

Characterization of agricultural conditions in the Neretva river valley

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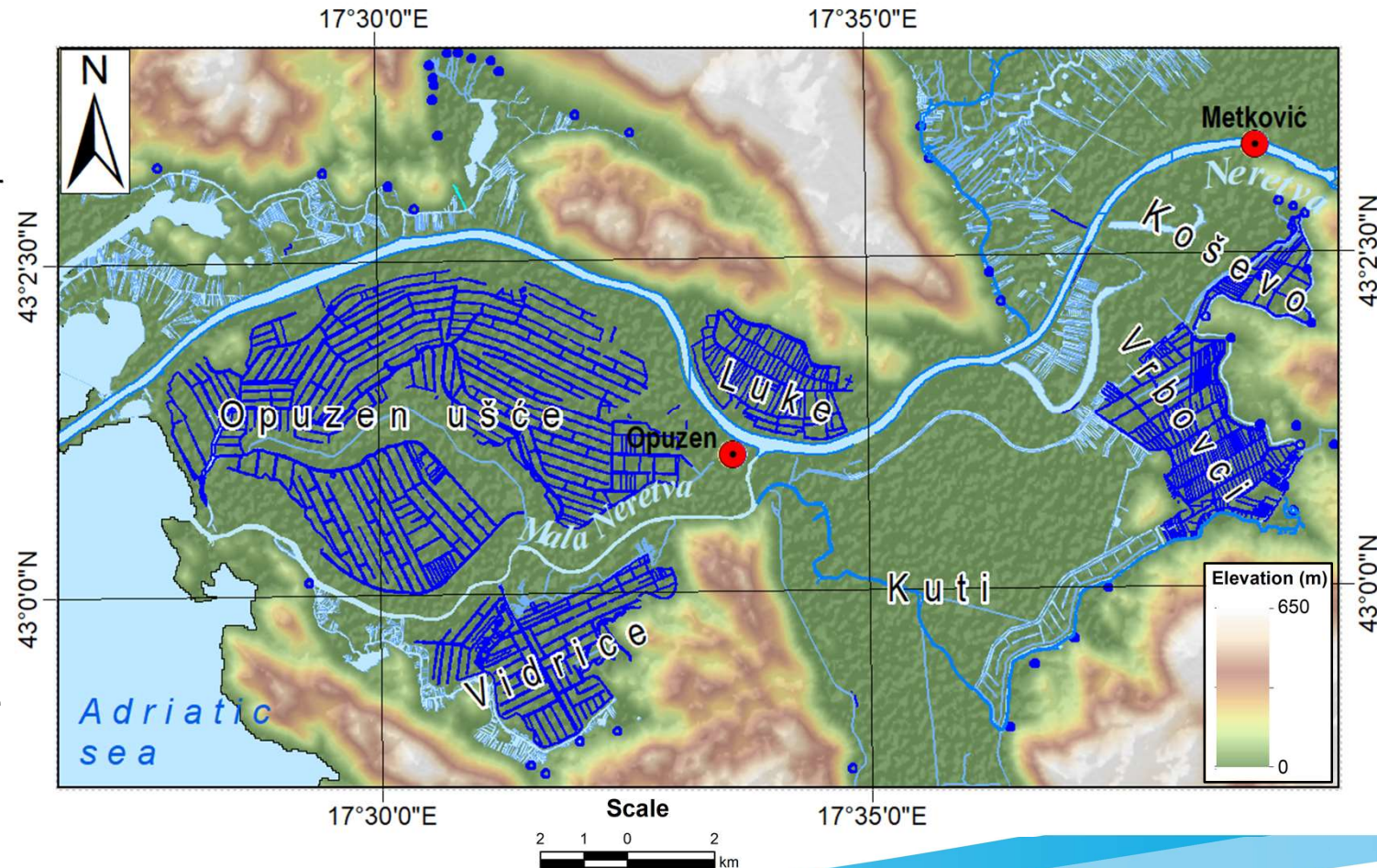
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THE NERETVA RIVER VALLEY



THE NERETVA RIVER VALLEY

- It covers 12 000 hectares of which 5 200 hectares used for agricultural productivity
- The observed area extends from 17.47° E to 17.65° E and 42.97° N to 43.05° N
- Elevations in the valley generally range from -1 to 5 m above mean sea level



