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Session 2.01: Groundwater in semiarid regions – a long-term view on changes in aquifer balances. Hydrogeology in developing countries

A pan-African inter-comparison of the relationship between precipitation and groundwater recharge from *in situ* observations and large-scale models

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Session 2.01| Room: Louisville | Le Corum, Montpellier | France

A pan-African inter-comparison of the relationship between precipitation and groundwater recharge from *in-situ* observations and large-scale models

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Study Group is expanding…

Dependence on groundwater resources

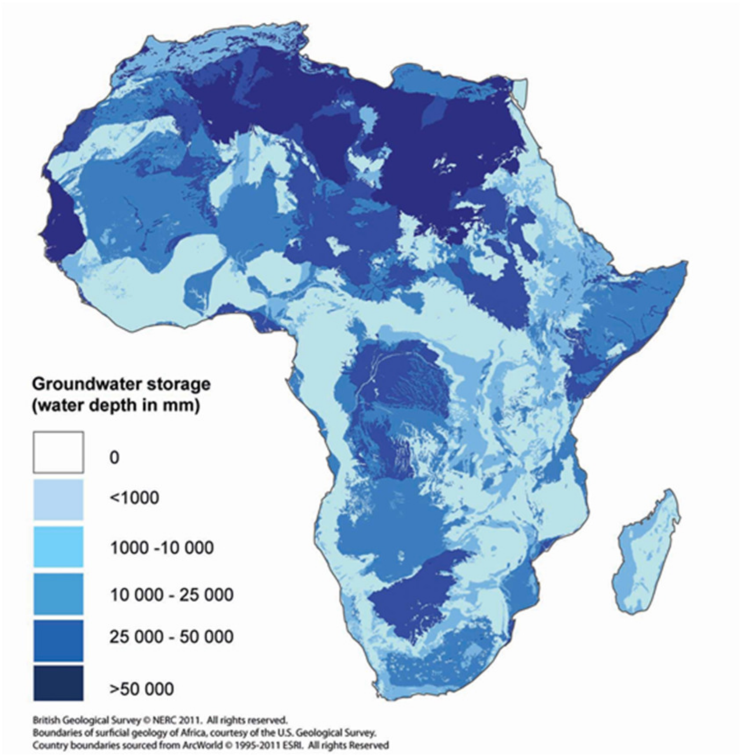
Groundwater is a vital resource upon which dependence is growing globally to sustain and amplify the production of food through irrigation and the provision of safe drinking water

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

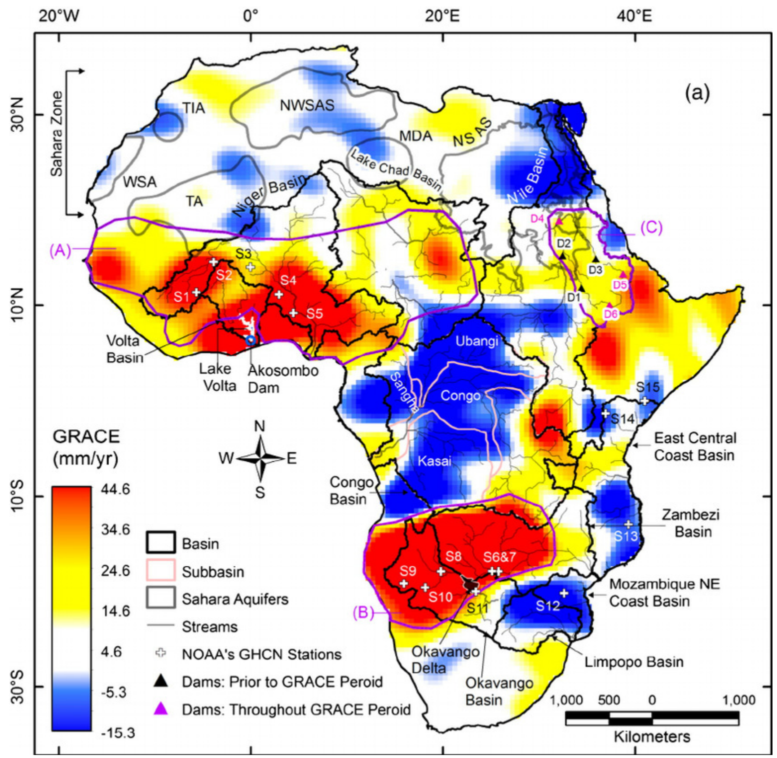
Africa – is the home to the world's most variable freshwater resources, the highest rates of population growth, the lowest rates of per capita food production, and lowest proportions of national populations with access to safe water

assessing groundwater resources

- **reliance on Global Hydrological Models (GHMs) and Land-Surface Models (LSMs) alone or in combination with satellite data (GRACE) to assess impacts of global change – this dependence expected to intensify as large-scale model resolutions increase**



