



ARANGE

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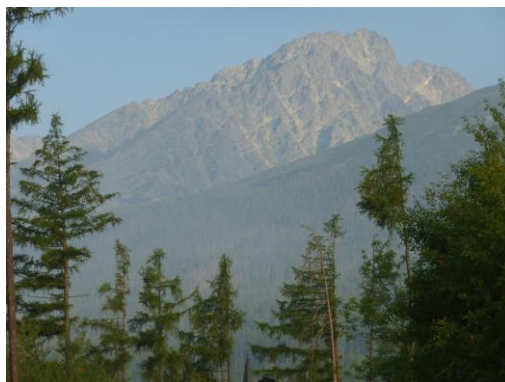
Patrick Huber, Bernhard Wolfslehner



ARANGE - Grant no. 289437- Advanced multifunctional forest management in European mountain ranges

ARANGE Science Conference and final partner meeting Smokovec, July 7 - 10 2015

Almost 3.5 years have gone and ARANGE entered the very final stage of its project lifetime. A cornerstone event, the ARANGE scientific conference "[*Mountain Forest Management in a Changing World*](#)", was planned way beforehand to discuss potentials and limitations of current and possible future management of mountain forest ecosystems as well as related implications for policy and practice. The venue was selected carefully by the [Organizers](#), in a picturesque mountain landscape in the High Tatra Mountains in Slovakia (Smokovec, Hotel Bellevue).



Organized as an open science conference this three-day event brought together 130 registered participants including international researchers, international mountain forestry stakeholders and ARANGE consortium partners. Following the welcome note of local hosts, three invited keynote speakers provided a conceptual framework for the coming days:

[Bernhard Wolfslehner](#) Towards 2020 – The role of mountain forests for the pan-European goals and targets for European forests

[Timo Pukkala](#) Evaluating and planning for economic, ecological and social benefits from forests

[Peter Brang](#) Managing mountain forests in a changing climate: focused intensification to meet particular challenges?



The conference continued with four key presentations of the ARANGE project and provided room to share and discuss main findings and results in the plenary before the audience split-up for a set of individual scientific sessions. In total 48 oral and 31 poster presentations provided thought-provoking insights to this multi-faceted topic (see Table below).

Session topic	Orals	Posters
Management & ecosystem services	16	11
Governance & policy	8	2
Climate change impacts	4	3
Decision support	4	2
Disturbances	4	3
Others	12	10

[Florian Irauschek](#) was evaluated as the winner of the “Best-Poster-Award” regarding his contribution on “*Testing five forest models against long term observational data from mountain forests in South-Central Europe*”.

A field trip to the ARANGE Case Study Area (Kozie Chrbty Mountains, Spišská Teplica) in the afternoon of Day 2 (July, 8) allowed for direct knowledge transfer from practice to science and vice versa, hosted by [Narodne Lesnicke Centrum](#) (National Forest Centre - NFC) together with



[Pro Populo Poprad Ltd.](#) (i.e. the forest owner). At four thematic stops in selected forest stands representatives of both, NFC and Pro Populo Ltd., highlighted key challenges in the context of the provision of ecosystem services from mountain forests in their region. Topics addressed included: i) Wildlife management and hunting, ii) Conflicting Ecosystem Services, iii) Forest and Water, and iv) Climate Change and provided

additional food for thought in related discussions with conference participants who were eager to hand back state of the art knowledge to the practitioners and to share their experiences.

The final day of the ARANGE conference was dedicated to a concluding stakeholder event. In a panel discussion supported by representatives of [MountFor](#), [EUROMONTANA](#), the [Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture](#) and the [European Commission](#), the question “What is needed, what can be learned from mountain forest research?” aimed at pinpointing the gaps and bridges between science, policy and practice - issues that were then taken up in the attached workshop on the way forward: “Towards a European Mountain Forest Research Agenda”. Around 45 attendees were randomly grouped for round-table discussions to jointly elaborate on key societal challenges, research needs and issues related to knowledge-transfer at the interfaces of science, policy and practice. The workshop also marked the end of the conference that was closed in a plenary session by the Coordinator of the ARANGE project, [Manfred J. Lexer](#).



Directly attached to the conference **the final ARANGE partner meeting** targeted at the further planning of synthesis and reporting tasks as well as the future exploitation of ARANGE results in order to guarantee that project outcomes will be fed back to key stakeholders and a range of designated target audiences. Final words on the potentials and limitations of the ARANGE project were spread by members of the Scientific Advisory Board, Pietro Piusi and Hubert Malin, who actively supported the ARANGE family during the entire project lifetime.



ARANGE (Advanced multifunctional management of European mountain **ranges**) is a Collaborative Project within 7th Framework Programme and receives funding of the European Commission.

Pictures by National Forest Centre ([NFC](#)) and Patrick Huber ([EFICEEC](#))