

# Applying Climate Reanalysis Data (CFSR) to Force Watershed Models in the Ethiopian Highlands

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# Background

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- Modeling landscape processes requires detailed climatic and geographic datasets
  - Meteorological stations in most parts of Africa are very sparse and most watersheds are un-gauged
  - Climate records are incomplete; high percentage of missing data and relevant variables
  - Poor data accessibility due to lack of data sharing agreement among trans-boundary riparian countries)
- **High-resolution global reanalysis data for SWAT modeling applications in Africa**

# Study Area

Blue Nile: 176,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Tana Basin)  
200,000 km<sup>2</sup> (all Blue Nile)

Altitude range: 500 masl @ Sudan border  
1,800 masl @ Lake Tana

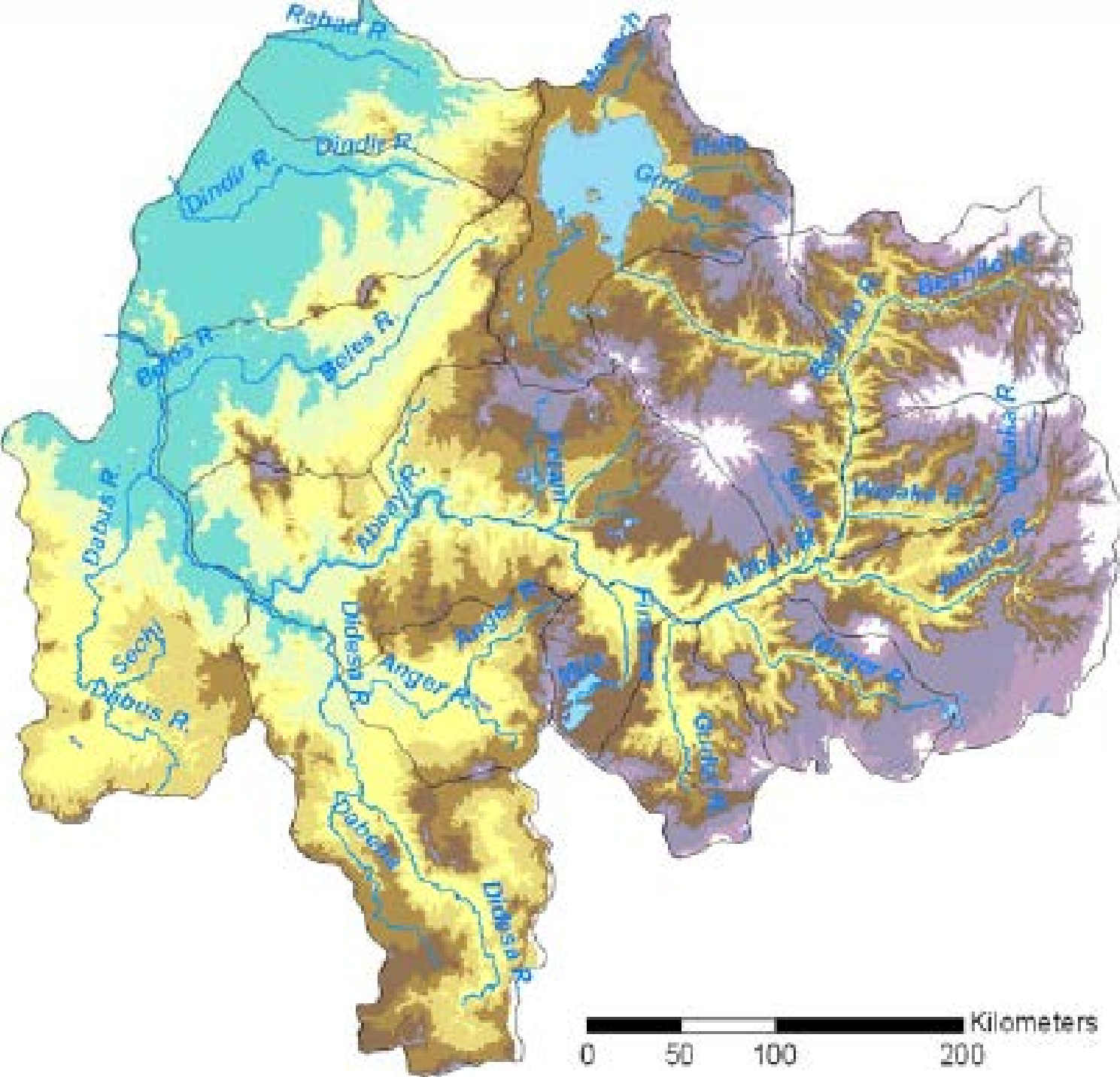
Annual Rainfall: 780-2,200mm  
70% June-September

Tmax: 10-38°C


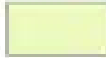

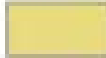
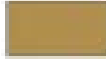
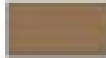
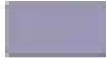
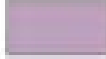

PET: 1,000 – 2,280mm

Flow: 1,410 - 1964 m<sup>3</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> border  
(44.5 - 61.9B m<sup>3</sup>)  
80% July-October

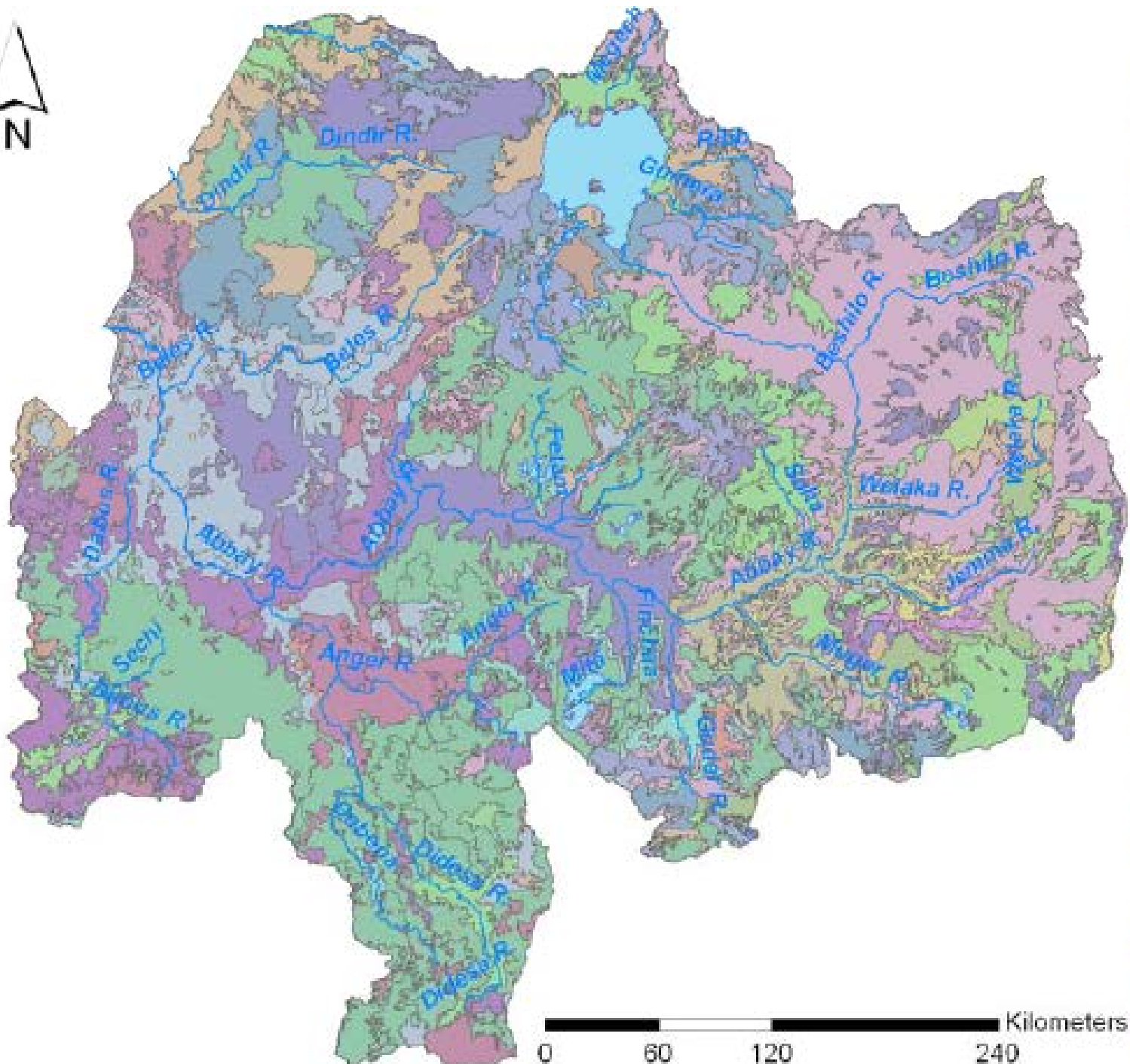
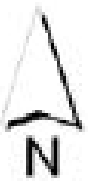