GW storage *MacDonald et al. (2012)*



GRACE TWS trends *Ahmed et al. (2014)*

Land Surface Models (LSMs) / Global Hydrological Models (GHMs)

- **current focus: groundwater recharge (subsurface runoff) estimates from 7 global-scale models including 2 GHMs (WaterGAP, PCR-GLOBWB) and 5 LSMs (CESM-CLM4.5 & NASA's GLDAS LSMs: CLM , NOAH, VIC, MOSAIC)**

Model	Grid	Precipitation	Output
CLM	1°	CMAP	SSR
NOAH	1°	CMAP	SSR
VIC	1°	CMAP	SSR
MOSAIC	1°	CMAP	SSR
CLM4.5	0.5°	CRU-NCEP (v.5)	GWR (diffuse)
PCR-GLOBWB	0.5°	WFDEI	GWR (diffuse)
WaterGAP	0.5°	CRU TS 3.23	GWR (diffuse)
WaterGAP	0.5°	CRU TS 3.23	GWR (combined)

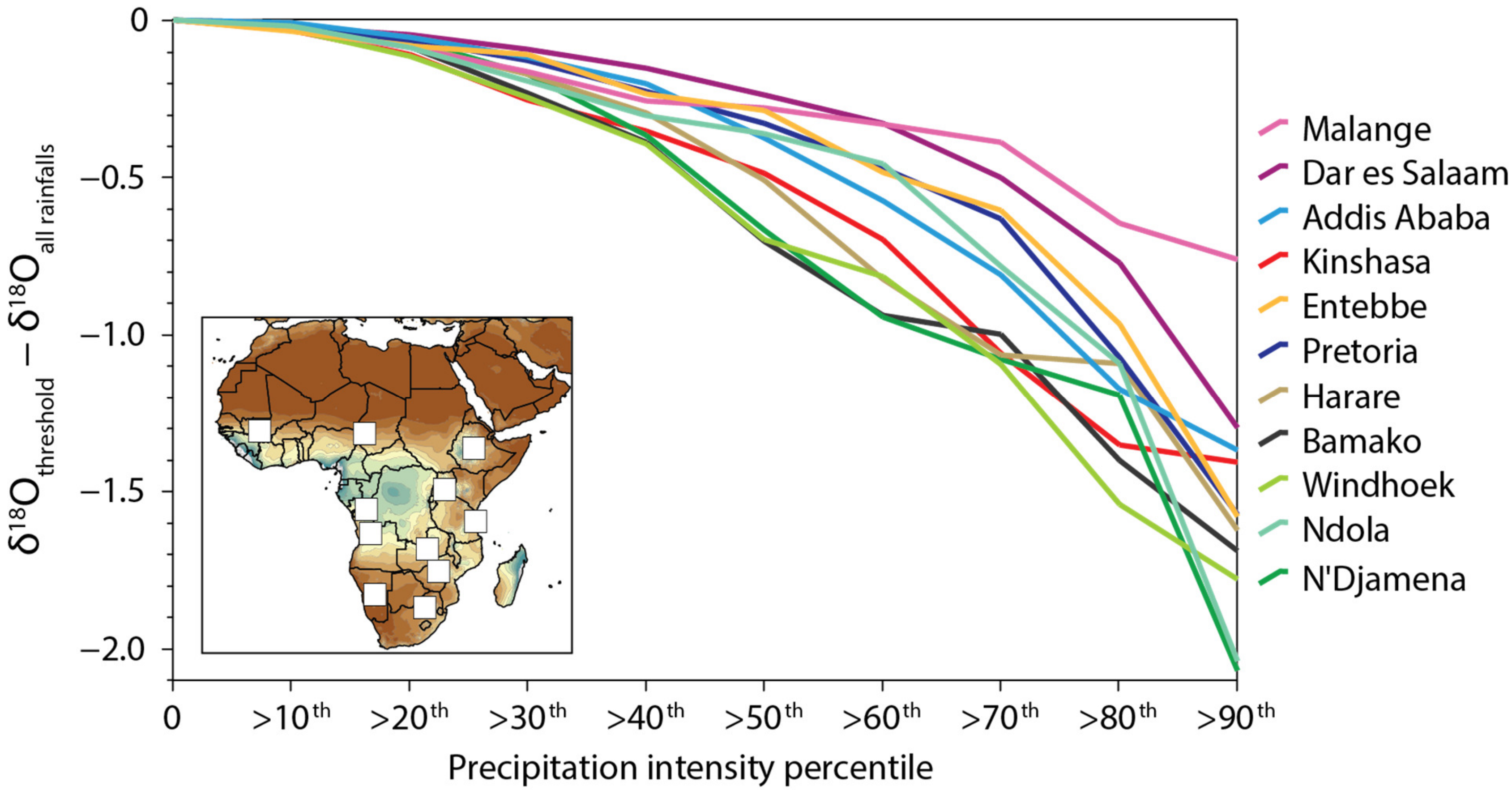
Observations: multi-decadal GWL records

- **collation of multi-decadal, *in situ* (piezometric) records of groundwater levels across Africa under *The Chronicles Consortium***

Location	No.	Geology	Climate	Duration
Benin	8	Quaternary sands Continentale Terminale	humid	1991-present
Burkina Faso	2	weathered crystalline rock Continentale Terminale	semi-arid	1978-present
Chad	15	Quaternary sediments	arid	1968-1989
Ghana	1	Quaternary sediments	humid	1976-present
Morocco	25	Plio-Quaternary sediments	arid	1970-present
Niger	50	Quaternary sediments	semi-arid	1987-present
South Africa	21	weathered crystalline rock limestone	semi-arid	1970-present
Tanzania	1	weathered crystalline rock	semi-arid	1954-present
Tunisia	70	Quaternary sediments	semi-arid	1969-present
Uganda	5	weathered crystalline rock	humid	1998-present

