

Assessment of climate change impacts on semi-arid watersheds in Peru

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MOTIVATION

- Low seasonal precipitation and high demand for water use
- High spatial variation in precipitation (Figure 1)
- Need for water regulation and diversion to mitigate impact of future climate variations

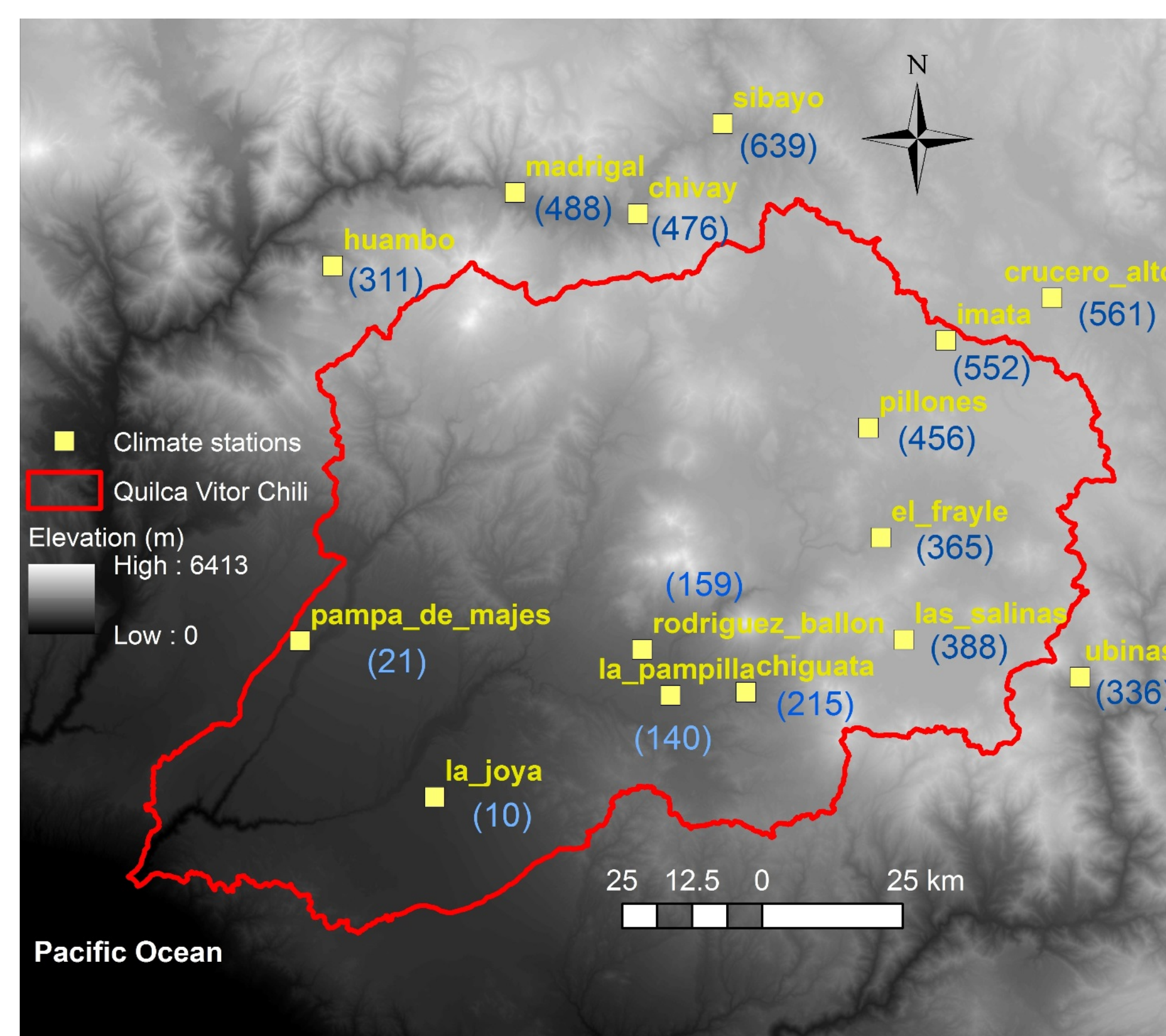


Figure 1. Average annual precipitation (mm) in the region (2008-2017)

