



# PROSPECTS FOR GLOBAL MONITORING OF THE SDG SLUM INDICATOR WITH EARTH OBSERVATION

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AND PERSELLO, C.



# CONTENTS

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- Some basic parameters for slum mapping (with EO)
- Slum mapping research at ITC
- Prospects and issues for global slum mapping

# The nature of slum dwellers and slums

## UN-HABITAT 2002

Who are slums dwellers?

Urban households lacking at least 1 of the following:

- Adequate water
- Adequate sanitation
- Sufficient living space
- Secure tenure
- Durable housing (quality of structures & environment – hazards)

Large scale surveys:

Census, DHS

City and Settlement surveys

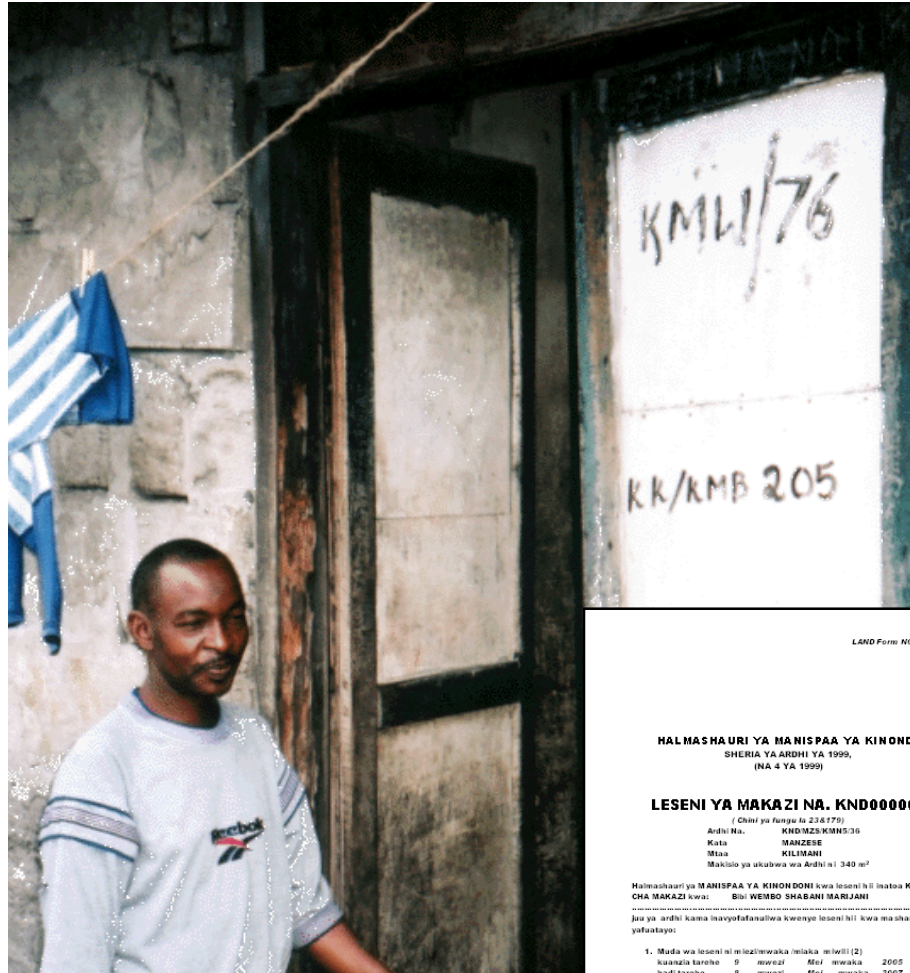


# INDICATORS FOR SLUM DWELLERS

## ADEQUATE WATER AND ADEQUATE SANITATION



# TENURE SECURITY



LAND Form NO.74

**HALMASHAURI YA MANISPAA YA KINONDONI**  
SHERIA YA ARDHI YA 1999,  
(NA 4 YA 1999)

**LESENI YA MAKAZI NA. KND000001**  
(Chari ya fungu la 234775)

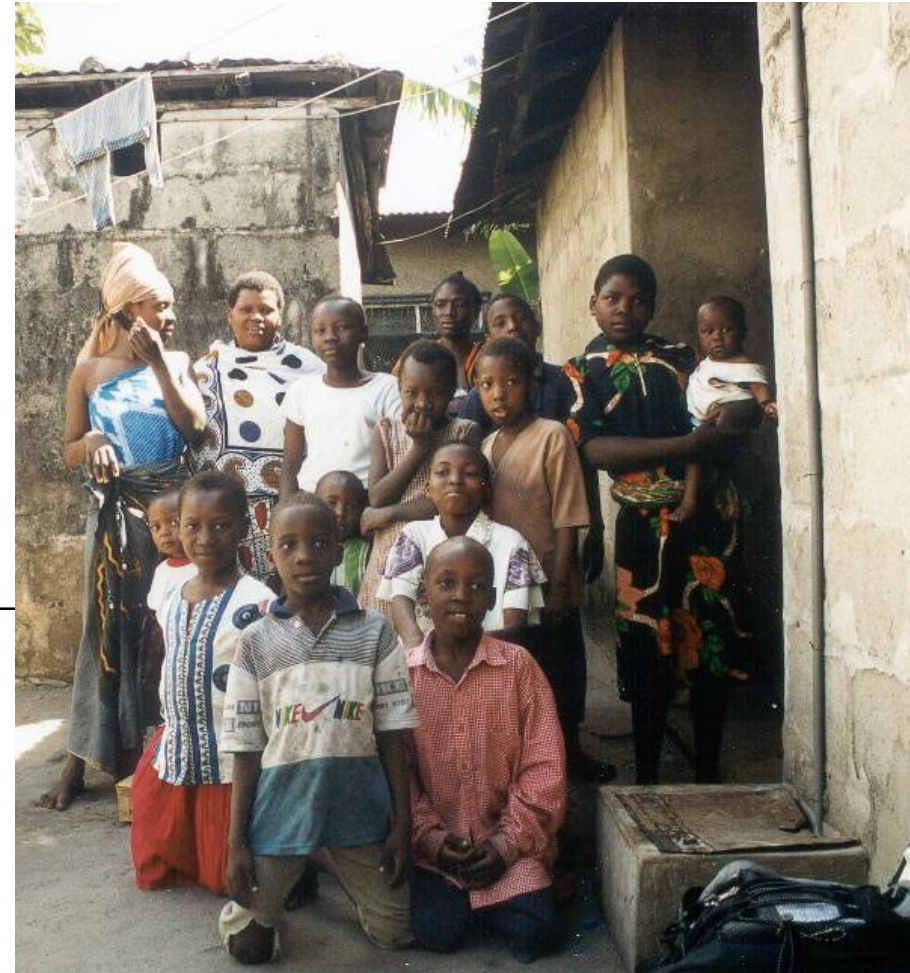
Archi No. **KND/MS/MS/35**  
Kata **MANZESE**  
Mtaa **KILIMANI**  
Makaozi ya ukubwa wa Ardhi ni 340 m<sup>2</sup>

Halmashauri ya MANISPAA YA KINONDONI kwa leseni hii inatoa KIBALI cha MAKAZI kwa: **Bu WEMBO SHABANI HARJANI**

Juu ya ardhi kama inavyofanuliwa kwenye leseni hii kwa masharti yafuatayo:

- Muda wa leseni ni miostziwaka miaka miwili (2) kuanzia tarehe 9 mwezi Mei mwaka 2005 hadi tarehe 8 mwezi Mei mwaka 2007
- Kodi ya Ardhi ya shilingi 2,720.00 italipwa kila mwaka, chini ya kifungu cha 23(3) (c), Kiwango hiki kinaweza kutadilishwa na Kamishna wa Ardhi kwa mujibu wa Sheria.
- Matawizi ni Makazi na shughuli nyotigao zozote ambazo zinaendana na makazi na hazibaathiri majira kinezingira.
- Ujenzi wowote juu ya ardhi hii au umogaji wa ardhi lazima upate kibali cha Manispaa kupitia Kamati ya Mtaa ambayo idhi itasimamia kwa karibu atokezaji wa masharti haya na maendeleo ya ardhi ya eneo hili.
- Miliki/wamiliki wataheshimu na kuhifadhi hakiza njia zilizopo.
- Muda wa leseni hii unaweza kuongezwa.

