

# The Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges Remote Sensing Pilot Project

16<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Prepared on behalf of the

Department of Environment and Conservation  
Papua New Guinea

by



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Prof. Tony K Milne

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with contributions from

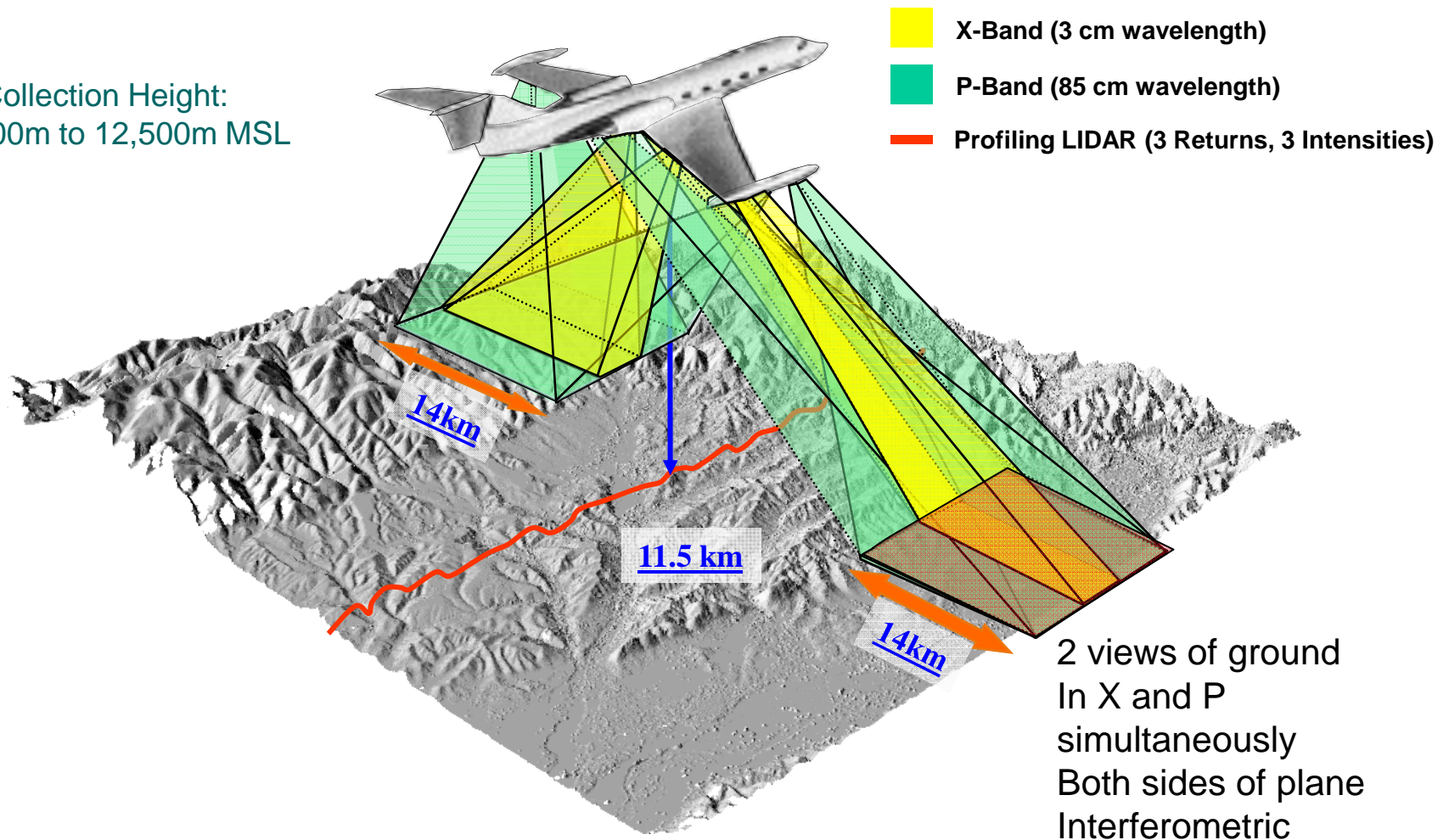
Dr Anthea Mitchell, UNSW

Dr Julian Fox, UN/FAO and

Dr Cossey Yosi, PNG FRI

# Flight Characteristics

Collection Height:  
10,000m to 12,500m MSL



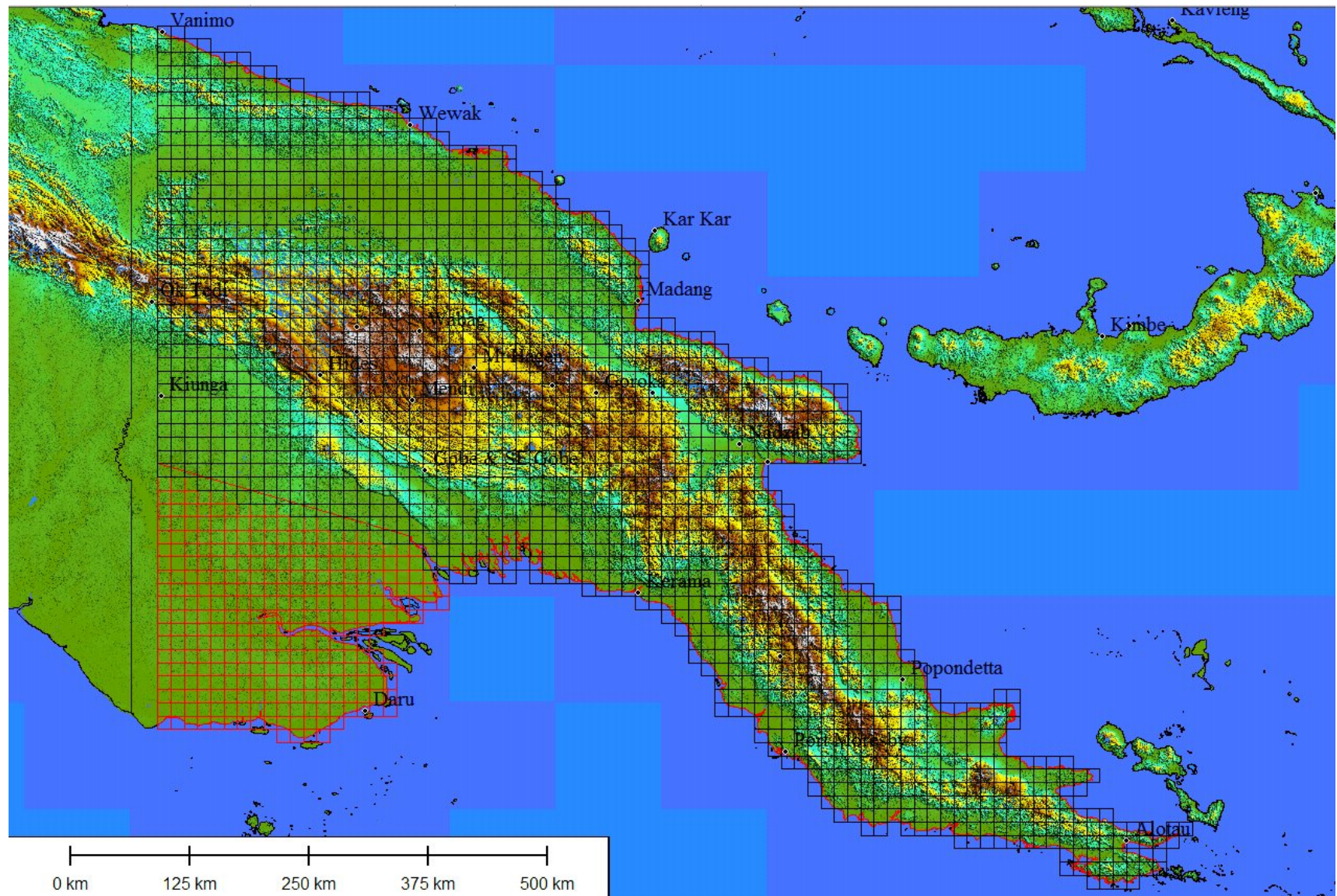
# GeoSAR Product Characteristics

	X-band	P-band
<u>DEM height accuracy</u>		
Single swath	0.5-1.2 m (Relative)	1-3 m (Relative)
Mosaic	~1.0 m (Absolute)	1-4 m (Absolute)
DEM resolution	2.5 - 5 metres	2.5 - 5 metres
Planimetric Accuracy	1 m (Relative) < 2.5 m (Absolute)	2 m @ 5 km Altitude (Absolute) 4 m @ 10 km Altitude (Absolute)
Ground swath	12 -14 km on each side	12 -14 km on each side
Polarization	VV	HH and HV or VV and VH
Pixel Size	1.25 – 3m	1.25 – 5m

Multi-swath mosaicking and application of Lidar ground measurements results in considerable improvement over single-swath accuracy.



