

**WMO RAVI Hydrological Forum 2016**  
**Workshop on hydrological modelling, forecasting and warnings**  
**20 September 2016, Oslo, Norway**

**LSA-SAF evapotranspiration products  
and on-going research at RMI**

by  
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Belgium

# Content

- Introduction: what is LSA-SAF ?
- ET methodology and current operational products
- On-going research activities (2012-2017)
- Plans for the next period (2017-2022)
- Conclusions

# Introduction

- EUMETSAT Satellite Application Facilities (SAFs) network
  - The Satellite Application Facilities (SAFs) are a distributed network of thematic application facilities responsible for necessary research, development, and operational activities not carried out by the central facility. The SAFs are located within the National Meteorological Services (NMS) of EUMETSAT Member States, or other agreed entities linked to a user community.



- Land Surface Analysis (LSA) SAF

# Introduction

- **LSA-SAF project team**

Cooperating entities during CDOP-2 (2012-2017):

- **Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera, IP (IPMA)**, Portugal
- Météo-France (MF), France
- **Royal Meteorological Institute (RMIB)**, Belgium
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany
- Fundacao da Faculdade de Ciencias da Universidade de Lisboa, FP, Instituto Dom Luiz (IDL), Portugal
- King's College London (KCL), United Kingdom
- University of Valencia (UV), Spain
- VITO, Belgium



In the future:

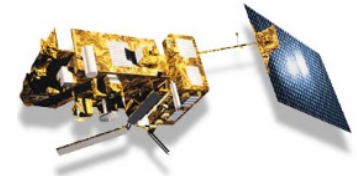
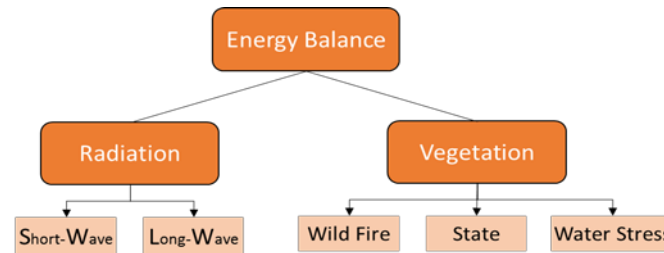
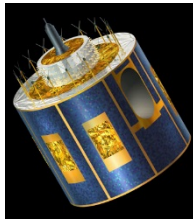
- Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO), Slovenia
- National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH), Bulgaria

# Introduction

- **LSA-SAF** (<http://landsaf.meteo.pt/>)

## Objectives

- to be a leading centre for **retrieval of information on land surfaces from remote sensing data**, with emphasis on EUMETSAT satellites (MSG, Metop).
- To provides **near-real-time** and **offline products** and user support for a wide range of **land surface variables** related with:
  - surface radiation, both long- and short-wave components;
  - vegetation, including state, stress and wild fires;
  - energy budget at the surface and mass exchange, combining information on the radiation budget and vegetation state.

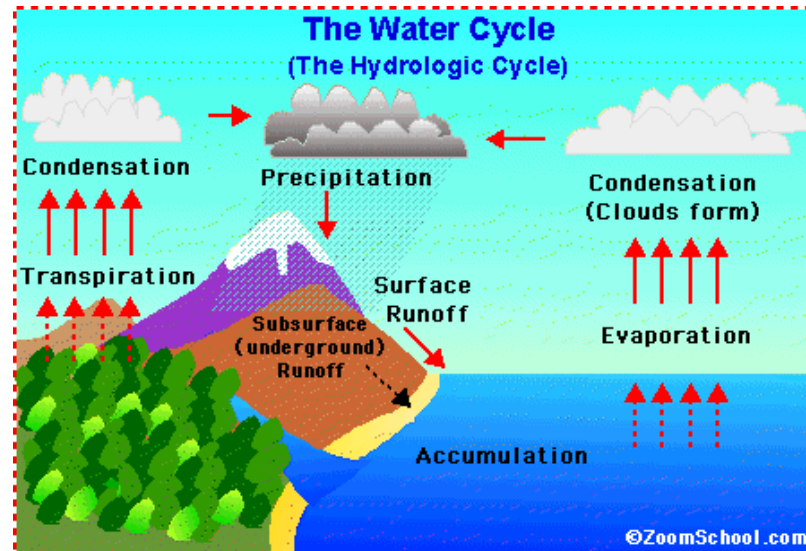


## SAF user community

- The design of LSA SAF products was initially driven by the needs of the **meteorological**, particularly NWP, community. There is, however, a growing number of other important areas, including **agricultural** and **forestry** applications, **land use**, and the broader topics of **climate** and **environment monitoring**.

# Introduction

- Royal Meteorological Institute (RMI) of Belgium contribution to LSA-SAF
  - Development of **evapotranspiration** (operational)

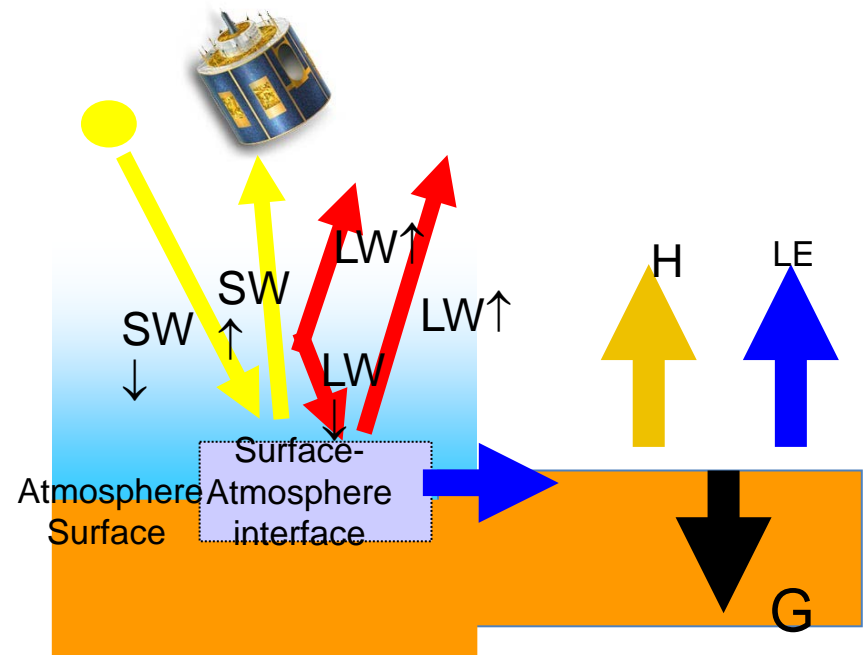
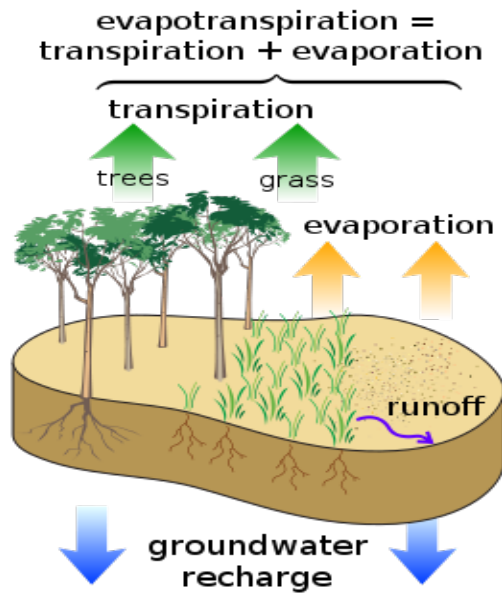


