



HAL
open science

Trees in agricultural landscapes: understanding past changes for a better management strategies

Émilie Andrieu, Sylvie Ladet, François Calatayud, Julien Blanco, Anne Sourdril, Marc Deconchat

► To cite this version:

Émilie Andrieu, Sylvie Ladet, François Calatayud, Julien Blanco, Anne Sourdril, et al.. Trees in agricultural landscapes: understanding past changes for a better management strategies. 4th World Congress on Agroforestry, May 2019, Montpellier, France. pp.524, 2019. hal-02417667

HAL Id: hal-02417667

<https://hal.science/hal-02417667v1>

Submitted on 18 Dec 2019

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Open Archive Toulouse Archive Ouverte

OATAO is an open access repository that collects the work of Toulouse researchers and makes it freely available over the web where possible

This is an author's version published in: <http://oatao.univ-toulouse.fr/23896>

To cite this version:

Andrieu, Émilie and Ladet, Sylvie and Calatayud, François and Blanco, Julien and Sourdril, Anne and Deconchat, Marc
Trees in agricultural landscapes: understanding past changes for a better management strategies. (2019) In: 4th World Congress on Agroforestry, 20 May 2019 - 22 May 2019 (Montpellier, France)

Any correspondence concerning this service should be sent to the repository administrator: tech-oatao@listes-diff.inp-toulouse.fr

Trees in agricultural landscapes: understanding past changes for a better management

Andrieu Emilie^{1,2}, Ladet Sylvie^{1,2}, Calatayud François^{1,2}, Blanco Julien^{1,3}, Sourdil Anne⁴, Deconchat Marc^{1,2}

¹ DYNAFOR, Université de Toulouse, INRA, Castanet-Tolosan, France

³ UMR CNRS 6554 LETG-Angers, UFR sciences, Université d'Angers, France

² LTSER Zone Atelier « PYRÉNÉES GARONNE », 31320 Auzville-Tolosane, France

⁴ CNRS, UMR 7533 Ladyss, 92001, Nanterre cedex, France

Study objectives

- In agricultural landscapes, rural forests - ie farm forests and trees outside forests like hedgerows, scattered trees, small groves, ... - support key ecological functions and ecosystem services (ES), from firewood production to pest control, through cultural values.
- As both biodiversity and willingness of landowners to change their practices strongly depend on landscape history, we first traced back the history of rural forest from 1962 to 2010. Then we explored the causes of these changes and finally we evaluated how these changes could affect biodiversity.

Materials & Methods



The study site is an area of 140 km² in the LTSER ZA PYGAR in south-western France (43°16'29" N; 0°51'51.24" E). Rural forest managers are mainly farmers involved in crop-livestock farming: this results in landscapes with a mozaic of trees, grasslands and crop fields.

