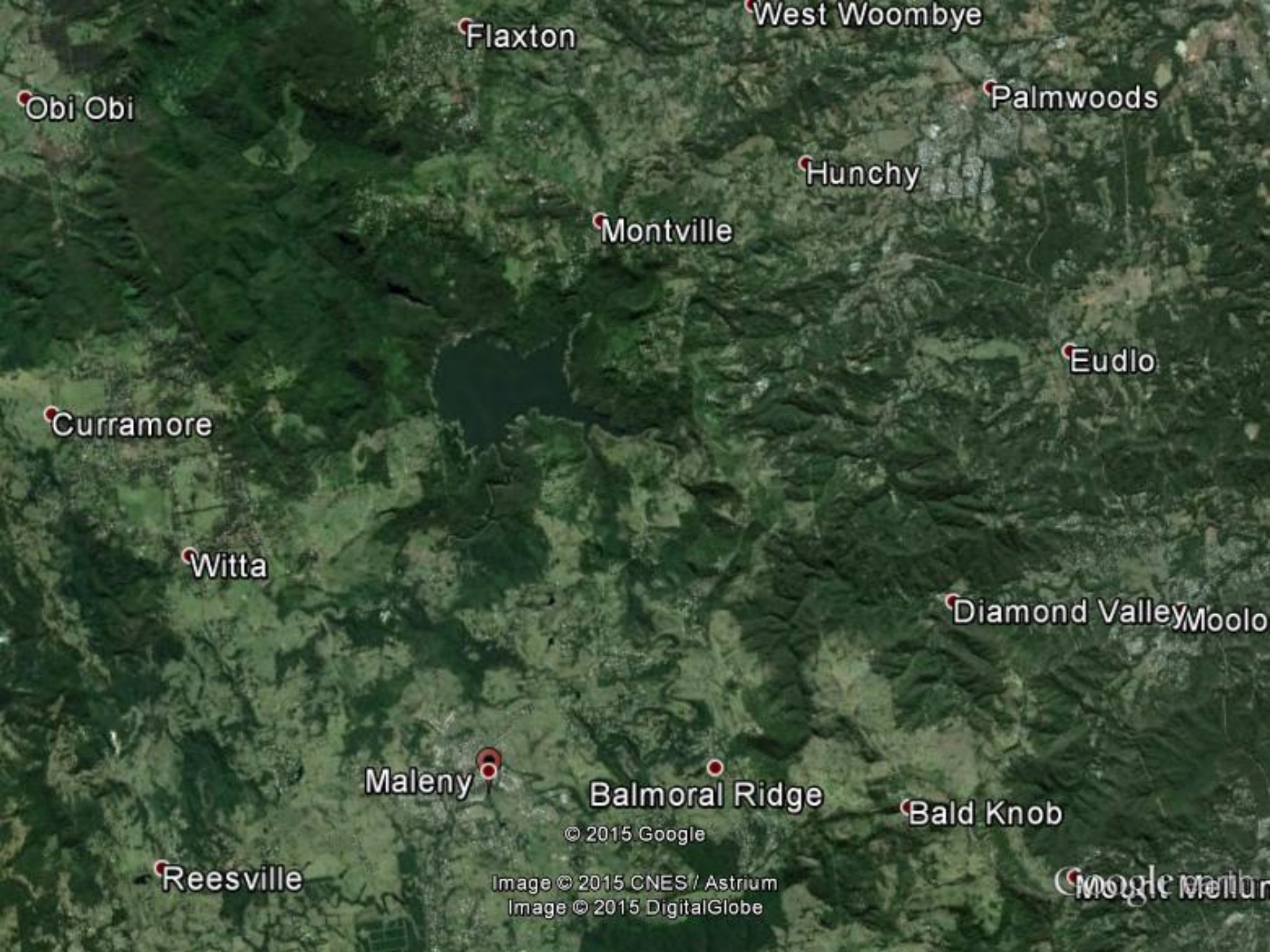


Riparian reforestation to increase water infiltration and reduce run-off

Prof Susanne Schmidt
School of Agriculture and Food Sciences
The University of Queensland





