Impact Analysis of Oil Pollution using Change Detection Techniques in Kuwait

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Abstract— The present study reveals impact of oil pollution in the environment of Kuwait. The change detection techniques were applied to analyze the changes. The present study has been analyzed using digital satellite data such as 1990, 1993, 1999 and 2006. Based on hierarchy the data were applied various image processing technique like, principal component analysis, change detection analysis between 1993 to 1999 and 1999 to 2006, filtering techniques, classification, accuracy assessment and post classification methods. The results are revealed that the majority (90%) of the oil pollution occurred in the southern part of Kuwait.

Keywords— Remote Sensing, Principle Component, Change Detection, Post Classification.

I. INTRODUCTION

Land use land covers are one of the important elements of global environment change processes (Dickinson 1995; Hall et al. 1995). Change detection of land cover has great potential in remote sensing application. Land cover may be foundout and differentiated from each other by their unique spectral responses patterns. Several studies demonstrated the effectiveness of using satellite-derived data (Sabins 1997; Abou El-Magd and Tanton 2003; Cardille and Foley2003; Lobo et al. 2004; Musaoglu et al. 2005) in detecting landscape change (LCC) over time. Change detection is the process of identifying in the state of an object by observing it at different times (Singh 1989). In general, change detection involves the application of multitemporal datasets for the quantitative analysis of the temporal changes in the phenomenon or the state of an object. Remote sensing data are the primary source extensively used for change detection in recent decades and have made a great impact on land use / land cover management (Yeh and Li 1999; Ji et al. 2001; Yangand Lo 2002; Shen and Kheoronromme 2003; Rogan and Chen 2004).

During the last two decades, many new change detection techniques are used. These are affected by spatial, spectral, thematic and temporal constraints; the selection of a suitable method for a task is not easy (Lu et al. 2004). They can be broadly divided into either pre-classifications or post-classifications change detection methods (Nelson 1983; Pilon et al. 1988; Singh 1989). Most change-detection techniques are in the spectral change identification category, such as image differencing, image ratioing, vegetation index difference, principal component analysis (PCA), change vector analysis (CVA) and post classification analysis. All of these methods (except subtraction method) involve some type of transformation designed to normalize between the raw images (Lunetta and Elvidge 1998).

PCA is a mathematical technique for reducing the dimension of a data set into few components (Jackson 1983). Processing multidimensional remote sensing data, the PCA is highly powerful technique used to identify the patterns in the data, and the components are most informative. PCA is an orthogonal linear transformation that re-expresses multivariate data. It extracts the greatest variance in a set of data on the first axis (called the first principal component). The second greatest variance is the second component and so on. PCA is used as a main rule in the change detection technique in remote sensing (Jensen 1986; Fung and LeDrew 1987).

In post-classification change detection, different dates of two images are independently classified and labeled. The area of change is then extracted through the direct comparison of the classification results (Colwell and Weber 1981, Howarth and Wickware 1981). The advantage of post-classification change detection is that it by- passes the difficulties in change detection associated with the analysis of images acquired at different times of years of by different it sensors. The high sensitivity is based on the accuracy of individual classification is the major disadvantage of the post-classification. The aim of this study is to find out the quantitative changes of oil polluted land cover changes (LCC) in Burgan area using PC first components of different dates (1993, 1999 and 2006).

II. STUDY AREA

Kuwait is a part of the Arabian Gulf composed of the desert, Kuwait Bay& part of the northwestern Arabian Gulf. It extends between latitudes 28° 30’N and 30° 05’N and longitudes 46° 3’E and 48° 35’E(Fig. 1.1B). It is topographically low-relief desert, the maximum relief is approximately 270m in Jal Al-Zor, and the wadi Al-Batin is the only valley in this region. The land surface slopes gradually northeast wards with an average gradient of approximately 2m/km, whereas there are many irregular
slopes which are due the temporary sand dunes. Dust and dust storms, locally known as 'toze' occur in the Kuwait region throughout the year but are more frequent during the spring and summer months (i.e. March to August) (Kwarten and Chaver 1998). Due to dust storms, sand encroachment is one of the main environmental problems in Kuwait.