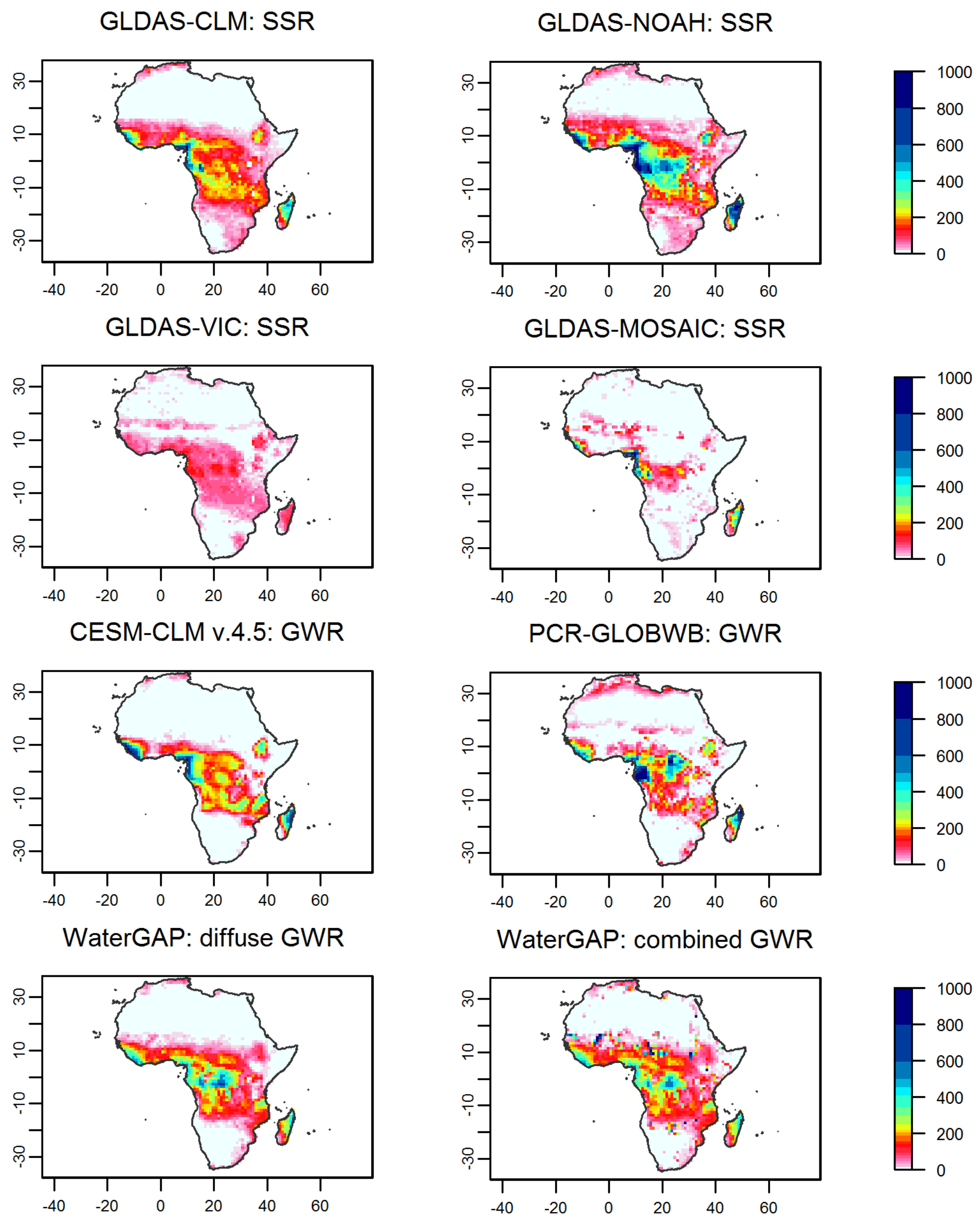
IAEA stable-isotope data in Africa

- **use of rainfall-groundwater stable-isotope (^{18}O:^{16}O) "pairings" as the "amount effect" observed across Africa enables intensity of rainfall recharging groundwater to be traced**



