

Trends in total and extreme precipitation in Turkish Black Sea coast

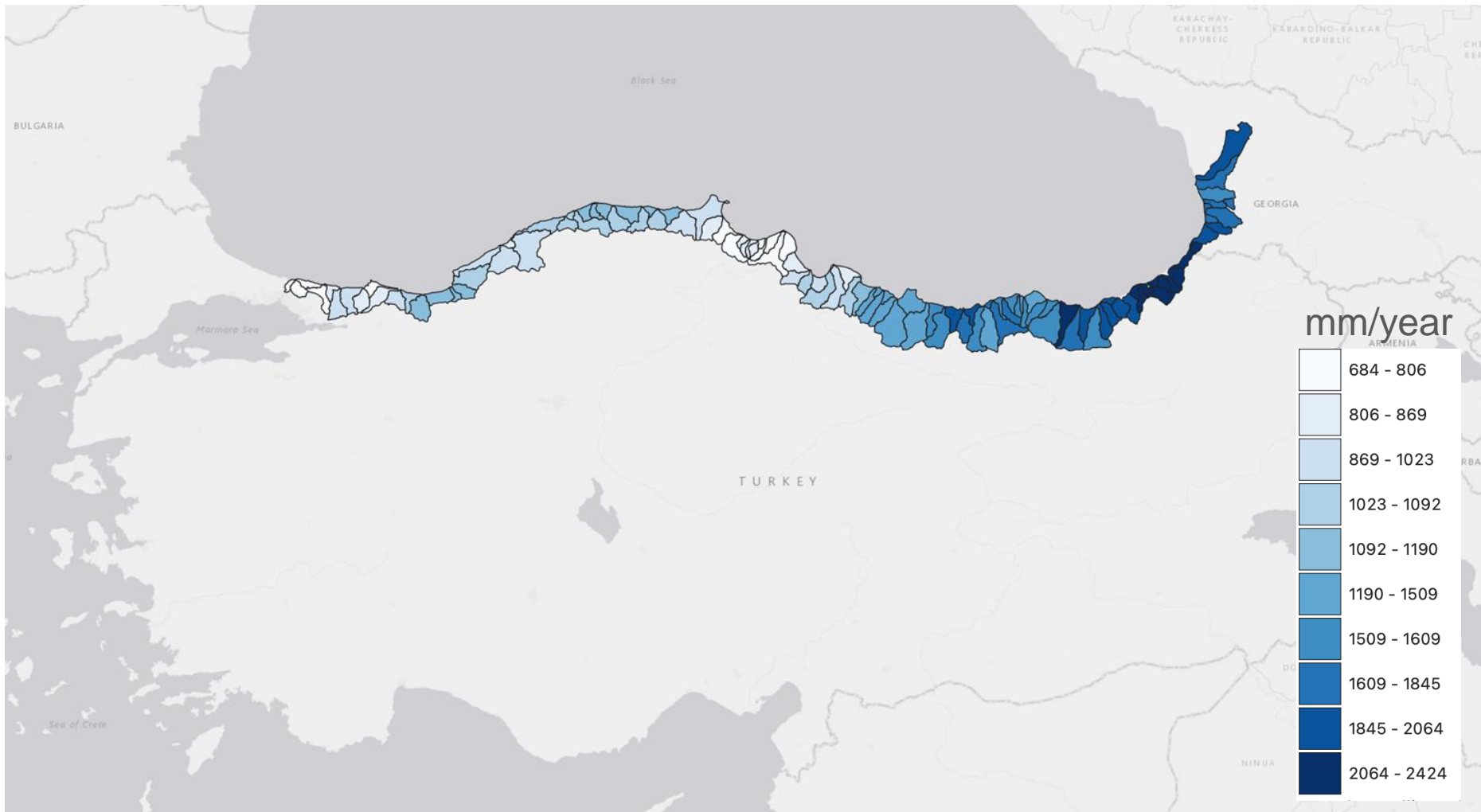
