

# International Association of Hydrogeologists

- IAH aims to be a leading international society for the science and practice of hydrogeology and to be a globally recognized information source and facilitator for the transfer of groundwater knowledge.
- The local chapters of IAH aim at bringing scientific, professional and social benefits to the community and promote the sound and sustainable groundwater use at a country and regional level.

Visit: <https://iah.org/>



Joanna J. Doummar

American University of Beirut- Geology Department- P.O. Box 11-0236- Riad El-Solh, Beirut 1107 2020,  
Regional Vice President International Association of Hydrogeologists (MENA)  
E-mail: [jd31@aub.edu.lb](mailto:jd31@aub.edu.lb)

# IAH MENA



- **IAH MENA:**

- Promote Groundwater in the region through the individual and collective activity of the national chapters (Egypt, Iraq, recently Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey),
- Encourage regional meetings, case studies comparison, and development of local policies for water management, especially in poorly studied areas,
- Raise awareness on groundwater vulnerability to optimize water consumption and contamination abatement through the proper relay of information,
- Consolidate a network of young scientists especially women in the field of hydrogeology,
- Bridge the gap between science and decision making.

<https://iah.org/about/council>



## SIGNIFICANCE OF HIGH-RESOLUTION MONITORING FOR THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF GROUNDWATER SYSTEMS: APPLICATIONS TO SELECTED PILOT SITES IN LEBANON

Joanna J. Doummar

American University of Beirut- Geology Department- P.O. Box 11-0236- Riad El-Solh, Beirut 1107 2020,  
Regional Vice President International Association of Hydrogeologists (MENA)  
E-mail: [jd31@aub.edu.lb](mailto:jd31@aub.edu.lb)

## CHALLENGES AND THREATS

---

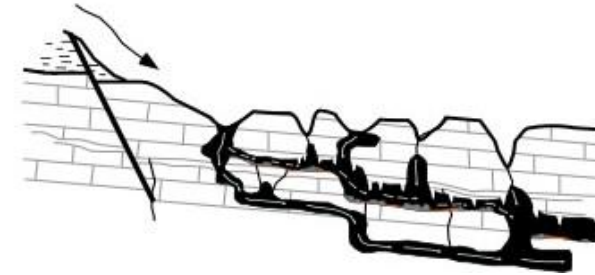
1. Groundwater is currently facing tremendous stress due to climate change and increase urbanization requiring science-supported management measures;
2. To achieve a sustainable management, there is a greater need to **understand how groundwater systems work** and the responses of groundwater to input such as climate or contamination and to quantify water availabilities;
3. This challenge is immense in snow governed and Mediterranean semi-arid regions (e.g., Lebanon)



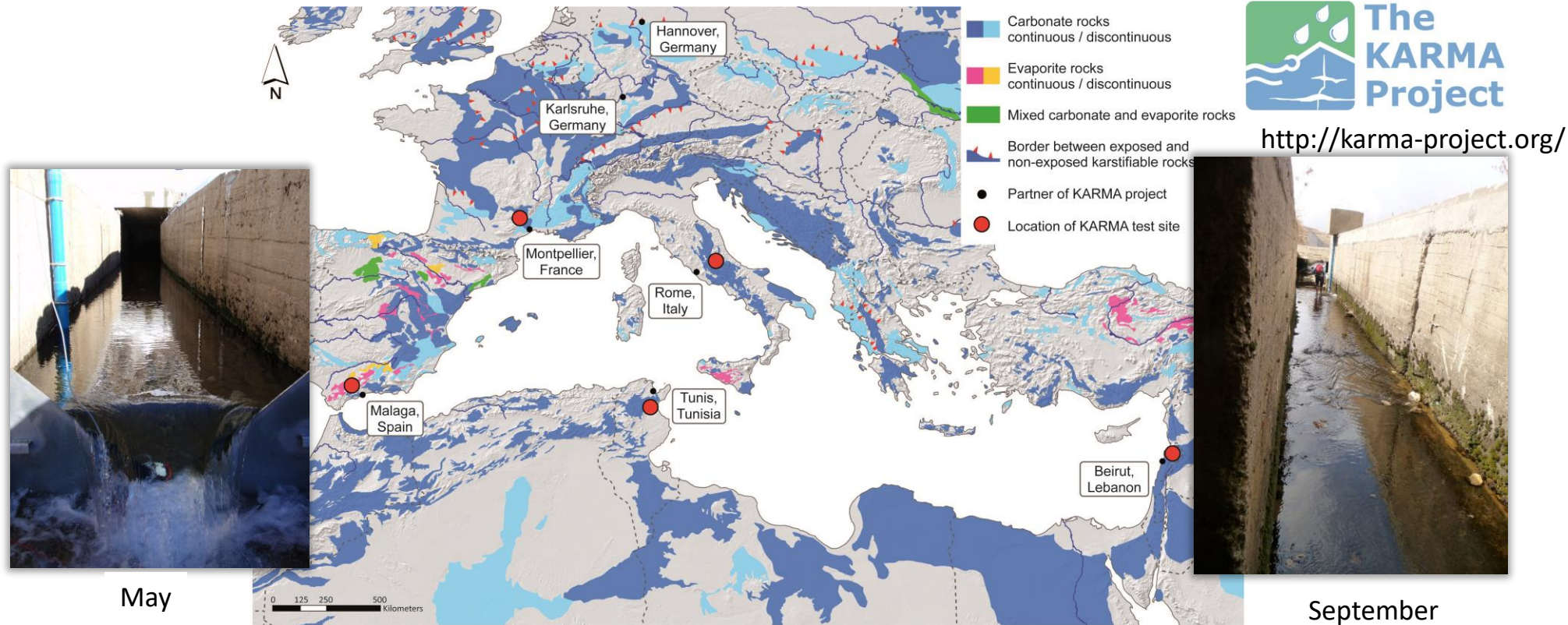
# MEDITERRANEAN- SEMI ARID KARST

Implications on the availability of water of good quality for supply

- Seasonality: high flow and low flow,
- Climate stress: wet and dry years.



