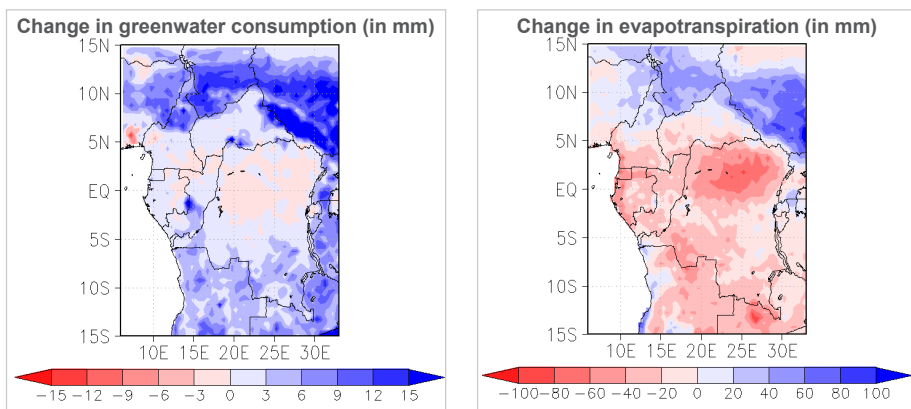
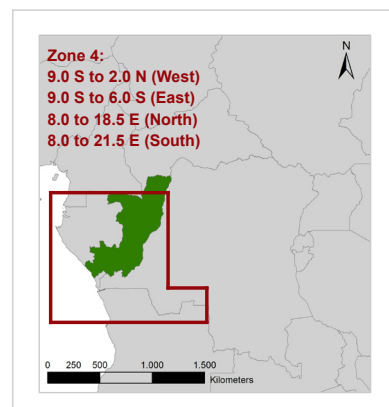


Fact-Sheet - Agriculture - Republic of the Congo - Zone 4

Maps of projected changes - Maps show the projection of change over this century (mean of the period 2071-2100 compared to the mean of the period 1961-1990) under the "High" emission scenario. In the left panel, changes in greenwater consumption are shown and in the right panel, changes in evapotranspiration.



Definition of Zone 4 - The map below indicates the position of Zone 4 (red rectangle), representing the regions north of the equator with predominantly tropical wet and dry climates with a dedicated rainy season. All values presented in this fact-sheet are changes spatially averaged over the whole zone. As the major part of the Congo falls within Zone 4, projected changes for this zone are assumed to be representative for this part of the country.



List of projected changes - The tables show the mean of the projected changes in respectively the evapotranspiration, greenwater consumption and water stress (rounded values). Note that current land use is used in this study for all assessed time periods. Consequently all changes are caused by climate change alone.

Parameters describing the water availability for agricultural production (in mm)		Today 2000	Projected changes			
			Low emission scenario		High emission scenario	
			till 2050	till 2100	till 2050	till 2100
Evapotranspiration	YEAR	813	-1	+2	+2	-27
	DJF	240	+3	+1	+2	-8
	MAM	239	+3	+3	-2	-6
	JJA	156	-3	+2	+3	+1
	SON	179	-4	-4	-2	-13
Green water consumption		1257	+210	+258	+261	+205
Water stress		-301	+2	+2	+2	+2

Note: Increasing values in the green water consumption indicate that more water becomes available for agricultural production. This may be caused by either increasing rainfall amounts, increasing CO₂ levels or a combination of both. The decreasing values in evapotranspiration indicate that the increasing CO₂ concentration has a stronger effect than the increasing temperatures.

Key findings for Zone 4

- Based on the analyzed ensemble of global climate projections under the assumption of a low and a high emission scenario it can be concluded that rainfall increases (10-20%). The evapotranspiration is not changing much whereas the greenwater consumption initially is increasing, indicating that more water comes available for the agricultural production at the beginning of the century. Halfway the century it stagnates and the water availability does not change much. The biomass (vegetation carbon) is decreasing in this period which indicates that the agricultural production may decrease if the current farming systems and techniques are applied in this period. In the northern regions, agriculture may experience occasional crop damage due to an excess of rainfall. In the south occasional droughts will occur.

Further details can be found in the "Impacts Report" and the "Adaptation Report" in the report section of the final project document - also available online under www.giz.de and www.comifac.org

Data and method - The projected greenwater, evapotranspiration and water stress signals are based on the LPJ-mi Dynamic Global Vegetation model (DGVM) forced by the bias-corrected ECHAM global climate change projections. Projected changes in the climate are assessed for two different greenhouse gas emission scenarios: the "Low" scenario is based upon the SRES B1 (IPCC-AR4) scenario; the "High" scenario is based upon the SRES A2 (IPCC-AR4) scenario. We present the area-averaged mean change, based upon only one climate model, the ECHAM scenario, as this was the only one giving acceptable results. Land use changes up to 2006 have been used. Projections for the future land use depend on many unknown factors and are therefore difficult to incorporate. The data presented here reflect the changes that are only caused by the changing climate i.e. land use is kept constant. Increasing temperature and the rising atmospheric CO₂ concentration have an opposite effect on agricultural production. The increasing temperature results in an increasing soil evaporation whereas the rising CO₂ concentration reduces plant transpiration especially in the C₃-crops. Unfortunately little is known on the interaction of the rising CO₂ concentration, fertilizer inputs and increasing temperatures for tropical crops. More research in this direction is needed. Note that changing agricultural practises such as more inputs, new crop varieties etc. may have a strong positive effect on the future agricultural production and may compensate for the negative climate change impacts.

Key adaptation options:

- Improved flood management plans to ensure limited damages to agricultural systems during high rainfall events.
- Reducing erosion risk and nutrient leaching by introduction of agroforestry systems
- To adapt to increased climate variability farming systems should become more diverse. This can be done for example by planting multiple crops and using different varieties
- Improved management of climate variability to ensure maximum yield during high rainfall years and minimum damage during dry years.