

## Remote sensing-based spatial modelling for Natura 2000 monitoring at large scale

*Teledetección y cartografía de hábitats en Cantabria*

*J.M. Álvarez-Martínez, M. Recio, A. Silió-Calzada,  
C. Galván, B. Ondiviela, J. Barquín and J. Juanes*



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA

II SEMINARIO CARTOGRAFÍA  
DE LOS HABITATS ESPAÑOLES





## RED NATURA 2000

### Espacios, Hábitats y Especies en la RED NATURA 2000 en Cantabria

- Río Pisuerga
- Río Asón
- Río Agüera
- Río y Embalse del Ebro
- Río Camesa
- Río Miera
- Río Saja

#### ZEC LITORALES

- Rías Occidentales y Duna de Oyambre
- Dunas de Liencres y Estuario del Pas
- Dunas del Puntal y Estuario del Miera
- Costa Central y Ría de Ajo
- Marismas de Santoña, Victoria y Joyel

#### ZEC DE MONTAÑA

- Cueva de la Rogería
- Cueva del Rejo
- El Escudo y Cabuérniga
- Liébana



**CONVENIO DE ENCOMIENDA DE GESTIÓN REALIZADA POR EL GOBIERNO DE CANTABRIA (CONSEJERÍA DE GANADERÍA, PESCA Y DESARROLLO RURAL) A LA FUNDACIÓN INSTITUTO DE HIDRÁULICA AMBIENTAL DE CANTABRIA PARA LA REALIZACIÓN DE ESTUDIOS ESPECÍFICOS PARA LA REDACCIÓN DE LOS PLANES DE GESTIÓN DE LOS ESPACIOS DE LA RED NATURA 2000 EN CANTABRIA.**

En Santander, a 5 de diciembre de 2014.

### REUNIDOS

**De una parte**, la Señora Doña Blanca Azucena MARTÍNEZ GÓMEZ, Consejera de Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Rural del Gobierno de Cantabria, facultada para este acto por acuerdo del Consejo de Gobierno de fecha 4 de diciembre de 2014, conforme a lo dispuesto en el artículo 33 k) de la Ley de Cantabria 6/2002, de 10 de diciembre, de régimen jurídico del Gobierno y de la Administración de la Comunidad Autónoma de Cantabria.

**De otra parte**, el Excmo. y Magfco. Señor Don José Carlos GÓMEZ SAL en nombre y representación, por su condición de Presidente, de la Fundación INSTITUTO DE HIDRÁULICA AMBIENTAL DE CANTABRIA (en adelante FIHAC), con CIF n.º G-39655170 y domicilio en Santander, en el Parque Científico Tecnológico de Cantabria, Calle Isabel Torres, 15, CP 39011, facultado para la celebración de este acto en virtud de lo establecido en el artículo 17 de los Estatutos de la Fundación.

Ambas partes se reconocen la capacidad legal necesaria para formalizar el presente convenio de encomienda de gestión y, en consecuencia,

### EXPONEN

1.- La Fundación Instituto de Hidráulica Ambiental de Cantabria es una organización de naturaleza fundacional, sin fin de lucro, que tiene entre sus fines el profundizar en el conocimiento del ciclo del agua y de los sistemas asociados, ampliando las fronteras del estado del arte de las ciencias y tecnologías relacionadas, el trasladar a la sociedad y convertir en beneficios sociales concretos los logros obtenidos en el estudio del ciclo del agua y los sistemas asociados mediante el establecimiento de vías sólidas de transferencia del conocimiento, metodologías y herramientas a administraciones públicas y empresas nacionales e internacionales, el fomentar y propiciar las actividades de I+D+i en las empresas y organismos españoles y extranjeros, tanto públicos como privados, de sectores que tengan relación con los sistemas hídricos, así como de mejorar la capacitación, la formación y la calidad,

<http://rednatura2000cantabria.incantabria.com/>



**A need for spatial data:** patterns, process, dynamics and functioning of natural and seminatural systems (N2000)





**A need for spatial data:** patterns, process, dynamics and functioning of natural and seminatural systems (N2000)



CORINE Land Cover

<https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/upcoming-product-clc>



Land Monitoring

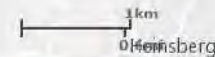
# Towards CLC+

Conceptual design and product outlines

Geoff Smith



European Environment Agency



European Environment Agency



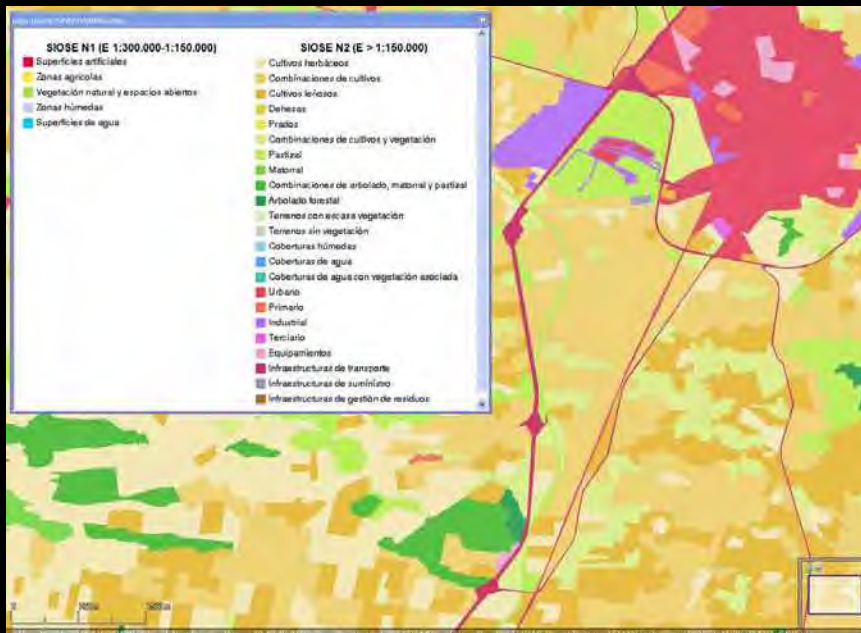
European Commission





## Traditional inventory

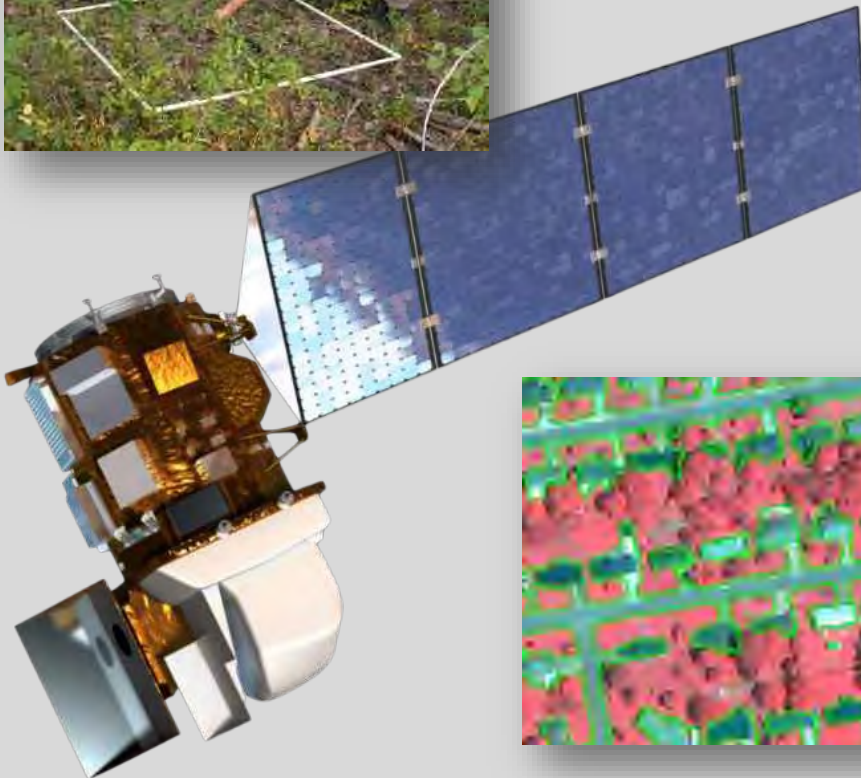
- Lack of spatial data
- Need for trained surveyors
- Mixed patches



- Scale and typology not valid...
- High cost (time, people)
- Difficult to update (no temporal resolution)

## Remote sensing-based spatial modelling

A **cost-effective** solution for large scale mapping based on optimal **field surveys** (adaptive sampling), **remote sensing** and **habitat and species modelling**



5-metres resolution PNOA









We have to get information in a quick, effective, homogeneous and dynamic manner



Cost-effective solution for large scale mapping



We do not end up with available tools (year 2017 and so on) and outputs...

## 1] CLASSIFICATION TYPOLOGY

Land use-land cover (LULC)  
*Vegetation* types

## 2] OCCURRENCE DATA

*Ground data* and *maps* for:  
Training & Validation  
Conservation status

## 3] PREDICTOR LAYERS

Environmental limiting factors  
*Remote sensing*: resolution

## 4] MODELLING PROCEDURE

*Technique*: sensitivity analyses  
Data mining tools and AI  
*Purpose*: mapping, monitoring...

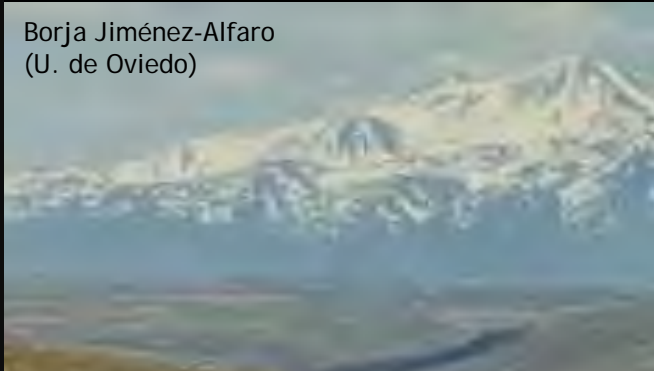
New modelling tools and remote sensing for vegetation mapping:

**what actually matters?**



## EUNIS 2-6 level habitat types

Borja Jiménez-Alfaro  
(U. de Oviedo)



**EUNIS typologies  
in Central Anatolia**

**EUNIS 4 (6)**

40	G1.643	231	Sub-humid oro-Cantabrian beech forests
41	G1.662	55	North-western Iberian xerophile beech woods
42	G1.7	93	Thermophilous deciduous woodland
43	G1.7B	108 9	[Quercus pyrenaica] forests
44	G1.7B2	370	Cantabrian [Quercus pyrenaica] forests
45	G1.7D	48	[Castanea sativa] woodland
46	G1.862	506	Cantabrian acidophilous oak forests
47	G1.862 1	77	Eastern Cantabrian acidophilous oak forests
48	G1.862 2	33	Western Cantabrian acidophilous oak forests
49	G1.862 3	38	Oro-Cantabrian acidophilous oak forests
50	G1.91	24	[Betula] woodland not on marshy terrain
51	G1.915 1	51	Cantabrian [Betula celtiberica] woodlands
52	G1.A	33	Meso- and eutrophic oak, hornbeam, ash, sycamore, lime, elm and related woodland;
53	G1.A1	31	[Quercus] - [Fraxinus] - [Carpinus betulus] woodland on eutrophic and mesotrophic soils

68	G4.F	67	Mixed forestry plantations (plantaciones mixtas de coníferas y caducifolios)
69	G5	27	Lines of trees, small anthropogenic woodlands, recently felled woodland, early-stage woodland and coppice
70	H2.6	102	Calcareous and ultra-basic screes of warm exposures
71	H2.641	116	Cancales calcáreos m-íviles orocant-íbricos
72	H2.65	34	Iberian calciphile fern screes
73	H3.21	159	Tyrrheno-Adriatic eumediterranean calcicolous chasmophyte communities
74	I	416	Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats
75	I1	101	Arable land and market gardens
76	I2	67	Cultivated areas of gardens and parks
77	I5.8	66	Comunidades alóctonas de Cortaderia, Baccharis, Buddleja, Phyllostachis, Reynoutria
78	J	132	Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats
79	X1	115	Helechales
80	X2	31	Nanofruticedas cespitosas con G. pyrenaicum y H. sedenense

Patron List of Spanish Habitat types  
[Download from MITECO](#)



