

'Sustainable forest management' in the context of global bioeconomy discourse and contemporary forest governance trends

Panel 1		
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Abstract Panel 1 – 'Sustainable forest management' in the context of global bioeconomy discourse and contemporary forest governance trends.

Transition to sustainable development and climate-neutral society is increasingly associated with the shift in the global economy towards the use of bioresources instead of fossils. Bioeconomy has become a new way of thinking and a widespread discourse in both science and policy. Bioeconomy discourse affects and reshapes traditional forest discourses. Forest resources and products play an essential role in the bioeconomy discourse. A set of solutions are proposed under the concept of forest-based bioeconomy to reduce the dependence of society on fossil natural resources and to decrease carbon footprint. These solutions include the development of forest bioenergy, the production of bioplastic and textile made from wood fibers, the construction of wooden multi-story buildings, etc. Thereby, the bioeconomy is considered as a tool to address the global climate crisis. However, bioeconomy driven intensification of forest exploitation may be a reason for many other crises on the national and local levels. Unsustainable forest management may lead to resource depletion, environmental degradation, biodiversity decline, primary forest loss, and violation of local communities' rights. The impact of the global bioeconomy development on the local environmental and social sustainability of forest management depends on multiple (forest) governance levels. We invite you to present related research (as well as the research perspective) and to discuss your study in the context of the following key question: How can the sustainability of bioeconomy-driven forestry intensification be ensured in the context of three directions of contemporary forest governance: globalization, decentralization, and privatization? We are interested to discuss what are perceptions of and discourses on 'sustainable forest management' in an era of global bioeconomy boom? Whether and how can the global bioeconomy develop sustainable, knowledge-based, and locally responsive forest management rather than unsustainable forestry leading to forest degradation and human well-being decline? What are the roles of intergovernmental structures, private actors and 'non-state market driven' governance, national regulation, local self-government (as well as hybrid governance modes) in the development of sustainable forest management? What are the benefits, risks, and socio-ecological trade-offs in the context of forestry intensification driven by bioeconomy growth?