

ANDEX White Book

Chapter 5: Cryosphere of the Andes

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Introduction

The Andes portray an impressive variety of topographic and climatic conditions that result in a vast and diverse cryosphere

Probably no other mountainous region on Earth contains such a diversity of cryospheric features and ice masses

- ✓ small tropical glaciers above 5000 m (in the tropical Andes from Colombia to Bolivia)
- ✓ large continuous areas integrating clean ice and rock glaciers (semi-arid Andes of Chile and Argentina)
- ✓ extensive temperate glaciers and icefields calving into the sea (southwestern Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego)

Introduction II

Outside Antarctica, the Andes include the largest glacierized area in the Southern Hemisphere

The largest extension of tropical glaciers on Earth

One of the greatest concentrations of mountain permafrost and rock glaciers outside the Himalayas

The greatest extension of seasonal snow in this part of the globe



Organization of the chapter

1. Introduction
2. Seasonal snow
 1. General description
 2. ENSO and seasonal snow
 3. West-East gradients
 4. Recent trends
3. Glaciers
 1. Tropical / Southern Andes
 1. Current state
 2. Recent changes
4. Mountain permafrost
5. Knowledge gaps and future challenges

2. Seasonal snow

Compared to some years ago, currently we have a much larger array of tools to study seasonal snow in the Andes

- ✓ increased variety and temporal/spatial resolution of remote sensing data
- ✓ better modeling capabilities
- ✓ better access to instrumental datasets

Snow cover from MODIS,
February 2018



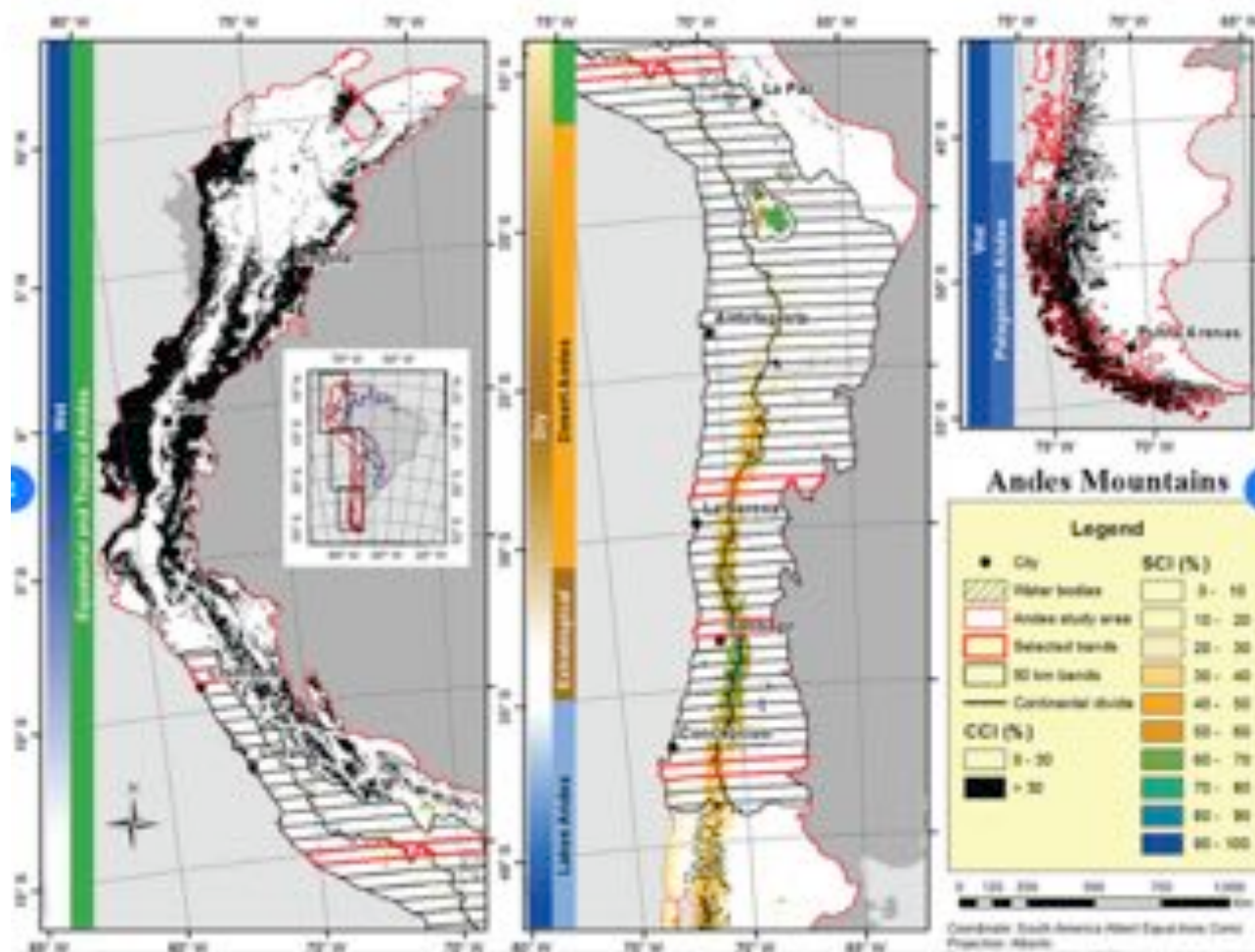
2. Seasonal snow



Snow cover from MODIS,
September 2018

A snow climatology of the Andes Mountains from MODIS snow cover data

Freddy A. Saavedra,^{a*} Stephanie K. Kampf,^b Steven R. Fassnacht^{b,d,e} and Jason S. Sibold^c



Changes in Andes snow cover from MODIS data, 2000–2016

Freddy A. Saavedra^{1,2}, Stephanie K. Kampf³, Steven R. Fassnacht^{3,4,5,6}, and Jason S. Sibold⁷

1032

F. A. Saavedra et al.: Andes snow cover changes 2000–2016

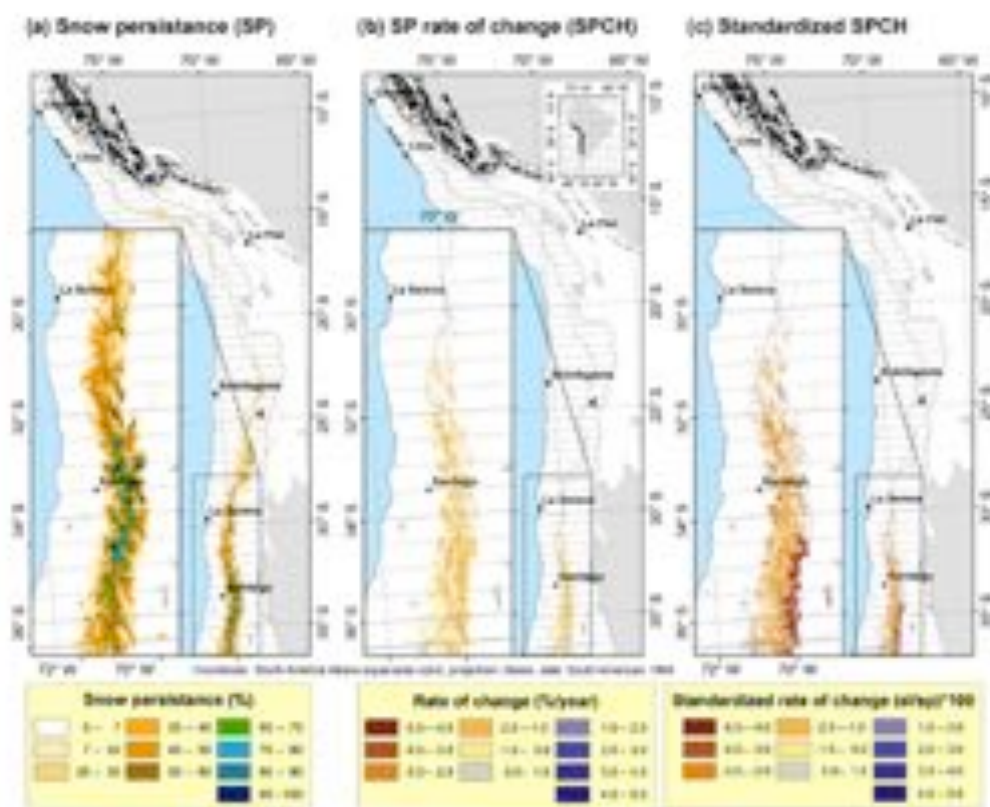

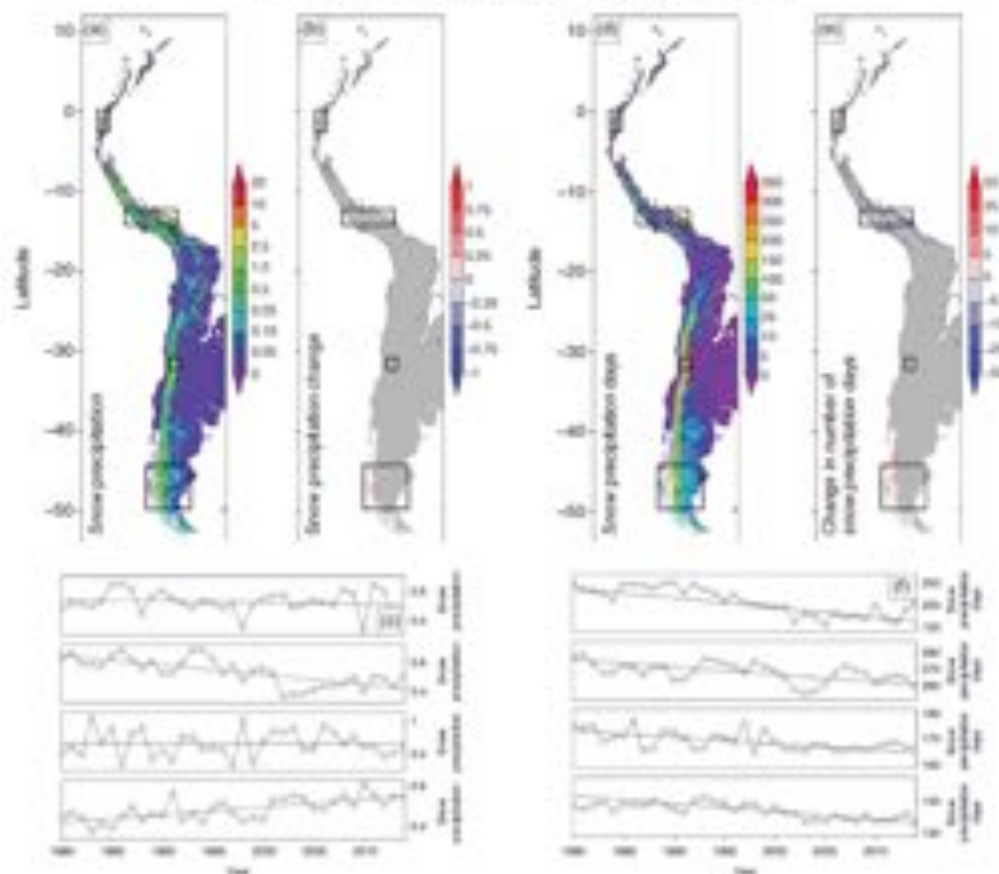


Figure 3. Spatial patterns of (a) snow persistence (SP) 2000–2016, (b) rate of change (Theil–Sen slope) in annual SP 2000–2016, and (c) standardized rate of change (Theil–Sen slope/SP); pixels are only colored in panels (b) and (c), where the trend is significant at $p \leq 0.05$. All images exclude areas with little to no snow (mean annual SP $\leq 7\%$). Areas with frequency of cloud greater than 30% are masked in black.