Kuwait’s main economical resource is oil. The largest oil resource comes from the Burgan oil field, which is a sub-surface dome with oil impregnated in Miocene sandstone and highly permeable middle Cretaceous layers. During Gulf war, Kuwait oil wellheads were blown and oil spread on ground (Fig. 2A). The burning wells produced large amounts of toxic gases and dark smoke (Fig. 2B), which were potentially hazardous to human health, living animals and vegetation growth. Due to the hydrostatic pressure, the damaged wells were gushing oil (Fig. 2C), forced oil out to the surface. The gushed oil formed as streams in hot sand. It is estimated that more than one billion barrels of crude oil was lost during this war.

When all the wells were capped and the last oil fire was extinguished, approximately 300 oil lakes of various sizes had been formed in the oil fields (Kwarteng 1998). The free-flowing crude oil accumulated and formed networks of oil rivers, lakes and oil pools (Fig. 2D) which contained moreover 25 to 40 million barrels of oil.

Fig. 1: A Location map of Kuwait; Fig. 1B Location map of the study area

Fig. 2 A & B: Oil wells are firing and dark smoke; C: A head broken well gushing oil; D: Oil lakes, Tarmat and contaminated surface at the Burgan oil field.
The remaining non recoverable oil infiltrated into the ground or dried up forming tarmats. Additionally, more than 1722km², representing 10 percent of the total land surface of Kuwait, was covered by oil mist and soot (Kwarteng 1999). Tarmats varied in thickness from a few millimeters to about two centimeters. The soot eventually turned the soil underneath black. Some of the oil lakes were concealed by a vaneer of sand and could not be observed from the surface (Kwarteng 1998). Some of the oil migrated to new locations as a result of occasional strong rain-storms and flash floods. Contaminated soil, inhibited vegetation growth, produced health risks to humans and animals (Kwarteng 1999), making the event one of the worst environmental disasters in history (Al-Ajmi et al. 1994; El-Baz et al. 1994; Kwarteng and Al-Ajmi 1997; Koch and El-Baz 1998; Kwarteng 1998). The main objective of this study was to identify the oil polluted land cover surface (LC) and its temporal changes (LCC) using multi-temporal and multi-sensor remote sensing satellite data.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Oil pollution of this region continued for more than one decade. Remote sensing was used in several projects and studies to characterize this pollution and offer invaluable information on the status of the oil-polluted surfaces (Al-Ajmi et al. 1994; El-Baz et al. 1994; Kwarteng and Al-Ajmi 1997; Koch and El-Baz 1998; Kwarteng 1998). The majority (90%) of the oil pollution occurred in the southern part of Kuwait. The detailed investigation of temporal changes in pollution evaluation of southern area, a set of TM and ETM images of path 165 and row 40 of multi-temporal images of 1990, 1993, 1999 and 2006 digital data were used. Table-1 lists the acquired data for day time cloudless images having 30 meter resolution. All data were chosen in winder between March to April times.

| Date      | Sensor | Path | Row | Resolution (m²) |
|-----------|--------|------|-----|-----------------|
| 28/02/1990| TM     | 165  | 40  | 30              |
| 28/02/1993| TM     | 165  | 40  | 30              |
| 09/03/1999| TM     | 165  | 40  | 30              |
| 04/02/2006| ETM+   | 165  | 40  | 30              |

Table1: Digital Satellite Data Used in the Study

Data Settings and Pre-Processing

The pre-processes of the chosen images were done by the geometric correction which is the process of warping the image to fit a planimetric grid or map projection. This process is crucial in remote sensing particularly in change detection. By geometrical rectification, a given pixel remains at the same geographic location in all the images utilized in the study. The sequence of digital image processing is shown in Fig.3.

