

Optimizing the configuration of a tropical forest landscape: A two-stage framework integrating robust and metaheuristic methods

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Forest Management and
Decision Making

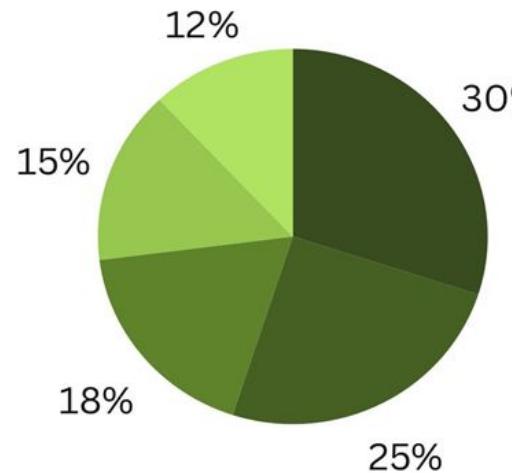
Introduction

Moving towards multifunctional landscapes
might enhance ES provision, reduce biodiversity loss,
and mitigate socio-economic impacts



Introduction

Landscape multifunctionality is influenced by both landscape composition and landscape configuration¹



Landscape
composition



Landscape
configuration

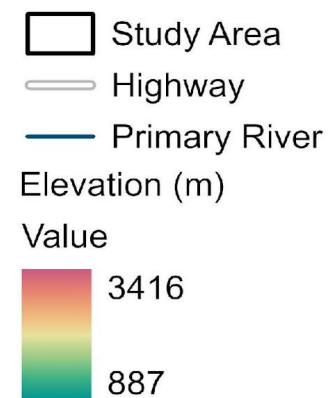


¹Boesing et al. 2024 Global Change Biology. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecoser.2024.101630

Study Area



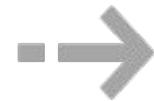
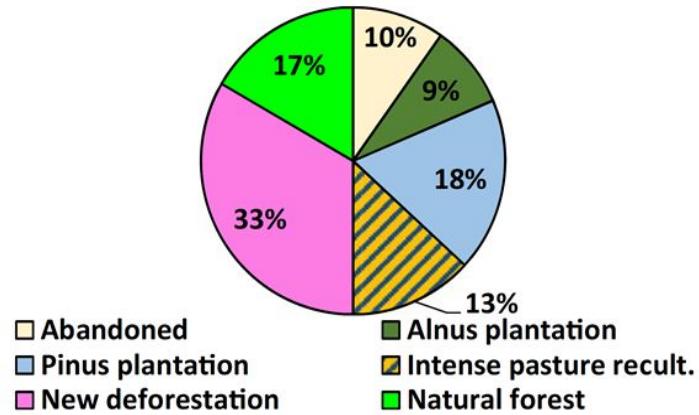
Important biodiversity hotspot, harboring unique levels of species diversity and endemism



Dominated by natural forests and pastureland

Methodological Approach

Robust optimization approach that integrated multiple decision criteria to inform land-use allocation²



Indicators:

9 socio-economic, 14 ecosystem services and 2 biodiversity

Scenarios:

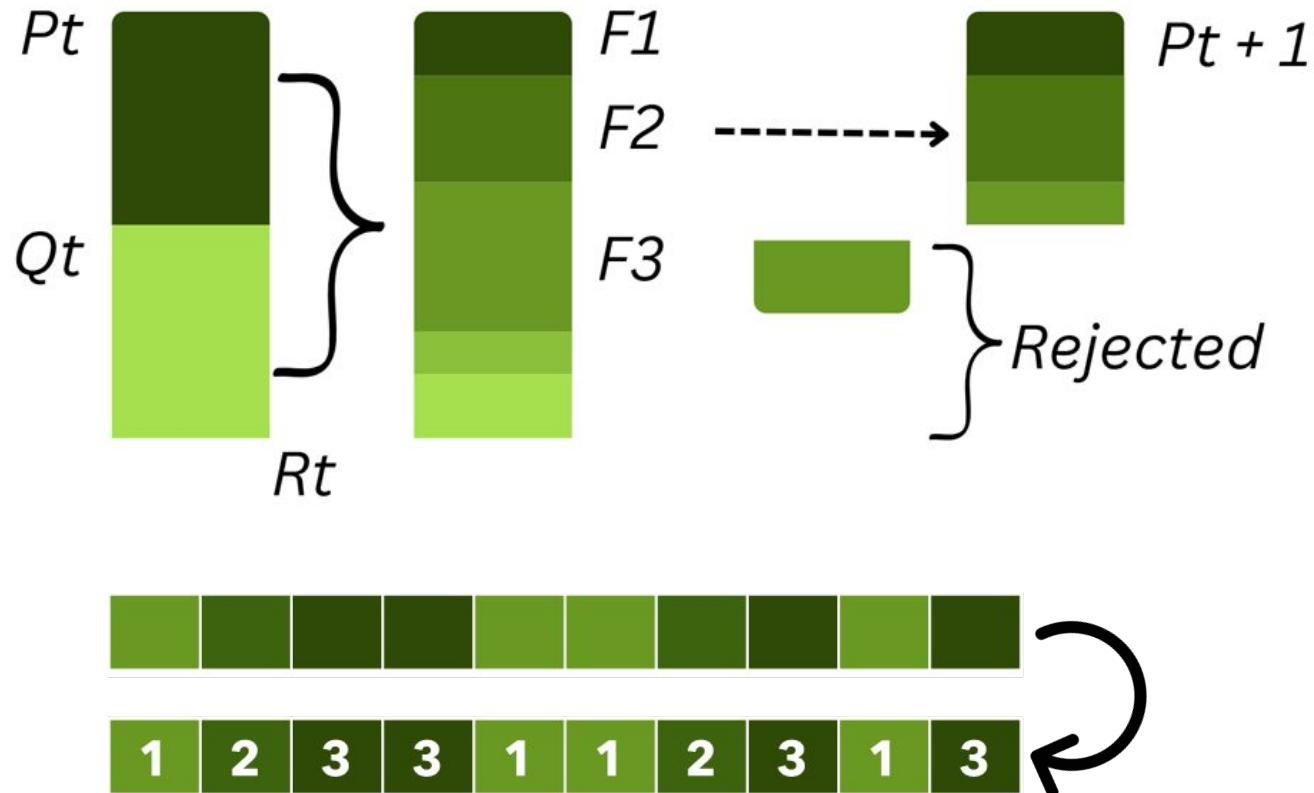
3 groups of hypothetical decision-makers



Potential for addressing spatial challenges

Methodological Approach

NSGA II: Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm⁴



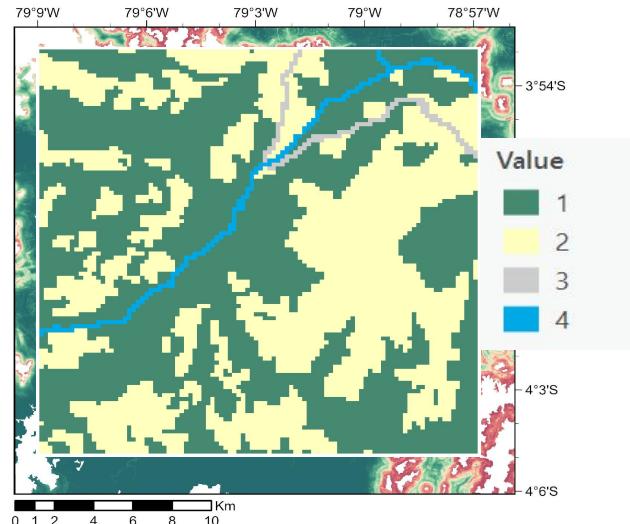
Couple robust optimization with a metaheuristic optimization algorithm:
"Constrained Multi-objective Optimization of Land use Allocation – CoMOLA"³

³Strauch et al. 2019 Environmental Modelling Software. DOI: 10.1016/j.envsoft.2019.05.003

