

The Ganges Basin

Status and Challenges in Water, Environment and Livelihoods

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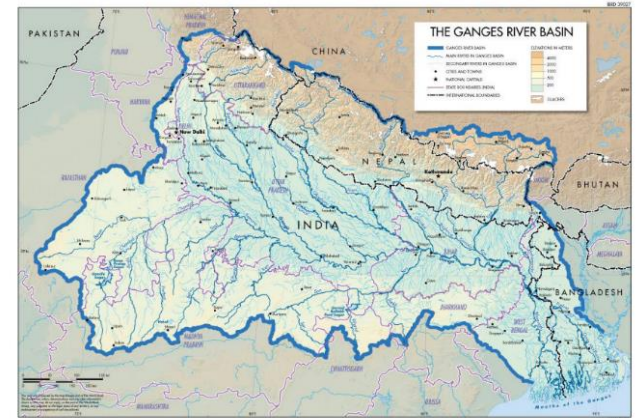
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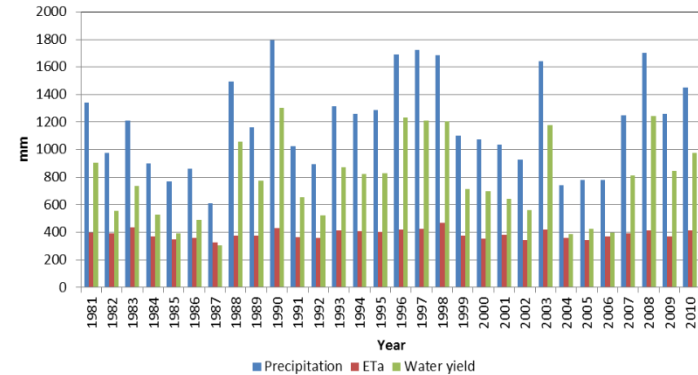
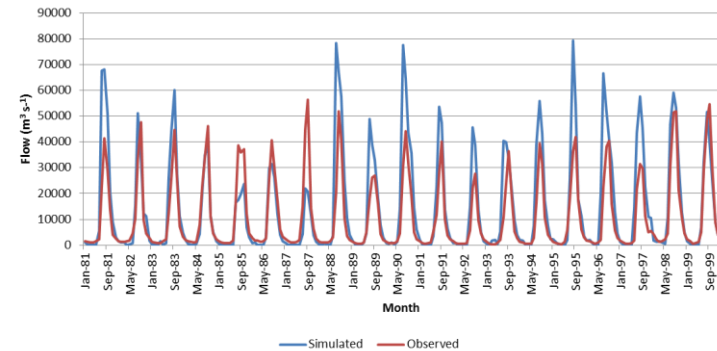
Ganges: Introduction

- The Ganges with over 500 million inhabitants is the most populous river basin in the world.
- It's total area is 1,086,000 square km and is shared between China, Nepal, India and Bangladesh
- The Ganga river is most known for it's cultural and spiritual significance



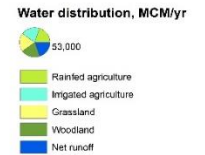
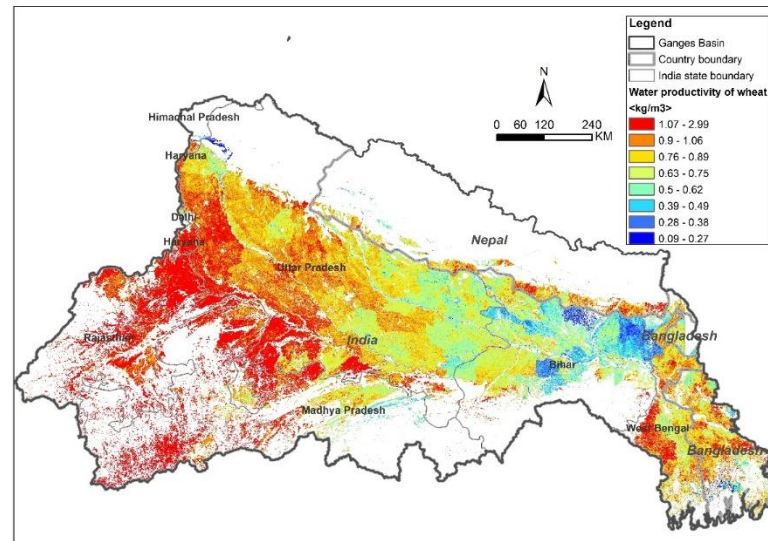
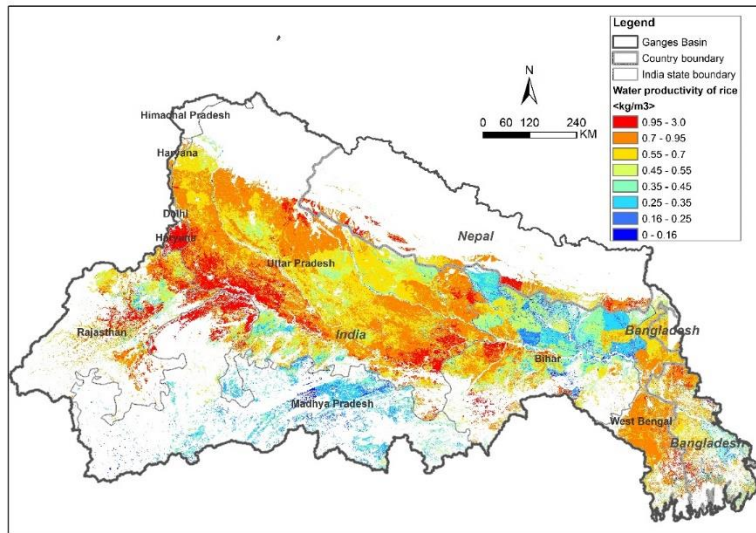
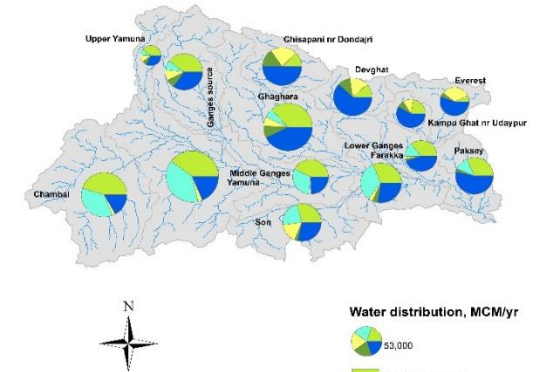
Resource Assessment

