

Minutes of Working Group 1 meeting COST E43 Thessaloniki, 16-17th November 2006

Apologies were received from Claude Vidal. Adrian Lanz chaired the meeting assisted by Klemens Schadauer.

Nineteen countries were represented:

Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Germany, UK, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Spain, Romania, Finland, France, Greece and Hungary as well as the JRC and UNECE. Portugal representative Anamaria Azevedo was welcomed as a new member to WG1. The names of the participants are listed in a separate sheet available on the E43 web pages.

The minutes below represent the main areas of discussion.

Issues for Group to discuss

- feedback on Status Reports and Reference Definitions
- the need to acknowledge those who carried out the work of COST E43 was emphasised
- the formal structure of the Reference Definitions and their agreement
- what work was required between WG1 and the other WG's

A round table discussion was held for members to express their feelings about the COST Action: Member's comments were very favourable; the main feelings expressed were

- for NFI's on the first cycle it was useful to share issues and direction
- it was useful to share working practices and outputs
- knowledge transfer was very useful – some countries are actively changing their NFI's to achieve greater harmonisation
- publications/outputs are important and the Action needs to create common reporting
- the WG represented a superior pool of specialised knowledge/experience compared to many similar programmes

Country Reports

It was felt that the initial 2004 NFI descriptions are not directly comparable. In order to provide comparable Country Reports the following was required:

- The Steering Committee meeting in December 2006 should provide a model of the required Country Report structure, possibly similar to but shorter than the EFICS study?
- Within WG1, 1-2 countries will create case studies for reporting for all countries to use

Status Reports

Prior to the meeting 2 Status reports had been sent to WG1 members for reading.

Action: The WG was asked to send their corrections/enhancements of the circulated reports by the beginning of December to the WG Chairperson, Adrian, and copied to Thomas, Lucio and Nicolas. Following this there would be:

- A review of existing drafts by Italy (Patrizia), Sweden (Ulf) and Austria (Karl)
- A STSM (Lucio, Nicolas and Thomas, WSL Birmensdorf) would create the final draft in mid-December
- Italy (Patrizia), Sweden (Ulf) and Austria (Karl) would then review the final draft
- The Reports are to be published by the end of January 2007
- Patrizia, Adrian and Nicolas are due to review a third report (Part III on Sample Design and Frequency of NFI's) by the end of November, this will then be sent out soon afterwards for comment.

Common Reference Definitions

A number of Common Reference Definitions were discussed within the Group. The Group requested that E43 members could provide graphical diagrams to enhance the participants understanding of the Reference Definitions that could also be incorporated into country field manuals.

The following Reference Definitions were discussed and the changes noted:

No.	Original Definition	Agreed Definition
3.1	A tree is a woody perennial of a species reaching at maturity in situ a height of more than 5m, forming a single main stem or several stems, and having a definite crown	A tree, for NFI purposes, is a woody perennial of a species forming a single main stem or several stems, and having a definite crown
3.2	A shrub is a woody perennial of a species reaching a height of more than 0.5m and less than 5m at maturity in situ, and often without a definite stem and crown	A shrub, for NFI purposes, is a woody perennial of a species reaching a height of more than 0.5m and less than 5m at maturity in situ, and without a definite stem and crown
3.3	The height of a tree or a shrub is the vertical distance between the intersection point between stem axis and ground on the one hand, and the apex of the tree or shrub on the other hand	The height of a tree or a shrub is the vertical distance between the intersection point between stem axis and ground (or root collar, whichever is higher) on the one hand, and the apex of the tree or shrub on the other hand
3.4	All distinct sprouts of a tree or a shrub having a length of more than 1.3m (measured from the ground and along the axis of the sprout) are considered a stem	Stems, for NFI purposes, are any woody (off) shoot(s) starting below 1.3m height (as measured for DBH) and being of measurable size at Breast Height
3.5	The location of the point where the diameter at breast height (DBH) or the circumference at breast height of a stem is defined, is 1.3m from the	The location of the point where the diameter at breast height (DBH) or the circumference at breast height of a stem is defined, is 1.3m from the surface of the ground (or root collar,

No.	Original Definition	Agreed Definition
	surface of the ground, measured along the axis of the stem.	whichever is higher), measured along the axis of the stem.
3.6	The stump of a tree or shrub is the above ground base part of a tree or shrub remaining in the earth after the stem(s) has been felled	The stump of a tree or shrub is the above ground base part of a tree or shrub remaining after the stem(s) has(have) been felled
3.7	A living stem is a stem with photosynthetic activity, i.e. with a green foliage and an active cambium	A living stem is a stem with photosynthetic activity, i.e. with green foliage and an active cambium

A meeting was also held between sub-sets of WG1 and WG2 to harmonise a number of definitions, mainly on Biomass and Biofuel, relevant to both Groups. Klemens, Thomas, Nicolas and Mark reported back to WG1.

