

# LONG-TERM LAND DEGRADATION IN THE CAUCASUS

Volker C. Radeloff, University of Wisconsin-Madison

J. Buchner, K. E. Lewinska, A. Rizayeva, H. Yin, V. Butsic, M. Nita, G. Ghambashidze, H. Sayadyan, N. Elizbarashvili, R. Mammadov, and T. Kuemmerle

LCLUC Science Team Meeting, 4/10/2019



**SILVIS Lab**

Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability



Land-Cover and Land-Use Change Program



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# Goals

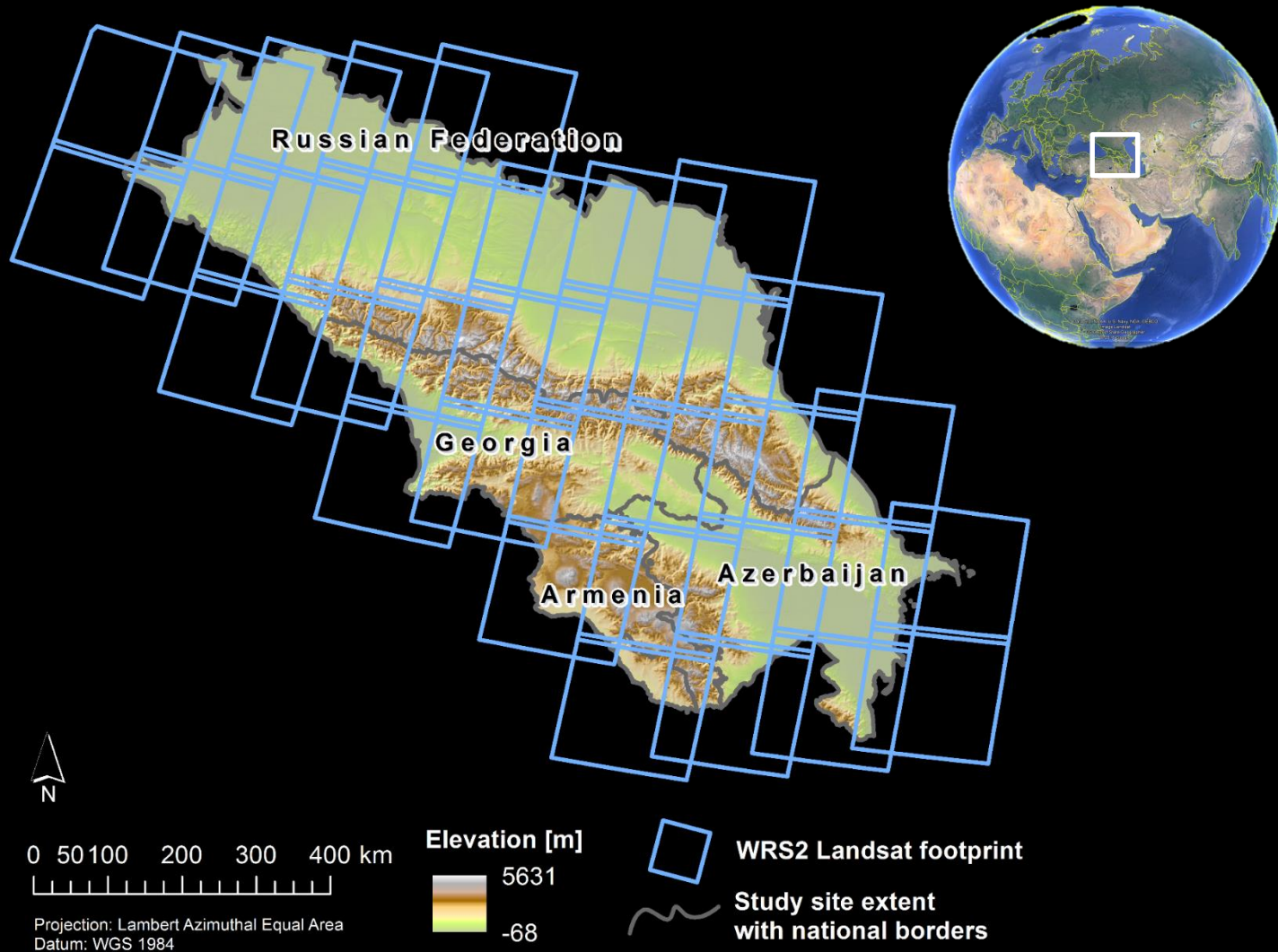
*Our main goal is to study land degradation in the Caucasus*

Objective 1: map forest and grassland degradation across the Caucasus from 1985-2015

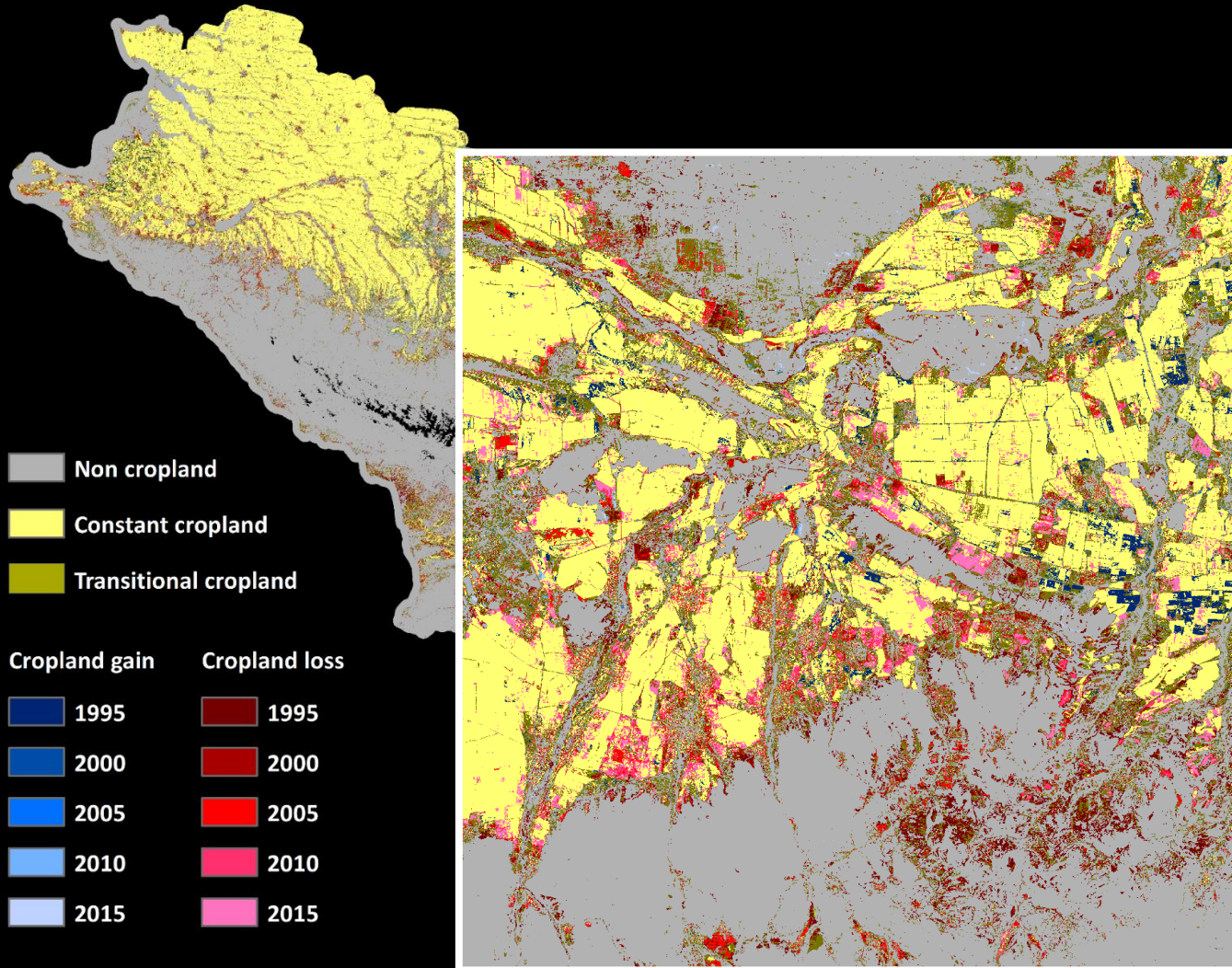
Objective 2: quantify long-term land use change with 1960s and '70s Corona imagery

Objective 3: assess the effects of economic cores on land use in peripheries within and across countries

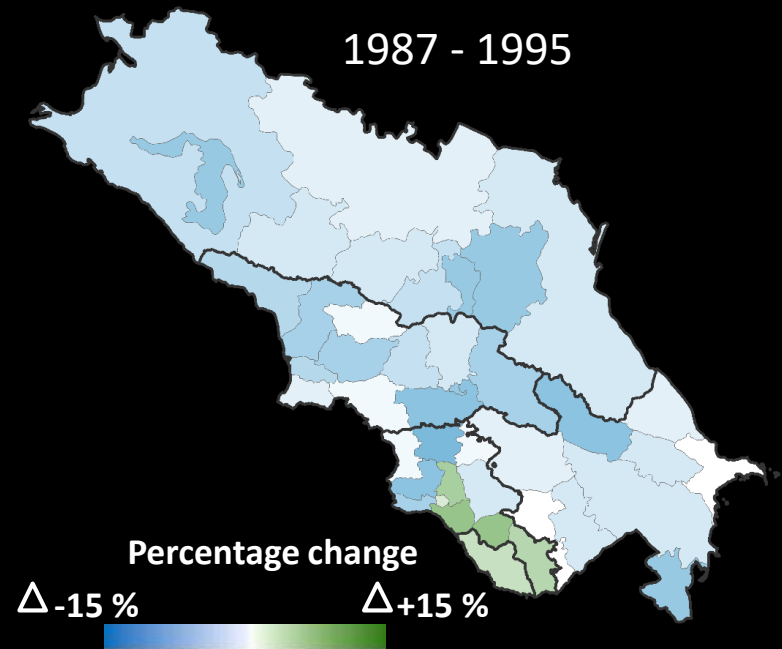
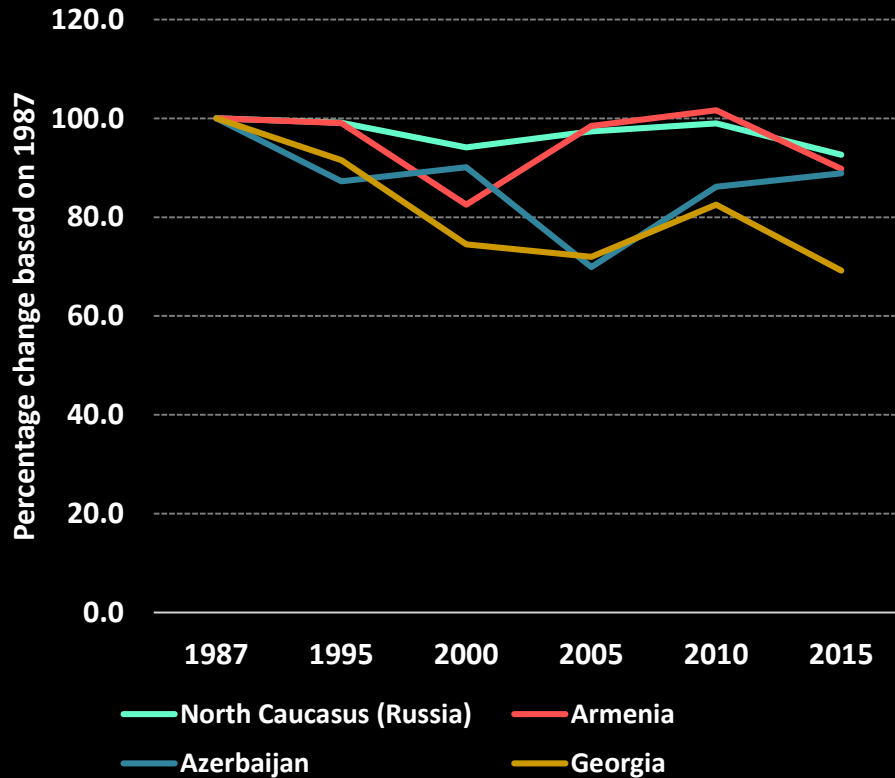
# Introduction



