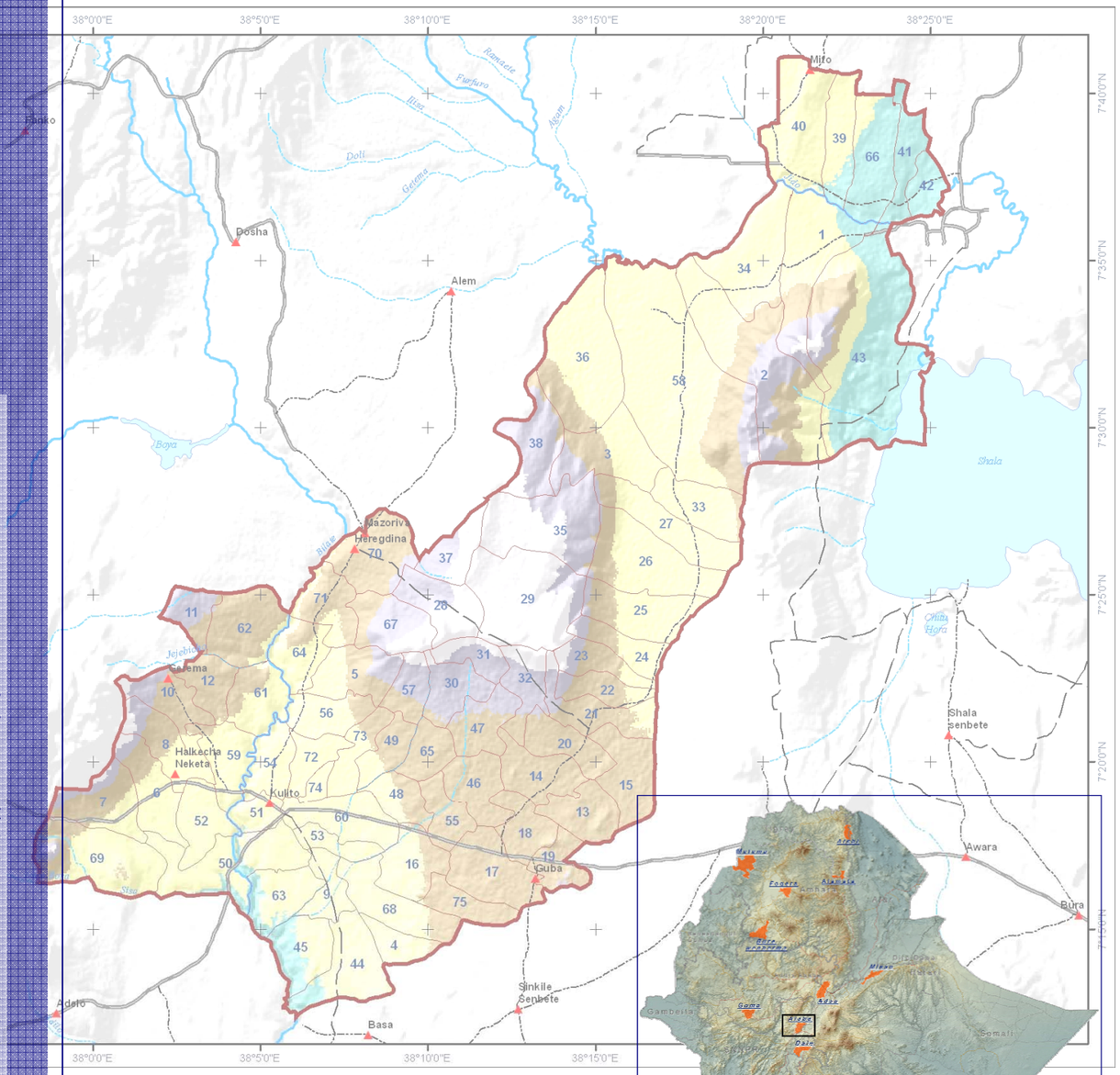
IPMS ATLAS 2007

ALABA WOREDA, SNNP

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) initiated a 5 year project in June 2004 with the financial assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The project, entitled: “Improving productivity and market success” (IPMS) of Ethiopian farmers, aims at contributing to a reduction in poverty of the rural poor through market oriented agricultural development.

The IPMS project will assist by bringing knowledge on technologies generated by International and National Research Institutes as well as from other sources to the attention of the technology transfer agents and the farming community. It will also facilitate the feedback on these technologies. Such assistance will be provided to 10 pilot learning sites (PLS) across the country; (See map 1) Alaba district is one of the 10 sites selected. To further enhance the utilization of such knowledge and the introduction of technologies, the IPMS project will also provide assistance to extension, input supply, marketing and finance institutions, including cooperatives. Such institutional support will be in the form of technical assistance, capacity building, supply of demonstration and training materials, some limited funds for innovative institutional arrangements and studies aimed at developing innovative institutional arrangements.



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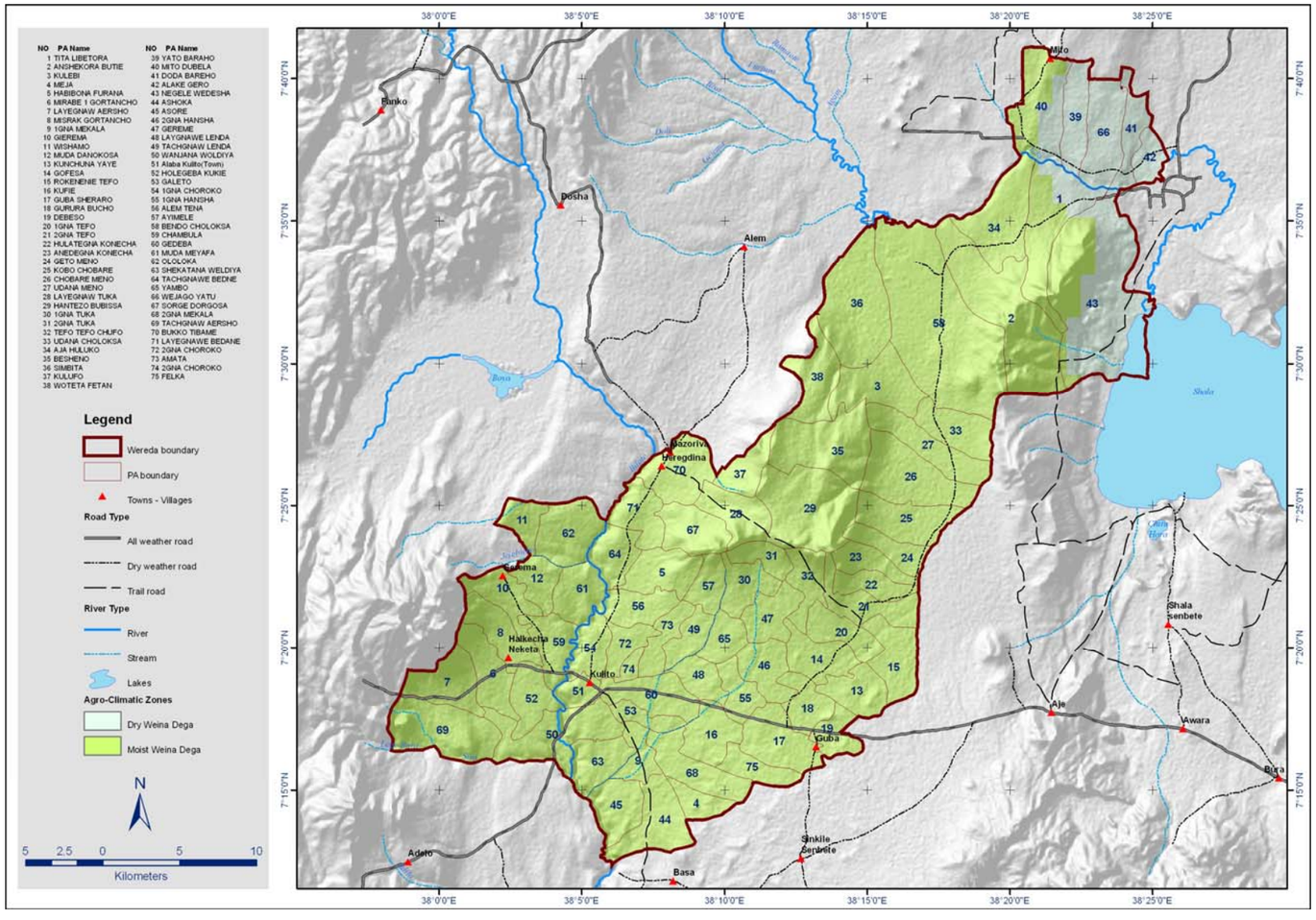
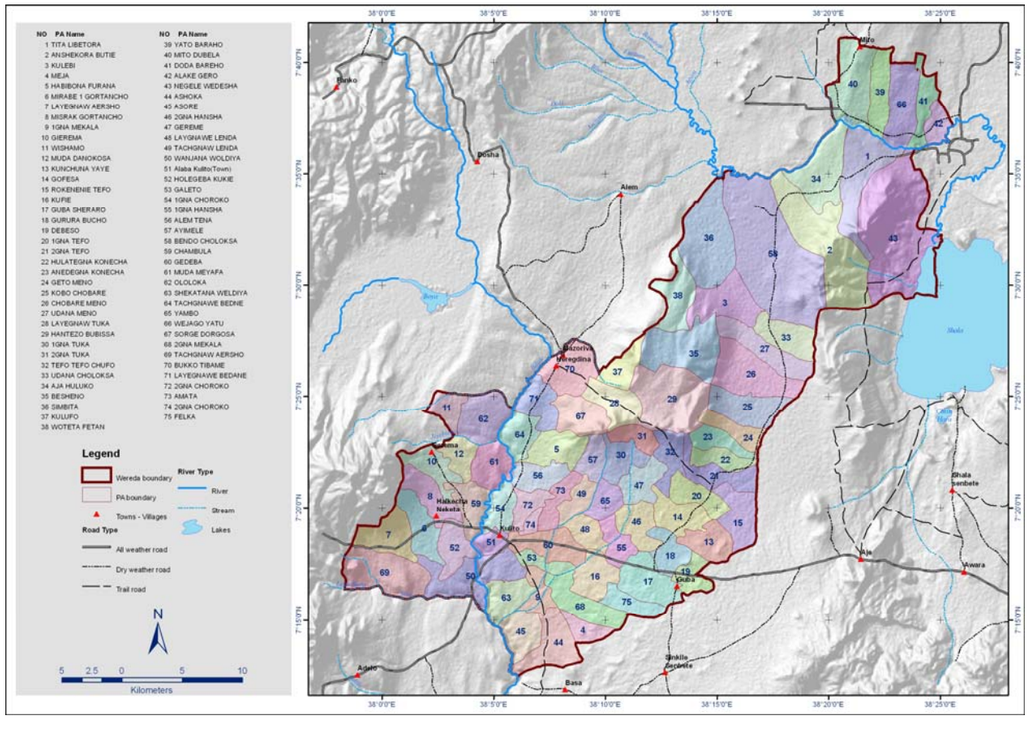
Alaba Woreda, SNNP

Alaba woreda is located 310 km south of Addis Ababa and about 85 km southwest of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional (SNNPR) State capital of Awasa. The woreda is geographically located **7^0 17' N latitude and $38^0$06' E** longitude. It is located west of Oromiya region, north of Hadiya (Sike), east of Kembata Tembaro, south east of Silte and Hadiya zones. It is a special woreda and has a special status where the administration directly reports to the regional state. There are 73 peasant and 2 urban associations. Alaba Kulito, the capital of the woreda, is believed to have been found towards the end of the 20th century (around 1895). According to the recent woreda population reports (2004/05), the total number of rural households in 73 peasant associations (PA) in the woreda is 35,719. Out of these, 26,698 (75%) are men and 9,021 (25%) are women households. The total woreda population is 210,243, out of which 104,517 (49.7%) are male and 105,726 (50.3%) are female. Economically active population of the woreda (15-55 years of age) are 102,176 people out of which, 55,668 are male and 46,508 are female. Ethnically, there are about 6 major groups in the woreda, but Alaba and Grarage ethnic groups are the dominant groups constituting about 81 and 10 % of the total population, respectively.

ranges from 1554 to 2149 m above seas level (m asl), but most of the woreda is found at about 1800 m asl. Except for few hills, the woreda has an agriculturally suitable land in terms of topography. Despite the recurrent drought, flood has also been a major problem in the area. The latter is induced as a result of dominantly level topography.



Alaba peasant associations



Agro-climatic zones of Alaba

Priority Farming Systems

Two major farming systems were identified in consultation with woreda agricultural experts and farmers in selected sample PAs. Use of altitudinal, vegetation and soil variabilities were difficult due to similarity of these factors, almost throughout the woreda. However, other means of classification where, dominance of one crop/livestock species in one area than the other, was employed to distinguish between farming systems. As a result of this exercise, two farming systems were identified.

