

Ecological aspects of livestock agriculture



Pablo Manzano

bc³

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Sustainability, that's it!

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Review

The role of large wild animals in climate change mitigation and adaptation

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2022.01.041>

What ecosystems are we talking about?

Journal of Vegetation Science 16: 261-266, 2005
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□ Bond

INVITED PERSPECTIVE

**Large parts of the world are
brown or black:
A different view on the ‘Green
World’ hypothesis**

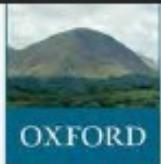
Bond, William J.

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Abstract. Climate sets the limits to plant growth but does climate determine the global distribution of major biomes? I suggest methods for evaluating whether vegetation is largely climate or consumer-controlled, focusing on large mammal herbivores and fire as influential consumers. Large parts of the world appear not to be at equilibrium with climate. Consumer-controlled ecosystems are ancient and diverse. Their distinctive ecology warrants special attention.



William J. Bond



OPEN ECOSYSTEMS

*Ecology and Evolution Beyond
The Forest Edge*

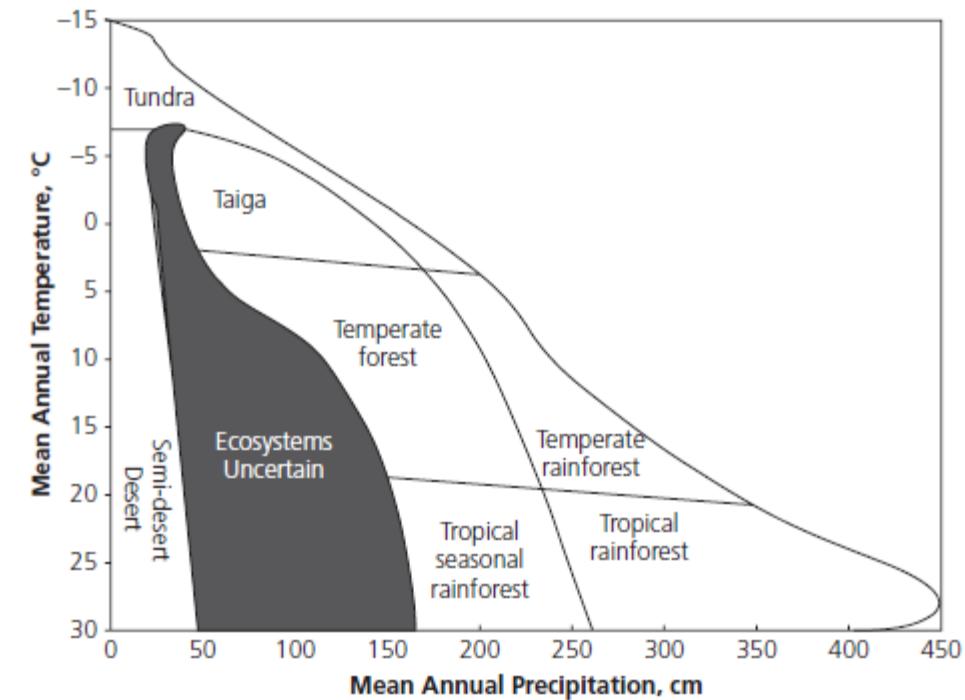
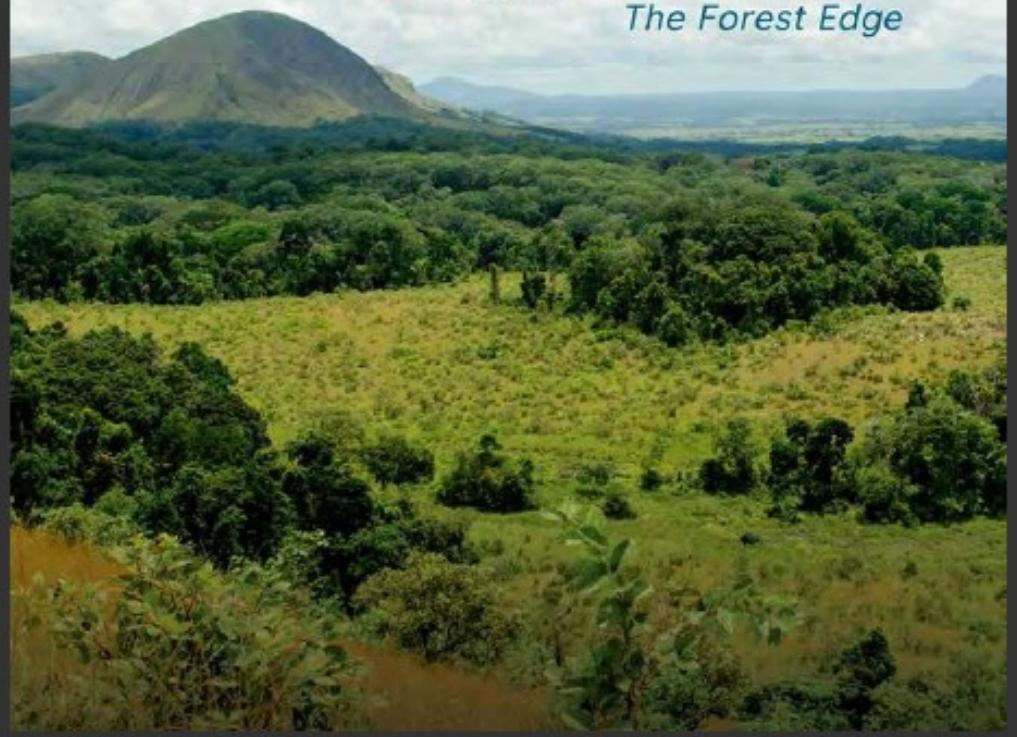


Figure 2.2 Whittaker's climate envelopes for major world vegetation formations. The shaded area is the climate envelope where ecosystems are uncertain and 'either grassland, or one of the types dominated by woody plants, may form the prevailing vegetation in different areas' (redrawn from Whittaker 1975, p. 65).

Origin of open ecosystems

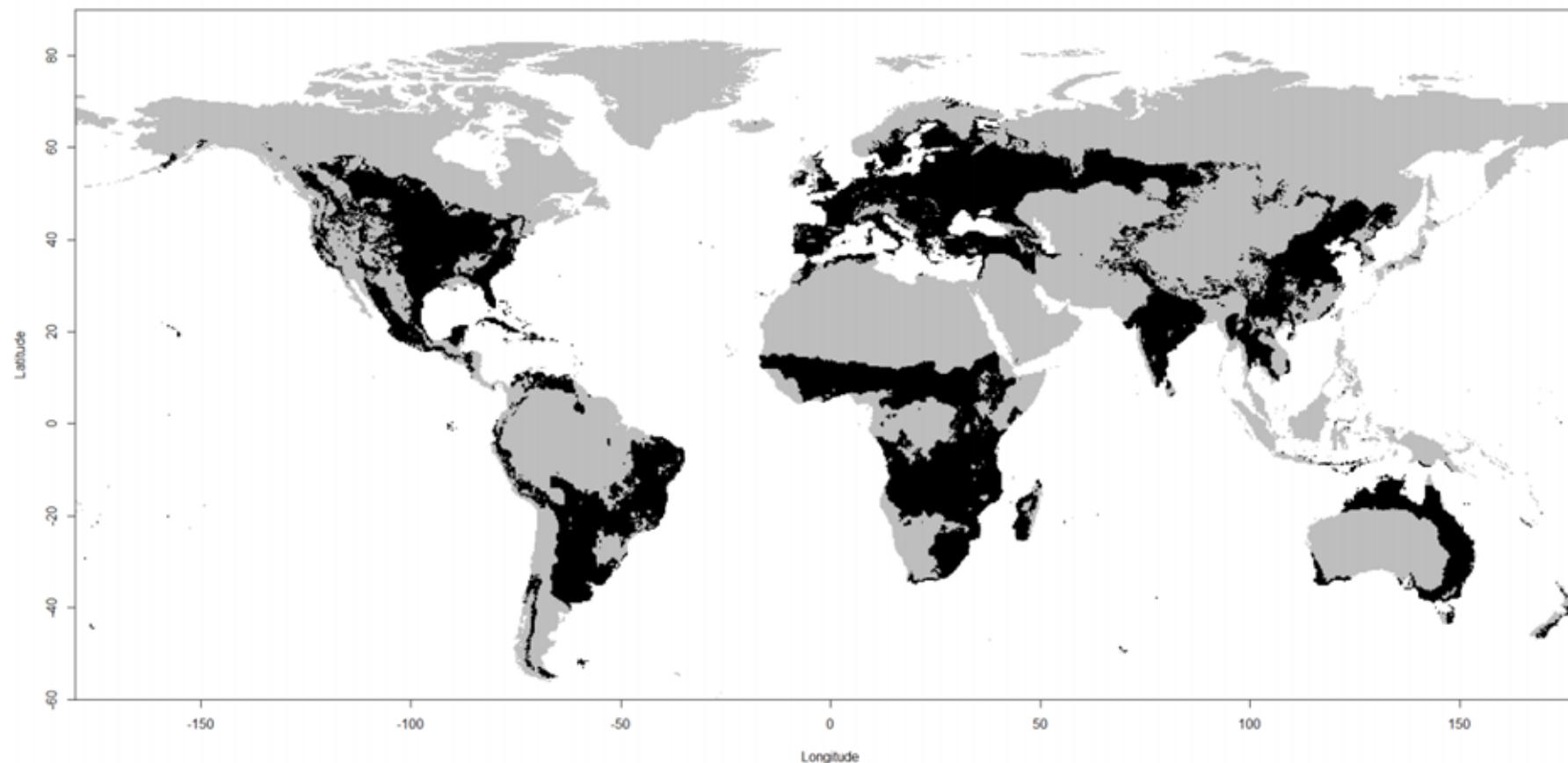




Image source

https://www.elespanol.com/eldigitalcastillalamancha/region/ciudad-real/20211208/plan-sostenibilidad-turistica-impulsa-recursos-parque-cabaneros/633186830_0.html



Image source

Pablo Manzano, own work



Stuart (2015) Geol. J.

