



## First announcement

International Scientific Conference

# Temperate and boreal primeval forests in the face of global change

Lviv, Ukraine, 2-4 September 2019

Sponsored by IUFRO working groups

[1.01.07 - Ecology and silviculture of beech](#) and [8.01.01 - Old growth forests and forest reserves](#)

December 2018

Dear Madam, dear Sir

*The Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL ([www.wsl.ch](http://www.wsl.ch)) and the Ukrainian National Forestry University (<http://nltu.edu.ua>) are pleased to invite you to present your latest research on primeval forests and forest reserves at an international scientific conference in Lviv, Ukraine, 2-4 September 2019. The conference will be hosted by the Ukrainian National Forestry University.*

### Aims and scope

The goal of this conference is to bring together the global community of scientists working on the ecology and dynamics of temperate and boreal primeval forests, and their interactions with local people. The participants are offered the opportunity to present their current research and to discuss how global change might affect temperate and boreal primeval forests. Apart from contributions on primeval forests, we also welcome those dealing with formerly managed forests which are protected as forest reserves and on the pathway to become primeval forests again. We also encourage to submit contributions dealing with effects of the surrounding forests on primeval forests and their relation to societal needs. Ukraine is a particularly suitable place for this conference since it still harbors large primeval forest remnants.

### Motivation

While many scientists worldwide are addressing global change - including climate change - as an important driver of ecosystem change, potential impacts on the few remaining primeval forests and on forest reserves have not received much attention. However, global change does not stop at the borders of these unique forest ecosystems. Its potential effects include increased mortality and disturbance, invasion by exotic species including pests, and increased anthropogenic pressure (e.g., tourism, timber, NTFPs). We therefore risk to lose unique reference ecosystems which have evolved over thousands of years. Which pathways of development are foreseeable? How do current strategies followed in primeval forests, i.e. mostly non-intervention, but also salvaging after disturbance, compare in the face of global change? Are strategy changes needed? Will species with different traits which are unique to primeval forests be able to cope with

the related changes or to migrate to new habitats? The many questions should be addressed on the basis of conceptual, empirical, experimental and modelling approaches, and new ways to tackle these challenges for science and societies will be discussed.

### **Conference format**

The provisional program of the conference includes plenary sessions with keynote talks, sub-plenary and poster sessions, a plenary discussion and a post-conference excursion. Proposal submission for talks and posters will open on 28 February 2019. The preliminary list of thematic sessions includes the following topics:

### **Proposed sessions**

- Past demographic and compositional change in primeval and unmanaged forests
- Disturbance and renewal of primeval forests, forest reserves and managed forests
- Tracking environmental change vs. lagging behind: responses of different ecosystem compartments
- Invasions of organisms in primeval forests and forest reserves
- Habitat continuity of primeval forests and forest reserves in a changing climate
- Dynamics and role of dead wood in primeval forests
- Primeval forests and forest reserves in a changing climate: do we need new reference systems?
- Primeval forests and forest reserves at the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Biodiversity in primeval forests, forest reserves and managed forests
- Primeval forests as refuge and source for populations of highly-demanding species: hotspots or coldspots?
- Functional diversity of primeval and managed forests
- Will primeval forests stay intact ecosystems in the face of climate change?
- Managing demands for ecosystem services and products from primeval forests and forest reserves
- Pressures from emerging renewable energy markets on protected and primeval forests: focus fuel wood
- Non-intervention vs. salvaging after disturbance: benefits and problems of different approaches
- Novel approaches for primeval forest and forest reserve research in the face of global change

### **Post-conference excursion**

A post-conference excursion is planned for 4-7 September and will allow visiting unique beech and beech-fir-spruce primeval forests and their scientific exploration in the Ukrainian Carpathians.

### **Please note:**

The conference language will be English.

There will be no refunding of costs for travel, accommodation and meals that are not included in the conference fee. We will be able to reduce the conference fee for a limited number of participants from Ukraine.

Please block the dates for this conference in your agenda. We will soon launch the call for contributions and open registration. We are looking forward to meeting you in Lviv in early September 2019.

### **Important dates**

Start of registration	28 February 2019
Deadline for abstract submission	30 April 2019
Notification of acceptance	10 June 2019
Deadline for registration (early-bird)	25 June 2019
Arrival of the participants	1 September 2019
Conference	2-4 September 2019
Departure / start of excursion	4 September 2019

### **Conference Secretary**

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Kind regards, on behalf of the Organizing Committee  
Peter Brang – Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL