

THINKING ABOUT FOREST AS A SOCIO- ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM

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Society has multiple expectations from forests in terms of their social, ecological and economic values. This aligns poorly with compartmentalized forest science and with polarization of opinions among different actors. Scientists tend to focus on their narrow subjects; foresters are preoccupied with securing sustained flows of timber; while increasing cohorts of the urbanised society adopt neo-romantic aspirations to turn forest into “untouchable nature”.

In this presentation, I will: (i) present a view on forest as complex socio-ecological system; (ii) problematize the current approach to forestland zoning as the overarching approach to the multifunctional use of Lithuanian forests (iii) discuss possible solutions from a transdisciplinary perspective.