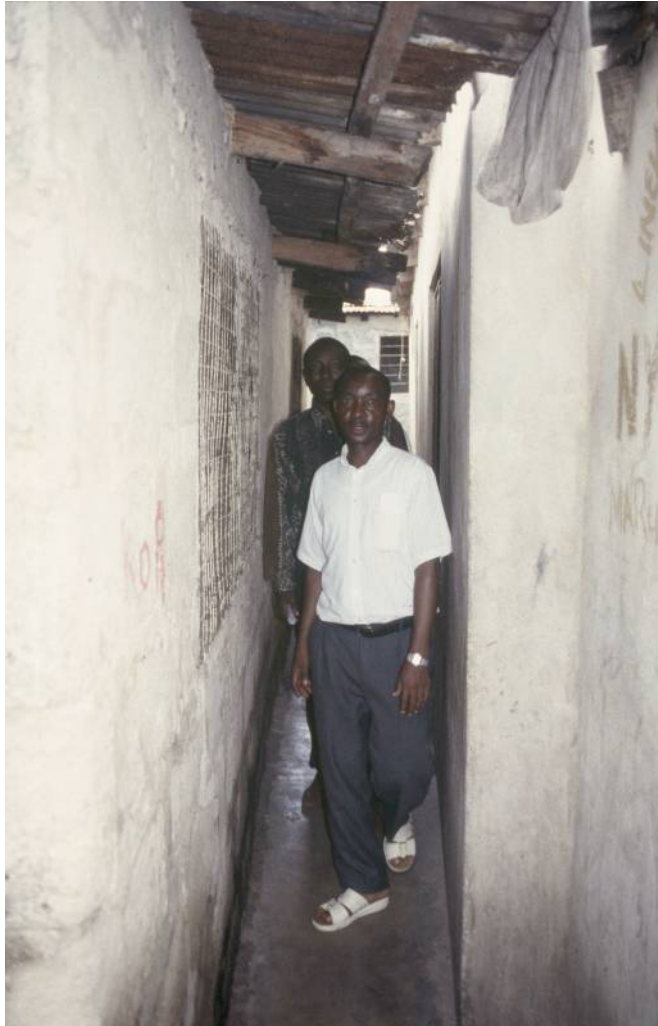
# OVERCROWDING



> 3 persons per room

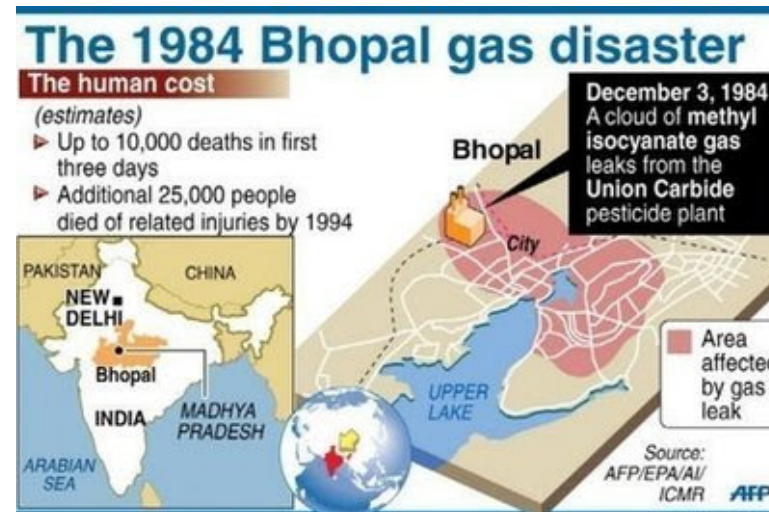
# DURABLE HOUSING

## PRIVATE VS PUBLIC SPACE, BUILDING AND PLANNING STANDARDS



# DURABLE HOUSING:

SAFE FROM NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS



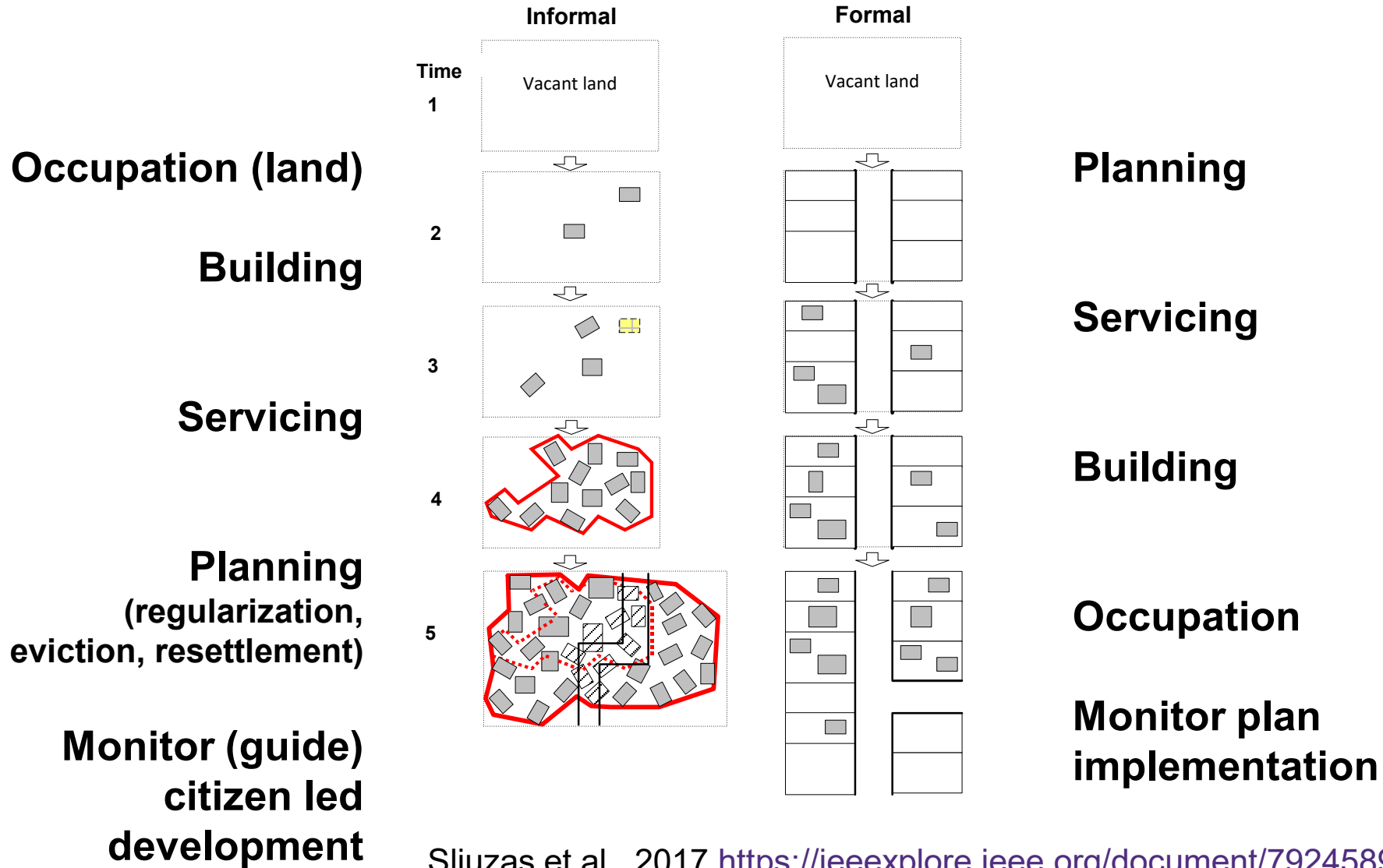
# HAZARDS AND SLUM FORMATION: DAR ES SALAAM





# INFORMAL VS FORMAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT

*Adapted from Baros*



Sliuzas et al., 2017 <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7924589>