OBJECTIVES

- Develop hydrological model to simulate water cycle
- Evaluate hydrologic response to climate change

STUDY AREA

Quilca-Vitor-Chili River Basin in Arequipa in Peru

- Area: 13,549 km²
- Major City: Arequipa (population of over 850,000)
- Four reservoirs for water regulation
- Two water diversions from Camana River Basin
- One water withdrawal for irrigation project

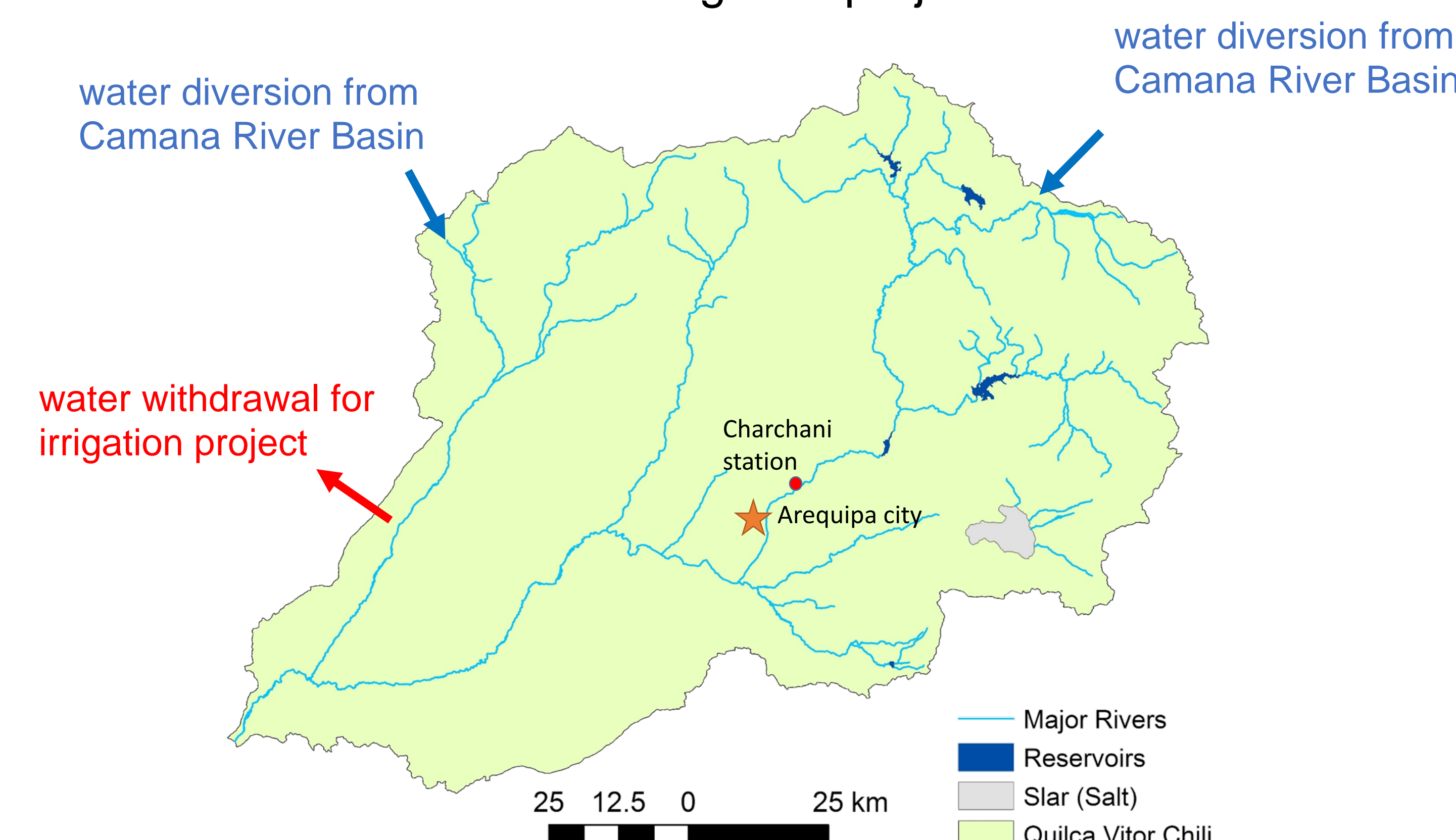


Figure 2. Major rivers, water bodies, and water regulations in Quilca-Vitor-Chili River Basin

