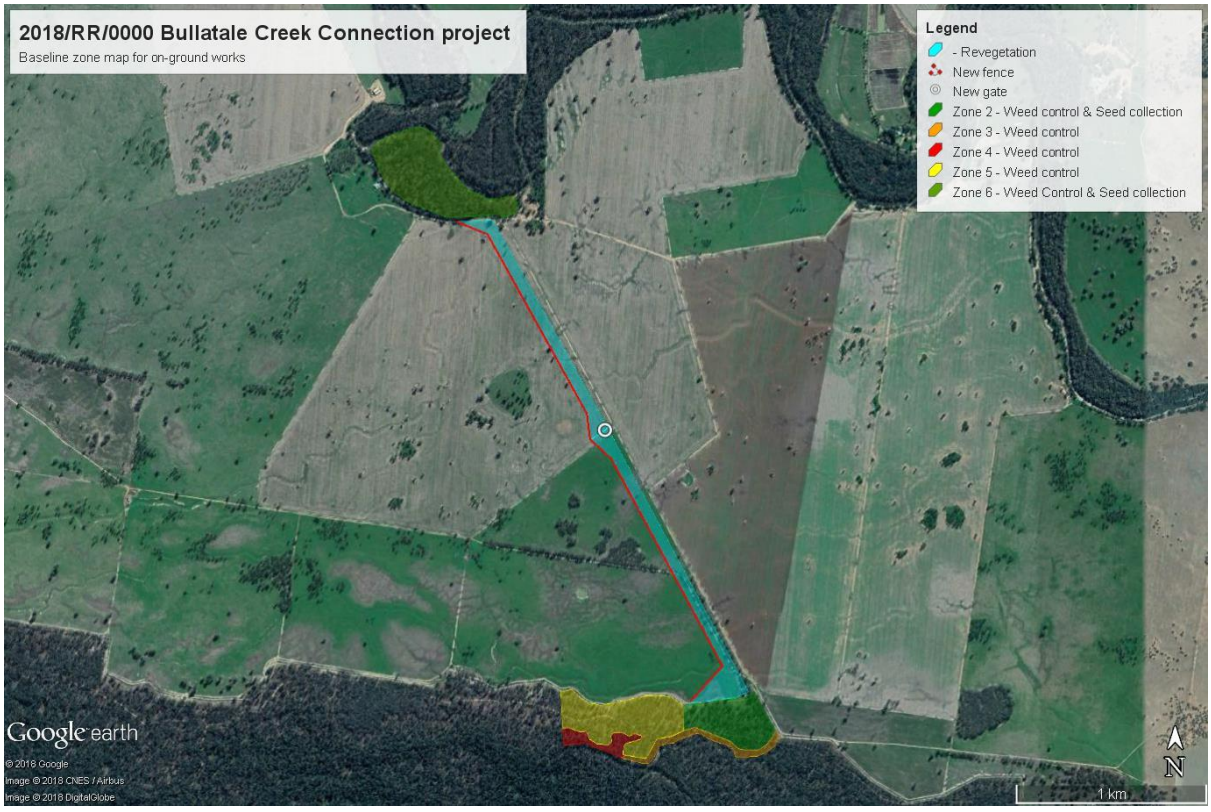
Guide to monitoring NSW Environmental Trust grants using mapping



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Guide to mapping for monitoring Environmental Trust grants

This document provides guidance to grantees on how to prepare maps that may be used to guide on-ground works and monitor site condition. The content sets out a minimum standard of map required as part of your monitoring activities.

The Trust acknowledges that our grantees include a wide range of groups and organisations from both government and the community, with varying levels of capacity, expertise and resources. Likewise, there are also a number of technical options available for map creation accessible to applicants, for example, Geographic Information System (GIS) software such as ArcMap and MapInfo. While **applicants may utilise any option available** to create their maps, (e.g. GIS software), **all maps produced must comply with the minimum content requirements outlined in this document**.

To assist grantees who may not have proprietary GIS software available to them, this guide includes detailed advice on how to use the freely available Google Earth Pro to develop your maps.

This guideline includes the following:

- An overview of the relevant functions contained in Google Maps Pro to create your maps;
- How to create polygons (areas) and lines to define areas for project sites / work zones;
- How to apply relevant colour coding to show activity types and current condition of your project sites / zones;
- How to add key features to a map and measure key parameters using available functions e.g. distance, area;
- How to insert a map title and legend, scale and north arrow;
- How to save your final project map(s), and;
- How to export a .kml/.kmz file.
- An example of a completed baseline map

For information on downloading and accessing Google Earth Pro, refer to the Guide to Developing Application Maps.

Why are maps required?

The main benefits of creating customised maps for ecological restoration / rehabilitation projects are that they:

- Assist to identify and divide your project site(s) up in to discrete management zones (based upon site factors) to plan on-ground works and coordinate efficient delivery of the project;
- Assist the accurate measurement of scale and spatial impact (footprint) of projects;
- Provide the Trust with a clear understanding of the landscapes where projects are being implemented, baseline conditions of sites and temporal transitions to an improved state as a result of the works being funded.

What are the minimum standards required by the Trust?

For ecological restoration projects it is expected that grantees will provide maps that show the baseline condition of their project site(s) and zone(s). Multiple maps are likely to be required to clearly show the project area in sufficient detail. Thereafter, these maps may be updated annually as part of progress / final reports.

NOTE: Maps are to be digitally produced (i.e. they should not be hand-drawn).

The content included within the example on page 16 should be considered as the **minimum** standard all applicants are to adhere to, regardless of the mapping software used. Note that each map includes a scale, legend, title and north arrow.

Please note that failure to prepare and submit baseline maps (prepared prior to project commencement) and thereafter annual status maps (with your progress reports) that do not comply with the **minimum** mapping standards may result in your funding instalments being withheld.