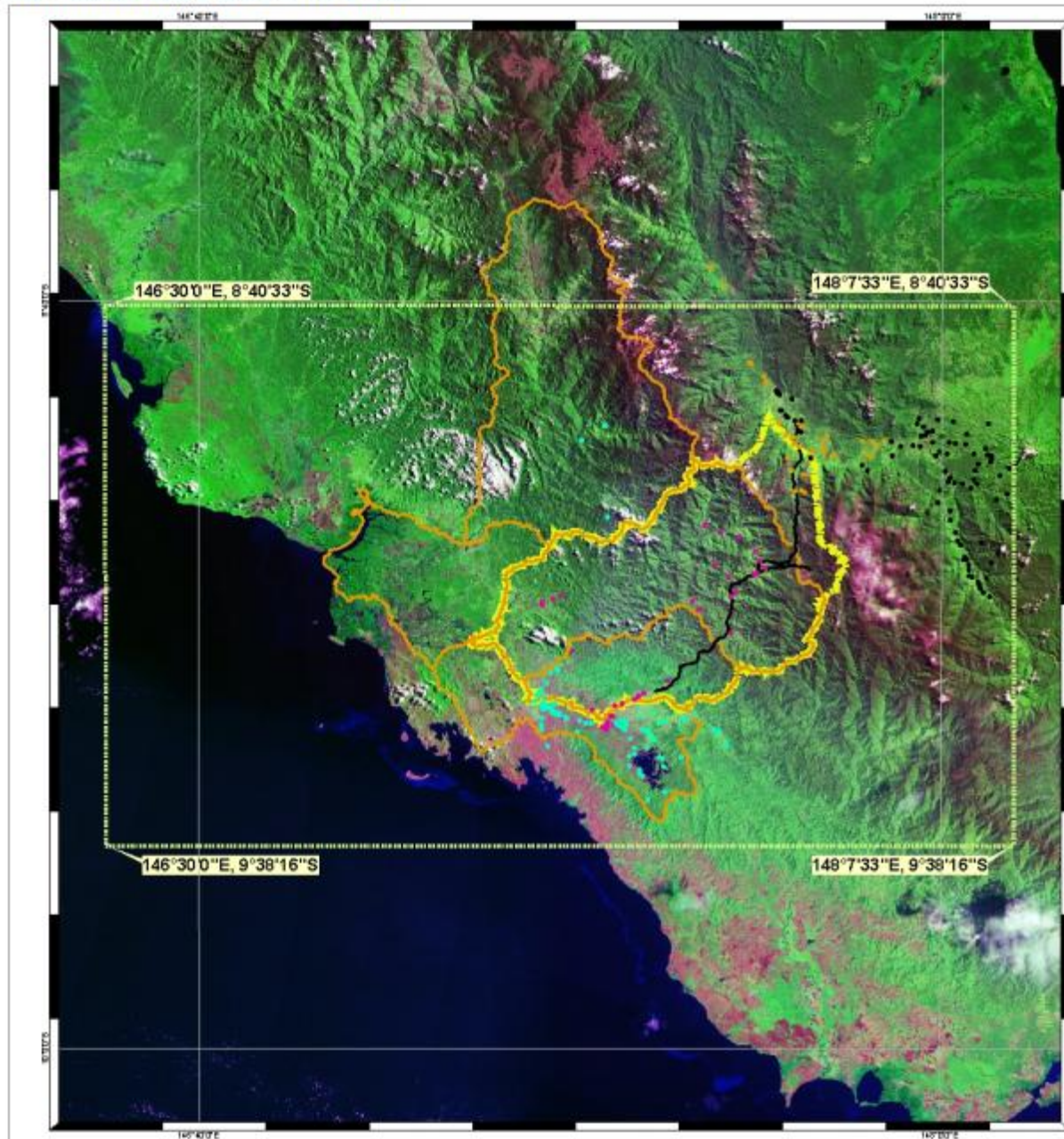
# Project AXIS- Papua New Guinea



## 15' x 15' Map Quads



# KOKODA INITIATIVE BOUNDARY



Note:  
Kokoda Initiative Boundary map.

Date Produced

April 2010

## Legend

- Kokoda Initiative Inner Boundary
- Koiari non track villages
- Koiari track villages
- Kokoda non track villages
- Kokoda-track-villages\_AGD66\_point
- Bill James Current WGS-84
- Catchments - Will Rileys version
- Interim Protection Zone



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
Spatial Data and Systems Branch