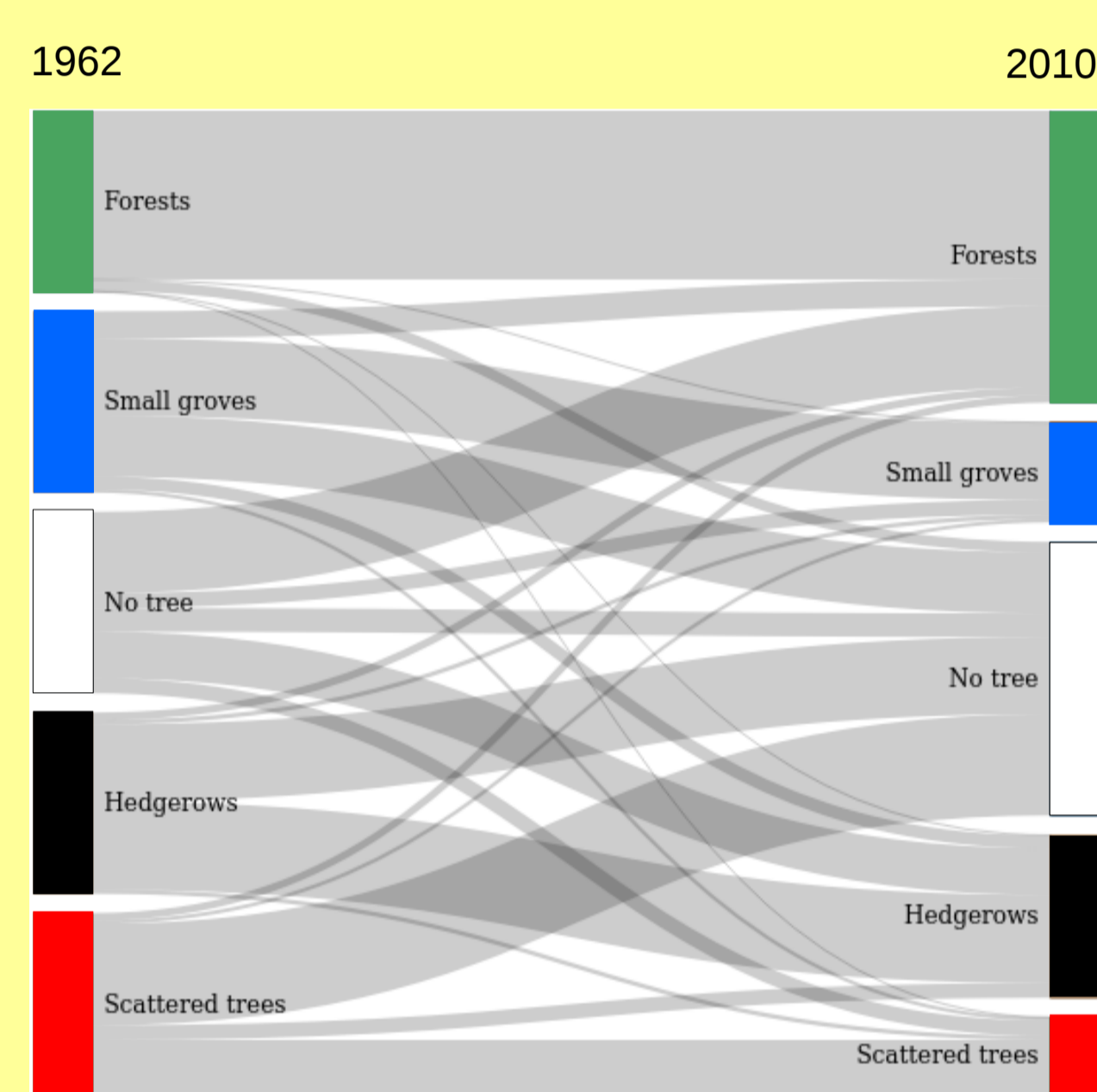
Over the last decades, the number of farms decreased, their size increased and tend o become more specialized in crop cultivation, which caused changes in landscapes composition and configuration.

We used retrospective photo-interpretation of airborne images (IGN) and Lidar data to trace back and quantify farm forest evolution (1962-2010) in the study area and in a subsample of 4 farms, coupled with face-to-face interviews with farmers.