If you require assistance at any stage, please contact Environmental Trust grant administration staff on (02) 8837 6093

Step by Step Instructions

1. Open Google Earth Pro
2. Zoom to the project site and adjust / move the screen to show the area you want to map
3. Add polygons for each of your project sites / zones
4. Develop your ‘baseline map’ showing the pre-work site condition and expected activity based on the prescribed colour codes
5. Continue to add polygons (areas), lines and points show activities for all of your project sites / work zones.
6. Export the image as a static map
7. Save your project site scale map
8. Save your project layers to their own folder within Google Earth Pro
9. Save the electronic map file to be able to email (optional)

Step 1. Open Google Earth Pro

Please refer to the Guide to developing maps for Environmental Trust grant application for further information on:

- Downloading and installing Google Earth Pro
- Accessing Google Earth Pro on your computer
- Downloading and installing NSW Globe layers
- Basic operation of the Google Earth Pro program to assist with locating the project site(s)

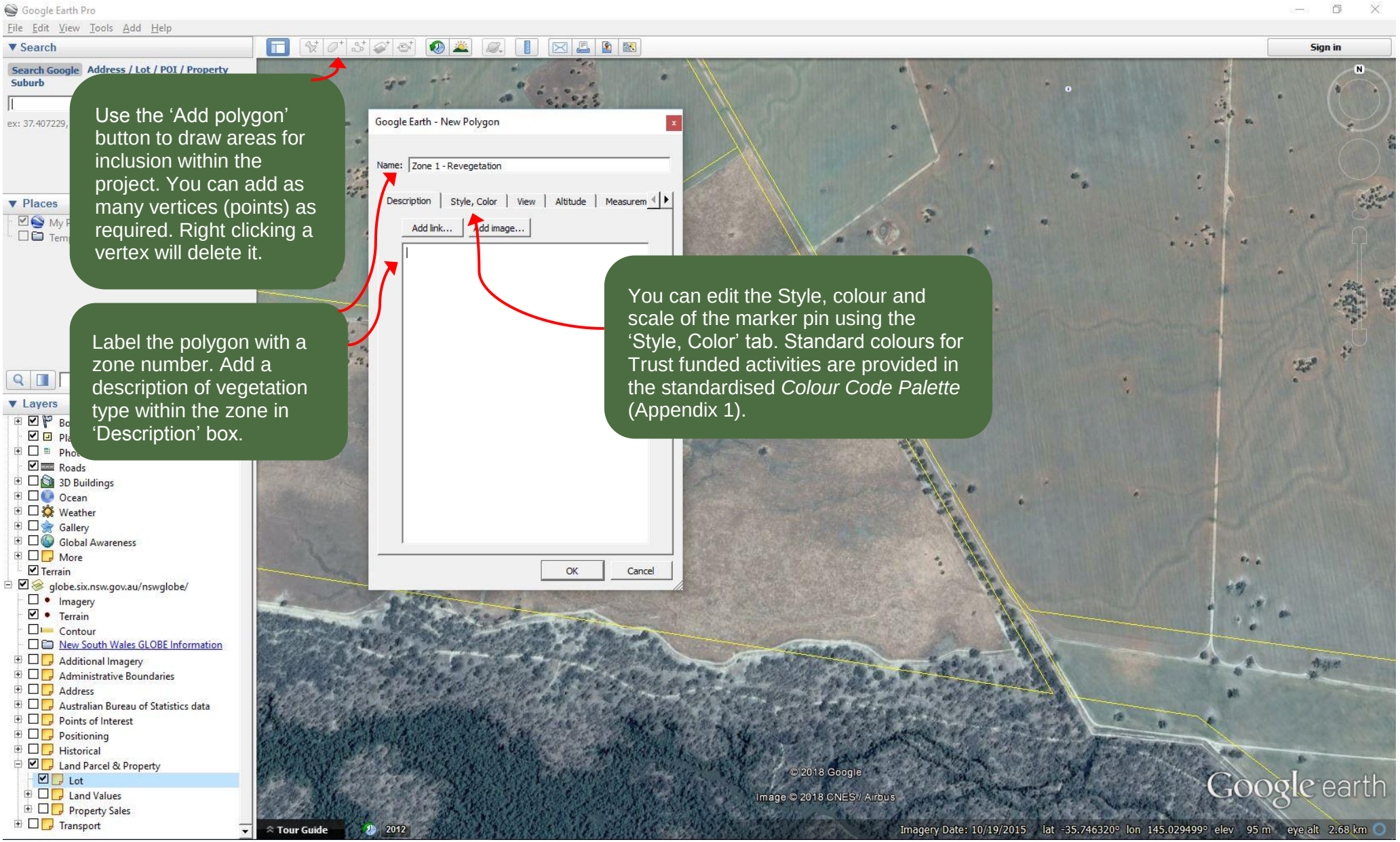
NOTE: Grantees who used Google Earth Pro to produce the maps for their original application will be able to advance their existing maps and spatial features (points, lines, polygons) using this Guideline. The original spatial features should automatically appear in a folder (saved by the applicant) under the 'Places' window.

Step 2. Zoom to the project site and adjust / move the screen to show the area you wish to mark / highlight within your maps.

