



# BEeS

## The LifeWatch ERIC Biodiversity & Ecosystem eScience Conference

Seville  
22-24/05/23



Threats and challenges to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation from an eScience perspective



**UNIÓN EUROPEA**

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional  
Una manera de hacer Europa



Centro Interdisciplinar  
de Investigación  
Marinha e Ambiental

## Herb stratum biomass estimation through ultra-high resolution UAS remote sensing

# Summary

1. Objective
2. Study Area
3. Methodology
  - I. Quadrats
  - II. Vegetation indices
  - III. Classification
4. Above Ground Biomass (AGB)
5. Validation
6. Further Research

Looking from above, can we identify  
the biomass of a specific herb  
stratum plant community?

# Remote Sensing

- Satellites
- Airplanes
- Unoccupied Aircraft System
  - Multispectral Images
    - Red
    - Green
    - Blue
    - Edg
    - NIR
  - Ultra-High resolution
    - px size = 2.5 cm



Source: DJI Matrice 200 - [dji.com](http://dji.com)  
 Micasense RedEdge MX - [micasense.com](http://micasense.com)

# Remote Sensing

- Satellites
- Airplanes
- Unoccupied Aircraft System
  - Multispectral Images
    - Red
    - Green
    - Blue
    - Edg
    - NIR
  - Ultra-High resolution
    - px size = 2.5 cm



Source: DJI Matrice 200 - [dji.com](https://www.dji.com)  
 Micasense RedEdge MX - [micasense.com](https://www.micasense.com)

# Ultra-High Resolution Aerial Images

- Pixels < 2.5 cm
- Monitor herb stratum

## Wetlands



Source: [wetlands-initiative.org](http://wetlands-initiative.org)

# Ultra-High Resolution Aerial Images

- Pixels < 2.5 cm
- Monitor herb stratum

## Prairies



Source: BLM Wyoming



# Ultra-High Resolution Aerial Images

- Pixels < 2.5 cm
- Monitor herb stratum

## Intertidal Seagrass



Source: Nordlund, Lina & Torre-Castro



# Ultra-High Resolution Aerial Images

- Pixels < 2.5 cm
- Monitor herb stratum

## Dunes

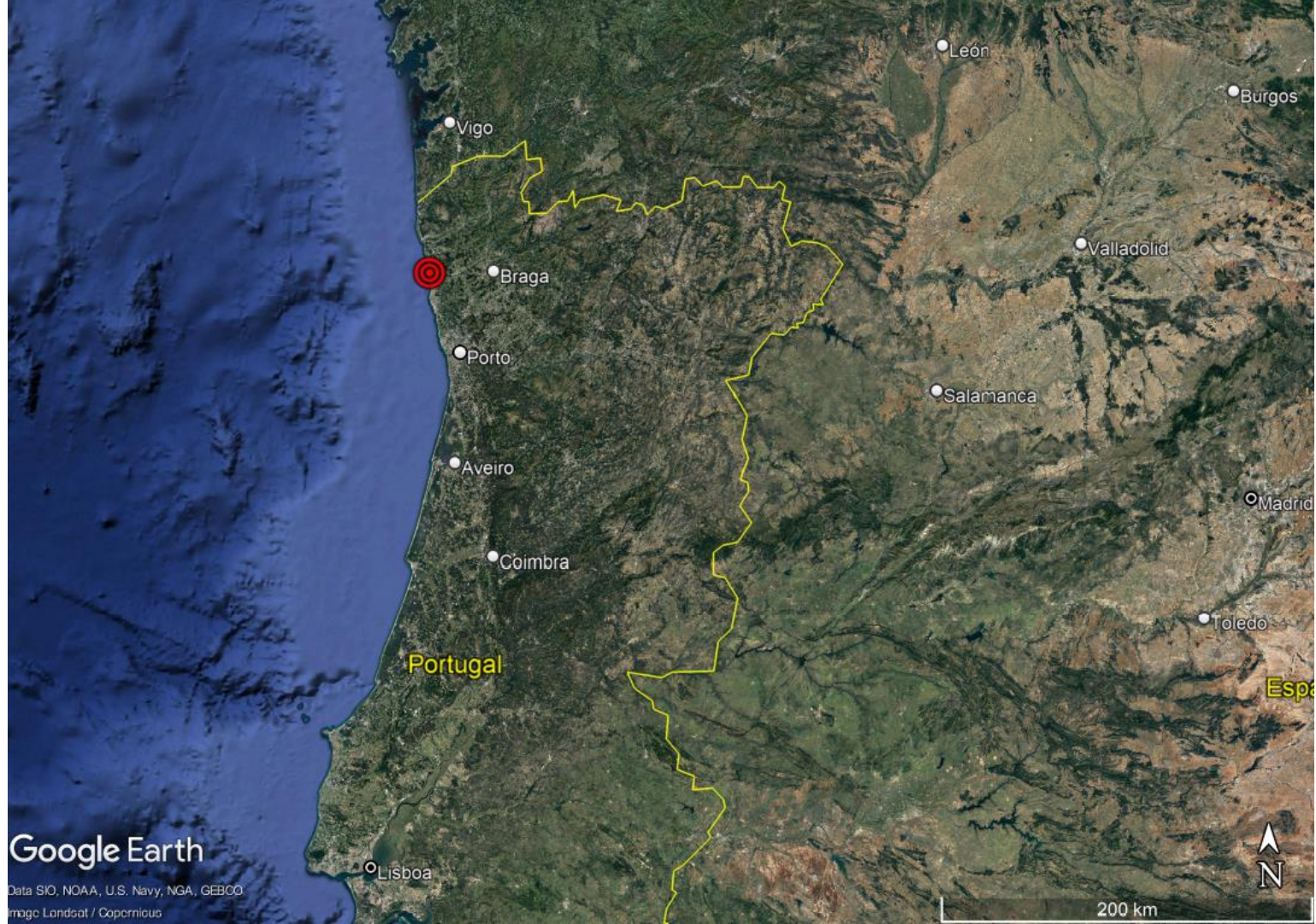


Source: [dynamicdunescape.co.uk/](http://dynamicdunescape.co.uk/)