Teff/haricot bean/livestock farming system

Forty-three out of the 73 PAs belong to this farming system, where 4 Farmer Training Centres (FTCs) are also located. According to the 1994 census projection for 2005, the total human population living in this farming system is around 119,353 people. While, the total cultivable land is estimated at 27,246 ha. Teff and haricot bean are the major marketable crop commodities, while sheep and cattle are dominant livestock commodities in the area.

Pepper/wheat/goat/apiculture farming system

There are 30 PAs that belong to this farming system and 2 FTCs are also located. In these PAs, the total population is 67,450, as has been projected for 2005 in the 1994 census. While, the total cultivable land is estimated at 19,188 ha. Pepper and wheat are the top marketable crop commodities, while goats and apiculture are the top marketable livestock and livestock commodities. There is no cultural barrier in the sale of milk in this farming system.

Priority Crop Commodities

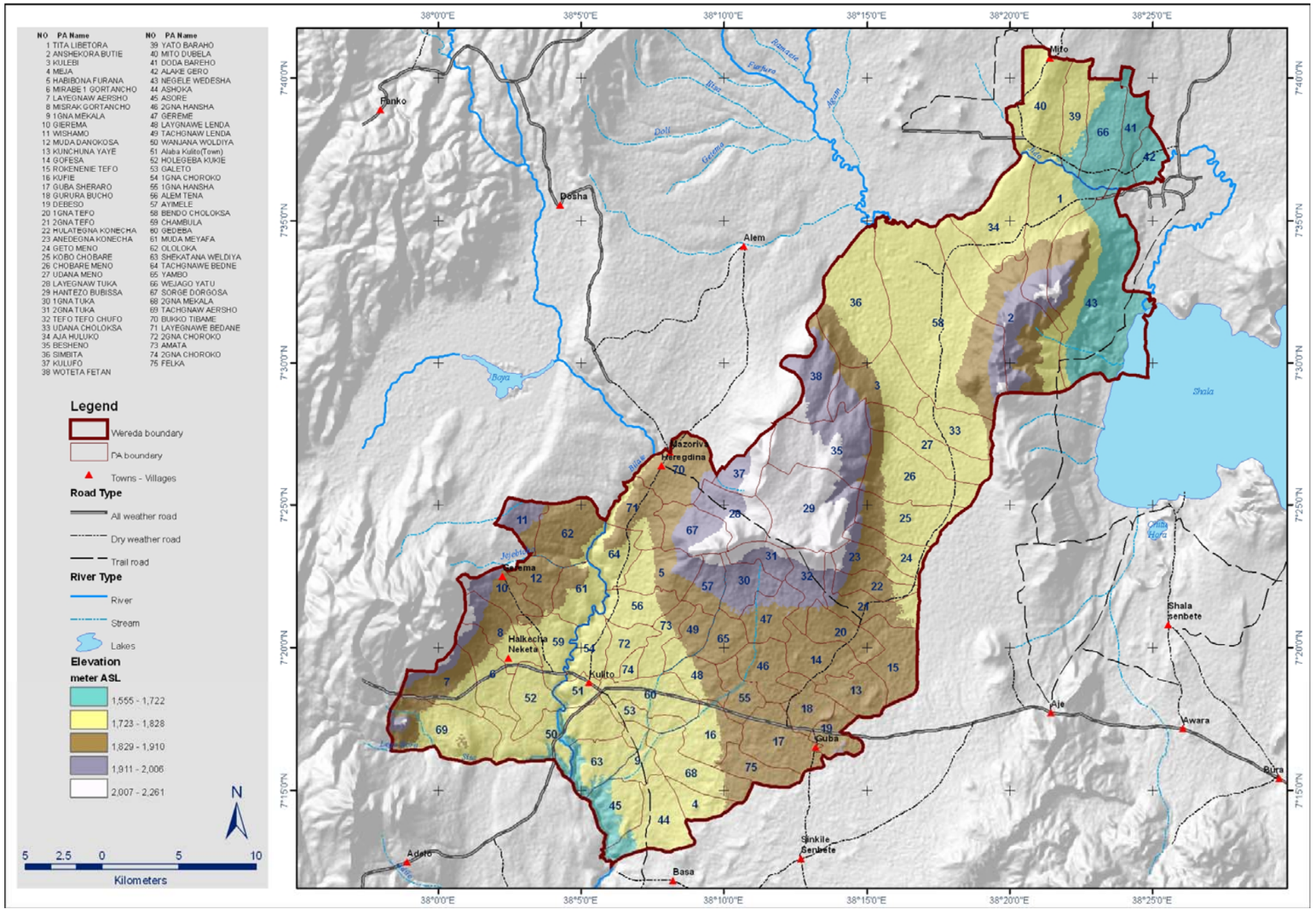
Few crops have been identified as priority marketable commodities in the area. Two of the crop commodities selected (pepper and haricot bean) as marketable commodities by farmers and experts, are covered in specialisation extension programs. Most of the remaining commodities are produced for consumption purposes. According to the studies made Co-SAERSAR (1997), woreda Office of Agriculture, proportion of each crop commodity for consumption, market and other purposes are indicated below.

No	Type of product	*Utilities*			
		Home Consumption	Sale	Seed	Others
1	Maize	81.8	11.6	4.0	2.6
2	Millet	81.5	14.6	3.0	0.9
3	Sorghum	80	12	4.7	3.3
4	Haricot bean*	54	44	2.0	-
5	Wheat	24.5	72	2.0	1.5
6	Teff	13.8	81.7	4.2	0.3
7	Pepper	4.0	92	2.5	1.5
Average (%)		48.5	46.8	3.2	1.5

Livestock

Alaba being one of the commonly drought affected areas in SNNPR, livestock production is poor. Grazing lands are converted into farmlands due to human population pressure. Most of the time, livestock graze on farm boundaries, road sides or on un productive backyards. In addition, crop residues are also important feed resources. Body conditions of big ruminants can easily show the magnitude of the problem. This is aggravated because rain started late this year, which resulted into low feed availability, which could have otherwise helped to grow some grass for livestock.

Many farmers were complaining that because of the poor body weight conditions of their livestock, the market value is very low. Small ruminants are better in their body conditions. It is common to see tethered livestock in the area. The common livestock types that were marketed in Alaba were chicken and eggs. Lack of feed is the major problem in livestock production in Alaba.



Alaba Woreda lancover

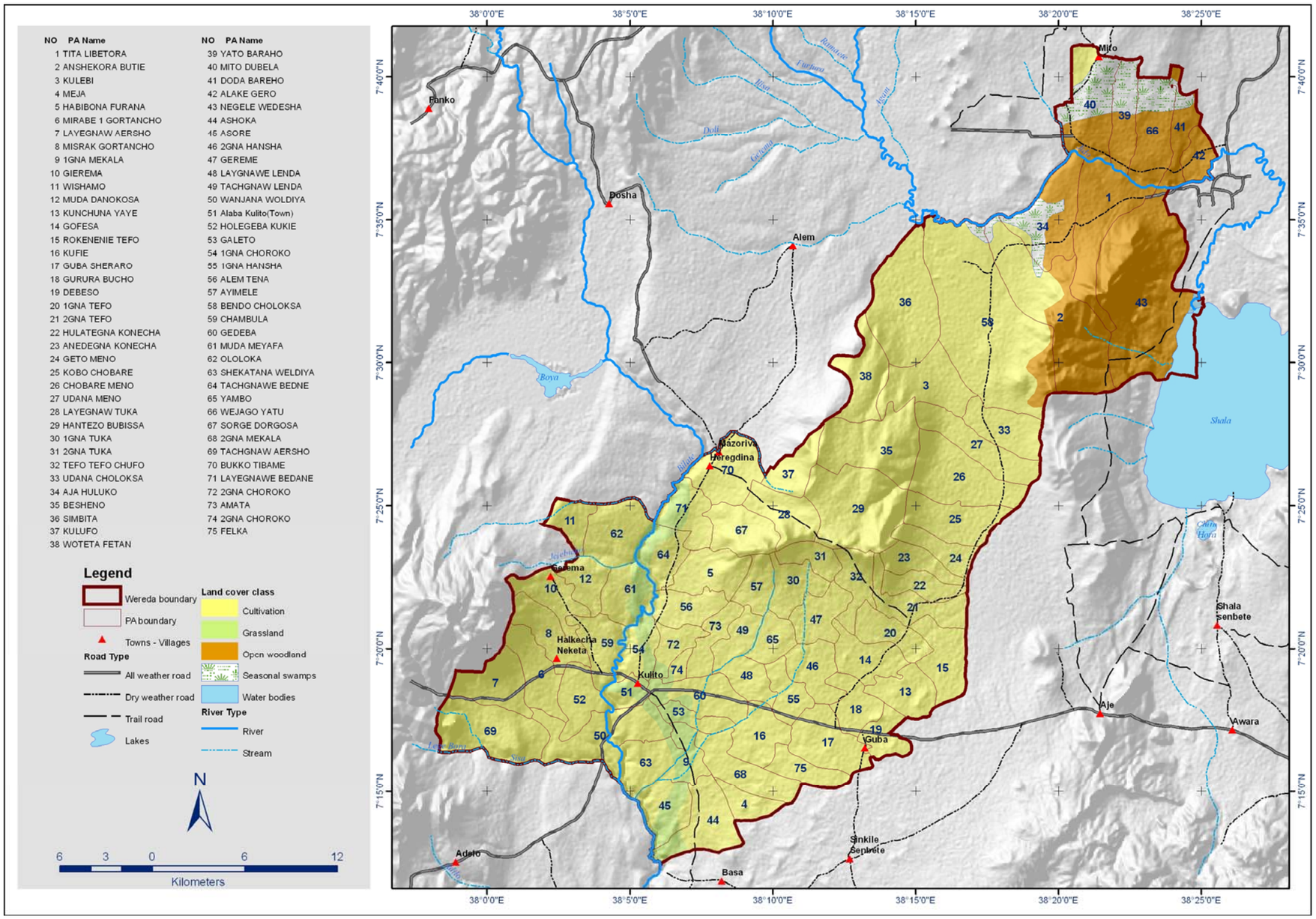
Efforts to recover forest land in Alaba

Land Use type of woreda

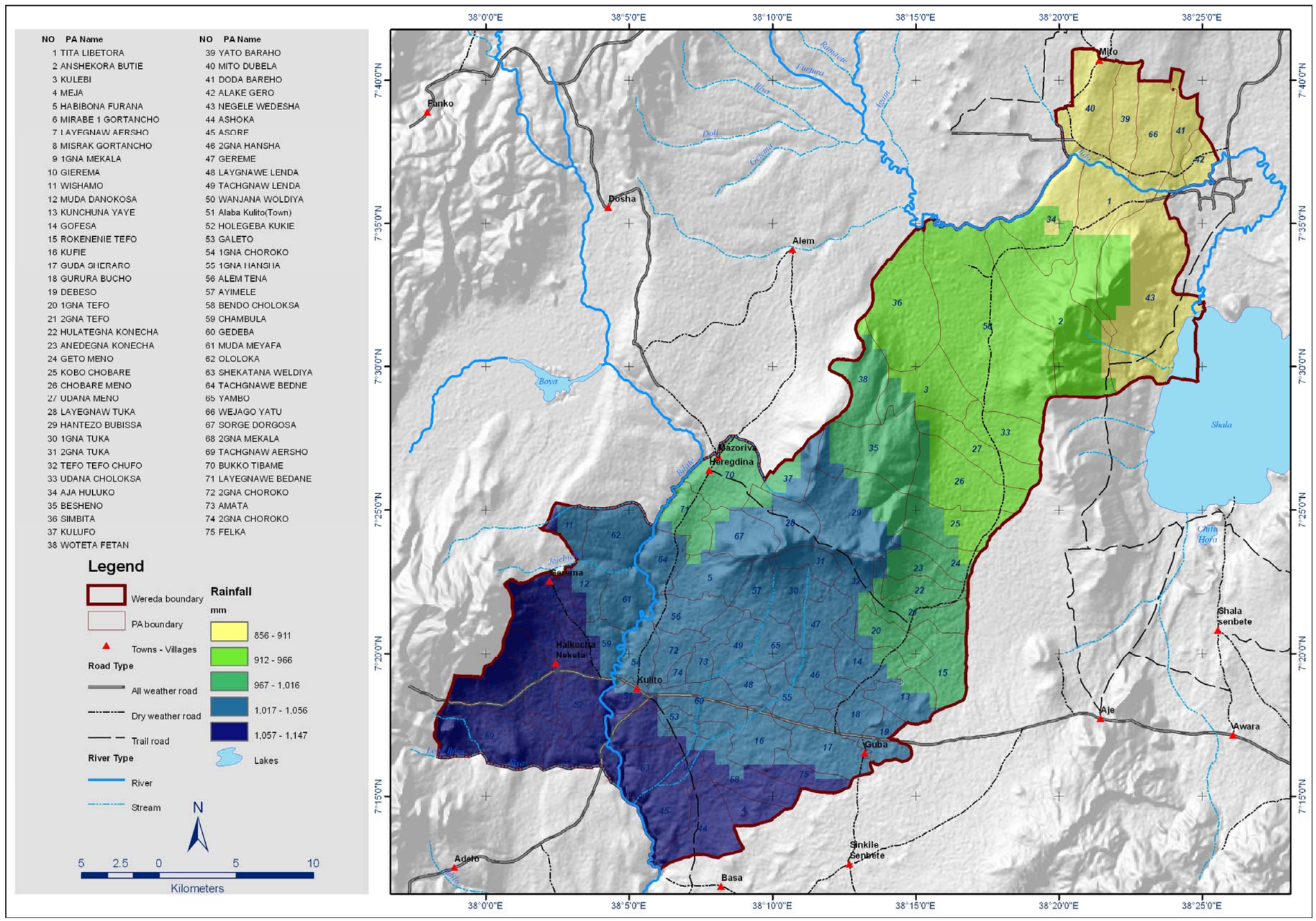
No	Land Use	Area (ha) coverage
1	Arable land	44,020.00
2	Grazing land	4,316.95
3	Forest	4,592.00
4	Potentially cultivable	3,644.50
5	Uncultivable land (hills)	2,805.00
6	Others	4,737.80
7	**Total**	**64,116.25**

Source: Alaba Special Woreda Rural Development C.O. (2003/4)

As a result of long history of agriculture and high population in the area, vegetative cover is very low. Consequently, erosion hazards in the sloppy areas are enormous. Huge gullies are observed towards the southern end of the woreda, where soils are totally removed beyond recovery. This is believed to have been aggravated due to the easily detachable nature of the soil. Even though there were some efforts of soil and water conservation (SWC) over the last twenty years, these efforts were fruitless. Many NGOs were involved in soil and water conservation efforts in the woreda. Around Bilate River (south of Alaba Kulito town), there were some trees planted even though none seem to exist now.

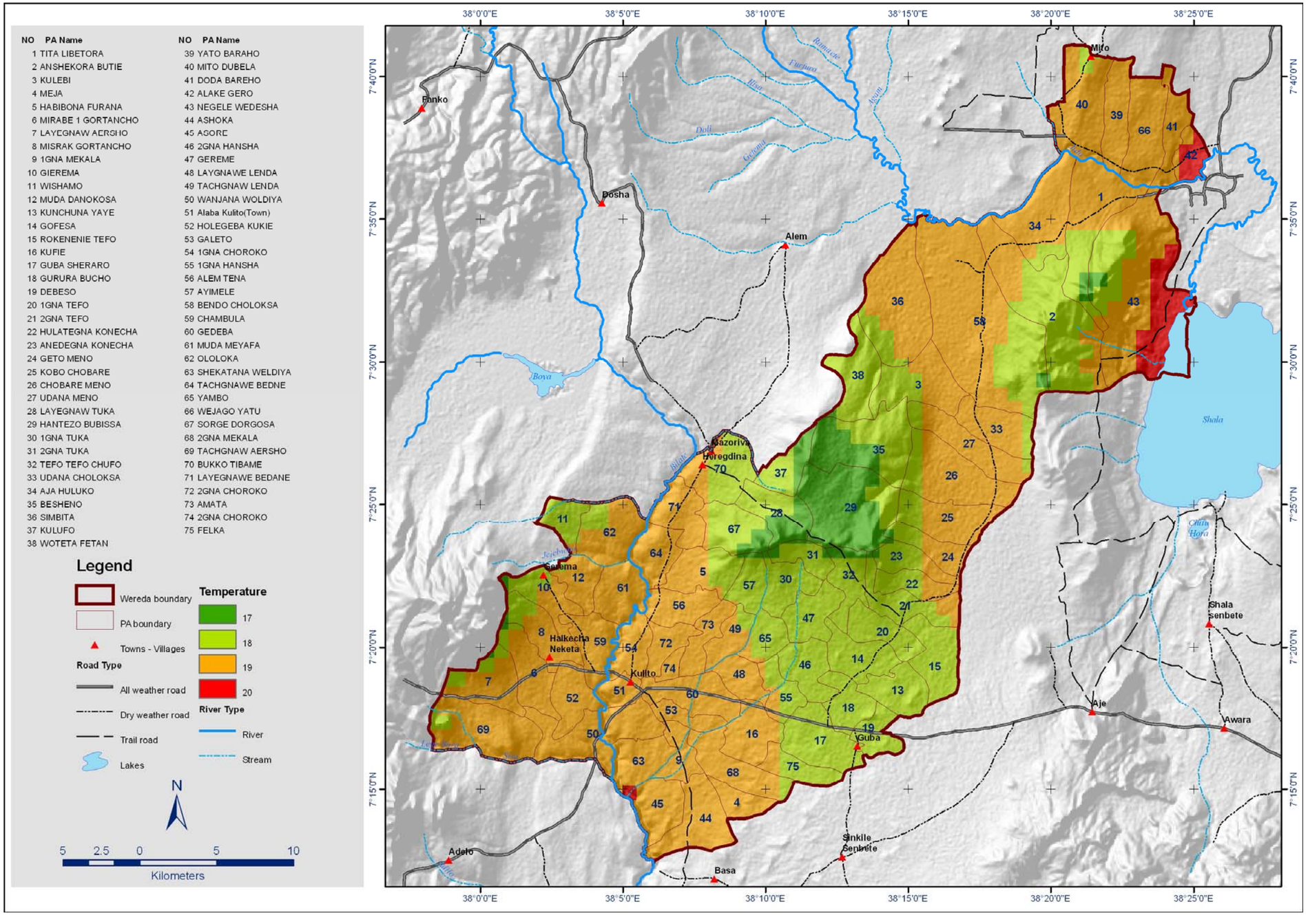


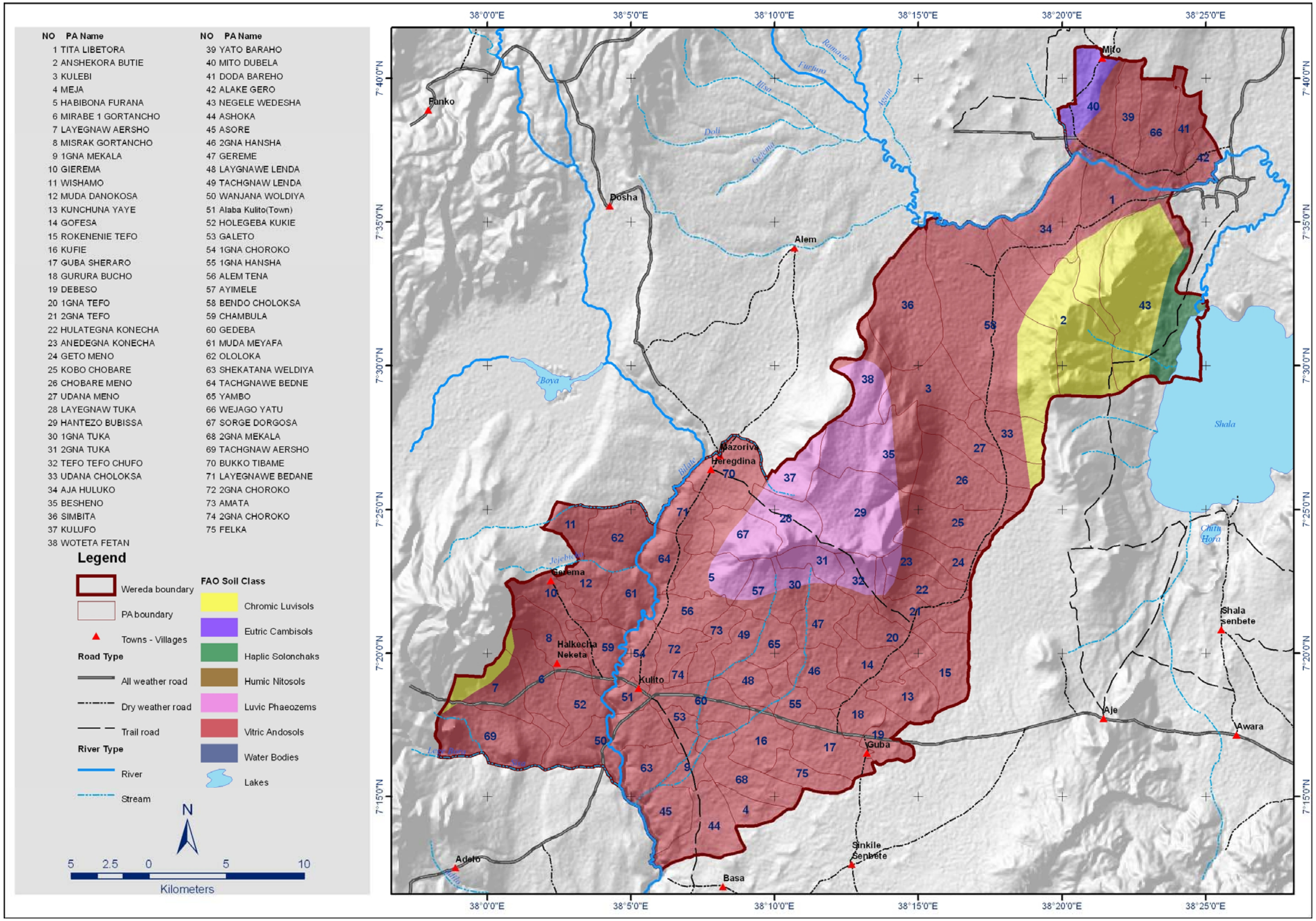
Alaba Woreda annual rainfall



. Rainfall is a major limiting factor in agricultural production in the area. As a result, it is one of the woredas in SNNPR where drought is observed recurrently affecting many households. Agroecologically, the woreda is classified as Weina Dega. The annual rainfall varies from 857 to 1085 mm, while the annual mean temperatures also vary from 17 ^{O}C to 20 ^{O}C with mean value of 18 ^{O}C. The area receives a bimodal rainfall where the small rains are between March and April while the main rains are from July to September. The reliability of the small rains is low that farmers do not or mainly raise pepper seedling to be transplanted during the main rains. However, during the main rains, all crops grown in the area are planted, including maize, teff, wheat, pepper, haricot bean, sorghum and millet. Rainfall during the main rains are erratic that most of the time crops fail due to un even distribution of rainfall over the growing period. That is why the woreda faces crop failures almost every 3 years.

