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"The Introduction of Historical and Cultural Values in the Sustainable Management of European Forests"

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Agnoletti, Mauro, Steven Anderson, Elisabeth Johann, Mart Kulvik, Andrey V. Kushlin, Peter Mayer, Cristina Montiel Molina, John Parrotta, Ian D. Rotherham, and Eirini Saratsi. "The Introduction of Historical and Cultural Values in the Sustainable Management of European Forests." *Global Environment* 2 (2008): 173–99.

After many decades of research in the field of forest and environmental history, science is finally recognizing the importance not only of cultural values, but also of historians in the definition and application of the concept of sustainability. The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), the body in charge of developing forest policies for the European continent, has developed an agreement with the IUFRO research group, Forest and Woodland History, in order to produce guidelines for the conservation of cultural, historical, and landscape values in Sustainable Forest Management. The guidelines take into consideration the goals of the European Landscape Convention and the UNESCO World Heritage List, in order to integrate the conservation of cultural values into rural development and the management of protected areas, developing strategies, and actions at planning level and management that can be included in the forest policies of member states. This paper is a summary of the document submitted to MCPFE and describes the main approaches presented in the guidelines. Several experts from various countries have contributed to the preparation of the document, as well as international institutions such as UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the World Bank, the United Nations Forum on Forests, and the European Environmental History Society.

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"The Introduction of Historical and Cultural Values in the Sustainable Management of European Forests"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/4598
Print date: 15 January 2026 08:10:52