



**ASIAN  
EVALUATION  
WEEK 2024**

## Innovations for Influential Evaluation

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2-5 September | Conrad Hotel Shanghai, People's Republic of China

[#AsianEvaluationWeek](#) [#AEW2024](#)

Independent  
Evaluation 

 亚太财经与发展学院  
Asia-Pacific Finance and Development Institute

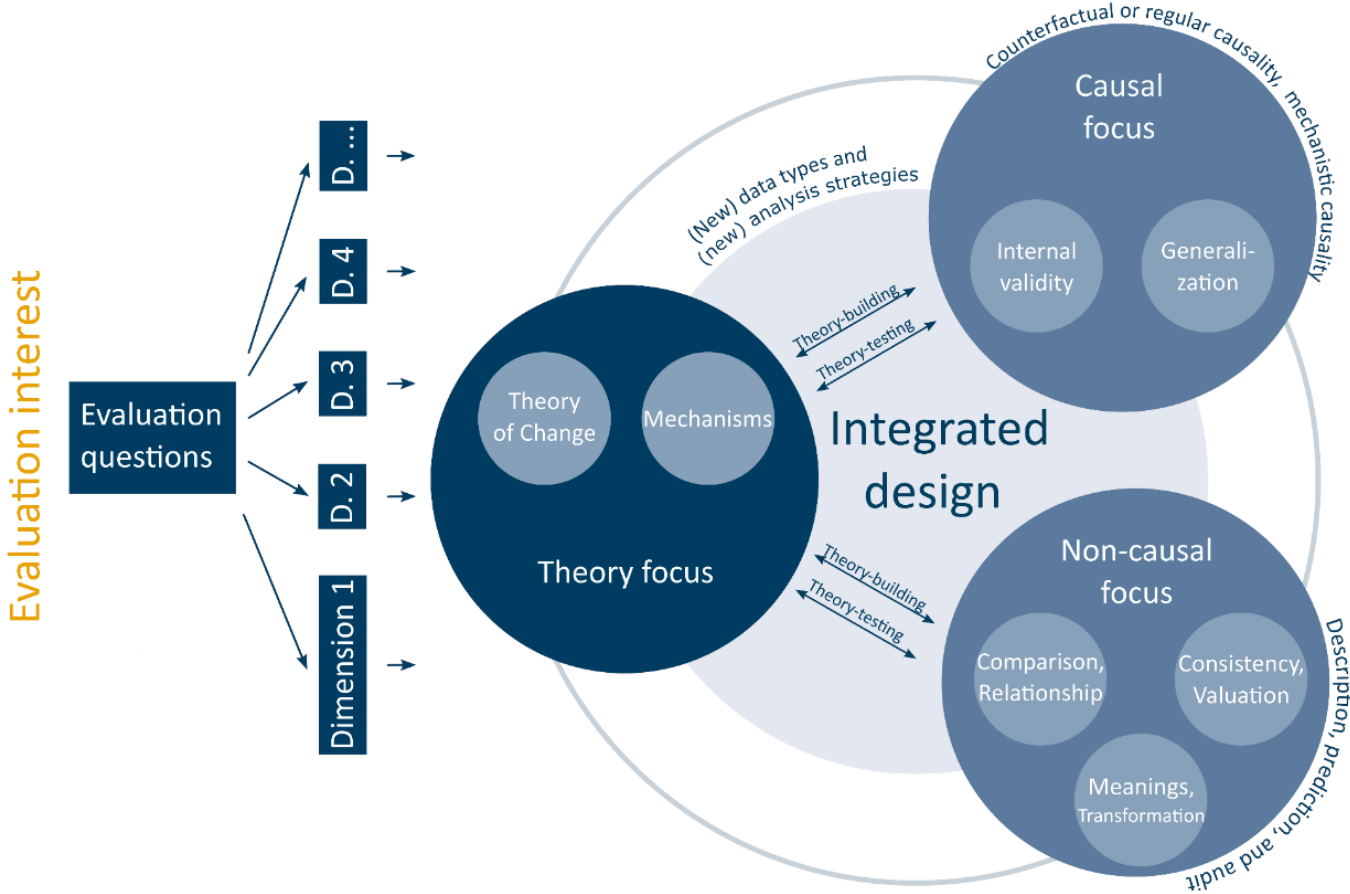
# The Geodata Decision Tree

A Guiding Framework for the Use of Geodata in Evaluation

Sven Harten

# Integrating geospatial analysis in complex Evaluation Designs

Attributes of evaluation object, context and stakeholder constellation



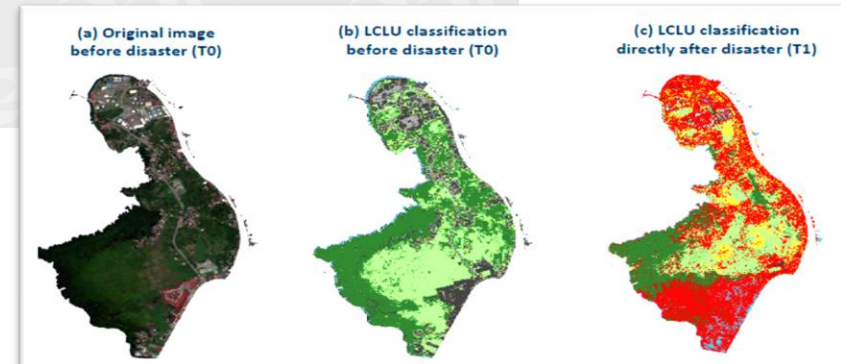
Practicability and efficiency

## Can we use geodata?



## Descriptive Mapping

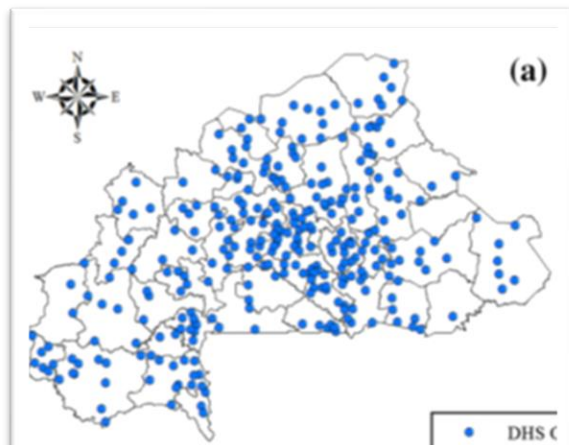
Deforestation in Cameroon – (Global Forest Watch 2023)