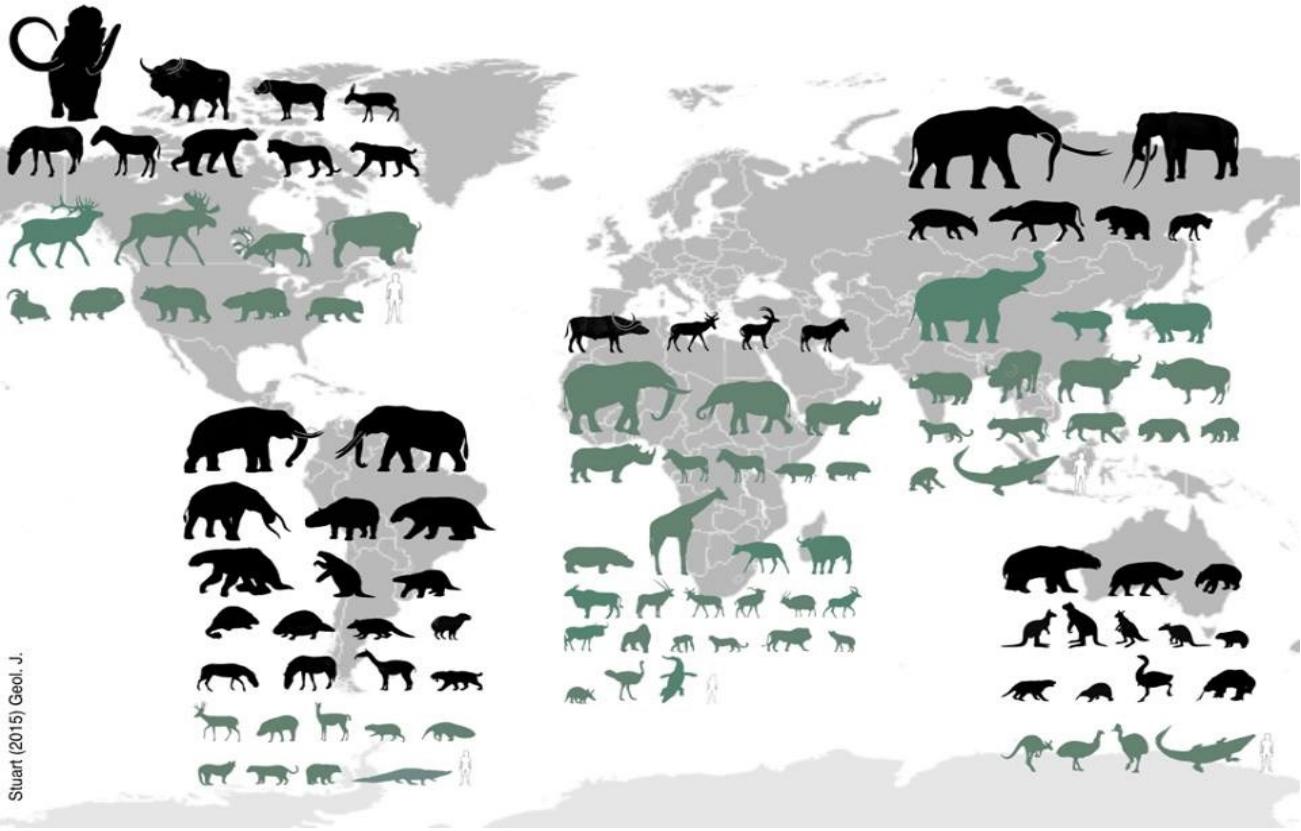
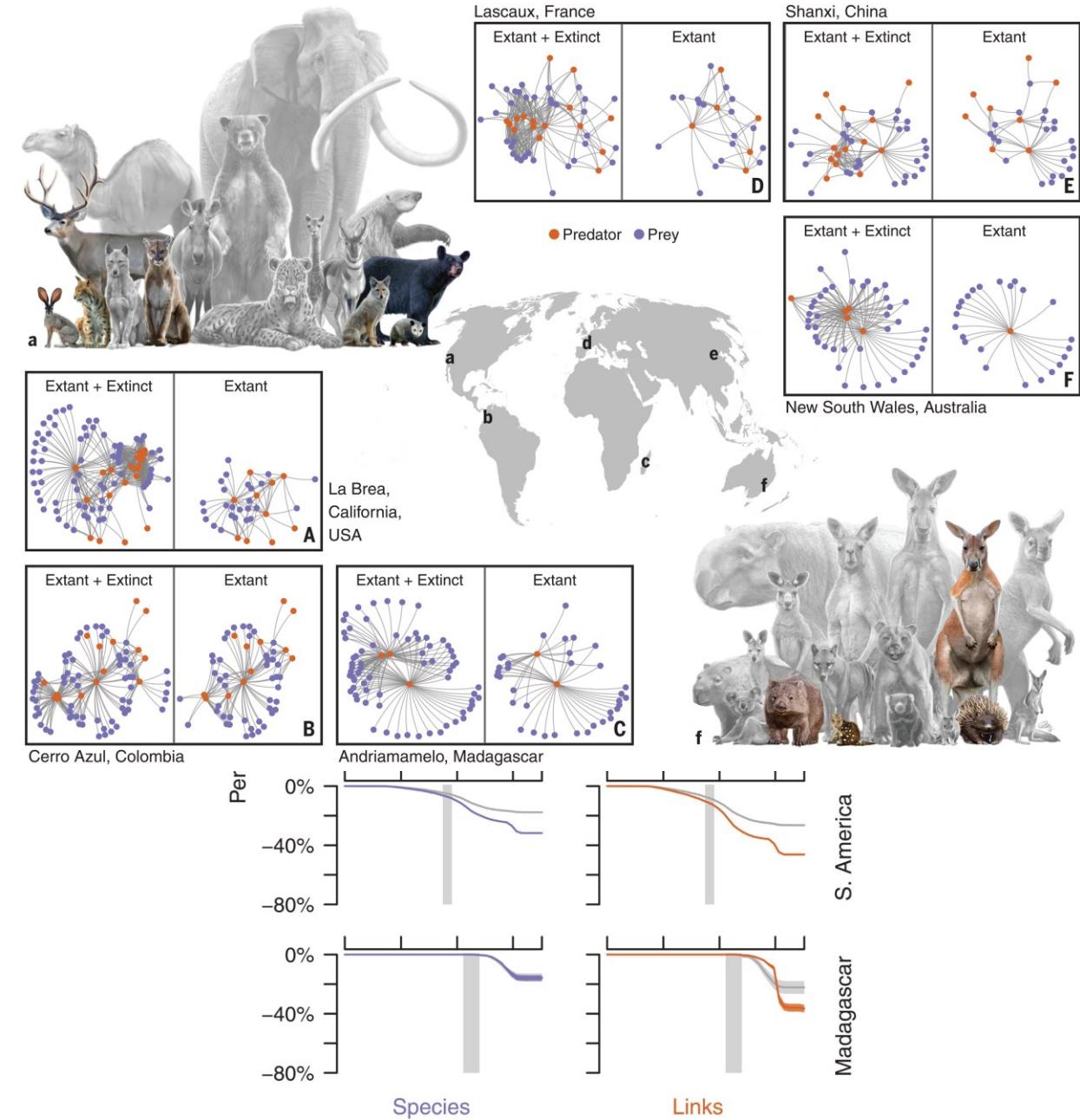
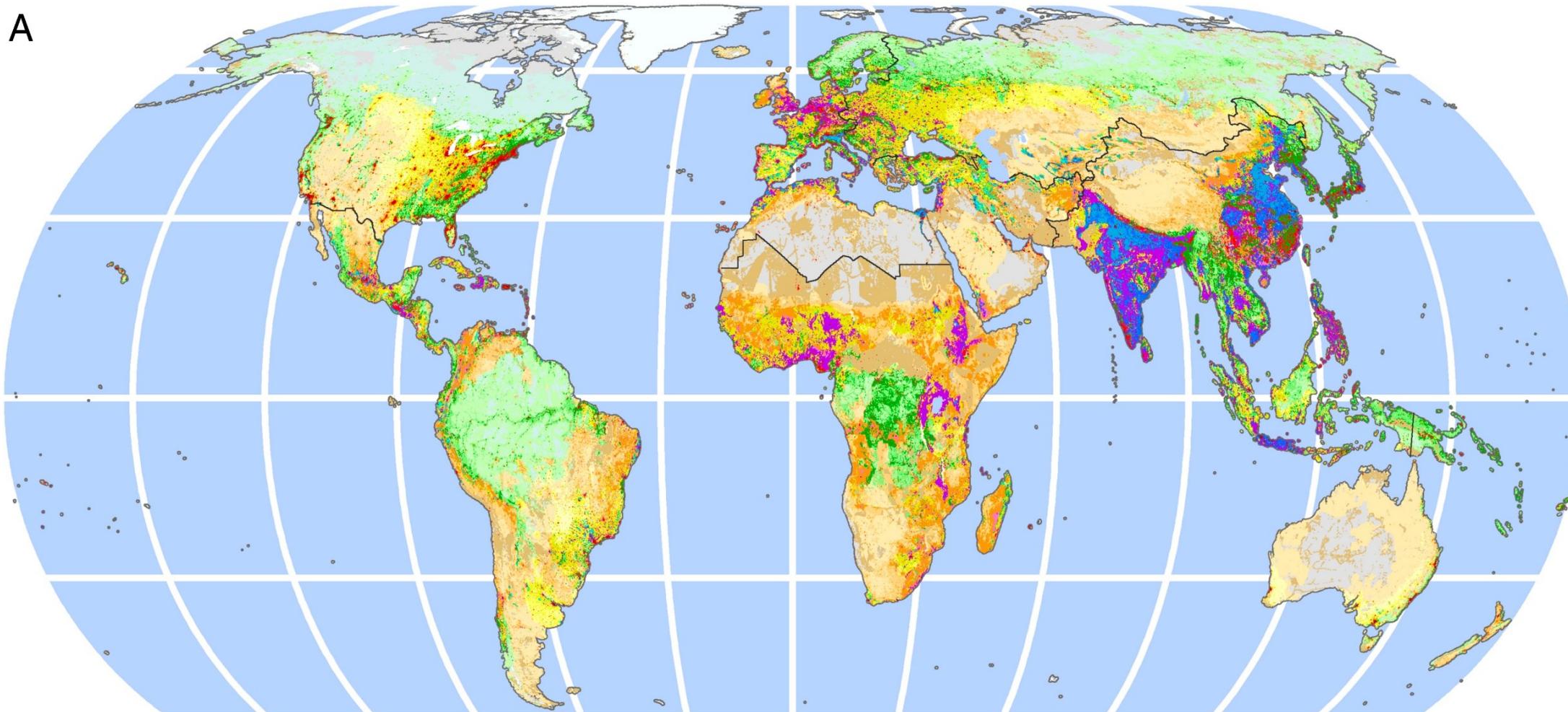


