

# Application of SWAT in a Mountainous Region in Turkey using Remote Sensing Data

Bilal Peker, Dr. Arda Sorman

**Eskisehir Technical University, Turkey**  
**Department of Civil Engineering**



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien  
University of Natural Resources  
and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna

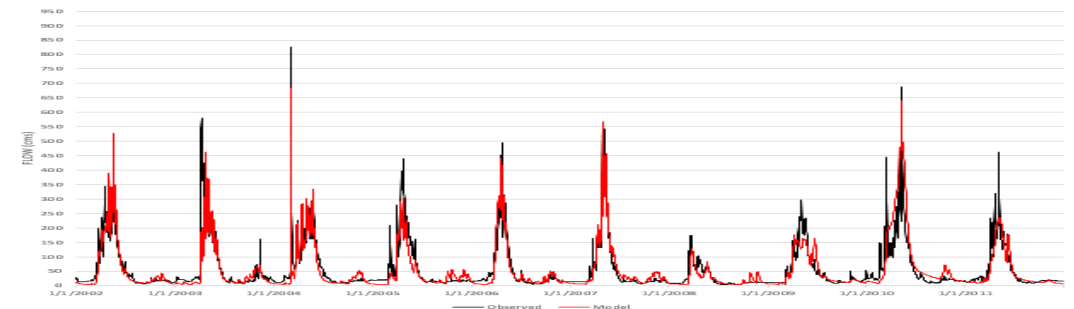
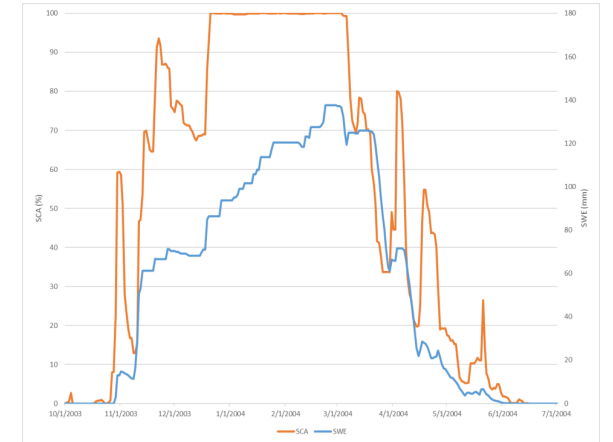
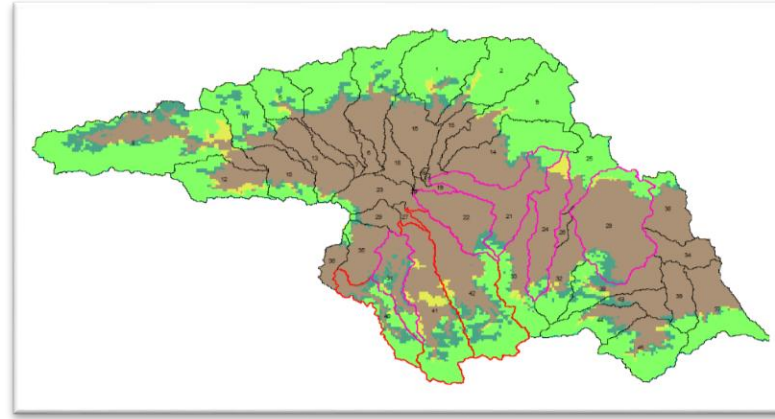
**15-19 July 2019 - Vienna, Austria**

**SWAT** Soil & Water  
Assessment Tool

Contact: [ismailbilalpeker@eskisehir.edu.tr](mailto:ismailbilalpeker@eskisehir.edu.tr)

# OUTLINE

1. Motivation of the Study
2. Study Area
3. Data Sources & Base Model Setup
4. Snow Parameters Fitting using Remote Sensing Data
5. Automatic Flow Calibration & Validation
6. Snow Validation using Ground Stations
7. Conclusions & Recommendations



# Motivation of the Study

There are several successful SWAT model applications in Turkey, however, all is about water quality, agricultural management and non-point source pollution control at low elevated snowless areas.



The **mountainous and snow-dominated watersheds** are selected for this work, therefore snow-melt process is very important for the study area.

**Remote sensing data** is used for the more preferable model setup in the study.

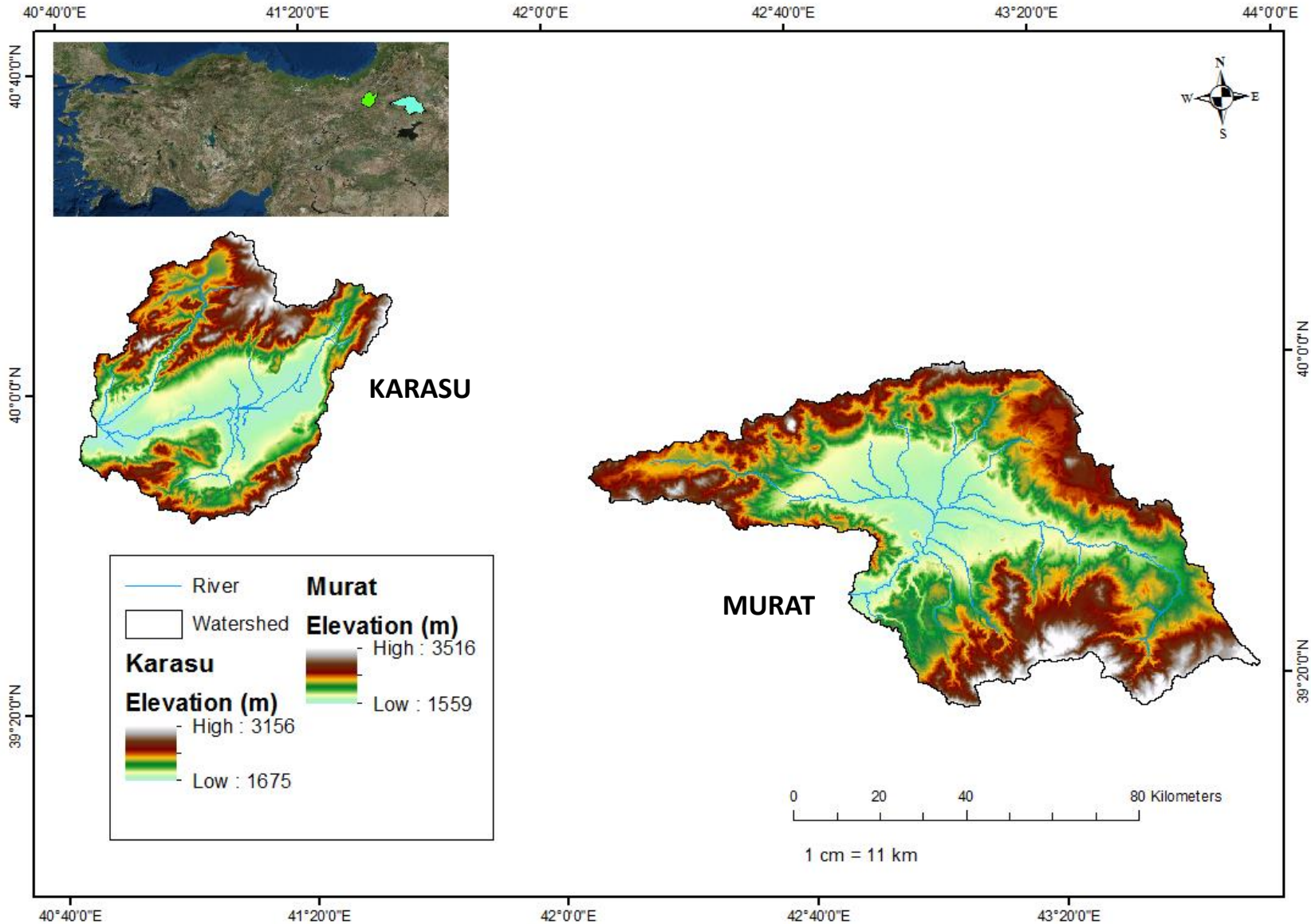


# Study Area

- ❄ Turkey is a peninsula surrounded on 3 sides by the sea.
- ❄ Average elevation of Turkey > 1100 m, snow is frequent.
- ❄ Most transboundary rivers are fed by snowmelt.



# Two headwater basins of the Euphrates River, named as Karasu and Murat.



Basin Name	Karasu	Murat
Drainage Area	2800 km <sup>2</sup>	5900 km <sup>2</sup>
Hypsometric Elevation	2100 m	2100 m
Min. Elevation	1675 m	1559 m
Max. Elevation	3156 m	3516 m

# Data Sources

- **HRU Definition Data**

DEM (SRTM, 90x90 m) (3 Slope Classes for each basin)

Land Use (Corine, 1:100 000)

Soil (FAO, 1:5 000 000)

- **Climate Data**

Turkish Met. Office (Precipitation & Max./Min. Temperature)

CFSR (Relative Humidity, Solar Radiation & Wind Speed)

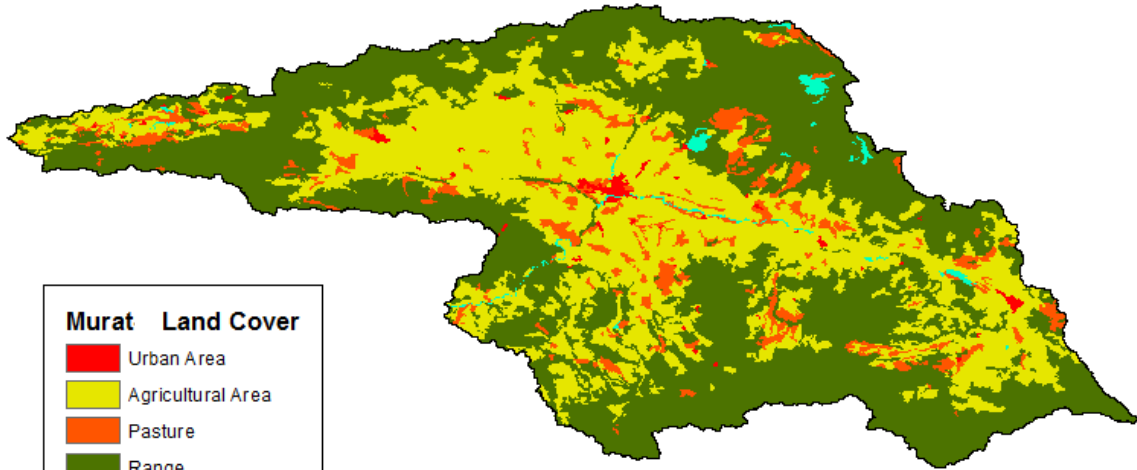
- **Calibration & Validation Data**

Turkish Hydro. Office (Discharge & Snow Ground Stations)

MODIS (Cloud-Filtered Snow-covered Images)

