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Ana Maria A. C. Rocha · Eufemia Tarantino ·  
Carmelo Maria Torre (Eds.)

# Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2021

21st International Conference  
Cagliari, Italy, September 13–16, 2021  
Proceedings, Part VI

6 Part VI



 Springer

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# Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2021

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## Preface

These 10 volumes (LNCS volumes 12949–12958) consist of the peer-reviewed papers from the 21st International Conference on Computational Science and Its Applications (ICCSA 2021) which took place during September 13–16, 2021. By virtue of the vaccination campaign conducted in various countries around the world, we decided to try a hybrid conference, with some of the delegates attending in person at the University of Cagliari and others attending in virtual mode, reproducing the infrastructure established last year.

This year's edition was a successful continuation of the ICCSA conference series, which was also held as a virtual event in 2020, and previously held in Saint Petersburg, Russia (2019), Melbourne, Australia (2018), Trieste, Italy (2017), Beijing, China (2016), Banff, Canada (2015), Guimaraes, Portugal (2014), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (2013), Salvador, Brazil (2012), Santander, Spain (2011), Fukuoka, Japan (2010), Suwon, South Korea (2009), Perugia, Italy (2008), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2007), Glasgow, UK (2006), Singapore (2005), Assisi, Italy (2004), Montreal, Canada (2003), and (as ICCS) Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2002) and San Francisco, USA (2001).

Computational science is the main pillar of most of the present research on understanding and solving complex problems. It plays a unique role in exploiting innovative ICT technologies and in the development of industrial and commercial applications. The ICCSA conference series provides a venue for researchers and industry practitioners to discuss new ideas, to share complex problems and their solutions, and to shape new trends in computational science.

Apart from the six main conference tracks, ICCSA 2021 also included 52 workshops in various areas of computational sciences, ranging from computational science technologies to specific areas of computational sciences, such as software engineering, security, machine learning and artificial intelligence, blockchain technologies, and applications in many fields. In total, we accepted 494 papers, giving an acceptance rate of 30%, of which 18 papers were short papers and 6 were published open access. We would like to express our appreciation for the workshop chairs and co-chairs for their hard work and dedication.

The success of the ICCSA conference series in general, and of ICCSA 2021 in particular, vitally depends on the support of many people: authors, presenters, participants, keynote speakers, workshop chairs, session chairs, organizing committee members, student volunteers, Program Committee members, advisory committee members, international liaison chairs, reviewers, and others in various roles. We take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank them all.

We also wish to thank Springer for publishing the proceedings, for sponsoring some of the best paper awards, and for their kind assistance and cooperation during the editing process.

We cordially invite you to visit the ICCSA website <https://iccsa.org> where you can find all the relevant information about this interesting and exciting event.

September 2021

Oswaldo Gervasi  
Beniamino Murgante  
Sanjay Misra

## Welcome Message from the Organizers

COVID-19 has continued to alter our plans for organizing the ICCSA 2021 conference, so although vaccination plans are progressing worldwide, the spread of virus variants still forces us into a period of profound uncertainty. Only a very limited number of participants were able to enjoy the beauty of Sardinia and Cagliari in particular, rediscovering the immense pleasure of meeting again, albeit safely spaced out. The social events, in which we rediscovered the ancient values that abound on this wonderful island and in this city, gave us even more strength and hope for the future. For the management of the virtual part of the conference, we consolidated the methods, organization, and infrastructure of ICCSA 2020.

The technological infrastructure was based on open source software, with the addition of the streaming channels on YouTube. In particular, we used Jitsi ([jitsi.org](https://jitsi.org)) for videoconferencing, Riot ([riot.im](https://riot.im)) together with Matrix ([matrix.org](https://matrix.org)) for chat and asynchronous communication, and Jibri ([github.com/jitsi/jibri](https://github.com/jitsi/jibri)) for streaming live sessions to YouTube.

Seven Jitsi servers were set up, one for each parallel session. The participants of the sessions were helped and assisted by eight student volunteers (from the universities of Cagliari, Florence, Perugia, and Bari), who provided technical support and ensured smooth running of the conference proceedings.

The implementation of the software infrastructure and the technical coordination of the volunteers were carried out by Damiano Perri and Marco Simonetti.

Our warmest thanks go to all the student volunteers, to the technical coordinators, and to the development communities of Jitsi, Jibri, Riot, and Matrix, who made their terrific platforms available as open source software.

A big thank you goes to all of the 450 speakers, many of whom showed an enormous collaborative spirit, sometimes participating and presenting at almost prohibitive times of the day, given that the participants of this year's conference came from 58 countries scattered over many time zones of the globe.

Finally, we would like to thank Google for letting us stream all the live events via YouTube. In addition to lightening the load of our Jitsi servers, this allowed us to record the event and to be able to review the most exciting moments of the conference.

Ivan Blečić  
Chiara Garau

## Organization

ICCSA 2021 was organized by the University of Cagliari (Italy), the University of Perugia (Italy), the University of Basilicata (Italy), Monash University (Australia), Kyushu Sangyo University (Japan), and the University of Minho (Portugal).