Image source
Pablo Manzano, own work



A



Intensive

Dense Settlements

- Urban
- Mixed settlements

Villages

- Rice villages
- Irrigated villages
- Rainfed villages
- Pastoral villages

Croplands

- Residential irrigated croplands
- Residential rainfed croplands
- Populated croplands
- Remote croplands

Rangelands

- Residential rangelands
- Populated rangelands
- Remote rangelands

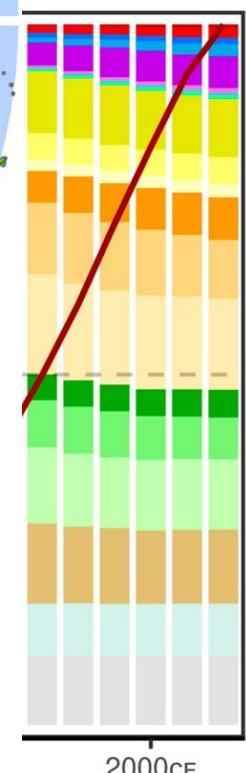
Cultured

- Residential woodlands
- Populated woodlands
- Remote woodlands

Inhabited drylands

Wildlands

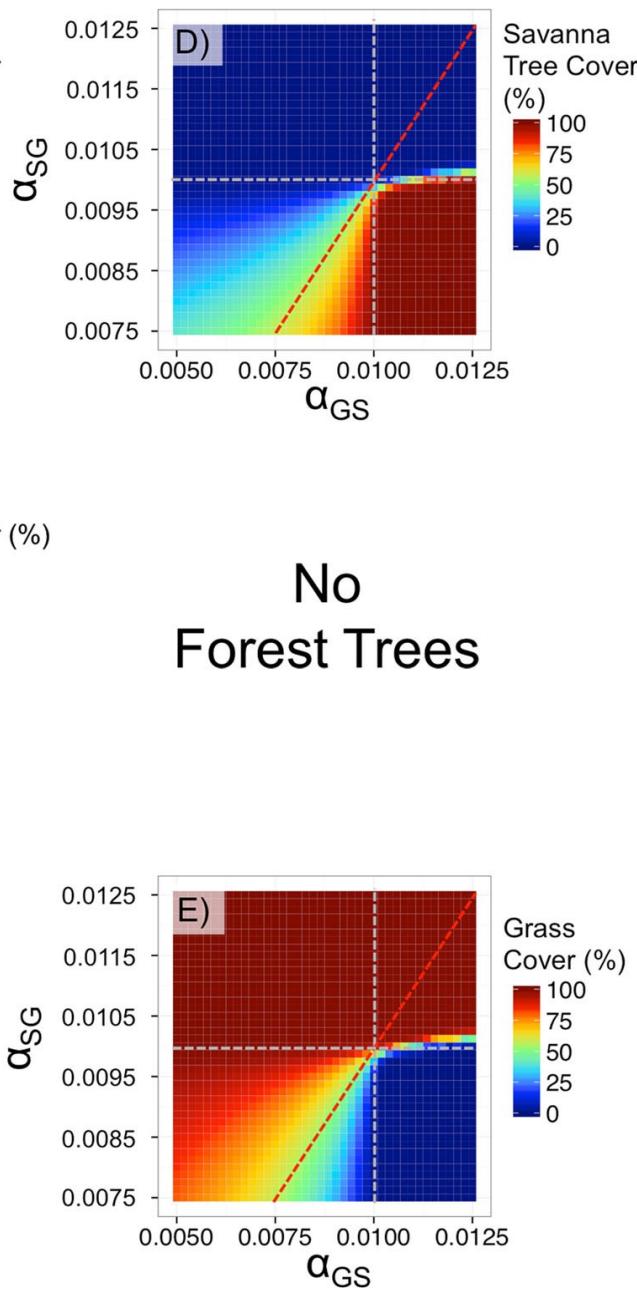
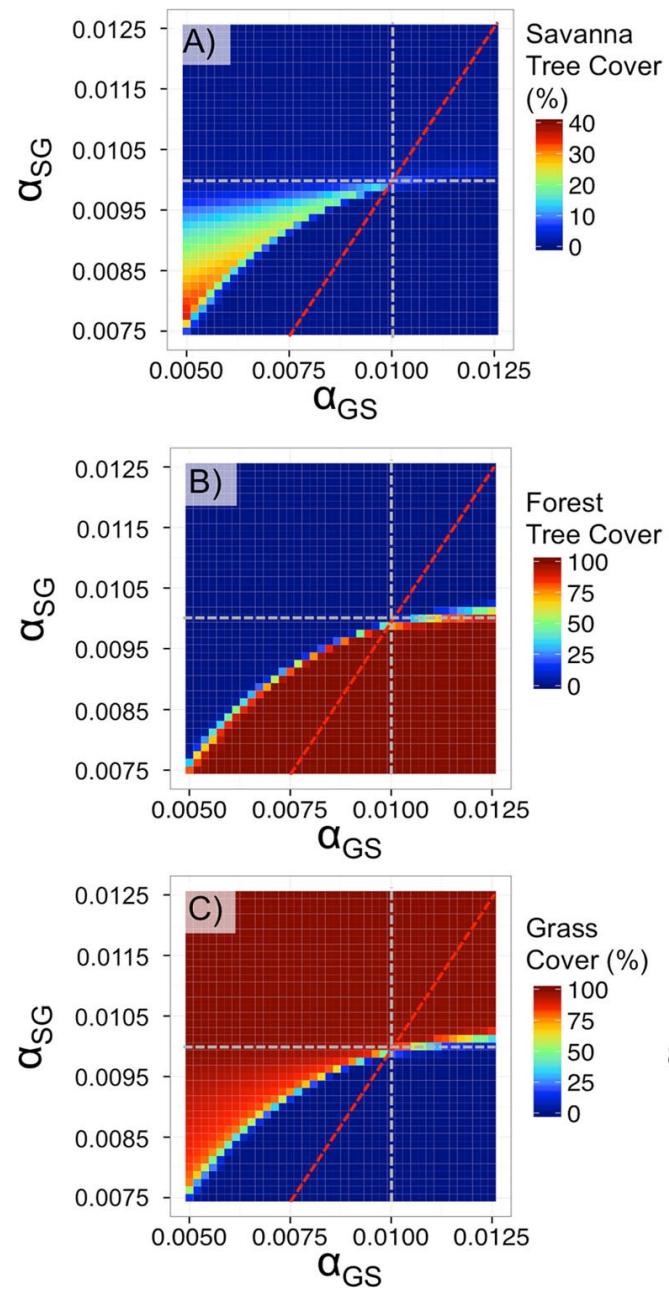
- Wild woodlands
- Wild drylands
- Ice, uninhabited