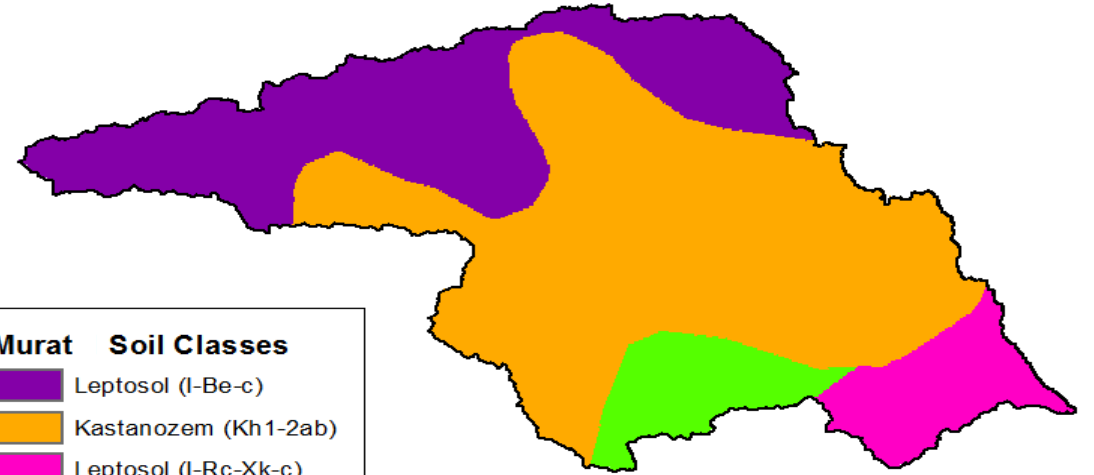
# LAND COVER MAPS

# SOIL TYPE MAPS



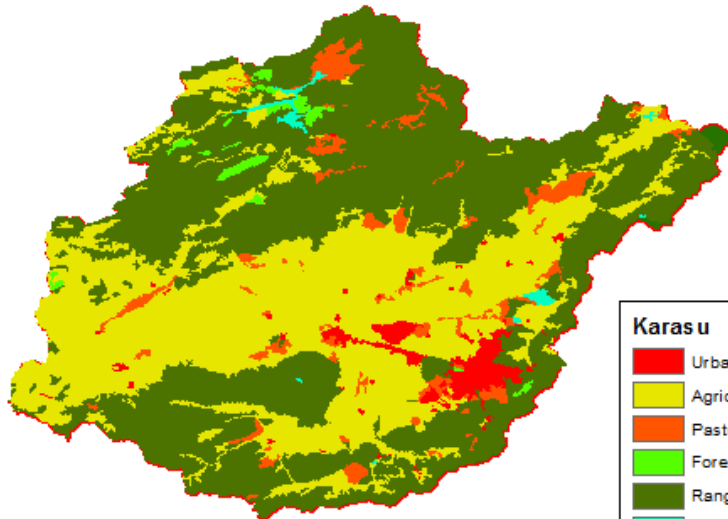
**Murat Land Cover**

- Urban Area
- Agricultural Area
- Pasture
- Range
- Water



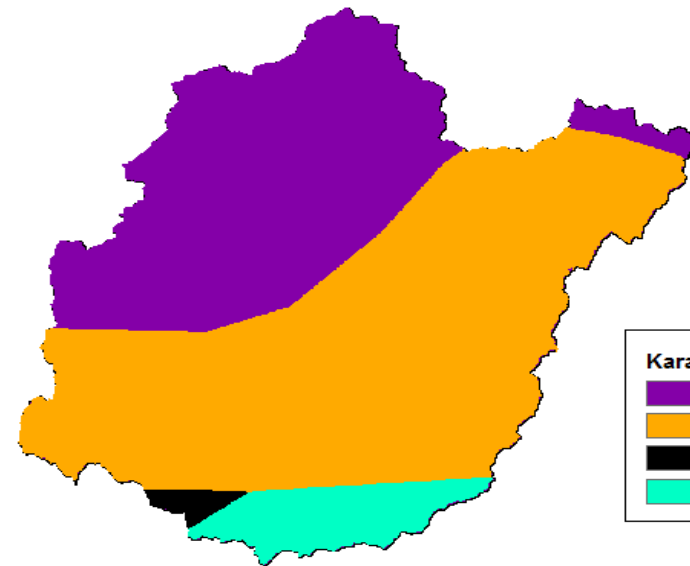
**Murat Soil Classes**

- Leptosol (I-Be-c)
- Kastanozem (Kh1-2ab)
- Leptosol (I-Rc-Xk-c)
- Kastanozem (Kk16-2b)



**Karasu Land Cover**

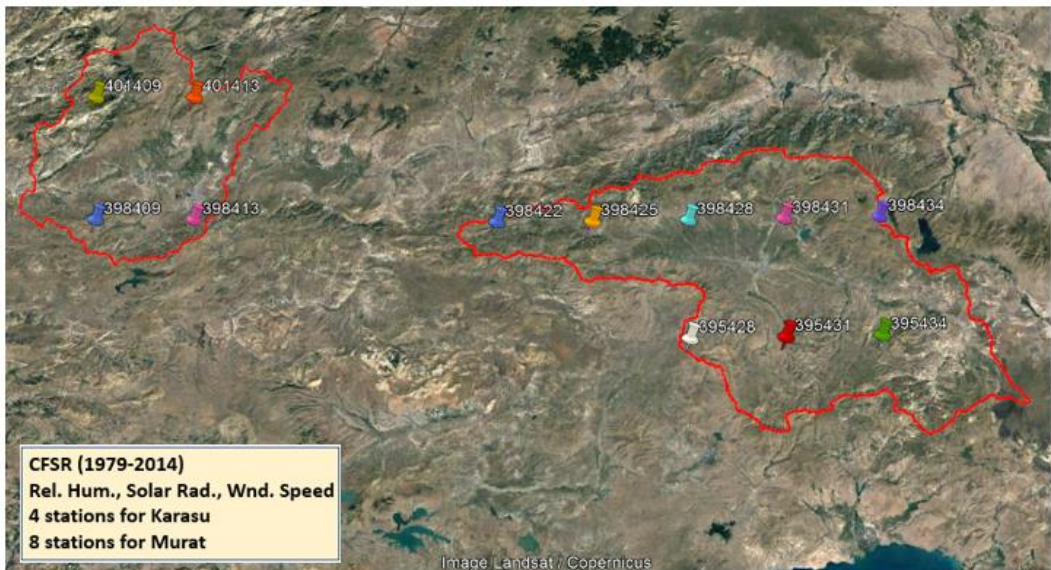
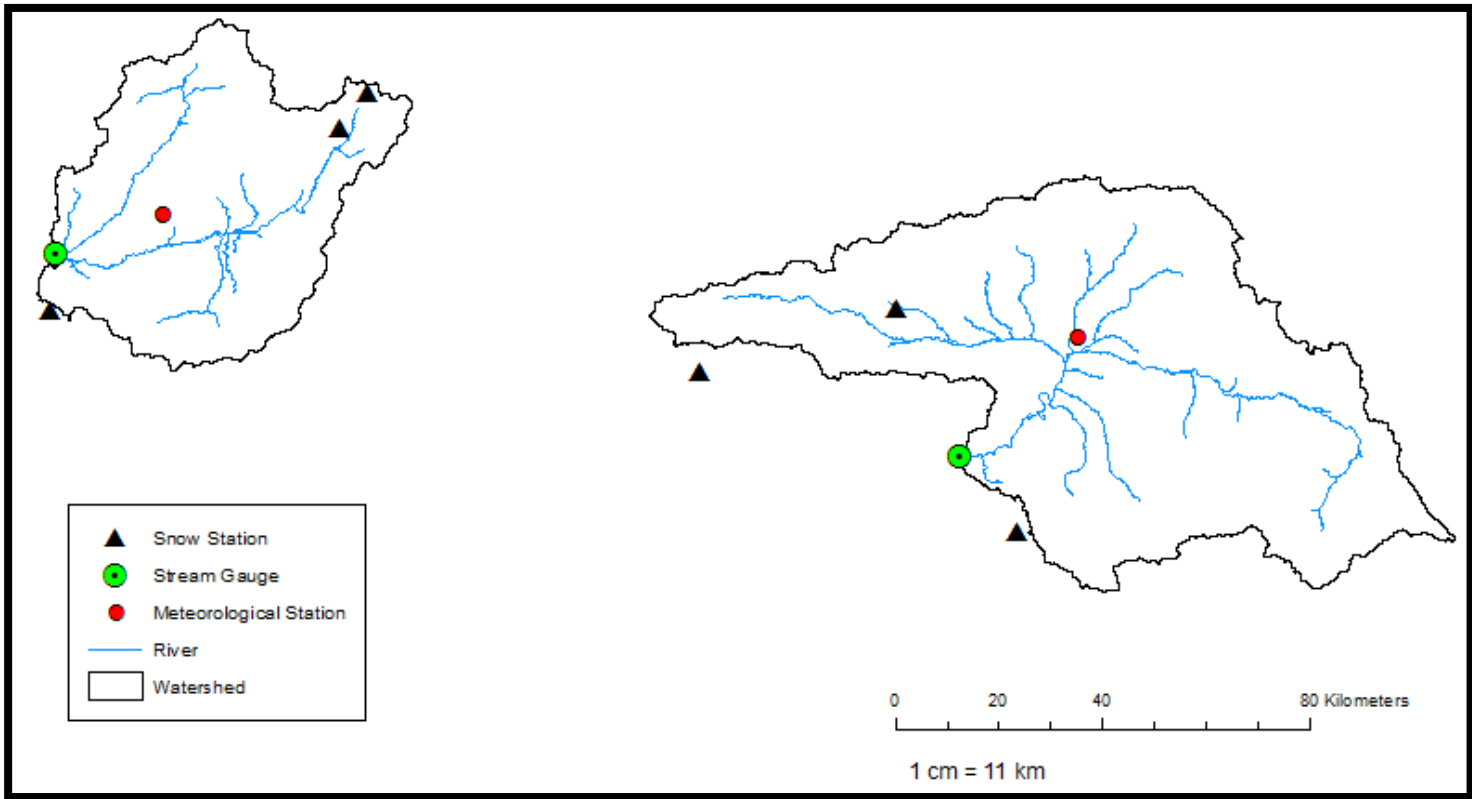
- Urban Area
- Agricultural Area
- Pasture
- Forest
- Range
- Water



**Karasu Soil Classes**

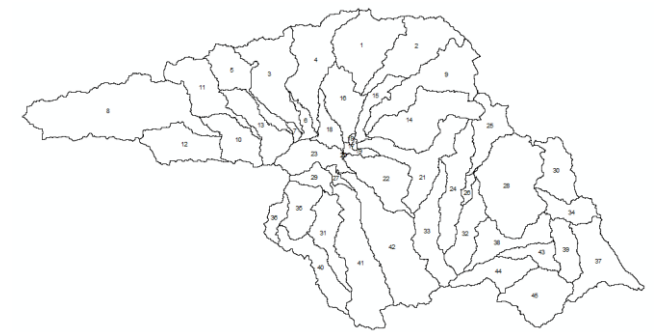
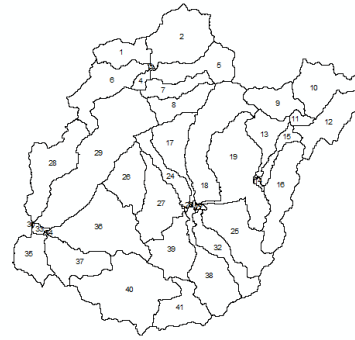
- Leptosol (I-Be-c)
- Kastanozem (Kh1-2ab)
- Luvisol (Lo64-3c)
- Cambisol (Be115-2/3c)

# GAGE STATIONS (Rainfall, Temperature, Stream, Snow)





# Base Model Setup



	Karasu	Murat
Interface	ArcSWAT 2012.10_4.19	
Subbasin Threshold Area	5 000 Ha	10 000 Ha
HRU Threshold (Soil/LU/Slope)	0/0/0 (%)	0/0/0 (%)
Subbasin Number	41	45
HRU Number	462	663
Elevation Band Number	10	10
Warm up	1999-2001 (3 yrs)	2000-2001 (2 yrs)
Calibration Period	2002-2007 (6 yrs)	2002-2007 (6 yrs)
Validation Period	2008-2011 (4 yrs)	2008-2011 (4 yrs)

# PROCEDURE

Snow parameters should not be calibrated simultaneously with other parameters.

(Abbaspour et al., 2017)

## 1) ADJUSTMENT OF SNOW PARAMETERS (WITH MODIS)

(SNOW CALIBRATION)