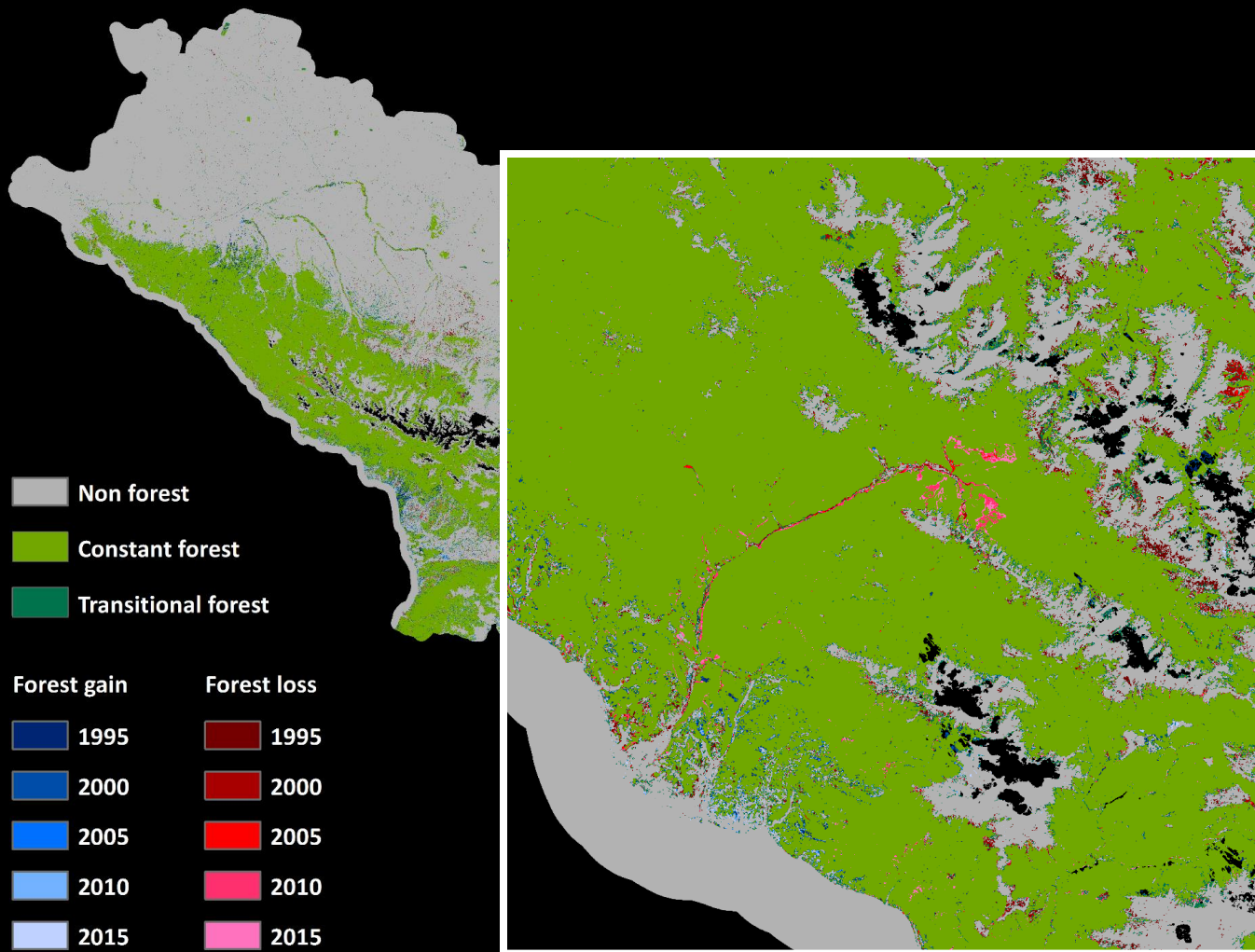
# Introduction



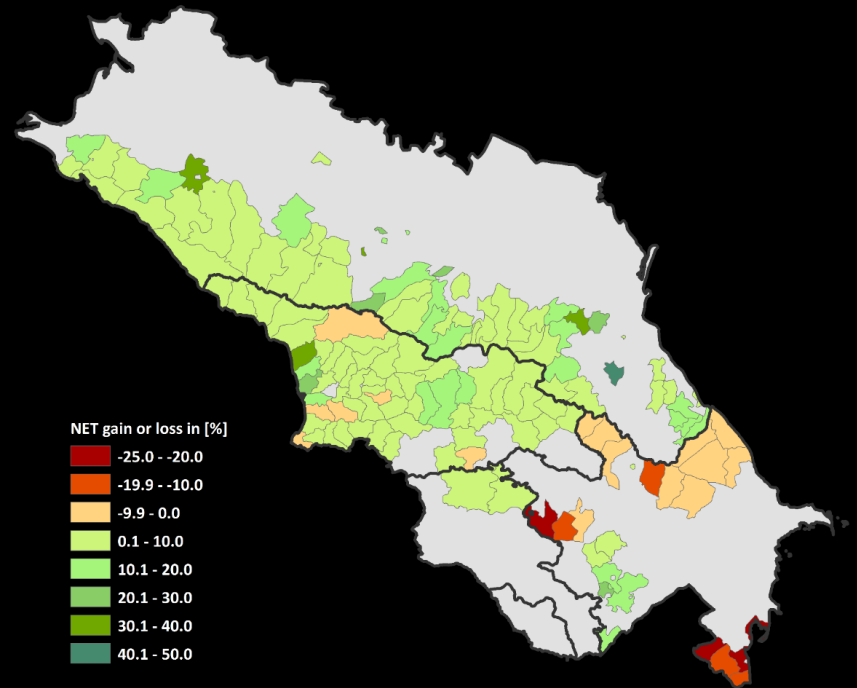
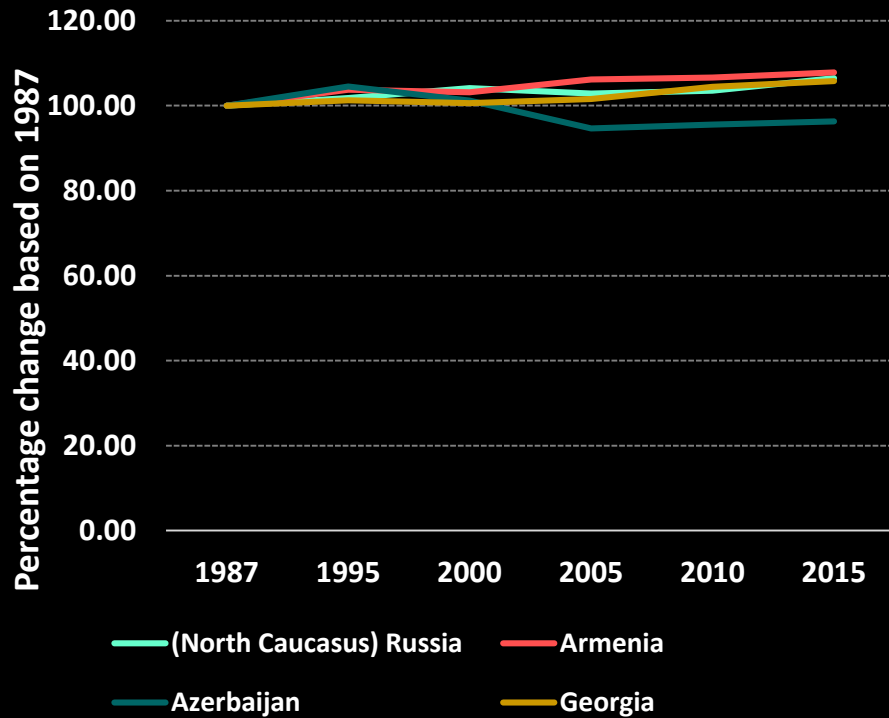
# Introduction



# Introduction



# Introduction



# Goals

*Our main goal is to study land degradation in the Caucasus*

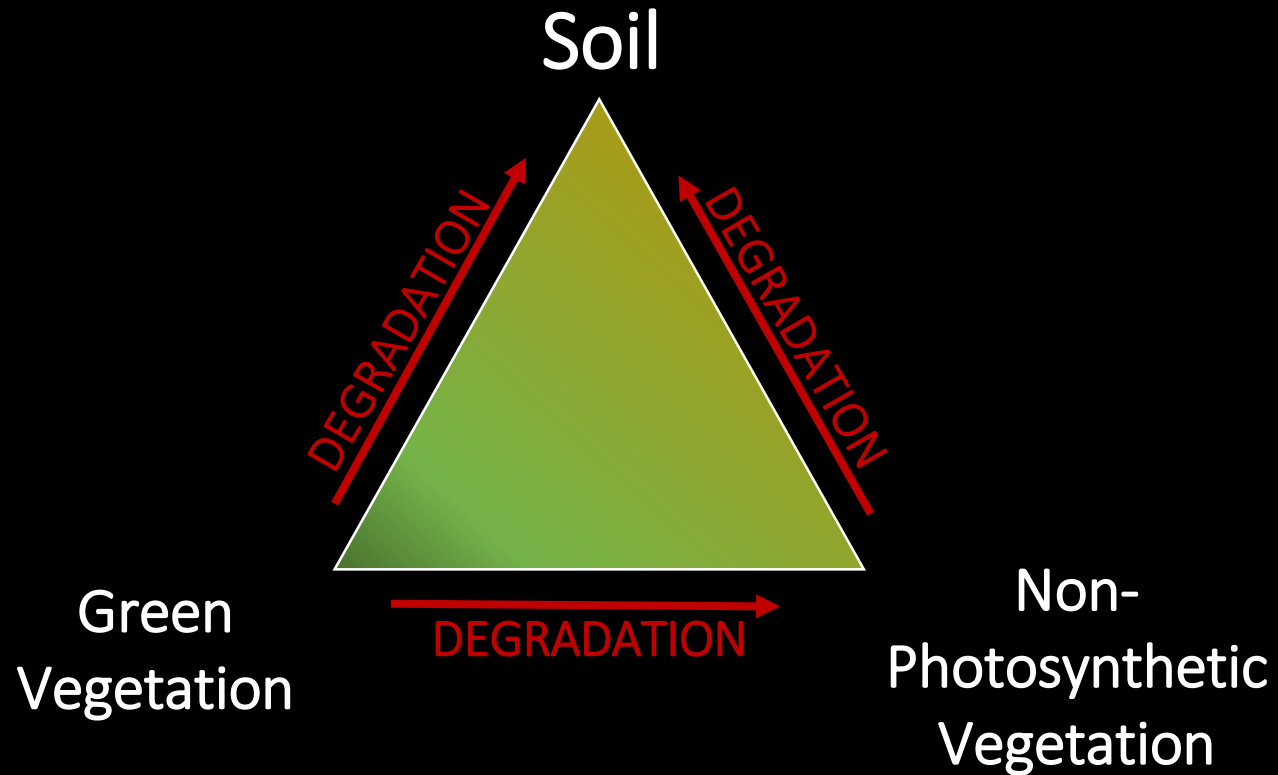
Objective 1: map forest and grassland degradation across the Caucasus from 1985-2015

Objective 2: quantify long-term land use change with 1960s and '70s Corona imagery

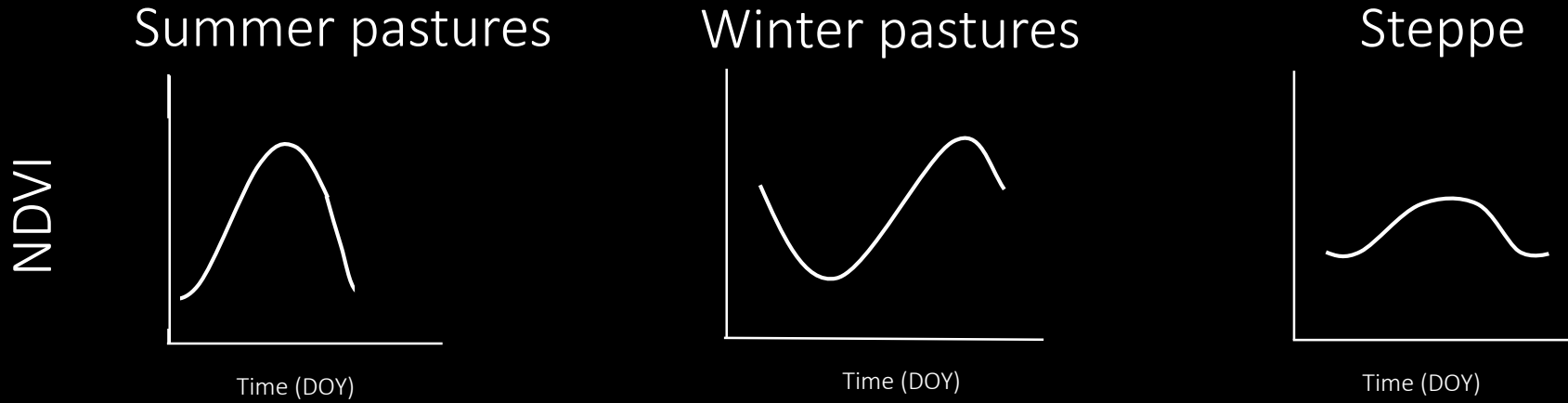
Objective 3: assess the effects of economic cores on land use in peripheries within and across countries



