

HELMHOLTZ ZENTRUM DRESDEN ROSSENDORF







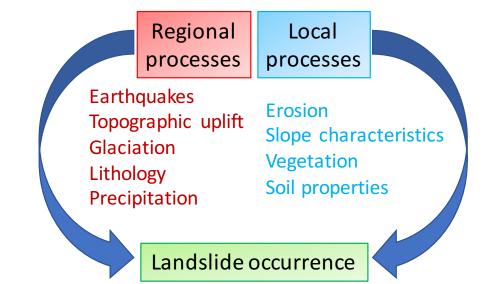
Regional landslide susceptibility assessment in SW Tien Shan using Random forest and DEM derivatives

Natalie Barbosa, Louis Andreani, Richard Gloaguen.

www.hzdr.de/hif











Khait Earthquake (M 7.4), 1949

#### LANDSLIDE SUSCEPTIBILITY

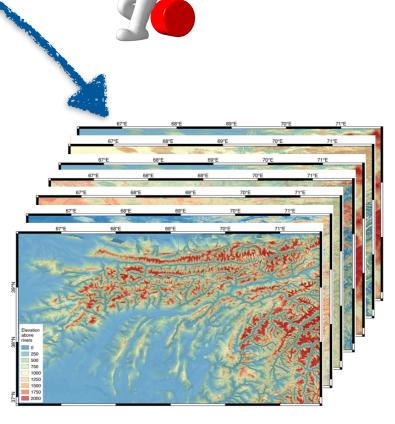
Landslides

Thematic

variables

Likelihood of occurrence of a slope failure in an area given certain local conditions (Brabb, 1985).

#### Landslide susceptibility model





#### LANDSLIDE SUSCEPTIBILITY MODELS

Landslide susceptibility predicts "where" landslides are likely to occur (Guzzetti et al., 2006). It does not consider "when", "how frequently" and nor the magnitude of the expected landslide.

Geomorphological mapping. Field map

Heuristic approaches

Combination of thematic variables based on an expert ranking of importance

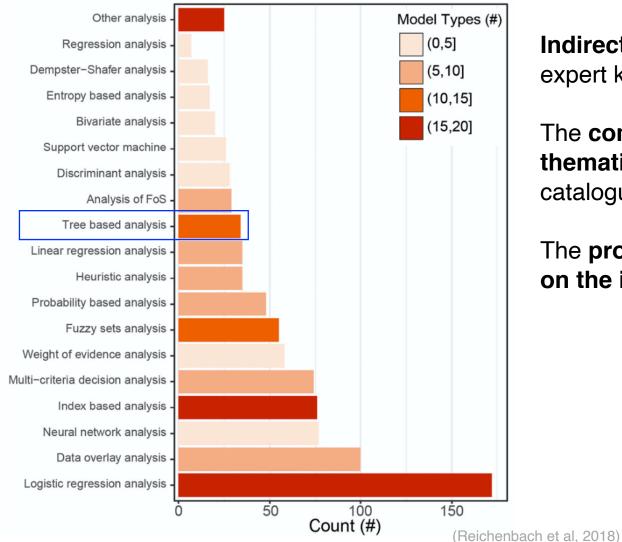
Qualitative or semiquantitative approaches

Deterministic approach —

Combination of thematic variables using decision support tools (eg. Multi-criteria decision (MCDA))

Combination of thematic variables based on mathematical modelling (eg. Statistical models, physical based models)

#### **STATISTICALLY BASED MODELS**



**Indirect methods.** Partially based field on observations, expert knowledge and statistical computation

The computations determine the importance of the thematic variables based on relationship with the landslide catalogue

The **probability** of occurrence of a landslide **is given based on the identified relationships** 

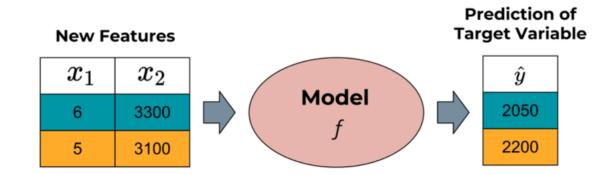


#### **RANDOM FOREST**

Machine learning is a branch of statistics and computer science.

A computer program is said to learn from **experience E** with respect to some **task T** and some **performance measure P**, if performance on T, as measured by P, improve with experience E.

