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**MULTI-TIERED INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ASSESS  
THE IMPACTS OF CHANGES IN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS  
ON THE INTEGRITY OF PÁRAMO ENVIRONMENTS:  
studying tropical upper tropospheric warming and its  
impacts on the integrity of high-altitude Andean biodiversity  
hotspots**

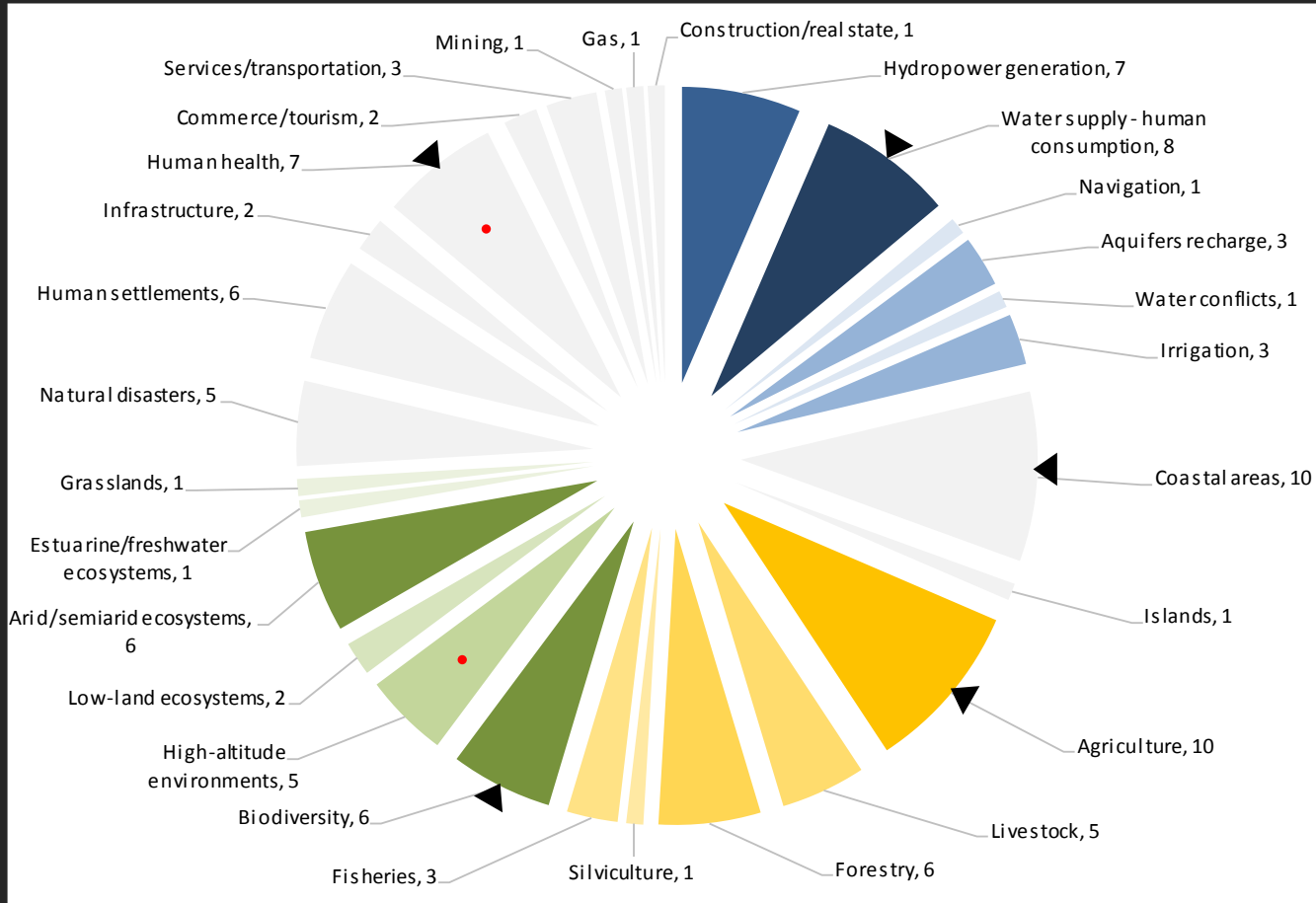
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PRIORITY SECTORS IN THE LATEST TWELVE SOUTH-AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE UNFCCC



Blue, orange and olive green sectors are directly related to water resources, productive activities (consumption and revenue) and biodiversity, respectively

Source: Ruiz (2013)



The tropical Andes are one of the top biodiversity hotspots on Earth





South America is the continent  
with the highest extinction risks  
related to projected climate  
change





Forest loss in South America has already surpassed the global deforestation rate, leading to a significant decrease in the extent of its Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (Tracewski et al., 2016)

