

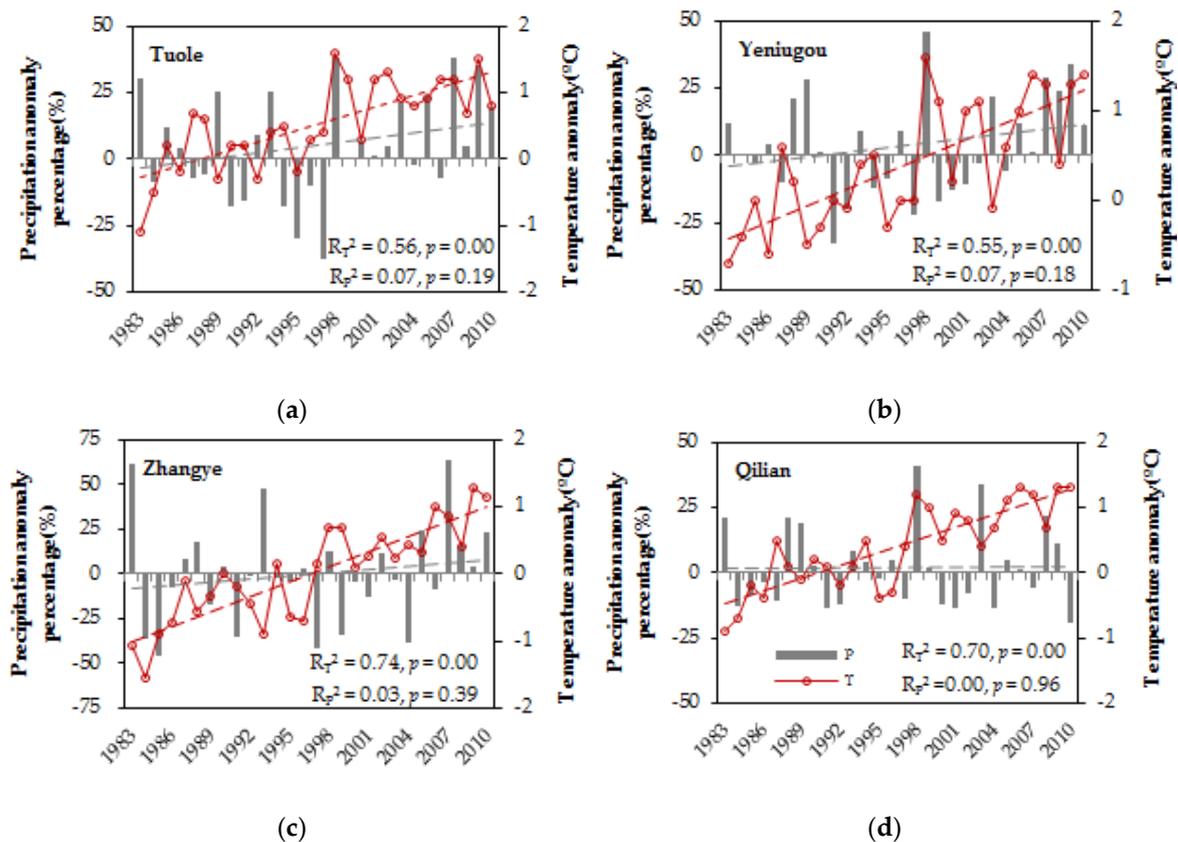
# Supplementary Materials: Detection of the Coupling between Vegetation Leaf Area and Climate in a Multifunctional Watershed, Northwestern China.

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## 1. The observed air temperature and the precipitation

The observed data shows a significant increasing trend in the air temperature anomaly ( $p < 0.001$ ), and no significant increasing trend in the precipitation anomaly percentage (Figure S1), which indicates that the UHRB features a warming and humid climate in the past three decades.



**Figure S1.** Air temperature anomaly (°C, red lines) and precipitation anomaly percentage (% , grey bars) in four meteorological stations (a) Tuole; (b) Yeniugou; (c) Zhangye; and (d) Qilian (Figure 1 showed the locations of the four stations).

## 2. Mean annual AI

Most of the basin features humid (AI > 1.3), and sub-humid climate in small areas (0.5 < AI ≤ 1.3) in the north and west of the basin (Figure S2). After 2000, the sub-humid area shrinks, and the humid region expands accordingly (Figure S2b).