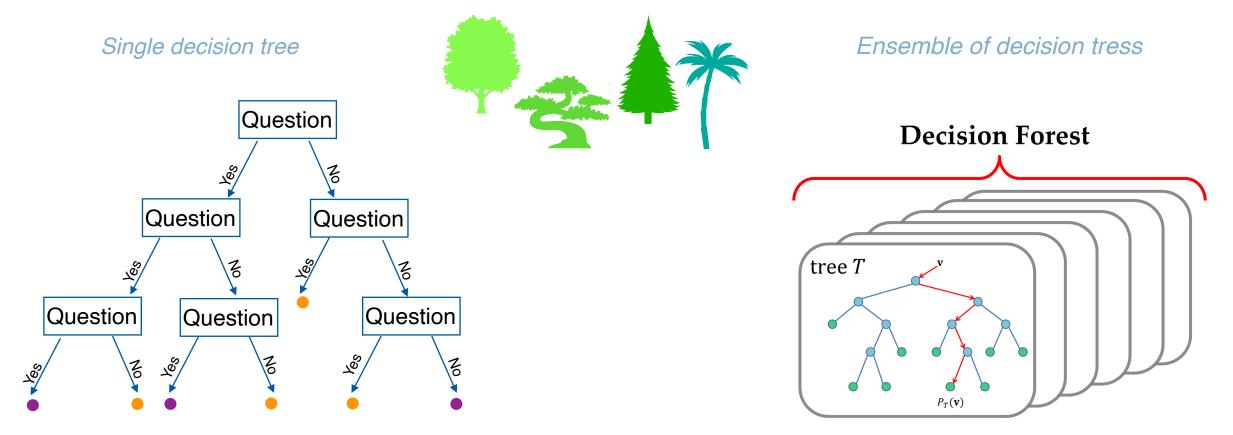
A machine learning model is a function that maps thematic variables into predictions based on **pattern recognition**.



HIDA, Machine learning summer school 2020

#### **RANDOM FOREST**

Algorithm based on multiple classification trees — Forest— (Breiman, 2001)



https://dimensionless.in/introduction-to-random-forest/

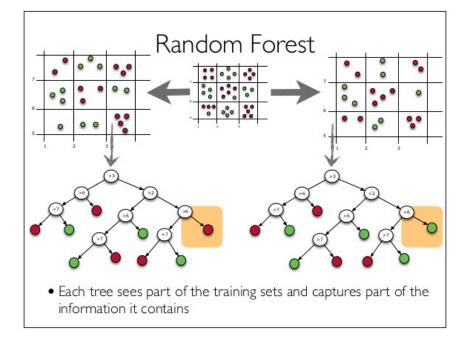


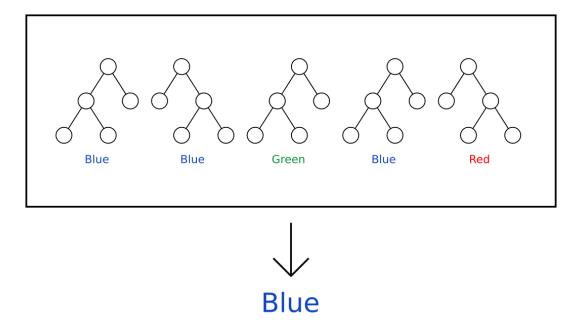
#### **RANDOM FOREST**

The forest is created by selecting different thematic variables and different subset of the dataset to create each tree (boot-strapping)

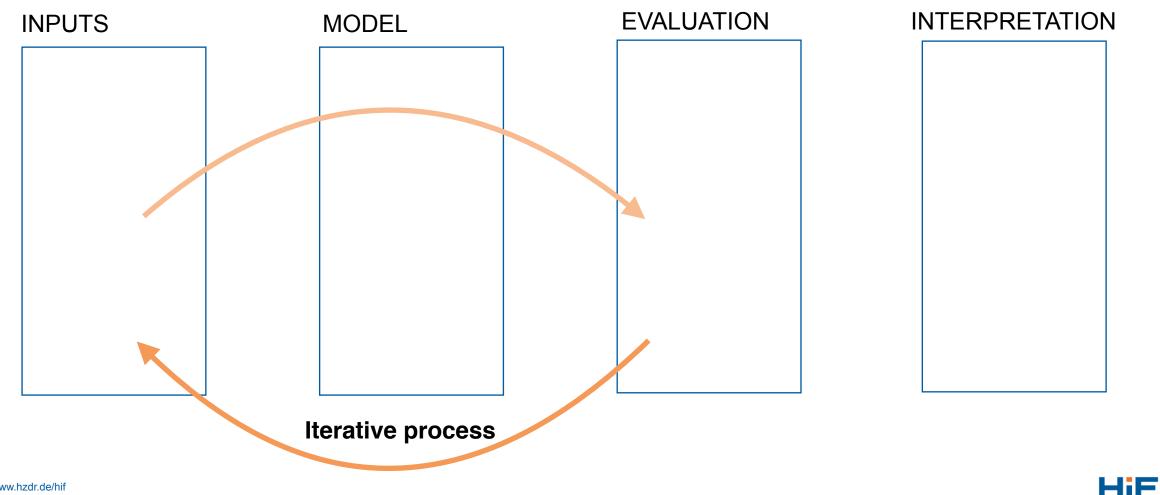
This randomised approach improves the results by creating decorrelated trees