## Karst Aquifer Resources availability and quality in the Mediterranean Area



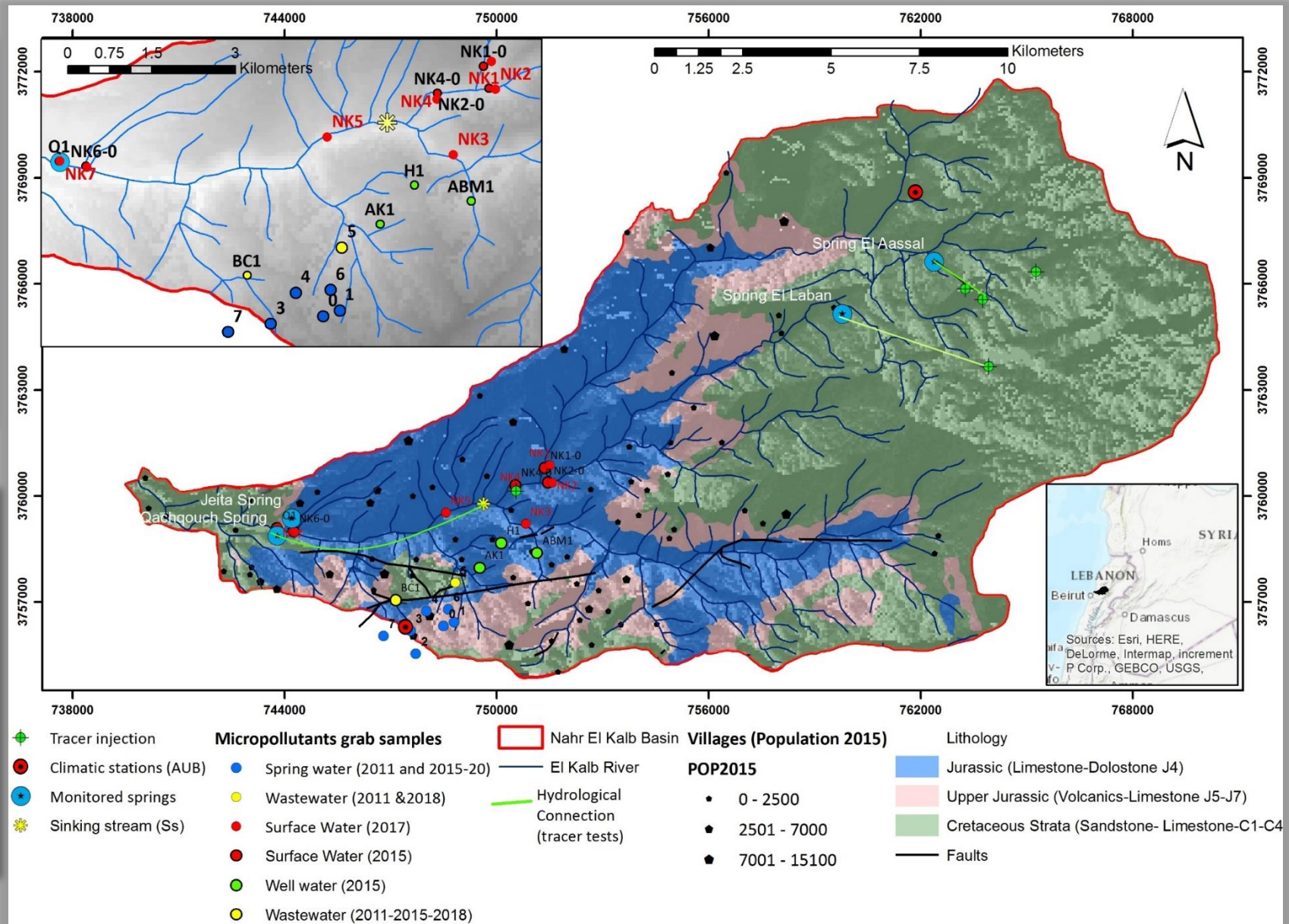
## Field sites



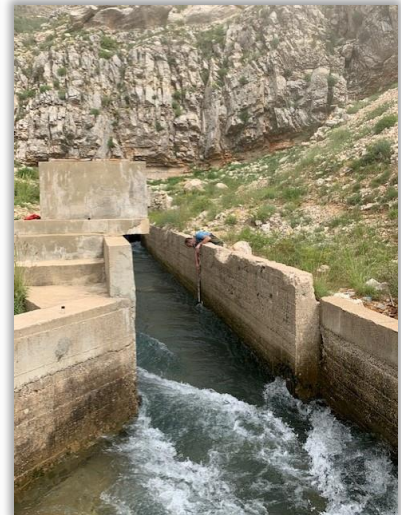
# Case study: Nahr El Kalb Catchment and selected springs groundwater catchment

Jeita

El Assal



Laban



Qachqouch



## MONITORING SINCE 2014-ONGOING DATA COLLECTION (TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL)

---

**Set up of a monitoring network = climate and spring data (funded by USAID and National Academy of Science; PEER SCIENCE)**

Installation of two climatic stations (Chabrouh and Bikfaya)

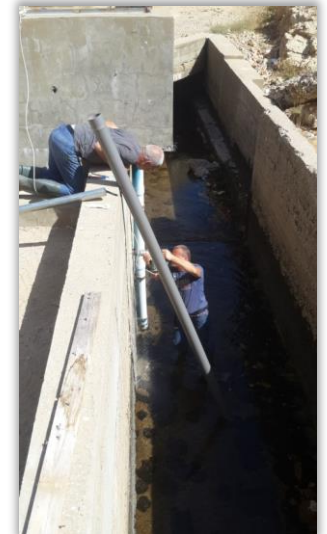


Full climatic station (Brand-Campbell) / Humidity, Precipitation (Rain and snow melt), Temperature, Radiation, etc.  
+A collaboration with University Saint Joseph (UNICEF): assessment of snow cover with remote sensing on a selected area