**Elevation  
(Meters)**

	498 - 900
	900 - 1,200
	1,200 - 1,500
	1,500 - 1,800
	1,800 - 2,100
	2,100 - 2,400
	2,400 - 2,700
	2,700 - 3,000
	3,000 - 4,261

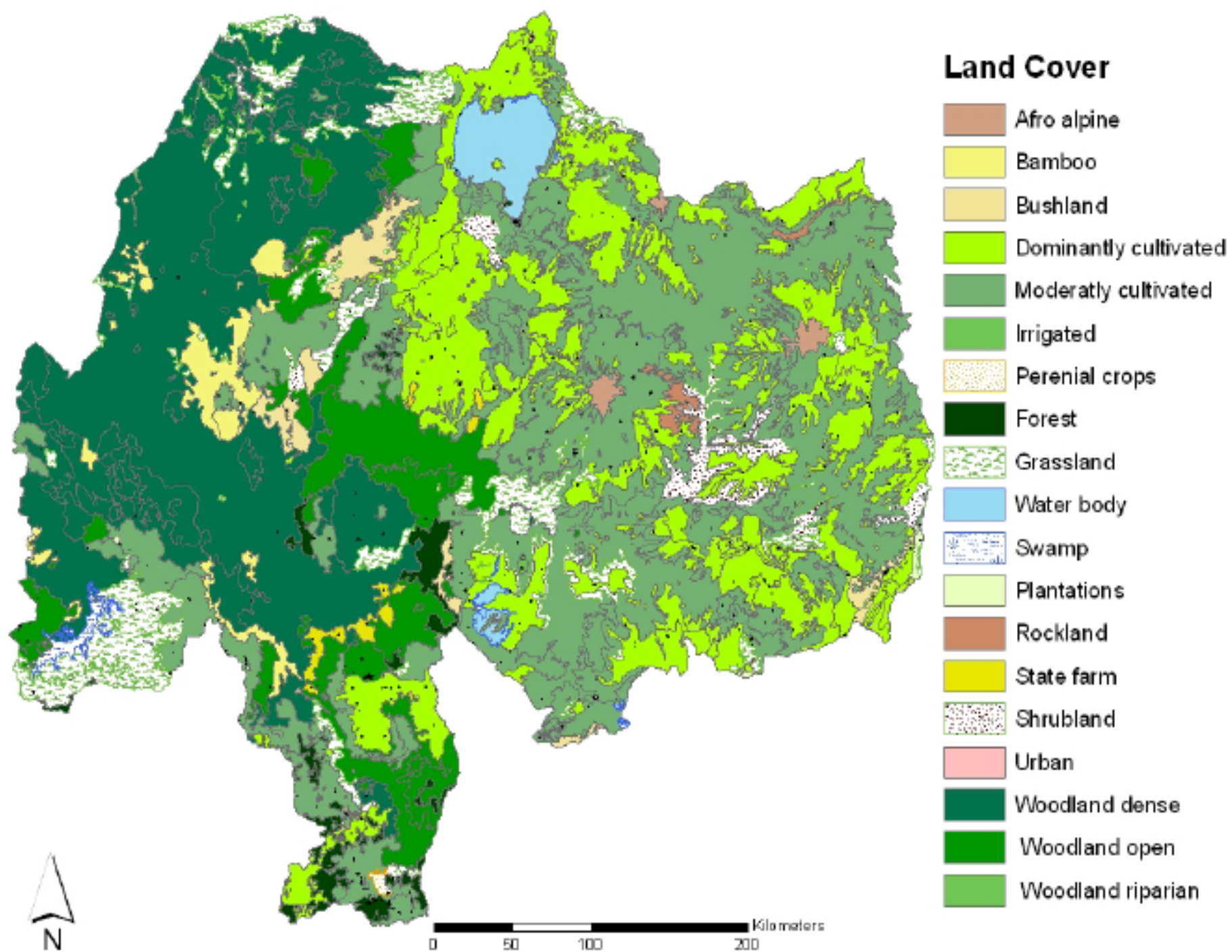




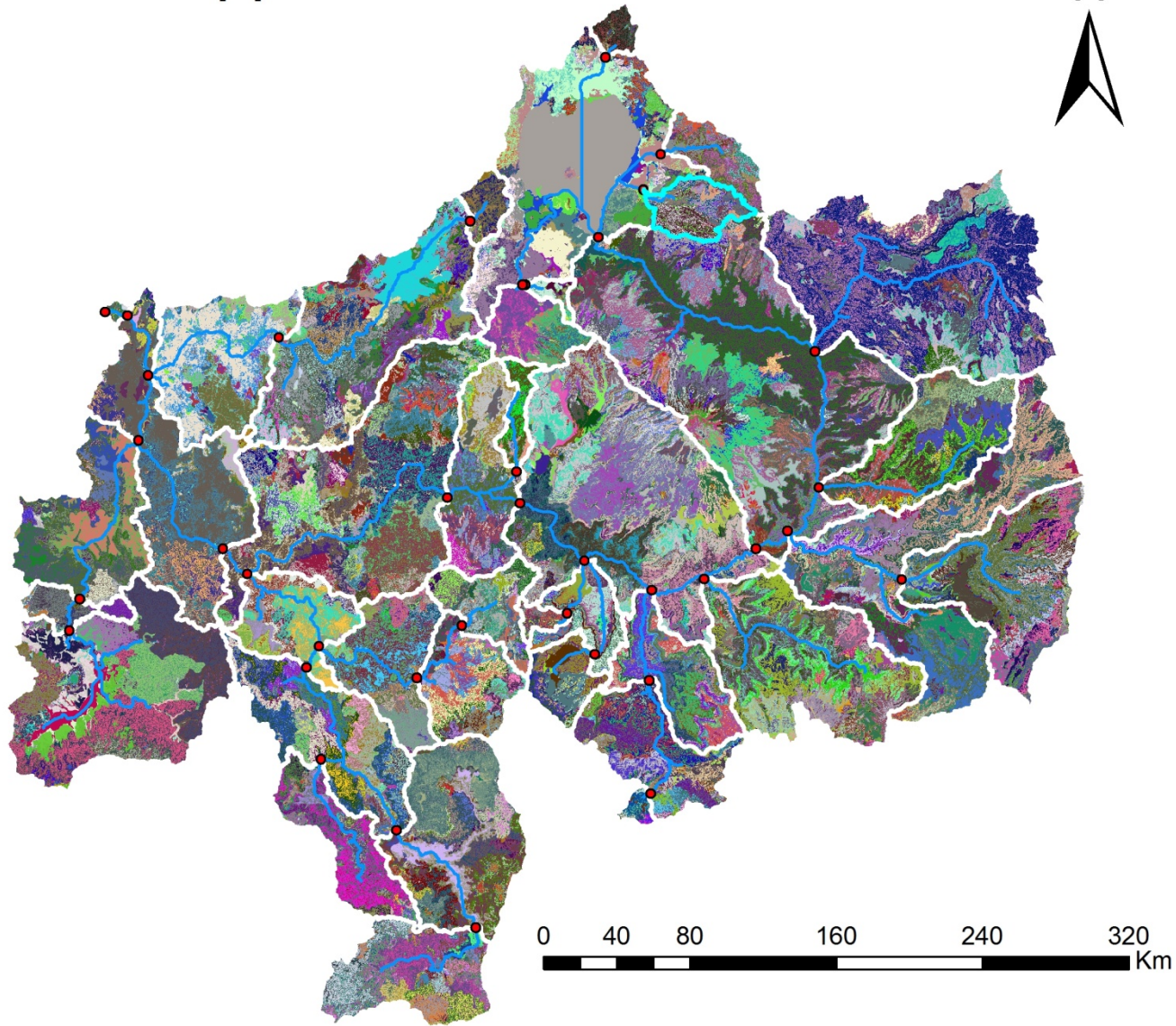
### Major Soils

-  Calcic Vertisols
-  Cambic Arenosols
-  Chromic Luvisols
-  Dystric Cambisols
-  Dystric Leptosols
-  Eutric Cambisols
-  Eutric Fluvisols
-  Eutric Leptosols
-  Eutric Regosols
-  Eutric Vertisols
-  Haplic Nitisols
-  Haplic Acrisols
-  Haplic Alisols
-  Haplic Arenosols
-  Haplic Luvisols
-  Haplic Nitisols
-  Haplic Phaeozems
-  Lithic Leptosols
-  Marsh
-  Rendzic Leptosols
-  Rhodic Nitisols
-  Urban
-  Vertic Cambisols
-  Water

