Urban tree cover and temperature
Final Project Presentation

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Studies of Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS)

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Contents

1. Research rationale
2. Methodology
3. Research Location Tokyo
4. Pre-Processing
5. Model Fitting
6. Results
7. Interpretation

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The role of urban trees in reducing land surface temperatures in European cities

Prepared by researchers of ETH Zurich

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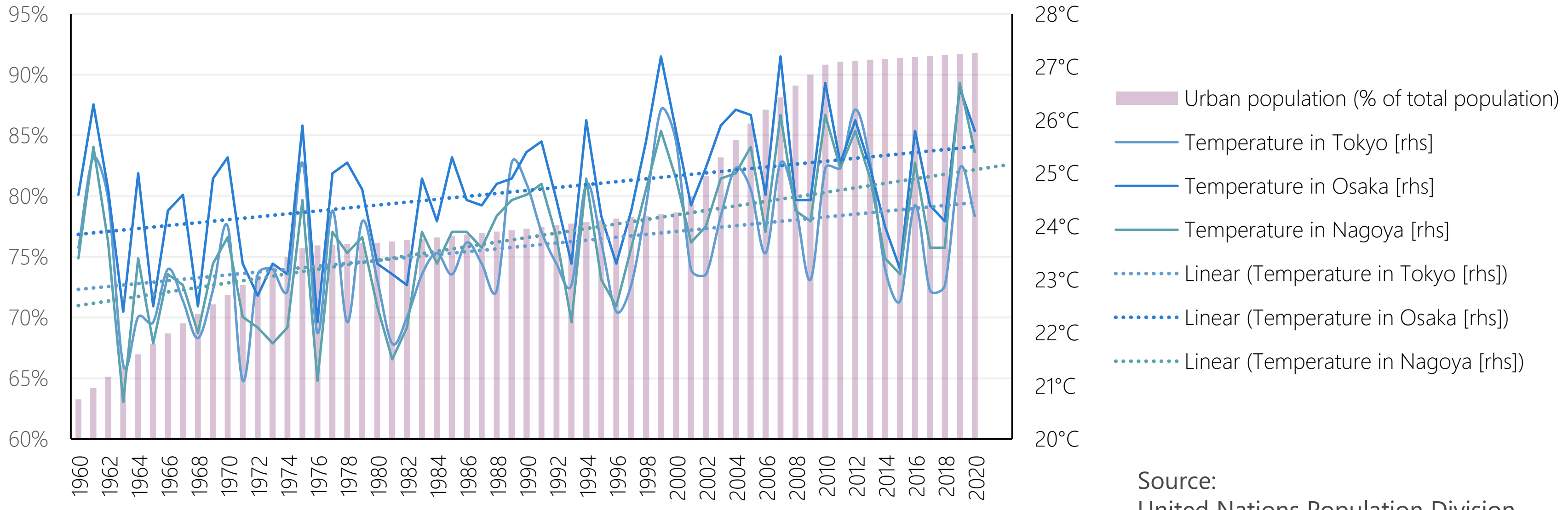
Research Rationale

Emerging Urban Heat Islands

Exemplary Urban Forest Ecosystem Services

- Water provisioning
- Oxygen provision and carbon sequestration
- Land surface temperature regulation
- Erosion and flooding protection
- Non-wood and wood products

Source: Hiemstra et al. (2017)