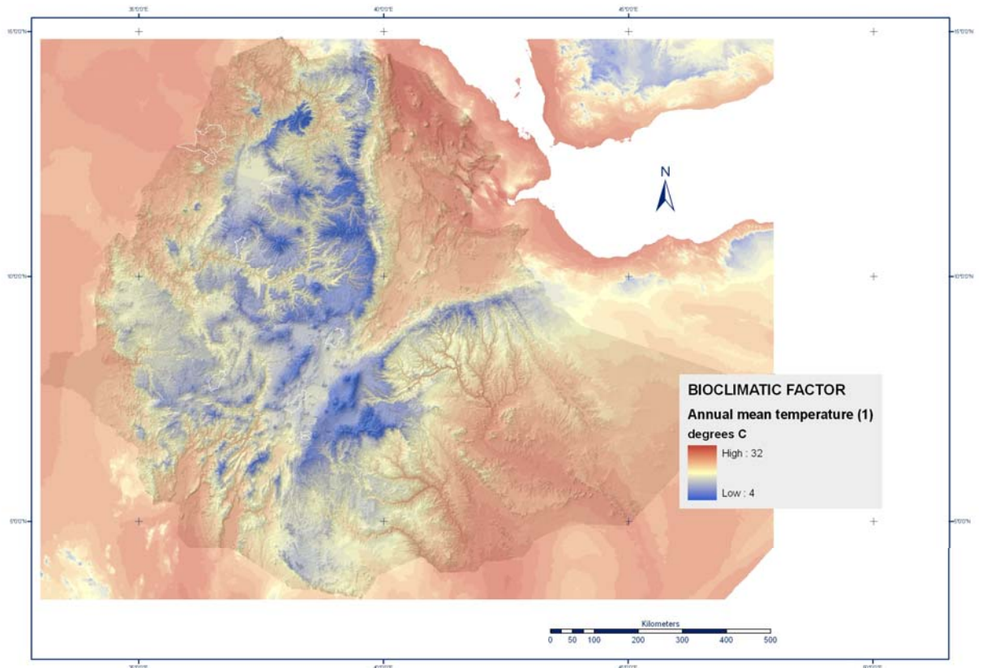
Alaba Woreda mean annual temperature





NO PA Name
1 TITA LIBETORA
2 ANSHEKORA BUTIE
3 KULEBI
4 MEJA
5 HABIBONA FURANA
6 MIRABE 1 GORTANCHO
7 LAYEGNAW AERSHO
8 MISRAK GORTANCHO
9 1GNA MEKALA
10 GIEREMA
11 WISHAMO
12 MUDA DANOKOSA
13 KUNCHUNA YAYE
14 GOFESA
15 ROKENENIE TEFO
16 KUFIE
17 GUBA SHERARO
18 GURURA BUCHO
19 DEBESO
20 1GNA TEFO
21 2GNA TEFO
22 HULATEGNA KONECHA
23 ANEDEGNA KONECHA
24 GETO MENO
25 KOBO CHOBARE
26 CHOBARE MENO
27 UDANA MENO
28 LAYEGNAW TUKA
29 HANTEZO BUBISSA
30 1GNA TUKA
31 2GNA TUKA
32 TEFO TEFO CHUFO
33 UDANA CHOLOKSA
34 AJA HULUKO
35 BESHENO
36 SIMBITA
37 KULUFO
38 WOTETA FETAN
NO PA Name
39 YATO BARAHO
40 MITO DUBELA
41 DODA BAREHO
42 ALAKE GERO
43 NEGELE WEDESHA
44 ASHOKA
45 ASORE
46 2GNA HANSHA
47 GEREME
48 LAYGNAWE LENDA
49 TACHGNAW LENDA
50 WANJANA WOLDIYA
51 Alaba Kulito(Town)
52 HOLEGEBA KUKIE
53 GALETO
54 1GNA CHOROKO
55 1GNA HANSHA
56 ALEM TENA
57 AYIMELE
58 BENDO CHOLOKSA
59 CHAMBULA
60 GEDEBA
61 MUDA MEYAFA
62 OLOLOKA
63 SHEKATANA WELDIYA
64 TACHGNAWE BEDNE
65 YAMBO
66 WEJAGO YATU
67 SORGE DORGOSA
68 2GNA MEKALA
69 TACHGNAW AERSHO
70 BUKKO TIBAME
71 LAYEGNAWE BEDANE
72 2GNA CHOROKO
73 AMATA
74 2GNA CHOROKO
75 FELKA
Legend
Wereda boundary
PA boundary
Towns - Villages
Road Type
All weather road
Dry weather road
Trail road
River Type
River
Stream
FAO Soil Class
Chromic Luvisols
Eutric Cambisols
Haplic Solonchaks
Humic Nitosols
Luvic Phaeozems
Vitric Andosols
Water Bodies
Lakes
N
5 2.5 0 5 10
Kilometers
38°0'0"E
38°5'0"E
38°10'0"E
38°15'0"E
38°20'0"E
38°25'0"E
7°40'0"N
7°35'0"N
7°30'0"N
7°25'0"N
7°20'0"N
7°15'0"N
Mito
Funko
Dosha
Alem
Boya
Shala
Chitu Hora
Shala senbete
Aje
Awara
Guba
Kulito
Halkecha Neketa
Gerema
Mazoriya
Heregdina
Basa
Sinkile Senbete
Adelo

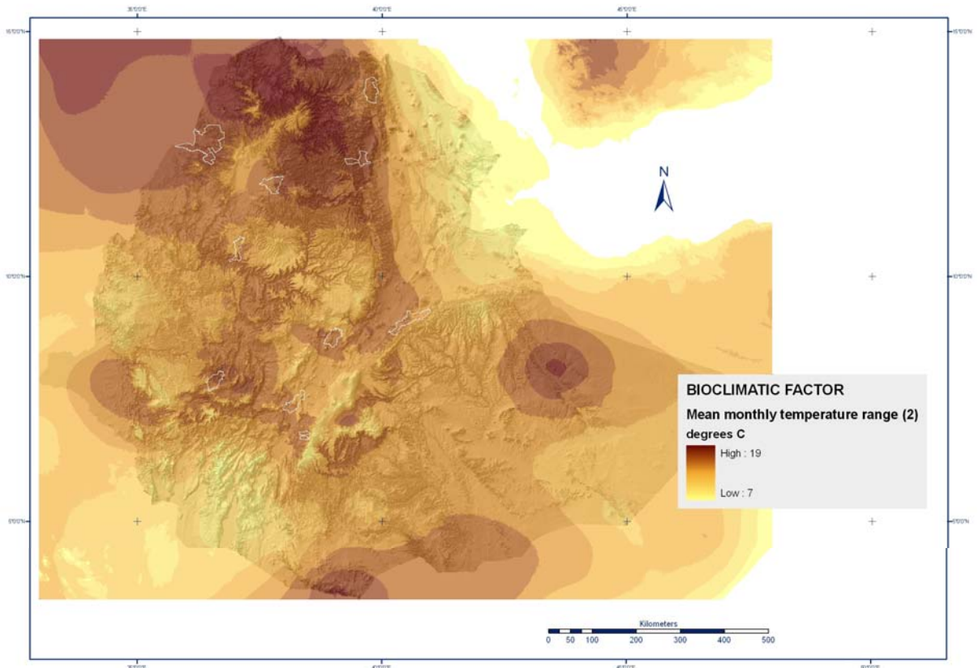
Bioclimatic factors

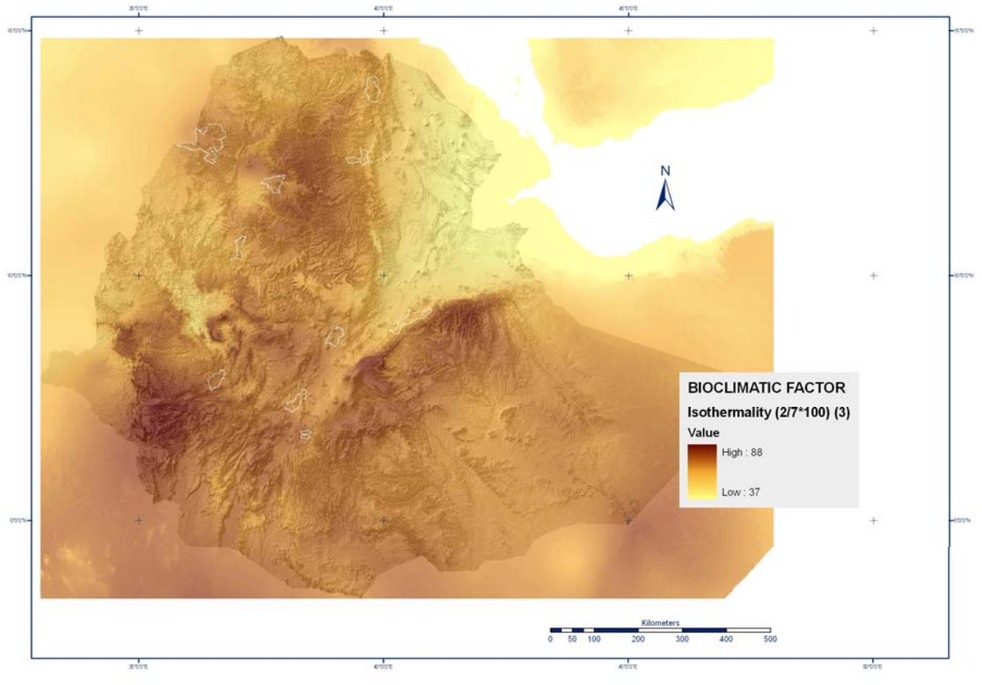


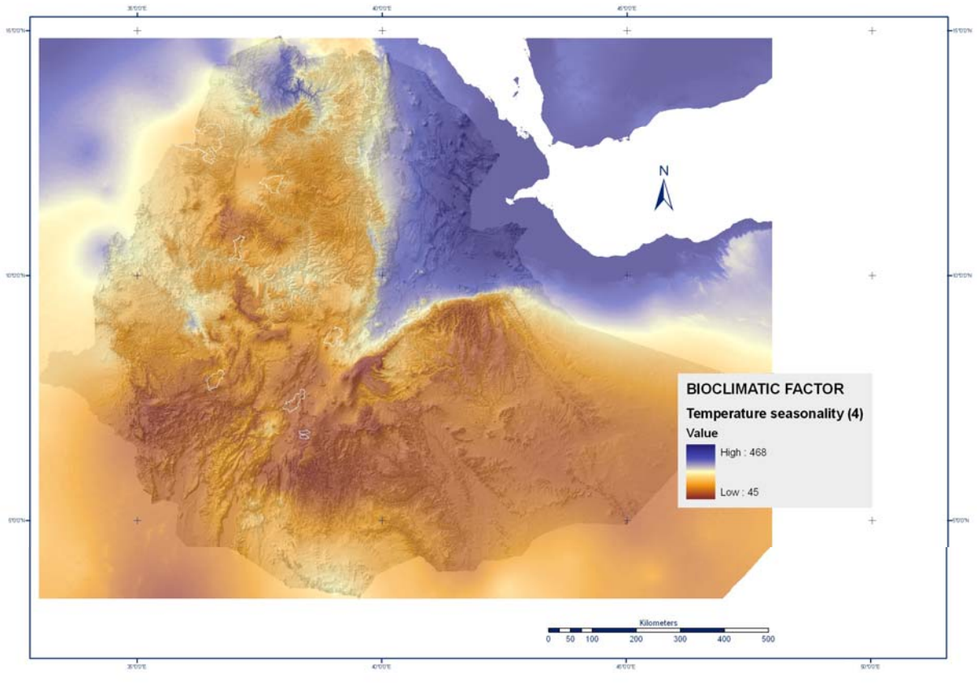
Bioclimatic variables are derived from monthly climatic data obtained from the WorldClim project.

A climate model is run from DIVA-GIS software to build 19 layers or bioclimatic variables which can be used to characterize zones for specific agricultural use.

The following layers describe key climatic conditions which define areas roughly of 1km X 1km.







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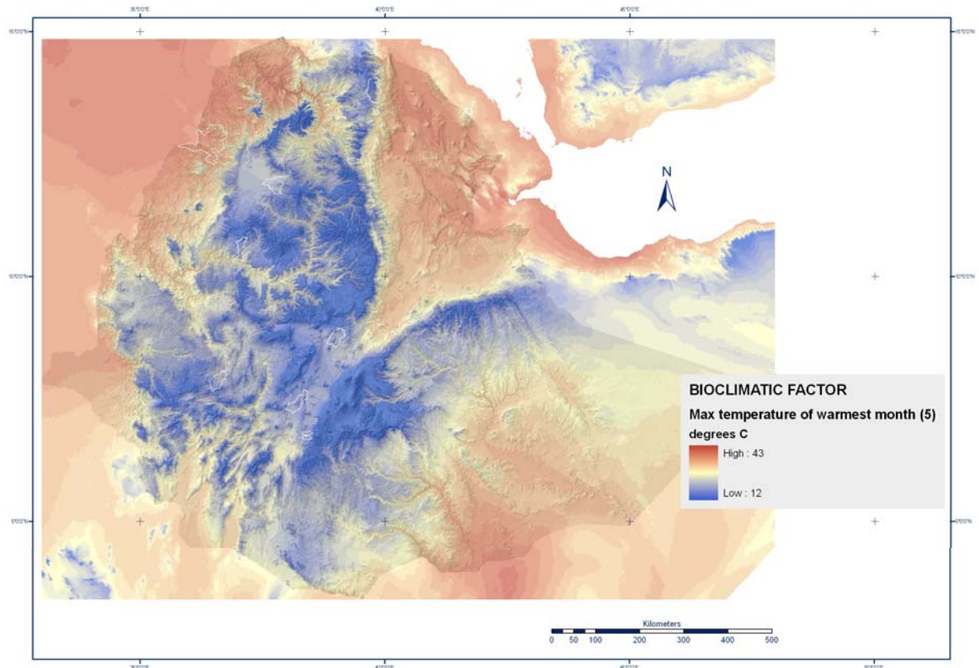

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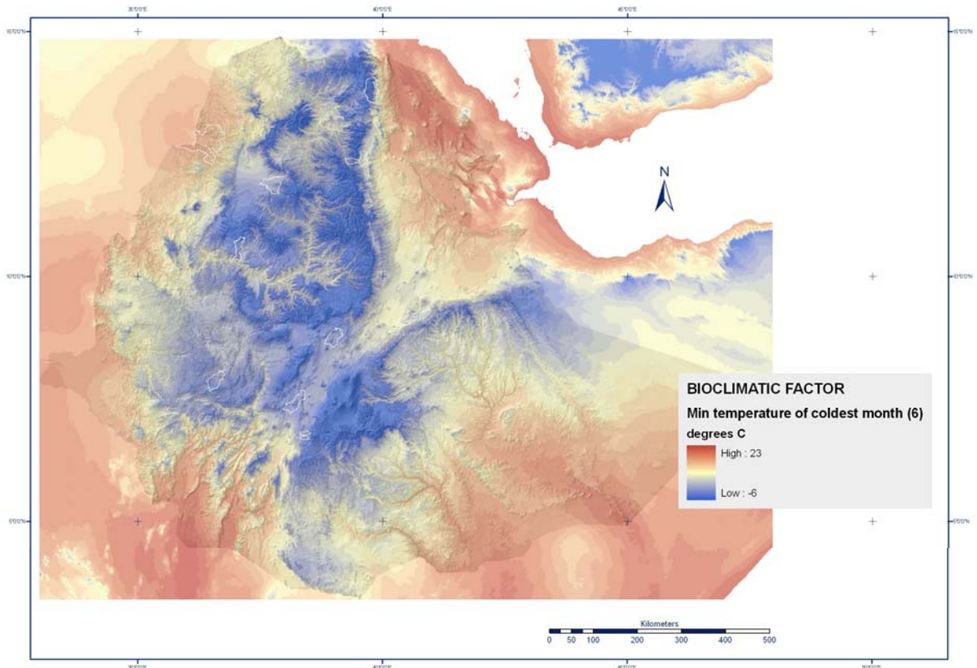