## MONITORING SINCE 2014-ONGOING DATA COLLECTION (TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL)

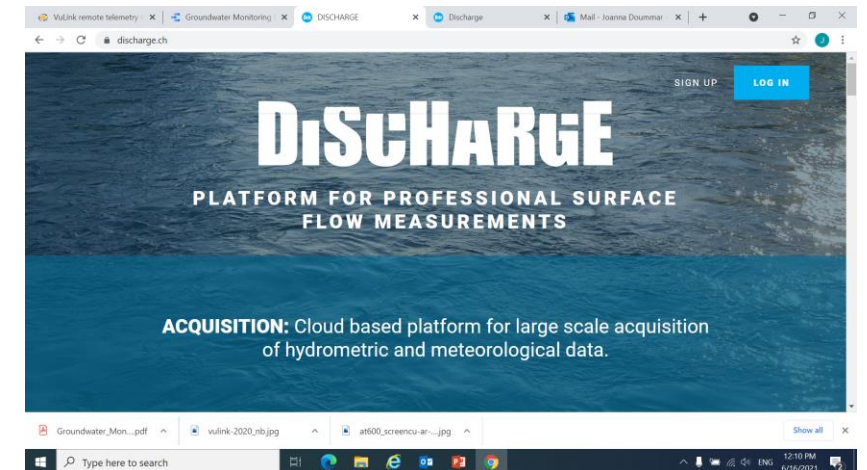
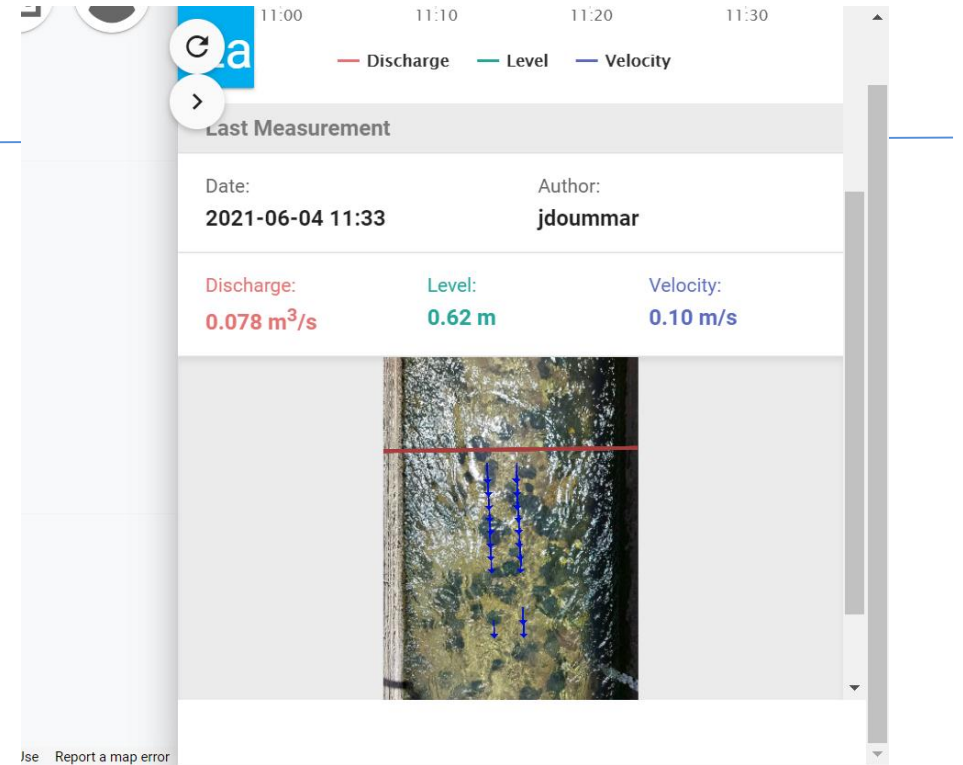
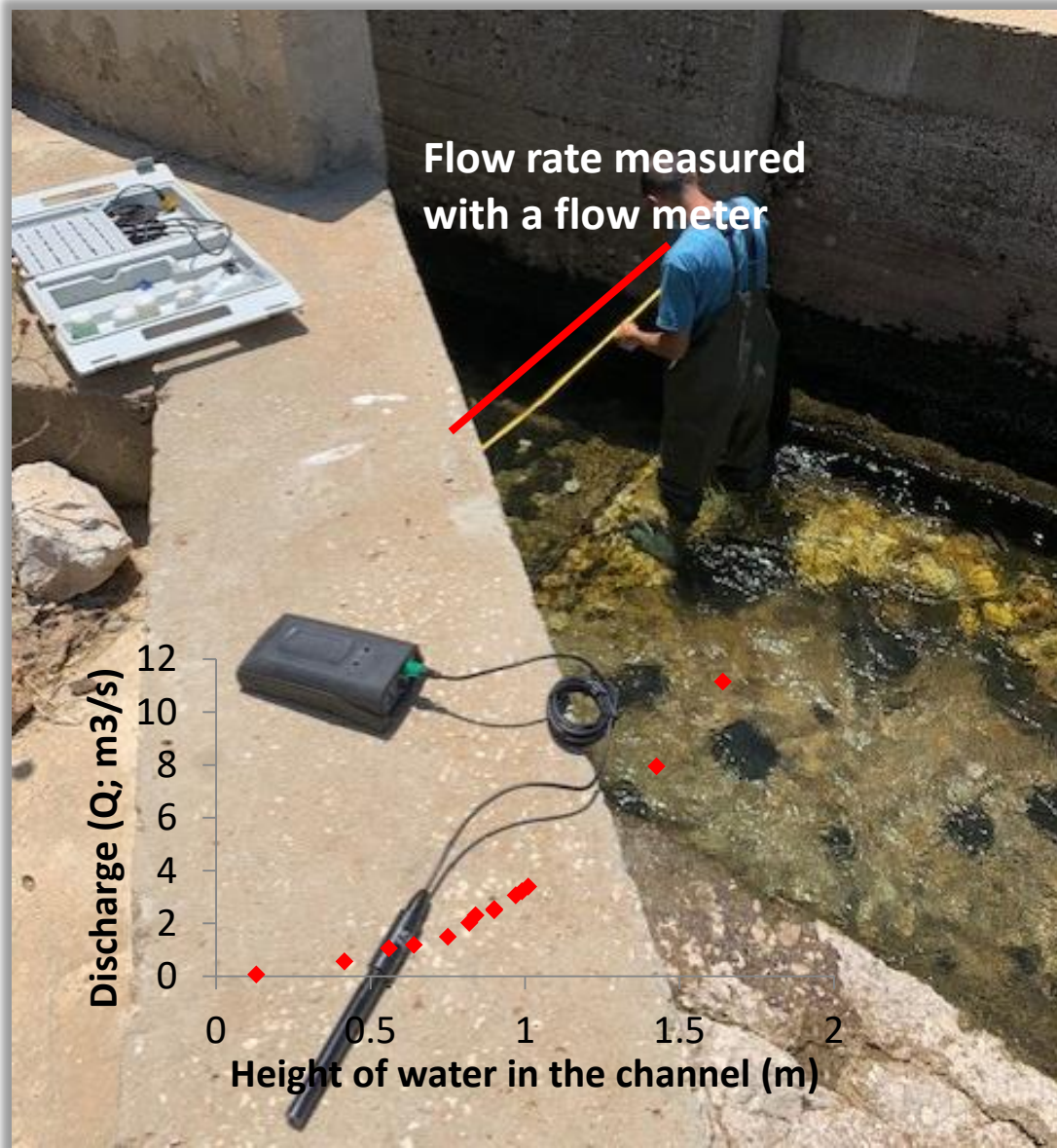
Set up of a monitoring network = climate and spring data (funded by USAID, supported by BGR)  
Installation of a multi parameter probe



Multi Parameter probes (Brand-Insitu Aquatroll 600): Water level, Temperature, Chloride, pH, and Electrical conductivity etc.