Flaxton

West Woombye

Obi Obi

Palmwoods

Hunchy

Montville

Eudlo

Curramore

Witta

Diamond Valley Mooloolah

Maleny

Balmoral Ridge

Bald Knob

Reesville

© 2015 Google

Image © 2015 CNES / Astrium

Image © 2015 DigitalGlobe

Google Maps



Many reasons for restoring riparian vegetation

Regulation of stream flow

Stream bank stabilisation

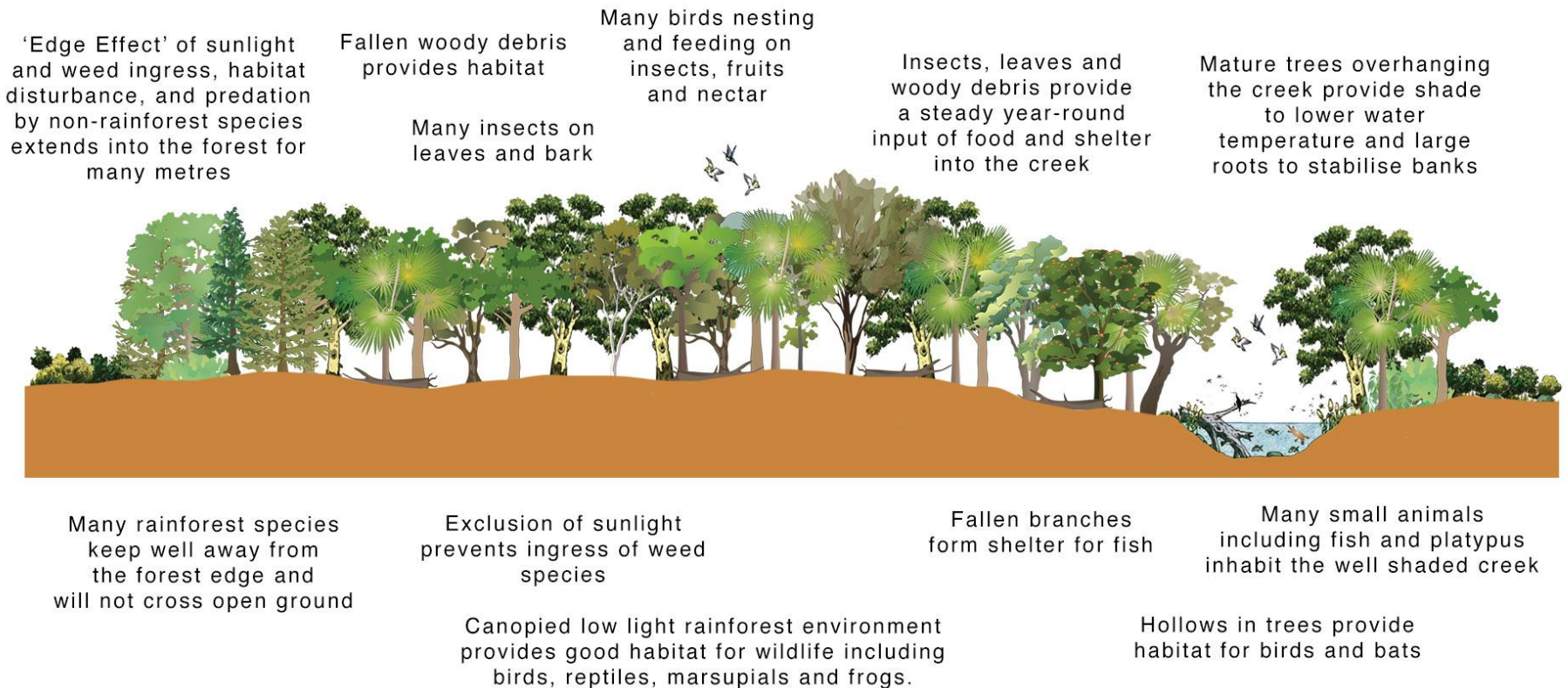
Critical habitat for biodiversity





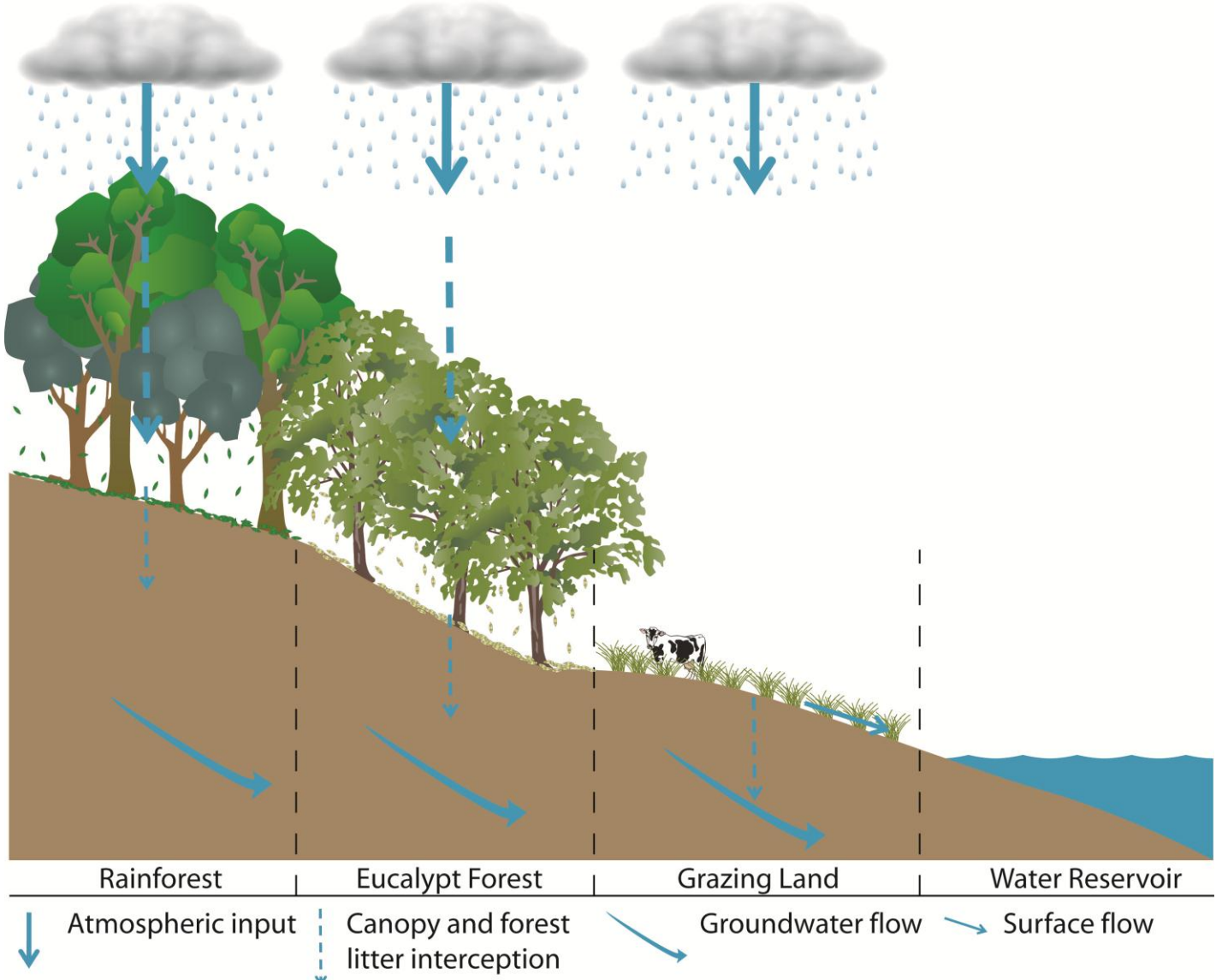
Many reasons why riparian vegetation is important