The results or final decision of the forest is the mean or the median of the votes of the forest



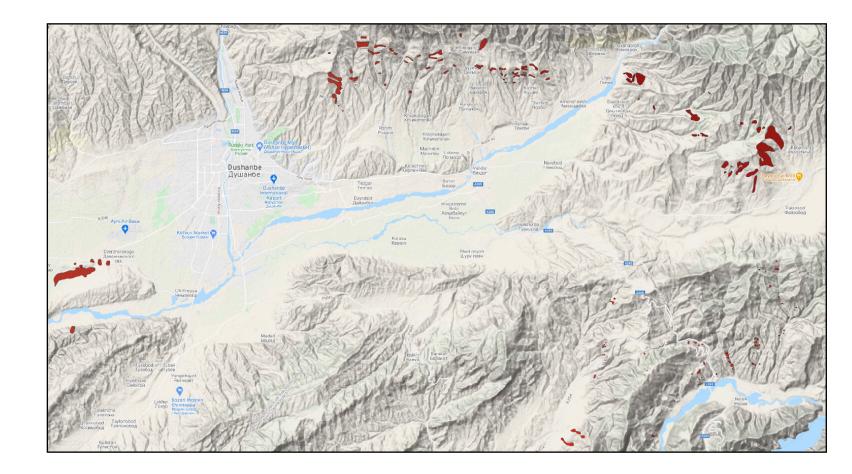




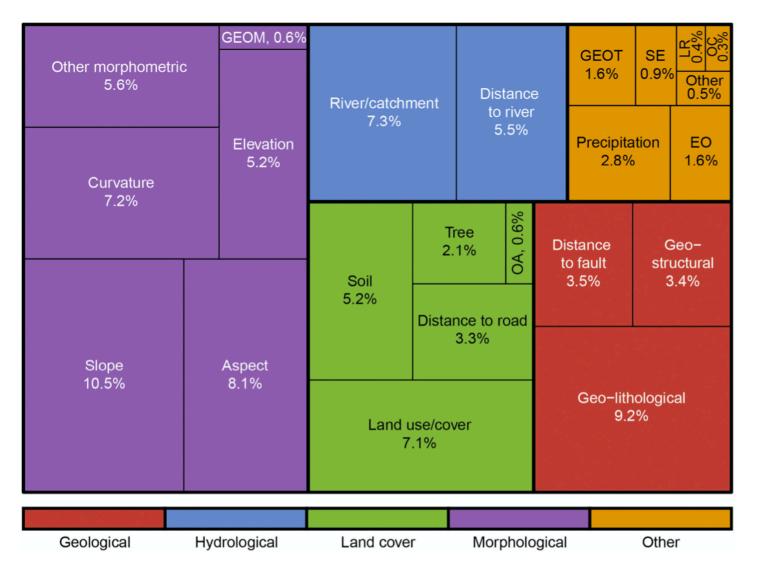


### LANDSLIDE CATALOGUE

Collection of information related to where, when and why landslides occurred (Guzzetti *et al.*, 2012)