General Remarks			
Matter	Comparison		Remark
	WG 1	WG2	
Classification of Biomass	Living woody-plant biomass	Aboveground biomass	Definition of living biomass?
		Belowground biomass	
	Dead woody-plant biomass	Dead wood	
Separation of aboveground and belowground biomass	surface (line) of the ground	tree components that are (normally) above the soil	1. ground <-> soil? surface? 2. ground surface or soil surface? 3. by tree components?

Above-ground biomass			
Matter	Comparison		Remark
	WG 1	WG2	
Foliage and seeds	foliage = leafes+buds+reproductive parts	foliage = evergreen leaves	Consideration of buds and flowers?
	reproductive parts = flowers + seeds	reproductive parts = seeds	
Inclusion of foliage	evergreen and annual leaves	evergreen leaves	evergreen + annual <-> evergreen?
Size of included trees and shrubs	any size included	understorey may be excluded	any size included <-> some small may be excluded?

Below-ground biomass			
Matter	Comparison		Remark
	WG 1	WG2	
Definition of below-ground biomass	surface (line) of the ground	equal to roots	All parts below ground surface <-> roots?

Dead wood biomass			
Matter	Comparison		Remark
	WG 1	WG2	
Terminology	Dead woody-plant biomass	Dead wood	Dead wood biomass ?
Inclusion of below-ground components	included	excluded	Inclusion of below-ground components?

Above and below ground Biomass, where Biomass is living and dead material. Surface – use of ground surface or root collar. Foliage & Seeds – where WG2 have to review there thinking on evergreen leaves and needle foliage. Size of included trees – both groups to decide if a threshold is required.

Deadwood Biomass – roots are now part of soil organic matter. WG2 requires fine and coarse roots below ground.

Andrius Kuliesis (Lithuania) is to provide draft definition on Increment, as he pointed out this is not yet included within Reference Definitions.

Bridge building:

Building bridges was seen as a very important task by WG 1, but as each country has to build its own bridges, it would be a difficult task to build bridges at a European level. Some volunteer countries proposed to prepare case studies for one of the already defined variables. They will create reports to facilitate the process:

- Italy
- Finland
- Sweden
- Austria
- Switzerland
- Lithuania
- Germany

and the above will give a short presentation at next joint meeting.

Within the presentations a Table showing the following is required:

- Forest Areas
- Other Wooded Land
- Growing stocks
- Standing deadwood

Also the reports have to highlight main deviations from Reference Definitions indicating:

- The sources of any errors/bias
- Any cost implications of having deviations
- What can be changed in order to align the data and/or estimation procedures with the reference Definitions (and cost implications)

- The type and size of any errors in estimators
- The weight of errors

Action: All E43 countries are asked to provide comments to Adrian with copy to Thomas, Lucio, and Nicolas as soon as possible.

Field Manuals

The WG felt that country Field Manuals should be supplied (in country languages) for publication on the COST E43 web site. PDF files should be sent to Adrian.

European Forest Monitoring System (EFMS)

Kari Korhonen (Finland) introduced this paper and asked country representative to review page 7 and from 15 onwards for further discussion.

- Modul 1 – cannot say harmonisation, bridge building is not new with E43 underway.
- Modul 2 – thinking this is for WG 3 to look into.
- Modul 3 – for WG1 to look at.
- Modul 4 – Adrian to formulate a paragraph on Data Quality and characteristics of an Interface and possibly link with Model 1?

Remote Sensing and the required location of plot data, then only NFI's have this information.

Although E43 could provide views on this paper to the Finish Presidency by 24 November, there still may be an opportunity to comment later.

Draft Minutes provided by
Mark Lawrence and Graham Bull
UK WG1
November 2006