Jasechko and Taylor (2015)

mapping simulated SSR & GWR

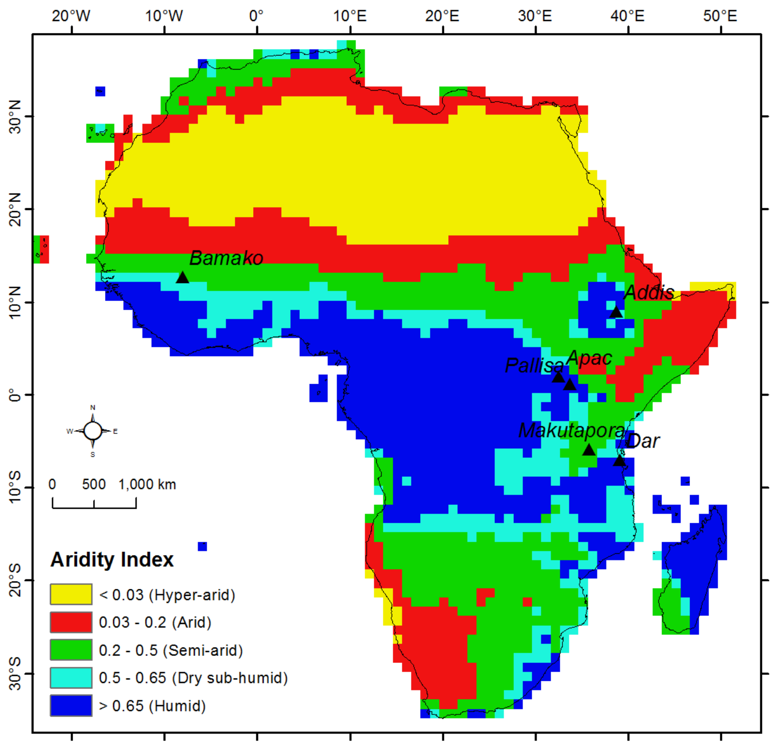


- substantial variations in the magnitude and distribution of mean annual SSR & groundwater recharge (GWR)

