

A Near-real-time Integrated Mapping and Reporting system for Critical Biodiversity Sites under Sustainable Development Goal 15: the tiger as model



NASA Grant Number 80NSSC19K0201.

Sustaining Living Systems in a Time of Climate Variability and Change

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Program: Laura Rogers (NASA), Keith Gaddis (NASA), Woody Turner (NASA)

NGO collaboration in support of the post-2022 GTI process

Our coalition



Our pledge to help secure a viable future for the tiger

The six non-governmental organisations (NGOs), all closely involved with tiger conservation and strong supporters of the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) and Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP), have come together to share some ideas with the tiger range countries (TRCs) and other members of the Global Tiger Initiative for consideration for the next phase of this ambitious initiative.

15 LIFE ON LAND



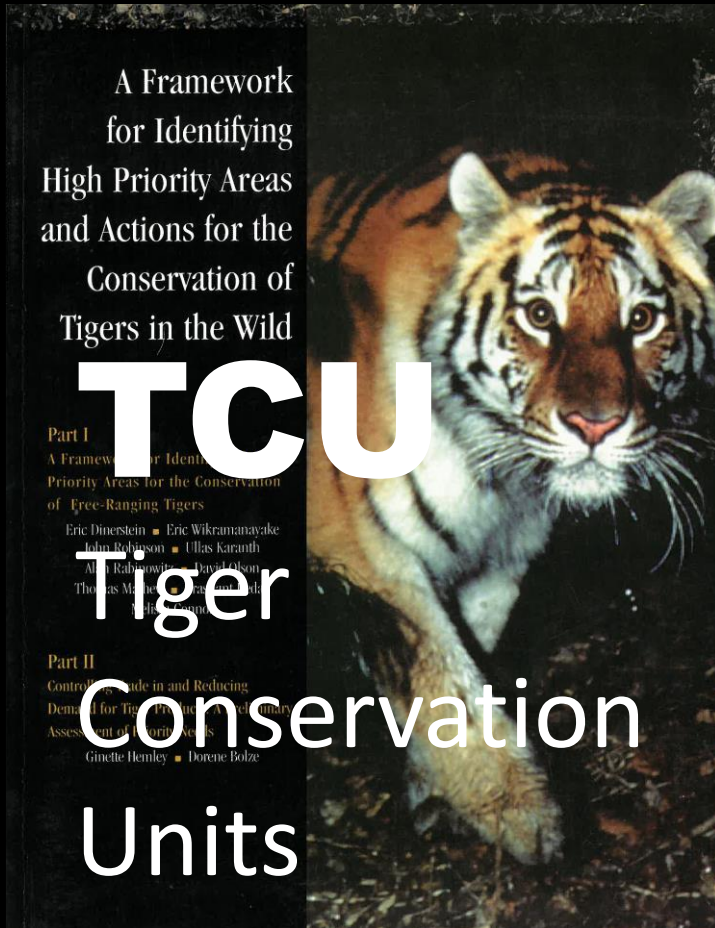
15.1. By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area

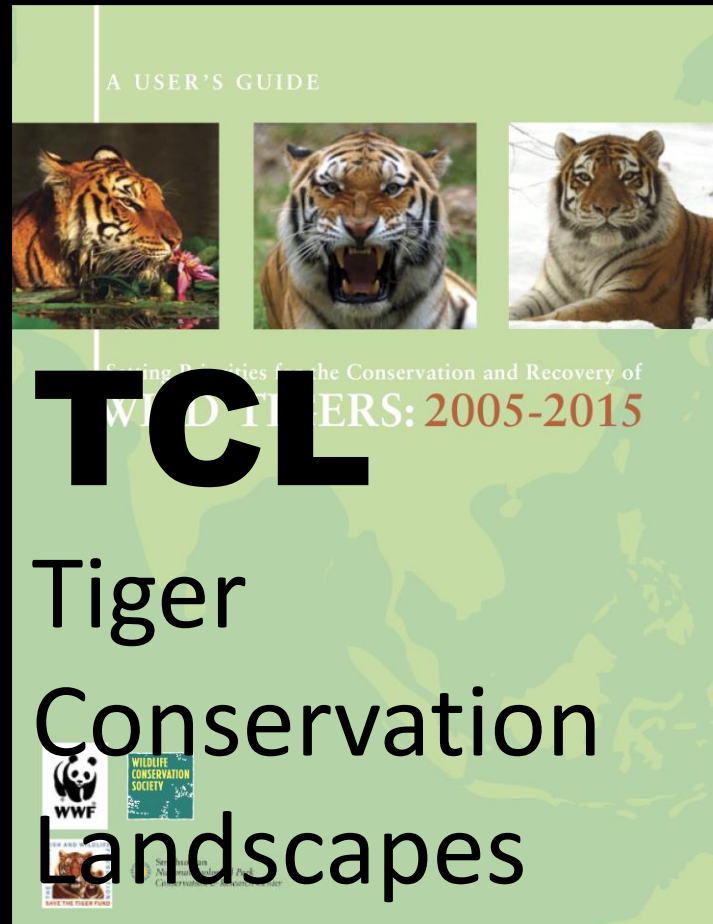
Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type







Dinerstein E, et al. 1995. A Framework for Identifying High Priority Areas and Actions for the Conservation of Tigers in the Wild. World Wildlife Fund-US, Wildlife Conservation Society, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Save the Tiger Fund, Washington D.C.



Sanderson E et al. 2006. Setting priorities for the conservation and recovery of wild tigers: 2005-2015. The Technical Assessment. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Save the Tiger Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund - US, Washington, D.C.



But it's so slow...

TCU

1995-
2005

TCL

2005-
2015



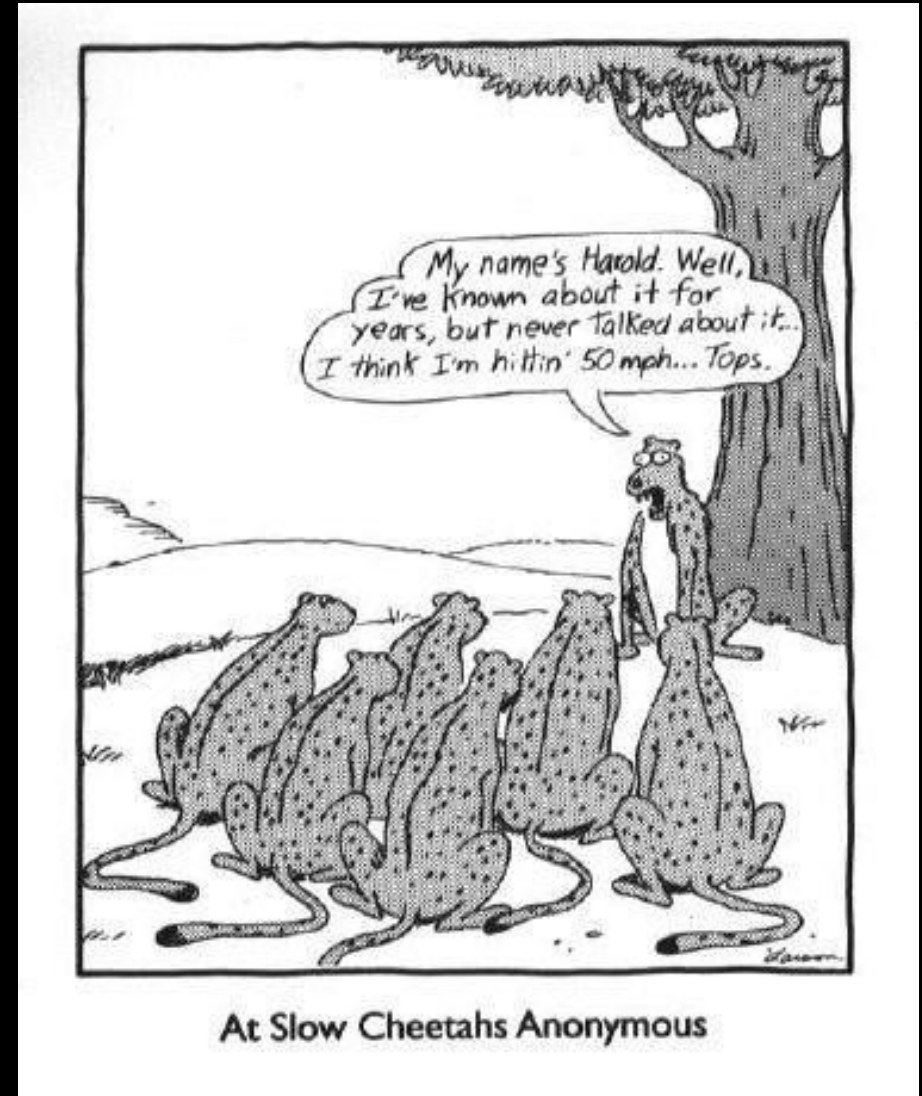
2019?

3 years
of GIS work

Another 3 years
of data collection
& programming

Not-replicable

Code base deprecated



At Slow Cheetahs Anonymous

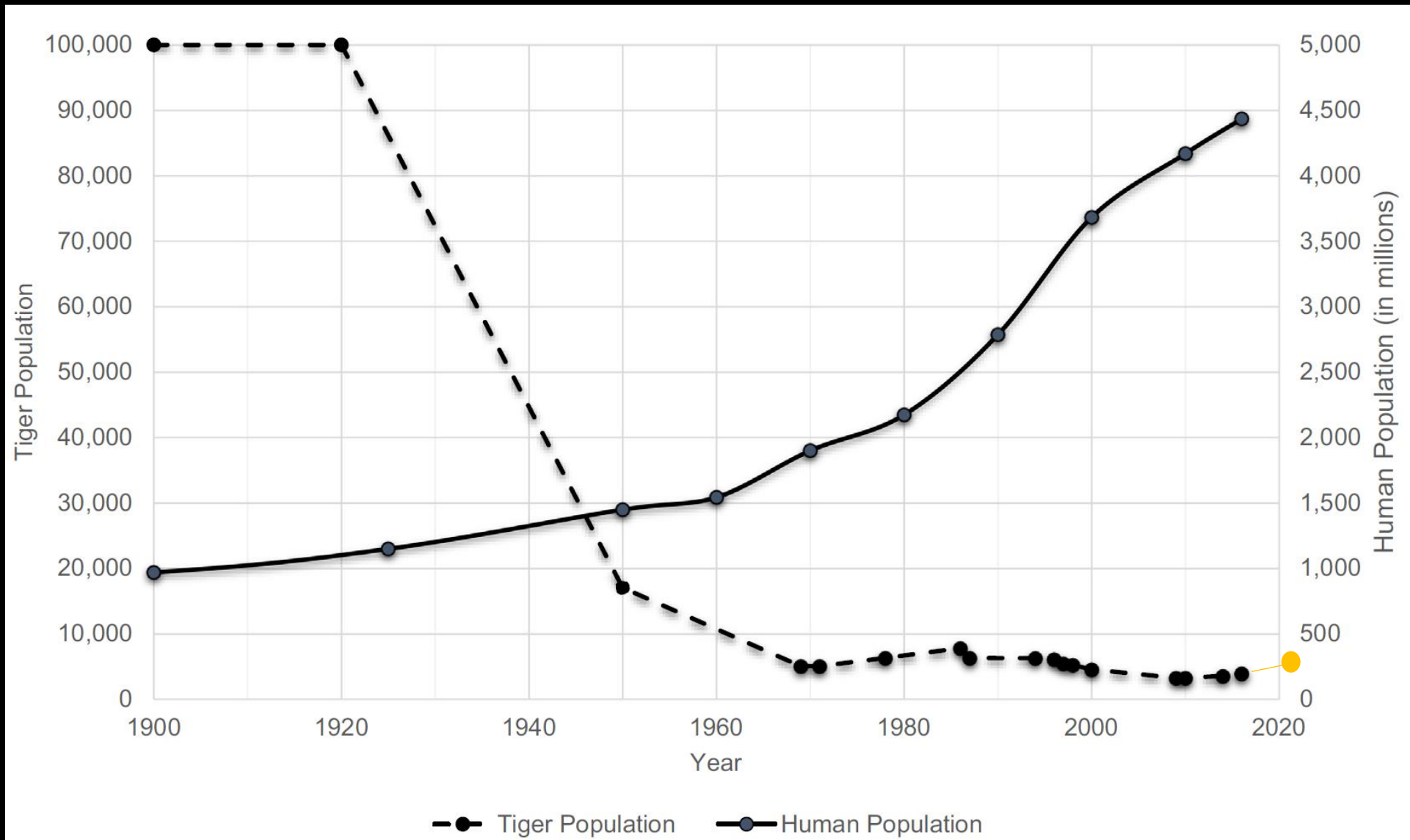


Fig. 1. Populations of people and wild tigers in Asia 1900–2015.



An Optimistic
Goal, 2012



2017
ANNUAL
REPORT

A Need for
Trend
Analysis

DOUBLING
WILD TIGERS



Google Earth Engine

Analytical steps

Indigenous range map – defines area of interest (AOI)

Time frame of the analysis – defines length of time series

Structural habitat

- What defines habitat?
- What remotely sensed / other inputs can be used to make those maps?

Effective potential habitat

- How are human beings interacting with the species?
- Where are the human beings?

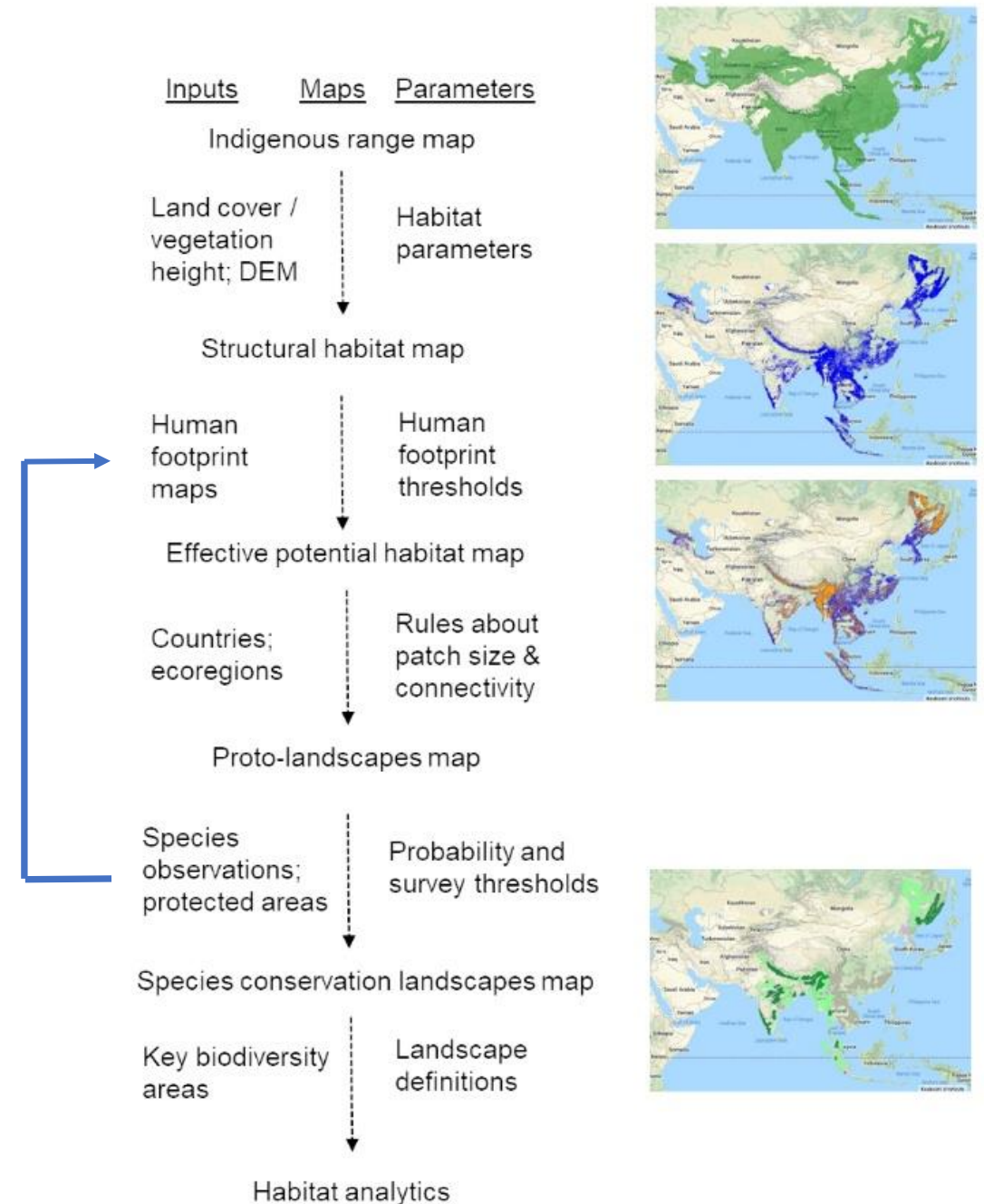
Patch size and connectivity

- What is a minimum patch size to be relevant to this species?
- What distances can be so easily crossed for two patches to be considered connected?

Species observations




- Where and when was the species surveyed?
- Where was it observed?

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the species conservation landscape process.





Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

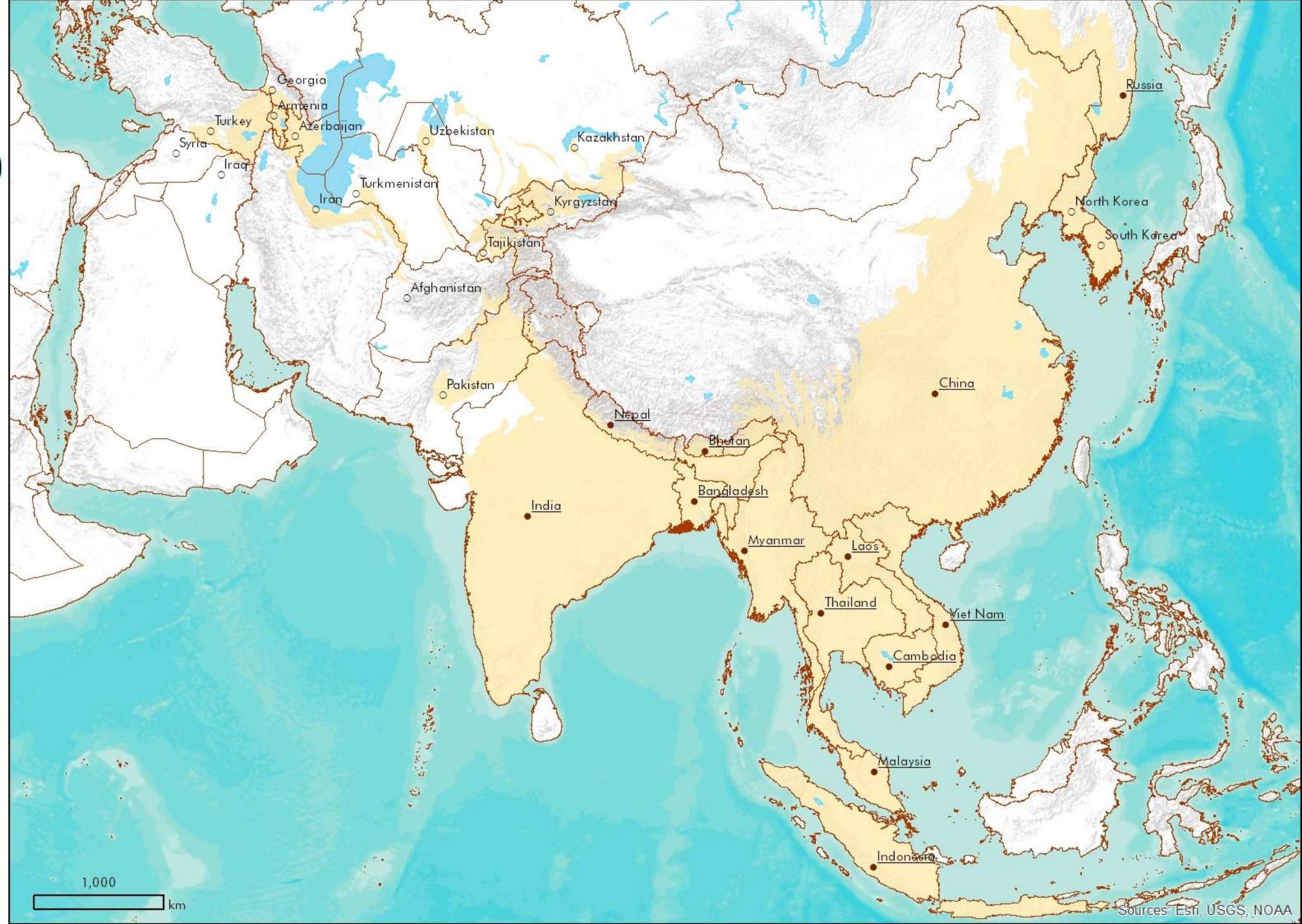
Indigenous range
Likely resident range

-  indigenous range
-  Tiger range countries
-  Former tiger range countries

Modern countries

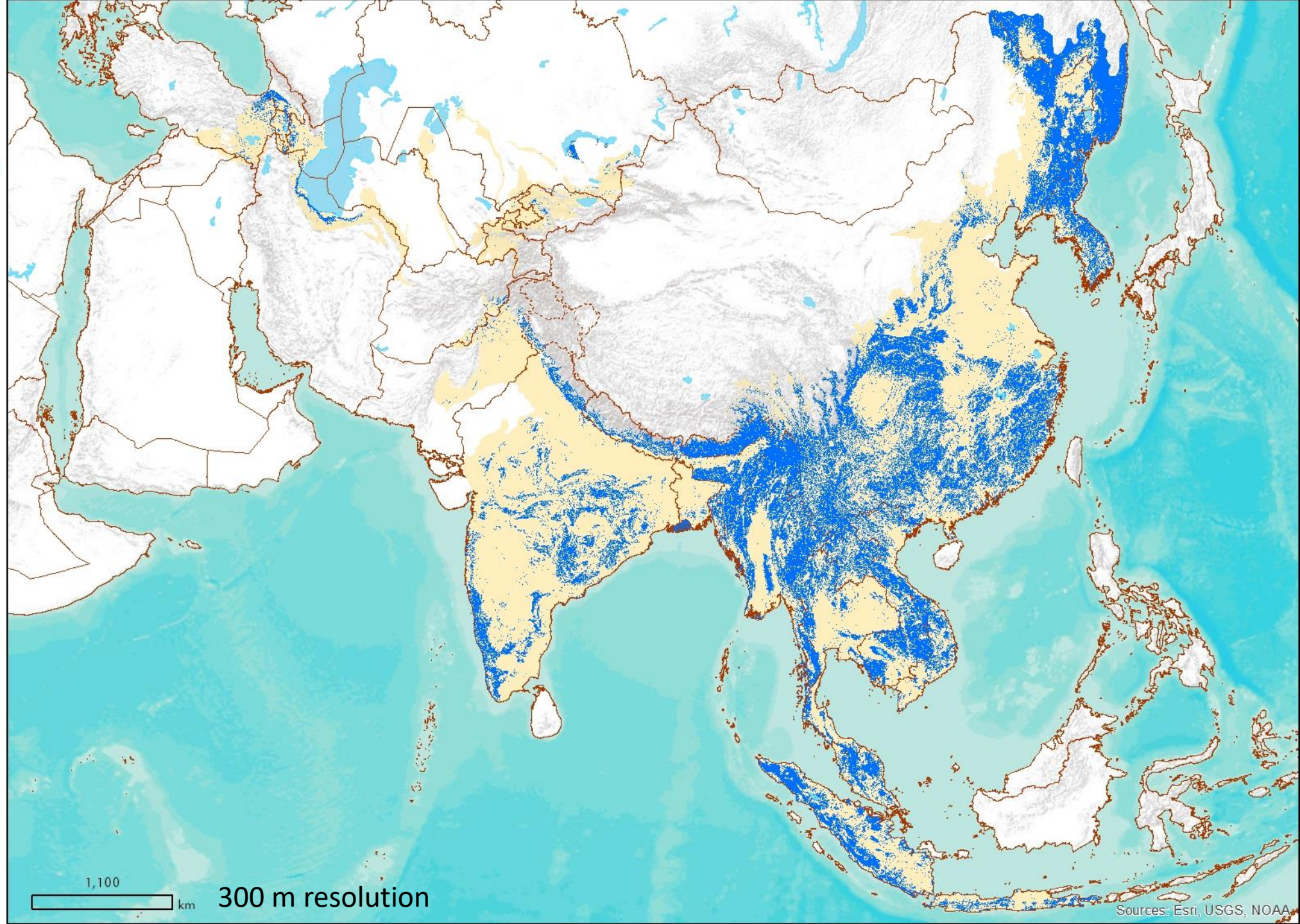
-  Modern countries
-  Disputed

Tiger range information based on data shared by government agencies for purposes of the TCL 3.0 analysis or in the public domain. Political boundaries are shown for reference and do not imply endorsement by the US government, NASA, WCS or any project participants.



Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Structural Habitat
2020-01-01



structural habitat

0

1

indigenous range

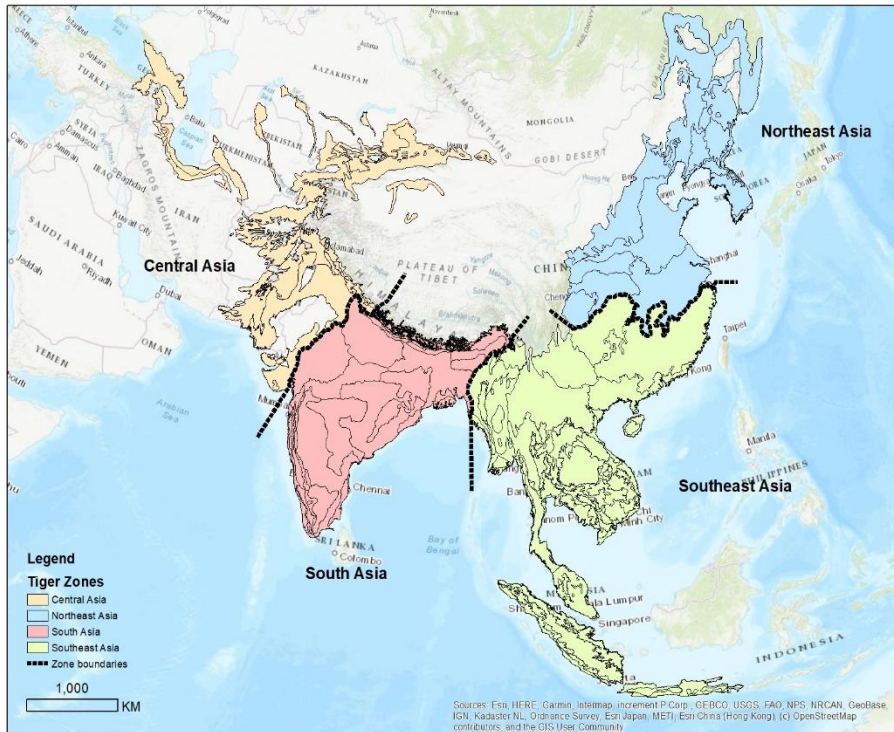
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1,100
km

300 m resolution

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Satellite view: Structural habitat



South Asia = zone 1
 Southeast Asia = zone 2
 Northeast Asia = zone 3
 Central Asia = zone 4

Reclassification table

Elevation thresholds (m)				Veg height (m)	Land use / land cover
Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4		
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, needleleaved, evergreen, open (15-40%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, needleleaved, evergreen, closed to open (>15%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, needleleaved, evergreen, closed (>40%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, needleleaved, deciduous, open (15-40%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, needleleaved, deciduous, closed to open (>15%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, needleleaved, deciduous, closed (>40%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, mixed leaf type (broadleaved and needleleaved)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, flooded, saline water
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, flooded, fresh or brakish water
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, broadleaved, evergreen, closed to open (>15%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, broadleaved, deciduous, open (15-40%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, broadleaved, deciduous, closed to open (>15%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree cover, broadleaved, deciduous, closed (>40%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Tree or shrub cover (Mosaic tree and shrub > 50%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	> 5 m	Mosaic tree and shrub (>50%) / herbaceous cover (<50%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	> 5 m	Mosaic natural vegetation (tree, shrub, herbaceous cover) (>50%) / cropland (<50%)
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Shrubland
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Evergreen shrubland
<4750	<4750	<2150	<2150	0	Deciduous shrubland
0	0	0	0	0	Shrub or herbaceous cover, flooded, fresh/saline/brakish water
0	0	0	0	0	Mosaic herbaceous cover (>50%) / tree and shrub (<50%)
0	0	0	0	0	Mosaic cropland (>50%) / natural vegetation (tree, shrub, herbaceous cover) (<50%)
0	0	0	0	0	Lichens and mosses
0	0	0	0	0	Herbaceous cover
0	0	0	0	0	Grassland
0	0	0	0	0	Sparse vegetation (tree, shrub, herbaceous cover) (<15%)
0	0	0	0	0	Sparse tree (<15%)
0	0	0	0	0	Sparse shrub (<15%)
0	0	0	0	0	Sparse herbaceous cover (<15%)
0	0	0	0	0	Unconsolidated bare areas
0	0	0	0	0	Urban areas
0	0	0	0	0	Cropland, rainfed
0	0	0	0	0	Cropland, irrigated or post-flooding
0	0	0	0	0	Consolidated bare areas
0	0	0	0	0	Bare areas
0	0	0	0	0	Permanent snow and ice
0	0	0	0	0	Water bodies
0	0	0	0	0	No Data

STRM DEM



ESA CCI land cover classes

Landsat derived vegetation height – 5 year interval (Potapov et al. 2021)

Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Empty forests

Human Footprint =
A proxy for human impacts beneath the canopy



Tomua (2022) The Guardian



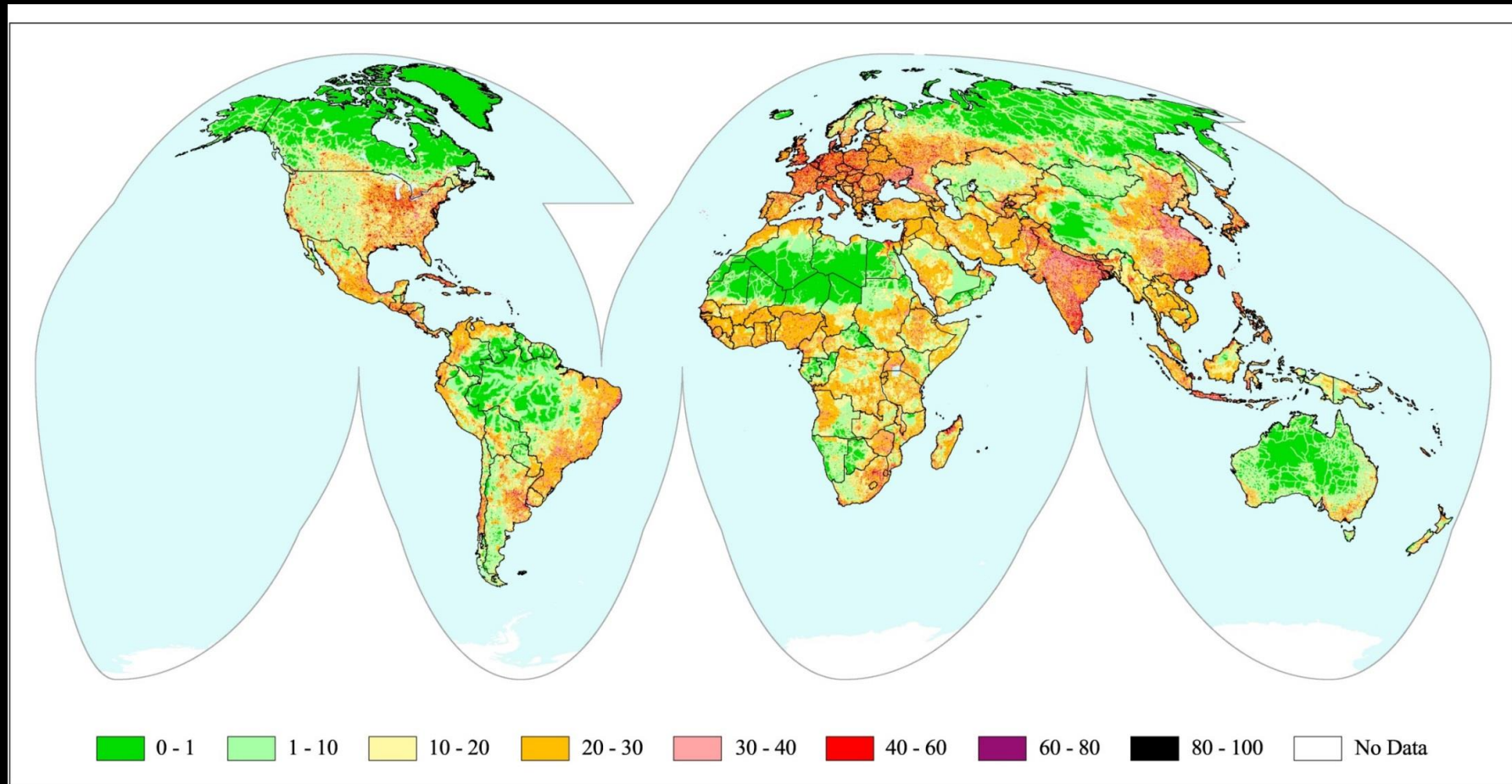
Fetch (2022) State of the Planet



Hance (2018) The Guardian

Human Footprint

Population density
Land use
Access
Nighttime lights



~ 1995

Sanderson EW, Jaiteh M, Levy MA, Redford KH, Wannebo AV, Woolmer G. 2002. The human footprint and the last of the wild. *Bioscience* 52:891–904.

2009, 2016

Venter O, Sanderson EW, Magrath A, Possingham HP, Small C, Fekete BM, Wood P, Laurance WF, Levy M, Watson JEM. 2016. Sixteen years of change in the global terrestrial human footprint and implications for biodiversity conservation. *Nature Communications*.

2000, 2001, ...

Human Footprint 3.0

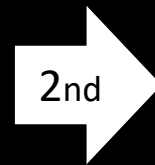
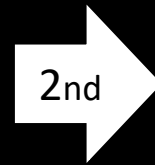
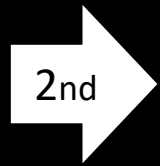