Protected landscape of Ofir littoral  
Parque Natural do Litoral Norte

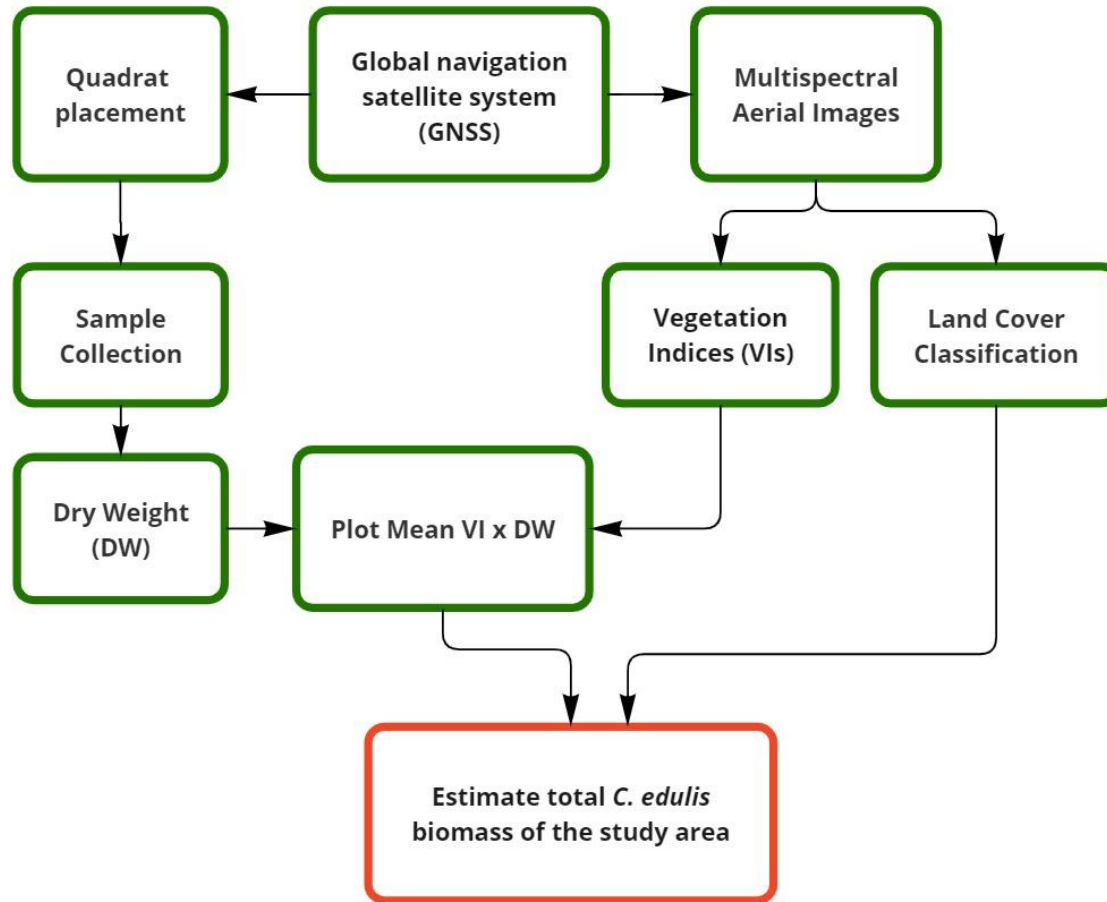


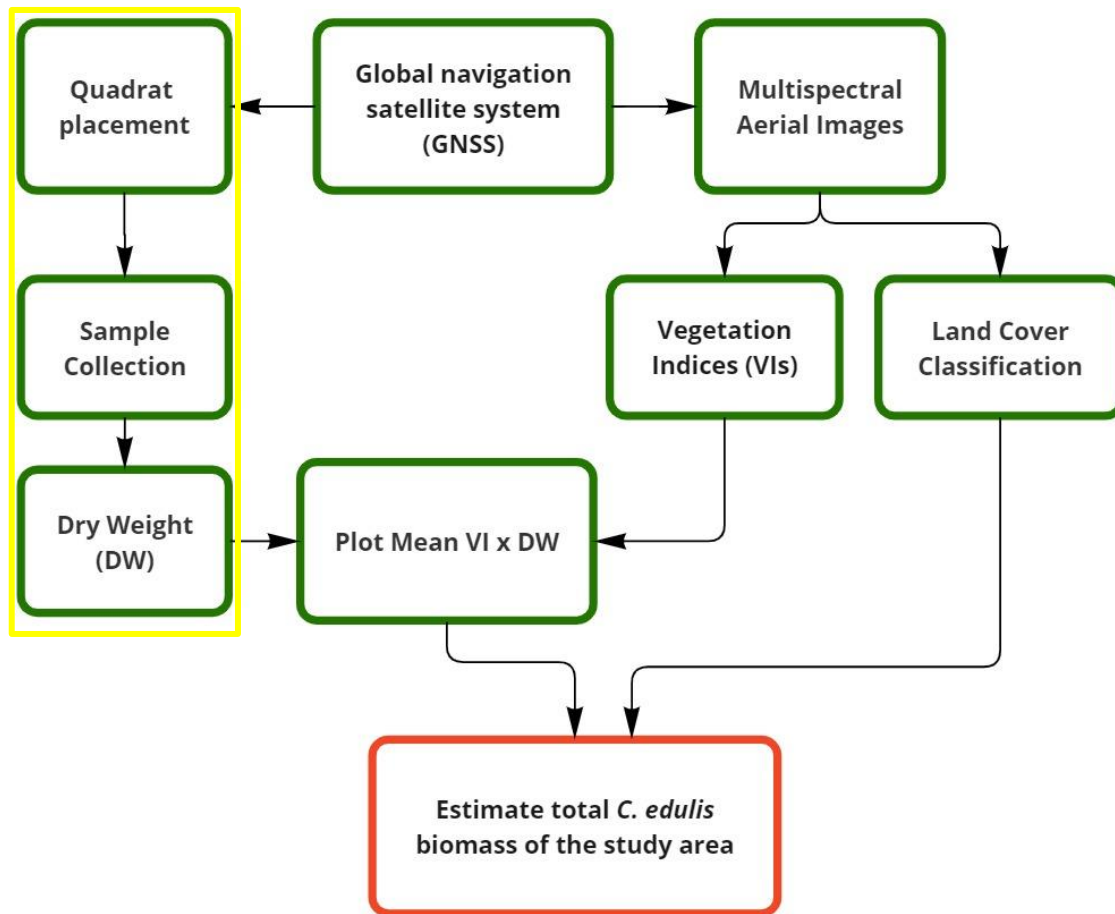


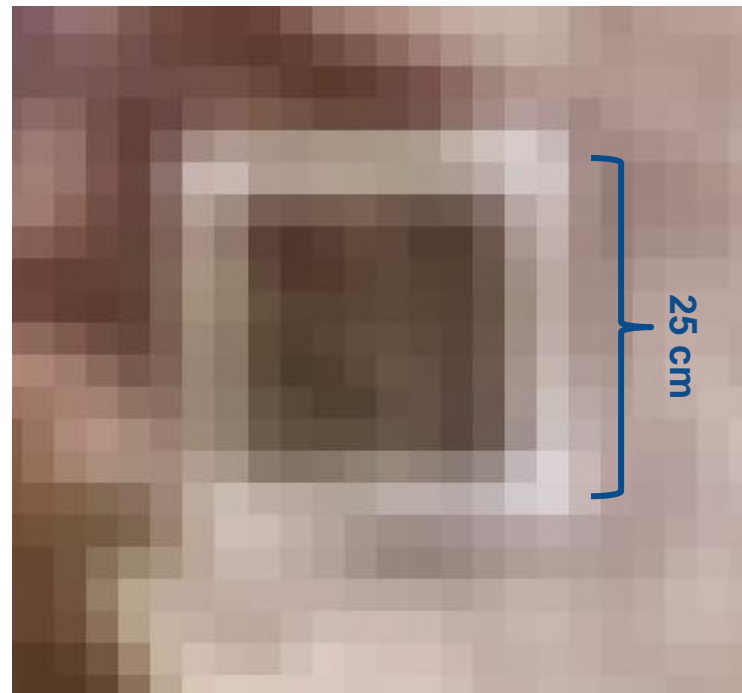
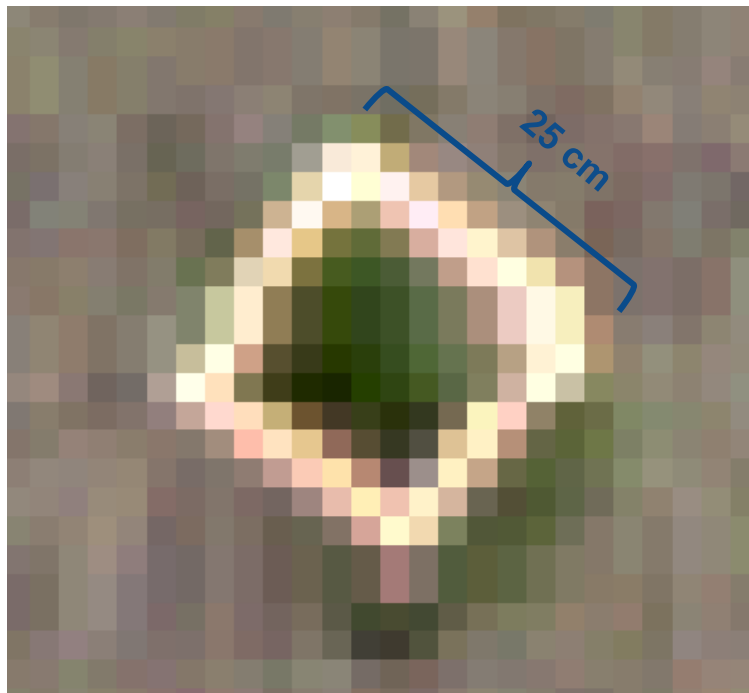


