



COST Action E43

“Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe: Techniques for Common Reporting”

WG3 Task Force Meeting

MINUTES

17 - 19 September 2008

Hosted by the University of Copenhagen
Hoersholm, Copenhagen, Denmark

Participants:

GHERARDO CHIRICI (I)
SUSANNE WINTER (D)
JACQUES RONDEUX (B)
ROBERTA BERTINI (I)
QUELLER EMILIA MARTÍN (SP)
ANNEMARIE BASTRUP-BIRK (DK)

17th September

The meeting commenced at 12.00 am chaired by Gherardo Chirici. Annemarie Bastrup-Birk welcomed the participants.

The agenda of the meeting (Annex 1) is approved.

Gherardo Chirici underlined the main aims of the Task Force meeting: (i) to discuss the experimental tests of bridging functions with real NFI data, (ii) to review the status of the scientific papers and the chapters of the Springer book under preparation by COST action E43 – WG3.

13.00 – 14.00 lunch break

Susanne Winter provided the status of the WG3 Springer Book and chaired the discussion on the completion/delay of the different chapters. Roberta Bertini circulated the latest version of the book (dated 9 September). A new time schedule is approved (Annex 2).

To finalise the preparation of Chapter 3 of the book the availability of the results of the second questionnaire from WG3 distributed in COST action E43 is needed. A new complete database of the answers to the second questionnaire was prepared within the morning of the day and was



distributed to the participants. Iceland and Ireland just provided the filled questionnaire during the meeting.

Discussion on the drafts of chapter 1 followed. The section 1.4 was drafted by Annemarie Bastrup-Birk within the day getting a complete draft of the first chapter. The draft 1.1 to 1.4 were reviewed and improved by the responsible persons.

Discussion and work on the draft of chapter 2 on the theory of the biodiversity core variables and the resulted indicators to test.

Review of chapter 3.7 on regeneration and the inner structure of the chapter 3 which includes the overview and harmonisation assessment for the different core variables.

The session closed at 18.30.

18th September

9.00-12.00

Gherardo Chirici introduced the status of the scientific papers for the special issue in *Forestry*. Four papers are confirmed under preparation. A general one (*Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories for reporting on forest biodiversity at the cross regional scale* by Gherardo Chirici, Susanne Winter, Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Jacques Rondeux, Roberta Bertini, Ronald E. McRoberts, Nadia Barsoum, Iciar Alberdi Asensio, Urs-Beat Brändli, Marco Marchetti) and three thematic ones on *regeneration* (coordinated by Nadia Barsoum), *deadwood* (coordinated by Jacques Rondeux) and *naturalness* (*Assessing Forest Naturalness* by Ronald E. McRoberts, Susanne Winter, Gherardo Chirici) and probably on stand structure (Susanne Winter et al.).

The discussion on the preparation of the deadwood paper is chaired by G. Chirici and A. Bastrup-Birk. J. Rondeux asked for technical and estimation details about the elaboration of the data acquired in the common NFI database (to be continued)

12.00 – 13.00 lunch break

13.00-19.00

Continuation of the discussion regarding deadwood elaboration; the discussion was closed defining the final version of the procedure to be implemented in the elaboration of deadwood data from the common DB

The session closed at 19.00.

19th September



Q.E. Martin presents the status in the elaboration of ground vegetation data from the common DB and discussing how to orient the presentation of the data in the Chapter 5 of the WG3 book.

The participants started to review the data in the common DB to finalise the analyses in the different core variables. It was pointed out to stick to the defined indicators of the WG3 reference list.

12.00 – 13.00 lunch break

The participants completed the review of the new version of the paper *Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories for reporting on forest biodiversity at the cross regional scale* (Chirici et al.) for the special issue in *Forestry*.

The meeting closed at 17.00.



Annex 1

COST action E43
WG3 Task Force meeting
Hoersholm, Copenhagen
17-19 September 2008

Programme

The TF meeting is organised with the final of:

Final set up of the reference definitions developed within the WG3

Inter WGs cross check of references

Presentation and discussion of the results in bridging development within the operative test carried out with real NFI data

Presentation of the status of the WG3 book (accepted by Springer) and definition of future activities

Presentation of the status of the WG3 papers (special issue in *Forestry*) and definition of future activities

Draft Agenda

17/09/2008

12-13 adoption of the agenda

14-18 Presentation of the status of the WG3 book (accepted by Springer) and definition of future activities
status and finalization of the references (cross check with other WGs)