Source:
United Nations Population Division
Japan Meteorological Agency

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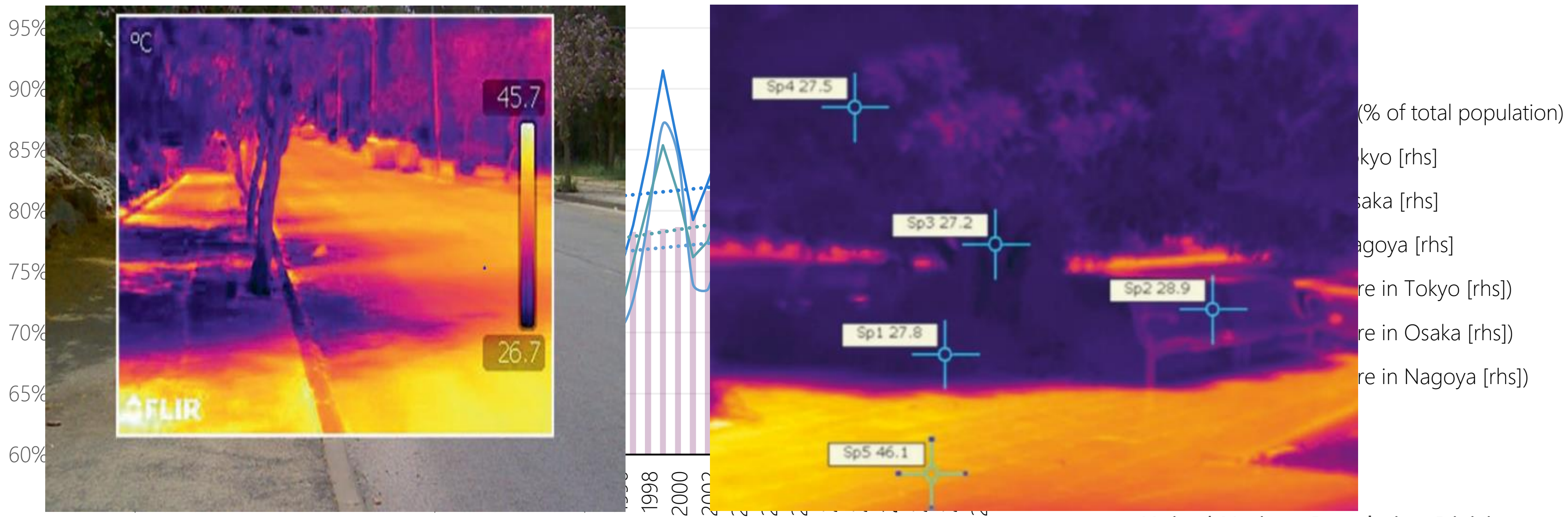


United Nations Population Division
Japan Meteorological Agency

Methodology

Comparison		
Authors	Schwaab et al. (2021)	Our approach
Country		
City	Various	Tokyo
Köppen classification	Cfb, Csa	Cfa
Methods	Generalized Additive Model	Generalized Additive Model
Data source	Landsat 30m LULC Copernicus Urban Atlas EU-DEM v1.0	Landsat 8 LST 30m from RS Lab HRLULC from JAXA Japanese-DEM from JAXA MODIS Vegetation Model from NASA
Data requirement: Imagery	Minimum 80 per city	*>36 for Tokyo**
Data requirement: Timeframe	across 12 years	*across 3 years**
Results	Urban trees contribute towards cooling, but extend depends on climate	…

Data availability...

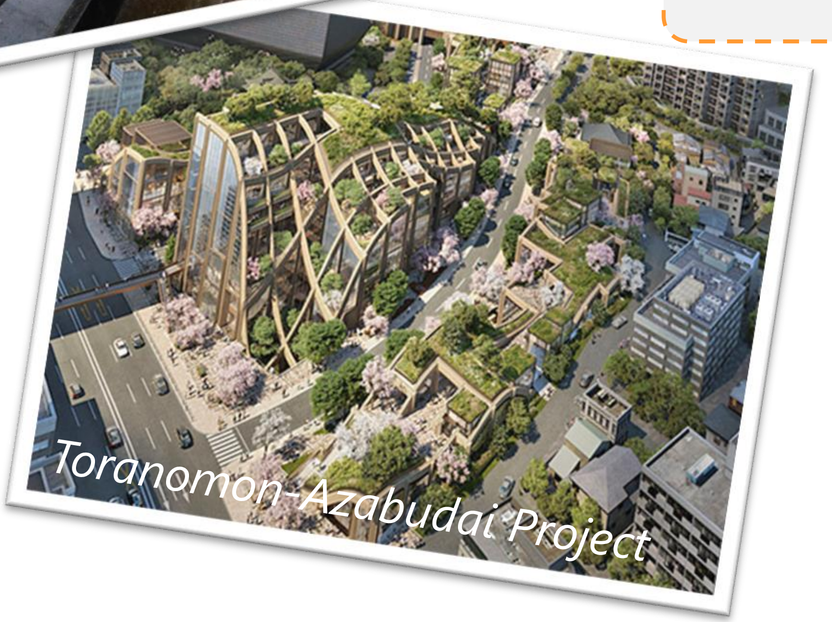
The role of urban trees in reducing land surface temperatures in European cities

