

**28th Task Force Meeting of the
International Co-operative Programme
on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
(ICP Forests)**

Białowieża National Park, Poland, 30 May – 1 June 2012

Minutes

Opening

1. The Task Force Meeting was attended by 60 delegates from the following 23 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. Delegates from Georgia participated as observers. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

2. The meeting was opened by the Chairman of ICP Forests, Mr Michael Köhl (Germany). Mr Köhl stressed that the Task Force Meeting was for the first time organized back to back with a scientific conference of ICP Forests held in Warsaw and expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of the Environment of Poland for hosting the two meetings. He expressed his gratitude also to the Forest Research Institute of Poland for the perfect arrangements and the excursion to Białowieża National Park. In view of the results of the scientific conference, Mr Köhl expressed his satisfaction with the great increase in scientific studies and publications using ICP Forests data. He emphasized that the programme rests on three pillars, namely monitoring, data analysis, and reporting of scientific results to politicians, scientists, and the media.

3. Mr Łukas Wrobel, Poland, welcomed the Task Force on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment of Poland. The meeting was chaired by the Head of the Programme Coordinating Centre (PCC) of ICP Forests Mr Martin Lorenz (Germany).

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

4. Mr Lorenz gave an overview of the meeting documents and presented the agenda (Annex 2). The minutes of the 27th Task Force Meeting were adopted with amendments proposed by Switzerland (see the amended document under <http://icp-forests.net/page/task-force>).

Item 2: Report by the Programme Coordinating Centre (PCC)

5. Mr Lorenz reported on the main activities of PCC since the 27th Task Force Meeting focussing on the striving for co-financing of forest monitoring and on the promotion of scientific analyses of ICP Forests data. In this respect he highlighted a project proposal “Environmental Forest Monitoring” (EnForMon) developed jointly with the Northwest German Forest Research Station and 33 partners in 22 EU-Member States. With a project

period from July 2012 to June 2016 and with a budget of € 47.6 Mio the proposal had been submitted to the European Commission (EC) under LIFE+ on 1 August 2011. Mr Lorenz reported that the proposal had passed all formal checks but that no positive response had been received from the LIFE Unit in spring 2012 so that a rejection of the proposal had to be expected. He also reported that PCC and the Northwest German Forest Research station had initiated that the Committee for Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety of the European Parliament had charged EC with a Preparatory Action and provided the respective budget for supporting harmonised intensive forest monitoring. On request by PCC, EC DG Env replied that no call for tender was foreseen for this action. Two requests by PCC to the Parliament Committee as to how the budget was spent by EC DG Env remained unanswered.

6. Also regarding the strive for co-financing, Mr. Lorenz reported on his participation in the ad-hoc Working Group on Forest Information of the Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) of EC. Resulting from discussions at four meetings, the report of the Working Group now acknowledges the political and scientific relevance of ICP Forests, its important role in forest monitoring in Europe, and its contribution of information for several MCPFE/FE indicators. Mr. Lorenz added that the report was so far hardly discussed by the SFC and that EC seems to expect future cooperation of ICP Forests with the NFIs. He announced to keep track of the process and to ask delegates to the SFC to support ICP Forests jointly in future SFC meetings.

7. With respect to scientific studies, Mr. Lorenz reported on the Programme Coordinating Group (PCG) Meeting held on 25-26 October 2011 in Hamburg (Germany), on the Joint Expert Panel Meeting held on 21-22 March 2012 in Helsinki (Finland), and on the Scientific Conference held on 29-30 May 2012 in Warsaw (Poland), and on his presentations at the 30th session of the Working Group on Effects (WGE) on 27-29 September 2011 at UNECE in Geneva (Switzerland). He also mentioned his participation as lead author of a chapter on political implications of forest monitoring in a IUFRO/WFSE book project.

8. Mr Richard Fischer (Germany) presented a list of on-going and planned internal evaluations, i.e. evaluations carried out under the responsibility of ICP Forests Expert Panels, as circulated with the meeting documents. Experts interested in joining these evaluations are asked to take contact with the leading authors.

Item 3: Report by the Chairman of WGE

9. The Chairman of WGE had apologised for being unable to participate.

Item 4: Reports by other ICPs

10. Mr Lars Lundin (Sweden) recalled the approach of ICP on Integrated Monitoring, explained ongoing and future work priorities with respect to CLRTAP and WGE priorities, and reported on the progress of the programme. This included recent meetings of ICP IM and cooperation with other ICPs and related programmes such as LTER. Mr Lundin made special mention of contributions to documents of WGE related to the revision of protocols and of contributions under the medium-term workplan of WGE including the items common to all ICPs.