## Geospatial correlation

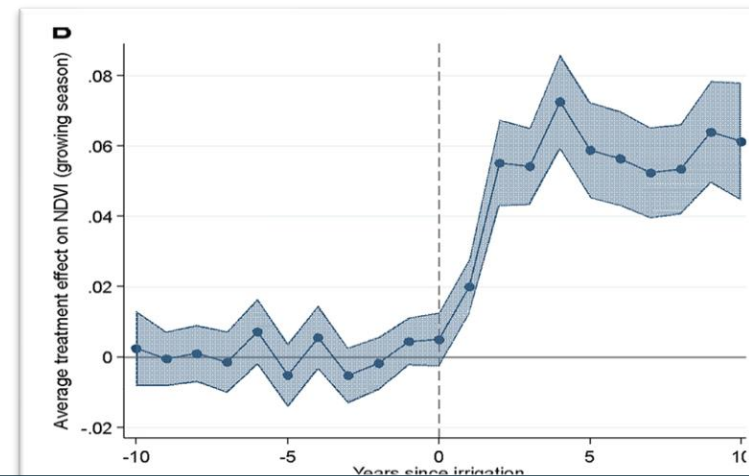
Machine learning based approach for land-use and land-cover classification after typhoon Haiyan on the Philippines (Lech, 2020)

## Can we use geodata?



## Data integration

DHS Cluster Points Burkina Faso (Nawrotzki 2016)



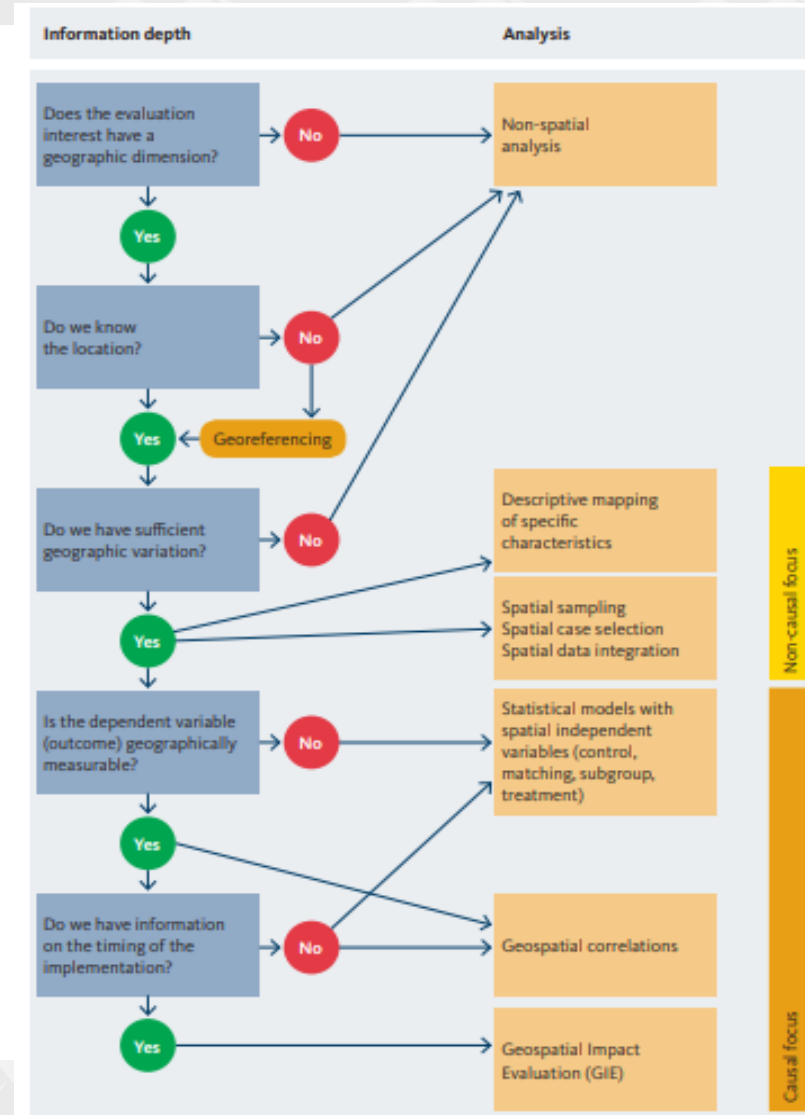
## Geospatial Impact Evaluation

Effects of irrigation projects in Mali (NDVI) (BenYishay et al., 2024)