HYDROLOGIC MODELING

Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT)

- Physically based, semi-distributed watershed/water quality model
- SWAT Inputs layers:

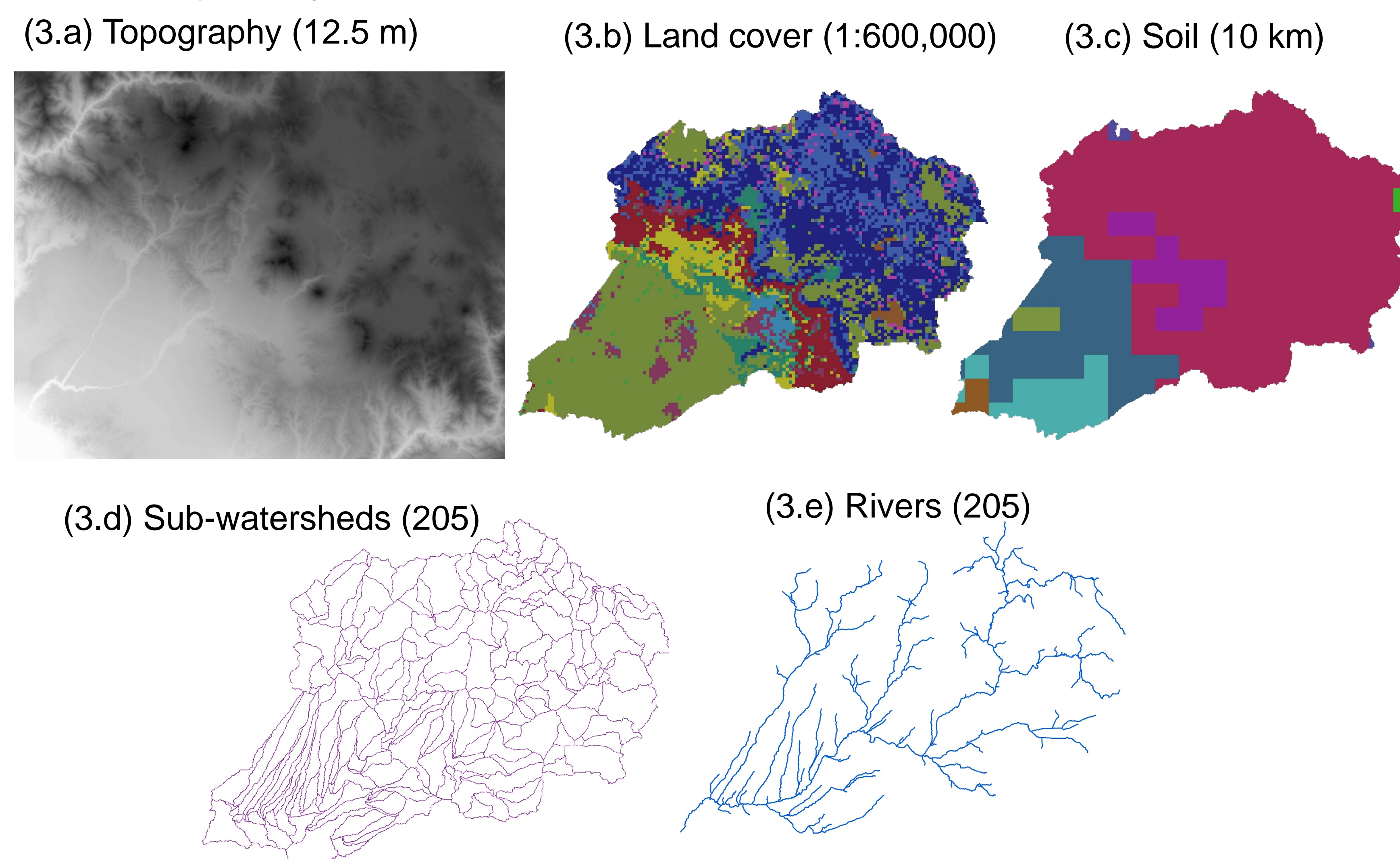


Figure 3. SWAT input layers

- SWAT Inputs Databases:
 - 1) Daily climate (precipitation and temperature) for 15 stations
 - 2) Point source discharges (2 points) and withdrawal (1 point)
 - 3) Reservoirs daily release rates