# SLUMS: spatial concentration of slum dwellers - diversity of physical forms and settings



Kampala  
Uganda



Cairo  
Egypt

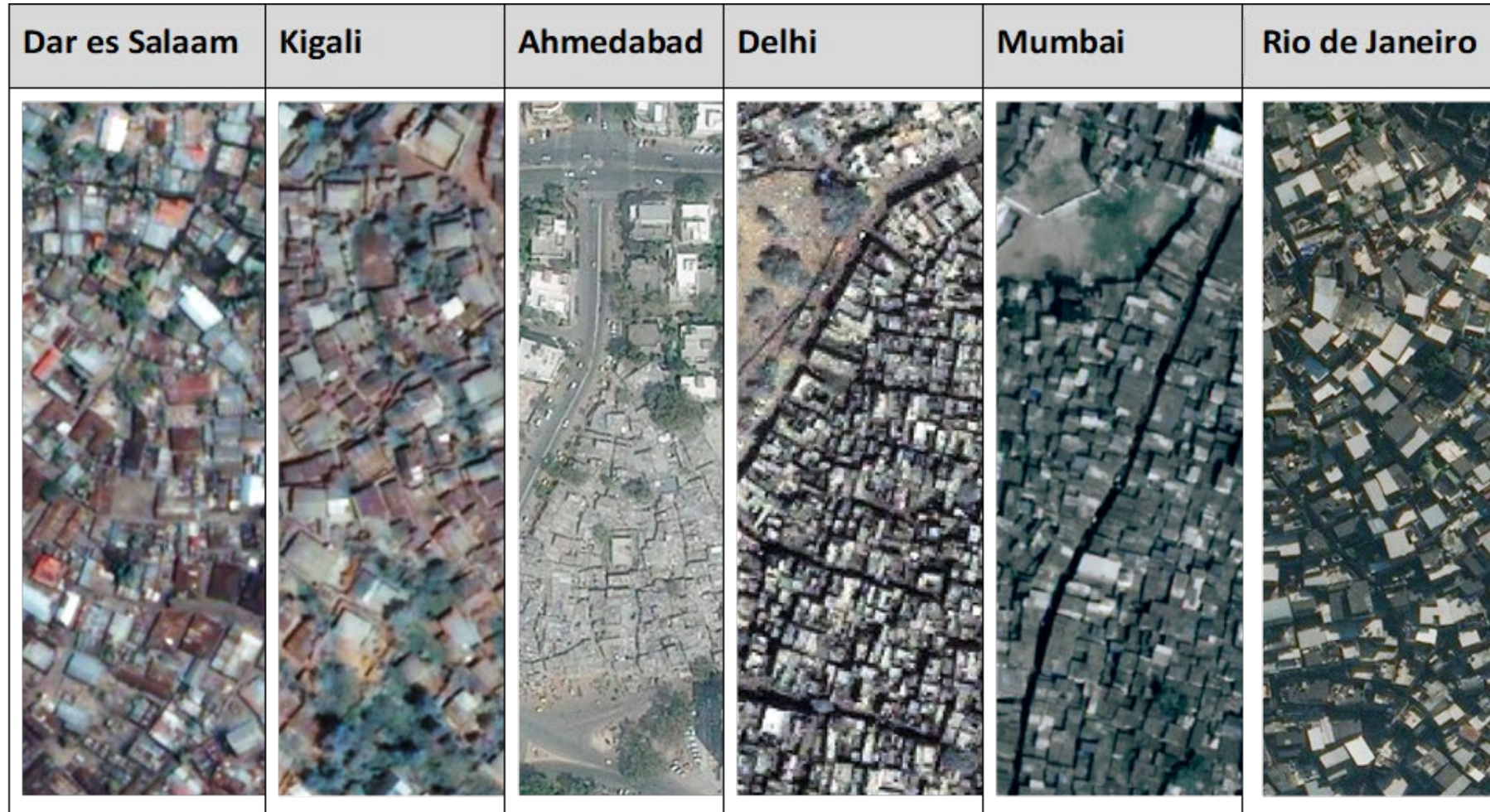


Kisumu  
Kenya



Ahmedabad  
India

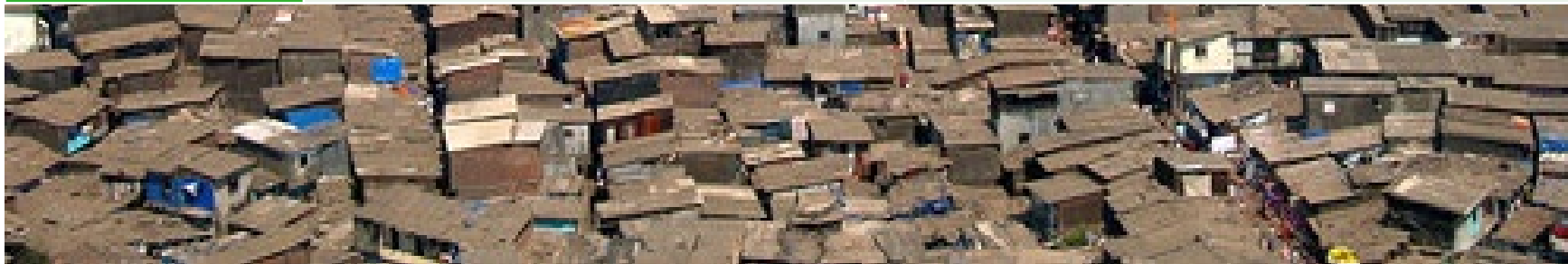
# THE URBAN DIVIDE – THE MORPHOLOGY



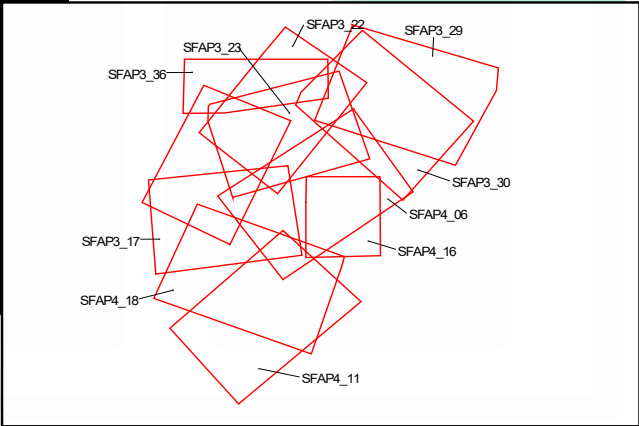
# MORPHOLOGY OF SLUMS – FROM SPACE

*What is specific to slums?*

Features	Slums	Planned areas
<b>Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small building sizes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generally larger building sizes</li></ul>
<b>Density</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High densities (roof coverage)</li><li>• Lack of public (green) spaces</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low – moderate density areas</li><li>• Provision of public (green spaces)</li></ul>
<b>Pattern</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organic layout structure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular layout pattern</li></ul>
<b>Site Aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hazardous locations</li><li>• Access to livelihood opportunities</li><li>• Etc...</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal development with services and infrastructure provision</li></ul>



# SLUM MAPPING FROM SMALL FORMAT AERIAL PHOTOS



# POINT CLOUD FROM UAV IMAGES, KIGALI, RWANDA FOR 2D AND 3D ANALYSIS AND PLANNING



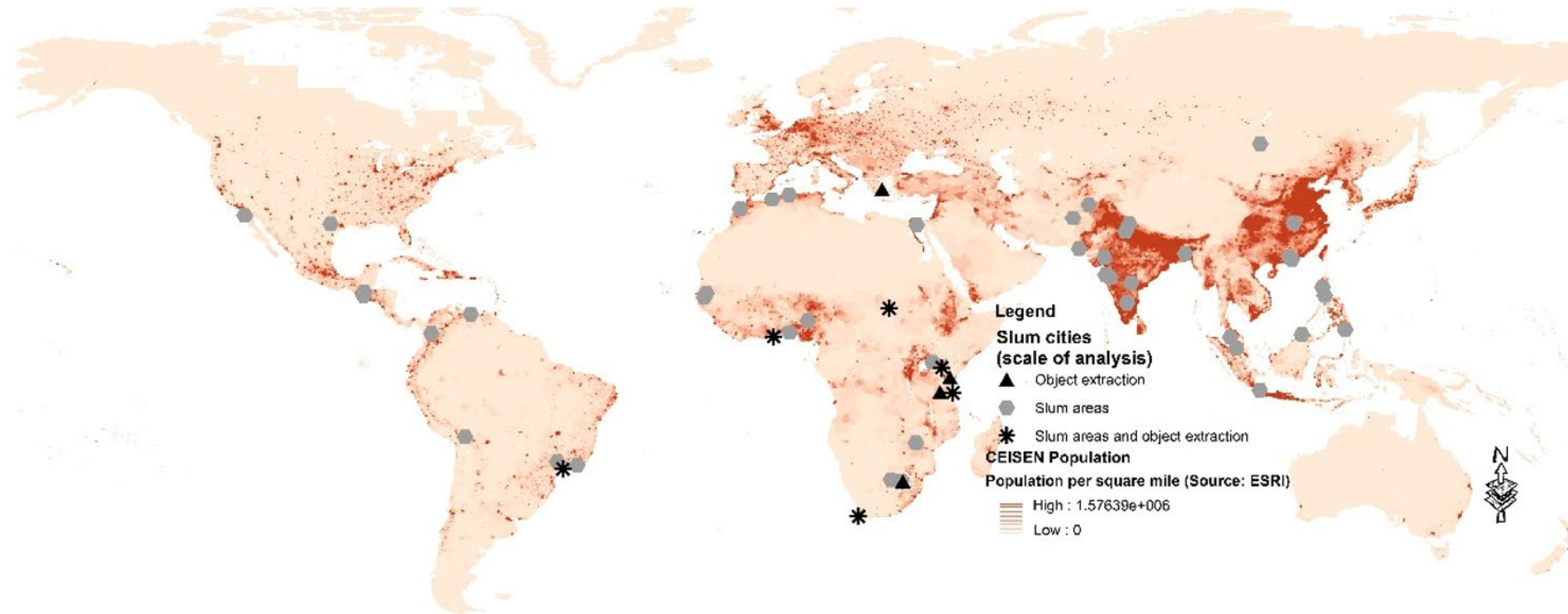
(IMAGE BY C. GEVAERT)



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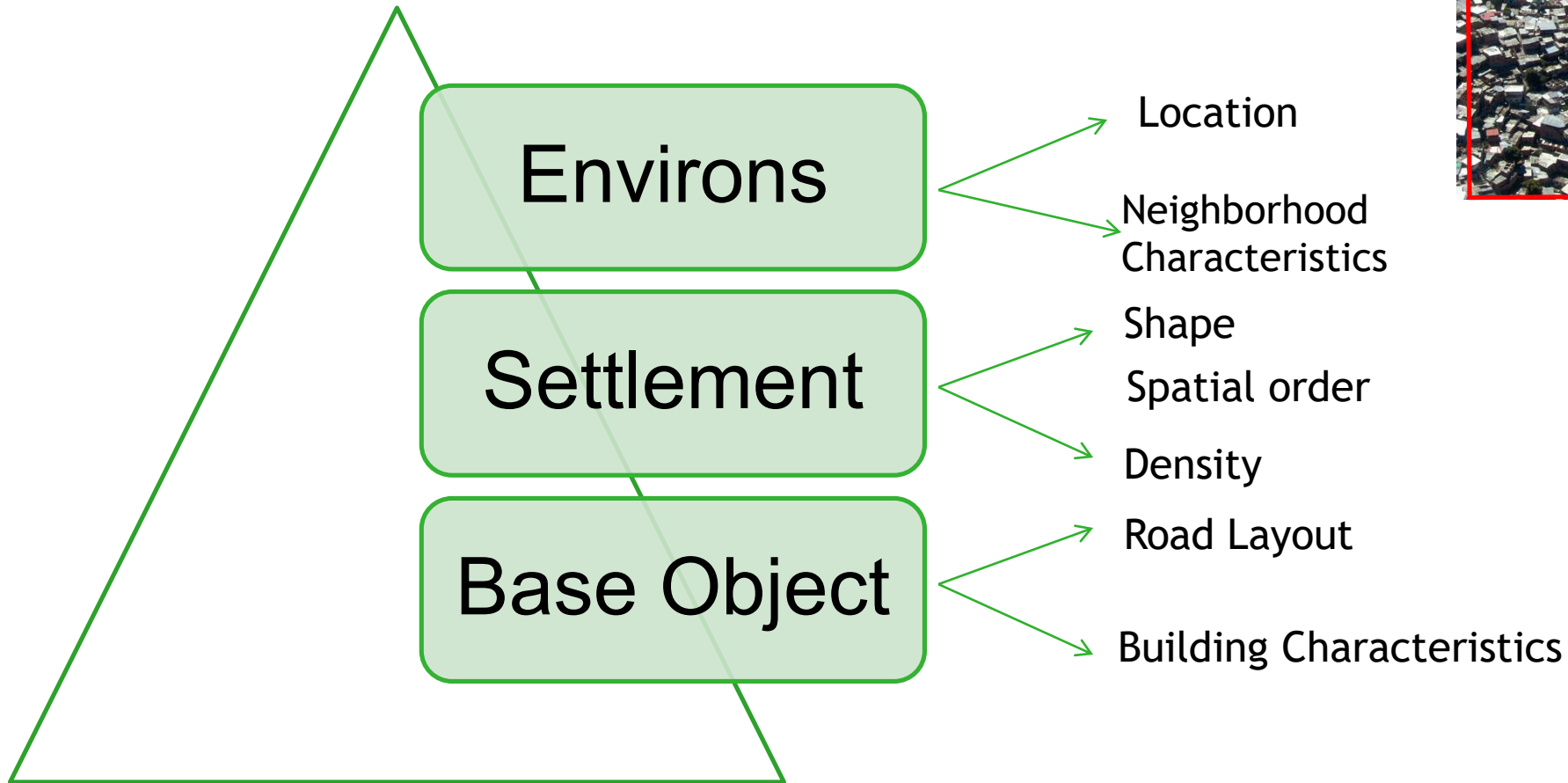
# THE URBAN DIVIDE

## What do we know about global slum developments



- 15 years of slum mapping using remote sensing (Kuffer, Pfeffer and Sliuzas, 2016)
- Based on 87 publications selected and reviewed

