

## 1 1 **Supplementary Material: ABM Description**

2 We describe the ABM in terms of structure and agents' behaviours in this section. The  
3 NetLogo source code for the ABM is also available in a GitHub repository upon request from  
4 the first author.

### 5 **1.1. Parameters: Agents and Pixels**

6 On the one hand, the agents' parameters are grouped into five categories: (1) market  
7 preferences; (2) land preferences; (3) budget constraints; (4) demography; and (5) relocation  
8 parameters. On the other hand, Pixels have four parameter categories: (1) land use; (2)  
9 location; (3) land plot attributes; and (4) markets. For conciseness, Table S1 lists the agents  
10 and pixels parameters.

11 **Table S1, Agents and Pixels Parameters**

	<b>Parameter Name</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>Agents</b>	Exploration Trials	[1, UC]	Trial	Integer
	Relocation Trials	[1, UC]	Trial	Integer
	Age	UC	Year	Integer
	Breeding Age	UC	Year	Integer List
	Relocation Age (s)	UC	Year	Integer List
	Death Age	UC	Year	Integer
	Integrated Motivation Per Market	[0, 4]	N/A	Float
	Identified Motivation Per Market	[0, 4]	N/A	Float
	Introjected Motivation Per Market	[0, 4]	N/A	Float
	External Motivation Per Market	[0, 4]	N/A	Float
	Area Weight	[0, 1]	N/A	Float
	Number of Street Exposure Weight	[0, 1]	N/A	Float
	Proximity to Service Weight	[0, 1]	N/A	Float
	Budget	[0, 1]	N/A	Float
	% Spent on Non-Housing Commodities	[0, 100]	N/A	Float

Pixels	Land Use Type	N/A	N/A	Character
	Location	Min(x-cor) – Max(x-cor)	Pixel	Integer
		Min(y-cor) – Max(y-cor)	Pixel	Integer
	Area	UC	m <sup>2</sup>	Float
	Number of Street Exposure	[1, 4]	Street	Integer
	Market Type	N/A	N/A	Character
	Unit Price	[0, UC]	Price / m <sup>2</sup>	Float

*UC stands for UnConstrained, N/A stands for not applicable, cor stands for coordinate*

## 12 1.2. Agents Behaviour: Utility and Budgets

13 During relocation, agents calculate both the output and procedural utility for the pixels under  
 14 consideration. Subsequently, agents calculate an overall utility to assess and compare the  
 15 different pixels (see equation 1).

$$16 \quad U_{i,b|j} = OU_{i,b} + PU_{i,b|j} \quad (1)$$

17 Where, for a buyer  $b$  buying a land plot  $i$  given a process  $j$ ,  $U_{i,b|j}$  is the overall utility,  $OU_{i,b}$   
 18 is the output utility and  $PU_{i,b|j}$  is the procedural utility.

19 Output utility depends on the utility per land plot attributes and the agents' preference  
 20 weights. The ABM uses a linear utility formula (Acevedo et al., 2008; Magliocca & Walls,  
 21 2018; Satake et al., 2007 e.g. ) to calculate output utility (see equation 2). It also uses a linear  
 22 normalization for the utility per attribute (see equation 3). To account for the law of  
 23 diminishing marginal utility, the ABM uses an observed diminishing utility factor instead of  
 24 assuming a logarithmic formula.

$$25 \quad OU_{i,b} = \sum_{a=1}^n (u_{i,a} * \gamma_{b,a}) \quad (2)$$

$$26 \quad u_{i,a} = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{z_{i,a}}{\max(z_a)} \right) * \sigma_{b|a}, & \text{if benefit increases with attribute's increase} \\ \left( 1 - \frac{z_{i,a}}{\max(z_a)} \right) * \sigma_{b|a}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

27 Where  $u_{i,a}$  is the utility of a land plot  $i$  due to an attribute  $a$ ,  $\gamma_{b,a}$  is the weight attached by a  
 28 buyer  $b$  to a land plot attribute  $a$ ,  $z_{i,a}$  is the value of the attribute  $a$  of a land plot  $i$  and  $\sigma_{b/a}$  is  
 29 the diminishing utility factor for a buyer  $b$  given an attribute  $a$ .

30 For procedural utility, agents calculate the aggregate procedural utility and then transform it  
 31 to a scale comparable to the output utility. The procedural utility weight factor ( $\beta_{i,b|j}$ ) is  
 32 introduced to the ABM as an input based on contextual observations. Details on the  
 33 mathematical formulation of procedural utility is available in the paper.

34 For budgets, agents calculate their Willingness to Pay (WTP) during the relocation process.  
 35 WTP depends on the utility gained from the pixel, the agent's budget and the ratio it spends  
 36 on the non-housing commodities (Filatova et al., 2009, 2011) (see equations 4 and 5).

$$37 \quad WTP_{i,b|j} = \frac{Y_b * U_{i,b|j}^2}{q_{i',b|j'}^2 + U_{i,b|j}^2} \quad (4)$$

$$38 \quad q_{i',b|j'} = \frac{(\rho^{2R_b-1}) * \max(U_{i,b|j})}{2} \quad (5)$$

39 Where  $WTP_{i,b|j}$  is the willingness of a buyer  $b$  to pay for a land plot  $i$  given a market process  
 40  $j$ ,  $Y_b$  is the budget of a buyer  $b$ ,  $U_{i,b|j}$  is the overall utility of a land plot  $i$  that a buyer  $b$  is  
 41 considering given a market process  $j$ ,  $q_{i',b|j'}$  is a budget factor of a buyer  $b$  given a highest  
 42 utility land plot  $i'$  using a process  $j'$ ,  $\rho$  is a constant factor,  $R_b$  is the ratio a buyer  $b$  spends on  
 43 non-housing commodities from his whole budget  $Y$ ,  $\max(U_{i,b|j})$  is the highest utility gained  
 44 by a buyer  $b$  from any land plot  $i$  using a process  $j$ .

