

1 **A new local scale prediction model of Amazonian landscape domestication sites**

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14 Geographical Information Systems; Getis-Ord's Gi*; Anselin's Local Moran's I

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21 **Abstract**

22 Amazonia has drawn the interest of researchers over the last few decades as a region with
23 evidence for extensive ancient/past indigenous landscape domestication. Among the major issues
24 surrounding the nature of landscape domestication of pre-Columbian Amazonians, its scale is
25 critically connected with other major problems in the history of Amazonia such as forms of urbanism,
26 land engineering and agriculture. In recent years, some research in historical ecology has focused on

27 developing methods to calibrate landscape domestication by interpreting the effects of human activity
28 on the formation of the modern Amazonian landscape. This paper presents regional-scale research in
29 the *Floresta Nacional de Caxiuanã* (FNC) to provide a method to trace and calibrate long-term forest
30 management. With the data collected from the FNC and satellite images, the relationship between
31 soils, an Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI) and landscape domestication are explored. The data are
32 interpreted as indicating that zones of anthropogenic enrichment of the soil due to forest management
33 over the last 2000 years have a positive correlation with high EVI values. The research methods have
34 potential to be applied broadly in tropical rainforest environments where pedestrian survey is difficult
35 to undertake.

36

37 **1. Introduction**

38 The understanding of the cultural and natural complexion of Amazonia, from the arrival of humans
39 in the region until the European colonization in the Americas after AD 1492, has significantly changed
40 since the late 1990s with the introduction of historical ecology (Clement, et al., 2015, Erickson, 2008).
41 The traditional view on the prehistory of Amazonia can be summarized with the term 'Counterfeit
42 Paradise' (Meggers, 1971), which was introduced by archaeologists during the 1960s and 1970s. The
43 Counterfeit Paradise paradigm asserted that Amazonian cultures were in a state of decline, arriving at
44 the peak of their cultural development during the late pre-colonial period and then declining due to the
45 harsh environment of Amazonia with nutrient-poor soils and the lack of large game animals (Evans
46 and Meggers, 1950, Meggers, 1971).

47 However, as Amazonian archaeology advanced, new discoveries were made, which provided
48 evidence against the notion of a counterfeit paradise. Based on this new evidence, a revised view on
49 the cultural history of Amazonia was introduced by historical ecologists based on accumulating long-
50 view data sets. One of the major advances in Amazonian archaeology was the scientific discovery
51 and characterization of Amazonian Dark Earth (ADE) (Smith, 1980, Sombroek, 1966). ADE is an
52 anthropogenic nutrient-rich dark-colored soil, also known as *Terra preta do Índio* or Amazonian Black

53 Earth, which demonstrated that pre-Columbian Amazonian cultures were not culturally declining, but
54 actually were actively managing and altering the environment for many hundreds of years. Historical
55 ecologists have termed this process 'landscape domestication' (Balée, 1998, Balée, 2006, Clement,
56 et al., 2015, Erickson, 2008), which implies that there are fuzzy boundaries on quantifiable human
57 impacts due to the difficulties of tracing landscape-scale activities. Nevertheless, since its introduction,
58 the extent and nature of landscape domestication has become one of the most important research
59 foci in Amazonian archaeology (Clement, et al., 2015).

60 There are several research topics that are subjected to the research of the landscape domestication
61 in Amazonia, including the domestication of plant species (Levis, et al., 2017, Lins, et al., 2015), forest
62 management activities (Junqueira, et al., 2011), and formation of ADE (Hecht, 2003, Winklerprins,
63 2009, Schmidt et al., 2014). One of the major research directions of the landscape domestication of
64 Amazonia is its scale. Combined with the problem of gauging the population levels of pre-Columbian
65 Amazonians, the scale of the impact that Amazonians made on the landscape is one of the most
66 actively debated subjects related to landscape domestication in Amazonia (Bush and Silman, 2007,
67 Bush, et al., 2008, Clement, et al., 2015, McMichael, et al., 2012, McMichael, et al., 2014). Attempts
68 made to identify the scale of landscape domestication mainly focused on the attempt to identify the
69 extent of ADE distribution in Amazonia (McMichael, et al., 2014, Palace, et al., 2017, Thayn, et al.,
70 2011), but due to the vast extent of Amazonia and the insufficient accumulation of survey data from
71 across the entire region caused by the difficulty of surveys performed in the tropical rainforest, the
72 debate goes on (Santos, et al., 2018).

73 In addition, statistical methods that applied remote sensing tools were introduced as ways to define
74 the extent of anthropogenesis of Amazonia (for a recent review, see Santos, et al., 2018). These
75 methods utilize data obtained from satellite images to directly interpret pre-Columbian landscape
76 domestication based on the vegetation patterns found across the modern landscape. However, to
77 trace and calibrate the landscape domestication activities of the past by interpreting the modern
78 landscape, further understanding of the relationship between the pre-Columbian landscape

79 domestication and the modern landscape of Amazonia is required.

80 Here, we present a predictive model of the location of pre-Columbian landscape domestication sites,
81 using the public domain Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer
82 (ASTER) L1T satellite images in combination with spatial autocorrelations generated using
83 Geographic Information Systems (GIS). We utilize the Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI) as an
84 indicator to identify areas affected by pre-Columbian landscape domestication activities. Researchers
85 who utilize remote sensing as a research tool started to focus on Vegetation Indices (VIs) as a device
86 that can be used in Amazonian archaeology, mostly to locate or predict ADE sites (Palace, et al.,
87 2017, Russell, 2005, Thayn, et al., 2009, Thayn, et al., 2011), since it has been demonstrated that
88 soils are affected by landscape domestication activities in various ways (Arroyo-Kalin, 2014, Arroyo-
89 Kalin, et al., 2009, Birk, et al., 2011, Browne Ribeiro, 2014, Costa, et al., 2013, Fraser, et al., 2011,
90 Lehmann, et al., 2003, Levis, et al., 2018, Macedo, et al., 2017, Pinter, et al., 2011, Schmidt, et al.,
91 2014, Winklerprins, 2009). Our methods first test whether the difference of soil types can be detected
92 by EVI values through one-way analyses of variance (ANOVA). Then a prediction model using the
93 EVI, and Getis-Ord's G_i^* and Anselin's Local Moran's I spatial autocorrelations is tested on whether
94 areas affected by landscape domestication and areas that are less affected by landscape
95 domestication can be spatially discriminated. Finally, a field study conducted in the Caxiuanã National
96 Forest (*Floresta Nacional de Caxiuanã*, FNC) documents the varying physical characteristics of areas
97 affected by landscape domestication activities identified in the geospatial model and postulates the
98 effect they have on vegetation. Ultimately, this spatial model effectively identifies hotspots of anthropic
99 activity, both past and present.

100

101 **2. Materials and Methods**

102 2.1. Study Area

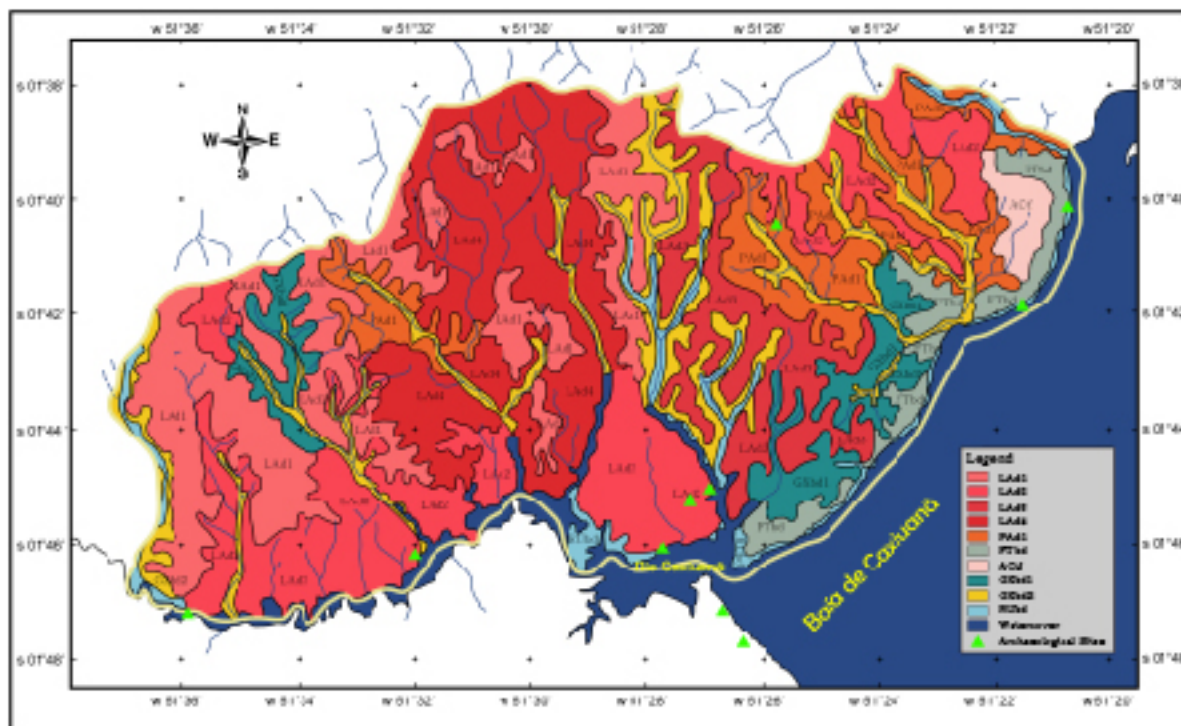
103 The FNC is located in the municipalities of Portel and Melgaço, state of Pará, Brazil, and it covers
104 an area of approximately 330,000 ha between the lower Xingu and the Tocantins rivers in the lower

105 Amazon region approximately 350 km west of the city of Belém. The study area is limited to the
106 border of the FNC for two major reasons. One is that the FNC is a conservation unit managed by the
107 Brazilian government, which has limited the effects of modern human activities on the landscape to
108 relatively controlled areas compared to other regions. This factor makes the FNC as an attractive
109 place to conduct research on the relationship between the pre-Columbian landscape domestication
110 and the modern environment. Another important reason is that detailed research on the environment
111 of the FNC has been made due to the establishment of the Ferreira Penna Scientific Station (*Estação*
112 *Científica Ferreira Penna*, ECFPn) by the Emílio Goeldi Museum of Pará (*Museu Paraense Emílio*
113 *Goeldi*, MPEG) (Lisboa, et al., 2013) since 1990. The environmental research includes a detailed soil
114 survey of the area near the ECFPn (Figure 2) (Costa, et al., 2005), which is not widely available in
115 other regions. The mapped soil contains significant potential to explore the relationship between soil
116 and landscape domestication activities.

