"Old-growth forests in the context of climate policy: what is and what is not an old-growth forest?"

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Our conference speakers

José I. Barredo is a Scientific Officer at the Forests and Bioeconomy Unit of the Joint Research Centre, European Commission. The focus of his research is forest ecosystems condition and services, biodiversity, primary and old-growth forests, and climate change. He is also the lead author for the JRC publications on old-growth forests "Mapping and assessment of primary and old-growth forests in Europe" (2021). and "Primary and old-growth forests are more resilient to natural disturbances – Perspective on wildfires" (2023).

Francesco Maria Sabatini is an Italian forest ecologist and macroecologist. He holds a PhD in Ecology, and is a Marie Sklodowska-Curie alumnus. After working three years as coordinator of sPlot - the global Vegetation-plot database at iDiv - The German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research, Francesco Maria Sabatini is now Assistant Professor, and Rita-Levi Montalcini fellow at Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna.

Aris Jansons (professor in Forest Sciences) is a senior researcher at Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava. Research on enhancing forest stand quality, productivity and also vitality by using the methods of forest tree breeding (tree breeding, adaptation, climate change, natural disturbances, old-growth forests). He is lecturer and PhD forestry student supervisor at Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies.

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Kris Vandekerkhove is a senior researcher at Research Institute for Nature and Forests (INBO) in Belgium. He holds PhD in Applied Biological Sciences. Kris does research in Forest Ecology. The main research projects he is working on are the monitoring of strict forest reserves and Natura 2000 forest habitats. He is one of the key contributors for LIFE-PROGNOSES project focusing on old-growth forest indicators for beech forests.

Per Gundersen is a professor in forest ecology at University of Copenhagen. He studies the effects of major drivers of change (climate, air pollution, land use and management) on C, N and water cycles in forests. He has been particularly interested in C and N interactions in soils and is currently studying soil legacy effects in forests planted on arable land.

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Daiga Zute is a researcher at Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava (Latvia), focused on climate change mitigation aspects in managed and un-managed forests. EC European Climate Pact Ambassador for Latvia, lead participant of preparation of national reports on climate change mitigation (LULUCF sector), with considerable experience in policy making, gained at previous work in different positions at the Ministry of Agriculture.

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student at NMBU and NIBIO. The thesis revolves around the role of old trees and the age of a forest stand on biodiversity at different spatial scales. A major goal is to inform stakeholders and managers how much this should be emphasized in the various biodiversity measures. In addition to this, he has also been involved in developing methods for implementing forest succession into practical ecosystem mapping.

Eivind Handegard is a forest ecologist currently on his third year as a Ph.D.

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Institute, Finland. Carbon and ecosystem services expert. Her main expertise includes modelling carbon budgets of forests and croplands in the changing environment. She holds a PhD in Physical Geography and has worked in both national and international research and development projects related to ecosystem services and climate change. Currently conducting research on quantifying the effects of alternative forest management and climate change scenarios on carbon budget at varying spatial scales.

Anu Akujärvi is a Senior research scientist at Finnish Environment

Marco Onida is Team Leader Forest at European Commission, DG Environment. He is coordinating the activities on primary and old-growth forest at the EC.

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Jutta Beher is a research scholar in the Biodiversity, Ecology, and Conservation Research Group of the IIASA Biodiversity and Natural Resources Program. She works on various projects focusing on prioritizing landscapes for protected area expansions and decision making for conservation under multiple objectives. Prior to IIASA worked as a spatial analyst at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions at the University of Queensland and the Marine Spatial Ecology and Conservation lab at the University of Melbourne. She has extensive experience in conservation-related spatial analysis using R and ArcGIS, and is wrapping up her PhD in decision making under multiple objectives and uncertainty at the University of Melbourne.

Tudor Stancioiu is a professor of Forest Ecology and Forest stand dynamics at the Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania. Before joining academia, he worked in forest administration. He holds a PhD degree in Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California – Berkeley (USA). His work at present is focused on forest dynamics, species-habitat relationships and the sustainable management of forests (including certification).

Abhishek Lodh is a postdoctoral Researcher at Lund University, Sweden, Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science in the field of Cloud Physics. Before that, completed Ph.D. from the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IITD) Delhi in Atmospheric Science and Land surface processes.

Kristiina Palm-Hellenurm is a PhD student. In 2011 started university studies on natural resources management and protection in Estonian University of Life Sciences; bachelor's degree was completed in 2014 and master's degree in 2016. Started working as a specialist in Estonian University of Life Sciences (Chair of Plant Health, Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences) in 2016. Started PhD studies in The Institute of Forestry and Engineering (EULS) in 2020; main research interests are forest ecology and forest disturbances.

Valters Smariks is a Research assistant at Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava, and currently a PhD student in the field of forestry at Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies. Valters has worked with natural disturbance related topics, such as tree wind resistance determining parameters of root-system, fire effect on soil greenhouse gas emissions from burned forests. Currently his work focuses on carbon storage and accumulation in tree biomass in old-growth forests and other carbon pools, and greenhouse gas emissions from tree stems and soil.