

# ADVANCING SEASONAL HYDROLOGICAL PREDICTION IN THE UPPER TAGUS BASIN (CENTRAL SPAIN) THROUGH GLOBAL CLIMATE MODEL INTEGRATION AND MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES

International Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Conference 8-12 July 2024  
National School of Water and Environmental Engineering, Strasbourg University, France.

Nerea Bilbao-Barrenetxea, Patricia Jimeno-Sáez, Sara Asadi, Gerardo Castellanos-Osorio, Adrián López-Ballesteros, Javier Senent-Aparicio

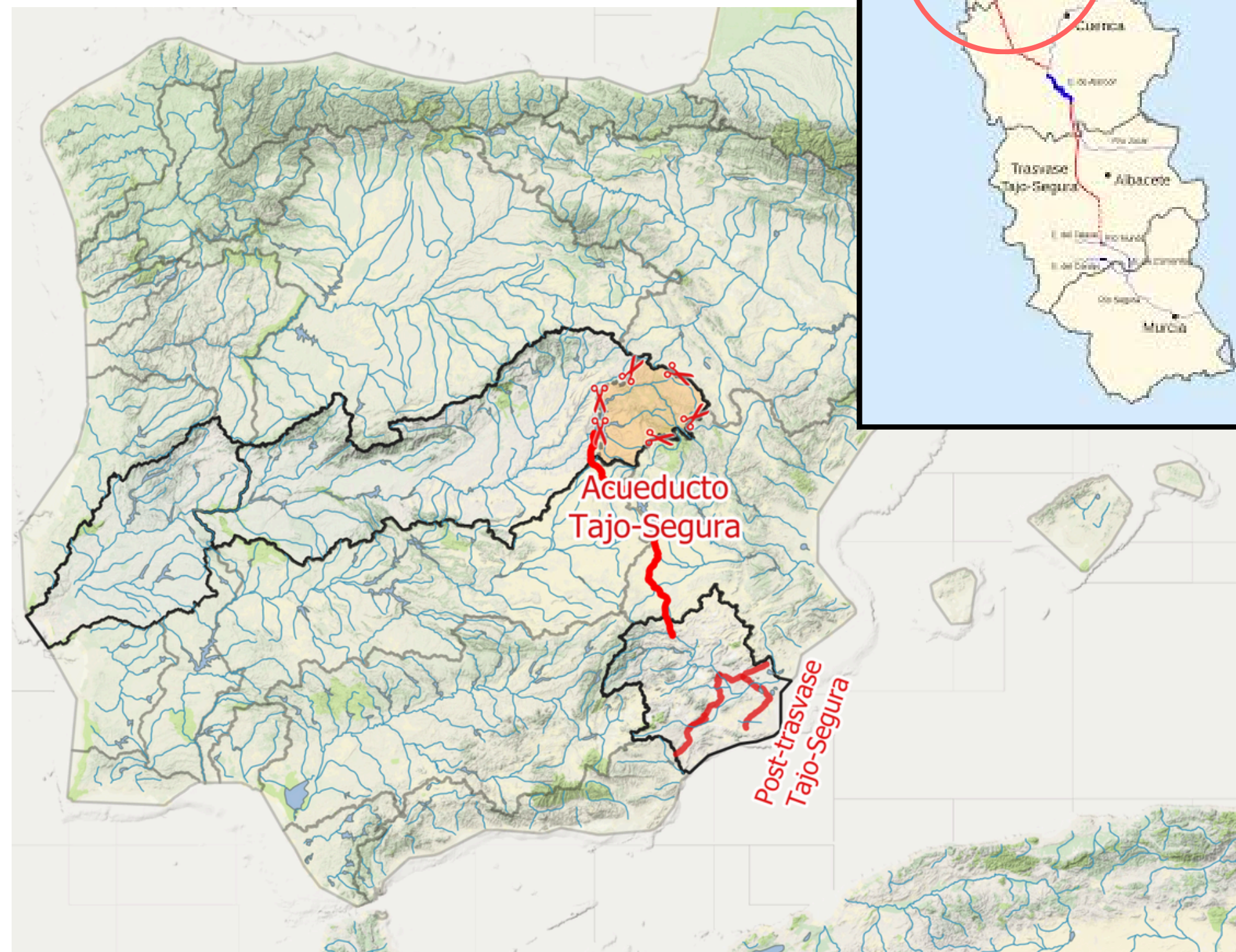




# BACKGROUND

- Water Scarcity
- Tagus-Segura Water Transfer (TSWT)
- Need for reliable forecasts:

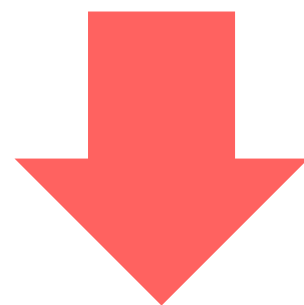
ENTREPEÑAS  
BUENDÍA





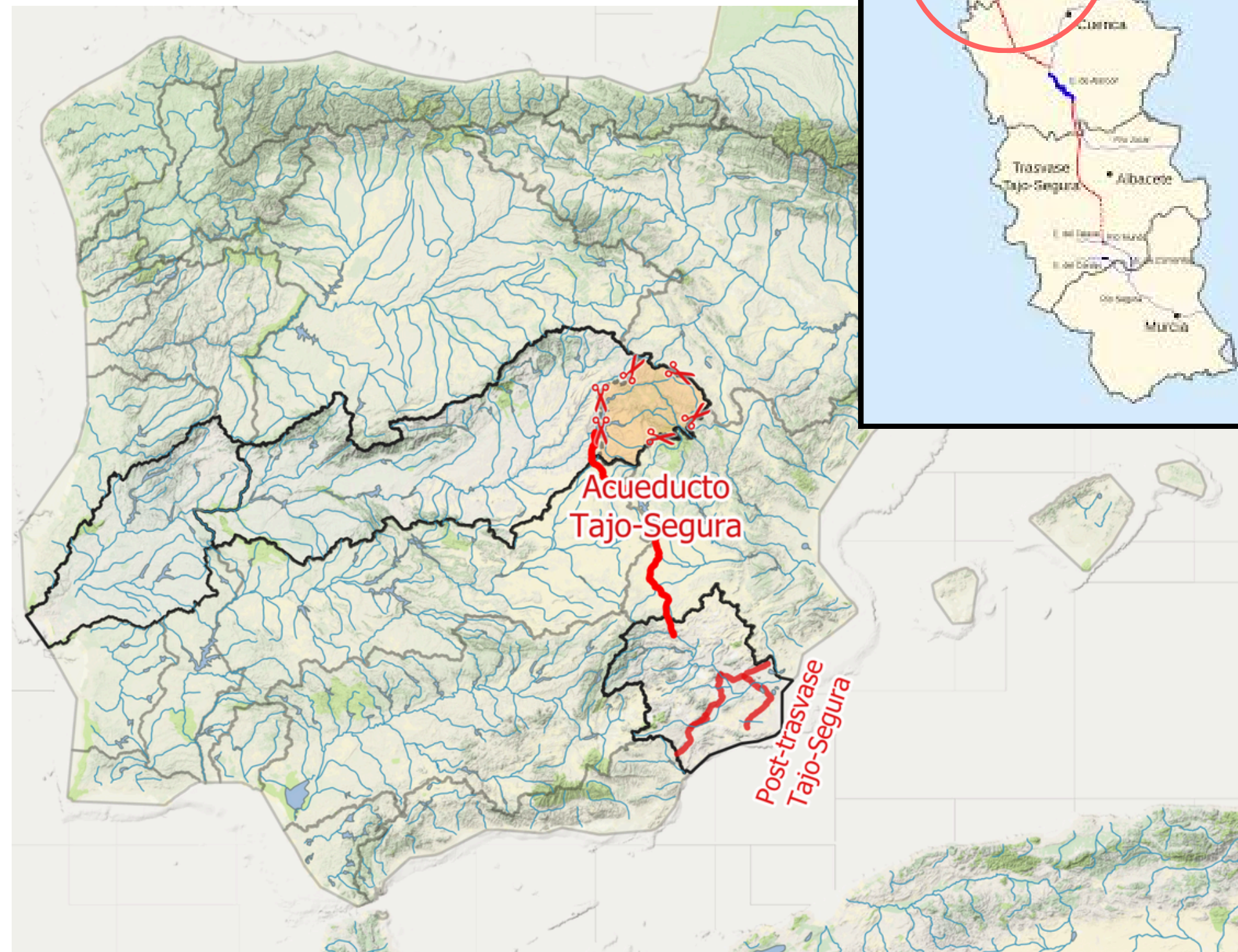
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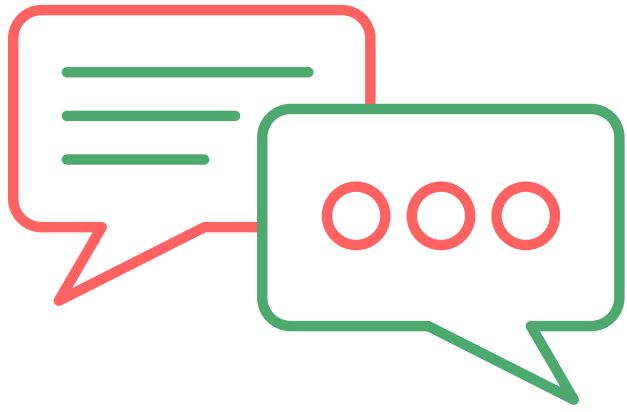
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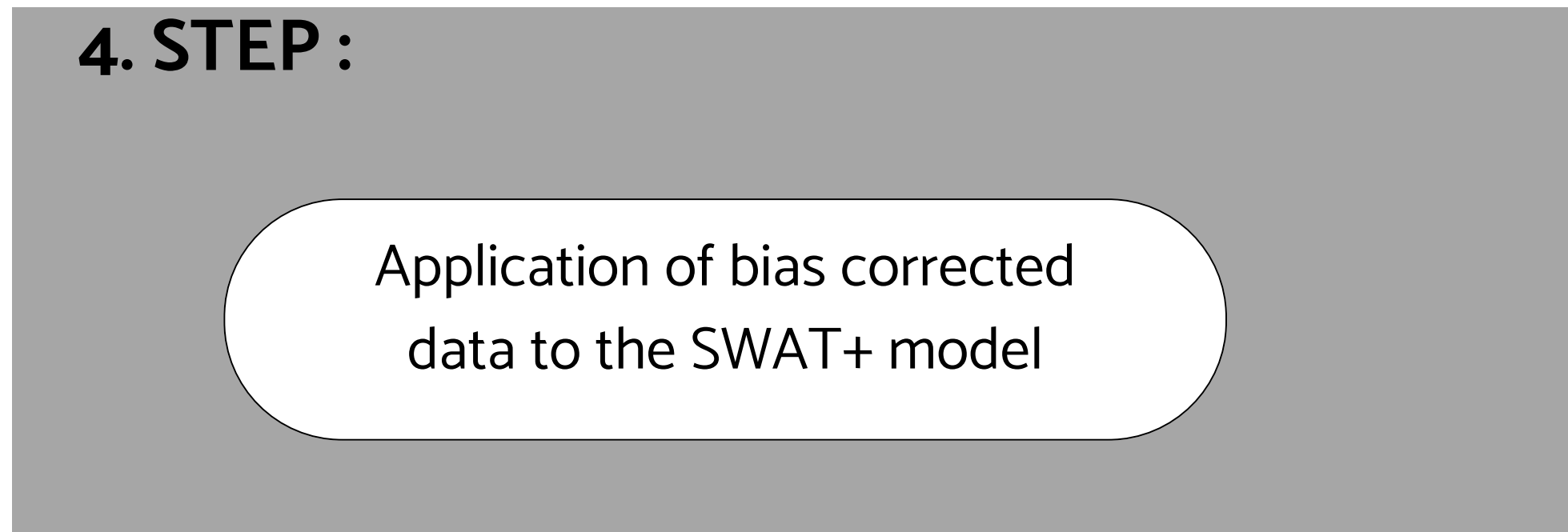
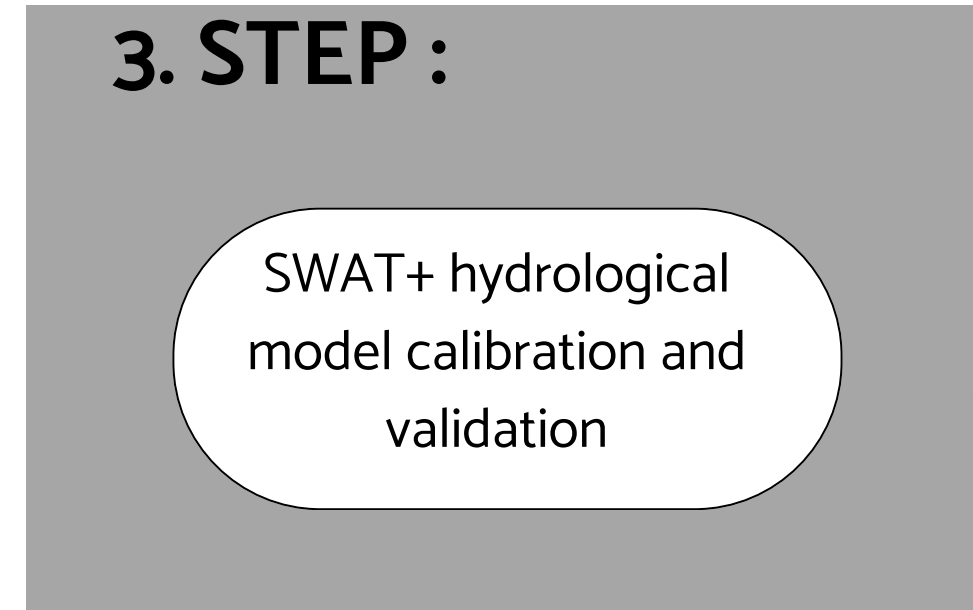
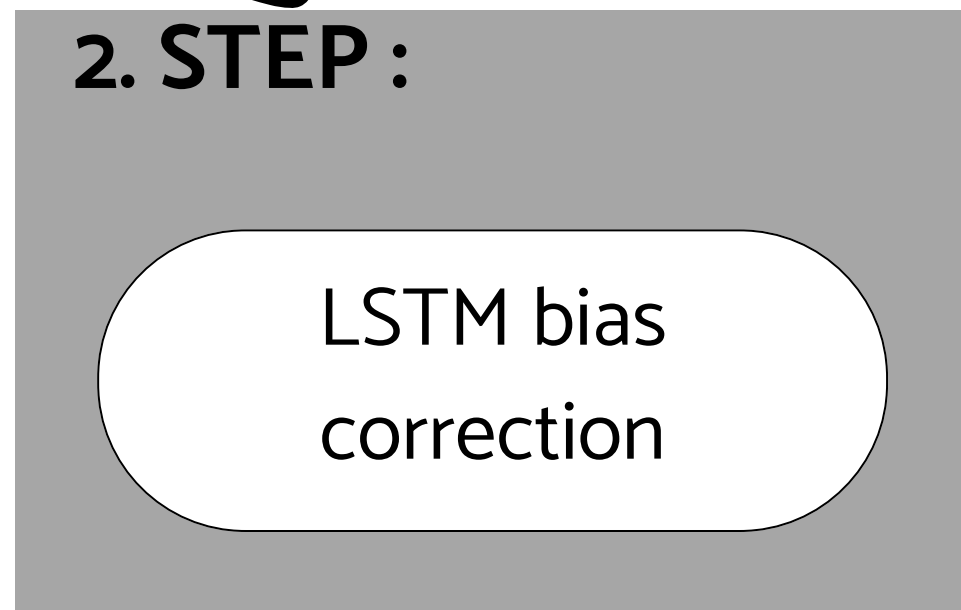
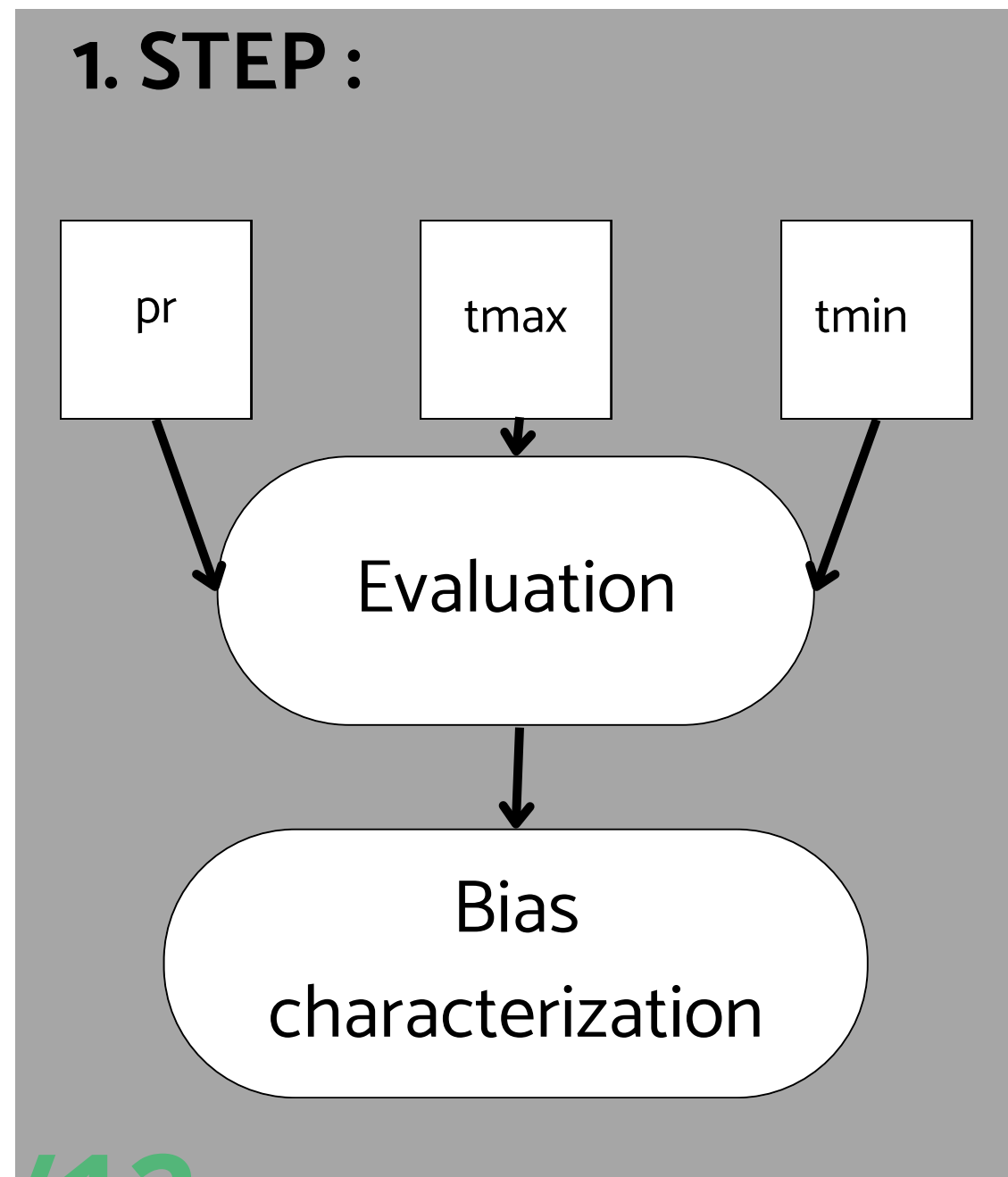
**Seasonal Forecasts  
+ ML correction  
techniques**