117



119 **Figure 1. The map of Amazonia and the location of the FNC.**



121

122 Figure 2. Soil map of northern Caxiuanã (Costa, et al., 2005). Digitized with the
 123 permission of the MPEG. The area covered is indicated as 'Soil Survey Area' in
 124 Figure 1.

125

126 Table 1. Description of soil types indicated in Figure 2 (Costa, et al., 2009). Soil
 127 classification according to Santos, et al. (2006).

Code	Soil Class and Description	Area (ha)
	<i>YELLOW LATOSSOLO</i>	
LAAd1	YELLOW LATOSSOLO: typical dystrophic; very clayey texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest; flat, smooth and wavy relief	6,279
LAAd2	YELLOW LATOSSOLO: typical dystrophic; medium texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest; flat, smooth and wavy relief	6,761

LAd3	YELLOW LATOSSOLO: typical dystrophic; clayey texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest; flat, smooth and wavy relief	2,745
LAd4	YELLOW LATOSSOLO: typical dystrophic; clayey texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest; flat, smooth and wavy relief + YELLOW LATOSSOLO: typical dystrophic; medium texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest; flat, smooth and wavy relief	5,900
	<i>YELLOW ARGISSOLO</i>	
PAd1	YELLOW ARGISSOLO: typical dystrophic; medium/clayey texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest; flat, smooth and wavy relief + YELLOW LATOSSOLO: typical dystrophic; medium texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest; flat, smooth and wavy relief	3,000
	<i>CLAY ILLUVIATED PLINTOSSOLO</i>	
FTbd	CLAY ILLUVIATED PLINTOSSOLO: typical dystrophic; medium/clayey texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest; flat, smooth and wavy relief + inclusion of CLAY ILLUVIATED PLINTOSSOLO: Ta Eutrophic anthropogenic; medium/clayey texture; anthropic A horizon; subtropical forest (of lowland)	1,309
	<i>CHROMIC ALISSOLO</i>	
ACtf	CHROMIC ALISSOLO: Ta clay illuviated (clay with activity ≥ 20 cmol kg ⁻¹) plinthic; medium/clayey texture; moderate A horizon; subtropical forest, flat, smooth and wavy relief	504
	<i>HAPLIC GLEISSOLO</i>	
GXbd1	HAPLIC GLEISSOLO: Ta dystrophic (clay with high activity and low base saturation (<50%) in most of the first 100cm of the B or BA horizon) with aluminum character; silty texture; moderate A horizon; lowland equatorial	2,000

	forest; flat relief	
GXbd2	HAPLIC GLEISSOLO: Tb typical dystrophic (clay with low activity and low base saturation (<50%) in most of the first 100cm of the B or BA horizon); silty texture; moderate A horizon; lowland equatorial forest; flat relief + FLUVIAL NEOSSOLO: Tb typical dystrophic; mixed texture; moderate A horizon; lowland equatorial forest; flat relief	3,500
	FLUVIC NEOSSOLO	
RUbd	FLUVIC NEOSSOLO: Ta typical dystrophic (clay with high activity and low base saturation (<50%) in most of the first 100cm of the B or BA horizon); mixed texture; moderate A horizon; lowland equatorial forest; flat relief + HAPLIC GLEISSOLO: Ta typical dystrophic; silty texture	1,000
	Total	33,000

128

129 Human occupations were present in the FNC no later than 2,150±75 BP according to the
130 thermoluminescence dating of the pottery found in the area (Behling and da Costa, 2000, Coirolo and
131 d'Aquino, 2005). By 2005, 32 archaeological sites were identified throughout the FNC, with 29 of the
132 sites inside the boundary of the FNC and three of them outside the border, through surveys and
133 several excavations that have been carried out by MPEG (Coirolo and d'Aquino, 2005), and two sites
134 have been identified since this study. The 29 sites inside the border of the FNC were utilized for the
135 analyses in this research. The sites identified are generally located on the banks of Caxiuanã Bay,
136 rivers, or small streams flowing through the forest (*igarapés*), on higher ground than, rest of the
137 landscape (Lisboa, et al., 2013). Elevation relative to water sources is said to be an important factor
138 for the settlement locations of prehistoric people since archaeological sites tend to be located on *terra*
139 *firme* rather than the lower wetlands (Lisboa, et al., 2013).

140 The overall pre-Columbian / pre-colonial population density in the FNC has been hypothesized to

141 have been low, based on the relatively sparse amount of charcoal found in the core samples collected
142 from the bottom of the Curuá River (Behling and da Costa, 2000). However, excavations of
143 archaeological sites, such as Ilha de Terra, identified extensive deposits of ADE associated with
144 dense layers of cultural debris, with more than 1,300 fragments in five excavation units (Costa, 2003,
145 Kern, 2004). ADE was identified in more than 90% of the sites identified in the FNC (Lisboa, et al.,
146 2013). Also, excavation which took place in 2016, near the research station of the Brazilian Institute of
147 Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (*Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos*
148 *Recursos Naturais Renováveis*, IBAMA) has also identified the deep layer of ADE along with an
149 intense concentration of archaeological materials, mainly consisting of pottery, shells and organic
150 refuse (mainly animal bones and carbonized seeds). Since ADE associated with the intense deposits
151 of cultural debris is commonly interpreted as a proxy for intensive human habitation (Clement, et al.,
152 2015, Smith, 1980), there is a strong possibility of a revised pre-colonial population estimate in the
153 FNC in the future.

154

155 2.2. Satellite Imagery and EVI

156 VIs are spectral transformations of two or more bands, which are structured to enable the
157 comparisons of terrestrial photosynthetic activity and canopy structural variations spatially and
158 temporally (Huete, et al., 2002). Therefore, VIs can be used to monitor seasonal, inter-annual, and
159 long-term variations of vegetal structure, phenological, and biophysical parameters (Huete, et al.,
160 2002), and to interpret characteristics of plans such as photosynthetic activity and plant productivity
161 (Ma, et al., 2001), and regional differences in the intensity of species composition of vegetation
162 caused by anthropic effects (Walsh, et al., 2001). Since ADE occurrence demonstrates chemical
163 characteristics that affect the conditions of vegetation, such as available nutrient content with their
164 adjacent soils (Lehmann, et al., 2003), if the combination of vegetation species shows a certain
165 degree of uniformity, the ADE will provide different VI values from non-ADE soils.

166 Among the VIs, Normalized Differential Vegetation Index (NDVI) is one of the most frequently

167 employed VI. Field and laboratory research have demonstrated that NDVI has a strong correlation
168 with fractions of active photoabsorbent vegetation and leaf area index (Palace, et al., 2017, Russell,
169 2005). Due to such a correlation, NDVI is widely used among various disciplines and regions (Borini
170 Alves, et al., 2015, Gandhi, et al., 2015, Morton, et al., 2006, Palace, et al., 2017, Russell, 2005).

171 While NDVI is the most frequently used VI, it contains potential deficiencies caused by atmospheric
172 effects and background brightness (Yamamoto, et al., 2010). EVI was developed to overcome this
173 limitation of NDVI. EVI is normally calculated by the following equation:

$$EVI = 2.5 * \frac{(NIR - Red)}{(NIR + 6 * Red - 7.5 * Blue + 1)}$$

175
176 EVI is more sensitive in regions with high biomass, reduces the atmospheric effect in satellite
177 images, and as a result, provides an enhanced vegetation signal (Jiang, et al., 2008, Yamamoto, et
178 al., 2010). Amazonia is an area with dense vegetation cover and a high moisture regime, which
179 makes it appropriate to apply EVI for research (Jiang, et al., 2008).

180 However, it has been pointed out by Thayn, et al. (2009), that distinguishing ADEs from adjacent
181 Oxisols or Ultisols is complicated by the differences which occur on the vegetation growing on the
182 soils, which are more subtle than the differences between the soils themselves. Also, the results
183 shown by Fraser, et al. (2011) demonstrate that ADE are not subject to homogenous formation and
184 taphonomic processes. There is presently no uniform method to discriminate ADEs from surrounding
185 soils despite the known differences in soil nutrient availability between onsite and offsite contexts.

186 Even though there are difficulties present in distinguishing ADEs from non-ADE soils, it can be
187 possible to identify the differences if the slight differences between EVI off- and on-site are
188 systematically quantified and amplified. Although the differences may be subtle, it is clear that soils
189 affected by anthropic activities demonstrate different characteristics with adjacent soils, and the
190 differences become more evident moving towards the center of the core fertility of ADE sites (Fraser,

191 et al., 2011). Therefore, it can be said that although the difference in value may be minute along the
192 perimeter of the features, the centers of ADE sites will, on average, provide more pixels with higher
193 EVI values. In other words, it is possible to study the spatial autocorrelation of EVI values in order to
194 map the distribution of ADE to trace landscape domestication activities.

