

Trend Analysis of Lakes and Sinkholes in Konya Closed Basin, Turkey

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Trend analysis of lakes and sinkholes in Konya Closed Basin, Turkey

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Abstract

Determining changes in the water level of lakes is essential in terms of flood control, water resource management, economic development, water-supply planning sustainability, and the sustainability of the ecosystem. Trend analysis is one of the most commonly used tools for detecting changes in the hydrological time series such as lake levels, precipitation and temperature. Trend analyses of meteorological variables and groundwater levels (baseflow components) are crucial toward the assessment of long-term changes in lake levels. This study aims to investigate the trend of long-term change in lakes (Lake Tuz and Lake Beyşehir) and sinkholes (Timraş and Kızören) in the Konya Closed Basin in Turkey. Changes in these lakes and sinkholes were examined along with changes in precipitation and groundwater trends representing the climate in the region. With the assistance of Thiessen polygons, precipitation stations, which affect the lakes and sinkholes, were determined. Several statistical tests exist that help determine the significance of hydrological trends over time. These tests are divided into two categories: parametric and nonparametric. In this study, the non-parametric Innovative Sen trend test, the Modified Mann–Kendall trend test, and the parametric Linear Trend test were used. As a result of the trend analysis, it was observed that the water levels of Kızören and Timraş sinkholes decreased over time, and the water levels of Tuz Gölü and Beyşehir lakes increased over time. These results are supported by the trends of precipitation data and groundwater level data of the stations determined by the Thiessen polygons and sub-basin boundaries.

Key Words: Konya Closed Basin, sinkhole, Mann-Kendall trend test, Linear Trend test, Innovate Sen trend test

1. Introduction

Humans, who have a significant position in the environment of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, need the presence of lakes, which are valuable water resources. Many lakes around the globe are facing multiple types of threats owing to combined effects such as water withdrawals resulting from human activities and climate variation. These effects, which have a critical influence on regional sustainable development, can adversely impact both water quality and quantity. The fluctuation of lake water levels plays an important role in lake ecosystems. It is necessary to establish sustainable management of the lakes to detect long-term changes in water levels.

Fluctuations in lake water levels are known to be sensitive indicators of changes in climate and groundwater, and can play an important role in monitoring climate changes today and in the future. Therefore,

40 differences in lake levels and their relationship with measured climate variables are important not only for
41 understanding and monitoring the effects of climate change but also analyzing impacts on relevant ecosystems.
42 Lake water level fluctuations can result from the complex relationship of various water balance components.
43 These components include the flow entering or leaving the lake, direct precipitation to the lake surface, and
44 groundwater change (Pan et al. 2018). In addition to meteorological factors such as precipitation on the lake
45 drainage area, evaporation from the lake surface, wind speed, humidity, and temperature in the adjacent
46 subatmosphere play an important role in water level fluctuations in the lakes. Gradual (trend) or sudden
47 (shifting) climate change problems have been particularly notable in recent years. Researchers have found that
48 most of the changes in the lake level are related to meteorological variables such as temperature and
49 precipitation.

50 Understanding long-term trends in hydrometeorological variables and groundwater changes is highly
51 significant for sustainable water resource management. Meteorological parameters can change for many
52 reasons, depending on the time and space. These observed changes should be determined by various statistical
53 methods. The trend and homogeneity analysis are two important statistical methods that are widely used around
54 the world for assessing the long-term changes in meteorological variables.

55 A limited number of studies in the literature on the hydrological relationship between trends of lake,
56 sinkhole (a type of lake), groundwater levels and meteorological variables are available. Few examples are as
57 follows: Yenilmez et al. (2011) analyzed the trend of water quality parameters, precipitation, lake volume and
58 temperatures recorded in Eymir Lake (Turkey) using the Mann–Kendall test and Linear trend methods. Bahadır
59 (2012) analyzed the precipitation and the trend of the water level of Kovada lake (Turkey) using the Linear
60 trend method. Yagbasan et al. (2017) used the Mann–Kendall trend test in temperature, precipitation, and water
61 levels of Mogan and Eymir lakes. Göncü et al. (2017) examined the change of climate variables and four lake
62 levels (Burdur, Eğirdir, Sapanca, and Lake Tuz) in Turkey using Mann–Kendall, Seasonal Kendall, Regional
63 Kendall, and Linear trends methods. Belete et al. (2017) used the Mann–Kendall test for long-term
64 precipitation, streamflow, and potential evapotranspiration trends for the water level of Lake Hawassa
65 (Etiyopya). Yagbasan et al. (2020) used the Mann–Kendall, Modified Mann–Kendall, and Linear trend test for
66 trends in climate variables and changes of the water levels in Mogan and Eymir lakes.

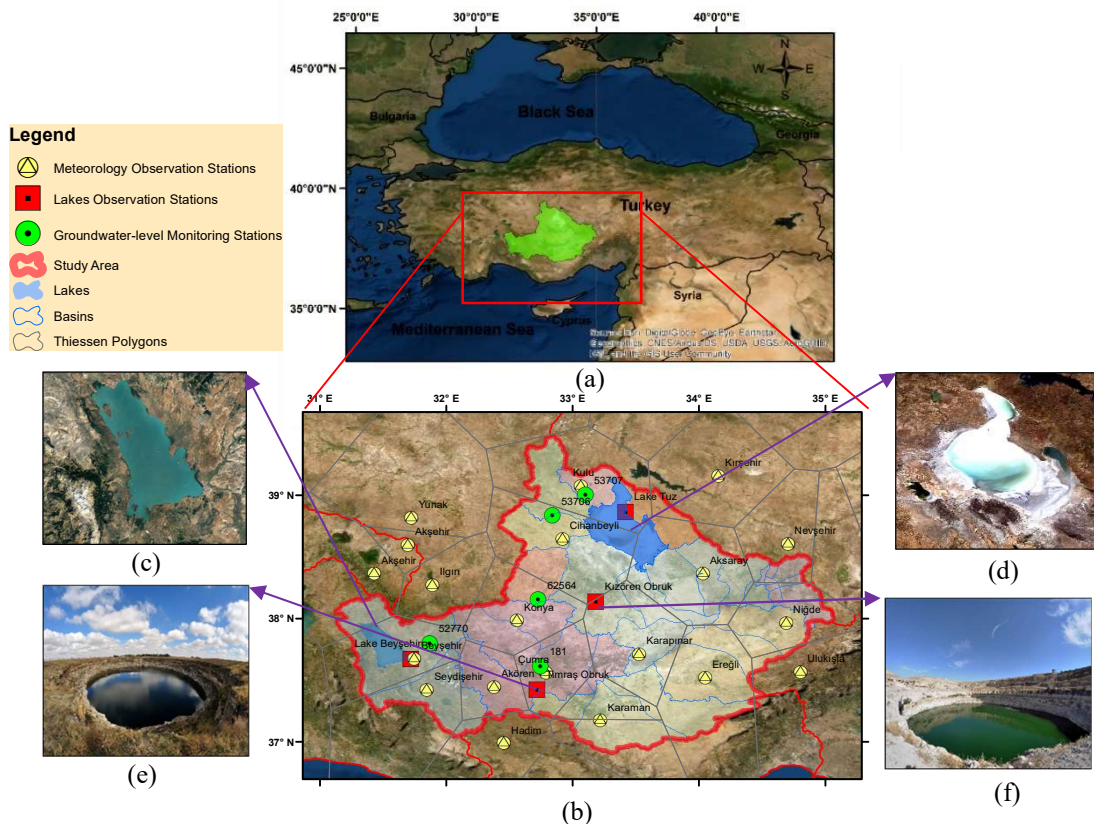
67 Precipitation and underground waters are the main source of water in sinkholes. The sinkholes are formed
68 by natural factors (tectonic, climate, and lithological character), human activities (maximum use of
69 groundwater, military ammunition trials), and the collapse of the ceilings of underground cavities, such as
70 underground caves. Therefore, the emphasis in this research is focused on the determination of monthly trends
71 of changes in the underground water levels and precipitation of lakes and sinkholes. In literature, statistical
72 analysis results showed that precipitations and underground water levels have a crucial influence on the
73 variations in the water levels of lakes. Precipitation is the main element in the hydrological system. Hence, any
74 change in the long-term trends of precipitation will have a direct effect on water resources, particularly on the
75 lake water levels. In addition, climate changes and human effects are the probable causes of changes in lake
76 water levels.

77 This study aims to investigate the long-term fluctuations of precipitation and groundwater changes in the
 78 lakes located in the Central Anatolia region of Turkey. In this study, the homogeneity characteristic of the time
 79 series was investigated. Next, trend analyses were conducted. The Standard Normal Homogeneity Test (SNHT)
 80 was used to test whether the hydrological data came from the same population. For trend analyses,
 81 nonparametric Modified Mann–Kendall (MMK), Innovative Sen trend test (ST) and parametric Linear trend
 82 (LT) methods were used. The trends and homogeneity tests were examined at a 95% confidence level. The
 83 potential impact of precipitation and groundwater variables on sinkholes and water level fluctuations in the
 84 lakes has not yet been examined. This study takes that point into consideration, and analyzes the causes and
 85 hydrological consequences of variations in the water levels of sinkholes and lakes.

86 2. Materials and Methods

87 2.1. Materials

88 Konya closed basin is located in the central and southern parts of the Central Anatolia Region. According to
 89 the long-term data of the meteorological stations located in the Konya closed basin; the average annual
 90 temperature is 11.6 °C; the highest temperature is 40.6 °C and the lowest temperature is -28.2 °C. The average
 91 annual precipitation is 323.3 mm. Precipitation is in the form of convective in the region. The most important
 92 lakes of the region are Beyşehir and Tuz lakes (Figure 1).



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Fig. 1 The study area (a), Thiessen polygon in the study area (b)
Lake Beyşehir (c), LakeTuz (d), Timraş Sinkhole (e), Kızören Sinkhole (f)

Lake Tuz is very shallow and the second largest lake in Turkey with its surface area. That the lake is shallow, and the evaporation happens severe causes concentration of salts in the lake. Fifty-five percentage of Turkey's salt need is provided from this lake. Lake Tuz is a closed basin lake that does not flow out and its surface area is 7414 km² (Dengiz et al. 2010). Despite the wide area of precipitation, the feeding sources are weak. The streams that bring water to the lake are the streams whose waters decrease in the summer or dry out completely. The average water depth of the lake is around 40 cm, it is 110 cm in May when precipitation increases. The lake dries greatly in August. Both Lake Tuz and its surroundings are a special protection area. It is the main breeding center of many special bird species (Anonymous 2020). Lake Beyşehir is Turkey's largest freshwater lake (Guler et al. 2008). It is the third largest lake after Lake Van and Lake Tuz. It is located in a tectonic deposit with a surface area of 650 km² and surrounded by mountains. While the average depth of the lake is 5-6m, the maximum depth of it is 8-9 m. Lake Beyşehir is one of the protected areas of the country (545 plant, 163 bird and 16 fish species live), like Lake Tuz. Many migratory waterbirds come to Lake Beyşehir to hunt and breed (Bucak et al. 2018). Besides the lakes in the water ecosystem of the Konya basin, it plays an important role in the structures called "sinkhole". There are more than 20 sinkholes in the Konya Basin, which hosts 33.3% of the country's groundwater. The underground water flow from Konya Plain is towards the Lake Tuz, which is located at the lowest level of the plain. During the groundwater flow from Konya Plain to Lake Tuz, the groundwater dissolves karstic rocks in contact with and underground cavities are formed. As a result of the lowering of the groundwater level that fills these gaps, the surface layers whose balance is disturbed collapses and karstic shapes which we call "sinkhole" are formed (Recep and Tapur 2009). There are the aforementioned many sinkholes in the plain and the most important ones whose water levels are recorded are Timraş and Kızören sinkhole (Günay et al. 2011, 2015). Kızören sinkhole was formed within the Neogene aged lacustrine formations and Paleozoic aged with crystallized limestones (Recep and Tapur 2009). It is located 75 kilometers away from the city of Konya in Turkey (Figure 1(f)). It has an approximately elliptical shape with a long axis of 180 m and a short axis of 150 m. It is 300 m wide and up to 145 meters deep from the surface of the water. The water level in the sinkhole fluctuates during winter and summer, which generally do not exceed 1–2 m (Günay et al. 2011). Lake Obruk (sinkhole), which gives its name to the region, has a natural beauty that changes every hour of the day. The sinkhole (or sinkhole lake) is a miraculous lake that drives those who see it to surprise and excitement. The most significant feature of the sinkholes is that they are very special geographical formations. These are sinkhole lakes, called karst lands, which are usually found on the plains containing limestones and carbonates evaporation products, that water can easily dissolve. Timras Sinkhole is located approximately 40 km southeast of Konya and 46 km of Konya-Karaman highway (Figure 1(e)). It is composed of limestones. Ellipse shaped sinkhole whose large diameter is 325 m and small diameter is 250 m. The most depth point of the sinkhole has been measured as 32 m (Recep and Tapur 2009). Due to the sweetness of the lake Obruk (sinkhole), there are carp-type fish. Besides, caves and limestone cavities on the slopes are a habitat for pigeons. The number of visitors is high because it is close to the road (Tapur and Bozyiğit 2016). Underground waters are fed from the Taurus Mountains in the south of the Konya basin. Some of these underground waters, which progress from the land on the mountain slopes, forms lakes and sinkholes

139 in long-term periods. Sinkholes form with the collapse of ground a result of decreasing of underground currents
 140 over time. In addition, there is a hydrological relationship between the sinkhole and lakes in the study area.
 141 The groundwater coming from the south of the study area runs northward and ends in the Lake Tuz (Günay et
 142 al. 2011).

143 **2.1.1 Data**

144 Monthly total precipitation data (mm) were obtained from the General Directorate of Meteorology in
 145 meteorology stations. Other information about the stations is given in Table 1. Unfortunately, due to various
 146 regulations made by the government agency, the data could not be obtained after 2017. Table 1 shows the
 147 location of the meteorological lake level observation and the groundwater level observation stations used in
 148 the study. Table 2 shows the statistical properties used in the study. The distribution of long-term, average
 149 groundwater levels in the study area is given in Figure 2.

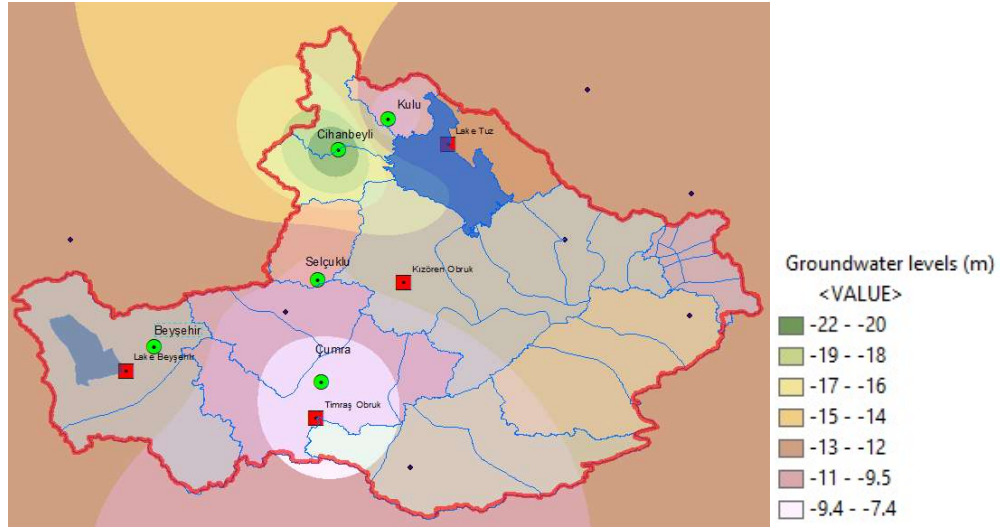
150 **Table 1** Location information of the stations used in the study

Station Type	Station Name	Station No	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Elevation (m)
Meteorology Observation Station	Karapınar	17902	37.72	33.52	996
	Çumra	17900	37.56	32.79	1014
	Kulu	17754	39.08	33.06	1005
	Cihanbeyli	17191	38.65	32.92	969
	Beyşehir	17242	37.68	31.75	1141
	Konya	17244	37.99	32.56	1031
	Aksaray	17193	38.38	34.03	965
Lake Observation Station	Kızören	16-050	38.14	33.19	974.72
	Timraş	16-052	37.43	32.72	1011.52
	Lake Tuz	1619	38.87	33.42	903.97
	Lake Beyşehir	D16G175	31.72	37.68	1121.80
Groundwater-level Observation Stations	Cihanbeyli	53706	32.84	38.84	968.5 (Depth, -100)
	Selçuklu	62564	32.73	38.16	987.99 (Depth, -83)
	Beyşehir	52770	31.87	37.80	1220.5 (Depth, -140)
	Çumra	181	32.75	37.62	1011.2 (Depth, -250)
	Kulu	53707	33.10	39.01	997.21 (Depth, -150)

151 **Table 2** Statistical properties of the stations.