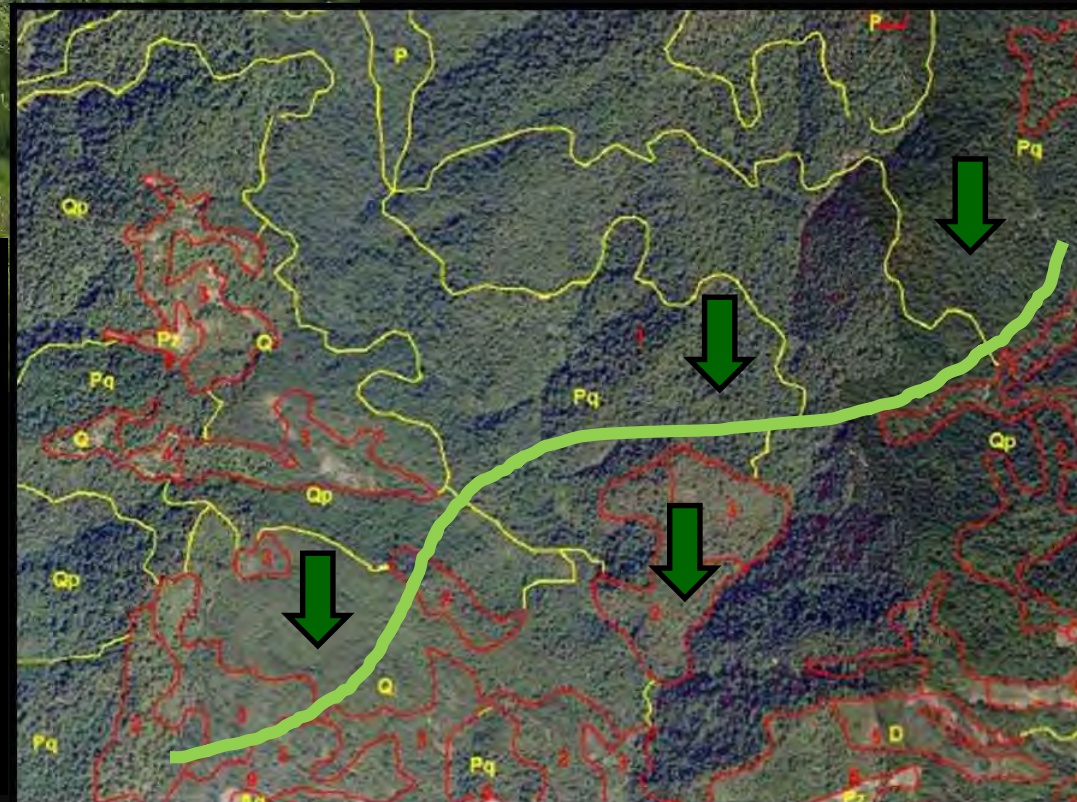
# Innaccuracies and lack of data at the patch level



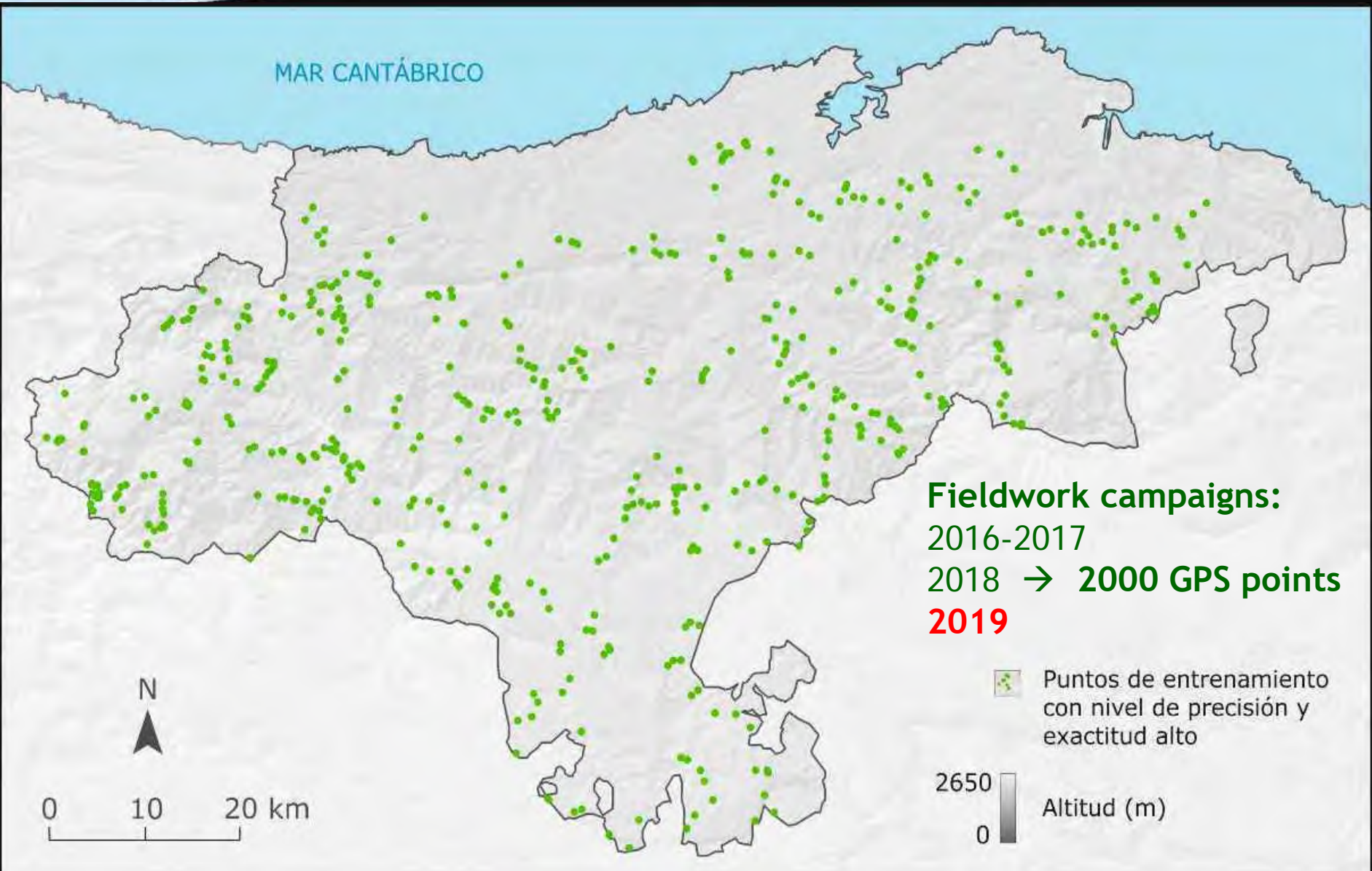


### Point-based sampling surveys

Occurrence data obtained from field surveys with (almost) no uncertainty:  
**Field campaigns (botanists)**

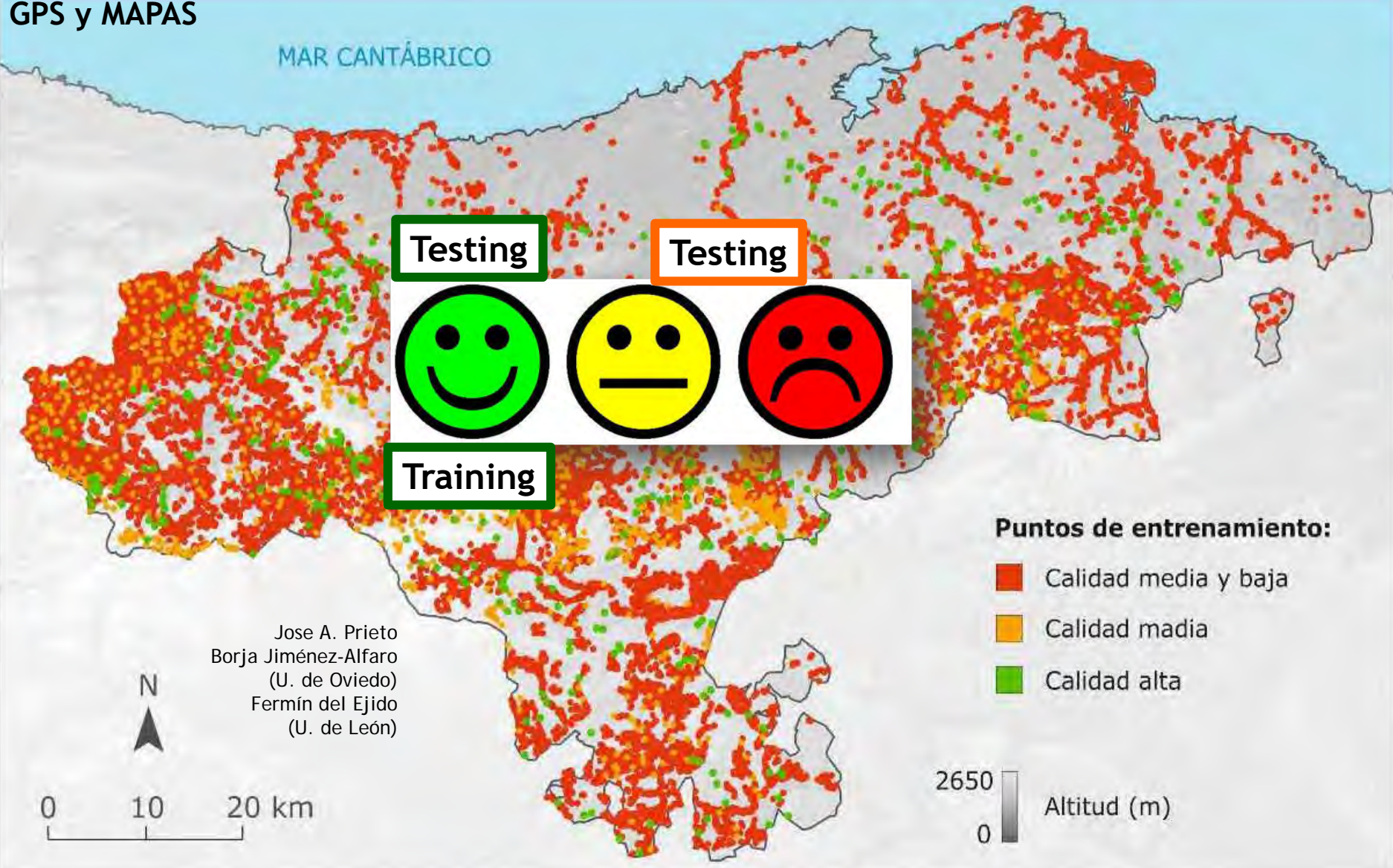








GPS y MAPAS





## Atlantic biogeographical region (NW Spain)

Vegetation DB:

National maps

Regional programs

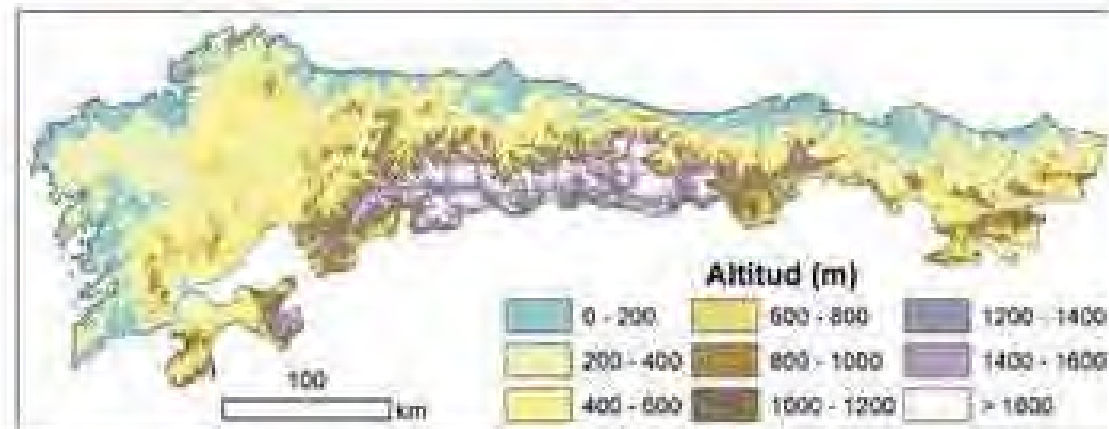
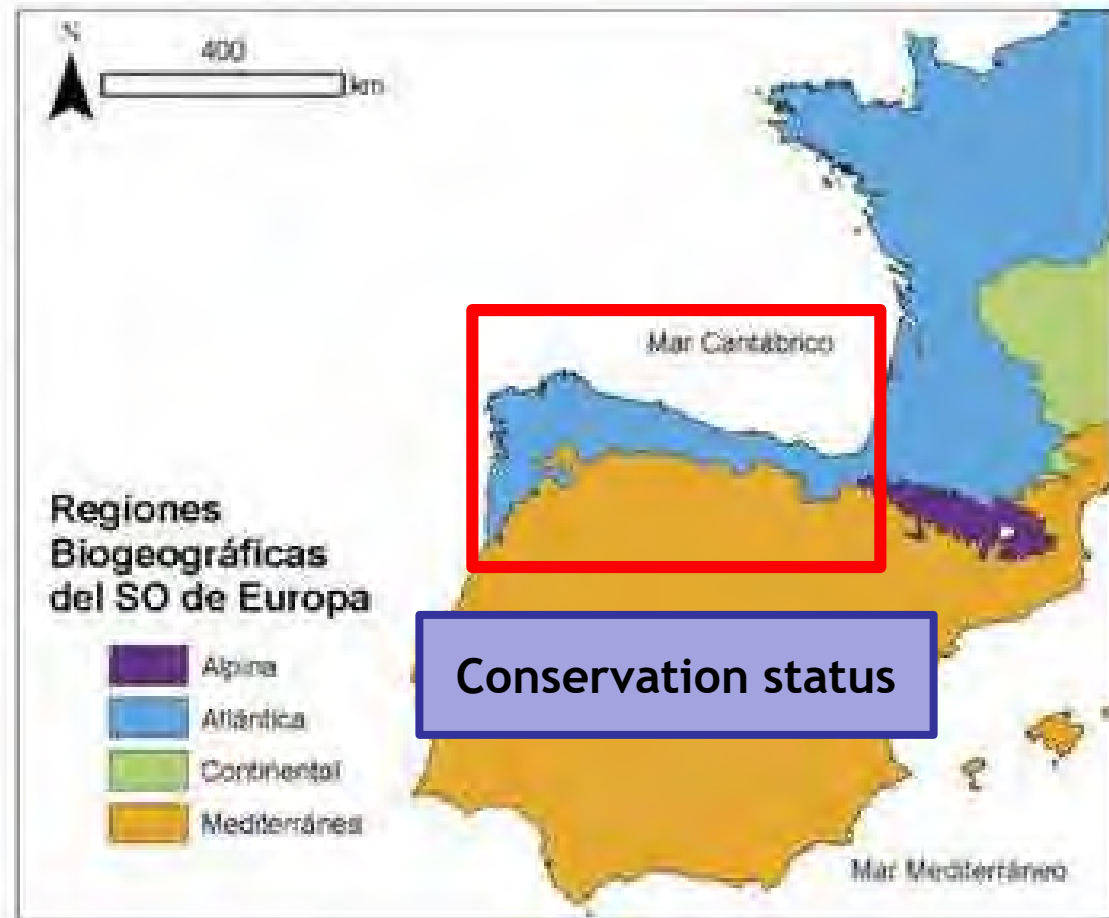
Fieldwork

