



MUSA 6950
Final Project

Asian Elephants Migration Corridor Planner

Yuanhao Zhai





Background & Context

Abnormal Migration Activity

BBC

Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Travel Earth Video Live

China elephants: 150,000 evacuated from path of trekking herd

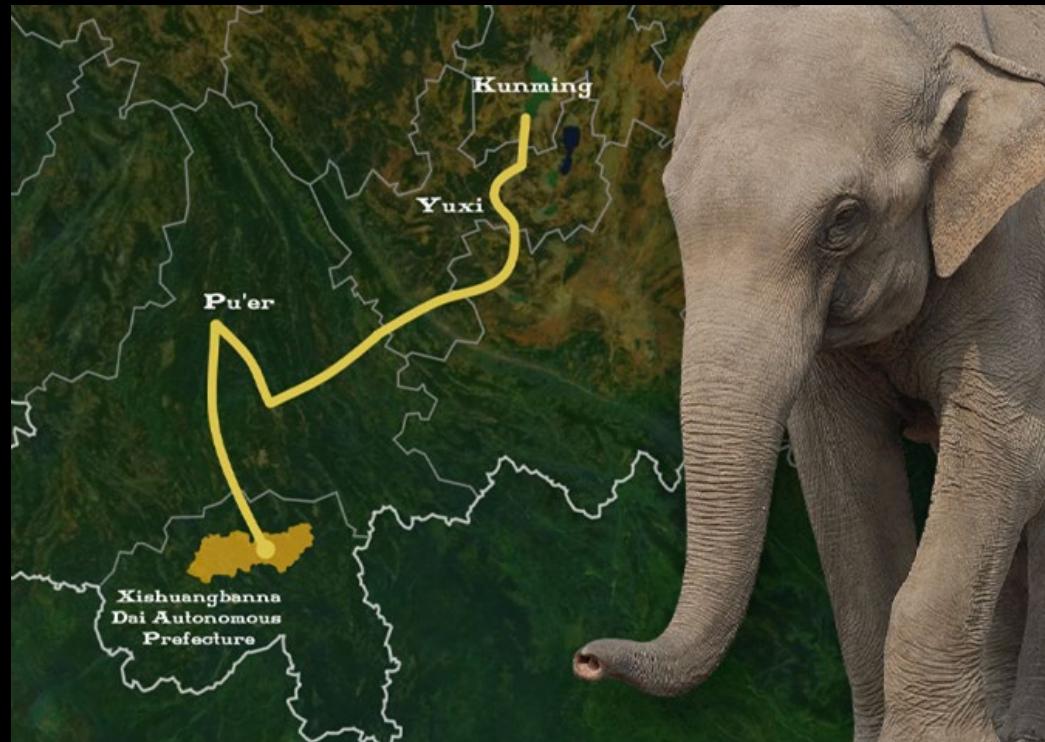


1



One of China's wandering elephants has finally made it home. But problems exposed by the herd's journey aren't going away

Background & Context





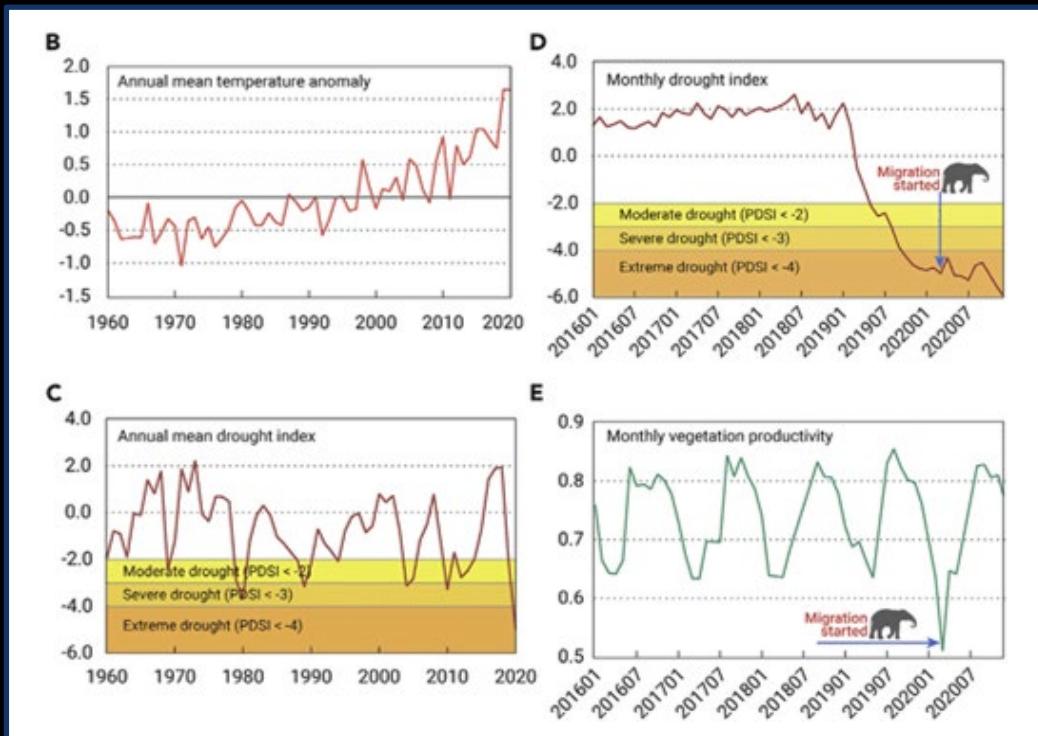
Background & Context



Significant Disruption:

- Between 2014 and 2020, the Yunnan government paid OVER **\$26 million** in compensation for damage caused by elephants.
- From 2013 to 2019, **41 people** were trampled to death and **32 others** were injured by Asian elephants in Yunnan