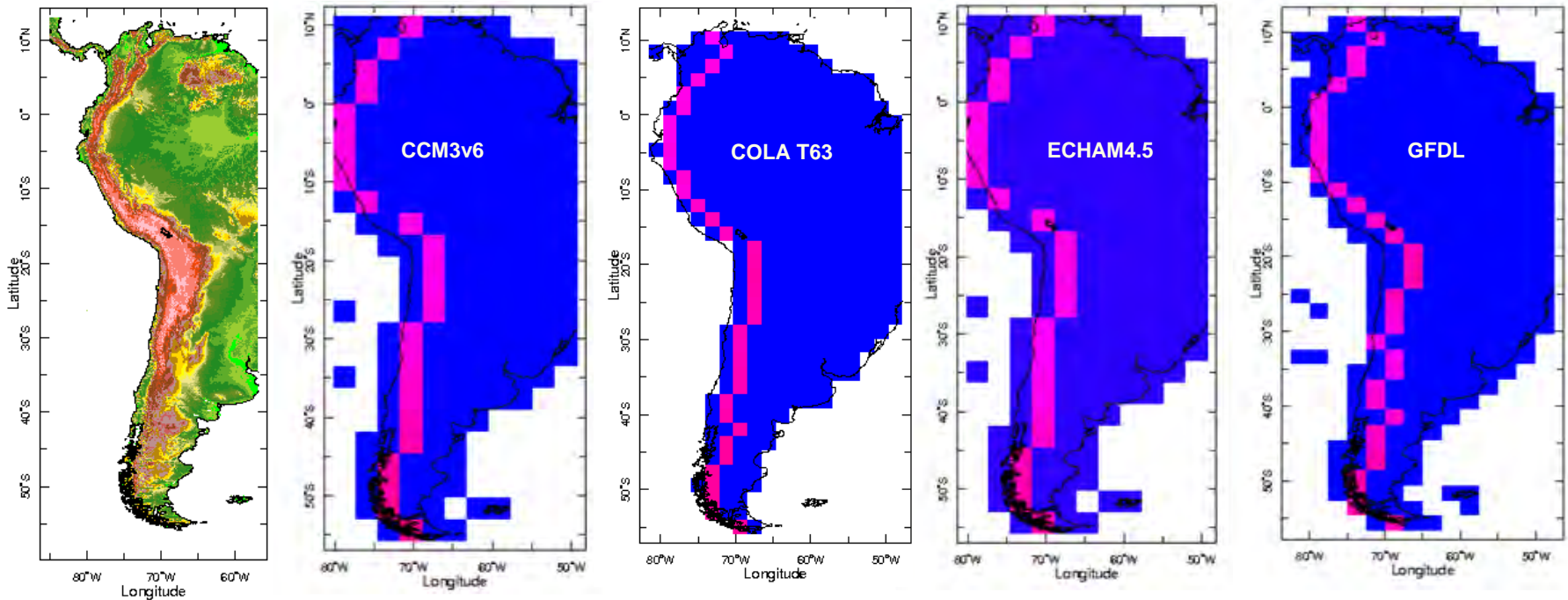




Long-term climate change and rapid land-use change are synergistically threatening the integrity and functioning of Andean ecosystems and thereby the environmental goods and services they provide to humans



## AXIS OF THE ANDES CORDILLERA

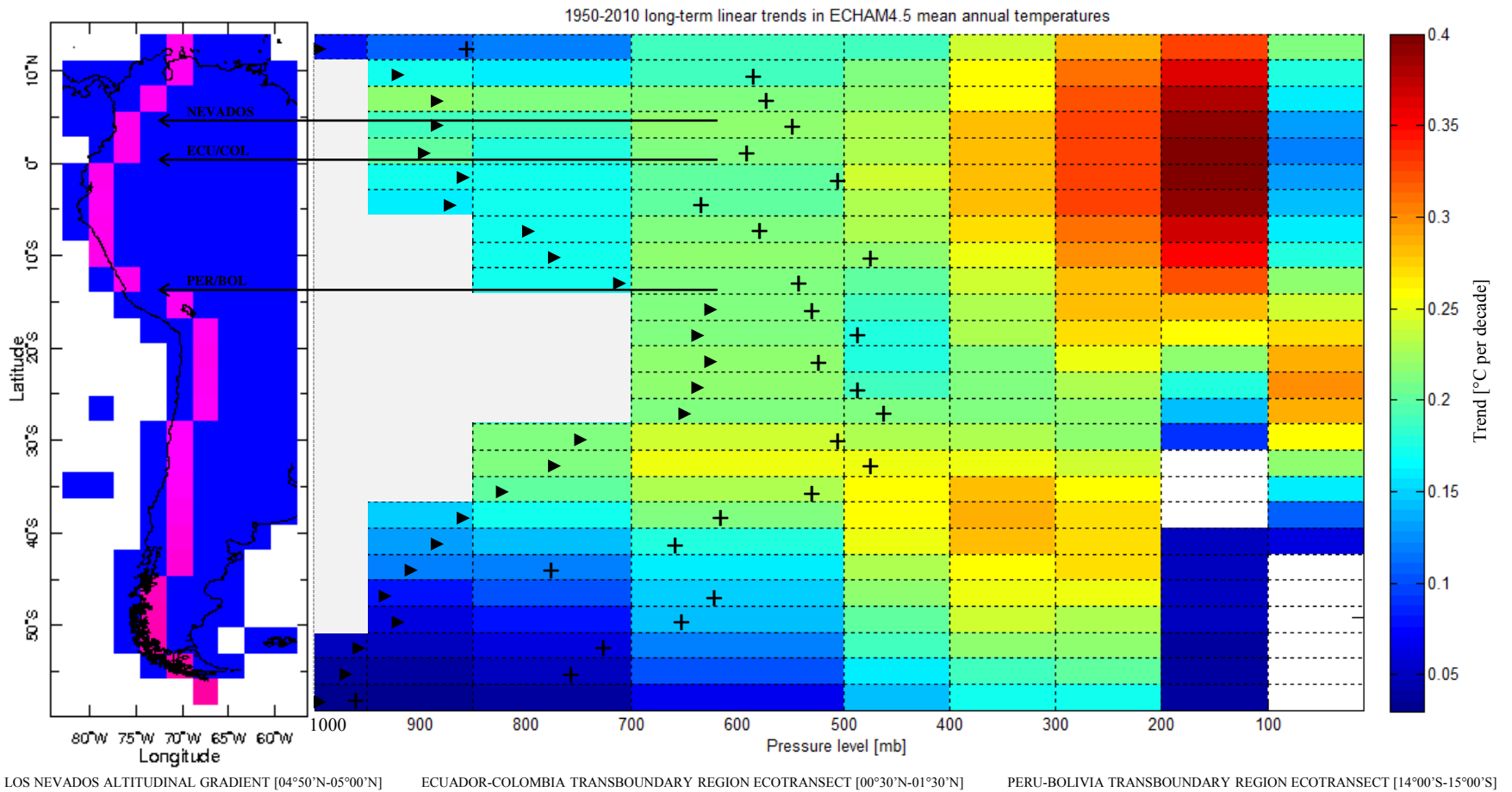


Source: González, Gutiérrez and Ruiz. (2014)

(Left panel) NOAA NGDC GLOBE gridded 1-km, quality-controlled digital elevation model