Google Earth

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat / Copernicus





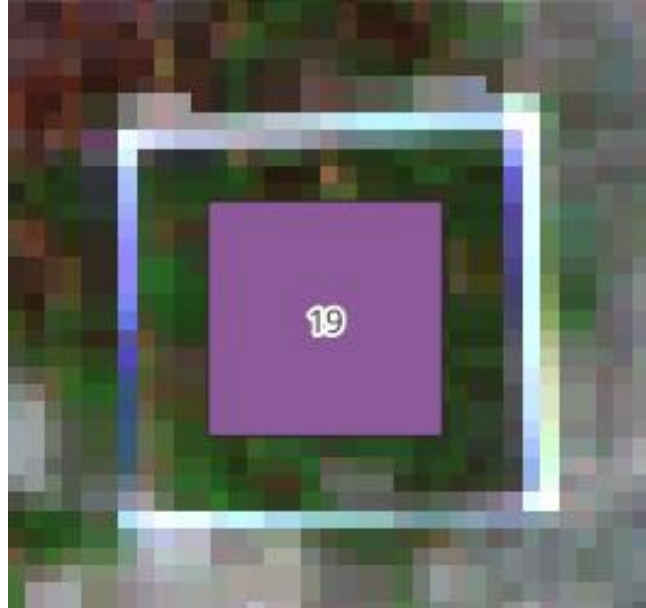


$D = 20 \text{ cm}$  $E_{\text{GNSS}} = 2.5 \text{ cm}$  $E_{\text{image}} = 3.5 \text{ cm}$ 