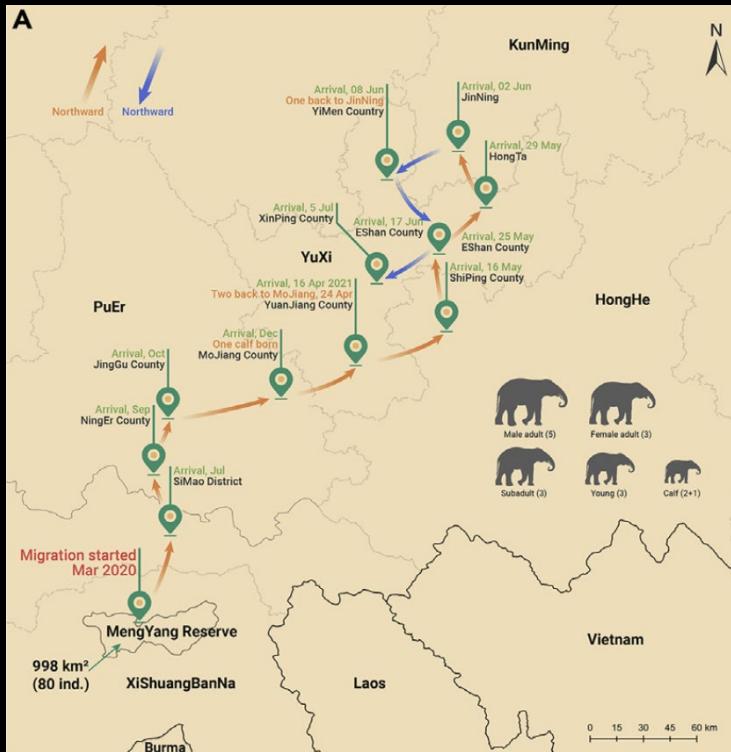
Background & Context



What is the **Reasons** behind it?

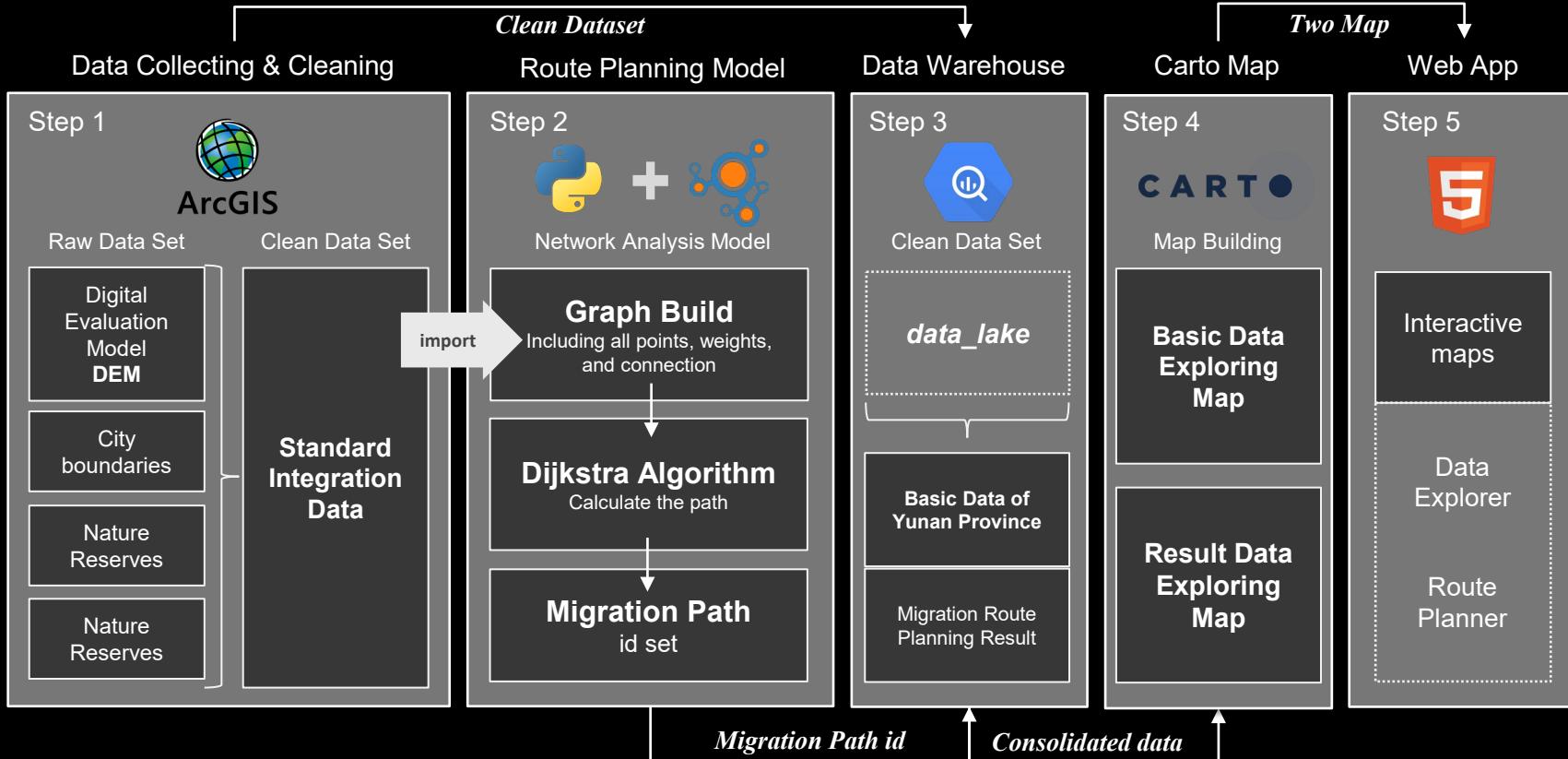
Population Growth?
Drought?
Temperature?
Food Resource?
.....

Background & Context



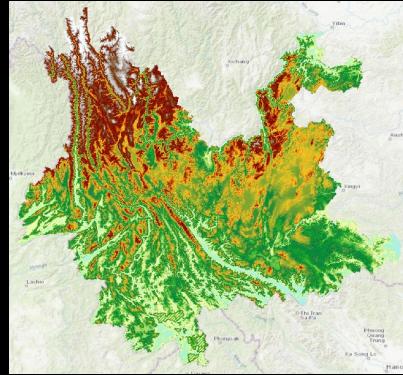
How should we choose the best **elephant migration routes** and set up **migration corridors** to protect both elephants and human property?