All the 6 bands (visible bands Red 1, Green 2, & Blue 3; Infra-Red 4 and Mid Infra-Red 5 & 7) of 1990 date images (except band 6, the thermal band) were stacked. Band 7 (Mid Infra-Red band) is denoted as band 6 in this study. The 1990 TM image was used as the master image from which all the other images were rectified through image-to-image registration to the Universal Transverse Mercator Projection (UTM/zone 39N; WGS 84) using a first-order polynomial transform. For each image registration, at least 20 prominent well-distributed ground control points (GCP) were chosen and a nearest neighbor re-sampling method was adopted. The root mean square error (RMSE) ranged from 0.4-0.5 pixel for each registered image. Ninety percent of oil production of this country comes from the Great Burgan oil field located in southeast of this country (Kwarteng and Al-Ajmi 1997), and this was subset for further processing. The images comprised both of high surface brightness (light, white) and low surface brightness (dark, black) areas. In images with two distinct light and dark areas, the use of normal contrast stretching techniques, such as linear stretching and edge enhancement, to simultaneously enhance the local details in both regions do not yield satisfactory results (Chavez 1984). Such conditions are typically observed in arid environment, where the spectral reflections are dominated by high values from the bright soil and vegetation (Kwarteng and Chavez 1998).

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

In multi-band remote sensing images, the bands are the original variable. Some of the original bands may be highly correlated; such bands could be combined into new, less correlated Eigen images by PCA. Computationally, three steps are involved in the principal component transformation (Eklundh and Singh 1993). The first is the calculation of a covariance or correlation matrix using the input data sets. Second is the calculation of Eigen values and Eigen vectors, and the third is the calculation of principal components.

\[ C = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} (X_j - M) (X_j - M)^T}{n - 1} \]

Where, \( X \) and \( M \) are the multiband image individual and mean pixel value vectors, respectively, and \( n \) is the number of pixels.
Where, $\Delta X_{ij}^k = X_{ij}^k(t_2) - X_{ij}^k(t_1)$

Where, $\Delta X_{ij}^k$ is the difference between pixel value $x$ located at row and column, for band, between acquisition date 1 ($t_1$) and date 2 ($t_2$). No changes between times results in pixel values 0, but if changes occurred these values should be positive or negative. The challenge of this technique is to identify threshold values of change and no change in the resulting images. The image differencing method is usually applied to single bands but can be also applied to processes data such as multi date classification such as oil lakes, tarmats, oil mist and thick soot/black oil using TM (Kwarteng 1998). Oil lakes, dry oil lake, tarmats, contaminated soil to varying depth,

### Table 2: Eigen Values and Percentage of variances of 6 bands in 1990, 1993, 1999 and 2006.

| Comp’s | 1990 | 1993 | 1999 | 2006 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|
|        | Eigenvalue | Percentage | Eigenvalue | Percentage | Eigenvalue | Percentage | Eigenvalue | Percentage |
| Comp1  | 1281.82 | 95.26 | 2813.08 | 97.17 | 3174.02 | 95.21 | 1672.86 | 94.83 |
| Comp2  | 37.64  | 2.80 | 57.32  | 1.98  | 122.34  | 3.67  | 57.74  | 3.27 |
| Comp3  | 16.40  | 1.22 | 10.78  | 0.37  | 19.61  | 0.59  | 24.07  | 1.36 |
| Comp4  | 5.15   | 0.38 | 7.82   | 0.27  | 11.13  | 0.33  | 5.63   | 0.32 |
| Comp5  | 3.73   | 0.28 | 4.59   | 0.16  | 5.74   | 0.17  | 2.63   | 0.15 |
| Comp6  | 0.80   | 0.06 | 1.37   | 0.05  | 0.95   | 0.03  | 1.08   | 0.06 |
| Total  | 1345.56 | 100.00 | 2894.97 | 100.00 | 3333.78 | 100.00 | 1764.00 | 100.00 |

All six bands of subset Burgan images are chosen for PCA analysis. The statistical details of 6 variance/covariance matrices, 6 band correlation matrix and 6 eigenvector values have been obtained through this analysis report. The eigenvalues and their percentages for 1990, 1993, 1999 and 2006 images are given in Table 2. As per the PC processes, the first component has high Eigen value which is 97.17% of 1993, showing high degree of correlated with all their bands. The least one is 2006, which is 94.83% of eigenvalues. Only 5% of values are scattered over all 6 images of each set of data.

#### Change Detection

This method is widely used and consists of subtracting registered images acquired at different times, pixel by pixel and band by band. Direct subtraction of one image from other bispatially registered of multi temporal images.