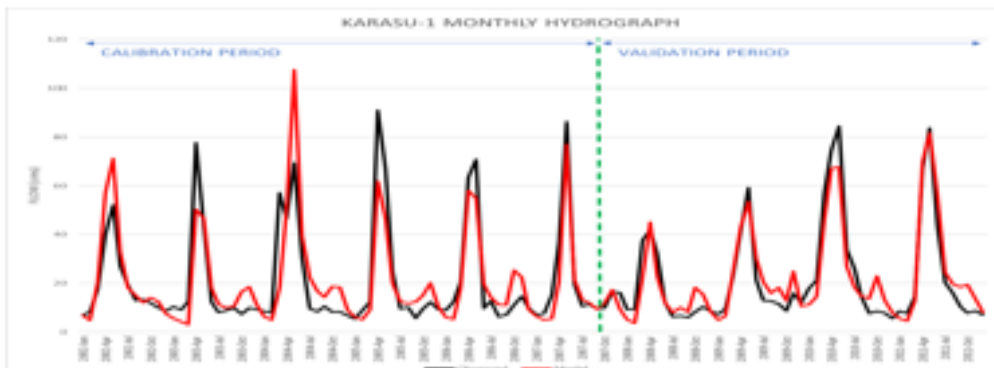


CONVERSION SWAT  
SWE OUTPUTS TO  
BASIN-SCALE FROM  
HRU-SCALE &  
COMPARISON WITH  
SNOW COVER AREA AS  
A CHART

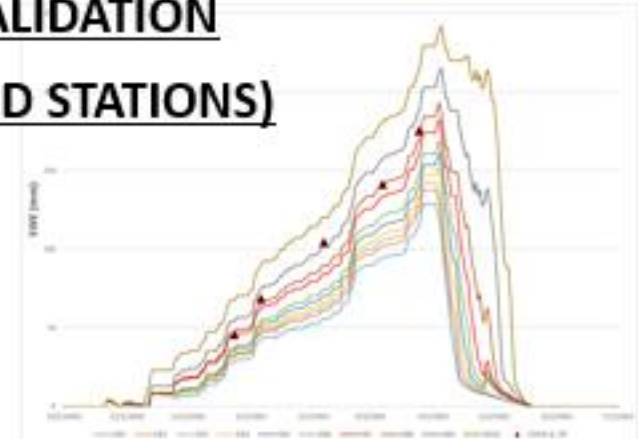
VISUALIZING SWAT  
SWE OUTPUTS &  
COMPARISON WITH  
MODIS IMAGES AS  
A MAP



## 2) FLOW CALIBRATION & VALIDATION



## 3) SNOW VALIDATION (WITH GROUND STATIONS)

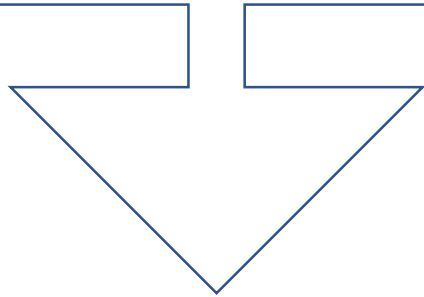


.hru output file

# SWE (mm) – SCA (%) COMPARISON

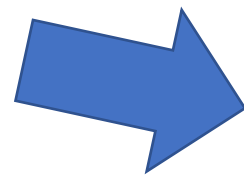
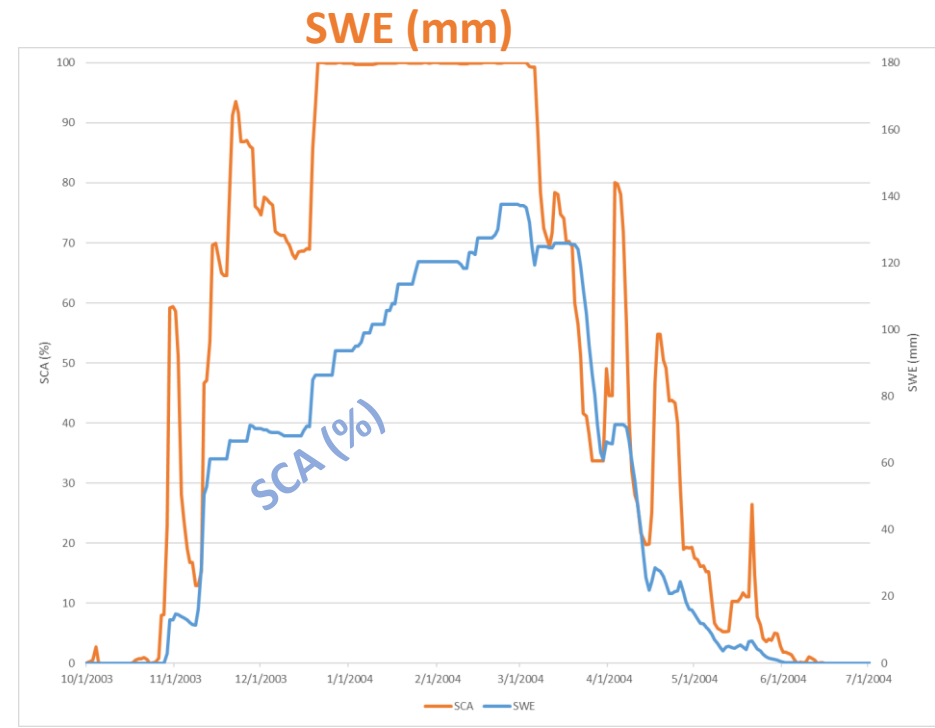
- HRU-BASED SWE
- SUBBASIN-BASED SWE
- BASIN-BASED SWE

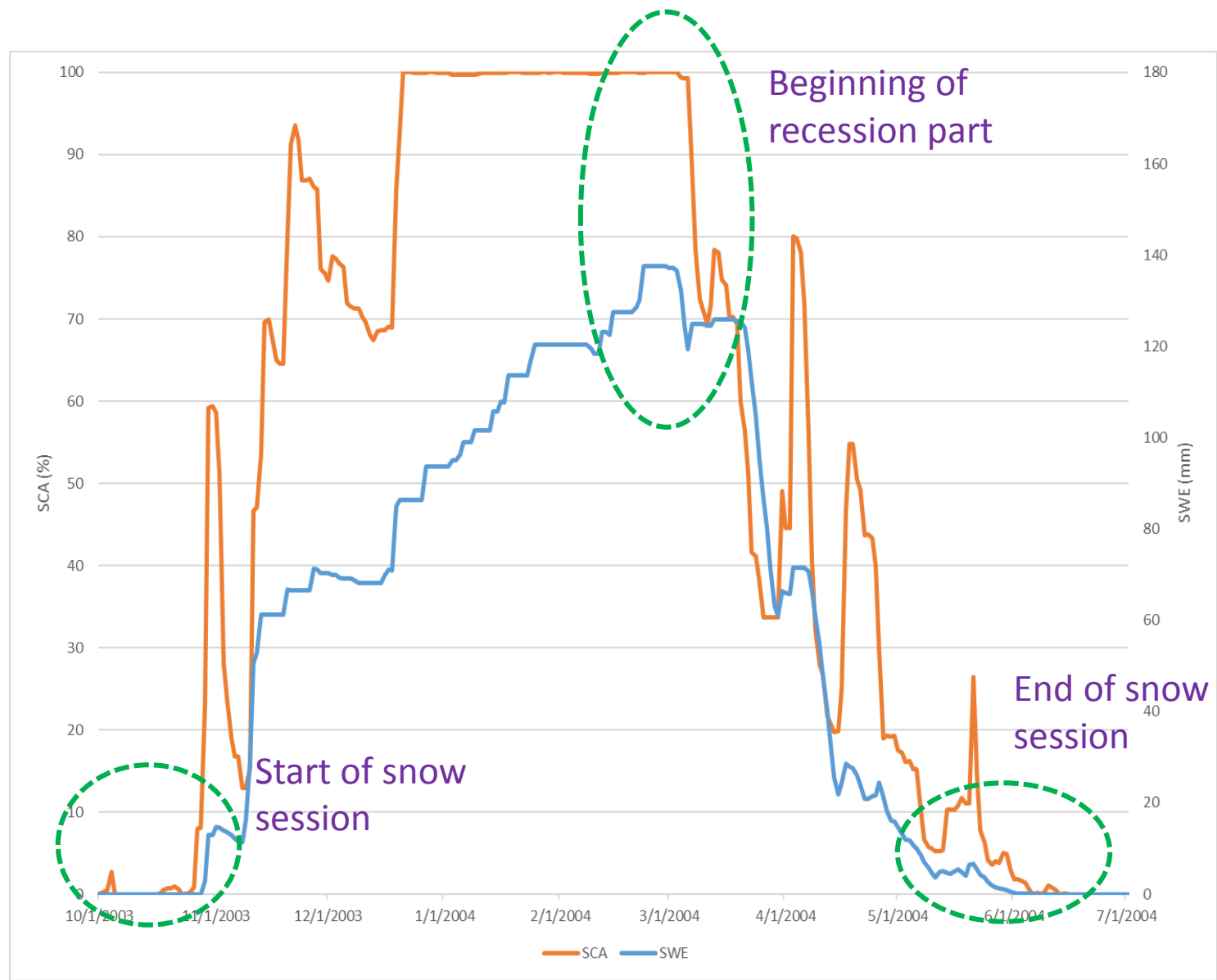
Areal  
Percentage  
Weights



**SWAT BASIN-SCALE SWE (mm) values are obtained daily.**

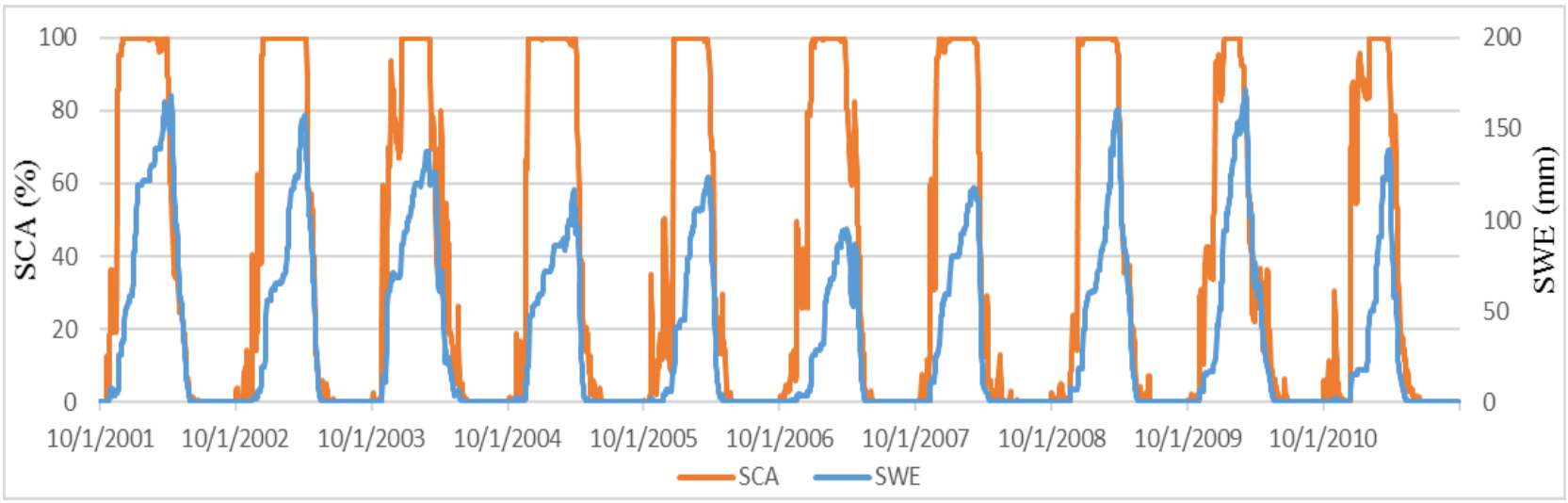
- MODIS Snow Cover Area (SCA) (%)