# Can we use geodata?

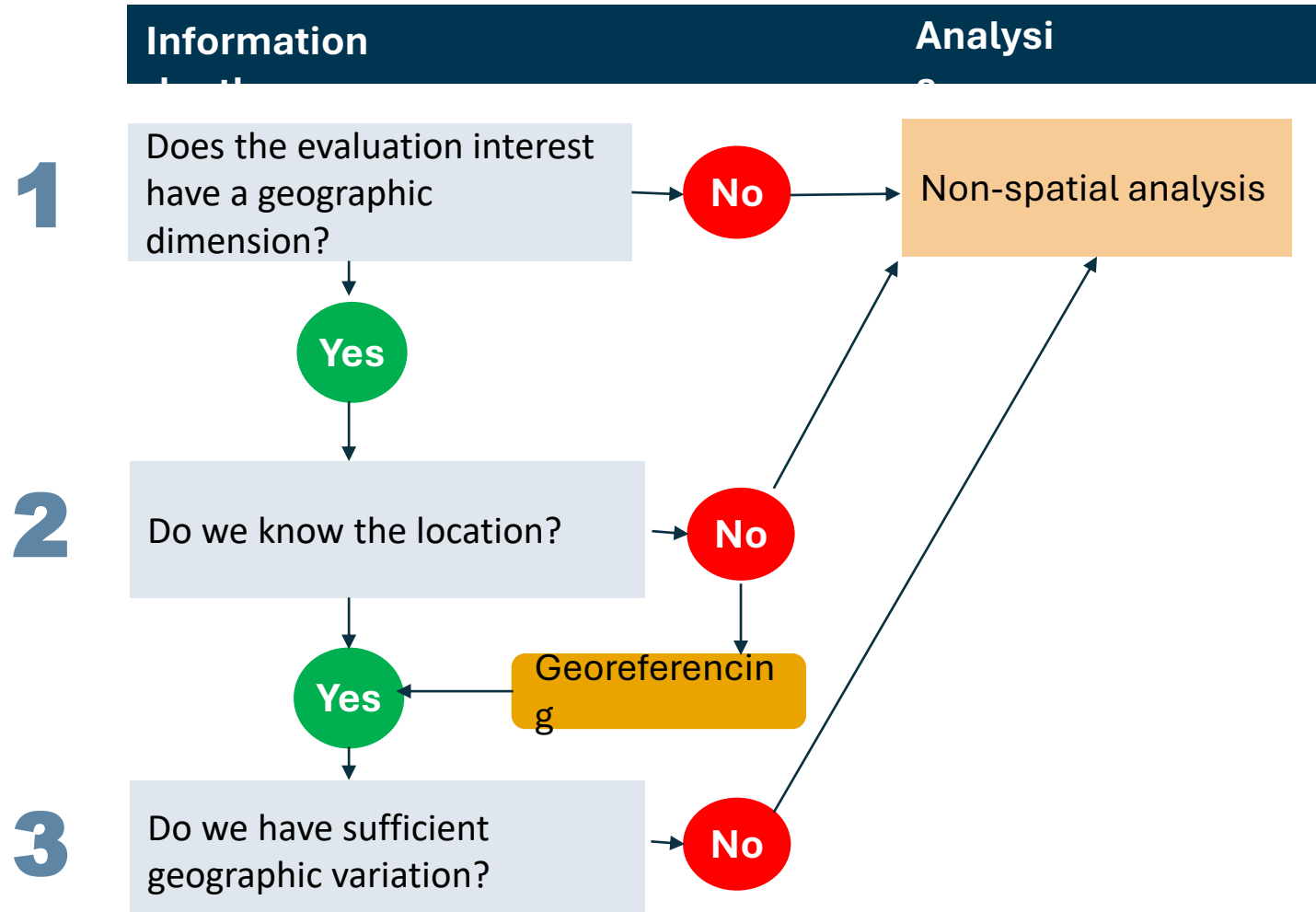
## The Geodata decision tree

- An orientation framework
- 5 guiding questions
- Depending on the depth of information in the geodata
- Recommendations for analysis types



Nawrotzki 2019

## When we cannot use geodata



# Georeferenced data

Georeferenced data can be sourced from a variety of origins.

- Manually georeferencing
- Incorporating geocoding in the data collection process
- Gathering data that include geospatial information
- Databases with georeferenced information

