



SILVISIO – The Future of forests made visible



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The project

Participative forest planning is aimed at mediating differing interests so that common objectives of action may be found. The further the planning interval the more difficult is the anticipation of current decisions, which is particularly true for forest development.

SILVISIO combines the sociological approach of participation research with scientific software technology. In order to formulate collaborative visions of the forests („Leitbilder“) and to show alternative development paths, a visualisation tool will be developed.

The visualisation tool will be tested for its ability to mediate between actor groups through offering a common „language“ – the image – and thus supporting consensus reaching. Actors' visions will be pictured in photorealistic and interactive 3D scenes of silvicultural landscapes. The scenarios should be visualised in such a way that the participants may have a better idea of the future effects of their current decisions.

Transdisciplinary research

Refining of **participative planning methods**

Cooperative development of a **software system** for simulating and visualising visions („Leitbilder“)

Development of **regional „Leitbilder“** for the sustainable use of silvicultural landscapes

Scientific software development

Software for simulating and modelling „forest scenes“:

- **Simulation** based on the forest growth simulator SILVA
- **Modelling of** realistic 3D plant models
- **Visualisation of** plant cover through real-time application as an interactive 3D-scenery



FEEDBACK

adjustment to the needs of the actor groups



Research approach and methods

Action research:

In two German model regions active collaboration of researchers and forest-related actors takes place in order to cooperatively develop the visualisation software,

Empirical social research methods:

- qualitative interviews,
- group discussions in workshops,

Normative scenario method („Leitbildmethode“):

collaborative formulation of visions of the forests,

Lexical-semantic (intellectual) text analysis:

integration of the statements in the available „ontological“ knowledge base (related OWL files and simple thesauri),

Combination of the forest growth simulator SILVA with the phytosociological modelling system and the real-time renderer („player“) of Lenné3D.