### 45 **1.3. Pixels: Price formulation**

46 For prices, pixels first calculate their price per meter squared based on the distance from  
 47 service attribute. This unit price is then used along with the pixels' area to calculate an overall

48 price (see equation 6). These overall prices are then modified using a variability factor and a  
 49 markets dynamics factor (see equation 7).

$$50 \quad P_{i|j} = \frac{Y_s * U_{i,b|j}^2}{q_{i',b|j'}^2 + U_{i,b|j}^2} \quad (6)$$

51 Where  $P_{i|j}$  is the price of a land plot  $i$  given set by a seller  $s$  a market process  $j$ ,  $Y_s$  is the budget  
 52 the seller  $s$  expects for potential buyers,  $U_{i,b|j}$  is the overall utility of a land plot  $i$  that a seller  
 53  $s$  is considering given a market process  $j$ ,  $q_{i',s|j'}$  is a budget factor of a seller  $s$  given a highest  
 54 utility land plot  $i'$  using a process  $j'$ ,  $\rho$  is a constant factor,  $R_s$  is the ratio a seller  $s$  expects  
 55 buyers to spend on non-housing commodities from their whole budget  $Y_s$ ,  $max(U_{i,s|j})$  is the  
 56 highest utility gained by a seller  $s$  from any land plot  $i$  using a process  $j$ .

57 For clarity, the variability factor accounts for different price ranges in a realistic context. It  
 58 remains constant for each pixel along the whole simulation. In contrast, the markets dynamics  
 59 factor changes across the simulation according to the market type. It keeps prices constant  
 60 for the fixed and random markets, and it allows for price fluctuations in supply-demand  
 61 markets (see equation 8)

$$62 \quad \delta_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for fixed and random markets} \\ \max\left(\frac{D_j}{S_j}, \delta_j'\right) & \text{for supply – demand market} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

63 Where  $D_j$  is the number of pixels agents demand in a given market  $j$  over a specific period,  
 64  $S_j$  is the number of pixels supplied in a given market  $j$  over a specific period and  $\delta_j'$  is the  
 65 highest market dynamics factor of a market process  $j$ .

66 In summary, pixels calculate their own prices similar to how buyers set their WTP. The  
 67 calculated prices slightly differ due to different expected buyers' budgets and price variability

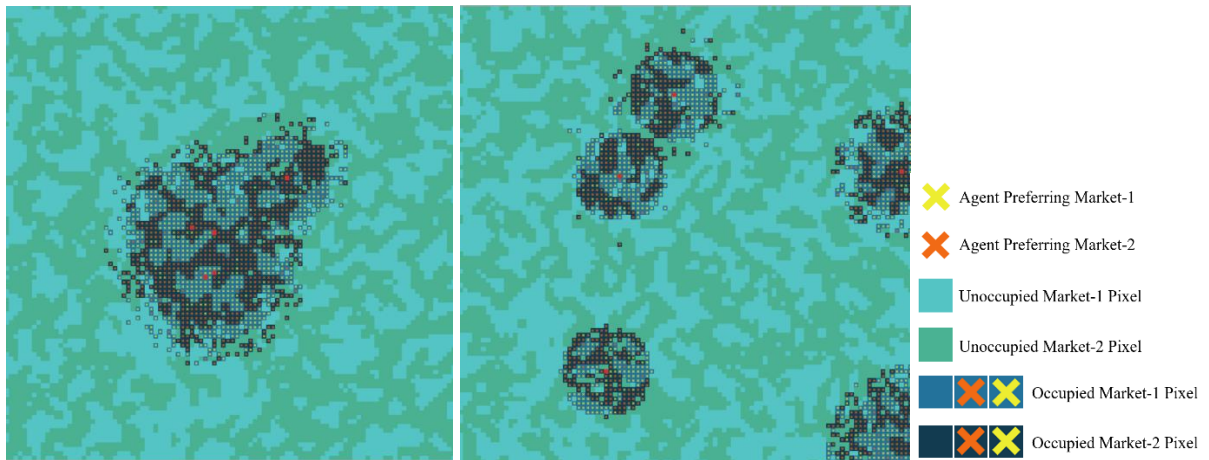
68 factors. During the runs, prices remain constant for the fixed and random markets, whereas  
69 they vary in the supply-demand market.

#### 70 **1.4. Events Sequence**

71 The ABM includes two phases: the setup phase (see Figure S3); and the run phase. In the  
72 setup phase, the model generates a set of pixels within a space of given dimensions. The  
73 pixels are allocated a land use type, a set of attributes and a market type. At that point, the  
74 model allocates residential and service pixels and calculates the distances from service for  
75 each pixel. The price of each pixel is accordingly allocated finalising an abstract  
76 representation of a land use context.

77 The model then introduces a set of agents with three attributes preferences, four motivational  
78 values per market and a set of demographic properties. These agents apply the exploration  
79 sub-model – they move to a service pixel to explore a random set of unoccupied pixels within  
80 their awareness radius (bounded rationality). Agents calculate the output, procedural and  
81 overall utilities for each explored pixel. The mean values of the overall utilities dictate a  
82 utility threshold for satisfactory pixels.

83 Using such threshold, the agents start the relocation sub-model. Similar to the exploratory  
84 one, agents randomly search for vacant pixels, but they calculate their WTP for every selected  
85 pixel (see equations 4 and 5); agents relocate to the first pixel that is satisfactory (utility >  
86 utility threshold) and affordable (WTP > price) – the model is satisficing and not maximizing.  
87 If the agent fails to find a satisfactory pixel within its maximum relocation trials, it leaves the  
88 system. After all agents undergo the exploration and relocation sub-models, the setup phase  
89 ends (see Figure S1).