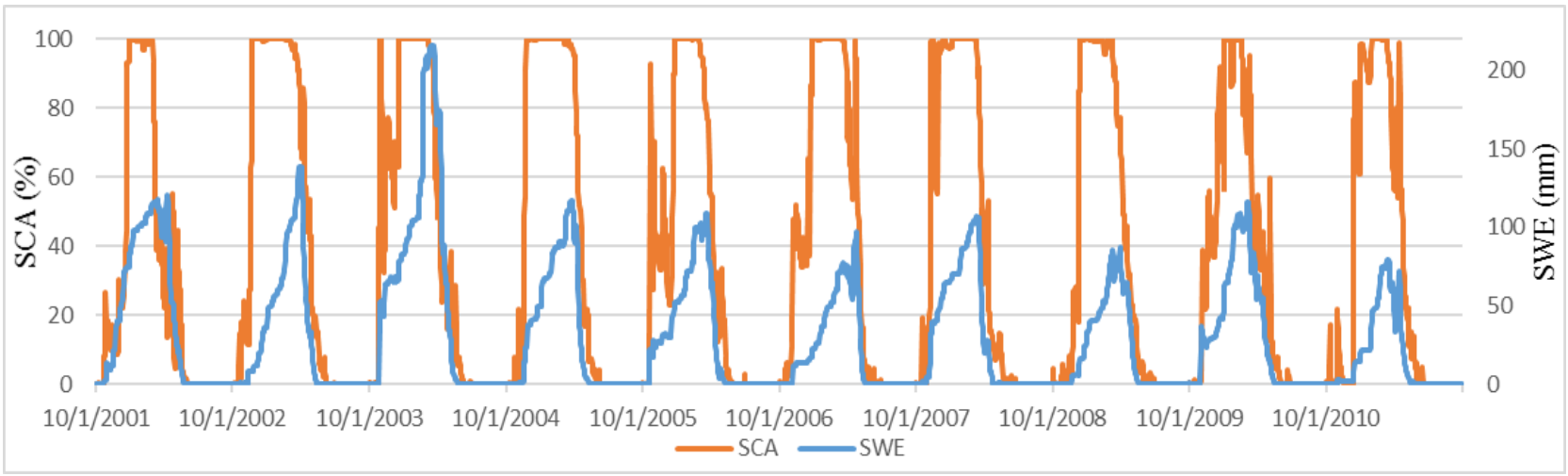


EXAMPLE: MURAT BASIN 2004 HYDROLOGICAL YEAR

# MURAT BASIN



# KARASU BASIN

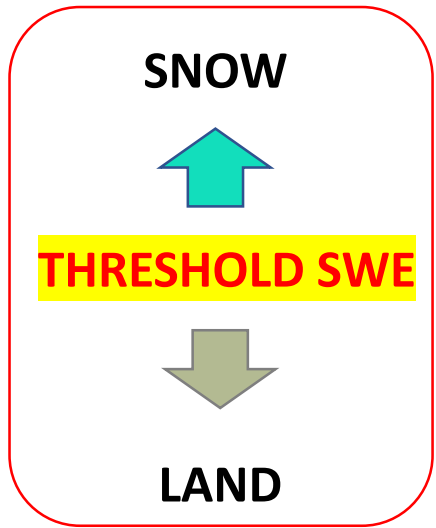
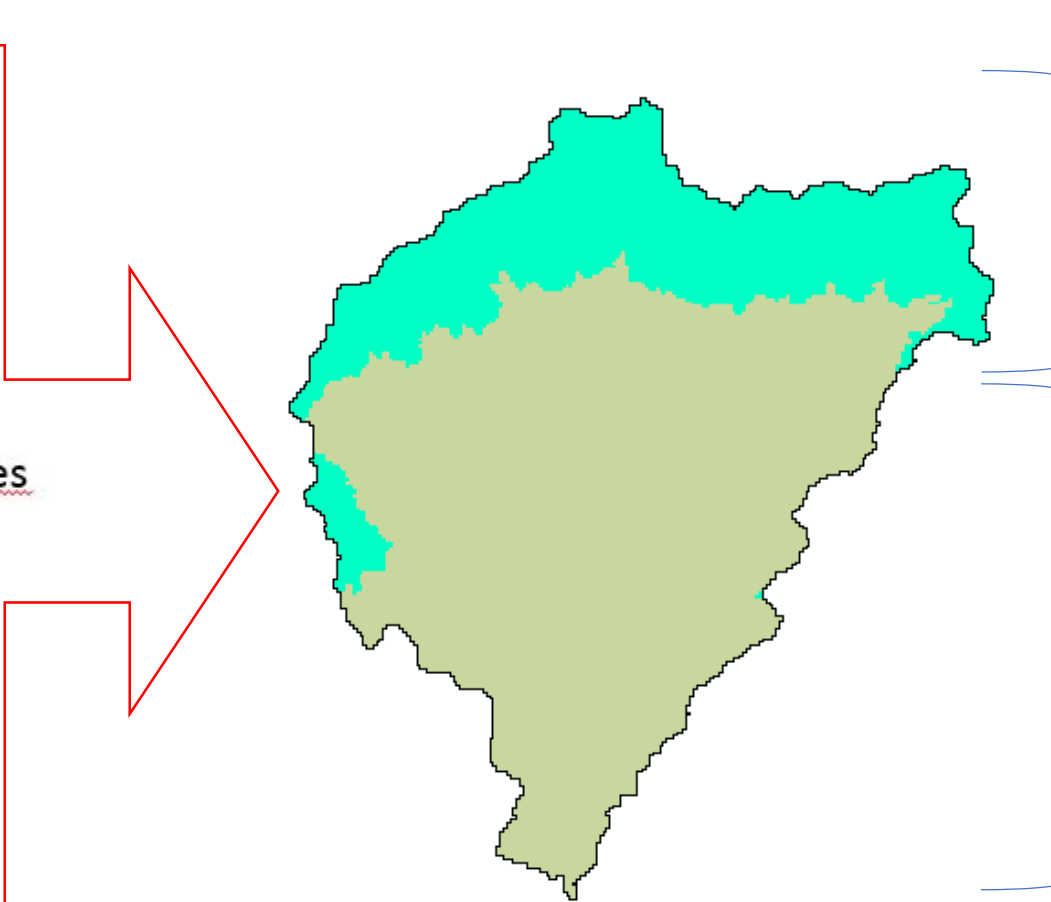
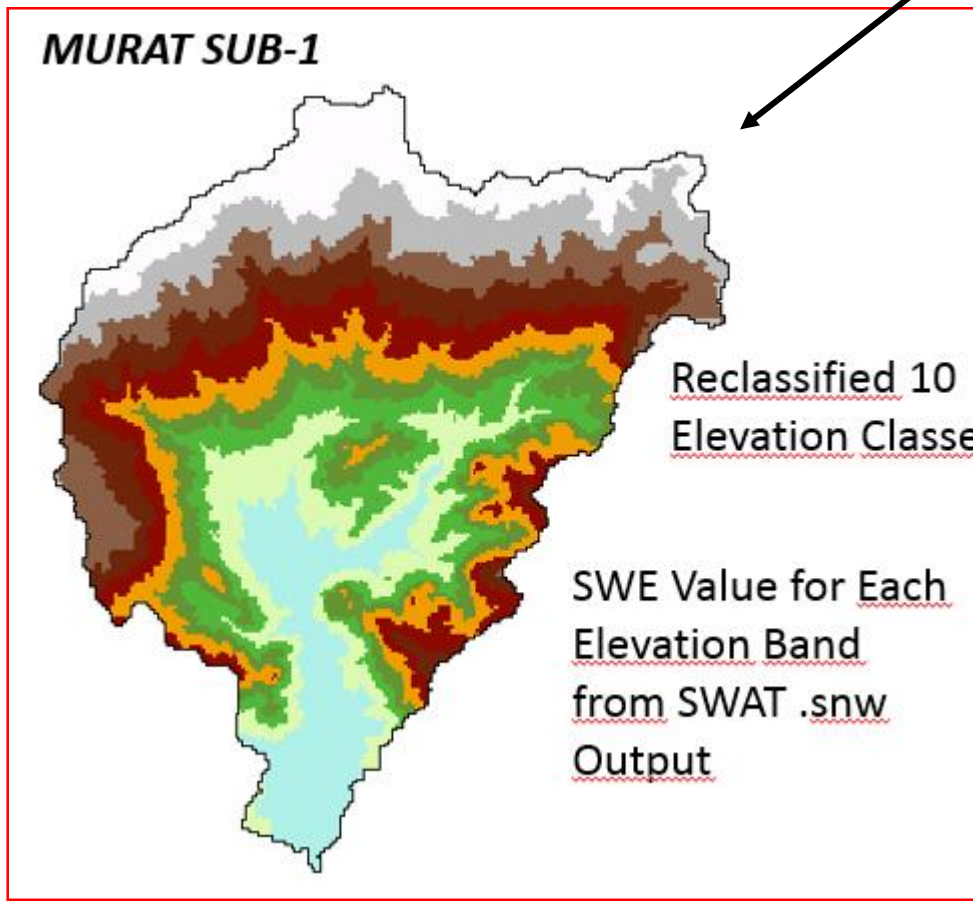


# VISUALIZATION PROCESS

.snw output file

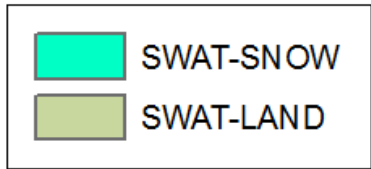
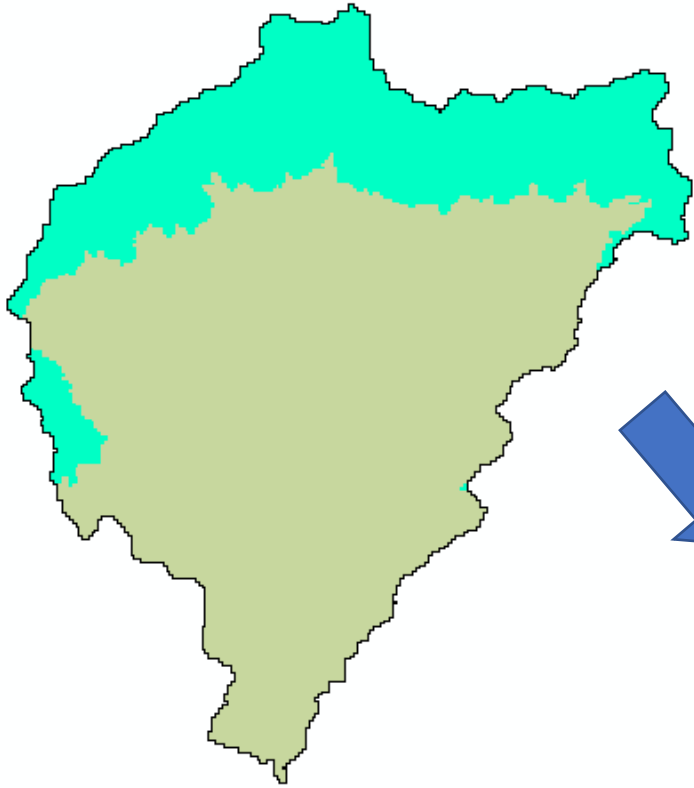
SWAT SWE OUTPUTS ARE HRU-BASED AT EACH ELEVATION BAND.

DERIVATION OF SUB-SWE FOR EACH SUBBASINS AT EACH ELEVATION BAND

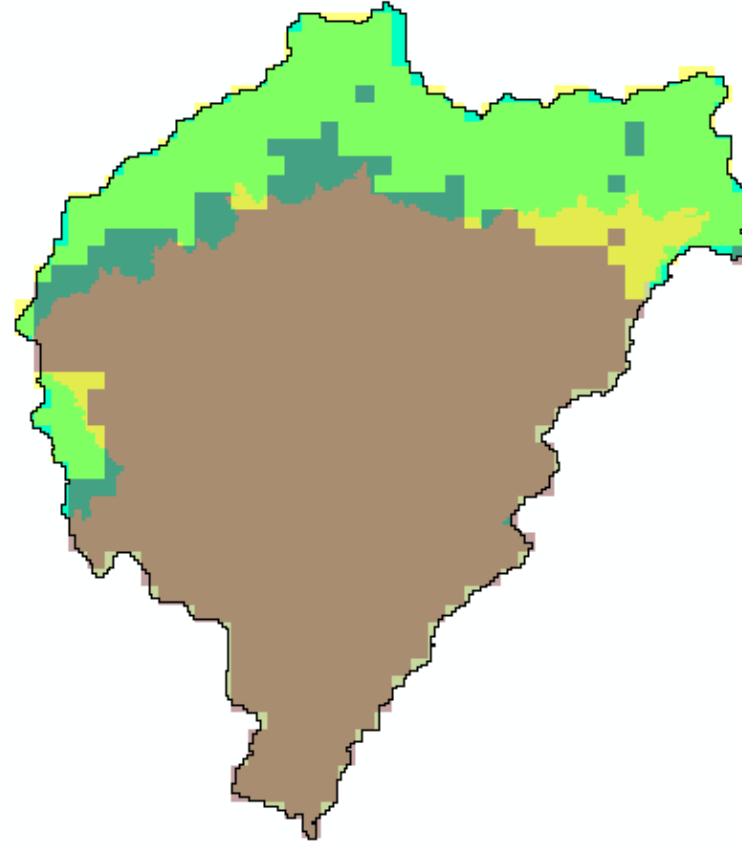


# SWAT SUB-SWE VISUALIZATION

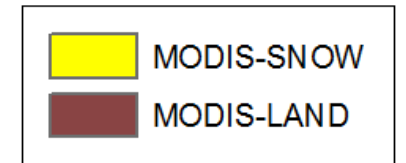
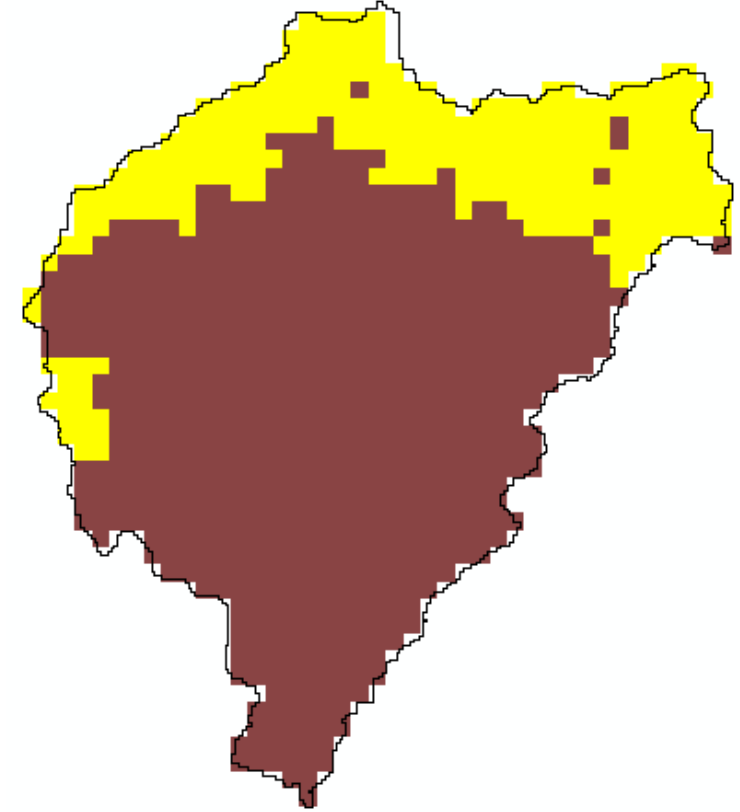
# MODIS IMAGE



