



# Satellite radar monitoring of tropical peat swamp forests

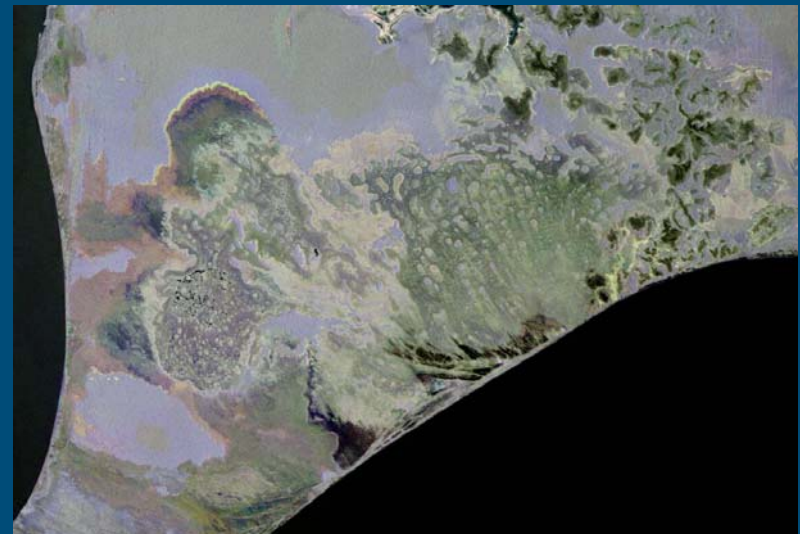
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(Dirk Hoekman)

Tsukuba, 17 January 2007

[www.sarvision.com](http://www.sarvision.com)

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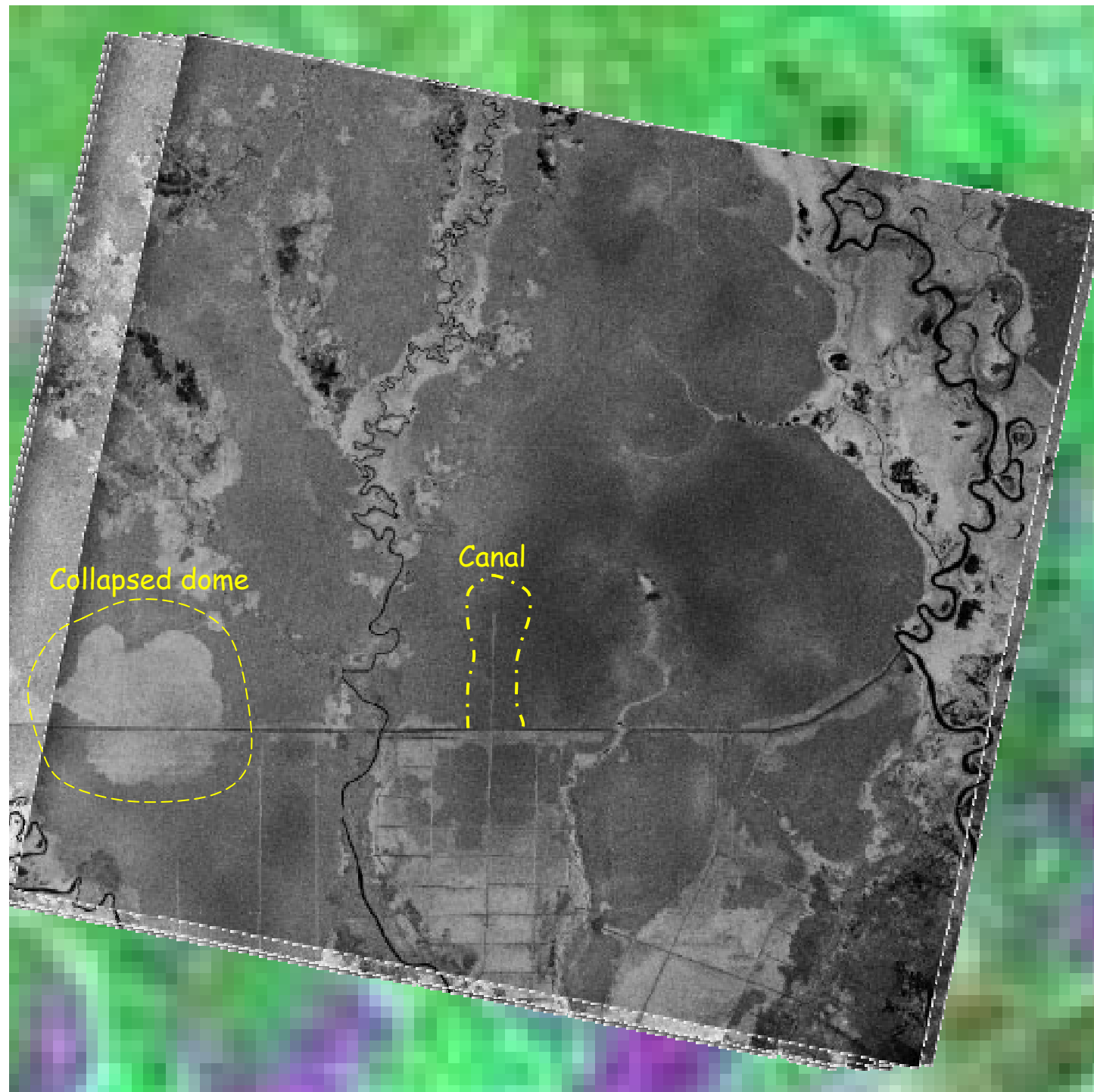




This TERRA-MODIS image acquired 19 August 2002 shows thick haze across Central Kalimantan and spreading across the entire island of Borneo.