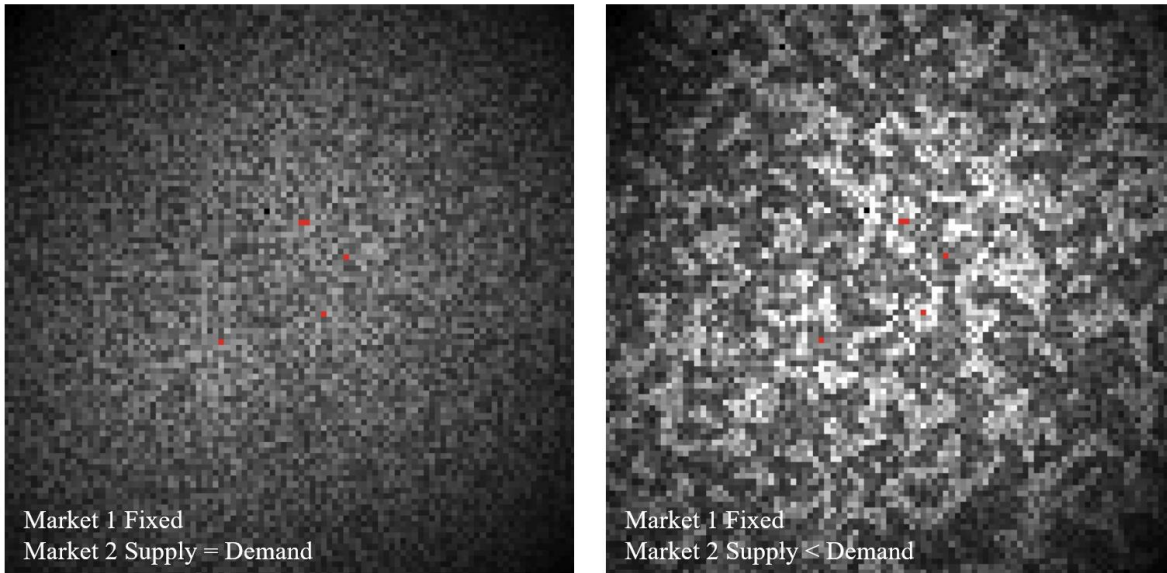
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91 **Figure S1, Two Initialization Samples Using 1500 Initial Agents and five service pixels**

92 The run phase is applied over a yearly basis. Every year new immigrants are introduced to  
 93 the system and all current agents age. On the one hand, the new immigrant agents follow the  
 94 same setup procedures.

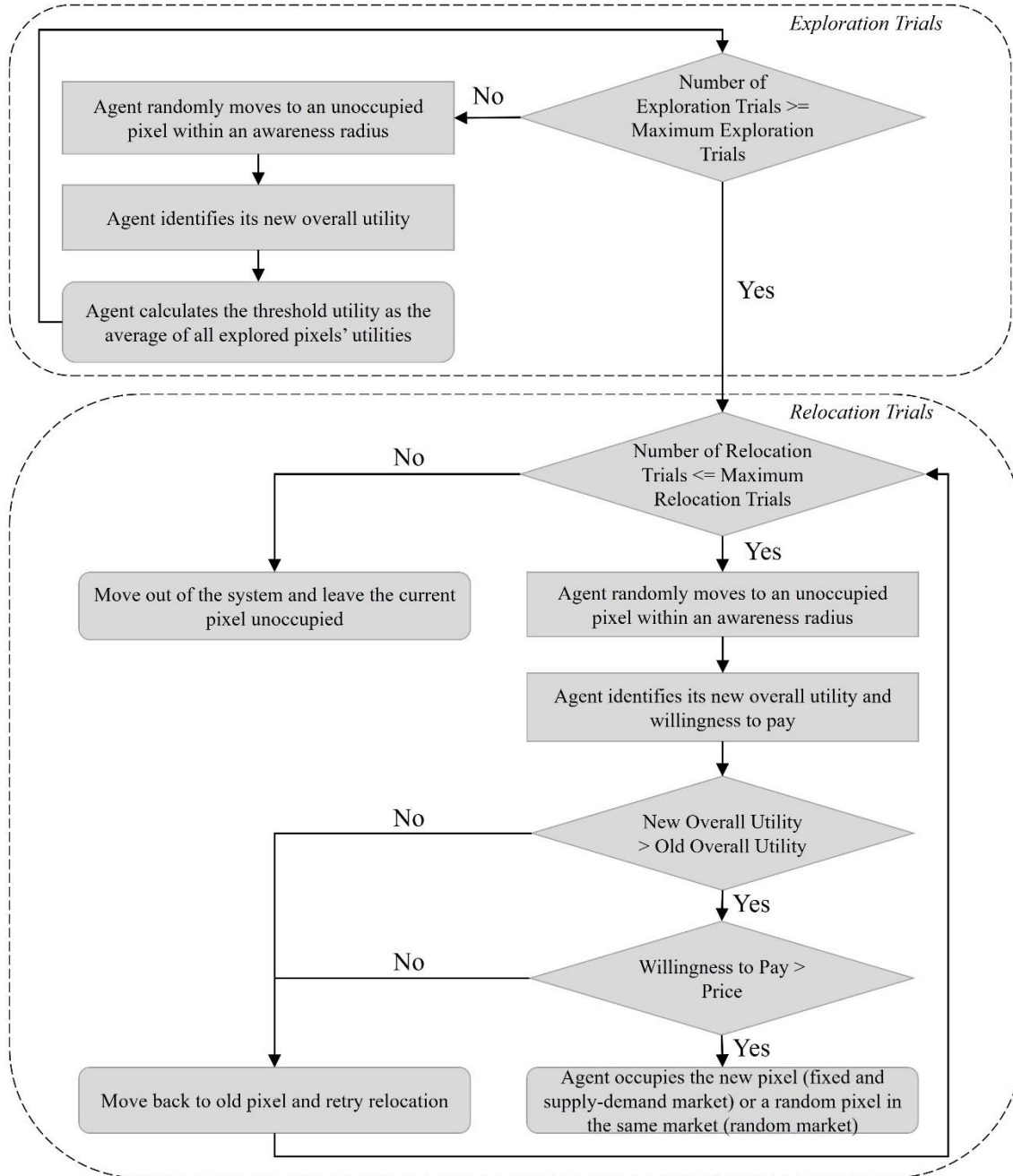
95 On the other hand, the current agents' ages are compared to their corresponding breeding  
 96 age(s), relocation age(s) and death age. At breeding age(s), the agents create a similar child  
 97 agent at an age of zero. This child agent remains attached to its parent agent until it reaches  
 98 its relocation age. At relocation age(s), the agents undergo the exploration and relocation sub-  
 99 models. Three differences are present however: (1) the current occupied pixel is included in  
 100 the mean utility threshold; (2) if an agent finds a satisfactory and affordable pixel, its previous  
 101 pixel becomes vacant; (3) the final allocated pixel is chosen based on the target pixel's market  
 102 type. For fixed and supply-demand markets, the agent simply relocates to its chosen pixel.  
 103 For the random market, the agent is allocated a random pixel within its awareness radius. At  
 104 the death age, the agents leave the system and their pixels become vacant. The only exception  
 105 is when an agent dies while still having an attached child. In this case, the child occupies its  
 106 dead parent's pixel until it reaches its own relocation age.