# MONITORING SINCE 2014-ONGOING DATA COLLECTION

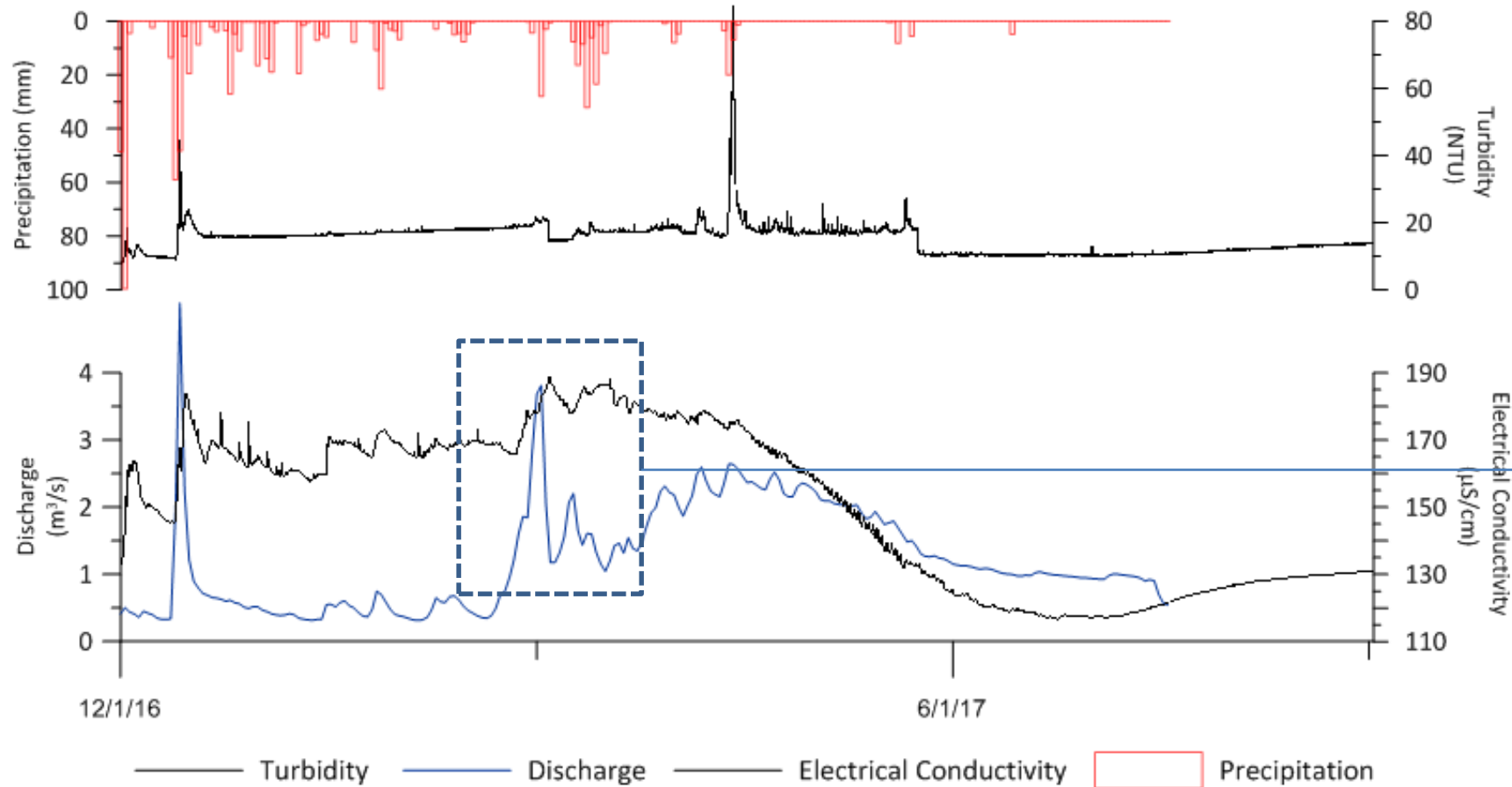
## Rating curves and discharge



# MONITORING SINCE 2014-ONGOING DATA COLLECTION (TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL)

## Set up of a monitoring network = climate and spring data

Relationship between data (Example 2016-2017)

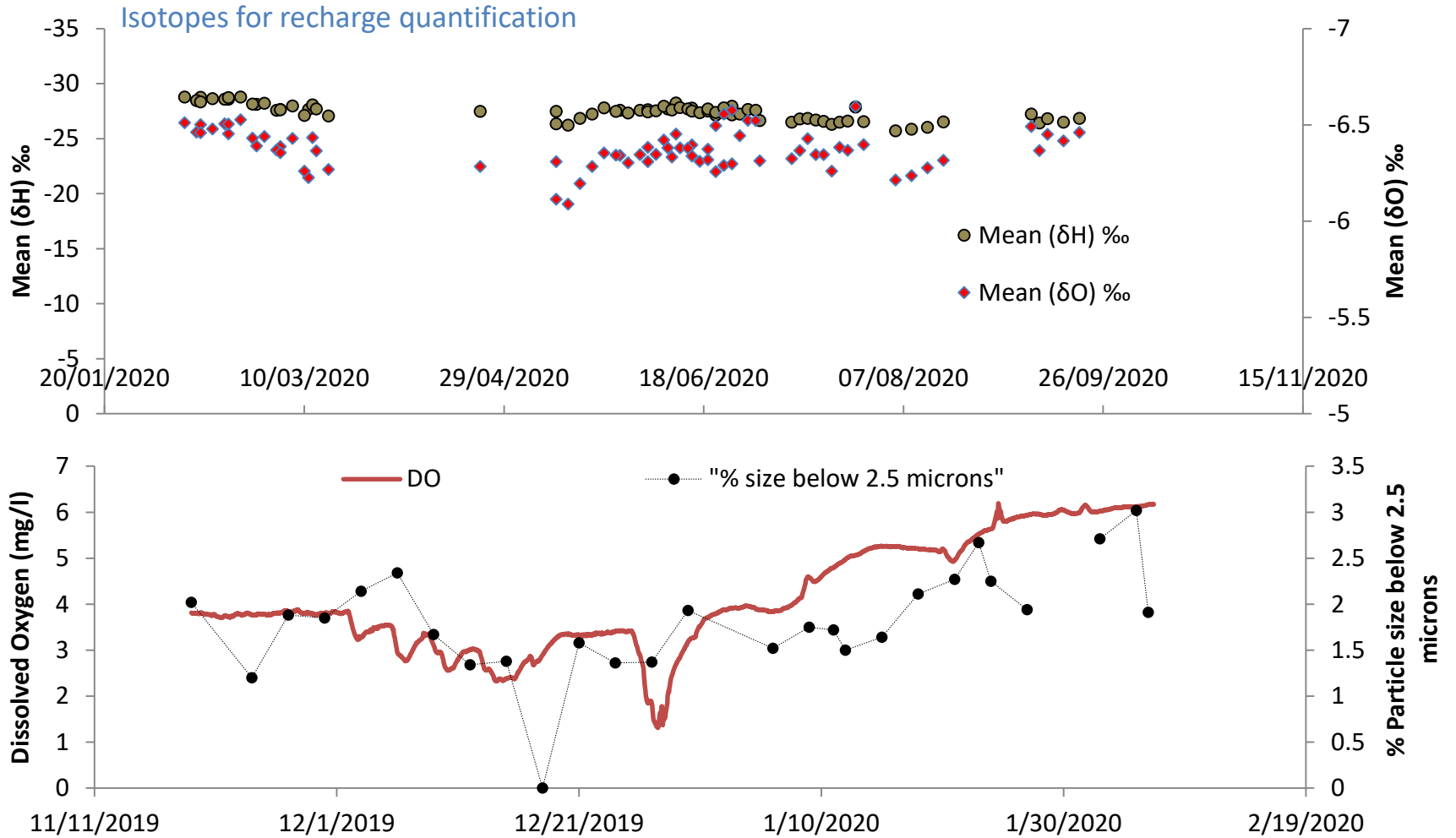
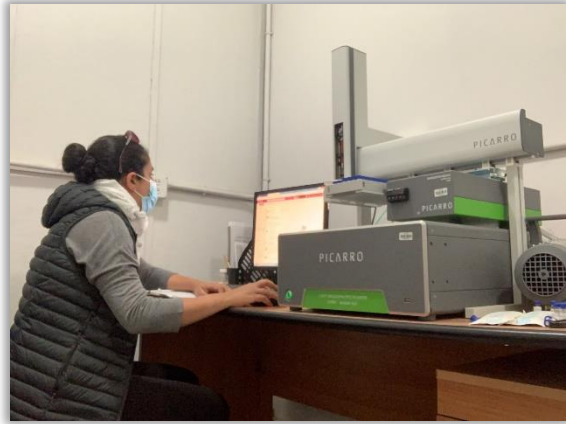


Flood waters can be used for recharge

Multi Parameter probe (Brand-Insitu 9500 Prof.) / Water level, and Electrical conductivity and turbidity etc.