The Andes Cordillera. Part I: snow distribution, properties, and trends (1979–2014)

Sebastian H. Mernild,^{a,b,f,e}  Glen E. Liston,^c Christopher A. Hiemstra,^d Jeppe K. Malmros,^e Jacob C. Yde^f and James McPhee^g

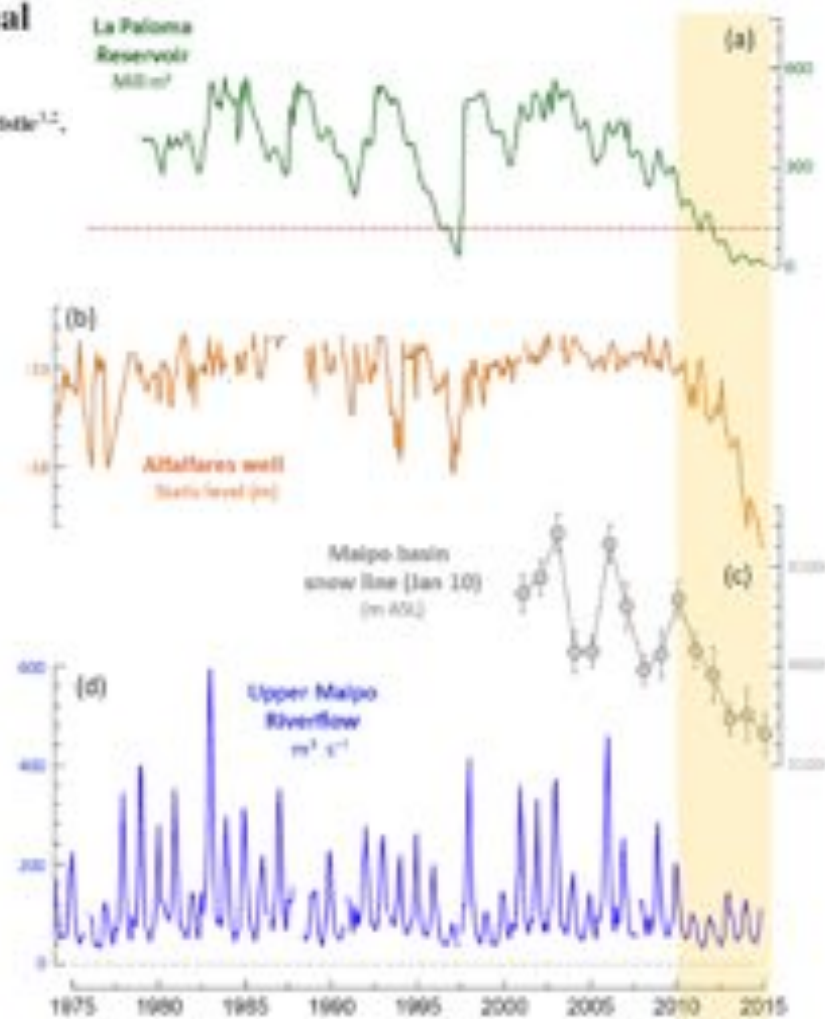


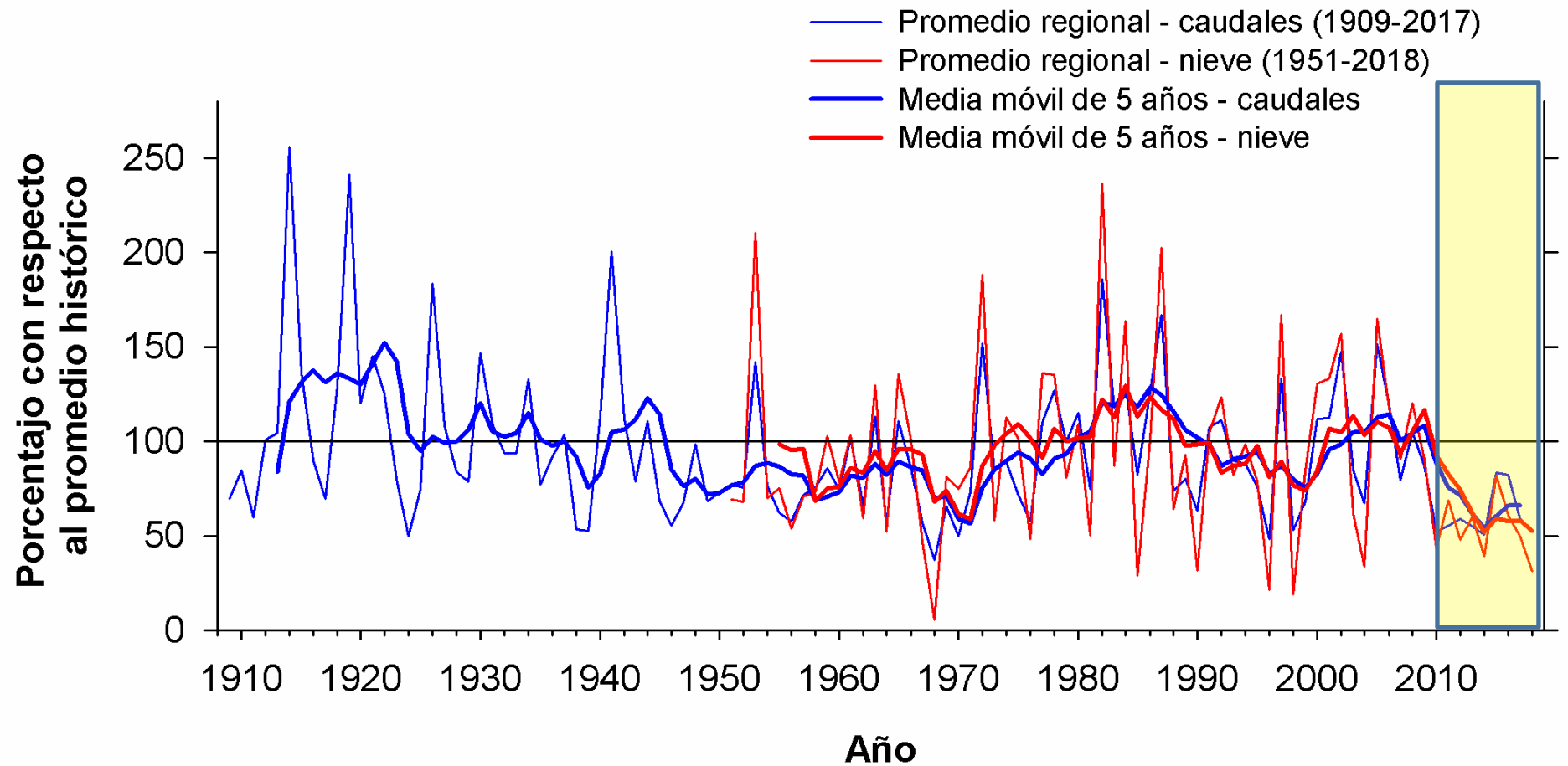


The seasonal snow that accumulates each winter in the central Andes of Chile and Argentina represents a crucial water resource for human activities in the region

The 2010–2015 megadrought in central Chile: impacts on regional hydroclimate and vegetation

René D. Garreaud^{1,2}, Camila Alvarez-Garreton^{1,2}, Jonathan Barichivich^{1,2}, Juan Pablo Borsier^{1,2}, Duncan Christie^{1,2}, Mauricio Galleguillos^{4,2}, Carlos LeQuesne¹, James McPherson^{5,6}, and Mauricio Zambrano-Bigiarini^{1,2}