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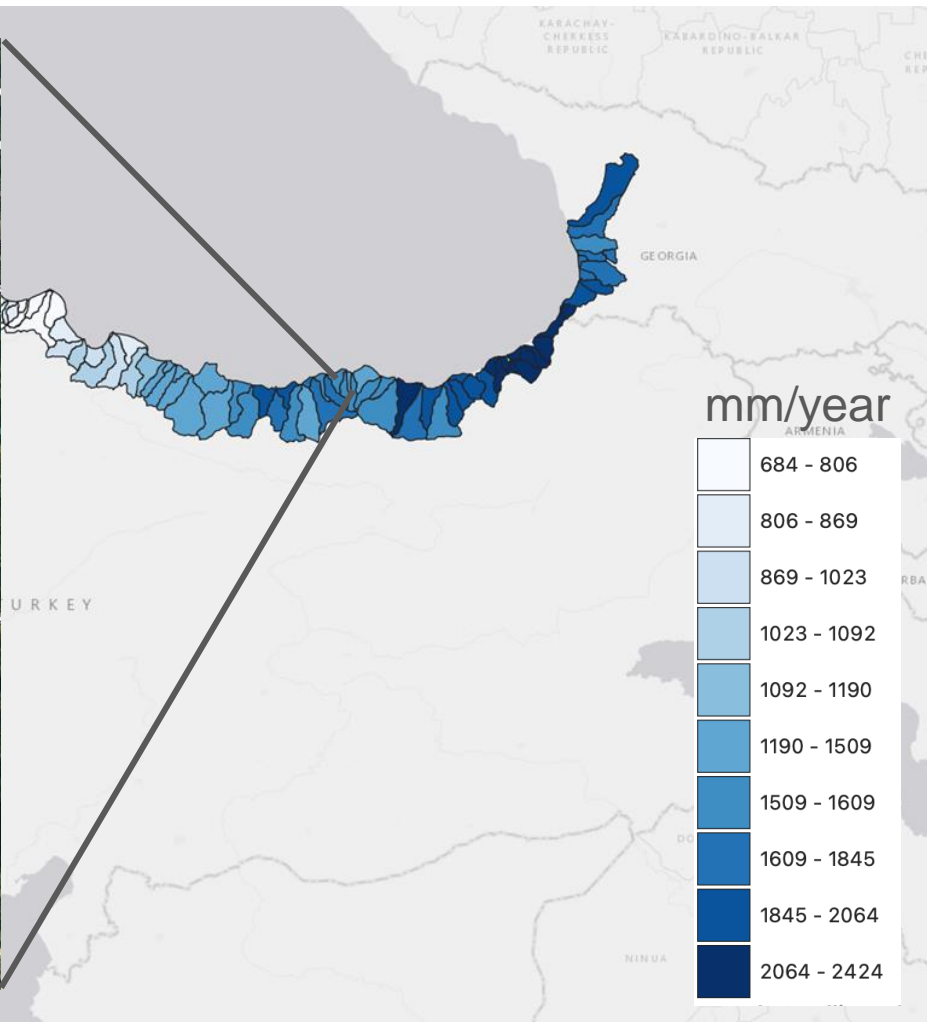
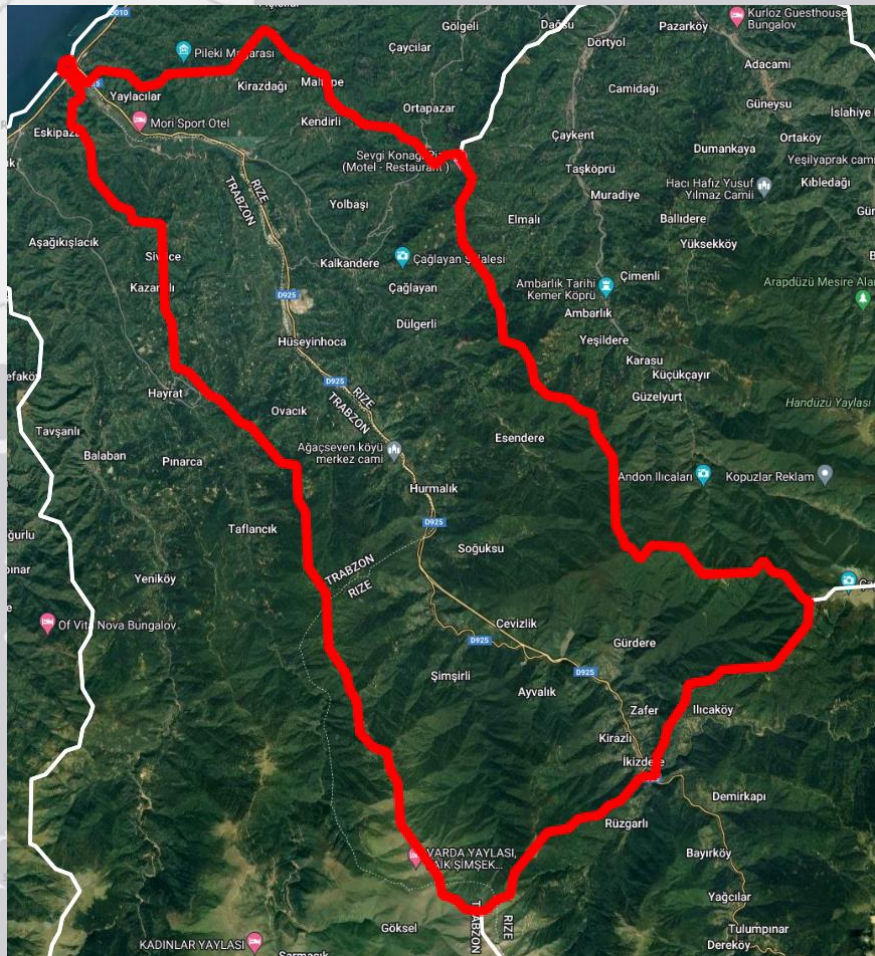
July 16, 2024

