

COST E43
Between WG Task Force meeting - Minutes
Reference Definitions
WSL, Biremsdorf, Switzerland - December 13, 14 and 15

Participants

Urs-Beat Brändli (CH)	Adrian Lanz (CH)
Gherardo Chirici (IT)	Nicolas Robert (FR)
Emil Cienciala (CZ)	Jesús San-Miguel Ayanz (ES)
Lucio Di Cosmo (IT)	Klemens Schadauer (AT)
Alexandra Freudenschuss (AT)	Göran Ståhl (SE)
Thomas Gschwantner (AT)	Erkki Tomppo (FI) (chair)
NamPhuong Hoang (FI) (notes)	Claude Vidal (FR)

The aim of the Task Force (TF) was to discuss and agree on reference definitions that are common for each Work Group (WG). Each group presented its own reference definitions and gave recommendations on how to derive the common definitions. After that, a list of reference definitions that needed further clarification was discussed.

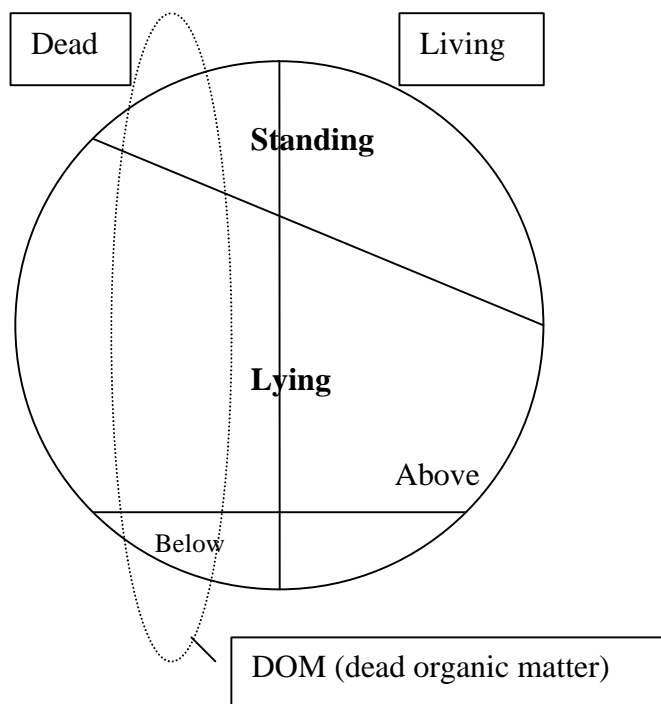
1. The list of reference definition discussed:

- Trees and Shrubs
 - standing volumes should include only trees
 - morphology is the criteria used to distinguish trees from shrubs (e.g. tree have well formed stems and shrubs do not)
- Ground level
 - How should the ground level for measuring tree compartments be defined (the ground level is the level where a tree germinated)?
 - Steep slopes are a problem for defining ground level.
- Time point to estimate biomass pools, (e.g. litter)
 - summer vs. winter as a time point
- Biomass, tree compartments to be included
 - Leaves of broadleaved trees (include or exclude). In Austria and in Czech Republic the leaves are excluded when measure the aboveground biomass but in Finland leaves are included (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggests including leaves).
- Land Use:
 - Is consistent representation of land use types needed? (for IPCC the answer is yes, but traditionally it's not guaranteed in many countries)
 - Consistent representation of land use classes should be achieved (not immediately but in near future)
 - Afforestation and deforestation are an issue (WG2 has definition of this issue).

- What are the minimum requirements for plantations, natural regeneration forests, and colonisations to be accepted as forest (plant density or age threshold?)
- In mixed systems can soil conditions (fertilisation or covered soil) be used to distinguish between dominant use as forestry, urban or agricultural?

- **Dead Wood**
Divisions of Dead Organic Matter (DOM) and their definitions Dead wood and litter (What is a possible? Should a diameter threshold of 10cm be used?)
 - Above-ground versus below-ground
 - Coarse and fine woody debris
 - Standing and lying dead wood
 - Terminology for standing dead wood with diameter less than 10 cm
 - WG3 needs only the definition of dead wood greater than 10 cm
 - Stumps: Should the difference to between fine and coarse stumps be distinguished?
 - Roots: Do they belong to soil, dead wood or litter? (Will the reporting of litter and soil organic matter be together?) What is the max threshold for fine root? (2 mm?)

Gherardo Chirici had summarised the discussion on the 13th of December by the figure below.



2. Result

After defining the list of concepts needed to be discussed, the group split into two subgroups. Each subgroup contained a representative from each WG and discussed their part of the reference definitions. After the discussions, the whole group met again and the leader of subgroups presented their findings and results.

The decisions and recommendations regarding reference definitions are included in the WG's internal documents and in the up-dated minutes of WG2 from Thessaloniki (16-18.11.2006). It was agreed that the definitions will be further discussed in the coming Task force meeting of each WG during spring 2007.

3. Revision of the Agenda for the steering committee meeting

The group agreed to shorten the steering committee meeting in order to have more time for discussing the reference definitions. Thus, the steering committee meeting took place during the afternoon of Thursday, 14th December and the morning of Friday, 15th December.

5. Further work

After the discussions and agreements concerning the base-lines for the reference definitions the Task Force meeting focused on bridge building using case study and the country report.