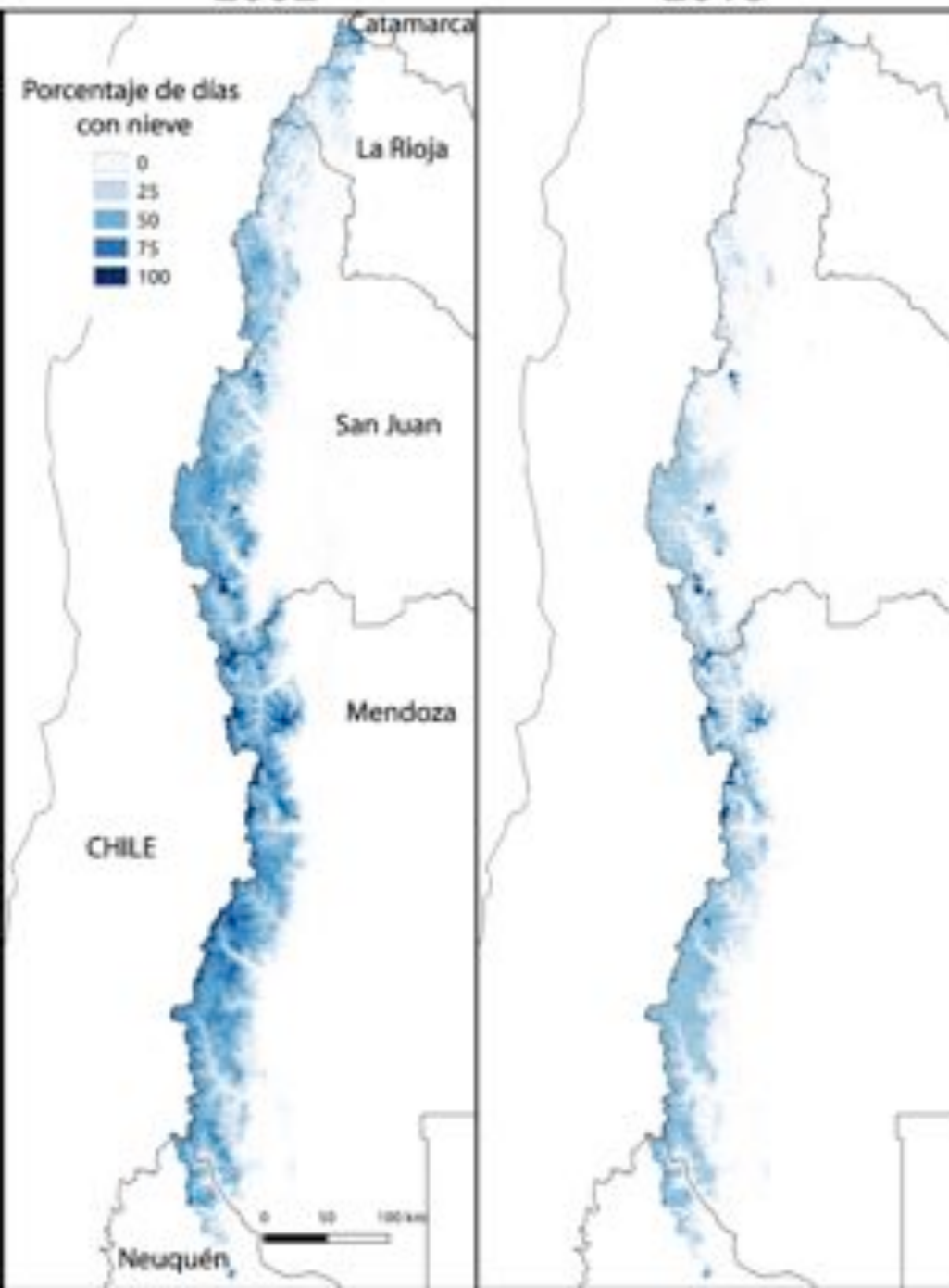




Adding data for the last few years shows that the “Megadrought” is still alive

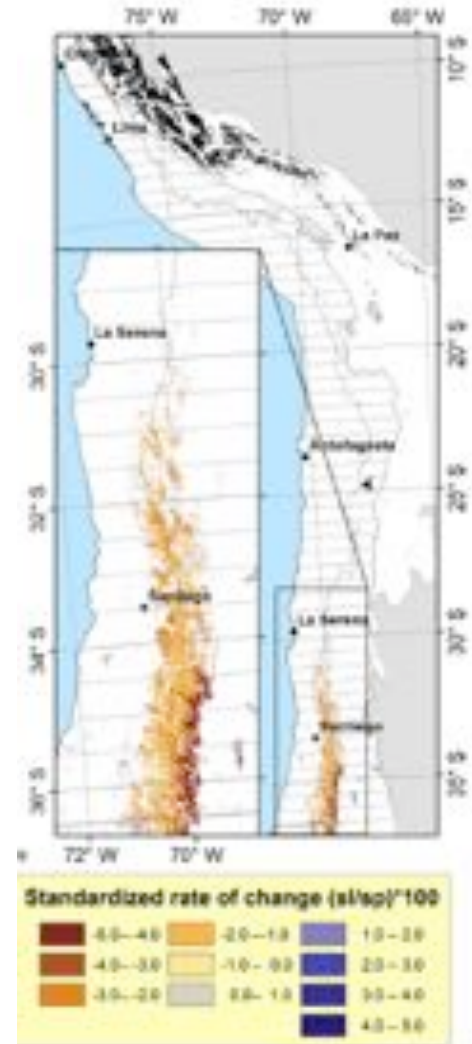
2002

2018



In the Argentinean (drier) side of the Andes, the recent lack of snow is particularly worrisome

(c) Standardized SPCH



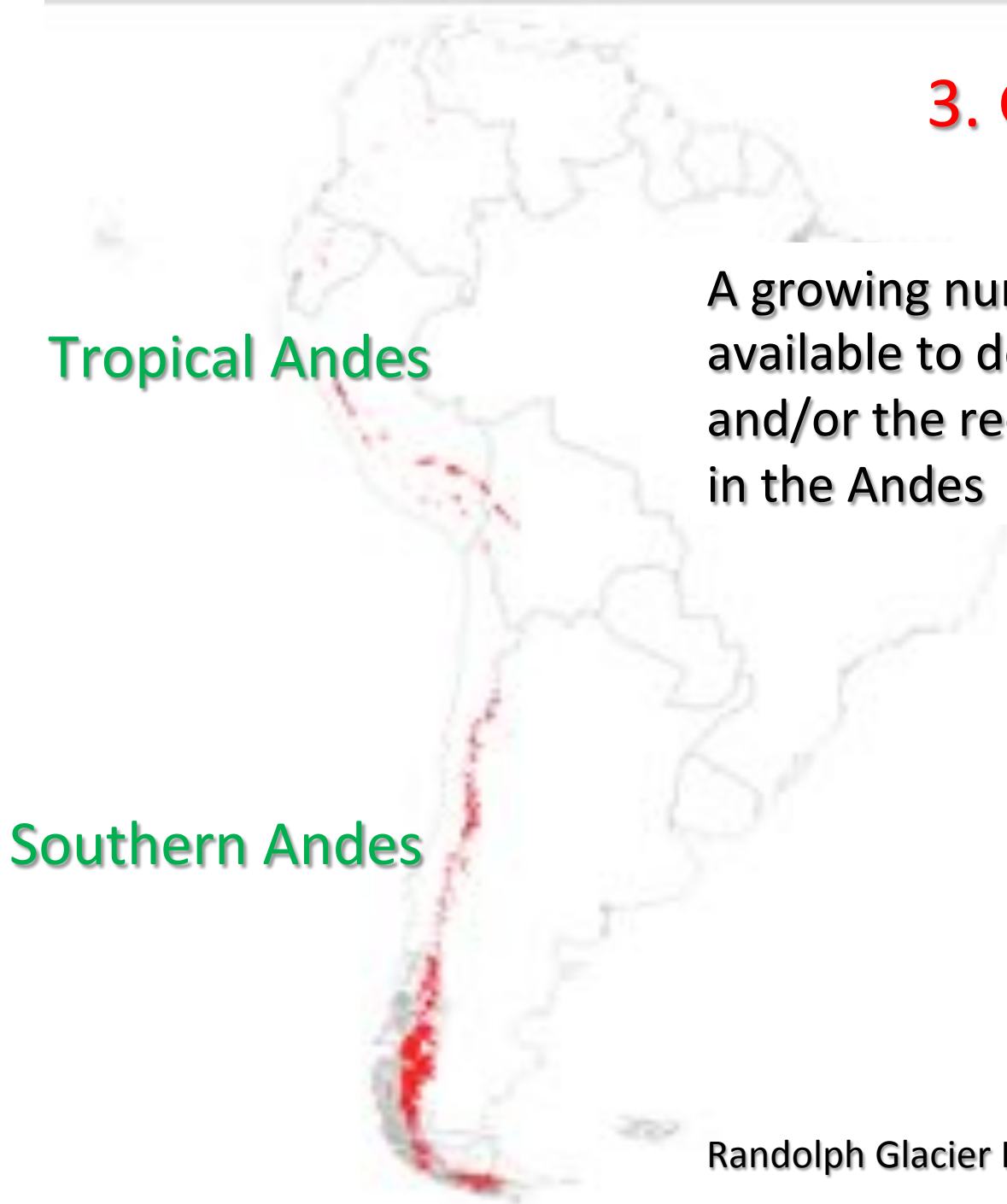
3. Glaciers

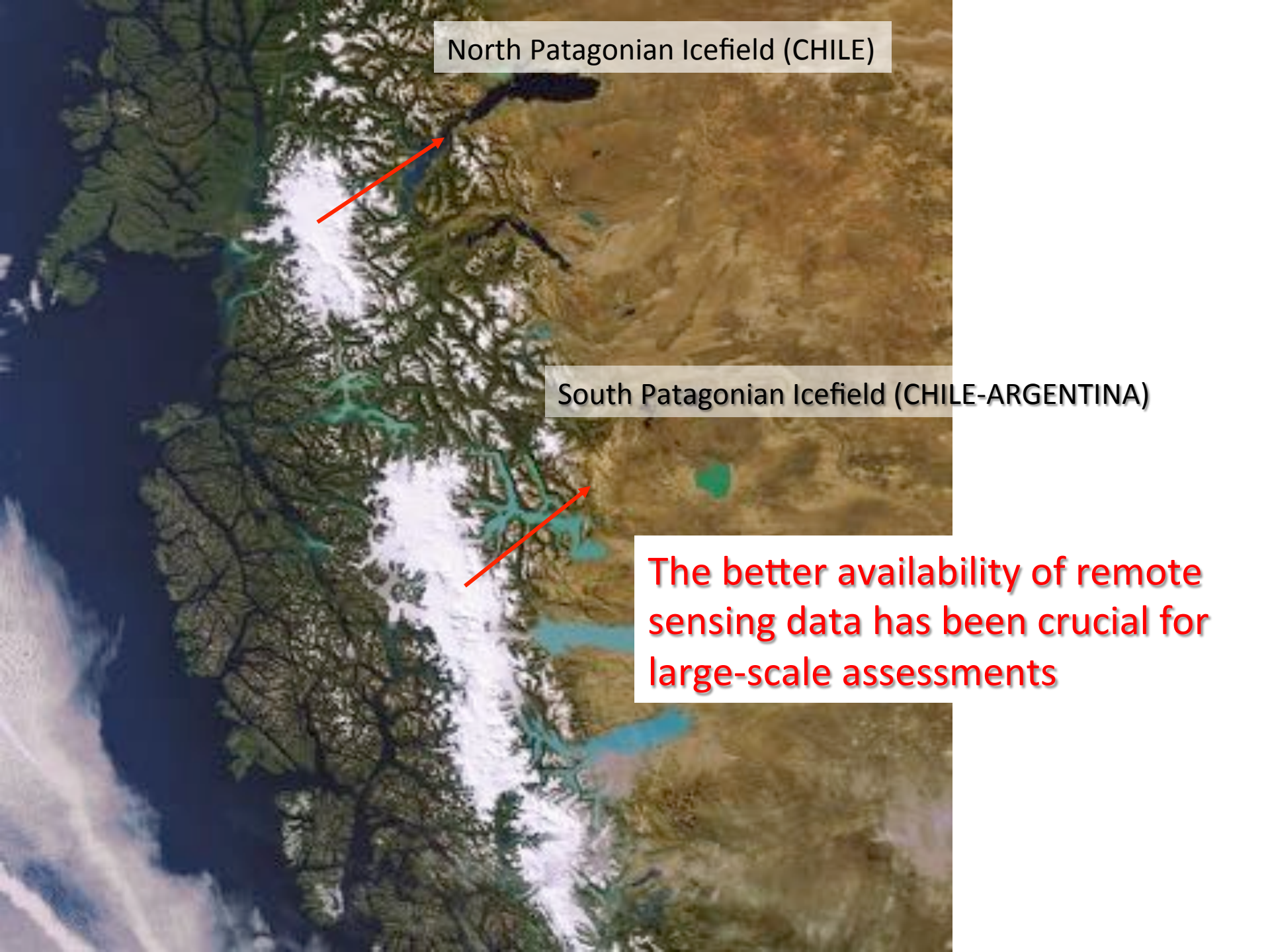
A growing number of studies are available to describe the current state and/or the recent changes of glaciers in the Andes

Tropical Andes

Southern Andes

Randolph Glacier Inventory, GLIMS



A satellite-style map of Patagonia, Chile, and Argentina. The map shows a complex network of rivers and lakes. Two large icefields are highlighted with white and light blue colors. A red arrow points from the top label to the North Patagonian Icefield, and another red arrow points from the middle label to the South Patagonian Icefield. The terrain is color-coded by elevation, with greens and blues for lower elevations and browns and yellows for higher elevations.

