



31st Task Force Meeting of the International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests)

in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 21-22 May 2015

Opening

1. The 31st Task Force Meeting was hosted by the Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It was attended by delegates from 25 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom as well as representatives of ICP Integrated Monitoring and ICP Vegetation. For the list of 51 participants, please refer to Annex I.
2. Mr Michael Köhl, Chair of ICP Forests, opened the Task Force meeting and welcomed all participants especially Mr Miha Marenče, State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food in Slovenia. He further expressed his gratitude to the host country.
3. Mr Miha Marenče, State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, welcomed the Task Force in Ljubljana.

Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Task Force adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the 30th Task Force Meeting in Athens, Greece, 2014.

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

5. **Mr Walter Seidling** (Head of PCC) reported on **PCC activities and progress** since the 30th Task Force Meeting.

The following **meetings** had been attended by the PCC since the last Task Force Meeting:

Date	Activity	Participants
26-30 May 2014	3 rd Scientific Conference of ICP Forests and 30 th TFM ICP Forests in Athens, Greece	W. Seidling, A. Michel, T. Kirchner
10-13 June 2014	International Cross Calibration Course Crown Condition in Witzenhausen, Germany	N. Eickenscheidt, N. Wellbrock
8-12 Sept 2014	GfÖ Annual Meeting 2014 in Hildesheim, Germany <i>Poster: Measuring or modelling – complementing or contradicting?</i>	T. Sanders
17-19 Sept 2014	33rd WGE Session in Geneva, Switzerland	W. Seidling, M. Lorenz
5-11 Oct 2014	IUFRO World Congress 2014 at Salt Lake City/USA <i>Session on global impacts of air pollution on forest health related to the relationships between climate change and air pollution effects; Lecture:</i>	M. Lorenz

	<i>State of European Forest under Environmental Changes. [Poster: Reassessing critical load calculations by ecosystem feedback.]</i>	
14-16 Oct 2014	TFM ICP Waters in Grimstad, Norway	A. Michel
29-30 Oct 2014	PCG Meeting in Berlin, Germany	W. Seidling, A. Michel, T. Kirchner, S. Trotzer
3-5 Feb 2015	TFM ICP Vegetation in Rome, Italy	W. Seidling
17-19 March 2015	Extended Bureau, Combined WGE/EMEP Session	W. Seidling
20-23 April 2015	TFM ICP Modelling & Mapping in Zagreb, Croatia	A. Michel
21-24 April 2015	Joint Expert Panel Meeting in Göttingen, Germany	W. Seidling, T. Kirchner
6-8 May 2015	TFM ICP Integrated Monitoring in Minsk, Belarus	W. Seidling
20-22 May 2015	4 th Scientific Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia and 31 st TFM ICP Forests in Ljubljana, Slovenia	W. Seidling, T. Kirchner, T. Sanders, S. Trotzer

Furthermore Mr Walter Seidling informed the Task Force about the following **ongoing collaborations**:

9 Jan 2015 ongoing	Participation in a preparatory meeting for a H2020 ISIB call (04b-2015 (1)) under the lead of University of Leiden/ Netherlands for the project PRIME
16-17 Feb. 2015 ongoing	Participation in a workshop on „Integration of in-situ networks in the field of environmental/ ecosystem research and monitoring“ organized by the Environment Agency, Vienna/ Austria
11 March 2015 ongoing	Participation in the COST Action PROFOUND (“Towards robust projections of European forests under climate change , WG1 data integration and assimilation”) in Brussels/ Belgium
11 March 2015 ongoing	Participation in a workshop on „Infrastructures in Terrestrial Research“ organized by Helmholtz Association, Potsdam/Germany

6. **Mr Marco Ferretti** (EP Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee) pointed out that it is very important for ICP Forests to raise its **reputation** towards a more up-to-date community dealing with current topics. Mr Walter Seidling strongly supported this idea, but it has to be seen as a continuous progress within the ICP Forests community. The PCC is willing to support the countries and Expert Panels in this ambition. Moreover, the PCC tries to improve the collaboration with other ICPs. All sister ICPs have been invited to the Task Force Meeting. It was also suggested by the WGE to have combined TFMs with other ICPs. ICP Waters and ICP Integrated Monitoring are planning a first combined TFM 2016.

Mr Michael Köhl added that ICP Forests has to reconsider its position in scientific calls to be leader of the projects and not “only” data provider.