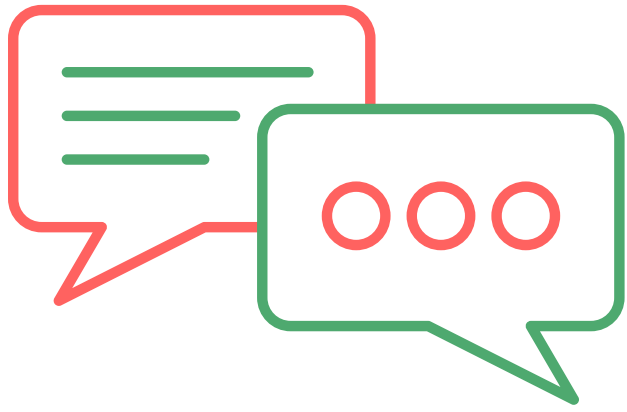
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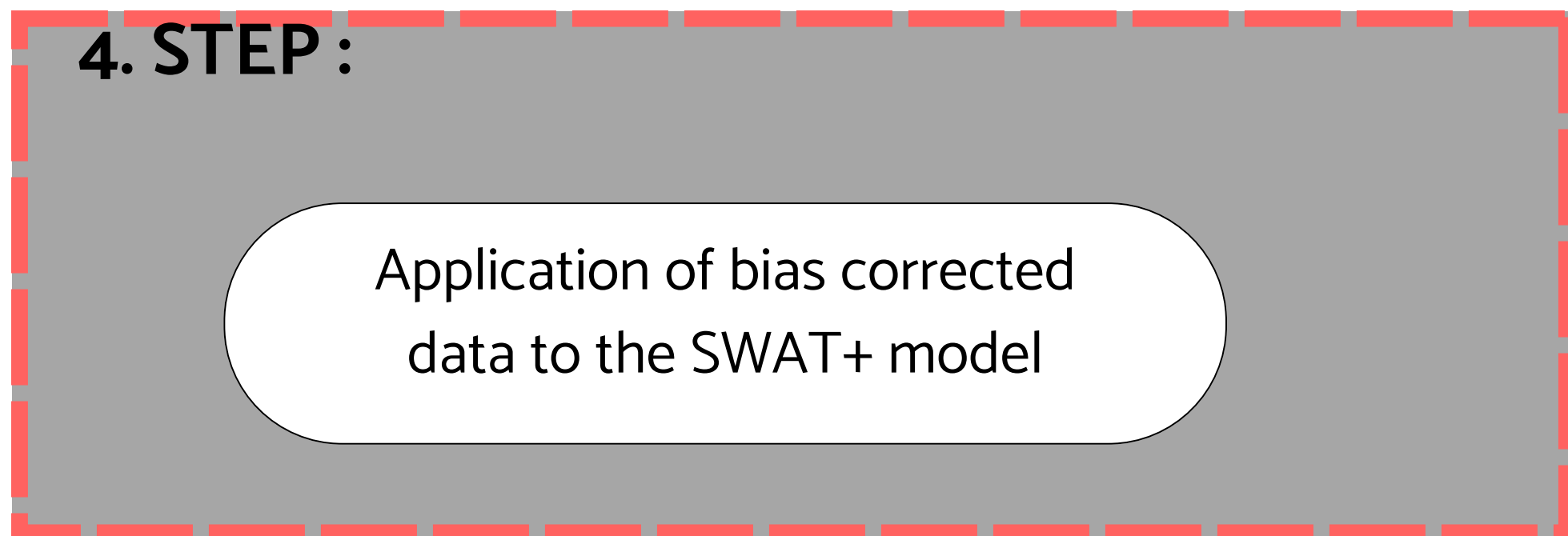
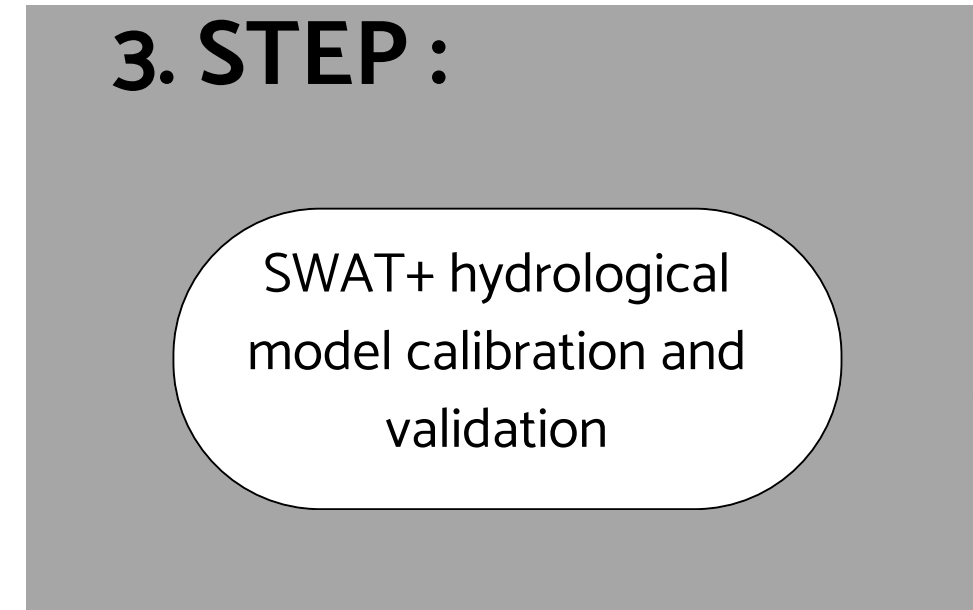
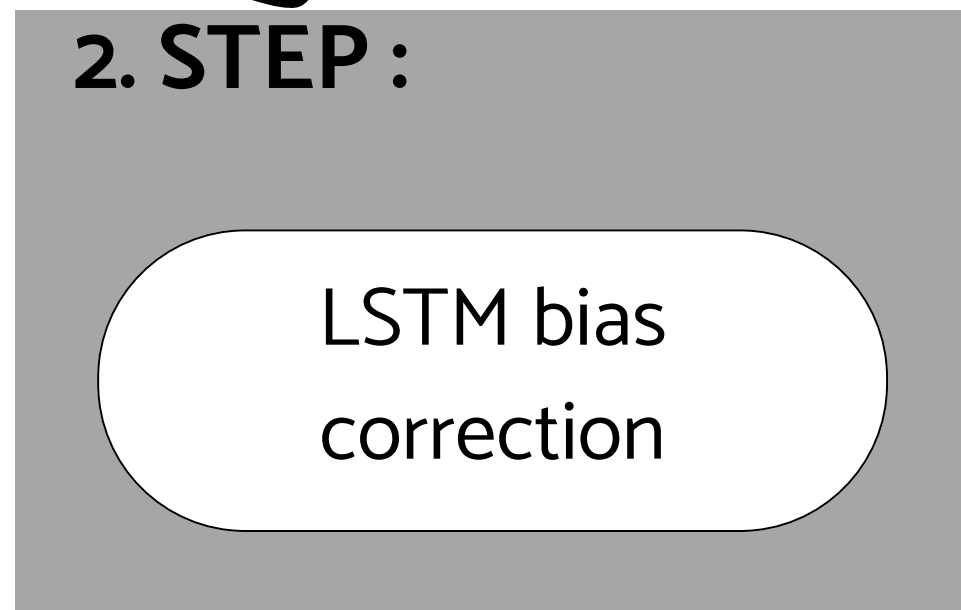
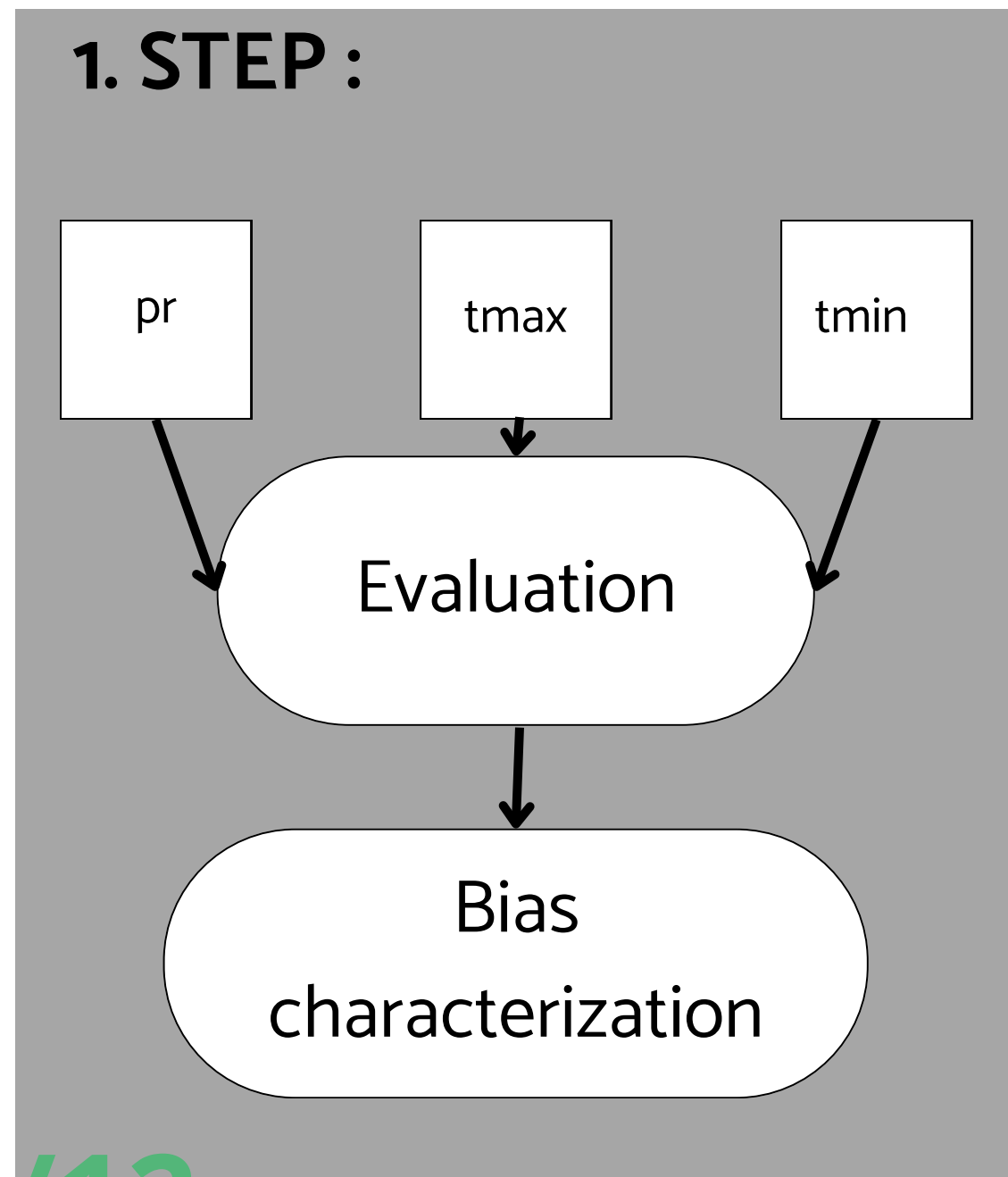