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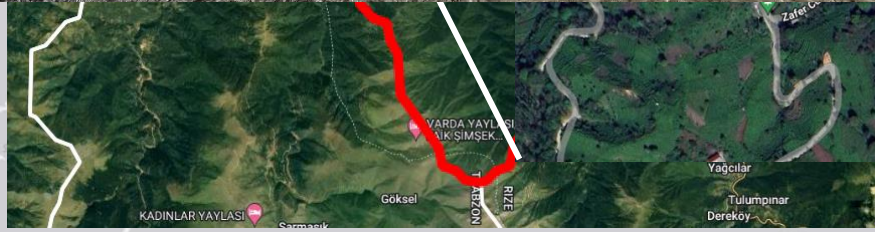
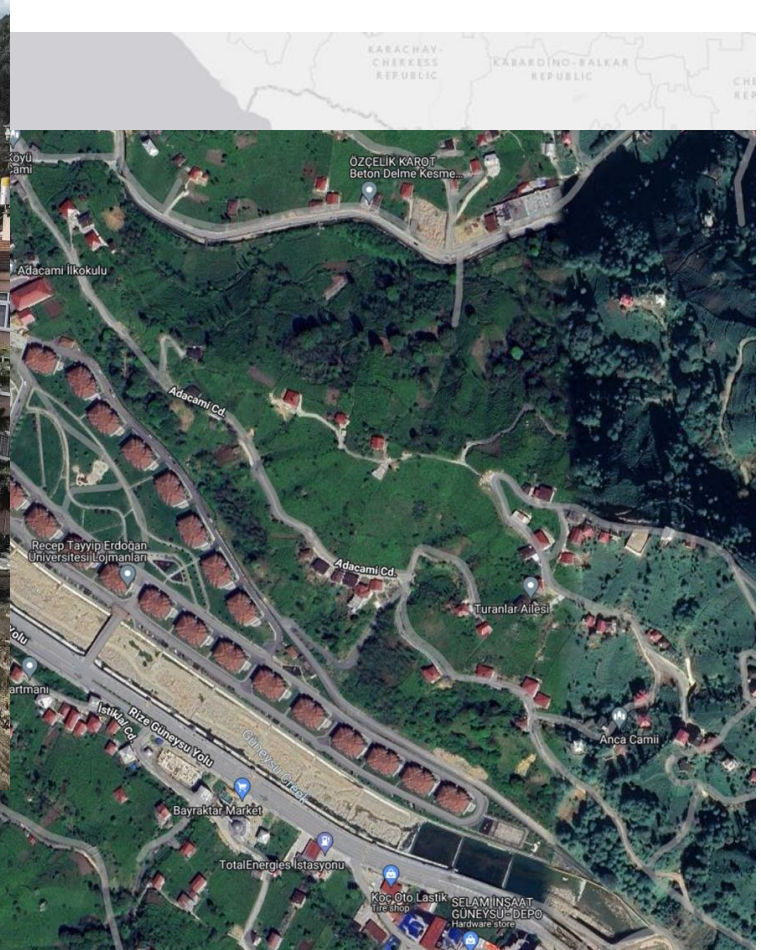
Introduction

- Turkiye's Black Sea coast belongs to temperate wet climatic zone
- Particularly the eastern Black Sea coastal areas receive 1200 to 2000 mm of rainfall with west to east rainfall gradient
- Steep slopes over short distances along the coast means quick runoff
- Flooding due to extreme precipitation is exacerbated by land use change (urbanization) along the floodplain





