

Location factors of forest plantation expansion in south-central Chile

Understanding location factors of land use/cover change is fundamental for improving decision-making processes in spatial planning. This study aims to identify the location factor of forest plantation in the Lingue basin of south-central Chile. Specifically, we assess whether the contribution of each variable to enhance spatial prediction performance should be considered when assessing the relative importance of location factors. The Figure of Merit (FoM) was employed to assess the predictive performance, rather than relying exclusively on conventional metrics such as Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves. Preliminary results indicate that AIC and ROC values are not strongly correlated with the capacity of the model to accurately spatially reproduce the areas of forest plantation expansion. Instead, the Figure of Merit proved to be a complementary metric in evaluating location factors relative importance.