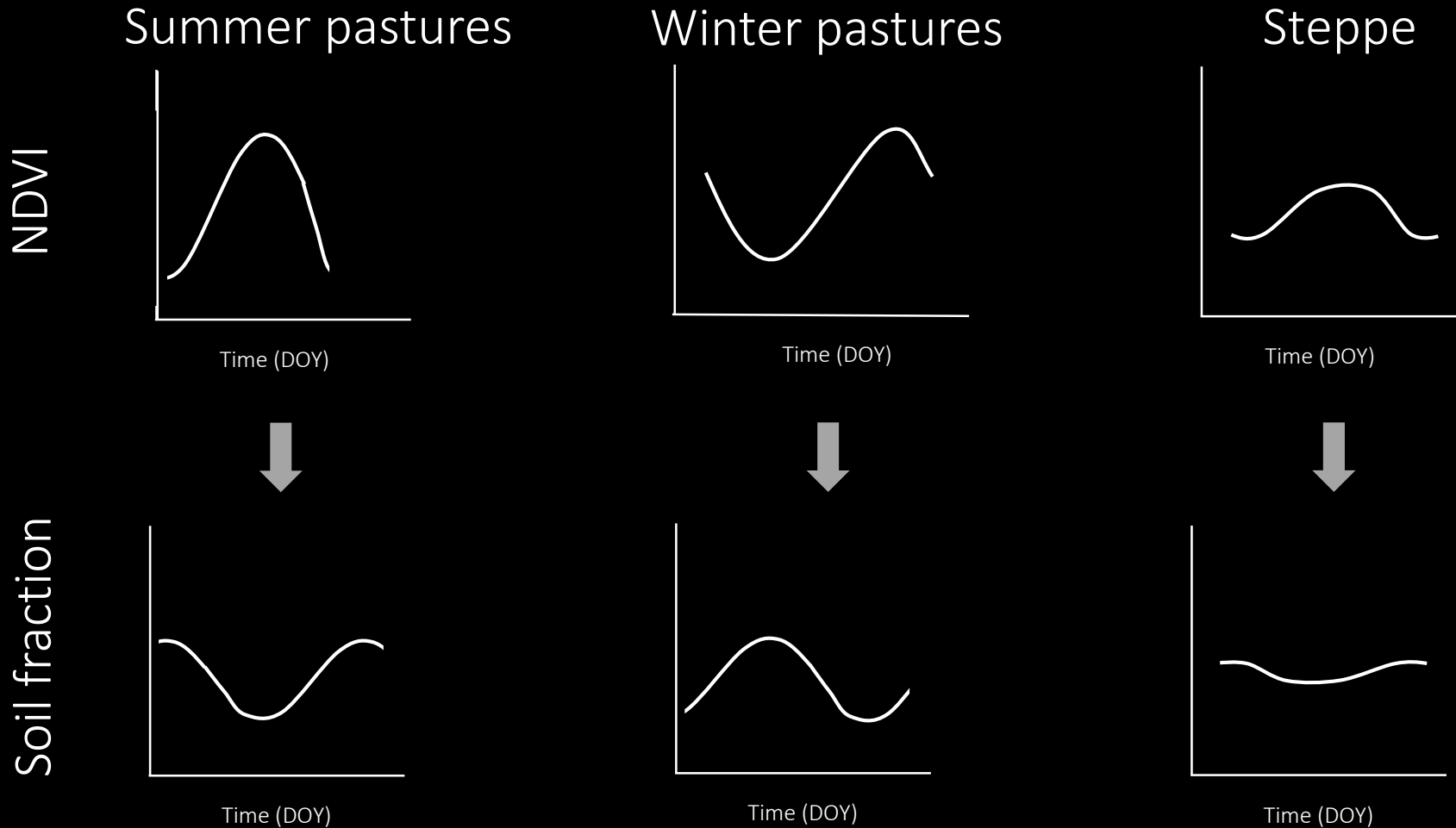
# Methods



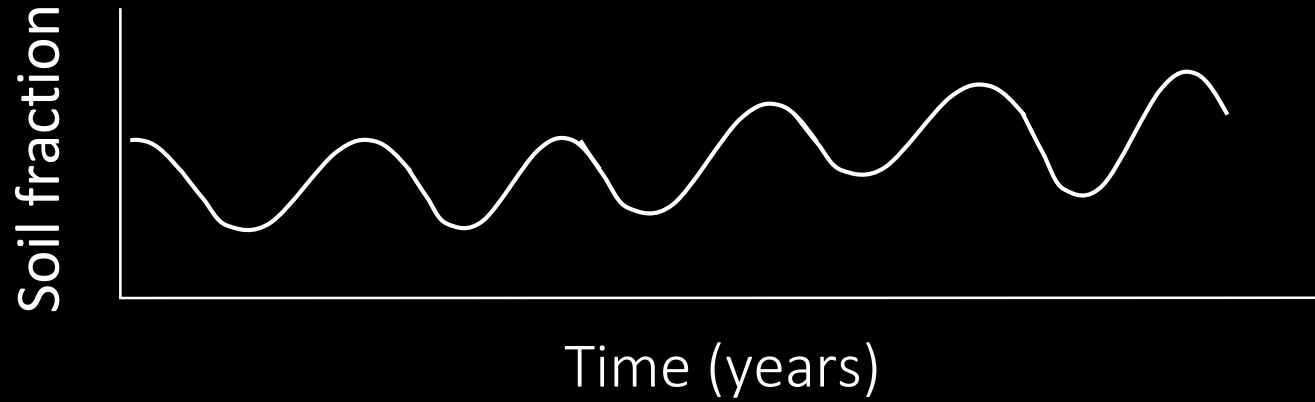
# Methods



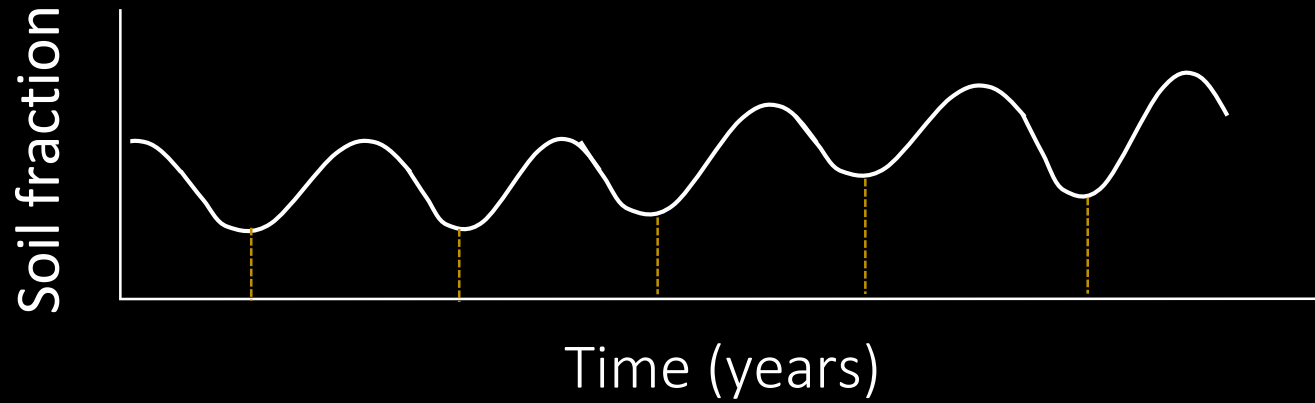
# Methods



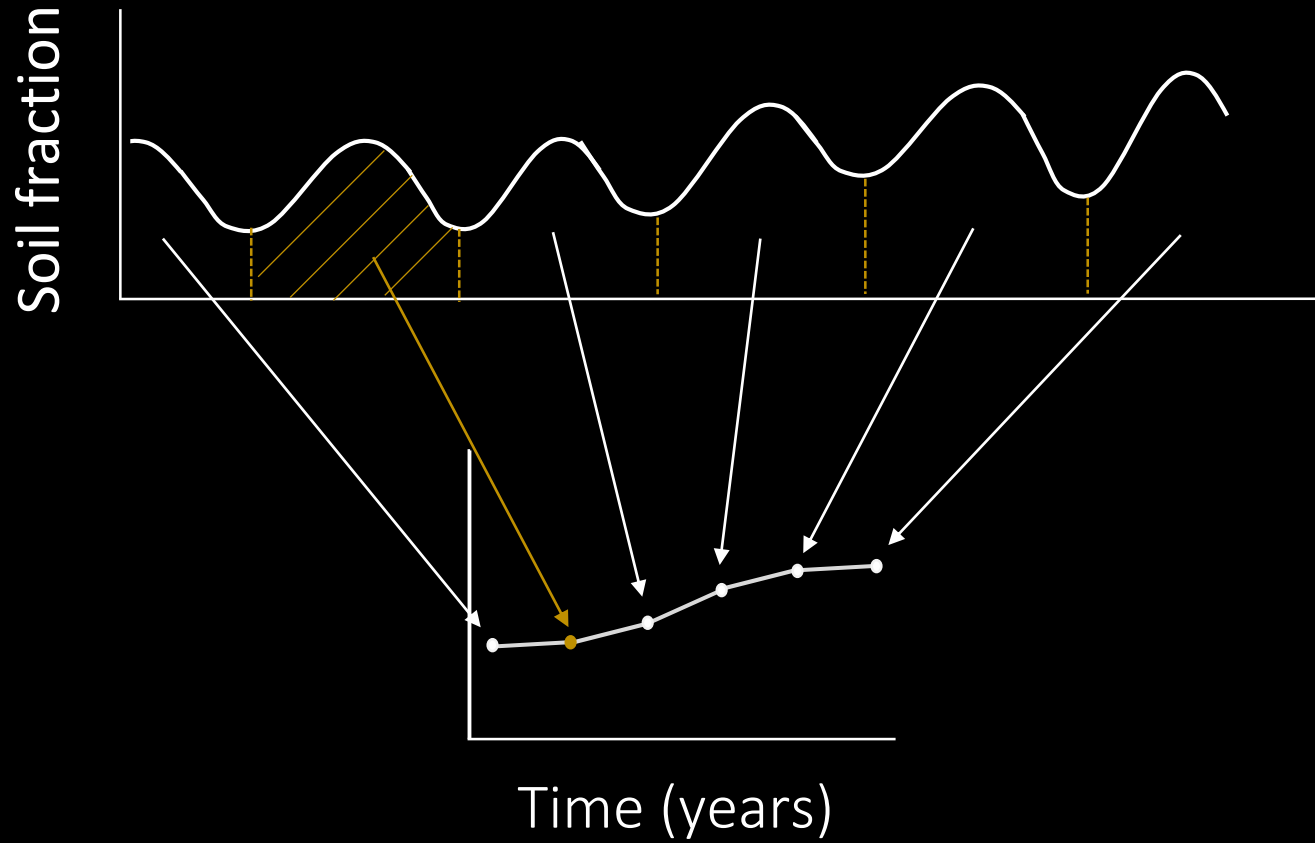
# Methods



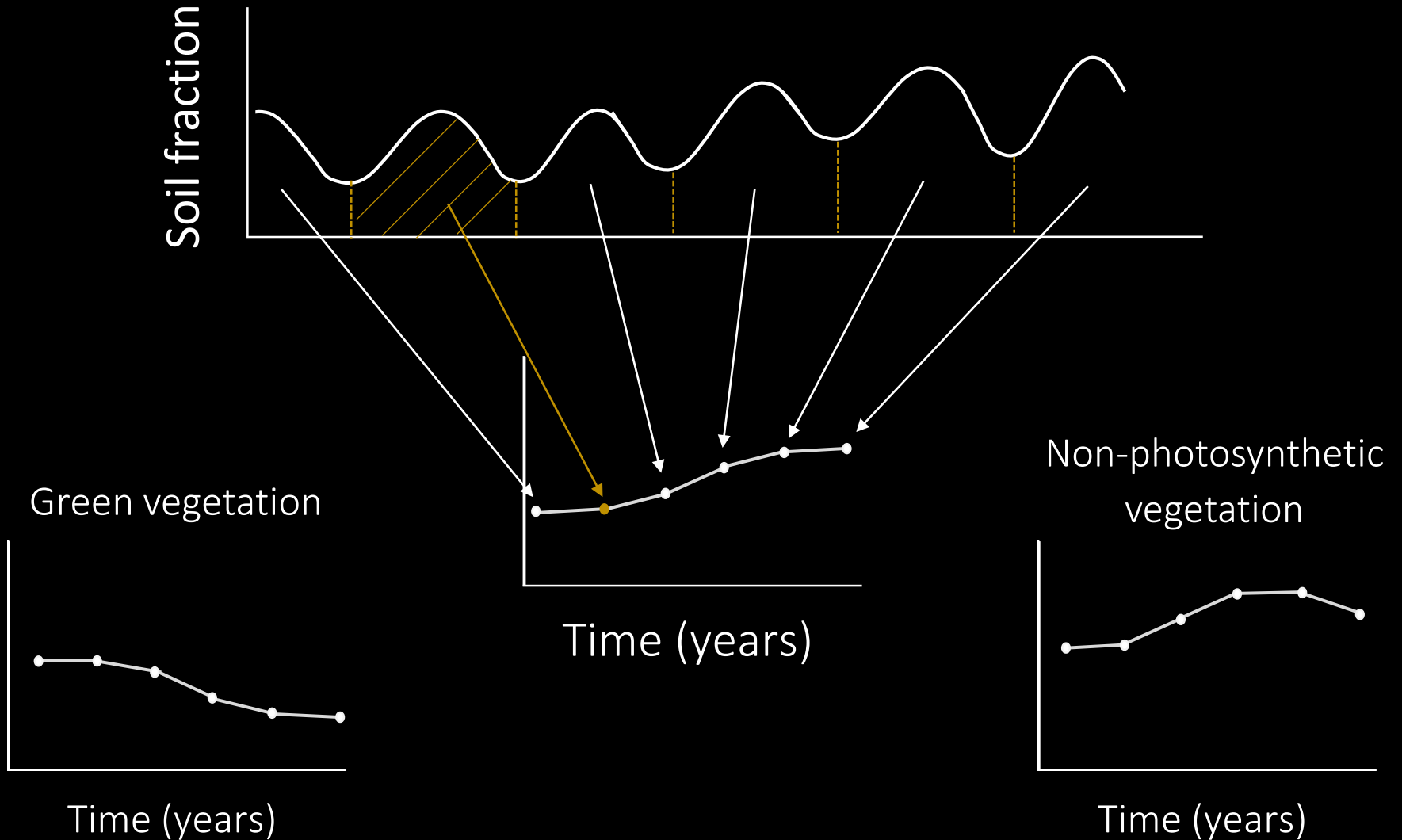
# Methods



# Methods



# Methods

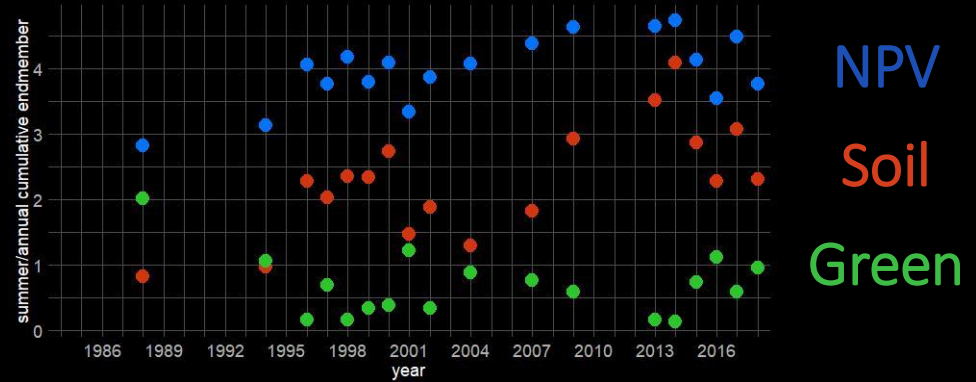


# Results

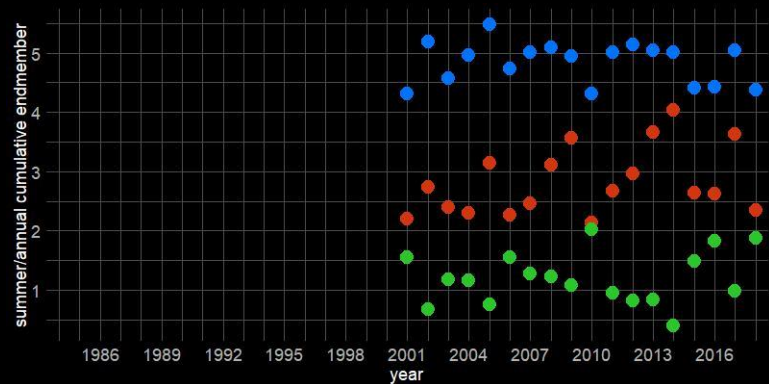
## Winter pasture



## Landsat (1984-2018)



## MODIS (2001-2018)



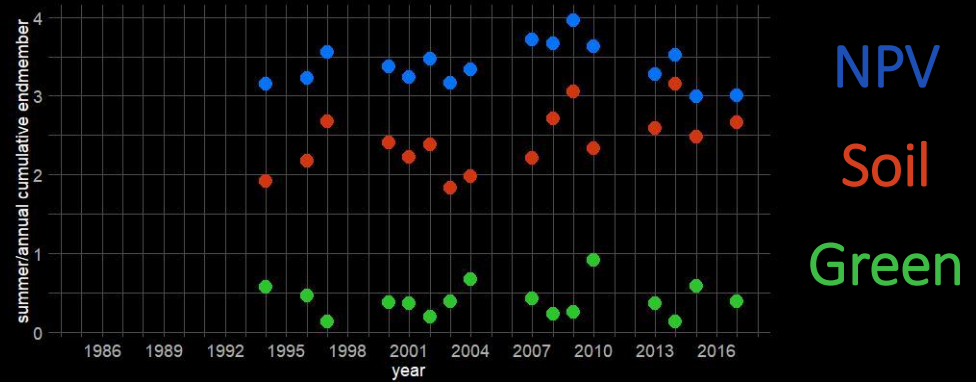


# Results

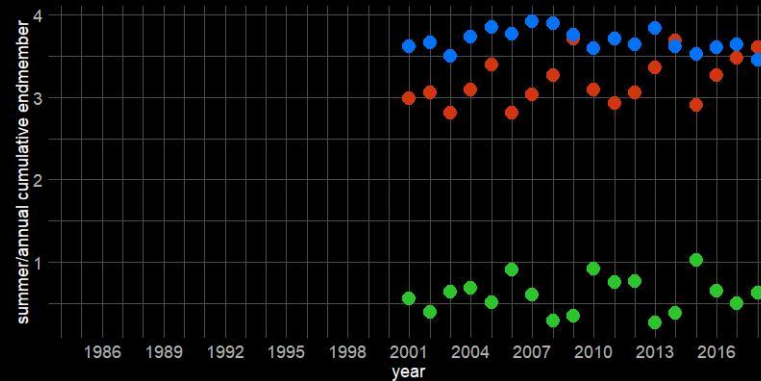
## Winter pasture



## Landsat (1984-2018)



## MODIS (2001-2018)

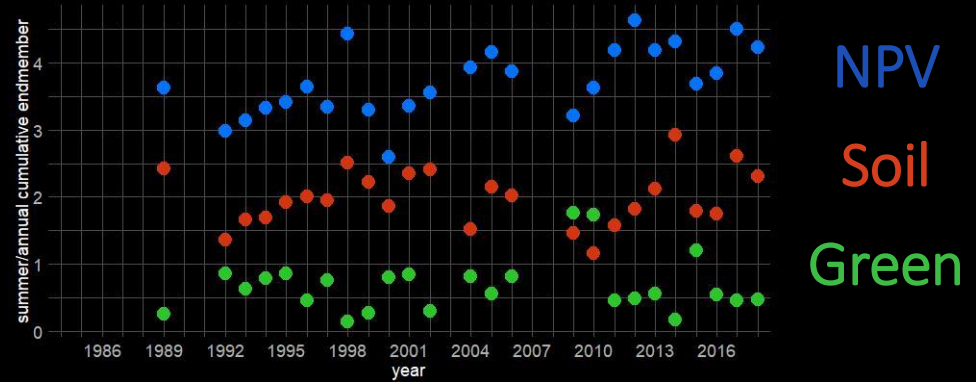