11. Ms Sabine Braun (Switzerland) presented main scientific results of ICP Vegetation, making specific mention of assessments of the impact of ozone on carbon sequestration in the living biomass of trees by means of a first flux-based approach. Results were used for scenario analyses of the economic consequences of the ozone impact and of positive effects of

current air pollution abatement legislation . Ms Braun also mentioned future activities of ICP Vegetation under the medium-term workplan for the years 2014 and 2015.

Item 5: Reporting to WGE

12. Mr Lorenz explained that only the Executive Summary (black-and-white paper) would have to be adopted by the Task Force for submission as an official document to WGE, that the Technical Report would be presented and discussed as a draft for later finalisation and that for the Executive Report (glossy brochure) only an outline was available.

13. Mr Fischer explained the contents of the draft Executive Summary, i. e. results of data analyses of effects of air pollution on epiphytic lichen diversity, of the impact of critical limits exceedances on tree nutrition and vitality, and for the first time of critical load exceedances on Level I plots. The Task Force adopted the report for submission to WGE.

14. Mr. Lorenz explained the contents of the draft Technical Report and presented in particular the results of the 2011 crown condition survey. Mr Nagel explained the results of the calculation of critical load exceedances at Level I. In the ensuing discussion several delegates recommended that the results of the calculation of critical load exceedances should be removed from the Technical Report and Executive Summary for now and should be discussed with the National Focal Centres of ICP Modelling and Mapping (M&M). Mr. Lorenz reported that he had already agreed on such a discussion with the Chair of the Coordinating Centre for Effects (CCE) of ICP M&M.

15. Mr Fischer presented the outline of the Executive Report (glossy brochure) and explained that the brochure will be finalized after the Task Force Meeting taking into account results presented at the preceding Scientific Conference in Warsaw. The Task Force agreed that the final draft of the brochure should be distributed to the PCG in autumn for a final discussion before being printed.

Item 6: Implementation of the evaluation strategy

16. The Expert Panels reported on their on-going and planned activities making special mention of scientific data analyses. They also highlighted results of additional analyses that had not been presented in the preceding Scientific Conference. Mr Marco Ferretti (Italy) introduced the item making reference to the evaluation strategy adopted at the 27th Task Force Meeting.

17. For the Expert Panel on Crown Condition and Damages, Mr Peter Roskams (Belgium) reported on three International Intercalibration Courses (ICCs) planned for 2013 in northern, central, and southern Europe. He also referred to an on-going symptom description for the photoguide and to ideas on future data analyses.

18. Mr. Bruno De Vos (Belgium) reported on the main activities of the Expert Panel on Soil and Soil Solution, highlighting the 7th soil ring test, the completion of the data base, and the preparation of the 2nd Forest Soil Condition Report. He announced the 18th Meeting of the Expert Panel and made reference to papers and book contributions.

19. For the Expert Panel on Foliage and Litterfall, Mr Pasi Rautio (Finland) and Ms Liisa Ukonmaanaho (Finland) reported on on-going and planned data analyses, focussing on spatial and temporal trends in tree nutrition with emphasis on phosphorus nutrition of common beech.

20. Mr. Matthias Dobbertin (Switzerland) presented the main activities of the Expert Panel on Forest Growth, highlighting the planned joint meeting with the Expert Panel on Biodiversity and Ground Vegetation to be held in autumn in Vienna, Austria. He also reported on analyses of the influence of environmental factors on forest growth within the ECLAIRE project and made reference to several other studies involving forest growth data.

21. Ms Karin Hansen (Denmark) announced a meeting of the Expert Panel on Deposition in spring 2013. Among the on-going and planned studies, she focussed on spatial and temporal trends in deposition, on effects of exceedances of critical loads for nitrogen, on the development of a canopy budget model, and on co-operations with the Expert Panel on Soil and Soil Solution.

22. For the Expert Panel on Ambient Air Quality, Mr Marcus Schaub (Switzerland) described results of a study on ozone fluxes on selected plots as well as planned calculations of AOT30 based on Level II passive ozone measurements. He also reported on plans to calculate ozone fluxes based on Level II data using the DO3SE model.

23. For the Expert Panel on Meteorology and Phenology Mr Stephan Raspe (Germany) reported on the combined meeting and leaf area index (LAI) workshop held in Vienna in October 2011 and on the status of the data on meteorology. With respect to data analyses he highlighted studies on the soil water retention curves, approaches for greenhouse gas inventories, and estimations of LAI by means of allometry, leaf litter collections, and optical measurements. Ms Urša Vilhar (Slovenia) described the status, validation, and descriptive analysis of the phenology data.