Images' source Pablo Manzano, own work





No
Forest Trees

Ratajczak et al 2017 Ecosystems
DOI: 10.1007/s10021-017-0110-7

- Management by indigenous peoples

- Hunter-gatherers



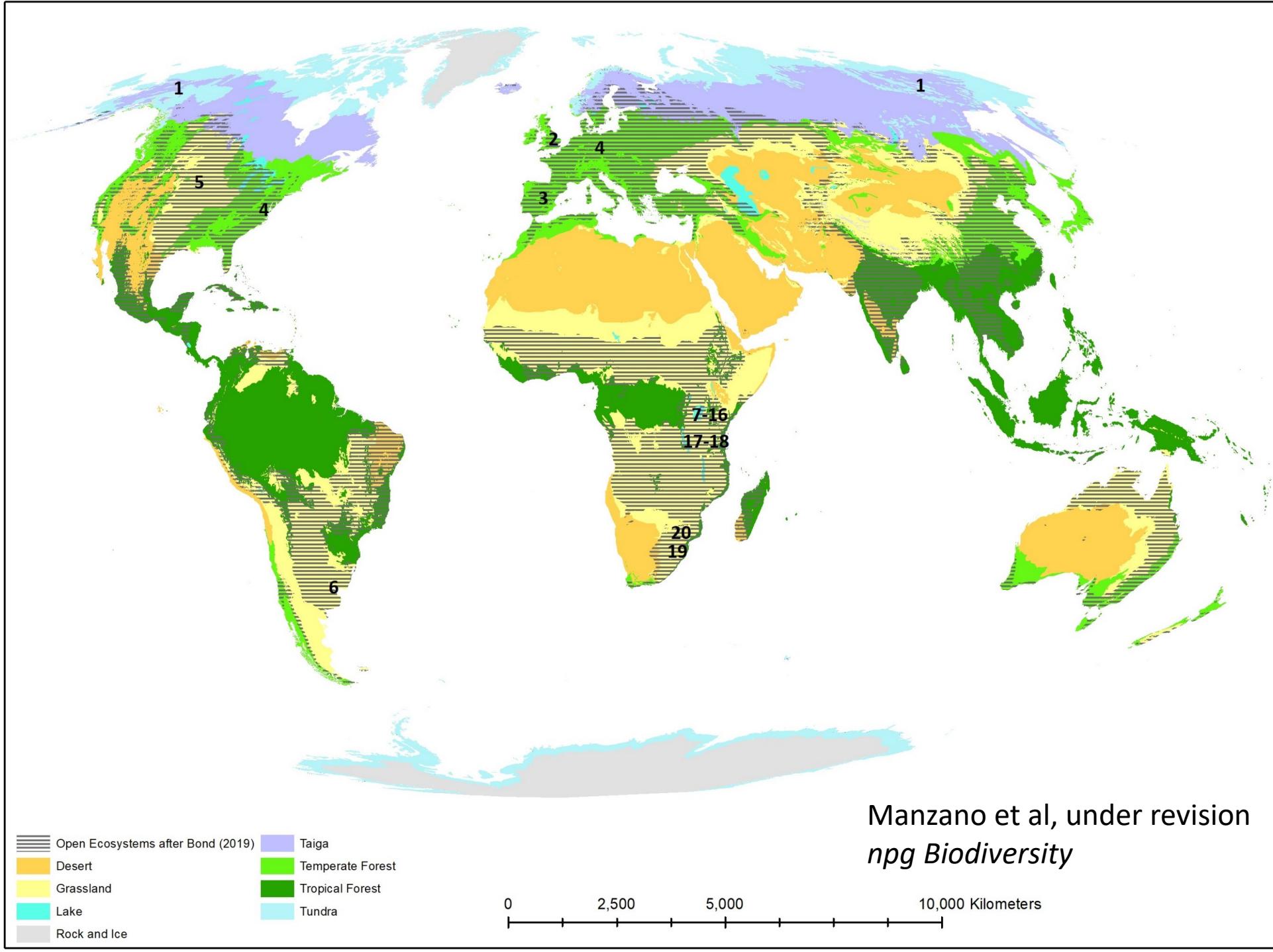
- Pastoralists



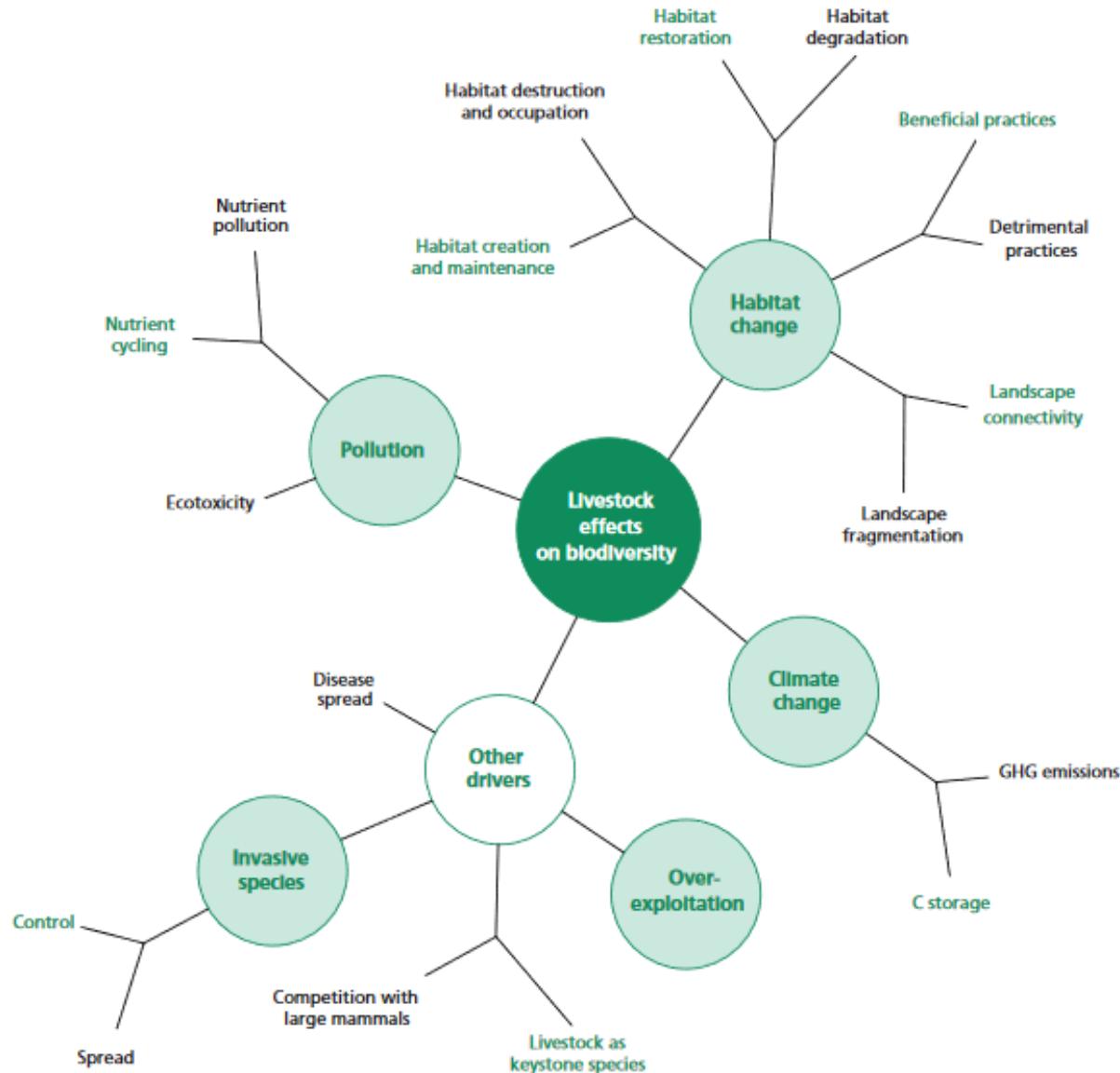
⇒ All with the aim of creating pasture!

Biome	Area (billions ha)	Vegetation	Soil	TOTAL	ratio (t C/ha)	aerial t C per ha	soil t C per ha
Trop forest	1,76	212	216	428	243,18	120,45	122,73
Temp forest	1,04	59	100	159	152,88	56,73	96,15
Bor forest	1,37	88	471	559	408,03	64,23	343,80
Trop savanna	2,25	66	264	330	146,67	29,33	117,33
Temp grassl	1,25	9	295	304	243,20	7,20	236,00
Deserts & semid	4,55	8	191	199	43,74	1,76	41,98
Tundra	0,95	6	121	127	133,68	6,32	127,37
Wetlands	0,35	15	225	240	685,71	42,86	642,86
Croplands	1,6	3	128	131	81,88	1,88	80,00
TOTAL	15,12	466	2011	2477	163,82		

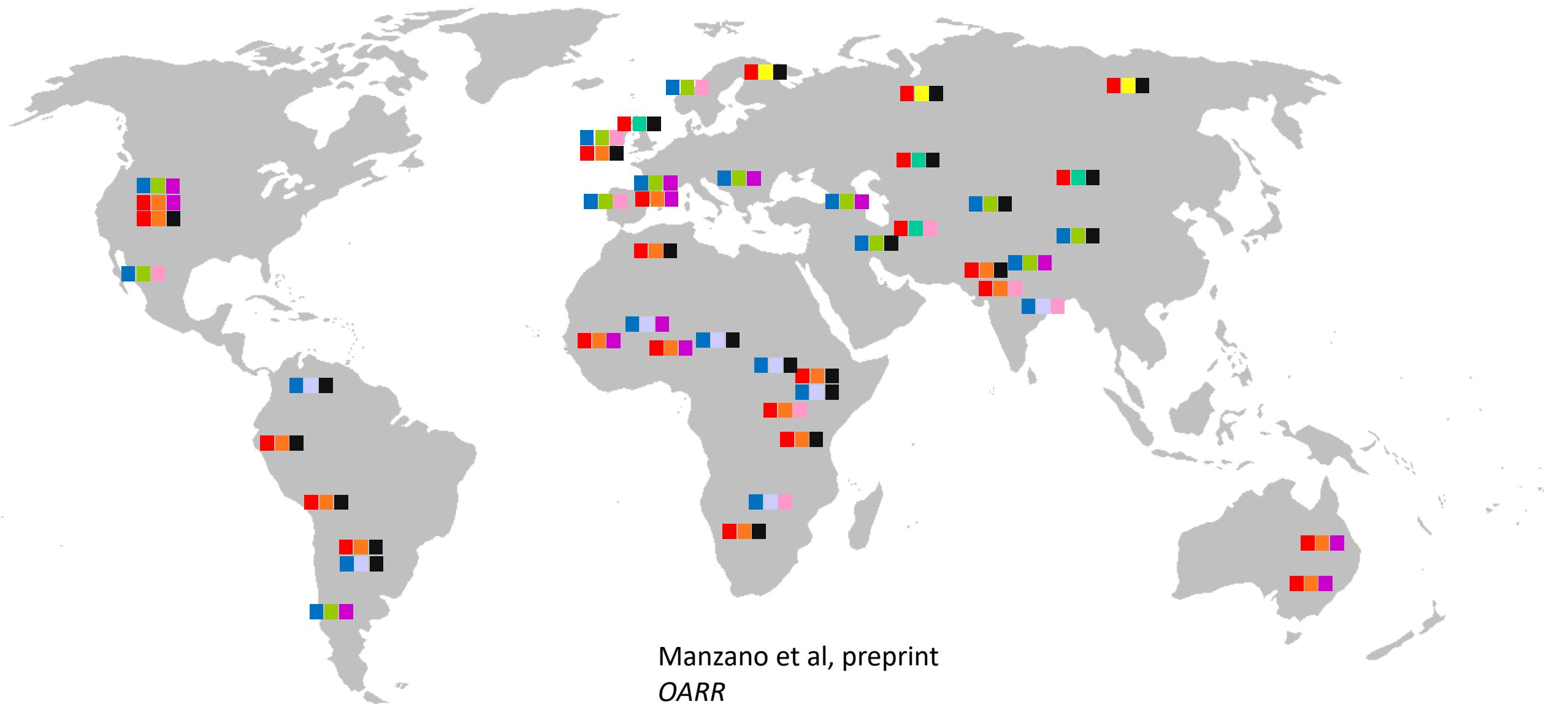
IPCC. 2000. IPCC Special Report. Climate Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry. Summary for Policymakers. WMO, UNEP. ISBN: 92-9169-114-3.
archive.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/spm/srl-en.pdf