# Results

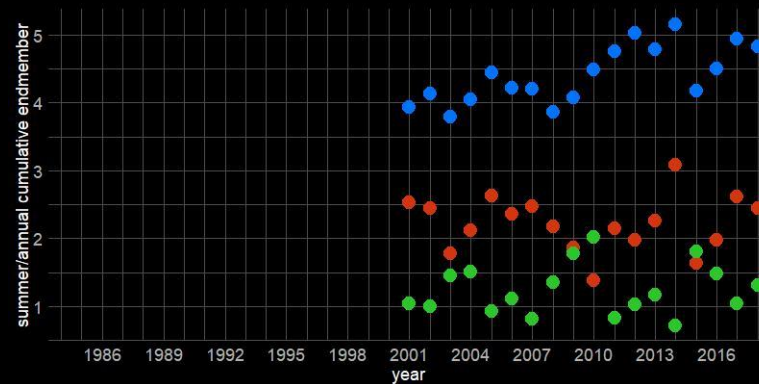
## Summer pasture



## Landsat (1984-2018)



## MODIS (2001-2018)

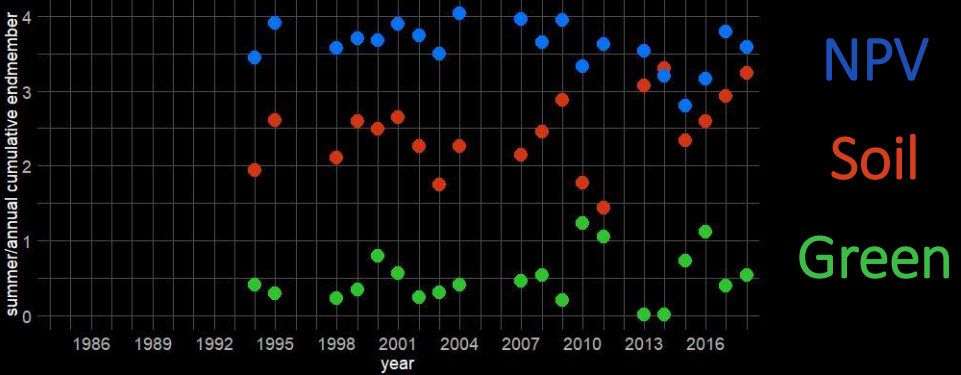


# Results

## Rangeland



## Landsat (1984-2018)

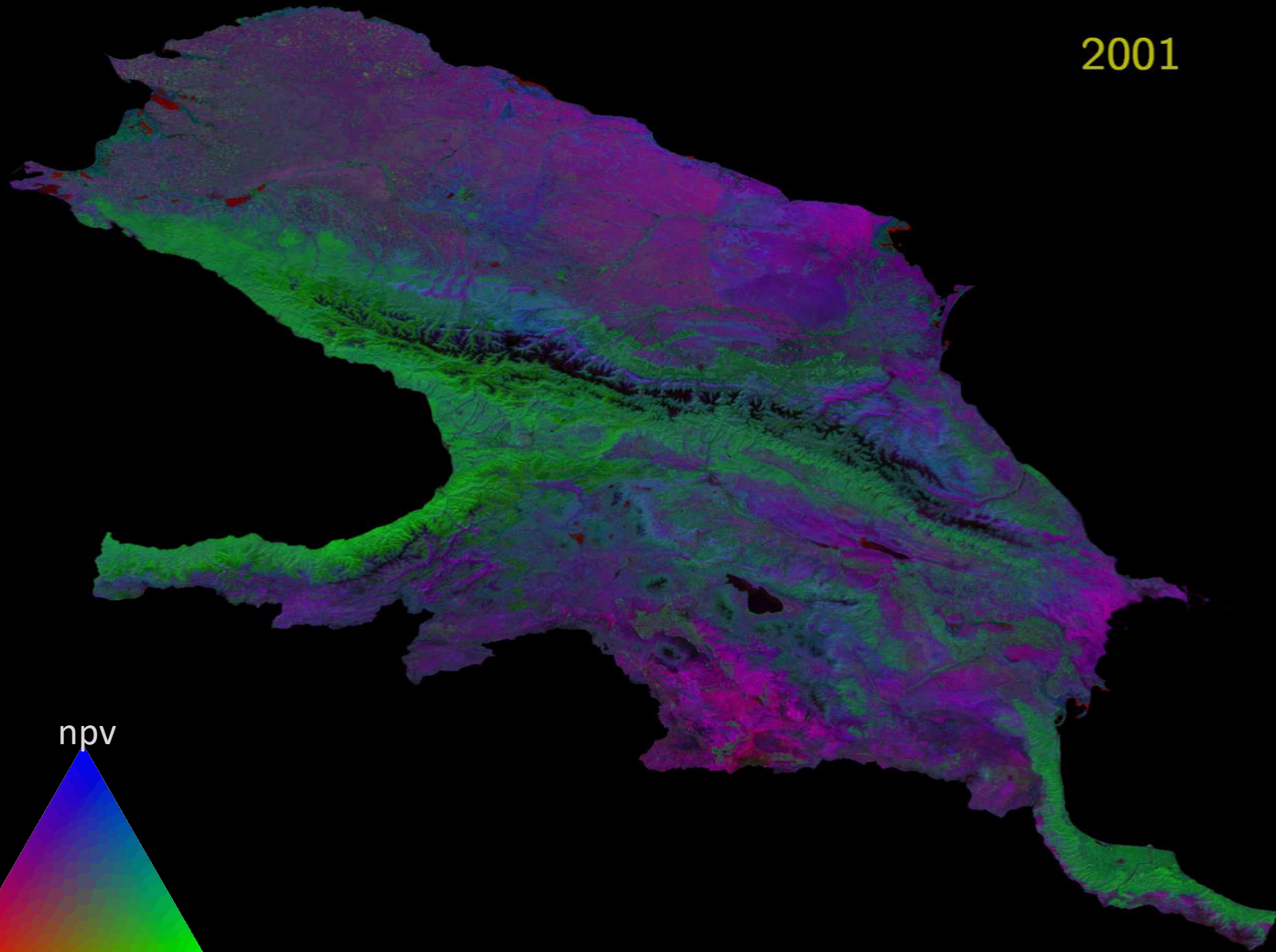
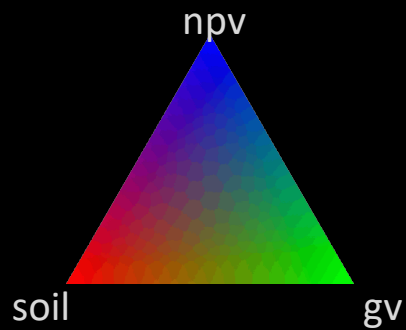


## MODIS (2001-2018)

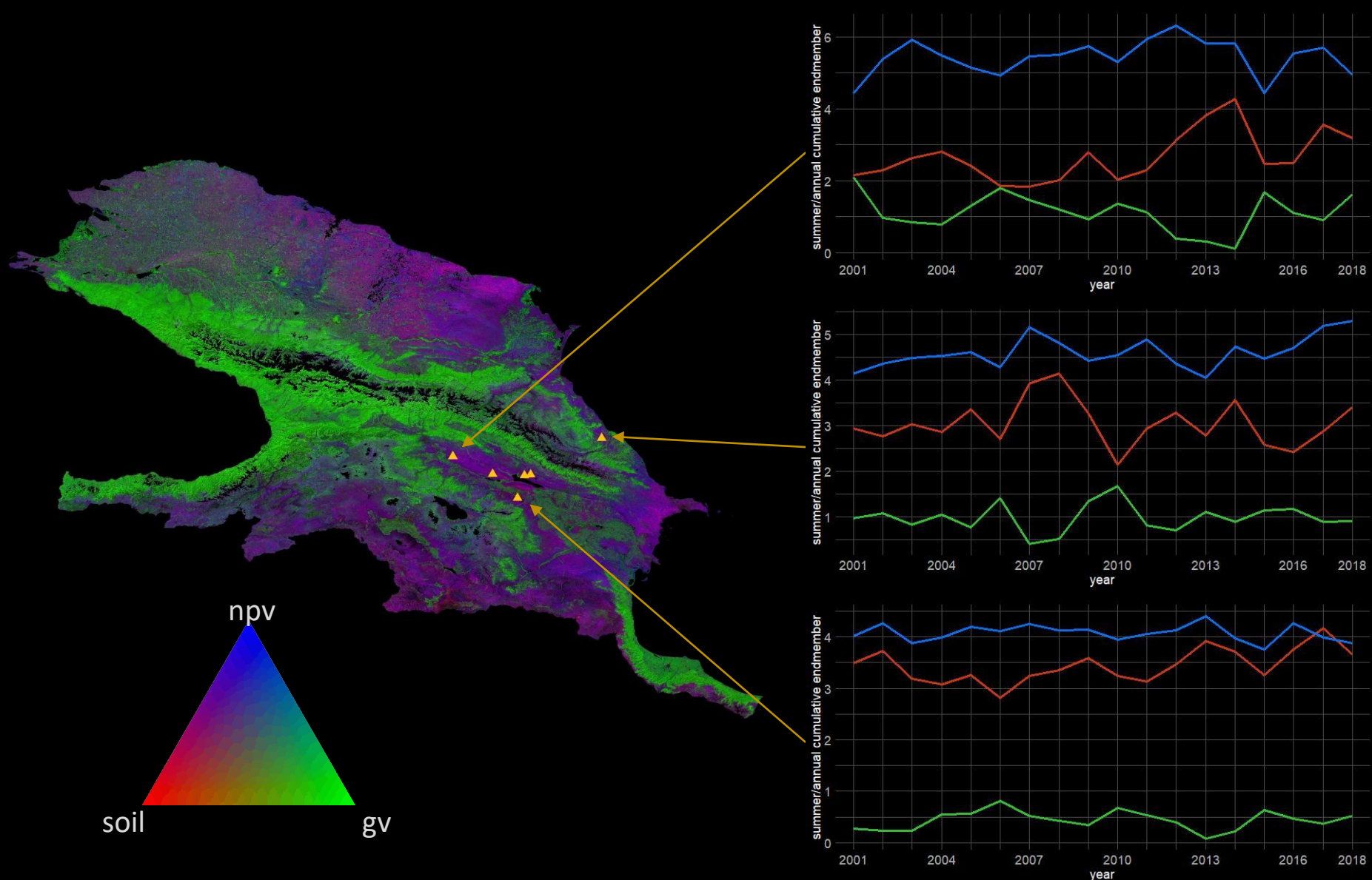


# Results

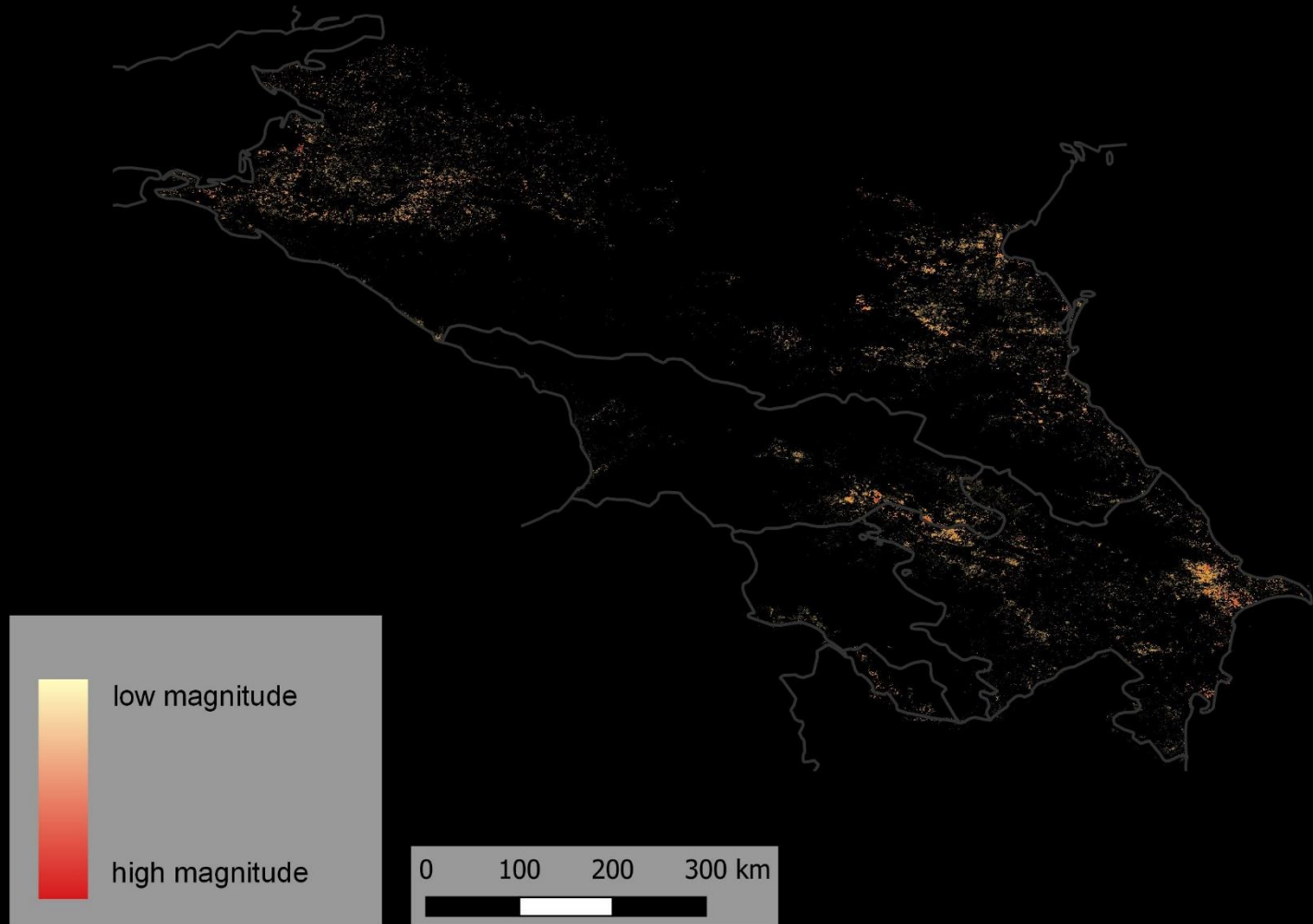
2001



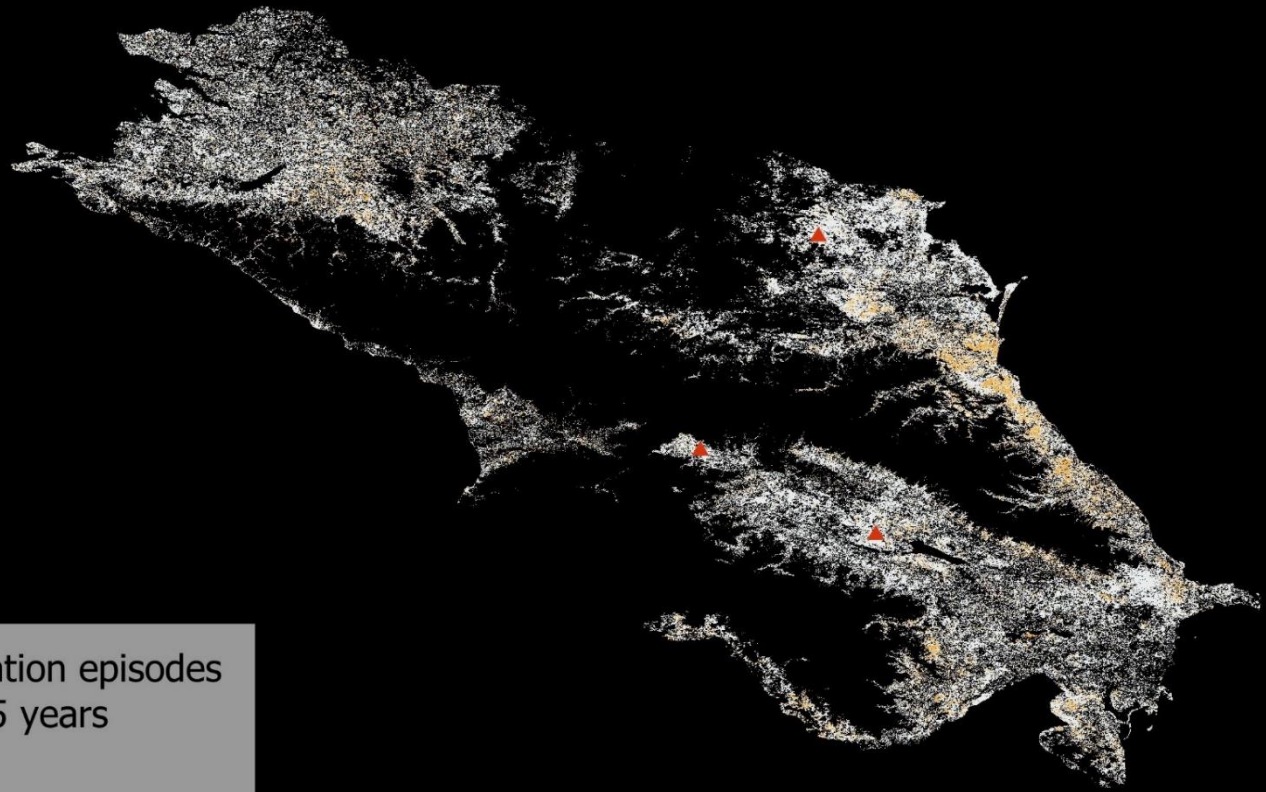
# Results



# Results



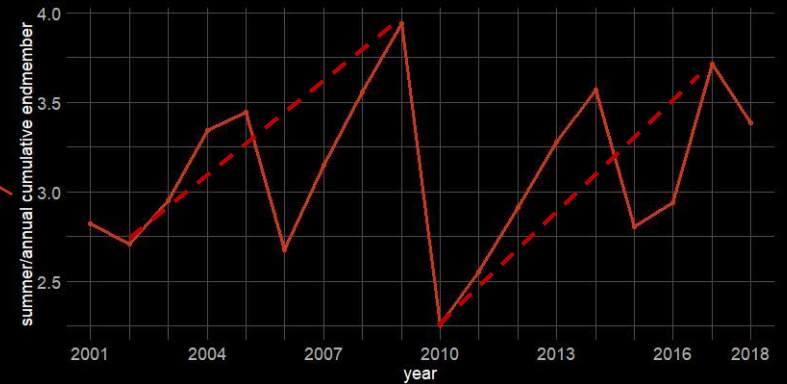
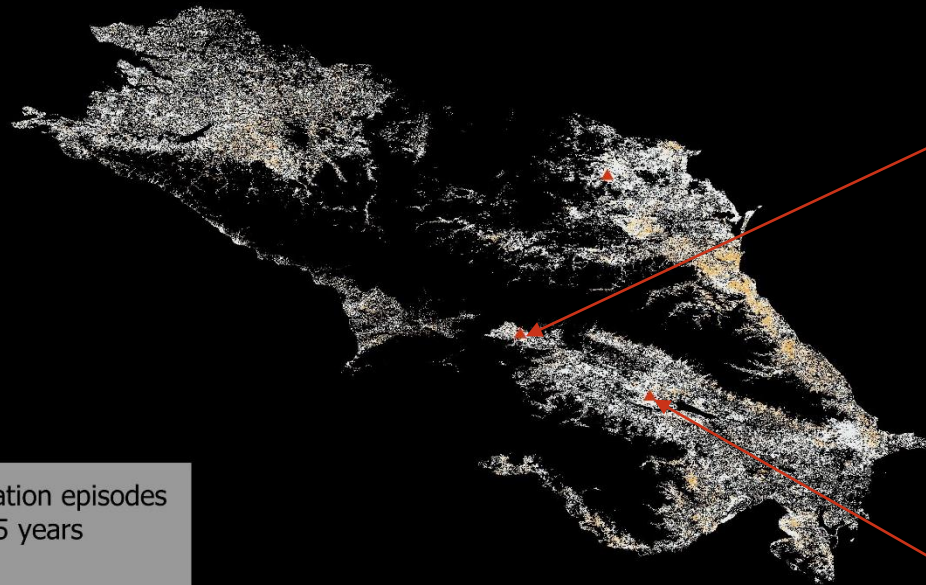
# Results