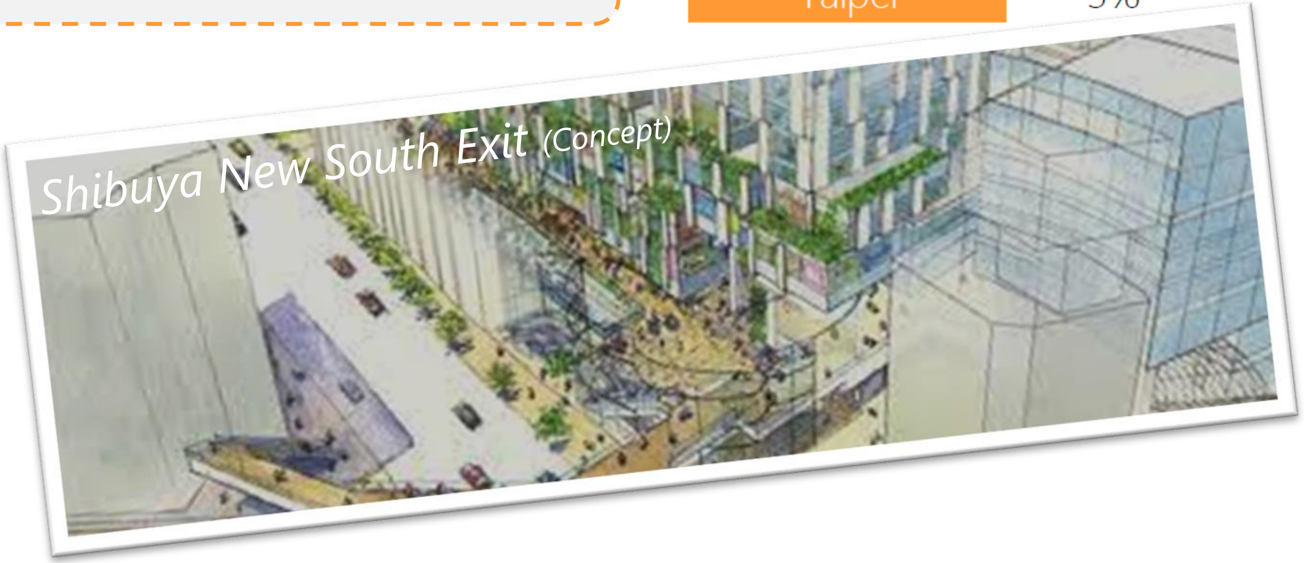
Research Location Tokyo

- Tailwind for existing change
- Personal interest
- Upside potential

Share of Urban green space (2015 data)
Source: World Cities Culture Forum (2022)

Singapore	47%
Chengdu	42%
Shenzhen	41%
Nanjing	41%
Hong Kong	40%
Seoul	28%
Guangzhou	20%
Shanghai	16%
Tokyo	7.5%
Taipei	3%

