

# Drought impact monitoring using an EO spatio-temporal data-cube

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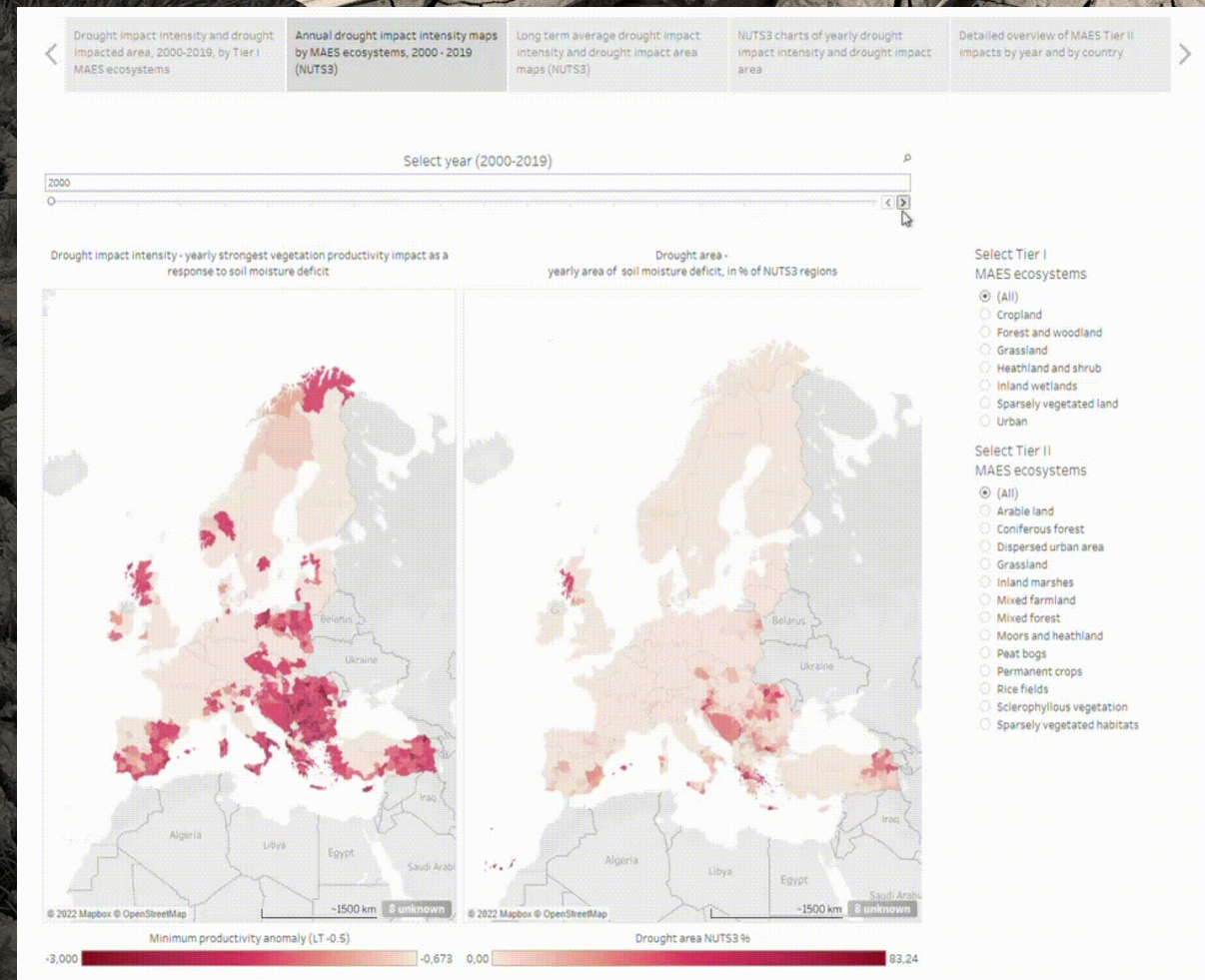


# What is drought and what are impacts?

- Recurring natural hazard which can occur anywhere in Europe.
- Propagates through the water cycle, e.g. soil moisture deficit, vegetation water stress, low groundwater levels, etc.
- Lack of precipitation as compared to average conditions/normal climatology.

- It causes:
  - Losses or destruction of wildlife habitats, increased stress on endangered species, loss of wetlands
  - Increased number of wildfires
  - Wind and water erosion of soils
  - Loss of harvest, poor soil quality, biodiversity and ecosystem service decline, loss of C sequestration