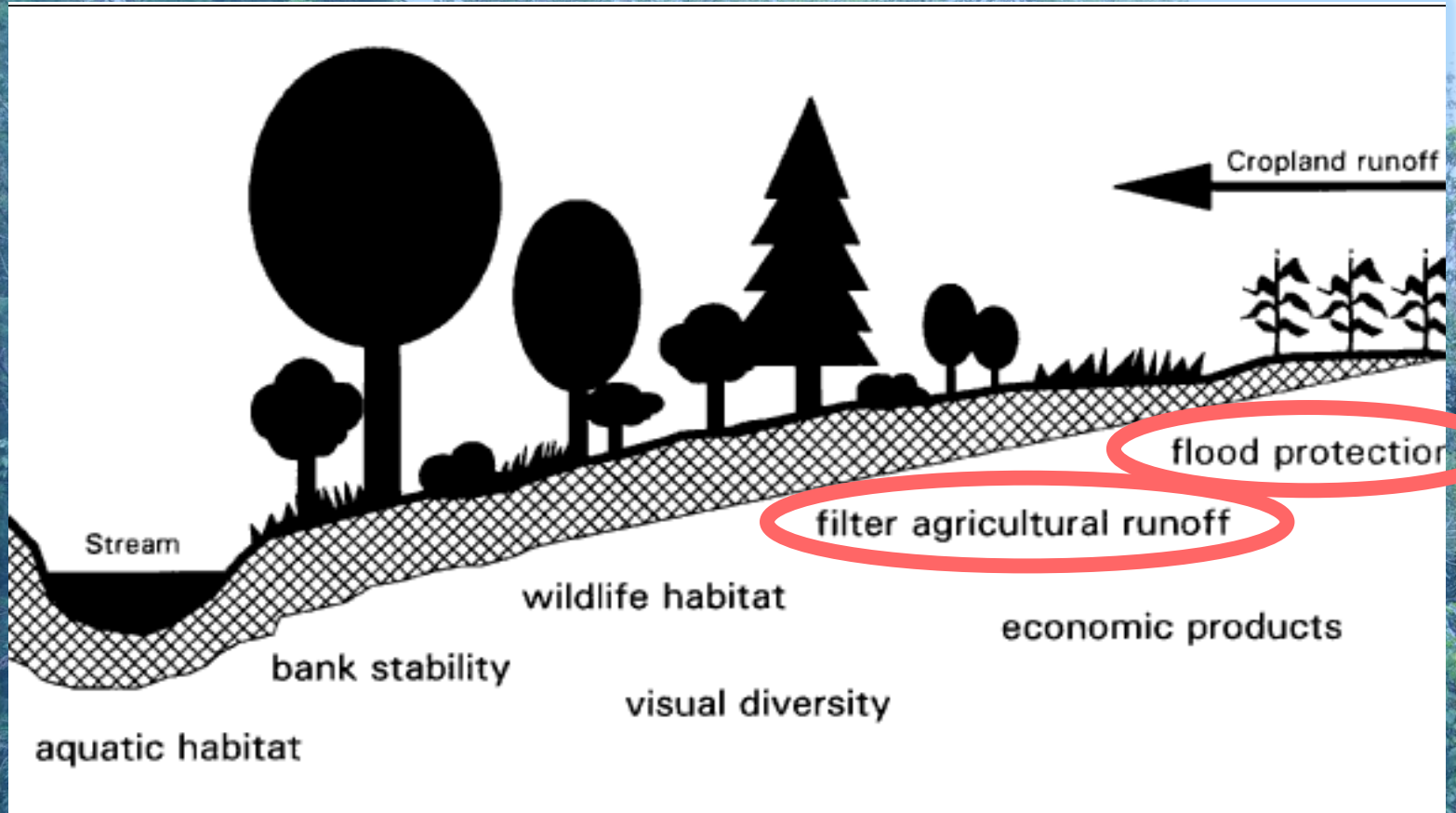
Connectivity along creek lines from one area of forest to another is vital for the movement of animals



Why We Need Adequate Riparian Rainforest Buffers Along Obi Obi Creek

Questions about how vegetation influences the hydraulic properties of soil





Does riparian vegetation reduce water and nutrient flow?



Trees



Pasture

Does riparian vegetation reduce water and nutrient flow?

