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Landslide size matters: a new spatial predictive paradigm

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Abstract

1

2 The standard definition of landslide hazard requires the estimation of where, when (or
3 how frequently) and how large a given landslide event may be. The geomorphological com-
4 munity involved in statistical models has addressed the component pertaining to how large a
5 landslide event may be by introducing the concept of landslide-event magnitude scale. This
6 scale, which depends on the planimetric area of the given population of landslides, in analogy
7 to the earthquake magnitude, has been expressed with a single value per landslide event. As
8 a result, the geographic or spatially-distributed estimation of how large a population of land-
9 slide may be when considered at the slope scale, has been disregarded in statistically-based
10 landslide hazard studies. Conversely, the estimation of the landslide extent has been com-
11 monly part of physically-based applications, though their implementation is often limited to
12 very small regions.

13 In this work, we initially present a review of methods developed for landslide hazard
14 assessment since its first conception decades ago. Subsequently, we introduce for the first
15 time a statistically-based model able to estimate the planimetric area of landslides aggregated
16 per slope units. More specifically, we implemented a Bayesian version of a Generalized
17 Additive Model where the maximum landslide sizes per slope unit and the sum of all landslide
18 sizes per slope unit are predicted via a Log-Gaussian model. These “max” and “sum”
19 models capture the spatial distribution of landslide sizes. We tested these models on a global
20 dataset expressing the distribution of co-seismic landslides due to 24 earthquakes across the
21 globe. The two models we present are both evaluated on a suite of performance diagnostics
22 that suggest our models suitably predict the aggregated landslide extent per slope unit.
23 In addition to a complex procedure involving variable selection and a spatial uncertainty
24 estimation, we built our model over slopes where landslides triggered in response to seismic

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25 shaking, and simulated the expected failing surface over slopes where the landslides did not
26 occur in the past.

27 What we achieved is the first statistically-based model in the literature able to provide
28 information about the extent of the failed surface across a given landscape. This information
29 is vital in landslide hazard studies and should be combined with the estimation of landslide
30 occurrence locations. This could ensure that governmental and territorial agencies have a
31 complete probabilistic overview of how a population of landslides could behave in response
32 to a specific trigger. The predictive models we present are currently valid only for the
33 24 cases we tested. Statistically estimating landslide extents is still at its infancy stage.
34 Many more applications should be successfully validated before considering such models in
35 an operational way. For instance, the validity of our models should still be verified at the
36 regional or catchment scale, as much as it needs to be tested for different landslide types
37 and triggers. However, we envision that this new spatial predictive paradigm could be a
38 breakthrough in the literature and, in time, could even become part of official landslide risk
39 assessment protocols.

40 **Keywords:** Integrated nested Laplace approximation (INLA); Landslide Hazard; Earth-
41 quake; Landslide Area Prediction; Slope unit partition; Bayesian spatial modelling;
42

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1 Introduction

Landslides are common in the mountains, in the hills, and along high costs, where they can pose serious threats to the population, public and private properties, and the economy (Brabb and Harrod, 1989; Brabb, 1991; Kennedy et al., 2015; Nadim et al., 2006; Kirschbaum et al., 2010; Petley, 2012; Daniell et al., 2017; Broeckx et al., 2019). To cope with the landslide problem (Brabb, 1991; Nadim et al., 2006), and in an attempt to mitigate the landslide damaging effects through proper land planning (Kockelman, 1986; Brabb and Harrod, 1989; Guzzetti et al., 2000; Glade et al., 2005), investigators have long attempted to map landslides (Guzzetti et al., 2012), to quantify landslide susceptibility (Reichenbach et al., 2018), intensity (Lombardo et al., 2018b, 2019b, 2020a), and hazard (Varnes and the IAEG Commission on Landslides and Other Mass-Movements, 1984; Guzzetti et al., 1999, 2005a; Brenning, 2005; Fell et al., 2008; Lari et al., 2014), to evaluate the vulnerability to landslides of various elements at risk (Fuchs et al., 2007; Galli and Guzzetti, 2007; van Westen et al., 2008), including the population (Fell and Harford, 1997; Guzzetti, 2000; Dowling and Santi, 2014; Pereira et al., 2017; Salvati et al., 2018), and to ascertain landslide risk, qualitatively (Fell and Harford, 1997; Guzzetti et al., 2005b; Reichenbach et al., 2005; Fell and Harford, 1997; Glade et al., 2005) or quantitatively (Cruden and Fell, 1997a,b; Guzzetti, 2000; Salvati et al., 2010; Rossi et al., 2019).

A problem with many of these attempts has always been the inability (or at least the difficulty) to measure and predict the size—*i.e.*, depth, length, width, area, volume, and their multiple ratios and dependencies (Dai and Lee, 2001; Malamud et al., 2004b; Brunetti et al., 2009a; Guzzetti et al., 2009; Taylor et al., 2018a)—of the landslides, which are known to measure, control, or influence landslide magnitude (Keefer, 1984; Cardinali et al., 2002; Reichenbach et al., 2005; Fuchs et al., 2007), impact (Guzzetti et al., 2003; Lombardo et al., 2018a), and destructiveness (Fell and Harford, 1997; Cardinali et al., 2002; Guzzetti et al., 2005b; Reichenbach et al., 2005), which in turns depend on the landslide types (Hungr et al., 2014).

In this work, we propose an innovative approach to build statistical models capable of predicting the planimetric area of event-triggered landslides (Stark and Hovius, 2001; Malamud et al., 2004b; Guzzetti et al., 2012). To test the approach, we construct and validate two models that predict metrics related to the planimetric area of earthquake-induced landslides (EQILs) (Keefer, 1984, 2000, 2002, 2013). For the purpose, we exploit the information on the geographical location and planimetric area of 319,086 landslides shown in 25 EQIL inventories available from the global database collated by Schmitt et al. (2017) and Tanyaş et al. (2017)—currently the largest and most comprehensive repository of information on seismically-triggered slope failures, globally (Fan et al., 2019)—together with spatial morphometric and environmental variables in the areas covered by the 25 EQIL inventories, and on the seismic properties of the triggering earthquakes (Figure 1).

The manuscript is organized as follows. We begin by giving background information on the inherent difficulty to predict landslide sizes, including landslide area or other simple

117 geometric measures of landslide size (Section 2). Next, we provide the theoretical background
118 for our statistical models, and of the metrics that we selected to measure the performance
119 of our models (Section 4). This is followed by a presentation of the data used to construct
120 and validate our models, including the target and explanatory variables, and of the adopted
121 terrain mapping unit (Section 3). Next, we compare the results of our modelling effort
122 (Section 5) and we discuss the model outputs in view of their specific and general relevance,
123 and we provide considerations on the impact of our approach for the modelling of landslide
124 hazard (Section 6). We conclude summarizing the lessons learnt, with a perspective towards
125 possible future research.

126 2 Background

127 Varnes and the IAEG Commission on Landslides and Other Mass-Movements (1984) were
128 the first to define landslide hazard as “*the probability of occurrence within a specified pe-*
129 *riod of time and within a given area of a potentially damaging landslide*” (Fell [et al.](#), 2008).
130 The definition adapted to landslides the more general definition used by the United Na-
131 tions Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) for all-natural hazards, which in turn was a
132 generalization of the definition used for seismic hazard (National Research Council, 1991).
133 Fifteen years later, Guzzetti [et al.](#) (1999) extended the definition to include the magnitude
134 of the expected landslide, and landslide hazard became “*the probability of occurrence within*
135 *a specified period of time and within a given area of a potentially damaging landslide of a*
136 *given magnitude*”. Today, this remains the most common and generally accepted definition
137 of landslide hazard.

138 A problem with this definition is that, in contrast to other natural hazards—including,
139 *e.g.*, earthquakes (Wood and Neumann, 1931; Gutenberg and Richter, 1936), volcanic erup-
140 tions (Newhall and Self, 1982), hurricanes (Saffir, 1973; Simpson, 1974), floods (Buchanan
141 and Somers, 1976)—no unique measure or scale for landslide magnitude exists (Hungry, 1997a;
142 Malamud [et al.](#), 2004b; Guzzetti, 2005). This complicates the practical application of the
143 definition (Guzzetti, 2005). A further complication arises from the use of the same term
144 “landslide” to address both the landslide deposit (*i.e.*, the failed mass) and the movement
145 of slope materials or an existing landslide mass (Cruden, 1991; Guzzetti, 2005).

146 In the literature, different approaches and metrics were proposed to size or rank the
147 “magnitude” of a single landslide, or a population of landslides—*i.e.*, a number of landslides
148 in a given area resulting from a single event or multiple events in a period (Malamud [et al.](#),
149 2004b; Rossi [et al.](#), 2010). For single landslides, authors have proposed to measure landslide
150 “magnitude” using the size (*e.g.*, area, depth, volume) (Fell, 1994; Cardinali [et al.](#), 2002;
151 Reichenbach [et al.](#), 2005), velocity (UNESCO Working Party On World Landslide Inventory,
152 1995; Cruden and Varnes, 1996; Hungry [et al.](#), 2014), kinetic energy (Ksu, 1975; Sassa, 1988;
153 Corominas and Mavrouli, 2011), or destructiveness (Hungry, 1997b; Reichenbach [et al.](#), 2005;
154 Galli and Guzzetti, 2007) of the slope failure. Alternatively, Cardinali [et al.](#) (2002) and

155 [Reichenbach et al. \(2005\)](#) proposed to size landslide magnitude based on an empirical relation
156 linking landslide volume and velocity, a proxy for momentum. Other possible metrics that
157 can be used to measure the magnitude of a single landslide include, *e.g.*, the depth of the
158 landslide mass, the total or the differential ground displacement caused by the landslide, the
159 discharge per unit width (for landslides of the flow type), or the momentum of the failed
160 mass.

161 For populations of landslides, [Keefer \(1984\)](#) proposed to use the total number of
162 landslides—specifically, EQILs—caused by a single earthquake as a proxy for the landslide
163 event magnitude. Using this scale, an event causing 10 to 100 landslides is assigned an event-
164 magnitude of one, *i.e.*, $\mathbf{m}_L = \log_{10}(10) = 1$, and another event triggering 1000 to 10,000
165 landslides is given an event-magnitude $\mathbf{m}_L = \log_{10}(1000) = 3$. [Malamud et al. \(2004b\)](#) ex-
166 tended the approach to all possible landslide triggers—including, *e.g.*, earthquakes, rainfall
167 events, snow melt events—and proposed to use the logarithm (base 10) of the total number
168 of event landslides in an area to measure the landslide event magnitude, $\mathbf{m}_L = \log_{10} N_{LT}$,
169 regardless of the size (area, volume) of the individual landslides, or of the total landslide
170 area or volume. With this approach, [Malamud et al. \(2004b\)](#) assigned a $\mathbf{m}_L = 4.04$ to
171 a population of $N_{LT} = 11,111$ EQIL caused by the 17 January 1994, Northridge, Cali-
172 fornia, USA, earthquake ([Harp and Jibson, 1995, 1996](#)), a $\mathbf{m}_L = 3.98$ to a population of
173 $N_{LT} = 9,594$ rainfall-induced landslides caused by Hurricane Mitch in late October/early
174 November 1998 in Guatemala ([Bucknam et al., 2001](#)), and a $\mathbf{m}_L = 3.63$ to a population of
175 $N_{LT} = 4,233$ landslides caused by a rapid snow melt event in January 1997, in Umbria, Italy
176 ([Cardinali et al., 2000](#)). In the same paper, [Malamud et al. \(2004b\)](#) proposed an alternative
177 approach to estimate landslide magnitude based on the total area of landslides associated
178 with a landslide event, A_{LT} . Assuming their empirical Inverse Gamma distribution provided
179 an accurate representation of the probability density of landslide area $p(A_L)$, they estimated
180 the event landslide magnitude as $\mathbf{m}_L = \log_{10} A_{LT} + 2.51$. Based in this simple equation, they
181 attributed the following magnitudes to the three mentioned inventories, $\mathbf{m}_L = 3.89$ for the
182 EQIL caused by the Northridge earthquake, $\mathbf{m}_L = 3.98$ for the rainfall-induced landslides
183 in Guatemala, and $\mathbf{m}_L = 3.61$ for the snowmelt induced landslides in Umbria. Comparison
184 of the two different measures of landslide event magnitude reveals differences smaller than
185 4%, compatible with the inherent inaccuracy to landslide mapping ([Guzzetti et al., 2012](#);
186 [Santangelo et al., 2015](#)).

187 A few authors have established empirical probability distributions of landslide size (or
188 measures thereof) including, *e.g.*, area ([Stark and Hovius, 2001](#); [Guzzetti et al., 2002](#); [Mala-
189 mud et al., 2004b](#); [Korup et al., 2011](#); [Chen et al., 2017](#); [Jacobs et al., 2017](#)), volume ([Martin
190 et al., 2002](#); [Dussauge et al., 2003](#); [Malamud et al., 2004b](#); [Brunetti et al., 2009b](#)), area-to-
191 volume ([Guzzetti et al., 2009](#); [Larsen et al., 2010](#); [Tang et al., 2019](#)), and width-to-length
192 ([Parise and Jibson, 2000](#); [Rickli et al., 2009](#); [Taylor et al., 2018b](#)) ratios. Moreover, a few
193 authors have examined the factors controlling these distributions (*e.g.*, [Pelletier et al., 1997](#);
194 [Guthrie and Evans, 2004](#); [Stark and Guzzetti, 2009](#); [Frattini and Crosta, 2013](#); [Korup et al.,](#)

195 2012; Williams *et al.*, 2018; Tanyaş *et al.*, 2019b; Jeandet *et al.*, 2019). Some of the es-
196 tablished distributions were used to estimate landslide magnitude for hazard assessment at
197 the catchment scale, where the probability of landslide area $p(A_L)$, was taken to represent
198 landslide magnitude, *e.g.*, by Guzzetti *et al.* (2005a, 2006). However, the use of empirical
199 probability distributions of measures of landslide size has several problems. First, to es-
200 tablish reliable distributions of, *e.g.*, landslide area or volume, one needs large numbers of
201 empirical data, which can only be obtained from large and accurate landslide event inven-
202 tory maps. These data are not common and difficult, time-consuming, and costly to prepare
203 (Malamud *et al.*, 2004b; Guzzetti *et al.*, 2012). Second, although Malamud *et al.* (2004b)
204 and Malamud *et al.* (2004a) have argued that their Inverse Gamma distribution, and other
205 similar distributions (Stark and Hovius, 2001; Hovius *et al.*, 1997), are general (“universal”),
206 and do not depend on the local terrain or the triggering conditions, the hypothesis was chal-
207 lenged by, *e.g.*, Korup *et al.* (2011) and Tanyaş *et al.* (2018). It is not clear the extent to
208 which a single distribution holds outside the geographical area where it was defined. Third,
209 even the availability of reliable empirical distributions of landslide area or volume does not
210 guarantee that the estimates obtained from the distribution are accurate in all parts of the
211 study area where it was defined, and specifically in all slopes and sections of a complex
212 landscape. Fourth, lack of standard methods and tools to properly model the probability
213 distributions of landslide sizes hampers the possibility to confront empirical distributions
214 obtained for different areas or the same area at different times (Rossi *et al.*, 2012).

215 To the best of our knowledge, no model able to capture and predict the spatial distribu-
216 tion of landslide sizes (or measures thereof) has been proposed in the literature. However,
217 for co-seismic landslides, few examples do exist where scholars have at least tried to estimate
218 the controlling factors of landslide size. The most common observation points out to a pos-
219 sible relation between distance to rupture zone and landslide size (*e.g.*, Keefer and Manson,
220 1998; Khazai and Sitar, 2004; Massey *et al.*, 2018; Valagussa *et al.*, 2019). This implies that
221 larger landslides are expected to be closer to the fault zone where the influence of ground
222 motion is more intense. In fact, Medwedeff *et al.* (2020) indicated that the contribution of
223 ground motion has a limited control on size of the landslides, compared to hillslope relief.
224 Another common observation suggests that extremely large landslides can be generally as-
225 sociated with structural features (*e.g.*, Chigira and Yagi, 2006; Catani *et al.*, 2016). Such
226 features cannot be taken into account in regional multivariate analysis because of limited
227 data regarding the discontinuity surfaces (Fan *et al.*, 2019). Other investigators emphasise
228 the control of ground-motion characteristics (*e.g.*, frequency content, duration) on landslide
229 size (*e.g.*, Bourdeau *et al.*, 2004; Jibson *et al.*, 2004, 2020; Kramer, 1996; Valagussa *et al.*,
230 2019). For example, Jibson and Tanyaş (2020) demonstrated a positive correlation between
231 between landslide size and magnitude, ground motion duration, and mean period. These
232 hypotheses require further analyses which need strong-motion records gathered from a very
233 dense accelerometer monitoring network. Nevertheless, we lack such spatial detail to exam-
234 ine available earthquake-triggered landslide events. This may be the reason why even just

235 explanatory models for landslide sizes are so limited in numbers.

236 Typical, statistically-based, spatially-distributed landslide predictive models attempt to
237 identify “where” landslides may occur in a given region based on a set of environmental
238 characteristics known to control, or condition landslide occurrence, or their lack of occur-
239 rence (Reichenbach [et al.](#), 2018). These susceptibility models explain the discrete, pres-
240 ence/absence of landslides in any given terrain mapping unit, be it, *e.g.*, a grid cell, a unique
241 condition unit, a slope unit (SU), or any other terrain subdivision. For this purpose, the
242 models exploit the Bernoulli probability distribution to describe the presence/absence (0/1)
243 of landslides (Reichenbach [et al.](#), 2018). Therefore, in this context, the size of the landslides
244 in each terrain mapping unit is irrelevant.

245 Recently, Lombardo [et al.](#) (2018b) have proposed to estimate the landslide intensity,
246 an alternative measure complementary to landslide susceptibility, describing the expected
247 number of landslides in any given terrain mapping unit. To estimate this intensity measure
248 spatially over large and very large areas, the authors built statistically-based, spatially-
249 distributed predictive models that adopt the Poisson probability distribution to explain the
250 discrete number (0, 1, 2, 3, . . .) of landslides in any given terrain mapping unit. Moreover,
251 Lombardo [et al.](#) (2020a) have shown that the landslide intensity is positively correlated with
252 the landslide area, explaining a large portion of its variability within slope units. Neverthe-
253 less, as for susceptibility models, the actual size of the landslides in each mapping unit is
254 irrelevant for the implementation of intensity models, and such models cannot predict the
255 size (*e.g.*, the area or volume) of the landslides.

256 In this work, we extend the traditional approaches used to estimate landslide susceptibil-
257 ity, and the more recent approach proposed to estimate landslide intensity, to model the size
258 (area) of the landslides in any given terrain mapping unit in a landscape. For this purpose, we
259 build statistically-based, spatially-distributed predictive models that adopt the log-Gaussian
260 probability distribution to explain characteristics related to the area of landslides in each
261 mapping unit, namely

- 262 • A_{Lmax} , the largest landslide in the considered terrain mapping unit; and
- 263 • A_{Lsum} , the sum of all landslide areas in the considered terrain mapping unit.

264 Further details on how A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} have been extracted from our dataset is provided
265 in Sections 3.1 and 3.4, whereas a description of how these have been modelled is provided
266 in Section 4.

267 3 Data

268 To test our modelling framework, we used information on (i) the location and the planimetric
269 area of a large number of landslides caused by earthquakes of different magnitudes in various
270 parts of the world; (ii) the morphometric and environmental settings in the same areas
271 where the EQILs were triggered; and (iii) on the ground shaking conditions caused by the

272 earthquakes that triggered the EQILs. In addition, we selected a type of terrain subdivision
273 into mapping units known to be suited to model and predict landslides spatially.

274 3.1 Earthquake-induced landslide data

275 We obtained information on EQILs searching the largest collection ([link here](#)) of seismically-
276 induced landslide event inventories currently available ([Schmitt et al., 2017](#); [Tanyaş et al.,](#)
277 [2017](#)). At the time of the search (March 2019), this unique source contained cartographic
278 and thematic information on 64 EQIL inventories caused by 46 earthquakes that occurred
279 between 1971 and 2016 globally, counting 554,333 landslides (Figure 1). To select the in-
280 ventories best suited for the scope of our work, we adopted two criteria. First, an inventory
281 must have contained information on the (planimetric) area of each of the mapped land-
282 slides. Second, the landslides shown in the inventory must have been associated with an
283 earthquake for which ground motion data were available from the U.S. Geological Survey
284 (USGS) ShakeMap system ([Worden and Wald, 2016](#)). Applying the two criteria, we selected
285 25 EQIL inventories in the 40-year period between 1976 and 2016, which collectively encom-
286 pass 319,086 landslides in 25 study areas in 13 nations, in all continents, except Oceania and
287 Antarctica, and in a broad range of morphological, geological, tectonic, seismic, and climate
288 settings (Figure 1 and Table 1).

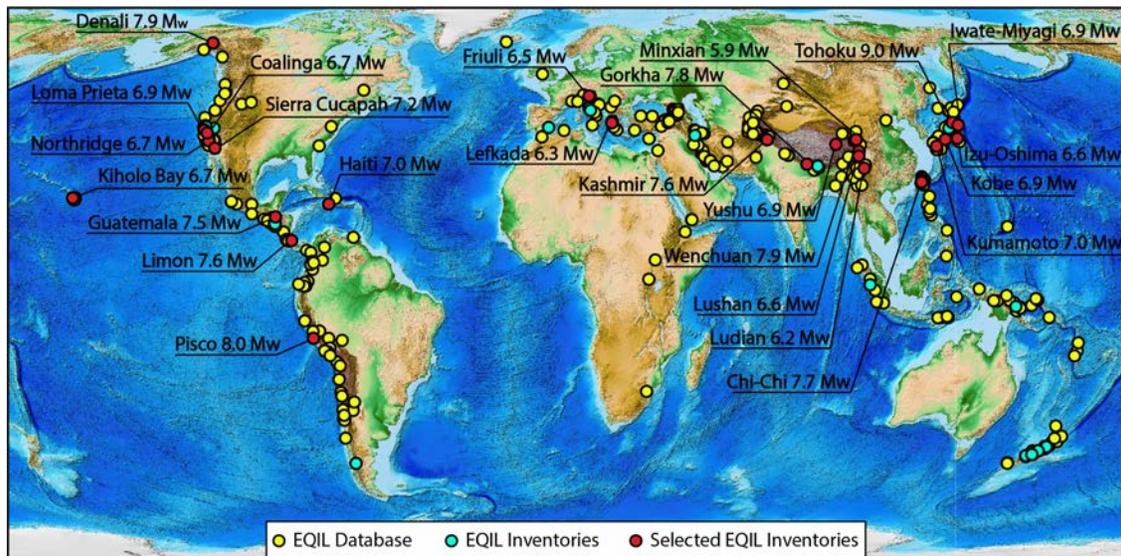


Figure 1: Map shows locations (yellow dots) of all the earthquakes known to have triggered landslides and reported in the co-seismic landslide database collated by [Schmitt et al. \(2017\)](#) and [Tanyaş et al. \(2017\)](#) publicly available ([link here](#)). The cyan dots show all the earthquakes for which the database above includes one or more corresponding landslide inventories, out of which, the red dots represent the inventories used in this study. Map uses Equal Earth map projection (EPSG:2018.048, [Šavrič et al., 2019](#)).

289 With the exception of the 2007 Pisco, Peru, inventory (see Figure 1 and ID 14 in Table 1),

290 prepared using a combination of automated classification and manual adjustment techniques
291 (Lacroix [et al.](#), 2013), all the selected inventories were obtained through the systematic, visual
292 interpretation of satellite images and/or aerial photography (Tanyaş [et al.](#), 2017). For 23
293 out of the 25 EQIL inventories, showing a total of 303,269 landslides (95.0% of the total
294 number of landslides), landslides were mapped as polygons, and the planimetric area of each
295 landslide, A_L , in m^2 , was calculated in a GIS. For 22 of these inventories, the polygon showing
296 an individual landslide typically encompasses (*i.e.*, it does not separate) the landslide source
297 and deposition areas. Only for the 2015 Gorkha, Nepal, inventory (see Figure 1 and ID 24
298 in Table 1) the source and deposition areas of each landslide were shown separately (Roback
299 [et al.](#), 2017). For this inventory, to obtain the landslide area A_L we merged the landslide
300 source and deposition areas. In the 2007 Pisco, Peru (Lacroix [et al.](#), 2013) (271 landslides,
301 0.09%), and the 2013 Lushan, China (Xu [et al.](#), 2015) (see Figure 1 and ID 21 in Table 1)
302 (15,546 landslides, 4.0%), inventories, landslides were shown as points, corresponding to the
303 known, inferred, or assumed location of the landslide initiation point, with the landslide area
304 listed in a joint, attribute table.

305 It is known that uncertainty exists in the measurement of landslide area from event inven-
306 tory maps (Ardizzone [et al.](#), 2002; Guzzetti [et al.](#), 2012; Santangelo [et al.](#), 2015). The causes
307 of the uncertainty in EQIL inventories are several, and they include: (*i*) the amalgamation
308 effect known to occur during and immediately after an earthquake-triggered landslide event
309 due to local slope adjustments and chained instabilities, resulting in a fewer number of larger
310 mapped landslides (Marc and Hovius, 2015; Tanyaş [et al.](#), 2019b); (*ii*) the retrogressive ef-
311 fect that enlarges—chiefly up-slope and less commonly laterally—a landslide, mainly in the
312 source area, also resulting in a fewer number of larger landslides; (*iii*) the cartographic accu-
313 racy of the landslide inventory map, which depends on multiple factors including, *e.g.*, the
314 scale of the map, the extent of the area covered, the number and complexity of the landslides,
315 the scale and quality of the aerial or satellite imagery and of the base maps used to prepare
316 the inventory, the accuracy of the remote sensing and GIS algorithms and procedures used
317 to detect and map the landslides (Guzzetti [et al.](#), 2012); and (*iv*) the skills, experience, and
318 number of the landslide investigators who prepared the landslide inventory (Guzzetti [et al.](#),
319 2012; Tanyaş and Lombardo, 2019). We acknowledge that the uncertainty in the EQIL in-
320 ventories may have biased the obtained size statistics (Guzzetti [et al.](#), 2012; Tanyaş [et al.](#),
321 2019b). We maintain this cannot be avoided, and our modelling will ultimately be affected
322 by this uncertainty. However, we are convinced that we selected for our study the landslide
323 inventories from the best global repository of EQIL inventories currently available globally
324 (Schmitt [et al.](#), 2017; Tanyaş [et al.](#), 2017).

325 3.2 Terrain mapping unit

326 Among the several possible terrain mapping units used for spatial landslide modelling
327 (Hansen, 1984; Soeters and van Westen, 1996; Guzzetti [et al.](#), 1999; Reichenbach [et al.](#),
328 2018), we selected the “slope units” (SUs), which are geomorphological and hydrological ter-

Table 1: Main characteristics of the 25 earthquake-induced landslide (EQIL) data sets used in this work. Legend: ID, inventory number. See Figure 1 for location of the study areas. N, nation; ISO 3166-1, Alpha-2 country code. EQ, earthquake name. m, earthquake magnitude. Date, date of earthquake. E, extent of the study area. SU, number of slope units. SU_L , SU_L with landslides. Area SU_L , total area of slope units with landslides. EQIL, number of earthquake induced landslides. A_{LT} , A_{Lmin} , A_{Lavg} , A_{Lmax} total, minimum, average, maximum landslide area. T, tectonic environment: Co, compressive; Ex, extensional; Tr, transcurrent. C, climate: Tr, tropical; Ar, arid; Te, temperate; Co, cold; Po, polar. Resolution of imagery used for mapping (Res.). References given for event ID: 1, Harp et al. (1981); 2, Govi (1977); 3, Suzuki (1979); 4, Harp and Keefer (1990); 5, McCrink (2001); 6, Marc et al. (2016); 7, Harp and Jibson (1995, 1996); 8, Uchida et al. (2004); 9, Liao and Lee (2000); 10, Gorum et al. (2014); 11, Papathanassiou et al. (2013); 12, Sato et al. (2007); 13, Harp et al. (2014); 14, Lacroix et al. (2013); 15, Xu et al. (2014b); 16, Yagi et al. (2009); 17, Harp et al. (2016); 18, Barlow et al. (2015); 19, Xu et al. (2013); 20, Wartman et al. (2013); 21, Xu et al. (2015); 22, Xu et al. (2014a); 23, Ying-ying et al. (2015); 24, Roback et al. (2018); 25, NIED (2016).

ID	N	EQ	m	Date	E	SU	SU_L	Area SU_L	EQIL	A_{LT}	A_{Lmin}	A_{Lavg}	A_{Lmax}	T	C	Res.
				dd/mm/yy	km^2	#	#	km^2	#	km^2	m^2	m^2	km^2			
1	Guatemala	Guatemala	7.5	04/02/76	6039	6114	1573	1817	6224	60.8	12	9765	1.26	Tr	Te	1
2	Italy	Friuli	6.5	06/05/76	542	362	158	372	1007	1.1	388	3931	0.07	Co	Te	-
3	Japan	Izu Oshima	6.6	14/11/78	867	766	157	279	659	1.5	155	2234	0.05	Tr	Te	5-25
4	USA	Coalinga	6.7	02/05/83	1853	1937	585	729	3980	4.8	9	1195	0.05	Co	Te	1
5	USA	Loma Prieta	6.9	18/10/89	107	60	27	73	138	0.4	173	2559	0.02	Co	Te	30
6	Costa Rica	Limon	7.6	22/04/91	2189	1206	239	564	1643	8.2	255	4966	0.09	Co	Tr	30
7	USA	Northridge	6.7	17/01/94	4029	4083	1307	1623	11111	23.8	1	2144	0.26	Co	Te	1-2
8	Japan	Kobe	6.7	17/01/94	213	133	83	179	2353	0.5	12	211	0.01	Co	Te	4
9	Taiwan	Chi-Chi	7.7	20/09/99	29804	24300	1358	3694	9272	127.5	68	13756	5.52	Co	Te	12.5
10	USA	Denali	7.9	03/11/02	8382	7019	592	1738	1579	121.2	890	76833	8.99	Tr	Po	1-30
11	Greece	Lefkada	6.3	14/08/03	180	116	54	100	274	2.9	130	10765	0.13	Tr	Te	<15
12	India-Pakistan	Kashmir	7.6	08/10/05	2656	1283	287	985	2424	10.4	2	4286	0.14	Co	Te	2.5
13	USA	Kiholo Bay	6.7	15/10/06	192	85	47	145	383	2.8	18	7314	0.19	Ex	Te	3
14	Peru	Pisco	8.0	15/08/07	23195	12576	153	1477	271	1.1	1000	39340	0.08	Co	Ar-Po	5
15	China	Wenchuan	7.9	12/05/08	75028	36852	8775	28979	197481	1160	31	5874	6.97	Co	Te	1-19.5
16	Japan	Iwate-Miyagi	6.0	13/06/08	685	634	388	480	4211	14.4	38	3396	1.01	Co	Te	5-10
17	Haiti	Haiti	7.0	12/01/10	3652	2690	1177	2188	23567	24.85	1	1060	0.23	Tr	Tr	0.6
18	Mexico	Sierra Cuicapah	7.2	04/04/10	894	890	98	198	453	0.7	53	1549	0.01	Tr	Ar	2.5
19	China	Yushu	6.9	13/04/10	1346	654	304	901	2036	1.2	16	593	0.01	Tr	Po	0.2-10
20	Japan	Tohoku	9.1	11/03/11	16781	21377	1434	1732	3475	4.4	6	1252	0.11	Co	Te	0.5-2.5
21	China	Lushan	6.6	20/04/13	5586	3281	1558	3600	15546	18.5	100	1190	0.12	Co	Te	0.2-5.8
22	China	Minxian	5.9	21/07/13	421	341	126	187	2330	0.8	5	328	0.05	Co	Po	0.5-2
23	China	Ludian	6.2	03/08/14	343	156	89	271	1024	5.2	101	5070	0.41	Tr	Te	2-10
24	Nepal	Gorkha	7.8	25/04/15	29053	12193	1395	9810	24903	86.5	1	473	0.18	Co	Te-Po	0.2-0.5
25	Japan	Kumamoto	7.0	15/04/16	4973	5647	395	673	2742	8.2	17	3198	0.45	Tr	Te	-

rain subdivisions bounded by drainage and divide lines (Carrara, 1988; Alvioli et al., 2016). SUs represent a good geometric description of natural slopes, where most landslides occur. For our work, we exploited the same sets of SUs used previously by Tanyaş et al. (2019a) to model landslide susceptibility, and to predict the spatial occurrence of landslides, in the same 25 study areas. Tanyaş et al. (2019a) generated the SUs terrain subdivisions for the study areas (Figure 1 using *r.slopeunits*, an open source software for GRASS GIS (GRASS Development Team, 2017) developed by Alvioli et al. (2016) for the automatic partitioning of a landscape into SUs. Table 1 lists the main geometric characteristics of the 144,724 SUs in the 25 study areas, which collectively cover 219,010 km^2 .

In consolidated methods to estimate the landslide susceptibility, intensity, and hazard (Reichenbach et al., 2018; Lombardo et al., 2018a; Guzzetti et al., 2005a), binary datasets are built by assigning to each mapping unit a label indicating the presence/absence of landslides or their count. In this process, mapping units containing the information of slope failures are as important as mapping units where the instability has not been observed. As a result, a balanced (Marjanović et al., 2011) or unbalanced (Frattini et al., 2010; Lombardo and Mai, 2018) dichotomous dataset constitute the basic information upon which any following model is regressed. In our case, since we do not have to classify the SUs, but rather build a model on the basis of the landslide planimetric area, we are only interested in the SUs with mapped landslides, where the extent per mapping unit can be computed.

For this reason, from the initial set of 144,724 SUs—representing all the mapping units combined across the 25 study areas, we extracted a sub-set of 23,343 SUs (16.1%, for a total area of about 62,794 km^2) where EQILs have been mapped reporting their planimetric extent. This subset represents the dataset upon which we will build our modelling protocol. As for the complementary sub-set made of 121,661 SUs without known landslides—83.9%, for a total area of about 156,216 km^2 —we separately store this information for it will enter the whole procedure only as the prediction target (as explained in Section 4.4).

3.3 Morphometric, environmental, and seismic data

For our modelling, we used an initial set of morphometric, environmental, and ground shaking (seismic) data obtained from a variety of digital cartographic sources. The data we used can be grouped into three main classes, namely:

- terrain morphometric properties, which we obtained from the 1 *arcsec* \times 1 *arcsec* (approximately, 30 *m* \times 30 *m*, at the equator) SRTM Digital Elevation Model (DEM) (Farr et al., 2007);
- soil properties, derived from SoilGrids, at about 250 *m* \times 250 *m* resolution (Hengl et al., 2017); and
- ground motion properties, derived at about 1 *km* \times 1 *km* resolution from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) ShakeMap system (Worden and Wald, 2016).

366 Overall, we initially select 19 covariates, here listed in Table 2. From the SRTM DEM, we
367 obtained nine covariates representing terrain morphometric properties known to be related
368 to the presence or absence of landslides, and specifically EQILs. We computed the Ter-
369 rain Slope, because steepness is known to balance the retaining and the destabilising forces
370 (Taylor, 1948). Planar and Profile Curvatures influence convergence and divergence of shal-
371 low gravitational processes and overland flows (Ohlmacher, 2007). The Vector Ruggedness
372 Measure (Sappington et al., 2007) is a proxy for terrain roughness (Amatulli et al., 2018)
373 whereas Topographic Wetness Index is a function of the local slope and of the upstream
374 contributing area that quantifies the topographic control on hydrological processes (Grabs
375 et al., 2009). We computed three possible realizations of the Terrain Relief namely intensity,
376 range, and variance (Stepinski and Jasiewicz, 2011). These topographic representations are
377 meant to carry the signal of gravitational potential energy across the landscape. The idea is
378 that, taking aside the role of other predisposing factors, a location with a higher relief than
379 another also has a higher potential energy. As a result, the same potential energy is con-
380 verted into kinetic energy if a landslide occurs, hence the resulting runout should be larger
381 than the theoretical runout of a landslide failed with a lower relief. The relief intensity is
382 computed as the average difference between the elevation of a grid-cell and those included
383 in a neighbourhood that we chose within a diameter of 1 km. Conversely, the relief range is
384 expressed as the difference between the minimum and maximum elevations within the same
385 circle. And, the relief variance expressed the variability of the elevation values within the
386 same circle.

387 We also calculate the distance to streams as the Euclidean distance from each $30\text{ m} \times$
388 30 m grid cell to the closest streamline. We note here that the parameterization used to
389 extract the river network has been kept consistent across each of the 25 study areas. The last
390 covariate we obtained from the DEM consists of Landforms (or Landform Classes). These
391 are represented by five landforms, from L1 to L5, representing flat topographies in L1, foot
392 slope and valley in L2, spur and hollow in L3, slope, ridge, shoulder in L4 and summit in
393 L5.

394 In addition to the mentioned morphometric covariates, we selected four additional covari-
395 ates describing the geometric properties of our landscape partitioning into SUs, namely: the
396 slope unit area, A_{SU} ; the maximum distance between any given pairs of points within a SU, a
397 measure of the SU elongation, D_{SU} . From these two geometrical properties, we compute two
398 shape indices both indicating the elongation or circularity (these measures are reciprocal)
399 of the given SU. The first of the two indices is computed as the maximum distance divided
400 by the SU Area (D_{SU}/A_{SU}); and the second corresponds to ratio of the maximum distance
401 divided and the root square of the SU Area ($D_{SU}/\sqrt{A_{SU}}$).

402 Due to the global nature of our study, we initially considered also Soil physico-chemical
403 parameters derived from SoilGrids, (Hengl et al., 2017). We considered the bulk density the
404 weight of the soil draping over the underlying rock controls the failure mechanism (Adams
405 and Sidle, 1987; Cheng et al., 2012). Similarly, the soil depth to the bedrock expressed the

Table 2: Summary of our initial covariate set.

Covariate	Acronym	Reference	Unit
Terrain Slope	Slope	Zevenbergen and Thorne (1987)	<i>deg</i>
Planar Curvature	PLC	Heerdegen and Beran (1982)	1/ <i>m</i>
Profile Curvature	PRC	Heerdegen and Beran (1982)	1/ <i>m</i>
Vector Ruggedness Measure	VRM	Sappington et al. (2007)	<i>unitless</i>
Topographic Wetness Index	TWI	Beven and Kirkby (1979)	<i>unitless</i>
Terrain Relief Intensity	Relief Int	Jasiewicz and Stepinski (2013)	<i>m</i>
Terrain Relief Range	Relief Range	Jasiewicz and Stepinski (2013)	<i>m</i>
Terrain Relief Variance	Relief Var	Jasiewicz and Stepinski (2013)	<i>m</i>
Distance to Stream	D.stream	<i>e.g.</i> , Samia et al. (2020)	<i>m</i>
Landform Classification	<i>LC</i>	MacMillan and Shary (2009)	<i>unitless</i>
Slope Unit Area	<i>A_{SU}</i>	Lombardo et al. (2020b)	<i>m</i> ²
Slope Unit Maximum Distance	<i>D_{SU}</i>	Castro Camilo et al. (2017)	<i>m</i>
Slope Unit Elongation Index 1	<i>D/A</i>	Castro Camilo et al. (2017)	<i>unitless</i>
Slope Unit Elongation Index 2	<i>D/√A</i>	Castro Camilo et al. (2017)	<i>unitless</i>
Bulk Density	BD	Hengl et al. (2019)	<i>kg m</i> ⁻³
Depth to Bedrock	DB	Shangguan et al. (2017)	<i>m</i>
Clay Fraction Concentration	CFC	Wan and Wang (2018)	<i>g/g</i> ×100
Peak Ground Acceleration	<i>PGA</i>	Wald et al. (1999)	<i>g_n</i>
Microseismic Intensity	<i>I_M</i>	Wald et al. (2012)	<i>unitless</i>

406 thickness of material that can potentially fail, where the thicker the failed soil column the
407 larger the landslide is expected to be ([Lombardo et al., 2016](#); [Lagomarsino et al., 2017](#)). As
408 for the soil clay content, this property should carry the signal of potentially swelling soils
409 ([Khaldoun et al., 2009](#)).

410 Two seismically-related covariates provide spatially-distributed ground shaking charac-
411 teristics for the 25 earthquakes that caused the EQILs in our study areas, namely, the
412 microseismic intensity, I_M ([Wald et al., 2012](#)); and the peak ground acceleration (PGA),
413 expressed in units of gravity (g) at $1\text{ km} \times 1\text{ km}$ resolution (PGA, [Wald et al., 1999](#)). These
414 deterministic estimates of the ground motion represent the severity of ground shaking con-
415 tributes to the destabilising forces (*e.g.*, [Nowicki et al., 2014](#); [Kritikos et al., 2015](#); [Meunier](#)
416 [et al., 2007](#)).

417 We remind here that the properties listed above are computed for grid cells. As we opt
418 for a different mapping unit (see Section 3.2), each property is pre-processed to aggregate
419 the lattice information to the chosen units (see Section 3.4). Also, we chose a large set of
420 properties to incorporate as much information as possible. Nevertheless, our modelling pro-
421 tocol will feature a variable selection step aimed at removing non-informative or redundant
422 properties (see Section 4).

3.4 Pre-processing strategy

As mentioned above, we used landslide area as our dependent (target) variable, and we measured the size of each landslide as the planimetric area of the polygon encompassing it, *i.e.*, $landslide\ size = A_L$. This information was then aggregated per SU and expressed on the natural logarithmic scale, *i.e.*, $\log(A_L)$. Specifically, we prepared two landslide datasets, which we used to construct two different models. For our first model (“*Max model*”), we computed the maximum area of all the landslides included in each slope unit, A_{Lmax} . For our second model (“*Sum model*”), we selected the sum of the areas of all the landslides per slope unit, A_{Lsum} .

We provide a graphical sketch of our aggregation scheme in Figure 2. When a single landslide polygon is contained in a SU, we assigned to the SU the same value of A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} (*e.g.*, SU5 and SU6). When two or more landslide polygons fall inside a SU, the overall areal value assigned to the mapping unit is obtained as the maximum out of all cases for A_{Lmax} and as the cumulative value for A_{Lsum} (*e.g.*, SU1 and SU7). Moreover, when no landslides occurred within a SU, we assigned a not-a-number (NaN) to both A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} for we would like to estimate what would be the expected landslide size in those cases. Notably, the SUs with A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} equal to NaN will not enter the model in its calibration step and as mentioned above, they will represent the prediction target once the model is built.

In addition to the preparatory steps for the target variable, the set of properties we described in Section 3.3 has also been pre-processed. For each morphometric, soil and seismic property, we computed the mean and standard deviation of all the grid cells contained in a SU. Conversely, we assigned to each slope unit the signal of the Landform class with the largest extent. We stress here that this step may smooth out the signal of less present Landform classes although they may still contribute to the failure initiation.