Model Framework

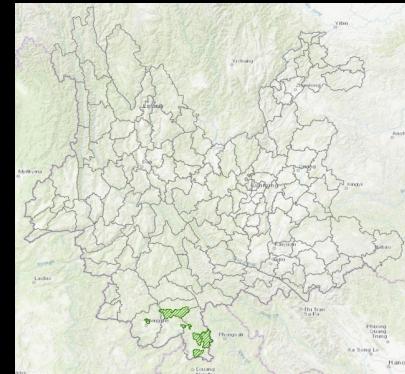




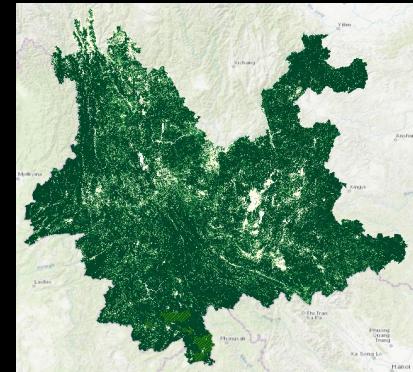
Data Collecting & Cleaning



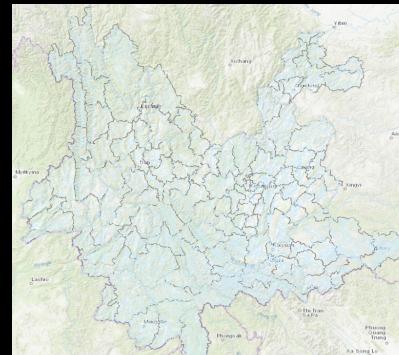
Digital Elevation Model (DEM)