L1 = 50 cm

L2 = 30 cm



30 Samples

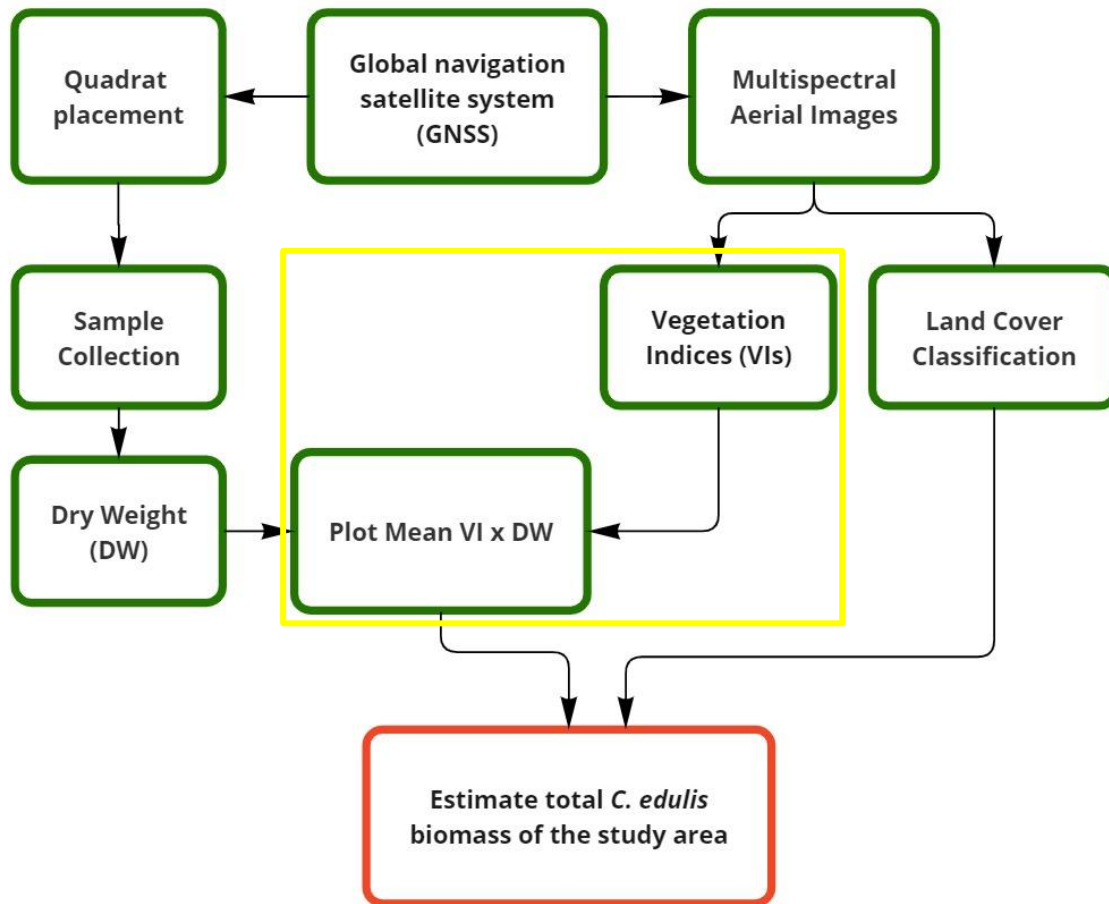
Samples parts separation

Green

Brown

Dried and weighed

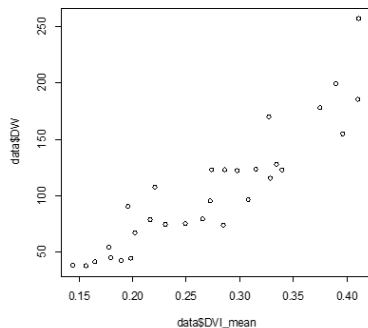




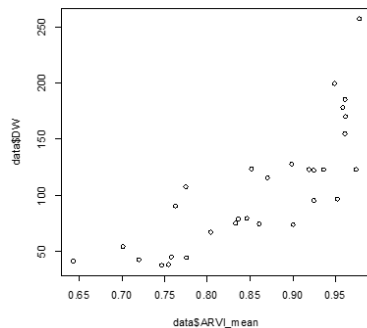
# Vegetation Indices

Index	Formula
Atmospherically Resistant Vegetation Index (ARVI)	$\frac{NIR - (Red - Blu)}{NIR + (Red - Blu)}$
Green Chlorophyll Index (CLG)	$\frac{NIR}{Red} - 1$
Chlorophyll Vegetation Index (CVI)	$\frac{NIR \times Red}{Gre^2}$
Difference Vegetation Index (DVI)	$NIR - Red$
Green Difference Vegetation Index (GDVI)	$NIR - Gre$
Enhanced Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (ENDVI)	$\frac{(NIR - Gre) - 2Red}{(NIR - Gre) + 2Red}$
Excess Green (ExG)	$2Gre - Red - Blu$
Excess Red (ExR)	$1.4Red - Gre$
Green Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (GNDVI)	$\frac{NIR - Gre}{NIR + Gre}$
Modified Green Red Vegetation Index (MGRVI)	$\frac{Gre^2 - Red^2}{Gre^2 + Red^2}$
Normalized Difference Red Edge Index (NDREI)	$\frac{NIR - RDG}{NIR + RDG}$
Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)	$\frac{NIR - Red}{NIR + Red}$
Photochemical Reflectance Index (PRI)	$\frac{Gre - Blu}{Gre + Blu}$
RB	$ Red - Blu $
Renormalized Difference Vegetation Index (RDVI)	$\frac{NIR - Red}{\sqrt{NIR + Red}}$
Ratio Vegetation Index (RVI)	$\frac{Red}{NIR}$

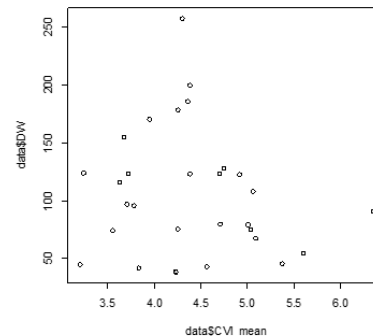
**DVI**



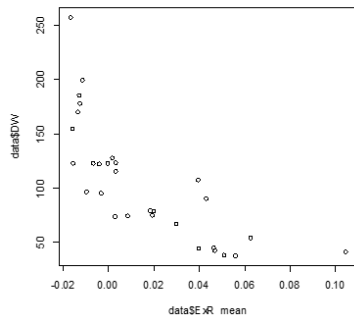
**ARV**



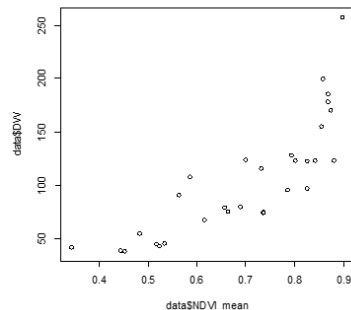
**CVI**



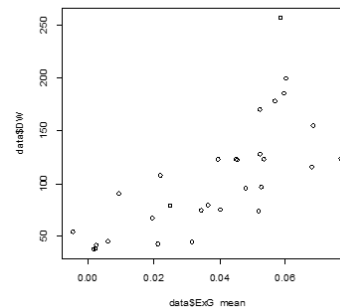
**ExR**



**NDVI**



**ExG**





BEEs

Seville, 22-24 May 2023

*Threats and challenges to biodiversity and ecosystem  
conservation from an eScience perspective*



