



LIFE+ 2007

FUTMON

Further Development and Implementation of an EU-level Forest Monitoring System

MINUTES OF THE KICK OFF MEETING

The kick off meeting of the action C1-HarmonLS-40(IT) with also participation from actions and C1-NFI8 (DK) and C1-NFI25 (SE) of the Life+ Further Development and Implementation of an EU-level Forest Monitoring System “FutMon” project took place from 19th to 20th March 2009 in Florence (Italy), hosted by the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences.

More than 35 participants from 19 countries attended the meeting: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland (see Annex 1).

The meeting was relevant also for coordinating FutMon L2b activities which are NFI field studies conducted in order to (i) test reference assessment methods and (ii) develop, test and enhance bridging functions for a set of core variables.

19th March 2009

The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the Life+ FutMon project L2b actions. This action gives an opportunity to contribute to a long-term harmonisation of the national forest inventories in Europe. The project includes field assessments to support the further harmonisation of NFIs. Bridging functions between local definitions and agreed references to be developed/improved based on these field assessments and contributing to a harmonisation of output of core variables from the NFIs across EU. The L2b activities will build upon the experience reached in the COST Action E43 and other projects on further harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe: the aim is to improve bridge functions for common reporting.

The objective of the first day of the meeting was therefore to review the variables proposed by the COST E43, to discuss and agree on the selection of the variables to assess in the field during summer 2010.

Annemarie Bastrup-Birk (DK) opened the meeting and welcomed participants the morning of the 19th March at 10.30 am. She introduced the participants to the FutMon action C1-HarmonLS-40 and to the L2b activities (current information needs from NFIs, overall objectives and project structure).

Adrian Lanz (CH) presented the reference definitions based on achieved results of the COST Action E43.

Annemarie Bastrup-Birk described principles of bridging functions between local definitions and agreed references.

Gherardo Chirici (IT) presented an example of bridging functions developed for the dead wood in the frame of the COST Action E43 WG3 by using National Forest Inventory data.

The morning closed with a general discussion on need of extension of the presented list of reference definitions.

The meeting continued in the afternoon with the presentation of some Country reports regarding present and future actions finalised to integrate NFI and ICP networks: Italy (B. Petriccione, P. Gasparini) and Slovakia (V. Šebeň, P. Pavlenda). Information provided by Country reports were:

- a) a country presentation (country area, forest area, main forest categories, etc.);
- b) a presentation of the NFI (sampling design, grid, variables assessed, time series available, etc.);
- c) a presentation of the ICP network (grids, existing level I and level II plots, use of the plots in FutMon and in other EU projects such as FORESTBIOTA and BIOSOIL);
- d) the relationship between NFI and ICP networks (administrative responsibilities of NFI and ICP, existing integration, future perspectives);
- e) the relationships with other forest monitoring networks (LTER, CarboEurope, Natura2000, etc.);
- f) the status regarding the implementation of FutMon and expectations from action C1-HarmonLS-40.

The first day concluded at 5.30 pm with a synthesis of the presentation, further planning of the project (data analysis, database of results and reporting to Life+ FutMon) and general conclusions.

20th March 2009

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to the action C1-HarmonLS-40. The final aim of this action is to support the interested countries in the integration of different large scale forest monitoring networks. The first expected output of this action is the definition of criteria for the selection of those plots to be included in C1 actions.

The final decision regarding the selection of FutMon plots and regarding methods and strategies to be implemented for the integration of existing networks is under responsibility of the national authorities. This action will facilitate the communication between the countries providing a synoptic view over the existing initiatives in the different countries.

The final expected result of this action is a report on existing experiences with guidelines on methods and strategies for optimising the integration of existing large scale forest monitoring networks in Europe.

The objective of the second day of the meeting was to help in creating a comprehensive pan-European overview of the mutual relationships between different large scale forest monitoring networks in the different countries with a special focus on national forest inventories and ICP level I. The relationships with other networks related to forest monitoring were also considered (e.g.: ICP level II, LTER, CarboEurope, NATURA2000, etc.).

The second day meeting started at 9.30 am with an introduction to FutMon Action C1-HarmonLS-40 (IT).

Then, related projects and prior experiences on decision-oriented monitoring of forest health and pest outbreaks and harmonizing large scale Forest Inventories were presented by Göran Stahl (SE) and Arthur Bauer (DE), respectively. In his presentation, Bauer described the experience of harmonizing the Inventory and Monitoring Networks in Bavaria.

The meeting continued with the presentation of Country reports regarding present and future actions finalised to integrate NFI and ICP networks: Belgium (G. Sioen, P. Roskams), Denmark (A. Bastrup-Birk, I. Thomsen, B. B. Jørgensen), Estonia (V. Adermann), Finland (K. T. Korhonen, M. Lindgren), Hungary (L. Kolozs), Latvia (Z. Libiete), Poland (P. Lech), Romania (O. Badea, G. Marin), Slovenia (M. Kovac), Spain (G. Fernández), Sweden (G. Sthål),

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm with general conclusions and the definition of future steps of Action C1-HarmonLS-40 (IT).

Annex 1, list of participants

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