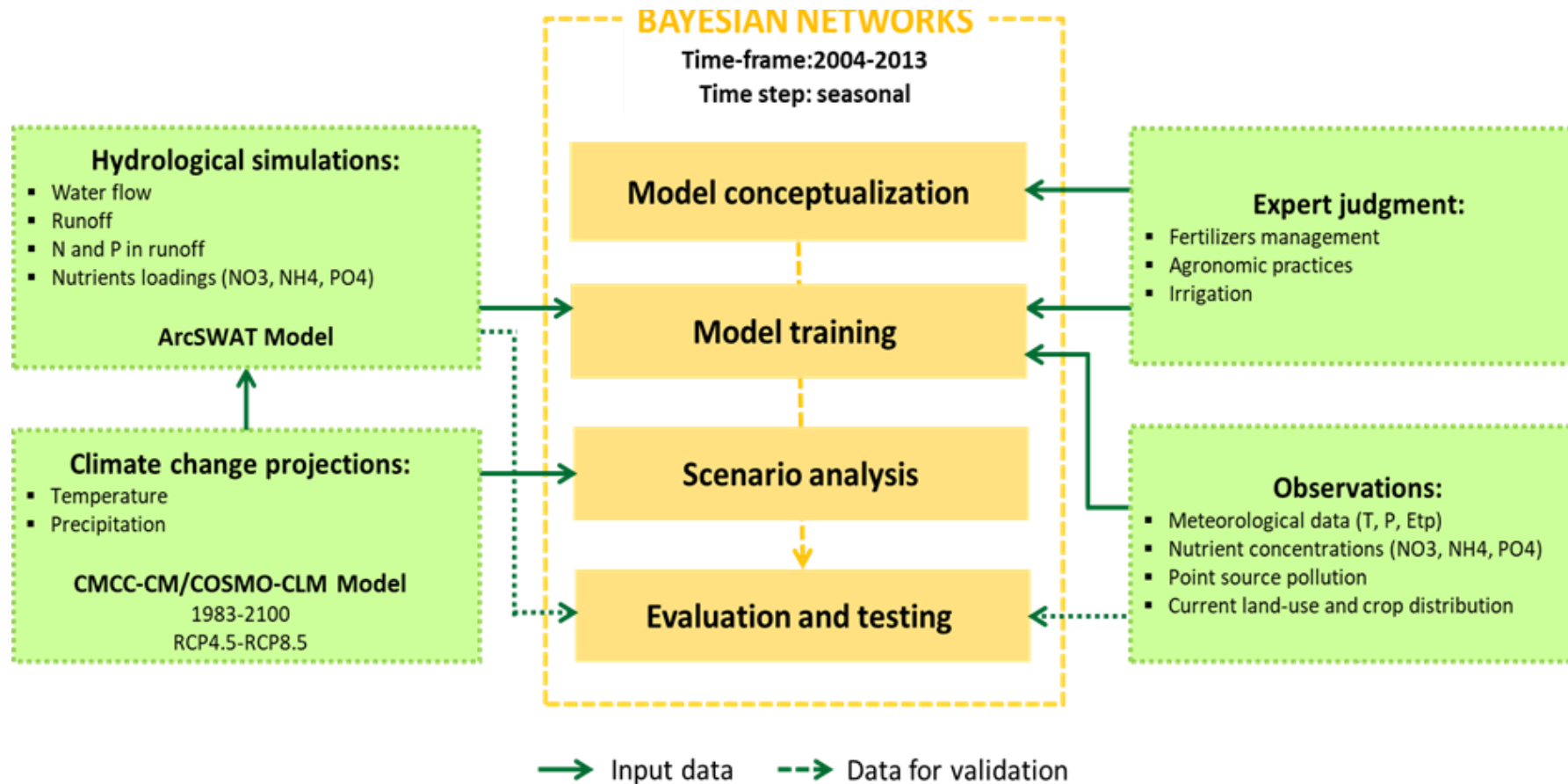
—●— 1983 - 2012      —●— 2041 - 2070      —●— 2071 - 2100



## 2. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Bayesian Networks

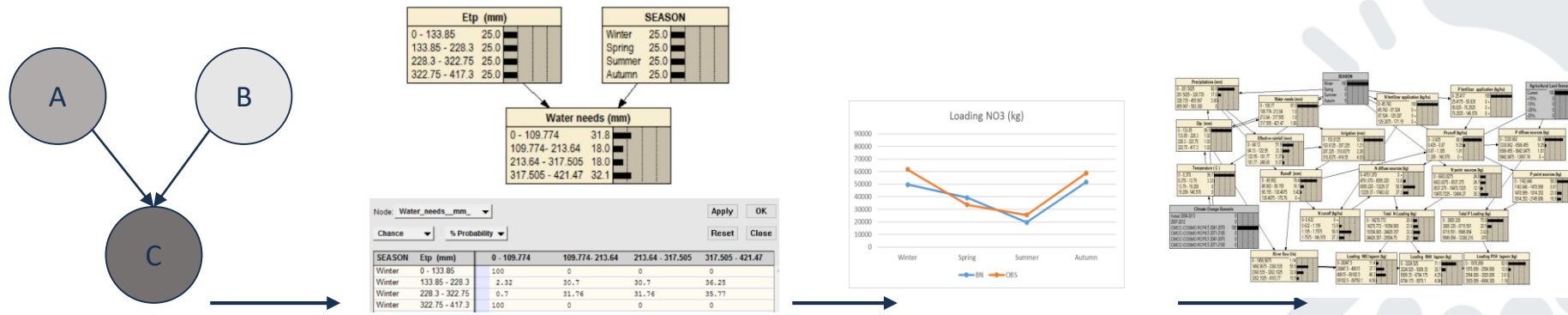
### PROBABILISTIC APPROACH BASED ON BAYESIAN NETWORKS (BNs):

integrating model simulations results with those regarding land use and diffuse and point pollution sources → produce alternative risk scenarios to communicate the probability of changes in nutrients delivered over future scenarios.



## 2. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Bayesian Networks

### BAYESIAN NETWORKS DEVELOPMENT STEPS (Kragt, 2009):



**a. CONCEPTUAL MODEL:**  
Define the structure of the network and identify its main variables and relationships represented by using a conceptual/influence 'nodes and arrow' diagram.

**b. PARAMETRIZATION:**  
Define **states** for all variables and calculate the associated **prior probability** resulting from data distribution as well relationships between nodes described by the **conditional probability** distributions.

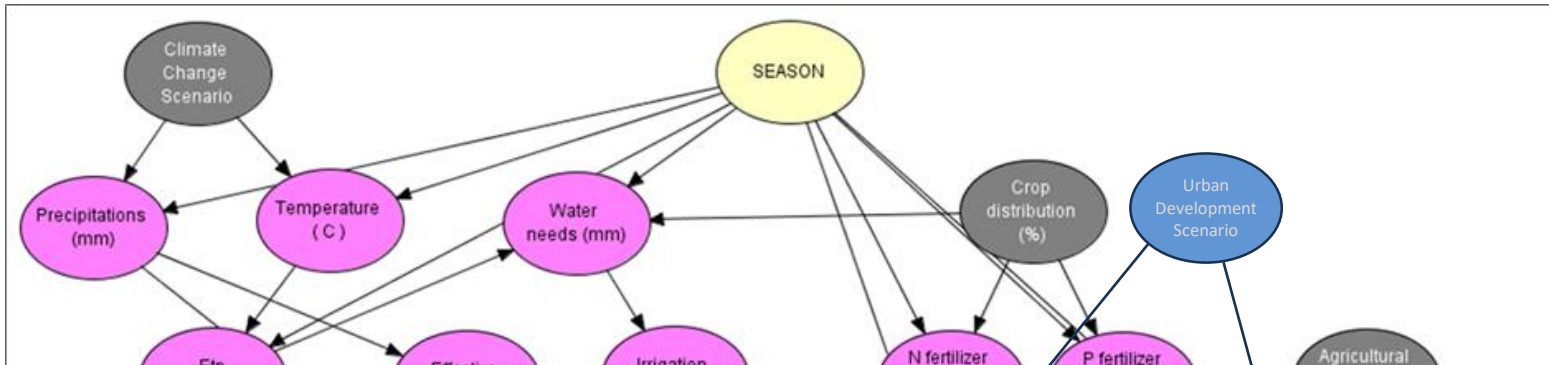
**c. EVALUATION:**  
Evaluate the **predictive performance** of the BN by means of **sensitivity analysis** and **data-based validation**.

**d. SCENARIO ANALYSIS:**  
By inferring behavior of the variables at stake against different conditions defined by setting specific state/s of a node/s (**evidence**) and then propagating information between nodes based on the Bayes theorem, thus resulting in the **posterior probability**.

