

COST ACTION E43
Harmonisation of National Inventories in Europe:
Techniques for Common Reporting
Editorial Board Meeting
27-29 October 2008
Northern Forest Research Station
Roslin, Scotland

Monday, 27 October 2008

Mark LAWRENCE introduces the heads of forest inventory of Scotland/UK within the North Forest Research Center in Roslin.

Erkki TOMPPO welcomed and thanked all for participation. Klemens SCHADAUER introduced the ENFIN meeting details of the upcoming meeting in Vienna in late November.

The agenda is reviewed. Erkki TOMPPO proposed to review all abstracts, to formulate a working plan, and organize a schedule for all articles.

Special Issue Articles

Ron McROBERTS discussed the special issue to the journal of Forest Science. The Editor of Forest Science expects between 11-17 articles. The original deadline for drafts is October.

Erkki TOMPPO asked that Ron McROBERTS will co-moderate the discussion on special issue articles. He introduced first the abstracts. Ron McROBERTS nominated and Mark LAWRENCE are nominated for English editing. Ron McROBERTS proposed that the book material may be similar to that of the articles for the special issue. Deadline for WG3 book is end of March, 2009.

Ron McROBERTS reminded that the review process is very rigorous. He also addressed the conflict of interest in reviewing articles of which they are themselves an author. 'European' jargon, should be modified to appeal to an international audience. Cross citation will not be a large problem and small fixes can be made towards the end of the process.

WG1

Claude VIDAL elaborated on issues for WG1: reference definitions, bridge building, and improving the mathematical approach in the bridge building article. Analytical decomposition and bridge building article is one main focus of the work to be joined by WG2. He reminded all of the urgent call for tender in JRC, for NFI building. *It was*

decided that further discussion of this JRC tender will be held at the end of the meeting in small groups.

Claude VIDAL introduced his approach within WG1 towards the terms 'definition' and 'reference definition'. The idea of 'key definitions,' 'core variable' and 'target variable' was discussed.

WG1 has offered up to 7 articles for the Special Issue of Forest Science. Among them, the following articles were discussed:

1. Forest reference definitions article: Terminology needs agreement before further work can be done.
2. Forest boundary article
3. Analyzing differences article
4. A study or presentation of NFI systems comes from the results of the questionnaires. Adrian LANZ proposed that afterwards a review by each country report author is necessary. Terminology and methodology, such as sampling designs, growing stock estimation and methods/techniques must be very clearly confirmed.

Ron McROBERTS suggested that we also update the status of all papers, chapters at the end of meeting. It is agreed.

Stein TOMTER reported on the progress of the growing stock estimate article. Further comments are needed in regards to the imbalance between contributions of different countries. Afterwards, the drafts will be sent back to representatives of original data.

Mathematical approach to definitions article was discussed. The process of finding reviewers and finally being accepted poses a challenge.

WG2

Emil CIENCIALA introduced WG2 issues, such as climate and carbon reporting estimates and introduced the current WG2 papers. Namely, 3-4 papers are the target within this meeting, due to the absence of some key authors in WG2.

WG2 has provided 4 definite articles, including two joint work group articles. One of which will be an over-view article, the other is the bridging function article.

1. Bridging functions article
2. Reference definitions article
3. Interpolating and extrapolating: Peter WEISS and Alexander FREUDENSCHUSS lead and discuss several methods of extrapolation and interpolation. Default method and stock change method were considered. Within this paper, biomass change

estimation was discussed. Ron McROBERTS suggested that the word 'temporal' be included in the title of this paper for clarification.

Minimum DBH was discussed in light of estimates. A German country contribution is still expected. Karsten DUNGER agreed to provide this information as soon as possible.

4. Uncertainty assessment: finding enough scientific data poses a concern, discussed by Vittori TOSI. Ron McROBERTS introduced the spatial accuracy symposium, of which he chairs the steering committee in response to this issue.

5. GHG reporting: Emil CIENCIALA suggested the article be proposed at the ENFIN meeting in November. Karsten DUNGER and Hans PETERSSON reported on the current status of this article.

WG3

Susanne WINTER introduced WG3 issues: biodiversity and the contributions to the special issue of Forest Science. The WG3 book made progress in Denmark. The promised €4,000 contribution from COST is noted, but no confirmation from COST office has yet been given. *Erkki TOMPPO agreed to follow up with the COST office regarding this contribution.*

The following articles were reviewed within WG3 work:

1. Harmonized biodiversity assessment: Susanne WINTER discussed the latest draft and widened content of this article

2. Forest structure

3. Naturalness article: analysis is still needed. Literature review of different assessment measures has been done to analyse the effect on different assessments of naturalness, e.g. the effect of min DBH and plot size. The findings indicate that there is a large effect. Anne-Marie BASTRUP-BIRK reported on the case studies and technical aspects.

4. Regeneration

Country book

Erkki TOMPPO reported on the country reports and the decision from the COST office regarding the participation of NZ. Croatia, the Russian Federation and several other potential contributions are expected. Ron McROBERTS mentioned other reports from outside COST members, e.g. Luxembourg, Poland, S. Korea, Brazil, Japan, Canada and Mexico.

