



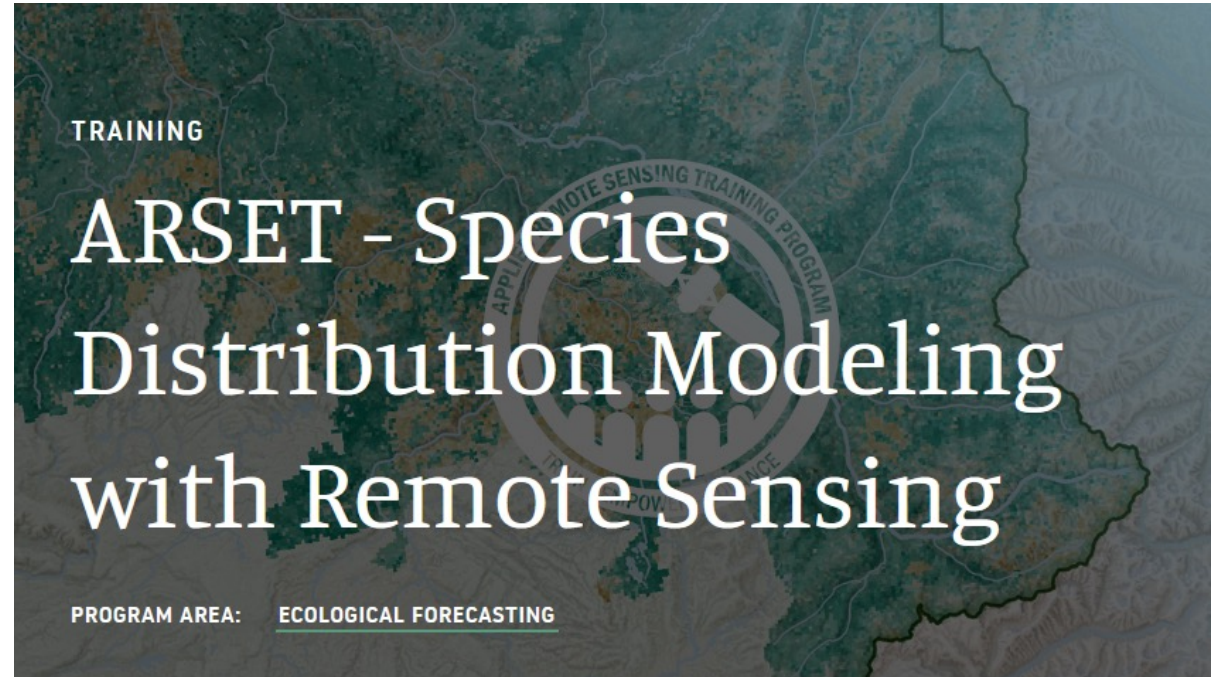
Species Distribution Modeling with Remote Sensing

Amber McCullum, Juan Torres-Perez, Zach Bengtsson

Aug 12, 2021

Course Structure and Materials

- Three 1.5-hour sessions on August 12, 17, & 19
- Sessions will be presented once in English 12:00-13:30 EDT
- Webinar recordings, PowerPoint presentations, and the homework assignment can be found after each session at:
 - <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-species-distribution-modeling-remote-sensing>
- Q&A following each lecture and/or by email at:
 - amberjean.mccullum@nasa.gov
 - juan.l.torresperez@nasa.gov
 - bengtsson@baeri.org



Amber McCullum



Juan Torres-Pérez



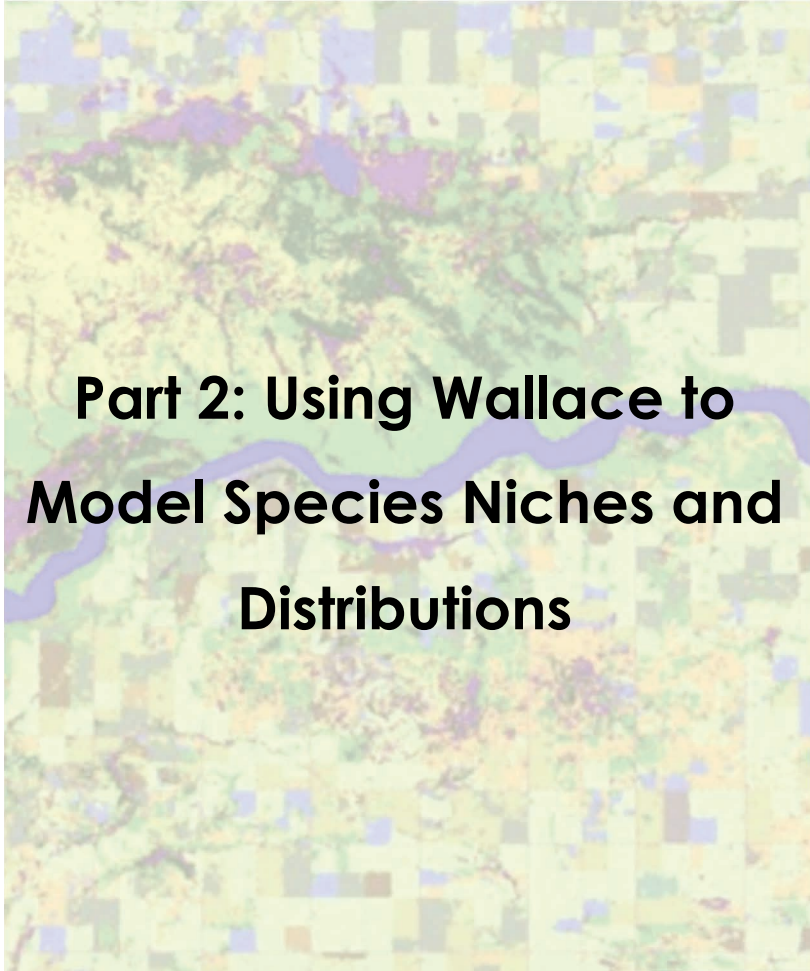
Zach Bengtsson



Webinar Agenda



**Part 1: Overview of
Species Distribution
Models (SDMs)**



**Part 2: Using Wallace to
Model Species Niches and
Distributions**

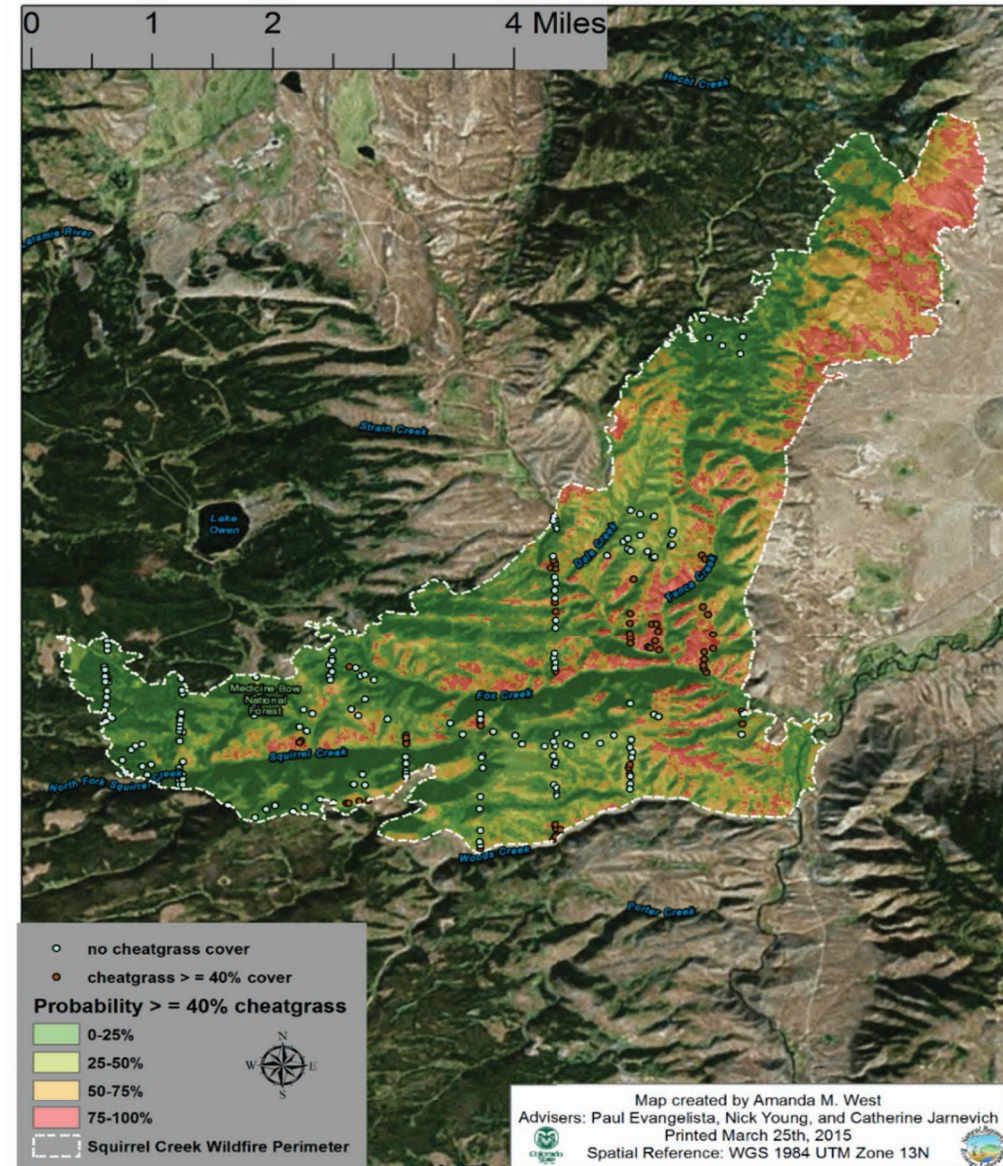


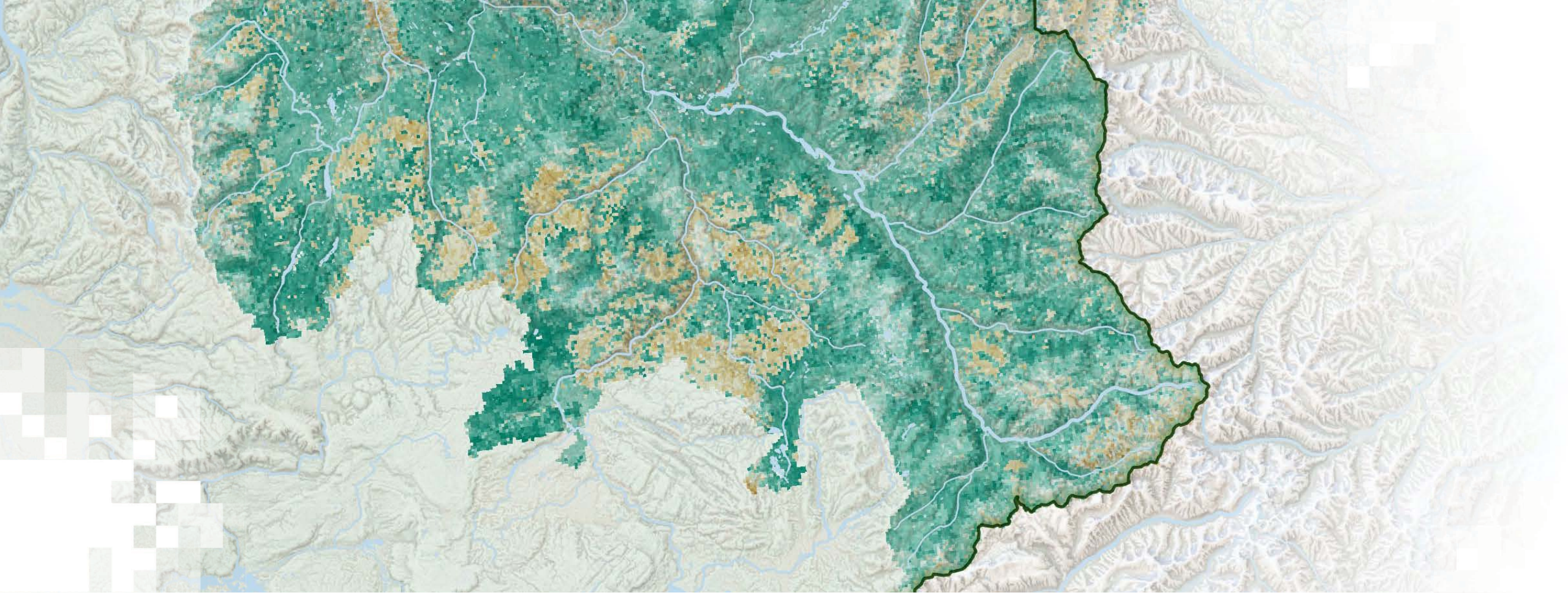
**Part 3: Additional SDM
Tools and Techniques, ASP
Projects, and Summary**



Part 1 Overview

- Species Distribution Models (SDMs) Overview
- Environmental Variables
- Occurrence Data
- Methods and Models
- Case Study Examples
- Question and Answer Session

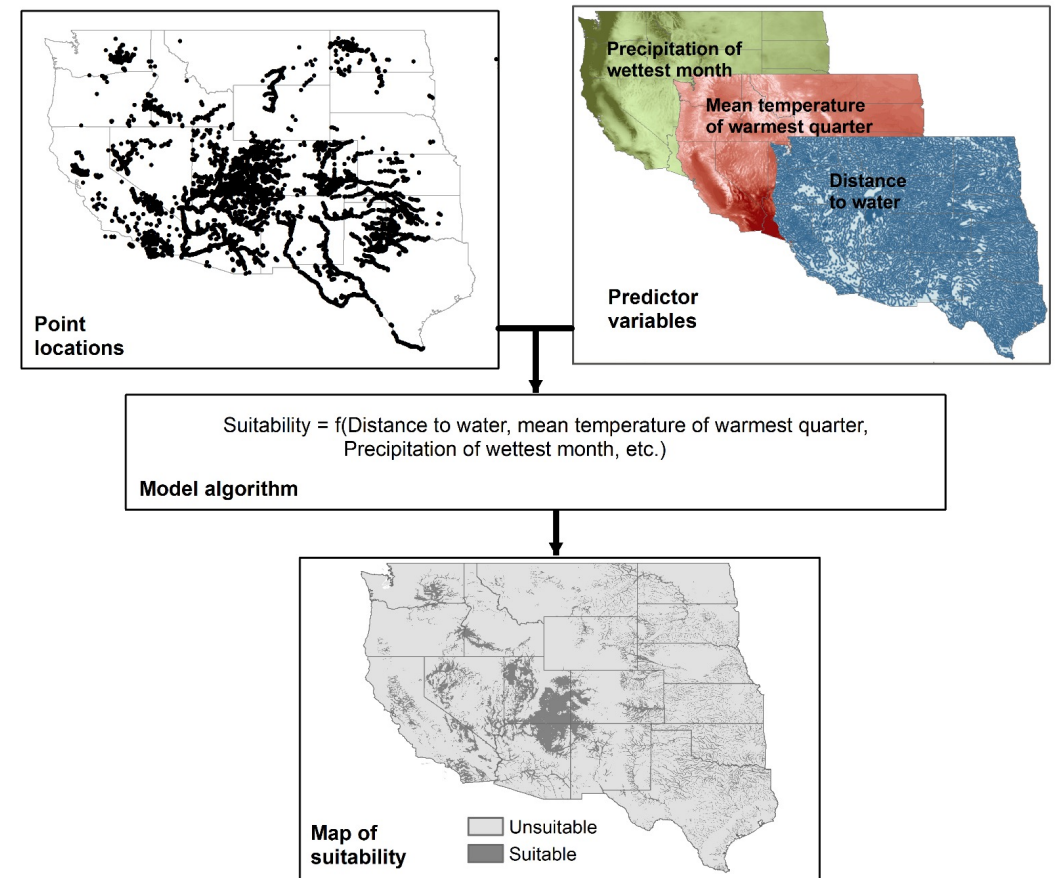




Species Distribution Models (SDMs) Overview

Species Distribution Models (SDMs)

- Species Distribution Models allow you to assess the suitability of a habitat for a species.
- The models use raster-based layers such as land use/land cover, elevation, and others as predictors of suitable habitats.
- The predictor data is combined with ground-collected presence-absence or abundance data in empirical statistical models.



Jarnevich, C. S., T. J. Stohlgren, S. Kumar, J. T. Morrisette, and T. R. Holcombe, 2015, Caveats for Correlative Species Distribution Modeling: Ecological informatics, v. 29, p. 6-15.



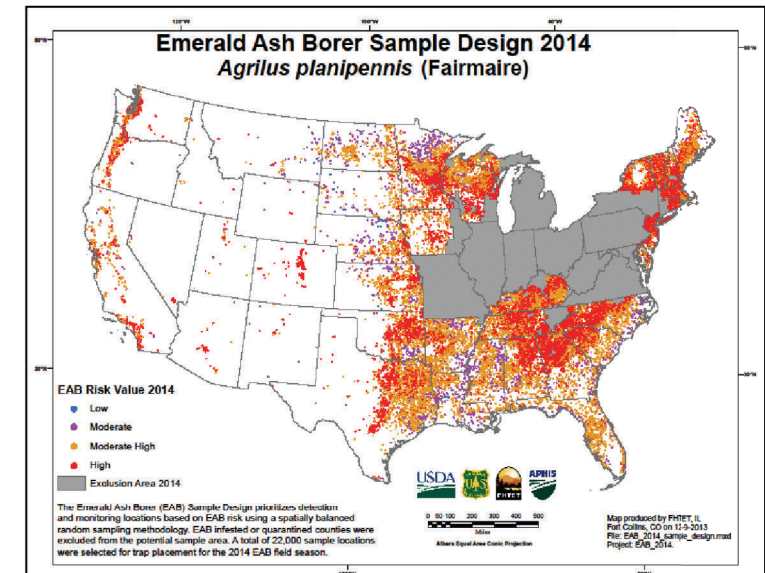
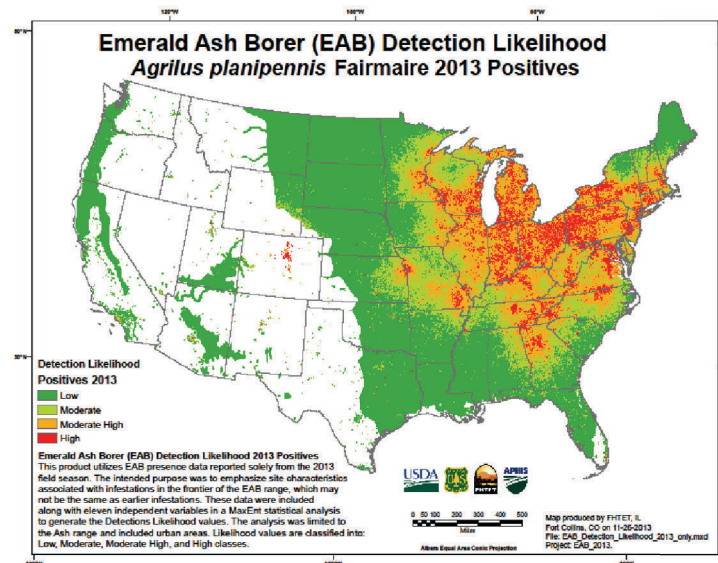
SDM Applications

- Invasive species control
- Risk assessment
- Conservation planning
- Monitoring strategies
- Scenario modeling under a changing climate



West et al. 2017,
International Journal
of Applied Earth
Observation and
Geoinformation

USDA –
model for
EAB



SDM Needs and Outputs

- **Environmental Variables**

- Characteristics of suitable habitat for a particular species

- **Occurrence Data**

- Point locations of species presence

- **Models/Algorithms**

- Use of environmental and occurrence data to predict current and/or future species distributions

- **Output**

- Habitat suitability (past, current, future)
 - Will need different types of data depending on the time period of interest



SDMs...

DO

**Identify areas with
environmental
conditions similar
to where a
species occurs**

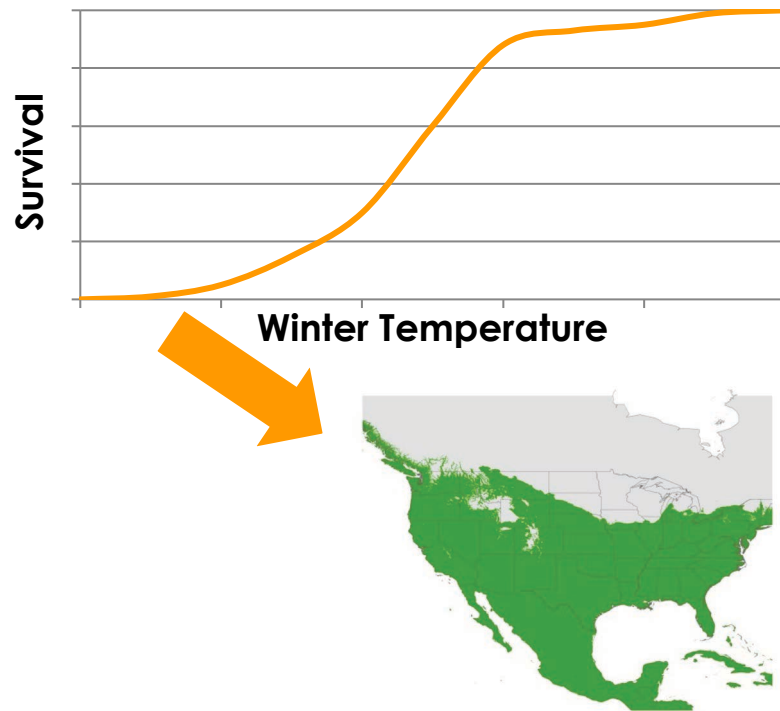
DO NOT

**Identify where a
species is actually
found**

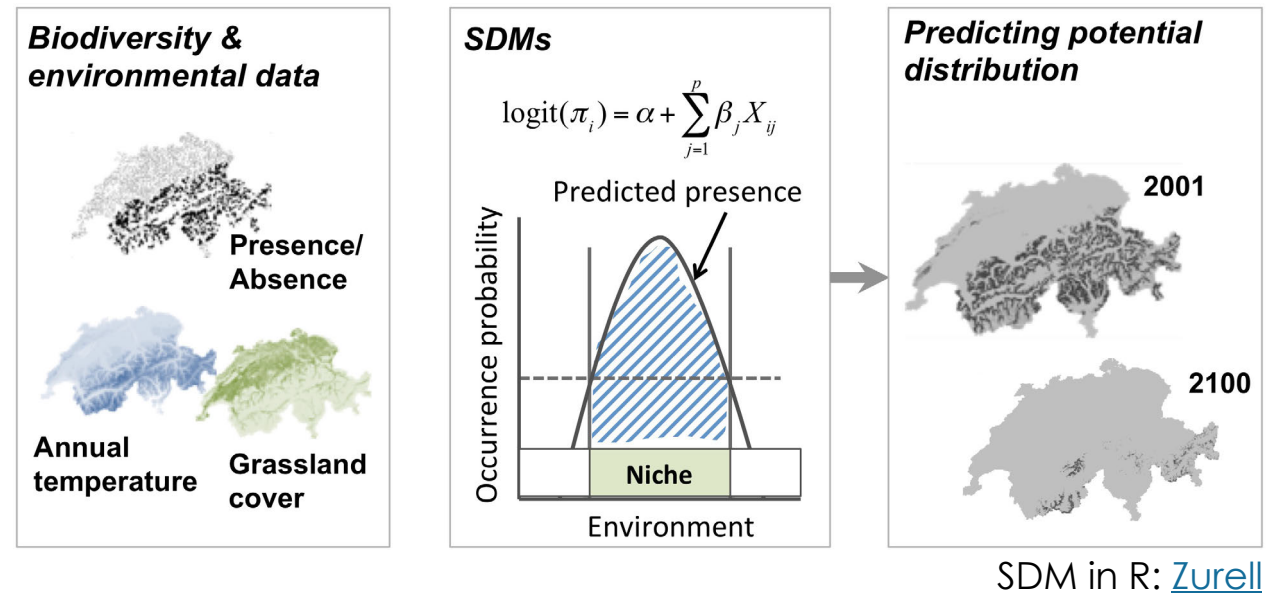


SDM Types

- **Process-Based** – Mechanism; physiological constraints

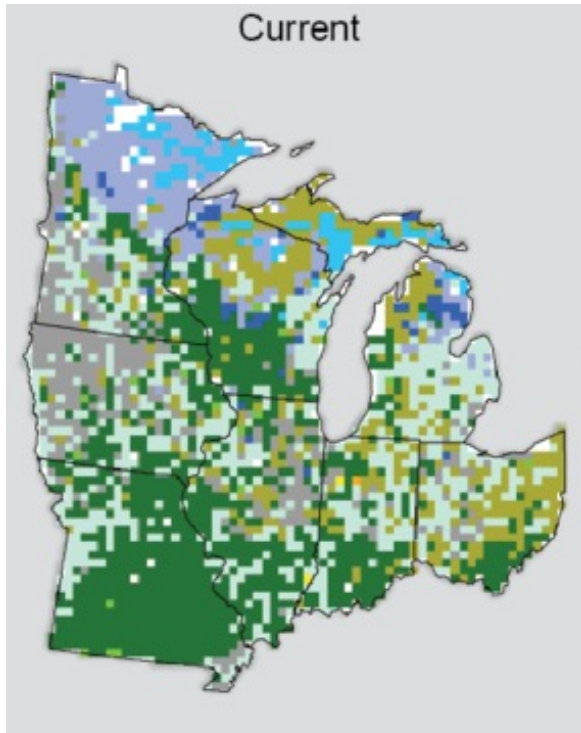


- **Correlation-Based** – Pattern; based on current locations

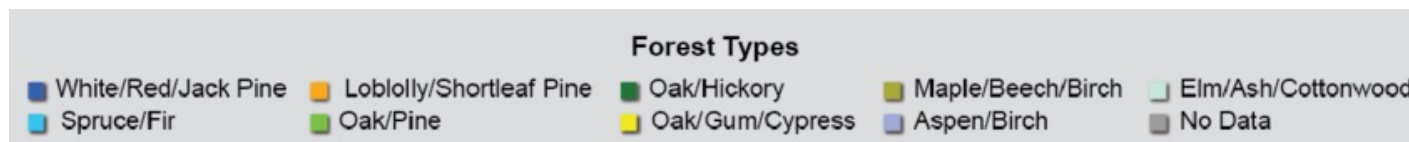
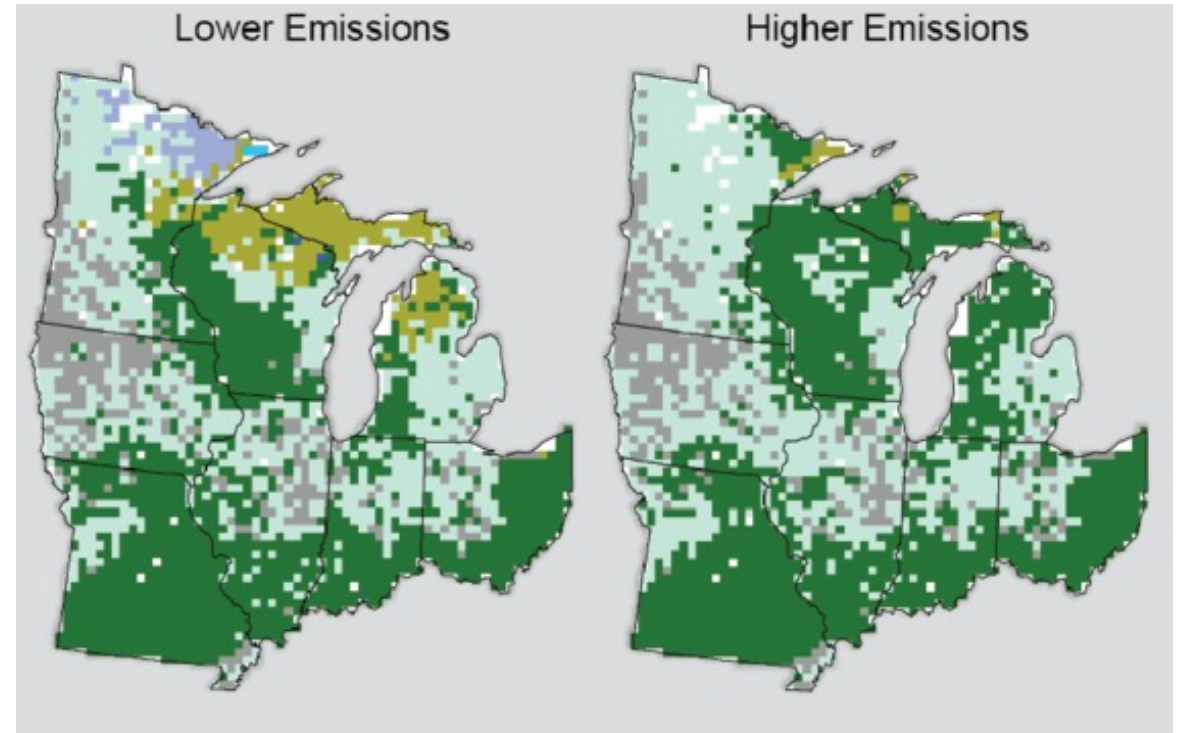


