



Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

**Faculty of Environmental  
Sciences**



ECAP Vienna Training Visit 2017

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# Geographic Data Availability for Environmental Applications

# The geographic approach

- **Step 1: Ask**

- What is the problem you are trying to solve or analyze, and where is it located?

- **Step 2: Acquire**

- Determine the data needed to complete your analysis and ascertain where that data can be found or generated

- **Step 3: Examine**

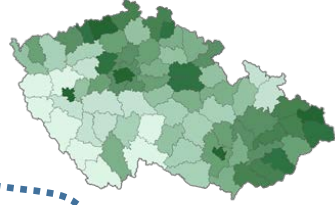
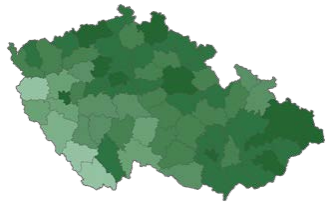
- This includes visual inspection, as well as investigating how the data is organized, how well the data corresponds to other datasets, and the story of where the data came from (its metadata).

- **Step 4: Analyze**

- Looking at the results can help you decide whether the information is valid or useful

- **Step 5: Act**

1. Measurements at the locations  
of known position

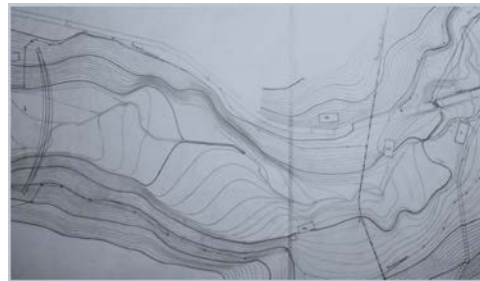


## Data Acquisition Methods

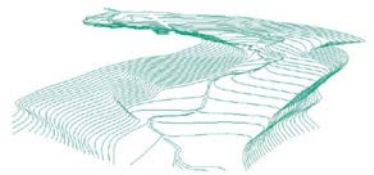
2. Field measurements



3. Processing  
the existing data

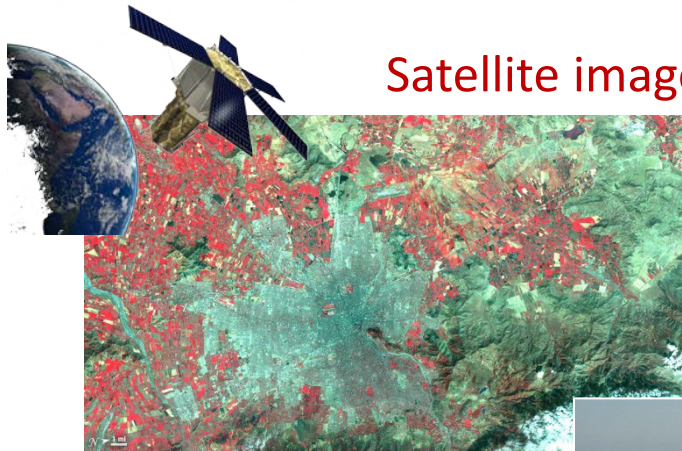


4. Remote sensing





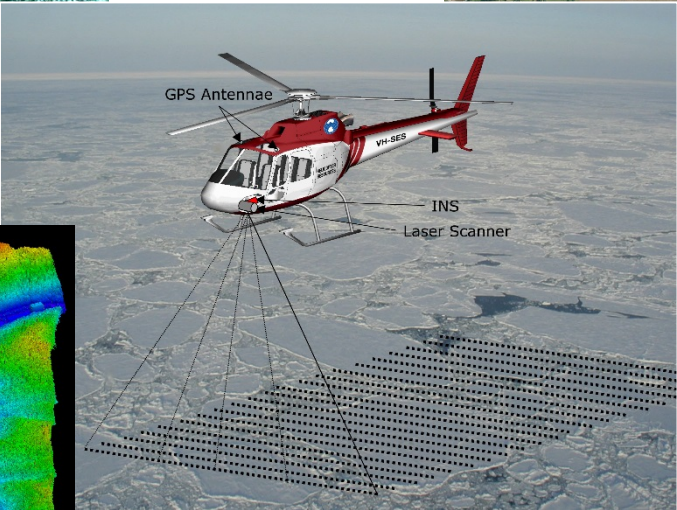
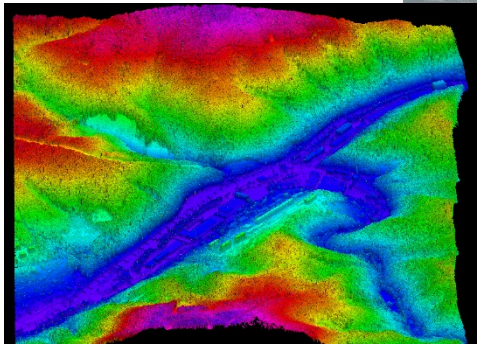
# Remote sensing



Satellite images...



Aerial photos...



Laser scanning...

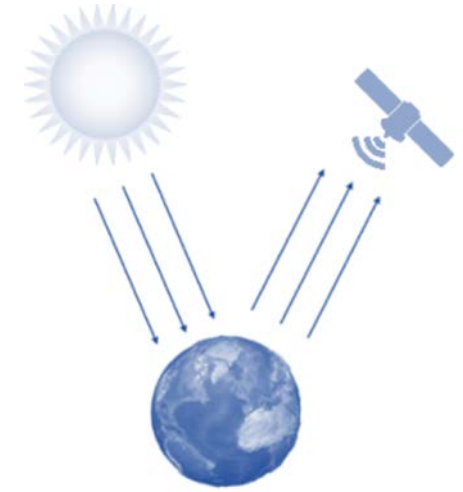
# Remote sensing

**Principle:** Measuring physical, chemical, and biological properties of objects without direct physical contact (usually in a **raster grid**)

## Types:

- **Passive:** Receiving the reflected and emitted radiation
  - Aerial Photography
  - Satellite Imagery
- **Active:** Transmitting electromagnetic signal
  - Radar
  - Laser Scanning

Any restrictions ?



Passive Remote Sensing

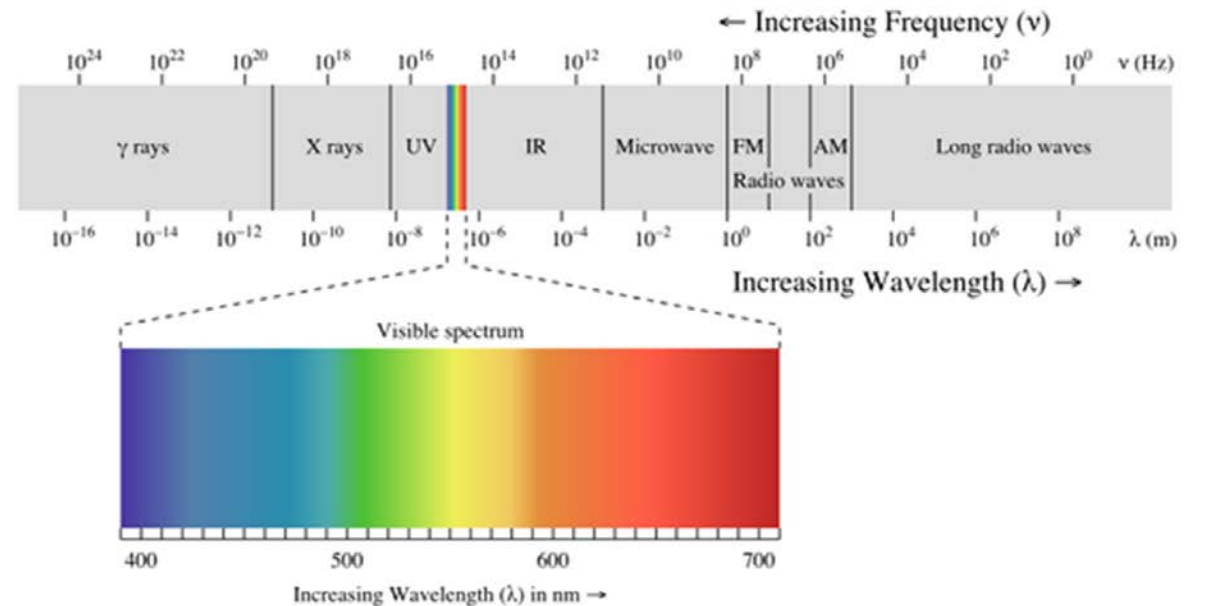


Active Remote Sensing

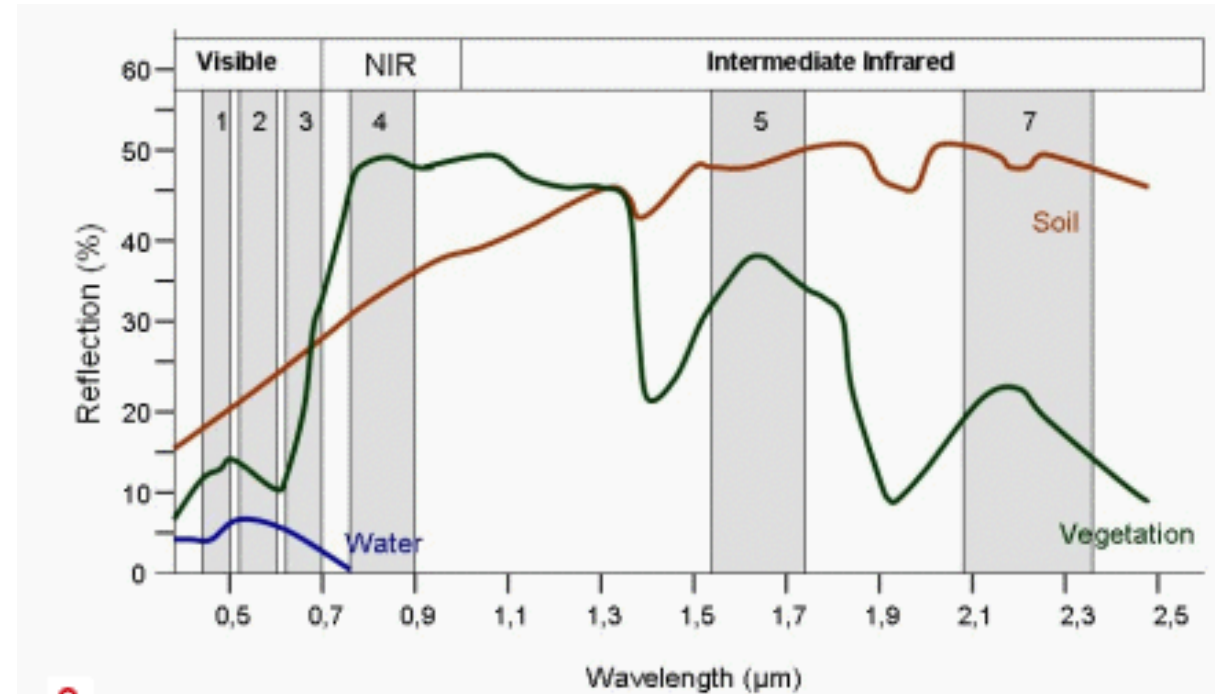
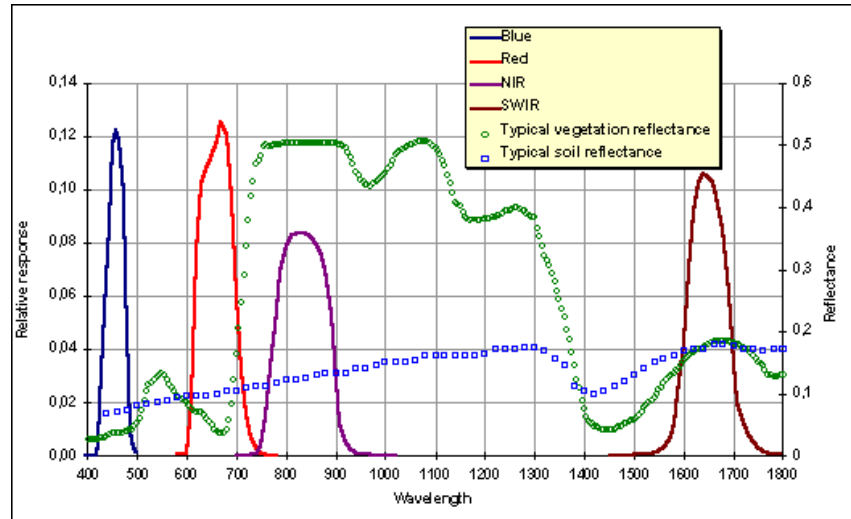
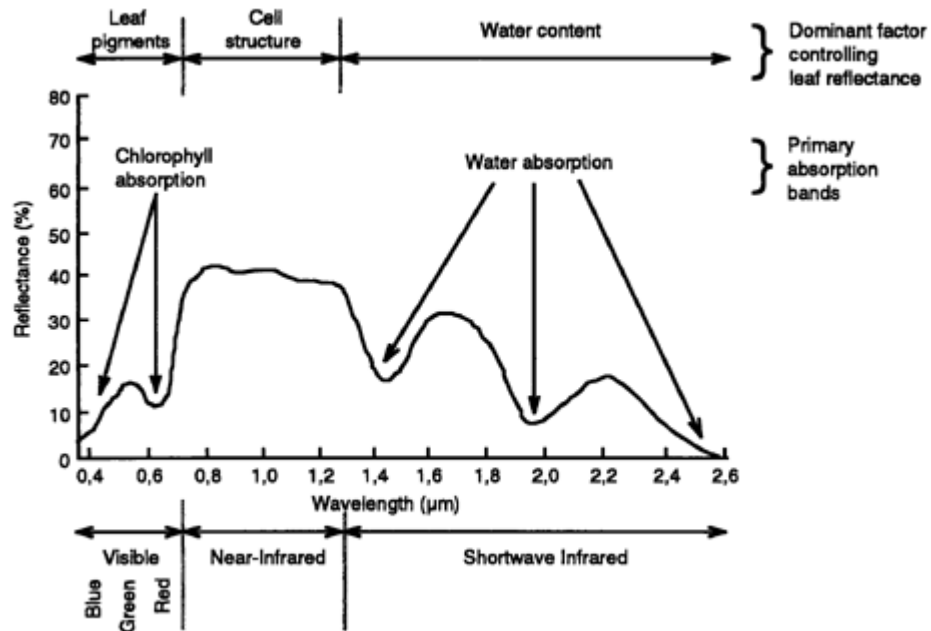
# Remote sensing