CLIMATE SECENARIOS

NASA Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP)

- General Circulation Model (GCM) runs conducted under the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5)
- Resolution: 0.25 degrees (-25 km * 25 km)
- Three climate models: 1) CNRM-CM5, 2) MPI-ESM-MR, 3) MRI-CGCM3
- Two Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs): 1) 4.5, 2) 8.5
- Two periods of simulations: 1) Near future (2010-2039), 2 Far future (2040-2069)

RESULTS

➤ Hydrologic Model Performance

- SWAT model calibrated for 2009-2013
- Calibration point: Charchani station
- Model performance:
 - NSE: 0.53
 - PBIAS: -3.79 %
 - R²: 0.58

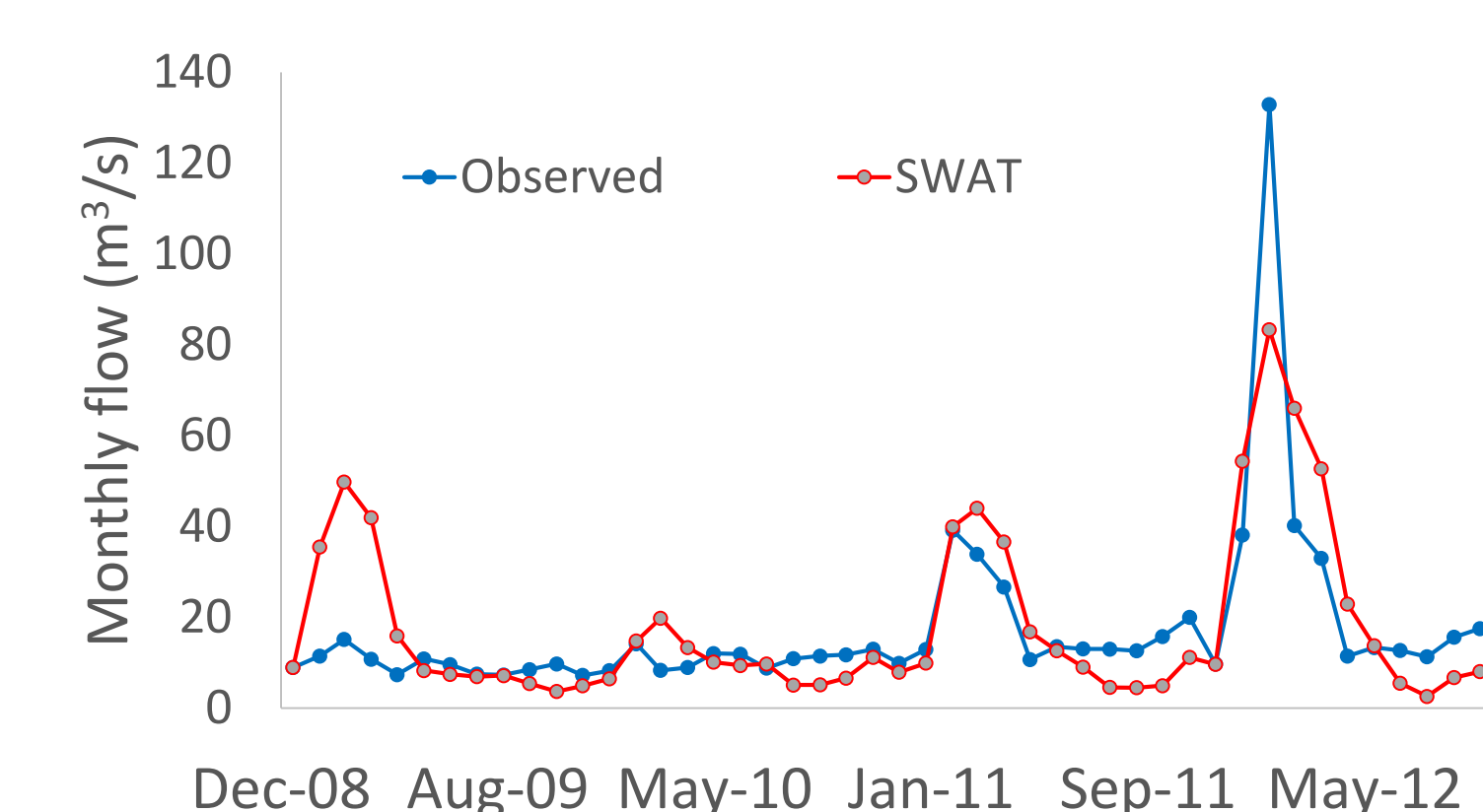


Figure 4. SWAT model calibration

➤ Current Condition

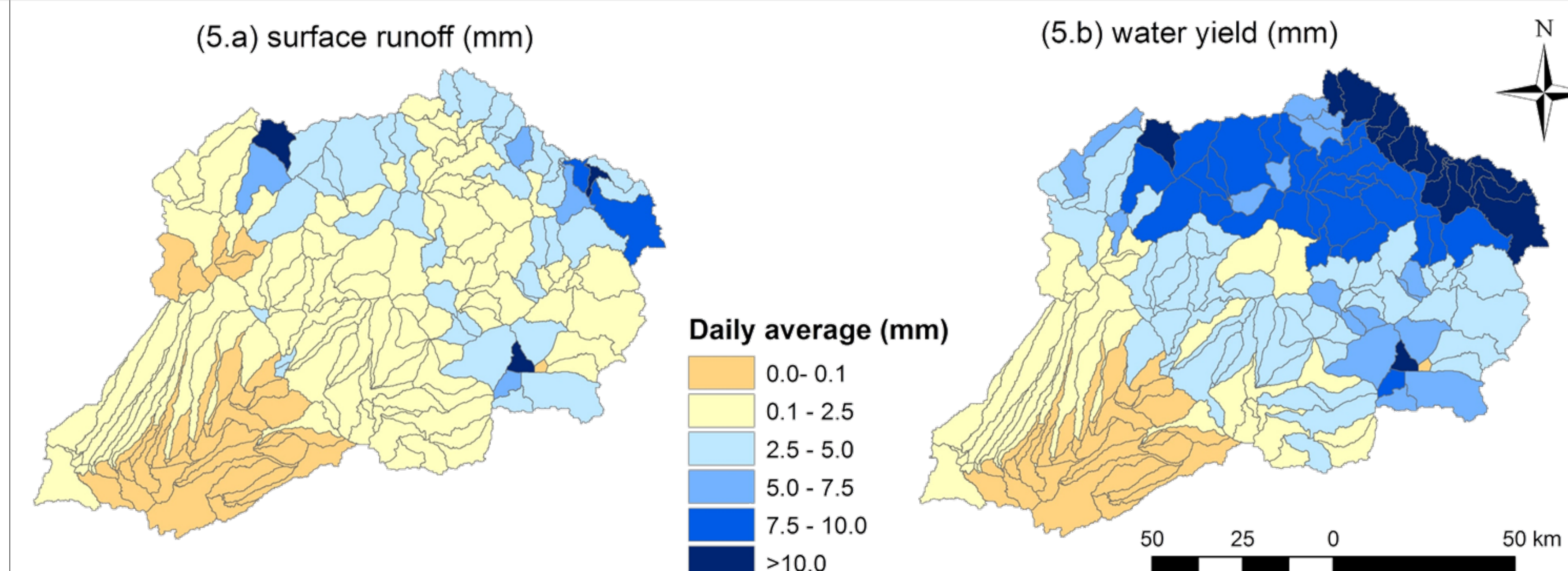


Figure 5. Daily average of surface runoff (mm) and water yield (mm) at sub-watershed level for current condition (2009-2017)

