



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



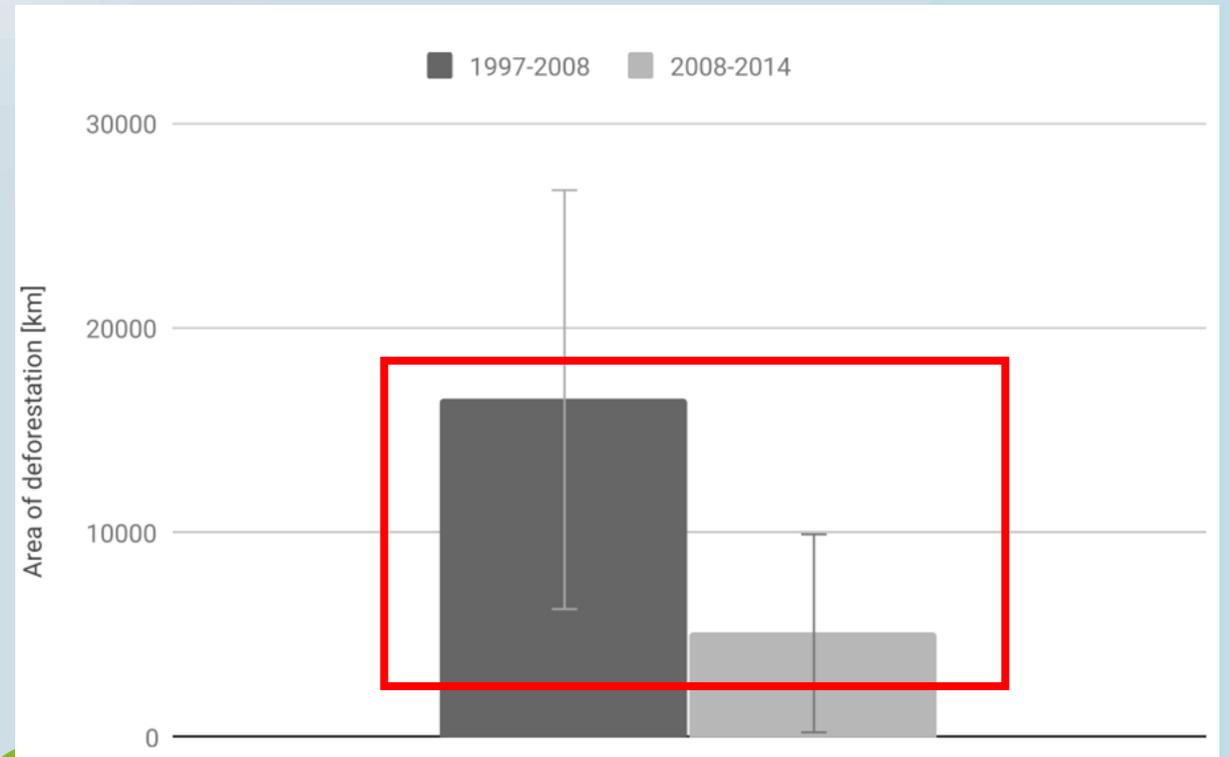
Ensemble Sample- Based Area Estimation - An Overview

NFM Team
FAO Forestry Division

GFOI Plenary, 9-11 May 2023
Rome and online

Objective

- Support countries in accessing **Carbon Finance**
- **Reliable** estimates of Forest Change (High-integrity)
- **Consistency** over time
- Address **Uncertainty**
- Being **practical**
- **Manage** expectations