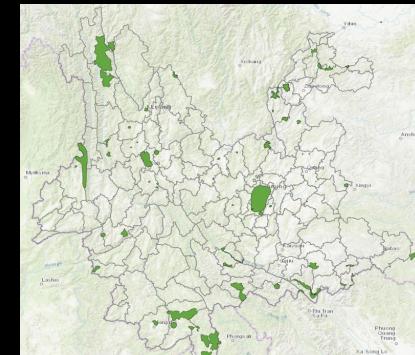
County Border



Forest Resource



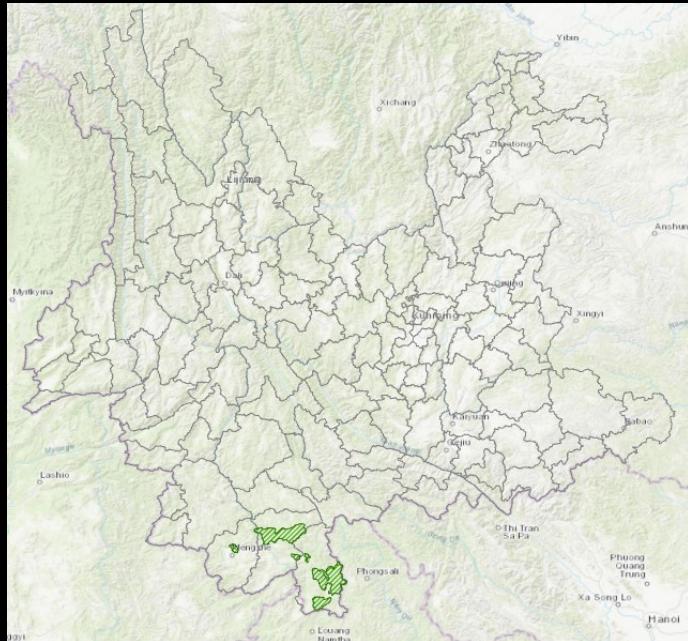
River System



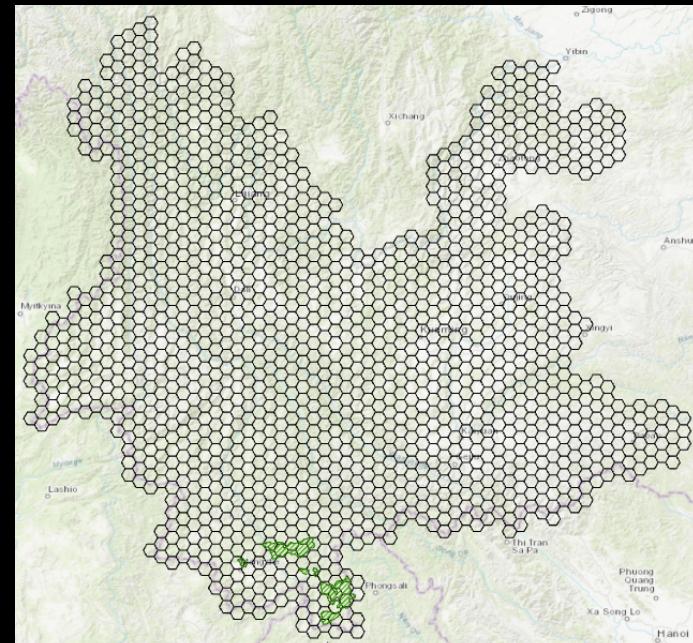
Existing Conservation Areas



Data Collecting & Cleaning



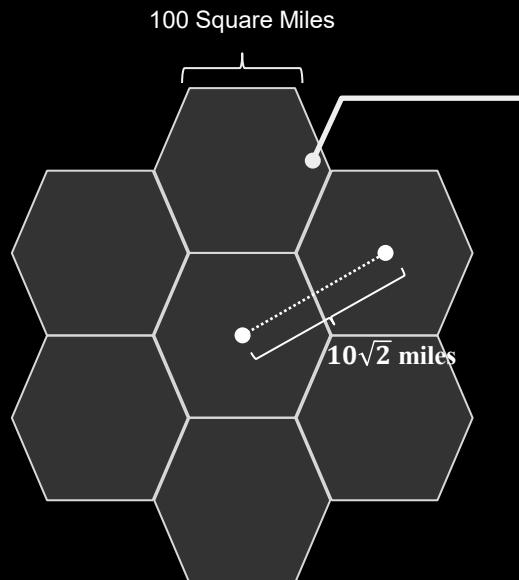
Original Raw Data



Converted Standard Data



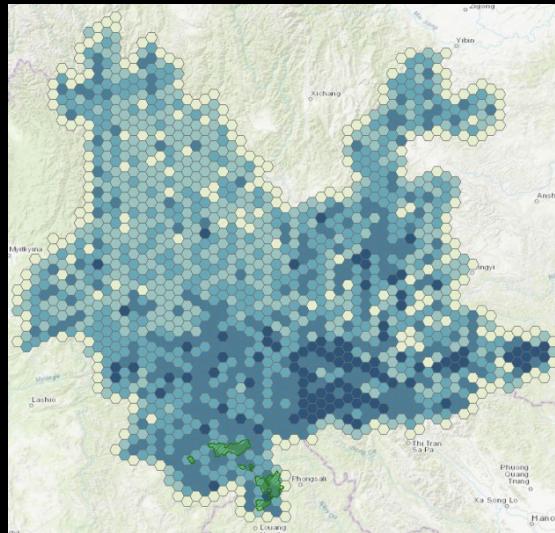
Data Source



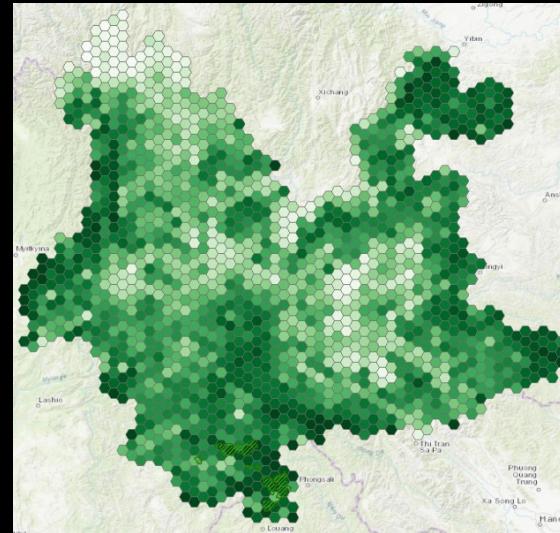
id	Forest_Area	Altitude	Water_Area	Population	Is_City	Is_Habitat
001	9000	2471	300	500	1	0
002	8000	2300	140	0	0	0
003	7560	2201	540	2000	1	0
004	6770	3210	270	2888	0	0
005	9290	2200	261	1000	0	1



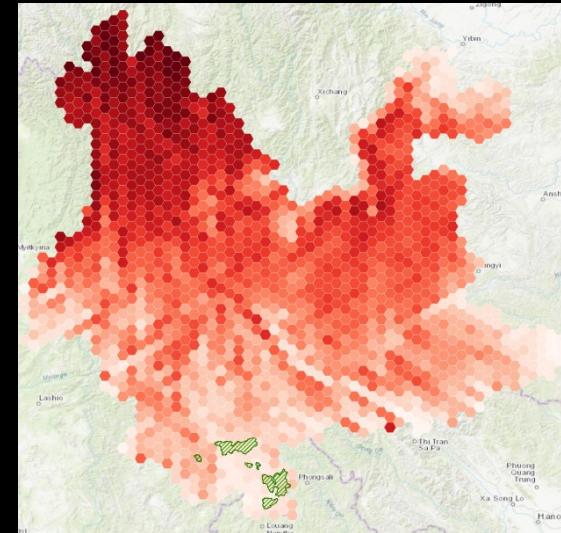
Data Collecting & Cleaning



Water Source



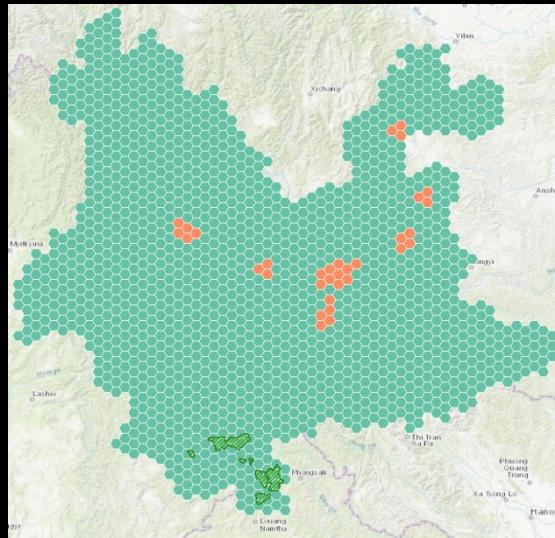
Forest & Food Source



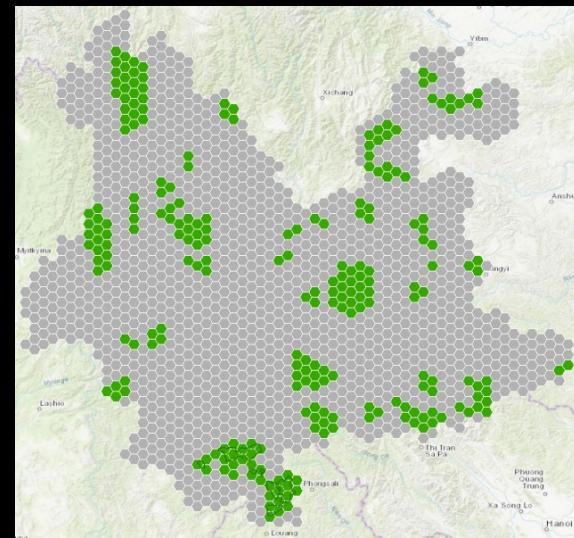
Altitude



Data Collecting & Cleaning



Is it a city?



Is it a habitat?