-> land degradation



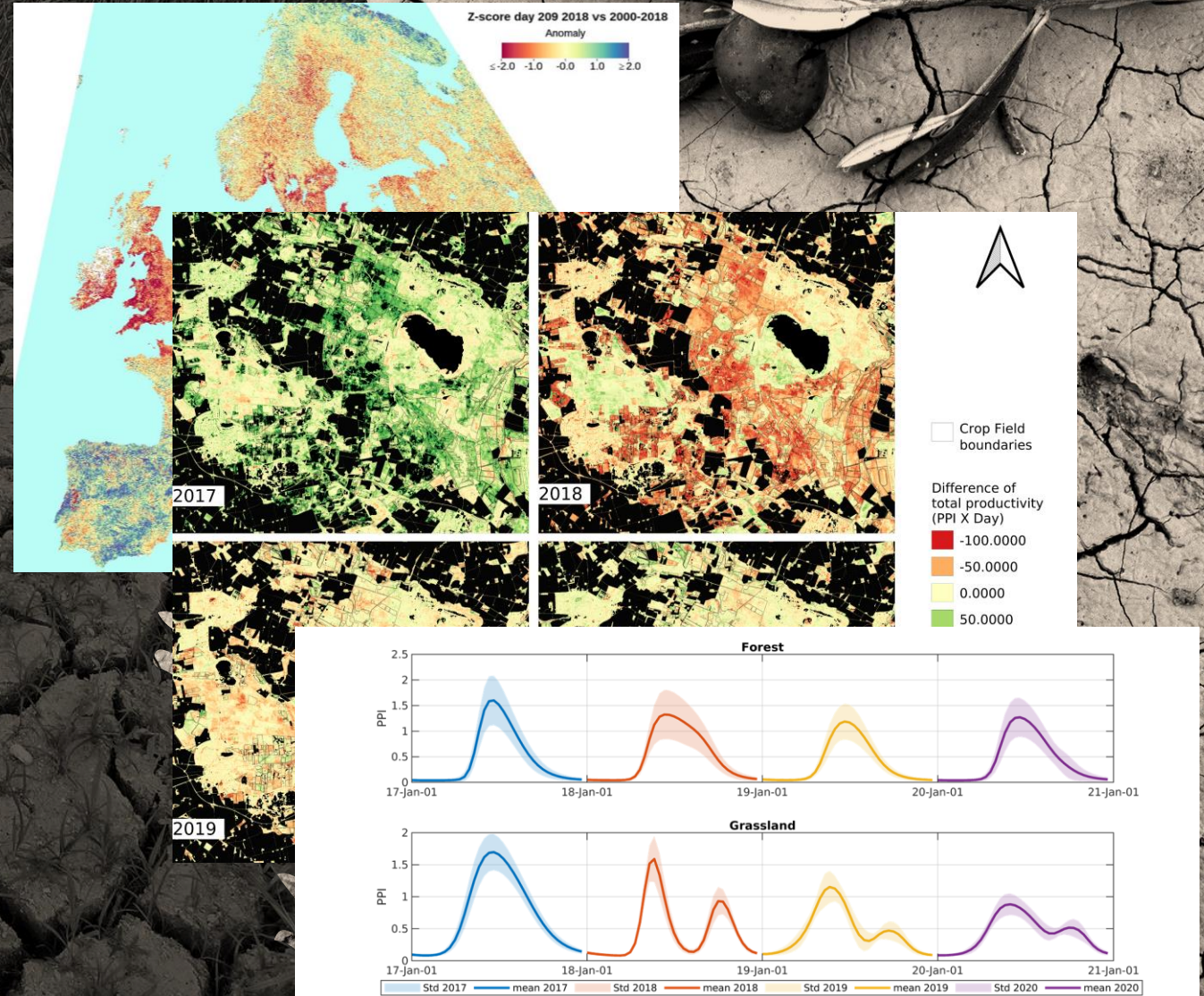


# Challenges

Impacts occur on a continental/global scale – but manifest locally.

Need to identify nature restoration options.

Deviation from normal condition needs long-term observations





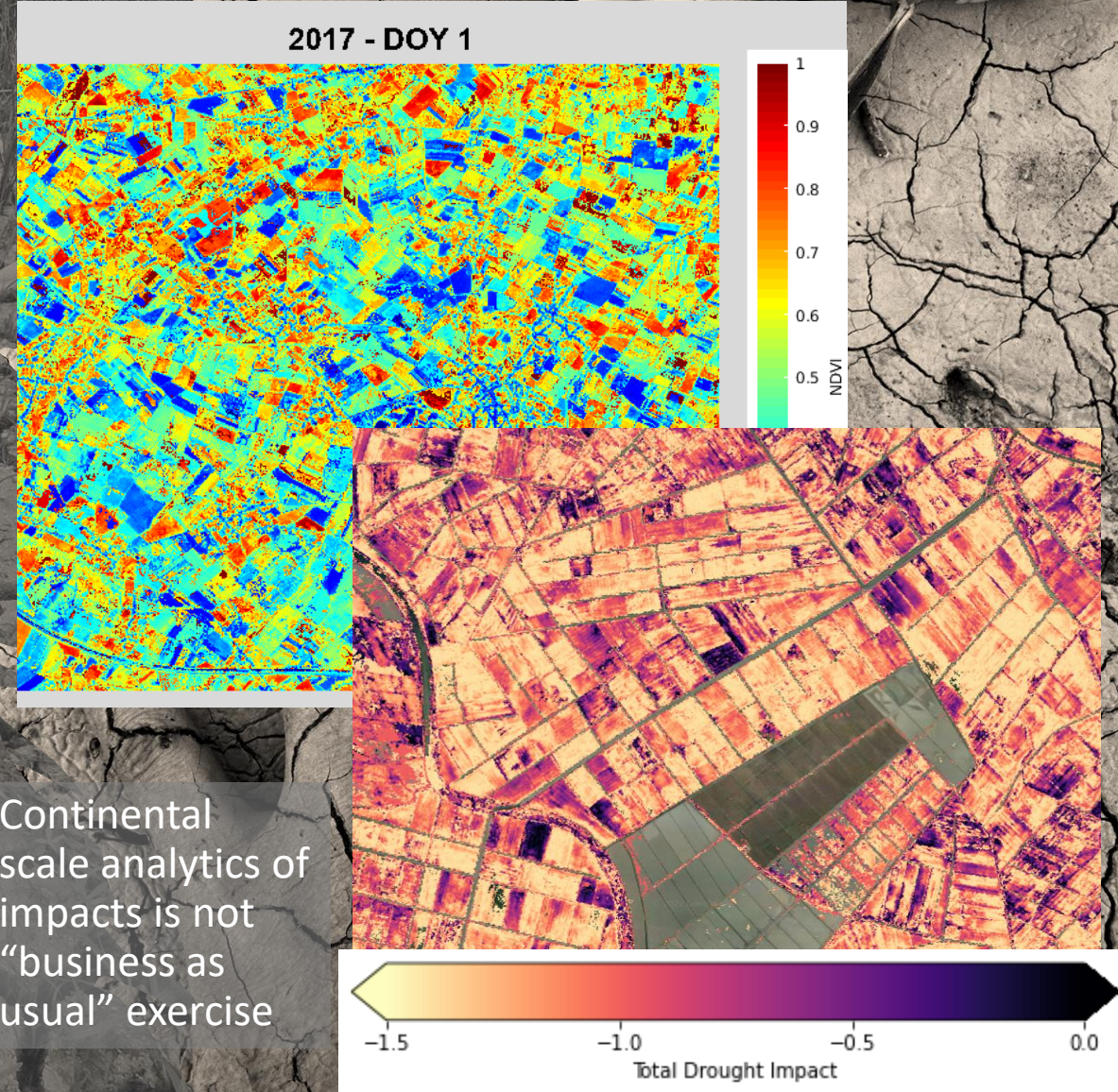
# Challenges

Impacts occur on a continental/global scale – but manifest locally

Impacts have to be monitored with high spatial and temporal resolution.

Copernicus Land Monitoring Service: **High Resolution Vegetation Phenology and Productivity** (10m resolution, every 10 days, from 2017 on).

