

***Convener:***

Keeton W., *Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont, Burlington; USA*

***Title:***

Forest ecosystem and resource vulnerabilities to climate change in the Carpathian Mountain Region

***Session description:***

A number of recent pan-European assessments have mapped and identified vulnerabilities to climate change across a wide range of environmental infrastructure concerns and natural resources. In this session we will lay the groundwork for follow-up work focused specifically on forest ecosystems in the Carpathian Mountain region. Forest ecosystems in the Carpathians will continue to change into the future as compounded stresses from climate disruption, invasive species, land use pressures, and other factors increase. With changes in ecosystem dynamics will come alterations in the mix of ecosystem goods and services those forests provide. Foresters, scientists, and policy makers alike are challenged to integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines in addressing questions of climate change. This session will take an expansive approach to these cutting edge topics. Talks from a range of disciplines are welcomed, particularly those addressing: 1) criteria and methodologies for determining the most at risk forest resources, functions, and biological diversity, and 2) the challenge of sustaining forest ecosystems into an uncertain future. Research on system attributes conferring resilience or adaptability to climate change will be of keen interest. Collectively, the research presented in this session will begin the process of identifying key vulnerabilities in forest resources that could be integrated into a comprehensive regional assessment in the near future.