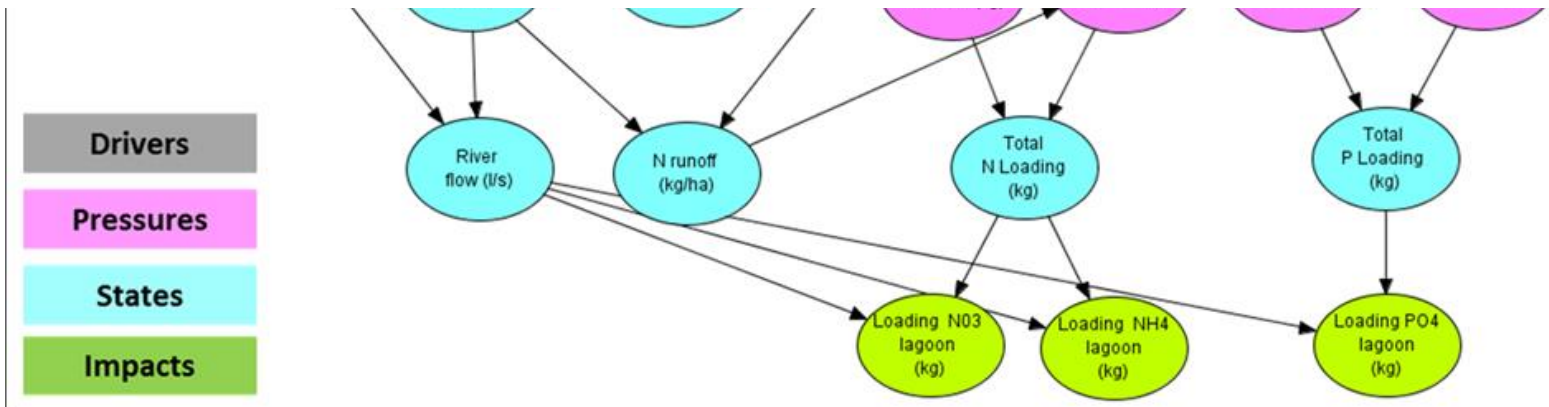


## 2. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Bayesian Networks

a. **CONCEPTUAL MODEL:** development of the conceptual framework of the systems based on DPSIR framework.

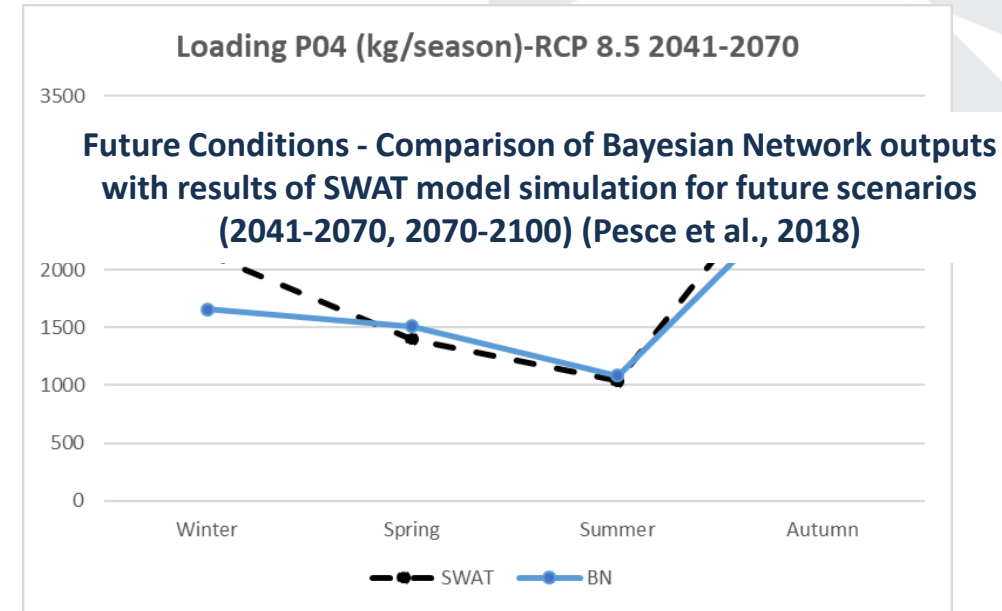
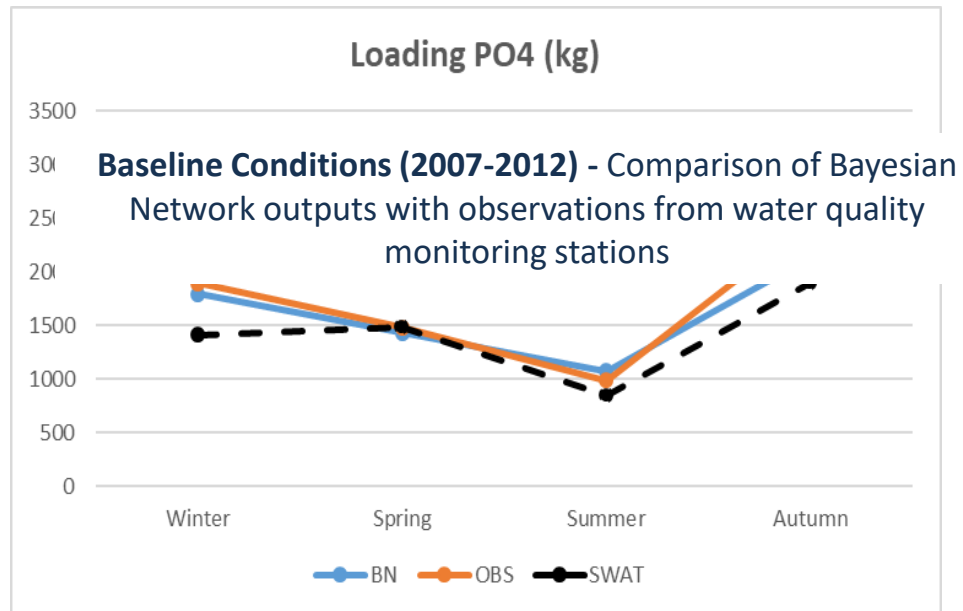


- Definition of **final objectives (i.e. assessment endpoints)** of the model;
- **Identification** of relevant **system variables (i.e. nodes)** by means **DPSIR Framework** and representation of their **causal-relationships (i.e. arcs)**.



## 2. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Bayesian Networks

c. **MODEL EVALUATION: Data Evaluation** of the predictive accuracy of the model through the comparison of Bayesian Network outputs with an independent data set.



Expected Value of the probability distributions of **observed data (a)** and **simulated data (SWAT) (b)** and of **Bayesian Network outputs (blue)**



