Variable	Dates	Source
Slope	2000	Slope was derived from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM 30). *Reference*: USGS (2004). Shuttle Radar Topography Mission, 1 Arc Second scene SRTM_u03_n008e004, Unfilled Unfinished 2.0, Global Land Cover Facility, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, February 2000. Digital data accessed 1 July 2013 from http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/
Biotemperature Precipitation EPR (Aridity)	1960-1990	Climate variables (annual biotemperature, annual precipitation, annual evapotranspiration/precipitation ratio (EPR)) are derived from WorlClim. WordClim provides gridded maps of current (1950-2000) and future climate variables at different latitude-longitude resolutions, i.e., 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 2.5 minutes and 30 seconds. The dataset for current climate is the result of a spatial interpolation process using splines applied to measurements from climate stations. The 30 seconds resolution adopted here corresponds to grid cells of 0.86 km^2 at equator, usually referred to as a 1 km grid. The dataset representing current conditions was selected: this covers the period from 1960-1990. The variables have been computed according to the definitions of Holdridge, 1947. Annual means were calculated for all variables, after the following pre-processing: EPR was produced by dividing evapotranspiration by precipitation, with an upper limit of 100. The precipitation data was used as supplied. For biotemperature, values below 0 were set to 0, and in the final average, any values below 0.1 were set to 0.1. *References*: Hijmans, R., S. E. Cameron, J. L. Parra, P. G. Jones, and A. Jarvis (2005), Very high resolution interpolated climate surfaces for global land areas, International Journal of Climatology, 25, 1965-1978. Holdridge, L. R. (1947), Determination of world plant formations from simple climatic data, Science, 105, 367-368. Digital data accessed 1 July 2013 from http://www.worldclim.org/
% woody vegetation % herbaceous cover	2010	Derived from the Vegetation Continuous Fields collection which contains proportional estimates for vegetative cover types: woody vegetation, herbaceous vegetation, and bare ground. Only the first two variables are used, since the third is a function of the first two. The product is derived from all seven bands of the MODerate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)

		sensor on board NASA's Terra satellite. *Reference*: DiMiceli, C.M., M.L. Carroll, R.A. Sohlberg, C. Huang, M.C. Hansen, and J.R.G. Townshend (2011), Annual Global Automated MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields (MOD44B) at 250 m Spatial Resolution for Data Years Beginning Day 65, 2000 - 2010, Collection 5 Percent Tree Cover, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA. Digital data accessed 1 July 2013 from http://glcf.umd.edu/data/vcf/
NDVI max NDVI min	2001-2010 (Average of minimum and maximum)	The MODIS Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data set is available on a 16 day basis for the ten year period between 2001 and 2010. The product is derived from bands 1 and 2 of the MODerate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer on board NASA's Terra satellite. *Reference*: Carroll, M.L., C.M. DiMiceli, R.A. Sohlberg, and J.R.G. Townshend (2004). 250m MODIS Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. Digital data accessed 1 July 2013 from http://glcf.umd.edu/data/ndvi/
NDWI	2006-2010 (Maximum)	NDWI was calculated by the MARS unit of the Joint Research Centre (now the Food Security Unit) from spectral bands in the 10-day composites of SPOT-VGT. The maximum value for the 5-year period was extracted from the collection of 10-day composites.