1 From these route reconstructions, a cross-validation of hermeneutic sources and modern landcover and climate data was derived.

Here, do you mean that by cross-validation, palaeo-climate and current climate data, and historical surface cover and modern surface cover data, were got, respectively?

As I know, from route reconstructions, by cross-validation you can get data of palaeo-climate and historical surface cover. Otherwise, I missed something.

2 Results show that decreasing precipitation and temperature records led to increased land degradation during the late 17th century.

Does this sentence mean that land degradation has occurred the late 17th century?