➤ Future Scenarios

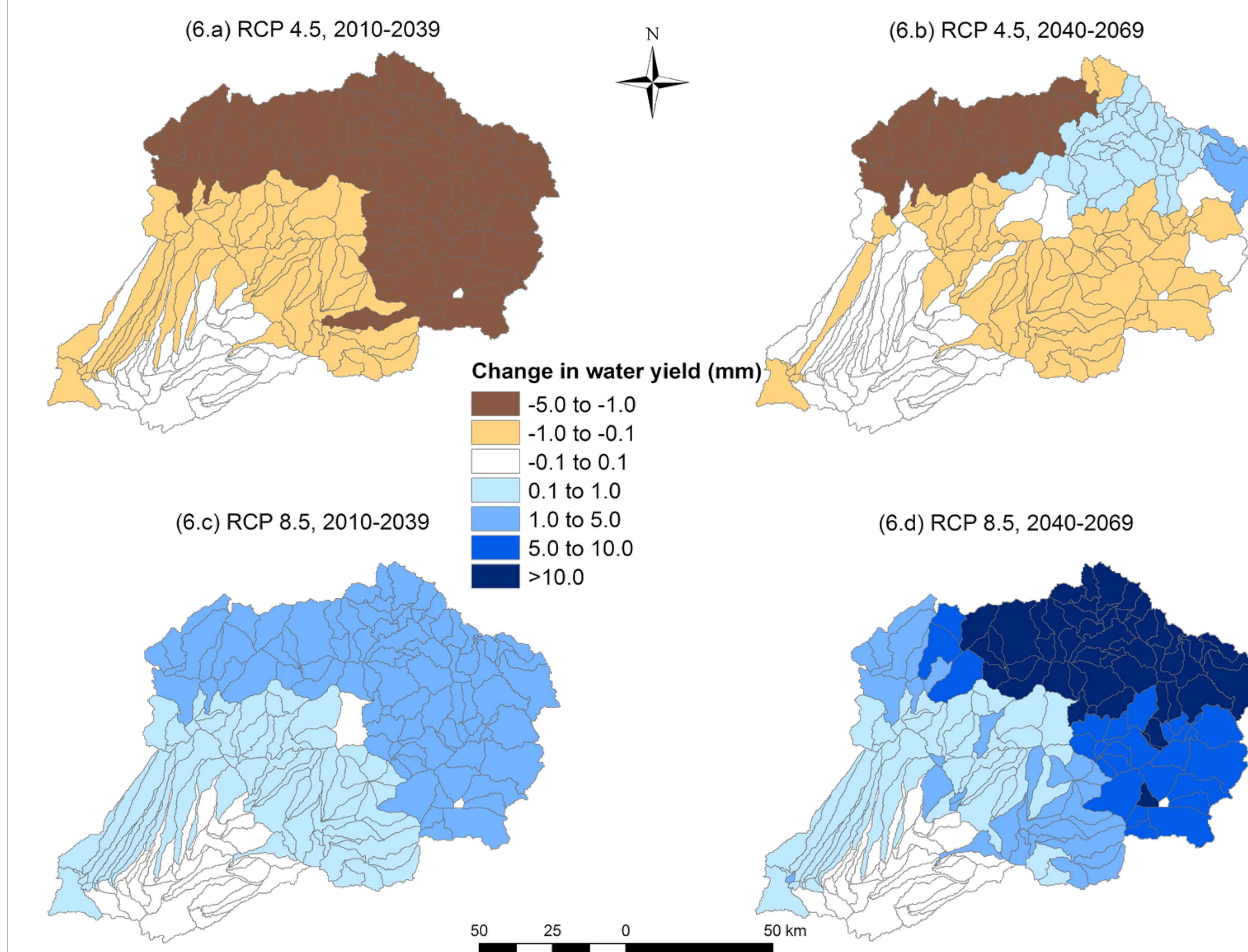


Figure 6. Ensemble average of daily water yield (mm) at sub-watershed level

CONCLUSIONS

- Slight increase in surface runoff and water yield are predicted in high altitude headwaters, especially for RCP 8.5 in far future (2040-2069)
- All models predicted low water supply in low altitude catchments
- Incorporation of water diversions and withdrawals into future simulations will provide more accurate picture of water availability and will be subject of future research