195 In this research design, ASTER L1T images were used to create EVI values. Among the data
196 provided by non-commercial satellite-based sensors, the ASTER series products offer a spatial
197 resolution of 15 m/pixel, which is relatively fine when compared to the spatial resolution of other
198 products, such as the Landsat series (30 m/pixel) and Moderate Resolution Imaging
199 Spectroradiometer (MODIS) series (250 m/pixel). Two satellite images of ASTER L1T dated to 22
200 June 2007 were downloaded from the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Earth Explorer
201 website (<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>). These images were selected for two reasons. First, the
202 images contained the least amount of cloud cover relative to other images available in the data
203 repository ($\leq 2\%$), while covering most of the area of the FNC. Second, the variance between the VI
204 values is the greatest between June and July in Amazonia throughout the year, with tropical
205 rainforests demonstrating higher values than other types of land cover, such as pastures, agricultural
206 fields, or savannah (Arvor, et al., 2011).

207 The EVI was calculated using an alternate formula to the traditionally used one since ASTER does
208 not collect blue frequency spectra (459-479 nm). There are currently three alternate formulas to
209 calculate EVI by using only NIR and red frequencies (Yamamoto, et al., 2010). However, one of these
210 was developed for application in snow-covered areas, and therefore, it is not applicable in this
211 research. One of the other two methods to calculate EVI involves reflectance values from ASTER and
212 MODIS sensors (Yamamoto, et al., 2010). This method, named as EVI_c, is possible since the ASTER
213 and MODIS sensors are both loaded on the same Terra platform and there are possibilities of
214 simultaneous observation of specific areas (Yamamoto, et al., 2010). The formula involves NIR and
215 red reflectance of the ASTER sensor, and blue reflectance of the MODIS sensor (Yamamoto, et al.,
216 2010). The other method, named as EVI₂, simply uses the NIR and visible red bands of ASTER

217 (Jiang, et al., 2008).

218 EVI_C and EVI₂ values were validated by comparison with EVI values calculated from MODIS data
219 with the original formula. While EVI₂ values showed a very close 1:1 correlation with the EVI data
220 (Jiang, et al., 2008), EVI_C showed lower correlation (0.960) than EVI₂, which seems to be a result of
221 possible atmospheric effects in the MODIS blue reflectance values (Jiang, et al., 2008, Yamamoto, et
222 al., 2010). Therefore, EVI was calculated using the EVI₂ formula:

223

$$EVI_2 = 2.5 * \frac{\rho_{ASTER\ NIR} - \rho_{ASTER\ red}}{\rho_{ASTER\ NIR} + 2.4 * \rho_{ASTER\ red} + 1}$$

224

225 Before utilizing the calculated EVI for analyses, low EVI values, which are often caused by water,
226 roads, and cloud cover, were excluded by statistically sorting out anomalous values. The mean value
227 of EVI was 0.93 with a standard deviation of 0.06, so only EVI values greater than 0.87 were analyzed.
228 The EVI values analyzed are from areas covered with forest vegetation excluding low or minimally
229 vegetated regions from the analyses.

230

231 2.3. Evaluating the Reflectance of Soil Types on EVI

232 Before testing the model to predict the areas affected by landscape domestication, it should be
233 evaluated whether different soil properties actually do affect the expression of EVI within the study
234 area. ANOVA test was executed using the soil survey result of Costa, et al. (2005). The purpose of
235 the ANOVA test was to demonstrate whether classifications of soil types are reflected in the EVI
236 values. If the results demonstrate that the EVI values differ by soil types, it will provide the basis for
237 locating spatially distinct areas for the application of spatial autocorrelation of EVI values. A post-hoc
238 Scheffe test was subsequently performed after the ANOVA test to identify the differences in the mean
239 EVI values between soil classes. These tests establish the framework for autocorrelation, which
240 utilizes local (neighborhood) values to find outlying data clusters. If soil conditions do not affect

241 vegetation growth/EVI values, the applicability of spatial autocorrelation using satellite imagery would
242 be suspect, and the basis for proceeding with the analysis may not be justified.

243 To perform the ANOVA, the soil map (Figure 2) presented in Costa, et al. (2005) was integrated into a
244 GIS by digitizing it into polygons with ArcGIS 10.2.2. Also, the EVI values were vectorized from a
245 raster format using 'Raster to Point' tool. The information from the soil types was then spatially joined
246 to points, which contain the EVI values in 15-m intervals. For ANOVA tests, the soil classes were set
247 as independent variables, and EVI values were designated as dependent variables. The null
248 hypothesis of the ANOVA test is that the population distribution of vegetation spectra is randomly
249 distributed across the study area and that the variance of the values falls along a normal continuum
250 (Pandit, 2010). If the F value, which indicates the influence of the effect, is significantly large and the
251 significance of the results rejects the null hypothesis, it means that the conditions (in this case the soil
252 class) (Pandit, 2010) non-randomly affect the distribution of vegetation spectra within different
253 analytical zones with statistical significance determined by the p-value. The ANOVA/Scheffe's post-
254 hoc test between the independent and dependent variables, soil class and EVI values, was analyzed
255 using IBM SPSS 23.

256 2.4. Creating the Predictive Model for the Areas Affected by Landscape Domestication

257 After the effects of soils on EVI were investigated, the relationship between landscape
258 domestication and EVI was examined through creating a predictive model for areas affected by
259 landscape domestication. The models were created by applying spatial autocorrelation methods using
260 ArcGIS 10.2.2. The first spatial autocorrelation method that applied was Getis-Ord's G_i^* . Getis-Ord's
261 G_i^* is one variant in a family of spatial statistics called G, introduced by Getis and Ord (1992). G_i^*
262 allows identification of local clustering patterns, which may not appear in global statistics, G (Ord and
263 Getis, 1995). As a result, G_i^* can be applied more flexibly when compared to global statistics G, which
264 cannot accommodate spatially variable clustering patterns. Getis-Ord's G_i^* index is defined by the
265 following equation (Ord and Getis, 1995):

266

$$G_i^* = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} x_j - \bar{X} \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij}}{S \sqrt{\frac{[n \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij}^2 - (\sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij})^2]}{n-1}}}$$

267

268

where

269

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n x_j}{n}$$

270

271

and

272

$$S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{j=1}^n s_j^2}{n} - (\bar{X})^2}$$

273

274 In this equation, x_j is the attribute value of feature j , n is the total number of features, $w_{ij}(d)$ is a
 275 binary spatial weighted matrix that defines w_{ij} . When locations of two features i and j are within the
 276 defined distance d , w_{ij} is 1; otherwise, w_{ij} is 0. Calculated \bar{X} is the simple mean, and S is the
 277 simple variance (Ord and Getis, 1995).

278 The G_i^* value was compared with the z-score to examine whether clustering occurs (Getis and Ord,
 279 1992). With a confidence level of 90%, the p-value, which indicates the probabilistic posterior
 280 distribution, should be smaller than 0.10. For the G_i^* to be statistically significant, it is conventionally
 281 understood that the value should be larger than 1.65 or smaller than -1.65, which are the
 282 corresponding z-scores to p-values (ESRI, 2016).

283 Therefore, as a result of the Getis-Ord's G_i^* analysis, each vectorized point of EVI was given a z-
 284 score, p-value, and confidence level bin (G_i _Bin). The G_i _Bin, which is given as integer values
 285 between -3 to 3, is what indicates the statistically significant spatial clusters of high values (hotspots)
 286 and low values (coldspots). The degree of statistical significance is demonstrated through G_i _Bin as

287 well. Features with the Gi_Bin value of ± 3 are statistically significant at a 99 percent confidence level;
288 those with ± 2 Gi_Bin value are significant at the 95% confidence level; ± 1 Gi_Bin indicates
289 statistical significance at a 90% confidence level; 0 indicates that clustering for features is not
290 statistically significant (ESRI, 2016).

291 The second method that was applied was Anselin's Local Moran's I. While Getis-Ord's Gi* clarifies
292 areas characterized by very high values and very low values, Local Moran's I focuses more on
293 expressing the clustering of similar attribute values (Coluzzi, et al., 2010). Local Moran's I index is
294 expressed by the following equation:

295

$$I_i = \frac{x_i - \bar{X}}{S_i^2} \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n w_{i,j} (x_j - \bar{X})$$

296

297 In this equation, x_i is the attribute of i , \bar{X} is the average of features, and $w_{i,j}$ is the spatial weight
298 between feature i and j (Kim, 2012).

299 Anselin's Local Moran's I uses pseudo significance, which is expressed by pseudo p-values—a
300 probabilistic statistic that examines the significance of statistics (Anselin, 1995). The pseudo p-values
301 are generated by comparing the actual Local Moran's I value with the values produced by random
302 permutations of points from spatially parameterized data (ESRI, 2016)

303 By executing Anselin's Local Moran's I analysis, z-score, pseudo p-value, and cluster/outlier type
304 (C0type) is given to each of the EVI points. The cluster/outlier type is determined by the z-score and
305 p-value. When the z-score is a high positive value, it indicates that the point has similar values with
306 neighboring points, demonstrating a clustering pattern. When the z-score is a low negative value, the
307 analyzed feature can be classified as an outlier from its surrounding features. Therefore, the C0Type
308 classifies the points into five classes, which are high-value clusters (HH), low-value clusters (LL),
309 high-value outliers surrounded by low values (HL), low value outliers surrounded by high values (LH),
310 and features that do not demonstrate any statistical significance (Not Significant). The confidence

311 level of the statistical significance of the results of Anselin's Local Moran's I is automatically fixed to
312 95% (ESRI, 2016).

313 A threshold distance needs to be set for Getis-Ord's G_i^* and Anselin's Moran's I. A threshold
314 distance indicates the range that features within it are acknowledged as neighboring to the target
315 feature of analysis. For Getis-Ord's G_i^* , the type of the threshold distance can be chosen between
316 fixed distance band and inverse distance. While a default threshold distance can be computed, it is
317 recommended to set a threshold distance that is appropriate for the research purpose (ESRI, 2016).