## 2. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Bayesian Networks

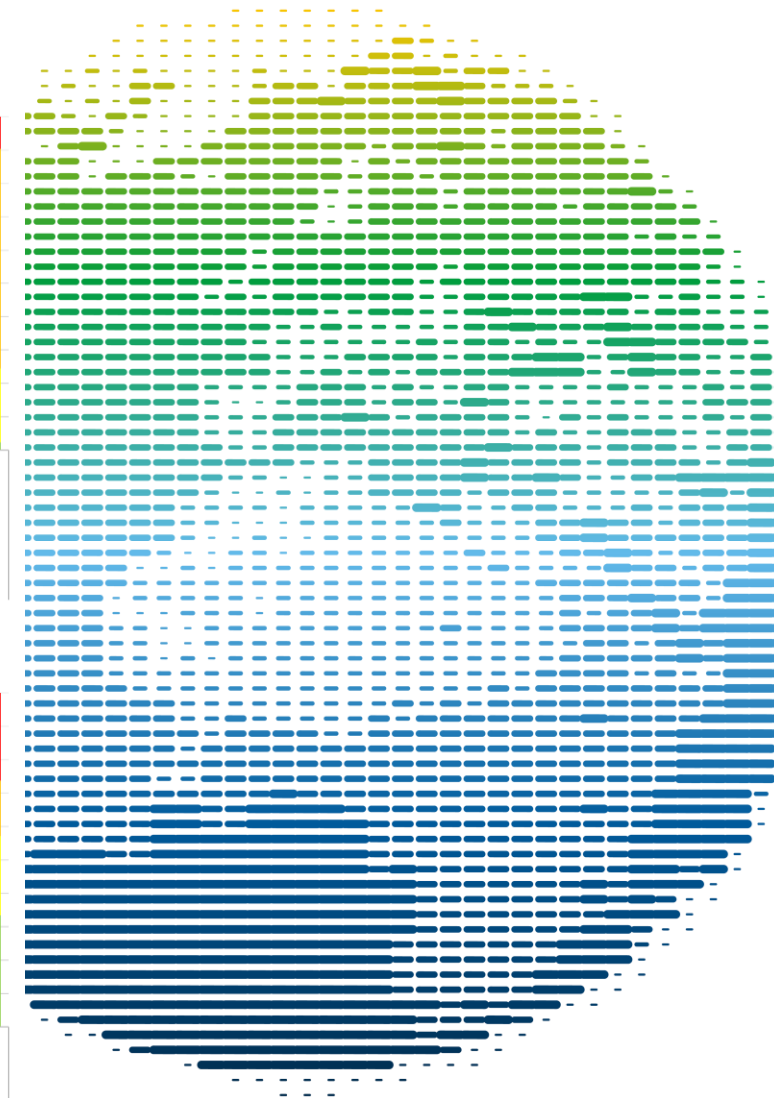
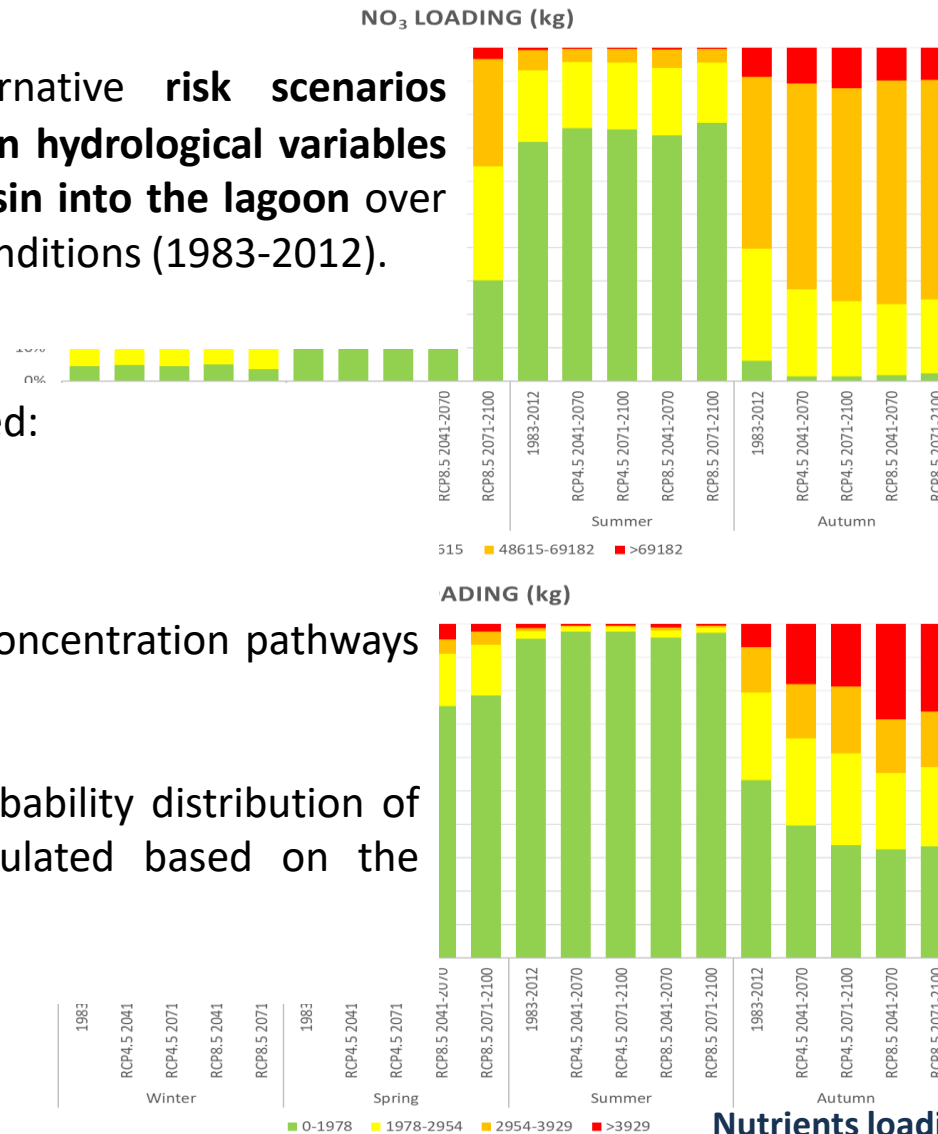
**d. SCENARIO ANALYSIS:** Alternative risk scenarios showing the probability of changes in hydrological variables and nutrients delivered from the basin into the lagoon over future scenarios respect to current conditions (1983-2012).

Five 30-year scenarios were developed:

- control period (1983-2012),
- a mid-term (2041-2070)
- long-term (2071-2100)

under two different representative concentration pathways (i.e. RCP4.5-RCP8.5).

BN alternatively forced with the probability distribution of temperature and precipitation calculated based on the respective **model simulations**.

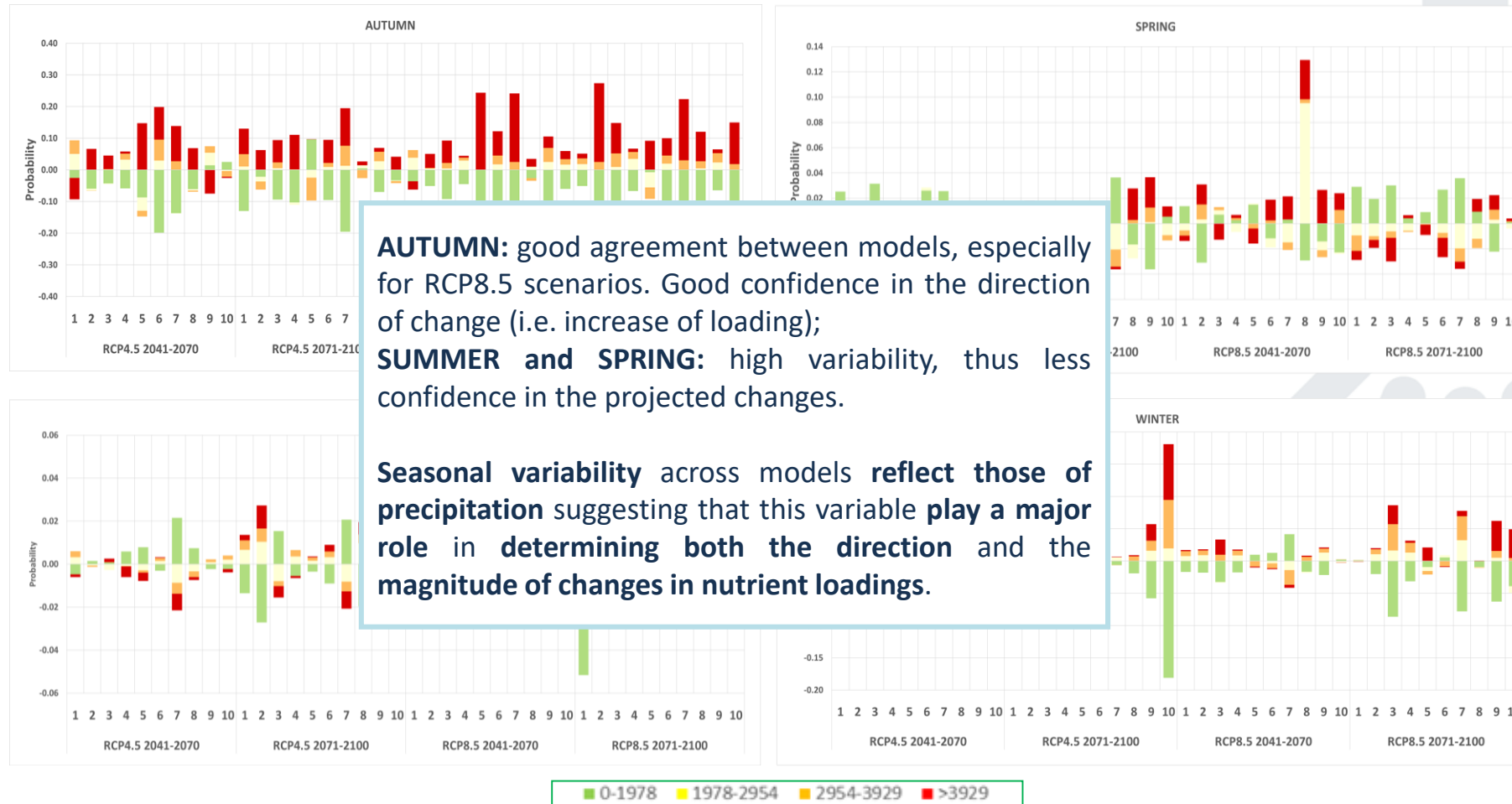


**CREIAMO PA**

Nutrients loading under different climate change scenarios  
(CMCC-CM/COSMO-CLM Model)