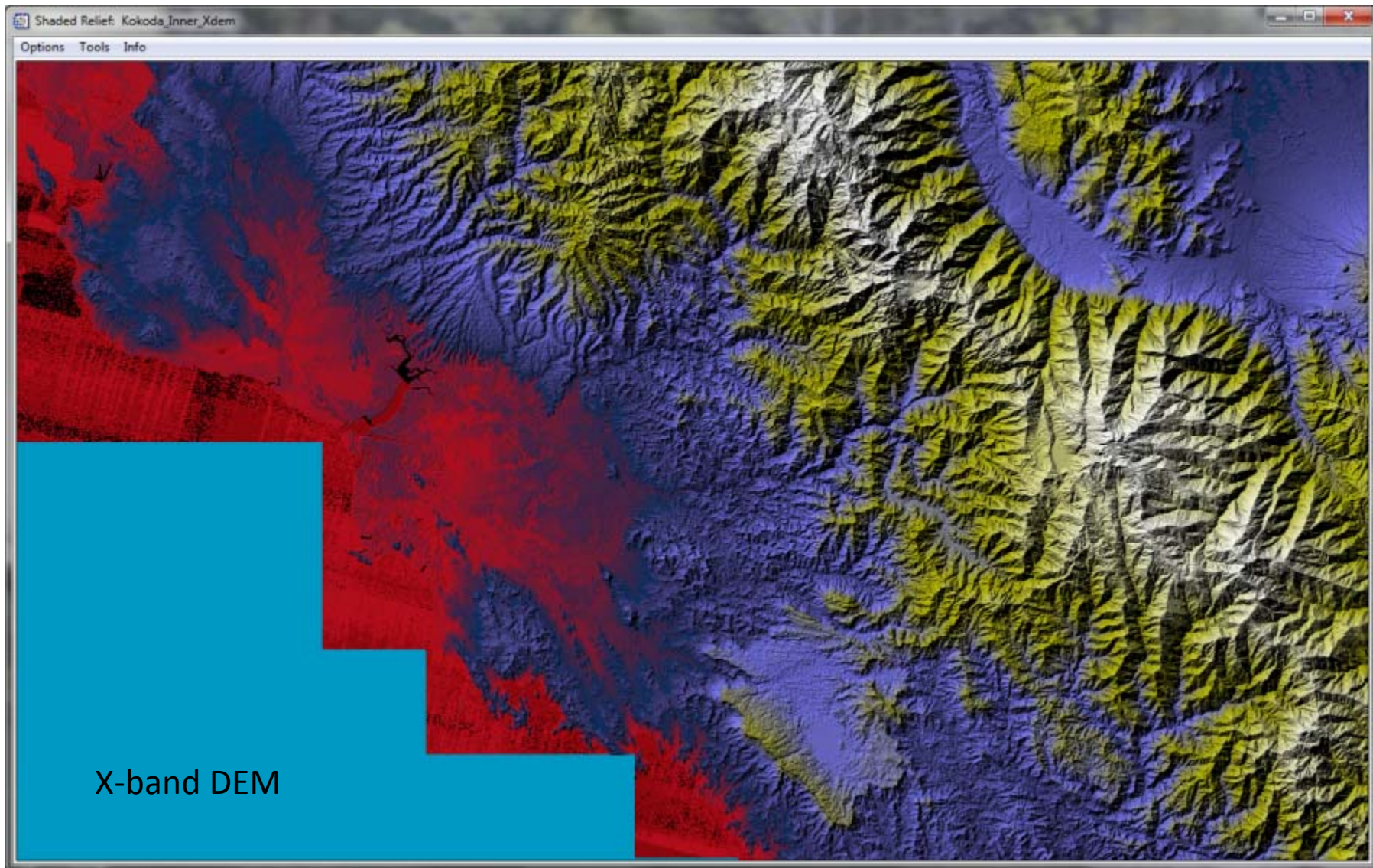
BASE MAP

PNG Landsat

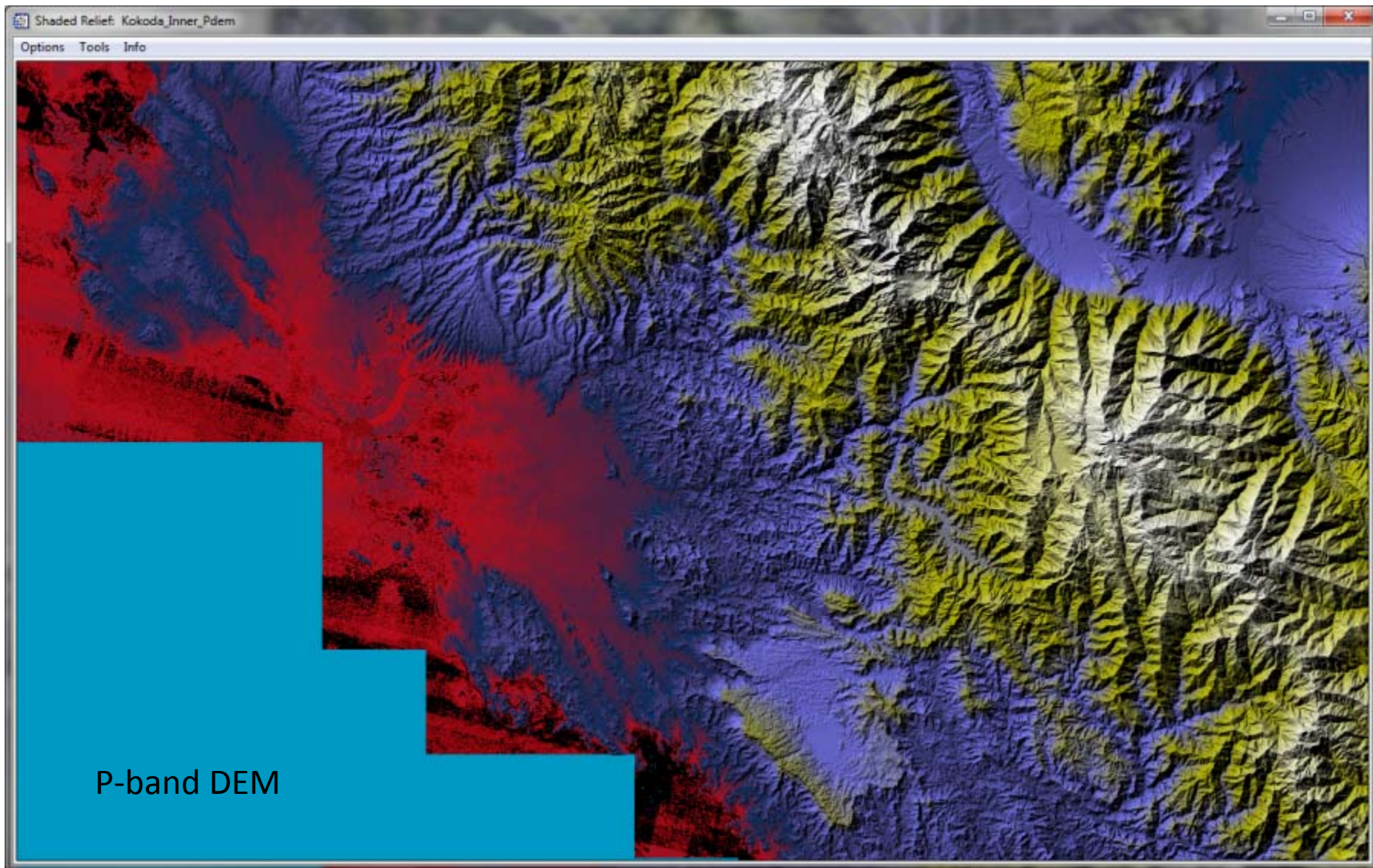
0 5 10 20 30  
Kilometers

Scale: 1 cm = 8 km  
Projection: GCS WGS 84 Zone 55



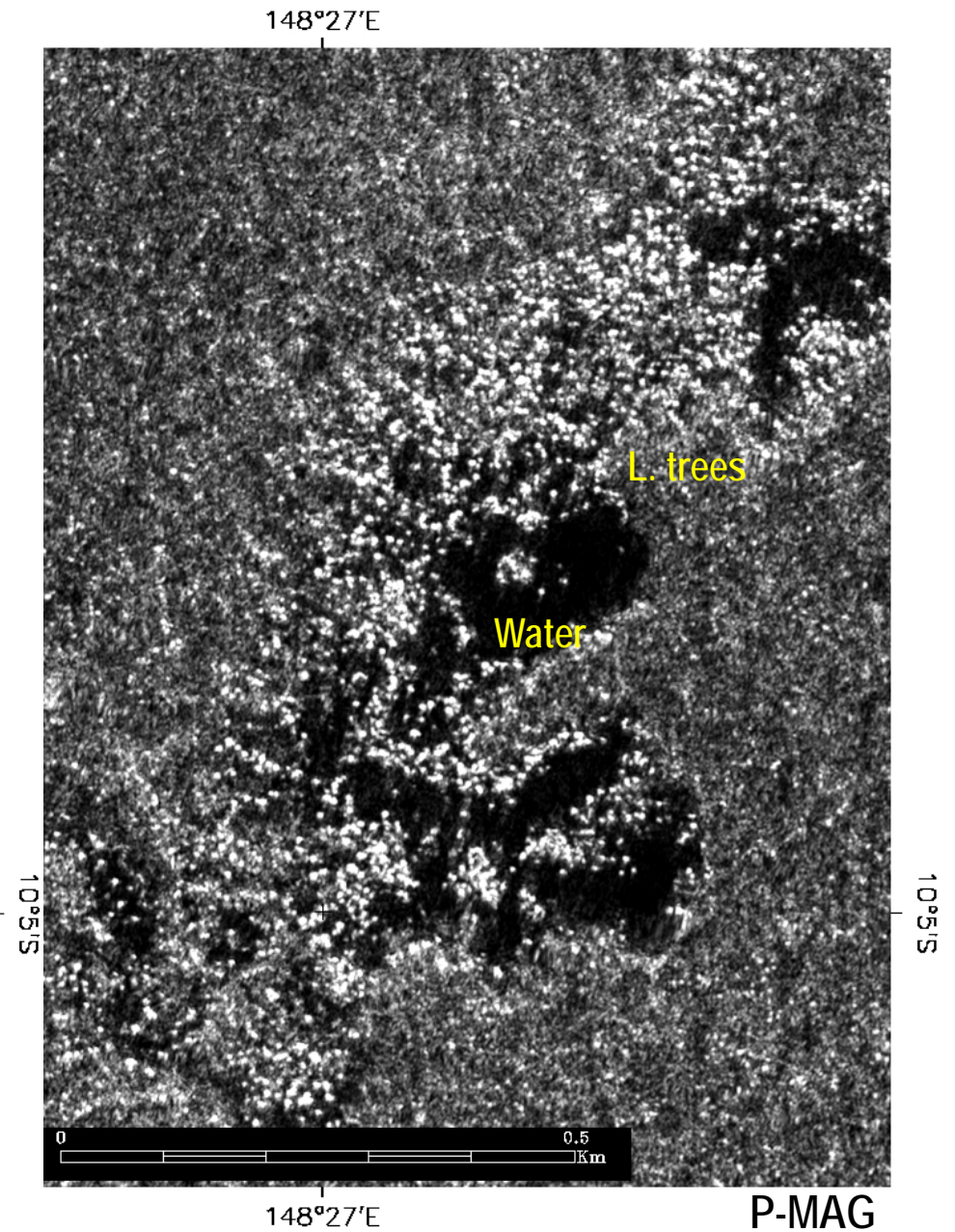
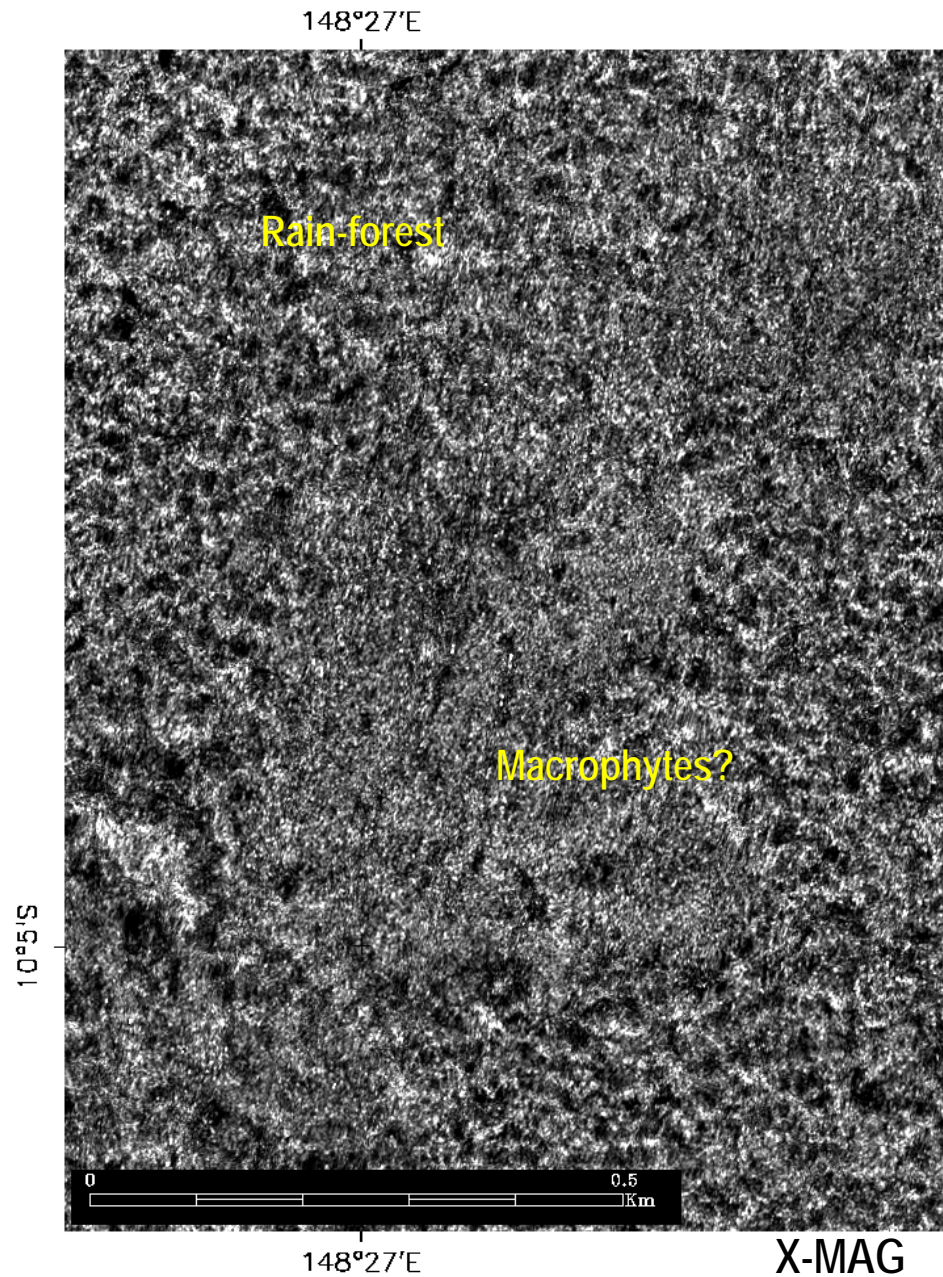