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### Advances in Artificial Intelligence Learning Technologies: Blended Learning, STEM, Computational Thinking and Coding (AAILT 2021)

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### Workshop on Advancements in Applied Machine Learning and Data Analytics (AAMDA 2021)

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**Automatic Landform Classification: Spatial Methods and Applications (ALCSMA 2021)**

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**Application of Numerical Analysis to Imaging Science (ANAIS 2021)**

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**Advances in Information Systems and Technologies for Emergency Management, Risk Assessment and Mitigation Based on the Resilience Concepts (ASTER 2021)**

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**Computational and Applied Statistics (CAS 2021)**

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**Computerized Evaluation of Economic Activities: Urban Spaces (CEEAA 2021)**

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**Computational Geometry and Applications (CGA 2021)**

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**The 11th International Workshop on Future Computing System Technologies and Applications (FiSTA 2021)**

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**Transformational Urban Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities During and Post COVID Era (FURTHER 2021)**

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**Geodesign in Decision Making: Meta Planning and Collaborative Design for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (GDM 2021)**

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**Geomatics in Forestry and Agriculture: New Advances and Perspectives (GeoForAgr 2021)**

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**12th International Symposium on Software Quality (ISSQ 2021)**

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**10th International Workshop on Collective, Massive and Evolutionary  
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## Contents – Part VI

### **International Workshop on Digital Transformation and Smart City (DIGISMART 2021)**

Analysis of Regional Imbalances in Italy Based on Cluster Analysis . . . . .	3
<i>Massimo De Maria, Mauro Mazzei, Oleg V. Bik, and Armando L. Palma</i>	

New Smart Mobility Applications: Preliminary Findings on a Pilot Study in the Municipality of Artana . . . . .	21
<i>Mauro D'Apuzzo, Azzurra Evangelisti, Daniela Santilli, Stefano Buzzi, Mauro Mazzei, and Viviana Bietoni</i>	

### **International Workshop on Econometrics and Multidimensional Evaluation in Urban Environment (EMEUE 2021)**

The Benefit Transfer Method for the Economic Evaluation of Urban Forests . . . . .	39
<i>Francesco Sica and Antonio Nesticò</i>	

The Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Housing Market: A Case Study in Rome (Italy) . . . . .	50
<i>Francesco Tajani, Pierluigi Morano, Felicia Di Liddo, Maria Rosaria Guarini, and Rossana Ranieri</i>	

The Contribution of the Most Influencing Factors on the Housing Rents: An Analysis in the City of Milan (Italy) . . . . .	63
<i>Pierluigi Morano, Francesco Tajani, Felicia Di Liddo, Rossana Ranieri, and Paola Amoruso</i>	

The Paradox of Fiscal Inequality in Italy: Exploratory Analyses on Property Tax Rates. . . . .	77
<i>Rocco Curto, Alice Barreca, Giorgia Malavasi, and Diana Rolando</i>	

The Financial Costs in Energy Efficient District. Alternative Scenarios from the Demo Sites of the CITYFiED Program . . . . .	93
<i>Simona Barbaro and Grazia Napoli</i>	

Inclusive Strategic Programming: Methodological Aspects of the Case Study of the Jonian Valleys of Peloritani (Sicily, Italy) . . . . .	109
<i>Giuseppe Bombino, Francesco Calabrò, Giuseppina Cassalia, Lidia Errante, and Viviana Vinci</i>	

New Housing Preferences in the COVID-19 Era: A Best-to-Worst Scaling Experiment . . . . .	120
<i>Marta Bottero, Marina Bravi, Caterina Caprioli, Federico Dell'Anna, Marta Dell'Ovo, and Alessandra Oppio</i>	
An Analysis of the Methods Applied for the Assessment of the Market Value of Residential Properties in Italian Judicial Procedures . . . . .	130
<i>Francesco Tajani, Felicia Di Liddo, Paola Amoruso, Francesco Sica, and Ivana La Spina</i>	
Integrated Statistical Data for Planning Social Housing in the City of Taranto . . . . .	142
<i>Paola Perchinunno and Francesco Rotondo</i>	
Reconstruction as an Opportunity to Promote Local Self-sustainable Development of Shrinking Territories in Seismic Inner Areas in Central Italy . . . . .	153
<i>Luca Domenella, Marco Galasso, Giovanni Marinelli, and Francesco Rotondo</i>	
Urban Regeneration Processes and Social Impact: A Literature Review to Explore the Role of Evaluation . . . . .	167
<i>Maria Cerreta and Ludovica La Rocca</i>	
Using Artificial Neural Networks to Uncover Real Estate Market Transparency: The Market Value . . . . .	183
<i>Laura Gabrielli, Aurora Greta Ruggeri, and Massimiliano Scarpa</i>	
Creative Ecosystem Services: Valuing Benefits of Innovative Cultural Networks . . . . .	193
<i>Giuliano Poli and Gaia Daldanise</i>	
Ecosystem Services and Land Take. A Composite Indicator for the Assessment of Sustainable Urban Projects . . . . .	210
<i>Pierluigi Morano, Maria Rosaria Guarini, Francesco Sica, and Debora Anelli</i>	
Building Industry and Energy Efficiency: A Review of Three Major Issues at Stake . . . . .	226
<i>Sergio Copiello, Laura Gabrielli, and Ezio Micelli</i>	
An Evaluation Model for the Optimization of Property Sales in Auction Markets . . . . .	241
<i>Francesco Tajani, Pierluigi Morano, Marco Locurcio, Paola Amoruso, and Carmelo Maria Torre</i>	