SDM Types

- **Current** – Where is it now?
 - Mapping



- **Future** – Where might it be?
 - Potential



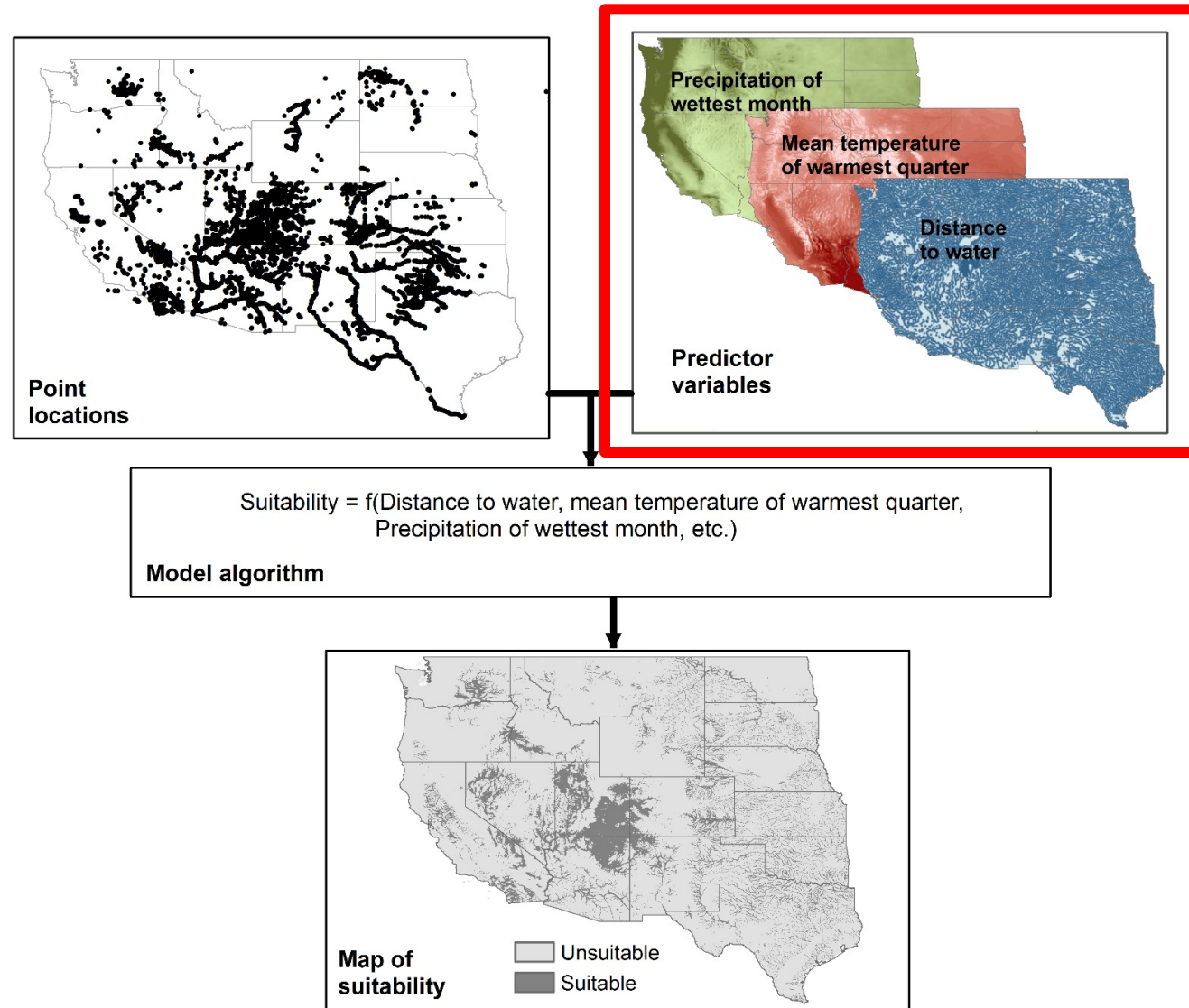
[Pryor, et al, 2014](#)





Environmental Variables

Environmental Variables

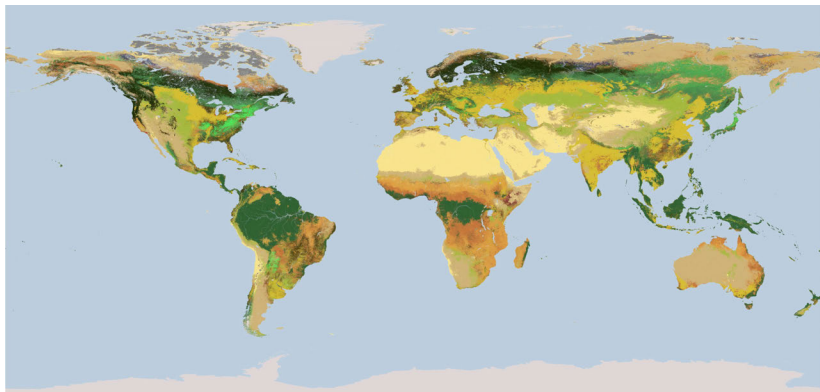


[Jarnevich et al, 2015](#)

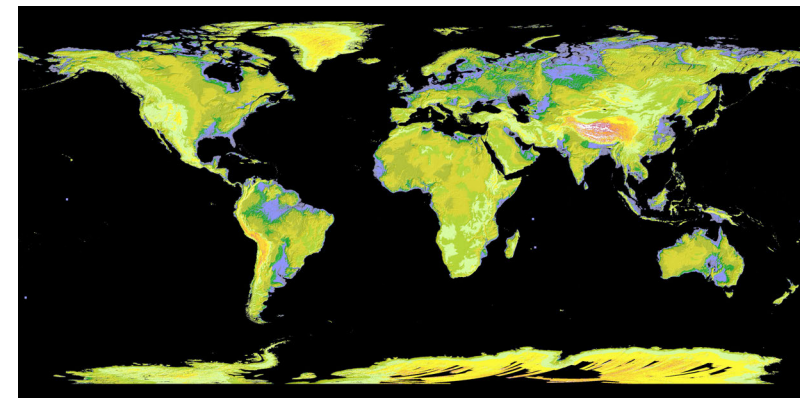


Environmental Variables

- Land Cover
- Phenology
- Vegetation Indices and Fractional Cover
- Tree Mortality (insect/disease)
- Topography: Elevation, Slope, Aspect
- Climatology: Temperature (min., max., mean, etc.), Precipitation (min., max., etc.)



MODIS Land Cover Product



ASTER Digital Elevation Model (DEM)



Land Cover and Species

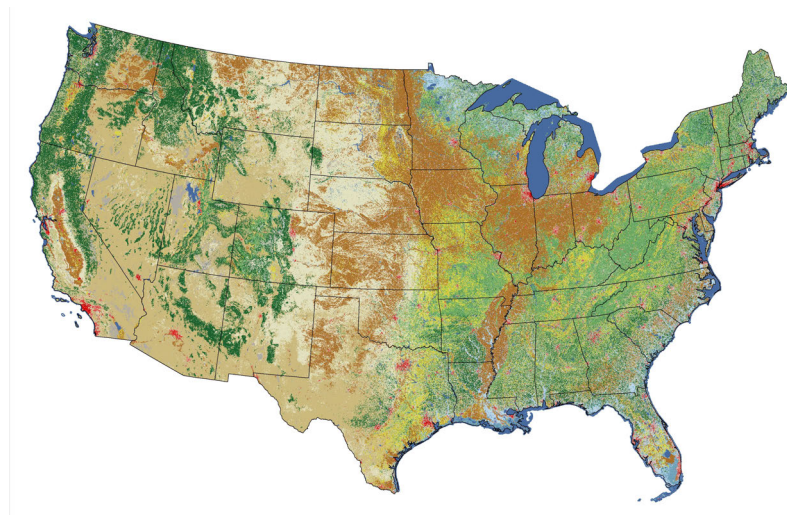
- Land cover is one of the most important drivers of biodiversity.
- It affects patterns of species diversity, distributions, and ecological processes.
- Accurate land cover maps are essential for SDMs.
 - Land cover changes can dramatically affect species distributions.
- Many regional and global land cover maps are available.
- Creating your own land cover maps with ground-based data is ideal.



Environmental Variables: Land Cover Products

United States:

- National Land Cover Database (NLCD)
- GAP Analysis
- LANDFIRE



National Land Cover Database 2011

Global:

- MODIS Land cover product
- FAO Global Land Cover-SHARE
- ESA Climate Change Initiative Land Cover

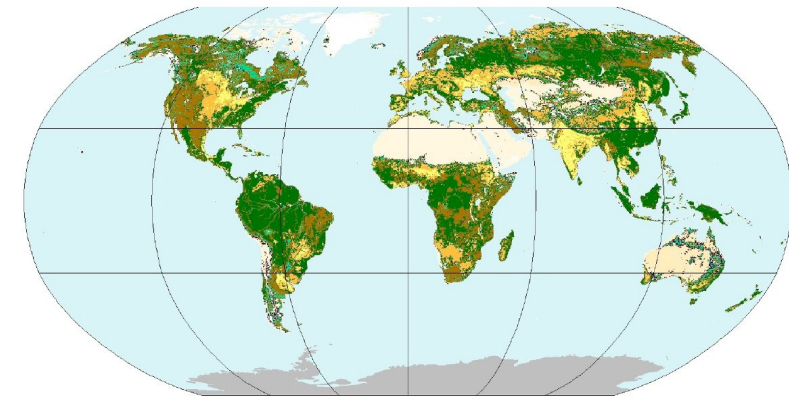


Figure 3 – Distribution of dominant GLC-SHARE Land Cover Database.

01 Artificial Surfaces	04 Tree Covered Area	07 Mangroves	10 Snow and Glaciers + Antarctica
02 Cropland	05 Shrubs Covered Area	08 Sparse Vegetation	11 Water bodies
03 Grassland	06 Herbaceous Vegetation	09 Baresoil	Antarctica

FAO Global Land Cover



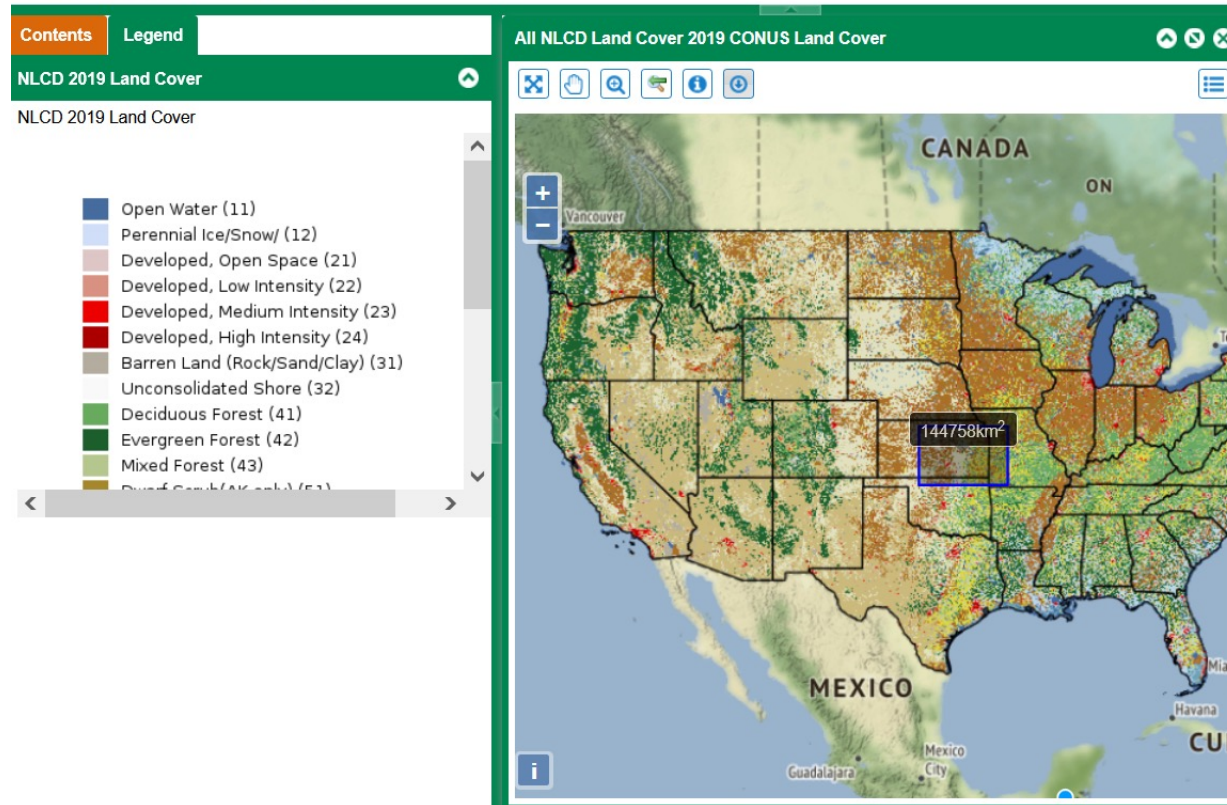
Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) Consortium

<https://www.mrlc.gov>

- National Land Cover Database (NLCD)
- Landsat-based, 30 m resolution
- 16 land cover classes
- 2001, 2006, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2019
- Other products include:
 - Percent Tree Canopy (2011, 2016)
 - Impervious Descriptor (2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2019)
- Multiple interactive viewers for land cover, rangeland metrics, and advanced analysis



MRLC Interactive Viewer



Gap Analysis Project (GAP)

<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/science-analytics-and-synthesis/gap>

- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Data and analysis tools for species, land cover, and protected areas
 - Species range
 - Additional data (land cover, forest edge, human impact, slope, aspect, canopy cover, etc.)
- Land cover maps for U.S. that incorporate the Ecological System classification from NatureServe

Species Data



Land Cover Data



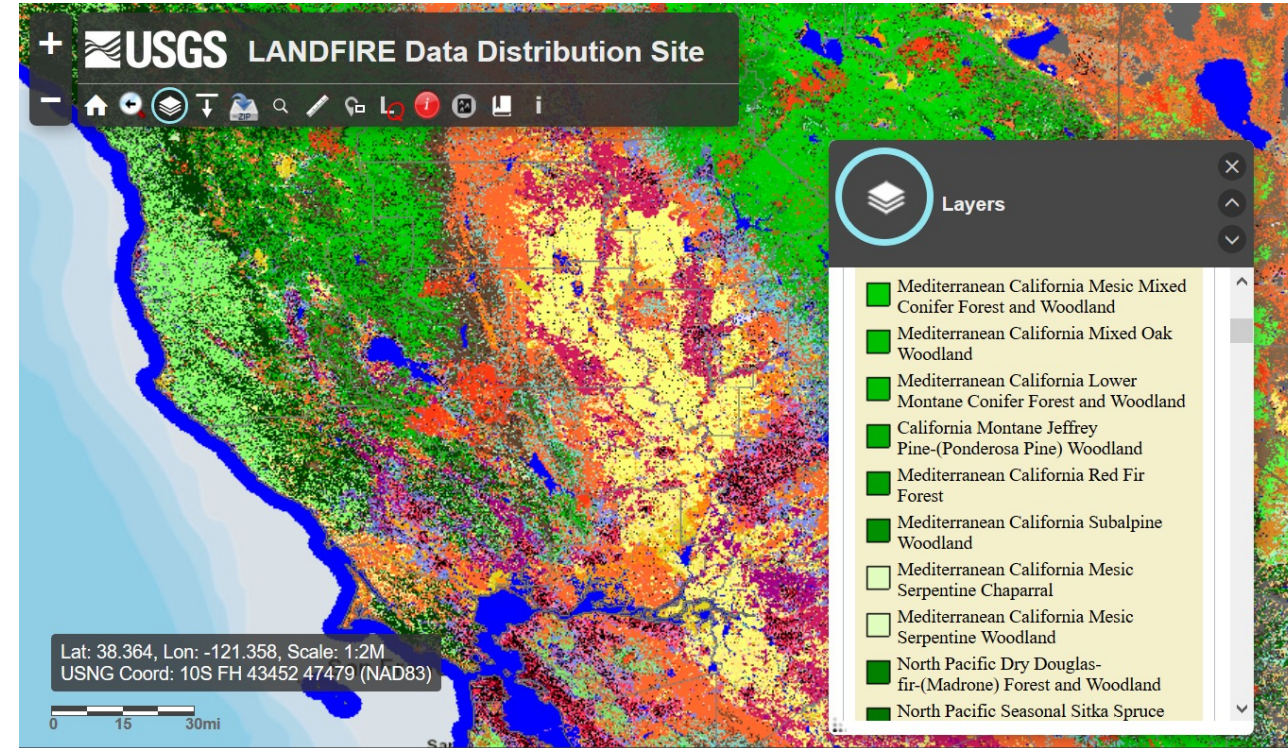
Protected Areas Data



LANDFIRE

<http://www.landfire.gov>

- Products:
 - Delivered at 30 m spatial resolution
 - Available from 1999-present
 - For the US only
- Vegetation Data Layers using Landsat Imagery:
 - Plant communities via NatureServe's terrestrial Ecological Systems Classification, through 2016
 - Mapped with models, field data, and Landsat
- Disturbance Data:
 - Fuel, vegetation, natural, and prescribed disturbance by type and year



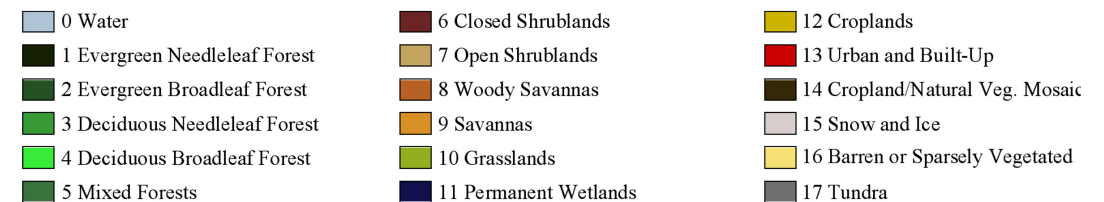
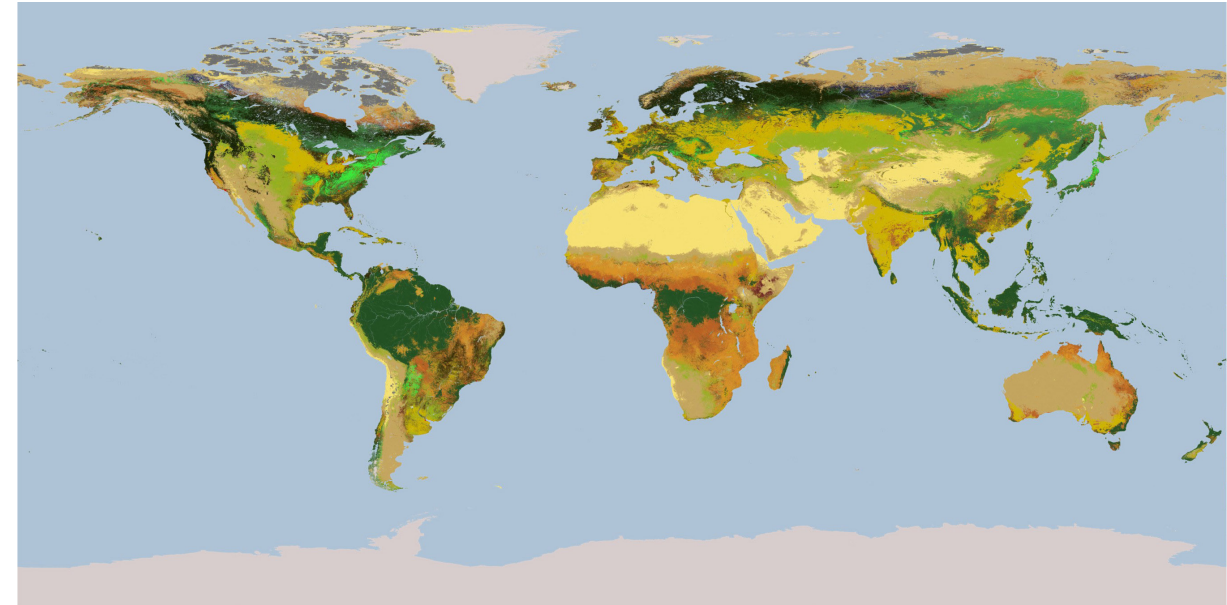
Vegetation layers via LANDFIRE. Image Credit:

<https://www.landfire.gov/viewer>



MODIS Land Cover

- Contains 5 classification schemes
 - Identifies 17 land cover classes identified by the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme, which includes 11 natural vegetation classes, 3 developed and mosaicked land classes, and 3 non-vegetated land classes
- Spatial Resolution: 500 m
- Temporal Coverage: 2001 – 2019 annually
- Download data from NASA's Earthdata Search:
<http://search.earthdata.nasa.gov>



Food and Agriculture Organization

Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

land cover

Explore Data

SEARCH RESULTS

Data

Search for 'land cover' in the Data Catalogue

Locations

Clover Laid, Brandon, Durham, DH7 8BB, United Kingdom

Food Security Crops and Vegetation Livestock Trade and Production **Land** Water

Climate Fishery Forestry Socioeconomic and Demographic Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Boundaries and Backgrounds Tools My Data

SEARCH the catalogue

DATA PREVIEW

Soil

Land Cover

Land Cover Classification (Africa and Near East - Annual - 250m)

National

Australia

Bangladesh

Land cover - Globcover

Land cover of Algeria - Globcover Regional

Land cover of Angola - Globcover Regional

Land cover of Benin - Globcover Regional

Land cover of Algeria - Globcover Regional

Add to the map

Land cover of Algeria - Globcover Regional

Description

This land cover data set is derived from the original raster based Globcover regional (Africa) archive. It has been processed to generate a vector version at national scale using the LCCS regional legend (46 classes). This database can be analyzed in the GLCN software Advanced Database Gateway (ADG), which provides a user-friendly interface and advanced functionalities to breakdown the LCCS classes in their

Give Feedback

<https://data.apps.fao.org>

Earth Map

Earth Map

Enter a location

OPEN AOI WITH...