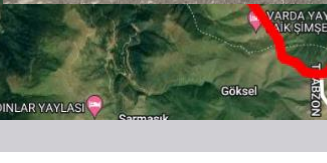






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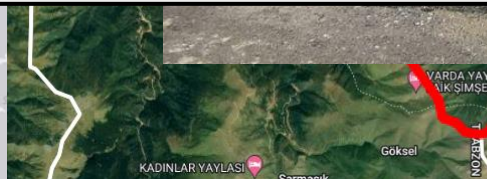
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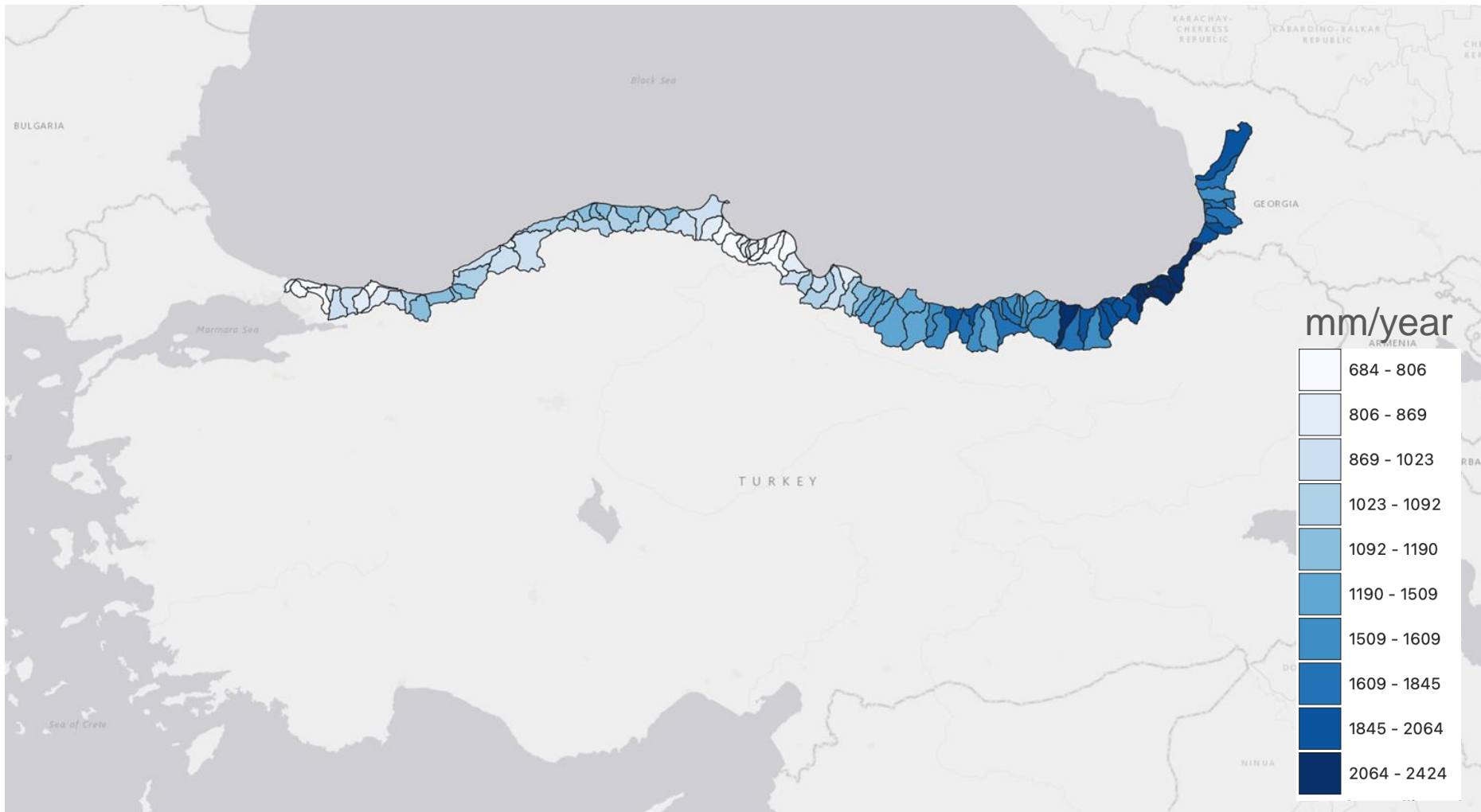
The research questions we are asking are:

- Do annual precipitation patterns change over time?
- Does extreme precipitation events increase in frequency and intensity?



