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

Abstract Session 4.3 – Understand Chinese participants' relational value and motivations behind PES schemes.

Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) is an incentive program used in forest policy, aimed at providing monetary benefits for ES providers and encourage the sustainable use of forest resources. However, PES program is criticized by scholars for its flaws in policy design. For example, the commodification of forest resources may change the relationship between human and forest. Before the program, people may manage forest land driven by cultural identity and social responsibility. After the PES program, they will view their relationship with forest differently and only maintain the forest when receiving incentives. The relationships that people have with forest are referred as relational value, including care for forest, stewardship, and moral responsibility to forests, etc. Previous literatures mainly focus on policy evaluation of PES program in China regarding its economic or ecological impact but fail to consider cultural ecosystem services. In this study, I will view the PES program in the light of relational value and conduct in-depth interviews with participants to understand their value and views about PES programs in Chinese context, including how do they understand PES payments and what do they used to describe nature. I will also explore their motivations behind the participation. Understanding the value held by participants can help to better design the policy and further increase people's involvement. Besides, by reflecting participants' value in the policy can not only produce ecological-sound results, but also bolstering the values needed to maintain the programs. Study will also tackle analysis of the role of institutional framework and on how different PES narratives are institutionalized to the legislative sphere and in the respective actor-network, and how they in this manner impact the relational value of Chinese forests under the PES schemes.