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Presentations	Session 4.3	<i>Individual presentations: Ecosystem services.</i>

Abstract Session 4.3 – Forest and water policy integration: linking the output with the process.

Scholars consider forest and water an integrated system, with forests being a key element of the water cycle. The multiple functions of forest for water ecosystems are labelled as the “best kept secret” by scholars and the use of such synergies critical to address the climate crisis. For these reasons, scholars claim the necessity to integrate these two natural resources in policy and management. From a policy perspective, this involves two dimensions: the output and the process. Policy integration as an output can be defined as a policy that integrates aspects of another sectoral policy, or a joint policy involving the two sectors in key elements, such as goals or procedures. Policy integration as a process involves the interaction dynamics across agents involved in policy-making. The aim of the current research has been thus to explore the causal mechanisms which link policy integration processes and outputs across the forest and water sectors. To study this, we conducted a policy network analysis in two regional areas of Europe, Catalonia (NE Spain) and Baden-Württemberg (SW Germany), to analyse the factors leading to a given policy integration output in these systems. Results from this study and similar literature show how different types of interdependencies among the members of forest-water policy networks is what triggers different integration outputs. The interactions were grouped in competitive, functional or absent, and the outputs in symbolic, substantial or technical accordingly. These results show similar patterns as proposed in the work of Archer when discussing the relationship between structure and agency and frames the study of policy integration as a complex socio-ecological system.