

***Conveners:***

Bihun Y., *College of Agricultural Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University, University of Vermont; USA*

Karabchuk D., *Forest Initiatives and Communities (ForestCom), Lviv; Ukraine*

***Title:***

Social, economic, and environmental impacts of illegal logging in the forests of the Carpathian Ecological Region

***Session description:***

The session will look at impacts of illegal timber harvesting on communities, economic wellbeing and ecosystem services in the forests of the Carpathian Ecological Region. The papers submitted will look at technical, social and legal instruments that are utilized to combat illegal logging. Promising new technologies and methods of tracking illegally harvested wood and monitoring the transport of illegally-procured wood products will be presented. The failure of government actions, the ineffectiveness networks of protected areas, NGOs and forest certification to reduce deforestation and site degradation due to abusive logging practices will be analyzed. Other studies will also look at how the communities and activists could be engaged in preventing illegal logging and encouraging stewardship and sustainable forest management. A review of international practices used to reduce and prevent illegal logging in other forested regions will add perspectives to the regional challenges of the central and Eastern Europe. Case studies and opportunities to restore and effectively protect forested landscapes will be appraised as alternatives to address the pressing environmental dilemma.