### **THEMATIC VARIABLES**

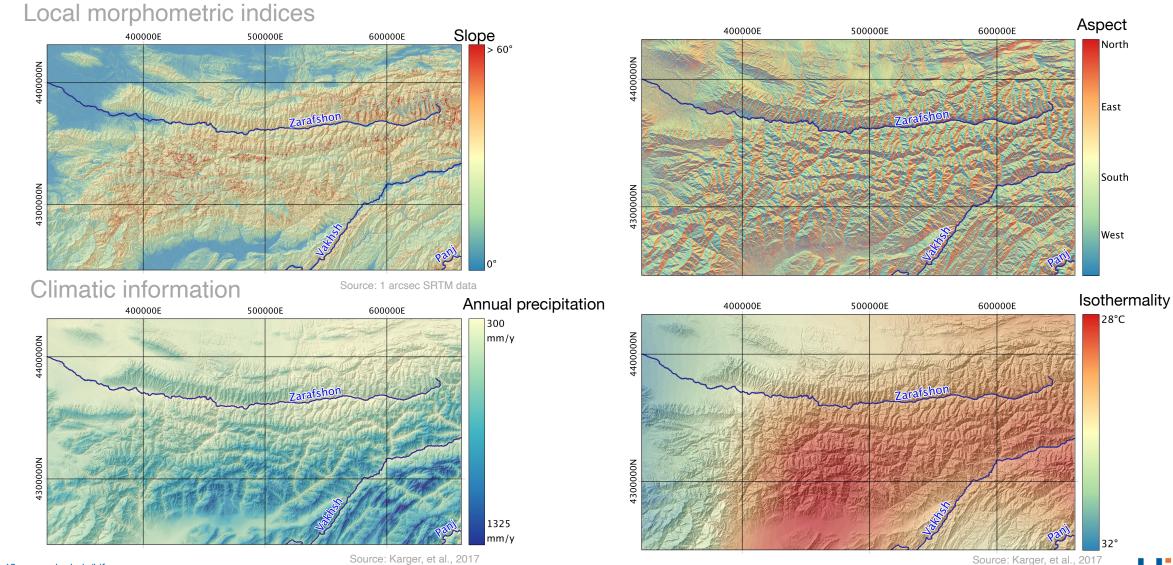


Thematic variables use in landslide susceptibility depends on the area of study and the availability of detailed datasets

Most of the cases landslide susceptibility models highly rely on parameters describing the landscape (morphometric indices)



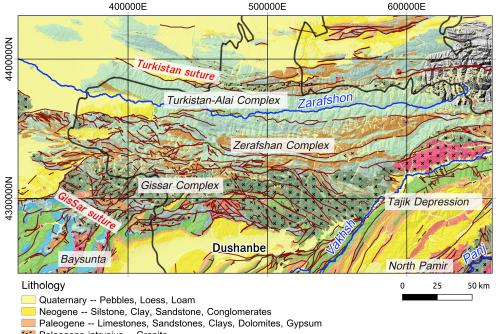
# **INPUTS - THEMATIC VARIABLES**





#### **INPUTS - THEMATIC VARIABLES**

Geological setting

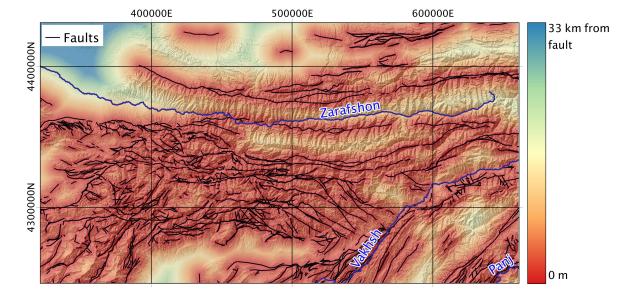


- 🗱 Paleogene intrusive -- Granite
- Cretaceous -- Conglomerates, Sandstones, Dolomites, Clays, Silstones
- Upper-Mid Jurassic -- Conglomerates, Shales, Coal, Porphyritis tuffs, Tuff breccias
- Lower Jurassic -- Limestones, Marl, Mudstones, Clays, Sandstones, Gypsum
- Triassic -- Gravelites, Sandstones, Coals, Breccia, Conglomerates, Allite, Bauxite
- 🚟 Permian -- Monazite
- Permian -- Sandstones, Siltstone, Limestone, Porphyrites, Tuffs
- Carboniferous intrusive -- Granite, Granodiorite
- Carboniferous extrussive -- Basalt/Basic and ultrabasic rocks
- Carboniferous -- Conglomerates, Sandstones, Shales, Gravel, Limestones, Silstones, Dolomites
- Devonian -- Limestones, Dolomites, Sandstones, Shales, Conglomerates, Siliceous rocks
- Silurian -- Dolomites, Limestones, Shales, Sandstones, Slates
- 🚟 Cambrian -- Schist, Marble, Gneiss
- 🗱 Precambrian -- Porphyry leucocratic granites
- Faults

Source : Kufner et al., 2018., Federal State Budgetary Institution A.P. Karpinsky Russian Geological Research