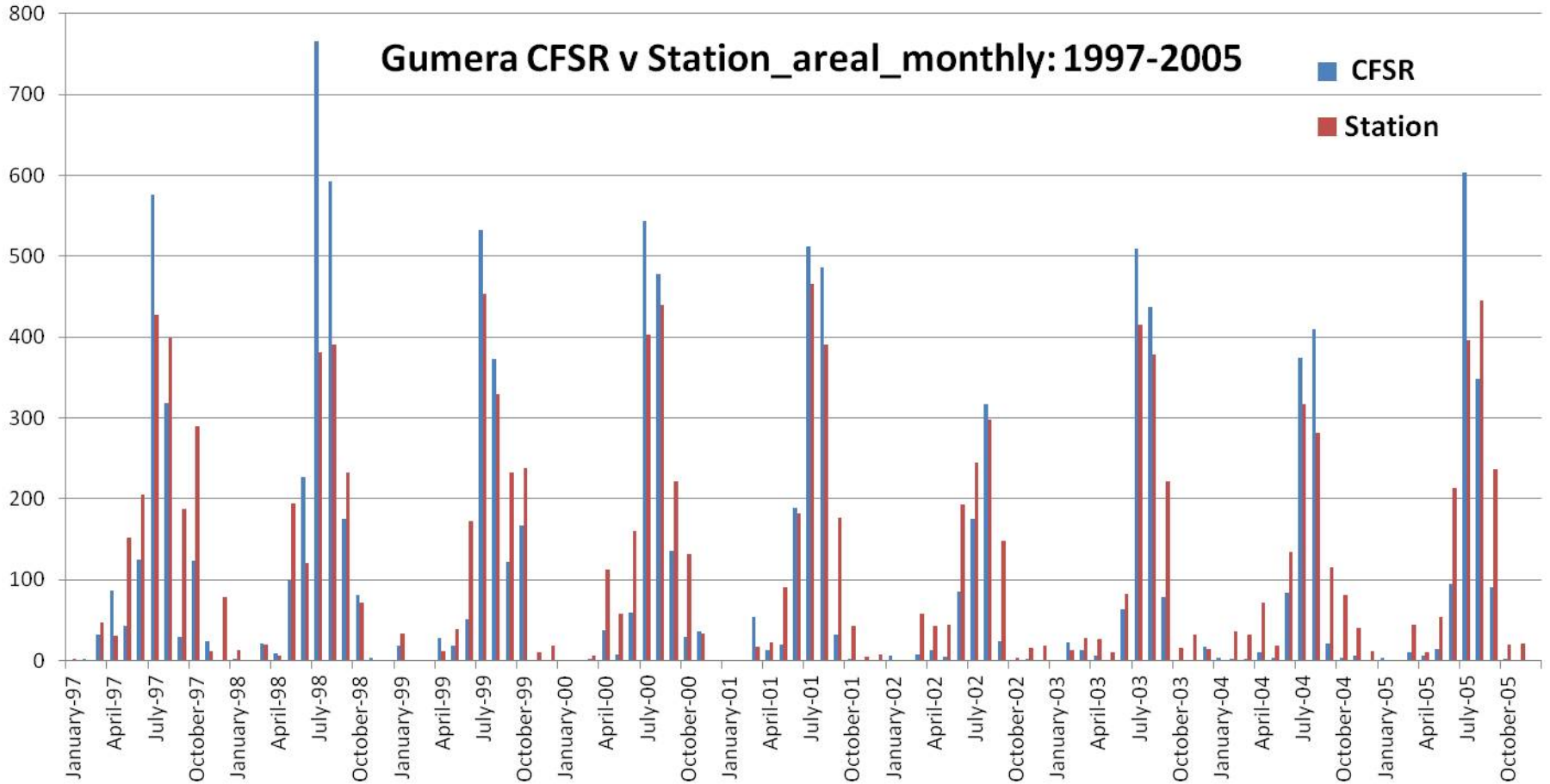




# Upper Blue Nile SWAT



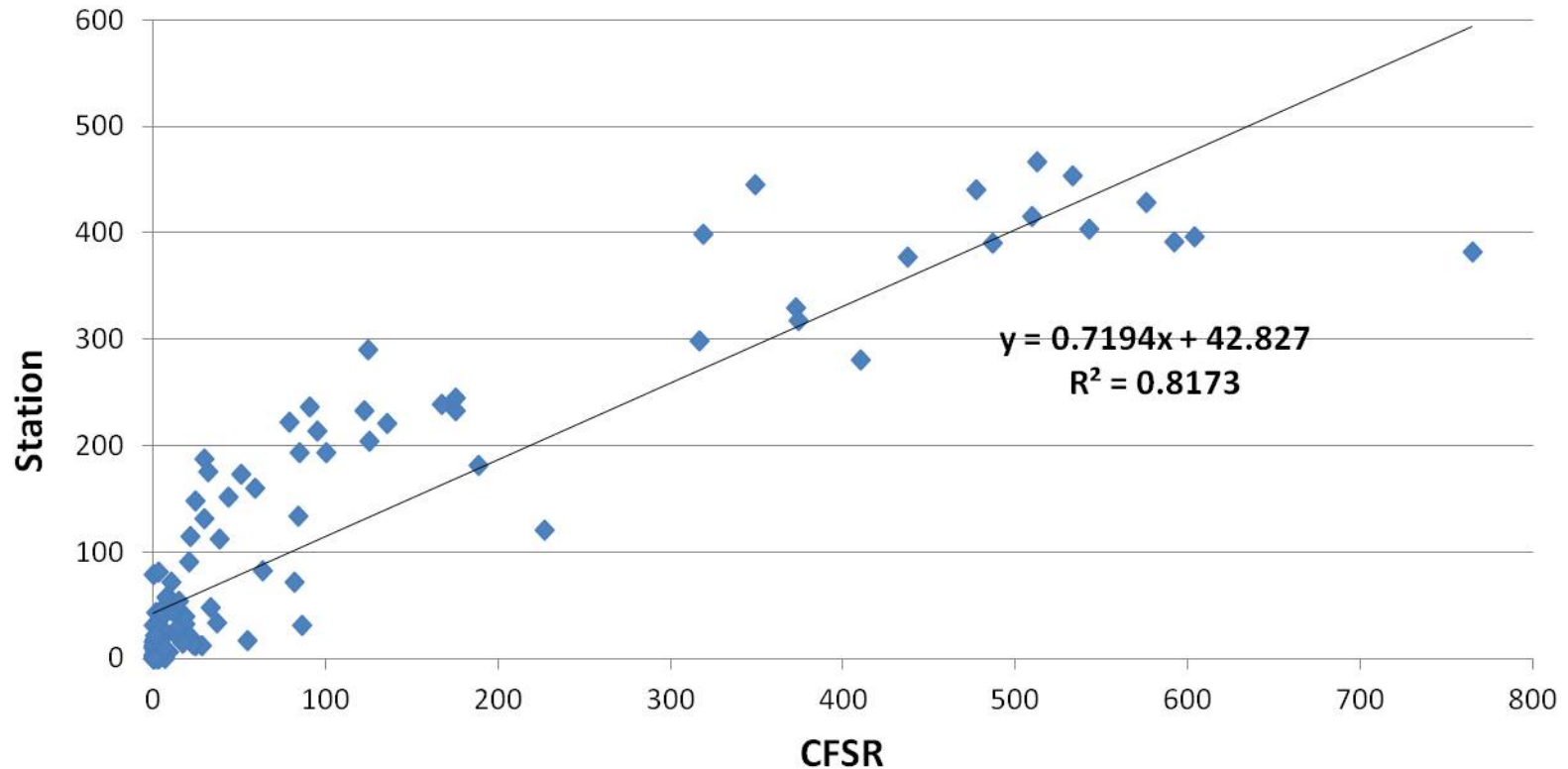
# Gumera: CFSR vs. Gauge Data 1

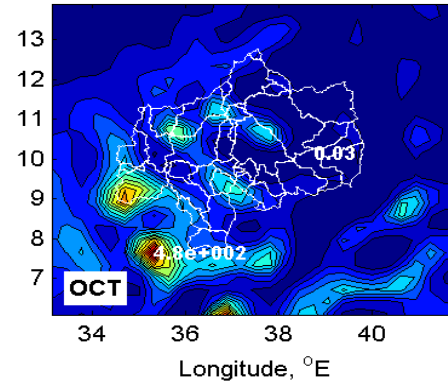