But also:

- Development of latent and sensible heat fluxes
- Collaboration with other LSA-SAF teams (development of LST all-weather, GPP)
- Collaboration with other SAFs (H-SAF and CM-SAF)

# ET methodology and operational products

- Physics: water and energy budget



## Methodology

MSG SEVIRI pixel

Tiles:

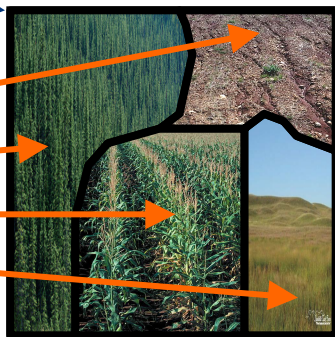
Bare soil

Forest

Crops

Grassland

...



For each tile  $i$  of image  $k$

$$LE_i = \frac{L_v \rho_a}{(r_{a_i} + r_{c_i})} [q_{sat}(T_{sk,i}) - q_a(T_a)]$$

$$H_i = \frac{\rho_a}{r_{a_i}} [c_p (T_{sk,i} - T_a) - g z_a]$$

$$G_i = \beta_i Rn_i \quad \beta_i = f(LAI_i)$$

$$Rn_i - H_i - LE_i - G_i = 0$$

$$Rn_i = (1 - \alpha) S_{\downarrow} + \varepsilon (L_{\downarrow} - \sigma T_{sk,i}^4)$$

Parameterizations  
adapted from  
ECMWF  
TESSEL model  
(van den Hurk  
et al, 2000;  
Ghilain et al,  
2011)

### Link between LE and ET:

$$LE = L_v ET$$

$LE$ : latent heat flux [W m<sup>-2</sup>]

$ET$ : evapotranspiration [kg m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>]

$L_v$ : latent heat of vaporisation

$$L_v \sim 2,5 \cdot 10^6 \text{ J kg}^{-1}$$

For each pixel of image  $k$

$$LE_k = \sum_i \zeta_i LE_i$$

Evapotranspiration [mm h<sup>-1</sup>]

$$ET_k = 3600 LE_k / L_v$$

MET  
product

For each pixel of day  $d$

Evapotranspiration [mm d<sup>-1</sup>]

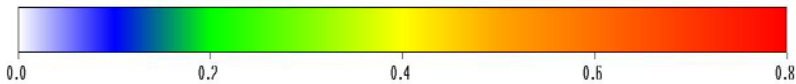
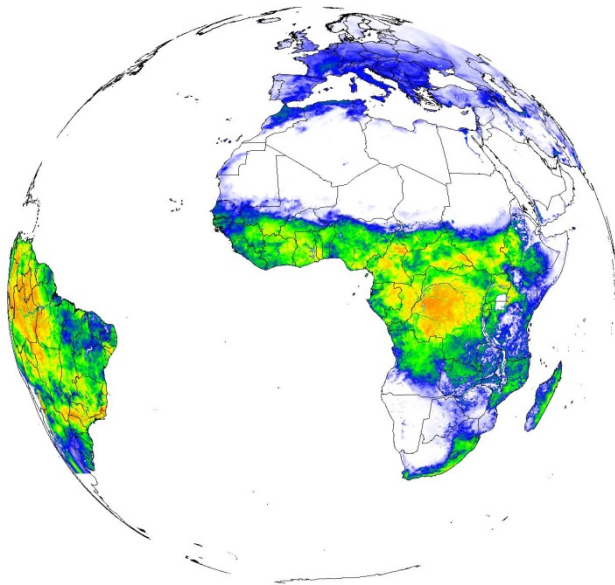
$$ET_d = \sum ET_k$$

DMET  
product

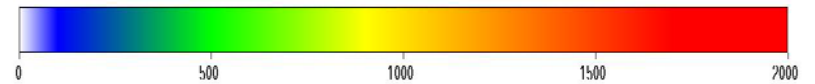
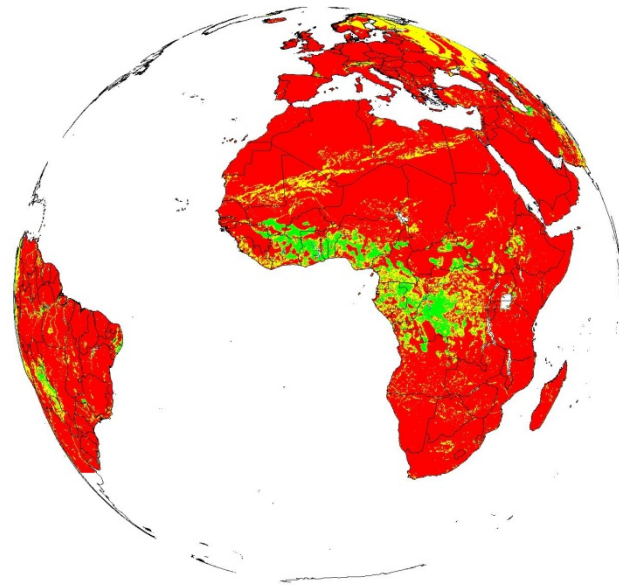


# ET methodology and operational products

Two images are generated: the first one contains instantaneous ET estimates in mm/h while the second one is the quality flag image, provides information on the quality of estimates pixel by pixel



ET (mm/h) for 2010/10/29 at 12:00 UTC



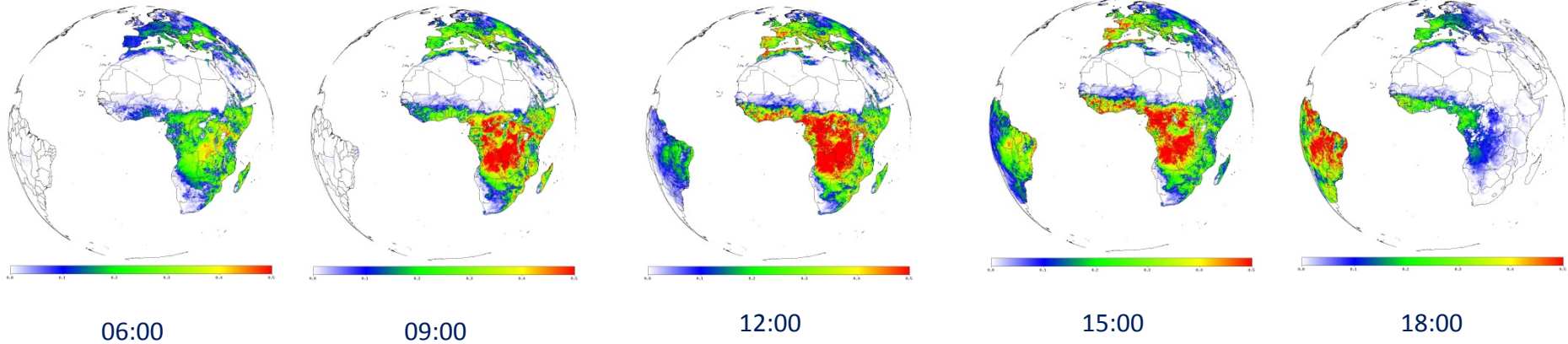
Associated quality flag (-)