## Resolution:

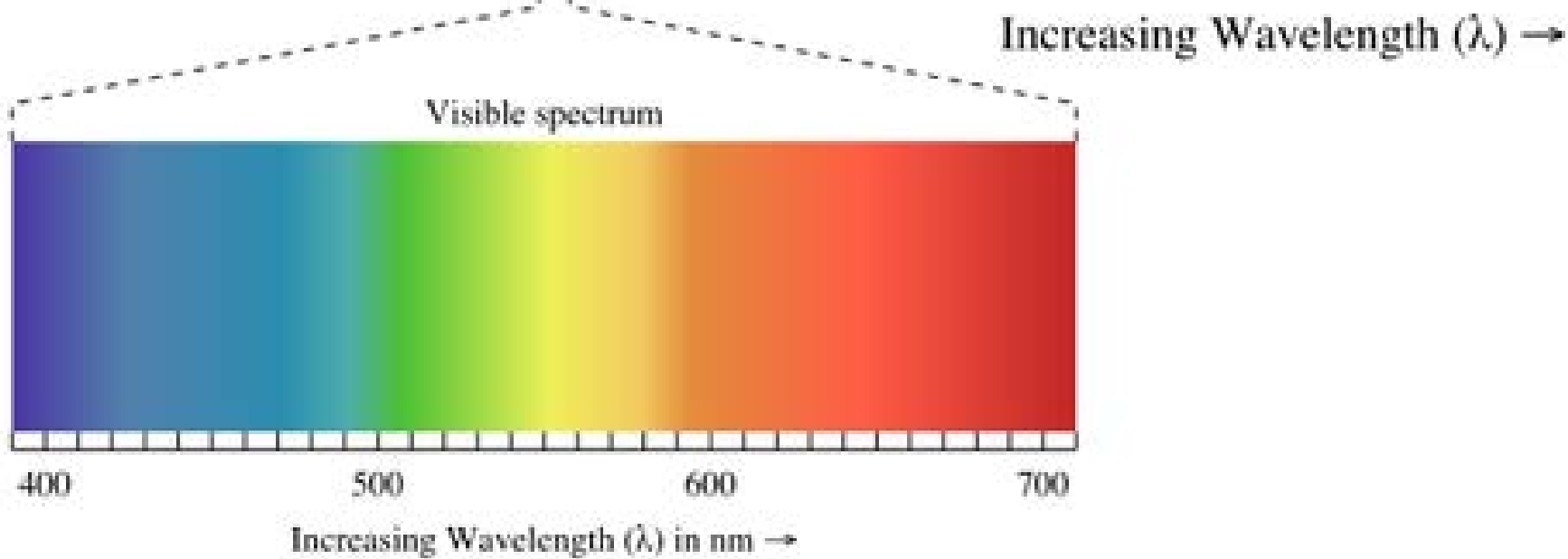
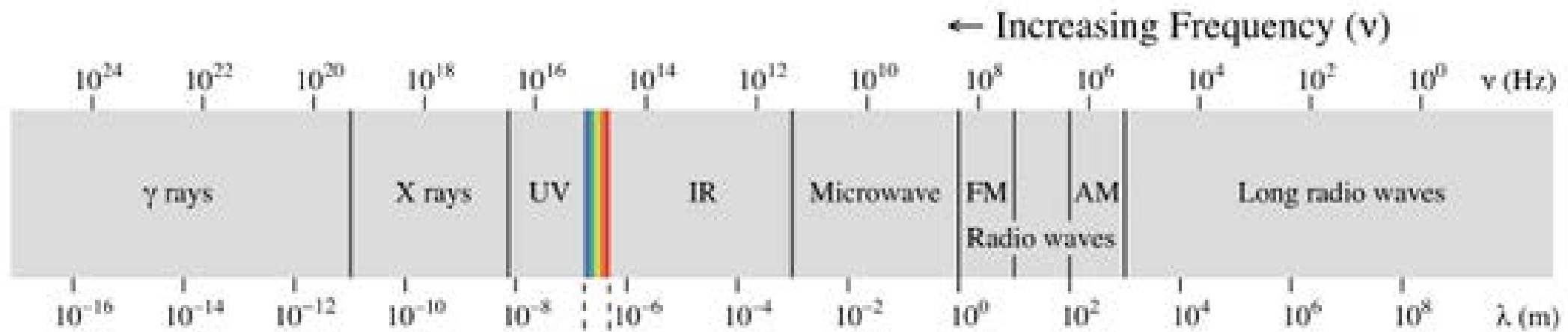
- Spatial
  - Satellite Imagery: 0.5 m – 1 km
  - Aerial Photographs: 1 cm – 5 m
- Spectral (single band, multispectral, hyperspectral)
- Temporal (Earth-orbiting, geostationary satellites)

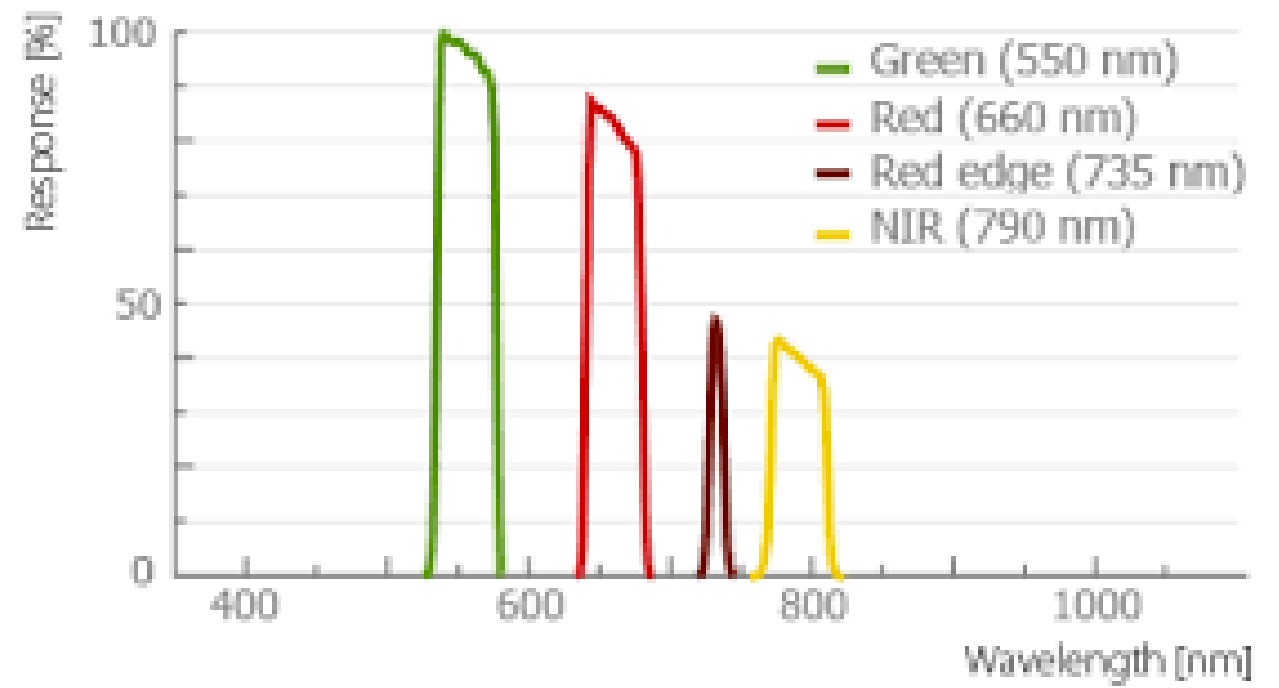


# Spectral signatures (spectral reflectance curves)



 Spectral signatures of soil, vegetation and water, and spectral bands of LANDSAT 7.





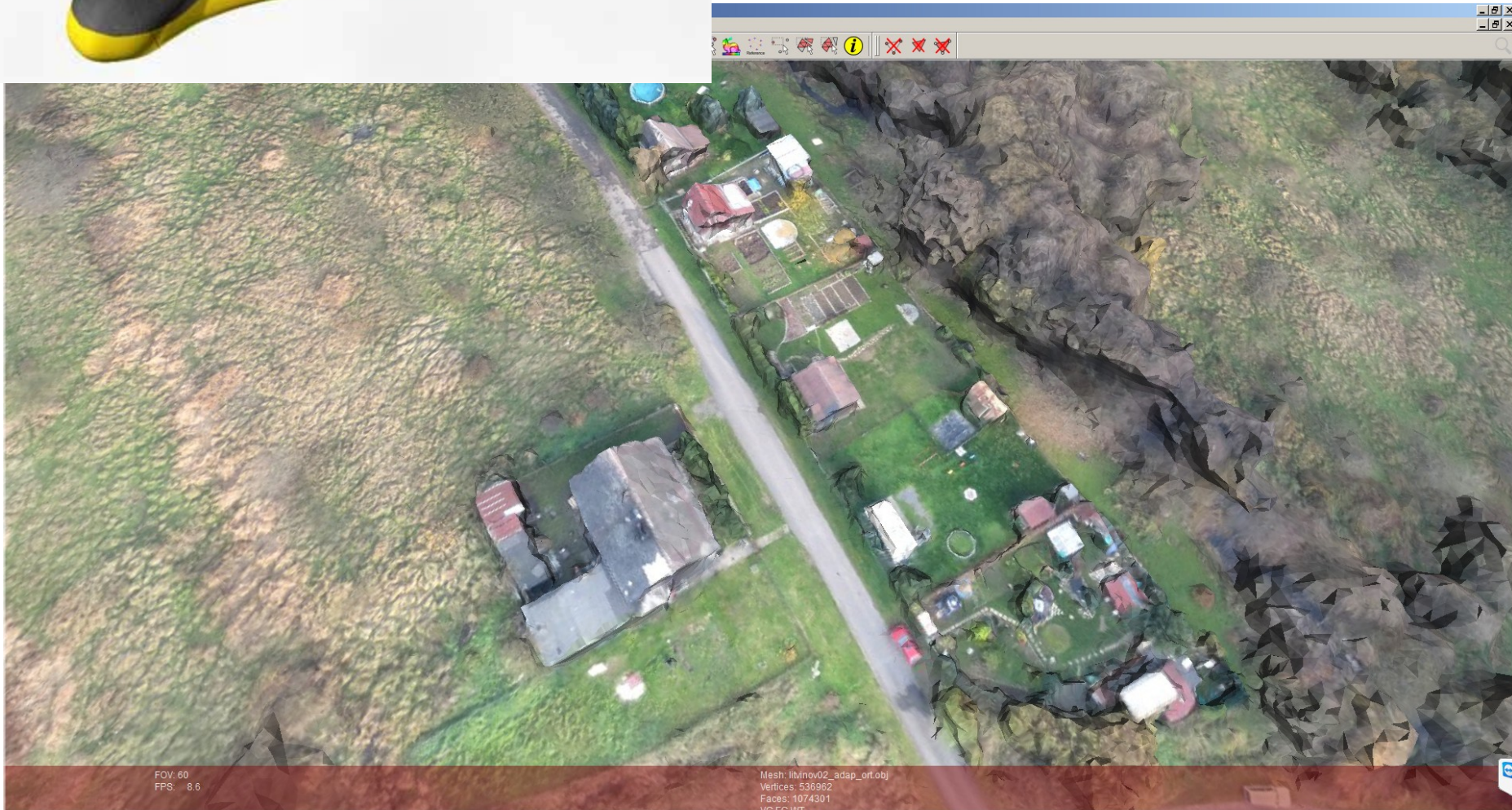




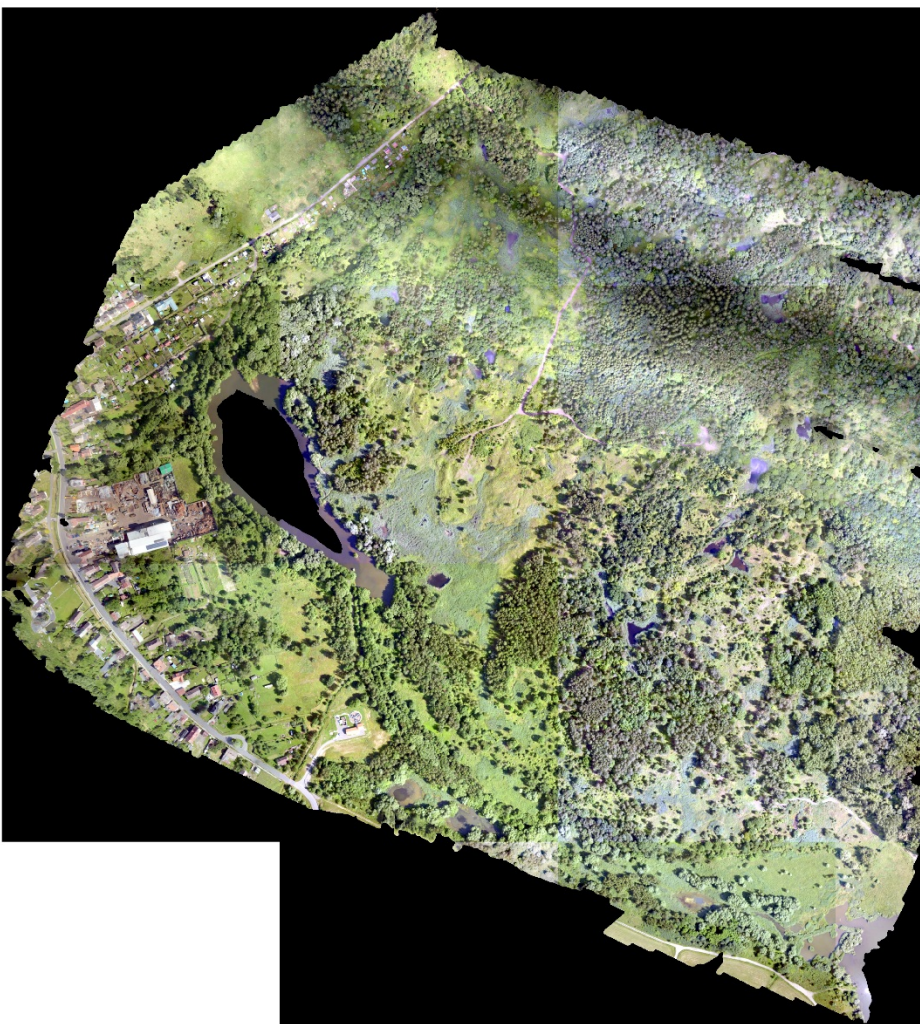
Aerial photographs are very suitable for detailed  
Surveying and mapping projects.

Photogrammetry

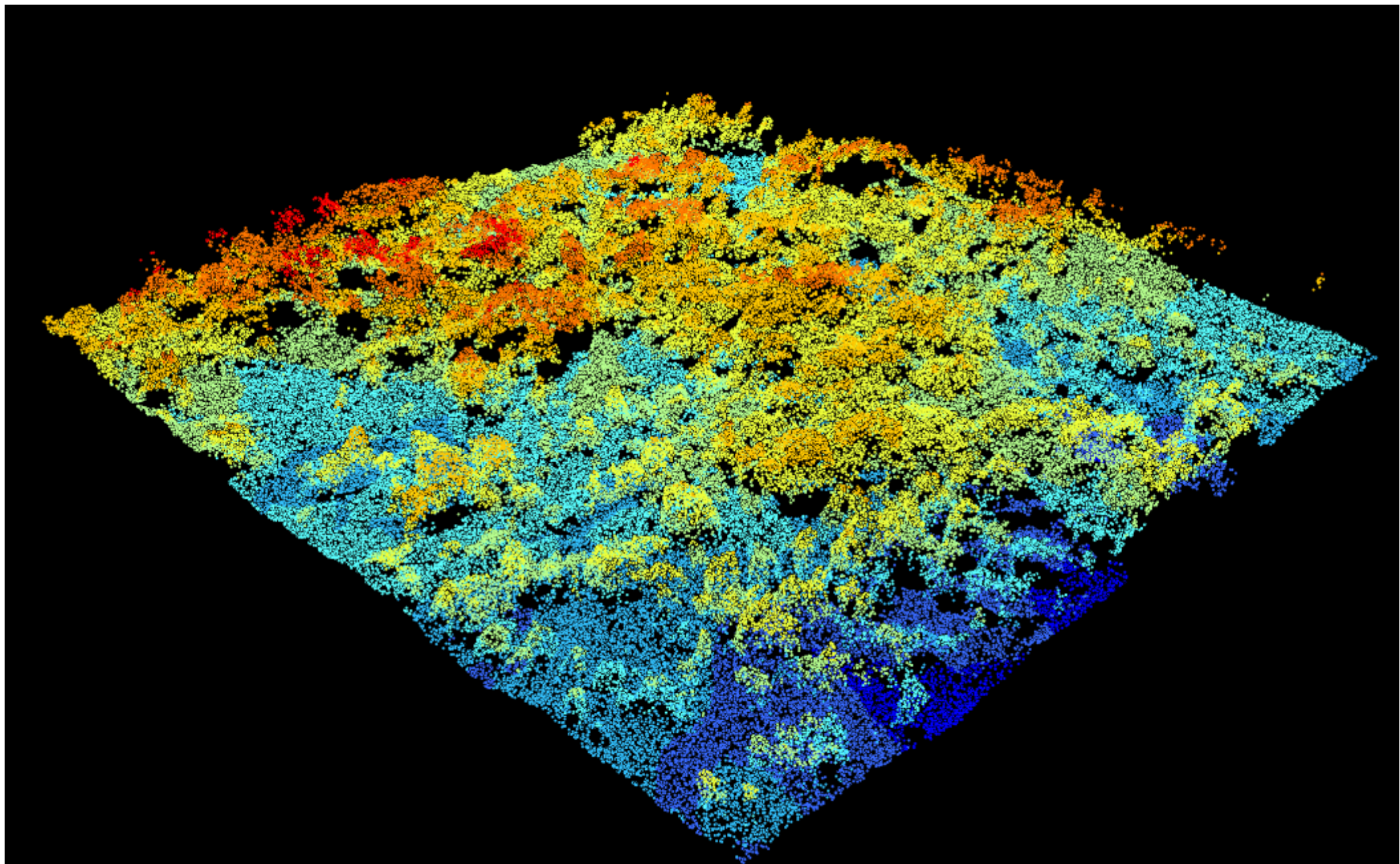
Structure from motion (SfM)