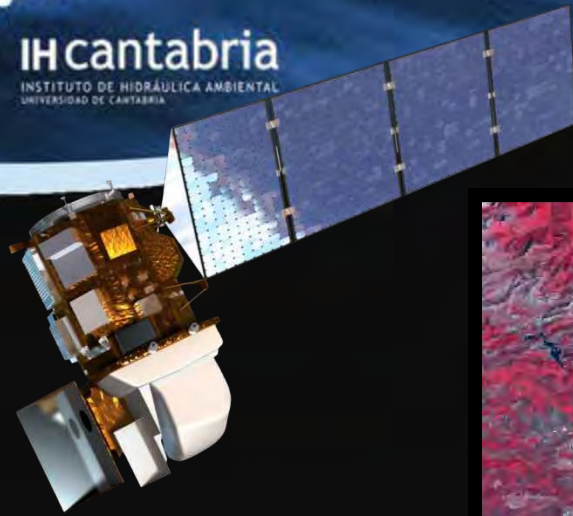
Predictor layers

Limiting factors

Remote sensing

Monitoring and reporting



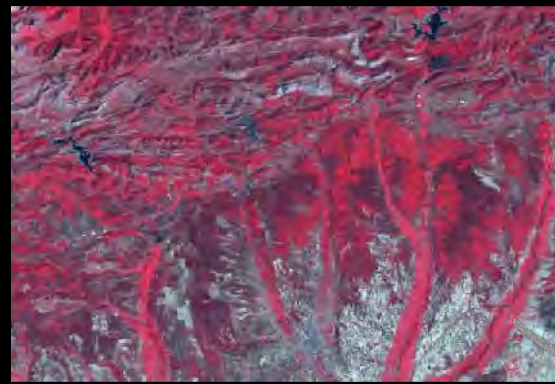


## Remote Sensing (RS)

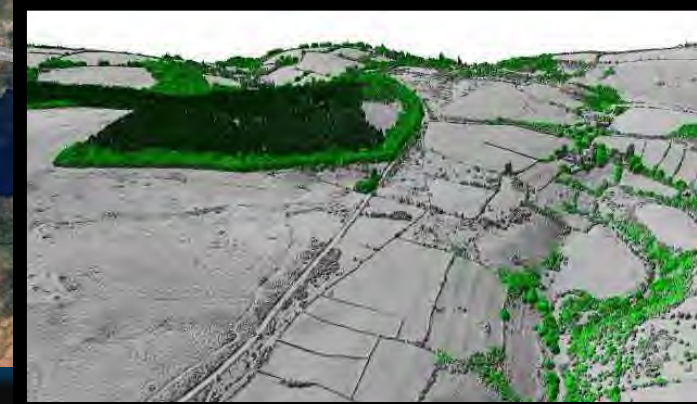
Satellite imagery:  
Landsat 5TM and 8OLI 30m  
Sentinel 2 A and B, 10-20m  
DEIMOS-2, 4m

LIDAR PNOA derived data

Env. Limiting factors  
topography, climate, soil  
(digital soil mapping \*)



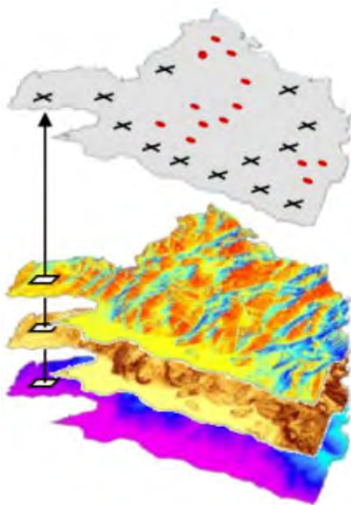
Copernicus  
sentinel





A **DATA MINING** method or modelling algorithm for habitat mapping relates occurrence data and the process-based environmental and RS predictors

OCCURRENCE  
DATA



1

2

```

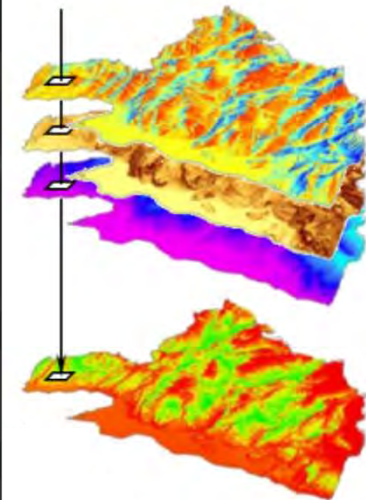
return x_train, x_test

def define_model(self):
    input_shape = (self.channels, self.rows, self.columns)
    mo = Sequential()
    mo.add(
        normalization.BatchNormalization(input_shape=input_shape, axis=-1))
    mo.add(
        Conv2D(6, (1, 1), activation='relu', input_shape=input_shape))
    mo.add(MaxPooling2D((2, 2)))
    mo.add(Conv2D(12, (1, 1), activation='relu'))
    mo.add(MaxPooling2D((2, 2)))
    mo.add(Flatten())
    mo.add(Dense(self.eunis_types, activation='softmax'))
    mo.compile(loss='categorical_crossentropy',
              optimizer=keras.optimizers.Adam(),
              metrics=['acc', 'binary_accuracy'])
    return mo

def train(self, x_train, y_train, trained_model_path=None):
    x_train, y_train = self.reshape_matrices(x_train, y_train)
    file_name = None
    if trained_model_path is None:
        mo = self.define_model()
        mo.fit(x_train, y_train, epochs=100, batch_size=32, verbose=1)
        # Save trained model
        file_name = self.save_model_and_headers(mo)
    else:
        # load
        mo = load_model(trained_model_path)
    return mo, file_name
    
```

Deep learning

SPATIAL  
PREDICTIONS



MAPS

PREDICTORS

**MaxEnt:** SWD format, Tuning parameters, *Phillips et al (2006)*  
**SDM:** Multiple algorithms, Bootstrapping, *Naimi and Araújo (2016)*





Habitat 1140

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Continental Shelf Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/csr](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/csr)

Mapping estuarine vegetation using satellite imagery: The case of the invasive species *Baccharis halimifolia* at a Natura 2000 site

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<sup>a</sup> Environmental Hydraulics Institute, Universidad de Cantabria, Avda. Isabel Torres, 15, Parque Científico y Tecnológico de Cantabria, 39011 Santander, Spain  
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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:  
 Bay of Biscay  
 Landsat  
 Sentinel  
 Support vector machines  
 Remote sensing  
 Mapping

ABSTRACT

The invasive shrub *Baccharis halimifolia* is a threat to the environmental health of many estuarine protected areas throughout Europe. It displaces saltmarsh vegetation and creates monospecific stands that diminish the natural diversity. This work aims to develop a procedure to map this invasive species using satellite imagery. Landsat-8 and Sentinel 2A images are compared, along with three classification approaches (pixel-based, object-based, a mixture of both), to determine which combination yields the best *B. halimifolia* mapping results. All calculations were made using open-source software, including the ORFEO toolbox for the segmentations in the object-based approach, and the Scikit-learn package for the Support Vector Machines classification algorithm. The pixel-based classifications mapped the invasive species with an accuracy of 70% or higher for both images. The Landsat image had higher accuracy in the overall classification of the vegetation, but the Sentinel image proved better suited for mapping *B. halimifolia* specifically, due to its higher spatial and spectral resolution. In addition, the procedure was implemented using a Landsat image from 2005, and mapped the invasive species with an accuracy of 72% and 88% for producers and users accuracy respectively. The developed procedure represents a valuable tool for restoration projects, allowing for retrospective analyses or relatively low-cost monitoring of *B. halimifolia*'s current distribution.

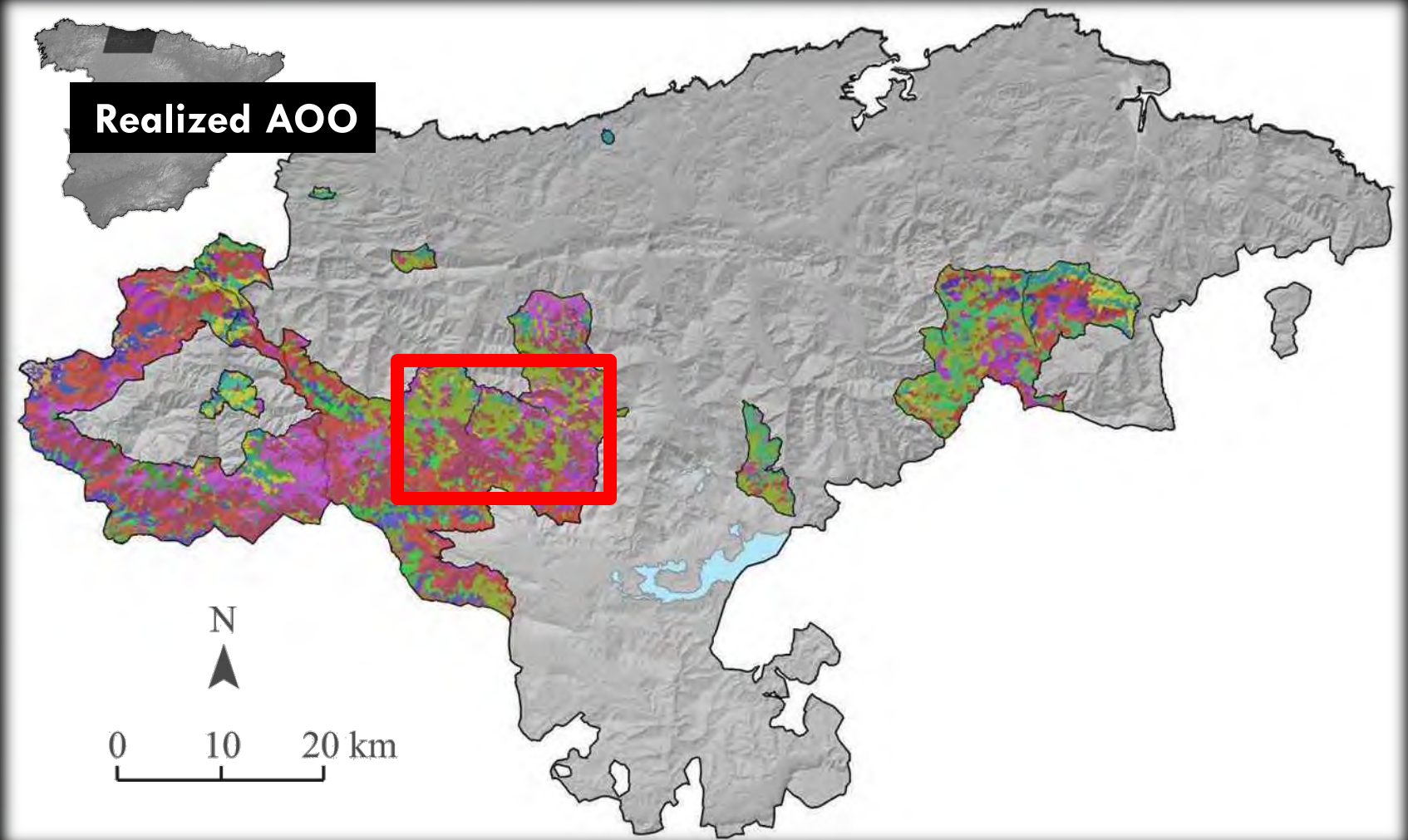
o arenosos que  
 tos de agua  
 rea baja