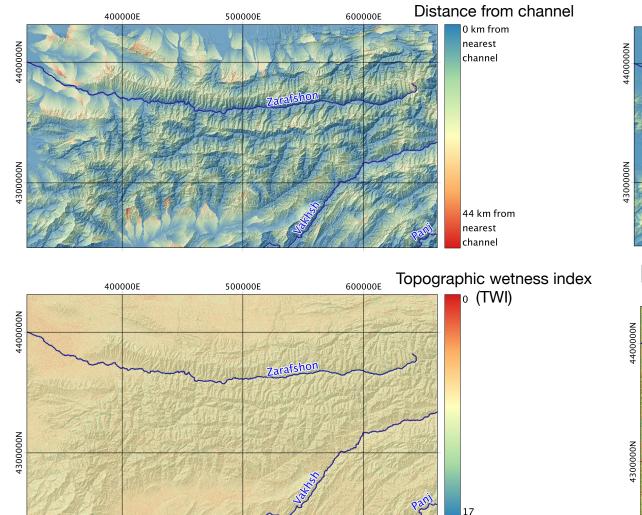
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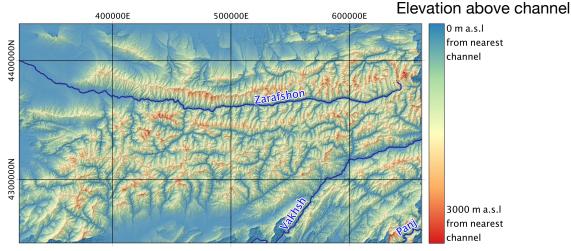


Source: Central Asia Fault Database (CAFD)