- Handling > 1 Million Sentinel-2 input files (totals ~350 TB)
- Generating > 6 Million output files (totals 750 TB) on the WEKEO DIAS
- ~~Bring the data to the user~~ -> bring the user to the data

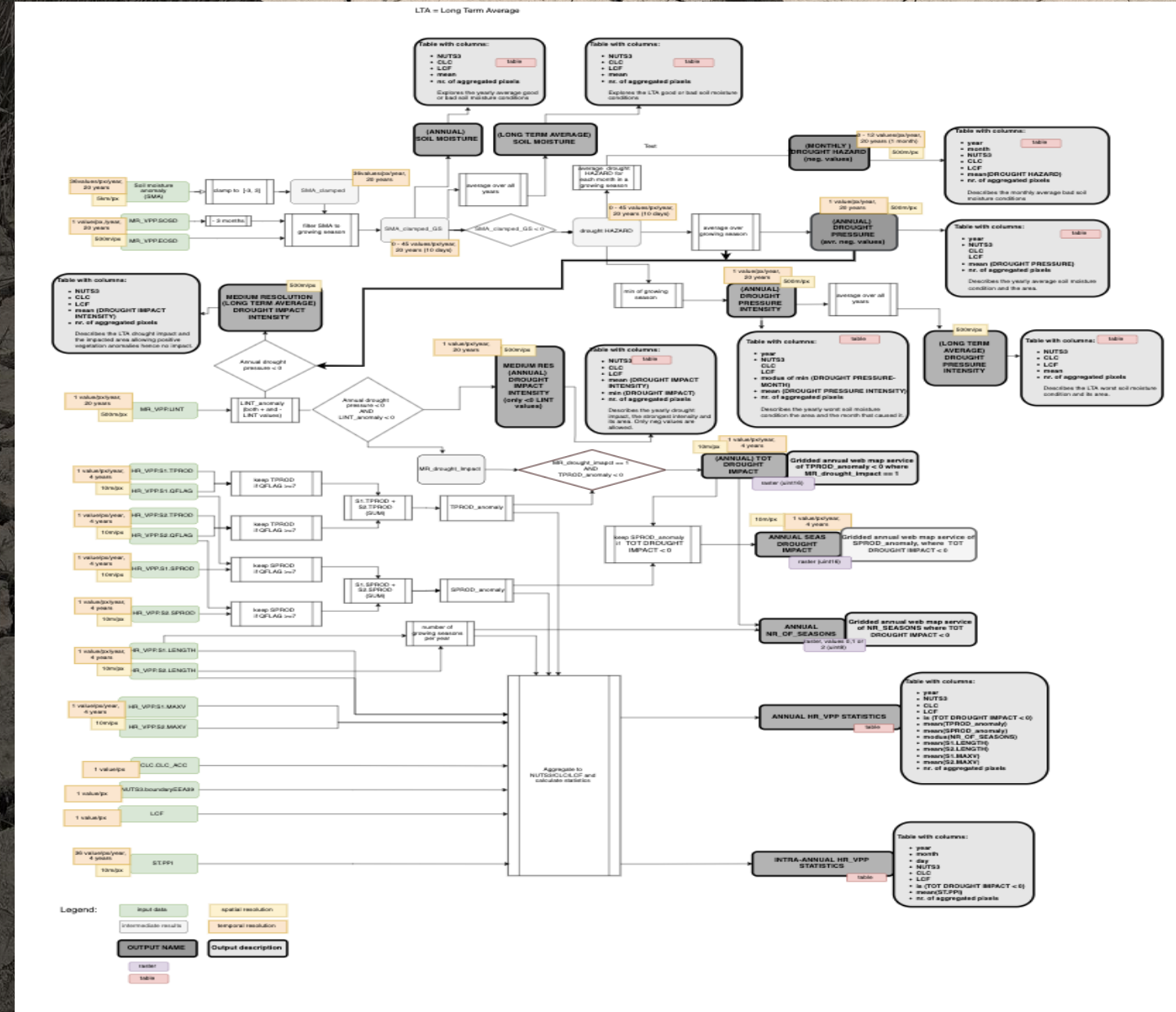




# Challenges

## Processing

- Need to flexibly apply ML algorithms, statistics, aggregation of results
- Test assumptions, adjust thresholds
- Explore results: charts and images
- Need to reiterate various parts of the workflow
- Where are my data???