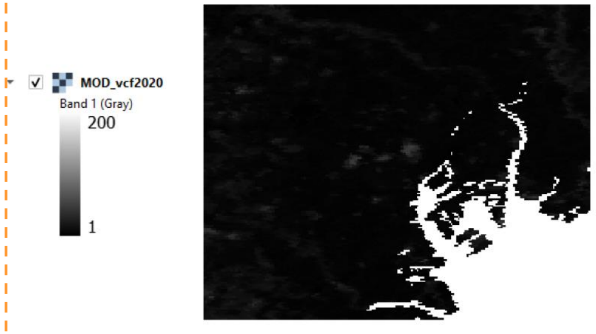




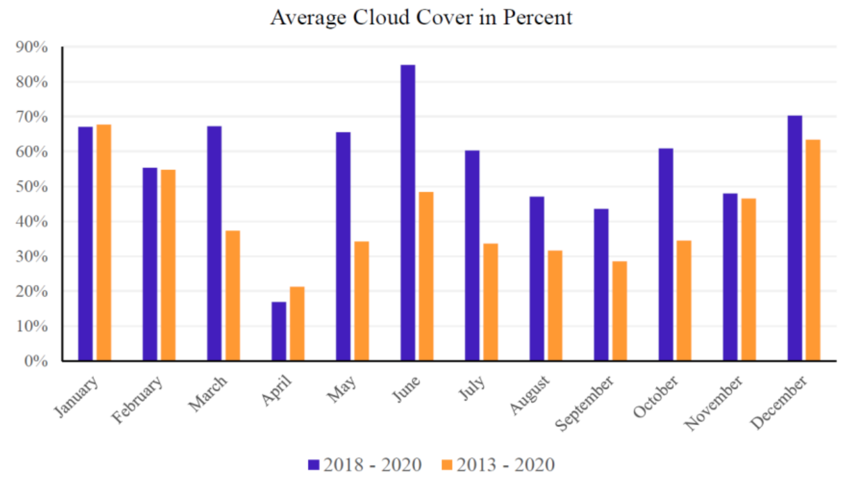
Pre-processing

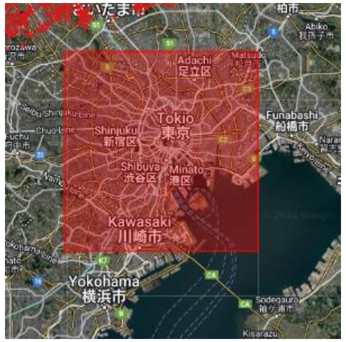
LST Selection process

- Data acquisition
- Cloud Cover calculation
- Timeframe selection
- Filtering

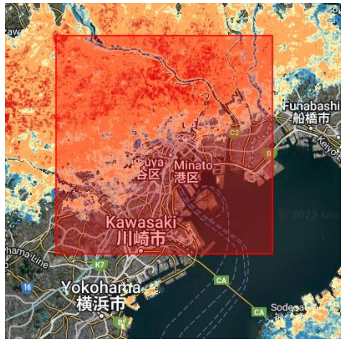


Calculation of water-share (15.2%)
Exceeding water pixels are cloud-cover



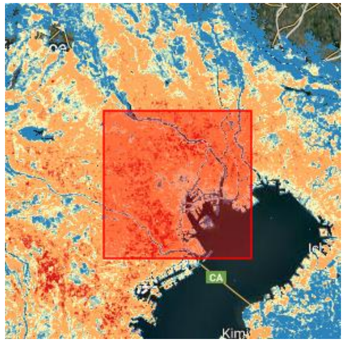


85% (max) cloud cover



61% cloud cover

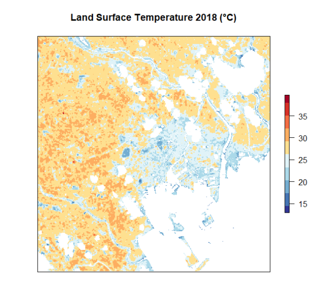
40% cloud cover



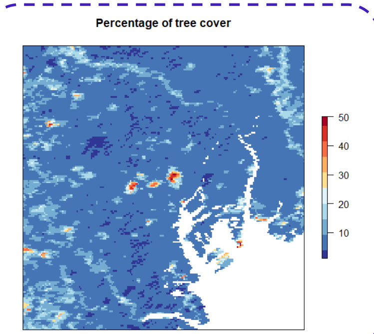
1.2% (min) cloud cover

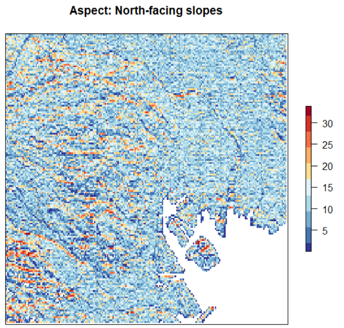