# MONITORING SINCE 2014-ONGOING DATA COLLECTION (TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL)

## Grab Samples with automatic samplers (Particle size, Isotopes, hydrochemistry, Micropollutants)



Indicator for bacterial contamination

# MONITORING SINCE 2014-ONGOING DATA COLLECTION

## Expansion and continuous monitoring= climate and spring data

- Future installation of **telemetric units (Vulink)**
- Transfer of data to a server, processing and display **on a dashboard**
- Expected dashboard completion by end of 2021
- Installation of a snow depth and an additional rain gauge on the area

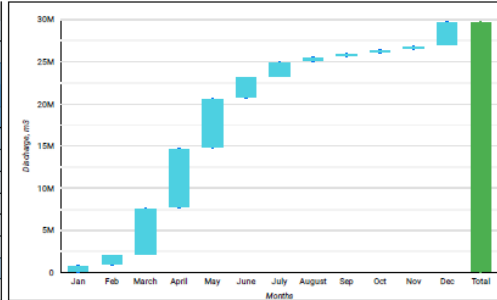


### Annual Water Discharge Volume

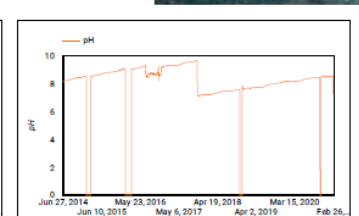
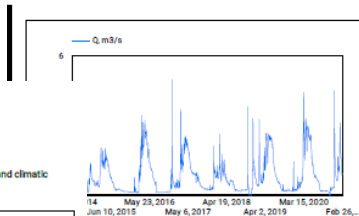
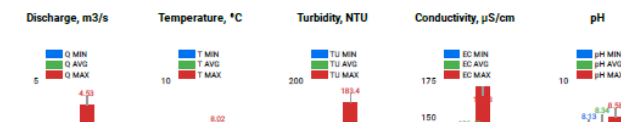
Water discharge volume is calculated by multiplying the discharge rate (Q, m<sup>3</sup>/s) with time (seconds).

Monitoring the discharge volume throughout the year is crucial to understand the availability of freshwater supply across variable seasonal and climatic settings. It's also an important parameter for the delineation of the catchment zone.

Months	Discharge, m3
January	827.6K
February	1.2M
March	5.6M
April	7.1M
May	5.9M
June	2.6M
July	1.8M
August	628.9K
September	429K
October	418.9K
November	496.8K
December	2.8M
Grand total	29.8M

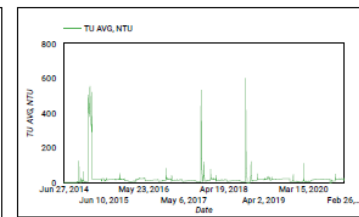
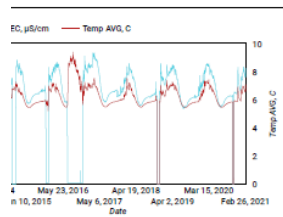


### Annual Water Data Record



**Temperature and Electrical Conductivity**  
 Temperature affects other water quality parameters such as pH and oxygen. In addition, it influences the presence of marine and biological life. Temperature and electrical conductivity are measured and recorded automatically using automated monitoring devices and probes.

**Water Turbidity**  
 Turbidity is a measure of the water cloudiness. Turbidity in water is due to the presence of suspended particles and it is measured in Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU). These suspended particles are small-sized solid materials such as silt, clay, organic materials (e.g. algae), inorganic materials, etc. The main concept applied in determining turbidity relies on measuring the intensity of scattered light upon illuminating the water sample using a light source. Turbidity of water is measured and recorded automatically using automated monitoring devices and probes.



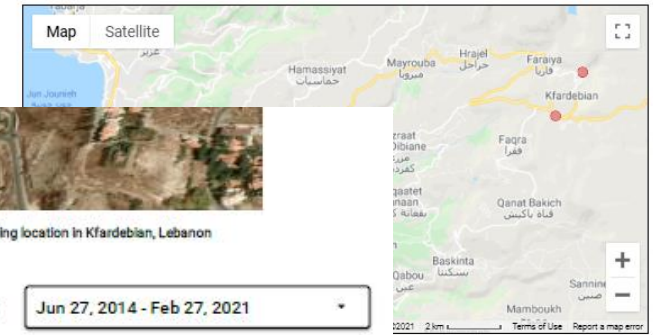
## Groundwater Monitoring Project - LEBANON

Groundwater Monitoring in Lebanon is a long-term project that has been the main interest of the HydroGeology research group of the Geology Department at the American University of Beirut.

This project is the culmination of multiple years of research and projects of variable scales which include data acquisition, data analysis, water quality testing, flow modeling, transport characterization, geological evaluation, and conceptual modeling.

For this project's purpose, five main monitoring sites were selected in poorly investigated pilot karst catchments in Metn and Kesrouane areas. These sites are listed below and displayed on the map.

This was established in collaboration with UNICEF and USAID which sponsored different parts of the project.



A 3D satellite image of Aassel spring location in Kfardebian, Lebanon (Google Earth).

Data Range: Jun 27, 2014 - Feb 27, 2021

Q, m <sup>3</sup> /s	Temp AVG, C	TU AVG, NTU	EC, µS/cm	pH
0.11	5.54	0.11	119.71	8.15
0.11	5.55	0.12	119.71	8.16
0.11	5.56	0.13	119.8	8.17
0.11	5.56	0.11	119.9	8.18
0.11	5.57	0.12	120.04	8.18
0.11	5.57	0.13	120.18	8.18
0.11	5.58	0.14	120.33	8.19
0.11	5.58	0.12	120.44	8.19
0.11	5.59	0.13	120.43	8.2
0.11	5.59	0.12	120.55	8.2
0.11	5.59	0.13	120.69	8.21
0.11	5.6	0.15	120.76	8.21
0.11	5.6	0.15	120.74	8.21