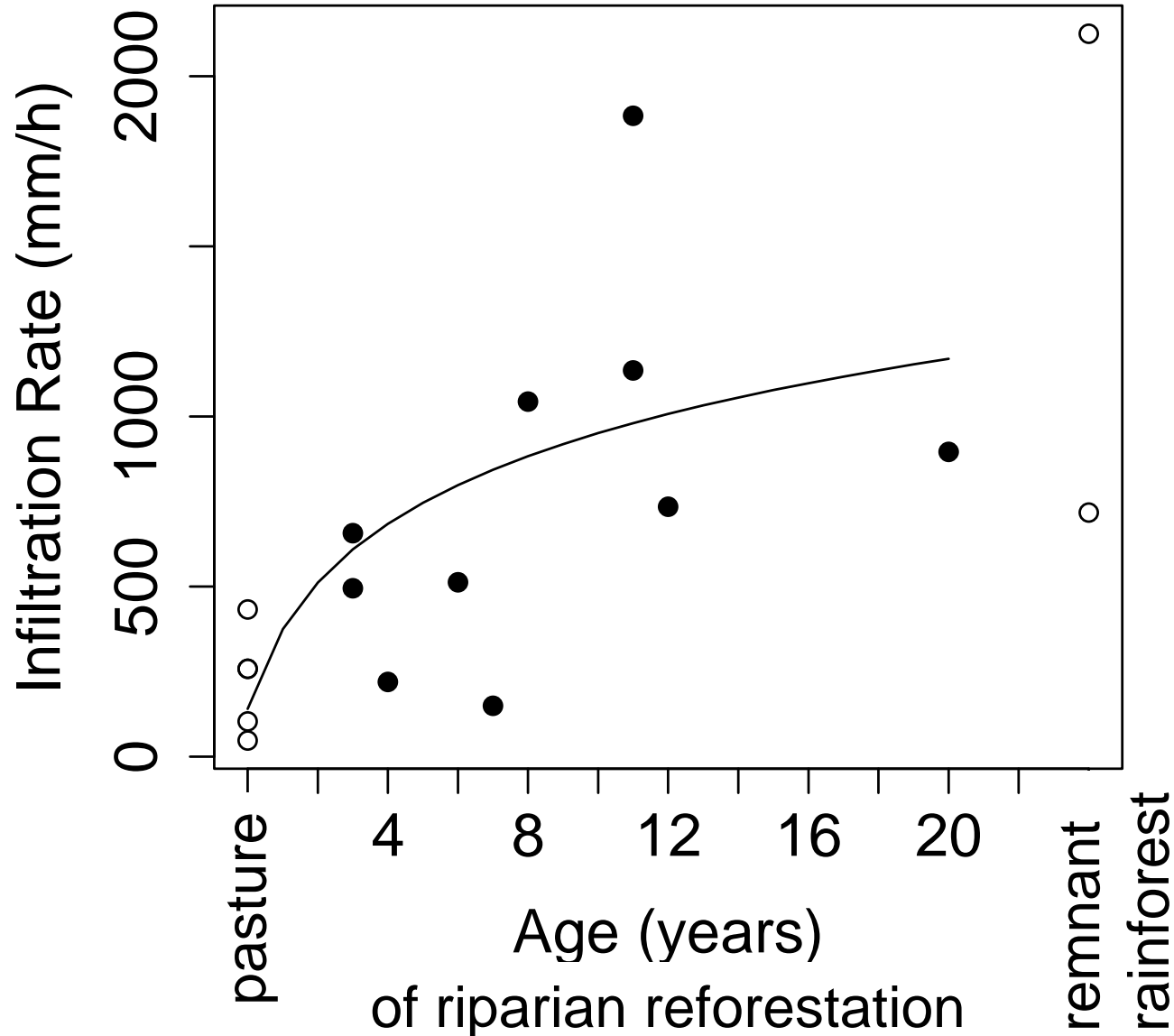


3 to 20 year old plantations and remnant rainforest

Discovery 1: Soil density very quickly declines with time since reforestation



Discovery 2: Water infiltration rates are much higher in reforested and forest sites than pasture