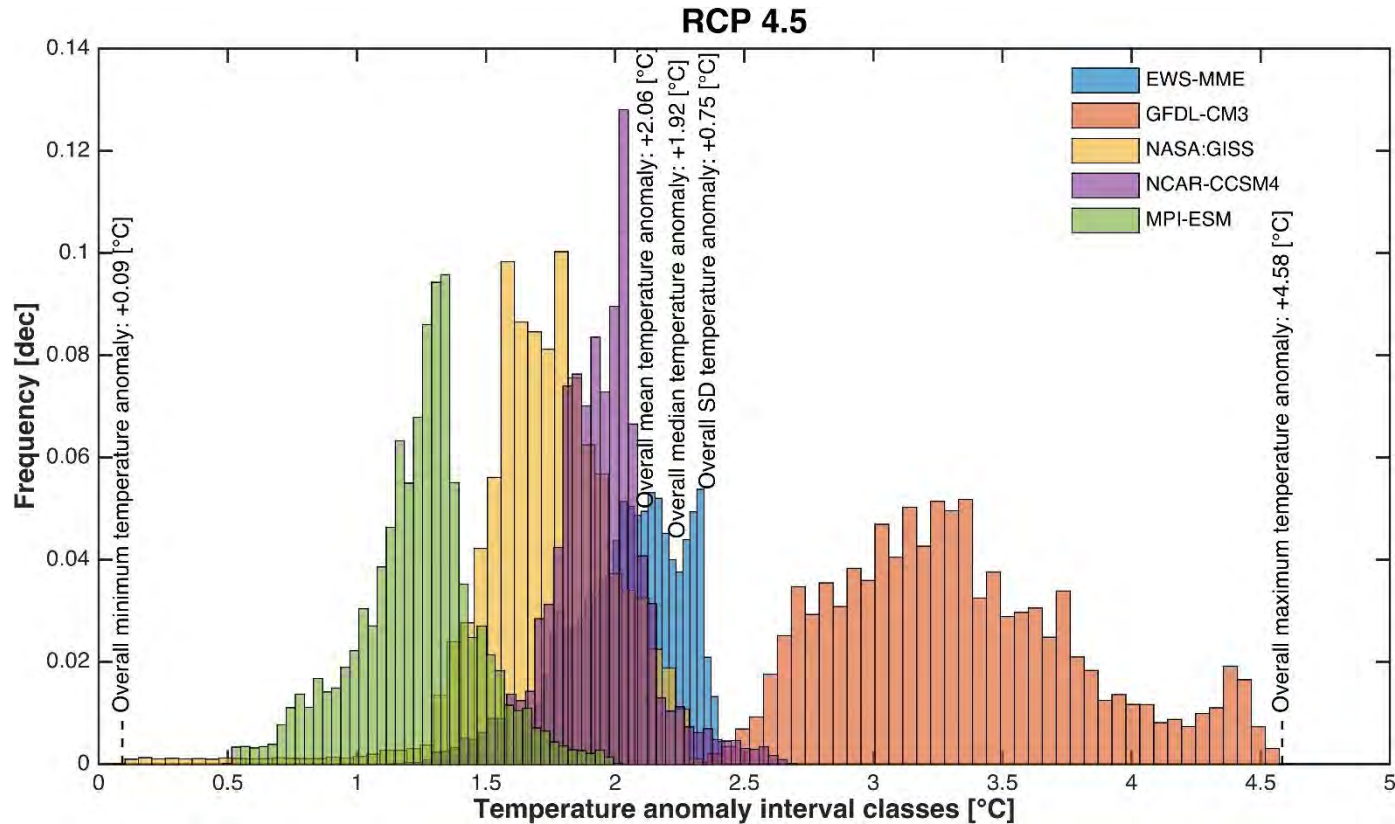
(Right panels) Grid points for the analysis of CCM3v6, COLA T63, ECHAM4.5, and GFDL ensemble simulation outputs





Black solid triangles and crosses depict, respectively, the average and maximum altitudes of the NOAA NGDC GLOBE gridded 1-km, quality controlled global DEM in the ECHAM4.5 model grid points

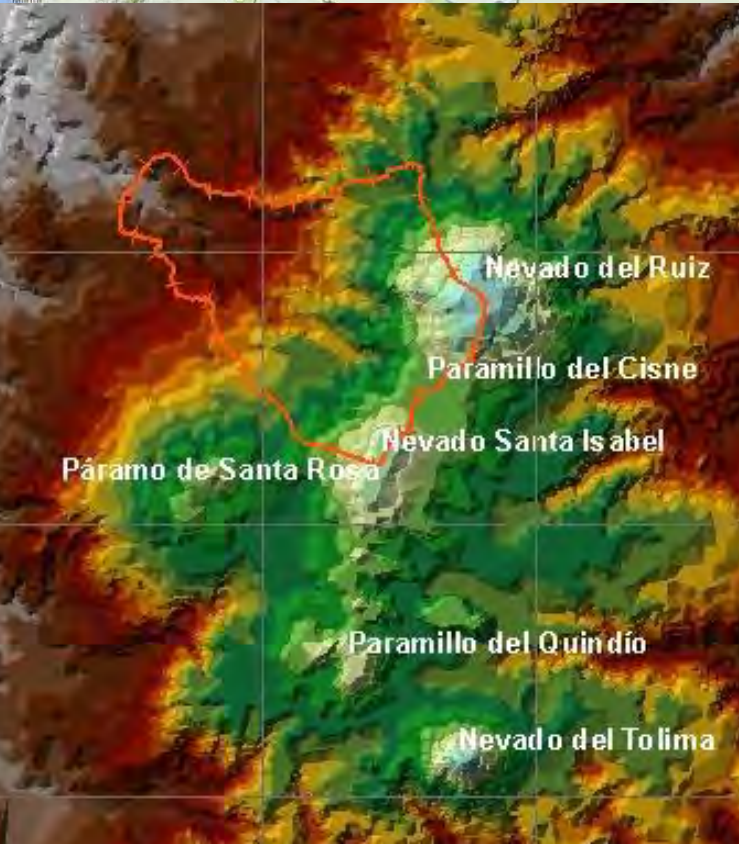
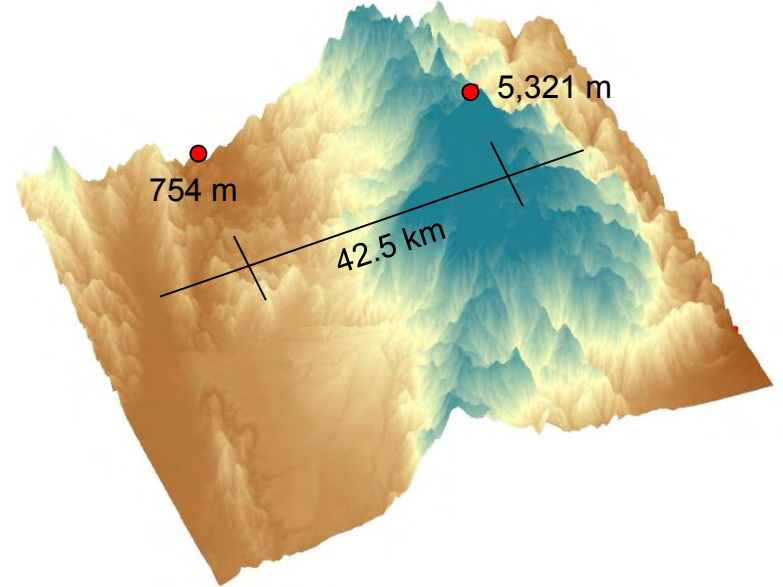