**EURO DATA CUBE**

**OGC**

**python**

**API**

**DATA SERVICES**

**sentinelhub**  
on-the-fly & batch processing

**xcube**  
multi-temporal analysis (xarray)

**GeoDB**  
vector data service

**EOxHub**  
hosted app engine

**jupyterhub**  
jupyter Notebooks

**Algorithms**

**Apps**

**Data**

Access to full archives

Analysis Ready Data

**CLOUD**

**CREODIAS**  
powered by CloudFerro

**mundi**  
WEB SERVICES

**WEKEO**  
by COPERNICUS

**aws**

**Copernicus**  
Europe's eyes on Earth

**USGS**  
science for a changing world

EO commercial in-situ sensor GIS data

**Thematic data**

**SINERGISE**

**BROCKMANN CONSULT GMBH**

**EOX**

**gisat**

**planet.**

**sentinelhub**



# Approach

- Past approach
  - Drought assessment done on medium resolution (500 m)
  - Could be done on a work station, with several hours of processing
- Upscaling to 10-meter resolution
  - 500m -> 10m = 2500 x more data
  - input volume – PB-level (Soil Moisture, MR-VPP, HR-VPP, auxiliary)
  - processing time should be in the order of one day
    - how to iterate?

```
## 1.2 ANNUAL AND LONG-TERM AVERAGE DROUGHT INTENSITY <a id='1.2'></a>

def calc_annual_drought_intensity(cube_moisture, cube_phenology, years_names):
    drought_intensity_values = np.zeros_like(cube_phenology['sos_doy_3m'].compute().data)
    cube_moisture_flattened = cube_moisture['anomaly_filtered'].values.flatten()
    for time in range(len(cube_phenology.time.data)):
        start_ind_season = cube_phenology.isel(time = time)['SOS_start_ind'].values.flatten()
        end_ind_season = cube_phenology.isel(time = time)['EOS_start_ind'].values.flatten()

        drought_intensity_values[time, :, :] = np.reshape(np.array([np.nanmin(cube_moisture_flattened[np.arange(int(start_ind_season[x]) if not np.isnan(start_ind_season[x]) else -32768 for x in range(end_ind_season - start_ind_season + 1))])]), drought_intensity_values.shape[1:])

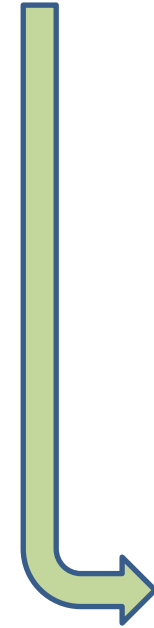
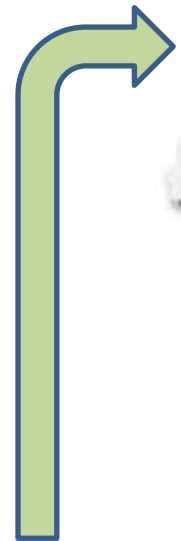
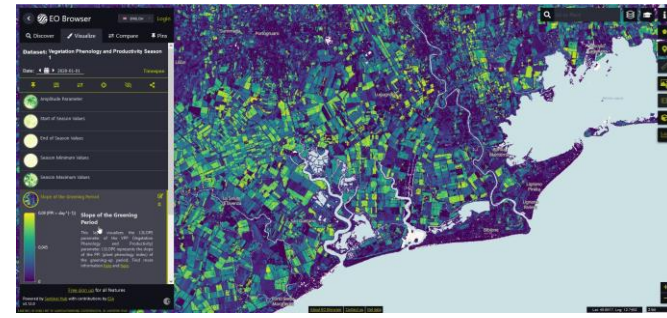
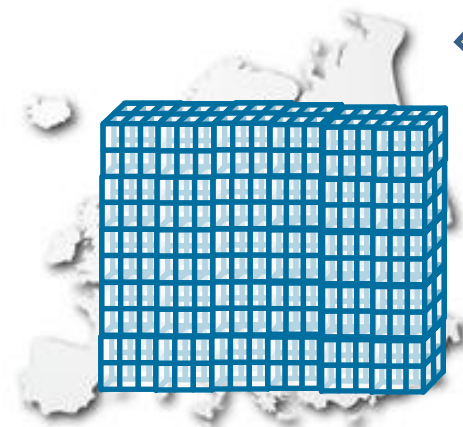
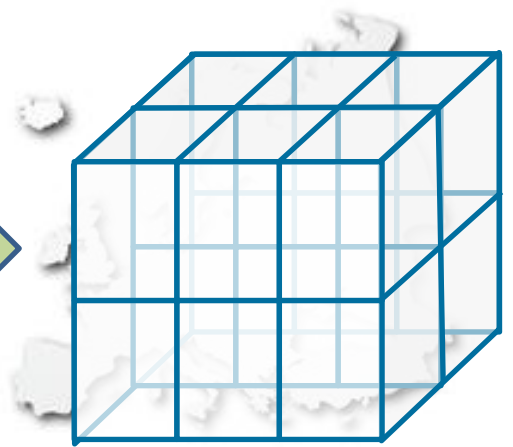
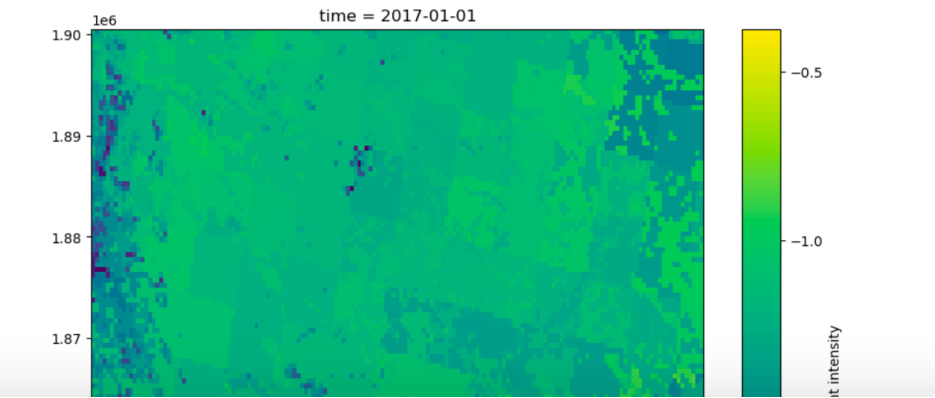
    cube_drought_intensity = xr.DataArray(drought_intensity_values, dims = ['time', 'y', 'x'], name = 'Annual drought intensity',
        coords = {'time': np.array([dt.datetime(item, 1, 1) for item in years_names])},
        cube_drought_intensity = cube_drought_intensity.where(cube_drought_intensity <= 0, 0)
        cube_drought_intensity = cube_drought_intensity.where(cube_drought_intensity != -32768, np.nan)

    return cube_drought_intensity

annual_drought_intensity = calc_annual_drought_intensity(sma_xcube, MRVFP_xcube, years_names_excl_2020)
long_term_drought_intensity = annual_drought_intensity.mean(axis = 0) # long-term drought is just taking the mean over

Visualize annual drought intensity

annual_drought_intensity.sel(time='2017-01-01 12:00:00', method='nearest').plot.imshow(figsize=(10, 10))
plt.show()
```







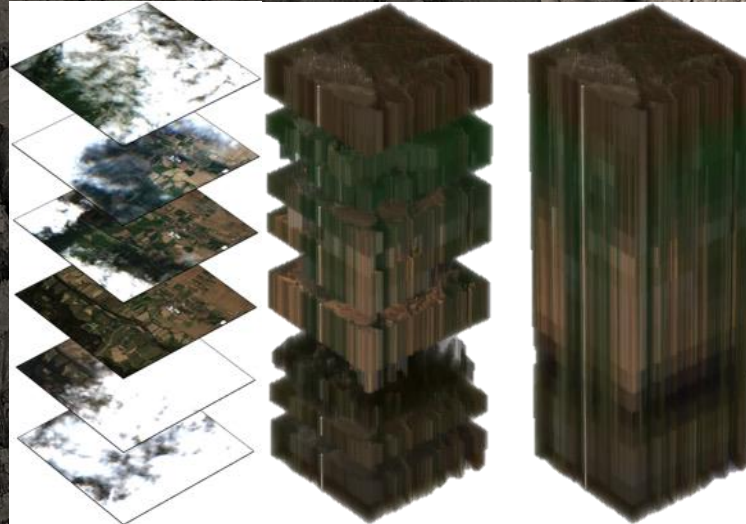
# Tools used

- Wekeo @ CreoDIAS
  - HR-VPP data as generated by Copernicus Services
  - Storage of derived data
- Sentinel Hub @ CreoDIAS
  - Bring your own data (HR-VPP, MR-VPP, AUX) – no duplication!
  - Batch Processing
- EOxHub Workspace + xcube
  - Management of the process, analysis of results
- EO Browser
  - Visualisation of results, quick analysis

