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COST Action E43 Harmonisation of National Inventories in Europe: Techniques for Common Reporting

Domain Committee Meeting
METLA, Helsinki, Finland
March 17-19, 2008

Monday, 17 March 2008

Meeting starts: 9:00

Erkki TOMPPO welcomed all to the meeting and presented practical matters concerning the rest of the meeting. *It was decided to meet in small groups after lunch by work group to discuss articles.*

Special Issue

The special issue was discussed as well as the status of each group's publications. It was suggested by Claude VIDAL that some articles which are not included in the special issue of a journal that they would be submitted.

It is agreed that the October deadline is fine for all involved, despite the delay of publication of many articles. Pros and Cons of having a special issue were discussed and recorded, but it was unanimously decided that having a special issue was still an obtainable goal.

Impact factors of many journals were discussed and *the best potential journal was decided as Forest Science, based on previous agreements made with Ron McRoberts.* The target audience for the special issue was also discussed.

Bridging functions as an article or several articles were discussed. *It was decided that each work group could spend some time discussing bridge building functions. A conceptual article was agreed to include all work groups.* Göran STÅHL and Emil CIENCIALA were nominated to create an initial idea which will be circulated amongst groups.

A separate article for volume was decided to be necessary.

One objective for the meeting was agreed as having a title and abstract written for each potential article to be included in the special issue. WG leaders were nominated to assigned authors for these articles. Abstracts of each article were written and presented by each work group in order to check for overlap and compare ideas.

Country Book

The potential for Russian inclusion of the CSR's was discussed in light of broadening the scope of applicability of the outcome. The stage and status of the reports were discussed as a factor. A common format for the CSRs was discussed.

Chapters of the book were edited. The description of Chapter 3 was revised. *Chapter four was revised so that the 'need for further work' became a sub-point in the chapter.* The length of the sections was discussed. The location of the country reports and reference definitions in the book were discussed as to whether or not to put them into an appendix. *It was decided that the status*

reports section not be titled an appendix, so that there is more recognition to the authors of the reports.

WG1: Small Group Sessions

The main task of this group was discussion of overall editing work of CSRs. *All agreed that definitions be required from the authors of the CSRs.* These definitions were namely: Volume, diameter, minimum diameter, forests and other wooded land, sampling design, plot configuration, and estimation of area and volume. *Formulas were agreed as not necessary to be included, but will not be removed if they are already included.*

The format of the CSRs for editing work was discussed. *It was agreed that Megan McCORMICK would send the formatted CSRs to Mark LAWRENCE and Ron McROBERTS for editing work.*

The definition of deadwood was discussed in light of the differences between WG3 and WG2. A synthesized definition between work groups will be needed to clarify volume thresholds and decay stages.

Biomass was discussed in light of conversion reporting, but is decidedly not necessary in the CSRs.

Reforestation and deforestation were discussed. Naturalness was discussed, but since no definition tested definition exists, *it was decided to be optional. It is decided to only include those definitions for which there is a reference which has been tested. It is also decided to provide those reference definitions to the authors of the CSRs for reporting. It is decided as well that the section of 'Future' in the CSRs will also be optional, if included at all.*

Finally, everyone was given a chance to express their opinions regarding the objective of both the book and the special issue in light of the target audience and usefulness. *It was decided that the book is best used for practical application in future inventories and the special issue will be reserved for the more scientific articles.*

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

The meeting started by reviewing the accomplishments of Monday. The details of the evening's agenda were worked out democratically amongst everyone.

Country Book

Content, layout and potential authors were discussed regarding the country book.

All of Chapter 3 is delegated to Mark LAWRENCE and Ron McROBERTS. Göran STÅHL and Gerald KANDLER were nominated for section 3.1 for examples of bridges, etc.

Chapter 4 is broken into a timeline of expected responses and editing. Other chapters were given tentative timelines as well. Authors are tentatively delegated and recorded by Erkki TOMPPU.