## Trees occupying a wetland site



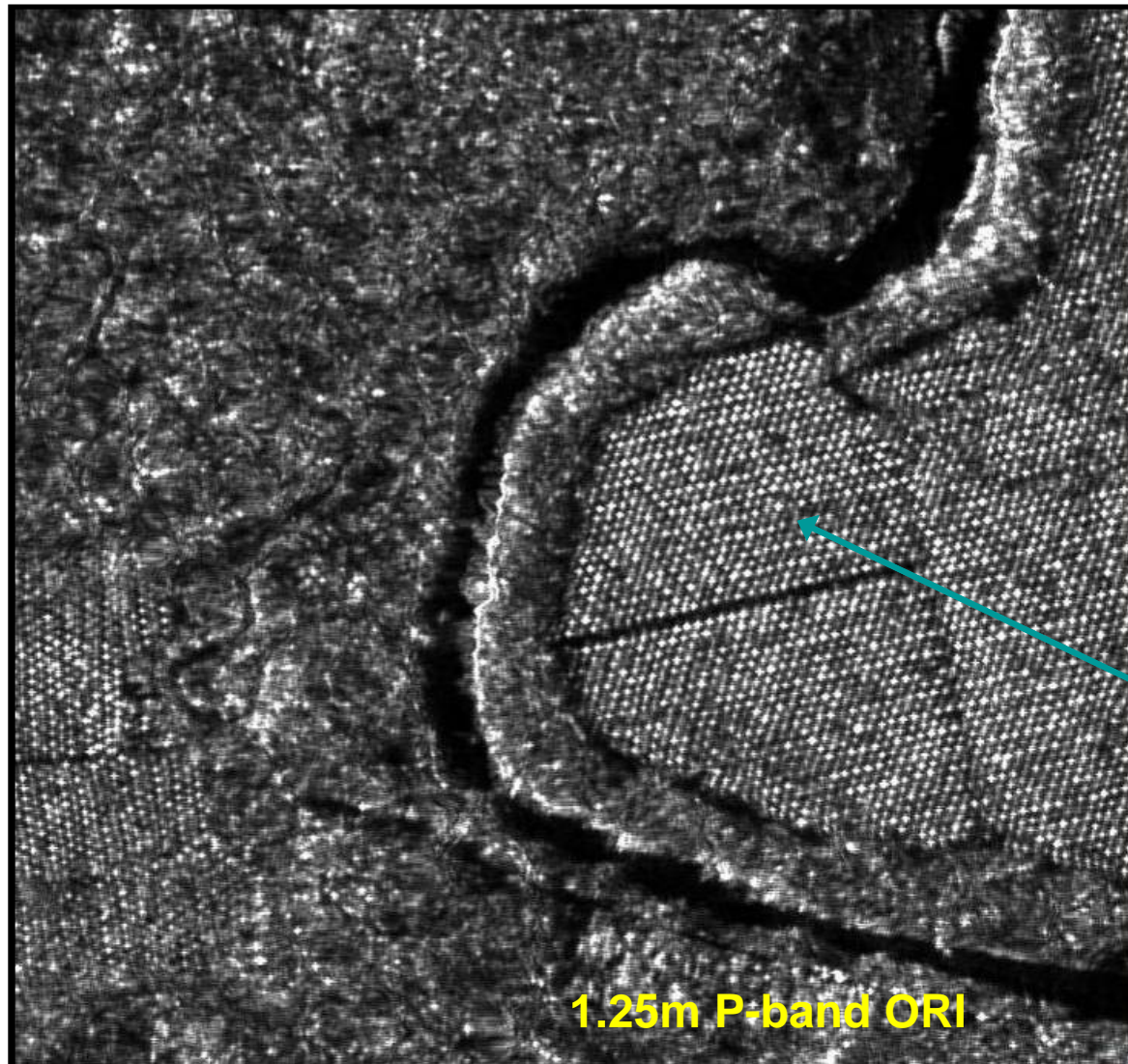
**Wetlands**



## Airborne GeoSAR Xand P band







## 1.25m X- and P-band Radar Images

Orchards and trails,  
irrigation patterns,  
drainages exposed in P-  
band

Capable of counting trees  
in orchards

Papua New Guinea

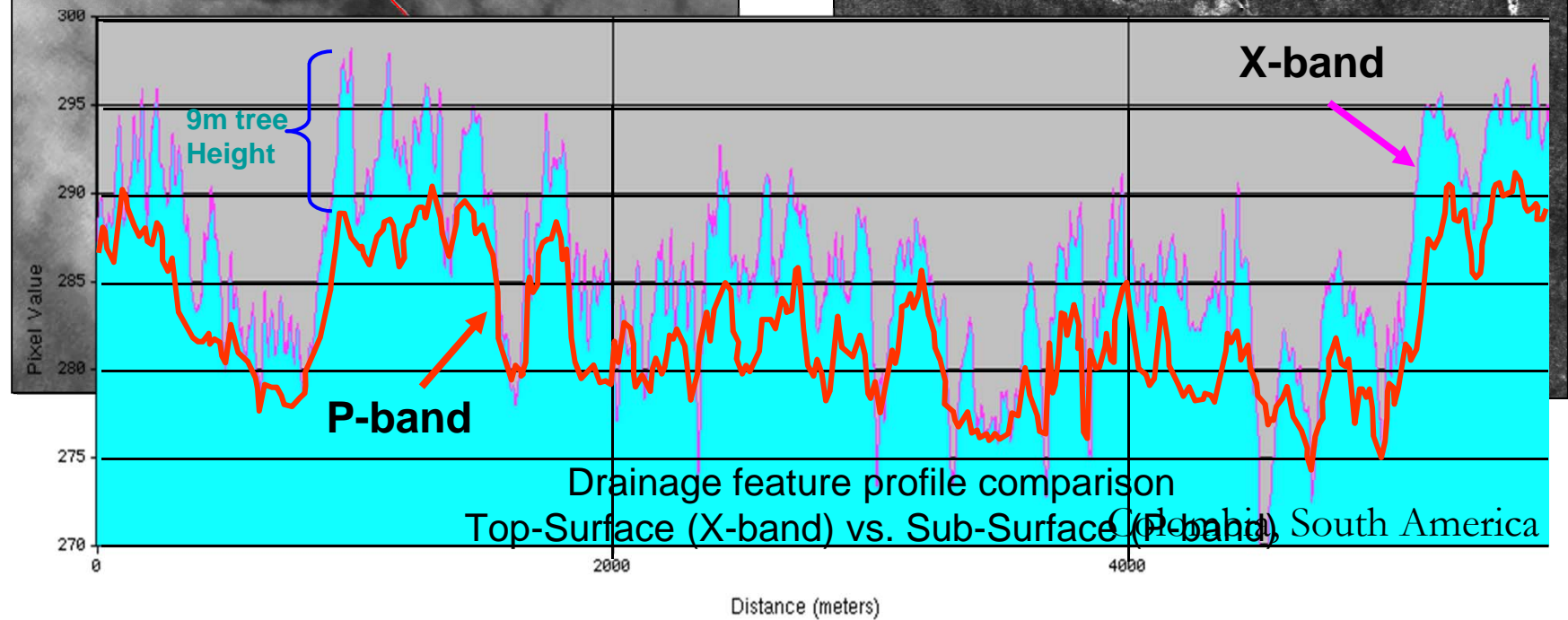
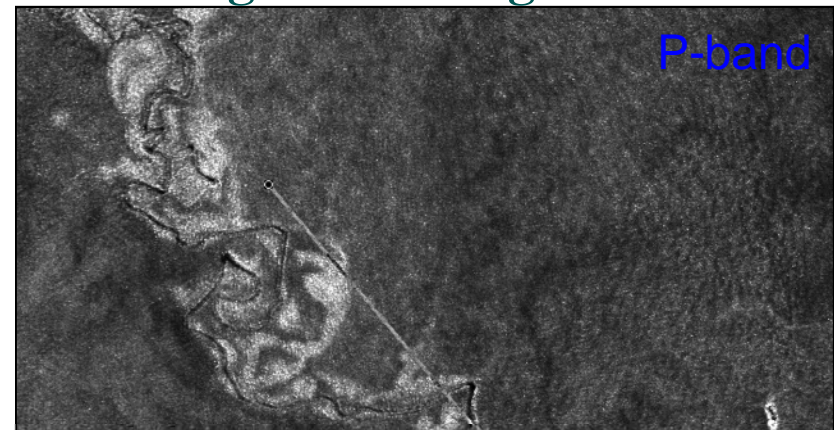


