Spatial Analysis of Economic Freedom, Corruption, and Species Imperilment at Cross-country Level

Ram Pandit¹ and David N. Laband²

Abstract: Using spatial regression and cross-national data from 152 countries a direct empirical link is explored between the impact of economic freedom and corruption on species imperilment for 5 taxa groups: birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and vascular plants. The analysis suggests that there are statistically significant relationships between imperilment of birds, mammals, and reptiles and economic freedom. However, the relationship between corruption and species imperilment is found significant only among birds. More economic freedom and less corruption after a threshold level reduce species imperilment in a country.

¹ Ph.D. Candidate, Center for Forest Sustainability, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn University, AL 36849-5418, pandira@auburn.edu, (334) 844-8026 (v).
² Professor, Center for Forest Sustainability, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn University, AL 36849-5418.