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

*Abstract Session 4.3 – Identifying the causes of tourism conflicts in Forest Lands of Patagonia.*

Although protected areas were created for conservation purposes, tourism activities were always associated with them resulting in a conflict of interests. These opposing interests are represented by assorted actors at different scales that form coalitions to achieve their goals. In this regard, the international forest regime tries to influence domestic policies at national level and the actors concerned take positions according to their interests. Domestic bureaucracies benefit from the implementation of the international forest regime by gaining influence and power over the territory. In Argentina, its Patagonian region has become the most conserved forest area in the country and an important touristic destination where the forest protected areas are sites of great interest for conservation and production activities. The growth of tourism as the main activity produced differences in the territory affecting socio-environmental factors and increasing land-use conflicts, associated with an exponential demographic expansion. Hence, the aim of this study is to analyse the international and national socio-political context that contributed to the tourism development in the forest protected areas from Patagonia and the resulting conflicts between the stakeholders. To identify the issues, document analysis by process tracing was employed on public sources and 38 semi-structured interviews were made to key actors. The classification of actors was made following Schusser et al(2015). Our results show that the international forest regime had a strong influence in the tourism development of the protected areas in the region, mainly through direct access by World Bank projects. The resulting tourism development led to a change in the local settlers economic activities and intensified the interests of powerful external actors, leading to greater conflicts between stakeholders.

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