



biodiversa+  
European Biodiversity Partnership



Land  
Monitoring Service

# **Análisis de vegetación y cartografía a gran escala con teledetección e inteligencia artificial**

Análisis de parcelas de vegetación  
y cartografía a gran escala con  
inteligencia artificial y teledetección:  
aplicaciones en conservación de  
áreas protegidas

*Una visión integrada orientada a las  
necesidades del usuario final*

**Jose M. Álvarez-Martínez**, Borja Jiménez-Alfaro,  
Alicia Valdés, Gonzalo Hernández-Romero, Marta Pérez *et al.*

**Instituto Mixto de Investigación en Biodiversidad**  
IMIB | Universidad de Oviedo-CSIC-Principado de Asturias



UNIVERSITY OF OULU

Tracy Hruska & Roger Norum

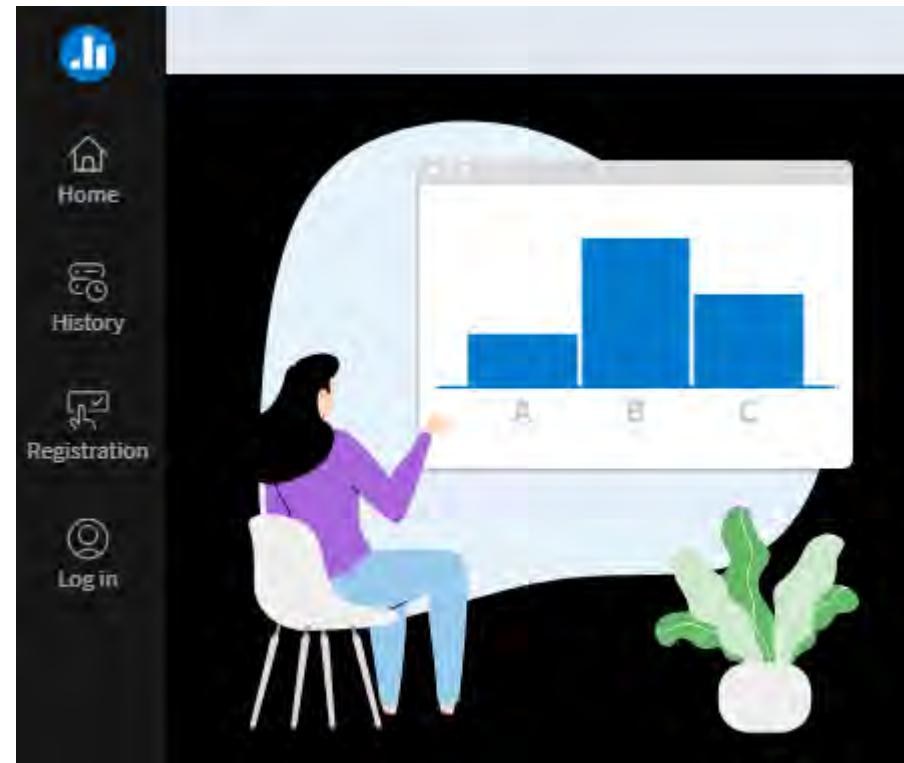
Socios/as de los proyectos  
Europeos **MOTIVATE y PAS**



## Gap analysis survey: encuesta de capacidades y necesidades



<https://pollev.com/gonzalohernandez049>



# Contenido

*Cómo?*



## Proyecto CLMS Protected Areas\_

*Una metodología  
común a escala UE  
Copernicus  
user uptake*

## Proyecto MOTIVATE\_

*Cómo muestrear y validar  
información in-situ?*

## Colaboración a escala EU\_

*Capacidades y  
necesidades (gaps)*

*Por qué?*

*Dónde?*



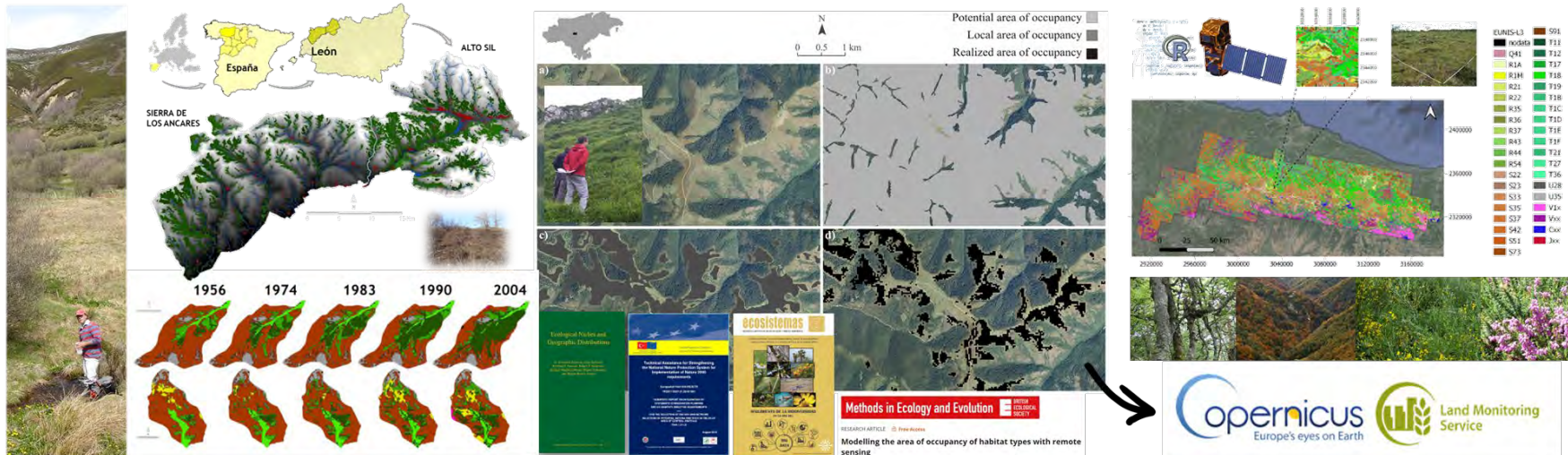


# Línea de investigación: *RS-based vegetation mapping and monitoring*

Tres ejes en la línea de investigación:

- **Distribución y dinámica de poblaciones y comunidades vegetales** → a nivel de cambios en la composición y estructura a lo largo del tiempo, partiendo de un dato in-situ basado en criterio experto que analice, además, los efectos del uso del suelo y otras perturbaciones
- **Modelado ecológico y teledetección** → desarrollando modelos predictivos de la distribución de especies y comunidades, utilizando técnicas de aprendizaje automático y grandes bases de datos, incluidas imágenes de teledetección para monitoreo a gran escala. Desarrollo de indicadores y variables espectrales y biofísicas a través de índices de vegetación relativos a biomasa y productividad, humedad del suelo o índice de área foliar (LAI) ¡EBVs!
- **Transferencia y gestión** → aplicación de los conocimientos adquiridos para la conservación de la biodiversidad vegetal y el manejo de ecosistemas, identificando áreas prioritarias para la conservación, evaluando el impacto de especies invasoras y desarrollando estrategias de adaptación y mitigación al cambio climático y los usos del suelo.

- [1] Cavender-Bares, J., Gamon, J. A., & Townsend, P. A. (2020). *Remote sensing of plant biodiversity* (p. 581). Springer Nature.
- [2] Cavender-Bares J et al. 2022. Nat Ecol Evol. 6(5):506-519
- [3] Tosa M. et al. 2021. Frontiers in Ecol. and Evolution, 9, 698131.
- [4] Reddy CS et al. 2021. Biodiversity and Conservation, 30, 1-14.
- [5] Reddy CS et al. 2021. Biodiversity and Conservation, 30, 1-14



Del paisaje y la vegetación... hasta la multifuncionalidad ecosistémica: **el papel de la biodiversidad vegetal**



## Paisajes heterogéneos





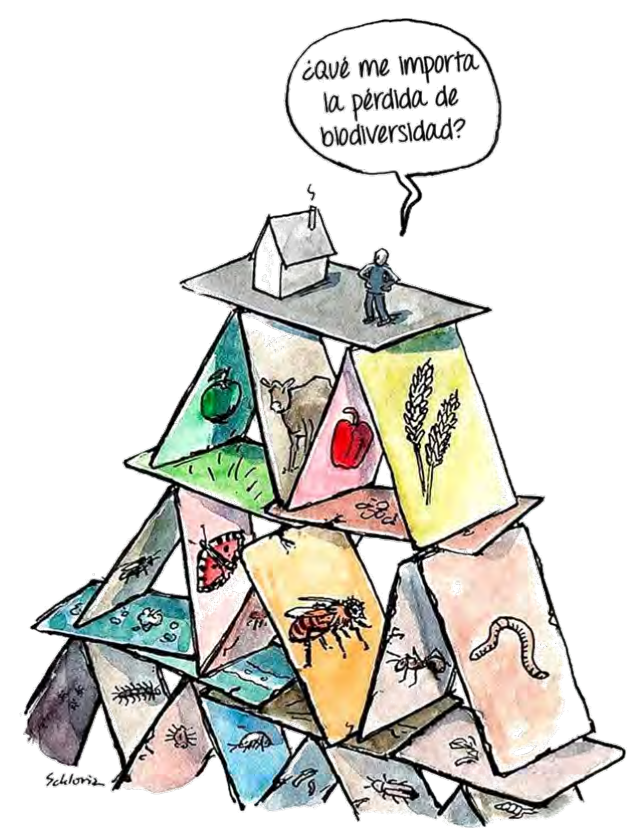


## Sistemas dinámicos

*Driving forces*

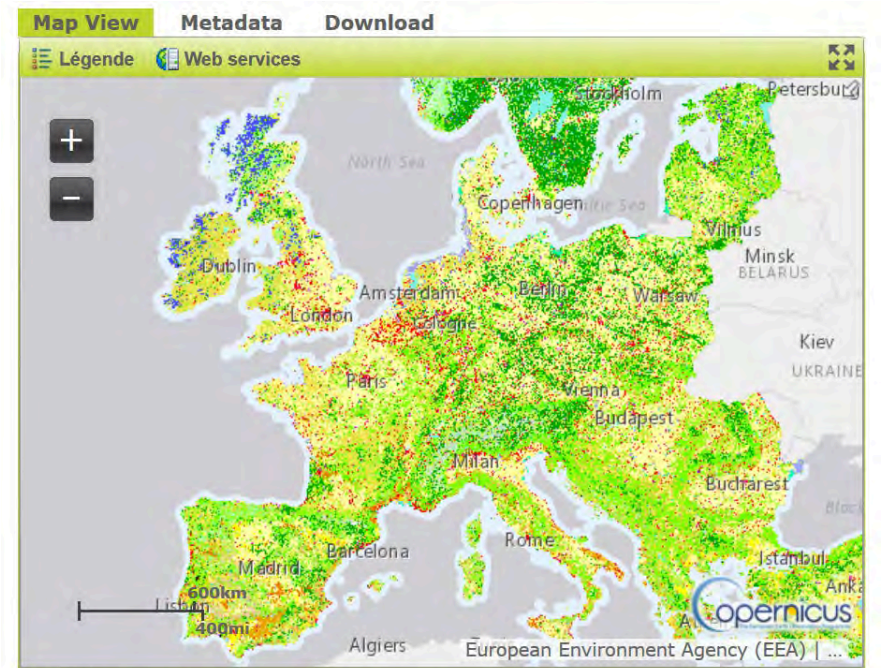






**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**





User corner



# ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

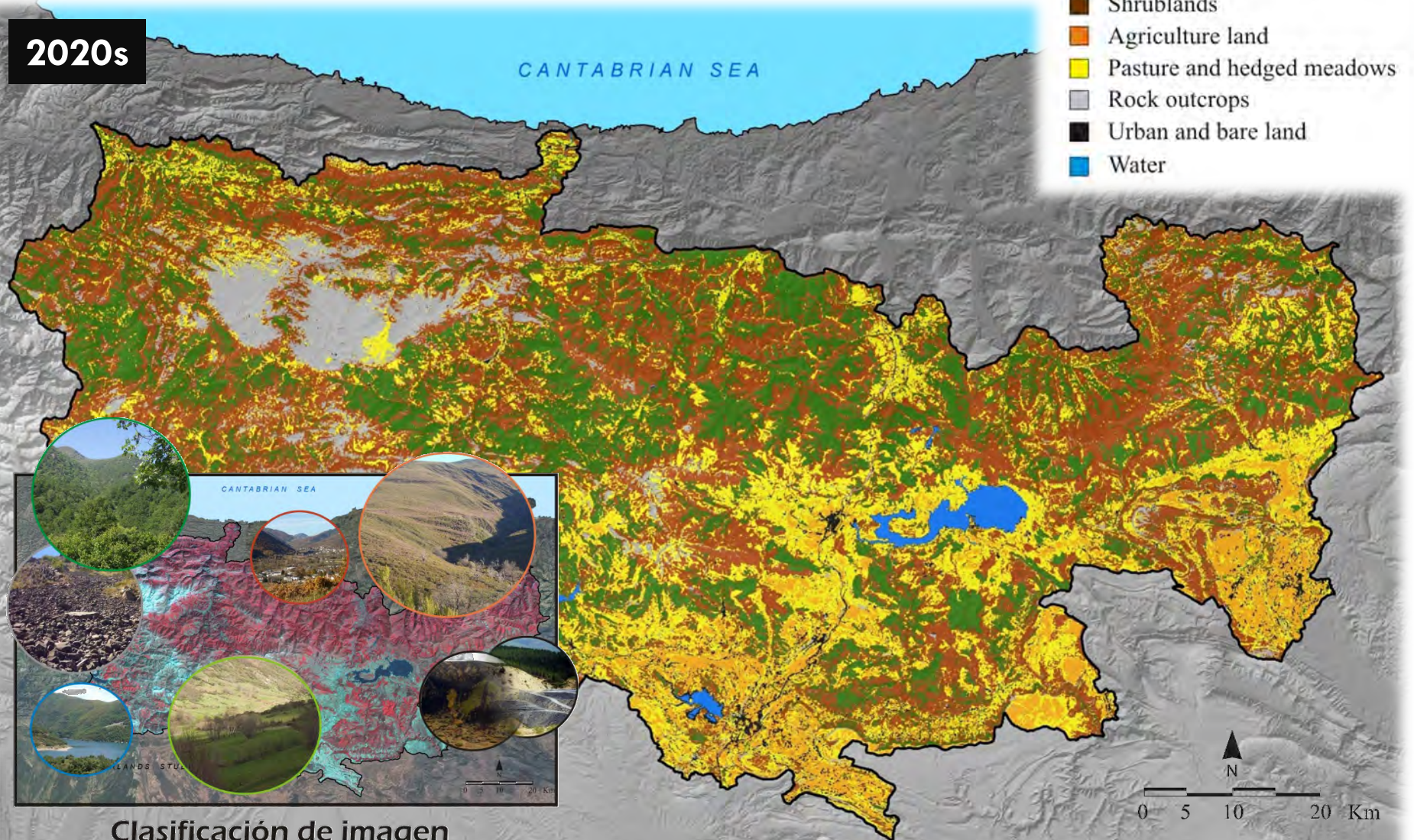


# Podemos crear nuestros propios mapas



Hard classifiers. Accuracy >85%

2020s





# Podemos crear nuestros propios mapas

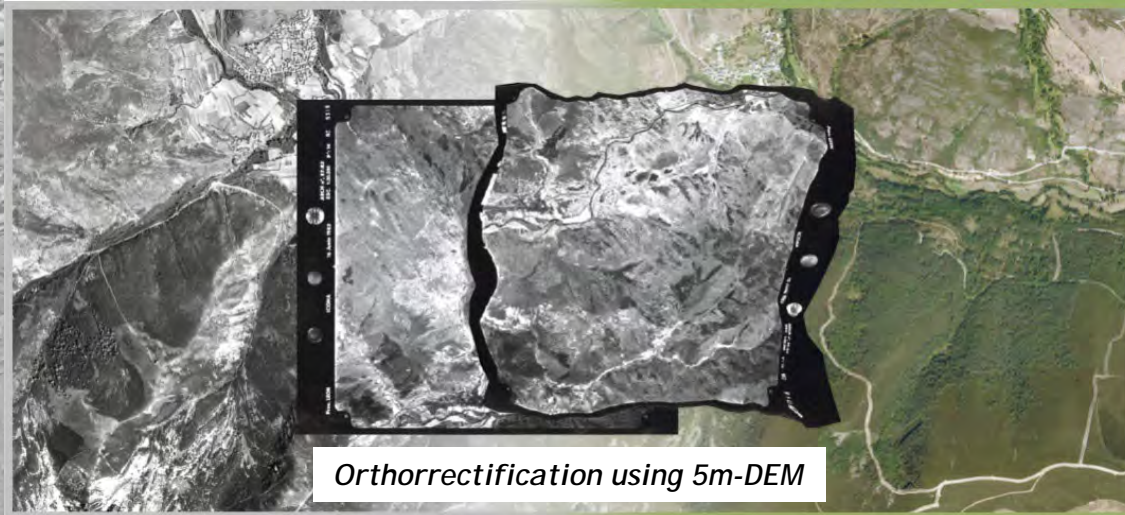


Collection of 1980 spectral signatures using old aerial imagery as ground data and RS-based time series analyses

1980s

CANTABRIAN SEA

- Broadleaf orests
- Conifer afforestations
- Shrublands
- Agriculture land
- Pasture and hedged meadows
- Rock outcrops
- Urban and bare land
- Water



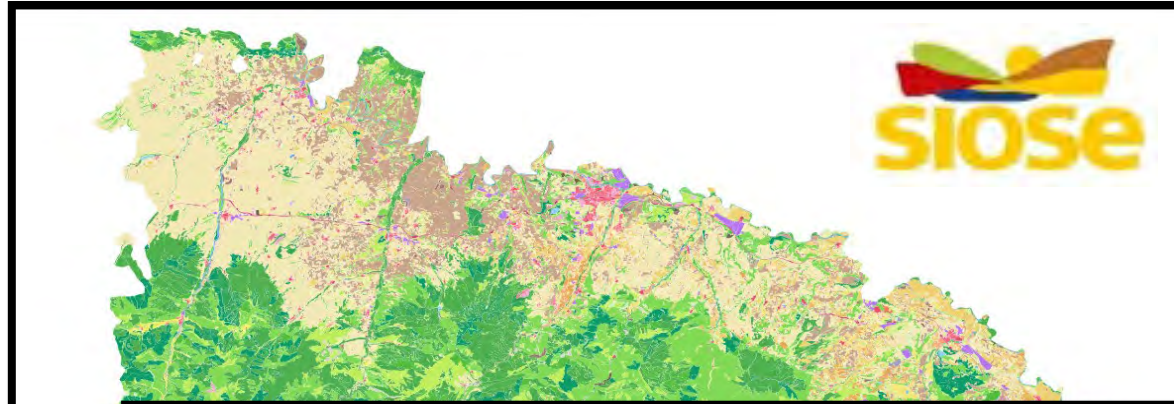
Orthorectification using 5m-DEM





Gran cantidad de mapas...

**HABITAT MAPPING**  
*In-situ data and remote sensing*





Gran cantidad de mapas...

**HABITAT MAPPING**  
*In-situ data and remote sensing*



N2K

- Focuss
- Protec
- 63 clas
- Appro
- Appro

**COPERNICUS LAND MONITORING SERVICE**  
Europe's eyes on the terrestrial environment

land.copernicus.eu

European Environment Agency | European Commission | Space

ite Map | About | Co

AQ

Ask the serv 20m and 100m raster

(modified data)

rd s

gn and

oeff Sm

T Action Group

**EAGL**

Land Monitoring







## Global Forest Change

Published by Hansen, Potapov, Moore, Hancher et al.

### University of Maryland

Department of Geographical Sciences

Results from time-series analysis of Landsat images characterizing forest extent and change.

Trees are defined as vegetation taller than 5m in height and are expressed as a percentage per output grid cell as '2000 Percent Tree Cover'. 'Forest Cover Loss' is defined as a stand-replacement disturbance, or a change from a forest to non-forest state, during the period 2000–2023. 'Forest Cover Gain' is defined as the inverse of loss, or a non-forest to forest change entirely within the period 2000–2012. 'Forest Loss Year' is a disaggregation of total 'Forest Loss' to annual time scales.