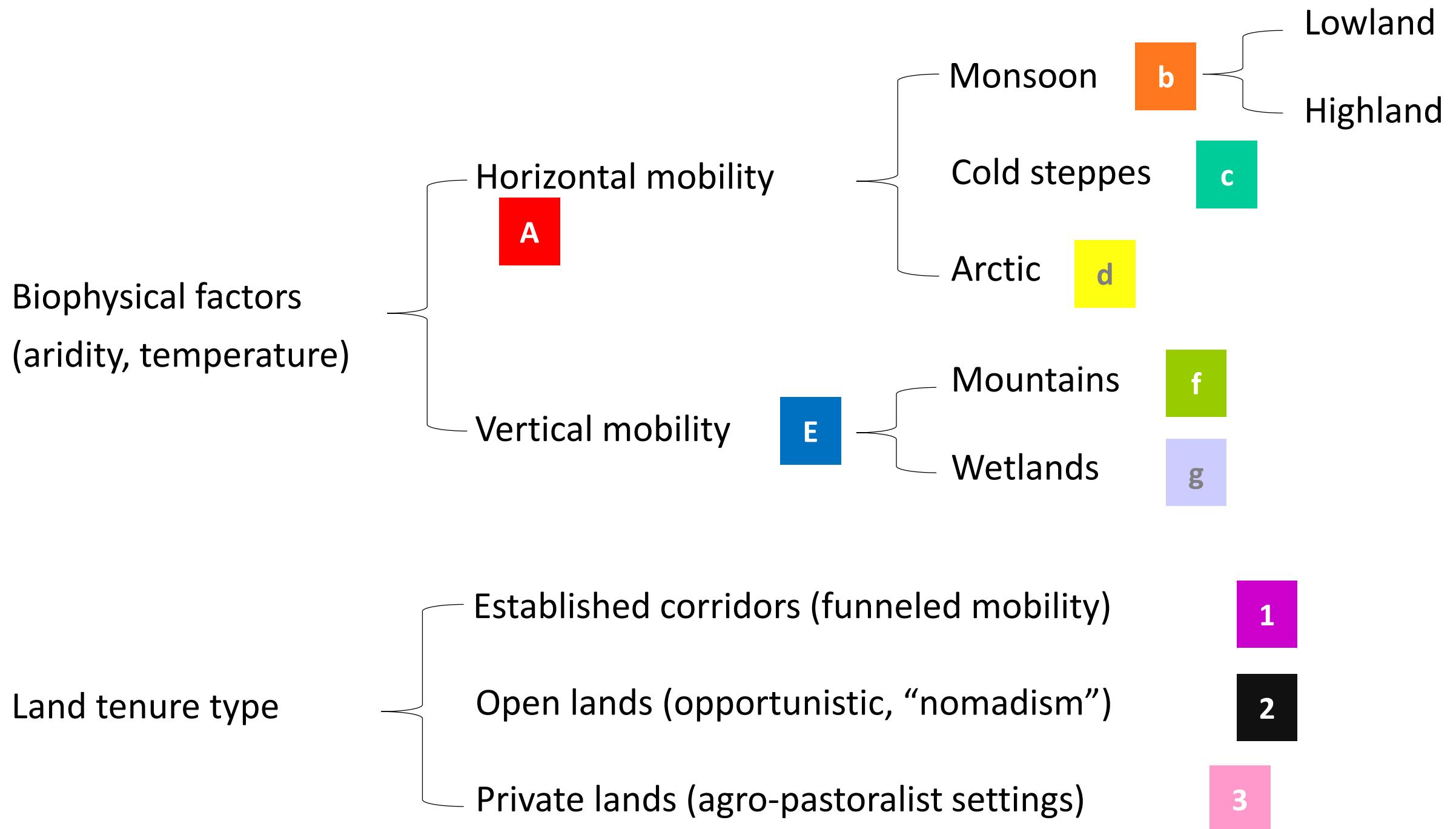
https://youtu.be/KYDk5xIQ7_4

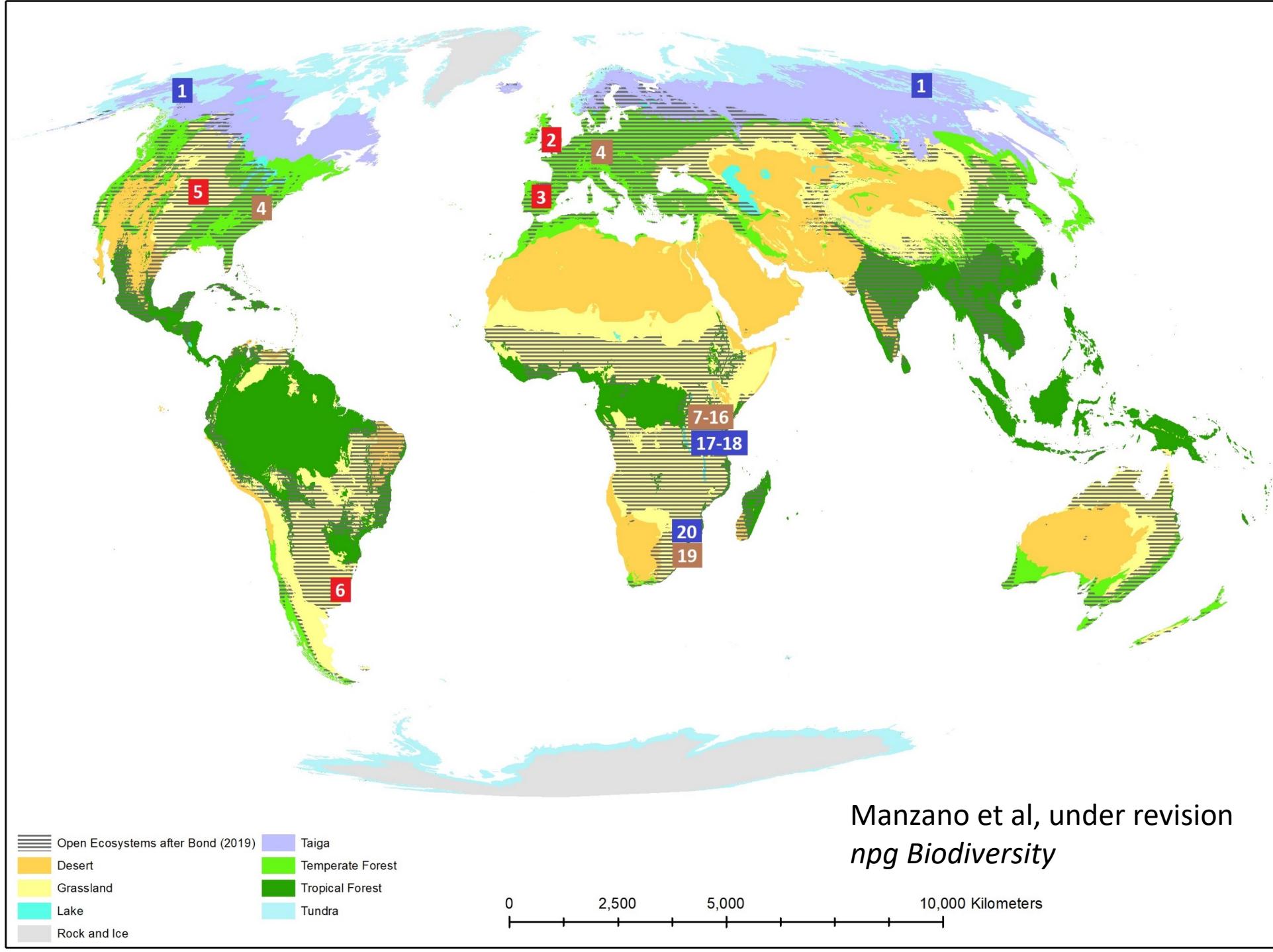


Types of mobile pastoralism



Manzano et al, preprint
OARR





Herbivore corridors sustain genetic footprint in plant populations: a case for Spanish drove roads

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One Earth



CelPress

Perspective

Toward a holistic understanding of pastoralism

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Slimane Bencherif,⁷ Øystein Holand,⁸ Oula Seitsonen,^{9,11} Bayarmaa Byambaa,¹¹ Mikael Fortelius,¹²

Maria E. Fernández-Giménez,¹³ Kathleen A. Galvin,^{14,15} Mar Cabeza,^{1,2,17*} and Nils Chr. Stenseth^{1,6}

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¹⁷Lead contact

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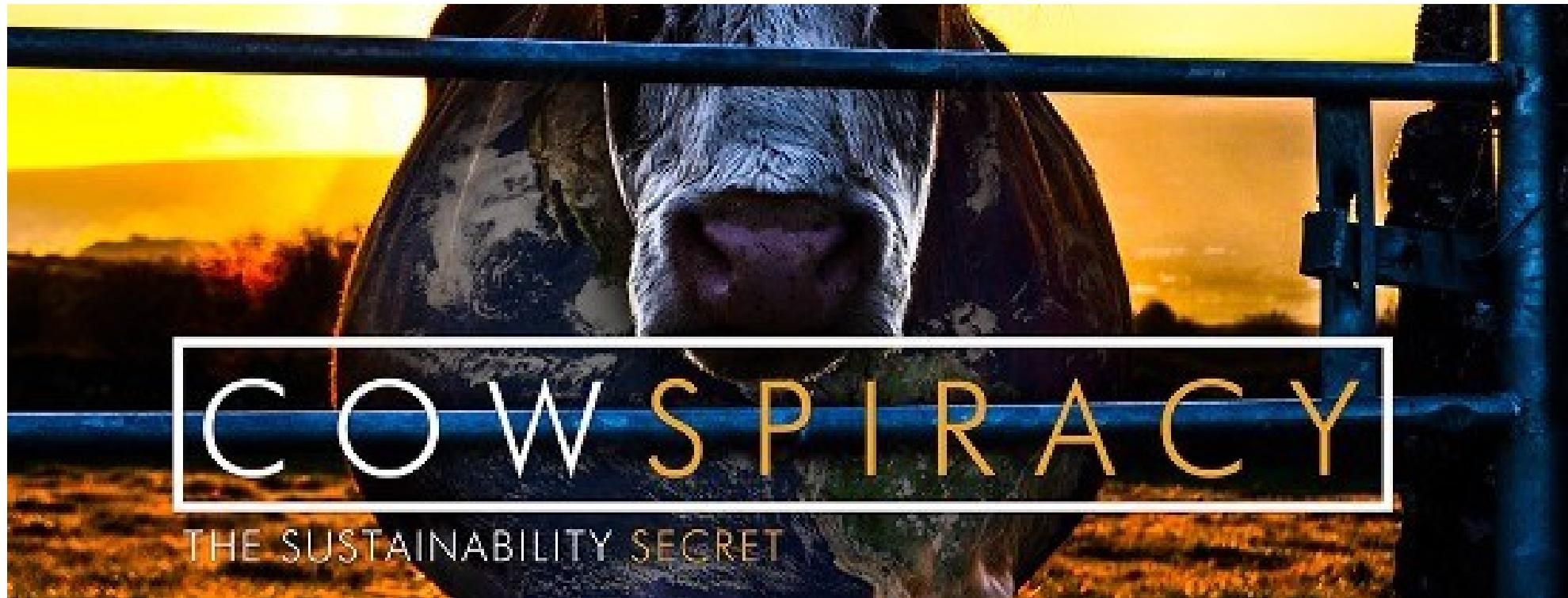
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2021.04.012>