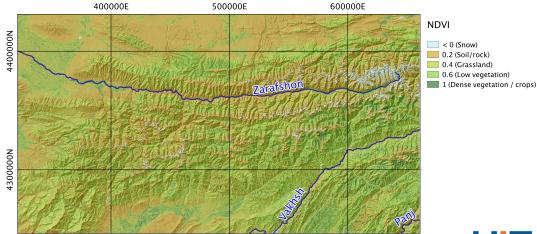
### **INPUTS - THEMATIC VARIABLES**

#### Hydrological parameters extracted from the river network

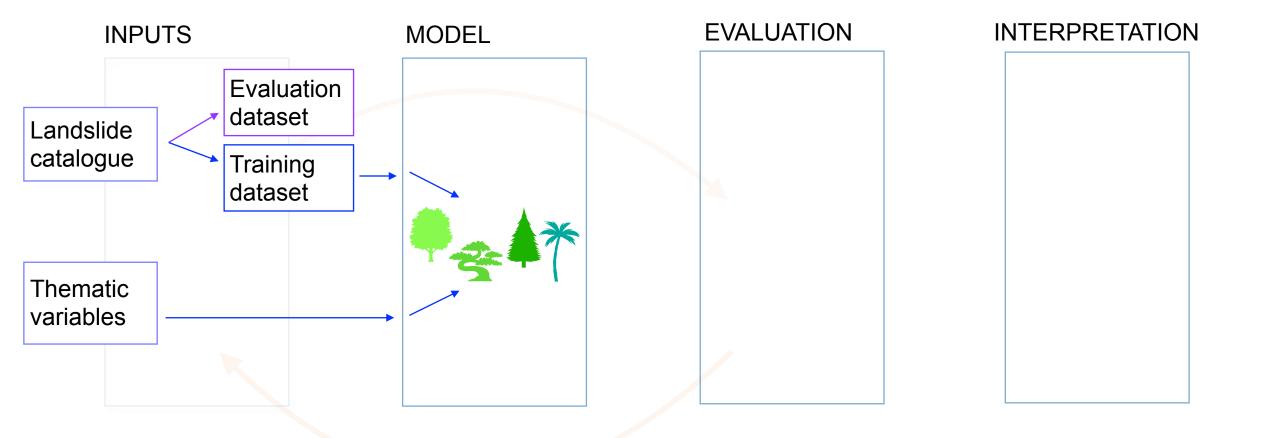


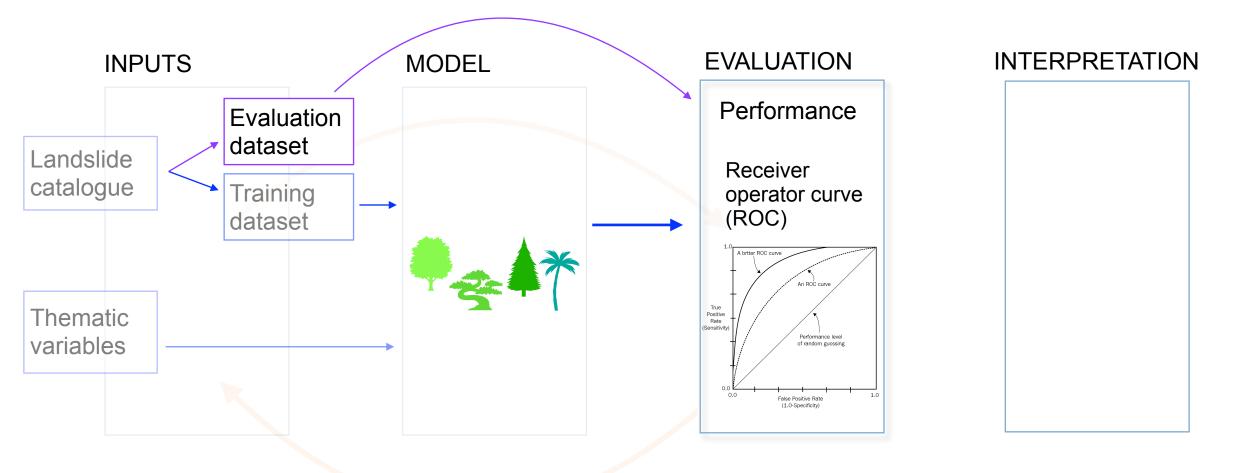


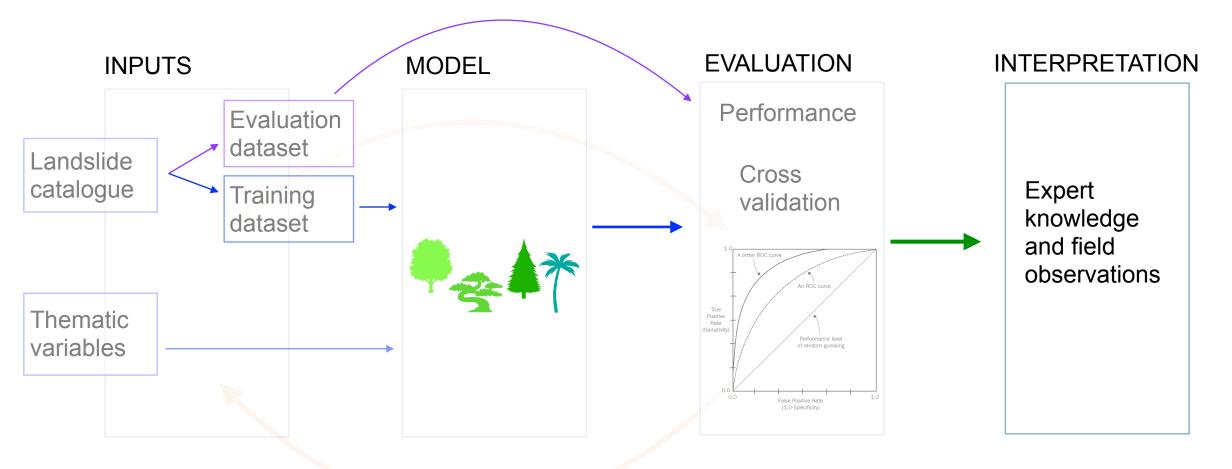










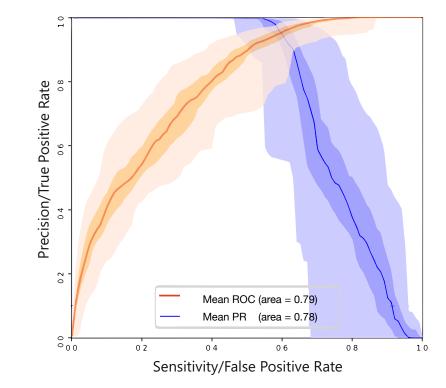


# LANDSLIDE SUSCEPTIBILITY MODEL

Ranking of importance of the thematic variables

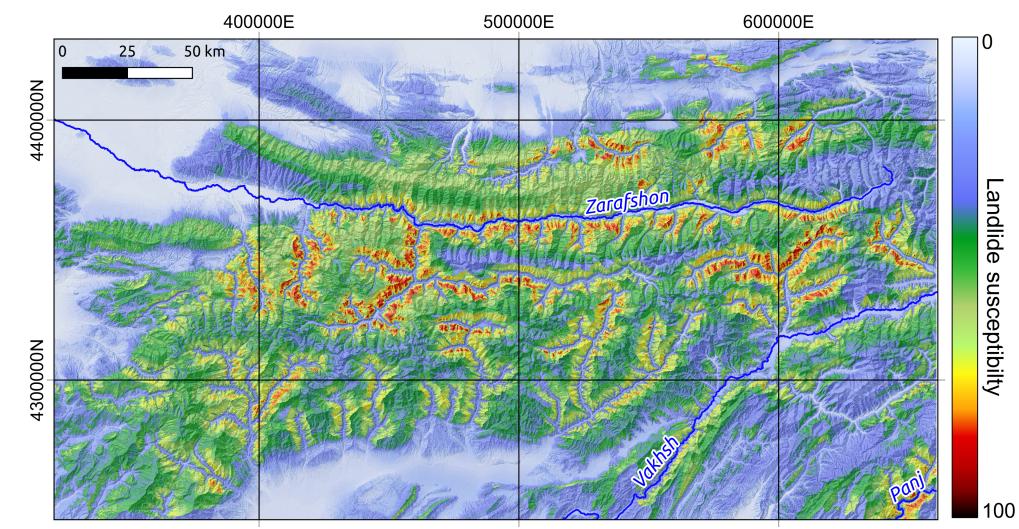
0.35 0.30 (%) 0.25 0.20 0.15 0.10 Eestine 0.05 \_\_\_\_\_ 0.00 Topographic wetness index Elevation above channel Distance from channel Lithology Aspect NDVI Slope Distance to faults Precipitation lsothermality