CLIMATE OVERVIEW

- A semi-arid area characterised by Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters
- The mean annual rainfall (1980-2000) is 1 230 mm, mostly in the period from October to April
- The average annual air temperature is 15.7 °C and the annual Penman-Monteith reference evapotranspiration is 1196 mm
- The highest values of average monthly air temperature (25.2 °C) and the average monthly Penman-Monteith reference evapotranspiration (191 mm) are noted in July

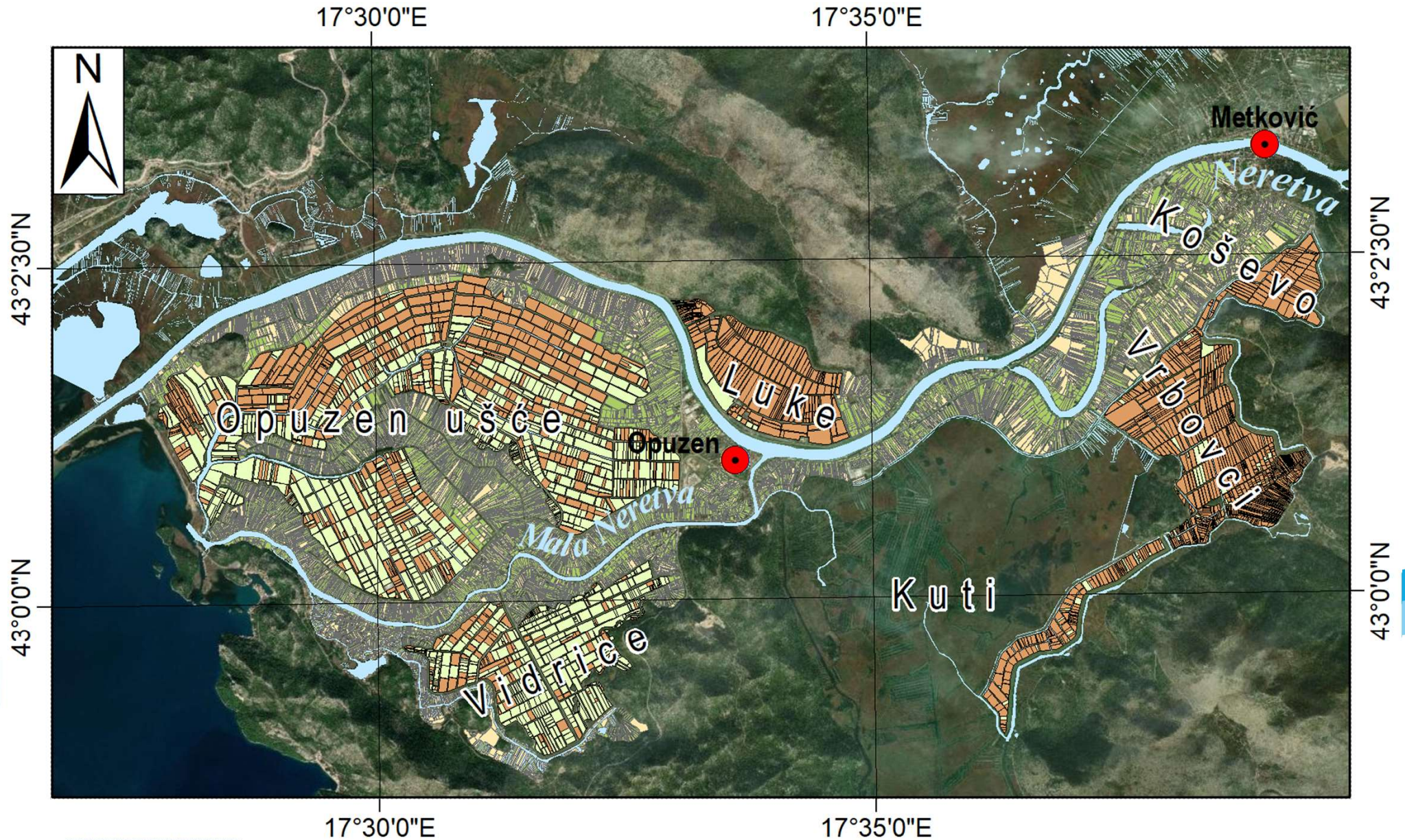
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VALLEY