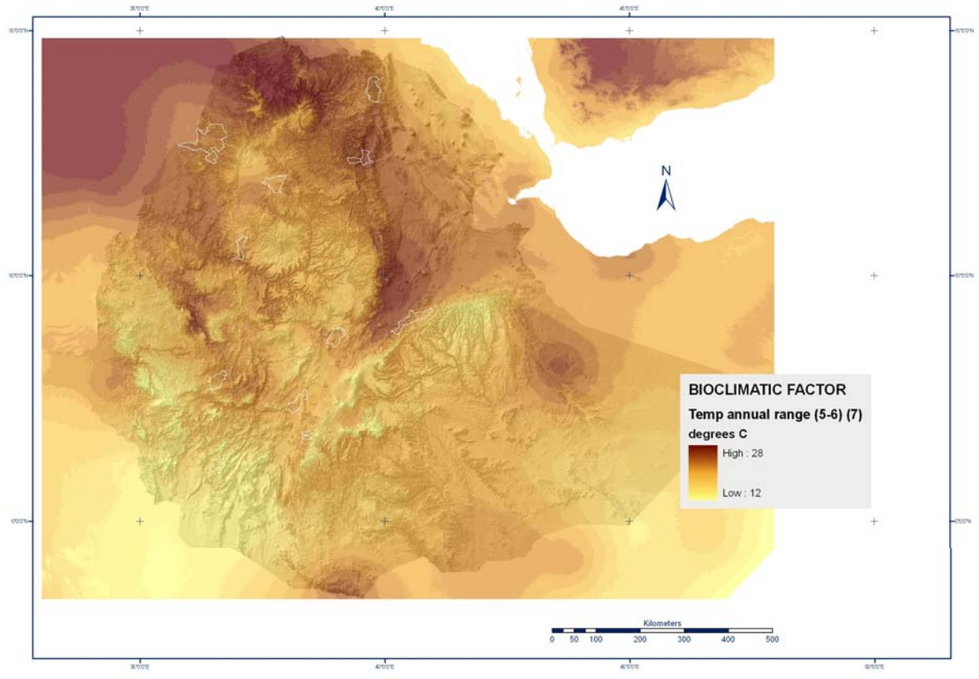

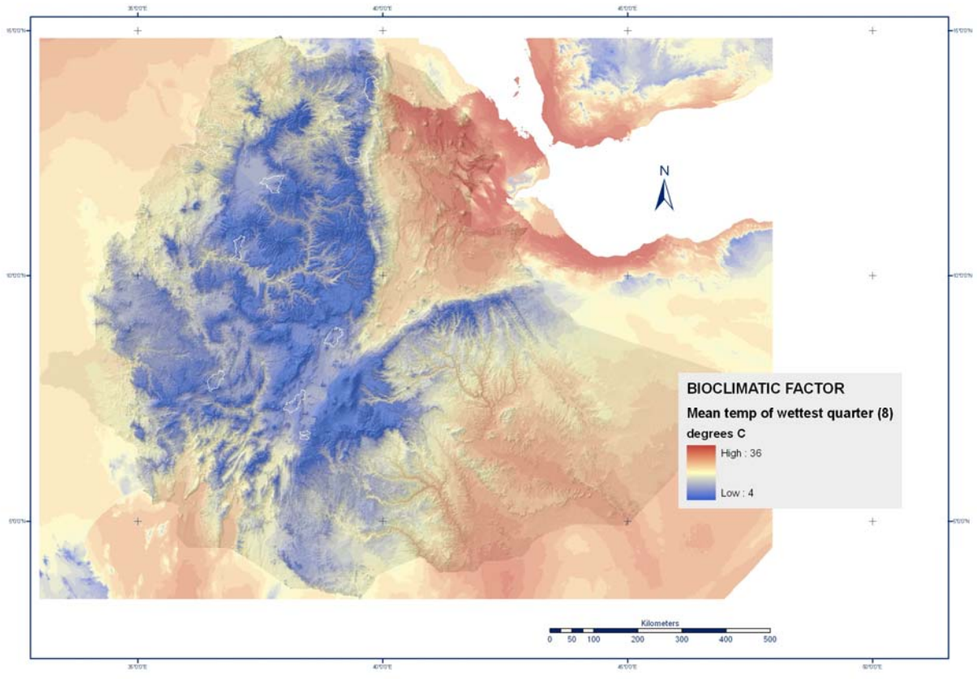

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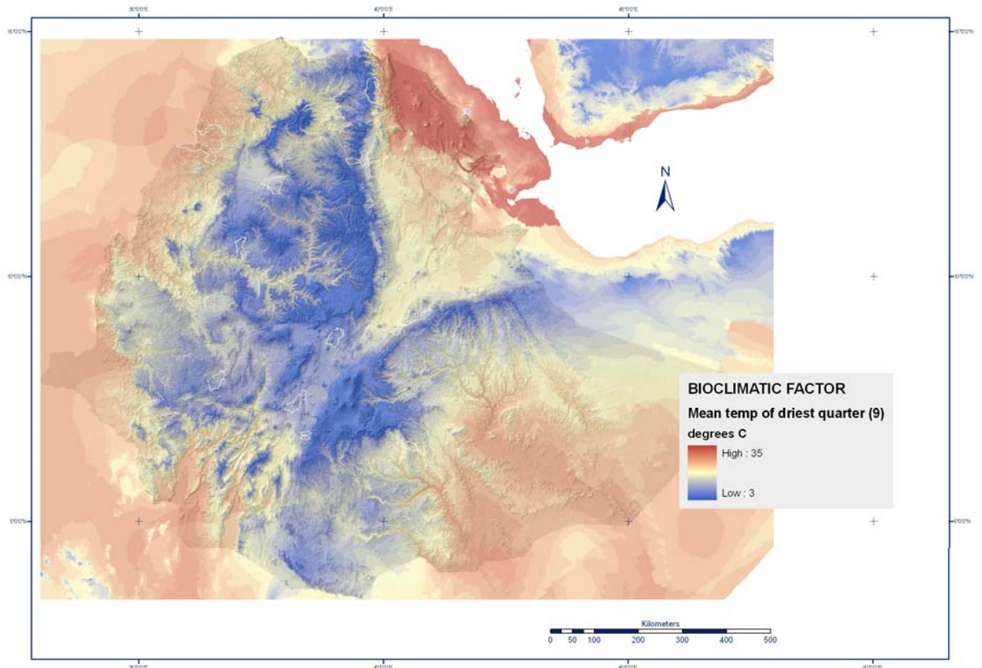

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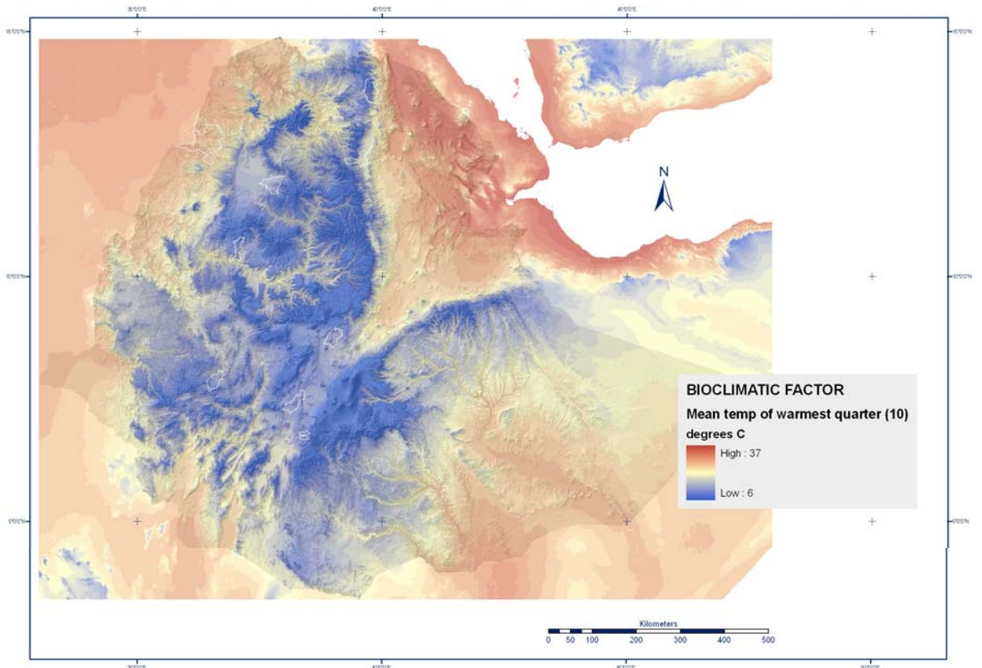