Station Name	Max	Min	Mean	SD	SC	Period
Karapınar	109.20	0.00	23.86	21.21	1.04	64-17
Çumra	114.80	0.00	25.79	23.61	1.15	78-17
Kulu	130.90	0.00	31.49	26.19	0.93	64-17
Cihanbeyli	122.40	0.00	26.58	22.41	1.11	64-17
Beyşehir	231.20	0.00	40.71	38.09	1.59	64-17
Konya	124.00	0.00	27.74	24.37	1.09	64-17
Aksaray	119.00	0.00	28.78	23.99	0.79	64-17
Kızören	978.35	945.30	971.27	8.57	-1.24	64-17
Timraş	1015.53	987.68	1007.19	7.38	-1.02	78-15
Lake Tuz	905.98	903.97	905.04	0.18	0.52	64-16
Lake Beyşehir	1125.49	1121.03	1123.14	1.12	0.13	64-17
Cihanbeyli	-21.9	-26.3	-24.06	0.79	-0.51	00-17
Selçuklu	-1.66	-42.55	-11.02	9.97	-1.23	67-17
Beyşehir	-7.49	-18.49	-12.29	2.75	-0.60	04-17
Çumra	-1.27	-25.16	-7.30	5.57	-1.14	67-17
Kulu	-8.1	-15.09	-11.18	1.81	-0.41	00-17

152 SD: Standard Deviation, SC: Skewness Coefficient



154

155

Fig. 2 Distribution of long-term average groundwater levels

156

2.2. Methods

157

In this study, an investigation of the long-term monthly lake level, sinkhole level, groundwater level and precipitation series change analysis was performed. Firstly, the homogeneity conditions were examined. Later trend analyses were carried out.

158

159

2.2.1. Standard Normal Homogeneity Test (SNHT)

160

This method developed by Alexandersson is used to test the homogeneity of many hydro meteorological series (Khaliq and Ouarda 2007). Calculates the value of $T(c)$ by Equation 3 by dividing it into two parts with reference to a “c” point of the studied series (Equation 1 and 2).

161

162

$$\bar{z}_1 = \sum_{i=1}^c (y_i - \bar{y}) / \sigma / c \quad (1)$$

163

$$\bar{z}_2 = \sum_{i=1+c}^n (y_i - \bar{y}) / \sigma / (n - c) \quad (2)$$

$$T(c) = c\bar{z}_1 + (n - c)\bar{z}_2^2 \quad c=1, 2, 3, \dots, n \quad (3)$$

164

Where “n” is the number of data, “y” is years, z is the standardized work series of length n, \bar{z}_1 and \bar{z}_2 are arithmetic mean values of the series. If the change occurs at a point “h”, it reaches the maximum value of $T(c)$ at point $c = h$. T_0 test statistic is as in Equation 4.

165

166

167

$$T_0 = \max_{1 < c < n} T(c) \quad (4)$$

168

If the test statistic T_0 exceeds the T_0 critical value, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. T_0 test values depending on the number of data and 95% confidence level is given in Table 3 (Alexandersson 1986).

169

170

Table 3 T_0 test critical values depending on the number of data

Number of data	30	40	50	70	100	200	500	700	1000
CL (95%)	7.65	8.10	8.45	8.80	9.15	9.55	10.20	10.45	10.50

171

172 2.2.2. Modified Mann-Kendall (MMK)

173 This method tests if there is a trend in the time series data (Mann 1945; Kendall 1975). It is a non-parametric
 174 rank-based procedure, robust to the influence of extremes and suitable for application with skewed variables
 175 (Hamed 2008). Test statistic value is calculated with the help of Equation 5 and 6.

$$\text{sgn}(x_j - x_i) = \begin{cases} 1; & \text{if } x_j > x_i \\ 0; & \text{if } x_j = x_i \\ -1; & \text{if } x_j < x_i \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

176 In Equation (5), x_i and x_j are the data values in time series i and j , respectively and in Equation (6), n is
 177 the number of data points, $\text{sgn}(x_j - x_i)$ is the sign function as;

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \text{sgn}(x_j - x_i) \quad (6)$$

178 After that the variance is computed as;

$$\text{Var}(S) = \frac{n(n-1)(2n+5) - \sum_{i=1}^p t_i(t_i-1)(2t_i+5)}{18} \quad (7)$$

179 In Equation (7), n refers to the number of data, P shows the number of tied groups, and t_i indicates the
 180 number of ties of extent i . A tied group is a set of sample data and has the same value. Finally, with the help of
 181 Equation 8, Mann-Kendall Z value is calculated.

$$Z = \begin{cases} \frac{S-1}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(S)}}; & \text{if } S > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } S = 0 \\ \frac{S+1}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(S)}} & \text{if } S < 0 \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

182 The Modified Mann-Kendall (MMK) method is obtained by rearranging the variance in the original
 183 Mann-Kendall method. This process is used to calculate the new Z value by determining the auto correlation
 184 effect. Adjusted variance value is calculated as given Equation 9 and 10 (Yue et al. 2002).

$$V(S) = \text{Var}(S) * \frac{n}{n_s^*} = \frac{n(n-1)(2n+5)}{18} * \frac{n}{n_s^*} \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{n}{n_s^*} = 1 + \frac{2}{n(n-1)(n-2)} * \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (n-i)(n-i-2) \rho_s(i) \quad (10)$$

185 In Equation (10), n/n_s^* , represents a correction due to automatic correlation in the data. “ n ” is the actual
 186 number of observations and $\rho_s(i)$ is the auto-correlation of the observation ranks (González-Hidalgo et al.

187 2011). The calculated Z value is compared with normal distribution confidence levels. If the calculated Z value
 188 is greater than $|Z| \geq |Z_{1-\alpha/2}|$, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and thus the H_a (alternative hypothesis)
 189 hypothesis is accepted. H_0 hypothesis states that the trend is statistically insignificant, H_a hypothesis states that
 190 the trend is significant (Mann, 1945; Kendall, 1975).

191 **2.2.3. Linear Trend (LT)**

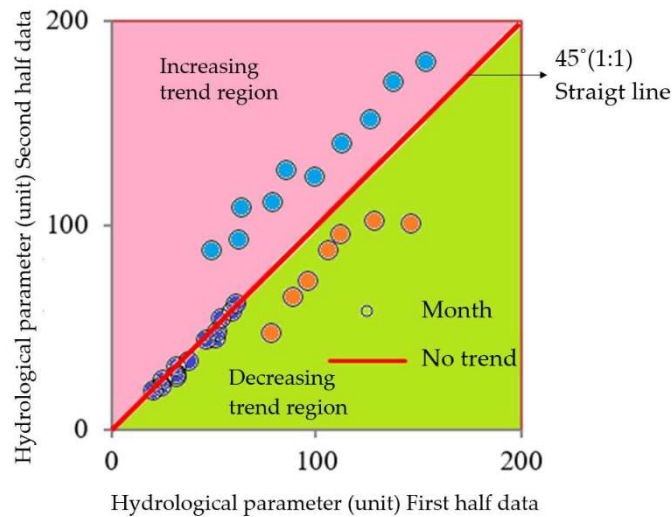
192 This method basically rests on the slope of a line. It is a widely used method to determine the tendency of
 193 dependent and independent variables in hydrological time series. The regression equation is given below
 194 (Keskin et al. 2018).

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X \quad (11)$$

195 In Equation (11), β_0 is a constant value and β_1 is the slope of the line. It is also referred to as regression
 196 analysis, and trends (increasing or decreasing) are interpreted according to the Student's t-test critical level
 197 value of the slope value (β_1). If $|t_{cal}|$ exceed $\pm t_{cri}$, there is statistically significant trend (Yagbasan et al. 2020).

198 **2.2.4. Sen Trend (ST)**

199 In this method, first, time series is divided into two sub-series. Each sub-series is sorted in an ascending
 200 manner. Then, the first sub-series (X_i) is located on the X-axis, and the other sub-series (X_j) is located on the
 201 Y-axis in the Cartesian coordinate system (Figure 3). If data are collected on the 1:1 (45°) straight line, it can
 202 be said that there is no trend (a trendless time series). If data are accumulated in the triangular area below the
 203 1:1 (45°) straight line, it is said that there is a decreasing trend. If data are accumulated in the upper triangular
 204 area of the 1:1 (45°) straight line, it is said that there is an increasing trend (Şen 2012, 2014).



205
 206 **Figure 3.** Decreasing and increasing trends versus trend-free time series (Keskin et al. 2018).

207 Sen developed a new mathematical process by the method (Şen 2017). The steps of this method are given
 208 in Equations (12-16).

$$E(s) = \frac{2}{n} [E(\bar{y}_2) - E(\bar{y}_1)] \quad (12)$$

$$\sigma_s^2 = \frac{4}{n^2} [E(\bar{y}_2^2) - 2E(\bar{y}_2\bar{y}_1) - E(\bar{y}_1^2)] \quad (13)$$

$$\rho_{\bar{y}_2\bar{y}_1} = \frac{E(\bar{y}_2\bar{y}_1) - E(\bar{y}_2) - E(\bar{y}_1)}{\sigma_{\bar{y}_2} \sigma_{\bar{y}_1}} \quad (14)$$

$$\sigma_s^2 = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{n\sqrt{n}} \sigma \sqrt{(1 - \rho_{\bar{y}_2\bar{y}_1})} \quad (15)$$

$$CL_{(1-\alpha)} = 0 \pm S_{\text{critical}} \sigma_s \quad (16)$$

209 Where \bar{y}_1 , mean of the first data set; \bar{y}_2 , mean of the second data set; ρ , correlation between first and second
 210 data; s , slope value; n , number of data; σ , standard deviation of all data; σ_s , slope standard deviation; Z critical
 211 values in one-way hypothesis at 95% (for example) confidence level. Critical upper and lower values are
 212 established for hypothesis test limits (Equation 16). If each station's slope value, s , is outside the lower and
 213 upper confidence limits, the alternative hypotheses, H_a , is verified, indicating a trend (Yes) in time series. The
 214 type of trend is stated depending on the slope value (s) sign. Slope (s) can be positive or negative. While
 215 positive slope (+) is indicating an increasing trend in time series, negative slope (-) shows a decreasing trend
 216 (Yagbasan et al. 2020).

217 3. Results

218 In this study, the homogeneity of the trends was first tested with the SNHT. The test values were compared
 219 with the critical limits (T_0) in 95% of the confidence interval, and the results are given in Table 4. Later, trend
 220 analyses were conducted by using the MMK, LT, and ST methods. The MMK and ST methods used in the
 221 study are nonparametric tests, whereas LT is a parametric test. The results of the MMK, LT, and ST trends, as
 222 well as their critical limits, are given in Table 5 (in 95% of the confidence interval). Depicted in Table 5, if the
 223 stations' Z , t , and s values are higher than critical limits, precipitation groundwater and lake levels are
 224 considered to have a statistical trend at the time series. The direction of the trend is determined by the sign of
 225 the Z , s , or t value. The positive and negative signs indicate increasing and decreasing trends, respectively.

Table 4 Results of SNHT test

Station Type	Station Name	T ₀ Value	Critical T ₀ Value ($\alpha=5\%$)	P value	H ₀
Meteorology Observation Station	Karapınar	4.158	10.348	0.649	Accept
	Çumra	2.973	10.140	0.843	Accept
	Kulu	4.023	10.348	0.685	Accept
	Cihanbeyli	2.434	10.348	0.944	Accept
	Beyşehir	2.110	10.348	0.965	Accept
	Konya	2.240	10.348	0.961	Accept
	Aksaray	4.094	10.348	0.672	Accept
Lake Observation Station	Kızören	504.88	10.310	<0.0001	Reject
	Timraş	370.41	10.096	<0.0001	Reject
	Lake Tuz	25.11	10.290	<0.0001	Reject
	Lake Beyşehir	323.09	10.350	<0.0001	Reject
Groundwater-level Observation Stations	Cihanbeyli	49.82	9.45	<0.0001	Reject
	Selçuklu	471	10.28	<0.0001	Reject
	Beyşehir	126	9.42	<0.0001	Reject
	Çumra	473	10.28	<0.0001	Reject
	Kulu	51.33	9.41	<0.0001	Reject

228 SNHT results showed that the H₀ hypothesis is accepted because the T₀ value of all meteorology stations
229 is lower than the T₀ critic, and the P value (H₀ hypothesis) is greater than 0.05, which is the critical value. This
230 situation shows that the precipitation data are homogeneous. However, as the homogeneity conditions of the
231 lake and groundwater stations are examined, the H₀ hypothesis has been rejected, and it has been determined
232 that the data are nonhomogeneous. Trends typically occur when data are nonhomogeneous (Demir et al. 2018).
233 These results show that the lake water and groundwater levels tend to trend rather than produce homogeneous
234 precipitation data.