- Not so long time ago it used to be a vast swamp area
- Intensive research, experiments and soil melioration works were done from 1950's to 1990's
- In 1959 a state agricultural-industrial company (social enterprise) PIK Opuzen was established
- PIK Opuzen was responsible for management of meliorated land and development of agricultural production

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VALLEY

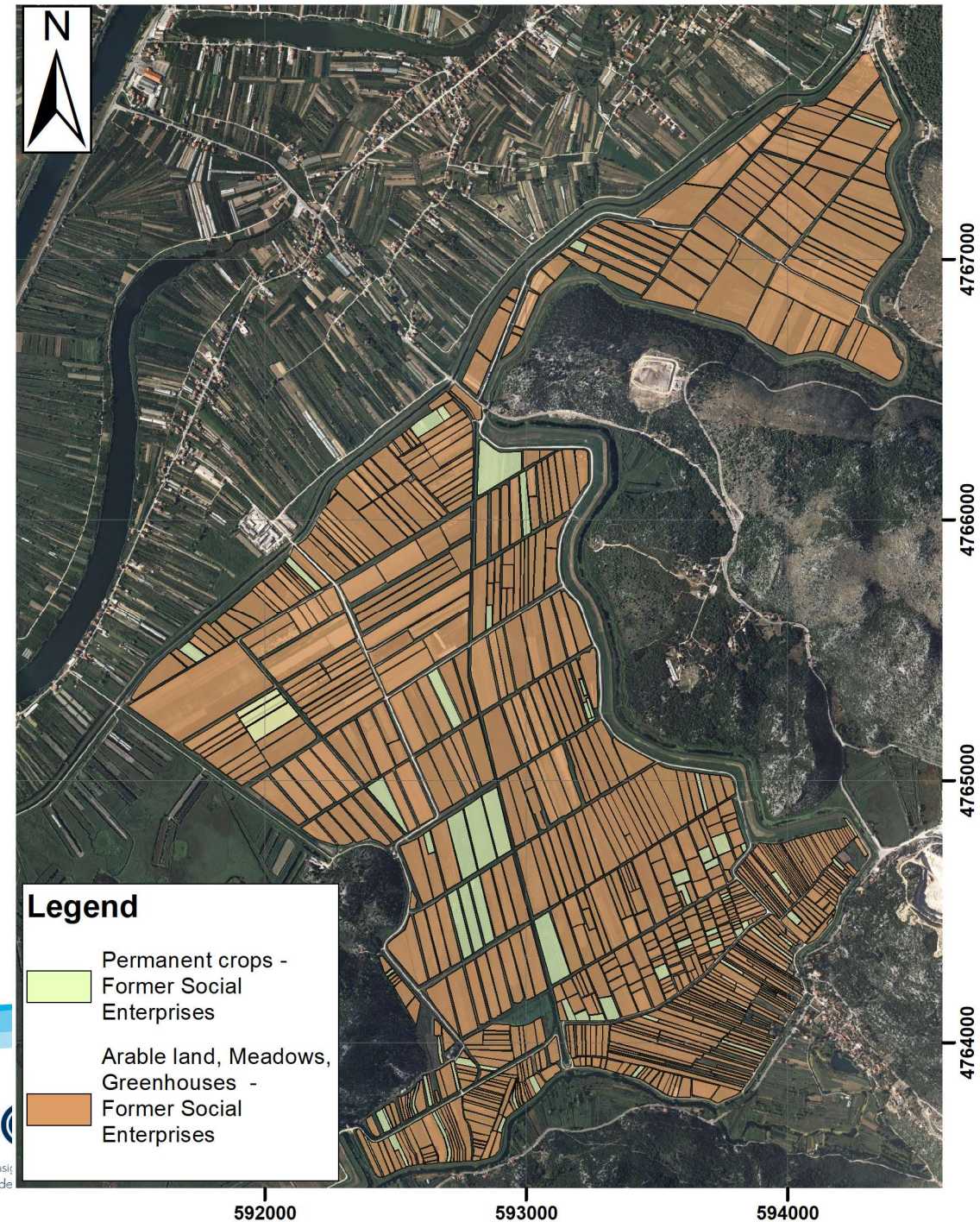
- Today, the land is mostly farmed by much smaller family run farms, compared to the former PIK Opuzen social enterprise
- This resulted with:
 - division of the land parcels
 - changes in the needs of the irrigation systems (mini sprinklers or localized (drip) irrigation)