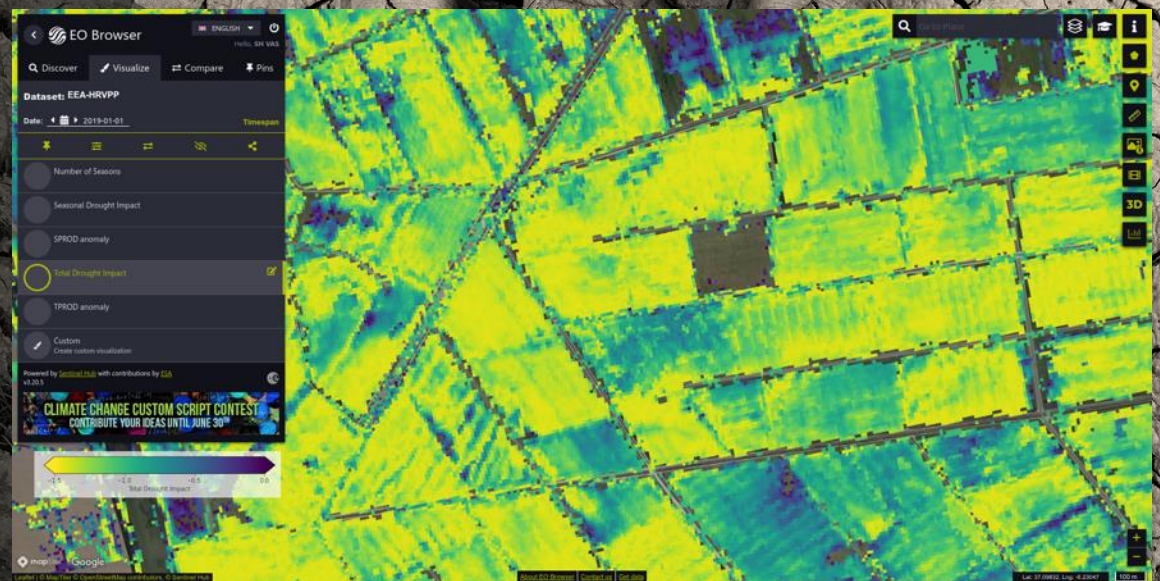
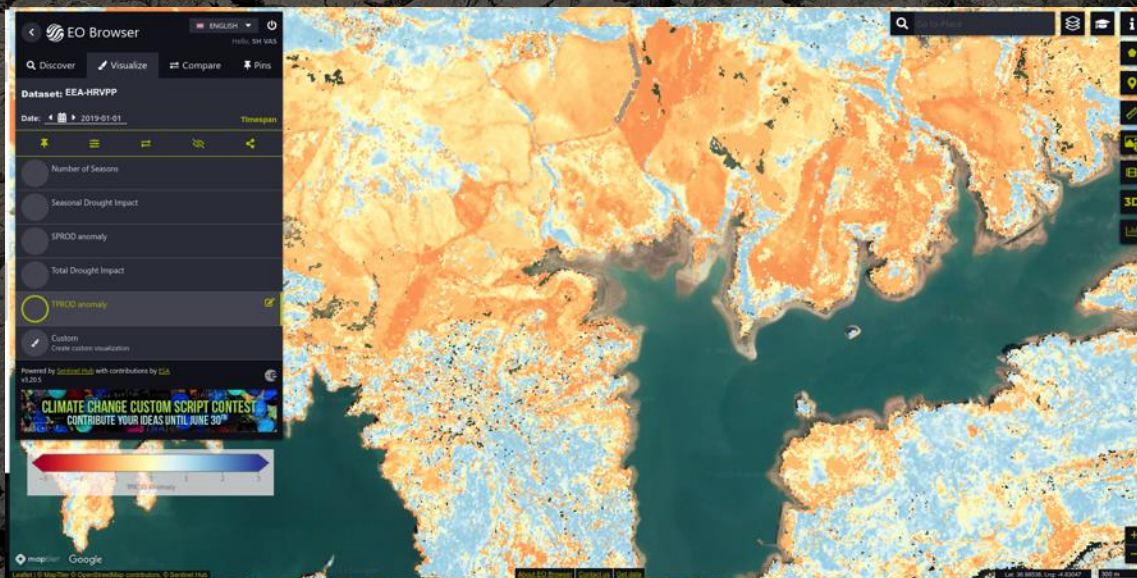
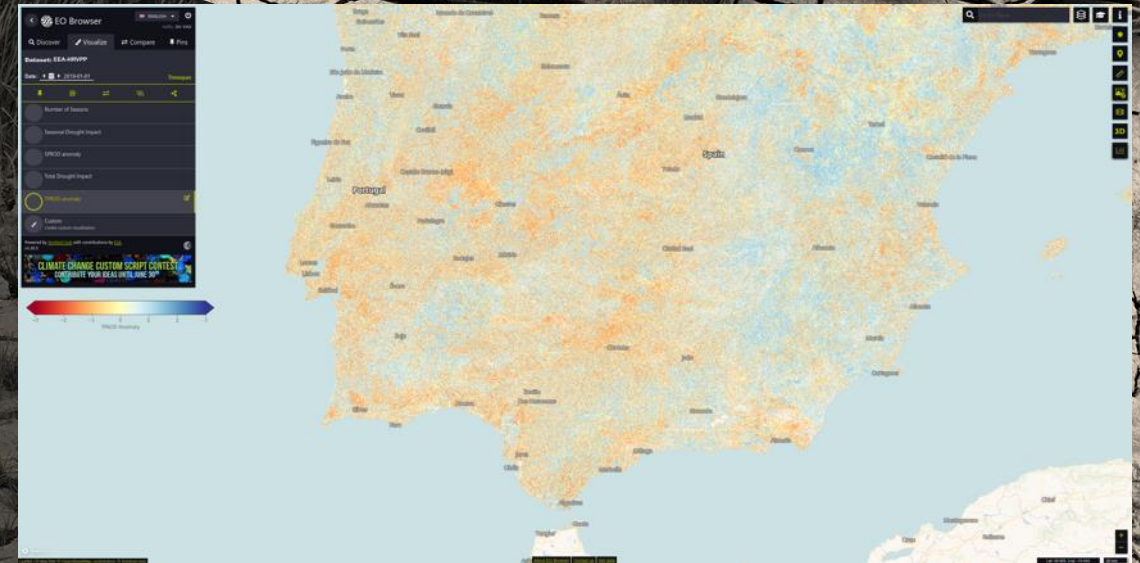