## OVERLAYING



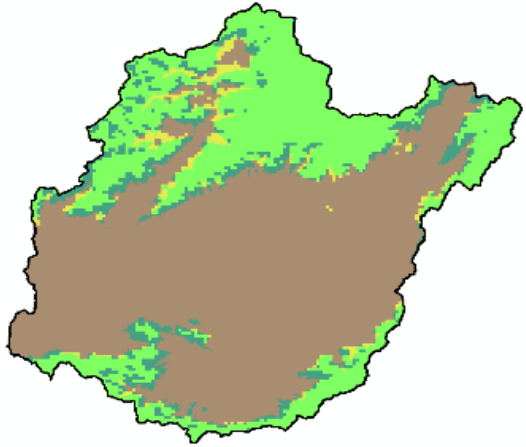
	SWAT	MODIS	STATE
Light Green	<i>Snow</i>	<i>Snow</i>	MATCH
Dark Green	<i>Snow</i>	<i>Land</i>	MISMATCH
Yellow	<i>Land</i>	<i>Snow</i>	MISMATCH
Brown	<i>Land</i>	<i>Land</i>	MATCH



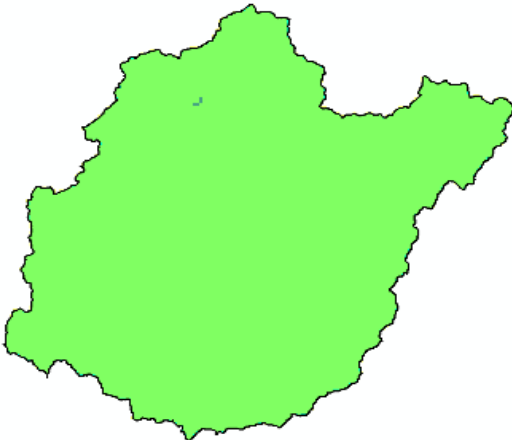
- VISUALIZATION PROCESS IS IMPLEMENTED FOR EACH SUBBASIN AND BASIN-SCALE SWE MAPS ARE OBTAINED.
- 7 DATES ARE SELECTED:
  - 04 DECEMBER 2005 (ACCUMULATION PERIOD)
  - 30 DECEMBER 2005 (~100% SNOW COVER)
  - 30 MARCH 2006 (RANDOMLY)
  - 08 APRIL 2006 (RECESSION PERIOD)
  - 13 APRIL 2006 (RANDOMLY)
  - 18 APRIL 2006 (RANDOMLY)
  - 12 MAY 2006 (~0% SNOW COVER)



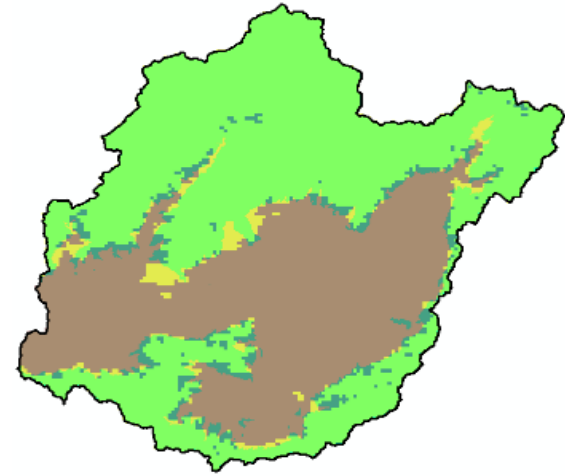
04 DEC 05



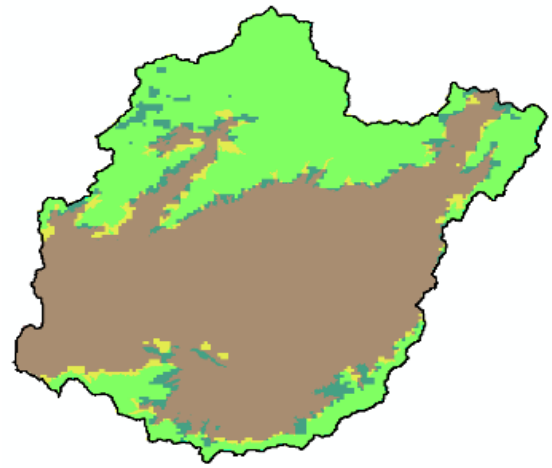
30 DEC 05



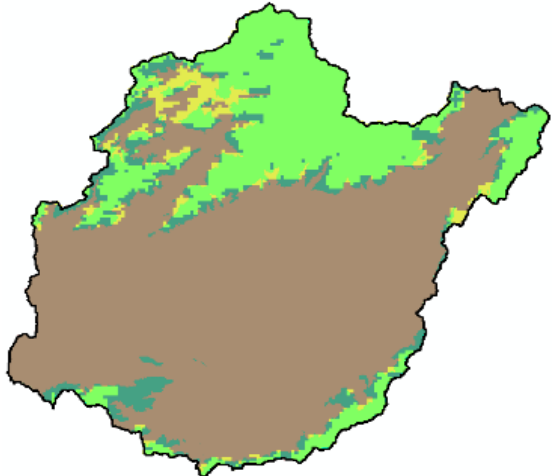
30 MAR 06



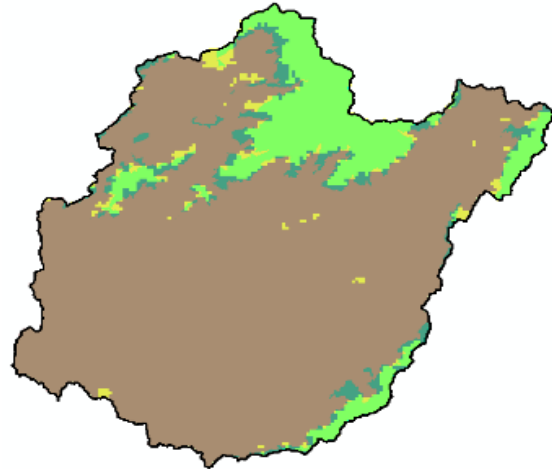
08 APR 06



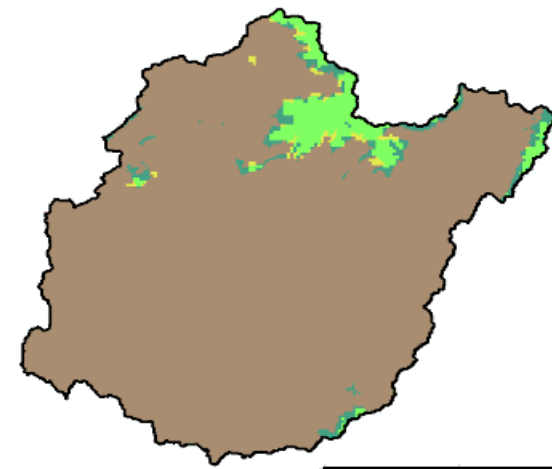
13 APR 06







18 APR 06



12 MAY 06



	SWAT	MODIS	STATE
	<i>Snow</i>	<i>Snow</i>	<i>MATCH</i>
	<i>Snow</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>MISMATCH</i>
	<i>Land</i>	<i>Snow</i>	<i>MISMATCH</i>
	<i>Land</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>MATCH</i>

04 DEC 05



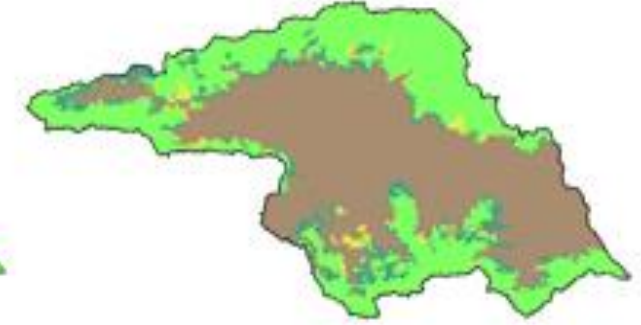
30 DEC 05



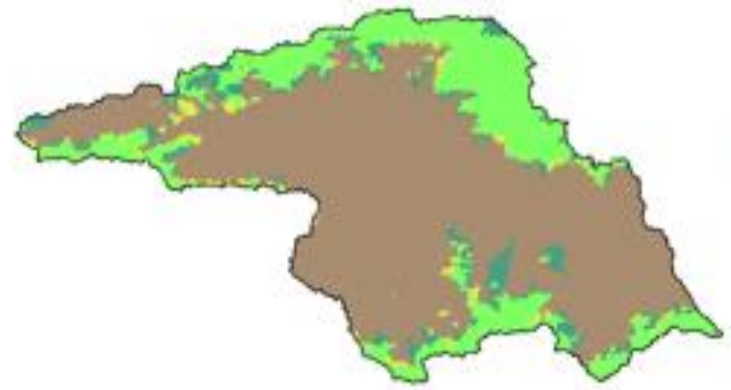
30 MAR 06



08 APR 06



13 APR 06







18 APR 06



12 MAY 06



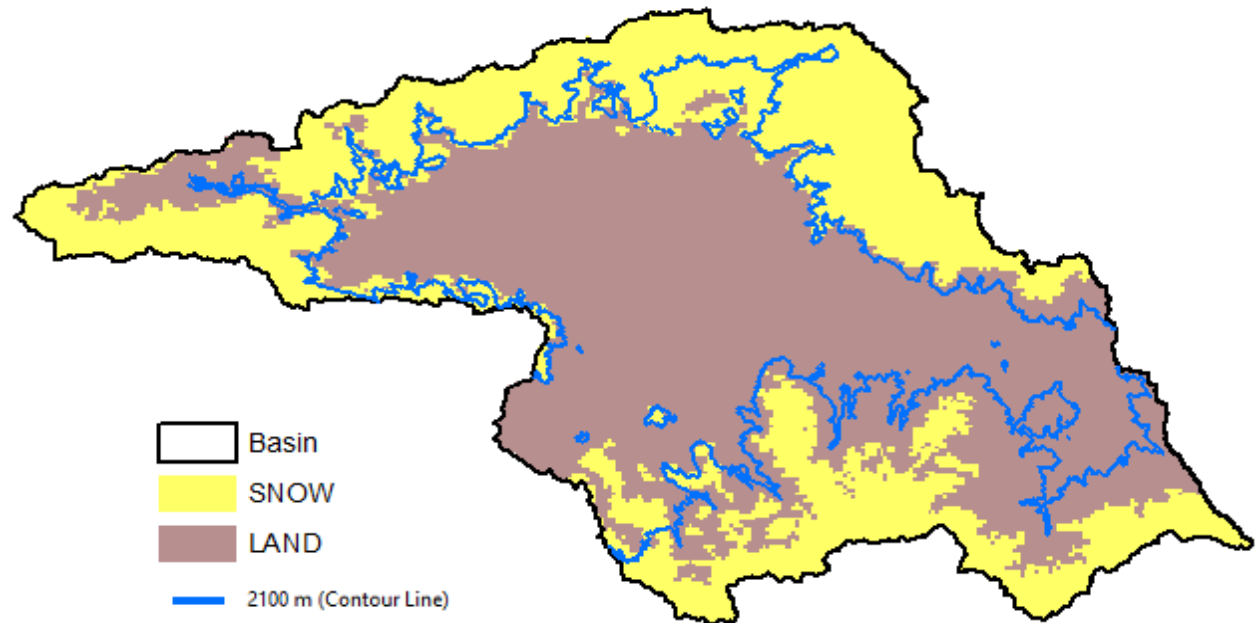
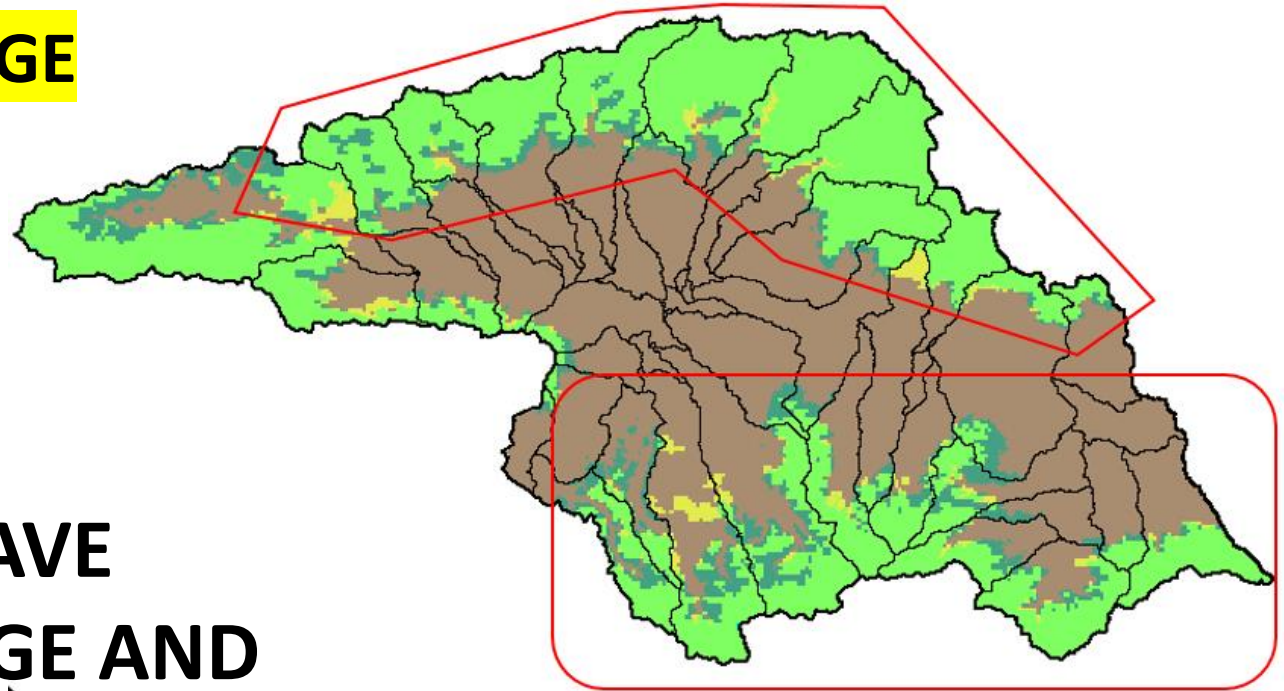
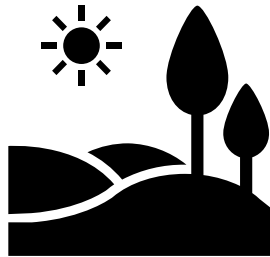
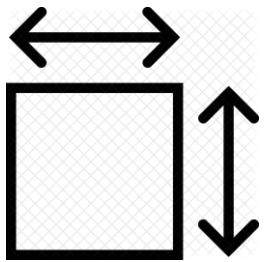
	SWAT	MODIS	STATE
	<i>Snow</i>	<i>Snow</i>	<i>MATCH</i>
	<i>Snow</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>MISMATCH</i>
	<i>Land</i>	<i>Snow</i>	<i>MISMATCH</i>
	<i>Land</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>MATCH</i>