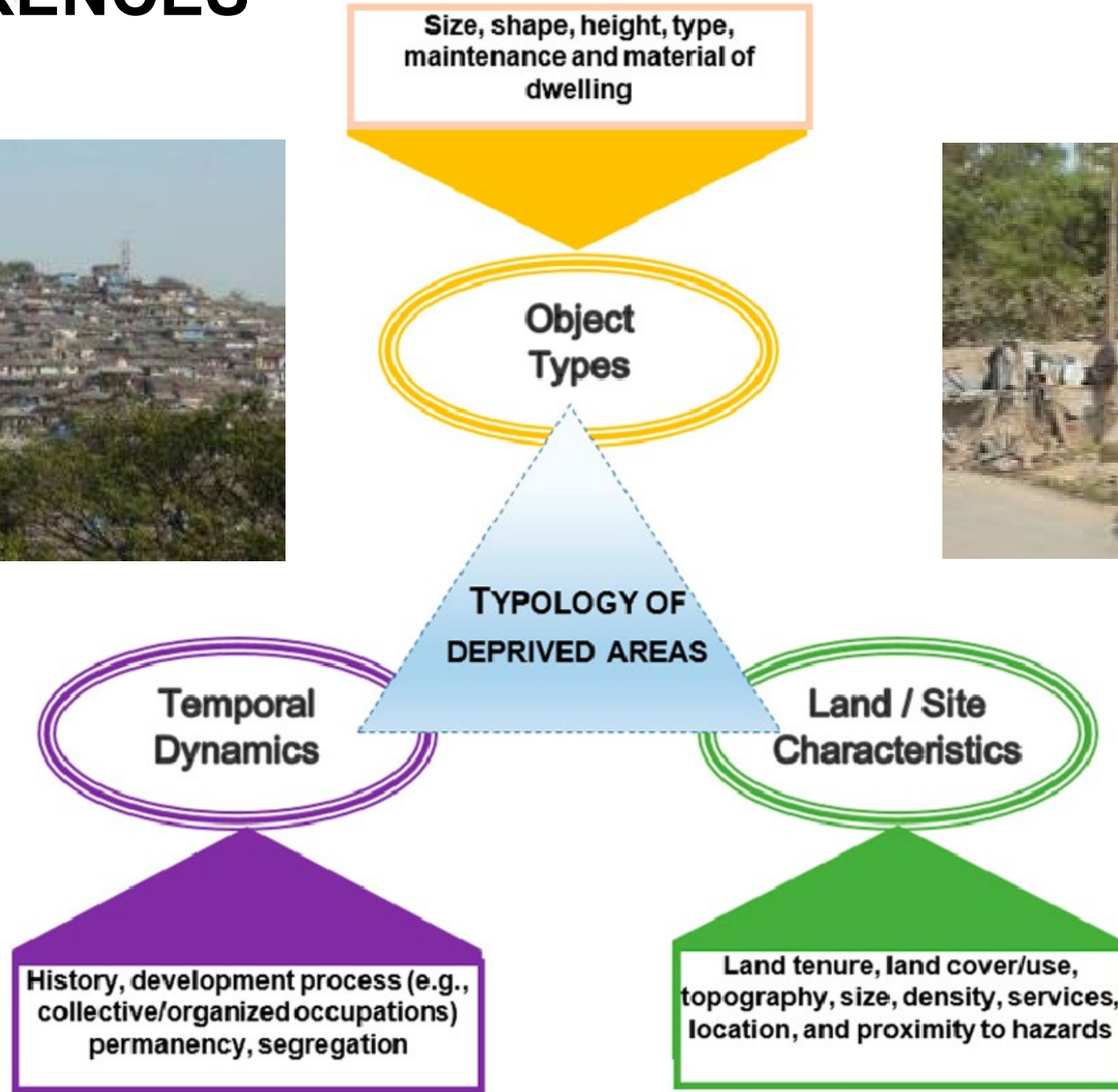
# THE GENERIC SLUM ONTOLOGY



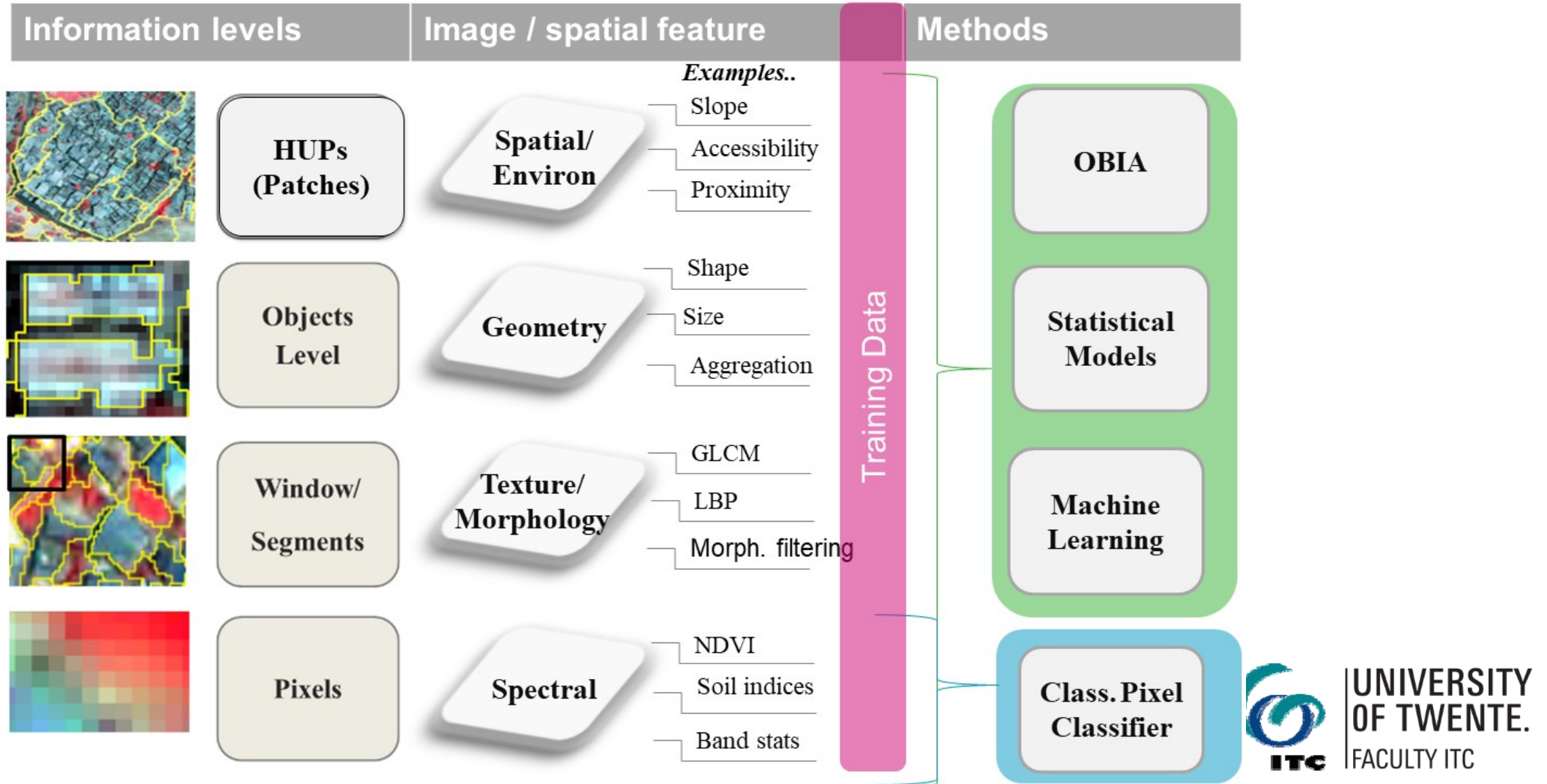
Kohli, D.; Sliuzas, R.V.; Kerle, N.; Stein, A. An ontology of slums for image-based classification. *Comput. Environ. Urban Syst.* **2012**, 36, 154–163.



