

Carlos M. Landivar		
Affiliation	<i>Department of biometry and environmental system analysis & ConFoBi RTH, University of Freiburg</i>	
Session Chair		
Presentations	Session 6.1	<i>Politics of knowledge in forest management.</i>

Abstract Session 6.1 – Soft system dynamic model of Retention Forestry as sustainable forest management strategy in Black Forest.

Retention Forestry is a recent strategy designed to manage forest in a sustainable way. The goal is to produce timber while enhancing habitat heterogeneity through the conservation of habitat trees' and deadwood. As similar management approaches, it requires a multidisciplinary team to successfully work at different levels such as design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and adaptation.

Each one of these activities are performed by several interdisciplinary teams playing different roles at each of these levels. Moreover, different institutions (both formal and informal) also play roles at different levels. There the context where such a complex system as a forest management strategy is carried out is composed by a set of actors, institutions and disciplines with several connections among them. The connections among disciplines are often intended as collaborations, information exchange or publication of information or data. Meanwhile the connections among institutions and informal groups might be influence by top-down effect from stronger elements and feedback or demands from other elements

Despite the powerful interconnection among them, not all the actors are aware of each other. There is a lot of information, experiences and knowledge that might be lost, ignored or misunderstood. Therefore, it is difficult to work together in addressing common problems, sharing resources or communicating know-how. It is important to identify the main actors from the involved disciplines and areas and describe the connection among them, to purposeful direct the efforts and available resources into a successful forest management plan.