



Live session at the IUFRO World Day (Talk)

Analyzing trade-offs in forests between sustainable economy and environmental objectives

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology - ETH

28 September 2021, 14:45 - 15:45 UTC

📍 Zurich, Switzerland (on the IUFRO World Day Map)

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ABSTRACT

The ATREE project assesses trade-offs arising from a growing sustainable economy from the perspective of the forest sector. We focus on trade-offs arising due to strict quantitative forest area preservation and those related to CO₂ sequestration. Regarding the former, we analyze the causes of forest clearings in Switzerland. We find that most clearings are caused by traffic infrastructure, but that the largest surfaces are claimed by quarry sites, depositories and infrastructure for traffic and water. By surveying forest owners and stakeholders, we then assess policy options to reconcile the resulting trade-offs.

We find that most forest owners do not support out-of-kind forest clearing compensation and if they do, they support a strong price signal toward developers. In contrast, stakeholders are mostly concerned about durability and equivalence, while supporting a moderate flexibilization of the compensation measures. In terms of CO₂ sequestration, we analyze policies from substitution of fossil energy («fuel wood») to the «processed wood sink» and the «forest sink». While the stakeholders more generally prefer the processed wood sink over the forest sink, the forest owners more specifically prefer certification schemes for silvicultural measures supporting the «processed wood sink» as well as a free-market solution selling «fuel wood» over certification of «forest sinks».

KEYWORDS

- Forest Policy
- Sustainable Forest Management
 - Climate Change
 - Forest Economic
 - Trade-offs

SPEAKERS



Tobias Schulz

is a senior researcher at WSL. He has received his doctoral degree in economics from University of St. Gallen after visits at University of California at Berkeley and San Diego. He then worked as a political scientist at the University of Zurich before joining WSL. His main research interest is the formation and implementation as well the effects of land use policies, such as forest and agricultural policies, as well as spatial planning.



Eva Lieberherr

is a senior scientist and group leader of Natural Resource Policy (NARP) at the Institute for Environmental Decisions at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH). She has held research and teaching positions at the University of Berne, the Swiss Federal Institute for Aquatic Science and Research (Eawag), Oregon State University and the University of California at Berkeley. She analyses the use and protection of forest, water and landscapes from the angle of public policy and administration, with a focus on public management.

PROGRAM

A 15-minute presentation of trade-offs arising from a growing sustainable economy from the perspective of the forest sector. We focus on two trade-offs:

- 1) those arising due to strict quantitative forest area preservation and
- 2) those related to CO₂ sequestration

Afterwards a 45-minute discussion.

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