Reference 2000 and 2023 imagery are median observations from a set of quality assessment-passed growing season observations.

To share location copy URL.

[Download the data.](#)

☒ Data Products

Forest Loss Year (2023 Highlight) ▾



☐ Other Data Layers

2000 Percent Tree Cover ▾

☐ Background Imagery

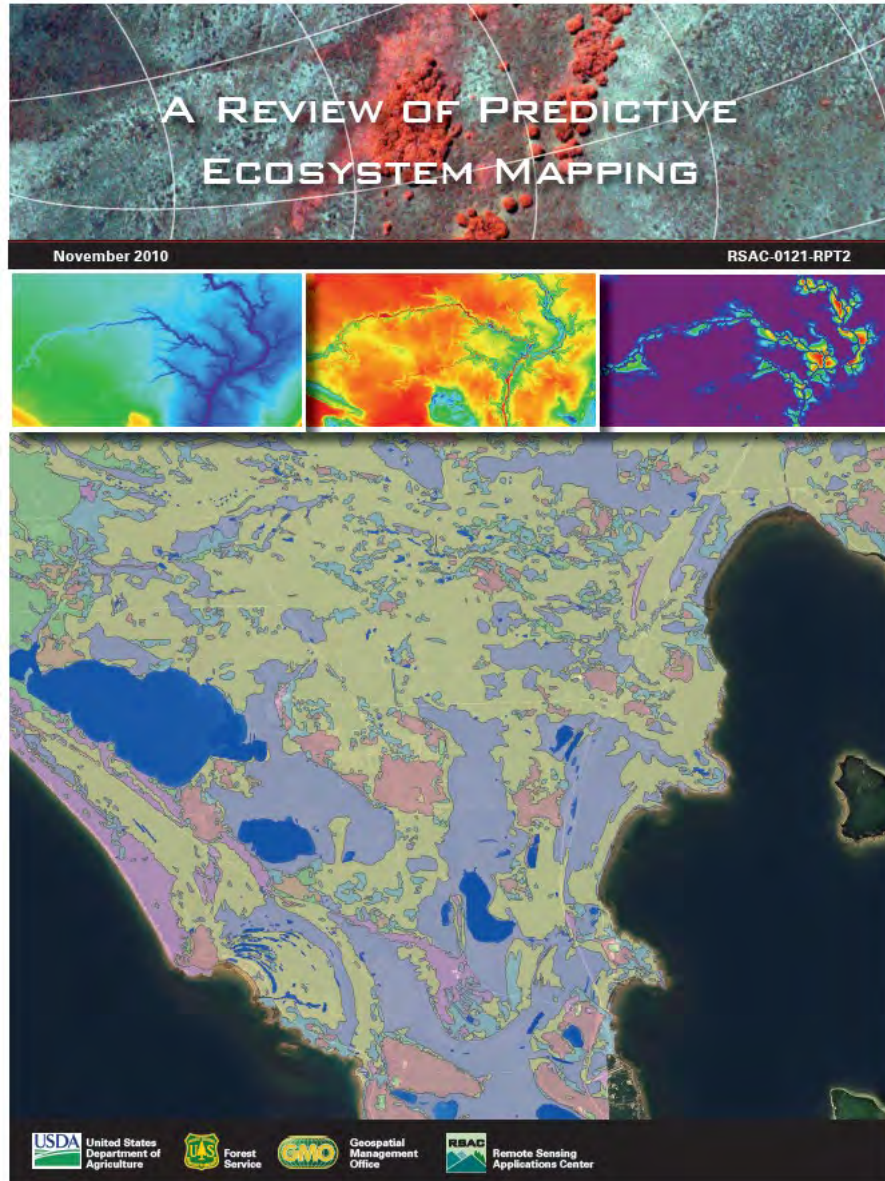
Year 2000 Bands 5/3/4 ▾

Example Locations

Wildfires in Canada ▾



# Biodiversidad vegetal: existe mucha información...

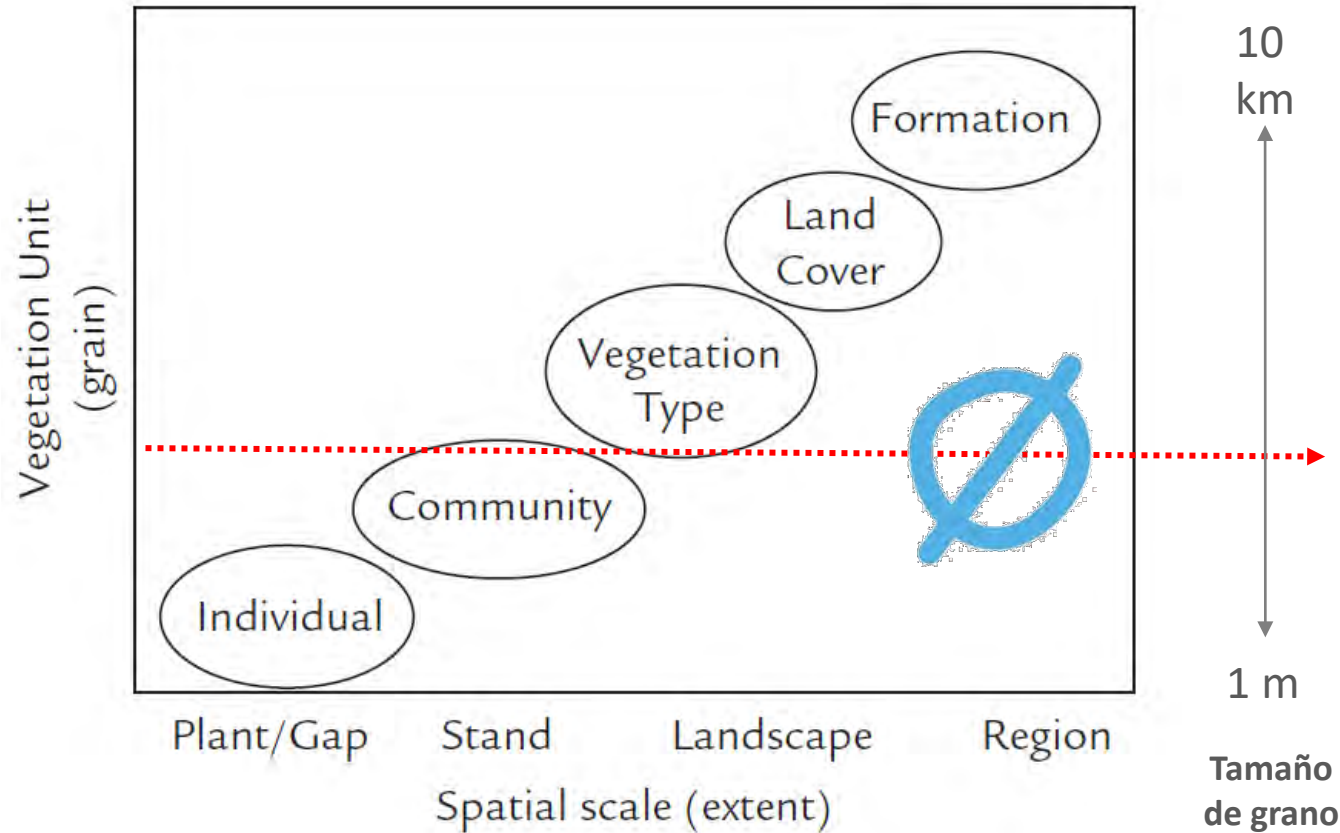


... pero:

¿cubren estos  
mapas todas  
nuestras  
necesidades?

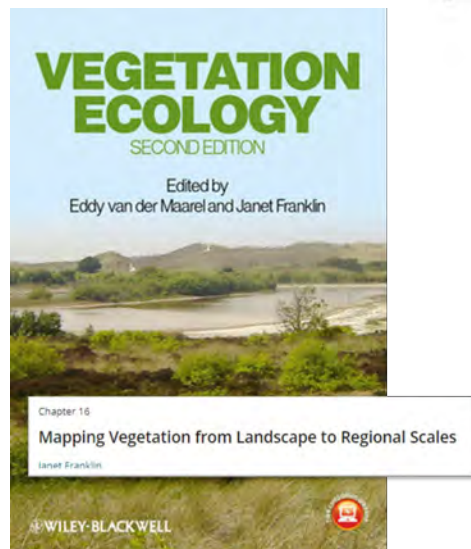


# Biodiversidad vegetal: necesidad de (más y mejor) información



**Carencia de mapas a gran escala con alta resolución espacial, temporal y tipológica (temática)**

**Metodologías comparables con base científica**



Franklin (2013). Mapping Vegetation from Landscape to Regional Scales.  
In: van der Maarel & Franklin (Ed.) Vegetation Ecology (pp. 486–508)



# Biodiversidad vegetal: necesidad de (más y diferente) información



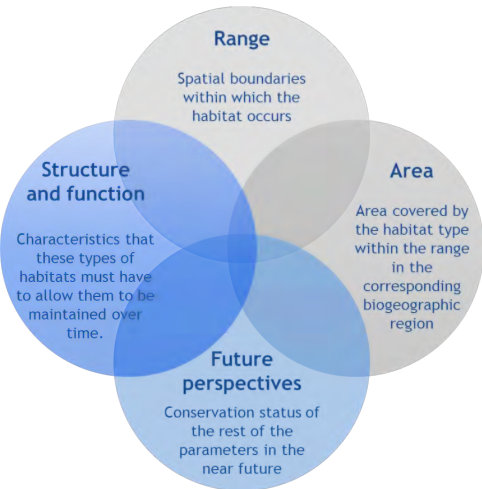
## Conservation status of habitats under the EU Habitats Directive

At the EU level, only 15 % of habitat assessments have a good conservation status, with 81 % having poor or bad conservation status. Grasslands, dunes, and bog, mire and fen habitats show strong deteriorating trends, while forests have the most improving trends.

The EU is not on track to meet the 2020 target of improving the conservation status of EU protected species and habitats. At the EU Member State level, the majority of assessments indicate a low number of habitats with a good conservation status. Intensive agriculture, urban sprawl and pollution are the top reported pressures to habitats.

Published: 18 Nov 2021 13:16 – 25min read

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/ims/conservation-status-of-habitats-under>





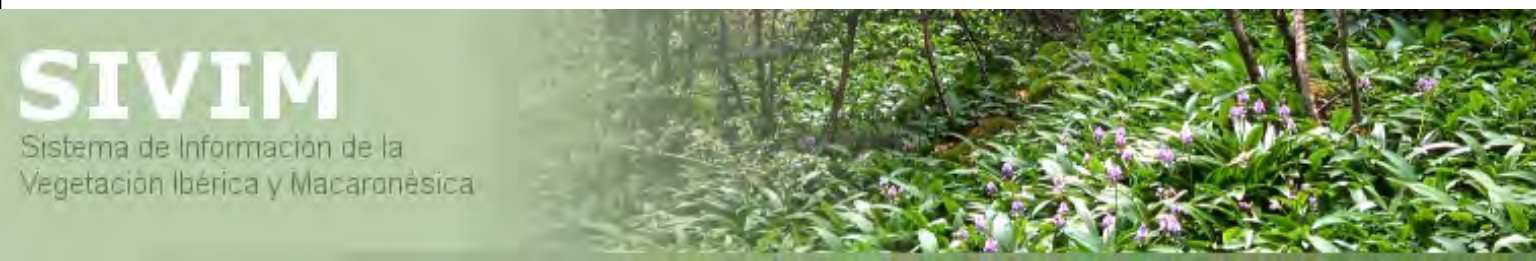
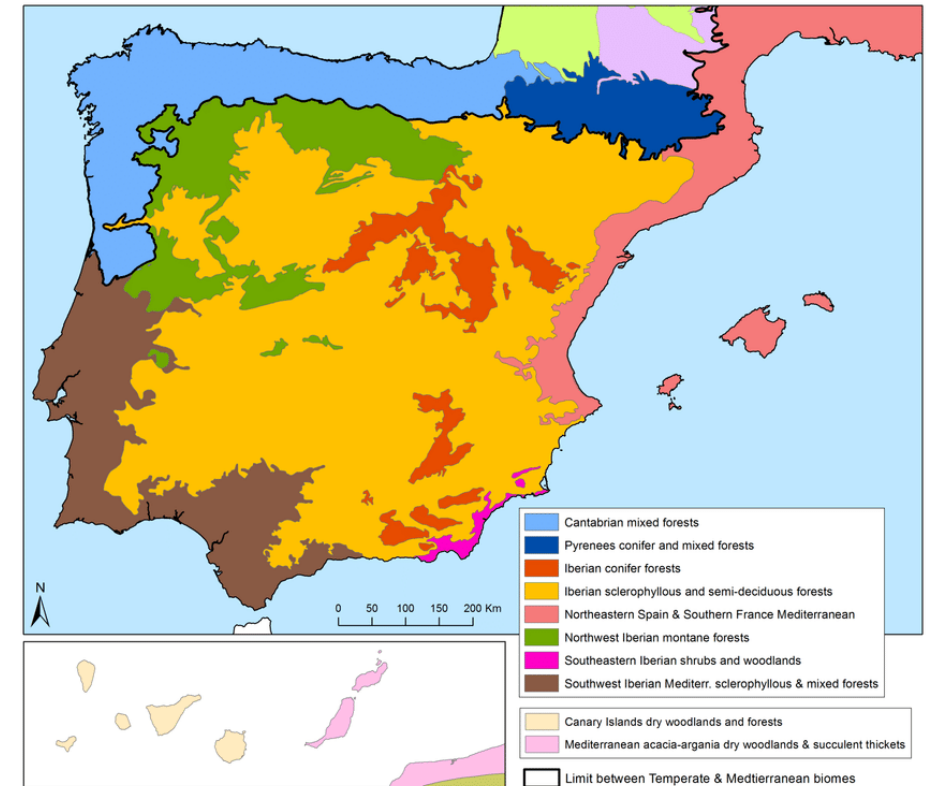


# The Cantabrian Mixed Forests ecoregion

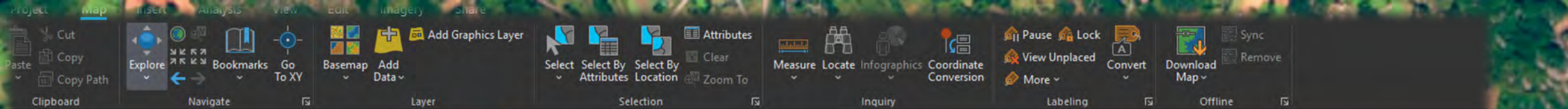
(= Cantabro-Atlantic province)

28,775 parcelas de muestreo

3,205 especies

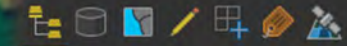






## Contents

Search



## Drawing Order

Map

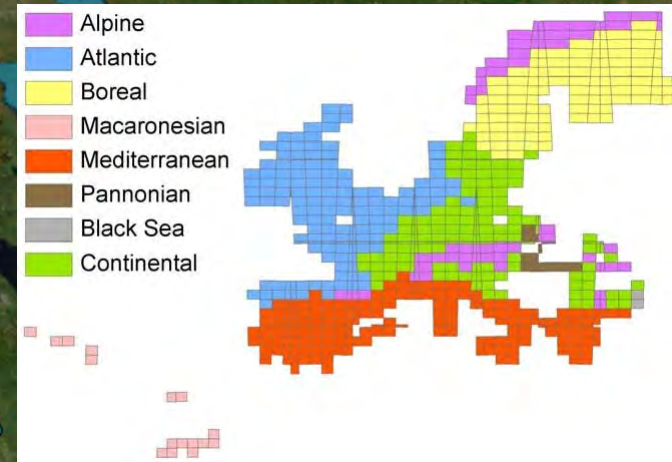
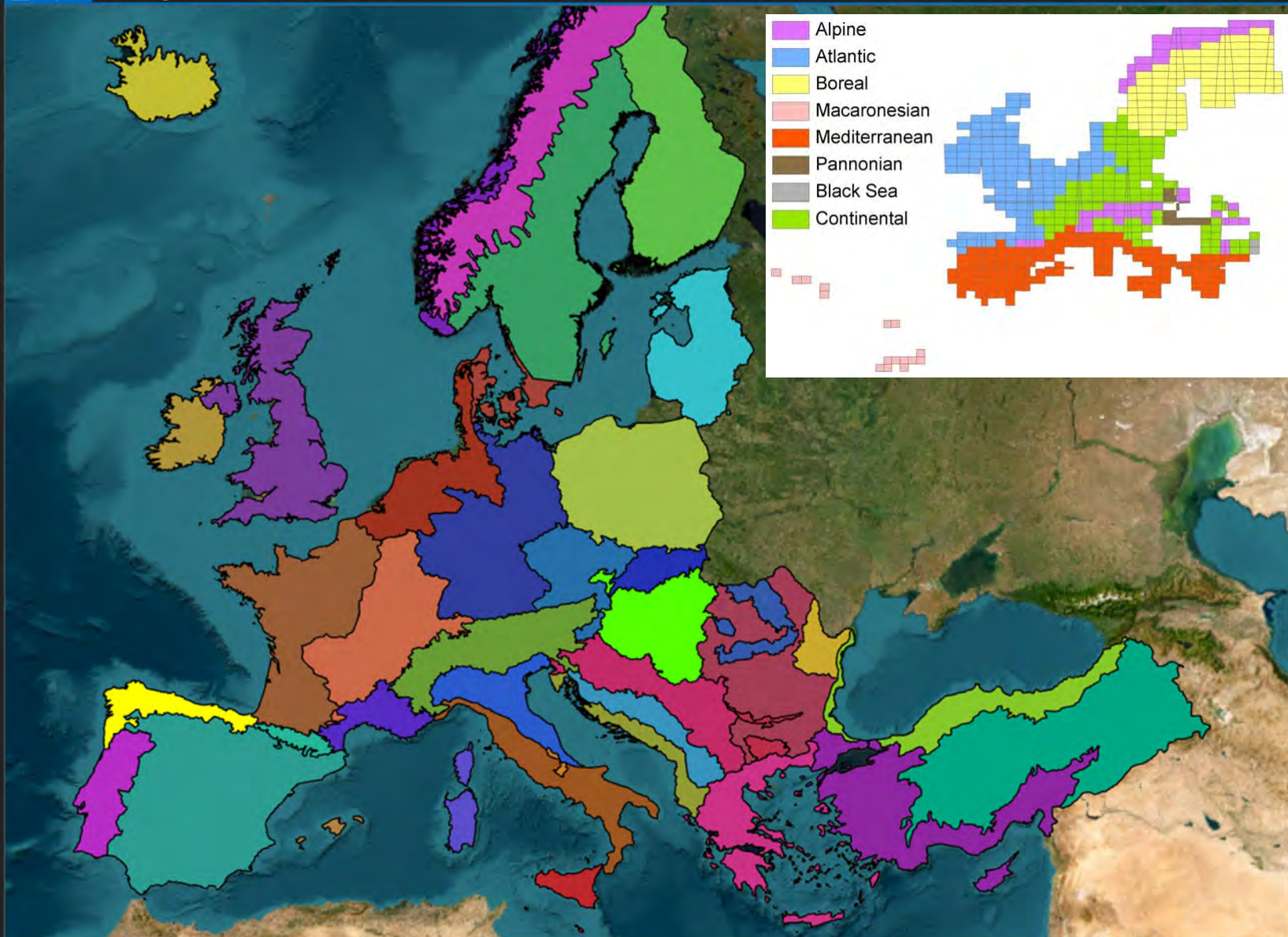
☒ N2K\_Biogeounits

### UNIT

- ALPALPS
- ALPATRA
- ALPBALKAN
- ALPDINARIC
- ALPENNINE
- ALPNORDIC
- ALPPYR
- ALPROMANIAN
- ANATURKEY
- ARCICELAND
- ARCINORWAY
- ATLBENELUX
- ATLBRTAIN
- ATLFRANCE
- ATLIBERIA
- ATLIRELAND
- ATLNORDIC
- BLACKSEA
- BORBALTIC
- BORFINLAND
- BORNORDIC
- CONAUSTRIA
- CONBALKAN
- CONFRANCE
- CONGERMANY
- CONITALICA
- CONNORDIC
- CONPOLAND
- CONROMANIA
- MACARONESIA
- MEDBALEAR
- MEDBALKAN
- MEDFRANCE

