FC 2018

# 5th Forum Carpaticum

## Adapting to Environmental and Social Risk in the Carpathian Mountain Region

Hotel Eger-Park, Eger, Hungary | 15-18 October 2018

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Umwelt Bundesamt

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

BfN
Federal Agency
for Nature
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# Wildland-urban interface in the Polish Carpathians in mid-19th and 21st century

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The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is the area, where houses and wildland vegetation meet or intermingle, which causes many environmental problems [1]. Although WUI is a topic of many analyses currently, i.e, due to wildfires, but also in relation to other environmental processes [2], little is known, about it in long-term perspective. In this work we want to compare mid-19th century WUI extent in the Polish Carpahians with the current extent in order to analyse WUI change, as well as persistance over 150 years. Mid-19th century was a time, when on the one hand the forest extent was minimal in many regions within the Polish Carpathians [3] and on the other hand, due to difficult socio-economical situations, settlements were reaching high elevations [4]. Currently, by contrast, forest cover is occupying much more areas, and the settlements are also more widespread, what drives new WUI formation. Our results show that WUI increased substantially in the Polish Carpathias, however the changes among regions were visible. WUI areas were remarkably stable over time. This means that most of the areas occupied by WUI in 1860 were still in WUI in 2013. It may have important implications for many environmental processes taking place in the Polish Carpathians in future.

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