Algorithm design

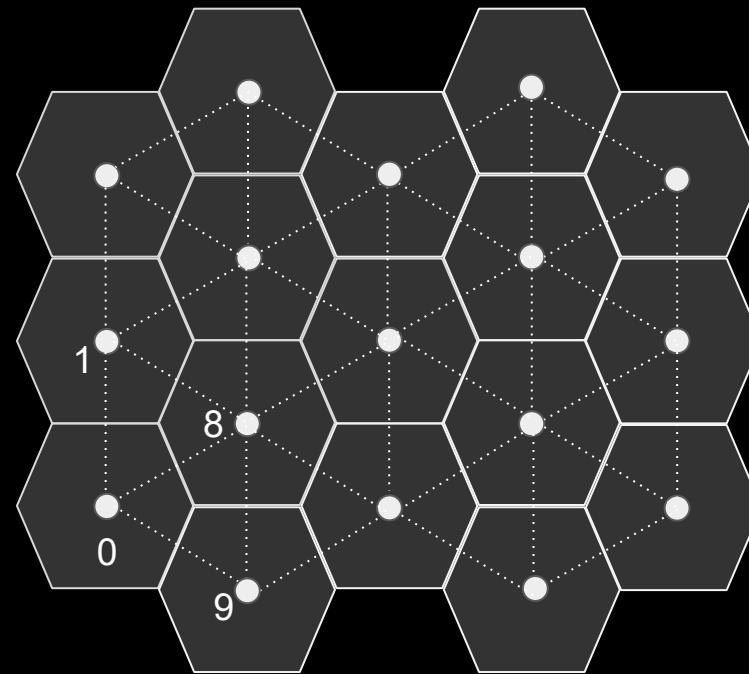
Graph build

```
def dijkstra_shortest_path(gdf, start_id, end_id):
    # Build a graph from GeoDataFrame
    graph = {}
    for index, row in gdf.iterrows():
        graph[row['id']] = {}
        for neighbor_index, neighbor_row in gdf.iterrows():
            if index != neighbor_index:
                distance = row['geometry'].distance(neighbor_row['geometry'])
                if distance <= 2000: # 只连接距离小于等于 2000 米的邻居点
                    graph[row['id']][neighbor_row['id']] = distance
```

Origin **Point 0** Distance to **Point 1** Distance to **Point 2**

↓ ↓ ↓

```
{0: {1: 18907.67976640627, 8: 19924.581230591983, 9: 18910.64278611532},  
 1: {0: 18907.67976640627, 2: 18907.67976641894, 9: 19913.299319651444},  
 2: {1: 18907.67976641894, 3: 18907.67976641602, 9: 18910.642786131157, 10: 19924.581230591983, 11: 18910.642786129818},  
 3: {2: 18907.67976641602, 4: 18907.679766407855, 11: 19913.299319652375},
```



Algorithm design

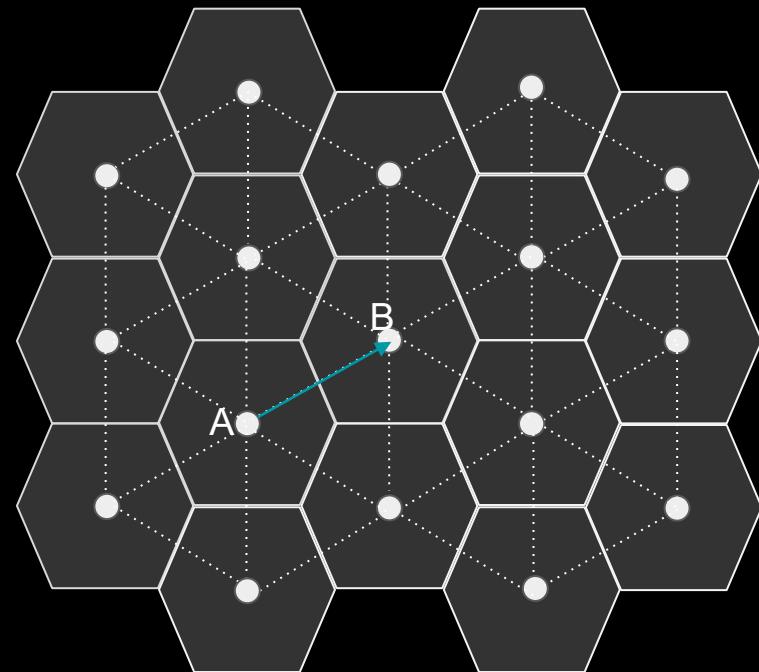
So, when we do the simulation, how do we consider the '**altitude**', '**river source**', and '**forest source**'?

To move from Point A to Point B, the cost is:

Cost

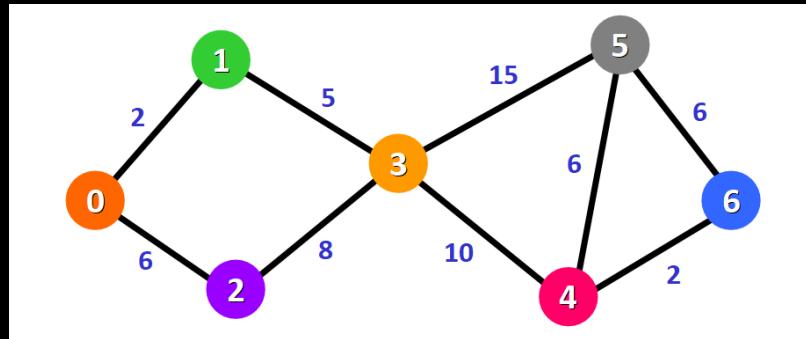
$$= \alpha \cdot Distance - \beta \cdot Forest\ Source - \gamma \\ \cdot River\ Length + \delta \cdot Average\ Altitude$$

$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ are the weight we add to the attribute



Algorithm design

Dijkstra Algorithm

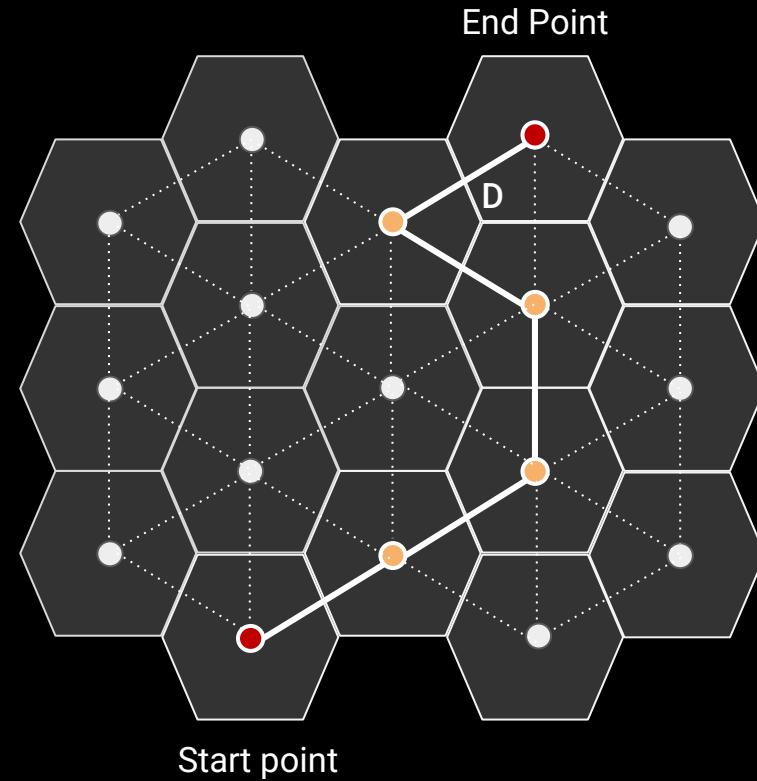


The algorithm will generate the shortest path from node 0 to all the other nodes in the graph.