18/09/2008

status and finalization of the harmonization test

sub-working group presentation

19/09/2008

status and finalization of the harmonization test

sub-working group presentation

Presentation of the status of the WG3 papers (special issue in *Forestry*) and definition of future activities



Annex 2

Title of the book: Contribution of National Forest Inventories for forest biodiversity assessment

Editors: Gherardo Chirici, Susanne Winter, Ronald McRoberts

Publisher: Springer, final version waited to be submitted by end March 2009

Draft table of contents and status at 16. September 2008

Preface (Erkki Tomppo)

The preface is from the chairman of the COST action E43. He will introduce to the overall objectives and organization of the project. Essential to understand the division of work and responsibility in the different WGs.

1. Introduction (coordinated by R. McRoberts)

1.1. Forest biodiversity (5-7 pp.) (S. Winter, A. Bastrup-Birk)

General introduction to biodiversity (scales, components, definitions). Specific information about forest biodiversity (components). Previous experiences and problems related to forest biodiversity monitoring. Why monitoring? (international commitments, SEBI2010, MCPFE, Montreal process, CBD, etc.). Concepts of forest biodiversity assessment (literature).

Status: first draft from Winter and Bastrup-Birk dated 9 May 2008. Waiting for the revision of **Chirici within end of August**. Susanne got the revision of Ron in May. First revision 17. September of Susanne

Deadline: Revision of Gherardo - 30. September

1.2. The role of National forest inventories (3-5 pp.) (J. Rondeaux, U. Brändli, J. Nilsen, , A. Bastrup-Birk)

The role of forest inventories moving from traditional "wood production oriented" monitoring to more complex "ecosystem oriented" monitoring: concepts and first experiences. The NFI are the main source of information for forest biodiversity monitoring but they are not harmonized.

Status: first draft from Rondeaux, second version from Brändli dated 14th april 2008. Waiting for the revision of Nilsen and Bastrup-Birk. Input received from McRoberts et al. (draft paper titled "Harmonizing national forest inventories", submitted to the Journal of Forestry). Final version waited from Brändli within end of August.

Annemarie read and revise the version until 19. September

Jaques - last revised version 30. September

1.3. The harmonization process (3 pp.) (R. McRoberts, G. Chirici, Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Susanne Winter, Jaques Rondeaux)

The NFI harmonization need in general and the complex task in forest biodiversity monitoring. Why do we have to harmonize? How to harmonize the monitoring methods when even the definition of biodiversity is so complex and not yet fully agreed? Introduce the main ideas of reference definitions and bridging functions.

Status: first draft from McRoberts dated 8 April 2008. Waiting for the revision of Chirici and Winter and **final version of McRoberts within the end of August.**

Gherardo, Annemarie and Susanne comment the version until 19. September
Final version 30. Sept. 2008

1.4. History and milestones (2 pp.) (A. Bastrup-Birk, M. Marchetti, S. Winter, G. Chirici)

The approach followed in general in COST E43 (shortly) and specifically in WG3. A short abstract of the action history.

Status: **waiting for the first draft from Bastrup-Birk ASAP**, then Revision of Winter and Chirici and final version of Bastrup-Birk within the end of August.

First draft 18. September, Annemarie, great, GO ON!!!
Revision of Susanne and Gherardo until 19. September
Final of Annemarie 30. September

2. Core variables for forest biodiversity assessment (15 - 20 pp.) (S. Winter, R. Bertini, other Editors)

- 2.1. Selection of forest biodiversity variables
- 2.2. The Biodiversity questionnaire
- 2.3. Results of the Biodiversity questionnaire
- 2.4. Selection of core variables for forest biodiversity assessment on the basis of NFI

Status: first draft from Bertini dated 9 April 2008. Waiting for revision of Chirici and McRoberts Revision of Winter 16. Sept, then final version from Bertini within the end of August.

First revision from Susanne and Roberta 29. September
Revision of Ron, Gherardo, Annemarie, Christine 10. October

3. NFI variables definitions, availability and comparability for assessing core forest biodiversity variables (20-30 pp.) (Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Jacques Rondeux, data work R. Bertini)

For each core variable country definitions have to be described and compared. From this description the possible harmonization approach should already be introduced: main similarities and differences between the countries (mostly commented Tables).

Status: first draft sent by Bertini from 24 April 2008.

- 3.1. Forest categories (A. Barbat, P. Corona, M. Marchetti, G. Chirici)

Status: waiting for the revision from Barbat within the end of August.