oltei



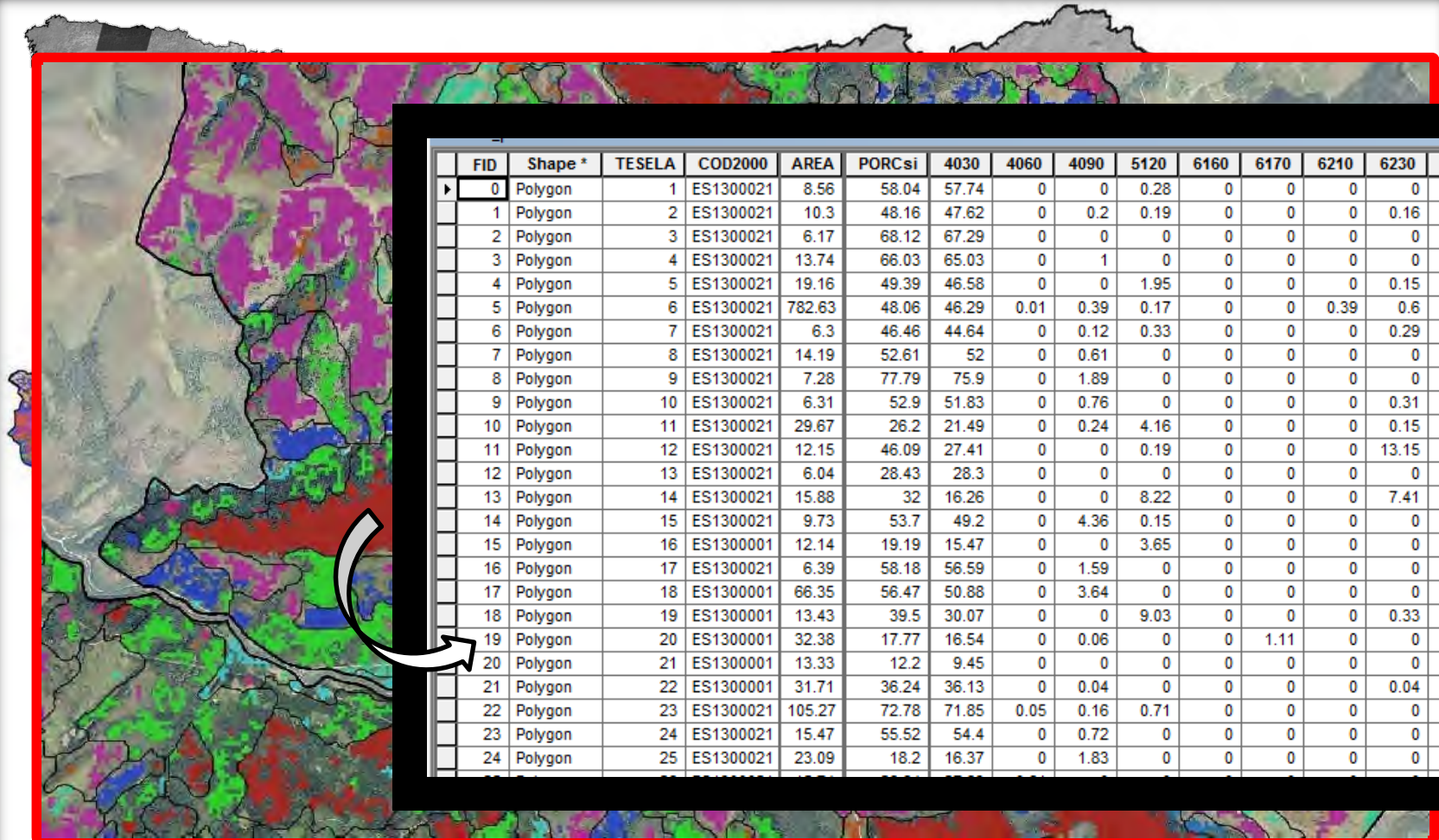
*Baccharis halimifolia*

Automatic and objective: depends on the models





Automatic and objective: depends on the models



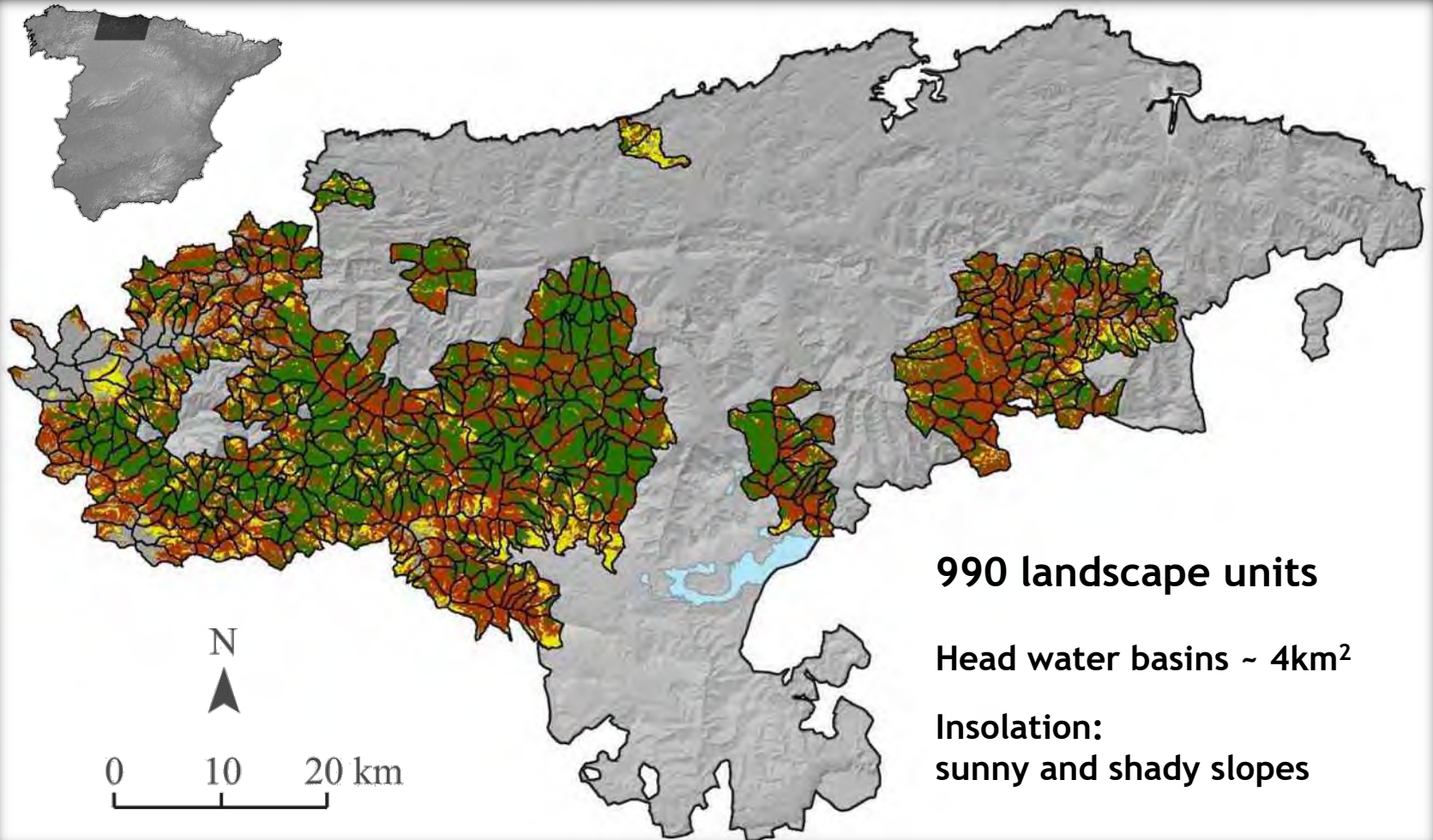
E 1:25 000

**DOMINANCE**

+

**UNCERTAINTY**

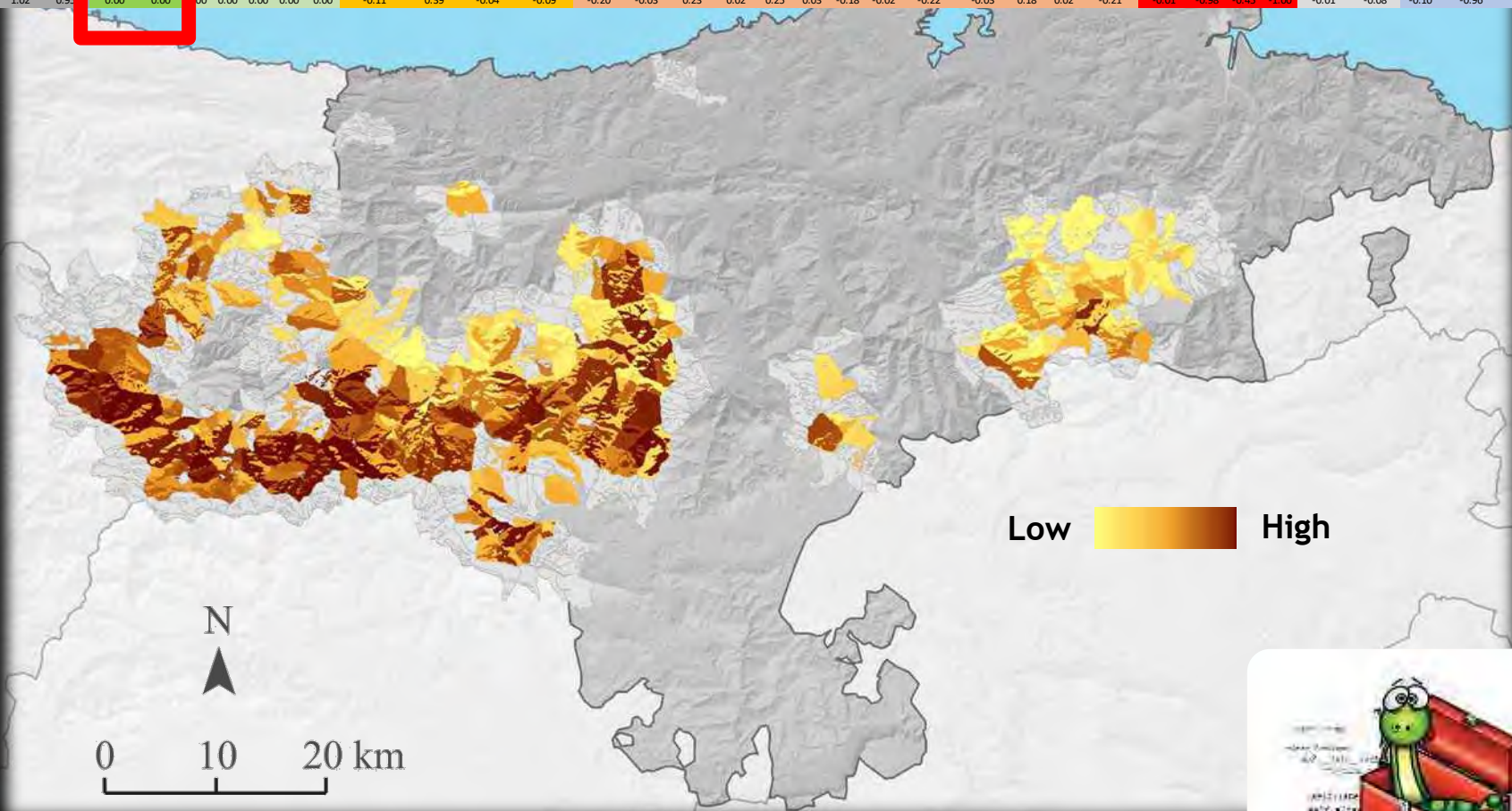
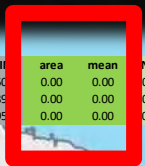
**Homogeneous units** (structure and composition) driven by environmental limiting factors (topography and climate)