Land maps

Land Cover - CCI/ESA

GlobCover - ESA

Land Cover Proba-V - CGLS/Copernicus

IPCC Land Use Classification - CCI/ESA

IPCC Land Use Classification - CGLS/Copernicus

Cropland - GFSAD1000

Cropland - GFSAD30

MODIS IGBP Land Cover

MODIS Combined Land Cover

ESRI 2020 Land Cover

Legend

Land Cov... 2019

No Data

Cropland, rainfed

Cropland, rainfed: Herbaceous cover

Cropland, rainfed: Tree or shrub cover

Cropland, irrigated or post-flooding

Kazakhstan

Uzbekistan

Kyrgyzstan

Turkmenistan

Tajikistan

Afghanistan

Pakistan

India

Bangladesh

Myanmar (Burma)

Laos

Thailand

Vietnam

Cambodia

Malaysia

Sri Lanka

Philippines

Indonesia

Maldives

Lat:35.901 Long:78.351

Powered by Google Earth Engine

Keyboard shortcuts | Map data ©2021 Google, SK telecom | 500 km | Terms of Use

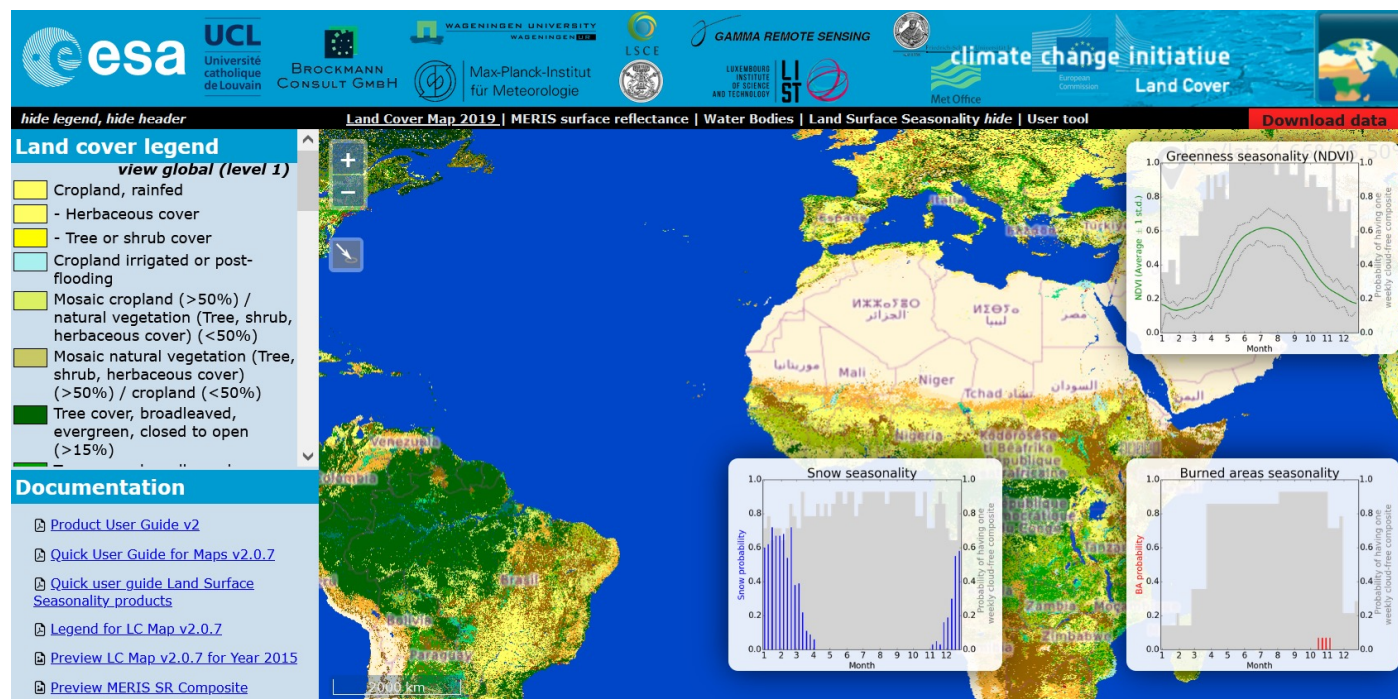
<https://earthmap.org>



ESA Climate Change Initiative Land Cover

<http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org>

- Annual global land cover time series from 1992 – 2019
- Spatial Resolution: 300 m
- Remote Sensing Sources:
 - NOAA AVHRR
 - SPOT
 - ENVISAT
 - PROBA-V
- 22 land cover classes based on the UN Land Cover Classification System

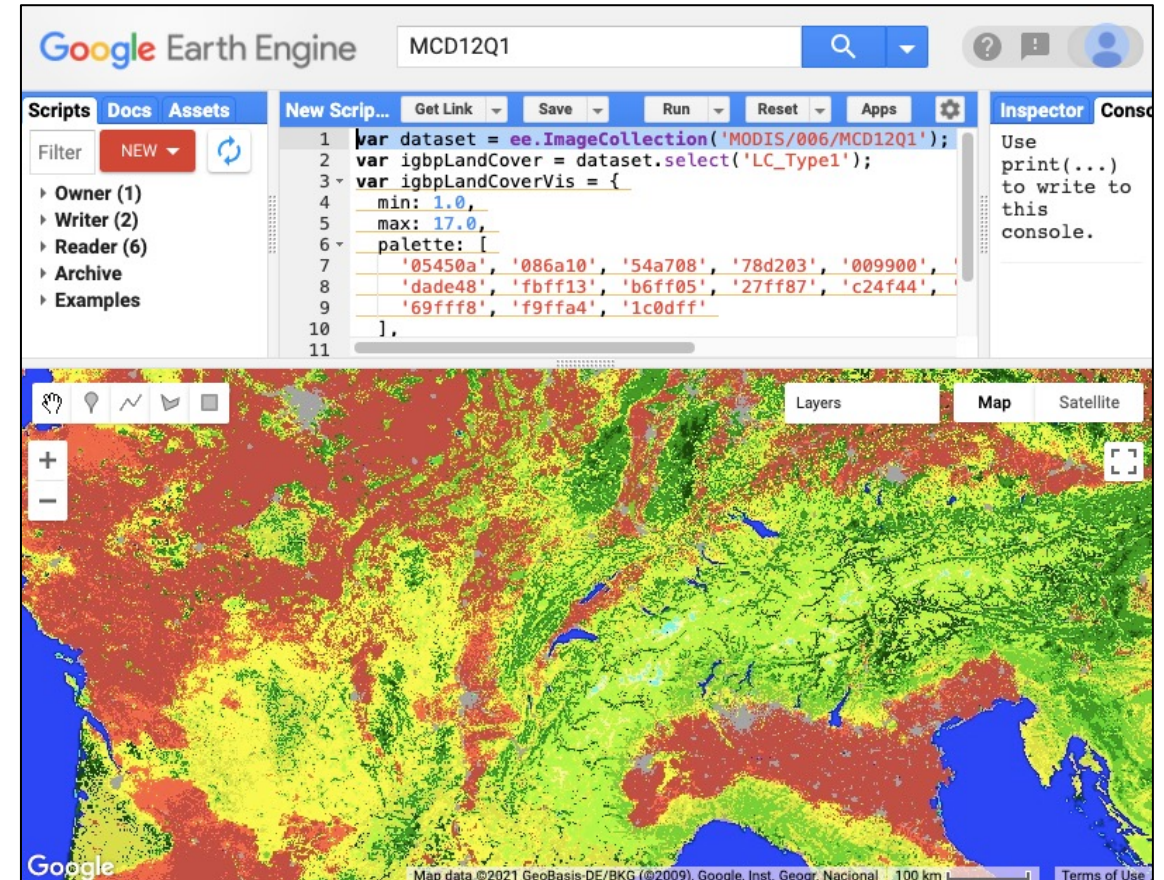


Visualize and download with the CCI Land Cover viewer: <http://maps.elie.ucl.ac.be/CCI/viewer/>



Create Your Own Land Cover Map

- Land cover classification is the process of grouping spectral classes and assigning them informational class names.
- Spectral Classes:
 - Groups of pixels that are uniform with respect to their pixel values in several spectral bands.
- Informational Classes:
 - Categories of interest to users of the data (like water, forest, urban, agriculture, etc.).
- Previous ARSET trainings:
 - [Land Cover Classification with Satellite Imagery](#)
 - [Accuracy Assessment of a Land Cover Classification](#)
 - [Using Google Earth Engine for Land Monitoring Applications](#)

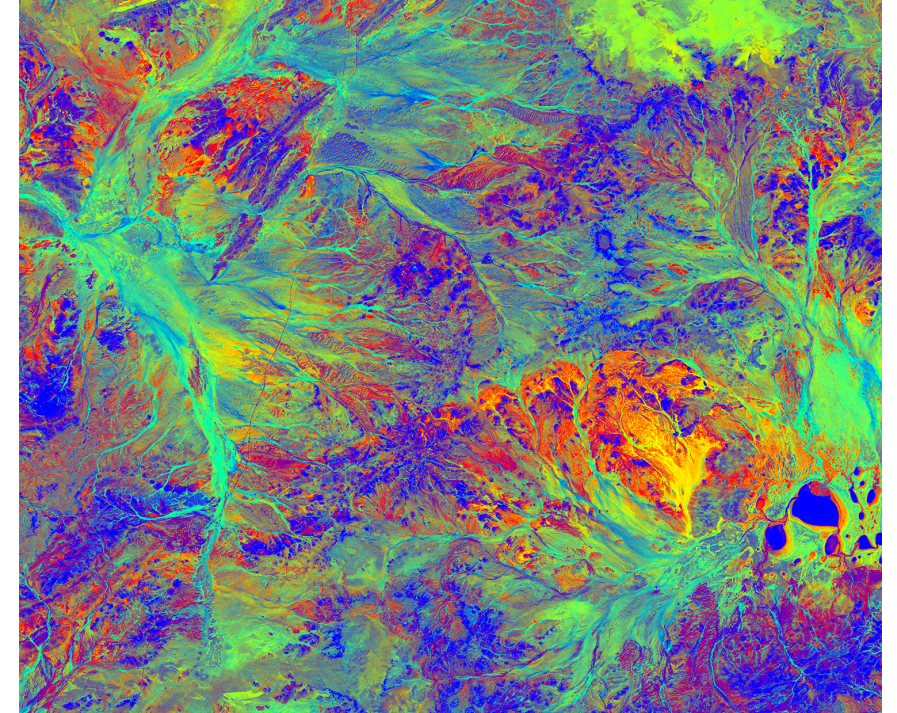


Annual land cover. Credit: [GEE Developers](#)



Fractional Cover (FC)

- Estimation of the proportion of an area that is covered by each member of a pre-defined set of vegetation or land cover types
- Requires conducting a land cover classification
- Limitations for FC estimates in remote sensing:
 - Spatial resolution (one value per pixel or need for spectral unmixing techniques)
 - Errors in classification will propagate into FC estimates.
 - Requires hyperspectral data for vegetation species distinctions



Fractional Cover (FC) from Australia: Green (leaves, grass, and growing crops), brown (branches, dry grass or hay, and dead leaf litter), and bare ground (soil or rock). Image Credit: [Digital Earth Australia](#)



Land Surface Phenology (LSP)

- Use of satellites and sensors to track seasonal patterns in vegetated land surfaces
 - Regular monitoring of the entire global land surface
 - Gather information on entire ecosystems: broad scale trends
 - Timing of seasonal patterns related to day length, temperature, and precipitation patterns
 - Impacts on species distributions
- Useful when linked to ground observation networks
- See previous ARSET training on Phenology: <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-understanding-phenology-remote-sensing>

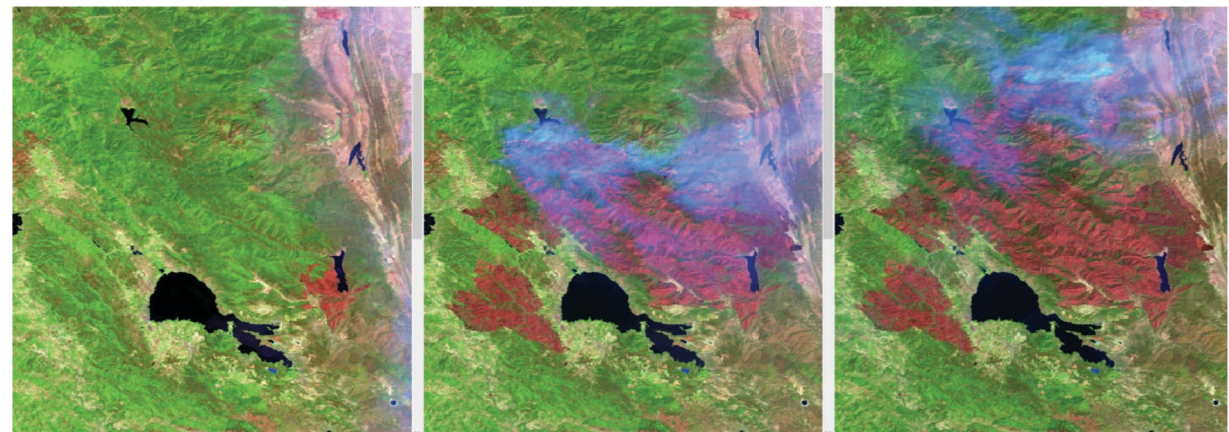


Seasonal cycle of a tree, Image Credit: USGS/NPN)



Vegetation Indices

- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)
- Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI)
- Normalized Difference Moisture Index (NDMI)
- Normalized Burn Ratio (NBR)
- And many more!



July 26

Aug 11

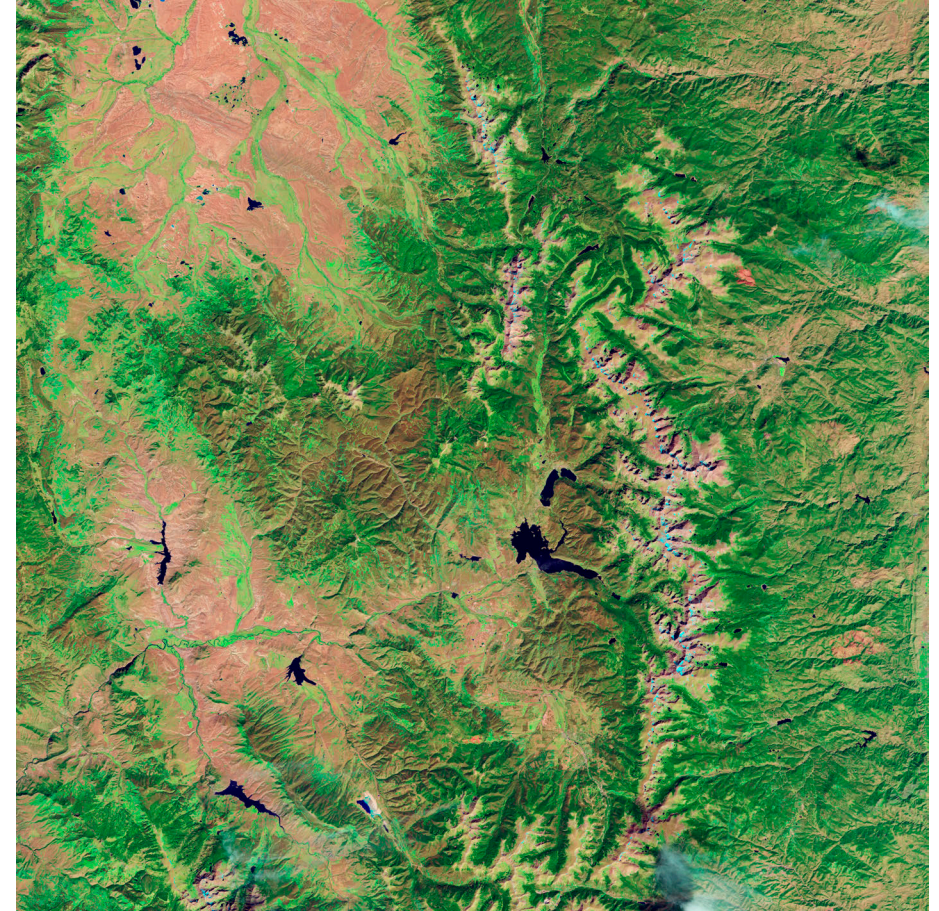
Aug 27

Mendocino Complex Fires, 2018



Tree Mortality/Vegetation Disturbance

- Change Detection and Time Series Analysis for:
 - Large-scale mortality or disturbance
 - Forest fragmentation and succession
 - Changes to habitat connectivity
- Tools:
 - [Global Forest Watch](#)
 - [USDA Insect and Disease Survey](#)
 - [Landtendr for Google Earth Engine](#)
 - And many more!
- Previous ARSET trainings:
 - [Google Earth Engine for Land Monitoring Applications](#)
 - [Investigating Time Series of Satellite Imagery](#)
 - [Change Detection for Land Cover Mapping](#)



Landsat imagery of bark beetle epidemic in Lodgepole pine forests in Colorado. The top image was acquired in September 2005 and the bottom image in September 2011.



Topography

- **The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM)**
 - Topographic (elevation) data of Earth's surface
 - SRTM used the technique of interferometry flown onboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour
 - Launched in February 2000
 - 30 m and 90 m spatial resolution
- Useful for ecosystem analysis and predictions of where specific plant and animal species exist
- Data Access: NASA Earth Observations (NEO):
https://neo.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/view.php?datasetId=SRTM_RAMP2_TOPO



Plateau Pika,
Image
Credit:
[Smith et al, 2018](#)

NASA NEO NASA EARTH OBSERVATIONS

ATMOSPHERE ENERGY LAND LIFE OCEAN NEWS ABOUT IMAGES ANALYZE

TOPOGRAPHY

ADD TO ANALYSIS

Currently viewing:
2000
Permalink

Downloads

File Type: JPEG

Color Grayscale

1.0 degrees 360 x 180

0.5 degrees 720 x 360

0.25 degrees 1440 x 720

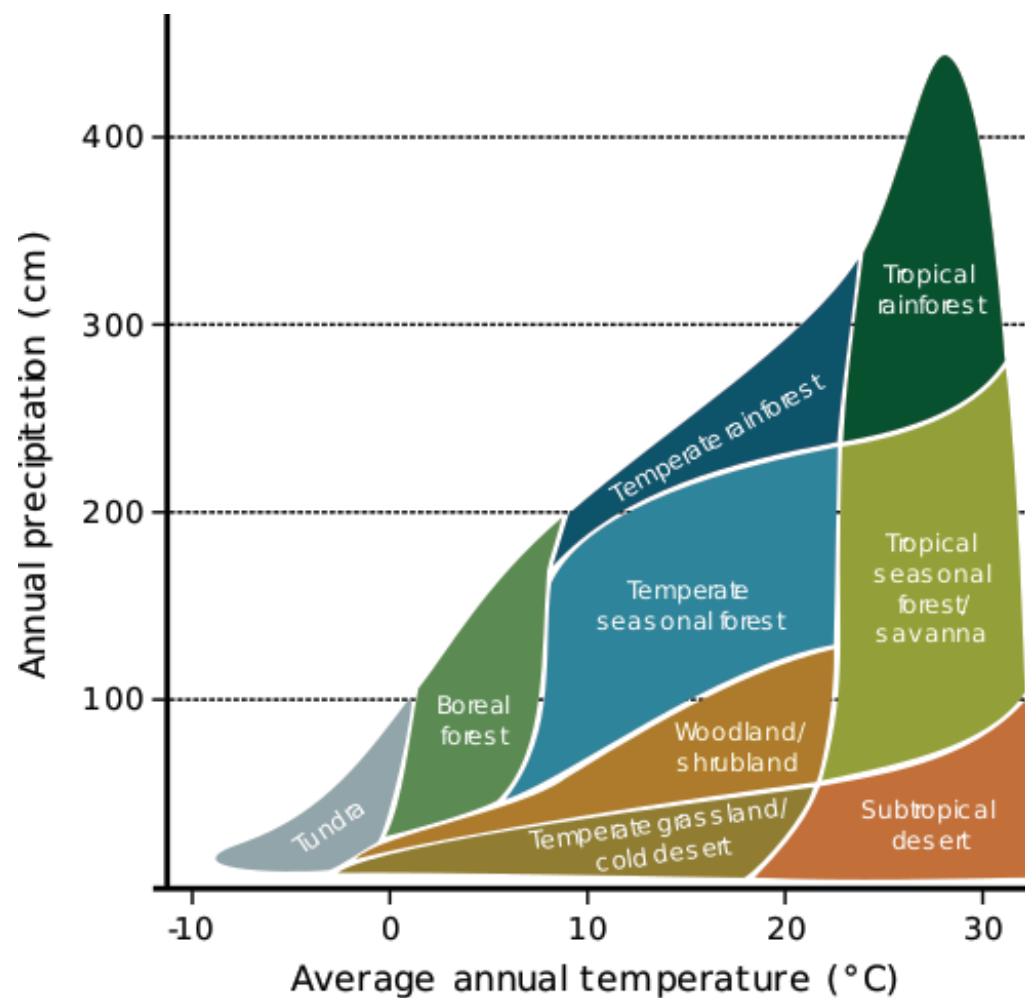
0.1 degrees 3600 x 1800

[NASA NEO](#)
for
topography
data



Climate Variables

- Key drivers of ecological processes
 - Temperature
 - Precipitation
- Gridded Estimates: Derived from climate stations
 - Location matters
 - Increased uncertainty in data sparse regions
- Scenario Modeling: Use of climate change models for predicting future habitat



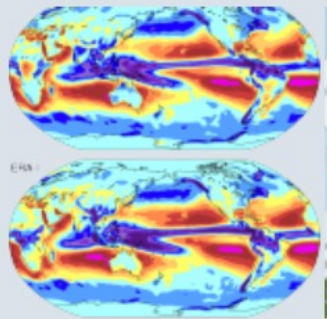
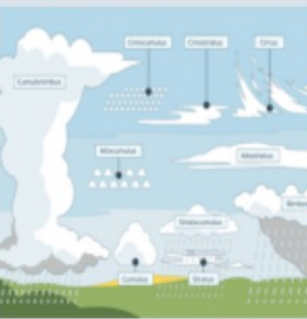
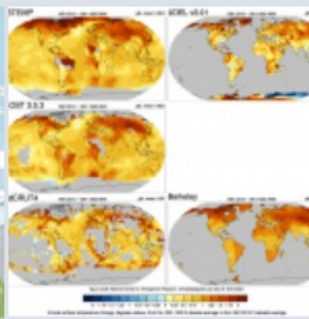
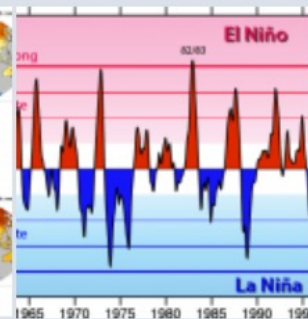

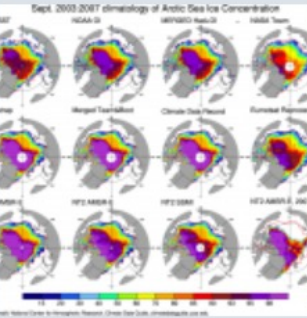
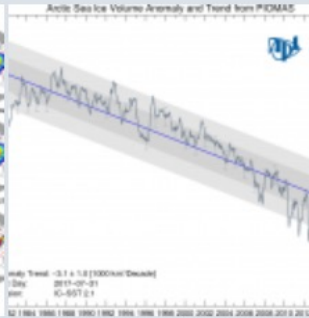
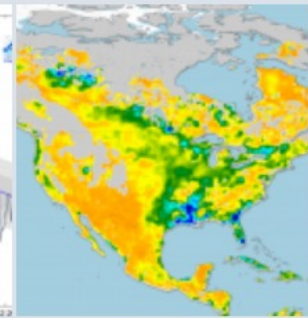
Whittaker's biome classification; image from Wikipedia, Garrabou et al. 2009 Global Change Biology



Gridded Climate Data Resources

- NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory
 - <https://psl.noaa.gov/data/gridded/>
- NCAR Climate Data Guide
 - <https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/>
- PRISM Climate Data
 - <https://prism.oregonstate.edu/>
- gridMET
 - <http://www.climatologylab.org/gridmet.html>

Compare the attributes, strengths and limitations of multiple data sets

 <p>Atmospheric Reanalysis: Overview & Comparison Tables</p>	 <p>Cloud Dataset Overview</p>	 <p>Global Temperature Data Sets: Overview & Comparison Table</p>	 <p>Overview: Climate Indices</p>
 <p>Precipitation Data Sets: Overview & Comparison table</p>	 <p>Sea Ice Concentration data: Overview, Comparison table and graphs</p>	 <p>Sea Ice Thickness Data Sets: Overview & Comparison Table</p>	 <p>Soil Moisture Data Sets: Overview & Comparison Tables</p>

[NCAR Climate Data Guide](https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/)



Gridded Climate Data with Climate Engine

<http://climateengine.org/>

GET MAP LAYER

Variable ?

Type: Climate & Hydrology

Dataset: CFS Reanalysis

Variable: Mean Temperature

Units: deg C

Computation

Resolution (Scale): 19200 m (1/5-deg)

Processing ?

Statistic (over day range): Mean

Calculation: Values

Time Period ?