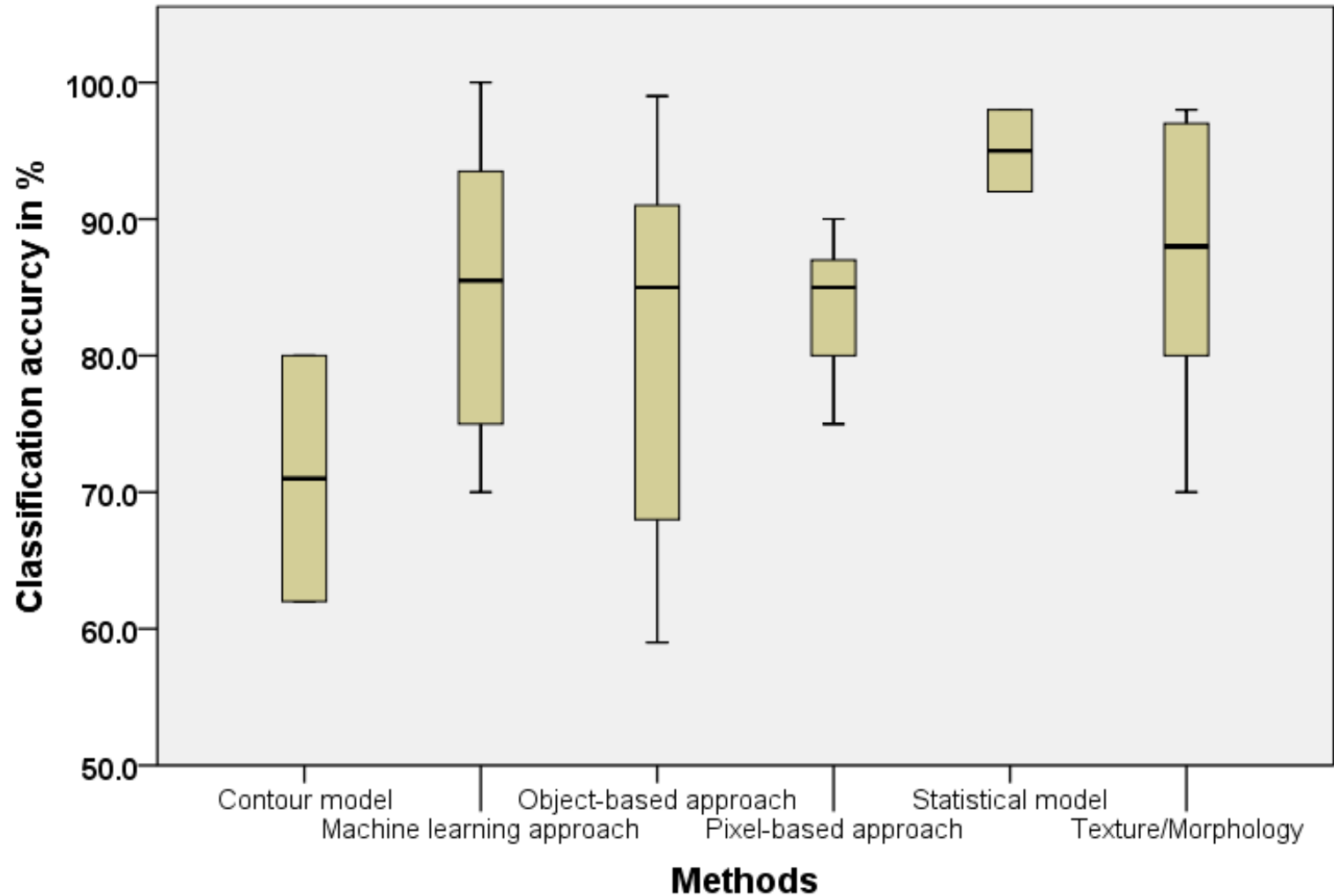
# DIFFERENCES



# SLUM MAPPING

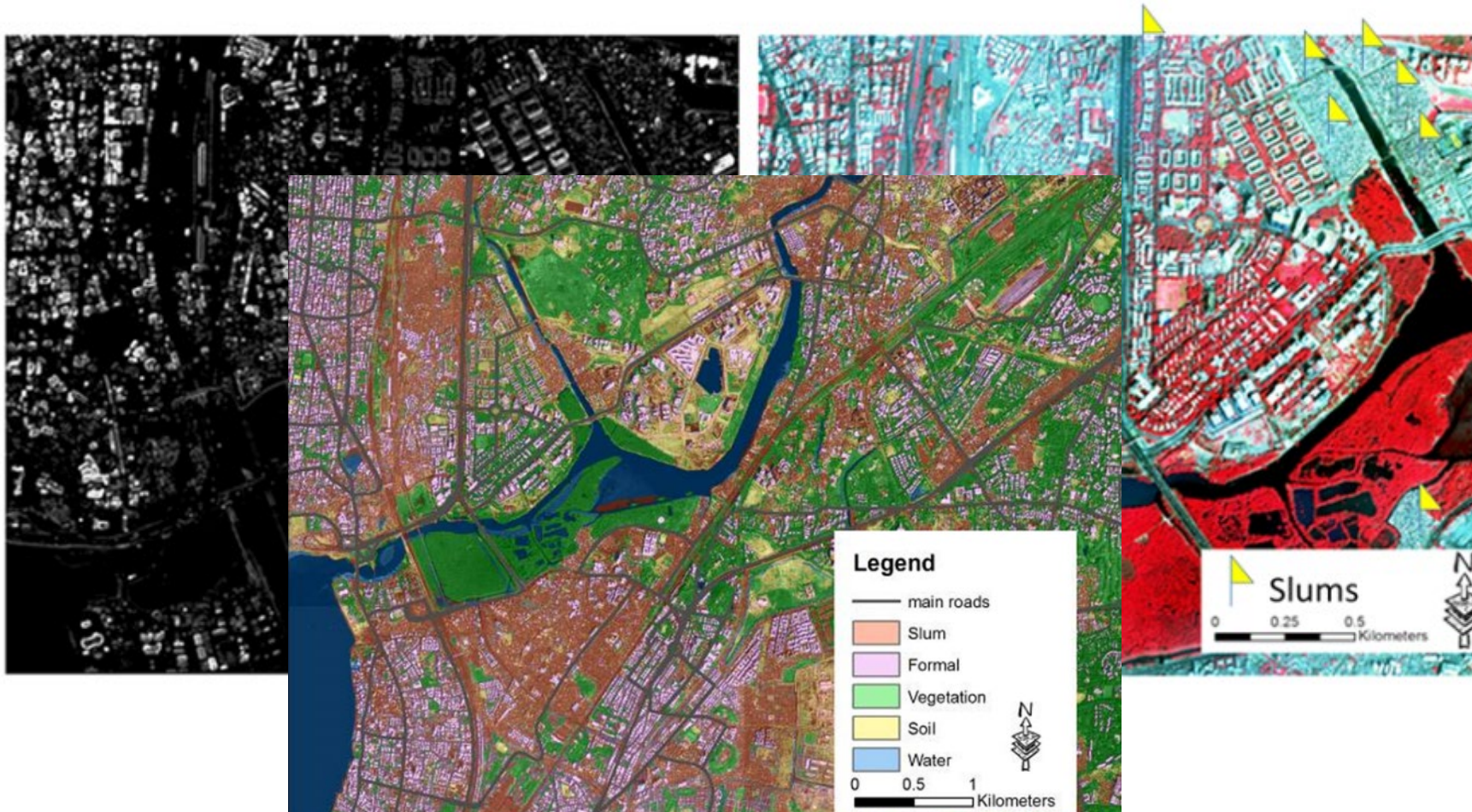


# ACCURACIES OF METHODS TO MAP SLUMS



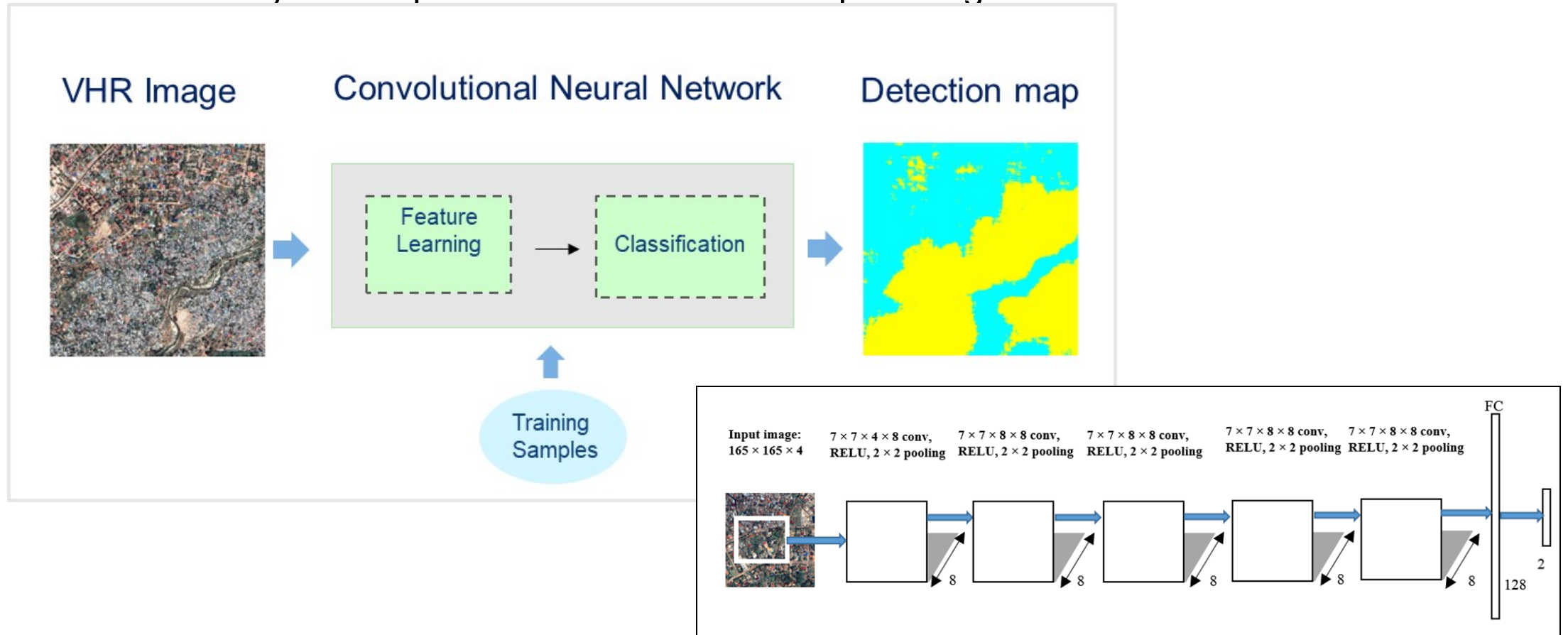
# THE URBAN DIVIDE AND MACHINE LEARNING

GLCM (Gray Level Co-Occurrence Matrix) - Example Mumbai



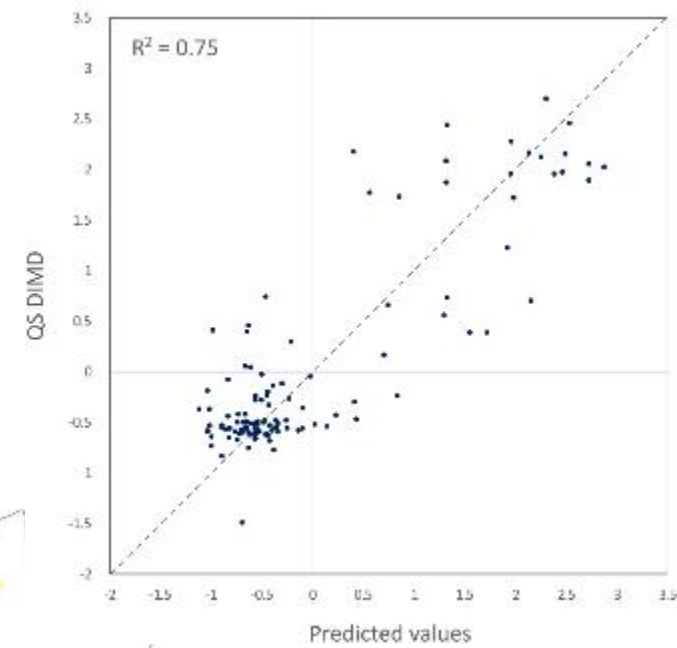
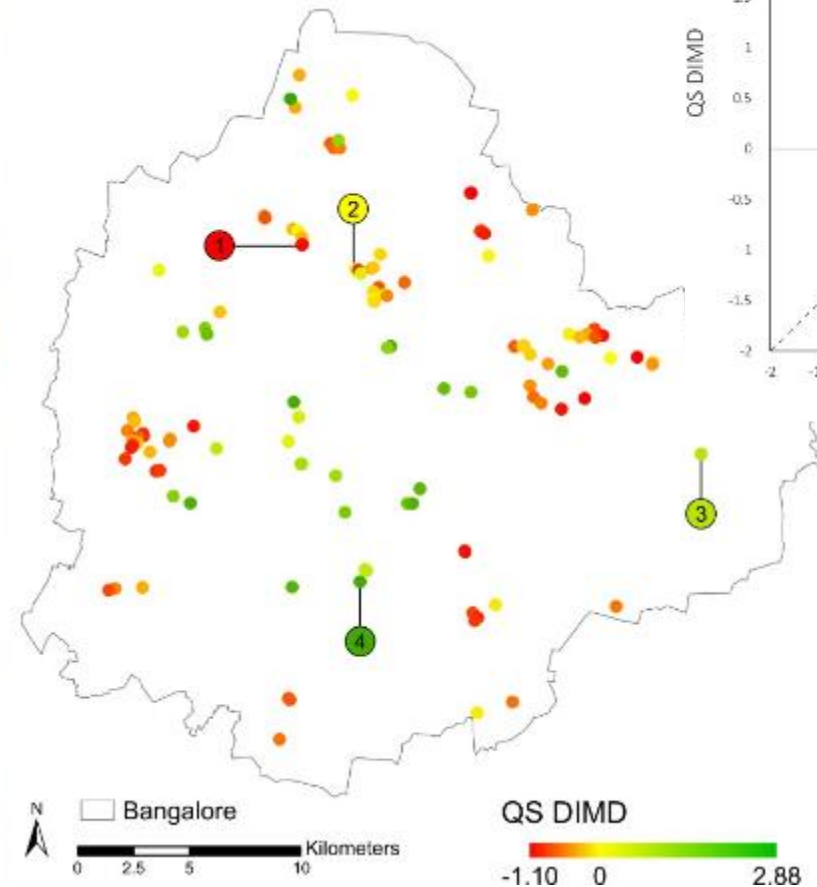
# THE URBAN DIVIDE - DEEP LEARNING APPROACH

Deep learning methods such as **Convolutional Neural Networks** can automatically learn spatial features from the input image.



Mboga, Persello, Bergado, Stein, "Detection of Informal Settlements from VHR Satellite Images using Convolutional Neural Networks, *IGARSS 2017*.

# DEGREE OF DEPRIVATION USING CNNs



CNN-based model **Transfer learning**

Classification  
problem  
Distinguishing  
slum from formal



2000 samples for training

Regression  
problem  
Predicting  
Deprivation indices



<121 samples for training

Source: A. Ajami et al. forthcoming



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# PROSPECTS FOR GLOBAL SLUM MAPPING?

- Producers, uses and users
- Incorporating different slum development stages, dynamics and typologies?
- Feature selection – training – assessment – which algorithms and reference data?