# ET methodology and operational products

- Evapotranspiration (ET): example of products

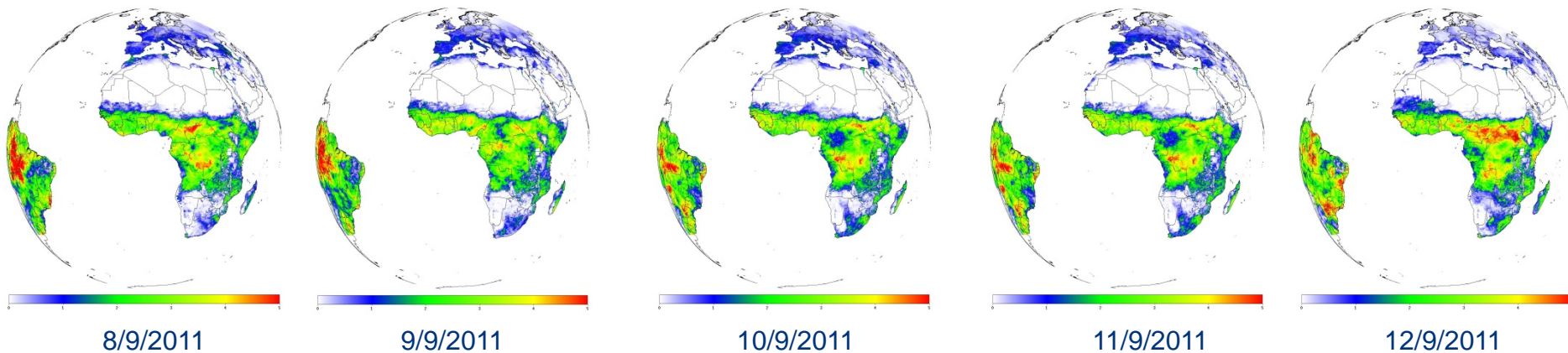
MET (mm h<sup>-1</sup>): available each 30 min

Example: 28th April 2010 (different hours (UTC) from left to right).



DMET (mm d<sup>-1</sup>): available daily

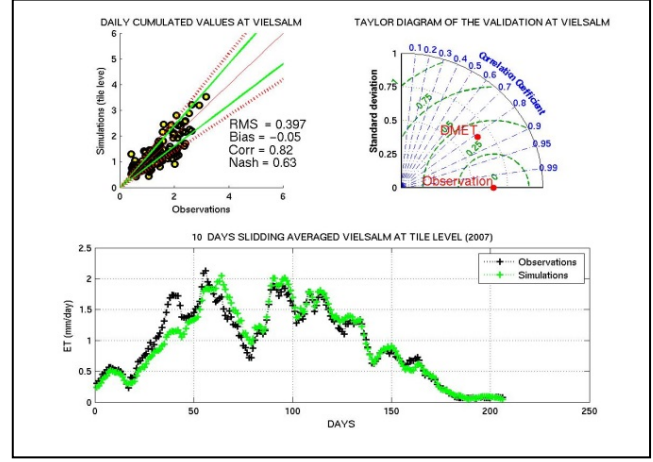
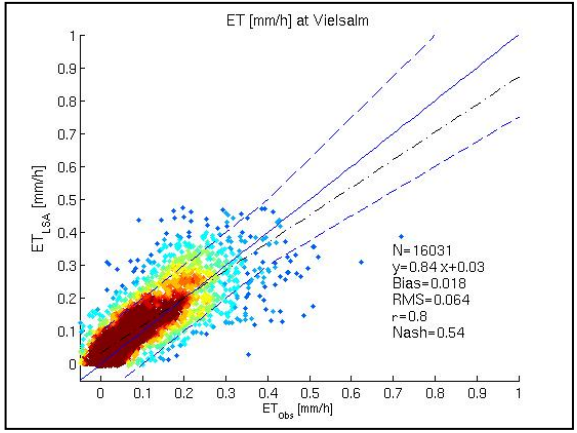
Example: 8th to 12th September 2011 (from left to right).



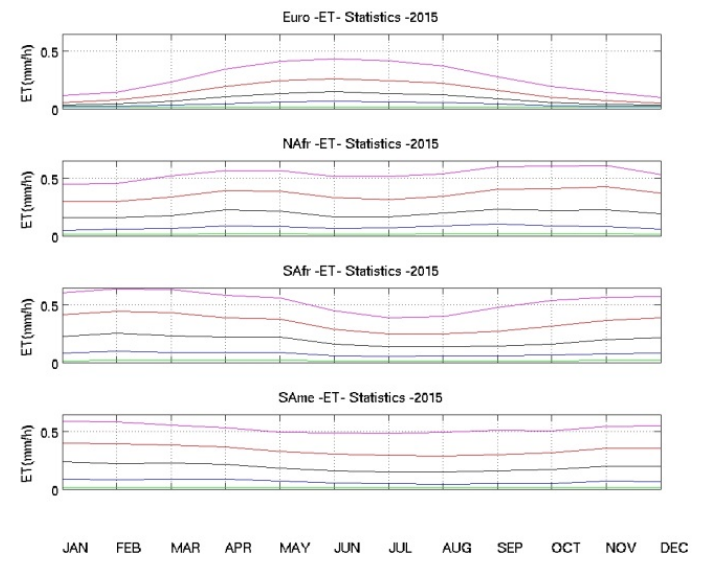
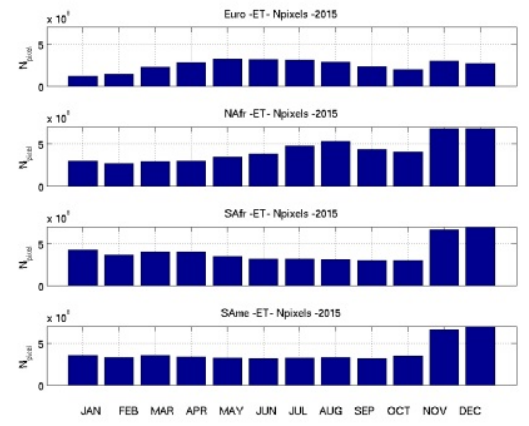
# ET methodology and operational products

- Scientific validation and operational quality monitoring
  - Update scientific validation → Validation Report

Vielsalm (BE) - mixed forest



- Quality monitoring (each 6 months)
  - Quality Monitoring Report



- **Publications and conferences**

- E.g.: Ghilain, N., Arboleda, A., Trigo, I.F., Batelaan, O. and Gellens-Meulenberghs, F., 2015b: Tracking down soil moisture from MSG SEVIRI: fulfilling the promises of geostationary satellites, Remote Sens. Environ., in review.
- E.g. 2015: EUMETSAT user conference, Toulouse (FR); GEWEX/ESA workshop on EO of the water cycle, Frascati (IT).