107 After all ages are checked and all immigrants are introduced, the model modifies the pixels'  
108 prices according to their market type. Fixed and random market prices remain constant across  
109 the simulation. However, the supply-demand market prices are modified according to the  
110 changes in the number of occupied and unoccupied pixels during this simulation year (see  
111 Figure S2). Subsequently, the year terminates and the ABM model proceeds to the next year.



113 **Figure S2, Pixel Price Sample from a Simulation Run Where Darker Colours Indicate Lower**  
114 **Prices**

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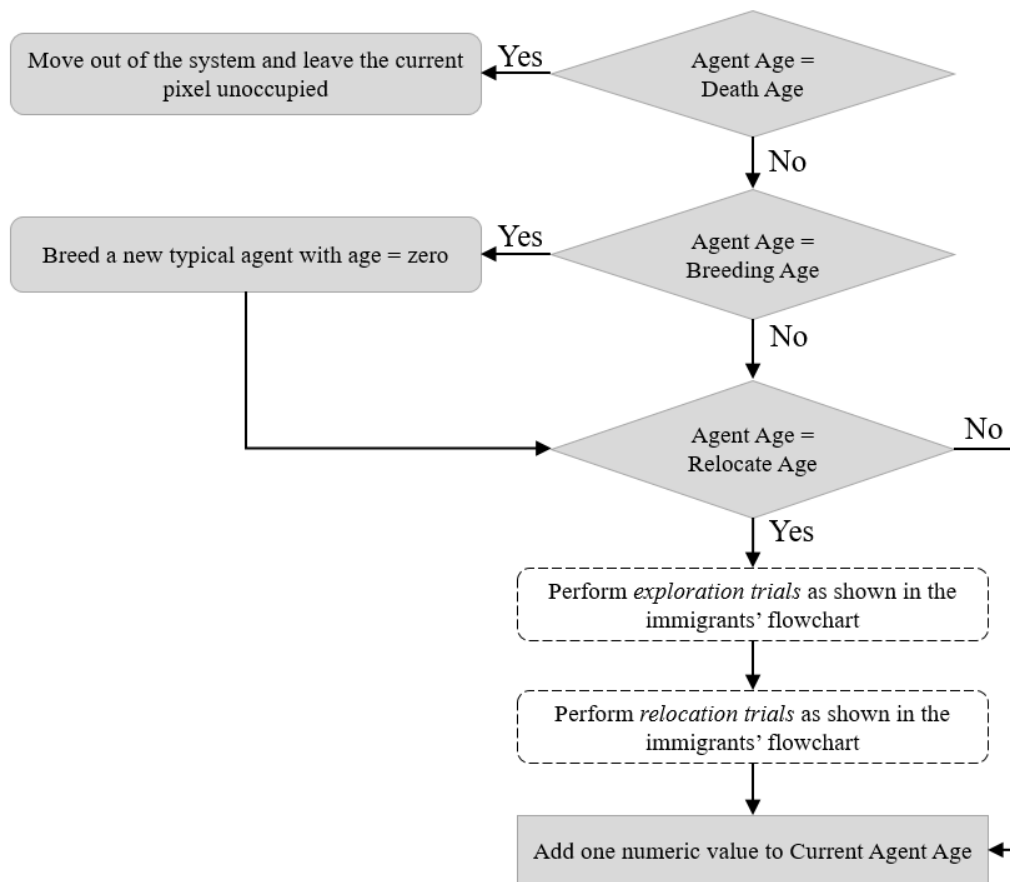


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**Figure S3, Immigrant Agent and New Agent Initialization Phase Flow Chart**





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**Figure S4, Aging Agents Run Phase Flow Chart**

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### **1.5. Market Representation**

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The ABM is capable of representing markets including budget bound agents with oppressed

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competitive bidding. That is, buyers acquire a land plot one their willingness to pay is higher

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than the price (i.e., willingness to accept) the seller sets. According to Huang et al. (2013),

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this model falls on 'level 1' across a four level categorisation based on market

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representations. Level 0 (L0) includes agents that are not budget bound. Level 0.5 (L0.5)

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includes a bidding process but without budget constrains; that is buyers have infinite money

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and bid based on utility only. Level 1 (L1) includes budget bound buyer but without

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competitive bidding; sellers make a transaction once they find a buyer with a willingness to

129 pay higher than the set price. Level 2 (L2) includes budget bound buyers that engage in  
130 competitive bidding. This is the closest representation to markets that include bidding;  
131 however, it is the most complex.

132 Huang et al. (2013) tested ABMs representing markets at the four levels through an  
133 experiment that adjusts agents heterogeneity. Their results show high discrepancies between  
134 levels that include budget constraints (L0 and L0.5) and levels that do not (L1 and L2). L1  
135 and L2 showed similar populations, close transaction prices and close budget spatial  
136 distribution (Theil index) at the end of the run. This implies that L1 ABMs are sufficient to  
137 represent markets, and L2 ABMs is a more accurate representation of reality that leads to  
138 minor changes in the outcomes. Deciding to add competitive bidding (L2) or not (L1)  
139 requires addressing the aim of the ABM and the study at hand.