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN THE NERETVA RIVER VALLES



KOŠEVO-VRBOVCI AREA

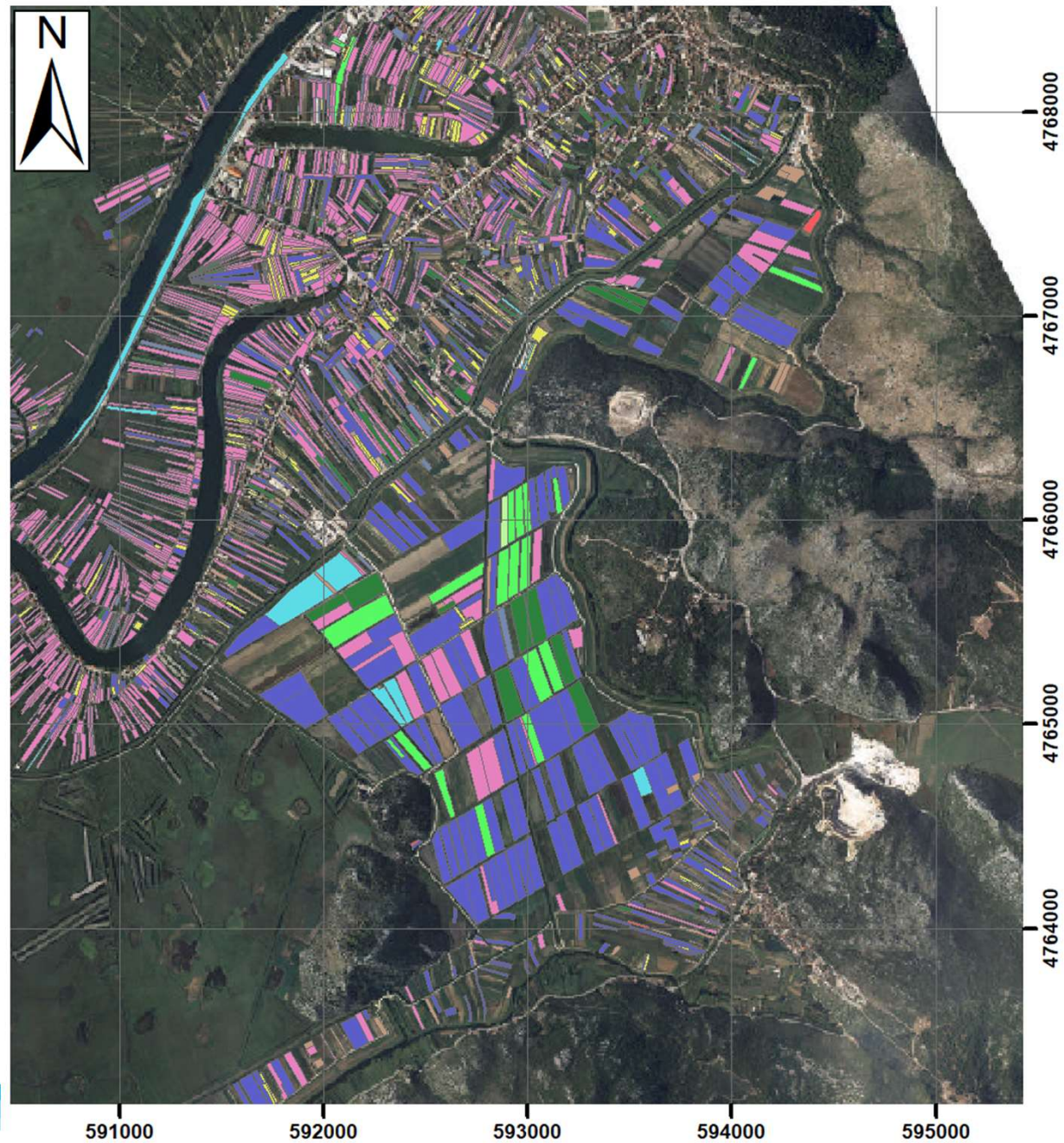
- The most upstream melioration area in the Neretva river valley
- Covers roughly 400 ha of agricultural areas