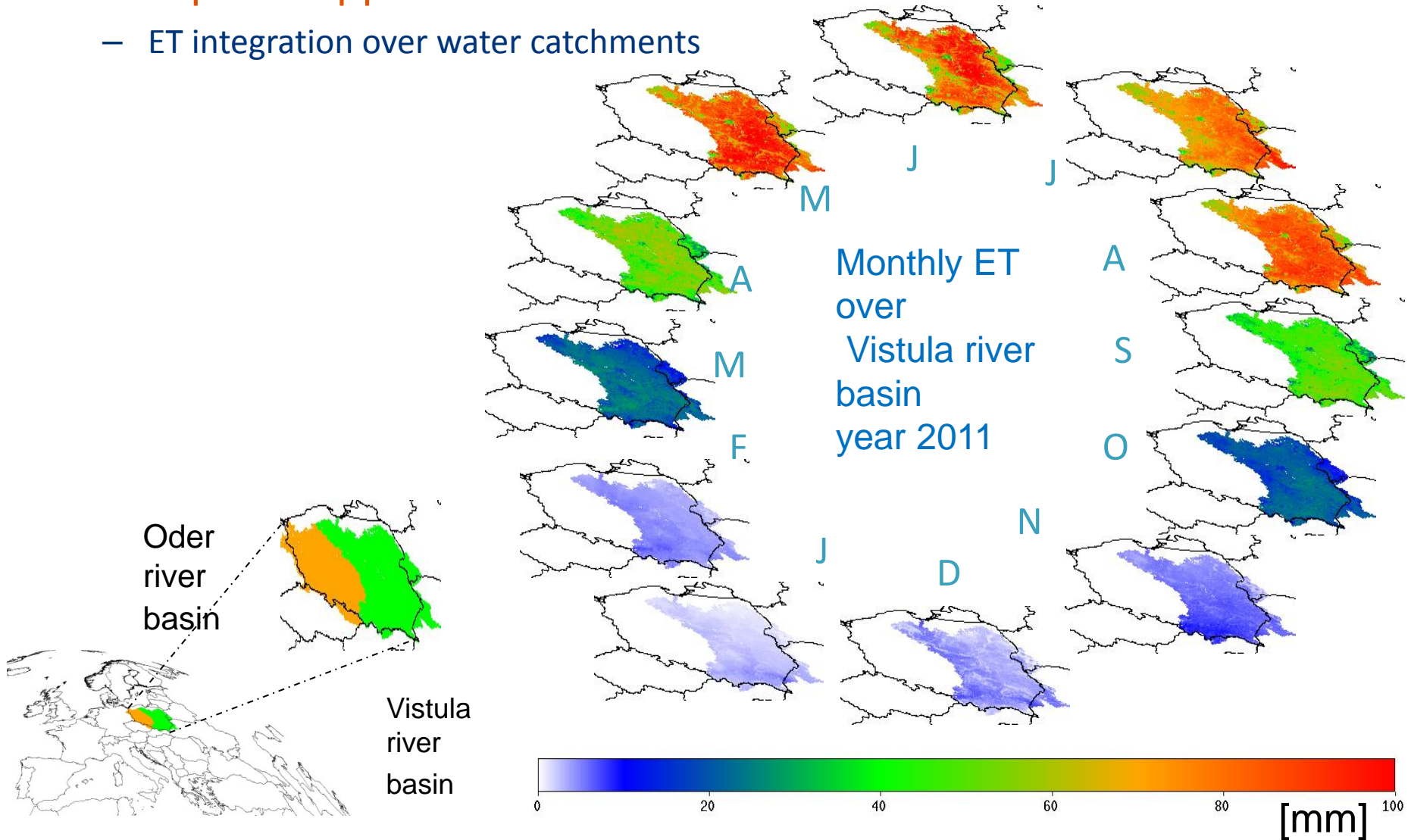
- **Collaboration with users and participation to trainings**

- A few users' publications:
  - Sepulcre Canto, G., Vogt, J., Arboleda, A., Antofie, T., 2014: Assessment of the EUMETSAT LSA-SAF evapotranspiration product for drought monitoring in Europe, Int. J. Applied EO Geoinf, 30, 190-202.
  - Hu, G., Jia, L., & Menenti, M. 2015: Comparison of MOD16 and LSA-SAF MSG evapotranspiration products over Europe for 2011, Remote Sens. Environ., 156, 510-526.
  - Romaguera, M., Krol, M. S., Salama, M. S., Su, Z., & Hoekstra, A. Y., 2014a: Application of a remote sensing method for estimating monthly blue water evapotranspiration in irrigated agriculture, Remote Sensing, 6(10), 10033-10050.
- **Trainings:** e.g. 2015: EUMETSAT/WMO "Land SAF/Satellite Products Training Course on Applications in Agro Meteorology », 23-27/03/2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Lectures on Land SAF concepts; Evapotranspiration – Concepts and exercises of using LSA-Saf ET products.
- **LSA-SAF Users Workshops:** e.g. 2015: Reading (UK).



# ET methodology and operational products

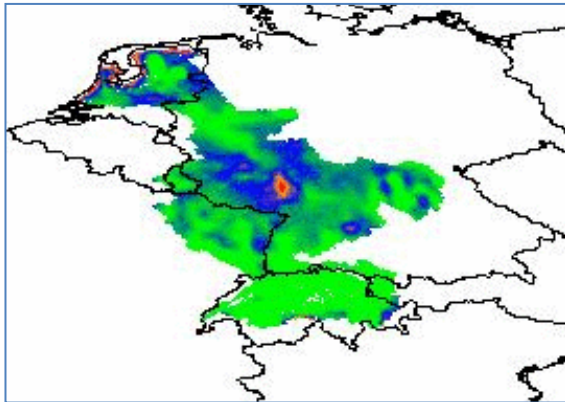
- Example of application 1
  - ET integration over water catchments



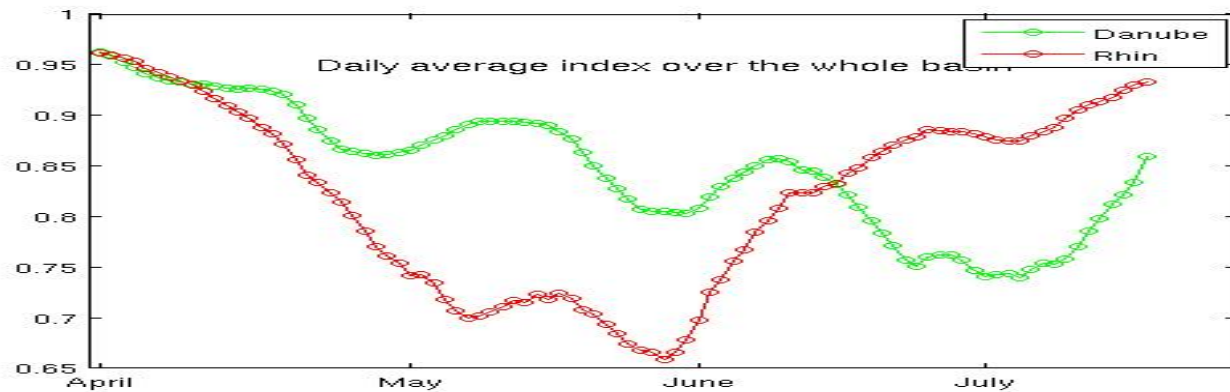
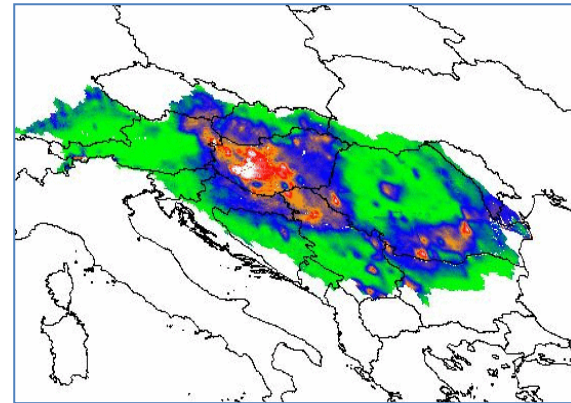
# ET methodology and operational products

- Example of application 2
  - Drought monitoring

Rhin river basin



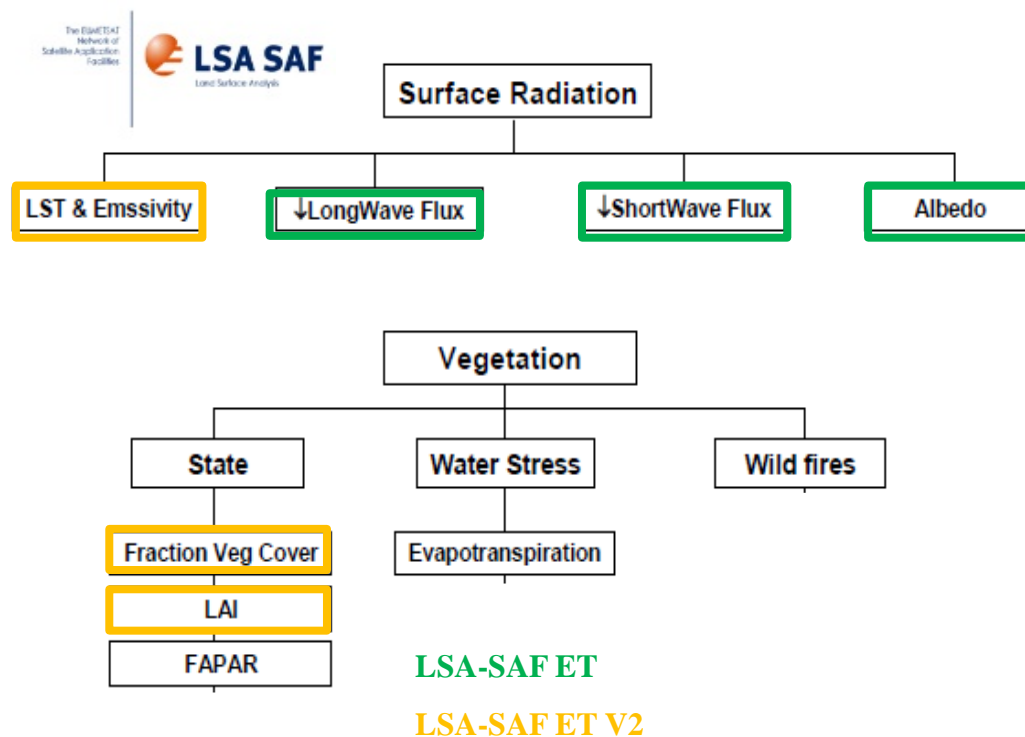
Danube river basin



# On-going research activities (2012-2017)

- Recent activities

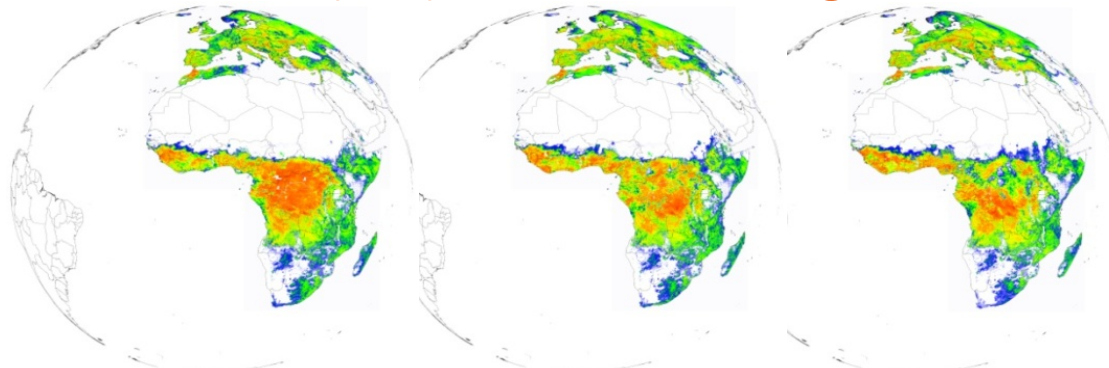
- Improvement of ET product in arid and semi-arid areas (using additional satellite input)



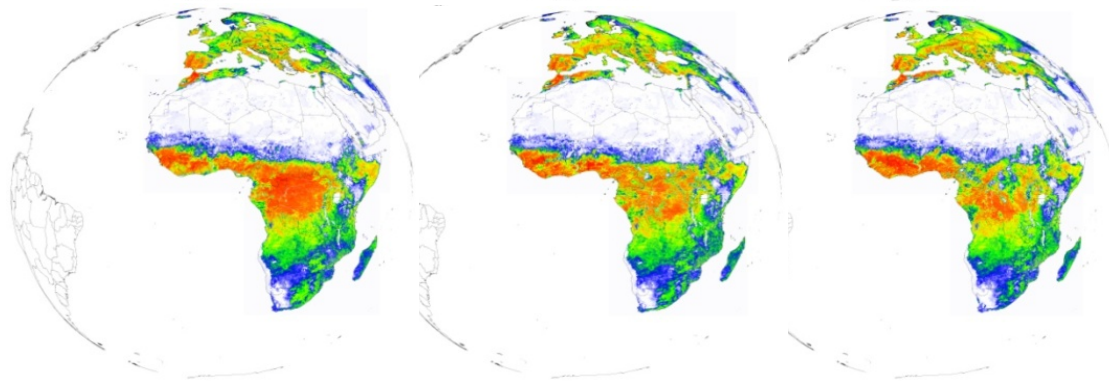
# On-going research activities (2012-2017)

- Step 1: introduction vegetation indices from MSG SEVIRI  
[Leaf area index (LAI), fraction of vegetation cover]

Op version



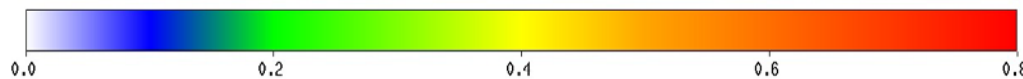
New version



22/5/2011

23/5/2011

24/5/2011



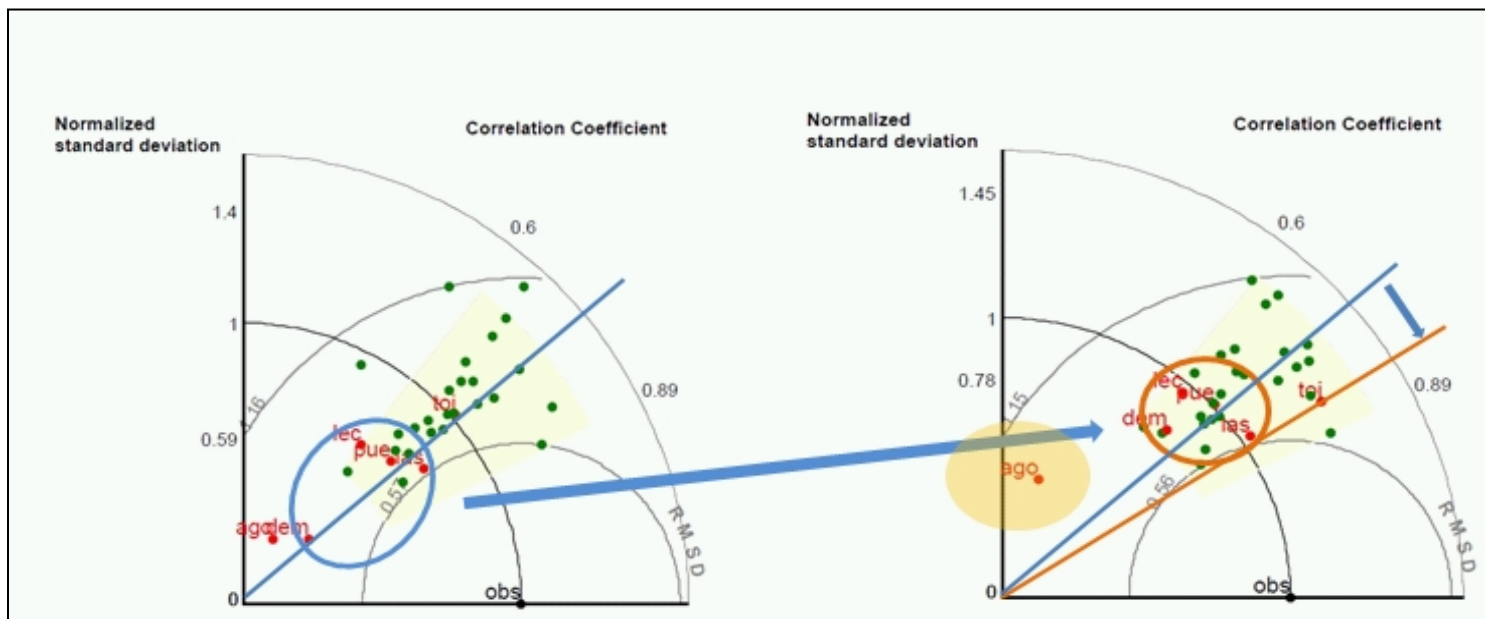
Results obtained with the new remote-sensing variables produce higher ET values over arid/semi-arid areas with low or no impact on tempered regions of Europe.



# On-going research activities (2012-2017)

- **Step 1: introduction vegetation indices from MSG SEVIRI**  
[Leaf area index (LAI), fraction of vegetation cover]

The result of the comparison between the old and new version to ground observations shows a clear improvement over semi-arid areas : correlation scores have been improved, and variability is comparable to the observations.



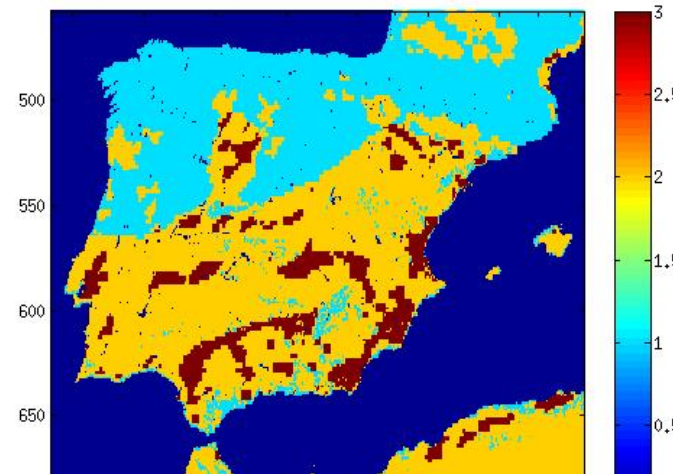
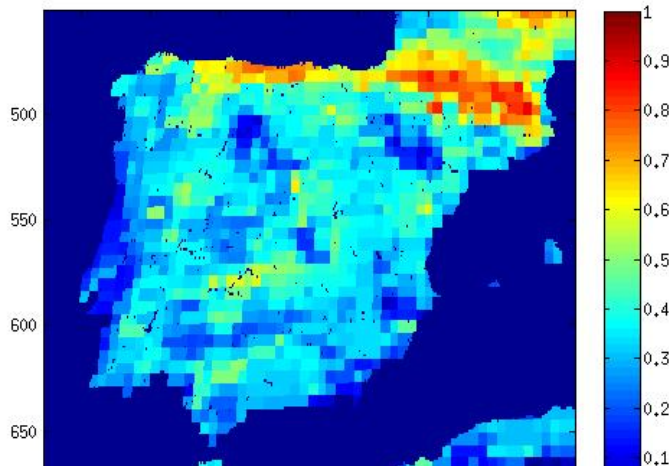
However, the scores at Sahelian sites have been found to be still very low, showing that the model is quite more sensitive to soil water availability than vegetation input and that the current soil moisture information was not adequate for those regions.

# On-going research activities (2012-2017)

- Step 2: assessment of SSM from LST derived heating rates

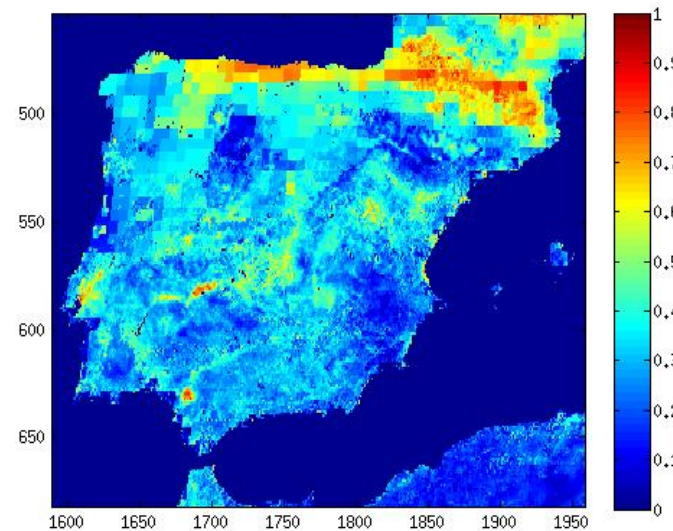
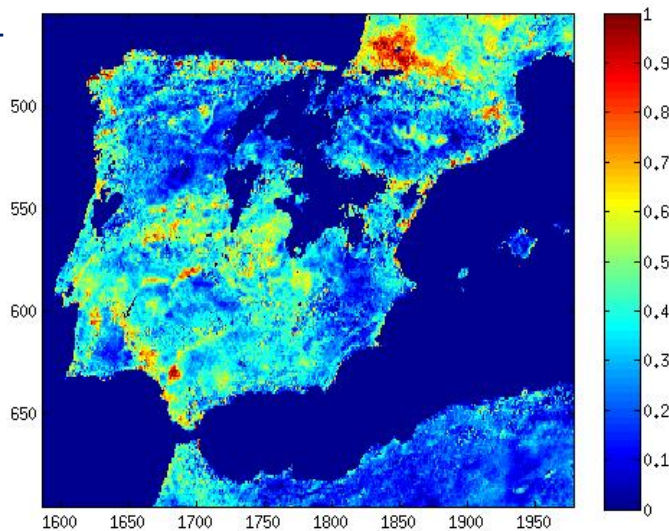
14/8/2011

H SAF H 14  
SSM (SMDAS-2  
real time)



Background  
decision  
map

SSM – MSG LST

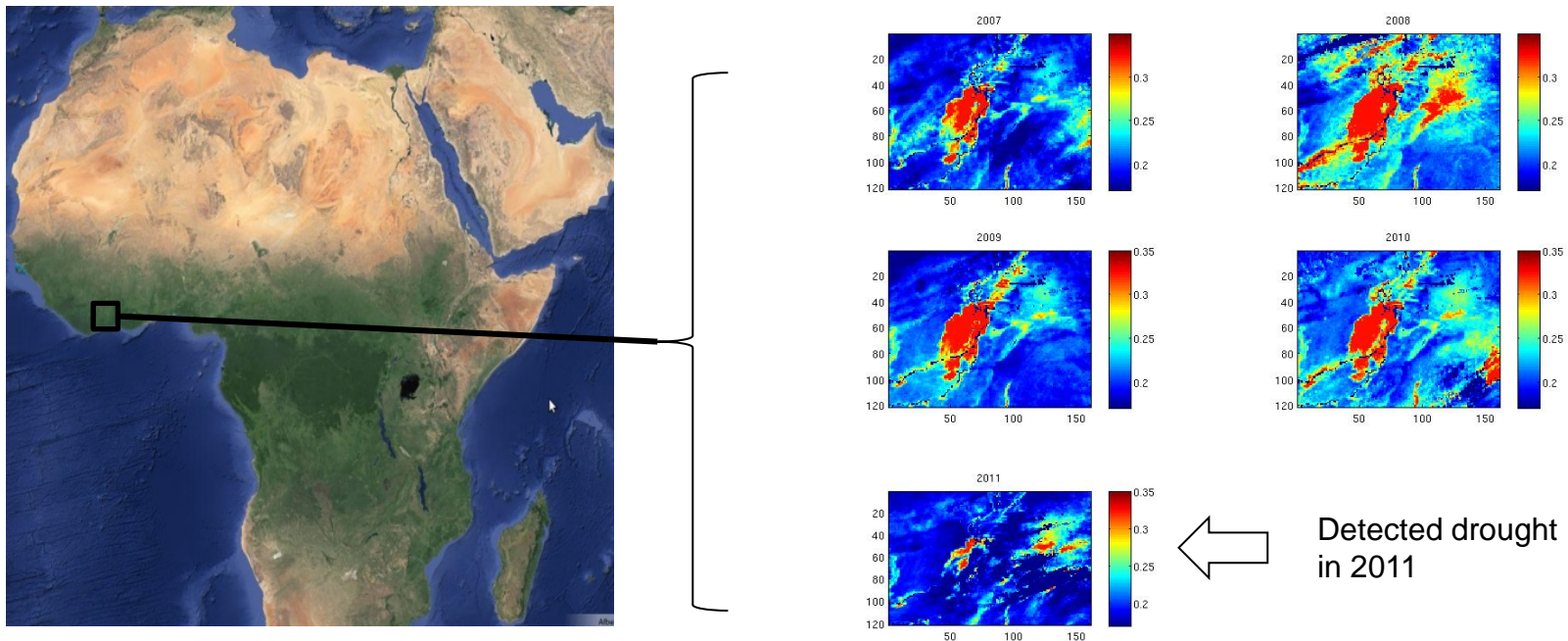


SSM  
merged

# On-going research activities (2012-2017)

- Step 2: assessment of SSM from LST derived heating rates

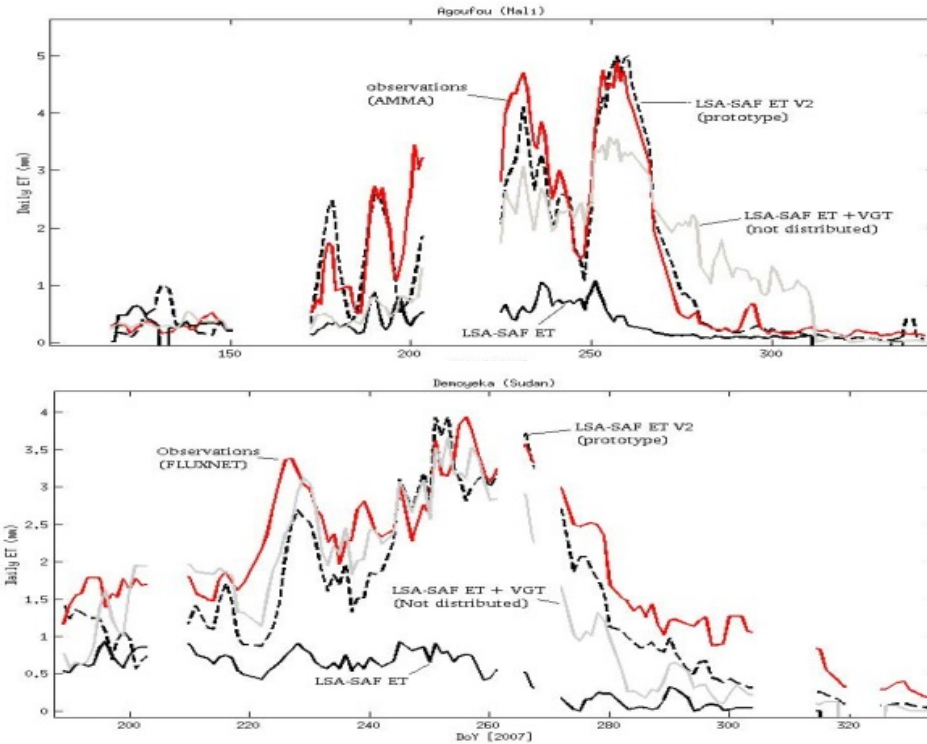
On the SM derived from LST, soil moisture patterns like annually wetlands extends/shrinks emerge as in this example over the Niger inner delta for the month of November from 2007 to 2011