Omitted, 25% as maximum permitted

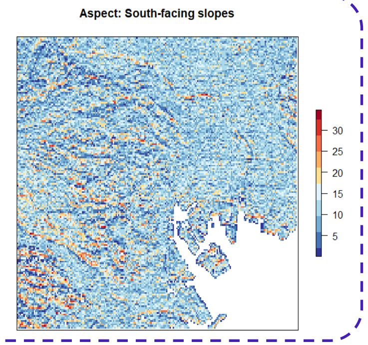
Model Fitting



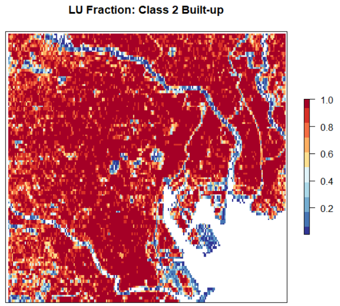
X- and Y-coordinates as a two-dimensional smooth product in the model to minimize ***spatial autoregression.***
Beale et al. (2010)

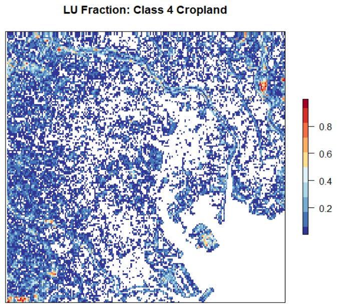


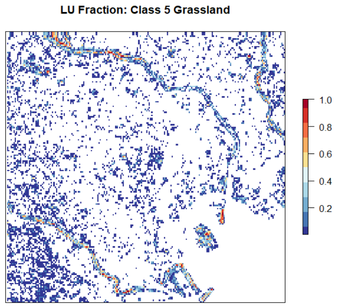


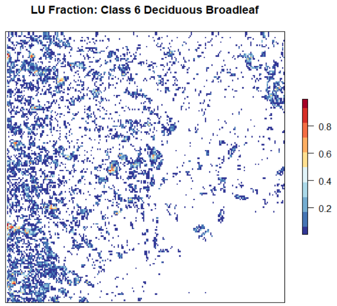


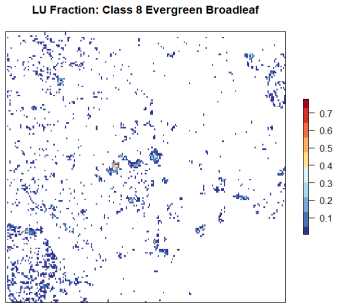
$$LST = \beta_0 + \boxed{f_1(x,y)} + \boxed{f_2(VCF)} + \boxed{f_3(LULC_1, LULC_2, \ldots, LULC_9)} + \boxed{f_4(DEM_1, DEM_2)} + \epsilon$$