In Figure 3 we show the distribution of few covariates we computed, for each of the 25 study areas. Notably, most of them are distributed differently among study sites. Therefore, to respect the unity of each site, in our modelling scheme we introduced an additional covariate expressing the given earthquake. In doing so, we assigned an earthquake ID to each slope unit. Further details on how this covariate is used in our model are provided in Section 4.

4 Modelling and inference

In this section, we present the statistical models assumed to be capable of fitting and predicting the spatial distribution of observed A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} , which will also be used to predict unobserved landslide sizes (*i.e.*, A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} for a SU with no landslide). Below we provide details in terms of the theoretical (Bayesian) framework, the model structure and components, as well as the computational aspects of the inference approach.

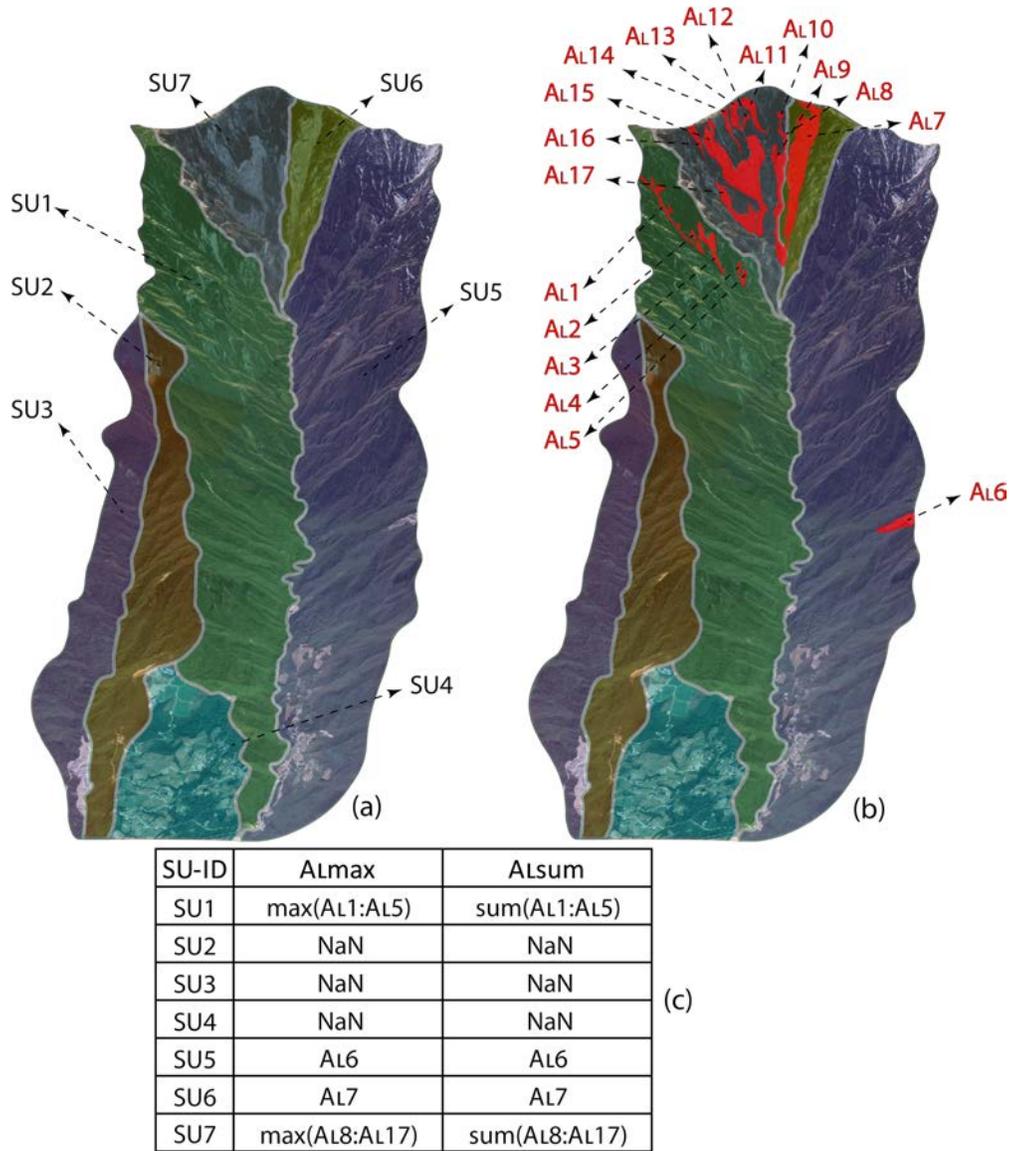


Figure 2: Graphical example of a slope unit partition (a), shown for seven slope units (from SU1 to SU7). Graphical example of a small landslide population (b), shown for 17 landslides as red polygons (from A_{L_1} to $A_{L_{17}}$). The table (c), gives an overview of how we calculated the max and sum of all landslide areas per slope unit. For instance, SU2, SU3 and SU4 have A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} set to zero because no landslide exists within these mapping units. As for SU5 and SU6, A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} values are the same because only one landslide falls within these mapping units. And, SU1 and SU7, have different A_{Lmax} and A_{Lsum} values after the aggregation step because multiple landslides are associated with these two slope units.

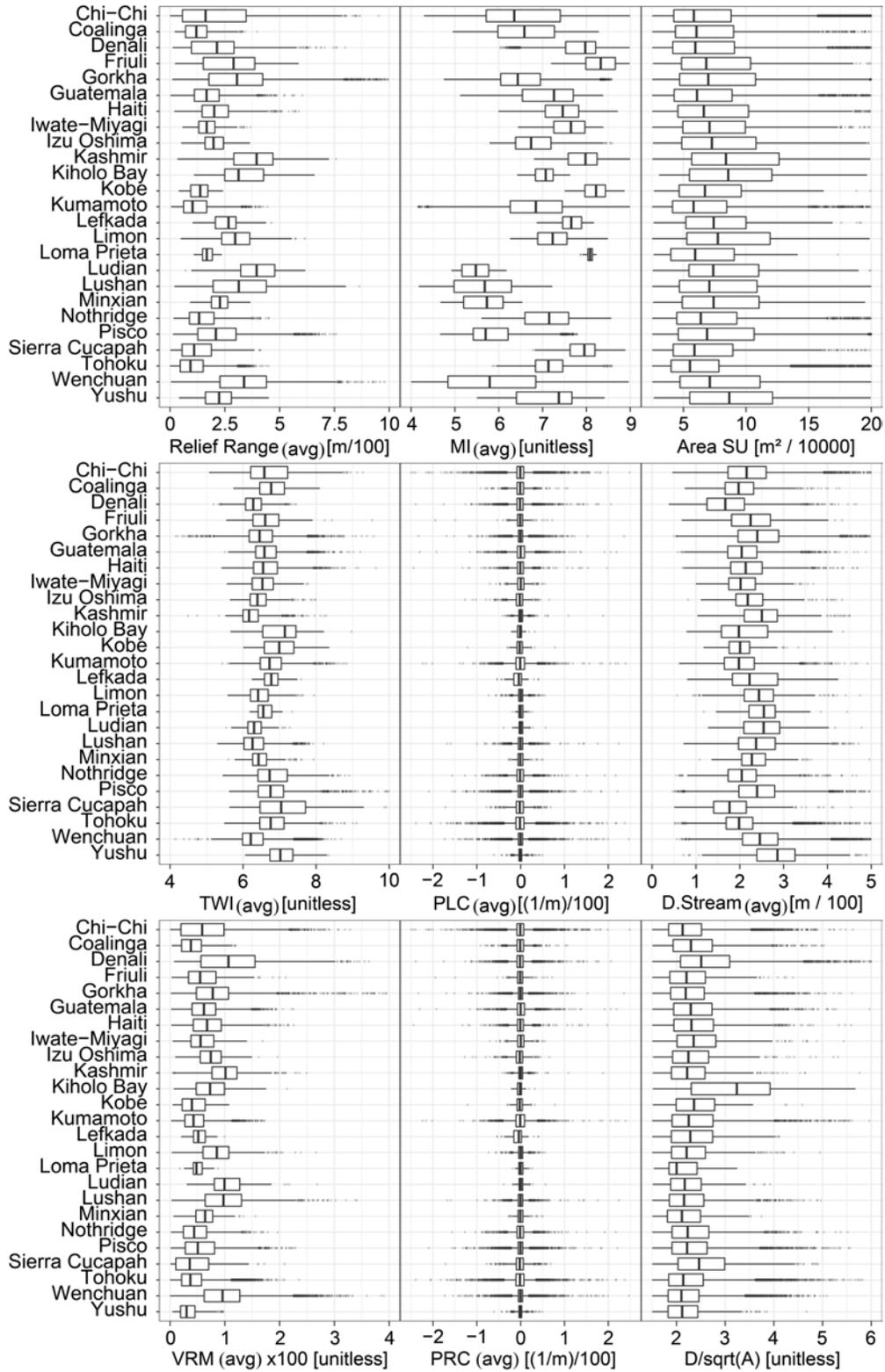


Figure 3: Distribution summary of nine example covariates, for each of the earthquakes under consideration. Notably, the units along the abscissas have been transformed into integers for pure graphical purposes.

460 **4.1 Statistical modelling**

Here, we describe our modelling framework, which we adopt to understand the (possibly non-linear) effect of the explanatory variables over the landslide size. We assume that landslide sizes in the considered terrain mapping unit \mathbf{s} , follow a log-Gaussian distribution with an additive structure in the mean and a site-specific variance. The mean is our main object of interest, and we would like to describe it accurately. We mathematically formalise our previous assumption as follows: let $A_L(\mathbf{s})$ be the landslide size at slope unit $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}$, where \mathcal{S} represents all the study area. $A_L(\mathbf{s})$ can be either the largest possible landslide (A_{Lmax}) or the sum of landslide sizes (A_{Lsum}) over the considered mapping unit. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \log\{A_L(\mathbf{s})\} &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mu(\mathbf{s}), \tau), \\ \mu(\mathbf{s}) &= \alpha + \sum_{m=1}^M \beta_m x_m(\mathbf{s}) + \sum_{l=1}^L f_l(\mathbf{z}_l(\mathbf{s})), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

461 where:

- 462 • $\tau = 1/\sigma > 0$ is the precision parameter (reciprocal of the variance) that measures the
463 concentration of all values $\log\{A_L(\mathbf{s})\}$, $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}$, around their mean $\mu(\mathbf{s})$. As mentioned
464 before, our main focus is on the mean of the landslide sizes rather than their variances.
465 Therefore, we assume a reference prior distribution for τ , which means that the prior is
466 guaranteed to play a minimal role in the posterior distribution (Gelman et al., 2013).
467 Specifically, we consider a flat prior by assuming that $\tau \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 5 \times 10^{-5})$ *a priori*,
468 so that the precision is centered at 20,000 and has a huge variance of 4×10^8 .
- 469 • α is a global intercept,
- 470 • the coefficients $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_M)^T$ quantify the fixed effects of the chosen linear covariates
471 $\{x_1(\mathbf{s}), \dots, x_M(\mathbf{s})\}$ on the mean response, and
- 472 • $\{f_1(\cdot), \dots, f_L(\cdot)\}$ is a collection of functions that characterize non-linear effects defined
473 in terms of a set of bins $\{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_L\}$. These are explained more in depth below.

We adopt a Bayesian approach, and therefore assume that the model coefficients β_m and $f_l(\cdot)$, ($m = 1, \dots, M$, $l = 1, \dots, L$) are unknown and random, with a joint Gaussian distribution *a priori*. This modelling approach corresponds to the class of latent Gaussian models, which includes a wide variety of commonly applied statistical models (Rue et al., 2017; Hrafnkelsson et al., 2020; Jóhannesson et al., 2020). To identify the covariates that may enter to the $\log(A_{Lmax})$ or $\log(A_{Lsum})$ models in the form of linear or non-linear predictors, we conducted a model selection. The selection was based on the Watanabe-Akaike information criterion (WAIC; Watanabe, 2010, 2013) and the Deviance information criterion (DIC; Spiegelhalter et al., 2002), which measure a model’s goodness-of-fit, while penalizing its complexity, in order to favour parsimonious models and prevent overfitting. Lower values

Table 3: Summary of selected covariates for both models. In the second column, RW1 refers to random walks of order 1, while RI refers to random intercepts.

Fixed effects	Random effects
Area SU, D/\sqrt{A} , Relief range (mean and sd), Distance to streams (mean and sd), Sd of slope, VRM (mean and sd), Plan cur. (mean and sd), Prof cur. (mean and sd), TWI (mean and sd), MI (mean and sd)	RW1: Mean slope RI: Landform and Earthquake inventories

of these criteria lead to better models. For each covariate that was linearly included in the models, we tested whether a non-linear random effect for the covariate would significantly improve the model. For both response variables, the final models include the same linear and non-linear random effects. The latter ones take the form of random intercepts and random walks of order 1 (see Table 3). Random walks of order 1 (RW1) can be defined as follows: for any continuous covariate $x_l = x_l(\mathbf{s})$, let $\mathbf{z}_l = (z_{l,1}, \dots, z_{l,K_l})^T$ be a discretisation of x_l into K_l equidistant bins. If we assume that the random non-linear effect $f_l(\cdot)$, defined on \mathbf{z}_l , satisfies

$$\Delta_{l,j} = f_l(z_{l,j}) - f_l(z_{l,j-1}) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1/\kappa_l),$$

474 then $f_l(\cdot)$ is a normal random walk of order 1 with precision parameter $\kappa_l > 0$, which controls
 475 the “smoothness” of the random walk. Note that since $f_l(z_{l,j}) = f_l(z_{l,j-1}) + \Delta_{l,j}$, at each
 476 covariate level j , then $f_l(z_{l,j})$ is obtained as a displacement of random length and direction
 477 from the previous value $f_l(z_{l,j-1})$. The dependence induced by this type of construction is
 478 particularly useful when few values of the original covariate x_l are contained in a particular
 479 bin.

480 Random intercept or independent and identically distributed Gaussian random effect
 481 models (iid models) are one of the simplest way to account for unstructured variability in
 482 the data. For every slope unit $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}$, the precision matrix of iid random effects is $\gamma(\mathbf{s})\mathbb{I}$ where
 483 \mathbb{I} denotes the identity matrix and $\gamma(\mathbf{s}) \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 10^{-5})$ *a priori*. As shown in Table 3, we
 484 used iid models for Landform and Earthquake inventory.

485 4.2 Uncertainty quantification and the Bootstrap

486 The modelling approach described in Section 4.1 describes landslide sizes through a set of
 487 covariates at each specific slope unit, without taking into account possible spatial dependence
 488 between slope units in the same event. A proper spatial model should include interactions
 489 between slope units, which in statistical terms implies defining a covariance structure for
 490 all the 22,343 non-missing slope units. Although it is possible to define such structures
 491 using a neighbouring approach where only close-by slope units will interact, and therefore
 492 the associated covariance matrix might be less dense, the high-dimensionality of our data
 493 prohibits us from fitting such a model. Alternatively, we could have separate models for each

494 of the 25 inventories and define the covariance structure locally. However, model comparison
495 would be challenging, as not all covariates might have the same effect over all the events.

496 In terms of statistical estimation, not addressing the spatial dependence between slope
497 units mainly affects the uncertainty of the estimates, *i.e.*, the credible intervals. Pointwise
498 estimates remain unchanged. To assess the uncertainty of parameter estimates, we here use
499 a parametric bootstrap procedure accounting for spatial dependence in the model residuals.
500 The Bootstrap is a resampling method that can be used to assign measures of accuracy to
501 estimates. Our parametric Bootstrap is constructed as follows: for any of the two models,
502 we compute the model residuals (*i.e.*, we subtract to the observed values the fitted values,
503 $\log(A_L)(\mathbf{s}) - \hat{\mu}(\mathbf{s})$). Then, we fit a spatial model to the residuals of each inventory separately
504 (*i.e.*, treating inventories as independent). We then generate 300 residual Bootstrap samples
505 using the fitted spatial model. To express these samples in the scale of the data, we add
506 back the fitted values $\hat{\mu}(\mathbf{s})$, given rise to 300 Bootstrap samples of landslide sizes. Finally, we
507 fit the model in (1) to each one of these samples, for both models. The spatial model fitted
508 to the residuals corresponds to a stationary isotropic Gaussian process with an exponential
509 covariance function (see, *e.g.*, [Cressie, 2015](#), Section 2.3). The Bootstrap is essential for
510 accurate quantification of the uncertainty, as, without it, uncertainty estimates might be too
511 optimistic, *i.e.*, parameter credible intervals might be too narrow in both models.

512 4.3 Bayesian inference with R-INLA

513 Bayesian inference is typically performed using computationally expensive approaches such
514 as Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC). Here, we overcome these computational costs using
515 the integrated nested Laplace approximation (INLA; [Rue et al., 2009](#)). When exploiting
516 INLA, the posterior distribution of the parameters of interest are approximated using nu-
517 merical methods, which makes it possible to compute the required quantities in a reasonable
518 amount of time. The INLA methodology is conveniently implemented in the R-INLA pack-
519 age ([Bivand and Piras, 2015](#)) and we use it to obtain an accurate approximation of posterior
520 marginal densities of interest, such as those for $\mu(\mathbf{s})$ and the parameters introduced in Sec-
521 tion 4.1.

522 4.4 Landslide area simulation

523 The R-INLA package offers built-in functions to compute posterior samples even at locations
524 where we do not have observations. In other words, using the model fitted to the complete
525 dataset, we can infer the distribution of each missing landslide size. Internally, R-INLA
526 treats missing values as values that we need to predict. Therefore, if we provide the set of
527 explanatory variables accompanying the missing landslide areas, R-INLA will use the fitted
528 model to predict (or fill in) the missing values. In practice, R-INLA performs model fitting
529 and prediction at the same time, producing all the required results in a short amount of time.
530 Here, we generated 5000 posterior samples for each missing landslide area. These posterior

531 distributions are summarized in term of their mean and 95% credible intervals.

532 To put it simply, in a Bayesian framework, the estimation of the posterior regression
533 coefficients consists of a distribution of possible values. Therefore, by sampling at random
534 each distribution for the effect of each covariate, it is possible to statistically simulate a given
535 process. Here, we simulated 5000 predictive functions to estimate the mean behaviour as
536 well as the uncertainty in the landslide area prediction for each SU. This is a crucial step
537 because those SUs encompassing one or more landslides provide enough information to assess
538 the whole spectrum of possible landslide areas (mean and 95% CI for both the Max and Sum
539 models). However, the SUs where no landslides have been recorded require the simulation
540 step to recover analogous information.

541 4.5 Goodness-of-fit and predictive performance assessment

542 We here describe numerical and graphical methods to assess the goodness-of-fit and the
543 predictive performance of our models.

- **Probability integral transform (PIT):** PIT values are useful leave-one-out goodness-of-fit measures. They are computed as follows

$$P_i = F_{-i}(y_i), \quad i \in \{1, \dots, |\mathcal{S}|\},$$

where F_{-i} is the cumulative distribution of a model fitted using all the available data except the i -th observation, y_i , \mathcal{S} contains all the slope units \mathbf{s} , and $|\mathcal{S}|$ is the cardinality of \mathcal{S} , *i.e.*, the number of slope units. A model with a perfect predictive ability should have PIT values closely distributed according to a standard uniform distribution. Indeed, assuming that F_{-i} is continuous (which is the case here) the distribution of P_i , $i = 1, \dots, |\mathcal{S}|$, can be written as

$$\Pr(P_i \leq u) = \Pr(F_{-i}(y_i) \leq u) = \Pr(y_i \leq F_{-i}^{-1}(u)), \quad u \in (0, 1).$$

The model F_{-i} has a perfect prediction ability if it is able to generate y_i (the value that was left out). This means that F_{-i} is a perfect prediction if $y_i \sim F_{-i}$ which, in turns, implies that

$$\Pr(y_i \leq F_{-i}^{-1}(u)) = F_{-i}(F_{-i}^{-1}(u)) = u.$$

544 The above equation implies that the distribution of the PIT values $\{P_1, \dots, P_{|\mathcal{S}|}\}$ should
545 be uniformly distributed in $(0, 1)$. The uniformity of the PIT values is a necessary
546 condition for the prediction to be perfect (Gneiting *et al.*, 2007) and any deviation
547 from uniformity, implies a decrease in performance.

- **Plot of observed vs. fitted values:** In such a plot, we can see how much the fitted values deviate from the actual observed landslide areas. A model with a reasonable performance should produce values aligned with the main diagonal (*i.e.*, the 45° line).

551 • **Probability coverage:** given a probability $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, we compute the proportion of
552 times a $(1 - \alpha)100\%$ credible interval contains the observed data. If the underlying
553 model is adequate, then the computed proportion (usually called sample coverage)
554 should be close to $(1 - \alpha)100\%$ (the nominal coverage). In practice, the Bayesian
555 methodology allows us to simulate from the posterior distribution in order to compute
556 as many credible intervals as desired.

557 For a readership who is unacquainted with the coverage concept, below we provide a
558 brief and simple explanation. Using posterior simulations, we construct 5000 estimates
559 for each observed A_L value. Then, for each A_L , we compute sample p -quantiles, with
560 $p = \{0.025, 0.05, 0.075, \dots, 0.950, 0.975\}$ (a sequence from 0.025 to 0.975 with steps of
561 size 0.025). These sample quantiles allow us to construct credible intervals of sizes $(1 -$
562 $\alpha)100\% = \{10\%, 15\% \dots, 90\%, 95\%\}$. Then, we count how many times the observed
563 A_L values fell within these intervals. If the model is adequate, for a credible interval
564 of size $(1 - \alpha)100\%$ the number of times the observed A_L is contained should be close
565 to $(1 - \alpha)100\%$. For instance, a 95% credible interval should contain 95% of the
566 observed A_L values. Therefore, if we plot the nominal coverage versus the sample one,
567 a reasonable model will show points aligned with the 45° line.

568 5 Results

569 In this section we present a summary of the model performance for each landslide size models,
570 $\log(A_{Lmax})$ and $\log(A_{Lsum})$. We then provide an overview of the inferred covariate effects
571 and conclude presenting a graphical translation of the model’s output into map form.

572 5.1 Predictive Performance

573 Figure 4 shows an overview of the model performance presented in agreement with the three
574 metrics we explored, namely, probability integral transform (PIT) plots, observed versus
575 fitted values and coverage probabilities. The top row shows the performance for the Max
576 model, while the bottom row shows the performance for the Sum model. The collection of
577 probabilities detailed in Section 4.5, computed using all the training data, gives rise to the
578 histogram in Figures 4a,d. We can see that both models capture the bulk of the distribution
579 (bars close to the dashed line) reasonably well, but they do not seem to appropriately capture
580 the tails of the landslide size distribution (bars far from the dashed line). The latter is
581 expected since the normal and log-normal distributions have light tails, which implies that
582 the model will give fairly low probabilities (*i.e.*, very close to 0) to extreme landslide sizes. We
583 recall here that for a model to be optimal, the PIT plot should exhibit a uniform distribution.
584 Here, we can see some moderate departure from the uniform distribution in both cases, but
585 this is expected for such a large dataset combining various heterogeneous EQIL inventories.

586 Overall, the Max model seems to be better calibrated than the Sum model. Observed

587 versus fitted values look similar for both models (Figures 4b,e), although the Max model
 588 exhibits pair of points slightly better aligned and equally spread along the 45° line. As for
 589 the coverage probabilities (Figures 4c,f), both models appear to be surprisingly excellent
 590 with most of the nominal to sample coverage pairs very well aligned with the 45° line and
 591 the bulk of the distribution showing a negligible deviation from it.

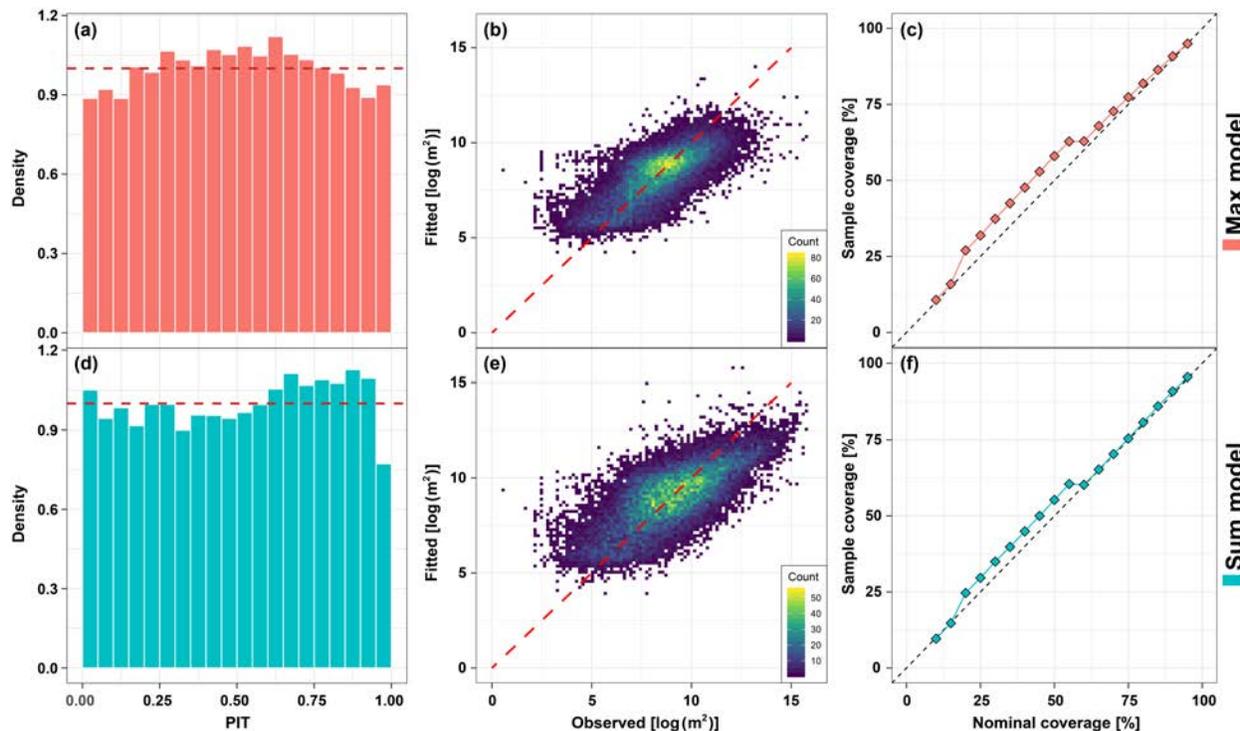


Figure 4: Left to right: Probability integral transform (PIT) plots, fitted versus observed plots (in log-scale), and coverage probabilities for the Max (top) and Sum (bottom) models.

592 As mentioned in Section 4.5, the coverage plots are computed by simulating 5000 sam-
 593 ples from each model and counting the proportion of times the observed data are within a
 594 $(1 - \alpha)100\%$ simulated-based credible interval, with $\alpha = \{0.05, 0.10, \dots, 0.90\}$ (the nominal
 595 coverage). A model with a reasonable coverage should give a proportion close to $\alpha 100\%$.
 596 We can see that our models succeed in recovering the nominal coverage for extreme nominal
 597 coverage values, but they are a bit off for central nominal coverage values. Overall, the Sum
 598 model performs slightly better than the Max model.

599 5.2 Linear Covariate Effects

600 Figure 5 shows the estimated coefficients of linear (or fixed) effects (except for the inter-
 601 cept) for the Max and Sum models. Notably, we plot the 95% credible intervals originated
 602 from the Bootstrap rather than directly from INLA, which incorrectly assumes conditional
 603 independence for model fitting. We recall here that because of this, INLA may largely un-
 604 derestimate the uncertainty compared to Bootstrap, which more realistically accounts for

605 spatial dependence at the data level. In light of this, here we only report the Bootstrap
 606 uncertainty and do not show the uncertainty directly estimated with INLA.

607 The selected covariates, that have been rescaled to have mean 0 and variance 1, show
 608 relatively strong positive and negative influences on landslide sizes. More specifically, out of
 609 17 covariates used linearly only 7 appeared to be significant for the Max model, and 8 for
 610 the Sum model. Non-significance does not necessarily imply that the model is not influenced
 611 by these covariates. Significance indicates that the model is 95% certain of the role (either
 612 positive or negative) of the given covariate with respect to the landslide size. Moreover, the
 613 extent to which a covariate—significant or not—contributes to the model is summarized by
 614 the absolute value of the posterior mean regression coefficient.

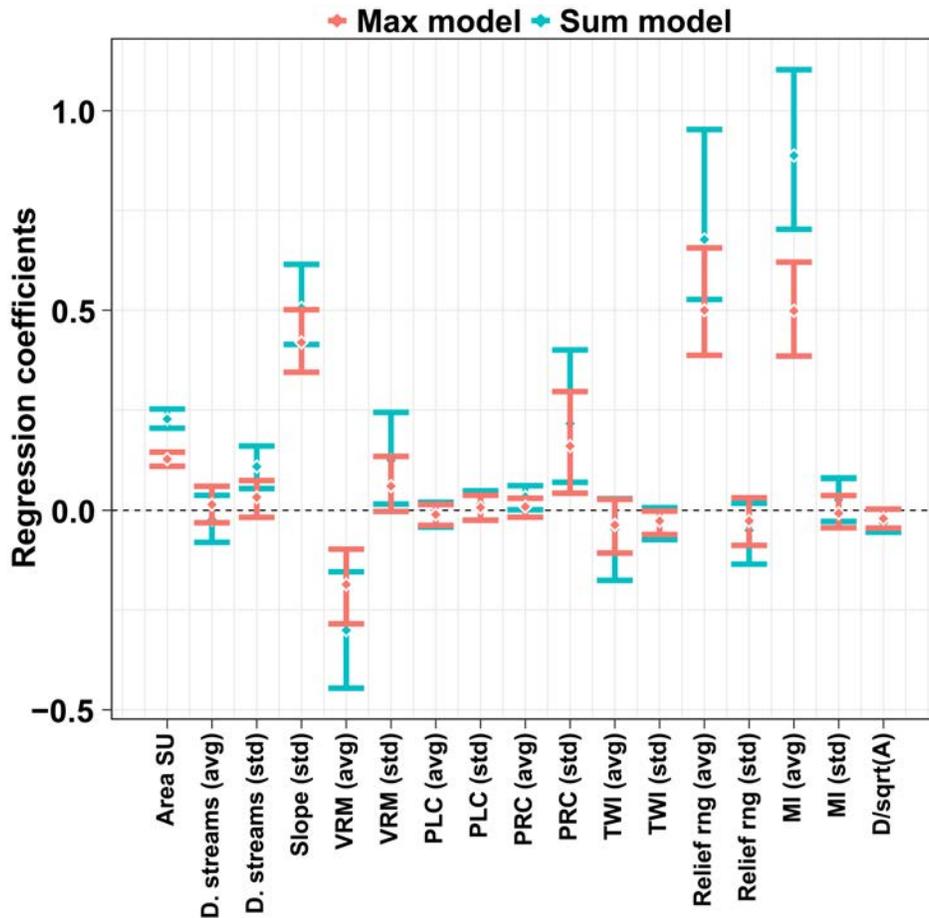


Figure 5: Posterior means (dots) of fixed linear effects (except the intercept) with Bootstrap-based 95% credible intervals (vertical segments) for the Max and Sum models. The horizontal black dashed line indicates no contribution to the landslide sizes.

615 In this sense, the largest linear contributors for the Max model are *MI (avg)* and *Relief*
 616 *rng (avg)*, both with an absolute mean regression coefficient of 0.50. Besides, *Slope (std)*,
 617 *VRM (avg)*, Prof Cur (std) and Area SU contribute with absolute posterior mean coefficients
 618 of 0.42, 0.18, 0.16 and 0.13, respectively. From these ranks, the contribution becomes less

619 prominent and it decays down to the least contributor represented by $MI (sd)$ with $|\hat{\beta}| =$
620 0.0007.

621 The covariates appeared to be ranked with a primary control on the estimated landslide
622 size exerted by the relief, a proxy for gravitational potential energy and by the MI, a proxy
623 for the ground motion stress. The role of the slope steepness is also well represented in
624 the model as well as the dimension of the mapping unit itself. Specifically, these covariates
625 present a significant and positive posterior distribution which contributes to increase the
626 expected landslide size (*e.g.*, [Medwedeff et al., 2020](#); [Valagussa et al., 2019](#)). Conversely,
627 a negative regression coefficient, *e.g.*, for $VRM (avg)$, implies that larger landslide sizes for
628 the Max model are expected for smaller $VRM (avg)$ values. The negative contribution of
629 the $VRM (avg)$ is also consistent with the current literature. For instance, [Tanyaş et al.](#)
630 [\(2017\)](#) show that frequency of EQILs are higher for low $VRM (avg)$ values and the same
631 frequency decreases for higher $VRM (avg)$ values. The authors opened an interesting discus-
632 sion on this topic. They assumed that $VRM (avg)$ may be a close proxy for the strength of
633 hillslope material. In fact, rocky landscapes tend to be much more topographic rough than
634 gentle landscapes which are often dominated by thick soil covers or deposits, which in turn
635 are usually associated with lower geotechnical strength. These are surely some reasonable
636 considerations but we note here that an equally valid interpretation could still be made. In
637 fact, the negative contribution of the $VRM (avg)$ could be explained as a confounding effect
638 between covariates that may convey a similar information to the model. In such cases, one
639 of the two covariates may be estimated with a large regression coefficient and the second one
640 would be estimated with a lower and opposite regression coefficient. For instance, this could
641 be the case for covariates such as $VRM (avg)$ and $PRC (std)$ or $Slope (std)$, as they could
642 express rough topographies.

643 For the Sum model, the dominant fixed effect appears to be the $MI (avg)$, with an absolute
644 mean regression coefficient of 0.89. This is followed by $Relief rmg (avg)$ with $|\hat{\beta}| = 0.68$, $Slope$
645 (std) with $|\hat{\beta}| = 0.51$, $VRM (avg)$ with $|\hat{\beta}| = 0.30$, $Area SU$ with $|\hat{\beta}| = 0.23$, $Prof Cur (std)$
646 with $|\hat{\beta}| = 0.22$ and $VRM (std)$ with $|\hat{\beta}| = 0.12$.

647 Similar to the max case, for the Sum model the rank and sign of the fixed effects can be
648 easily read from a geomorphological standpoint, with the exception of $VRM (avg)$.

649 5.3 Non-linear Covariate Effects

650 Figure 6 displays all the non-linear (or random) covariates' effects featured in our model,
651 by plotting the estimated coefficients in terms of posterior mean and Bootstrap-based 95%
652 credible intervals. Two panels (top row and bottom left) report covariates that have been
653 used in a purely categorical form, *i.e.*, with class effects being mutually independent *a priori*.
654 The remaining panel (bottom right) shows the covariate $Slope (avg)$ being used as an ordinal
655 variable with an adjacent inter-class dependency driven by a random walk (see Section 4.1).

656 The *Earthquake Inventories* multiple intercepts (Figure 6a) show a complex and vary-
657 ing behavior. To interpret this panel, the regression constants are site-specific indices of

658 differences in landslide area response to the ground motion. In other words, with respect
659 to the mean landslide area across the whole dataset we used, the values reported here lead
660 to variations in landslide size typical of specific landscapes. For instance, at a preliminary
661 visual examination, the Gorkha earthquake clearly stands out with the smallest mean regres-
662 sion constant out of the 25 cases; the largest posterior mean is associated to the Guatemala
663 earthquake. Finally, few earthquakes inventories are aligned along the zero line. In other
664 words, they display no positive nor negative anomaly with respect to the average landslide
665 size of all 25 cases combined. More details and an extensive interpretation of these results
666 will be provided in Section 6.

667 A much simpler situation prevails for the Landforms (Figure 6b). In fact, no landform
668 class appears to be significant in our case and they all lay along the zero line, indicating a
669 negligible effect onto the final model. We will discuss this in Section 6.

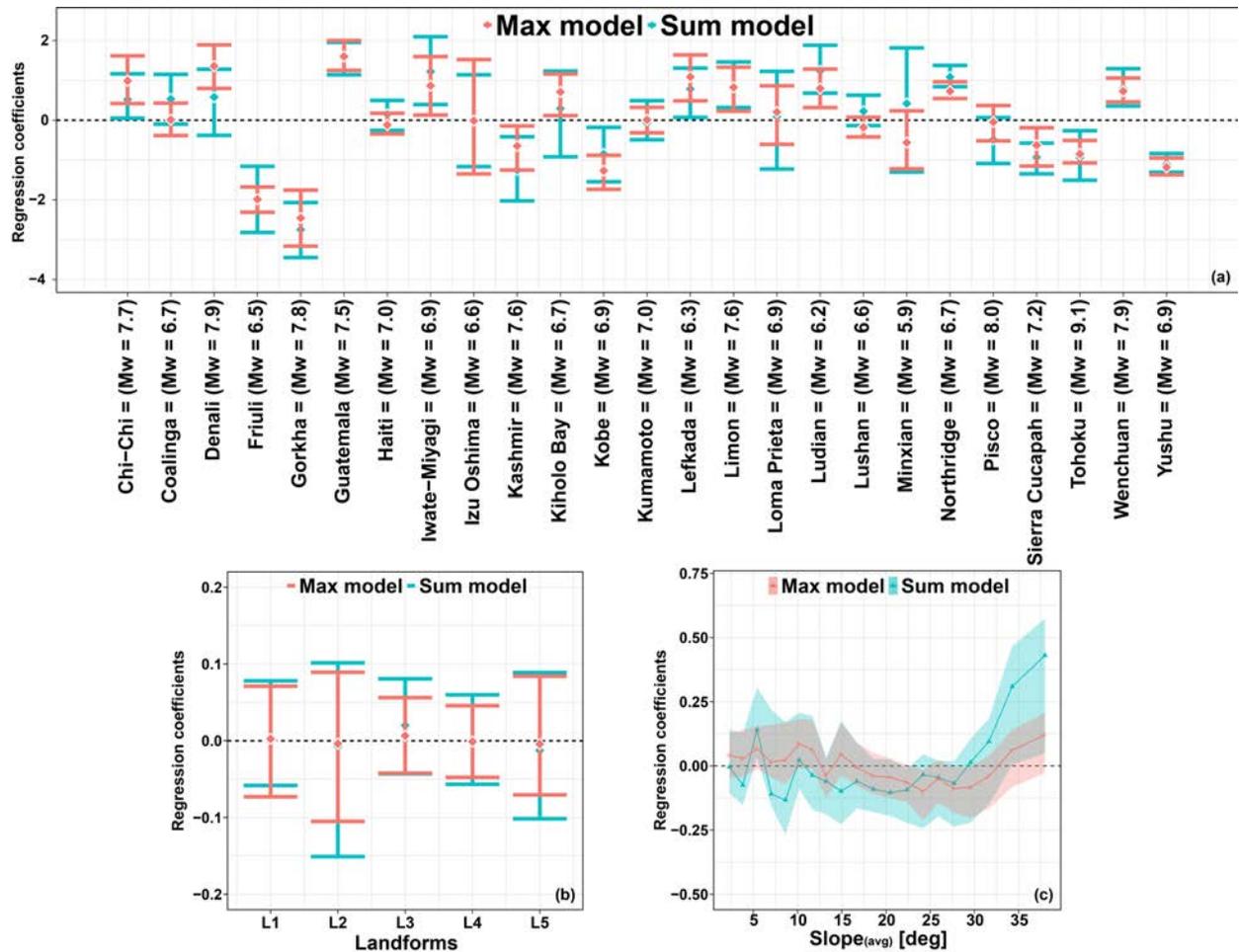


Figure 6: Random effects for the Max and Sum models: earthquake inventories (top), landform classes (bottom left), and *mean slope* (*Slp*, bottom right). For the earthquake inventories and landform classes, the dots show the posterior mean, while the segments correspond to the Bootstrap-based 95% credible intervals. For *mean slope*, the curves show the posterior mean, while the shadowed polygons correspond to the Bootstrap-based 95% credible intervals. In all the plots, the black horizontal dashed line indicates zero (*i.e.*, no contribution to the landslide sizes).

670 The *Slope (avg)* panel (Figure 6c) shows a clear nonlinear behavior both in the Max and
 671 Sum models. SUs with an average steepness up to approximately 25 degrees do not contribute
 672 to vary the estimated landslide size. From this threshold to larger steepness values, the Max
 673 model shows a mild increase in the *Slope (avg)* regression coefficients, whereas the Sum
 674 model also increases but with a much steeper trend.

675 5.4 Landslide Area Results

676 In this section we briefly report the posterior estimates of the mean predicted landslide areas
 677 (for both Max and Sum models) with respect to the uncertainty computed without account-

678 ing for potential spatial dependencies and via a spatial Bootstrap where the uncertainty is
 679 more realistically estimated. This is shown in Figure 7 where our simpler implementation in
 680 INLA largely underestimates the uncertainty around the mean landslide sizes, both in the
 681 case of the Max and Sum models.

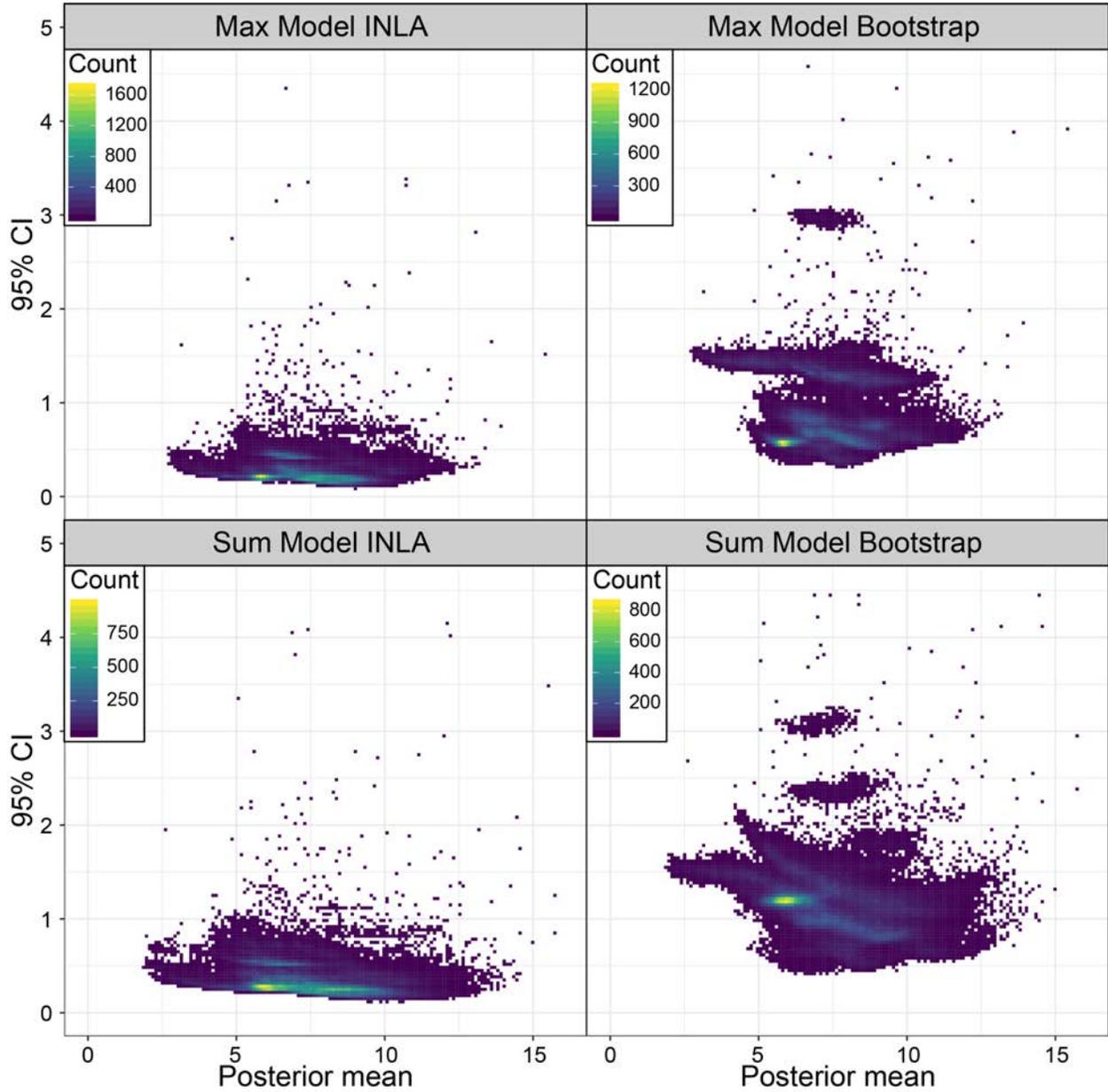


Figure 7: Two-dimensional histogram of the posterior mean landslide $\log(A_L)$ plotted against its 95% credible interval. The uncertainty values computed with INLA (left) and with the spatial Bootstrap (right) are shown both for the Max (top) and Sum (bottom) models.