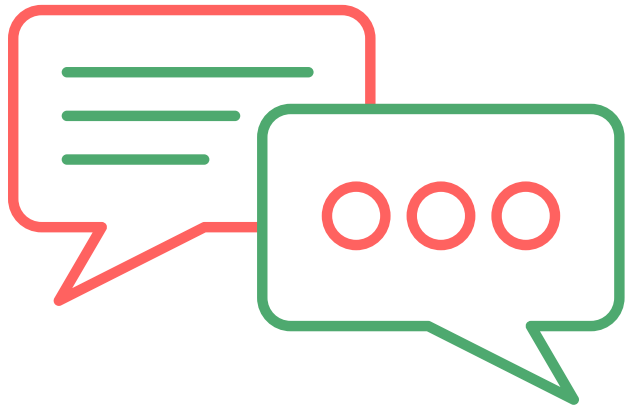
# MATERIALS AND METHODS





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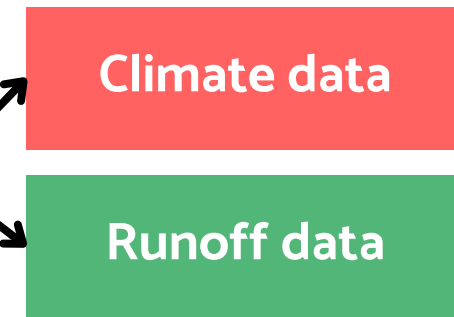




# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## DATA:

- Observational data
- Seasonal forecast



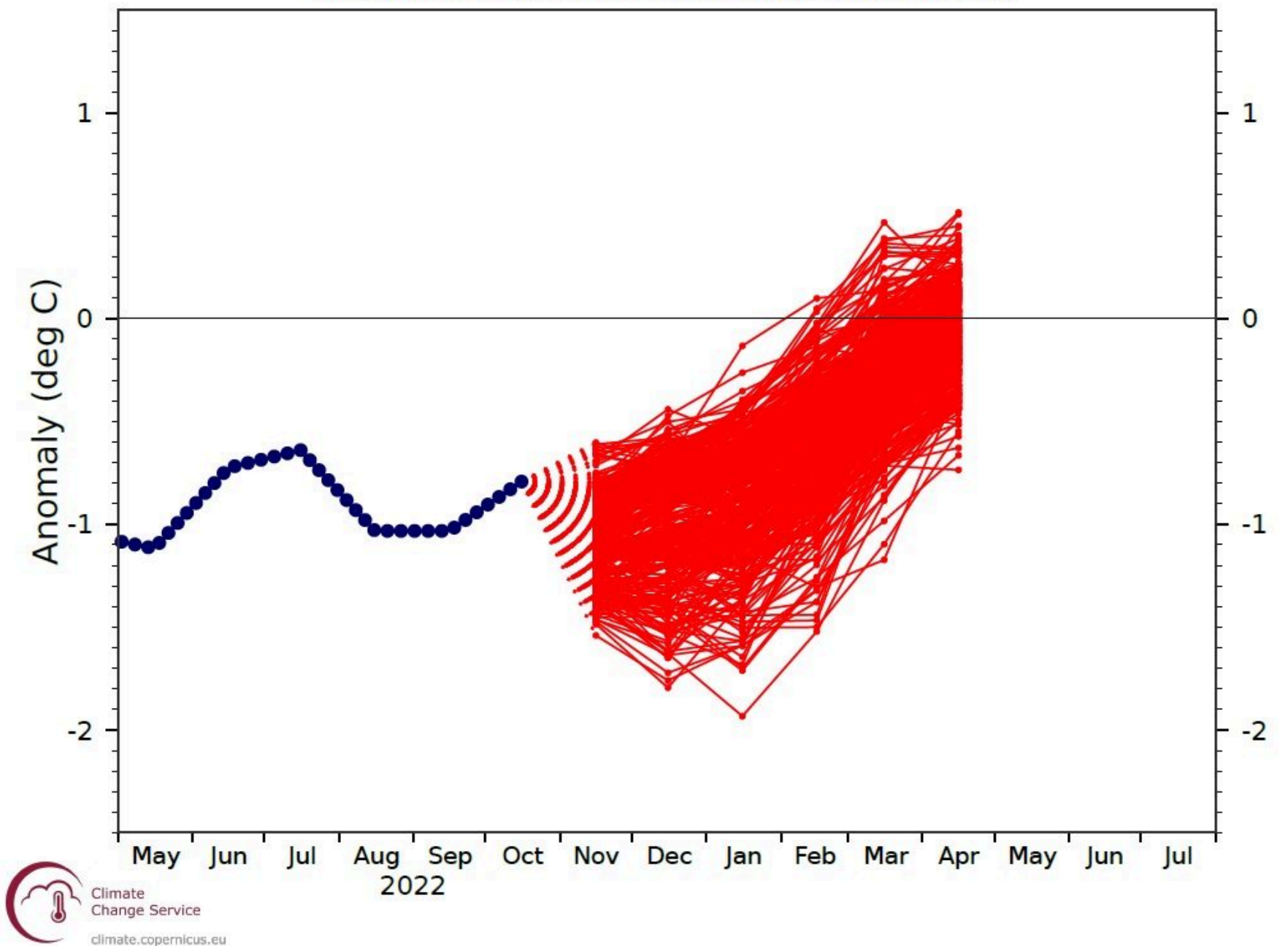
## ECMWF SEAS5 (C3WV.5.1)

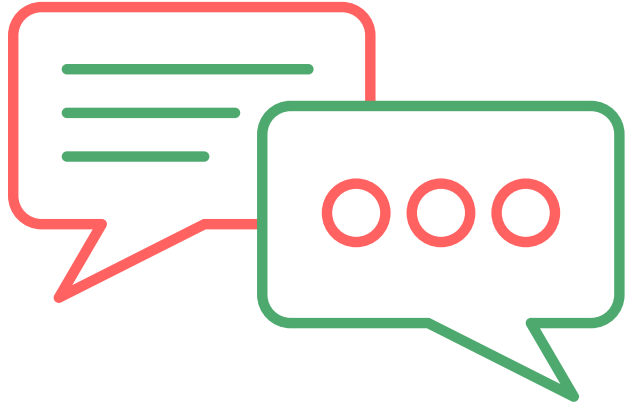
1981-2016 --> 25 ensemble members

2016- --> 51 members

7 month horizon --> Lead time

NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume  
C3S multi-system forecast from 1 Nov 2022  
ECMWF, Met Office, Météo-France, CMCC, DWD, NCEP, JMA, ECCO  
Monthly mean anomalies relative to NCEP OIv2 1981-2010 climatology