- Transferability of methodology (temporal – spatial)?
- How to upscale to global level?
- Suitable data (spatial resolution, cost...)



# PRODUCERS, USES AND USER NEEDS

- Slum mappers: government, researchers, communities, NGOs
- Better understanding user requirements – bridge communication gap
- Making products relevant to support user needs
- Co-production of slum maps and data
- Data access, distribution and maintenance (slum mapping as a social-technical infrastructure)





# TEMPORAL DYNAMICS



A) 2008



B) 2012



C) 2013



D) 2015



Ranguelova et al. 2017

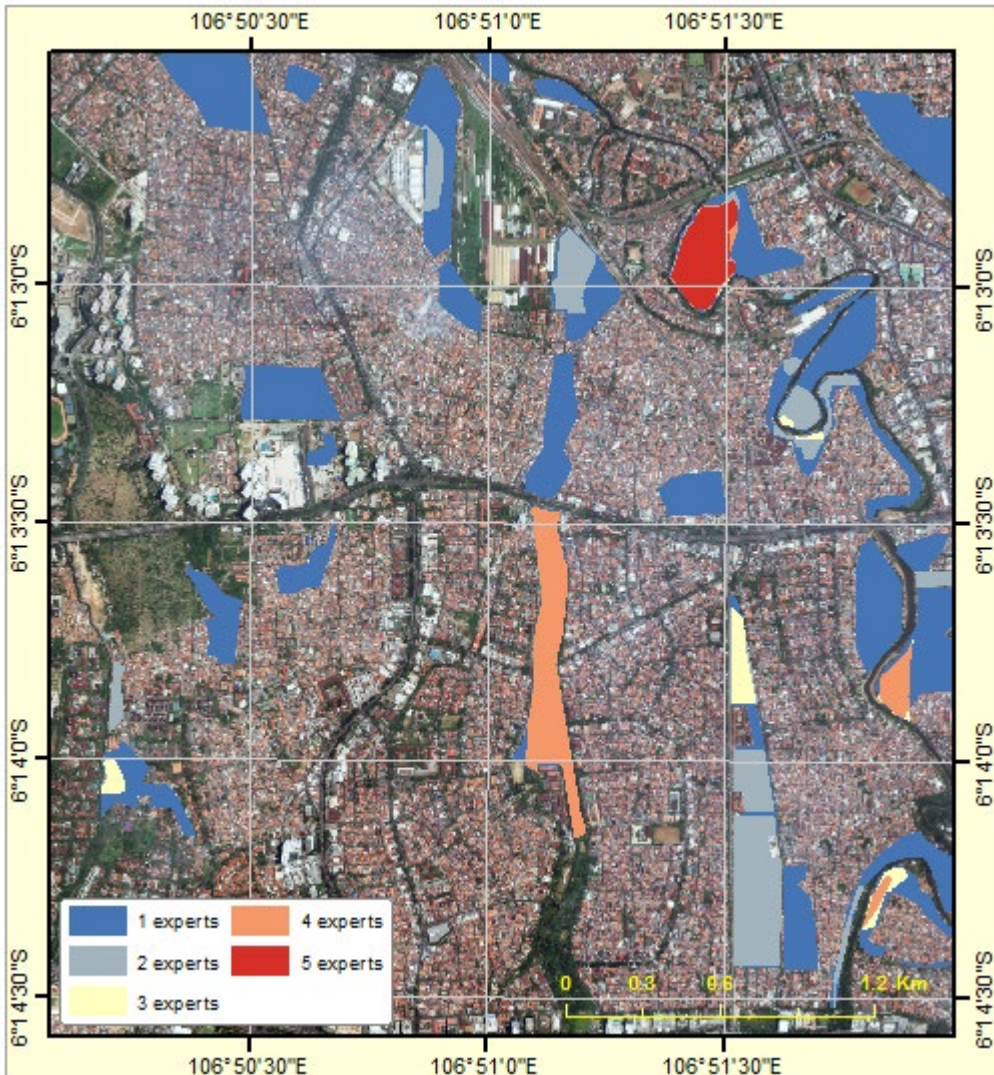
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/22797254.2018.1535838>

Emergence and Growth of a slum in Huidi, Bangalore (marked with a red polygon). a) Slums emerge near a construction Site in 2008. b) Slum grows near the same site. c) Slum disappear when construction is complete in 2013. d) A slum re-emerge at the same site in 2014 (Images– Google Earth) (Source: Dynaslum)



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# UNCERTAINTIES IN THE REFERENCE DATA



Opportunity to link to NGOs and communities slum dweller groups

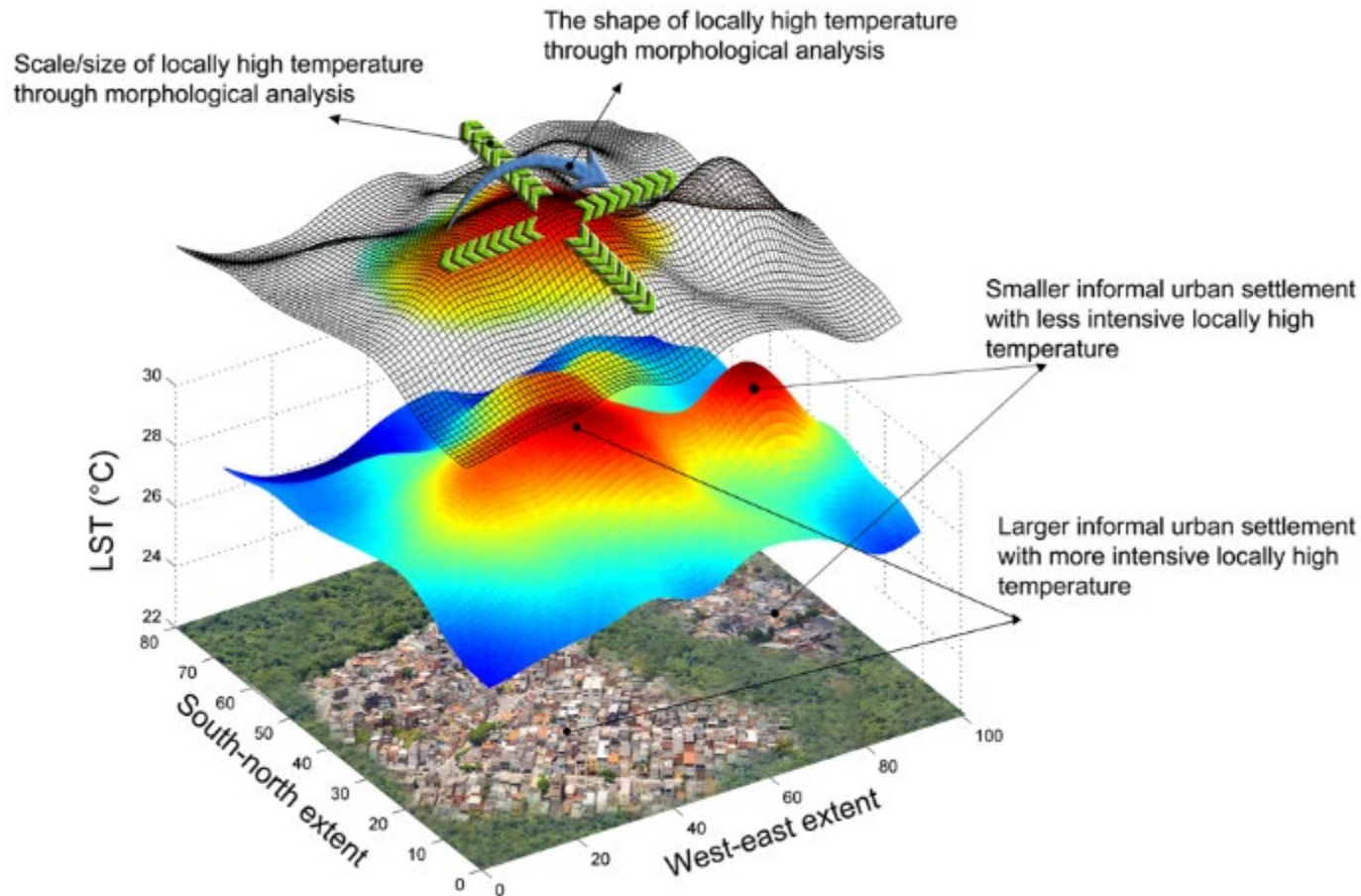
In area with higher agreement shows (on the ground): poor building materials, high density and