# SWE THRESHOLD CAN CHANGE



**BECAUSE SUBBASINS HAVE  
DIFFERENT ELEVATION RANGE AND  
ASPECT**



# Adjustment of Snow Parameters & Lapse Rates

PARAMETER NAME	UNIT	FITTING VALUE
SFTMP	°C	1
SMTMP	°C	0.5
SMFMX	mm H <sub>2</sub> O/°C-day	2.5
SMFMN	mm H <sub>2</sub> O/°C-day	0.5
TIMP	unitless	1
SNOCOVMX	mm H <sub>2</sub> O	55
SNO50COV	unitless	0.55
<b>PLAPS</b>	mm H <sub>2</sub> O/km	<b>175</b>
<b>TLAPS</b>	°C/km	<b>-5.5</b>

*These values are fixed as a result of the many trials according to the **physical meaning** and **experiences** from the previous studies at the study area.*

# AUTO-CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

**SWAT-CUP** is used for model calibration.

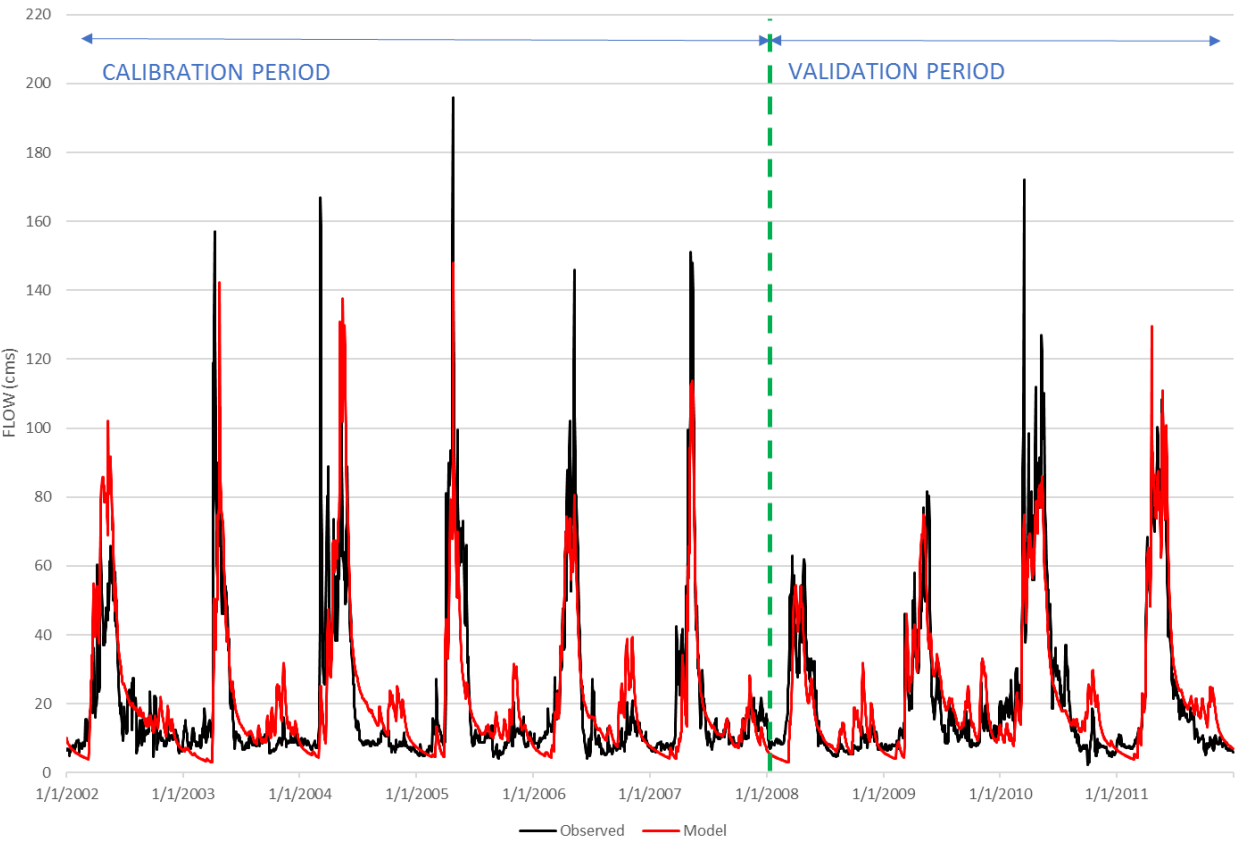
**Determined sensitive parameters.**  
*(One-at-a-time procedure, Abbaspour, 2013)*

				Fitted Value	
	Parameter Name	Initial Range		MURAT	KARASU
r_	CN2.mgt	-0.3	0.3	<b>-0.28</b>	<b>-0.16</b>
v_	ESCO.hru	0.7	1	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.75</b>
r_	SOL_Z.sol	-0.3	0.3	<b>-0.21</b>	<b>0.3</b>
r_	SOL_K.sol	-0.3	0.3	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>0.3</b>
r_	SOL_AWC.sol	-0.3	0.3	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.19</b>
v_	ALPHA_BF.gw	0.01	0.99	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.92</b>
v_	GW_DELAY.gw	1	50	<b>10.69</b>	<b>7.53</b>
v_	GWQMN.gw	1	250	<b>172.85</b>	<b>15.04</b>
v_	RCHRG_DP.gw	0.2	0.5	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.4</b>

