



M8. Ancient irrigation channels as management tools to buffer the impact of climate change in Sierra Nevada ecosystem services

M9. Temporal evolution of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada

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*ECOPOTENTIAL General meeting. Texel. 26-30 June 2016*

It's the highest mountain (3482 m asl) of south of Europe

One of the most important biodiversity hotspot in the Mediterranean region

(Blanca 1996, Blanca et al. 1998, Cañadas et al. 2014)

2100 species of vascular plant  
(25 % and 20 % of Spanish and European flora, respectively)

High endemism rate  
(80 endemic plant species) (Lorite et al. 2007)

27 habitat types from the Habitat Directive

> 10.000 species of invertebrates

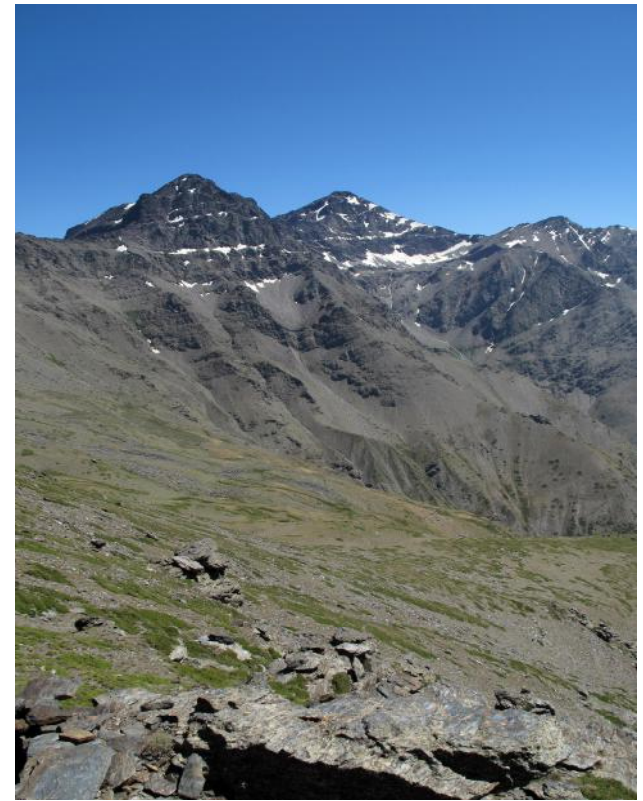
200 species of vertebrates



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Biosphere Reserve (MAB UNESCO)  
Site of Community Importance (Natura 2000 network)  
National Park  
Natural Park  
IUCN Green List of Protected Areas



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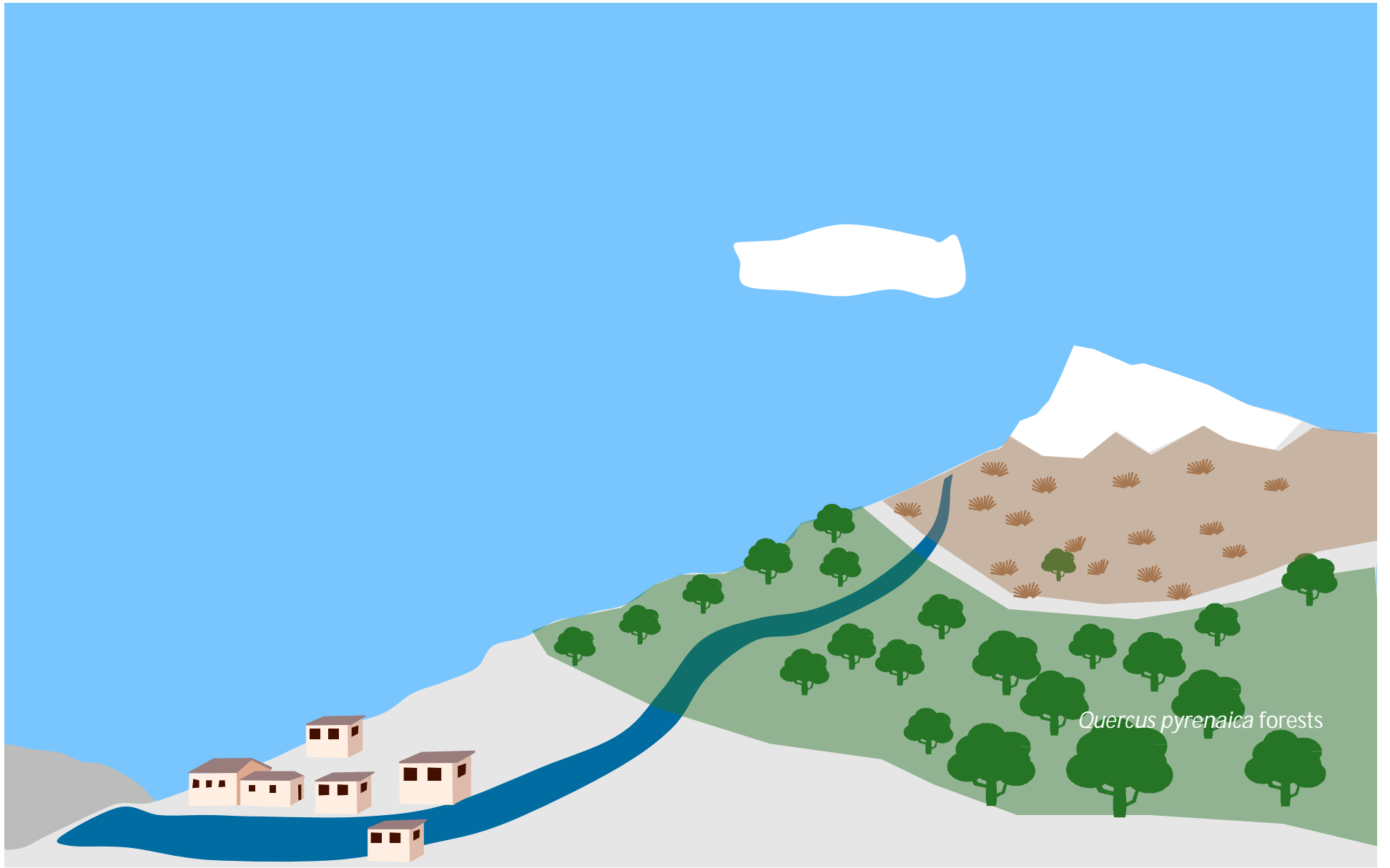
The area includes 61 municipalities (2000 Km<sup>2</sup>) with more than 90.000 inhabitants.

The main economic activities are agriculture, tourism, cattle raising, beekeeping, mining, and skiing

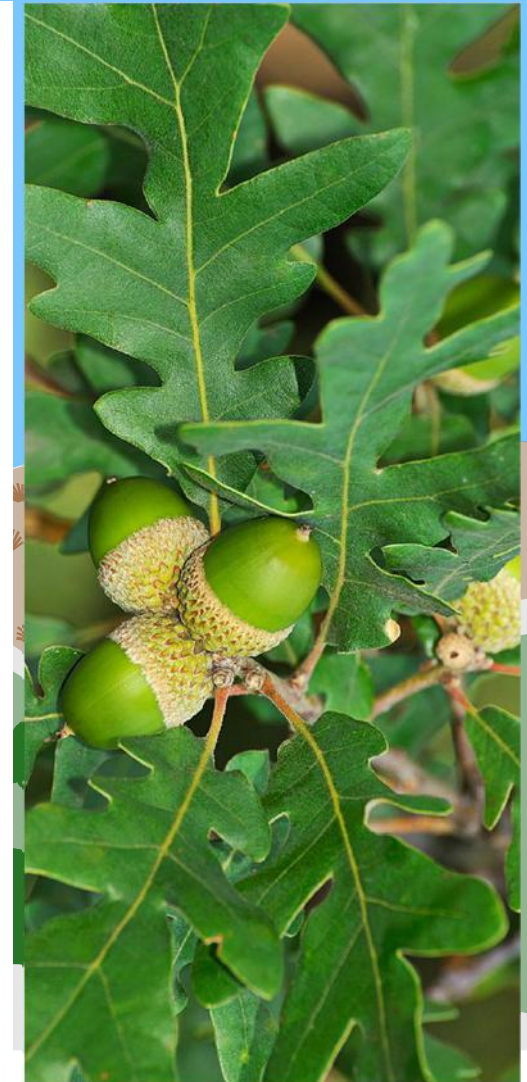
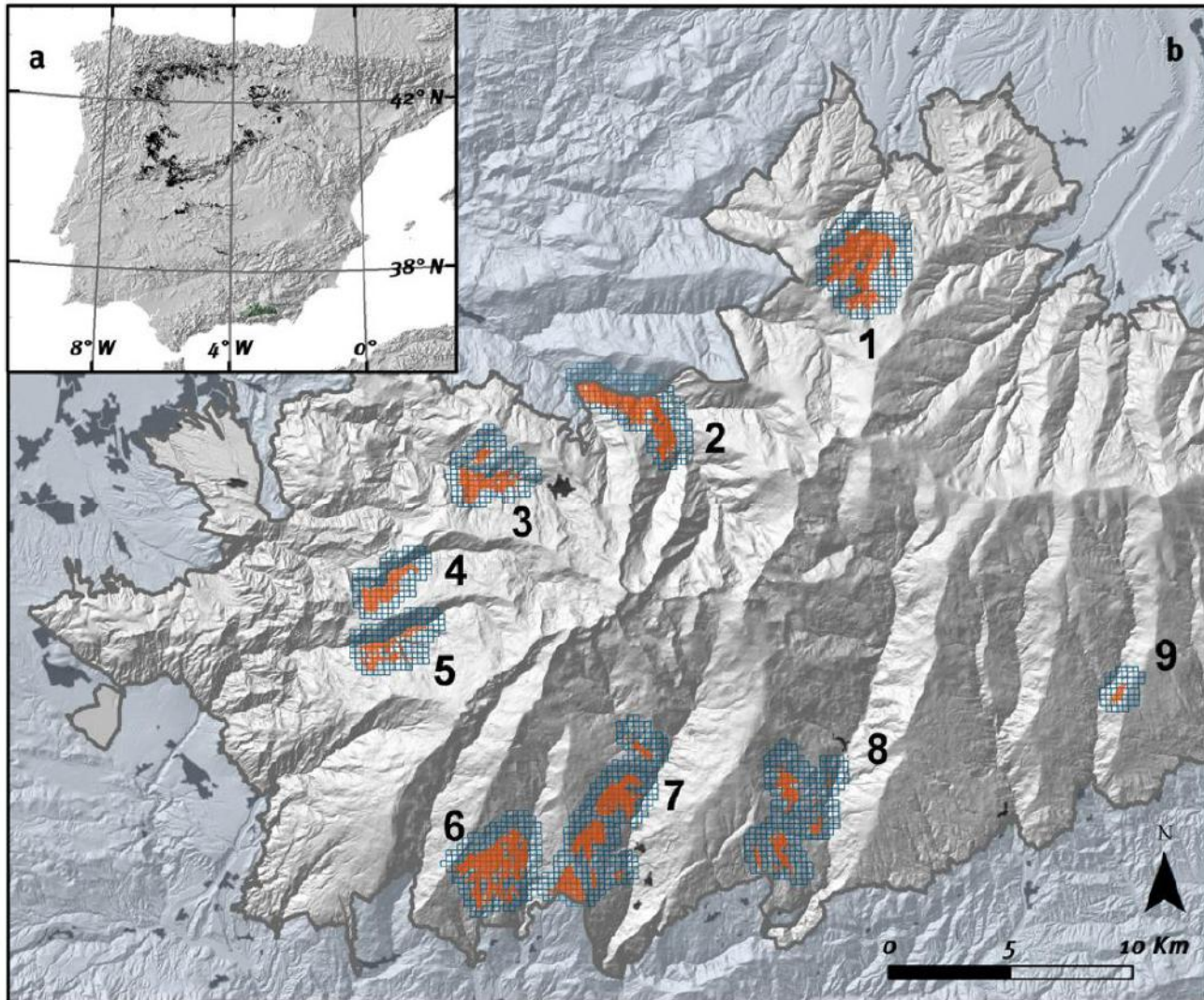


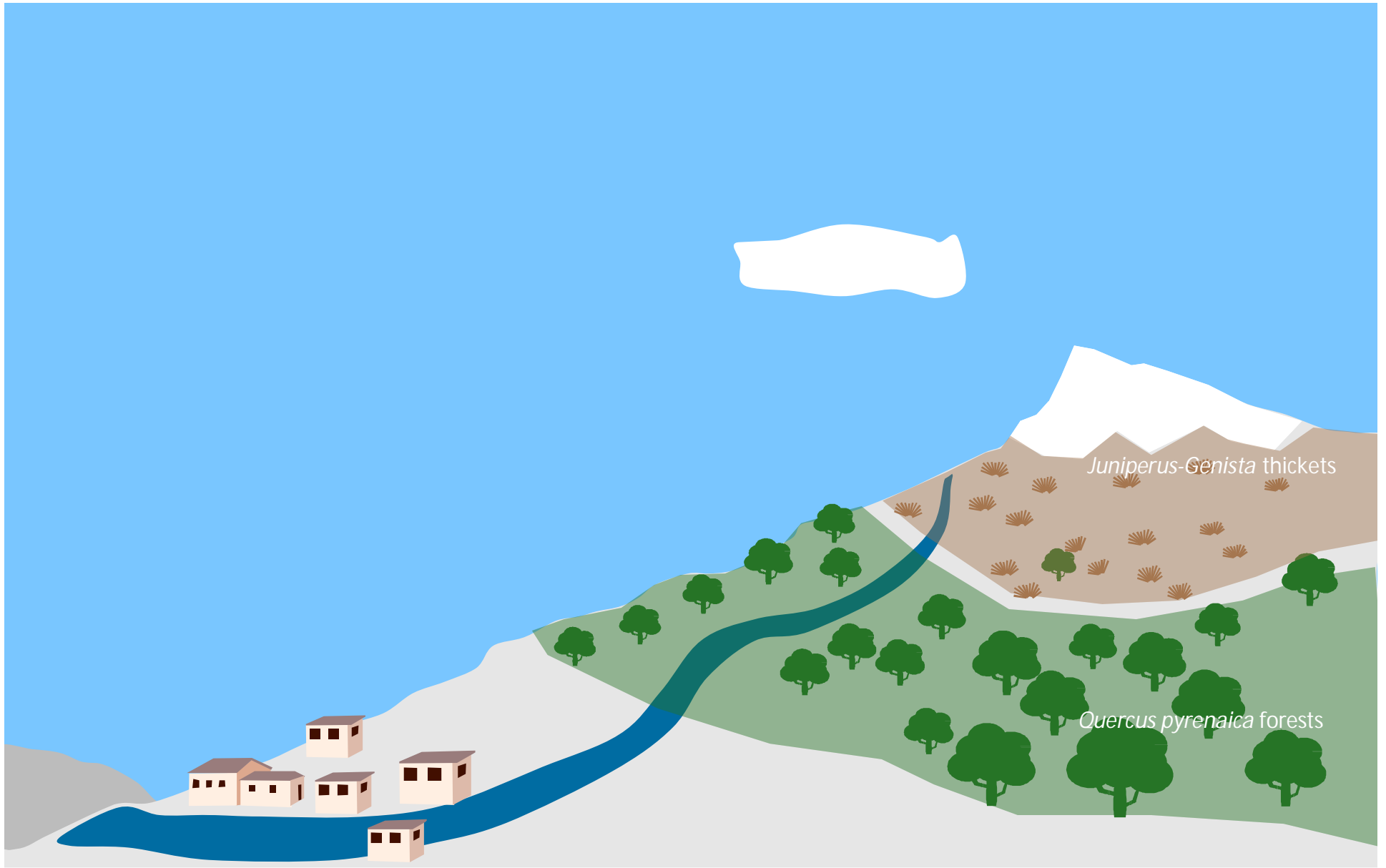
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*Quercus pyrenaica* forests