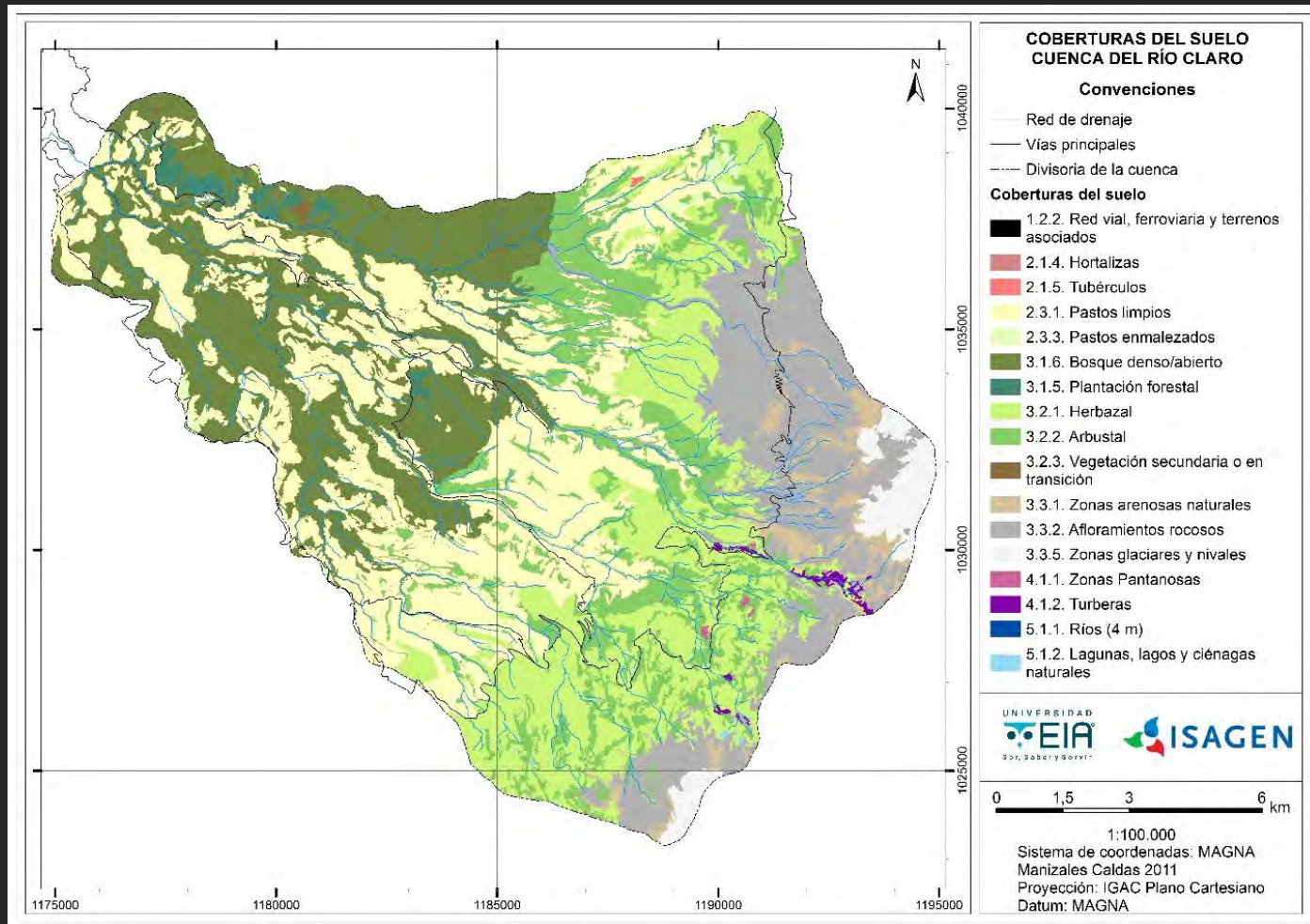
2040-2069 MEAN ANNUAL NEAR-SURFACE TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES, WITH RESPECT TO THE HISTORICAL PERIOD 1961-1991

Category 5 – low severity [ $< +1.60^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]; Cat 4 [ $+1.61$  to  $+1.93^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]; Cat 3 [ $+1.94$  to  $+2.27^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]; Cat 2 [ $+2.28$  to  $+2.61^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]; and Cat 1 – high severity [ $> +2.61^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]















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Long-term changes in key circulation dynamics (e.g. convective processes)