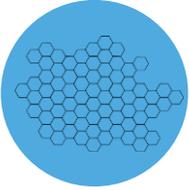
source: Olofsson et al 2020

Overview - Ensemble



Time-Series Extraction

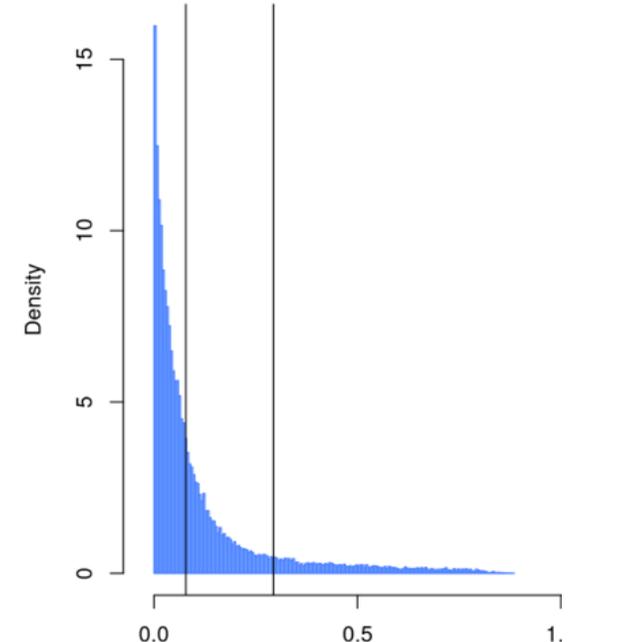
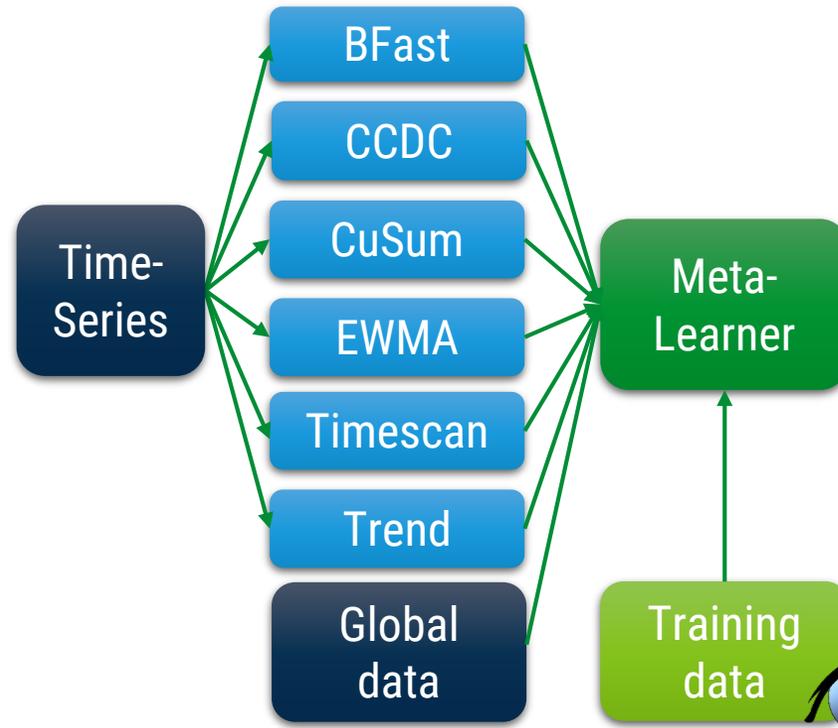
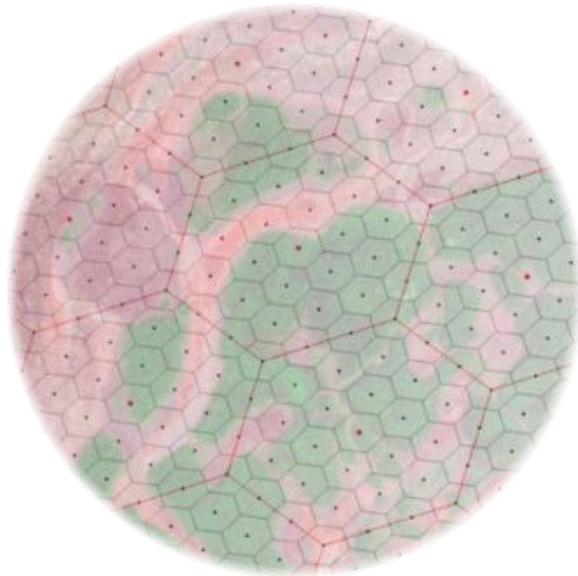
Probability of potential change



Dense systematic sampling grid

Ensemble of Change

Dalenius type of stratification



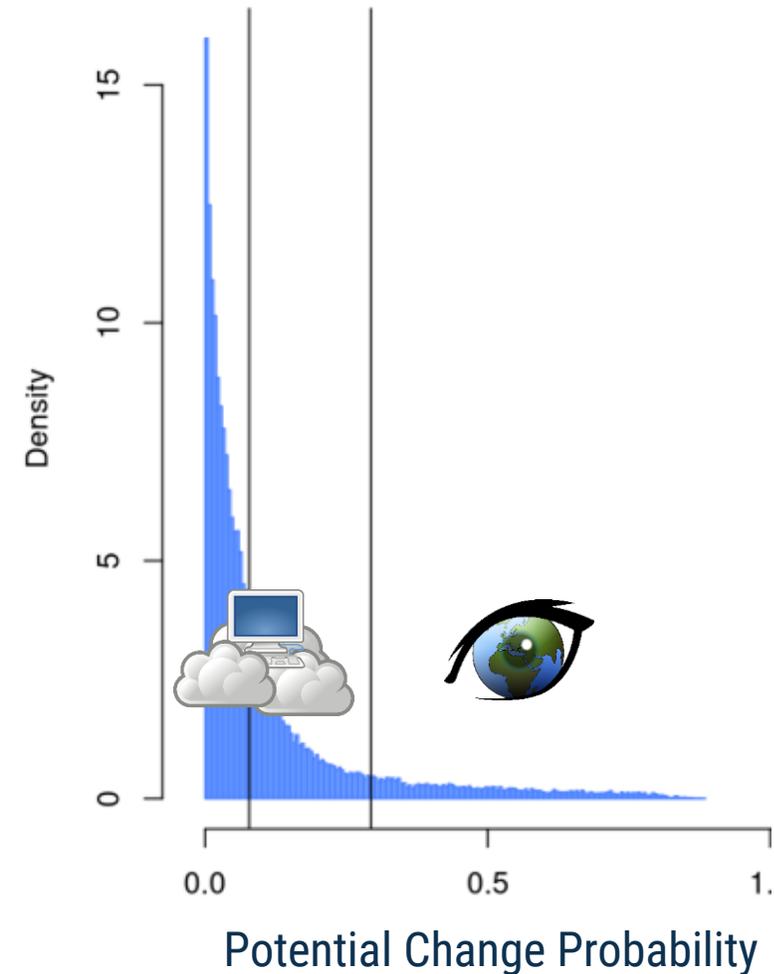
Potential Change Probability

Usage scenario I – Prioritization of interpretation



Systematic grid

- -> visually check a subset of points
- potentially HFLD countries, where huge parts are just stable (forest)
- e.g. strict rule-based selection could replace visual interpretation



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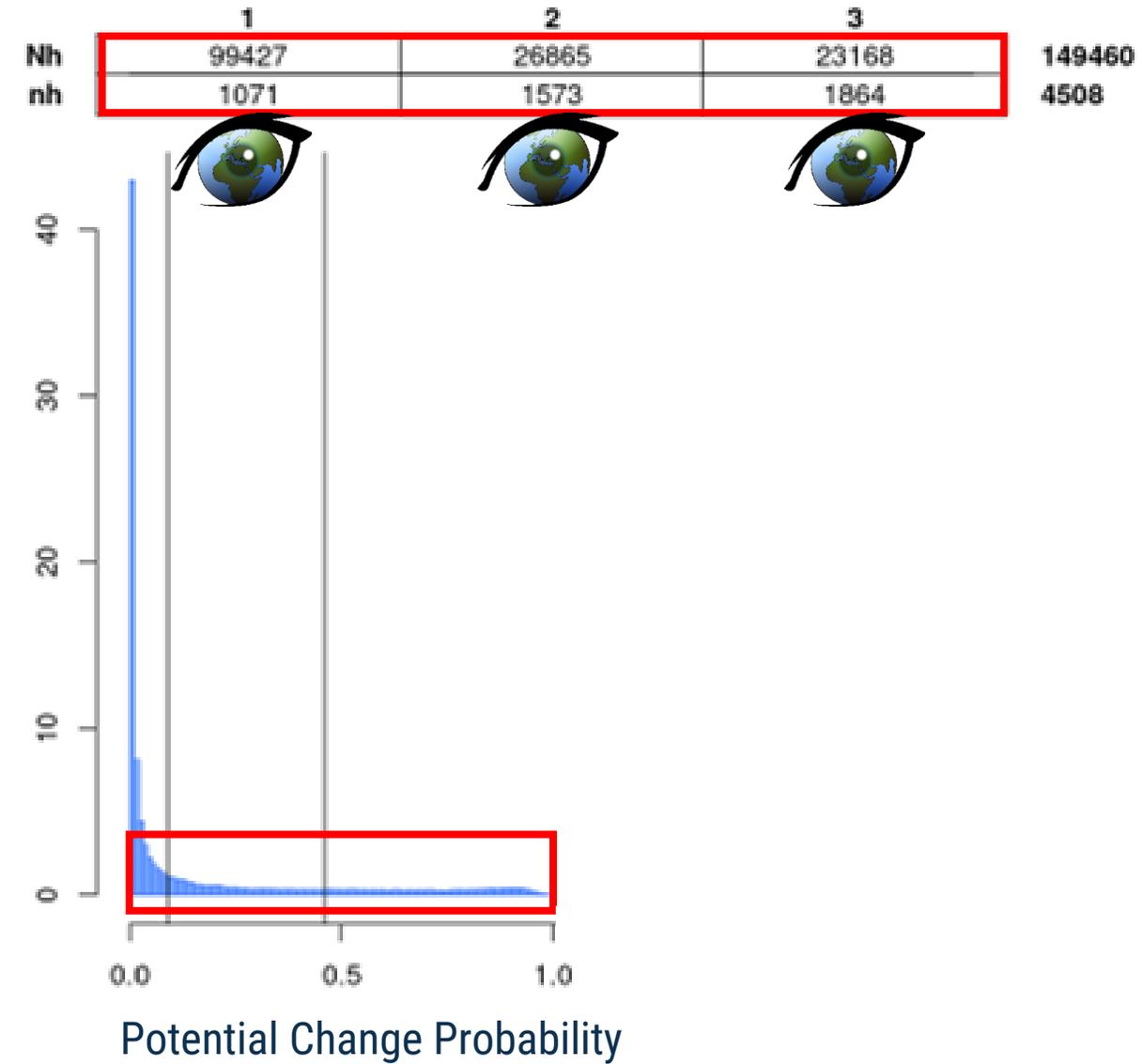
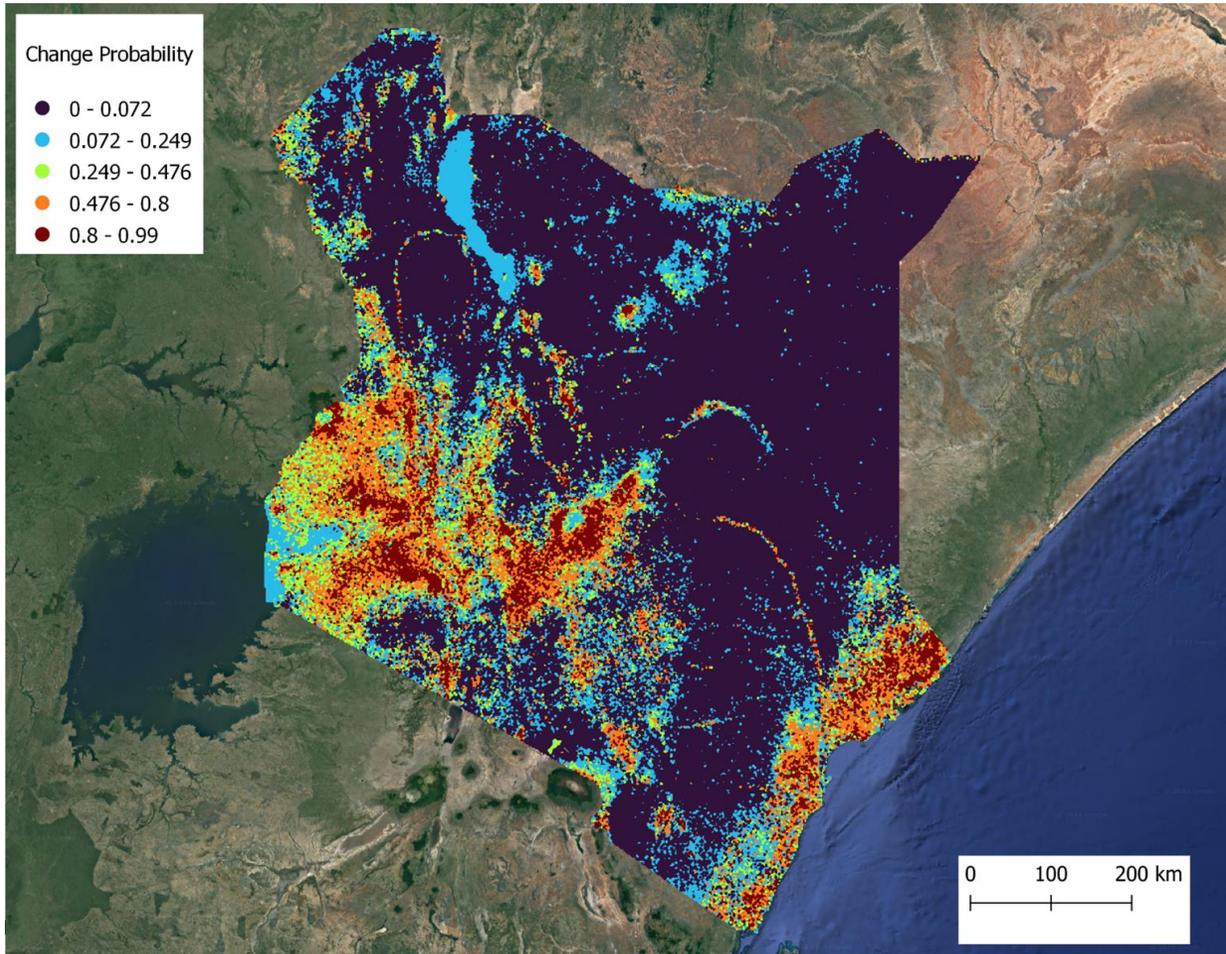
Stratified random