**Same for each basin model.**  
**1000 simulations for 2 iterations.**

# HYDROGRAPHS FOR KARASU BASIN

KARASU DAILY HYDROGRAPH



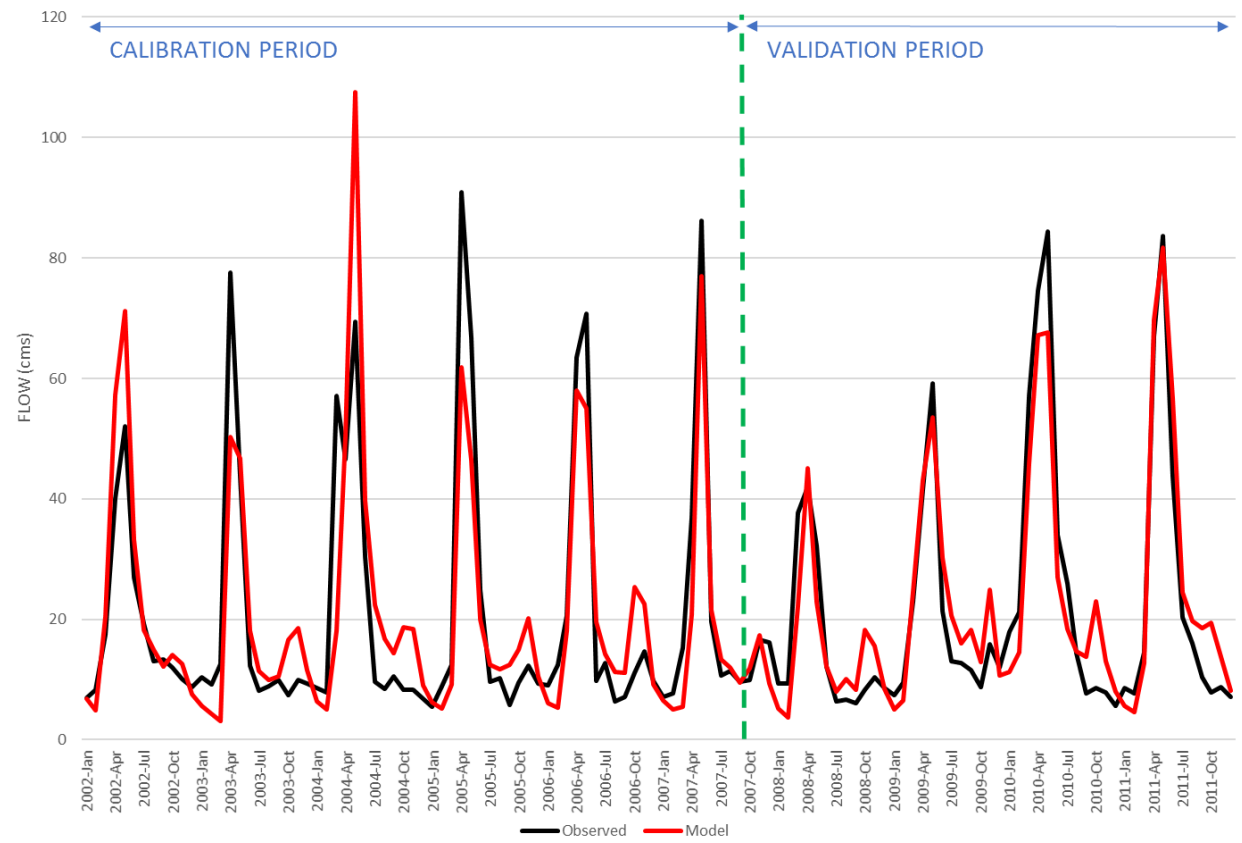
**CAL-DAILY**

**VAL-DAILY**

Q-NSE	R <sup>2</sup>
0.64	0.63

Q-NSE	R <sup>2</sup>
0.82	0.82

KARASU MONTHLY HYDROGRAPH



**CAL-MONTHLY**

**VAL-MONTHLY**

Q-NSE	R <sup>2</sup>
0.74	0.75

Q-NSE	R <sup>2</sup>
0.89	0.90

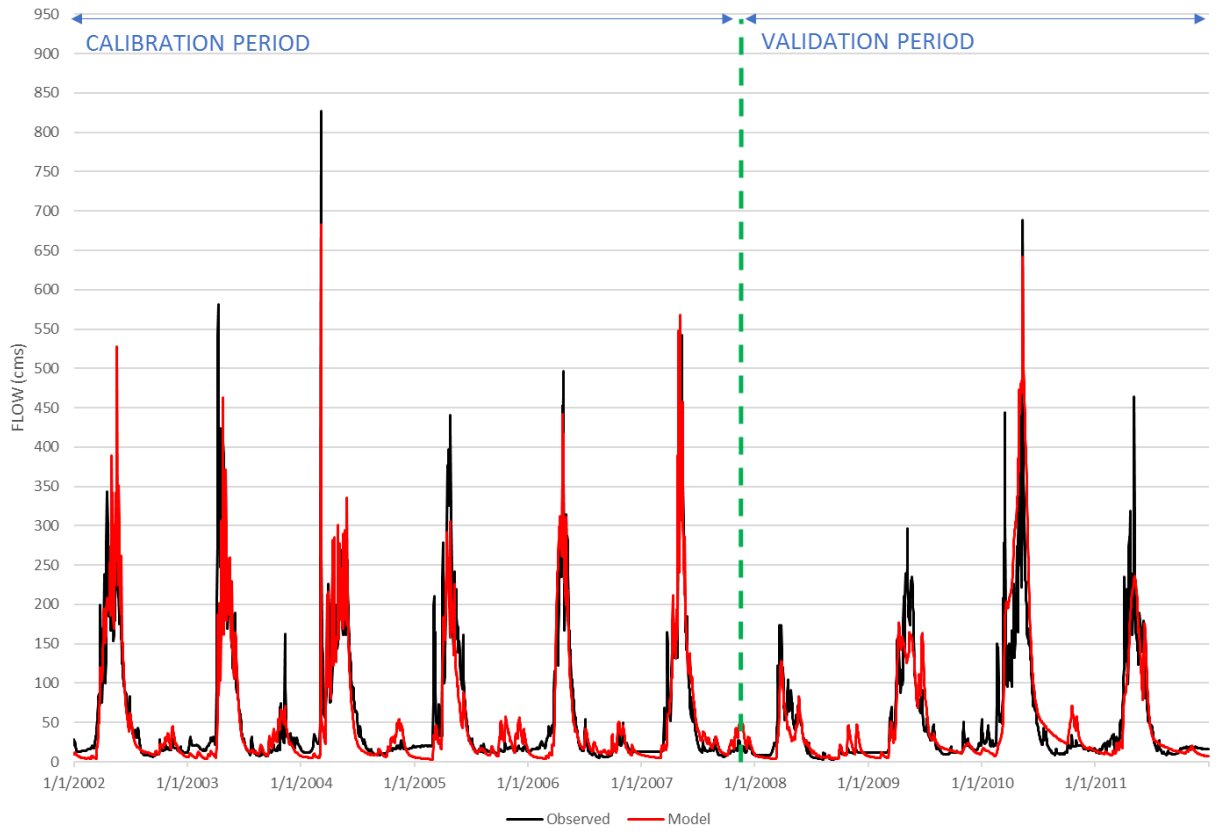


NSE: NASH-SUTCLIFFE EFFICIENCY

R<sup>2</sup>: COEFF. OF DETERMINATION

# HYDROGRAPHS FOR MURAT BASIN

MURAT DAILY HYDROGRAPH



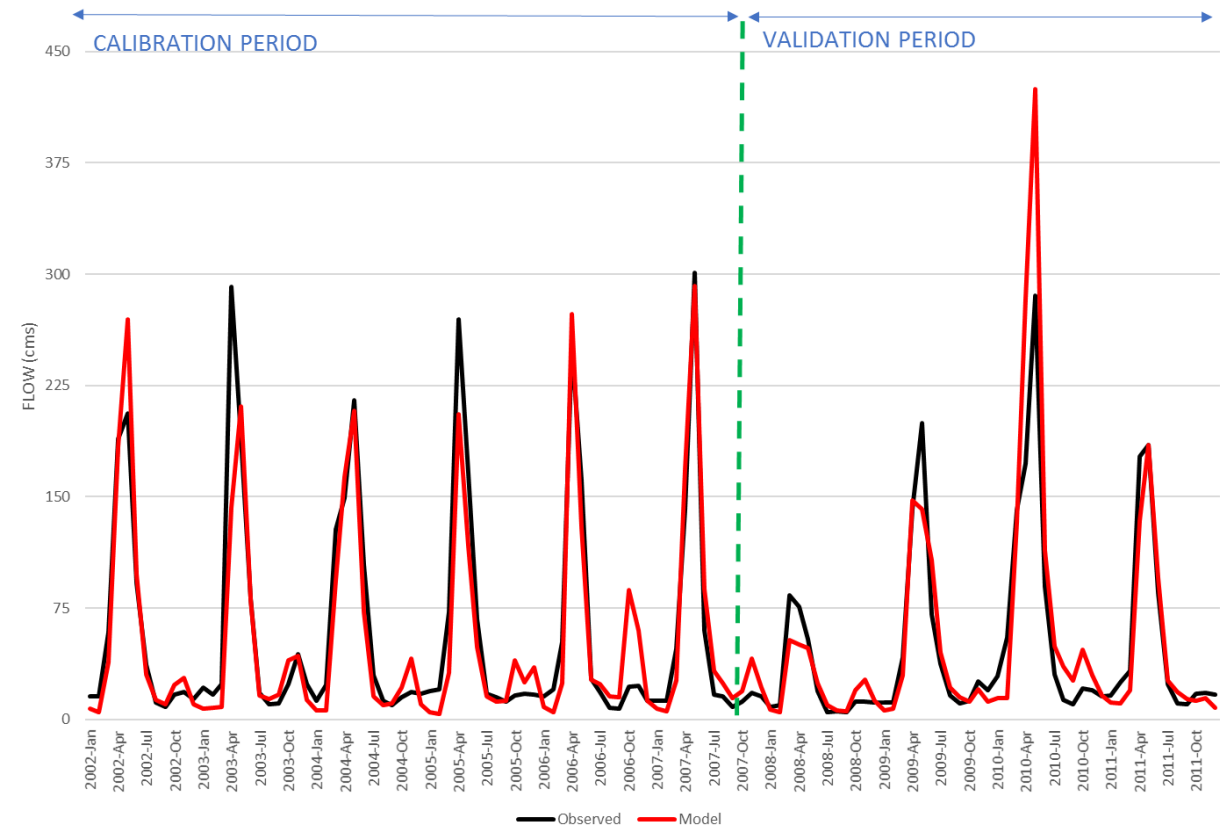
CAL-DAILY

VAL-DAILY

Q-NSE	R <sup>2</sup>
0.73	0.74

Q-NSE	R <sup>2</sup>
0.67	0.76

MURAT MONTHLY HYDROGRAPH



CAL-MONTHLY

VAL-MONTHLY

Q-NSE	R <sup>2</sup>
0.83	0.87

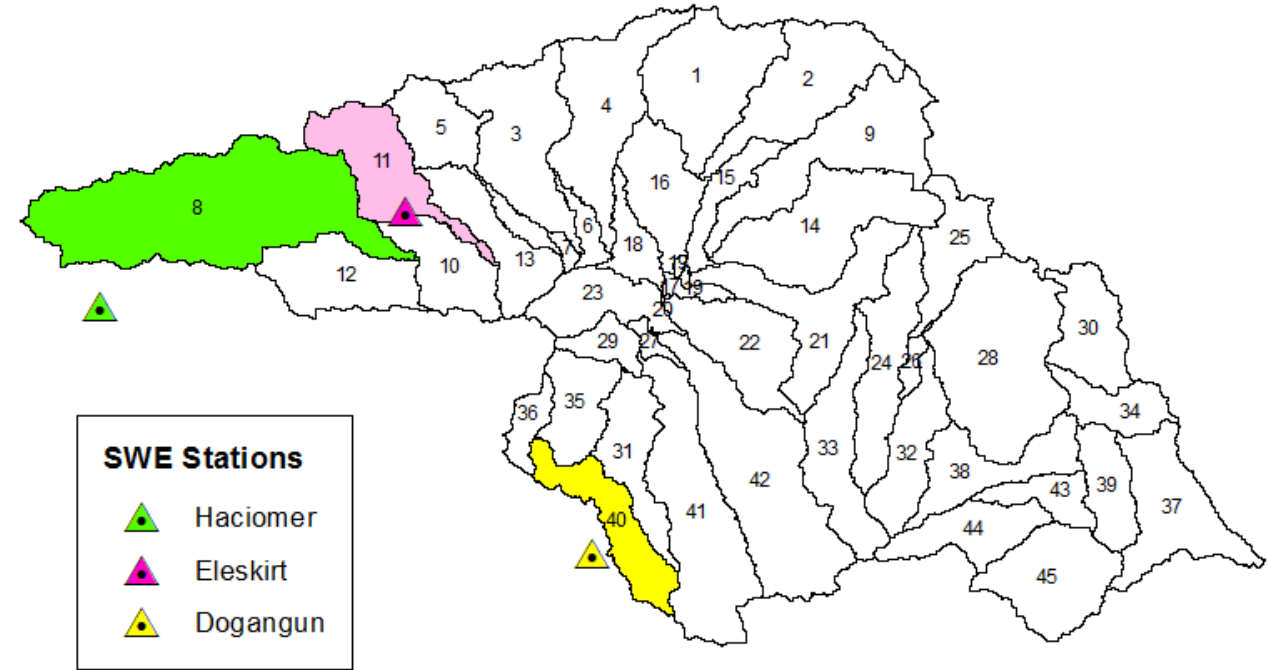
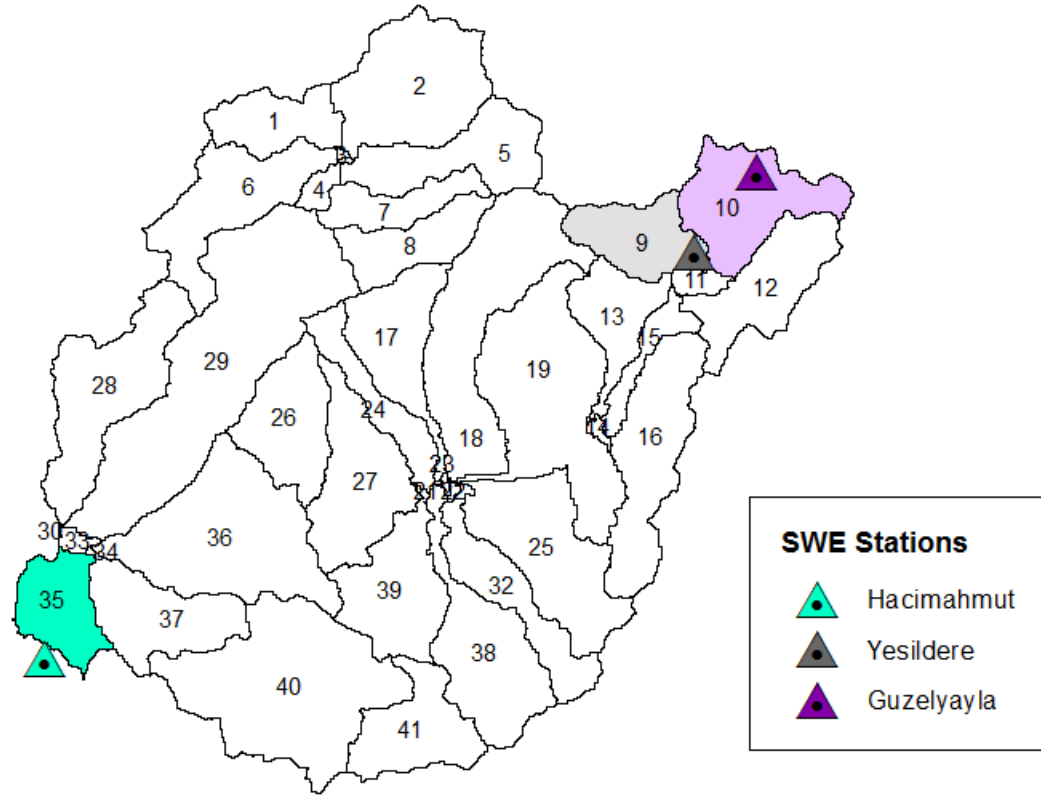
Q-NSE	R <sup>2</sup>
0.76	0.86



