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**Abstract**

It is assumed that NATURA 2000 sites in South Moravia have been managed in the same way for many centuries which is one of the causes of their high biodiversity. This theory was verified on the basis of analysis of land use maps from the last 180 years. It was found that sites covered by forest remained stable through the whole research period, while majority of non-forest sites changed at least once. The second conclusion shows the importance of the size of the sites: while large sites remain more or less stable, small sites become rather unstable.

**Keywords**

NATURA 2000 sites, land use, change trajectory, biodiversity, South Moravia