Diagnostics of water balance and potential changes in hydrological regimes

Assessments of biodiversity levels and vulnerabilities

Role and extent of anthropic disturbances

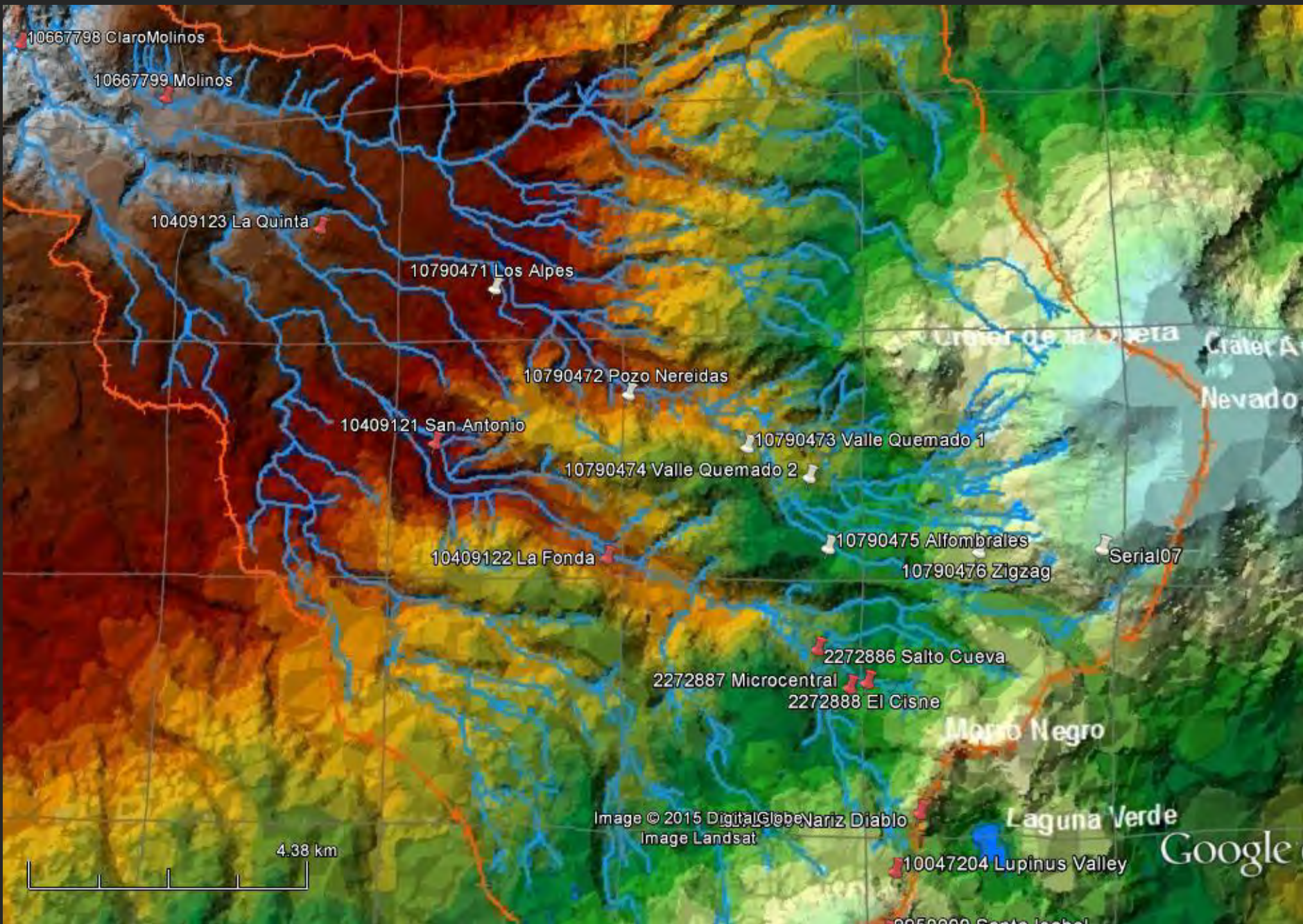
Carbon capture and storage in soils, peatlands and aquatic microhabitats

Long-term changes in climatic conditions

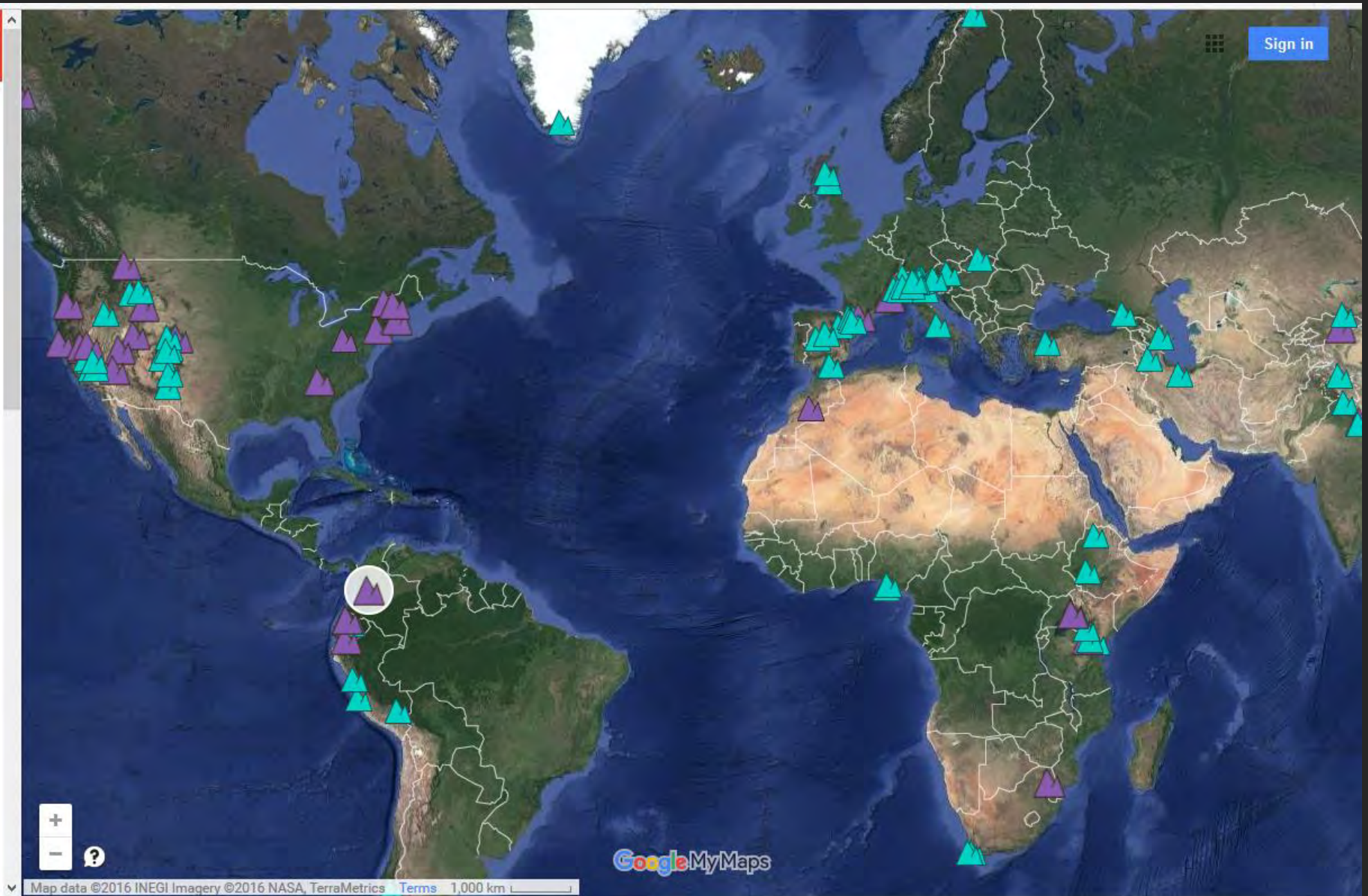
Socio-economic integration (ecosystem services valuation, communities perceptions, land-use practices, and prevalent concerns of stakeholders)

