



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

**Joint WG Task Force and Steering Committee Meeting
28-29, January 2008**

**Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research
Zürcherstrasse 111, CH-8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland**

Participants:

Urs-Beat BRAEDLI (SW)
Peter BRASSEL (SW), morning 28
Adrian LANZ (SW)
Margrit VON EUW (SW)
Erkki TOMPPU (FIN), chair
Klemens SCHADAUER (AT), vice chair
Megan MCCORMICK (FIN), reporter
Mark LAWRENCE (UK)
Nicolas ROBERT (FR)
Stein TOMTER (NO)
Göran STÅHL (SE)
Emil CIENCIALA (CZ)
Gerald KANDLER (GE)
Gherardo CHIRICI (IT)

WG3 Meeting Participants

Susanne WINTER (GE)
Christian GINZLER (SW)
Esther THURIG (SW)
Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK (DE)
Ronald McROBERTS (US)
Jan-Erik NILSEN (NO)
Nicola PULETTI (IT)
Christine SANCHES (BE)
Santiago SAURA (SP)

Monday, 28th of January 2008

Opening and Welcome: WSL Representative Adrian LANZ and Erkki Tomppo on behalf of the steering committee:

Meeting starts at 9:11

Adrian LANZ introduces Peter BRASSEL to the meeting, and Peter BRASSEL welcomes the group to WSL. Erkki TOMPPU thanks Peter and Adrian for the welcome and officially opens the

meeting. Adrian LANZ thanks again Urs-Beat RANDLI and Margrit VON EUW for their organizational work.

Adaptation to the Agenda:

Nicolas ROBERT reminded the group that an important teleconference with Claude VIDAL at 16:00 to discuss the JRC tender shall dictate the times of the smaller groups to be held later that afternoon.

Erkki TOMPPO suggested that bridging functions are discussed in work groups for tomorrow's plenary sessions.

Adrian LANZ suggested breaking into groups immediately after the coffee break- all agreed. Work group 3 participants are one group and the Steering Committee and Joint Task Force meeting group consists of the rest of the participants.

Erkki TOMPPO proposed to postpone discussion about cross-checking definitions until the group is together. Klemens SCHADAUER proposed allowing several hours for this process. All agreed.

Summary of the E43 Action, Erkki TOMPPO

Erkki TOMPPO presented a summary of the status of the action. This included: Missing definitions, in addition to solving of some remaining questions in some definitions already elaborated. Bridging functions and publications are also mentioned.

The publications list was discussed in light of what is ready to be published and what is still developing. Available online publications from WG1 and 3 are mentioned. It was agreed to collect all publications to Helsinki office and put on private pages, as appropriate. The publication list is often needed, e.g., in domain committee in Bordeaux 10-12 March 2008. Editorial work of the E43 CSR book was discussed and introduced by Megan McCORMICK. Adrian LANZ described his experience with this compilation from WG2 and 1.

E43 Book, discussed after the presentation

Erkki TOMPPO updated the group that 29 members and only 6 are missing, 4 have been promised to be on the way. 29 members (27 + US + New Zealand) + Luxembourg + Poland = 31 country reports.

The editorial work of the E43 CSR book (called here 'Country book') was discussed and introduced by Megan McCORMICK. The format and context of the book were discussed, as well as the process of reviewing and cross checking articles that may become part of the book.

Erkki TOMPPO mentioned a discussion with Springer as a possible publisher and is quite positive about the potential.

The audience and publishing ambitions were discussed. It was agreed that the 'Country Book' would not be an appropriate place for so many scientific papers.

It was decided that only simple definitions be included in the book, and therefore scientific arguments as to how these definitions have been developed would be reserved for scientific articles.

Erkki TOMPPO suggested we omit harmonised results tables after this discussion. No decision was made.

It was decided not to include European level forest resource estimates to Country book. This was considered a too laborious and ambitious task. Furthermore, the bridge building work is still continuing.