*Juniperus-Genista* thickets

*Quercus pyrenaica* forests

## *Juniper* thickets in Sierra Nevada



Mountain  
villages



*Quercus-Genista* thickets



*pyrenaica* forests

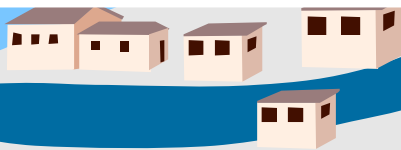




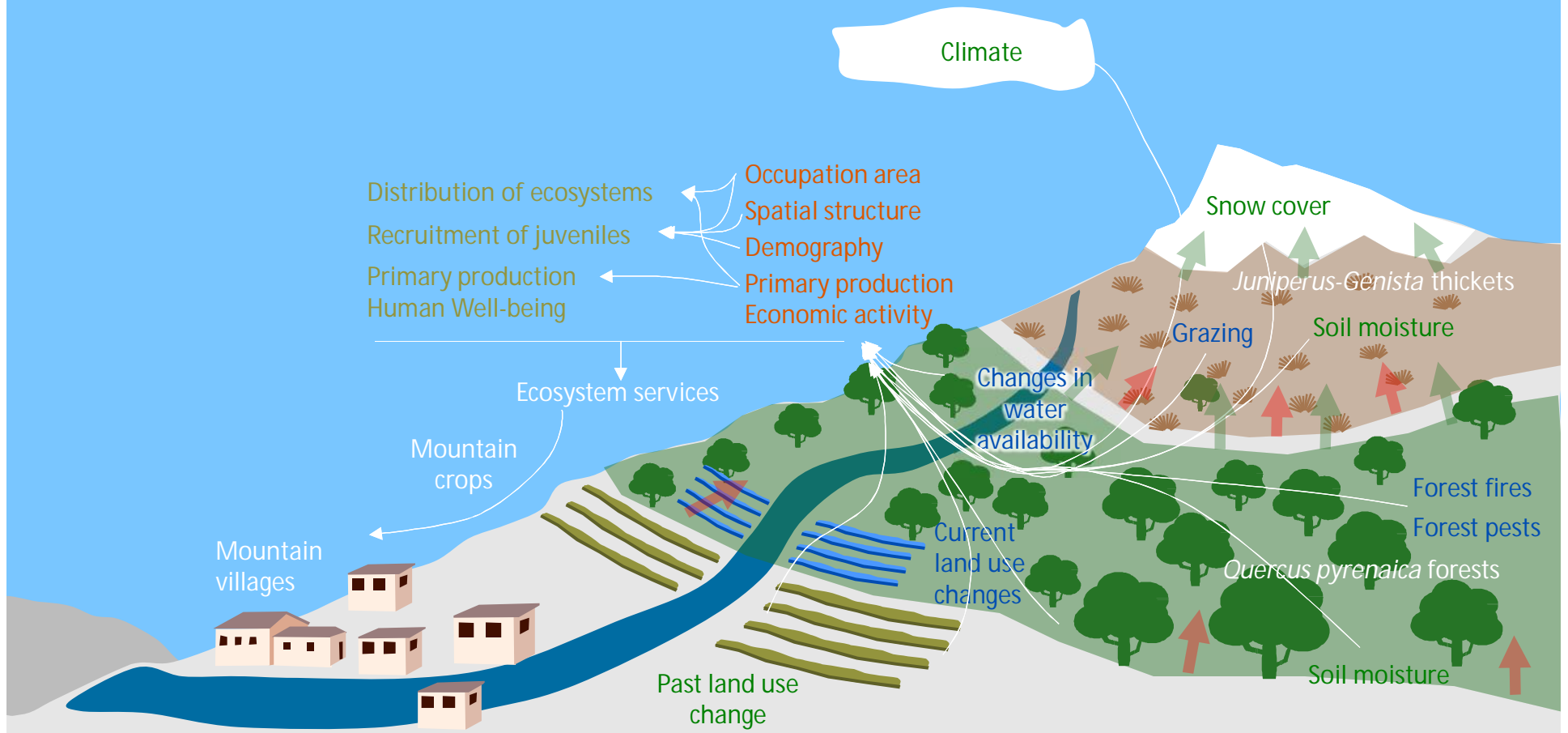


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# Main control factors, pressures, critical ecosystem characteristics



Legend:

State of the ecosystems

Control factors

Pressures

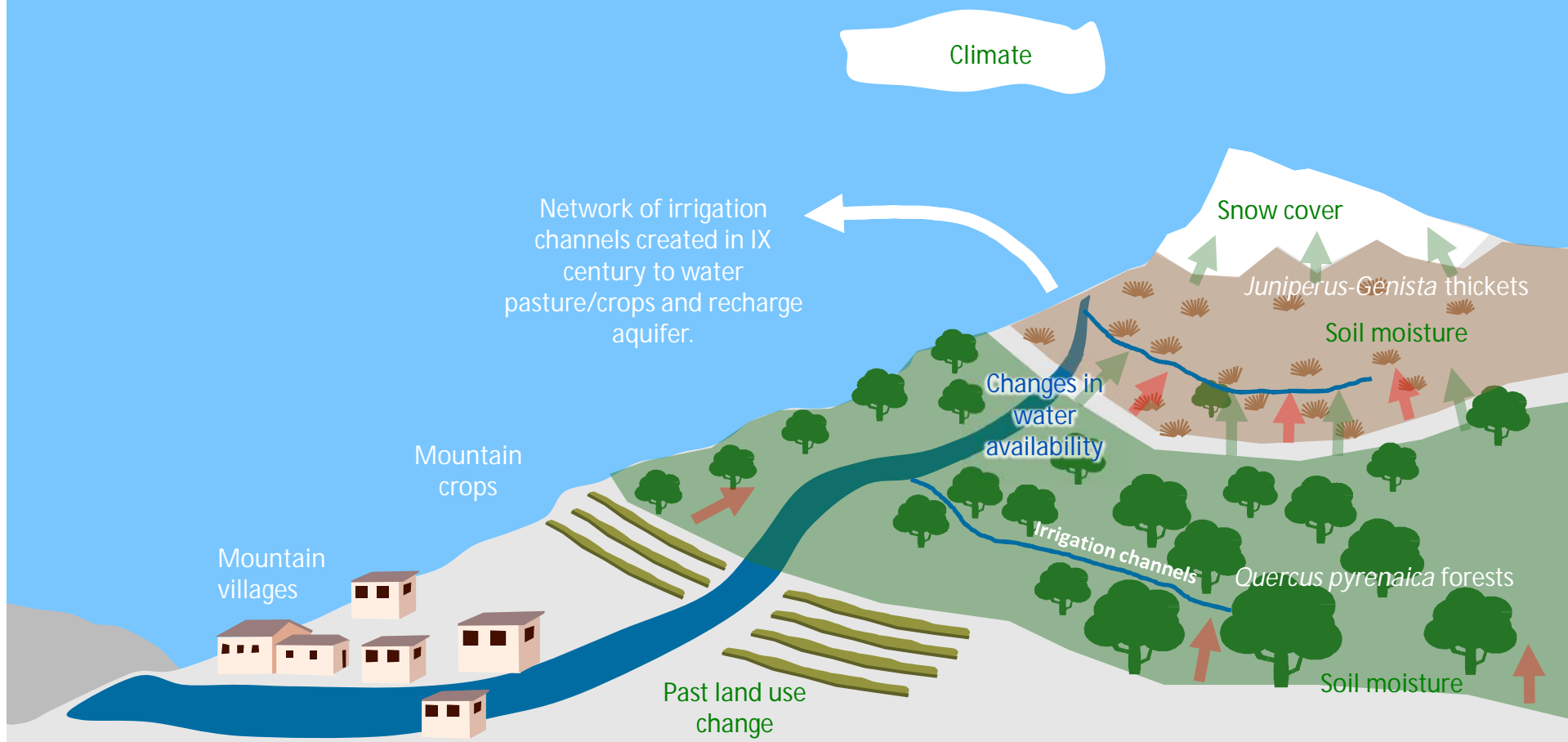
Critical ecosystem characteristics



Altitudinal shifts of target ecosystems

# M8. Ancient irrigation channels as management tools to buffer the impact of climate change in Sierra Nevada ecosystem services

The network of irrigation channels could help to buffer the impact of global change.



Legend:

Control factors

Pressures

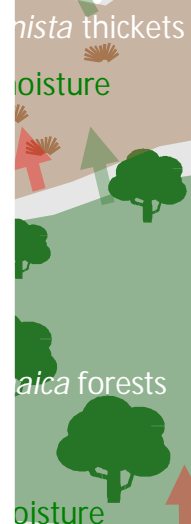
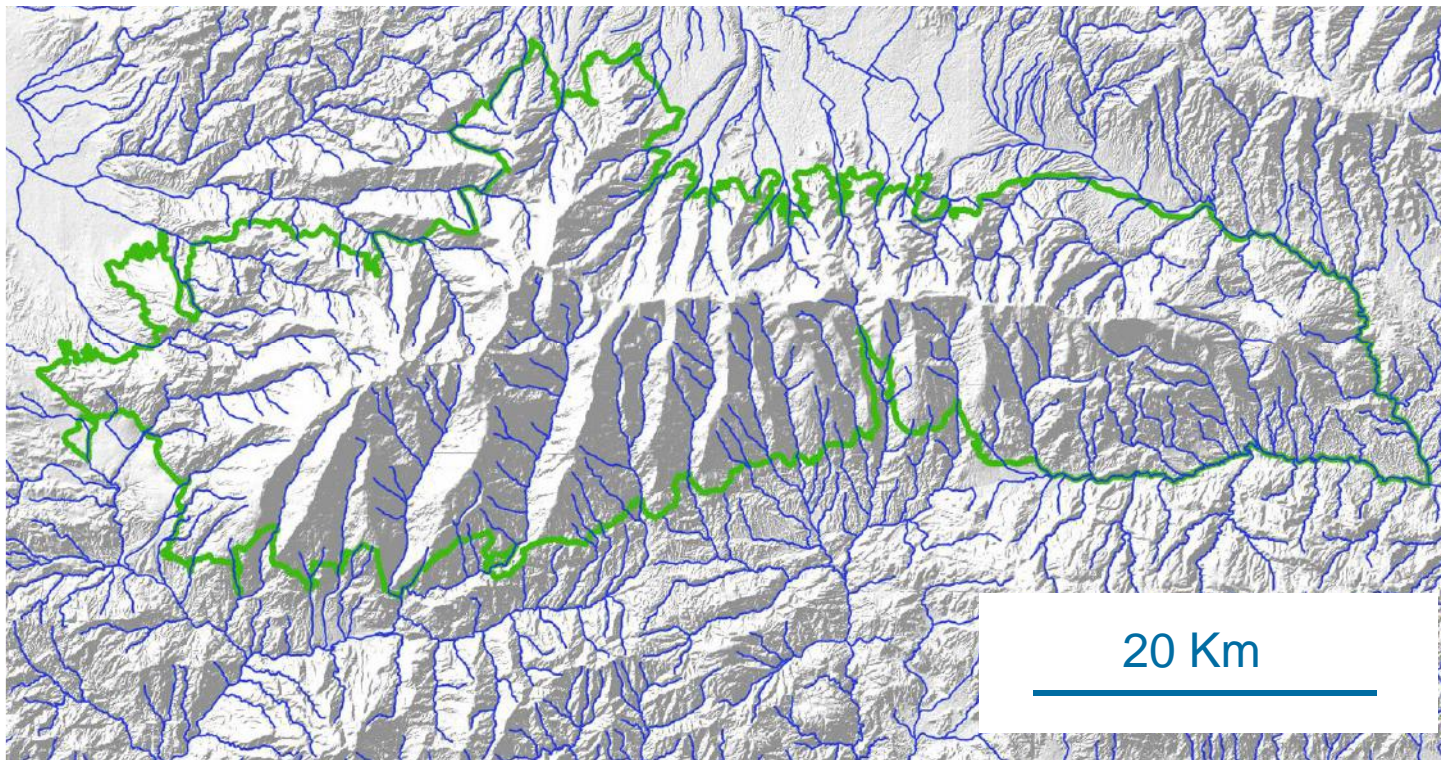


Altitudinal shifts of target ecosystems

# M8. Ancient irrigation channels as management tools to buffer the impact of climate change in Sierra Nevada ecosystem services

The network of irrigation channels could help to buffer the impact of global change.