5.5 Landslide Area Classification

We opt to translate the model results in map form following two approaches. The first one is simply to display the $\log(A_L)$ observations and estimates in their original continuous scale. The second approach introduces a classification step in our mapping procedure which is graphically summarized in Figure 8. Specifically, we start by computing the best fit line in a two-dimensional space defined between observed and predicted landslide areas. From the observed cases we compute four quantiles at specific intervals ($\tau = 0.05, 0.25, 0.75$ and 0.95). The observed landslide area (be it Max or Sum) values associated with each of the quantiles are then projected to the predicted landslide areas by intersecting the best fit line. As a result we are able to also show a common classification scheme for Very Small (VS), Small (S), Medium (M), Large (L) and Very Large (VL).

It is important to note that there were several options. For instance, any GIS environment generally offers the option to visualize spatial data by cutting off values above and below a certain standard deviation. This could have helped us to improve the visual agreement between observed and predicted landslide sizes. In fact, our model tends to overestimate the left tail of the $\log(A_L)$'s distribution and underestimate its right tail. However, we chose to keep the data intact to highlight strengths and weaknesses. The opposite situation could have taken place if we would have classified according to two separate boxplots, one for each axis. This would have maximized the differences driven by the log-Gaussian approximation. Therefore, we chose an intermediate option which we believe to be fair and representative enough of the model performance converted into map form.

5.6 Landslide Size Predictive Mapping

In this section we geographically translate and report the outcome of our modelling framework. However, because we modelled 25 EQIL inventories, showing each corresponding figure would have overly lengthened the manuscript. Therefore, we chose to provide two examples where our Max and Sum models performed well (Haiti and Wenchuan), two examples where our Max and Sum models produced acceptable performance (Lushan and Northridge), and two examples where we find a poor agreement between observed and predicted Max and Sum landslide sizes (Gorkha and Chi-Chi). The remaining 19 cases are separately provided in the Supplementary Material for clarity, both for the Max and Sum models.

Each of the six figures introduced above contains the following information:

1. Observed landslide area map using continuous values.
2. Predicted landslide area map using continuous values.
3. Observed landslide area map using the classification explained in Section 5.5.
4. Predicted landslide area map using the classification explained in Section 5.5.

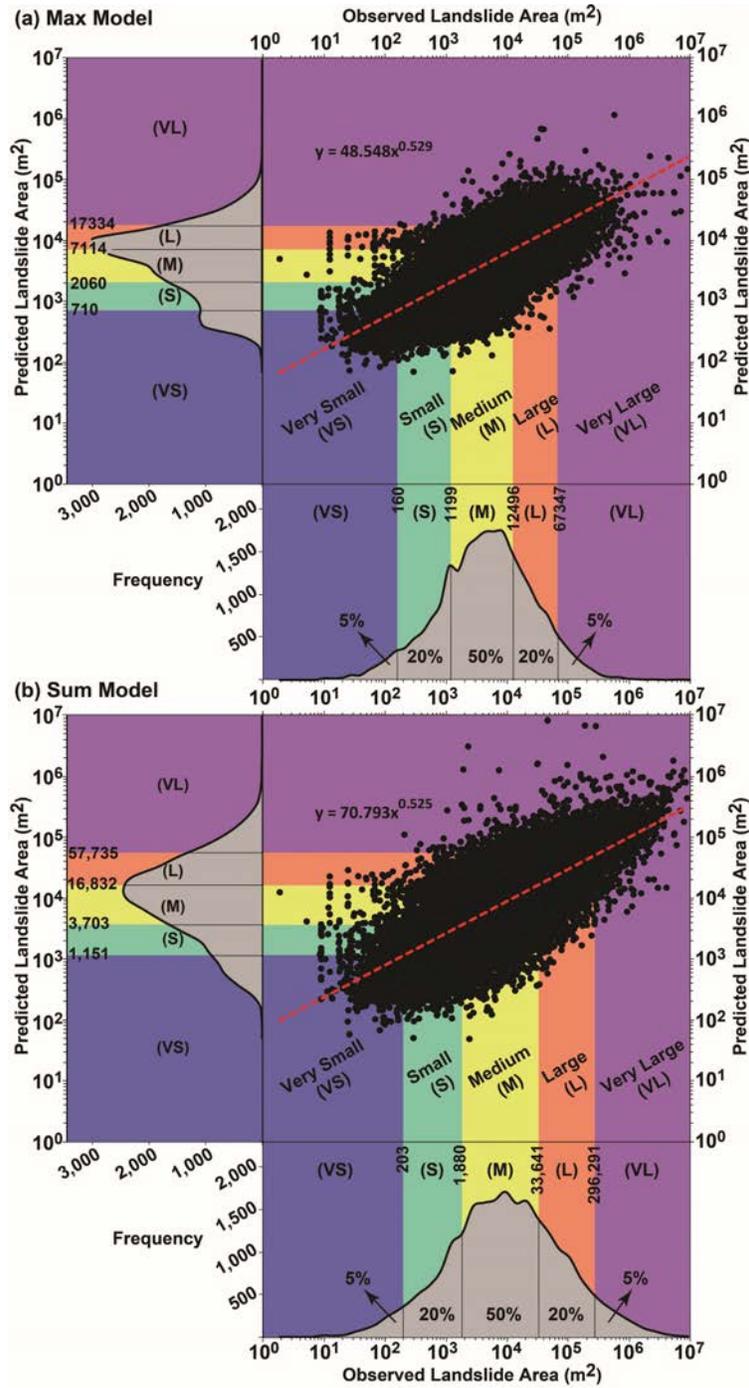


Figure 8: Observed vs. predicted landslide areas shown together with the classification scheme implemented to create a suitable colorbar for mapping. The density plots show the common classification for Observed vs. predicted landslide areas.

- 717 5. 95% credible interval measured by subtracting the SU-wise 97.5 and the 2.5 percentiles
718 obtained with INLA (see Section 4.4).
- 719 6. 95% credible interval measured by subtracting the SU-wise 97.5 and the 2.5 percentiles
720 obtained via Bootstrap (see Section 4.2).

721 In summary, Figures 9 and 10 show our proposed mapping procedure for Haiti, for Max
722 and Sum models, respectively. In both cases, panels *a* and *b* show a strong agreement overall,
723 with the exception of the NW sector where predicted landslide sizes are underestimated with
724 respect to the observed counterpart. Our classification (panels *c* and *d*) produces a better
725 match between the two maps. Furthermore, the uncertainty around the prediction (panels *e*
726 and *f*), which is realistically higher in the bootstrap case, is relatively low with the exception
727 of a few number of large SUs.

728 Similarly, Figures 11 and 12 correspond to the Wenchuan case. The pattern of the pre-
729 dicted landslide sizes (both for Max and Sum models) is extremely close to the pattern shown
730 for the corresponding observed cases, this being valid both on the continuous scale (panels
731 *a* and *b*) and in the classified maps. This is a quite remarkable agreement between observed
732 and predicted cases although the latter tends to slightly overestimate the former. Both for
733 Max and Sum models, the 95% credible intervals show quite reasonable bootstrapped values
734 both in spatial distribution and amplitude with respect to the original scale.

735 Landslide sizes predicted for the Lushan case are shown in Figures 13 and 14. Here
736 our model slightly underestimates the observed landslide area per SU, both for the Max
737 and Sum models, although the overall pattern is generally respected. The underestimation
738 mainly affects the right tail of the max and sum $\log(A_L)$ distributions whereas a minor
739 overestimation affect small landslide sizes concentrated in the left tail. This is associated
740 with relatively high uncertainty bootstrap levels.

741 Northridge, shown in Figures 15 and 16, depicts an analogous situation over space be-
742 tween the observation and our prediction, with very few SUs singled out because of a mis-
743 match (generally an overestimation). However, despite the mismatch between observed and
744 predicted values for the tails, the main bulk of the distribution is modelled correctly.

745 Figures 17 and 18 display the estimated landslide size over space for Chi-Chi. The island
746 of Taiwan has a rough topography, thus the prediction covers the whole island showing a
747 reasonable pattern both for the Max and Sum models. However, the comparison between
748 the classified landslide sizes shows a situation where the model tends to slightly overestimate
749 the original size class. Notably, this is much more evident for the Max model rather than its
750 Sum counterpart. The estimation is generally larger by one class or, in other words, where
751 the original data shows medium landslide extents the model predict a large counterpart and
752 where the observed landslide is large our model assigns a very large landslide class. This
753 relatively low performance is reflected in the bootstrapped uncertainty levels where the size
754 of the 95% credible interval is generally larger than the corresponding observed landslide
755 size.

756 The worst case among the 25 we examined corresponds to the Gorkha earthquake (see
757 Figures 19 and 20). Here the Max and Sum models produce different performances where the
758 Max one tends to generally underestimate the observed landslide size. As for the Sum model,
759 here the bulk of the observed landslide size distribution is well represented, although the
760 left tail is overestimated and the right tail is underestimated. Therefore, the general spatial
761 pattern is similar between observed and predicted cases, with an upward or downward shift in
762 the predicted classes due to under/overestimation issues. Here the bootstrapped uncertainty
763 range is again relatively high with slightly higher 95% credible interval compared to the
764 corresponding observed landslide size.

765 A deeper interpretation is provided in Section 6.

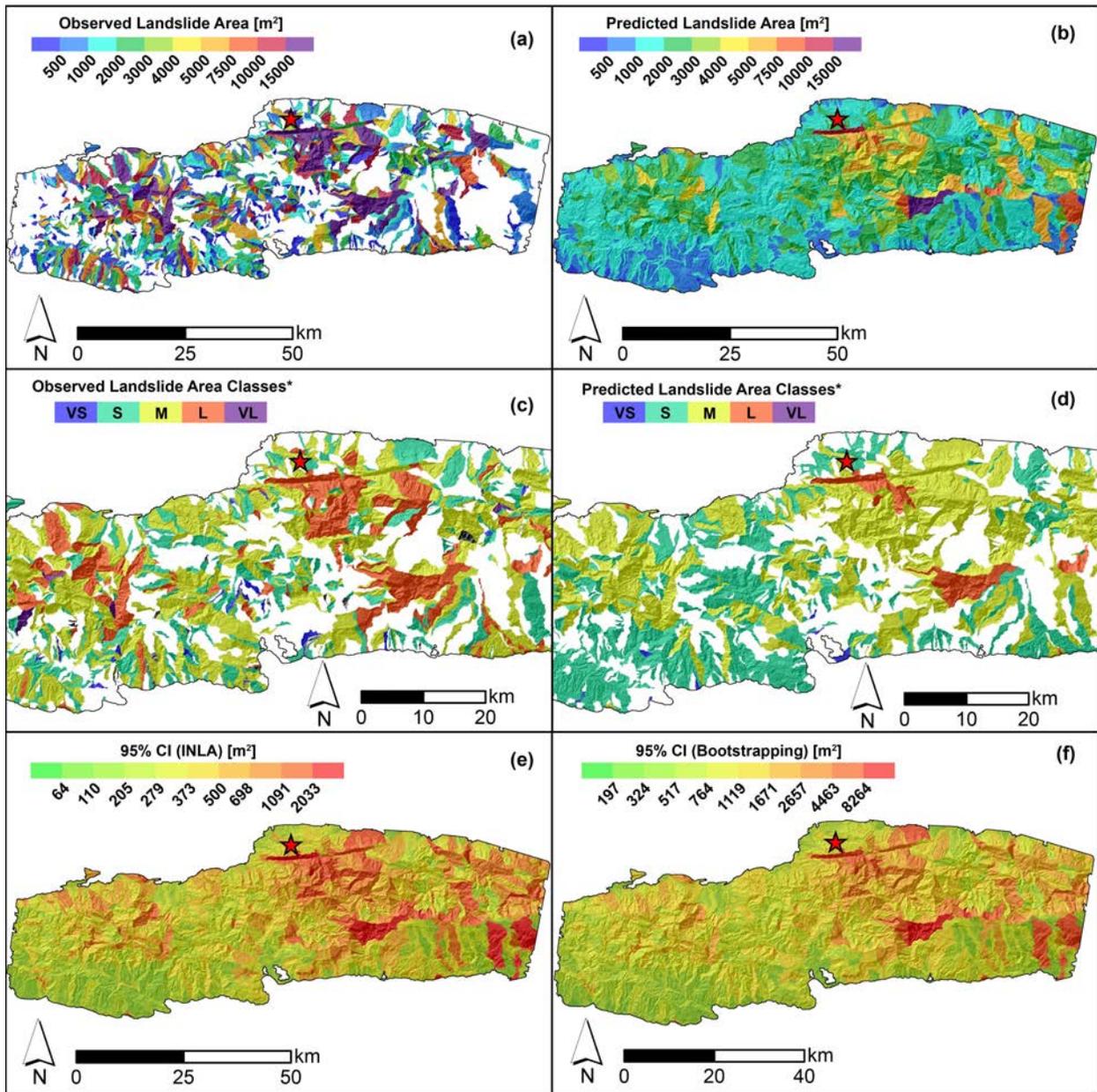


Figure 9: Excellent agreement example for Haiti Max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

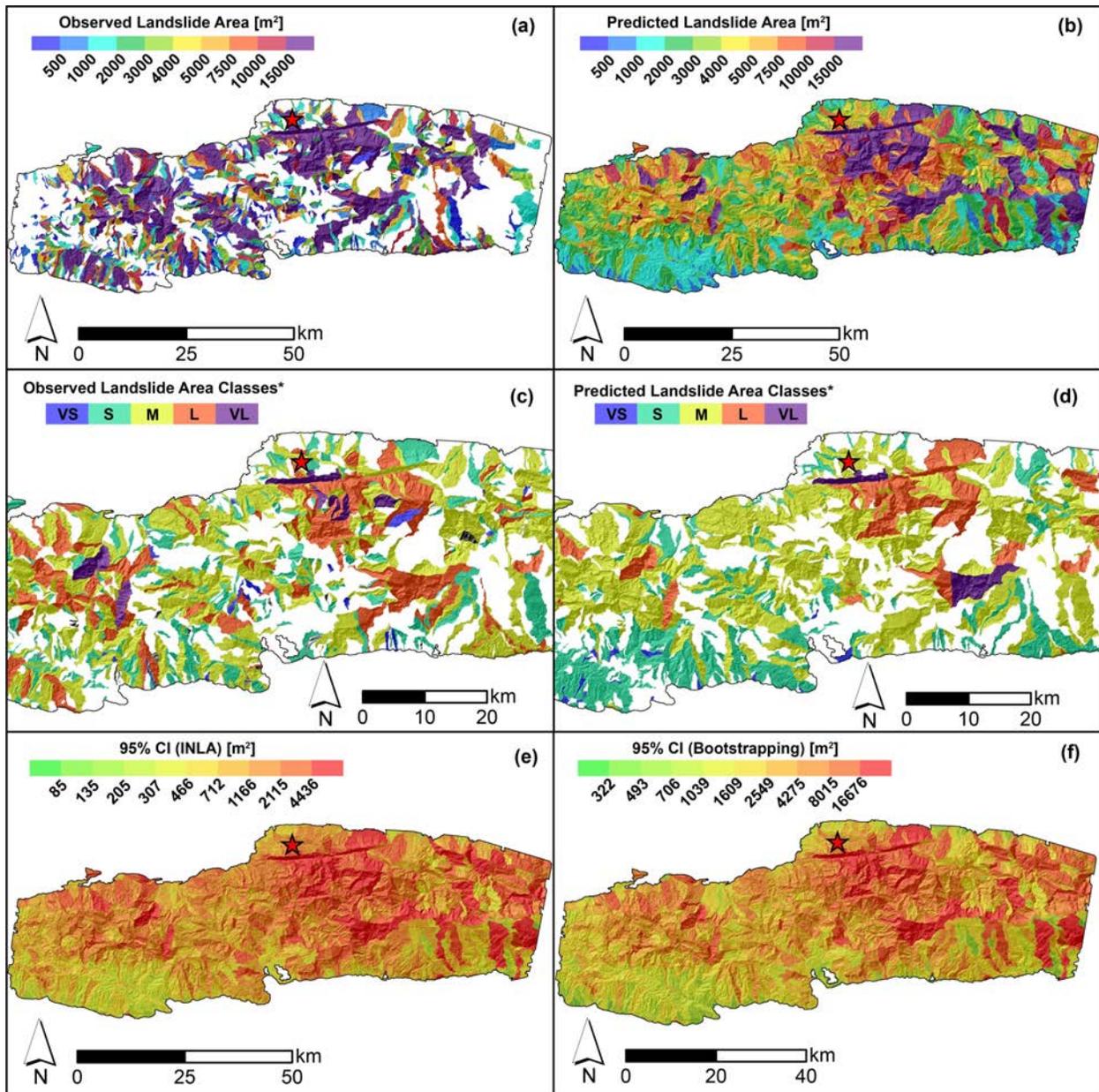


Figure 10: Excellent agreement example for Haiti Sum maps: (a) Observed summed landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed sum of landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

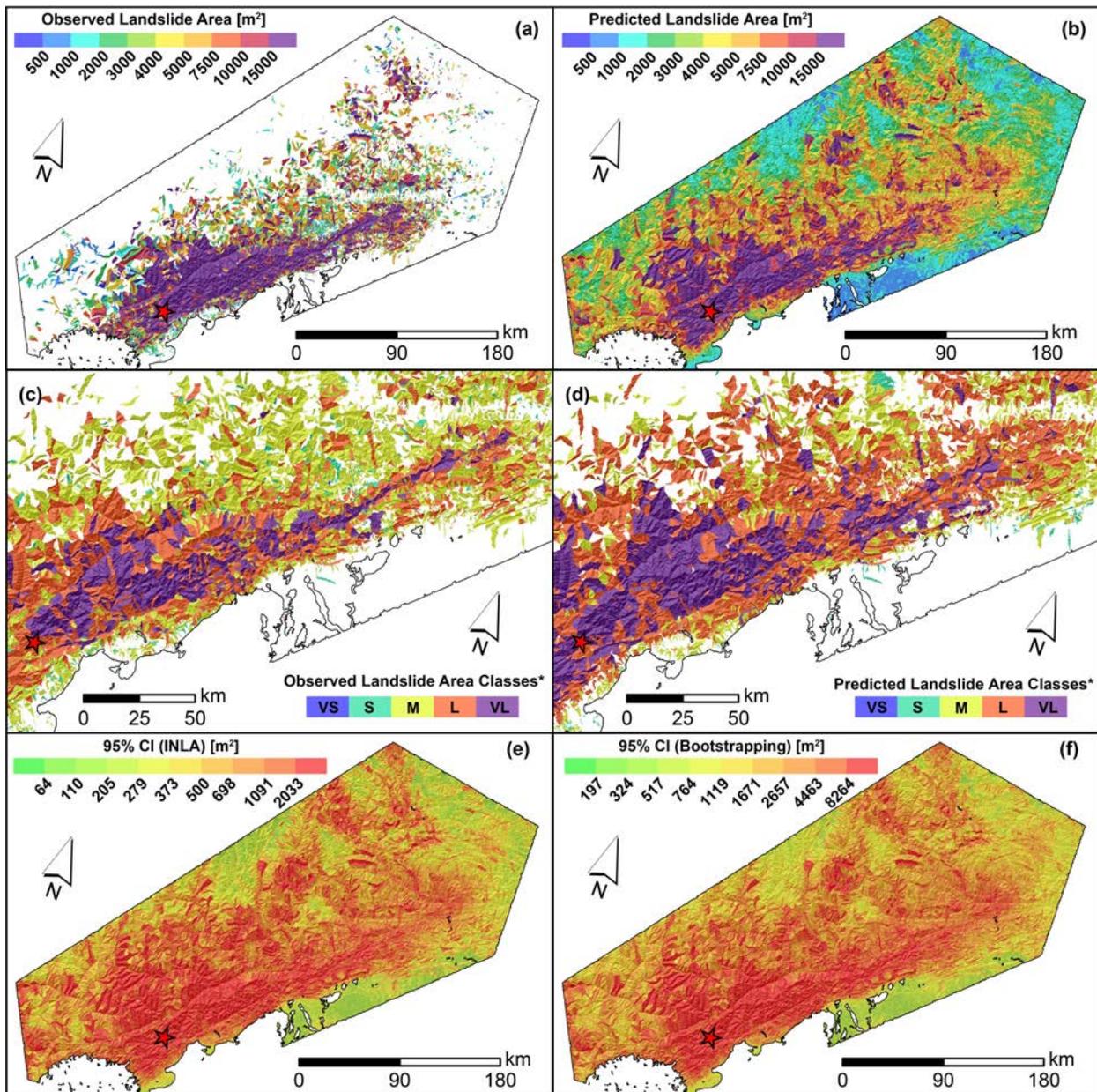


Figure 11: Excellent agreement example for Wenchuan Max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

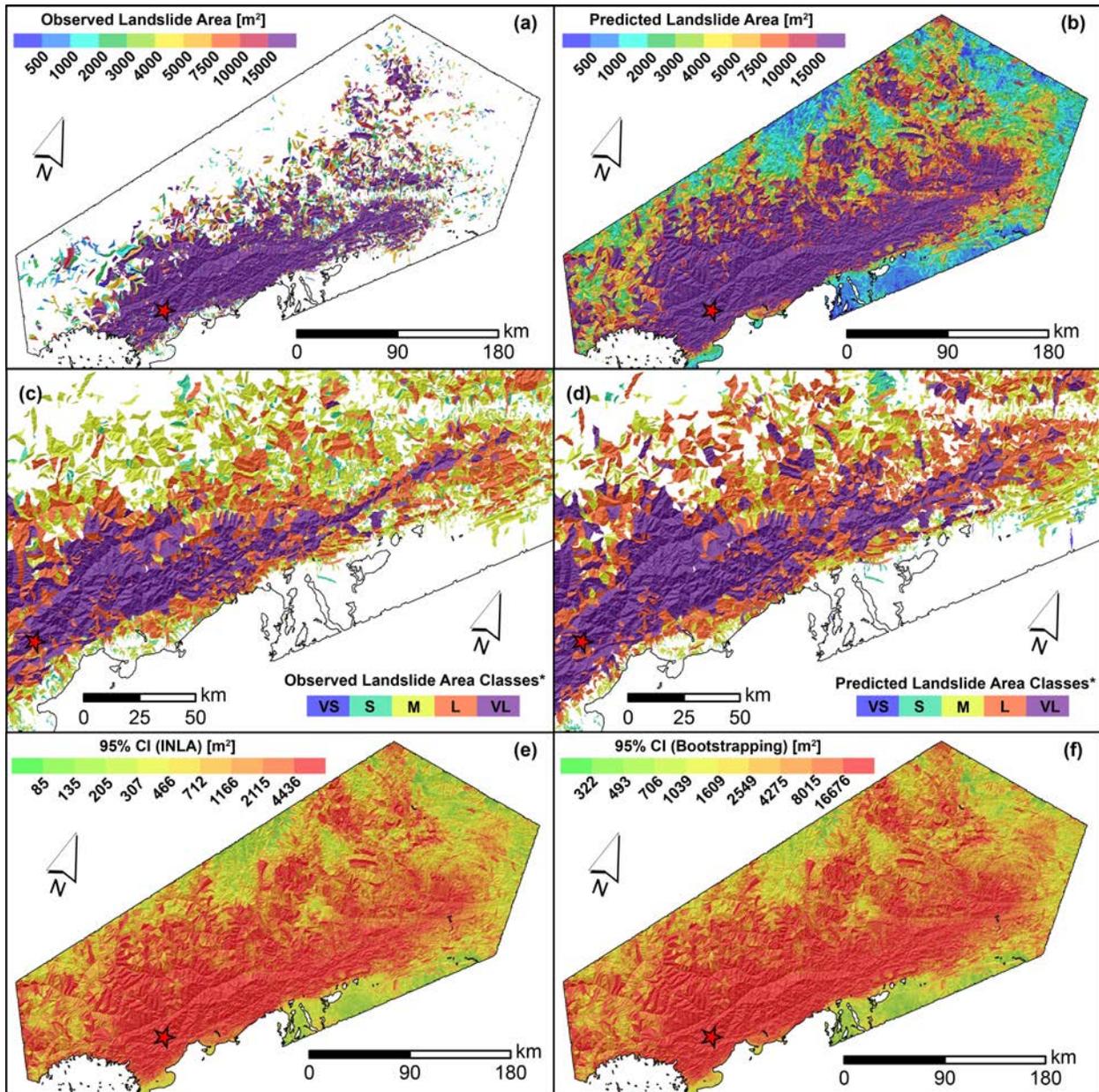


Figure 12: Excellent agreement example for Wenchuan Sum maps: (a) Observed summed landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed sum of landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

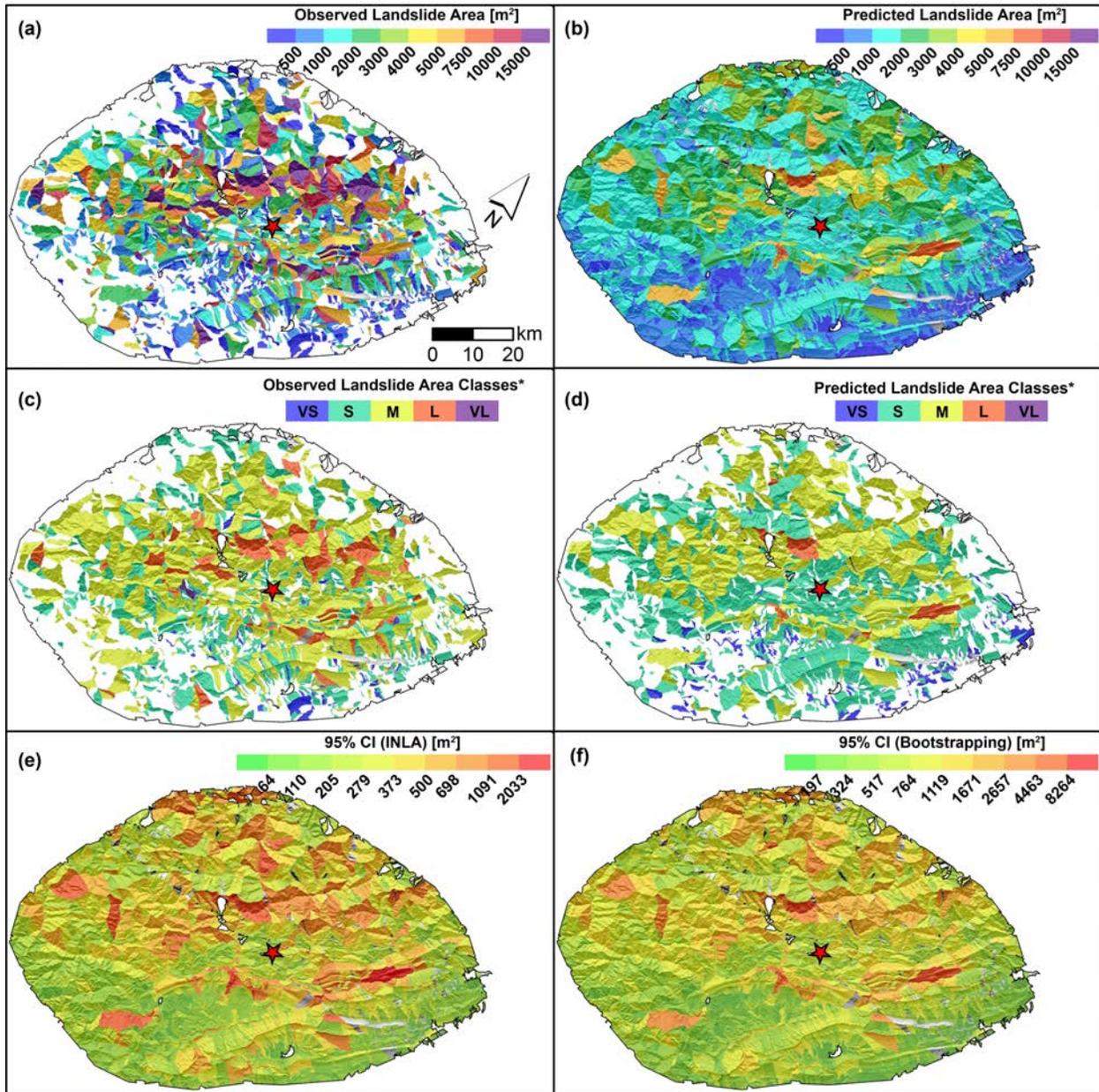


Figure 13: Good agreement example for Lushan Max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

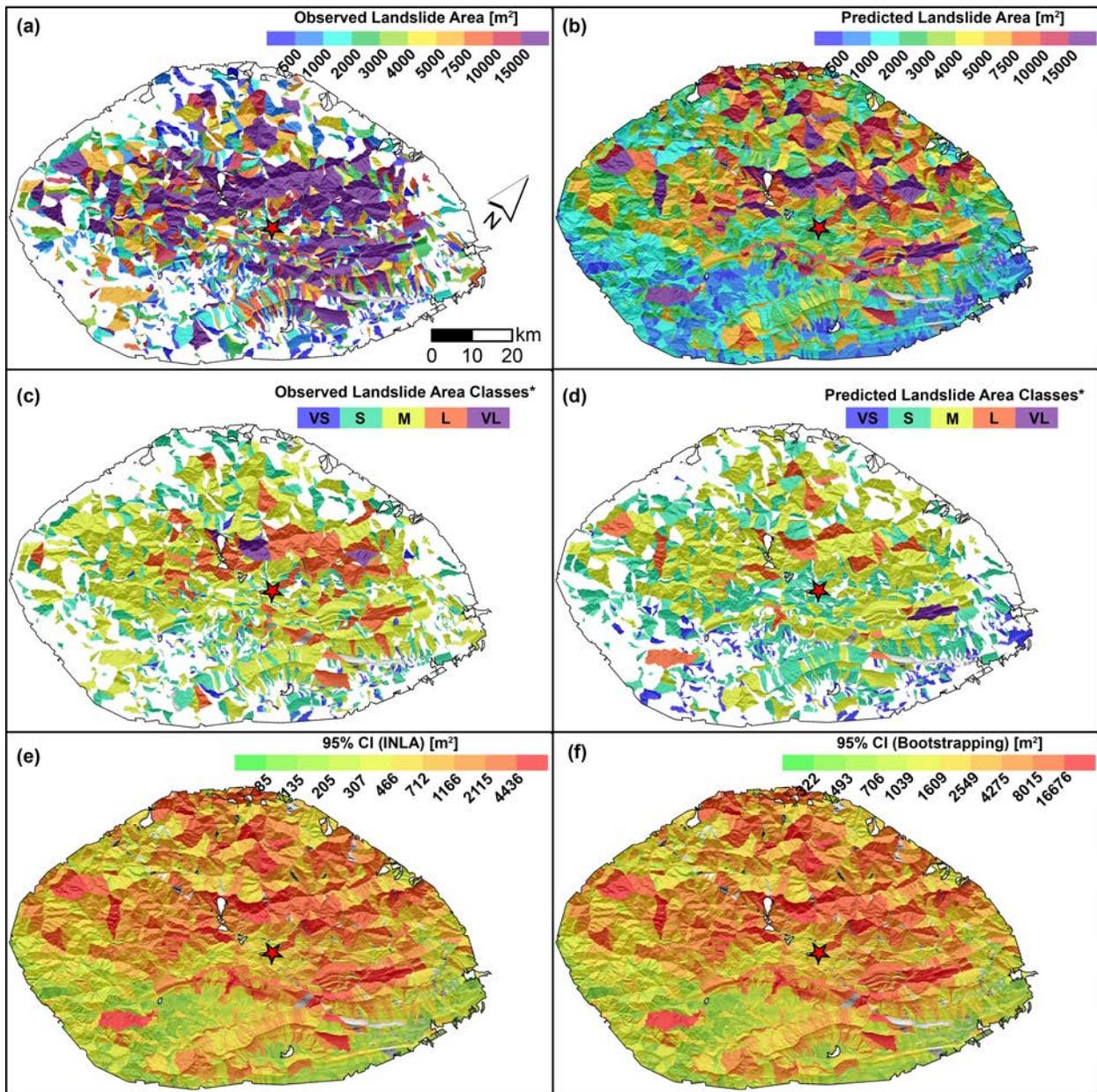


Figure 14: Good agreement example for Lushan Sum maps: (a) Observed summed landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed sum of landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

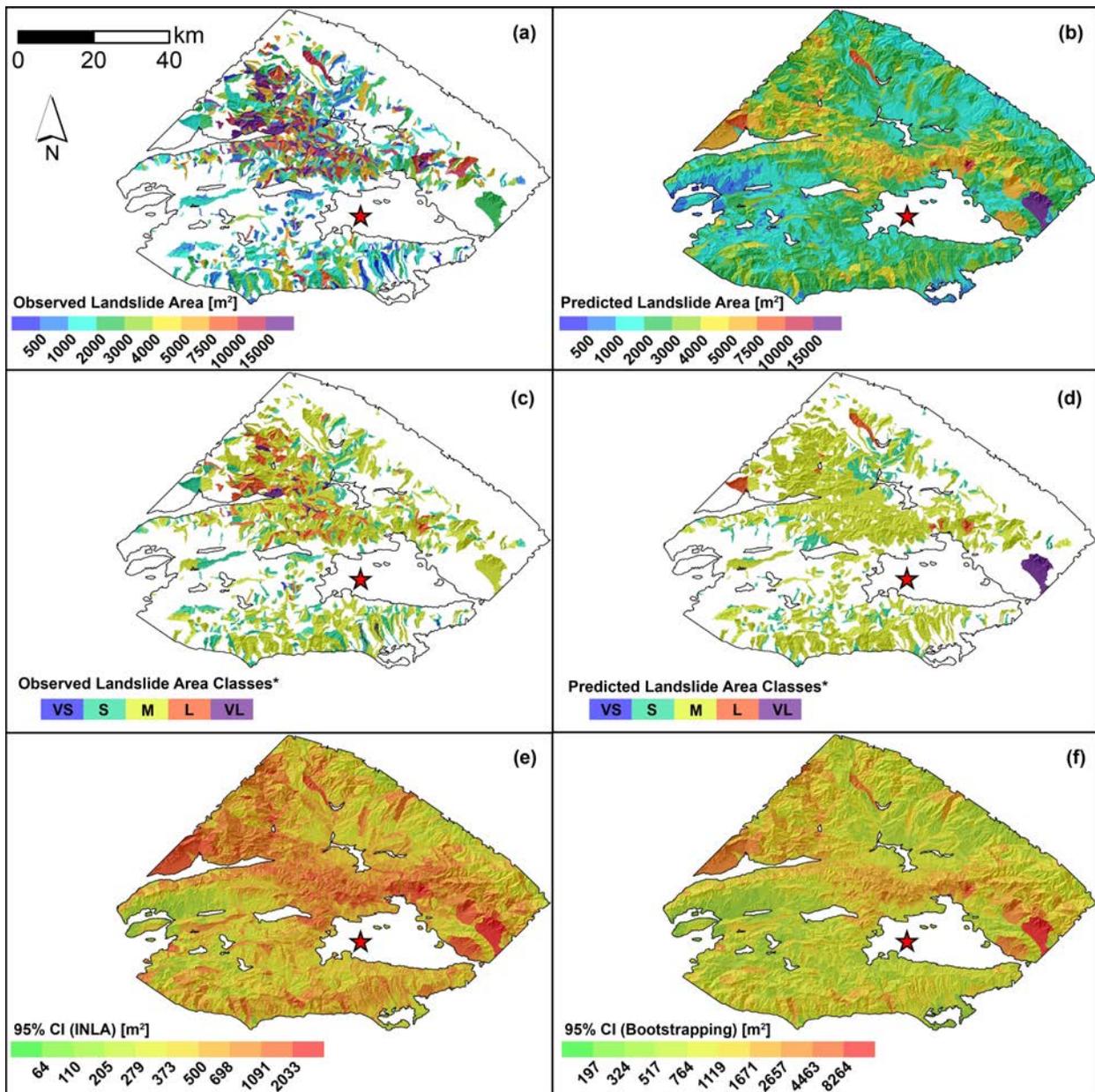


Figure 15: Good agreement example for Northridge Max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

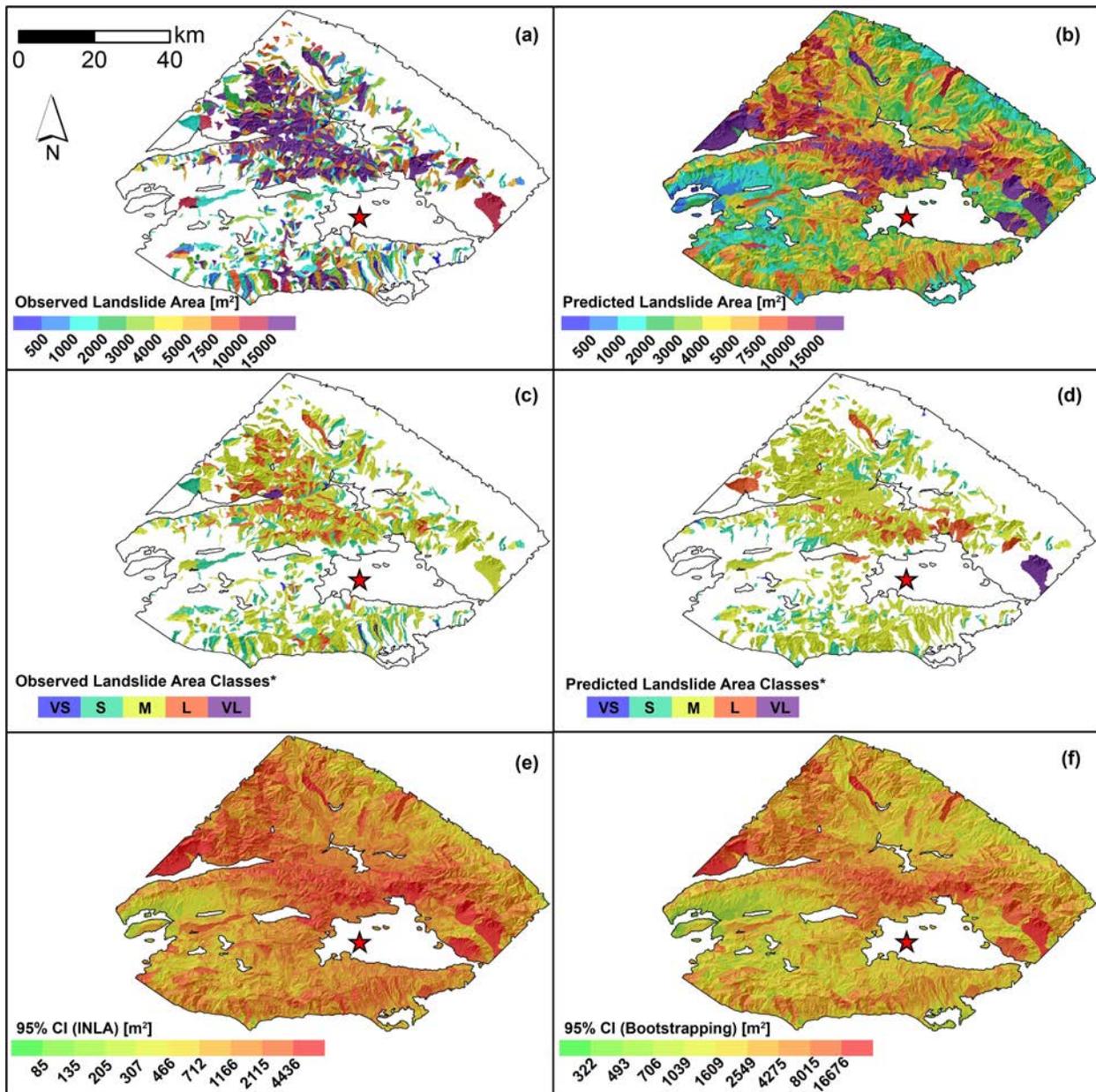


Figure 16: Good agreement example for Northridge Sum maps: (a) Observed summed landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed sum of landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

