

SINCERE Talks webinar #1: Forests and water

Friday 25 September 2020, 10 – 12 CET

The SINCERE Talks webinar series kicks off with an insightful two-part session on the relationship between forest and landscape management, and watershed protection and hydrological services. SINCERE is a four-year project to develop novel policies and new business models for forest ecosystem services. It is funded through the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme.

How forest and landscape management affect watershed protection and hydrological services is a common theme across most SINCERE Innovative Actions (IA) and for forest and river basin managers and decision makers across Europe, and beyond. Typically, the surrounding society demands a bundle of hydrological services, which can range from streamflow quantities (annually, seasonally, stormflow protection, aquifer recharge) to water quality (e.g. avoiding sedimentation, pollutants). Water quantity linkages to forests vary considerably between the SINCERE IAs, e.g. from the Mediterranean to northern Finland. The demand for different water quality parameters is more homogeneous across SINCERE IA sites.

Diverse landscape, forest, and soil management practices (soil preparation, chemical applications, stream crossings, wood harvesting and extraction) affect water quality parameters in downslope streams and waterbodies (temperature, nutrient concentrations, sediments, dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, etc.). Similarly, the quality of the water affects provision of several other water-related ecosystem services, including drinking water, recreation and aesthetics, as well as biodiversity. Adapting landscape, forest, and soil management to obtain better water quality within improved bundles of water-related ecosystem services may thus also form one basis of payment for ecosystem services schemes.

This webinar focuses on two overarching questions: **how forest management affects hydrological services, with emphasis on water quality**; followed by practical examples of **how such management can form the basis of a payment for ecosystem services scheme**.

Two renowned speakers, Meine van Noordwijk (ICRAF) and Sven Wunder (EFI), discuss the issues with participation from the SINCERE Innovation Action Case Studies.

The webinar will take place online and is open to external participants.

Register today!