Table 5 Results of trend methods

Station Type	Station Name	MMK Z value	Z Critical Value	MMK trend	LT t value	t Critical Value	LT trend	ST s value	±CL	ST trend
Meteorology Observation Station	Karapınar	-0.20	±1.96	No	-0.25	±1.96	No	-0.0019	0.00024	(-)
	Çumra	-0.61	±1.96	No	-0.02	±1.96	No	-0.00027	0.0011	No
	Kulu	-1.32	±1.96	No	-1.12	±1.96	No	-0.0045	0.00043	(-)
	Cihanbeyli	-1.82	±1.96	No	-0.36	±1.96	No	-0.00085	0.0004	(-)
	Beyşehir	0.23	±1.96	No	0.16	±1.96	No	-0.0049	0.00073	(-)
	Konya	-0.97	±1.96	No	-0.38	±1.96	No	-0.0027	0.00063	(-)
	Aksaray	-0.56	±1.96	No	-0.28	±1.96	No	-0.023	0.00038	(-)
Lake Observation Station	Kızören	-13.94	±1.96	(-)	-38.82	±1.96	(-)	-0.0395	0.00044	(-)
	Timraş	-6.56	±1.96	(-)	-37.81	±1.96	(-)	-0.046	0.0071	(-)
	Lake Tuz	-1.17	±1.96	No	-2.104	±1.96	(-)	-0.00017	0.00001	(-)
	Lake Beyşehir	-8.97	±1.96	(-)	-16.36	±1.96	(-)	-0.0047	0.00007	(-)
Groundwater-level Observation Stations	Cihanbeyli	-0.57	±1.96	No	2.02	±1.97	(+)	0.0029	0.00047	(+)
	Selçuklu	-14.86	±1.96	(-)	-43.56	±1.96	(-)	-0.049	0.0005	(-)
	Beyşehir	9.42	±1.96	(+)	16.35	±1.96	(+)	0.045	0.001	(+)
	Çumra	-7.47	±1.96	(-)	-44.11	±1.96	(-)	-0.028	0.0003	(-)
	Kulu	0.57	±1.96	No	2.03	±1.96	(+)	0.017	0.0006	(+)

236 (+): Increasing trend, (-): Decreasing trend

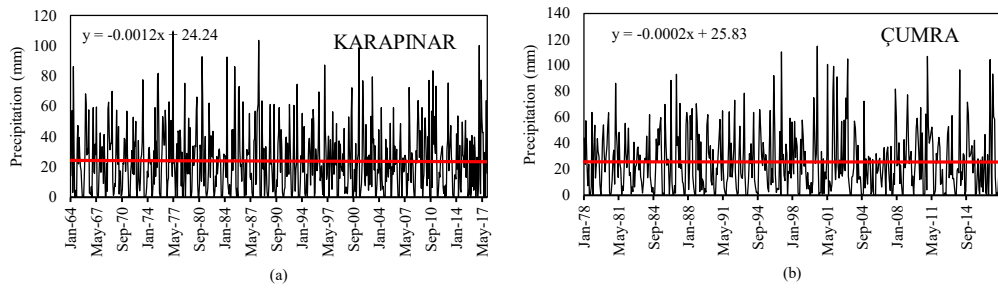
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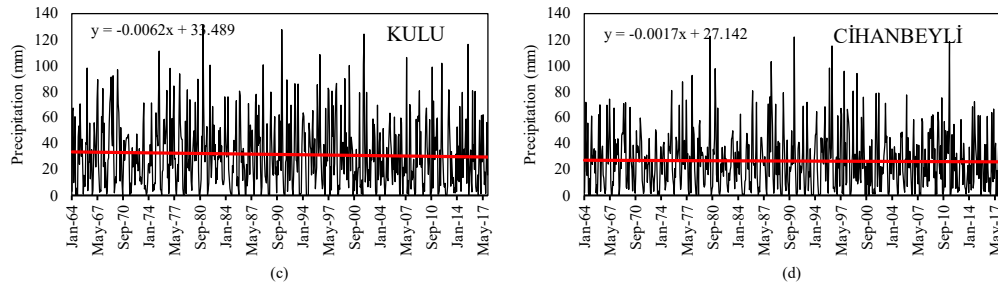
239 The MMK and LT methods showed similar results. No significant trend could be detected at the
 240 precipitation stations. The lake levels do not show any tendency, according to the Lake Tuz MMK method.
 241 Other stations show a decreasing trend with the MMK and LT methods. When the underground water levels
 242 were examined, a decreasing trend in the Selçuklu and Çumra stations and an increasing trend in Beyşehir
 243 station were determined according to the three trend methods. While the increasing trend detected at Kulu and
 244 Cihanbeyli stations is statistically significant for the ST and LT methods, it is not significant for the MMK
 245 method. According to the ST method, a decreasing trend was determined at all precipitation stations except for
 246 the lake levels and the Çumra station. The ST method is sensitive compared to other trend methods. In other
 247 words, its critical level is lower (Yagbasan et al.2020). ST graphs on the Cartesian coordinate system are given
 248 for precipitation in Figure 4, lake levels in Figure 5, and underground water levels in Figure 6.

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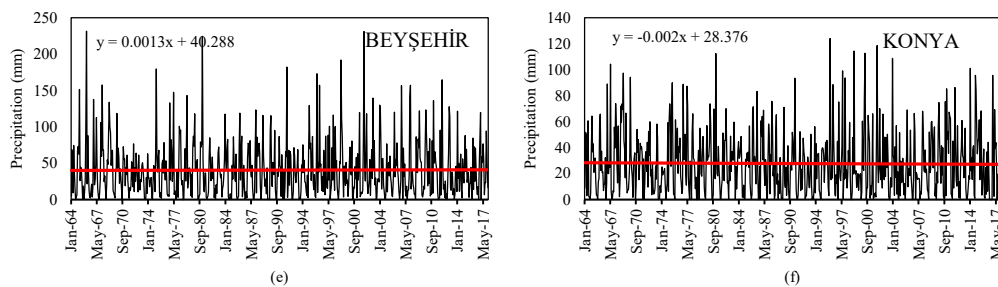
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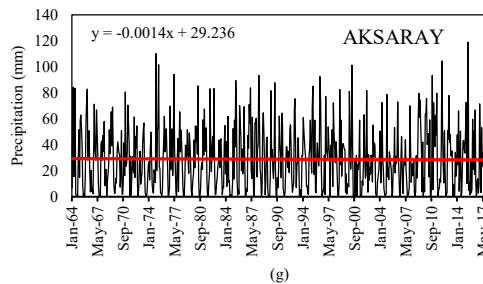
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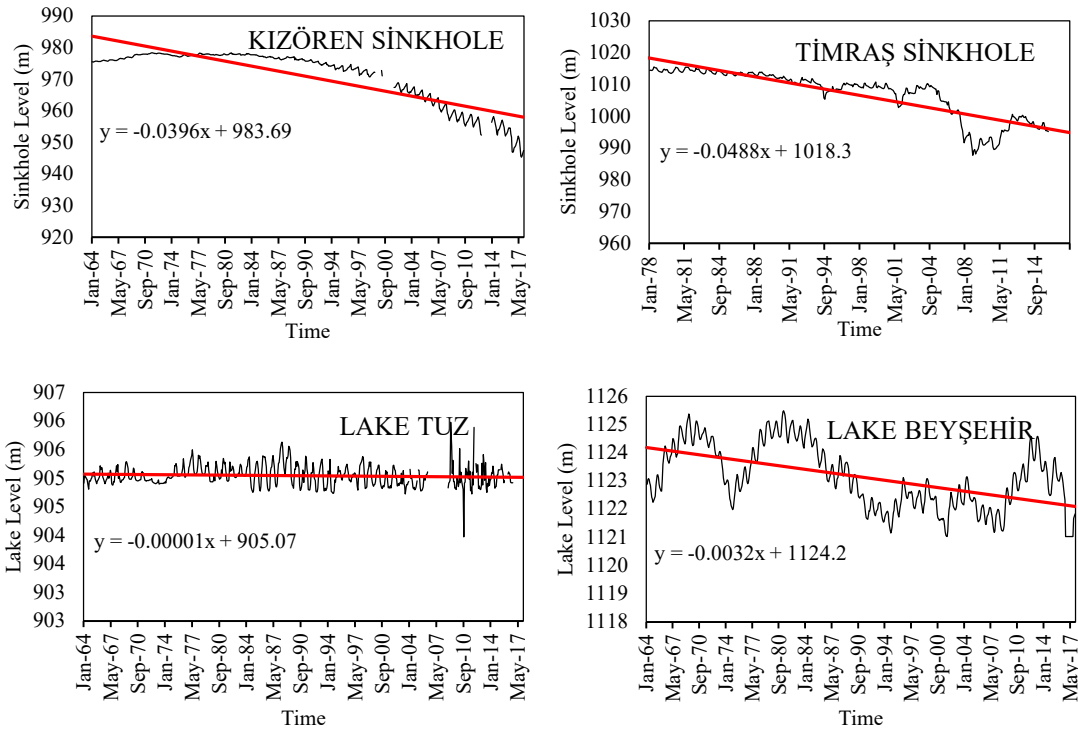
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254 **Fig. 4** Time series of precipitation data; Karapınar (a), Çumra (b), Kulu (c), Cihanbeyli (d),
 255 Beyşehir (e), Konya (f), and Aksaray station (g)

256 In Figure 4, the long-term precipitation series depicts that precipitations have been decreasing in the
 257 Konya closed basin, except for the Beyşehir station. According to the linear trend slope equation, it was
 258 determined that the precipitation data of the Beyşehir station increased by 0.0013 mm per month. Meanwhile,
 259 the precipitation data of the Karapınar, Çumra, Kulu, Cihanbeyli, Konya, and Aksaray stations decreased by
 260 0.0012, 0.0002, 0.0062, 0.0017, 0.0020, and 0.0014 mm/month, respectively.

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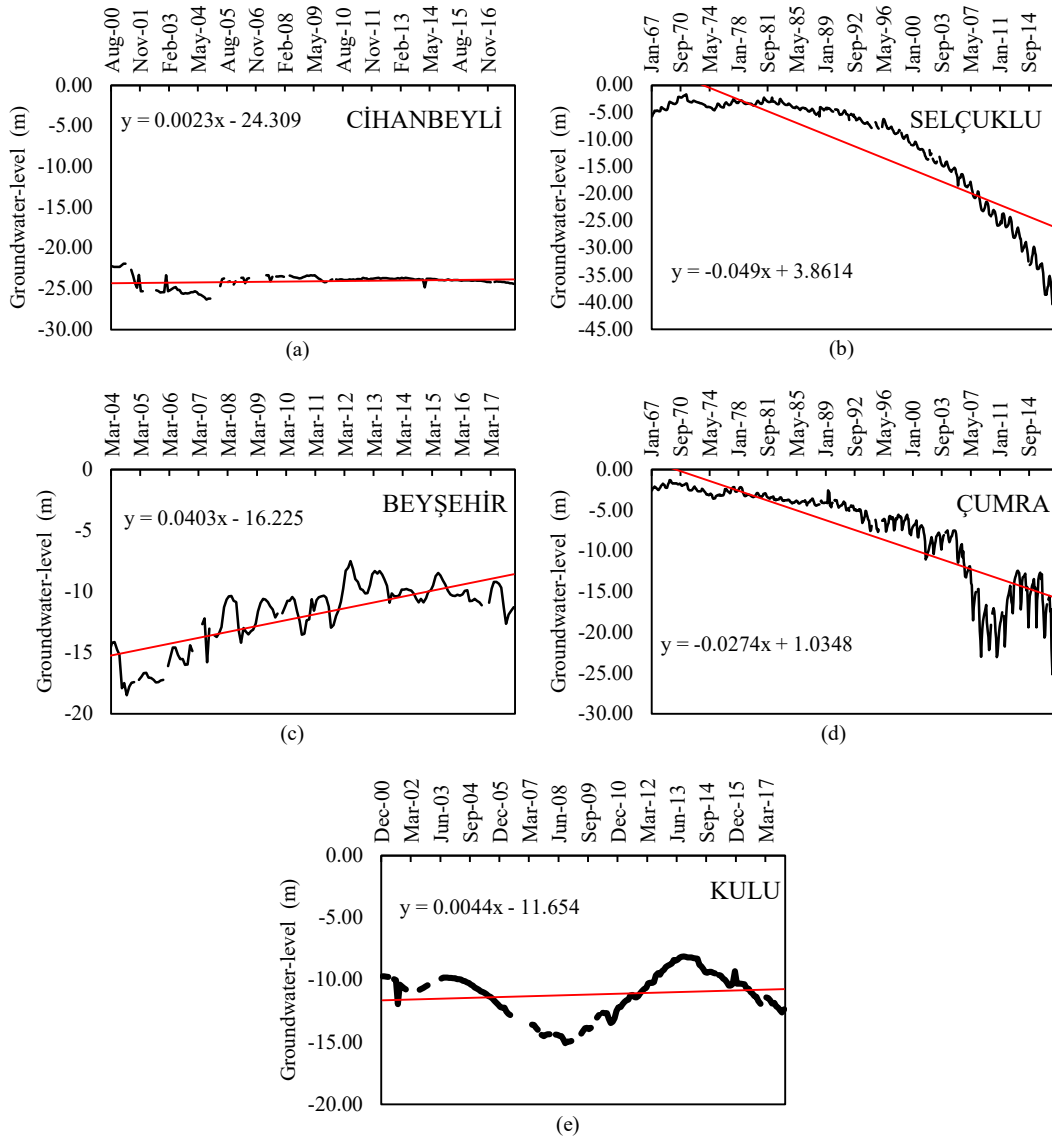
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263 **Fig. 5** Time series of water level data; Kızören Sinkhole (a), Timraş Sinkhole (b), Lake Tuz (c)
 264 and Lake Beyşehir station (e)

265 Figure 5 shows a decreasing trend in both lakes and sinkholes. This decrease is 0.0396 m/month for
 266 Kızören sinkhole, 0.0488 m/month for Timraş sinkhole, 0.000001 m/month for Lake Tuz and 0.0032 m/month
 267 for Lake Beyşehir.

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273 **Fig. 6** Time series of groundwater level data; Cihanbeyli (a), Selçuklu (b), Beyşehir (c), Çumra (d)
 274 and Kulu groundwater-level observation station (e)

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In Figure 6, the long-term groundwater level series shows that water levels in wells have been decreasing at the Beyşehir, Kulu, and Cihanbeyli stations. However, water levels show a dramatic decrease at the Selçuklu and Çumra stations. According to the linear trend slope equation, it was determined that the groundwater level of Beyşehir, Kulu, and Cihanbeyli stations increased.

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ST trend graphs prepared in the Cartesian coordinate system are shown for precipitation, lake, sinkhole and groundwater levels in Figures 7–9, respectively. If the data are concentrated in the upper triangular region on the 1:1 line (45), this indicates an increasing trend. If the data are concentrated under the 1:1 line, the parameter in the time series is interpreted as showing a decreasing trend.