### Nahr El Kalb River Laban Spring

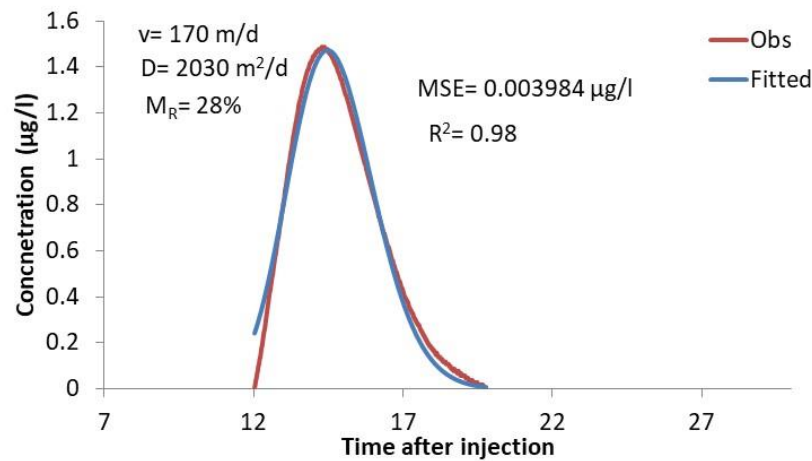
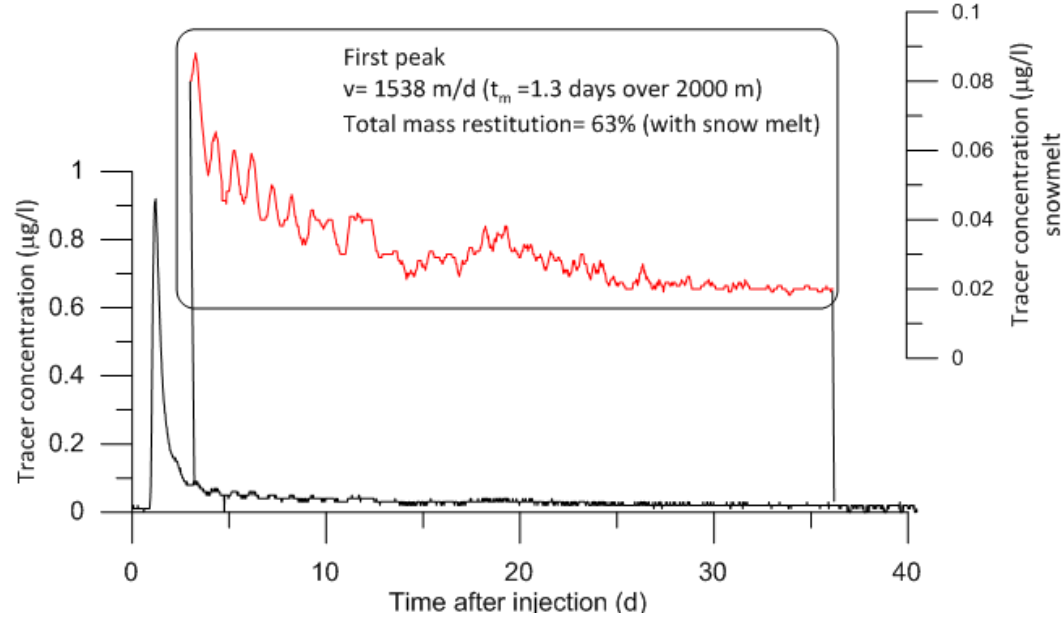


### pH

The pH of a medium is a measure of acidity which is based on the concentration of hydrogen ions per unit time.

# CATCHMENT EXPERIMENTS

Multiple tracer experiments to identify connections and delineate catchment, and estimate transport parameters



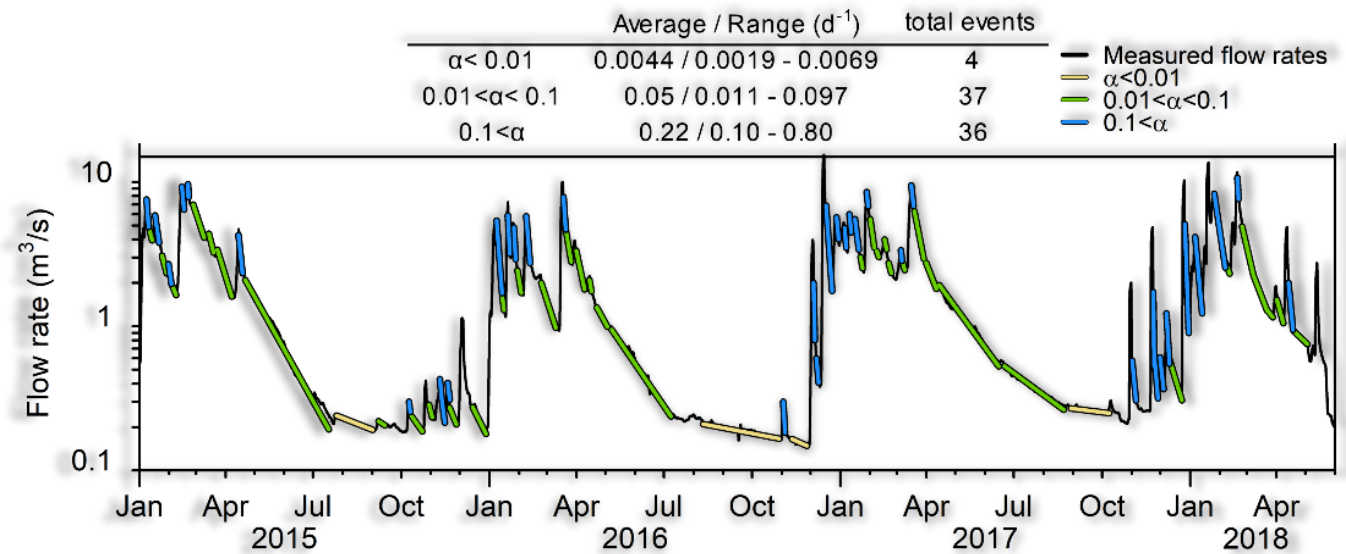
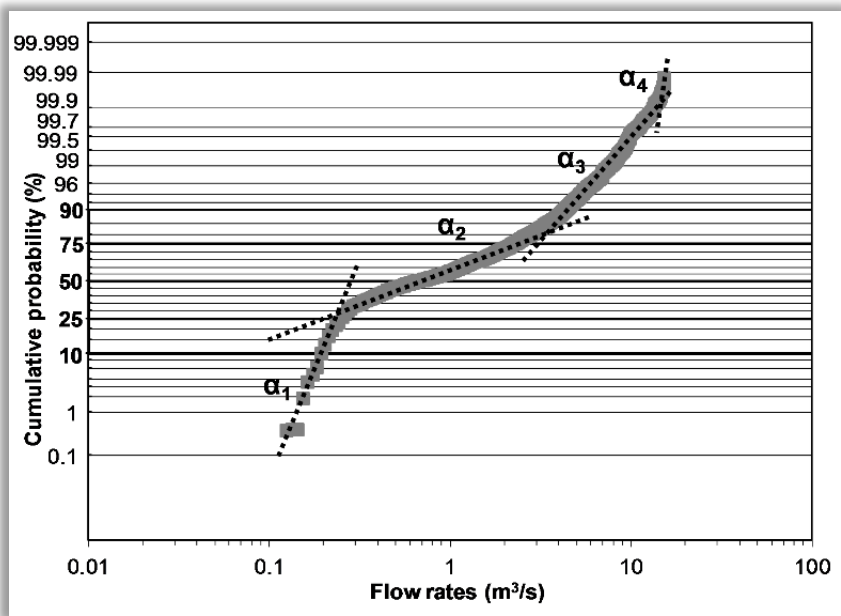


## How is the data used?



# CLASSIFICATION OF SPRING FLOWRATES – QUALITATIVE KARST TYPOLOGY

Statistical Analysis (computational data analytics for prediction and establishment of early warning systems)  
 Currently applying Artificial Neural Network (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany)