Optical vs. Radar

## JERS-1 SAR time series



1998 08 29

1998 01 21

1997 10 25

1997 09 11

1997 07 29

1997 05 02

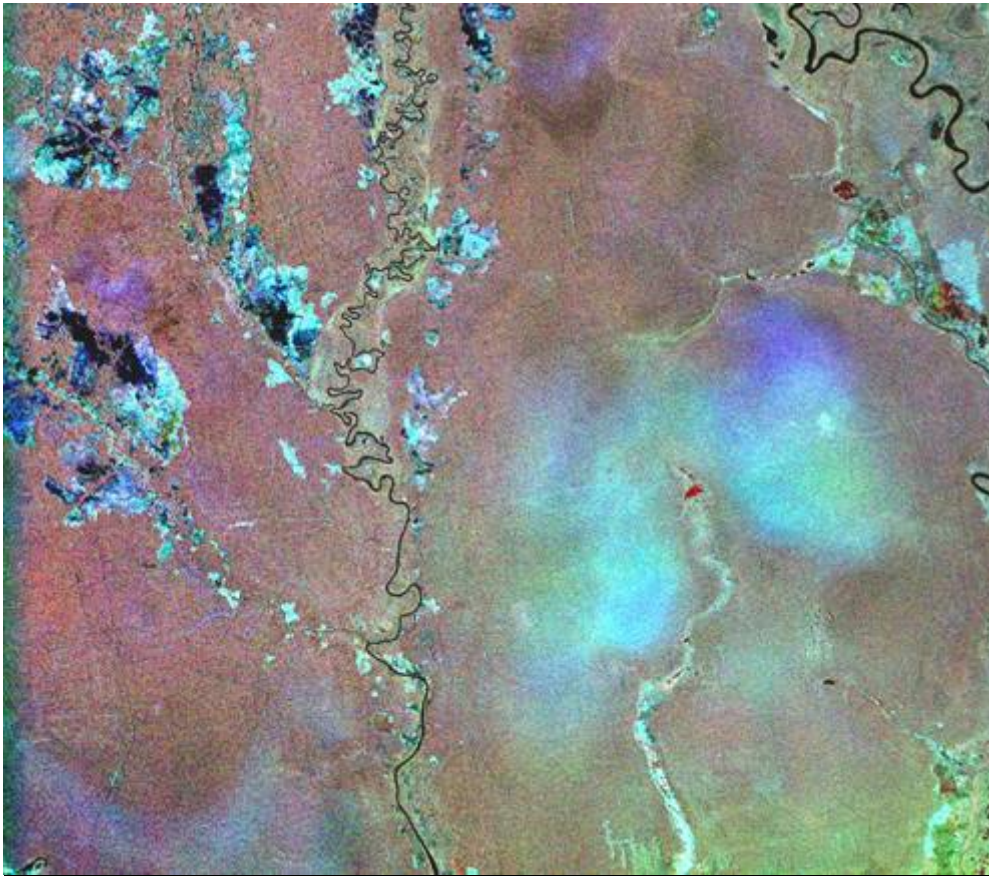
1997 03 19

1997 02 03

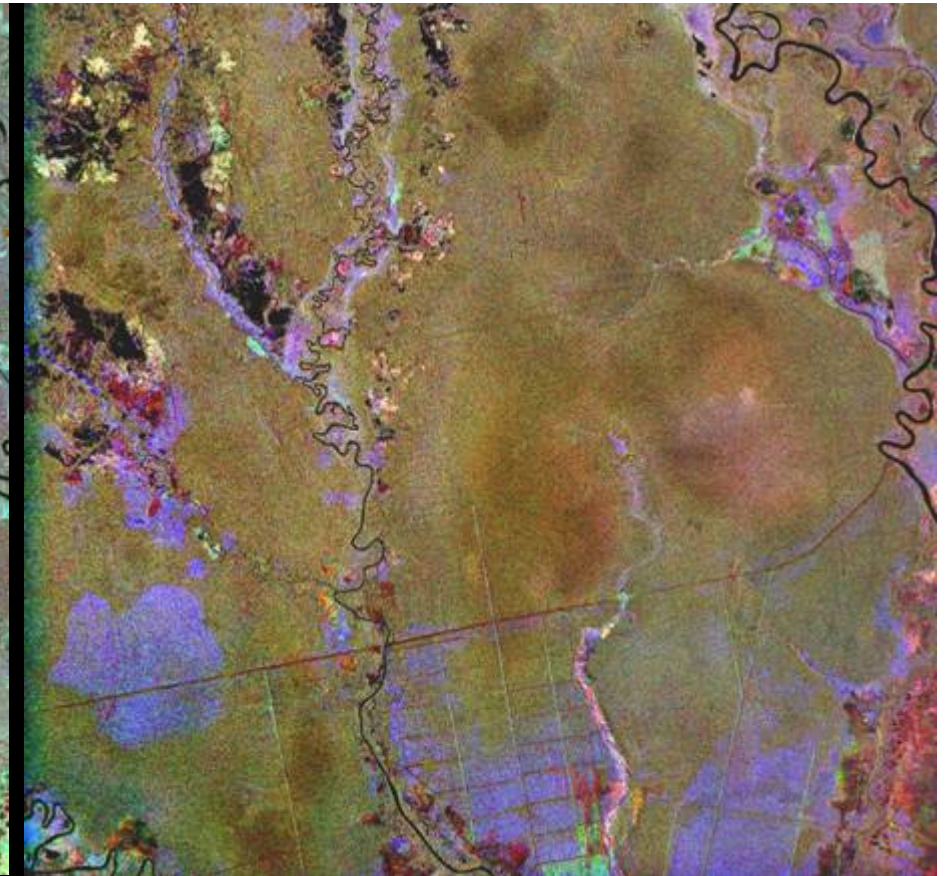
1996 09 24

1995 07 12

1994 07 25

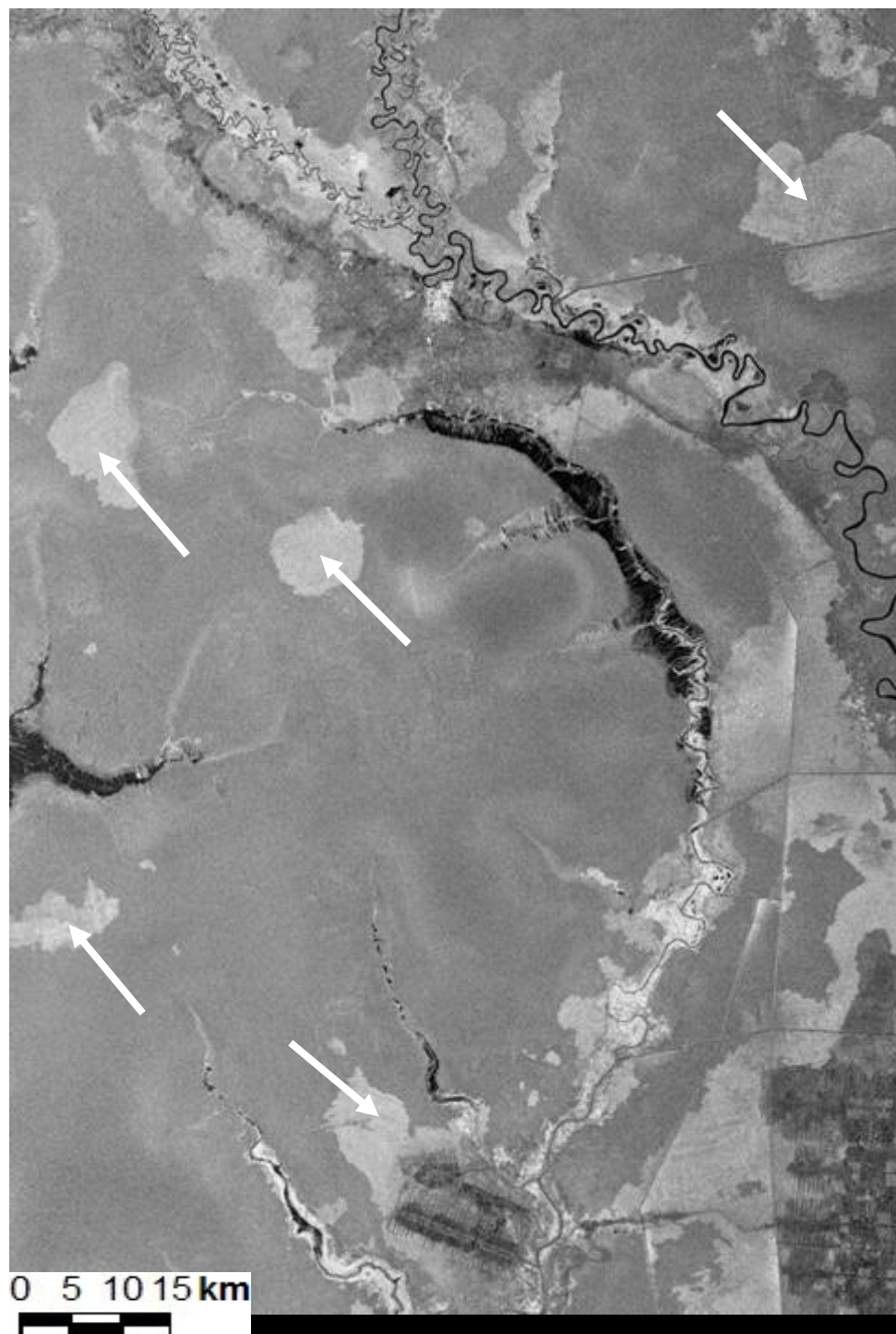


Pre-disturbance  
radar image composite

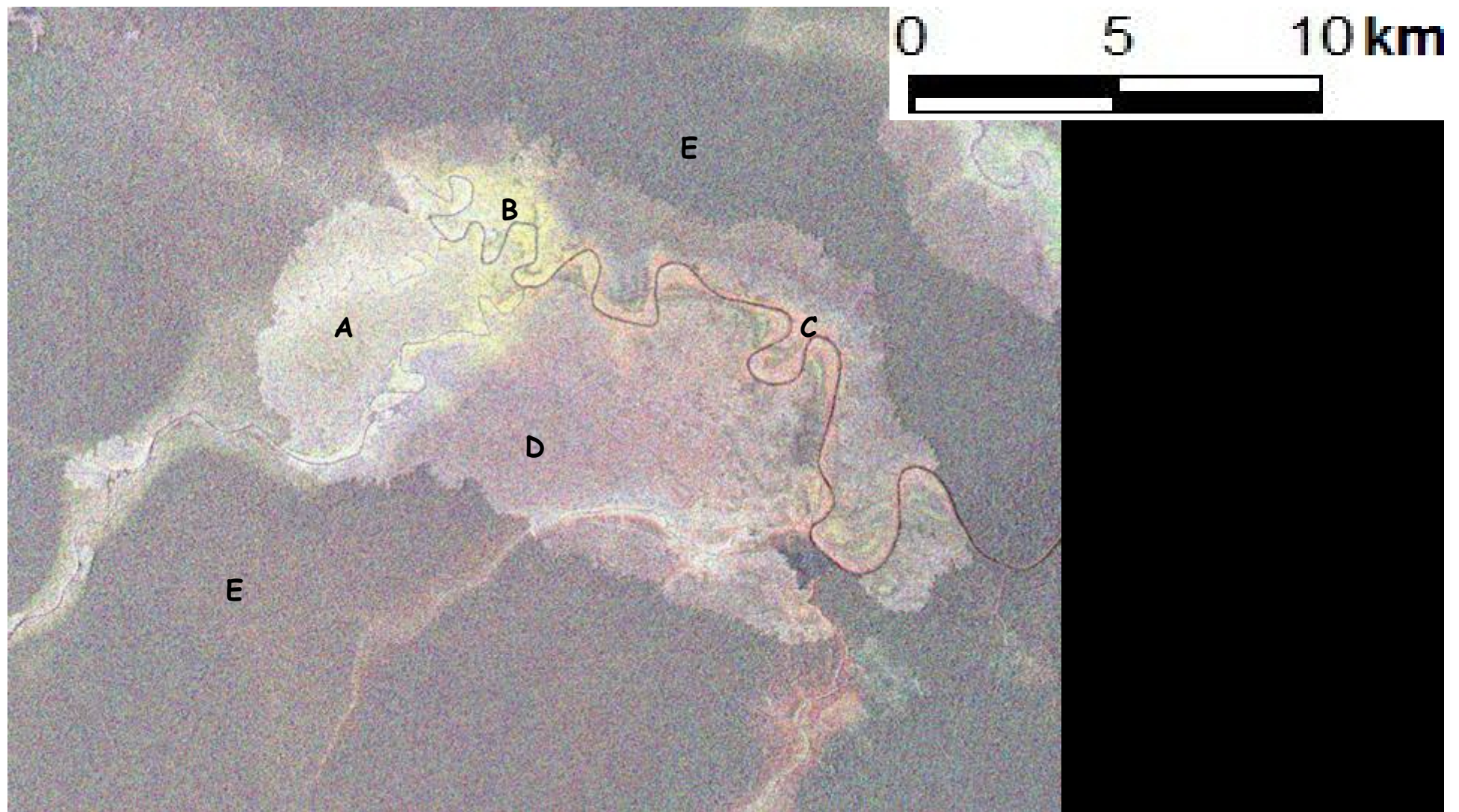


Post-disturbance  
radar image composite

Radar can penetrate vegetation, and even soil surface layers,  
and can reveal important hydrological characteristics

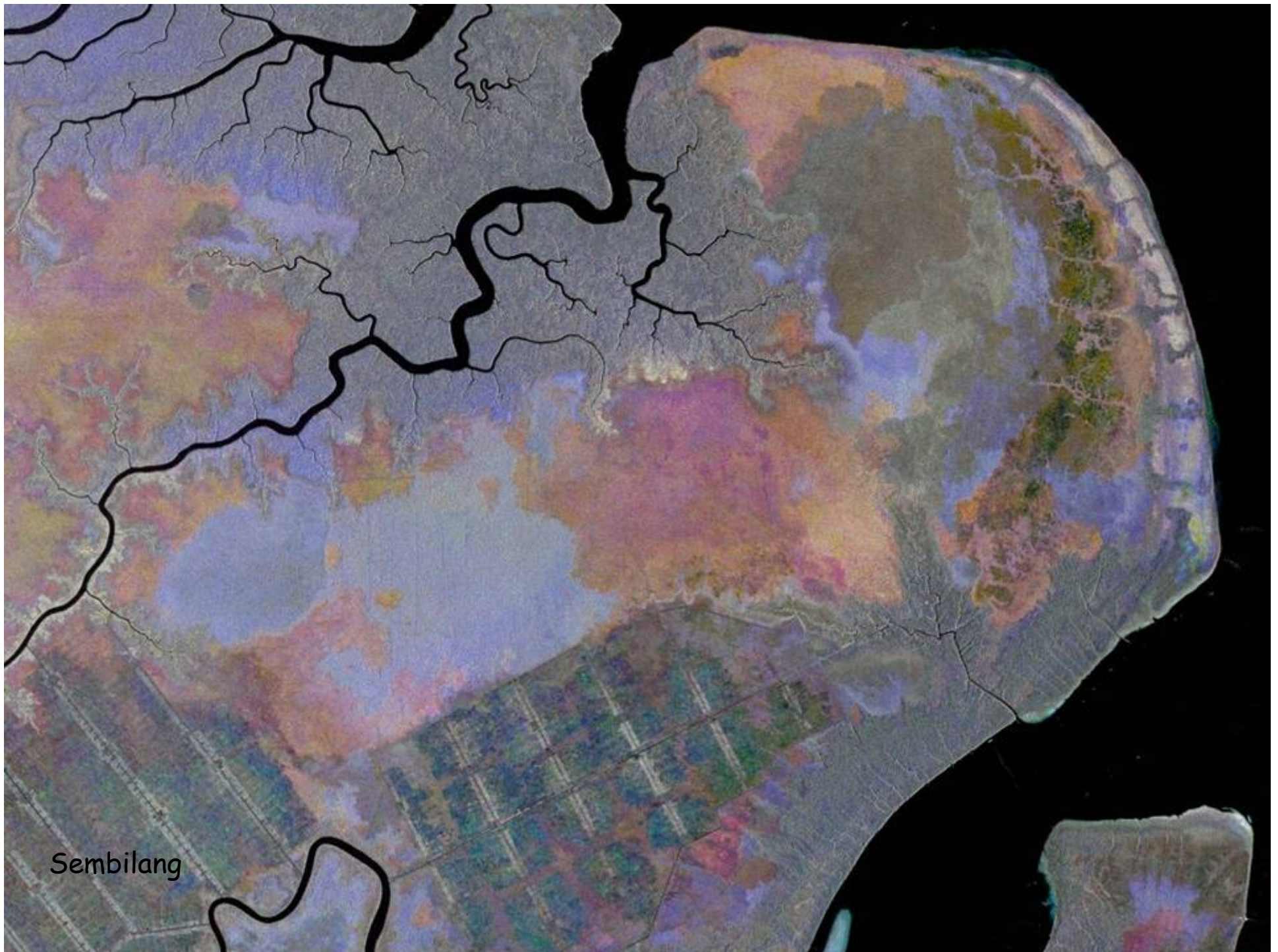


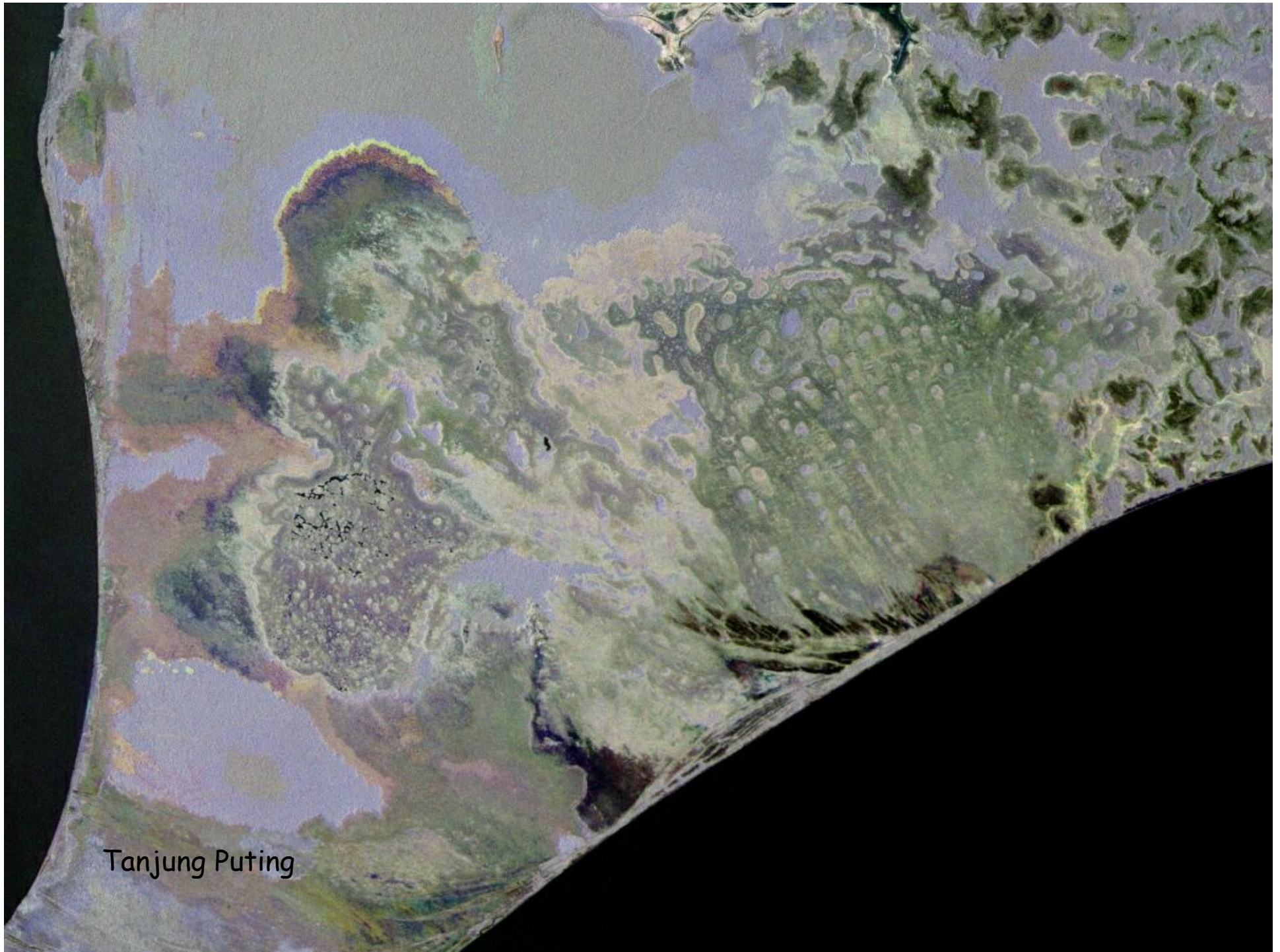
**Figure 6.** In the **Sebangau National park** several areas of peat dome forest collapse, caused by the 1997 ENSO event, show up as bright areas indicated by the arrows (date: 17 Jul 1998).



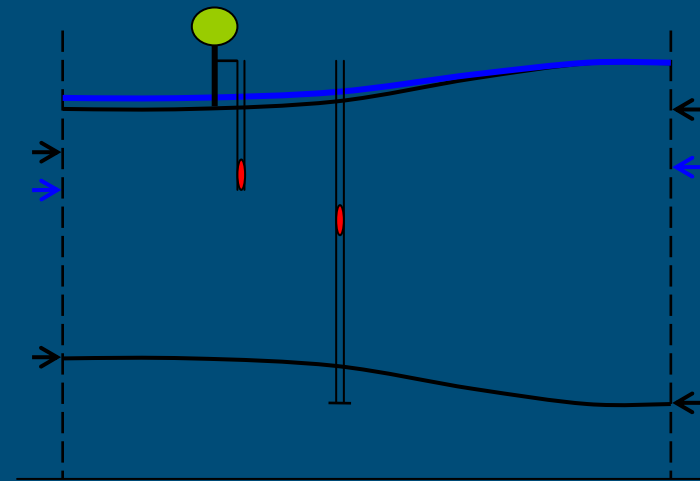
**Figure 7.** In radar images of the **Berbak National park** the peat swamp forest degradation history can be monitored in terms of fire events and flooding durations. For example, the whitish area **A** burned at least three times; the yellow and orange areas **B** and **C** along the river two times; and the purple area **D** one time; the dark area **E** is pristine. This information is an important input for selection of restoration approaches. JERS-1 SAR multi-temporal composite image (Red 25 Jul 1994; Green 24 Jul 1997; Blue 16 Jul 1998).