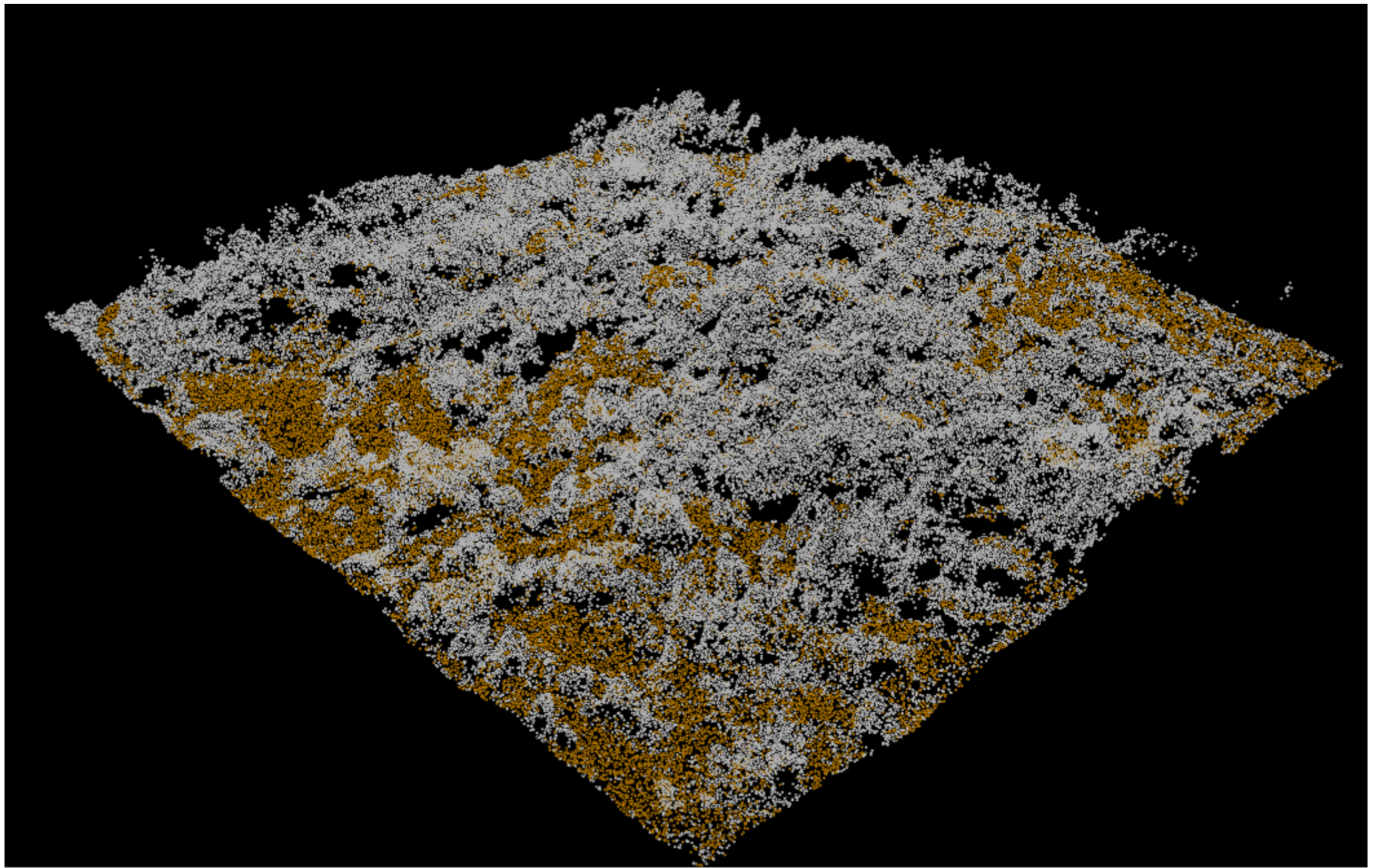




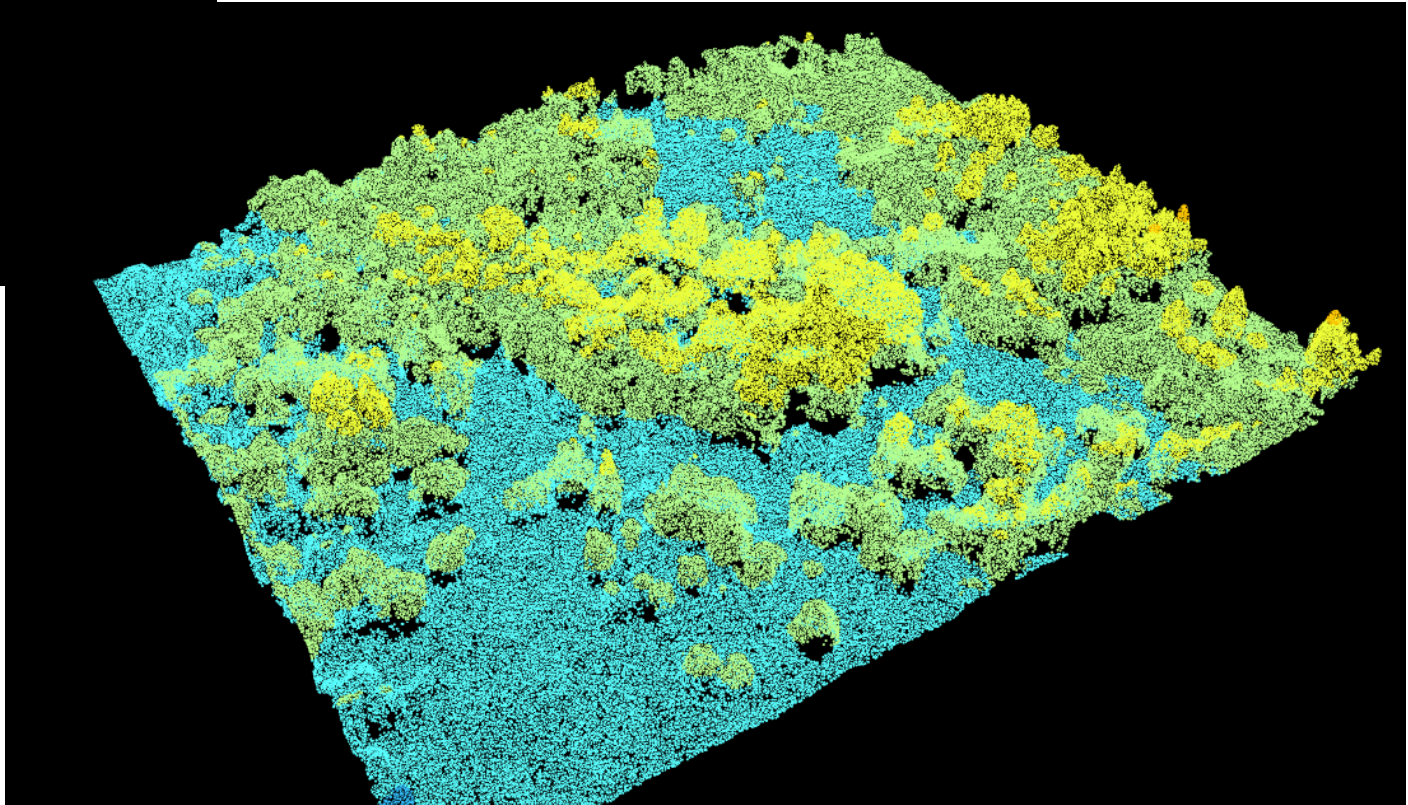
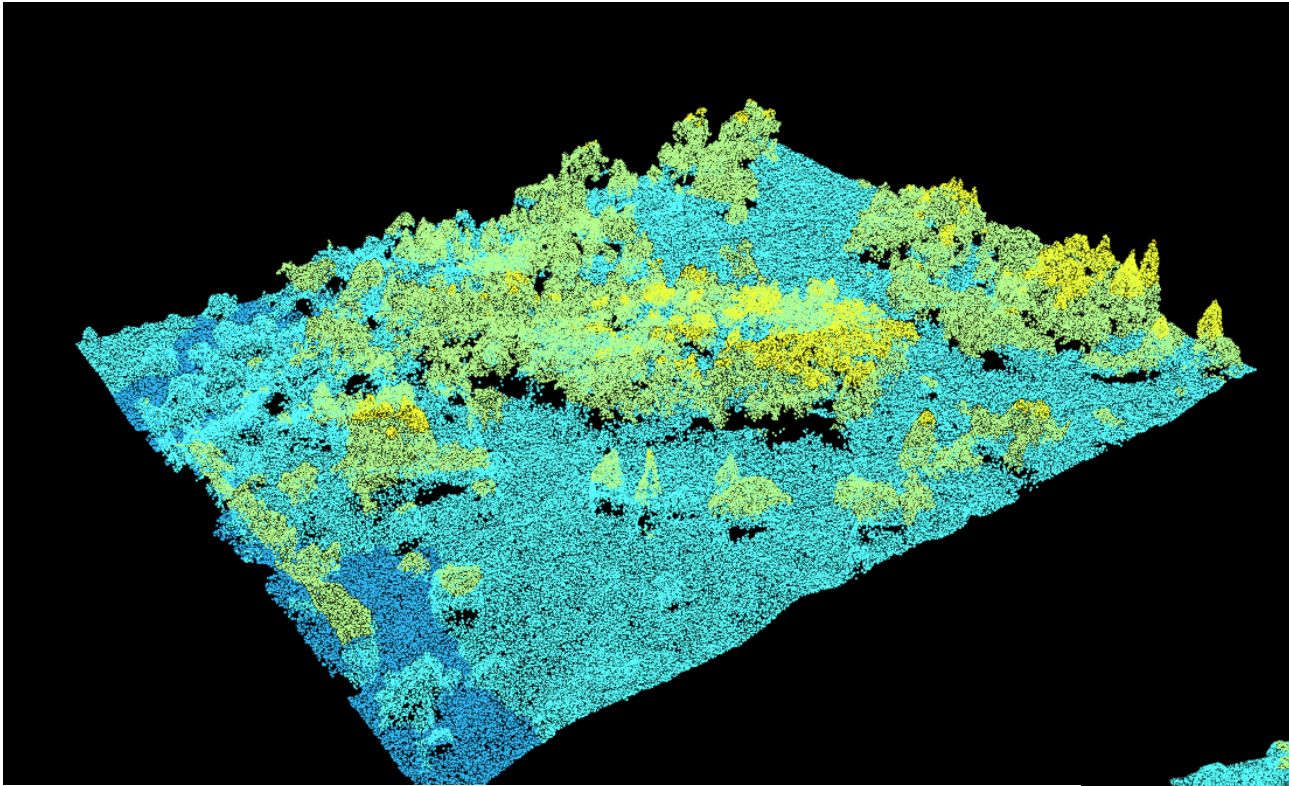












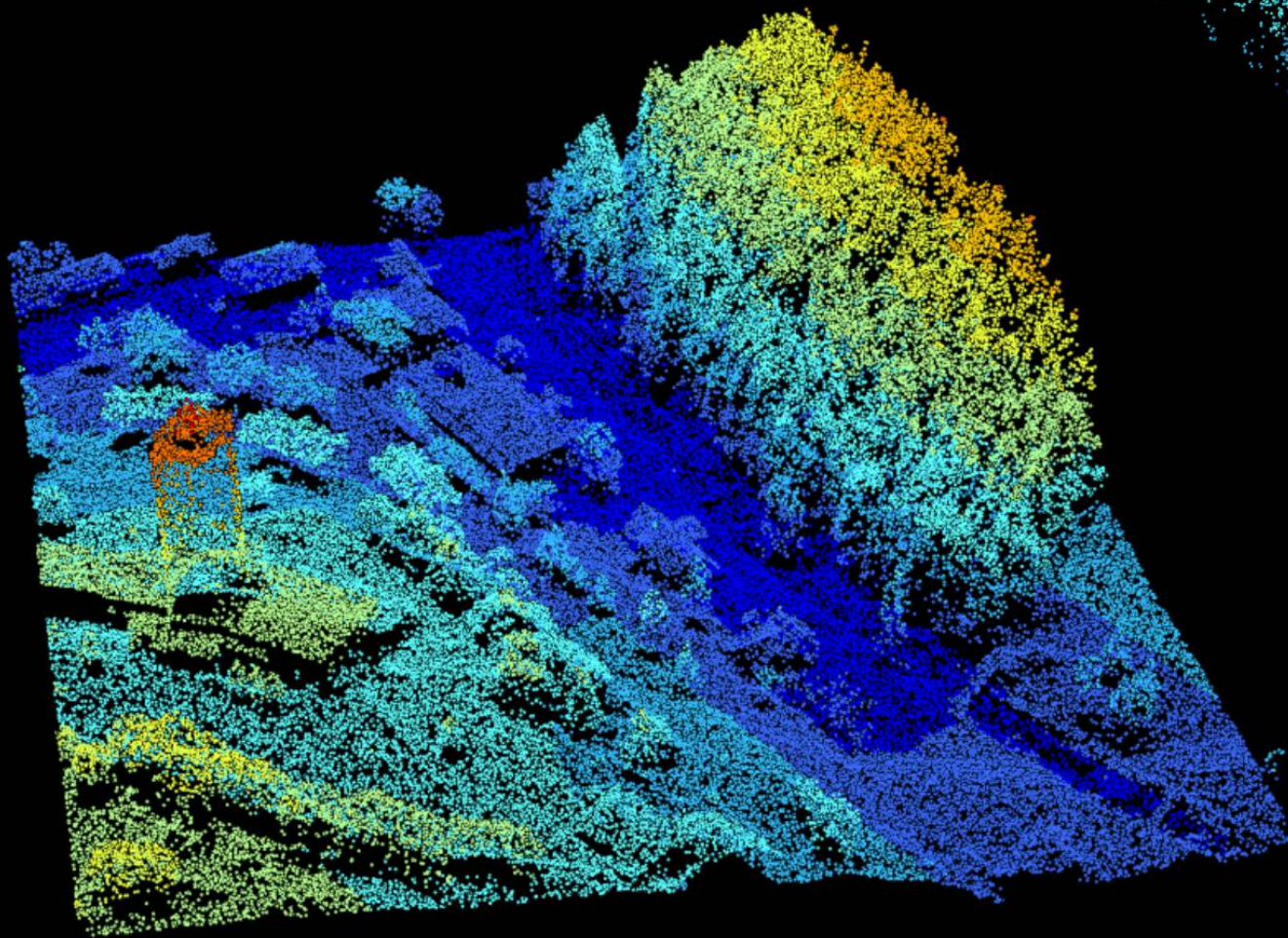
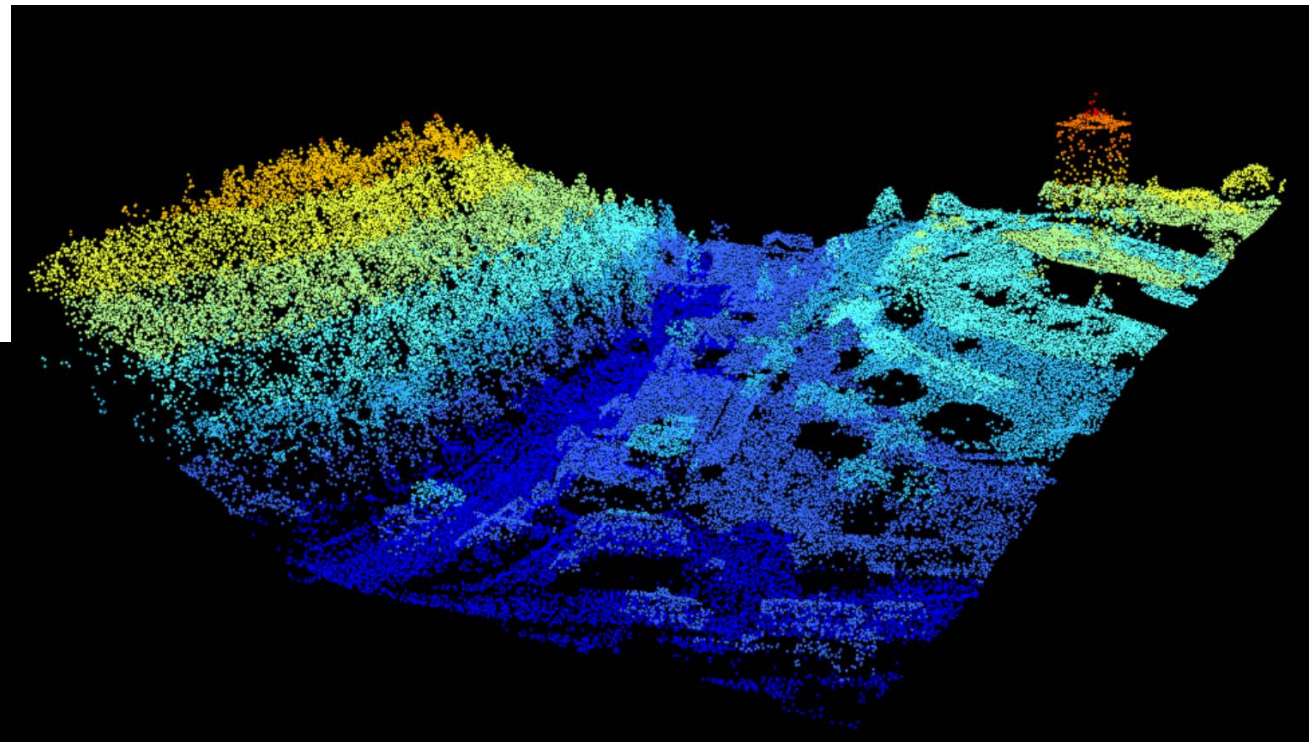
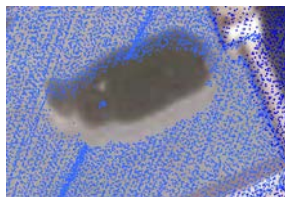
# Remote sensing

