

FORUM CARPATICUM 2021: Workshop proposal

1. Convener: Diaz-Maroto I.J., Agroforestry Engineering Department, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

2. Title: Biodiversity and connectivity of rural-urban forests: planning and sustainable land management at the peripheral edges

3. Description

Rural-urban forests and their outlying edges have diverse functions, from offering people leisure opportunities, the occasion to practice different sports, to the well-being that comes from enjoying nature close to the urban environment. These areas play an essential role in increasing green infrastructures for the sustainable development of cities. To do this, they must face a major challenge because of: i) a changing environment, ii) the need for technical means to analyze and evaluate their ecological problems, and iii) a generally positive social perception. Know-how to right planning the potential of these forests should be the focus of our research inside a scenario where urban pressure is growing. Our goal is to generate a rational debate analyzing their socioeconomic importance as areas of particular significance for biodiversity conservation. Scientific perspective of how rural-urban forests and green spaces benefit people has increased in latest years to include social, environmental, and economic aspects. However, there is a delay in the response of the municipality policies. These ecosystems and its landscape could be thought of as green infrastructures. Research has confirmed that their benefits are optimized by long-term management, so these forests reach their maximum efficiency. There is a full awareness about how forest resources and land use enables planning of the multifunctional use to develop economic returns. For instance, areas dedicated to other infrastructures, such as power lines, can be managed to grow products for nearby neighborhoods, from fuel wood to food. For example, in Japan, rural-urban green spaces are planned for both recreational use and areas for disaster relief services.

4. Format

Active audience participation is required for the success and the proper development of interactive workshop. Our idea is to facilitate interaction and contribute to the development of competences. The workshop is conceived as a training workshop and also to prepare a joint publication on the proposed topic.

5. Number of supposed participants: It depends of received communications.

6. Duration: Workshop where attendees are invited to submit abstracts on the topic to discuss. Depending of received communications, workshop duration would be variable.