⁴Deb et al. 2002 IEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation

Methodological Approach

1. LULC map⁵

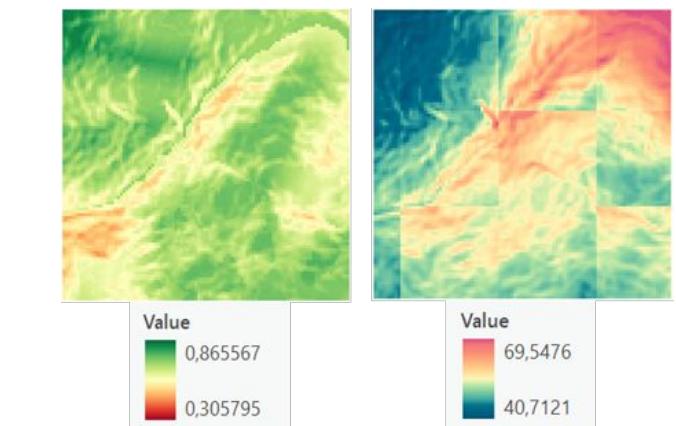


3. Spatial transition rules

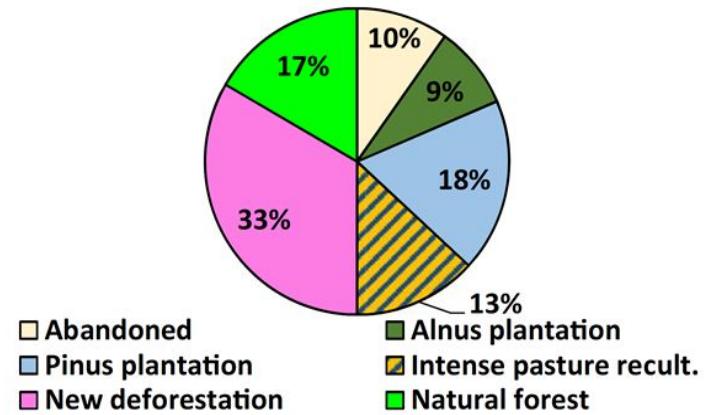
	1	2	3	4
1	1	1	0	0
2	0	1	0	0
3	0	0	1	0
4	0	0	0	1

2. Objective Functions

- Pasture Productivity
- Ecological Connectivity



4. Constraints



³Strauch et al. 2019 Environmental Modelling Software. DOI: 10.1016/j.envsoft.2019.05.003

⁵Pintado & Knoke 2025. Journal of Environmental Management. DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2025.125956

Methodological Approach

Objective functions: Max. Pasture Productivity

12 Key variables
relevant to
pasture
productivity



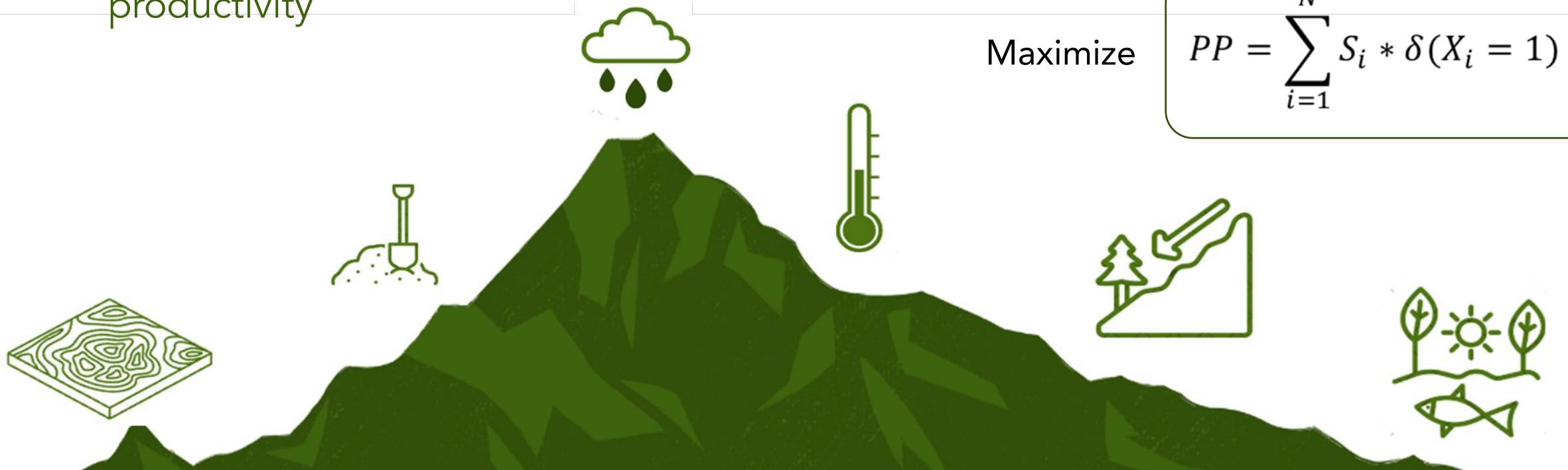
Fuzzy Logic
approach with an
AHP integration