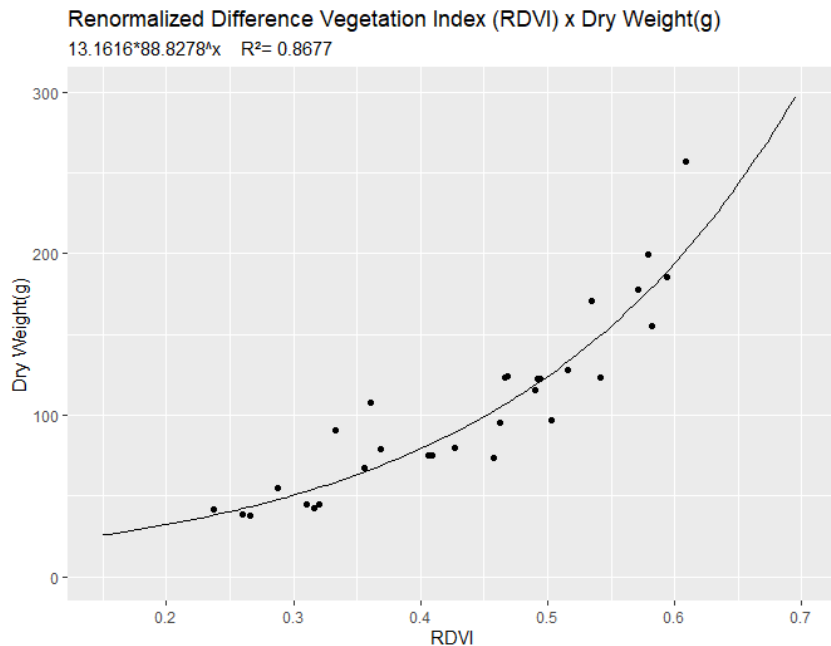
# Regression models

$$y = a + bx$$

$$y = ab^x$$

$$y = ae^{xb}$$

# Regression models



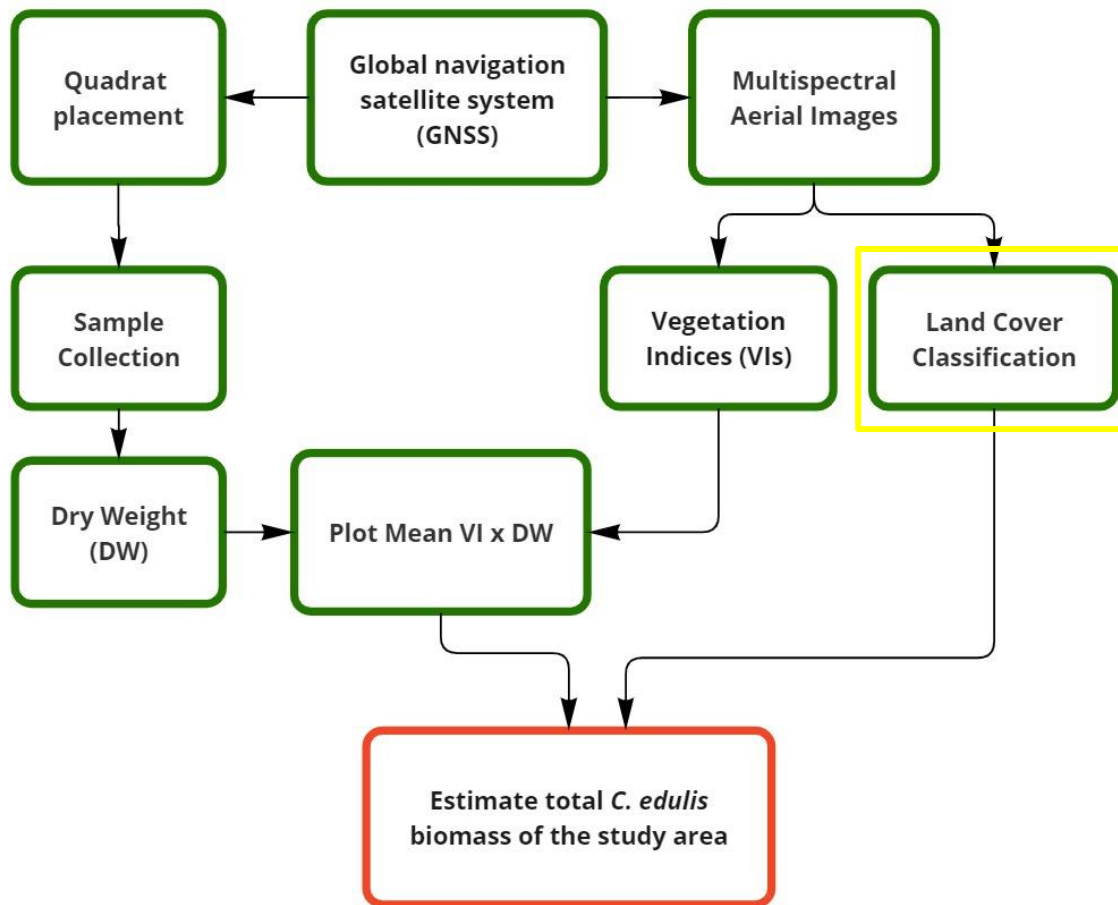
**RDVI**

$$\frac{NIR - RED}{\sqrt{NIR + RED}}$$

$$R^2 = 0.87$$

$$NRMSE = 0.09$$





# Landcover Classification

## Randon Forest Algorithm and Sieve Filter

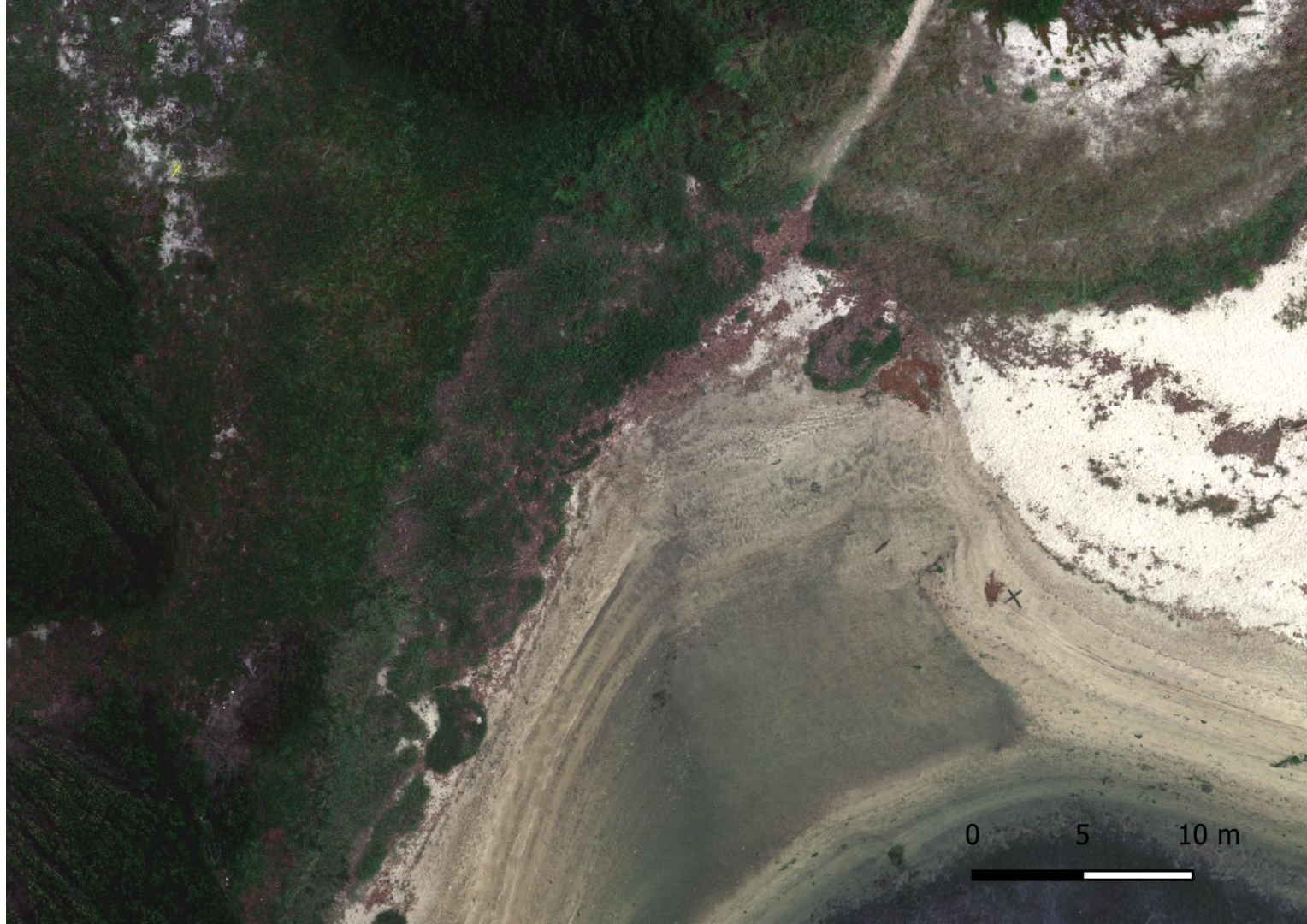