318 For our research objectives, we utilized a threshold distance set as a fixed distance of 80 m with the
319 weighted values of the EVI as described above. This process has been achieved by selecting
320 "FIXED_DISTANCE_METHOD" for the "Conceptualization of Spatial Relationships" option in the
321 Getis-Ord's G_i^* analysis and Anselin's Local Moran's I analysis in ArcGIS. The threshold distance was
322 set according to the size of the majority of ADE sites from this region, which can be interpreted as
323 focal points of pre-Columbian landscape domestication. For this region, 80% of the sites are not
324 larger than 2 ha (Kern, et al., 2003) which is encapsulated within an 80×80 m area. Therefore, in
325 order to balance precision with analytical efficiency in order to capture three pixels in each cardinal
326 direction in the autocorrelation, we limited the range of analysis to 80 m.

327

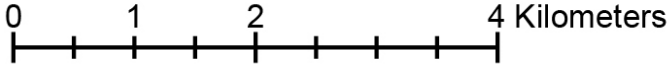
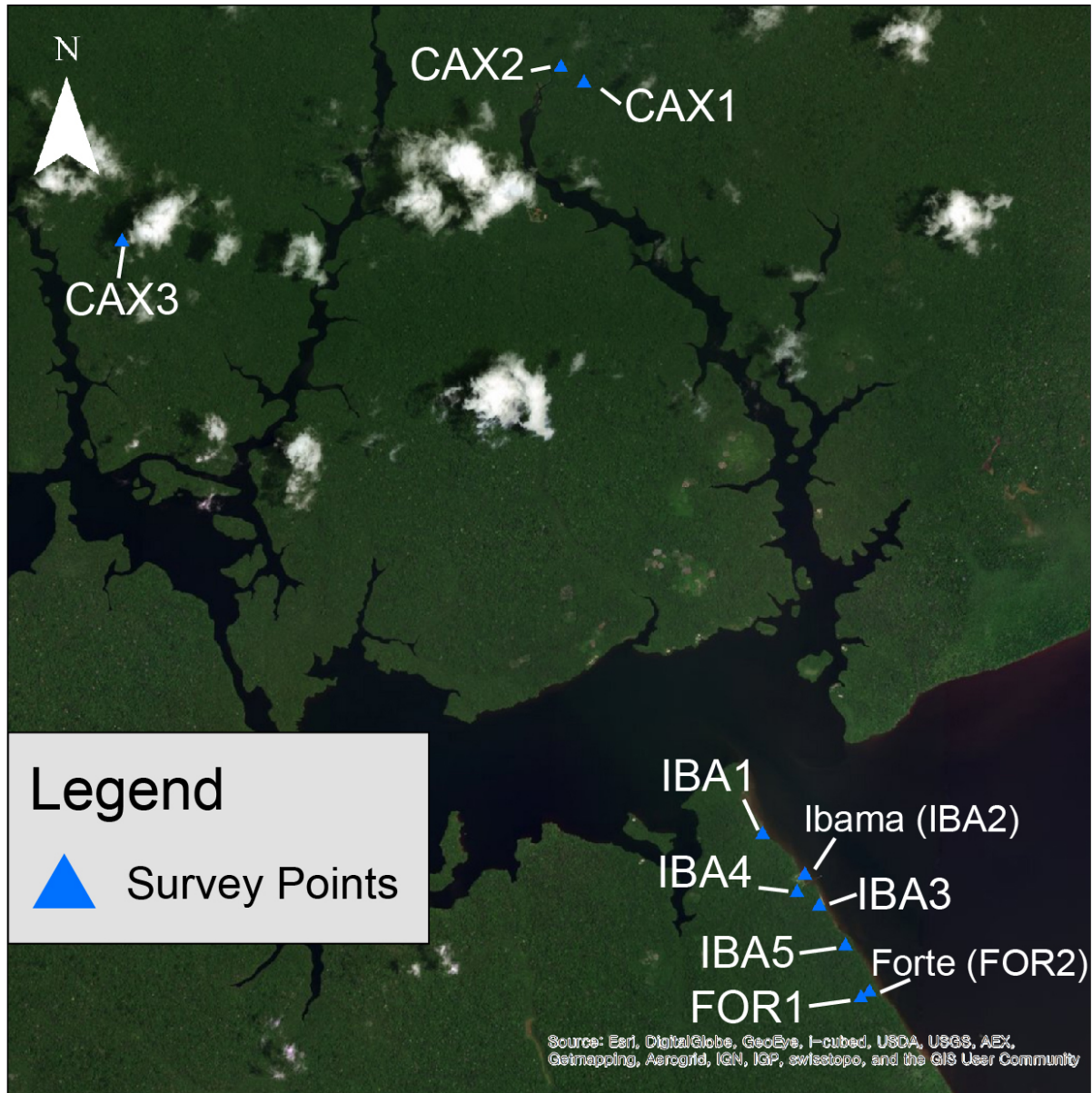
328 2.5. Validation of the Model

329 The models to predict the areas affected by pre-Columbian landscape domestication were validated
330 using a combination of spatial-statistical and field techniques. The first method compared the
331 distribution of EVI values between the ADE sites and the FNC. It utilized the location of the previously
332 reported ADE sites in the FNC (Lisboa, et al., 2013). The location of the ADE sites was loaded into
333 the GIS. Then buffers with the radius of 80 m were generated around the location of the ADE sites,
334 according to the postulated site size. A histogram of the G_i _Bin and C0Type, which are collected from
335 the EVI points that are within the 80 m radius, was generated to represent the clustering pattern of
336 EVI values of the ADE sites. To statistically gauge the potential range of variance for EVI distribution

337 in the FNC, 2,000 random points were generated in order to compare the population of known ADE
338 sites against random permutations of points. Buffers of 80 m radius were generated for the random
339 points as well. Gi_Bin and C0Type from the EVI points within the 80 m radius were aggregated and
340 used to create a histogram that displays the clustering pattern of EVI values of the FNC. The
341 histograms of the Gi_Bin and C0Type of each ADE site and the FNC were compared. Through this
342 comparison, the effect of ADE sites on EVI was observed.

343 The other method involved undertaking a pedestrian archaeological survey and shovel tests
344 according to the maps that visualize the created models. The points for pedestrian surveys were
345 selected within the areas where ADE sites were not previously reported. For the pedestrian survey,
346 the created map was loaded to a Garmin Montana 680t GPS device for navigation to the targeted
347 location. Vegetation structure and composition were noted within the survey zones. Following the
348 shovel tests, the solums were documented and sampled, and an Oakfield coring probe was used to
349 constrain the sizes of the sites.

350



351

352 **Figure 3. Location of the points where pedestrian survey was undertaken.**

353

354 **3. Results**

355 3.1. Results of ANOVA using Soil Class and EVI

356 According to the summarized statistics of the EVI (Table 2), distinguished by the base soil type
 357 mapped in Costa, et al. (2005), it is evident that there is a difference in EVI values between different
 358 soil types. Even though the range of EVI values is limited since values smaller than 0.8753 were

359 excluded, for explicit comparison between the forest environment, it is clear that there is a difference
 360 in the EVI values between soil types when observing the upper and lower bounds of the 95%
 361 confidence interval from the mean value do not overlap between soil types with high EVI values, such
 362 as Plinthosol (FTbd), and soil types with low EVI values, such as Latosol (LAd1). The summarized
 363 statistics indicate that EVI values do differ by soil types. The F-value result of the ANOVA test (Table
 364 3) demonstrates that there is a statistically significant difference in the distribution of EVI values
 365 between the soil types such that the null hypothesis (there is a random relationship between soil class
 366 and EVI values) is rejected ($p < 0.000$).

367

368 **Table 2. Summarized statistics of EVI distinguished by soil types. The description of**
 369 **the soil codes is presented in Table 1. Values smaller than 0.8753 were excluded**
 370 **from the analysis.**

Soil Type	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
					FTbd	17882		
GXbd1	33861	.9772	.0617	.0003	.9766	.9779	.8753	1.2500
GXbd2	37241	.9530	.0556	.0002	.9525	.9536	.8753	1.2678
LAd1	49438	.9412	.0462	.0002	.9408	.9416	.8753	1.1979
LAd2	160310	.9587	.0575	.0001	.9585	.9590	.8753	1.3121
LAd3	40304	.9910	.0608	.0003	.9904	.9916	.8753	1.2752
LAd4	79468	.9409	.0461	.0001	.9406	.9413	.8753	1.1813
PAAd1	2063	.9421	.0476	.0010	.9400	.9441	.8753	1.1728
RUbd	16721	.9844	.0615	.0004	.9835	.9853	.8753	1.2752
Total (All Soil Types)	437288	.9593	.0579	.0000	.9591	.9595	.8753	1.3121

371

372

373 **Table 3. Result of ANOVA on the effects of soil types to EVI**

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	116.711	8	14.589	4715.975	.000
Within Groups	1352.725	437279	.003		
Total	1469.436	437287			

374

375 The result of Scheffe's post-hoc test compares the means of EVI values between different soil types
376 in detail. The result demonstrates that the soil classes can be classified into six subsets by the mean
377 of EVI values (Table 4). Soil classes LAd1, LAd4, and PAd1 have no significant difference with each
378 other in mean EVI value (Cluster 1 in Fig. 4). The mean EVI value of soil classes FTbd and RUbd are
379 not significantly different as well (Cluster 2 in Fig. 4). However, the rest of the soil classes can be
380 distinguished from each other by statistically significant differences in the mean of EVI values (Fig. 4).
381 The detailed result of the Scheffe's post-hoc test is provided in the Supplementary Online Material 1.