Pasture Suitability
Model (S_i)

Maximize

$$PP = \sum_{i=1}^N S_i * \delta(X_i = 1)$$



Methodological Approach

Objective functions: Ecological Connectivity

8 Key species
from different
functional groups
and their
movement
drivers



Multi-taxa Resistance
Kernel approach

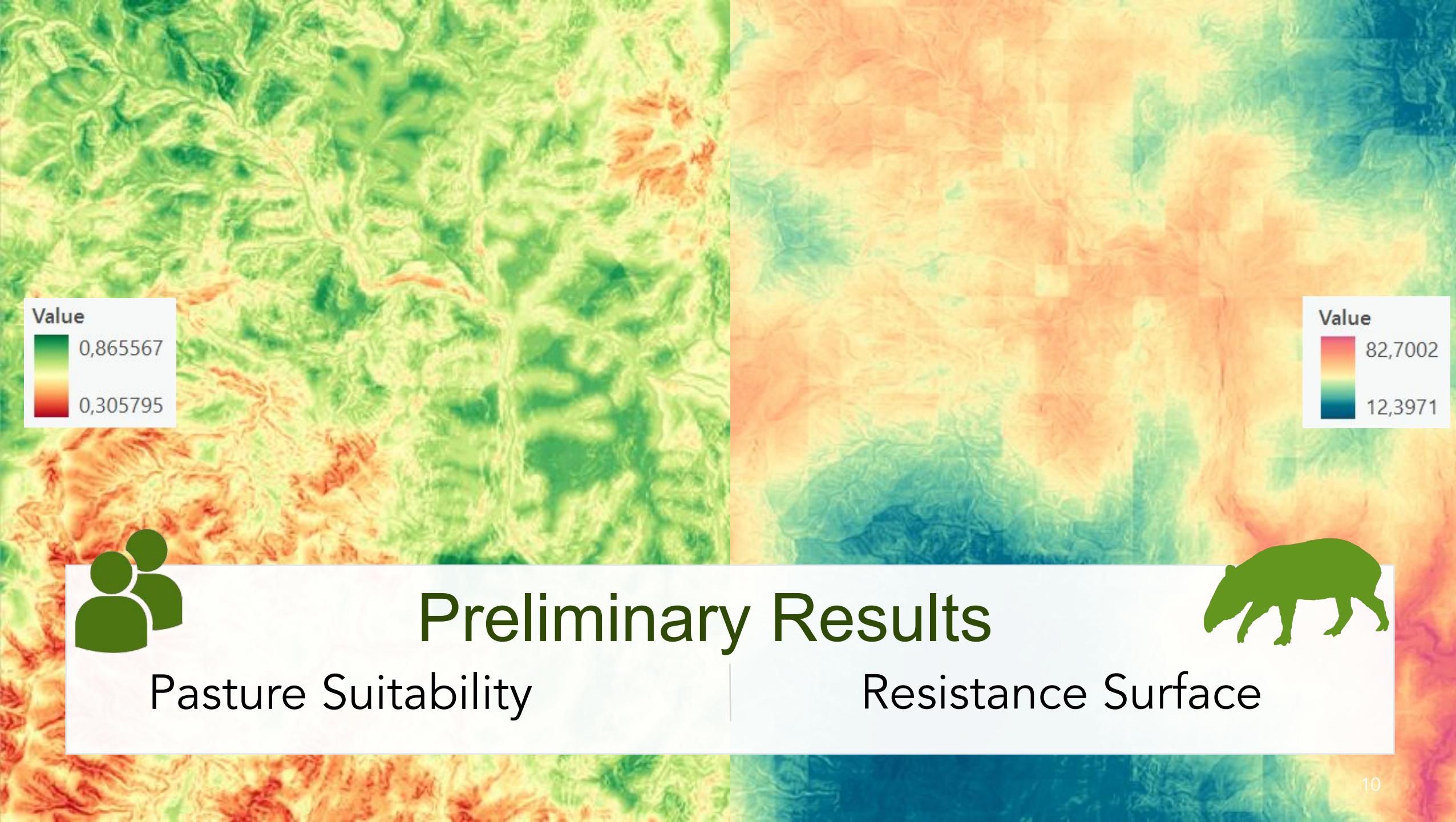


Connectivity resistance
model (R_i)