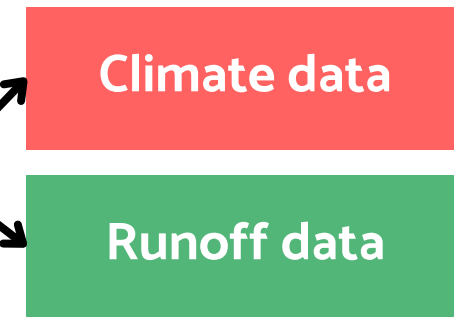




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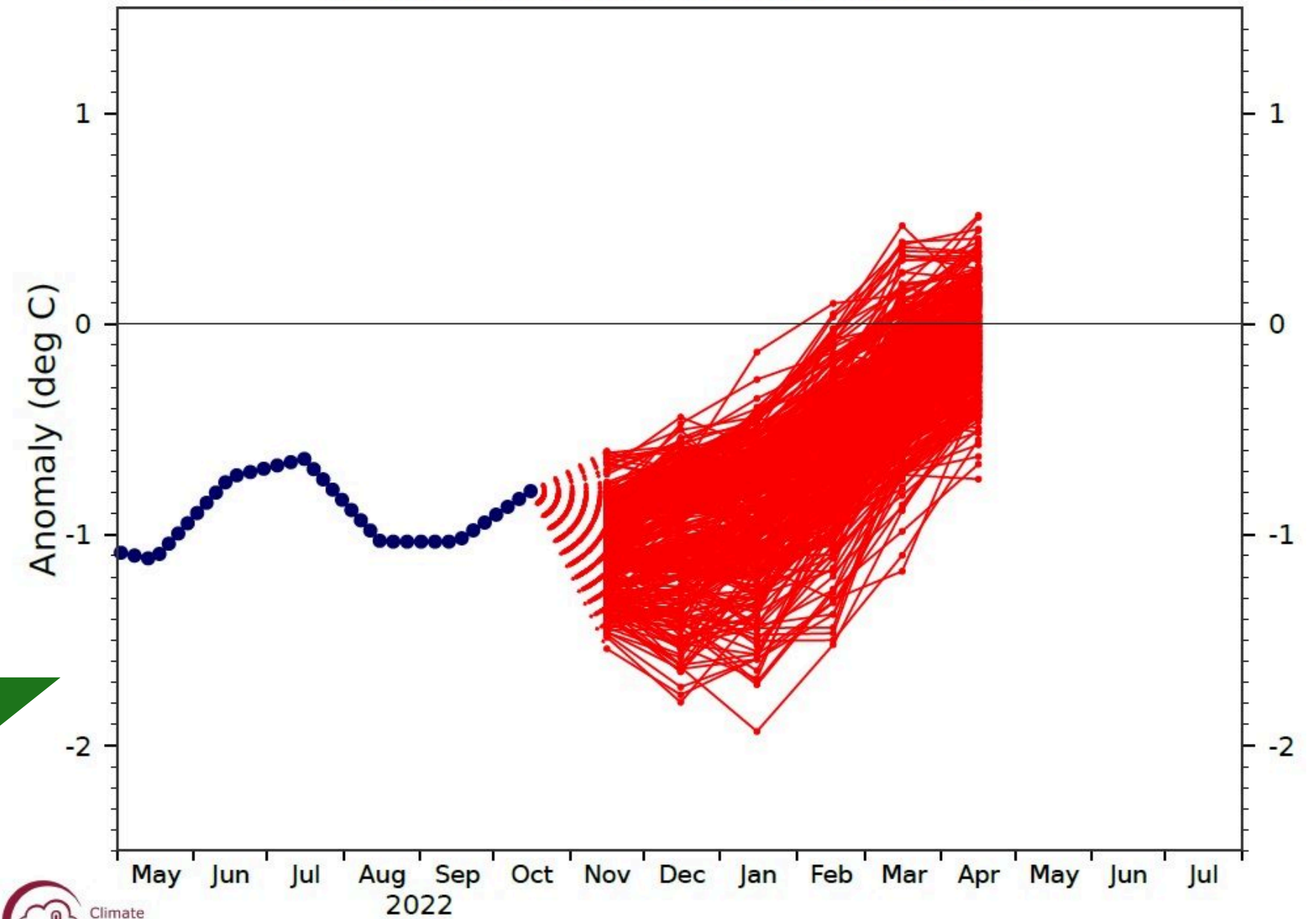
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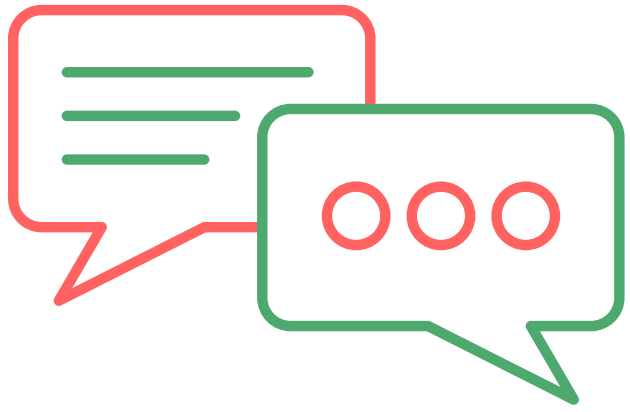
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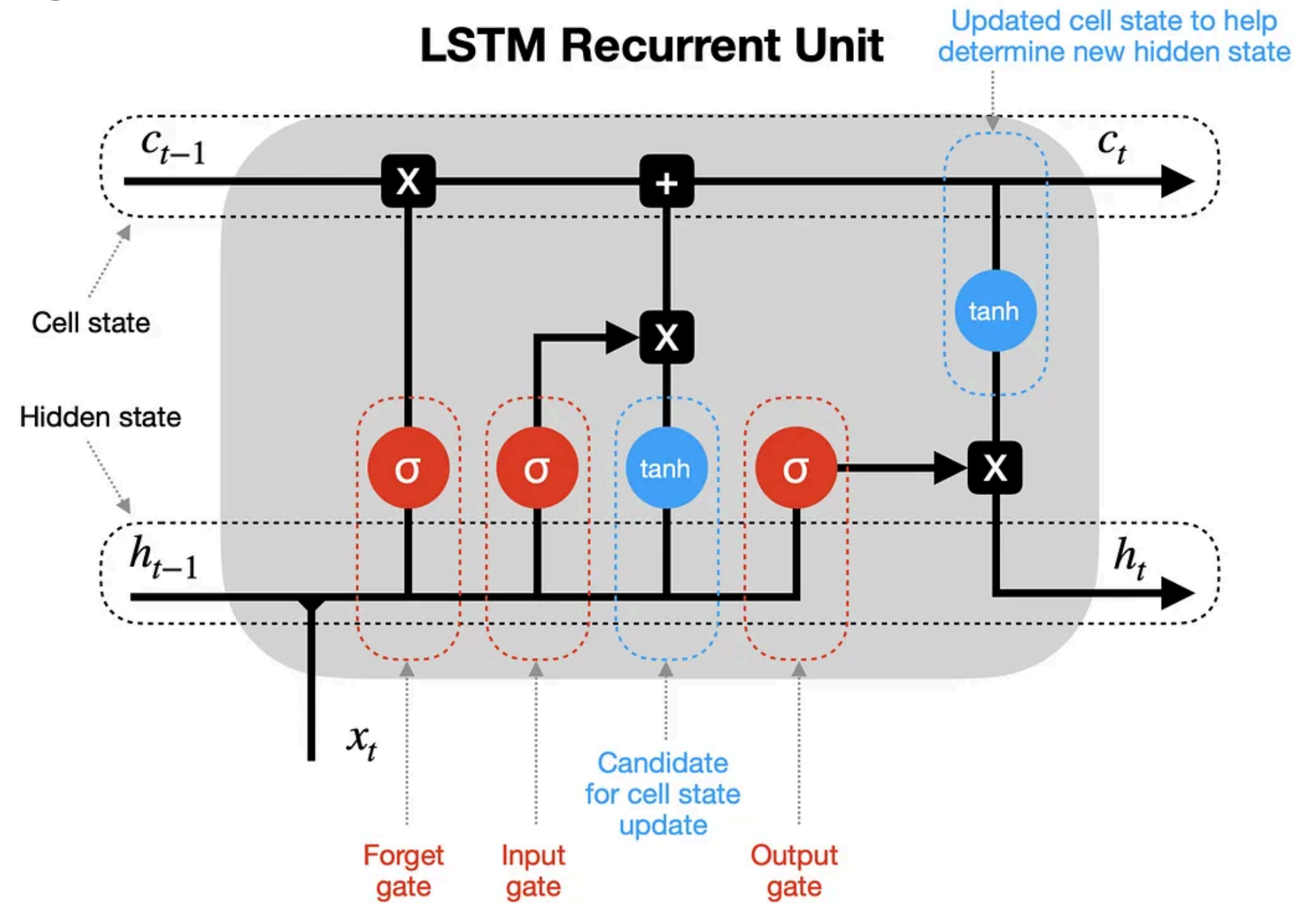


# MATERIALS AND METHODS

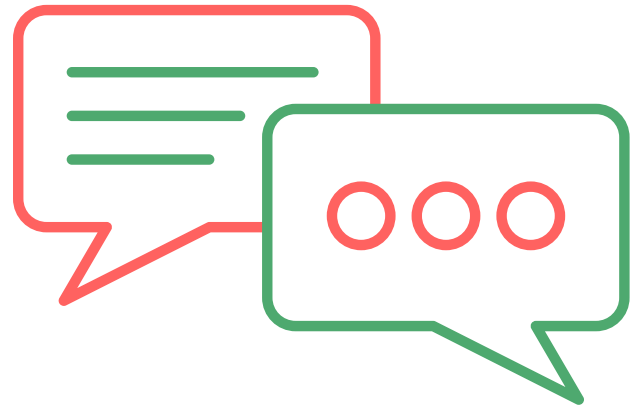
DATA:

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## BIAS CORRECTION







# MATERIALS AND METHODS

DATA:

- Observed data
- Seasonal forecast

BIAS CORRECTION

**HYDROLOGICAL MODEL (SWAT+)**

**2000-2010 and 2010-2020**

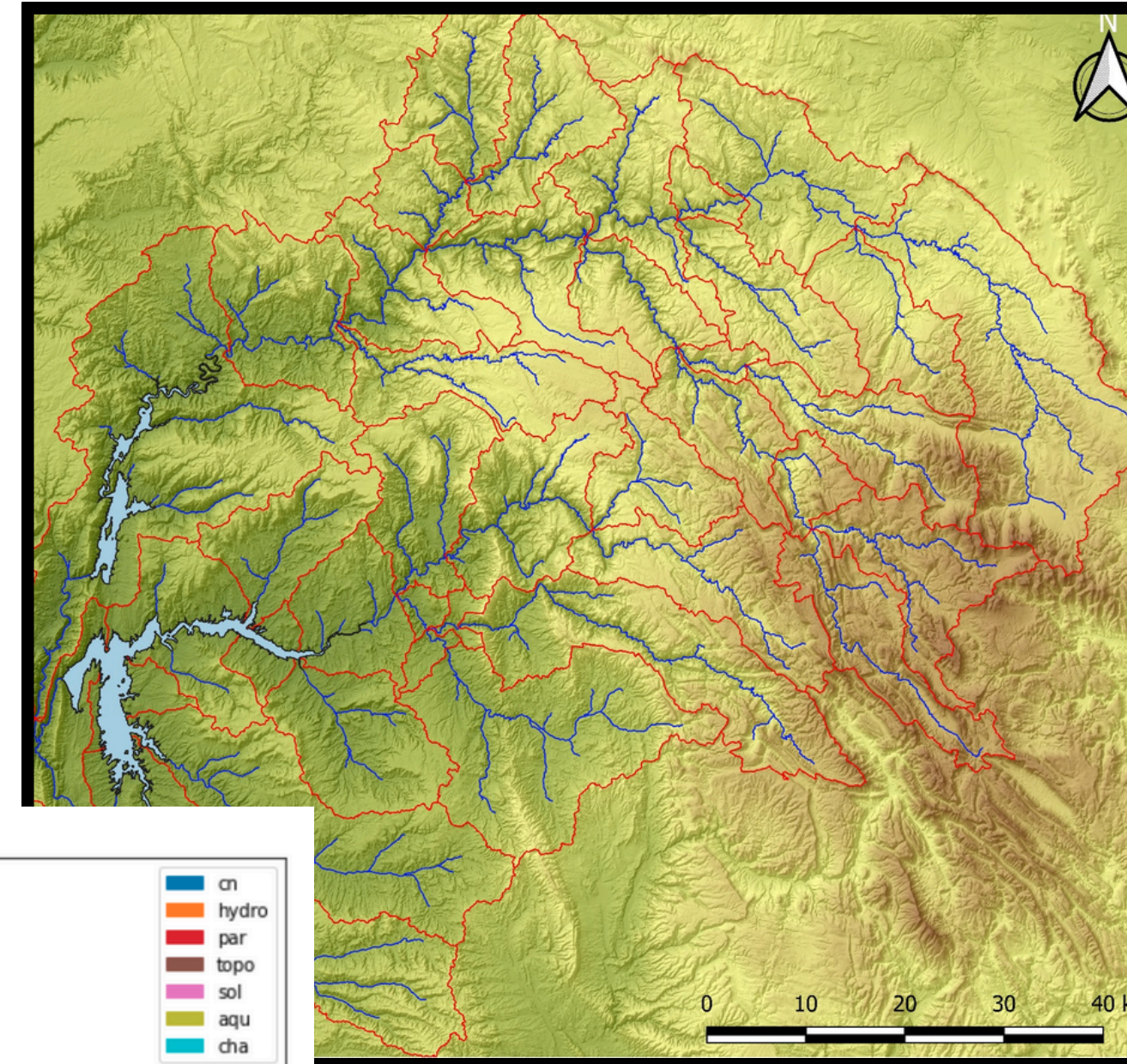
Calibration and validation

SWAT-CUP □ SUFI-2 algorithm

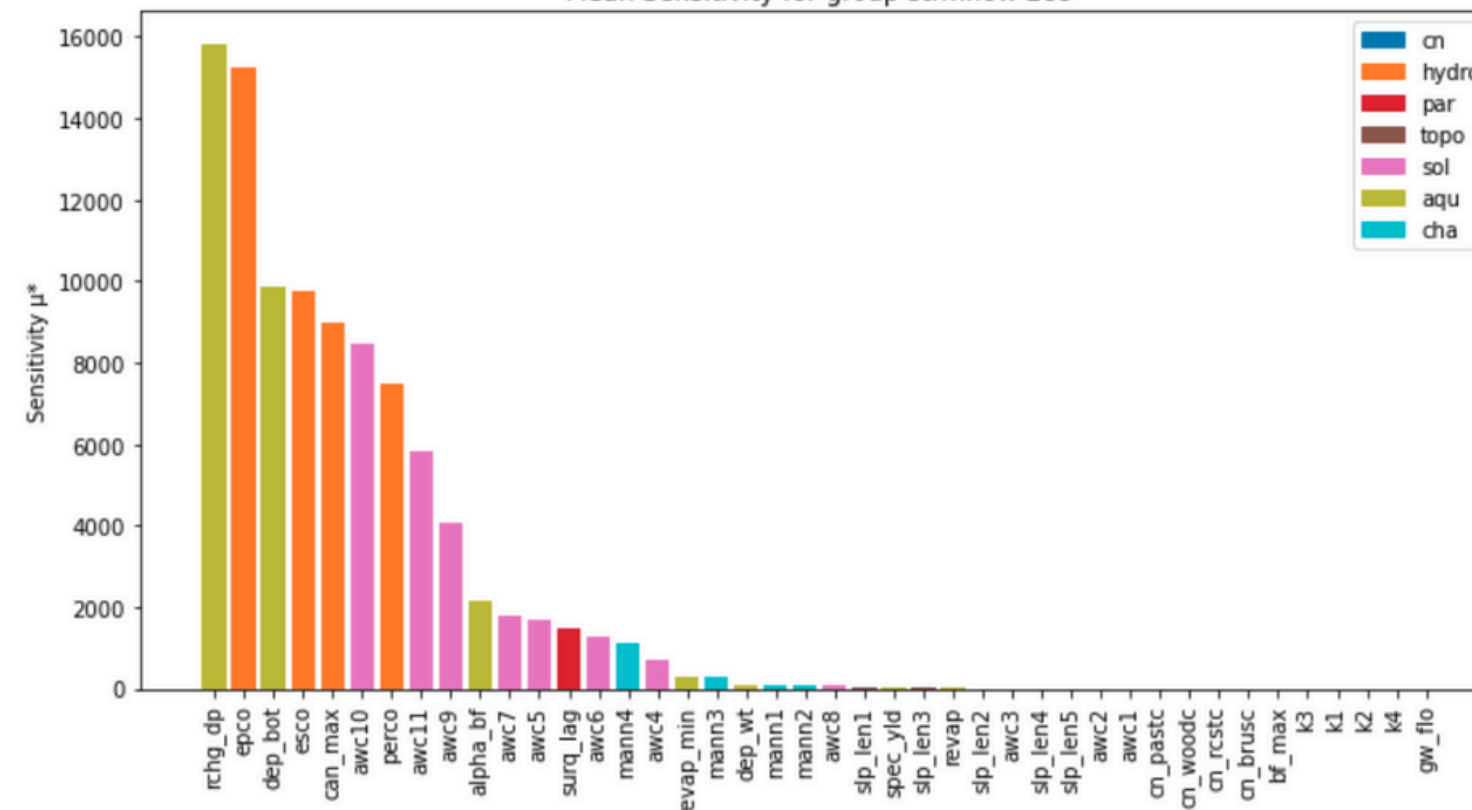
Sensitivity analysis (500 iterations)

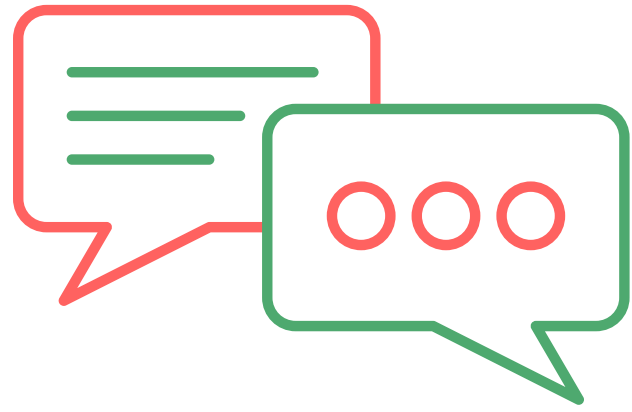
Objective function: KGE

1,000 iterations: 500 + 500



Mean Sensitivity for group strmflo 289





# MATERIALS AND METHODS

DATA:

- Observed data
- Seasonal forecast

BIAS CORRECTION

HYDROLOGICAL MODEL (SWAT+)

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

$$\text{Bias}_{\text{Add}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N (\bar{x}(k) - y(k)),$$

$$\text{Bias}_{\text{mult}} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \bar{x}(k)}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N y(k)},$$

$$\text{CRPS}(p(x), y) = \int (p(x) - H(x < y))^2 dx,$$

OBS

PRED

$$\text{CRPSS} = 1 - \frac{\text{CRPS}_{\text{for}}}{\text{CRPS}_{\text{ref}}},$$

*Continuous Ranked Probability Skill Score*



# RESULTS

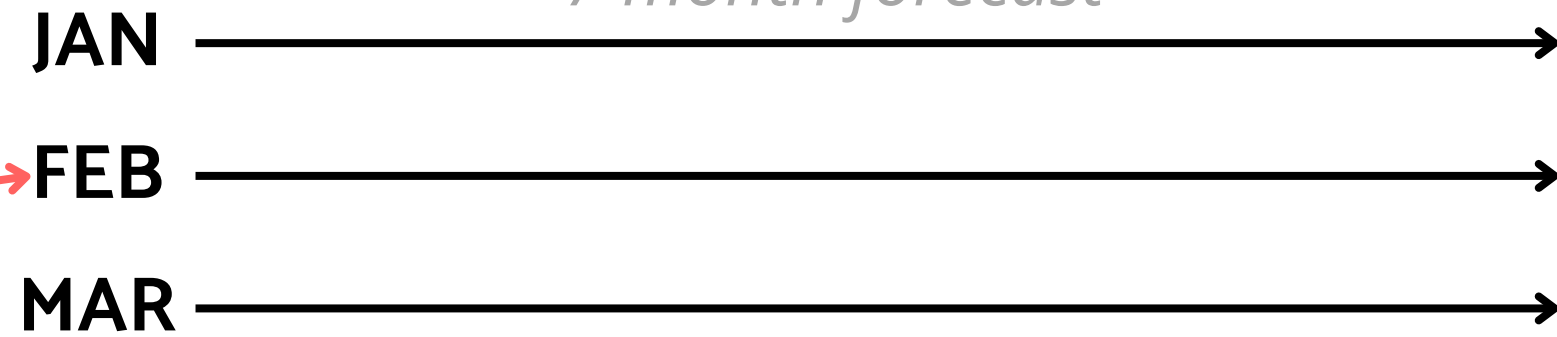
- Due to the complexity and amount of data
- Present the results divided in seasons: JFM, AMJ, JAS, OND
- Considering the evolution with lead times
- Considering the spatial variability on the basin
- Each variable