## **Laser Scanning:**

- LiDAR (“Light Detection and Ranging”) technology
- Plane or helicopter with active laser sensor
- Wavelength
  - 1000 – 1600nm (near-infrared for terrestrial)
  - 500 – 600nm (blue-green for bathymetry)
- Topographic data of great detail
  - accuracy in cm



# LiDAR







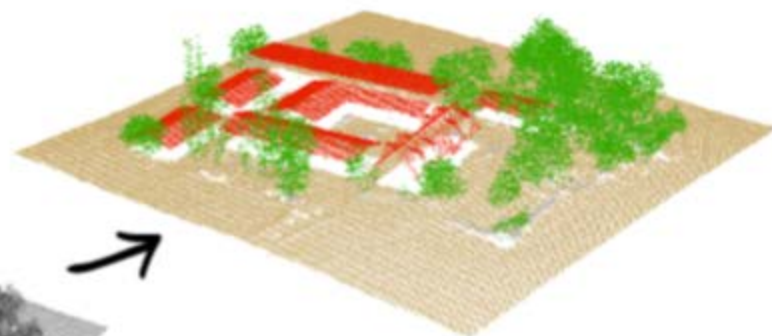
DIGITAL SURFACE MODEL  
WITH  
VEGETATION

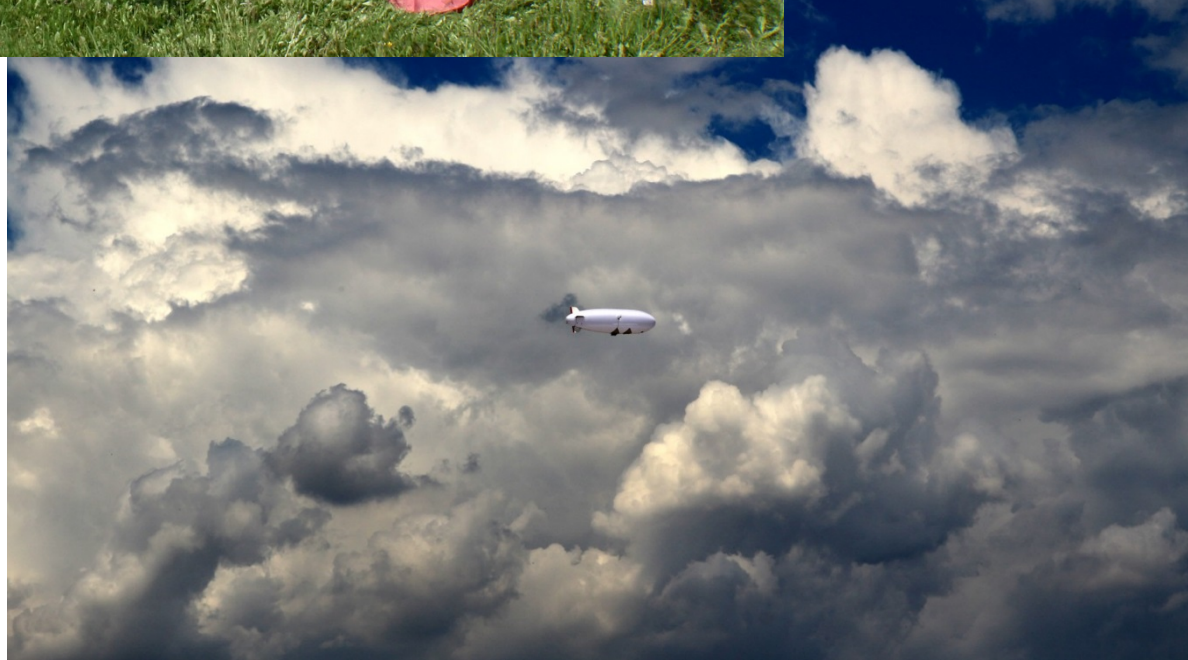
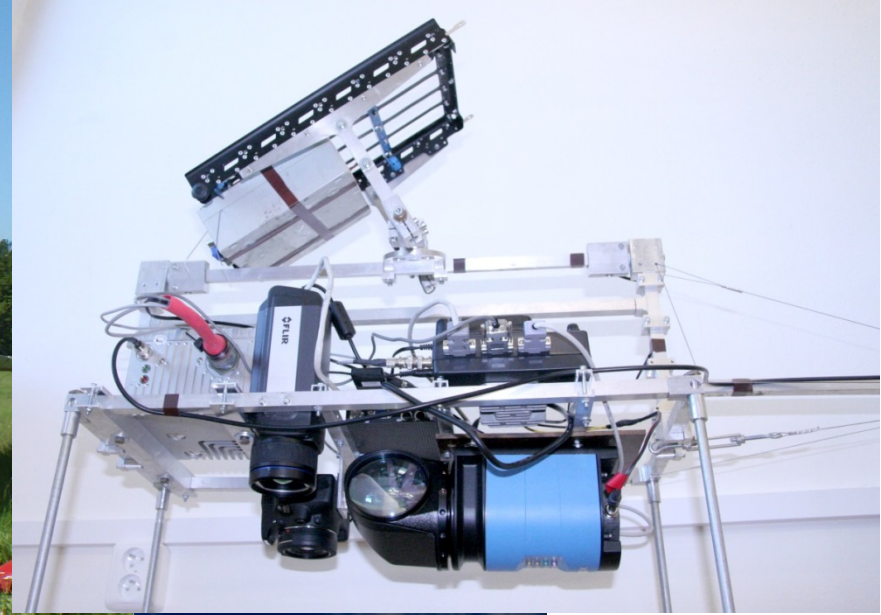


RAW  
AIRBORNE LIDAR

DIGITAL SURFACE MODEL  
WITHOUT  
VEGETATION

CLASSIFIED LIDAR





# Example of how to combine **GPS**, **LiDAR** and passive **Remote Sensing** technologies to study Earth

- Greg Asner  
(<http://globalecology.stanford.edu/labs/asnerlab/>)
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/greg\\_asner\\_ecology\\_from\\_the\\_air](https://www.ted.com/talks/greg_asner_ecology_from_the_air)



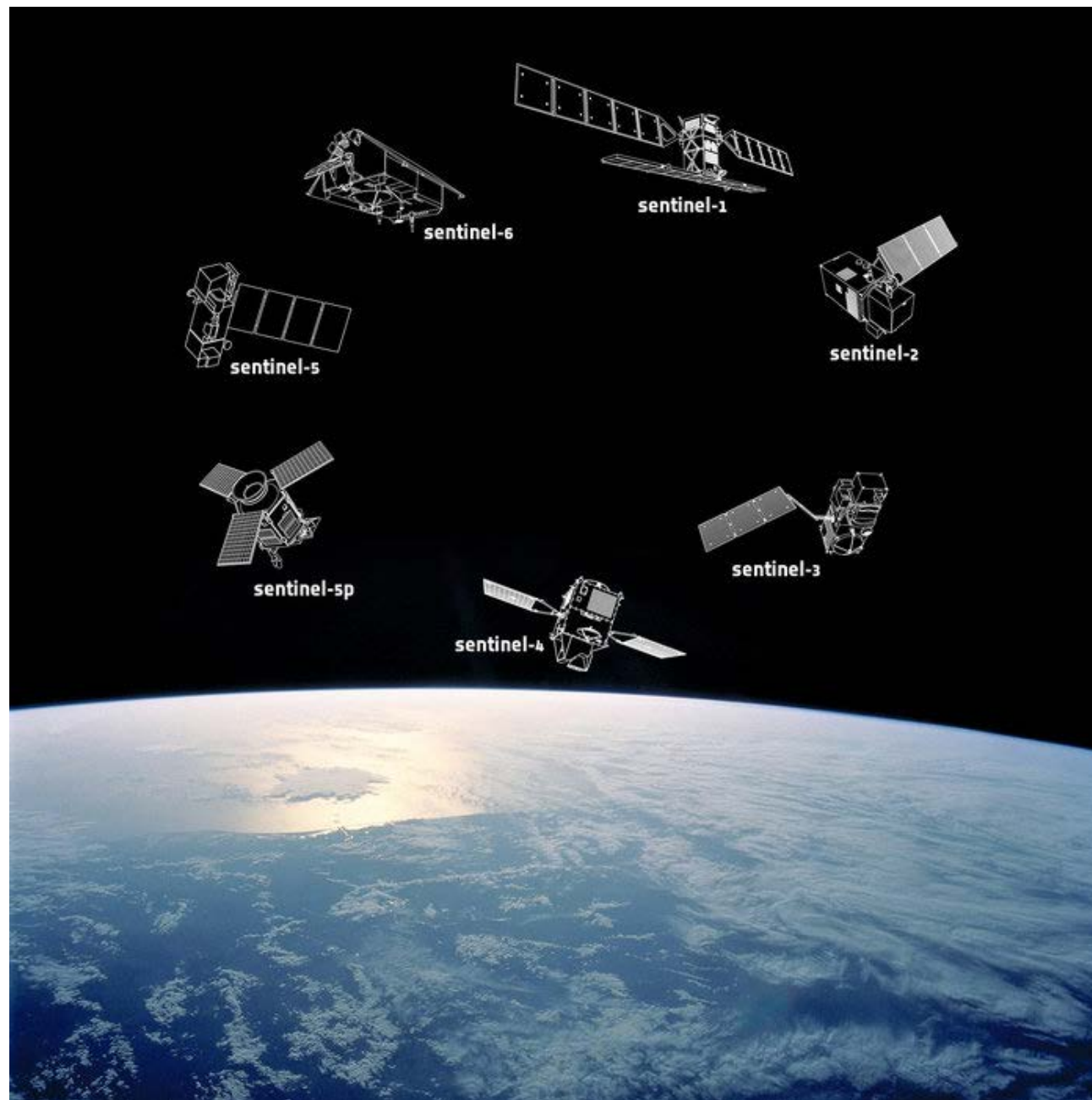
ESA:

<https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/eoli>

vs.

SPUTNIK:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWAz\\_1Ck01U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWAz_1Ck01U)



[http://www.esa.int/Our\\_Activities/Observing\\_the\\_Earth/Copernicus/Space\\_Component](http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Observing_the_Earth/Copernicus/Space_Component)

- Copernicus <http://www.copernicus.eu/>

Copernicus, previously known as GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security), is the European Programme for the establishment of a European capacity for Earth Observation.

<http://land.copernicus.eu/>

Sentinel

[http://www.esa.int/Our Activities/Observing the Earth/Copernicus/Overview3](http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Observing_the_Earth/Copernicus/Overview3)

[http://www.esa.int/Our Activities/Observing the Earth/Copernicus/Overview4](http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Observing_the_Earth/Copernicus/Overview4)

# Existing datasets

Land cover/use

DEM

# Land cover/use

**Land cover (LC)** is defined as the biophysical material over the surface of the Earth including, among others, grass, shrubs, forests, croplands, barren, waterbodies and man-made structures

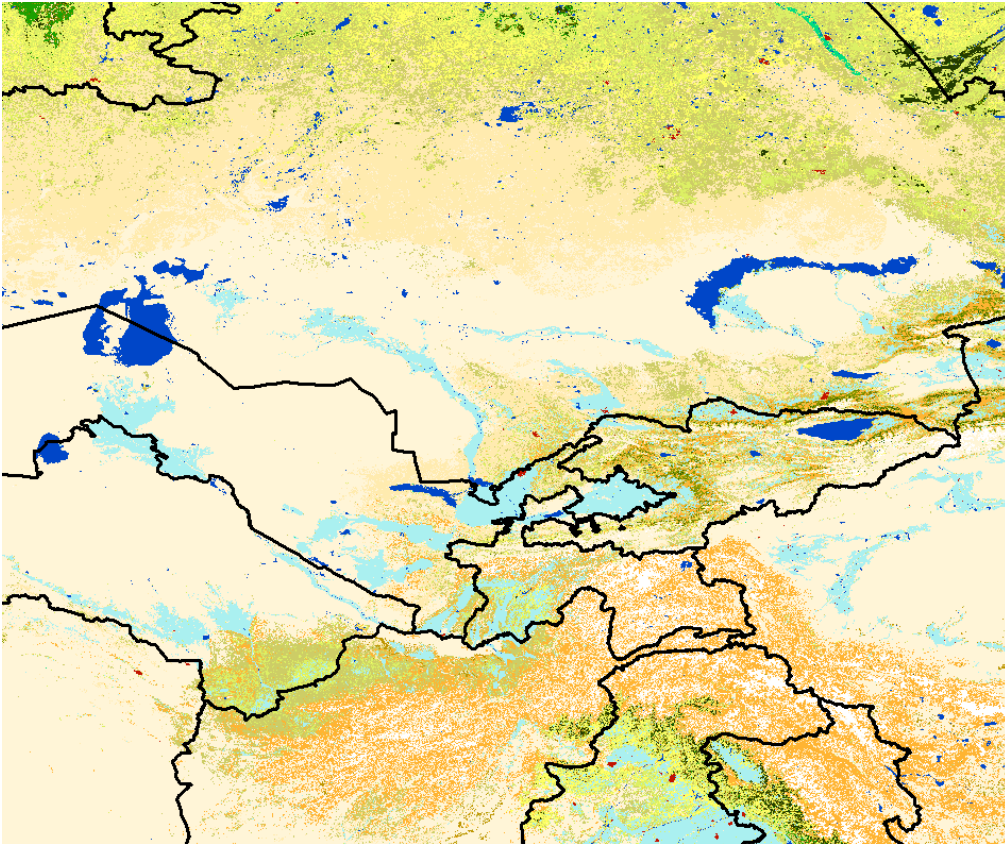
**Land cover change (LCC)** is the conversion from one LC category to another

**LCC** causes significant environmental changes at the local, regional, and global scales. For example, forest transition to agricultural land or urban expansion into croplands affects the biodiversity, soil quality, climate, and human health.

# Land cover/use

## GlobCover

- [http://due.esrin.esa.int/page\\_globcover.php](http://due.esrin.esa.int/page_globcover.php)



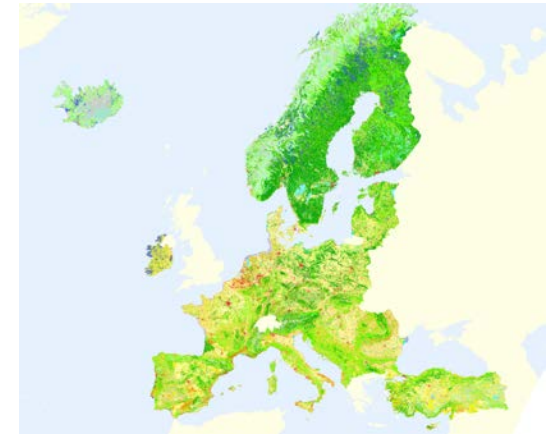
The aim of the project was to develop a service capable of delivering global composites and land cover maps using as input observations from the **300m MERIS sensor** on board the ENVISAT satellite mission. ESA makes available the land cover maps, which cover **2 periods**: December 2004 - June 2006 and January - December 2009.

The GlobCover 2009 dataset classifies land cover into **22 classes**.