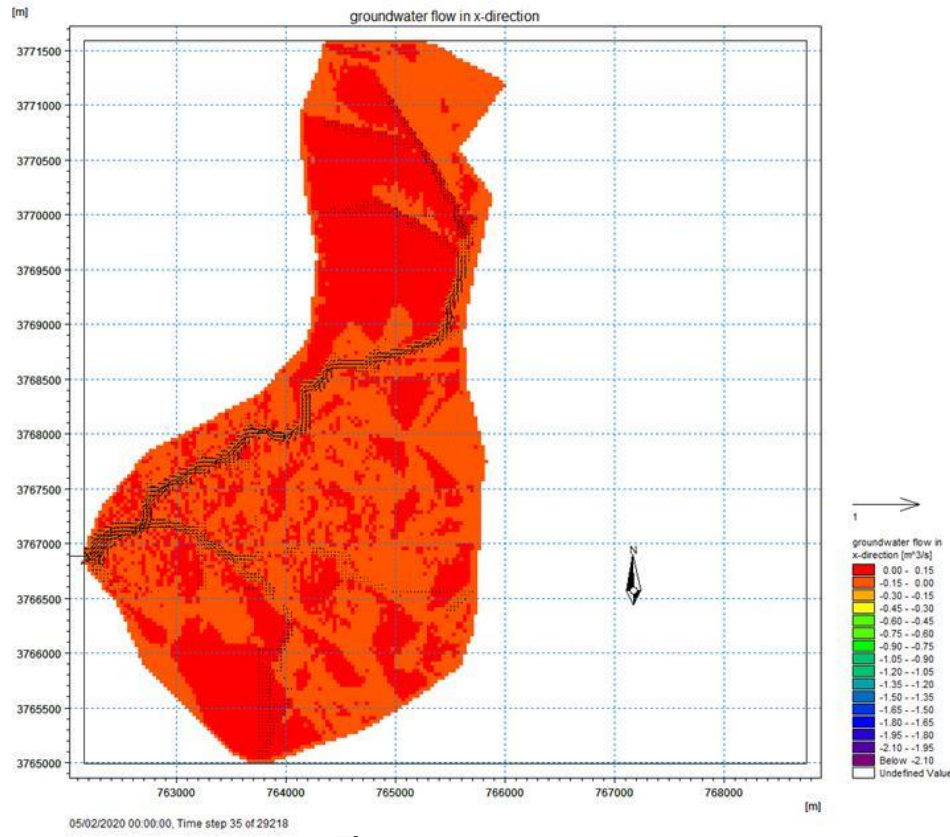


- Flow rate frequency (Dörfliger *et al.*, 2010)

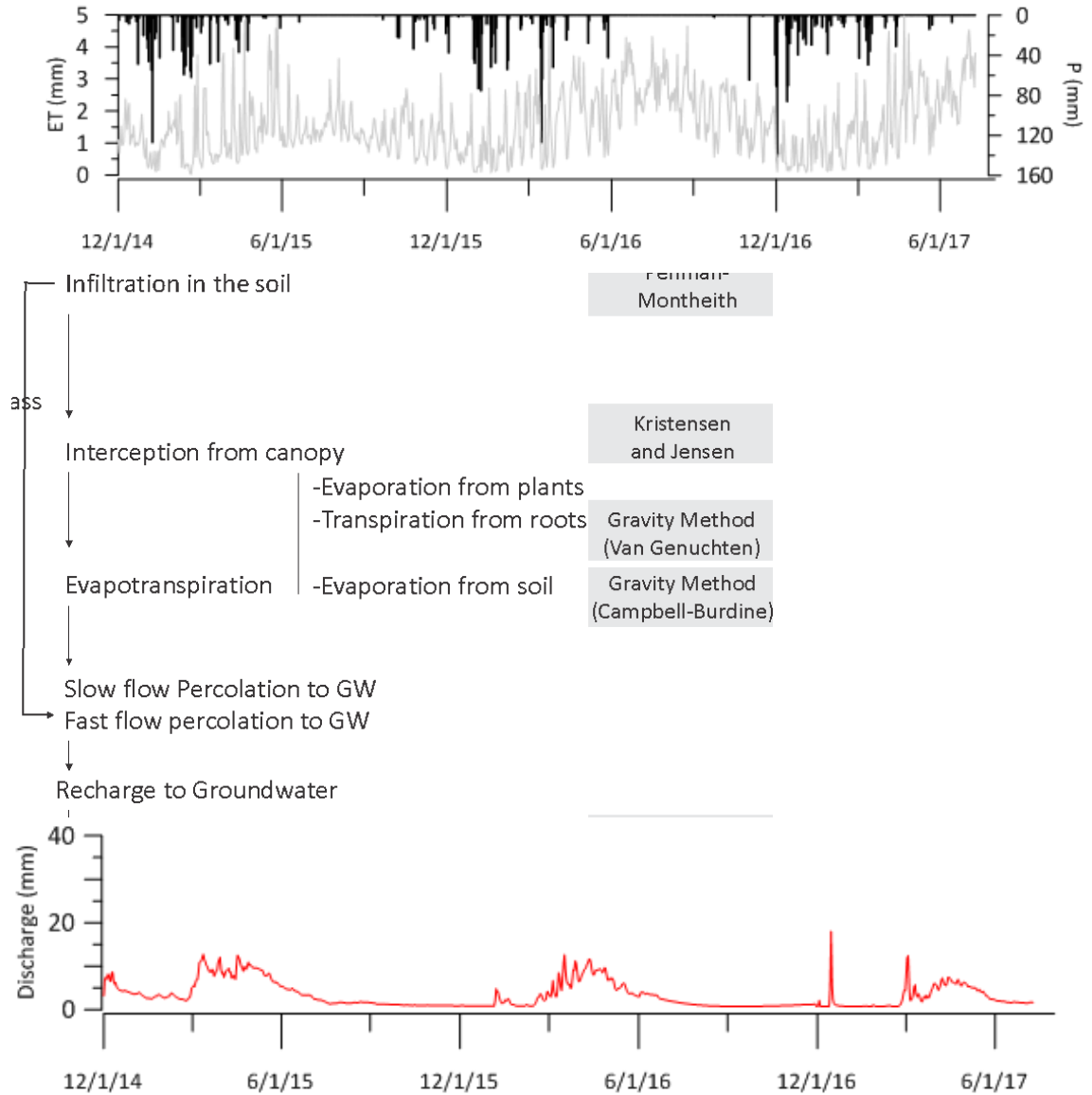
- Storage, recession, and depletion rates (Dubois *et al.*, 2020)