- 1,200 billion cubic meters of precipitation fall in the basin and 600 billion cubic meters becomes stream flow.
- Water availability is highly seasonal (monsoon vs. dry season)
- Inter-annual variability is also high
- High spatial variability in water availability



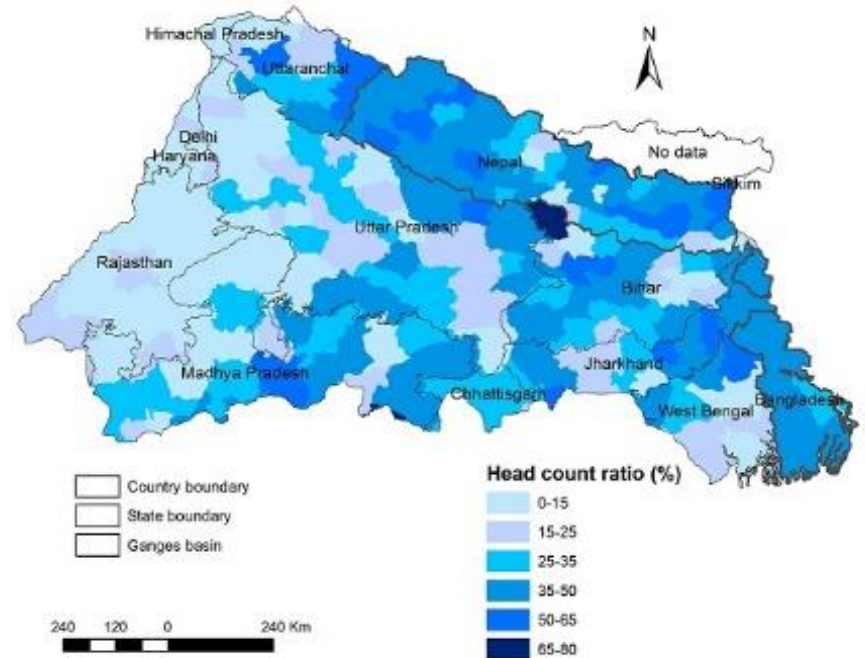
Agriculture

- Approx. 80% of water is used in agriculture
- Ag. systems vary in the highland, plains and Delta regions
- Crop and water productivity of most crops i.e rice, wheat, maize millets, pulses, oilseeds are low



Poverty

- Income poverty in the Ganges River basin (GRB) has reduced considerably in the last two decades. However the basin is still one of the largest contiguous hotspots of poverty; **26% of the 600 million basin population is income poor, but 75% are multidimensional poor**, depriving the basic human requirements of education, health and assets required for decent living.



Institutions and Governance

- The way water policies and institutions are currently set up following a **fragmented and sectoral approach**, has resulted in poor coordination of planning and management at all levels, from local to transboundary.
- There is currently little cooperation both at regional and national levels. This in turn hinders attempts to develop water resources cooperatively across the Basin.
- **Decisions** concerning water allocation from major sources are often based on **political interests**, which do not take into account different types of water use. This can lead to ineffective water development strategy and inefficient resource use.



Pollution

- Despite previous efforts to clean the river the main Ganga stream still directly receives at least **2.7 billion m³ of sewage from medium and big cities every day, of which at least 74% is untreated.**
- Industrial effluents are in the range of 10-20% of the total volume of wastewater directly reaching the Ganga.
- The river is also impacted by **non-point source** pollution resulting from uncontrolled fecal sludge disposal, open defecation and agricultural pollution including livestock.

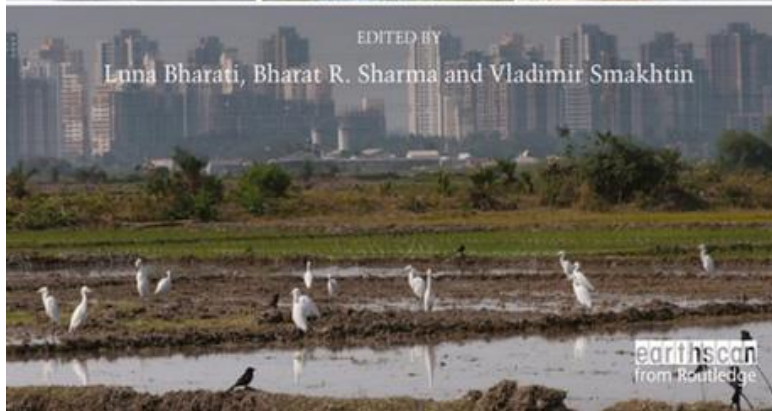


Thank you



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