Misclassifications: high density and have a roof from asbestos, but not a slum

Source: Pratomo et al., 2017:  
<https://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/9/11/1164>

# UNDERSTAND BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF SLUMS: HAZARDS – CLIMATE

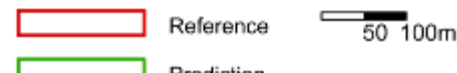
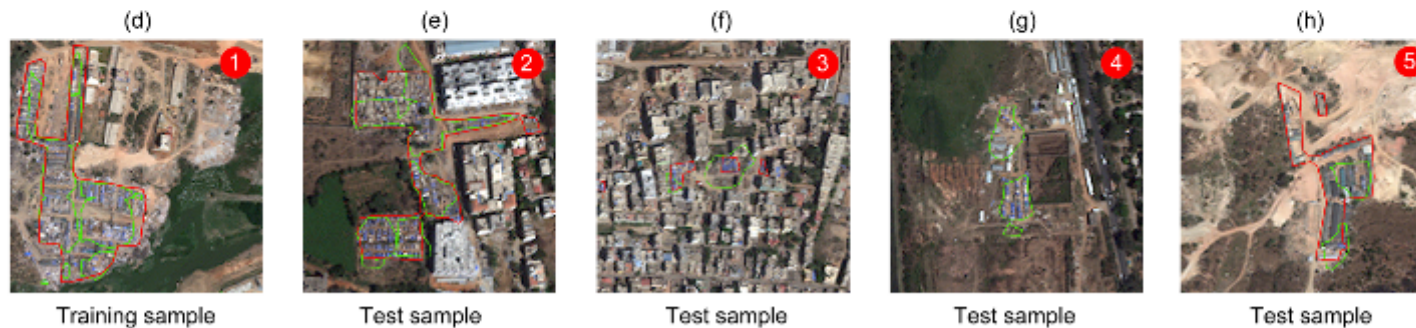
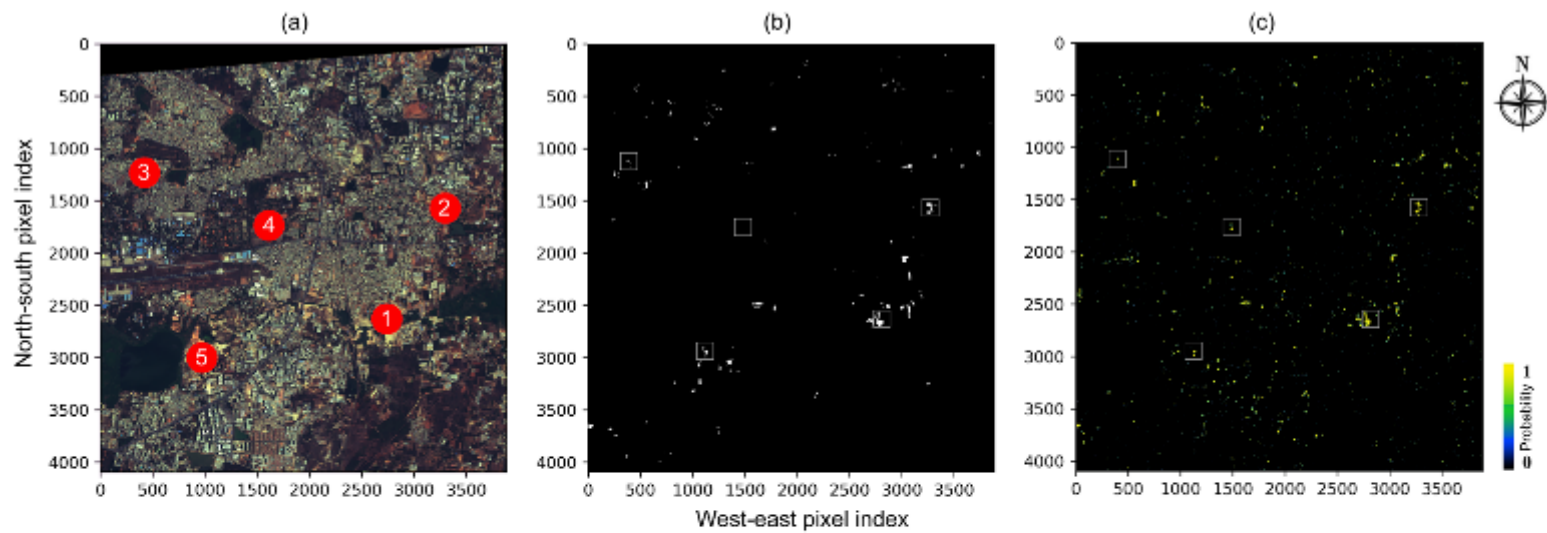


WANG, J., Sliuzas, R., Kuffer, M., Kohli, D.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969718337811>

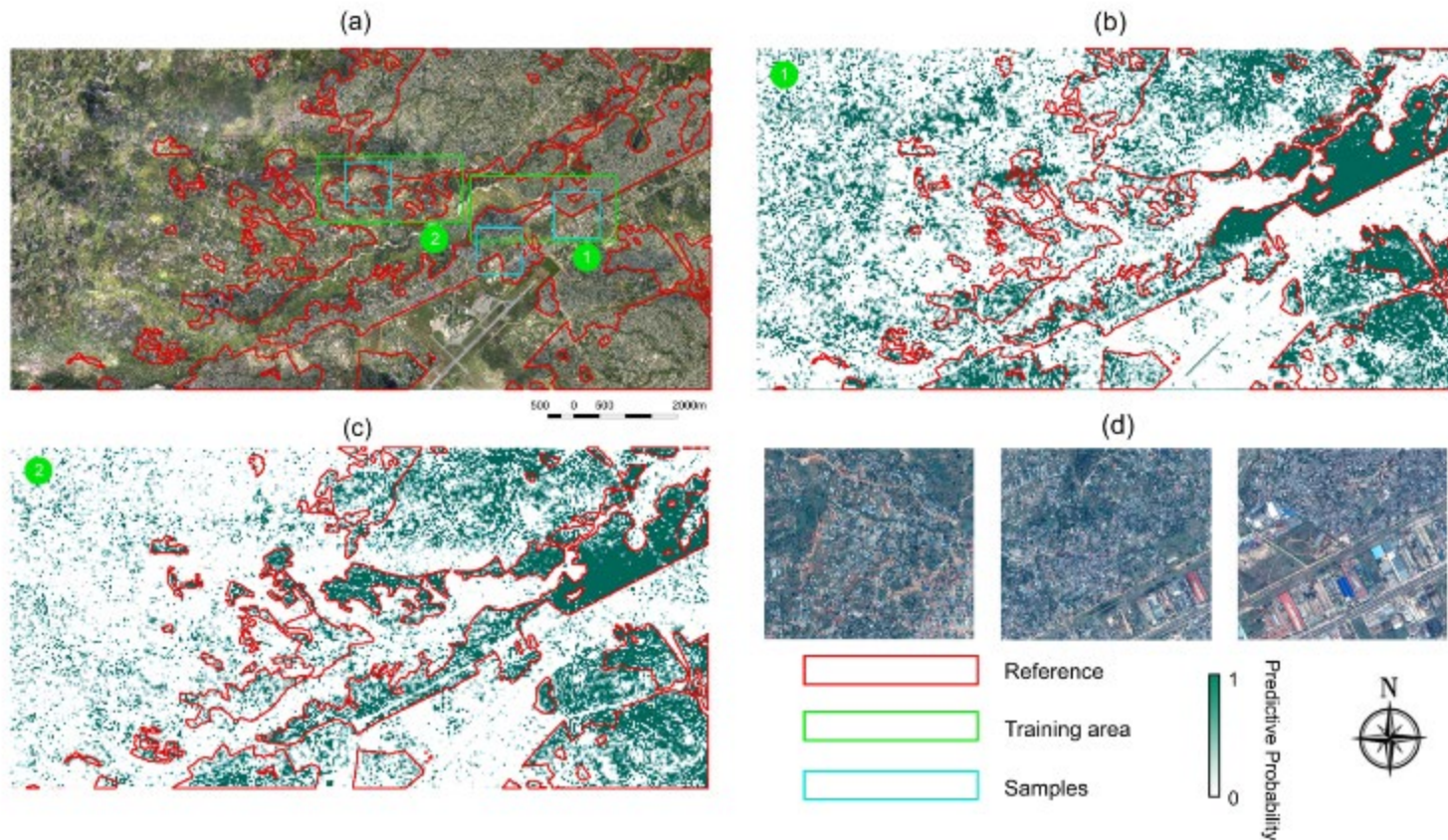
# GOING AHEAD: CAN MAP SLUMS WITH CNNs BASED ON LIMITED TRAINING DATA

- Mapping small clusters of slums with training based on few large slums



# GOING AHEAD: CNNs NEED TO HAVE TRAINING DATA THAT INCLUDE THE VARIATIONS

- CNNs need to be trained based on the full variety of their morphologies



# UNCERTAINTIES ON SLUM BOUNDARIES: BANDUNG, INDONESIA

Local authorities

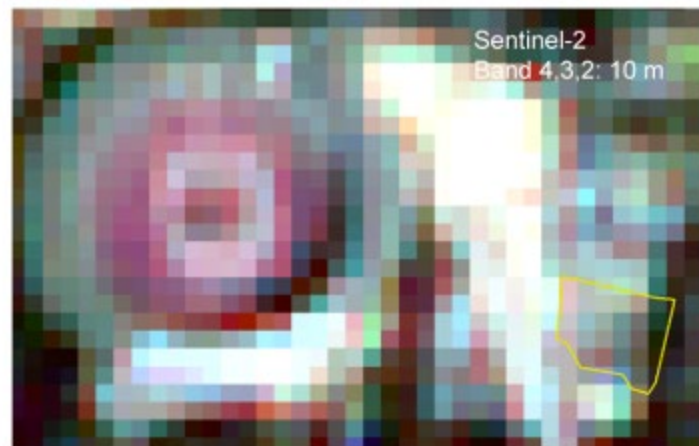
Ground-truth delineation including image



