

Politics of knowledge in forest management		
Panel 10		
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*Abstract Panel 10 – Politics of knowledge in forest management.*

The significance of forests is increasingly debated in the context of pressing global problems. Not only are issues relevant to forest biodiversity addressed but the role of forests in combating climate change has become a key theme. How we manage forest ecosystems in the era of the Anthropocene has become a key question concerning also the fate of humankind. In what ways should our relationship to trees and/or forests change to enable tackling global challenges? This question also brings up the issue of knowledge about forests and the role of professional epistemologies in advising forest-related policies. Forestry and forest management are path-dependent and expert-driven fields of natural resources management. Changing professional cultures are therefore significant drivers towards forest ecosystem management that is sensitive to global problems. Within this context, the panel aims to raise discussion about knowledge in forest management:

- How do we know forest ecosystems?
- What kind of knowledge is considered valid and relevant?
- Who participates in the production of knowledge about forests? How to bring different kind of knowledge together (interdisciplinarity)?
- How is professional knowledge about forests translated into practice? What determines the policy relevance of knowledge?
- How to study professional epistemologies and knowledge in forestry?

The panel addresses issues related to the politics of knowledge in forestry and forest management. It also discusses the possibilities to widen ideas about relevant and valid knowledge in forest management and introduce more inclusive approaches to knowledge about forests and changing relationship to them.