



# Forest-Climate Interactions: Perspectives from the Semi-Arid Region

*AIANI - Guest Lecture by*

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**Forests of the world** absorb nearly 30% of the carbon emitted by human activities, and the photosynthetic absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased about 30% over the past 100 years, keeping up with our increasing emission. Does this mean forests are our best help in ameliorating climate change? The answer is more complex than just carbon accounting. Forests also modify the surface albedo, the hydrological cycle, and the Earth energy budget, as well as the local and regional atmospheric circulation. The "net" effect on climate is more difficult to quantify and predict. Forests in the semi-arid regions provide a useful laboratory to assess some of the interactions among the aforementioned effects that are more difficult to assess under tropical or boreal conditions as will be demonstrated and discussed in this presentation.

**Professor Yakir** earned his PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and continued his studies at UCLA, Duke University, and the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He returned to Israel in 1991 to join the Weizmann Institute of Science. He also served as a NRC Senior Fellow in Colorado, as Earth Institute Senior Fellow of Columbia University NY, and as Board member (among others) of the Israel Society of Ecological and Environmental Sciences, the Arava Institute of Environmental Studies, and the Davidson Institute of Science Education. Prof. Yakir received the 2006 Landau Prize in environmental sciences, and the 2014 EAG Eminent Speaker Award.