Human Footprint v.3.0

Inputs

1st generation

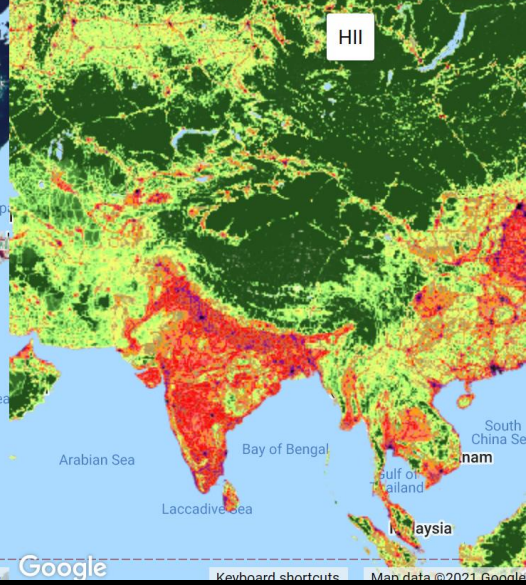
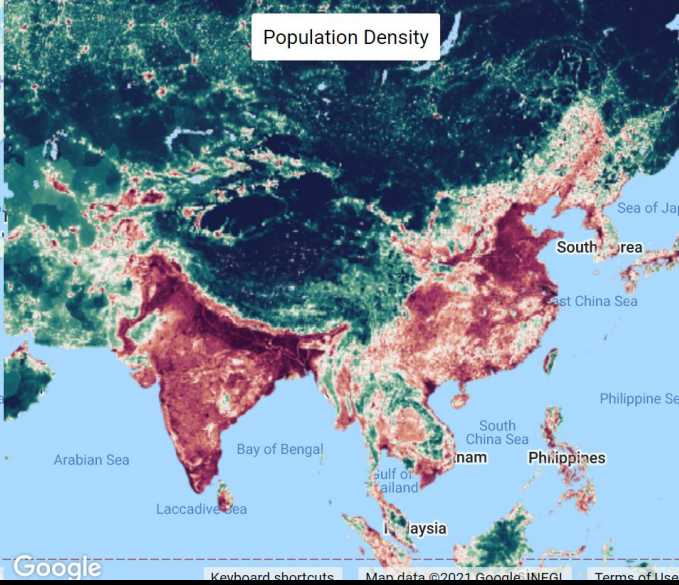
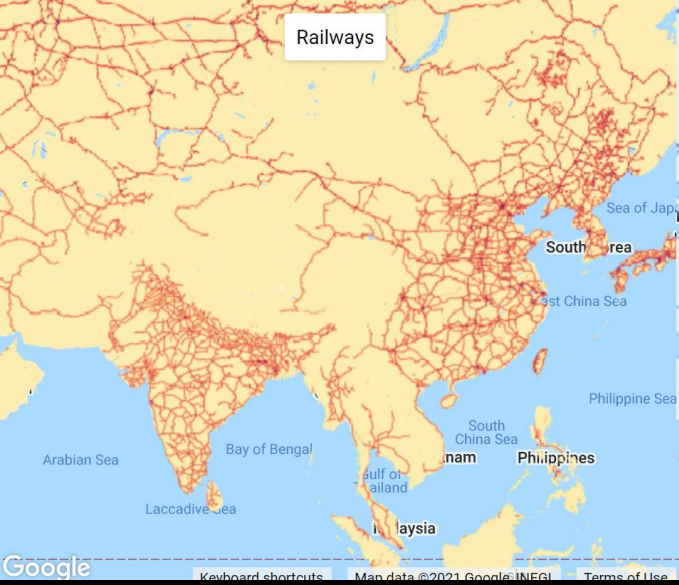
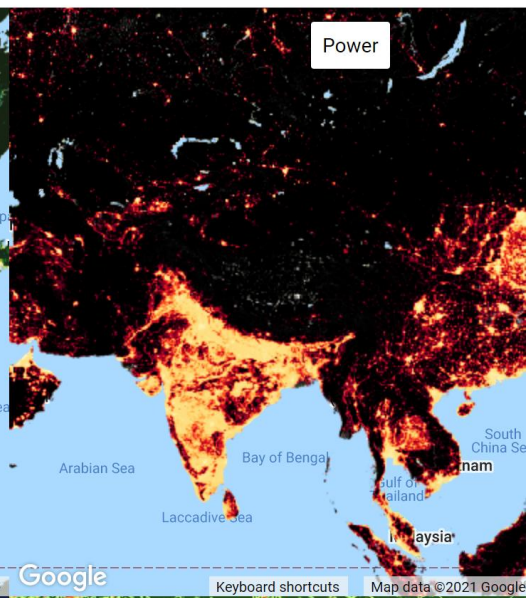
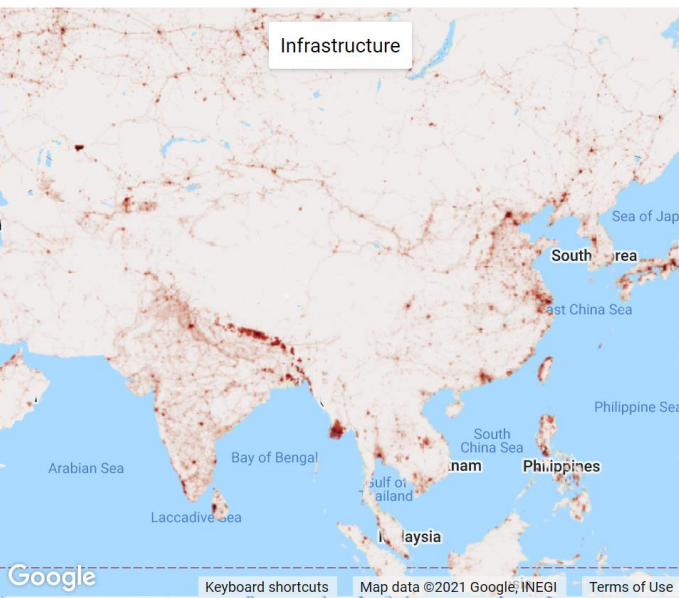
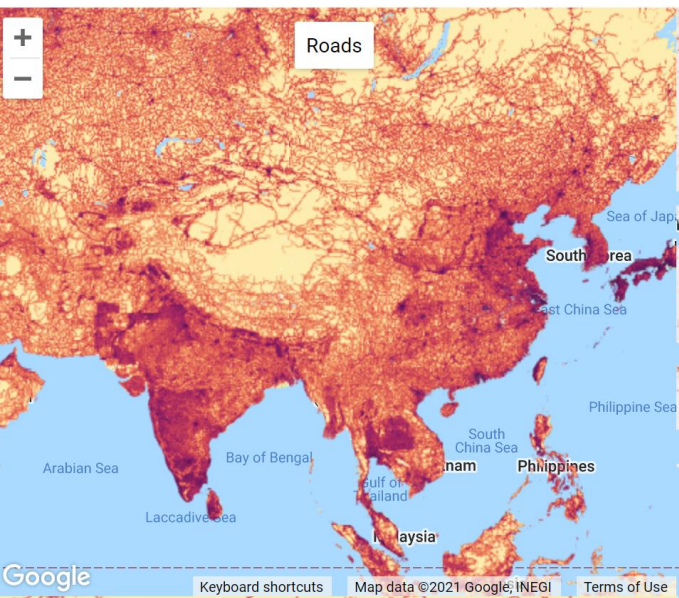
2nd generation



Human influence driver	First Gen.	Second Gen.	Global dataset	Native time period; frequency	Native resol.	Human impact weighting ^a
Population density	√	√	WorldPop ²⁹ Residential Population	2000 – present; annual	100 m	3.333 * log(persons / km ² + 1); if density > 1000 persons / km ² → 10
Land Cover	√	√	ESA CCI Land Cover Dataset ³⁰	1992 – present; annual	300 m	Depends on land cover class and population density; 33 classes ^a
Infrastructure						
... Structures	√	√	Global Human Settlement Layer ²⁸	2000 – 2014; static	30 m	10
		√	Open Street Map ³¹	2012 – present; weekly	Vector	Depends on type; 192 types ^a
... Roads	√	√	gRoads ²⁶	1980 – 2010; static	Vector	8
		√	Open Street Map ³¹	2012 – present; weekly	Vector	Depends on type; 29 types ^a
... Railways	√	√	Vector Map 0 ²⁷	c. 1990 – 2000; static	Vector	Depends on status; 5 classes ^a
		√	Open Street Map ³¹	2012 – present; weekly	Vector	Depends on type; 14 types ^a
Accessibility						
... via Populated Coasts	√	√	ESA CCI Water Bodies Map ⁵¹	2000; static	150 m	e ^(distance * -0.0003) * 4 ^b
... via Navigable Waters	√	√	Global Surface Waters ⁵¹	1984 – present; annual	30 m	e ^(distance * -0.0003) * 4 ^b
... via Roads	√	√	gRoads ²⁶	1980 – 2010; static	Vector	e ^(distance * -0.0003) * 4 ^c
		√	Open Street Map ³¹	2012 – present; weekly	Vector	e ^(distance * constant) * weight ^c
Power	√		Inter-calibrated stable nighttime lights series from DMSP ^{32,38}	1992 – 2019; annual	30 arc-seconds	10 equal area quantiles ^d → 0 - 10
		√	Inter-calibrated stable nighttime lights series from VIIRS ^{33,38}	2014 – present; annual	15 arc-seconds	10 equal area quantiles ^d → 0 - 10

2020

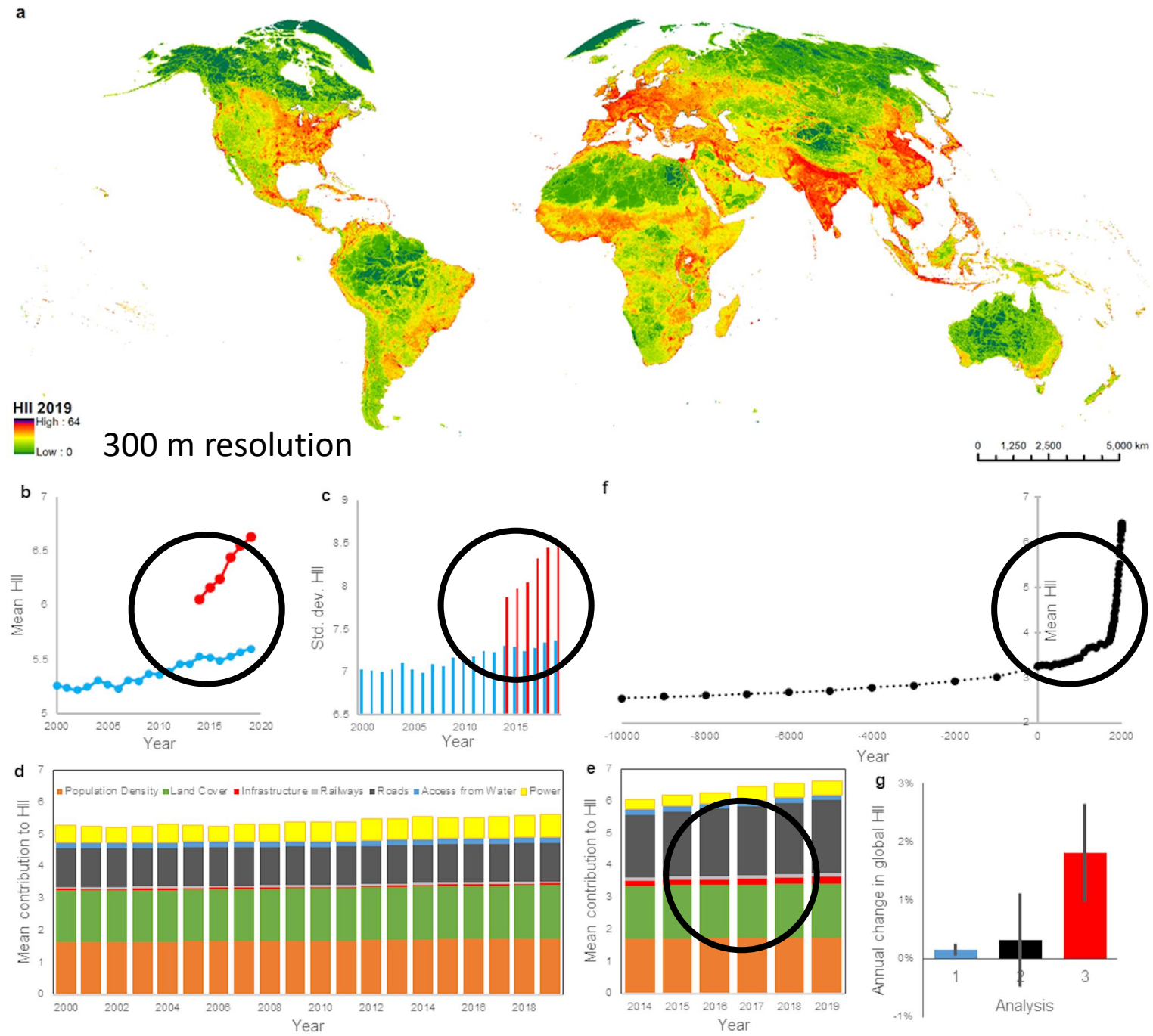
HII Driver Visualization



Human Footprint v.3.0

Adding OSM, VIIRS

- Increased mean HII
- Increased variation in HII
- Change what drives the pattern
- Suggests that the rate of HII is increasing faster now than ever before



Data access:
<https://wchumanfootprint.org/>



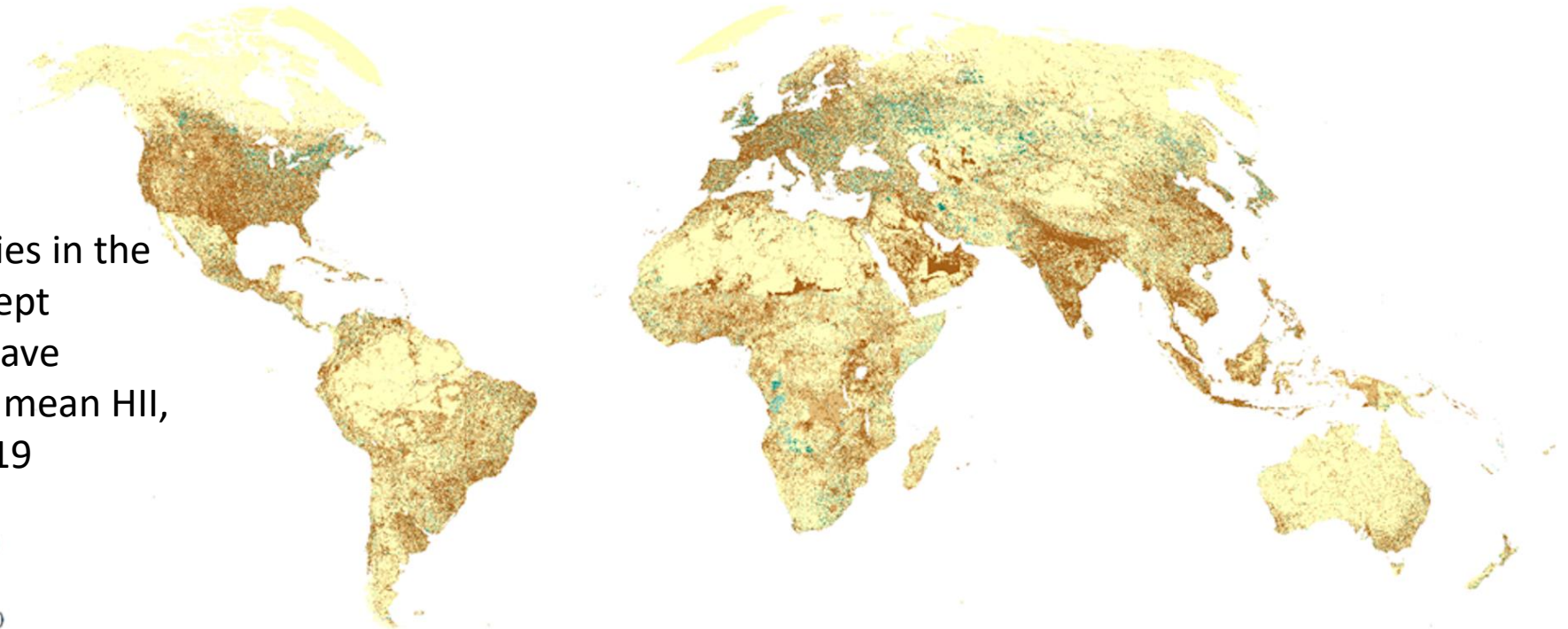
Human Footprint v.3.0

a

All countries in the world except Andorra have increased mean HII, 2000 - 2019

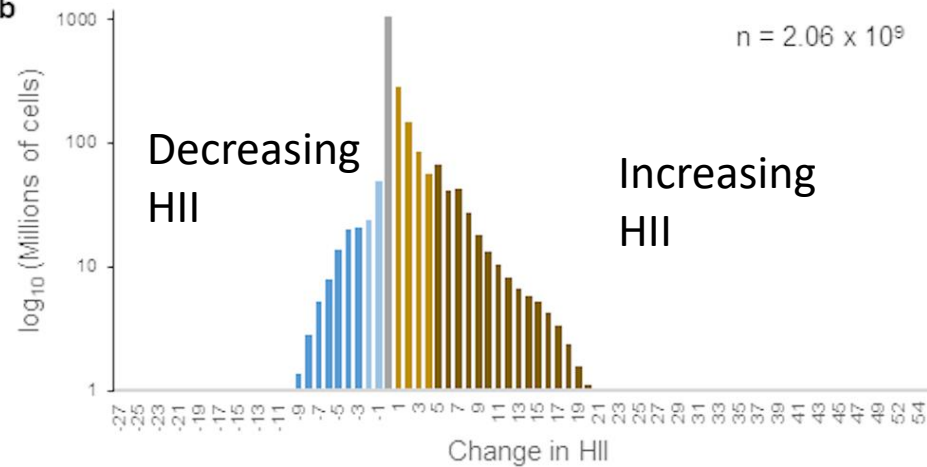
Change, 2000 to 2019

- Decrease by 4+
- Decrease by 1-4
- No change (1 - -1)
- Increase by 1-4
- Increase by 4+

