

MAY 20 , 2026

# 5<sup>th</sup> MOPT CONFERENCE

ADVANCED SPATIAL  
MODELING FOR  
SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL  
SYSTEMS AND  
PLANNING

PROGRAM



IGOT | UNIVERSITY OF LISBON, PORTUGAL

**WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2026**  
**INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL PLANNING**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM JORGE GASPAR**

Following the 4th MOPT Conference, the 5th edition marks a new step in the consolidation of spatial modeling as a key field for understanding and addressing the complex interconnections between environmental change, territorial dynamics, and planning processes. As socio-environmental systems become increasingly shaped by climate pressures, land-use conflicts, digital transformation, and new forms of uncertainty, spatial modeling continues to expand its relevance across both scientific research and policy-oriented practice.

In this context, the 5th MOPT Conference invites participants to reflect on a central question: How can advanced spatial modeling approaches contribute to a better understanding of socio-environmental systems and support more informed, integrated, and forward-looking planning?

This conference aims to:

- Foster critical discussion on emerging theoretical and applied approaches in spatial modeling for socio-environmental analysis and planning;
- Highlight recent advances in computational geography, geospatial intelligence, and spatial data science, particularly in relation to environmental assessment, land-use dynamics, and territorial governance;
- Promote dialogue between methodological innovation and real-world planning challenges across urban, regional, and environmental contexts;

The conference is being organised by Cláudia M. Viana, Eduardo Gomes e Patrícia Abrantes.

**9H30 | WELCOME RECEPTION**

**9H45 | OPENING SESSION**

**Mário Vale** (President of IGOT-ULisboa)

**Eduarda Marques da Costa** (MOPT Coordinator)

**Cláudia M. Viana** (Organizing committee)

**10H00 | PANEL 1 – SPATIAL MODELING FOR SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**

Chair: Eduardo Gomes (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa)

**Paulo Pereira** (Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania) - Mapping ecosystem condition and services. Opportunities, Challenges and Caveats.

**11H00 – 11H30 | COFFEE BREAK**

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**11H30 | PANEL 2 - MOPT SHOWROOM PITCH**

Chair: Cláudia M. Viana (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa)

**André Leite Rodrigues** (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa) - A GIScience Evidence Framework on Urban Inequalities, Mobility and Mental Well-being

**Giulia Silveira** (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa) - REDD+ Projects in Brazil: Reviewing Outcomes and Pathways for Equitable Climate Mitigation

**Sérgio Guarín Torres** (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa) - Ecological Risk Assessment of Land Use Change in Ramsar Wetlands: Towards Participatory Governance Risk

**Heitor S. Castro** (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa) - Challenges in Urban and Mobility Policies to achieve carbon neutrality in 2030 - the Lisbon case

**12H30 – 14H00 | LUNCH BREAK**

**14H00 | PANEL 3 - SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND PLANNING: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVES**

Chair: Eduarda Marques da Costa (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa, MOPT Coordinator)

**Elisa Vilares** (Agência para o Desenvolvimento e Coesão, Portugal) - In search of territorial cohesion: reflections on two decades of service in the Portuguese Public Sector

**15H00 – 15H30 | COFFEE BREAK**

**15H30 | PANEL 4 - ADVANCES IN GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS AND MODELLING.**

Chair: Patrícia Abrantes (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa)

**David García Álvarez** (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain) - Sources of Uncertainty in Land Use/Cover Change Modelling

**16H30 | CLOSING SESSION**

**José Luís Zêzere** (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa, Director of CEG-ULisboa)  
**Eduardo Gomes** (CEG/IGOT-ULisboa, Organizing committee)

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### INVITED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ABSTRACTS

**Paulo Pereira** is a geographer and Full Professor at Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania, and Invited Full Professor at Beijing Normal University, China. His research focuses on land degradation, fire effects on ecosystems, ecosystem services, and nature-based solutions. He has authored more than 460 publications, including books, peer-reviewed articles, and conference papers, and has received several international distinctions, including the European Geosciences Union Soil System Sciences Division Outstanding Young Scientist Award. He has been recognised among the world's most cited researchers and listed among the top 2% scientists worldwide in Environmental Sciences according to the Elsevier/Stanford University ranking. He is Associate Editor of *Science of the Total Environment*, *Geography and Sustainability*, and *Heliyon*.

**Elisa Vilares** is an architect and urban policy expert with extensive experience in territorial planning and public policy. She was Head of the Urban Policy Division at the Directorate-General for Territory (Portugal) and coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of InC2. She holds a master's degree in Urban and Environmental Regeneration from the Faculty of Architecture of the Technical University of Lisbon and has advanced training in Public Management from the National Institute of Administration. She has chaired the OECD Working Party on Urban Policies and has been involved in EU intergovernmental cooperation groups on urban affairs and territorial cohesion. Her work includes the design of InC2, the technical coordination of the Sustainable Cities 2020 Strategy, and contributions to national territorial planning and policy evaluation.

**David García Álvarez** is an Assistant Professor of Geography at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. His research focuses on land use and land cover mapping, land use cover change modelling, spatial simulation, and the assessment of uncertainty in geospatial data and model outputs. He has worked on methodological and applied approaches to land system dynamics, including the influence of data sources, scale, validation procedures, and modelling assumptions on land change analysis. He has published extensively on land use cover mapping, modelling and validation, and has collaborated with several international research networks and institutions, including previous work at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

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Instituto de Geografia  
e Ordenamento do Território  
UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA



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