degradation episodes  
of min 5 years

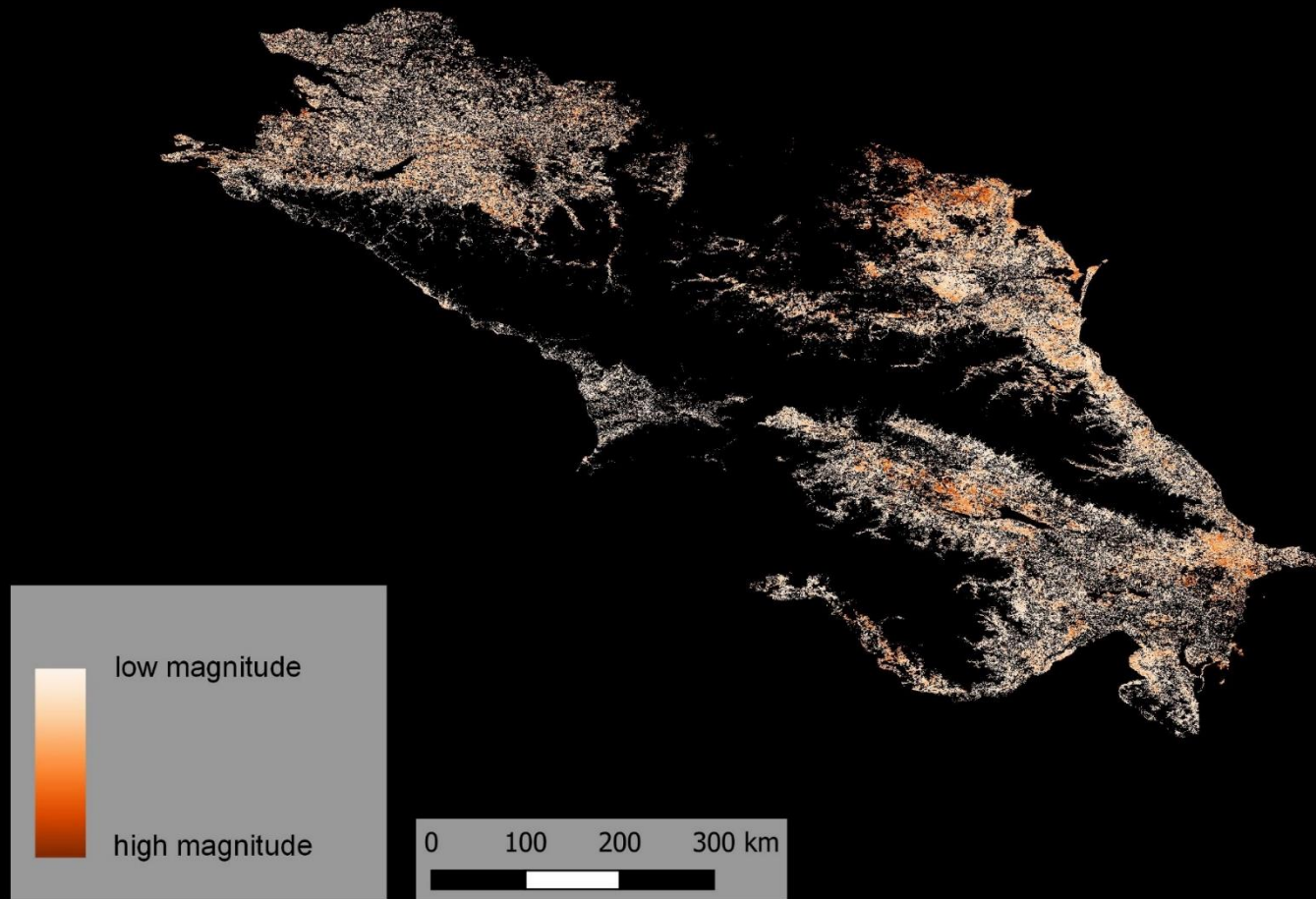


# Results

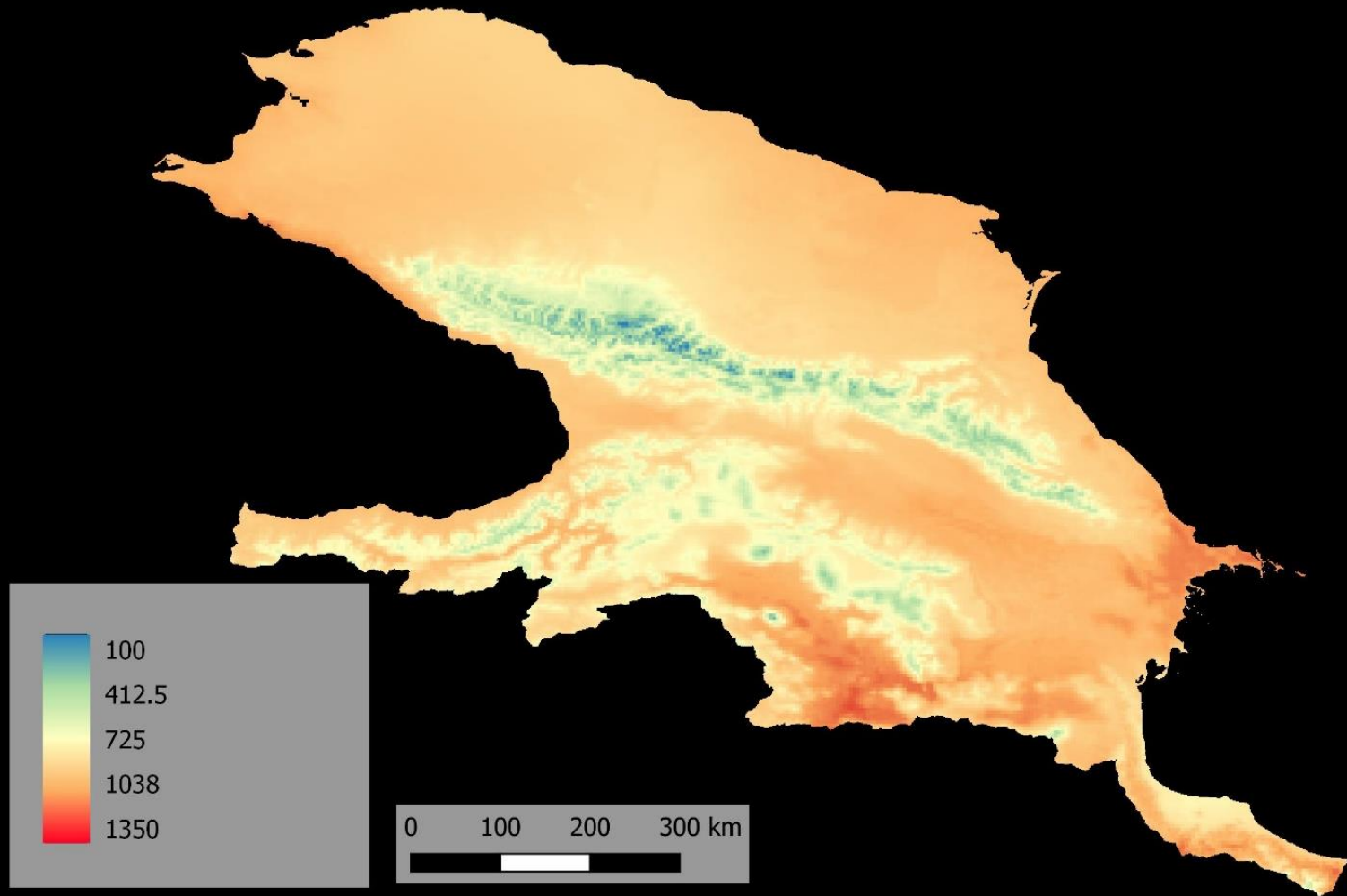




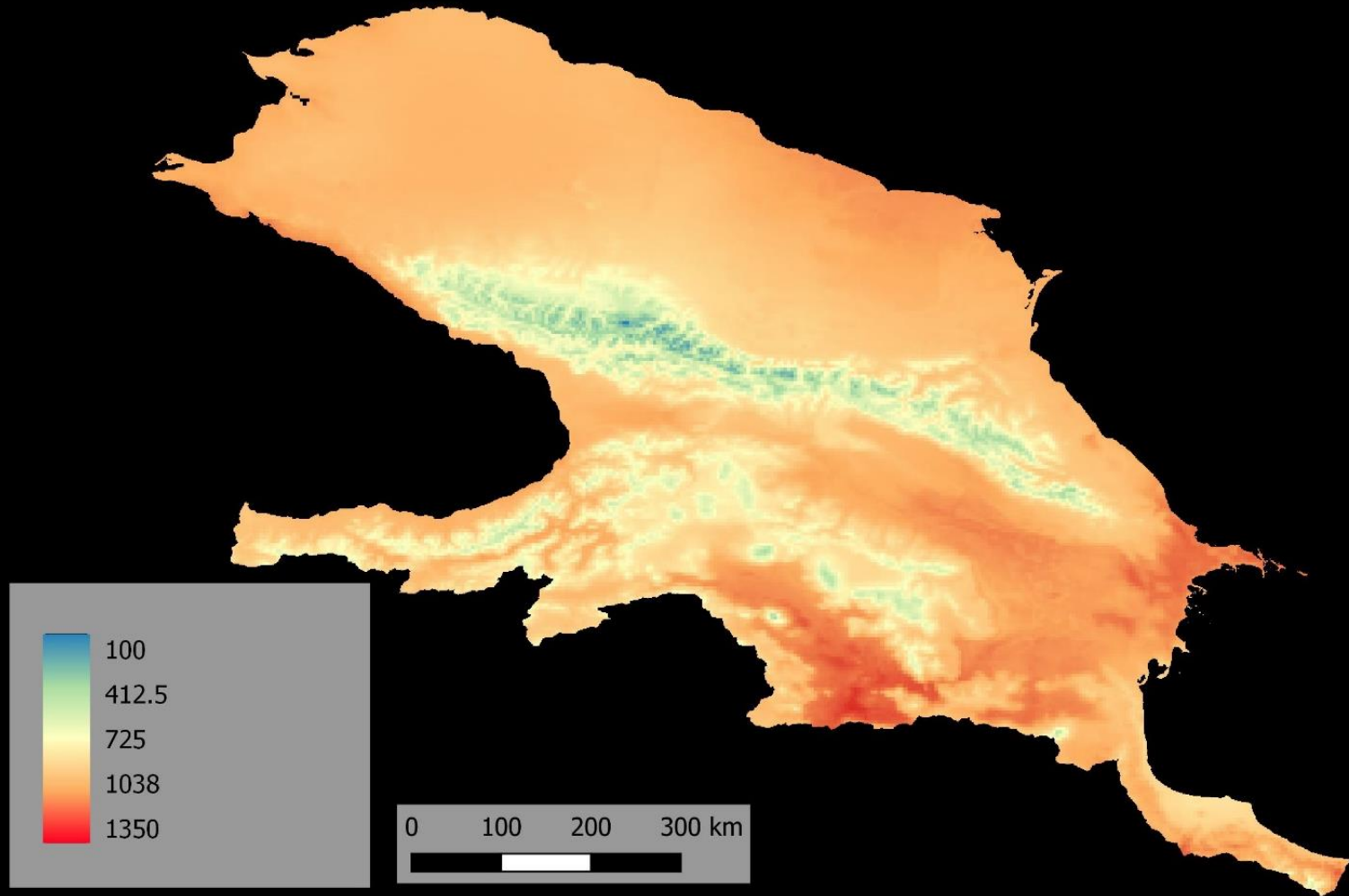
# Results



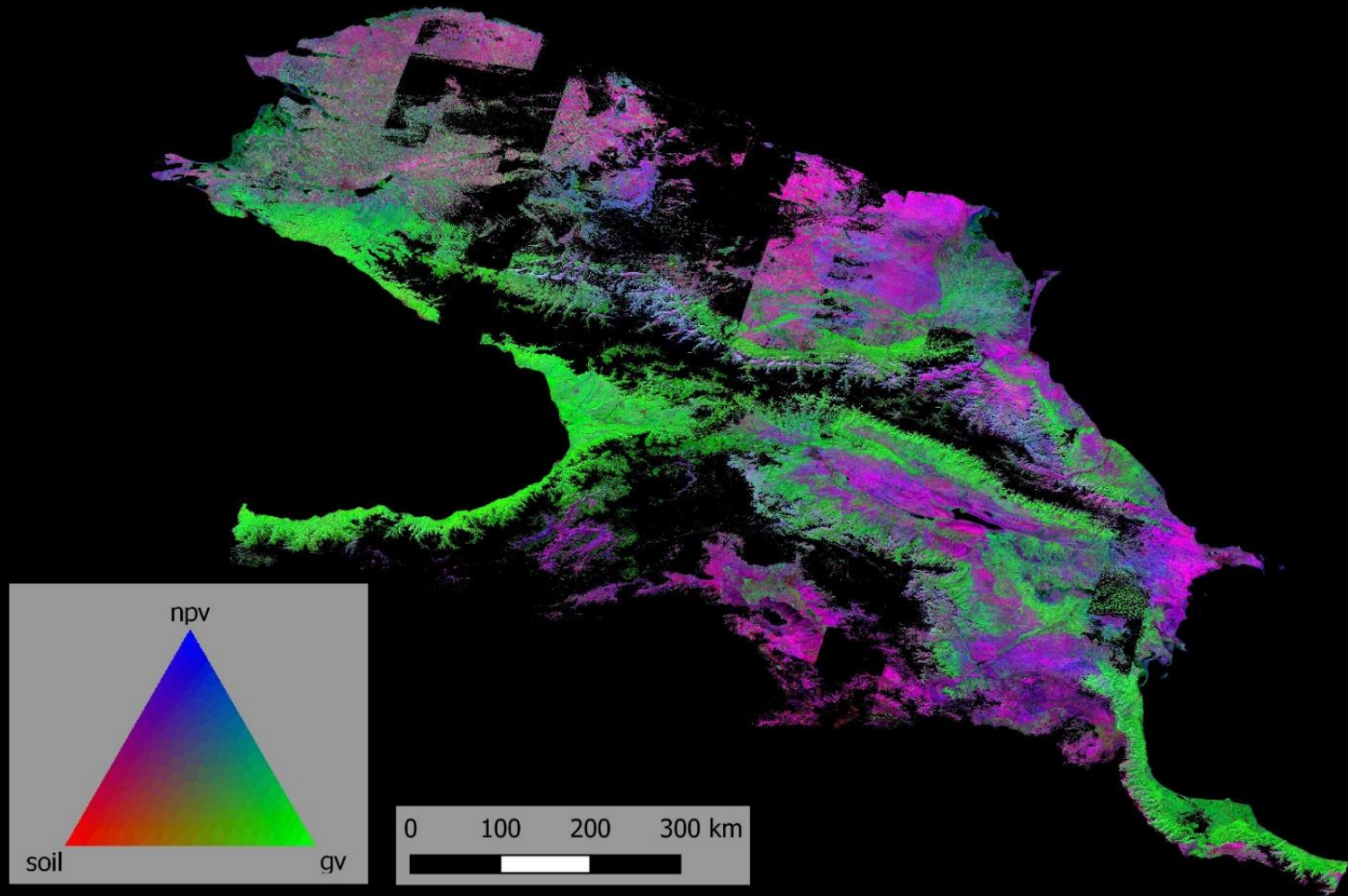
# Results



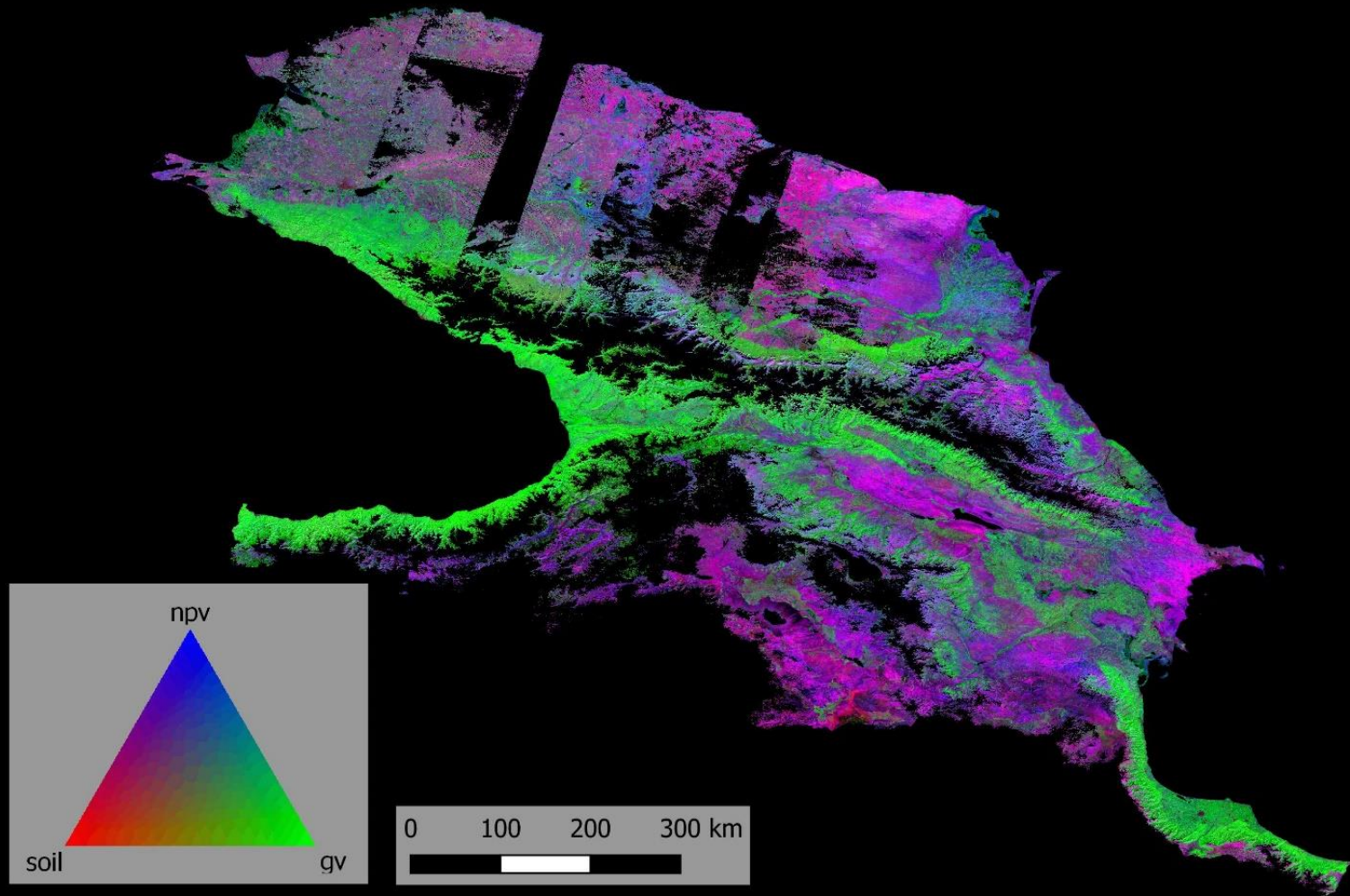
# Results



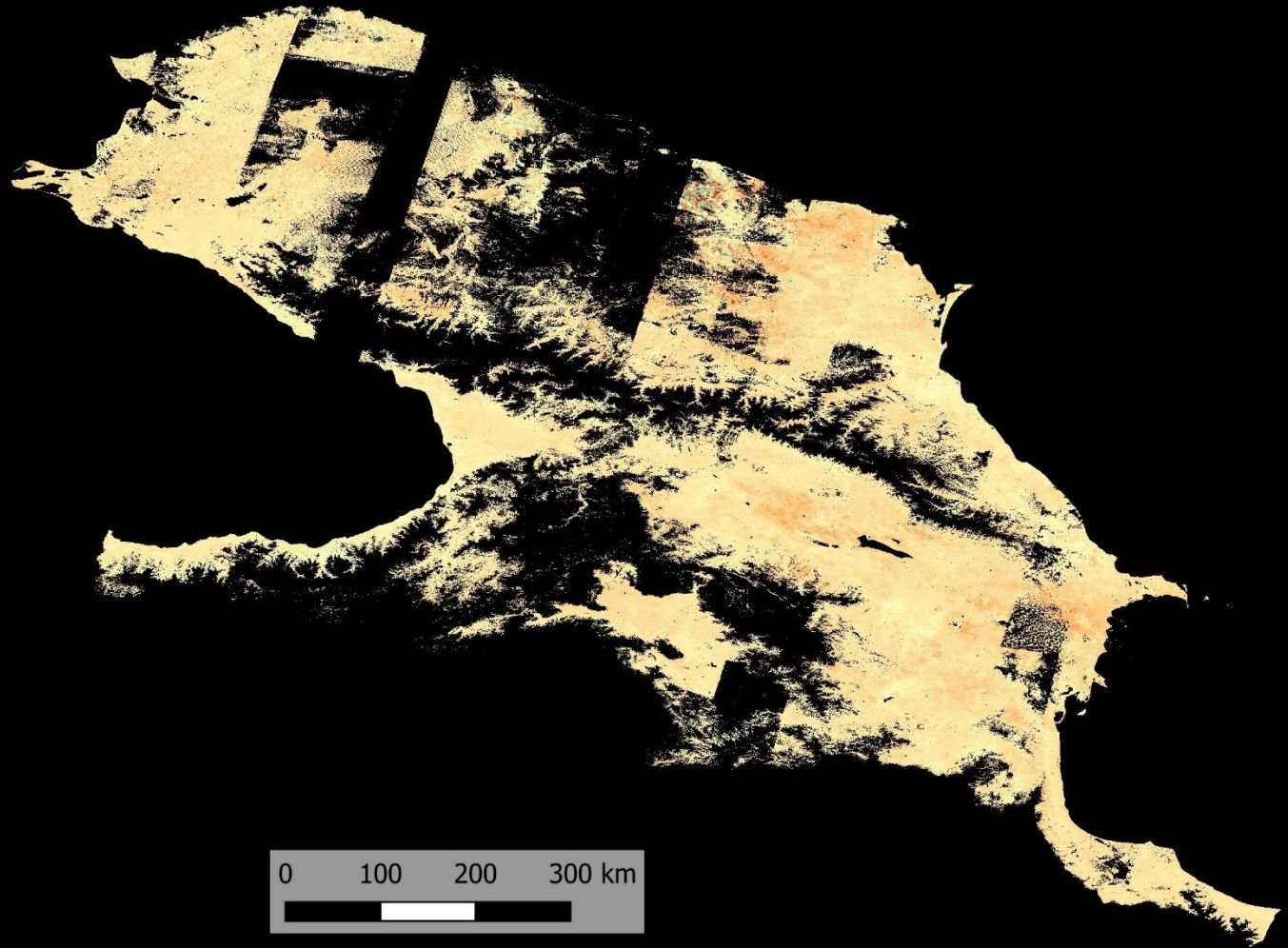
# Results



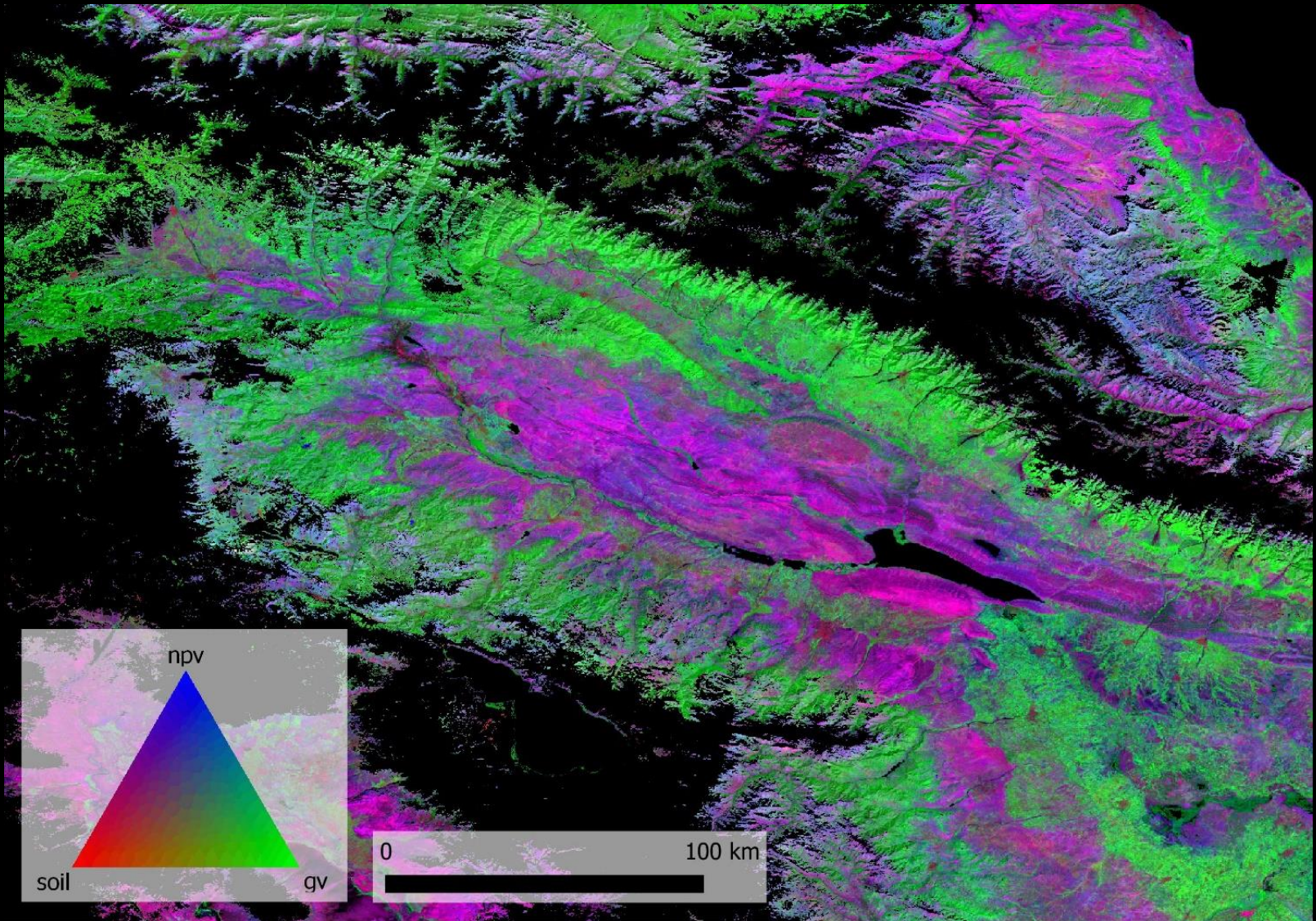
# Results



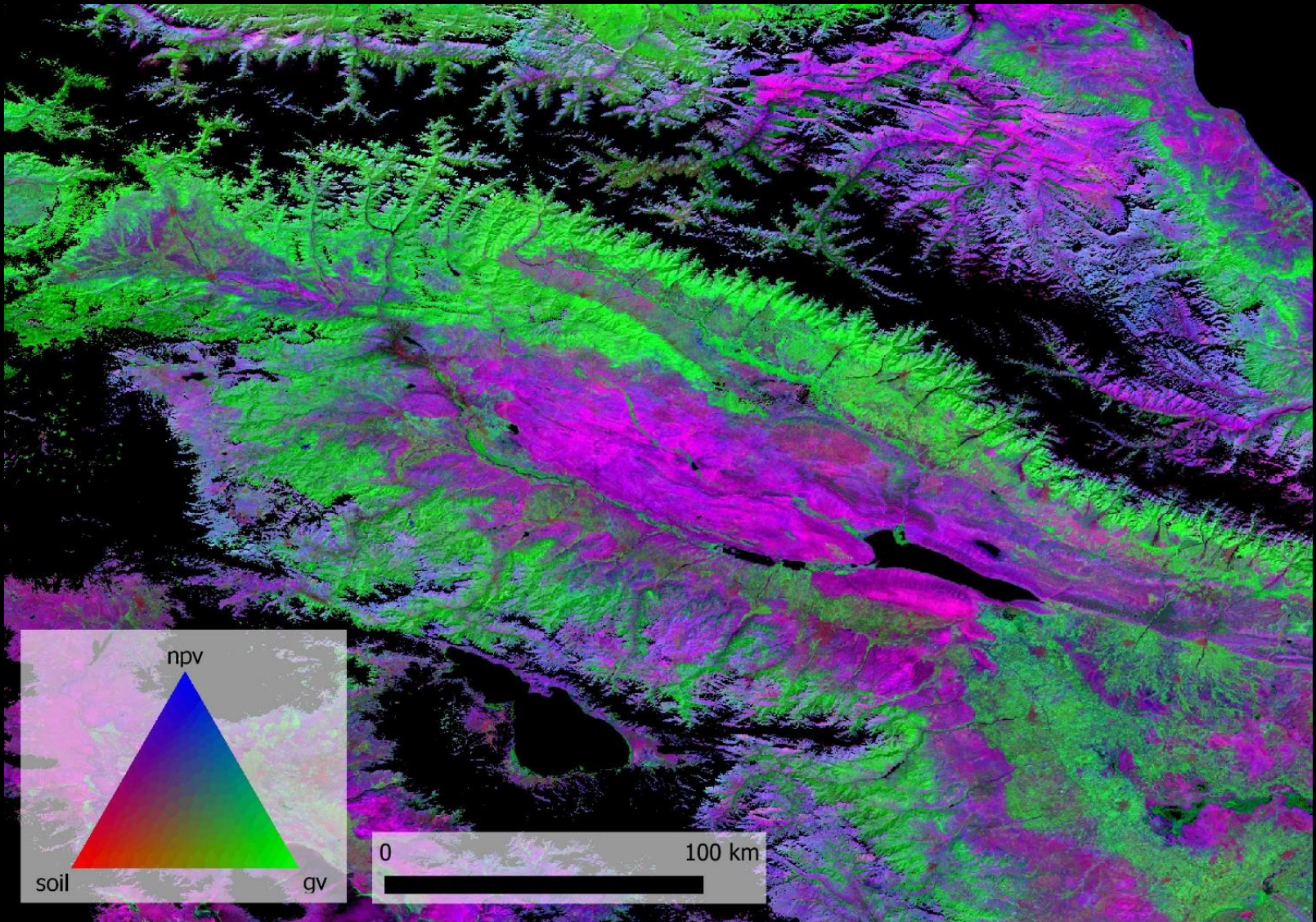