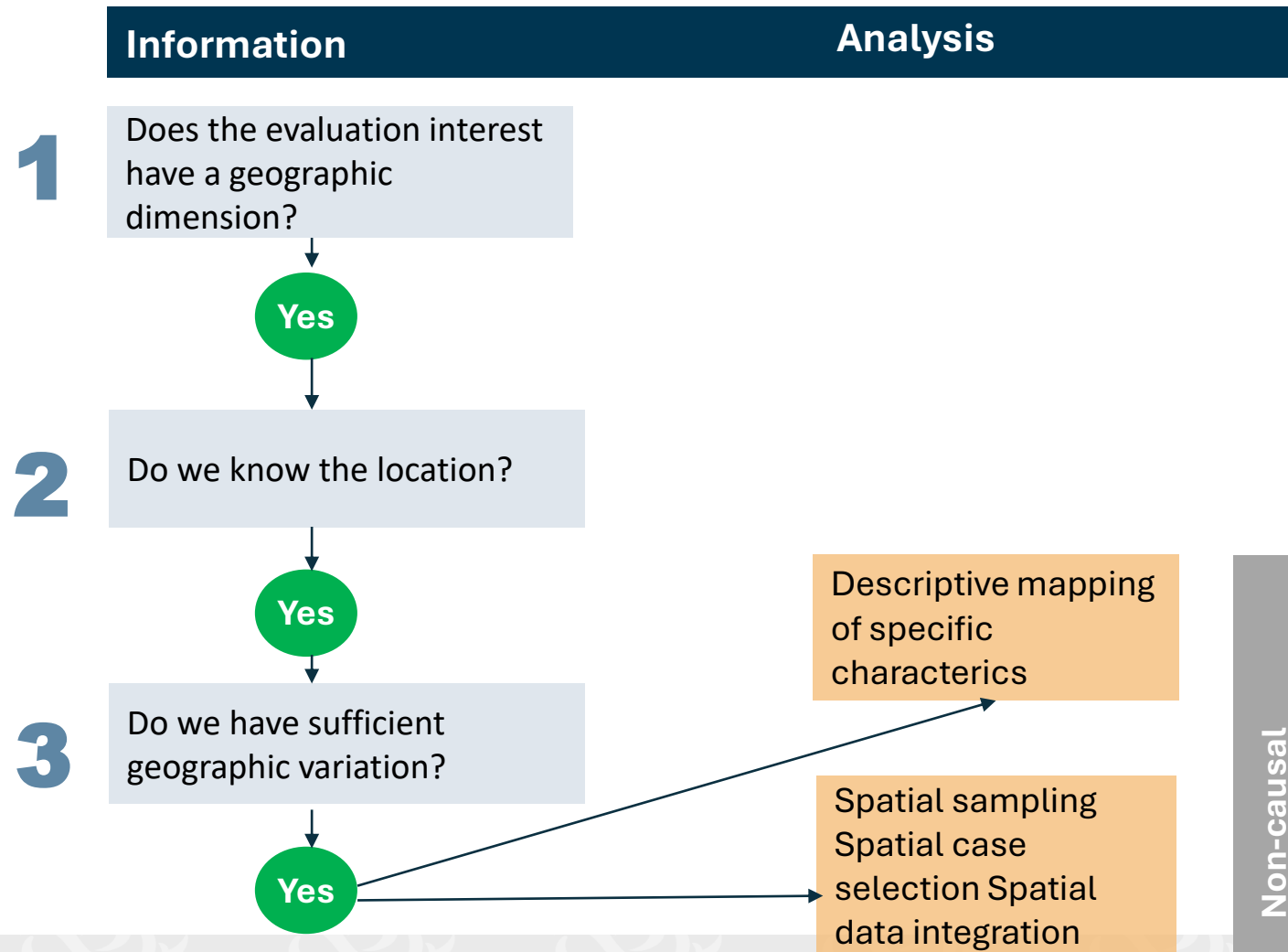


Georeference  
d data

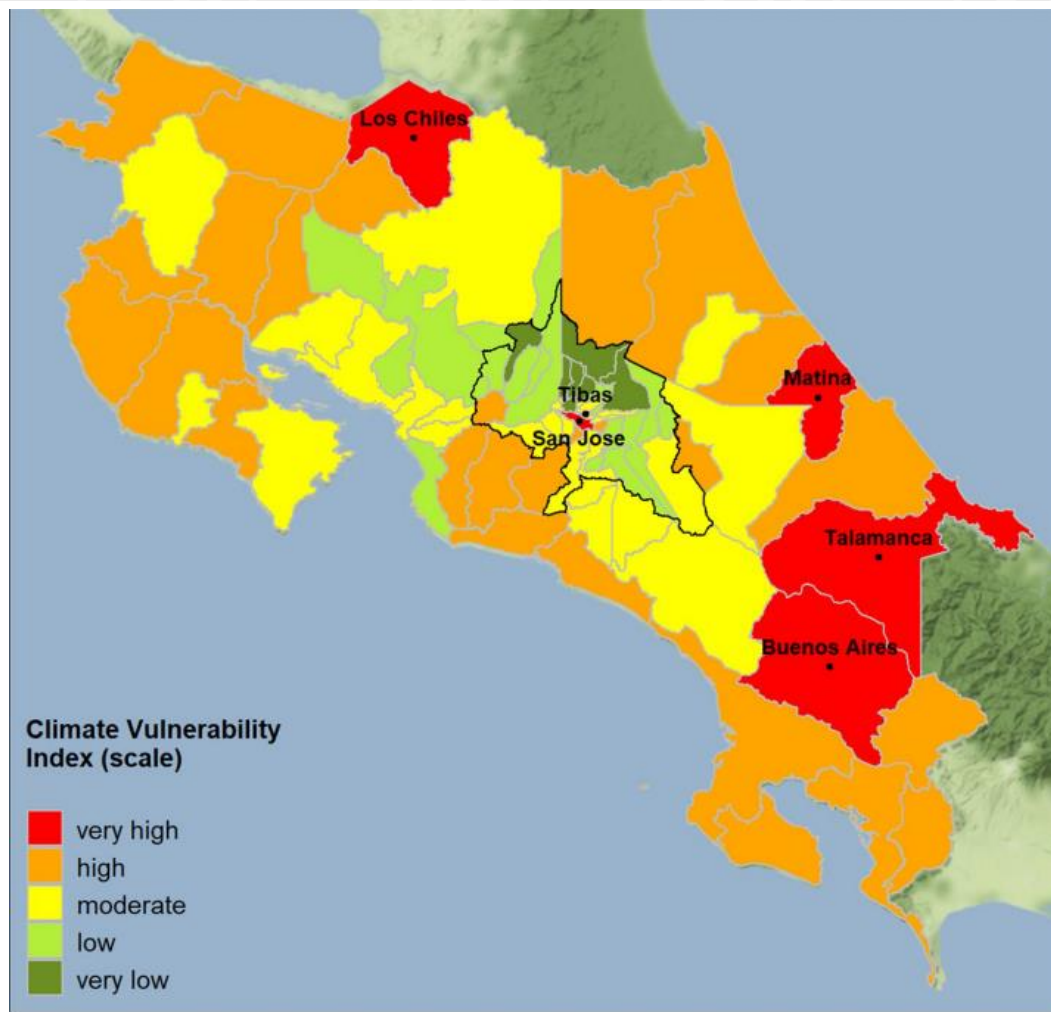
- Survey data
- Social media
- Mobile phone data
- Public media
- Event data
- Observational data/ground truth
- Satellite data
- Project data
- Photos