## Bias of Forecasts

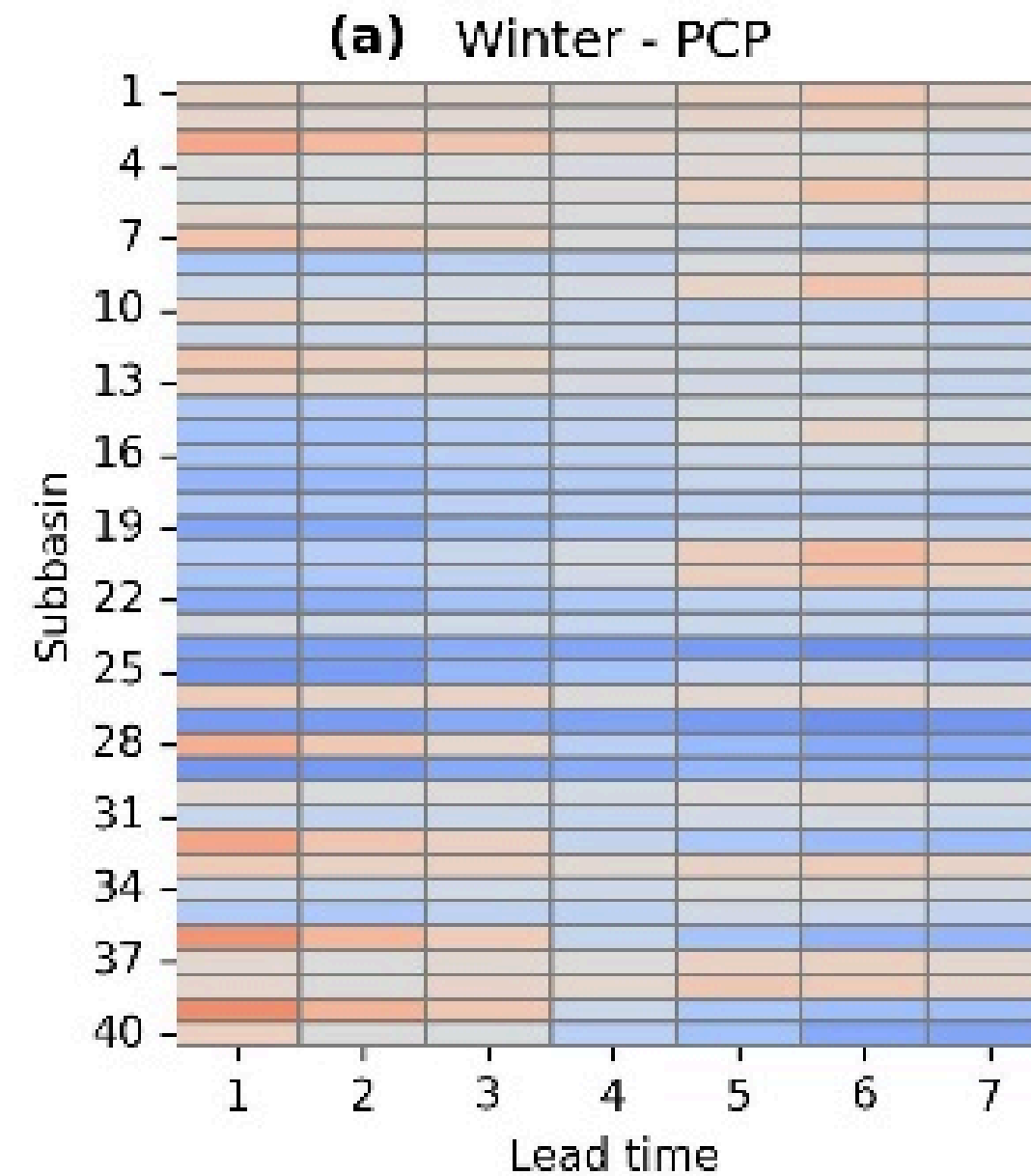


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JAN

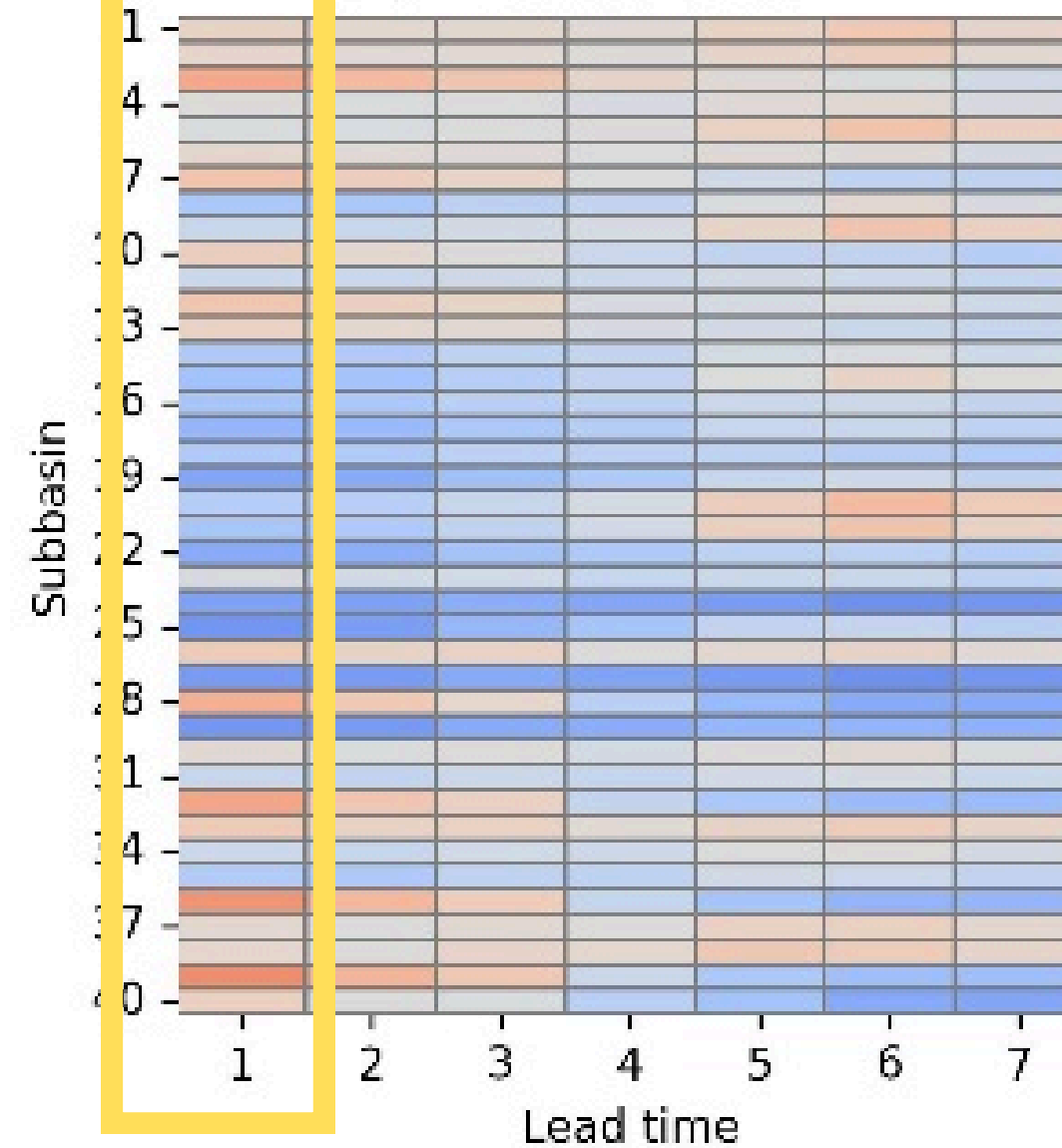
FEB

MAR

Mean

7 month forecast

(a) Winter - PCP

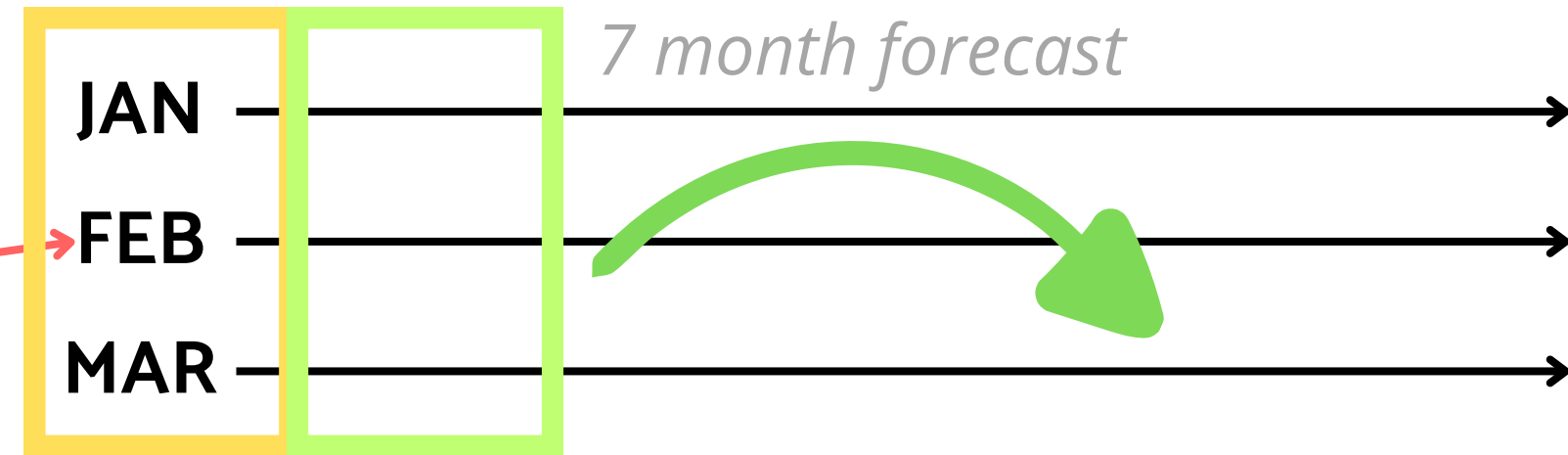




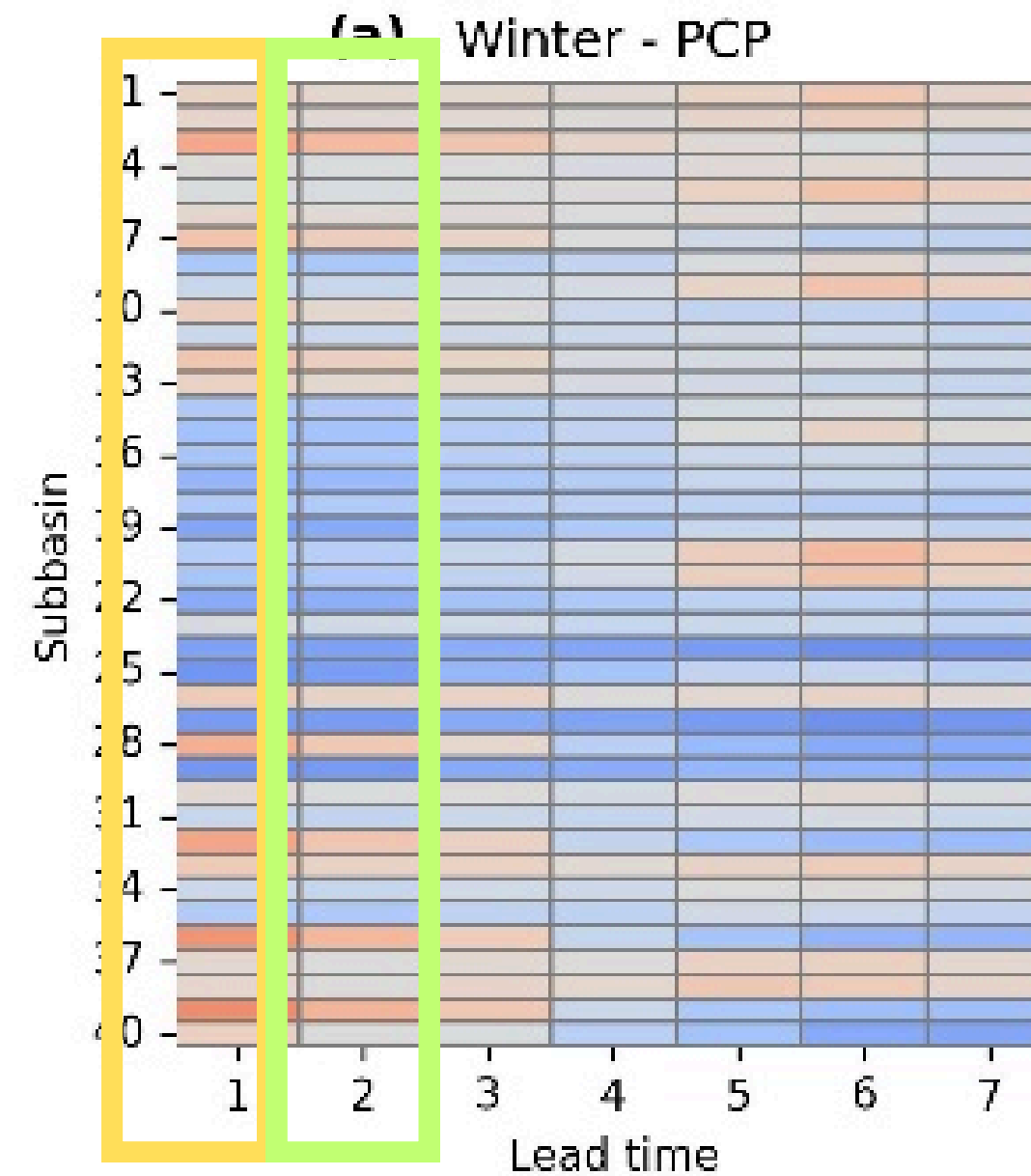
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## Bias of Forecasts



Mean

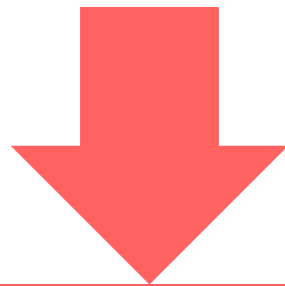




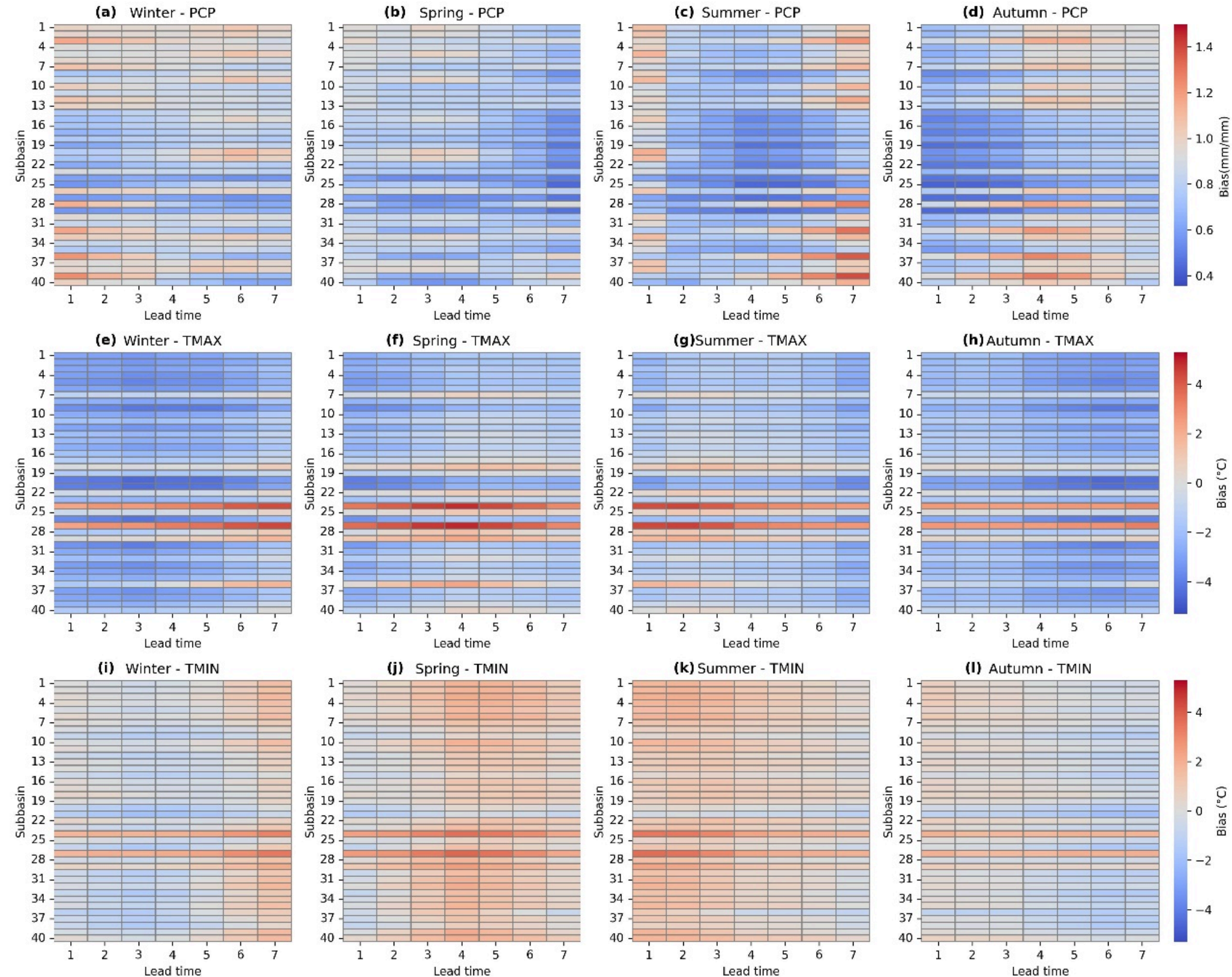
# RESULTS

## Bias of Forecasts

- Precipitation bias: Generally, the maps show more blue tones, indicating an **underestimation of precipitation**.
- **Temperature** Bias: (Tmax) was generally **underestimated**. The bias is less pronounced for minimum temperature (Tmin), as shown by the softer colors on the heatmap.



**RAW FORECASTS NEED  
BIAS CORRECTION**





# RESULTS

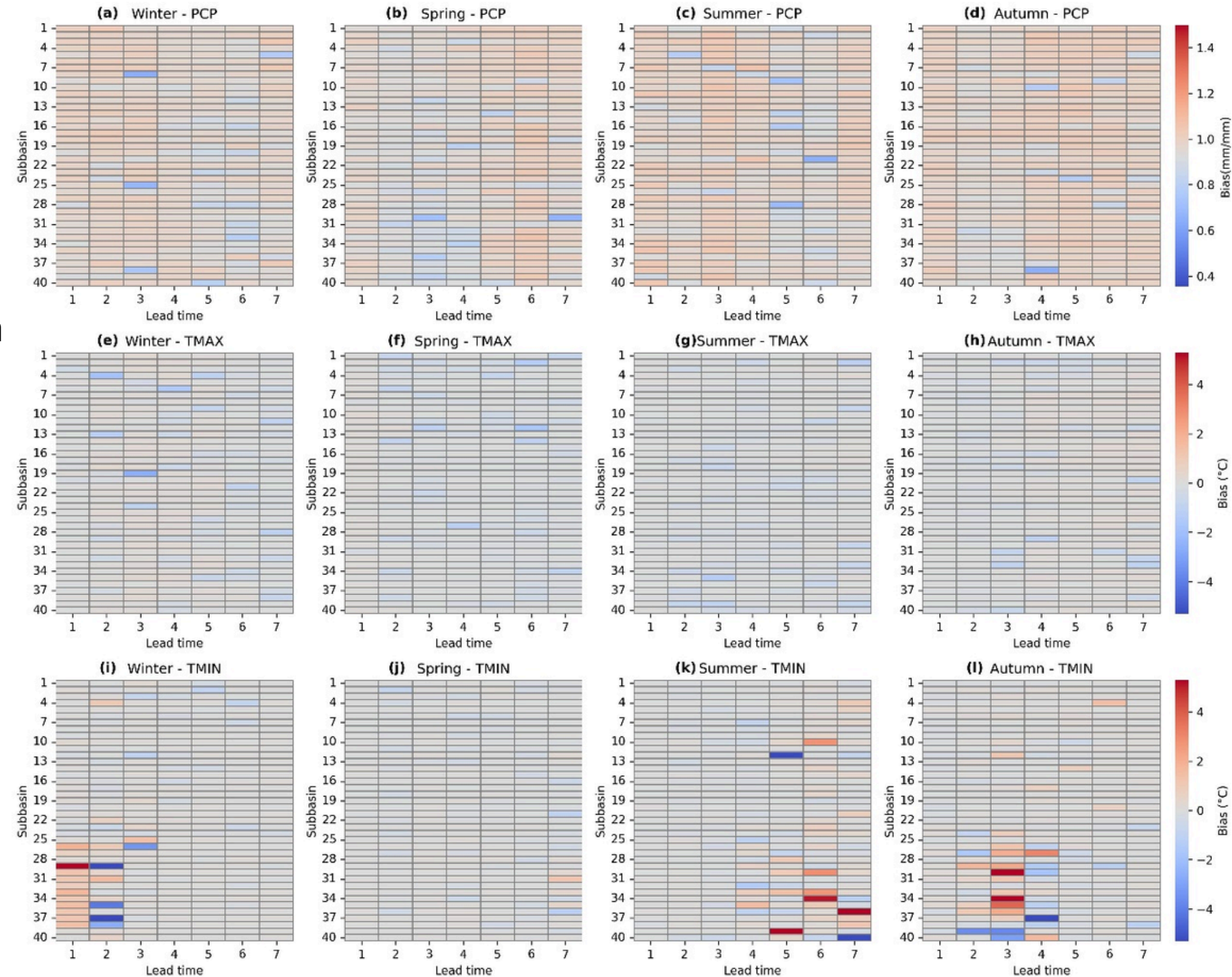
## Bias of corrected

- **LSTM Training:**

- Leave-one-out cross validation
- For each month and each of the 40 sub-basins, we trained an LSTM network. 480 LSTM models for each variable = **1440 LSTM models**

- Monthly correction factor of the bias was calculated and applied to monthly data

- Precipitation: The bias correction brought values closer to 1 in most cases, indicating **improved accuracy**.
- Temperature: The correction reduced the bias, bringing values **closer to zero**. However, **Tmin showed less improvement**, with some sub-basins and lead times still having notable bias.



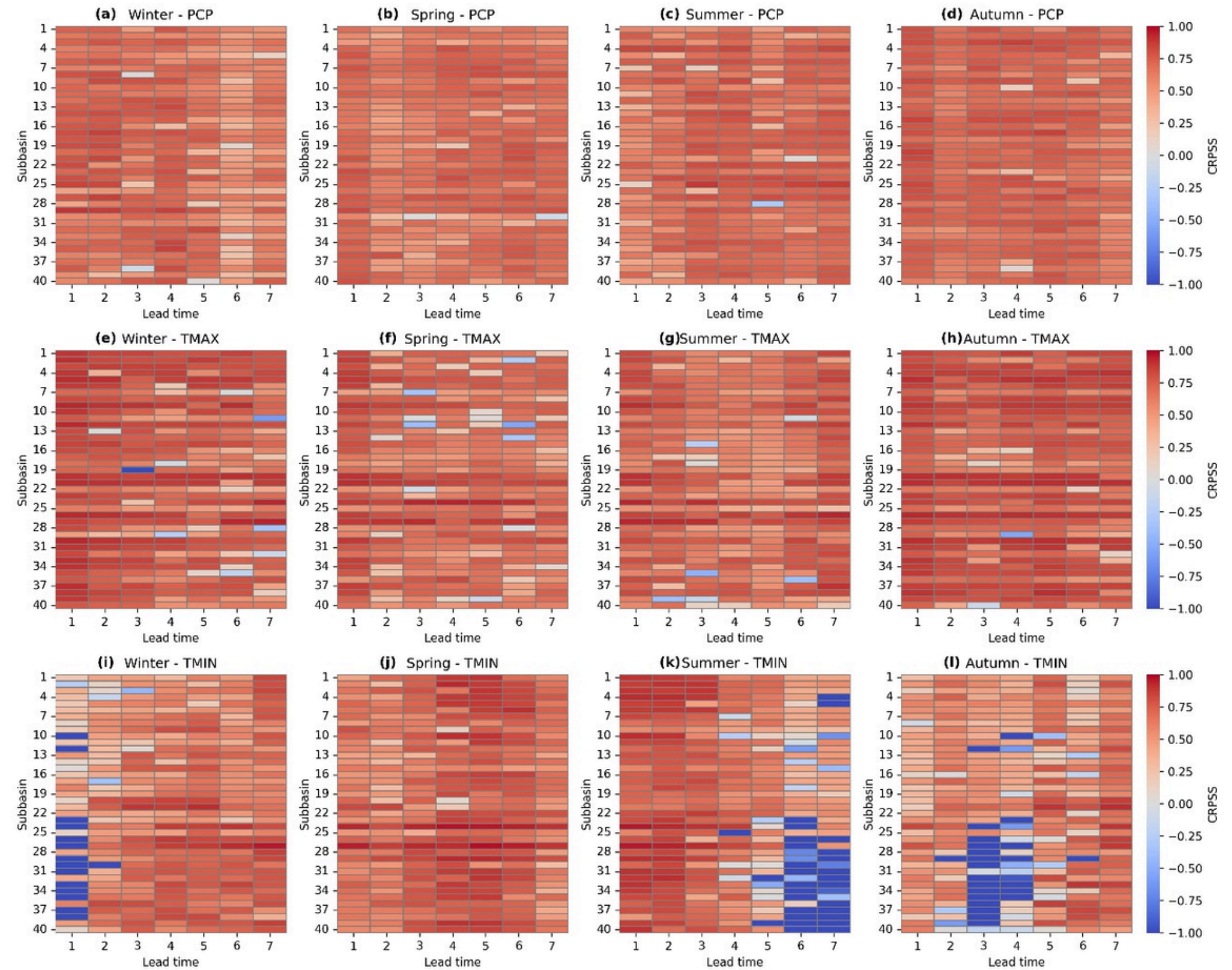




# RESULTS

## Performance raw vs. corrected

- Bias correction proved **effective**, as evidenced by positive CRPSS values, indicating an enhancement in meteorological forecast accuracy following bias correction.