$m_{ij}^k = x_{ij}^k(t_2) - x_{ij}^k(t_1)$

$m_{ij}^k$ is the difference between pixel value $x$ located at row and column, for band, between acquisition date 1 ($t_1$) and date 2 ($t_2$). No changes between times results in pixel values 0, but if changes occurred these values should be positive or negative. The challenge of this technique is to identify threshold values of change and no change in the resulting images. The image differencing method is usually applied to single bands but can be also applied to processes data such as multi date classification such as oil lakes, tarmats, black soil varied according to thickness and the soot/black oil using TM (Kwarteng 1998). Oil lakes, dry oil lake, tarmats, contaminated soil clean soil. The final classification is as follows:

1. Oil spreading over the land surface and penetrating the soil to varying depth,
2. Aerial fallout from oil spray and combustion products from oil fire; and
3. Formation of oil lakes on the land surface.

Area estimates of oil lakes in the Greater Al-Burgan area range from 14.07 km$^2$ (Al-Ajmi et al. 1994) to 35.4 km$^2$ (Kwarteng 1998) and 24.14 km$^2$ (Kwarteng 1999) soot, tarmats, oily soil, liquid oil and clean soil (Samira Omar et al. 2006). Oil lakes, dry oil lake, tarmats, contaminated soil clean soil. The final classification is as follows:

1. **Oil Lakes (OL):** Consists of liquid or semi liquid oil over the soil (In 1993 TM image, southern part of Burgan area wascoved by black soot over the tarmats showing the same DN values).
2. **Dark Oily Soil (DOS):** (Oil less and Soil more) mixture of oil and soil with waxy or the next stage of oil lakes become star mats; it is considered as Dry oil lakes.

3. **Tarmats (Tar):** Consists of dried oil that became tarmats or oil lakes dried and had fresh and covered on it.

4. **Black Soil (BS):** Soil covered with soot or oil mist over the soil showing black in color.

5. **Contaminated Soil (Cont. Soil):** The oil spray over the soil or weathered tarmats became a black soil which included the vegetation (1990 and 2006 images).

6. **Polluted Soil (Poll. Soil):** Manmade pollution during war or man used area.

7. **White Soil:** Clean Sand or White Soil.

### Accuracy Assessment

The imperative role of remote sensing classification and change–detection applications is played by the accuracy assessment which is very important for understanding the detected change results and employing these results for land management. The application of an error matrix that can be used as a starting point for a series of descriptive and analytical statistical analysis is the most common method for accuracy assessment. The overall accuracy, producer’s accuracy (the number of samples correctly classified for a given column divided by total for that column) (Lillesand and Kiefer 1986; Aronoff 1982b), user’s accuracy (the number of samples correctly classified for a given row divided by total for that row), and kappa coefficient (Congalton 1991; Congalton and Green 1999; Foody 2002). The related assessment elements include to correctly performing classification accuracy assessment, it is necessary to compare two source of information:

1. The remote sensing derived classification map and 2. What we call reference test information (which may in fact contain error).

The error matrix commonly summarizes the relationship between these two sets of information. Two differenting change detection images and each one from Pc1 of 1993, 1999 and 2006 were collected randomly from training datasets (region of interest (ROI) files) to assess the accuracy of classification maps (Chen Xiuwen et al. 1999). Overall accuracy and Kappa Coefficient of 1993, 1999, 2006 and the differential images between 1993-1999, (2006-1999) and the first component of complaint PC had been classified.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The total study area is 984554 pixels which is 30X30 meter resolution; approximately 886Km² areas covered mainly Burgan oil field. The study area has 984555 pixels which is about 886.10Km² shown in the figure 1B. This is the main oil resource field in Kuwait and was highly polluted during Gulf war. Many previous studies either direct survey or using satellite images estimated area of pollution in this area. Different methods of processing give different result but change detection process using PC1 to calculate area by the post classification seems to be good result.

#### Land Cover Oil Pollution changes using PCA Analyses

The combining of 6 bands in to PCA analysis gives the PC component. The first component of 1990, 1993, 1999 and 2006 give almost 95% Eigen value than other components. The PC first component of 4 year images and their 5th components images are displayed in figure 4.
In 1990, even though it is an oil field and oil production was going on, there was not much oil pollution in this region. The northern part of oil field (Fig. 4-A1) had just few dark patches which were oil leaked during production. The dark area in the east part is Ahmadi settlements. The PC5 component of Ahmadi area (A2) was changed into light color and few patches on oil leakage area are well distinguished.