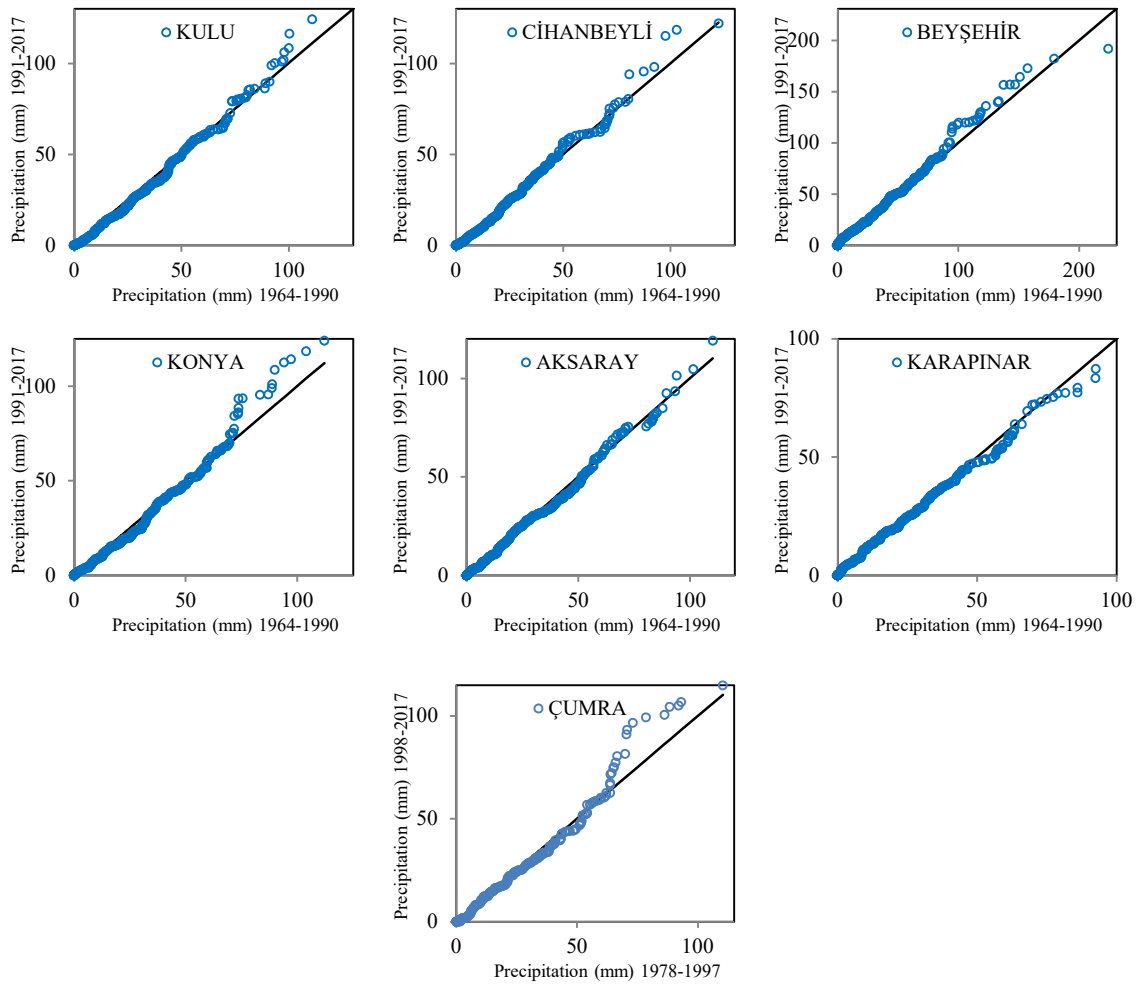


Fig. 7 ST graphical results for precipitation stations

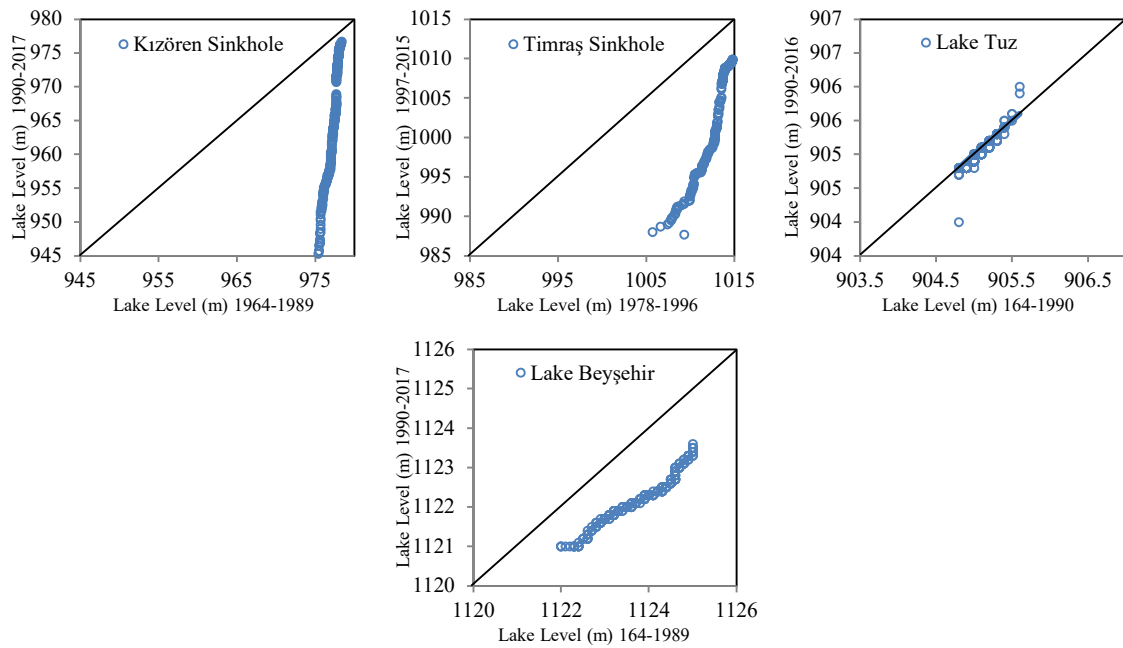
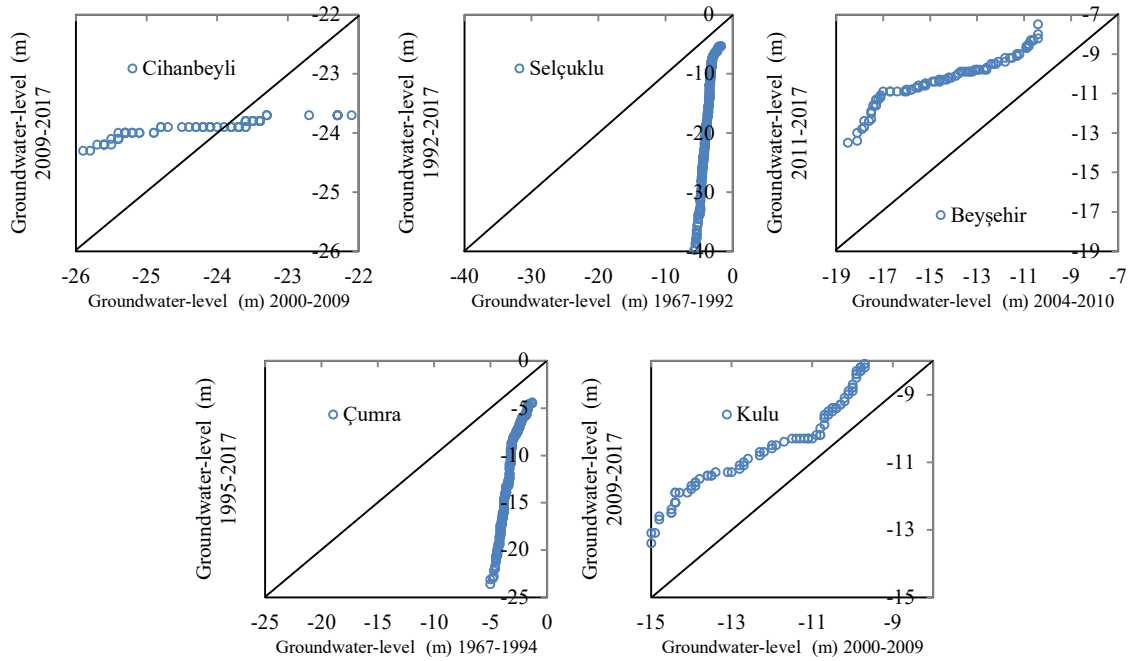


Fig. 8 ST graphical results for lake and sinkhole stations



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Fig. 9 ST graphical results for groundwater level observation stations

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In Figure 7, it could not be exactly determined whether the precipitation data concentrated in the lower triangular region or the upper triangular region. This is the disadvantage of the method (Sen 2012). However, when the averages of the data are analyzed, it was determined that the average of the data is in the lower triangular region, similar to the ST test result in Table 5. Here, the data demonstrate a decreasing trend. When Figure 8 is examined, it is seen that the data of Lake Beyşehir and sinkholes are concentrated in the lower triangular region. When the graph is analyzed by taking the average of the data in Lake Tuz, it was determined that the data are in the decreasing direction. In Figure 9, the Cihanbeyli, Kulu and Beyşehir stations are concentrated in the upper triangular region, and show an increasing trend. Other stations show a decreasing trend in the lower triangular region.

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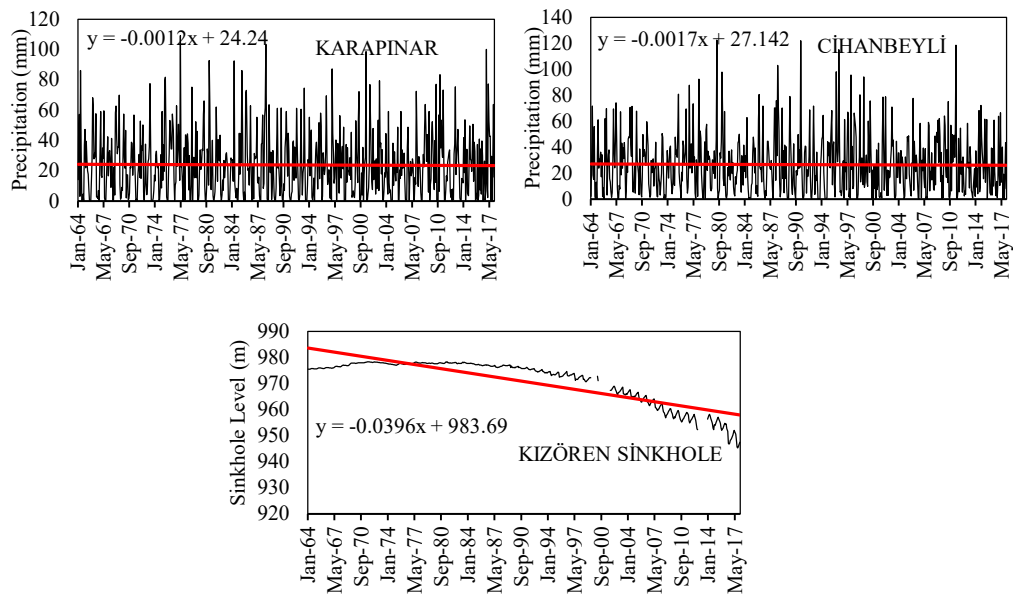
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When the sub-basin and Thiessen polygons (drawn for the study area) are examined as a second approach, it is determined that Lake Tuz is in the polygon belonging to the Cihanbeyli, Kulu precipitation stations, and the Cihanbeyli (53706) and the Kulu (53707) groundwater stations. Beyşehir Lake is in the polygon belonging to the Beyşehir precipitation station and the Beyşehir (52770) groundwater station. The Kızören sinkhole is in the polygon belonging to the Cihanbeyli and the Karapınar stations. The Timraş sinkhole is in the polygon belonging to the Çumra station and the Beyşehir (52770) groundwater station (Figure 1). Therefore, these stations are considered directly affected by precipitation (Thiessen 1911). As a result of the abovementioned idea, time series and trend directions are shown in Figures 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.



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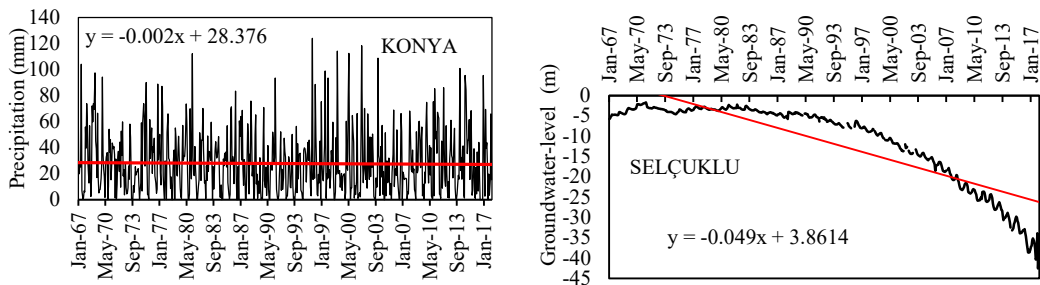
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Fig. 10 The graph of Kızören sinkhole, Cihanbeyli and Kulu stations in the same periods

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315 Figure 10 examines the water level in the Kızören sinkhole, which shows a decreasing trend. According
 316 to the Thiessen polygons, when the graphs of the precipitation data affecting this sinkhole are examined
 317 in the same periods, it was noted that decreasing trends were observed in the Cihanbeyli and Karapınar
 318 stations. Since there is no underground water observation station near the Kızören sinkhole, the change
 319 of the Kızören obrugu in this section is interpreted only with precipitation data.



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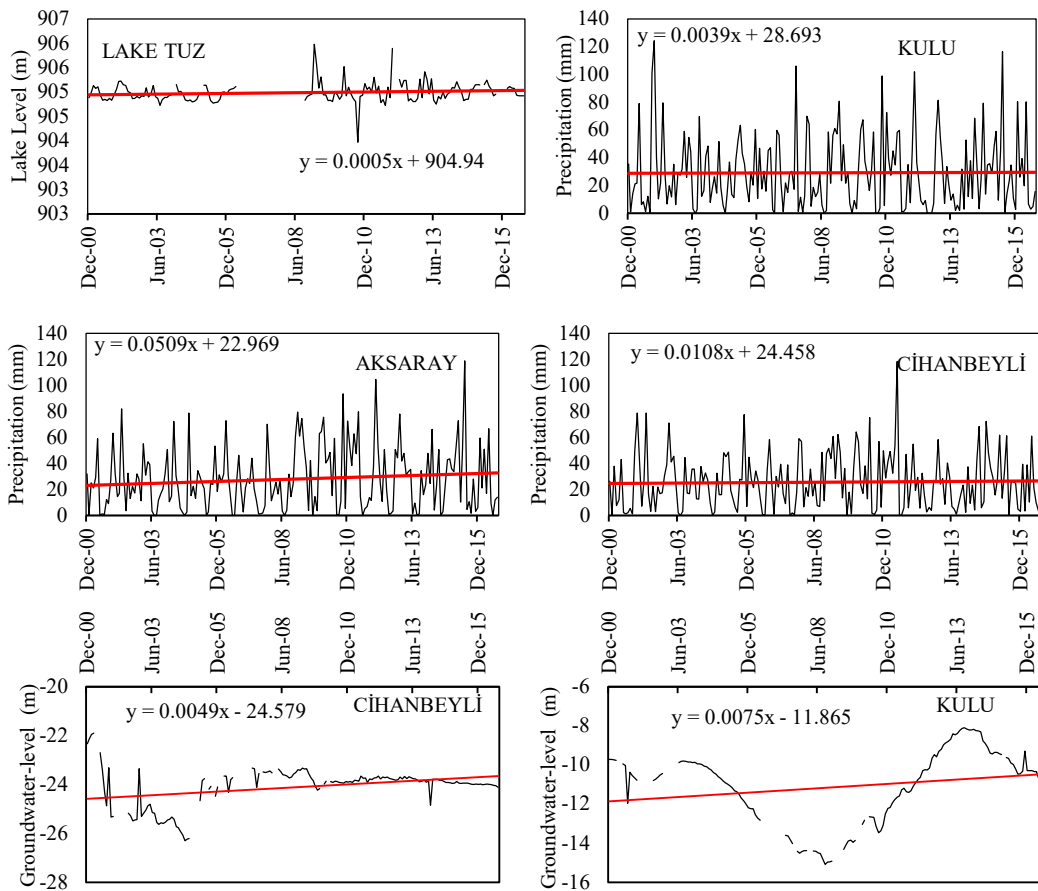
Fig. 11 The graph of Konya precipitation station and Selçuklu groundwater level observation station in the same periods

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323 Figure 11 is examined. Levels decrease in precipitation and groundwater level observation stations located in
 324 the same Thiessen polygon. According to the precipitation data, the decrease in the underground levels is more
 325 dramatic, and they increase their speed toward the last years.

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Fig. 12 The graph of Lake Tuz, Cihanbeyli, Kulu and Aksaray precipitation stations, Cihanbeyli and Kulu groundwater level observation station in the same periods

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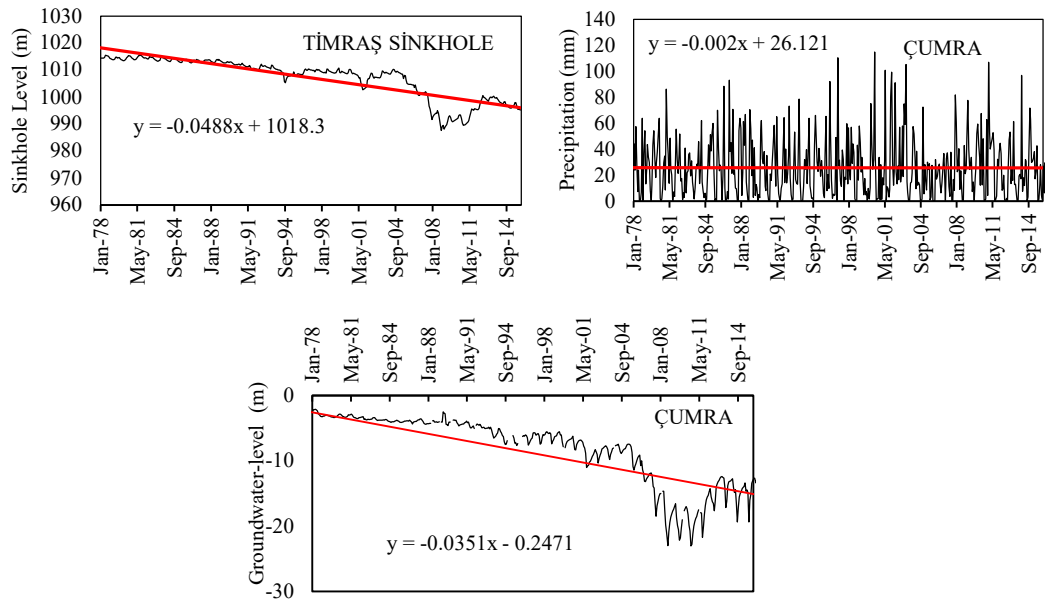
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According to Thiessen polygons between 1964 and 2017, a decrease was observed in the Cihanbeyli, Kulu, and Aksaray stations, which are thought to have affected Lake Tuz (Figures 4 and 5). Depending on this situation, decreases were detected in Lake Tuz. When Figure 12 is examined, an increasing trend was observed in precipitation data between 2000 and 2016. Similarly, an increasing trend was observed in the groundwater levels and Lake Tuz levels. This increase in lake levels was supported by the increase in precipitation data and underground water levels.