## 2. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Bayesian Networks

### d. SCENARIO ANALYSIS: Analysis of the variability and uncertainty of the results across GCM-RCM combinations



CReI

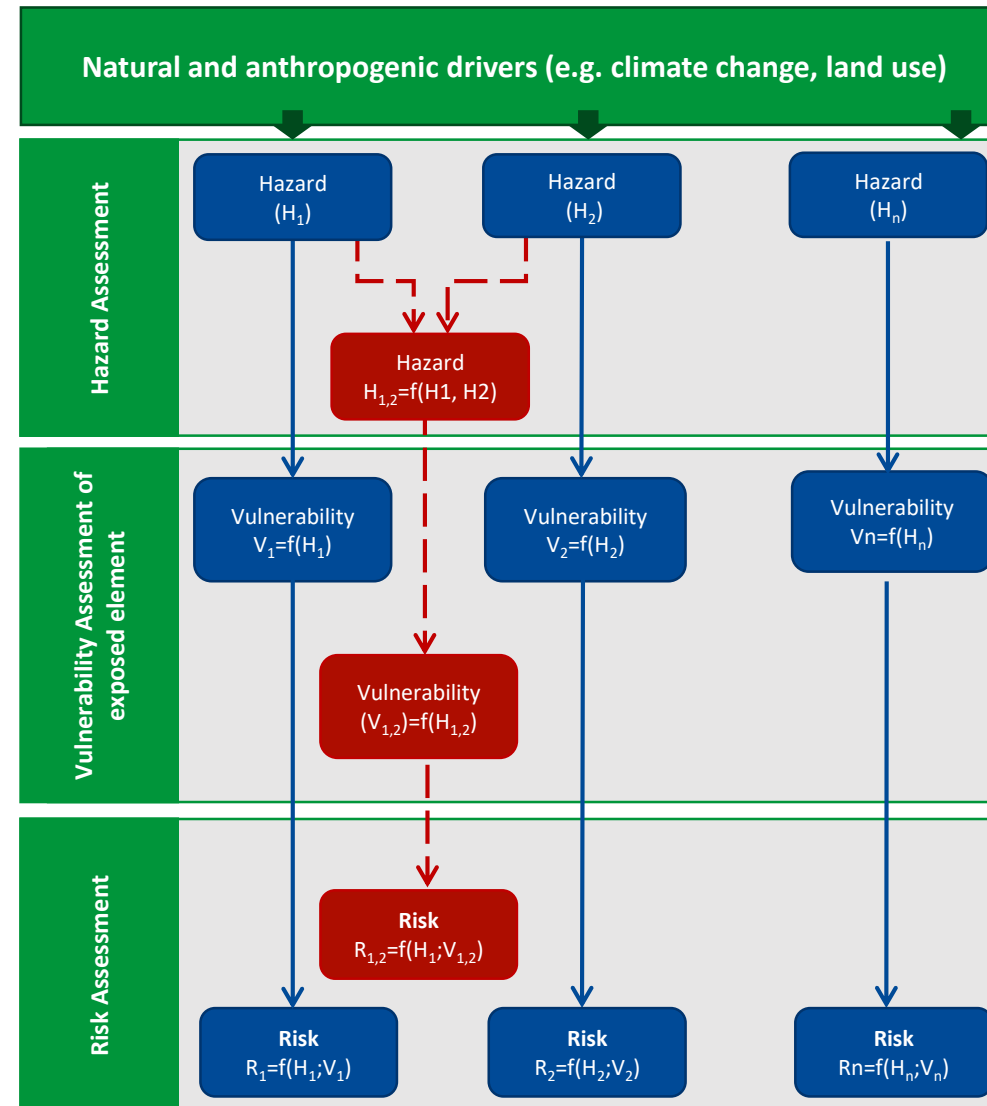
Variations in the probability of each PO<sub>4</sub>(3-) loading classes respect to the baseline (i.e. 1983-2012) under different scenarios and GCM-RCM combinations

### 3. Integrated multi-risk assessment

#### MULTI-RISK ASSESSMENT

considering multiple hazards and risk (threatening the same exposed elements) and their spatial and temporal relationships:

- Provide a semi-quantitative evaluation of hazards interactions (i.e. synergies antagonisms);
- Estimate cumulative impacts induced by climatic and no-climatic stressors (es. temperature variation, chemical pollution)
- Combine spatial-temporal information related to multi-hazards and multi-vulnerability in order to identify key risks across sectors and regions;
- Support ranking and prioritization of risks affecting the same target.
- Support the simultaneous consideration of multiple climate change scenarios and the prioritization of available adaptation and management options.