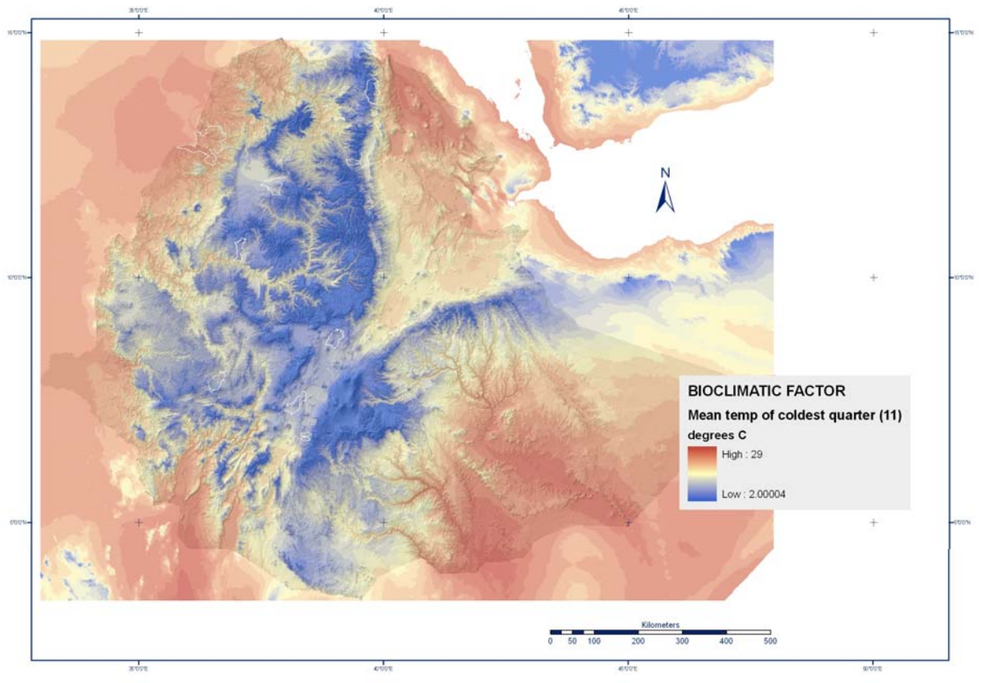

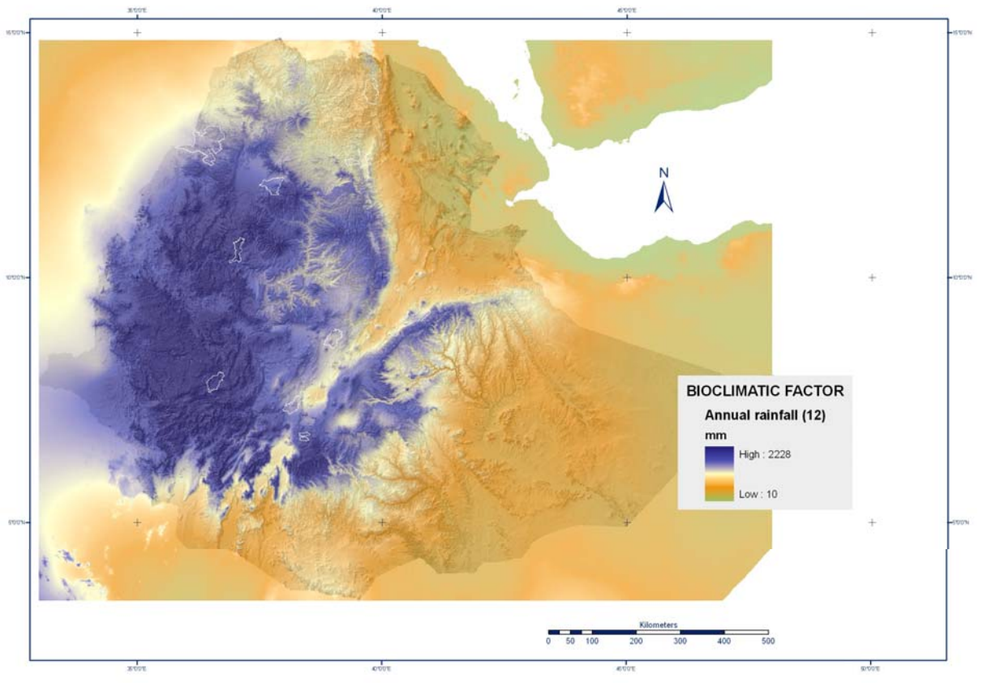

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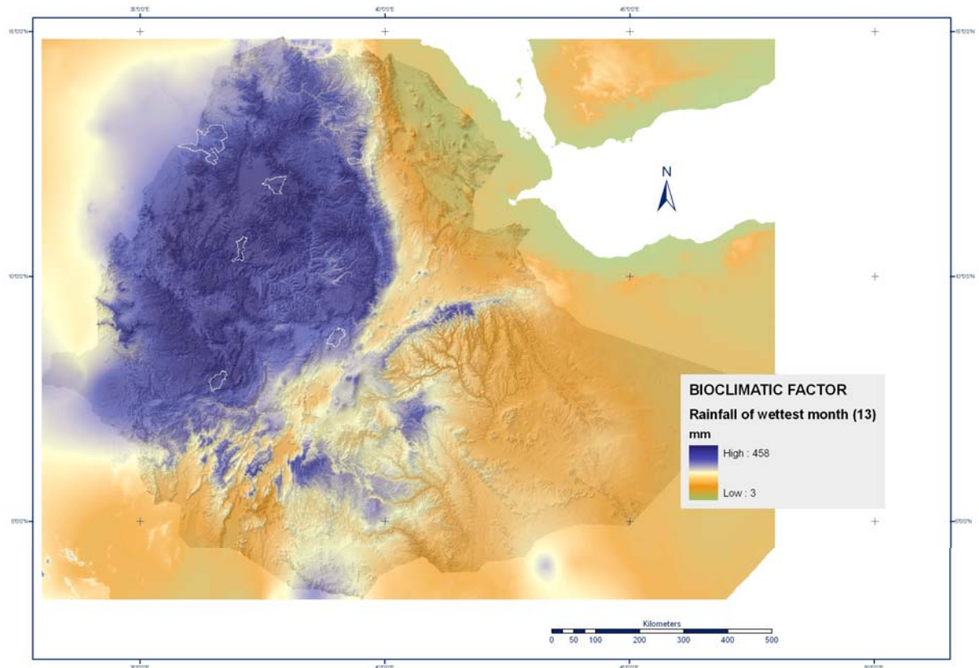

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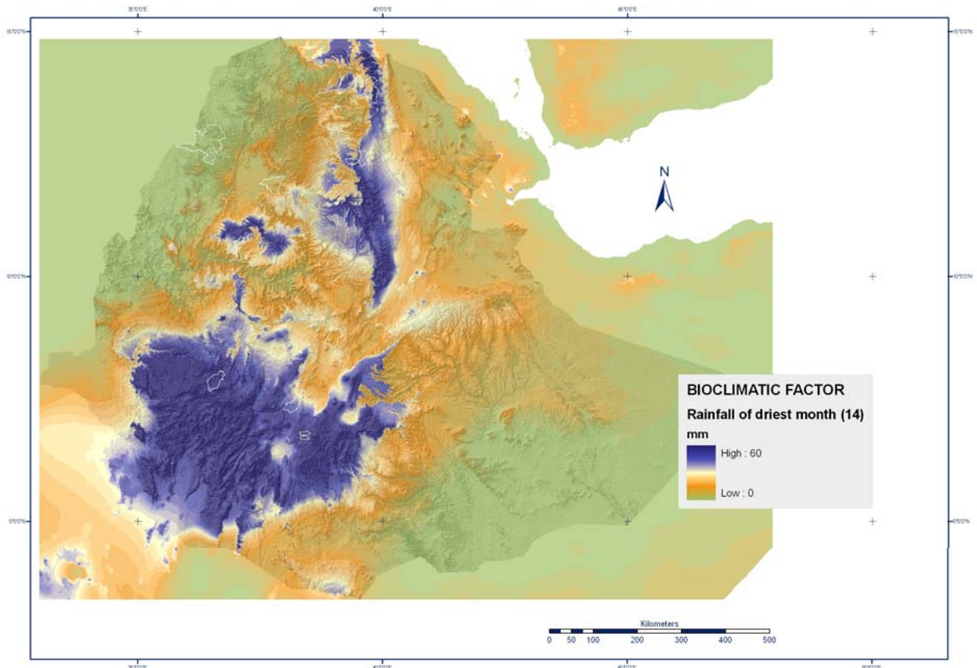

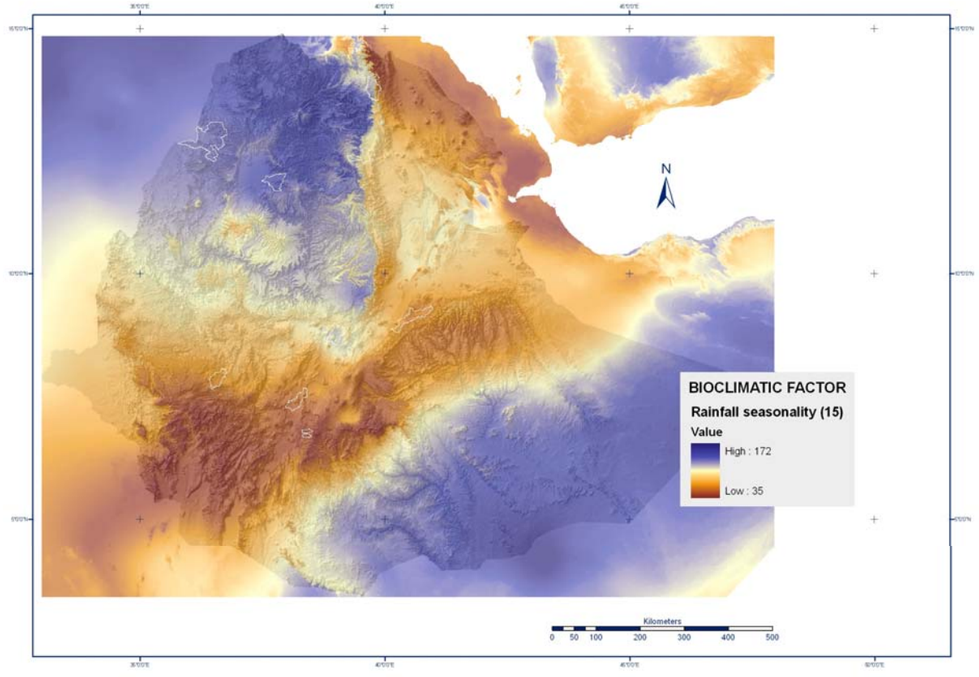

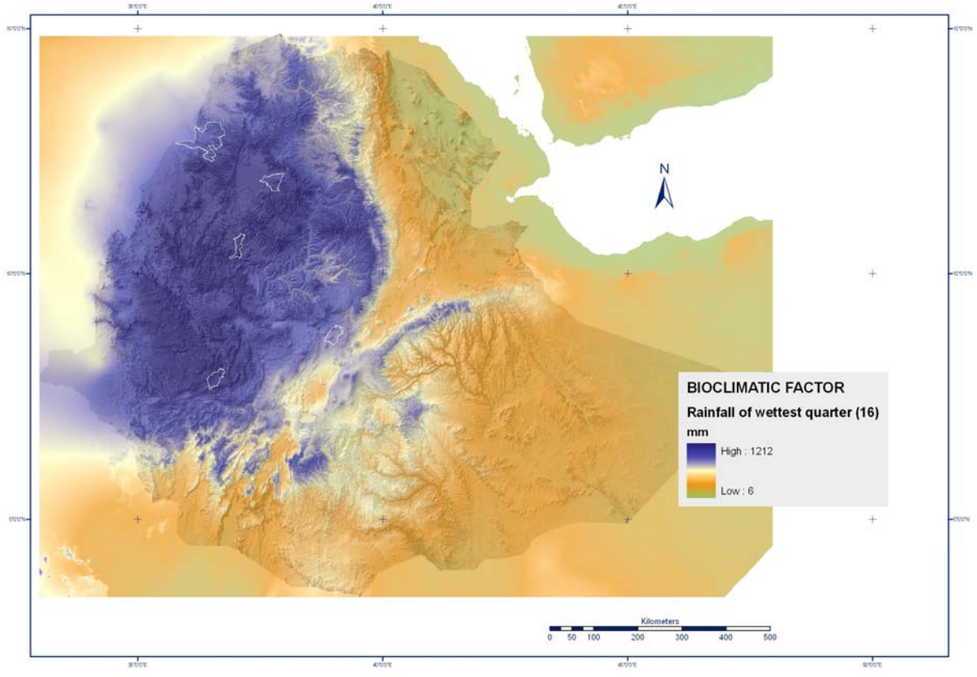

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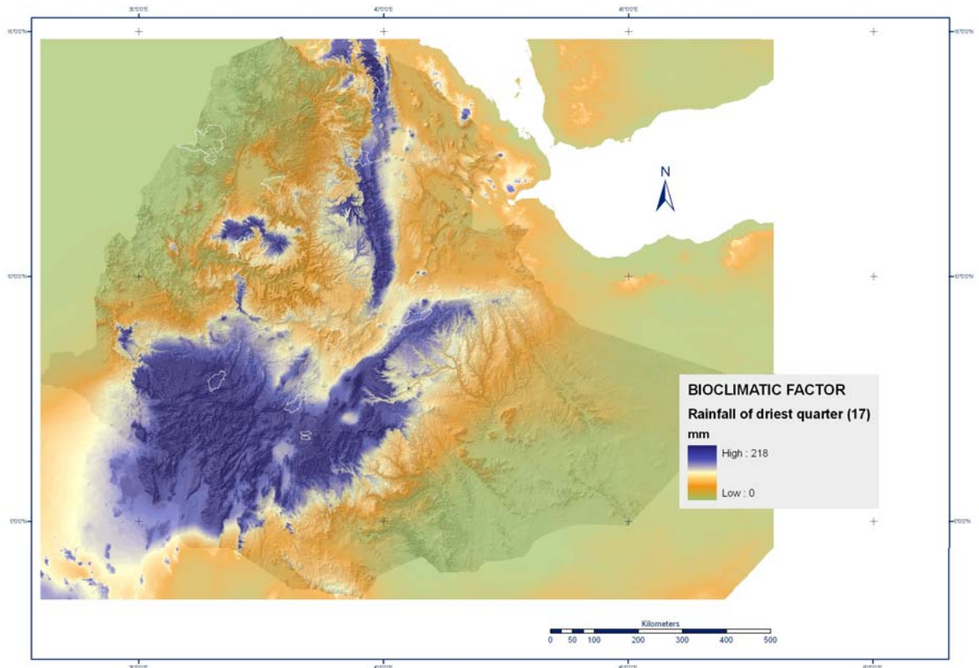