Distance:

0: 0
1: ∞
2: ∞
3: ∞
4: ∞
5: ∞
6: ∞

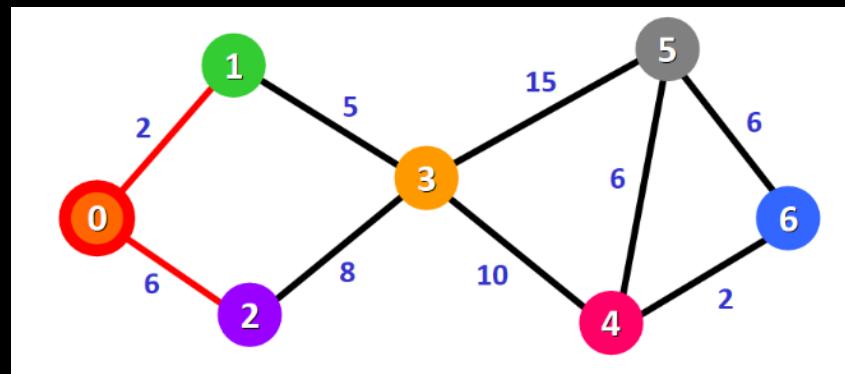
Unvisited Nodes: {0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}





Algorithm design

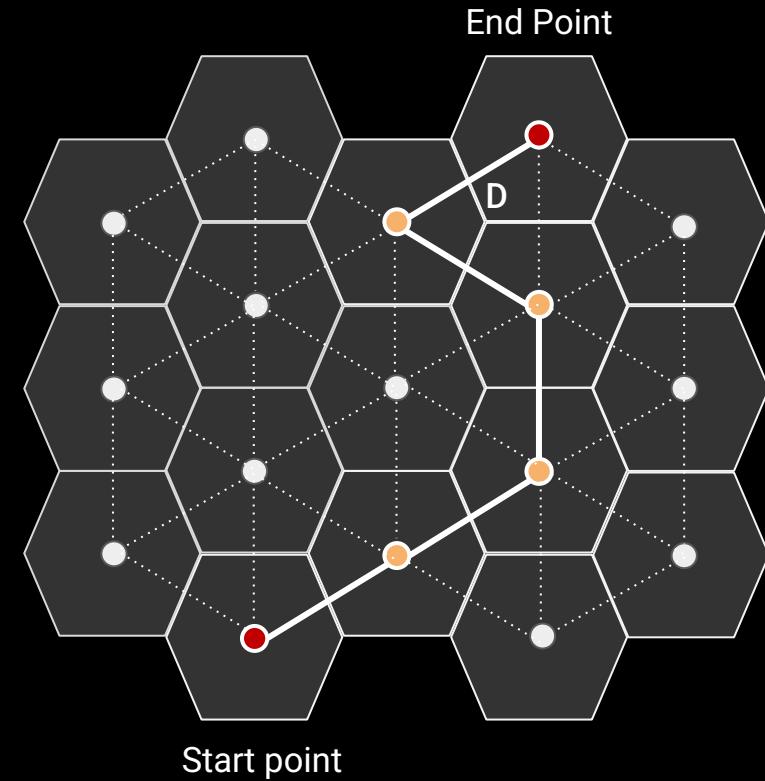
Dijksta Algorithm



update the distances from node 0 to node 1 and node 2 with the weights of the edges that connect them to node 0 (the source node).

Distance:	
0:	0
1:	2
2:	6
3:	∞
4:	∞
5:	∞
6:	∞

Unvisited Nodes: {0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}

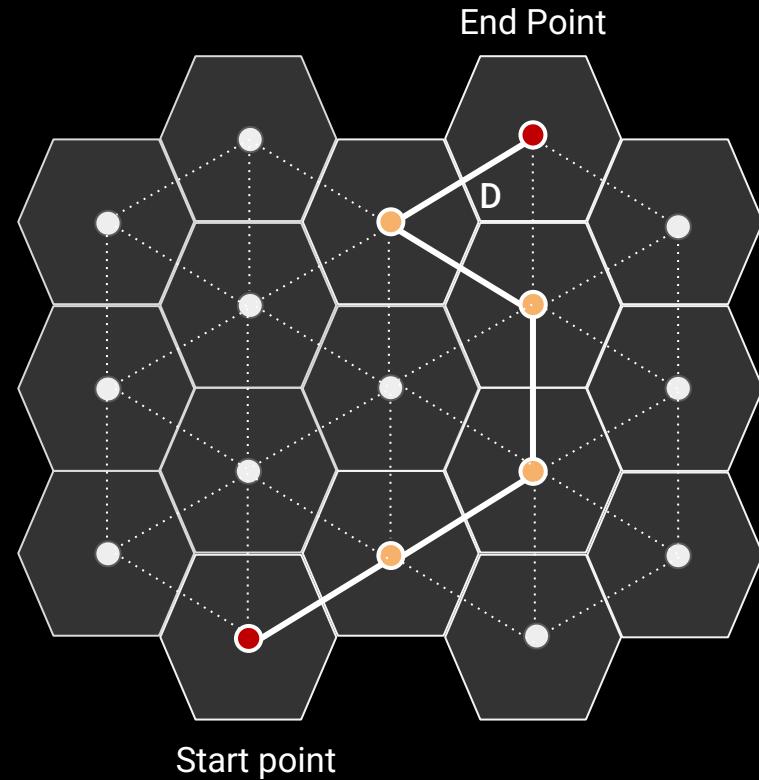


Algorithm design

As there are 1600 points in the geodata frame

Avg Calculation Time: **20min + ...**

How to cut down the average calculation time?