Urban Transformation Interventions: A Decision Support Model for a Fair <i>Rent Gap</i> Recapture . . . . .	253
<i>Pierluigi Morano, Francesco Tajani, Vincenzo del Giudice, Pierfrancesco De Paola, and Debora Anelli</i>	
An Optimization Model for Supporting the Property Asset Allocation Decision-Making Process . . . . .	265
<i>Francesco Tajani, Marco Locurcio, Pierluigi Morano, and Debora Anelli</i>	
The Risks Assessment in the Project Financing Initiative for the Cemetery Expansion Intervention in a Small Town in Southern Italy . . . . .	277
<i>Marco Locurcio, Pierluigi Morano, Francesco Tajani, Felicia Di Liddo, and Carmelo Maria Torre</i>	
A Citizen-Led Spatial Information System for Collaborative (Post-) pandemic Urban Strategies: The Ponticelli Experience, Naples (Italy) . . . . .	293
<i>Maria Cerreta, Luigi Liccardi, and Maria Reitano</i>	
The Knowledge Phase of the Strategic Programming: The Case Study of the Jonian Valleys of Peloritani (Sicily, Italy) . . . . .	307
<i>Giuseppe Bombino, Francesco Calabrò, Giuseppina Cassalia, Lidia Errante, and Viviana Vinci</i>	
<b>International Workshop on Transformational Urban Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities During and Post COVID Era (FURTHER 2021)</b>	
Developing Flexible Mobility On-Demand in the Era of Mobility as a Service: An Overview of the Italian Context Before and After Pandemic. . . . .	323
<i>Tiziana Campisi, Chiara Garau, Giovanna Acampa, Francesca Maltinti, Antonino Canale, and Mauro Coni</i>	
Factors Influencing Public Transport Demand in Sicily During COVID-19 Era: A Study of Commuters' Travel and Mode Choice Behaviors . . . . .	339
<i>Socrates Basbas, Georgios Georgiadis, Tiziana Campisi, and Giovanni Tesoriere</i>	
Standard Cost of Local Public Transport in the Post-COVID-19 Era: The Italian Case . . . . .	354
<i>G. Acampa, M. Grasso, C. M. Parisi, D. Ticali, and A. Severino</i>	
COVID-19's Effects over E-commerce: A Preliminary Statistical Assessment for Some European Countries . . . . .	370
<i>Tiziana Campisi, Antonio Russo, Giovanni Tesoriere, Efsthios Bouhouras, and Socrates Basbas</i>	

The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Perception of Public Transportation Users in Amman (Jordan) . . . . .	386
<i>Motasem Darwish, Tiziana Campisi, and Ghaida Abu Rumman</i>	
<b>International Workshop on Geodesign in Decision Making: Meta Planning and Collaborative Design for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (GDM 2021)</b>	
Landscape Information Modelling to Improve Feedback in the Geodesign International Collaboration for Carbon Credit Enhancement in Metropolitan Regions – The Case Study of Fortaleza, Brazil . . . . .	405
<i>Newton Moura, Joana Guedes, Emiliano Cavalcante, Morganna Oliveira, Ana Maia, Anne Castro, Eugênio Moreira, Daniel Cardoso, and Vitor Sampaio</i>	
Decision Making and Geodesign: A Collaborative Territorial Planning Proposal for the Metropolitan Region of Belém, Pará, Brazil . . . . .	420
<i>Alan Nunes Araújo, Tiago Barreto de Andrade Costa, Bruno Daniel das Neves Benitez, Fabricio Martins Silva, and Joabi Luiz Lima De Lima</i>	
Geodesign Applied to Propositional Scenarios of Medium and Long-Term Sustainable Projects for Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Region, Brazil . . . . .	437
<i>Tiago Badre Marino, César Augusto Barra Rocha, Ashiley Adelaide Rosa, and Tiago Augusto Gonçalves Mello</i>	
Geodesign Using GISColab Platform: SDI Consumed by WMS and WFS & WPS Protocols in Transformative-Learning Actions in Planning . . . . .	448
<i>Ana Clara Mourão Moura, Christian Rezende Freitas, Vanessa Tenuta de Freitas, and Ana Isabel Anastasia de Sa</i>	
Geodesign Brazil: Trees for the Metropolitan Area of São Paulo . . . . .	463
<i>Adriana Afonso Sandre, Amanda Lombardo Fruehauf, Augusto Akio Lucchezi Miyahara, Ashiley Adelaide Rosa, Cíntia Miua Maruyama, Giuliano Maselli Locoselli, Leticia Figueiredo Candido, Magda Adelaide Lombardo, Matheus Aguiar Coelho, Rafael Pollastrini Murolo, Riciane Maria Reis Pombo, Taícia Helena Negrin Marques, and Paulo Renato Mesquita Pellegrino</i>	
The Potential of Geodesign for the Optimization of Land Use in the Perspective of Sustainability: Case Study of the Metropolitan Region of Campinas . . . . .	476
<i>Andréia Medinilha Panher, Ana Isabel de Sá, Marcelo Costa, and Tiago Oyan Aguiar</i>	













Using Geodesign to Plan the Future of Macapa Metropolitan Region, State of Amapa, Brazil: A Support to Expanding Collaborative Technical Performance. . . . .	491
<i>Gustavo Adolfo Tinoco Martínez, Fabiana Carmo de Vargas Vieira, Caroline Cristiane Rocha, Ana Corina Maia Palheta, and Sara Heloiza Alberto Neri</i>	
Asynchronous Mode in the Webgis: A Challenge to Ensure Greater Popular Participation . . . . .	507
<i>Patricia PortoCarreiro, Patricia Vieira Trinta, and Thiago Lima e Lima</i>	
<b>11th International Workshop on Future Computing System Technologies and Applications (FiSTA 2021)</b>	
Deep Fake Recognition in Tweets Using Text Augmentation, Word Embeddings and Deep Learning. . . . .	523
<i>Senait G. Tesfagergish, Robertas Damaševičius, and Jurgita Kapočiūtė-Dzikienė</i>	
Development of an RL-Based Mechanism to Augment Computation Offloading in Edge Computing . . . . .	539
<i>Shintaro Ide and Bernady O. Apduhan</i>	
An Initial Assessment of a Chatbot for Rumination-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (RFCBT) in College Students. . . . .	549
<i>Alana Lucia Souza Oliveira, Leonardo Nogueira Matos, Methanias Colaço Junior, and Zenith Nara Costa Delabrida</i>	
Price Forecasting with Deep Learning in Business to Consumer Markets . . . .	565
<i>Emre Eğriboz and Mehmet S. Aktaş</i>	
Modeling and Verification of Contactless Mobile Banking System in E-Banking Using SPIN . . . . .	581
<i>Tej Narayan Thakur and Noriaki Yoshiura</i>	
<b>International Workshop on Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics (GEOG-AND-MOD 2021)</b>	
Earthquake Prediction Based on Combined Seismic and GPS Monitoring Data . . . . .	601
<i>V. G. Gitis, A. B. Derendyaev, and K. N. Petrov</i>	
Survey of a Peruvian Archaeological Site Using LiDAR and Photogrammetry: A Contribution to the Study of the Chachapoya. . . . .	613
<i>Giovanni Righetti, Stefano Serafini, Fabian Brondi Rueda, Warren B. Church, and Gabriele Garnero</i>	