382

383 **Table 4. Result of Scheffe's post-hoc test demonstrating homogeneous subsets.**

Soil Class	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
LAd4	79468	0.9409					
LAd1	49438	0.9412					
PAd1	2063	0.9412					
GXbd2	37241		0.9531				

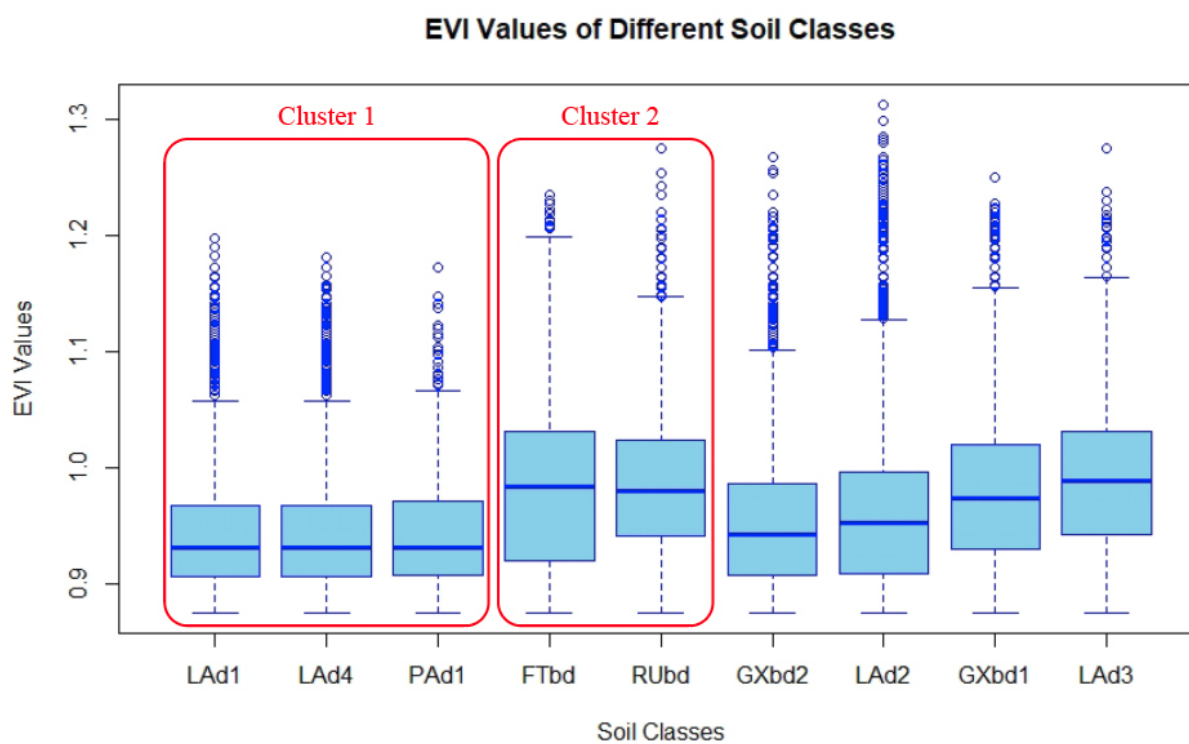
LAd2	160310			0.9588			
GXbd1	33861				0.9773		
FTbd	17882					0.9826	
RUbd	16721					0.9845	
LAd3	40304						0.9910
Sig.		0.957	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.578	1.000

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 12487.804

The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.

384



385

386 **Figure 4. Boxplot of EVI values according to soil classes. The clusters are grouped by**
 387 **the result of Scheffe's post-hoc test.**

388

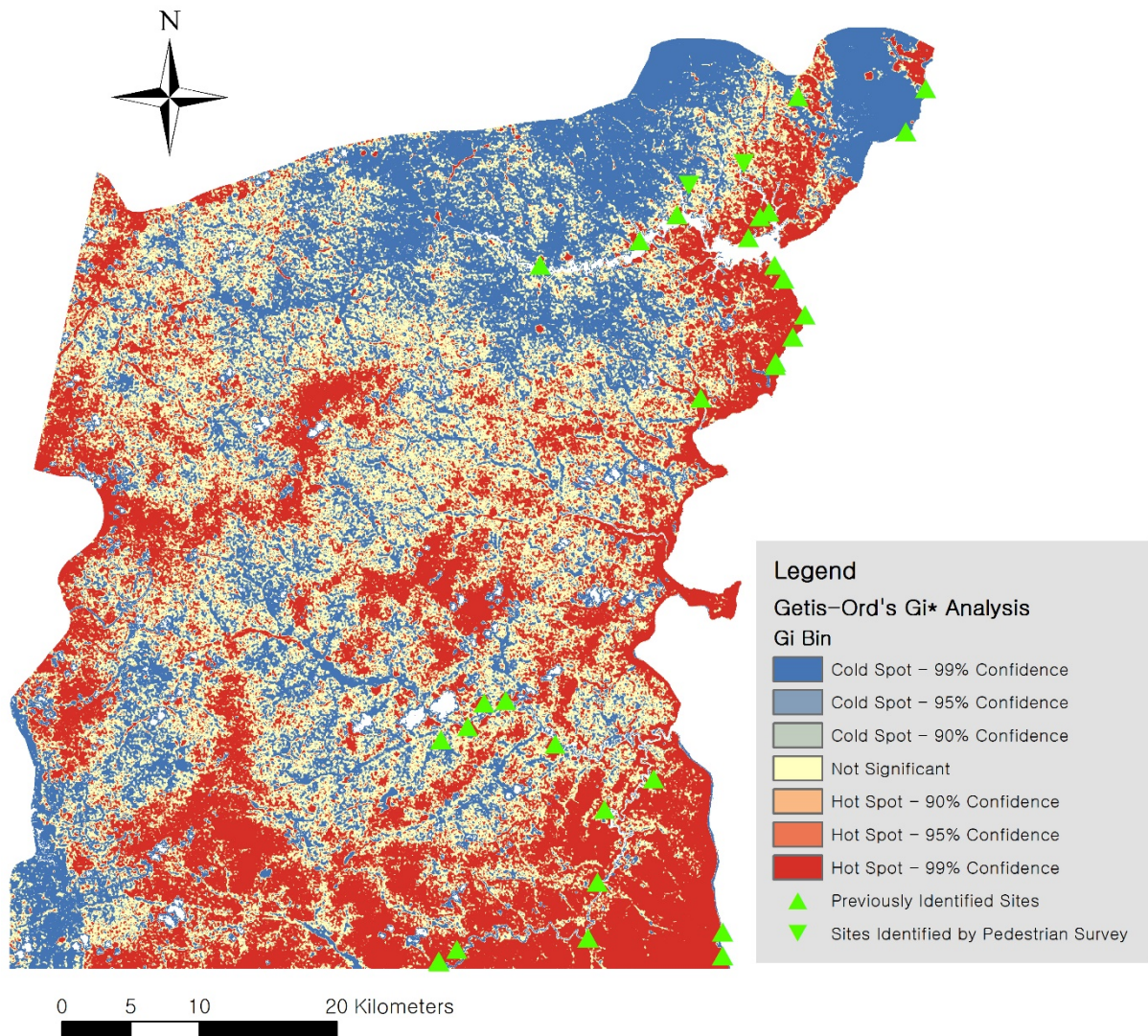
389 3.2. The Models and Comparisons with Previously Reported Sites

390 The EVI clustering pattern of the FNC is demonstrated by points within 80 m radius of the 2,000

391 randomly generated points (see bottom right of Fig. 6 and 8). Based on the model created by the

392 Getis-Ord's G_i^* (Figure 5), 30% of the points around the 2,000 points in the FNC test area had a
393 G_i Bin value 3, which indicates high-value EVI cluster. Using this test threshold, we established the
394 protocol that if more than 30% of the points within 80 m of an unknown point has the G_i Bin value 3,
395 the site was classified as a high-probability ADE site with high-EVI value clustering. According to this
396 classification scheme, 20 out of 29 previously documented archaeological sites were identified in
397 zones of high EVI value clustering (Figure 6).

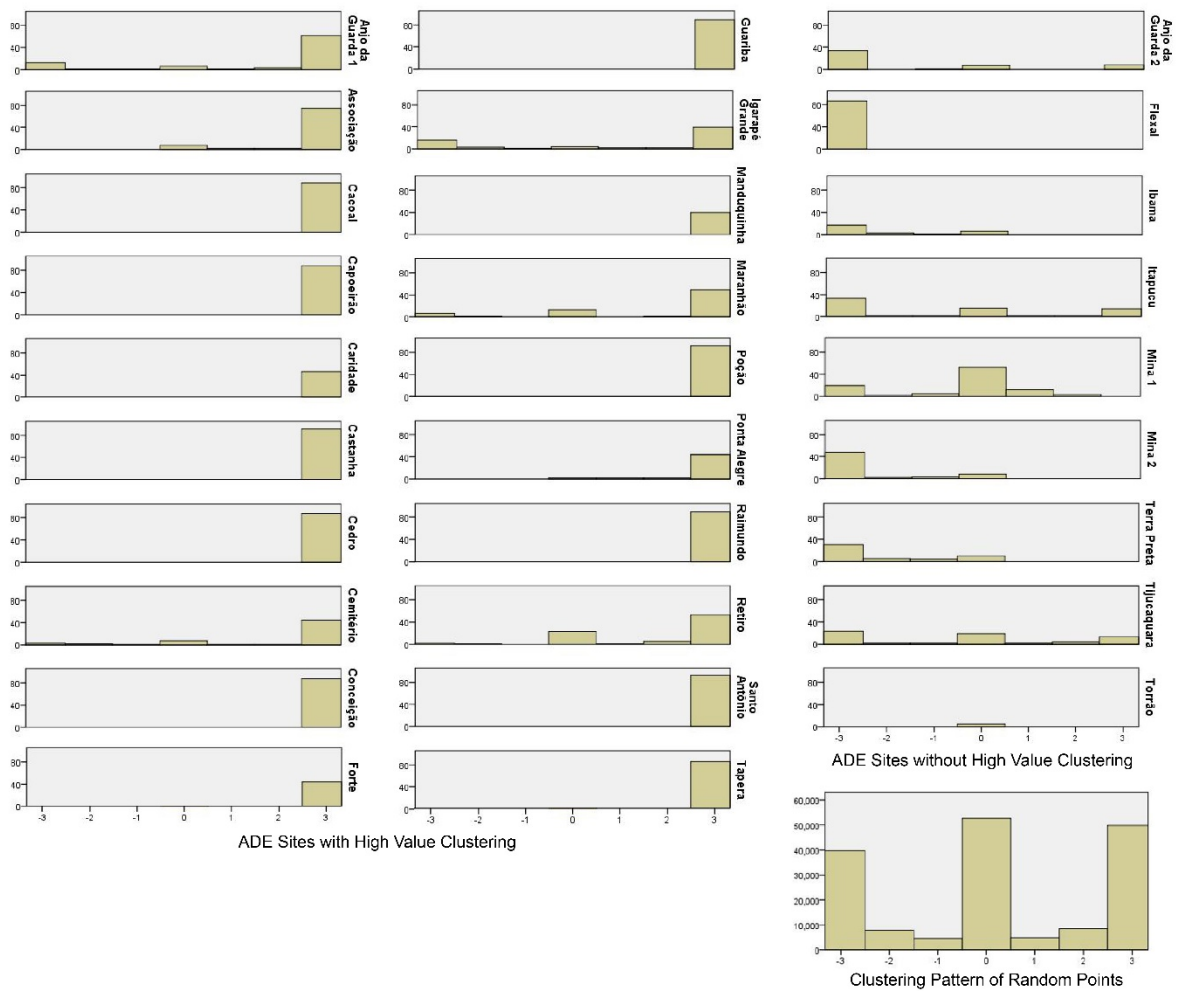
398



399

400 **Figure 5. The model created through Getis-Ord's G_i^* analysis of EVI values.**