Map

Catalog



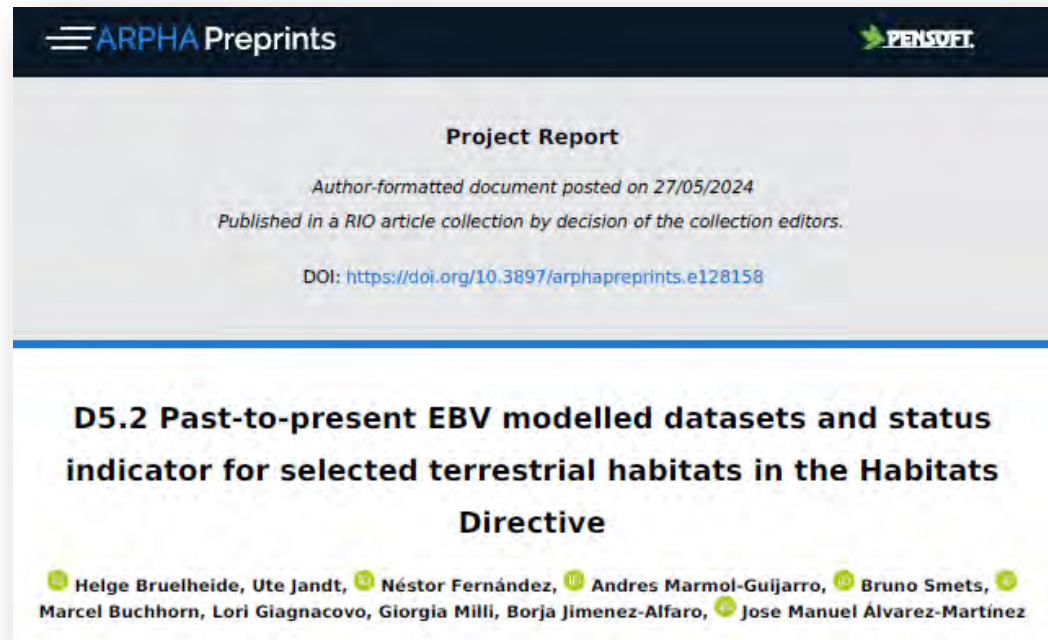


# Desafíos actuales en el seguimiento de vegetación a gran escala



EUROPABON

- Optimización de tiempo y recursos
- Consistencia metodológica
- Cobertura a gran escala con alta resolución
- Replicabilidad en el tiempo (monitoreo)
- Basado en datos de campo (GPS) y criterio experto
- Aprovechamiento de datos de teledetección









# Del dato in-situ al mapa (a la gestión) a gran escala



**MAPAS:**  
Patrones y procesos  
**comparables** a  
múltiples escalas  
espaciotemporales



**ESTADO DE CONSERVACIÓN:**  
Estructura, dinámica,  
función (+ tendencias)  
Presiones e impactos



**GESTIÓN Y POLÍTICA:**  
Conservación y  
restauración.  
**Multipropósito**



EBOCC (UE)

EUROPABON



MOTIVATE



EVEREST

SONATA



Protected Areas

European Environment Agency





A group of people are hiking on a grassy mountain trail. In the foreground, a 3D map overlay is visible, showing a topographic map with a blue line indicating a path and several red dots marking specific locations. A black backpack lies on the ground to the left of the map. In the background, a person in a green hoodie is running, and another person in a red jacket is standing and looking at a device. The landscape is rugged with rocky outcrops and distant mountain peaks under a clear sky.

El primer paso en seguimiento  
de la biodiversidad con RS/IA:  
calidad en dato in-situ!



# Macroecología Vegetal

*Cómo?*



Colaboración a  
escala EU\_

*Capacidades y gaps*

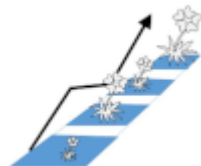
Proyecto CLMS-  
Protected Areas\_

*Una metodología  
común a escala UE*

*Copernicus  
user uptake*

**Proyecto MOTIVATE\_**

*Cómo muestrear y validar  
información in-situ?*



*Dónde?*



*Por qué?*





MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



# sPlot & MOTIVATE (EVA/ReSurvey)

## WP3: Trends in habitat quality and ecosystem properties

First steps towards a remote-sensing-based monitoring of vegetation

### Vegetation & Biodiversity Lab



Universidad de Oviedo



IMIB



IISTA

Instituto Interuniversitario de Investigación del Sistema Tierra en Andalucía



Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society



biodiversa+  
European Biodiversity Partnership



# Our team



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



## Vegetation & Biodiversity Lab



Universidad de Oviedo



IMIB



Marta Pérez

Borja Jiménez-Alfaro

Jose Manuel Álvarez-Martínez



Jorge González Le Barbier



Alicia Valdés



Gonzalo Hernández-Romero

## Proyecto EVEREST



UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA



IISTA

Instituto Interuniversitario de Investigación del Sistema Tierra en Andalucía

Beatriz P. Cazorla

Javier Martínez-López

Domingo Alcaraz Segura



Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society



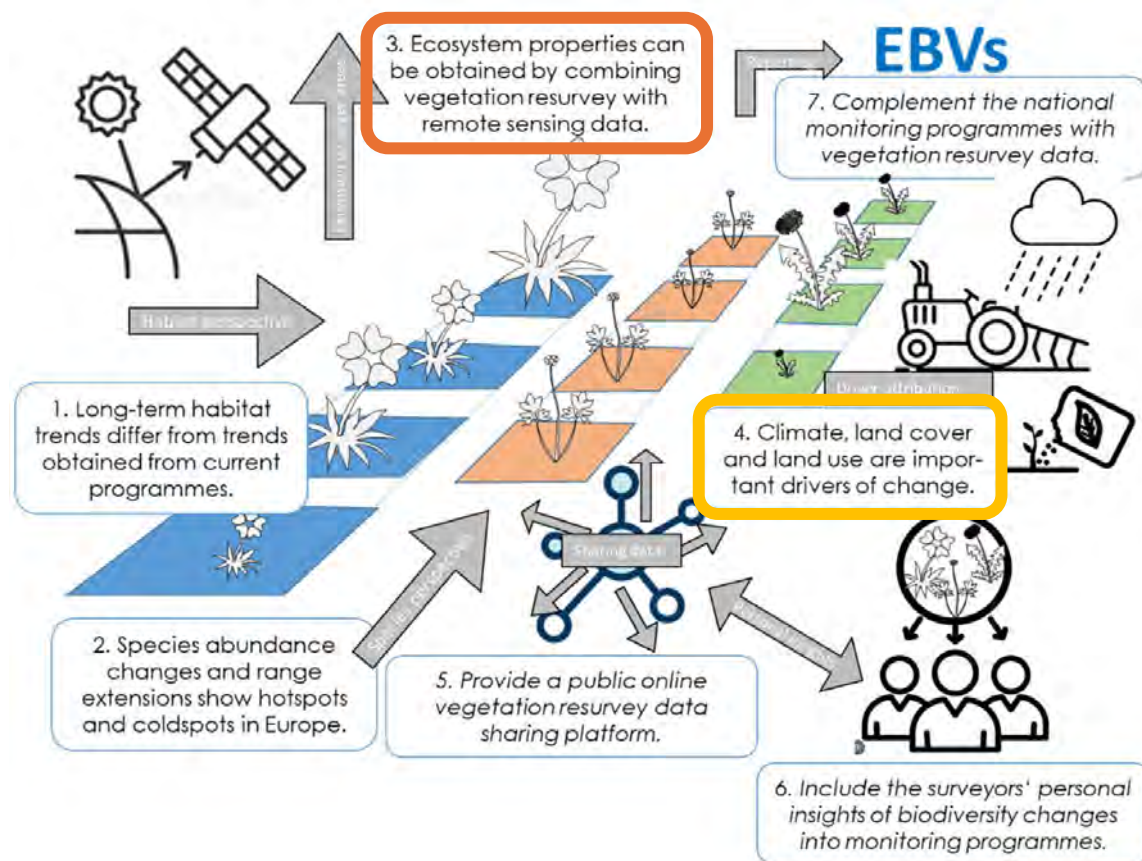
**biodiversa+**  
European Biodiversity Partnership



# WP3:Trends in habitat quality and ecosystem properties

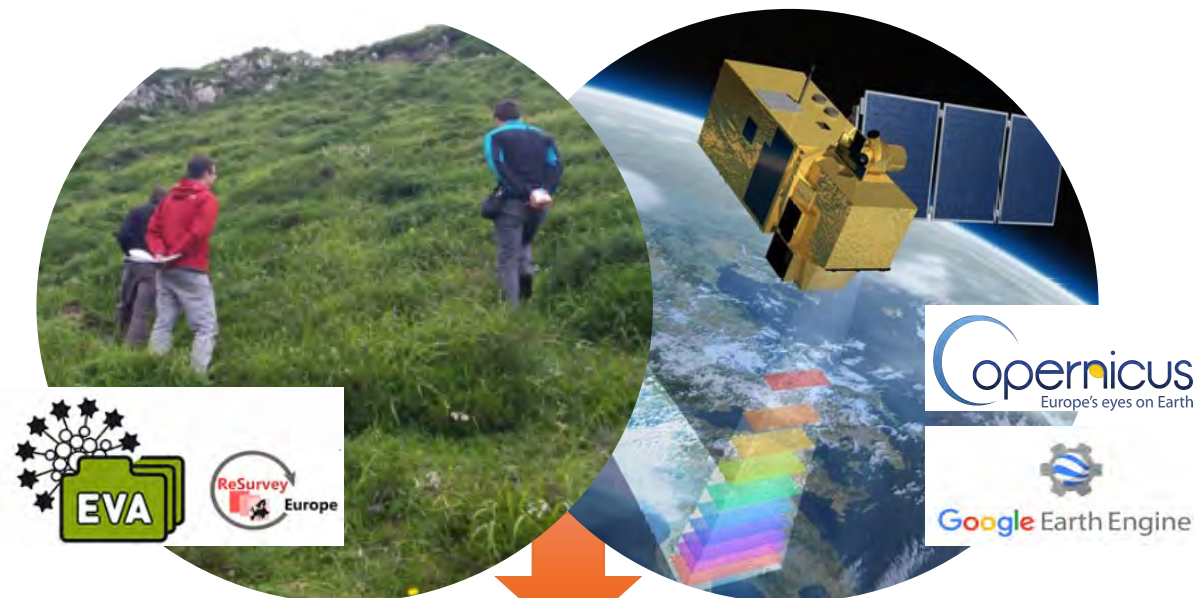


MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



Ground-based observations

Remote sensing observations



ECOSYSTEM PROPERTIES

Task 3.1 Mapping the geographic extent of resurveyed habitats with remote sensing

Task 3.2 Evaluating temporal trends in the productivity of resurveyed habitats

Task 3.3 Developing a remote-sensing framework for monitoring phenological changes



Project funded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society



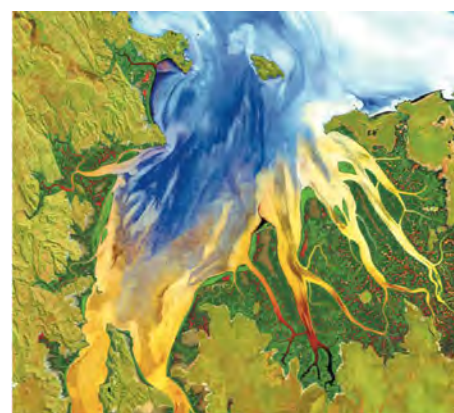


# Why RS-based monitoring?

- Multiple spatial and temporal resolutions and cloud-computing facilities
- Identification of spatial and temporal patterns in ecosystem functioning
- Lower cost and effort than field campaigns
- Monitoring of Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)
- Relevant for management



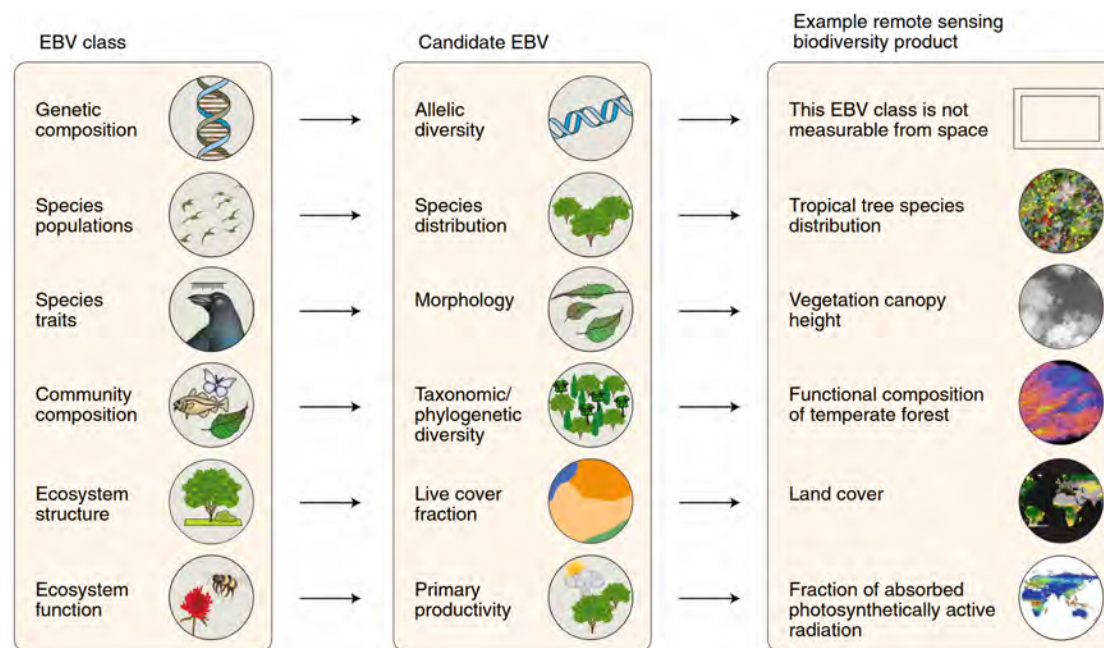
MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



2015 | VOL 523 | NATURE | 403

## Agree on biodiversity metrics to track from space

Ecologists and space agencies must forge a global monitoring strategy, say **Andrew K. Skidmore**, **Nathalie Pettorelli** and colleagues.



Skidmore et al., 2021, Nature Ecology & Evolution, 5(7), 896-906



**ALWAYS coupled to HIGH QUALITY in-situ**



Project funded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society







## MOTIVATE WP3

### Four steps towards a remote-sensing-based monitoring of vegetation

1. Vegetal biodiversity sampling **protocols (for survey and resurvey)**
2. **Validation** and relocation of vegetation plots
3. **Mapping** the distribution patterns / geographical extent of habitats
4. **Monitoring** of patterns observed and development of indicators of change





# MOTIVATE WP3 – I. Sampling protocols

**How?** Vegetation **Sampling** across environmental gradients

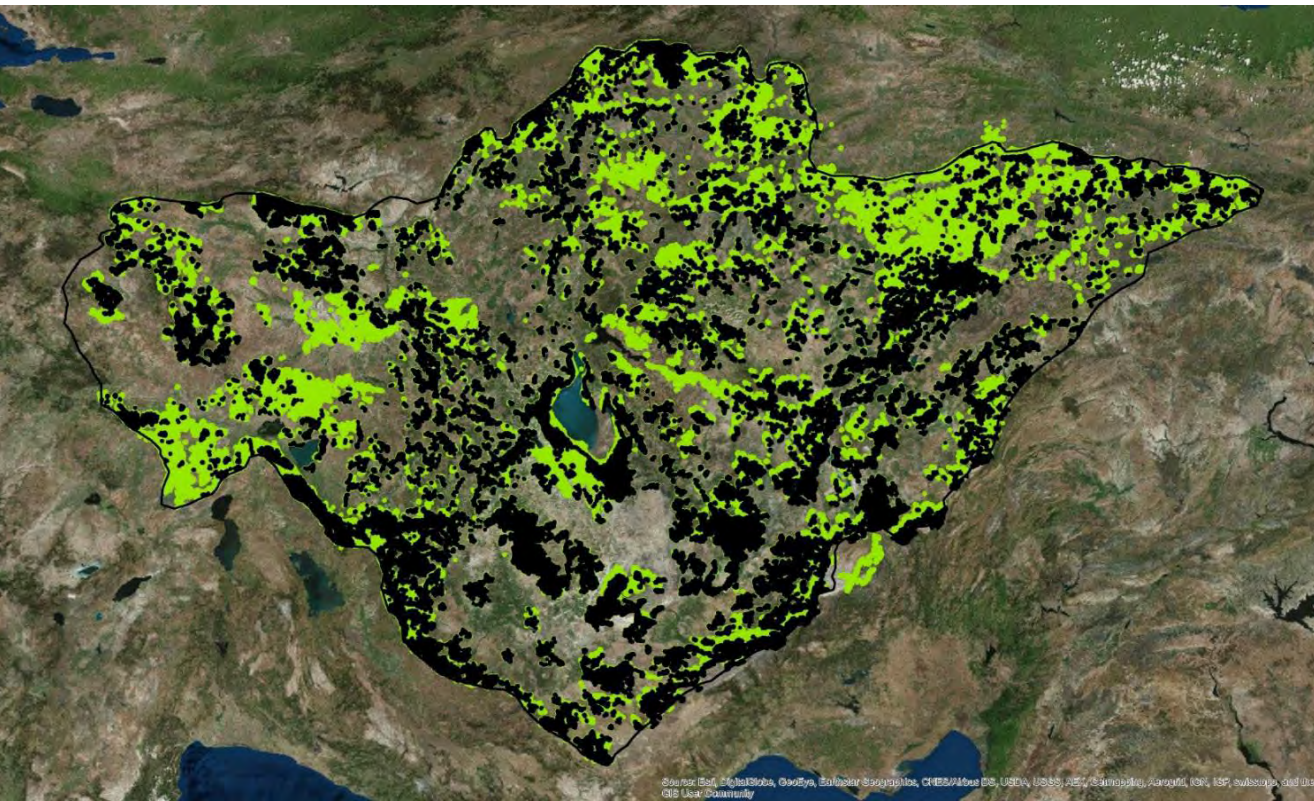
Training in habitat identification and sampling  
(tablet system)  
22 field workers

Systematic field surveys  
(two seasons, 2017-2018)

**60,000** GPS points  
**170,000** Map points

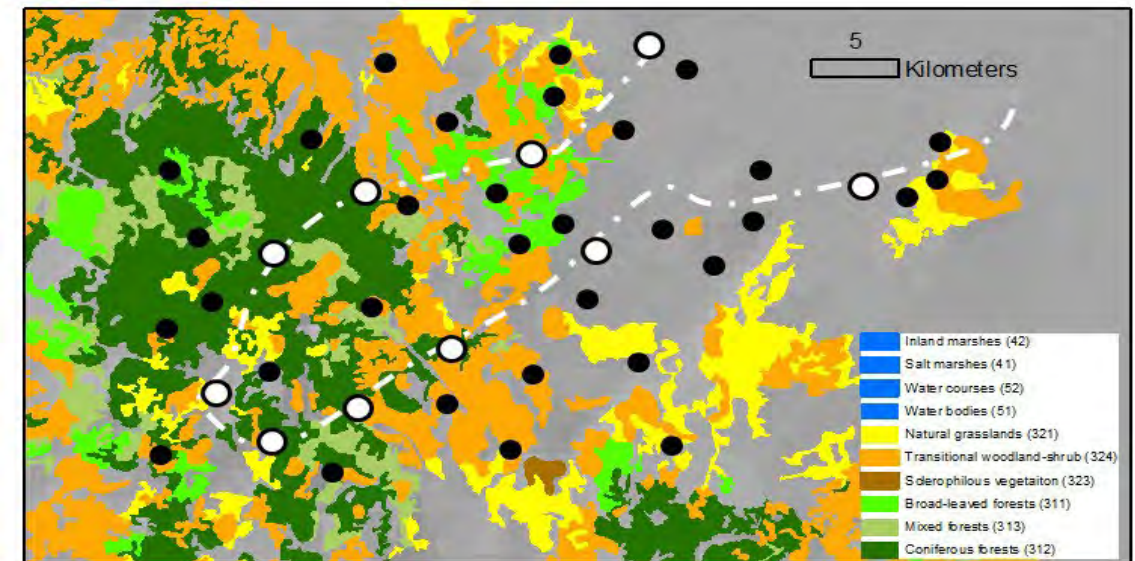


MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



○ GPS points

● Map points

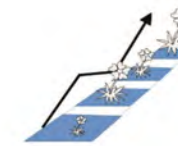


2023-2024 "Biodiversa+ 2022"  
Change for science and society





# MOTIVATE WP3 – I. Sampling protocols



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



## How? Vegetation **Re**Sampling across environmental gradients



MOTIVATE producirá un protocolo detallado y estandarizado de (re)muestreos de vegetación, así como un documento con los requerimientos mínimos a cumplir a la hora de usar estos (re)muestreos para el monitoreo de vegetación a gran escala en Europa, con una visión integradora de trabajos locales