7. **Mr Walter Seidling** gave an overview of the **structure of the UNECE** and how ICP Forests is embedded in it. He underlined the importance of the work of the Convention and that the tasks given by the Convention should be seen as priority work of considerable political relevance. He mentioned the **Assessment Report** as an example of important Convention work. “Forest dieback avoided due to reduction of SO₂ emissions/deposition” will be a kind of opener. This was seen critical as an opener as it would underlie a negative image for the ICP Forests community. However, it was pointed out that the report must be seen in a broader context and the opener is supposed to give the starting point of the CLRTAP work 30 years ago. All suggestions can be sent to Mr Walter Seidling (walter.seidling@ti.bund.de) who will then present your ideas at the WGE meeting in Geneva in September.

8. **Mr Walter Seidling** presented **further collaborative work**:

- Collaborative Report between ICP IM and ICP Forests on cause-and-effect relationships
- Collaboration between ICP M&M and ICP Forests on Critical Loads estimates for Level I sites (or for BioSoil sites in some countries)
- Collaboration between EP Deposition and MSC-W comparing modelled and measured deposition estimates.

All these activities are appreciated by the WGE and must therefore be considered as important.

The Task Force is highly encouraged to become active in these collaborations.

9. **Mr Walter Seidling** gave an overview on all **ICP Forests publications** which have been published since the last Task Force Meeting (from May 2014 to May 2015). A total of 16 ICP Forests ISI publications have been reported to the PCC and are listed in the ICP Forests publication list (<http://icp-forests.net/page/scientific-publications>). The Task Force discussed the definition for an ICP Forests publication. Mr Walter Seidling presented the following matrix in order to distinguish an ICP Forests publication from a non-ICP Forests publication:

	Member of PCC, EP or NFC of ICP Forests as (co-) author(s) involved	External author(s)
Internal use of ICP Forests data	Yes	N/A
External use of ICP Forests data	Yes, ICP Forests members must inform the PCC about a publication (→ tracking of data supplied)	Rather no
Use of external data	Rather no	No

Furthermore it must be decided in the future if only English publications are to be considered or publications in other UN languages (Russian, French) and if only ISI journals or other reviewed journals should also be included.

10. **Mr Marcus Schaub** (Chair of the Expert Panel on Ambient Air Quality) stressed that regional publications should also be considered as ICP Forests publications, when the data are provided to ICP Forests. However, ICP Forests does not need to be acknowledged in national publications when only national data from the respective member state are used as the member states are the data owners.

Mr Manual Nicolas (France) suggested that all publications using ICP Forests data can be considered as ICP Forests publications. However, it should be marked in the lists if the research attempt came from inside or outside the community. This way, it is nice to see how ICP Forests data are used.

11. The Task Force came to no conclusion in this point. Everybody is invited to send his or her comments and suggestions to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de). The PCC will provide a document with possible solutions and distribute it per e-mail.

Item 3 Reporting Activities of the PCC of ICP Forests

12. **Mr Walter Seidling** informed on the **implementation of the 2016/2017 workplan of the WGE**, which will be discussed and adopted at the WGE meeting in Geneva in September 2015. He reflected shortly on the specific tasks according to the WGE workplan 2014/2015, which had been adopted in 2013. For the upcoming workplan he suggested the following items to be adopted in the 2016/2017 workplan at the WGE meeting in Geneva in September:

- Further investigate the influence of nitrogen deposition on the more sensible parts of forest ecosystems (e.g. lichens, mycorrhiza, diversity of plants, foliage N content of trees, N in soil solution).
- Evaluate ozone impacts on forest trees at different scales (injury of leaves/needles, defoliation and/or discolouration of tree crowns, response of sensitive species)
- Status and long-term trends of heavy metals in forest ecosystem compartments

Further suggestions can be made by the Task Force and can be sent to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de) but it should be not more than 4 - 5 points in total.