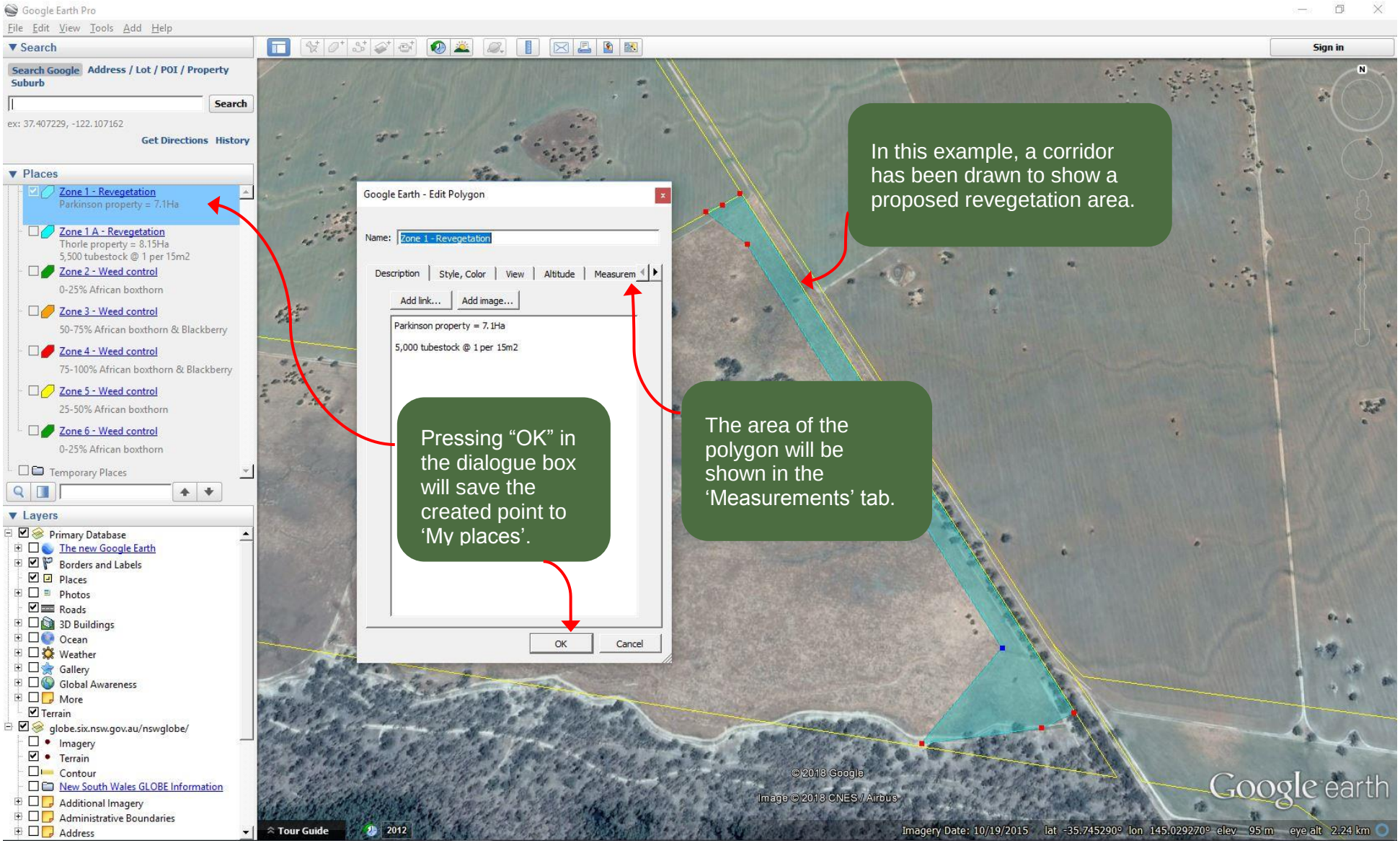
In this example, we will focus on a weed control and revegetation project in the Riverina region. The project is seeking to establish connectivity between Murray Valley National Park and Bullatale Creek and to improve the condition of the vegetation to which the corridors will connect.

Step 2. (Continued)

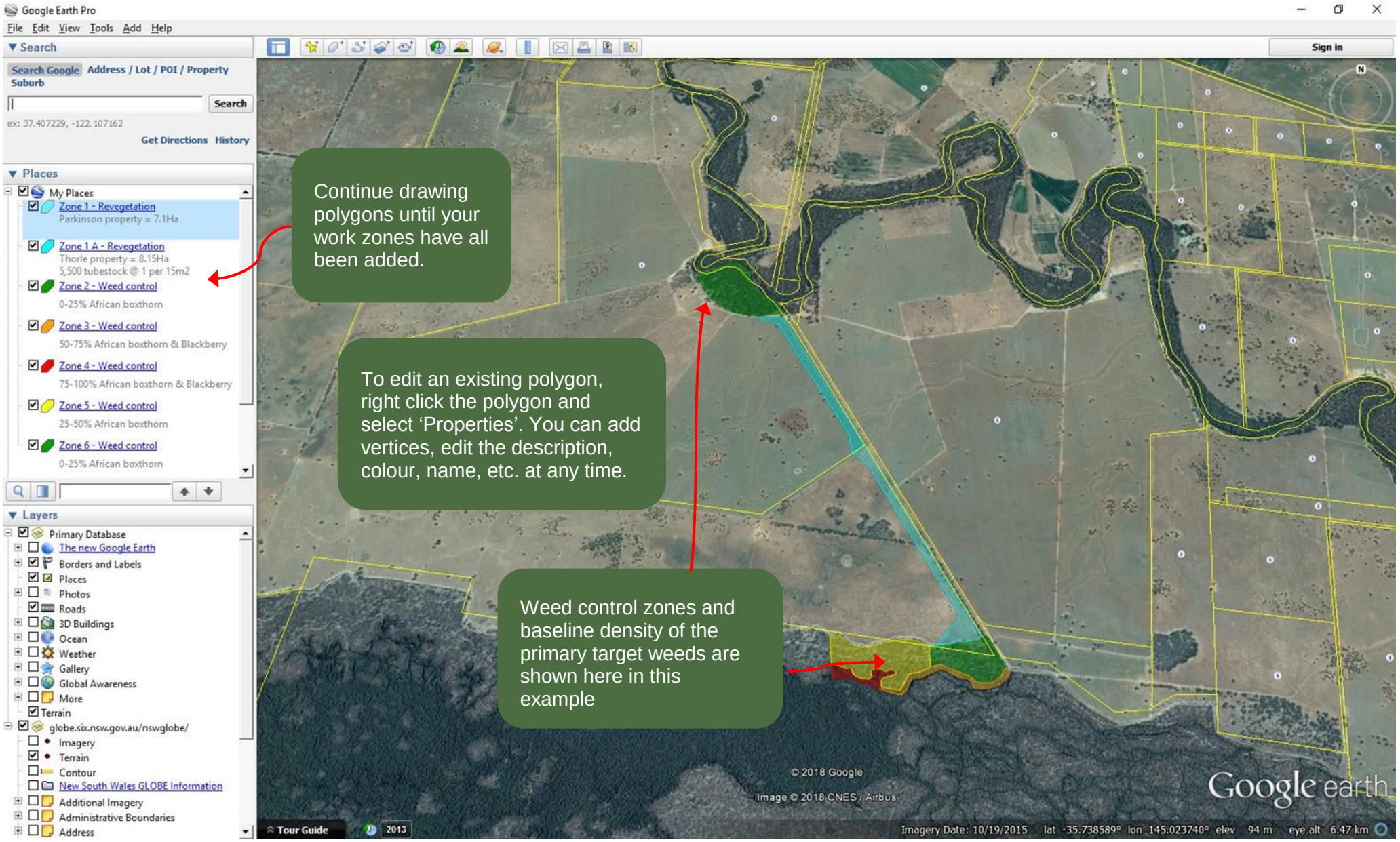
Step 3. Add polygons for each of your project sites / zones