140 The aim of this study is to showcase the effect of procedural utility on the urban context in  
141 terms of segregation and satisfaction of agents (see manuscript). Agents in this model have  
142 preconceptions towards markets in the form of PU. This is unique to this application unlike  
143 ABMs where agents do not have any preconception towards the details of the exchange  
144 process they undergo. Abstracting the markets does not affect these preconceptions, and  
145 accordingly does not affect their impact on the results. Therefore, it is acceptable to simplify  
146 markets by suppressing bidding in this ABM, so long as we simulate more than one market  
147 and associate a set of motivations to each. This does not highly affect the results as long as  
148 budgets are considered as per Huang et al. (2013).

149 That is not to say adding further details to the presented ABM market mechanisms does not  
150 lead to any benefits. It can improve the predictive capacity of the ABM – in exchange for  
151 increased complexity and challenges with interpreting the effect of procedural utility on  
152 urban trends. We stress that providing a predictive model is not the aim of this paper. Hence,  
153 adding more details to the exchange process in the ABM is beyond the focus of this study. It

154 adds to the model complexity without contributing to the effect of procedural utility on urban  
155 trends.<sup>1</sup>

## 156 2 Notes on Experiments and Greater Cairo Case Study

157 We apply the model to the case of Greater Cairo because it is a context with multiple formal  
158 informal dynamics. The ABM represents Greater Cairo's context as a set of pixels  
159 representing formal and informal settlements. Figure S5 depicts the spatial distribution of  
160 formal and informal settlements in Greater Cairo, and it shows its representation in the ABM.

161 We define three experiments (E1, E2 and E3), and we run each experiment with the  
162 procedural utility weight  $\beta_{i,b|j}$  set to zero ( $\beta_0$ ) and set based on observation in Greater Cairo  
163 ( $\beta_{GC}$ ). Experiment 1 assumes buyers are not budget bound. Experiment 2 assumes buyers are  
164 budget bound and sets prices to fixed values regardless of supply and demand. Experiment 3  
165 allows supply and demand to dictate land prices. We run each experiment for 30 years to  
166 explore urban growth and segregation trends. Figure S6 shows sample spatial results for the  
167 three experiments. For further details on the experiments, see manuscript.

168 In this section, we extend the model results to a measure of isolation. We include a set of  
169 graphs for the diversity index results (see Figure S8). We then discuss the model validation  
170 in section 3.

### 171 2.1. Isolation Results

172 The isolation, in this study is a measure of the spatial distribution of satisfied and dissatisfied  
173 buyers, following a logic similar to Schelling's (1971) model. If a buyer is surrounded by

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the authors incorporated a full bid-auction process in the ABM. By comparing different experiments, we observed similar effects for procedural utility on segregation as the ones presented in the manuscript. We concluded that minimising complexity is beneficial given our aim to highlight the effect of procedural utility, rather than develop a predictive model.

174 more than four buyers with a different land market preference from themselves, the buyer is  
175 considered isolated.

#### 176 2.1.1. Effects on Procedural Utility

177 The level of spatial isolation is substantially lower for A1 buyers at  $E1-\beta_0$  in comparison to  
178  $E1-\beta_{GC}$  (see Figure S7). The percentage values reach a mean of 4.4 percent for  $E1-\beta_0$  and  
179 56.2 percent for  $E1-\beta_{GC}$  after 30 years. However, A2 buyers have generally low isolation  
180 rates in both sets of  $\beta_{i,b|j}$  runs.  $E1-\beta_0$  still has slightly lower A2 isolation percentages at 6.9  
181 percent in comparison to 11.6 percent at  $E1-\beta_{GC}$ . At  $E1-\beta_0$ , these low isolation values can be  
182 explained by the low net number of buyers. This leads to a lower number of neighbours per  
183 buyer agent. Hence, a buyer is more likely to have less than four surrounding buyers with  
184 opposed market preferences. In such case, the buyer under consideration is counted as non-  
185 isolated.

186 At  $E1-\beta_{GC}$ , the high isolation rate for A1 buyers can be explained through the high net number  
187 of buyers and the low number of M1 plots. Similarly, as with satisfaction, this combination  
188 leads to shortages in M1 plots which diverts A1 buyers to their less preferred M2 plots. These  
189 diverted buyers are very likely to be isolated since M2 plots are generally more occupied by  
190 A2 buyers due to their appealing procedural utility. In contrast, the M2 buyers' isolation rate  
191 is kept low at  $E1-\beta_{GC}$  due to the abundance of M2 plots and the price barrier for M1 plots. In  
192 other words, A2 buyers are initially less likely to seek M1 plots due to their aforementioned  
193 shortage. Further, even if A2 buyers do try to relocate to M1 plots, high M1 prices and low  
194 A2 buyer budgets lead to high rates of unaffordability.

#### 195 2.1.2. Procedural Utility and Budgets

196 The isolation of buyers is analysed for A1 and A2 buyers separately. For A1 buyers,  $E1-\beta_{GC}$   
197 has the highest mean percentage of isolated buyers, 56.3 percent at 30 years.  $E2-\beta_{GC}$  and  $E3-$   
198  $\beta_{GC}$  have mean isolation rates of 19.1 percent and 20.8 percent, respectively. These isolation

199 values align with observed spatial clustering of markets and the simulated satisfaction rates  
200 in GC. In E1- $\beta_{GC}$ , low satisfaction rates are associated with A1 buyers occupying M2 plots  
201 due to shortages in M1 plots (see Figure S6 in supplementary material). These A1 buyers  
202 have high numbers of A2 neighbours which leads to high isolation rates. However, by  
203 considering budgets and higher satisfaction rates, A1 buyers are more likely to buy within  
204 their preferred market. This leads to similar neighbours and substantially lower isolation  
205 values in E2- $\beta_{GC}$  and E3- $\beta_{GC}$ .