Web Discussion

It is unanimously agreed that continuously updated reference definitions are provided on the COST E43 web pages, as well as ENFIN, for easy access. A common format for listing the definitions and standardized ways for presenting information was discussed. It is agreed that only one definition from each working group for each definition be supplied. A team is named for this task of Gherardo CHIRICI, Adrian LANZ, and Göran STÅHL.

The deadline for this work was agreed as the Lisbon meeting, to be presented as one unique document that all members should have before Lisbon. Adrian LANZ is nominated by Göran STÅHL to be in charge. It is agreed.

Existing links and directories on the website are discussed. *It is decided that organizing the web information into subcategories would be helpful.* Additionally, simplified national instructions should be provided to increase the likelihood of countries updating their NFI information on the web. *It is decided that English language not be a requirement for the country reports, but rather listing a contact person in the case of additional questions on the NFIs.*

It is agreed that making simplified national instructions on NFIs is one of the main tasks of the E43 action.

Publications

The Lisbon meeting was suggested as one draft deadline. *The deadline for finalized papers is decided to be the end of October for submission to a scientific journal.*

The final report was discussed as a more complete expanded version of the annual report.

Other articles include bridge building and common articles. WG2 is writing an article about bridging function and it was estimated that it will be finished by April.

Editorial work is defined that there is harmonisation of country reports, well written and in a similar format. Editorial work and authorship are discussed.

A list of the articles to be written was drafted and authors, mainly lead authors, were nominated.

It was decided not to include European level forest resource estimates to Country book. This was considered a too laborious and ambitious task. Furthermore, the bridge building work is still continuing.

Status of WG1, Adrian LANZ

Adrian Lanz presents the status of WG1, the long term agreed reference definitions, and the ones in which clarification are still needed. Bridge building is also discussed from their work. The reports are also stated to have been posted online on the E43 homepage. So far, 15 NFI manuals have been collected and it is discussed whether to include these in any publications.

Status of WG2, Göran STÅHL, Emil CIENCIALA

Göran STÅHL presented the status of WG2 as well as their collaboration with other WGs and the issues still remaining. *In light of these, interpolation and extrapolation is decided to be a prioritized topic within the meeting.* Uncertainty analysis for GHG reporting is also discussed.

Emil CIENCIALA introduced a project by IFER on Carbon Sequestration (MASCAREF) as collaboration with other groups.

Status of WG3, Gherardo CHIRICI

Gherardo CHIRICI presented status of WG3 and presented a work flow table. Gherardo proposed a final publication as a book of the results of WG3 and presents a 1st draft of Table of Contents for book. The interim report is temporarily called 'down-scaling' is discussed, as well as the necessity to confirm with JRC before the interim report is permitted.

Publications, continuation

After all status reports, the publications were further discussed. Emil CIENCIALA suggests one single issue for the scientific articles of COST E43 to be written, for example Silva Fennica, for articles. The proposal was agreed. The deadline was discussed *and the end of the October 2008 was agreed.* Erkki TOMPPU agrees to contact Silva Fennica about this issue. Klemens SCHADAUER also suggested that they be published by one of their institutions. Other journals will also be contacted.

The articles to be written during the rest of the time were discussed and a list drafted. *It was agreed to complete the list by the end of the meeting* (Megan McCORMICK). At the same, duplication of the content with the content of the articles in E43 book must be avoided. *It was agreed that Country book articles are more general descriptions about the harmonisation status while scientific papers describe all arguments and processes.*

A long discussion was held regarding the agreed reference definition, to include to Country book or not. *The decision was to include an appendix with simplified definitions, not argumentation of the definitions.* The argumentations will be presented in scientific articles.

The editors and editorial board were also discussed. A conclusion was to have a short list of editors and a longer list of editorial board members. This should be confirmed with the publisher.

WG3 was discussed. Gherardo CHIRICI introduced the topic with a draft of the table of contents. He suggested publishing the book with same publisher of the E43 book so as to create a uniform and streamlined approach to reporting within the E43 project.

WG1 and WG2 raised an issue to publish a similar book. No decision was made.