Step 4. Develop your ‘baseline map’ showing the pre-work site condition and expected activity based on the prescribed colour codes



Step 5. Continue to add polygons (areas), lines and points show activities for all of your project sites / work zones.



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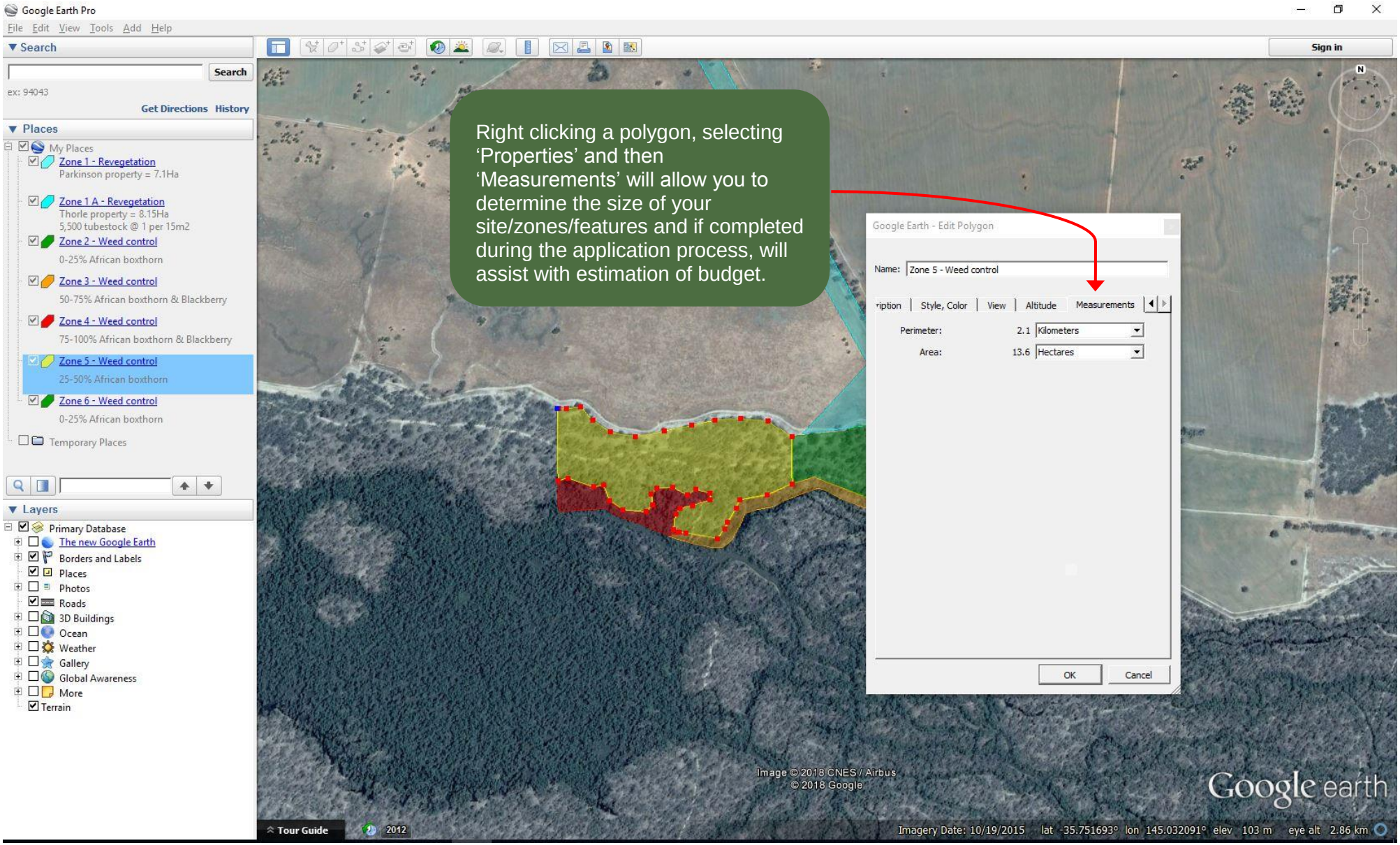
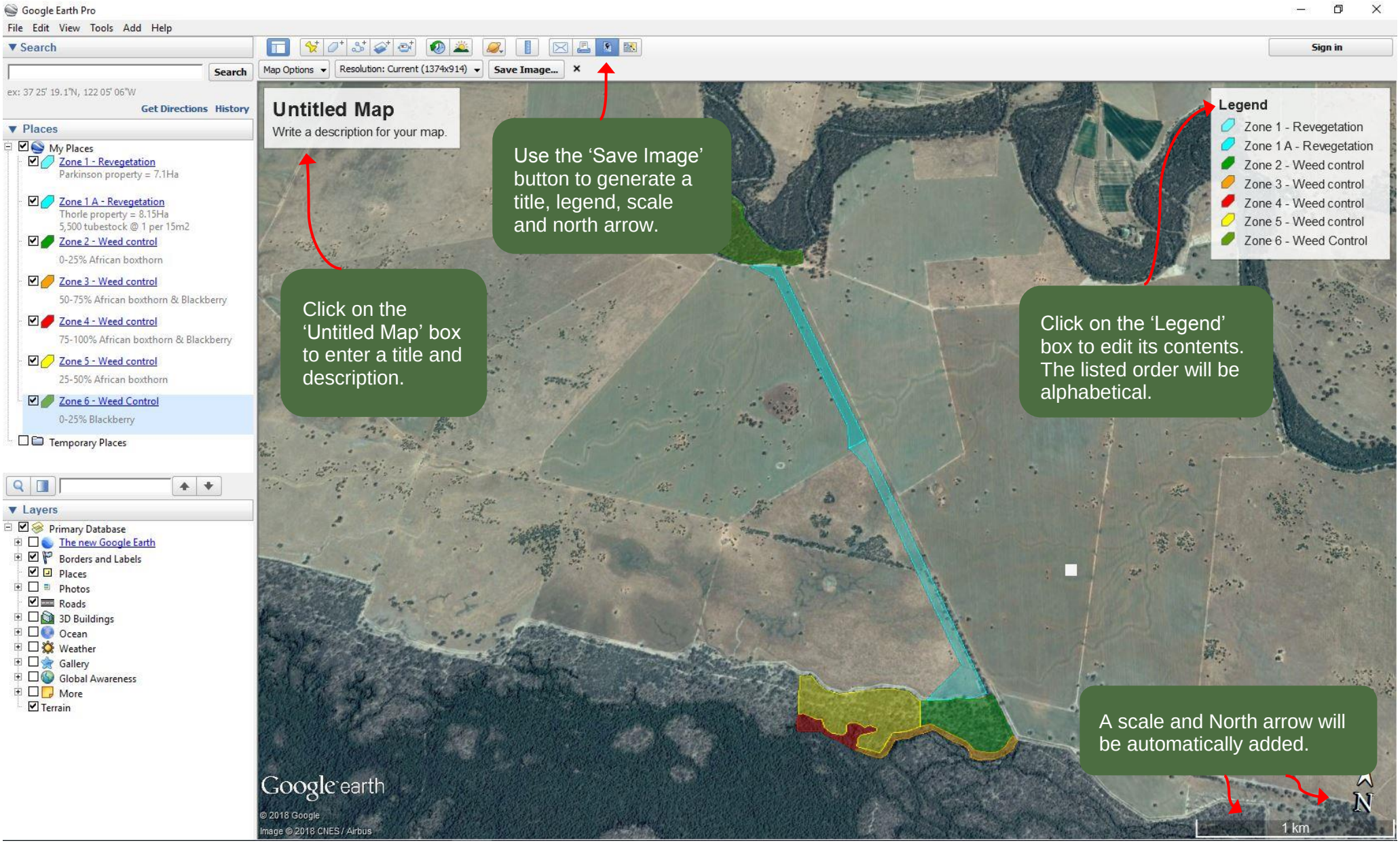
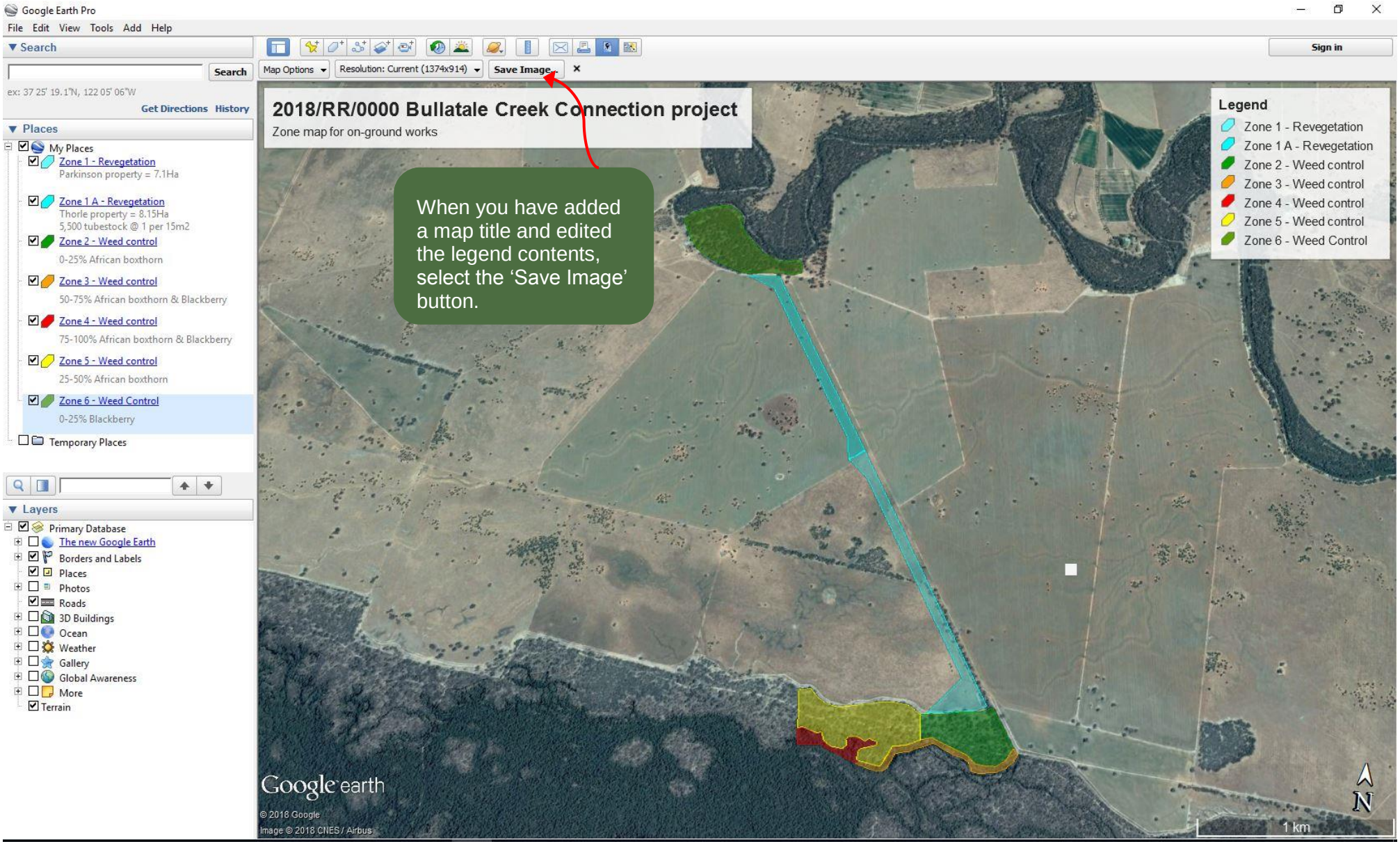