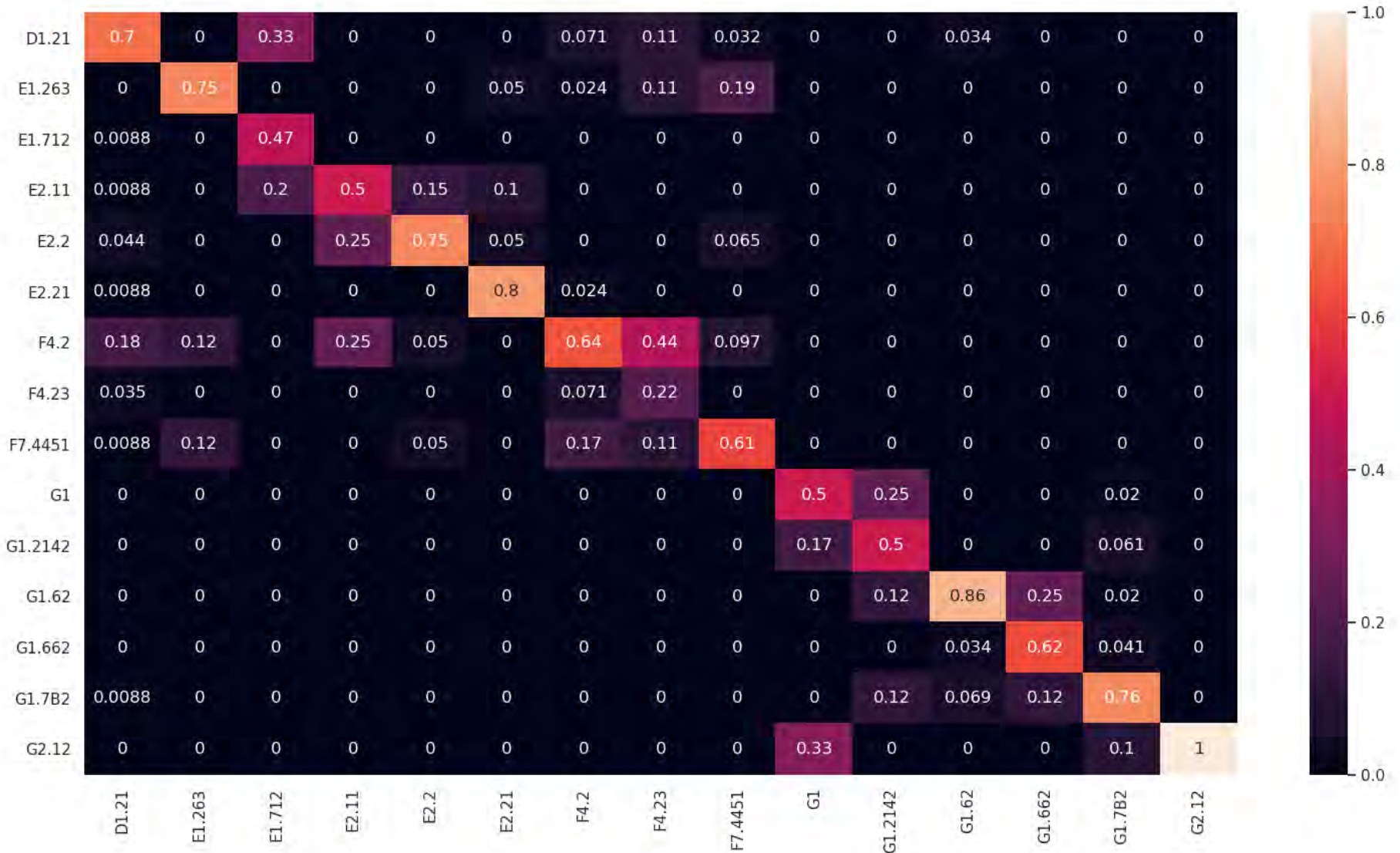
PRIORITY INDEX (for all landscape units)

ID	LIC	AREA	PERI	area	mean	N	fAx	fAs	LPI	PAR	ndvitmaxr	ndvitbx	ndvitdx	ndvitsdx	sandm	sandd	claym	clayd	omm	omd	phm	phd	arenam	arenad	mom	mod	phhZom	firemin	firex	firesh	fires	alocAx	alocAs	pMIN	pRANGE	pSUM	PRIORIZA
1	LIEBANA	0.56	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.10	0.36	-0.03	-0.09	-0.17	-0.03	0.12	0.02	0.11	0.01	-0.19	-0.02	-0.17	-0.02	0.13	0.02	-0.22	-0.02	-0.52	-0.29	-0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.47
2	CABUERNIGA	0.23	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.09	0.39	-0.03	-0.09	-0.18	-0.04	0.16	0.03	0.12	0.01	-0.20	-0.04	-0.18	-0.02	0.11	0.01	-0.24	-0.01	-0.36	-0.28	-0.11	-0.04	-0.06	-0.31	-0.68	-0.09	-1.74
3	ORIENTAL	1.02	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.11	0.39	-0.04	-0.09	-0.20	-0.03	0.23	0.02	0.25	0.03	-0.18	-0.02	-0.22	-0.03	0.18	0.02	-0.21	-0.01	-0.98	-0.45	-1.00	-0.01	-0.08	-0.10	-0.96	-0.26	-3.24



"LEGO" format tool: expandable to any variable

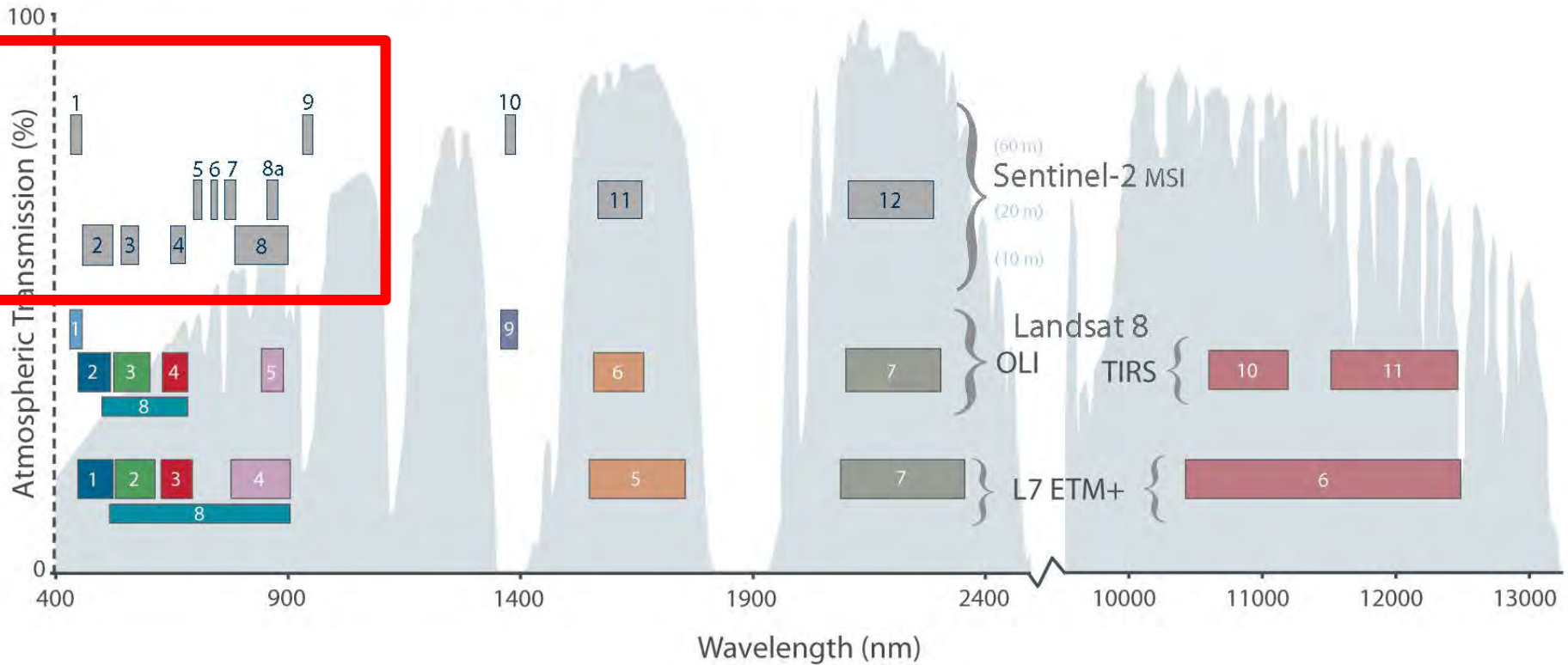
## VALIDATION - Confusion matrices







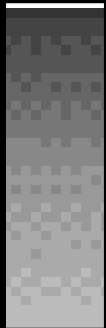
Comparison of Landsat 7 and 8 bands with Sentinel-2