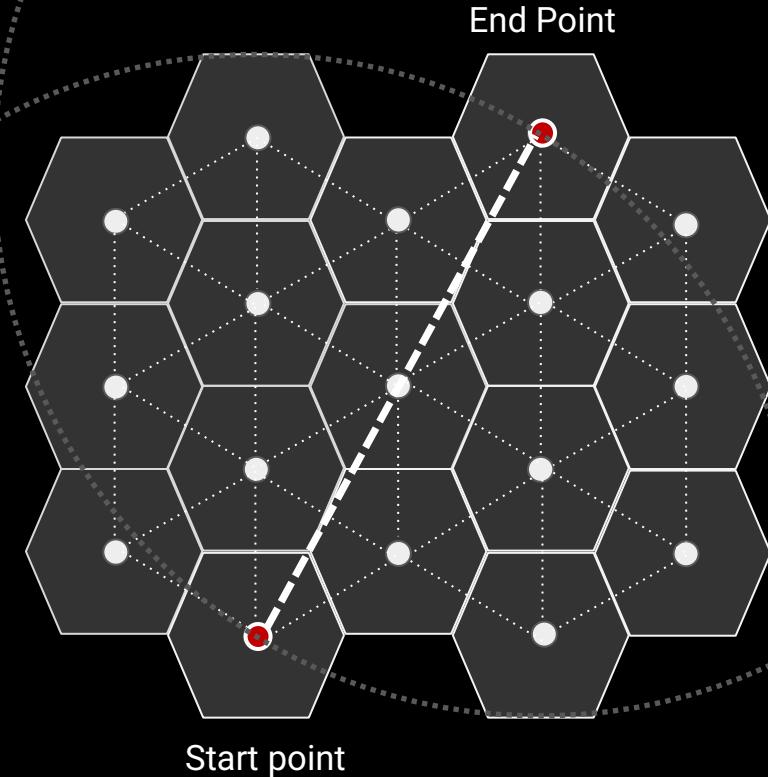


Algorithm design

Pruning

In this model, I will calculate the straight-line distance from the startpoint to the endpoint, and then consider only the points within this distance, slightly expanding the range (e.g., by an additional 10%) to ensure that potential optimal paths are not overlooked.

```
# calculate the distance of two points  
line_distance = start_point.distance(end_point)  
  
# search radius = 1.1* distance  
search_radius = line_distance * 1.10  
  
# filter the points within radius  
mask = gdf['geometry'].apply(lambda x: x.distance(start_point) <= search_radius or  
pruned_gdf = gdf[mask]
```



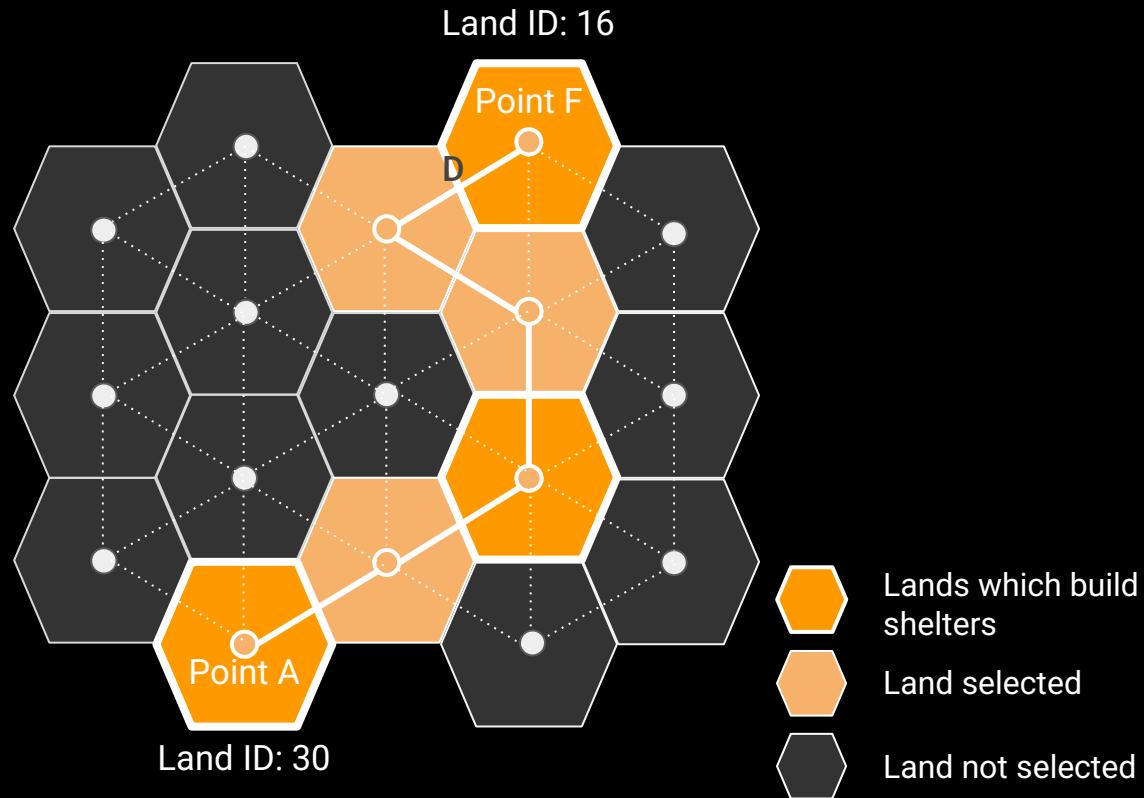


Algorithm design

Path IDs: [30, 44, 61, 79, 96, 95, 116, 143, 179, 180, 221, 222, 266, 267, 314, 315, 366, 367, 419, 420, 475, 476, 536, 537, 598, 599, 656]