Period of Record: 1979-01-01 to 2021-07-12

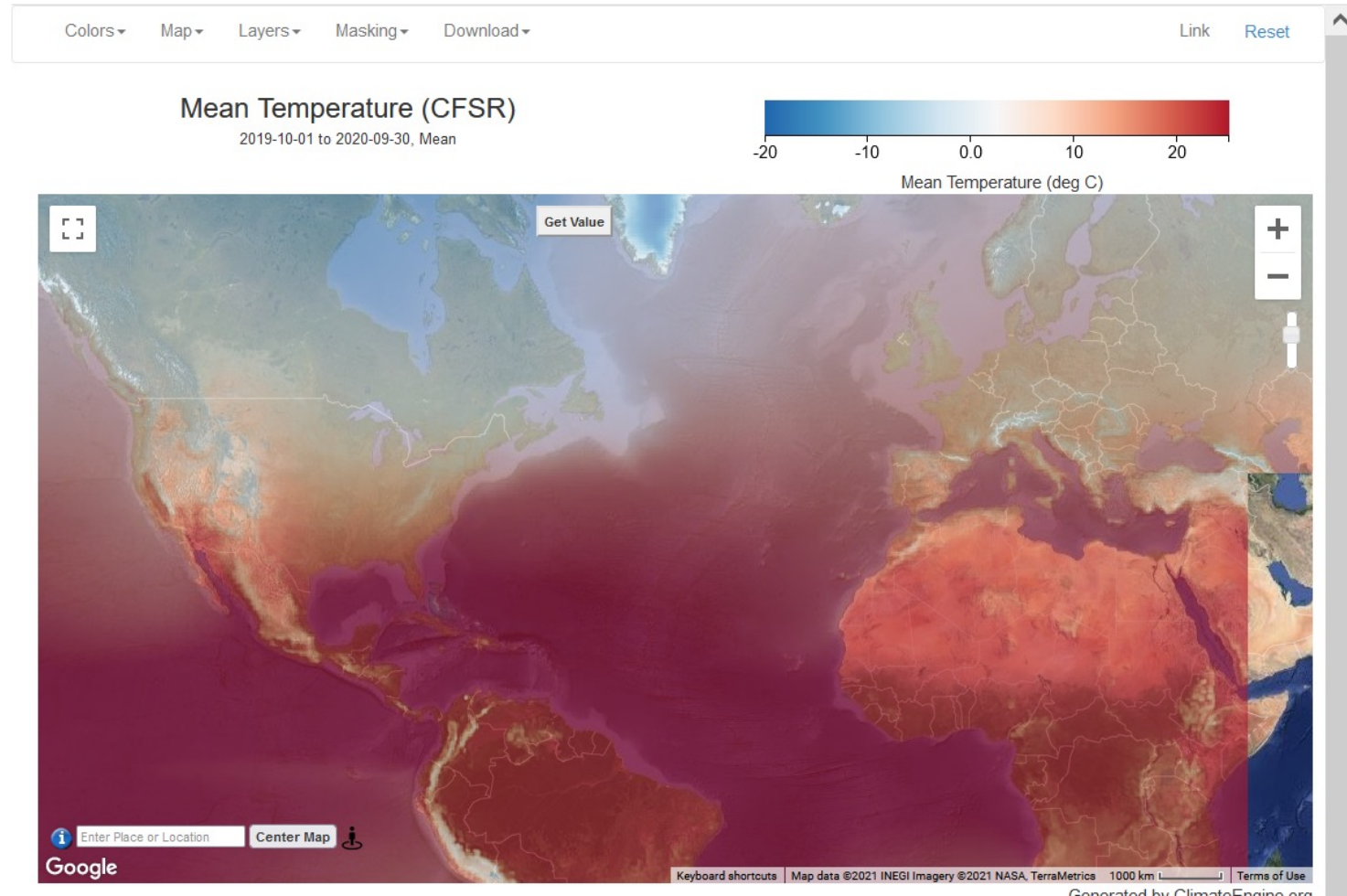
Last Northern Water Year (Oct - Sept)

Start Date: 2019-10-01

End Date: 2020-09-30

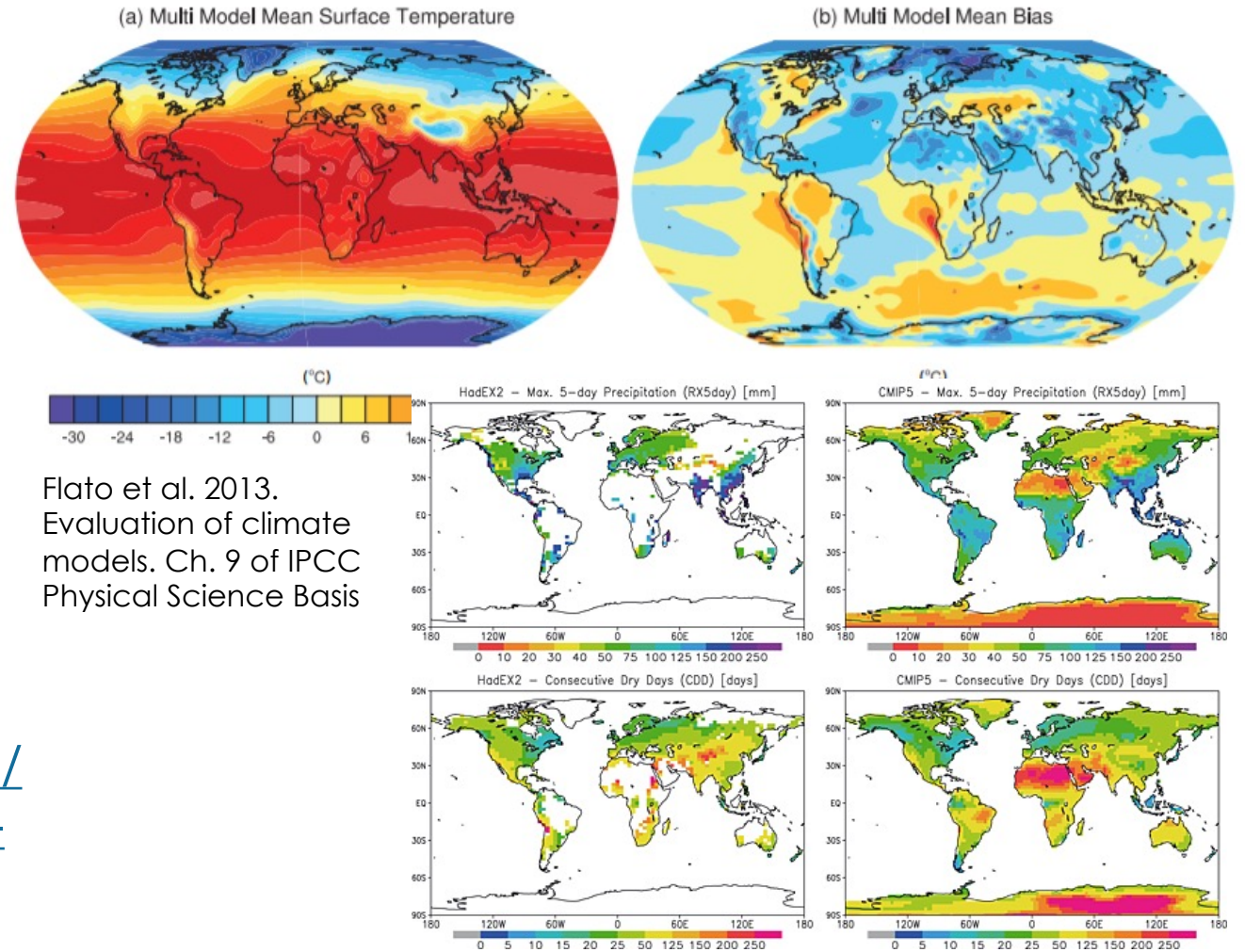
GET MAP LAYER

MENU Map



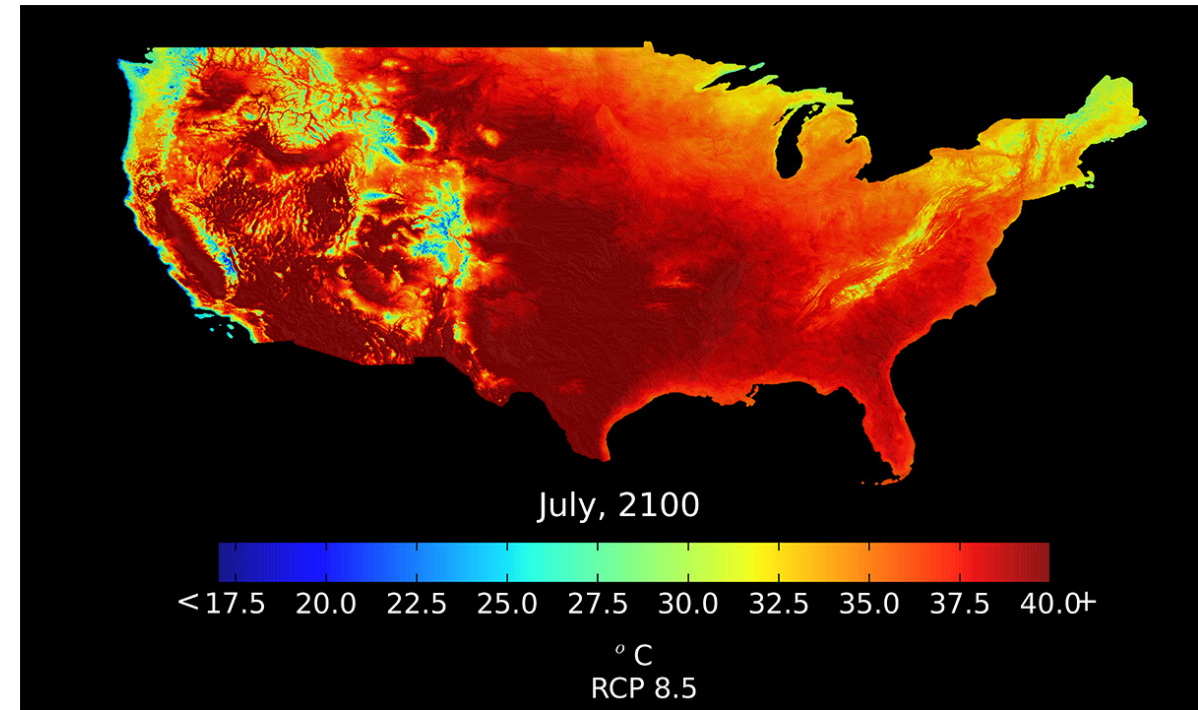
Future Scenarios: Global Climate Models

- Modeling future species distributions can be challenging.
- The use of multiple climate models and downscaling techniques is often necessary.
- Uncertainties across models and variables can propagate.
- See previous ARSET training on Scenario Modeling (Part 2 in particular) for more information:
 - <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-introduction-remote-sensing-scenario-based-ecoforecasting>



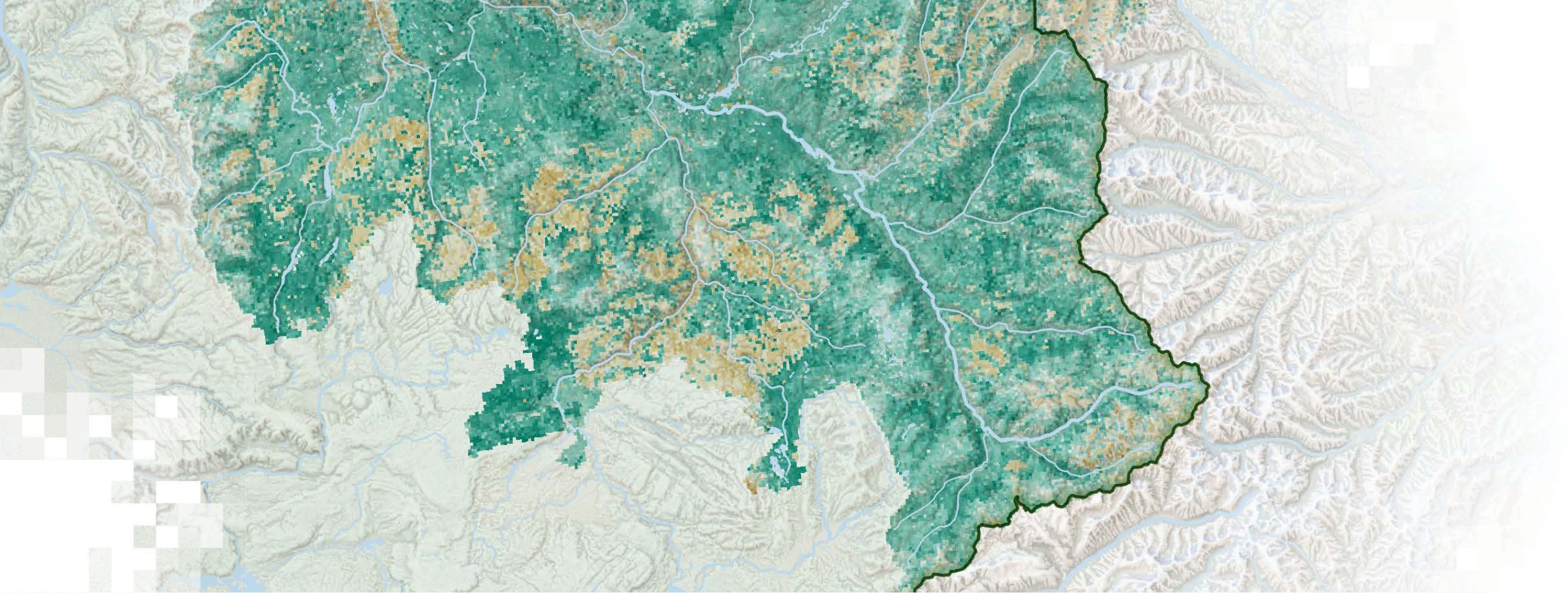
Climate Models with the NASA Earth Exchange (NEX)

- Downscaled Climate Projections (NEX-DCP30)
 - Conterminous United States
 - Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5)
 - Four greenhouse gas emissions scenarios known as Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)
 - Projections from 33 models and ensemble statistics
 - <https://www.nccs.nasa.gov/service/s/data-collections/land-based-products/nex-dcp30>



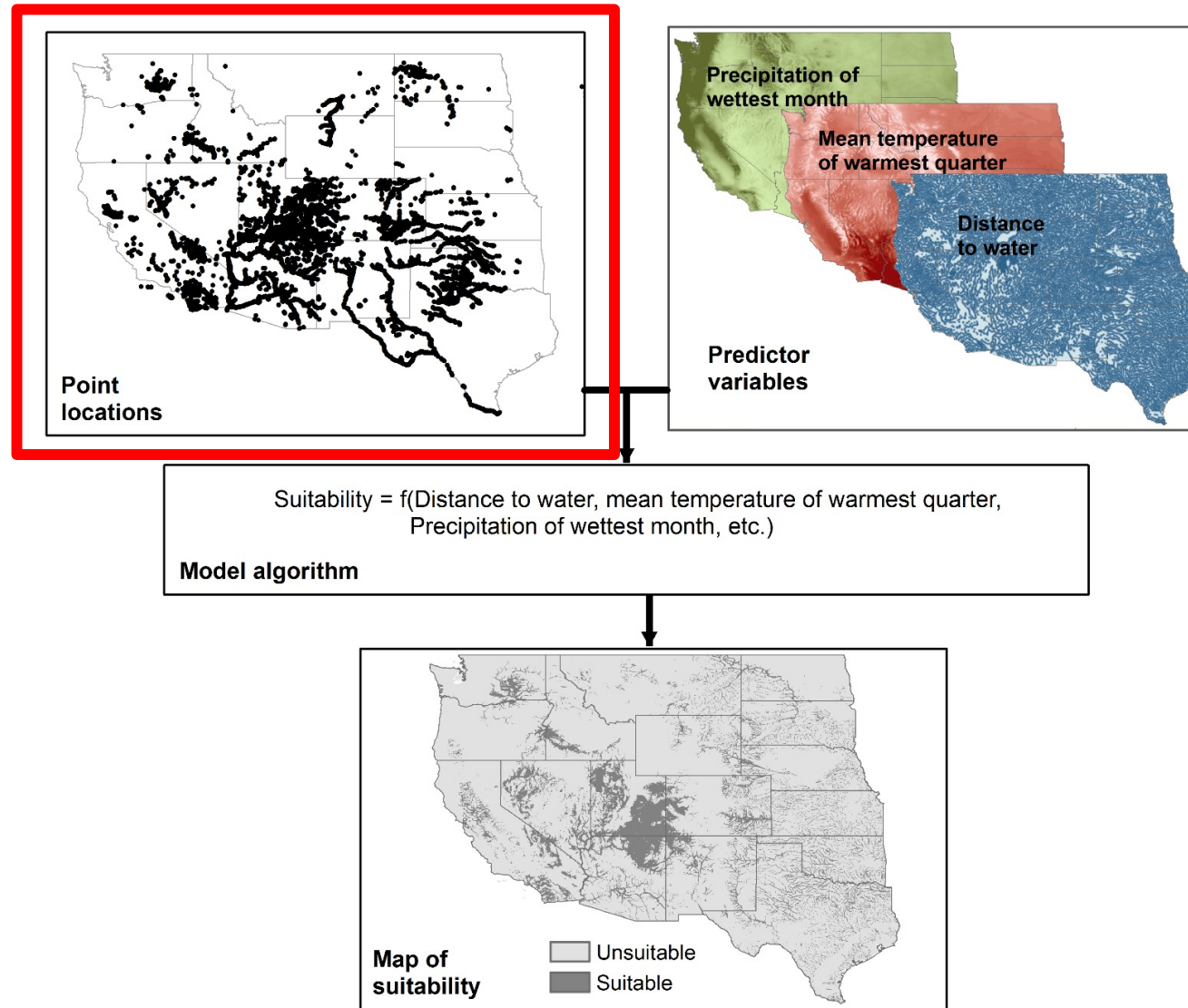
The NEX-DCP30 predicted monthly mean of the daily maximum near-surface air temperature for July 2100, downscaled to 800 meters. The image data is based on the Representative Concentration Pathway scenario 8.5 (RCP8.5). Image Credit: [NEX](#)





Occurrence Data

Occurrence Data



[Jarnevich et al, 2015](#)

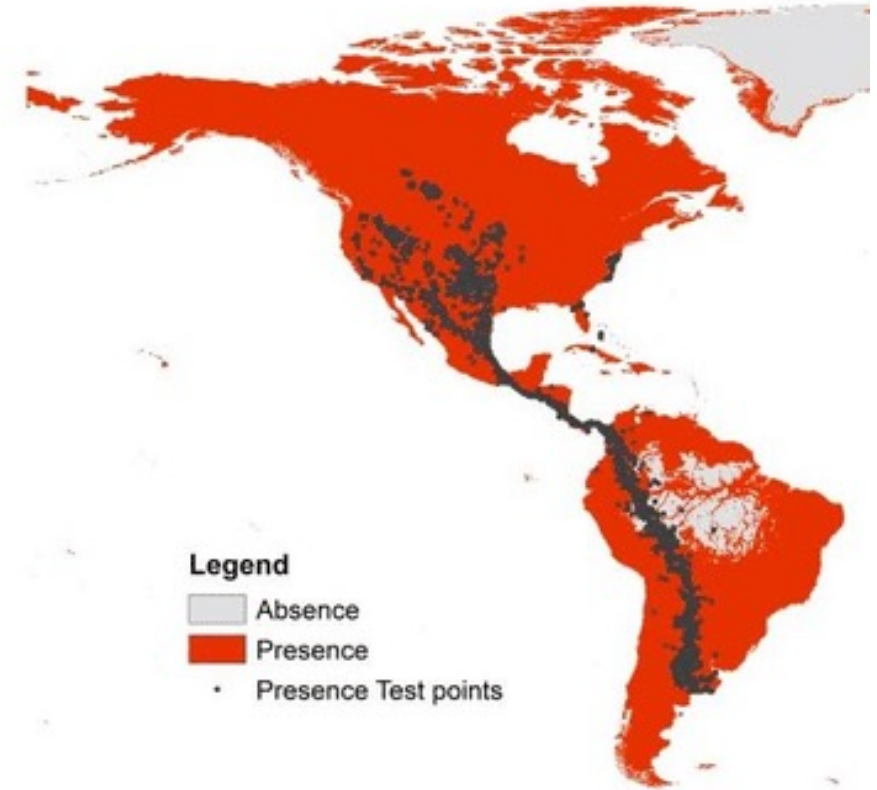


Occurrence

- Ground-based observations
- Presence only OR presence and absence



Puma presence locations in the San Francisco Bay Area from [GBIF](#)



Presence/Absence map for Peregrine Falcon. Image Credit: [Sriram and Huettmann, 2017](#)



Absence Data

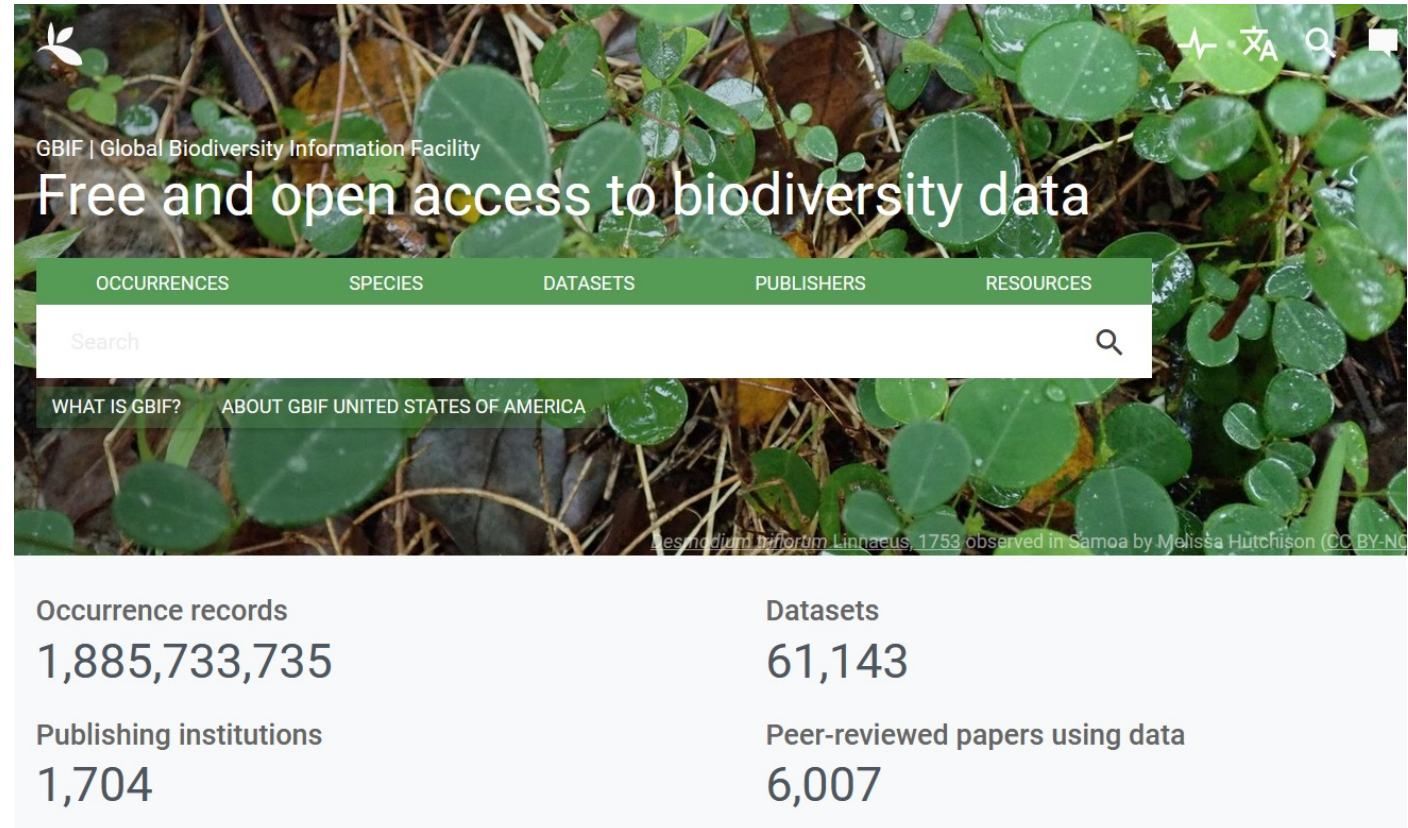
- A species may be classified as 'absent' for a number of reasons, but this does not necessarily denote the absence of suitable conditions.
 - The environment is truly unsuitable for the species. **True absence**
 - The species could not be detected, even though it was present. **False absence**
 - The species was absent, even though the environment is suitable (e.g., due to dispersal limitation or metapopulation dynamics). **False absence**
- Resource on pseudo-absence: [Massin et al, 2012](#)



Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

<https://www.gbif.org>

- International network and research infrastructure funded by the world's governments and aimed at providing anyone, anywhere, open access to data about all types of life on Earth
- Nearly 1.5 billion occurrence records
- 60% of all named species
- Data standards and open access



The screenshot shows the GBIF website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for OCCURRENCES, SPECIES, DATASETS, PUBLISHERS, and RESOURCES. Below the menu is a search bar with the text "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Underneath the search bar are two links: "WHAT IS GBIF?" and "ABOUT GBIF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA". The main content area features a large image of green plants with the text "Free and open access to biodiversity data" overlaid. Below the image, there are four statistics presented in a grid format:

Occurrence records	Datasets
1,885,733,735	61,143
Publishing institutions	Peer-reviewed papers using data
1,704	6,007

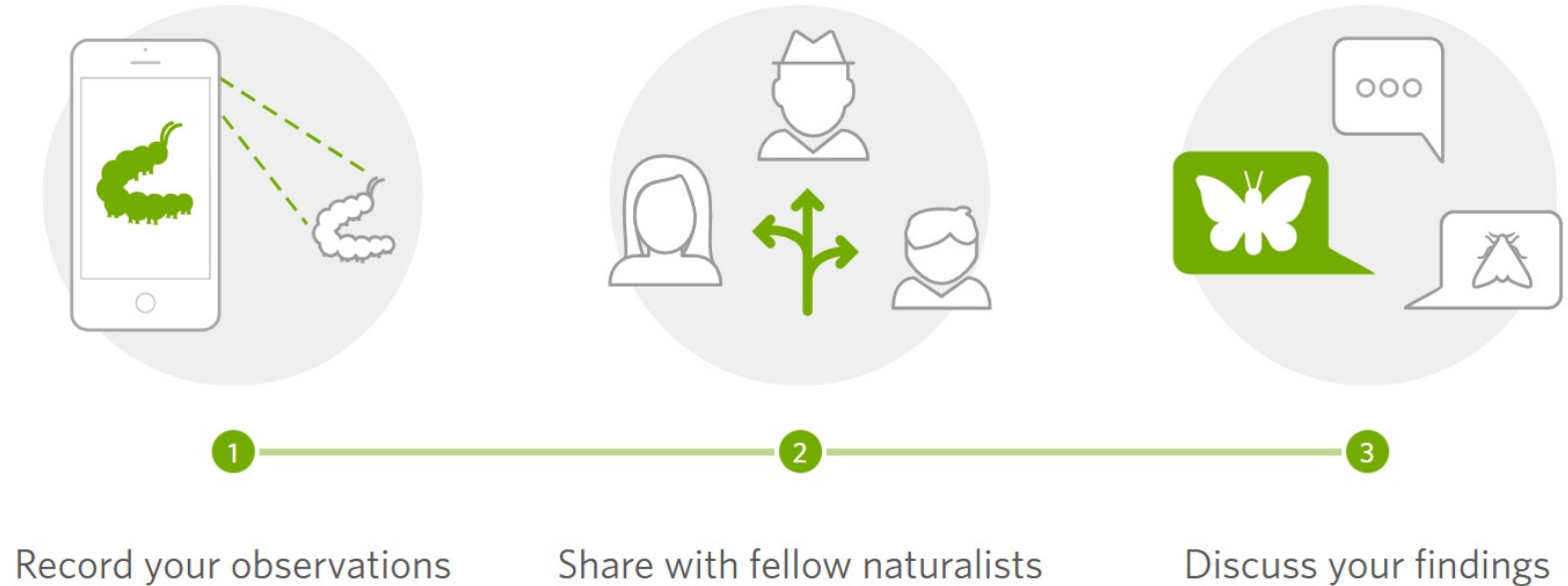


iNaturalist

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

- Citizen science smartphone application for recording and sharing species information
- Connect with other observers
- Contribute to a specific project
- Hold events for field campaigns
- Share data with GBIF