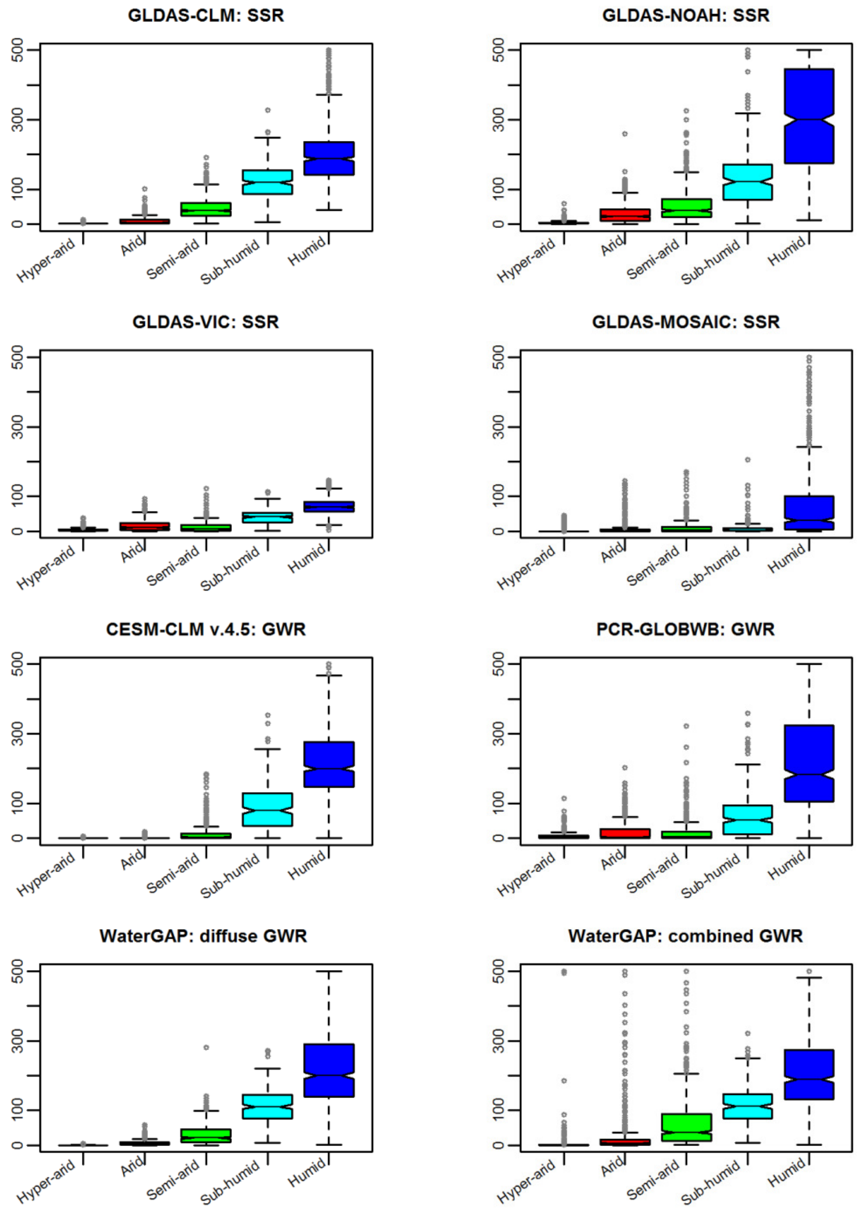
- spatial extent and magnitude of recharge in semi-arid regions increase substantially between WaterGAP (diffuse only) versus WaterGAP (combined diffuse and focused recharge)