24. Mr Roberto Canullo (Italy) presented the main activities of the Expert Panel on Biodiversity and Foliage, emphasizing the transnational field quality assurance (QA) assessment. He stressed the importance of a future integration of the Level I forest biodiversity data assessed under the BioSoil project of EC into the database.

25. Mr Nils König (Germany) reported on major activities of the Working Group on Quality in Laboratories. He referred to the soil ring test in autumn 2012 (see para. 18), highlighted the foliar ring test end 2012 and the water ring test in early 2013, and announced a meeting of the heads of the laboratories for September 2013 in Croatia. He stressed that this meeting should preferably be held back-to-back with the Quality Assurance Committee.

26. Mr. Lorenz invited the the NFCs and Expert Panels to regularly inform PCC on published articles with results based on Level I or Level II data. PCC will make this information available on the internet page and routinely inform NFCs on recently published articles.

Item 7: Data analyses by external institutions

27. Mr. Fischer presented an overview on evaluations by external institutions based on ICP Forests data emphasizing that 19 external projects had requested data over the past 12 months. The soil data had been the most frequently requested data set. Four projects under the 7th Framework Programme of EC are currently using the data sets. It was agreed that under the ECLAIRE project WSL of Switzerland may use new growth data and will submit plotwise aggregations to ICP Forests at the end of the project. A joint Expert Panel meeting in autumn 2012 will provide a platform to present work and offer collaboration for growth experts from ICP Forests.

28. The Intellectual Property Policy of ICP Forests will be amended so as to ask at least the institutions carrying out large studies to give a presentation at an ICP Forests meeting. In publications of data users ICP Forests needs to be mentioned either in the title or as key word.

Item 8: Further development of the Programme

29. New parts of the ICP Forests Manual were discussed and proposed for adoption. Mr Paolo Giordani (Italy) presented the updated version of the Manual part on epiphytic lichens. The Manual was adopted.

30. Mr. Stefan Fleck (Germany) presented the updated version of the Manual part on leaf area measurements. The Manual was adopted. Mr. Fleck was nominated as Co-chair of the Expert Panel on Meteorology and Phenology with a special responsibility for leaf area measurements.

31. Mr Schaub informed on a new project proposal under the 7th Framework Programme of EC called FECLAP.

32. Mr. Rautio informed on a planned proposal under the LIFE+ programme of EC.

33. Mr. Fischer informed on a planned proposal under the COST programme and on stakeholder participation of ICP Forests in the EUPORIAS project.

34. Mr Lorenz informed on his participation in the Working Group on Forest Information of the EU Standing Forestry Committee. Referring to his recent circular to NFCs he reported that the Final Report of the Working Group acknowledged the national forest inventories (NFIs) and ICP Forests as the main pillars of forest monitoring and proposed their cooperation. Besides summarising the main efforts and successes of ICP Forests, the report also acknowledged defoliation, pest outbreaks, litterfall, atmospheric deposition, soil condition, and soil organic matter as “priority parameters” for sustainable forest management assessed by ICP Forests.

Item 9: Status of the data

35. Mr. Fischer informed that the submission of data from Level I of the year 2011 and of Level II for the year 2010 had been finalized. At Level I information on forest types is now available. The numbers of plots at Level II vary per survey with highest numbers for crown condition (565 plots) and lowest numbers for soil water (44 plots). Extensive data re-submission activities had been carried out, including resubmission of e.g. QA forms 2009 and 2010.

36. Opening of the data base for 2011 Level II data will be delayed. The NFCs will be informed in due time as soon as the data submission module will be open.

37. Activities planned in the near future include (i) the preparation and opening of data submission Level II for 2011, (ii) data corrections and gap filling, (iii) implementation of BioSoil Soil data, (iv) centralized submission of BioSoil Biodiv data with support by the Chair of the Expert Panel Biodiversity, and (v) set up of a data base module for aggregated results. The Intellectual Property Policy will be amended in this respect with a paragraph stating that such aggregated data will be solely used for internal evaluations supported by Expert Panels or groups of ICP Forests.

Item 10: Cooperation with international organisations

38. Mr Schaub reported on latest activities within IUFRO section 7.01.00 – Impacts of air pollution and climate change on forest ecosystems.

39. Mr Lorenz presented the IUFRO Special Project „World Forests, Society, and Environment“(WFSE) and the contribution of ICP Forests to the related book.

