

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

Minutes from the Task force meeting of Working Group 1 at the
Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and
Landscape (BFW), Vienna

27th – 29th August 2008

Participants:

Erkki Tomppo (FI, Chair), Klemens Schadauer (AT, Vice-Chair), Claude Vidal (FR, Leader WG1), Adrian Lanz (CH, Deputy Leader WG1), Mark Lawrence (UK), Stein Tomter (NO), Karl Gabler (AT), Thomas Gschwantner (AT).

Wednesday, 27th August

1. Welcome and introduction

The Vice-Chair of COST Action E43, Klemens Schadauer, welcomed the participants of the Task Force Meeting at the BFW. In a short introductory discussion, the topics of the meeting were outlined. The articles in the special issue of Forest Science, the Country book and pending ENFIN issues were touched in this discussion.

2. Articles in the special issue of Forest Science

2.1 Overview and current status

The lead-authors of the individual articles gave an overview on the status of the articles and explained their ideas for the further development. After the presentations, the ideas were discussed among the participants and additional ideas were provided. The contribution of an additional article by Working Group 1 that deals with the mathematical formulation of harmonising NFI results was taken into consideration and found to be necessary. The article on case studies will be split into two articles, one that focuses on forest area and another one that deals with growing stock. In total, Working Group 1 will provide seven articles to the special issue of Forest Science. Working Group 1 will furthermore contribute to another article lead by Working Group 2 which will contain the analyses of different types of bridges between national and reference definitions.

2.2 Work in sub-groups on the articles

After the review of the status and the discussions the participants worked in sub-groups on the articles. The ideas and recommendations from the preceding discussions were taken into account and the structure of the articles was altered

when needed. Particular sections of the articles were written. The abstracts of the articles were reviewed and updated. Several promising ideas were developed during the work on the articles. Some thematic overlapping between the individual articles was identified. Also the question of direction arose during the work in sub-groups. For the articles on case studies, a common structure had to be developed that fitted the contributed case studies. The analysis work presented in these articles shall be harmonised and can be stratified by for example tree species.

Thursday, 28th August

2.3 Review of the achievements in the sub-group work

In the first session, the achievements of the previous day's sub-group work were presented. The findings and questions that appeared during the work in sub-groups were discussed among the participants of the Task Force Meeting. The thematic overlapping between some individual articles was clarified. Also, the question on the thematic direction of the articles was discussed and clarified. The discussions and clarifications gave a good guideline to the authors for the continuation of their work.

2.4 Continuation of the work in sub-groups

Provided with valuable hints and recommendations from the group, the work was continued in small sub-groups. The sub-groups were changed in order to provide the opportunity of discussion between lead-authors and all the present co-authors. This brought additional ideas and contributed to precise formulation of objectives for the articles. The writing of particular sections of the articles was continued. If required, sub-groups discussed among themselves to solve appearing questions.

Friday, 29th August

2.5 Review of the progress and continuation of the work in sub-groups

The achievements from the previous day were presented and some details were discussed. Afterwards the work on the articles was continued. At the end of the morning session, a flow chart that was developed during the Task Force Meeting was presented. Since it illustrates the creation of a reference definition, it is of general importance, and therefore was discussed and commented.

2.6 Next steps

The intensive work on the articles for the special issue of Forest Science was concluded by reviewing the status and formulating the further steps that have yet to be completed. The status, next and following steps, dead lines, responsible persons and tentative length was summarized and documented for each paper. The articles have to be written in the next weeks. Since most authors contribute to several articles the priorities of the work was also considered.

3. Reports, Working papers, Questionnaires

In connection with the work on the articles, some additional information needs were found to be relevant. The difference between estimates according to national definitions and the reference definition for forest area and growing stock is of particular interest. Since the difference is unknown, the NFIs should be asked for a rough estimate of how much their national estimates for forest area and growing stock differ from the supposed estimates according to the reference definition. A short questionnaire shall be sent out to the member countries of Cost Action E43 to obtain this information.

Another point is the definition of increment. Until now this topic was not treated. The calculation of increment is a complicated issue, as it is not calculated at the individual tree level, but at plot- or regional-level. As a first step the change of growing stock can provide a starting point for the definition for increment. An e-mail–discussion on this issue will follow and earlier developed proposals will be continued.

4. Country Book

The participants reflected upon the contents of the Country book, which was developed and agreed in the Editorial Board Meeting in Helsinki 17th – 18th March 2008. As a next step the further progress has to be clarified and the allocation of tasks to the contributors has to be arranged. The editors will think about the best way of working. At the next Editorial Board Meeting in Edinburgh, further proposals will be made. The Editorial Board Meeting in Edinburgh was proposed to be held at the end of October. Also the possibility of a “bulk order” which provides the opportunity to buy the Country book to a significantly by 40% reduced price was discussed. An e-mail will be sent to the members of Cost Action E43 to announce this possibility and to take orders.

5. ENFIN

The representation of ENFIN and COST Action E43 in coming meetings was discussed. Annemarie Bastrup-Birk and Gherardo Chirici will participate to the “European Forest Monitoring Week” in Hamburg. A round table meeting is planned in St. Petersburg, several members of COST Action E43 will attend this meeting.

6. Closing of the meeting

Klemens Schadauer, Vice-Chair of COST Action E43, thanked the participants for the productive work and the important achievements that were made during the Task Force Meeting.