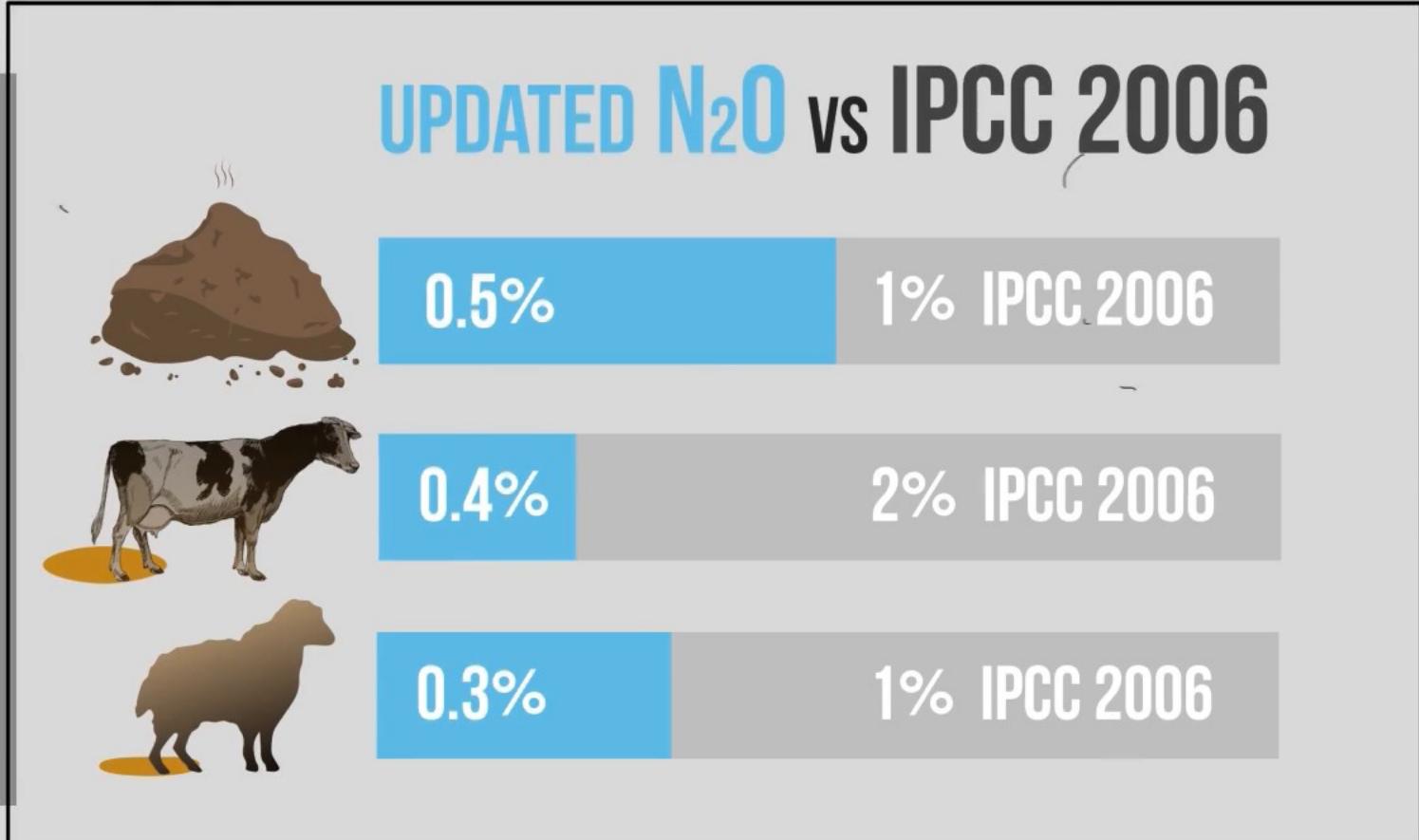
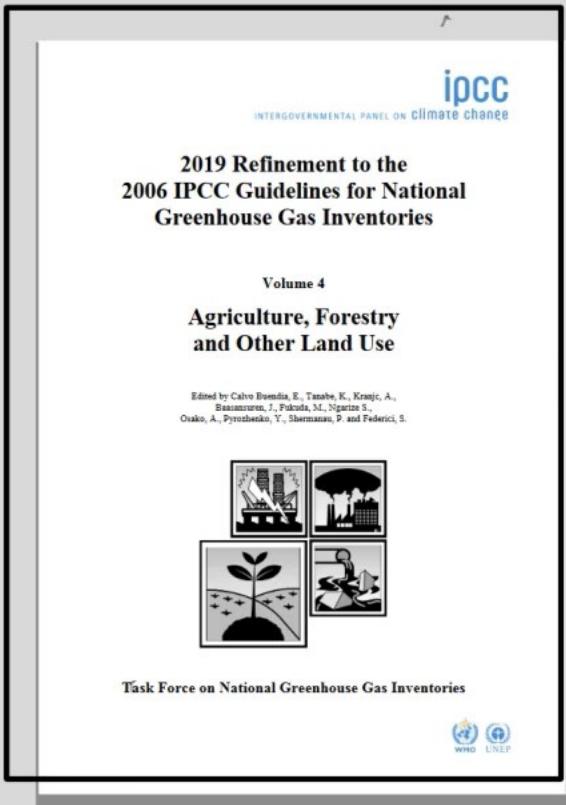
Mobile pastoralism in the Mediterranean: Arguments and evidence for policy reform and its role in combating climate change

February 2018



- 14,5 % of anthropogenic climate change
- Grazing livestock (rumimants) mainly to blame





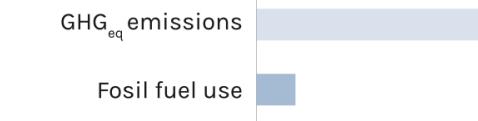
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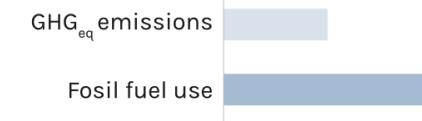
Abandoned pasture