Estimation of Hourly Salinity Concentrations Using an Artificial Neural Network . . . . .	629
<i>Vladimir J. Alarcon, Anna C. Linhoss, Christopher R. Kelble, Paul F. Mickle, Joseph Bishop, and Emily Milton</i>	
Tracing and Modeling of the COVID-19 Pandemic Infections in Poland Using Spatial Interactions Models . . . . .	641
<i>Piotr A. Werner</i>	
On Sustainability of Urban Italian Mobility . . . . .	658
<i>Gabriella Schoier, Giuseppe Borruso, and Beatrice Dedemo</i>	
A Remote Sensing and Geo-Statistical Approaches to Mapping Burn Areas in Apulia Region (Southern Italy) . . . . .	670
<i>Valentina Santarsiero, Gabriele Nolè, Antonio Lanorte, Biagio Tucci, Francesco Vito Ronco, Vito Augusto Capurso, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
Soil Erosion and Land Degradation in Rural Environment: A Preliminary GIS and Remote-Sensed Approach . . . . .	682
<i>Giuseppe Cillis, Gabriele Nolè, Antonio Lanorte, Valentina Santarsiero, Biagio Tucci, Francesco Scorza, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
A Remote Sensing Methodology to Assess the Abandoned Arable Land Using NDVI Index in Basilicata Region. . . . .	695
<i>Valentina Santarsiero, Gabriele Nolè, Antonio Lanorte, Biagio Tucci, Giuseppe Cillis, Francesco Scorza, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
Assessment and Monitoring of Soil Erosion Risk and Land Degradation in Arable Land Combining Remote Sensing Methodologies and RUSLE Factors. . . . .	704
<i>Biagio Tucci, Gabriele Nolè, Antonio Lanorte, Valentina Santarsiero, Giuseppe Cillis, Francesco Scorza, and Beniamino Murgante</i>	
<b>Author Index . . . . .</b>	<b>717</b>



# Geodesign Brazil: Trees for the Metropolitan Area of São Paulo

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**Abstract.** Trees are central in the Nature-based Solutions for promoting simultaneously quality of life and biodiversity while providing mitigation and adaptive ecosystem services in the cities. Based on the Geodesign framework using the GIS-Colab Platform, the impact of decision-making scenarios on tree-cover changes, as well as the consequences it will have for carbon sequestration, was evaluated for 2020, 2035 and 2050 in the Metropolitan Area of São Paulo (MASP). This metropolitan area is one of the largest urban conglomerates in the world with more than 22 million people. It lies on the Atlantic Rainforest Biome, a tropical moist

broadleaf forest regarded as a world hotspot of biodiversity. First, a diagnostic of the current conditions was elaborated using available layers of geospatial data from the MASP. Then the future tree cover was discussed according to three scenarios: i) the non-adopters that represent the business as usual; ii) the late-adopters that develop innovative actions from 2035; and iii) early-adopters that undertake innovative interventions of urban greening from 2020. The vegetation cover was estimated to be reduced by 4% considering the current non-adopter scenario by 2050. On the other hand, vegetation cover has the potential to increase 30% in 2050, once there is an early adoption of innovative interventions, promoting various ecosystem services and co-benefits that support the quality of life and the biodiversity in the MASP, while fostering the carbon credit in the city through vegetation carbon sink. This article points to possible pathways required to attain desired afforestation goals in the MASP following the Geodesign framework. This framework proved to be effective even though it was based only on remote meetings, imposed by the social distancing during the pandemic of COVID-19.

**Keywords:** Urban trees · Carbon credit · Geodesign framework · Early-adopter

## 1 Introduction

Cities are renowned for their direct and indirect negative impacts on the global biogeochemical cycles and on the resilience of the world's natural environments. As major drivers of global environmental changes, cities are now seen as the main source of solutions, helping to support mitigation and adaptation plans to climate change based on global agreements like The Paris Agreement [1], and strategies for a sustainable world such as the Sustainable Development Goals [2]. Urban forests can be defined in its broad sense as the set of all forest fragments, parks, gardens and street trees [3]. The role of urban forests on CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration largely depends on the protection of the natural capital of cities and the availability of open spaces for afforestation. As in many cities worldwide, transport is the main source of carbon dioxide in the metropolitan areas of Brazil. The infrastructure that supports urban mobility, together with housing, also competes for the available open spaces for greening in the urban fabric. Therefore, integrated multi-sectorial approaches are essential for any actions promoting the protection of the urban forest and the afforestation of the available spaces to promote urban carbon sink.

Integrating mobility, housing and green infrastructure in urban planning to mitigate atmospheric carbon dioxide, especially in the large metropolitan areas, will inevitably lead to other positive impacts of urban forests. Ecosystem services, such as: reduction of air pollution, shading and stabilization of temperature and noise reduction [4–6] would foster the quality of life in the cities by improving mental and physical health. In addition, the improvement of the urban environment by planting trees also reflects on the way people live and move, increasing the efficiency of the urban activities. Both urban afforestation and high efficiency of the urban activities may reduce the environmental impacts and massive carbon footprint of the cities.

The balance between urban CO<sub>2</sub> sources and sinks depends on the historical processes of land-use change and occupation of the cities that are based on the dynamics and impacts of decision making. The Metropolitan Area of São Paulo (MASP) is an

example of one of the largest urban conglomerates in the world that face problems created by unplanned growth during the last decades. This area hosts more than 22 million inhabitants distributed along 39 municipalities. Out of the total 8051 km<sup>2</sup> [8] of the MASP, almost 56% is covered by trees [9]. Tree cover, however, is rather unequal and it is mostly concentrated on two main protection areas in the continuous green belt across the north (Serra da Cantareira), and south (Serra do Mar) of the MASP borders that provide many ecosystem services to the cities including water supply.