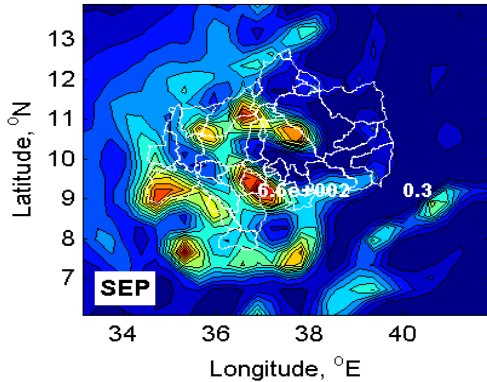
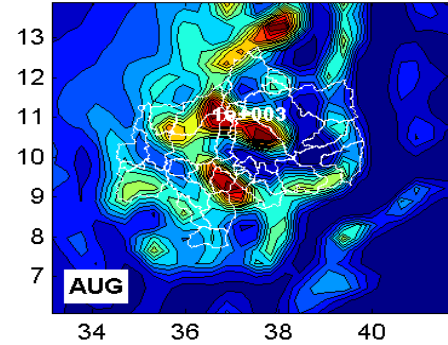
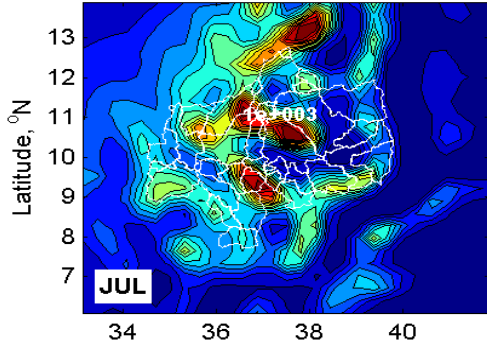
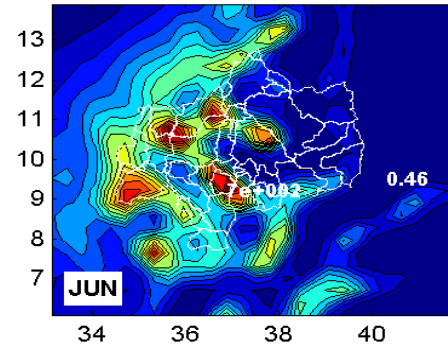
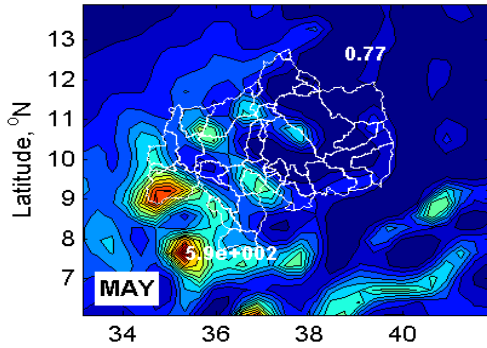