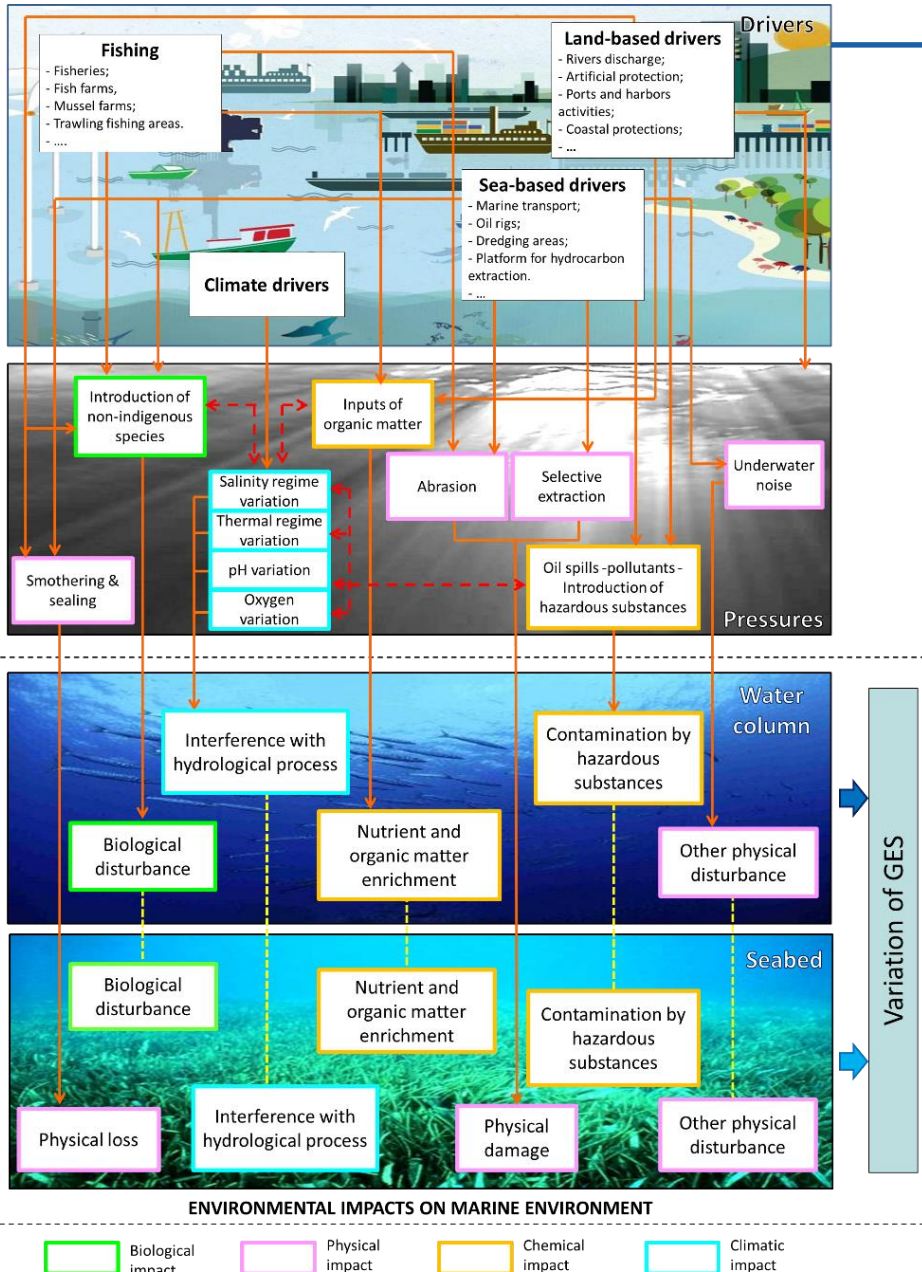
Adapted from Marzocchi et al., 2012



### 3. Integrated multi-risk assessment

#### Adriatic sea: the multi-risk conceptual framework

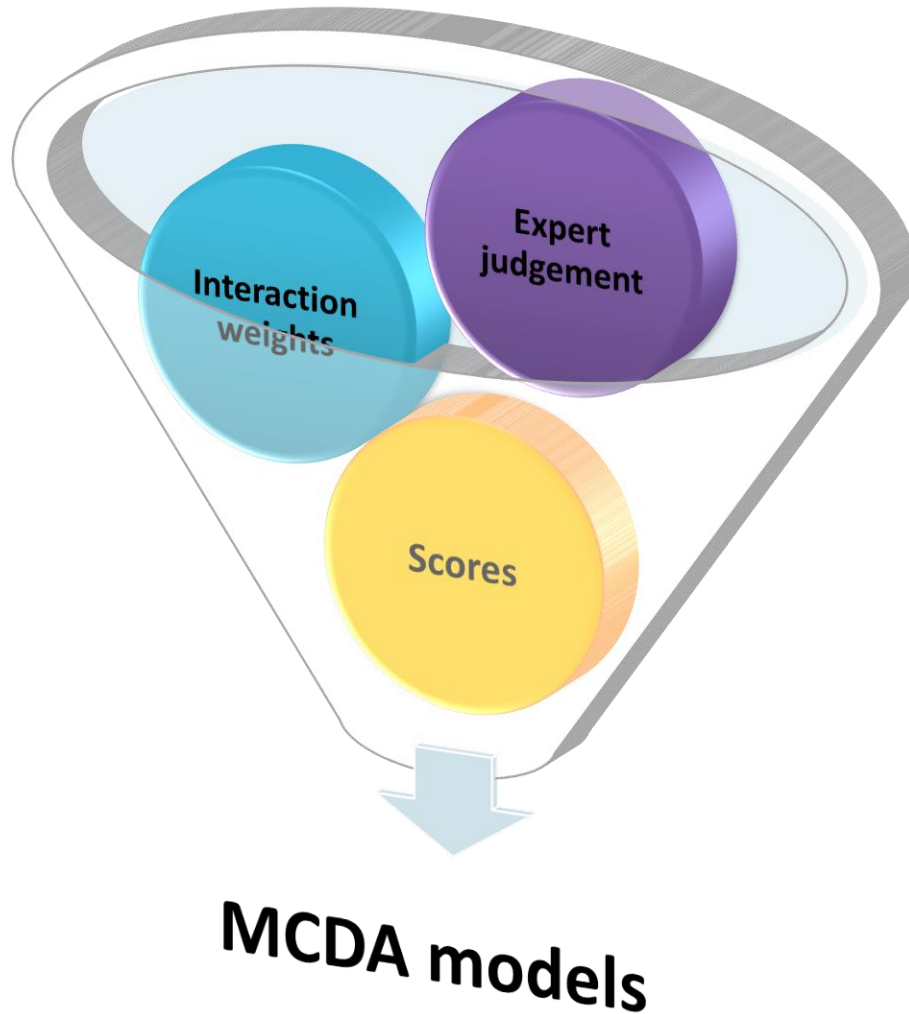
Highlights **pathways of interaction** between **climate and land/sea based drivers**, their related **pressures** potentially affecting sensitive **receptors** (e.g. seagrasses, MPAs), leading to **socio-economic impacts** as well as **environmental ones** with the **variation of GES**.





### 3. Integrated multi-risk assessment

Adriatic sea: data integration by means of MCDA

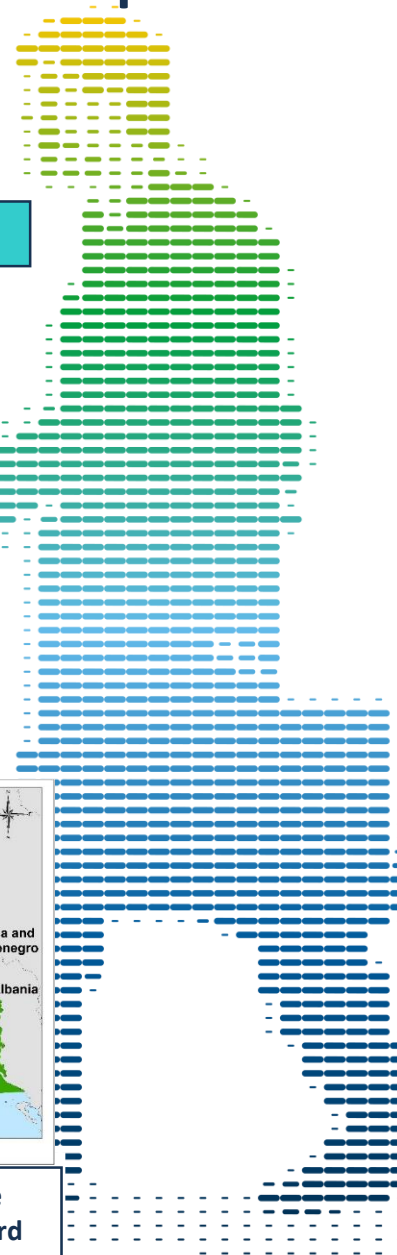
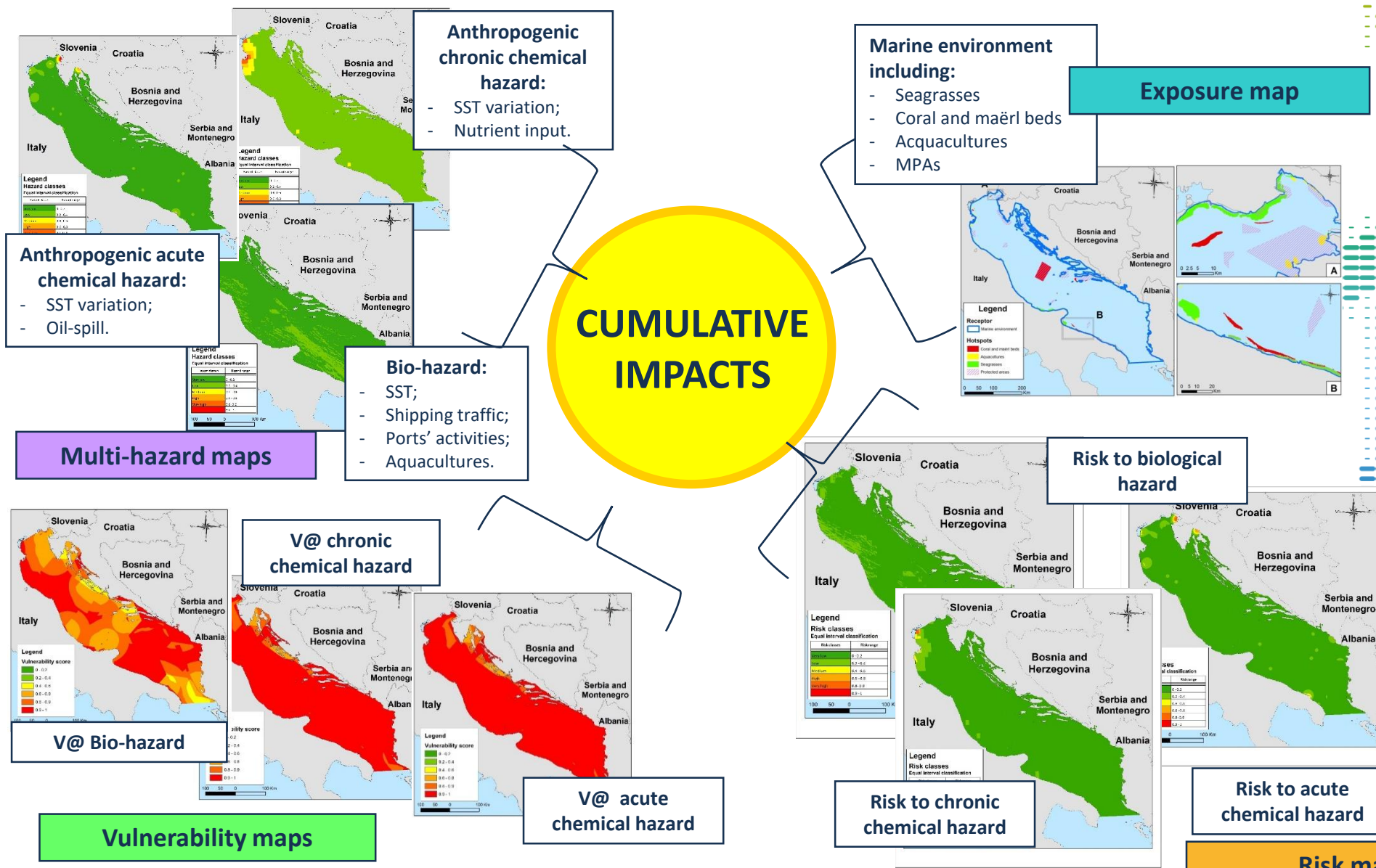