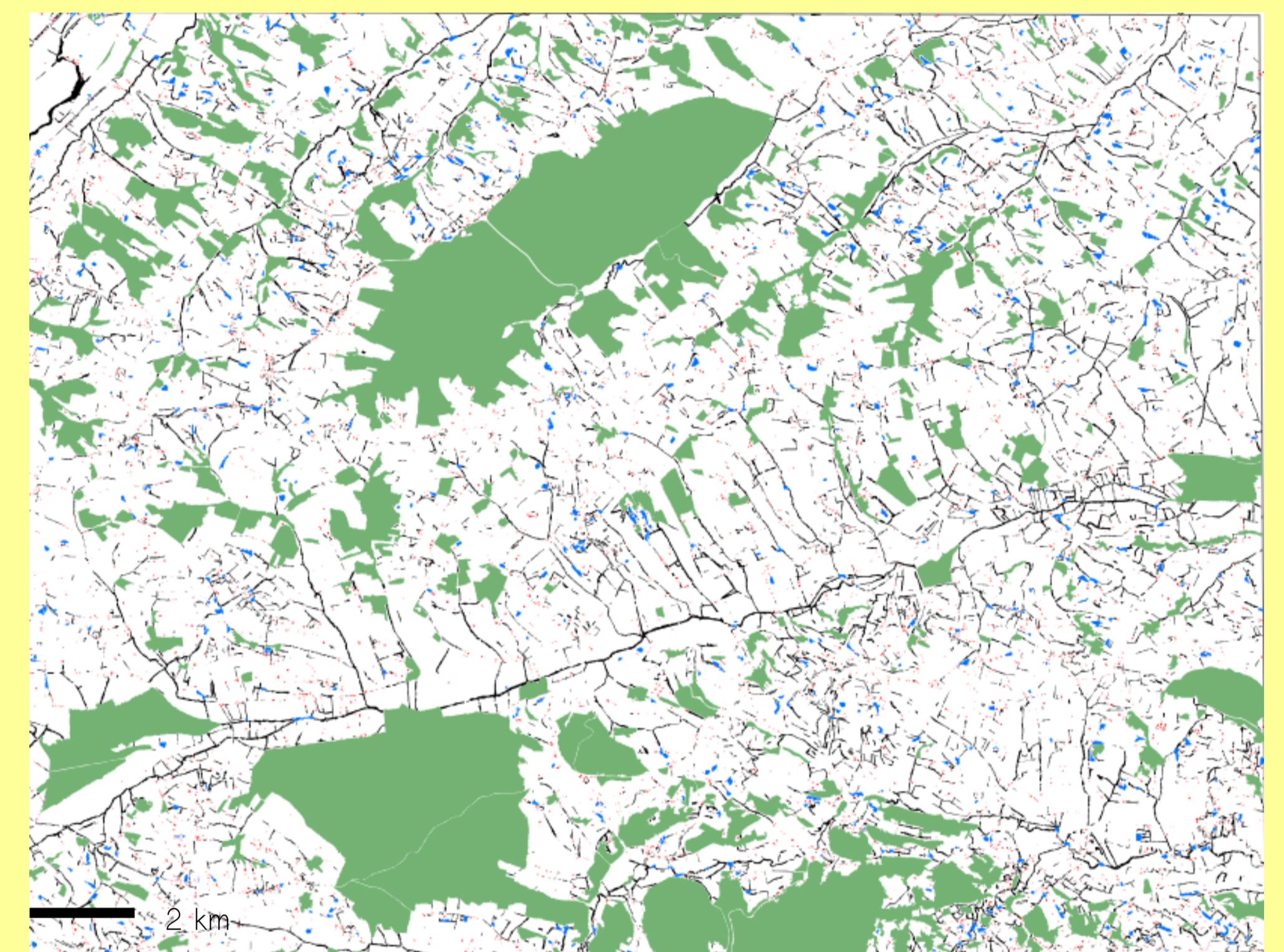
Farm forest evolution over the past decades

Scattered trees, hedgerows and small groves were widely removed between 1962 and 2010 (eg. hedgerows total length decreased from 657 km to 478 km). New rural forest elements appeared recently due to secondary succession consecutive to land abandonment, while some other increased in size and move to another type. For example the number of new scattered trees increased, probably before evolving into small groves and then new forests.

Forest area and number were relatively stable, due to the traditional self-reliance and autonomy principles that underpinned farm strategies. These traditional uses still perpetuate and incitate farmers to maintain their forest estate [1,2].