Fig.4: Principal Component Analysis Images from Northern Part of Study Area

The first component of 1993, 1999 and 2006 and their 5th component are displayed in Figure4 B1, B2; C1, C2; and D1, D2 respectively. The 1993 Pc1 (B1) image shows more oil lakes and tarmats with black shadow overall image and it was clear with Pc5 of 1993 (B2) image. Whereas, (C1 & C2) in 1999 there were reduction in this level and very few patches of oil lakes are shown in 2006 in Pc5 (D1 & D2) component.

**Temporal Changes of oil pollution by Classification**

First, the PC first component images filtered with low pass 3X3 filter algorithm to sharpen the edges of each class and classified into 13 classes using standard deviation from mean classification. The area has two end members where oil lakes are dark in tone whereas desert is pure white in color. These 13 classes are further merged according to surrounding classes to become 7 classes. All four yearimages (first PC of four years 1990, 1993, 1999 and 2006 images) were classified in the same method. Table3 lists the details of each class pixel values and its square kilometers of seven classes. The figures5 shows the seven classes of 4 years; the red color (Oil Lakes) almost nil in 1990 became more in 1993 again became nil in 2006.

**Table.4: Number of Pixels and area of classified images**

| Classes       | 1990   | 1993   | 1999   | 2006   |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|               | Pixels | Km²    | Pixels | Km²    | Pixels | Km²    |
| Oil Lakes     | 336    | 0.30   | 30931  | 27.84  | 4714   | 4.24   |
| Dark Oily Soil| 775    | 0.70   | 115111 | 103.60 | 6357   | 5.72   |
| Tarmats       | 4497   | 4.05   | 201951 | 181.76 | 65252  | 58.73  |
| Black Soil    | 21737  | 19.56  | 274044 | 246.64 | 187936 | 169.14 |
| Cont. Soil    | 189989 | 170.99 | 294240 | 264.82 | 364691 | 328.22 |
| Polluted Soil | 382080 | 343.87 | 67928  | 61.14  | 225035 | 202.53 |
| White Soil    | 385141 | 346.63 | 350    | 0.32   | 130570 | 117.51 |
| Total         | 984555 | 886.10 | 984555 | 886.10 | 984555 | 886.10 |

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Figure 6, the bar diagram shows the change in difference of value of area in each class at that time. The temporal changes in 1990 were very less in both oil lakes and dark oily soil but the tarmats shows 4 km$^2$ which were formed during drilling. Contaminated soil in this period was only vegetation.

Polluted area here was manmade pollution due to increasing in oil field production work had been done. In 1993, the same area had a distinct change because of gulf war. The oil lakes are 27km$^2$ followed by 103km$^2$ dark oily soil and 181km$^2$ tarmats. In 1990, vegetation was done in the contaminated soil in 1993, because in 1990, vegetation was burned during gulf war and oil was sprayed very long distance (Fig.2C). The polluted class is manmade pollution while fighting to stop oil wells burning were used many vehicles and water. In the subsequent period (1999), vegetation was more, that is, total Burgan area was fenced increasing vegetation in this area.

Compare to 1999 & 2006 oil lakes, Dark oily soil, tarmats and black soil were reduced gradually. Area covered in these classes in 2006 was not gulf war pollution; these
were formed due to oil production. The contaminated soil showing increased because of vegetation increasing. Whereas soil was increased from 117km² to 150km² in 2006 conforming that the oil pollution during Gulf War was totally reduced and increase desert soil. The total area of normal soil was reduced where compare to 1990 indicating development of oil field.

**Land Cover Oil Pollution Changes Detection using image differencing**

The PC first component of 1993, 1999 and 2006 were subtracted to know the difference of change of oil pollution. The image difference between 1999-1993 and 2006-1999 are shown figure7 A & B. The data 1999 was used as common image for both image differencing to identify exact pollution in 1993 and 2006. Images are processed further by 3x3 filter to sharpen the edge of each class and avoid the confusion. The filter images are classified into 7 classes using by standard deviation from the mean algorithm method.