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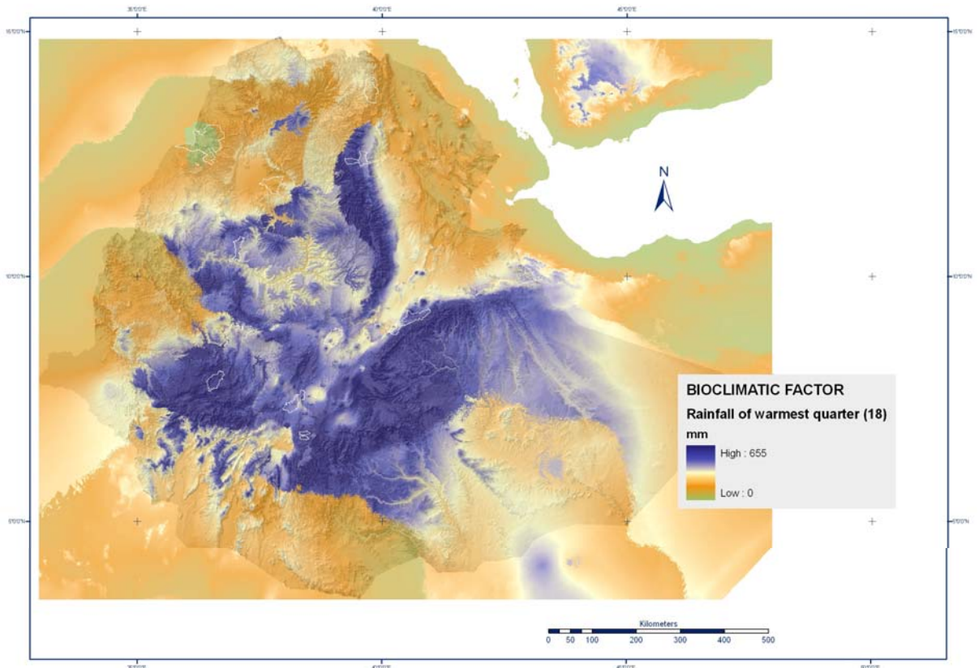
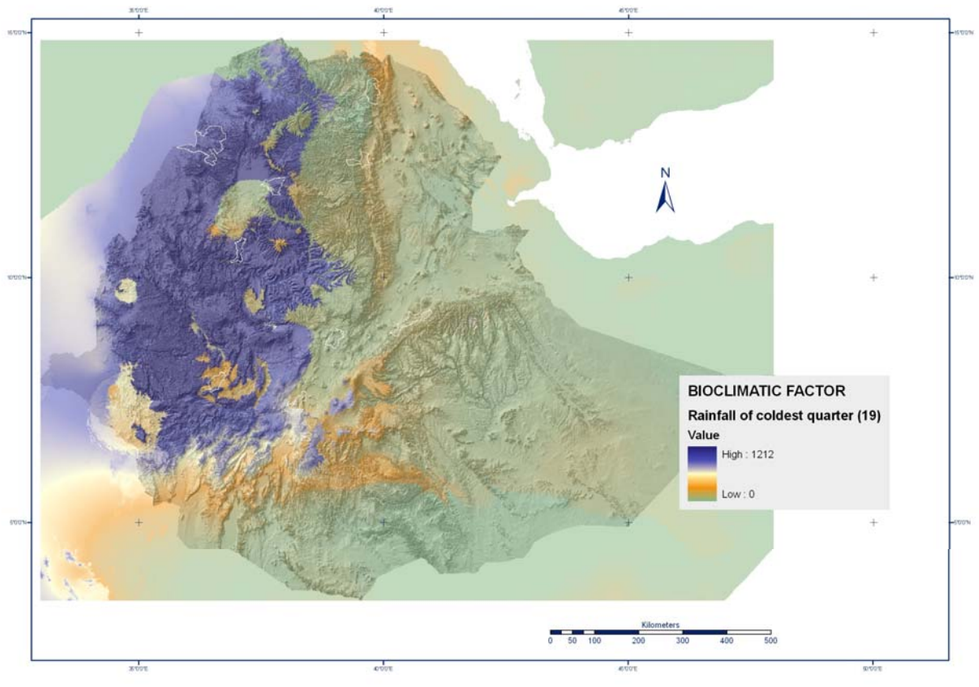
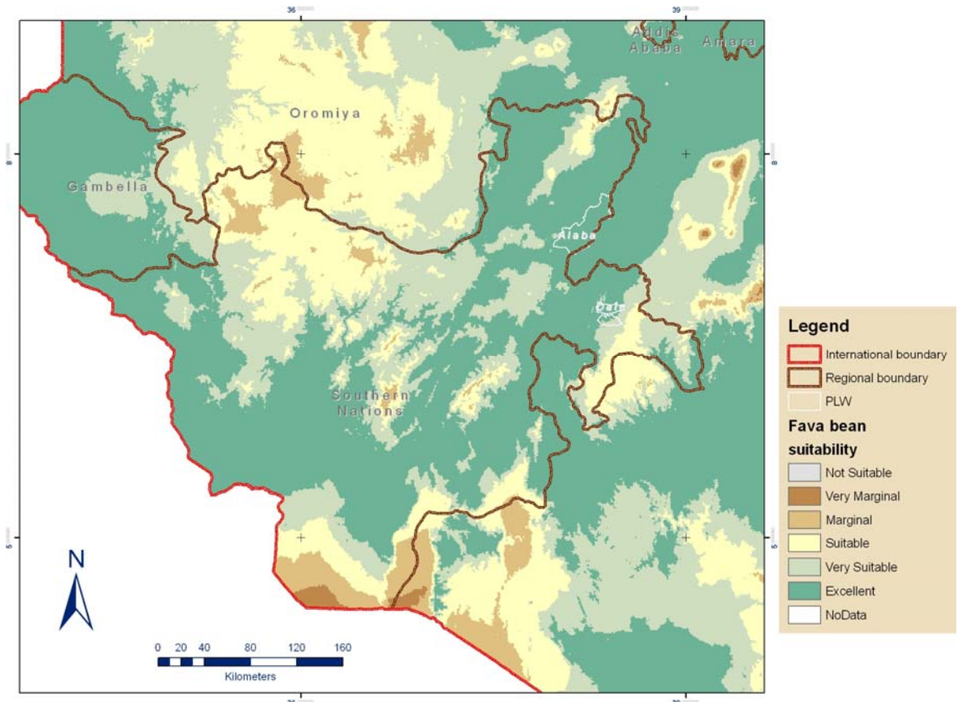


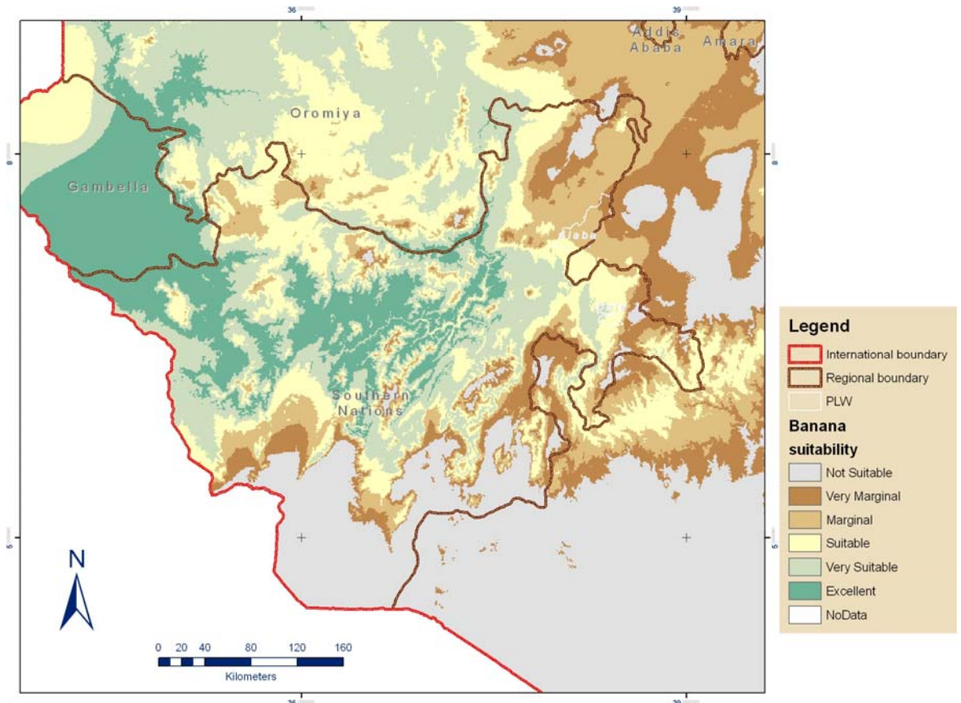


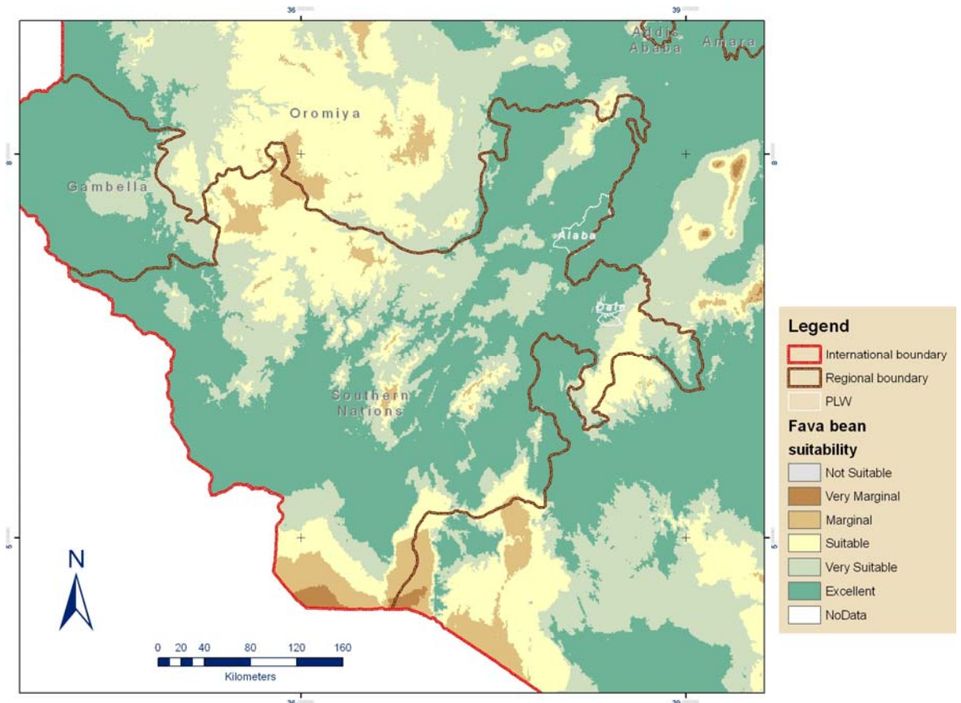
Bioclimatic suitability for selected priority commodities

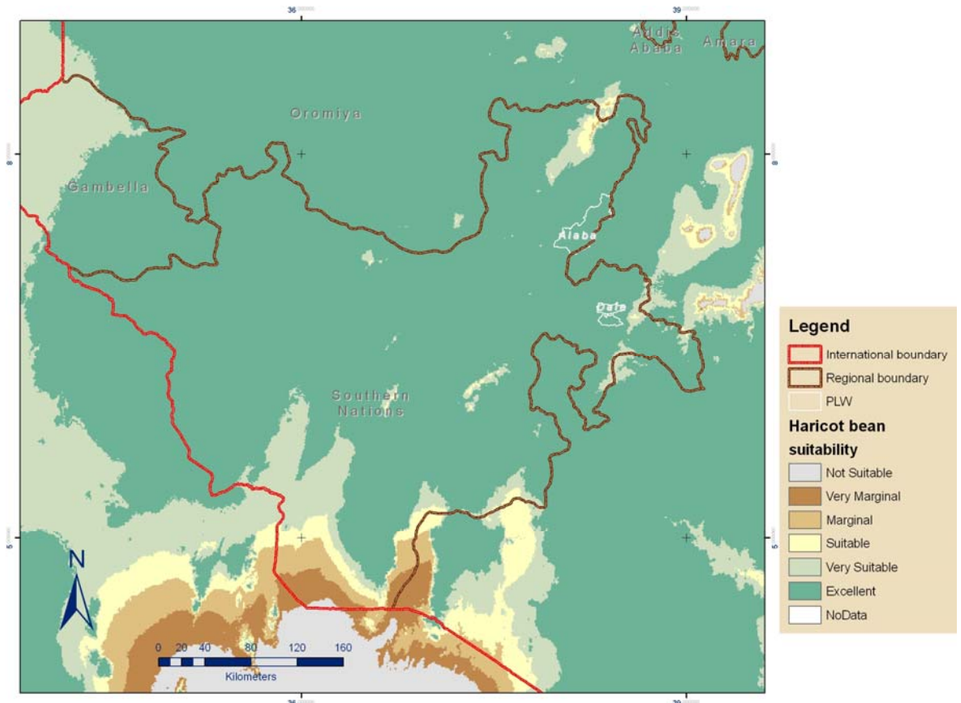


Suitability classes are derived from the superposition of optimum plant requirements and bioclimatic conditions of an area.

The resulting maps portray areas divided in 6 classes ranging from "not suitable" to "excellent" for specific crops.