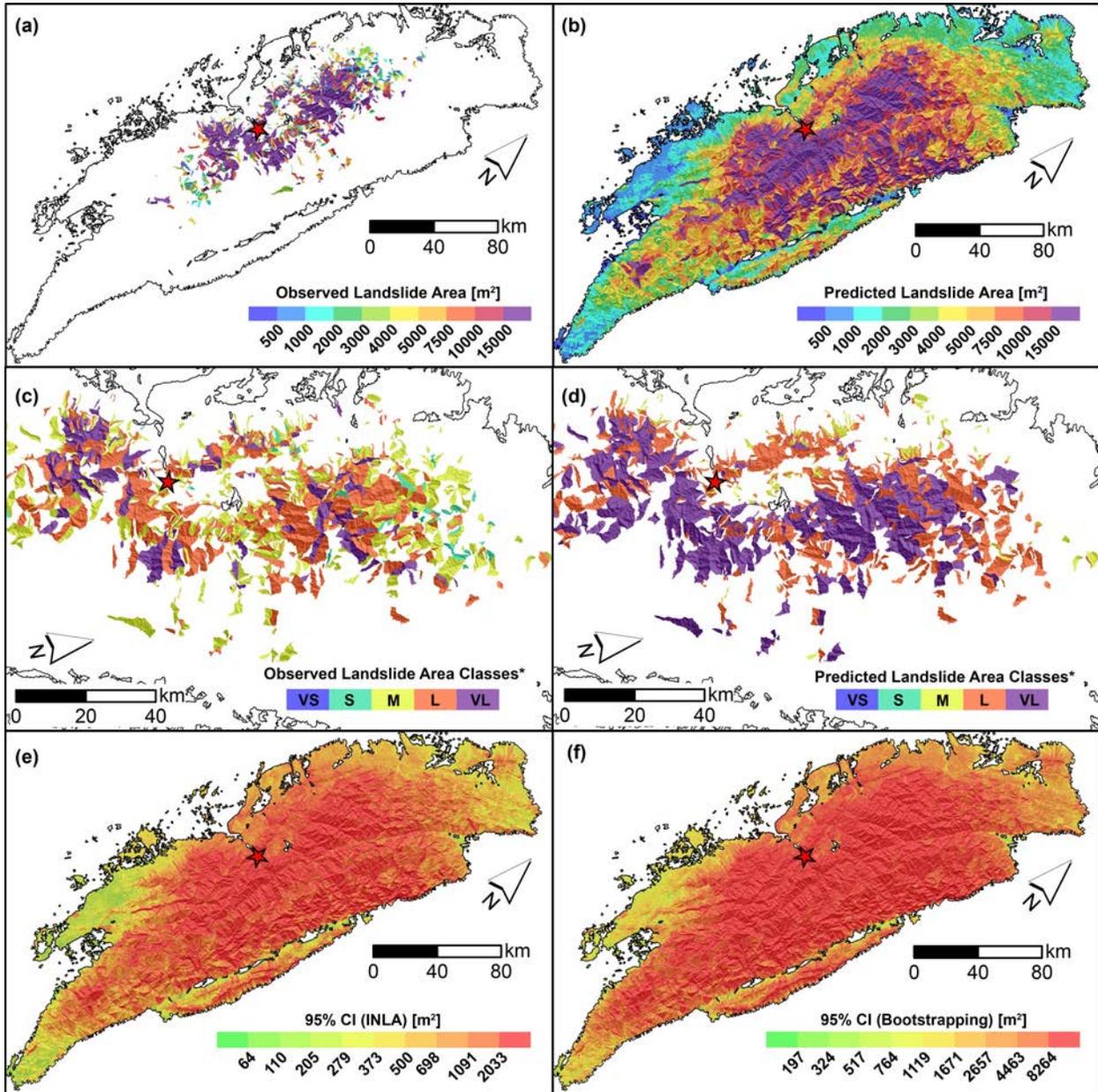


Figure 17: Acceptable agreement example for Chi-Chi Max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

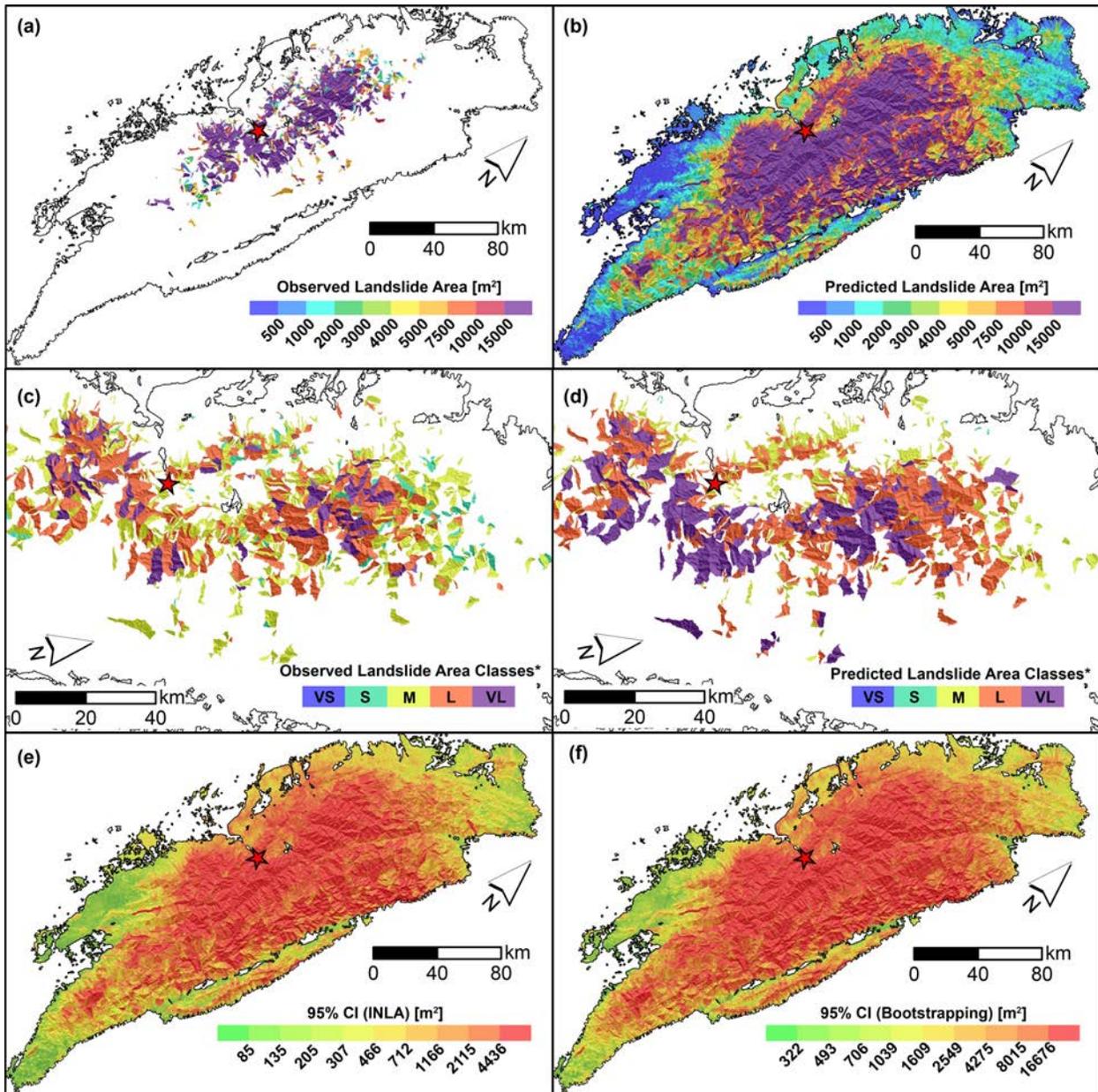


Figure 18: Acceptable agreement example for Chi-Chi Sum maps: (a) Observed summed landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed sum of landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

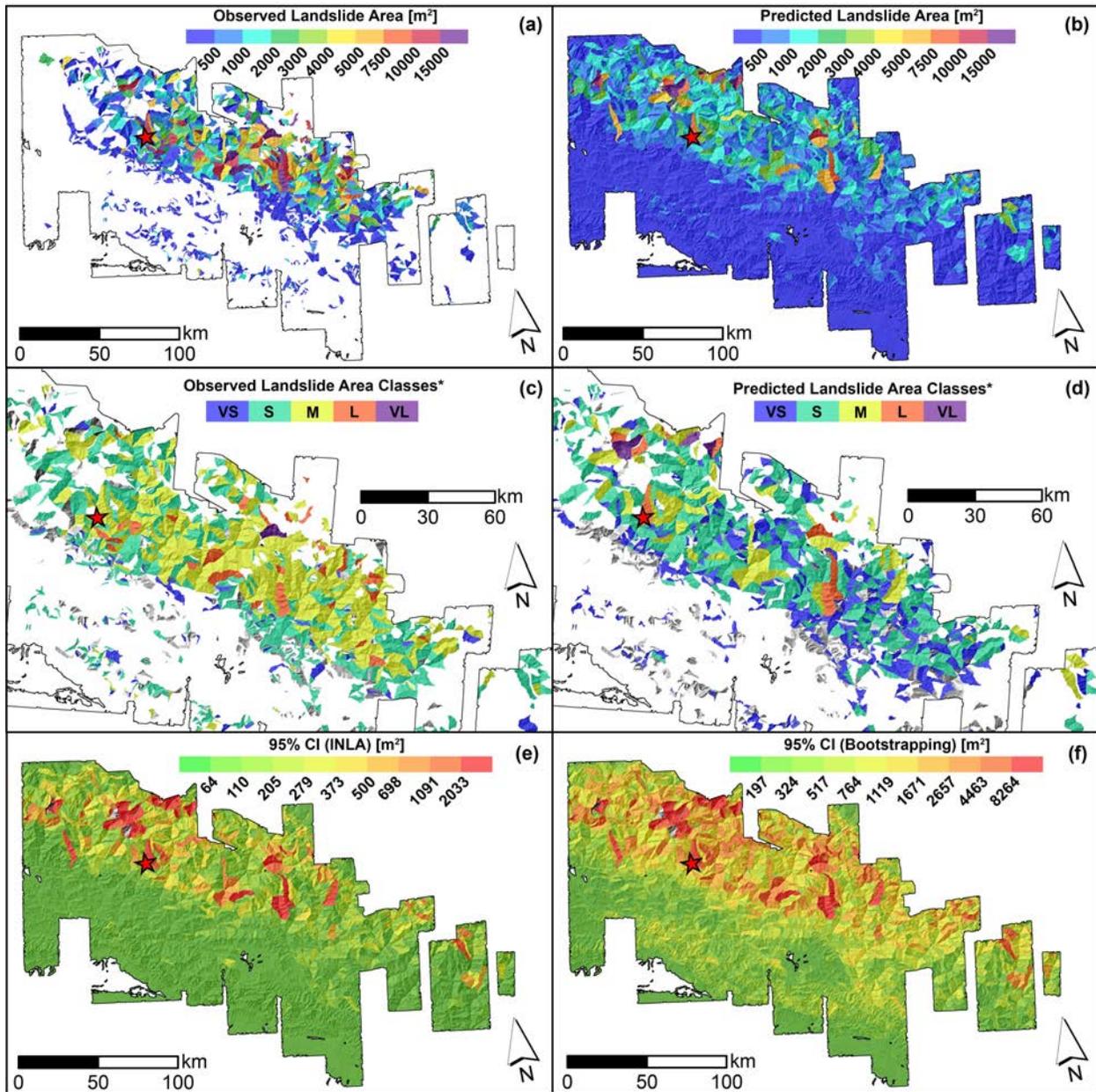


Figure 19: Acceptable agreement example for Gorkha Max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

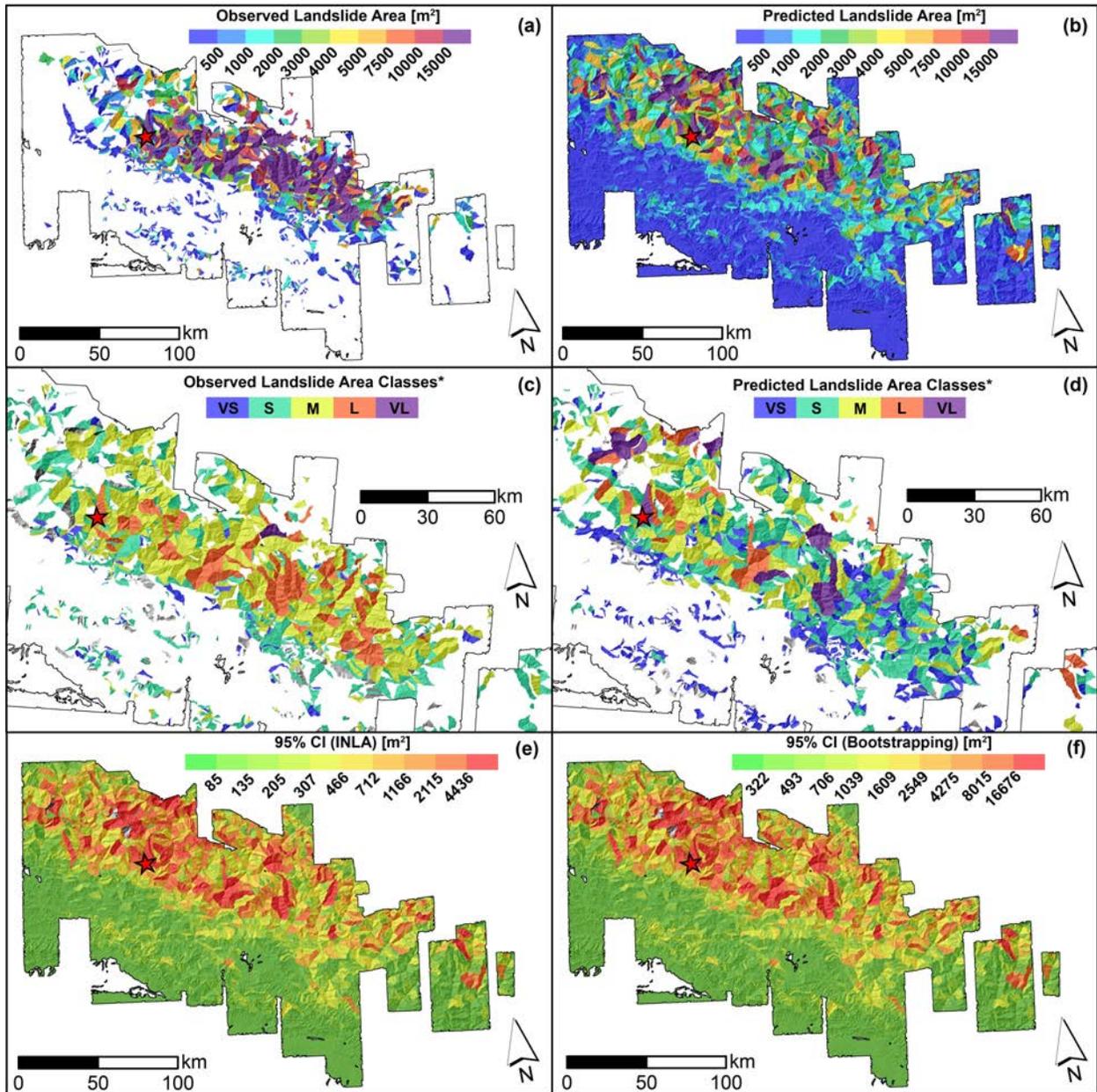


Figure 20: Acceptable agreement example for Gorkha Sum maps: (a) Observed summed landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed sum of landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted mean of summed landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

766 6 Discussion

767 This section is meant to provide the reader with an interpretation of the modelling protocol
768 we present as well as to share our views on its limitations and strengths. The following
769 sections will focus on one element at a time and will be concluded with our future plans for
770 further extensions.

771 6.1 Performance Overview

772 Our Log-Gaussian model of planimetric landslide areas is a global model, thus it may perform
773 differently for each of the considered earthquakes. And yet, both Max and Sum models are
774 generally able to characterize the $\log(A_L)$ distributions in each of the 25 study sites. We
775 summarized this information in Figure 21.

776 We recall here that the performance of both Max and Sum models appears to be quite
777 satisfactory also when this information is graphically shown for the whole landslide size
778 dataset (see also Figures 8 and 4) or geographically shown for specific sites (see Figures
779 from 9 to 20). These predictive maps visually and intuitively demonstrate how the observed
780 and predicted $\log(A_L)$'s patterns match. To provide a numerical overview of the models'
781 performance for each of the 25 earthquakes, in Figure 22 we also show the agreement among
782 observed and predicted landslide sizes, after we performed the classification explained in
783 Section 5.5. In this figure, we show that despite the Max and Sum models generally agree,
784 the classified landslide size per earthquakes may be misrepresented. This is the case of
785 Coalinga, Minxian and Yushu, both for Max and Sum models. These specific events show
786 the least agreement among classes with a perfect match between observed and predicted
787 being confined below 30%. Besides, the slight under- or over- estimation demonstrated by a
788 single shift in class is larger than 50% and the large under- or over- estimation demonstrated
789 by a two (or more) class shift characterizes 20% of the predicted landslide size.

790 These three cases clearly represent the worst prediction our Max and Sum models pro-
791 duced. Similarly, we can also highlight three earthquakes for which our models perform very
792 well. This is the case for Loma Prieta, Limon and Izu Oshima where the two (or more) class
793 shift characterizes less than 1% of the prediction, the one class shift corresponds to less than
794 45% and the perfect match is found in more than 55% of the SUs.

795 This overview provides a better summary of the models we propose. It certainly suggests
796 that our models are quite performing but also that some improvements could still be achieved,
797 possibly improving the quality of the data, the scale at which the models are built and the
798 model structure. Each of these elements will be discussed in the following sections.

799 6.2 Interpretation of the covariates' role

800 For a model to be operational, good performances are not the only requirement. Each model
801 component should be interpretable and make sense from a geomorphological standpoint.

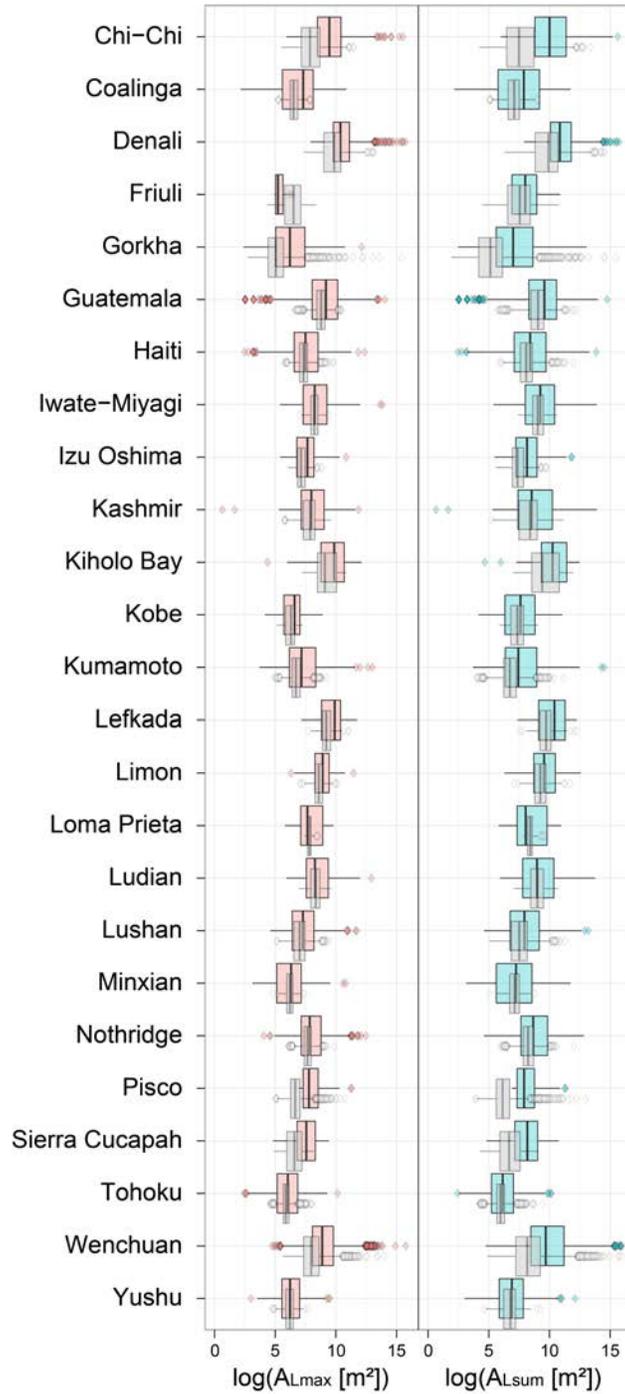


Figure 21: Distribution of the posterior mean of landslide sizes per SU, for the Max (pink boxplots) and Sum (cyan boxplots) models. The grey boxplots correspond to the observed $\log(A_L)$.

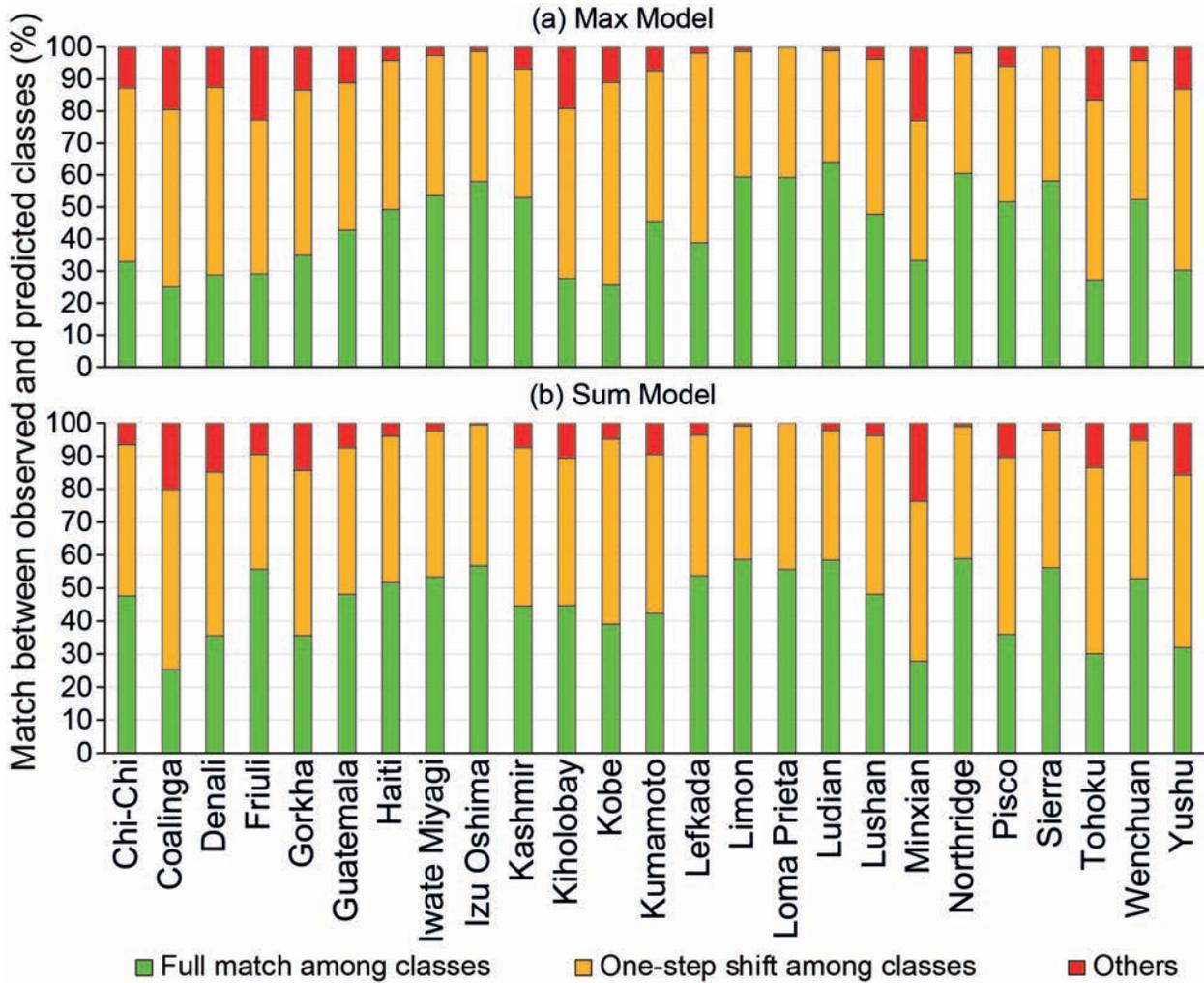


Figure 22: Stacked barplot reporting the percentage of cases—with respect to the total for each earthquake—for which the observed and predicted classes of landslide area coincide (green), are shifted by a single class (orange) and are shifted by two classes (red).

802 Here we examine how reasonable our Max and Sum models are on the basis of the estimated
803 regression coefficients' distribution.

804 As briefly anticipated in Section 5.2, the fixed effects appear to be geomorphologically
805 sound, with the exception of the *VRM (avg)*. Both for the Max and Sum models, the mean
806 Macroseismic Intensity (MI) per SU is the largest contributor (in the Sum model case, it has
807 a much larger posterior mean value). This may indicate that the ground motion not only
808 plays an important role in explaining any landslide size but it may imply the *MI (avg)* is
809 even more crucial to estimate very large aggregated landslide sizes per SU, which are part
810 of the Sum model rather than the Max model. Similar considerations can be found in, *e.g.*,
811 [Keefer and Manson \(1998\)](#) and [Massey et al. \(2018\)](#), where the authors mentioned a similar
812 relation by assuming that the intensity of the ground motion decreases as a function of the
813 distance to the rupture zone. Similarly, the *Relief rng (avg)* appears to be the second largest
814 contributor both for the Max and Sum models. More specifically, its effect onto the landslide
815 size estimates is equivalent to the *MI (avg)* for the Max model case and it is 24% smaller than
816 the contribution of the *MI (avg)* in the Sum model case. This can be interpreted in terms
817 of topographic control on landslide sizes. For the Max model, the potential gravitational
818 energy expressed by the relief is able to explain the landslide size as much as the trigger itself
819 (*MI (avg)*). In the Sum model, although the relief is still fundamental to estimate A_{Lsum} ,
820 its contribution is ranked second overall, likely because extremely large landslide sizes do
821 require an exceptional seismic stress to be triggered. High relief may be interpreted as a sign
822 of relatively strong rock mass properties constituting the hillslope materials ([Schmidt and
823 Montgomery, 1995](#); [Townsend et al., 2020](#)) and yet the positive contribution can be linked to
824 the higher potential gravitational energy and longer runout associated with hillslopes with
825 high relief. Similar considerations can be found in [Medwedeff et al. \(2020\)](#) where the authors
826 emphasize how much hillslope relief is crucial to control landslide sizes.

827 Another reassuring covariate contribution can be seen for the *Slope (std)*, both for the
828 Max and Sum models. The variation of the steepness inside a given SU can be intuitively
829 interpreted as a proxy for topographic roughness. For instance, if the mean steepness per
830 SU is 40 degrees but the standard deviation is close to zero, then the whole slope unit
831 would certainly be steep but its surface would be smooth. Conversely, in the case where
832 the mean steepness per SU is 40 degrees but the standard deviation is 20 degrees, then
833 one should expect the SU surface to be rough and likely hummocky at times. Such a
834 surface should offer a bumpy landscape upon which the ground motion can act to mobilize
835 unstable material. As a result, a significant and positive coefficient estimated for *Slope*
836 (*std*) appears to be reasonable for the larger the roughness, the more available potentially
837 unstable material should be, hence the larger the resulting landslide. *Slope (std)* also appears
838 as a positively contributing variable in studies assessing the susceptibility of rainfall- and
839 earthquake-induced landslides (*e.g.*, [Guzzetti et al., 2005a](#); [Tanyaş et al., 2019a](#)).

840 The fourth ranked covariate is more problematic. The *VRM (avg)* is an expression
841 of topographic roughness. Therefore, one should expect a positive sign of the regression

842 coefficient distribution, both for the Max and Sum models. However, the coefficient of *VRM*
843 (*avg*) appears to be significant and negative overall, making any interpretation difficult to
844 formulate. We believe this to be a case of a confounding covariate. In fact, although
845 our variable selection step (see Section 4.1) included the *VRM (avg)*, this covariate still
846 interacts with the others. Therefore, in case this covariate would share a similar signal to
847 another one or more than one, its sign and amplitude of the regression coefficient will be
848 influenced by other interactions. In the specific case, we believe *VRM (avg)* to be potentially
849 interacting with more than one covariate that carries the topographic roughness information.
850 For instance, not only the *Slope (std)* may play a similar role but also the two curvatures.
851 In fact, the planar and profile curvatures are by definition summarizing how rough the given
852 landscape is in two main directions. This is particularly exacerbated in case of a SU partition
853 where we compute the mean and standard deviation for each morphometric property. In
854 this sense, computing the standard deviation of the curvatures inside a given SU certainly
855 stresses how rough the mapping unit is. Therefore, it can share a similar role with the
856 *VRM (avg)*, which is estimated to be negative overall, to counterbalance different positive
857 contributions for proxies of topographic roughness. To expand on this, both Max and Sum
858 models estimate the *Prof Cur (std)* to be significant and positive.

859 As for the interpretation of the random effects (see Section 5.3 and Figure 6a), the
860 multiple intercept per earthquake provides an interesting point of discussion. In the Max
861 model built for Coalinga, Izu Oshima, Kumamoto, Loma Prieta and Pisco, the intercepts
862 appear to be non-significant. In these cases, not being significant has a particular meaning
863 because it indicates specific earthquakes for which the model does not strictly require a
864 regression constant. In other words, these five study sites behave in line with the average
865 Max landslide size computed for the whole 25 datasets combined. A similar situation can
866 be seen for the Sum model where four earthquakes (Izu Oshima, Kiholo Bay, Kumamoto
867 and Loma Prieta) have been estimated with a non-significant intercept, indicating their
868 average behavior to be aligned with the whole average summed landslide size across the 25
869 earthquake cases.

870 As for the significant cases, a distinction should be made between positive and negative
871 multiple intercepts. A positive regression coefficient implies that for the earthquake under
872 consideration a regression constant should be added to the model to increase the estimated
873 landslide size (whether it is for the Max or Sum models) with respect to the average landslide
874 size for all the 25 cases combined. For the Max model, ten intercepts are significant and
875 positive. By sorting them according to the absolute posterior mean, we can list Guatemala
876 ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.60$), Denali ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.36$), Lefkada ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.09$), Chi-Chi ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.99$), Iwate Miyagi
877 ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.87$), Limon ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.83$), Ludian ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.80$), Northridge ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.73$), Wenchuan
878 ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.73$) and Kiholo Bay ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.71$).

879 Similarly, ten more events have been estimated to be significant and negative overall.
880 This is the case for Gorkha ($|\hat{\beta}| = 2.46$), Friuli ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.98$), Kobe ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.27$), Yushu
881 ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.18$), Tohoku ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.85$), Kashmir ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.65$), Sierra Cucapah ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.63$),

882 Minxian ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.56$), Lushan ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.18$) and Haiti ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.12$).

883 An analogous situation can be found for the Sum model although the events with a
884 significant and positive regression constant are 13 and those that are significant and negative
885 are eight. Sorting for absolute mean regression coefficients, to the positive category belong:
886 Guatemala ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.55$), Ludian ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.24$), Iwate Miyagi ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.22$), Northridge ($|\hat{\beta}| =$
887 1.08), Limon ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.87$), Wenchuan ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.79$), Lefkada ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.79$), Denali ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.58$),
888 Coalinga ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.54$), Chi-Chi ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.52$), Minxian ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.42$), Lushan ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.23$) and
889 Haiti ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.15$).

890 As for the negative counterparts the eight cases belong to Gorkha ($|\hat{\beta}| = 2.75$), Friuli
891 ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.97$), Kashmir ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.25$), Yushu ($|\hat{\beta}| = 1.11$), Tohoku ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.94$), Sierra Cucapah
892 ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.93$), Kobe ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.85$) and Pisco ($|\hat{\beta}| = 0.48$).

893 These significant regression coefficients could be associated with both site-specific factors
894 and/or quality of landslide inventories. Hence, they may be sensitive to real landslide size
895 characteristics but also to landslide positional and mapped extent biases (Steger *et al.*, 2016).
896 Denali is one of those cases where the significant and positive intercept is relatively easy to
897 justify. In fact, Jibson *et al.* (2004) already stated that the 2002 Denali earthquake had
898 significantly lower concentrations of small landslides (rock-falls and rock-slides) compared to
899 an earthquake with comparable or lower magnitude. Their interpretation was mainly due to
900 the ground motion characteristics of the Denali earthquake. Furthermore, they argued that
901 the reason was the deficiency in high-frequencies and high-amplitude accelerations of the
902 seismic shaking. Conversely, a significant regression constant could also be associated with
903 the quality of dataset. For instance, the Limon inventory is another case where we observe a
904 significant and positive regression constant. We recall here that the inventory was mapped
905 by Marc *et al.* (2016) using 30 m resolution satellite scenes (see Table 1). Notably, mapping
906 landslides using relatively coarse resolution images can induce substantial amalgamation
907 issues in the delineation of large landslides. Therefore, the multiple intercept for Limon
908 could be due to the large size of the landslides, because anything below a 900 m² pixel was
909 not even visible during the mapping procedure. Therefore, here we make the point that the
910 quality (Guzzetti *et al.*, 2012) of an inventory could affect the estimates of each regression
911 constant per earthquake. But, this effect can still be traced back and interpreted.

912 This is not exactly the case for the completeness (Guzzetti *et al.*, 2012) of an EQIL.
913 Tanyaş and Lombardo (2020) proposed a semi-quantitative routine to assess the completeness
914 of the same coseismic landslide inventories used in this work (see Figure 5 in their work).
915 If our model would have strongly suffered from a bias brought by the varying completeness
916 associated with each of the 25 inventories, then one could have expected good inventories
917 to share a common multiple intercept sign and/or amplitude and vice-versa in case of bad
918 inventories. Fortunately, mixed completeness levels are featured in sub-groups of earthquakes
919 associated with positive and negative regression constants. In turn, we can assume that a
920 marked bias towards good or bad inventories should not be assumed for the Max model.

921 Even for the Sum model, the completeness of each corresponding inventory largely varies

922 between positively and negatively attributed regression constants per earthquake events.
923 This means that a strong influence of the completeness bias should not be present even in
924 our Sum model, although quality-wise the effect can still be present.

925 This being said, it is inevitable that several sources of bias have made their way into our
926 model, and they will be further discussed in Section 6.3.

927 Another iid effect in our model corresponds to the Landform classification. We have
928 initially made the expert choice of selecting three properties and use them as random effects
929 whereas all the remaining linear covariates have then been selected on the basis of a vari-
930 able selection procedure. Therefore, we have kept the Landform classification in the model
931 although, as also visible in Figure 6b, none of the landform classes play a significant role, nor
932 exhibit a posterior mean coefficient large enough to assume that its inclusion would actually
933 play any role at all in modelling landslide sizes.

934 Two considerations must be made here. First of all, whether the landforms are featured
935 in the model or not, as they are expressed, the results will essentially stay the same. We
936 have actually re-run a set of tests that confirm this statement (unreported results). However,
937 to avoid re-computing the fits, the 5000 simulations and the Bootstrap step, both for Max
938 and Sum models, we have opted to keep the landforms in. The second consideration consists
939 of assessing why such a covariate, usually quite important in landslide predictive models,
940 has a negligible contribution to the landslide areas. We will start by saying that for consis-
941 tency reasons we used the same landform classification adopted in Tanyas et al. (2019a). In
942 this work, the authors used the same SUs partition and co-seismic landslide inventories for
943 building a global susceptibility model. Moreover, they derived only five grouped landform
944 classes. This could have smoothed out the signal of different landform categories to the
945 point where both Max and Sum models may not be able to capture any dependence with
946 respect to the landslide size. Also, a landform classification reflects several aspects of the
947 terrain morphometry, which could have been better explained via numerical covariates such
948 as relief, slope and curvatures, rather than in a categorical form. This being said, we stress
949 that the Max and Sum models are essentially unchanged whether the landforms are featured
950 or not, and yet the overall performance is more than satisfactory. Ultimately, we would like
951 to further comment on the nonlinear effect of the *Slope (avg)*. Figure 6c shows two slightly
952 different patterns for the Max and Sum models. They both appear to play a negligible
953 role in explaining the variability of the landslide sizes up to approximately 30 degrees of
954 SU average steepness. From this threshold onward, the *Slope (avg)* effect becomes slightly
955 positive for the Max model and it becomes positive and much larger for the Sum model. The
956 difference between the two models is subtle but essentially one can see the Sum model to be
957 characterized by larger landslide planimetric areas compared to the Max model. Therefore,
958 a much steeper trend in the regression coefficients of the Sum model can be explained with
959 a greater need of a SU to be steep for it to generate larger mass movements.

6.3 Sources of uncertainty

A large number of uncertainty sources inevitably affect our co-seismic landslide datasets. As briefly mentioned in Section 6.2, the main sources of uncertainty essentially boil down to the quality, completeness and representation of the co-seismic landslide inventories (Guzzetti et al., 2012; Tanyaş et al., 2017). Below, we list potential biases associated with the three concepts mentioned above, and further below we will provide our interpretation of the resulting bias.

- composition of the team mapping the co-seismic landslide inventories.
- the quality of the support data upon which the mapping is undertaken.
 - spatial resolution. Is it fine enough to be able to map?
 - temporal resolution. Is it sufficiently close to the earthquake occurrence or is it far and therefore potentially containing subsequent unrelated landslides?
 - are the satellite scenes covered by clouds?
 - is the extent of the satellite imagery comparable to the extent of the landslide-affected area?
- the technique used for mapping
 - the subjectiveness of the mapping itself in case of manually digitized inventories.
 - the error in the automatic or semi-automatic mapping procedure.
- minimum resolved landslide size.
- the classification (or not) of each landslide according to its types.

The quality of landslide inventories could bring some uncertainties into spatial distribution of co-seismic landslides' size. In this regard, amalgamation of coalescing or adjacent landslides is an issue that typically affects any estimate of landslide sizes, but the level of amalgamation can also vary on the basis of: (i) mapping techniques, (ii) spatial and (iii) temporal resolution of examined scenes (Tanyaş et al., 2019b).

Overall, manual landslide mapping is subjective and the final product varies based on mapping objectives, preferences and/or skill of the interpreter(s) and the time invested in the inventory (Soeters and Van Westen, 1996). Obviously, the database we used in this study includes landslide inventories compiled for different purposes, through various methods and expertise in the 40-year period from 1976 to 2016. With the exception of the Pisco inventory, created via semi-automated mapping routines (Lacroix et al., 2013), all the inventories were mapped manually. Therefore, it is not a homogeneous dataset. Given this limitation, the multiple intercept we included in our models is a way to cope with such uncertainties. For instance, landslides triggered by the Gorkha earthquake were mapped (Roback et al.,

994 2018) not only to assess the landslide hazard but also to examine mobility of landslides. In
995 turn, Roback et al. (2018) paid an extra attention to amalgamation issues and they even
996 differentiate landslide source and deposit. This could partly explain the significant and
997 negative regression coefficient we calculated for the intercept of the Gorkha case, which
998 is the most striking example among multiple intercepts per earthquake. In fact, Figure 6
999 reports the largest (in absolute value) posterior mean of the regression coefficient distribution
1000 for Gorkha, that the model uses to reduce the estimated landslide size for this particular
1001 earthquake. We should also note that this may not be the only interpretation available. The
1002 reasons behind it, may also be due to additional seismo-tectonic or ground-motion related
1003 factors. And, disentangling the main reason to which extent one cause or the other may be
1004 responsible for such a small intercept certainly requires further investigation, even beyond
1005 the scope of this work. In either case this particular earthquake was already pointed out to
1006 have produced less landslides than the expected number for a comparable magnitude (Kargel
1007 et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2016). Moreover, our model adds to this observation, stressing that
1008 not only the number of landslides is smaller than other earthquakes, but that this is valid
1009 also in terms of planimetric areas.

1010 In addition to mapping techniques, the spatial resolution of the satellite images or or-
1011 thophotos used to support the mapping itself also affects the level of amalgamation (see the
1012 details provided for the Limon case in Section 6.2). Whenever supporting images with high
1013 spatial resolution images are used, the ability to characterize small landslides also increases.
1014 Therefore, positive or negative regression coefficients associated with each multiple intercept
1015 may also be due to this. Haiti is again a good example for a such case. The landslides
1016 triggered by the Haiti earthquake were mapped using scenes with a spatial resolution of
1017 less than 1 m (see, (Harp et al., 2016) for details and Table 1 for comparison with other
1018 inventories). In this regard, we consider the Haiti inventory to be affected by amalgamation
1019 to a much lesser extent than most of the other inventories we used.

1020 Moreover, in some cases, if the time gap between pre- and post-seismic images is relatively
1021 long, some pre-seismic landslides could be included into the co-seismic landslide inventory
1022 by mistake (Tanyaş et al., 2017). This may also lead to map reactivation or expansion or
1023 pre-earthquake landslides including the whole landslide scar rather than the newly failed
1024 surface. In turn, this may bias the A_L towards much larger estimates than what they should
1025 be in reality.

1026 Moreover, the global nature of our dataset incorporates all the above inventory-specific
1027 issues. Therefore, biases can arise from their combined co-existence in our Max and Sum
1028 models. For instance, inventories containing a much larger landslide population may bias the
1029 final predictive model at the expenses of inventories represented by fewer landslides. In this
1030 complex system of potential bias interactions, we should also mention that another possible
1031 source of bias may exist and it may have directly affected the way we constructed our global
1032 dataset. In fact, the Slope Unit partition controlled the landslide area aggregation when we
1033 computed the Max and Sum out of the multiple landslides per mapping unit. In this sense, to

1034 generate a number of SUs for which a global landslide model can be efficiently built, [Tanyas](#)
1035 [et al. \(2019a\)](#) chose a relatively coarse parameterization of *r.slopeunits*—we recall here that
1036 the SUs we used are the same as those generated by Tanyas and co-authors. However, a much
1037 finer and realistic SU subdivision can still be made, which we expect would substantially
1038 improve the Max and Sum models’ performance. This being said, we should also report that
1039 the selected *r.slopeunits* parameterization has been consistent among different earthquakes.
1040 This ensures that whatever bias may exist because of the coarse dimension of the SUs, it
1041 would be consistent and relatively constant across our entire global dataset.

1042 Ultimately, it is fair to report that the covariates themselves may bring some degree of
1043 uncertainty. In fact, the resolution among covariates substantially changes, starting from
1044 a fine representation of terrain properties at 30 *m* and ending up to the 1 *km* resolution
1045 of the ground motion properties. However, similarly to the Slope Unit dimension case, the
1046 difference in resolution among covariates is constant in our global dataset.

1047 6.4 Considerations on modelling landslide areas

1048 Our model has a specific limitation which is worth to be extensively addressed here. We
1049 model the planimetric area of landslides on a logarithmic scale. Our model overall performed
1050 well in such scale but in order to produce practically interpretable results or maps, we should
1051 convert our prediction back into a metric unit. We recall here that as most of the Gaussian
1052 models do, we performed much better around the bulk of the landslide area distribution
1053 rather than in the tails. Therefore, converting our prediction from the logarithmic to the
1054 actual meter scale would exacerbate the difference between (very small and very large)
1055 observed and estimated landslide areas.

1056 It is worth noting that this problem exists in most Log-Gaussian models and even in the
1057 context of landslide-event magnitude scale. In fact, the same logarithmic representation and
1058 associated limitations affect landslide magnitude studies, where frequency-area distributions
1059 are modelled in log-scale rather than the metric one ([Malamud et al., 2004a](#)).

