

Session #3

Forest certification systems and their relevance for protected areas

Session Leader: Oliviu Iorgu – Language: English

Forest certification systems were established to encourage responsible forest management. Forests cover large areas in many of the European protected areas. Forest management practices are ranging in these areas from non-intervention to commercial forestry. How well are the various forest management practices responding to crucial issues, like maintenance of environmental services, conservation of landscape and biodiversity and responding to social needs? Forest certification is a useful tool not only outside protected areas. Do protected area managers have enough information on the various certification systems to allow them to chose or recommend to forest owners and managers a credible certification system that responds to the management objectives of the protected area?

This seminar will:

Present the principles of credible forest certification;

Provide brief presentations of various forest certification systems;

Present in more detail the FSC certification system and some case studies, emphasizing on the strengths and weaknesses of the system and giving some practical advises on how to best overcome weaknesses;

Encourage participants to think about the potential effects of forest certification in their protected areas and develop a presentation on the potential benefits of forest certification.

Joint activities with participants to Session 2 are possible.