KOŠEVO-VRBOVCI AREA

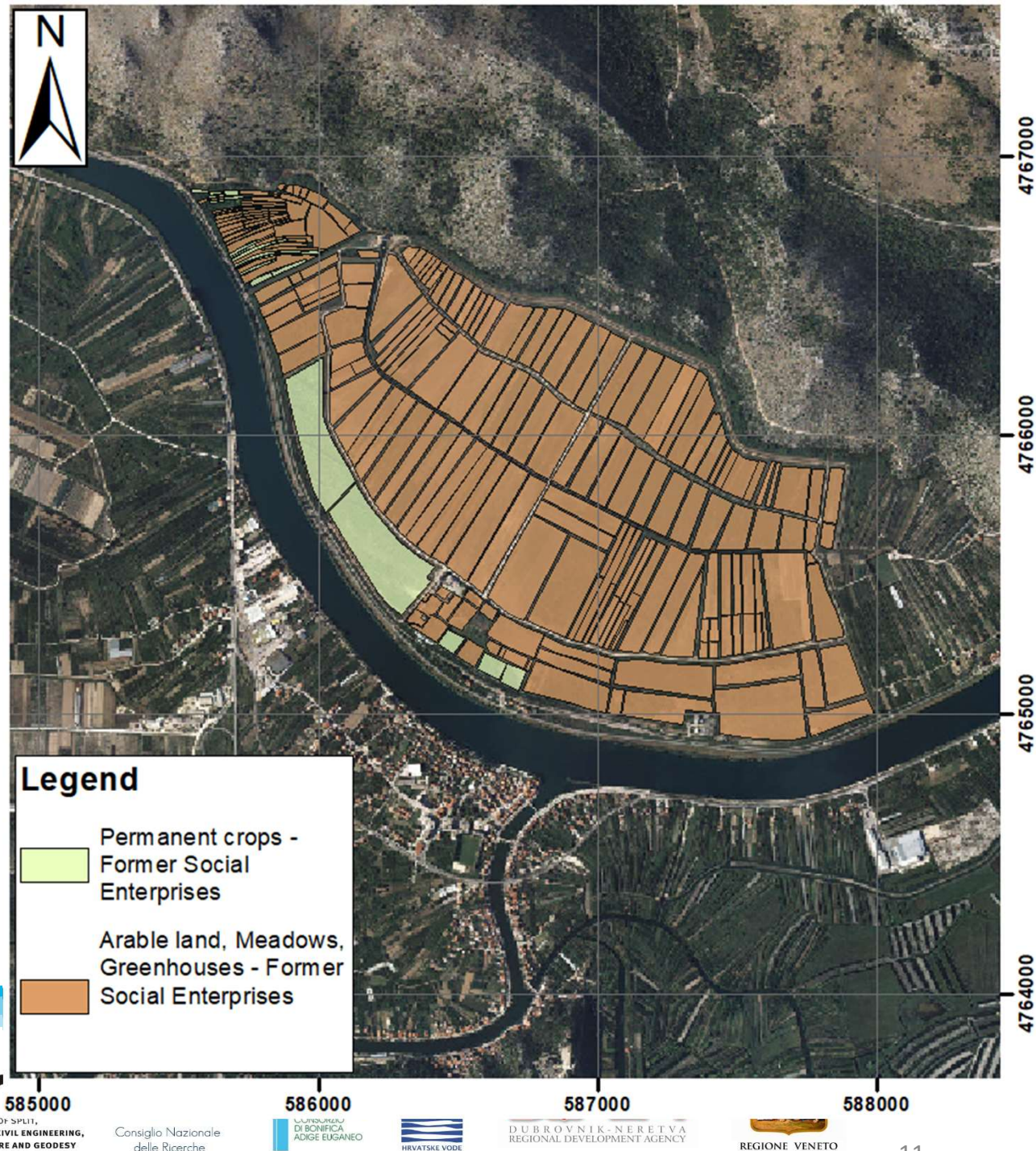
- Agricultural production is mostly oriented to vegetables (around 85%)
- Brassicas
 - Cabbage, Kale, Cauliflower
- Fruiting vegetables
 - Watermelons
- Two harvest per year from one agricultural plot
 - e.g. Cabbage, Kale, Lettuce in Winter and early Spring
 - followed by e.g. Tomatoe, Paprika, Watermelon or Melon in Spring or Summer

