COST E33
Forest Recreation and Nature Tourism

Simon Bell
Chair of the Action
Objectives

• To improve knowledge of the benefits to urbanised societies through access to and recreation within forests

• To improve the understanding of the economic and social impacts of forest recreation and nature tourism in Europe, and to assess its potential as a tool for rural development;
Objectives

• To improve knowledge of the patterns of supply and demand for forest recreation and nature tourism, as well as actual use patterns, within forests;

• To improve the quality of forest recreation planning, and to improve the quality of recreation site and facility design and management.
Organisation

Three working groups:

1. Values and benefits of forest recreation and nature tourism (Objectives 1 and 2)
2. Supply and demand for forest recreation and nature tourism (Objective 3)
3. Planning, design and management of forest recreation and nature tourism (Objective 4)
Context

• This action covers an increasingly important field for forestry.

• The action is multidisciplinary – foresters, landscape architects, rural development specialists, economists, statisticians, tourism experts.

• 26 countries are involved.
Steering committee

- Chair: Simon Bell, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland
- Vice chair: Liisa Tyrvainen, METLA, Finland
- WG1 Leader: Murray Simpson, Oxford University, UK
- WG2 Leader: Tuija Sievanen, METLA, Finland
- WG3 Leader: Ulrike Pröbstl, BOKU, Vienna, Austria
Features

• Very multi-disciplinary – reflecting the current reality of forestry
• Has a large female membership (compared with many forestry activities)
• Strong participation of younger researchers at PhD level
• Includes researchers, policy people and practitioners.
Meetings

• Meetings have been held around Europe
• Each had a theme which was explored by presentations from the countries of the region
• Field trips also explored the local forests and focused on issues of interest and concern.
Scotland
Bavaria
Latvia
Slovakia
France
Outputs

• A book from the whole action – a major handbook
• Books from each working group
• A searchable database of good practice
• A review paper
• Several academic papers
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES OF FORESTS FOR RECREATION AND NATURE TOURISM: A RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Cost Action E33: Forests for Recreation and Nature Tourism (FORREC)

compiled and edited by
Murray C. Simpson, Viliam Pichler, Liisa Tyrväinen, Kevia Collins,
Suzanne Martin, Niels Strange and Dijana Vuletic
Forest Recreation Monitoring
—a European Perspective

Tuija Sievänen, Arne Amberger, Jeoffrey Dehez, Neil Grant, Frank S. Jensen and Hans Skov-Petersen (eds.)
DATABASE ON FOREST RECREATION AND NATURE TOURISM IN EUROPE

This website's goal is to build an easy-access database for the work of Cost Action 33.

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

This database provides information about Good practice examples in forest recreation and nature tourism from different countries in Europe.

To find Good practice items of interest, please use the search facilities found in the left column or the box to the right. You can search by category, by country or employed the free text option.

After you have found item of interest, you can either download it as a pdf, file or print it directly from the web.

LITERATURE OF RELEVANCE

The database has a collection of relevant European literature on forest recreation and nature tourism.

To find literature of relevance, use the search functions in the left column.

MOST RECENT BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Involving People in Forestry - a toolbox for public involvement in forest and woodland planning.

Submitted by United Kingdom
Wednesday, 24 October 2007
Tools to assist forest and woodland managers to increase public involvement in forests.

Certification: the living forest project - Norway

LASTEST EXAMPLES

- Involving People in Forestry - a toolbox for public involvement in forest and woodland planning.
- Manual on access to the forest for disabled people.
- "GB Day Walk Survey" (GBDVS) and the "Public Opinion on Forestry" (PDF).
- Visitor monitoring in nature areas - Nordic and Baltic.
- Nature's Best -
Outdoor Recreation and Nature Tourism: A European Perspective

Simon Bell
OPENspace Research Centre, Edinburgh College of Art,
Edinburgh EH9 1XJ, U.K.
email: s.bell@ed.ac.uk
http://www.openspace.ed.ac.uk/

Luisa Tirvone
Finnish Forest Research Institute, Raasepori, Finland
email: luisa.tirvone@ffri.fi
http://www.s記い.fo/ffri/

Tuula Sivenen
Finnish Forest Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland
email: tuula.sivenen@ffri.fi
http://www.s記い.fo/Tuula/

Ulrike Frohle
Institute for Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning,
University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (Boku)
Vienna, Austria
email: ulrike.frohle@boku.ac.at
http://www.boku.ac.at/0656.html

Murray Simpson
School of Geography and Environment, University of Leeds, U.K.
email: murray.simpson@geography.leeds.ac.uk

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Abstract

Recreation and nature tourism are increasingly important sectors with many implications both economic and environmental. As society changes so do the demands and trends for recreation and nature tourism change and develop. This poses many challenges for planners and managers of recreational areas and providers of services. This review article focuses on the situation in Europe but does not ignore some major trends and issues arising elsewhere, while much of the research can be traced back to ideas and methods developed elsewhere, such as the USA. To set the scene the main social and environmental trends are presented that show how the changing nature of society feeds through to expectations and demands for recreation and nature tourism. Demographic changes, consumer behaviour and the increasing mobility and connected lifestyles of European citizens have produced trends for outdoor
Communication

Website with:

• Information about the action
• Contact details and CVs of all the participants
• All the presentations from all the meetings
• STSM reports
• Photographs
Cost Action E33
Forest Recreation and Nature Tourism

Homepage

Cost Action E33, Forest Recreation and Nature Tourism, is a network of researchers and practitioners working in the field from all around Europe. The action commenced in January 2004 and will continue for four years. This site will grow and develop as the Cost Action itself.

For further information on the Cost programme and to download documents such as the memorandum of understanding or the rules and regulations, please go to the official website:

http://cost.cordis.lu/orchome.efm
Cost Action E33
Forest Recreation and Nature Tourism

Simon Bell

Contact details
Chair of E33
OPENspace Research centre
Edinburgh College of Art
79 Grassmarket
Edinburgh EH1 2NH
UK
Tel +44 131 221 6277
Fax +44 131 221 6157
E-mail s.bell@esci.ed.ac.uk

Profile
Simon Bell is a forester and landscape architect educated at the University of Wales, Bangor and University of Edinburgh. He spent 20 years with the British Forestry Commission, eventually becoming Chief Landscape Architect, and joined Edinburgh College of Art as a senior research fellow in late 1999. He is an expert on forest and park landscapes and large-scale landscape evaluation and design. His major research interests include recreation planning and design, especially in terms of accessibility and the social value of nature. He has undertaken many projects involved with recreation planning and design in Britain, Canada, the USA, Ireland, and, most recently, in Latvia and Russia. He led the EU Northern Periphery Programme project "Crossplan" on public participation in community and landscape planning.

Other international connections include the participation in EU COST Action E12 on urban forests and trees. As a member of the social forestry division of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO), he has presented papers on recreation, landscape perception and social inclusiveness at several conferences, most recently in Copenhagen and Chile. He took part in a tour organised by IUFRO to look at accessibility of parks and forests in the south-eastern USA in September 2001. He was awarded a traveling fellowship to Japan to spend a month studying forest and national parks during September and October 2005, by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He is also carrying out research into cultural values of rural landscapes in Latvia, funded by the British Academy. He is on the editorial board of the international journal Urban Forestry and Urban Greening.

Publications
So thanks to the COST organisation and to ESF for running things efficiently...

Keep up the good work!

And thanks for your attention!