# Land cover/use

## CORINE Land Cover

- <http://land.copernicus.eu/pan-european/corine-land-cover>
- <https://europelandcover.ourecosystem.com/interface/#layers>

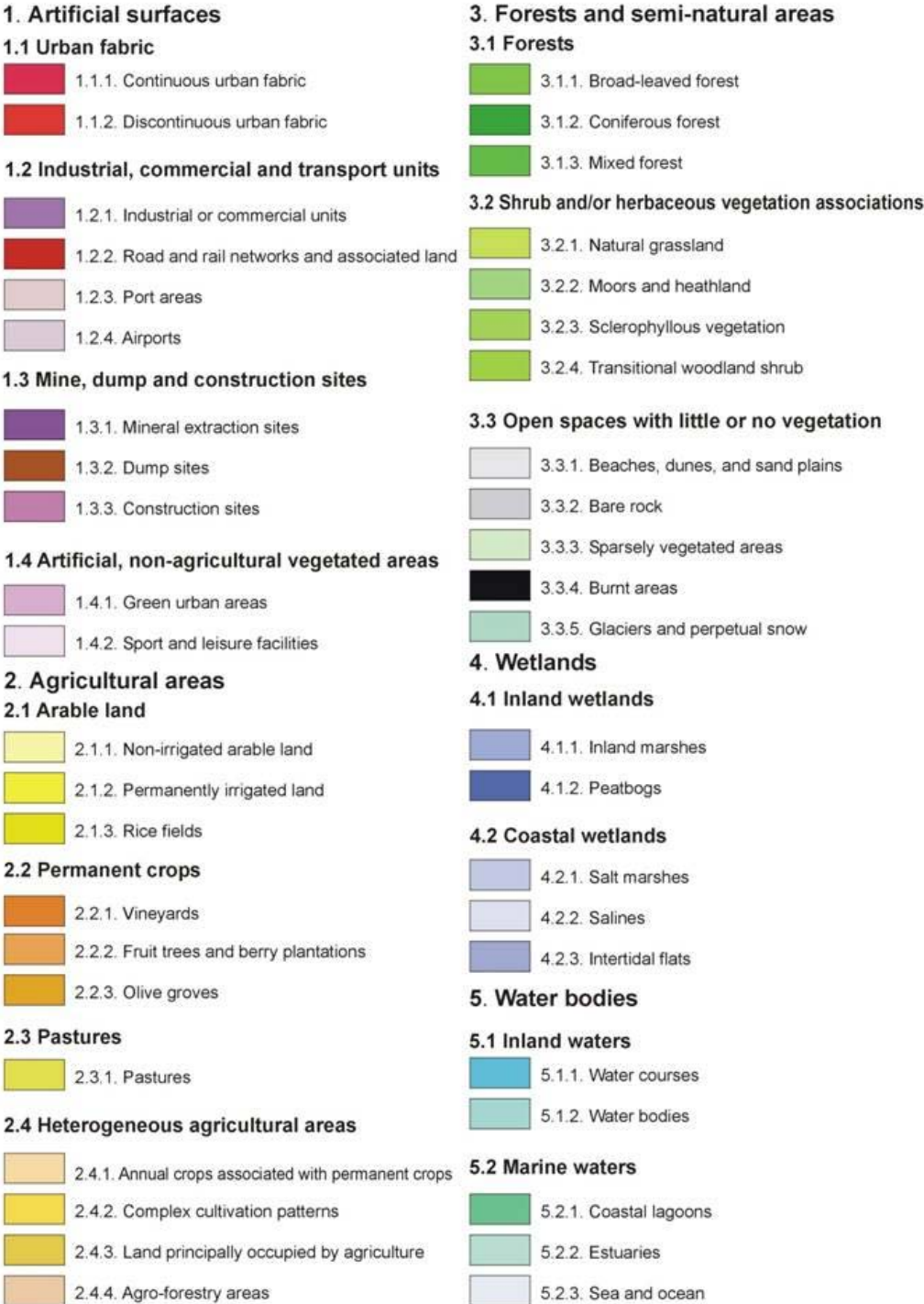


The CORINE Land Cover (CLC) was initiated in 1985 (reference year **1990**). Updates have been produced in **2000, 2006, and 2012**. It consists of an inventory of land cover in **44 classes**. CLC uses a Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU) of 25 hectares (ha) for areal phenomena and a minimum width of 100 m for linear phenomena. The time series are complemented by change layers, which highlight changes in land cover with an MMU of 5 ha.

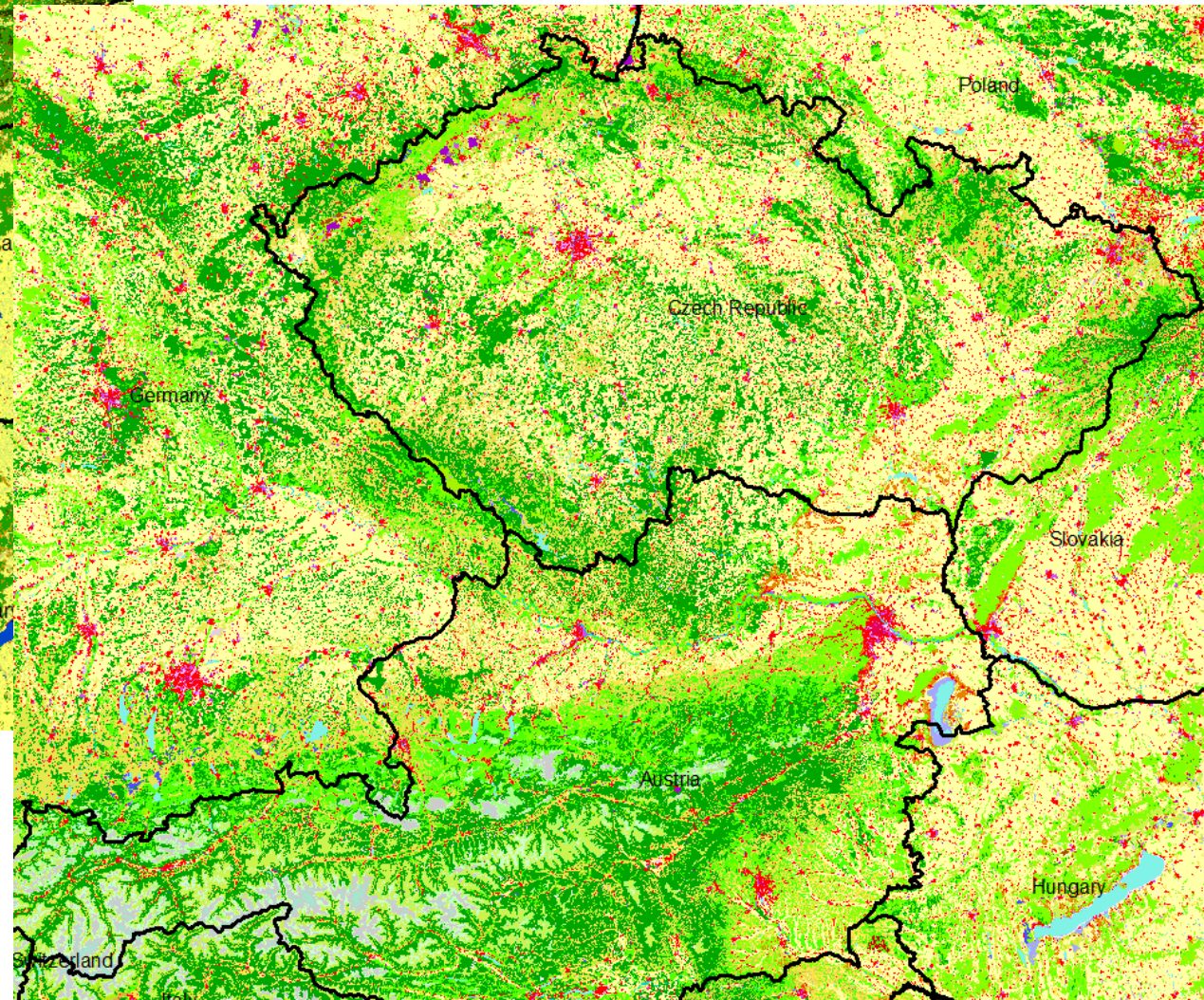
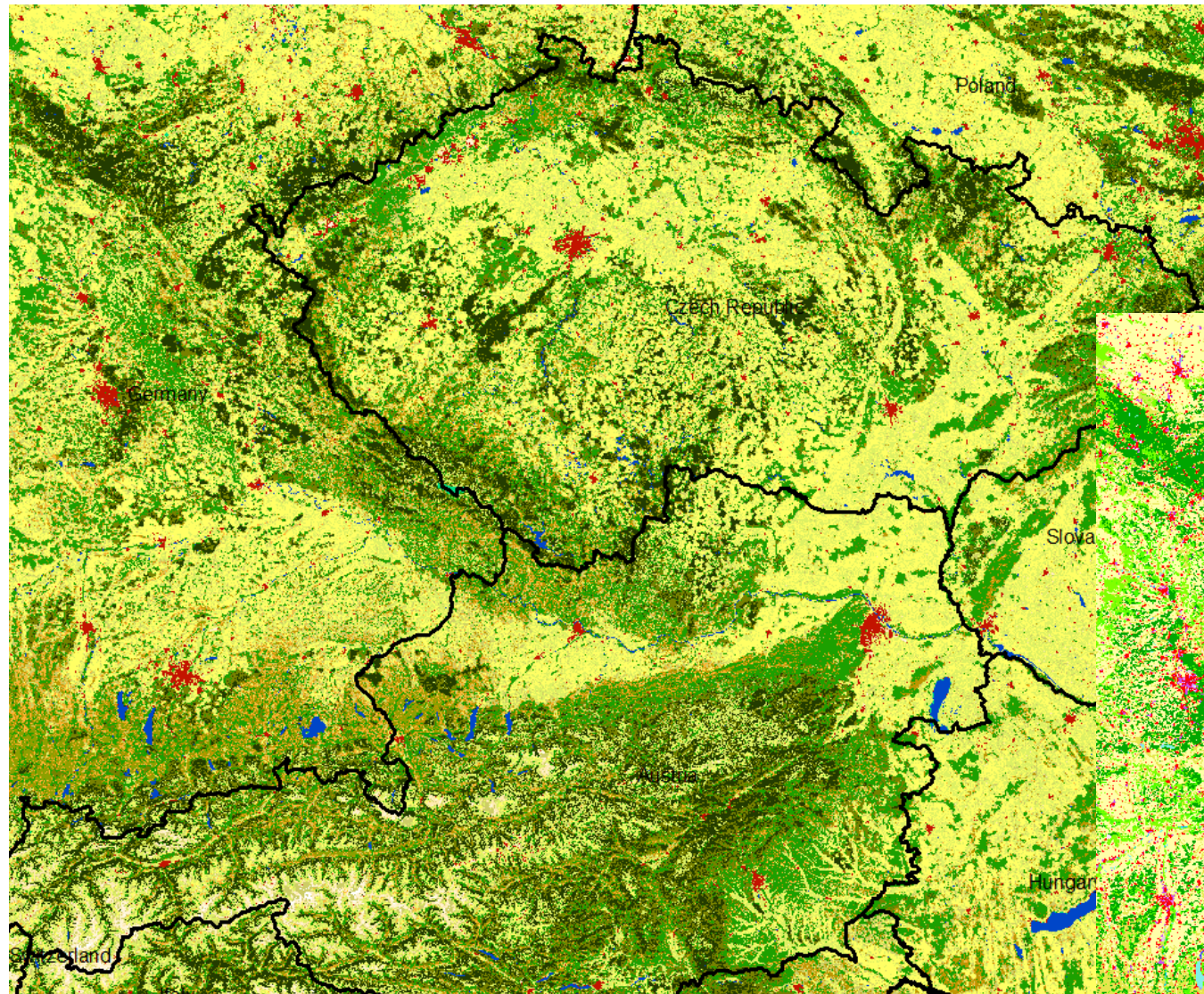
CLC is produced by the majority of countries by visual interpretation of high resolution satellite imagery. In a few countries semi-automatic solutions are applied, using national in-situ data, satellite image processing, GIS integration and generalisation.



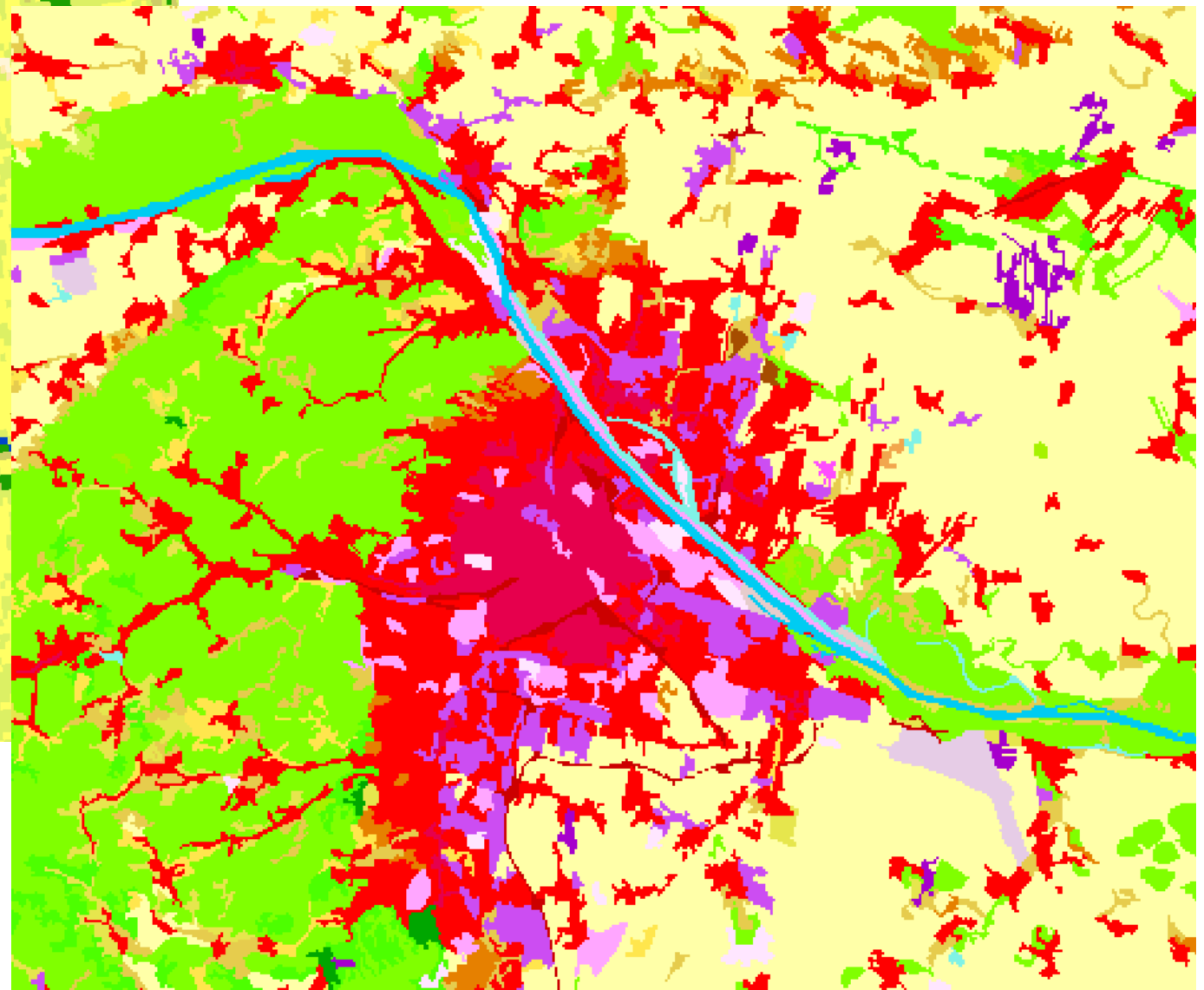
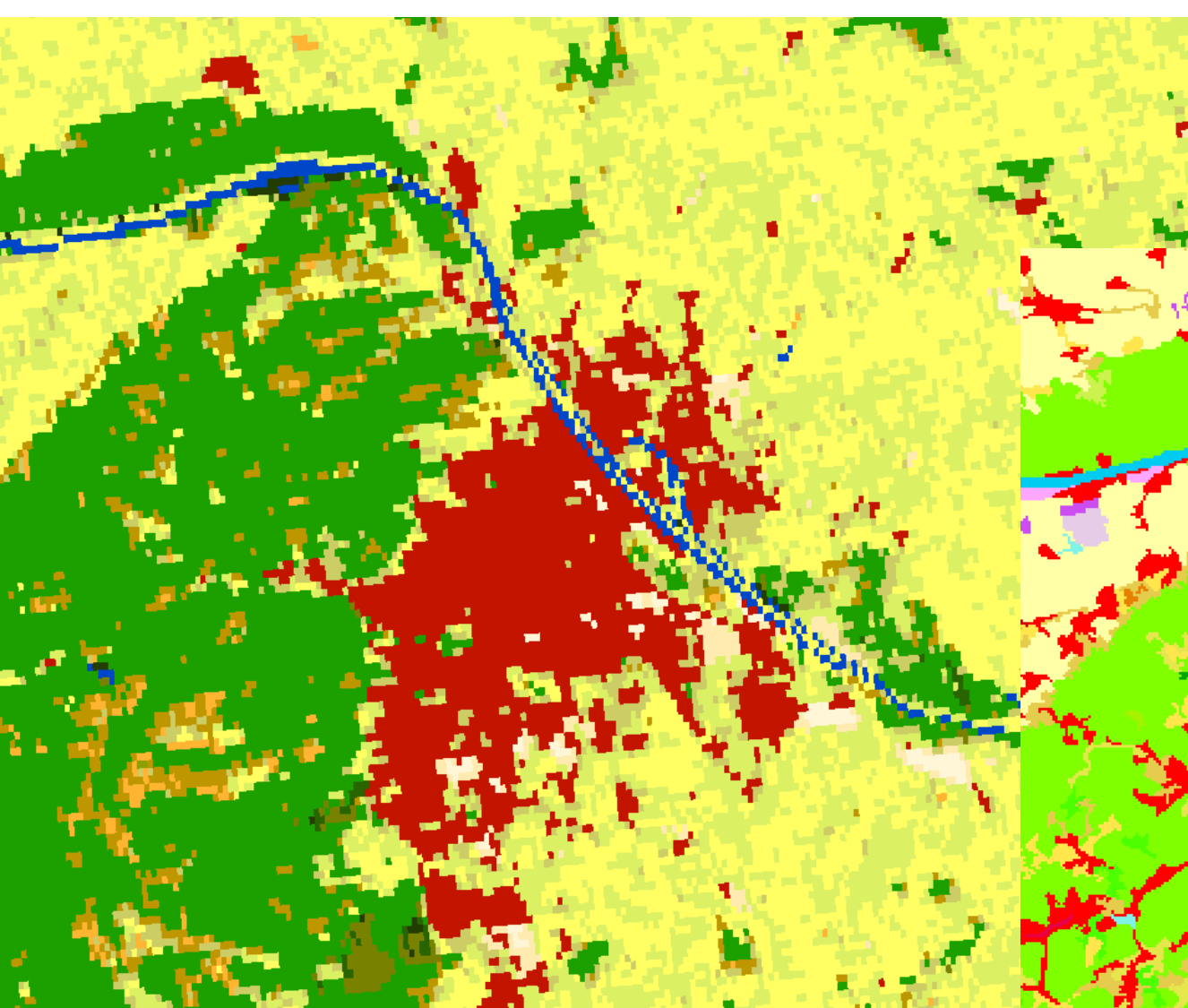
Classification systems come in two basic formats, **hierarchical** and *non-hierarchical*. Most systems are hierarchically structured because such a classification offers more consistency owing to its ability to accommodate different levels of information, starting with structured broad-level classes, which allow further systematic subdivision into more detailed sub-classes. At each level the defined classes are mutually exclusive.