Adaptation for conservation



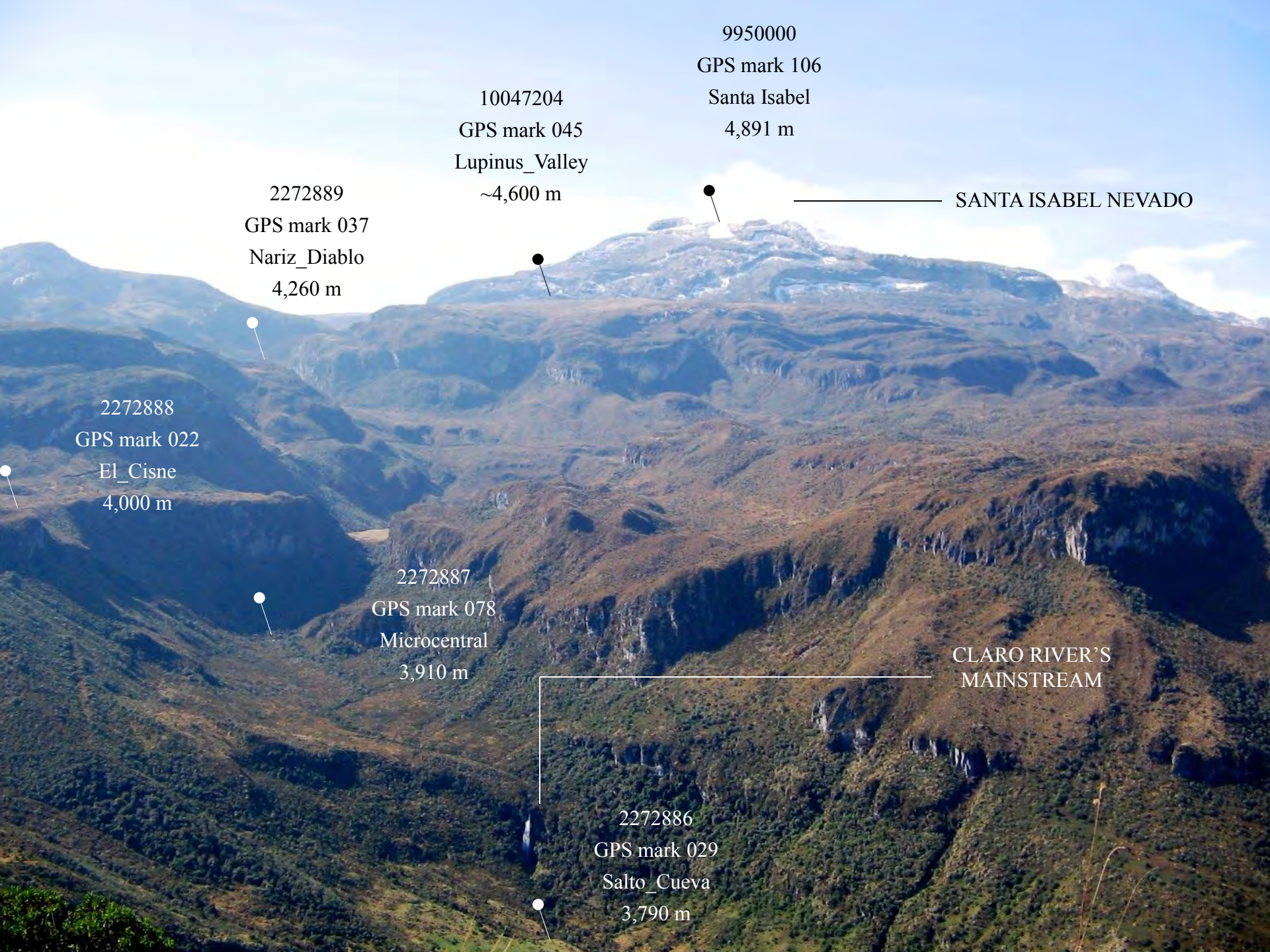






GLOBAL NETWORK OF MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORIES - GNOMO