# Analysis with non causal focus



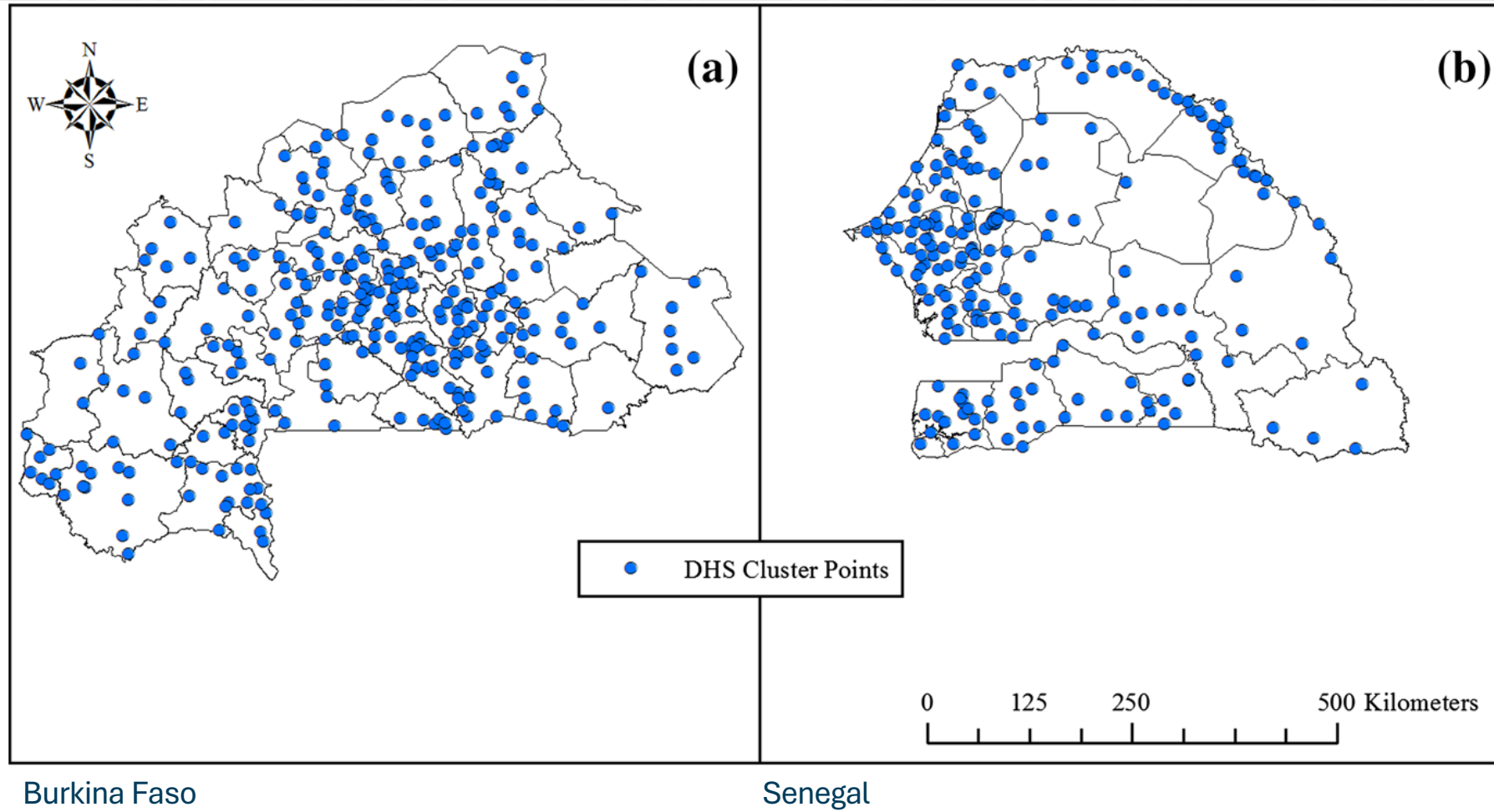
## Descriptive Mapping



Dimension	Component	Relationship
<i>Exposure</i>	Heat months	+
	Drought months	+
	Flood risk	+
<i>Sensitivity</i>	Asset index	-
	Work in climate sensitive industry	+
	Population density	+
<i>Adaptive capacity</i>	Tree cover	-
	Employment	+
	Literacy	+
	Remittances received	+
	Infant mortality	-
	Road density	+
	Distance from health center	-

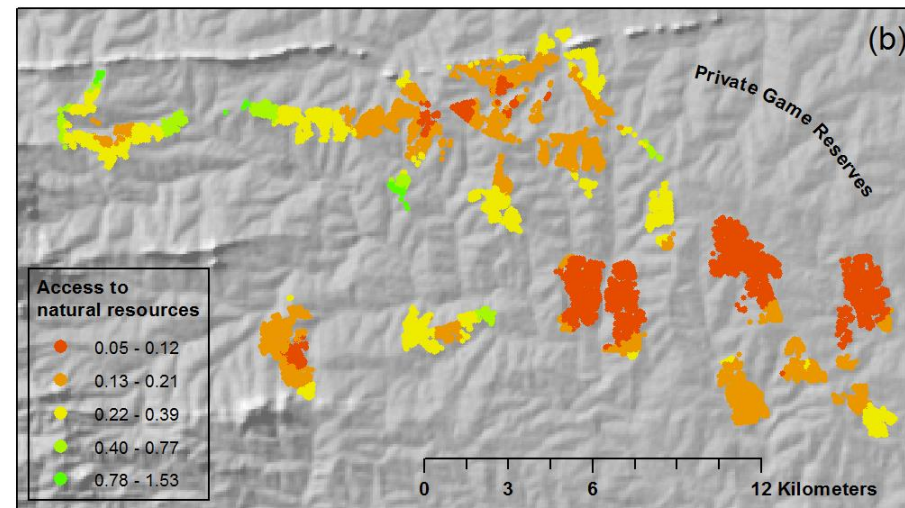
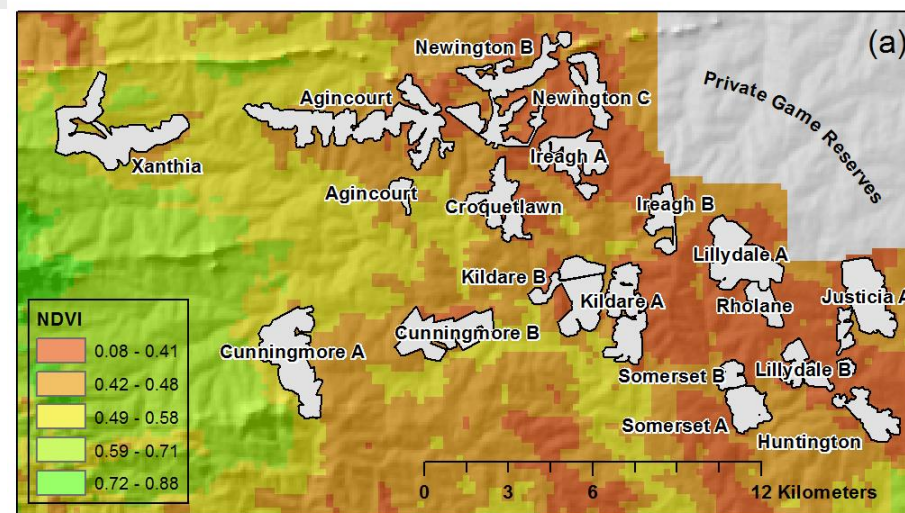
Nawrotzki et al. (2023)

## Integrating Different Data Sources



Nawrotzki et al. (2016)