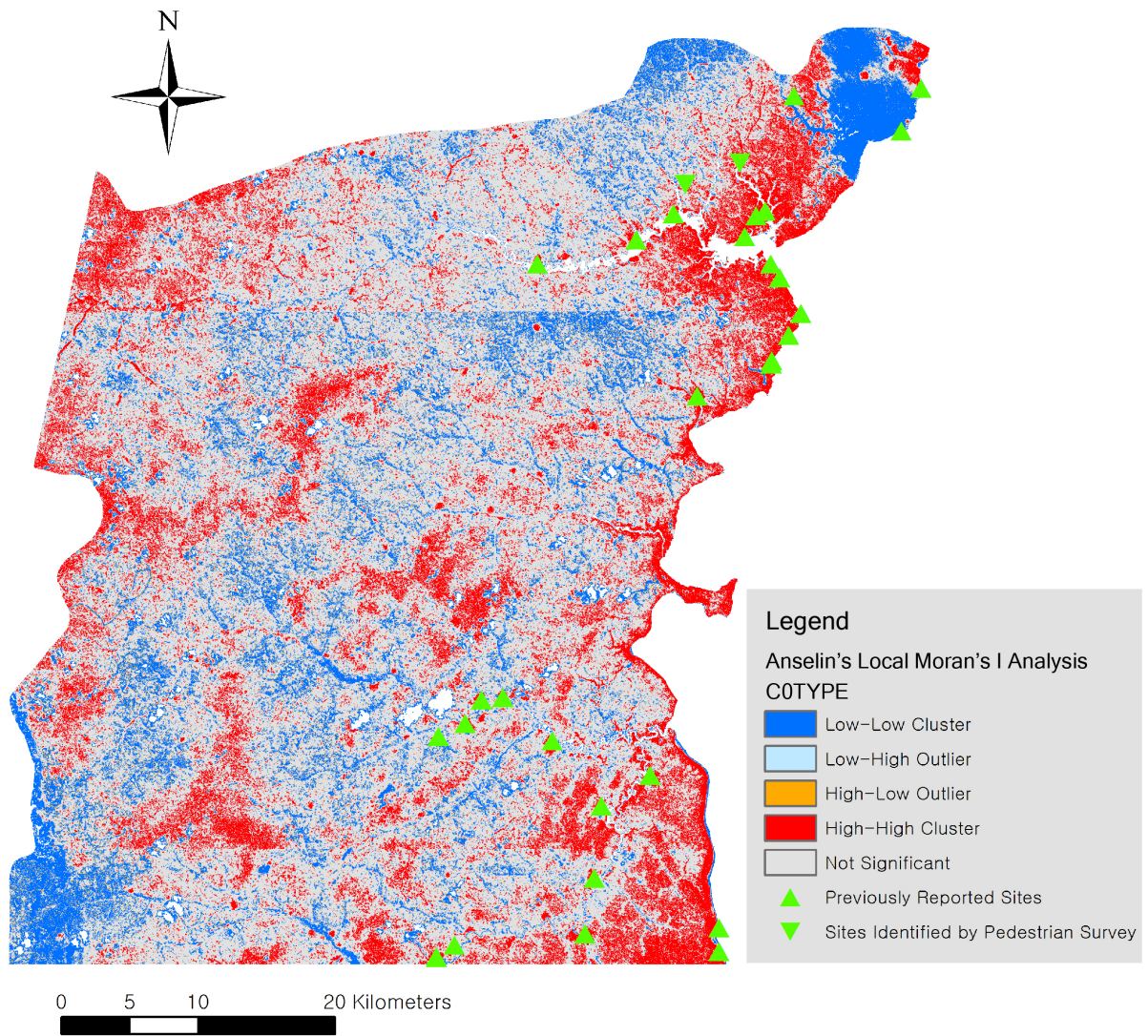
401



402
 403 **Figure 6. The classification of the sites into ‘ADE sites with High-Value Clustering’**
 404 **and ‘ADE Sites without High-Value Clustering’ according to the model created by**
 405 **Getis-Ord’s G_i^* analysis of EVI values. The numbers of the x-axis indicate the G_i Bin**
 406 **(-3=Cold Spot - 99% Confidence, -2=Cold Spot – 95% Confidence, -1=Cold Spot – 90%**
 407 **Confidence, 0=Not Significant, 1=Hot Spot – 90% Confidence, 2=Hot Spot – 95%**
 408 **Confidence, 3=Hot Spot – 99% Confidence). The y-axis indicates the number of points.**
 409 **The classification was made by comparing the percentage of the points classified with**
 410 **the G_i Bin value 3. If the sites consisted of a higher percentage of points with the**
 411 **value of 3 than 2,000 randomly generated points that represent the FNC, they were**
 412 **classified as ‘ADE Sites with High-Values Clustering.’ If not, they were classified as**
 413 **‘ADE Sites without High-Value Clustering.’**

414 According to the model generated by the Anselin's Local Moran's I (Figure 7), approximately
415 13% of the points within 80 m radius of the 2,000 randomly assigned points that represent the
416 clustering pattern of the EVI values across the FNC were given the C0Type 'High-High Cluster', which
417 indicates high EVI value clustering. Based on this criterion, and padding the results to reduce over-
418 sampling noise, if the percentage of the points classified as points of 'High-High Cluster' within 80 m
419 around archaeological sites was greater than 20%, the site was classified as a high-probability ADE
420 site with high value clustering. According to this classification scheme, 22 out of 29 previously
421 documented archaeological sites inside the FNC were identified in zones of high EVI values (Figure
422 8).

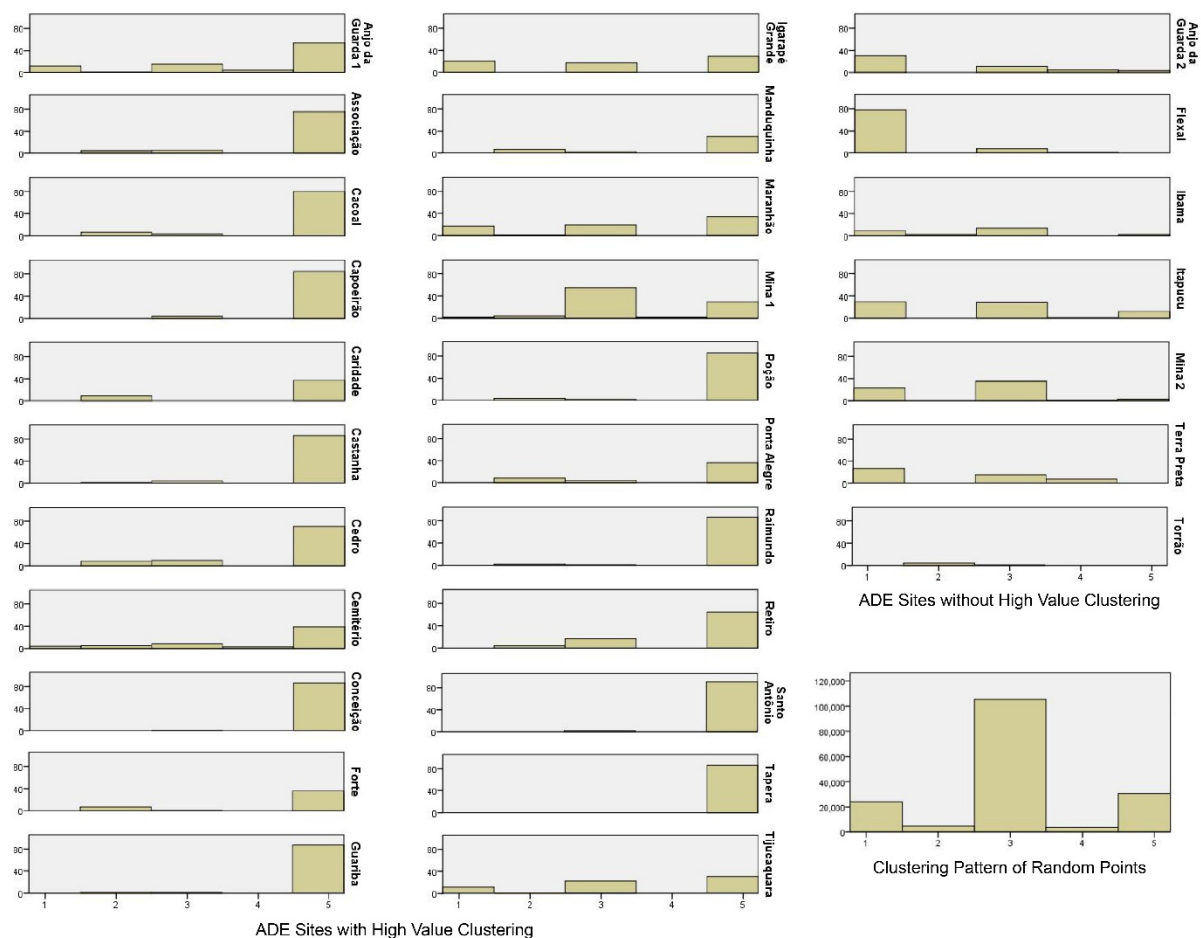
423



424

425 **Figure 7. The model created through Anselin's Local Moran's I of EVI values.**