# Sentinel Hub Batch Processing

- Request data at large scale – either spatial or temporal.
- Run your algorithm for a whole continent.
- Pre-process vast amount of data.
- Execute, monitor for updates, follow-up processes



# EO Browser





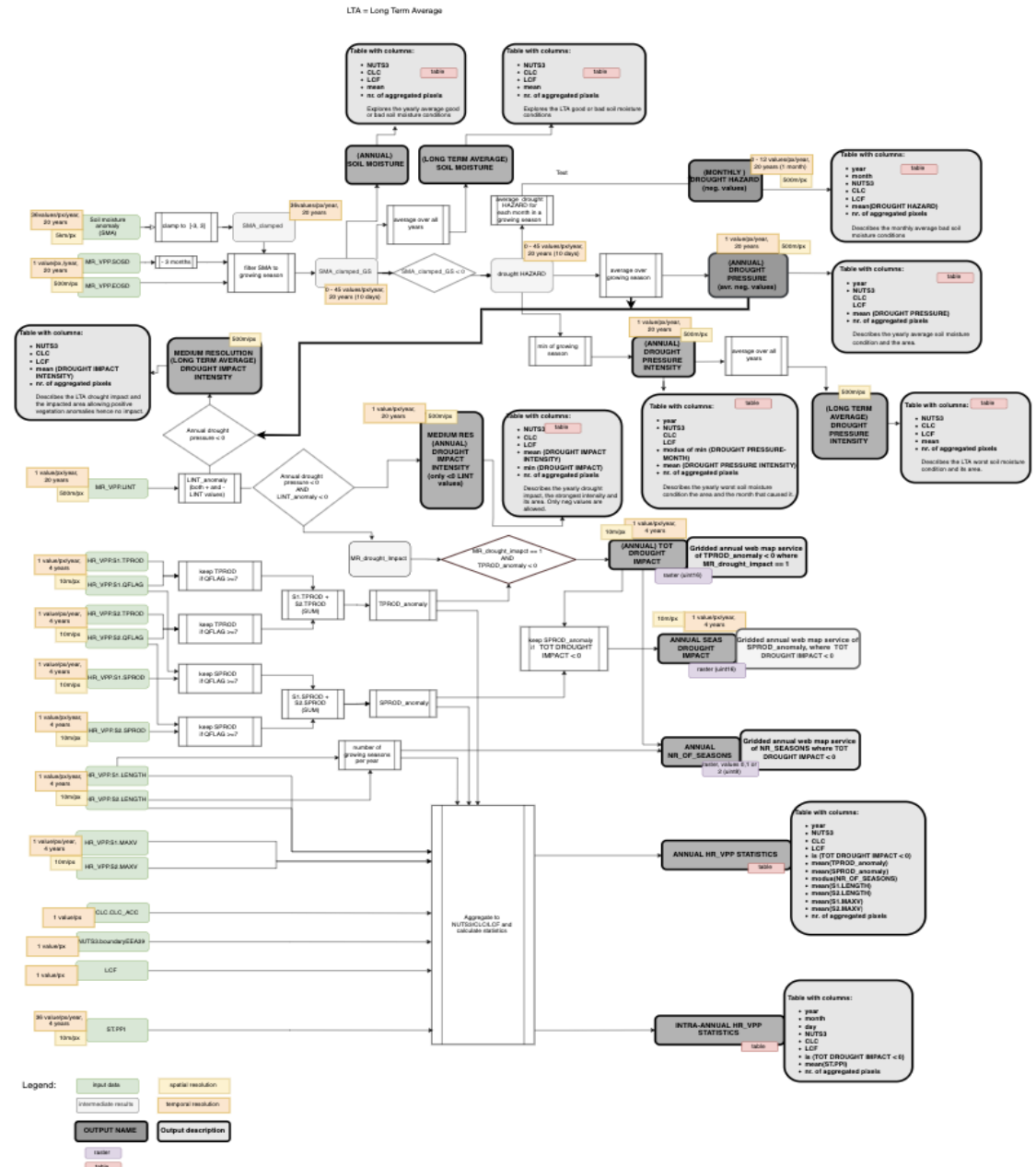
# Processing at continental scale

- 0.75 PB of data
- 50.000 processing hours (@500 VMs)
  - 10s of thousands of S3 requests per second
- 10-15.000 EUR per run



# Technical challenges

- Overall diagram not overly complicated but devil is in details
- Each element represents a rule based on data from different sources, different time periods (current/annual/multi-annual) – difficult to contemplate, in mind, what is happening – how to debug?
- How to convert diagram into Python/Evalscript
- Impossible to have all pixels in memory – how to grid to not corrupt spatial/temporal statistics
- How to efficiently mix MR and HR data