- 3.2. Forest structure (S. Winter, E. Hauk)

Status: waiting for the revision from Winter within the end of August.

3.3. Forest age (U. Brändly, J. Beranova)

Status: waiting for the revision from Brändly within the end of August.

3.4. Natural forest (R. McRoberts, S. Winter, other)

Status: first input from McRoberts dated 27 May 2008. Waiting for the final version from McRoberts within the end of August.

3.5. Deadwood (J. Rondeux, C. Sanchez)

Status: waiting for the revision from Rondeux within the end of August.

3.6. Plant species (S. Martinez, I. Alberdi Asensio, Emilia Martin)

Status: waiting for the revision from Alberdi Asensio within the end of August.

Chapter 3.1-3.6 deadline 10. October for the first draft of the authors

3.7. Regeneration (N. Barsoum)

draft from Nadia, sent in the beginning of September

deadline for comments of Annemarie, Gherardo and Susanne: 19. September to send it as an example to the author of the other chapter 3.1-3.6

deadline for Ron: 10. October

deadline for revision of Nadia: 30. October

4. Construction of the common data base (5 – 10 pp.) (G. Chirici, N. Puletti, U. Chiavetta, R. Bertini, others)

4.1. The common NFI database structure

4.2. Data acquired

General concept of the methods to be implemented

Status: first draft from Chirici et al. dated 21 August 2008, sent to Winter and McRoberts for revision, final version by Chirici within the end of August.

Revision of Winter and McRoberts was sent in August

First revision from Gherardo and Roberta, 19. September

5. Biodiversity assessment based on harmonized NFI data (50 – 70 pp.) (G. Chirici)

Most of the work was already done in WG3 report. For each variable country methods and definitions have to be described and compared (main similarities and differences between the countries). Reference definitions, indicators. Results of the harmonization test.

Common structure:

e.g. A - Reference level 2 definitions

B - Selection of indicators (reference level 3)

- based on data availability as known from the questionnaire (not from the data test) (Ref. level 4)

- based on ability to harmonize (i.e.: bridging functions)

C - Data test results

Status: The chapter has to be based on the Common NFI DB sent by Chirici the 10 March 2008.

Introduction: Harmonization and bridging functions - Gherardo and others (2-3 pages)

Deadline after the first completed draft?

5.1. Forest categories (A. Barbati, P. Corona, M. Marchetti, G. Chirici)

Status: some first results of harmonization sent from Chirici and Bertini to Barbati. Expected contribution from **Barbati** within mid of October.

5.2. Forest structure (S. Winter, E. Hauk)

Status: expected contribution from **Winter** within end of October.

5.3. Forest age (U.Brändli, J. Beranova, M. Abegg)

Status: First draft dated 12 march 2008 from Brändli & Abegg, waiting for the revision of Beranova and final version from **Brändli** & Abegg within mid of October.

5.4. Natural forest (R. McRoberts, S. Winter, other)

Status: waiting for the first draft from **McRoberts** within mid of October.

5.5. Deadwood (J. Rondeux, C. Sanchez, G. Chirici, R. Bertini, Annemarie Bastrup-Birk)

Status: waiting for the first draft from Rondeux and Sanchez, but the first analysis of deadwood raw data is under responsibility of Bertini and **Chirici**. The first analysis of the data is just finished by Bertini, under revision by Chirici that in a few days will pass the data to Rondeux and Sanchez. Final version from Rondeux by mid of October.

5.6. Plant species (S. Martinez, I. Alberdi Asensio)

Status: waiting for the first draft from Martinez and **Alberdi-Asensio** within the end of August (first harmonization test on NFI DB from Bertini sent to Martinez and Alberdi-Asensio the 22 May 2008). Final version from Alberdi-Asensio by mid of October.

5.7. Regeneration (N. Barsoum)

Status: waiting for the first draft from **Barsoum**, final version by mid of October.

6. Summary and conclusions (10 -15 pp.) (Editors, other experts)

Silvia Stofer , Anna-Lena Alexsson (parts of the contribution of 3.6 Lichens): fast monitoring methods

6.1. Lessons learnt from harmonization

6.2. Overview of the indicators for assessing biodiversity

6.3. Recommendations

6.4. Conclusions

Include NATURA 2000 in chapter 6

Status: to be based on results presented in chapter 5. Ready within the end of 2008.

7. Bibliography (5 -10 pp.)