### Natural hydrological network



change

Legend:

- Control factors
- Pressures

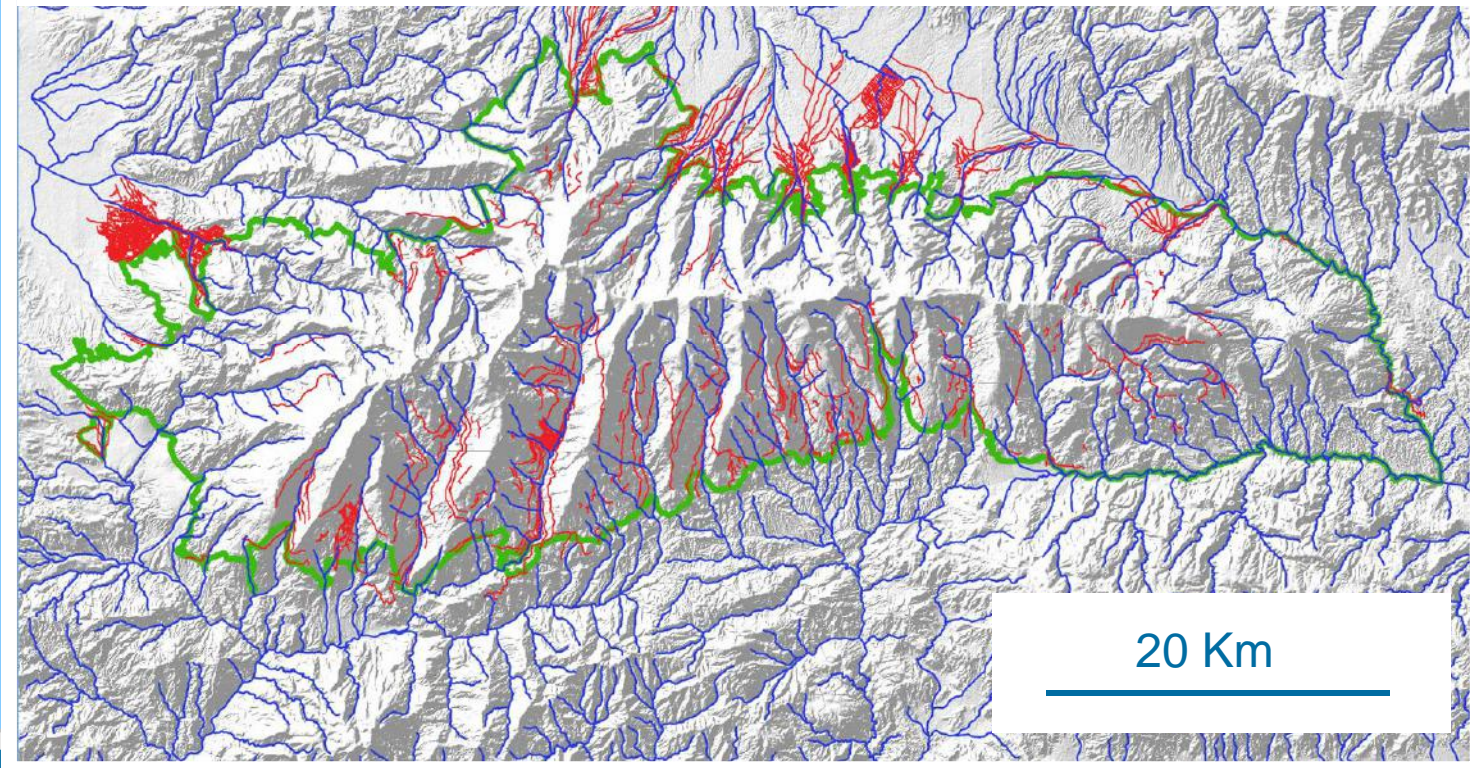


Altitudinal shifts of target ecosystems

# M8. Ancient irrigation channels as management tools to buffer the impact of climate change in Sierra Nevada ecosystem services

The network of irrigation channels could help to buffer the impact of global change.

3000 Km of ancient irrigation channels



change

Legend:

Control factors  
Pressures

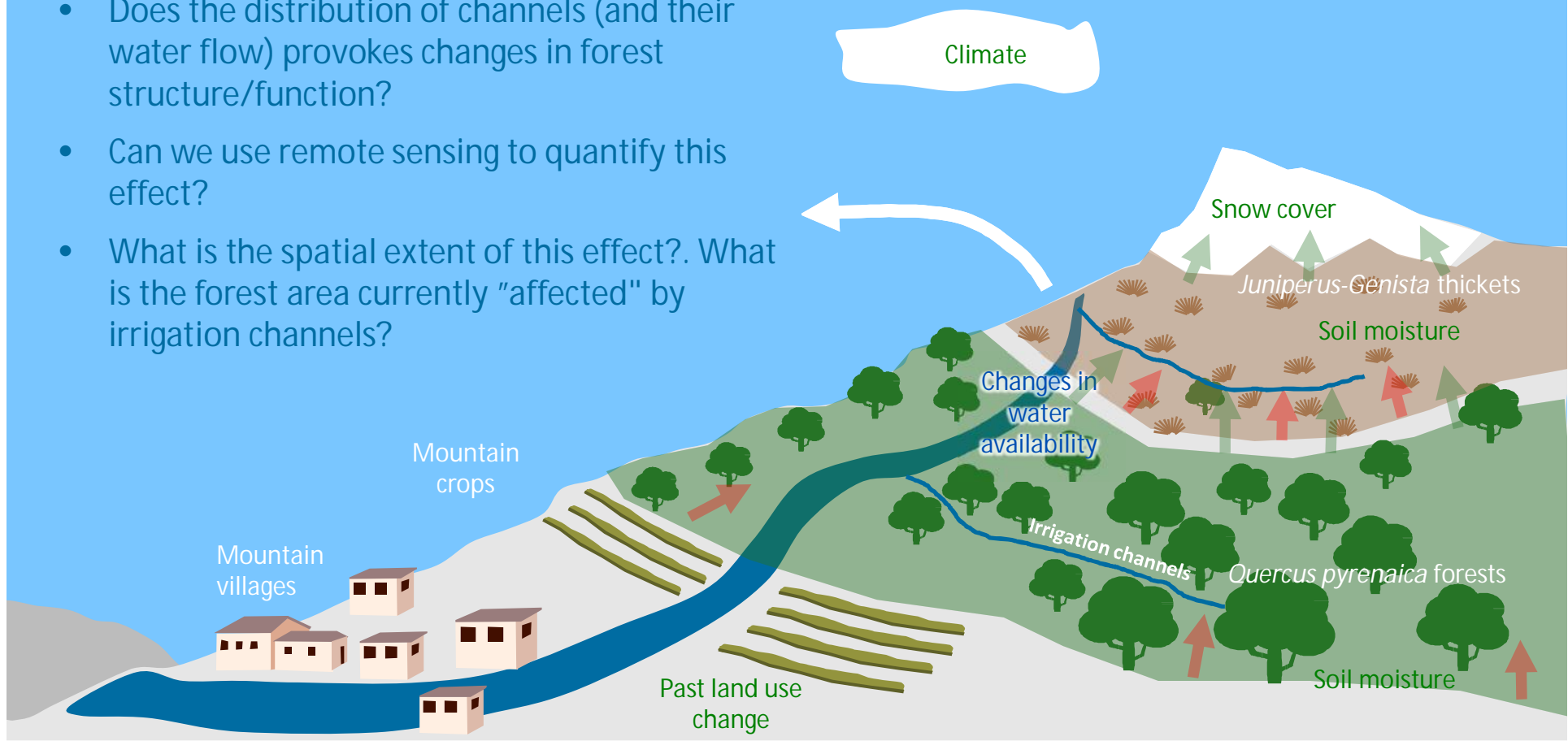


Altitudinal shifts of target ecosystems

# M8. Ancient irrigation channels as management tools to buffer the impact of climate change in Sierra Nevada ecosystem services

The network of irrigation channels could help to buffer the impact of global change.

- Does the distribution of channels (and their water flow) provokes changes in forest structure/function?
- Can we use remote sensing to quantify this effect?
- What is the spatial extent of this effect?. What is the forest area currently "affected" by irrigation channels?



Legend:

Control factors

Pressures



Altitudinal shifts of target ecosystems

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Material and methods (ongoing work)\* We focus on *Q. pyrenaica* forests.

- Selection of areas of interest.



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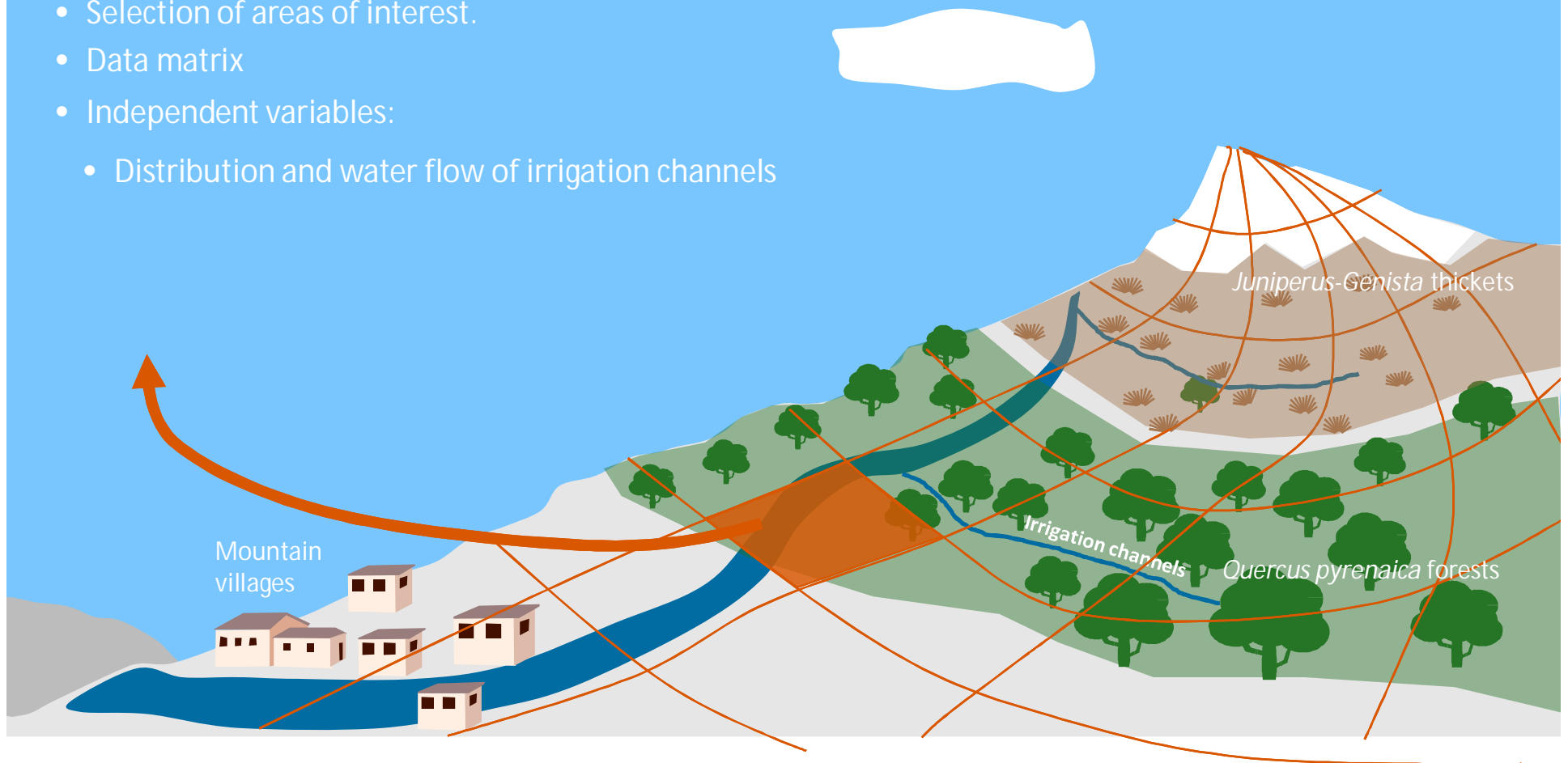
forests



# M8. Ancient irrigation channels as management tools to buffer the impact of climate change in Sierra Nevada ecosystem services

Material and methods (ongoing work)\* We focus on *Q. pyrenaica* forests.