# Airborne GeoSAR Xand P band

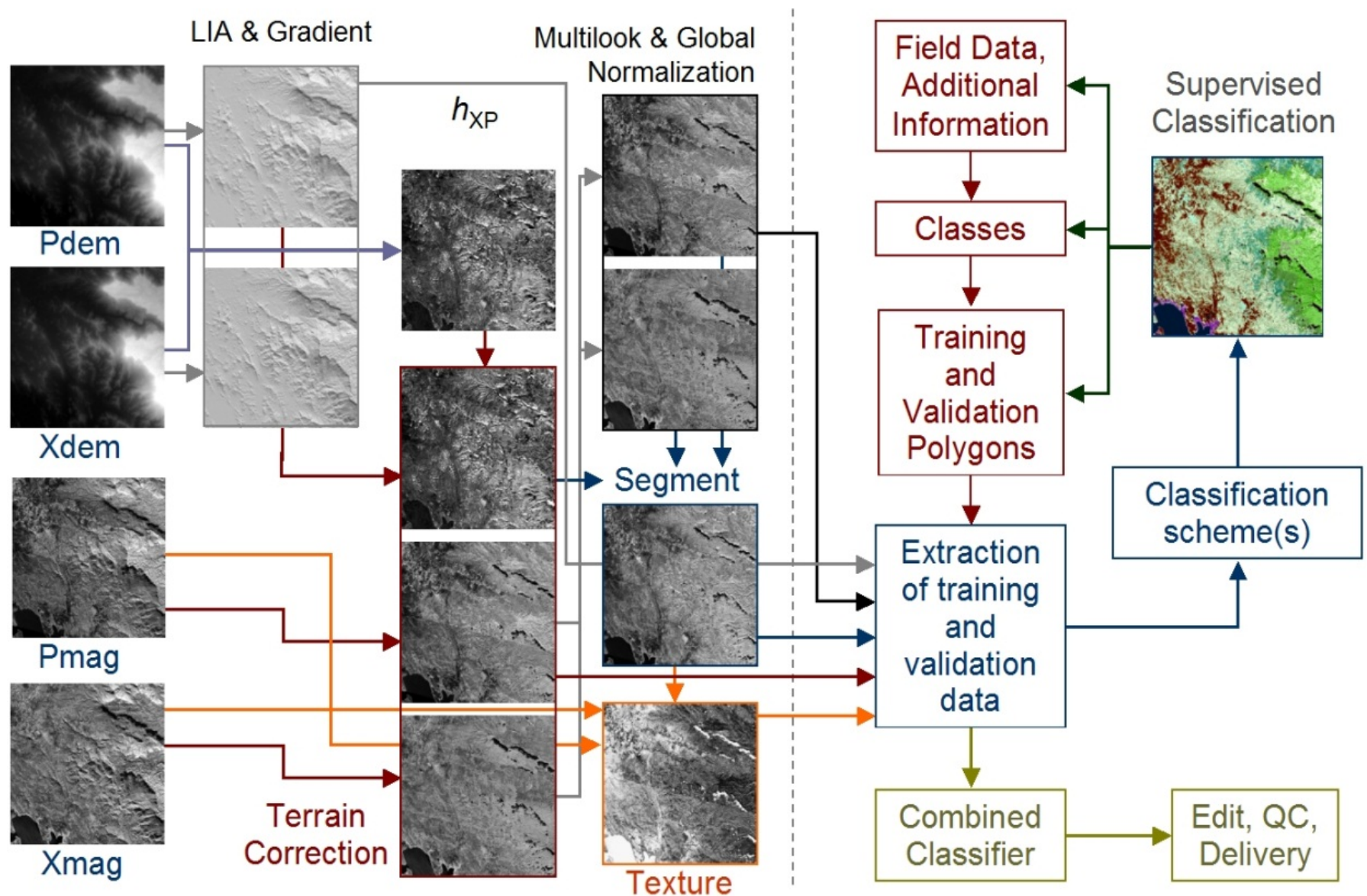
## Digital Elevation Model



## Magnitude Images

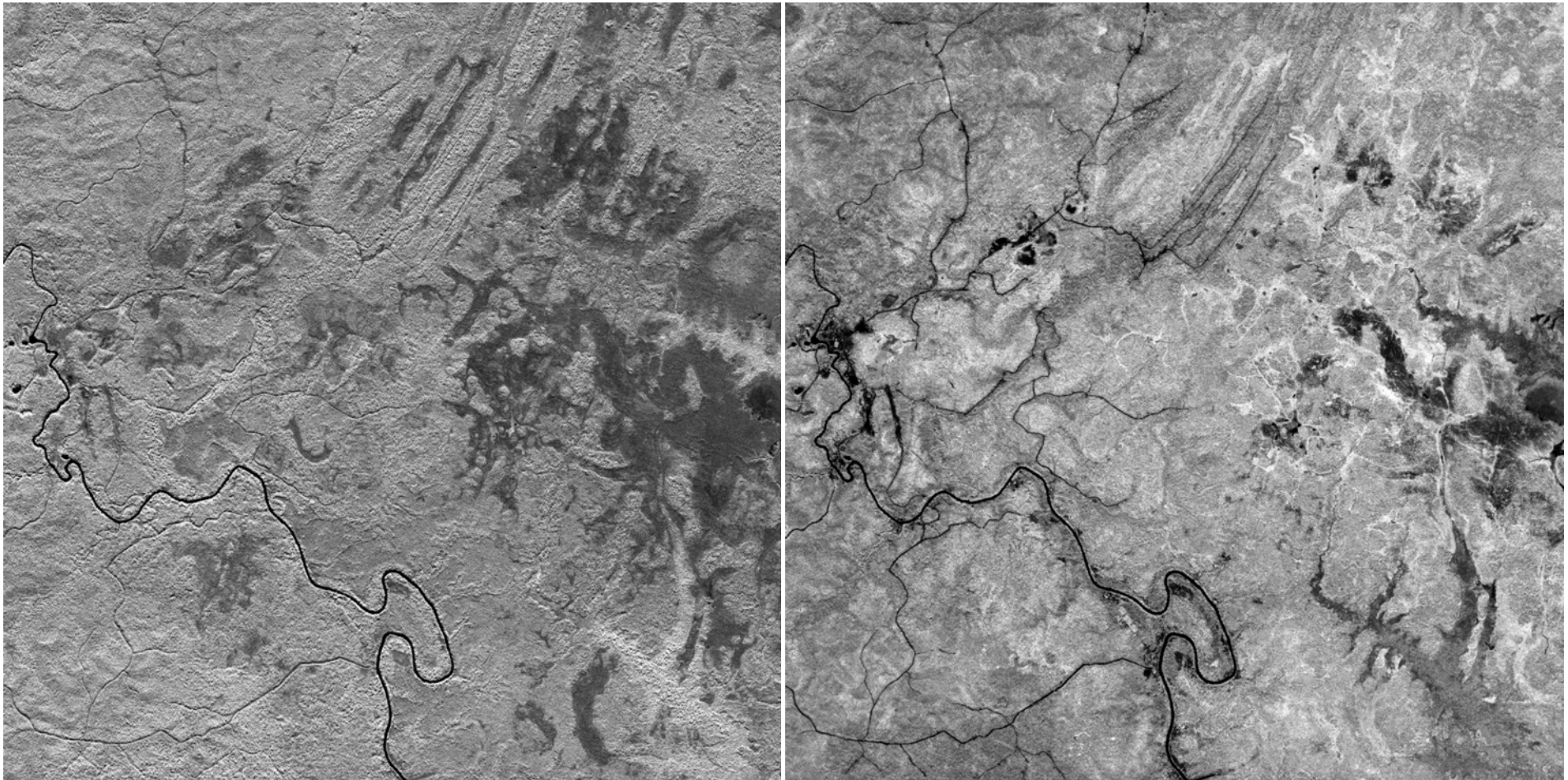


# Forest and land cover classification





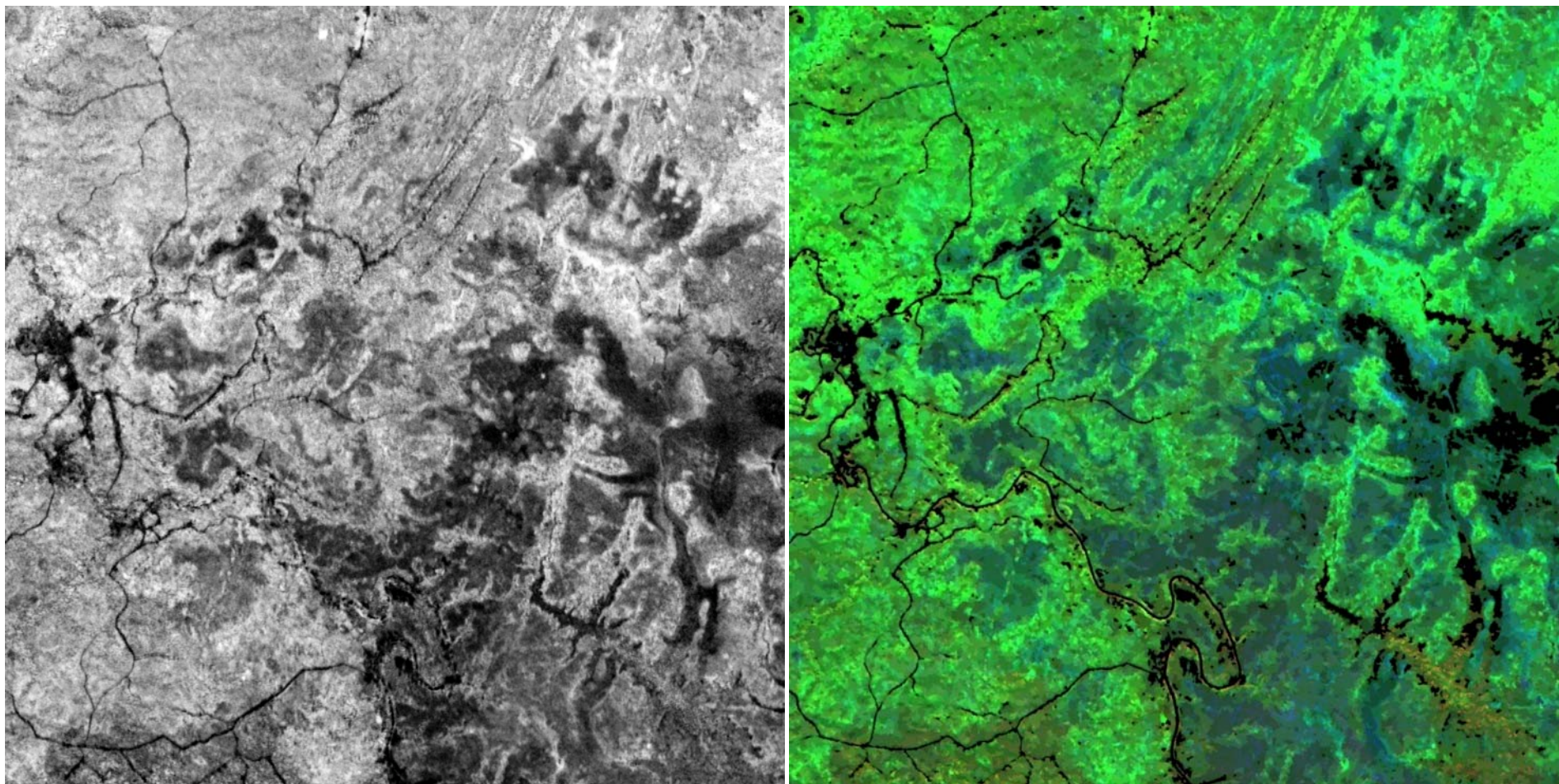
## An Example of GeoSAR Biomass Estimation