LUNCH BREAK

Bridging Functions

Göran STÅHL discussed bridge building and presented a flow chart he has designed as a tool for bridge building. Nicolas ROBERT suggested that if examples are provided for each situation, it could become an entire article, which could be considered as part of the aforementioned special issue of a scientific magazine.

Göran STÅHL also suggested that bridge building techniques could be summarized into a separate article, from a research note in the journal. All agreed. It is agreed to spend further time discussing this issue.

Adrian LANZ suggested that bridge building functions should be decided by each country and not the JRC.

Tentative goals were discussed and a *brief, conceptual JWG article (in the style of a research note) is agreed*. Research note is suggested to be 3-4 pages long, since it aims to address the topic in an analytical way, omitting sensitivity reports results. *It was agreed that Göran STÅHL would lead this article synthesis with Emil CIENCIALA*. Others were mentioned to help.

Acknowledgement rather than authorship of all involved was discussed.

JRC Tender and contributions

Nicolas ROBERT presented an open contract for aspects: technical assessment and data provision (EFDAC) from at least 5 countries' NFI. For this, data at the plot level and access to the digital form of the technical annex may be requested (in PDF form). Contractors and subcontractors were discussed.

Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK and Nicolas ROBERT discussed plot level data, evaluation of the map and training data. Legal limits were explained by Nicolas ROBERT.

Collaboration with the JRC was discussed in reference to georeferencing data. The legal access rights to georeference plot data was also discussed, but no decision was made.

Nicolas ROBERT suggested general organisation for tasks within the framework contract. Financing of additional projects by the JRC were also discussed.

TELECONFERENCE with Claude VIDAL.

Groups are separated by work groups to discuss potential publications:

WG1: Adrian LANZ, Others

WG1 publications:

Subject	Lead	Output
Article already published – Establishment of Reference Definitions	CV	Silva fennica

Tree Reference Definitions	TG	Special Issue Silva fennica
Forest Area Definitions	AL	Special Issue Silva fennica
Bridge building ML to create outline for comments. Once agreed ML to send to STSM writers (see the 6 STSM reports and to the people who presented at the meetings – ascertain who is willing to write up for the WG Report series and also for the Special Issue)		Special Issue Silva fennica for a few of the case studies Plus All case studies in an ‘institution report’ for the web site (ENFIN?)
Contribute to E43 book	Various	Book
Status reports: I: Forest Definitions and Measurements II: Tree Definitions and Volume Functions III: Sampling Design Karl to read current reports and raise issues before STSM 28 th April – 9 th May.	LC TG AL	Staff to edit reports and to contact country NFI reps to correct data within the reports. Publish on Web (ENFIN) Possible peer review articles at a later stage
Reference Definitions (for all 3 WG’s) This is a compilation of reference definitions from all 3 Groups put into a single report.	WG leaders	In an ‘institution report’ for the web site (ENFIN?)

A publication strategy was discussed for the aforementioned. Adrian LANZ will inform Claude VIDAL and coordinate activities to the forthcoming and last meeting in Lisbon, and the STSM in Norway.

WG2: Göran STÅHL, Erkki TOMPPO, Gerald KÄENDLER, Megan McCORMICK

Göran STÅHL proposed one publication on the subject of interpolation and extrapolation. This work will be led by Erkki TOMPPO with the help of Gerald KÄENDLER, with the suggestions of Peter WEISS and Alexandra FREUDENSCHUSS. Potential political interest and time/trend extrapolation were discussed regarding this topic. *It is agreed that comparing method results would be of highest interest for such a paper.*

The 3rd article discussed was one of uncertainties in NFI assessment and GPG systems: criticisms of the Monte Carlo method and suggestions of some kind of intermediate method would be the focus of the article. Göran STÅHL suggested that error budgeting is too complicated for most NFIs.

Göran STÅHL also addressed the subject of biomass functions and adds that the random error component from the good practice guidance could be formed into a regression analysis. The report could be produced by Alexandra FREUDENSCHUSS, and MASCAREF, on BF and BEF.