Total number of pixels and its square areas of each class of two differentiated images are given in the table 4. The oil lakes were decreasing three times more than 1993-1999 images. The same patterns of reduction are also followed in dark oily soil, tarmats and black soils. Tarmats was 101.74 km² became 15.13km². The same way black soil reduced from 242.26km² to 92.26km² because of black soil formed by the soot deposition was removed by heavy wind.

**Table.5: Total Number of Pixels and Km² of 7 classes the differentiated temporal images**

| Classes        | Pixels  | km²   | Pixels  | km²   |
|----------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Oil Lakes      | 4837    | 4.35  | 1330    | 1.20  |
| Dark Oily Soil | 24711   | 22.24 | 2757    | 2.48  |
| Tarmats        | 113047  | 101.74| 16812   | 15.13 |
| Black Soil     | 269177  | 242.26| 102516  | 92.26 |
| Contaminated Soil | 342914  | 308.62| 365409  | 328.87|
| Polluted Soil  | 192836  | 173.55| 265134  | 238.62|
| White Soil     | 37033   | 33.33 | 230597  | 207.54|
| **Total**      | 984555  | 886.10| 984555  | 886.10|
On the other hand, the remaining classes such as contaminated soil, polluted soil and white soil were increased. The contaminated soil formed due to spray of oil on the soil which should be reduced in the next period but increased because of DN vales of contaminated soil and vegetation are almost same by maintaining of the Burgan areas. The white soil which is desert increasing tremendously in 1999-2006 differencing image indicating the recovery of oil pollution into desert.

Temporal changes of each class in each year had been calculated to monitoring the minute changes of oil pollution. Land cover changes between first difference (PC1-1993 & PC1-1999) image into second difference (PC1-1999 & PC1-2006) image of post classification are given in the table-6. Significant land cover and land cover changes have been clearly identified around study area.

**Table 6: Post classification of the difference between PC1-1993 & PC1-1999 (Initial) and PC1-1999 & PC1-2006 (Final) change detection images values in square kilometer.**

| Classification | Oil Lakes | Dark Oily Soil | Tar | Black Soil | Cont. Soil | Poll. Soil | White Soil | Total |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| **1993-99 Difference** |           |                |     |            |            |            |            |       |
| Oil Lakes      | 0.94      | 0.22           | 0.04|            |            |            |            | 1.20  |
| Dark Oily Soil | 1.34      | 0.82           | 0.30| 0.02       |            |            |            | 2.48  |
| Tarmats        | 1.93      | 7.90           | 4.43| 0.81       | 0.06       |            |            | 15.13 |
| Black Soil     | 0.13      | 12.71          | 54.95| 22.81      | 1.64       | 0.03       |            | 92.26 |
| Cont. Soil     | 0.01      | 0.59           | 40.70| 177.10     | 109.62     | 0.84       | 0.01       | 328.87|
| Polluted Soil  | 0.01      |                | 1.33| 25.67      | 167.34     | 44.12      | 0.16       | 238.62|
| White Soil     | 0.01      |                | 15.85| 29.97      | 128.56     | 33.15      | 33.33       | 207.54|
| **Total**      | 4.35      | 22.24          | 101.74| 242.26     | 308.62     | 173.55     | 33.33       | 886.09|

**V. CONCLUSION**

Remote sensing is highly helpful tool to detect the changes in spatially. The impact analysis of oil pollution in Kuwait has been analyzed using remote sensing techniques. During the study period the study area has been faced more changes due to oil exploration. The oil leakages were affected the vegetation and burned the vegetation as well as the soil characters were contaminated. The oil lakes before Gulf war (1990) was only 0.30km² became 27.84km² in 1993 reduced into 4.24km² in 1999. In the same way, the oil lakes in 2006 were only 2.95km² but it is showing only 1.20km² in the change detection (1999-2006) image. The oil lakes of change detection 1993-1999 of 4.35km² became 0.94km² in oil lakes, 1.34km² in dark oily soil, tarmats 1.93km² and black oil 0.13km² between 1993 & 1999 became oil lakes in 0.94km² and 0.22km² from 1999 to 2006. The same way, total areas of Dark oily soil was 22.44km² of which 0.22km² was oil lakes, tarmats 7.9km², black soil 12.71km² and 0.59 km² in contaminated soil.

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