### Muestreo inicial: características generales

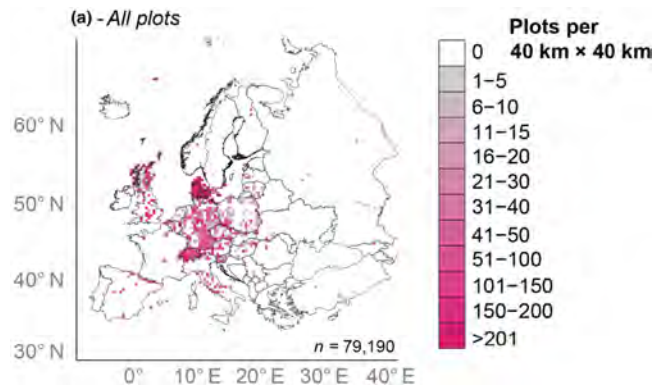
- Único hábitat / todos o varios hábitats dentro de un área
- Referencia florística utilizada
- ¿Qué medir? Abundancia... ¿Cómo? (% / categorías de %). Idealmente todas las especies (plantas vasculares, briófitos y líquenes)

### Muestreo inicial: detalles de las parcelas

- Forma: rectangular / cuadrada? Área recomendada?
- Localización: estacas (metálicas / plástico / madera) o imanes + GPS diferencial en dos esquinas diagonales
- Delimitación de la parcela al hacer el muestreo: cinta métrica / cuerda
- Anotar período fenológico, manejo, uso del suelo, perturbaciones, topografía...
- Esfuerzo de muestreo (tiempo y número de personas)
- Incluir varias fotos de cada parcela

### Remuestreos

- Con el diseño anterior se debería garantizar la relocalización de la parcela
- En caso de incertidumbre en la relocalización (e.g. pérdida de marcas), seleccionar las coordenadas más probables
- Se pueden remuestrear dos parcelas: una en la localización más probable y otra en la vegetación más similar
- Intentar coincidencia topográfica, fenológica...
- Remuestreo con / sin la lista de especies del muestreo previo
- Remuestrear todas las parcelas, aunque haya cambio en el uso del suelo
- Si es posible, implicar a las mismas personas que realizaron el muestreo previo (en campo o asesoramiento general)



Knollová et al., 2024,  
Journal of Vegetation  
Science, 35, e13235



Project funded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society





## MOTIVATE WP3 – 2.Validation



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



**How?** Metrics based on 3 remotely-sensed EBV families:



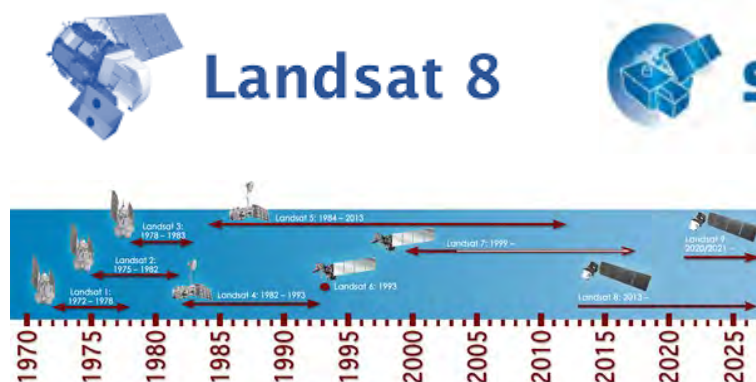
Ecosystem primary productivity:  
maximum NDVI in July



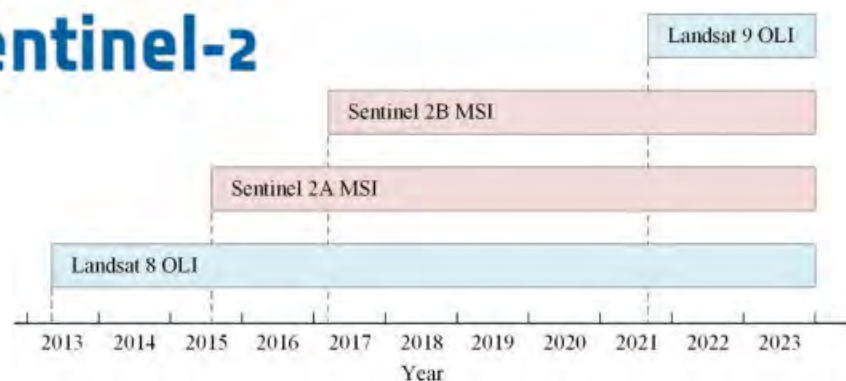
Ecosystem phenology: difference in NDVI  
(beginning-max-end of growing season)



Ecosystem structure:  
canopy height



sentinel-2



Project funded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society



# MOTIVATE WP3 – 2.Validation

**How?** Evaluate distribution of EBVs for each EUNIS habitat type across biogeographical regions  
Define EBV-based ranges of membership to each habitat type

Received: 14 December 2019 | Revised: 10 June 2020 | Accepted: 17 July 2020  
DOI: 10.1111/avsc.12519

VEGETATION SURVEY

Applied Vegetation Science IAVS

EUNIS Habitat Classification: Expert system, characteristic species combinations and distribution maps of European habitats

Milan Chytrý<sup>1</sup> | Lubomír Tichý<sup>1</sup> | Stephan M. Hennekens<sup>2</sup> | Ilona Knollová<sup>1</sup>

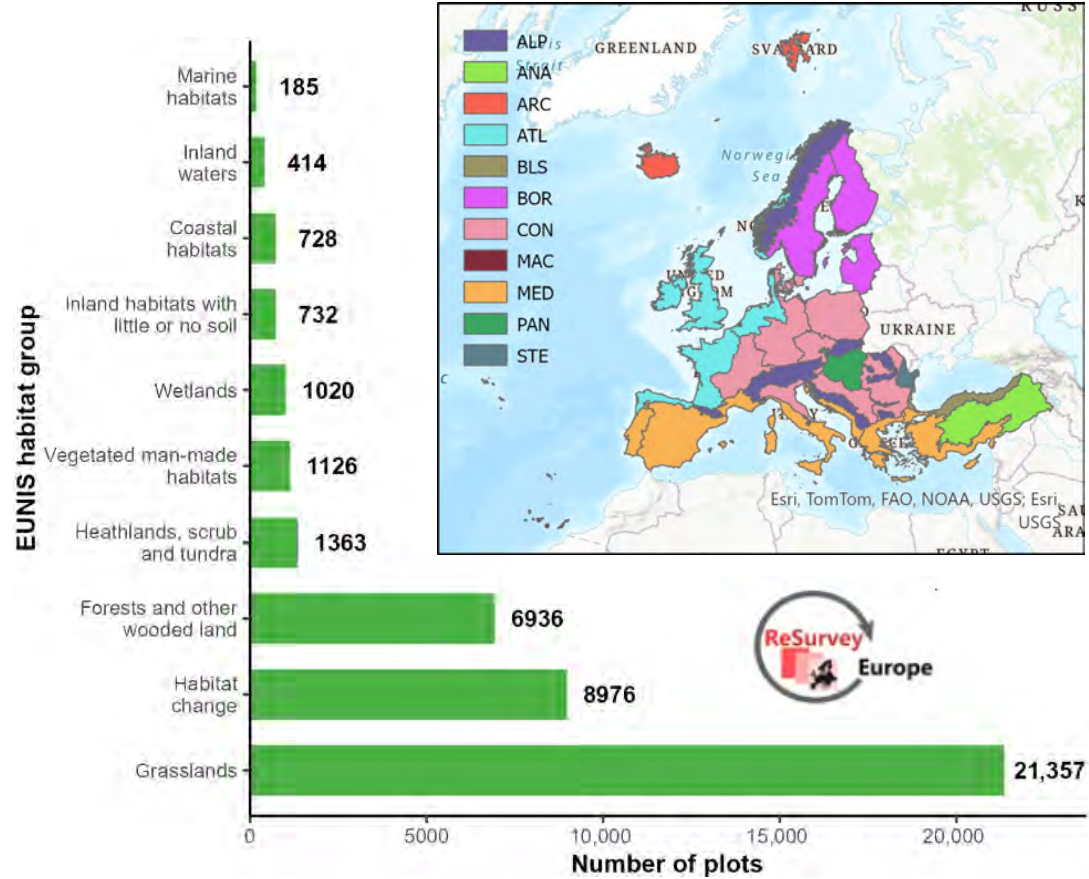
Received: 11 June 2020 | Revised: 17 December 2020 | Accepted: 22 December 2020  
DOI: 10.1111/avsc.12562

METHODS IN VEGETATION SCIENCE

Applied Vegetation Science IAVS

Implementing the formal language of the vegetation classification expert systems (ESy) in the statistical computing environment R

Helge Bruehlheide<sup>1,2</sup> | Lubomír Tichý<sup>3</sup> | Milan Chytrý<sup>3</sup> | Florian Jansen<sup>4</sup>



Knollová et al., 2024, Journal of Vegetation Science, 35, e13235



# MOTIVATE WP3 – 2.Validation

## How?



Ecosystem primary productivity:

- Maximum NDVI in July
- Above-ground biomass (3 m)



SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

### ECOLOGY

The overlooked contribution of trees outside forests to tree cover and woody biomass across Europe

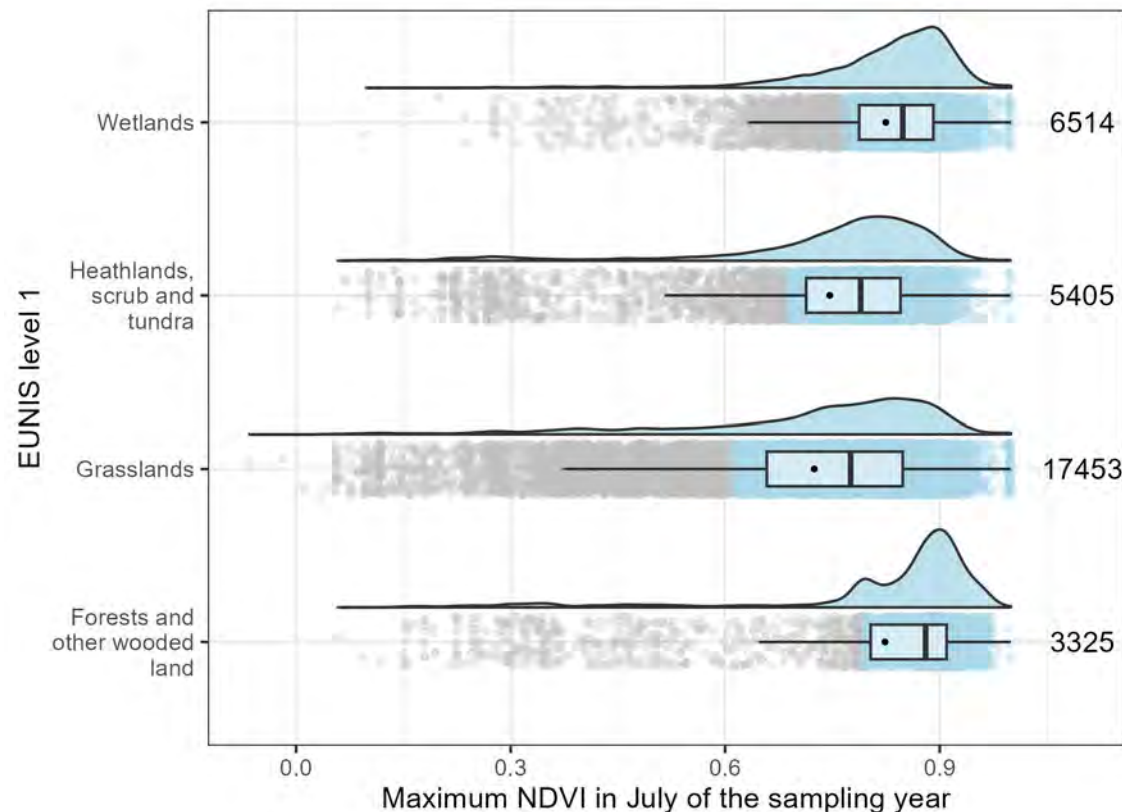
Siyu Liu<sup>1\*</sup>, Martin Brandt<sup>1\*</sup>, Thomas Nord-Larsen<sup>1</sup>, Jerome Chave<sup>2</sup>, Florian Reiner<sup>1</sup>, Nico Lang<sup>3</sup>, Xiaoye Tong<sup>1</sup>, Philippe Clais<sup>4</sup>, Christian Igel<sup>5</sup>, Adrian Pascual<sup>1</sup>, Juan Guerra-Hernandez<sup>6</sup>, Sizhuo Li<sup>1</sup>, Maurice Mugabowindekwe<sup>1</sup>, Sassan Saatchi<sup>7</sup>, Yuemin Yue<sup>8</sup>, Zhengchao Chen<sup>9</sup>, Rasmus Fensholt<sup>1</sup>



Landsat data missing for some regions!



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



Project funded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society



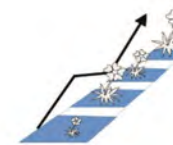
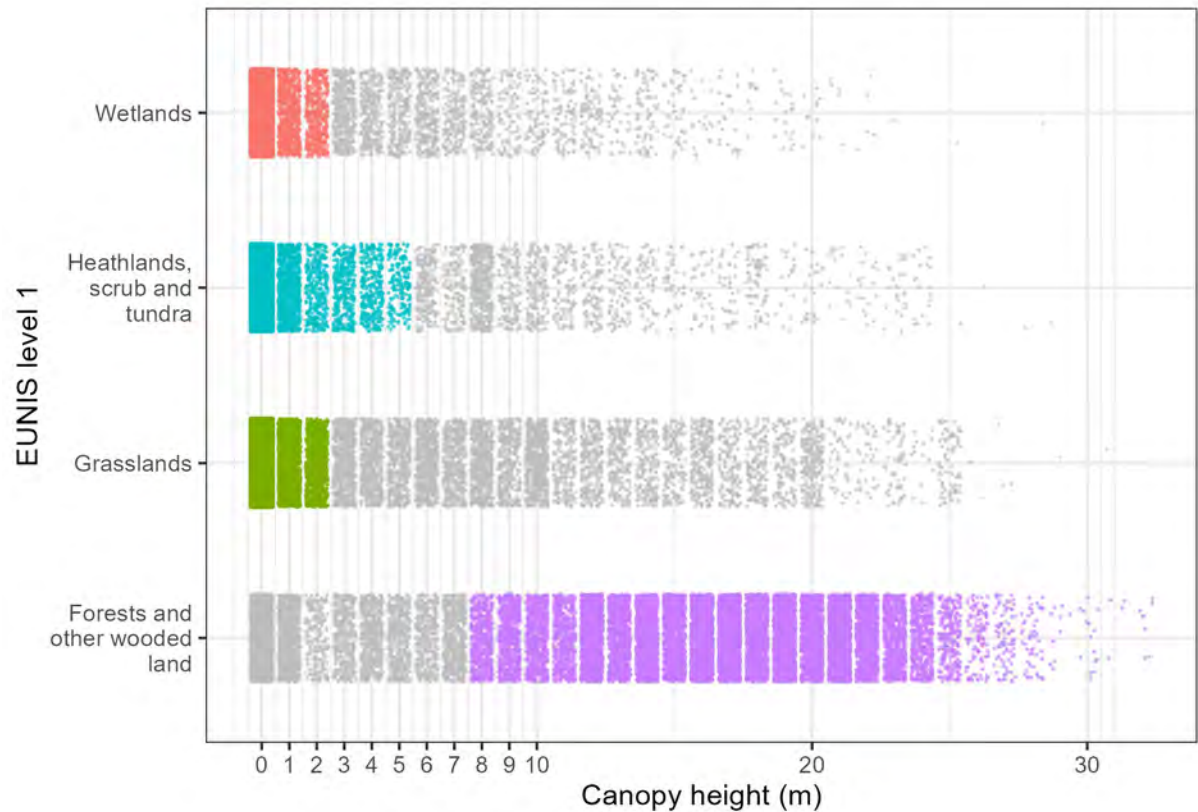
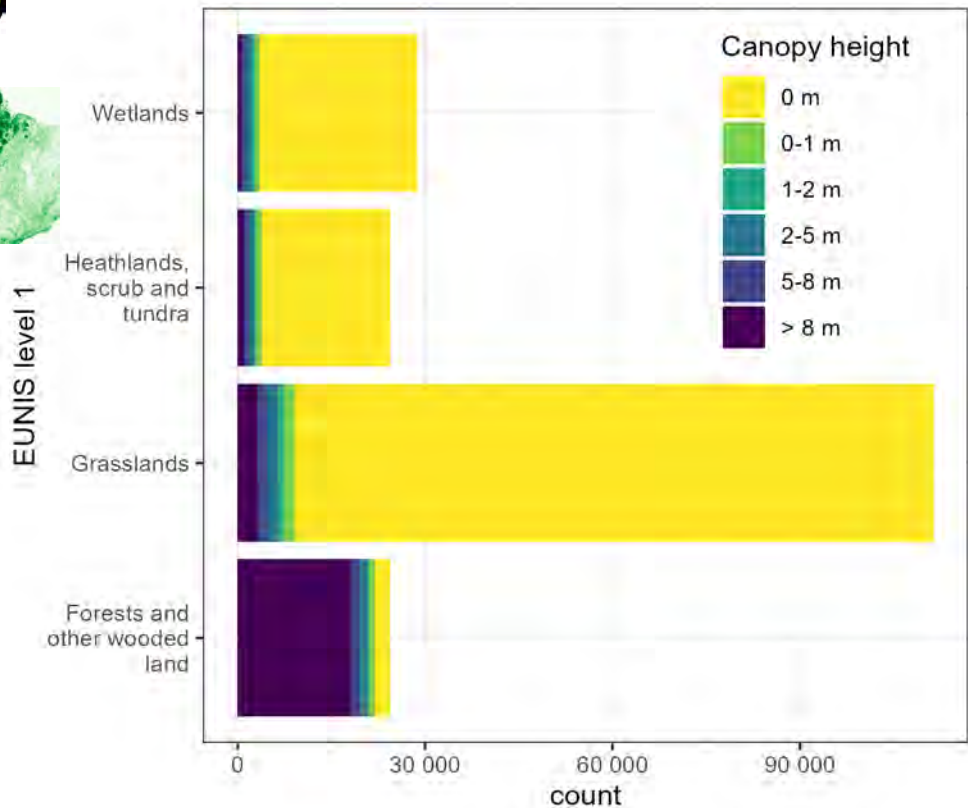


# MOTIVATE WP3 – 2.Validation

How?