*C. edulis* User Accuracy = 0.80

*C. edulis* Producer Accuracy = 0.91

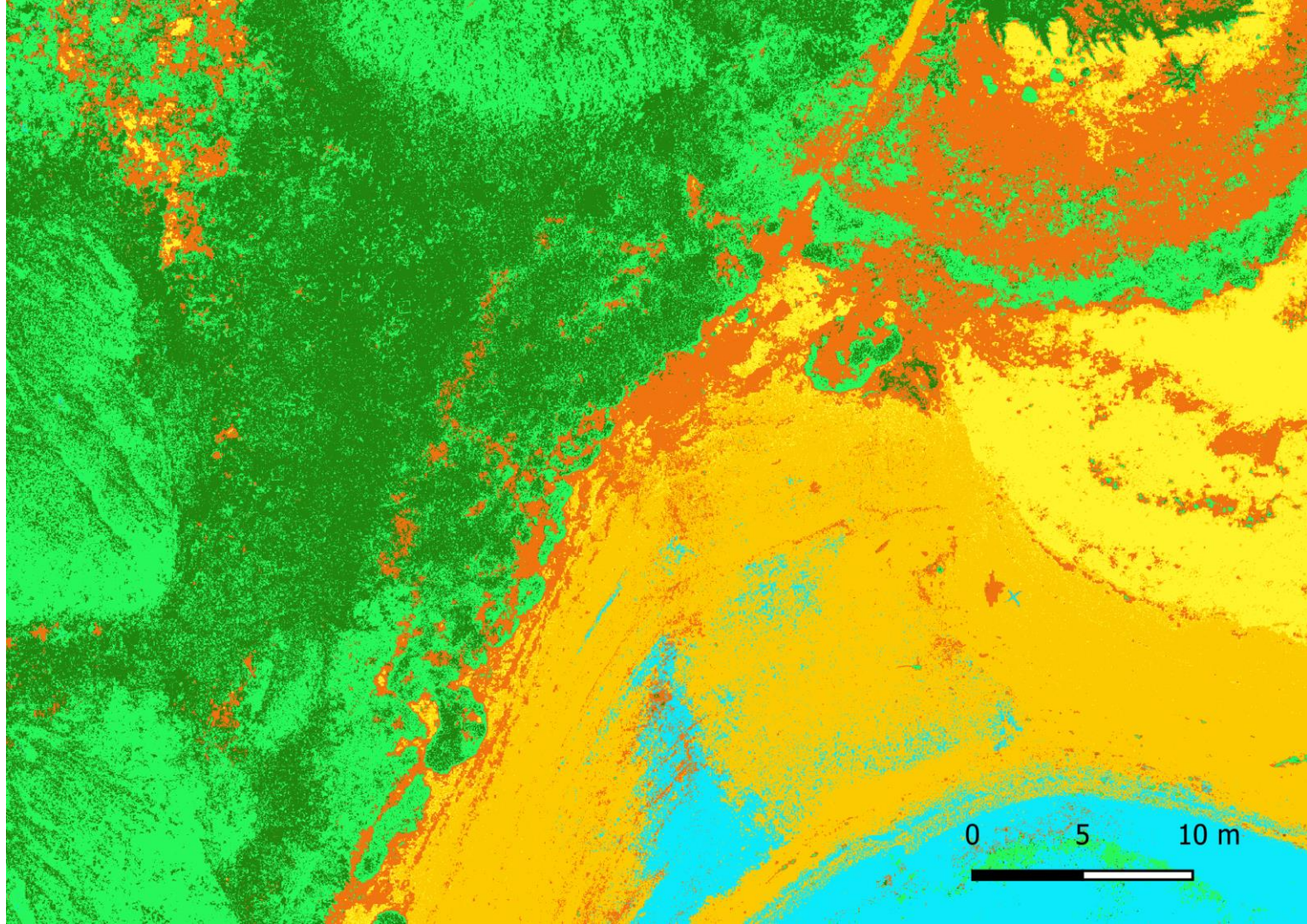
*C. edulis* F1 Score = 0.85

Overall Accuracy = 0.89

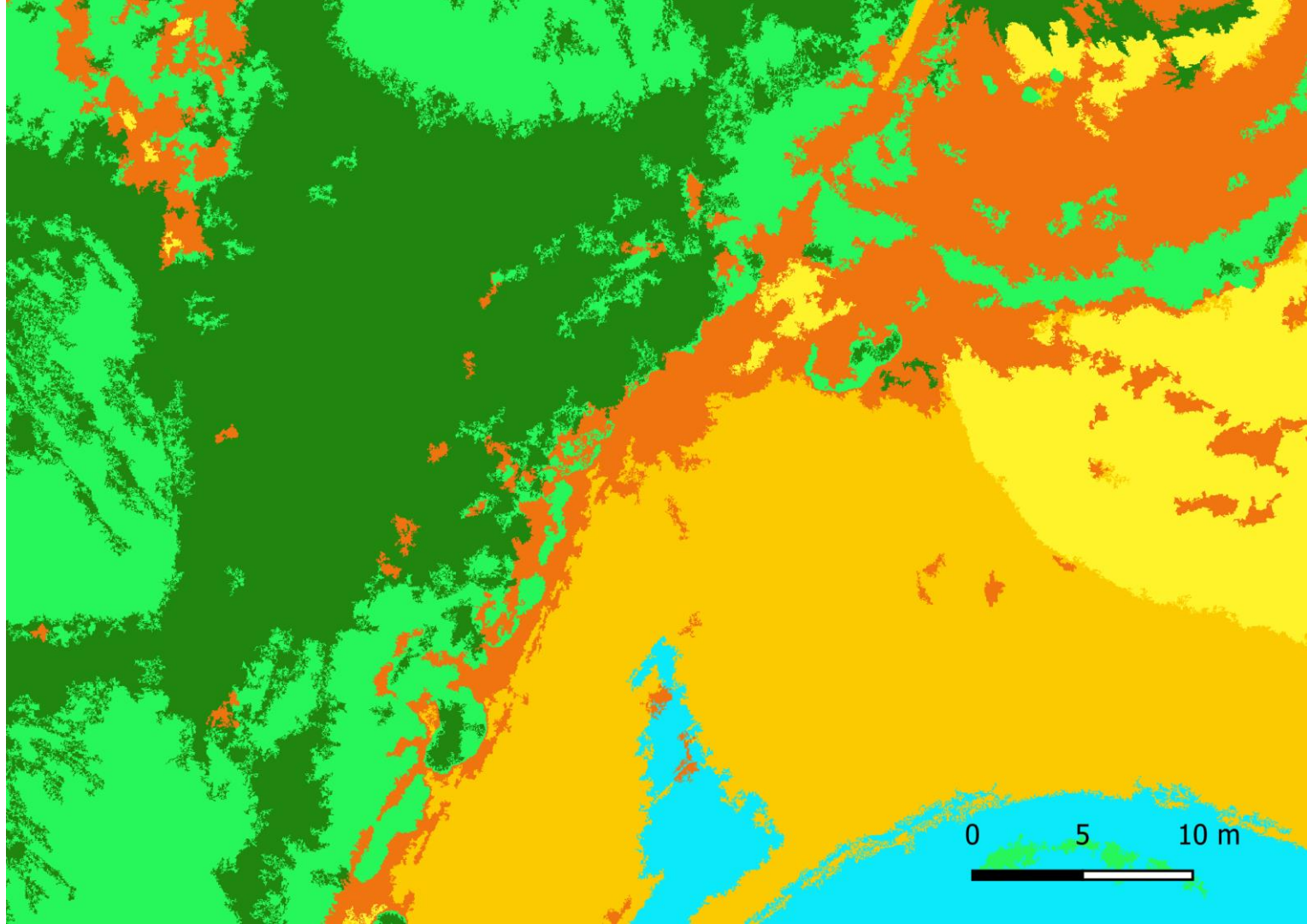
Kappa = 0.87

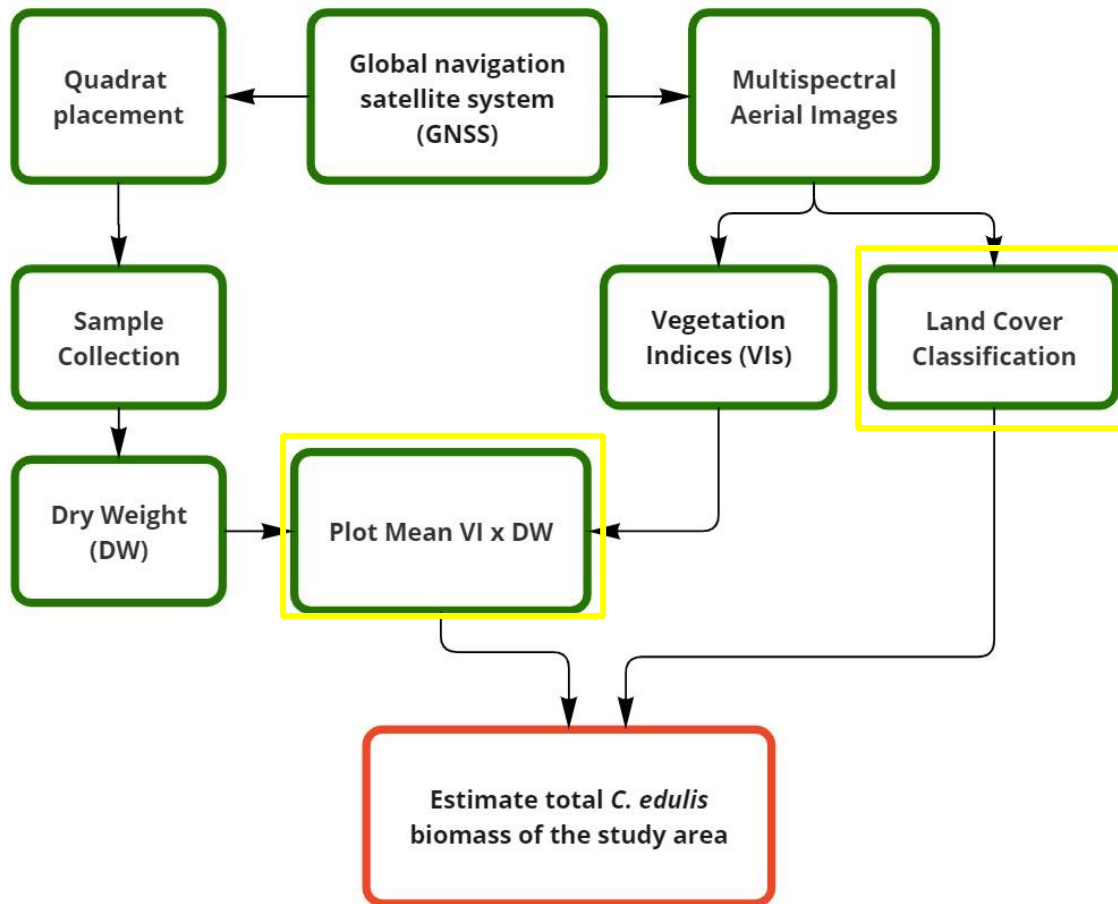


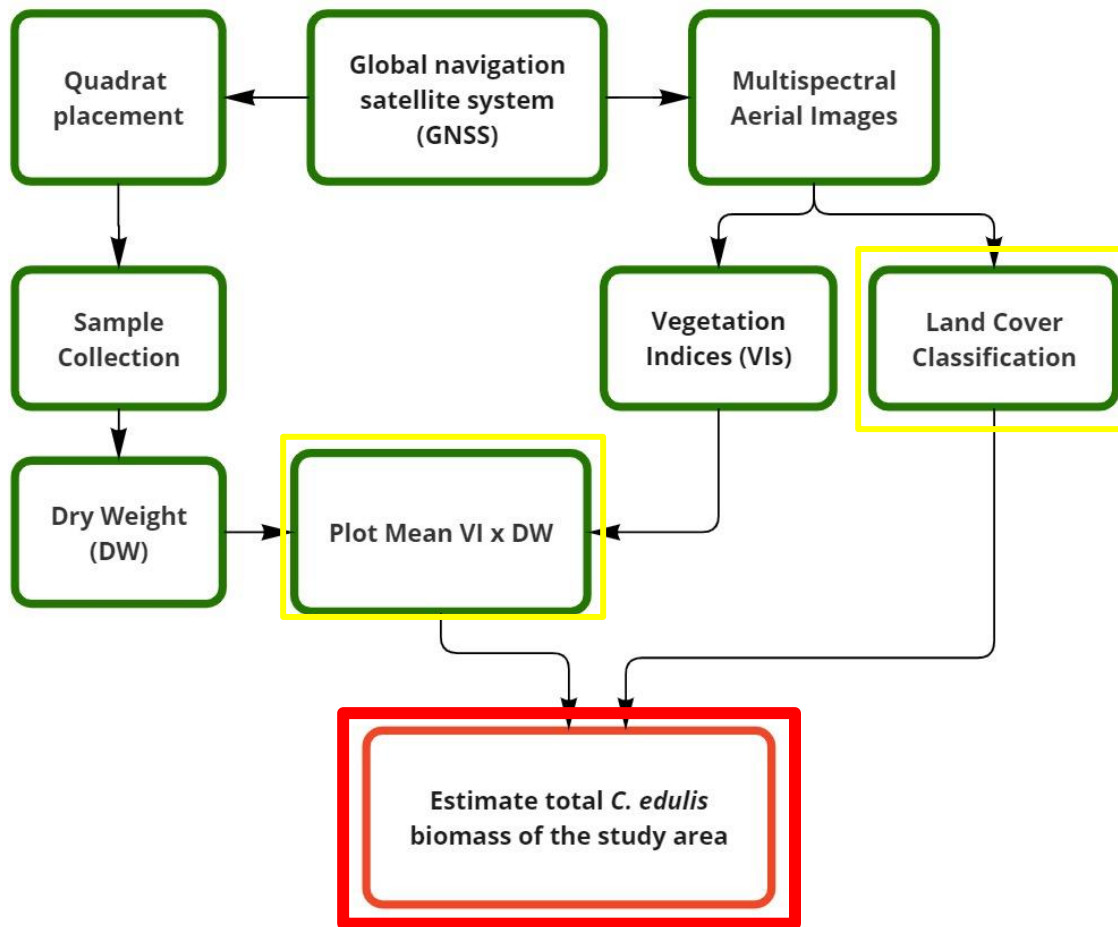














# Mass estimation

$$DW_{area} = \sum_{1}^n DW_{green}(VI_n)$$

$DW_{area}$  = Total DW of *C. edulis* in the area

$DW_{green}$  = Dry weight of green parts for each pixel

$VI_n$  = Vegetation index of each pixel of *C. edulis* class

# Mass estimation

## Relation between

- DW of green and brow parts of *C.edulis* - 3:1
- Dry Weight and Wet Weight of Green parts - 1:10
- Dry Weight and Wet Weight of Dry parts - 1:2

