



Forest



Landscape



Society

New approach to sustainability science

In a new issue of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences' journal AMBIO the research network Forest-Landscape-Society based at SLU- Skinnskatteberg summarises the research made thanks to funding from the Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg foundation 2005-12.

The special issue of AMBIO 2013(2) appeared in March 2013 with 12 original articles. After a foreword by researchers and stakeholders, a systematic framework for transdisciplinary research in seven steps is presented. It is based on multiple landscapes as case studies, collaboration among academic and non-academic actors and stakeholders, as well as communication with and dissemination to society at large. We highlight the opportunity of bridging the different schools of landscape research in geography. Next, using the Bergslagen region in south-central Sweden, the role of landscape history is illustrated. Focusing on one large forest management unit in Sweden and one in the Russian Federation we analyze how sustained yield forestry is defined and implemented. To illustrate the importance of institutions, policies and governance systems, we assess to what extent the UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve concept is captured in national legislations in Ukraine and Sweden, and show the role of political culture. In a suite of three articles we then illustrate the opportunities and challenges of deriving measurable variables for ecological, economical,

as well as social and cultural sustainability. In a block of two articles we illustrate the need for assessment or evaluation of sustainability and sustainable development processes. Finally, together with a group of researchers in different phases of learning the practice of transdisciplinary research, we analyze the barriers and bridges to integrative knowledge production and collaborative learning for problem-solving.



Robert Axelsson, Per Angelstam and Marine Elbakidze at a meeting in Kortkeros municipality in Russia's Komi Republic. Photo: Valery Gorchakov.

Read more:

Angelstam, P. Elbakidze, M., Axelsson, R. (Eds.) 2013. Knowledge production and learning for sustainable landscapes: Europe's West and East as a laboratory. AMBIO 42(2): 113-272.