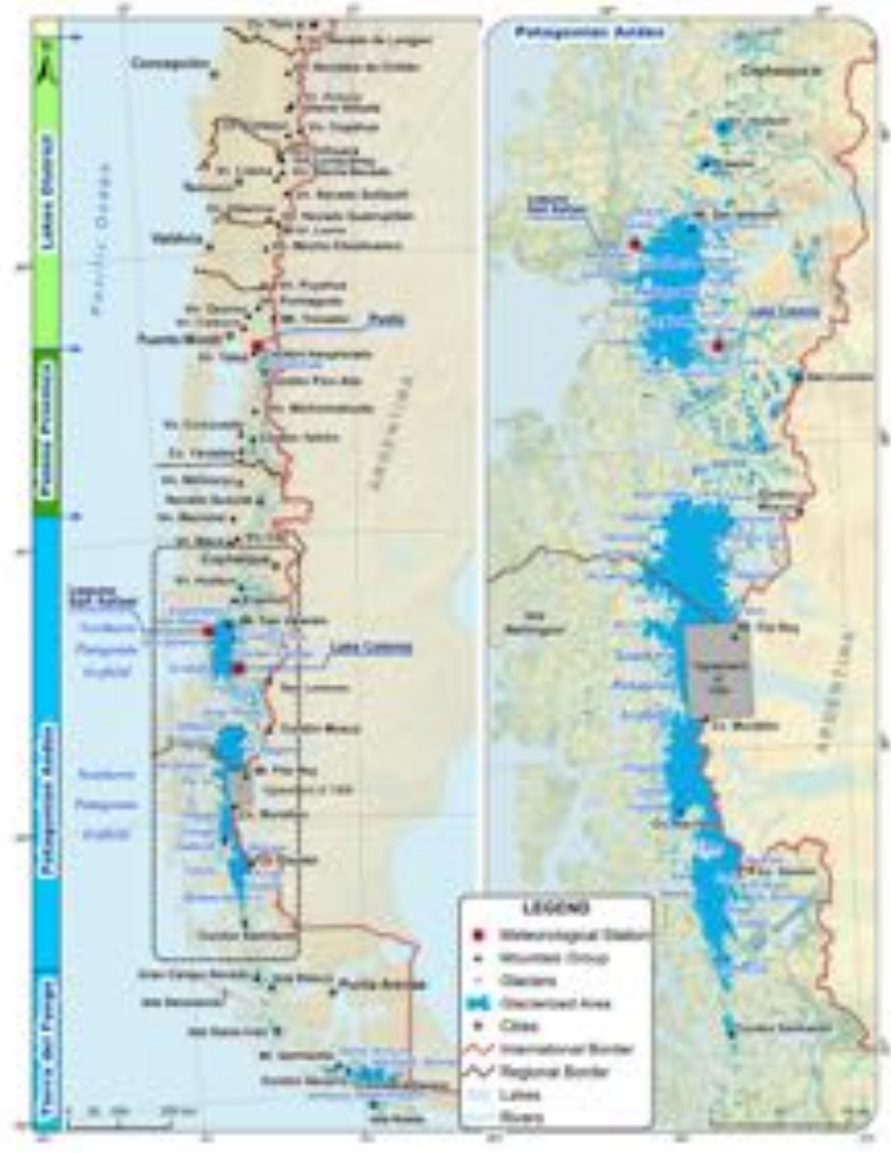
North Patagonian Icefield (CHILE)

South Patagonian Icefield (CHILE-ARGENTINA)

The better availability of remote sensing data has been crucial for large-scale assessments

Glacier inventory and recent glacier variations in the Andes of Chile, South America

Gonzalo BARCAZA,¹ Samuel U. NUSSBAUMER,^{2,3} Guillermo TAPIA,¹ Javier VALDÉS,¹
Juan-Luis GARCÍA,⁴ Yohan VIDELA,⁵ Amapola ALBORNOZ,⁶ Víctor ARIAS⁷





In May 2018 the first national glacier inventory was also published in Argentina

www.glaciaresargentinos.gob.ar



- Clean ice and debris-covered glaciers
- Permanent snow patches
- Rock glaciers

Larger than 0,01 km²

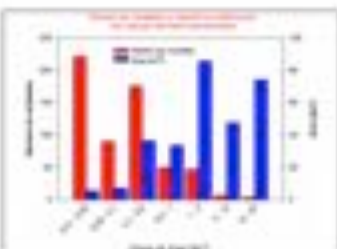
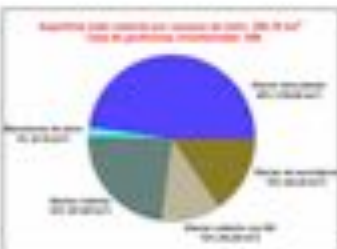
Maps

INVENTARIO NACIONAL DE GLACIARES

Cuenca del río Mendoza
 Subcuenca del río Tupungatú
 Provincia de Mendoza



Glaciar Venado en la Cordillera de San Gabriel



INVENTARIO NACIONAL DE GLACIARES

SECRETARÍA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE DE LA NACIÓN
SECRETARÍA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE DE LA NACIÓN



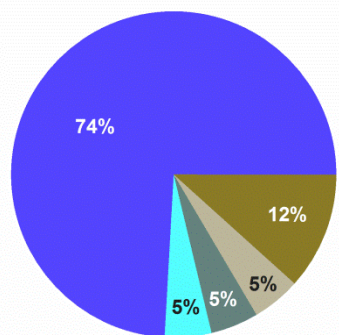
Totals

5768 km²

16078 ice bodies

- Localidad
- Límite internacional
- Límite provincial
- Límite de la Antártida Argentina
- 1) Límite del techo y subtecho
- 2) Límite exterior del Río de la Plata
- 3) Límite lateral marítimo argentino - Uruguay
- Geofomas glaciares y periglaciares
- Glaciar descubierto
- Neóclon de nieve
- Glaciar cubierto
- Glaciar cubierto con glaciar de escombros
- Glaciar de escombros activo
- Glaciar de escombros inactivo
- Parque Nacional Los Glaciares
- Región
- 1- Andes Desiertos
- 2- Andes Centrales
- 3- Andes del Norte de la Patagonia
- 4- Andes del Sur de la Patagonia
- 5- Andes de Tierra del Fuego e Islas del Atlántico Sur

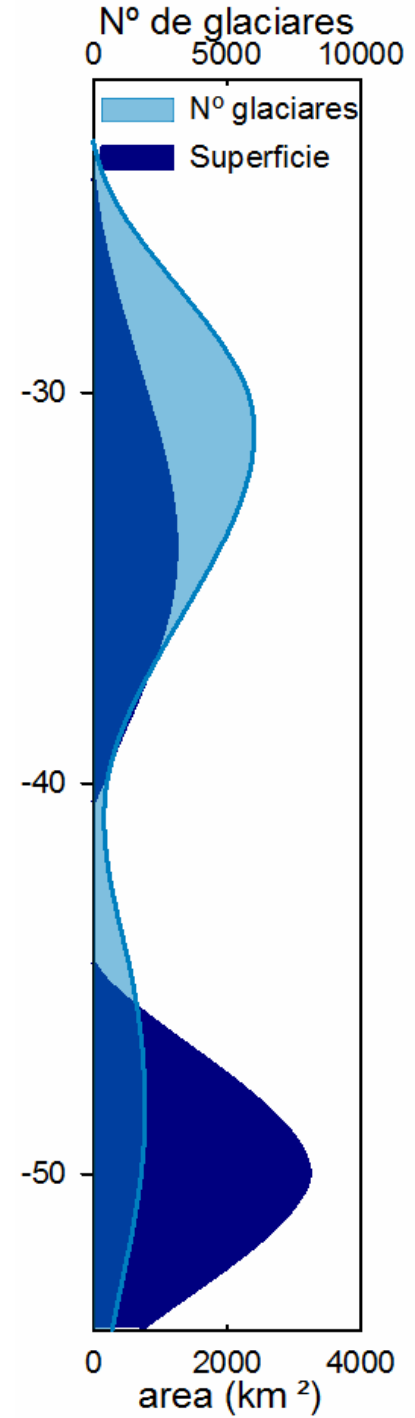
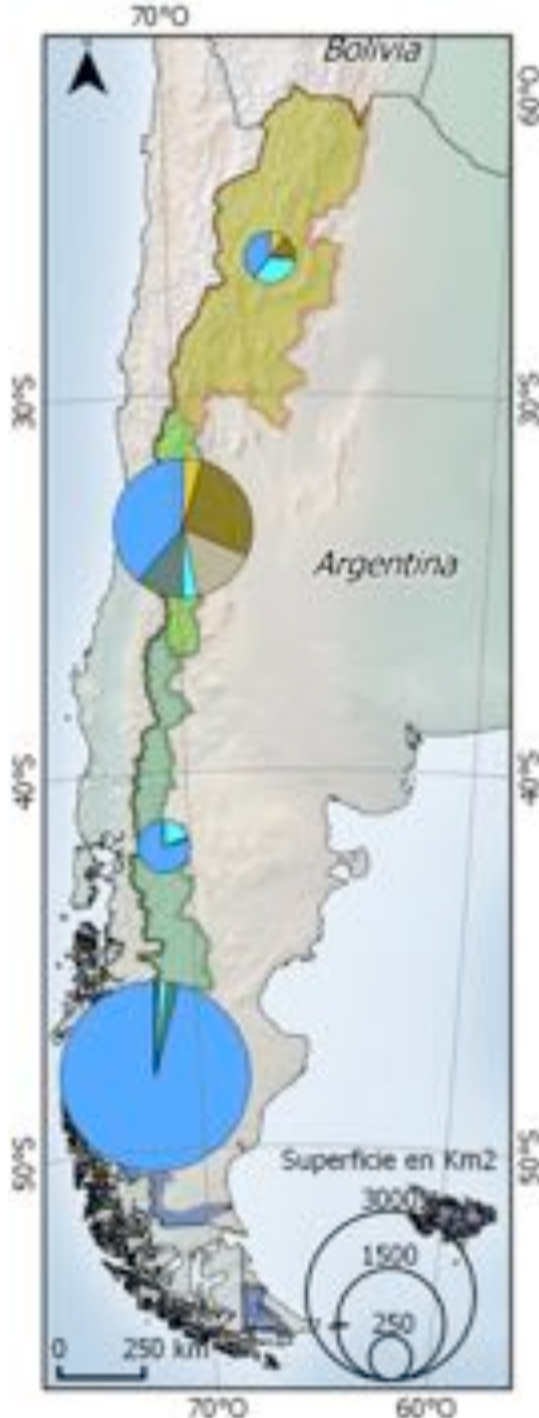
Global values