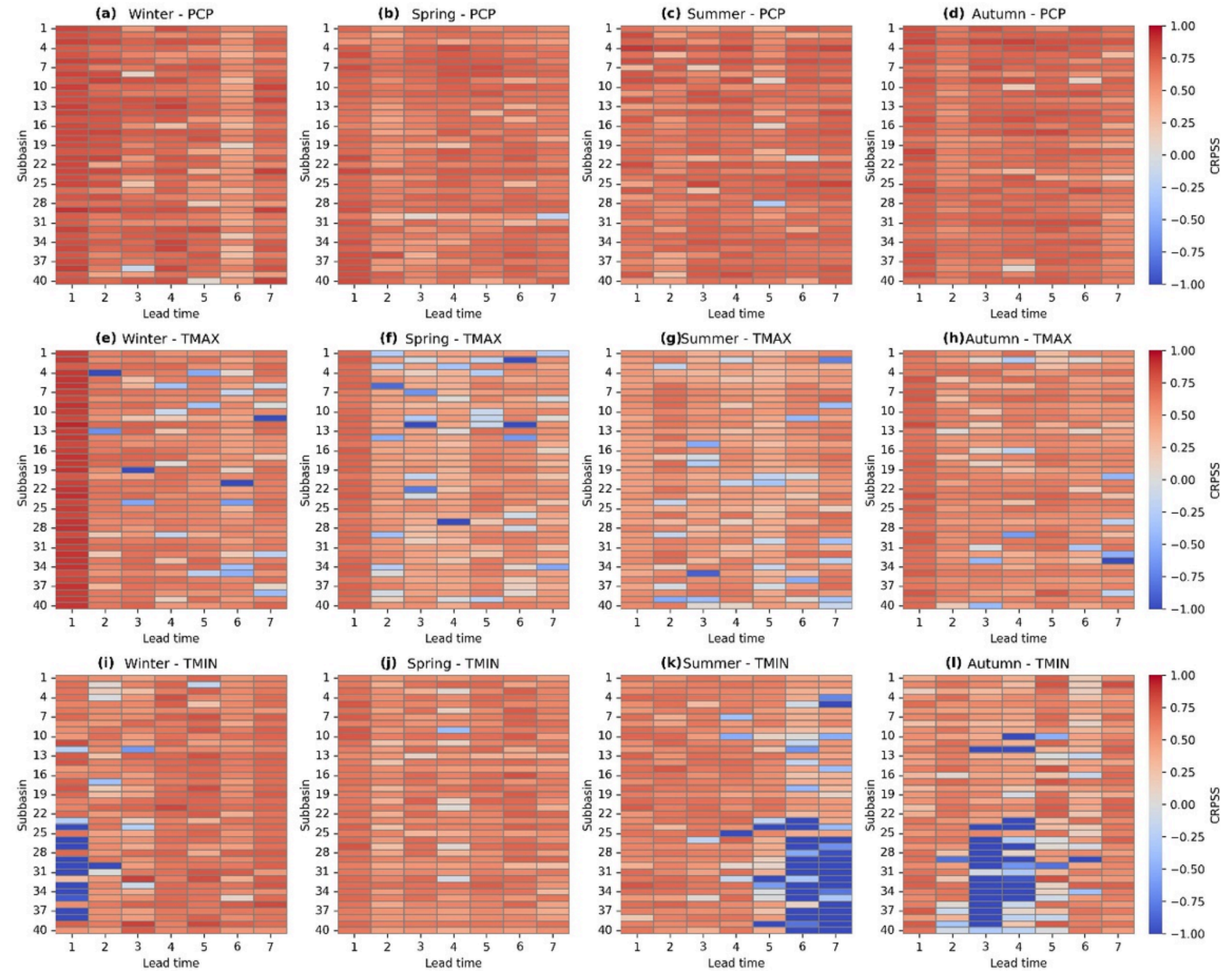




# RESULTS

## Performance obs-clim vs. corr

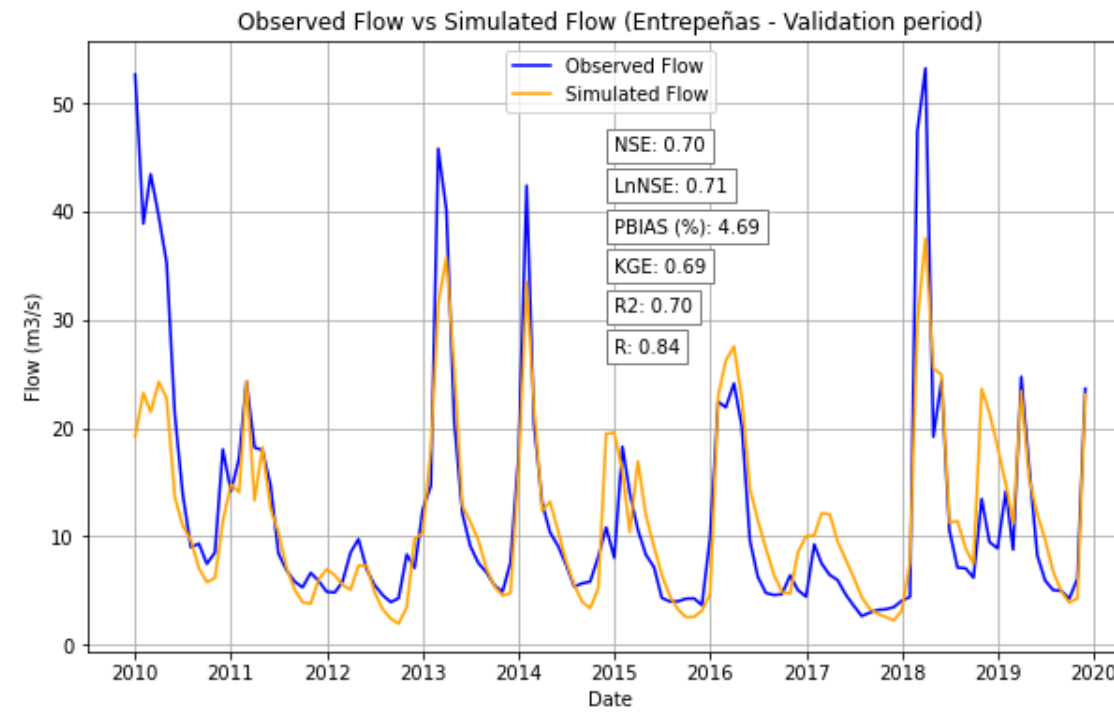
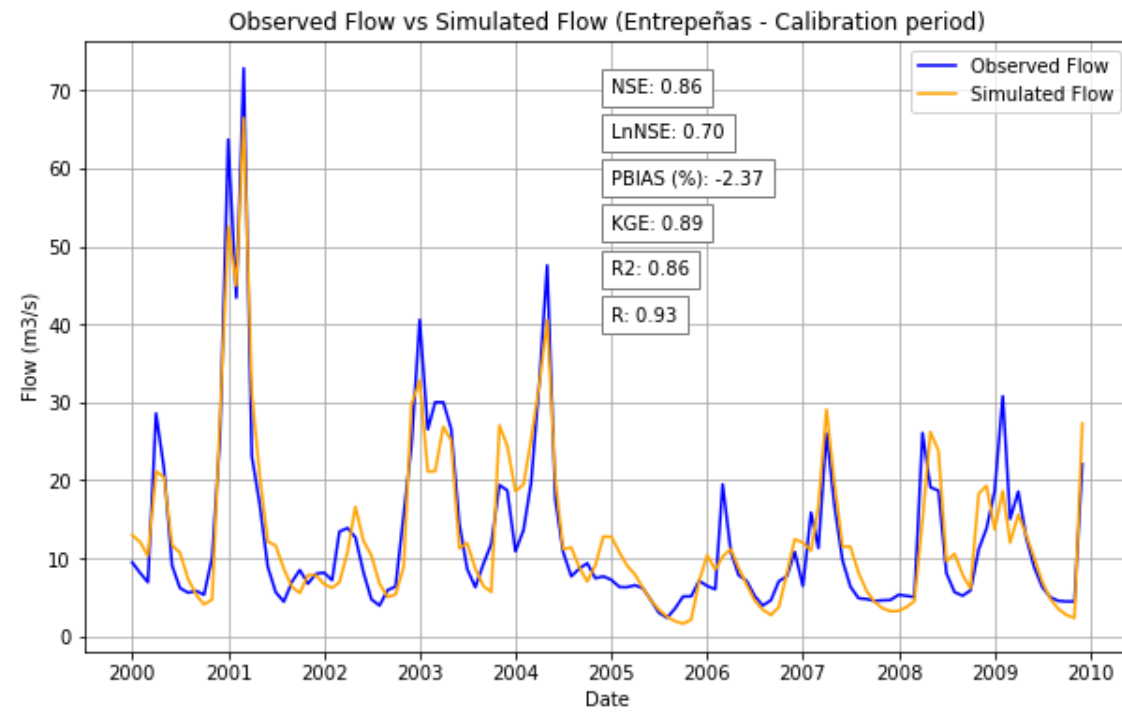
- precipitation being less predictable, machine learning-based correction achieved **significant improvements** over climatology.
- Challenges in Minimum Temperature Forecasting: Minimum temperature forecasts exhibited the **poorest correction** in specific sub-basins during the first month of winter, yet performance was adequate for early lead times in other seasons.



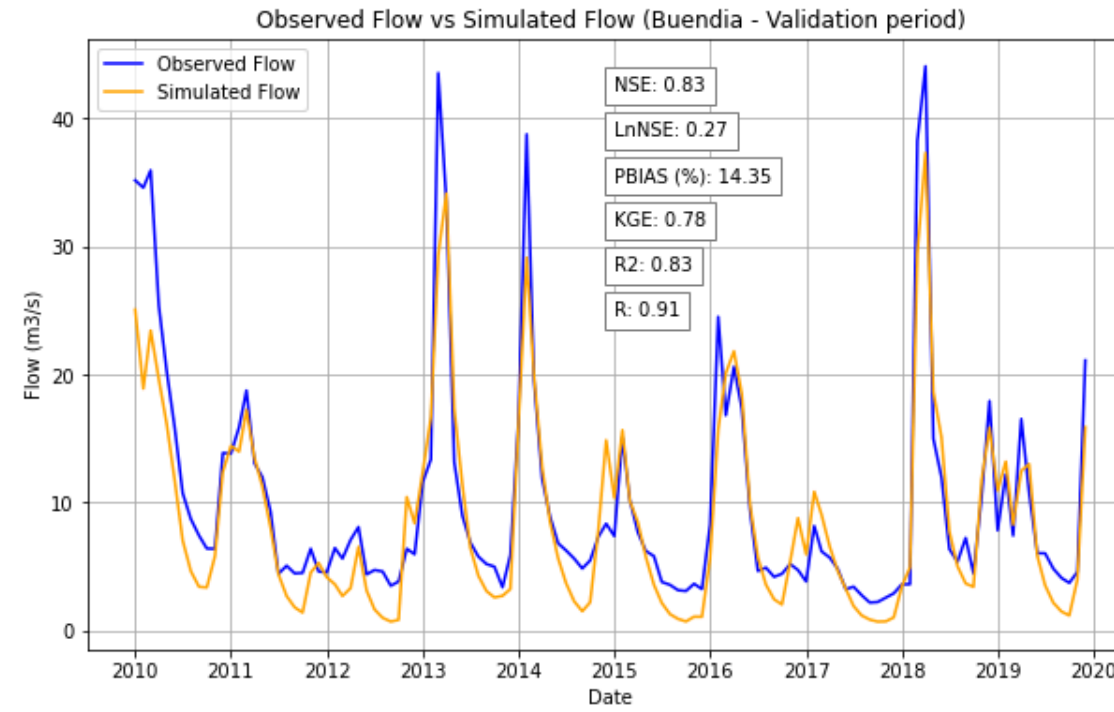
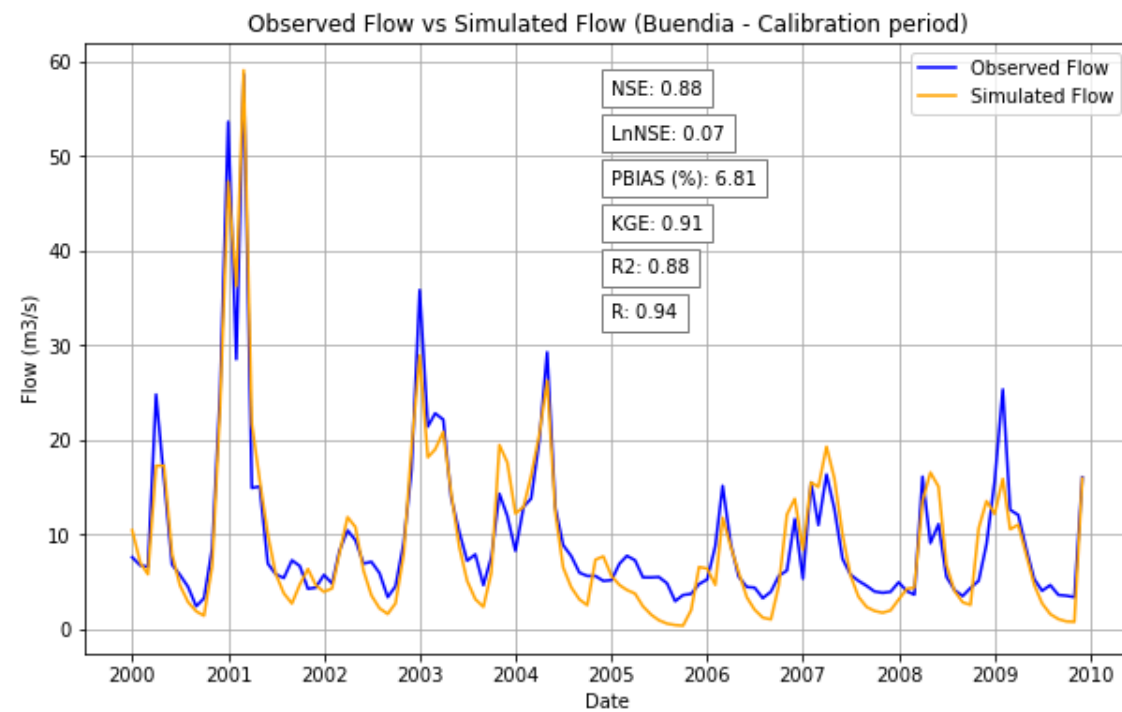