0 100 200 400 600 Meters

# MOST SUITABLE SPATIAL RESOLUTION OF IMAGES

Benefits versus image and computational costs



# HOW CAN WE SHOW THE FUZZINESS IN MAPS

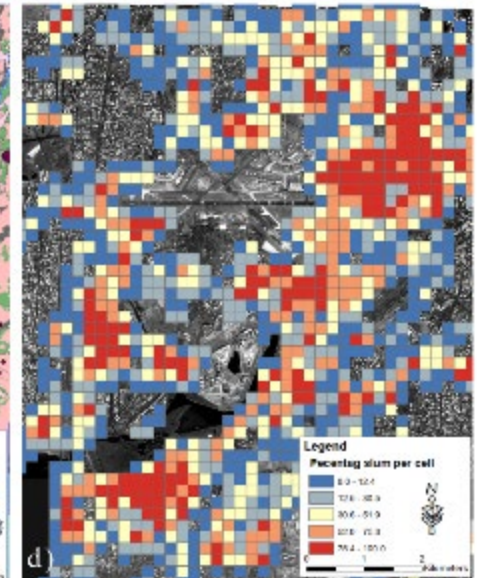
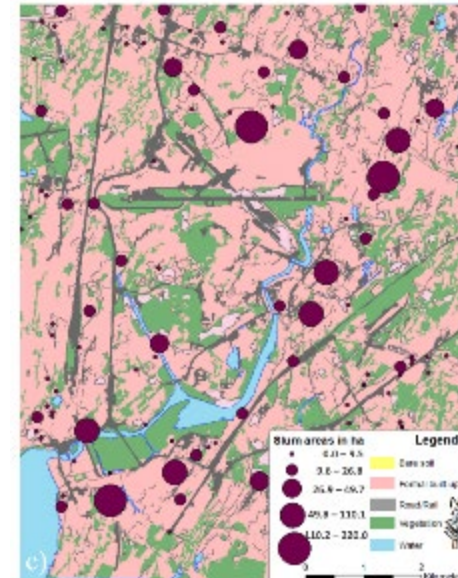
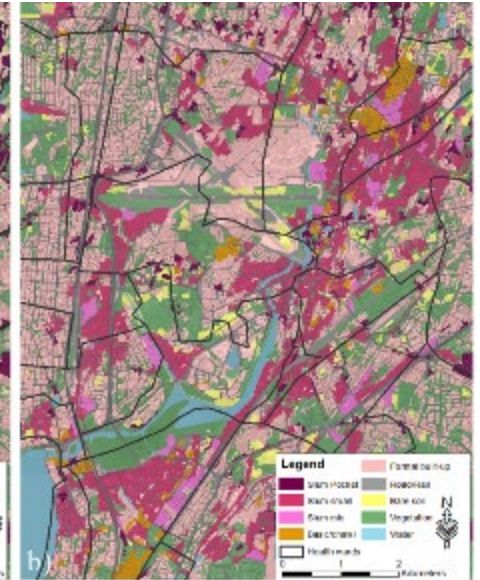
- Is the highest detail necessary?
- Ethical considerations (not) making data on slums publically available?



*Kampung*s with basic facilities, amenities, durable housing materials, cars



*Kampung*s without basic facilities, poor housing materials, poor households





# SLUMS IN EUROPE?

Immigrants in France. (L) Eviction from Calais, (R) New settlements in Paris



# INFORMATION NEEDS AND ETHIC CONSIDERATIONS



*Shall we make slum maps and images publically available ????*

Source Gevaert et al. 2018:  
<https://www.mdpi.com/2220-9964/7/3/91>

<https://www.sicherheitspolitik-blog.de/2018/07/11/the-digitalization-of-the-globe-machine-learning-about-population-in-need-of-support/>



## POSSIBLE ETHICAL CONCERNS IN SLUM MAPPING

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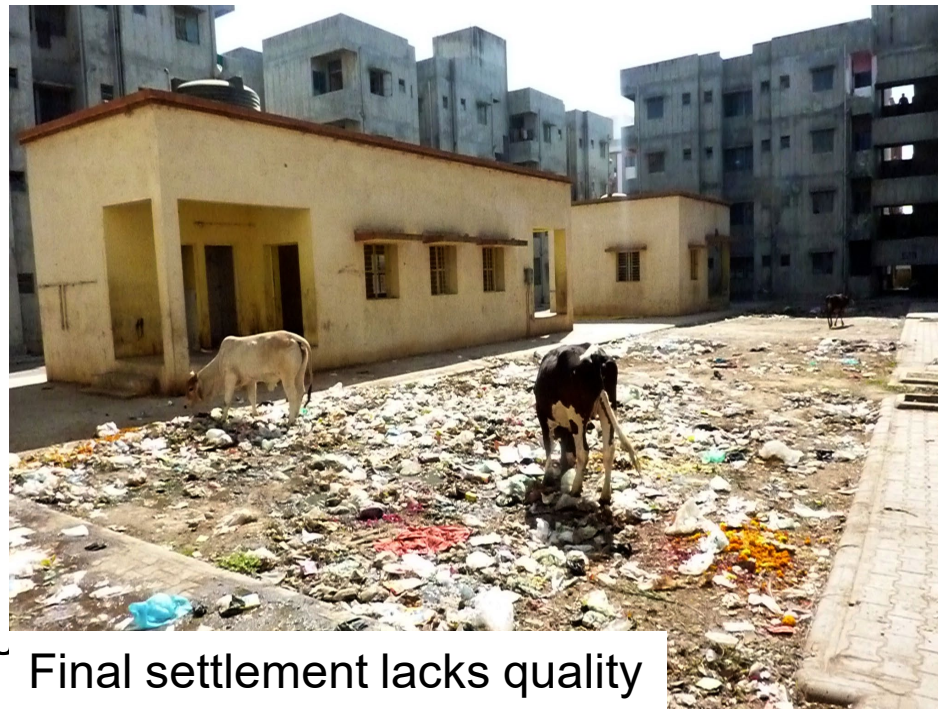
- Who decides and who owns the process?
- Who is eligible for compensation and resettlement?
- Who pays?
- Issues of possible eviction or economic displacement – gentrification?
- .....

# SLUM EVICTION IN AHMEDABAD INDIA LEADS TO FURTHER DEPRIVATION RELATED MOSTLY TO SERVICE LEVELS AND LOCATION OF NEW SITES

Patel, S., Sliuzas, R., & Mathur, N. (2015).  
<http://doi.org/10.1177/0956247815569128>



Many residents do not qualify



Final settlement lacks quality



Very poor temporary resettlement



## SOME KEY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

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- Definitions: do we really have a global definition?
  - Slums are often not binary (slum vs non-slum)
  - How do we bring in hazards in an effective manner (also non-binary, dynamic and related to
- Diversity
  - Should we differentiate at regional, country or city level?
  - At least we will need to include training sets that reflect diversity
  - What do slum development processes imply for training samples and processing?
  - *This is shown on the slides 4&5 – we need to include different development stages – but this makes the analysis complex!*
- How to connect local actors and communities (SDI etc.)?
  - In data collection efforts for sample generation?
  - In validation of slum classification maps?
  - As users of the data in daily management and upgrading, etc.?



## SOME KEY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

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- Uses and users:
  - Which potential uses have priority and for whom?
  - Will political and other actors be prepared to accept and use such data sets derived from advanced image analysis?
  - What are the margins for error and will these be context dependent?
- Technical
  - Image availability and sensor types
  - Computational power – which processing facilities can support the level of computation required for this task and can these be accessed as and when needed?
  - How to best connect to socio-economic datasets (Census, DHS, MICS etc.)
- Ethical and privacy issues
- Social-technical: what would an inclusive global slum mapping infrastructure look like and how to build and maintain it?



## NEW INITIATIVES

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### Opportunities

- SDG process
- MAUPP partners and follow-up projects
- Group on Earth Observation – Human Planet Initiative  
(<https://www.earthobservations.org/index.php> <https://www.itc.nl/hpi-forum/>)
- Global programmes related to hazards and climate change (UNISDR, UNFCCC)
- UN-HABITAT - GUO, Slum Upgrading Programme, Climate Change Unit: Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor Initiative for UN Summit 2019

**SLUMS ARE NOT JUST  
THERE 'LIKE THAT'**

Source: Ralf Graf. RxAxLxF Informal City





## SOME USEFUL REFERENCES

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- Gevaert, C. M., Sliuzas, R., Persello, C., & Vosselman, G. (2018). Evaluating the societal impact of using drones to support urban upgrading projects. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*, 7(3). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijgi7030091>
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- Kuffer, M., Pfeffer, K., & Sliuzas, R. (2016). Slums from space-15 years of slum mapping using remote sensing. *Remote Sensing*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs8060455>
- Kohli, D., Sliuzas, R., Kerle, N., & Stein, A. (2012). An ontology of slums for image-based classification. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*, 36(2), 154–163.
- Mahabir, R., Croitoru, A., Crooks, A. T., Agouris, P., & Stefanidis, A. (2018). A Critical Review of High and Very High-Resolution Remote Sensing Approaches for Detecting and Mapping Slums: Trends, Challenges and Emerging Opportunities. *Urban Science*, 2(8), 1–38. <https://doi.org/10.3390/urbansci2010008>