13. **Ms Nathalie Cools** (Chair of the Forest Soil Coordinating Centre), **Ms Karin Hansen** (Chair of the Expert Panel on Deposition) and **Mr Marcus Schaub** generally agreed on the above suggestions. However, the exact phrasing will need to be discussed with the Expert Panels before a draft of the 2016/2017 workplan is presented to the WGE. It is suggested to send suggestions for the WGE workplan to all EPs and NFCs at least six weeks before the coming TFM.
14. **Mr Walter Seidling** informed about the **contribution to the WGE Trends Report**, which is led by Heleen de Witt (Head of the Programme Centre of ICP Waters). ICP Forests contributed with five parts:
 - introduction (one page by Walter Seidling)
 - foliar (one page by Mathieu Jonard, Pasi Rautio and Alfred Fürst)
 - crown condition (one page by Nenad Potočić and Volkmar Timmermann)
 - ozone (two pages by Marcus Schaub, Matthias Haeni, Marco Ferretti, Elena Gottardini, Vicent Calatayud)
 - deposition (two pages by Peter Waldner and Karin Hansen)
15. **Mr Marcus Schaub** supported this top-down commissioning in which the WGE stated a question and the ICP Forests network give their scientific input.
Mr Nils König (Chair of the Working Group on Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Laboratories), however, pointed out that it is very important to discuss the questions and topics provided by the WGE at the Task Force Meeting. Otherwise, the questions and topics requested by the WGE might not fit the scope or expertise of the EPs in specific or ICP Forests as a whole; therefore, topics should be provided, which are up to date and politically interesting. He further mentioned that the collaboration between the PCC and the Chairperson has to be optimized as the Chairman Mr Michael Köhl stated, that he was not informed about the latest progress of ICP Forests.
16. **Ms Tanja Sanders** (PCC) presented the latest draft of the **Technical Report 2015** which was sent by email on 11 May 2015. Due to a change in the data submission procedure of ICP Forests, all data can be submitted continuously throughout the year but in order to be considered in the Technical Report data has to be submitted strictly by 15 February. The data were available to all contributors on 1 March 2015. The first draft was sent on 15 April 2015. Due to the very strict timeline it is very important that the deadline is met by each country also in future years. Further comments and requests for changes can be sent to **Ms Alexa Michel** (PCC) until **30 June 2015** (alexa.michel@ti.bund.de). The Task Force was also invited to make general proposals for future reporting (Who would like to contribute? What is missing in the report?). Ms Tanja Sanders also asked the Task Force if it can be settled as a permanent solution that the Technical Report is being published by the Austrian Research Centre for Forests in Vienna including an ISBN and ISSN number, and images/logos on the cover, which was agreed on.
17. **Ms Tanja Sanders** reported on the progress of the **Executive Report 2014** titled “Impact of nitrogen deposition and ozone on the sustainability of European forests” and edited by Mr Marco Ferretti and Ms Tanja Sanders. It was decided to not present three longer reports which were originally intended for the Executive Report but use these reports for the Anniversary Report. It should be generally discussed if the format of the Executive Report should be changed to a brief overview (e.g. ICP Forests fact sheets, ICP Forests compact) in order to arise more public awareness. Moreover it must be clarified if the Executive Report should be published annually. As the Task Force did not discuss these points in the meeting, suggestions and comments can be sent to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de) and will then be subject of the of the next PCG meeting.
18. **Ms Tanja Sanders** also reported on the **30-Year Anniversary Report**. All Expert Panels and countries are asked to contribute to this report by writing comments and short notes to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de) stating their experiences in ICP Forests and visions for the future.

Item 4 Reports of representatives of other ICPs

19. **Mr Franc Batic** (ICP Vegetation, NFC Slovenia) presented the achievements of **ICP Vegetation** in 2014/15 and their plans for the future on behalf of Mr Harry Harmens, Chairman of ICP Vegetation. He briefly introduced two new brochures of ICP Vegetation¹ and a web-based smartphone app for recording incidences of leaf ozone injury on vegetation. The 29th ICP Vegetation Task Force Meeting will be held in Dubna/ Russia, 29 February – 4 March 2016.
20. **Mr Lars Lundin** (Chairman of ICP Integrated Monitoring) reported on recent activities and developments of ICP Integrated Monitoring (ICP IM) in 2014 - 2015. He provided an update of their database: For the year 2013, 12 of a total of 16 countries had delivered data from 44 active sites and 3 new sites in Ukraine and Norway. Besides numerous works and reports of ICP IM, Mr Lars Lundin emphasized combined activities with other ICPs such as the WGE Trends Report, Joint CLRTAP Assessment Report, a monitoring review report on cause-effect relationships with ICP Forests dynamic modelling approaches in cooperation with ICP Modelling & Mapping, and a joint Trend Report together with ICP Waters. ICP Integrated Monitoring had held its 23rd Task Force Meeting and a one-day workshop in Minsk, Belarus, 6–8 May 2015 with representatives of ICP Forests and ICP Waters attended the meeting. The next ICP Task Force meeting will be held together with ICP Waters in Oslo, Norway, in May 2016.