Ecosystem structure



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society





# MOTIVATE WP3 – 2.Validation



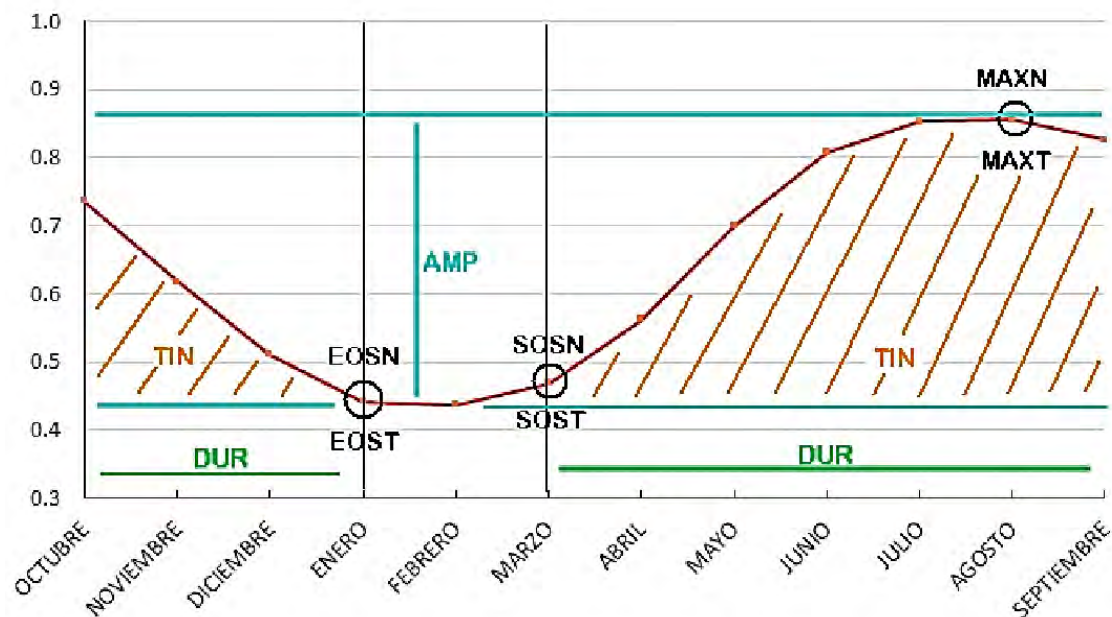
MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



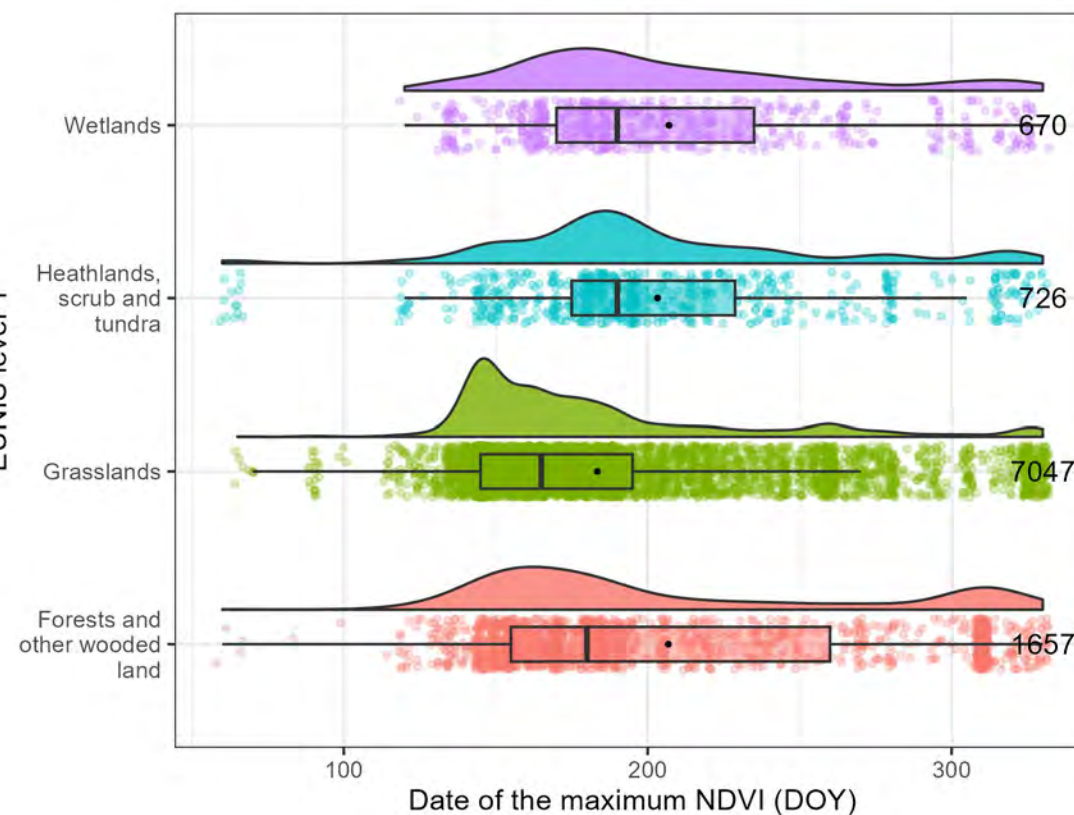
## How?



Ecosystem phenology



EUNIS level 1

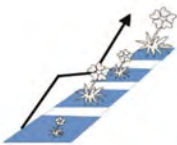


Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society





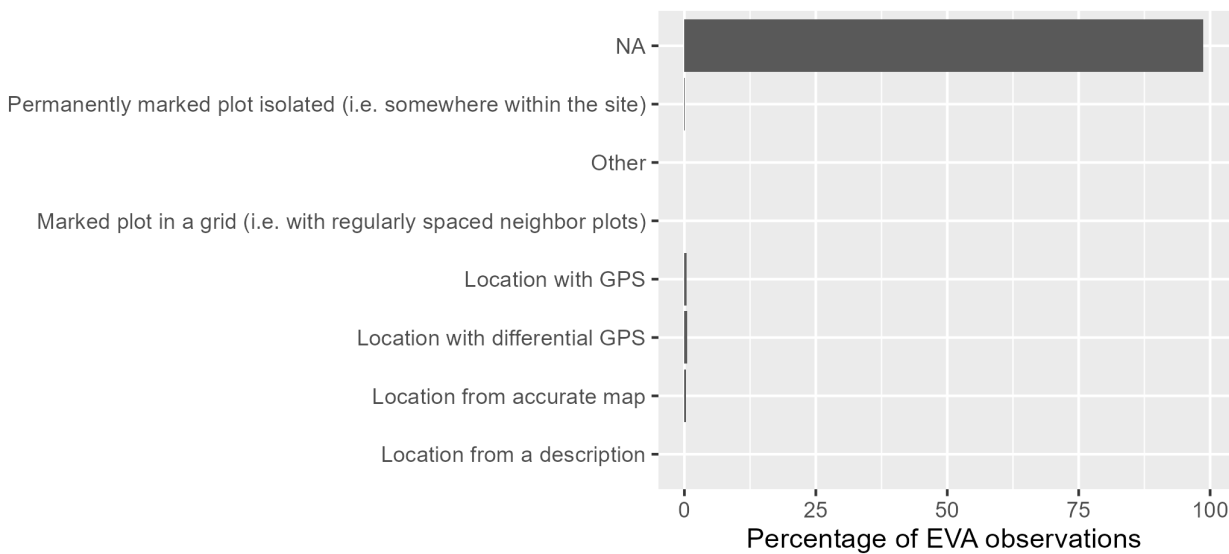
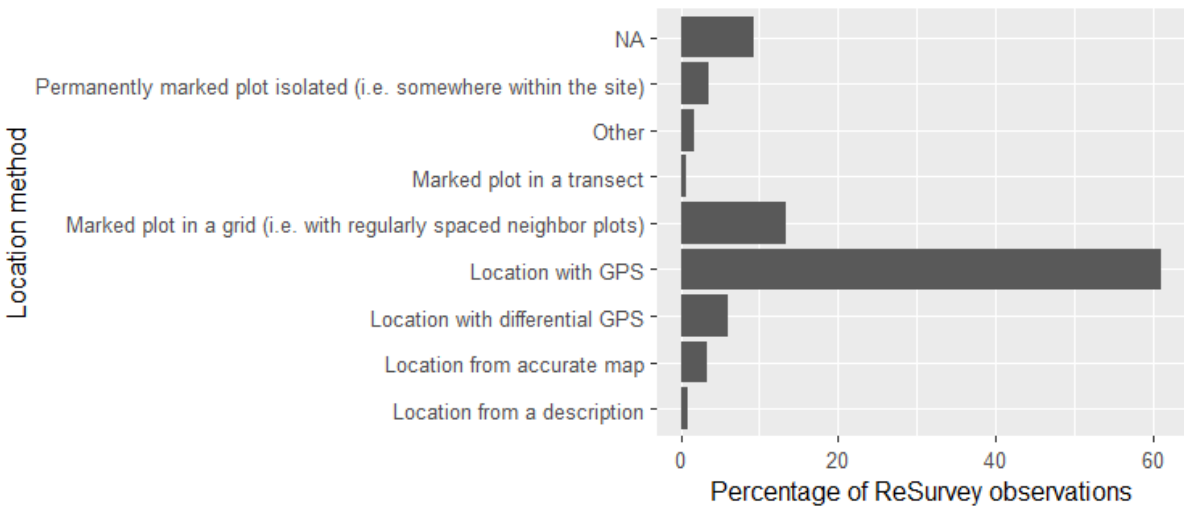
# MOTIVATE WP3 – 2.Validation



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



**What next?** Defining ranges of membership for each EBV and habitat type and bioregion  
Validation (and relocation, when needed) of all plots in ReSurvey  
Same process for EVA and other vegetation datasets (maps or plots)





## MOTIVATE WP3 – 2.Validation



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



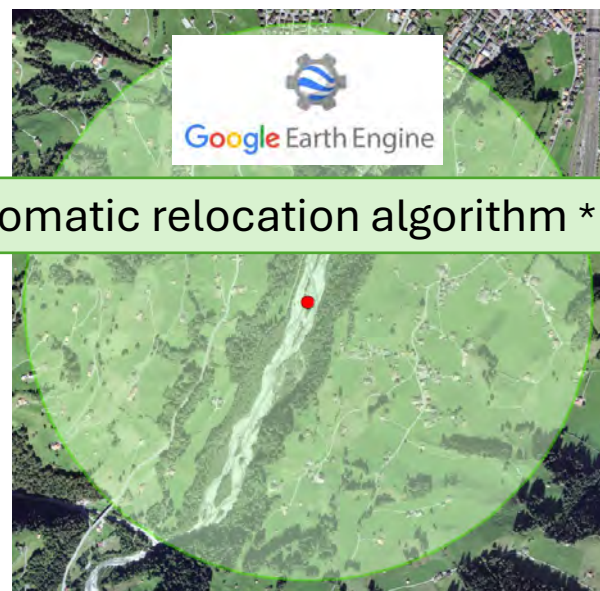
**Where?** Plot locations are correct if EBVs fall within the ranges of membership for the habitat type  
If not, we **relocate** the plot (*sensitivity analyses with many relocated plots*)



EUNIS I = T

NDVI = 0.09

Canopy height = 0 m



Automatic relocation algorithm \*



1-km buffer,  
OR vegetation patch

Closest pixel(s) within ranges of membership



\* Based on region growing seeding approach using e.g. Mahalanobis distances (GEE)



Project funded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society





## MOTIVATE WP3 – 2.Validation 2 steps,

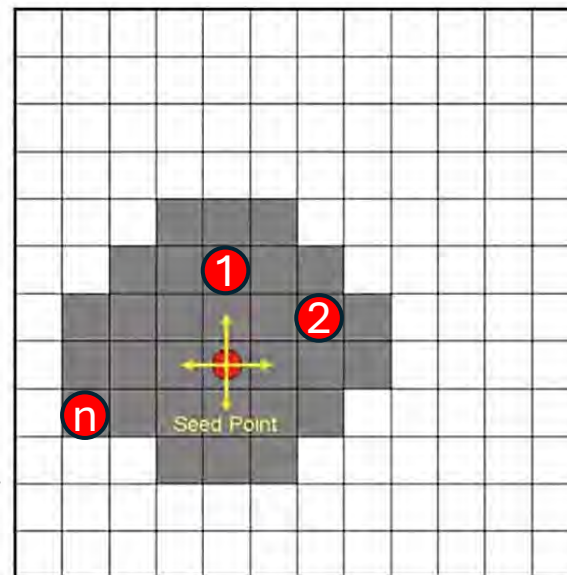


MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe

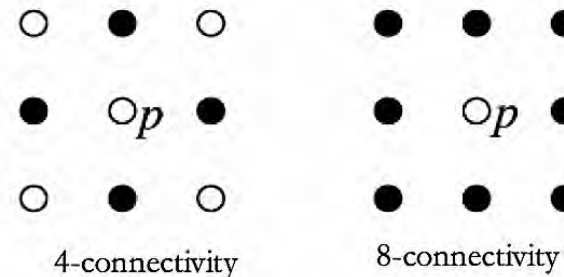


FIRST identifying similar patterns around plot locations (AOIs):

- Automatic identification (at the pixel level) of the habitat type identified in the **validated plot location** across patches of buffer areas, based on spectral similarity
- Mapping current distribution **patterns** of vegetation by aggregation of similar pixels until a certain (Mahalanobis) distance



1. Select a seed point/points
2. Define a growth criteria
3. Joint all voxels connected to the seed that follow the growth criteria
4. Stop when no adjacent voxel agree with the growth criteria



Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society





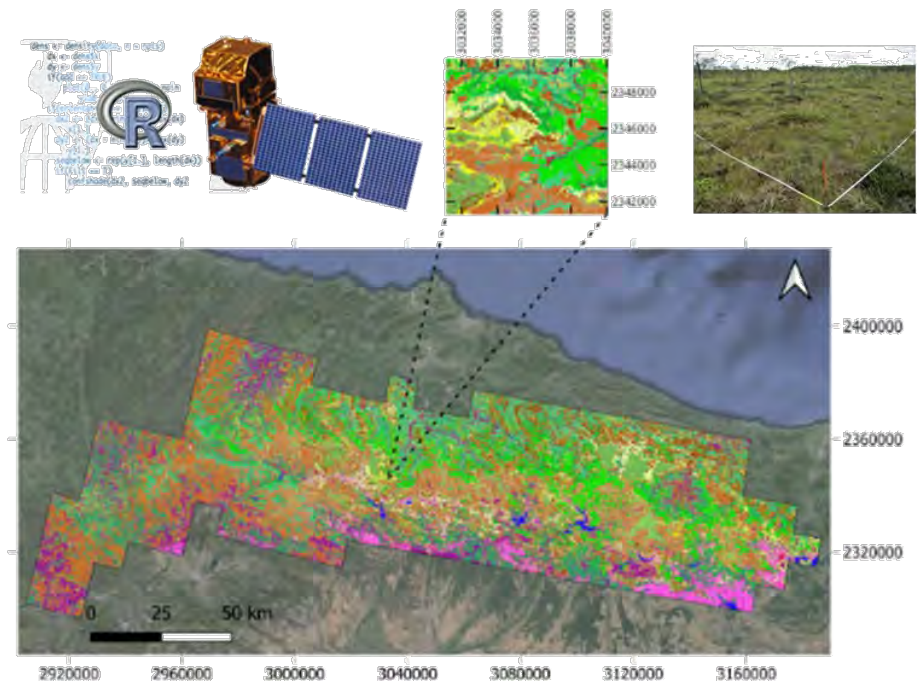
# MOTIVATE WP3 – 3. Mapping

SECOND mapping the extent of habitat types with AOIs + RS + ML/AI algorithms

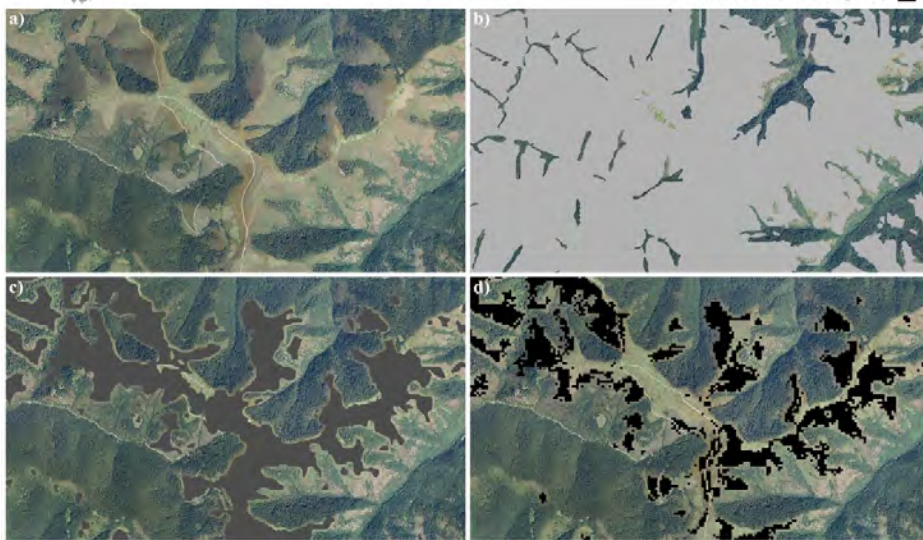
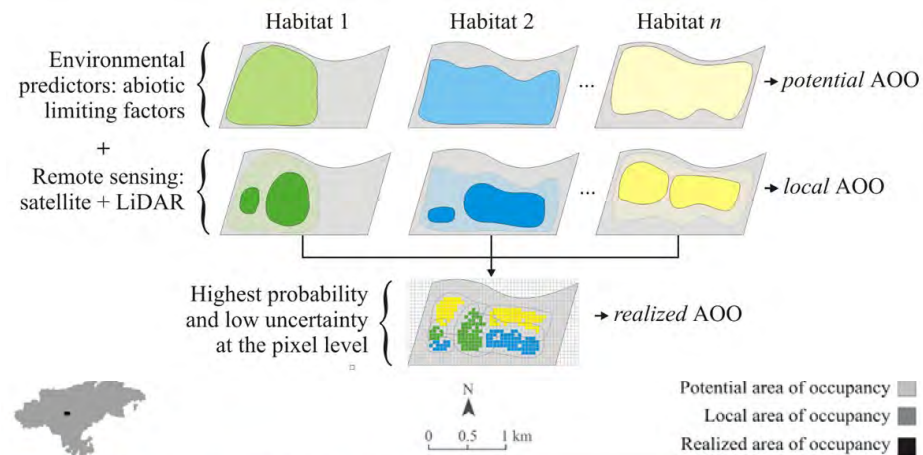


MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe





EUNIS-L3	S91
nodata	T11
Q41	T12
R1A	T17
R1M	T18
R21	T19
R22	T1B
R35	T1C
R36	T1D
R37	T1E
R43	T1F
R44	T21
R54	T27
S22	T36
S23	U28
S33	U35
S35	V1x
S37	Vxx
S42	Cxx
S51	Jxx
S73	





RESEARCH ARTICLE [Free Access](#)