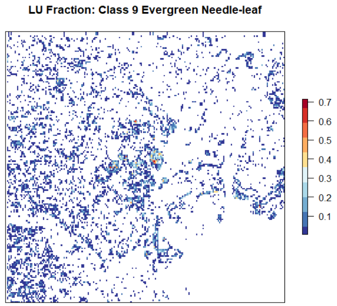






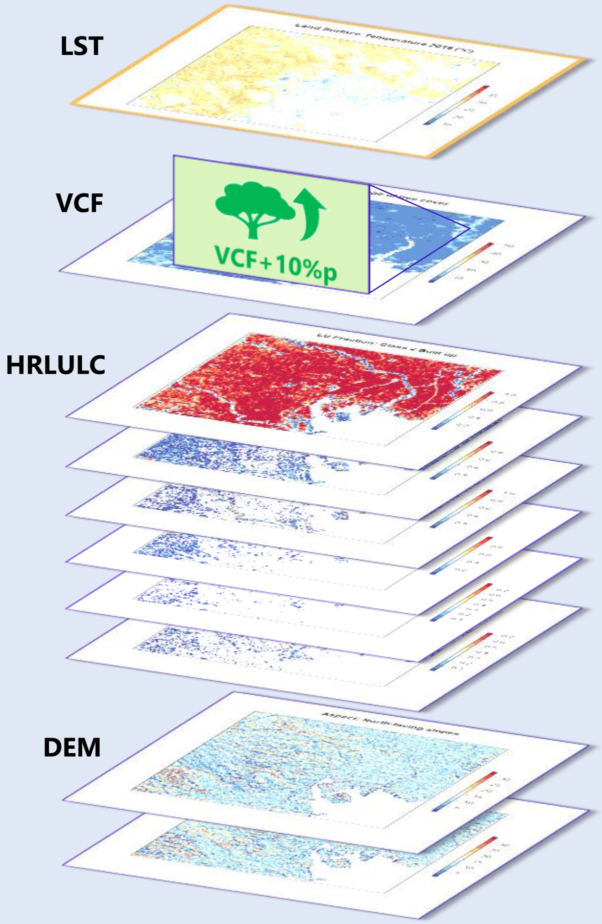




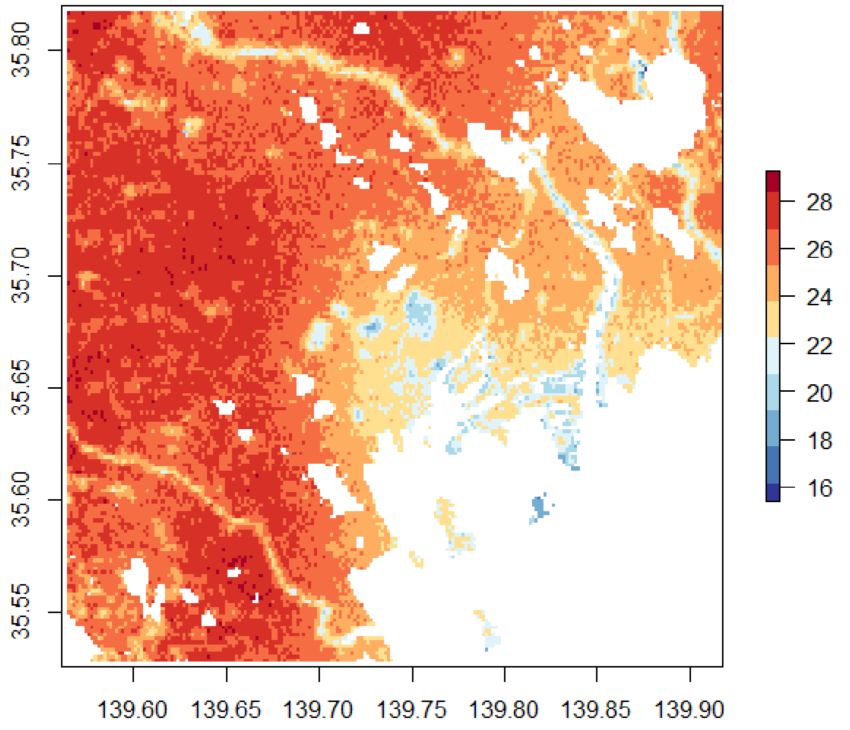


Our results (1)

Generalized additive model



Land Surface Temperature (+10% cover) 2018



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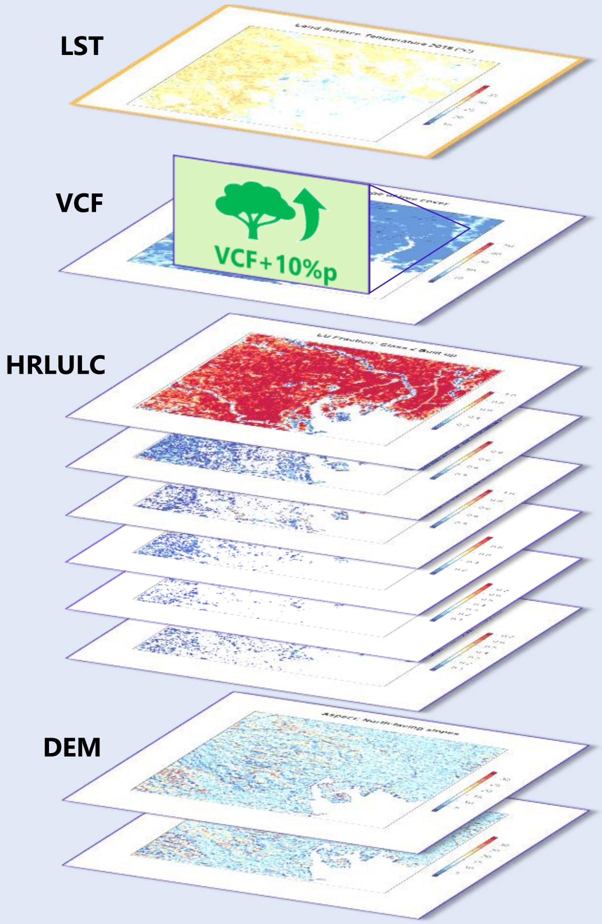

