

ORGANIZED SESSION – FORUM CARPATICUM 2021

Brno, Czech Republic

Lead Convener:

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Title:

Forest ecosystem vulnerabilities to climate change in the Carpathian Mountain region

Session description:

A number of recent pan-European, regional, and national level assessments have mapped and identified vulnerabilities to climate change across a wide range of environmental infrastructures 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 and outcomes from previous assessments will begin the process of identifying key impacts and resulting risks in forest resources that could be integrated into a comprehensive regional assessment in the near future. Please note that this session is linked to an afternoon workshop by same name (see separate announcement).

The title of the session presentation of the lead convener (Dr. Keeton):

Forest ecosystem vulnerabilities to climate change and natural disturbances in relation to forest age, structure, and management: reconciling competing views