



COST Action E43

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

WG3 Meeting

Minutes

7-9 June 2007

Hosted by METLA

Haikko, Finland

Participants:

Gherardo CHIRICI (I)
Ugo CHIAVETTA (I)
Urs –Beat BRÄNDLI (CH)
Paulo GODINHO-FERREIRA (P)
Loizos LOIZOU (Cyprus)
Dieter PELZ (D)
Susanne WINTER (D)
Nabila HAMZA (F)
Iciar ALBERDI (E)
Tarmo TOLM (LE)
Jan-Erik NILSEN (N)
Anna-Lena AXELSSON (S)
Vladimir CABOUN (SK)
Jana JERANOVA (CZ)
Daisy E. DUURSMAN (FIN)
Helena MAKELA (FIN)
Tiina TONTERI (FIN)
Stefan NEAGU (ROM)
Ron McROBERTS (USA)

7th June

The meeting commenced at 11:10, Gherardo Chirici and Susanne Winter opened the meeting with a short presentation of the results of the COST E43 WG3 Task Force Meeting and Joint workshop on Assessment of Biodiversity in Forests in Europe held by the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences, in Florence (I) from 22–24 March 2007. The information about the meeting and the documents are available on-line at <http://www.aisf.it/biodv/>.

The workshop was organized to facilitate an open discussion on inventory and monitoring methods, procedures and definitions for forest biodiversity assessment. This involved merging experiences and results of previous experiences both in NFIs and in the ICP network and defining some of the main priorities for future forest biodiversity assessment in Europe within the framework of the European Forest Monitoring System.

Gherardo Chirici presented the 12th version of the WG3 report and announced that the report could be transformed into a publication, of COST action E43, as a book. The persons responsible for the different chapters of the book agreed about the opportunity to publish the report. These persons are:

FOREST TYPE, Gherardo Chirici (I)
DEADWOOD, Christine Sanchez/Jacques Rondeaux (B)
GROUND VEGETATION Iciar Alberdi Asensio (E)
FOREST STRUCTURE Elmar Hauk (N)/Susanne Winter (D)
NATURALNESS Nabila Hazema/Catherine Cluzeau (F)
STAND AGE Jana Beranova (CZ)/Urs-Beat Brändli (CH)

Gherardo Chirici, Susanne Winter and Ronald McRoberts are the editors of the book.

Those responsible for the different chapters/core variables had a short presentation about the status of the report, especially concerning reference definitions and bridging functions.

12.30 – 13.30 lunch break

Following the decision of the Task Force meeting in Florence, WG3 needs a test of the proposed reference and bridging functions for selected biodiversity core variables based on real NFI data. Data providing by countries and the data tests will be done on a voluntary basis.

For this reason, it was agreed to create a common shared unique Data Base (DB) that has to be populated with samples of NFI data from different countries.

The structure of the DB was discussed and agreed on(see attachment 1: COST_E43-WG3_DB.xls)

The meeting ended at 17:00.



8th June

The rules for the compilation of the common DB were discussed and the document “COST E43 WG3 DB: NFI database for bridging function test in WG3 of COST action E43” is agreed (see attachment 2: COST E43 WG3 DB guidelines.doc).

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch Break

Examples for the compilation of the common DB were presented regarding the classification of NFI plots based on European Forest Types (EEA, 2006).

A STSM is needed for the first data test of the common NFI DB. Ugo Chiavetta (I) is proposed as a volunteer for the STSM of 15 days hosted by Susanne Winter at the University of Munich. The STSM should be in the first half of October 2007.

The following steps and deadlines are agreed on:

15th September 2007: compilation of the common DB to share the NFI data

November 2007: results from the STSM on data mining

End of 2007: new emended version of the WG3 report with results of the analysis of the NFI data base.

For the moment two publications are in progress for WG3:

The first one is “Monitoring biodiversity using data from National Forest Inventories”, Chirici et al., was sent to the European Journal but the Editor answered that the paper was not based on research and was out of the scopes of the Journal, the new draft is going to be sent to Silva Fennica.

The second one is “Possibilities for harmonising national forest inventory data for use in forest biodiversity assessments”, Winter et al., was sent to “Forestry: An International Journal of Forest Research”, it was accepted with revisions, the new revised version was already sent.

The working session in the afternoon included several discussions on the proposed references. These discussions have to continue at the next meetings to find a general acceptance of the country delegates. The discussions were detailed and quite necessary to find a good way for the harmonisation process.

The meeting ended at 17:00.