

Virtual Exchange on Artificial Intelligence for  
Integrated Drought Risk Management



STARS 4 Water

# MLMapper: a versatile AI tool for spatial mapping

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# Concept

It is possible to use machine learning to predict any spatially-distributed variable in space (and time) based on a series of predictor variables and ground truth to calibrate the algorithms

“AI-based predictive mapping”

**Worked extensively with groundwater exploration -- crucial for drought-proofing in arid and semiarid regions**

Where to find groundwater

Where/how to maximize borehole yields

Which areas are more vulnerable to groundwater contamination

Where to drill monitoring boreholes to monitor/manage groundwater contamination

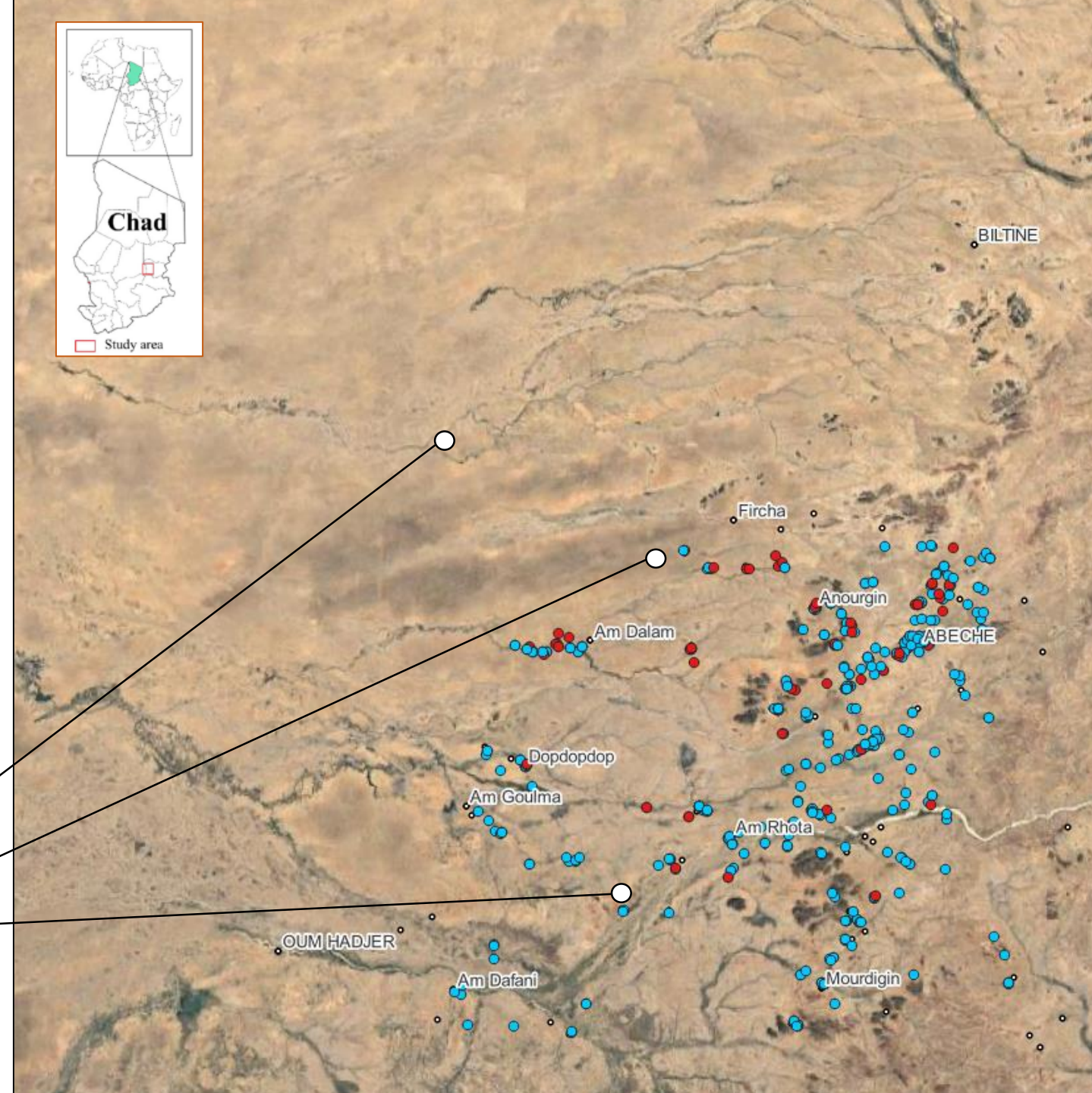
Mapping and protecting groundwater-dependent ecosystems

(...)