- Selection of areas of interest.
- Data matrix
- Independent variables:
  - Distribution and water flow of irrigation channels

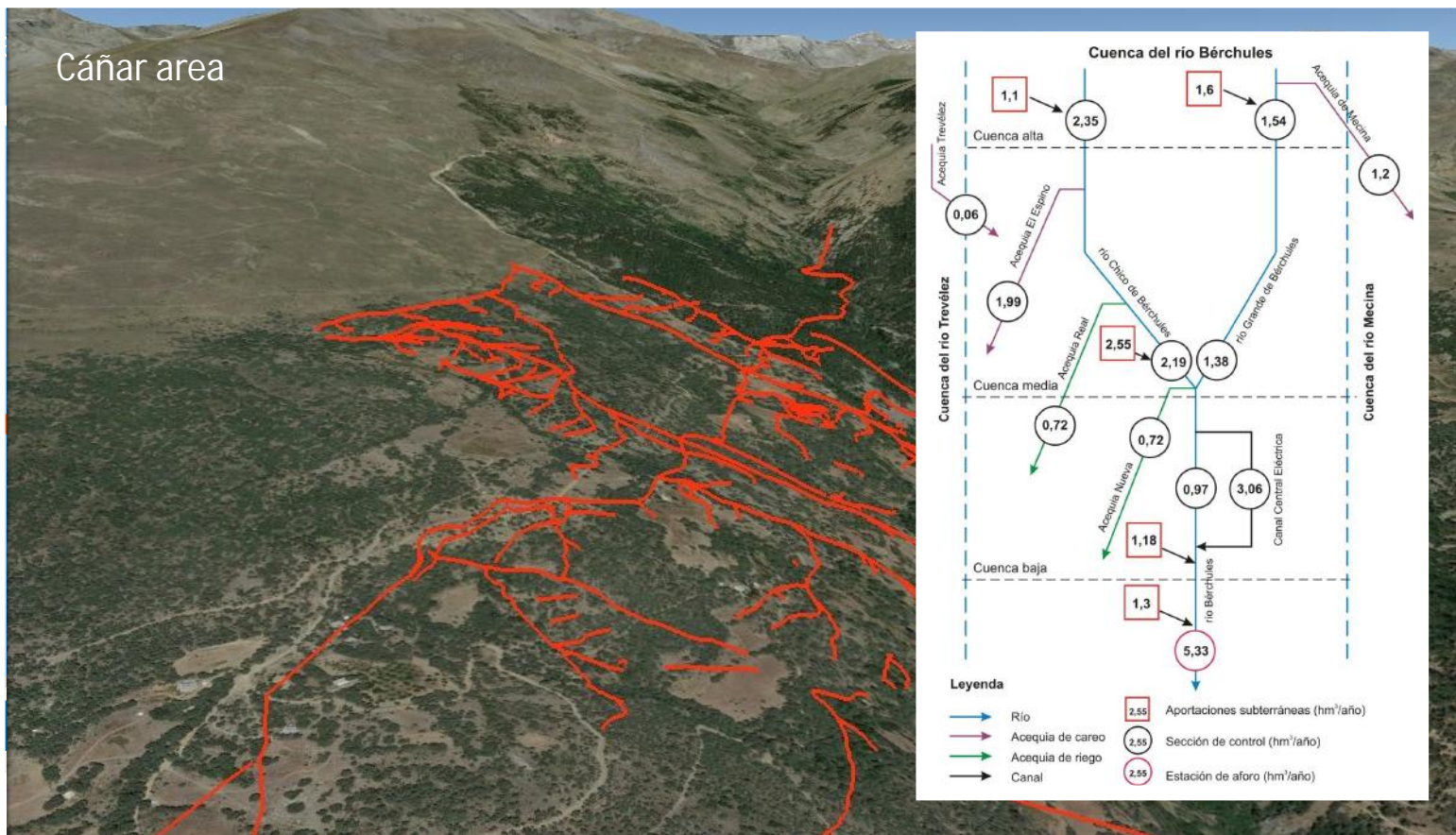




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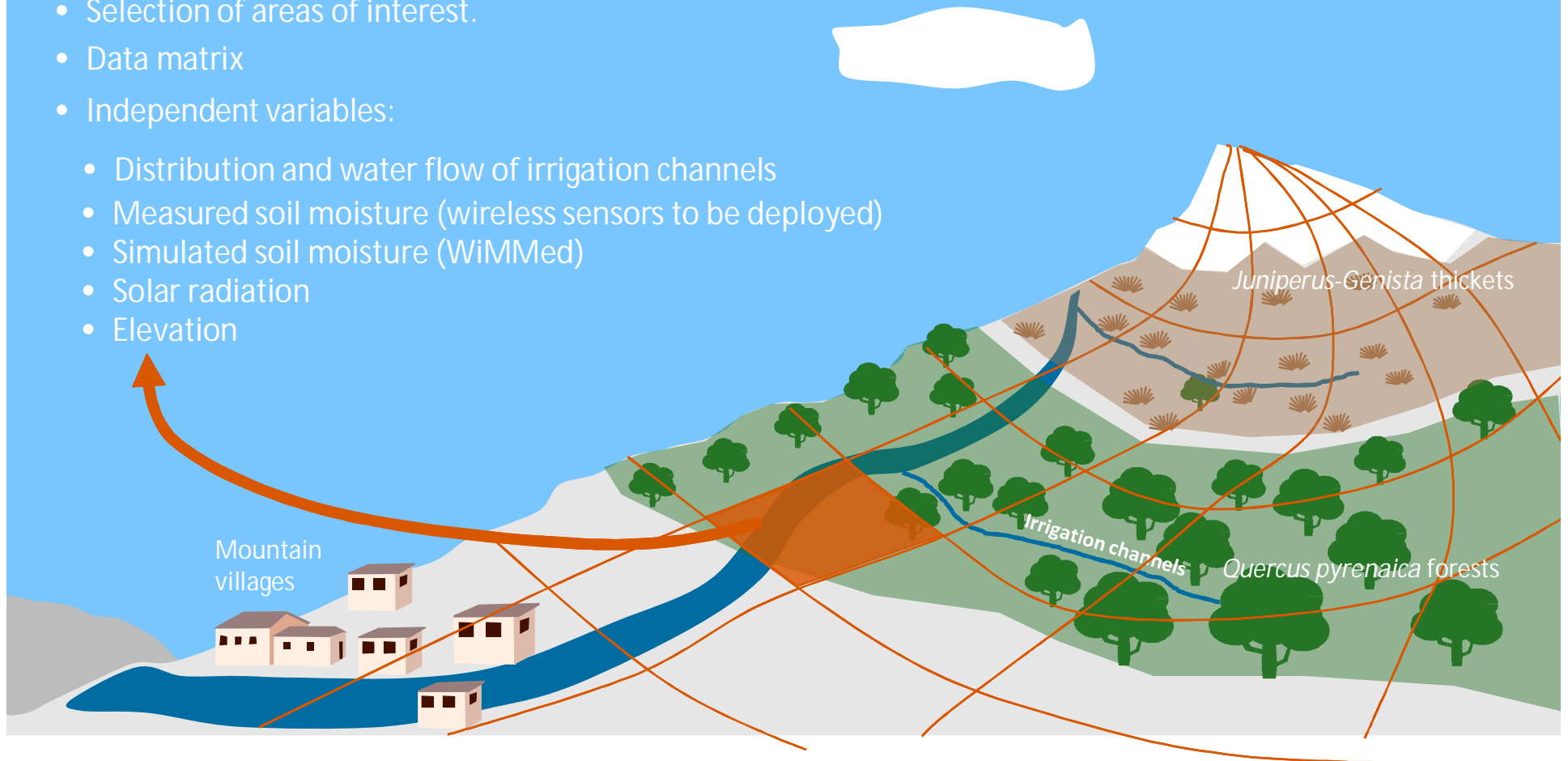
- Selection of areas of interest.
- Data matrix
- Index
- Dis



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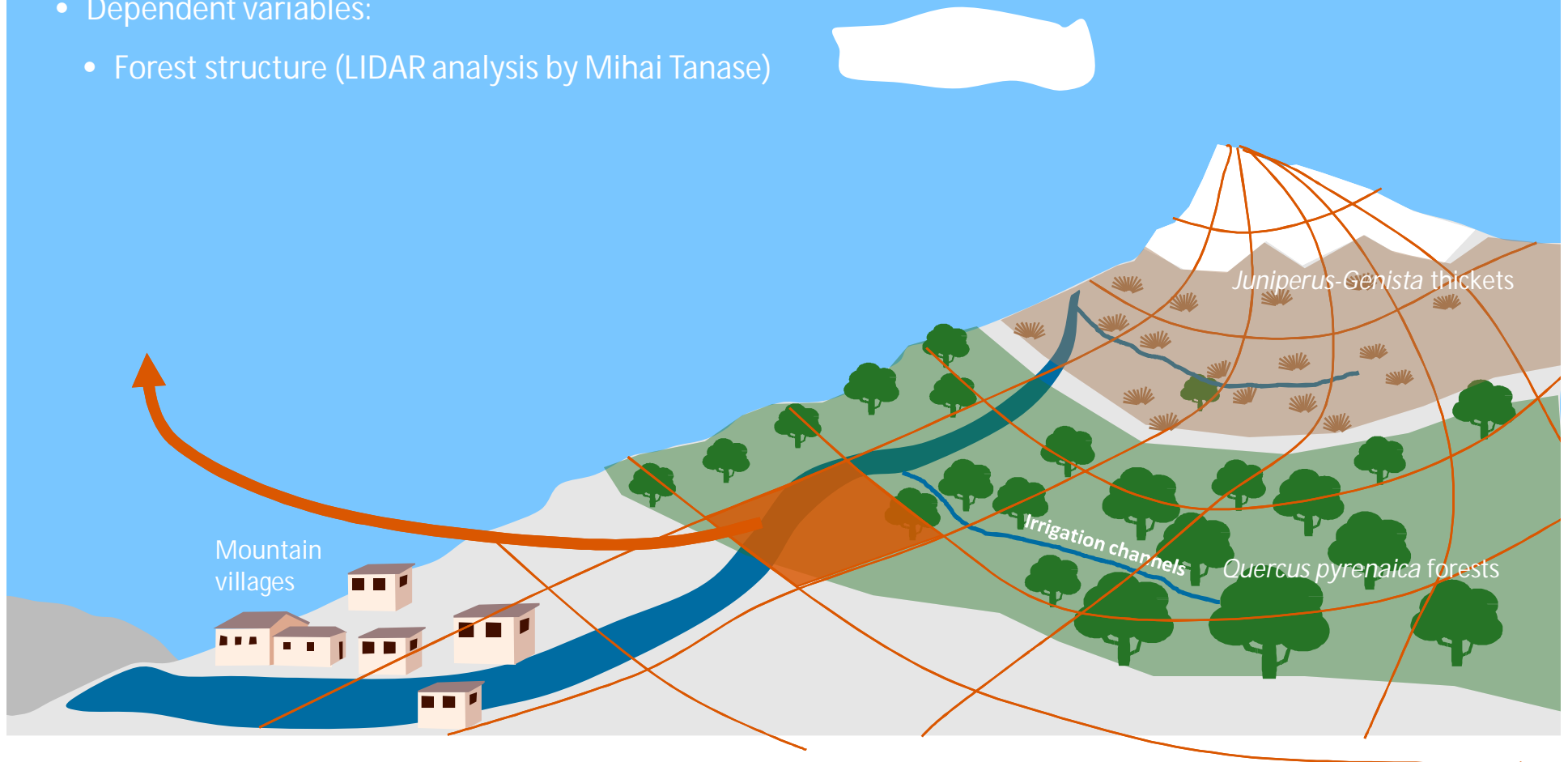
- Selection of areas of interest.
- Data matrix
- Independent variables:
  - Distribution and water flow of irrigation channels
  - Measured soil moisture (wireless sensors to be deployed)
  - Simulated soil moisture (WiMMed)
  - Solar radiation
  - Elevation



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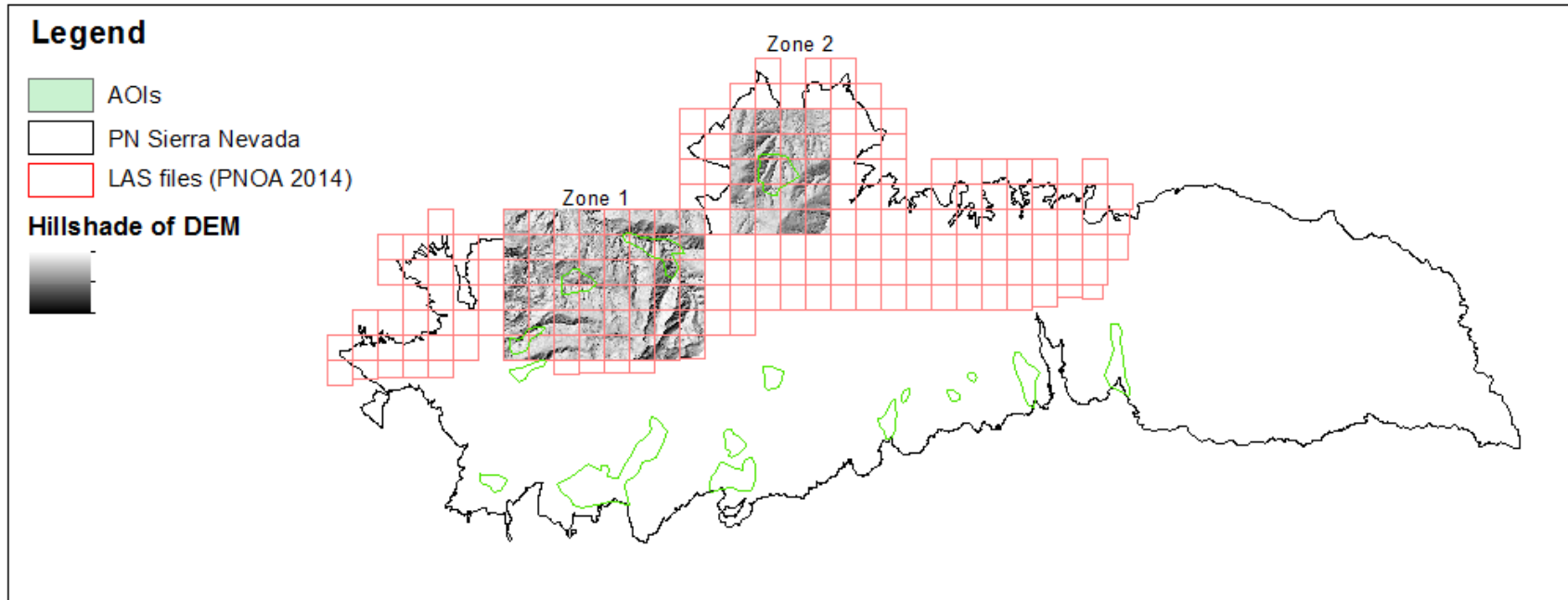
Material and methods (ongoing work)\* We focus on *Q. pyrenaica* forests.