simulated SSR & GWR grouped by climate

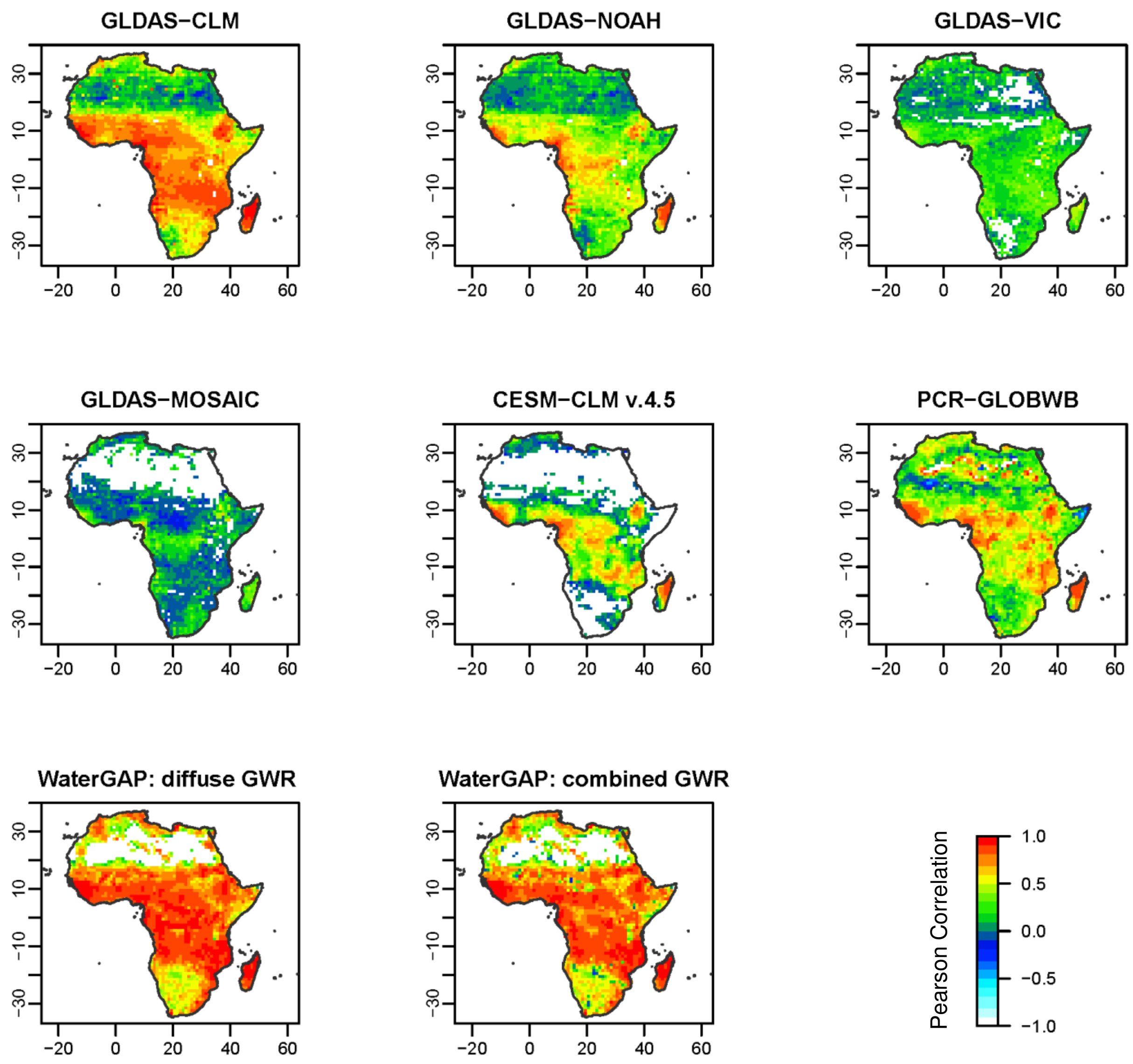
- simulated recharge in semi-arid regions increases with the inclusion of focused recharge in WaterGAP