# Validating Results

## 1) Use some of the Region of Interest (ROI) as validation

- I. 25 ROI as training, 5 ROI for validation
- II. 100% UA and PA for *C. edulis*

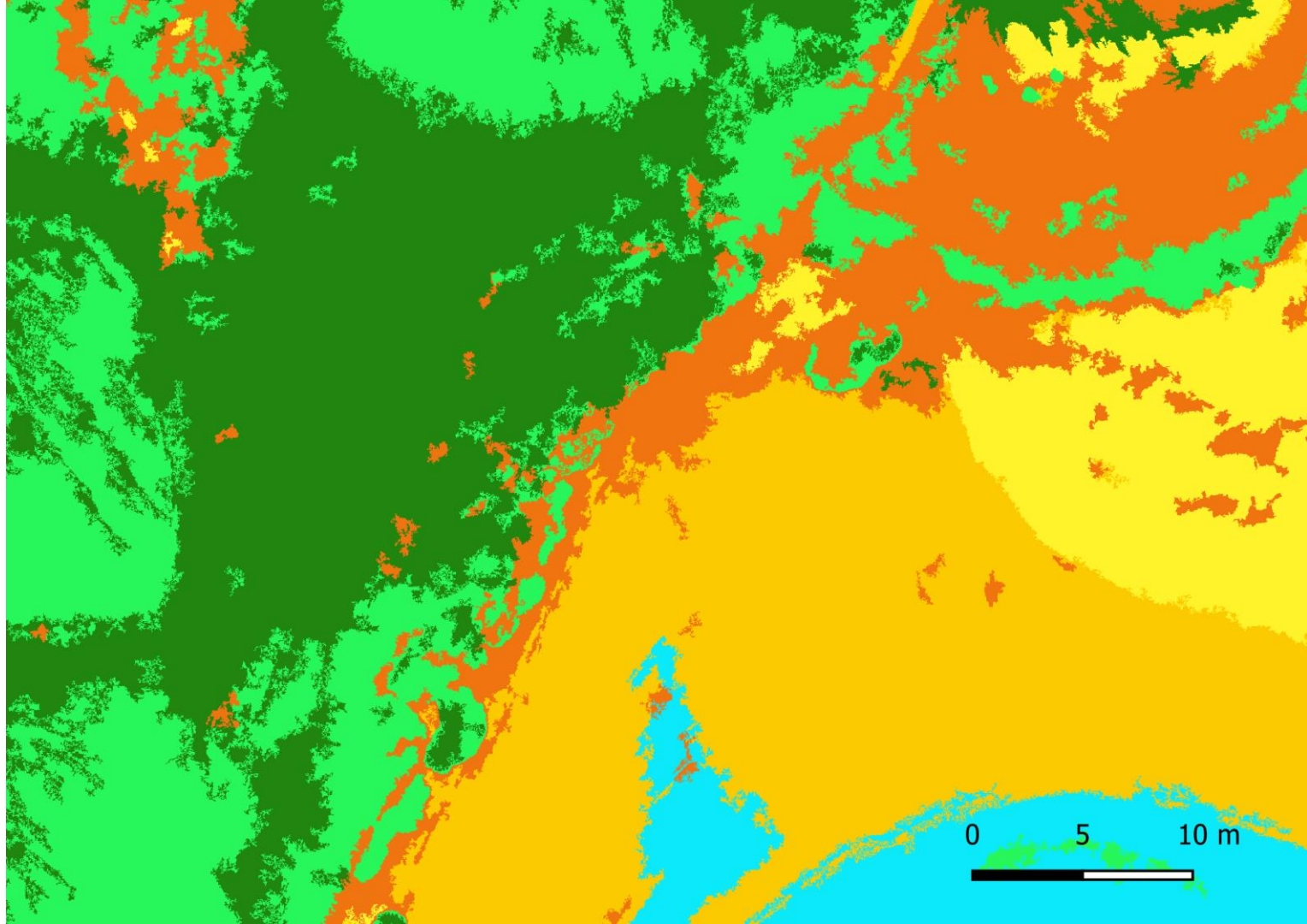
## 2) Use a k-fold cross validation

- I. Lots of processing
- II. Might still include the 100% UA/PA result

## 3) Create validation areas

- I. Would be positioned tanking out the randomness of validation
- II. Sieve Filter could reduce its applicability

## 4) Random Areas



# Validating Results

## 1) Use some of the Region of Interest (ROI) as validation

- I. 25 ROI as training, 5 ROI for validation
- II. 100% UA and PA for *C. edulis*

## 2) Use a k-fold cross validation

- I. Lot of processing
- II. Might still include the 100% UA/PA result

## 3) Create validation areas

- I. Would be positioned tanking out the randomness of validation
- II. Sieve Filter could reduce its applicability

## 4) Random Areas



BEEs

Seville, 22-24 May 2023

*Threats and challenges to biodiversity and ecosystem  
conservation from an eScience perspective*



# Validating Results

- ~~1) Use some of the Region of Interest as validation~~
- ~~2) Use a k-fold cross validation~~
- ~~3) Create validation areas~~
- 4) Random Areas**
  - 600 Pixel size areas
  - 518 could be securely identified
    - 95% CI of 10% of the area

# Further research

## **Can we reproduce the methodology with other species???**

Can classification algorithms always differentiate a specific species from others?

Will the AGB x VI regression work with other species?

Is there any specificity of the plant that needs to be considered?

## **Can we monitor *C.edulis* by plane??**

Remake all processes with Ground Sample Distance (pixel size) of 5 and 10 cm.

How much accuracy is lost?

Is it possible to monitor larger areas?



# Thank you!

[manuelmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:manuelmeyer@gmail.com)

Manuel Meyer  
José Alberto Gonçalves  
Jacinto Cunha  
Sandra Ramos  
Advisor: Ana Bio

This work is being developed within the scope of the Ocean3R project (ref. NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000064), co-financed by the Northern Regional Operational Program (NORTE 2020), through Portugal 2020 and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) .



# BEeS

## The LifeWatch ERIC Biodiversity & Ecosystem eScience Conference

Seville  
22-24/05/23



Threats and challenges to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation from an eScience perspective



**UNIÓN EUROPEA**

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional  
Una manera de hacer Europa

Thank you! | [www.lifewatch.eu/bees-2023](http://www.lifewatch.eu/bees-2023)