Methodology

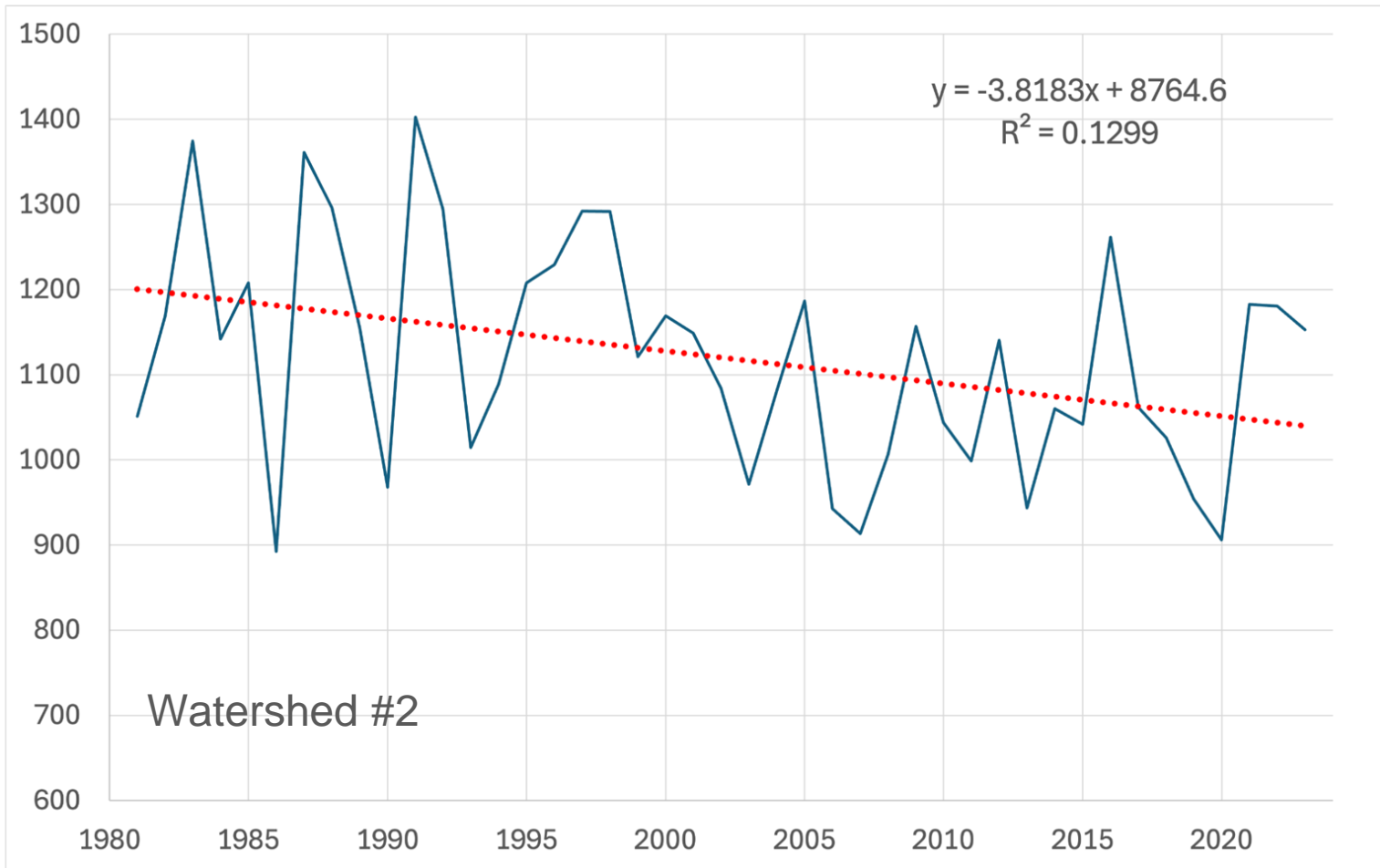
- Gather daily rainfall data (ERA5) between 1970 and 2023
- Aggregate to watershed level
- Compute annual values
- Compute extreme values
 - Defined as daily precipitation $>$ 98th percentile (or 99th percentile)
- Conduct trend analysis
- Results