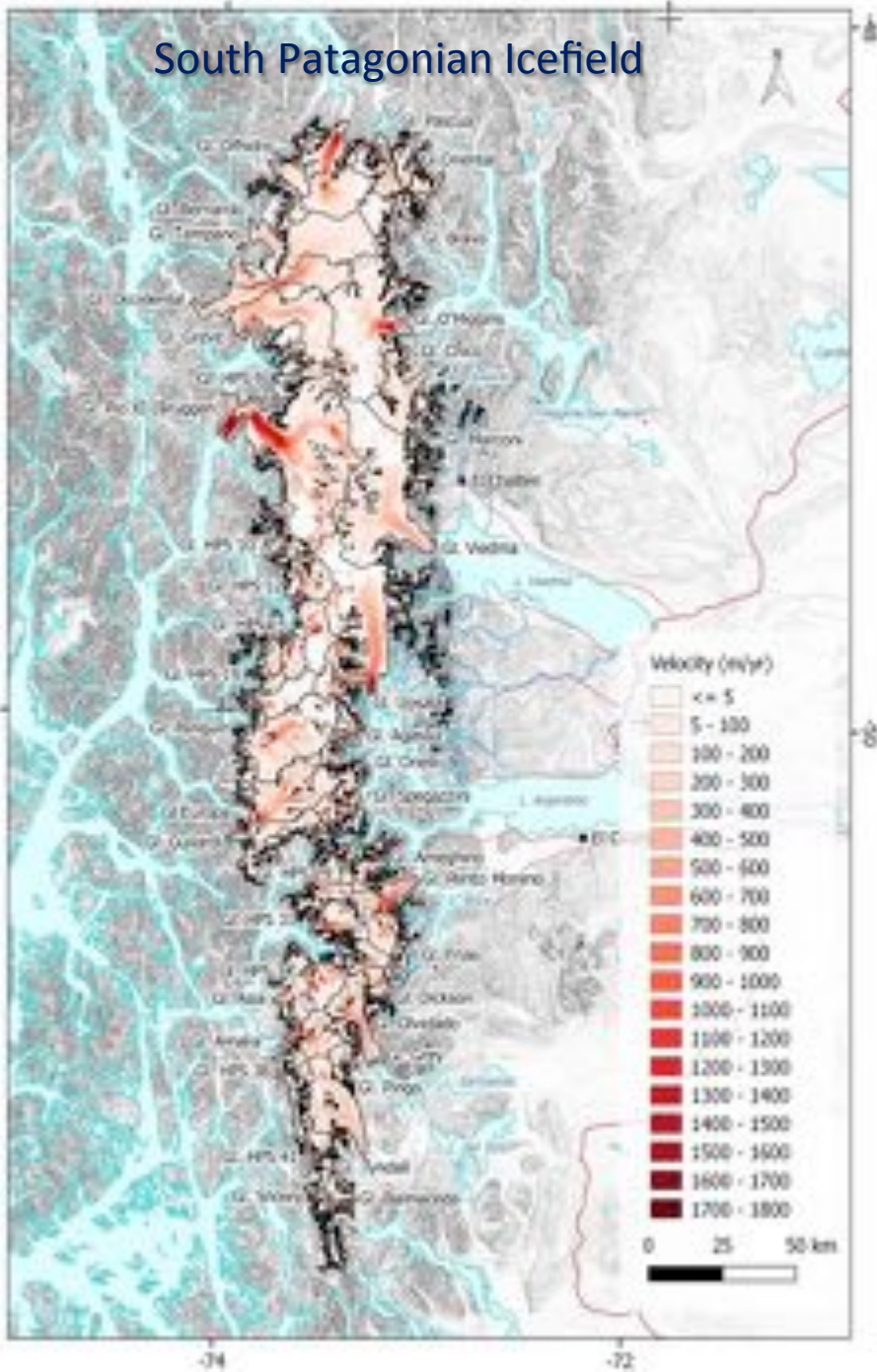
Superficie total : 5769 km²
 Total glaciares inventariados: 16078

- Hielo descubierto
- Manchón de nieve/glaciarete
- Hielo cubierto
- Hielo cubierto con glaciar de escombros
- Glaciar de escombros

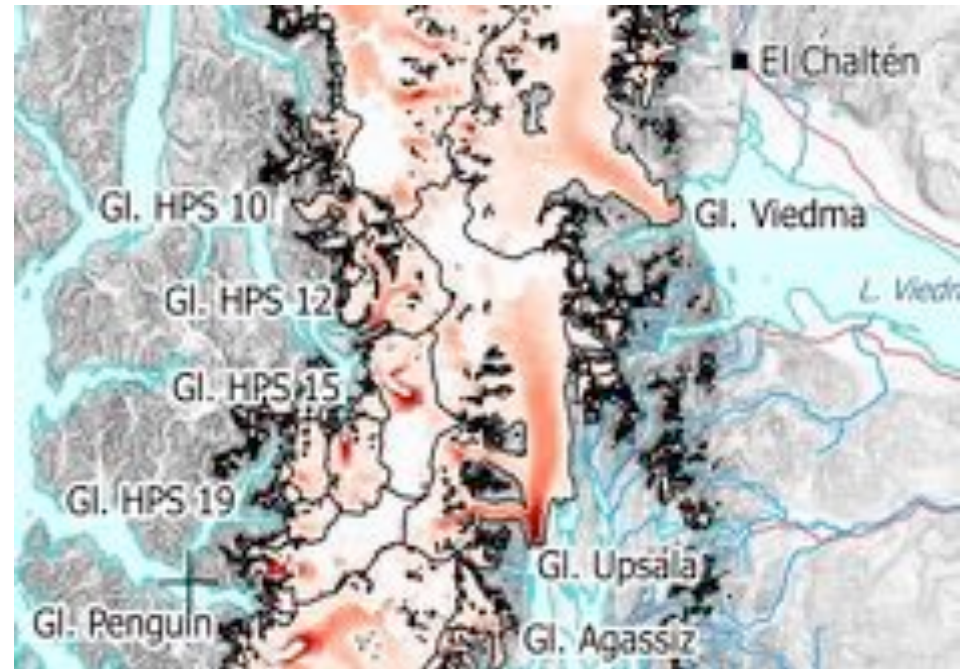
- Glaciar descubierto
- Glaciar cubierto
- Manchón de nieve
- Glaciar cubierto con GE
- Glaciar de escombros activo
- Glaciar de escombros inactivo



South Patagonian Icefield



Valuable information on glacier dynamics are also now freely available



Velocity fields

Mouginot and Rignot 2015



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Earth-Science Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/earscirev



Invited review

Rapid decline of snow and ice in the tropical Andes – Impacts, uncertainties and challenges ahead

Mathias Vuille^{a,*}, Mark Carey^b, Christian Huggel^c, Wouter Buytaert^d, Antoine Rabatel^e, Dean Jacobsen^f, Alvaro Soruco^g, Marcos Villacis^h, Christian Yarleque^g, Oliver Elison Timm^g, Thomas Condom^c, Nadine Salzmann^{c,i}, Jean-Emmanuel Sicart^c

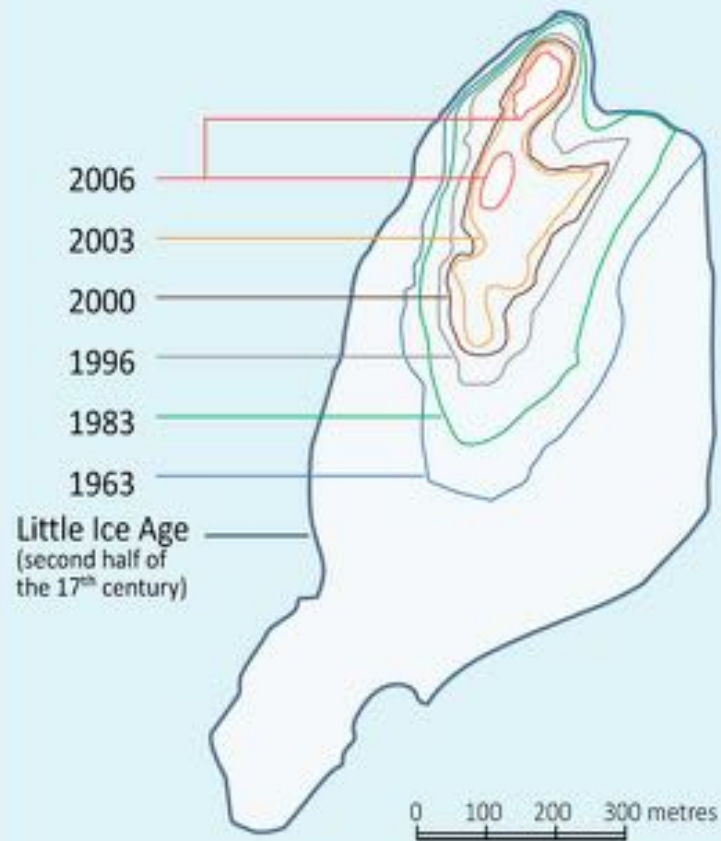


The glacier mass loss in recent decades is widespread throughout the Andes

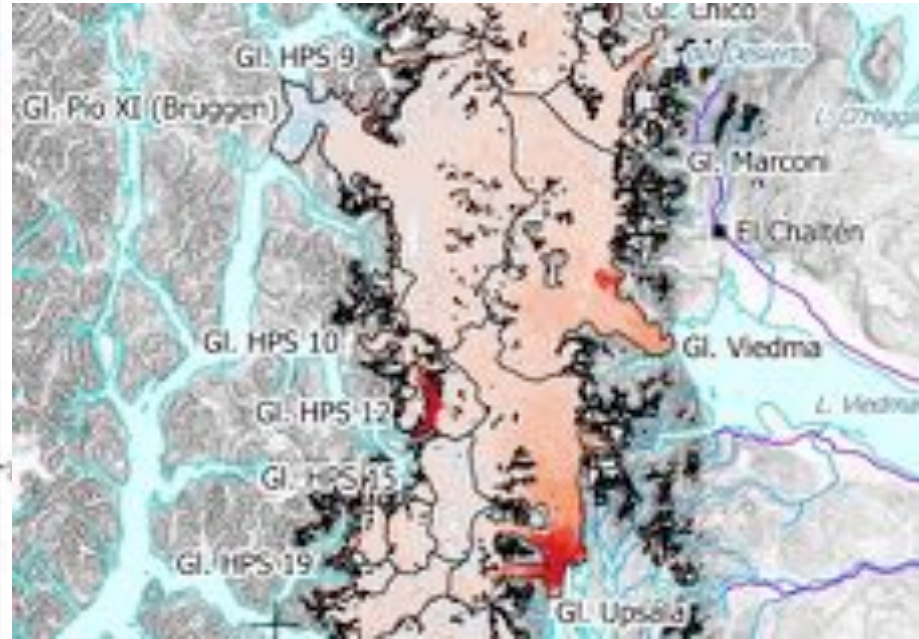
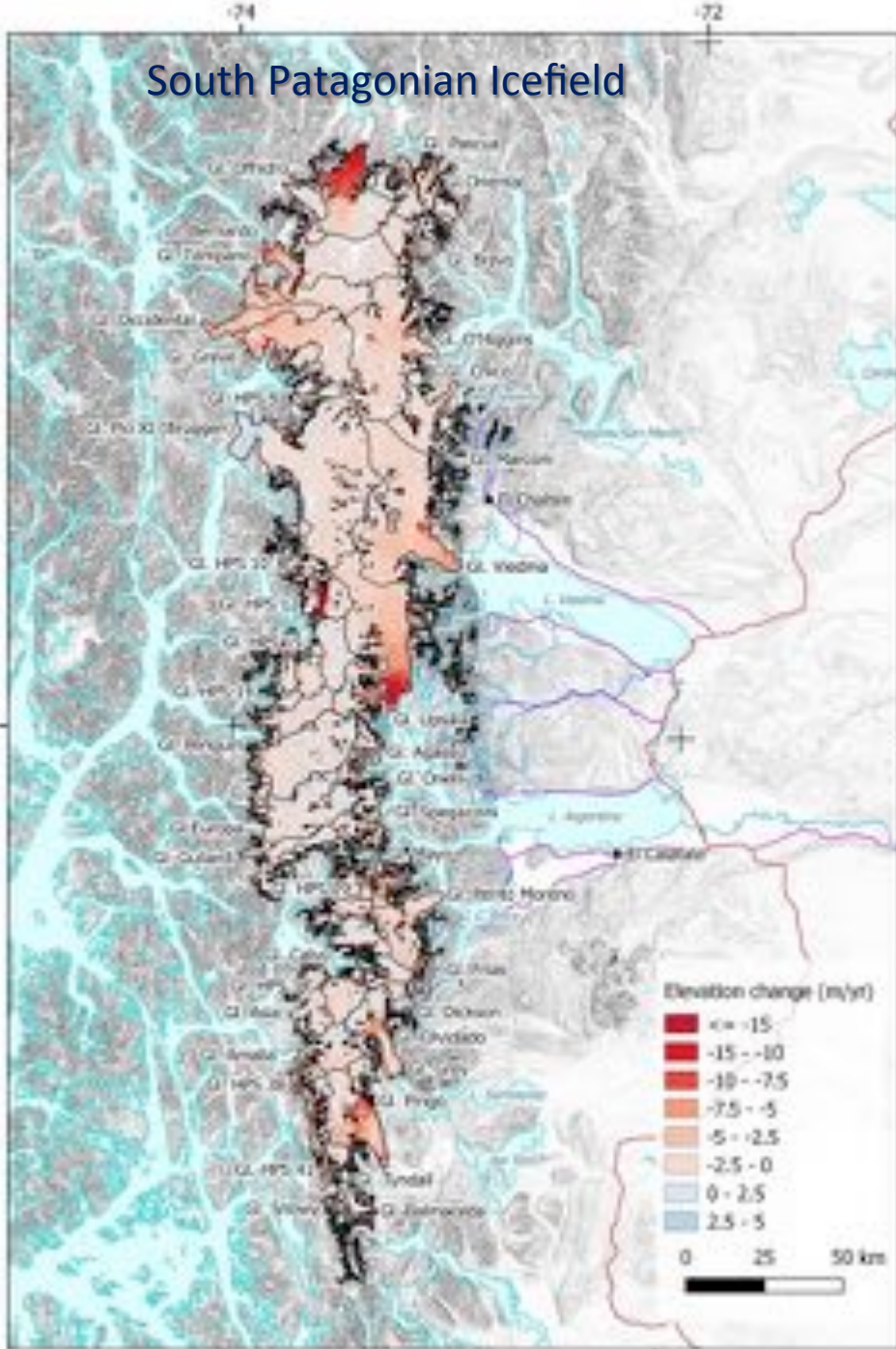