- Dependent variables:
  - Forest structure (LIDAR analysis by Mihai Tanase)



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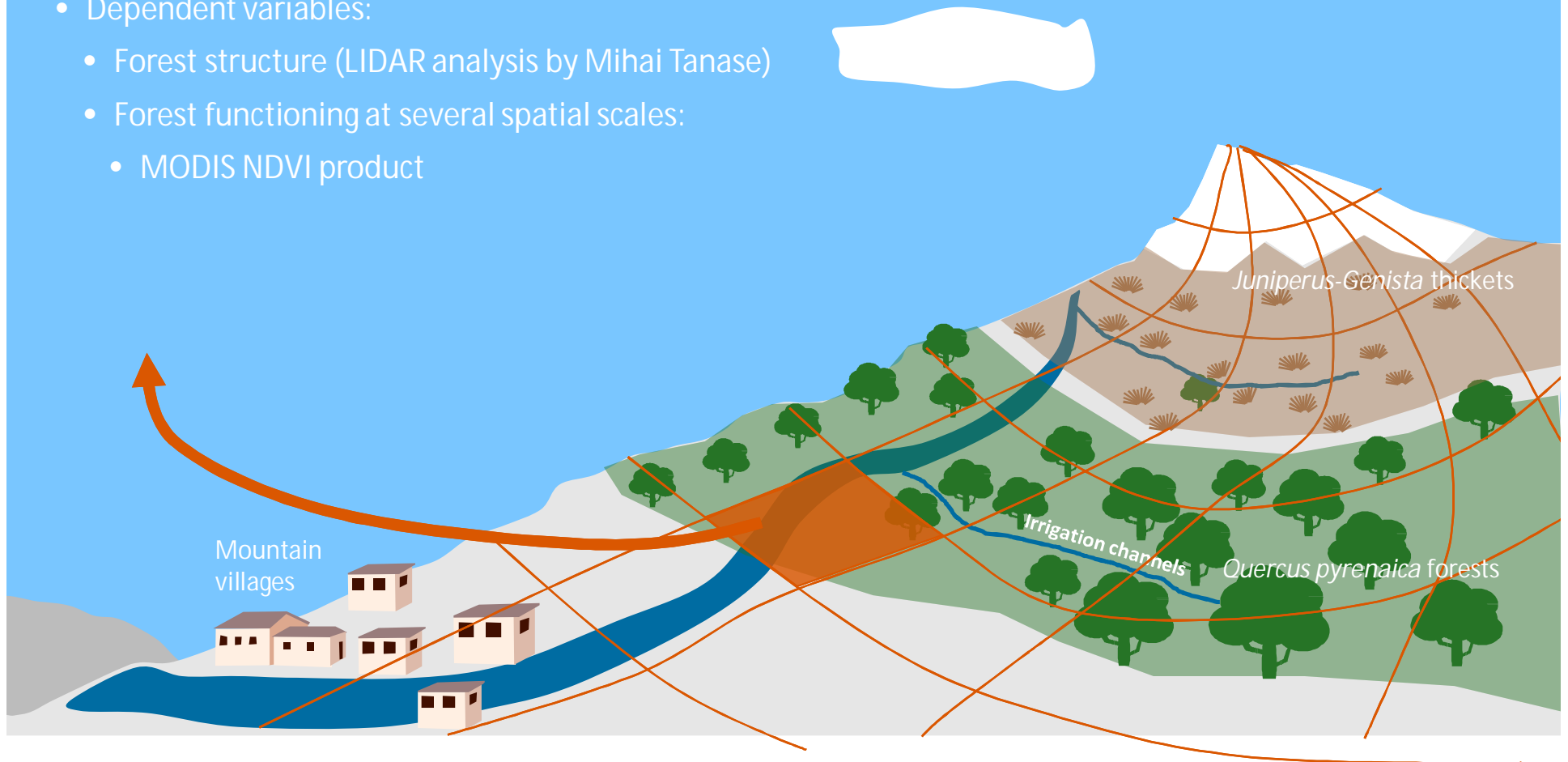


- DEM (2-3m)
- Individual identification of trees
- Canopy height model (10m)
- Coverage at different tree heights (10m)
- Density of vegetation (10m)
- Volume below trees (related to total biomass)

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  - Forest functioning at several spatial scales:
    - MODIS NDVI product

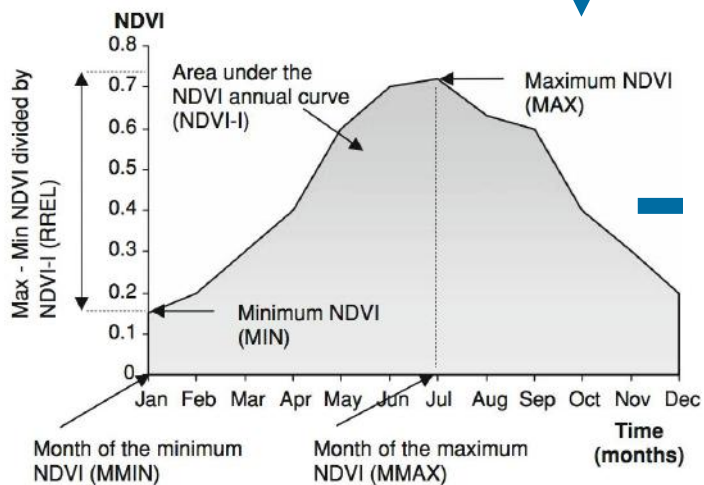


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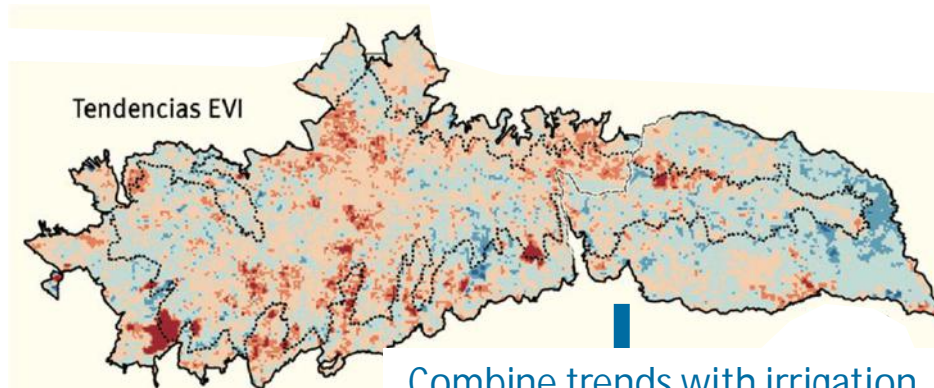
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MODIS NDVI/EVI  
time series (2000-  
2014)

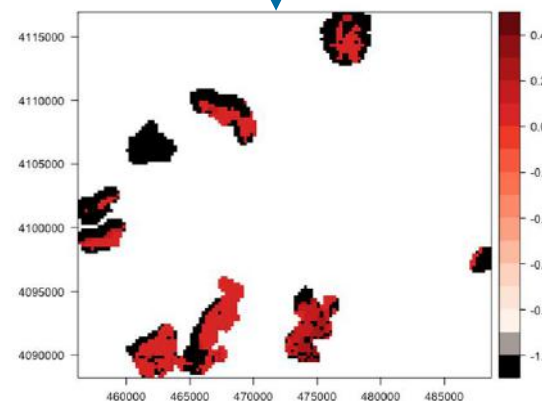
Compute yearly  
indicators



Compute trends  
(Mann-Kendall)



Combine trends with irrigation  
channels distribution

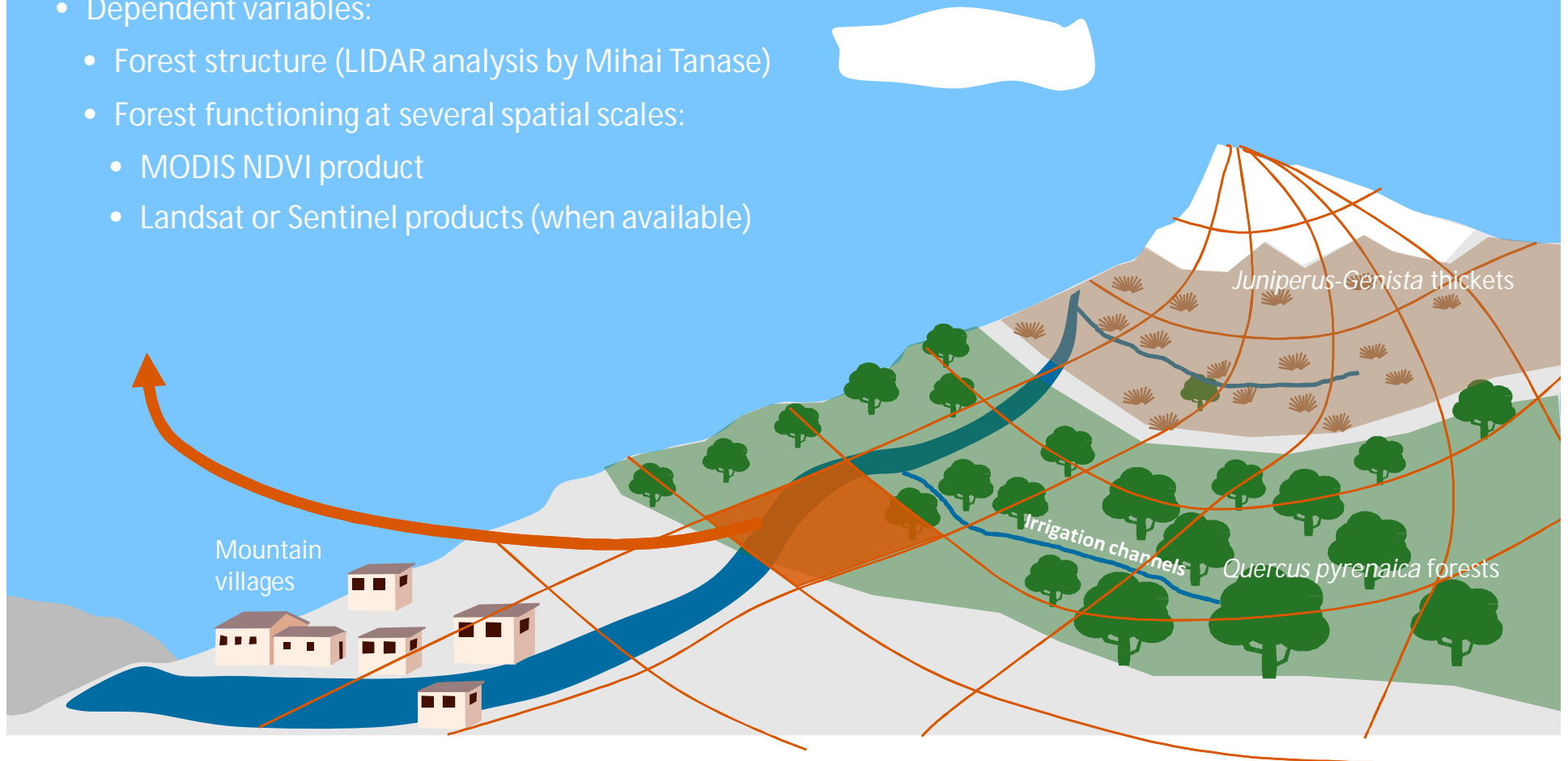


Alcaraz-Segura et al. 2009

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Material and methods (ongoing work)\* We focus on *Q. pyrenaica* forests.

- Dependent variables:
  - Forest structure (LIDAR analysis by Mihai Tanase)
  - Forest functioning at several spatial scales:
    - MODIS NDVI product
    - Landsat or Sentinel products (when available)



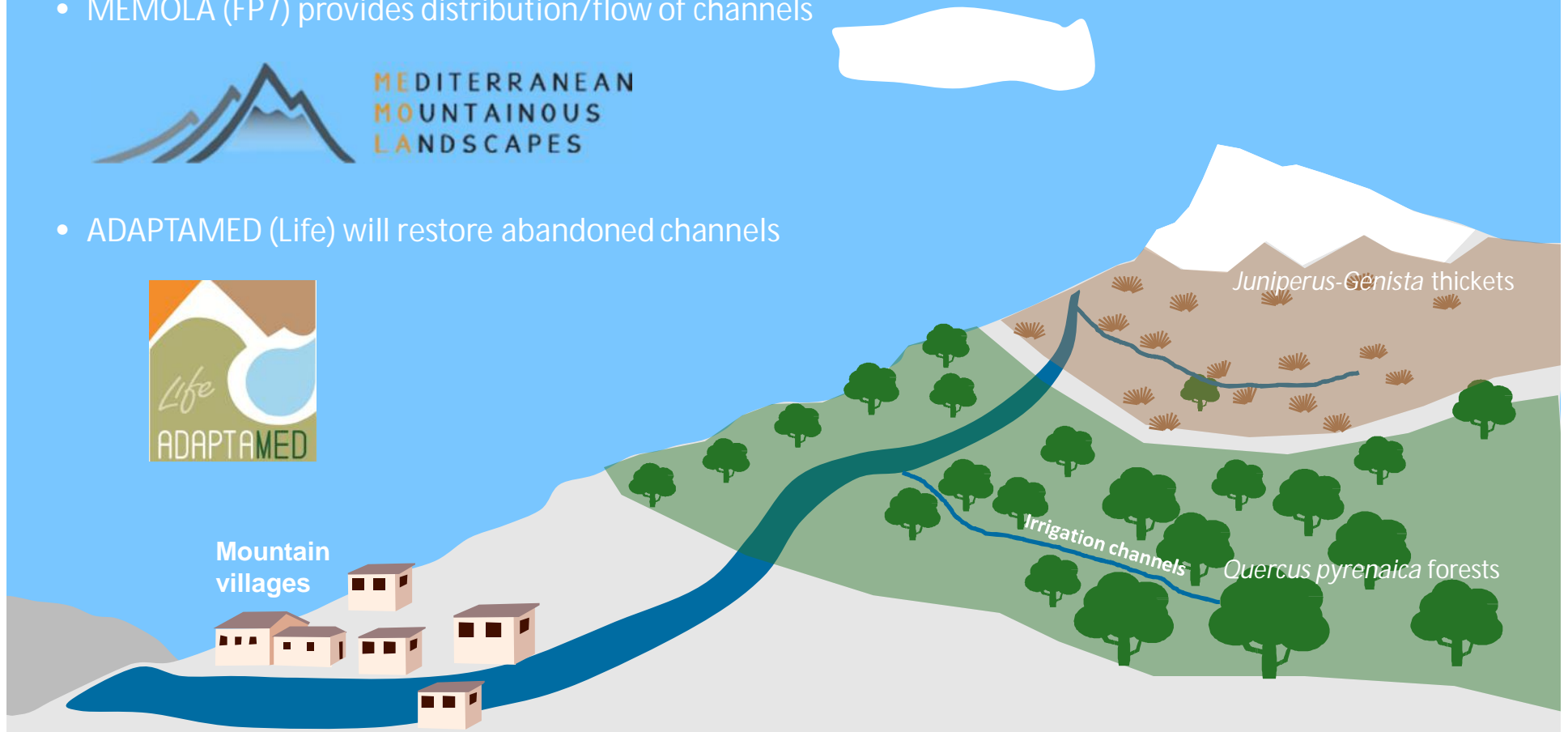
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## Links with other EU projects