206 For A2 buyers, similar trends are observed, but with lower isolation percentages. E1- $\beta_{GC}$ , E2-  
207  $\beta_{GC}$  and E3- $\beta_{GC}$  rank from highest to lowest with minor differences – they have mean  
208 isolation values for A2 buyers of 11.6 percent, 8.2 percent and 4.4 percent respectively (see  
209 Figure S7). These low values may be because A2 birth rates are higher than A1, which leads  
210 to a higher population ratio in comparison to A1 buyers. Subsequently, A2 buyers are more  
211 likely to be surrounded by similar buyers leading to lower isolation rates.

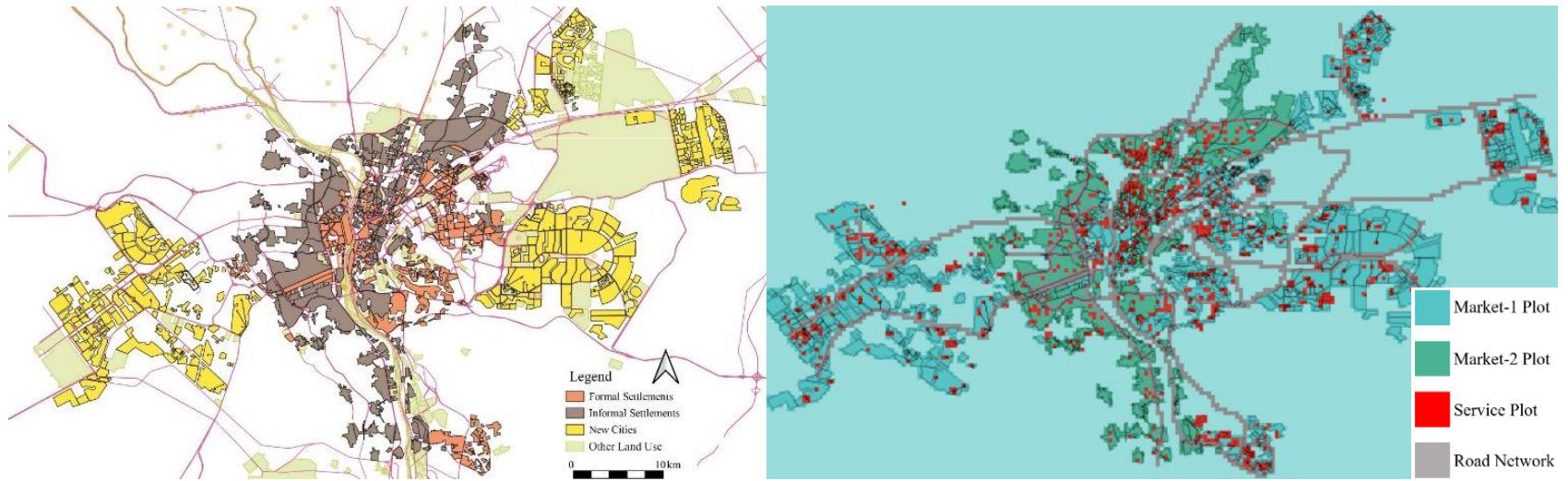
### 212 3 Validation

213 The model validation is tied to our aim to understand the effect of procedural utility on the  
214 urban context. We do not aim to accurately represent GC and predict its urban future. Hence,  
215 it is not relevant to validate the model on the basis of its outputs. Instead, we apply the  
216 validation on the basis of the mechanisms of the decision-making process.

217 The model is based on observed stated preferences in GC. During these observations,  
218 individuals are asked to choose between two realistic plots with different attributes in  
219 different land markets. The model replicates this decision process by: (1) restricting the  
220 agents choices between two land plots following the survey design; and (2) Generating the  
221 agents attributes based on the statistical relevance of the survey results. That is, all the  
222 attributes are generated over a normal distribution with a mean value from the survey results  
223 and a standard deviation of 10 percent. This reflects the 10 percent margin of error in the

224 survey results. On that basis, the ABM is valid for understanding procedural utility as it  
225 replicates the behaviours observed in the GC survey.