Currently incorporating the temporal dimension

**TARGET VARIABLE**

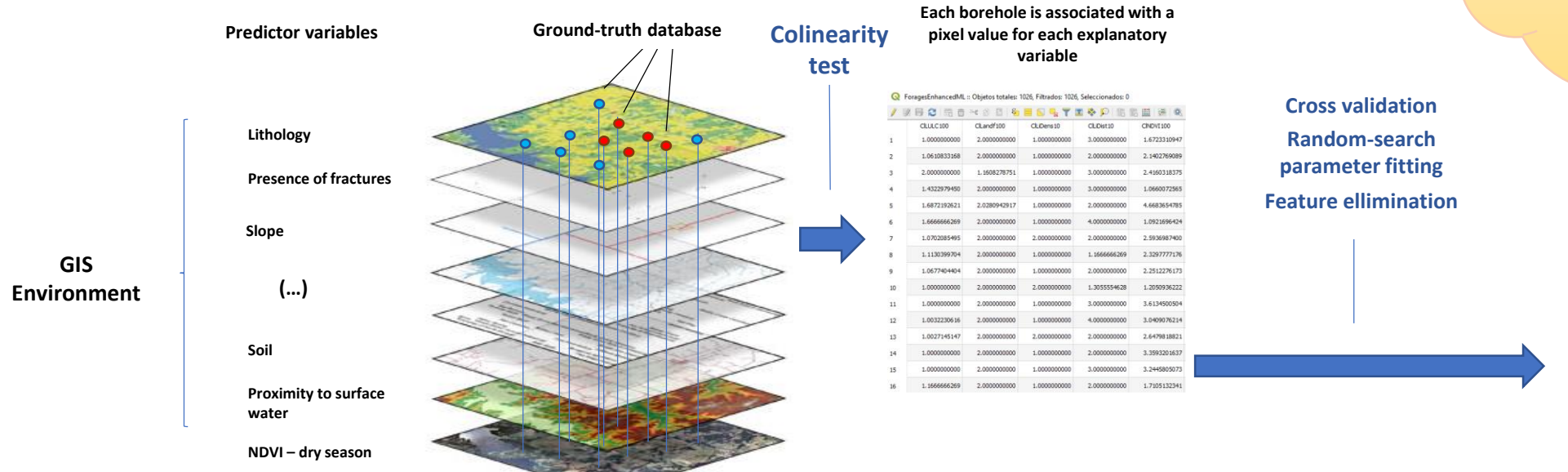
Would I find groundwater if I drilled here?



# How does it work?

**Underlying hypothesis:** “we can predict groundwater presence in space based on a set of predictor variables and a ground-truth database”

**Target variable:** presence/absence of groundwater



Linear vector support  
Support vector machine  
Multilayer perceptron  
K-Neighbours  
Naïve Bayes  
Gaussian process classifier  
Linear Discriminant  
Gradient boosting  
Quadratic Discriminant  
Logistic Regression  
Random Forest  
Decision Tree  
AdaBoost

These algorithms are used to find the combination of explanatory variables that render a positive/negative outcome

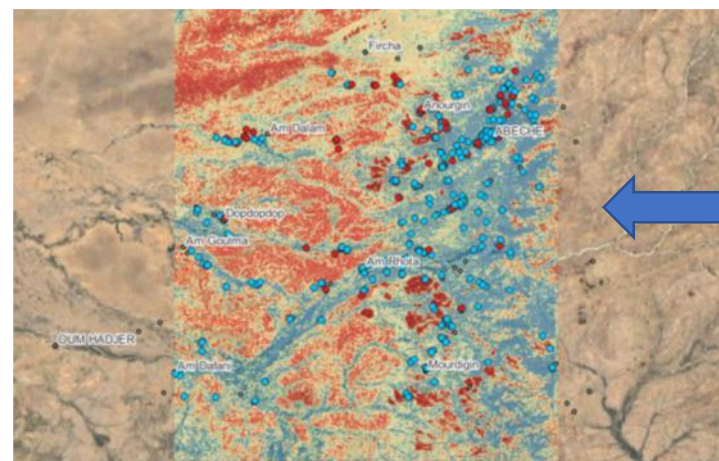
A part of the dataset is used to learn and the other part is used to calibrate the results