1060 Another potential difficulty is that the mean of A_L is *not* equal to the exponential of
1061 the mean of $\log(A_L)$, which makes the interpretation of results more intricate. However, the
1062 logarithm being a monotone increasing function, it respects the transformation of quantiles
1063 from one scale to the other (*e.g.*, the median of A_L is equal to the exponential of the median
1064 of $\log(A_L)$). Therefore, in two theoretical maps where the landslide size is predicted per SU,
1065 the relative classes would be visually maintained in both metric and logarithmic scales.

1066 The landslide area classification we explain in Section 5.5 and show in Figure 8 is meant
1067 to limit the issues between the two scales. The overall agreement between observed and
1068 predicted landslide classes shows the success of this classification approach (see Figure 22).
1069 On average, observed and predicted landslide classes perfectly match for 44% and 46% of
1070 examined mapping units for Max and Sum models, respectively (these values correspond
1071 to the average height of the green barplots in Figure 22). As for an average percentage of
1072 strongly mismatching case, only 7% of predicted landslide sizes is associated with a two-class

1073 shift, both for the Max and Sum models (these values correspond to the average height of
1074 the red barplots in Figure 22).

1075 6.5 Implications for landslide hazard assessment

1076 The method we propose is the first of its kind. Therefore, the implications it may produce
1077 to the landslide hazard concept are still to be investigated. For sure, this globally-applicable
1078 model has provided the first predictive maps of the potential landslide area generated in
1079 response to an earthquake. This information only answers to one of the three components
1080 of the landslide hazard concept, this being how large a landslide-event may be spatially.
1081 However, our model, as we defined it, is tightly linked to the ground motion patterns of past
1082 earthquakes. Therefore, there is no guarantee that future earthquakes will produce analogous
1083 shaking levels and thus, our current landslide size maps are mostly reflecting what happened
1084 in the past. We envision two extensions of our model for it to become fully operative. One
1085 way is to feature a probabilistic term for the seismic hazard. For instance, once our model
1086 has been built and the regression coefficient for the Macroscopic Intensity is available, then
1087 any other Macroscopic Intensity (*e.g.*, exceedance in 10 or 50 years return time, [Giardini
1088 et al., 1999](#); [Jordan et al., 2014](#)) map can be plugged in to produce scenario-based outputs.
1089 These scenario-based maps could then be integrated in the decision-making procedure for
1090 medium to long term territorial planning.

1091 Conversely, another possible alternative is to use our model in near real-time. As before,
1092 the regression coefficients of all covariates, including the Macroscopic Intensity can be kept
1093 fixed and right after a future earthquake, the associated Macroscopic Intensity can be
1094 plugged in to provide quick post-disaster information on landslide sizes. Nowadays, the
1095 United States Geological Survey is able to provide reliable shaking level maps within hours
1096 after a major earthquake ([Allstadt et al., 2018](#)) and therefore our model could rapidly provide
1097 estimates of how large the resulting landslides might be, and how they might be distributed
1098 over space.

1099 It is also important to stress that our model is currently valid purely for earthquake-
1100 induced landslides. However, we limited our scope to this specific class of trigger because
1101 of the global availability of the data. An analogous model could be replicated for rainfall-
1102 induced landslides and also for a mixture of both trigger types. Nevertheless, a proportionally
1103 large global inventory should be made for the precipitation case.

1104 As mentioned above, to date, no statistically-based spatially-explicit model was able to
1105 predict landslide planimetric areas, or their aggregation in a given mapping unit. Therefore,
1106 there is no landslide hazard guideline where the use of the model we propose is clearly
1107 defined. And yet, in landslide hazard assessment, the frequency-area distribution ([Malamud
1108 et al., 2004a](#)) derived for a landslide event of a given magnitude is measured as a function of
1109 the overall number of landslides and their associated planimetric areas, produced by a given
1110 trigger.

1111 Our model can offer additional information to two key tools in landslide hazard assess-

1112 ment. In addition to the prediction of landslide occurrence locations (susceptibility, [Reichen-](#)
1113 [bach et al., 2018](#)), and to the estimation of how many landslides may trigger per mapping
1114 unit (intensity, [Lombardo et al., 2018a](#)), our model can inform decision makers on the extent
1115 of the failed surface per slope unit.

1116 Furthermore, in the traditional literature of landslide predictive models, the most com-
1117 mon mapping units are grid cells and slope units. However, the model we propose is not
1118 suitable for a grid cell spatial partition. In fact, we need to express the landslide size at a
1119 scale comparable or larger to the actual landslides. Therefore, grid cells, which are typically
1120 much smaller than a landslide, cannot be used. Moreover, in case one would like to generate
1121 a squared lattice with a size larger than a landslide, then we stress here that the geomorpho-
1122 logical significance will be mostly lost. This is also true for susceptibility studies because a
1123 single pixel does not represent the geomorphological process behind a landslide. However, it
1124 is even more true and strict when modelling landslide planimetric areas. This is not the case
1125 for SUs. Geomorphologically, a slope unit is a medium scale representation of the landscape,
1126 positioned in between the fine grid cells—often criticized for the same reason mentioned
1127 above, *e.g.*, [Reichenbach et al. \(2018\)](#)—and the catchments—undoubtedly too coarse to be
1128 effective for slope stabilization practices. Therefore, at least theoretically a SU partition
1129 offers an operational spatial scale upon which the method we propose can be repeated for
1130 any other area and/or landslide type. Therefore an additional map predicting SU-based
1131 landslide Max or Sum scenarios could become a new tool in landslide hazard mapping. As
1132 for a catchment partition, this could still be theoretically doable but the representation of
1133 the covariates at such scale may lose connection or correlation with respect to the A_L . For
1134 instance, the average slope steepness in a given catchment may be totally unrelated to the
1135 landslide planimetric area at a single slope.

1136 **6.6 Considerations on the use of earthquake-specific intercepts**

1137 In scientific research and experiments, an important requirement of any new concept or
1138 model is for it to be repeatable and reproducible. Our model satisfies the repeatability
1139 requirement for it is certainly possible to re-run the same analyses following the model
1140 description explained in Section 4.3. Moreover, our modeling framework is generic enough
1141 that it also satisfies the reproducibility requirement, since the same model structure and
1142 estimation method could easily be used with a different earthquake-induced landslide dataset
1143 from other study areas. However, a limitation of our approach is that our fitted model,
1144 applied to our particular dataset, is not “transferable”, in the sense that it cannot be directly
1145 applied to other areas without first fitting the model again to relevant data. Transferability
1146 assumes that a given model or analytical protocol can be taken outside the specific context in
1147 which it was presented and tested elsewhere, by other scientists or engineers. The key reason
1148 for the lack of transferability in our case, is that we decided to include earthquake-specific
1149 intercept parameters, whose estimated values cannot be extrapolated to other areas. Hence,
1150 while the inclusion of a multiple intercept was here necessary to get a good overall fit, it also

1151 hinders the use of our model in other geographic areas.

1152 Two solutions are possible to make our model transferable. The first solution involves
1153 continuous updates. This means that whenever an earthquake occurs and induces landslides,
1154 if the study area is not part of the 25 earthquakes we modelled here, then our model can
1155 simply be re-run including the new co-seismic inventory. As the model is updated, we can
1156 obtain the regression constant for the new event and extend the geographic validity of our
1157 model. This procedure comes at a relevant cost. It implies that we need to wait for an
1158 inventory to be compiled before being able to use it for a specific area. In other words,
1159 we cannot use it preemptively but rather we have to wait for co-seismic landslides to cause
1160 damage before being able to extend our model via a new spatial dataset. Therefore, if this
1161 is the case, our model may be of limited practical use.

1162 An alternative does exist even if it comes with some inherited limitations. A regres-
1163 sion constant estimated per specific study area essentially applies a constant shift to the
1164 $\log(A_L)$ estimates. This shift summarizes site-specific characteristics with respect to the
1165 global dataset we used. Therefore, for areas that are not included among the 25 we exam-
1166 ined here, one should find a trade off between the optimal $\log(A_L)$ prediction and the need
1167 for such estimates despite some bias they may contain. In other words, we could choose to
1168 take a leap of faith. We could assume that the new area upon which we need to transfer
1169 our Max and/or Sum models behaves similarly to the average landslide size in our global
1170 dataset (in which case we can fix the intercept value to be zero, like for Haiti or Kumamoto,
1171 see Figure 6a), or to a specific EQIL from our dataset because of analogous tectonic regimes
1172 (in which case we can fix the intercept to the value estimated for this particular EQIL). If
1173 such a procedure is acceptable, our model then becomes transferable. Surely this procedure
1174 might under-/over- estimate the $\log(A_L)$ distribution to some extent. However, the resulting
1175 predictive maps will still provide useful information for master planners. In fact, a regression
1176 constant added to each SU in a given area does not change the relative spatial predictive
1177 pattern. In other words, SUs that are shown to potentially release a larger landslide plani-
1178 metric area, will still be represented as the most hazardous, even without the site-specific
1179 regression constant. Surely, the $\log(A_L)$ estimation per SU will loose accuracy and therefore
1180 should not be used to make precise numerical decisions. However, any master planner could
1181 still recognize hazardous SUs in a relative sense. This is not trivial information. Knowing
1182 which SUs may release a larger landslide area and therefore volume, is extremely important
1183 even if we do not know the exact extent.

1184 6.7 Geomorphological Considerations

1185 The model we present can be of use even beyond the landslide hazard context. Landscape
1186 evolutionary models (Hancock et al., 2000; Van De Wiel et al., 2007) predict the change of the
1187 earth surface in relatively long time scales, compared to the human life expectancy. They are
1188 calibrated on the basis of the volume of material eroded from the slopes and deposited away
1189 by natural agents. However, these volumes are often estimates only measured for specific

1190 catchments and do not account for the contribution of mass wasting processes.

1191 In the context of our model, the volume estimation of EQILs addresses the fundamental
1192 question, whether large earthquakes contribute to lift the earth surface and produce moun-
1193 tainous topographies or whether EQILs reduce the actual topography by removing thick
1194 portions of the landscape (Parker [et al.](#), 2011). The conversion from landslide area to land-
1195 slide volume is one of a first steps to tackle with this question because the total amount
1196 of landslide deposits needs to be identified to assess the mass balance after an earthquake
1197 (Dadson [et al.](#), 2004; Malamud [et al.](#), 2004a; Hovius [et al.](#), 2011; Li [et al.](#), 2016; Wang [et al.](#),
1198 2015). In this regard, the method we introduced could help not only to predict total landslide
1199 planimetric areas associated with an earthquake but also their spatial distribution right after
1200 the event. Consequently, this method could lead to better understand the balance between
1201 crustal advection and seismically induced mass wasting and finally inform us on potential
1202 landscape evolution processes. Therefore, our model could be a valid support, providing
1203 information on the expected volumes that may be mobilized due to an earthquake. The
1204 landslide area has been demonstrated to be related to the landslide volume via a power law
1205 (Larsen [et al.](#), 2010). Therefore, by transforming the output of the predicted landslide areas
1206 into volumes, one could better parametrize landscape evolutionary models with further in-
1207 formation that is not usually accounted for. Notably, our model is expressed in $\log(A_L)$, thus
1208 an initial transformation in metric scale and then a power law conversion could heavily bias
1209 the predicted volume estimates. However, we stress here that the performance we obtained
1210 originate from a global dataset, hence, we can only assume it to improve for finer studies, as
1211 the data quality increases.

1212 Also, the model we present is based on landslide inventories associated with a single
1213 triggering event. Therefore, our model is purely spatial (further details on this definition
1214 will be provided in Section 6.8) and does not features the temporal dimension. However, our
1215 model could be used also in case of multi-temporal landslide inventories. In such cases, we
1216 could model the spatio-temporal evolution of landslide sizes. This could open up interesting
1217 geomorphological interpretation of mass wasting processes and their influence on landscape
1218 evolution and more details are provided in Section 6.8.

1219 6.8 Statistical Considerations

1220 Although our modelling approach represents an important contribution landslide hazard
1221 modelling, many improvements can already be envisioned from a statistical perspective.

1222 First, our focus here is to model and predict the size of landslides only, but a joint
1223 modelling approach could have been considered to simultaneously model both the landslide
1224 susceptibility (Reichenbach [et al.](#), 2018) and sizes, or landslide intensity (Lombardo [et al.](#),
1225 2020a) and size. In particular, the INLA approach offers a suitable statistical framework
1226 where different likelihoods can be assumed for different responses sharing common features
1227 (see, *e.g.*, Krainski [et al.](#) 2018, Chapter 3).

1228 Second, our modelling approach is not “strictly spatial” in the sense that—for fixed

1229 covariate values—it does not define a correlation or covariance structure between observations
1230 in neighboring SUs. In other words, our Max and Sum models treat close-by and far away
1231 SUs equally. While such an assumption is reasonable from a computational perspective, it
1232 also means that we are unable to capture spatially structured effects that are not already
1233 captured by the available covariates. If such unobserved spatial effects are strong and not
1234 accounted for in the model, this might bias the estimated covariate effects and might even
1235 in some cases affect their geomorphological interpretation. Fortunately for us, as shown by
1236 [Lombardo et al. \(2019a\)](#), the *Macroseismic Intensity (MI)* covariate is a good proxy for the
1237 trigger and usually provides similar information as a model for EQILs that would include a
1238 latent spatially-correlated effect ([Lombardo et al., 2018a](#)). Therefore, we can here reasonably
1239 assume, and be confident that by including the *MI* and related covariate information in our
1240 model, the residual spatial correlation is quite weak overall, though this would need to be
1241 checked more systematically and thoroughly. For rainfall-induced landslides, however, it is
1242 usually much more difficult to obtain relevant covariates representing the trigger at high
1243 resolution, and for such data, additional latent spatial effects (specific to each event) would
1244 seem necessary. Such a spatial model defined at the latent level can be constructed using the
1245 stochastic partial differential equation (SPDE) approach that provides accurate Markovian
1246 representations of the flexible Matérn covariance (see, [Schabenberger and Gotway 2017](#),
1247 Chapter 4 for an introduction on covariance functions and [Castro-Camilo et al. 2020](#) for
1248 the use of the SPDE approach in a prediction framework). For the dataset used here, a
1249 sensible approach is to assume different SPDE models for each earthquake inventory, which
1250 helps us reduce the computation burden. However, even doing so, this modelling approach
1251 carries significant computational challenges ([Castro-Camilo et al., 2020](#)), and simpler spatial
1252 structures could be envisioned, *e.g.*, using the Besag model for areal units as in [Lombardo
1253 et al. \(2018a\)](#).

1254 Third, although the inventories used in our work correspond to spatially replicated events
1255 around the world, we could focus on a single area instead, where multitemporal inventories
1256 are available. Under such a setting, spatio-temporal models based on a Log-Gaussian like-
1257 lihood can help us describe the spatial extent of landslides and their evolution in time.
1258 Space-time landslide intensity models were fitted by [Lombardo et al. \(2020a\)](#) and it would
1259 be interesting to generalize their approach to model the spatio-temporal evolution of land-
1260 slide sizes, potentially jointly with their occurrence locations. Moreover, the SPDE approach
1261 mentioned earlier can also be extended to describe processes evolving in space and time using
1262 separable covariance structures ([Gneiting et al., 2006](#)). It is important to notice, however,
1263 that the computational gains obtained through the reduction in spatial coverage are counter-
1264 balanced by the complexity associated with spatio-temporal models; therefore, it is difficult
1265 to assess the computational requirements in advance.

1266 As mentioned above, our model is not spatial in the sense that it does not account for
1267 the spatial relationship between slope units. Ignoring spatial correlation would make esti-
1268 mates' posterior standard deviations too small. A spatial model would reduce the effective

1269 sample size since realisations that are spatially correlated reduce their contribution as they
1270 provide similar information. Nonetheless, such spatial analysis will have little effect on the
1271 estimates (Hodges, 2013, Chapter 9). Therefore, the main difference between a model such
1272 as ours and a model that includes spatial interactions lies in the uncertainty quantification
1273 of the estimates. The parametric Bootstrap methodology that we described in Section 4.2 is
1274 one way to compensate for this and to quantify the potential uncertainty underestimation.
1275 Indeed, it can be perceived as a post-processing step of the fits, where resampling techniques
1276 are used in order to construct many new data samples that, in turn, can be used to refit
1277 several models. The estimates extracted from each new fit are then used to compute sample
1278 standard deviations for the original estimates. Although this process is more computation-
1279 ally demanding, it guarantees a more realistic uncertainty quantification. This means that
1280 Bootstrap-based standard deviations can in some cases be fairly large compared to their
1281 INLA counterpart, as can be observed in Figures 9 to 20.

1282 6.9 Computational Requirements

1283 The models used here for $A_{L_{max}}$ and $A_{L_{sum}}$ can be fitted using cutting-edge computers
1284 running any of the standard operating systems currently available. RAM requirements are
1285 usually linear in the number of INLA threads, which is a parameter that can be specified
1286 with the main INLA function. In our case, the models were fitted using a CentOS 7 Linux
1287 computer with two threads. RAM usage was less than 1 Gb for INLA alone, which means
1288 that additional RAM should be considered to, *e.g.*, run the R software. Model fitting and
1289 prediction took approximately 10 minutes for both models.

1290 The Bootstrap procedure consisted mainly of two stages. The first one (creating the
1291 Bootstrap samples) took approximately 3.2 hours, while the second one (fitting models using
1292 Bootstrap samples) took roughly the same time as for the original fits, for each model and
1293 each of the 300 Bootstrap samples. The first stage can be fitted using a state-of-the-art
1294 laptop or desktop computer, but the second stage requires additional computational power
1295 and can easily exploit parallel computing. We used resources for distributed computers to
1296 speed up the Bootstrap samples fits, using CentOS 7 Linux workstations. Again, for every
1297 single fit, less than 1 Gb was required for INLA alone.

1298 A key element at the core of the INLA algorithm is numerical linear algebra for large
1299 sparse matrices, which take most of the total runtime. For a spatial model with $|\mathcal{S}| \sim 10^5$ or
1300 less data points, these operations can be handle by INLA thanks to an internal parallelisation
1301 using OpenMP (Van Niekerk *et al.*, 2019). For greater $|\mathcal{S}|$, additional parallel numerical
1302 methods for large sparse matrices are needed. The current R-INLA implementation allows
1303 the use of the PARDISO library, which is a powerful memory-efficient software for solving
1304 large sparse linear systems of equations. Its integration with INLA further increases INLA
1305 capability to solve very high-dimensional problems (Van Niekerk *et al.*, 2019), such as the one
1306 we will face using landslide inventories with a more refined SU partition. Further runtime
1307 reductions can be achieve using any of the less accurate approximations methods provided

1308 in the R-INLA library ([Rue et al., 2017](#)).

1309 **6.10 Additional Information**

1310 We remind here the reader that our Gaussian model estimates the mean of the target variable
1311 conditional to a set of covariates. This implies that our Max model estimates the conditional
1312 mean of the maximum log-landslide size per SU. Similarly, our Sum model estimates the
1313 conditional mean of the logarithmic cumulative landslide size per SU. If we had used the
1314 average of all the landslide planimetric areas per SU, we would have therefore modelled
1315 the conditional mean of the logarithmic average landslide size per SU. For landslide hazard
1316 assessment, where the common assumption is to generally consider or prioritize the worst
1317 case scenarios, modelling the mean of the average landslide size might not add information
1318 of particular relevance. In fact, on a slope where multiple landslides occur, a model able
1319 to predict the average landslide size will inevitably underestimate the combined effect of
1320 several, potentially interacting, moving masses. Conversely, the Max and Sum models should
1321 be much closer to the actual physical manifestation of multiple interacting landslides.

1322 Nevertheless, we envisioned that modelling the actual landslide size of single landslides
1323 per SU could have enabled interesting geomorphological considerations. Modelling the size
1324 of single landslides would imply looking for the “true mean” of the landslide size distribu-
1325 tion. This could be achieved by modelling all the possible landslides per SU simultaneously
1326 rather than feeding to our model a single aggregated measure. We initially attempted to
1327 model the “true mean” of the landslide size by implementing a similar log-Gaussian model.
1328 In this case, the dataset contained repeated covariate values for landslides occurring in the
1329 same SU, giving rise to a data frame with approximately 450,000 observations. This model
1330 did not provide satisfactory results, having tested multiple parameterisations and combina-
1331 tions of covariates. This might be due to the large increase in the number of observations,
1332 while keeping the number of covariates and the model structure fixed (which might imply a
1333 reasonable fit for some data points, but poor fit for a larger proportion of the data), or it
1334 might be due to correlations between landslide sizes within the same SUs that we neglected,
1335 or finally it could also be due to numerical instabilities owing to the larger sample size.

1336 In a second attempt, we tried to reach to the same outcome via a slightly different model.
1337 As per Equation (1), every slope unit \mathbf{s} is assigned with a precision parameter, $\tau(\mathbf{s})$, which
1338 we assumed to be random but the same for all SUs. To model the “true mean” landslide size,
1339 we computed the average and standard deviation of the landslides’ planimetric areas per SU.
1340 As a result, our log-Gaussian model had as target variable the average of all landslides per
1341 SU, and the precision parameter was set to be a function of the standard deviation of all
1342 landslides falling in a SU. The above means that the standard deviation is assumed to be the
1343 same within each SU, but possibly different among different SUs. In this way, we avoided
1344 the repetition of covariates in case of multiple landslides per SU, which we believed to be
1345 the reason for the previous failure. However, even in this case, our log-Gaussian model did
1346 not converge to a satisfactory solution.

1347 Another potential reason for this might be amalgamation issues in the landslide mapping
1348 procedure. In fact, by using a single summary statistic, the Max or the Sum, we reduce the
1349 large variability in the landslide size distribution. Therefore, in some way, we are smoothing
1350 the extremely varied and detailed information brought by each landslide in a SU. However,
1351 we believe this to be a topic of particular relevance for the geomorphological community.
1352 Therefore, in our future research, we plan to model the “true mean” landslide size per SU
1353 with a much more precise landslide inventory and much more refined SU partition. More
1354 details on possible future extensions of our model are presented in the next section.

1355 6.11 Future extensions

1356 The model we present has been built on the basis of global EQILs but it is not bound to the
1357 global nor to the co-seismic context. Its structure is applicable to any landslide hazard and
1358 for this reason, we envision to extend the very same model in few but precise directions:

- 1359 • Application to specific landslide types.
- 1360 • Application to any scale, from the catchment to the global levels.
- 1361 • Application to rainfall-induced landslides.
- 1362 • Application to snow-melt-induced landslides.
- 1363 • Application to co-seismic, rainfall-induced and snow-melt-induced landslides altogether.

1364 The current dataset could not discriminate between landslide types. Therefore, the uncer-
1365 tainty due to the difference in failure mechanisms among landslides has inevitably propagated
1366 into our result. However, we expect that a much more precise outcome could be achieved
1367 by modelling the planimetric area of landslides that share a common physical behavior.
1368 In turn, this will also enable landslide-class-specific interpretations and considerations that
1369 could better inform decision makers. For instance, one could estimate the potential landslide
1370 planimetric area to be triggered per SU in a specific site, and examine the expected $\log(A_L)$
1371 for rockfalls and debris-flows separately.

1372 Also, one of the problems in this work is the global nature of the dataset we used.
1373 However, one could opt to model the $\log(A_L)$ at any other scale, from the fine catchment
1374 level, to the coarser regional or national scale. This would likely get rid of the necessity
1375 for a multiple intercept, making future models potentially more spatially or temporally
1376 transferable.

1377 The present model can be applied to rainfall-triggered landslides. The structure could be
1378 left unchanged whereas the covariate selection could certainly vary by removing the ground
1379 motion, both $MI (avg)$ and $MI (std)$, and/or adding the spatial signal of the rainfall discharge,
1380 if available. The same is valid for snow-melt landslide inventories.

1381 Ultimately, we also envision a possible application of statistical models that can con-
1382 textually distinguish the landslide size to the class of the landslide itself. Such models will
1383 represent an extension to the present case where a single likelihood for the $\log(A_L)$ is taken
1384 into consideration. Such extension would require statistical models that can take on multiple
1385 likelihoods also referred to as joint-probability models.

1386 7 Conclusions

1387 Fulfilling the standard definition of landslide hazard requires the expectation or prediction
1388 of where, when or how frequently a population of landslides may occur, as well as how large
1389 the landslide population may be. The way that the geomorphological community—at least
1390 the part of the community working on statistically-based hazard models—has interpreted
1391 the term “how large” for decades, is to estimate the event landslide magnitude, an index of
1392 how many and how large the total number of landslides may be. As a result, by providing
1393 a single number to represent the landslide-event-magnitude, the community has disregarded
1394 the geographic characteristic of the landslide size information. In other words, maps ca-
1395 pable of statistically estimating the expected extent of a failing slope are not available at
1396 present. Our work, fills this gap and it is aimed to provide an additional tool both for
1397 academic researchers as well as the public. The current way governmental agencies man-
1398 age the territory for landslide risk prevention is to use susceptibility maps, which convey
1399 the information about where landslides are expected to trigger. Therefore, our Max and
1400 Sum models could be considered a complementary resource to improve operational decisions
1401 in territorial management protocols. By additionally considering the expected extent of a
1402 failing slope, together with the probability of a given slope to fail in the first place, much
1403 better decisions could be made to ensure the safety of human infrastructure and lives. We
1404 stress here that we consider the SU spatial partition to be the most suitable for our model
1405 to be performed. If for susceptibility models the community is still debating whether a fine
1406 grid cell or a SU can provide useful information, we believe that a fine grid cell partition
1407 will not capture the Max and Sum landslide size characteristics. Furthermore, we think
1408 that a coarse pixel partition upon which to compute the Max and Sum landslide area would
1409 neglect the geomorphological and intrinsically non-regular nature of the landslide process.
1410 Conversely, a SU-based approach both provides a suitable terrain partition upon which one
1411 can compute the two landslide area parameters and a geomorphologically-sound subdivision
1412 of the landscape.

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Supplementary Material of “Landslide size matters: a new spatial predictive paradigm”

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1 Landslide Area Predictive Mapping

Below we graphically summarize, in alphabetic order, the estimates of the *sum* and *max* models for the earthquakes we did not report in the main manuscript.

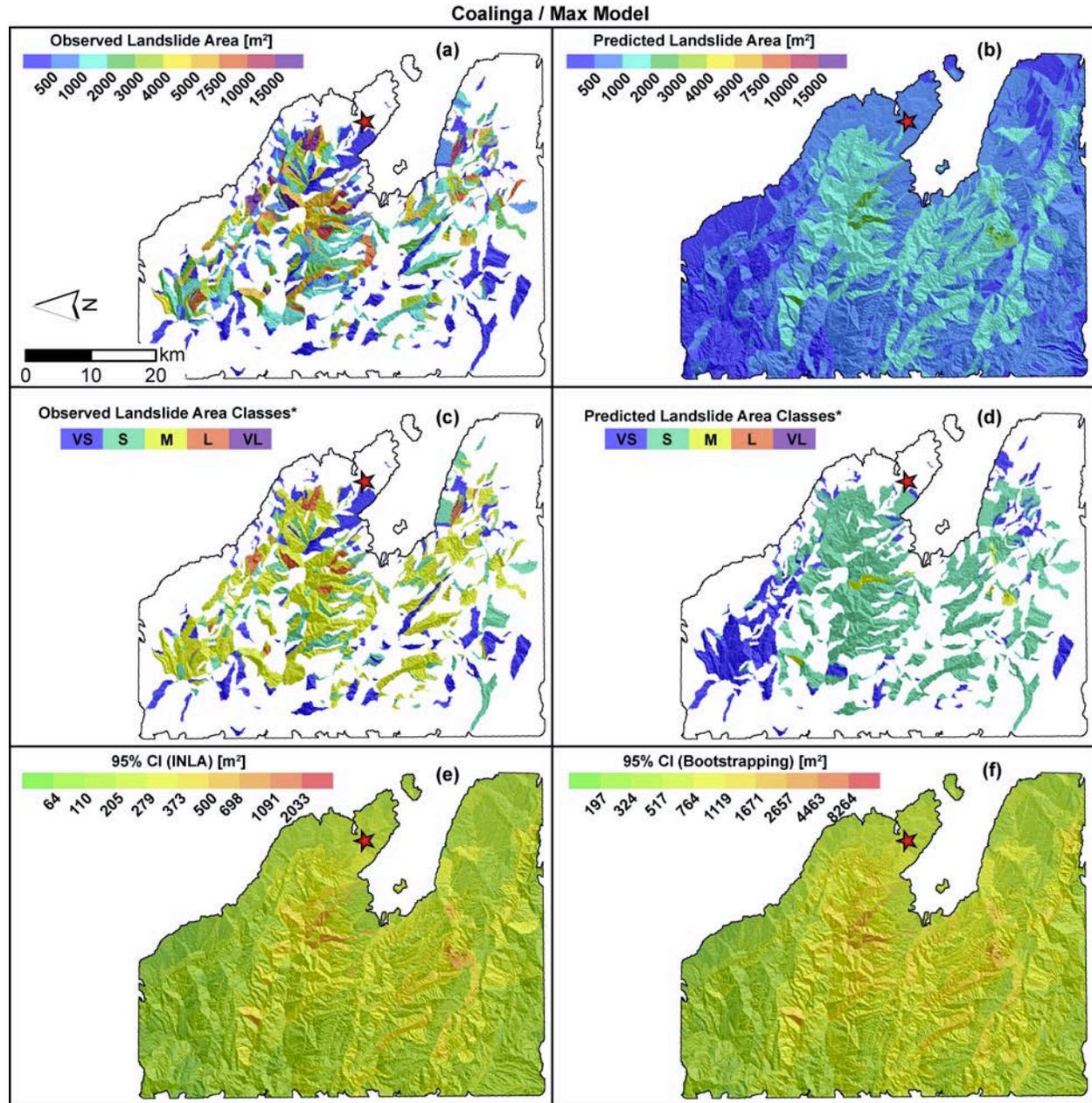


Figure SM1: Coalinga Max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

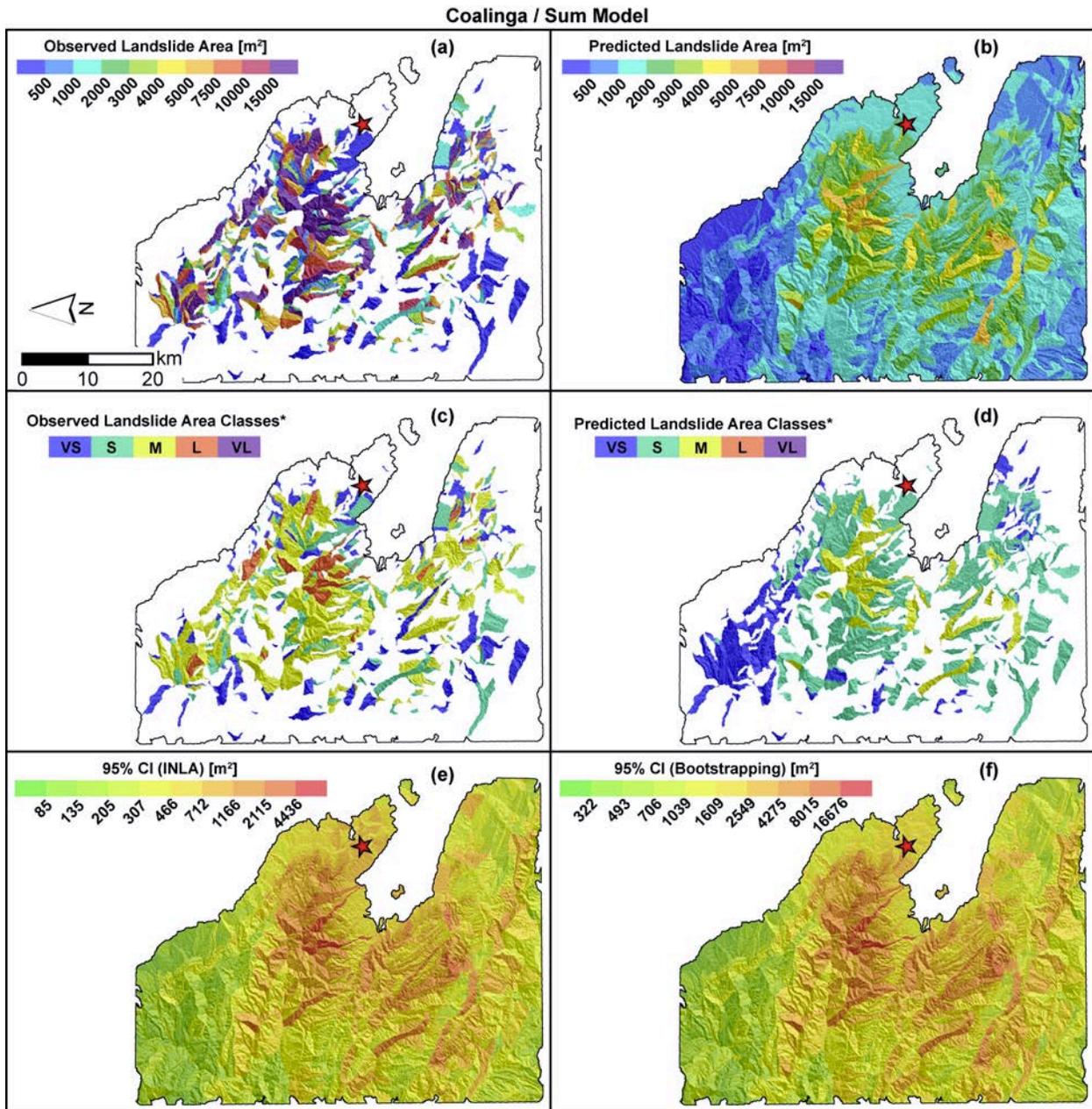


Figure SM2: Coalinga Sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Denali / Max Model

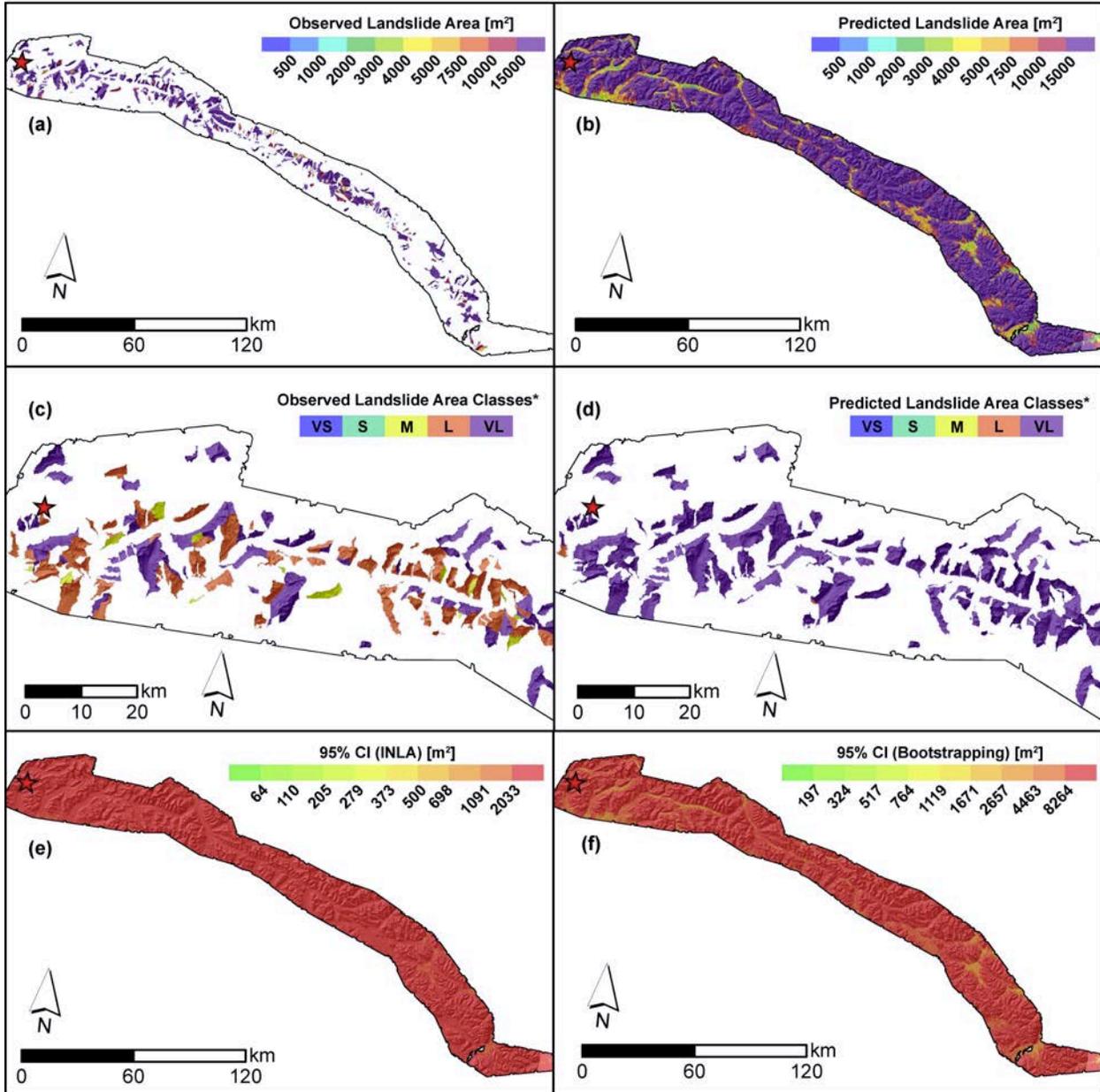


Figure SM3: Denali max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

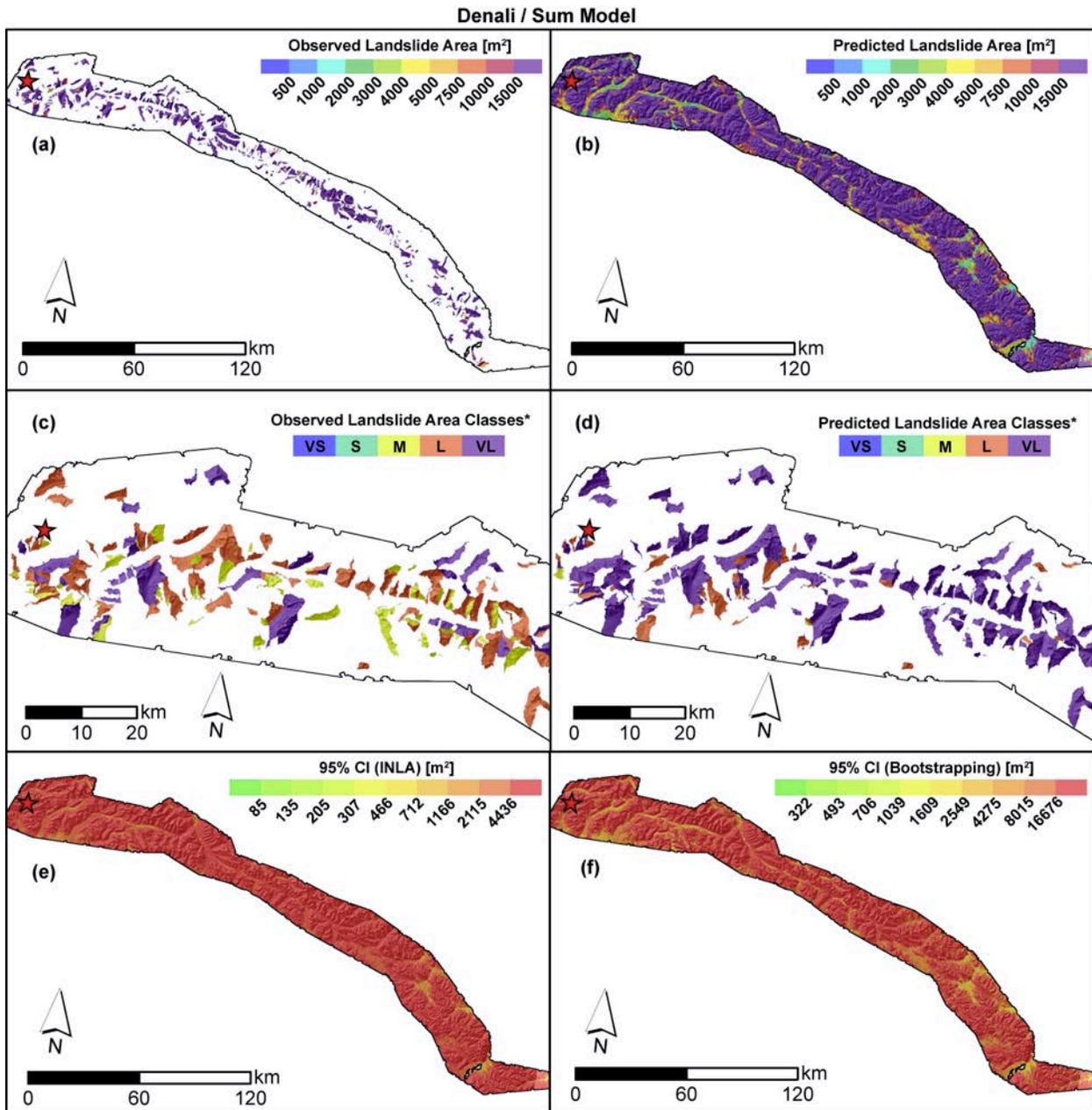


Figure SM4: Denali sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Friuli / Max Model