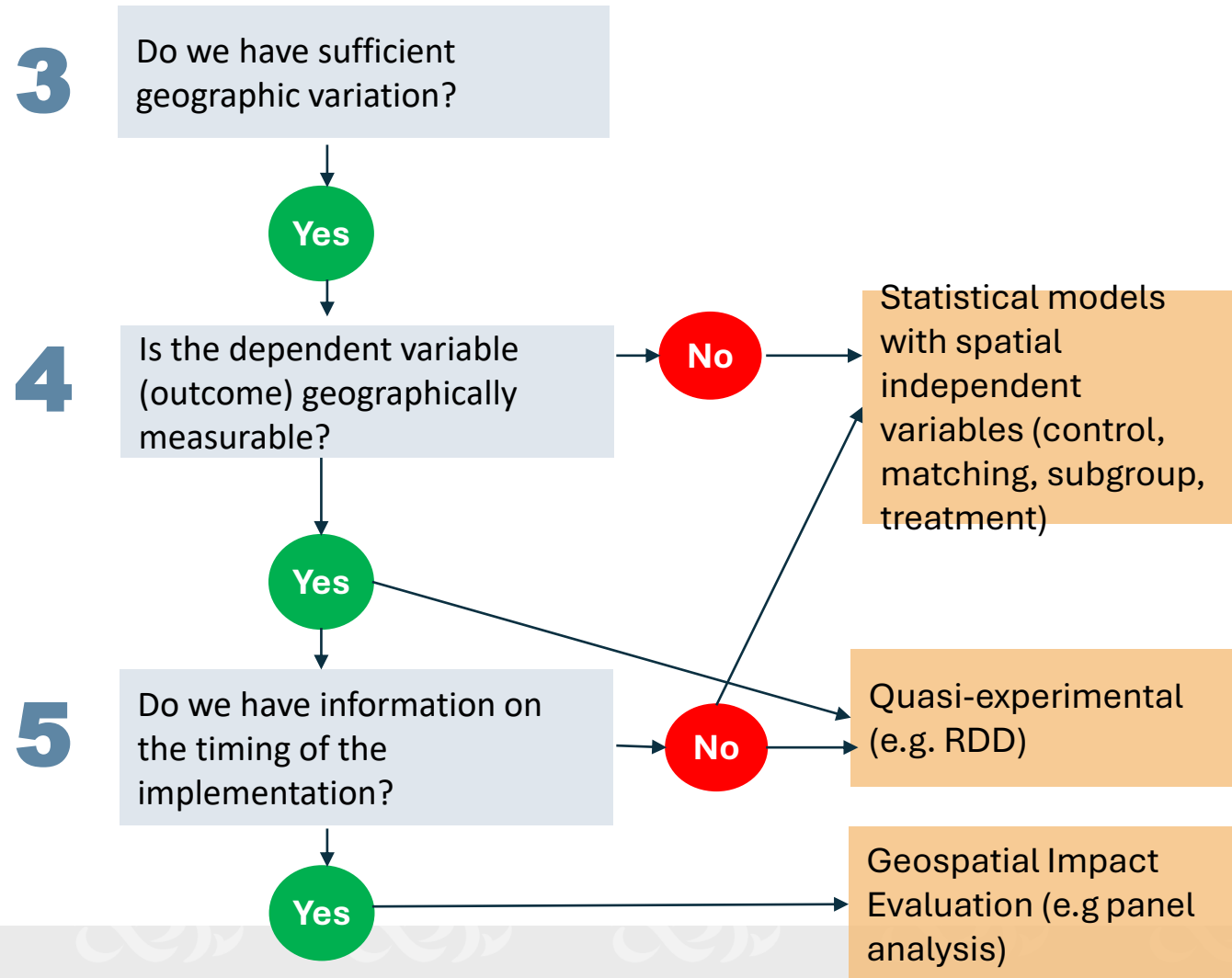
## Case selection



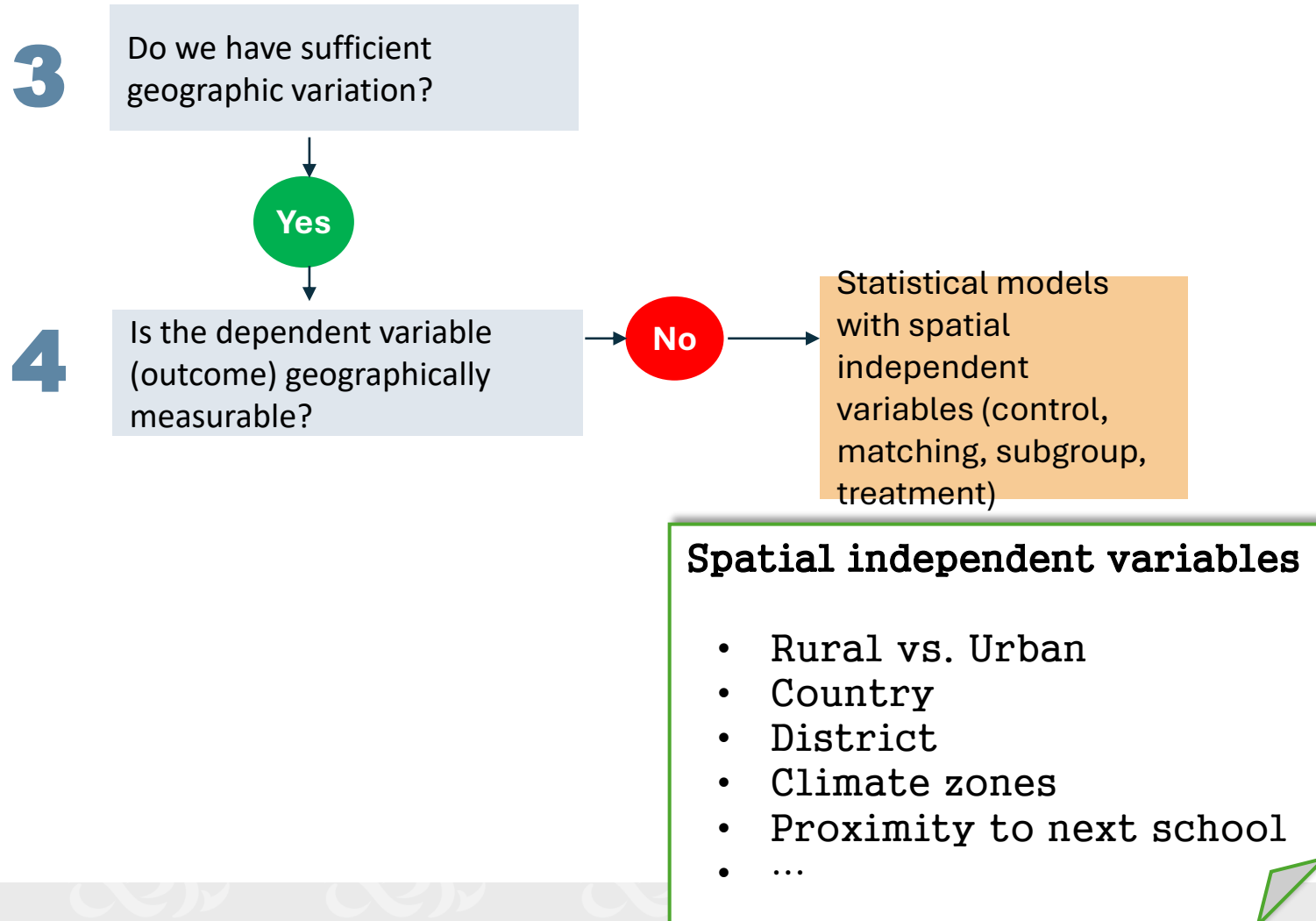
Nawrotzki et al. (2014)

