

COST ACTION E43

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

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of Working Group 1

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Participants

Claude VIDAL (FR, Chair), Veiko ADERMANN (EE), Ovidiu BADEA (RO), Graham BULL (UK), Martin ČERNÝ (CZ), Piermaria CORONA (IT), Lucio DI COSMO (IT), Karl GABLER (AT), Thomas GSCHWANTNER (AT), Milan HOČEVAR (SI), Jurgis JANSONS (LV), Bjarki Þór KJARTANSSON (IS), László KOLOZS (HU), Alexander KOROTKOV (UNECE), Andrius KULIEŠIS (LT), Adrian LANZ (CH), Mark LAWRENCE (UK), Ieva LĪCĪTE (LV), Ioannis MELIADIS (EL), Martin MORAVCIK (SK), Christy O'DONOVAN (IE), Thomas PUISSANT (BE), Nicolas ROBERT (FR), Jacques RONDEUX (BE), Klemens SCHADAUER (AT), Ulf SÖDERBERG (SE), Erkki TOMPPU (FI), Stein TOMTER (NO), Vittorio TOSI (IT), José VILLANUEVA (ES)

1 Discussion of Reference definitions

In its 6th session, the working group discusses the draft reference definitions dated 10 May 2006, elaborated by Adrian, Lucio, Nicolas and Thomas.

1.1 General comments

- the questionnaire database is considered a unique tool, which allows to define good reference definitions without looking too much on existing definitions
- some countries are still missing and should provide the data as soon as possible

1.2 Reference definition for “Forest”

- a decomposition matrix using land cover and land use criterion is presented and discussed
- such a matrix provides an alternative view at the forest reference definition and might be especially helpful to specify special cases
- it is accepted, that the tree species should normally not be a criterion in the forest definition
- the working group does not have an ad hoc solution for the treatment of abandoned agricultural land, which should be defined in the references
- working with land use and land cover categories in the decomposition matrix needs a review of existing classification systems and harmonisation with WG2 and WG3 needs
- at the moment, WG1 will not deal with references for different forest types; ARD might be handled by WG2, other forest types by WG3
- for temporarily unstocked areas, the reference threshold for expected signs of natural regeneration should be 5 to 10 years under special site conditions

1.3 Reference definition for “Tree” and “Growing stock”

- the decomposition of a tree into components is important to define references, especially for different volume and biomass estimates
- the term tree *compartments* might be changed (even if used in recent literature) to tree *partitions*, *divisions*, *components*, ...
- DBH (measurement) must be defined
- the tree compartment *stem* includes *stump + log + tree top*
- the stump height is needed for the definition of certain volumes; it depends on the normal (local) felling practise, and should be defined as such in the references
- stem and (large and small) branches need a clear definition
- roots can be divided into above-ground and below-ground parts, but might be simplified together with the stump into one component (WG2 may have higher decomposition requirements)
- further measurement and model details are needed to define good references for volumes
- the reference for growing stock and other volumes like the commercial growing stock is not clear yet, especially the inclusion or exclusion of large branches is not decided
- Adrian and Thomas will work out a new proposal, Mark and Ulf agree to review

2 Nomenclature and glossary

The STSM in Helsinki with help from the SC at its meeting in Prague did prepare a draft version of terms, which is presented and discussed in the working group.

- the topic is important and needed
- glossary should be better focused on E43 needs
- the glossary should be implemented as a unique document spanning over all WGs in the action

3 Next steps

- the following core variables have priorities: total growing stock of standing living trees, and total volume of standing dead trees
- at a next step, the following core variables may be treated by WG1: OWL, volumes in OWL, volumes of lying dead (living) trees, increments and changes
- country reports might be an interesting output of the whole action: the working group agrees, however, that the analysis of the questionnaire should be done first, and that such country reports may then be done based on these reports and the initial NFI descriptions
- publication of results and visibility of the action: the reference definitions and the status of current NFI methods in Europe (questionnaire) will be published in working papers of the action and in scientific journals; preliminary results and the progress of the action should also be presented in meetings, like the FIA annual meeting and the FAO Kotka meeting
- the (near) final reference definitions and the document on the status of European NFIs should be available at the next working group meeting