

Special Issue

Climate, Relief, Soil and Vegetation Influences on the Hydrological Cycle in Small Catchments

Message from the Guest Editors

In many geographic regions, we are observing very rapid changes in the water cycle in catchment areas, altering the operating conditions of natural systems. Global climate change is commonly cited unanimously as a major factor in these changes. On the other hand, numerous reports have pointed to spatial management transformation as a result of increasing urbanization. However, at the local scale, major changes in land use directly related to economic prosperity, and accompanied by the modernization of agriculture, have been recorded. Consequently, the processes of deforestation and field following significantly modify water circulation conditions in small river catchments. The impact of individual factors on contemporary changes in the hydrological cycle in small catchments thus needs to be examined.

The existing literature still lacks works documenting changes and variability in precipitation and their impact on water runoff in longer and continuous measurement series. Detailed studies of the long-term hydrological effects of changes in relief, soil cover or vegetation are also desirable.

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