

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

7th Management Committee Meeting

Thursday, 16 November 2006, 17:00-18:30 hrs

Sun Beach Hotel, Agia Triada, Thessaloniki Greece

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome to participants

The members of the Management Committee were welcomed by the Chair of COST Action E43 Prof. Tomppo.

Representatives from the following 22 countries have participated in the meeting:

Present: Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

Apologies: Mr. Günter Siegel, Science officer of E43, unfortunately unwell and his deputy not available to attend at short notice.

Graham Bull, as an elected meeting secretary, WG1 Member, served as acting Minute secretary in Mr. Günter Siegel's absence

2. Adoption of agenda

New item (MCPFE strategic workshop) for Mr. Nicolas Robert (France) under AOB.

3. Minutes of the Bordeaux meeting (11 and 12 May 2006)

The minutes of the 6th Management Committee meeting held on Thursday, 11 May 2006 at the Aquitaine Regional Council Hall, Bordeaux, France were approved after minor wording changes. (Agenda states Florence should read Bordeaux.)

4. Report from the Scientific Officer

- News from the COST Office - to add new (COST Office and News) www links onto E43 site.
- Status of Action – Chair provided information from written document in Gunter Siegel's absence

- Number of Signatories - 27 countries now involved in COST Action E43.
- Budget Status, budget allocation process – Proposed Budget for 2007 = 115,000 Euro, this may allow 150 to 160 reimbursements at 2 major meetings for 2007- COST Office has requested to avoid having meetings from 5 June to 10 September 2007. Plus additional STSM/Task Force meetings, but MC chair advised that the COST Office has to give prior approval before finalising dates and numbers attending any of these meetings.

5. Year budget planning

140,000 Euro to be covered by COST Office.

6. STSM status, applications

Note: Thomas Gschwantner and Lucio di Cosmo attend STSM meeting in France not Switzerland as reported. (10-30 September 2006)

The following are possible STSM meetings to be approved by COST Office, also see item 13

WG1 – STSM, possibly March 2007 (to be defined)

WG2 - STSM, during spring 2007 (possible 5-6 people, Prague)

WG3 - STSM, possibly January 2007 (Florence)

7. Publications, annual report

It was stressed to the MC to provide progress report documents by mid December 2006.

Quarterly report to include Thessaloniki Meeting – require input by 1 December 2006 to MC chair from WG Leaders.

Require publication plan, see following 4 bullet points, but second point on field manuals, countries could translate field manuals into English, but only with some assistance – this could prove to be a very demanding task.

- Publication containing country-related State-of-the-Art reports (2006)
- Publication of the first outcomes concerning harmonisation of the national forest inventories in Europe, compilation of national field manuals (2007)
- Publication of the further outcomes concerning the harmonisation of the national forest inventories in Europe (2007)
- Publication describing the national achievements of the Action (2008)

E43 already has a Publications Drafting Team comprising Erkki Tomppo and Klemens Schadauer.

Publications of Working Groups – see following alterations made during MC

Working Group 1

Technical Report
Scientific Paper (early spring 2007)

Working Group 2

Technical Report on Reference Definitions (end of spring 2007)
Scientific Report (end of spring 2007)

Working Group 3

Technical and Country Report (end of 2006)
Scientific Paper concerning the first questionnaire (October 2006)
Scientific Paper COMMON/COST (June 2007)

8. Evaluations

MC received electronic evaluation report – with very positive response. E43 has to improve on documents and publications reports following meetings.

9. Request for new members

No new nominations to join COST E43 received since last MC meeting, but discussions with Poland have taken place.

10. Non-COST participation

New Zealand has made a request to join E43. The request was accepted. The chair will inform New Zealand representatives.

11. Web news

It was noted that E43 web site is working fine.

12. Progress report of working groups

Past activities and planned, see Item 6 for STSM. No other plans for WG Leaders.

13. Long-term planning

Training schools (MC to think about).