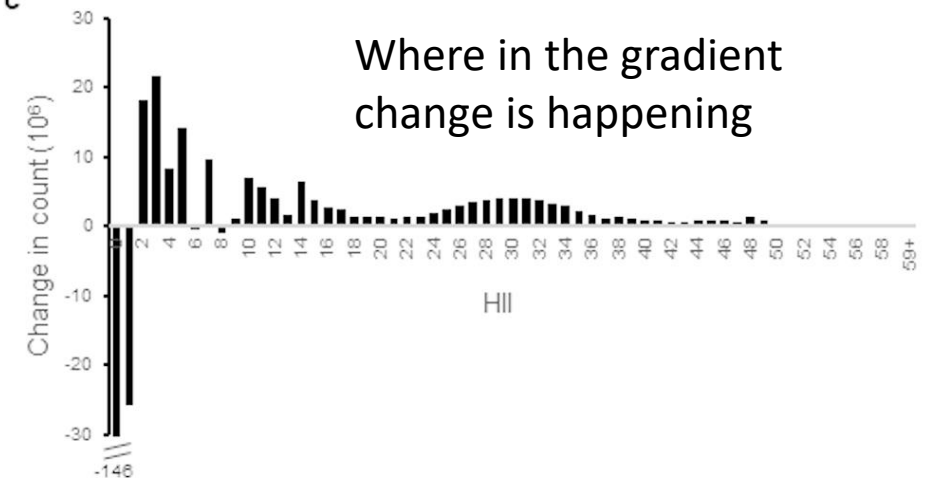


300 m resolution 0 1,250 2,500 5,000 km

b

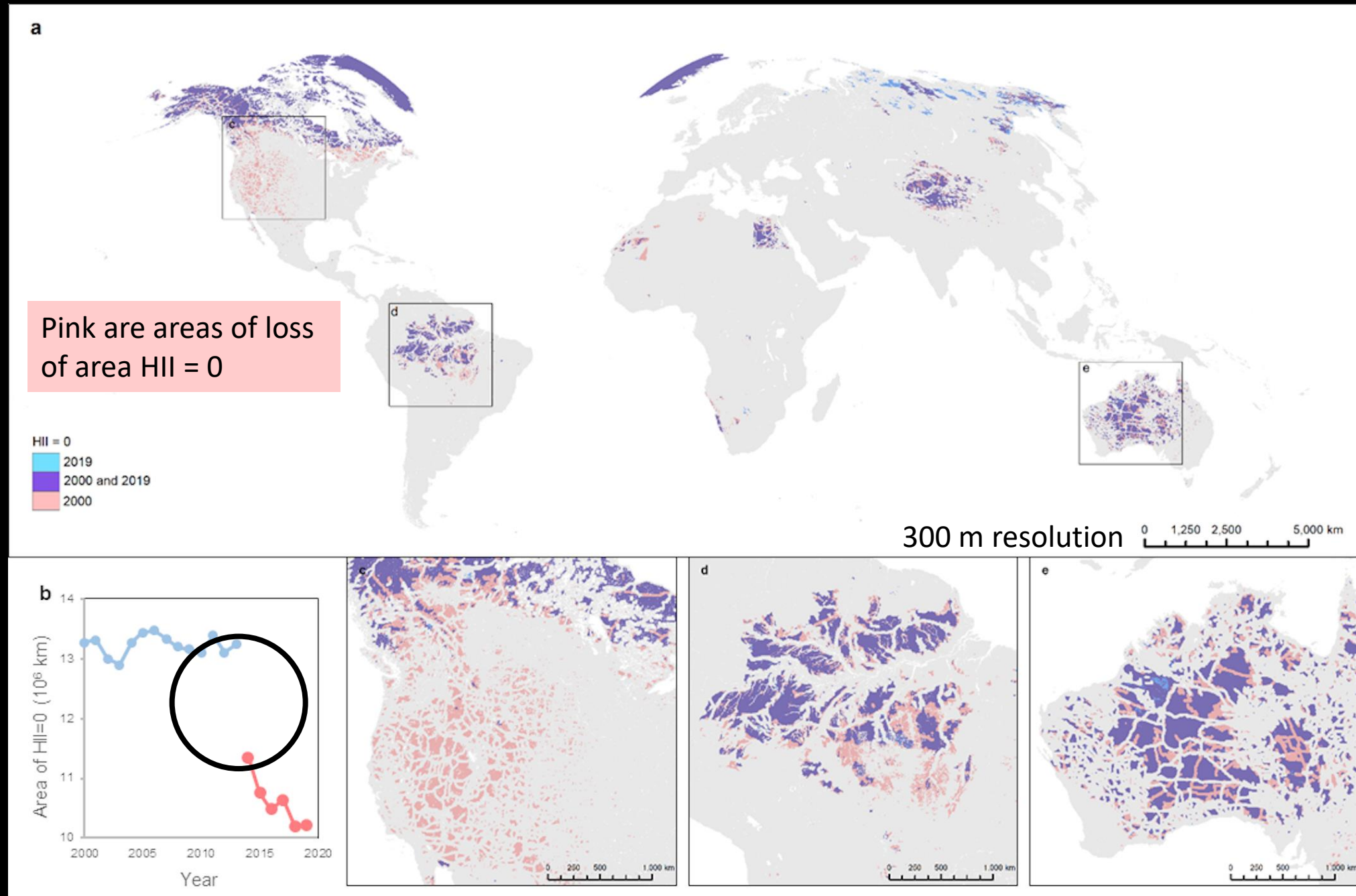


c



Human Footprint v.3.0

Change in least influenced areas

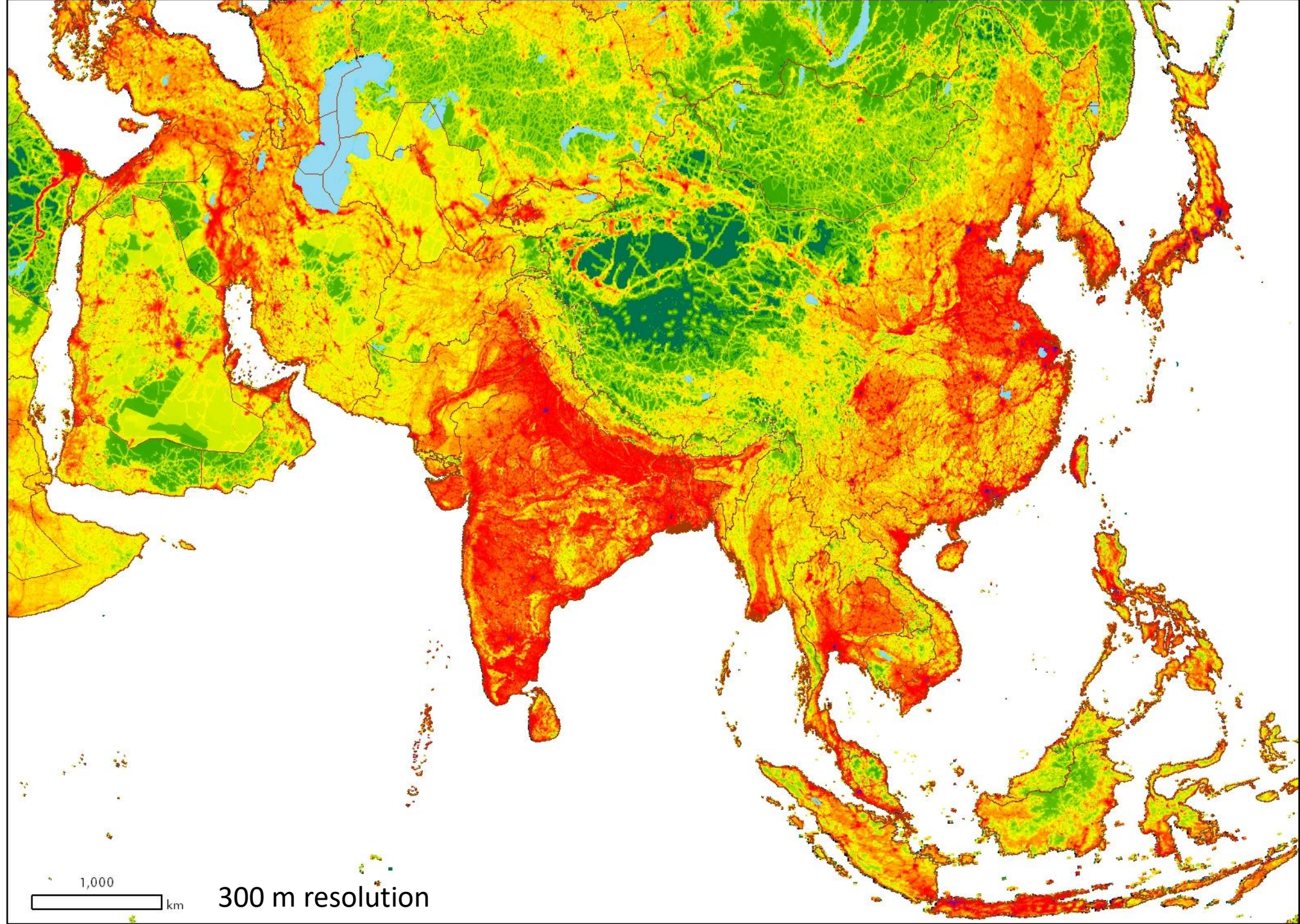
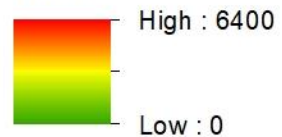


Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Human Footprint
2020-01-01

HII 2020-01-01

Value



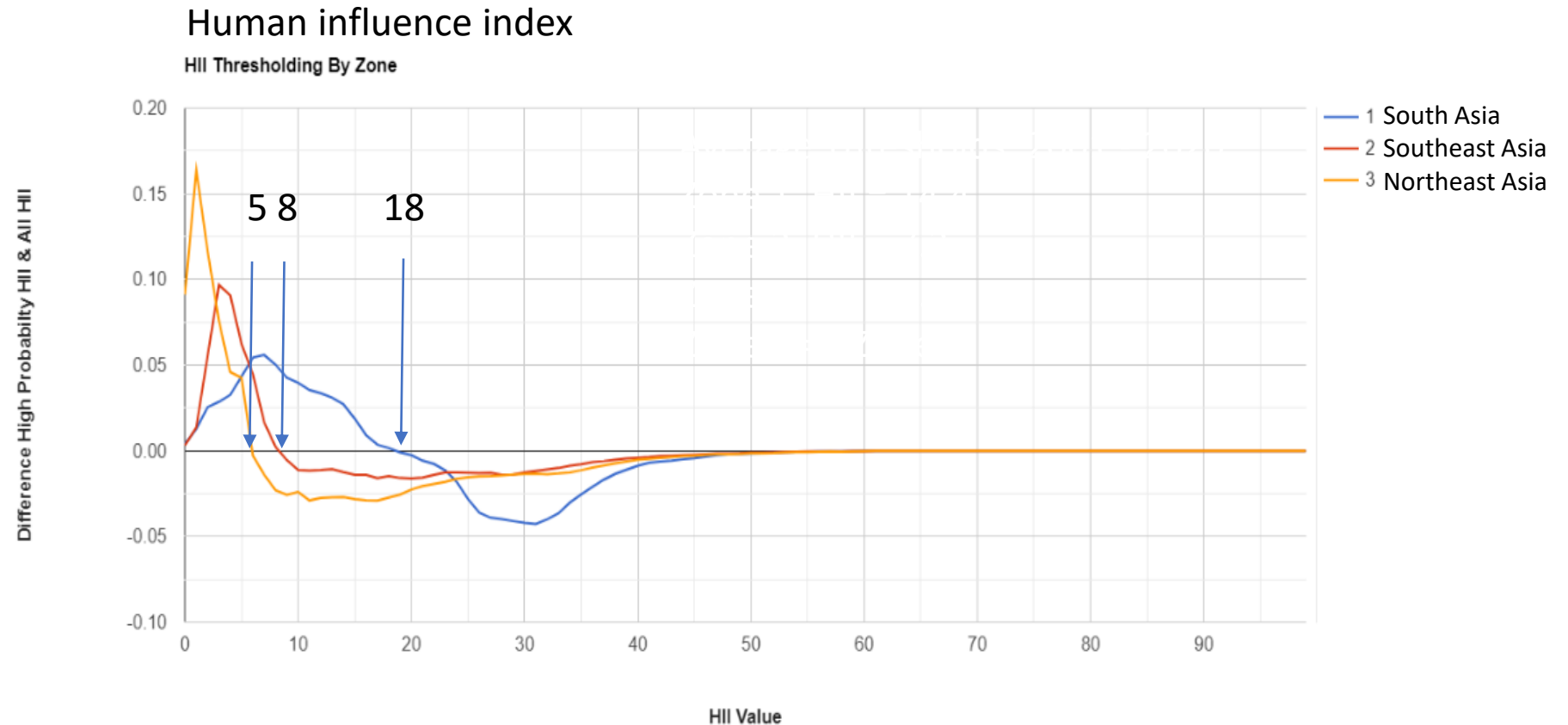
1,000
km

300 m resolution

Tiger range information based on data shared by government agencies for purposes of the TCL 3.0 analysis or in the public domain. Political boundaries are shown for reference and do not imply endorsement by the US government, NASA, WCS or any project participants.

Social tolerance for tigers varies by region

1. Measure HII of positive observations
2. Sample HII in zone without regard to locations
3. Calculate the frequency histogram of HII values for 1. and 2.
4. Subtract the two histograms
5. Find first value where difference crosses 0



Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Structural Habitat
Effective Potential Habitat
2020-01-01

effective potential habitat

0

1

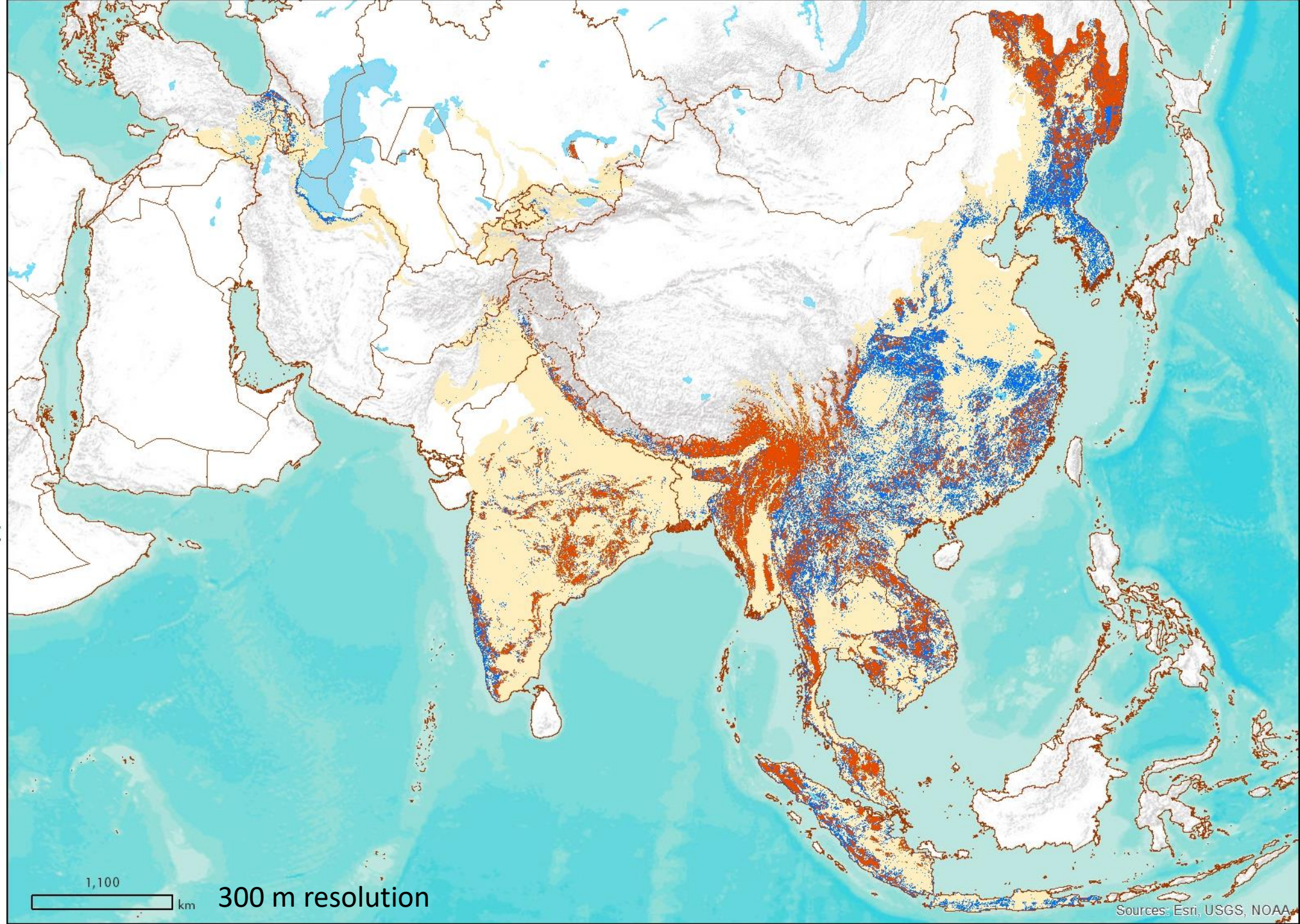
structural habitat

0

1

indigenous range

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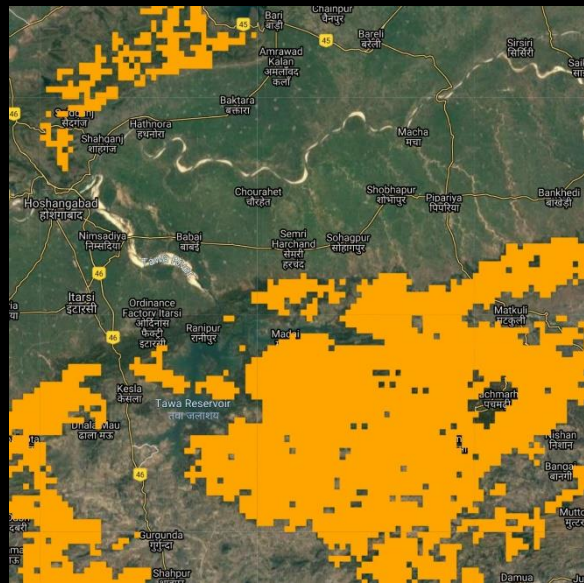


1,100 km

300 m resolution

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Landscape delineation



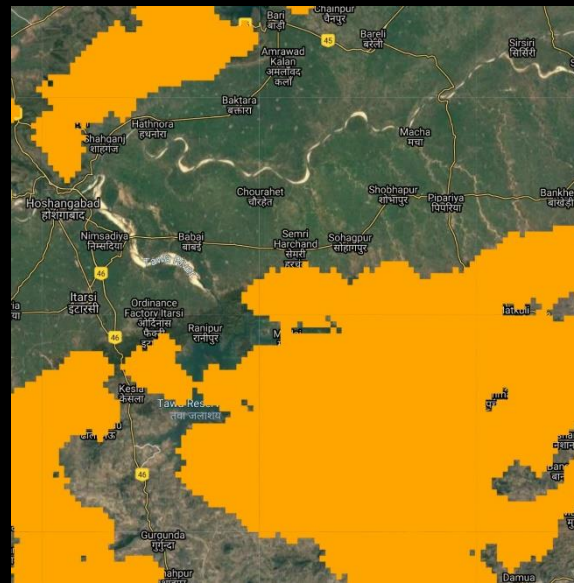
Core patch size (large enough for ≥ 5 tigers, depending on ecoregion)

Stepping stone patch size (1/10 of core)



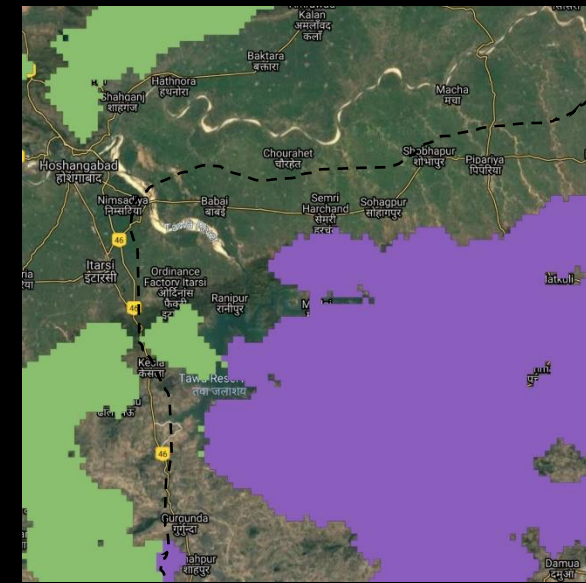
Connectivity (within 4 km of another habitat patch)

Potential effective habitat



Potential Landscapes

Segment by state or province*



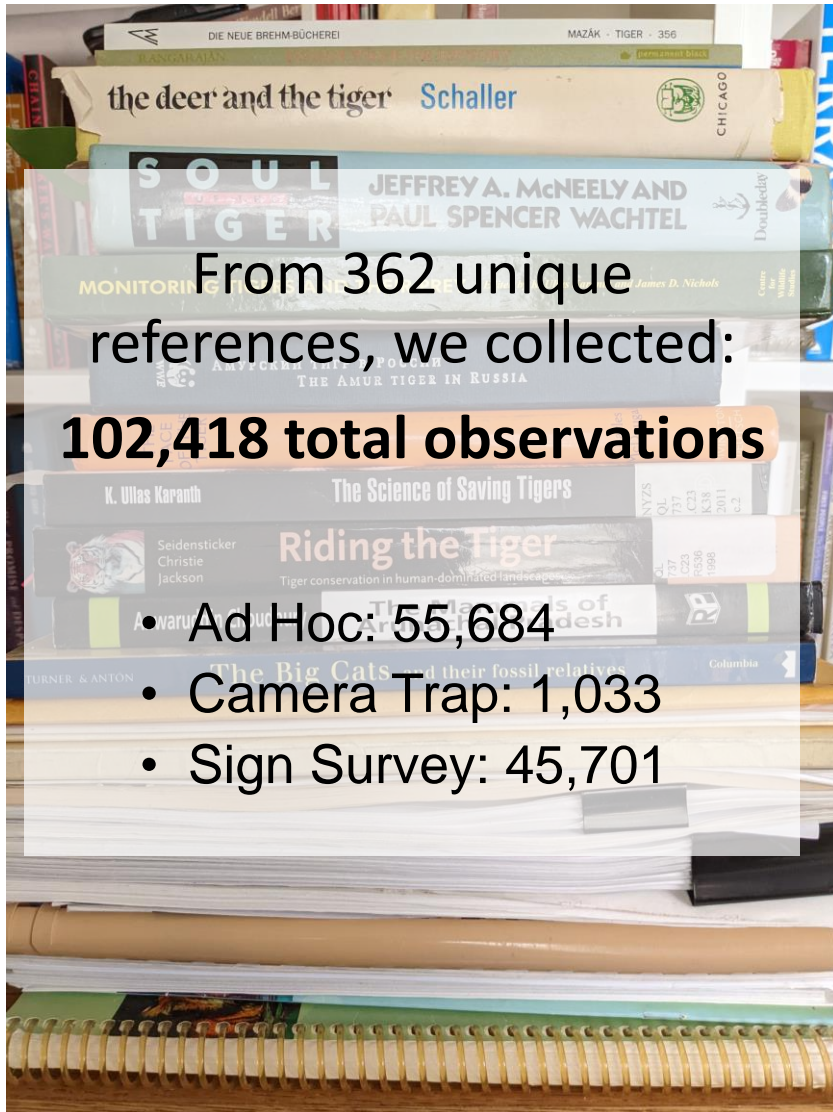
Segmented potential landscapes by state or province