This study presents the results of a co-design process, based on Steinitz's Geodesign Framework [10], conducted by a multidisciplinary group of experts. The main objective was to evaluate the deforestation and afforestation trends on the MASP's urban forests by 2050 under three different decision-making scenarios, I) non-adopters, II) late-adopters, III) early adopters. These scenarios are then discussed in the light of carbon sink and credits of carbon. The research presented here is part of the "Geodesign Brazil: Trees for Metropolitan Regions", a study that is being conducted in nine different metropolitan areas of the country.

## 2 Material and Methods

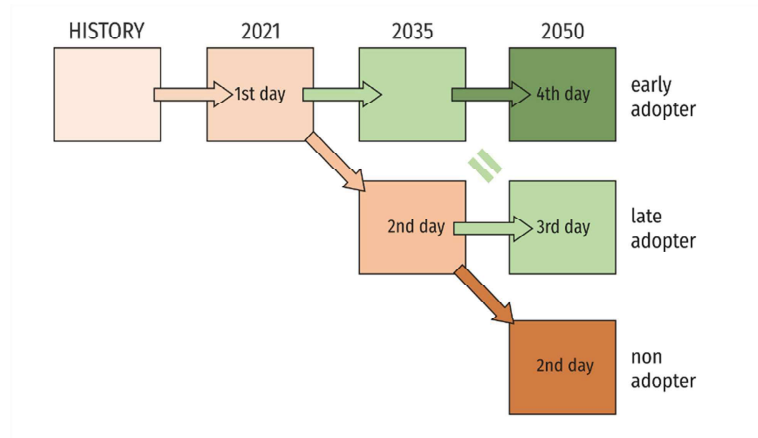
With the aim to increase the vegetation cover and carbon sink in at the MASP, a group of 13 researchers of various fields, worked remotely during synchronous workshop sessions using the GISColab platform.<sup>1</sup> This platform was developed by the Geoprocessing Laboratory of the School of Architecture of the Federal University of Minas Gerais. It uses the Geodesign framework but in a flexible approach that is adapted to the Brazilian context. The combination of Geodesign framework and GISColab platform allows the co-design of ideas and plans for large regions and are specially suitable for remote work during the pandemic.

The co-design workshops took place in four thematic meetings (Fig. 1), namely: (i) reading enrichment, which consists of obtaining and evaluating georeferenced data to characterize the current scenario of vegetation cover; (ii) development of non-adopter scenarios (2035–2050) according to the business as usual; (iii) development of late-adopter scenarios (2050) built upon the non-adopter scenario up to 2035, and the late adoption of innovations; and finally, (iv) development of early-adopter scenarios (2035–2050) that adopt innovative actions right from the beginning.

Initially, the available database on the GISColab platform was analyzed by the participants, who identified the most relevant data layers to the MASP and then estimated and established goals for the changes in the number of street trees; water reservoirs; detention ponds; green detention reservoirs; informal settlements; urban sprawl; natural and planted forest areas; and urban Heat Islands for the three scenarios (Table 1).

For all scenarios, the values of increasing or decreasing percentage of green cover related to 2020/21 were estimated to 2035 and 2050. Linear trends from historical

<sup>1</sup> The Brazilian Geodesign platform - GISColab has the premise of supporting and connecting Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), WebGis, and Geodesign in order to provide integrated and georeferenced information on the territory, enabling a wide availability of data to support the discussions and negotiations on the adopted spatial profile [11]. Available at: <http://www.giscolab.com/geodesign/#/>.



**Fig. 1.** Geodesign workshops workflow. Source: Authors. Adapted from IGC, 2021.

datasets starting in 1985 up to the present were used for the extrapolations. The number of detention ponds proposed by the Master Plan for the Macrodrainage of the Alto Tietê Basin [12] was evaluated, considering not only the construction rate and the typology, but whether they would be made by concrete or integrate the Green Infrastructure. In addition, future urban sprawl was extrapolated by analyzing the census datasets [13] that also includes the distribution and growth of slums and urban settlement areas, and changes in natural and planted forests available on MapBiomas (MapBiomas/IBGE)<sup>2</sup>. For street trees, data from the Municipal Plan for Urban Trees [14] were used, including data on tree fall, replacement of senescent individuals, and planting. Finally, the goals for the afforestation of the MASP were discussed and defined by the present group of researchers during the workshop.

## 2.1 Reading Enrichment

The workshop took place remotely to cope with the social distancing protocols of the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed the participation of researchers from various institutions with different backgrounds. This early step was essential to promote an appropriate collaboration, following the Geodesign framework [10]. The team first discussed national and international reference cases, in different contexts and scales, and then proposed guidelines, general strategies and public policies to guide the development of the workshop. Overall, they aimed at conserving the protected areas and existing vegetation, increasing the vegetation cover in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and restoring mainly riparian forests. Two examples of these strategies can be mentioned: I) the support to plant trees through public policies and environmental compensation plans mainly for the construction industry, and II) the creation and implementation of an afforestation plan

<sup>2</sup> The Expressive Vegetation Map in GISColab was based on Vegetable Cover Maps of Brazilian Biomes developed by GeoPrea Laboratory (EAU/UFGM). Available at: [http://mapas.mma.gov.br/mapas/aplic/probio/datadownload.htm?mosaicos\\_vegetacao/](http://mapas.mma.gov.br/mapas/aplic/probio/datadownload.htm?mosaicos_vegetacao/).

for streets and highways, with recommendations of appropriate techniques and species for each context.