When test score > suitable threshold we can extrapolate

That gives us a predictive map

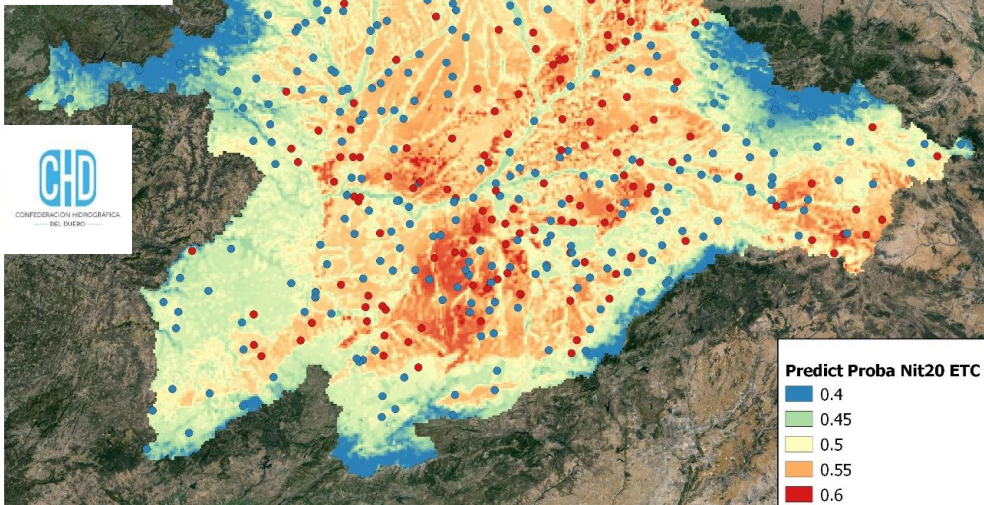
## “Identification by similarity”

Find areas that present similar markers to those that we know to be contaminated

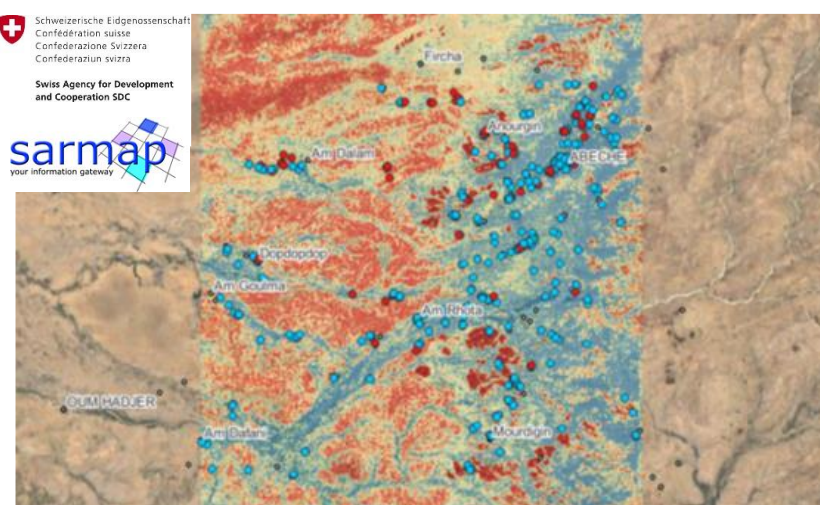
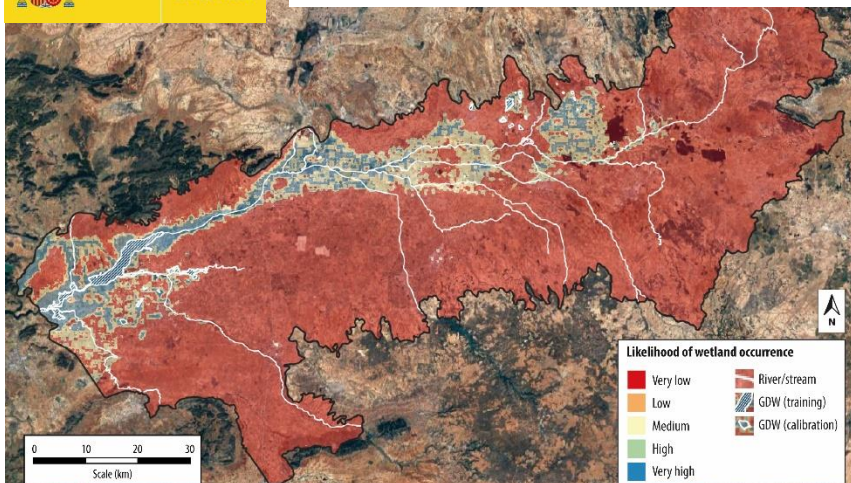