- MEMOLA (FP7) provides distribution/flow of channels



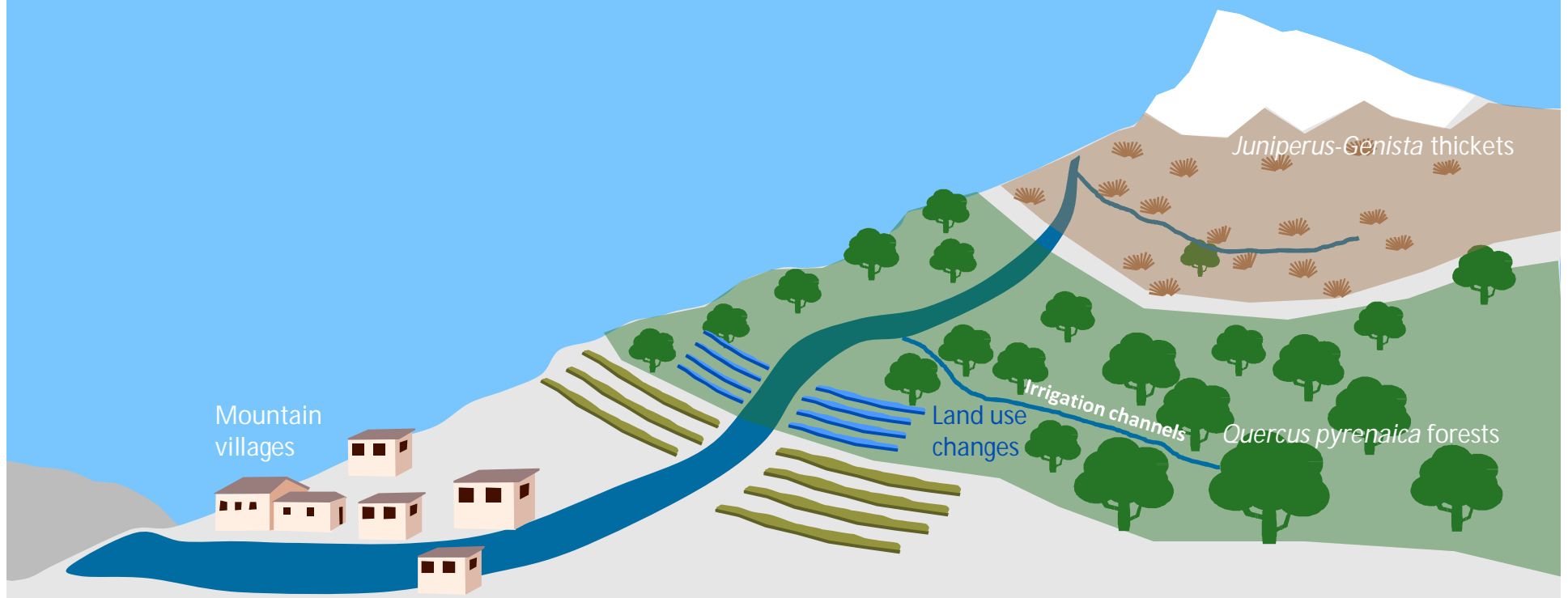
- ADAPTAMED (Life) will restore abandoned channels





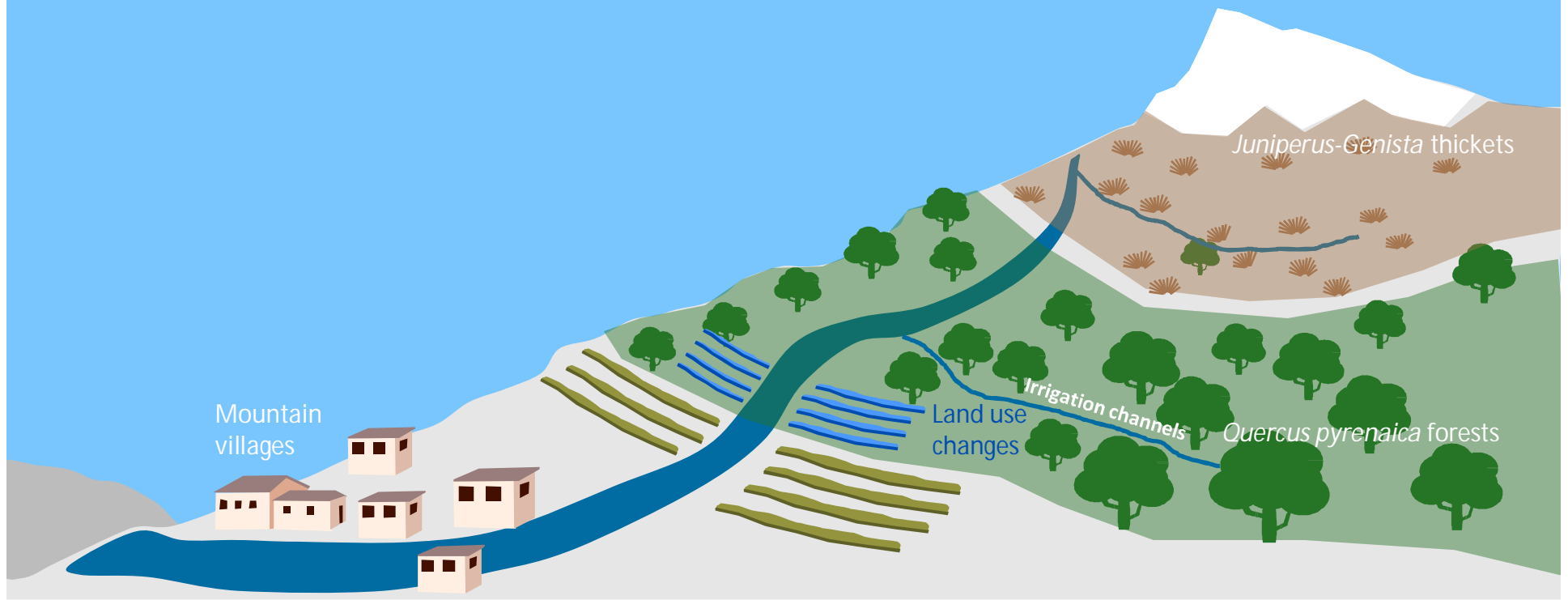
# M9. Temporal evolution of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada

Land use change is a key driver of ecosystems structure/functioning.



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**Present**

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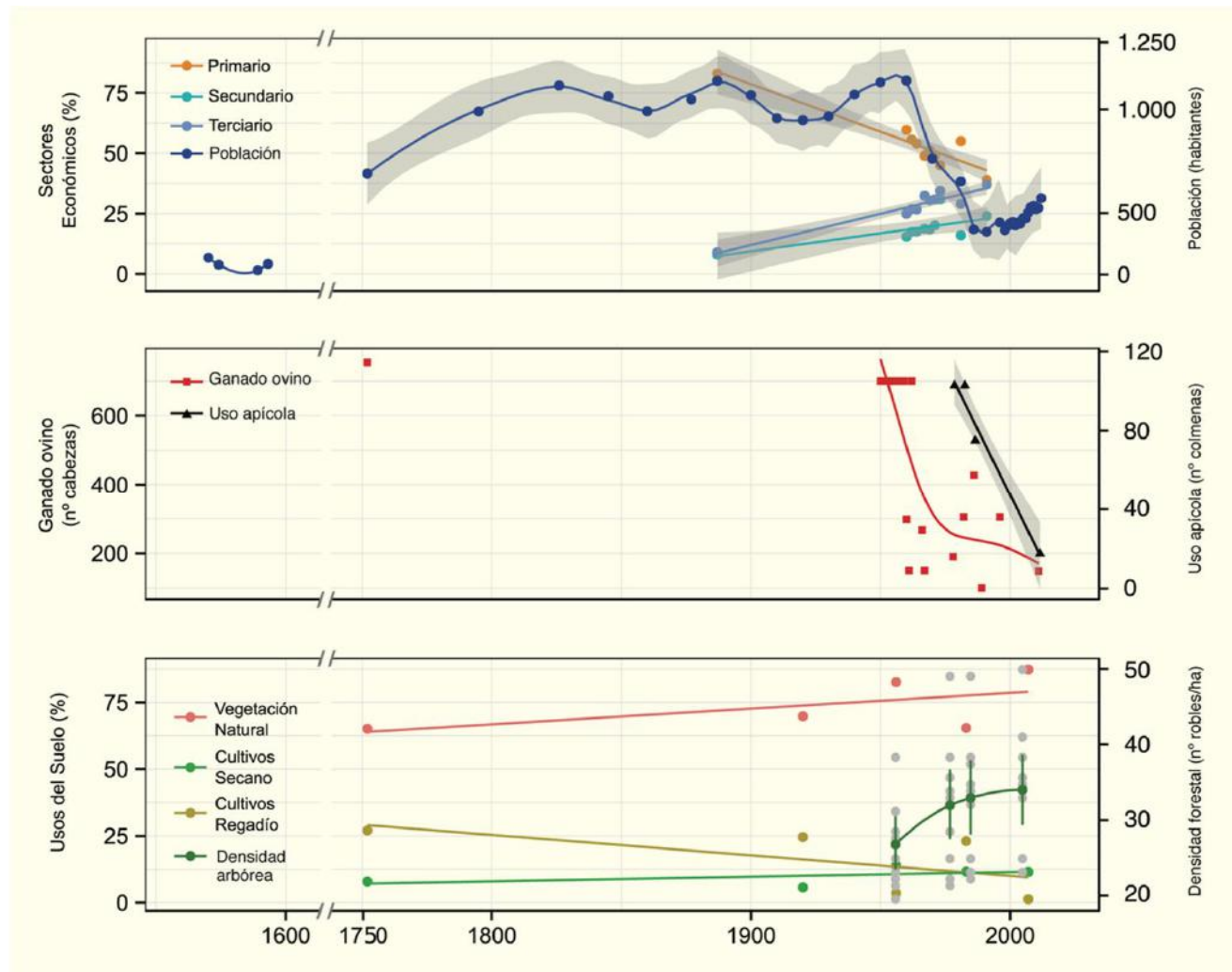


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# M9. Temporal evolution of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada

Land use change is a key driver of ecosystems structure/functioning.

We have collected in situ information to describe temporal changes in land use patterns.



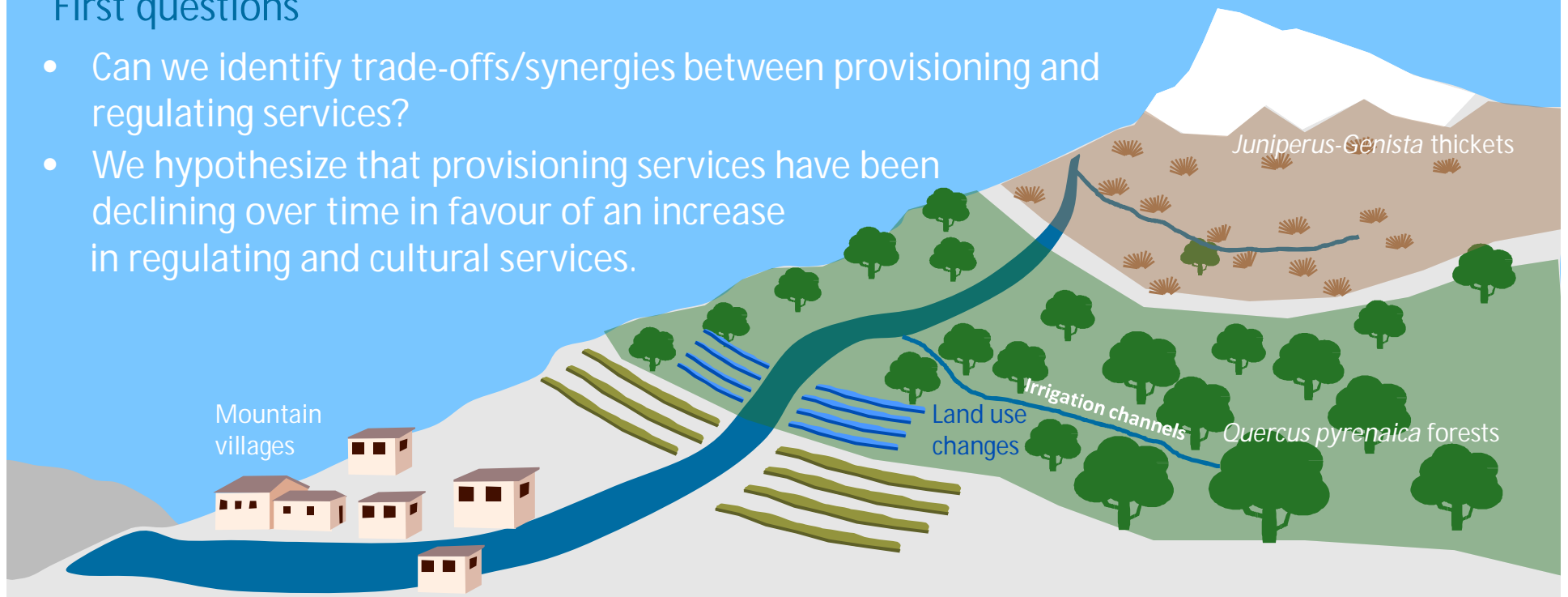
# M9. Temporal evolution of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada

## Objectives

- Quantify the changes in the landscape using the concept of ecosystem services
- Understand synergies and trade-offs among ecosystem services
- Build future land use scenarios useful for managers

## First questions

- Can we identify trade-offs/synergies between provisioning and regulating services?
- We hypothesize that provisioning services have been declining over time in favour of an increase in regulating and cultural services.