The length of the country reports was discussed, especially with regards to Portugal and Ireland. Erkki TOMPPO proposed that some of the material can cut out and added into an appendix. He proposed the country reports should be ready and edited by all parties by the end of 2008.

WG3 book

The table of contents has 6 chapters, overviewed by Susanne WINTER. The rest of WG3 book was discussed in order to avoid overlap within country book.

Modifications to Agenda:

Erkki TOMPPO suggested a plenary session after lunch on Tuesday. It was agreed.

Sub Groups on Working Papers

Reference Definitions:

The following topics dominated the discussion on reference definitions:

Ground cover and land use land cover,

Tree, borderline, and land use as the primary level of a definition,

Other wooded land (OWL),

Borderline of forest area,

Variables: crown cover, threshold,

Woody debris,

Growing stock,

Deadwood

The use of important, established reference definitions should be neutral. The terms 'Key object' and 'key value' were pontificated. *'Key definition' is agreed as the starting point for harmonization.*

Key Definition: a definition needed as a starting point for an analytical process for international reporting. (e.g. national definition of a tree, international definition of a forest, etc.)

Reference definition:

For each key definition, the harmonization process is required. Harmonization results in a reference definition. The reference definition is an agreed definition.

Reference definitions can then be used as core variables for another reference definition,

e.g. growing stock cannot be used in other articles if it is not previously defined

It is easy to explain to reader that the tree is the starting definition, or key definition.

Harmonization:

1. key (starting) definitions starting with the reference definition needed for harmonization- you know what definition you want to get
2. all core variables
3. harmonization process (detailed later on)
4. agreement process (detailed later on) resulting in a reference definition

Adrian LANZ agreed to make an illustration to depict this process, with the help of Mark LAWRENCE, who will make the technical drawings.

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Modifications to agenda:

Work in small groups continues on the Special Issue of Forest Science. Before lunch on Wednesday, another small plenary session will be held. Erkki TOMPPO proposed a discussion of the terms of reference on Wednesday morning.

Plenary Session:

Claude VIDAL introduced the work of WG1 paper on reference definitions, and emphasized that the same terminology for each article across Work Groups must be adhered to. Attributes and conditions must be observable, whether they be quantitative or qualitative, referring to the group work on Monday. A discussion on the concepts of definitions was led by Claude VIDAL, Adrian LANZ and Klemens SCHADAUER.

Susanne WINTER introduced the way definitions and indicators are used within WG3 to describe, e.g. biodiversity. The difference between indicator, a combination of variables, and parameter was explained.

Erkki TOMPPO redirected the conversation to the definitions concepts and what is 'observable'. The attributes or characteristics are observable, even if the object alone, e.g. forest area, is not directly observable.

Adrian LANZ established that harmonization, or the building of comparable estimates, results from two main steps: *creating/developing a reference definition, and then bridge-building. The group agreed.*

Wednesday 29 October 2008

Plenary Session:

Mark LAWRENCE opened the plenary with practical matters and departures. Erkki TOMPPO then opened the plenary session by discussing the Table of Contents of the Country Book.

Country Book

Country reports are now in progress. The deadline for addition to the reports agreed as January 10, 2009.

Responsible persons for each chapter of the country book were identified. Mid-February was agreed as the deadline for the final draft, in order to allow time for typesetting in Helsinki.

Chapters of the Country Book with corresponding authors were assigned.

Intermediate deadlines

Drafting abstracts: first draft mid-December

Thomas GSCHWANTNER agreed to travel to Helsinki to work with Erkki TOMPPON on this book during February. Another later meeting is discussed in hopes of obtaining additional COST funding. Ron McROBERTS suggested that the trip be coordinated with Gherardo CHIRICHI of WG3, in which case the meeting may be held in Florence, Italy.

Other Meetings

Klemens SCHADAUER discussed the upcoming ENFIN meeting in Vienna and a possible extension of the meeting.

Claude VIDAL discussed a kick-off meeting with JRC, 4-5 December. He discussed the call for tender as an intermediate step for providing data harmonization process and maps, etc. to JRC. The ENFIN group, national correspondence, and call for tender must be coordinated. Claude VIDAL also presented the power point presentation proposed to the JRC. The proposal was that there be a platform created for supplying data to the JRC, so that harmonized and aggregated data is provided to JRC as an end-user.

WG Papers

Ron McROBERTS discussed some WG3 issues with WG1 and WG2 in regards to the 'reference definition' and 'bridge building' articles. Core variables within WG3 do not align with WG1 definition of core variables. Parameters, or constants, whose value is estimated, are not aligned with variables. Therefore, Ron McROBERTS proposed some re-wording, e.g. biodiversity (concept), essential features (structure, habitat, ground veg. etc).

Additional kinds of reference definitions are needed, e.g. plot minimum DBH, etc. Adrian LANZ suggested that an estimation can later be used. Erkki TOMPPON agreed that plot size and shape do not need a reference definition, because the forest can be divided into other areas, e.g. half hectare.

Susanne WINTER noted that biodiversity calculations rely on the plot definition. *All agreed that common standards and thresholds are needed. In order to harmonize, one may take the smallest size plots.*

The plenary ends at 11:00 for separation into article groups until the end of the meeting.