426



427

428 **Figure 8. The classification of the sites into 'ADE Sites with High-Value Clustering'**
 429 **and 'ADE Sites without High-Value Clustering' according to the model created by**
 430 **Anselin's Local Moran's I Analysis of EVI values. The numbers of the x-axis indicate**
 431 **the C0Type (1=Low-Low Cluster, 2=Low-High Outlier, 3=Not Significant, 4=High-Low**
 432 **Outlier, 5=High-High Cluster). The classification was made by comparing the**
 433 **percentage of the points classified with the C0Type of High-High Cluster, indicated by**
 434 **the number 5. The y-axis indicates the number of points. If the sites consisted of a**
 435 **higher percentage of points with C0Type of High-High Cluster than 2,000 randomly**
 436 **generated points that represent the FNC, they were classified as 'ADE Sites with High**
 437 **Value Clustering.'** If not, they were classified as 'ADE Sites without High Values
 438 **Clustering.'**

439

440 Out of the sites included in the analysis, two previously identified archaeological sites (Mina 1 and
441 Tijucaquera) were classified differently by the models created by Getis-Ord's G_i^* and Anselin's Local
442 Moran's I . While Mina 1 and Tijucaquera sites were identified as ADE sites without high EVI value
443 clustering by Getis-Ord's G_i^* analysis, they were classified as ADE sites with high EVI value clustering
444 by Anselin's Local Moran's I analysis. Besides these two sites, the other 27 sites were classified the
445 same by both spatial autocorrelation analysis of the EVI values.

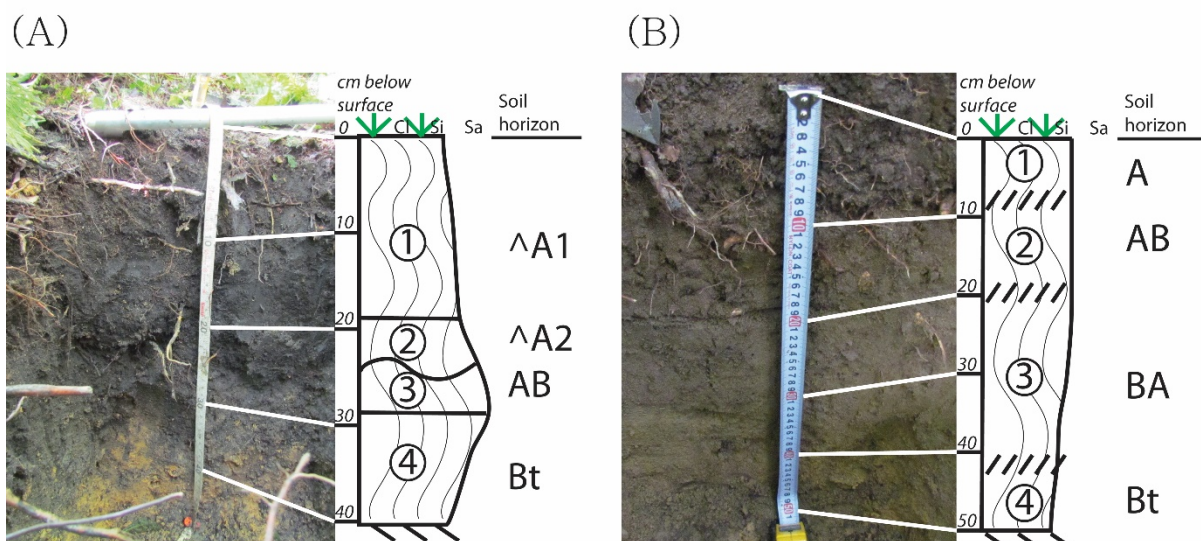
446

447 3.3. Results of Pedestrian Surveys and Soil Profiling

448 Pedestrian surveys and soil profiling were carried out in July 2016. Soil profiles were documented at
449 eight locations (Figure 3), and a pedestrian survey was performed during the navigation to the points
450 of soil profiles. The detailed soil profiles are provided in the Supplementary Online Material 2. The
451 areas demonstrated various degrees of influence of landscape domestication.

452 The previously undocumented site identified in the spatial model that showed the strongest
453 influence of landscape domestication was the site designated CAX1. The topsoil of CAX1 is a black
454 (10YR2/1) sandy clay loam with a very weak sub-angular blocky structure and has no preserved
455 bedding or depositional features (Figure 9). CAX1 was classified as ADE with ceramic and charcoal
456 inclusions identified in the profile, indicating human activity on site. There were no trails in and around
457 CAX1, suggesting the site had been abandoned for some time. The forest was covered with wood
458 thickets, indicating that it is a secondary forest.

459



460

461 **Figure 9. Profiles of (A) CAX1 and (B) CAX3 sites, which were identified during the**
 462 **pedestrian survey.**

463

464 Another locale with evidence of landscape domestication was IBA4. IBA4 also had organically-
 465 enriched, black topsoil of ADE, but while CAX1 was an ADE site, IBA4 was located approximately 100
 466 m from the core of the Ibama site, which has been previously reported (Lisboa, et al., 2013). The color
 467 of the topsoil of IBA4 was lighter in hue (10YR3/1), nevertheless several anthropogenic tree species
 468 were documented, including mango (*Mangifera indica*) and rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) trees.

469 CAX3 is another locale that contained traits of an area influenced by landscape domestication. The
 470 topsoil was slightly darker than the natural rainforest soils, with the color of 10YR3/2 (strong brown).
 471 The topsoil was comprised of a sandy clay loam with a moderate sub-angular blocky structure and
 472 also lacks bedding or depositional structure (Figure 9). CAX3 site lacks ceramics but has abundant
 473 charcoal inclusions in its profile.

474 IBA3 is located on the trail linking the Ibama site and the Forte site. Although the topsoil of IBA3 did
 475 not demonstrate characteristics of ADE the top layer of the soil was thickened. A remnant of a
 476 recently abandoned house and debris of modern human activity, such as plastic, were identified
 477 around the point. Also, trees that local people make use of were documented, such as Brazil nut

478 (*Bertholletia excelsa*) and açai palms (*Euterpe oleracea*).

479 FOR1 is 95 m away from the Forte site. The A horizon of the topsoil was slightly darker than typical
480 rainforest soils (10YR 3/2). Although some plants that seemed to have been managed by humans,
481 such as cacao (*Theobroma cacao*), were identified during pedestrian reconnaissance

482 IBA5 was located on an upper terrace from the passage that links the Ibama site and the Forte site.
483 The A horizon was slightly darker than typical rainforest soils (10YR 3/3) but had general phenotypic
484 characteristics of Ultisols. No plants were identified that were known to have been used by local
485 people, however the density of the forest was relatively thick, which may indicate a secondary forest.

486 CAX2 was approximately 250 m away from CAX1. The soil was Ultisol, which is common in the
487 tropical rainforest. No plants were identified that were known to have been used by local people. The
488 forest in this area had the greatest density among the forests near all survey points.

489 IBA1 was a cutbank profile that has been exposed due to fluvial erosion. IBA1 consists mostly of a
490 thick deposit of silty clay, which is approximately 5-m deep and is strongly cemented with strong
491 redoximorphic masses. The color of the topsoil is reddish, ranging from 5YR 7/8 to 7.5YR 5/3.

