



**Governing and managing forests for multiple
ecosystem services across the globe**

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Book of abstracts

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PLENARY 2.4 - Forests and multiple ecosystem services: an ecosystem-based conservation perspective

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Especially in the context of adaptation to climate change, the discourse on ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions is booming. Often, this is not underpinned by up-to-date ecological knowledge. However, modern ecosystem theory and system ecology provide insights needed for getting to grips with ecosystem functionality. In times of multiply stressed ecological systems under accelerating environmental change, functionality is an overarching conservation target becoming more relevant than simple pattern or structure-related objectives. Key ecological attributes comprise the structures, processes and emergent properties required for maintaining viable, resistant and resilient biological and ecological systems. Systems managed for functionality, which includes an adaptive resilience, provide a wealth of regulating ecosystem services urgently needed by socioeconomic systems suffering from global change-induced stresses. Thus, it is easy to justify an ecosystem-based approach to conservation fostering self-organizing and regulating functions, allowing for synergies with adaptation to climate change and sustainable landscape management. Nevertheless, this will only be achieved if the primacy of provisioning, extraction-based ecosystem services is abandoned. Clearly, this implies the necessity to embrace sufficiency strategies.