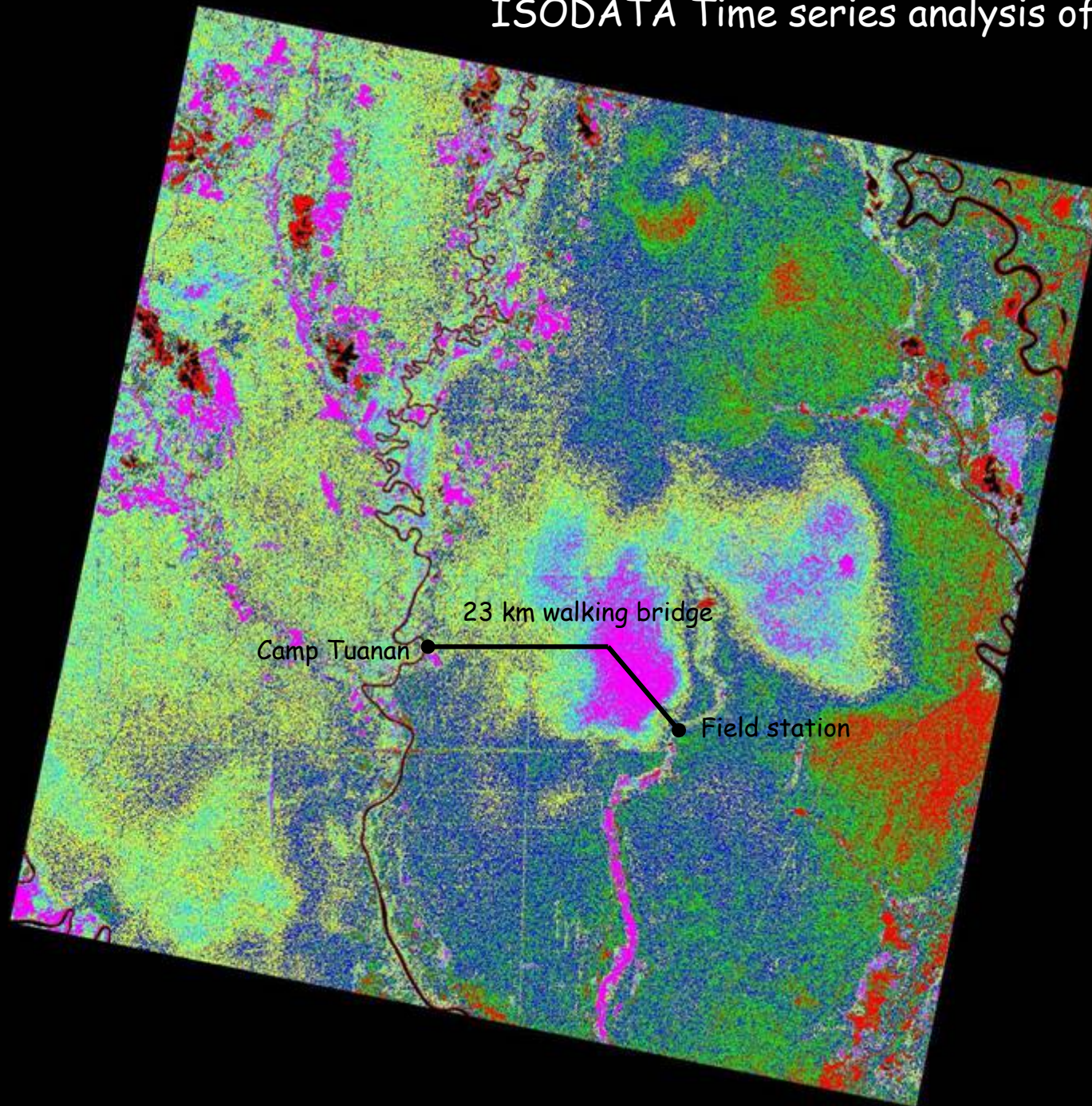


## 2. Mawas research site





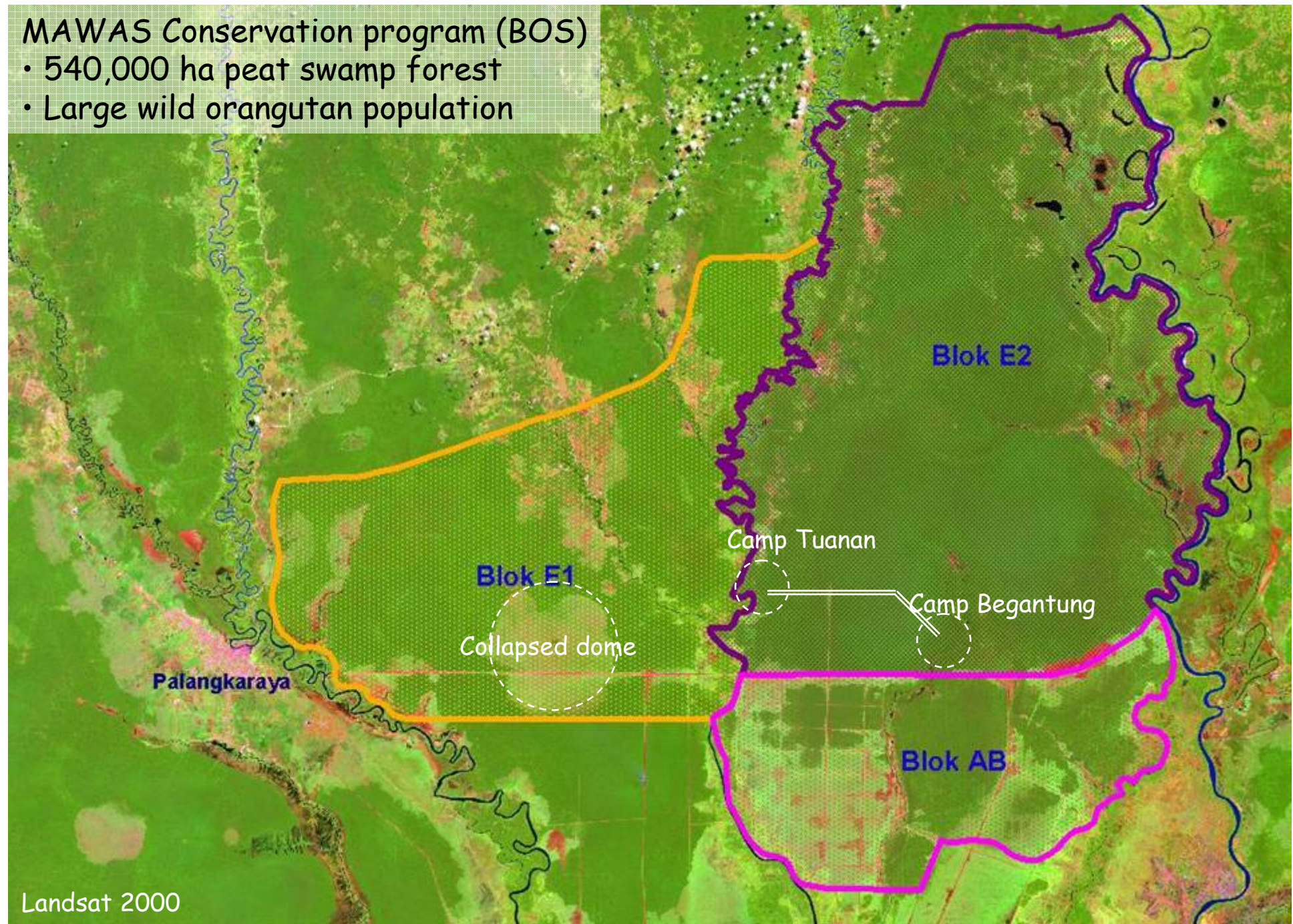
# ISODATA Time series analysis of JERS-1 SAR data



Jul94 - Mar97 (5)

## MAWAS Conservation program (BOS)

- 540,000 ha peat swamp forest
- Large wild orangutan population

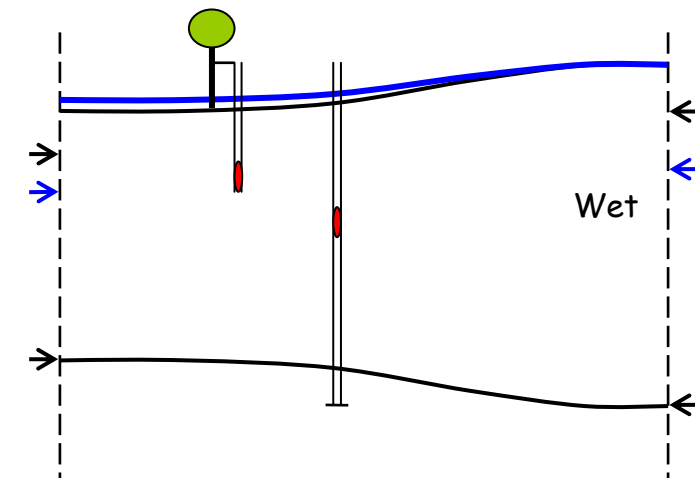
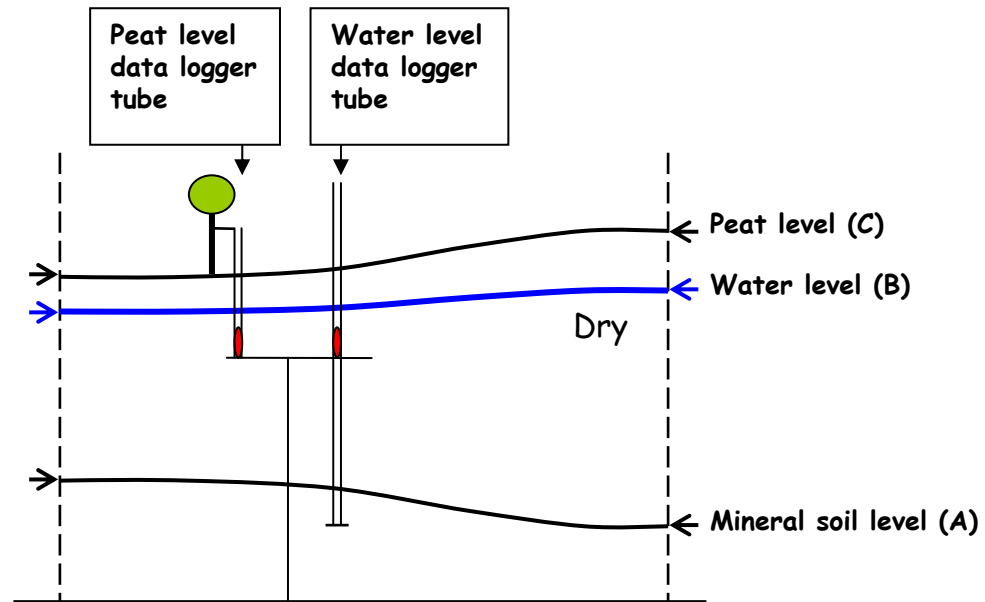


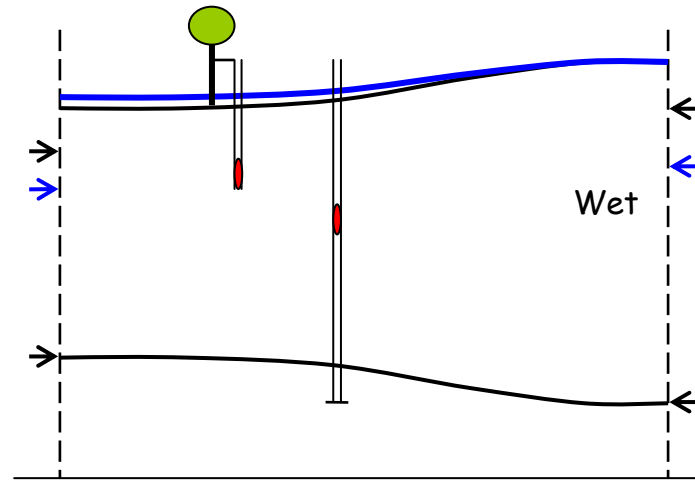




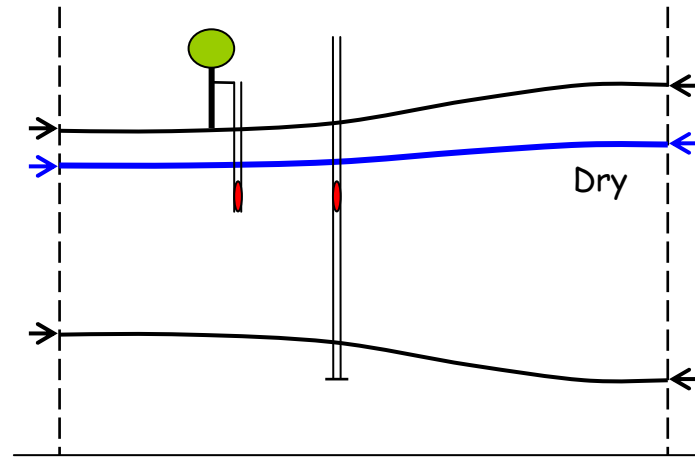
**In total  $\approx$  10,000 trees have been measured !**



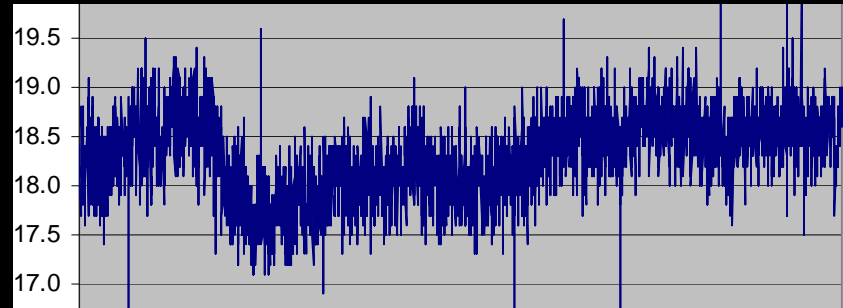




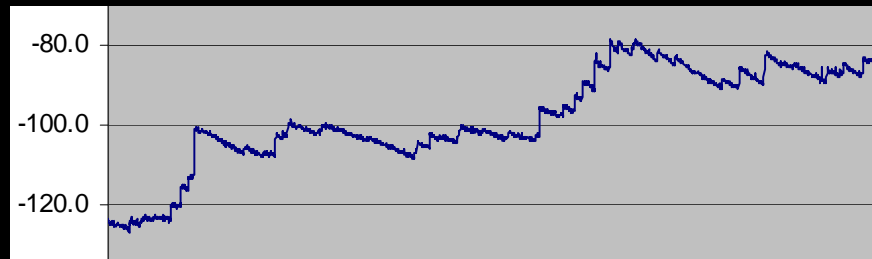
- Peat dome research station
- Floating bridge 9 km length completed
- Twenty data loggers: each 1 measurement per hour for 10 years



- Peat dome research station
- Floating bridge 9 km length completed
- Twenty data loggers: each 1 measurement per hour for 10 years

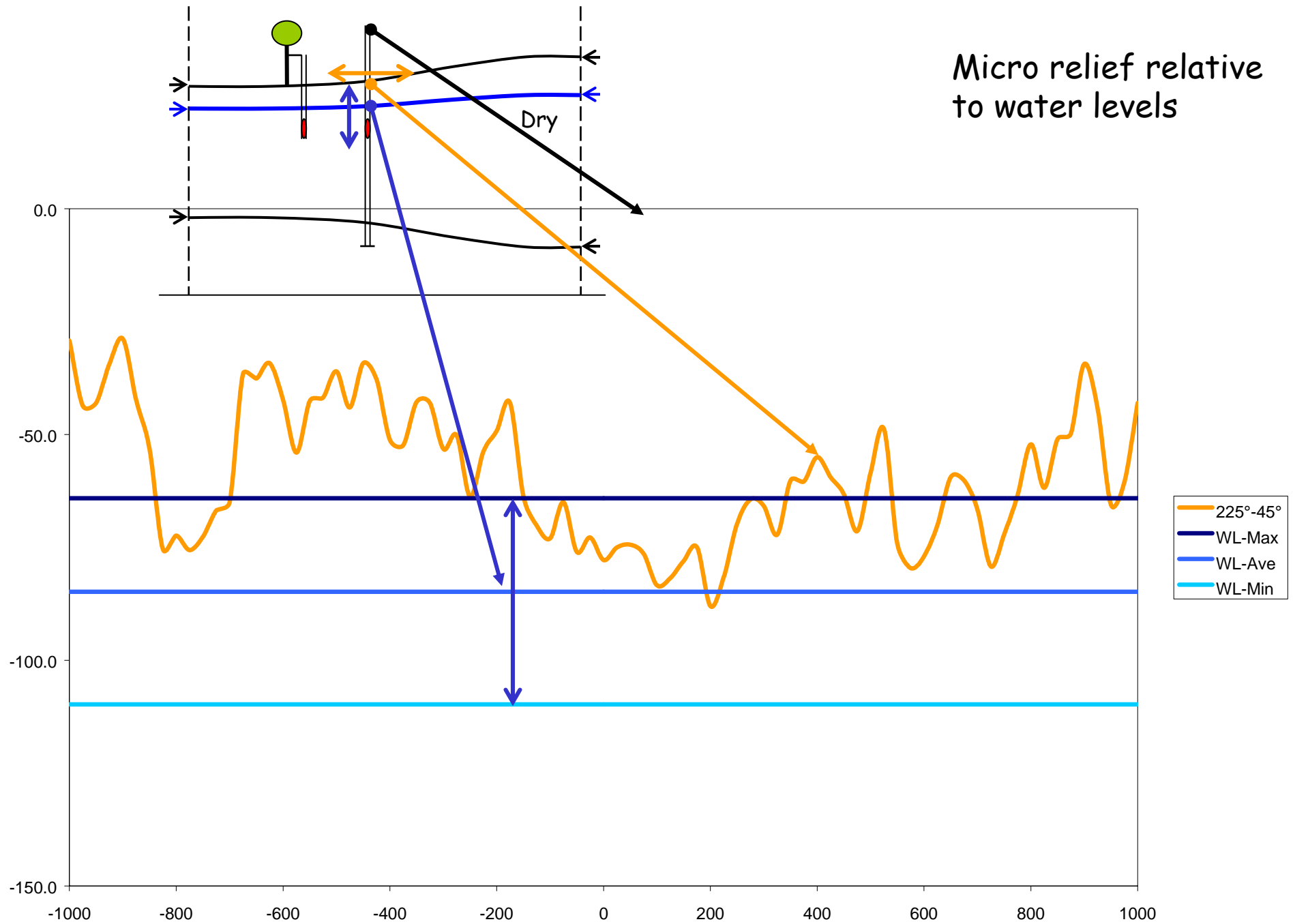


Soil surface  
fluctuation  
(5-6T)



Water level  
fluctuation  
(5)

Micro relief relative  
to water levels





# INDREX<sup>2</sup>

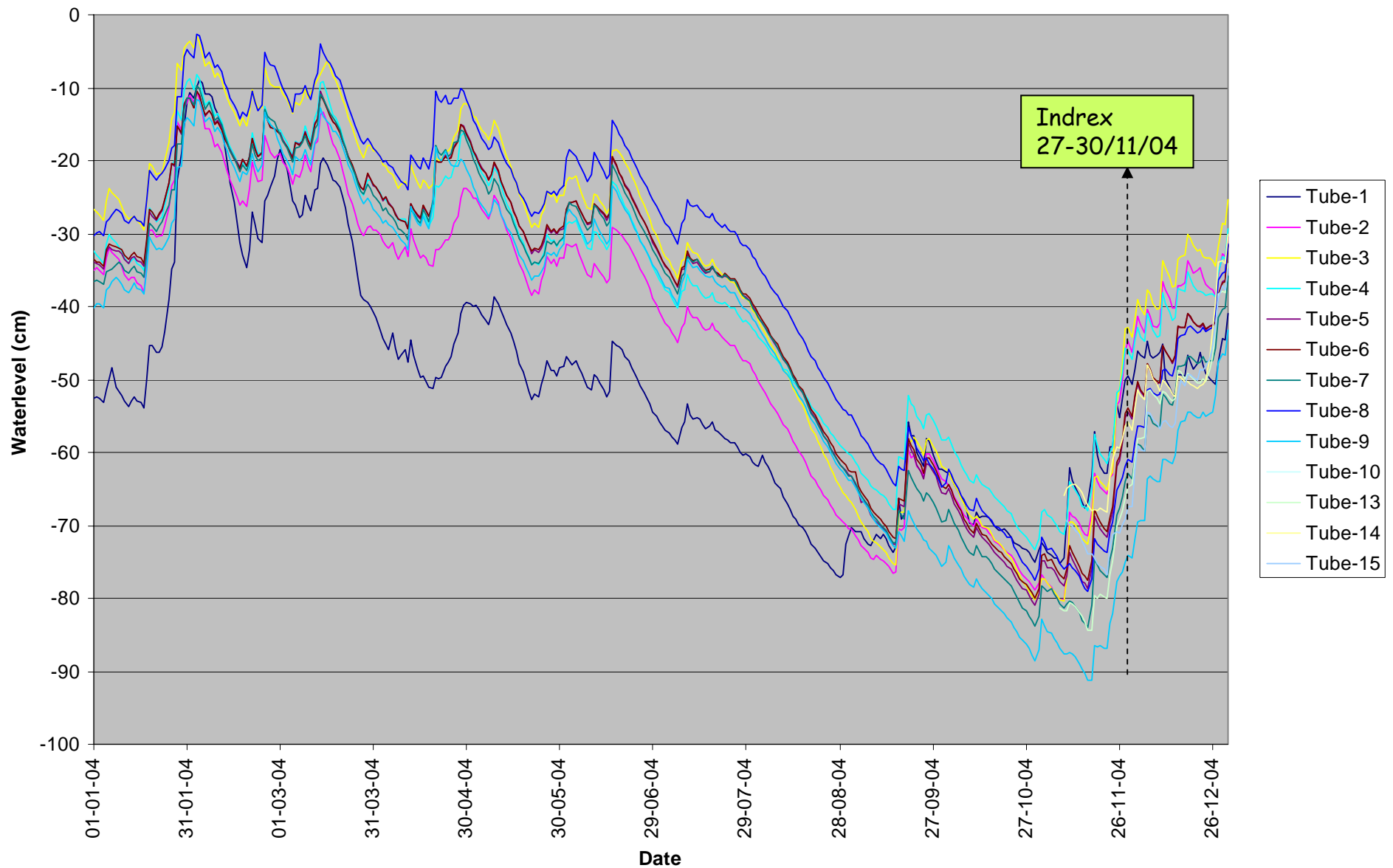
INDONESIA RADAR EXPERIMENT

Mawas-Gunung Meratus-Sungai Wain-Balikpapan Bay Mangrove-Samboja Lestari

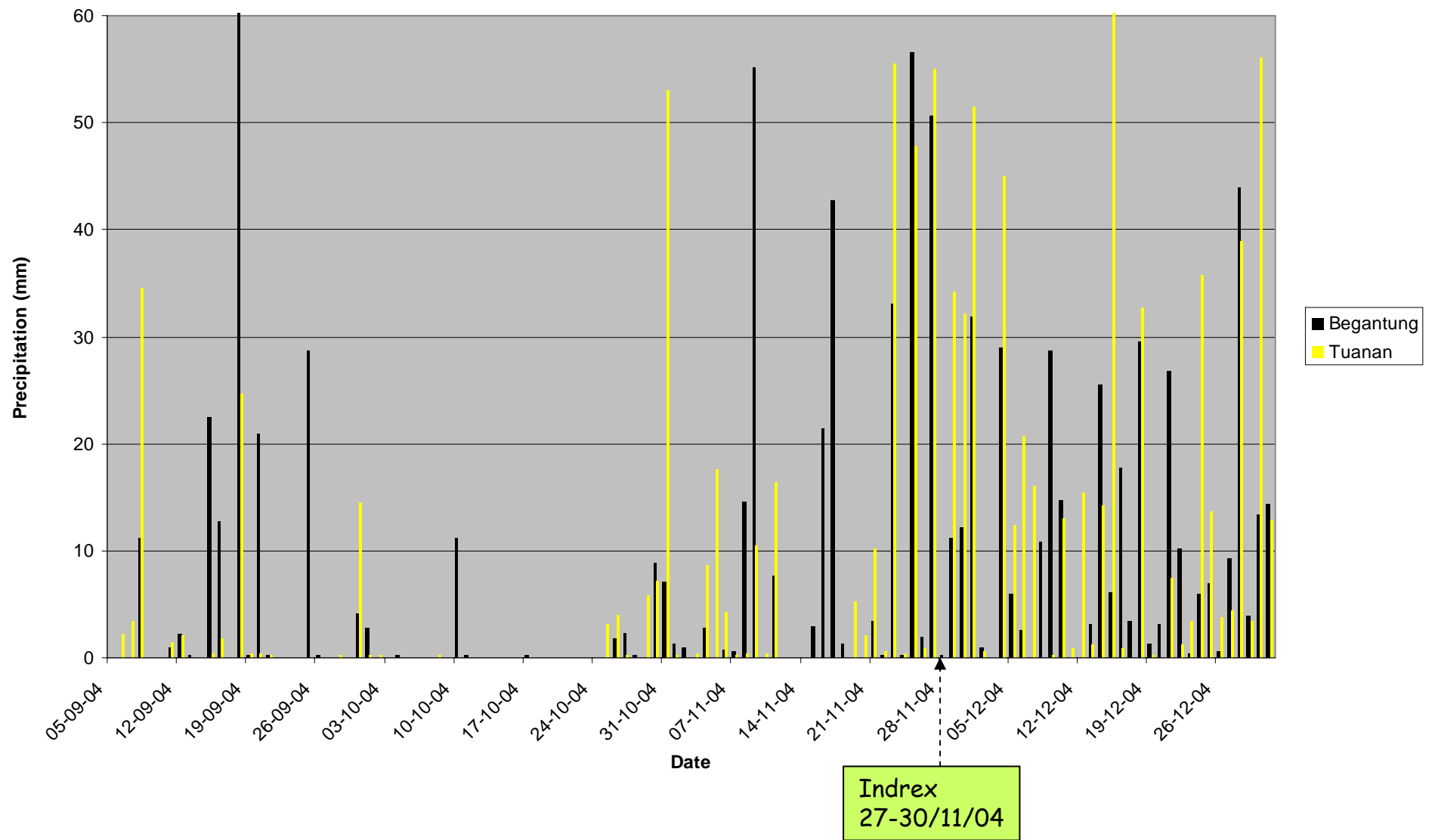
NOVEMBER, 2004



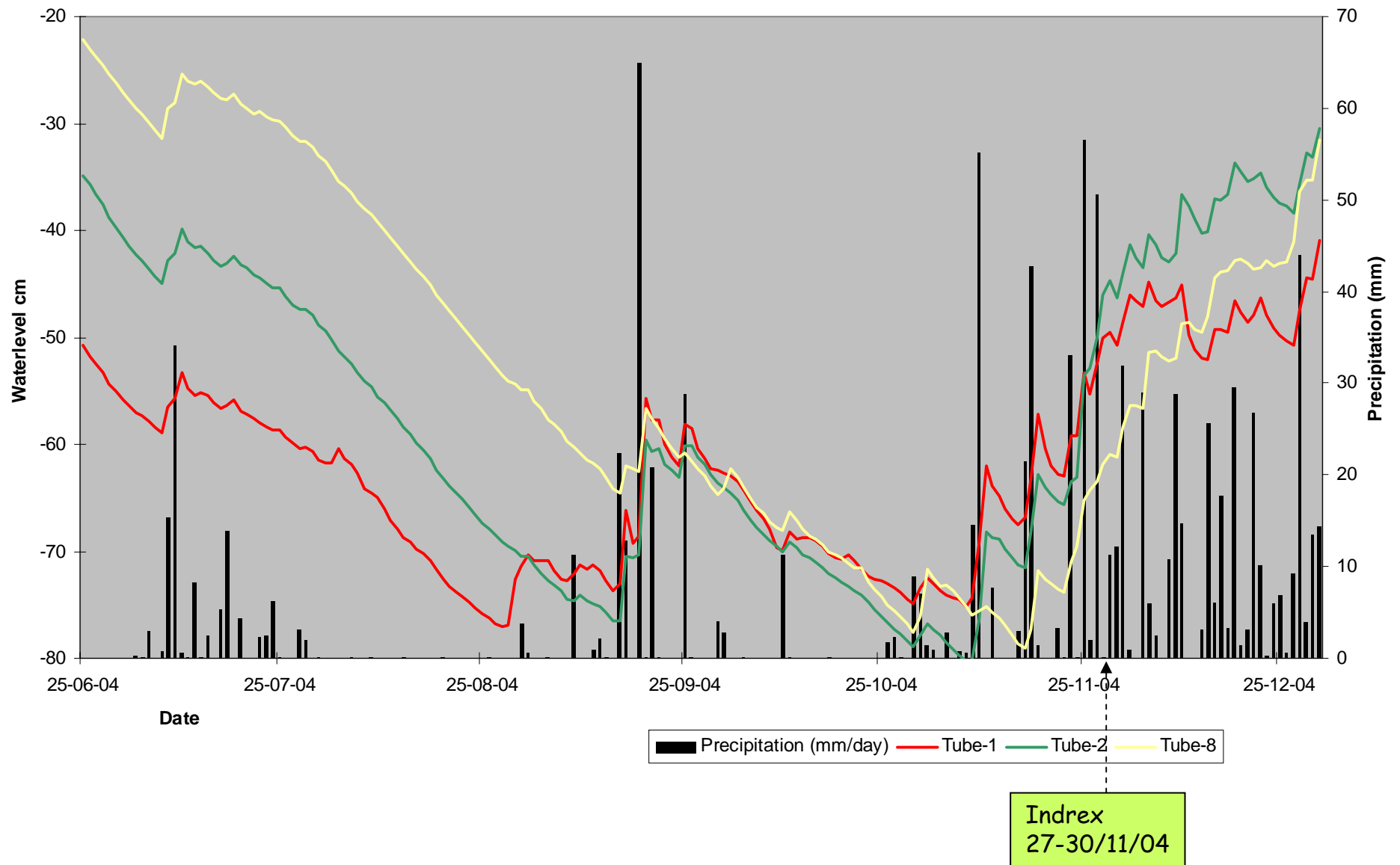
AIRBORNE SAR CAMPAIGN OVER TROPICAL FOREST IN P-L-C and X-BAND



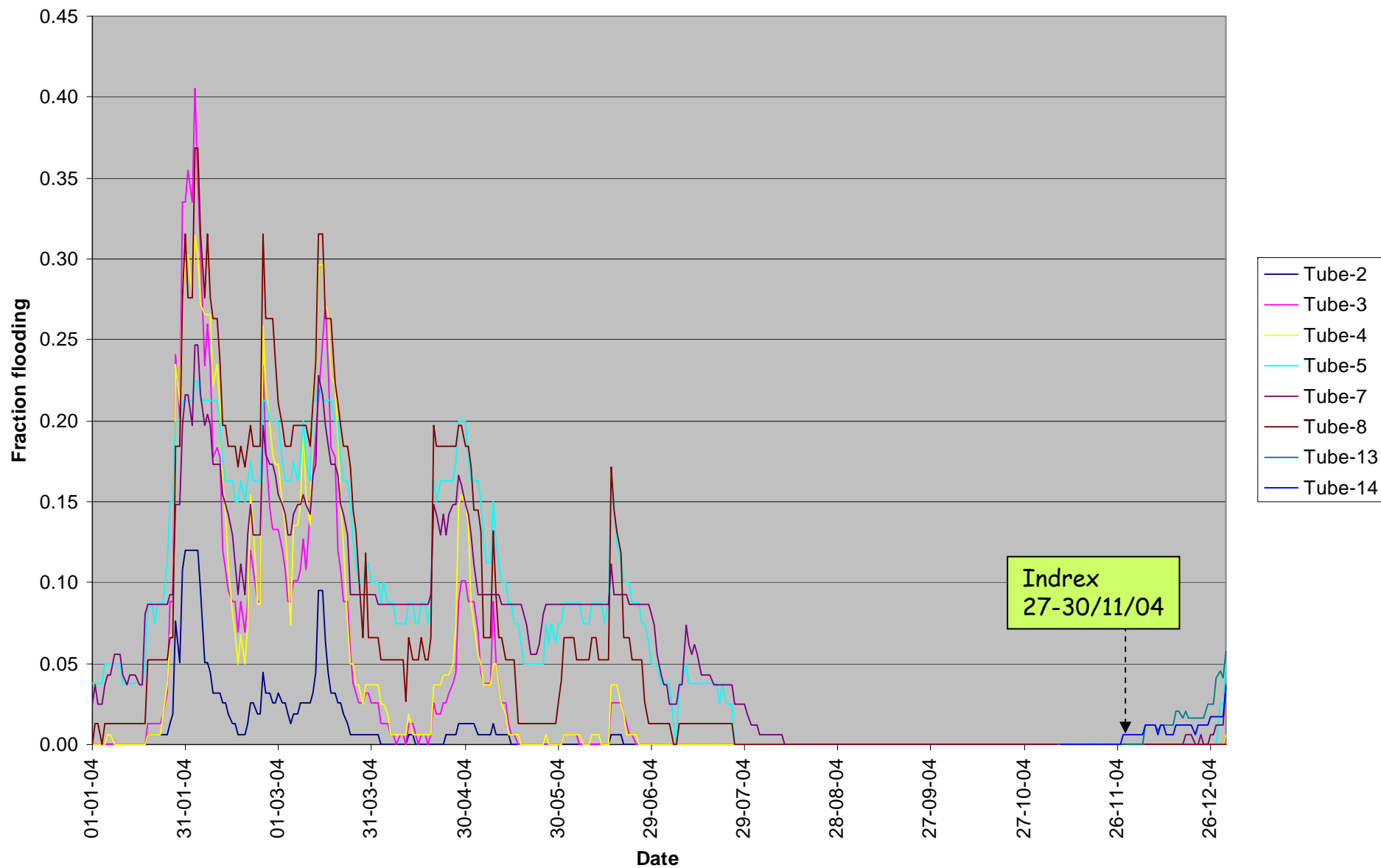
Water level



Precipitation



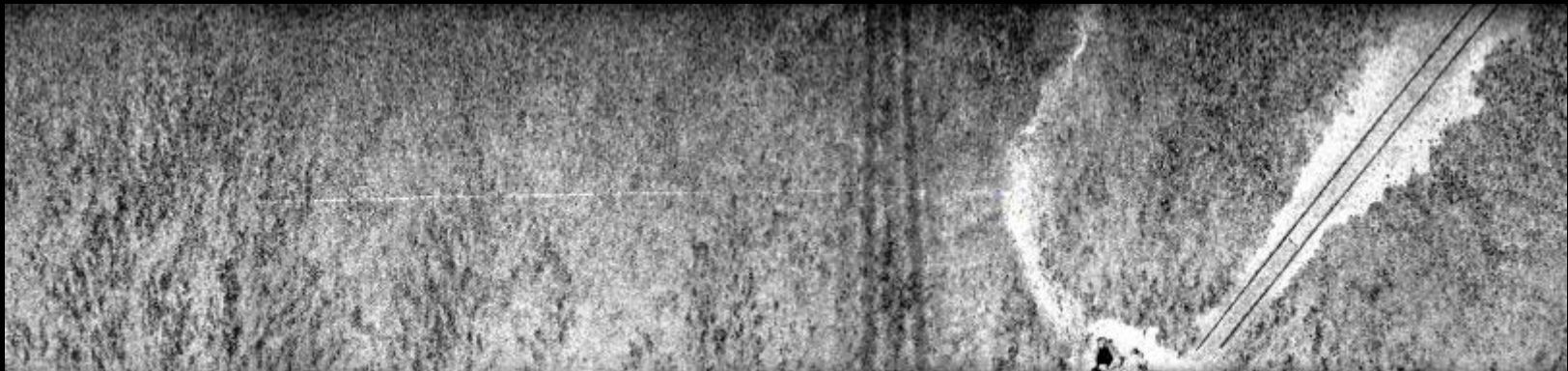
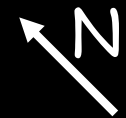
Water level and precipitation



Flooding fraction



P-band PolInSAR

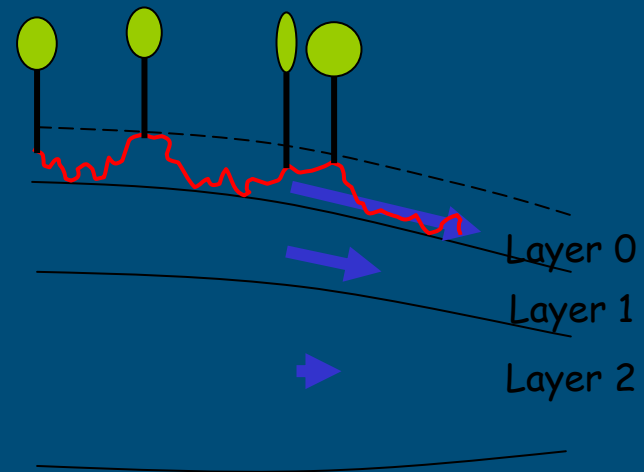


L-band PolInSAR



L-band

### 3. Hydrological model



# Hydrological model

Layer 0:

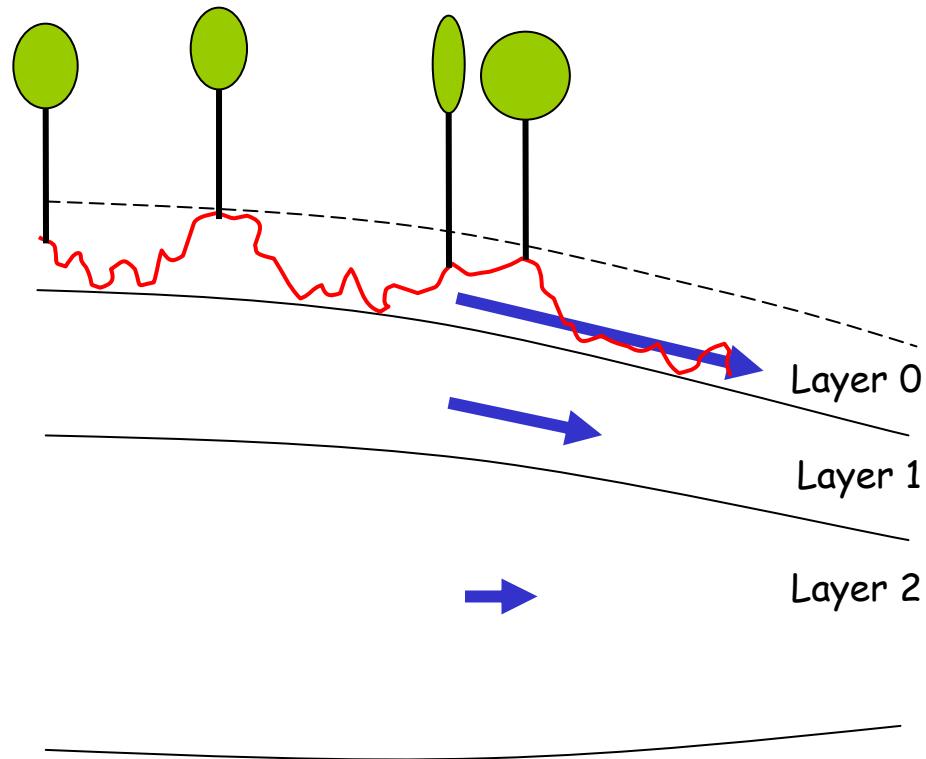
Upper layer; surface run-off;  
Large effective hydraulic  
conductivity  $k_0$ , depending on  
water table

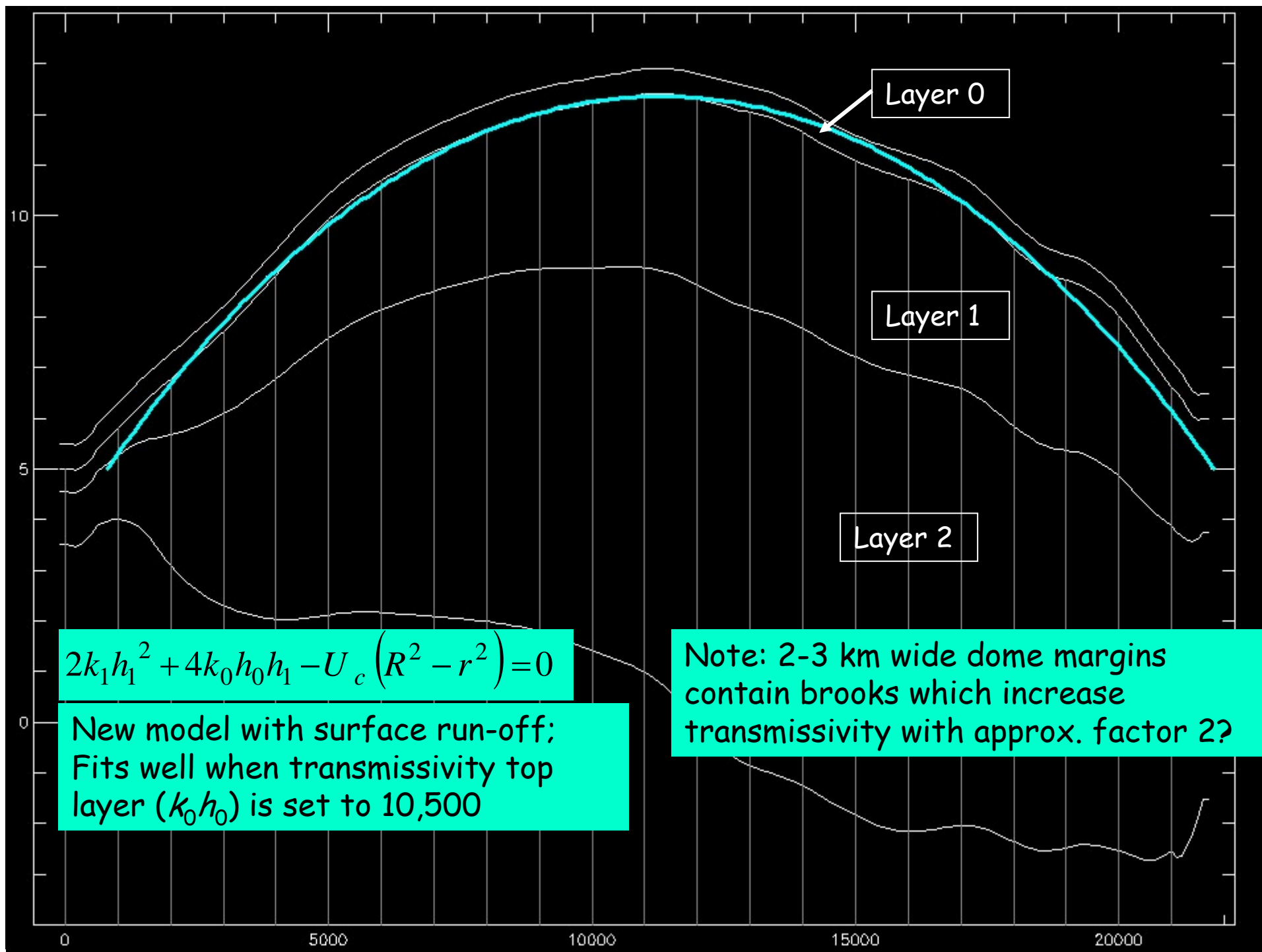
Layer 1:

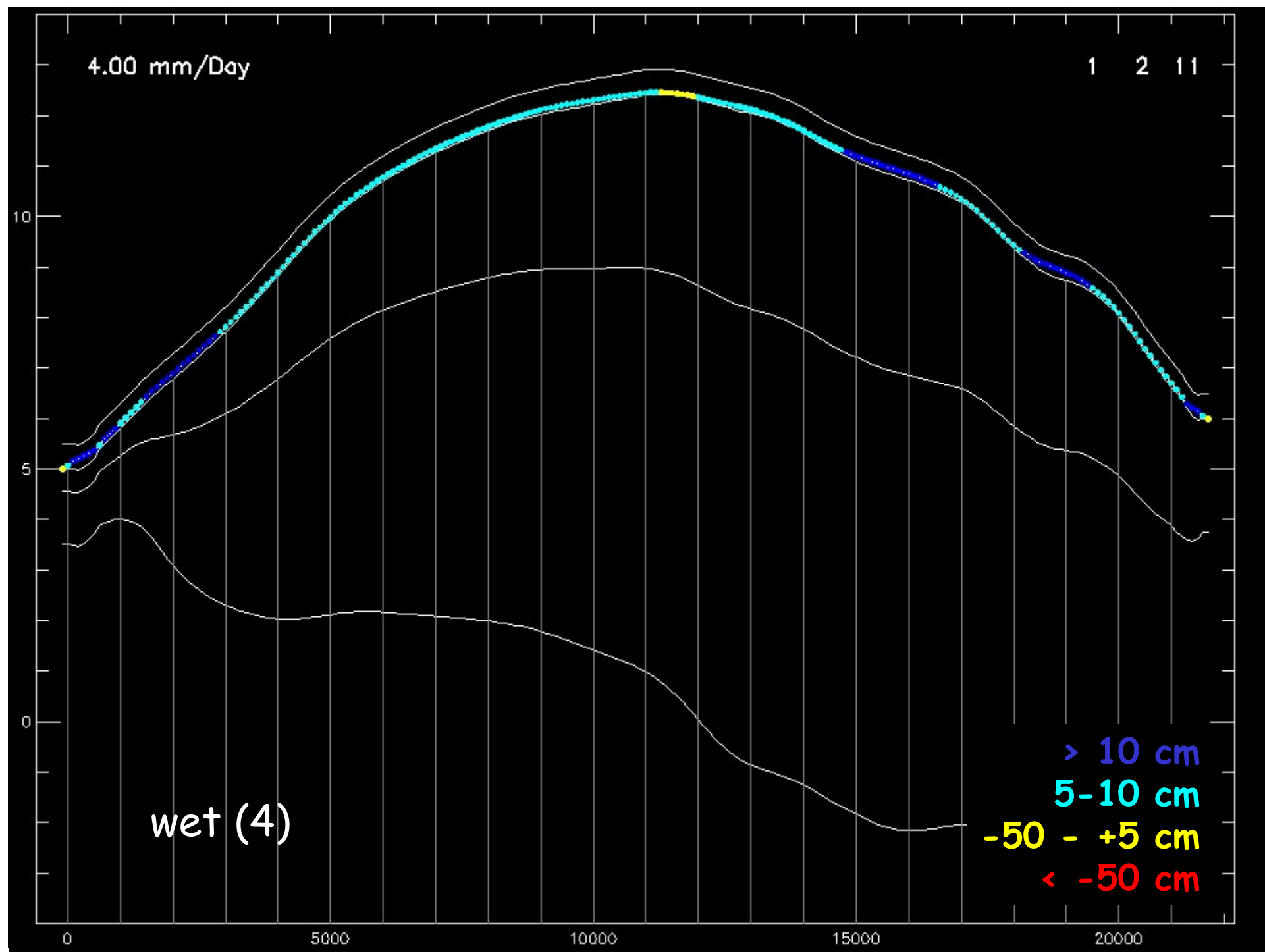
Young catotelm:  $k_1$  up to  $\approx 200$

Layer 2:

Old catotelm:  $k_2$  up to  $\approx 100$





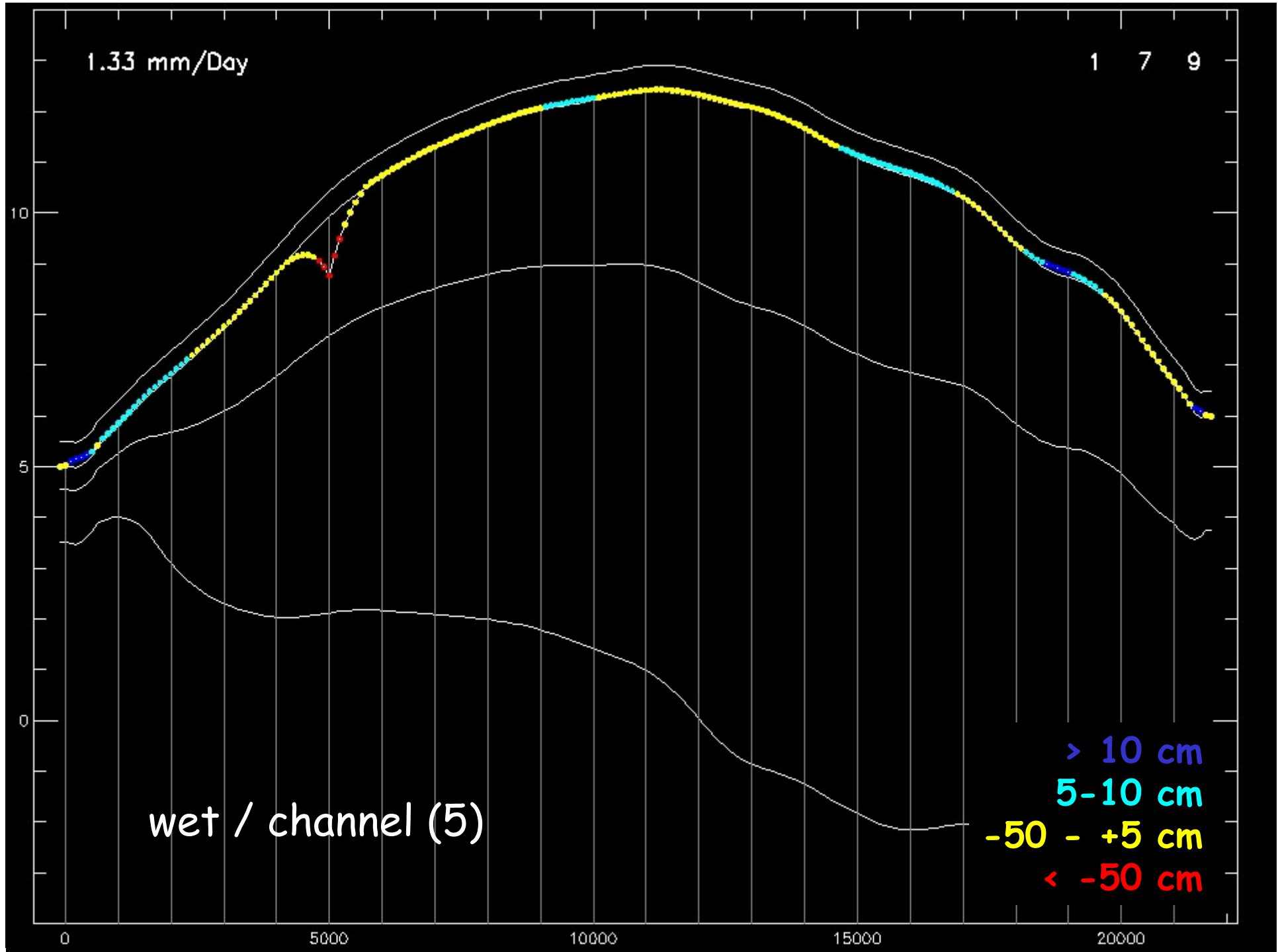


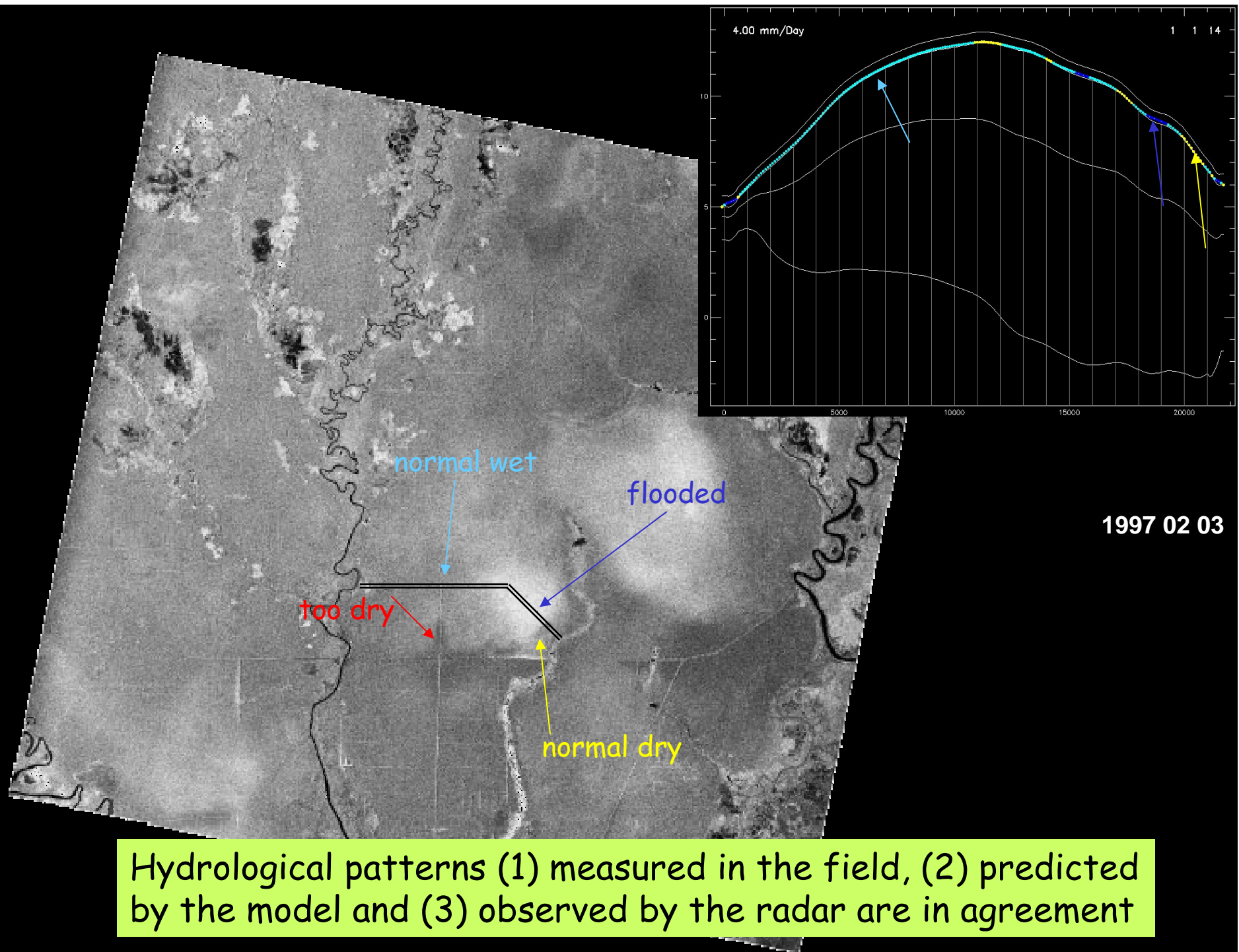
1.33 mm/Day

1 7 9

wet / channel (5)

> 10 cm  
5-10 cm  
-50 - +5 cm  
< -50 cm





# Targeted field response



Black areas:  
too dry!

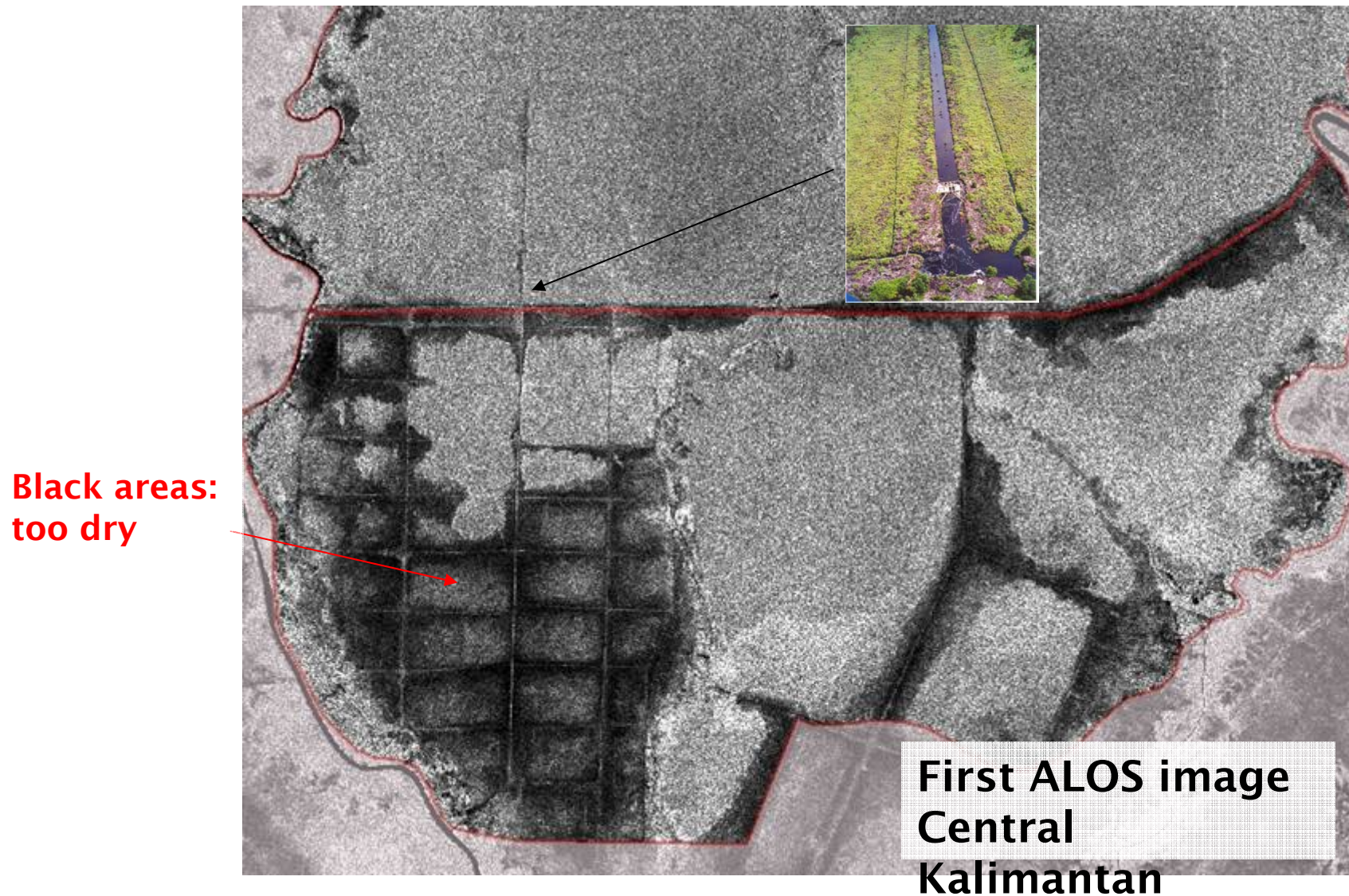
Impact canal  
width 7 km



Does blocking canals work??