492

493 **4. Discussion**

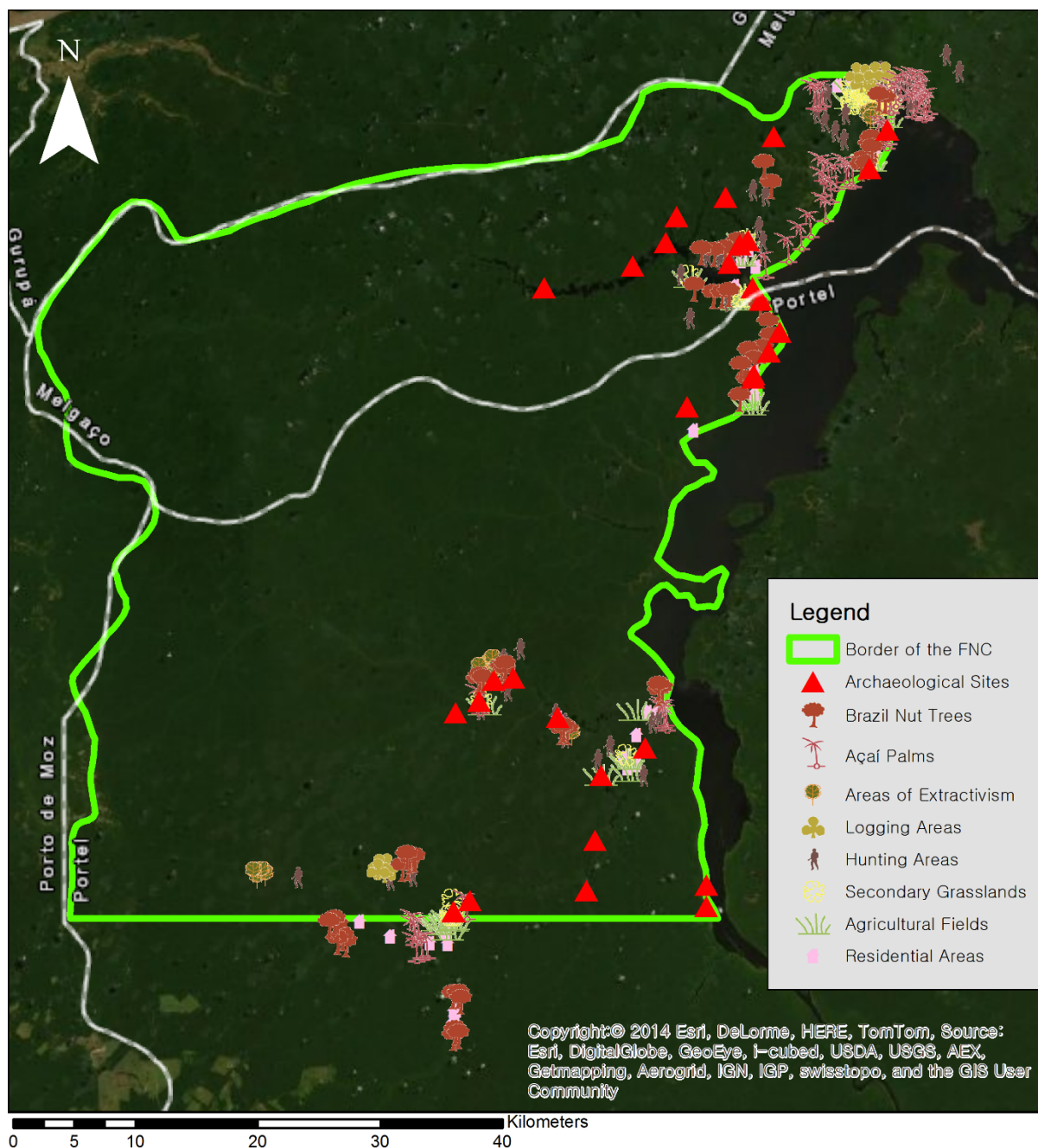
494

495 The ANOVA results demonstrate that the difference in soil characteristics is reflected in EVI. Since
496 it has been shown that soil characteristics are affected by landscape domestication activities, the
497 result of the ANOVA reflects the connection between the landscape domestication activities and the
498 growth of secondary vegetation that can be identified in the EVI. The comparison between the
499 clustering patterns of EVI values of the centers of landscape domestication, which are ADE sites, and
500 the general clustering pattern of EVI values of the FNC proposed that landscape domestication
501 enhances the EVI values. According to this result, to trace and calibrate landscape domestication in
502 areas with minimal modern human disturbance such as FNC, researchers should focus on areas of
503 high EVI value clusters. The widespread distribution of potential hotspots based on high EVI value

504 clusters suggests persistent anthropic effects on vegetation from pre-Columbian through the present,
505 regardless of the actual formation of ADE (see also Levis, et al. 2017).

506 However, our results contrast Thayn, et al. (2011) and Palace, et al. (2017). Their results showed
507 that ADE sites tend to have lower average EVI values. This contrasting result may have been caused
508 by modern land use. According to Thayn, et al. (2011), most of the ADE sites are currently used by
509 local farmers, who recognize the productivity of these anthropic soils. This is also true in the case of
510 the FNC as well. When comparing the location of modern human land use in the FNC (Figure 10) and
511 the location of ADE sites, ten out of 31 sites are located within 500 m of modern human activity areas.
512 If modern human activities take place, which involves deforestation, such as agriculture or land
513 clearance for residence, it will result in lower vegetation index values in the area (Morton, et al., 2006).

514



515

516 **Figure 10. Location of archaeological sites and modern human activity areas in the**
 517 **FNC.**

518

519 It is difficult to demonstrate that modern human activities affected the results since the land use of
 520 small farmers in Amazonia shows great variability between households, based on conditions such as
 521 available labor and duration of stay (Marquette, 1998). Also, whether the small farmers of Amazonia

522 clear the forest for timber and other purposes or preserve the forest for non-timber extraction is not
523 established in a systematic manner, as modern industrialized farmers do (Summers, et al., 2004,
524 Junqueira, et al., 2011). Therefore, the type of land use in a certain area can be changed into various
525 forms within a relatively short period (Fearnside, 1996). For instance, a fully cleared agricultural field
526 may be transformed into a woody secondary forest within three years (Fearnside, 1996).

527 The complexity of modern land use is reflected in the current research as well, and it is difficult to
528 verify whether the modern land use affected the spatial model. However, at least one site clearly
529 shows that the land clearance by modern human activity results in the absence of high EVI value
530 clustering. The Ibama site has been not classified as having high EVI value clustering, and a research
531 station has been in operation by IBAMA since 1993 (Figure 11). The land has been cleared since the
532 establishment of the research station and results in the low EVI value-clustering pattern of the Ibama
533 site.



534
535 **Figure 11. UAV photograph of the Ibama site showing modern land clearance. Photo**
536 **credit: Bruno Moraes.**

537 The relationship between modern land clearance by small farmers and VIs has not been fully
538 explored in the FNC. However, it is evident that land clearance results in low VI values (Borini Alves,
539 et al., 2015, Morton, et al., 2006), and considering the case of the Ibama site, modern land clearance
540 may be the main cause of the presence of sites without high EVI value clustering in the FNC, though
541 there may be exceptions. Therefore it can be said that ADE sites tend to provide high EVI value
542 clustering patterns, when they are located in a forest environment that is not subject to heavy
543 commercial logging or ranching (Querino, et al., 2016). In 2018, the size of the forested area in the
544 Brazilian Amazon is approximately 2.9 million km² of the area that measures 5,068,048 km²
545 monitored by PRODES (2020), which is a deforestation monitoring system developed by the *Instituto*
546 *Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais*. Protected areas, such as the FNC, are less subject to large-scale
547 deforestation (Jusys, 2018), which we hypothesize as the main reason high VI values correlate to
548 nutrient-rich anthrosols, such as ADEs.

549 The attributes related to the research material, spatial resolution of the satellite images and the size
550 of the majority of the ADE sites, may be factors that are contributing to the contradicting results with
551 Thayn, et al. (2011) and Palace, et al. (2017). The majority of the ADE sites are less than 2 ha in size
552 (Kern, et al., 2003). However, the resolution of the MODIS series, the satellite images that Thayn, et
553 al. (2011) and Palace, et al. (2017) utilized, is 250 m per pixel (each pixel covers an area greater than
554 6 ha). The model presented in this research and the results of a pedestrian survey demonstrate that
555 there are sites that cannot be detected with the 250 m/pixel resolution. For example, CAX1, which is
556 an ADE site identified by the pedestrian survey, cannot be detected with 250 m/pixel resolution, since
557 it is surrounded by low-value clustering EVI values. On the other hand, in river valleys and areas with
558 sustained and ongoing forest resource management, oversampling of high-value EVI clusters limits
559 the potential applicability of the tool for use to locate ADE sites. Therefore, the results of this pilot
560 research suggest that the method developed here is most effective in identifying small (<6 ha) ADE
561 sites located on *terra firme* away from large riverine settings based on contrasting, adjacent EVI
562 cluster values, which are also those sites that are most difficult to locate on pedestrian survey.

563 The overall results presented indicate that EVI combined with spatial autocorrelation methods can
564 be a useful tool in tracing and calibrating landscape domestication in Amazonia. However, the modern
565 landscape represented in VIs is susceptible to modern human land use. Therefore, before identifying
566 landscape domestication through VIs, a firm understanding of the effects of modern land use on VIs
567 within a specific project area is required. It is also important to utilize satellite images with a spatial
568 resolution that fits the research purpose.

569

570 **5. Conclusion**

571

572 The results of the geospatial analyses conducted here offer an interpretation of the relationship
573 between soils, landscape domestication, and EVI in the FNC that can be applied more generally to
574 improve archaeological site detection in the Amazon and other tropical rainforest settings. This
575 research is one of the few regional level studies that involve remote sensing in Amazonia, while a
576 majority of the preceding research has set the scale of the research at a continental or sub-
577 continental level, covering the entire Amazonia. The results provided in this paper are context-specific
578 to the FNC, which cannot be uncritically applied to the general patterns of Amazonia. For example,
579 different statistical sorting thresholds of EVI values should be established based on the amount of
580 disturbance or cloud cover present in the satellite images. However, the method was designed to be
581 replicated and tested in other settings, most especially in circumstances to anticipate archaeological
582 surveys or conservation efforts aimed at preserving ADE. The satellite images used are free to the
583 public and software is off-the-rack (though proprietary) and commonly available at research
584 institutions.

585 Limiting the research area to the FNC is one of the most critical elements of this research. The
586 heterogeneity of the natural and anthropic environment in Amazonia has been repeatedly
587 demonstrated (McMichael, et al., 2014, Shepard and Ramirez, 2011). Therefore, an attempt to
588 understand the aspect or the scale of landscape domestication in Amazonia as a whole cannot be

589 achieved by a single research project, but by accumulating several regional scales research projects
590 of this nature. Also, the characteristics of the FNC as protected by the national government from
591 commercial logging, mining, and ranching, has created a semi-controlled research area. However,
592 this is not the case for most of the other regions in Amazonia. Therefore, although the results that
593 have been presented in this research may be further contextualized by future studies, it can provide a
594 starting point for the studies that attempt to trace and calibrate landscape domestication in Amazonia
595 on a regional scale. This also shows the importance of protected areas, not only for obvious
596 conservation purposes, but also for long-term monitored monitored/controlled scientific research on
597 climate, environment, etc.

598 While the application of the results of the research in other landscapes of Amazonia is needed,
599 further research on the relationship between vegetation structure and other elements of landscapes
600 should be explored for the application. Especially, more research is required on areas where modern
601 human land use has significant impact in which archaeological sites and endangered habitats are
602 more vulnerable to human destruction. Further understanding on the relationship between VIs and
603 landscape would assist monitoring natural and archaeological resources of Amazonia.

604

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606

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624

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626

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