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| Session ID: |  | |
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| Abstract Title: |  | |
| Systematic Landscape Conservation in Italy | | |
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| Abstract: | | |
| Natura 2000 is an ecological network of protected areas, set up to ensure the survival of Europe’s most valuable species and habitats. Unfortunately given economic considerations, i.e. the cost of purchasing land, preventing conversion and development, and managing selected areas, it is necessary to prioritize the protection of the selected lands within a country. When prioritizing sites in a landscape to be conserved, there are a number of important factors to consider, including site attributes such as size and shape, populations of threatened species, the overall quality of the landscape, and systemic attributes such as contiguity and proximity of selected sites. This research uses the Natura 2000 data for Italy and creates integer programming models for optimal site selection and land allocation. In the presentation, I will introduce the research questions, present the integer programming models, introduce the data, and discuss results using maps and stylized graphs. | | |