40. Mr Fischer informed on cooperation between ICP Forests and the Long-term Ecosystem Research Network (LTER) and on the representation of ICP Forests within COST Action FP0903

41. Mr Lundin reported on progress of the EnvEUROPE project.

Item 11: Organisational issues

42. The Task Force took note of the list of activities and tasks of ICP Forests (Annex 3).

43. The Task Force took note of the financial statement given by PCC for 2011 (Annex 4) and agreed on the revised budget of ICP Forests for 2013 (Annex 5).

44. The Task Force took note of the list of proposed voluntary contributions towards financing of ICP Forests. It reiterated its invitation to all participating countries to provide their voluntary contributions through the UNECE secretariat as early as possible in the year. Banking details are attached (Annex 6).

Item 10: Other business

45. Mr Radovan Nevenic invited the Task Force to hold its 29th meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, in May 2013. The Task Force thanked Serbia for the kind invitation.

Closing

46. Mr Lorenz on behalf of the Task Force thanked the Polish organisers for their hospitality and the professional arrangements of the 28th Task Force Meeting and closed the meeting.

Annex 1:

List of participants

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Annex 2:

**28th Task Force Meeting of the
International Co-operative Programme
on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
(ICP Forests)**

Białowieża National Park (BNP), Poland, 30 May – 1 June 2012

Annotated agenda

Monday, 28 May 2012

Welcome

Venue: Radisson Blu Centrum Hotel Warsaw, Grzybowska 24

17:00-18:00 Registration in Hotel foyer

18:00-18:15 Welcome by the host country

18:15-21:00 Welcome buffet

Tuesday, 29 May 2012

Scientific Workshop

Venue: Radisson Blu Centrum Hotel Warsaw, Grzybowska 24

08:00-09:00 Registration in Hotel foyer

09:00-18:30 Workshop (see separate agenda)

Wednesday, 30 May 2012

Field trip to Białowieża National Park

08:00-11:30 Bus transfer from Radisson Blu to Białowieża

11:30-12:30 European Bison Show Reserve

12:30-13:30 Lunch at Hotels Żubrówka and Parkowy

13:30-19:00 Field trip in BNP

19:00-22:00 Game Barbecue at Jagiellonskie Centre

Thursday, 31 May 2012

28th Task Force Meeting

Venue: Hotel Żubrówka Białowieża, Olgi Grabiec 6, Conference Room

Opening

08:30-08:40 Opening by the Chairman and the Host Country

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

08:40-08:50 The Head of PCC will present the agenda for adoption and will give an overview of the meeting documents. Also to be adopted are the minutes of the 27th Task Force Meeting. The host country will give technical announcements.

Item 2 Report by PCC

08:50-09:20 The Head of PCC will report on activities and progress since the 27th Task Force Meeting.

Item 3 Report by the Chairman of WGE

09:20 -09:35 The Chairman of WGE will report on recent developments of the CLRTAP.

Item 4 Reports by other ICPs

09:35 -10:15 The Chairpersons of cooperating ICPs will present progress reports.

Item 5 Reporting to WGE

10:15-10:30 PCC will inform on the 2012 Workplan of WGE and will present the 2012 Executive Summary for WGE.

10:30-10:50 Coffee break

Item 5 Reporting to WGE (cont'd.)

10:50 -11:45 PCC will inform on the 2012 Executive Report (glossy brochure) and on the 2012 Technical Report.

Item 6 Data analyses and other activities of the Expert Panels

11:45 -13:00 The Chairs of the Expert Panels will present overviews on planned data analyses and on results of past and ongoing data analyses (studies not presented at the Scientific Workshop).

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

Item 6 Data analyses and other activities of the Expert Panels (cont'd.)

14:00 -15:20 The Chairs of the Expert Panels will present overviews on planned data analyses and on results of past and ongoing data analyses (studies not presented at the Scientific Workshop).

Item 7 Data analyses by external institutions

15:20-15:50 PCC will present studies of external institutes using ICP Forests data

15:50-16:10 Coffee break

Item 8 Further development of the programme

16:10-18:00 New parts of the ICP Forests Manual will be discussed. PCC will report on its lobbying activities and on its participation in the Working Group on Forest Information of the EU Standing Forestry Committee. The potential for new project proposals will be discussed.

19:00-21:00 Conference dinner at Hotel Żubrówka Białowieża

Friday, 1 June 2012

28th Task Force Meeting (cont'd.)

Venue: Hotel Żubrówka Białowieża, Olgi Grabiec 6, Conference Room

Item 9 Status of the data

08:30-09:30 The final state of the FutMon data, a public section of the WebGIS, updates of data submission formats and validation checks will be presented.

Item 10 Cooperation with international organisations

09:30-10:30 Reports on cooperation with EANET, IUFRO, IUFRO/WFSE, LTER, and on activities under COST will be given.