# Results



# Results

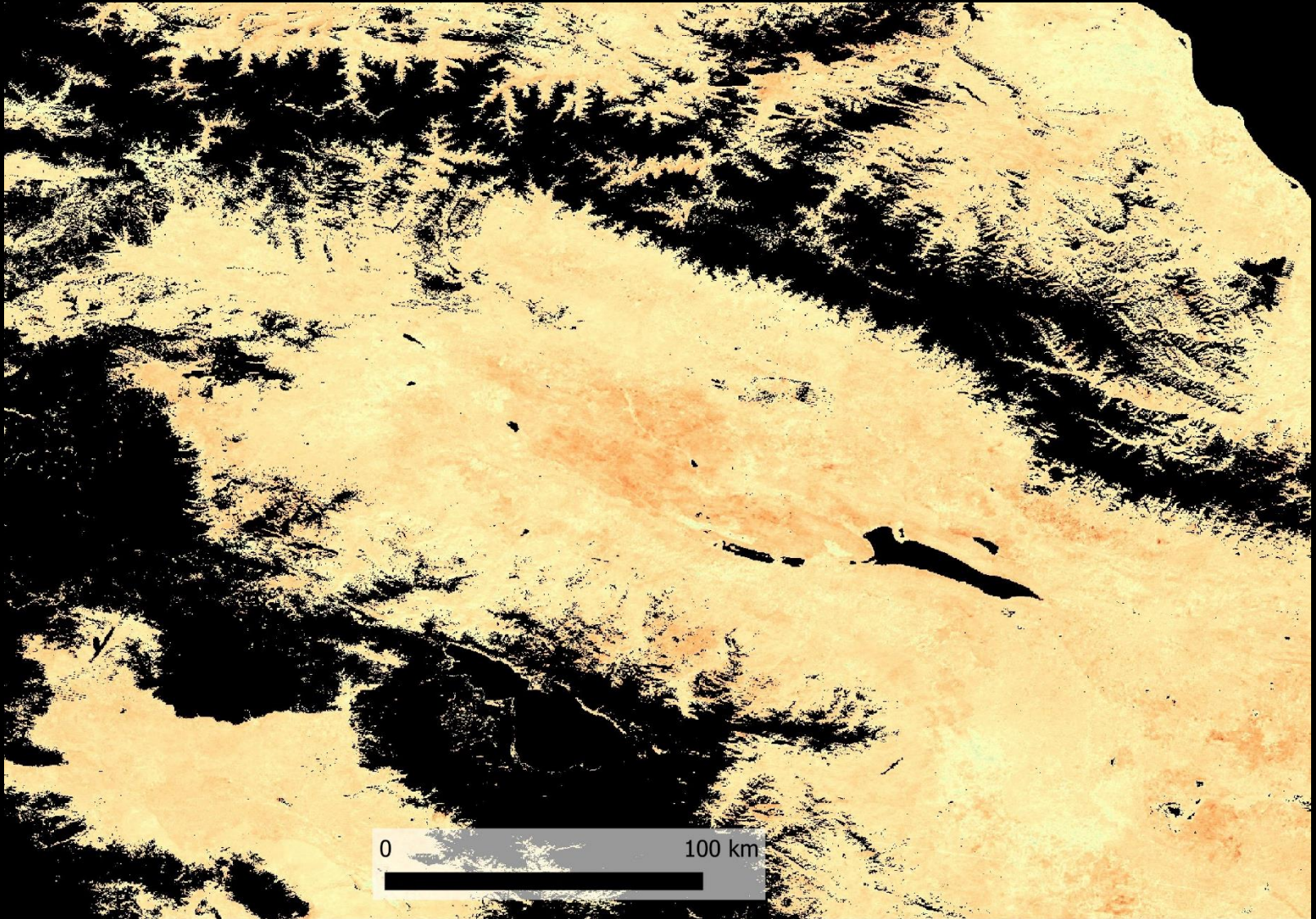


# Results





# Results



# Goals

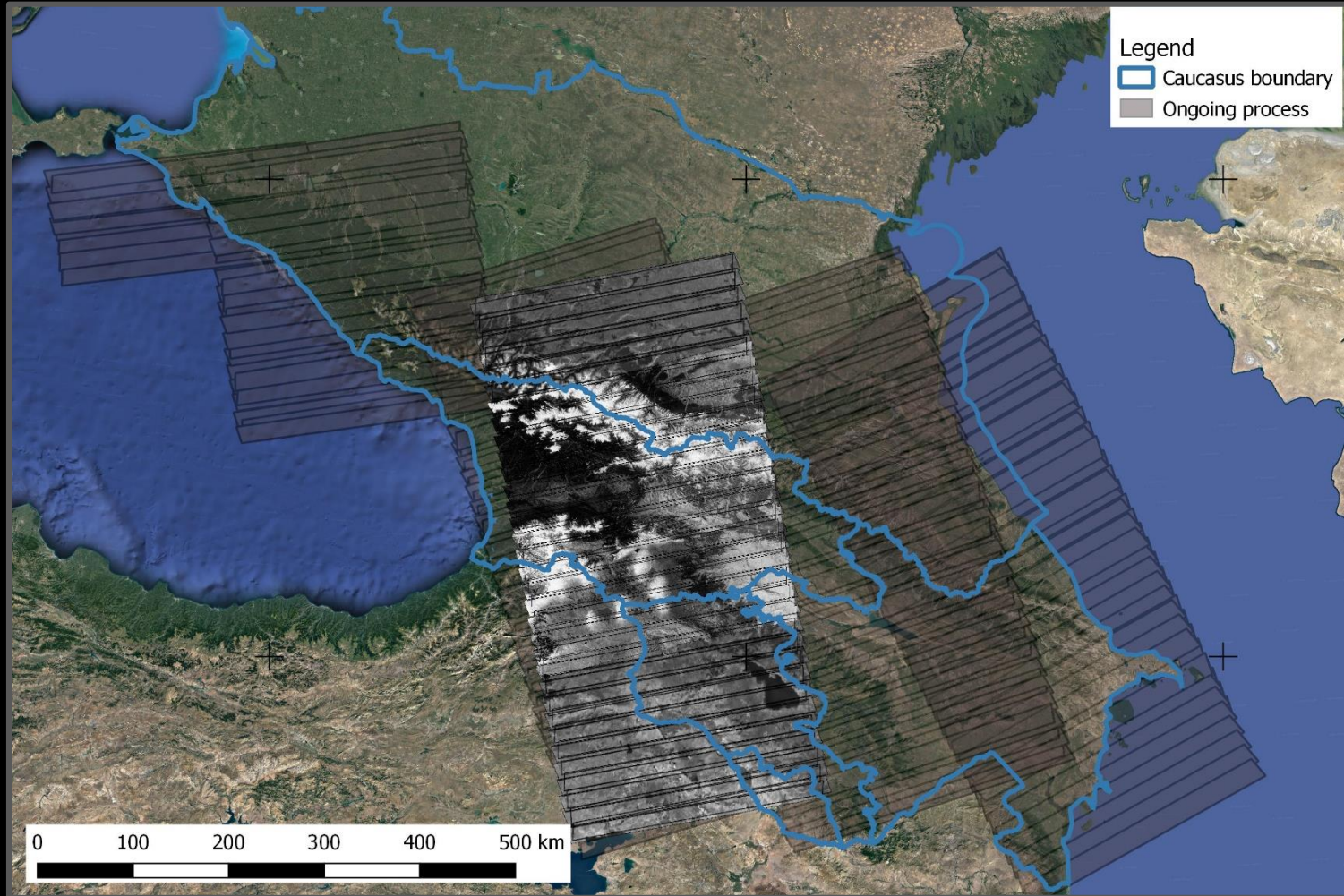
*Our main goal is to study land degradation in the Caucasus*

Objective 1: map forest and grassland degradation across the Caucasus from 1985-2015

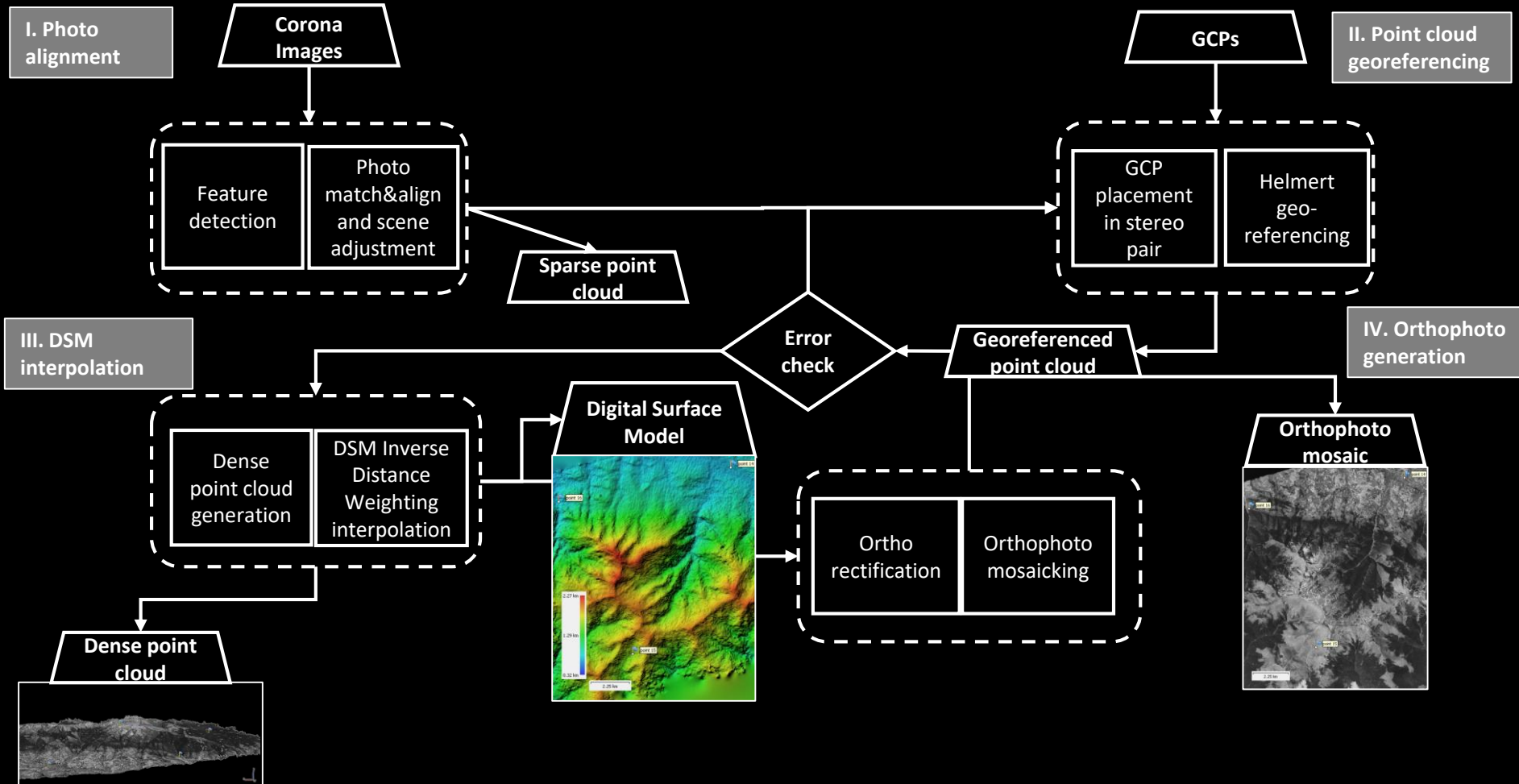
Objective 2: quantify long-term land use change with 1960s and '70s Corona imagery