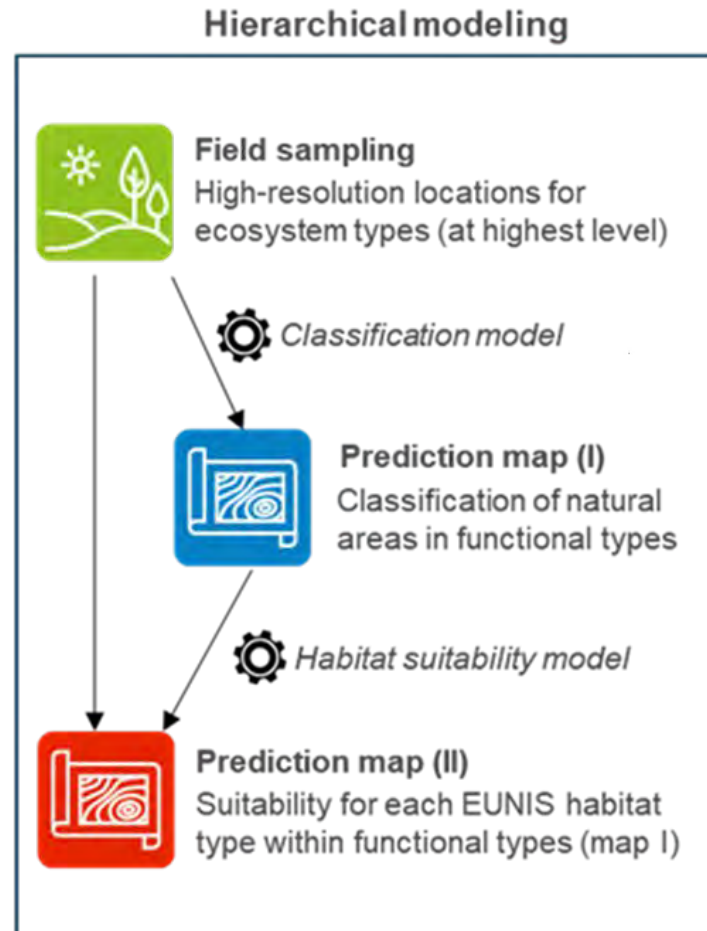
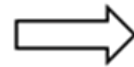
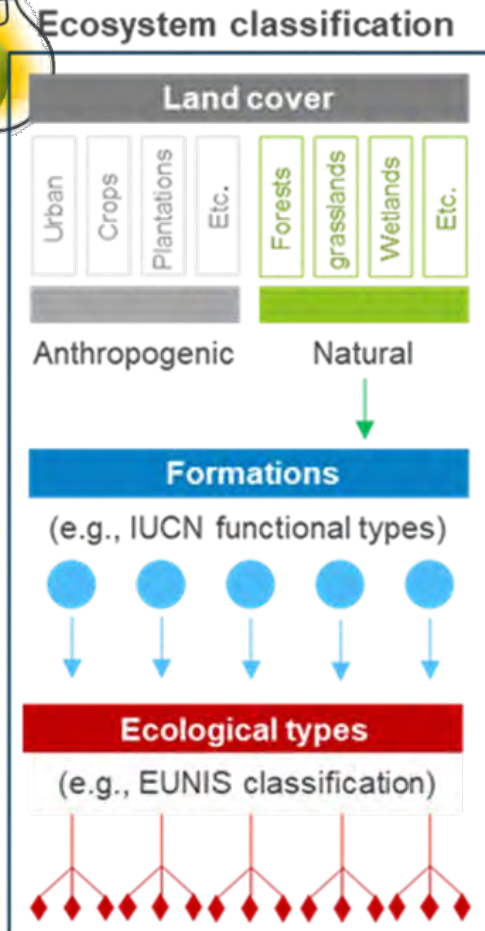
Modelling the area of occupancy of habitat types with remote sensing



# Un nuevo marco conceptual: AOO en un contexto jerárquico



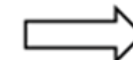
MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



## Data needs

**Presence data**  
Thematic cleaning  
Spatial filtering

**Predictors**  
Climate  
Topography  
Soil  
Landsat (30 m)  
Sentinel (20 m)



**Applications**

Ecosystem extent for AOO (IUCN) assessment and (UN) accounting

Ecosystem distributions (EBV)

Conservation planning



**n nature**

Proyectos Europeos



Jiménez-Alfaro & Álvarez-Martínez JM (In prep). 2025.  
Mapping Ecosystem Extent for Large-Scale Conservation Planning

Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"

society



Universidad  
Universitat de València  
University of Valencia



biodiversa+  
IMIB

CSIC





# Un nuevo marco conceptual: AOO en un contexto jerárquico



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



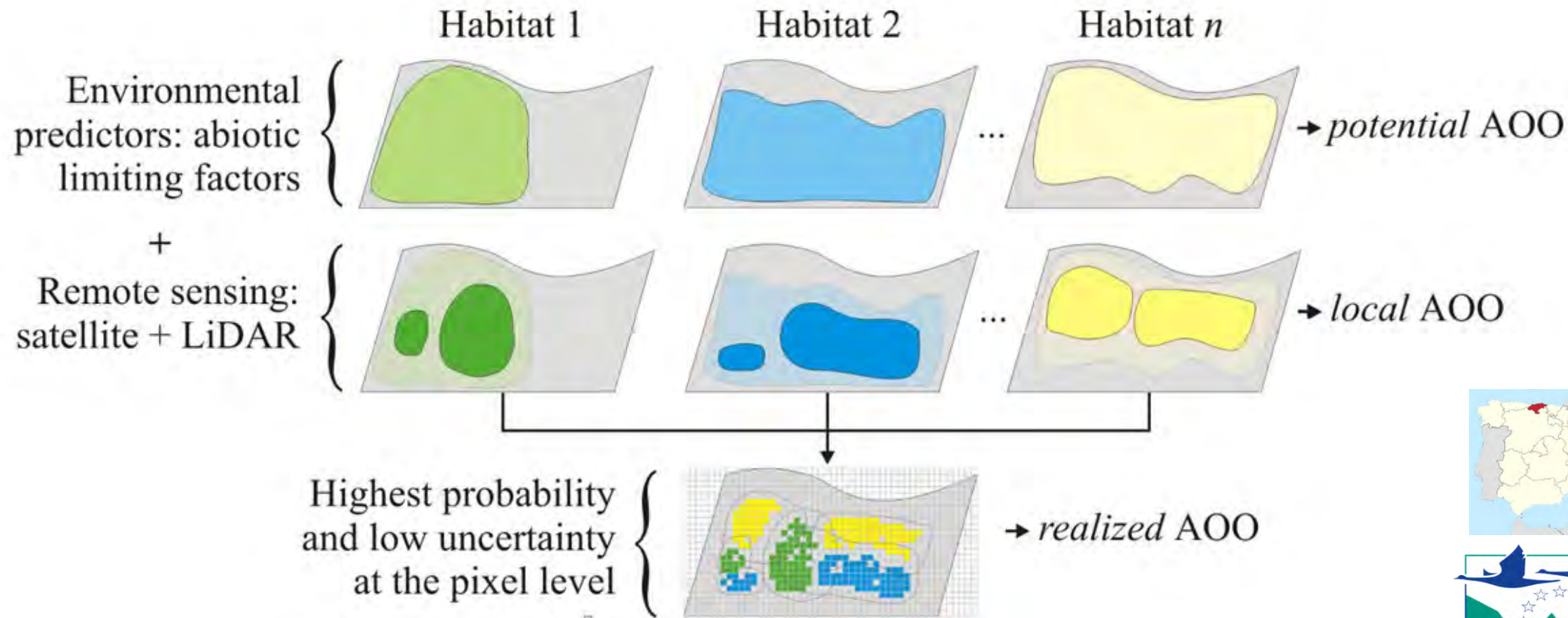
Methods in Ecology and Evolution



RESEARCH ARTICLE Free Access

Modelling the area of occupancy of habitat types with remote sensing

Hábitats protegidos europeos  
2000 puntos de campo (EUNIS)



NATURA 2000

Álvarez-Martínez, Jiménez-Alfaro et al. (2018)

Methods in Ecology and Evolution 9: 580

Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"

society



Universidad  
Universitat de València  
University of Valencia



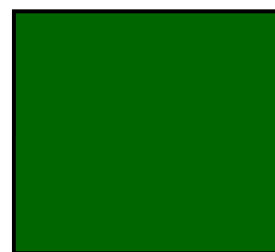
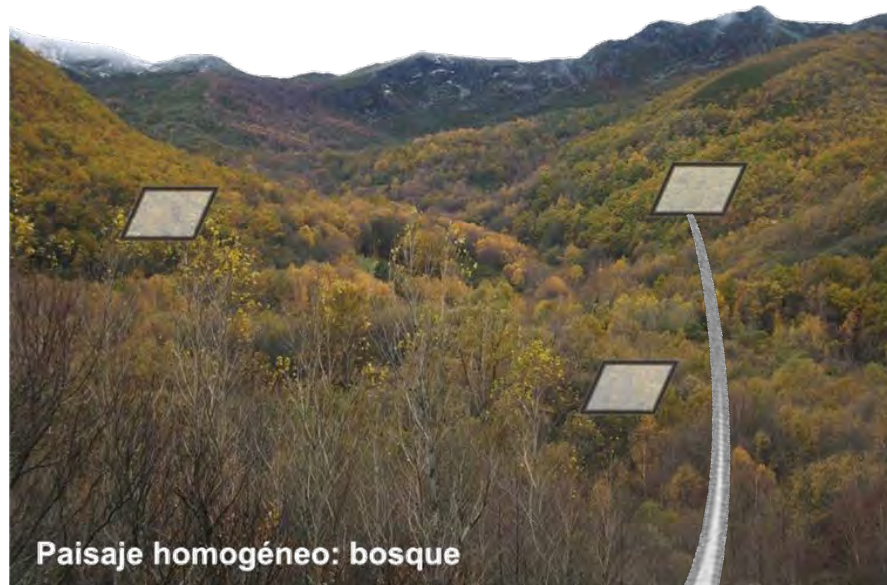




# Un nuevo marco conceptual: AOO en un contexto jerárquico

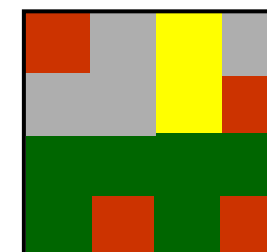


MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



Landsat 8 OLI (30 m)  
Sentinel 2 MSI (10 m)

...



Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"

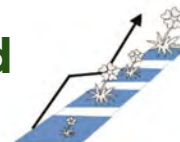
society







# Mayor resolución en las imágenes: análisis de sensibilidad



MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



Special Area of Conservation limit



Peat and bogs habitat types

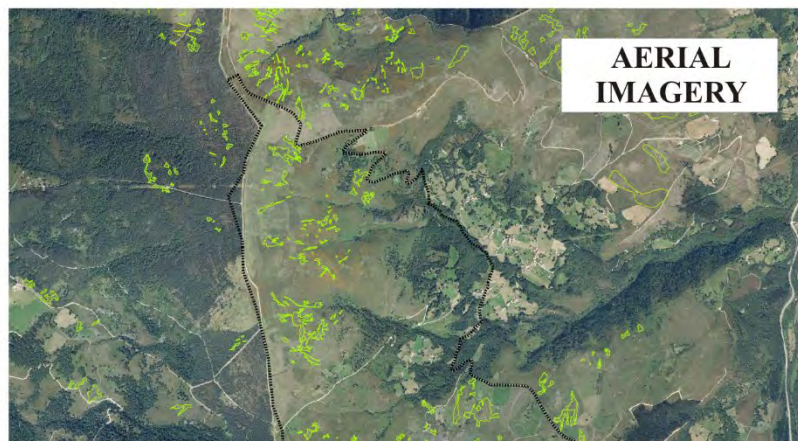
Cantabrian Mountains, NW Spain



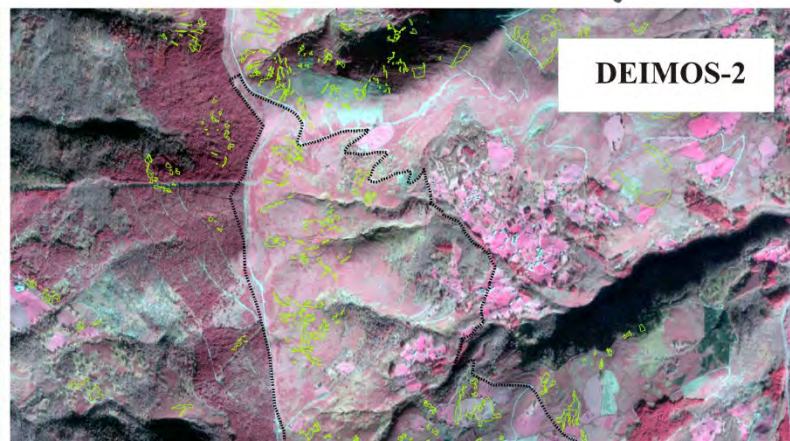
High suitability



Low suitability



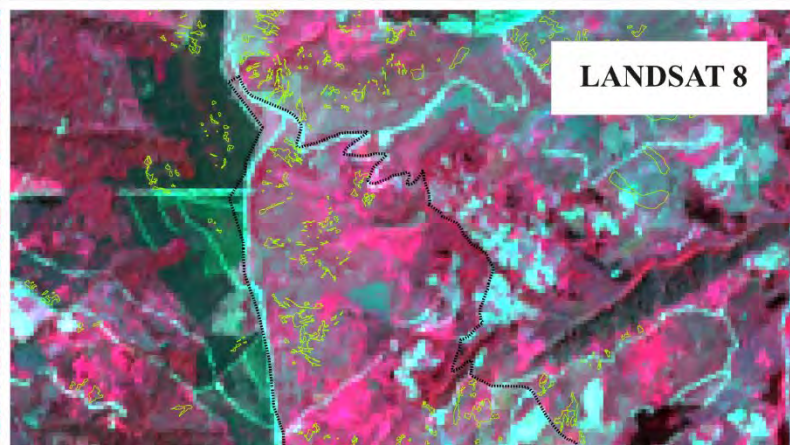
AERIAL IMAGERY



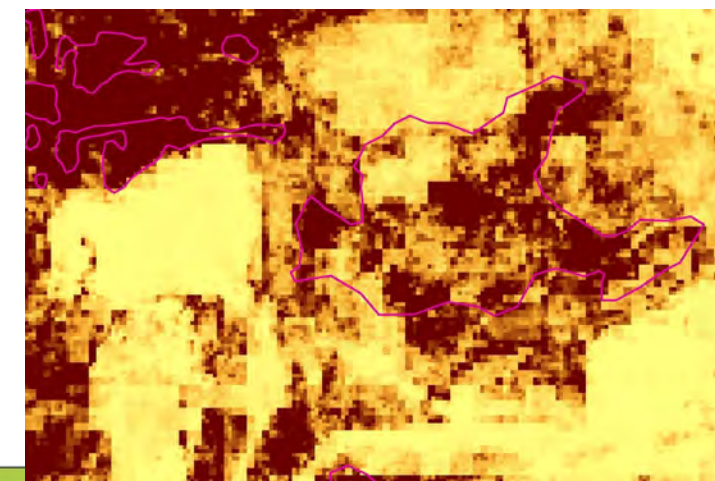
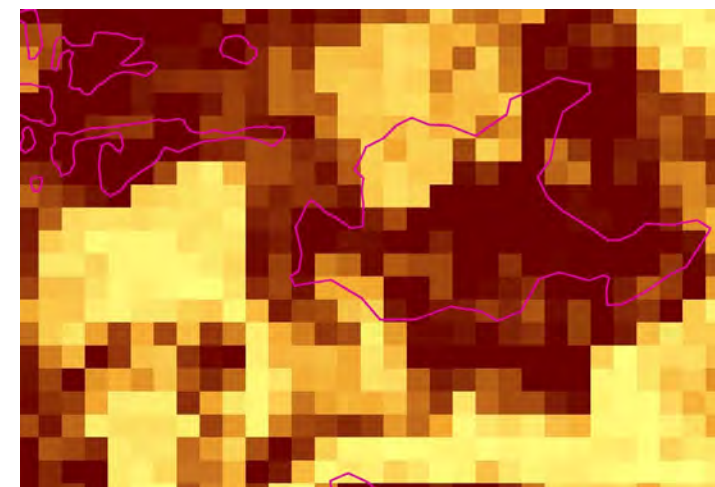
DEIMOS-2



SENTINEL-2



LANDSAT 8



Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"

society



Universidad de Valencia  
University of Valencia





## MOTIVATE WP3 – 4. Monitoring / Habitat patches

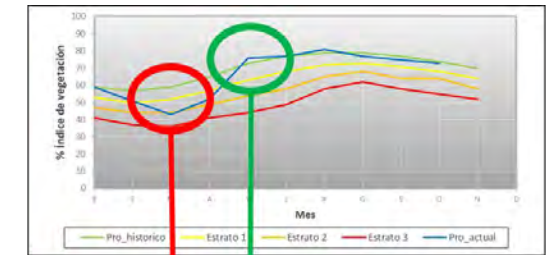
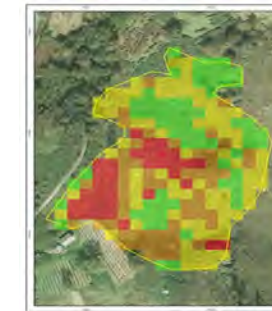
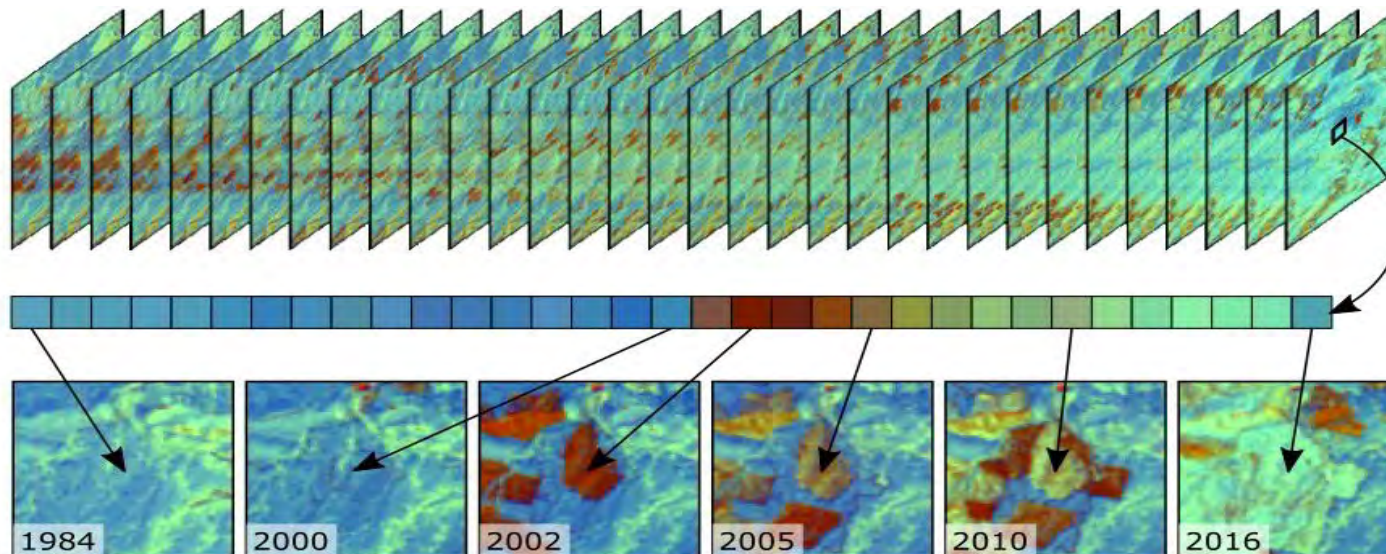


MOTIVATE, Monitoring of terrestrial habitats by integrating vegetation archive time series in Europe



Retrospective **monitoring** of current distributions and conservation status (extent and quality) during last decades

- Using **RS data** such as Sentinel-2 (from 2017-) and Landsat (since approx. 1985) in GEE (own pipeline)
- Using **indicators** (EBVs) of habitat extent, structure and functionality (same used for validation and mapping steps)
- Changes identified at the **pixel level** to reconstruct the extent (and quality) geographically and in vector attributes



ALTERACIÓN

EVOLUCIÓN



Project founded by the 2022-2023 Joint Call - **Biodivmon - PCI2023-2 "Biodiversa+ 2022"**  
Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society

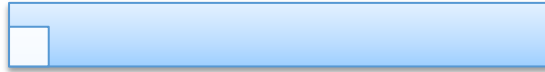




# Biodiversidad vegetal: necesidad de información

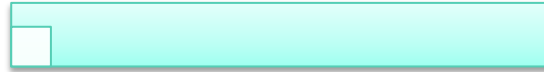


## Estructura



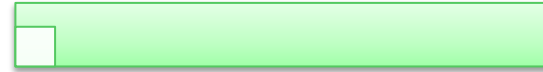
- ☐ Altura e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Área basal e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Diámetro a la altura del pecho e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Estructura vertical
- ☐ Clases de edad
- ☐ Estructura horizontal
- ☐ Volumen maderable con corteza específico
- ☐ Árboles grandes e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Rocosidad
- ☐ Materia orgánica
- ☐ Enhanced vegetation index (EVI)