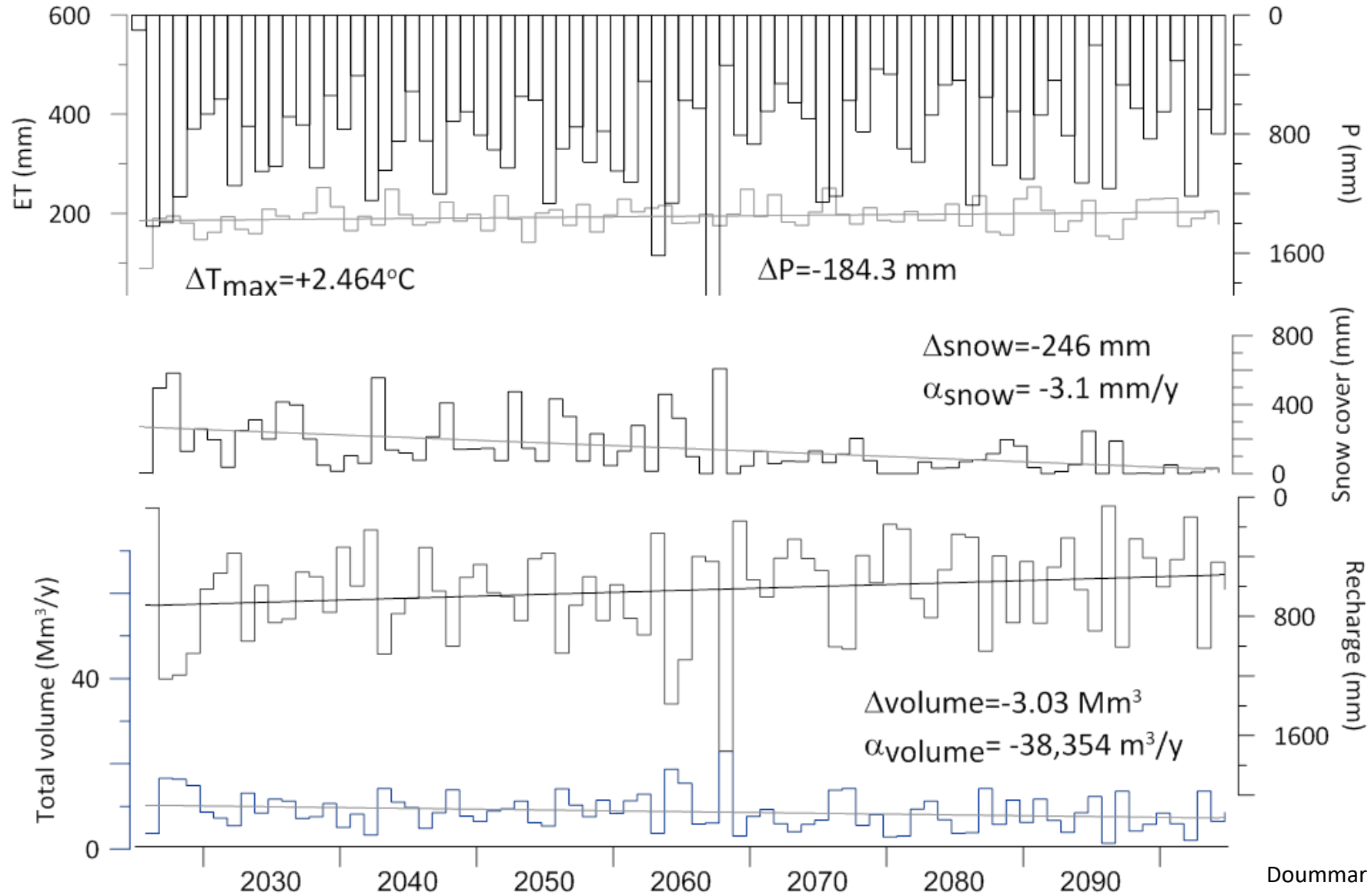
# IMPLEMENTATION OF DATA IN A DISTRIBUTED INTEGRATED MODEL TO SIMULATE FLOW



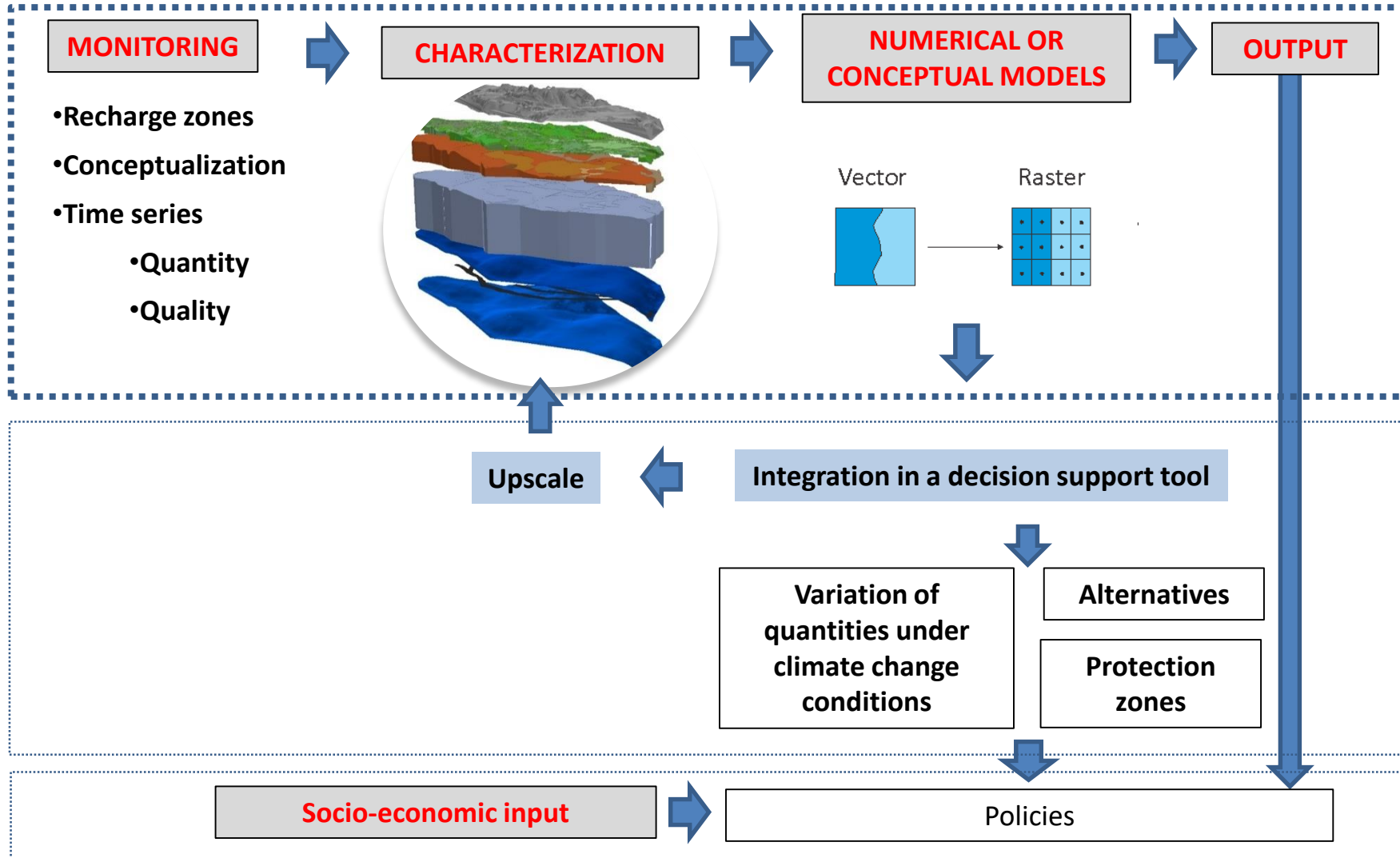
Doummar et al., 2012, 2018b



# IMPLEMENTATION OF DATA IN A DISTRIBUTED INTEGRATED MODEL TO SIMULATE FLOW



# CONCLUDING REMARKS: FROM MONITORING TO MODELLING





For more results: [Website](#)

Acknowledgments: Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment, Litani Water Authority, University Saint Joseph USJ, local municipalities.



THANK YOU