## High scale

Landsat 8 MVC  
Landsat8 x2  
Sentinel2 x2  
Deimos2 x2  
+LiDAR +MDT

High  
suitability



Low  
suitability





Landsat 8 MVC

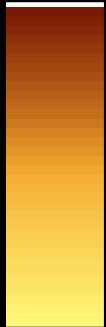
**Landsat8 x2**

Sentinel2 x2

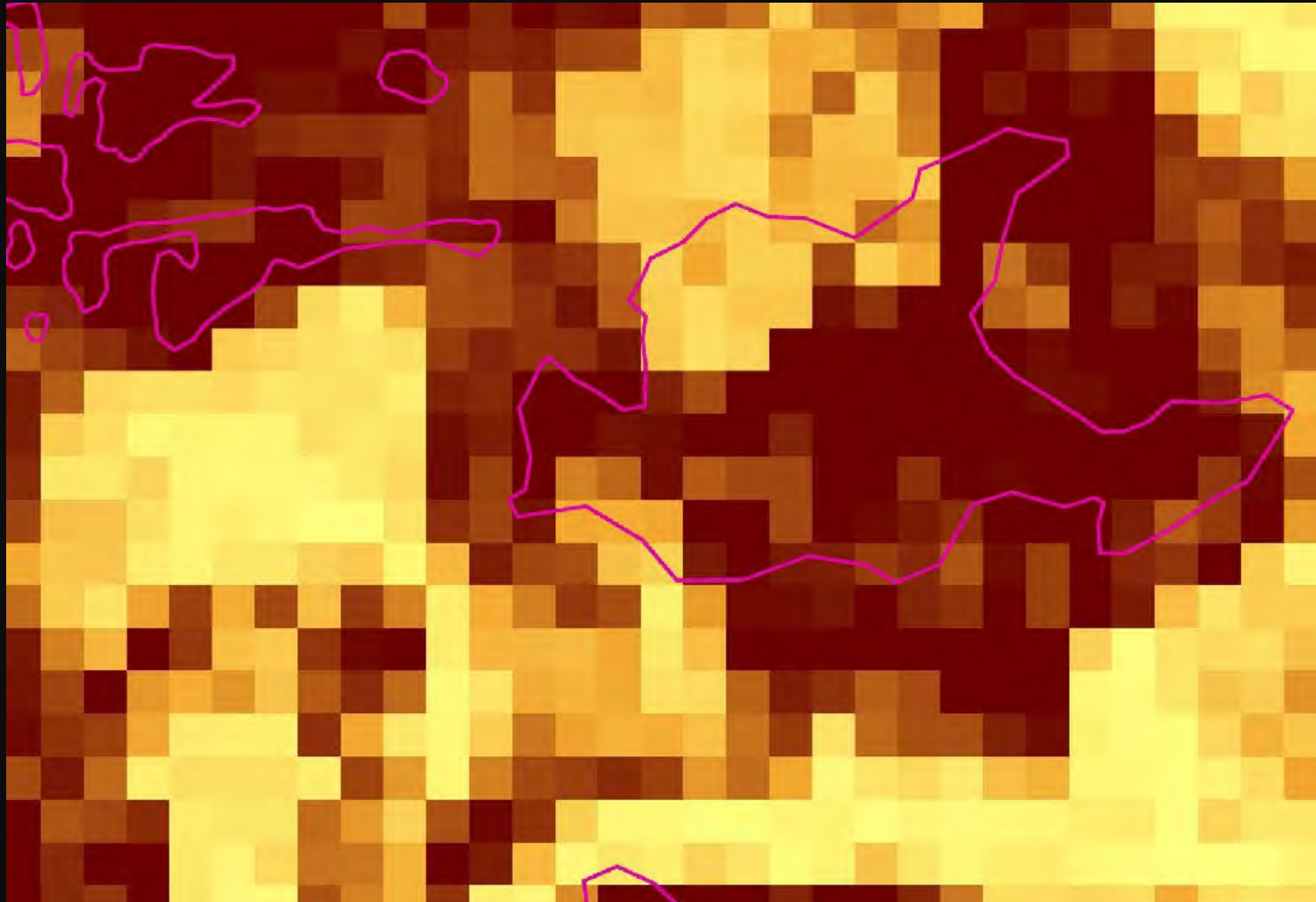
Deimos2 x2

+LiDAR +MDT

**High  
suitability**

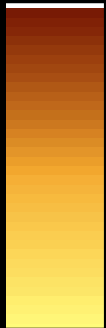


**Low  
suitability**

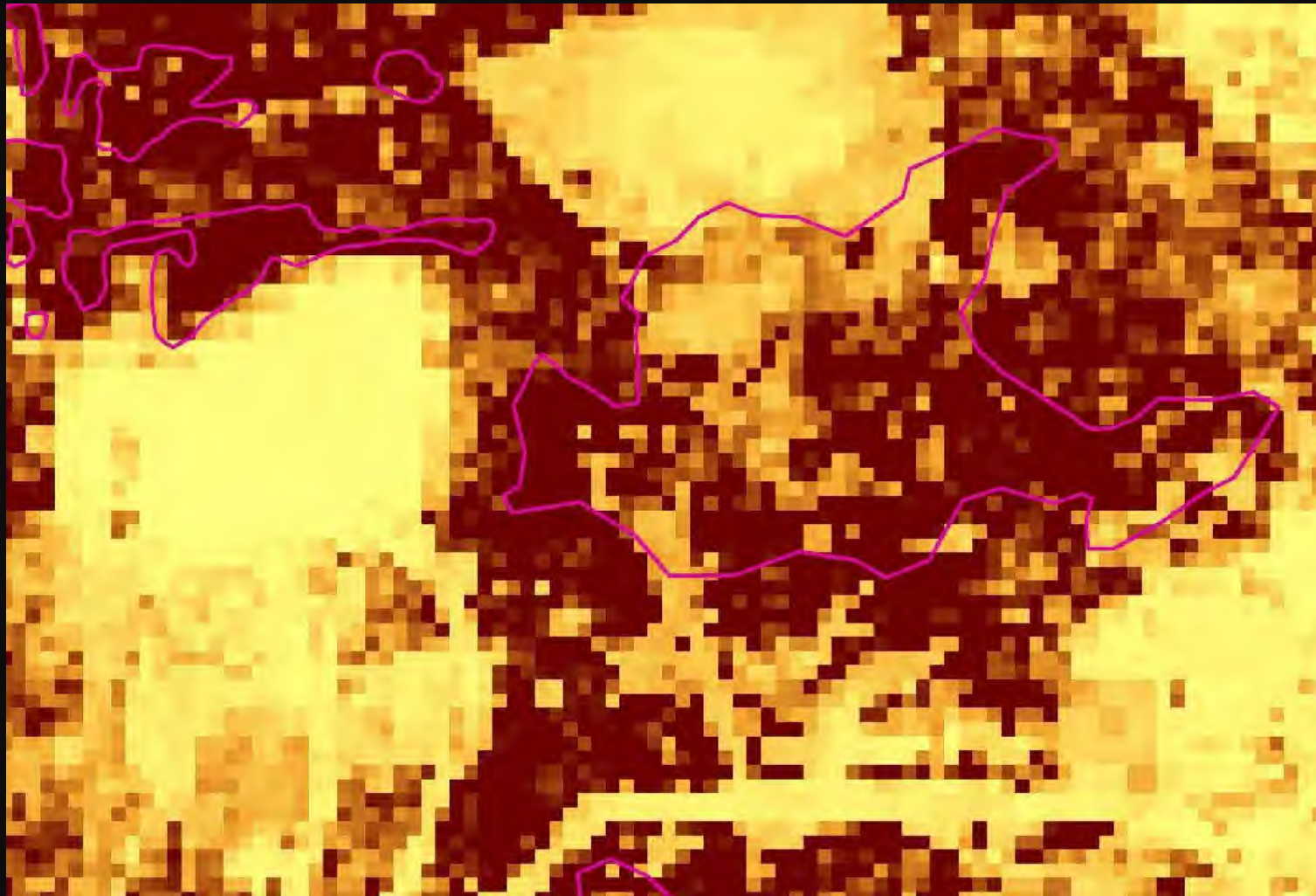


Landsat 8 MVC  
Landsat8 x2  
**Sentinel2 x2**  
Deimos2 x2  
+LiDAR +MDT

High  
suitability



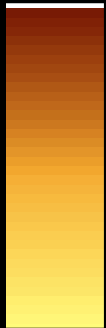
Low  
suitability



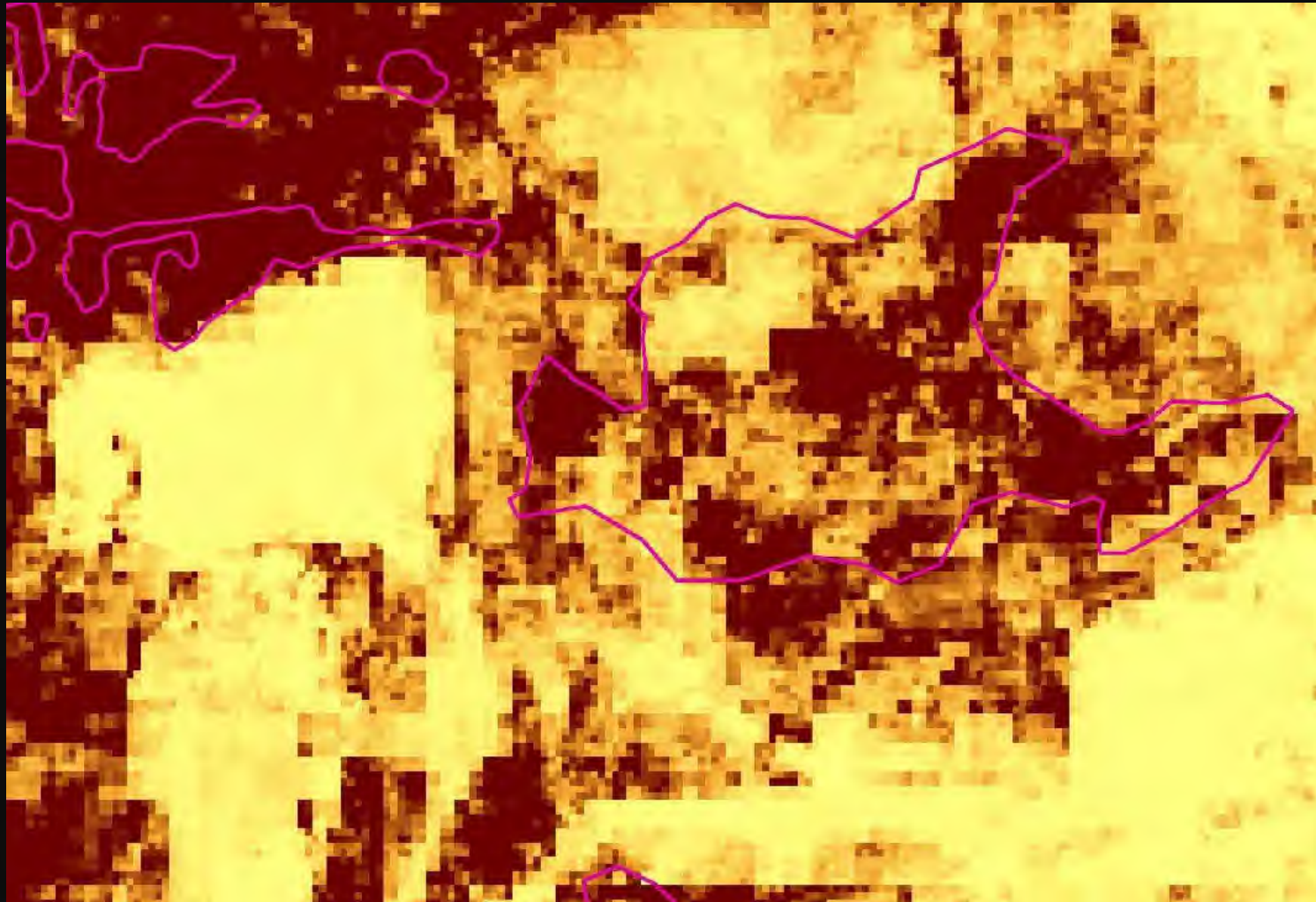


Landsat 8 MVC  
Landsat8 x2  
**Sentinel2 x2**  
**Deimos2 x2**  
**+LiDAR +MDT**