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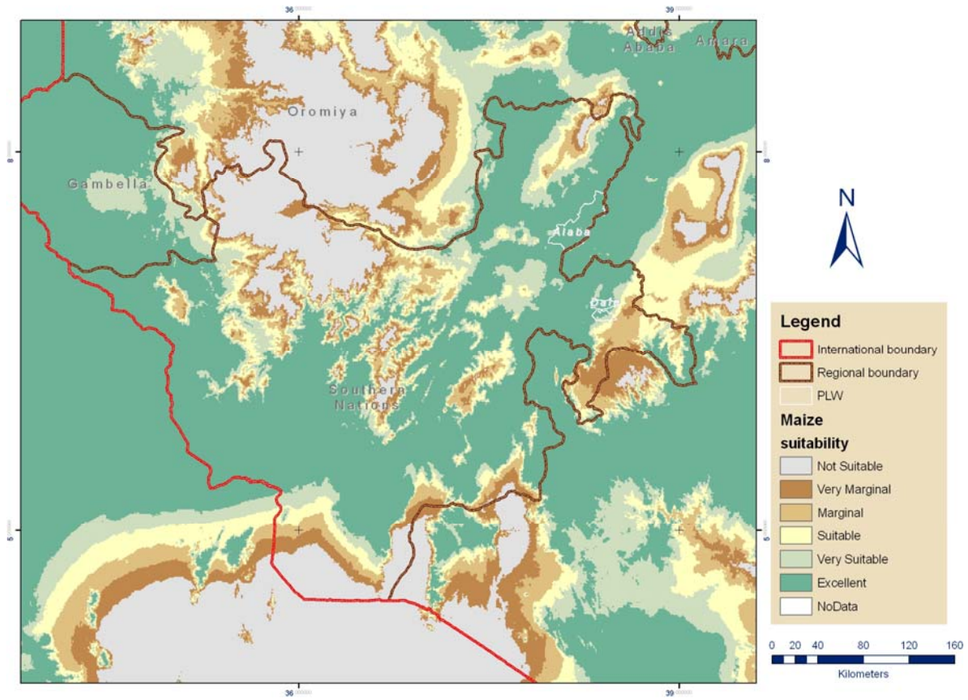

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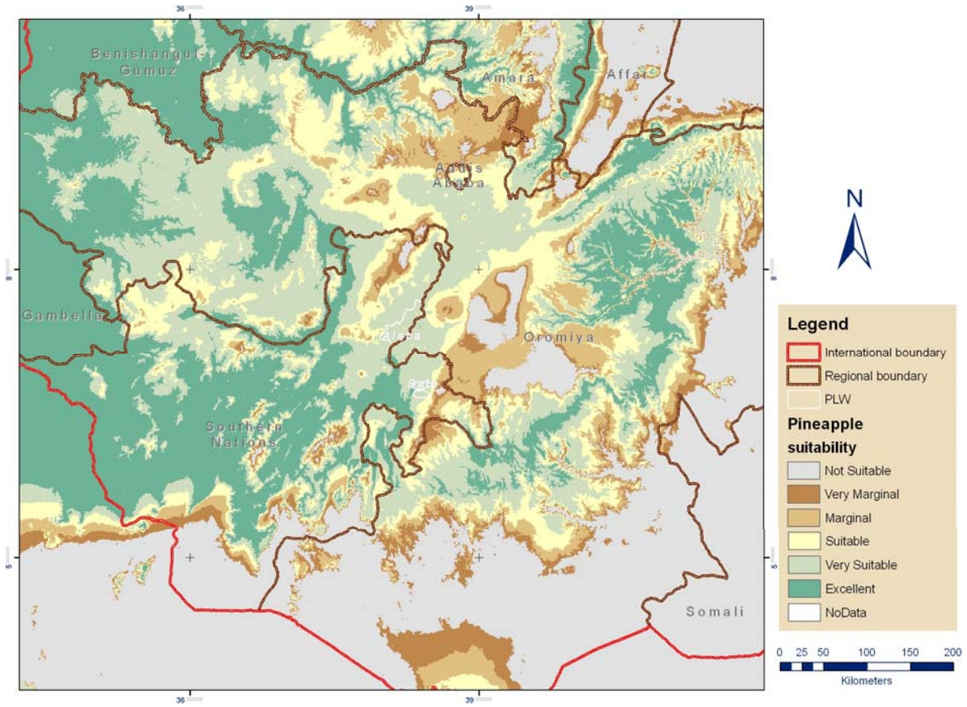
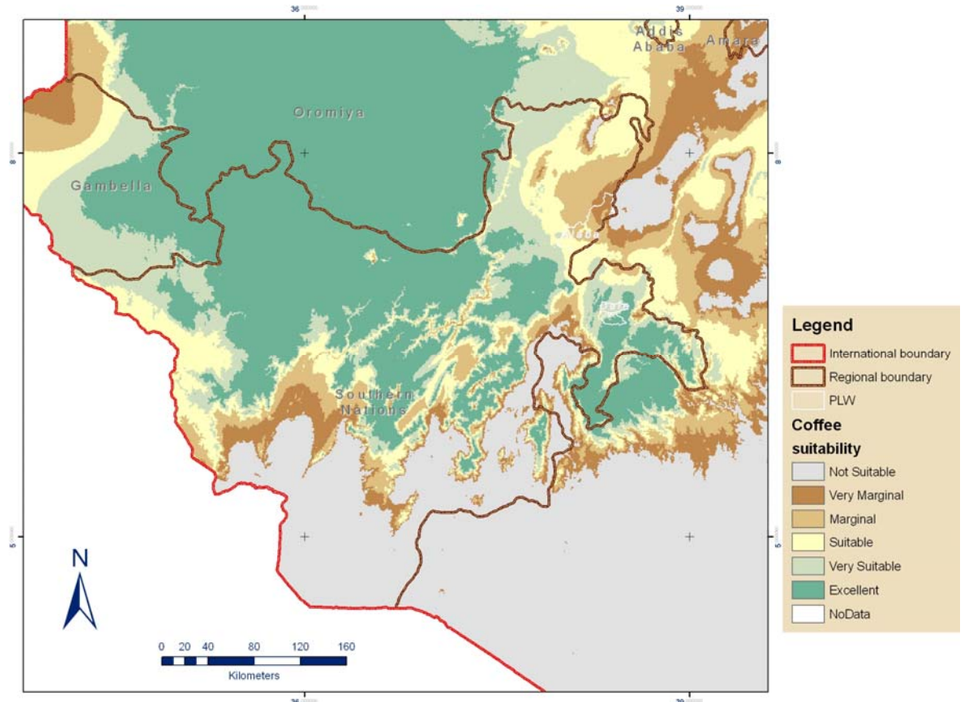
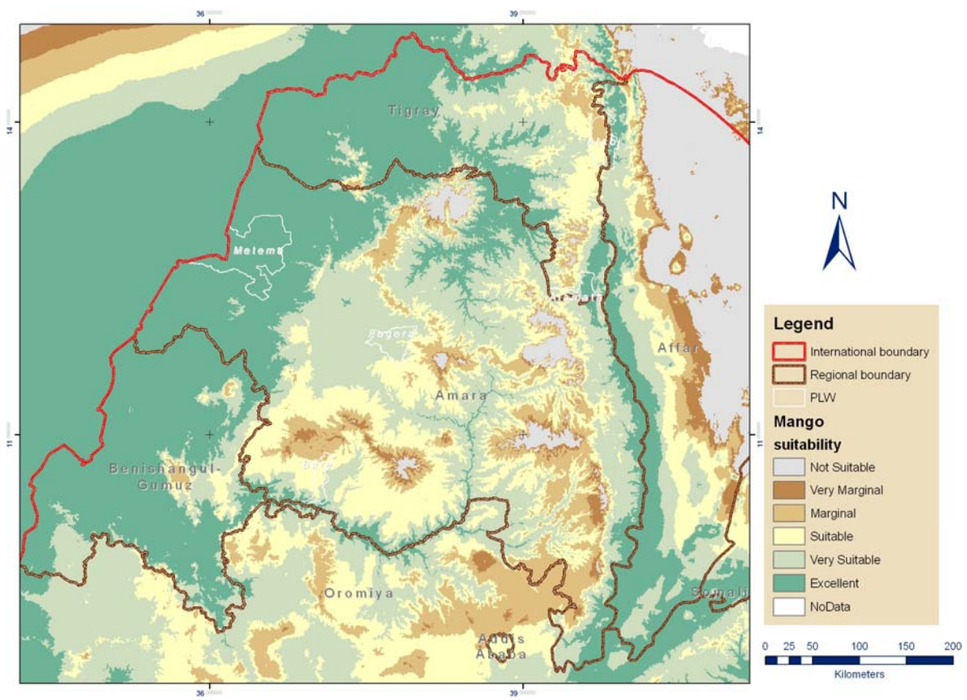
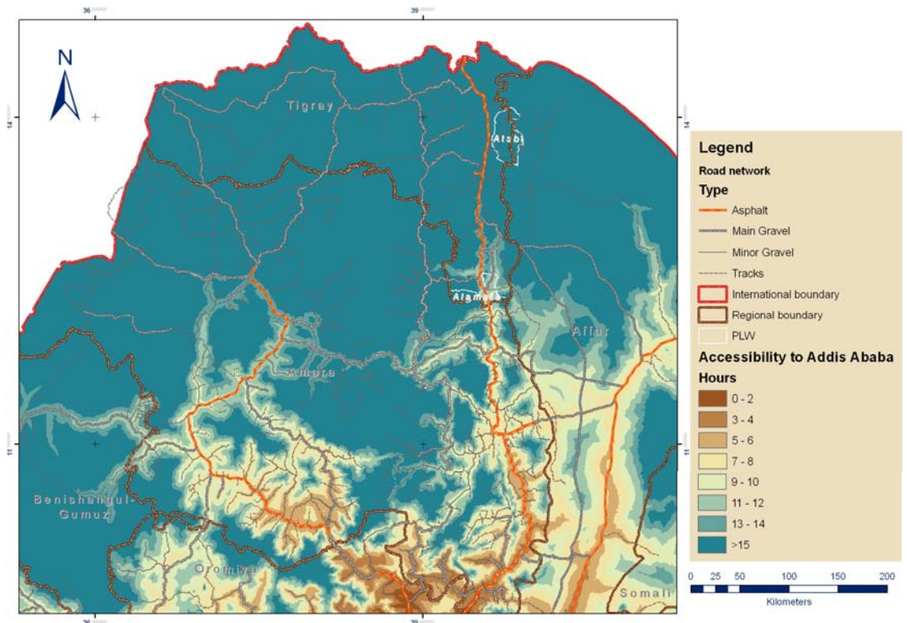






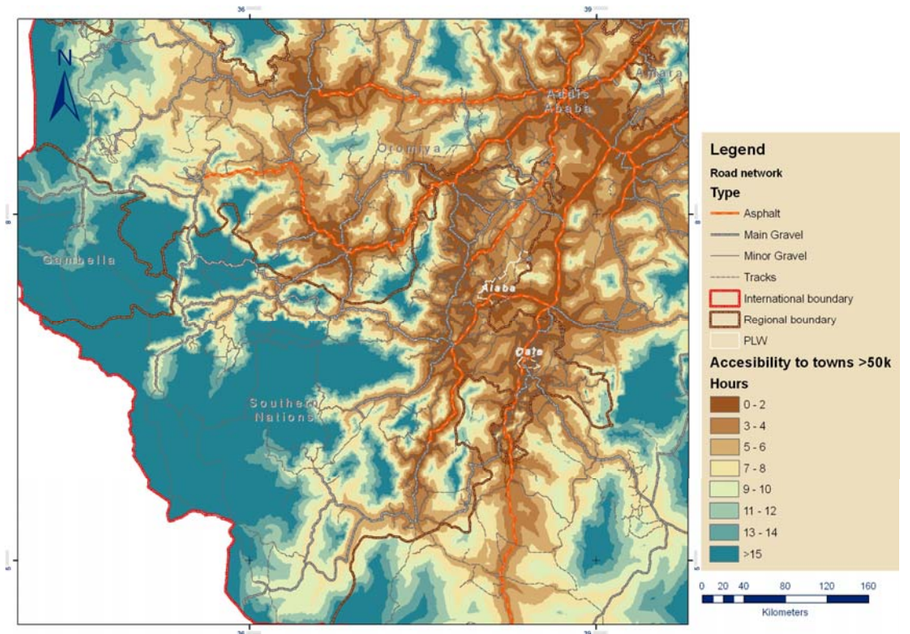
Accessibility to populated places

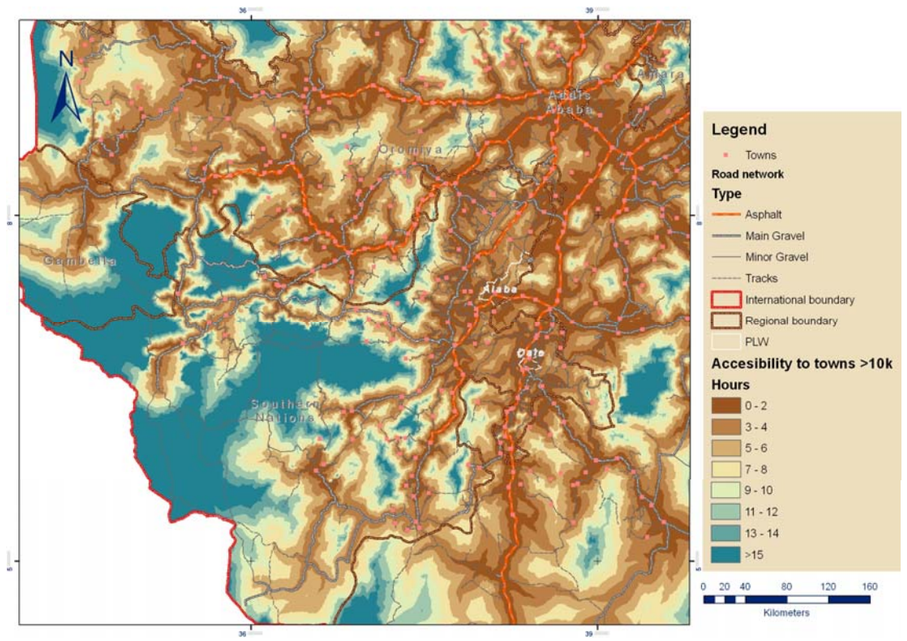


Accessibility to populated places in Ethiopia shows an area's distance in a time unit (hour) to towns of different population size. Layers such as terrain slope, land cover and road network contribute to the calculation of a cost surface from which accessibility can be derived.

Data source:

IFPRI, Jordan Chamberlin





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