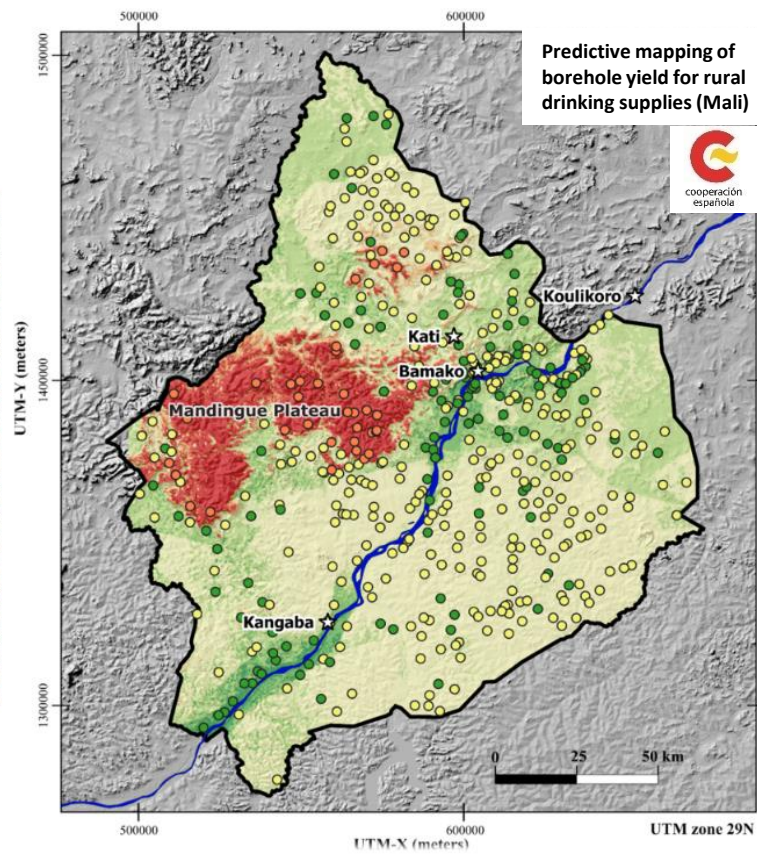
# Demonstration cases



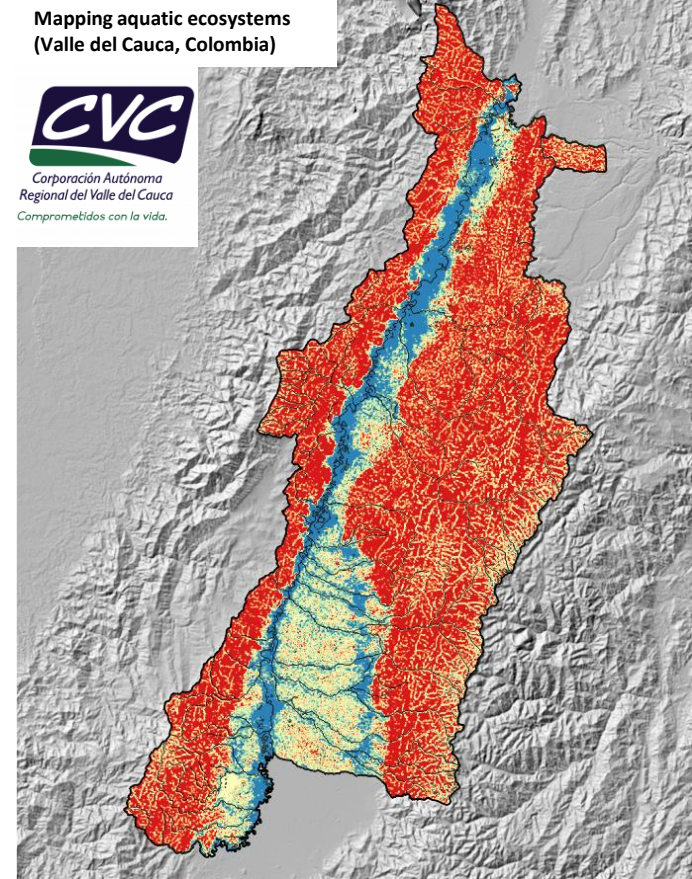
**Predictive mapping of groundwater-dependent ecosystems (UNESCO's Mancha Húmeda Biosphere Reserve, Spain)**



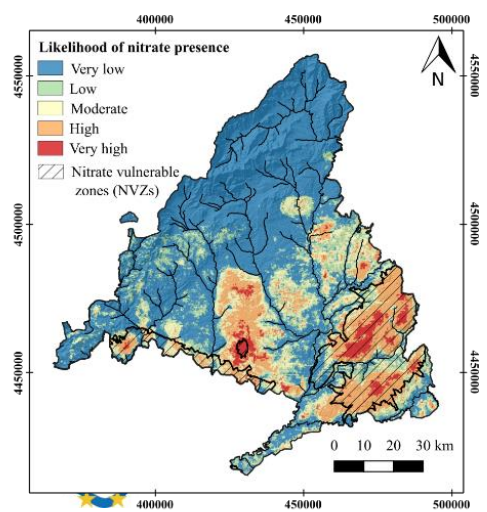
Groundwater potential mapping in the Ouaddai region, Republic of Chad



**Mapping aquatic ecosystems (Valle del Cauca, Colombia)**



**Predictive mapping of groundwater contamination in the Madrid Region (Spain)**





# Thanks!

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