

COST Action E19 - NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT

WORK PLAN 1999-2003

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the COST Action E19 “National Forest Programmes in a European Context“ was signed in Brussels on June 30, 1999. The first Management Committee (MC) meeting was held in Brussels on October 18-19, 1999. A Draft Work Plan, prepared on the basis of MoU, was presented, discussed and revised during the meeting. This final draft of the Work Plan was further developed by the Steering Committee (SC) and approved in the MC meeting March 20-21, 2000 in Freiburg.

In the first MC meeting Mr. **Peter Glück** (Austria) was elected as the Chairman of the Action, Mr. **Aarne Reunala** (Finland) as Vice-Chairman. The establishment of two Working Groups (WG) was decided, chaired by Mr. **Heiner Schanz** (the Netherlands) and Mr. **Willi Zimmermann** (Switzerland). The Steering Committee is composed of these four chairpersons.

In the following MoU definitions of objectives and benefits are *in italics*.

Objective of the Action

The main objective is to provide policy makers in Europe with improved means for formulating and implementing national forest programmes.

Target groups

Target groups for the results of COST E19 are European *policy makers* dealing with National Forest Programmes (NFP): Ministries responsible for NFPs, stakeholders in national NFP processes and European and international organisations dealing with NFPs.

Responsibility: MC Vice-chair, MC members

Action: MC members prepare a list of principal forest policy stakeholders in their country and e-mail it to Vice-chair by Dec. 31, 1999. Updated annually.

MC members are responsible for the dissemination of E19 deliverables to national stakeholders. SC prepares a list of European and international organisations dealing with NFPs.

Dissemination actions

National delegates are responsible for the national dissemination of COST E19 information and results to researchers and *policy makers* by the means of

- Internet homepage
- Responsibility: MC Vice-chair

Action: Homepage plan ready Nov. 30, 1999. Operational Dec. 31, 1999. SC decides homepage contents. Possible contents: COST E19 description and activities (MoU, organisation, participants, minutes of meetings, work plans, seminars...), list of European researchers in the field, list of publications, links to relevant research projects and institutions, links to target group home pages...

Homepage has also an important function in the internal information exchange, management and transparency of COST E19.

- Seminars and seminar proceedings
Responsibility: National MC member and SC
Action: Three seminars will be organised. Details of the seminars are presented further at the topic "Seminars".
- Newsletter
Responsibility: MC Vice-chair (editing), MC members (dissemination)
Action: A short newsletter (2 pages) twice a year. Published at the homepage, distributed to researchers and target groups by MC members, and to European and international organisations by MC Vice-chair.

Secondary objectives

1. *To set up a network of European researchers who deal with the socio-economic aspects of sustainable forest management and policy planning in forestry.*

MC (Oct. 19, 1999) decided to reformulate the secondary objective as follows:

To set up a network of researchers, who deal with policy research closely related to NFPs in Europe.

Responsibility: MC Vice-chair, MC members

Action:

- MC members prepare a list of researchers by Dec. 31, 1999. Updated annually and made available at the homepage.
- MC members prepare also a list of ongoing research projects closely related to NFPs by March 15, 2000. A form is used to collect the data.
- MC members prepare a list of key literature on NFPs by March 15, 2000, to be assembled by MC Vice-chair.

2. *To specify the commonalities and differences of the operational definitions of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) at the national and sub-national levels in European countries.*

Responsibility: MC Chair and WG1 Chair, MC members

Action: MC members send most recent list of national SFM indicators to COST E19 Chairman by March 15, 2000.

3. *To specify the existing understanding and definition of NFPs in European countries.*

Responsibility: WG1

Action: WG1 prepares a work plan by March 15, 2000.

4. *To specify the interpretation of the individual IPF basic elements of NFPs in European countries and to elaborate commonalities and differences.*

Responsibility: WG1

Action: WG1 work plan.

5. *To stimulate the exchange of evaluation research on existing NFPs and formulation of new research topics on the significance of NFPs in comparison to other policy tools.*

Responsibility: WG2

Action: WG2 prepares a work plan by March 15, 2000.

6. *To investigate the chances of implementation of NFPs.*

MC (Oct. 19, 1999) decided to reformulate the secondary objective as follows:

To investigate the implementation of NFPs.

Responsibility: WG2

Action: WG2 work plan.

Expected benefits

1. *To specify and interpret the elements of an NFP.*

This corresponds to secondary objectives 3 and 4.

2. *To specify the procedural requirements of formulation and implementation of an NFP in terms of enhancing the rationality of policies, ensuring long-term orientation, and improving coordination of political actors.*

Responsibility: WG1

Action: WG1 work plan.