Present

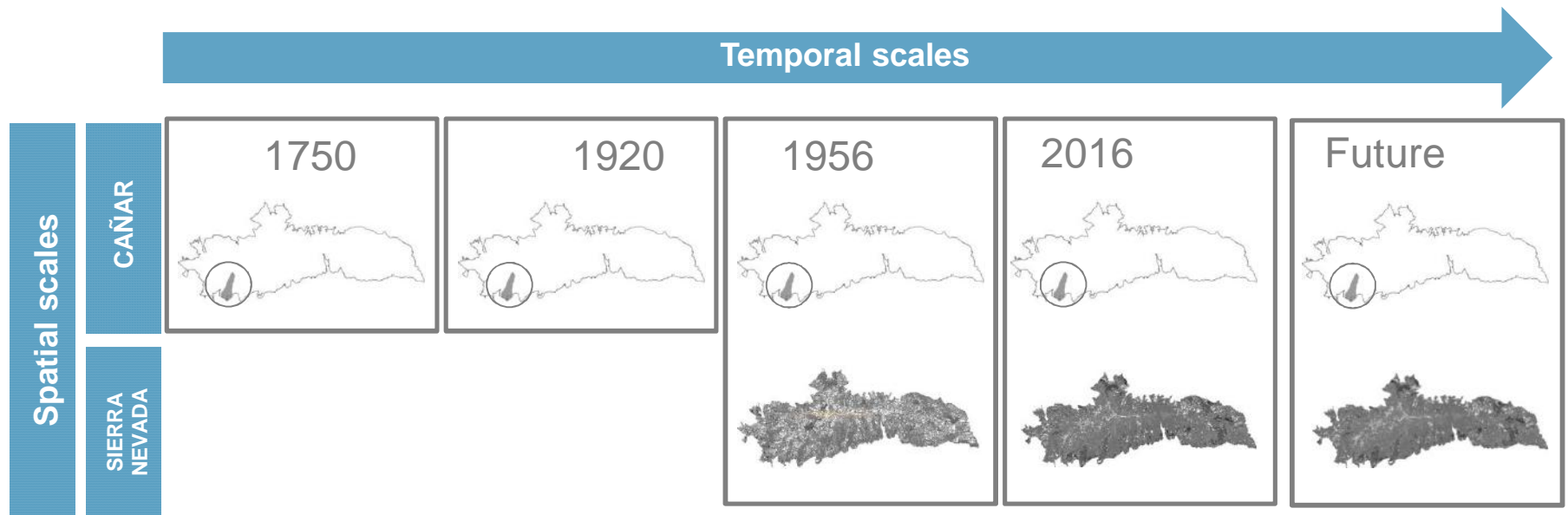
# M9. Temporal evolution of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada

Material and methods (ongoing work)

- Identify ecosystem services and spatial-temporal scales

Provisioning services: crop production, livestock production

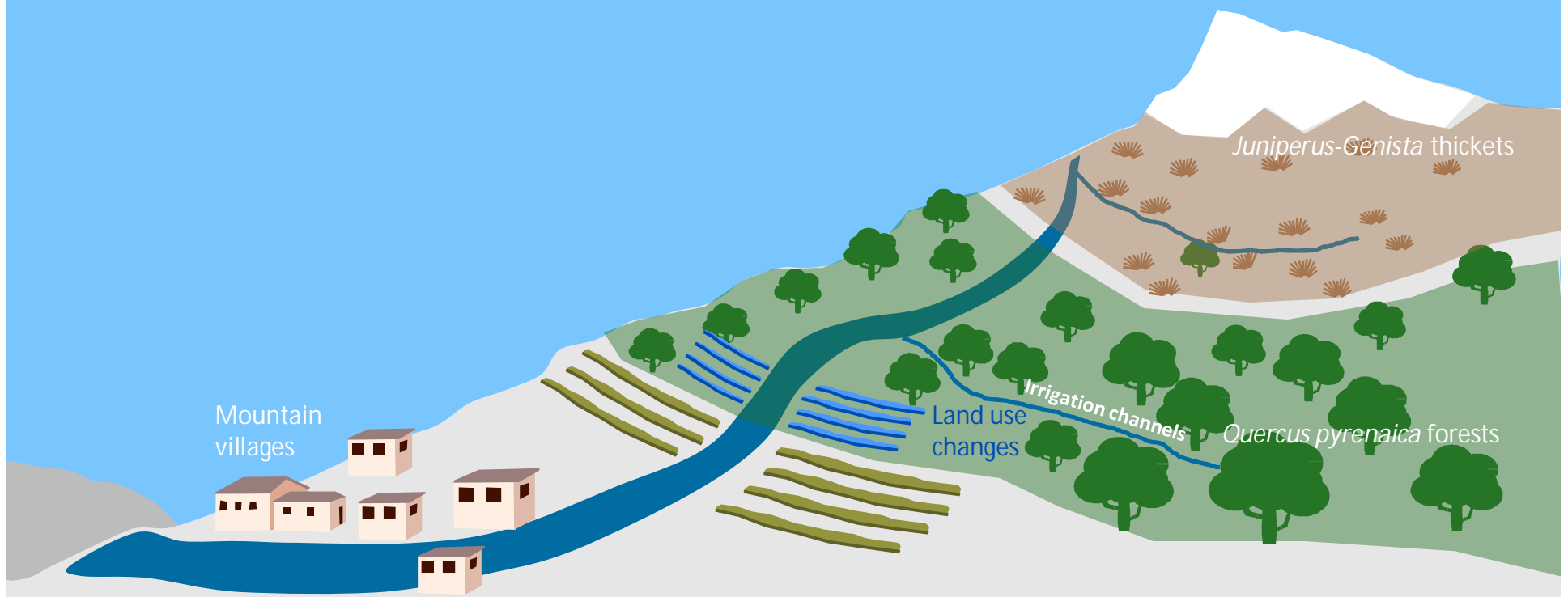
Regulating services: soil loss avoidance, flood prevention



# M9. Temporal evolution of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada

## Material and methods (ongoing work)

- Identify ecosystem services and spatial-temporal scales
- Quantifying provisioning ecosystem services
  - Historical Land use maps: area occupied by crops and pastures

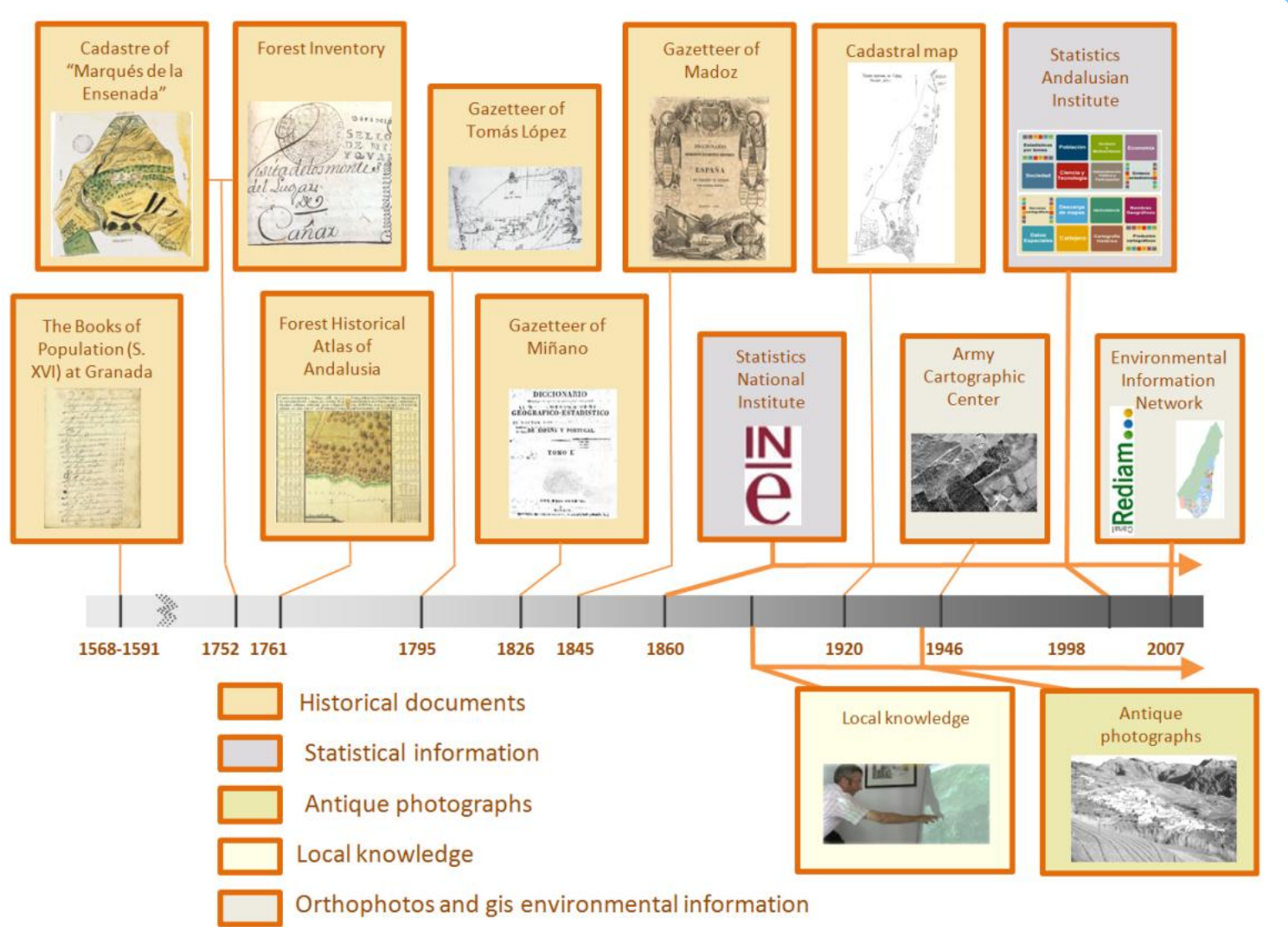




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## Material and methods (ongoing work)

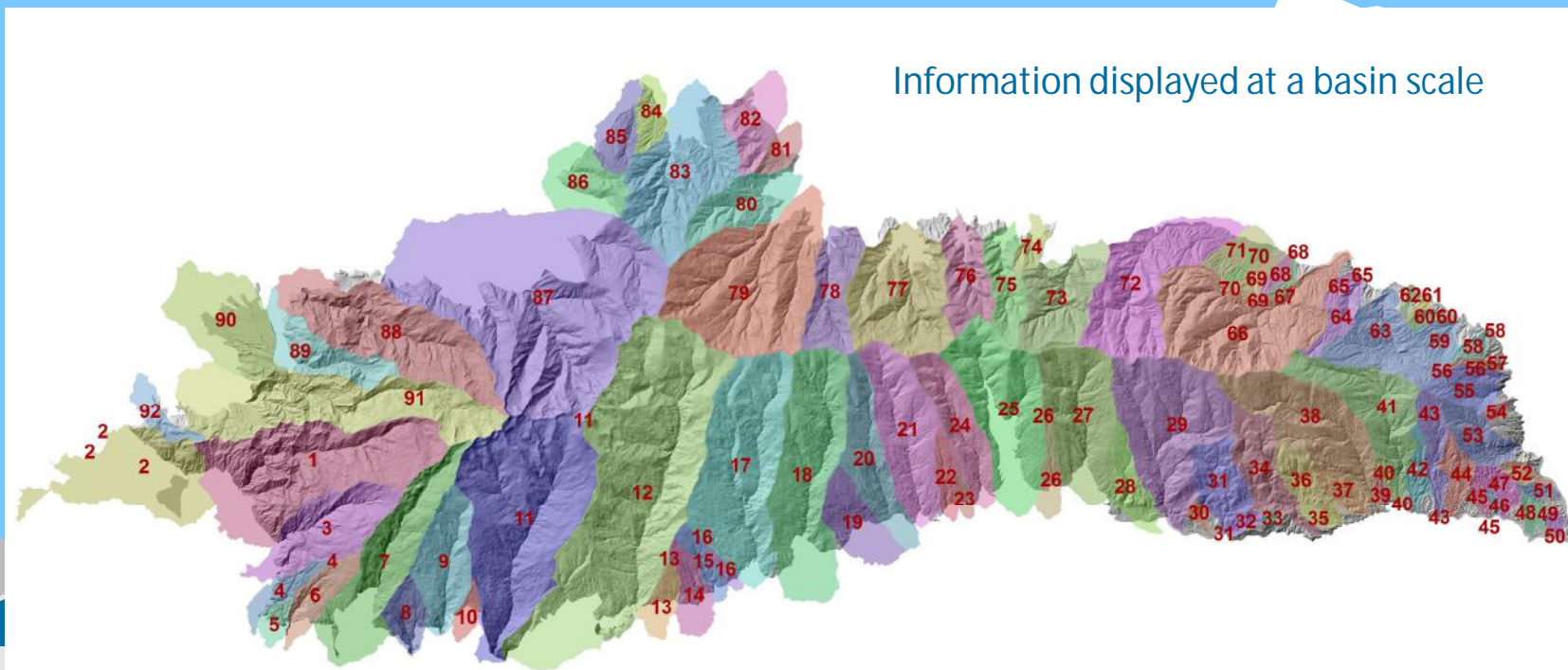
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# M9. Temporal evolution of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada

## Material and methods (ongoing work)

- Identify ecosystem services and spatial-temporal scales
- Quantifying provisioning ecosystem services
  - Historical Land use maps: area occupied by crops and pastures
  - Statistics describing crop yields.