NDVI, South Africa

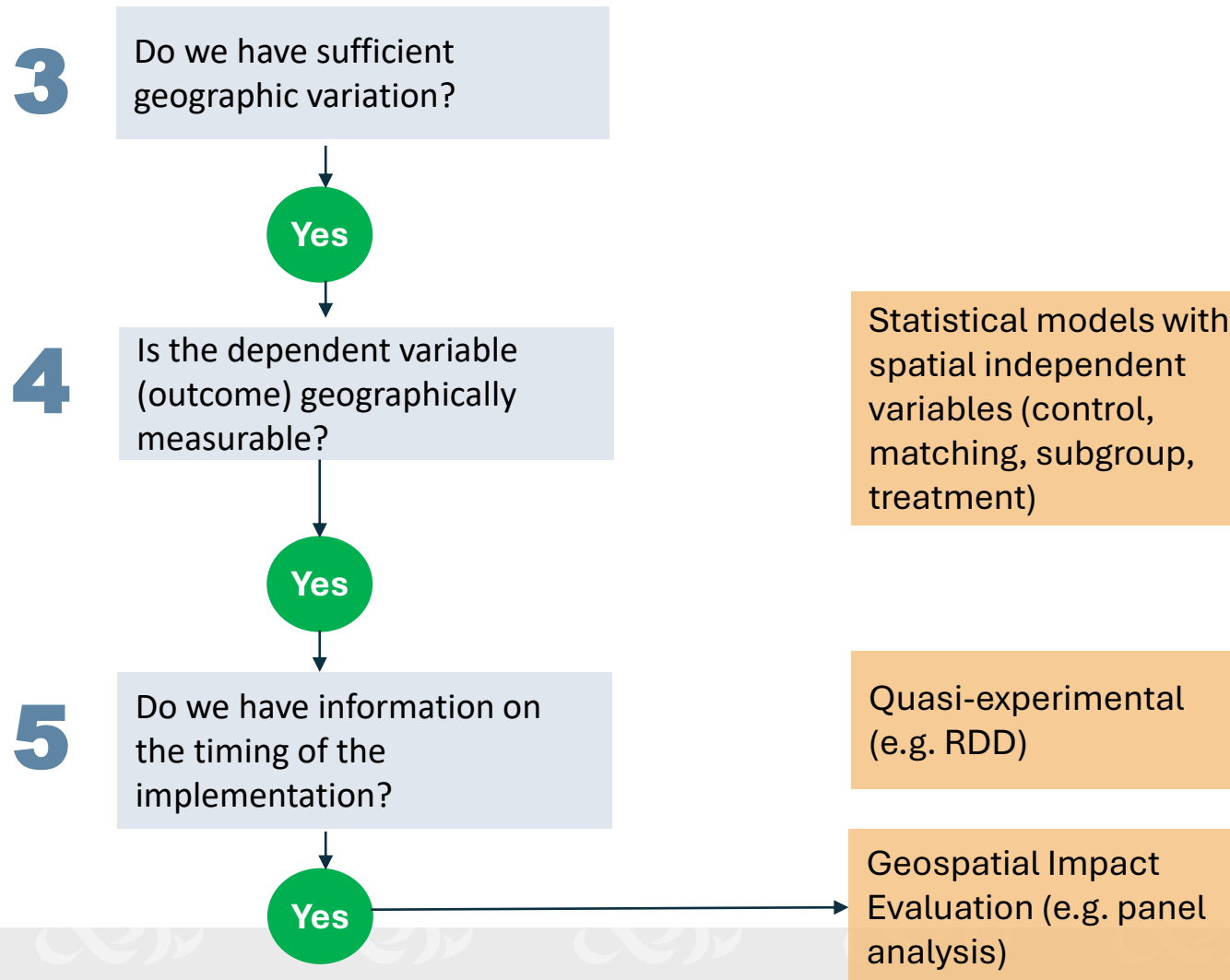
## Analysis with causal focus



## Analysis with causal focus

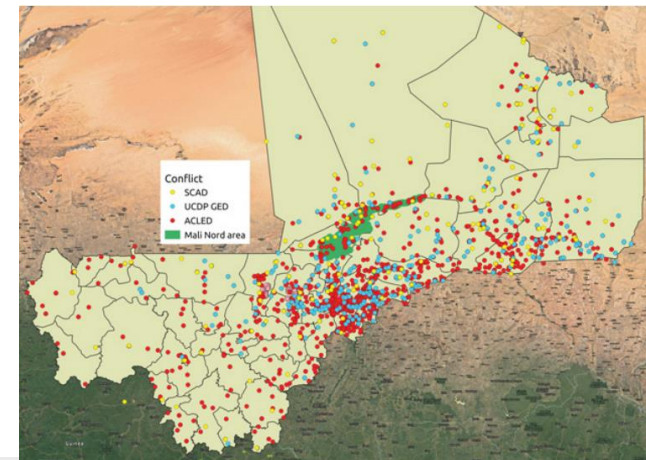
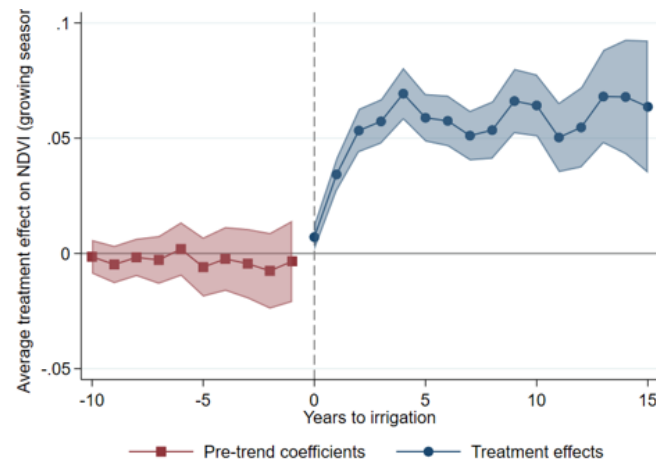


## Analysis with causal focus



## Geospatial impact evaluation

“A GIE attempts to causally connect the intervention with geographically measurable changes in the environment (BenYishay 2017)”