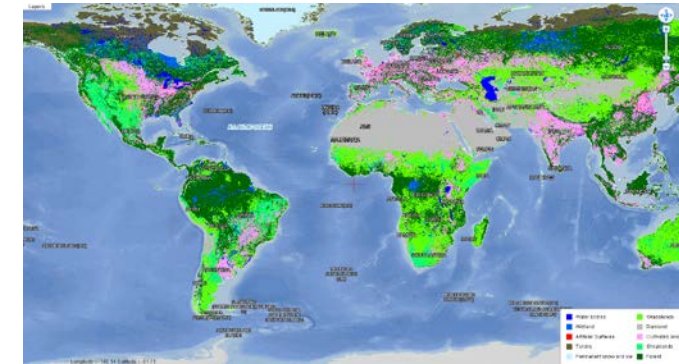
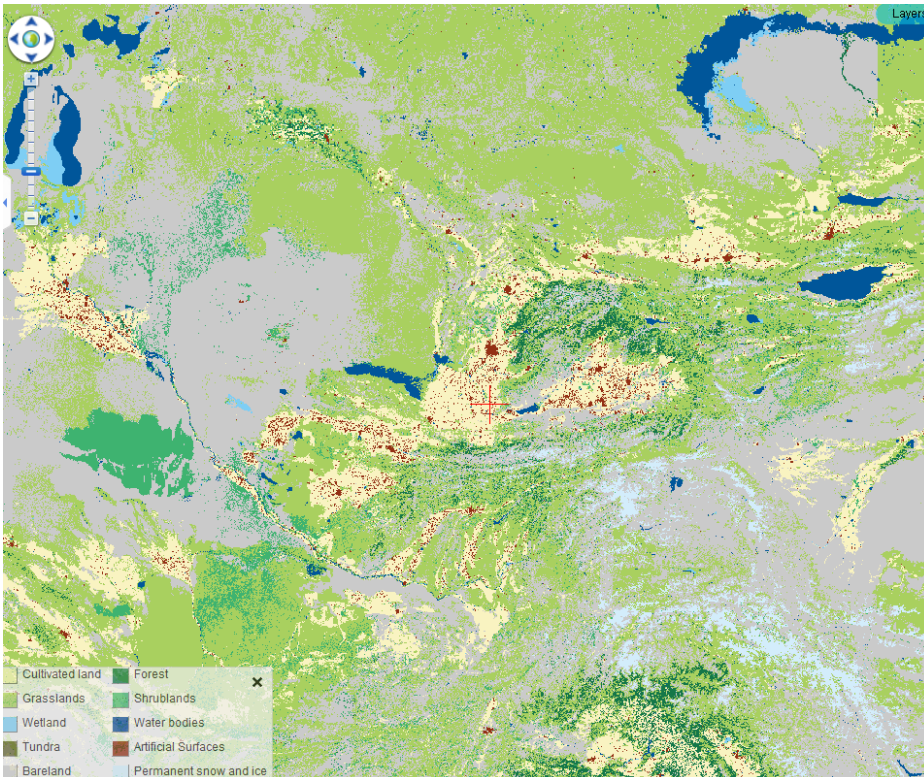




# Land cover/use

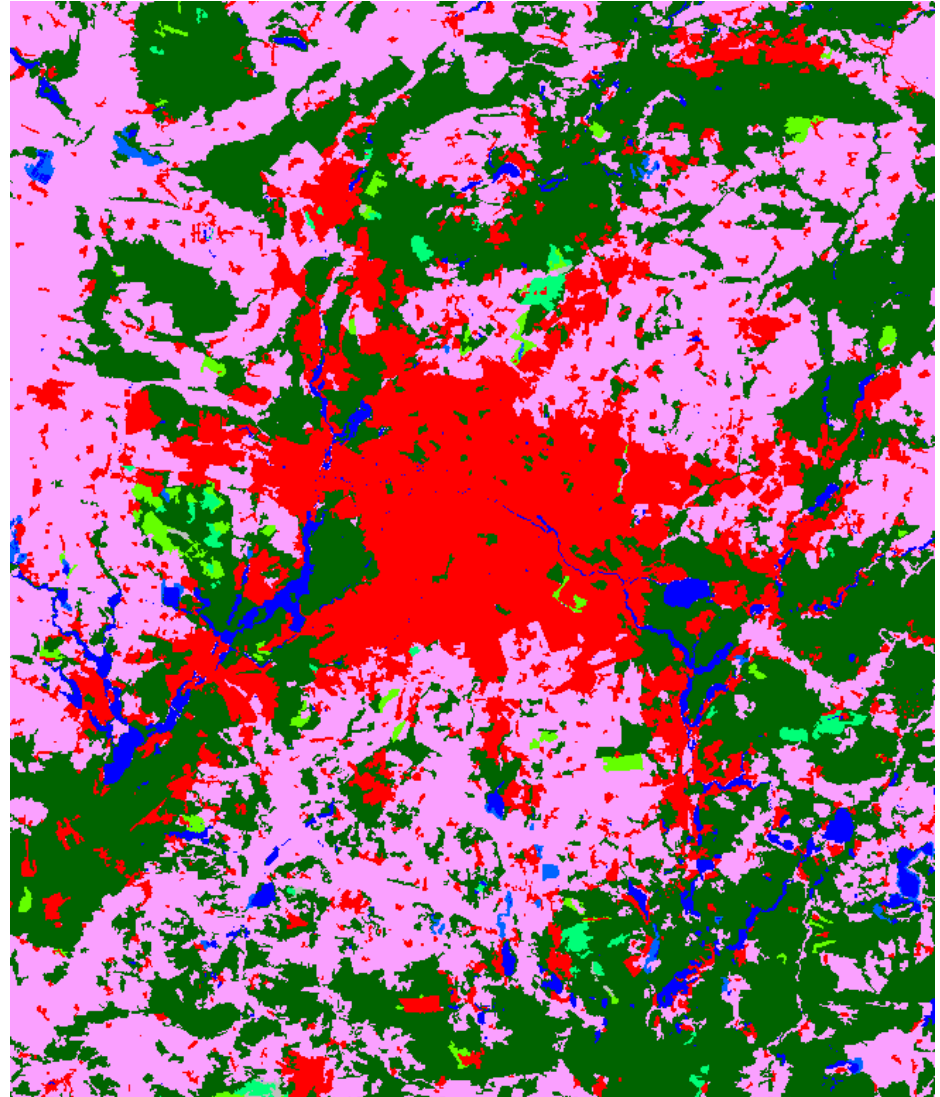
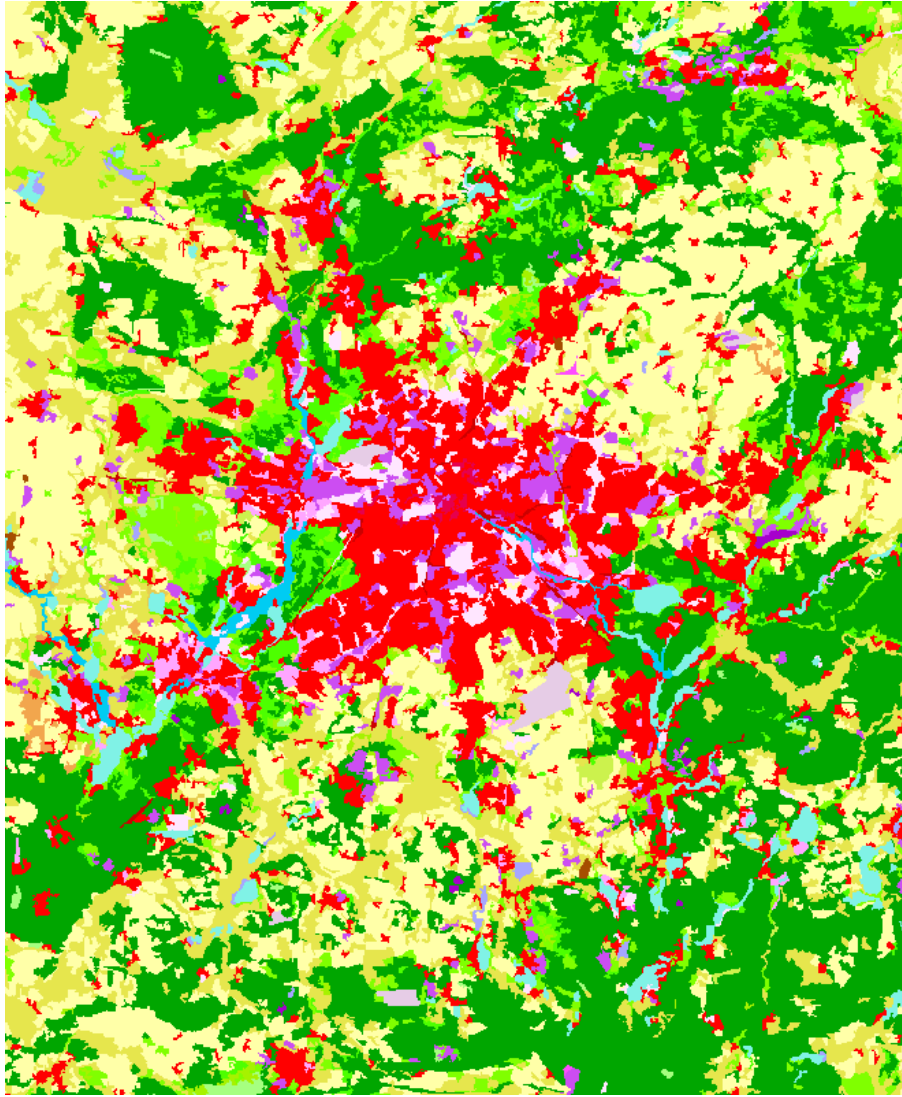
## GlobeLand30

- <http://glc30.tianditu.com/>
- <http://www.globallandcover.com/User/Login.aspx>



The first **30 m** resolution global land cover data set with **10 classes** and for the **year 2000 and 2010**. Over 10,000 Landsat-like satellite images are required to cover the entire Earth at 30 m resolution.

Data citation: CHEN Jun et al. (2015) Global land cover mapping at 30 m resolution: A POK-based operational approach. ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Volume 103, May 2015, Pages 7–27.





**The mixed pixel problem:** The low accuracy of land use/cover is due to mixed pixel problem, which result from the fact that the scale of observation (i.e. pixel resolution) fails to correspond to the spatial characteristics of the target.

Remote sensing need in situ data





## International Journal of Remote Sensing

ISSN: 0143-1161 (Print) 1366-5901 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tres20>

### An overview of 21 global and 43 regional land-cover mapping products

George Grekousis, Giorgos Mountrakis & Marinos Kavouras

**To cite this article:** George Grekousis, Giorgos Mountrakis & Marinos Kavouras (2015) An overview of 21 global and 43 regional land-cover mapping products, International Journal of Remote Sensing, 36:21, 5309-5335, DOI: [10.1080/01431161.2015.1093195](https://doi.org/10.1080/01431161.2015.1093195)

**To link to this article:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01431161.2015.1093195>

**Current global land cover data:**

[http://worldgrids.org/doku.php/wiki:land\\_cover\\_and\\_land\\_use](http://worldgrids.org/doku.php/wiki:land_cover_and_land_use)

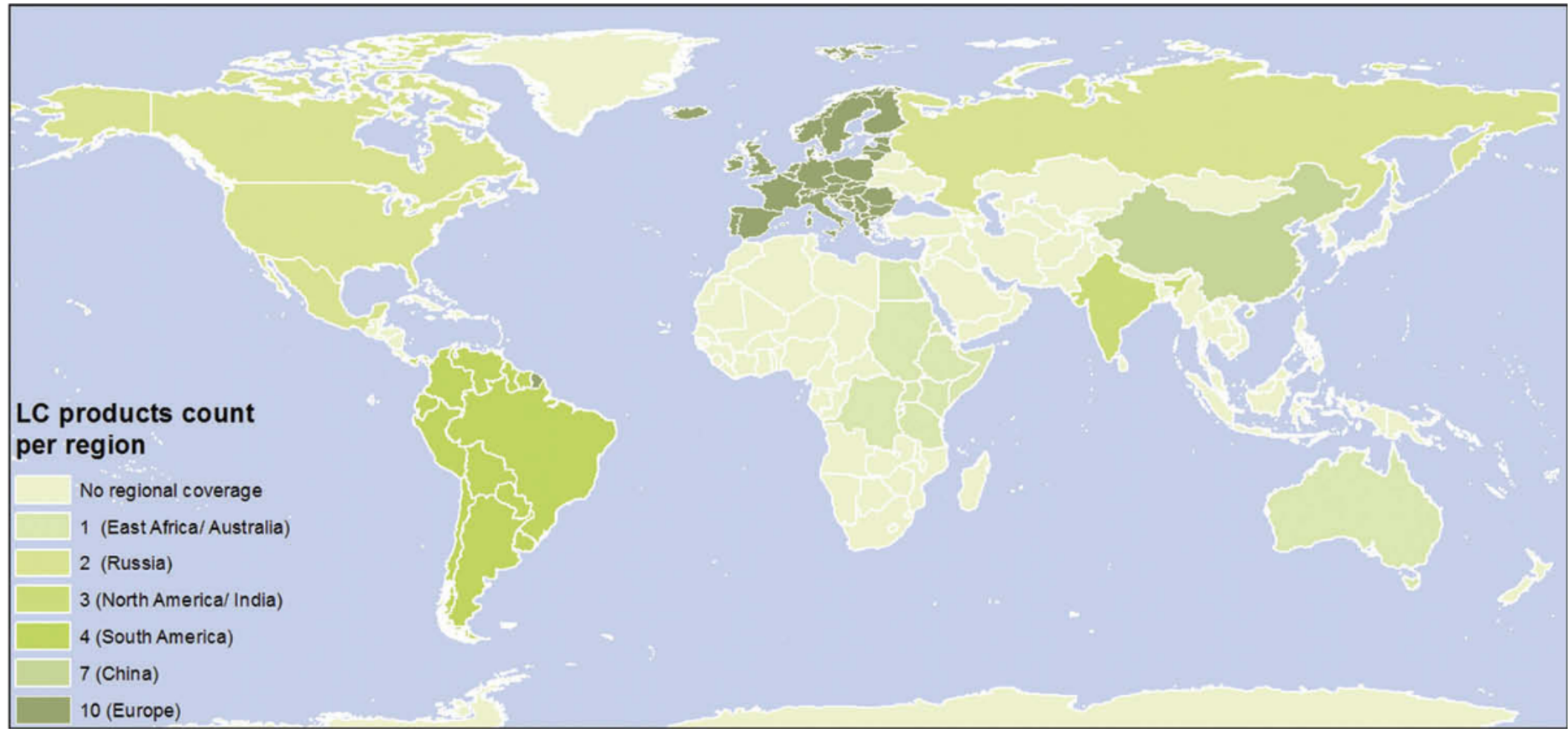


Figure 2. Regional LC products count by location. Names of LC products per region along with the reference year in parenthesis are also included. Europe, China, and the USA offer a plethora of LC products for multiple reference years especially during the decade 2000–2010. Asia and Africa do not have a complete regional product solely developed for these regions. East Africa is only covered from Africover and Asia is covered sparsely by national efforts.