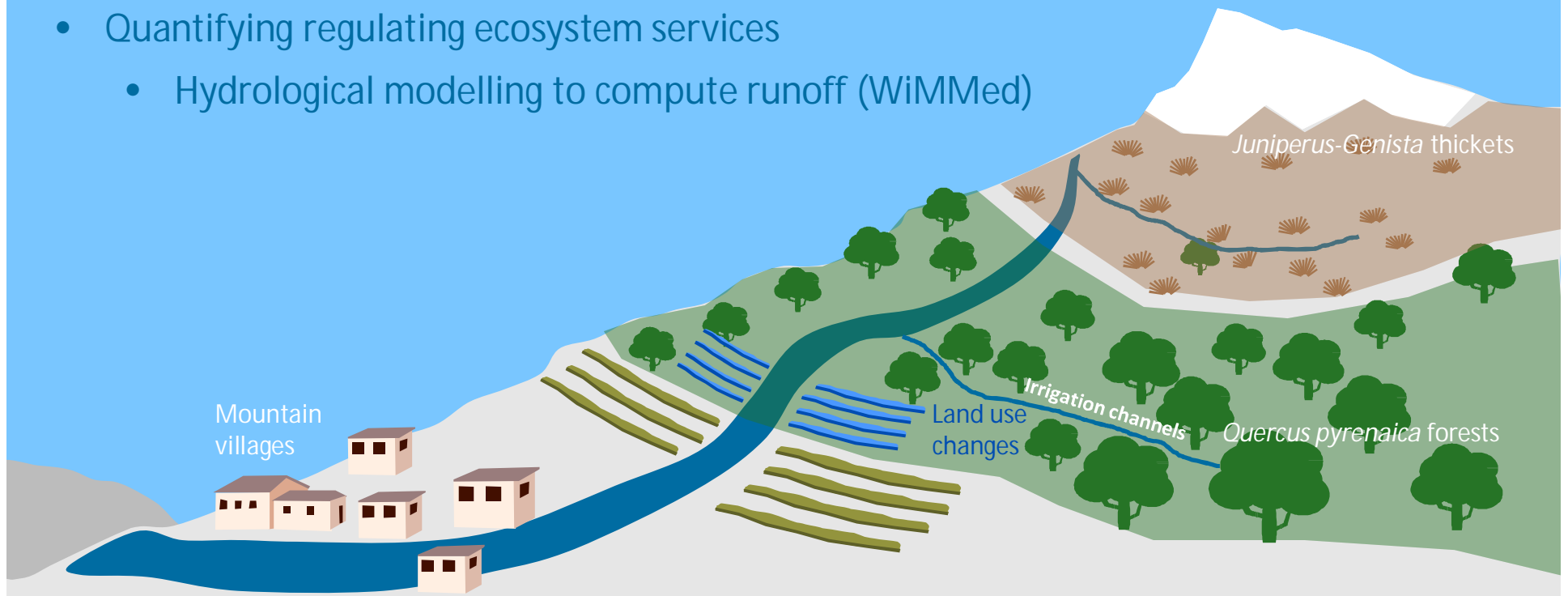
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## Material and methods (ongoing work)

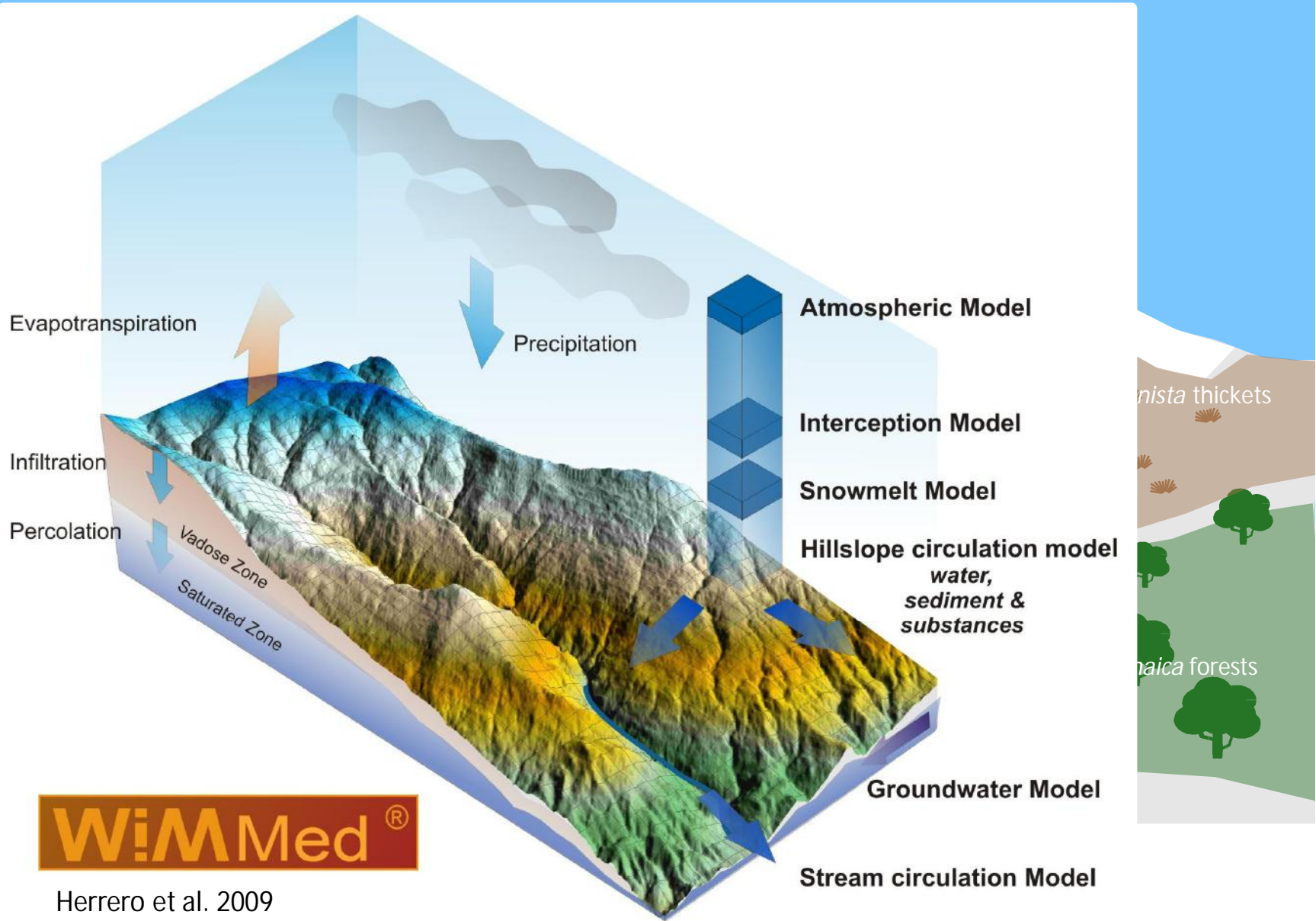
- Identify ecosystem services and spatial-temporal scales
- Quantifying provisioning ecosystem services
  - Historical Land use maps: area occupied by crops and pastures
  - Statistics describing crop yields.
- Quantifying regulating ecosystem services
  - Hydrological modelling to compute runoff (WiMMed)



# M9. Temporal evolution of ecosystem services in Sierra Nevada

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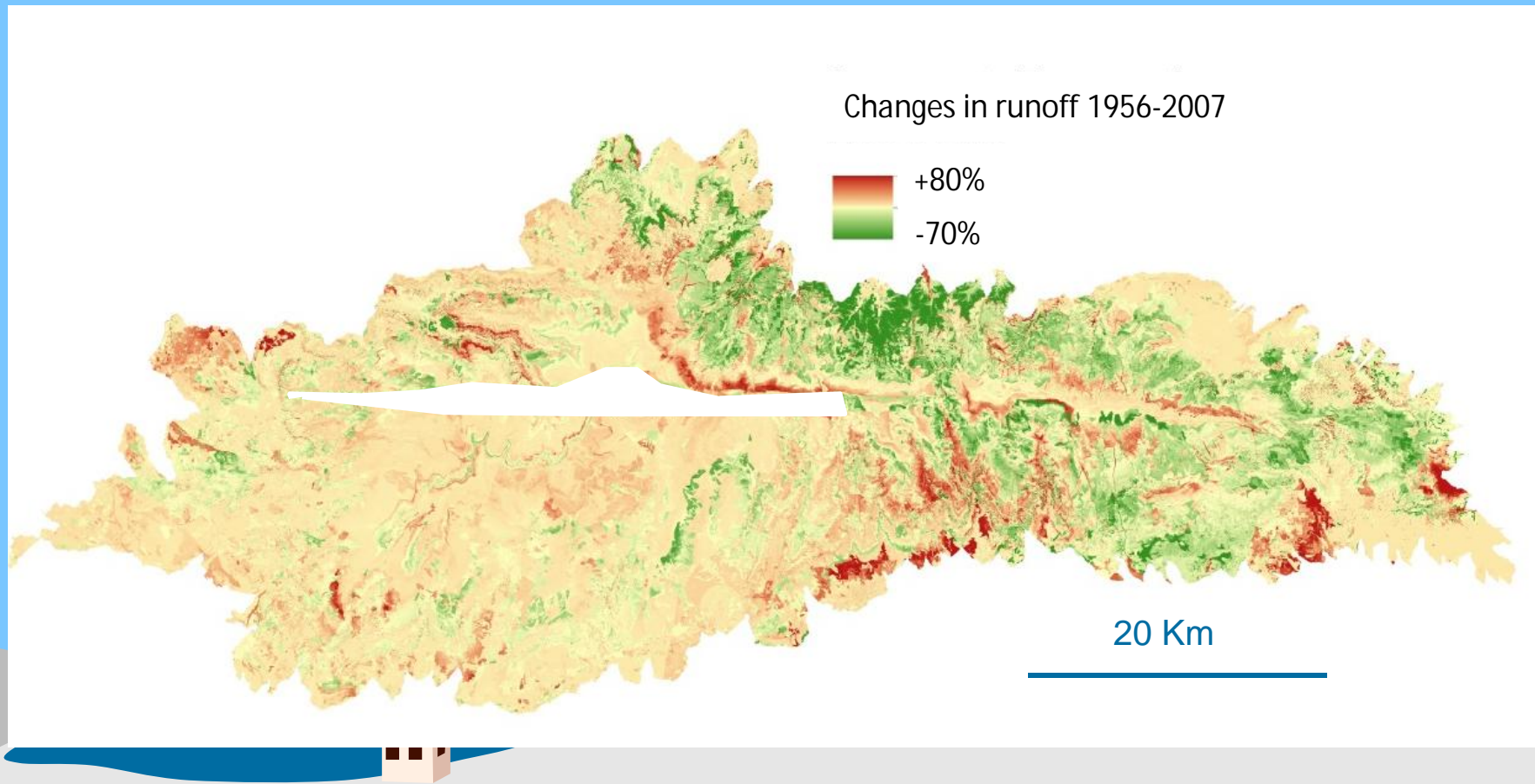


Herrero et al. 2009

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## Preliminary results

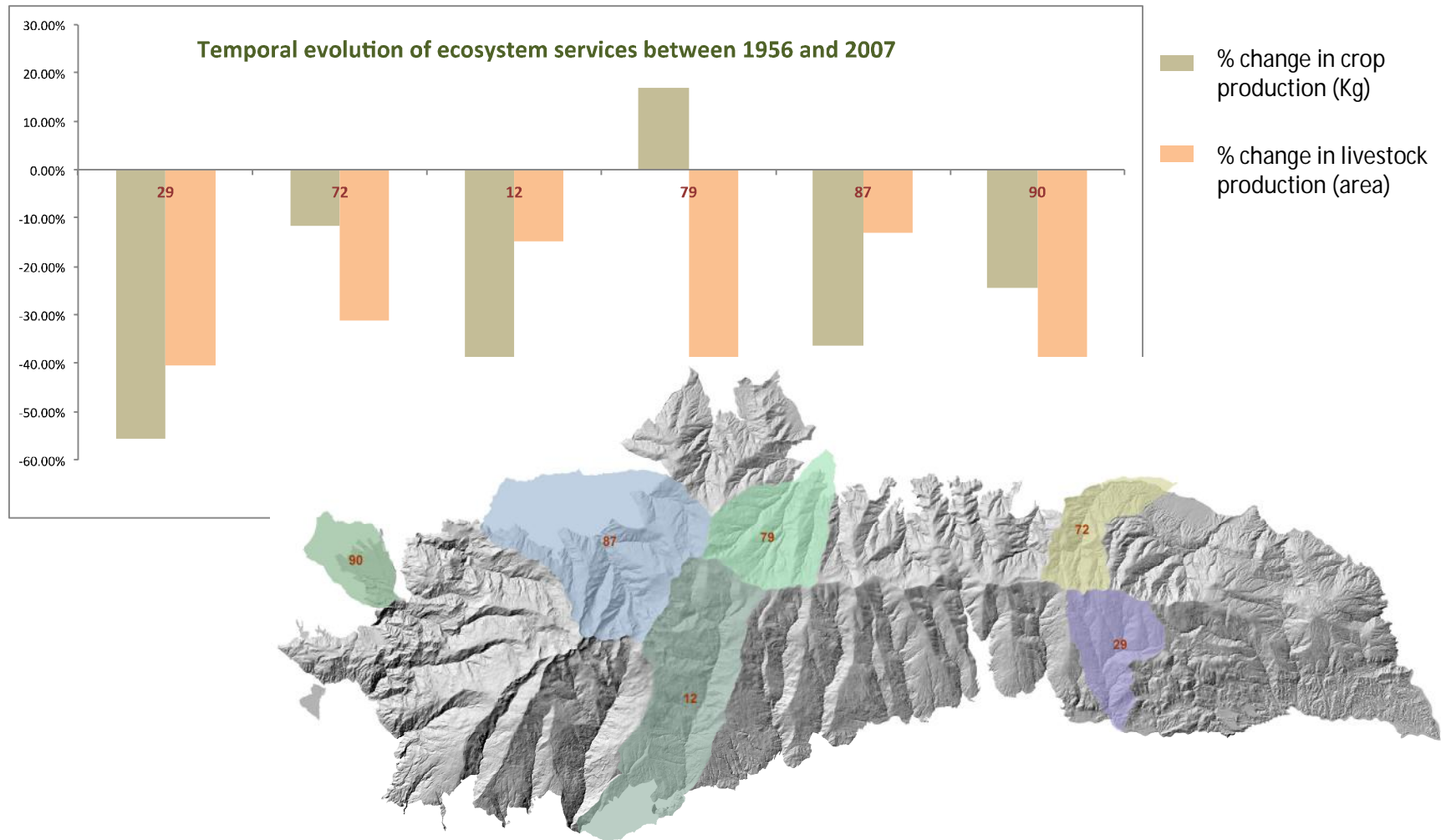
- Spatial distribution of changes in runoff



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## Preliminary results

- Spatial distribution of changes in runoff
- Preliminary quantification of livestock and crop production





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