Multi-risk approach **integrating heterogeneous information through MCDA models** for the evaluation of cumulative impacts

- **Experts judgment** to evaluate hazards' interaction through the assignment of specific interaction weights and scores
- **MCDA integration** functions to shape more complex synergic and antagonistic behaviors between hazards in complex environmental systems



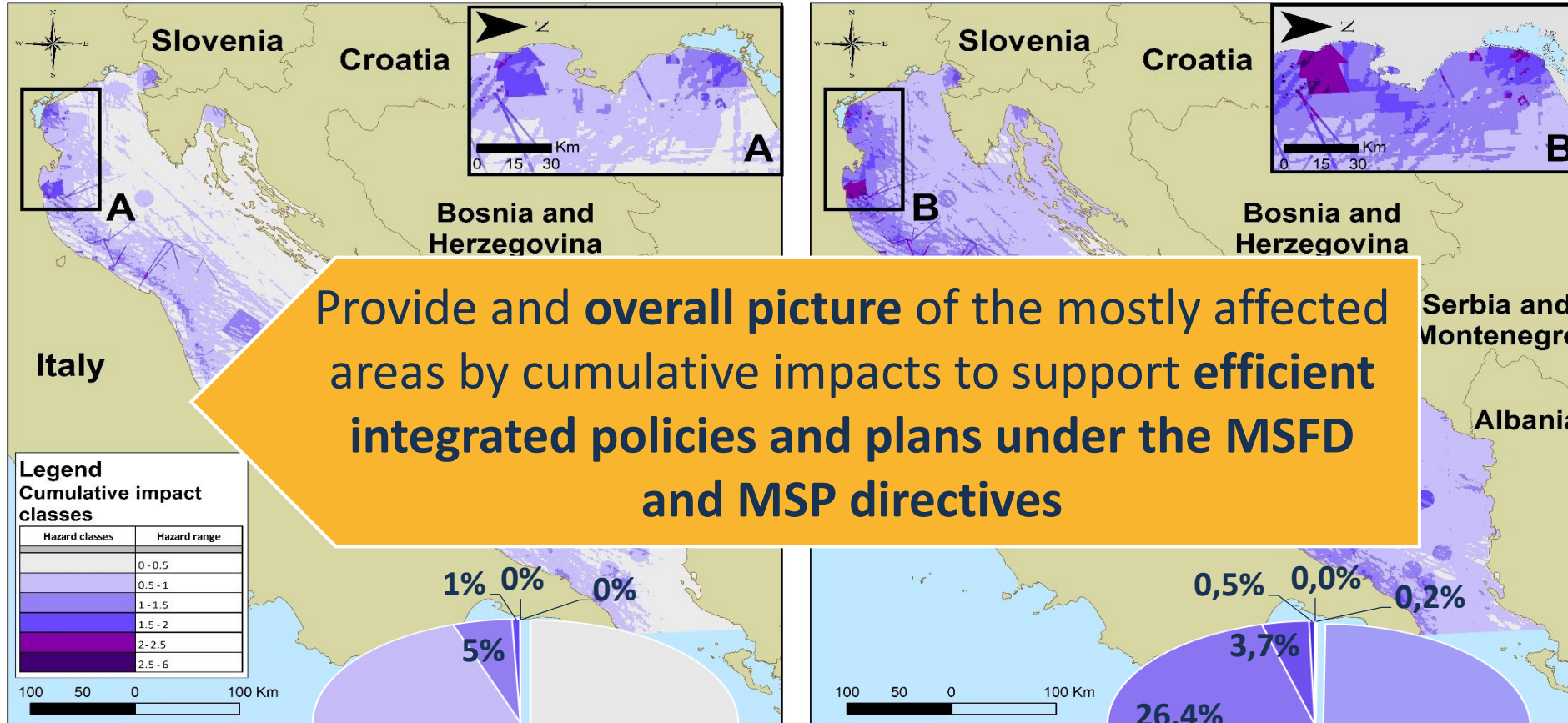
# 3. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Cumulative Impact Index



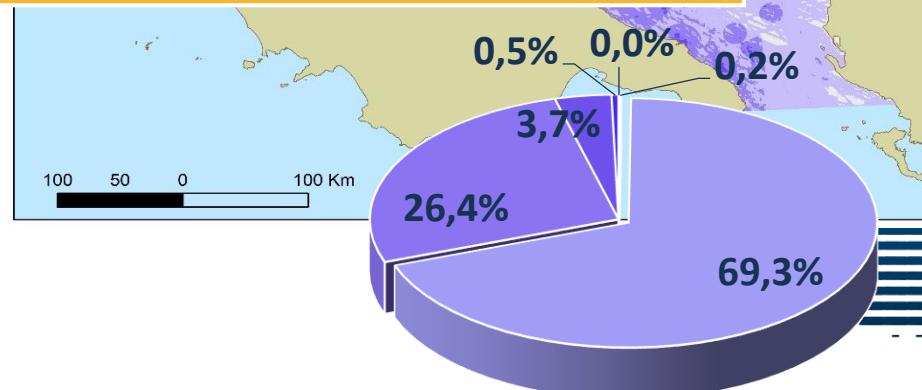
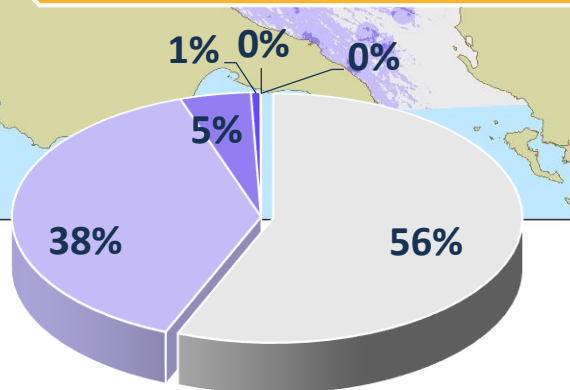
### 3. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Cumulative Impact Index