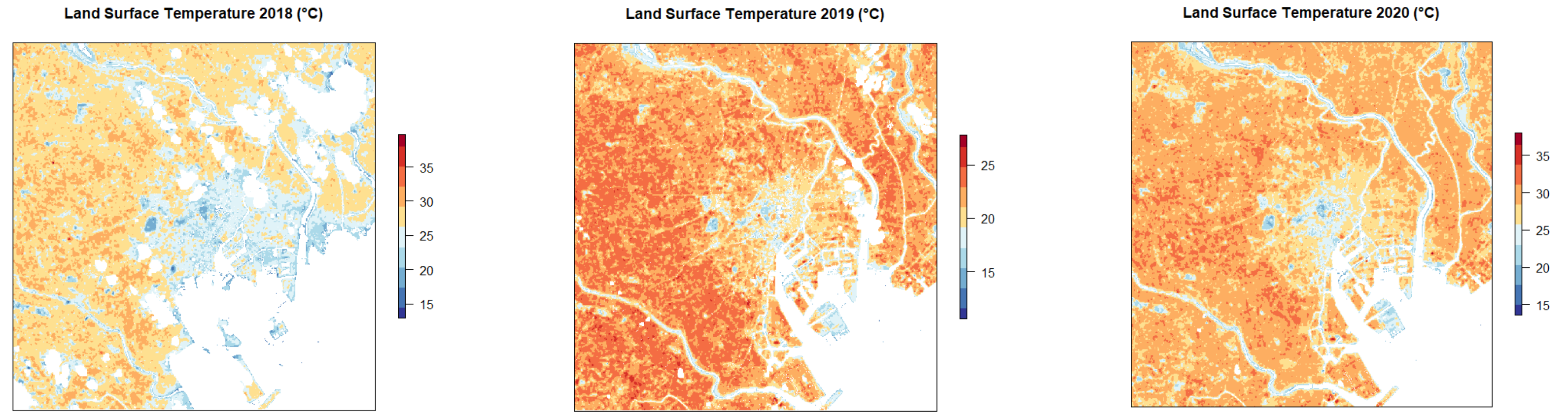

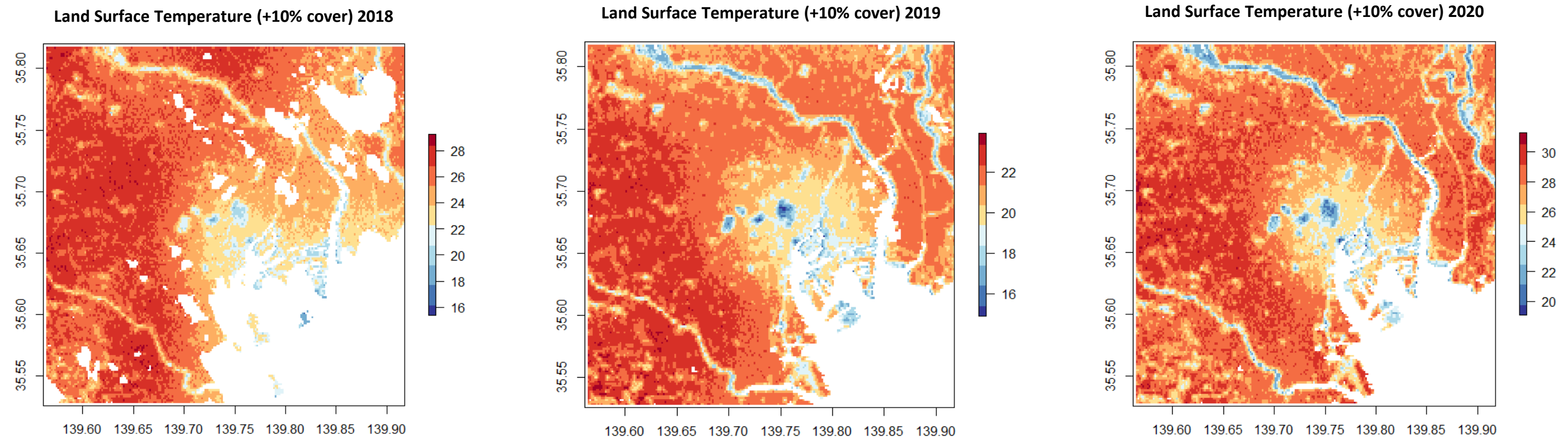

Our results (2)

Linear regression model

Year	2018	2019	2020
Date	08/04/2018	11/04/2019	29/04/2020
Cloud Cover	17.9%	3.9%	1.2%
LST - VCF corr	-0.321	-0.337	-0.447
Intercept (β_0)	23.06274***	17.385577***	23.349387***
vcf_2018	-0.09823***	-0.024348***	-0.046549***
lu_percent_2	3.94643***	4.107929***	5.687862***
lu_percent_4	3.07862***	2.896111***	3.767533***
lu_percent_5	-0.66237	-2.300663***	-2.240579***
lu_percent_6	-0.60247	0.817421**	-0.567646
lu_percent_8	-2.40762*	-0.336959	0.499397
lu_percent_9	-7.51984***	-6.891491***	-6.783993***
Northface_sum	0.04632**	0.047787***	0.034412**
Southface_sum	0.05804***	0.085887***	0.037603**
R-squared	0.4854	0.5573	0.6147
Adjusted R-squared	0.4825	0.5551	0.6128
Significance codes:	'***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05		

VCF is significantly correlated with LST!

Generalized additive model

Year	2018	2019	2020
Date	08/04/2018	11/04/2019	29/04/2020
Cloud Cover	17.9%	3.9%	1.2%
R-squared	0.560	0.633	0.679
Deviance explained	56.30%	63.50%	68.10%
Pre-adjustment			
VCF	6.58%	6.80%	6.80%
LST mean	26.9°C	21.9°C	28.7°C