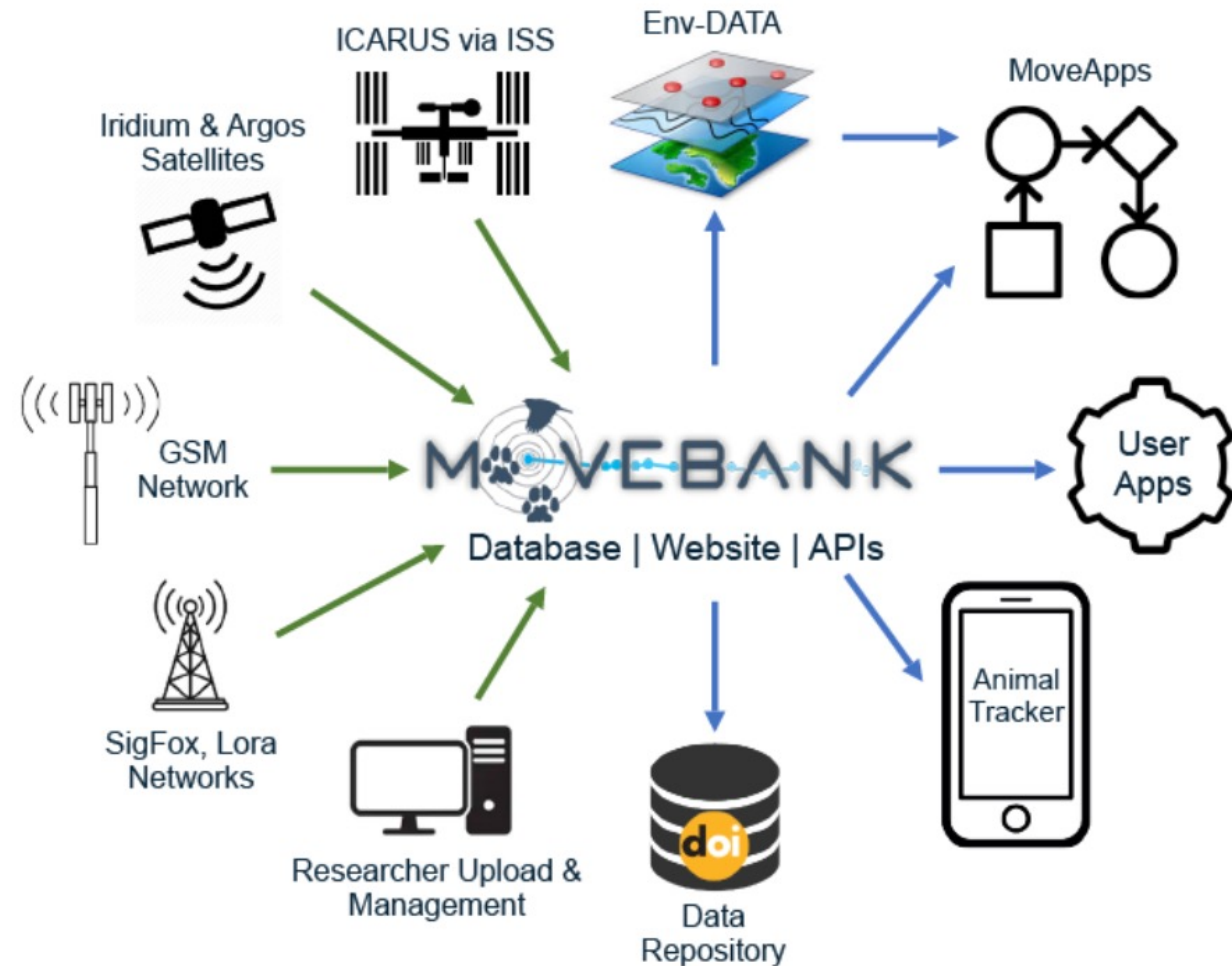
How It Works



Movebank

<https://www.movebank.org/cms/movebank-main>

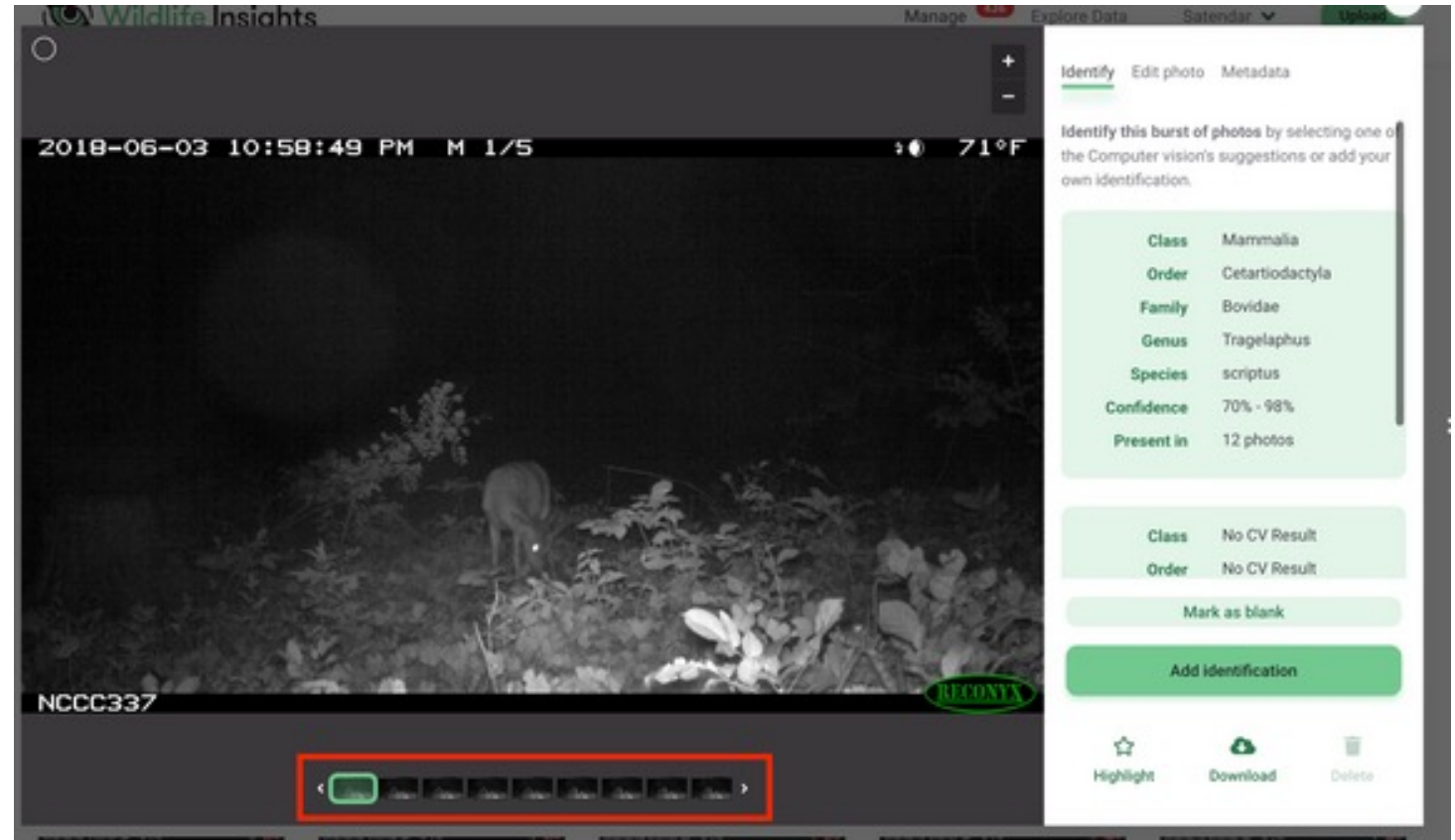
- Online platform that helps researchers and wildlife managers worldwide manage, share, analyze, and archive animal movement data
 - Archive animal movement
 - Enable collaborations
 - Help scientists address new questions
 - Promote open access



Wildlife Insights

<https://www.wildlifeinsights.org>

- Collection, dissemination, and analysis of camera trap data globally
- Combines field and sensor expertise, cutting edge technology and advanced analytics to enable people everywhere to share wildlife data and better manage wildlife populations
- Upload images to website for species identification with artificial intelligence



Map of Life (MOL)

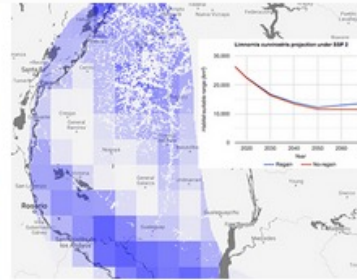
<https://mol.org>

- Provides species range information and species lists for any geographic area
- Multiple tools for exploring species habitat and trends in biodiversity
- Mobile app for discovering, identifying, and recording biodiversity



Map species

View species range map, inventory, and occurrence data



Project species

Explore species habitat loss projected for a range of plausible futures



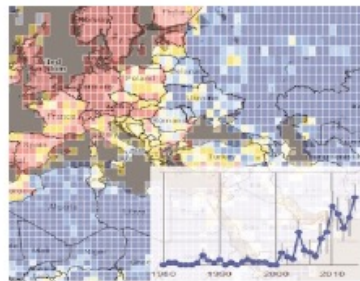
Species by location

Select a location, filter by distance or group, and view a list of species along with source data



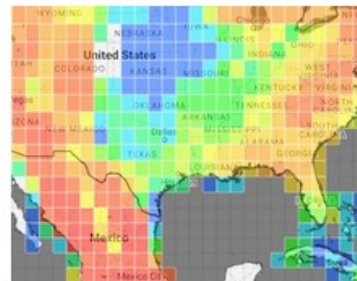
Explore Places

Dashboard for biodiversity data coverage and conservation information



Indicators

Explore trends in biodiversity knowledge, distribution, and conservation



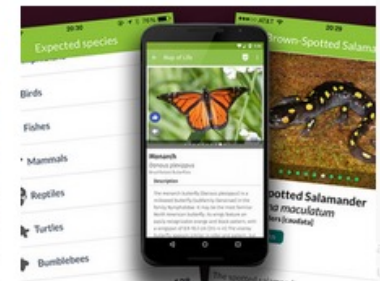
Patterns

Explore richness patterns and biodiversity facets



Datasets

Explore datasets used across MOL



Mobile App

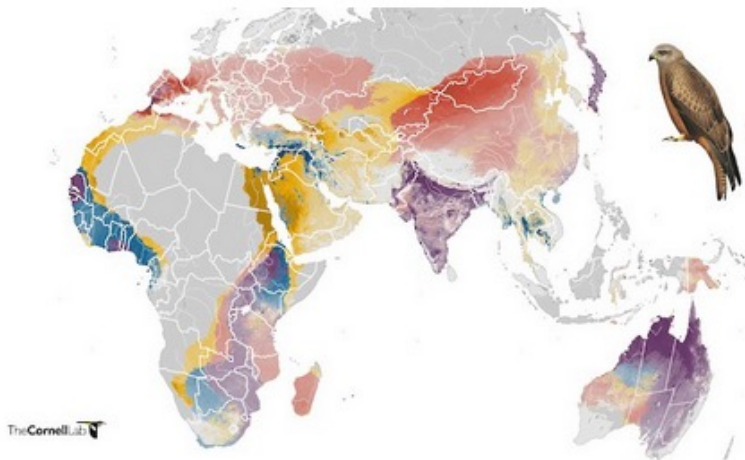
Discover, identify, and record biodiversity worldwide



eBird

<https://ebird.org/home>

- Gather and share bird information for science, conservation, and education
- Manage lists, photos, and recordings
- Real-time maps of species distributions
- Species alerts



eBird Status and Trends



Use eBird data and tools



Research and conservation

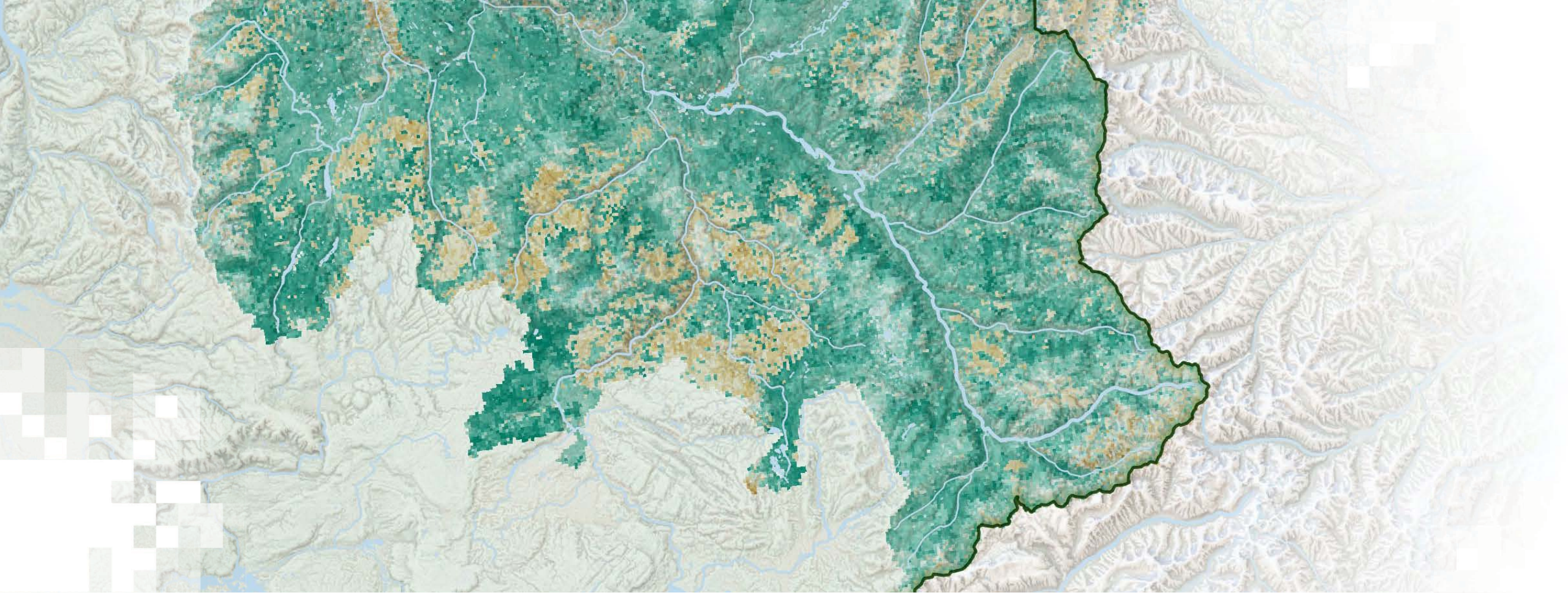


Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMaps)

<https://www.eddmaps.org>

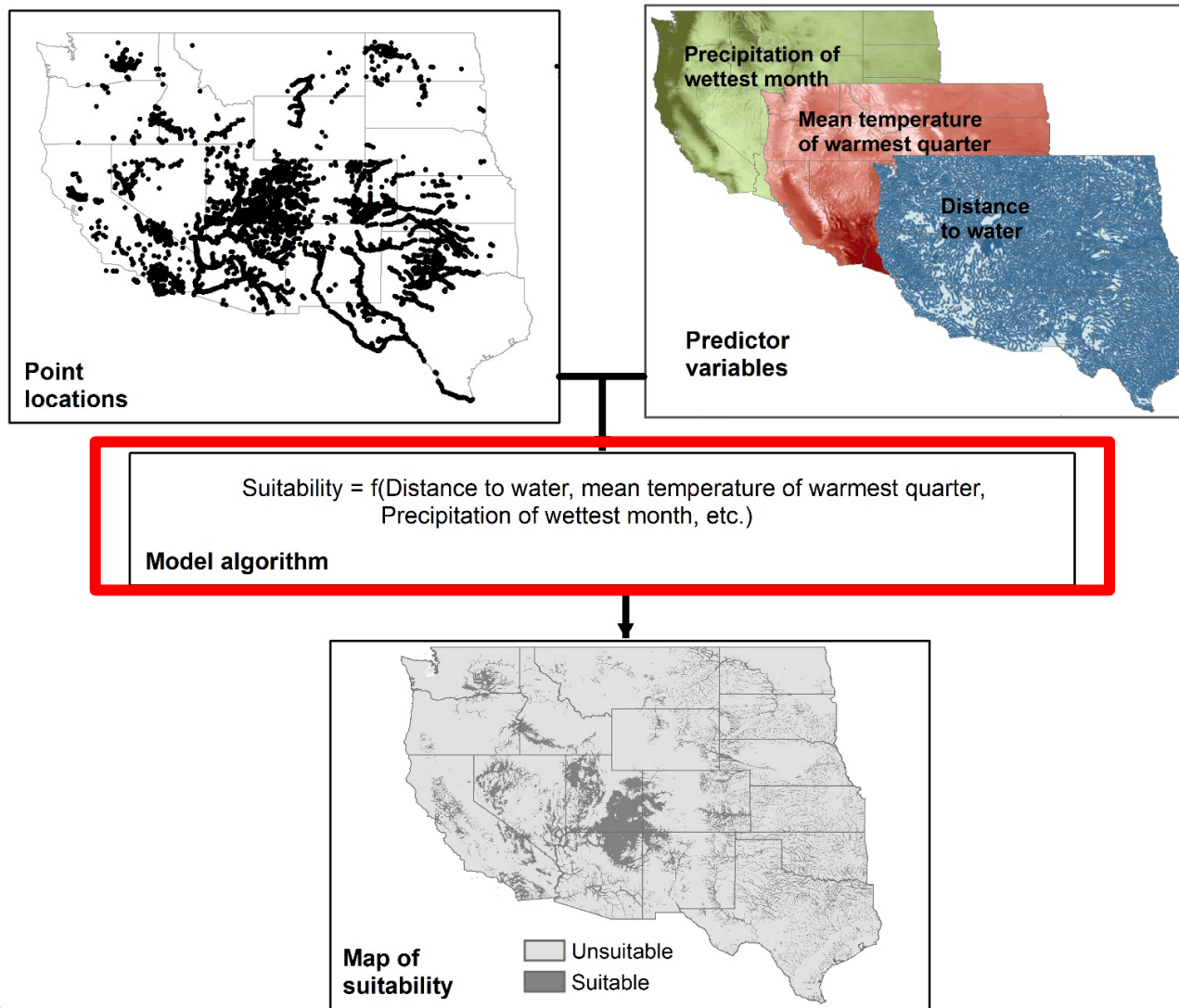
- Web-based mapping system for invasive species and pest distribution
- US and Canada
 - Interactive distribution maps
- Aggregates data from other databases and volunteer observations
- All data freely available





Methods and Models

Methods and Models



- Fit mathematical functions, describing species distributions in environmental space, for each of n environmental variables
- Then generate predictive maps of species distributions in geographic space using these functions

[Jarnevich et al, 2015](#)

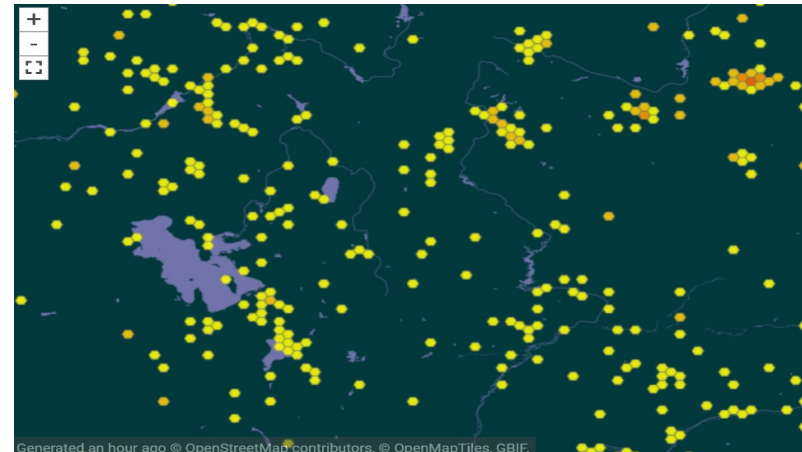


Modeling Success: Key Factors

- **Input Data**: availability of sufficient and reliable species data
- **Equilibrium**: a species occurs in all suitable areas, while being absent from all unsuitable areas
 - Dependent on biotic interactions and dispersal ability
- **Sampling Adequacy**: The extent to which the observed occurrence records provide a sample of the environmental space
- **Model**: Type, complexity, and accuracy of the models used



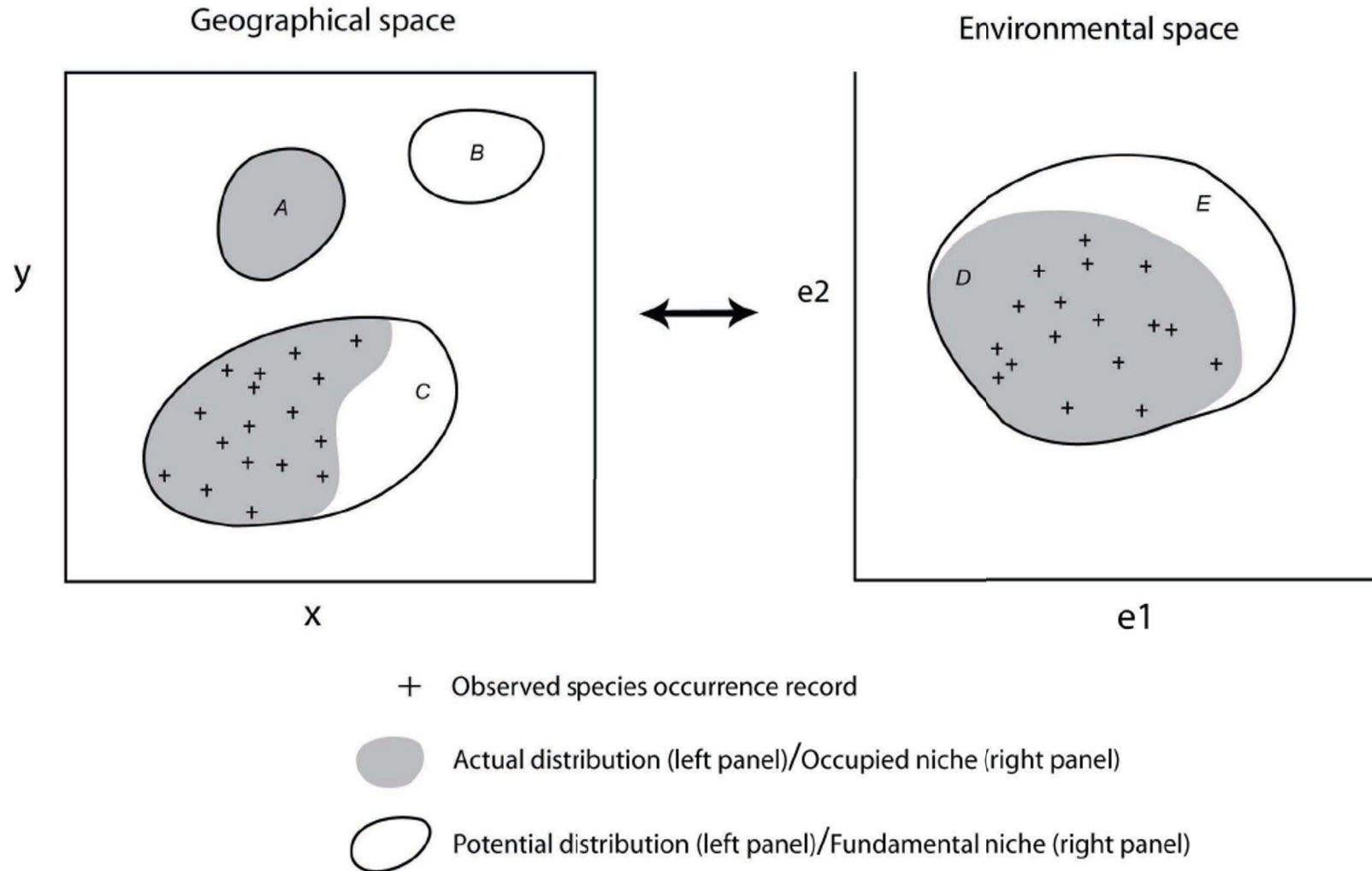
Bromus Tectorum (cheatgrass) from [iNaturalist](#)
NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program



Bromus tectorum (cheatgrass) sampling from [GBIF](#), near Salt Lake City Nevada.