The metropolitan structuring axes were identified, which serve as the basis for planning the MASP urban area growth, with special attention to the green areas. Areas for conservation were identified, such as the natural forests from the São Paulo Green Belt Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO) that includes remnants of the Atlantic Rainforest such as Cantareira State Park and the Capivari Monos Permanent Protection Area. The Green Belt is currently threatened by the urban sprawl of the MASP with a high pressure on the native forests and water resources. In summary, the reading enrichment allowed filling the gaps in the database, while evaluating the past trends and understanding the current dynamics of the city for the landscape prognosis in future scenarios.

## 2.2 Non-adopter (2035 and 2050)

The non-adopter scenarios for 2035 and 2050 were discussed based on four pillars, (i) the current legal instruments concerning the cities' master plans, urban forests, green areas, protected areas and open spaces; (ii) the current trends in tree planting and survival rates; (iii) the pressure for land development from the construction industry and real estate market; and (iv) the illegal activities that take place especially in the Green Belt at the borders of the MASP.

Most cities in the MASP updated their master plans recently or are in the process of establishing new plans. These plans regulate the land use across the city, defining the maximum verticalization, economic activities and minimum percentage of green and open spaces in the cities' districts, to name a few. Therefore, such mechanisms have the potential to protect some of the cities' green spaces, but not all of them, according to the percentages of development area allowed in each district. In addition, laws and regulations already define extensive protected areas in the MASP including remnants of the Atlantic Rainforest, such as State and Municipal Parks, Ecological Stations, which are unlikely to change soon.

Some of the mentioned plans also established goals for tree planting in the cities, so that thousands of trees are being planted yearly in the MASP. There are also groups of activists regularly planting trees in the city [15]. However, there is still a huge backlog of poorly managed trees that are prone to fail especially during the summer, or the wet season. More than 2,000 mature trees fall only in the city of São Paulo every year [16]. In addition, there is a high mortality rate in the new plantation programs in the cities. Although the number of individuals is likely to increase in 2035 and 2050, the ecosystem services balance such as carbon sink is likely to be negative with the significant reduction of the mature tree cover over the cities.

Tree cover may also be threatened by the current pressures from the construction industry and real estate market [17]. Especially for the largest cities of the MASP, the available space for construction of new buildings is becoming increasingly rare, threatening the few non-protected green areas in the city, some of them still bearing significant native fauna and flora. The current laws and regulations are not sufficient to keep these areas under protection as many compensatory mechanisms are available allowing the development of these private lands.

Finally, public areas in the green belt are currently endangered by the activities of organized crime. Extensive areas of native vegetation around the main water reservoirs of the MASP are being converted into informal settlements [17, 18]. Although they are considered Permanent Protected Areas, the expansion of forest conversion is at a rate far superior to that of State oversight. The municipalities of the MASP have adopted the strategy of promoting the urbanization of the informal settlements and not the reallocation of these vulnerable families that is usually adopted in many other cities worldwide [19]. As a result, large areas of Native Atlantic Rainforest will be permanently lost affecting the water security of more than 20 million people [20, 21].

The water supply system is already threatened by the combination of recurrent unfavorable climate conditions and increasing water demand in the MASP. The increasingly frequent climate extremes such as the drought caused by an unusual mid-troposphere blocking during the summer of 2014 [22] potentially affects the water supply in the cities of the MASP. For instance, by the end of 2014, the Cantareira system, the main potable water reservoir of MASP, had a negative 2% total volume compared to normal levels. Such unfavorable climate conditions observed in the last years are consistently decreasing the volume of water in the main reservoirs [23], which is likely to continue to decrease in the upcoming years [24].

Following the trend described before, street afforestation is expected to increase by 18% in 2050, which is not sufficient to replace the ecosystem services lost by the senescence, removal and fall of mature trees. A 5% increase in informal settlements is also projected together with an increase of 34% in urban sprawl and a consequently reduction of natural forest areas by 4%. Planted forests are expected to increase by 78% (Eucalyptus, Pine) negatively impacting the urban and peri-urban biodiversity. Regarding the impacts on the recharge of water reservoirs due to the expansion of impervious cover, a drastic reduction in reservoirs of 76% is expected in the MASP. The construction of detention ponds on urban areas, must increase by 146%, competing for available open space which could be partially or totally used for planting trees. Green detention reservoirs and recovery wetlands to be built, would show a decrease of 1%. Regarding the Urban Heat Island, it is predicted an average of 22 °C of surface temperature in the central area of São Paulo city (the warmest area in the MASP), related to its surrounded rural and natural areas.

### 2.3 Late-Adopter (2035 and 2050)

Similar trends to the non-adopter scenario described above are expected up to 2035 in the late adopters scenario. It is only after 2035 that a significant change is expected in the actions from policy makers and society regarding the main environmental, social, and economic issues in the city. These issues are then tackled by the implementation of innovative solutions that must account for the possible negative impacts of the non-adopter approach on the urban green infrastructure.

Thus, the measures necessary for the qualification of the urban environment by 2050 start upon an already vulnerable environment and may be less effective compared to the current needs of the MASP. Three approaches guided the innovative action to start in 2035, namely: I) protecting, II) expanding and III) creating a green infrastructure. These



approaches relied on the control of urban sprawl, qualification of the existing land cover, promotion of green and blue infrastructure.

To achieve the objective to increase the tree cover in the MASP, these actions should be considered simultaneously to offer a real change in the development of the city from 2035 until 2050. We identified the main points to control the reduction of pre-existing green areas and promote the afforestation of new areas. First, there is a need of controlling the urban sprawl of the metropolitan area of São Paulo, including the optimization of the existing urban land occupation. Central areas that have a large accumulation of vacant buildings offer most opportunities for change.