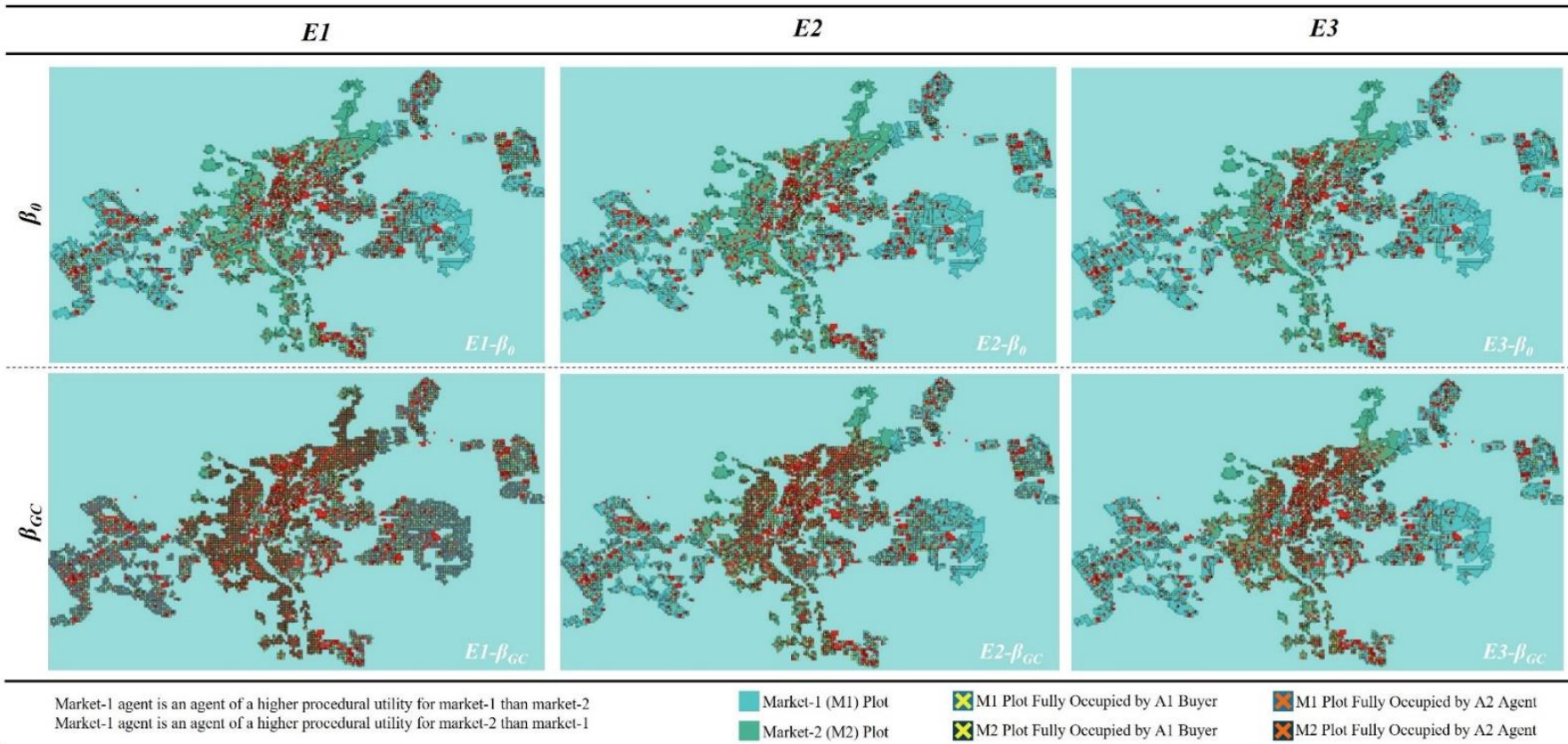
226 Although validating the ABM results is not relevant, the model outcomes are close to the  
227 historical urban growth in GC. The model runs for 30 years from 1975 to 2005, and  
228 experiment 3 is the closest representation of markets in GC. The final population in the year  
229 2005 in experiment 3 reaches approximately 13,000,000 individuals – by assuming every  
230 household to include 5 individuals. This is of the same magnitude of an estimated population  
231 of 15,000,000 in GC in 2005. The ABM then has a prediction error of 13.33 percent, and this  
232 can be improved by increasing the sample size in GC.



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**Figure S5, GC map (left) and ABM GC Initialisation State (right)**



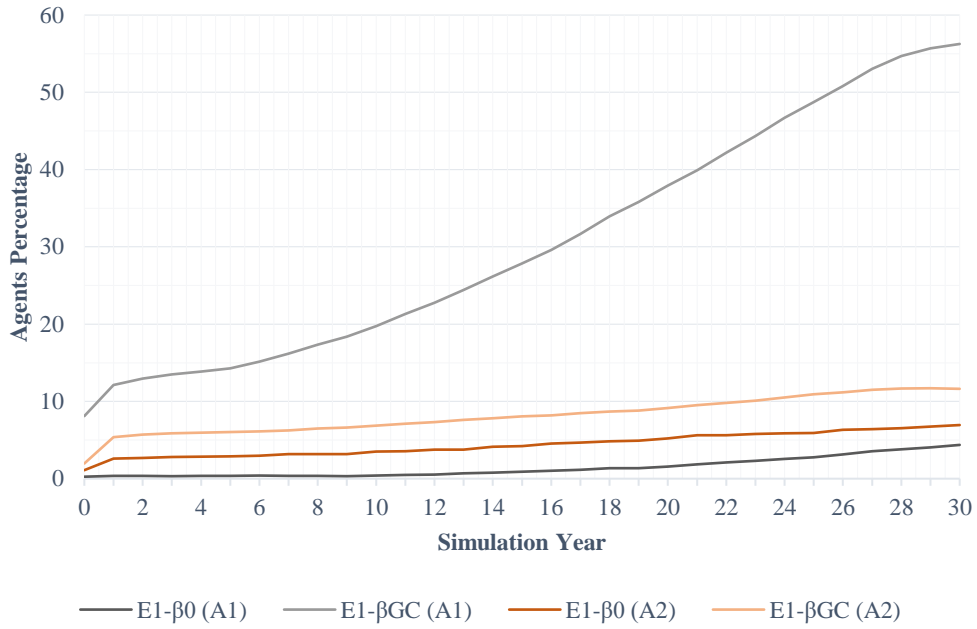
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**Figure S6, Sample Simulation Results after 30 Year Runs**

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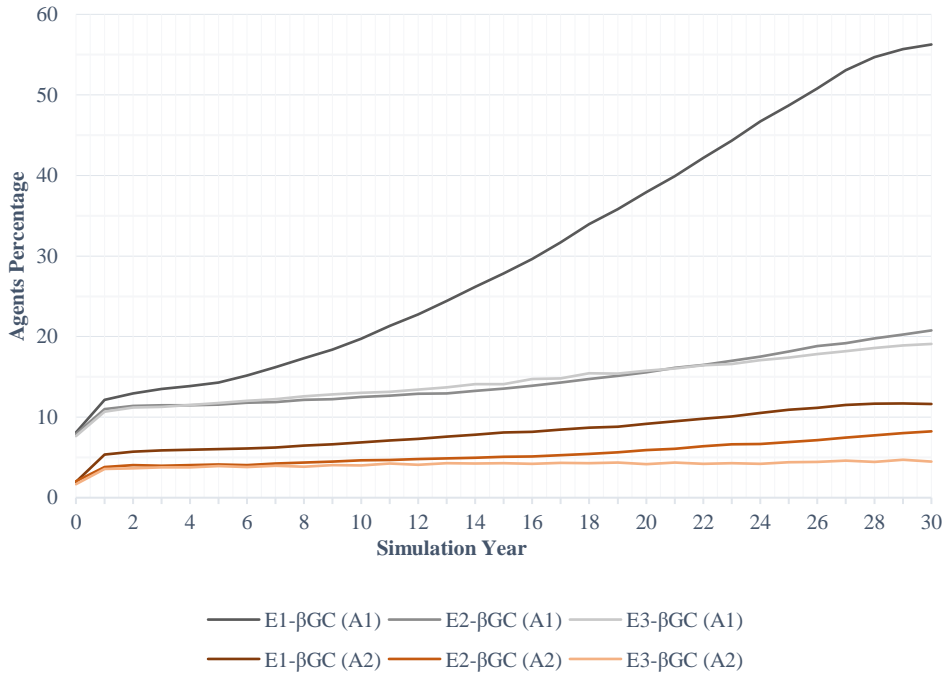