# Gumera: CFSR vs. Gauge Data 2

Gumera CFSR v Station\_areal\_monthly: 1997-2005





# Applications of CFSR Data

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- Weather generator files for areas with missing and incomplete climate datasets
  - Solar radiation, relative humidity, wind speed
  - Maximum half-hour rainfall
- SWAT weather input files for un-gauged watersheds
- Climate downscaling and bias correction
- Study of large-scale water and energy fluxes

# Maximum Half-hour Rainfall

- **Strict sense simple scaling property:** the probability distribution of maximum rainfall depth is invariant of time scale (Burlando and Rosso, 1996)

$$H_{\lambda D} \approx \lambda^\eta H_D$$

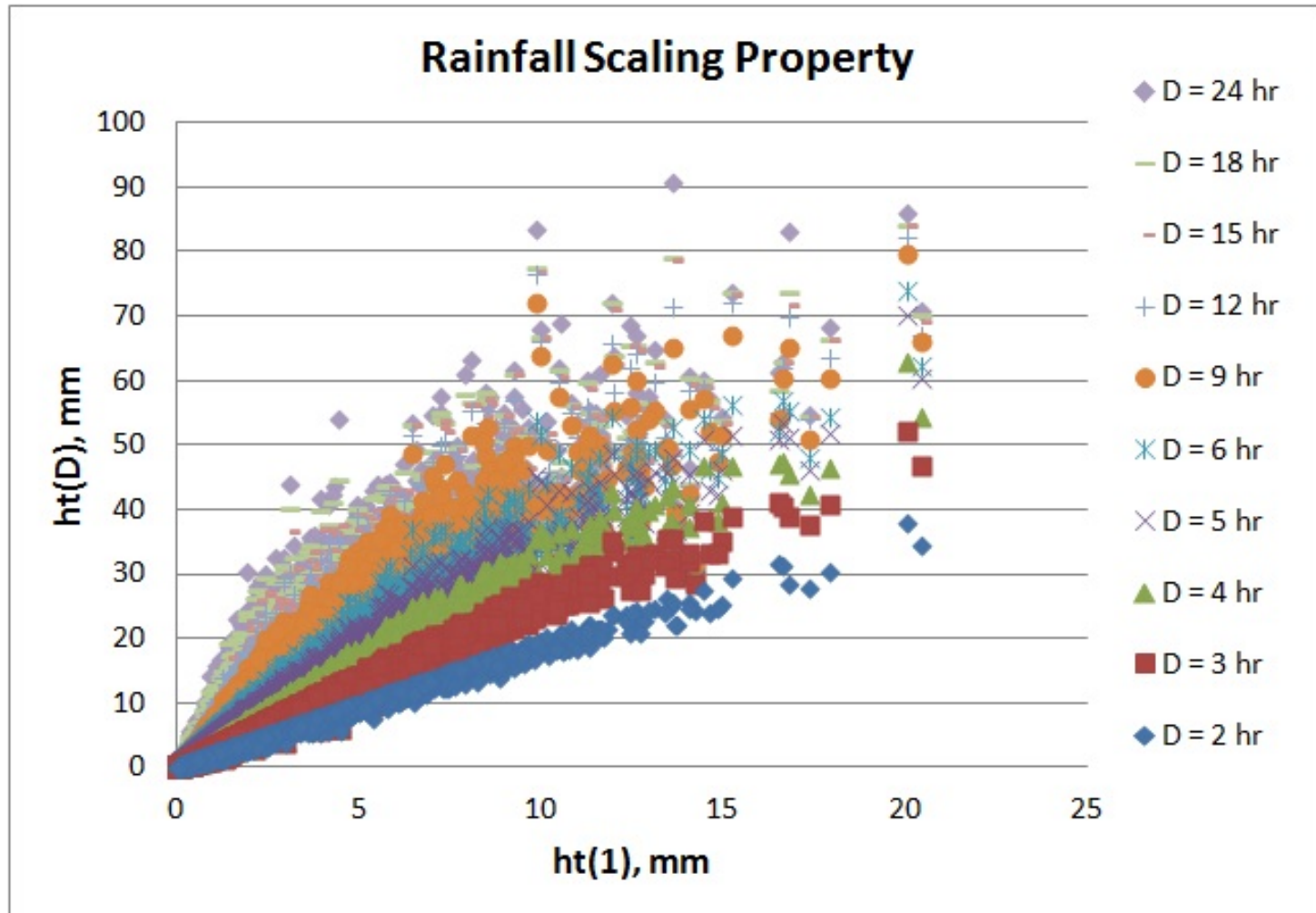
- **Wide sense simple scaling property:** extends the scale-invariant property to quantiles and moments

$$h_t(\lambda D) = \lambda^\eta h_t(D)$$

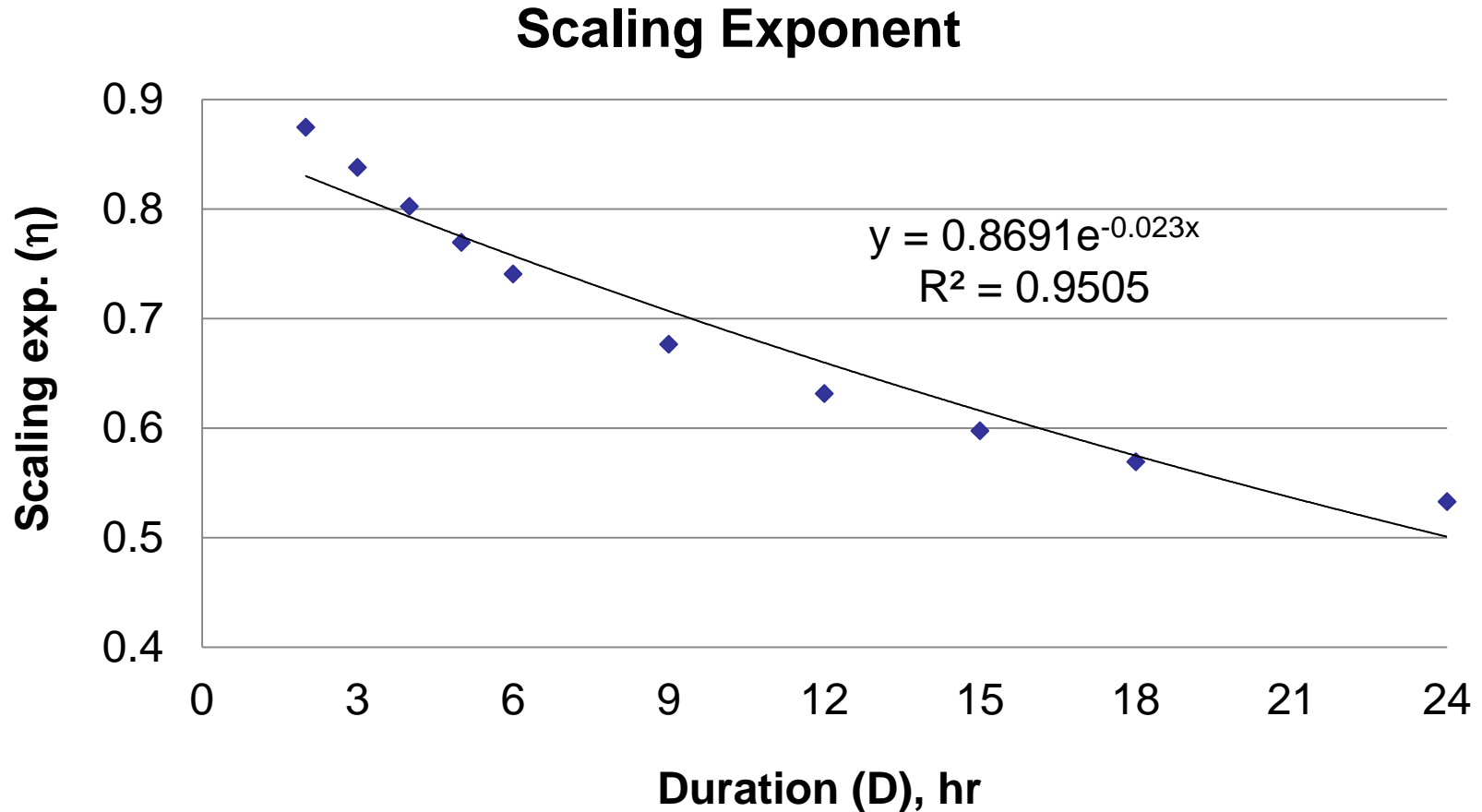
- If the **reference duration is 1hr**, then  $\eta = D$