## RESULTS

Entrepeñas



Buendía



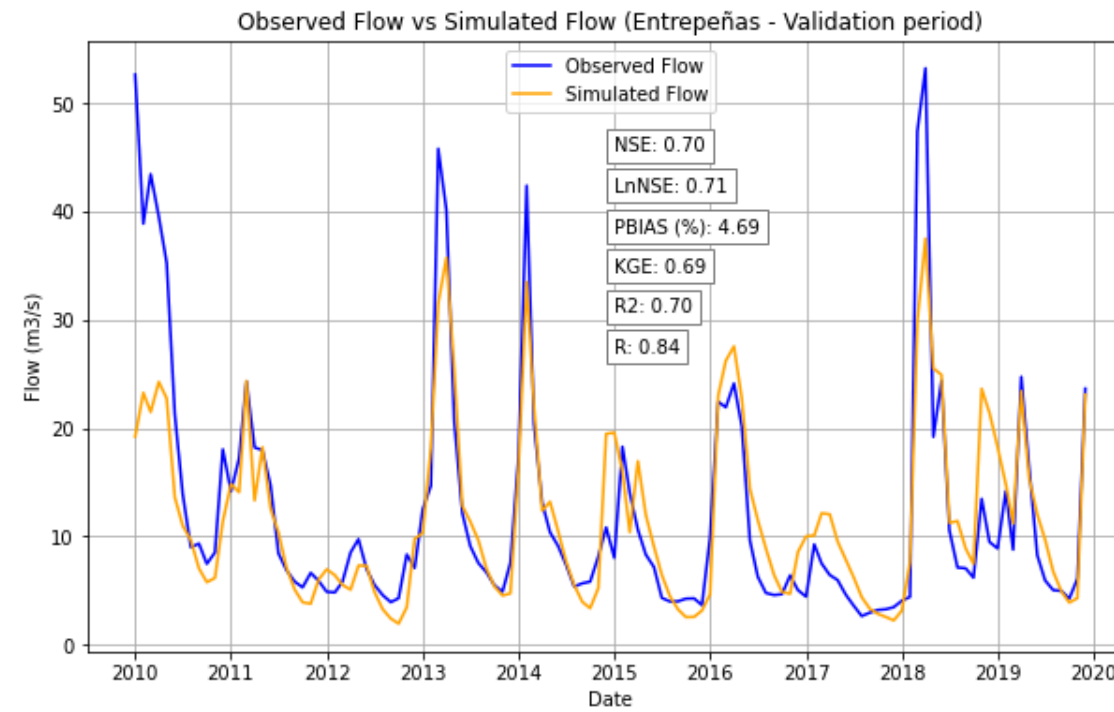
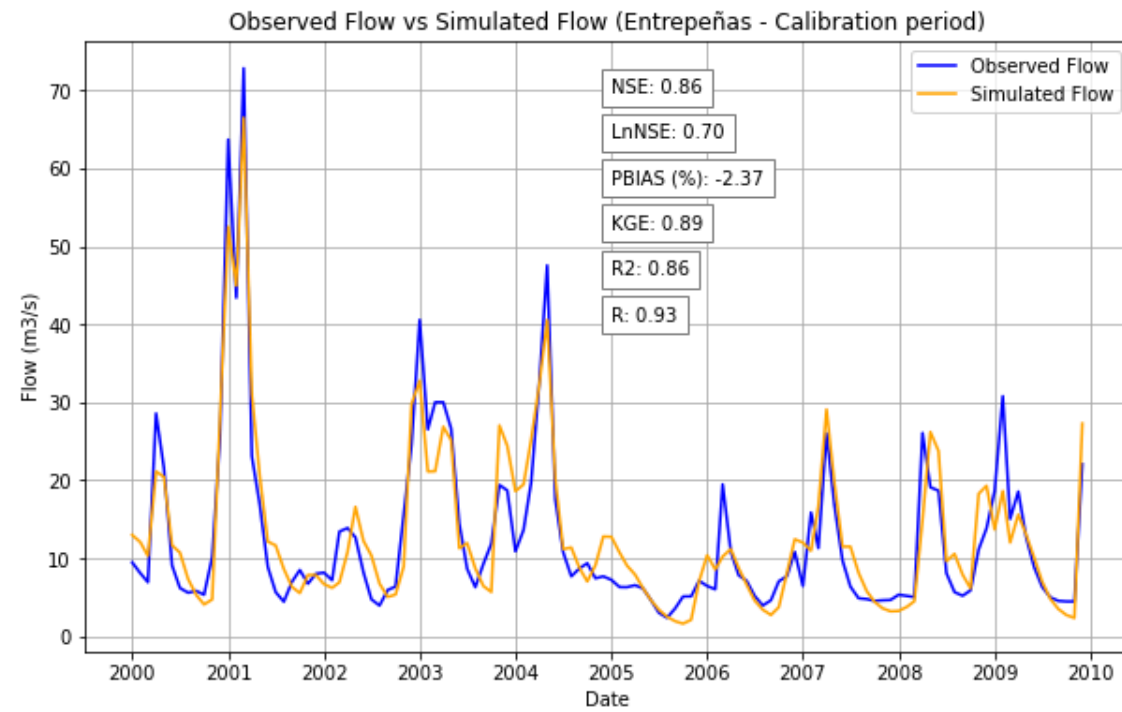
**Satisfactory Results**



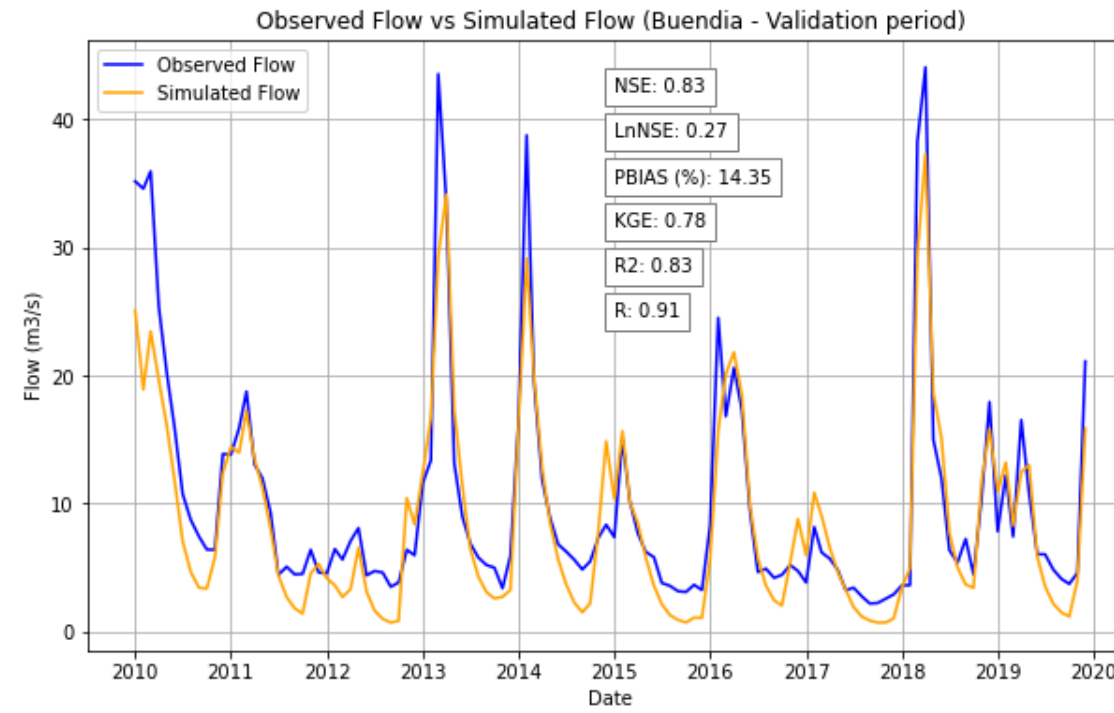
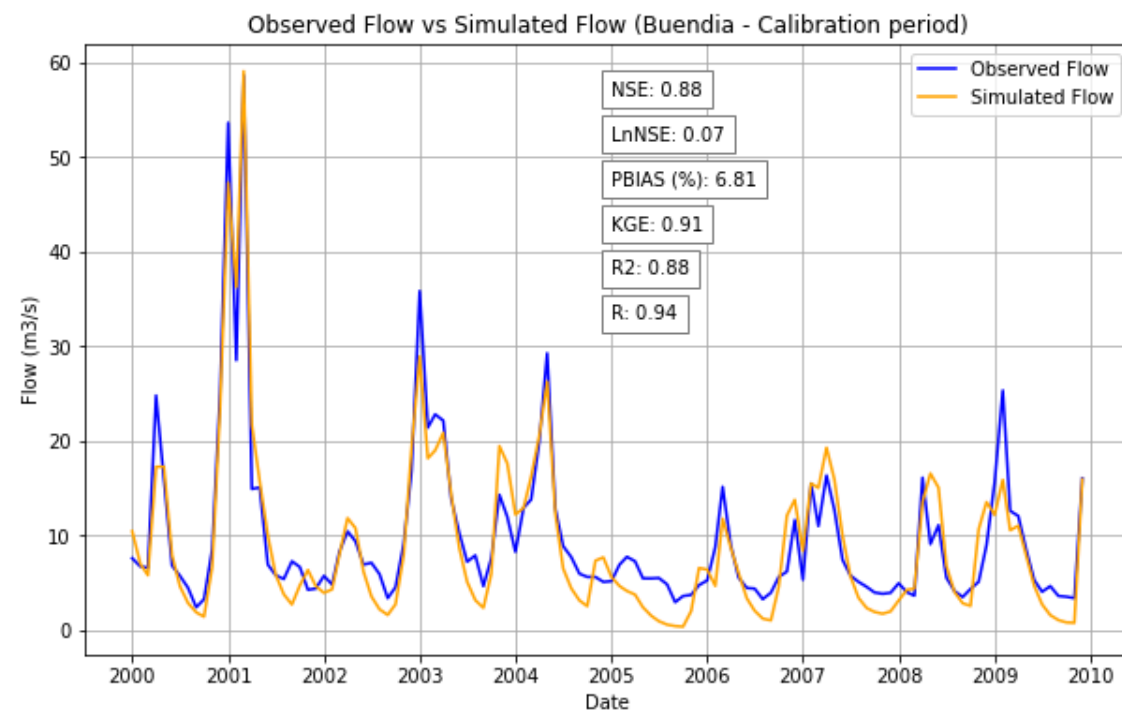
# RESULTS

# SWAT+ model

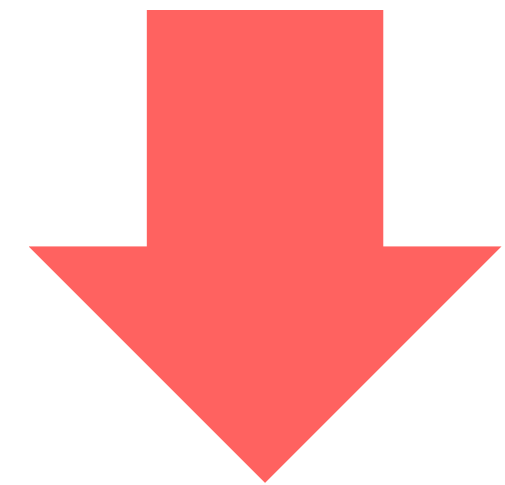
Entrepeñas



Buendía



Satisfactory Results



Ready to force SWAT+ with corrected seasonal forecasts



## CONCLUSIONS

- Need of a more robust forecasting method
- Seasonal forecast represent a promising option --> Bias Correction
- LSTM models demonstrate to effectively reduce bias
- The developed SWAT model of the Upper Tagus River Basin shows satisfactory results for its application
- Next steps: Validate the proposed methodology forcing the SWAT model with corrected seasonal forecast data

**THANK YOU**