KOŠEVO- VRBOVCI AREA



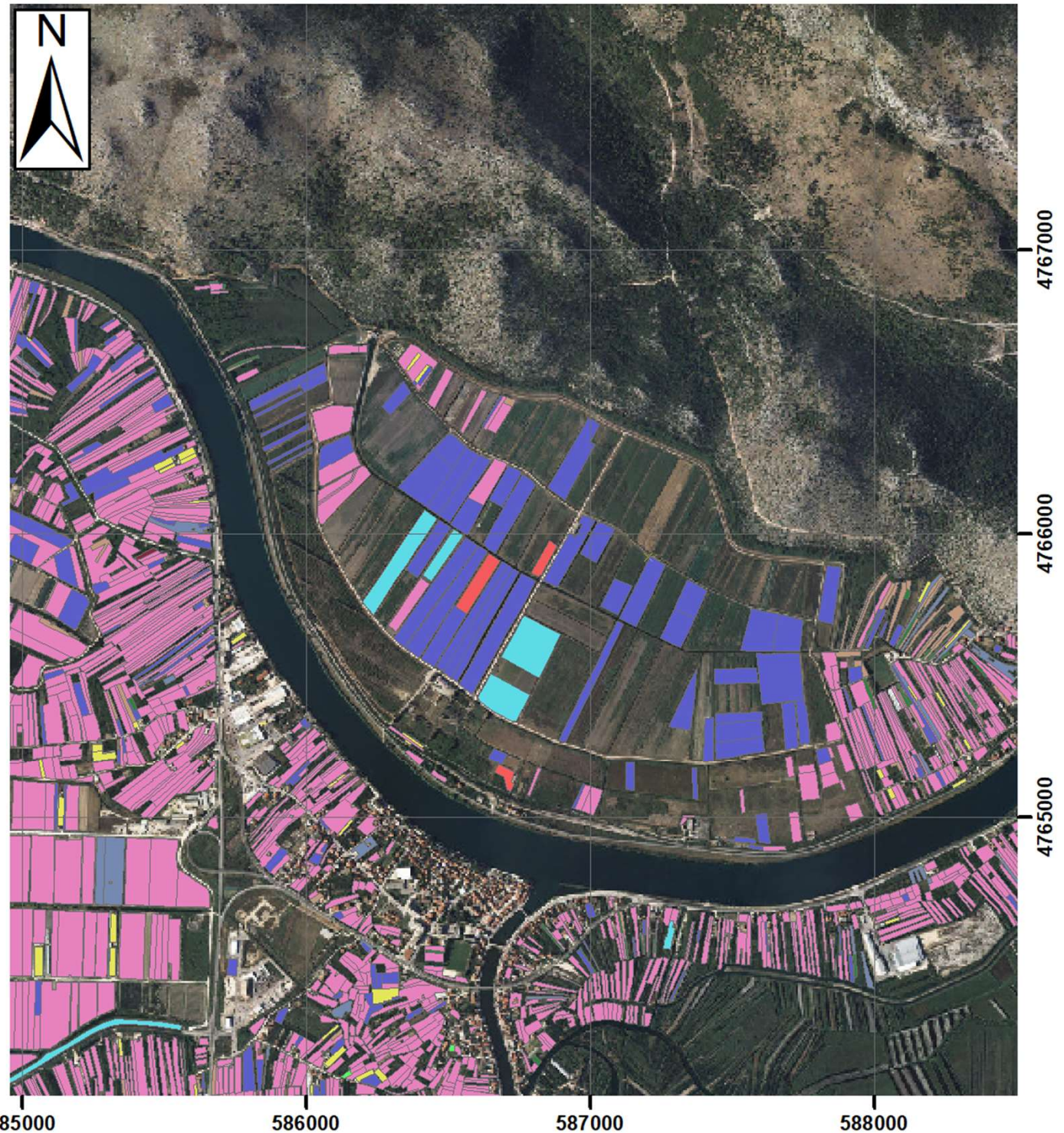
LUKE AREA

- Only area located on the right Neretva river bank
- It was the first area that was meliorated and served as the pilot project
- Covers about 290 ha of arable land