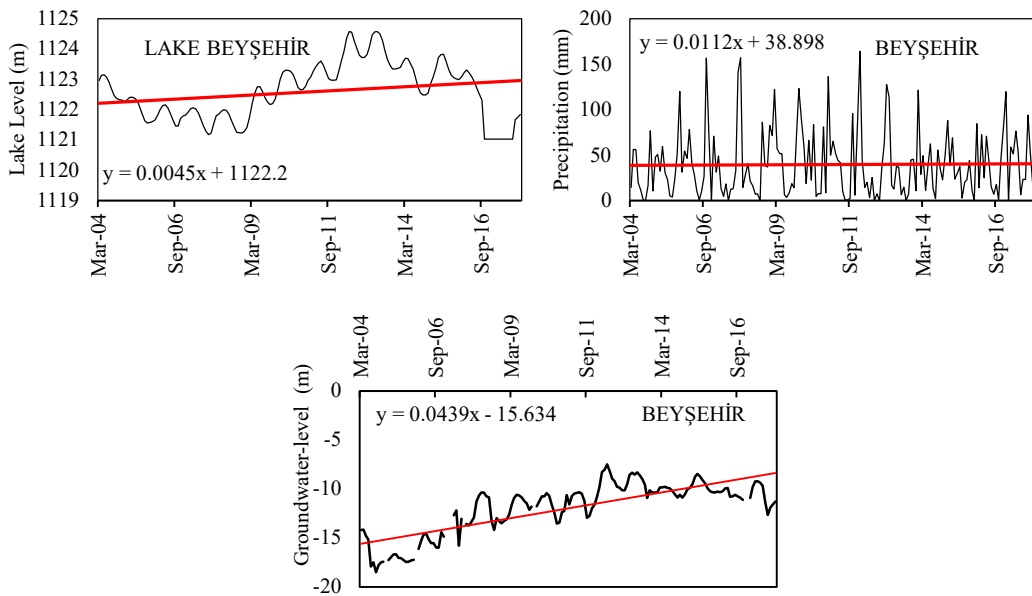


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344 **Fig. 13** The graph of Timraş Sinkhole, Çumra precipitation and Çumra groundwater
 345 observation station in the same periods

346 Figure 13 shows the decreasing trends in the Çumra precipitation station and Çumra underground water-level
 347 observation stations, which are thought to affect the sinkhole, according to the Thiessen polygons. The
 348 decreasing trend in the Çumra underground water-level observation station, and the Timraş sinkhole, are close
 349 to each other. In addition, the correlation coefficient between these two data sets is 0.968.



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352 **Fig. 14** The graph of Lake Beyşehir Sinkhole, Beyşehir precipitation and Beyşehir groundwater
 353 level observation station in the same periods

354 **4. Discussion**

355 According to homogeneity test results, the precipitation data are homogeneous and do not show any trend.
 356 However, the lake, sinkhole and groundwater level data are nonhomogeneous, and show a trend. The opposite

357 relationship between homogeneity and a trend is similar in other studies (Taxak et al. 2014; Demir et al. 2018;
 358 Demir and Keskin 2020). The overall evaluation and comparison of the trend test results for all methods are
 359 summarized in Table 6.

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Table 6 Comparison of trend analysis results over long-term periods

Type	Name	Long-term period		
		MMK	LT	ST
Meteorology Observation Station (MOS)	Karapınar			(-)
	Çumra			
	Kulu			(-)
	Cihanbeyli			(-)
	Beyşehir			(-)
	Konya			(-)
	Aksaray			(-)
Lake Observation Station (LOS)	Kızören	(-)	(-)	(-)
	Timraş	(-)	(-)	(-)
	Lake Tuz		(-)	(-)
	Lake Beyşehir	(-)	(-)	(-)
Groundwater-level Observation Stations (GOS)	Cihanbeyli		(+)	(+)
	Selçuklu	(-)	(-)	(-)
	Beyşehir	(+)	(+)	(+)
	Çumra	(-)	(-)	(-)
	Kulu		(+)	(+)

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(+): Increasing trend, (-): Decreasing trend

363 Although the trend analysis results give similar data, they differ from each other at some points. For example,
 364 while there is no trend in precipitation stations compared to the MMK and LT methods, decreasing trends are
 365 observed compared to the ST method. Although this data shows a difference between method results, it is
 366 consistent with the signs of trend analysis test values in Table 5, except for the Beyşehir station. The LT and
 367 ST methods gave similar trends in lake and sinkhole water levels. Alternatively, the MMK method did not
 368 show a trend in Lake Tuz, Cihanbeyli and Kulu stations, while other methods detected a trend. Again, when
 369 Table 5 is examined for the other two stations except Cihanbeyli station, the MMK method gave similar trends
 370 with the ST and LT methods. However, these trends are not statistically significant. In other words, just the
 371 sign of the MMK test values alone is compatible with the ST and LT methods. Therefore, the reason for all
 372 these differences depends on the methodology of obtaining critical account values. While the ST method
 373 calculates CL according to one-tail Z distribution, and according to the correlation between data (Equation 16),
 374 the LT method calculates critical values according to t distribution and the MMK method according to the Z
 375 distribution (Equation 8). In Table 7, trend analysis results performed in the same periods are given for the lake
 376 and sinkhole regions.

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Table 7 Comparison of trend analysis results at the same periods

Region	Station	Same period		
		MMK (Z)	LT (t)	ST (s)
Kızören	Kızören Sinkhole (LOS)	-13.94	-38.820	-0.0395
	Karapınar (MOS)	-0.105	-0.215	-0.0037
	Cihanbeyli (MOS)	-0.479	0.054	-0.0005
Konya	Konya (MOS)	-1.183	-1.031	-0.0070
	Selçuklu (GOS)	-14.86	-43.80	-0.0492
Lake Tuz	Lake Tuz (LOS)	2.898	1.637	0.0016
	Kulu (MOS)	0.151	0.069	0.0111
	Aksaray (MOS)	0.692	0.250	0.0616
	Cihanbeyli (MOS)	0.410	0.735	0.0236
	Kulu (GOS)	2.607	2.680	0.0238
	Cihanbeyli (GOS)	0.407	2.288	0.0091
Timraş	Timraş (LOS)	-6.899	-36.96	-0.0496
	Çumra (MOS)	-0.612	-0.285	-0.0007
	Çumra (GOS)	-6.405	-37.47	-0.0363
Lake Beyşehir	Lake Beyşehir (LOS)	1.731	3.235	0.0111
	Beyşehir (MOS)	0.467	0.187	-0.033
	Beyşehir (GOS)	6.499	15.394	0.0469

(+): Increasing trend, (+): Statistically Insignificant Increasing trend,
 (-): Decreasing trend, (-): Statistically Insignificant Decreasing trend

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In Table 7, the changes in lakes and sinkholes are more significant than the results obtained in long-term periods. Significantly, according to the ST method, decreases or increases in lakes and sinkholes are meaningful due to the amount of precipitation. Although the precipitation increase and decrease are compatible with lakes and sinkholes compared to other methods, these trends are not statistically significant. In addition, Table 7 shows that trends in lake and sinkhole levels are significant with changes in groundwater levels rather than precipitation. Therefore, monitoring groundwater levels is more important for trend studies of lakes. This situation is seen in Lake Tuz, the Timraş sinkhole and in Lake Beyşehir.

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Trends in lake levels are statistically consistent with trends in groundwater levels. While examining trend directions, groundwater level movement (from high point to low point), the Thiessen polygons and sub-basin boundaries given in Figure 2 were taken into high consideration. When other studies in the literature are examined, the movement of groundwater levels supports this study (Recep and Tapur 2009; Doğan and Yılmaz 2011; Günay et al. 2011). Groundwater levels move from south to north, toward Lake Tuz in other sub-basins, except for the Lake Beyşehir basin, where underground waters move toward Lake Beyşehir within themselves, particularly in the study area.

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5. Conclusions

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Homogeneity tests were performed before trend analysis. The homogeneity test was performed using the SNHT. Later, trend analyses were conducted and the MMK, ST, and LT methods were used. Analyses were examined in 95% of the confidence interval, and the following results were highlighted.

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- As SNHT was applied to data, it was observed that the precipitation data were homogeneous, and the lakes, sinkholes and groundwater data were nonhomogeneous.

- 408 • When long-term trend analyses were performed on precipitation, lake, sinkhole and groundwater level
409 data, the trend has not been determined in the homogeneous precipitation data, except for the ST
410 method. In addition, the trends in nonhomogeneous lakes, sinkholes and groundwater levels were
411 detected. This indicates that the trends are stronger in nonhomogeneous stations.
- 412 • The results of the MMK, ST and LT method trend analysis directions are similar. As a result of the
413 recorded long-term trend analysis, it was observed that the precipitation, lake and sinkhole water levels
414 decreased. Groundwater levels, on the other hand, tend to increase in some stations, and decrease in
415 some stations.
- 416 • As a result of the above-mentioned analyses, it was determined that it is difficult to accurately determine
417 the changes in lakes and sinkholes according to long-term precipitation. However, this issue can be
418 explained by considering the same period for all data.
- 419 • Finally, at the same and last periods, it was observed that the water levels of the Kızören and Timraş
420 sinkhole decreased, while the water levels of Lake Tuz, Lake Gölü and Lake Beyşehir all increased.
421 These results are supported by the trends of precipitation data and groundwater level data of stations
422 determined according to Thiessen polygons and sub-basin boundaries.

423 In summary, the trends of the water levels of lakes and sinkholes have significant effects on the country's
424 water resources management, agricultural and socio-economic activities. The decreases in groundwater levels,
425 precipitation and lake levels observed in the Çumra–Timraş, Konya–Selçuklu, and Kızören–Cihanbeyli–
426 Karapınar regions are also a sign of drought and further inefficiency of agricultural areas for the region.
427 Therefore, measures should be taken to assist lakes and sinkholes with adaptation to changing climatic
428 conditions and reduce the negative effects.

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433 **Author's Contribution:** All chapters have been prepared by Vahdettin Demir.

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Figures

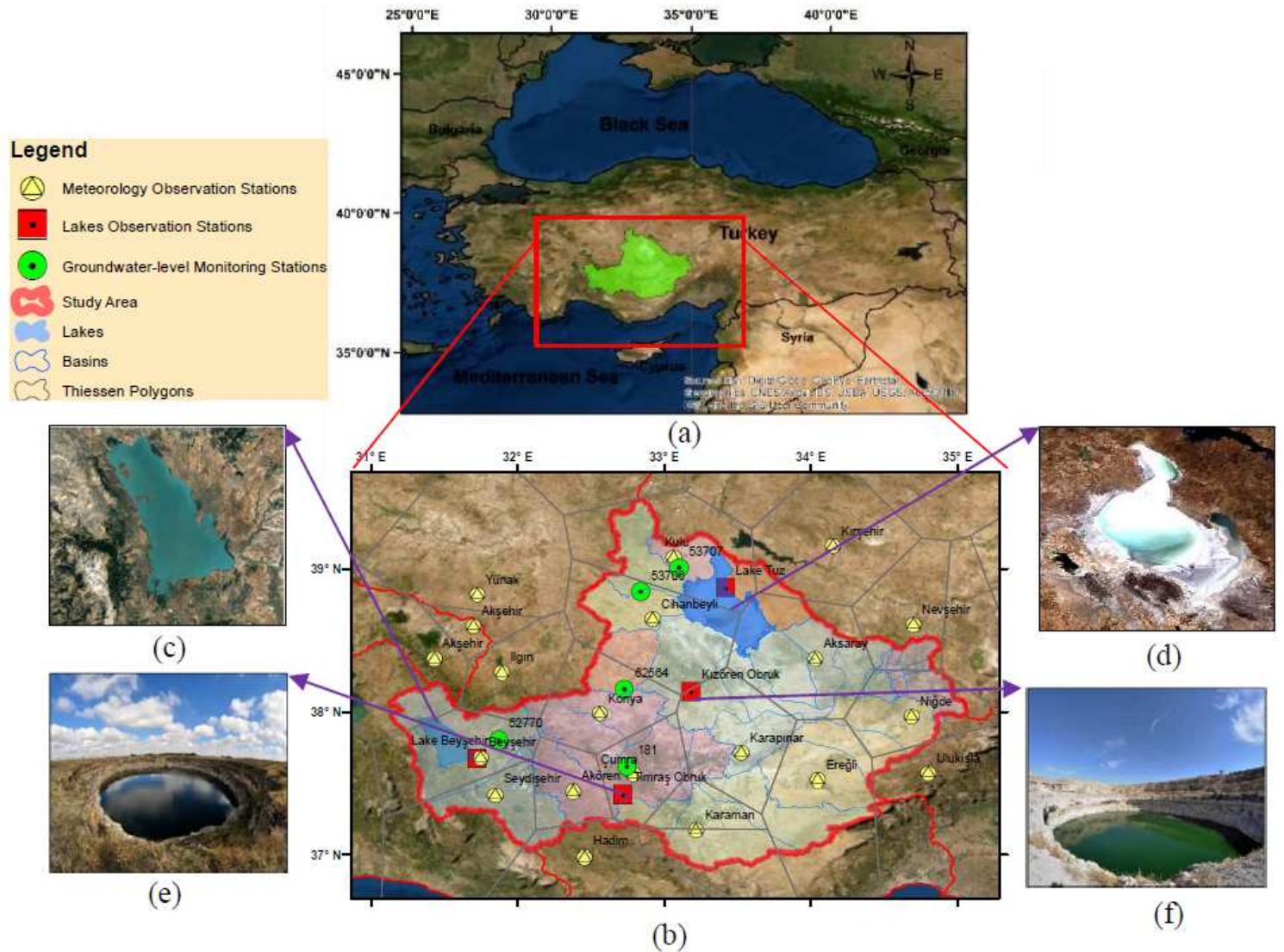


Figure 1

The study area (a), Thiessen polygon in the study area (b) Note: The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Research Square concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This map has been provided by the authors.