CGIAR Aridity Index



correlation of simulated GWR/SSR and precip

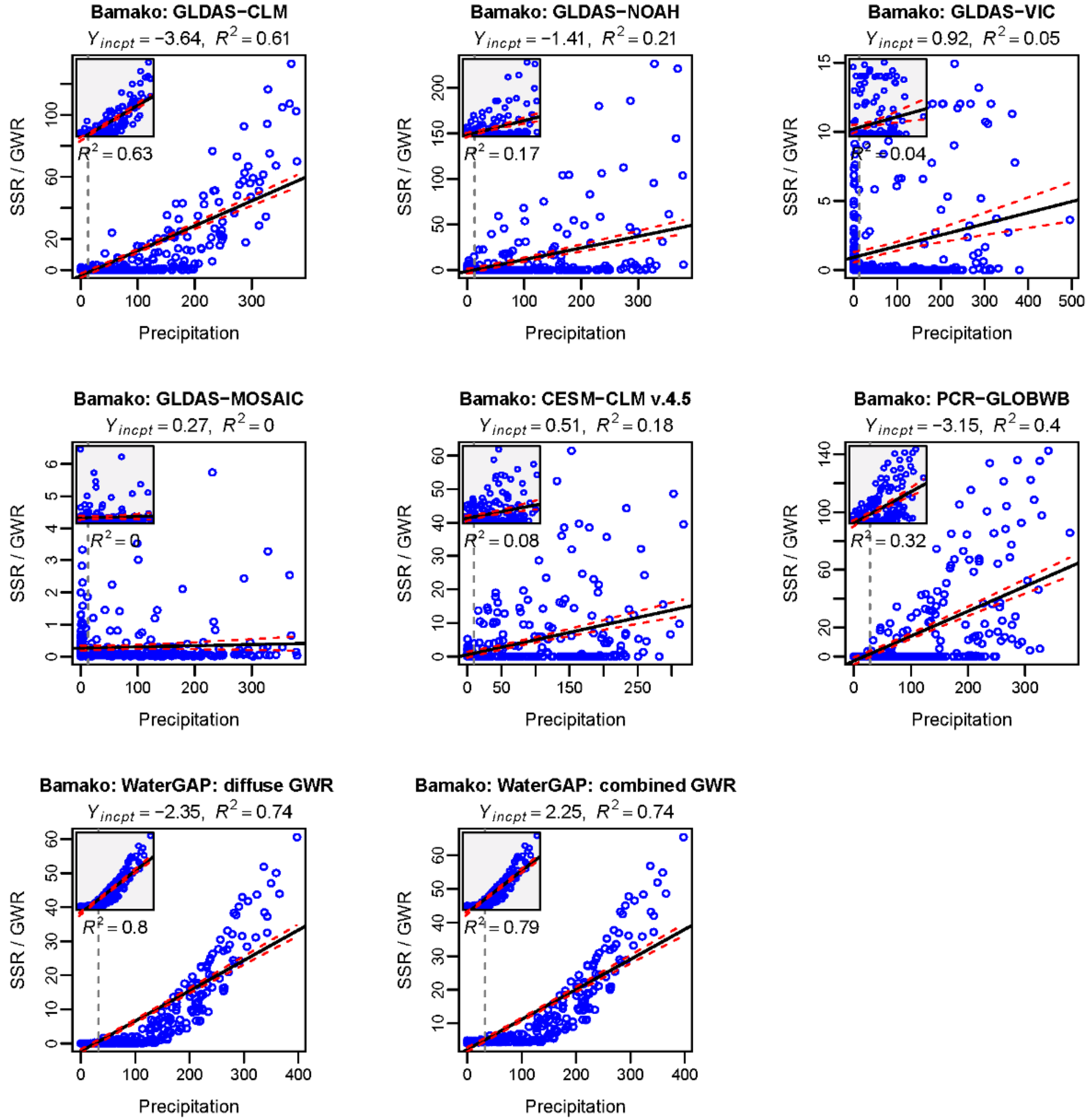


- precipitation and simulated GWR / SSR are strongly correlated in GLDAS-CLM and WaterGAP

- weaker correlations in GLDAS VIC and MOSAIC explained by very low, estimated SSR

semi-arid location: Bamako (Mali)

Bamako (Mali)



Preliminary outcomes:

1. spatial extent and magnitude of simulated GWR & SSR in semi-arid regions are substantially underestimated by large-scale models that ignore focused recharge processes

2. simulated GWR & SSR and precipitation are well correlated in semi-arid areas of some models (GLDAS-CLM, WaterGAP) but very weakly correlated in others

3. non-linearity evident in the relationship between simulated GWR & SSR and precipitation in semi-arid areas (GLDAS-CLM, WaterGAP) – consistent with limited piezometric and isotopic observations

Thanks for listening…

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GroFutures Project Manager (http://grofutures.org/)

https://www.un-igrac.org/special-project/chronicles-consortium