* Proxy for management approach (country, state)

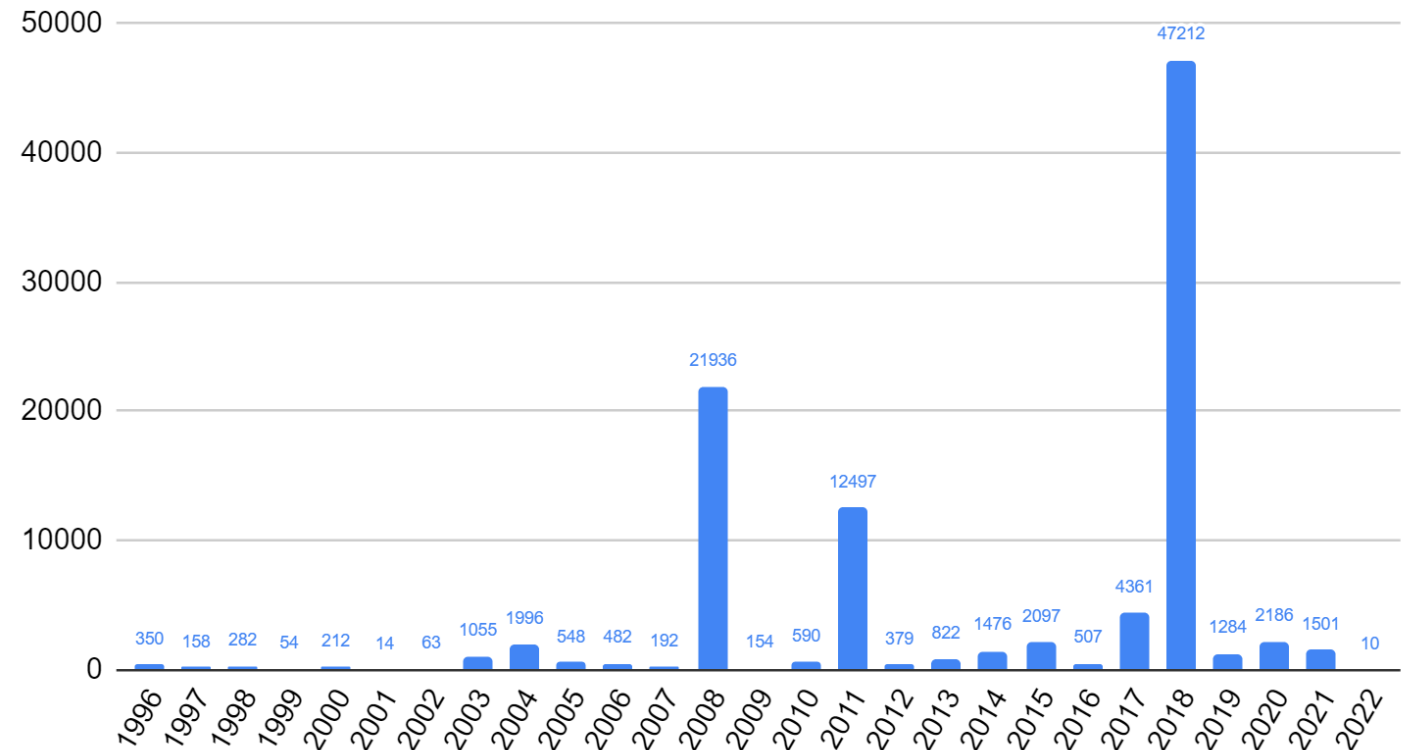
Tiger survey data

- Four types of observations
 - Camera trap observations, with measures of effort per camera
 - Camera trap observations with density, with measures of overall search effort
 - Sign survey, with measures of effort per grid cell
 - Ad hoc observations, positive only observations
- All observations must have
 - Time period (start and end date)
 - Location (either lat/lon or grid cell)
 - Source (observer, paper or report reference)
- Systematic search of the literature from 1996 - 2022

Tiger Observations, 1996 - 2022



Number of Observations by Publication Year



Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Probability estimate

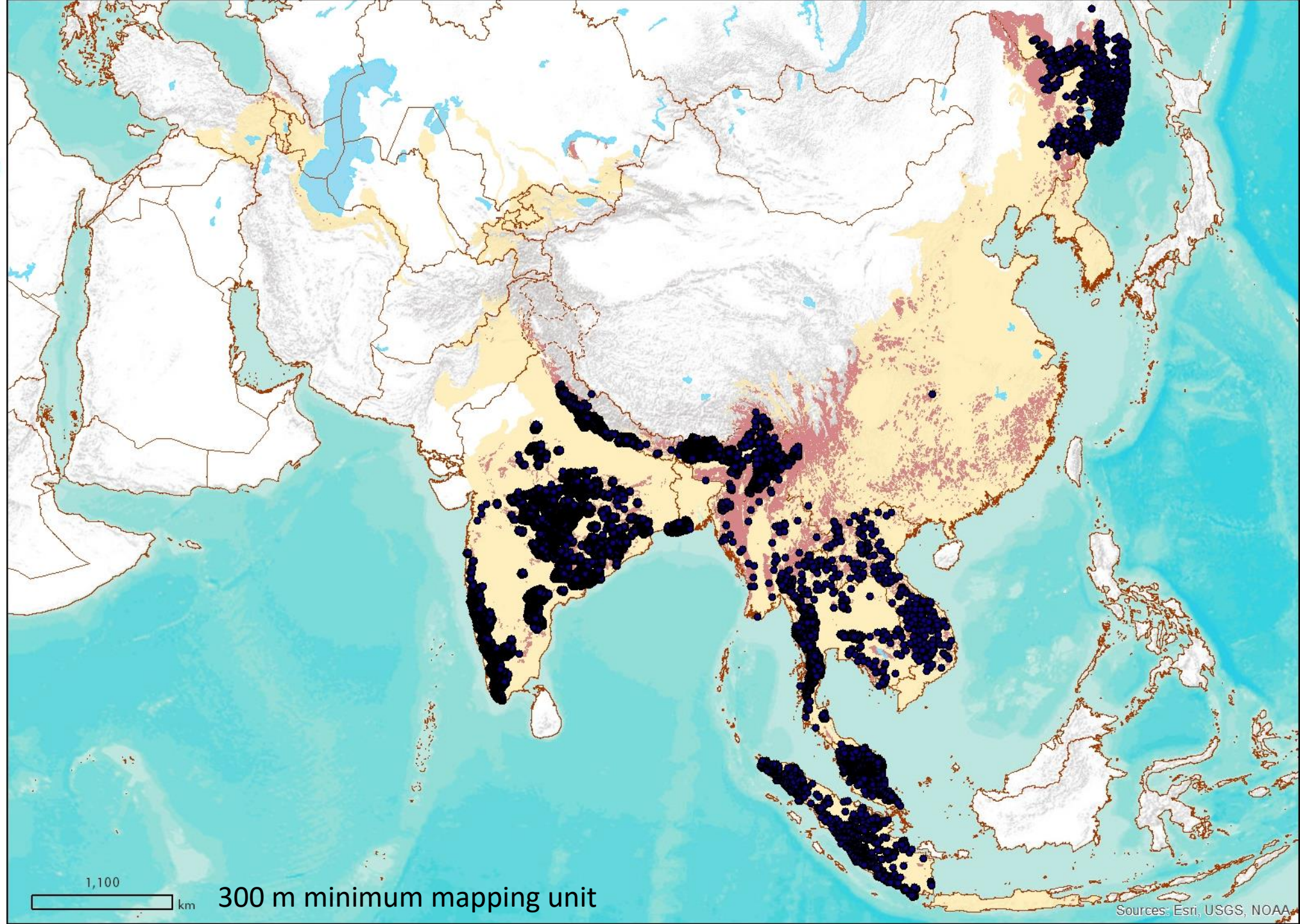
- All survey locations

proto-landscapes

proto-landscapes

indigenous range

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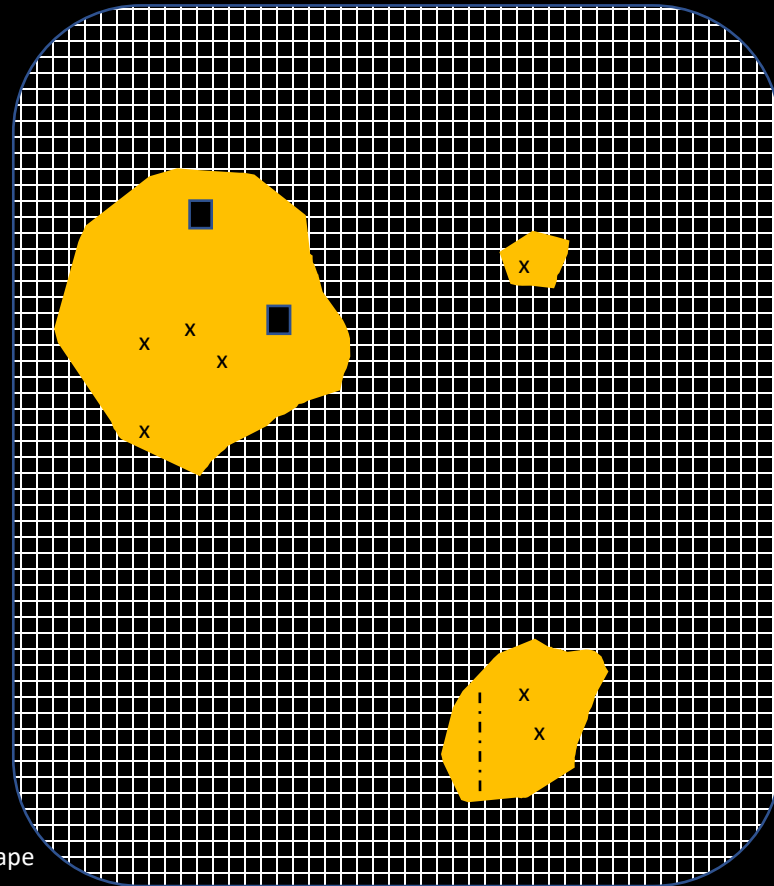






1,100 km

300 m minimum mapping unit

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Estimate tiger probability



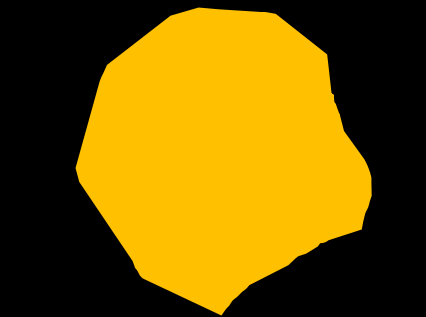
-  Proto-landscape
-  Sign survey
-  CT survey
-  Ad hoc observation

State/province

- Find observations within the last 5 years
- Estimate unconditional probability of tiger presence in a patch based on patch size, percentage protection, positive observations, and survey effort per state/province
- Estimate conditional probability given those factors and observational data within last five years
- Estimate survey effort as $1 - \text{difference of the conditional / unconditional probability}$

Method: Modified from Nichols et al (2008)

Landscape classification



Segmented potential landscapes

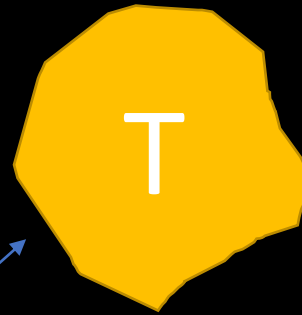
Within indigenous range = 1
Within extirpated mask = 0
Conditional prob. of tigers (P_{tig})
Survey effort for tigers (S_{tig})
Area (km²)
State/province

Have tigers been observed?

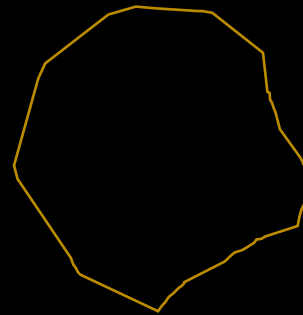
$P_{\text{tig}} >$ Tiger Presence Threshold

95%...
If all ad hoc,
also least 3
observations

Yes



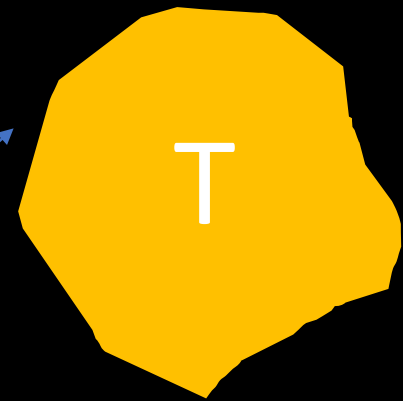
No



Is it big enough?

Area $>$ Core patch size for ecoregion

Yes



TCL

No



Fragment with tigers

Has it been surveyed?

$S_{\text{tig}} >$ Sufficient Survey Threshold

Extirpated area = 1

Yes



Restoration Landscape

No



Survey Landscape

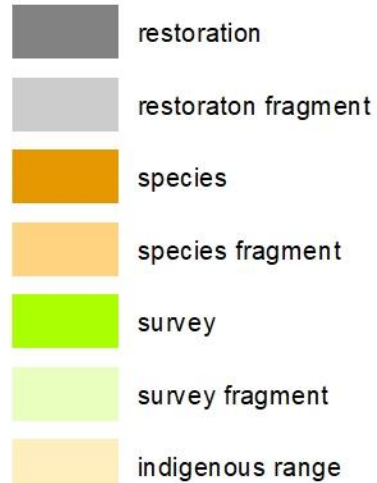
Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Species conservation landscapes
2020-01-01

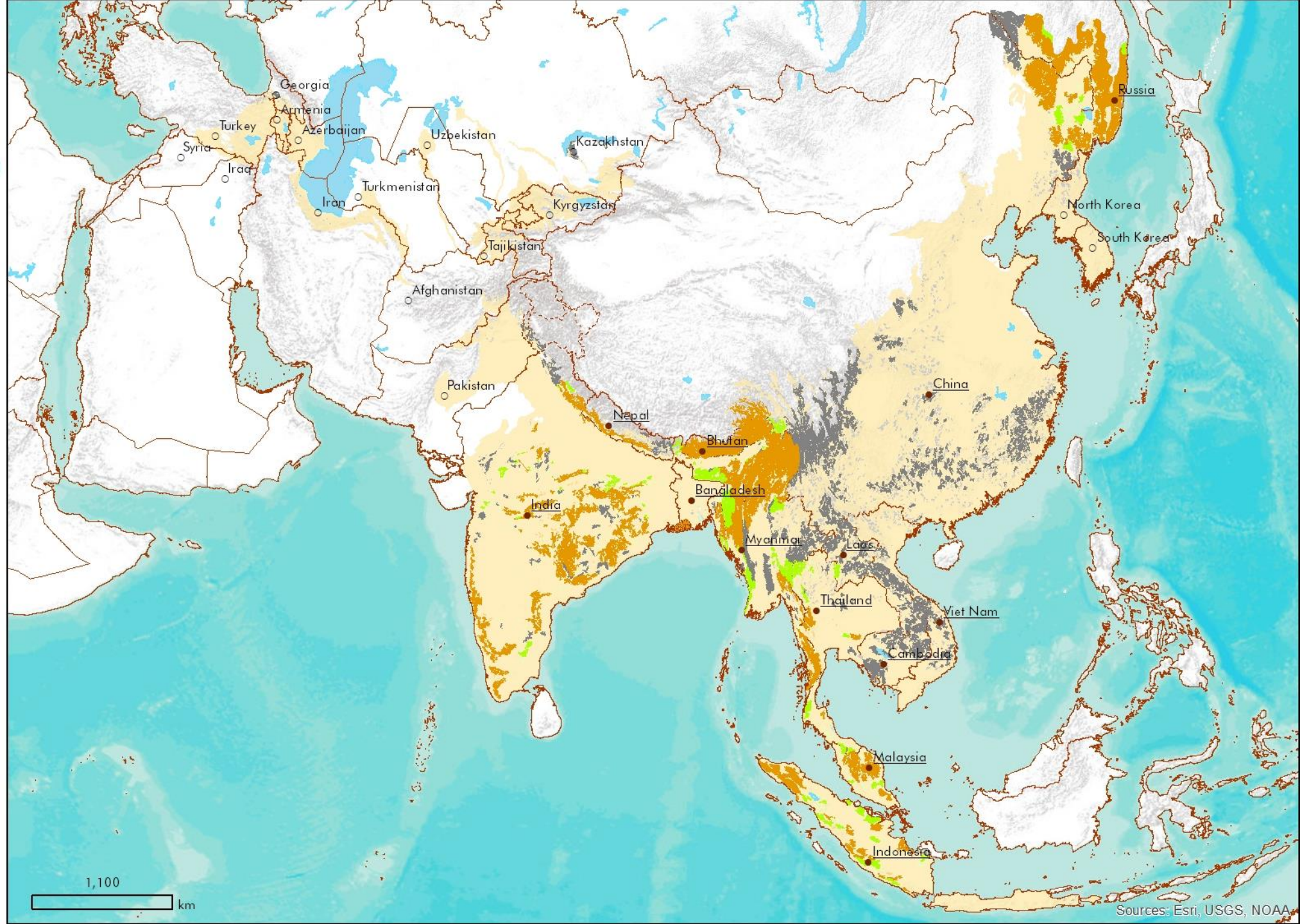
● Tiger range countries

○ Former tiger range countries

Landscapes 2020-01-01



Tiger range information based on data shared by government agencies for purposes of the TCL 3.0 analysis or in the public domain. Political boundaries are shown for reference and do not imply endorsement by the US government, NASA, WCS or any project participants.