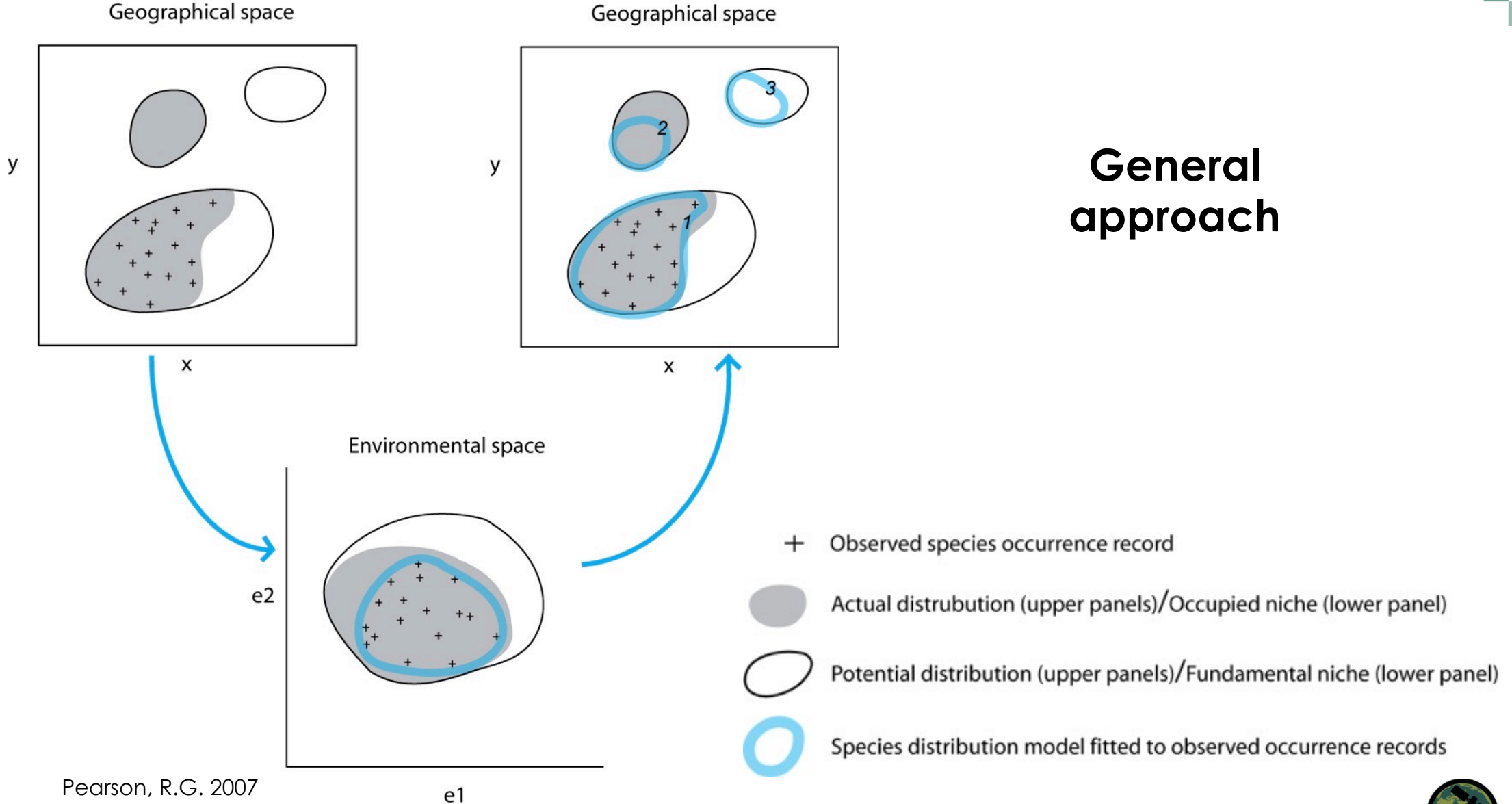
Modeling Approach



Pearson, R.G. 2007. Species' Distribution Modeling for Conservation Educators and Practitioners. Synthesis. American Museum of Natural History. Available at <http://ncep.amnh.org>.



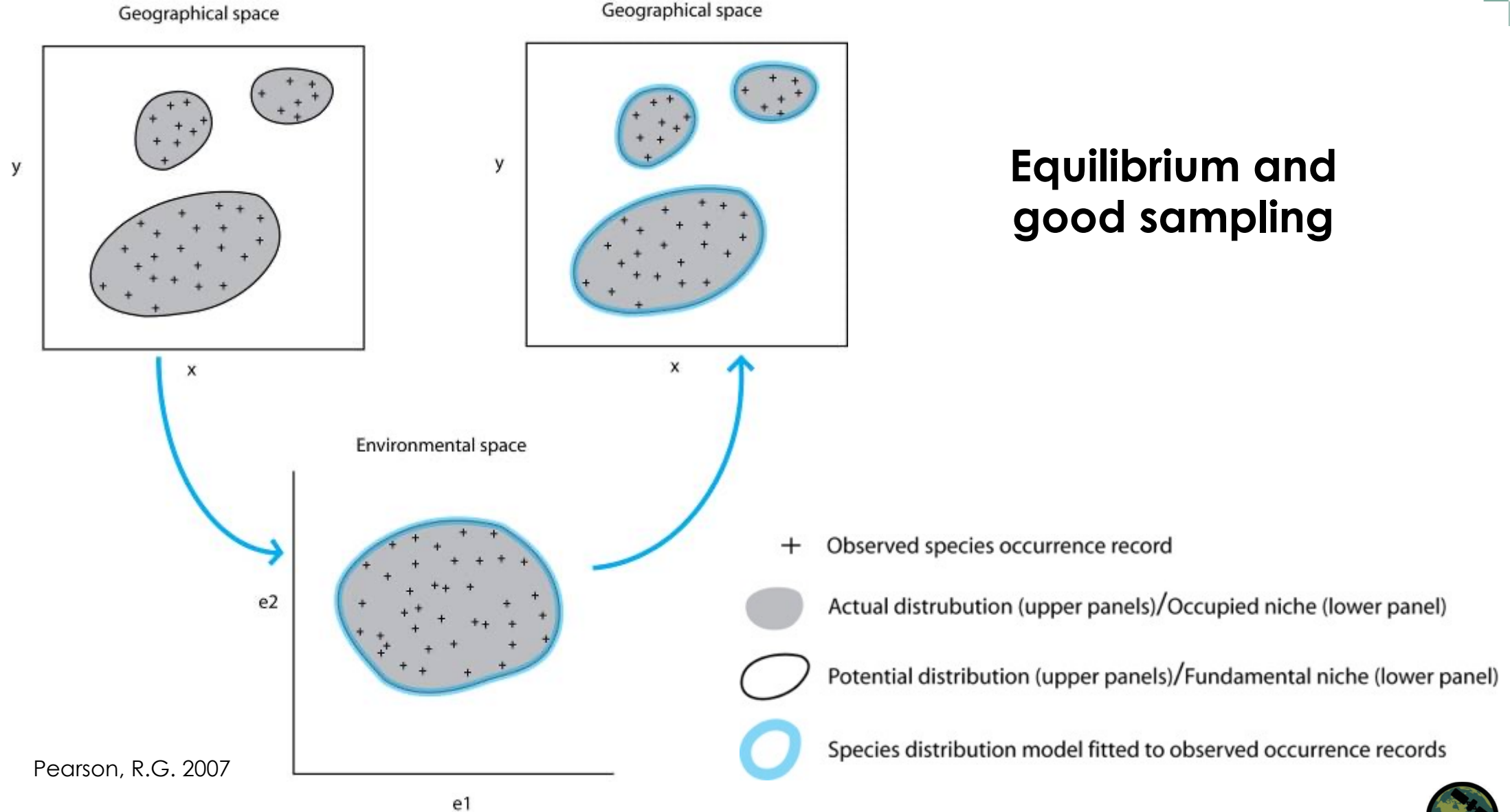
Modeling Approach



Pearson, R.G. 2007



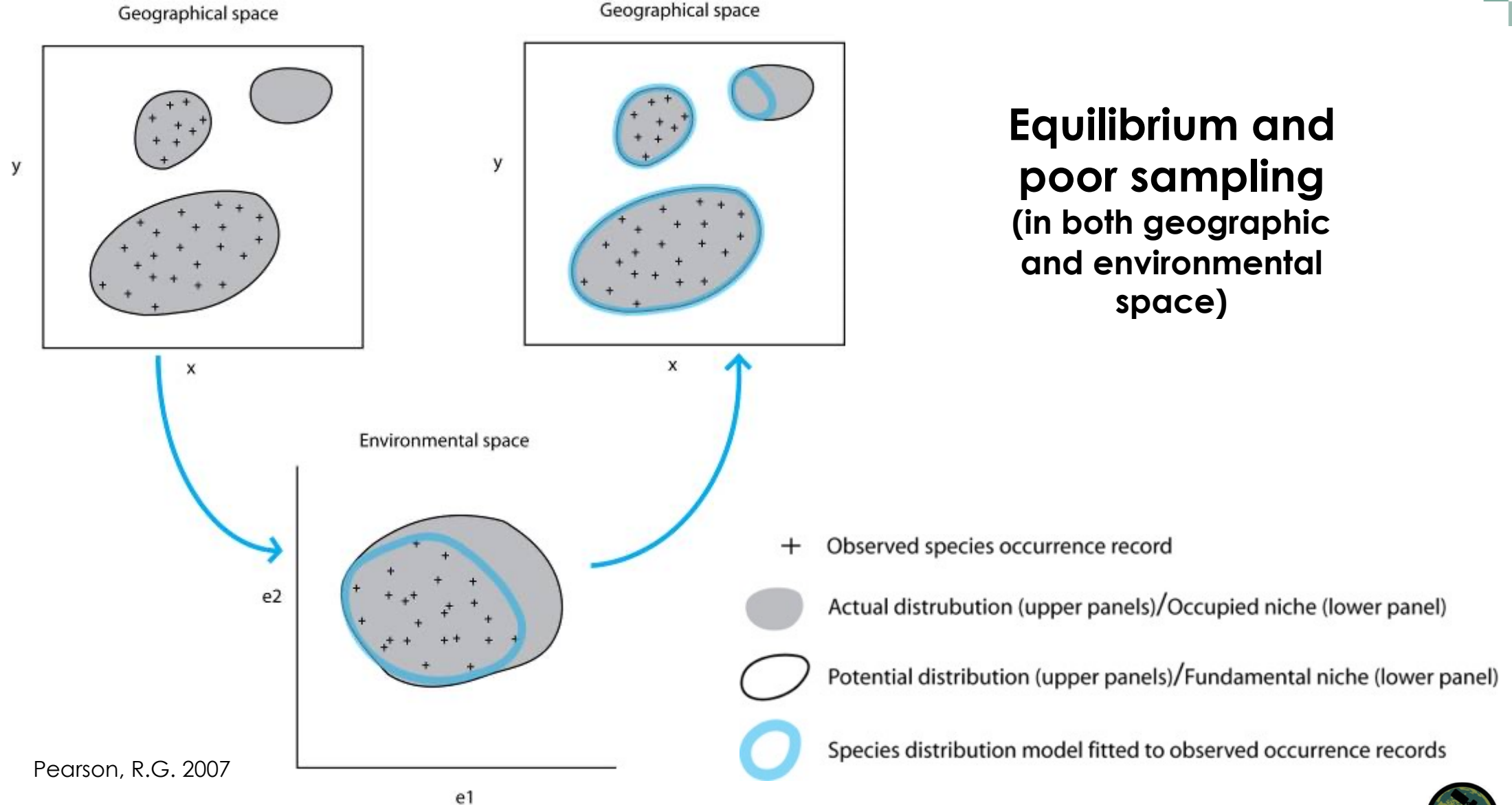
Modeling Approach



Pearson, R.G. 2007



Modeling Approach

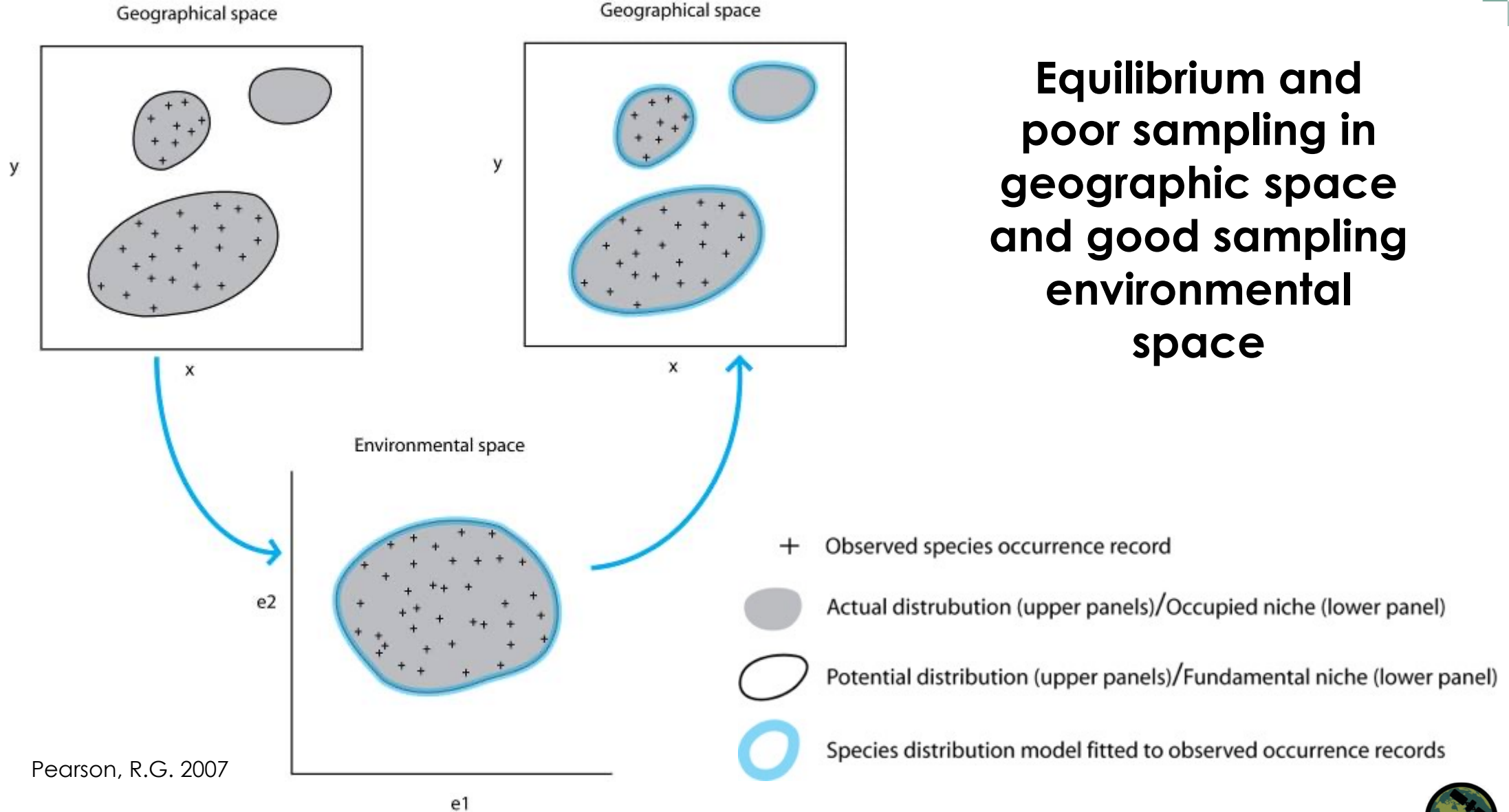


Equilibrium and poor sampling (in both geographic and environmental space)

Pearson, R.G. 2007



Modeling Approach

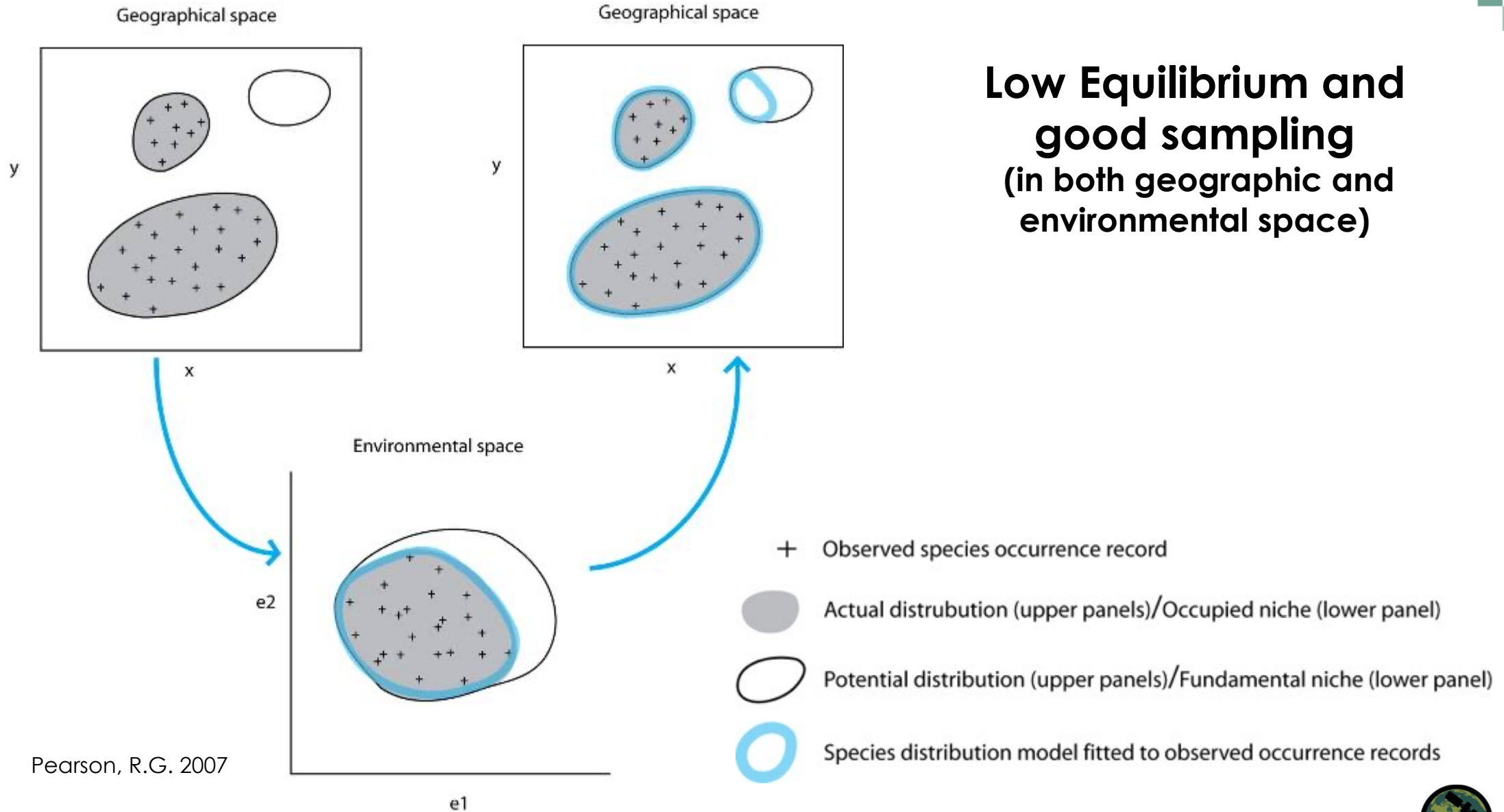


Equilibrium and poor sampling in geographic space and good sampling environmental space

Pearson, R.G. 2007



Modeling Approach



**Low Equilibrium and good sampling
(in both geographic and environmental space)**

Pearson, R.G. 2007



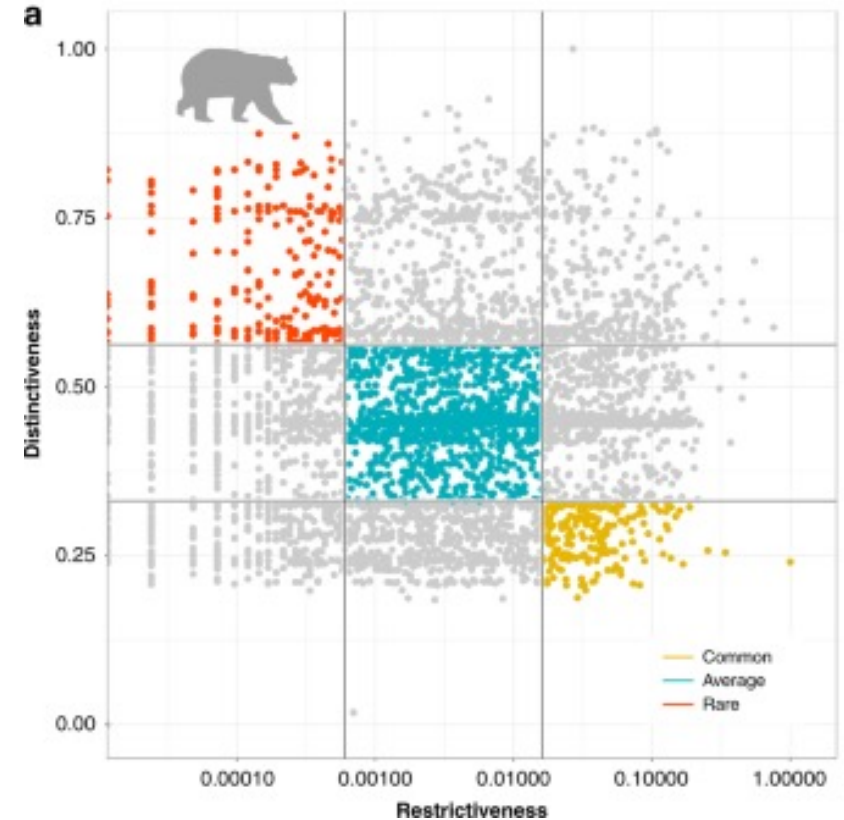
Methods and Models

- **Profile Techniques:** Use environmental distance to know sites of occurrence
 - Gower Metric (DOMAIN)
 - Ecological Niche Factor Analysis (BIOMAPPER)
- **Regression-Based Techniques:** Linear Models
 - Generalized Linear Models (GLMs)
 - Generalized Additive Models (GAMs)
- **Machine-Learning Techniques:** Iterative “learning” algorithms, inspired by the workings of the brain
 - Genetic Algorithm for Rule-set Production (GARP)
 - MAXENT



Gower Metric

- Correlation between response and predictor variables
 - Clusters
- Assigns each cell in the output layer an average multivariate distance (Gower Metric) between that cell and the closest presence cell in the training set
- Uses only presence points
- Distance rescaling used to compare with probability-based techniques
- Example: [DOMAIN](#)

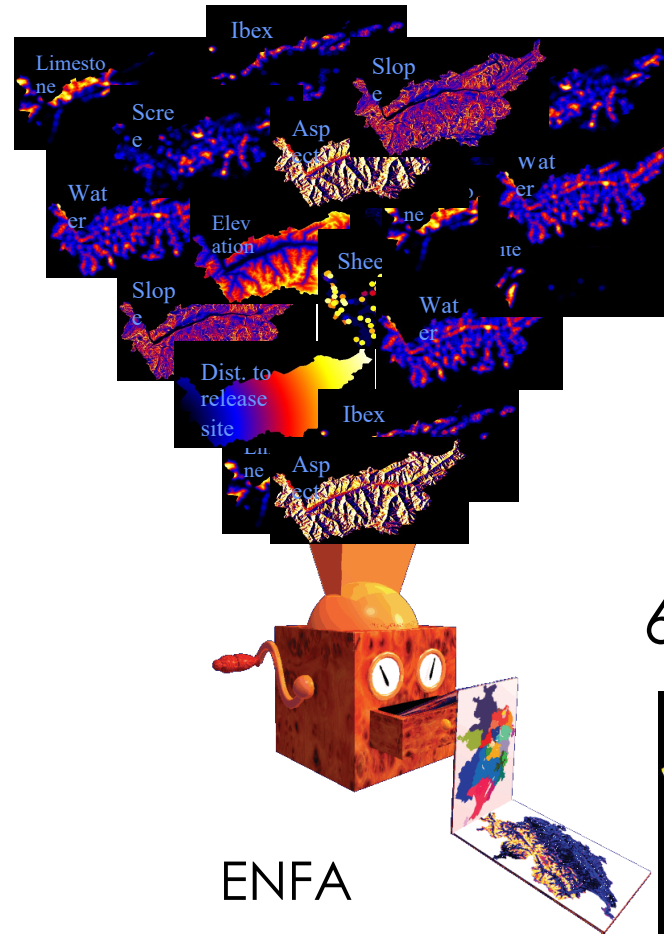


Geographical Restrictiveness: Each species is represented by a dot, ecologically rare species are in red, average in blue, and common in orange. Image Credit: [Konowalik and Nosol, 2021](#)



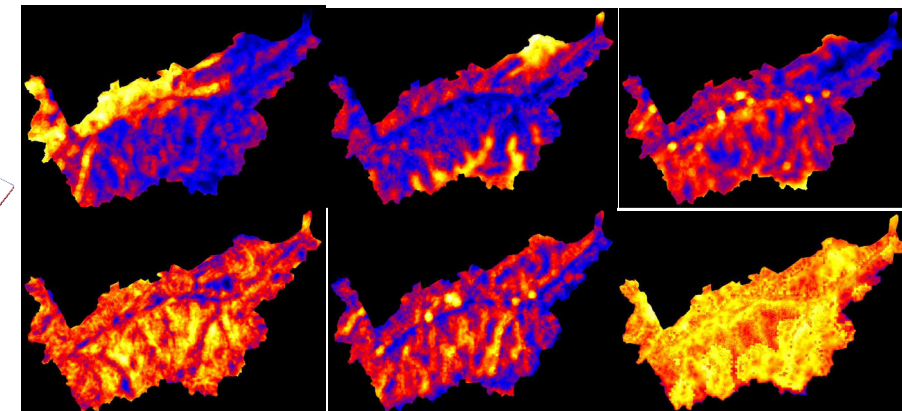
Ecological Niche Factor Analysis (ENFA)

- Computation of the factors explaining the major part of a species environmental distribution
- Presence-only data
- Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)
 - Value inversely proportional to weighted mean distance of the cell to the median of each ENFA factor
- Example: BIOMAPPER
<https://www2.unil.ch/biomapper/>



24 Predictors

6 Factors = 80% of Information



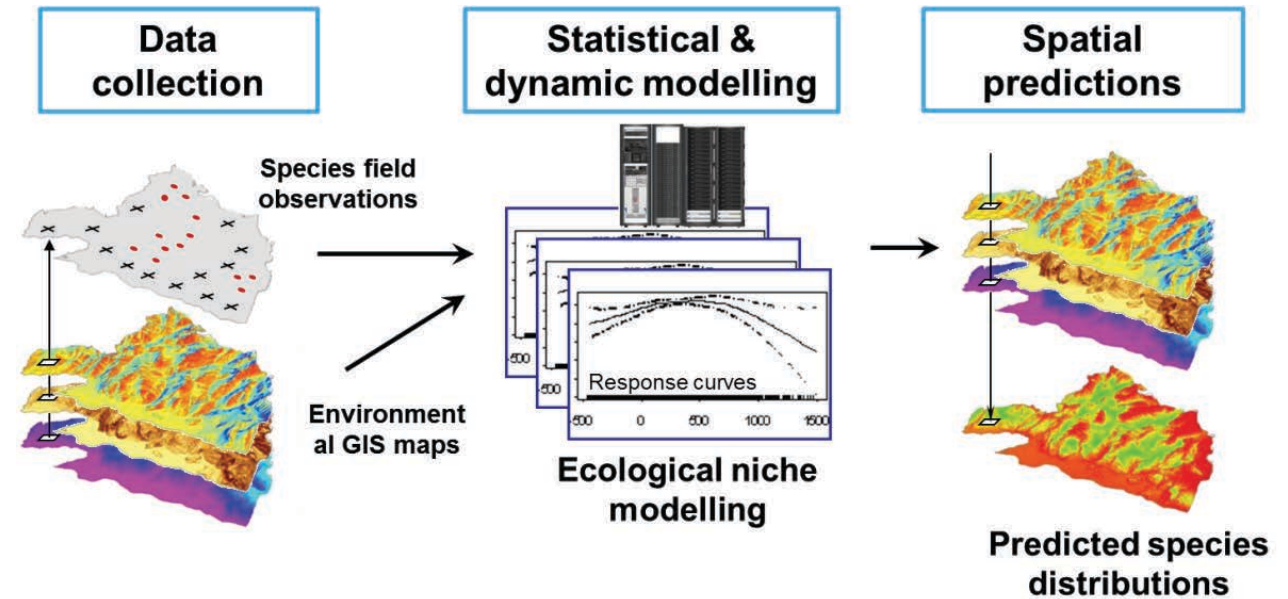
Regression Analysis

- **Generalized Linear Models (GLMs)**
 - Based on relationship between mean of the response variable and the linear combination of explanatory variables
 - Multiple types of distributions can be used
 - Flexible
- **Generalized Additive Models (GAMs)**
 - Similar for GLMs but assumes functions are additive and components are smooth
 - Data-driven
 - Can handle non-linear relationships
- Review paper on regression analysis for SDMs (Guisan et al, 2002)
 - <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304380002002041>