Special Issue

It is decided that a joint conceptual work group paper on 'bridging functions' will be contributed by all working groups, due to the fact that WG3 does not have its own paper on bridging functions.

All existing abstracts were presented by the work groups and discussed. Ideas and opinions were generated regarding each abstract. The abstracts for the special issue were revised.

The primary authors were discussed for the articles, regarding who to contact and who will contribute.

Authors for deadwood and other papers from WG3 are proposed.

It is decided that all ready publications should be placed on public pages.

WG2: Erkki TOMPPU, Emil CIENCIALA, Goran STAHL

The article of extrapolation and interpolation was discussed.

Meeting continued with small work groups until 15:30

Reference Definitions

Structure for continuously updating the definitions on the web was discussed. The possibility of providing a comment forum was also discussed.

The definition for deadwood proposed previously by WG3 was adopted.

The need for discussing the responsibilities for the harmonization of the reference definitions by work groups was reminded by Göran STAHL. Adrian LANZ was nominated as responsible. Kai MAKISARA is nominated responsible for listing on the COST E43 website, while Klemens SCHADAUER is nominated responsible for listing them on the ENFIN website. Mark LAWRENCE suggests that the ENFIN website is referred to in the book so that readers may follow the process if they are further interested and it was agreed. The deadline for the reference definitions on the web was proposed as the end of June.

Important national commitments using NFI data are discussed by Klemens SCHADAUER.

ENFIN Meeting and other Organizations

One day for ENFIN and one day for our own COST action work for finalizing articles was proposed for the ENFIN meeting in November. Dates and possible venue for the location were discussed.

Claude VIDAL presented on the NFI platform, 'From NFI databases to EFICP'. A framework for developing a database with a private access was outlined. The possibility to harmonize and check NFIs was also outlined, in light of grid aggregation and spatial representation. Possible software and methods were also discussed for the work previous to sending a JRC request.

MASCAREF was explained further by Emil CIENCIALA, in regards to the cooperation with JRC. The JRC joint meeting in January was overviewed. The status of the projects of EU Life+ and other projects related to the COST action were also discussed.

Wednesday 19 March 2008

Changes in the schedule were discussed. *It was agreed that we need time to check previous article abstracts, review the country book contents, and speak of future meetings such as Ljubljana and Lisbon.* It was requested that the other authors and work group members be contacted with the abstracts before they are presented to the journals for review.

Special Issue

The deadlines for the articles to be included in the special issue were separately decided to keep everyone on schedule.

The abstracts were overviewed by the potential lead authors to avoid overlapping topics amongst articles and the country book. The review process of the articles was overviewed in light of the length of time of publishing.

Country Book

Authors were discussed. Missing parts are agreed to be requested as soon as possible. Response was asked for a deadline of end of April.

Definitions, design, plot configuration, use and users, basic land info, estimation techniques and other factors were outlined in the review of country reports.

Having feedback about Country Reports in the book was discussed and it was agreed that each country would be considered and asked for their feedback in help deciding where the country reports should be located in the book.

A more simple and clarified Table 4 in Chapter 6 is agreed upon. And Chapter 7 was made voluntary.

Work Group 3 Book

Susanne WINTERS presented the contents for the proposed WG3 book, and requested a preface to be written by Erkki TOMPPU. Many of the chapters were proposed to be underway by mid-year, while the objective date for publishing was defined as early next year. Companion books were discussed as a series to be compatible with one another.

Portugal Meeting

Number of reimbursements (50) was discussed. The invitees for the ENFIN COST meeting in Portugal meeting were discussed. Names were recorded of some specific invitees. The European Environmental Commission was discussed as well as the JRC director of IES.

Key note speakers and short comments from specials guests were considered. Presentations and the directions were also discussed. The tentative times for speeches and presentations, as well as practical matters were discussed and recorded. The plenary sessions were also discussed in light of which day to hold them. The excursion and/or social event is discussed in light of the amount of reimbursements possible.