The requalification of the existing occupation of the urban landscape must rely on the implementation, monitoring, continuous revision and sectorial articulation of different public policies, such as: (i) public policies, with focus on encouraging the protection of green areas with financial incentives, based on the payment for ecosystem services, while including innovative solutions such as: green roof, cisterns, green wall with climbing plants; and (ii) elaboration of new housing policies that consider the synergy between conservation of green buffer zones and the sustainability of local economic activities, by a green-economy concept.

These policies should provide structure for urban redevelopment projects through urban design with Green Infrastructure principles, in a wide participatory and inclusive manner, by maintaining the population in the site, but within a secure and eco-friendly condition.

In addition, one must also consider the relationship between trees and urban water that lead to a gradual change from a conventional “gray” monofunctional infrastructure, into a system of multifunctional green infrastructure. The following actions were considered: (i) the transformation of the existing edges of the Flood Storage Reservoirs System. These areas present the potential to be reforested, while planning areas of permanence and social interaction. (ii) development of plans focused on the water quality of the reservoirs, considering the concept of regeneration in urban design of the respective water basins; (iii) environmental program for reforestation of existing urban watersheds, altogether with related public housing policies; and (iv) restoration of the riparian forests of the Pinheiros and Tietê River.

Finally, the reconfiguration of the urban forest was also discussed. This concept considers the complete system of open spaces in the metropolitan area, the protected and natural reservoirs, public parks, squares, streets, and private free spaces.

The main condition to protect the existing green assets, besides the topics already discussed here, focused on better management practices of urban trees and vegetation: (i) improving the urban aerial electrical distribution system, that currently present serious conflicts with the existing street-trees; (ii) elaboration of a specific master plan for trees management, introducing processes of optimization, such as the concept of reverse logistics to consider the pruning tree residues applications in civil construction, urban furniture, fertilization, etc.; and (iii) development of a master plan for planting new trees, considering the different existing biomes and innovative solutions.

To increase tree-coverage within the urban built area, different actions were brought to discussion considering the 2050 scenario, that were based on previous experiences, such as the Sacramento “Green City”, in the U.S.A., examples from Singapore, and



the revision of local experiences in Brazil such as Maringá city. They include: (i) public policies that encourage urban planting and afforestation, considering its ecosystem services; (ii) redesign of existing streets with based on Green Infrastructure principles associated with the creation of sustainable and safe urban mobility; and (iii) optimization of parking spots as the main strategy for making additional space feasible for permeable areas, afforestation, and the implementation of green-blue infrastructural components and urban farming infrastructures.

Thus, the 2035 late-adopter scenario most of the items analyzed (see Table 1) considered 50% less changes related to the 2050 non-adopter scenario. For example, the impact on drinking water reservoirs in the late-adopter 2035 scenario corresponds to a reduction of 38% in relation to 2020. By 2050, the late-adopter scenario is expected to lead to positive changes. This was reflected in almost all the items evaluated, like increasing the number of street trees by 30%, reducing water availability by only 10%, decreasing the number of detention ponds on forests to 83%, while increasing green detention reservoirs by 10%. A drastic reduction of 0.5% of informal settlements is also predicted, and a limited increase of urban sprawl of 9%, while increasing afforestation by 45%. There is still an expected increase in the Urban Heat Island - UHI but limited to 10 °C.

## 2.4 Early Adopters (2035 and 2050)

The proposed measures in the early-adopter scenario relied on the most innovative public policies, many not yet developed or practiced in the city of São Paulo. The scenarios considered the application of green infrastructure technology to promote the conservation and expansion of forest fragments and green areas. In addition, a great effort for creating new urban forests is fostered by different activities.

These activities include planting street trees, planting trees in the parking spots, in at least 2 parking spaces every 100m. In each parking spot, there is room for planting up to 16 trees, which would be associated with bio-retention structures. According to these plans, the scenarios developed showed a significant increase in the vegetation cover of the MASP compared to the levels of 2020, and consequently reaching the established goal of 30% increase in vegetation cover, resulting in a more sustainable urban development under the aspects analyzed, as described in Table 1.

