

Conservation Choices: Designing and Buying Protection



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EXIT SEMINAR

Pre-talk reception:

3:00 PM in Dabney 568

Establishing protection for conservation is a complex process that along the way involves many critical decisions, from spatial prioritization to garnering the financial support to complete a project. In my research, I address questions across this spectrum. First, I ask questions about protected area design using a case study of a large reef system in Australia. I find that simple design rules can facilitate the pursuit of conservation and extractive management goals. Second, I address questions about the cost incurred by the financing of protection projects by creating a novel dataset. Using projects financed by an internal revolving loan established by a conservation non-profit, I examine correlates of loan default which could impact the long-term success of a conservation deal, and the ability of that organization to pursue future land acquisition. Last, I partner with a large conservation non-profit to identify predictors of philanthropic giving behavior to the organization. By investigating a finely resolved national dataset, I am able to determine educational attainment as a powerful predictor of conservation giving, and identify regions where new fundraising techniques could greatly augment available resources for conservation action.