1998

# Targeted field response



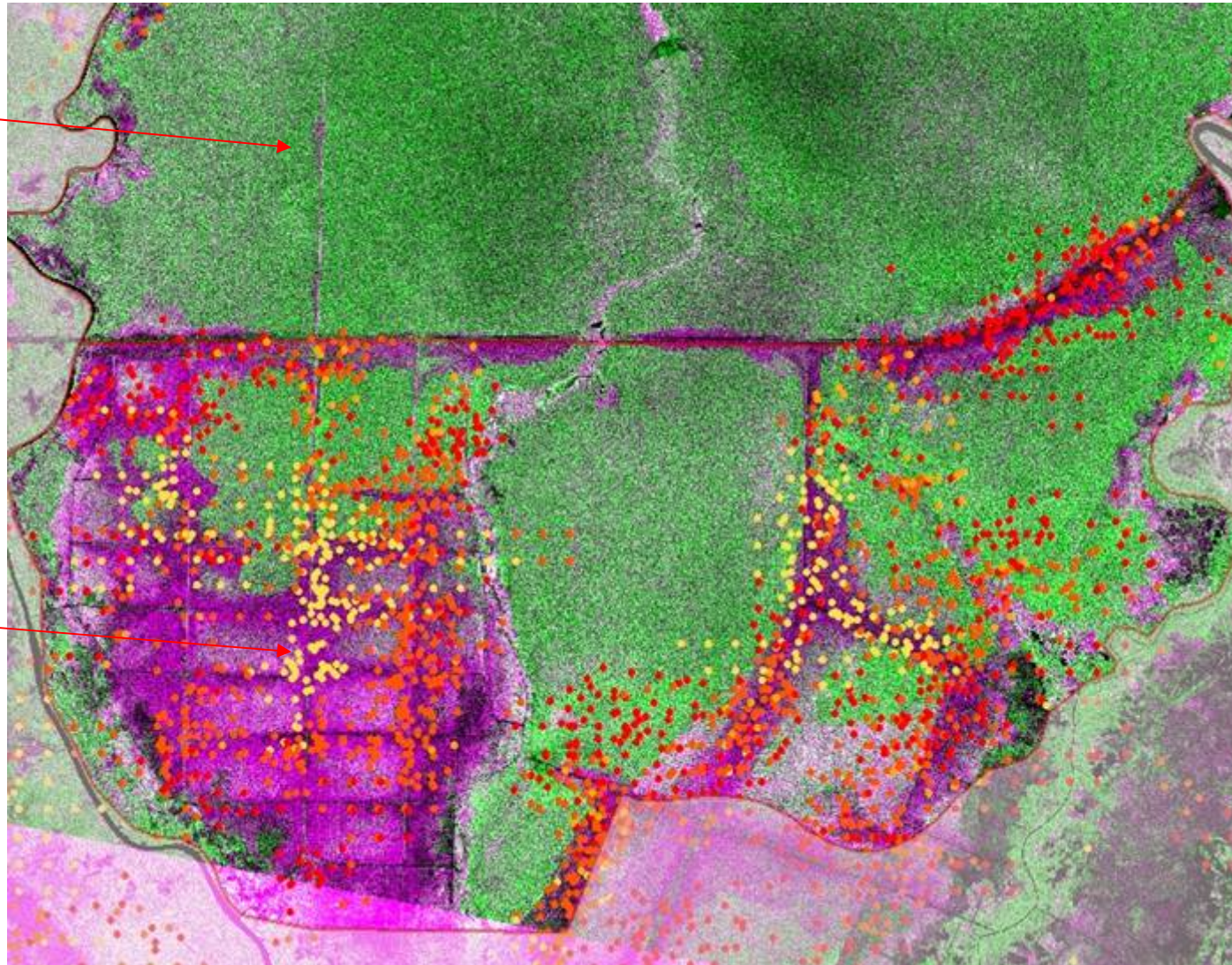
Does blocking canals work?? 2006: yes?

# Targeted field response



2006:  
No  
FIRES!!

Too  
many  
FIRES!!



**Does blocking canals work??**

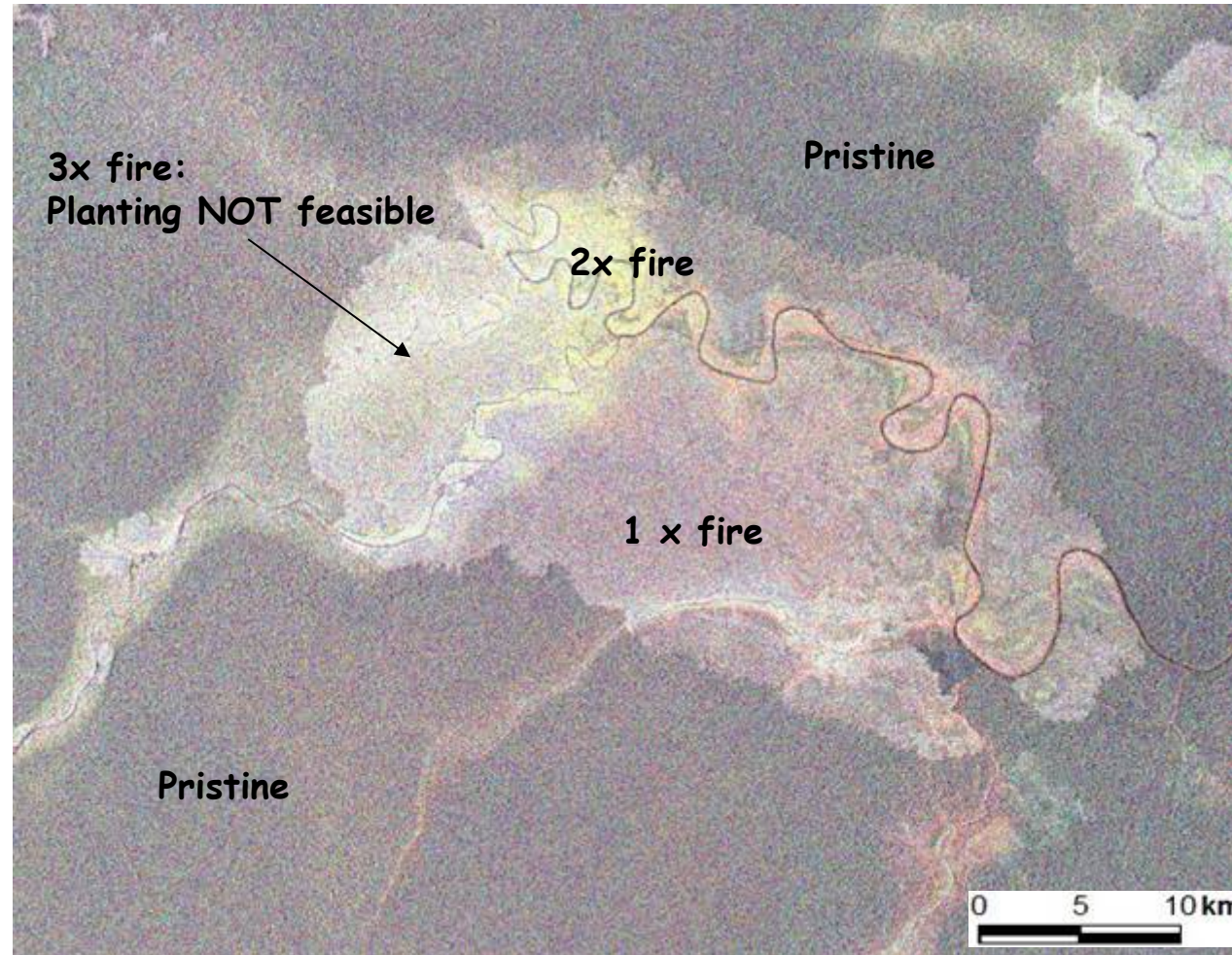
**2006: yes?**

# Targeted field response



**Pinpoint optimal locations for dam construction!**

# Targeted field response



JERS-1 SAR multi-temporal  
composite image

(Red 25 Jul 1994; Green 24  
Jul 1997; Blue 16 Jul 1998).

**Berbak National Park  
Sumatra**

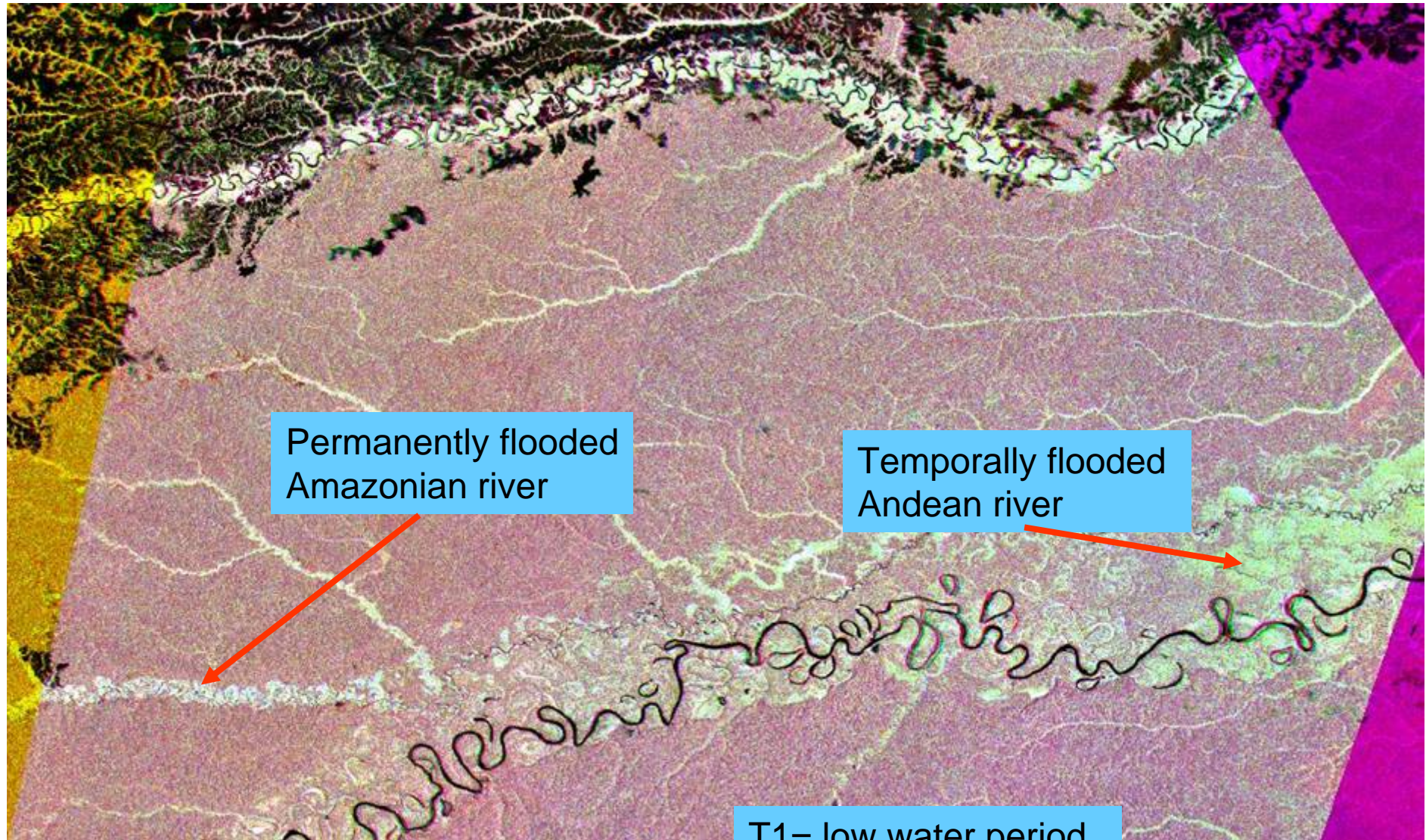
**Peat swamp forest  
degradation history  
monitoring:**

**Fire events and  
flooding durations**

**Important input for selection of sound restoration  
approaches ! Where economically feasible??**

## 4. Colombia examples

Color composites of multi temporal ALOS PALSAR can provide information about temporal changes and seasonality in inundation regimes (of rivers).