Maximize

$$EC = \sum_{i=1}^N (1 - R_i) * \rho_{x_i}$$





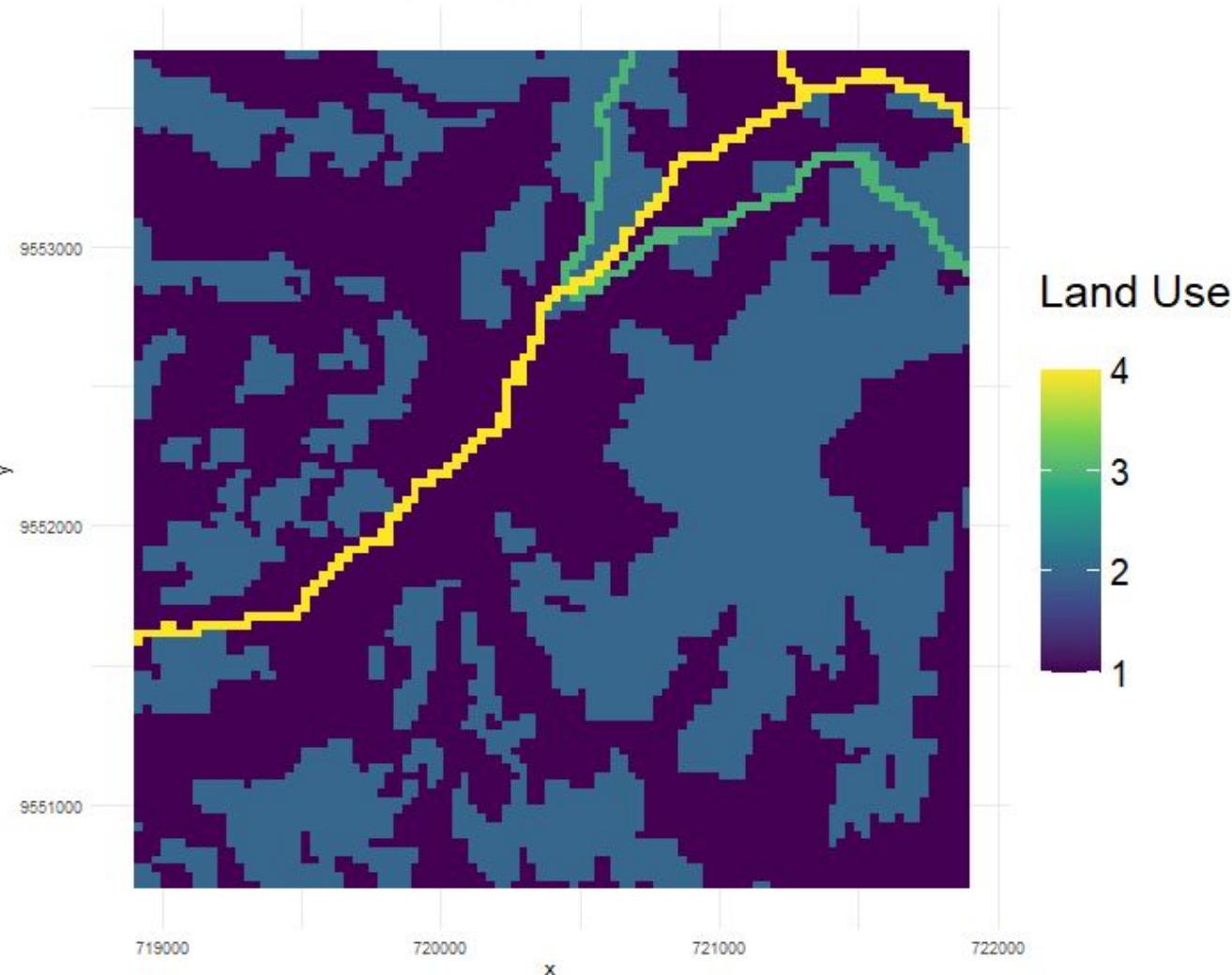
Preliminary Results

Pasture Suitability



Resistance Surface

Map Type: LULC

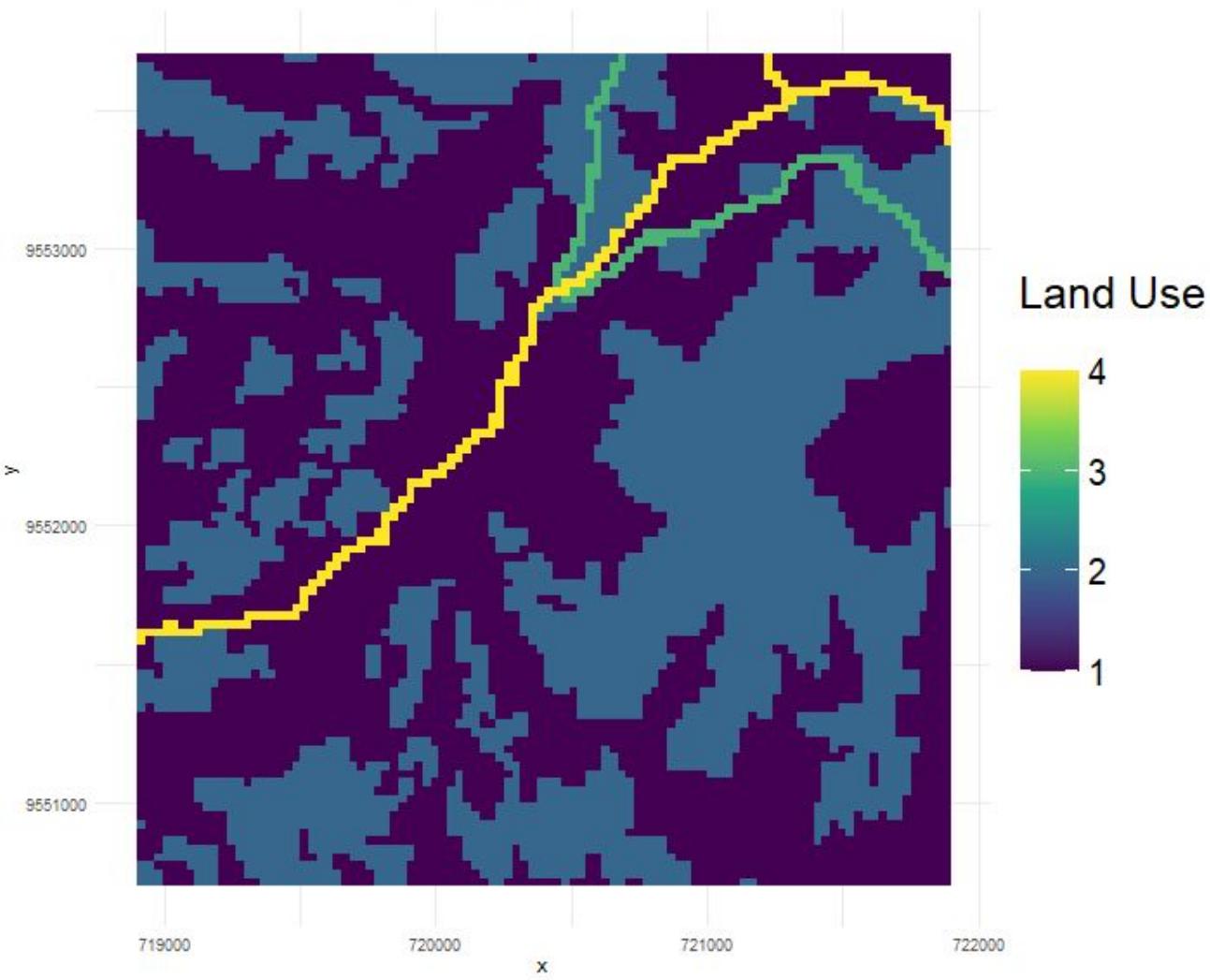


Preliminary Results

Population Size = 5
Generations = 5
Mutation Rate = 0.01
Crossover Rate = 0.9

Unconstrained

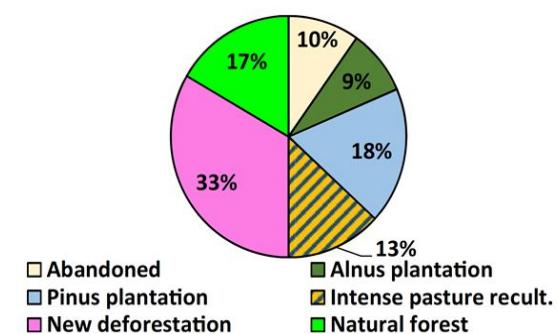