Evaluation — how good the model identified "new landslides"



Source: Barbosa et al, 2019

# LANDSLIDE SUSCEPTIBILITY MAP



HiF

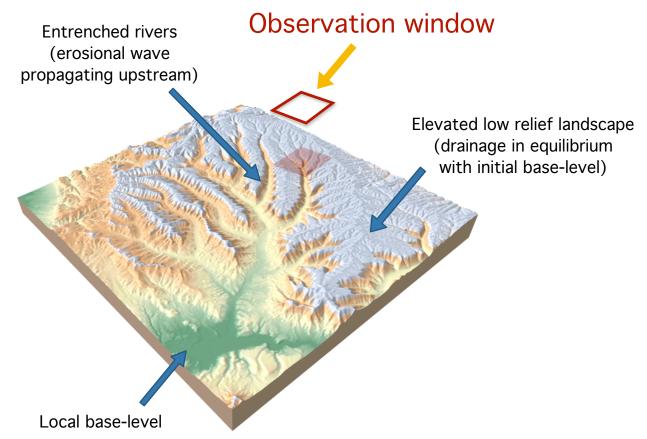
### **CREATE MORE MODELS**

Collect more and/or better thematic variables

#### **Morphometric indices**

Mathematical modification of the elevations storage in a digital elevation model.

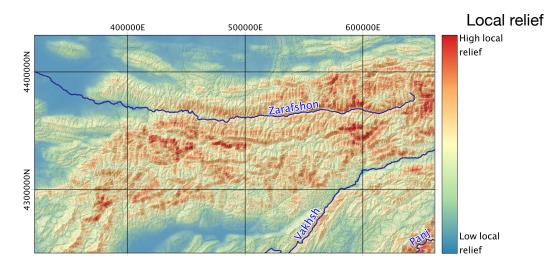
Morpometric indices enhance different landscape characteristics based on the definition of an observation window.