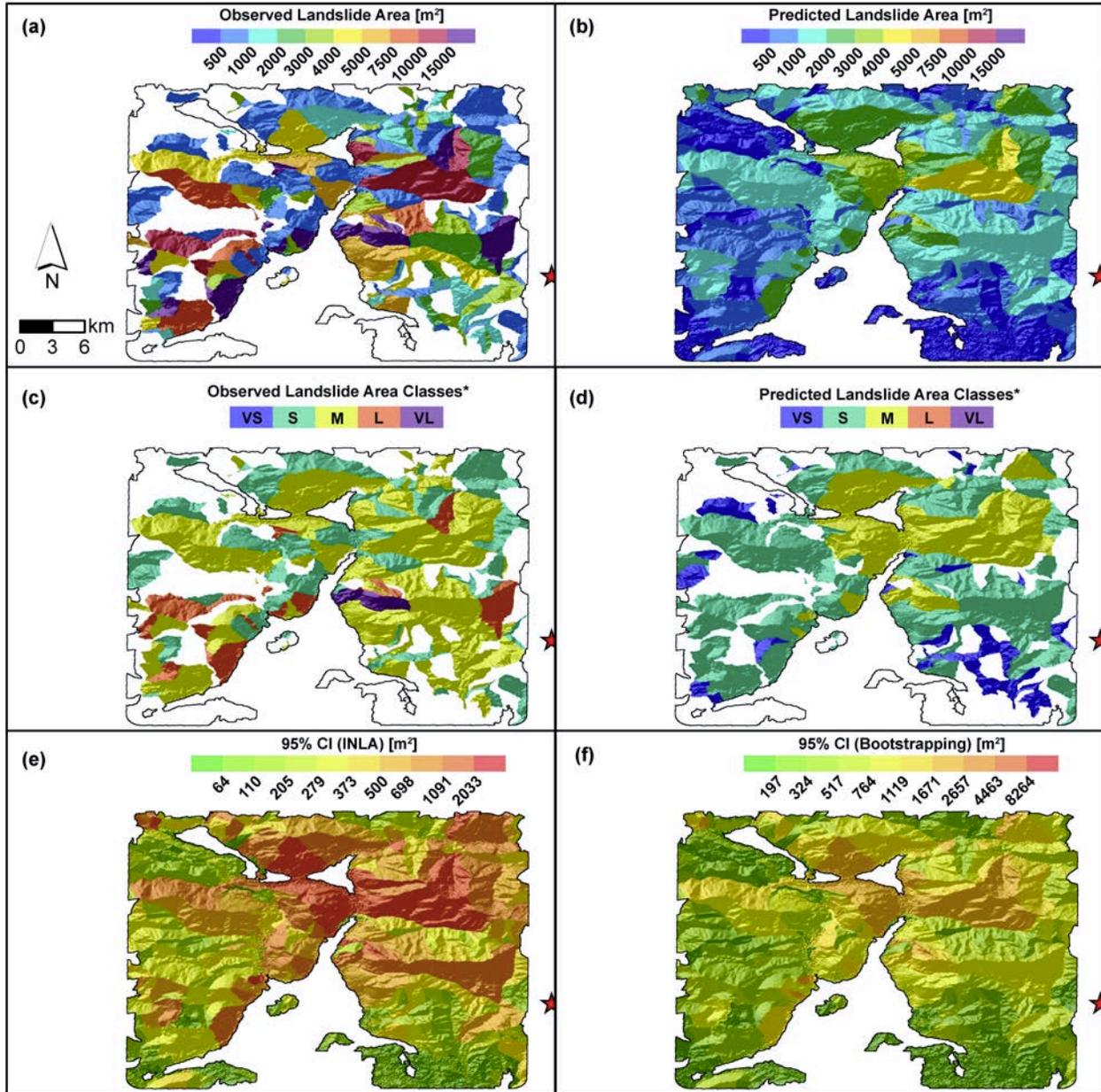


Figure SM5: Friuli max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Friuli / Sum Model

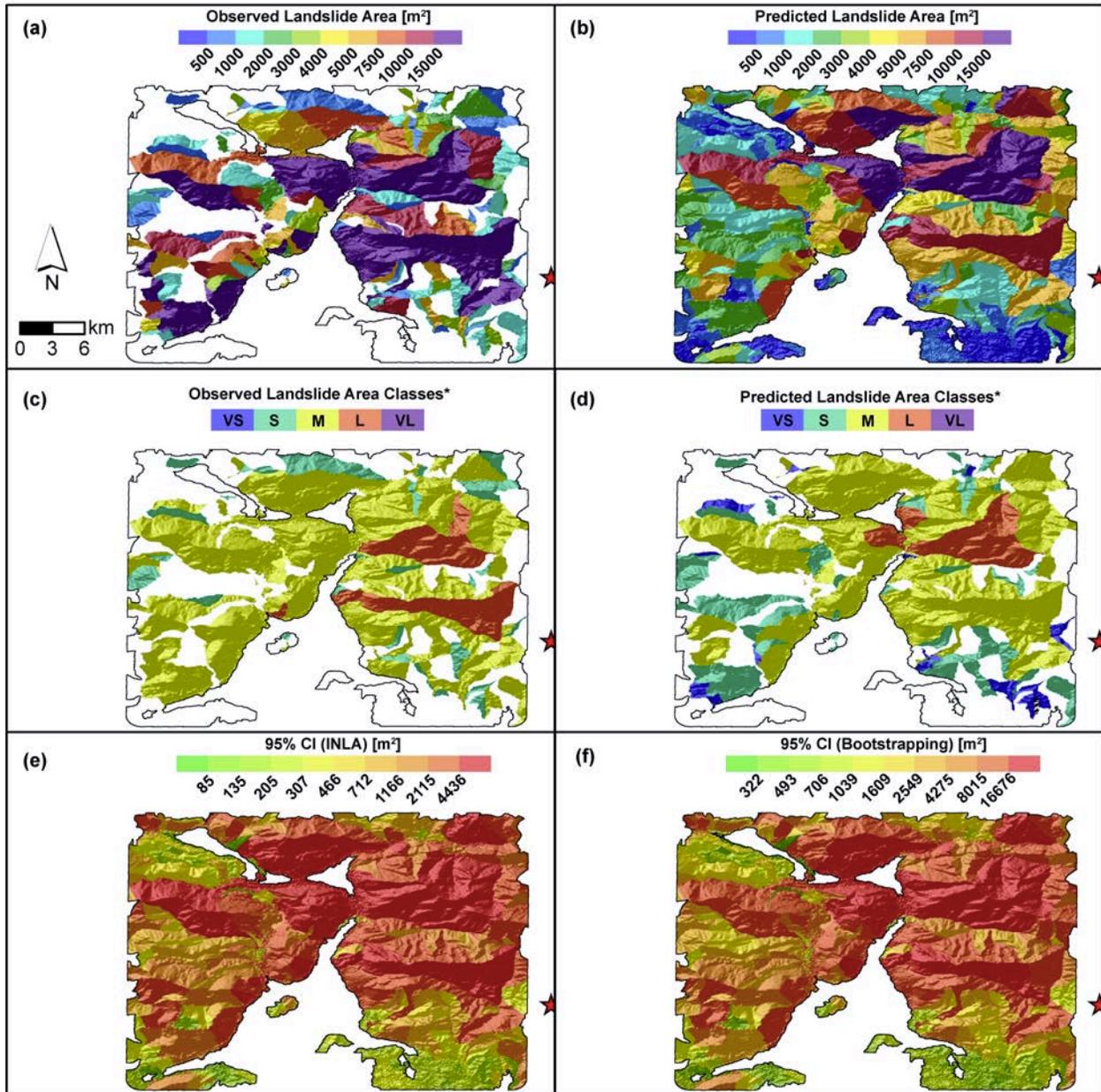


Figure SM6: Friuli sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

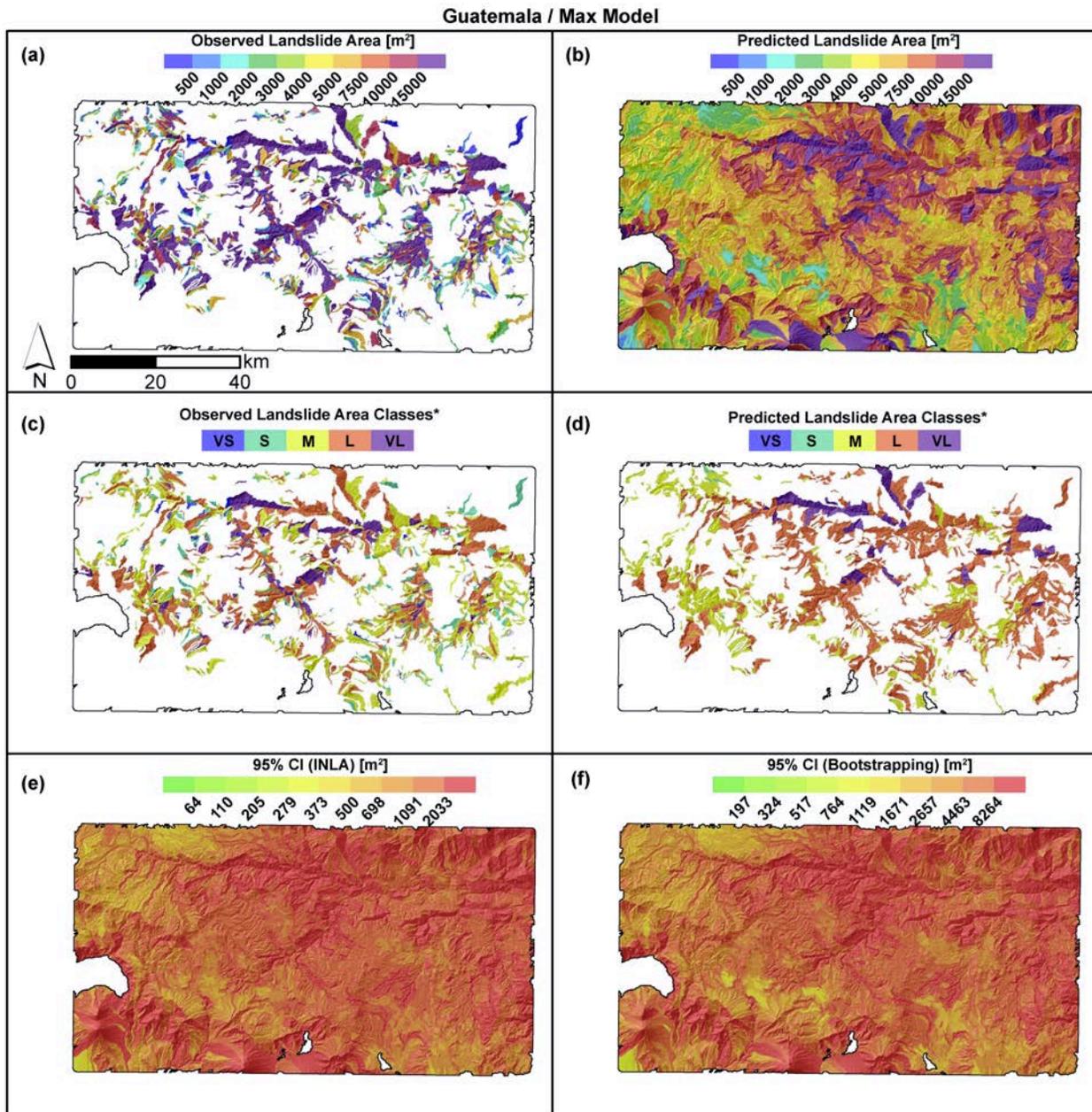


Figure SM7: Guatemala max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Guatemala / Sum Model

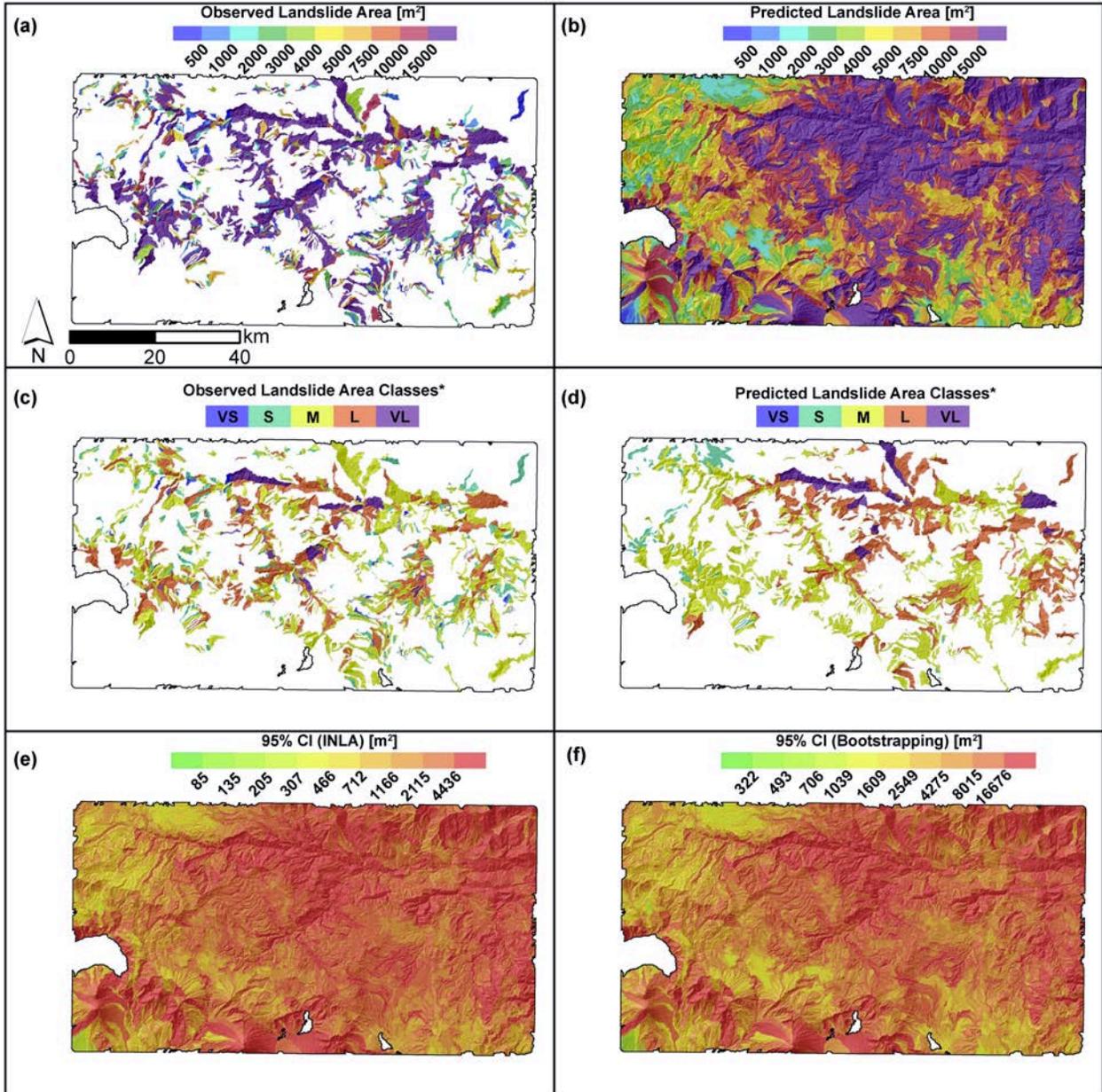


Figure SM8: Guatemala sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Iwate Miyagi / Max Model

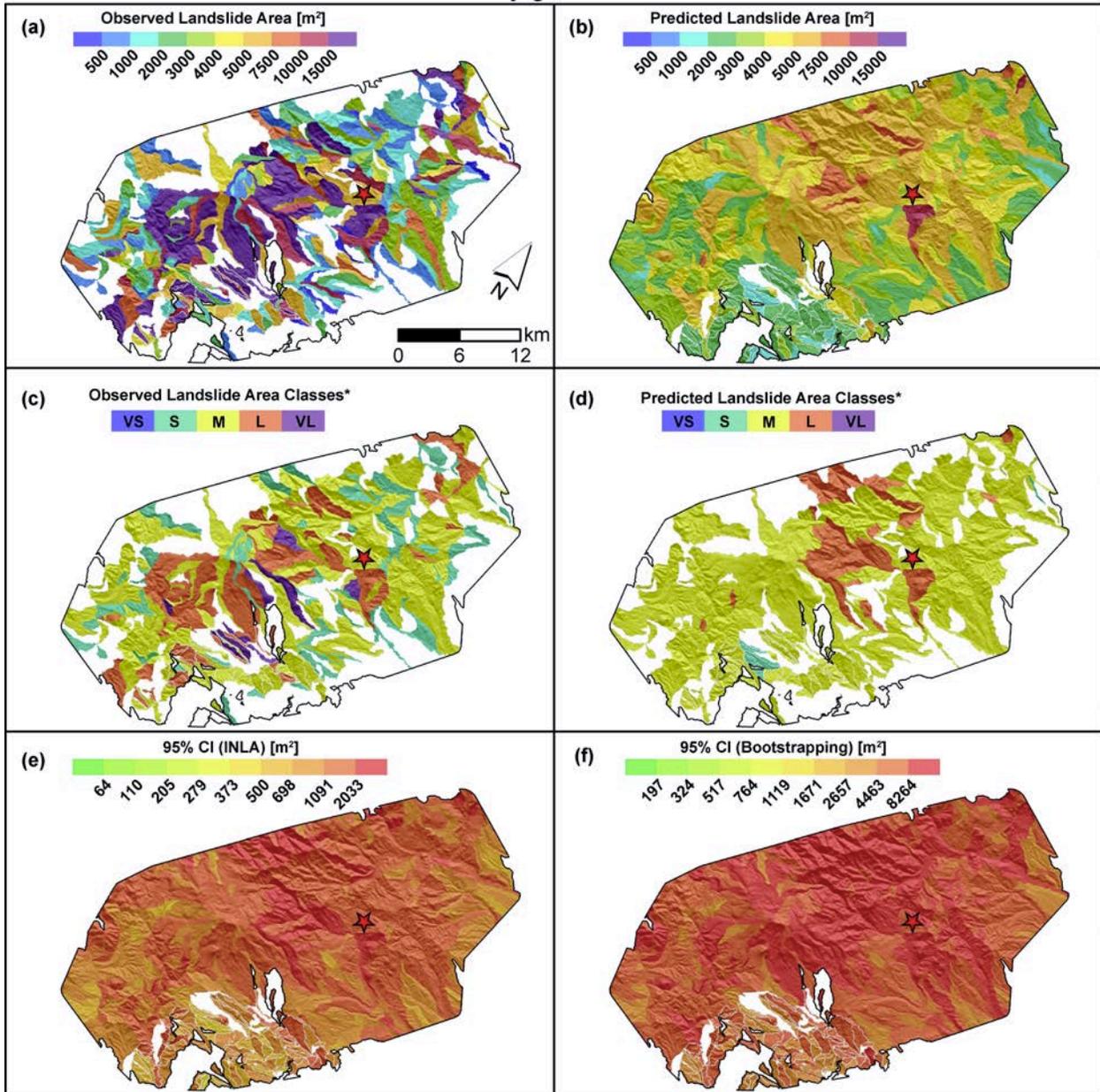


Figure SM9: Iwate Miyagi max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Iwate Miyagi / Sum Model

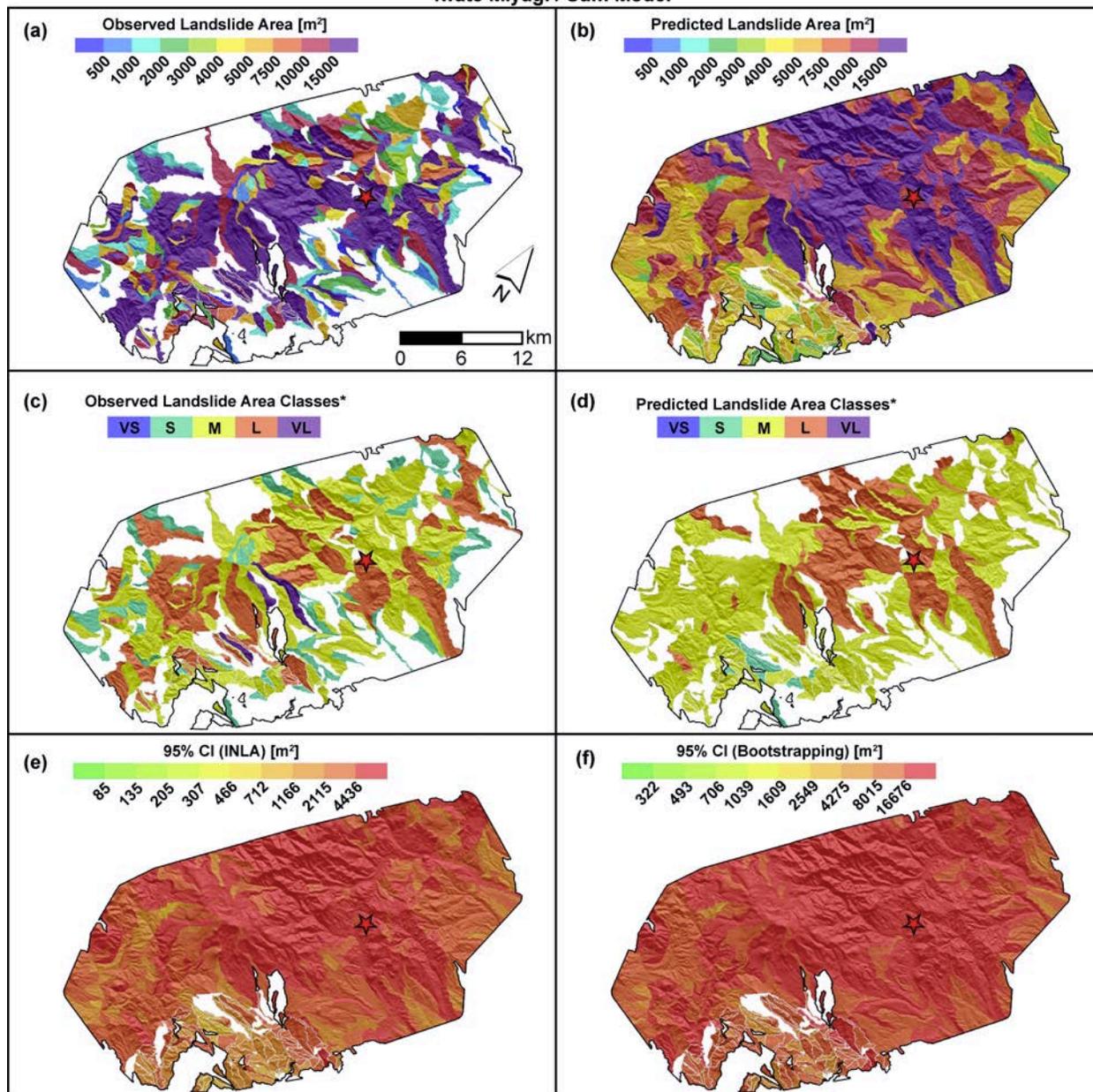


Figure SM10: Iwate Miyagi sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

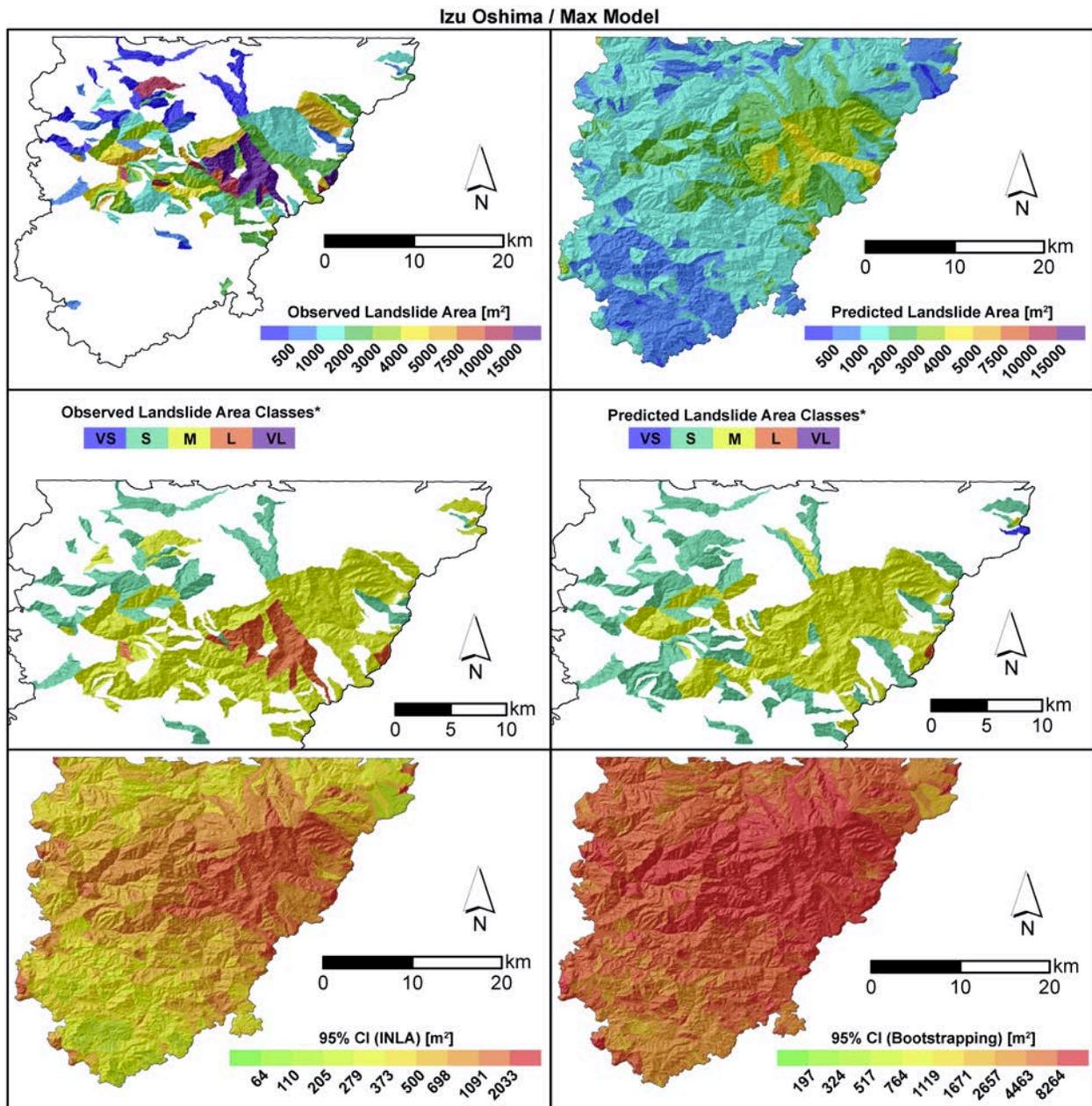


Figure SM11: Izu Oshima max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

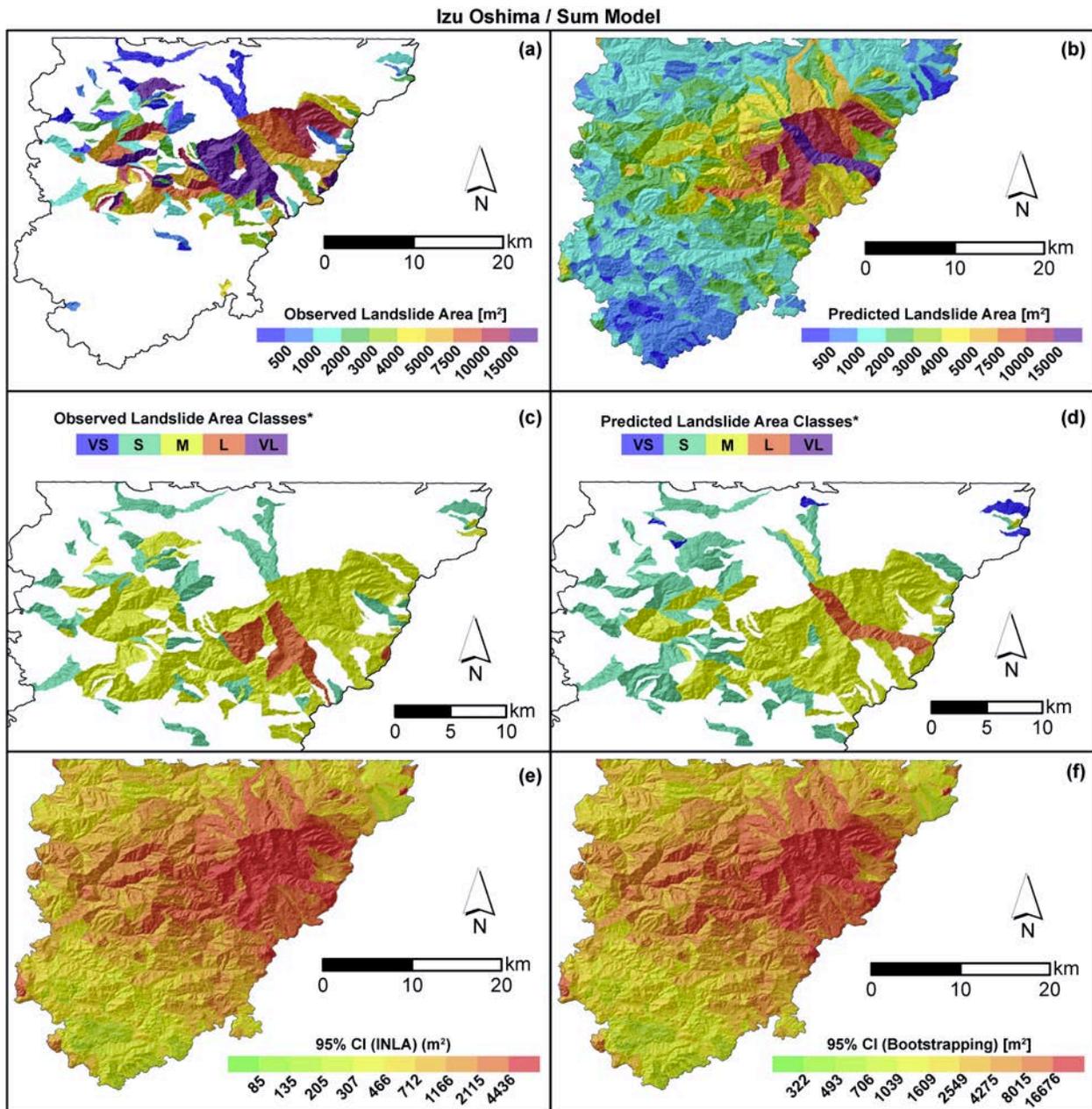


Figure SM12: Izu Oshima sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

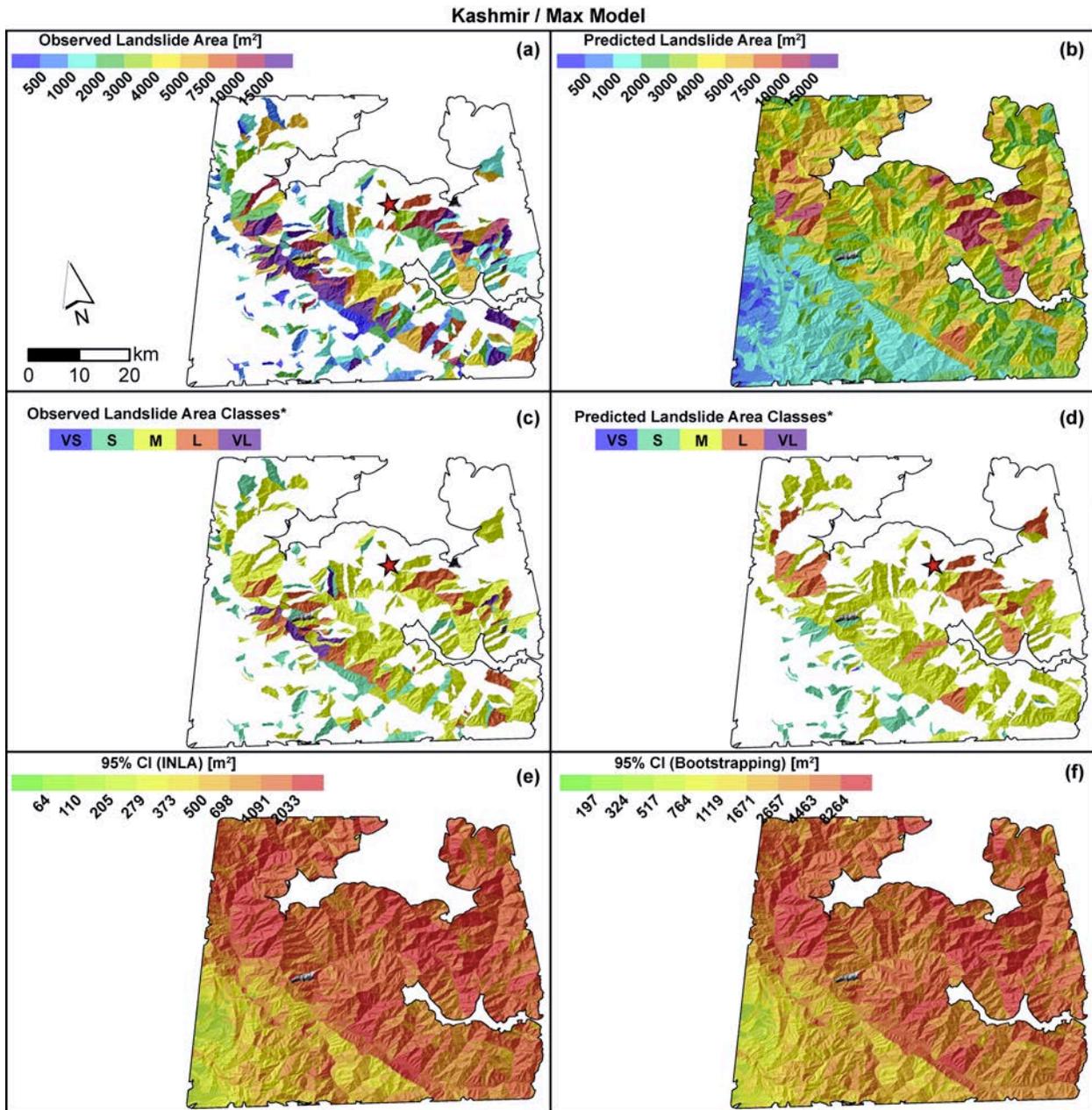


Figure SM13: Kashmir max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

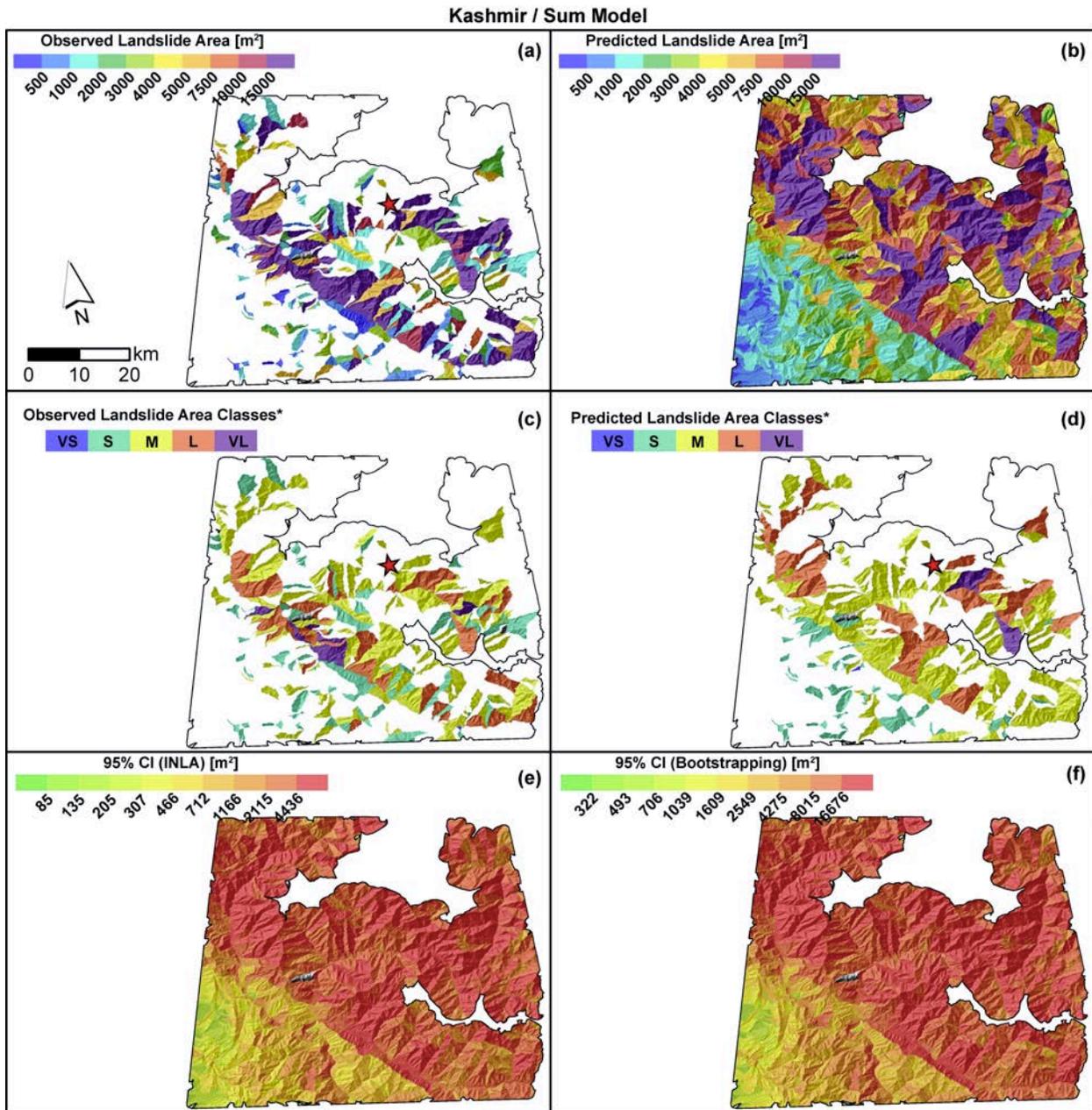


Figure SM14: Kashmir sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Kiholo Bay / Max Model

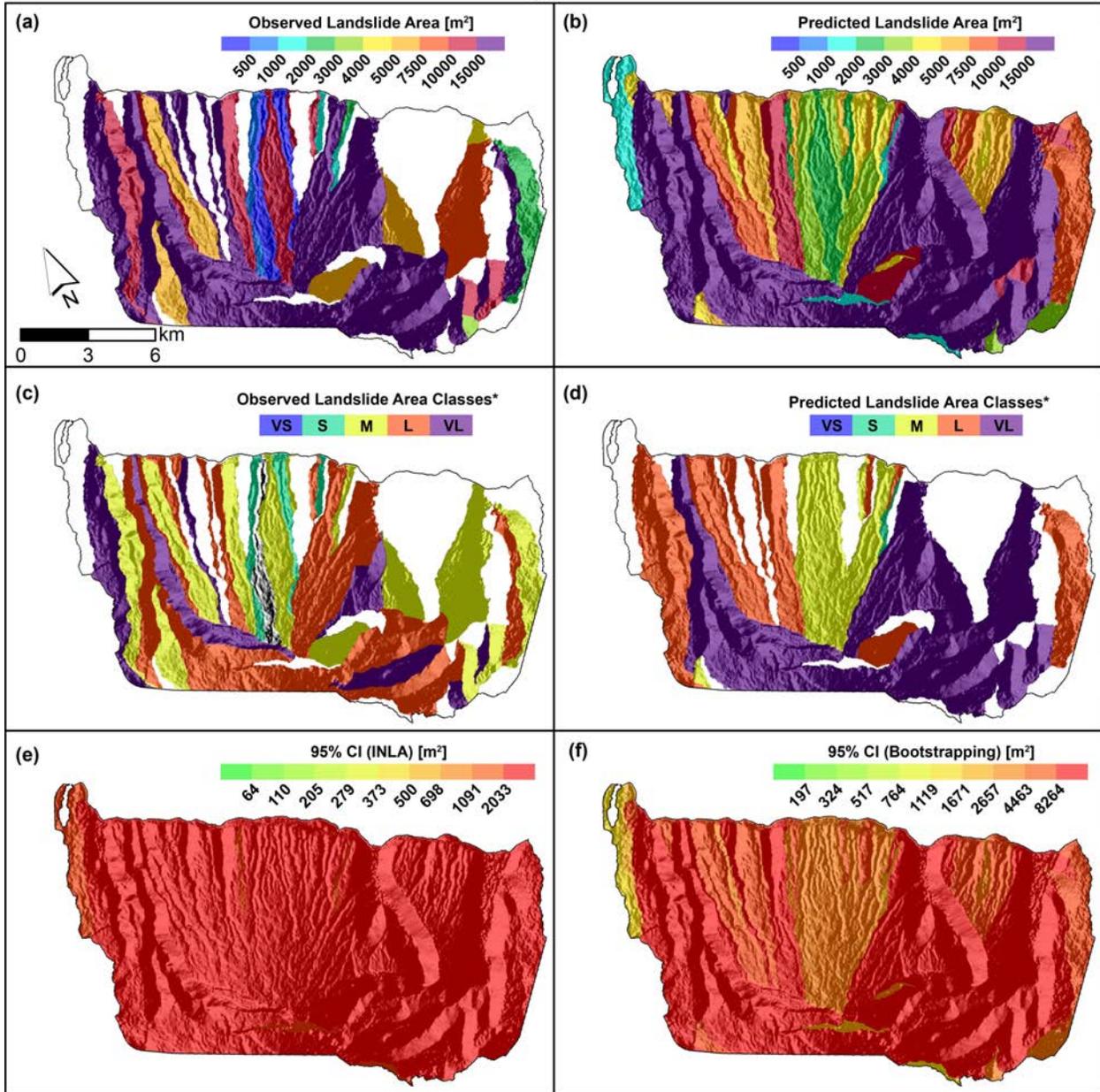


Figure SM15: Kiholo Bay max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Kiholo Bay / Sum Model