Step 6. Export the image as a static map



Step 7. Save your project site scale map.



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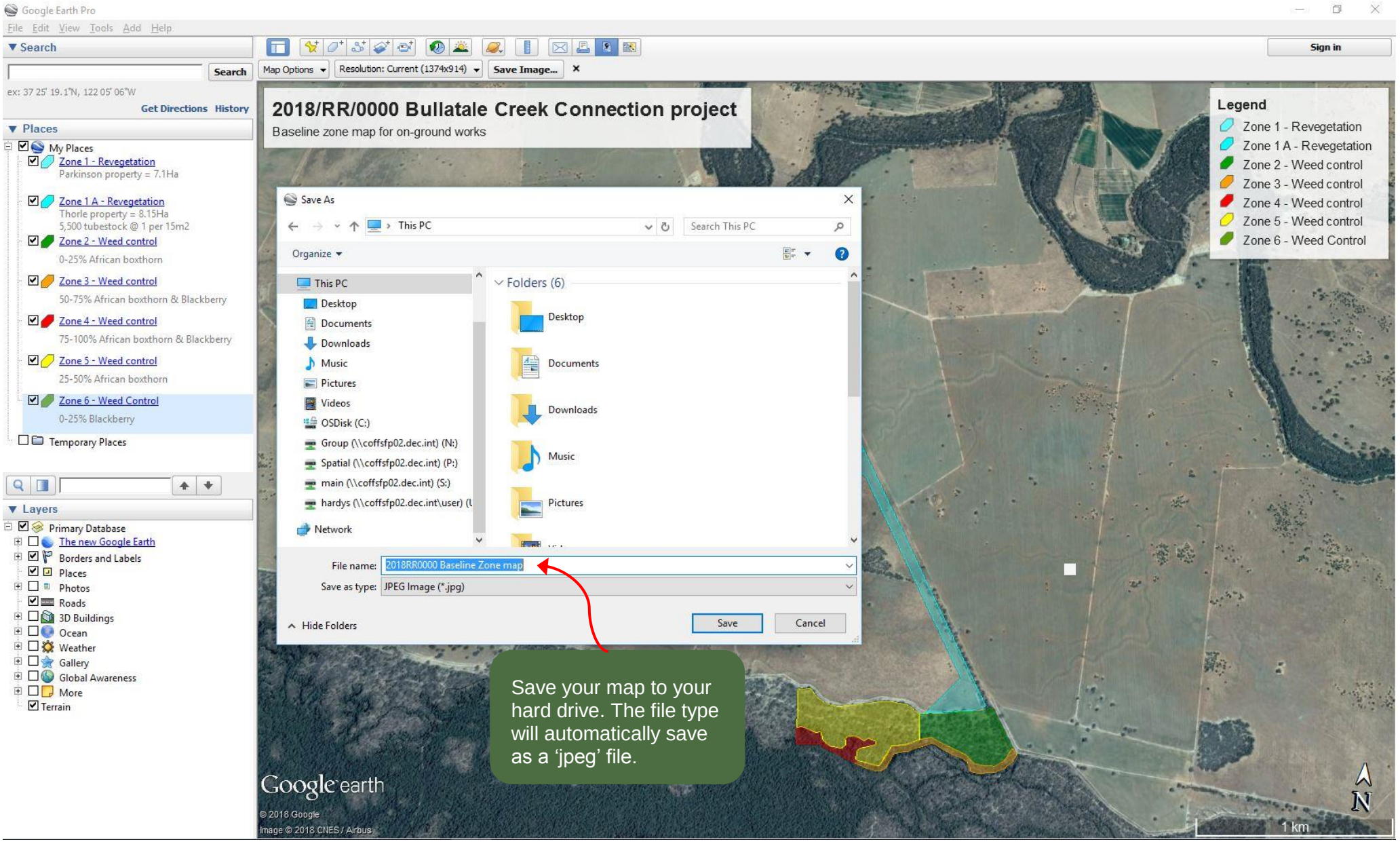
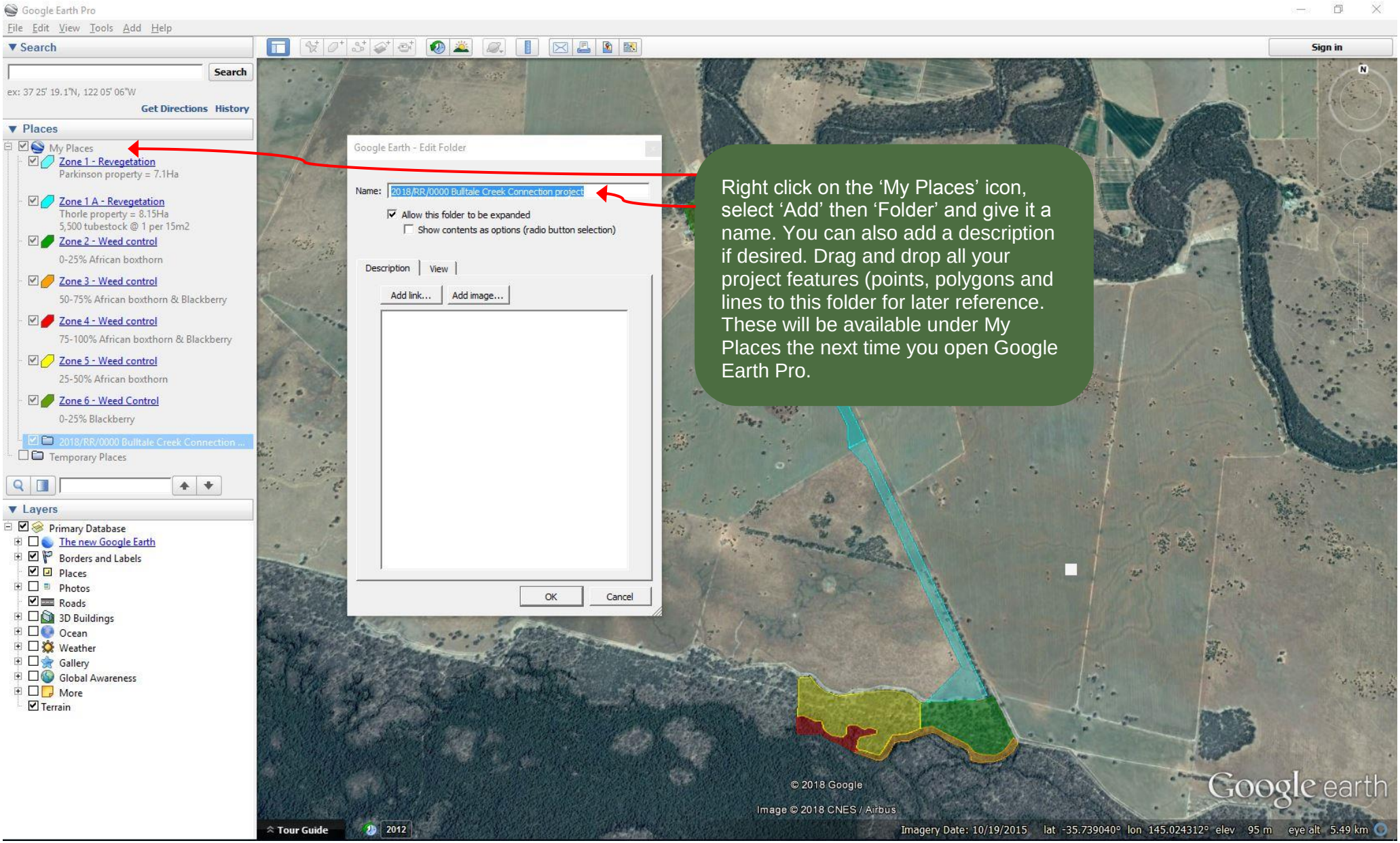
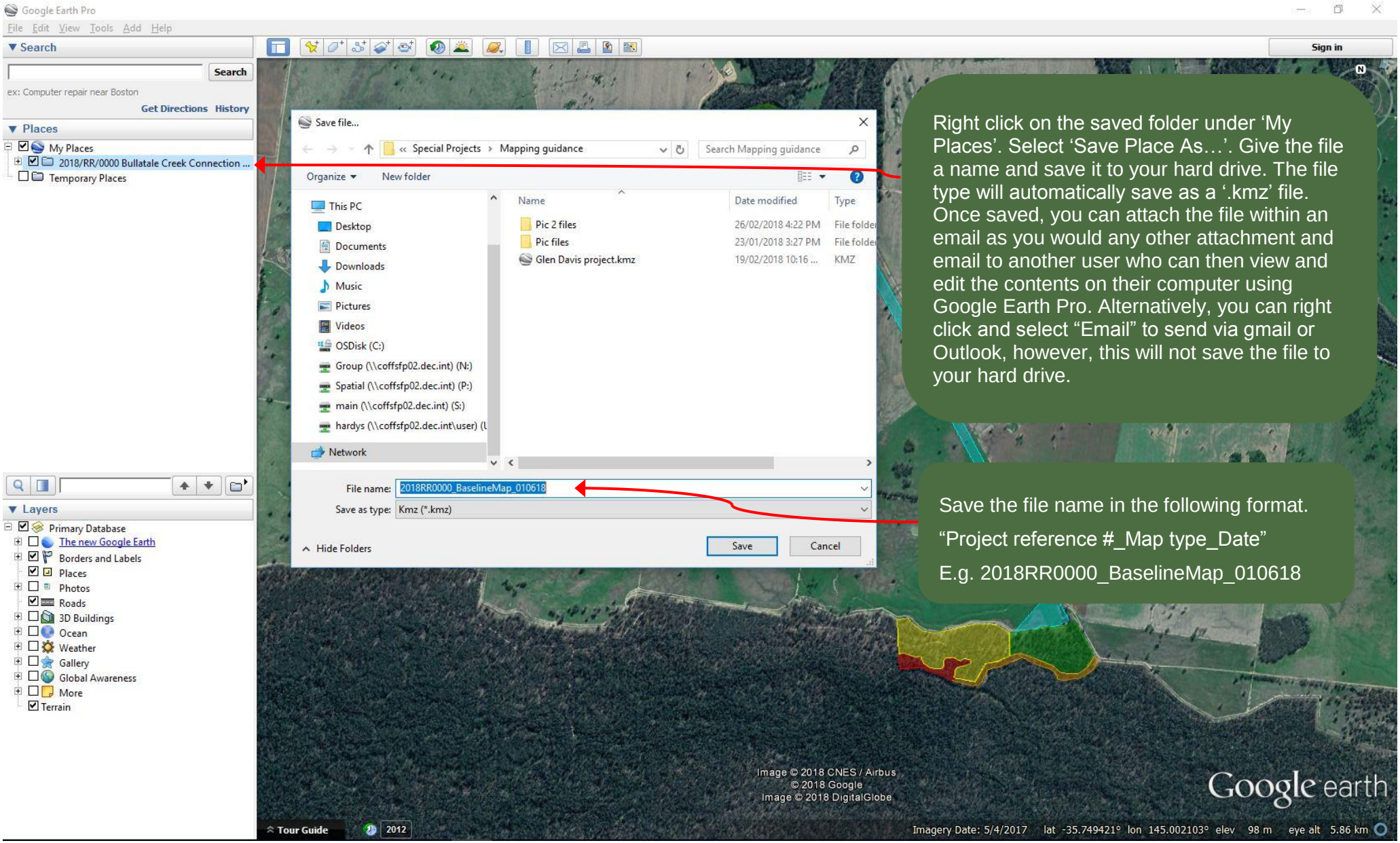