14. WG3 Leader and Deputy leader

Dr. Anne-Marie Bastrup-Birk decided to resign the leadership of WG3. On the basis of the previous leaders' proposal and WG3, MC decided to elect both new leader and deputy leader for WG3. The persons in charge are: leader Prof. Dr. Gherardo CHIRICI, University of Molise, Italy, Deputy leader, Dr. Susanne WINTER, Technische Universität München.

15. Time and place of next meeting

2006

- STSM - 10 to 22 December 2006, Switzerland

- Task Force - 13 and 14 December 2006 (3 WGs to be represented)

2007

- WG1 – STSM, possibly March 2007 (to be defined)
- WG2 - STSM during spring 2007 (possible 5-6 people, Prague or Germany, TBD)
- WG3 - STSM, possibly January 2007 Florence (possible 3-4 people for 5days)
- MC and WGs Meeting - 24 and 25 May 2006 (alternative 21 and 22 May), Helsinki Finland
- (possibly link with knn workshop).
- Task Force April, Germany (TBD)
- MC and JWG Meeting - 4-6 October, Romania.
- **Spring 2008** - Final MC and WG meeting with local and national media plus larger invited audience for presentations – possibly Portugal, to confirm.

16. Work group progress reports

WG1

Adrian Lanz (Switzerland) gave a brief introduction, and then Adrian asked Mark Lawrence (United Kingdom) to talk through PowerPoint Presentation to the audience. The statuses of reference definitions (forest area, tree, volume of growing stock) as well as plans to build bridges were presented.

WG2

Goran Stahl (Sweden) and Emil Cienciala (Czech Republic). Countries working on the draft report on the References document. Unresolved issues met with WG1 to highlight differences – some further work at the December 2006 STSM. Continue work on Scientific Paper – draft manuscript to be updated and submitted Jan/Feb. 2007.

Next Steps – continue work on building bridges – sensitivity analysis.

To launch by mid April the STSM in Germany, then further discussion at Finland Meeting in May. Still uncertainty estimation related to LULUCF.

WG3

Gherardo Chirici (Italy) and Susanne Winter (Germany)
 Working on Deadwood, Stem Structure, Protected Forest
 Structure reference – definition of variable
 Lying deadwood is close to the reference
 Naturalness in 5 classes
 Ground vegetation composition, woody species

European Environment Agency now published on Forest Type, where MCPFE are interested in 14 first level categories.

Protected Forest – Forest Structure, horizontal, vertical and forest dynamics.

Work plan for 2007, continue work on final references, develop bridge functions, test data analysis, STSM in mid December, then a STSM in January 2007, Florence.

17. Any other business

- Possible Joint Technical Meeting. MC discussed a need for a possible joint technical committee meeting of WGs. A possible time point and venue for a meeting could be in December in Birmensdorf.
- Mr. Nicolas Robert One provided an MCPFE indicator report by a small planning group who met in Hamburg, in summer 2006.
 - Possible outcome could be strategic Workshop of 3-4 days, 100→200 participants, still to be finalised how the meeting would be funded by COST office, estimated cost of 150,000 Euro.
 - Design 4/5 topics to include sustainable forest management indicators in 2007 (possibly finalise during a meeting in Bordeaux June / September/ October ?). To focus on the Science and Technical requirements.
 - The Workshop would require an organisation committee with representatives from COST/ENFIN/MCPFE.
 - Mr. Alexander Korotkov, UNECE/FAO presented UNECE/FAO's view, as well as Dr. Ron McRoberts Montreal Process views (USA, Canada, Australia and Japan).
 - MC supported the meeting when then role is clarified with MCPFE and Montreal processes.
- Kari Korhonen (Finland) gave a presentation on the Life+ and EFMS paper.
- New Ireland representatives to register on the MC and to attend future meetings of E43 MC were discussed.

18. Closing

The meeting was closed at 18:30. Action Chair Prof. Tomppo expressed his gratitude to the Working Group coordinators, the authors of the presentations as well as all other officeholders for their active role in preparing and conducting the ending meeting. In particular, he whole-heartily thanked the local organiser Dr. Ioannis Meliadis and his team for the excellent organisation of the Thessaloniki Meeting. Furthermore he expressed his appreciation to all delegates for their active participation.