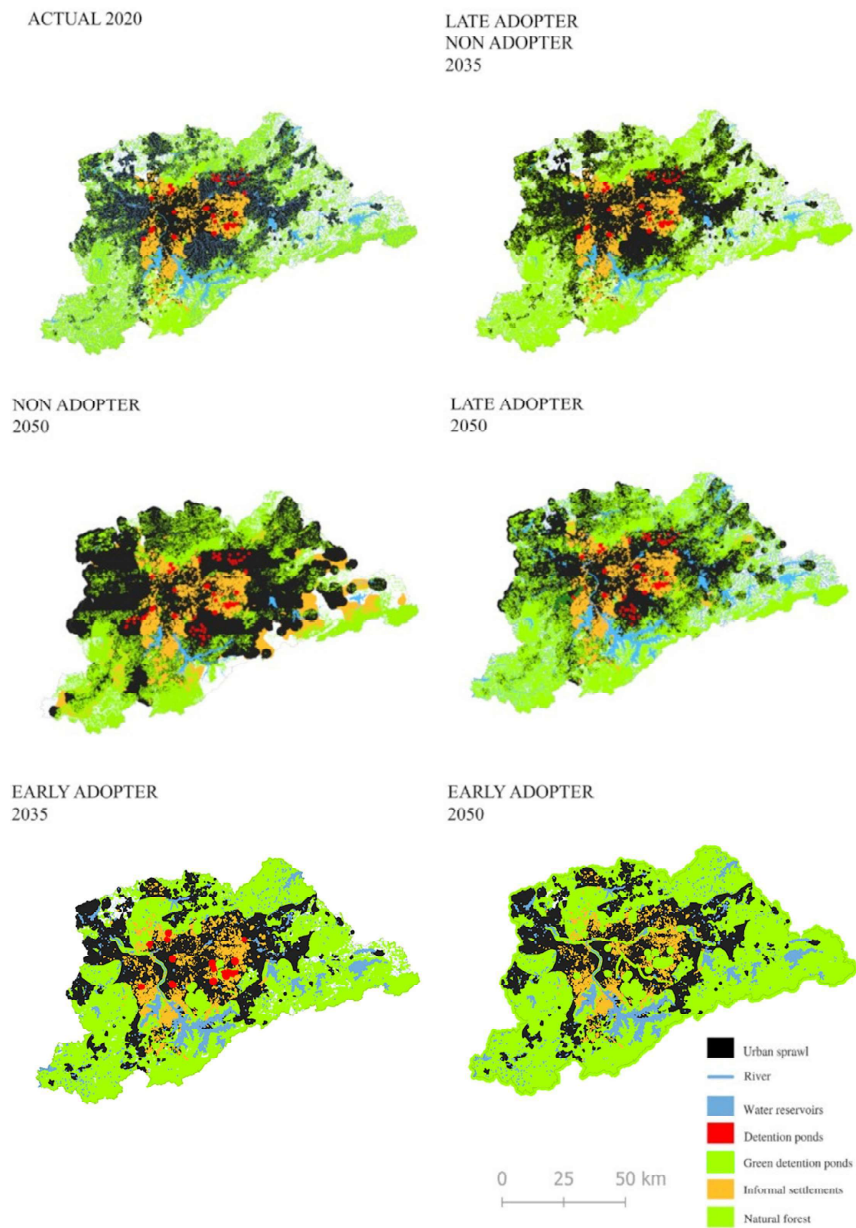
The early-adopters scenario of 2035 considered similar rates that the late-adopter 2050 for issues such as, number of trees on the roads, urban sprawl evolution and urban heat islands, while more significant positive changes were predicted for the other items. By 2035, it is expected a 10% increase in water reservoir volume, a 4% reduction in detention ponds built on forests, and an increase of 35% in green detention reservoirs. It is also expected a total control of the growth in informal settlements, a 15% increase in natural forests and a 10% increase in planted forests, and a 10 °C increase in surface temperature due to UHI. By 2050 the scenario is rather optimistic, with 50% more street trees, 25% more water availability, 8% less detention ponds built on forests and 70% more green detention reservoirs.

It is also expected a significant reduction in informal settlements, a controlled urban sprawl around 4% increase, 30% more natural forests and 15% more planted forests, and only a 5 °C rise in surface temperature due to UHI (see Table 11 for the complete

data). The predicted lower impact of UHI in early-adopter scenario by 2050 assumes of a greener city [25]. Urban environmental planning actions outlined within green infrastructure strategies would leverage the preservation of forests, planting of trees, and construction of green detention reservoirs (Fig. 2).

**Table 1.** Predicted changes of the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo (total area 7 946,84 km<sup>2</sup>) according to the early, late and non-adopters' approach. The increased percentage is related to the 2020/21 and the references for Early adopters are based on goals for the Design decisions. The year 2035 is similar for late and non-adopter.

	CURRENT	EARLY		LATE		NON	REFERENCES
	2020	2035	2050	2035	2050	2050	
Number of street trees based on the balance between planted and fallen plus removed trees.	652,146	30%	50%	9%	30%	18%	[16, 26]
Impacts on the recharge of water reservoirs due to expansion of impervious cover	1.132.610.000m <sup>3</sup>	10%	25%	-38%	-10%	-76%	[23, 27]
Detention ponds over urban forests to be built.	48 un.	-4%	-8%	73%	83%	146%	[26, 12]
Green detention reservoirs and recovery wetlands to be built.	0 un.	35%	70%	1%	10%	1%	[26, 11]
Increase/Reduction in informal settlements	88,34 km <sup>2</sup>	0%	-5%	2,5%	0,5%	5%	[13, 24, 28]
Urban sprawl evolution	2.038,69 km <sup>2</sup>	8%	4%	17%	9%	34%	MapBiomass platform Growth compared with 1985-2019 period
Increase/Reduction in Natural forest areas due to urban sprawl/reduction	3.581,85km <sup>2</sup>	15%	30%	-2%	-2,5%	-4%	
Increase in Planted Forest (Eucalyptus, Pinus and Araucaria) areas due to urban sprawl/reduction	260,92 km <sup>2</sup>	10%	15%	40%	45%	78%	
Increase in the Urban Heat Islands: average of the surface temperature of central area of SP less rural areas	15°C	10 °C	5 °C	18 °C	10 °C	22°C	[29]



**Fig. 2.** Spatial distribution of the most relevant layers of the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo for the actual scenario (2020) and the prediction changes for 2035 and 2050 according to the early, late and non-adopters' approach described in Table 1

### 3 Conclusion

Using the Geodesign principles and framework, supported by the GISColab Platform, allowed the group to list the main problems related to the green infrastructure in the MASP, and create three theoretical scenarios, I) non-adopters, II) late-adopters and III) early-adopters, for 2035 and 2050. The scenarios based on the business as usual from the non-adopter approach point to a significant reduction in the recharge of water reservoirs and the natural forest areas. There is one exception related to the total number of street trees that are likely to increase, which may not reflect on the ecosystem services they provide as the number of old growth trees are expected to decrease sharply. These changes in the overall vegetation cover are expected to sustain the current environmental degradation by increasing the Urban Heat Islands and reducing the water supply.

Similar trends are expected in the scenarios of the late adopters up to 2035, when changes in planning and management of the urban green infrastructure take place. This scenario then assumes innovative technologies, based on green infrastructure, among others that lead to more favorable predictions compared to the non-adopter scenario. In the early adopters, such innovative technologies are implemented by 2020 resulting in a significant increase in the number of trees and carbon biomass in the MASP.

The experience of working with the GISColab platform made it possible to bring together several researchers from different areas to collaborate in the elaboration of different scenarios for tree cover and carbon sink across the MASP for 2035 and 2050. This was only possible based on a successful remote work, which would otherwise be much more difficult to carry out in the current moment of the coronavirus pandemic.

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