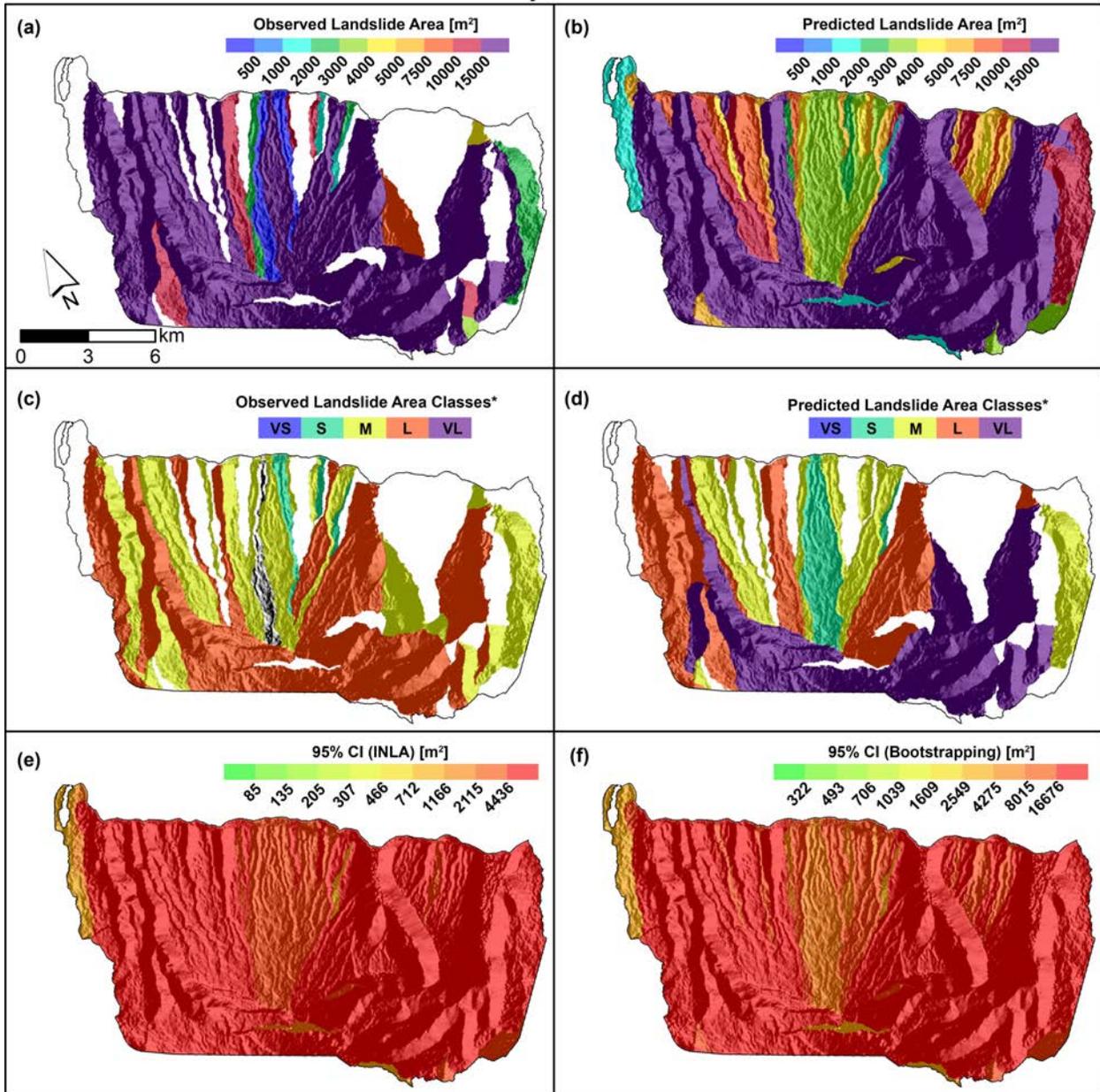


Figure SM16: Kiholo Bay sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

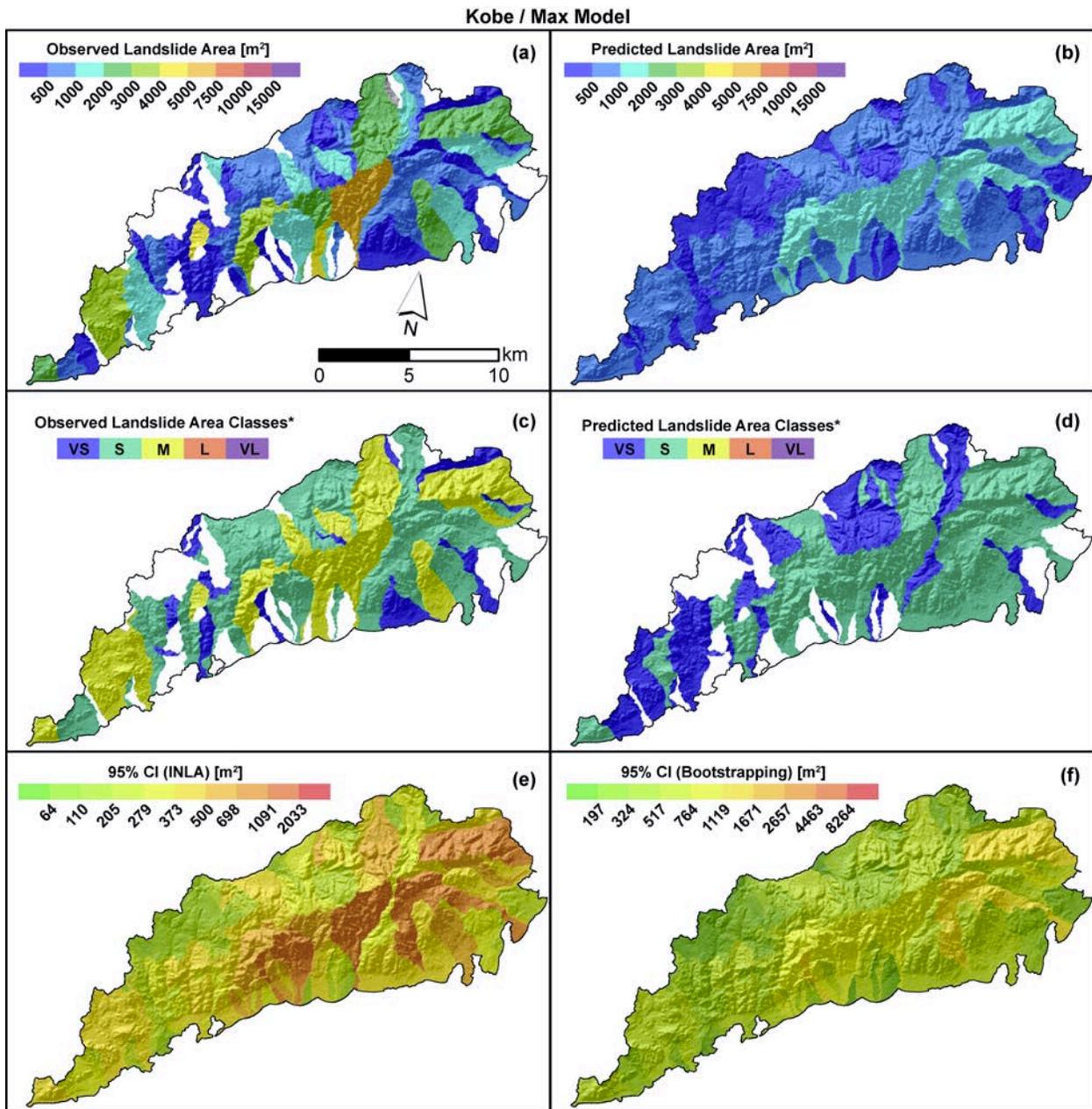


Figure SM17: Kobe max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Kobe / Sum Model

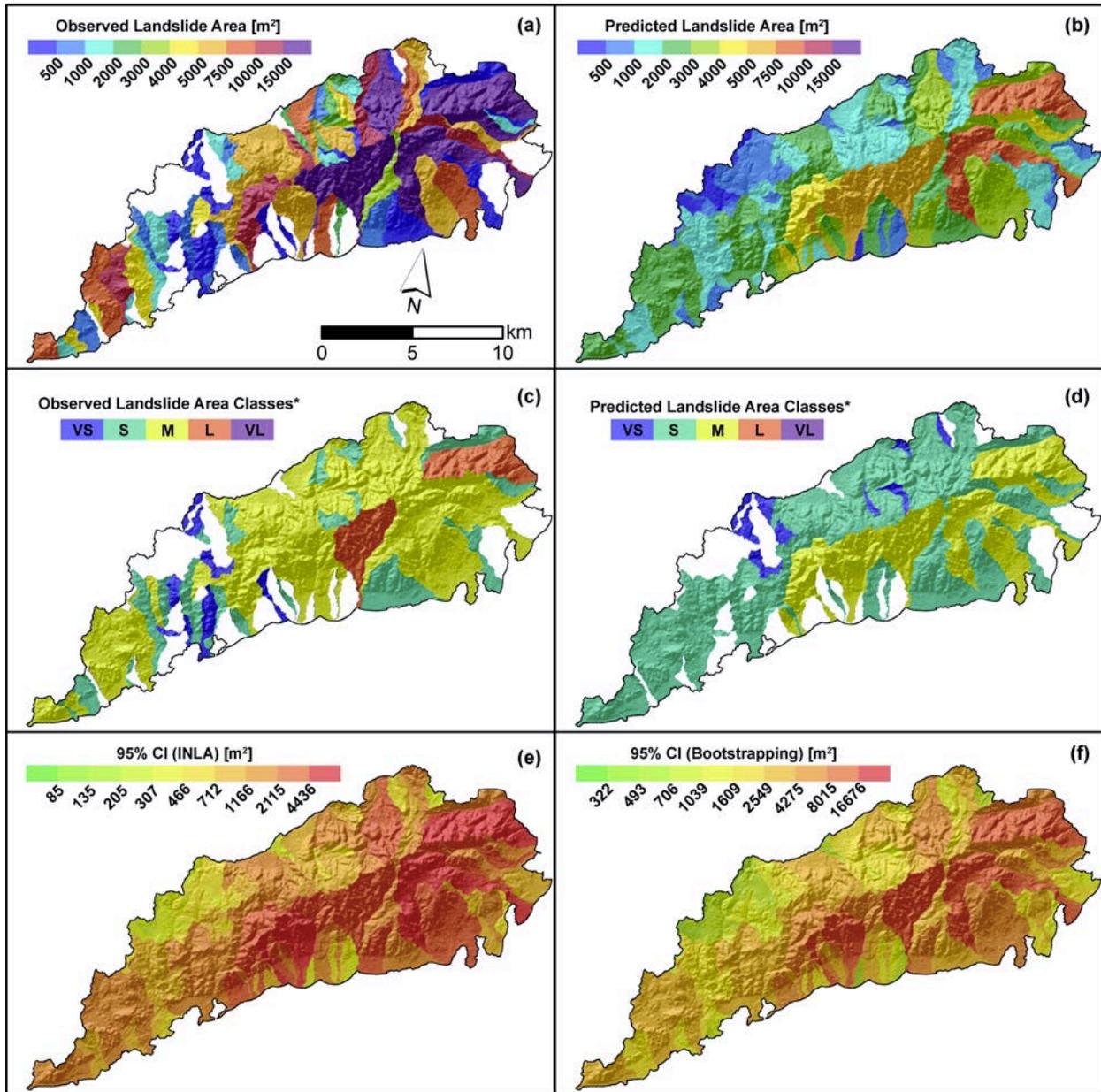


Figure SM18: Kobe sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

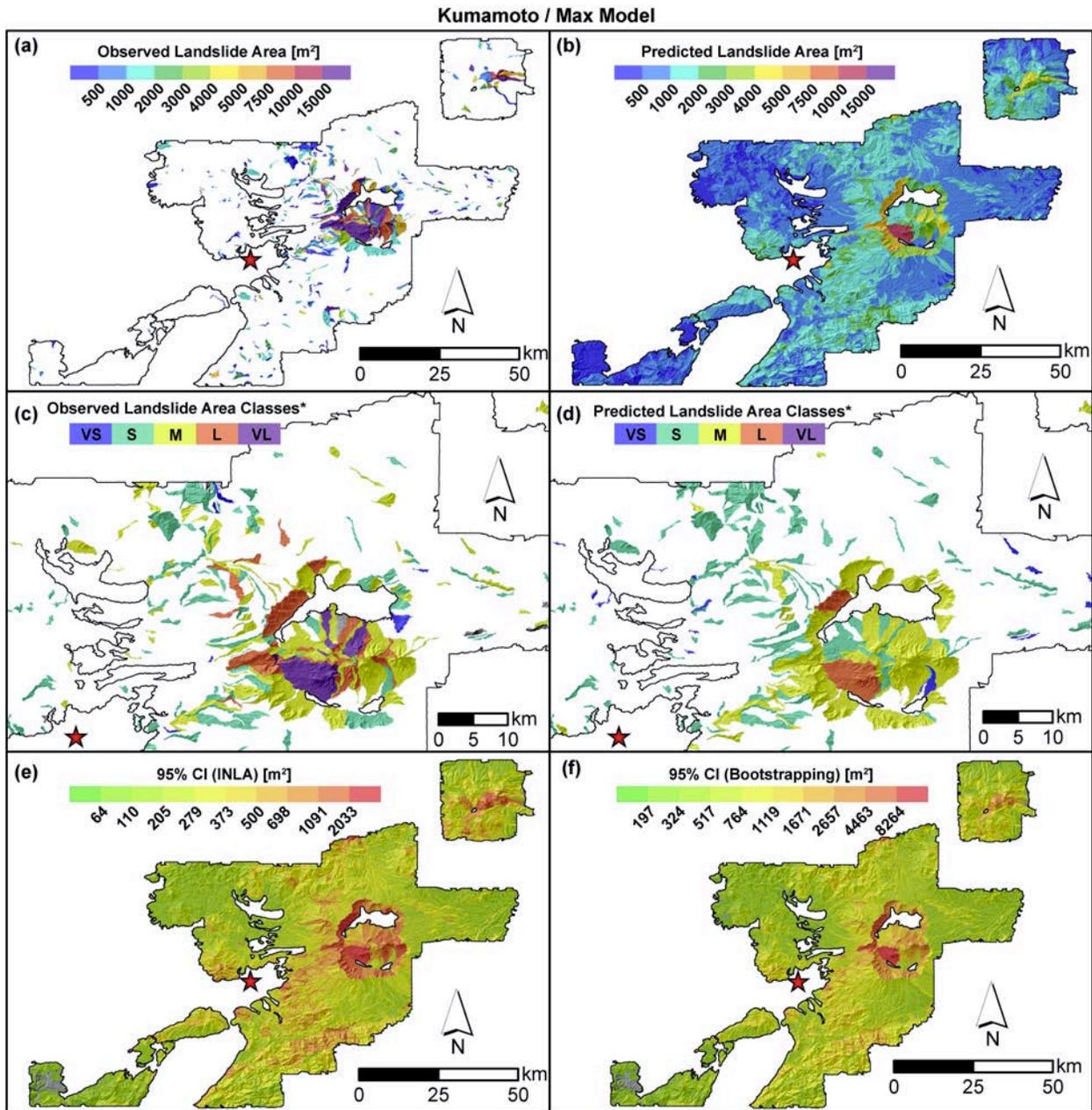


Figure SM19: Kumamoto max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

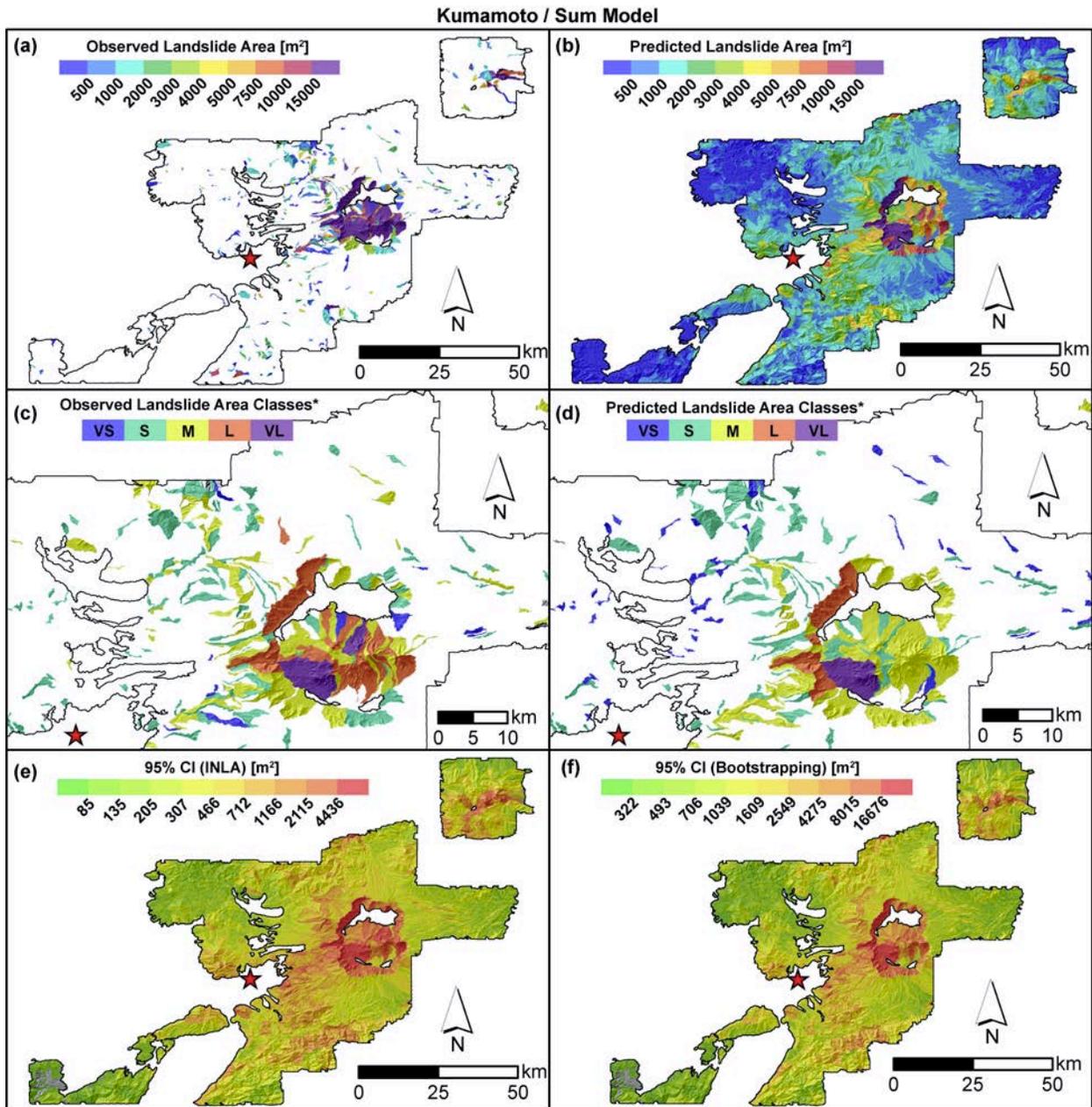


Figure SM20: Kumamoto sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

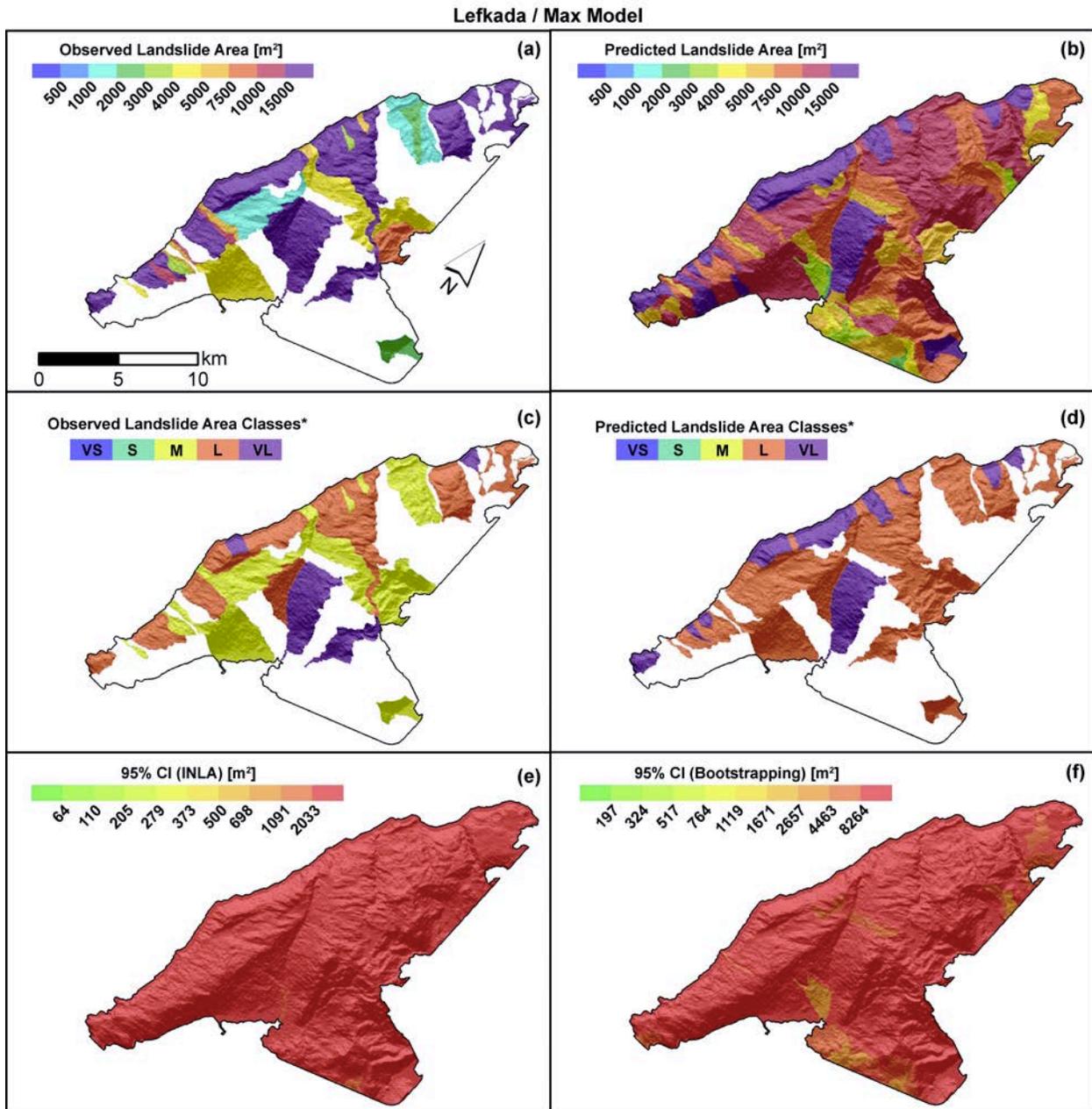


Figure SM21: Lefkada max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

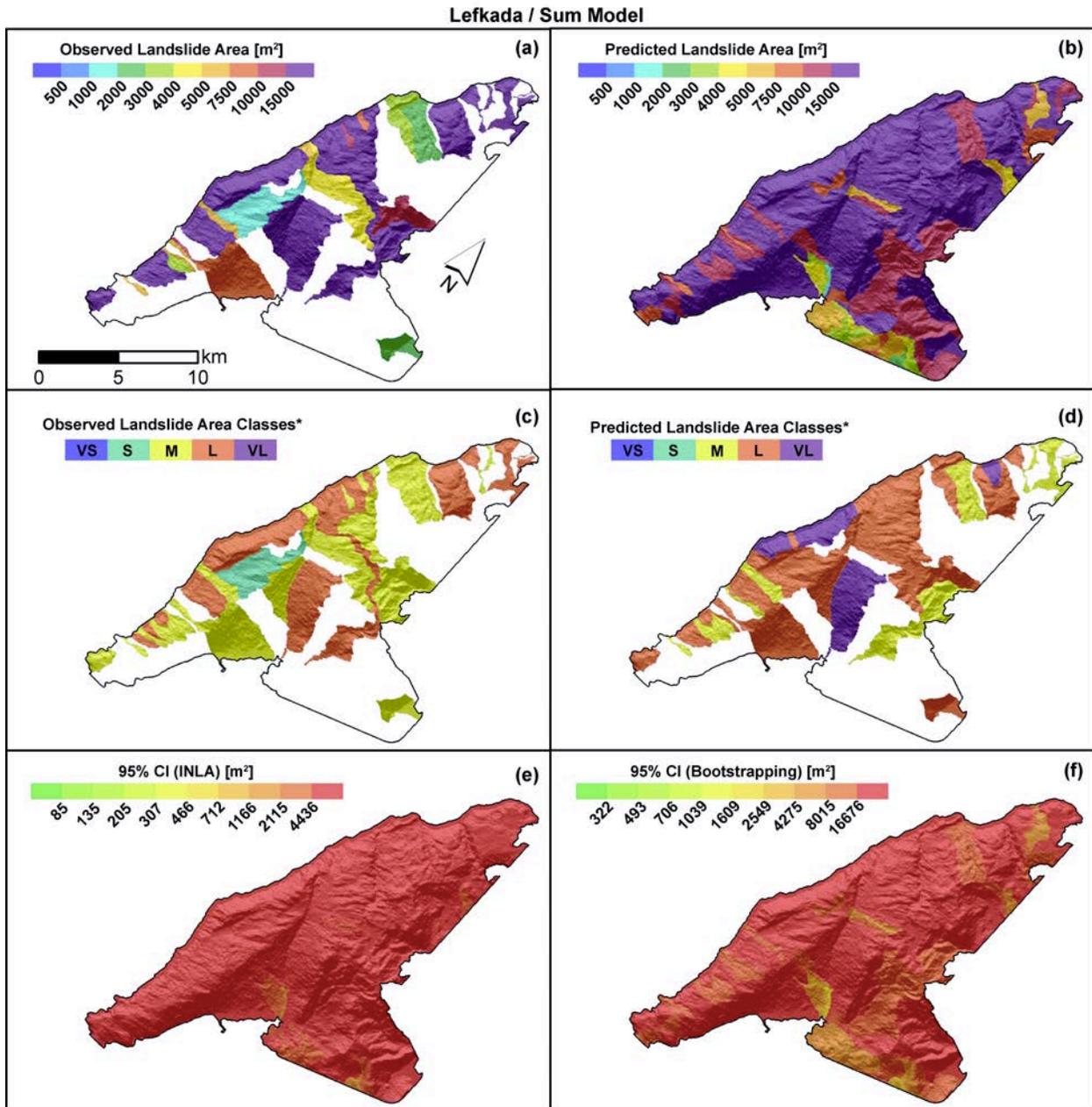


Figure SM22: Lefkada sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

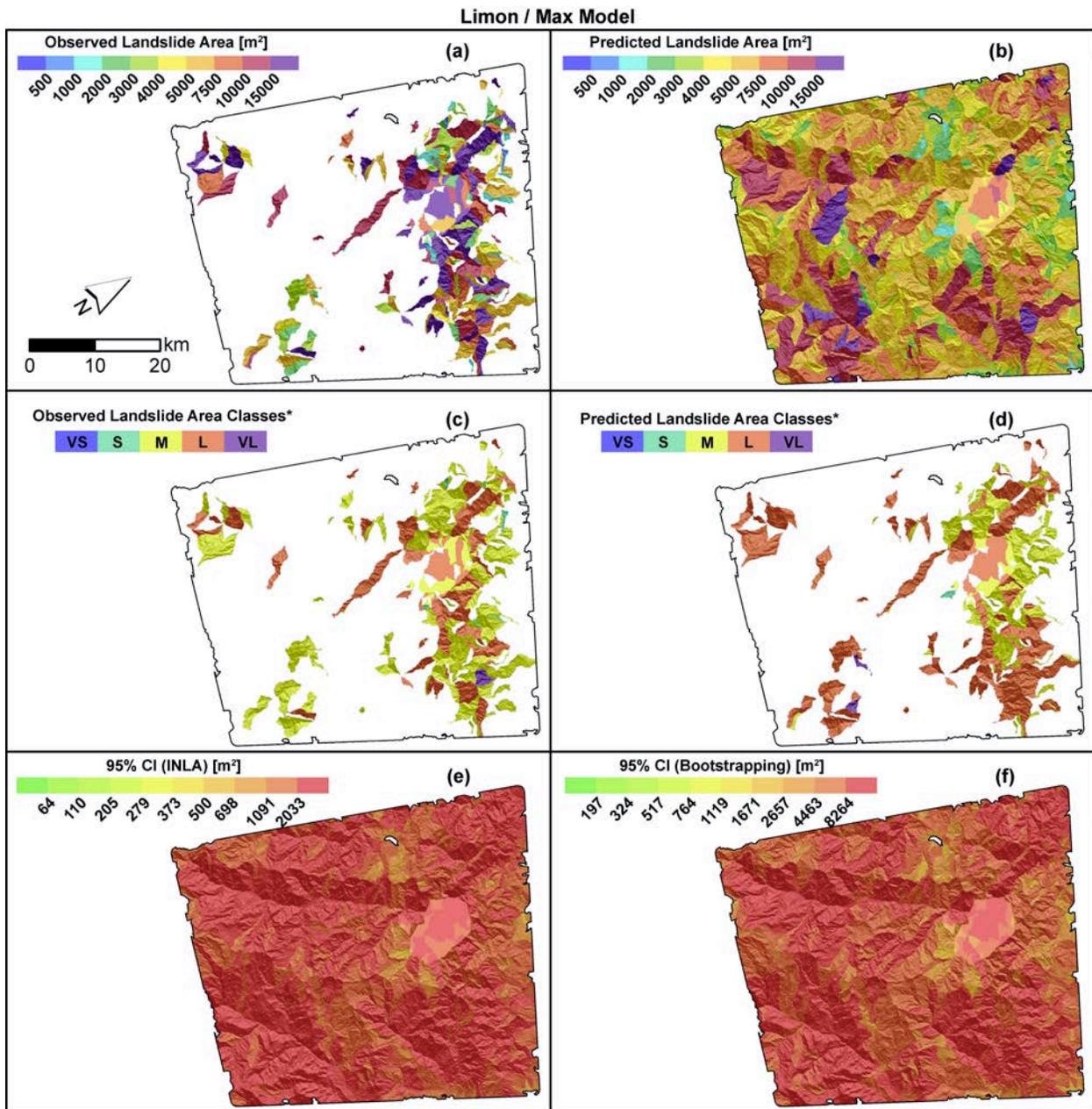


Figure SM23: Limon max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

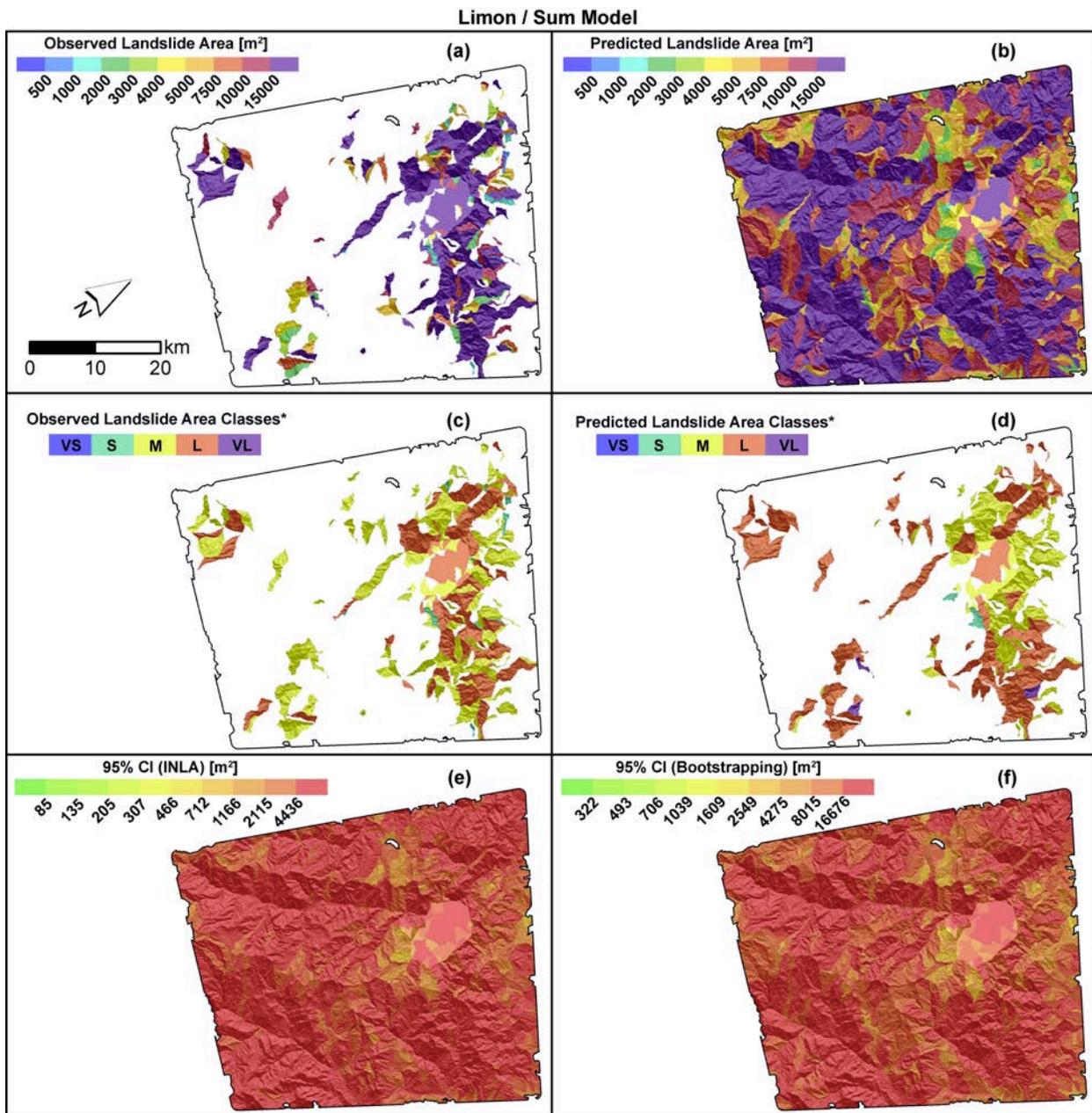


Figure SM24: Limon sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Loma Prieta / Max Model

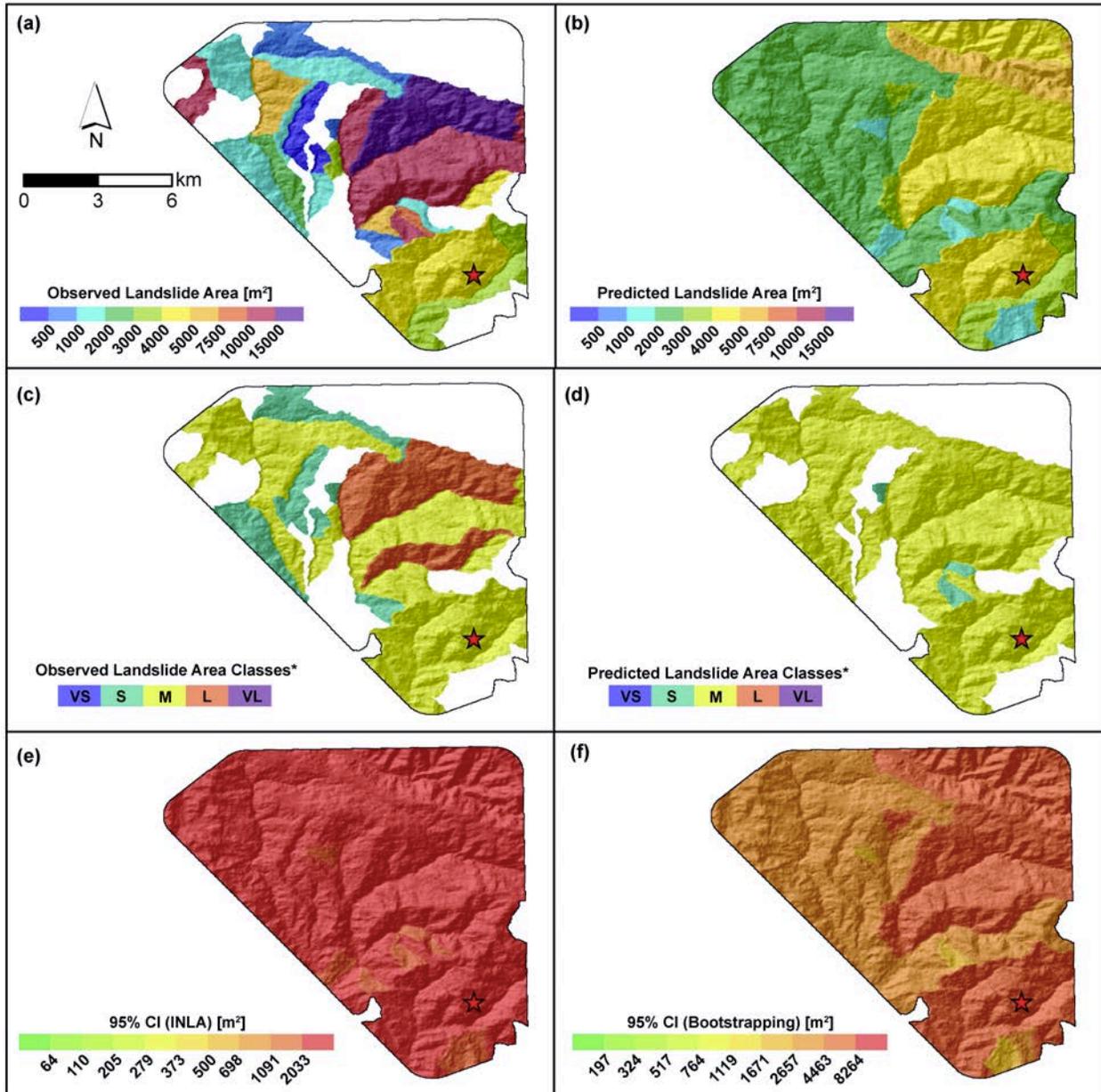


Figure SM25: Loma Prieta max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (d) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (e) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Loma Prieta / Sum Model

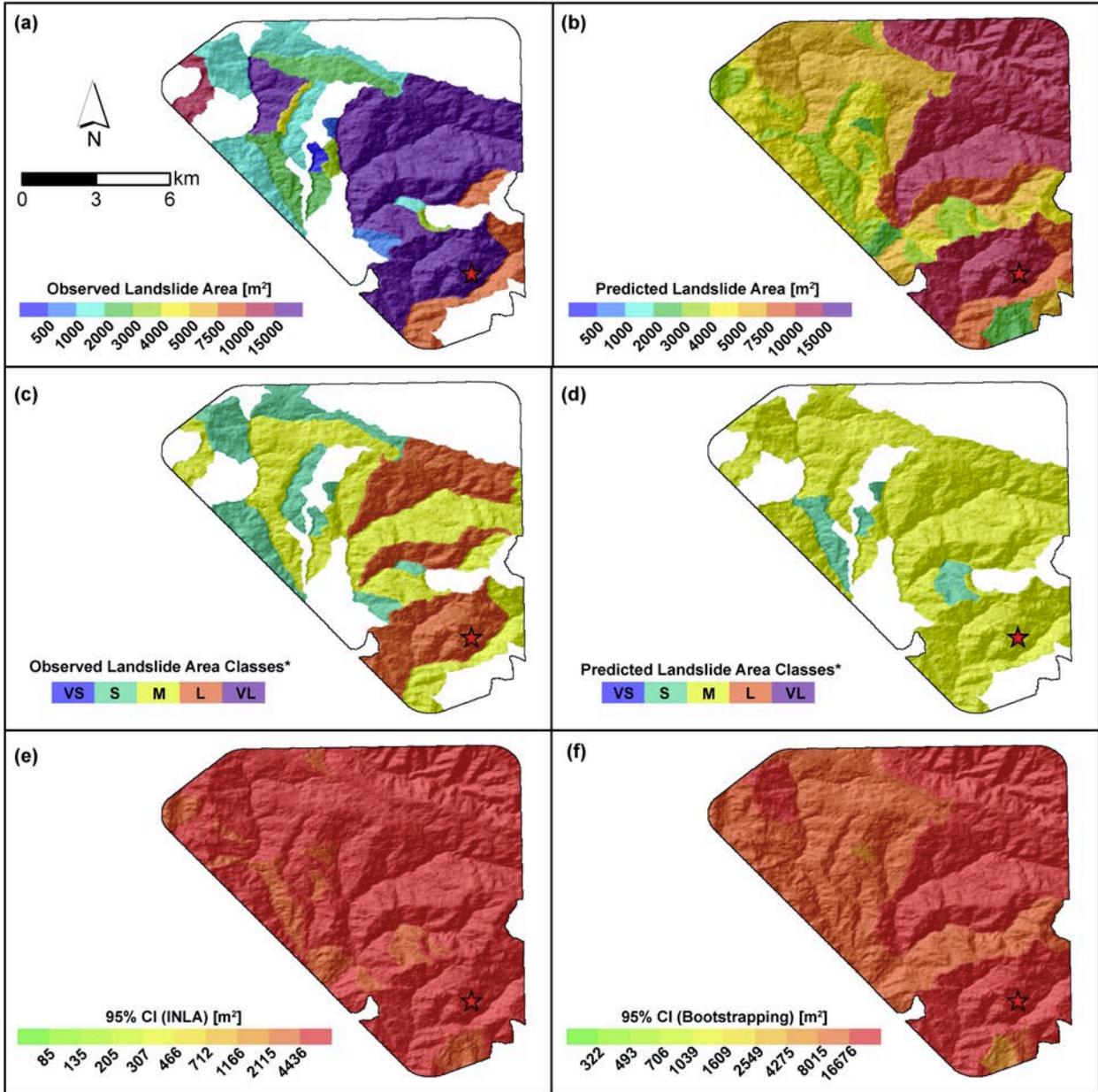


Figure SM26: Loma Prieta sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Ludian / Max Model