$$h_t(D) = D^\eta h_t(1)$$

# Maximum Half-hour Rainfall - 2

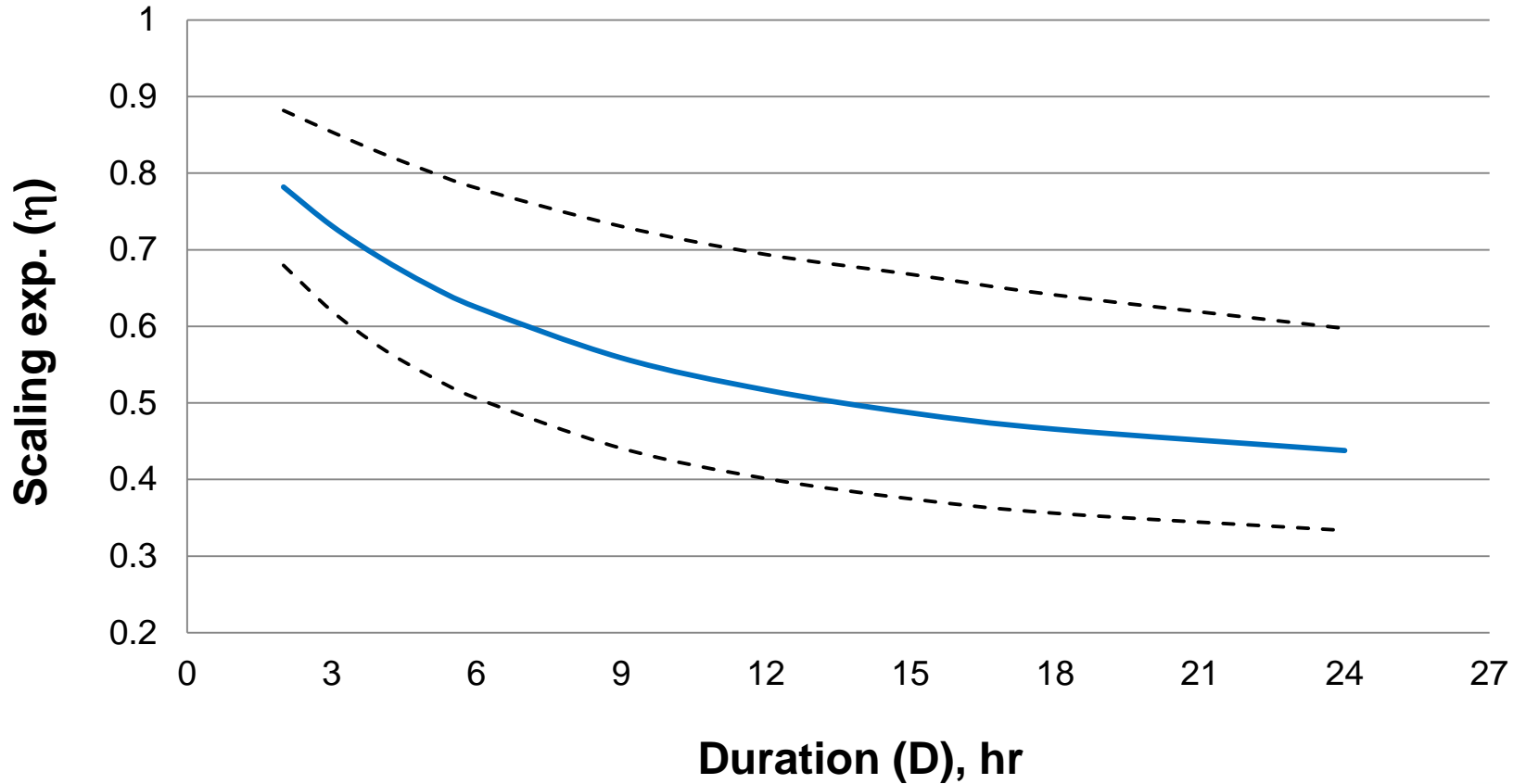


# Maximum Half-hour Rainfall - 3



# Maximum Half-hour Rainfall - 4

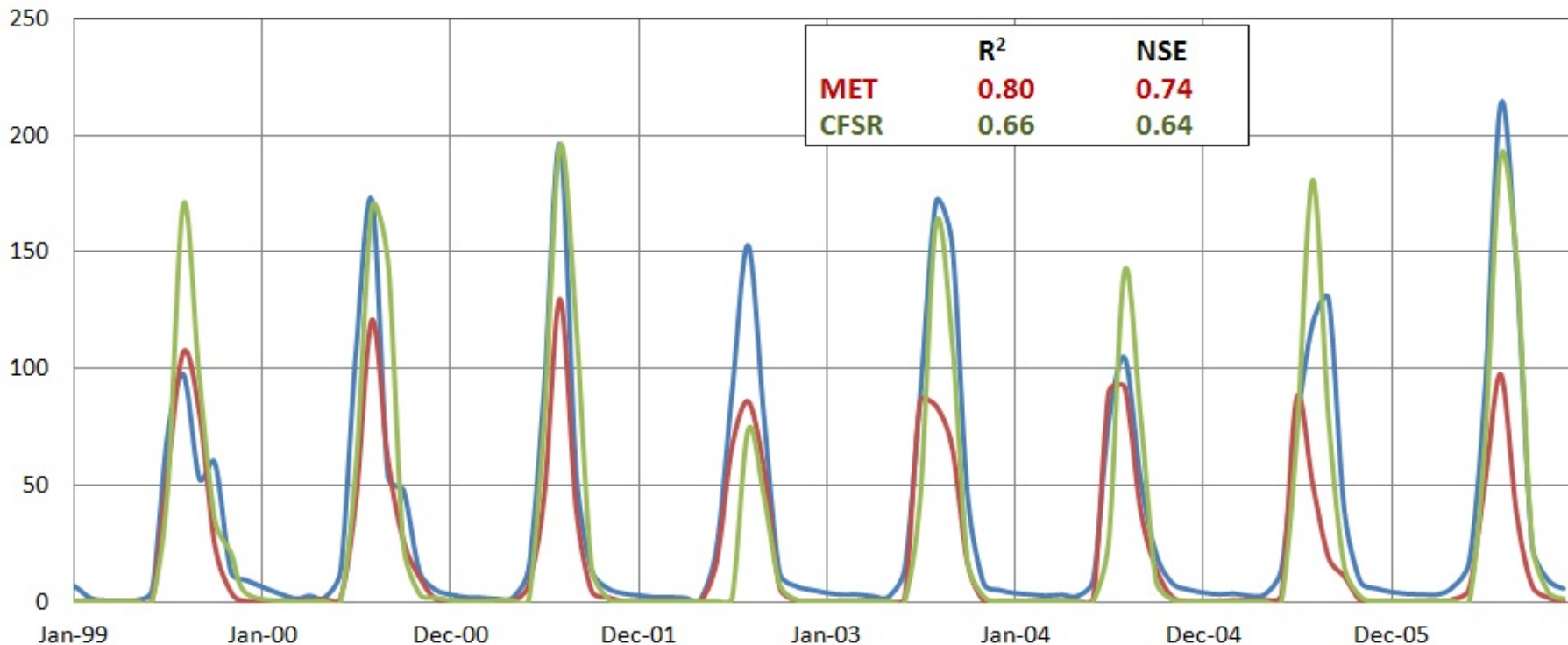
## Scaling Exponent Variability



# CFSR for SWAT Modeling - 1

Gumera Monthly Flow (m<sup>3</sup>/s)

