



 Bundesministerium
Nachhaltigkeit und
Tourismus



ETNOLOGICKÝ ÚSTAV
Akademie věd České republiky, v. v. i.



International Conference European Forests – Our Cultural Heritage

Organizers:

IUFRO 9.03.01 Economic and Social Forest history and IUFRO
9.03.02 Forest and Culture jointly with the Austrian Forest
Association/Working party Forest History and Institute of Ethnology,
Czech Academy of Sciences



**International Conference
European Forests – Our Cultural
Heritage**

4th – 7th December 2018

St. Georgen am Längsee, Carinthia, Austria

Abstracts and information booklet



Articulation of Spiritual Values in Forest Management Plans

Catharina de Pater

Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group, Wageningen
University and Research, Netherlands

Global forest policies are increasingly recognizing spiritual values as criteria for sustainable forest management (MPFCE 2002; FSC 2015; PEFC 2011; ITTO 2016). However, there is little evidence that spiritual values are operationalized in practice, and if so, in what way and to whose benefit. A first step to investigate such operationalization is to analyze forest management plans (FMPs) as they are an important nexus between policies and practices. FMPs are established in diverse ways, from ‘top-down’ to community-based processes. They contain knowledge, rules and discourse. Spiritual values may be expressed in FMPs in various ways of wording, emphasis, and importance. Plans may also vary in the ways they take spiritual values into account in their action perspectives or prescriptions of on-the-ground interventions. This study investigated how spiritual values are articulated (expressed and operationalized) in FMPs from two regions. First Nations territories in British Columbia (Canada) were selected because spiritual values featured prominently in forest management plans and discourses initiated and led by First Nations (Wyatt 2013). As a second region,

the Netherlands was chosen in view of increasing public interest in nature spirituality as well as in forest management. The analysis departed from a ‘family resemblances’ approach to spirituality (Smart 2002; Taylor 2010) in which seven dimensions of spiritual values were conceptualized. These dimensions occupied the horizontal axis of an analytical framework used for the systematic analysis of texts and phrases in FMPs. On the vertical axis of this framework texts were categorized from (abstract) policies and descriptions to (concrete) prescriptions and action. This way a systematic, qualitative analysis was carried out on 16 Indigenous and appr. 20 Dutch FMPs. The paper will describe results and conclusions and will also discuss how the findings will be validated in complementary field research.