- From existing maps
- Intensification of stable strata in case of omissions
- e.g. strict rule-based selection could replace visual interpretation

Usage scenario II - Stratification

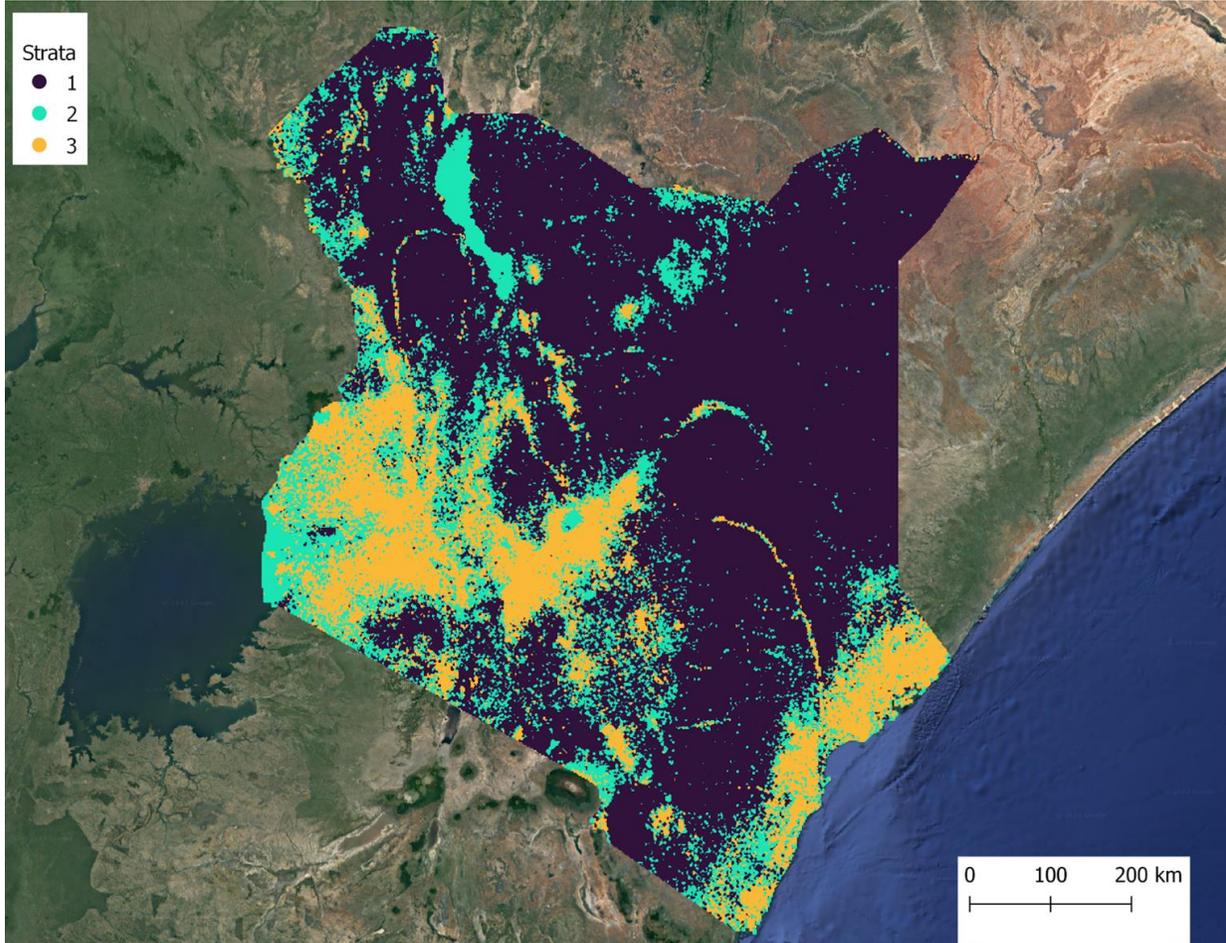


Kozak Neyman with 3 strata

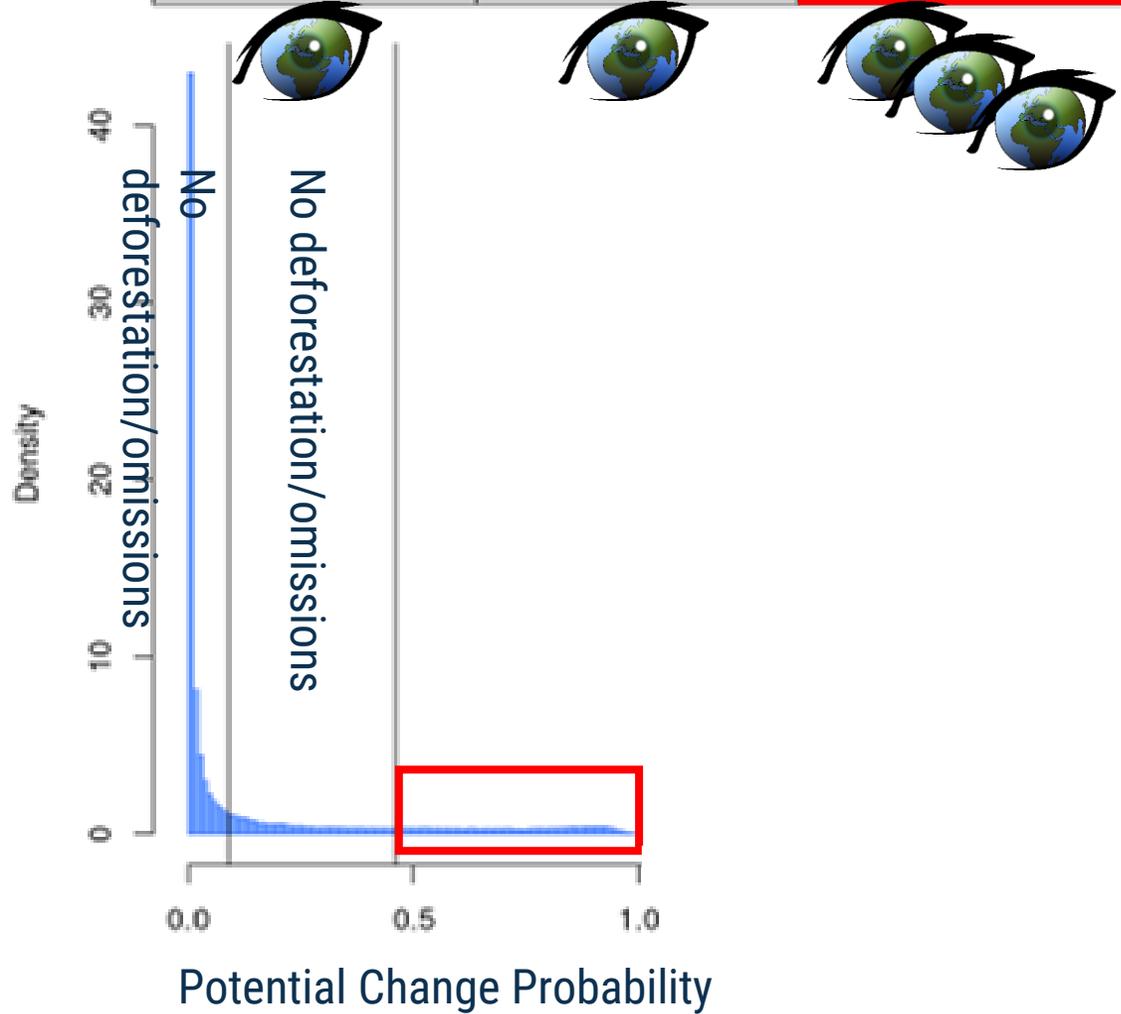


Usage scenario II - Stratification

Kozak Neyman with 3 strata



	1	2	3	
Nh	99427	26865	23168	149460
nh	1071	1573	1864	4508



Still want to have a wall-to-wall map?



→ **Use the interpreted samples
as training data**

Usage scenario III – QA/QC



- Already interpreted data
- Use of „the machine“ as an independent interpreter
- Using the ensemble to re-classify the samples
- Samples with disagreement between visual and re-classified results are prioritized

	Change	No-Change
Change	125	27
No-Change	36	250



Wrap-up



- How do we avoid bias and get to low uncertainties without having to interpret 100 of thousands of points?

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Wrap-up



- How do we avoid bias and get to low uncertainties without having to interpret 100 of thousands of points?
- Can we use a *combination of algorithms* to avoid huge interpretation campaigns in areas with *very few forest (dynamics)*
- What would be the best way forward in doing so?



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