- Left: X-band magnitude, right: P-band magnitude. The area is ~25,000ha. Data from Papua New Guinea collection



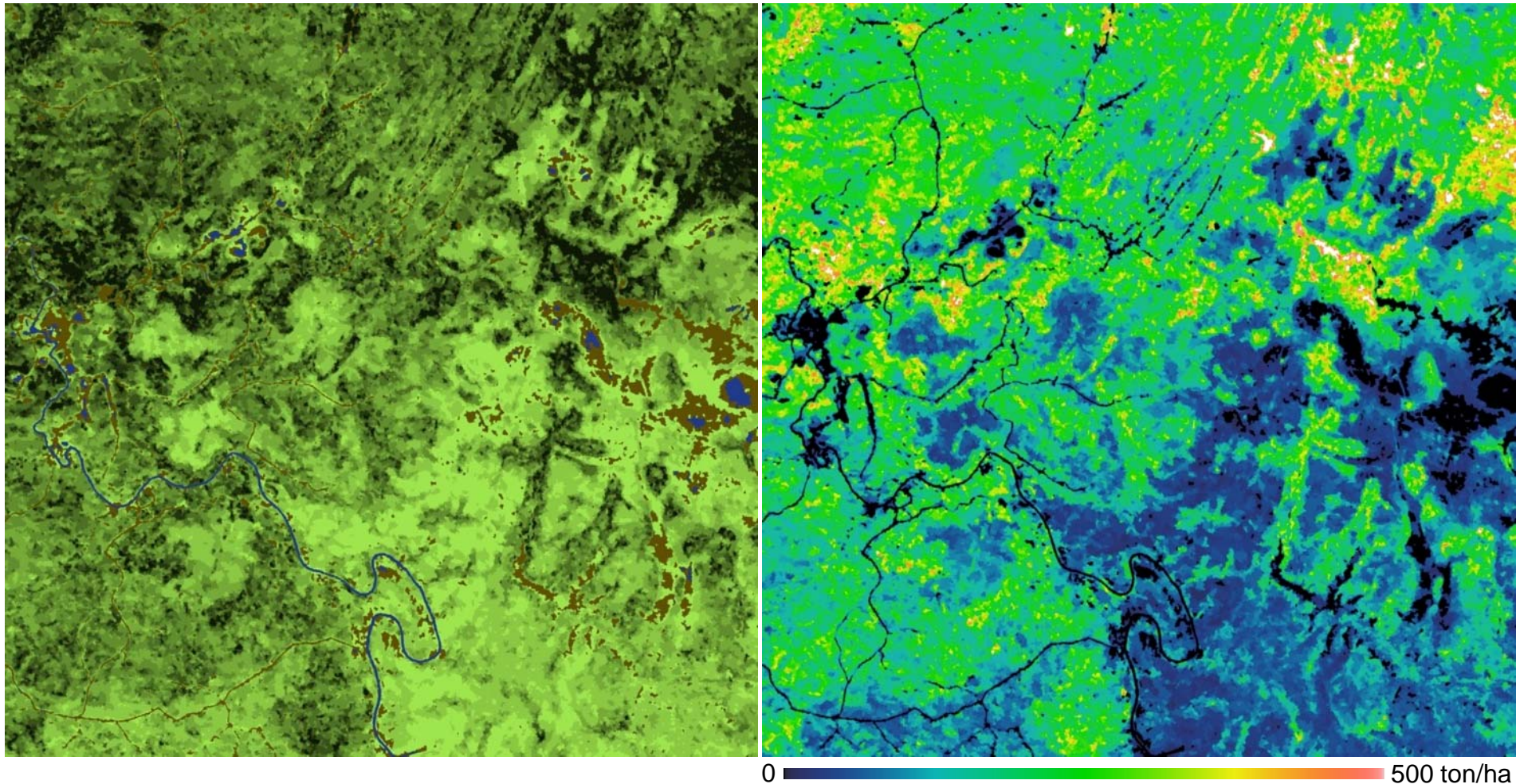
## An Example of GeoSAR Biomass Estimation



- Left: X-band - P-band interferometric height,  $h_{\text{int}}$ , is a surrogate vegetation height.
- Right: (R:X, G: $h_{\text{int}}$ , B:P) for forested areas.



# An Example of GeoSAR Biomass Estimation

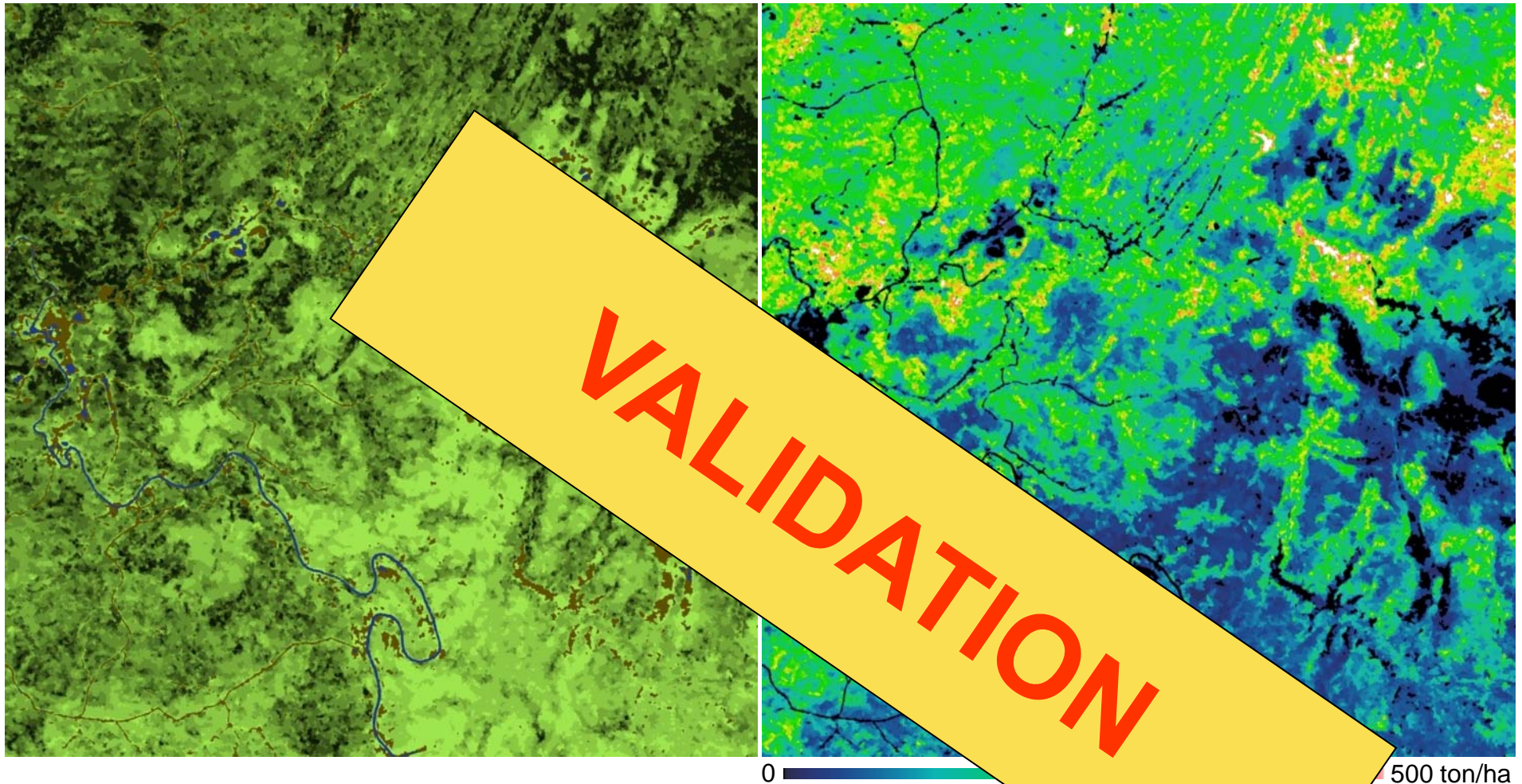


- Left: Multi-channel data within segments is used to produce a terrain class map (dark green is high-biomass forest).
- Right: Multi-channel data within segments is used to produce a quantitative biomass estimate at high resolution.

(Mark L. Williams, 2009)



# An Example of GeoSAR Biomass Estimation



- Left: Multi-channel data within segments is used to produce a terrain map (green is high-biomass forest).
- Right: Multi-channel data within segments is used to produce a quantitative biomass estimate at high resolution.