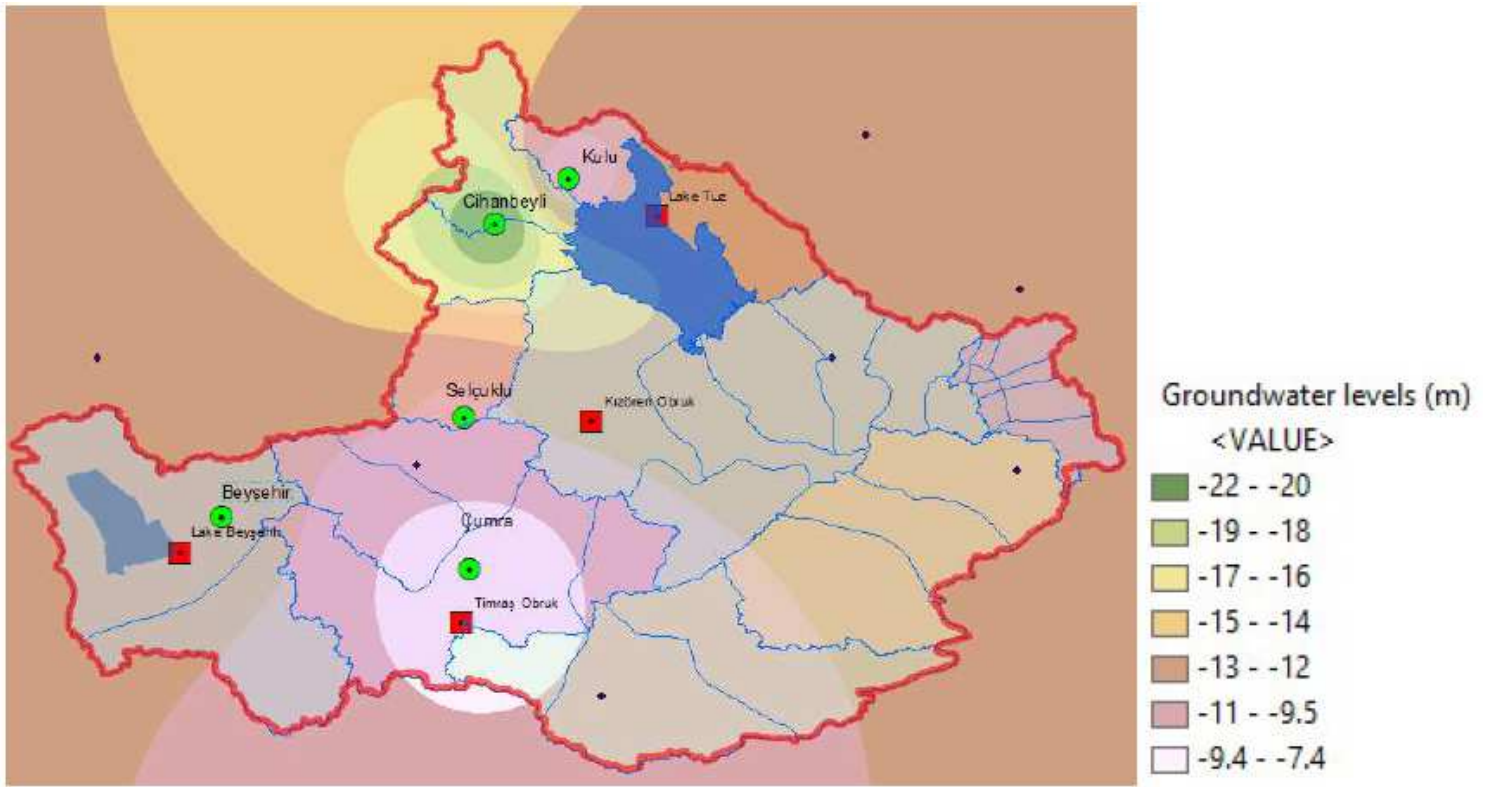


Figure 2

Distribution of long-term average groundwater levels Note: The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Research Square concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This map has been provided by the authors.

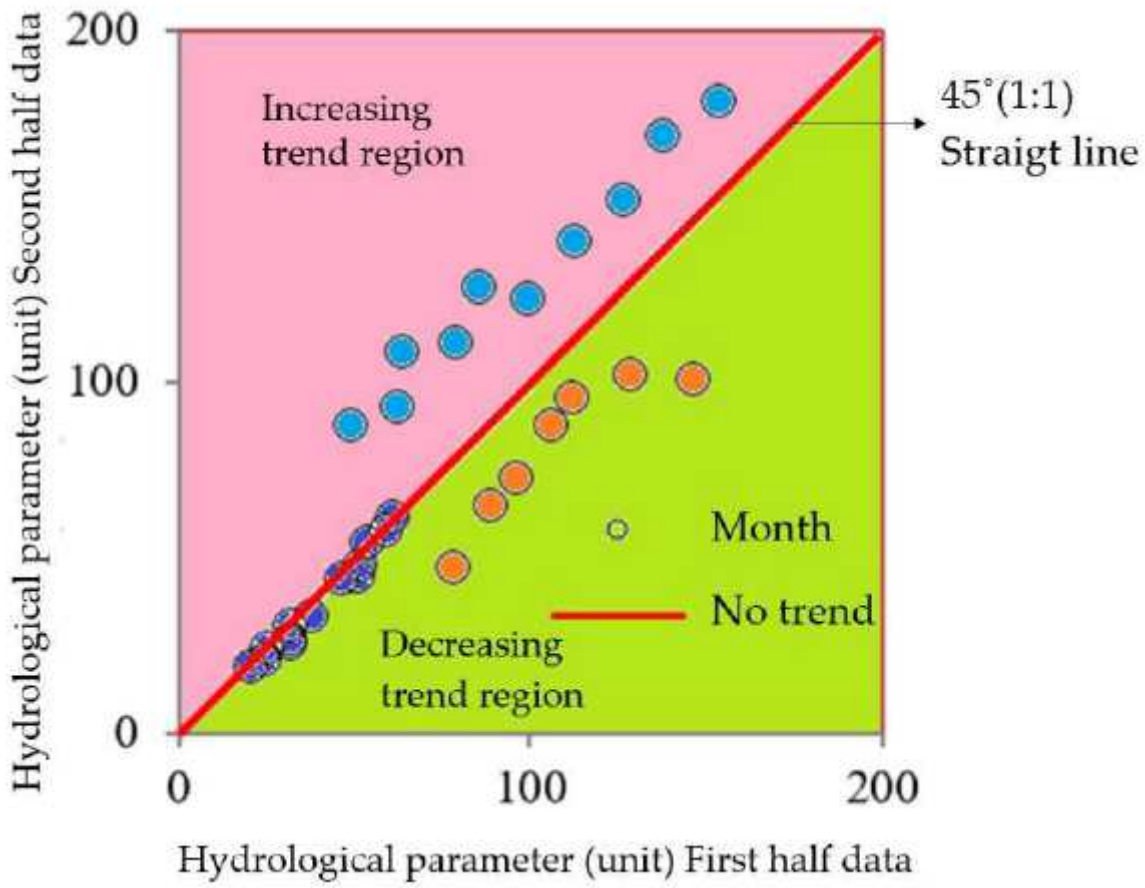


Figure 3

Decreasing and increasing trends versus trend-free time series (Keskin et al. 2018).

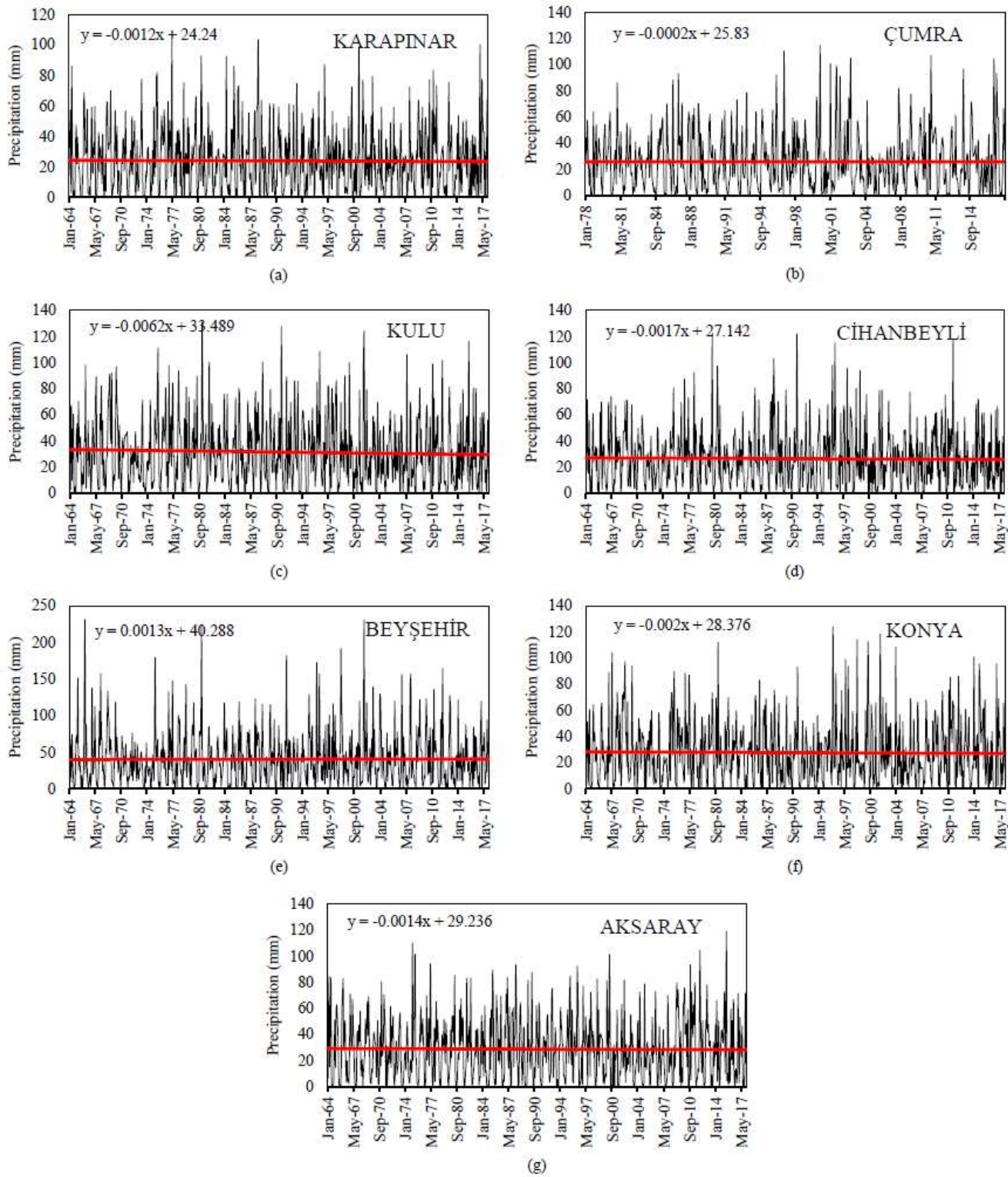


Figure 4

Time series of precipitation data; Karapınar (a), Çumra (b), Kulu (c), Cihanbeyli (d), Beyşehir (e), Konya (f), and Aksaray station (g)

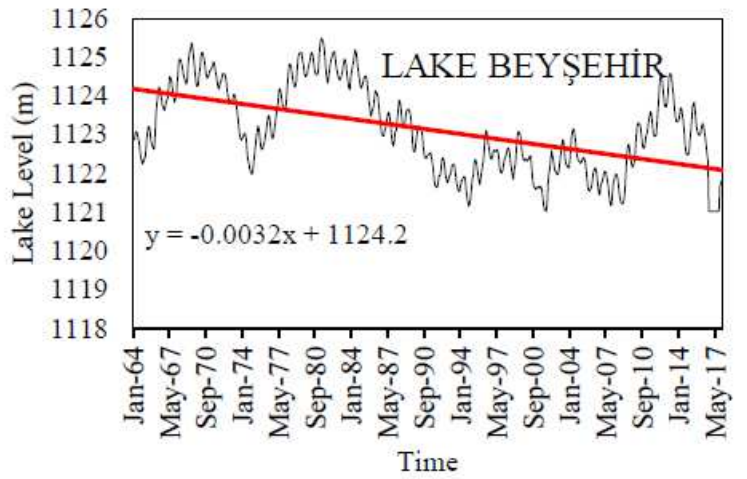
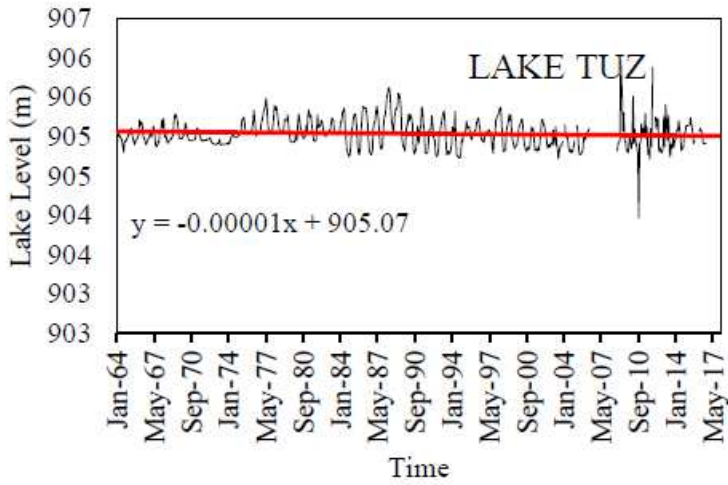
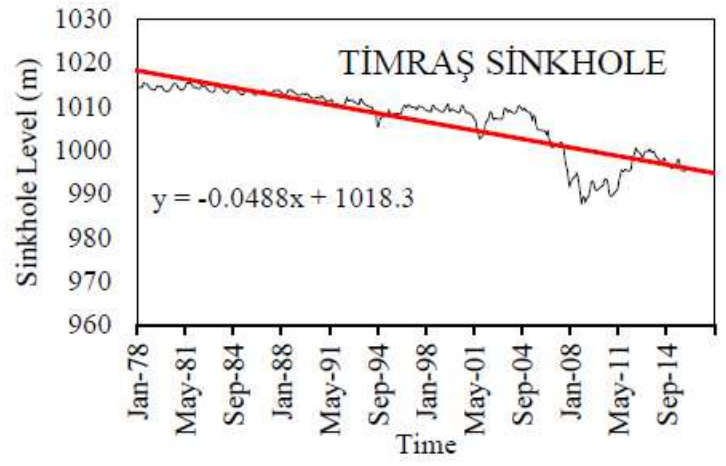
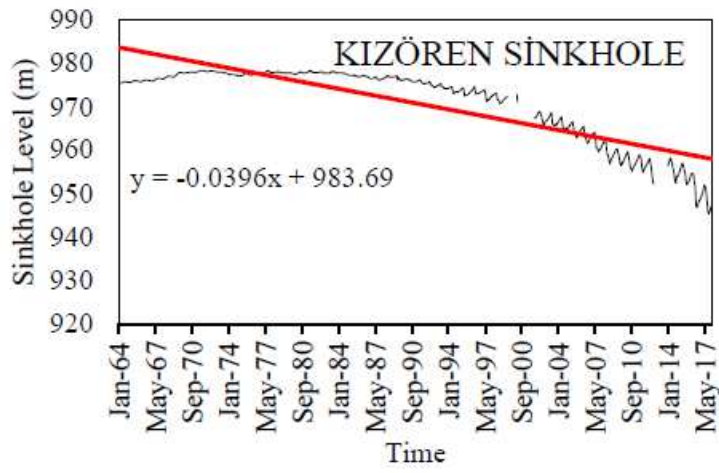


Figure 5

Time series of water level data; Kızören Sinkhole (a), Timraş Sinkhole (b), Lake Tuz (c) and Lake Beyşehir station (e)