## Composición



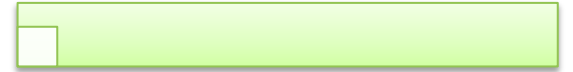
- ☐ Cobertura vegetal e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Canopy relief ratio
- ☐ Densidad de árboles e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Riqueza de especies e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Abundancia de especies
- ☐ Distribución de especies
- ☐ Especies invasoras
- ☐ Morfología de especies

## Función



- ☐ Biomasa e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Producción primaria
- ☐ Crecimiento diametral e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Regeneración e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Madera muerta
- ☐ Diversidad funcional
- ☐ Fracción de la radiación fotosintéticamente activa (FAPAR)
- ☐ Fenología del ecosistema
- ☐ Producción de hojarasca

## Presiones



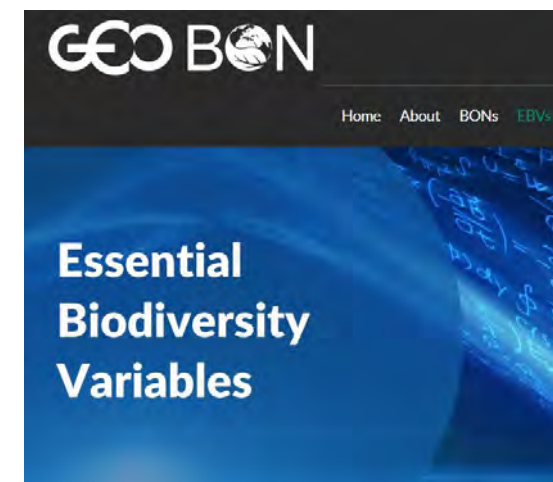
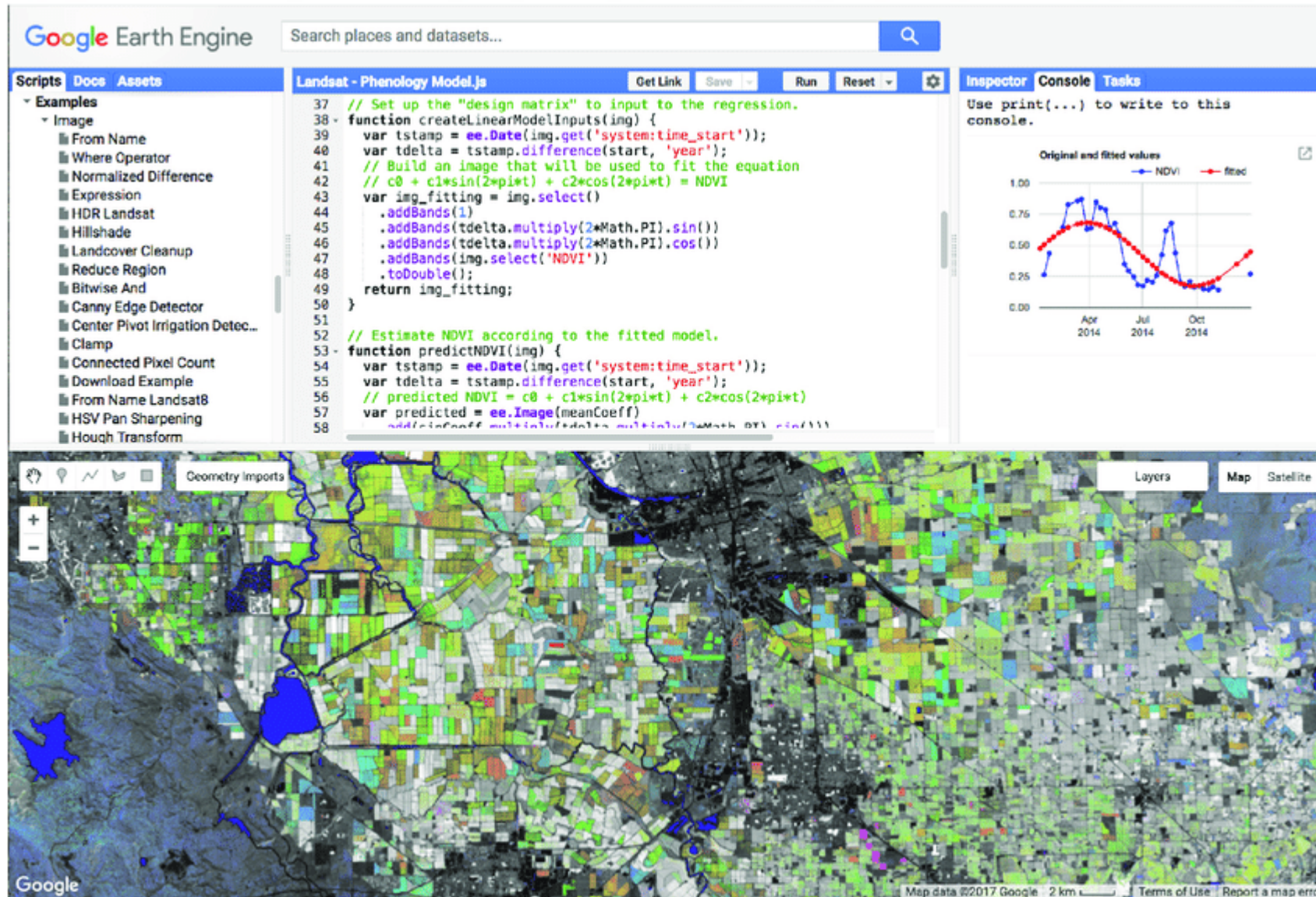
- ☐ Incendios
- ☐ Efectos biológicos de inundaciones
- ☐ Fragmentación e indicadores derivados
- ☐ Indicadores de perturbación

Total indicadores: 32





# Cálculo de indicadores de estructura, funcionamiento y cambios: GEE







Process graph will be stored as a service on the **marketplace** of CDSE  
(i.e., **openEO algorithm plaza**):

Explore the openEO  
algorithm plaza

Search for services



Web Editor

0.14.0-beta.2

Log in to Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem  
openEO API

? Help





# Macroecología Vegetal

Colaboración a  
escala EU\_

*Capacidades y gaps*

*Cómo?*



Proyecto MOTIVATE\_

*Cómo muestrear y validar  
información in-situ?*

*Por qué?*



**Proyecto CLMS-  
Protected Areas\_**

*Una metodolgia  
común a escala UE*

*Copernicus  
user uptake*



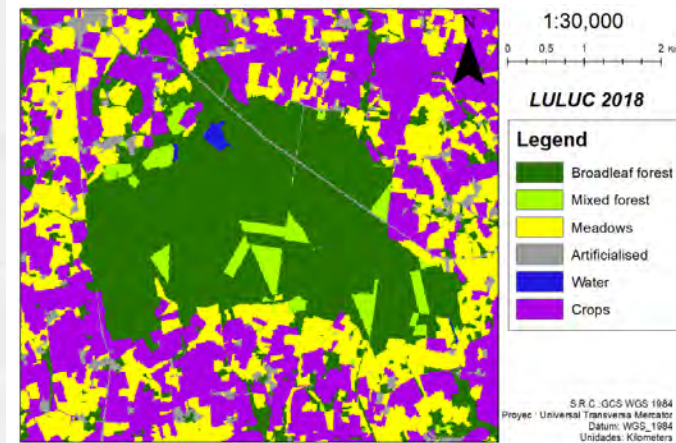
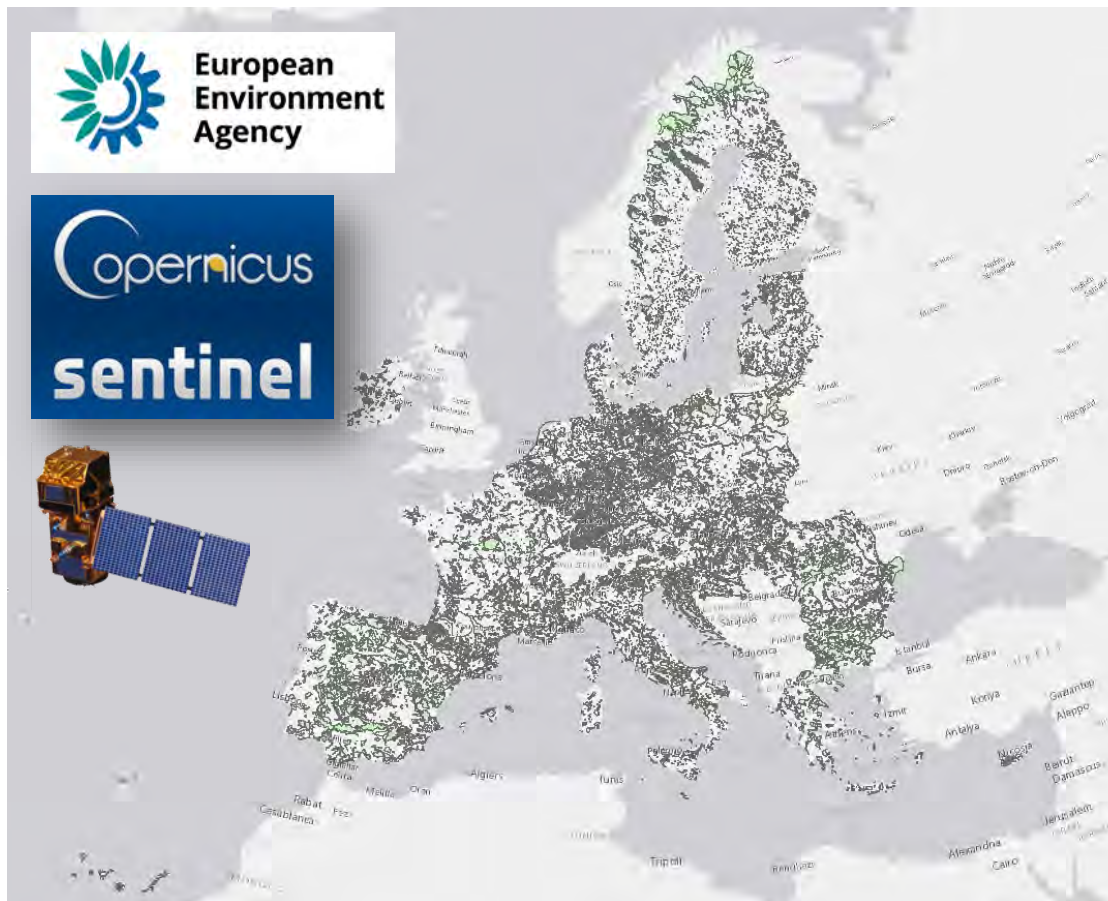
*Dónde?*



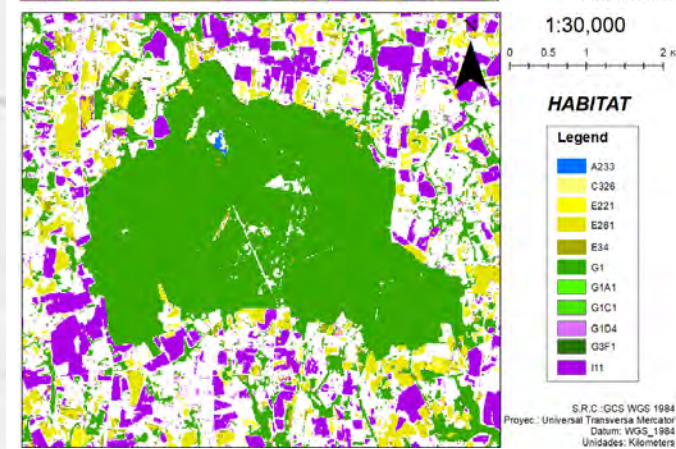


# Mapas de hábitats: aplicación en toda Europa

Protected Areas



Land Cover classes  
(2025)



Ecosystem/Habitat types  
(2026)



# Mapas de hábitats: aplicación en toda Europa

Protected Areas

## WORKFLOW



GEOBON

CEOS

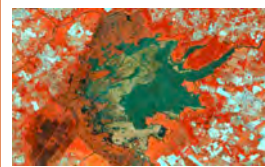
esa

Samples vs  
S2SR Time  
series per  
class

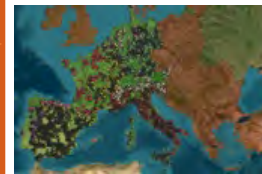
Samples vs  
model  
uncertainty

ACTIVE  
LEARNING

**NEW!**  
Sentinel-2 Super  
Resolution Time  
Series Predictors



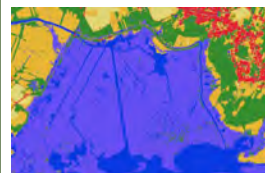
**NEW!**  
Training dataset



**NEW!**  
Deep Learning  
Model Training



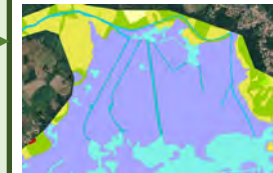
Predictions



**NEW!**  
Post-processing

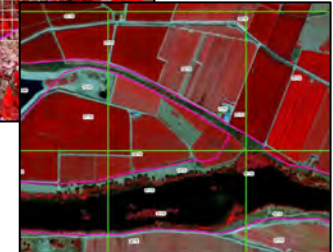
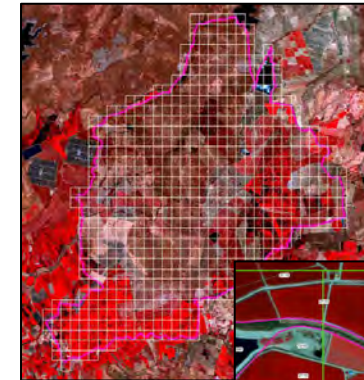


Manual refinement



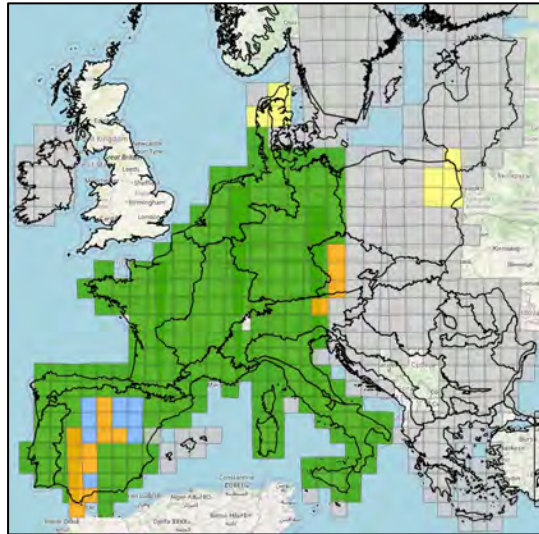
Information at bioregional level

Information at production unit of 50x50kms



L1_ficlon	Class
1100	Urban
1101	
1102	
1210	
1220	
1230	
1240	
2120	
2310	
2320	
3210	Cropland
3220	
3230	Vineyards, fruit trees and berry plantations
3240	
3250	Olive groves
3260	
3270	Broadleaved forest
3280	
3290	Coniferous forest
3300	
4100	Managed grassland
4211	
4212	Natural & semi-natural grassland and Alpine
4220	
5100	Heathland and moorland
5200	
5300	Alpine scrub land
5310	
5320	Sclerophyllous scrubs
5330	

6100	Sparsely vegetated areas
6210	Beaches, dunes, river banks
6220	
6311	Bare rocks, outcrops, cliffs and scree
6312	
3000	Burnt areas (except burnt forest)
6331	
6332	Glaciers and perpetual snow
7110	Wetland
7121	
7122	
7210	
7220	
7230	
8110	Water
8120	
8130	
8210	
8220	
8230	
8240	
8310	
8320	
8330	
8410	
8420	





# Mapas de hábitats: aplicación en toda Europa

Protected Areas

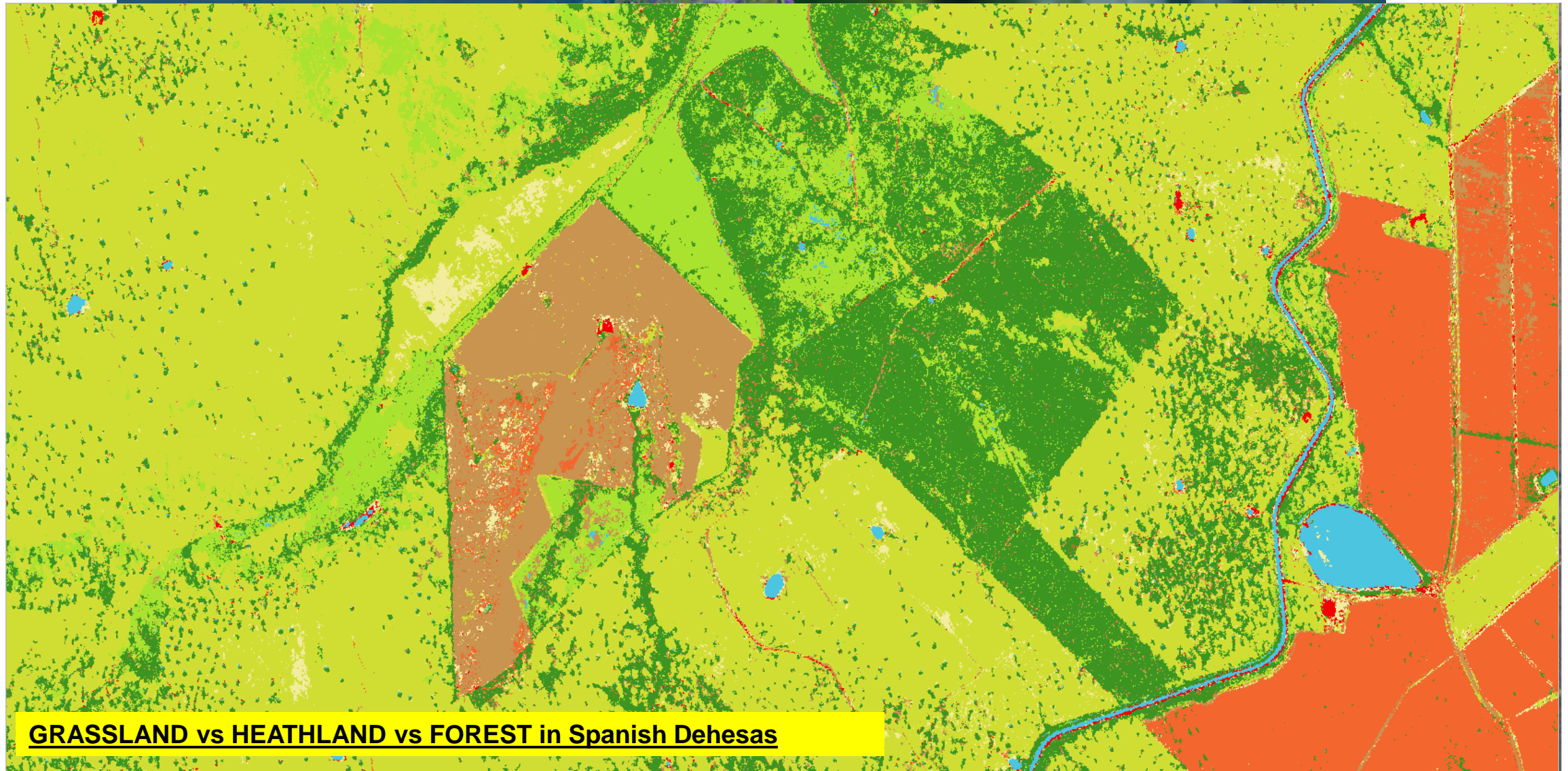
AUTOMATIC RESULT



GEOBEN

CEOS

esa



GRASSLAND vs HEATHLAND vs FOREST in Spanish Dehesas



10 - 14 FEBRUARY 2025 📍 ESA-ESRIN, FRASCATI - ITALY

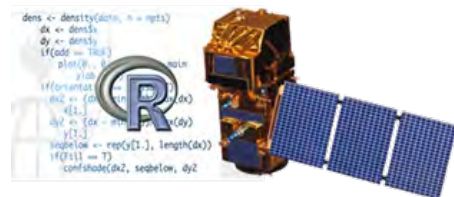
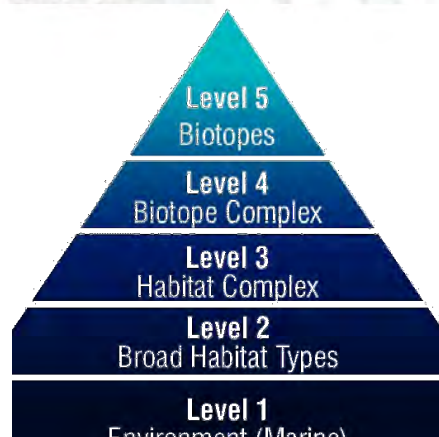
# BIOSPACE25 - BIODIVERSITY INSIGHT FROM SPACE