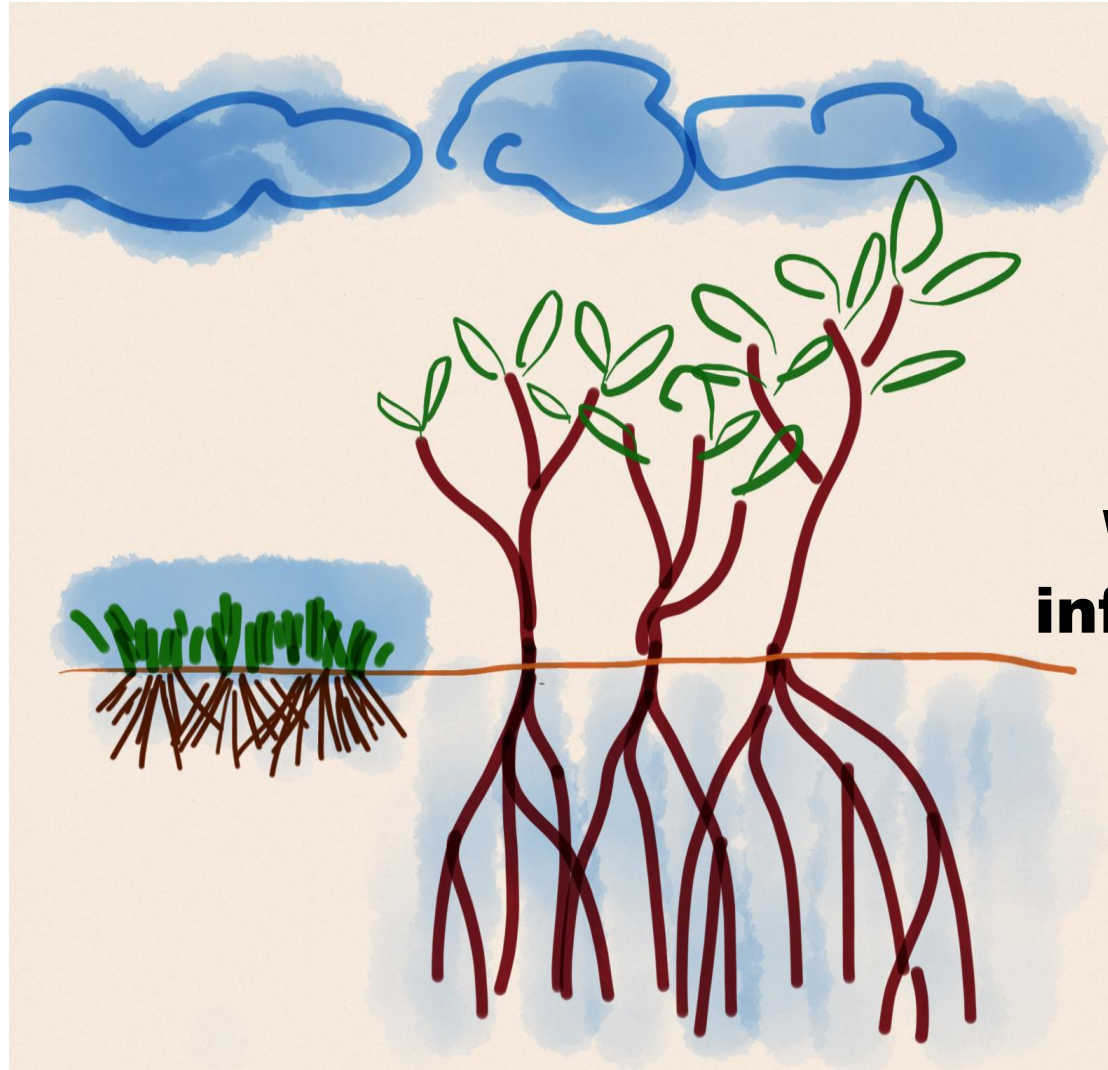


Discovery 2: Water infiltration rates are much higher in reforested and forest sites than pasture