- Understanding and monitoring LC distribution and dynamics are important factors in environmental studies. Updated LC information is essential for governments, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders assisting in the development and implementation of environmental policies for a sustainable future.

- For this reason, it is essential that LC products are as accurate and reliable as possible so that the outcomes are reliable and consistent. In reality though, because of the wide differences in the methodological approaches for each product (e.g. classification schemes, classification techniques, time of data acquisition, spatial resolution), there is often poor agreement among different data sets when applied at the regional or global level



## International Journal of Digital Earth

ISSN: 1753-8947 (Print) 1753-8955 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tjde20>

# A global, high-resolution (30-m) inland water body dataset for 2000: first results of a topographic-spectral classification algorithm

Min Feng, Joseph O. Sexton, Saurabh Channan & John R. Townshend

**To cite this article:** Min Feng, Joseph O. Sexton, Saurabh Channan & John R. Townshend (2016) A global, high-resolution (30-m) inland water body dataset for 2000: first results of a topographic-spectral classification algorithm, International Journal of Digital Earth, 9:2, 113-133, DOI: [10.1080/17538947.2015.1026420](https://doi.org/10.1080/17538947.2015.1026420)

Link to data: <http://glcf.umd.edu/data/watercover/>

# Single thematic products dedicated to only one LC class (Often forest or water)

Consensus Land Cover



(a)

CORINE Land Cover



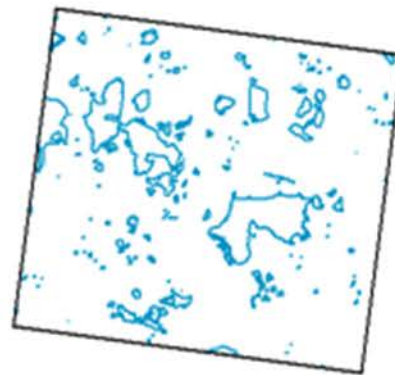
(b)

Global Inland Water



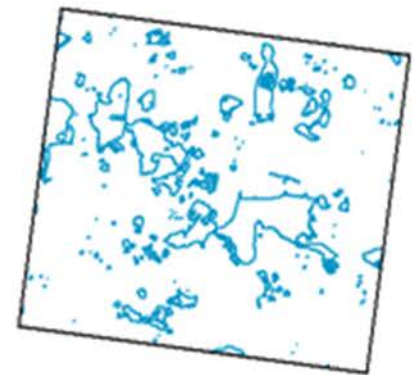
(c)

Dibavod



(d)

Open Street Map



(e)

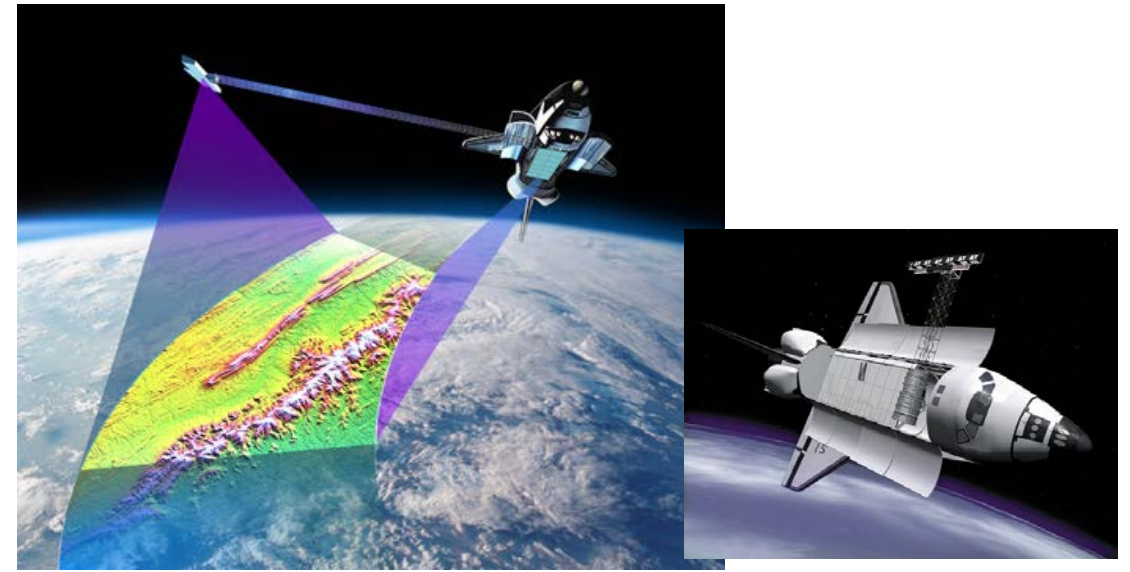
# Available Data - Water

- <https://global-surface-water.appspot.com/download>
- <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v540/n7633/full/nature20584.html>
- Different download mechanisms (web, WMS,...)

# DEM

## SRTM (Shuttle Radar Topography Mission)

- <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>
- <https://lta.cr.usgs.gov/SRTM1Arc>



The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) is an international research effort that obtained digital elevation models on a **near-global scale** from 56° S to 60° N. SRTM consisted of a specially modified radar system that flew on board the Space shuttle Endeavour during the **11-day mission in February 2000**. To acquire topographic data, the SRTM payload was outfitted with two radar antennas.

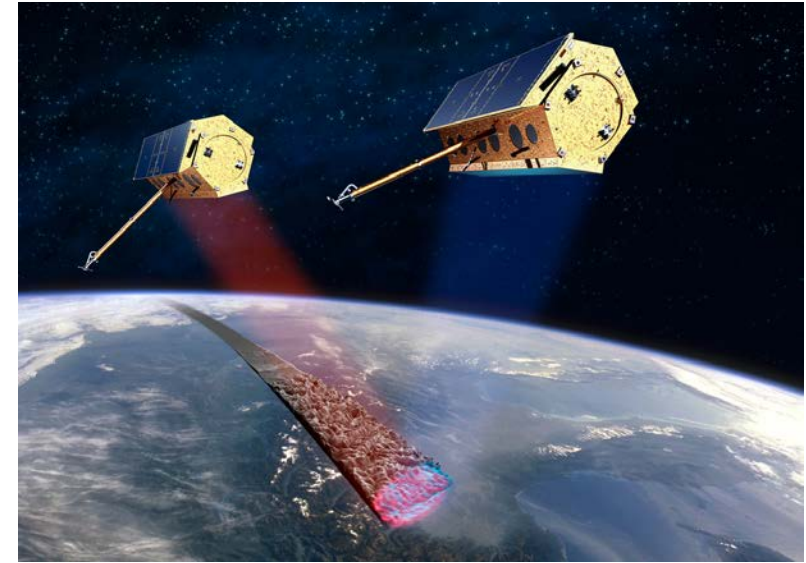
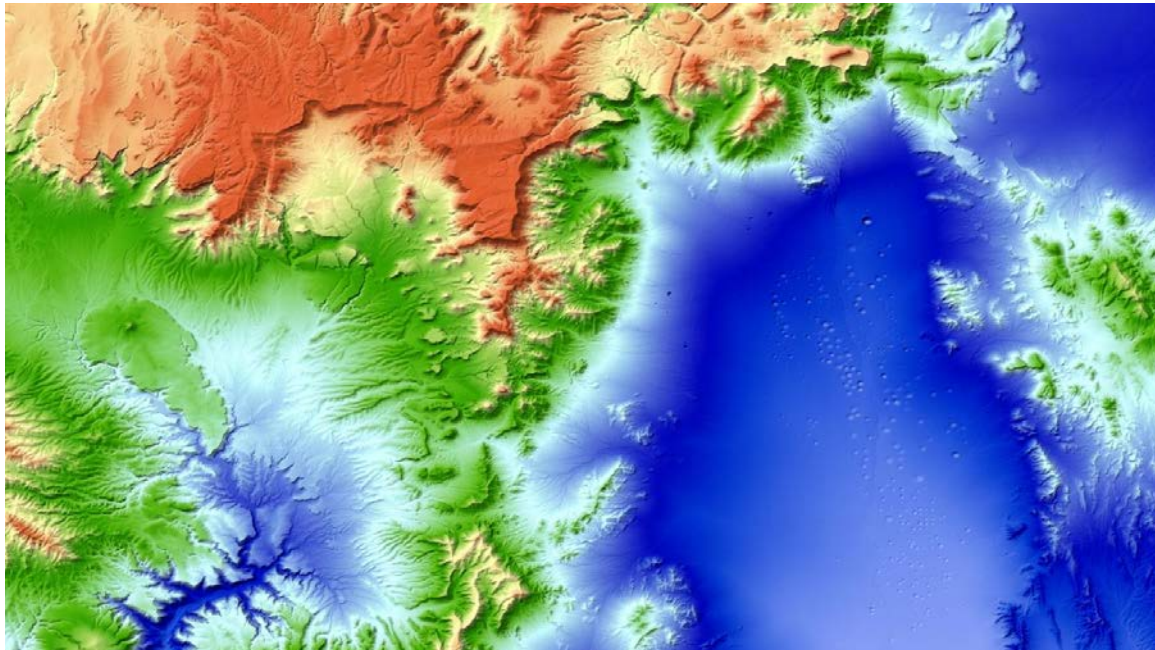
**1-arc second** global digital elevation model (30 meters) is available



# DEM

## TanDEM-X

- <https://tandemx-science.dlr.de/>
- [http://www.dlr.de/rd/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-2440/3586\\_read-16692/](http://www.dlr.de/rd/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-2440/3586_read-16692/)

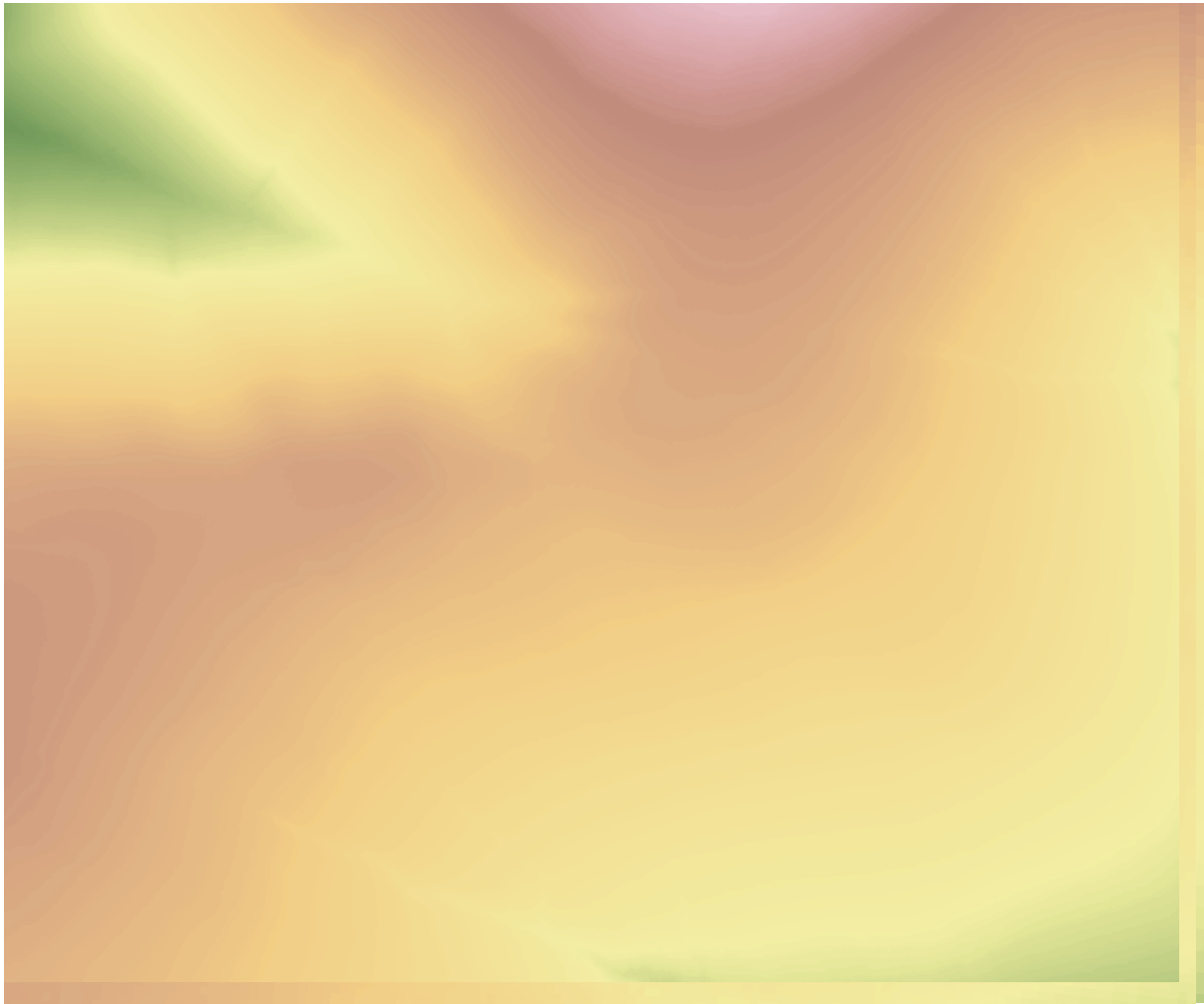


The approximately 150 million square kilometres of land surface were scanned from space. The use of radar technology based on two satellites orbiting in close formation is still unique and was key to the high-precision remapping of Earth.