3. *To evaluate the significance of NFPs in comparison to other policy means.*

Responsibility: WG2

Action: WG2 work plan.

4. *To assess supportive and impeding factors for the development of substantial NFPs.*

Responsibility: WG2

Action: WG2 work plan.

Scientific programme

The scientific programme is described in the MoU (pages 8-14).

Responsibility: MC and WG Chairs

Action: The contents of the scientific programme is taken into account in the work plans of WGs.

Working Groups

In the MoU the Action is planned to be organised into two Working Groups, which could later be split into several sub-groups.

Action: MC (Oct. 18-19, 1999) decided to establish two WGs and elected Chairs:

WG1 *Elements and procedural requirements of NFPs*, **Heiner Schanz**

WG2 *Significance of NFPs*, **Willi Zimmermann**.

A maximum of 4 (exceptionally 5) members from each participating COST country can benefit the financing of COST. WG members are nominated by national MC delegates.

Action: MC members nominate their countries' WG members by Jan. 31, 1999.

Research topics

Working Group 1:

Rationale: Common understanding of basic elements and institutional/procedural requirements of NFPs guiding the formulation and implementation of NFPs.

Tasks: Interpretation of the basic elements and institutional/procedural requirements of NFPs (in particular participatory mechanisms, iterative process, intersectoral approach, conflict resolution schemes) and evaluation of their effects to NFPs.

Working Group 2:

Rationale: Promotion of substantive national forest programmes

Tasks: Evaluation of supportive and impeding factors such as international agreements, pressure from outside, financial incentives, multilevel governance, tenure, political culture and social environment, and institutional aspects.

Meetings

In the MoU it was planned to have five MC meetings and three WG meetings.

Responsibility: MC and WG Chairs

Action: MC (Oct. 18-19, 1999 and March 20-21, 2000) decided to organise integrated meetings with WGs, MC and seminars:

- March 20-21, 2000, Freiburg, Germany (WG1, WG2, MC)
- Oct. 19-21, 2000, Madrid/Solsona, Spain (Seminar, WG1, WG2, MC)
- March 29-31, 2001, Scotland (WG1, WG2, MC)
- Sept. 13-15, 2001, Oslo, Norway (Seminar, WG1, WG2, MC)
- Spring 2002, Finland (WG1, WG2, MC)

- Autumn 2002, Portugal (Seminar, WG1, WG2, MC)
- Spring 2003, Vienna, Austria (Final Conference)

Seminars

In the MoU three seminars were planned: two working seminars with invited speakers, and one final joint FAO/EFI seminar at the end of the Action.

During the preparatory discussions many possible seminar topics have been proposed (policy planning, harmonization, subsidiarity; substantial vs. symbolic coordination; improved means for formulation and implementation of NFPs...).

Responsibility: SC and national organiser

Action: MC (Oct. 18-19, 1999) decided to organise three seminars:

- Oct. 19-21, 2000 in Spain. National organiser: **Mr. Eduardo Rojas Briales**. Theme: Existing understanding and definition of NFPs, operational definitions of Sustainable Forest Management, basic elements of NFPs, WG2 issues (topics not covered by national projects of WG2).
- Sept. 13-15, 2001 in Norway.
- Autumn 2002 in Portugal.

Short-term scientific missions

Responsibility: MC Chair and Agricultural University of Vienna BOKU

Action: SC prepares the calls for proposals (first by Dec. 31, 1999) and deadlines for applications (first by April 15, 2000, second by October 15, 2000), and decides on the allocation of the funding.

Deliverables

Reports by WGs. Guidelines on the “Formulation and implementation of NFPs“. Internet homepage. Report to the Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE).

Responsibility: MC and WG Chairpersons

Action:

- WGs prepare an annual report, ready by Dec. 31 each year. Annual report of COST E19 ready by Jan. 31 each year.
- Internet homepage is mentioned above in “Dissemination actions“ (page 1).
- Preparing NFP guidelines might better suit to some other organisation (MCPFE, FAO, EFI...), which will be reconsidered at the mid-term of the Action.
- WG reports and seminar publications might serve the purpose of the report to the Liaison Unit. To be discussed with Liaison Unit representatives.

Tutor of the Action

Mr. **Noël Lust** from Belgium was elected by the MC (Oct. 18-19, 1999) as the tutor of COST E19, responsible for reporting about COST E19 activities to the Forests and Forestry Products Technical Committee.

Evaluation of the Action

Mid-term evaluation and final evaluation of COST E19 will be carried out by the Forests and Forestry Products Technical Committee.

Abbreviations

COST	European Co-operation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research
EFI	European Forest Institute
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
MC	Management Committee
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFP	National Forest Programme
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SC	Steering Committee
WG	Working Group