Pastures

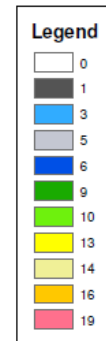
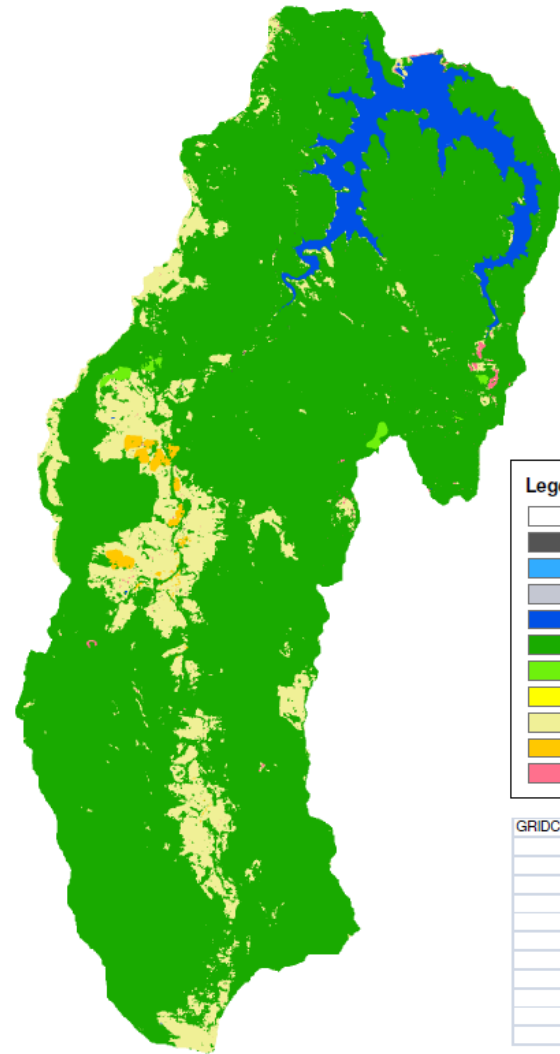
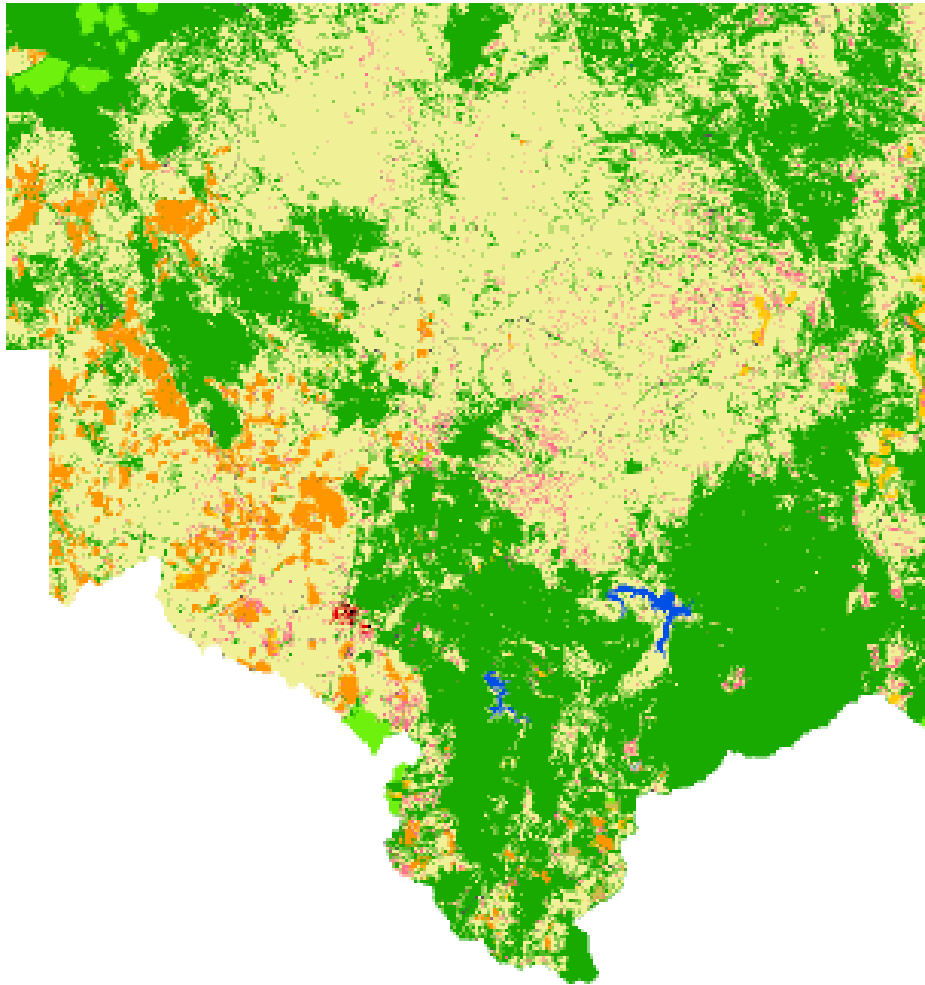
**water
infiltrates
slowly**



Trees

**Water
infiltrates
fast**

Would less runoff occur in pasture-rich catchments after reforestation?



GRIDCODE	A
0	
1	
3	
5	
6	
9	
10	
13	
14	
16	94.96
19	33.91

Vegetation for flood prevention?



Early Response of Soil Properties and Function to Riparian Rainforest Restoration

Rose Gageler¹, Mark Bonner¹, Gunnar Kirchhof¹, Mark Amos², Nicole Robinson¹, Susanne Schmidt^{1*}, Luke P. Shoo³

¹ School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Australia, ² Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Maleny, Australia, ³ School of Biological Sciences, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Australia

August 2014 | Volume 9 | Issue 8 | e104198