Lastly an article about sensitivity analysis was discussed.

Tuesday, 29 February 2008

Adaptation to the Agenda:

It is decided unanimously that after coffee break, that some cross checking will be taken care of between the member groups.

Plenary Sessions by work Groups

WG 2 Definitions and Reports: Göran STÅHL, Gerald KÄNDLER, Others

Definitions: Cross Checking and Open Questions

Various definitions were discussed. Some were more problematic than others. Forest land and deadwood was the subject of an ongoing debate. *Klemens SCHADAUER suggested that IPCC definitions are written down; it was agreed.*

Crown Cover:

Adrian LANZ addressed the definition 'crown cover' from WG1, and it was uncertain whether dead branches are counted in this estimate. Canopy vs. crown cover were discussed. *It was agreed that crown cover is better information to collect than canopy.* Erkki TOMPPU requested that canopy cover should be mentioned, but not necessarily defined and that some further investigation should be carried out.

Deadwood:

Deadwood was discussed in regards to what is included and considered in the definition. Different groups include different parts of dead wood. For instance, WG3 includes all above ground parts of dead woody plants, but not dead parts attached to living plants. The distinction between deadwood and litter was also mentioned.

Deadwood parameters such as size, spatial position, decay class and types of woody species were discussed. Indicators were also discussed: volume m³/ha, size, coarse/fine, spatial position, lying/standing, decay class, and woody species groups. These indicators were further described by Gherardo CHIRICI.

Stumps were discussed. WG3 does not include stumps, whereas WG2 does. Aboveground deadwood was also discussed. Göran STÅHL suggested that this issue was flexible from the side of WG2.

Diameter thresholds were also discussed in regards to sampling and lying deadwood. Erkki TOMPPU suggested that depending on the purpose, such as BD, less than 10 cm is not considered because it falls into the litter category.

Deadwood final revision subgroup is nominated to WG1. It was agreed that a separate definition of coarse deadwood is needed; later it can be distinguished which methods for estimating BM and volume. February 15 was the agreed upon deadline.

It was agreed that coarse deadwood volume should mean the same thing amongst the groups. Deadwood vs. coarse deadwood was discussed, and the decision was left for revision by the subgroup.

Standing volume:

Standing volume was discussed as to whether to include top of trees above. The definition of useable wood in this context was also discussed, yet no clarification was made. Erkki TOMPPO suggested some small team to concentrate on this issue.

Biomass for carbon accounting was also discussed. Erkki TOMPPO recalled that standing volume includes usable deadwood and should have no threshold.

Lying vs. Standing:

WG1 supports that a lying stem is a stem not self-supporting and which, removed at its length, would lie the majority of the ground. A vertical degree does not necessarily delineate whether or not it is lying or standing, due to position on hills, etc. WG3 is willing to adopt this variation.

Growing Stock: It was discussed what to consider as 'useable wood' once again and the debate covered a possible threshold. It was mentioned that volume of growing trees does *not* include branches.

Decay stages of deadwood

Forest land with aspect of how to treat tree cover pastures:

It was decided that it is up to each country to decide what is 'predominantly'

Biomass: WG1 is charged with definition. WG1 included leaves of broadleaved trees, while WG2 excluded them. The reasons that WG2 has excluded broadleaves is that many countries are measuring litter during wintertime when most leaves have fallen and should not be double counted as litter. Evergreen leaves are included. This is agreed. Fluctuation of needle content can be quite high, but time reference will not be included in the definition. Erkki TOMPPO reminded the group that *above ground* biomass in IPCC GPG is *above ground* not just above the stump.

Deforestation: land conversion (immediate classification), forest tragedy that is not reforested for 10 years afterwards, or 10 years abandonment, etc.

Reforestation: climate convention terminology and can remain.

Consequence of components concept:

It was agreed that NFIs must be able to adopt profiles to accommodate users of the result. Also it was agreed that several working definitions be clearly specified as to what they include for what purpose, so that the definition is not so vague/interpretable by readers from outside the group.