Baseline scenario 2000-2015

Future scenario 2035-2050

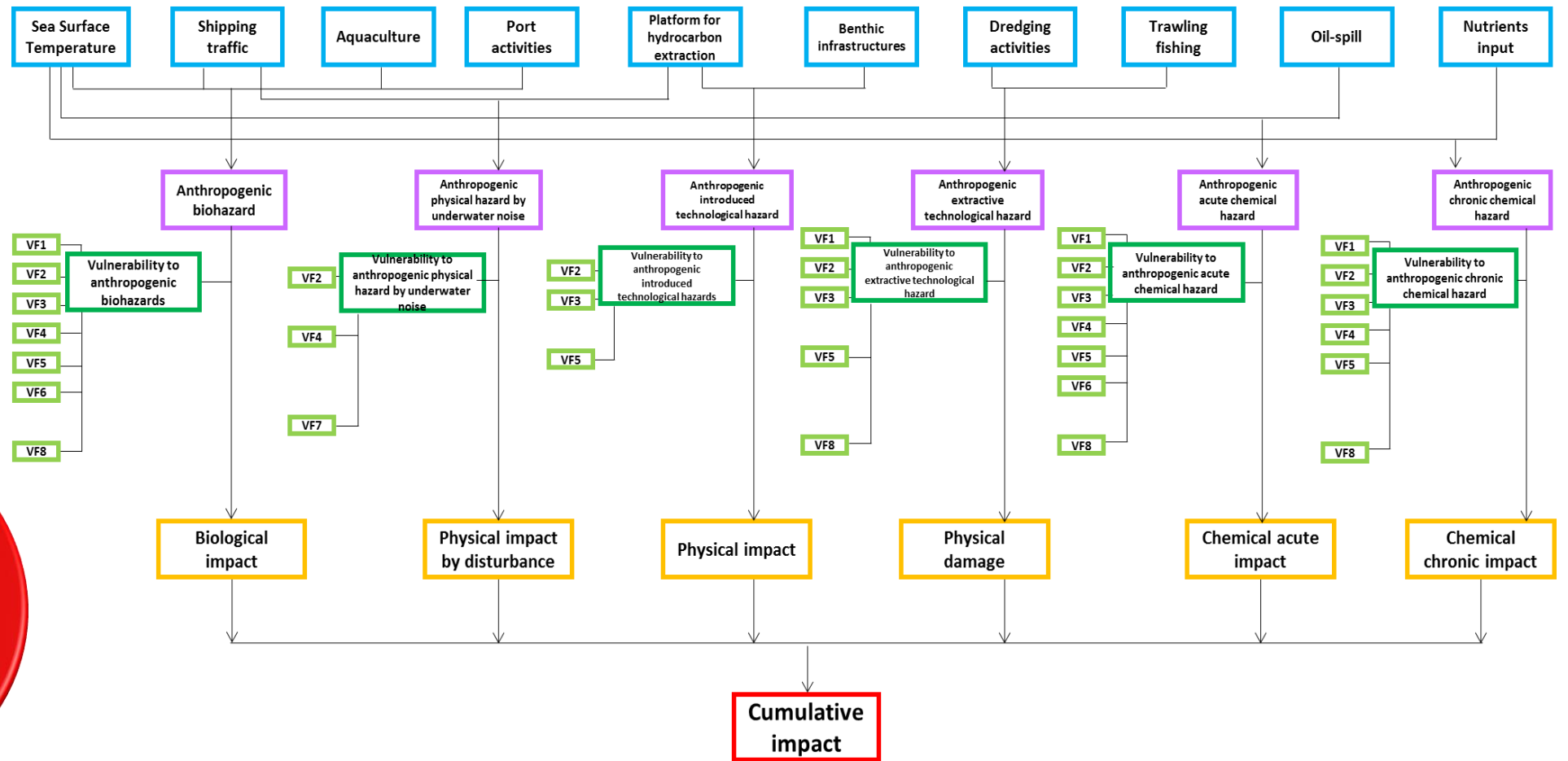
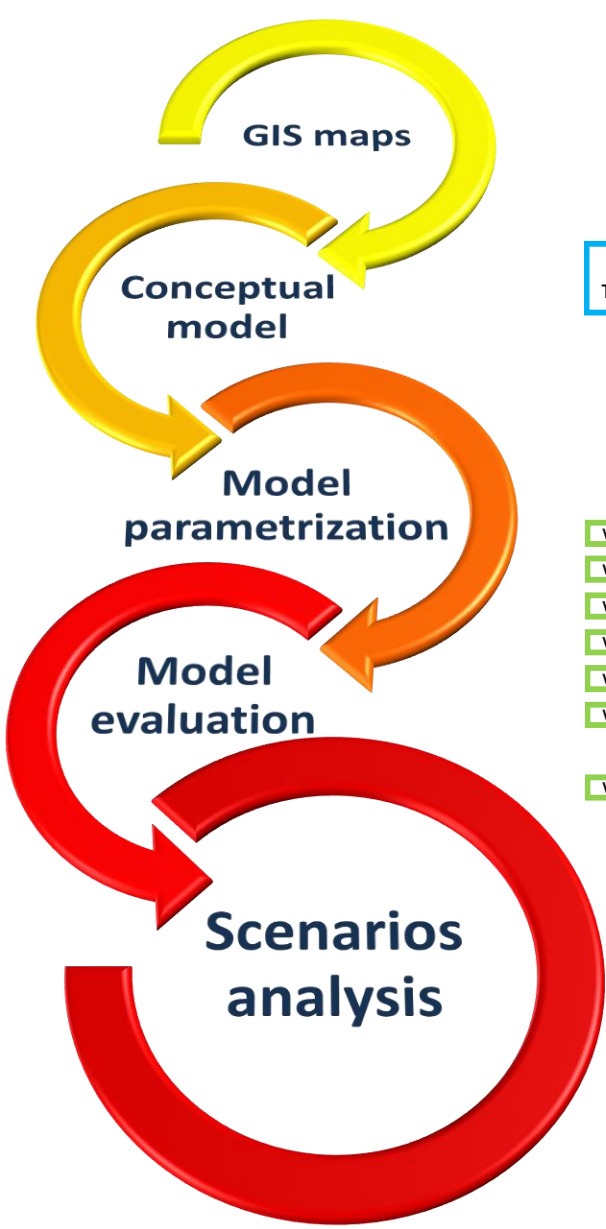


Provide an overall picture of the mostly affected areas by cumulative impacts to support efficient integrated policies and plans under the MSFD and MSP directives



■ 0 - 0.5 ■ 0.5 - 1 ■ 1 - 1.5 ■ 1.5 - 2 ■ 2 - 2.5 ■ 2.5 - 6

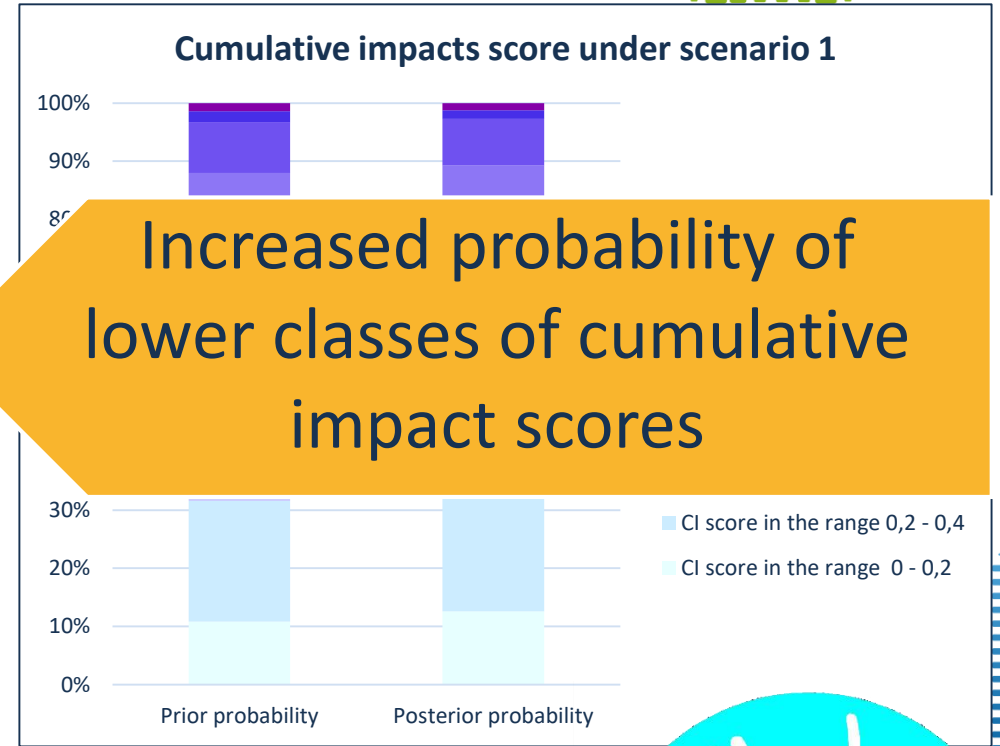
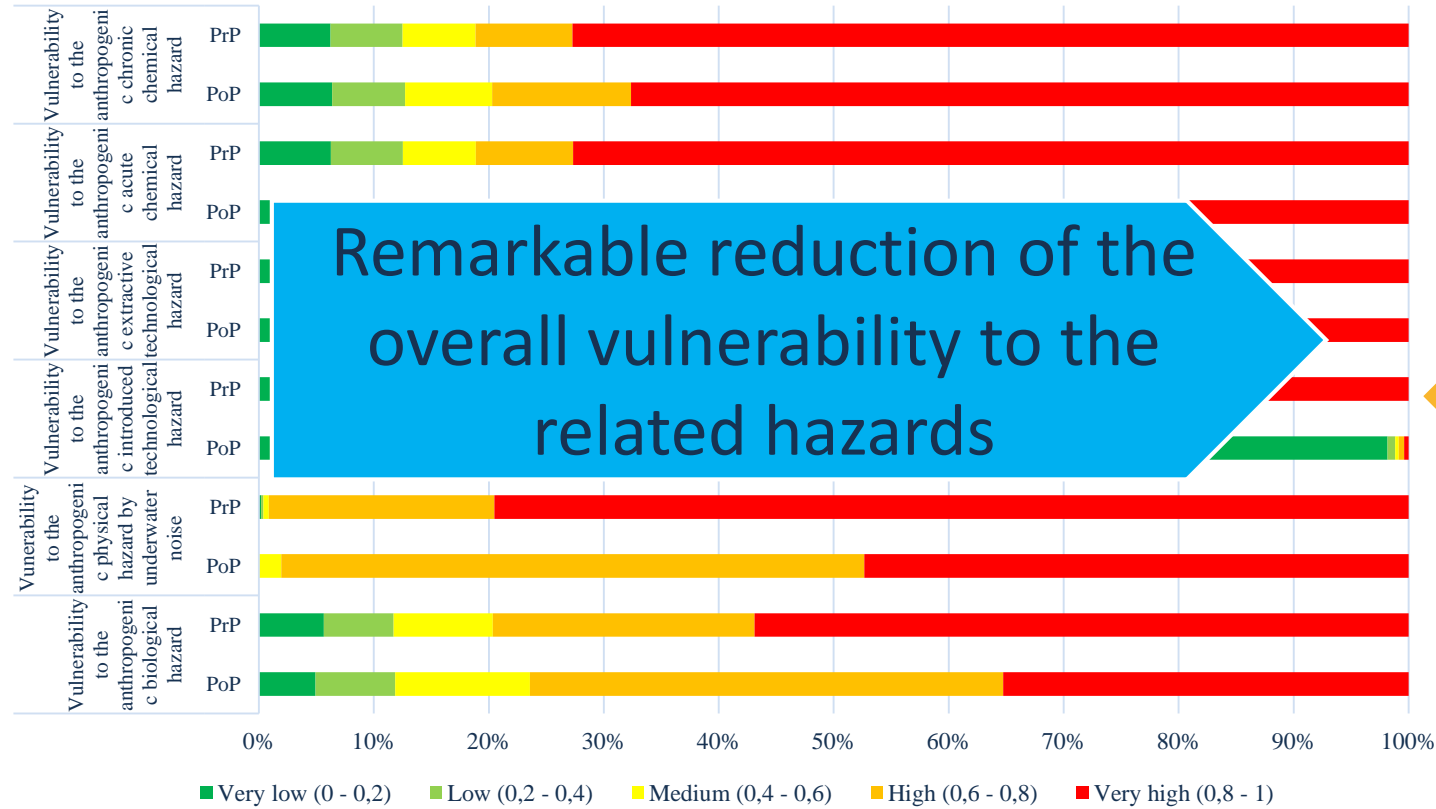
### 3. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Bayesian Networks