9950000

GPS mark 106

Santa Isabel

4,891 m

10047204

GPS mark 045

Lupinus\_Valley

~4,600 m

2272889

GPS mark 037

Nariz\_Diablo

4,260 m

SANTA ISABEL NEVADO

2272888

GPS mark 022

El\_Cisne

4,000 m

2272887

GPS mark 078

Microcentral

3,910 m

CLARO RIVER'S  
MAINSTREAM

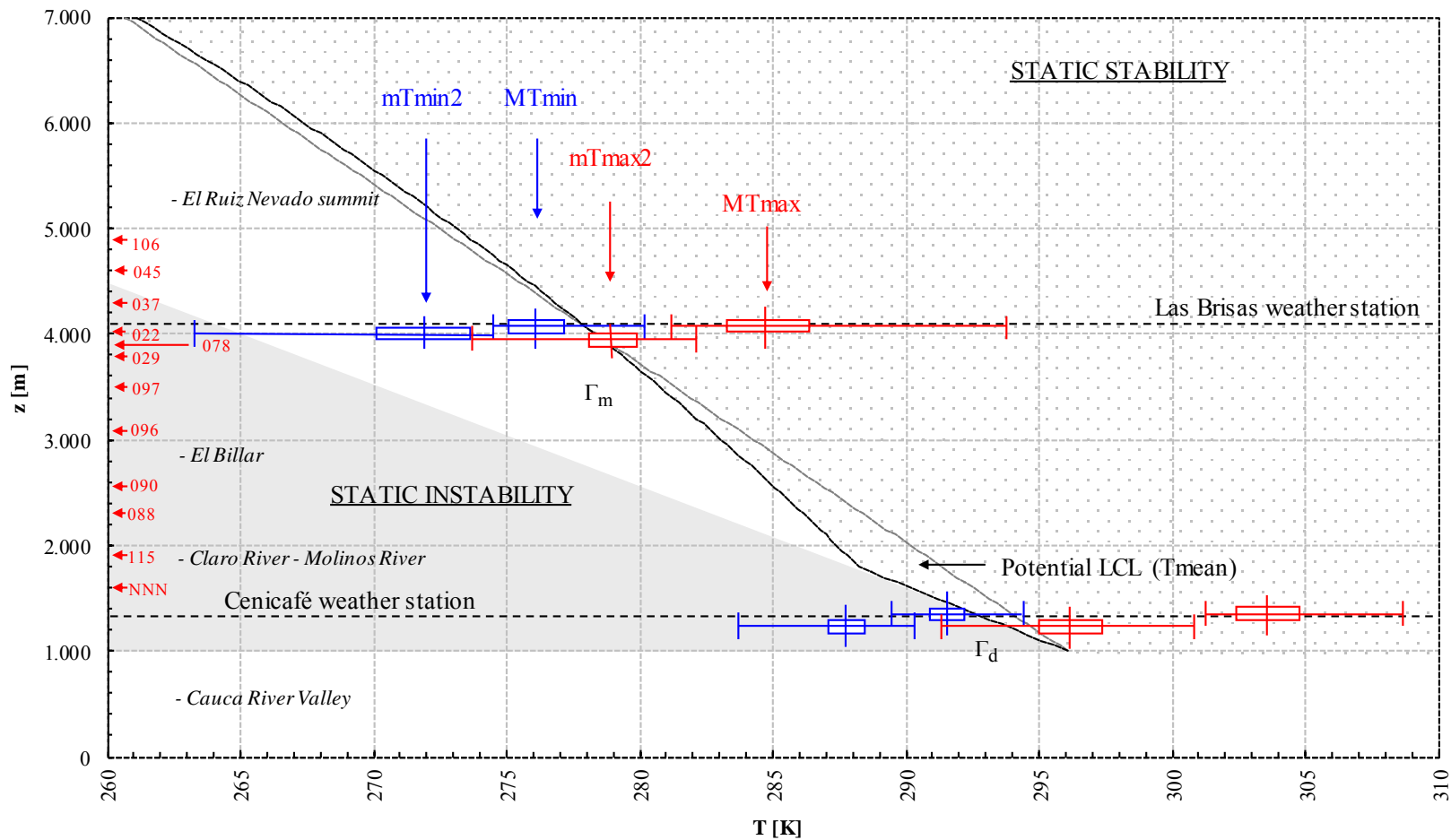
2272886

GPS mark 029

Salto\_Cueva

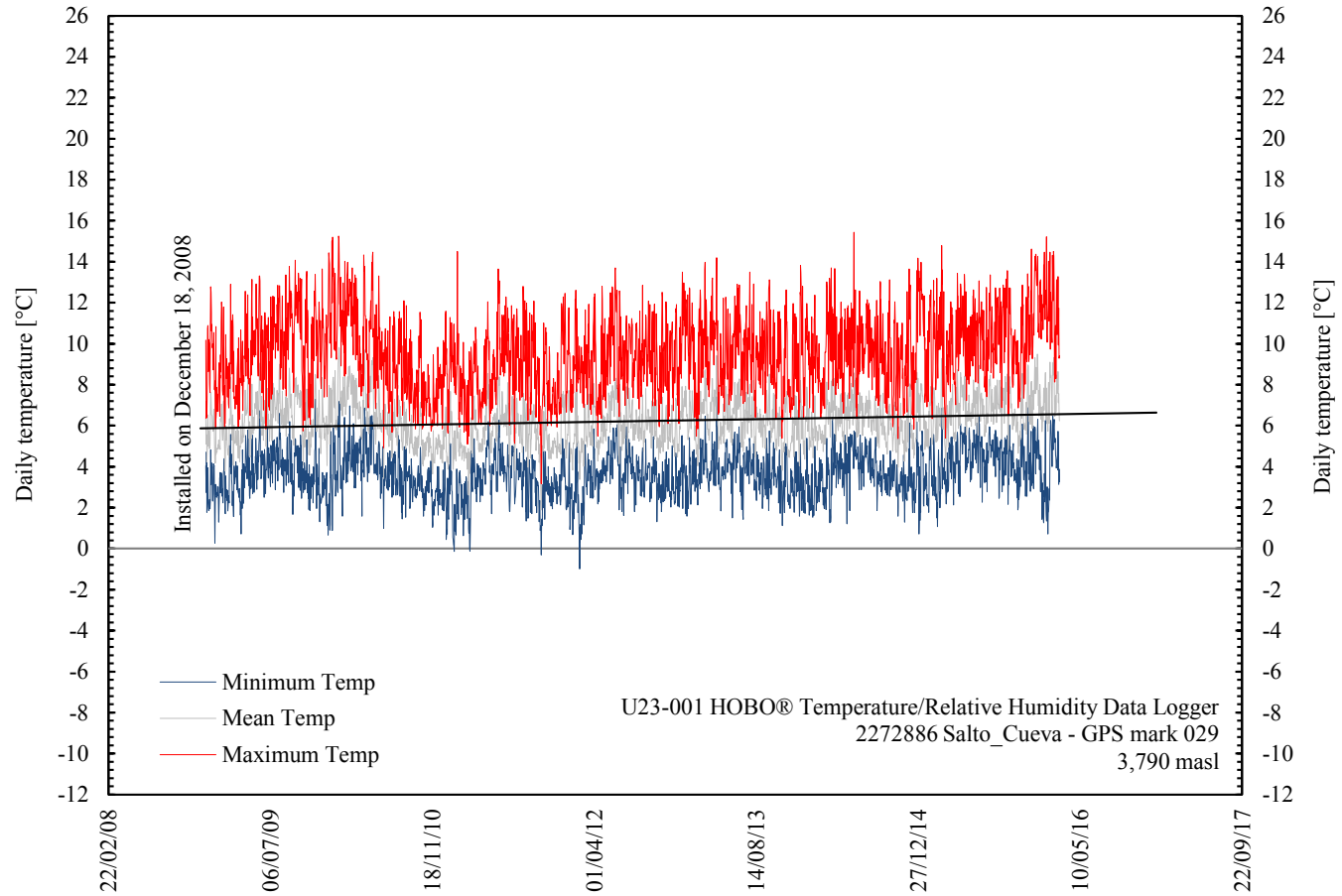
3,790 m

## POLEKA KASUE MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORY

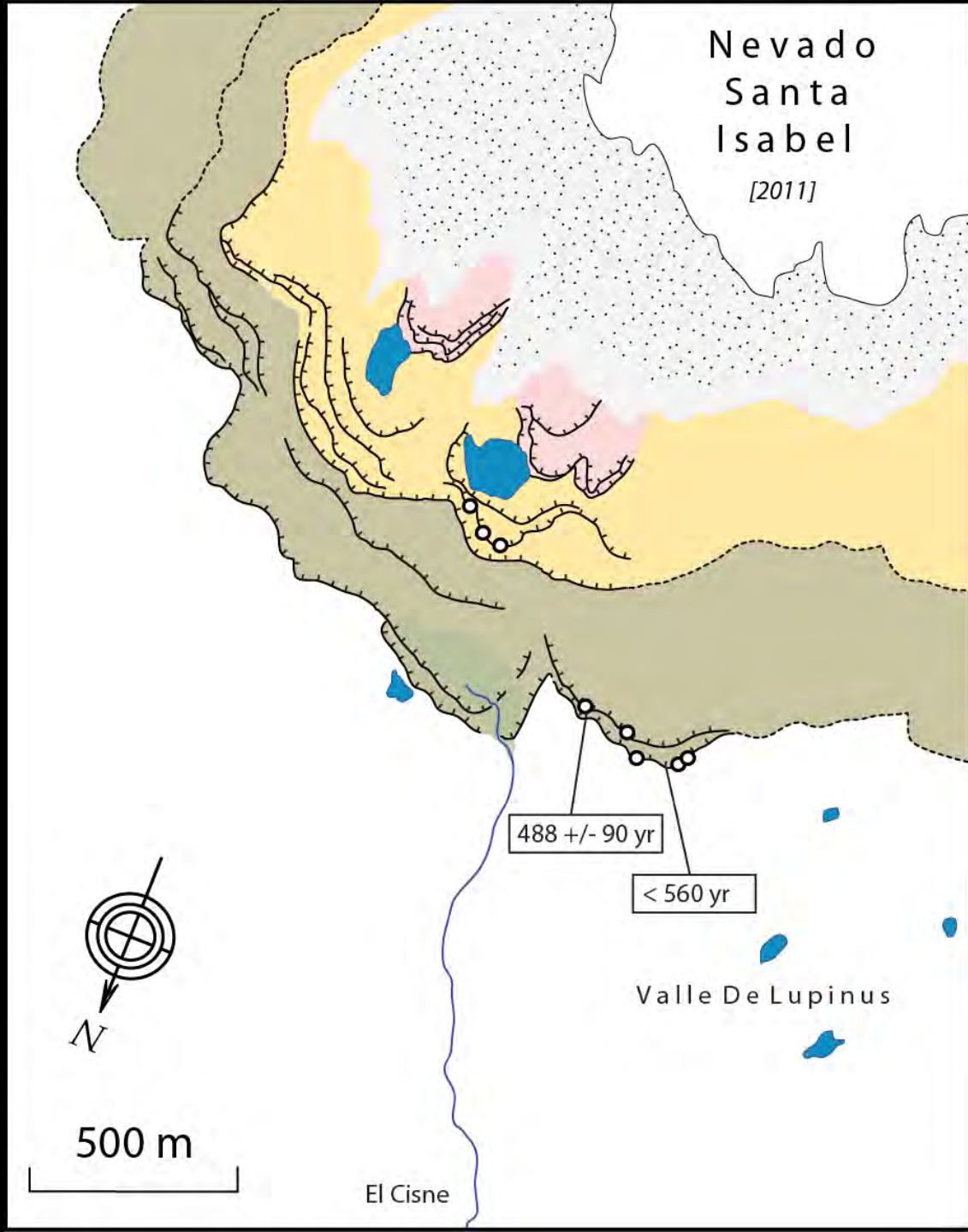
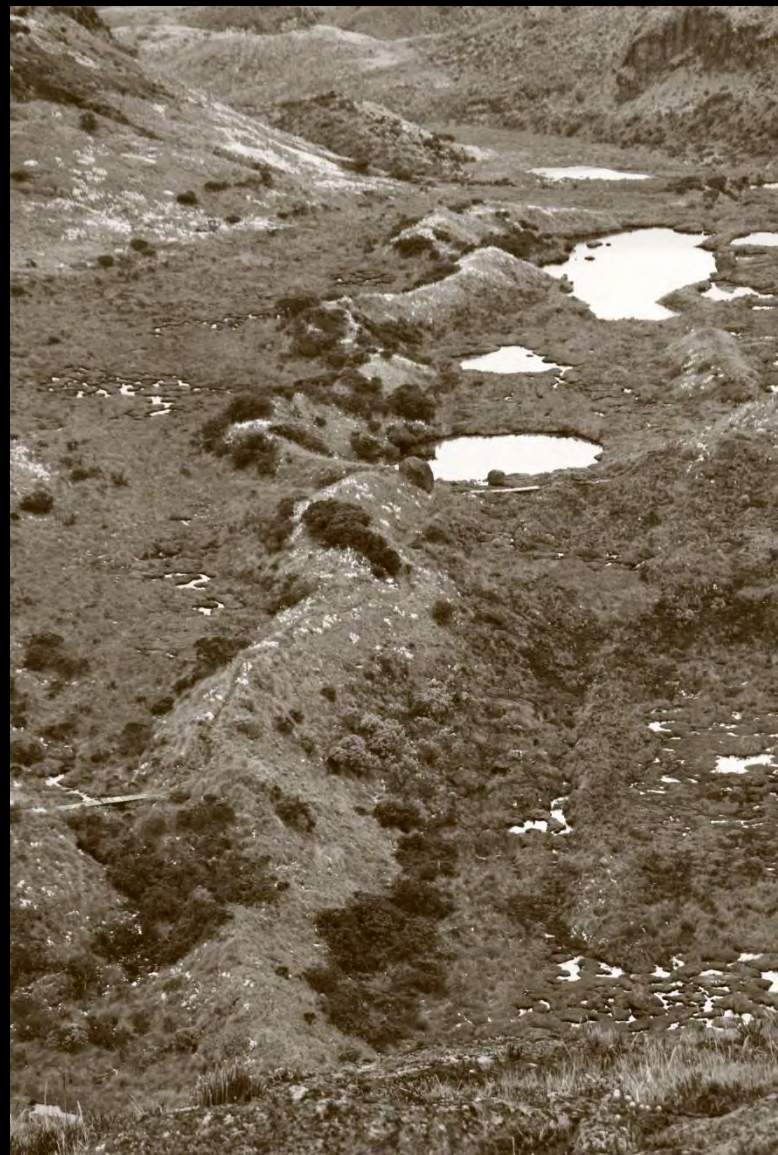




2272886  
GPS mark 029  
Salto\_Cueva  
3,790 m











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Twitter public profile:

<http://twitter.com/#!/RuizCarrascalD>