Objective 3: assess the effects of economic cores on land use in peripheries within and across countries

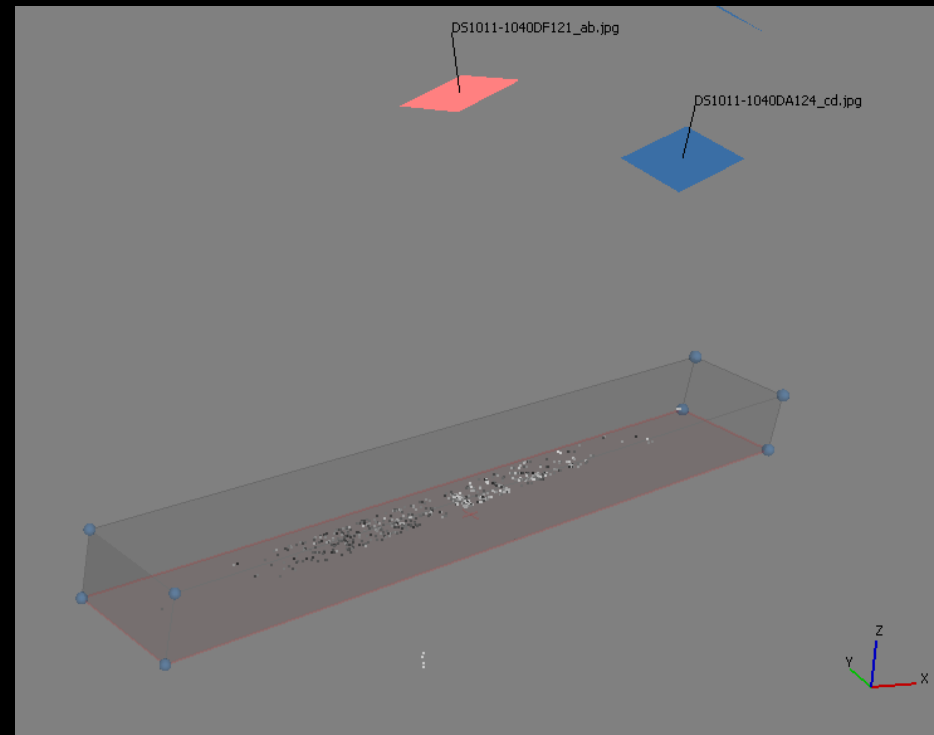
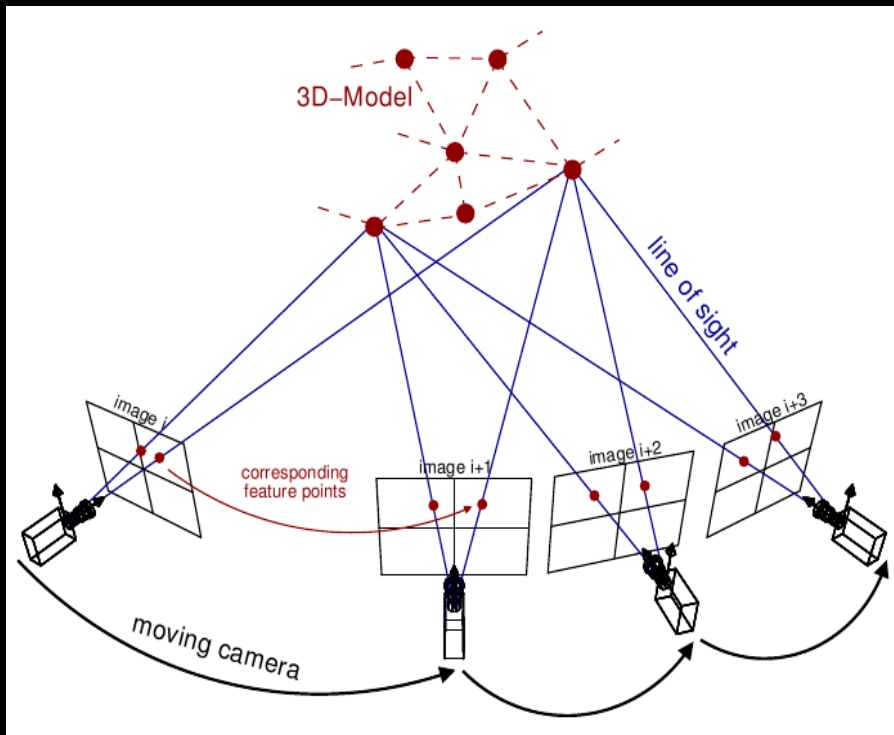
# Corona imagery



# Corona orthorectification workflow



# I. Photo Alignment



Align Cameras using Structure from Motion algorithm

# II. Point cloud georeferencing



Afterward Camera



Forward Camera



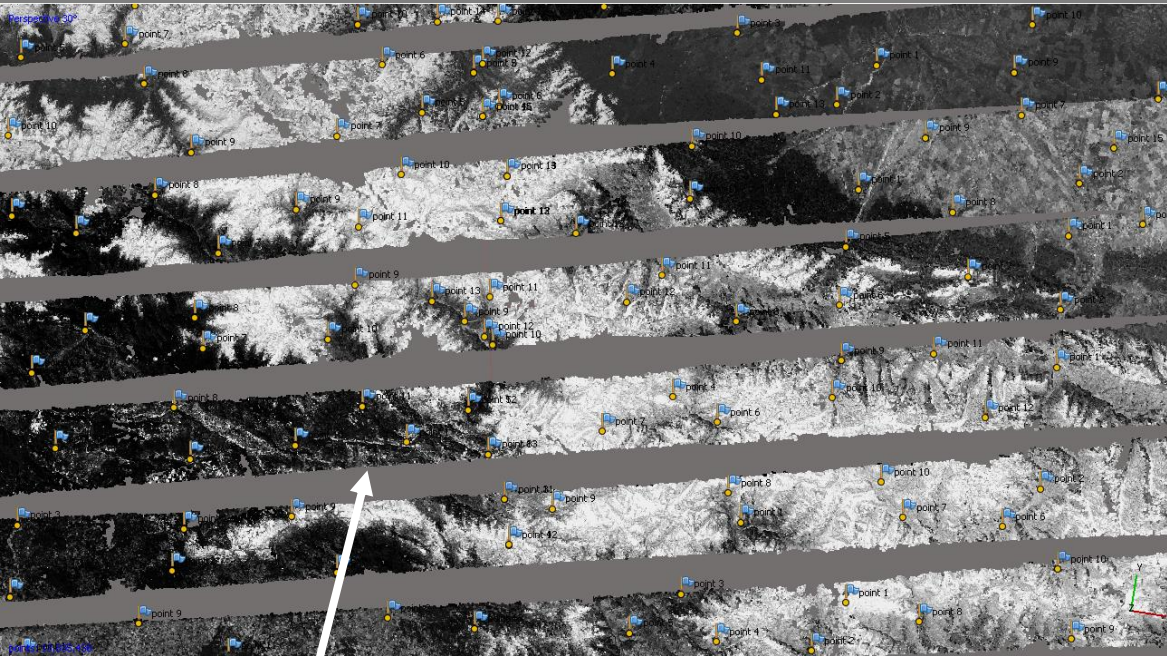
High-res Image (x,y)