Item 5 Activities of Expert Panels and other bodies of ICP Forests

21. Considering **Manual updates**, it was decided by the Task Force to postpone all updates to next year. All planned Manual updates have to be sent to all NFCs at least six weeks before the next Task Force Meeting in order to be adopted.
22. **Mr Stephan Raspe**, Chair of the **EP Meteorology, Phenology and LAI**, reported a successful and stable data submission of meteorology and LAI data in 2014. The main task since the EP meeting in Eberswalde 2014 has been achieved: data quality has been tested for consistency, completeness and homogeneity. A total of 14 countries participated in the quality reports and 9 countries resubmitted corrected and gap-filled data all available from the ICP Forests database. Data were used for water budget modelling (Project NitLeach2), combining meteorology data with vegetation, soil and soil solution data. Combining all meteorology, vegetation and soil data without gaps, data from 34 plots from 6 countries remained. The work will be continued considering data quality checks and gap filling with ECMWF ERA-interim data sets. He pointed out that the general data quality check will be a longer process and each country is still invited to participate in the quality reports and data correction. He announced the next combined meeting with EP Growth, EP Ground Vegetation, EP Biodiversity and EP Meteorology, Phenology and LAI which will be held in Romania in spring 2016.
23. **Mr Nenad Potočić** gave a report on the **EP Crown Condition and Damage Causes**. He presented the results of the last International Cross-comparison Course Central Europe in Witzhausen, Germany, 10–13 June 2014. The next International Photo Cross-Calibration Course in 2015 will be hosted by Germany and led by Mr Stefan Meining, for the northern, central and southern regions. Each country is encouraged to participate, 15 countries have already confirmed its participation. Furthermore photos of tree crowns are still needed: *Picea abies* and *Pinus sylvestris* for Northern Europe and *Pinus pinaster* with higher defoliation for southern Europe. They can be sent to Mr Nenad Potočić (nenadp@sumins.hr), or Mr Stefan Meining (mail@stefanmeining.de). Mr Nenad Potočić shortly presented the topics and presentations of the last Joint Expert Panel in Göttingen and pointed out that no EP crown meeting is planned for the next year as work can be continued by e-mail. Work on the Manual updates has been started in 2014 and will be continued in 2015. However, it can already be announced that no new parameters will be made mandatory due to financial restrictions for monitoring. The Manual update proposal draft will be sent out to EP

¹ available on the ICP Vegetation webpage: <http://icpvegetation.ceh.ac.uk/publications/thematic.html>

members for comments and approval, and the update will be proposed at the next Task Force meeting in 2016. PCC and EP Crown wrote the Chapter “Tree crown condition and damage causes” of the Technical Report 2015. EP Crown and the PCC should discuss details of the respective chapter for the next year’s Technical Report already at the next PCG meeting. Finally, Mr Nenad Potočić emphasized the importance of this survey by showing numerous projects and literature including crown condition data.

24. **Mr Roberto Canullo**, Chair of the EP Biodiversity, reported on recent activities and developments of the **EP Biodiversity**. A total of 19 countries including 28 regions or partners submitted data for the new aggregated biodiversity database. He is in contact with some countries (e.g. The Netherlands, Switzerland) for additional data submission. He briefly explained the processing stage of the dataset. The biodiversity database contains 3,230 Level I plots all over Europe. However, several problems are faced concerning data quality (inconsistencies and misinterpretations), which will be taken up within the next years.
25. **Mr Marco Ferretti**, Chair of the **Quality Assurance Committee**, informed about the activities 2014 - 2015. No revision of the Manual is foreseen in 2015. For a possible revision of the Manual in 2016 suggestions and comments are collected and organized. The Quality Assurance Committee advised and assisted the NFCs to reconsider their Level I surveys. Considering the data quality in labs, good progress has been made and new areas of improvements can now be considered. The quality of field surveys should be maintained as much as possible. The Quality Assurance Committee also helps organizing QA/QC activities in field surveys.
26. **Mr Nils König**, Chair of the **Working Group QA/QC in Laboratories**, presented the results from the Interlaboratory Comparison Test 2014/15. Within this year, two ring tests have been carried out: a ring test for deposition and soil solution and a ring test for foliar. In general, the development of the ring test has improved steadily in the last years. The ring test for foliar revealed the best results compared to other ring tests. Mr Nils König stated the necessary change in the structure of the method code. A proposal was elaborated by Mr Nils König and Mr Alfred Fürst and will soon be changed in the ICP Forests database by Mr Till Kirchner. Also the QA forms will be changed in the database within the next year. Mr Nils König further announced the 8th soil ring test and the 18th foliar ring test 2015/16. The ring test will be opened for all other ICPs which are encouraged to participate in the ring tests in order to ensure a good quality control for the labs. For further information the following persons can be contacted:
 - for deposition & soil solution: Ms Kirsti Derome (kirsti.derome@metla.fi)
 - for foliage (needles & leaves from forest trees): Mr Alfred Fürst (alfred.fuerst@bfw.gv.at)
 - for forest soils: Ms Tamara Jakovljevic (tamaraj@sumins.hr)