LUKE AREA

- Today, significant area is abandoned and uncultivated





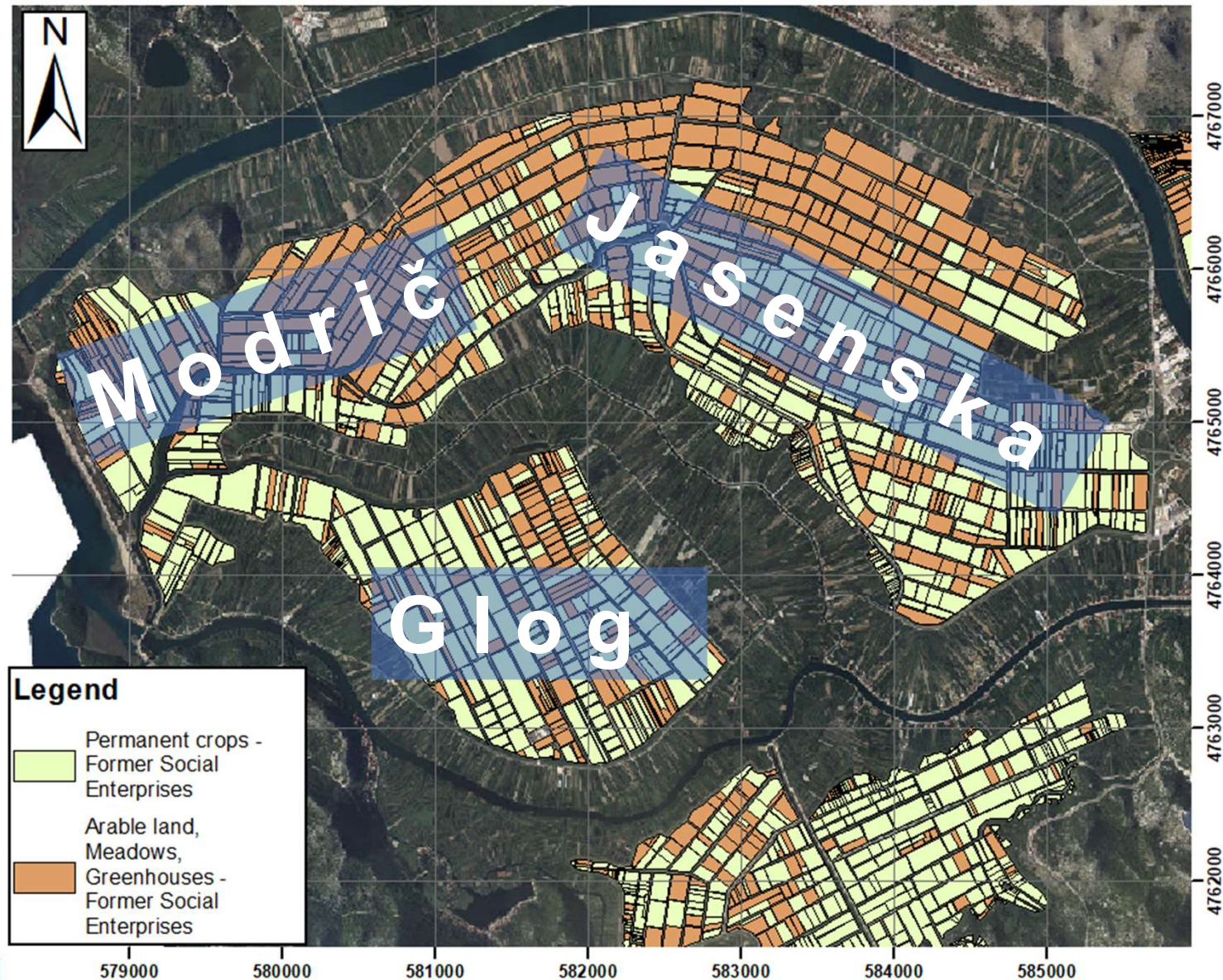
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OPUZEN UŠĆE AREA

- The largest area in the Neretva river valley with an area of roughly 3000 ha
- It can be divided in three sub-regions: Glog, Modrič and Jasenska











GRAZIE PER LA VOSTRA ATTENZIONE!

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