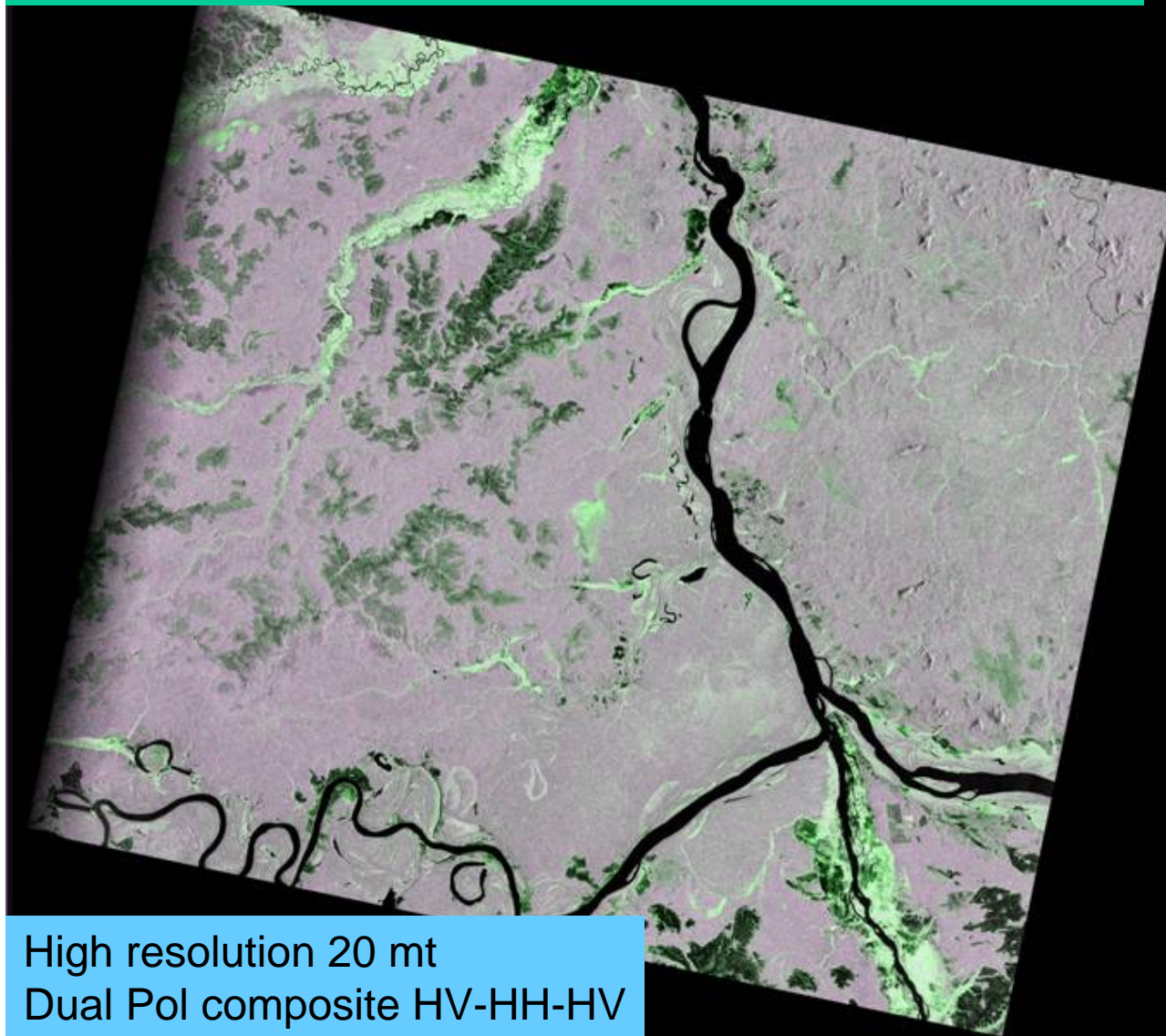


JERSHH-T1, AlosWSHH-T1, AlosWSHH-T2

T1= low water period

T2= high water period

## Mataven Indigenous Reserve, Colombia, overview



High resolution 20 mt  
Dual Pol composite HV-HH-HV

Composites of dual pol or full pol enhance differences between ecosystems

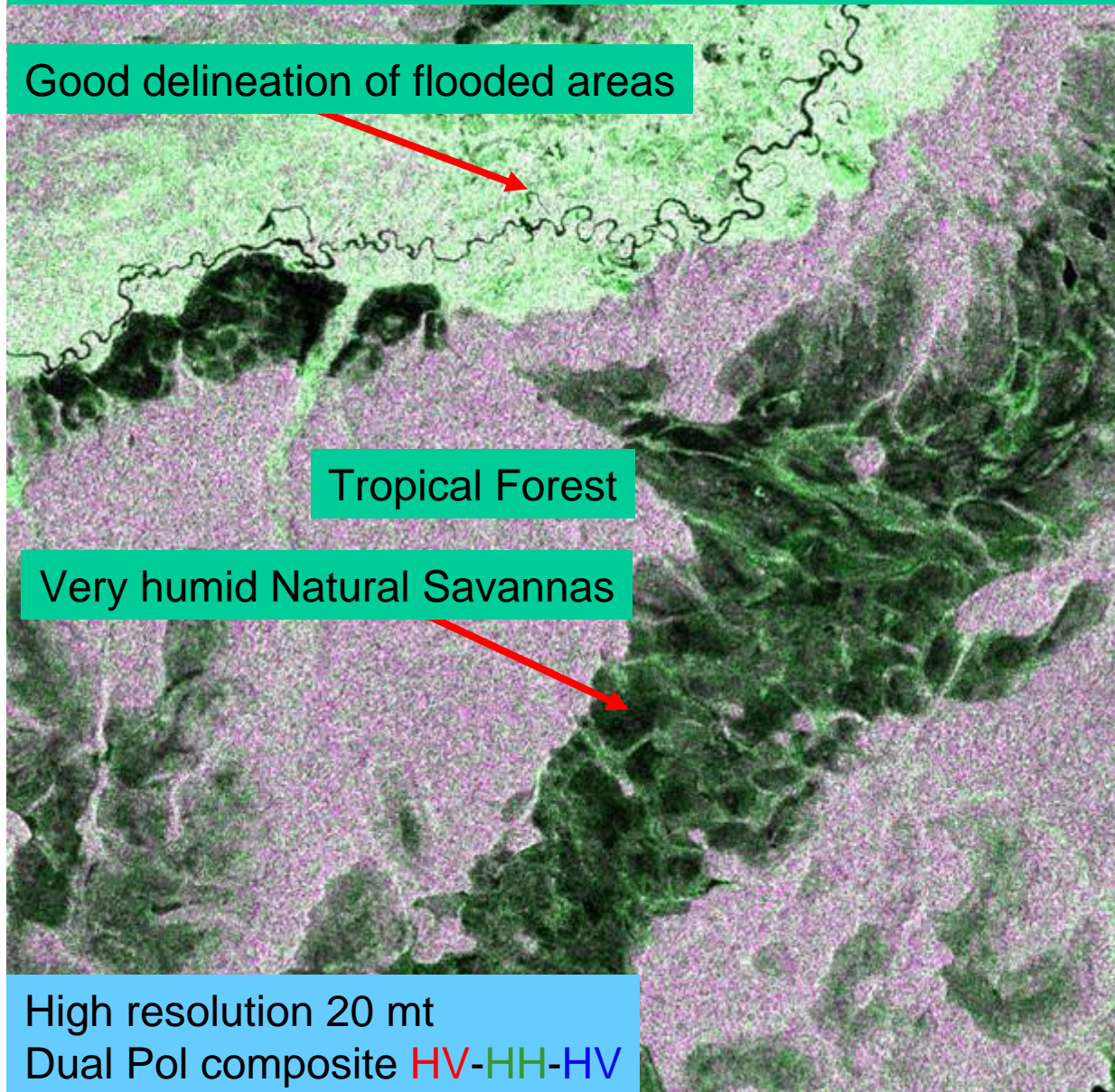
## Mataven Indigenous Reserve, Colombia, detail

Good delineation of flooded areas

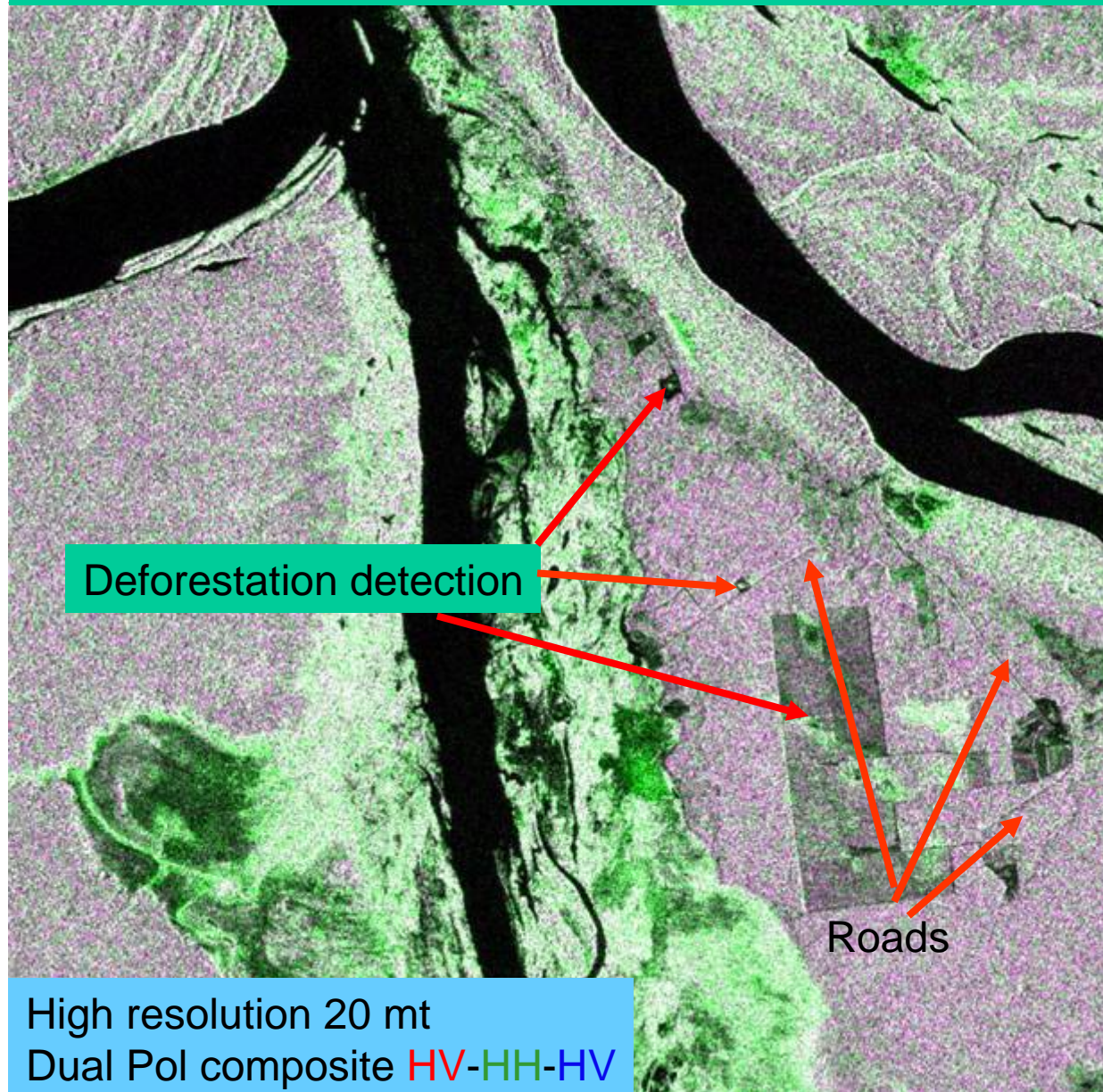
Tropical Forest

Very humid Natural Savannas

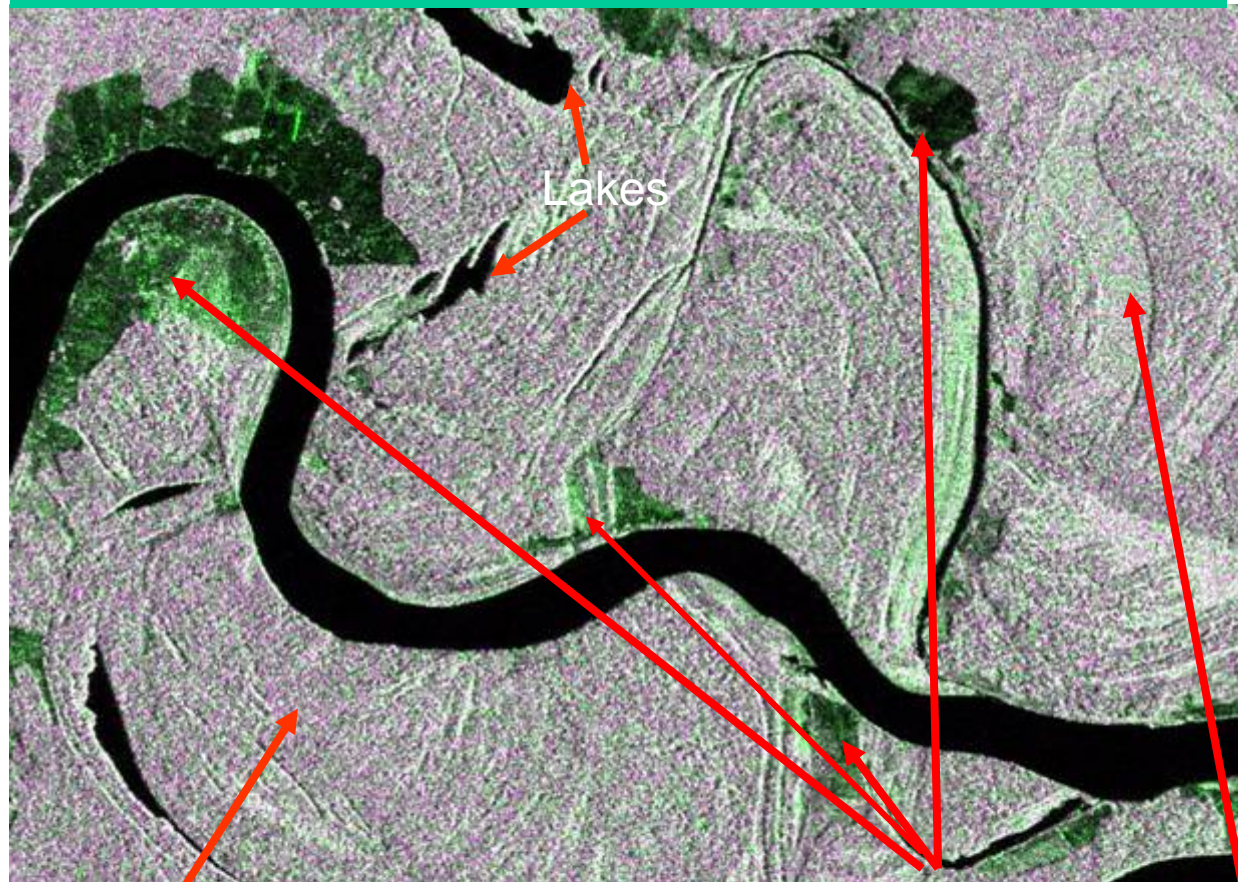
High resolution 20 mt  
Dual Pol composite HV-HH-HV



## Mataven Indigenous Reserve, Colombia, detail



## Mataven Indigenous Reserve, Colombia, detail



Detection of different Vegetation covers (Pastures-Human activities, river old-paths, forest).

High resolution 20 mt  
Dual Pol composite HV-GH-HV

## 5. Summary and conclusions

- Methodology development and calibration of radar systems at Mawas research station
- Historical JERS-1 SAR time series available for many PSF areas
- In principle radar can map PSF characteristics and contribute to improved carbon stock estimation
- Radar monitoring can be utilized to monitor excess drainage dynamics and effects of peat land restoration
- ALOS PALSAR will enable monitoring of all PSF areas during the next 5-6 years