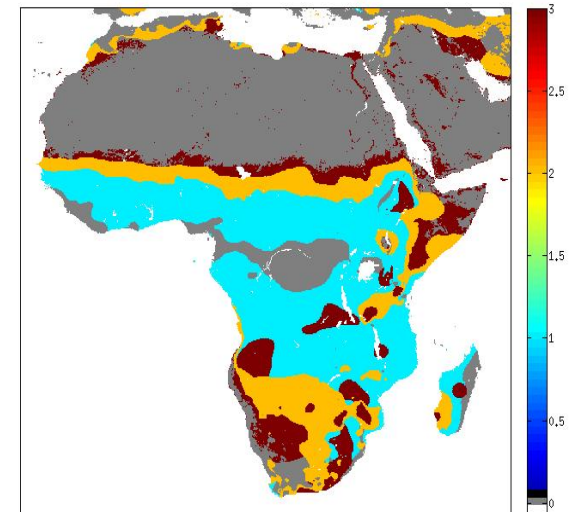


# On-going research activities (2012-2017)

- Step2: assessment of SSM from LST derived heating rates



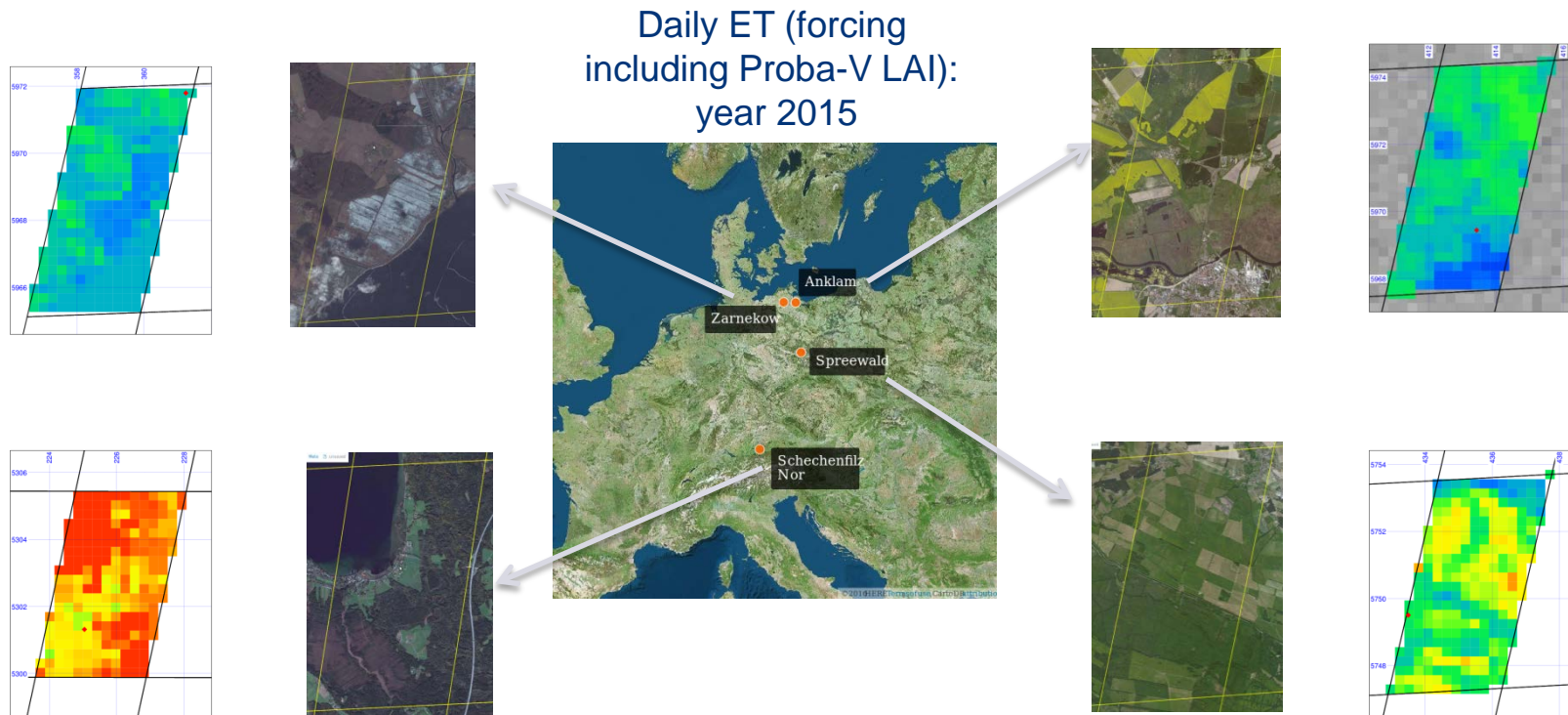
Background  
decision map



→ improved performances using LST based SSM in Savannah.

# On-going research activities (2012-2017)

- Other activities: through a combination of geostationary and polar satellites
  - Exploration of use of vegetation products derived from polar satellite



### Case of wetlands:

An ongoing specific project (Belspo 'HiWET project', see <http://hydr.squarespace.com/projecthiwet/>) is dedicated to the study of ET in wetlands allowing to concentrate research on relationship between ET, vegetation characteristics and ecosystem health.

# Plans for the next period (2017-2022)

## • LSA-SAF CDOP3 phase (2017-2022)

- Continuation of CDOP-2 on-going activities for MSG op. product
- **Reprocessing of full MSG archive (from 2004)**
  - → homogeneous data set (request extensive validation)
  - Expected to be ready in 2020
- **New developments for MTG FCI**
- Publications and conferences
- Collaboration with users and participation to trainings

## • CM-SAF CDOP3 phase (2017-2022)

- Development of new datasets (ET and surface fluxes) over the Meteosat archive (from 1983)

## • Research continuation on ET based on EO with an increased spatial resolution

- Investigation of visible, thermal and microwave based products from Proba-V and Sentinels satellites to derive ET.

## • Developing new operational products (from 2017)

- Participation to Copernicus Global Land Monitoring

# Conclusions

- ET cannot be directly observed through EO;
- Nevertheless, satellite EO allows to characterize land surface variables able to improve ET modelling;
- Research is on-going at RMI since years to assess ET by assimilation of geostationary and polar EO data;
- Operational products are already available in the frame of LSA-SAF and are expected to be useful in a large set of applications including hydrology;
- Contact with users is encouraged in view to develop products fitted to their needs.

We acknowledge data providers from FLUXNET, ISMN and NMS who supported the validation of our products.  
Our research is funded by EUMETSAT, ESA through its Prodex program and research programs of Belspo.

Thanks for your attention !

**Any questions ?**