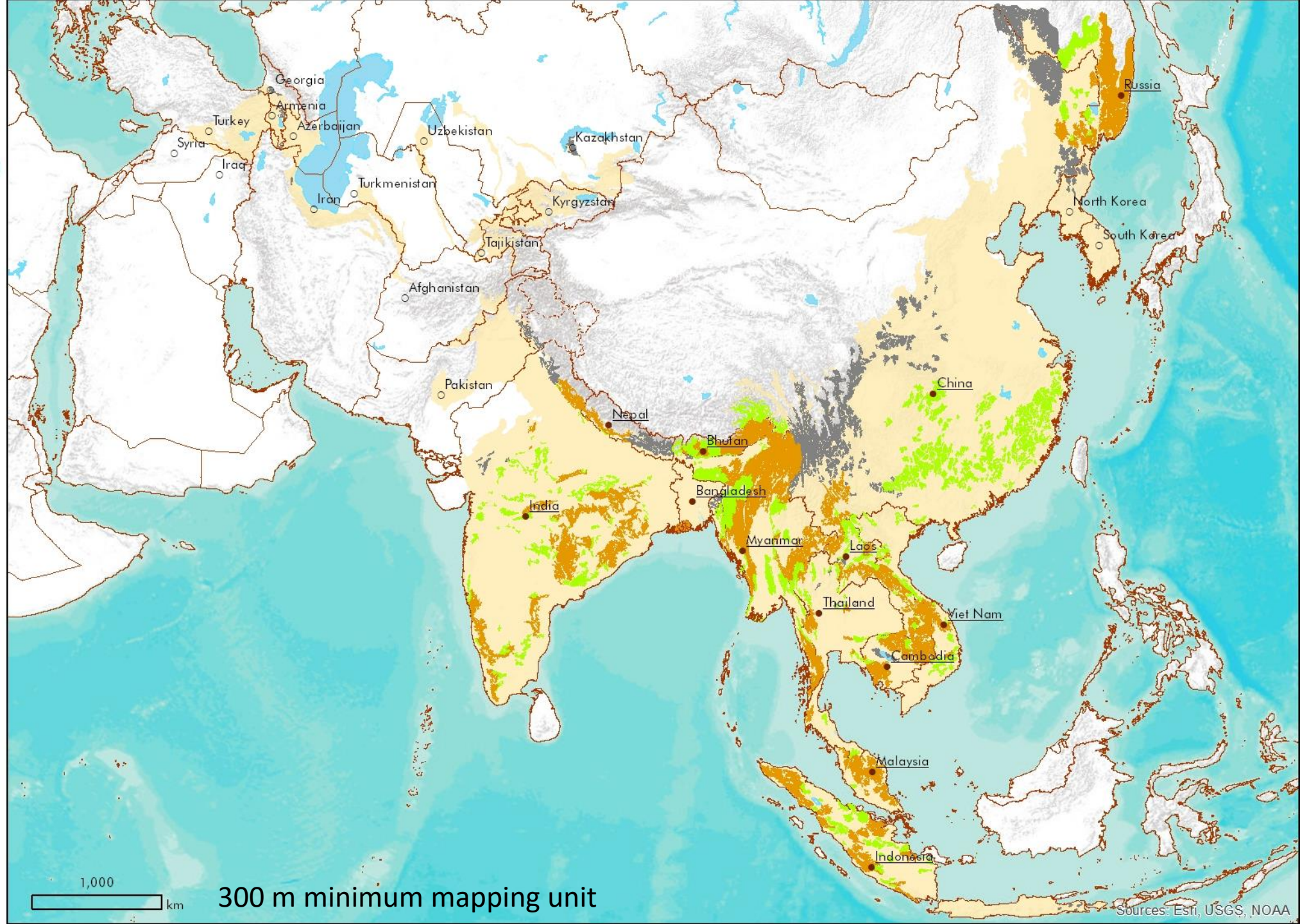
Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Species conservation landscapes
2001-01-01

- Tiger range countries
- Former tiger range countries

Landscapes 2001-01-01

- restoration
- restoration fragment
- species
- species fragment
- survey
- survey fragment
- indigenous range

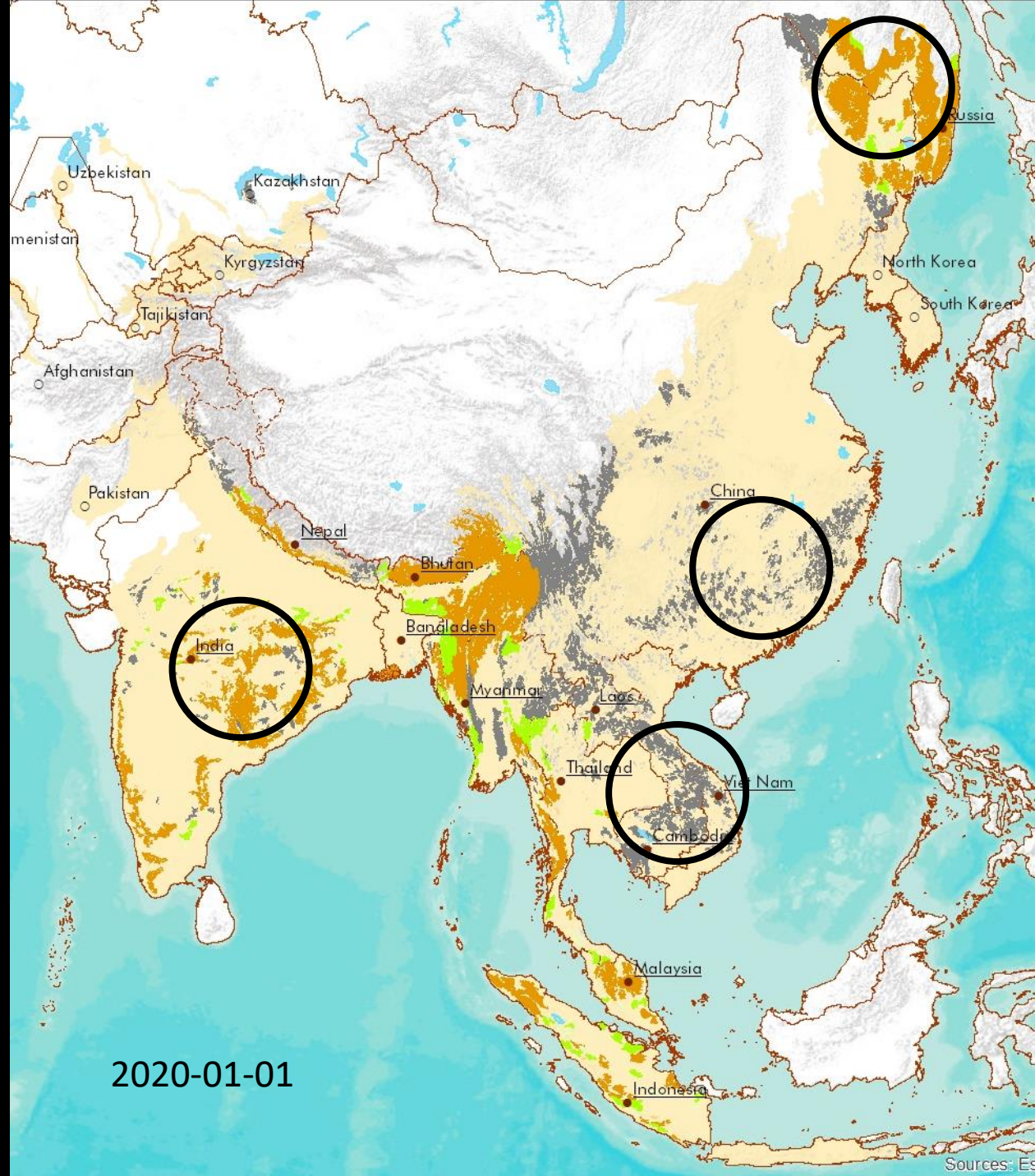
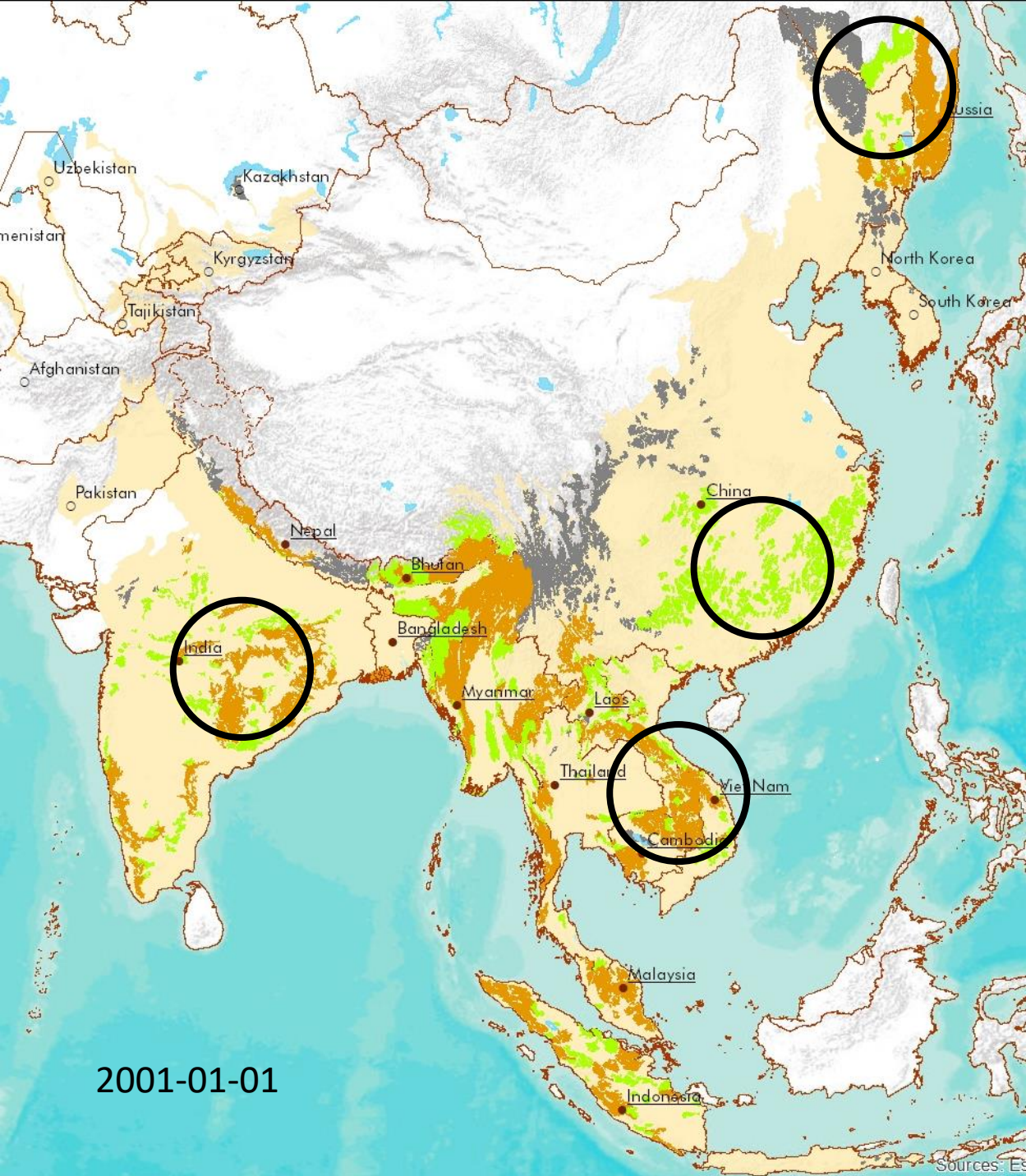


1,000 km

300 m minimum mapping unit

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

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Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Tiger Landscapes, 2001 - 2020

----- Surveyed area

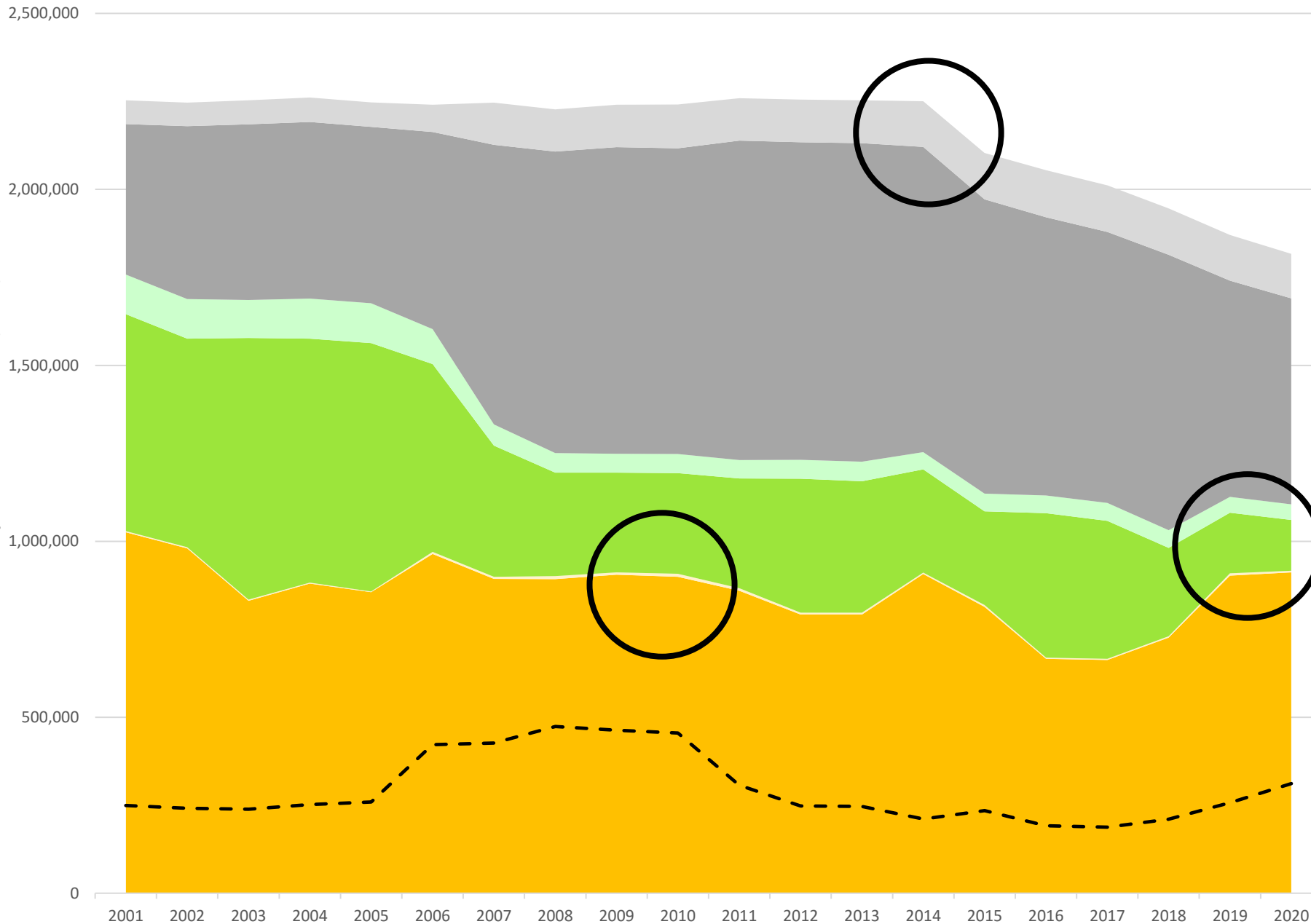
• Tiger range countries

○ Former tiger range countries

Landscapes 2001-01-01

- restoration
- restoration fragment
- species
- species fragment
- survey
- survey fragment
- indigenous range

Effective potential habitat (km²)



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Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