*BenYishay et al. 2023*

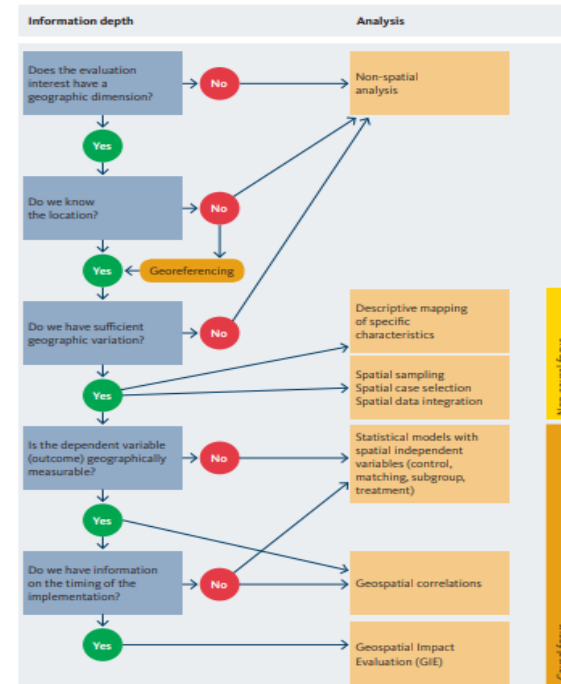
**Effects of Irrigation in Mali**



# Conclusion

## The geodata decision tree

- An **orientation framework** in the inception phase
- Determine whether the evaluation question has a **geographic dimension**
- Ascertain the **availability** of the necessary geographic data
- Where feasible, utilize and support **georeferencing**
- Geodata can enhance both causal and non-causal evaluation questions, demonstrating its strength in **method integration**

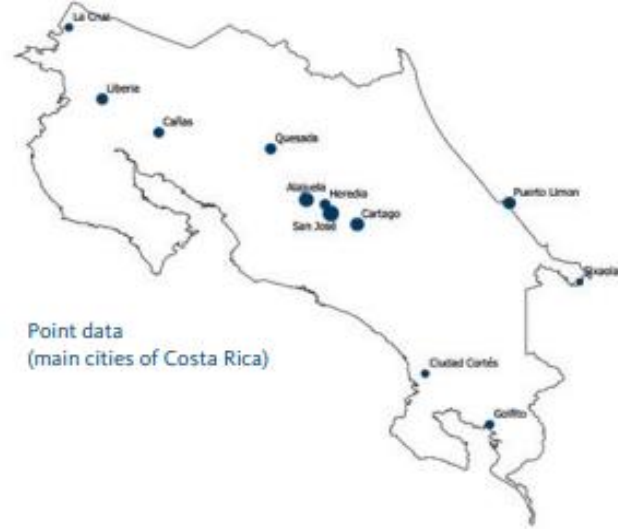


## References

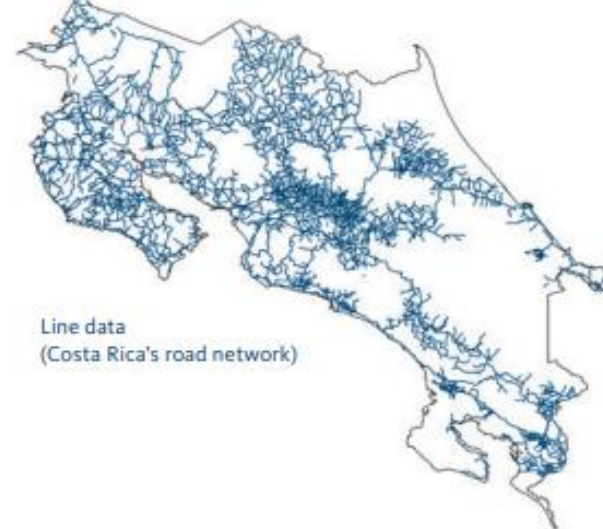
- BenYishay, Ariel, Daniel Runfola, Rachel Trichler, Carrie Dolan, Seth Goodman, Bradley Parks, Jeffery Tanner, Silke Heuser, Geeta Batra, and Anupam Anand (2017), A Primer on Geospatial Impact Evaluation Methods, Tools, and Applications. AidData Working Paper #44. Williamsburg, VA: AidData at William & Mary.
- BenYishay, A., Sayers, R., Singh, K., Goodman, S., Walker, M., Traore, S., Rauschenbach, M., Noltze, M. (2024), Irrigation strengthens climate resilience: Long-term evidence from Mali using satellites and surveys, *PNAS Nexus*, Volume 3, Issue 2.
- Lech, M. et al. (2020), “A Proof-of-Concept of Integrating Machine Learning, Remote Sensing, and Survey Data in Evaluations. The Measurement of Disaster Resilience in the Philippines“, *DEval Discussion Paper 1/2020*, German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval), Bonn.
- Nawrotzki, R. (2019), “The Geodata Decision Tree: Using Geodata for Evaluations“, *DEval Policy Brief 3/2019*, German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval), Bonn.
- Nawrotzki, R. J. et al. (2023), “Climate change vulnerability hotspots in Costa Rica: constructing a sub-national index“, *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, Vol. 13, No. 3.
- Schustereder, G. (2016), “Donor-Assisted Land-use Planning in the Philippines: Insights from a Multi-Level Survey“, German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval), Bonn.

# BACKUP

## Types of geodata



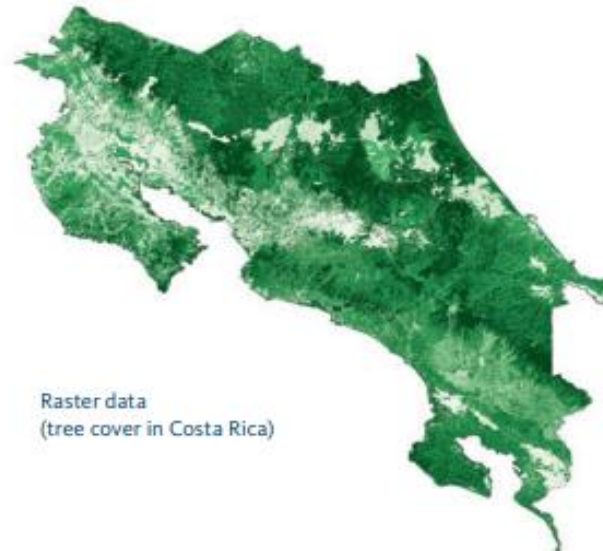
Point data  
(main cities of Costa Rica)



Line data  
(Costa Rica's road network)



Polygon data  
(Costa Rica's protected areas)



Raster data  
(tree cover in Costa Rica)