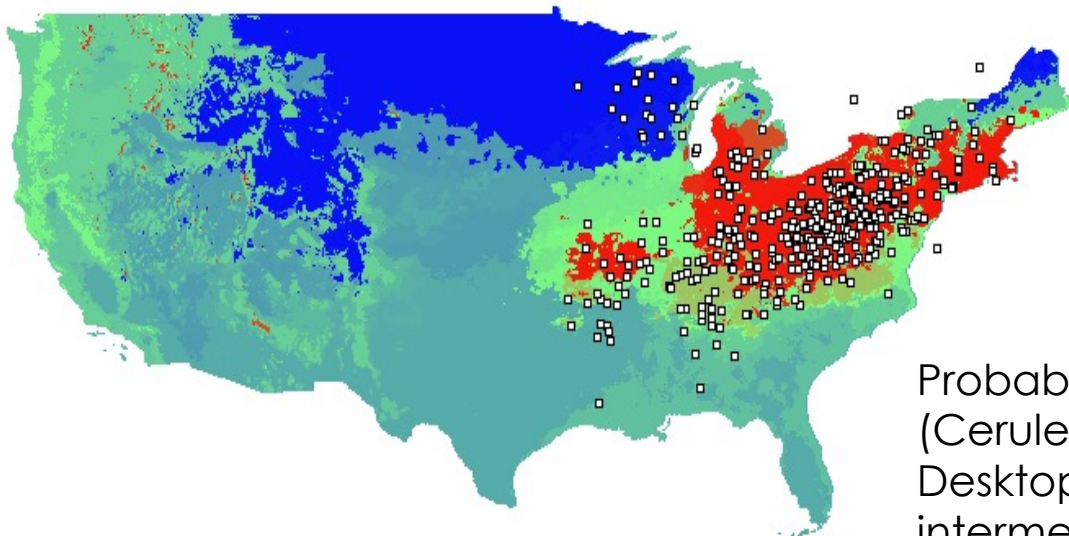


Genetic Algorithm for Rule-set Production (GARP)

- Ecological niche model for species
 - Similar to the first SDM: BIOCLIM
- Inputs: Presence only point locations and geographic layers of environmental parameters
- Output: Predicted species distribution



Peterson, A. T. (2003)

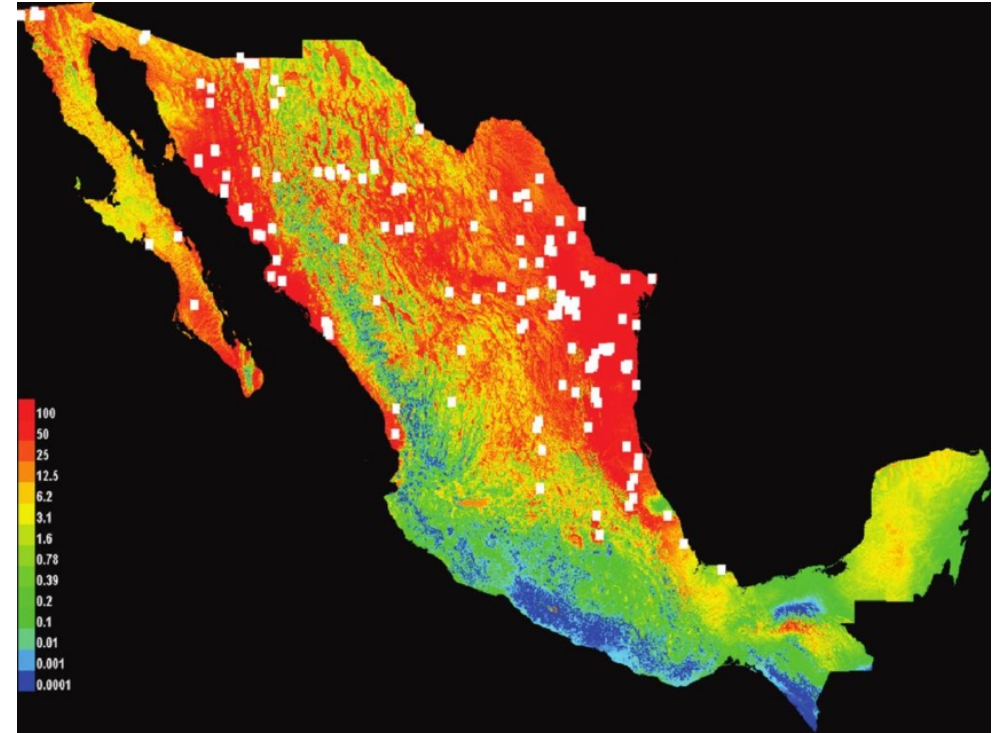


Probability distribution map of a bird species (Cerulean warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*) created by DesktopGarp. Red is high probability, green intermediate, and blue is low.



MAXENT

- Predicts the potential distribution of a species
 - Explores the relative suitability of one place over another using the maximum entropy principle
 - Entropy = Randomness
 - Maximizes randomness by removing patterns
- Uses machine Learning
- Uses only presence points

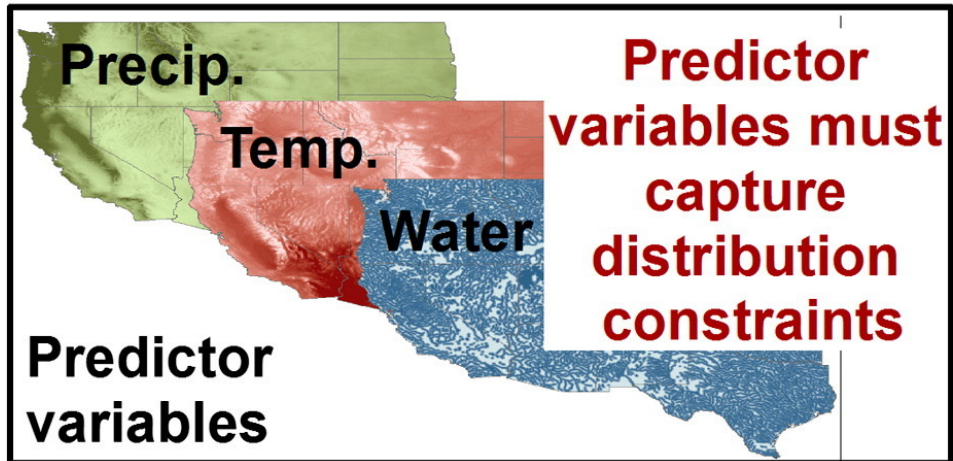


Areas in red are the most likely to have suitable habitat for sunflowers. The white squares represent modern wild sunflower collections. Image Credit: [Lentz et al, 2008](#)

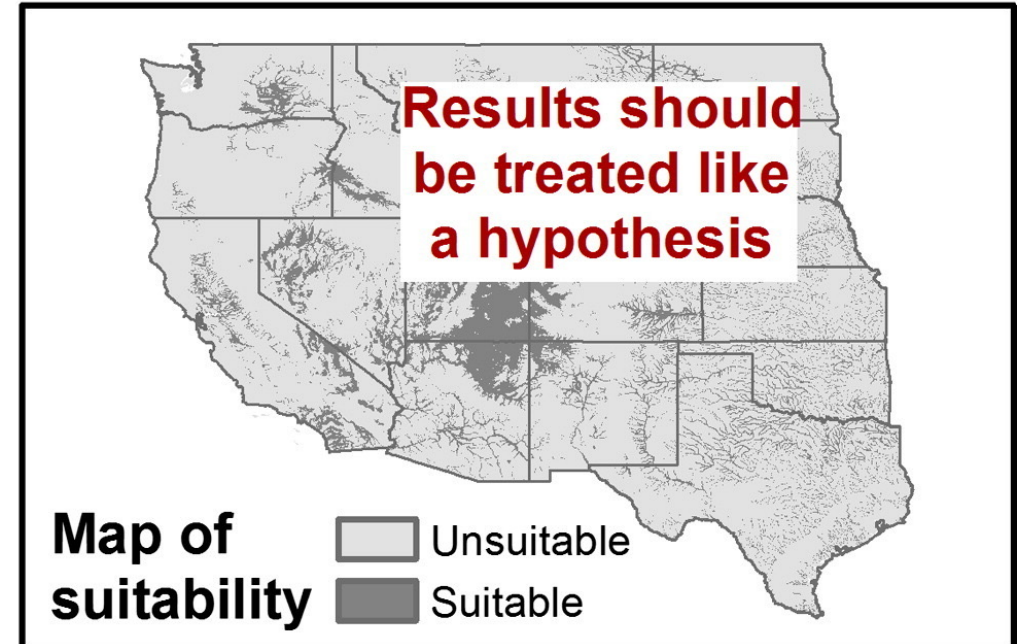
https://biodiversityinformatics.amnh.org/open_source/maxent/



Limitations of SDMs

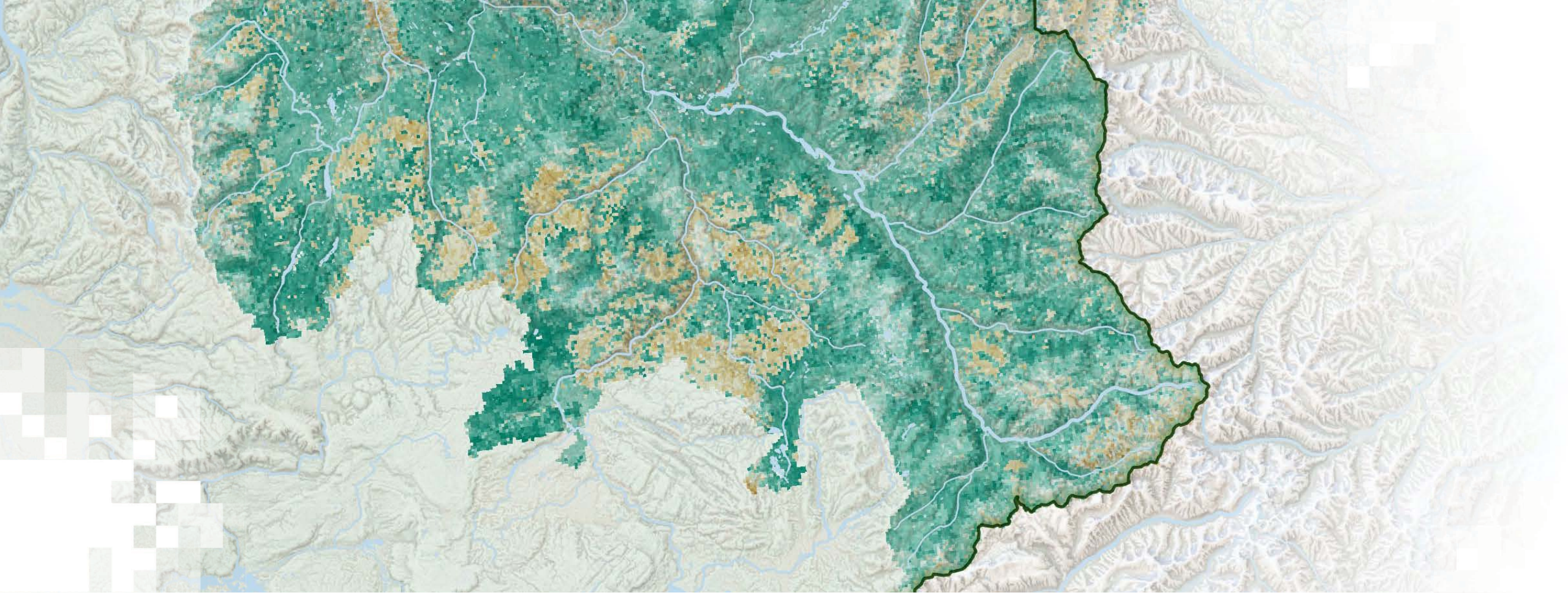


Model algorithm: Suitability = f(Predictors)
No single model works best



[Jarnevich et al, 2015](#)





Case Study Examples

SDM Case Study Example: Mosquitos in Europe

- **NASA DEVELOP Project**
 - An Interactive Model of Mosquito Presence and Distribution to Assist Vector-Borne Disease Management in Western Europe
 - <https://develop.larc.nasa.gov/2018/spring/WesternEuropeHealthAQII.html>
- **Community Concerns:**
 - Mosquito-borne disease kills over one million people a year
 - Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya, Yellow Fever, Malaria
 - Mosquito habitat range is spreading

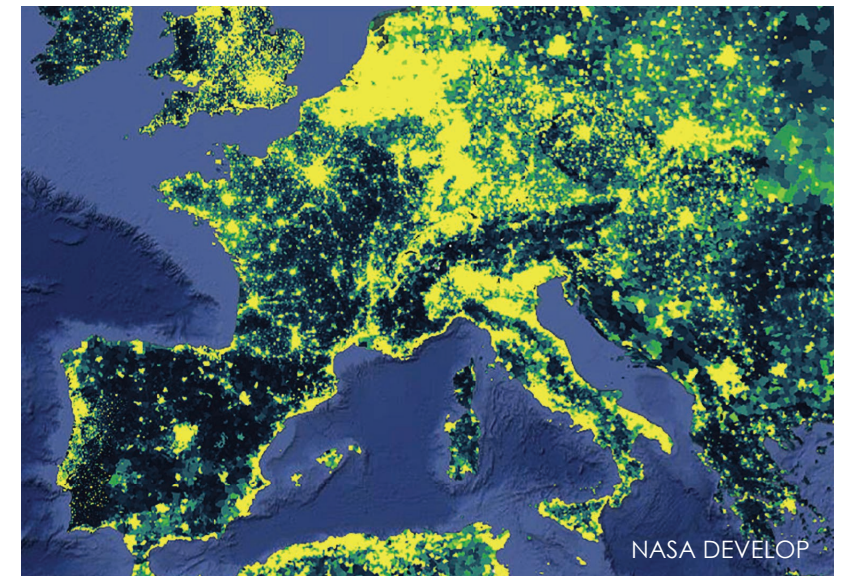


Mosquito Alert Spain



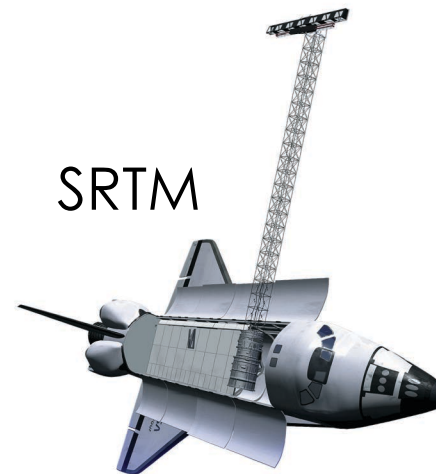
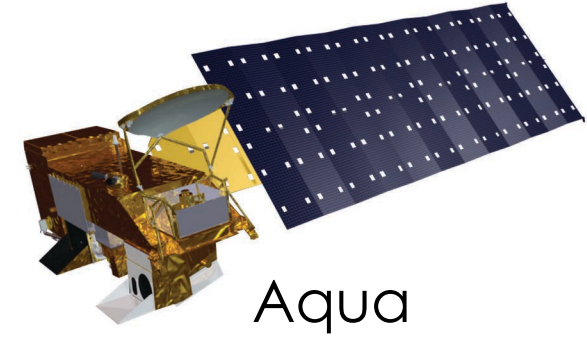
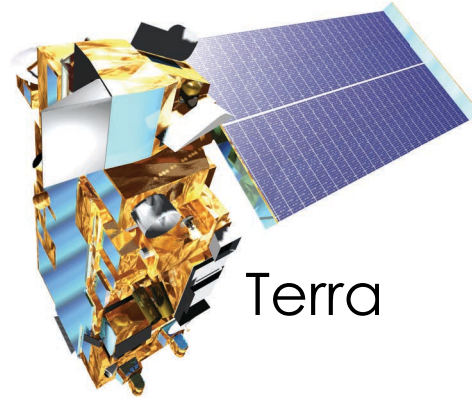
Mosquitos in Europe: Project Overview

- **Project Goals:**
 - Integrate citizen science data and NASA Earth observations to make the information publicly accessible
 - Create an interactive map showing mosquito habitat suitability
 - Overlay results with transportation, population, and public health data
- **Study Area:** Western Europe
- **Study Period:** June 2016 – September 2017

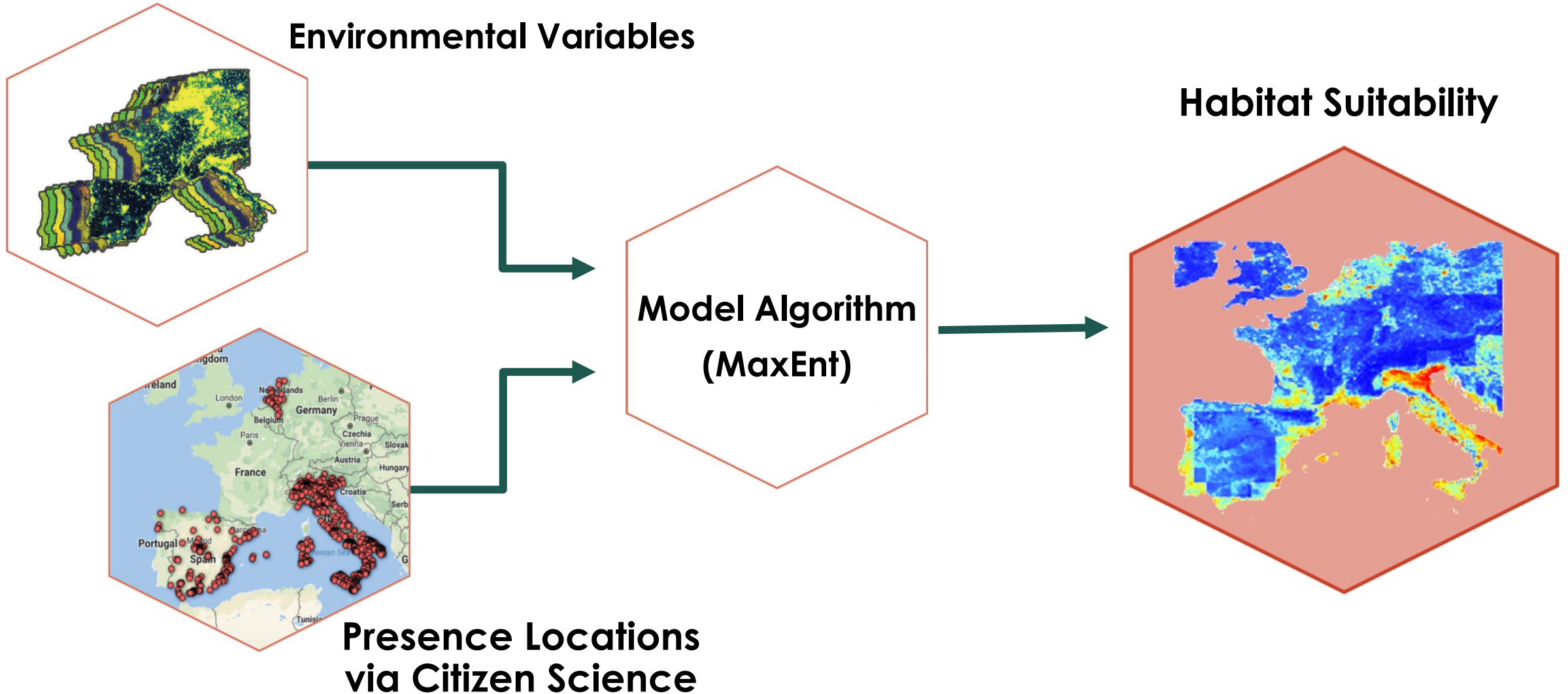


Mosquitos in Europe: Environmental Variables

- Elevation
- Humidity
- Land Surface Temperature
- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)
- Precipitation
- Soil Moisture
- Land cover

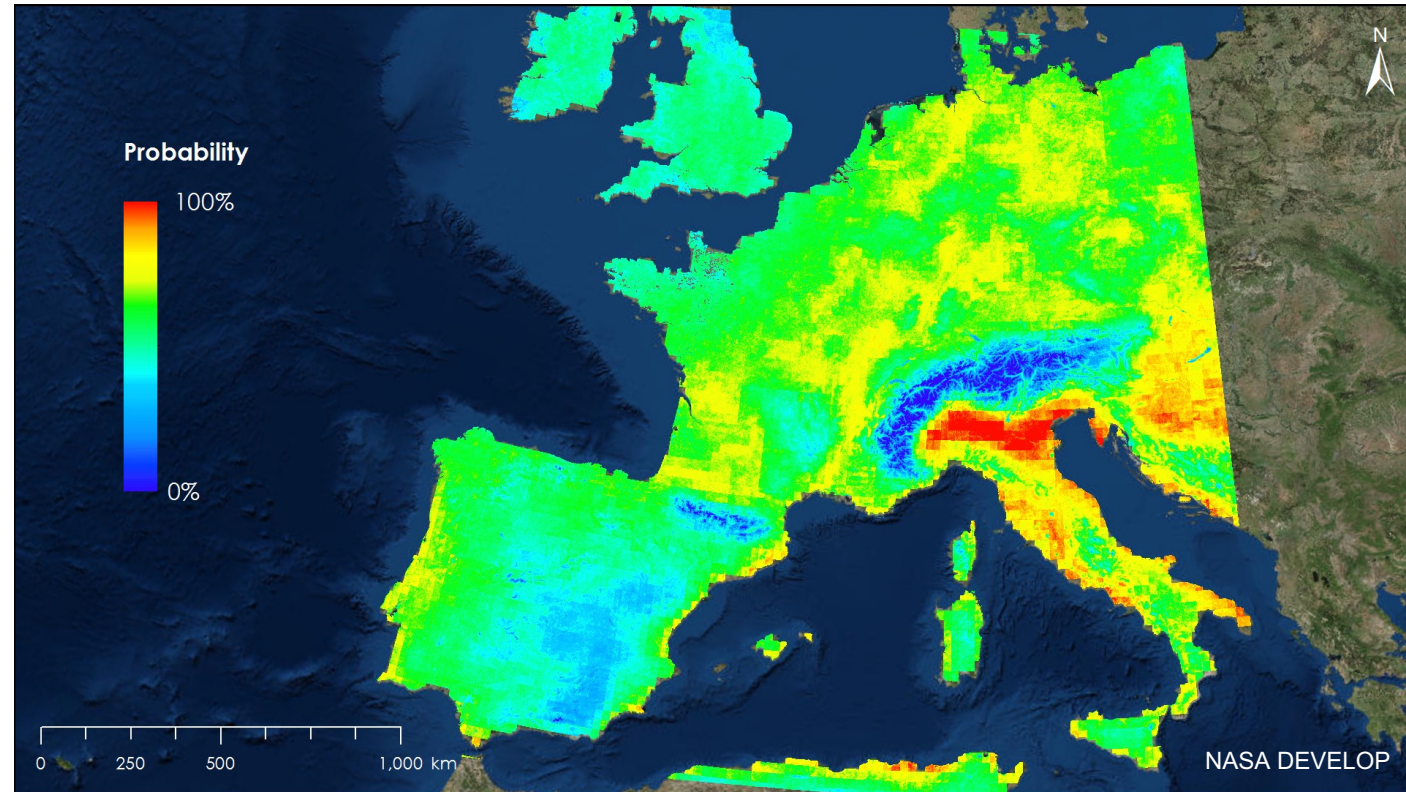


Mosquitos in Europe: Methodology



Mosquitos in Europe: Habitat Suitability

- The MaxEnt model revealed relationships between mosquito presence and the environmental variables.
- Mosquito presence positively correlated with:
 - NDVI
 - Homogenous land cover and greenness
 - Temperature



Explore Layers

2016-06-01

Get monthly data...