Map Type: LULC



Preliminary Results

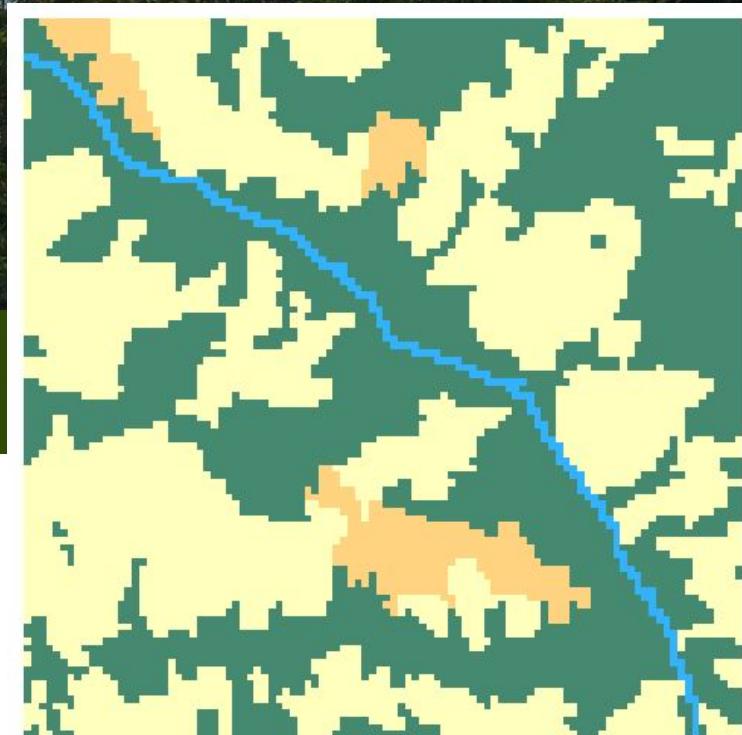
Population Size = 5
Generations = 5
Mutation Rate = 0.01
Crossover Rate = 0.9

Constrained



Next Steps

- Fine tuning our CoMOLA algorithm
- Include Abandoned land in the analysis
- Evaluate results – Pareto frontier



- Consideration of inherent biophysical constraints and spatial interactions
- Provides decision-makers with reliable, site-specific data to better navigate the uncertainties of forest management

Advantages

A photograph of a dense forest with many green trees and bushes under a clear blue sky.

Thanks! Obrigado!

Do you have any
comments
or questions?

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