

COST ACTION E43 HARMONISATION OF NFI IN EUROPE: TECHNIQUES FOR COMMON REPORTING.

Forest and Landscape Unit, Horsholm 9th / 10th September 2004

WG 3 Biodiversity

Working Group session 1, Thursday 9th of September 2004.

Participants of WG3 were welcomed by the WG leader, Annemarie Bastrup-Birk. The participants were asked to introduce themselves and give a short outline of their expertise in this field. Details from each participant will follow after the meeting; but participants of WG3 are described in Appendix II.

After receiving the details of each participant it became clear that between the different countries there were countries with a great deal of NFI experience and other countries which were relatively new to NFIs. Also some countries had biodiversity objectives defined in their NFI while others did not.

After much discussion it was agreed that the biodiversity issues or indicators needed to be clearly spelt out so that the participants could decide which data from their NFI could make a significant contribution to this process. The list of forest biodiversity indicators chosen for this purpose were the internationally and politically agreed Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and MCPFE indicators. The contribution or otherwise that a NFI could make to each of these indicators is outlined below.

Working Group session 1, Friday 10th of September, 2004.

During the 2nd working group session much effort was set on how to clarify the bullet-list with core variables in order to make it more operational. It was decided to distribute the variables into genetic, species (compositional), ecosystem and functional forest biodiversity. A table was set up to compile forest biodiversity relevant information. Focus is as a first step set on forest biodiversity (not other wooded land) and only on data from the NFIs as the COST Action E43 is only dealing with improvements of the reporting of biodiversity from the NFIs.

The table set-up was to be edited and refined by the working group leader and sent to the participants as well as to the non-present members of the WG3.

The group agreed on filling out the table and sending it back to the WG3 leader on **October 11 at latest**. Comments and improvements of the table are more than welcome!!

The WG3 leader will then compile the table as a basis for further discussion at the next meeting (Gembloux). The group also agreed that more discussions are needed involving as many participants as possible. So contrary to the other WGs, no subgroup was formed and it was agreed that all countries should be represented at the Gembloux meeting (Belgium) October 21 -22.

Possible indicators of forest biodiversity in NFIs based on the two politically agreed lists of biodiversity indicators, CBD and MCPFE.

Table 1. CBD indicators relevant to forests and the 1st evaluation of a possible contribution from NFIs.

<i>CBD Indicators relevant to forests (full list in Appendix I)</i>	Contribution from NFIs possible?
Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats	<i>Yes, forest types</i>
Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species	<i>In general yes Tree species (or proxies for a species), yes ground vegetation yes possible, mosses (certain species possible, mostly no), herbs, yes but problems with periods and with the need of specialists, lichens, macrolichens, yes but like herbs fungi, yes for tree living species, no for others "Soil" biodiversity, possible but more an important background information use depth of humus as an indicator for soil biodiversity? Fauna, possible if inventorying fauna using indirect methods again (nests ect,) Pathogens, possible for selected insects, evt. indirect measurements and symptoms of disturbances</i>
Change in status of threatened species	<i>In general no Some countries have compartment inventories Comparisons of inventories over time may give an indication for some tree species</i>
Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants	<i>no/maybe?</i>
Coverage of protected areas	<i>No, information can be given from other sources</i>
Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management	<i>Must be clarified in European context else impossible?</i>
Nitrogen deposition	<i>no</i>
Numbers and cost of alien invasions for trees species	<i>no</i>
Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems remote sensing possibilities	<i>yes</i>

Table 2. MCPFE indicators relevant to forests and the 1st evaluation of a possible contribution from NFIs.

<i>Additionally MCPFE indicators relevant to forests:</i>	Contribution from NFIs possible?
Impact of climate change on biodiversity	<i>only with very long term data</i>
1.1 Forest area	<i>yes c.f. CBD-table</i>
1.2 Growing stock	<i>Indirectly relevant for biodiversity</i>
1.3 Age structure and/or diameter distribution	<i>relevant and feasible to most NFI</i>
1.4 Carbon stock	<i>relevant to NFI source of above ground biomass</i>
2.1 Deposition of air pollutants	<i>no</i>
2.2 Soil condition	<i>relevant but dependent of the inventory</i>
2.3 Defoliation	<i>relevant but dependent on the inventory period</i>
2.4 Forest damage	<i>Indirectly relevant for biodiversity</i>
3.1 Increment and fellings	<i>Indirectly relevant for biodiversity</i>
3.2 Roundwood Value	<i>no</i>
3.3 Non -wood goods	<i>no</i>
3.4 SERVICES	<i>NO</i>
3.5 Forests under management plans	<i>Indirectly relevant for biodiversity</i>
4.1 Tree species composition	<i>relevant (see CBD above)</i>
4.2 Regeneration	<i>relevant</i>
4.3 Naturalness	<i>relevant</i>
4.4 Introduced tree species	<i>relevant (see CBD above)</i>
4.5 Deadwood	<i>relevant</i>
4.6 Genetic resources	<i>comes from other sources (see CBD above)</i>
4.7 Landscape pattern	<i>yes connected to remote sensing (see CBD above)</i>
4.8 Threatened forest species	<i>relevant but only indirectly possible (see CBD above)</i>
4.9 Protected forests	
5.1 Protective forests – soil, water and other ecosystem functions	
5.2 Protective forests – infrastructure and managed natural resources	

Supplemental forest biodiversity variables

Indicator of structural biodiversity
 Stand structure proxy of habitats diversity
 Indicators of functional biodiversity?
 History aspects ?

Appendix I

CBD Indicator Framework 2004

- Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats
- Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
- Change in status of threatened species
- Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants
- Coverage of protected areas
- Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management
- Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources
- Nitrogen deposition
- Numbers and cost of alien invasions
- Marine trophic index
- Application to freshwater and possibly other ecosystems
- Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems
- Incidence of human-induced ecosystem failure
- Health and well-being of people living in biodiversity-based-resource dependent communities
- Water quality in aquatic ecosystems
- Biodiversity used in food and medicine
- Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages
- Further indicators to be identified by WG-8j
- Indicator to be identified by WG-ABS
- Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention (OECD-DAC-Statistics Committee)
- Indicator for technology transfer

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Albertas Kasperavicius	Lithuania
2. Andras Szepesi	Hungary
3. Anna-Lena Axelsson	Sweden
4. Annemarie Bastrup-Birk	Denmark
5. Arsun Elmarsdottir	Iceland
6. Catherine Cluzeau	France
7. Dieter Pelz	Germany
8. Elmar Hauk	Austria
9. Franc Ferlin	Slovenia
10. Gherardo Chiricci	Italy
11. Helena Makela	Finland
12. Jan Erik Nilsen	Norway
13. Loizos Loizu	Cyprus
14. Nadia Barsoum	United Kingdom
15. Pat Neville	Ireland
16. Rita Merete Butterschøn	Denmark
17. Stefan Neagu	Romania
18. Tarmo Tolm	Estonia
19. Urs-Beat Brandii	Switzerland