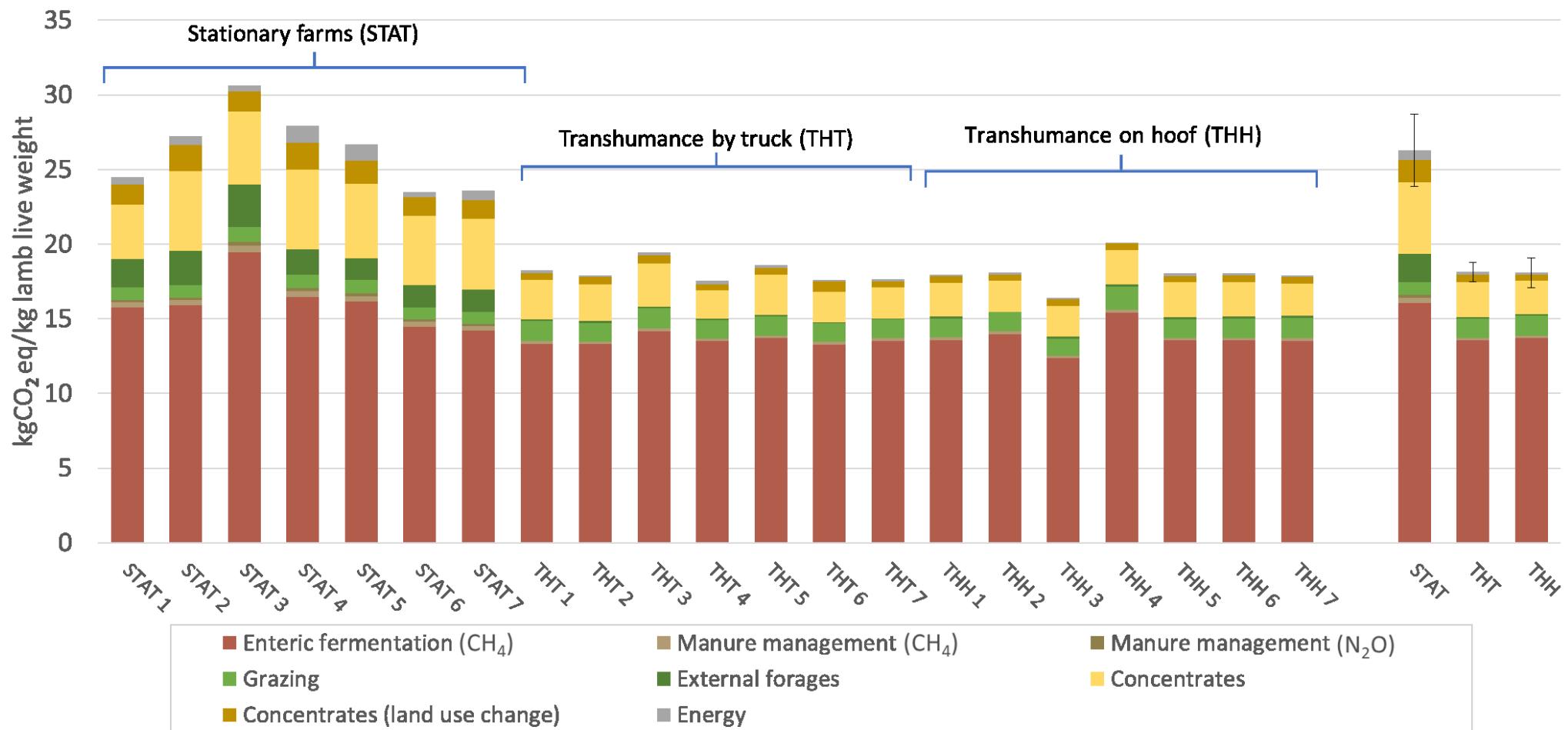


Extensive livestock

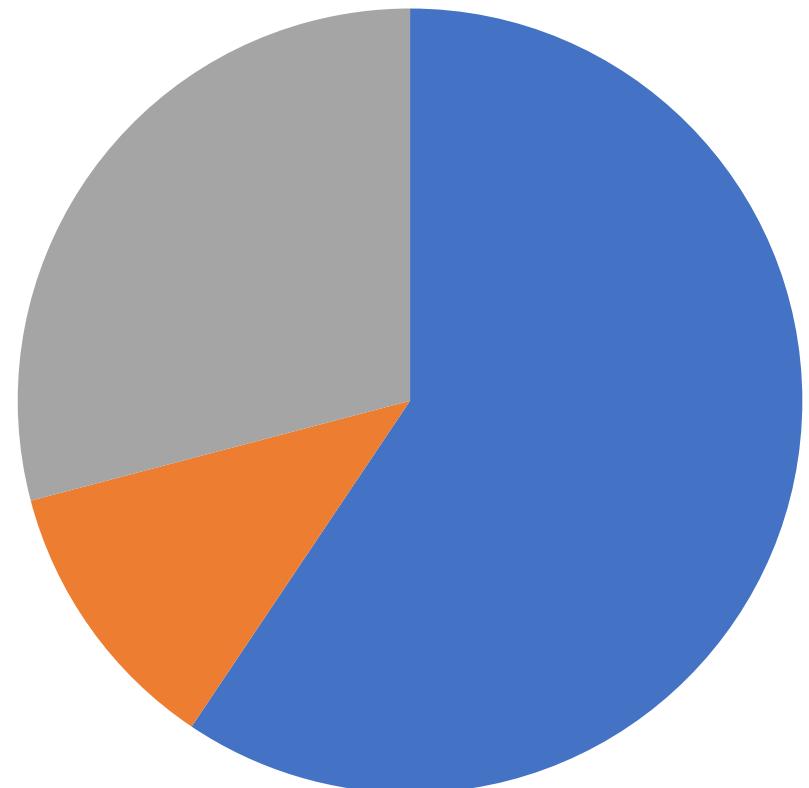


Intensive farming

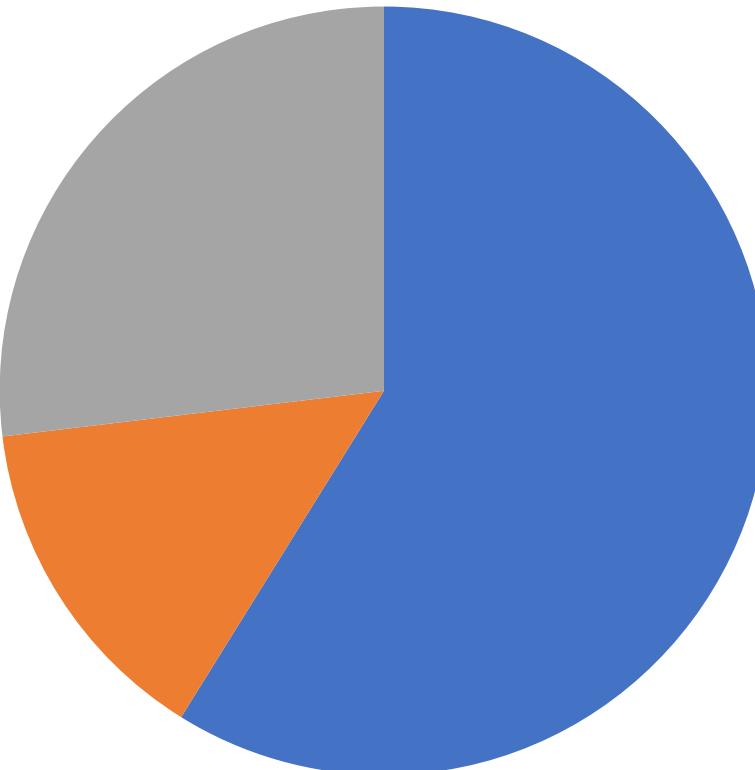




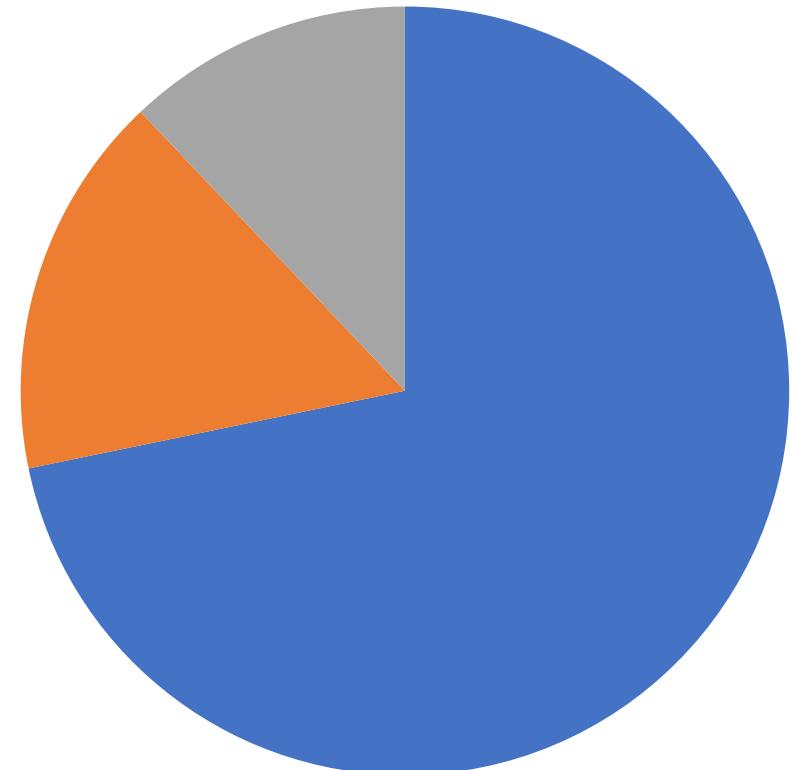
Intensive



Sedentary



Transhumant



■ CH₄ ■ N₂O ■ CO₂

■ CH₄ ■ N₂O ■ CO₂

■ CH₄ ■ N₂O ■ CO₂

Carbon footprint of transhumant sheep farms:

Table 4 Estimated natural emissions from wild herbivores in Mediterranean grasslands ecosystem and comparison with transhumant grazing-based sheep.

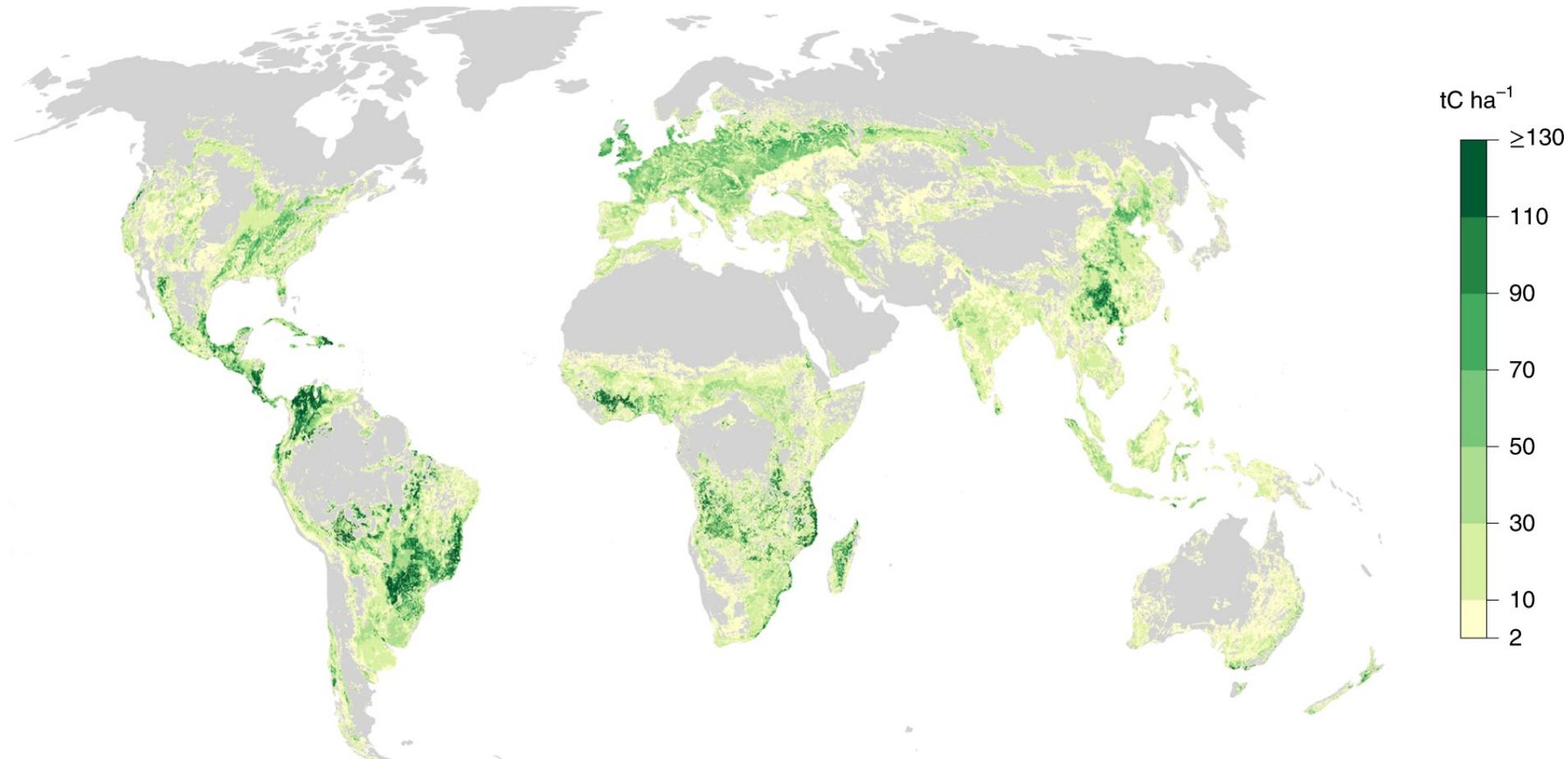
Animal class	Density	Biomass	Enteric CH ₄	Manure CH ₄ +N ₂ O	TOTAL
	No/km ²	kg/km ²		(Mg CO ₂ eq/km ²)	
<i>Wild herbivores</i>					
Red deer ¹	32.9	4814	20.5	4.7	25.3
Red deer ²	32.9	4814	22.0	4.7	26.8
<i>Domestic herbivores</i>					
Transhumant sheep	105.0	5775	42.6	5.1	47.7