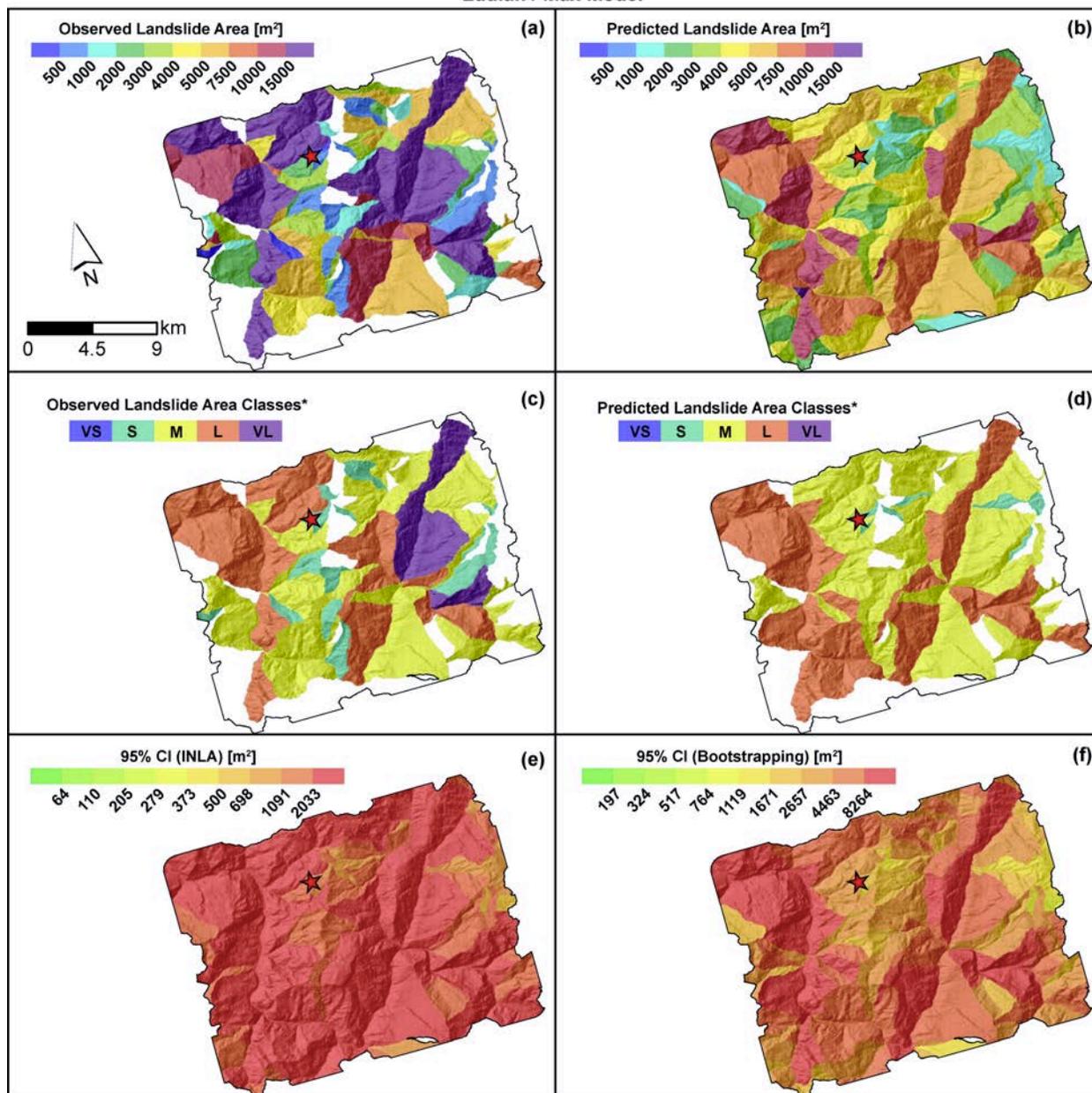


Figure SM27: Ludian max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

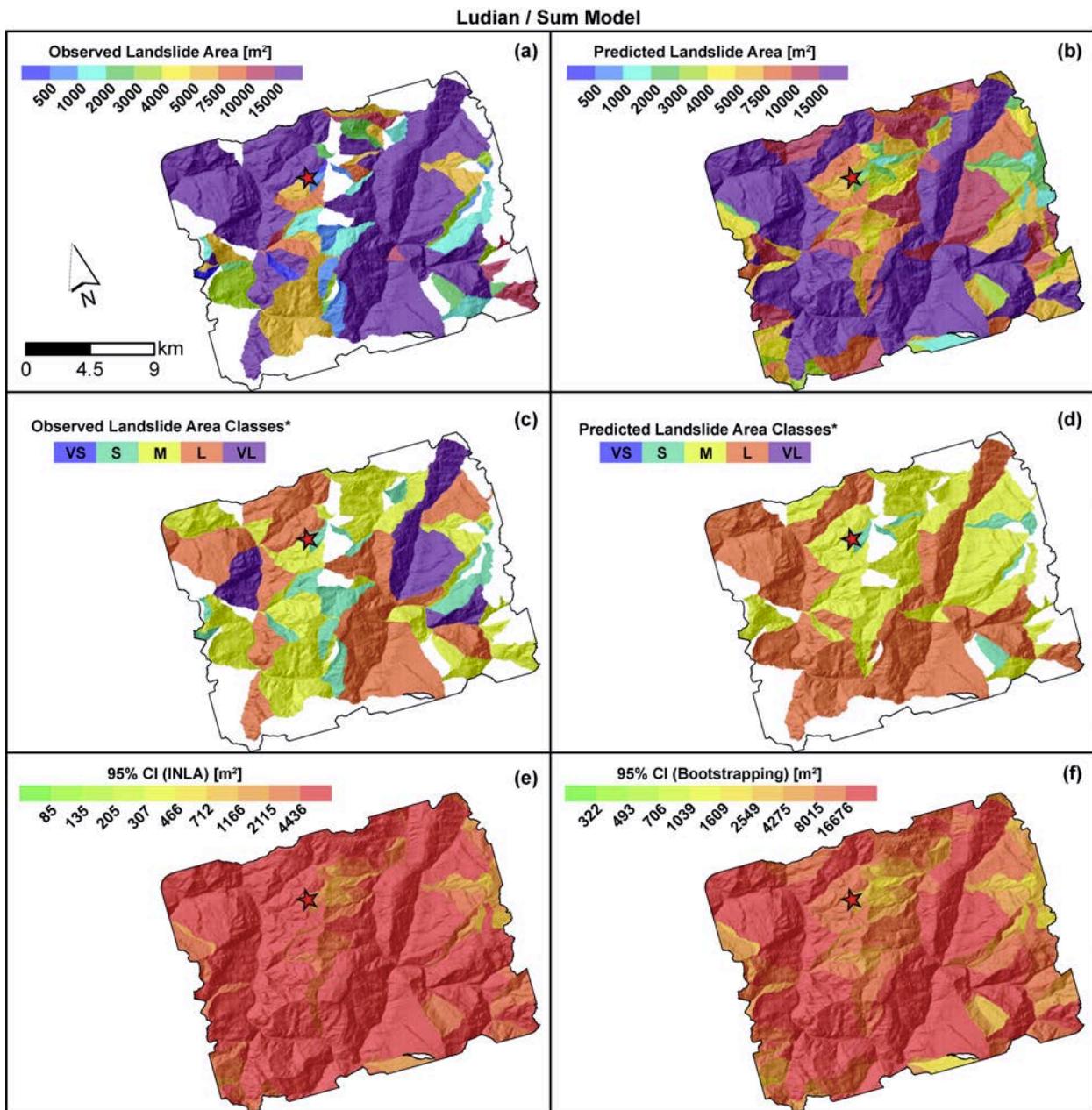


Figure SM28: Ludian sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Minxian / Max Model

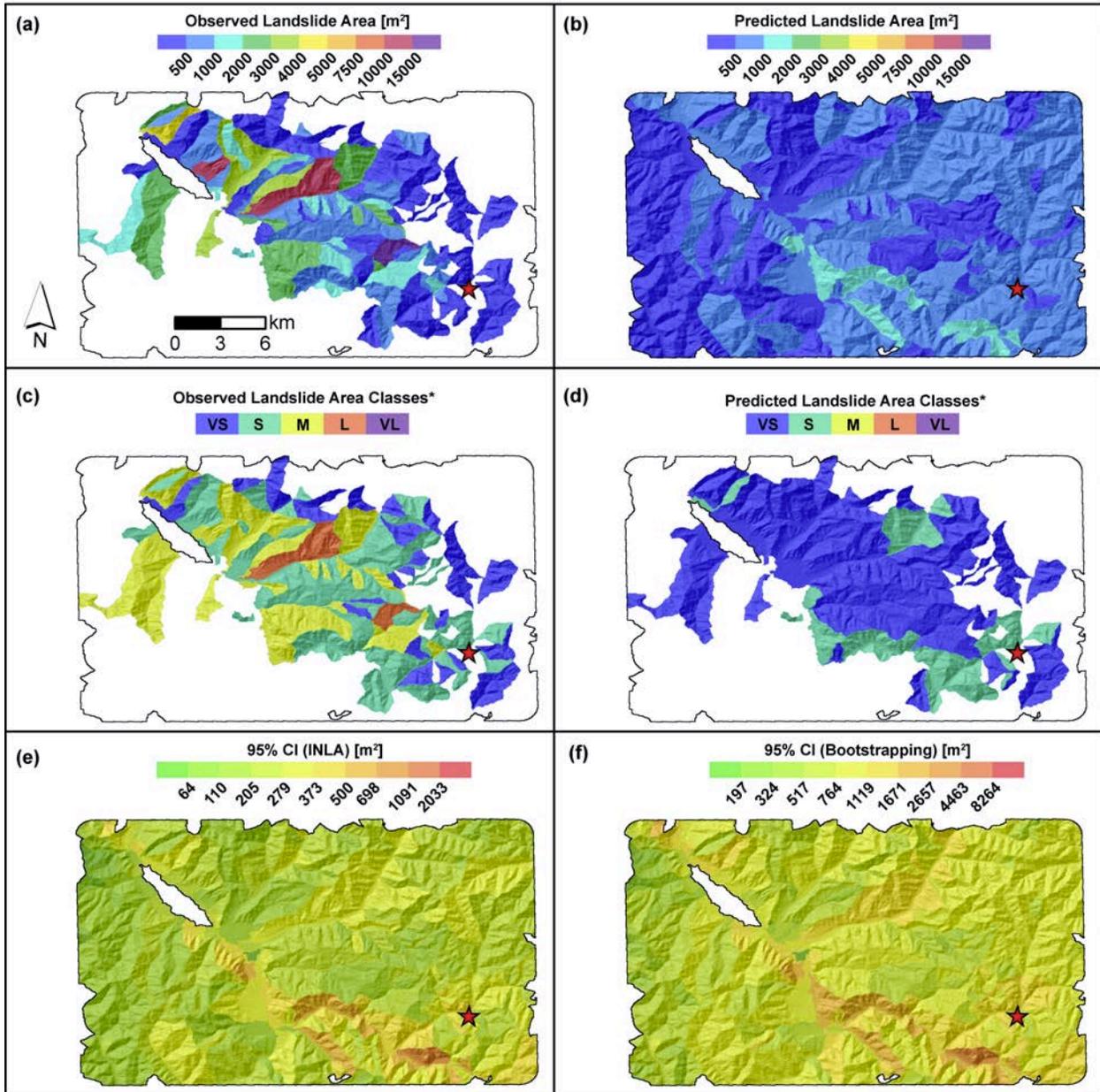


Figure SM29: Minxian max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Minxian / Sum Model

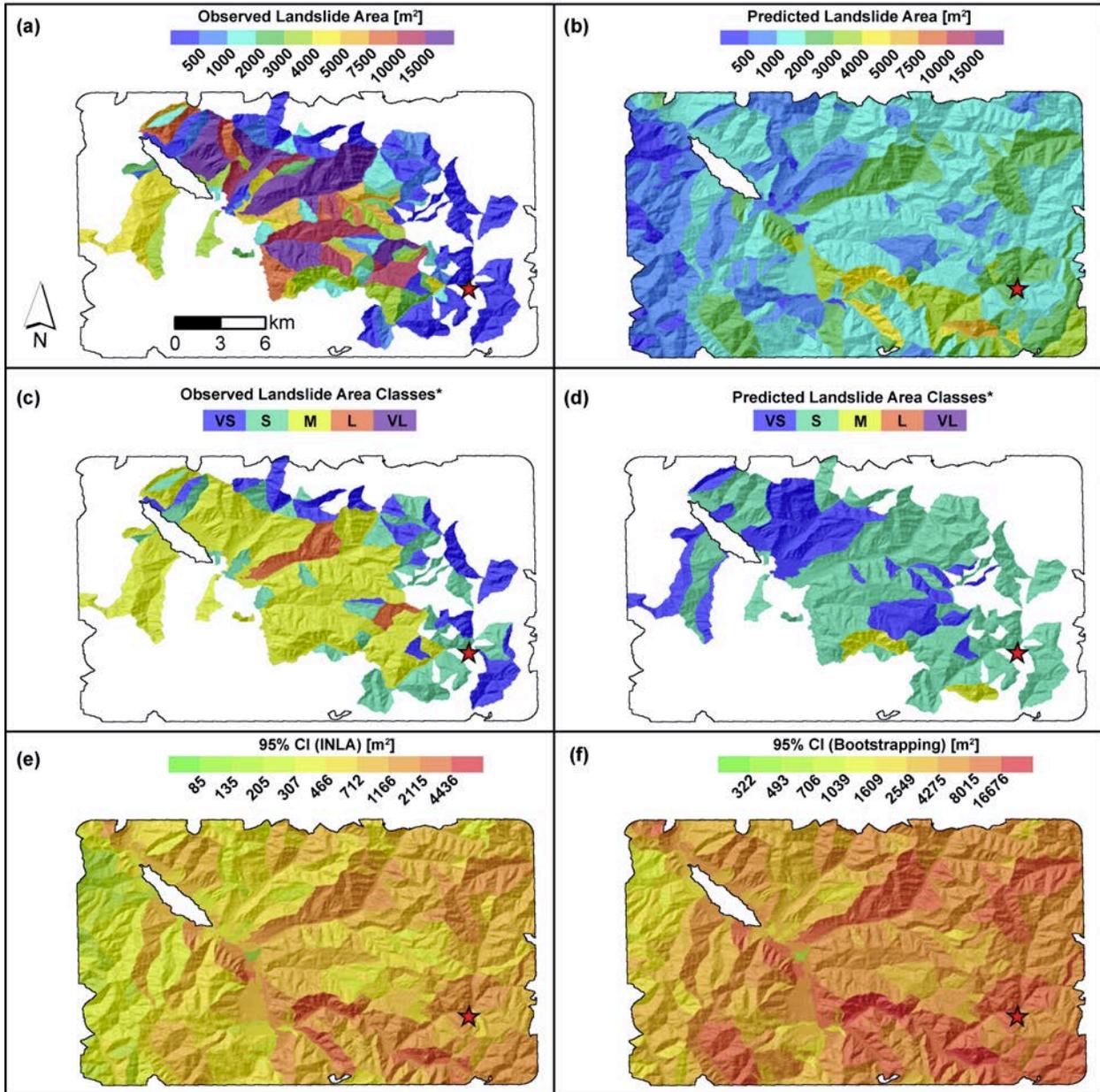


Figure SM30: Minxian sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Pisco / Max Model

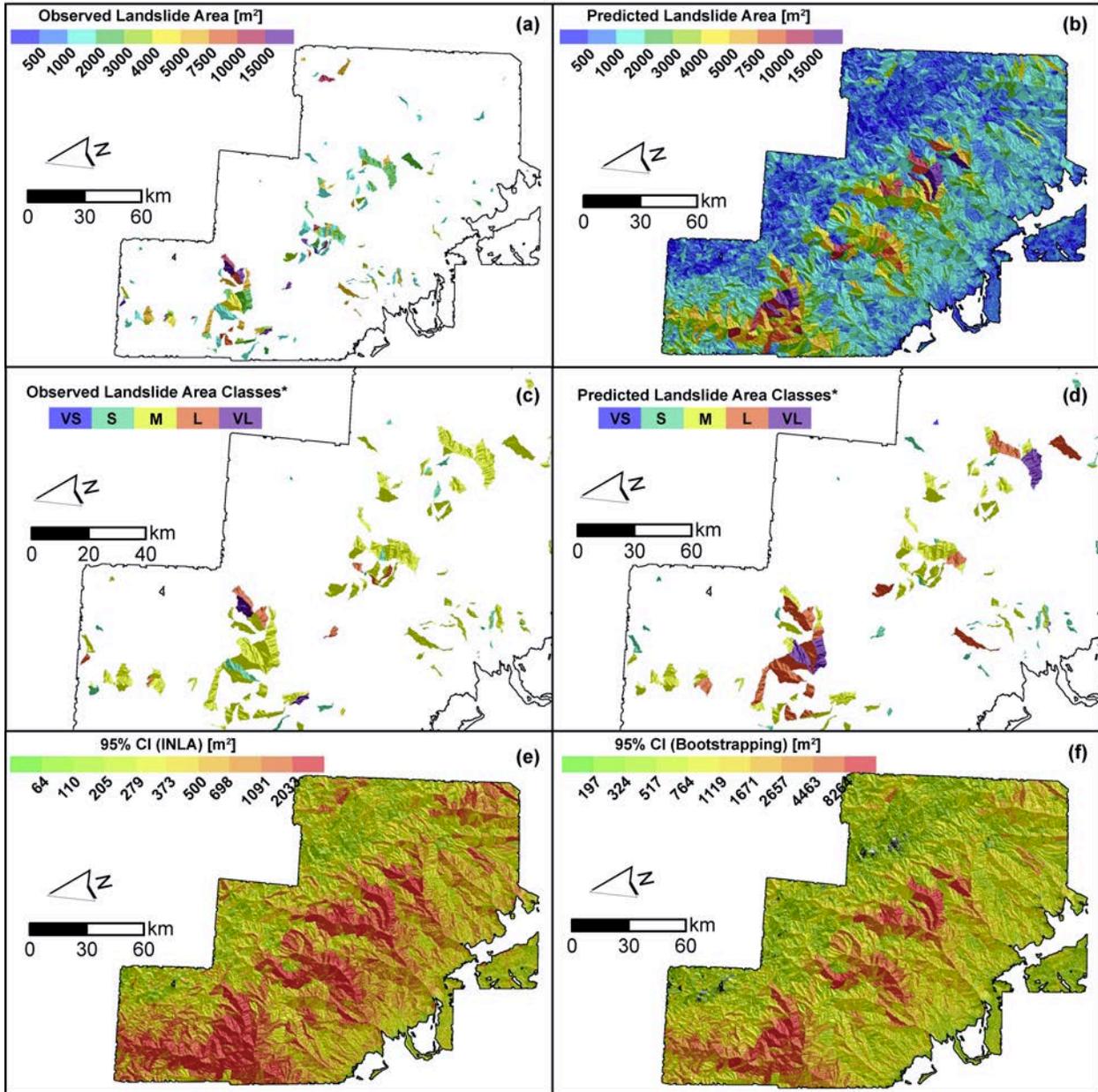


Figure SM31: Pisco max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Pisco / Sum Model

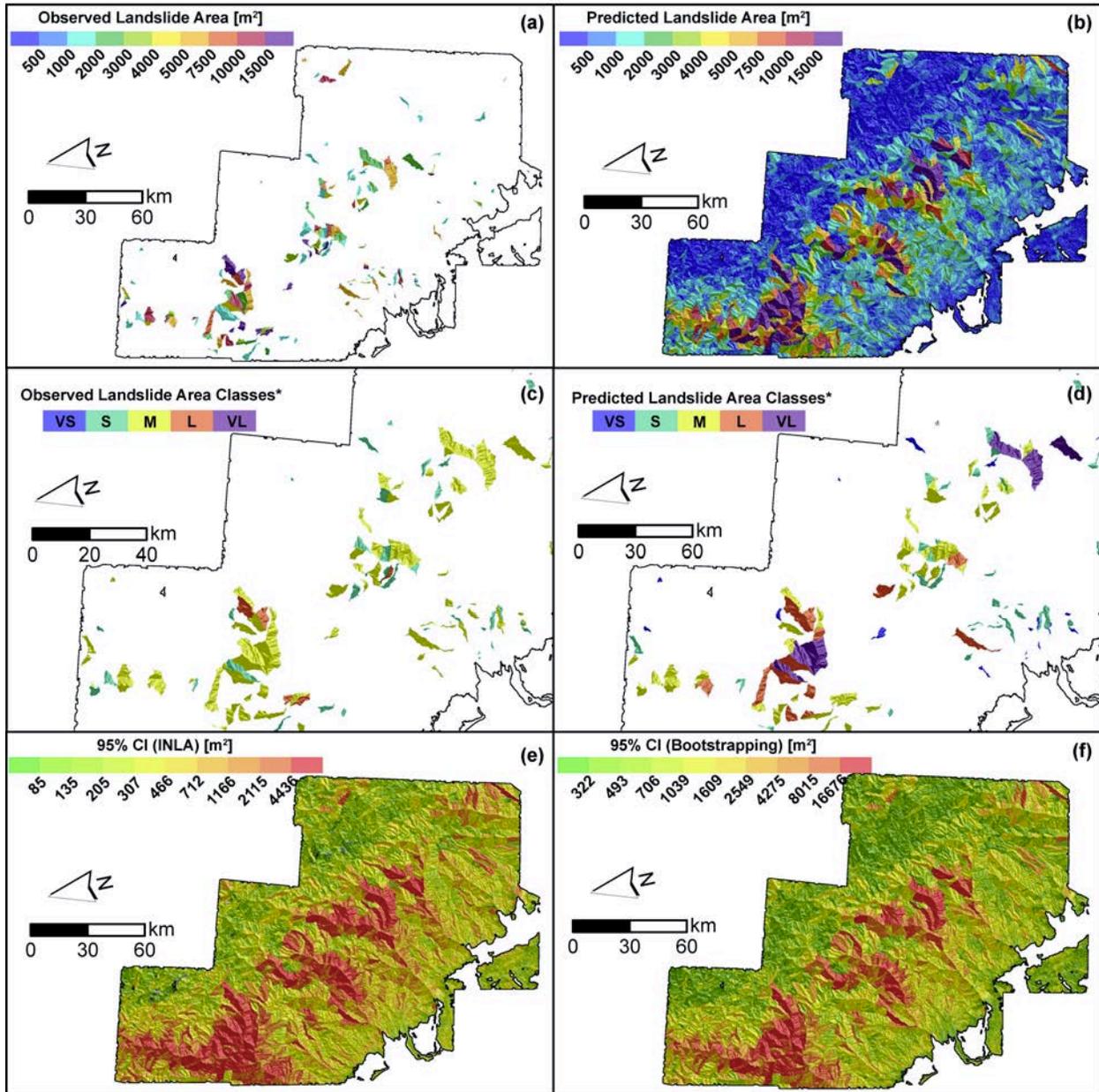


Figure SM32: Pisco sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Sierra Cucapah / Max Model

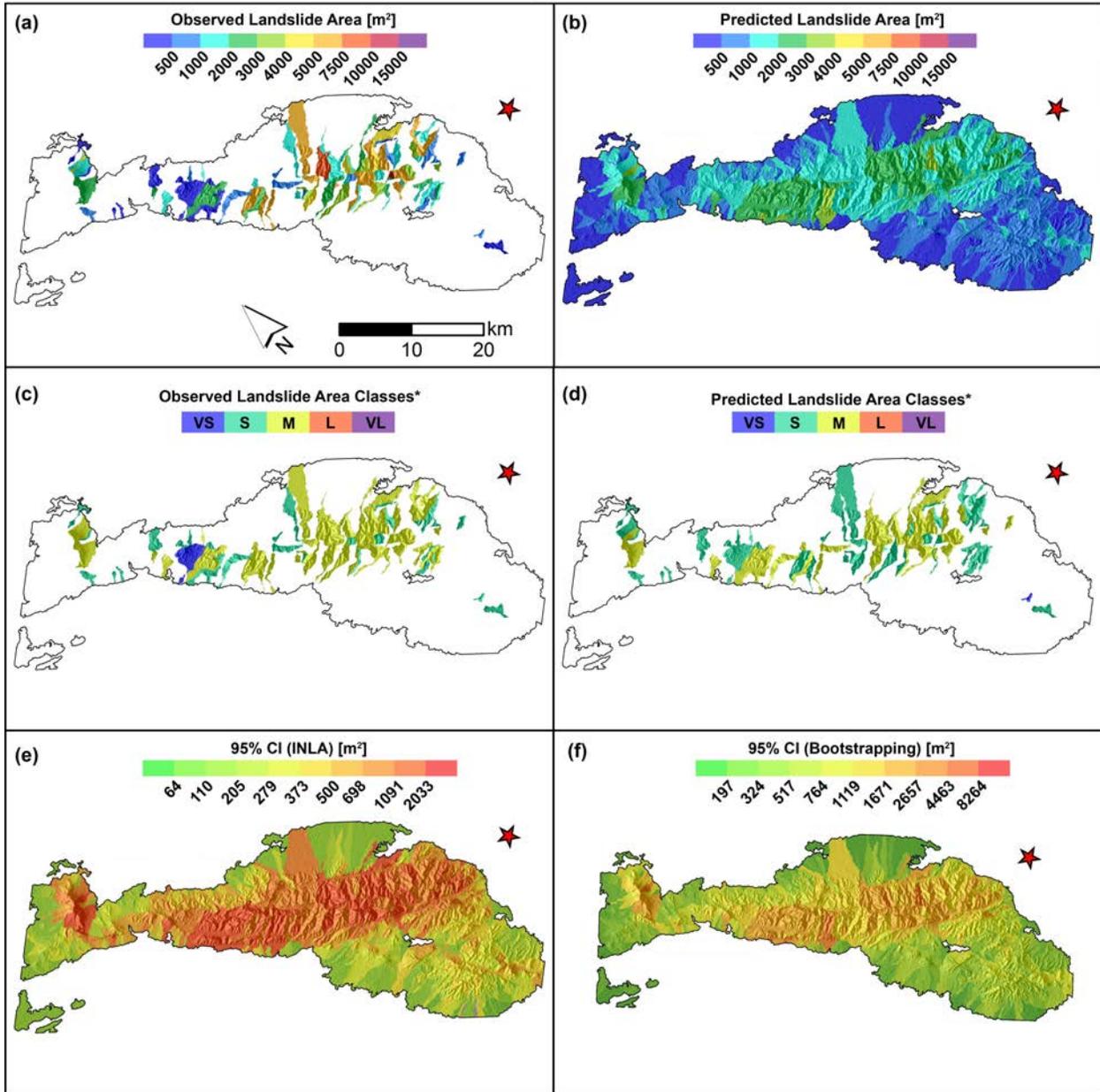


Figure SM33: Sierra Cucapah max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Sierra Cucupah / Sum Model

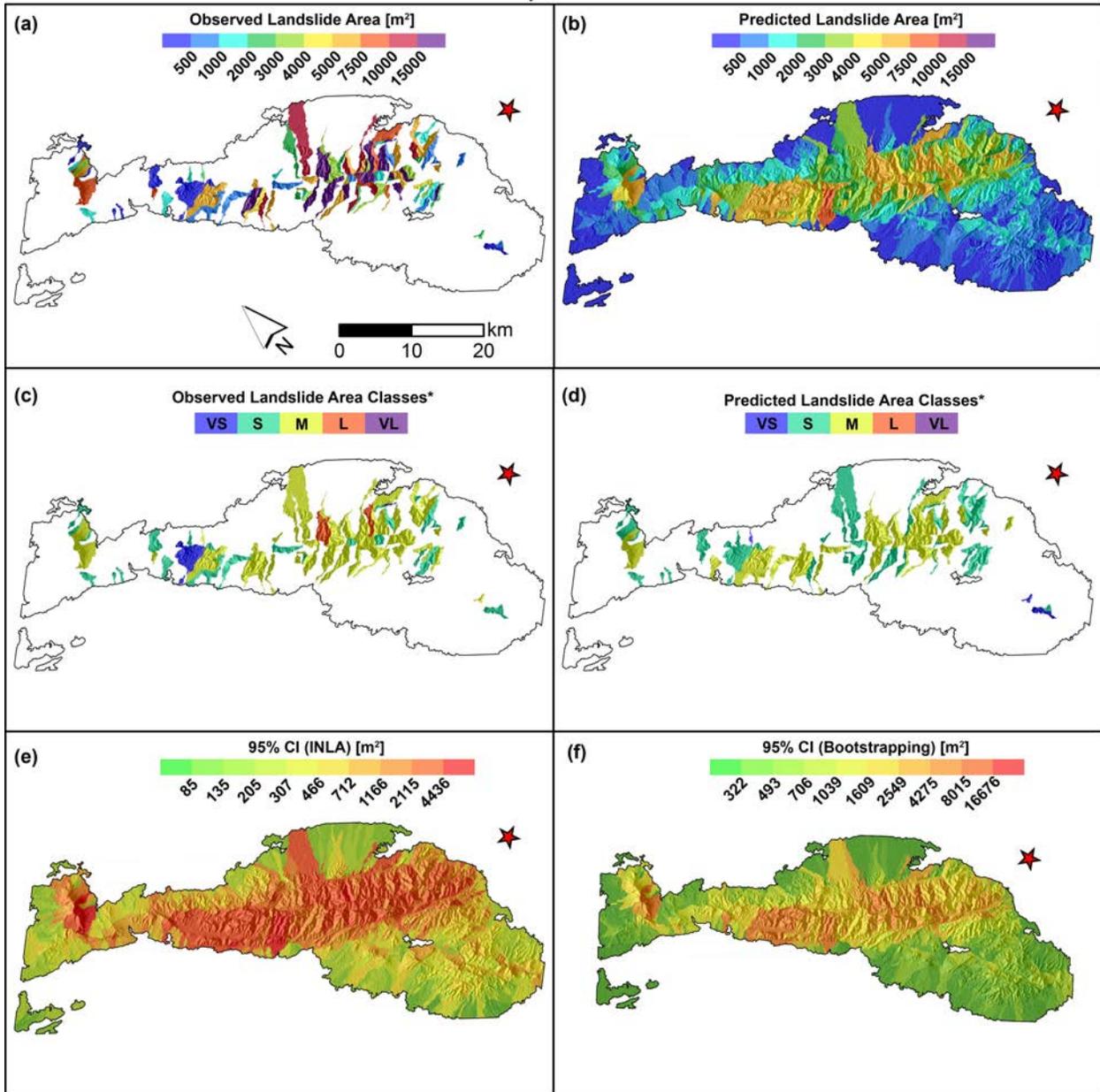


Figure SM34: Sierra Cucupah sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

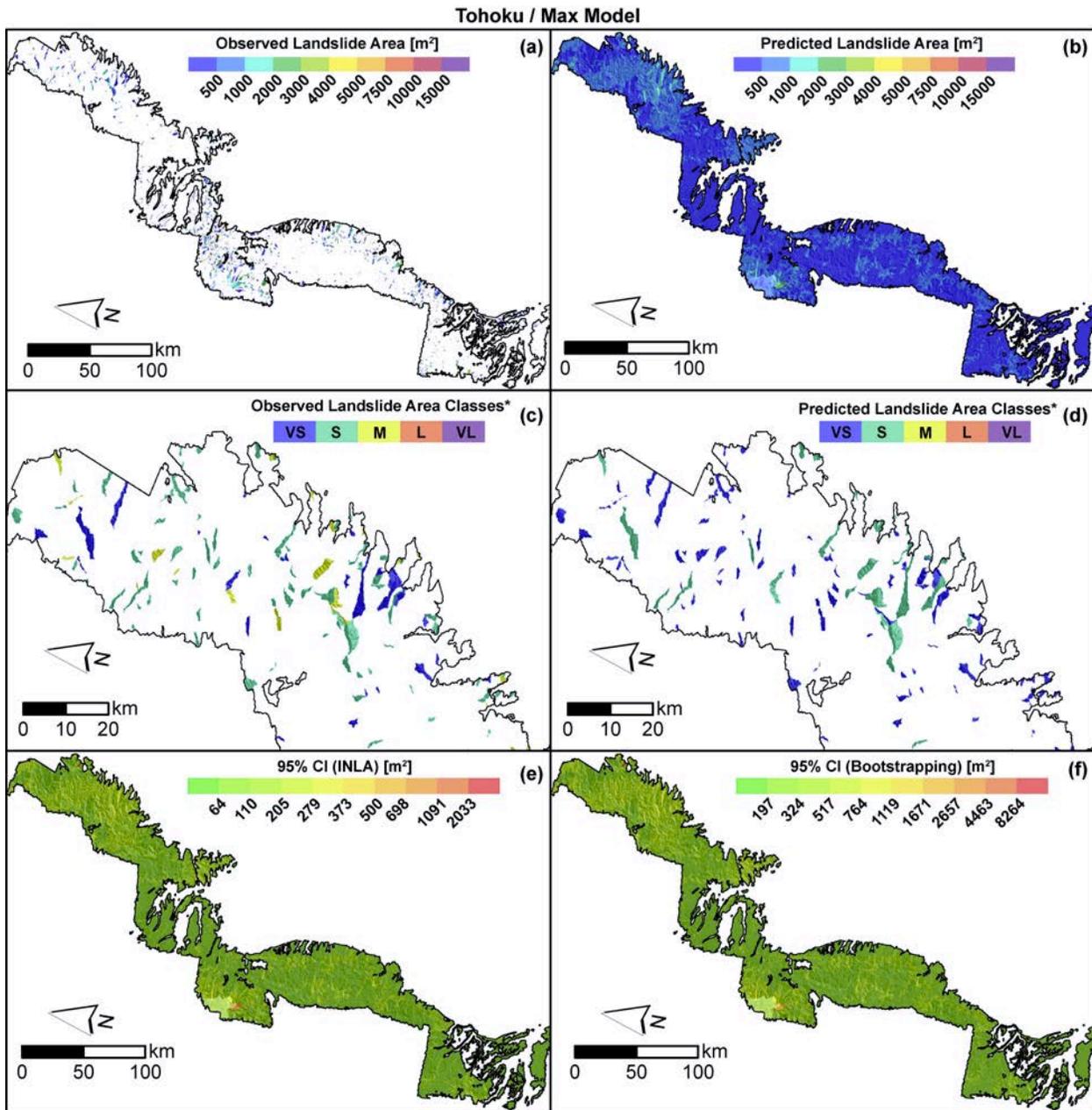


Figure SM35: Tohoku max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Tohoku / Sum Model

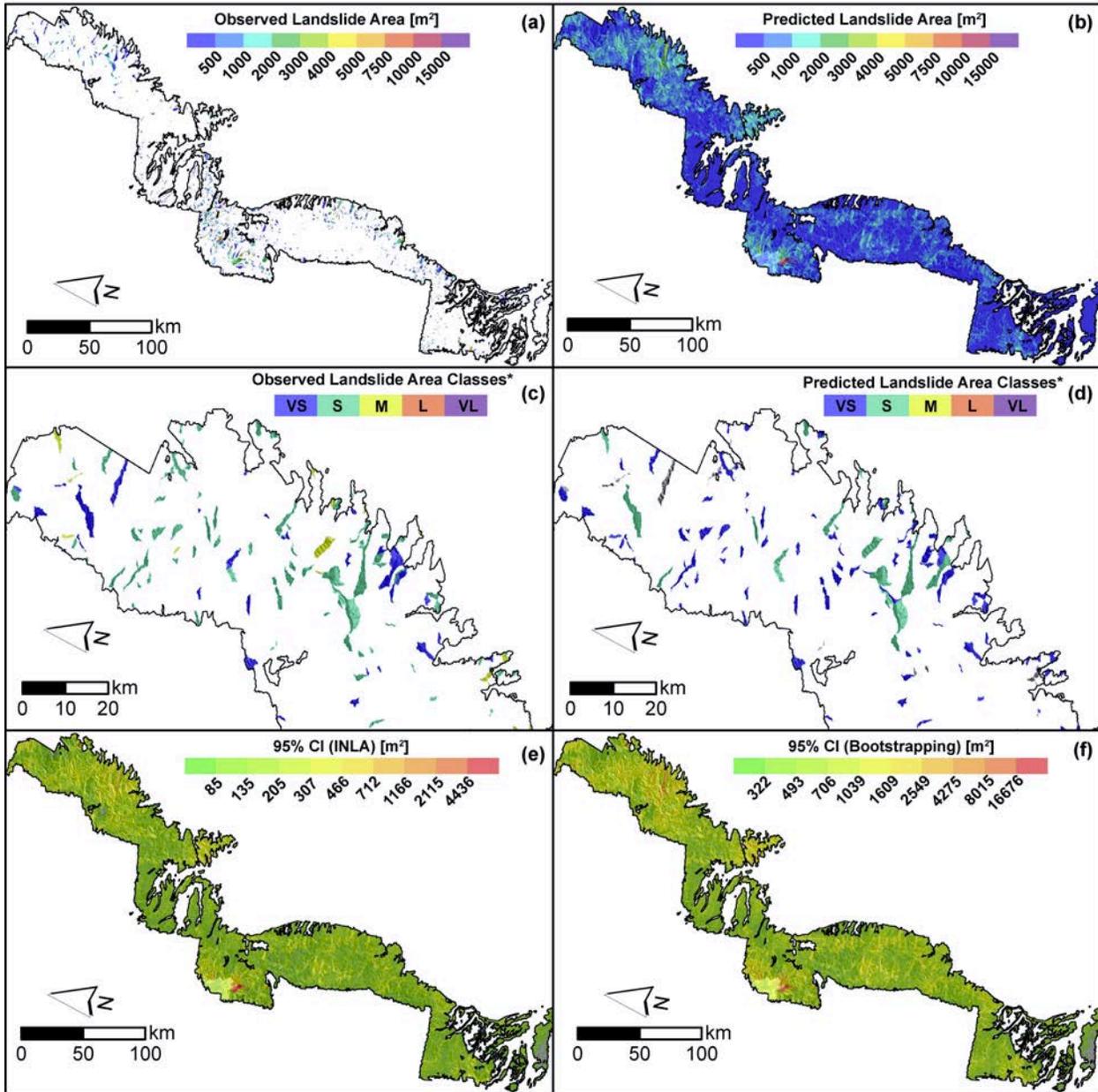


Figure SM36: Tohoku sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Yushu / Max Model

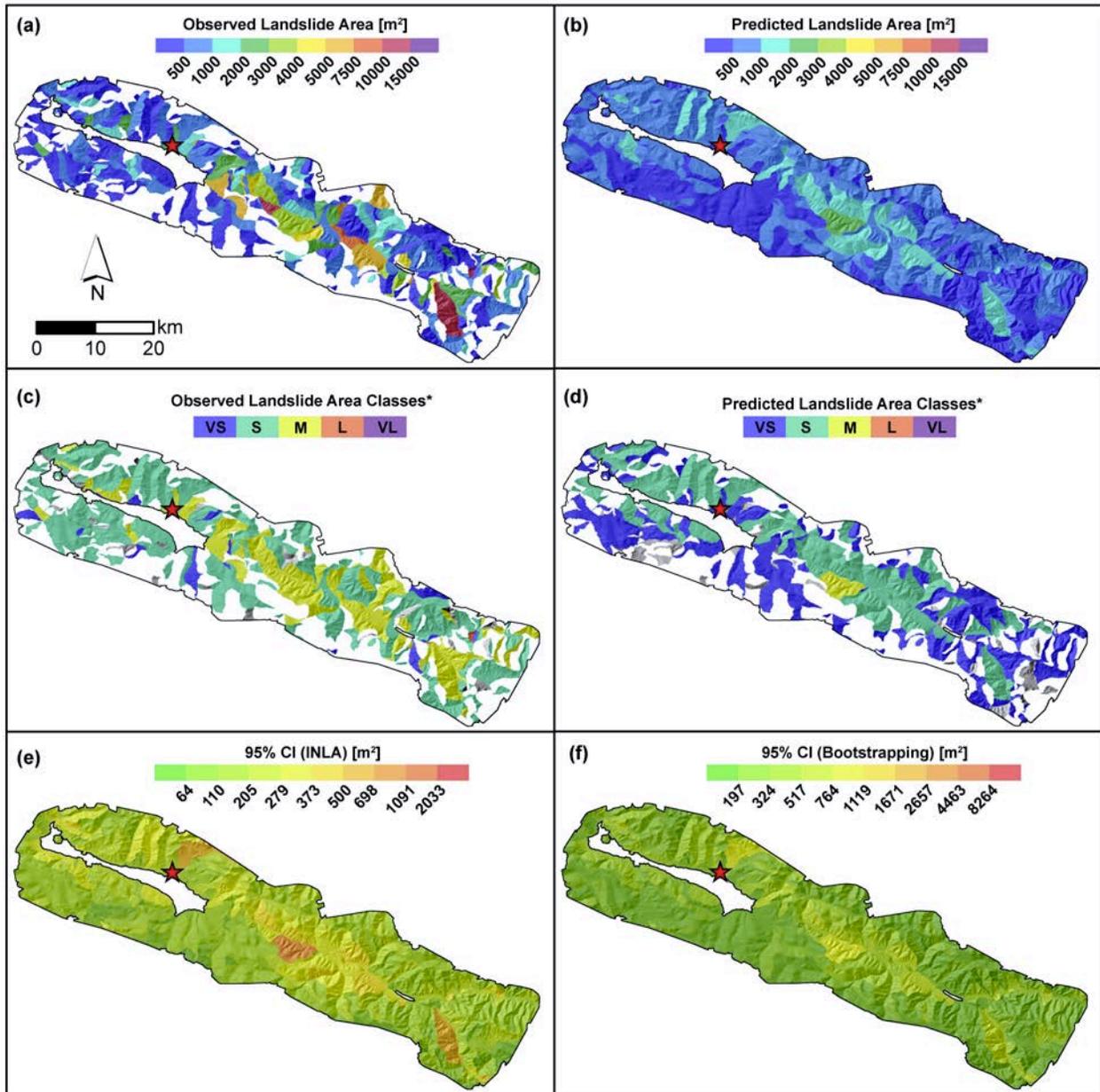


Figure SM37: Yushu max maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.

Yushu / Sum Model

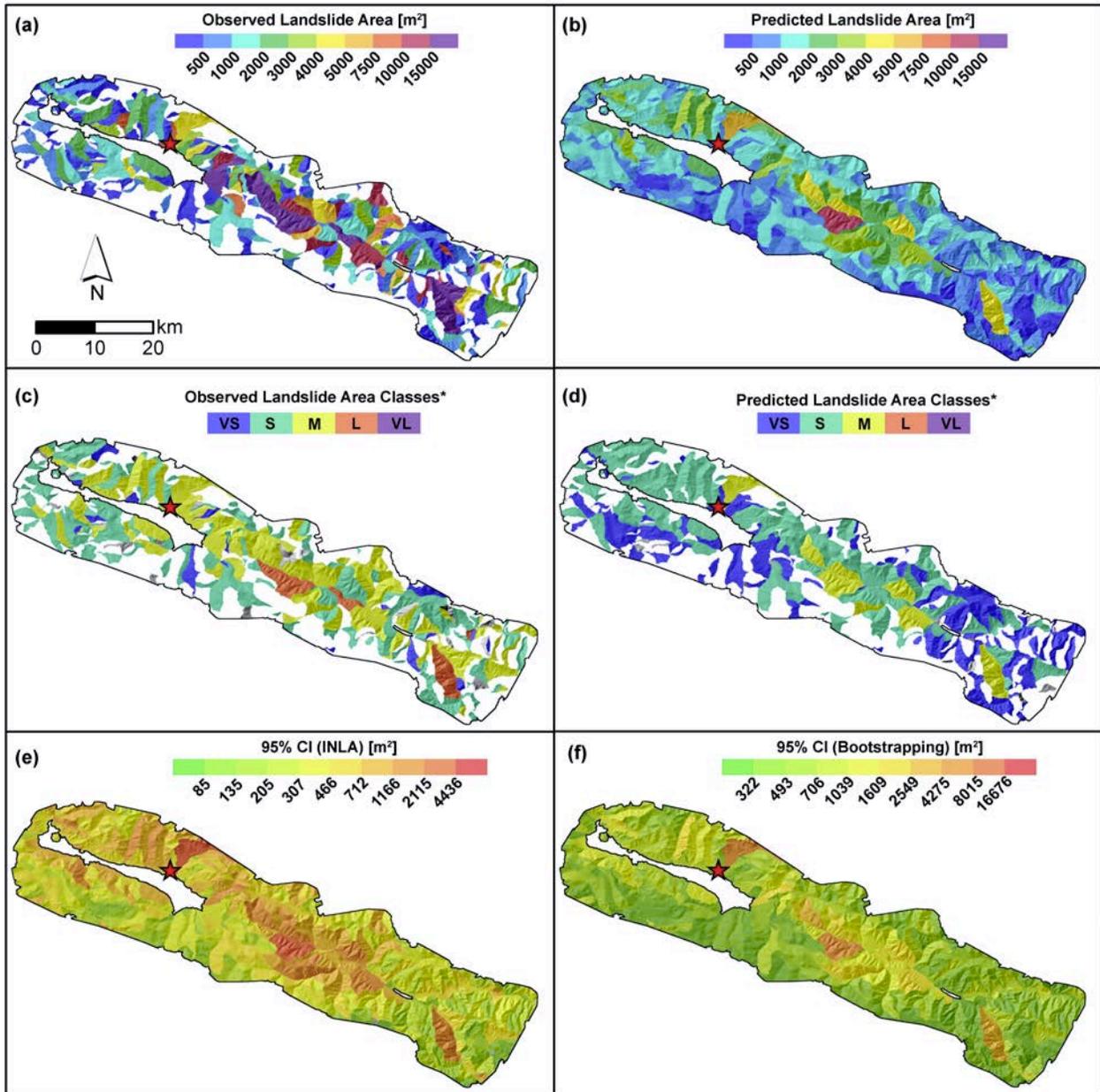


Figure SM38: Yushu sum maps: (a) Observed maximum landslide area per SU. (b) Predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (c) Classified observed maximum landslide area per SU. (d) Classified predicted maximum landslide area per SU. (e) 95% credible interval estimated with INLA. (f) 95% credible interval estimated via bootstrap.