Gherardo CHIRICI discussed the title of Harmonising NFIs in Europe and suggested reference definition evaluation of forest diversity based on NFI data. *It is agreed that WG1 work is not the harmonisation, but rather the tools of harmonizing, especially standardising measurement in field.* Erkki TOMPPO suggested the title is too ambitious. Klemens SCHADAUER suggested implanting the word 'towards' in the title. This will be further discussed in the upcoming DC meeting.

E43 Book

Basic outline of E43 Book was discussed. Erkki TOMPPO requested an allocation for a word written in the introduction by WG2.

The length for some chapters was discussed. It was discussed that subchapter 3.4 may be too difficult to complete. *Further, the chapter on European forest resources was omitted.* Göran STÅHL, Emil CIENCIALA, and Gerald KÄENDLER have offered to contribute to the 'Conclusions' section and Chapter 3.

Also there was a discussion of those to be included in the editorial board and possible editors were proposed.

WG1: Claude VIDAL, Mark LAWRENCE, and Adrian LANZ are considered as editors for WG1 section 3.1. Mark LAWRENCE is nominated for leading this work with Stein TOMTER.

WG3: Gherardo CHIRICI, Susanne WINTER, Ron McROBERTS

Ch. 4 and Conclusions may be provided by Erkki TOMPPO and Klemens SCHADAUER

Synergies of summaries will be sent to Emil CIENCIALA to be included in an introduction to one of the chapters.

Klemens SCHADAUER and Erkki TOMPPO nominated one another as the authors of the introduction. Göran STÅHL nominated himself for the synergies with history part. Gherardo CHIRICI also volunteered a contribution to the section on international requirements of use. Alex KOROTKOV was mentioned as a potential contributor to the section on International Requirements for Reporting and use of data.

The inclusion of the Country Reports was also discussed.

Klemens SCHADAUER, Emil CIENCIALA, Göran STÅHL, Others: Publications

Klemens SCHADAUER discussed one WG1 article that is already accepted by SF on Establishment of Reference Definitions. Other potential articles were discussed.

WG1 contribution to e43 book include: forest definitions and measurements, tree definitions and volume functions, sampling design. *Karl GABLER was nominated to read current reports and raise issues before STSM between April and May.*

Reference definitions were decided to be a JWC compilation.

Presentation on publication ambitions for WG3 - Gherardo CHIRICI

An article about biodiversity assessment components article was discussed by Gherardo CHIRICI, Susanne WINTER, and Ron McROBERTS. Erkki TOMPPO was asked to be on the editorial board *and it is planned for finalisation by end of year 2008, in order to have it published by 2009.*

Reports:

Interpolation/Extrapolation: *Göran STÅHL and Erkki TOMPPO decided to inter-write closely and Alexandra and Gerald KÄNDLER were nominated as the comment team.*

Biomass (BM): Emil CIENCIALA was nominated to collaborate with Alexandra FREUDENSCHUSS and Peter WEISS. Karsten DUNGER on the matter of a biomass report was recommended for contact.

Uncertainty: Gerald KÄNDLER presents the drafting process of this report and plans to include sampling errors. *A draft deadline of the Slovenia meeting was agreed between Göran STÅHL and Gerald KÄNDLER.*

Bridge building: Karsten DUNGER

Reference Definitions: Göran STÅHL and Emil CIENCIALA

Erkki TOMPPU, Others: Planning Future Meetings

Klemens SCHADAUER suggested that the first day of the meeting in Lisbon should include mostly presentations. Inviting media or other important people (such as JRC, FAO, and EU Environment) was discussed as well as a possible excursion.

One day for each WG was suggested for plenary sessions. Guidelines for the presentations were discussed and *it was decided that further material and guidelines for this meeting will be discussed in the DC meeting in March.*

Klemens SCHADAUER suggested an outline to be elaborated for the first day of the meeting. Some potential presentations were discussed.

Slovenia Meeting in April

Göran STÅHL discussed plans of a for the invitation list to the Slovenia meeting, as well as a possible outing.