NSE: NASH-SUTCLIFFE EFFICIENCY

R<sup>2</sup>: COEFF. OF DETERMINATION

# Snow Stations

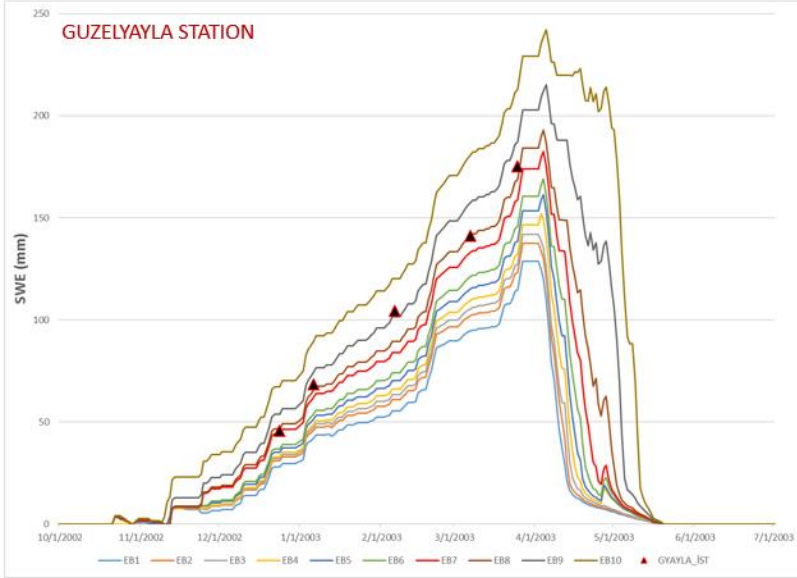
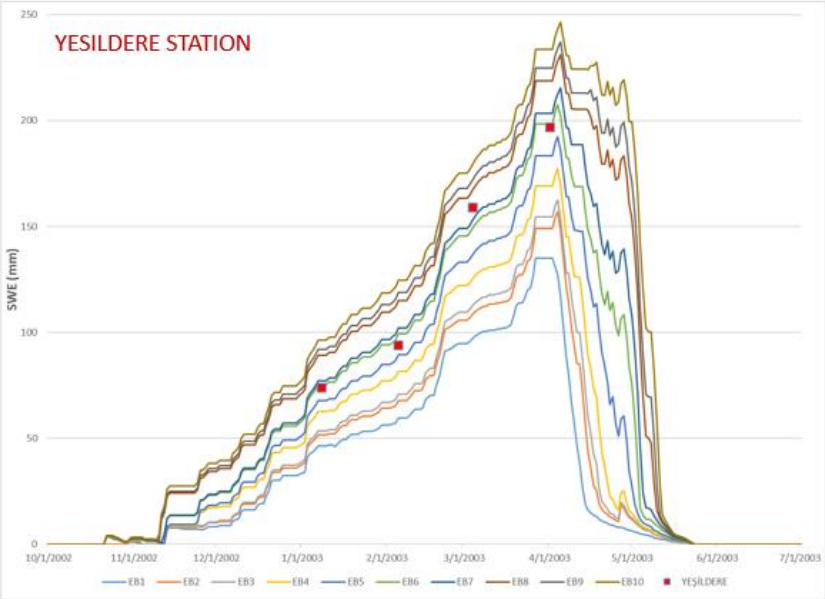
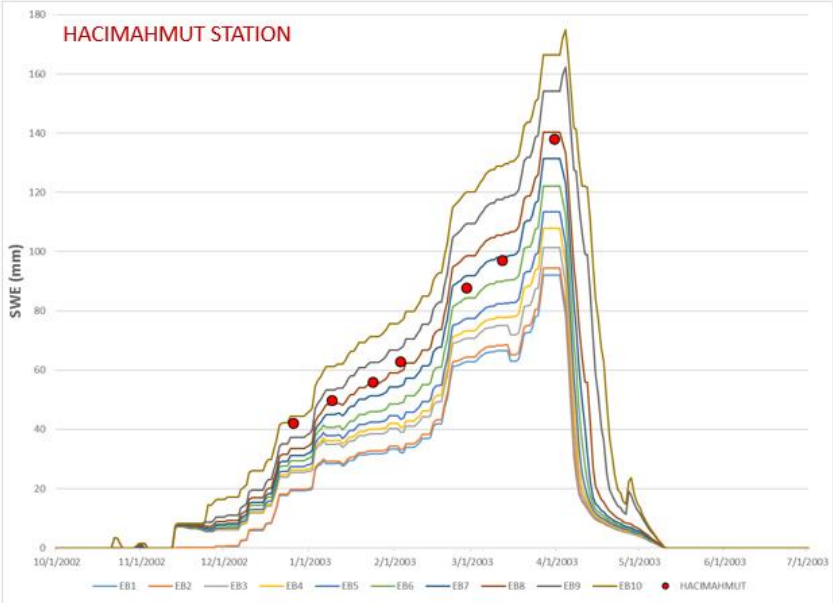


Station Name	Elevation (m)	Location	
Hacimahmut	1945	SUB 35	BAND 6
Yesildere	1935	SUB 9	BAND 1
Guzelyayla	2070	SUB 10	BAND 7

Station Name	Elevation (m)	Location	
Haciomer	1865	SUB 8	BAND 1
Eleskirt	1780	SUB 11	BAND 4
Dogangun	1660	SUB 40	BAND 1



# Snow Validation



TREND IS MATCHING

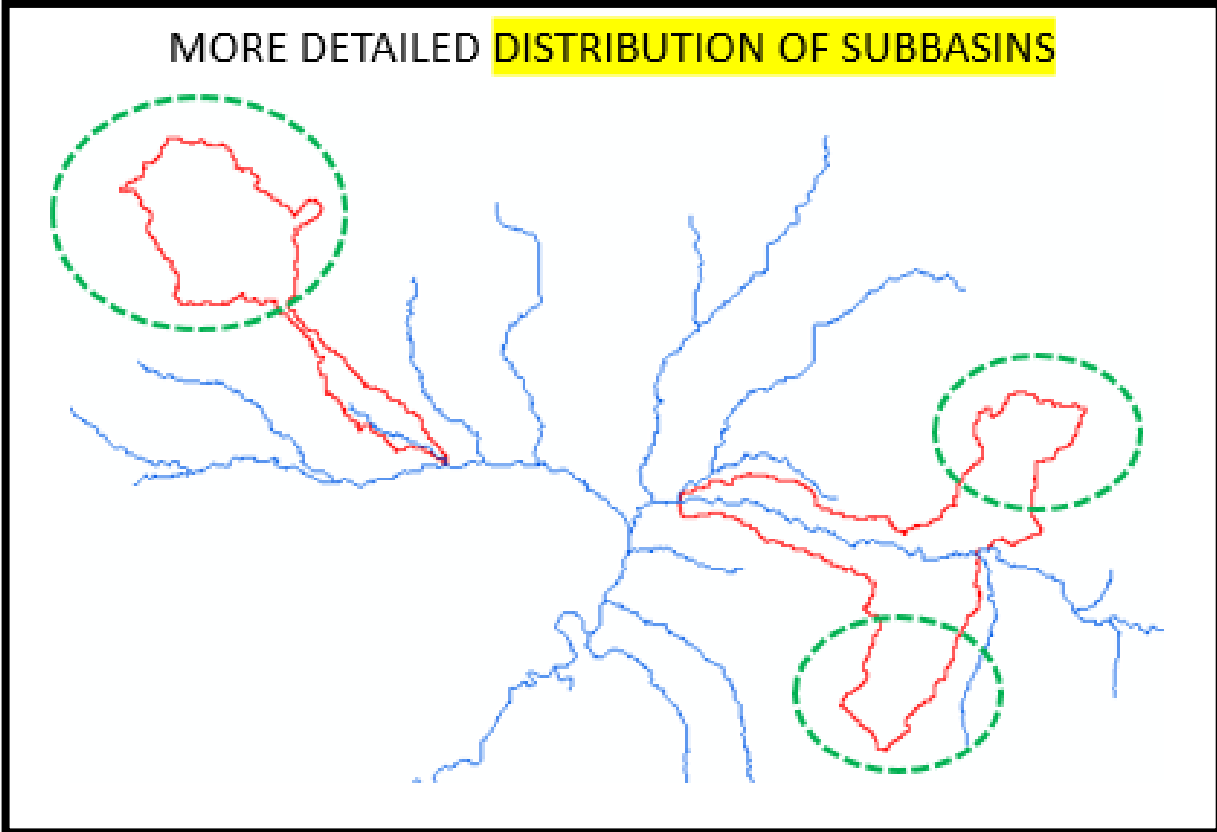
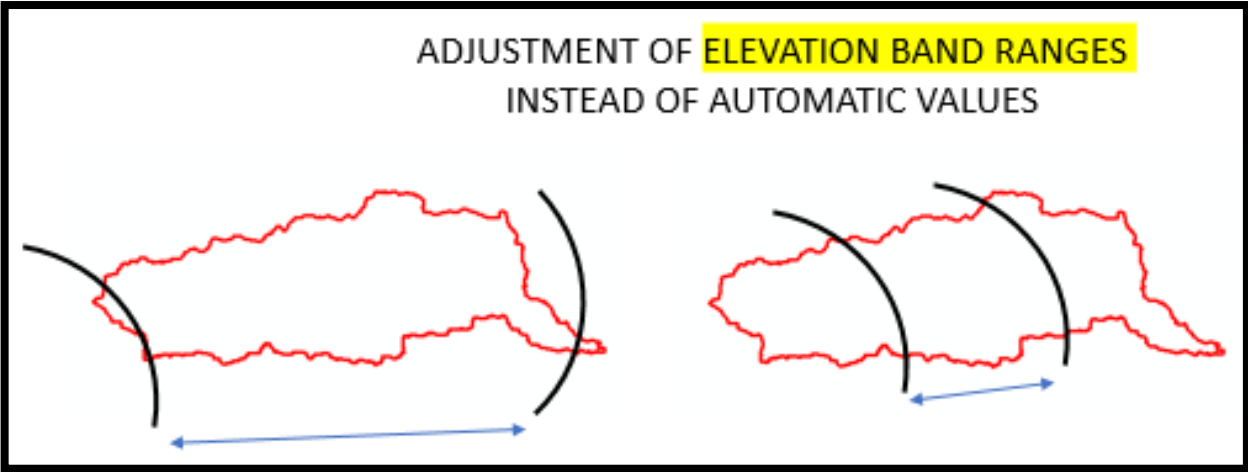
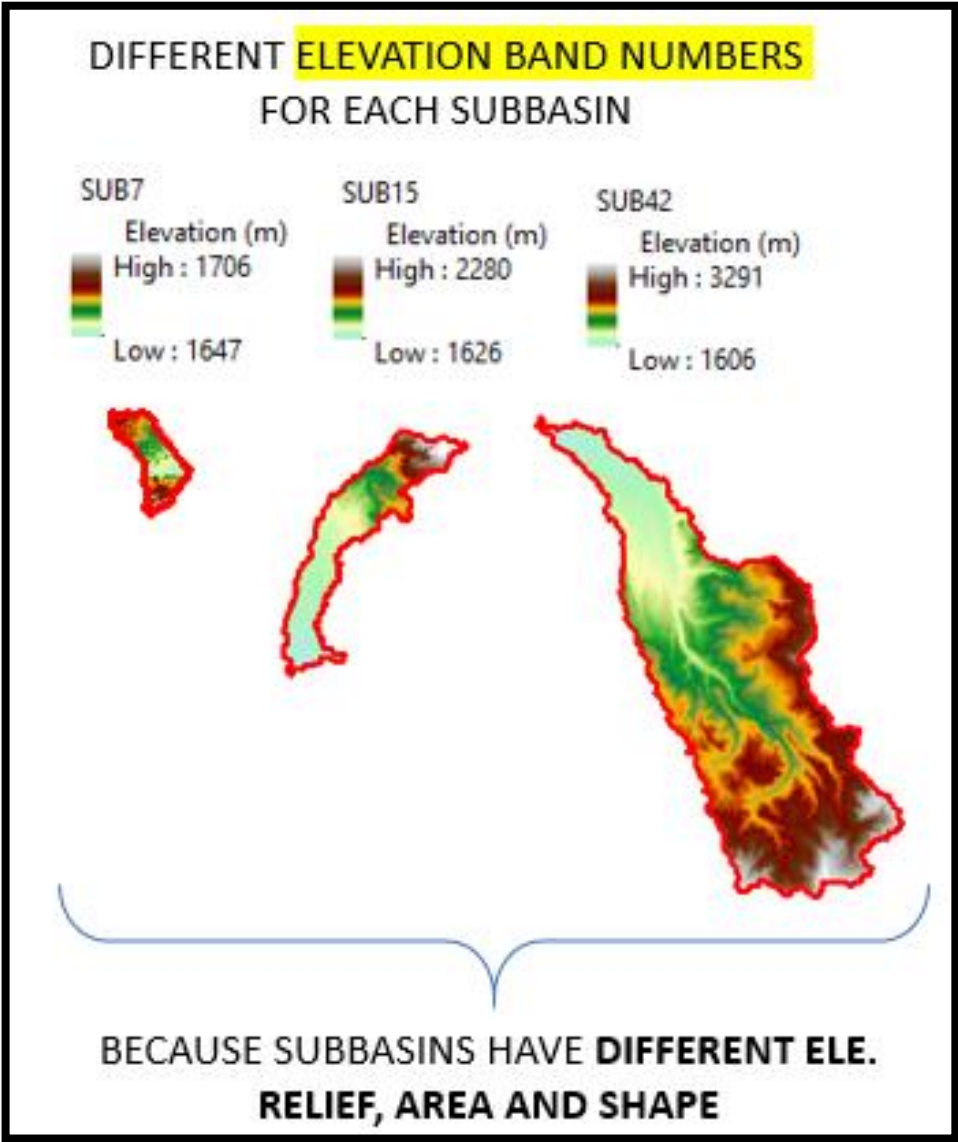
# CONCLUSIONS

- SWAT was used for mountainous and snow-fed basins in Turkey.
- Before the model calibration, snow parameters were fitted with two methods that utilized with MODIS.
- Auto-calibration procedure was applied according to flow data and successful results were obtained.
- Calibrated model was validated for flow data and snow validation was done using the ground snow station data.



Models are ready for future studies!

# RECOMMENDATIONS



*Thank you for your attention.*

Contact: [ismailbilalpeker@eskisehir.edu.tr](mailto:ismailbilalpeker@eskisehir.edu.tr)



Eskisehir Technical University, Turkey

Department of Civil Engineering – Hydraulics Division