--- Surveyed area

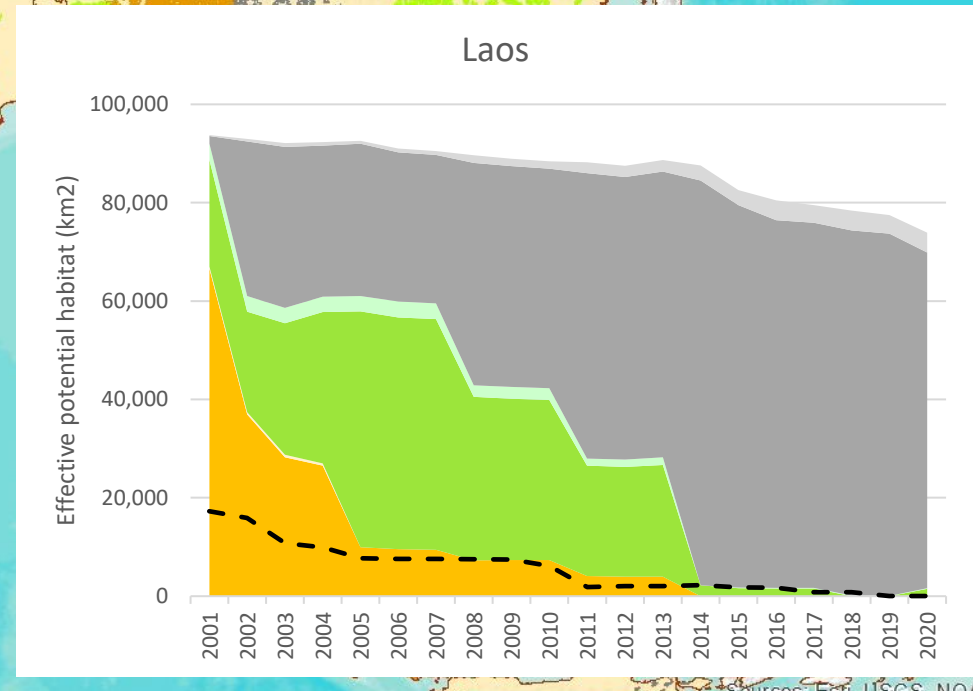
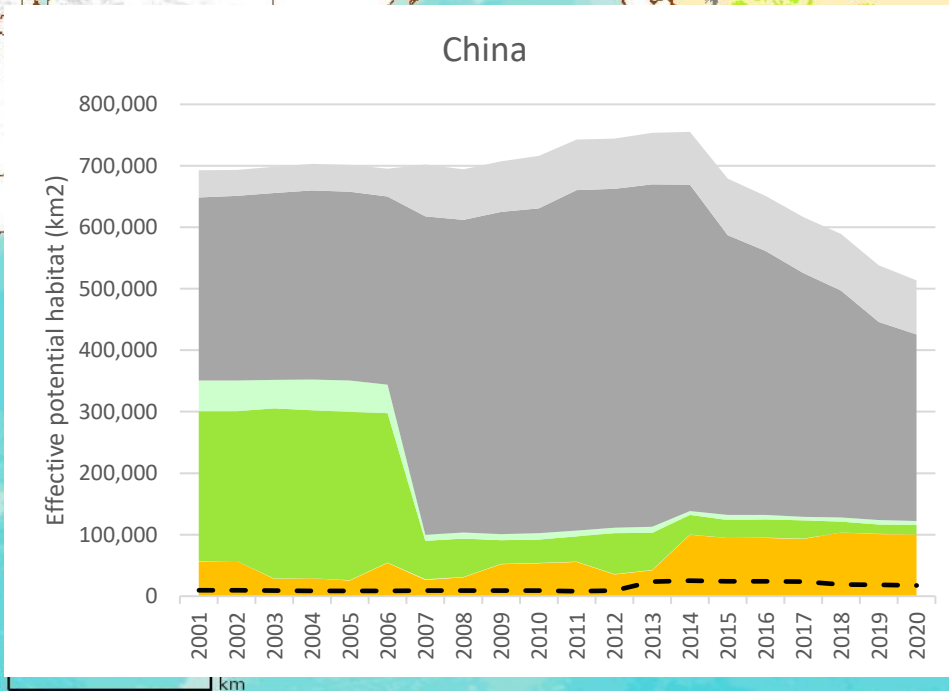
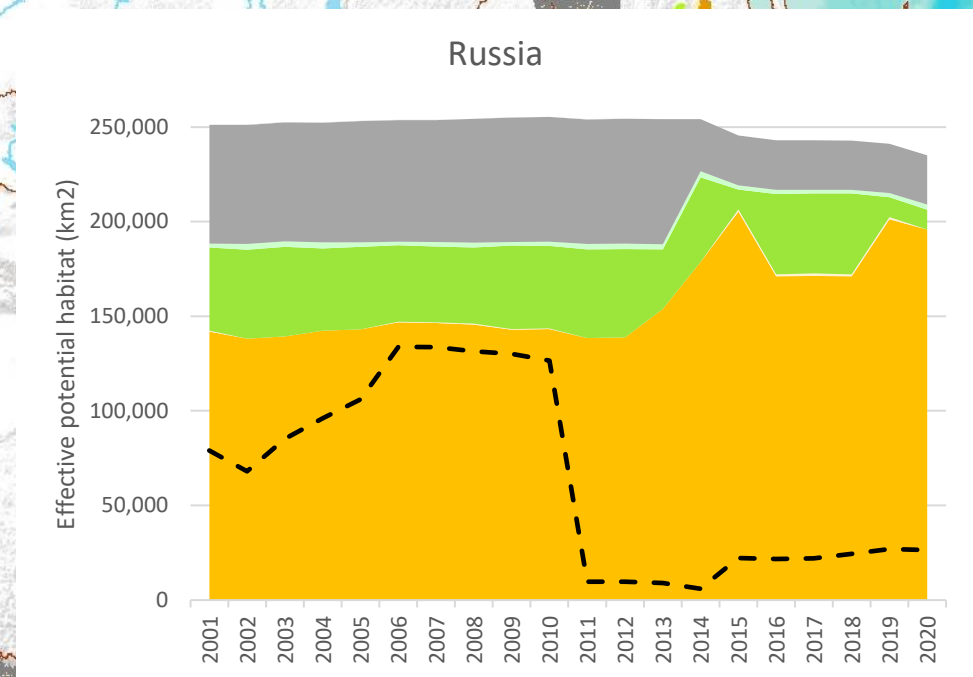
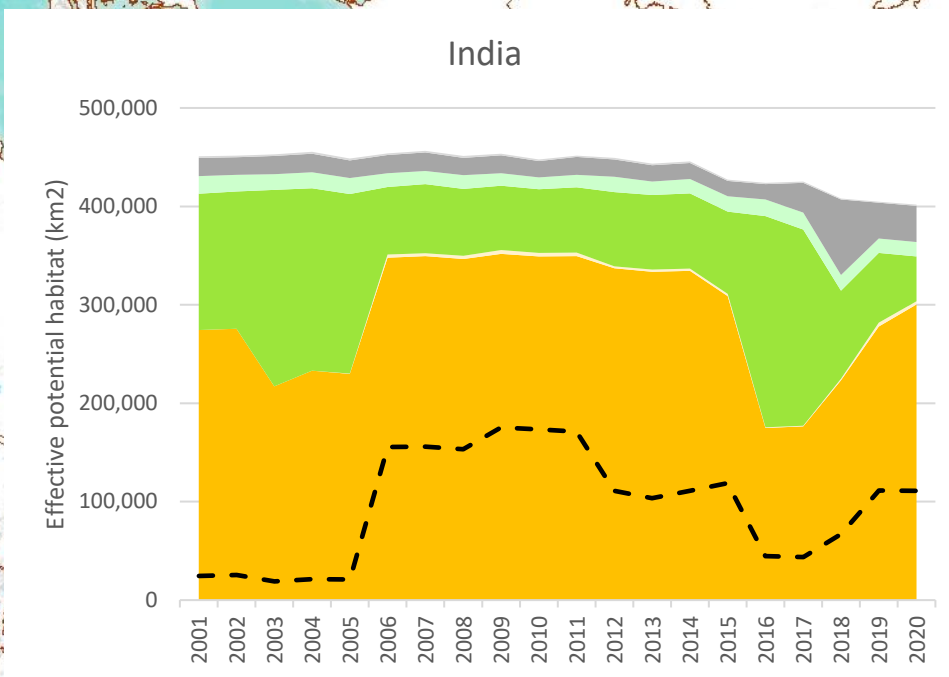
● Tiger range countries

○ Former tiger range countries

Landscapes 2001-01-01



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D16 Mulayit Tuang

1	Table:	Landscapes													
2	Species:	Panthera tigris													
3	Geography:	Indigenous range													
4	Report date:	2022-08-14													
5	Metric:	Various (see "Definitions" below table)													
6															
7	Analysis date	Lsid	Landscape type	Name	Structural hab	Effective potent	Known occupied habi	% KBA	% Protected						
8	2020-01-01	1	species	Kaziranga	152	93	92	100.00%	100.00%						
9	2020-01-01	2	species	Northern Triangle	1,665,440	1,474,255	404,995	33.03%	22.91%						
10	2020-01-01	3	species	Leuser Landscape	31,705	27,702	5,801	33.36%	32.14%						
11	2020-01-01	4	species	Northern Kayin*	14,764	10,714	7,458	0.30%	0.57%						
12	2020-01-01	5	species	Trumon - Singkil	886	684	273	98.20%	92.96%						
13	2020-01-01	6	species	Dawna Range	1,606	932	562	91.47%	0.00%						
14	2020-01-01	7	species	Southern Tenasserims*	48,730	42,046	31,768	74.71%	23.71%						
15	2020-01-01	8	species	Thung Yai - Naresuan - Khao Laem - Kyain Seikgyi	4,932	3,414	2,832	79.90%	79.90%						
16	2020-01-01	9	species	Mulayit Tuang	2,106	1,446	1,086	0.00%	15.24%						
17	2020-01-01	10	species	Western Forest Complex*	13,372	10,858	8,328	93.86%	96.05%						
18	2020-01-01	11	species	Barumon	1,297	1,004	147	0.00%	28.67%						
19	2020-01-01	12	species	Khao Luang	1,235	889	403	46.42%	84.79%						
20	2020-01-01	13	species	Kerinci Seblat	9,934	7,989	632	64.30%	69.69%						
21	2020-01-01	14	species	Bukit Rimbang Baling	2,775	2,078	1,382	39.33%	58.60%						
22	2020-01-01	15	species	Batang Hari	2,196	1,447	67	0.00%	8.04%						
23	2020-01-01	16	species	Taman Negara - Belum - Hala-Bala*	72,778	62,738	54,574	42.46%	35.12%						
24	2020-01-01	17	species	Thap Lan - Pang Sida	2,788	2,239	2,000	85.61%	97.07%						
25	2020-01-01	18	species	Bukit Balai Rejang Seatan	966	816	40	0.86%	0.00%						
26	2020-01-01	19	species	Kerumutan	4,219	3,718	341	25.73%	24.93%						
27	2020-01-01	20	species	Endau Rompin	3,908	3,352	3,235	29.29%	61.52%						
28	2020-01-01	21	species	Bukit Balai Rejang Selatan	1,871	1,335	33	0.00%	0.00%						
29	2020-01-01	22	species	Bukit Barisan Selatan	906	671	418	81.99%	96.50%						
30	2020-01-01	23	species	Berbak - Sembilang	4,384	3,874	509	44.25%	63.06%						

TCL 3.0

**Tiger Conservation
Landscapes
analysis 3.0**

2000 – 2020

Trends in habitat
Population delineation

IUCN RED LIST

Ecological representation
Historical range
Populations within subunits

**IUCN GREEN
STATUS**



Shared Vision for Tiger Conservation

POSSIBLE APPROACHES FOR ENHANCING THE GLOBAL TIGER INITIATIVE IN 2022 - AN NGO COALITION VIEW

The Global Tiger Initiative (GTI), and its 13-country Global Tiger Recovery Program (2010-2022) have begun to reverse a centuries-long decline in wild tigers.

A 2nd Global Tiger Summit - which will define the next 12 years of global tiger conservation - will take place in Vladivostok in September 2022.

The tiger range country (TRC) representatives will be negotiating a new 12-year plan, and will be looking for improvements and innovations.



NEW TOP LEVEL GTI GOALS

The original TX2 goal (doubling wild tiger numbers between 2010-2022) was successful in rallying a wide variety of stakeholders. TRCs should consider introducing a new top-level goal (or goals) that might have a similar impact.

AN AREA BASED GOAL FOR TIGER RECOVERY:

- For example: expand the total range occupied by tigers by 50% over 2022 levels.
- Restore habitat.
- Adopt plans for tiger dispersal and/or reintroduction.

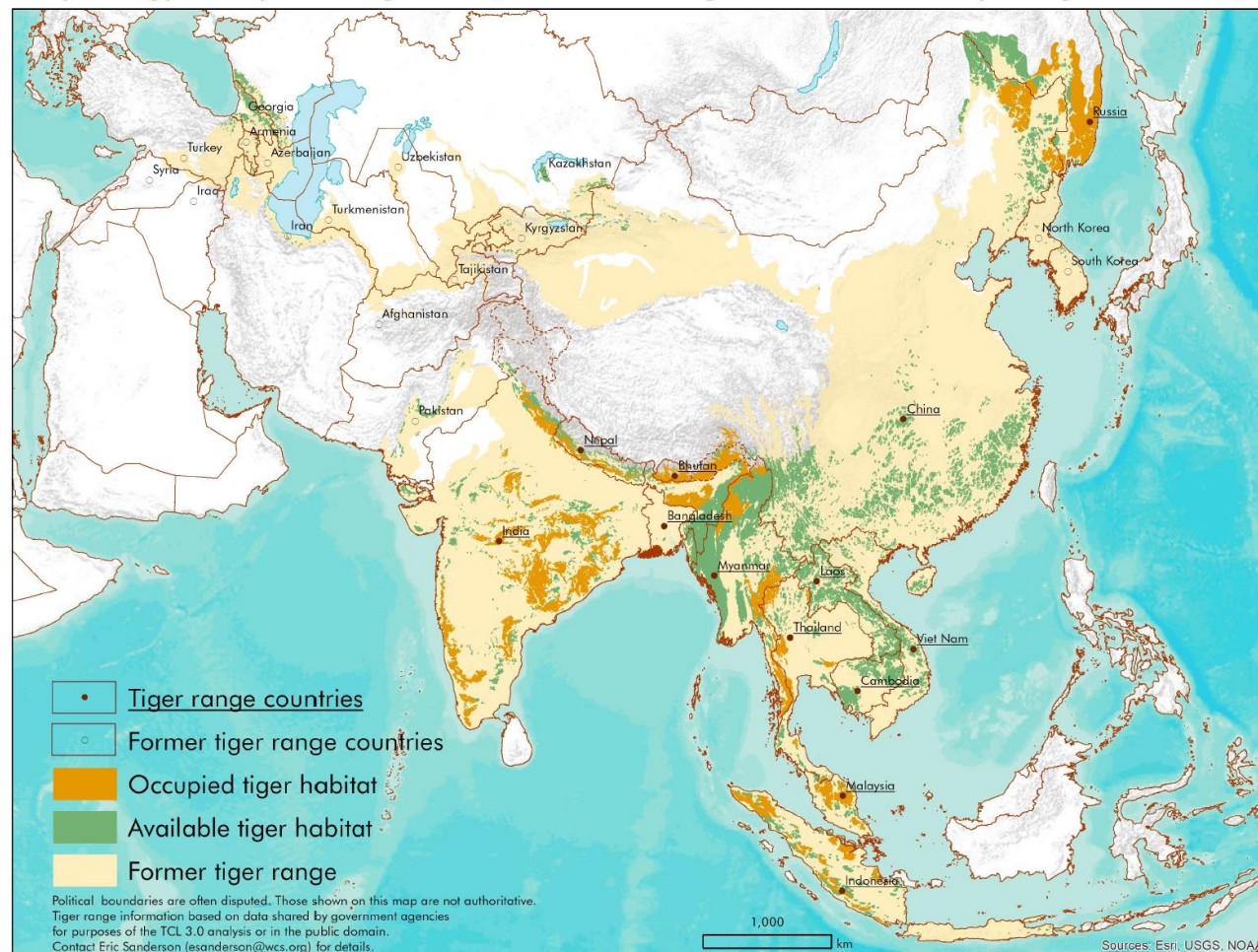
OTHER POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR NEW TOP-LEVEL GOALS:

- Prevent all losses in existing tiger populations between 2022 and 2034.
- Increase the proportion of tiger populations at carrying capacity.
- Maintain tigers across all major ecological settings in their indigenous range.

Six major tiger conservation NGOs have come together to suggest some options for the next phase of the GTI.



Map showing potentially available tiger habitat (such assessments might inform an area-based expansion goal under the GTI)



TCL 3 will measure progress over next 12 years

Tiger Conservation Landscapes v.3.0

Publications

Coalition for Securing a Viable Future for the Tiger. 2021. Securing a viable future for the tiger. FFI, IUCN, Panthera, TRAFFIC, WCS, WWF.

Coalition for Securing a Viable Future for the Tiger. 2022. For the Year of the Tiger, a shared vision for the future of the iconic cat. Mongabay.com.

Coalition for Securing a Viable Future for the Tiger. 2022. For World Tiger Day, bold new commitments are needed to expand tiger range. Mongabay.com

Goodrich et al. 2022. Red List Assessment for the Tiger (*Panthera tigris*). IUCN Red List Authority.

Miquelle and Sanderson. 2022. Identifying, protecting and restoring Tiger Conservation Landscapes. Briefing report prepared for the Global Tiger Forum.

Potapov P et al. 2021. Mapping global forest canopy height through integration of GEDI and Landsat data. Remote Sensing of Environment **253**:112165.

Sanderson EW, Moy J, Rose C, Fisher K, Jones B, Balk D, Clyne P, Miquelle D, Walston J. 2019. Implications of the shared socioeconomic pathways for tiger (*Panthera tigris*) conservation. Biological Conservation 231:13–23.

Sanderson et al. (between journals) The march of the human footprint.

Sanderson et al. (in prep.) The indigenous range of the tiger (*Panthera tigris*).

Sanderson et al. (in prep.) Stabilization of and future prospects for tiger (*Panthera tigris*) habitat in Asia.

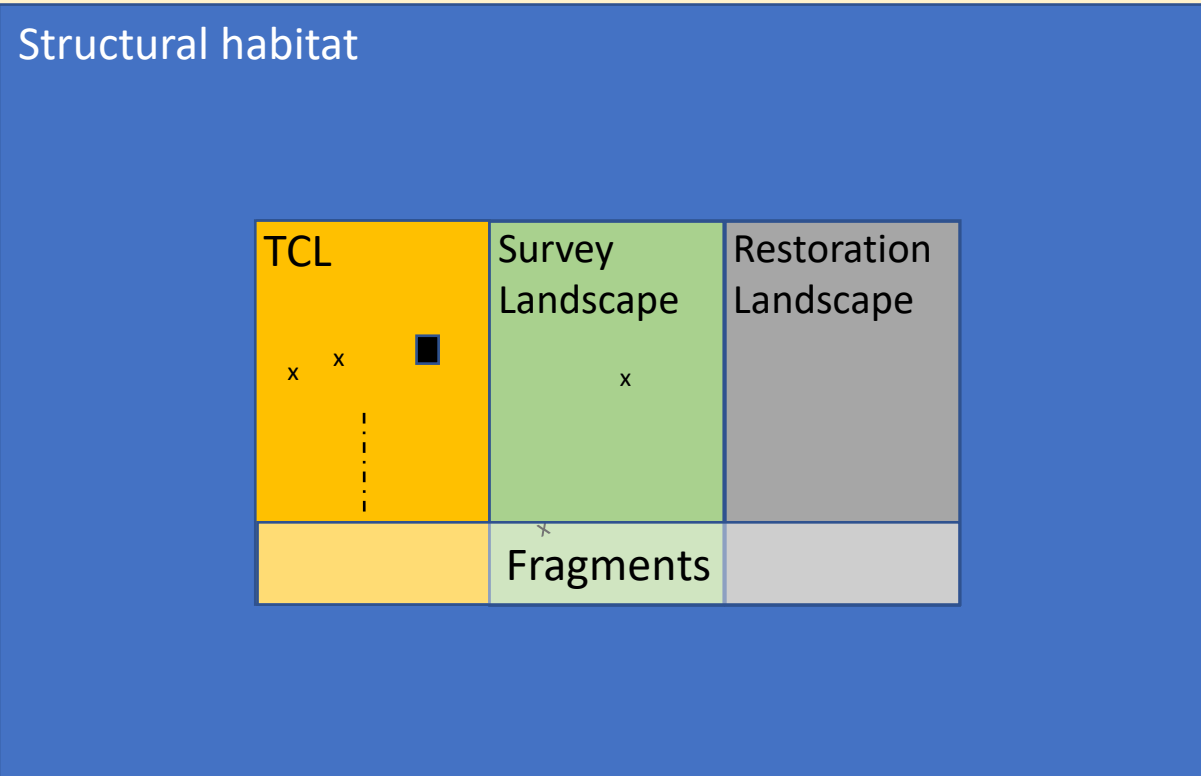


Act Green

A near-real time integrated mapping and reporting system for re-wilding efforts: extending a model from tigers (*Panthera tigris*) to lions (*Panthera leo*), jaguars (*Panthera onca*), and American bison (*Bison bison*)

Analytical steps

Indigenous range



Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Indigenous range
600 BCE – 1995 CE