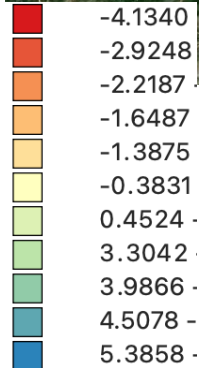
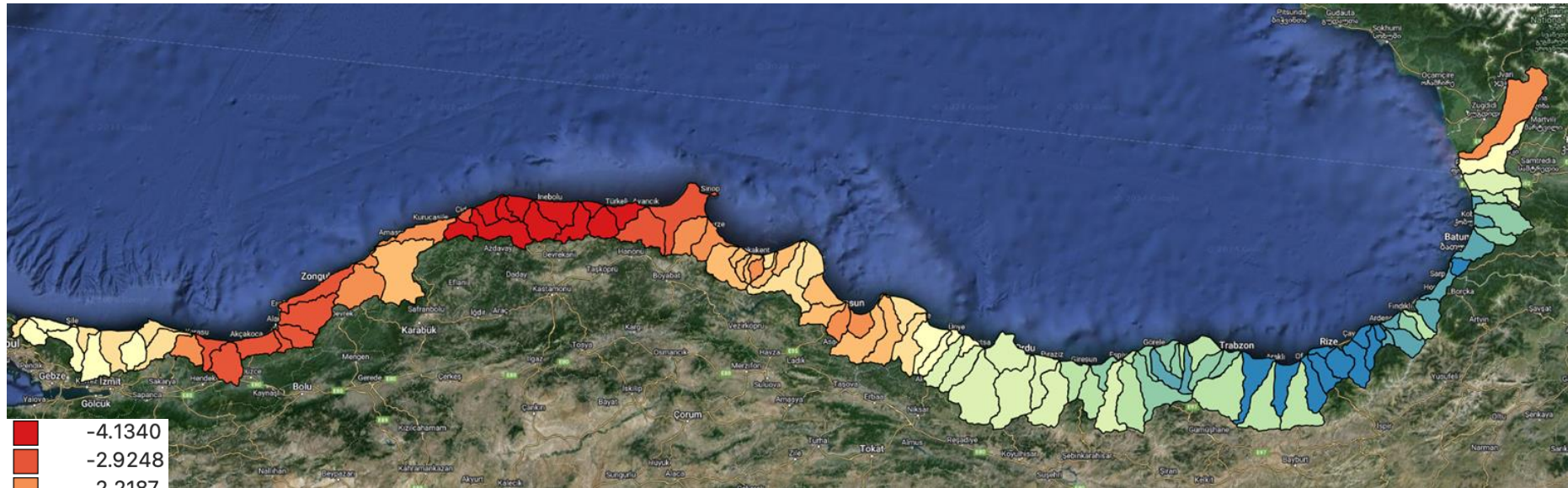
Results (annual rainfall trends)

- Annual rainfall values have varying degrees of trends
- Most trends are negative
- Most of the negative trends are concentrated in central Black Sea
- Positive relationship between annual rainfall and trends
 - Wet areas -> higher trends

annual rainfall [mm/year]



Annual rainfall trends



mm of rain / year

Results (extreme rainfall event trends)

- Extreme rainfall values largely follow annual rainfall events but in the opposite direction
- Most trends are positive
- Most of the negative trends are concentrated in central and eastern Black Sea watersheds
- Trends range from -3 to + 4 events per decade

Extreme event trends (pr > 98th percentile)



number of events / decade

Next steps

- Extend this work to near (20 years) and long term (50+ years) analysis to understand the effects of climate change on the observed trends
- Using CORDEX downscaled rainfall data under CMIP6 scenarios
 - Using preliminary results from the ITU node
- Preliminary results suggest large inter-model variation, but
- In general drying (decreasing annual rainfall) trend is emerging
- Trends of extreme rainfall events are somewhat inconclusive but appear to have a small positive trend

Conclusions

- There are important and significant trends in annual rainfall amounts in Turkish Black Sea coastal areas
- Central Black Sea has decreasing trends while eastern areas have increasing trends (these are the higher annual rainfall areas to begin with)
- Occurrence of extreme events (pr > 98th percentile) are generally increasing, especially in eastern areas that already have large annual rainfall amounts
- Such trends are potentially exacerbated by land use change (removal of forests in upstream areas and urbanization in downstream areas)
- Government should think about risk mitigation strategies as the risk appears to be increasing!

Questions?

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