SRTM (z)

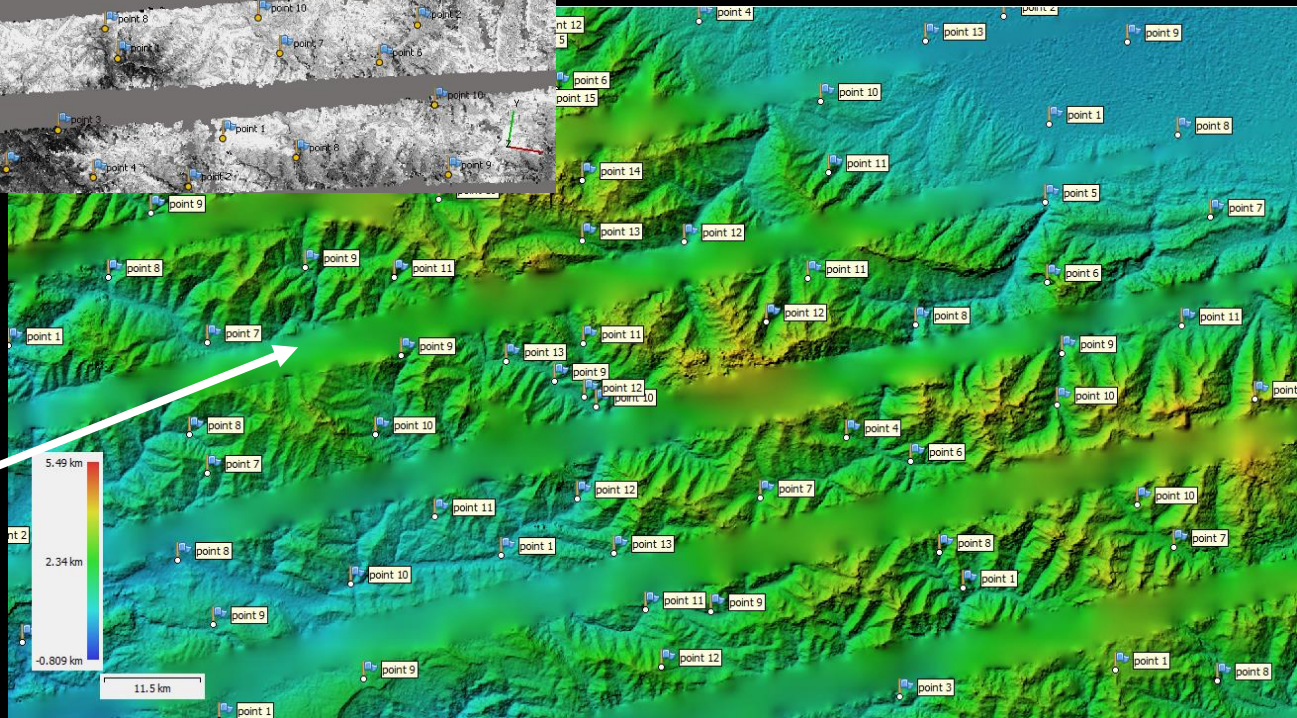


# III. DSM interpolation

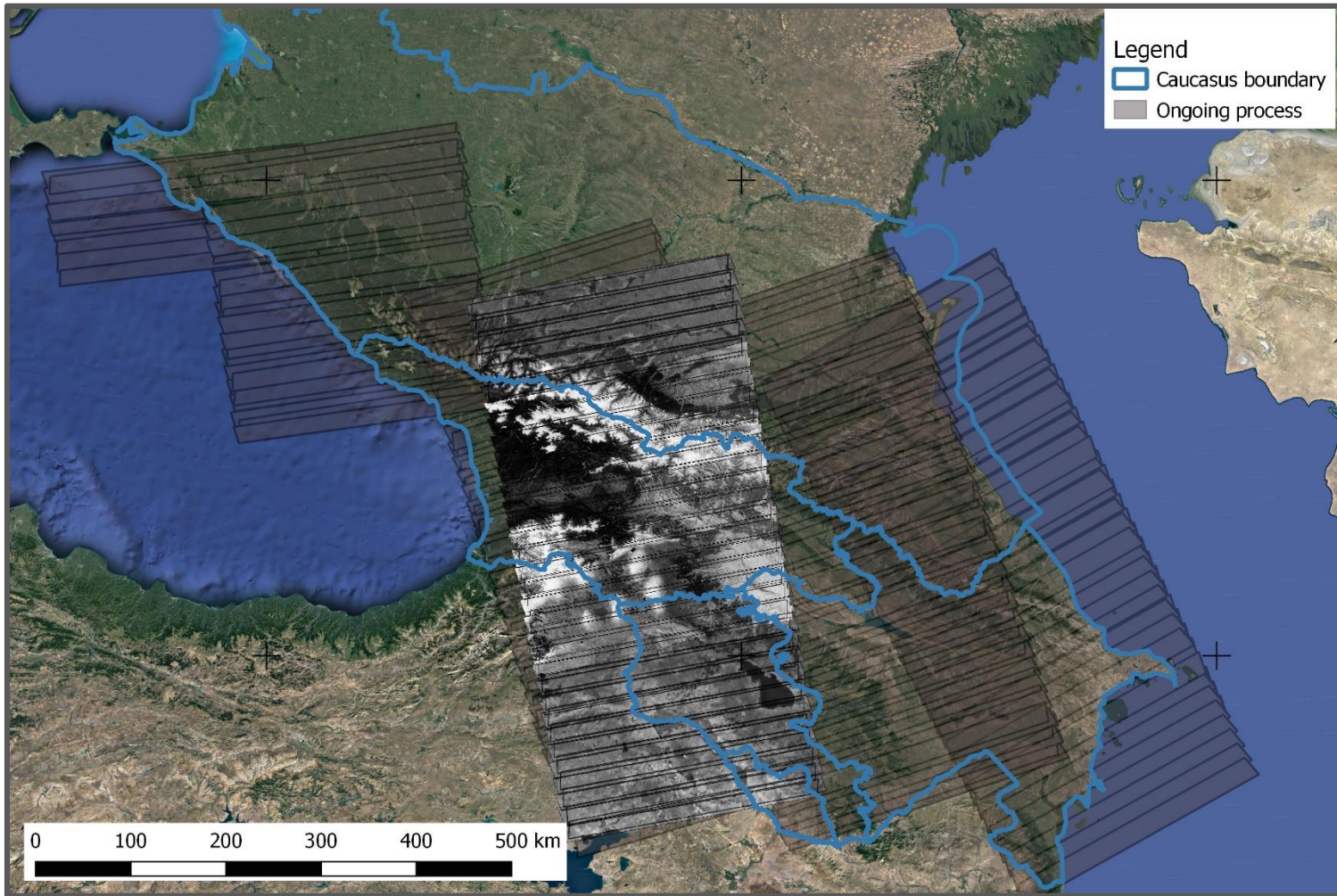


Dense Point Clouds joined from neighboring Corona stereo stripes

Some missions are “stereo medium”, and we have to fill holes in stereo-coverage between stripes using SRTM



# Corona imagery





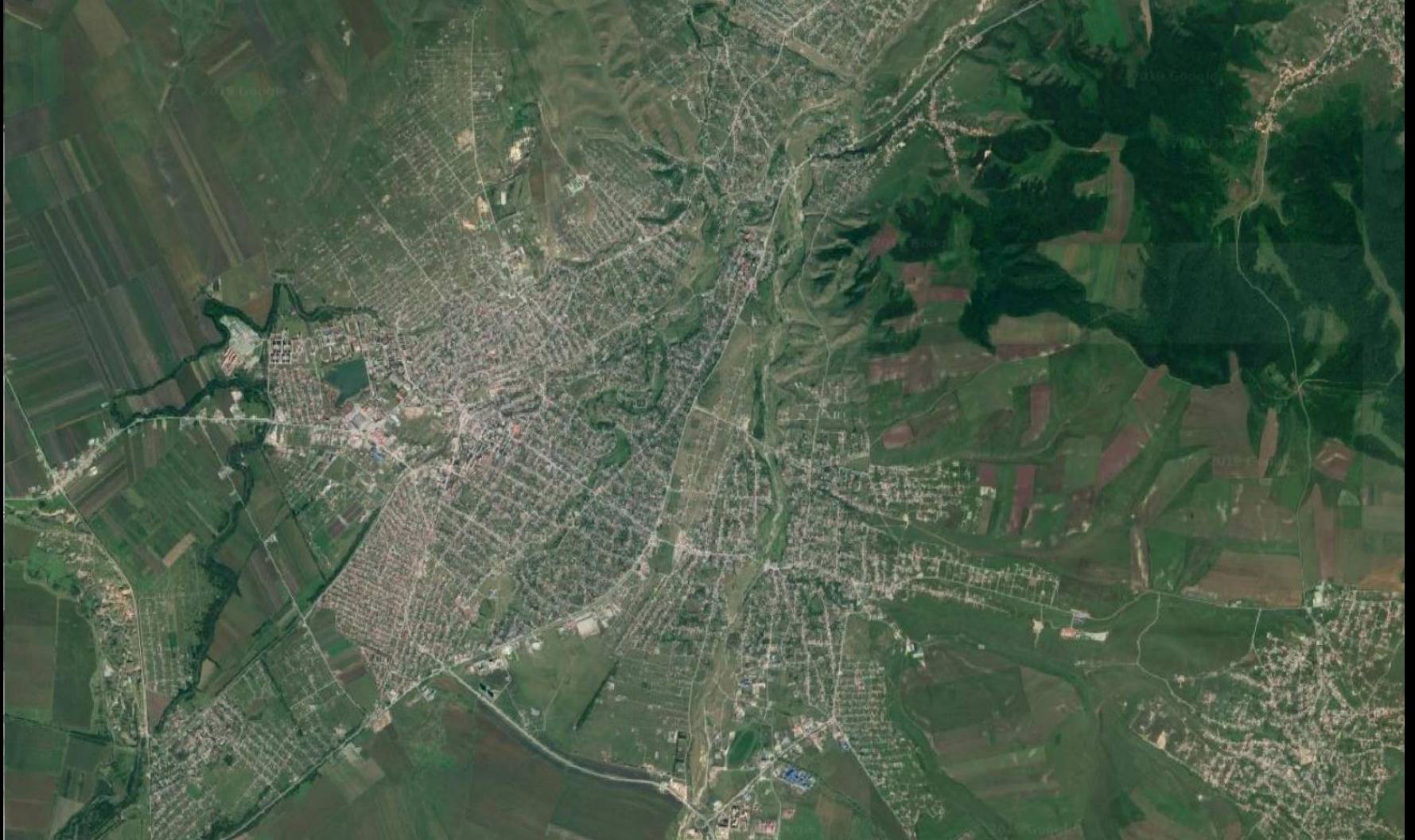
# Results



# Results



# Results



# Results

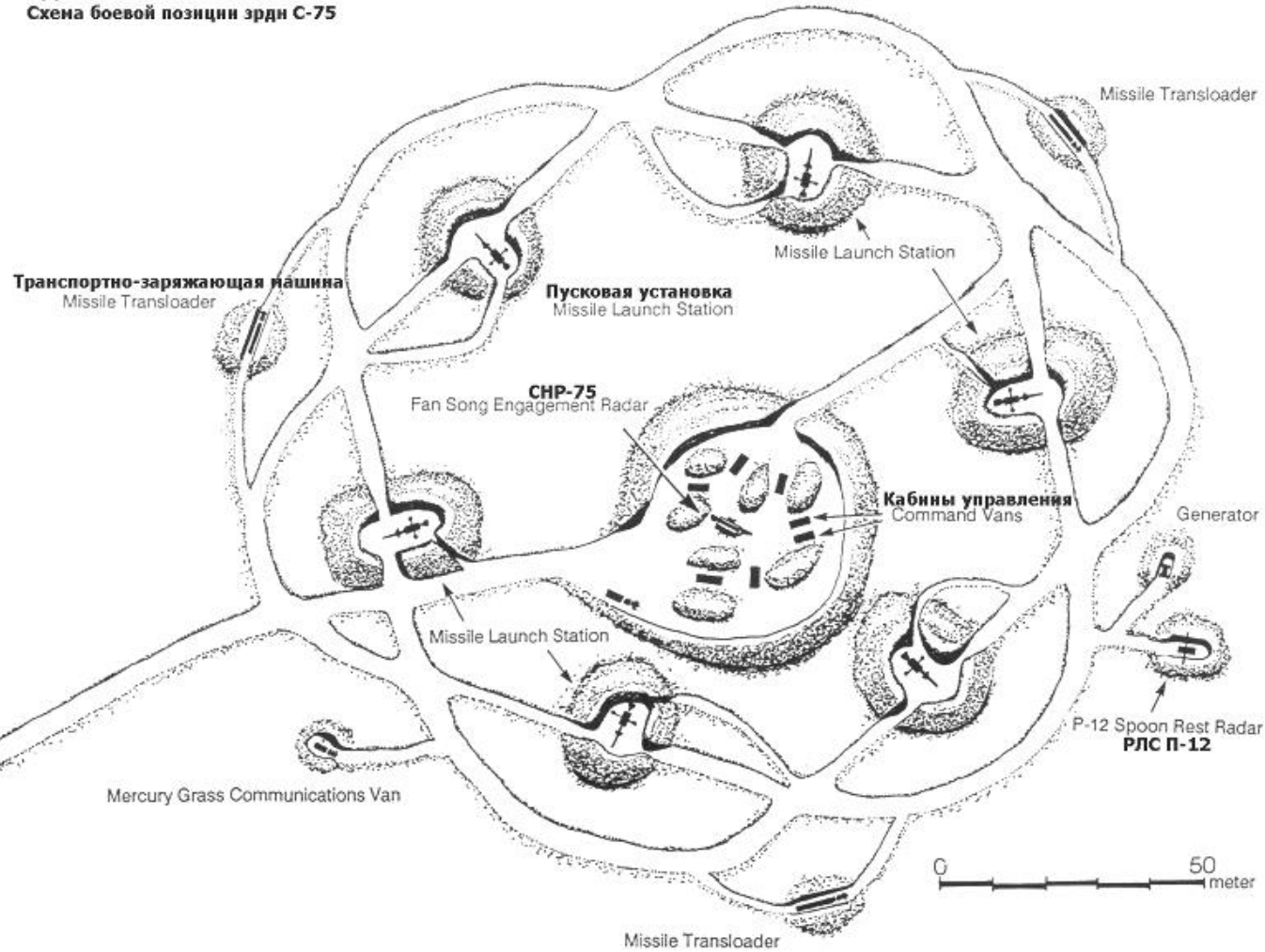


# Results

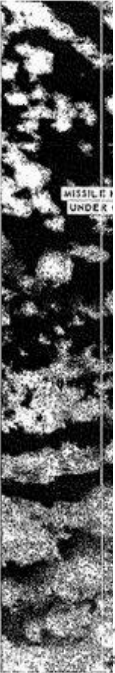


# Results

Typical SA-2 Guideline Battalion Launch Site  
Схема боевой позиции зрди С-75



Declassified in Part - Sanitized



Declassified in Part - Sanitized

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/12/14 : CIA-RDP-03102227R000200160006-4  
TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF  
MISSION 400, 13-20 JULY 1966  
ATTACHMENT 15  
25X1

# Conclusions

- Little conversion among land cover classes in the Caucasus
  - Some agricultural abandonment and re-cultivation
  - Forest cover generally increasing but local deforestation

# Conclusions

- Degradation more common
  - We mapped grassland degradation based on annual sums of soil endmember fractions
  - Approach works for both MODIS and Landsat data
  - Short-term degradation (5-yr) far more common than long-term degradation



# Conclusions

- Corona imagery
  - We developed approach to georectify Corona imagery for large areas using structure-from-motion software
  - Allows to analyze land cover change since the 1960s
  - Fascinating era: height of the cold war

# THANK YOU!!!