Total Forest Area
Total River Area
Total Distance
Financial cost

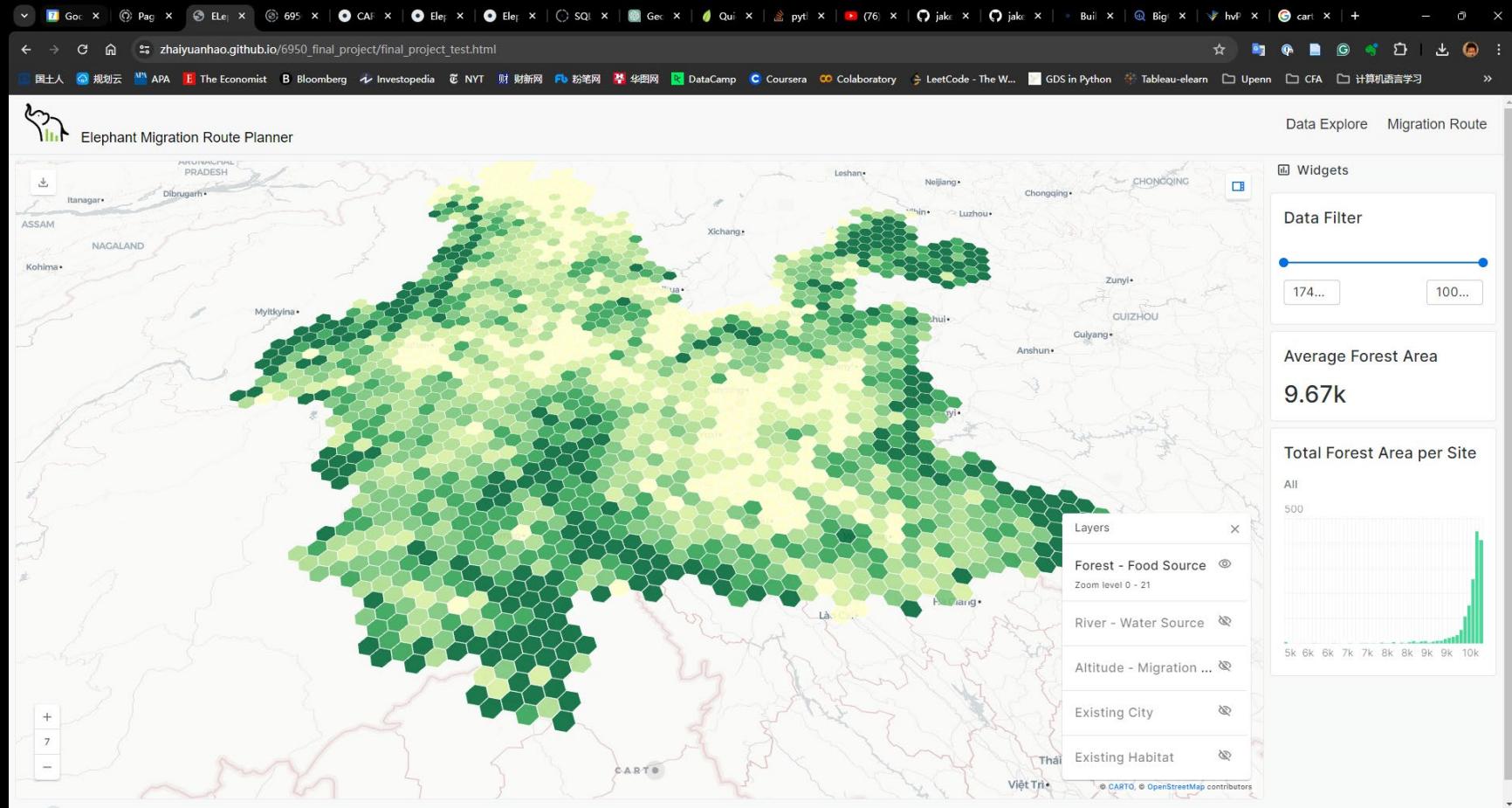


BigQuery

The screenshot shows the BigQuery web interface. On the left is the Explorer sidebar, which includes a search bar, a 'Viewing resources' section, and a 'SHOW STARRED ONLY' filter. Below this are sections for 'deft-citizen-421423' (Queries, Notebooks, Data canvases, External connections) and 'data_lake' (data_explorers_final3, result_data). A 'SUMMARY' section at the bottom indicates 'Nothing currently selected'. The main area is titled 'Untitled query' and contains a single row of code: 'SELECT * FROM `deft-citizen-421423.data_lake.result_data` LIMIT 1000'. Below the code is a 'Query results' table with the following data:

Row	forest_source	avg_altitude	river_length	In_City	In_Habitat	geom	Id	status
1	9837.73336839	743.160791215	86.2714737532		0	POLYGON((100.800540300 428.21.6425584972249, 100.752404094392 21.5591841426873, 100.656131682321	30	start
2	9847.92840221	1410.90094335	60.737389979		0	POLYGON((101.233766154 749.24.0604147788104, 101.185629948713 23.9770404242729, 101.089357536642	525	none
3	9957.31508412	780.356338505	53.9009183837		0	POLYGON((100.944948918 535.21.7259328517623, 100.896812712499 21.6425584972249, 100.800540300428	31	via
4	0062.900000000000	1000.991840000	57.6215025787		0	POLYGON((100.656131682321	05	via

At the bottom right of the results table, it says 'Results per page'.



Reference

- Budhathoki, S., Gautam, J., Budhathoki, S., & Jaishi, P. P. (2023). Predicting the habitat suitability of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) under future climate scenarios. *Ecosphere*, 14(10), e4678. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.4678>
- Callaghan, C. T., Major, R. E., Lyons, M. B., Martin, J. M., & Kingsford, R. T. (2018). The effects of local and landscape habitat attributes on bird diversity in urban greenspaces. *Ecosphere*, 9(7), e02347. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.2347>
- Jiang, X., Liu, H.-J., Jiang, Z.-Y., & Ni, R.-P. (2023). Identifying Migration Routes of Wild Asian Elephants in China Based on Ecological Networks Constructed by Circuit Theory Model. *Animals*, 13(16), Article 16. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13162618>
- Kang, W., Minor, E. S., Park, C.-R., & Lee, D. (2015). Effects of habitat structure, human disturbance, and habitat connectivity on urban forest bird communities. *Urban Ecosystems*, 18(3), 857–870. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-014-0433-5>
- Stay or go? Understanding a partial seasonal elephant migration.* (2018, October 24). Mongabay Environmental News. <https://news.mongabay.com/2018/10/stay-or-go-understanding-a-partial-seasonal-elephant-migration/>
- Wang, H., Wang, P., Zhao, X., Zhang, W., Li, J., Xu, C., & Xie, P. (2021). What triggered the Asian elephant's northward migration across southwestern Yunnan? *The Innovation*, 2, 100142. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xinn.2021.100142>