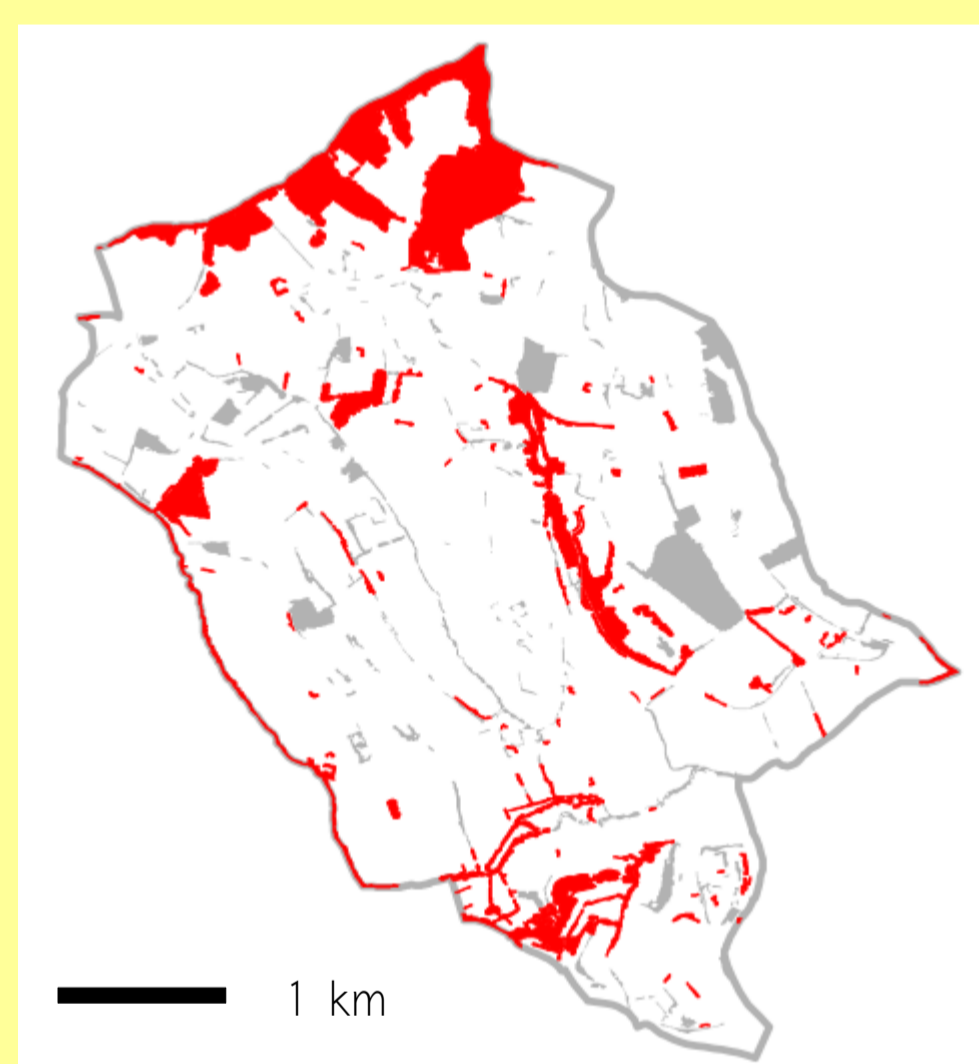


Rural forest evolution from 1962 to 2010, each grey path is proportional to the rate of surface area change between the two dates. Right: map of rural forest in 1979 in the study site.



green = forests, blue = small groves, black = hedgerows, red = scattered trees

Consequences for biodiversity



Relative importance of rural forest components in landscape connectivity, in a subsample of the study site. Areas in red have strong value for connectivity for two types of plant species differing in their dispersal capacity (anemochory and zoochory) (Dpc, Conefor, contribution of patch k as an intermediate stepping stone).