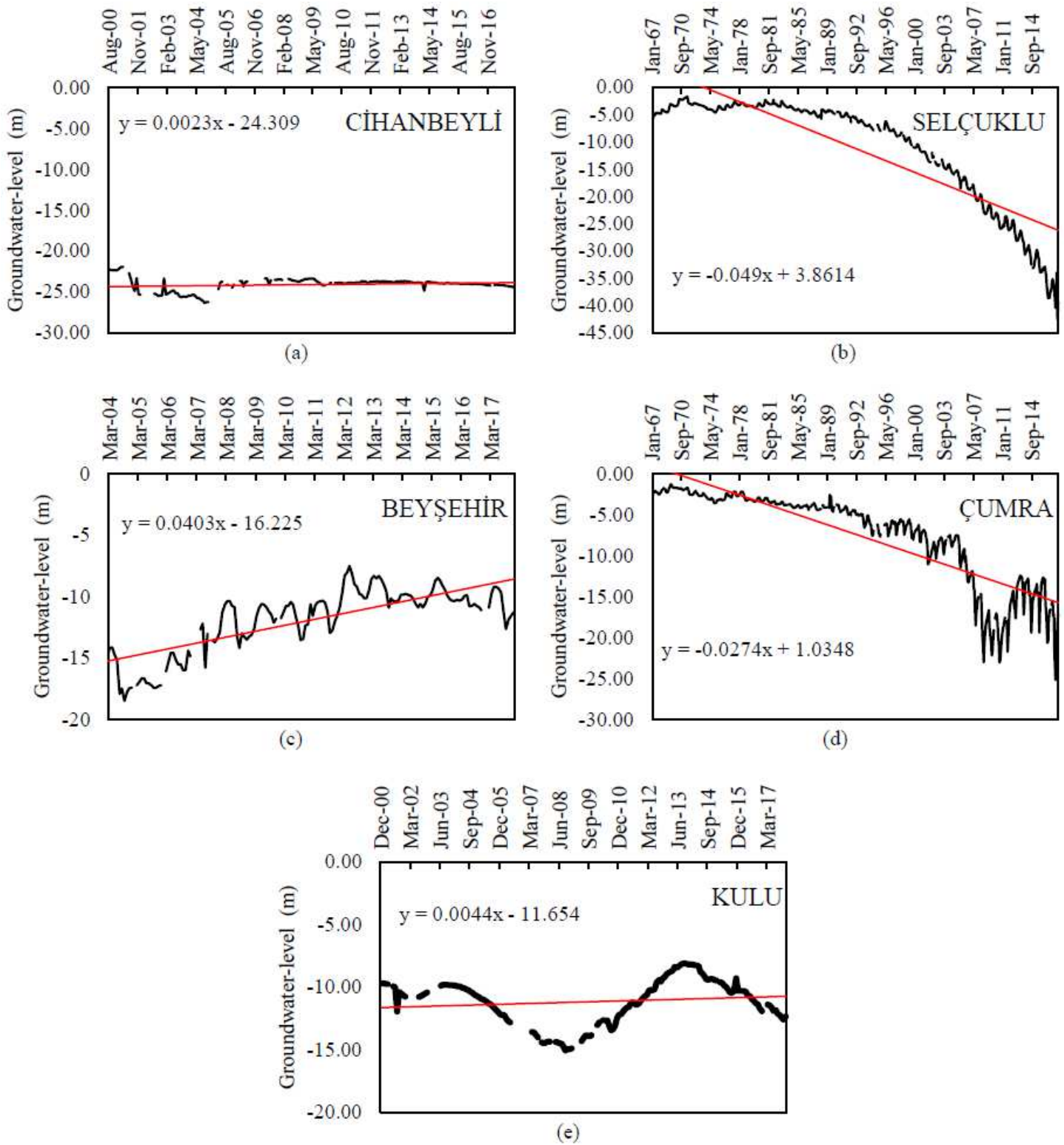


Figure 6

Time series of groundwater level data; Cihanbeyli (a), Selçuklu (b), Beyşehir (c), Çumra (d) and Kulu groundwater-level observation station (e)