# Challenges

Need to bring the right message to the right user

## The overall message

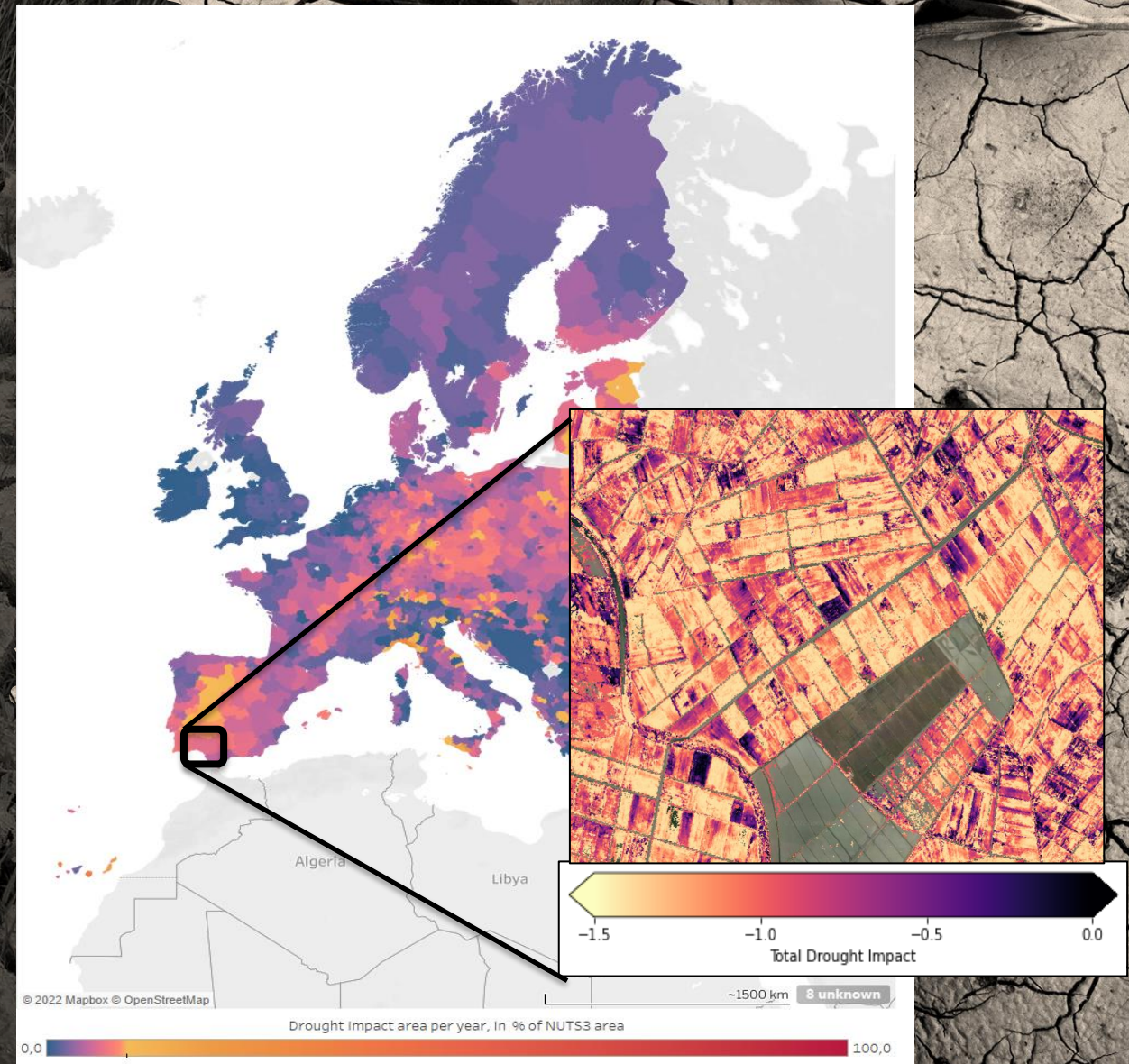
- The last decade saw the most intense droughts, forest area impacted increased continuously from 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2017 to 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2019.

## The detailed message

- Croplands were most impacted in Portugal, forest productivity decline was highest in Sweden, grasslands were mostly affected in Austria.

## The very detailed message

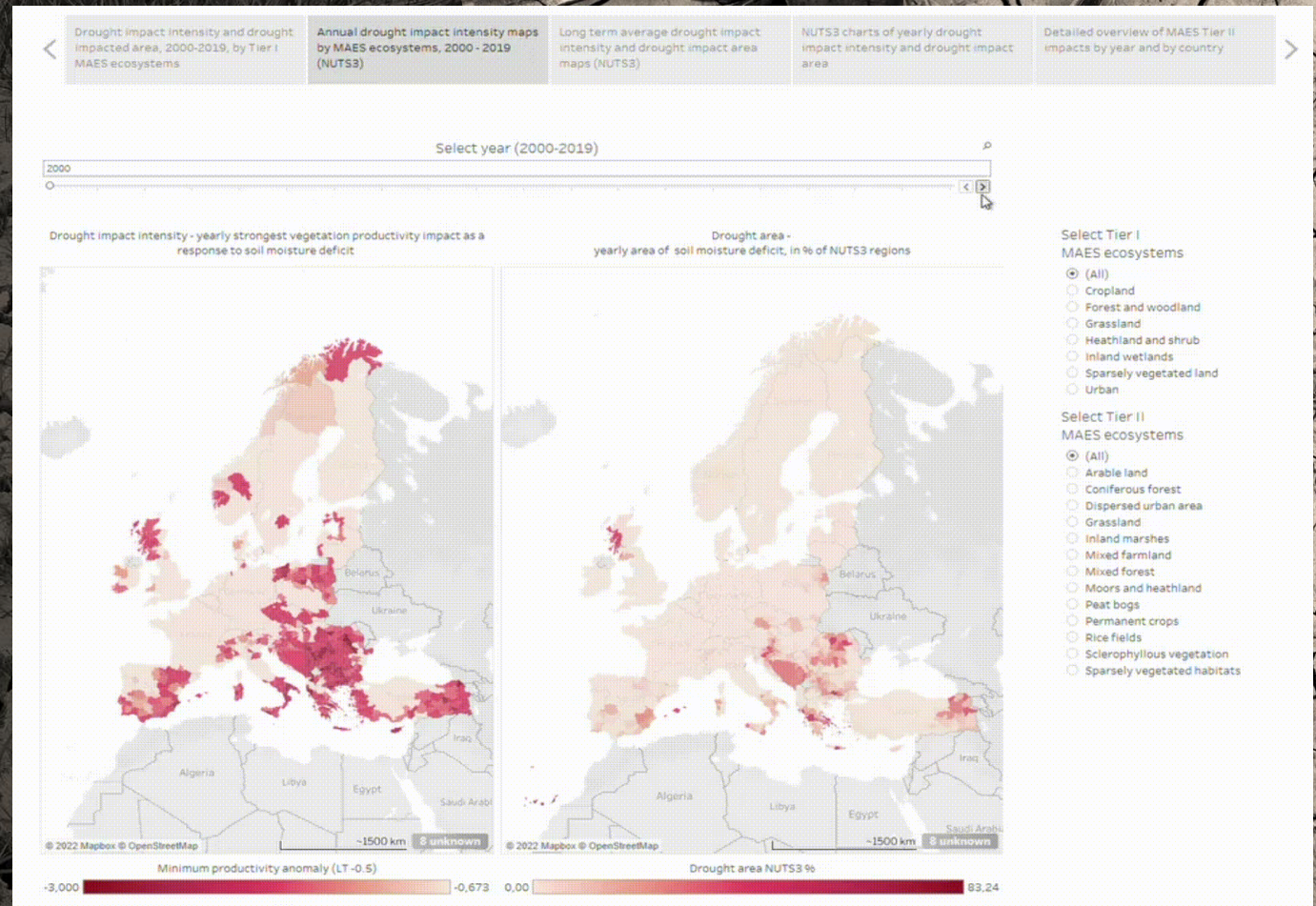
- Which region do we need to support most financially?