The Demise of the Chacaltaya Glacier

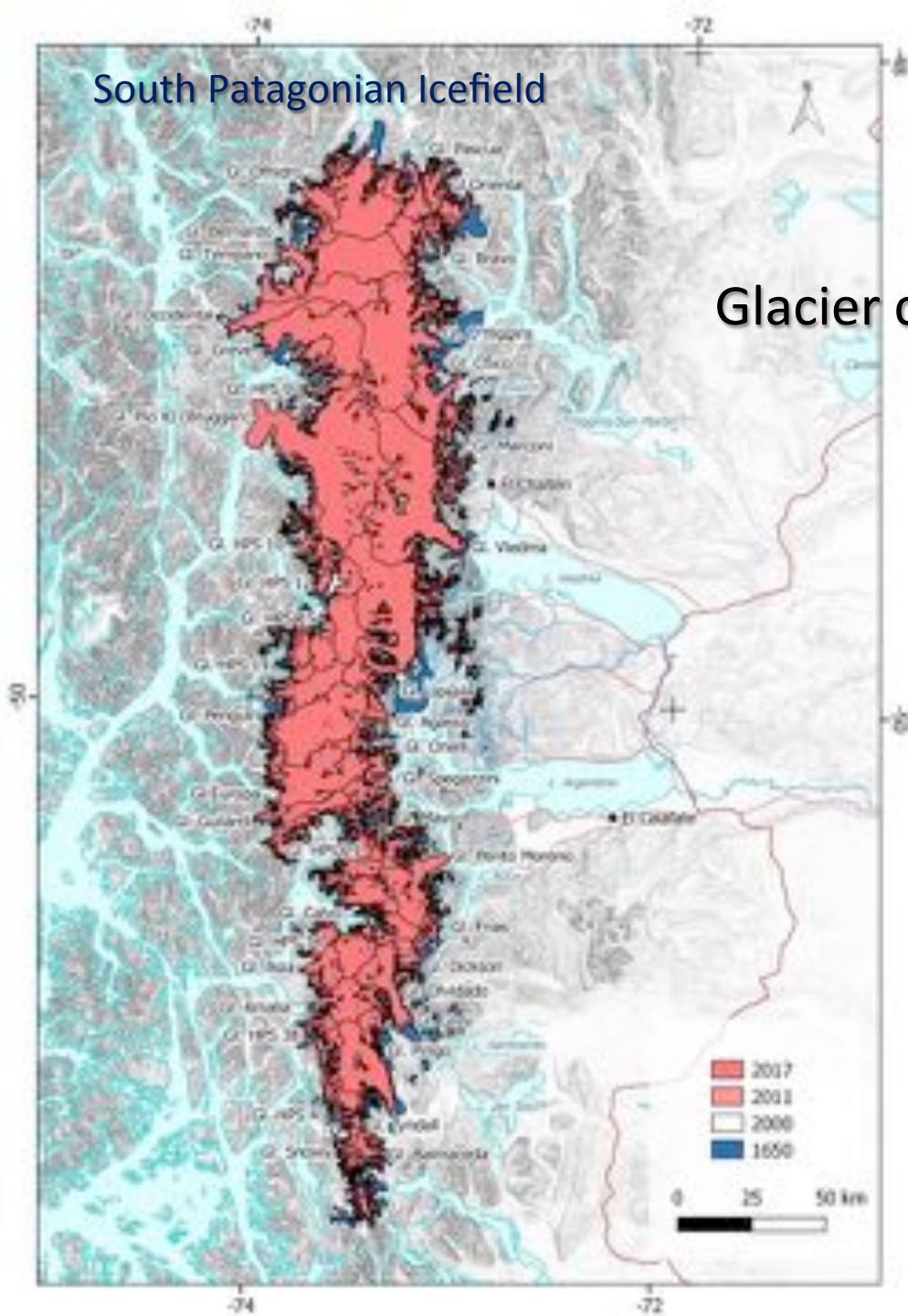


South Patagonian Icefield



Elevation changes

Willis et al. 2012



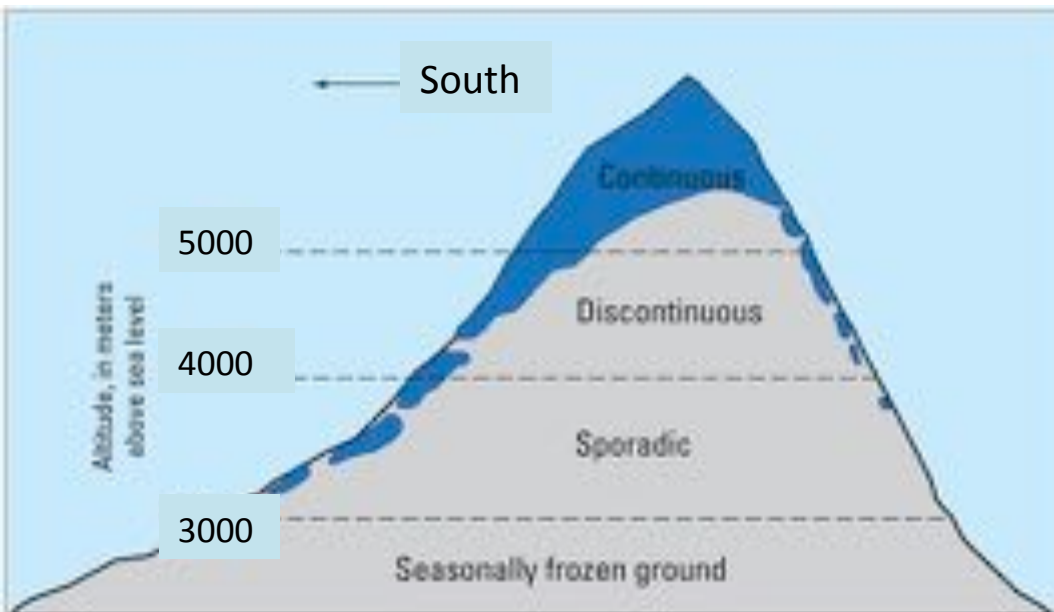
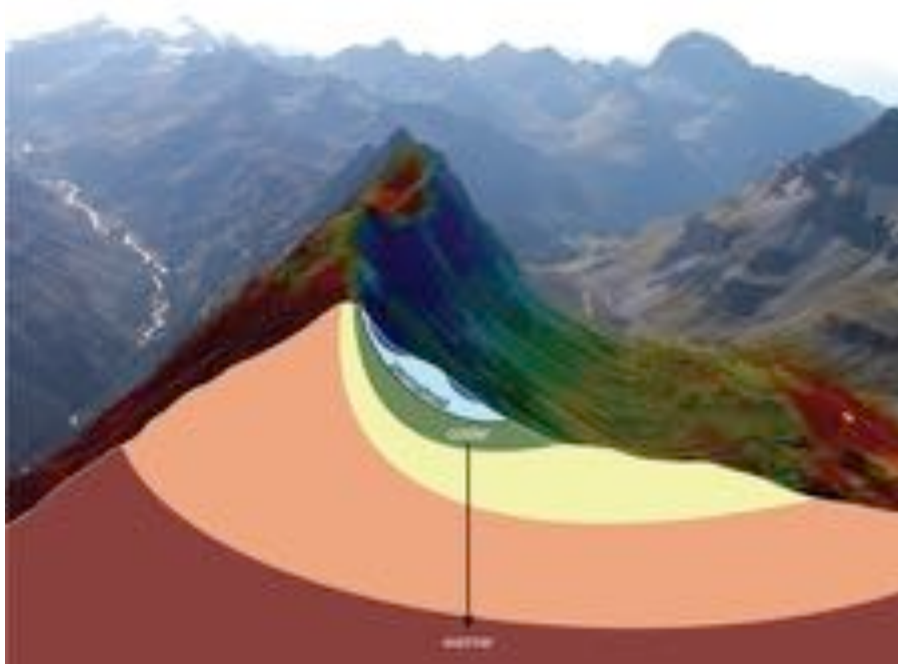
Glasser et al. 2011

4. Mountain permafrost

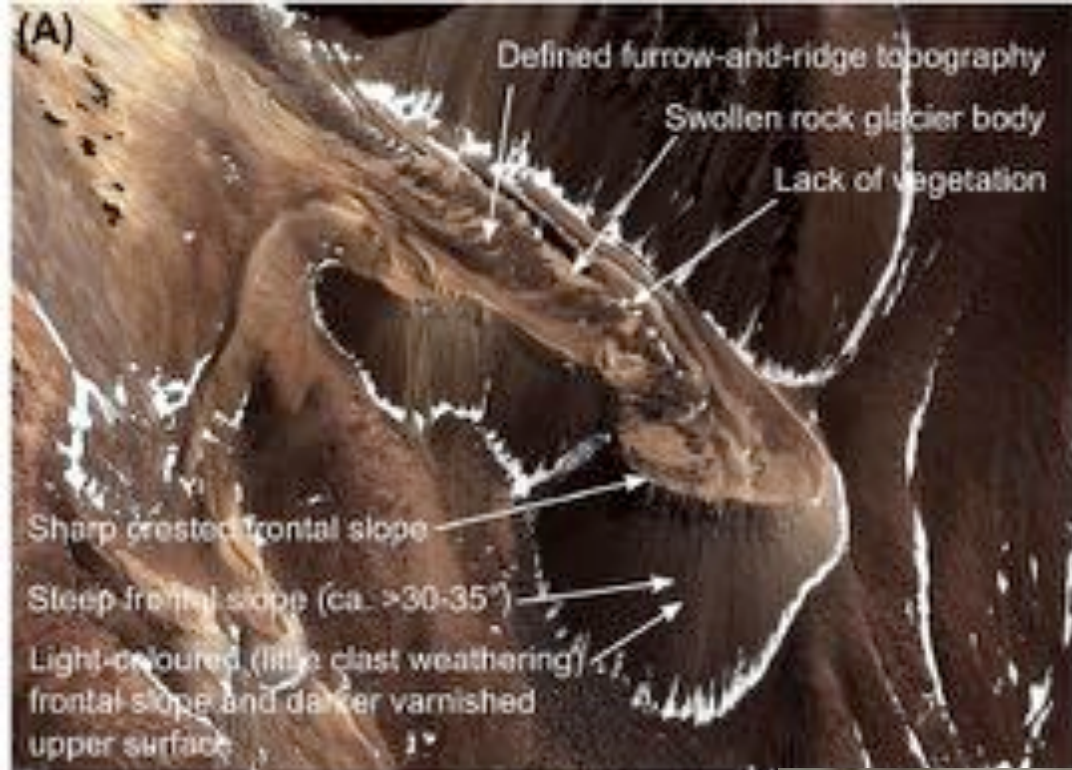
Permafrost distribution is complex in the Andes

