



Figure S3: Illustration of calculating the succession intensity of the 1945 farmland or grassland. We herein demonstrate only for farmland, but similar approach was followed for grassland. For the calculation of this succession intensity metric, we used only the pixels which were farmland or grassland in 1945, and which were persisting or progressed in the expected successional pathway, i.e. farmland → grassland → open-scrub → closed-scrub → forest. The successional stages were graded given their order in the pathway: for farmland succession, farmland was of order 0, grassland of order 1, and so forth; for grassland succession, the ordering started from order 0 for grassland. For a selected pixel k , its succession intensity I_k was the normalised area under the curve of its successional trajectory in the plot. The normalisation was based on the maximum area, which was achieved when the 1945 farmland or grassland pixel turned to forest in 1970 (wavy fill under the maximum trajectory leads to an $I_k = 1$). The succession intensity of all other progressive successional trajectories was expressed as proportion of the maximum area under the curve (an example trajectory with semi-transparent shading under its curve is shown). The minimum $I_k = 0$ is kept for the trajectory of a pixel remaining at the 0 successional stage during the whole study period.