

A scenic photograph of the Carpathian Mountains under a blue sky with white clouds, serving as the background for the entire page.

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



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for the Environment, Nature Conservation
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Wildland-urban interface in the Polish Carpathians in mid-19th and 21st century

Dominik Kaim, Marcin Szwagrzyk

*Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University,
Kraków, Poland*

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 Carpathians with the current extent in order to analyse WUI change, as well as persistence 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 Carpathians, 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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