



Lectures' Outlines – Prof. Cees A. WITHAGEN

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LECTURE 1:

SPATIAL PATTERNS OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN A MULTIREGIONAL GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM MODEL

Habitats in modern landscapes are fragmented, rather than contiguous. Contrary to ecological theory, biodiversity conservation depends on several small rather than a few large reserve sites. In this lecture I first review the so-called SLOSS (single large or several small) debate from an economic perspective. Then I develop an extension of the Fujita-Krugman-Venables model with two types of species with different extinction risks. Above a minimum marginal utility from biodiversity, the model may exhibit additional equilibria and increased stability of the symmetric solution, compared to the FKV results. In social welfare optima the degree of regional specialisation depends on preferences for species. The first-best solution is supported as a Nash-equilibrium only if it entails a symmetric pattern of land use.