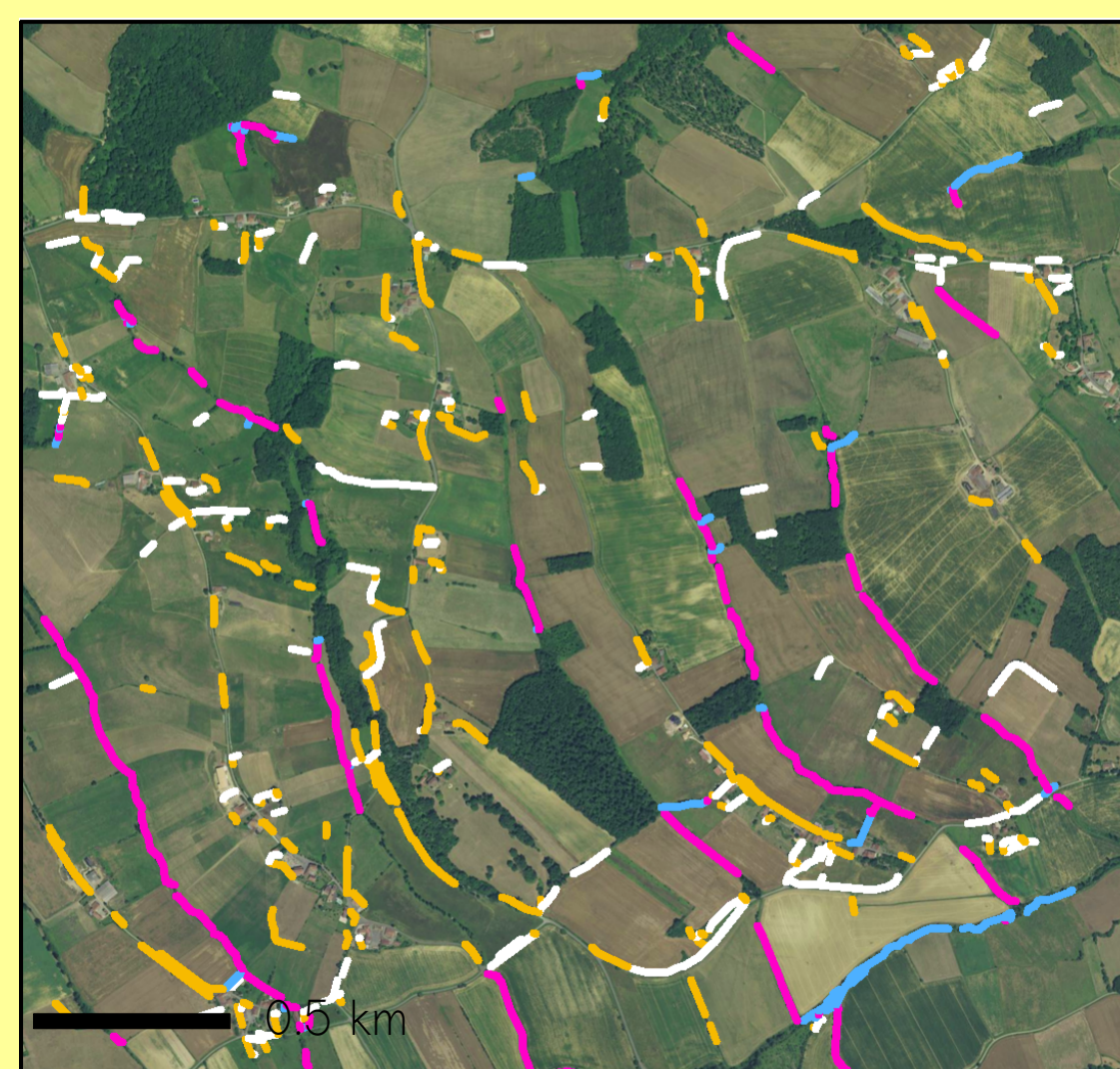
In agricultural landscapes, observed changes in rural forest composition, configuration, and age can affect biodiversity:

- removal of scattered trees, hedgerows and small groves that connect forest patches can alter fonctionnal connectivity depending on species dispersal capacities. It may also affect species depending on stable and diverse habitats for feeding ressources, nesting or overwintering. This is the case for beneficiary insects like crop pests predators and pollinators [3] that can affect ES in crops.
- as some species are associated with mature trees, they may be impacted by changes in age structure caused by the removal of old rural forest elements and the appearance of new ones. For example, some species depend on tree related microhabitats (e.g. cavities) that are mainly beared by veteran and regularly managed trees [4], and that are declining as these trees are removed.
- high forest stability is beneficial to ancient forests species, which are sensitive to extinction debt and colonization credit due to their low dispersal capacity.