High  
suitability



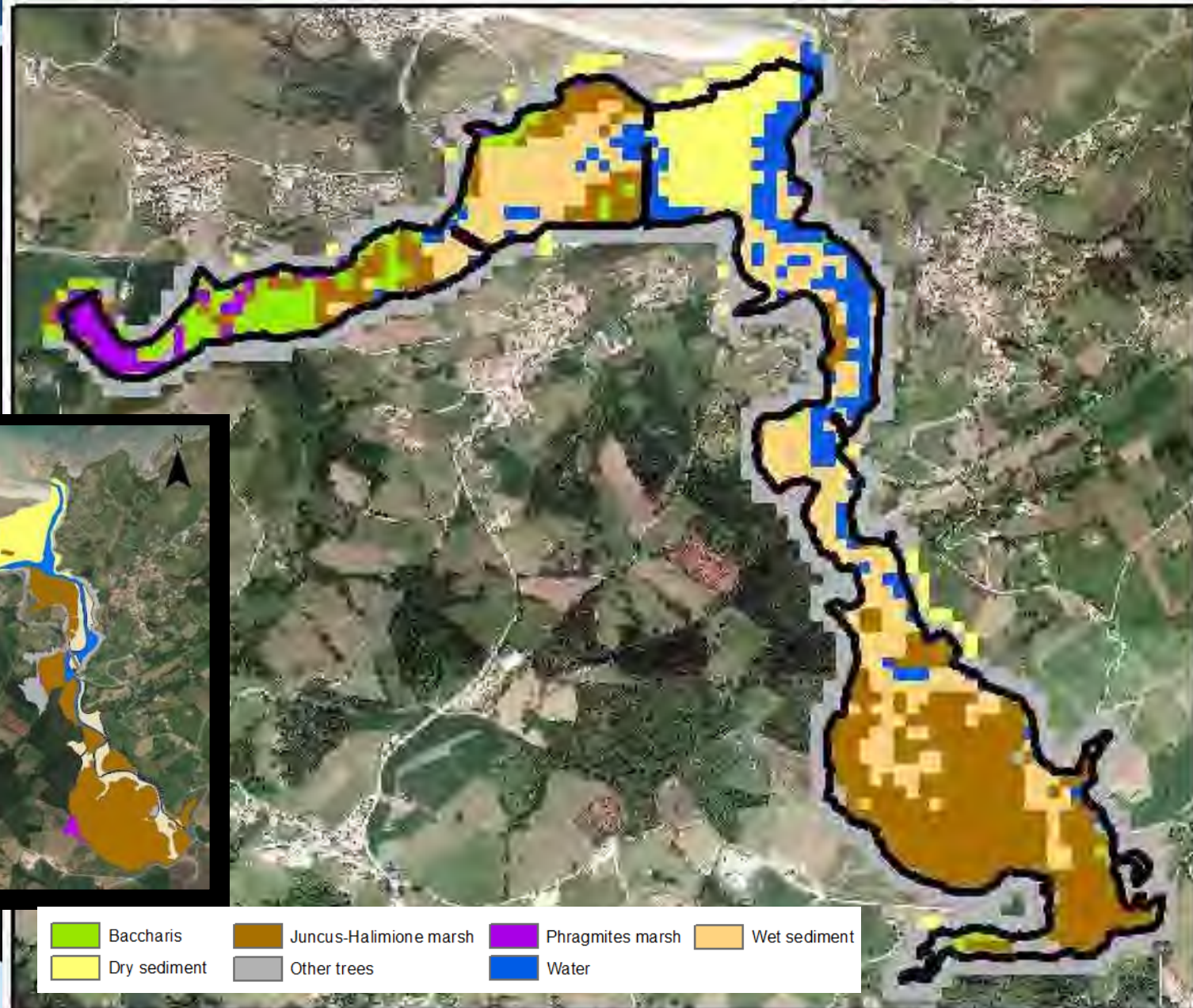
Low  
suitability





**Landsat 8**

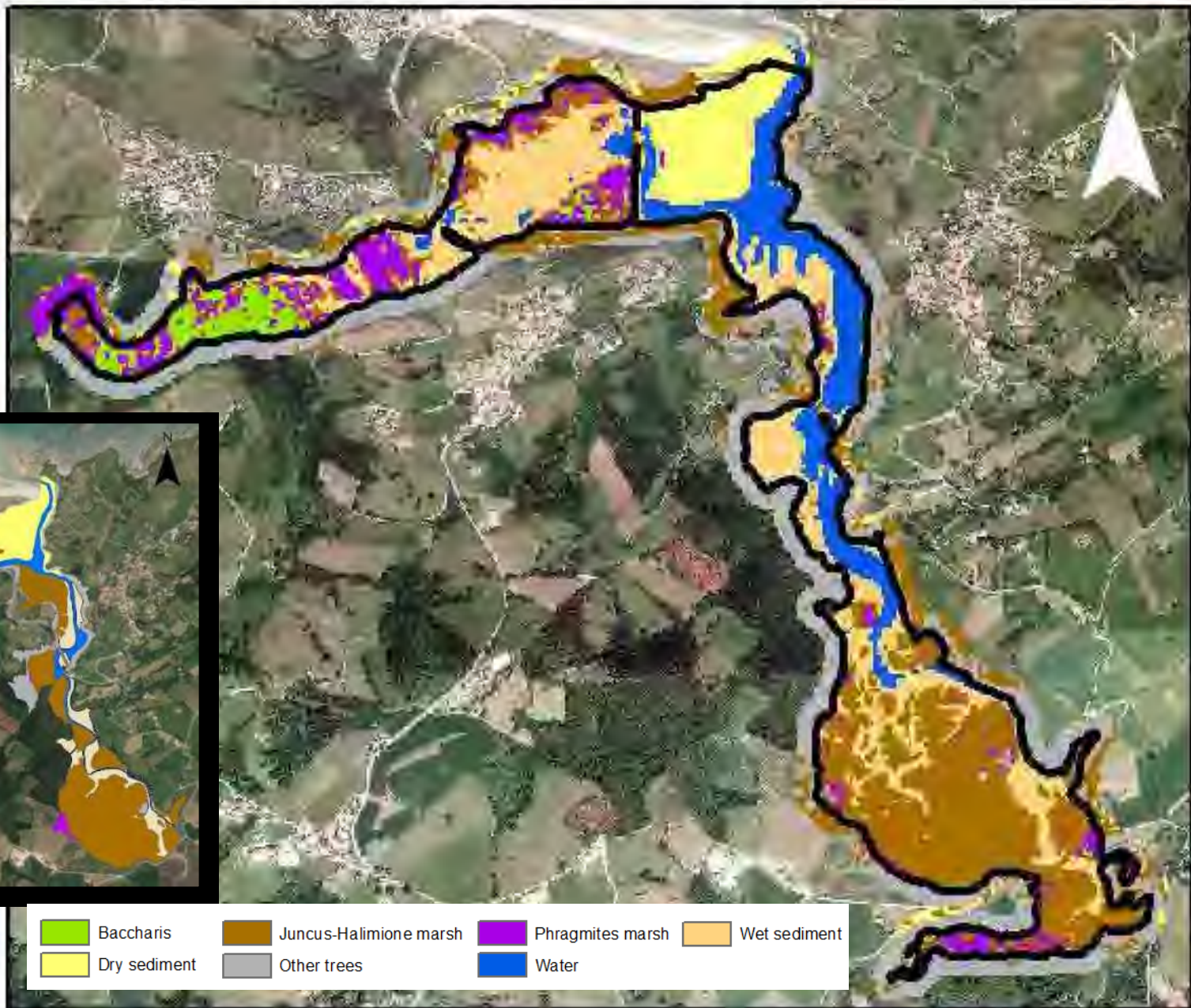
Evi2  
 Tasseled Cap:  
 Humedad  
 Batimetría