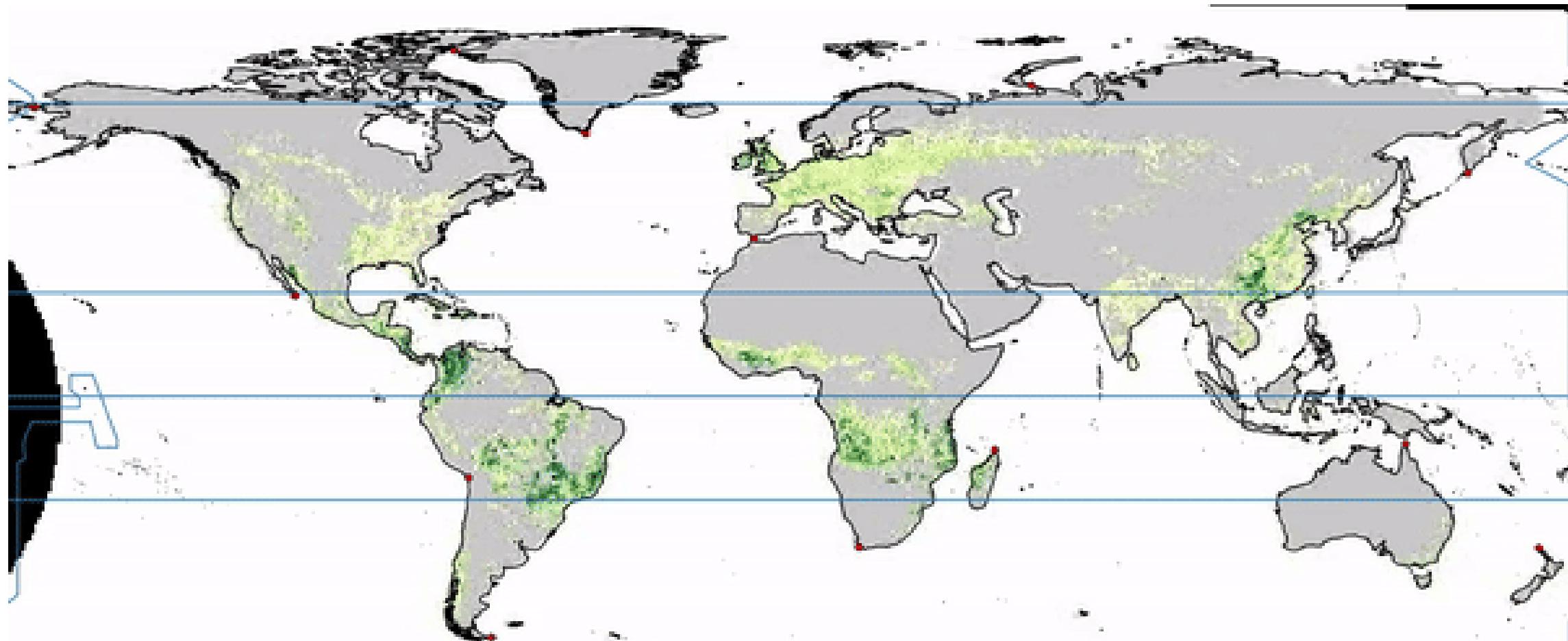


When considering the natural baseline emissions, the CF of transhumant lamb meat is reduced by almost 30%, reaching values quite below those reported for intensive lamb production systems in Spain.



The carbon opportunity cost of animal-sourced food production on land





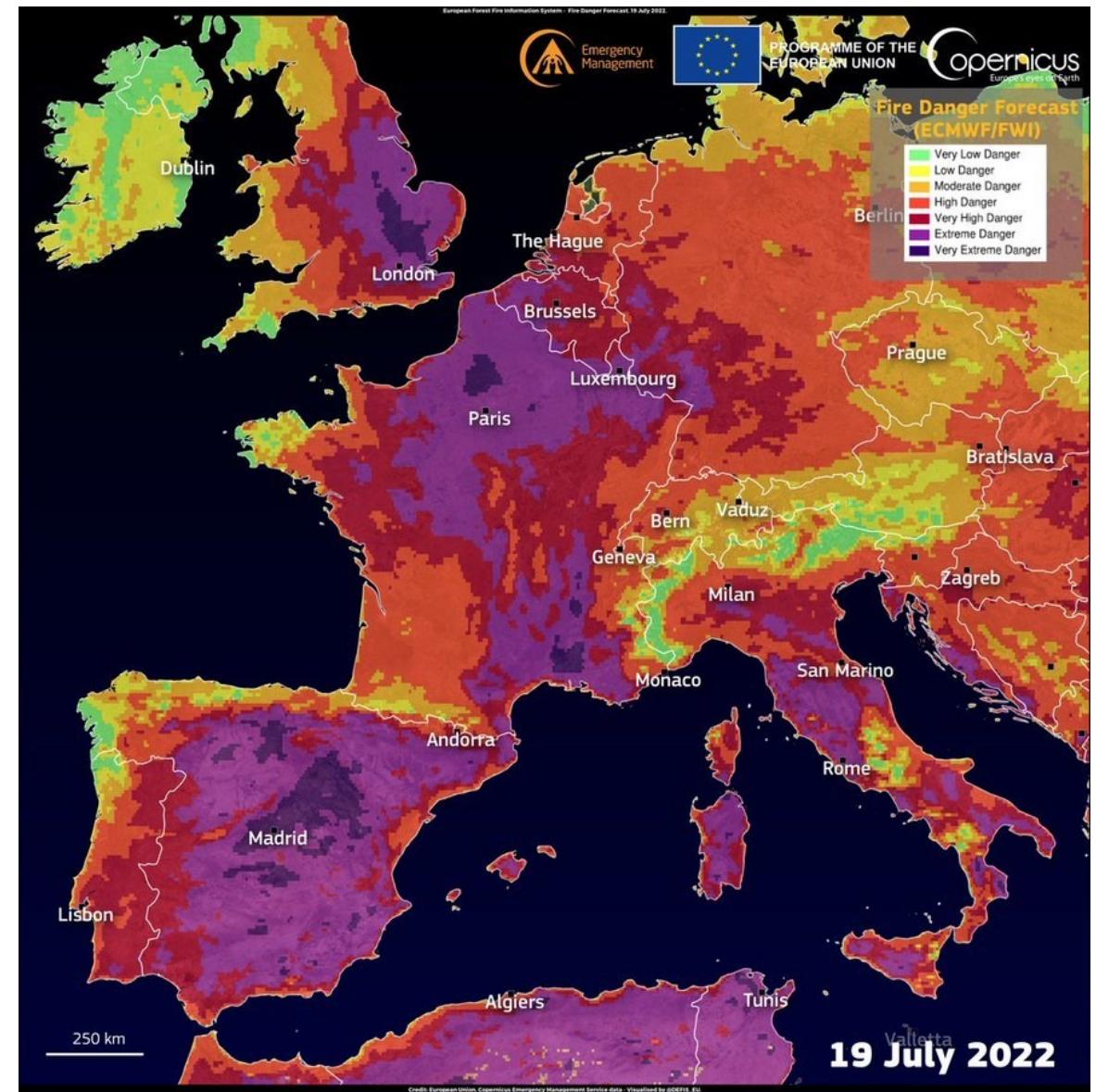
Supplementary Figure 5: Carbon opportunity costs of deforestation

Example: “permanent pastures to forest”.

Who wins?

- Oil companies
 - Airlines
 - Automobile
- shifts in global food production to plant-based diets by 2050 could lead to sequestration of 332–547 GtCO₂, equivalent to 99–163% of the CO₂ emissions budget consistent with a 66% chance of limiting warming to 1.5 °C.

Cumulative CO₂ emissions (anthropogenic emissions minus removal) must remain below 335 GtCO₂ after 2019 to limit warming to 1.5 °C at a 66% likelihood level¹⁴. CO₂ removal from terrestrial vegetation following ELC or VGN dietary shifts would increase permissible CO₂ emissions by 99% (63%–137%) or 163% (107%–222%), respectively. Adding net CO₂ uptake by native ecosystem soil and litter to this total increases the 1.5 °C budget by 139% or 230%, respectively.





Go raibh maith agat!

Thank you for your attention!

+ info:



@PabloPastos