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| Session Chair | | |
| Presentations | Session 6.1 | <i>Politics of knowledge in forest management.</i> |

Abstract Session 6.1 – Coupling Forest Values: Reflections on the integration of forest ecosystem services to inform management in the Black Forest.

Economically viable production has long been the primary aim of forest management globally. However, in recent decades improved ecological understandings, accelerating environmental pressures, and changing social perceptions of forests have challenged the preeminence of production-oriented management. Consequently, policymakers and forest practitioners have been faced with increasing pressure to manage for multiple additional aims including biodiversity conservation, recreational use, human welfare, and resiliency against climate change and environmental disturbances. Within the policy realm, these pressures have been addressed in part by the adoption of the ecosystem services concept into key political documents (e.g. the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, Convention on Biodiversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, and IPBES assessments). The ecosystem services framework, which strives to encapsulate the full range of economic, social, and ecological benefits provided by natural ecosystems and biodiversity, originated in research communities in the 1980s and has been studied broadly across several disciplines since. However, despite its prevalence in policy and research realms, the adoption and operationalization of the ecosystem services concept in practice, as well as in some key disciplines that have traditionally informed management, continue to lag.

Recent efforts, founded in a Total Economic Value framework, have aimed to address this lag with an interdisciplinary modelling approach that quantifies and couples the economic, ecological, and social benefits of conservation-oriented retention forestry practices to better inform management in the mixed-use landscapes of the Black Forest of southwestern Germany. (Still et al., in prep.) This presentation will reflect upon the disciplinary assumptions, integrative approaches, findings, and challenges of these efforts. Such reflection, in turn, will offer insights on the remaining barriers to operationalizing the ecosystem services framework in forest management practice through traditional knowledge bases and suggest possible paths forward to address multi-objective management concerns.