LST st.dev	2.4°C	1.7°C	2.7°C
LST min.	12.6°C	15.4°C	13.5°C
LST max.	41.1°C	27.7°C	38.4°C
	Prediction (+10% vegetation cover)		
Post-adjustment			
VCF	16.58%	16.80%	16.80%
LST mean	25.7°C	21.4°C	27.8°C
LST st.dev	1.7°C	1.3°C	1.7°C
LST min.	15.4°C	14.9°C	19.1°C
LST max.	29.2°C	23.9°C	31.3°C

Cooling range of [0.5; 1.2] °C while reducing St.dev

Interpretation

Limitation

- Data availability
- Albedo
- Optimization vs. Expansion

Authors	Country	City	Input	Impact
Wong et al. (2011)		Singapore	10%p	[-0.9°C , -1.2°C]
Stepanie et al. (2022)		Jakartha	10%p 40%p	[-1.5°C, -2.5°C]
Huang et al. (1987)		Multiple	10%p 25%p	11-18% 25-42% electricity reduction p.a
Wong et al. (2011)		Singapore	-1.2°C	4.5% electricity reduction p.a for adjacent buildings
Chen and Wong (2006)		Guangzhou	-1°C	5% electricity reduction p.a.
Yabe (2005)		Tokyo	+1°C	0.45% base-load increase, 180 MWh per peak-load

Quite in line with existing research and effects! (De Frenne et al. (2019)

Higher vegetation cover desirable – plant trees in the right spots to reap benefits!

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Thank you for your attention!

Any comment, question or criticism would be highly appreciated!