Italy ▾

Land Surface Temperature

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

Total Precipitation

Humidity

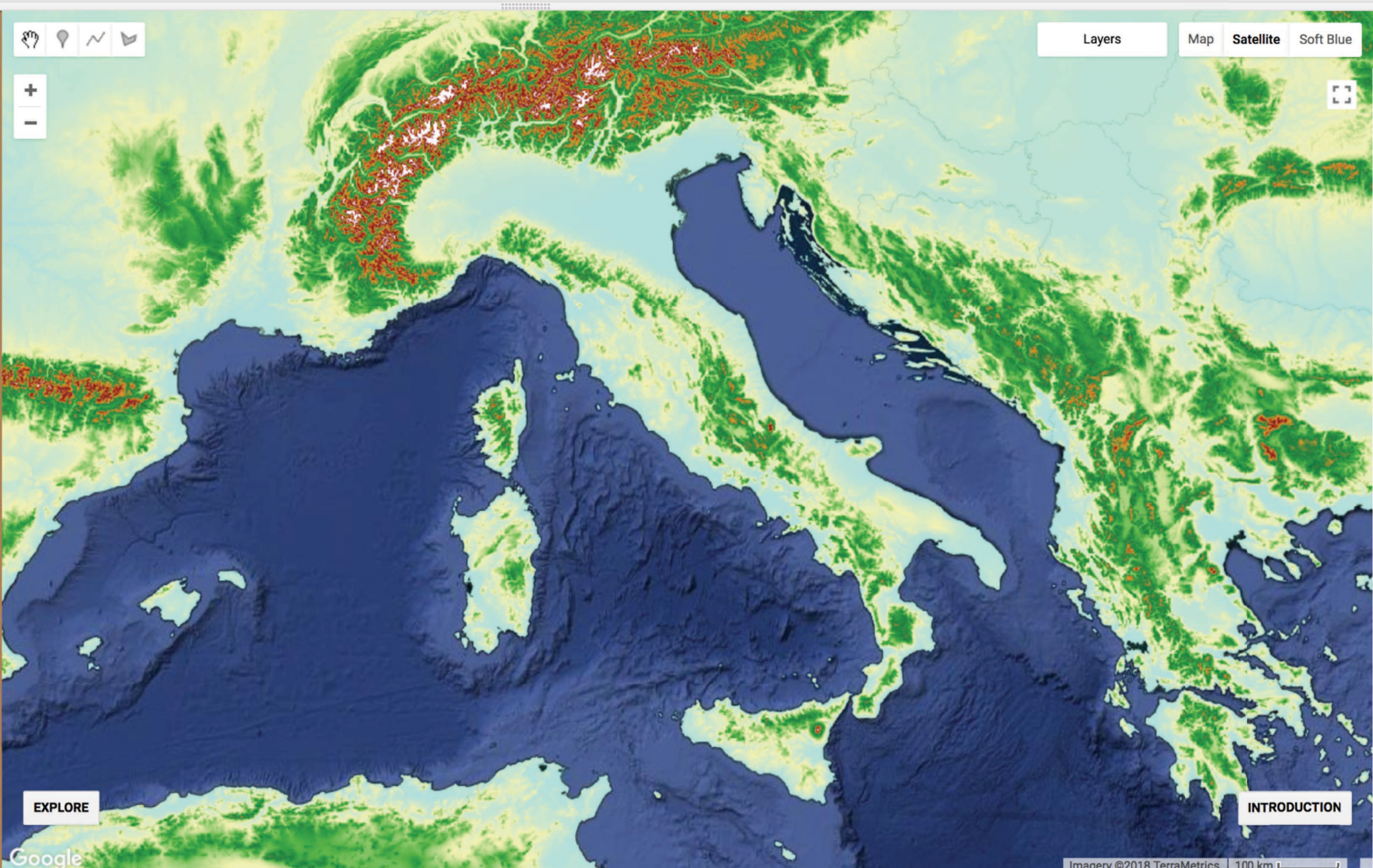
Soil Moisture

Elevation

Land Cover

Population Density

CLOSE



EXPLORE

INTRODUCTION

SDM Case Study Example: Red Spruce in West Virginia

- **NASA DEVELOP Project:** Forecasting Red Spruce Restoration Using NASA Earth Observations to Support the USFS Monongahela National Forest
 - <https://develop.larc.nasa.gov/2019/summer/MonongahelaNationalForestEco.html>
- **Community Concerns:**
 - Red Spruce declines due to coal mining, logging, and wildfires
 - Red Spruce restoration is critical for:
 - Biodiversity
 - Water Quality
 - Flood Mgmt.
 - Carbon Stocks
- **Project Goals:**
 - **Identify** historical extent of red spruce from 1989 to 2018
 - **Create** maps of red spruce locations and suitable locations in Monongahela Forest, West Virginia
 - **Forecast** site suitability and forest cover to 2040

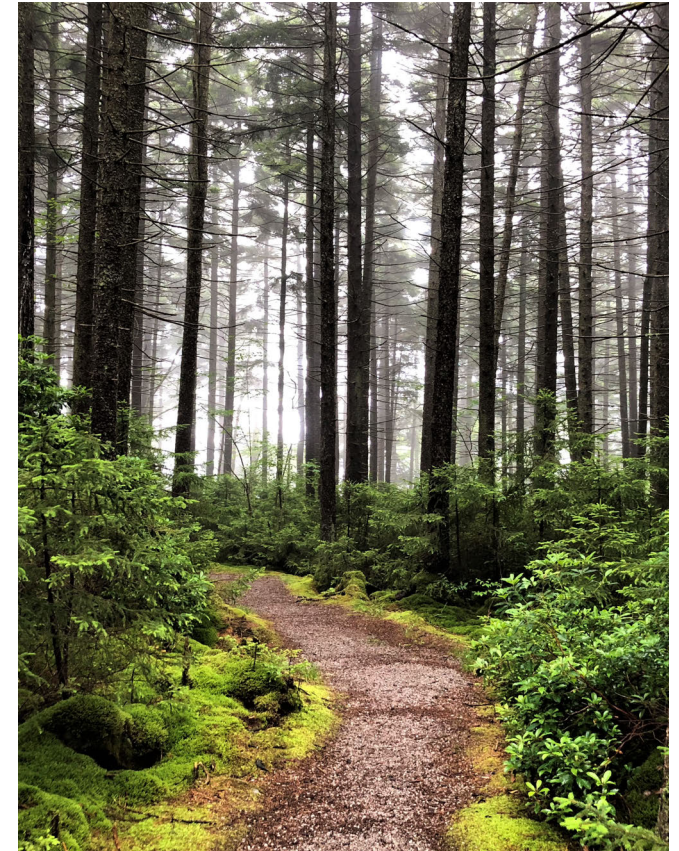
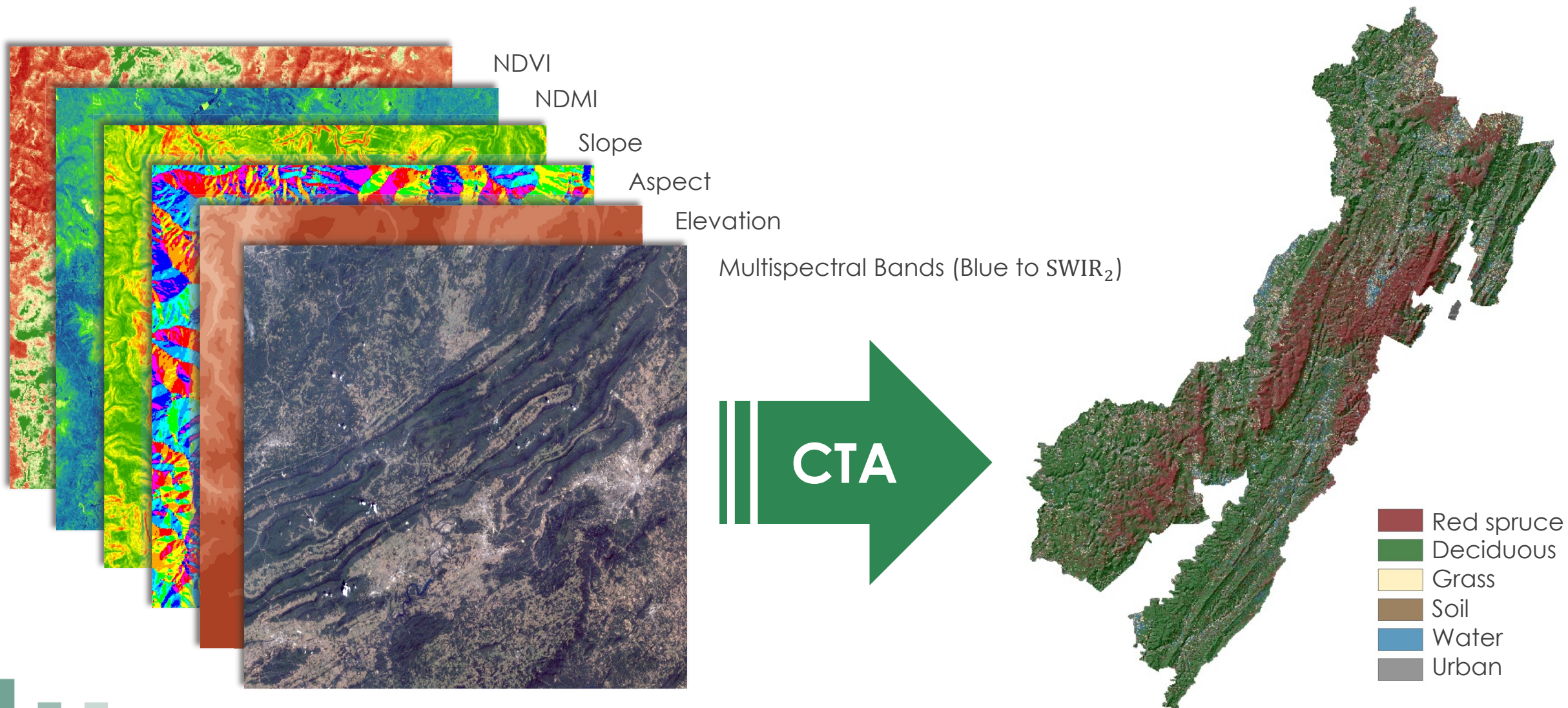


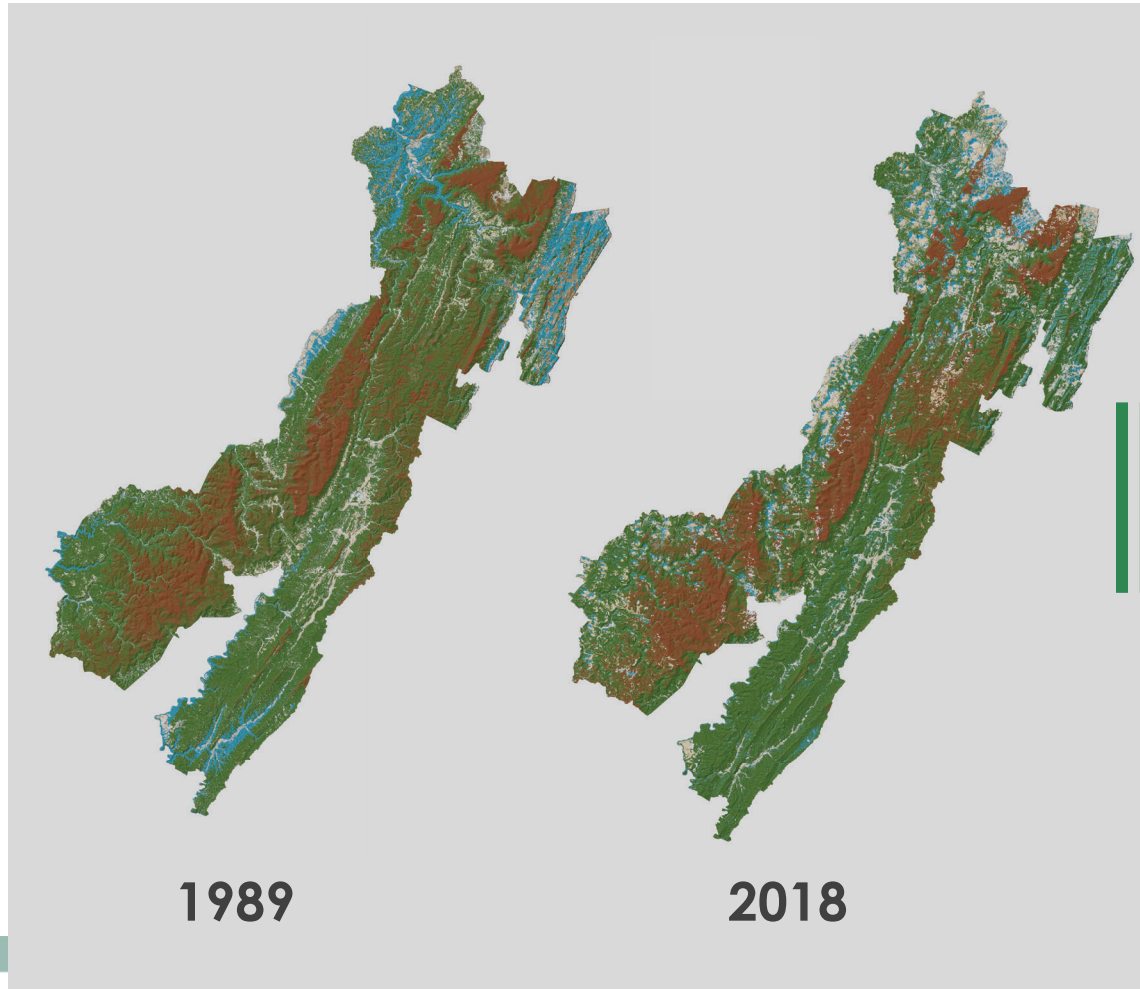
Image Credit: USFS



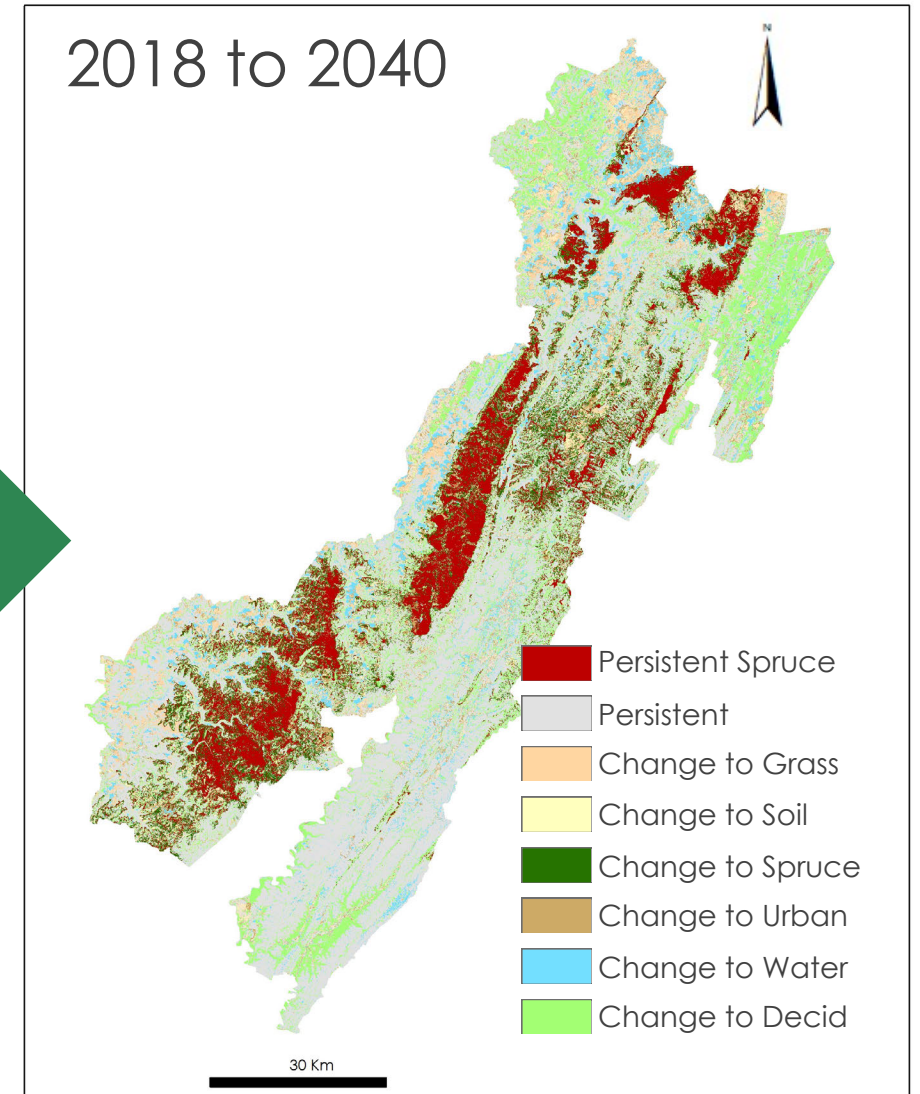
Red Spruce in West Virginia: Land Cover Mapping



Red Spruce in West Virginia: Time Series Analysis

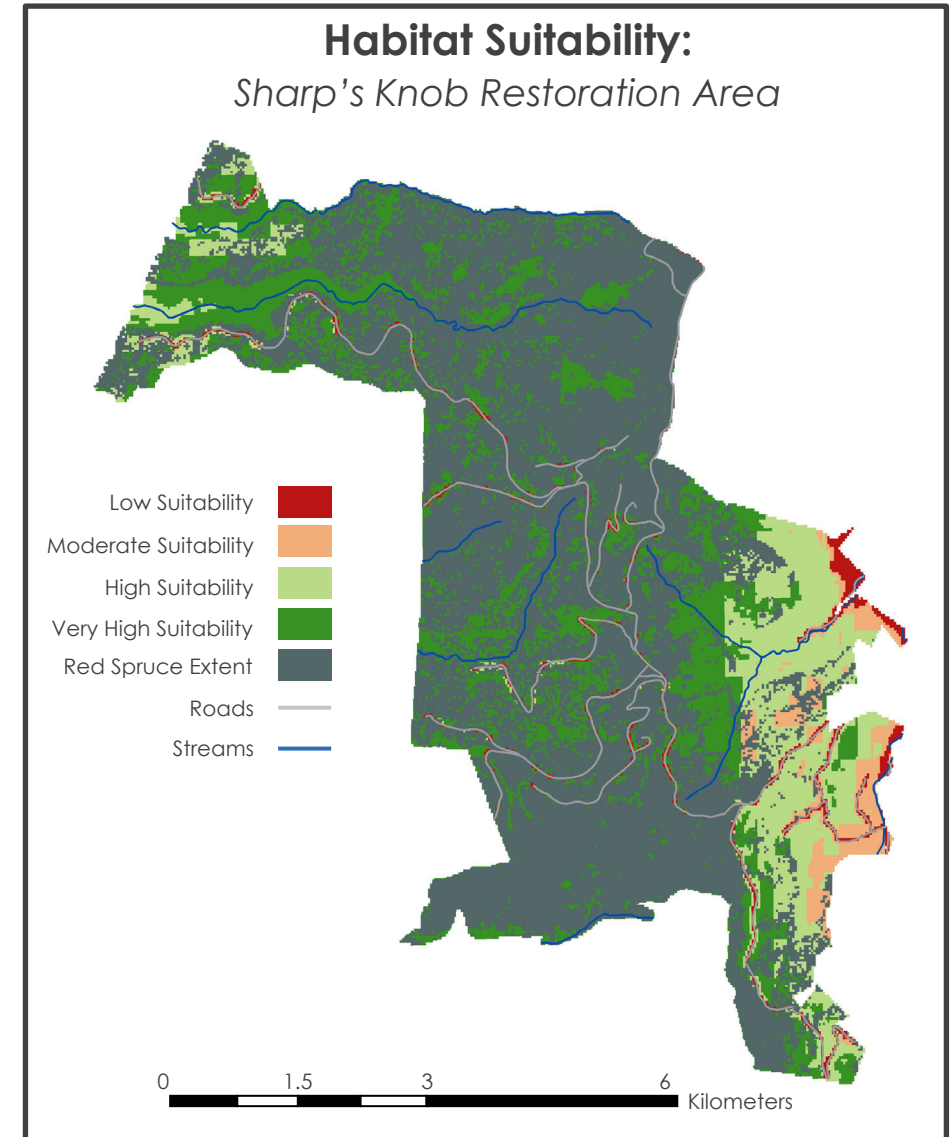


LAND
CHANGE
MODELER

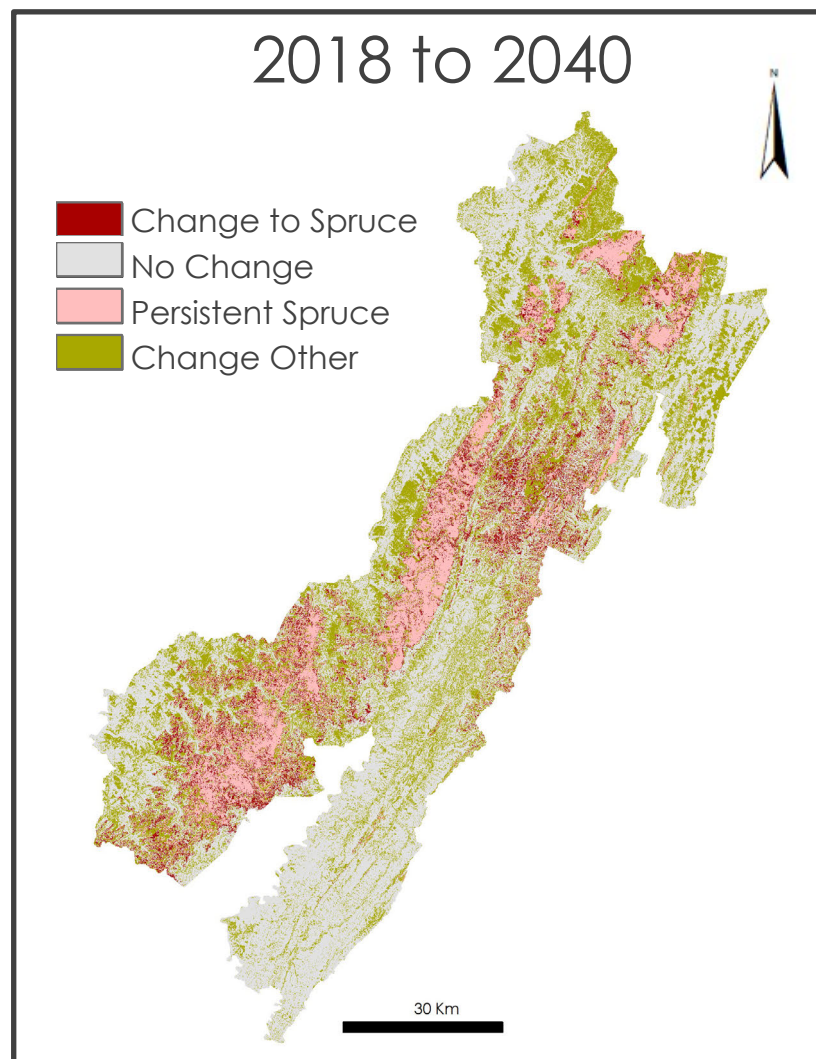


Red Spruce in West Virginia: Suitability Analysis

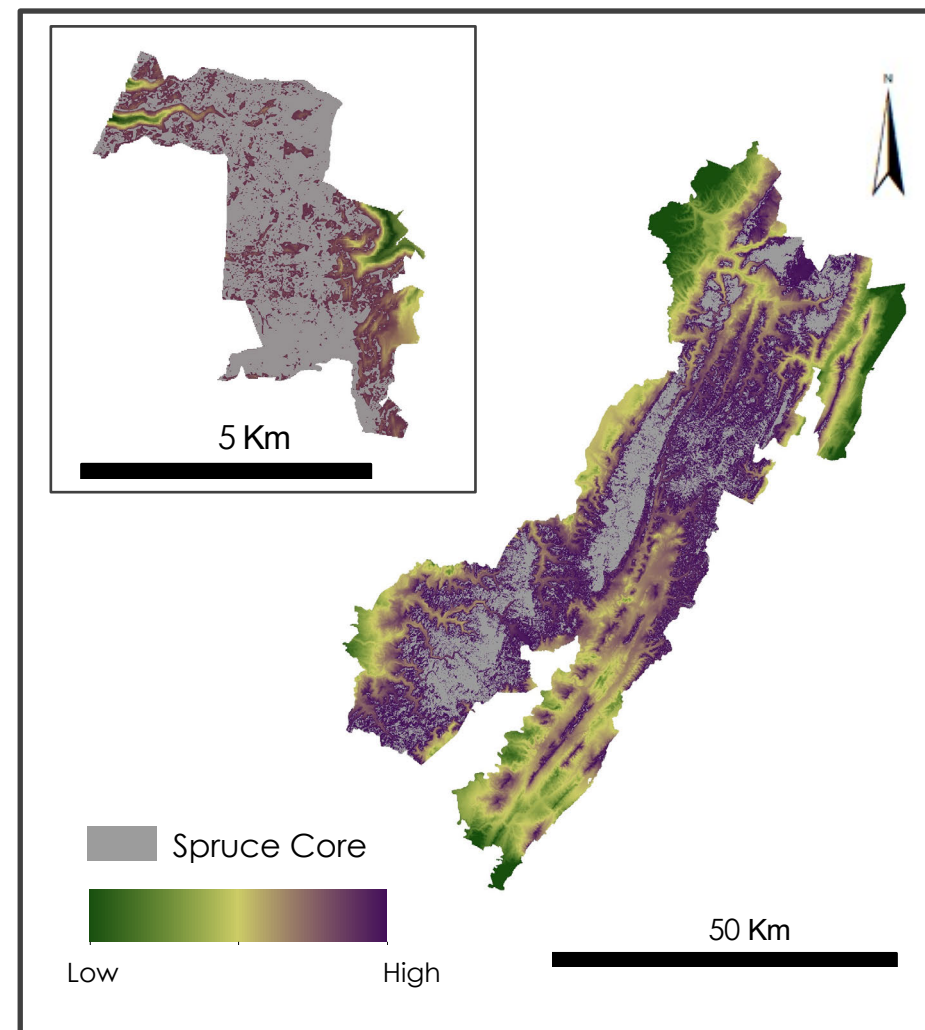
Inputs	Fuzzy Memberships
Elevation	Linear
Slope	Small
Frost Days	Large
Growing Degree Days	Small
Average Annual Temperature	Small
Average Annual Precipitation	Large
Distance to Road	Linear
Soil pH	Small



Red Spruce in West Virginia: Forecasting and Connectivity



Forecast Modeling



Connectivity Potential



Summary

- Species Distribution Models (SDMs) allow us to assess the suitability of a habitat for a species.
- SDMs primarily use environmental data and occurrence data to build a model for predictions of habitat suitability.
 - Remotely sensed data can be used for a variety of environmental data inputs.
- There is no universally correct or universally applicable method.
- Methodologies must be adapted to:
 - Ecological and biogeographical situation
 - Meet the study goals
 - Use available data
- Next Session: **Using Wallace to Model Species Niches and Distributions**



Contacts

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- Amber McCullum: amberjean.mccullum@nasa.gov
- Zach Bengtsson: bengtsson@baeri.org

Follow us on Twitter
[@NASAARSET](https://twitter.com/NASAARSET)

- Training Webpage:

- <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-species-distribution-modeling-remote-sensing>

- ARSET Website:

- <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/what-we-do/capacity-building/arset>





Thank You!