10:30-10:50 Coffee break

Item 11 Organisational issues

10:50-11:45 The Executive Summary 2012 will be presented for adoption by the Task Force and for submission to WGE. The Head of PCC will report on financial issues, on future activities of ICP Forests, and on other organisational issues.

Item 12 Other business

11:45-12:00 Any other business.

12:00 **Closing of the 28th Task Force Meeting**

12:00-13:00 Lunch at Hotel Żubrówka Białowieża

13:00 Departure of the airport bus

Expected arrival at 17:30

Saturday, 2 June 2012

07:30 Departure of the airport bus

Expected arrival at 12:00

Activities and Tasks of ICP Forests June 2012 – May 2013

Implementation of the medium term strategy 2007-2015

- (a) Continuation of Level I and Level II forest monitoring
- (b) Further development of the ICP Forests database
- (c) Continuation of scientific analyses of the monitoring data
- (d) Strive for further EU-cofinancing from 2013 onwards

Assessments of air pollution and climate change effects

- (e) Modelling of large-scale (Level I) exceedances of acidity and nitrogen under different air pollution and climate change scenarios
- (f) Biological effects of exceedances of critical loads for nitrogen
- (g) Responses of plant species to climatic gradients

Quality assurance and control

- (h) Further implementation of the overall QA/QC concept
- (i) Implementation of ringtests and field intercomparisons

Database management

- (j) Submission of Level I (2012) and Level II (2011) data by NFCs to PCC
- (k) Extension of the database by the BioSoil data
- (l) Continuous update of data formats for Level I and Level II monitoring
- (m) Further development of data validation routines
- (n) Data dissemination to internal users and to third parties
- (o) Establishment of a database module on aggregated data

Reports

- (p) Publication of the 2012 Executive and Technical Reports
- (q) Submission of the 2012 Executive Summary to WGE
- (r) Drafting of the 2013 Executive and Technical Reports

Meetings

- (s) Soil ringtest: 2nd half of 2012
- (t) Foliar ring test: December 2012
- (u) Meeting of the Expert Panel on Crown Condition: December 2012 or early 2013
- (v) Water ring test: January/February 2013
- (w) Meeting of the Expert Panel on Deposition: Spring 2013
- (x) Meeting of the Heads of Laboratories: September 2013
- (y) Meetings of the Expert Panels back-to-back with the Meeting of the Working Group QA/QC in Labs: Spring 2013 (to be confirmed)
- (z) ICP Forests International Cross Calibration Courses for the Assessment of Tree Crown Condition: Summer 2013 (to be confirmed)

**Programme Coordinating Centre (PCC)
Financial Statement**

Period from 1 January to 31 December 2011

	US\$	€
Balance per 01.01.2011 (debit)	665 222	498 146
Expenses		103 513
Funds received	116 000	81 084
Balance per 31.12.2011 (debit)	674 223	520 574
Expenses		
Consultants		0
Scientific staff/Administrative support personnel		86 173
Assistance to NFCs and CINT		0
Travel on official business		7 714
Expendable equipment		5 537
Operation and maintenance of equipment		0
Group training and meeting costs		0
Miscellaneous		0
Printing costs		4 089
Total		103 513

Annex 5:

**Programme Coordinating Centre (PCC)
Revised Basic Budget**

Period from 1 January to 31 December 2013

Item	US\$
Consultants	0
Scientific staff and administrative support personnel	125.000
Travel on official business	10.000
Expendable equipment	5.000
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0
Group training and meeting costs	0
Assistance to NFCs of ICP Forests	0
Printing costs	5.000
Miscellaneous	5.000
<hr/>	
Total	150.000

Proposed voluntary contributions for 2013

Country	Annual contributions in US\$ *
Austria	2.385
Belarus	1.065
Belgium	3.540
Bosnia and Herzegovina	160
Bulgaria	525
Croatia	225
Cyprus	132
Czech Republic	1.500
Denmark	2.070
Estonia	262
Finland	1.605
France	17.985
Germany	27.705
Greece	1.500
Hungary	675
Ireland	750
Italy	10.335
Latvia	525
Liechtenstein	30
Lithuania	591
Luxembourg	150
FYR of Macedonia	21
Republic of Moldova	591
The Netherlands	4.920
Norway	1.695
Poland	2.130
Portugal	450
Romania	555
Russian Federation	29.201
Serbia	345
Slovak Republic	810
Slovenia	150
Spain	5.310
Sweden	3.990
Switzerland	3.390
Turkey	900
Ukraine	3.900
United Kingdom	12.915
EC	4.995

*) Calculated according to the EMEP scale.