— Obs — MET\_SWAT — CFSR\_SWAT

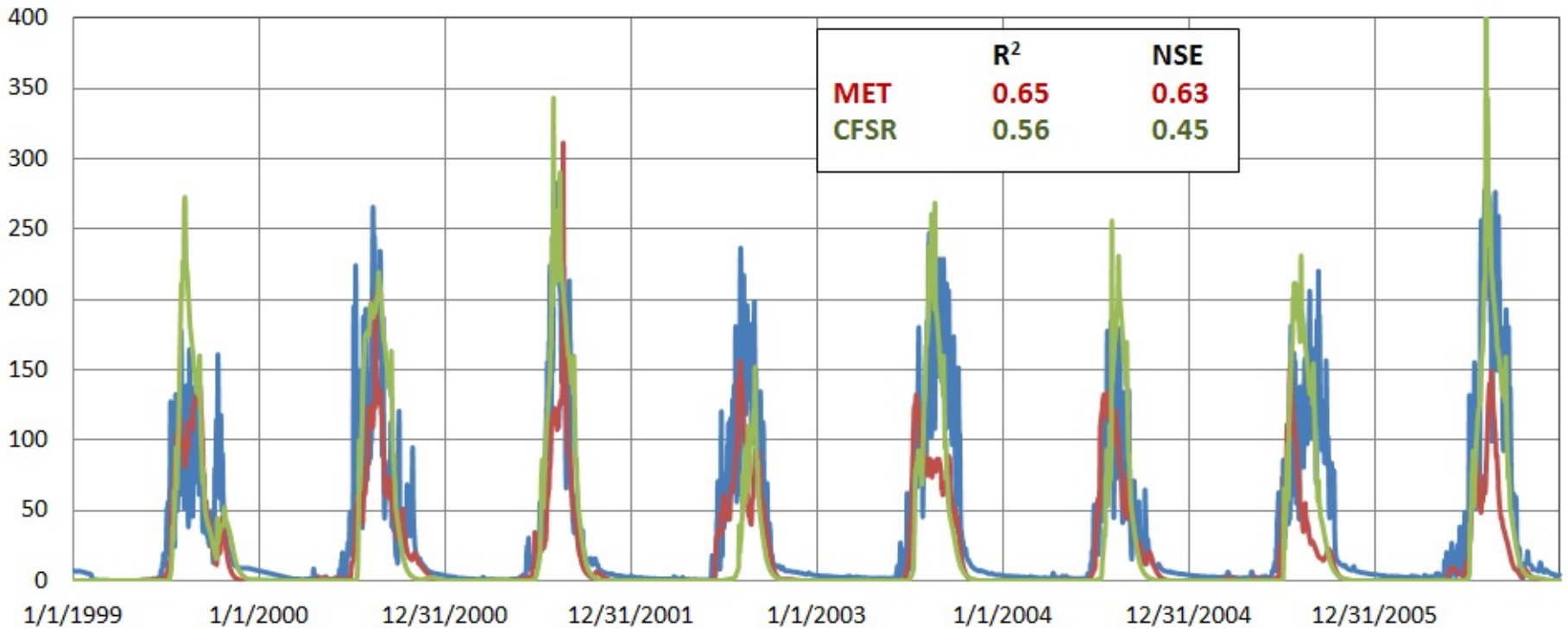




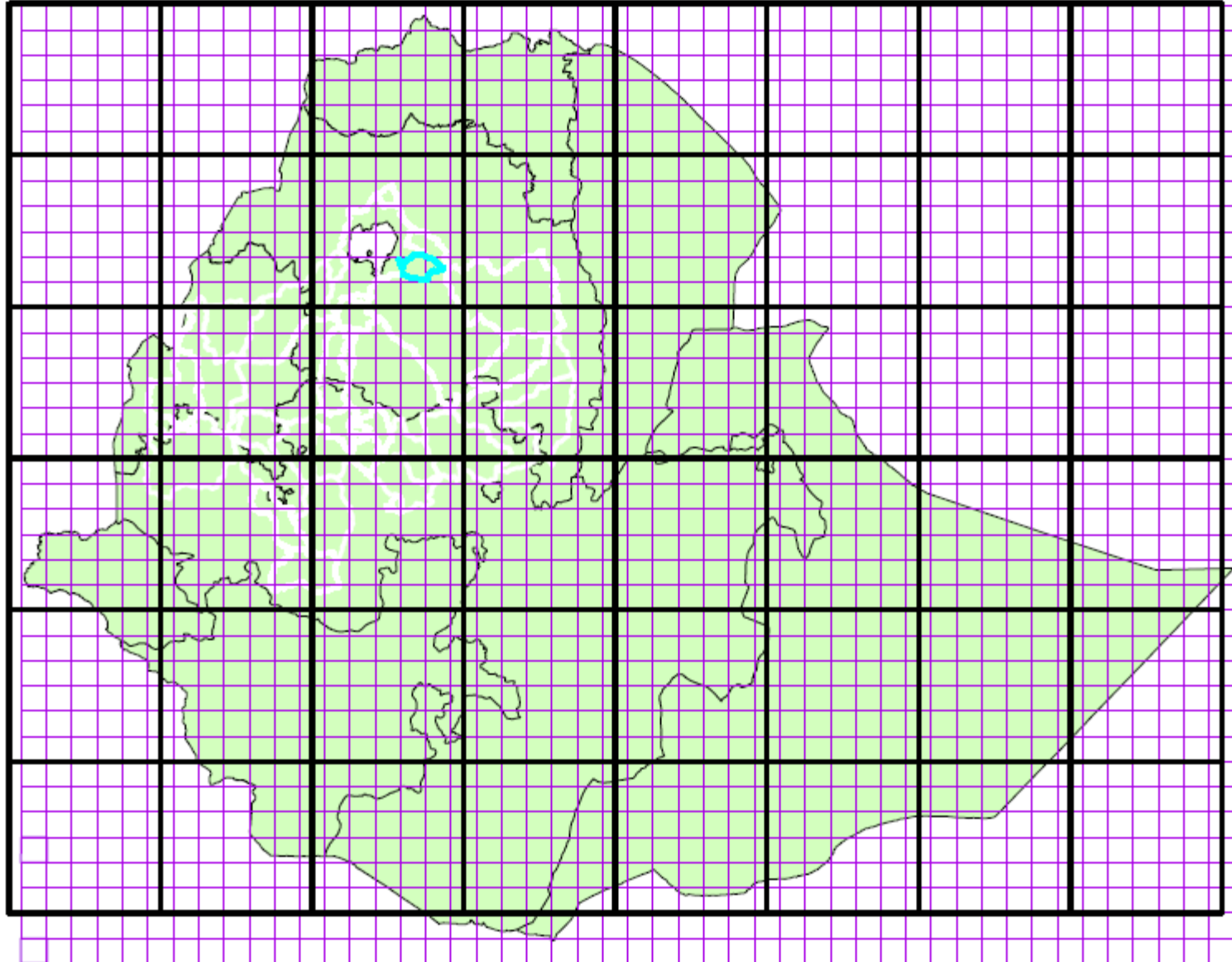
# CFSR for SWAT Modeling - 2

**Gumera Daily Flow (m<sup>3</sup>/s)**

— Obs — MET\_SWAT — CFSR\_SWAT



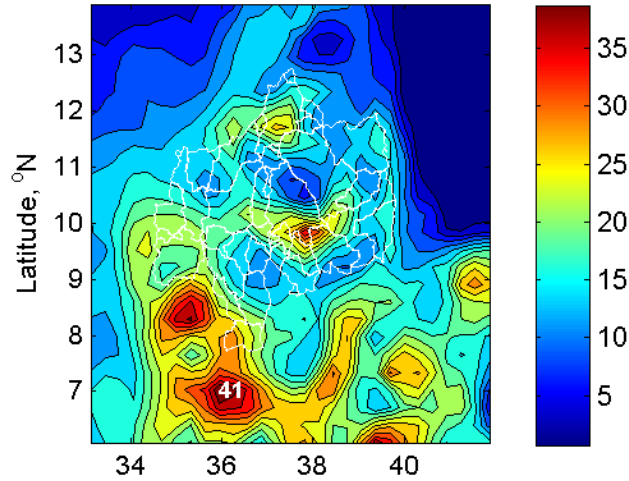
# CFSR for Spatial Downscaling



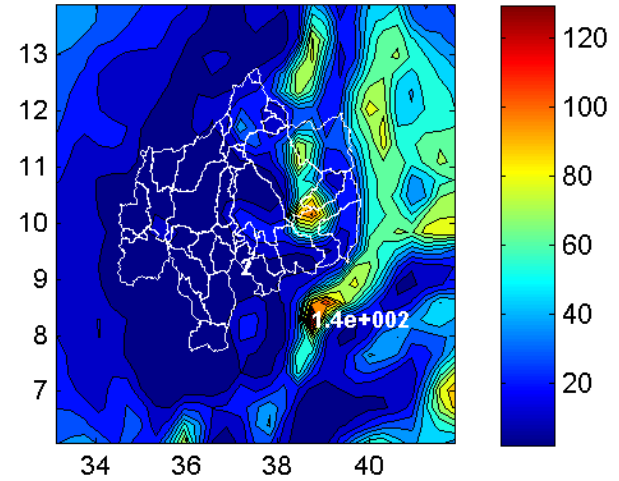
# CFSR for Water Fluxes Study

(percentage of water fluxes relative to rainfall in wet season)

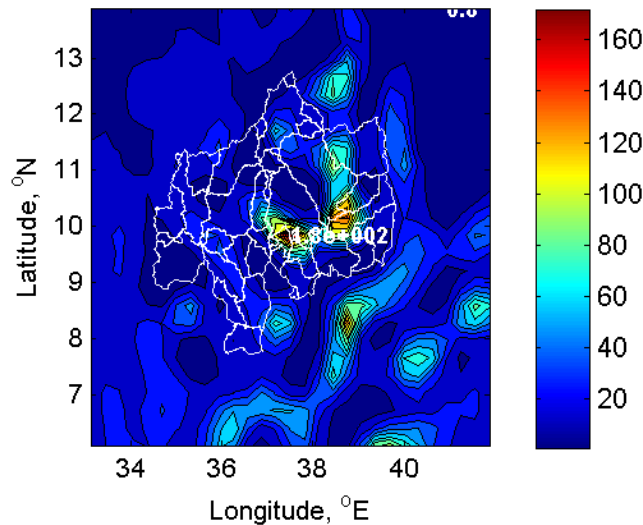
a) Canopy Evap



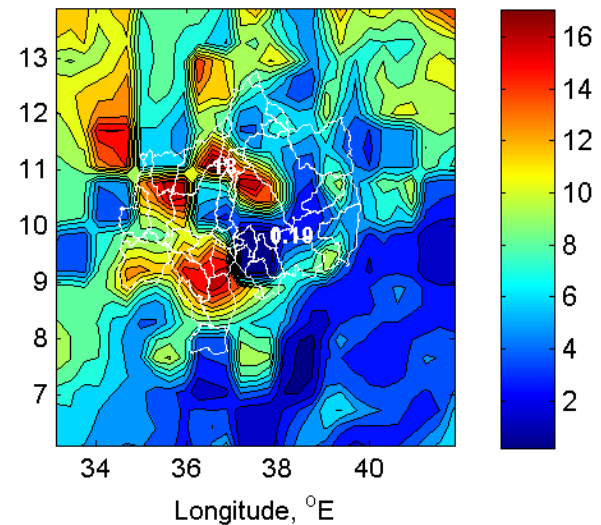
c) Bare Soil Evap



b) Transpiration



d) Surface Runoff



# Conclusions

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- High resolution reanalysis data had great potential to improve modeling of landscape processes
- CFSR data has comparable performance as gauged climate data for SWAT modeling in Ethiopian highlands
- The spatial pattern of CFSR data is useful for spatial downscaling and bias correction of GCM data
- The water fluxes of the CFSR data could be to study large-scale fluxes without doing cumbersome data assimilation

Thank You!