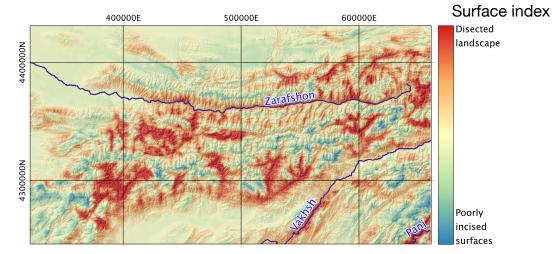


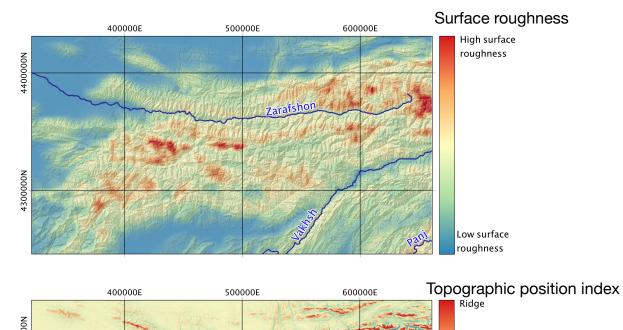


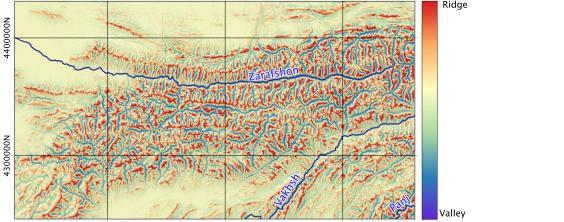
# **ADITIONAL THEMATIC VARIABLES**

#### Regional morphometric indices (Window-based morphometric indices)







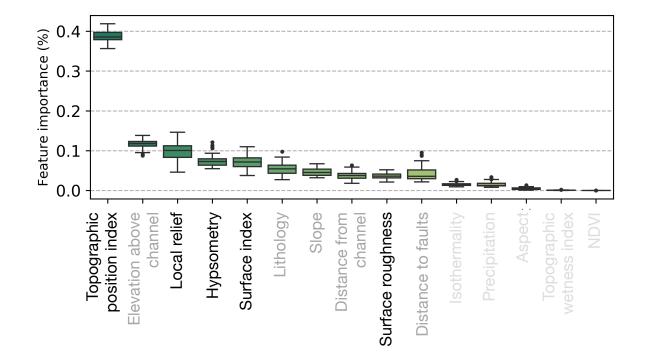




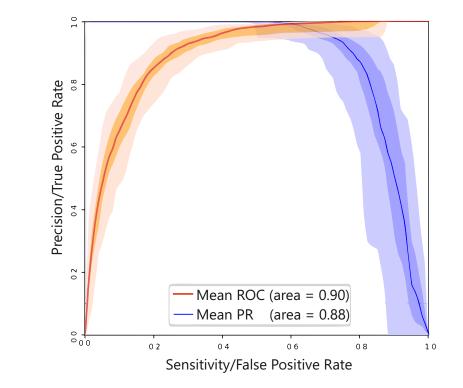
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### **CREATE MORE MODELS**

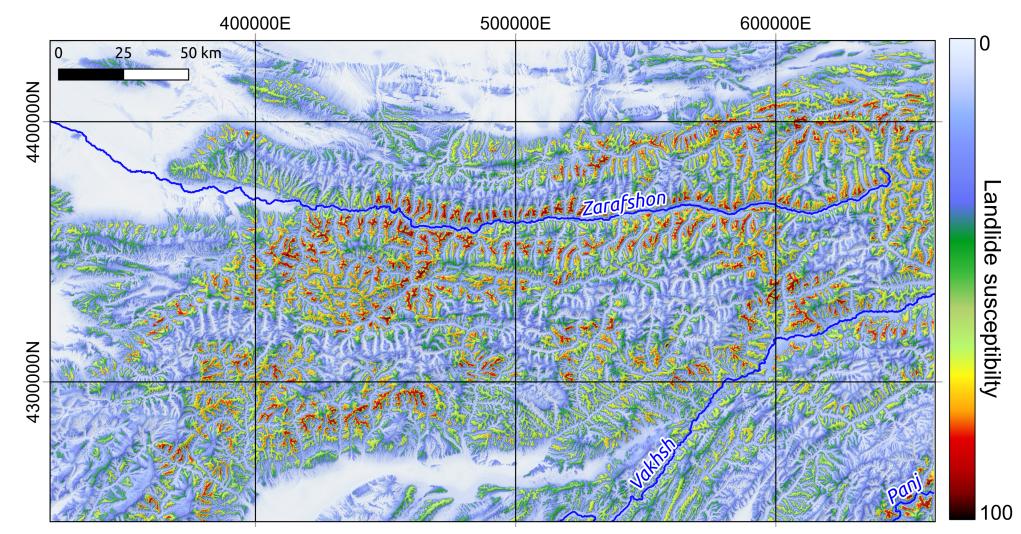
Ranking of importance of the thematic variables



# Evaluation — how good the model identified "new landslides"



# **CREATE MORE MODELS**



Source: Barbosa et al, 2020



#### **NEXT STEPS**

#### Field validation



#### Improvement of the landslide catalogue and thematic variables



*Figure 2.21:* Rockfall damming the Yagnob River. Left: Field picture. Right: Google Earth view. The red arrow indicates the direction from which the photo was taken.



Landslide susceptibility models identify **where** landslides may occur based on relationships between thematic variables and the landslide catalogue. The identified relationships may differ with the method selected.

Quality of the thematic variables and landslide catalogue strongly influence the results. Poor thematic variables lead to unreliable results.

The use of morphometric indices can improve the landslide susceptibility model for areas with datascarcity. Different indices should be tried as well as observation windows.

Random forest among other machine learning and statistically based approach proved as a highperformance method to assess landslide susceptibility when representative datasets are used.

Evaluation is a required step to measure the performance of the model and support the discussion towards improvements.









#### References

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