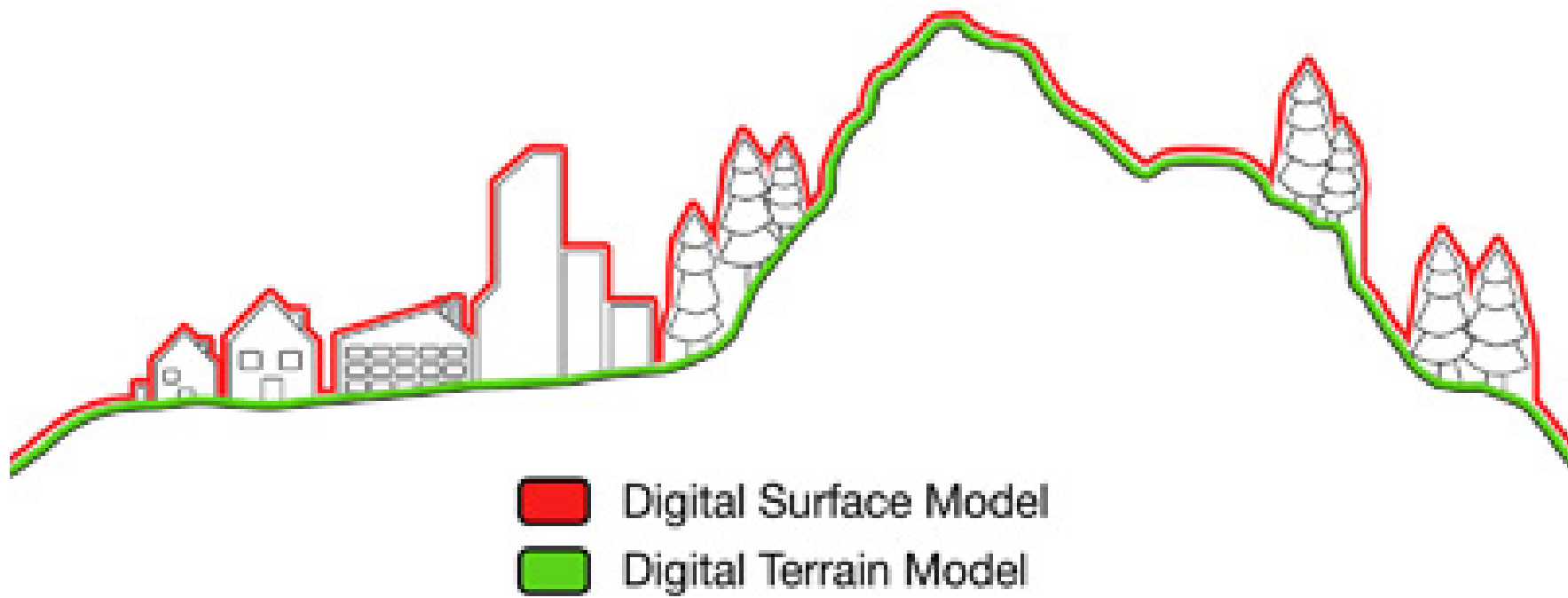
It is a Public Private Partnership project operated in conjunction with Airbus Defence and Space. DLR is responsible for providing TanDEM-X data to the scientific community, mission planning and implementation, radar operation and calibration, control of the two satellites, and generation of the digital elevation model.

Access to the TanDEM-X Digital Elevation Model (DEM) is restricted – DLR supplies the data free of charge to scientific projects.









Radar vs. Lidar



# DTM – Terrain attributes

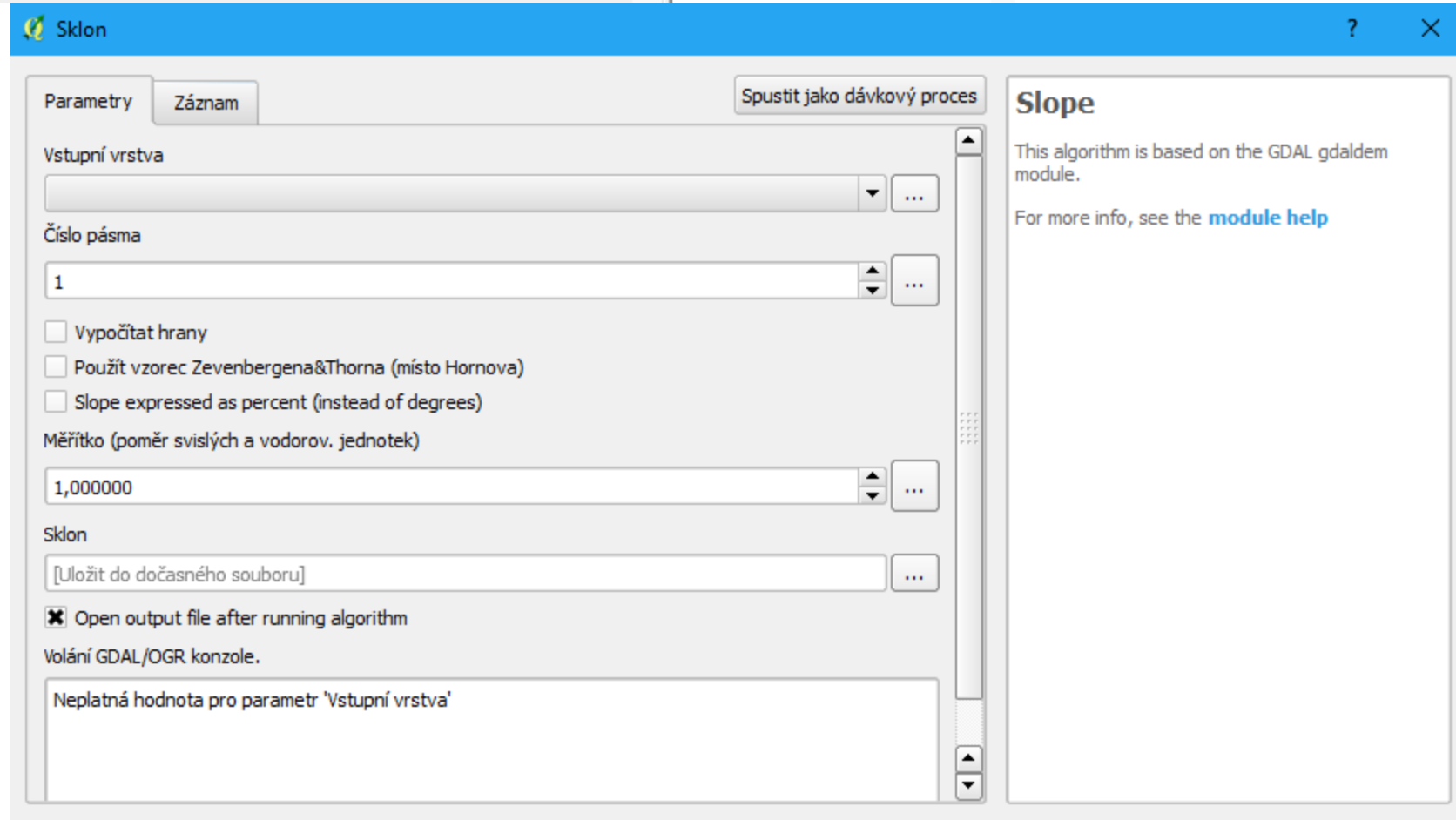
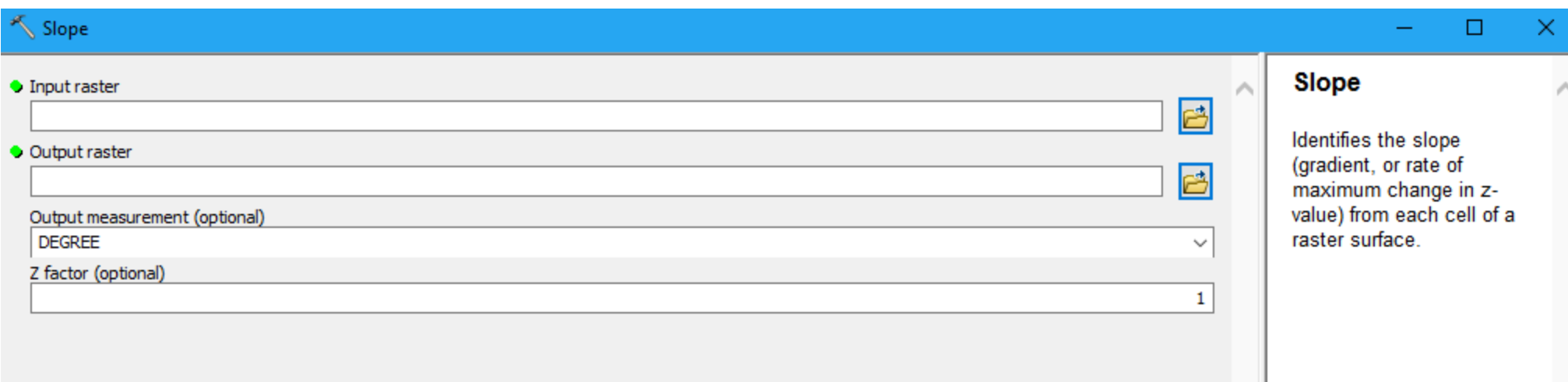
## Primary Attributes

- Slope
- Aspect
- Plan and Profile Curvature
- Hillshade
- Flow direction

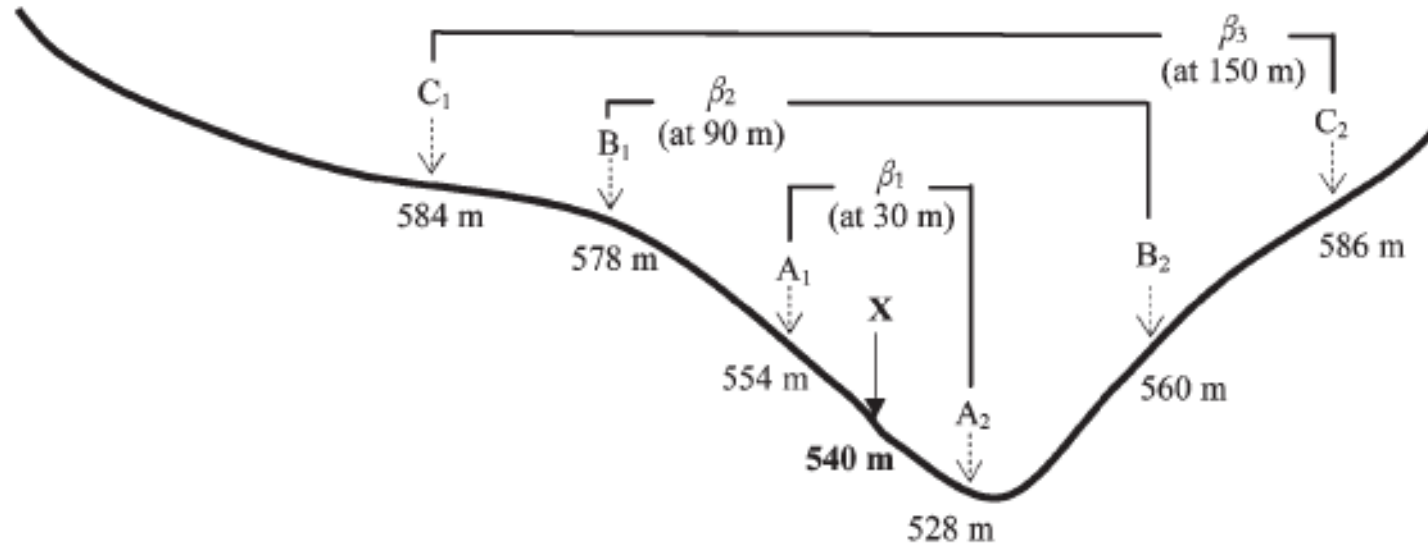
## Secondary Attributes

- Flow accumulation

# Slope ArcGIS vs QGIS

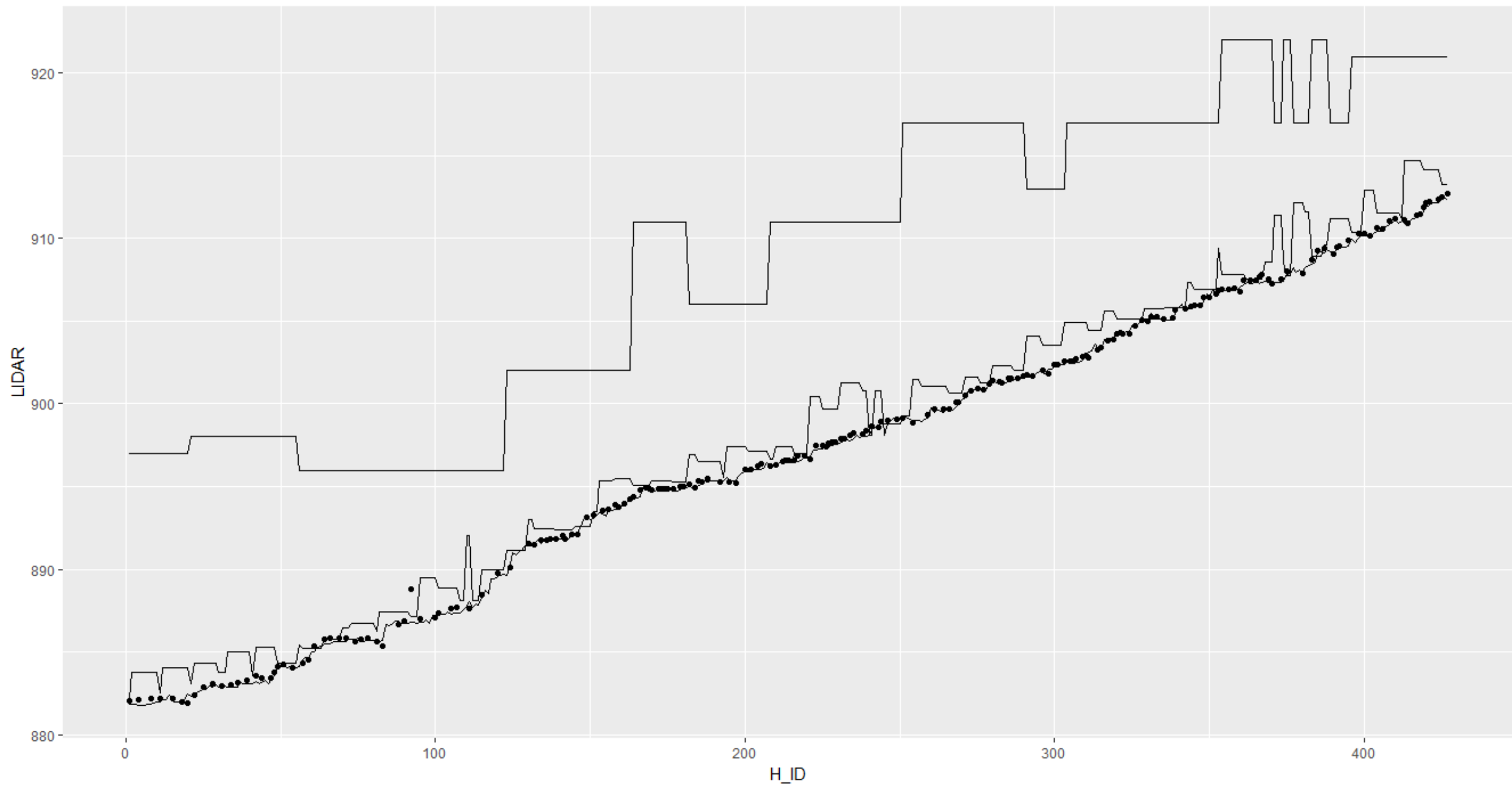


# DTM – Terrain attributes (scale effects)



$\beta_1 = (554 \text{ m} - 528 \text{ m}) \times 100\% / 30 \text{ m} = 87\%$ , $\beta_1$ is the slope gradient for X at 30-m spatial resolution, pointing from A <sub>1</sub> to A <sub>2</sub>
$\beta_2 = (578 \text{ m} - 560 \text{ m}) \times 100\% / 90 \text{ m} = 20\%$ , $\beta_2$ is the slope gradient for X at 90-m spatial resolution, pointing from B <sub>1</sub> to B <sub>2</sub>
$\beta_3 = (586 \text{ m} - 584 \text{ m}) \times 100\% / 150 \text{ m} = 1\%$ , $\beta_3$ is the slope gradient for X at 150-m spatial resolution, pointing from C <sub>2</sub> to C <sub>1</sub>



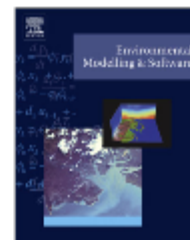




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

# Environmental Modelling & Software

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



## Towards a framework for terrain attribute selection in environmental studies



Vincent Lecours<sup>a,\*</sup>, Rodolphe Devillers<sup>a</sup>, Alvin E. Simms<sup>a</sup>, Vanessa L. Lucieer<sup>b</sup>,  
Craig J. Brown<sup>a,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 232 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, A1B 3X9, Canada

<sup>b</sup> Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, 20 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, Tasmania, 7004, Australia

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### A B S T R A C T

Terrain attributes (e.g. slope, rugosity) derived from digital terrain models are commonly used in environmental studies. The increasing availability of GIS tools that generate those attributes can lead users to select a sub-optimal combination of terrain attributes for their applications. Our objectives were to identify sets of terrain attributes that best capture terrain properties and to assess how they vary with surface complexity. 230 tools from 11 software packages were used to derive terrain attributes from nine surfaces of different topographic complexity levels. Covariation and independence of terrain attributes were explored using three multivariate statistical methods. Distinct groups of correlated terrain attributes were identified, and their importance in describing a surface varied with surface complexity. Terrain attributes were highly covarying and sometimes ambiguously defined within software documentation. We found that a combination of six to seven particular terrain attributes always captures more than 70% of the topographic structure of surfaces.



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Thank you for attention!

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