

COST Action E43
Harmonisation of national forest inventories in Europe:
Techniques for common reporting

**Task Force WG1 25-28 September 2007
At the French NFI, in Nogent-sur-Vernisson, France**

Draft Minutes

Participants:

Erkki Tomppo (FI, COST E43 Chairman), Adrian Lanz (CH, WG1 deputy leader), Stein Tomter (NO), Mark Lawrence (UK), Daisy Englert (FI) and Claude Vidal (FR, WG1 leader). STSM participants Thomas Gschwantner (AT) and Nicolas Robert (FR) also participated in the TF meeting.

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, September 25th

Claude Vidal welcomed the participants to the meeting.

The draft of the scientific article on tree definition was reviewed and finalised all the afternoon.

Wednesday, September 26th

Common tree definitions for National Forest Inventories in Europe.

The group rejoined and discussed proposed changes in the paper:

- Stem- The use of the term stem when referring to a divided tree was discussed. The term may be confusing since 'Main Stem' is also defined
- 'Lateral parts' or both large and small branches. This is used by FAO will remain the same.
- 'Decomposition' - meaning the separation of a tree into components was determined to be incorrect. Susana Winter also objected to this term via email. It is better to say separation of tree components
- It was noted that the terms variable, characteristic, attribute, parameter, criteria etc. are incorrectly used throughout the paper
- It was agreed that the tense of the paper should be singular instead of plural in all definitions and throughout the paper. In statistics, the definitions are always in singular form.
- It was agreed that Thomas would edit the paper, add pictures and diagrams to clarify the definitions. Daisy will then edit the text to make it uniform and in singular tense. Mark will do the final English editing.
- It was proposed that the paper would be submitted to the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*.

Thursday, September 27th

Country Status Report

The second day of the Task Force meeting started with a discussion of the Country Status Report (CSR). Erkki mentioned that the date for the draft Country status reports from each country was September 30. The participant at the meeting were not aware of this and it was determined that most likely many countries were not aware of the deadline. It was proposed and accepted to extend the deadline until October 30th. The contents of the CSR were also discussed:

- Report from each country
- Technical report from working groups
- Material that is already available and collected
- Summary chapters

Potential editors of the CSR include Adrian Lanz (CH, WG1 deputy leader), Mark Lawrence (UK), Daisy Englert (FI), Erkki Tomppo (FI, COST E43 Chairman), and Emil Cienciala (CZ, WG2 deputy leader). The editorial board will be completed in JWG and MC meeting in Bucharest on 25-27 October 2007.

The draft outline and timeline for the CSR will be prepared by October 25 to be presented at the JWGMG meeting in Bucharest, Romania.

FUTMON meeting:

The upcoming FutMon meeting in Hamburg and the participation of NFIs representatives were discussed. It turned out that a part of the European NFIs will be at present but not all.

Adrian Lanz will be presenting COST E43 material and Erkki Tomppo will provide material for the presentation.

ENFIN

The possibility of making ENFIN a legal body was discussed. Currently there are no binding agreements or central administration. If these existed it would be easier to gain part of the FutMon funding. Funding could be used for workshops, meetings, studies, etc. Questions and comments involved with making ENFIN legal body:

- if legal entity does it employ own people
- where would it be based
- EU always sees red when this is discussed... already have other legal bodies such as JRC, ICP
- If ENFIN is legal body would it be volunteering or only with approval.
- need to decide how to continue with ENFIN:
 - goals
 - are members ready to be legal body
- Proposed idea is that ENFIN's committee will appoint a secretary and they do lobbying and figure out how to make it a legal entity

The possibly to have a side meeting during Bucharest's 9th JWG and MC meeting was proposed, to discuss if it should become legal body and to try and push things forward.

- send out info before Bucharest meeting and include plan and goals, to let people know what is happening about the legalities and such.

Bridge building

The meeting resumed with a discussion on bridge building and the current reporting methods of land use and forest statistics. Future activities were prioritised to determine the direction of future work.