*Trained on the baseline scenario 2000- 2015*

### 3. Integrated multi-risk assessment-Bayesian Networks

Vulnerability scores under scenario 1



**SCENARIO 1:**  
*establishment of new MPAs to reinforce ecological connectivity*



## Conclusions

Different kind of **risk assessment tools** each characterized by its **strengths and weaknesses**.

**A combination of approaches** is required to deal with the **complexity of risks** posed by climate change.

Need to converge toward **integrated decision support tools** able to support:

- The integration of **different domains and perspective** (environmental, social and economic sciences)
- The consideration of **uncertainty** about climate change and policy/management scenarios
- The combination of **quantitative and qualitative approaches** and information
- The **communication and translation of knowledge** between the science and practitioners interfaces.



## Relevant Publications:

- HV Pham, S Torresan, A Critto, A Marcomini. Alteration of freshwater ecosystem services under global change—A review focusing on the Po River basin (Italy) and the Red River basin (Vietnam). *Science of The Total Environment* 652, 1347-1365.
- Mysiak, Jaroslav; Torresan, Silvia; Bosello, Francesco; Mistry, Malcolm; Amadio, Mattia; Marzi, Sepehr; Furlan, Elisa; Sperotto, Anna *Climate risk index for Italy* in PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON SERIES A: MATHEMATICAL PHYSICAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES, vol. 376, pp. 20170305;
- Furlan, Elisa; Torresan, Silvia; Critto, Andrea; Marcomini, Antonio *Spatially explicit risk approach for multi-hazard assessment and management in marine environment: The case study of the Adriatic Sea* in SCIENCE OF THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENT, vol. 618, pp. 1008-1023 (ISSN 0048-9697);
- Pesce, M.; Critto, A.; Torresan, S.; Giubilato, E.; Santini, Michele; Zirino, Albert; Ouyang, W.; Marcomini, A. *Modelling climate change impacts on nutrients and primary production in coastal waters* in SCIENCE OF THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENT, vol. 628-629, pp. 919-937 (ISSN 0048-9697);
- Sperotto, Anna; Molina, Josè-Luis; Torresan, Silvia; Critto, Andrea; Marcomini, Antonio *Reviewing Bayesian Networks potentials for climate change impacts assessment and management: a multi-risk perspective* in JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, vol. 202, pp. 320–331;
- Furlan, E.; Torresan, S.; Ronco, P.; Critto, A.; Breil, M.; Kontogianni, A.; Garmendia, M.; Pascual, M.; Sauzade, D.; Skourtos, M.; Marcomini, A. *Tools and methods to support adaptive policy making in marine areas: Review and implementation of the Adaptive Marine Policy Toolbox* in OCEAN & COASTAL MANAGEMENT, vol. 151, pp. 25-35 (ISSN 0964-5691);
- Rizzi, J.; Torresan, S.; Critto, A.; Zabeo, A.; Brigolin, D.; Carniel, S.; Pastres, R.; Marcomini, A. *Climate change impacts on marine water quality: The case study of the Northern Adriatic sea* in MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN, vol. 102, pp. 271-282 (ISSN 0025-326X);
- Torresan, Silvia; Critto, Andrea; Rizzi, Jonathan; Zabeo, Alex; Furlan, Elisa; Marcomini, Antonio *DESYCO: A decision support system for the regional risk assessment of climate change impacts in coastal zones* in OCEAN & COASTAL MANAGEMENT, vol. 120, pp. 49-63 (ISSN 0964-5691);



The Fondazione Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici (Fondazione CMCC) is a **non-profit research institution**. CMCC's mission is to **investigate and model our climate system and its interactions with society** to provide reliable, rigorous, and timely scientific results, which will in turn **stimulate sustainable growth, protect the environment, and develop science driven adaptation and mitigation policies** in a changing climate.

## Offices



## Partners



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEL SALENTO



uniss  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SASSARI



POLITECNICO  
MILANO 1863



RESOURCES  
FOR THE FUTURE



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DELLA  
Tuscia



ISTITUTO NAZIONALE  
DI GEOFISICA E VULCANOLOGIA



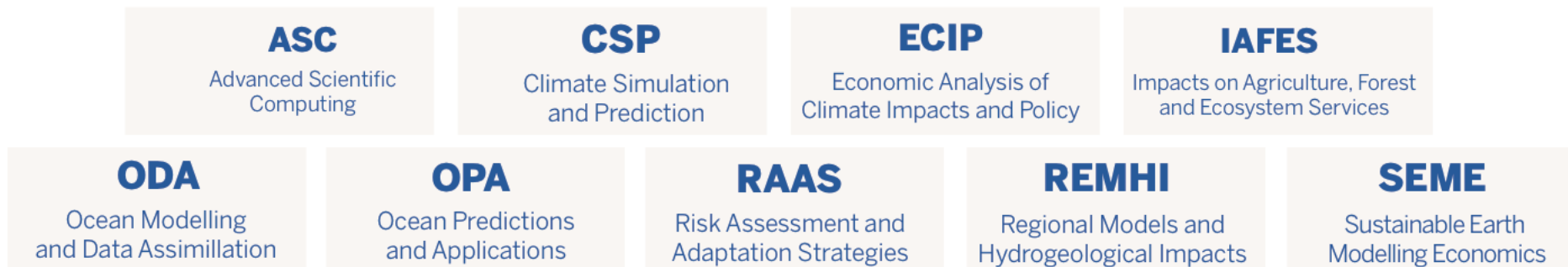
Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia



Centro Italiano Ricerche Aerospaziali



## Scientific Research



## The Supercomputing Center

High-performance computing to understand the climate of the future

1,200 TeraFlops,

1,000 Terabytes

4,000 Terabytes  
(Tape Library)



# Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies Division (RAAS)

<https://www.cmcc.it/it/divisions/raas>

## Impact assessment at regional scale

- **Integrated approaches and tools** (e.g. risk and vulnerability assessment, multi criteria decision analysis, spatial indicators, Regional Risk Assessment, ecological risk models)

## Economic analysis of risk and disaster risk reduction

- **Effects** of extreme climate and meteorological events as well as **policy instruments** set to reduce societal vulnerability and increase resilience

## Participative processes and decision making

- **Decision analysis approaches** for the assessment of stakeholders' needs for climate change management;
- Implementation of **GIS-based Decision Support Systems (DSSs)** for the spatial analysis of the potential consequences associated to climate change.



Università  
Ca'Foscari  
Venezia

**CMCC@Ca'Foscari**



**CReIAMO PA**

**Thanks for your attention!**

**Silvia Torresan**

**[silvia.torresan@cmcc.it](mailto:silvia.torresan@cmcc.it)**

**Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC),  
RAAS - Risk assessment and adaptation strategies, Venice:  
[www.cmcc.it/it/divisions/raas](http://www.cmcc.it/it/divisions/raas)**