Depends on several factors

- Elevation
- Orientation
- Precipitation



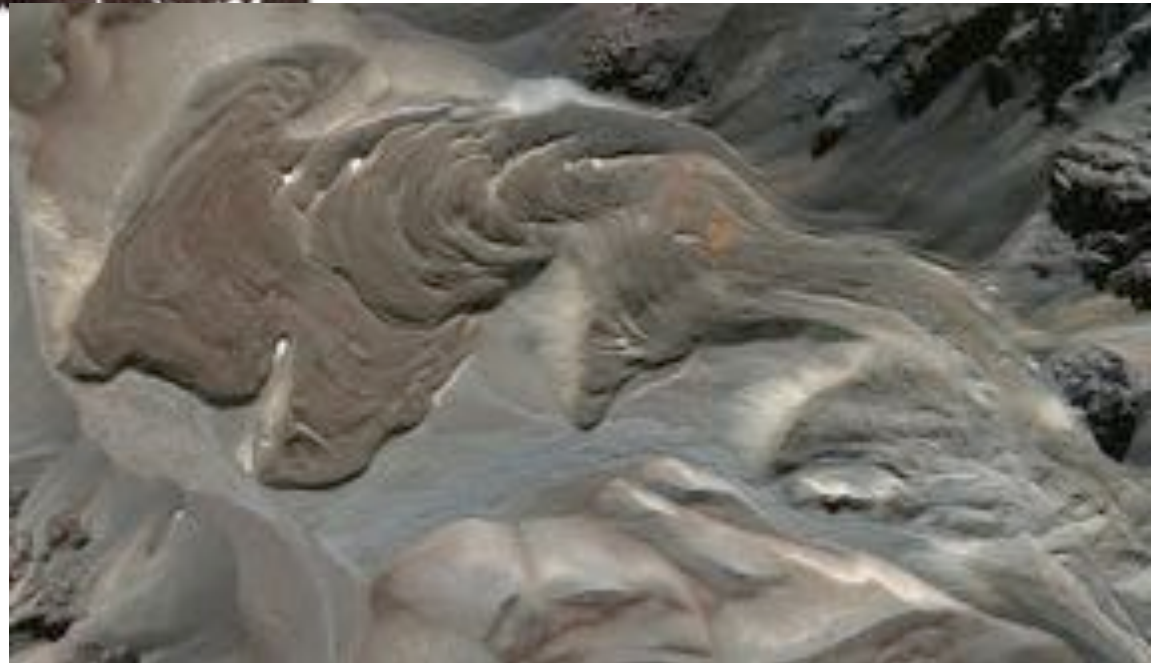
Idealized distribution of mountain permafrost



Rock glaciers are indicators of permafrost conditions

Argentina (ING)

Bolivia (Jones et al. 2018)



SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

Mountain rock glaciers contain globally significant water stores

D. B. Jones¹, S. Harrison¹, K. Anderson² & R. A. Betts^{1,4}

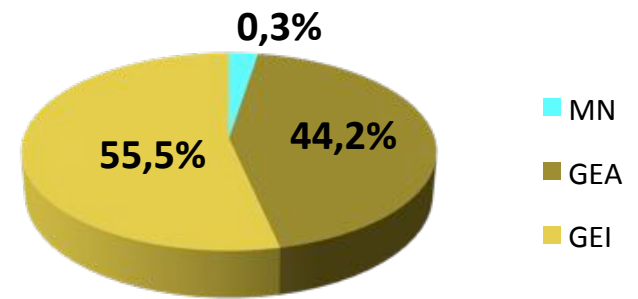
Glacier- and snowpack-derived meltwaters are threatened by climate change. Features such as rock glaciers (RGs) are climatically more resilient than glaciers and potentially contain hydrologically valuable ice volumes. However, while the distribution and hydrological significance of glaciers is well studied, RGs have received comparatively little attention. Here, we present the first near-global RG database (RGDB) through an analysis of current inventories and this contains > 73,000 RGs. Using the RGDB, we identify key data-deficient regions as research priorities (e.g., Central Asia). We provide the first approximation of near-global RG water volume equivalent and this is 83.72 ± 16.74 Gt. Excluding the Antarctic and Subantarctic, Greenland Periphery, and regions lacking data, we estimate a near-global RG to glacier water volume equivalent ratio of 1:456. Significant RG water stores occur in arid and semi-arid regions (e.g., South Asia East, 1:57). These results represent a first-order approximation. Uncertainty in the water storage estimates includes errors within the RGDB, inherent flaws in the meta-analysis methodology, and RG thickness estimation. Here, only errors associated with the assumption of RG ice content are quantified and overall uncertainty is likely larger than that quantified. We suggest that RG water stores will become increasingly important under future climate warming.

Received: 23 May 2017

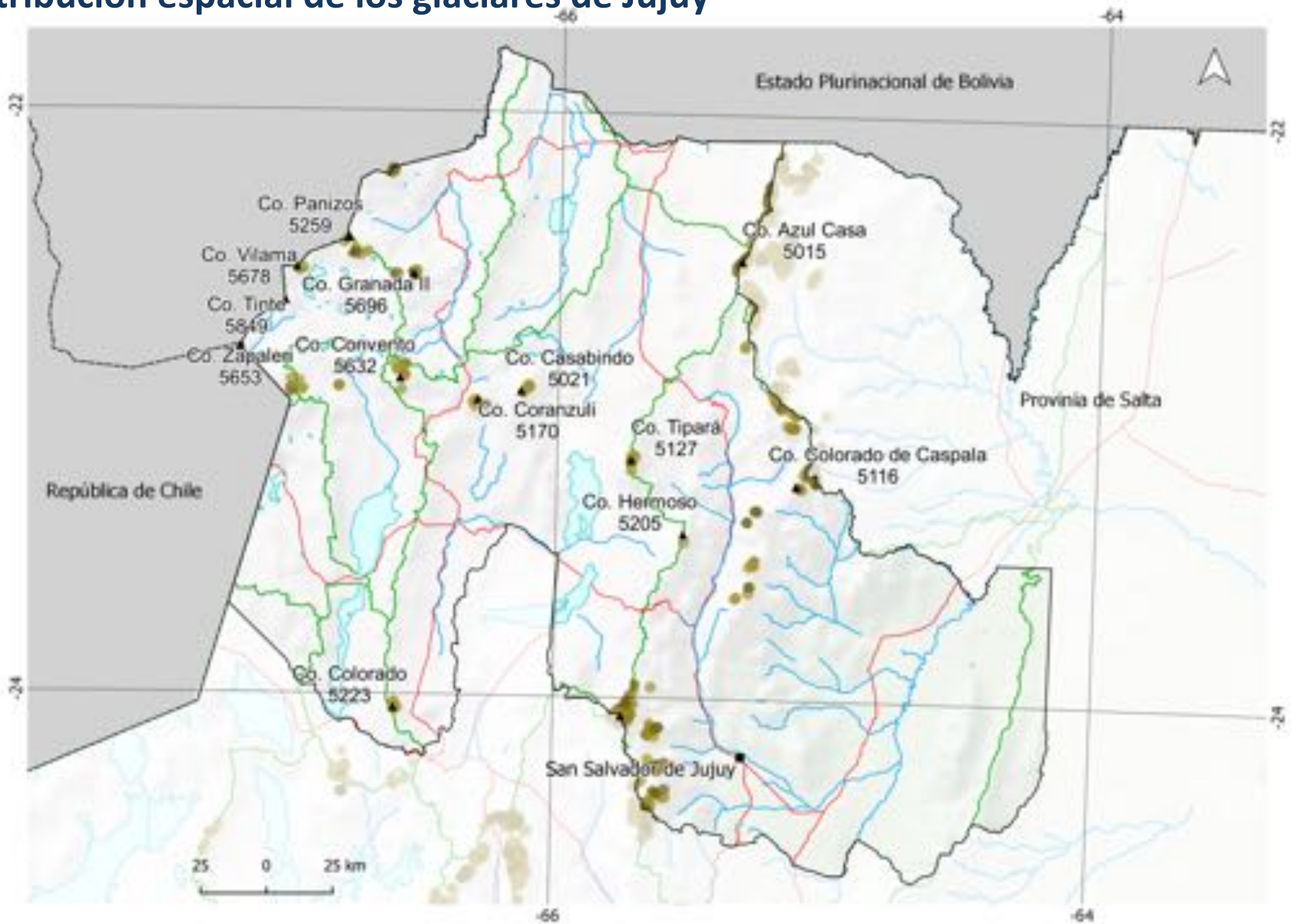
Accepted: 1 February 2018

Published online: 12 February 2018





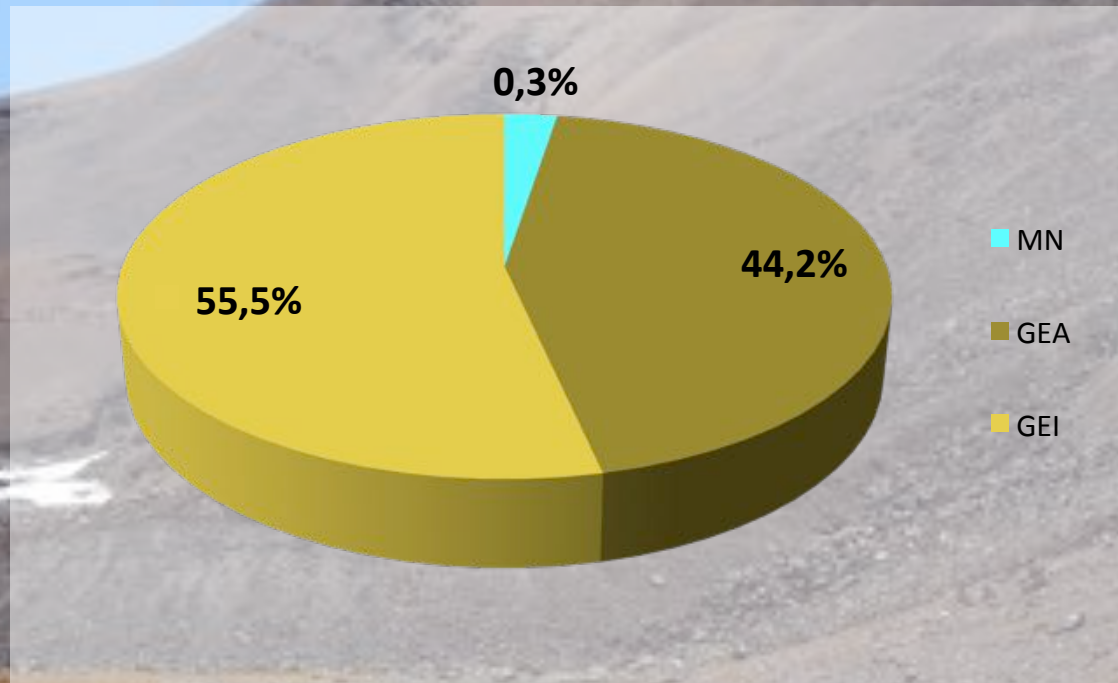
Distribución espacial de los glaciares de Jujuy