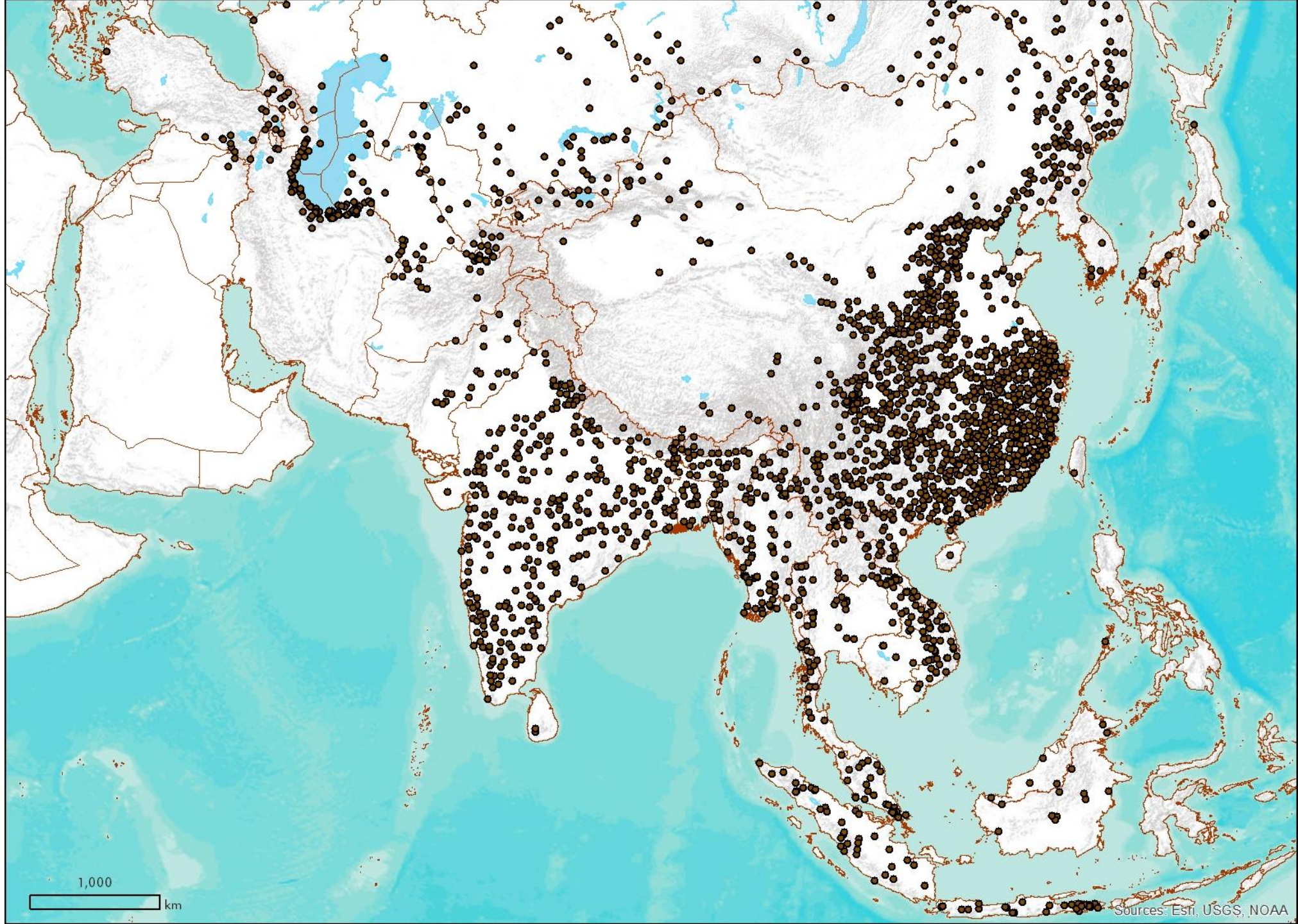
• Historic observations

Modern countries



--- Disputed

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Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

Indigenous range

• Historic observations

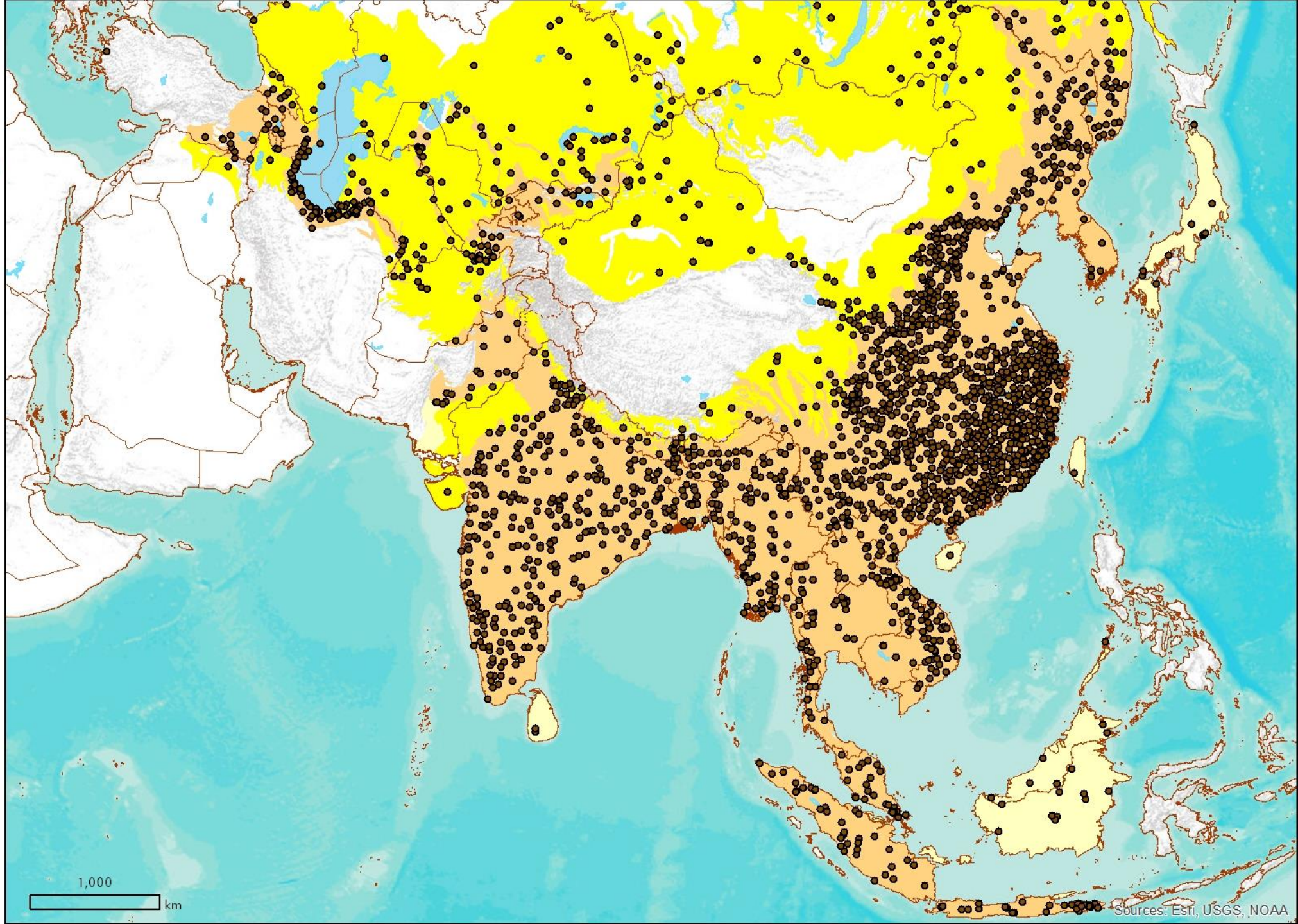
indigenous range

- resident - likely
- resident - possible
- exploratory

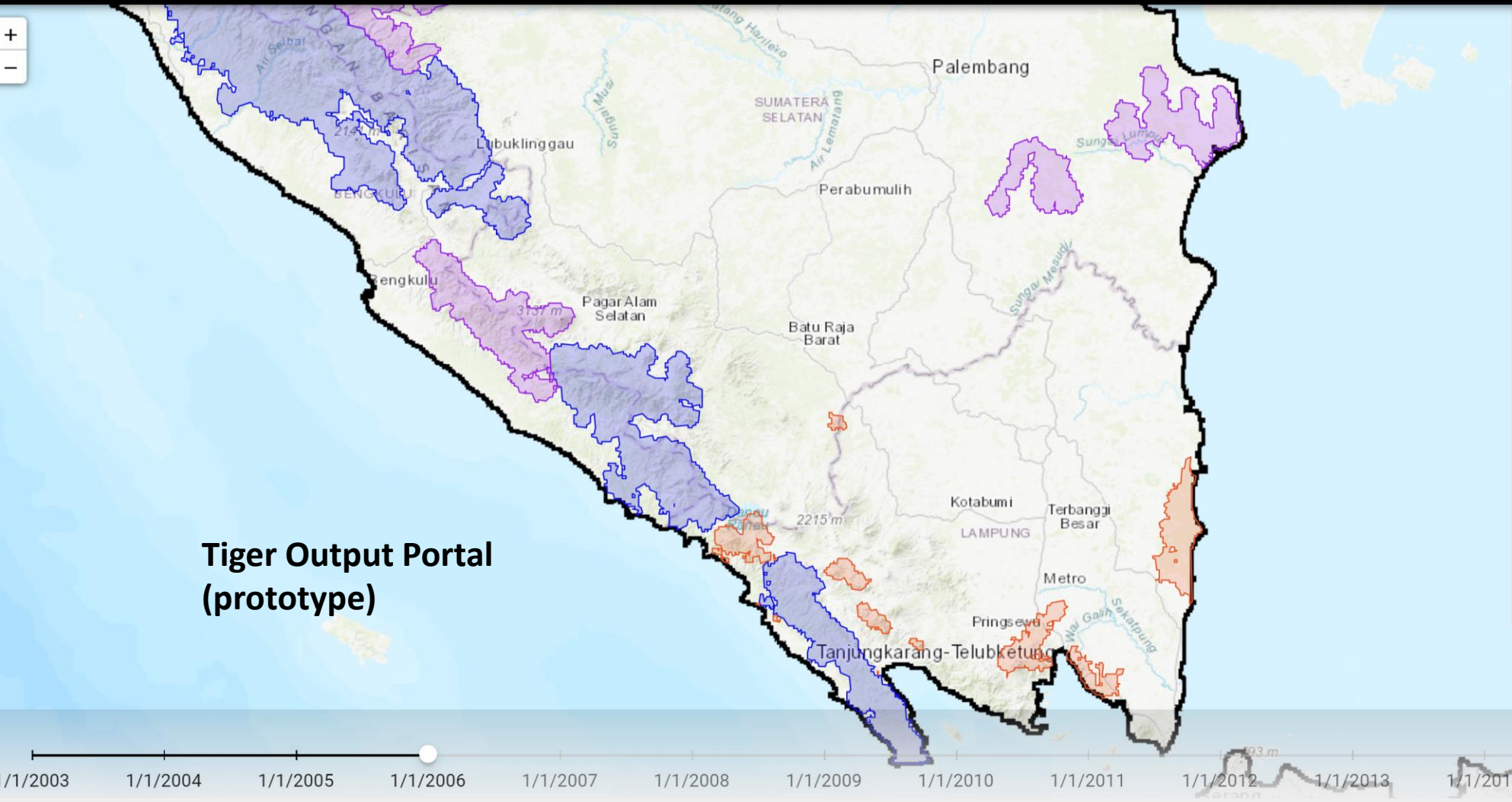
Modern countries

- Disputed

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Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0



Tiger Output Portal (prototype)

- Tiger Conservation Landscape
- Tiger Restoration Landscape
- Tiger Survey Landscape
- Tiger Fragment Landscape
- Tiger Historical Landscape

- Protected Area
- > Biome
- > Human Influence Index
- None

Country
Indonesia

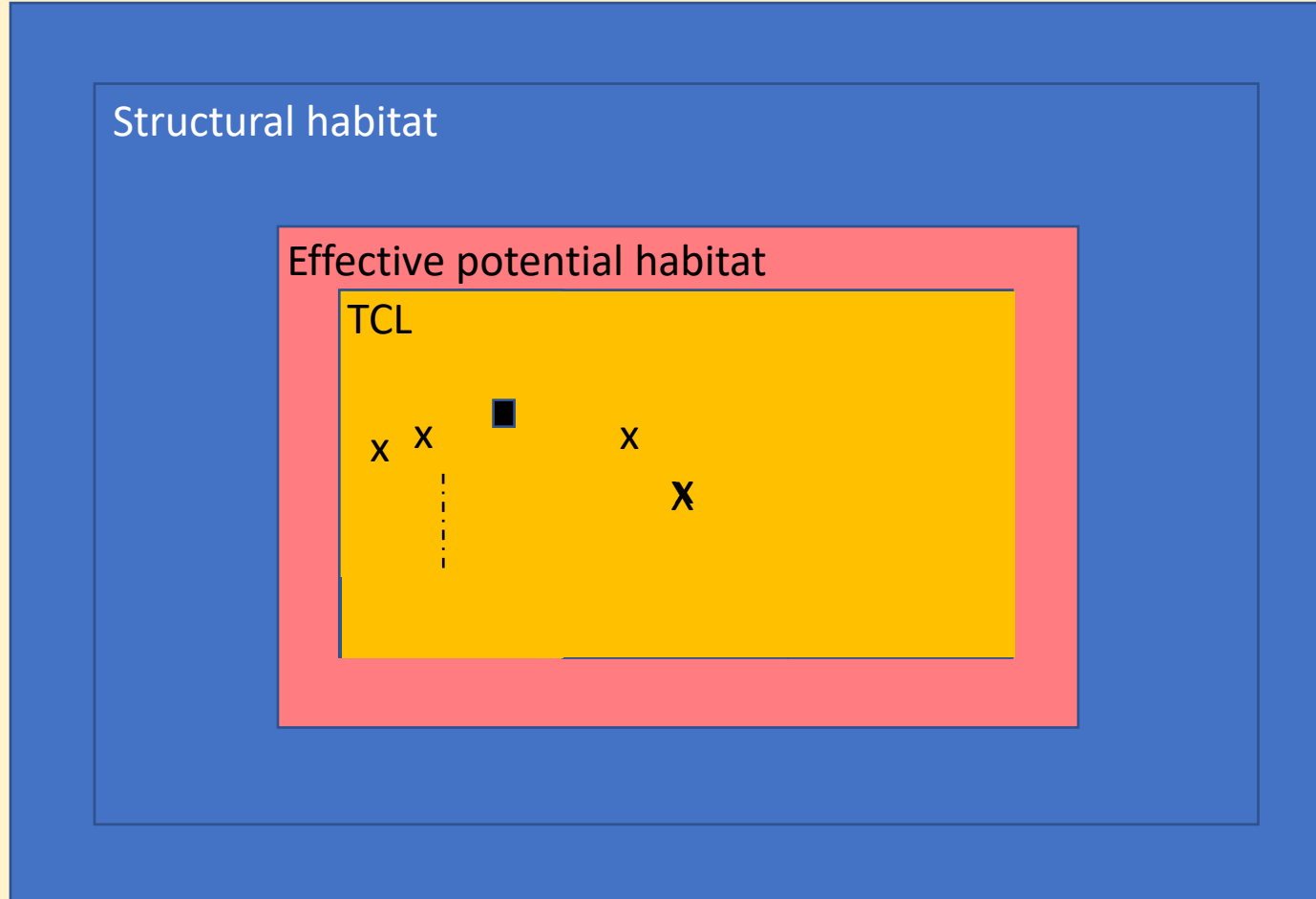
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Interpretation

- Increase connectivity
- Survey areas
- Restore populations
- Increase social tolerance
- Restore forest

Indigenous range

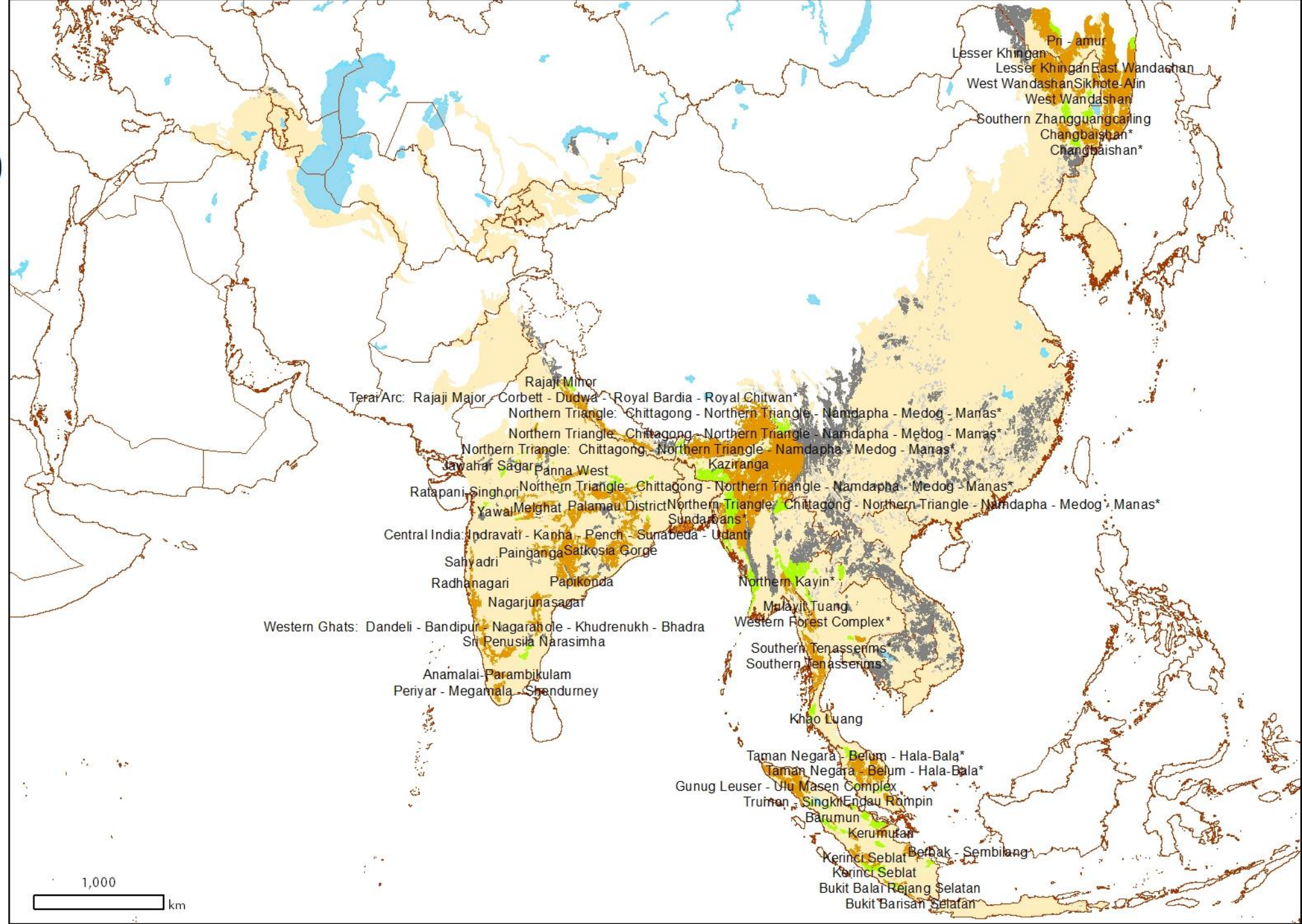


Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0

2020-01-01

Landscapes 2020-01-01

- restoration
- restoraton fragment
- species
- species fragment
- survey
- survey fragment
- indigenous range



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