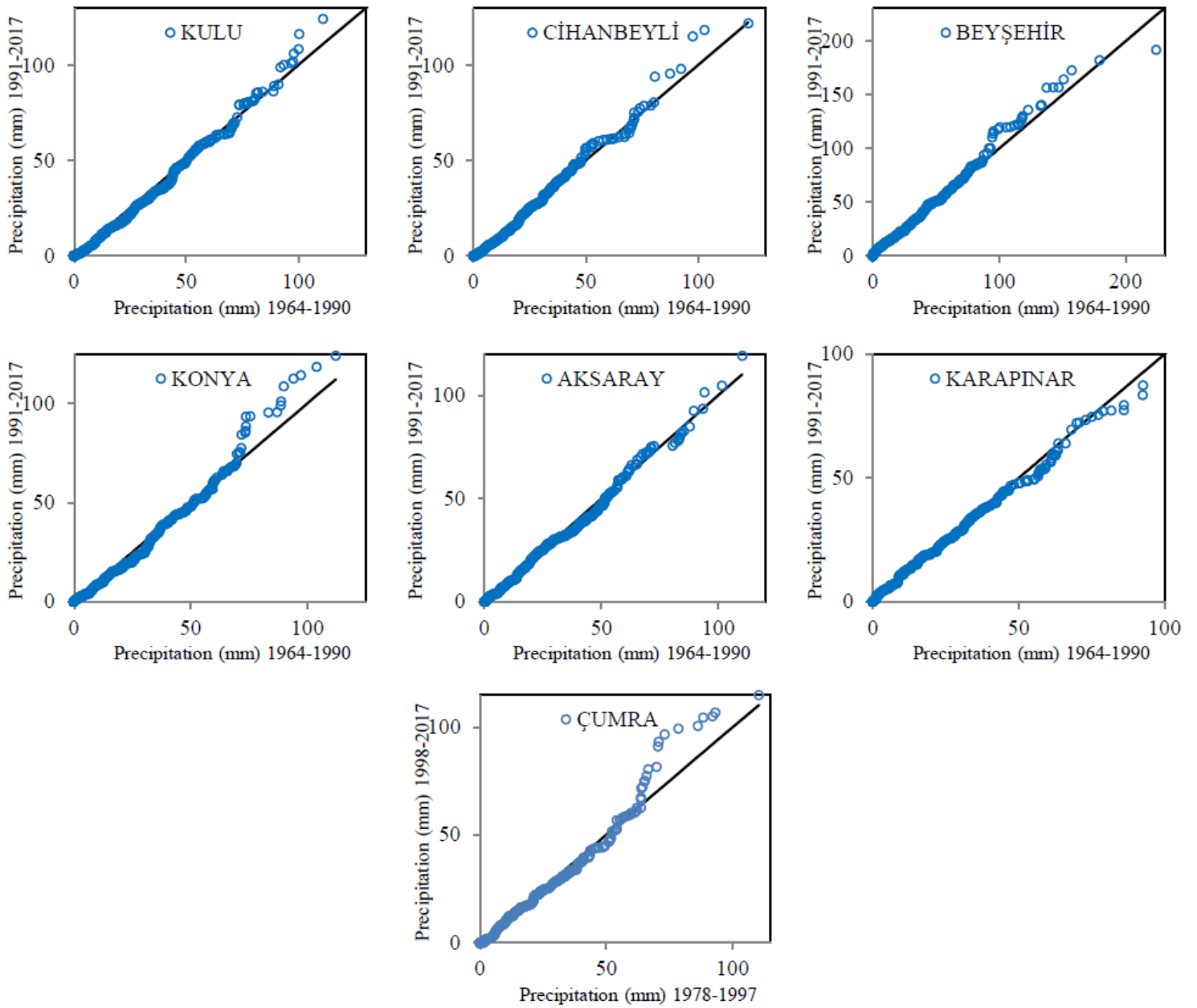


Figure 7

ST graphical results for precipitation stations

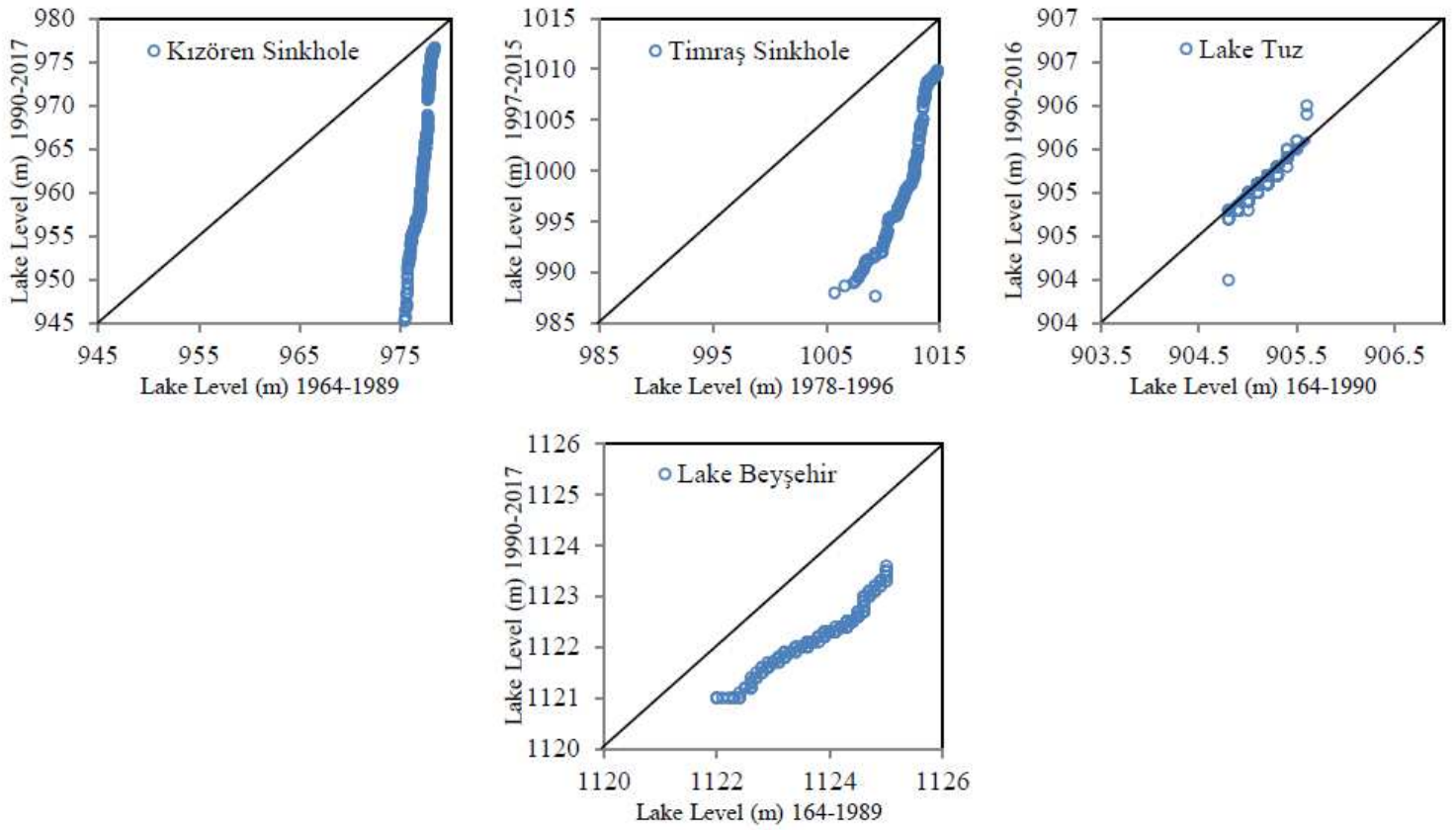


Figure 8

ST graphical results for lake and sinkhole stations

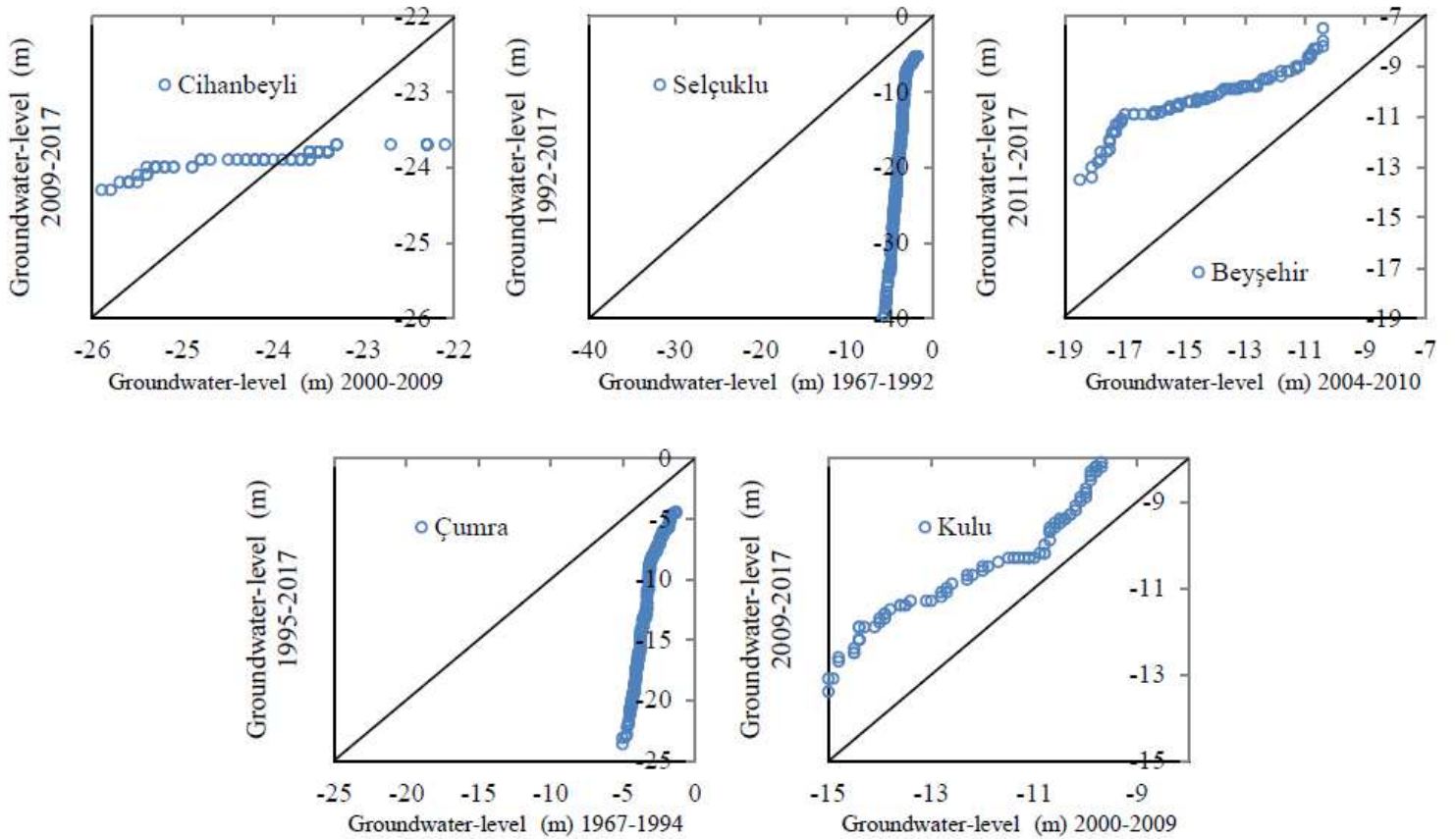


Figure 9

ST graphical results for groundwater level observation stations

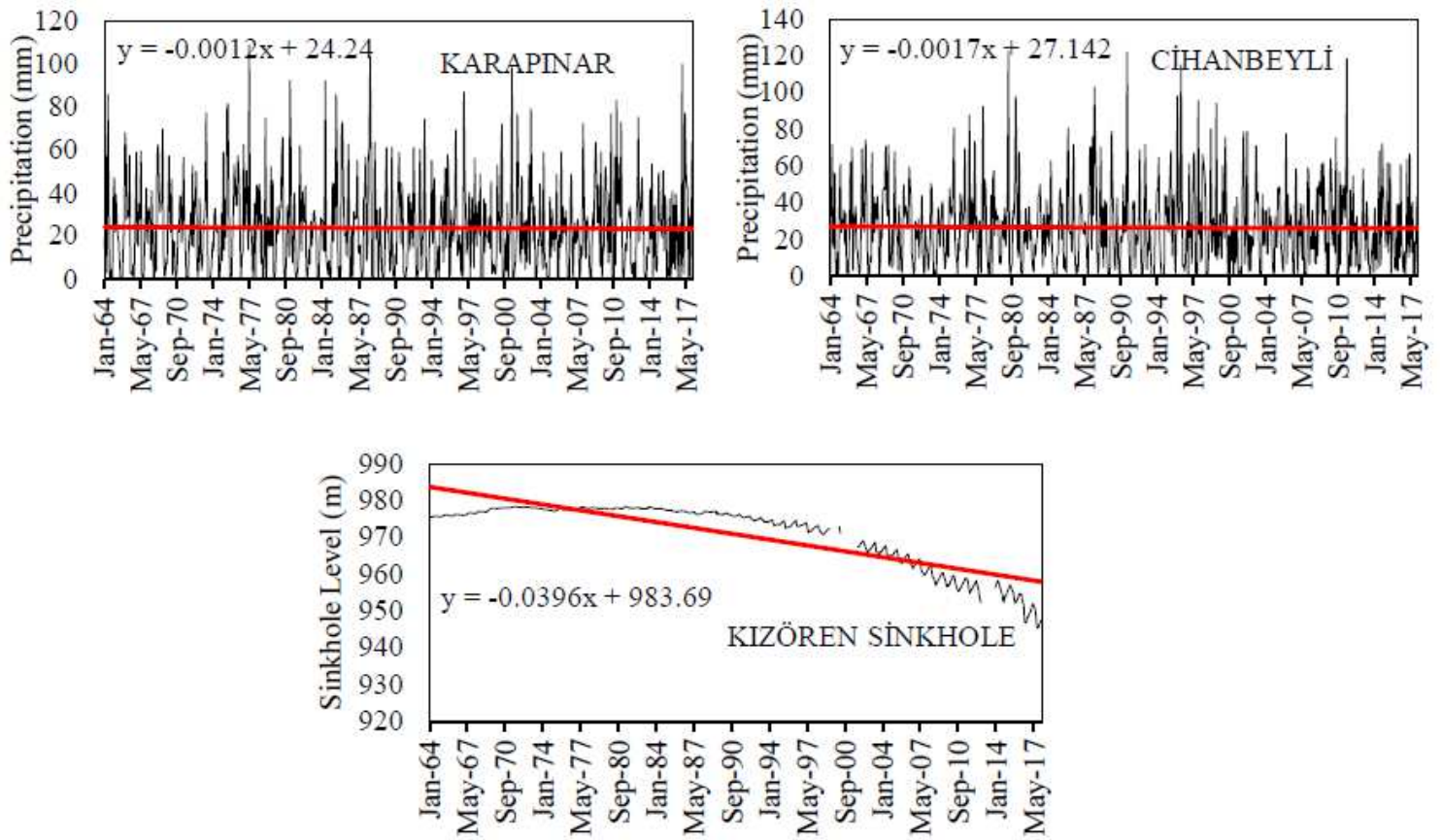


Figure 10

The graph of Kızören sinkhole, Cihanbeyli and Kulu stations in the same periods

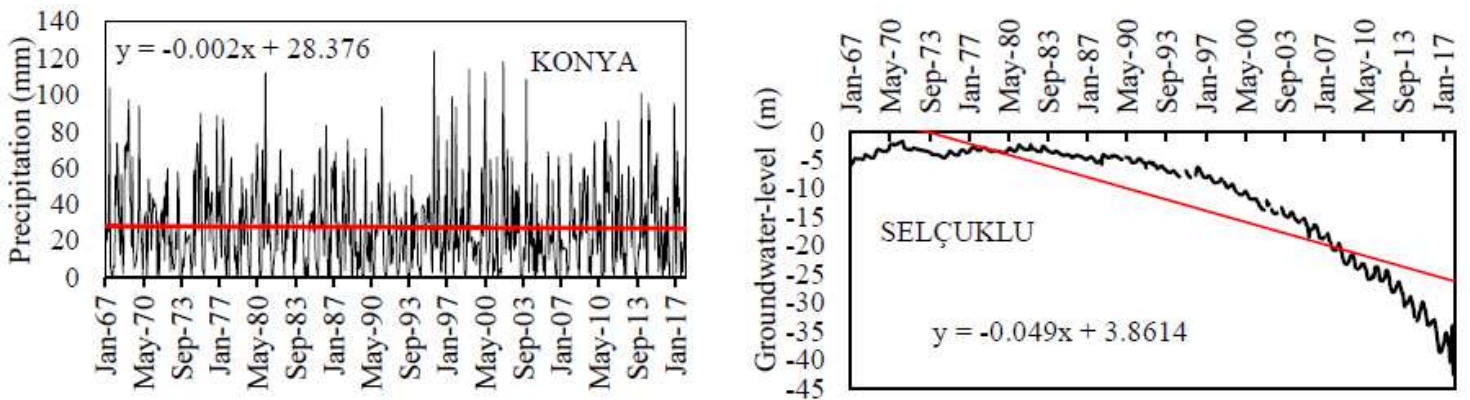


Figure 11

The graph of Konya precipitation station and Selçuklu groundwater level observation station in the same periods

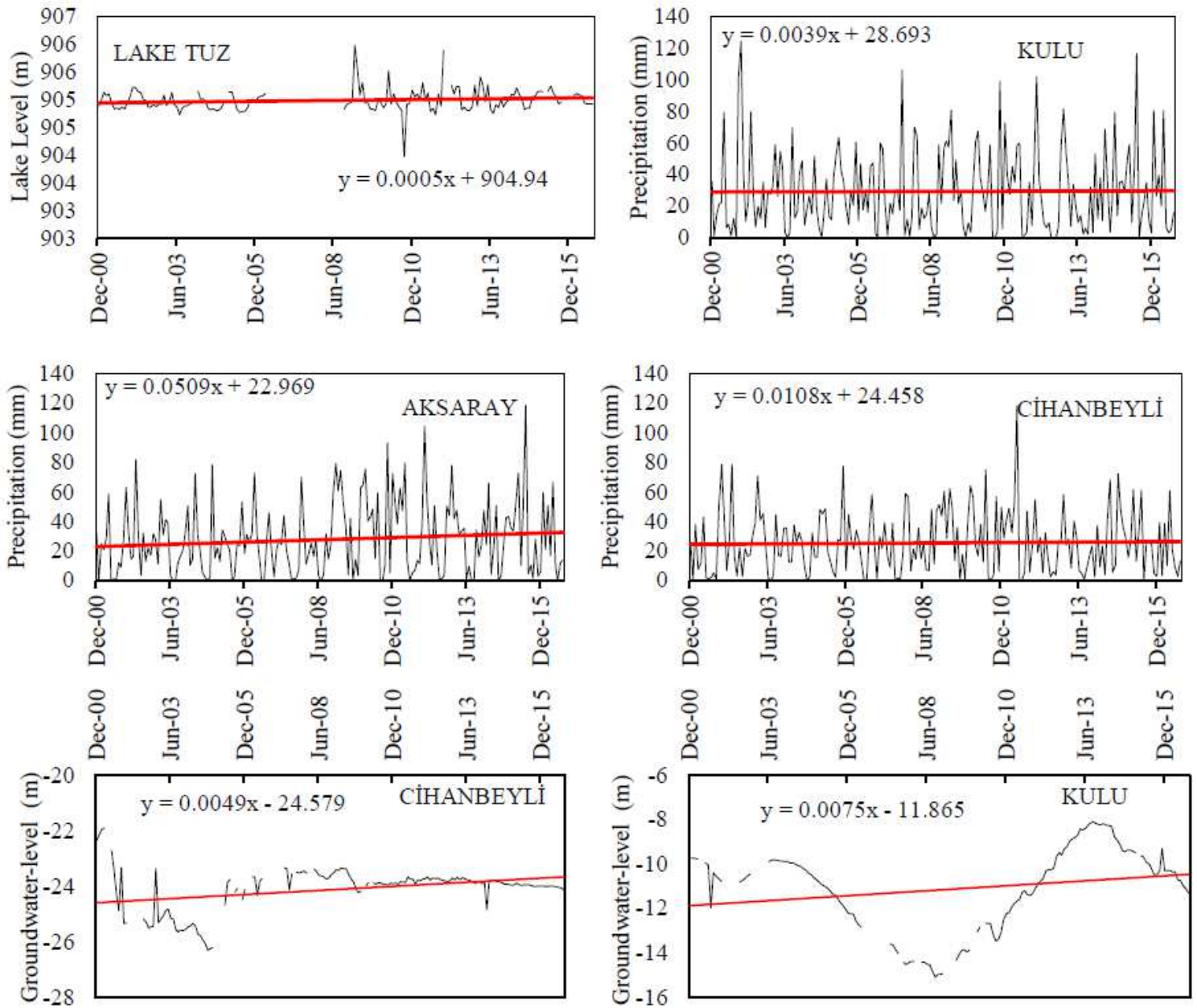


Figure 12

The graph of Lake Tuz, Cihanbeyli, Kulu and Aksaray precipitation stations, Cihanbeyli and Kulu groundwater level observation station in the same periods

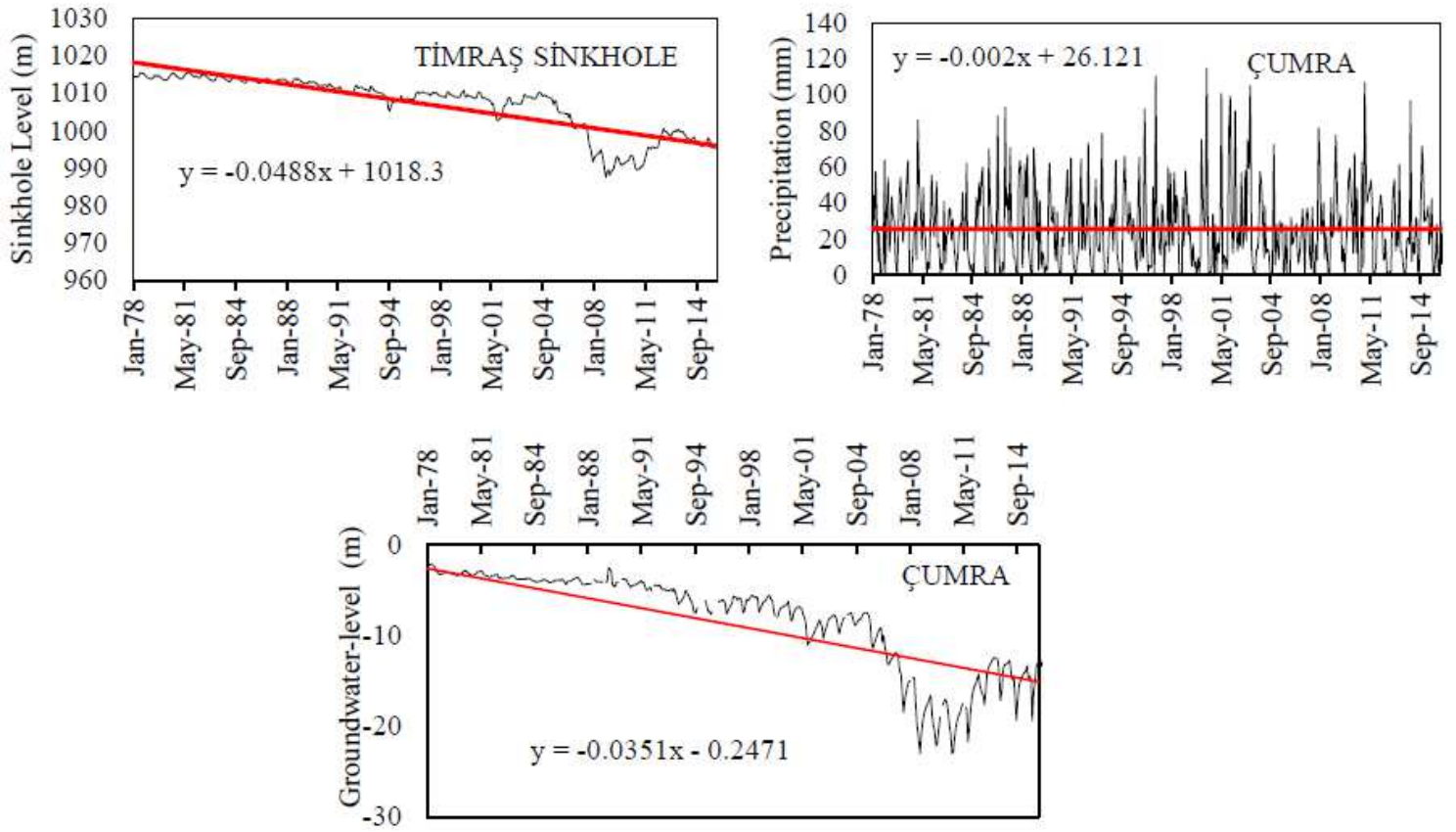


Figure 13

The graph of Timraş Sinkhole, Çumra precipitation and Çumra groundwater level observation station in the same periods

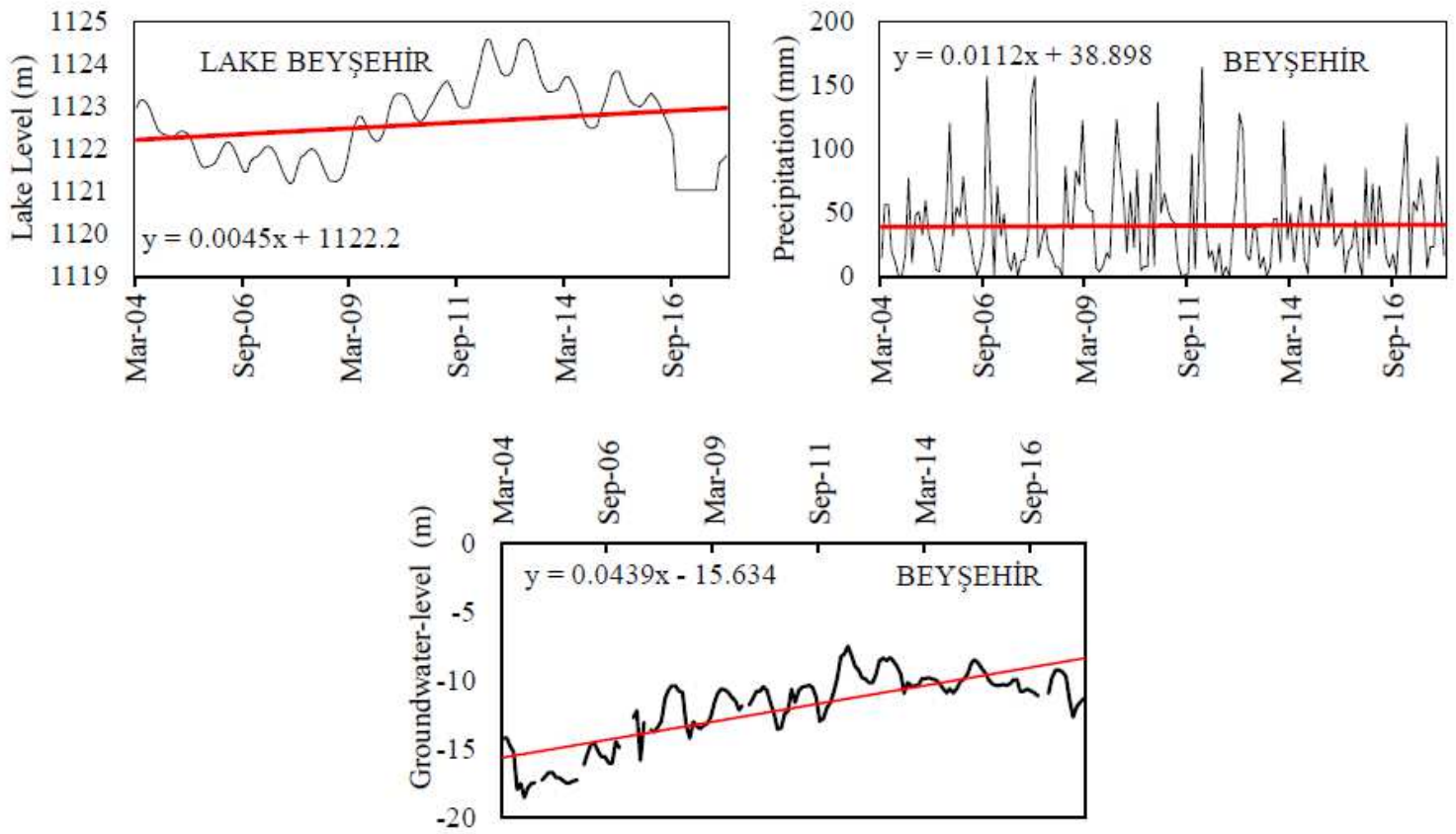


Figure 14

The graph of Lake Beyşehir Sinkhole, Beyşehir precipitation and Beyşehir groundwater level observation station in the same periods