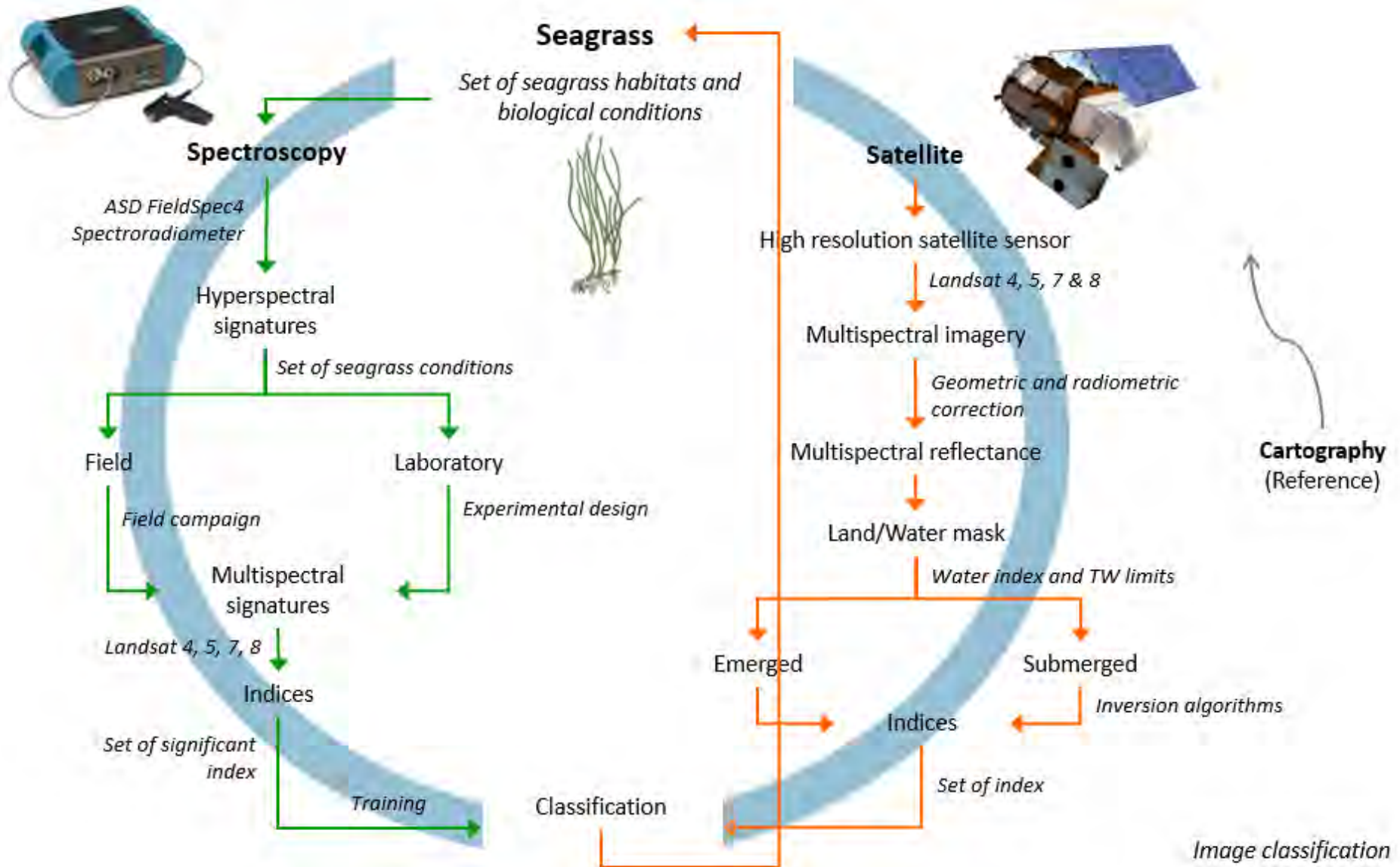


## Sentinel 2

Evi2 (banda 5)  
Componente principal 1  
Batimetría







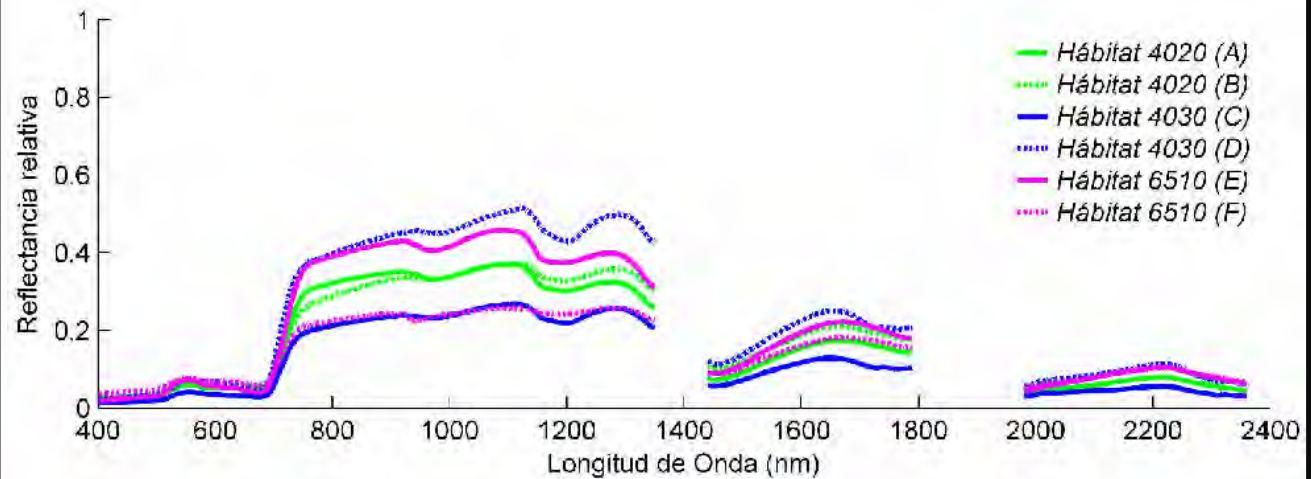


# Hyperspectral Campaigns: PASTURES

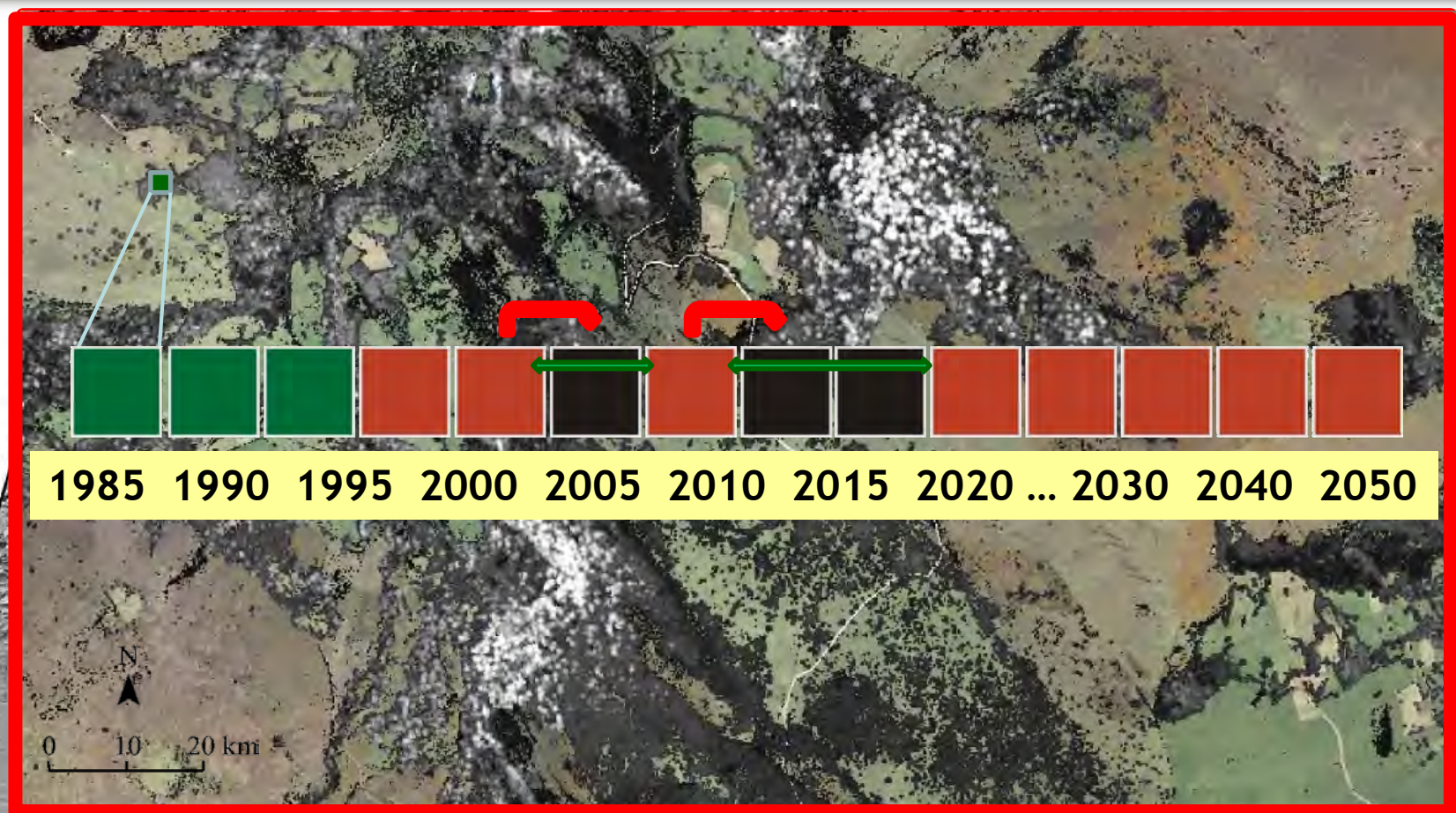




Spectral library:  
**PASTURES**







0 50 meters high

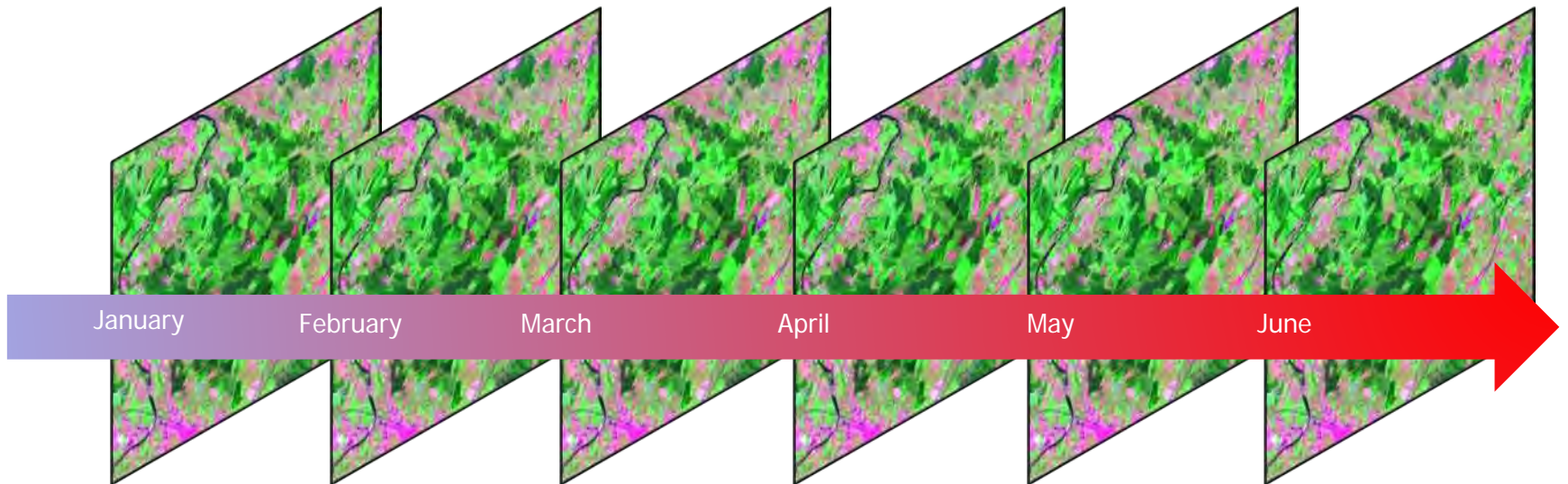
Vegetation structure (LiDAR derived data)

LiDAR PNOA: 0.5 p/m<sup>2</sup>, <0.5m=NoData

Processing in real time of data series of imagery

**Landsat, MODIS and Sentinel 2**

Daily data for the 2000-present period.

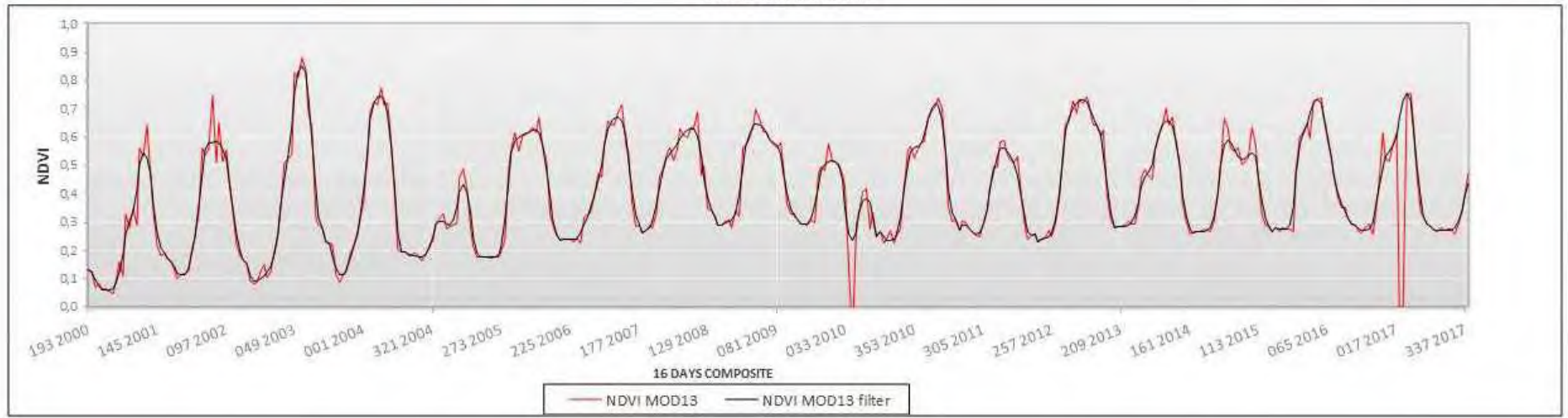




N2K PROTECTED AREA DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK (ANDALUSIA-SOUTHERN SPAIN)



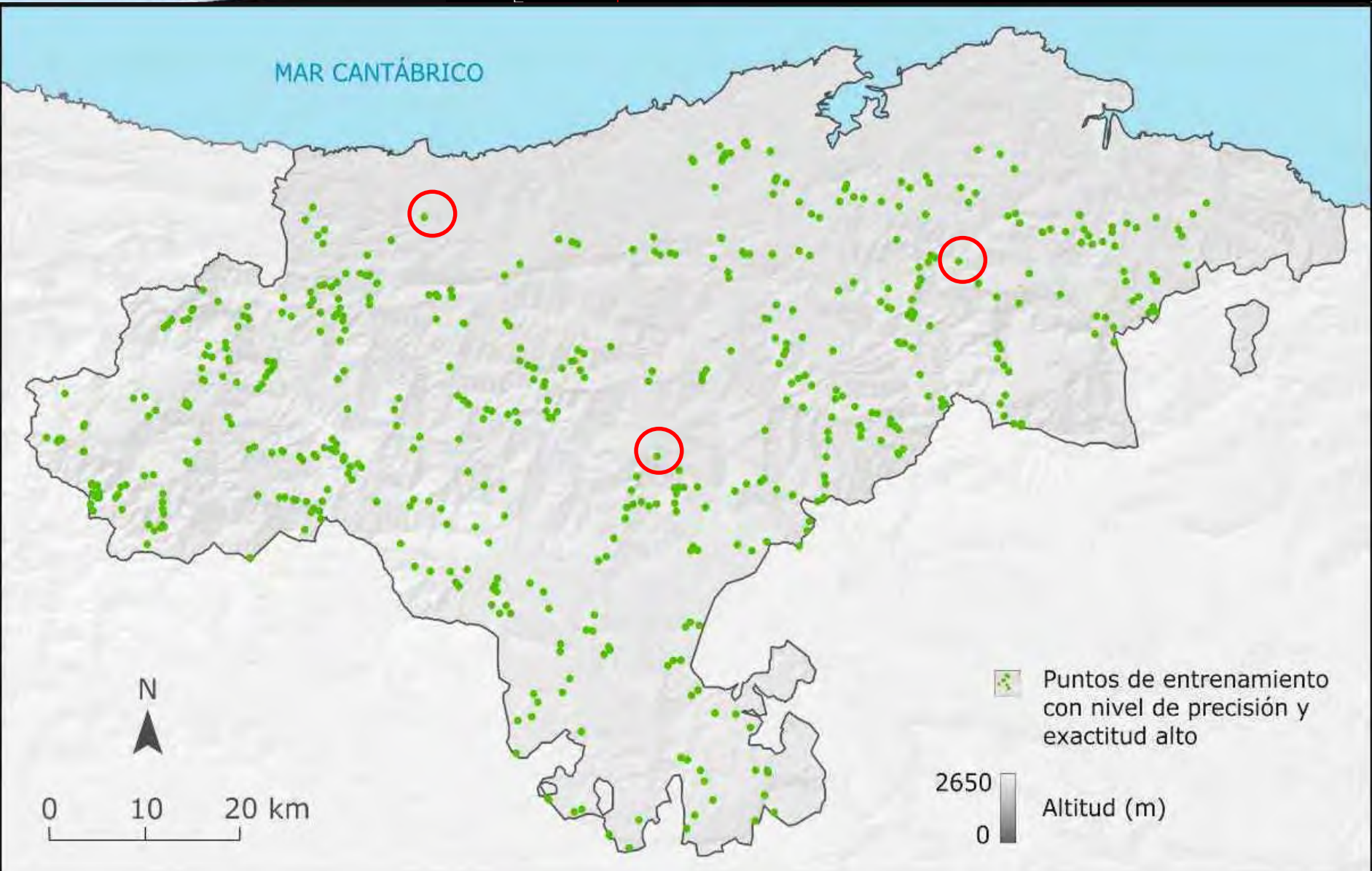
TEMPORAL PROFILE




Spectral Profile

1.0

MAR CANTÁBRICO



 Puntos de entrenamiento con nivel de precisión y exactitud alto

2650  
0  
Altitud (m)

N  
▲

0 10 20 km



## Area of Occupancy (AOO)

## Estructural and functional indicators

Early warning system:  
identification of **drivers and pressures**

Common cost-effective  
**indicators of Conservation Status** through remote sensing

Non dependent of Member  
State data (**validation!!!**)

## PASTURES

HABITAT	INDICATOR	VALUE	REMOTE SENSORS
6110, 6140, 6160, 6170, 6210, 6220, 6420, 6510, 6520	Changes in surface by land use changes	FV: ↑ 0 =; U1: ↓ 1-5%; U2: ↓ ↓ >5%	Y
	Relative cover of grasses	FV: >80%; U1: 60-80%; U2: < 60%	Y (LIDAR)
	Relative cover of shrubs	FV: < 15%; U1: 15-30%; U2: >30%	Y (LIDAR)
	Increase of shrubs cover	FV: < 1; U1: 1-5%; U2: >5%	
	Degradation of the soil (by erosion, compaction or other causes)	FV: <1%; U1: 1-5%; U2: >5%	Y
	Height ofr grass		Y (LIDAR)
	flower richness		Y ?
	Primary productivity (EVI)	FV: >80% of reference U1: 60-80% of reference U2: < 60% of reference	
	Nitrophilous species (Peganum harmala, others)	FV: < 15%; U1: 15-25%; U2: >25%	N
	Relative cover of chamaephytes/thorny	FV: < 15%; U1: 15-25%; U2: >25%	N
6420	Wetland soil at a fixed depth		Y?

## FORESTS



INDICATOR	VALUE	REMOTE SENSORS	CONSIDERATIONS
Surface	A: $\uparrow$ $\sigma$ =; B: $\downarrow$ 1- 5%; C: $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ >5%	Y	Acceptable reduction according to degree of sufficiency
Size (Fragmentation)	A: >300 ha; M: 50-300 ha; B: <50%	Y	For the calculation, in the case other type of native forest contact the patch, it would be considered a continuous plot.
Distance to nearest patch (Fragmentation)	A: < 200 m; M: 200-500 m; B: >500m	Y	
Shape: Area/perimeter (Edge effect)		Y	For the calculation, in the case other type of native forest contact the patch, it would be considered a continuous plot.
Area discounting an internal buffer (Edge effect)	FV: relationship between surface without edge effect and total surface greater than 90%. U1: relationship between area without margin effect and total area less than 90% and greater than 80%. U2: relationship between surface without edge effect and total surface less than 80%.	Y	
Nº natives species of trees	A: >3; M:2; B:1	N	Variable values according to forest type
Canopy cover of native trees	A: >80; M: 50-80%; B: <50%	Y (LIDAR)	Variable values according to forest type
Understory cover	A: >50%; M:20-50%; B:<20%	Y (LIDAR)	Variable values according to forest type
Regenerate	A: >10%; M:5-10%; B:<5%	N	
Age of main species	A:irregular and + 10 trees > 70 cm ( $\emptyset$ ); M:irregular and < 10 trees > 70 cm $\emptyset$ ; B: regular	N	
Old Trees	A: >10/ha; M:5-10/ha; B:<5/ha	N	
Dead wood (standing and on ground)	A: > 40 m <sup>3</sup> ; M: 25-40 m <sup>3</sup> ; B: <25 m <sup>3</sup>	N	
Defoliation	A: 0-10 % de defoliación o transparencia de la copa (árboles sano) M: 11-50 % de defoliación (árboles con daños leves o moderados) B: > 51% de defoliación (árboles con daños severos)	N	Study correlation with EVI
Human Print		Y	Density or affected area by forest trackss, roads, buildings, power línes, forets crops or any other intensive landuse
Distribution of trees	A:azar; M: azar; B:uniforme	N	

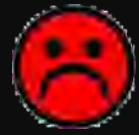


















Good



Medium



Bad

Whole TURKEY (example)	Traditional mapping system	Modelling
Economic cost	 7.000.000 €	 2.500.000 €
Time	 5 years	 2 years
Number of field-workers (2 years)	 486	 162
Resolution	 < 1:50.000	 < 1:50.000
Accuracy of mapping products	 80-90%	 70-80% (1)
% of habitats mapped	 70%	 70% (2)
Monitoring capabilities	 Low, sampling	 Real-time

- (1) Could improve with photo-interpretation refinement of model outcomes
- (2) This % could easily improve with further research and data



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¡Gracias!



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