Priorities included:

- determining what is needed in future bridge building,
- assessment of current situation of comparable reporting

Some parameters are not covered by forest inventories, and in some countries areas are actually missing (SWISS NFI shrub land - not going into these areas)

In principle forest land should be covered but possibly not other woody land

- Need to know how people estimate the forest area:
- good to keep measurement and methods separate

In forest area estimation, it is important to keep measurements and methods separate. The following is a list of some key points discussed that are important for bridge building.

(SD - survey design D – Definition)

- sampling frame imperfections - patchy sampling - Balkans mines in certain areas, Italy, Swiss, rely heavily on Aerial photographs **SD
- min. patch size**D
- crown cover**D
- tree height **D
- Other criteria, instead of crown cover for defining forest production capacity, Question: any countries that use something else besides crown cover?
- minimum width for linear formations (crown to crown or stem to stem)
- natural colonization
- mixed land use
- Diameter classes - how to round in the field, round to nearest, or lower, mm or cm, what is classification 10.1-20.0 vs.- 10.5 to 20.4 (need a reference definition for rounding)
- increment - where does it stand?
- There needs to be a reference definition for DBH

Reference definitions for the harmonization of the estimates of forest and other wooded land areas from national forest inventory data in Europe

Adrian presented the outline for the proposed paper. The tentative timeline for the completion of the draft is the end of October and the article should be submitted by at latest by end of year. It was suggested that a small section be added concerning how countries have changed current next NFI based on harmonization. It was proposed to ask this at the Bucharest meeting based on a small questionnaire.

Erkki made the point that people may not have adapted FAO definitions but COST action has caused people to be aware how serious it is.

It was proposed that: Other land = Area - (forest land + other wooded land)

This agrees with the FAO definition of other land: land not classified as forest or other wooded land.

It was proposed that the article would be submitted to Forest Ecology & Management.

canopy cover vs. crown cover

The use of canopy cover vs. crown cover was discussed quite extensively. There are many supporting uses of both names. It was proposed that Stein Tomter would do some checking and contact people. A decision concerning whether to use crown cover or canopy cover would be made by the end of the Romania meeting.

Project of FutMon system

Claude gave a presentation about the FutMon working package D Commissions proposal. The 2 main ideas are a unified European wide grid and a method for members to provide data from their own system.

Friday, September 28th

Agenda for WG1 in Romania

The presentations for the Bucharest, Romania meeting were discussed.

- Romania will present something about forest area definition (Adrian Lanz will contact)
- Germany and Norway results from Growing Stock model with country data. (Stein M. Tomter, Norway and Adrian Lanz will contact Germany)
- Germany and Belgium present case study on Growing Stock models (Adrian Lanz to contact Germany, Claude to contact Spain)
- Volume functions and measurement of trees (Jacques Rondeux, Belgium)
- Remote sensing problems (Erkki Tomppo)

The reference definitions completed during the meeting should be sent out within two weeks of the completion of the taskforce meeting. It would be very nice to include some pictures with the definitions. At the Bucharest JWGMC meeting the goal is to try to finish result even if it is to agree to disagree.

It was proposed that at the Bucharest JWGMC meeting only level 2 and 3 smiley face definitions would be discussed. If participants have strong objections to the level 1 smiley definitions then they should present their objections and it will be discussed. If they do not present their objections, then the agreed definitions (level 1 smiley) will not be discussed.

Plenary at JWGMC meeting in Bucharest, Romania

- Country status report draft outline
 - Suggestion for editors
 - summary articles
- Questionnaire on internal change in each Country's NFIs based on due to the COST E43 action. This will be used in the paper: Reference definitions for the harmonization of the estimates of forest and other wooded land areas from national forest inventory data in Europe.

Activities for during the STSM –

During the STSM the problems with forest boundary should be investigated, i.e., difference between remote sampling and field survey value.

remote sensed data - how you assess the data will result in big differences,

Questions –

- how do you define forests, land use,
- how to evaluate differences
- what is possible with remote sensing,
 - what can be detected
 - what can not be detected

Needed Reference Definitions

DBH - rounding system of DBH, lots of information in last questionnaire.

Diameter Class- focus on reporting, growing stock by diameter class also exactly meanings of diameter class.

Diameter Class $10 \leq 20$ mm, how to name and where numbers go (0-2) or (0 to 1.999999) round down, round nearest, notation, Problem with labels in different countries, currently have same labels meaning different things.