

Forest ethics as a scientific and practical challenge

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Sustainability is a traditional moral principle in forestry, but integrating the all dimensions of sustainable forest management – economic, ecological, social and cultural – has brought complicated tasks for forest professions and sciences. The related moral problems as such are not entirely new, but considered both in the past and at present day in various ways by different forest sciences and professional traditions. The practice of forest ethics has thus existed well before its emergence as a specific subject into professional discourse and forest sciences.

The purpose of the paper is to discuss the scope, contents and specific topics of forest ethics in regard to forests sciences, general applied ethics and environmental ethics. Also consideration will be given to the role of forest ethics in regard to the topical issues in world forestry and its potential to contribute – together with other forest sciences- to the problems foresters, other professionals, forest owners and forest industries meet in their businesses and professional practices.