(Mark L. Williams, 2009)





## Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges Conservation Initiative: Remote Sensing Pilot Project

### Progress Report Presentation Slides

December 2010

Prof. A K Milne

Dr I Tapley

Dr J Fox

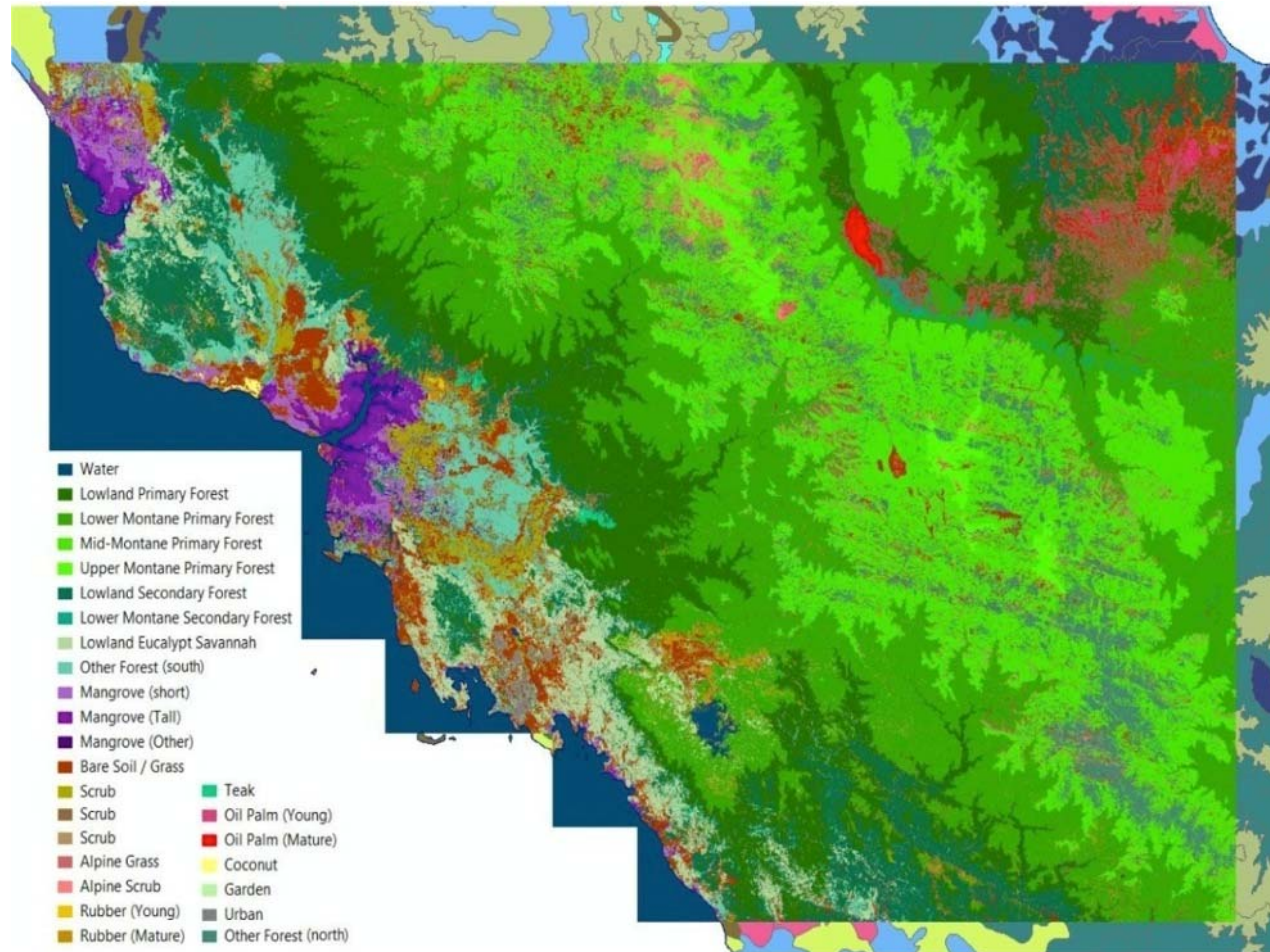
Ms A I Yohannan

Dr M L Williams



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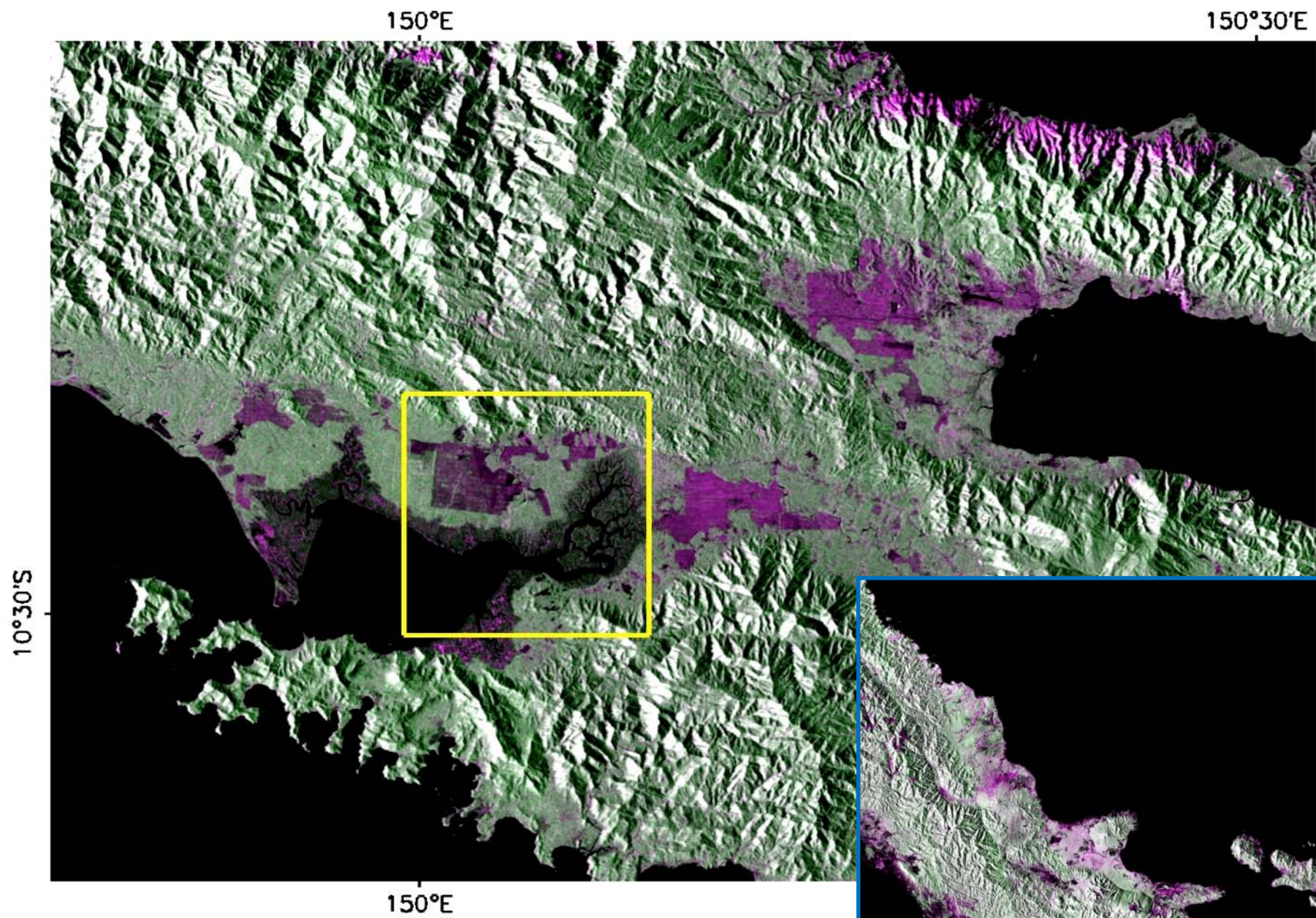
# Kokoda Area Classification



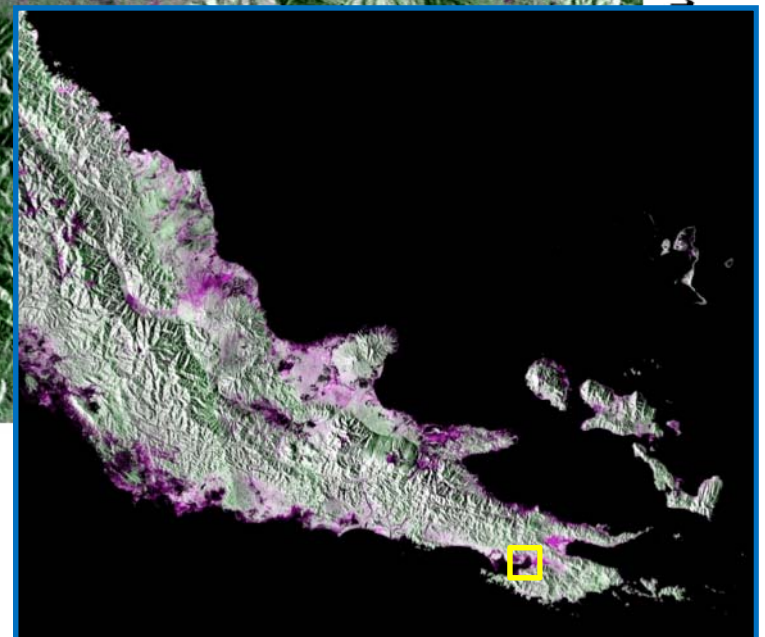
**Land cover classification for the inner Kokoda AOI derived using a variety of ground data, auxiliary data and the 2006 GeoSAR data.**

**Shown in the background is the low resolution 1:250,000 land cover map from 1995 provided by Dr Julian Fox which up until today was the best reference for land cover in the inner Kokoda AOI.**





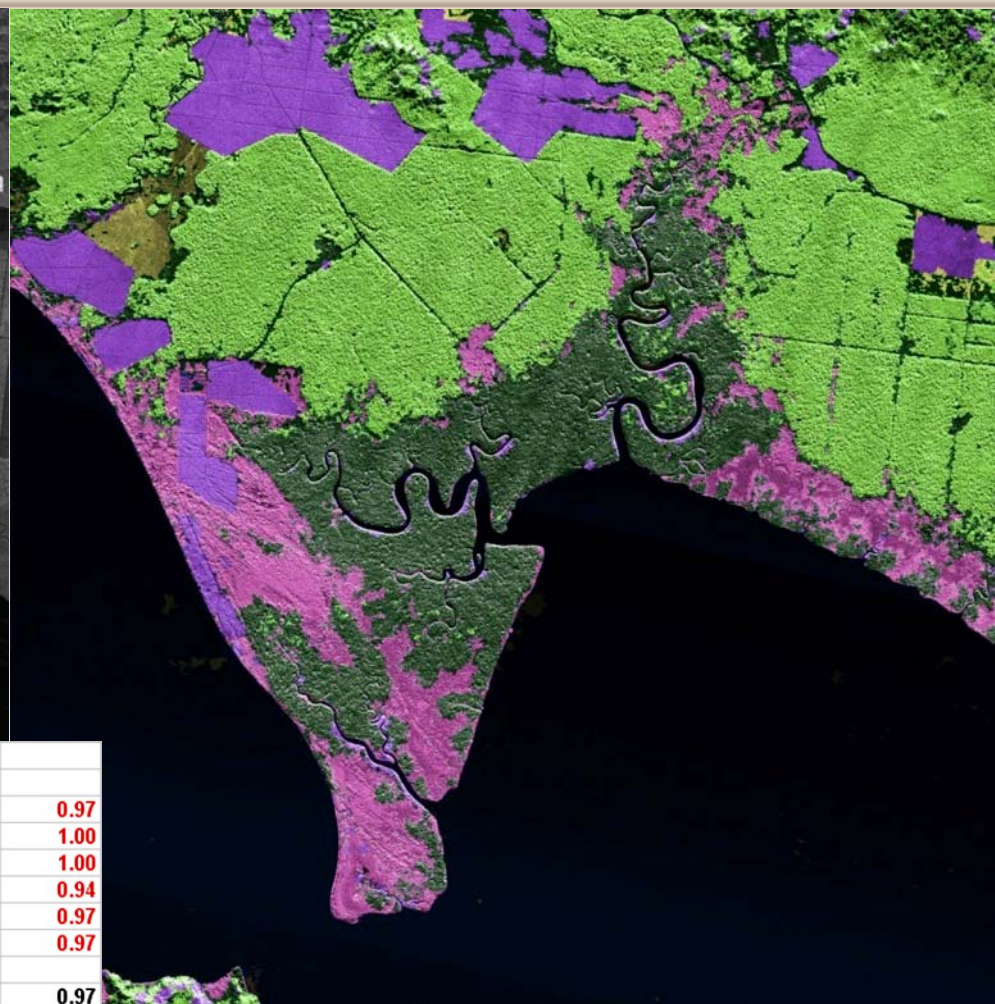
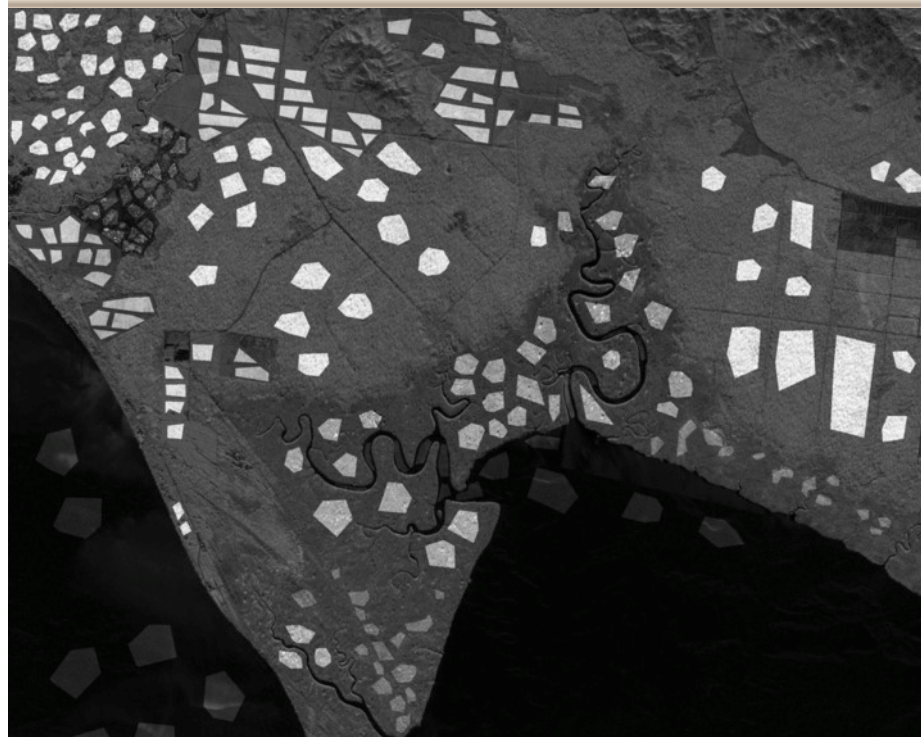
**GeoSAR site**  
**PALSAR Aug.2007 HH/HV/HH (RGB)**







## Kokoda: Supervised Classification

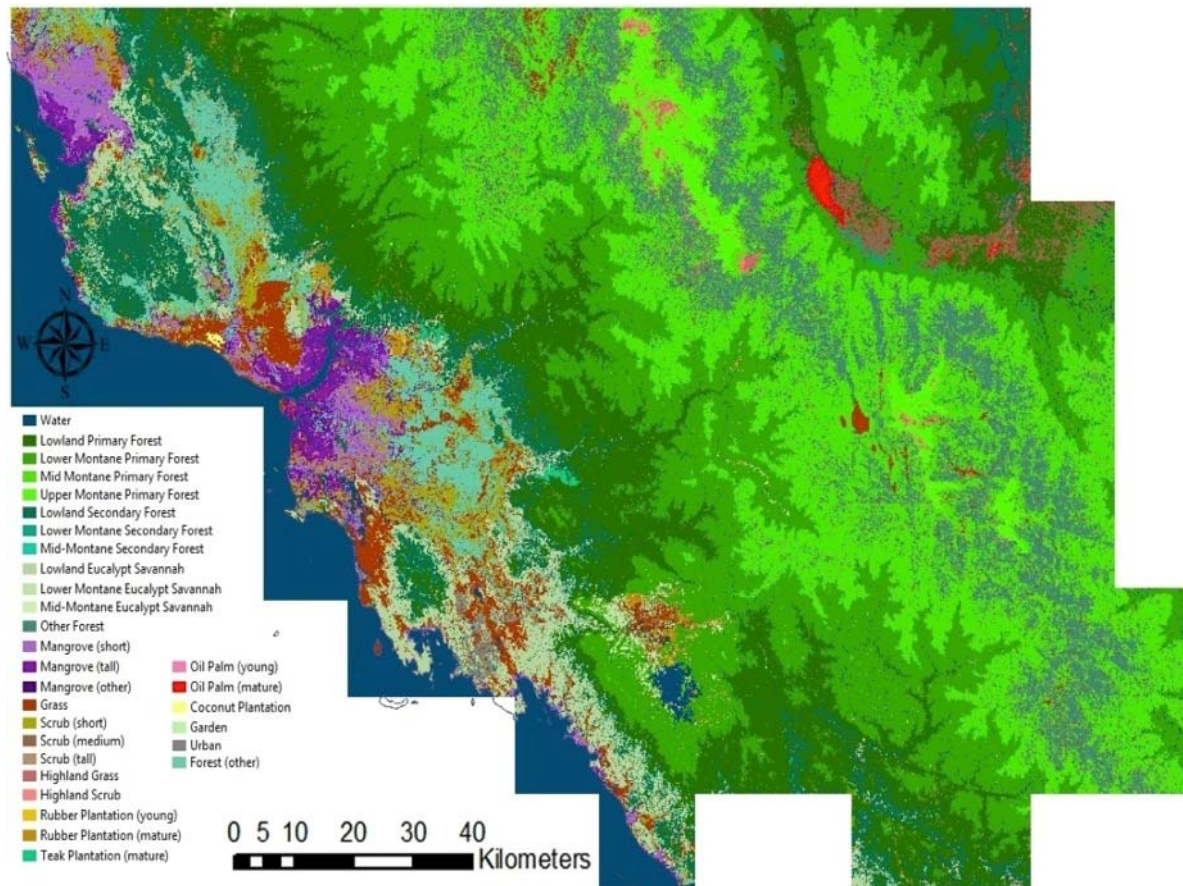


		Forest	Water	Plantation	Mangrove	Grass	Scrub		
		0	1	2	3	4	5		
Forest	0	2604		2	66			2672	0.97
Water	1		559					559	1.00
Plantation	2			306				306	1.00
Mangrove	3	44		2	1011	12	5	1074	0.94
Grass	4	1	1			61		63	0.97
Scrub	5		1		12		385	398	0.97
		2650	560	310	1089	73	390	5072	
		0.98	1.00	0.99	0.93	0.84	0.99		0.97

- Left: training and validation set, right: class map on X-band.
- Overall 97% accuracy with 6 classes using segmentation CART/GLCM methods.



# PALSAR Classification 2007



# PALSAR Classification 2007 and 2010