LIVE STREAM

PROGRAMME



# Necesidad de mapas de biodiversidad vegetal a gran escala (hábitats)



## Seguimiento de hábitats y especies

### Annex I Dir. Hábitats

#### 1. Distribución espacial y tendencia

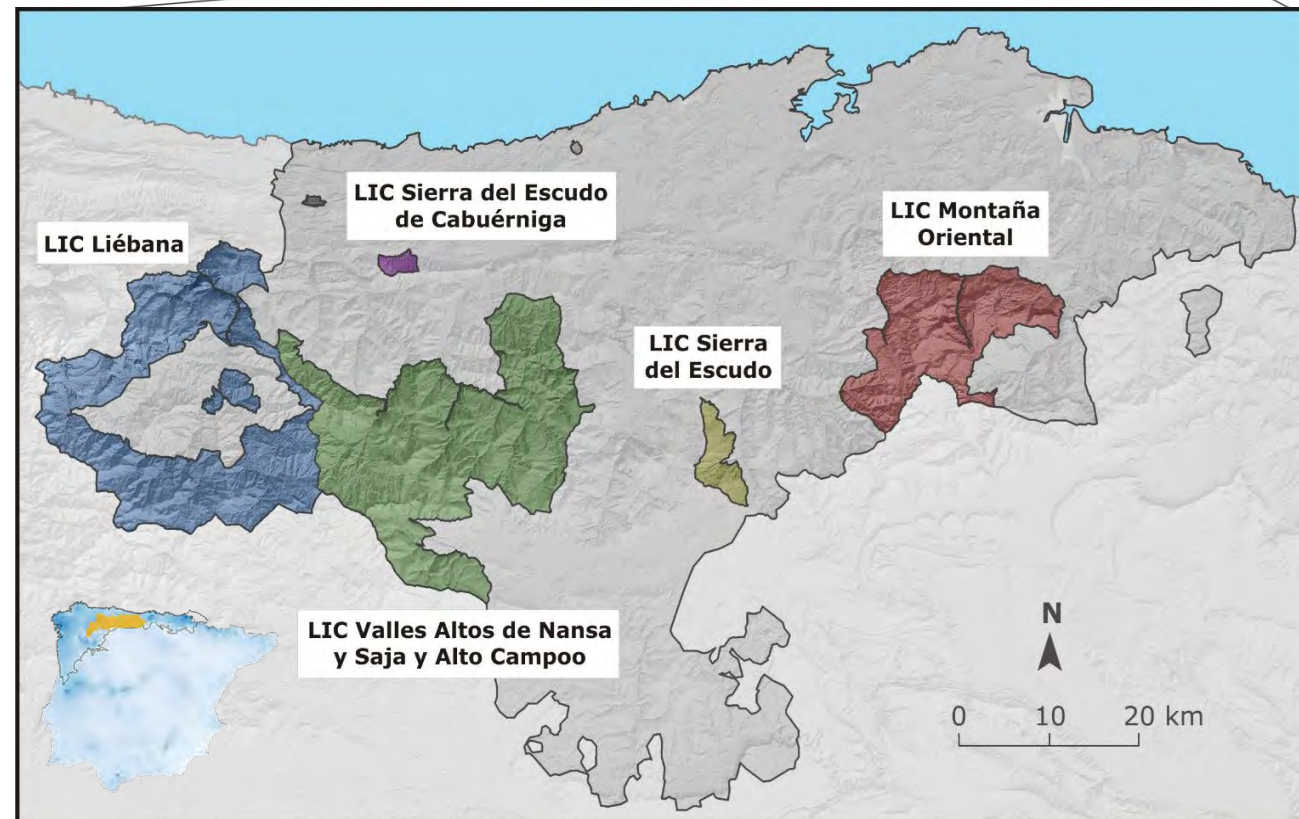
#### 2. Estructura, dinámica y función

#### 3. Sistema de gestión, acciones RC

ID	EUNIS	N	Descripción
1	A2	103	Littoral sediment
2	A2.61	37	Seagrass beds on littoral sediments
3	C1	271	Surface standing waters
4	C2.2	169	Permanent non-tidal, fast, turbulent watercourses
5	D1.21	385	Hyperoceanic low-altitude blanket bogs, typically with dominant [Trichophorum]
6	E1.2	62	Perennial calcareous grassland and basic steppes
7	E1.263	227	Middle European [Brachypodium] semidry grasslands
8	E1.7	41	Closed non-Mediterranean dry acid and neutral grassland
9	E1.712	95	Sub-Atlantic [Nardus]-[Galium] grasslands
10	E1.721	131	Nemoral [Agrostis]-[Festuca] grasslands
11	E2.1	243	Permanent mesotrophic pastures and aftermath-grazed meadows
12	E2.11	436	Unbroken pastures
13	E2.111	612	Ryegrass pastures
14	E2.112	171	Atlantic [Cynosurus]-[Centaurea] pastures
15	E2.2	328	Low and medium altitude hay meadows
16	E2.21	125	Atlantic hay meadows
17	E2.22	595	Sub-Atlantic lowland hay meadows
18	E5.31	40	Sub-Atlantic [Pteridium aquilinum] fields
19	F2.2	52	Evergreen alpine and subalpine heath and scrub
20	F2.231	73	Mountain [Juniperus nana] scrub
21	F3.13	31	Atlantic poor soil thickets
22	F3.17	125	[Corylus] thickets
23	F3.171	40	Atlantic and sub-Atlantic hazel thickets
24	F3.25	37	Pionales
25	F3.252	136	Northwestern Iberian [Genista florida] fields
26	F4.2	978	Dry heaths
27	F4.23	120	Atlantic [Erica]-[Ulex] heaths
28	F4.237	190	Cantabro-Pyrenean [Erica vagans]-[E. cinerea] heaths
29	F7.4	138	Hedgehog-heaths
30	F7.4451	834	Pyreneo-Cantabrian cushion-heaths
31	FA	46	Hedgerows
32	G1	40	Broadleaved deciduous Woodland
33	G1.21	252	Riverine [Fraxinus] - [Alnus] woodland, wet at high but not at low water
34	G1.214	2	Pyreneo-Cantabrian alder galleries
35	G1.6	134	[Fagus] woodland
36	G1.62	353	Atlantic acidophilous [Fagus] forests
37	G1.624	65	Pyreneo-Cantabrian acidophilous beech forests
38	G1.625	179	Western Cantabrian acidophilous beech forests
39	G1.64	247	Pyreneo-Cantabrian neutrophile [Fagus] forests

## Cartografía de vegetación a gran escala (EUNIS) a lo largo del tiempo

Mapas de hábitats utilizando técnicas de modelado basadas en TD en la Red Natura 2000 en Cantabria (NO España)





# Necesidad de mapas de biodiversidad vegetal a gran escala (hábitats)



Natura 2000 Gerekliklerinin Uygulanması İçin Ulusal Doğa Koruma Sisteminin Güçlendirilmesi Projesi



A pilot area to check the methodology for the selection of Natura 2000 sites in Turkey

Diseño N2000

Annex I, II

1. Extent de  
hábitats

2. Estado de  
conservación

3. Selección ZECs



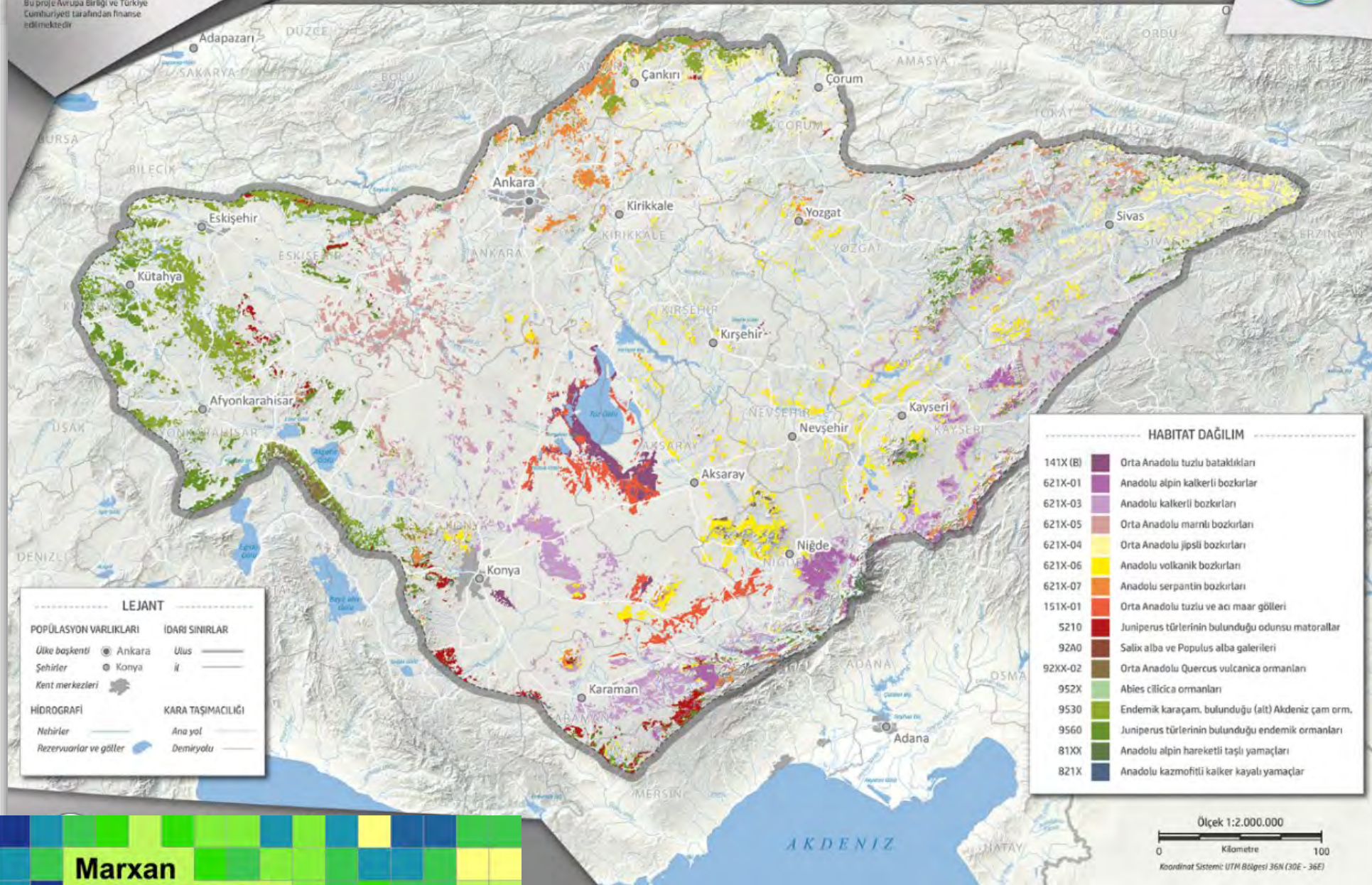




Bu proje Avrupa Birliği ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti tarafından finanse edilmektedir.



## Habitat dağılım haritası



**Marxan**

Informing Conservation Decisions Globally

High resolution maps: 22 Habitats (Annex I) in Central Anatolia



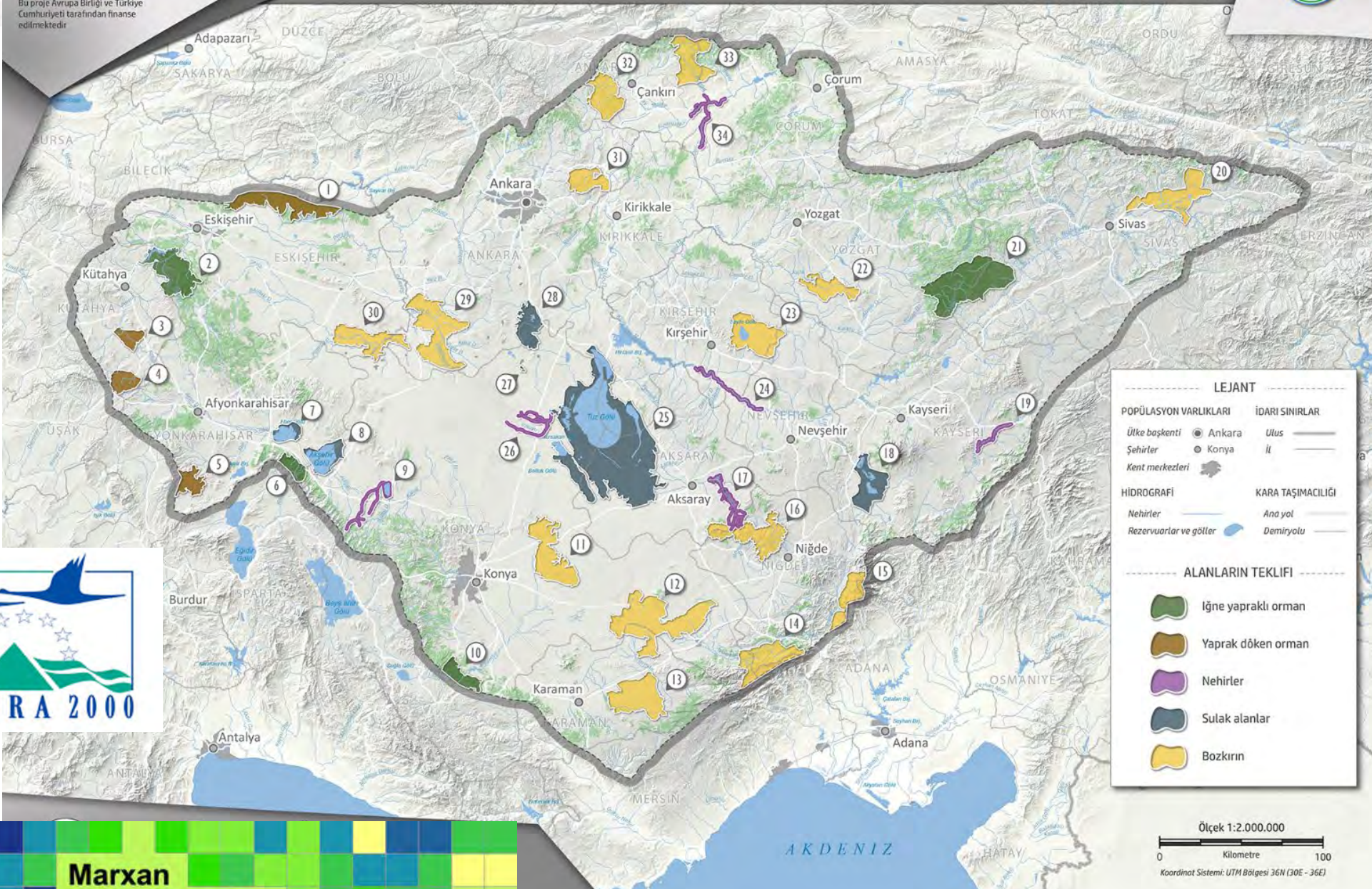


Bu proje Avrupa Birliği ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti tarafından finanse edilmektedir

Natura 2000 Gerekliklerinin Uygulanması İçin Ulusal Doğa Koruma Sisteminin Güçlendirilmesi Projesi



## Orta Anadolu'daki Natura 2000 Alanlara İlişkin Teklif



Natura 2000 potential sites in Central Anatolia





## Mapas locales de vegetación

- Conservación
- Alta resolución espacial
- Alto coste humano, económico y de tiempo



## Modelización basada en TD

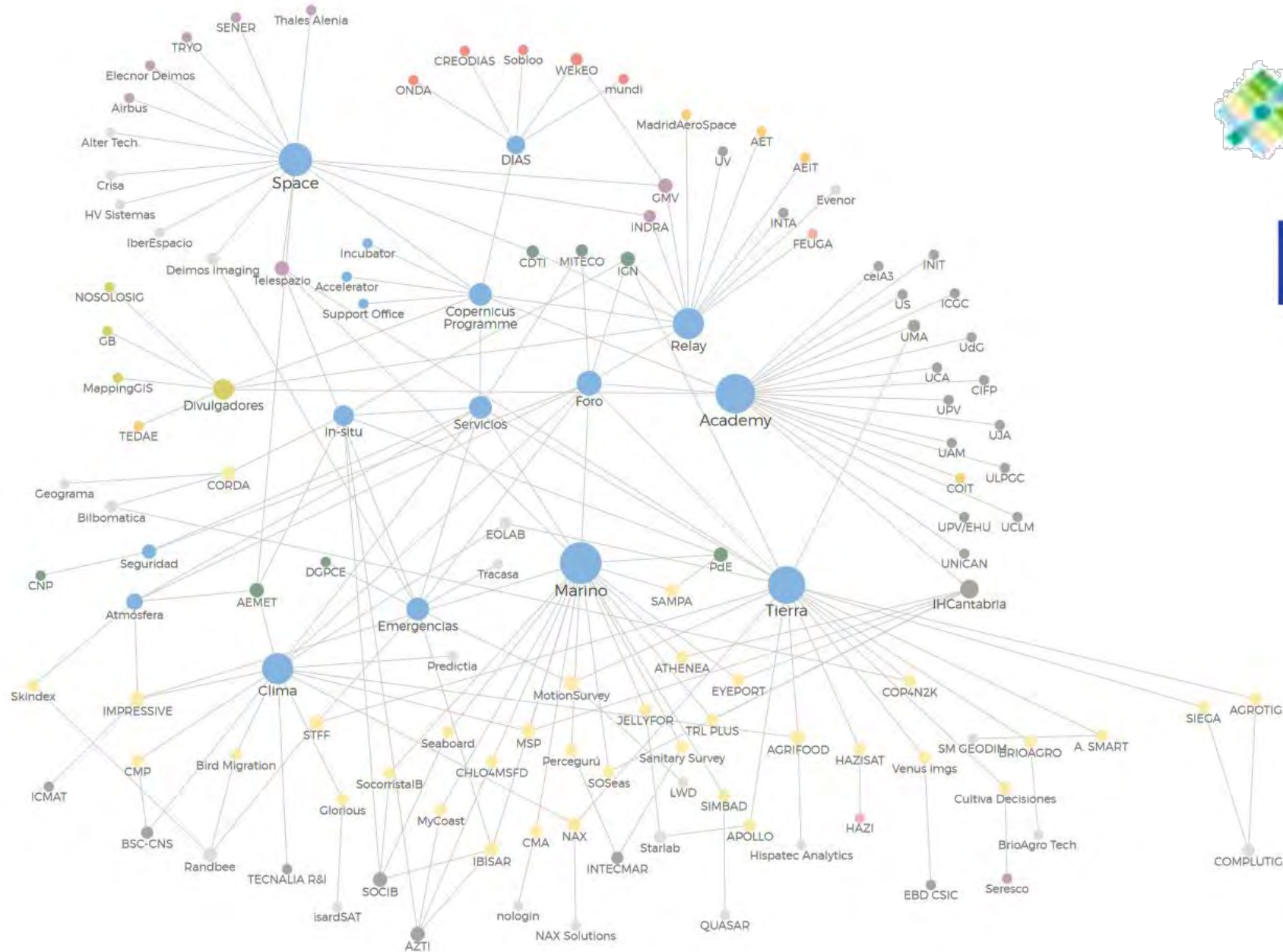
- Enfoques basados en la ciencia
- Estudios a escala local y a gran escala
- Posibilidad de reproducir y ampliar

Mapeo probabilístico de la vegetación  
para conservación a gran escala

**permite optimizar los esfuerzos + datos disponibles**



# Hacia la **multifuncionalidad ecosistémica**: aplicación en toda España y Europa







Universidad de Oviedo  
Universidá d'Oviéu  
University of Oviedo



**IMIB**



**CSIC**  
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

# Preguntas