# Future potential

- Empowering EEA (and other) users to do these steps alone
- Flexibly ingest new datasets (e.g. GPP, ESAs biomass mission)
- Integration of results in dashboards (LISE, Explore Europe, EEA website)
- Offer a platform for policy, academia and industry to work together
- Facilitate nature restoration investments
- Monitor impacts near-real-time and near-real-detail
- Digital Twin!

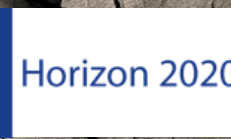




# More info

- <https://eurodatacube.com>
- <https://sentinel-hub.com/>
- <https://apps.sentinel-hub.com/eo-browser/>

Thank you for your attention



European Environment Agency







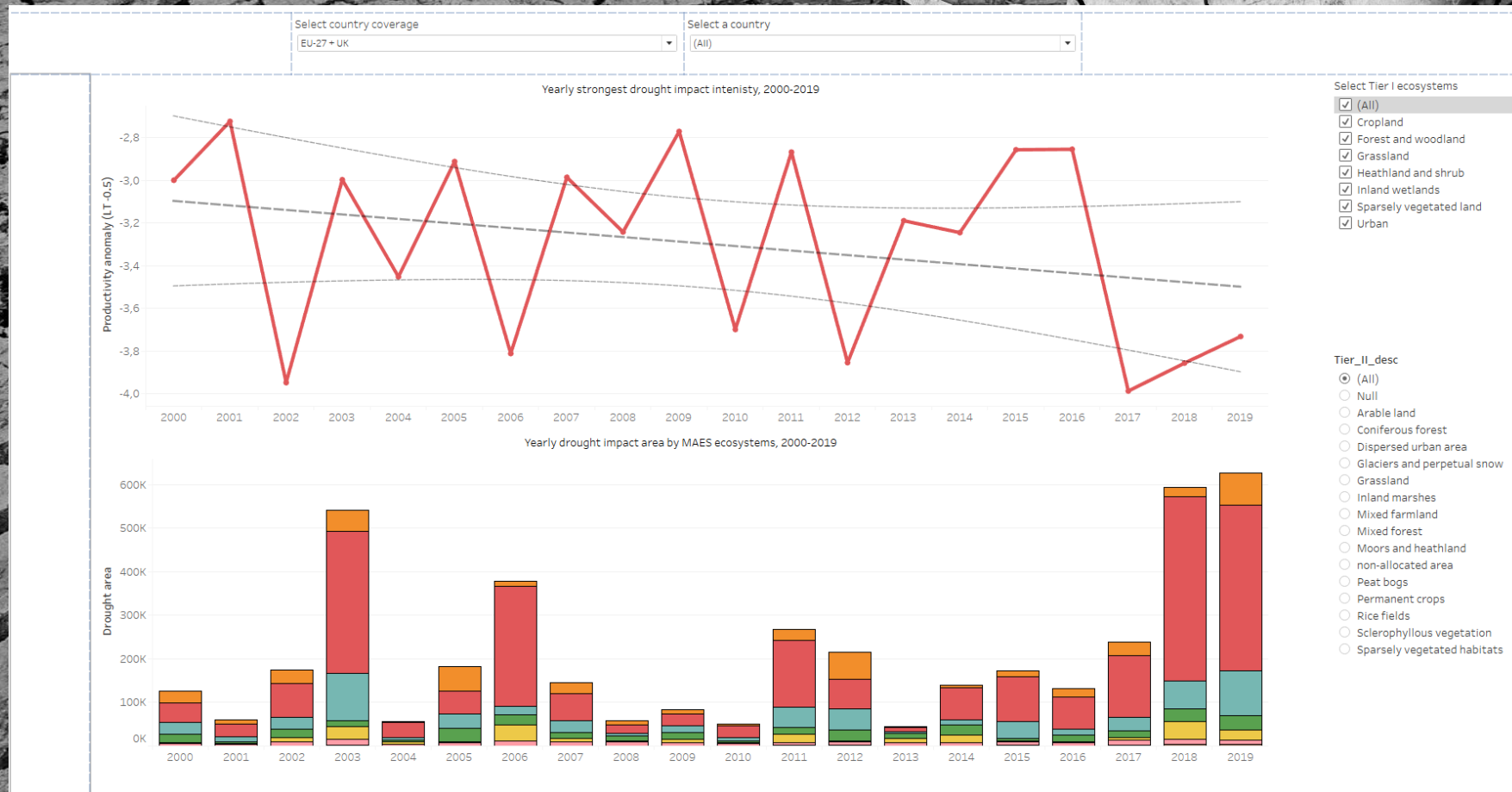
# Challenges

- Impacts occur on global scale, but manifest based on local conditions
- Data needs:
  - deviation from normal condition needs long-term observations
  - coverage, temporal frequency, spatial resolution
- Modelling needs – additional explanatory variables
- Need to flexibly apply ML algorithms, statistics, aggregation of results
- Need to reiterate various parts of the workflow
- Need to bring the right message to the right user



# Challenges

Impacts depend on local conditions -



# Challenges

Need to bring the right message to the right user

## The big picture

- Between 2000 and 2019, Europe was affected by severe droughts
- The last decade saw the most intense drought years
- The annual vegetation productivity loss was 3%
- forest area impacted increased continuously from 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2017 to 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2019.

## The detailed picture

- In proportion of its territory Malta, Cyprus, Lithuania, Portugal, Czechia, Bulgaria and Spain was impacted the most

## The more detailed picture

- Between 2000 and 2019, Europe was affected by severe droughts
- The last decade saw the most intense drought years
- The annual vegetation productivity loss was 3%
- forest area impacted increased continuously from 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2017 to 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2019.



# Challenges



- Volume of data, cost of data storage
- Long processing time makes it inefficient/impossible to iterate
- Difficult to even review the results
- Difficult to find errors, to fix errors