Panel 1. Digital technologies in forest, nature and natural resource governance: Articulating issues and opportunities for knowledge and policy innovation

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The Internet and associated technologies of 'the Digital Age' have created new modes of business, communication and governance in many societal domains. This holds true forest, nature and natural resource governance as well; digital applications have rapidly become more prominent, both through abundance and diversity, and span a range of domains such as monitoring, remote sensing (e.g. drone use), digital public engagement, citizen science, crowd-sourcing, data access and connectivity.

Among policy makers, practitioners and scholars there is often much optimism about the potential for digital applications, as they hold a promise of more data, larger audiences, improved surveillance, or more efficient management. The flipside is that, compared to technology studies in many other scientific disciplines, research into the precise impacts of digital applications on nature conservation is in its infancy. Moreover, joint policy-making on this front is scarce and knowledge exchange suboptimal.

This panel seeks to bring together and articulate knowledge and insight about the potential and actual impacts of digital technologies in the green domain. Researchers, policy makers and practitioners are invited to present their experiences and findings, which may range from meta-level insights, to specific case studies.

Special attention will be paid to role of digital technology in knowledge and policy innovation, for instance about the power of digital technology in establishing multi-level, multi-sector and cross-scalar linkages in governance. Good governance principles such as transparency and trust may also feature, as well as 'political ecology' considerations on the winners and losers of technology adoption. Critical studies and perspectives concerning e.g. unintended consequences, digital divides and legitimacy issues are also welcomed.

By fostering the exchange of research, ideas, insights and experiences in this panel, novel agendas for research, policy and international cooperation may take shape.