Why maintain some hedgerows... but remove others ?

We did not detect any trend of differential hedgerow removal depending on their potential for winbreak (facing prevailing wind) or waterflow regulation (riparian), which are important ES for farmers.

Spatial configuration of these two ES supported by hedgerows:
blue = only water flow regulation potential
orange = only windbreaks
pink = both water and wind regulation potential
white = do not provide these ES [5]



Fine spatial differences in hedgerow preservation seems to be the consequence of a balance between cultural, technical and ecological considerations [6]:

- hedgerows are positively associated with firewood production, services to agriculture and environmental benefits.
- they are negatively associated to labor constraints consecutive to intensification of agriculture and land consolidation
- there is a willingness of farmers to keep hedgerows as visual markers of properties (hedgerows located at the cadastral limits of the farms were more preserved than those in-farm one)

Examples of comments from interviewed farmers:

"When there is a hedgerow, or some trees, around the border of a plot, it has to be pruned to around 3 m to suit the machines used for the plot and the hedgerow [...]. All the same, that means a week and a half's work to manage all the borders. Each year. You've got to believe in it!"

"Hedgerows, we cut some down during the land consolidation but mainly inside the fields, the hedgerows around the boundary of the property, we try to keep them always, it marks the property."

"With a neighbor who's a breeder, you'd better have a hedge rather than a fence, in the end. Because a fence, the cattle can get through it, with a hedge they can't get through."

Conclusion

Rural forest patterns was driven both by social-cultural heritage (eg. practices and traditions), and socio-economical changes (e.g. intensification of agriculture, land abandonment). Current management of rural forest is made by farmers so as to balance ecosystem services and disservices, which vary according to individuals and site-specific factors. Our study demonstrate that a multidisciplinary approach, combining Ecology, Remote sensing and Social sciences, allows a clear understanding of landscape change drivers and then is essential to propose realistic and acceptable management recommandations.

- [1] Sourdil, A., Andrieu, E., Cabanettes, A., Elyakime, B., Ladet, S. (2012). How to maintain domesticity of usages in small rural forests? Lessons from forest management continuity through a french case study. *Ecology and Society*, DOI : 10.5751/ES-04746-170206
- [2] Andrieu, E., Ladet, S., Heintz, W., Deconchat, M. (2011). History and spatial complexity of deforestation and logging in small private forests. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, DOI : 10.1016/j.landurbplan.2011.06.005
- [3] Carrié, R., Andrieu, E., Cunningham, S. A., Lentini, P. E., Loreau, M., Ouin, A. (2017). Relationships among ecological traits of wild bee communities along gradients of habitat amount and fragmentation. *Ecography*, DOI : 10.1111/ecog.02632
- [4] Ouin, A., Cabanettes, A., Andrieu, E., Deconchat, M., Roume, A., Vigan, M., Larrieu, L. (2015). Comparison of tree microhabitat abundance and diversity in the edges and interior of small temperate woodlands. *Forest Ecology and Management*, DOI : 10.1016/j.foreco.2014.12.009
- [5] Vialatte, A., Barnaud, C., Blanco, J., Ouin, A., Choisis, JP., Andrieu, E., Sheeren, D., Ladet, S., Deconchat, M., Clément, F., Esquerré, D., Sirami, C., (2019, in press) A conceptual framework for the governance of multiple ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes. *Landscape Ecology*.
- [6] Blanco, J., Sourdil, A., Deconchat, M., Ladet, S., Andrieu, E. (2019, in press). Social drivers of rural forest dynamics: A multi-scale approach combining ethnography, geomatic and mental model analysis. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, DOI : 10.1016/j.landurbplan.2018.02.005