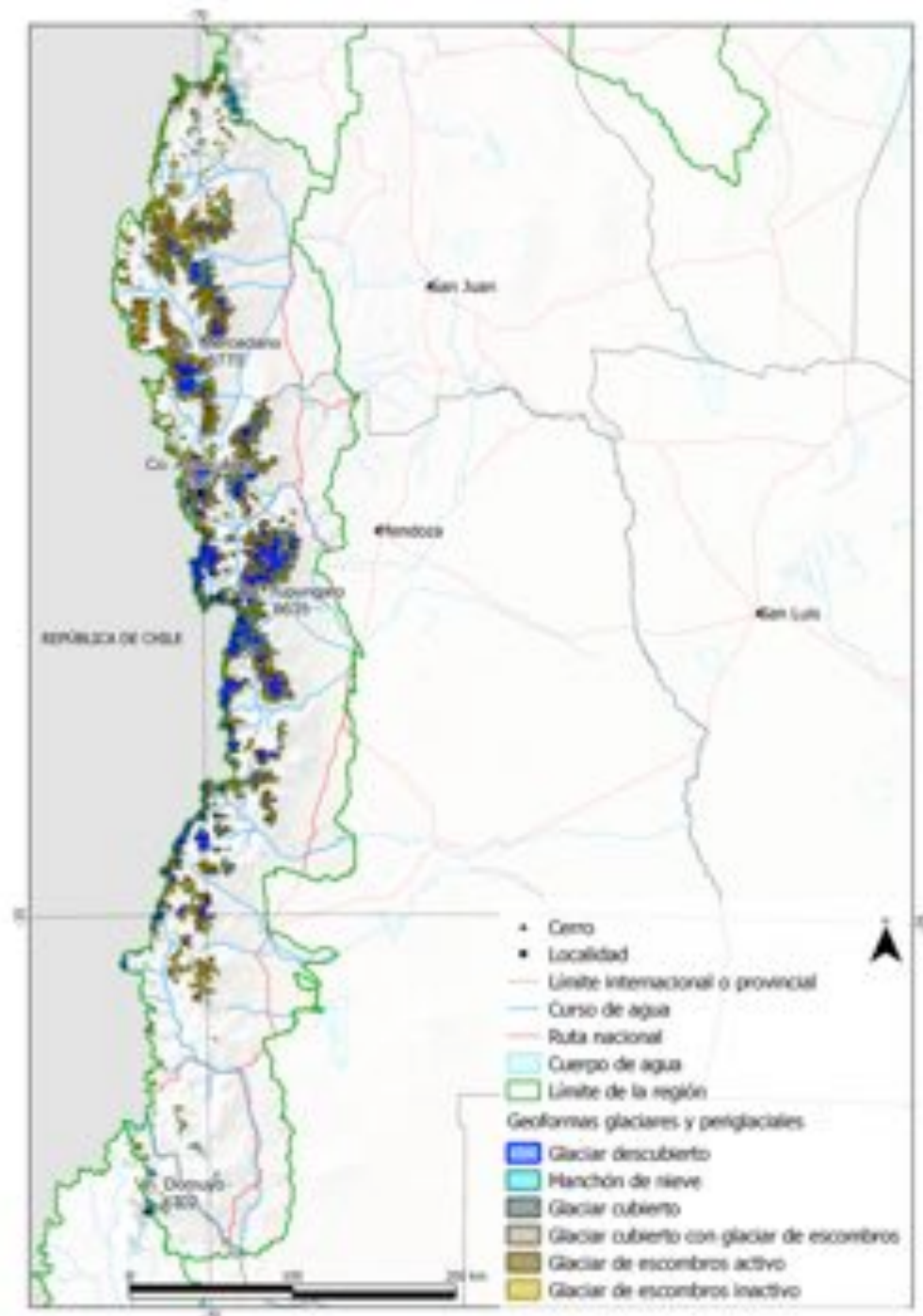
Los glaciares se distribuyen de una manera dispersa en la ladera de los cerros de mayor altura Alcanzan una mayor densidad en el sector sur sobre la cordillera Oriental (Nevado de Chañi y Nevado General Güemes)

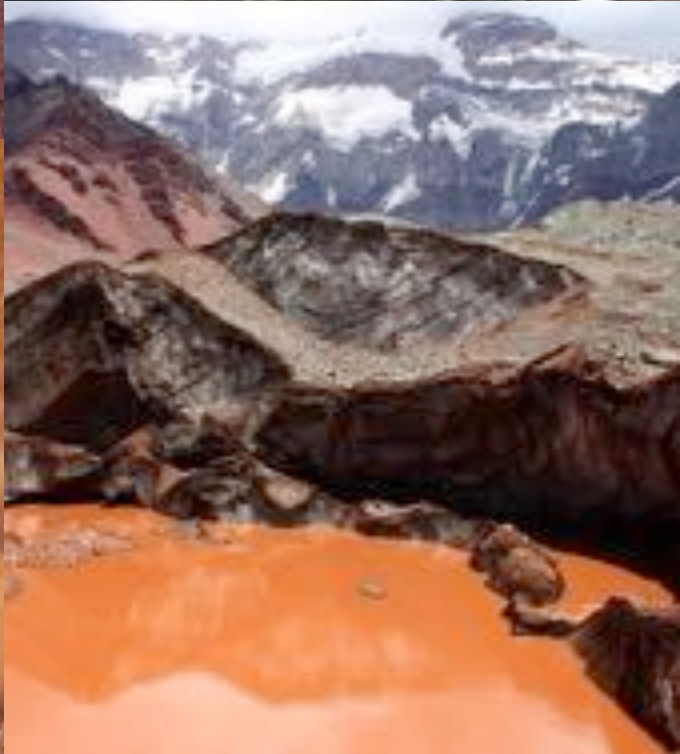
Resultados

Porcentaje de la superficie cubierta por tipo de glaciar a nivel provincial



Glaciar de escombros en la cuenca del río Pilcomayo







Glaciar de escombros Morenas Coloradas

D. Trombotto IANIGLA

Permafrost distribution modelling in the semi-arid Chilean Andes

Guillermo E. Arcear¹, Alexander Brenning^{1,2}, and Xavier Rodhe³

¹Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

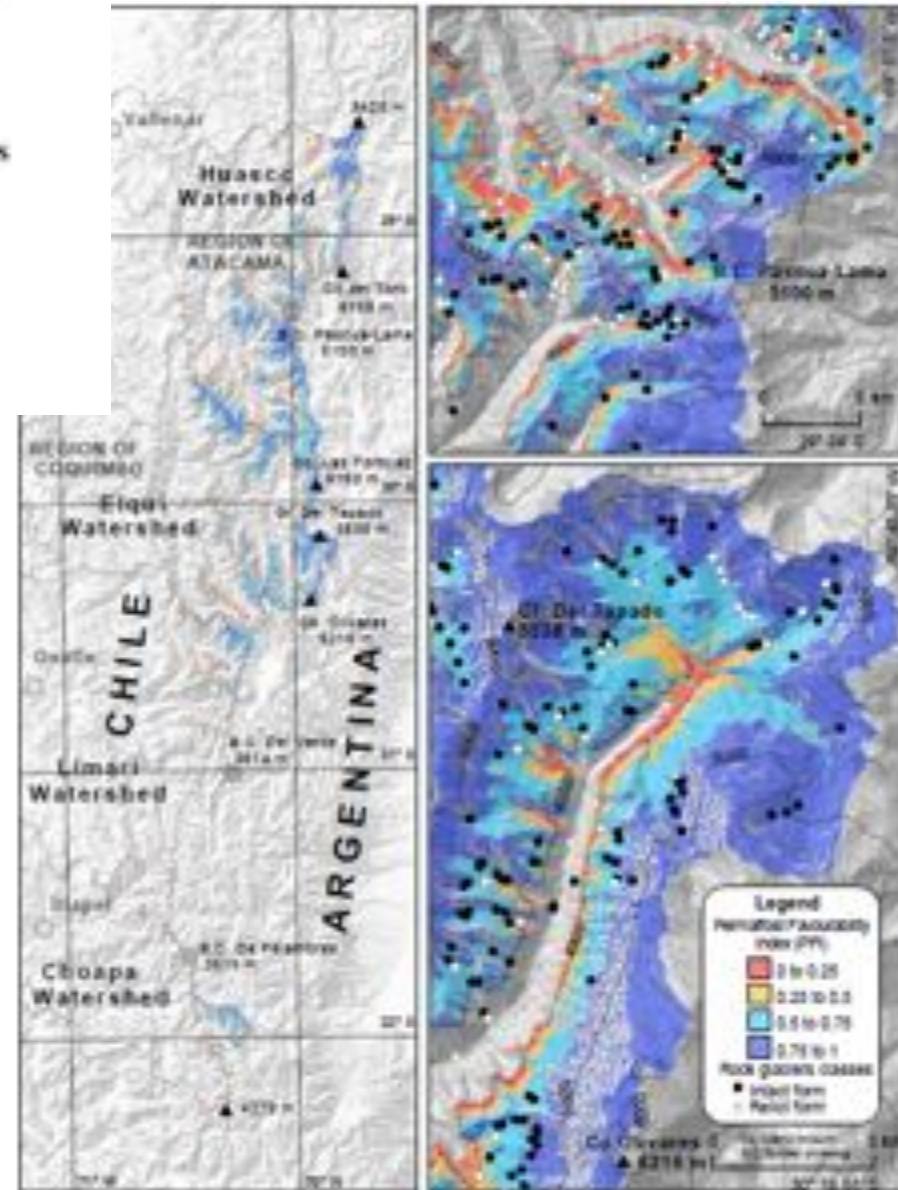
²Department of Geography, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

³Laboratoire EDYTEM, Université de Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, Le Bourget-du-Lac, France

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Received: 23 April 2016 – Discussion started: 16 June 2016

Revised: 27 January 2017 – Accepted: 30 January 2017 – Published: 6 April 2017



High resolution remote sensing data + modeling now allows the detailed mapping of potential permafrost distribution

5. Knowledge gaps and future challenges



- Estimations of current glacier volumes
- Projections of future glacier changes
- Hydrological contribution of ice masses
- Highlight the urgent need for more in situ cryospheric measurements...
- ...
- ...

GLOFs



Glaciar Perito Moreno Ruptura 1988 Divx.avi

Is it OK to use boxes in the chapter?

Penitentes de hielo, glaciar
Canito, San Juan



¡Muchas gracias!