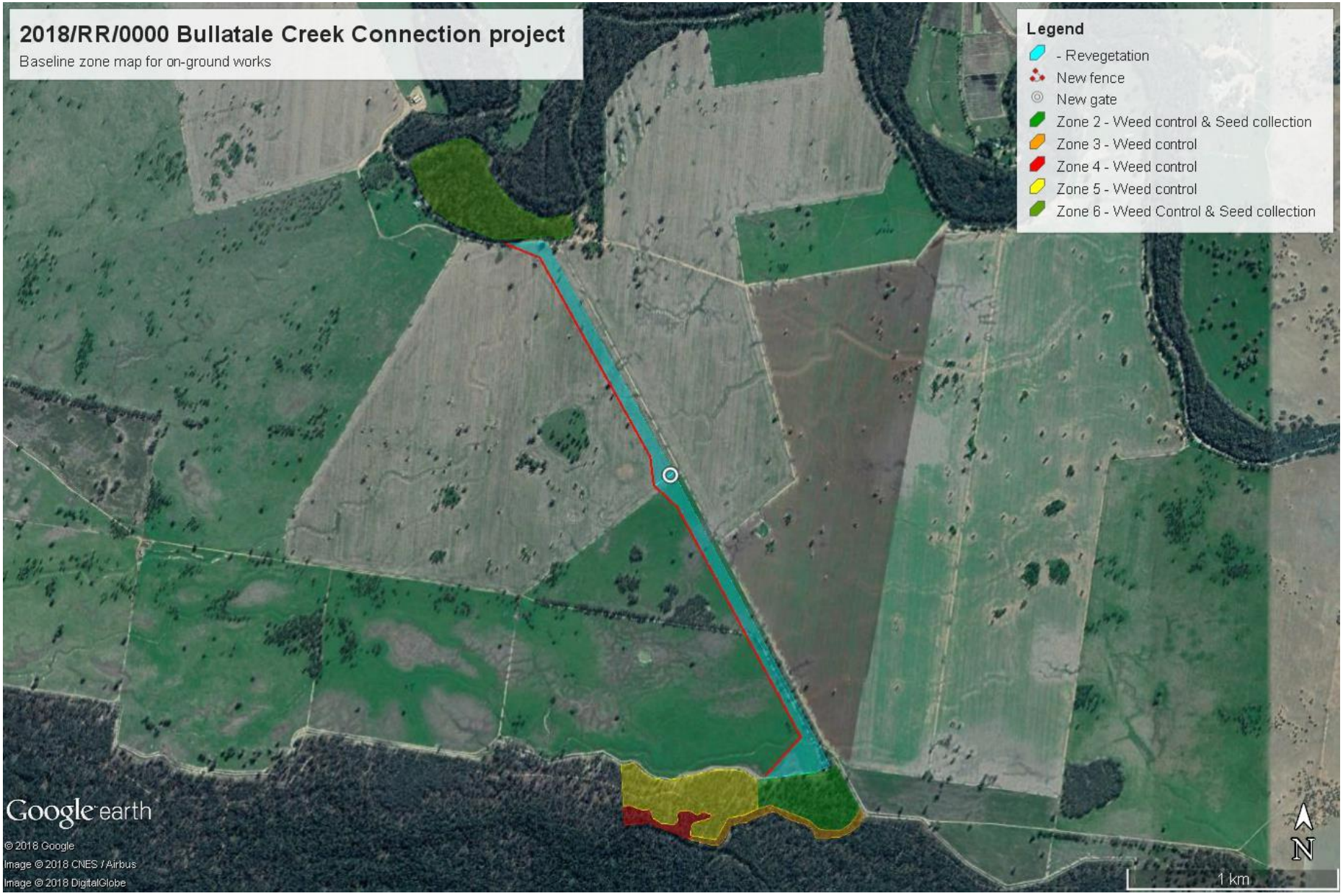
Step 8 - Save your project layers to their own folder within Google Earth Pro



Step 9 (optional) - Save the electronic map file to be able to email



Appendix 1 - Example of exported baseline condition map



Appendix 2 - Standardised Mapping Colour Code Palette for Environmental Trust projects

	Site condition good (e.g. 0-10% weed cover)
	Site condition average (e.g. 11-40% weed cover)
	Site condition poor (e.g. 41-75% weed cover)
	Site condition terrible (e.g. 76-100% weed cover)
	Revegetation area proposed
	Revegetation area complete
	Fence proposed
	Fence complete
	Project feature (e.g. ET funded stock watering trough) proposed
	Project feature (e.g. ET funded stock watering trough) complete