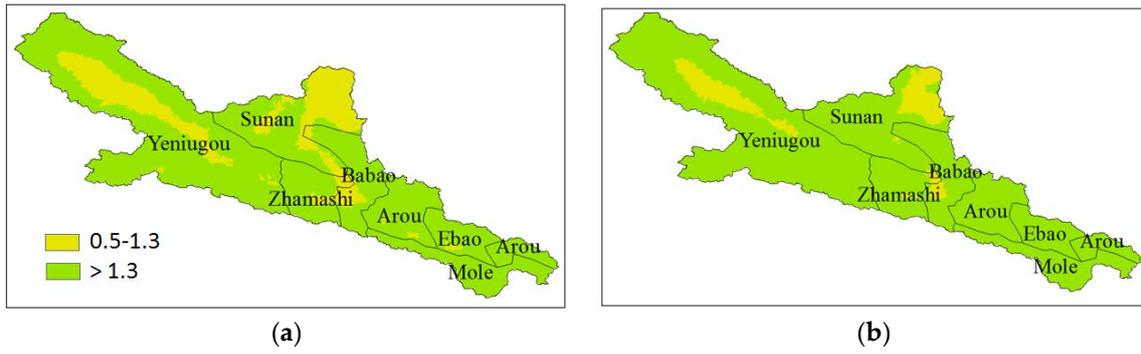


Figure S2. Mean annual AI during (a) 1983–2000; and (b) 2001–2010.

### 3. EOF Mode 3 of annual LAI

During the two periods, the third eigenvectors both show a reverse pattern with the different increasing and decreasing regions (Figure S3). The temporal series (Figure S3a,b) shows no obvious trend first, then a slight increasing trend (Figure S3c,d).

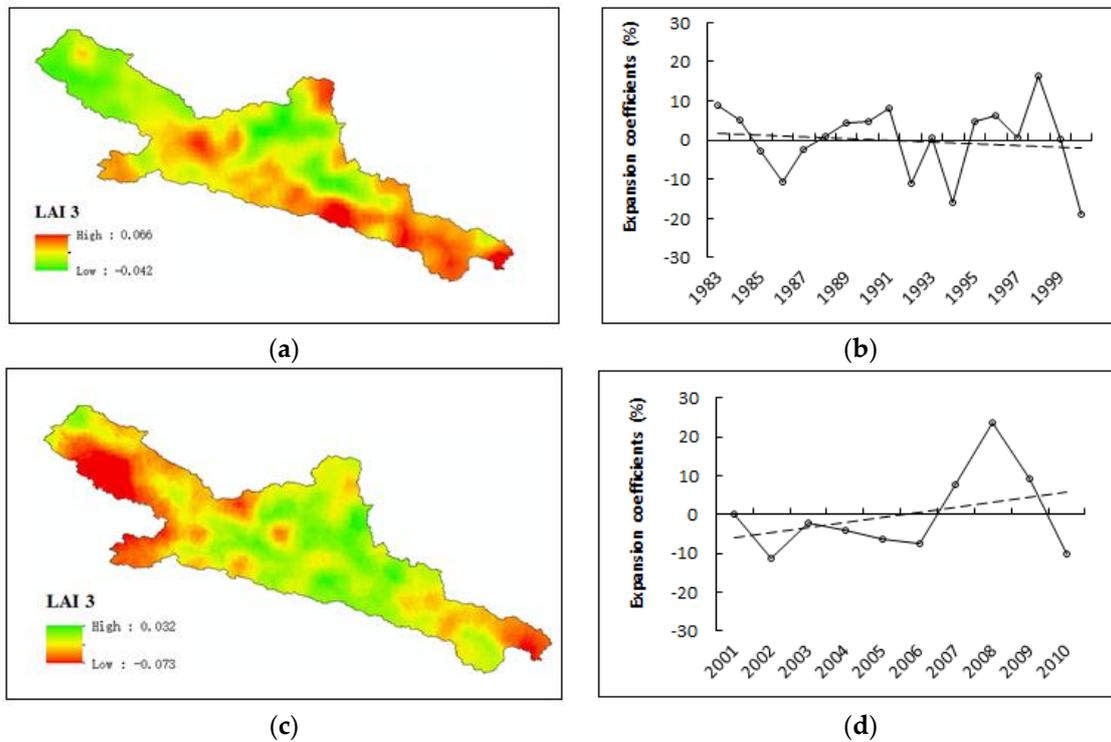


Figure S3. EOF of annual LAI (a) Mode 3; (b) Temporal series of Mode 3 during 1983–2000; (c) Mode 3; and (d) Temporal series of Mode 3 during 2001–2010.