Share of Isolated A1 and A2 Buyers



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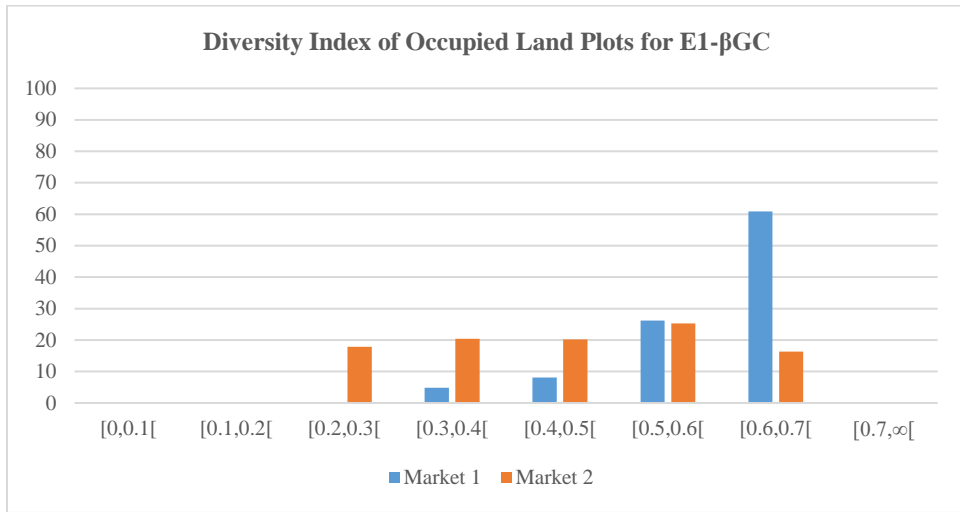
Share of Isolated A1 and A2 Buyers



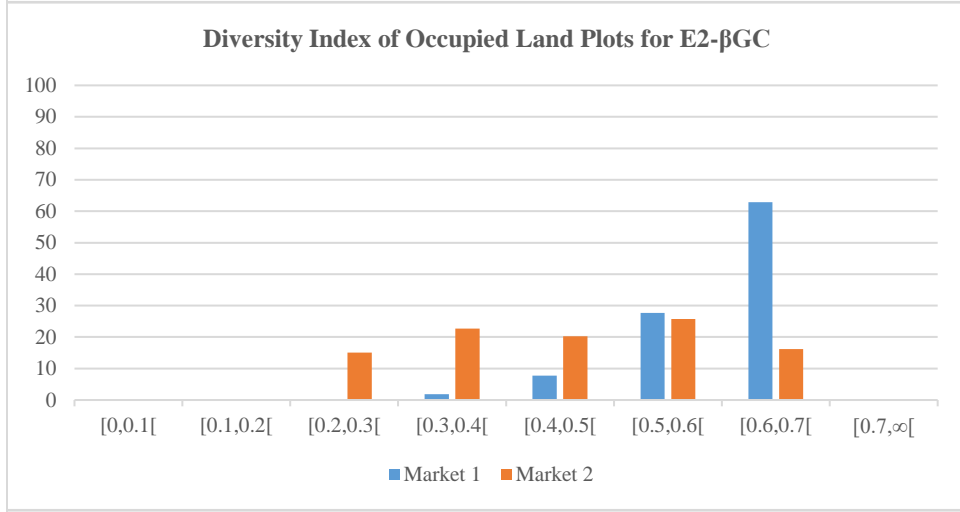
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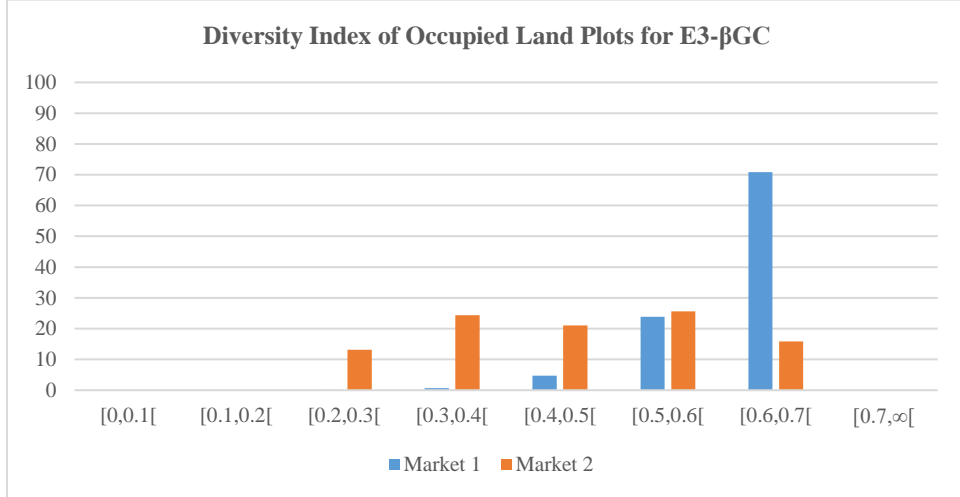
Figure S7, Isolation Results



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**Figure S8, Diversity Index for M1 and M2 Plots at 30 Years**

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