The next meeting of the heads of the labs will take place in Vienna, Austria, 17-18 September 2015. Mr Nils König emphasized the importance of this meeting and encouraged every country to give their heads of the labs the financial opportunity to attend the meeting.

Friday, 22 May 2015 Task Force Meeting (continued)

27. **Mr Tom Levanič** (Chair of the **EP Growth**) reported that from autumn 2014 until spring 2015 re-measurements of Level II plots have been carried out and 9 countries have already submitted new data. Until the next year, he would like to take the opportunity to compare new data evaluations with previously collected data.
28. **Mr Marcus Schaub**, Chair of the **EP on Ambient Air Quality**, gave an overview of results that he had presented at the 4th Scientific Conference and at the Joint Expert Panel Meeting 2015. He emphasized that it is crucial to continue the data series of ozone concentrations on the already established sites in order to continue the promising work. For a total of 37 ICP Forests sites, data coverage is less than four years; these sites cannot be taken into account for time series analyses. The EP on Ambient Air Quality contributes to the ICP Forests Technical Report, the ICP Forests

Executive Report, the WGE Trends Report, the Tropospheric Assessment Report TOAR and the EP further will participate in the IUFRO Conference on Global Challenges of Air Pollution and Climate Change to Forests in Nice, 1-5 June 2015 and in the 1st Asian Air Pollution Workshop in Tokyo, 30 Oct - 4 Nov 2015. The Ozone Intercalibration Course is planned for 2016 in Romania. Mr Marcus Schaub gave his thanks to all countries that had resubmitted layer 1 aggregated data. There are no changes in the Manual planned for 2015. He further announced that **Ms Elena Gottardini** from Fondazione Edmund Mach (Italy) will replace Mr Vicent Calatayud (Spain) as **Co-Chair**. Marcus Schaub as well as the PCC thanked Mr Vicent Calatayud for his engaged work over the years.

29. **Ms Karin Hansen** (Chair of the EP Deposition) reported on the progress in the **EP on Deposition**. In 2015, five finalised papers and 18 on-going evaluations have been achieved so far. However, the current intensive use of the data leads to the continuous discovery of obviously erroneous and biased data. Thus, the EP Deposition sent requests to the respective NFCs inquiring about the correctness and completeness of national aggregated data in November 2013. About half of the countries have replied. All other countries are encouraged to resubmit their data. Furthermore, the EP Deposition wishes to work towards keeping all data evaluations open to data contributors. For this purpose they encourage leading persons of all evaluations to open a new project group on the ICP Forests web site. Anyone who is interested may join the group and the evaluation. Mr Michael Köhl highlighted Karin Hansen's significant participation in the Forest Europe Report.

30. **Mr Pasi Rautio**, Chair of the **EP on Foliage and Litterfall**, informed about the activities 2014-2015. The 17th Needle/Leaf Interlaboratory Comparisons Test (ring test) is finalized and the registration for the 18th ring test is ongoing. All ring test reports (1st to 17th) are available on the homepage of the Forest Foliar Coordinating Centre (<http://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms2.web?dok=3249>). Manual updates have already been prepared and will be adopted at the TFM 2016.

31. **Ms Nathalie Cools** (Co-chair of **EP on Soil and Soil Solution**) gave an overview of data evaluations of the EP on Soil and Soil Solution. She reported on the 19th Meeting of the Expert Panel on Soil & Soil Solution which was part of the Combined Expert Panel Meeting in Göttingen. Minutes and presentations are available at <http://icp-forests.net/group/soilandsoilsolution/page/19th-meeting-of-the-expert-panel-on-soil-and-soil-solution>. Manual updates have already been prepared and explained to the Task Force and will be adopted at the TFM 2016.

Item 6 Data Analyses by External Institutions and ICP Forests Expert Panels

32. **Mr Walter Seidling** presented on-going studies based on ICP Forests data. A total of 21 data requests (including 15 external and 6 internal requests) have been submitted to the PCC between May 2014 and May 2015. All past (if known to the current PCC team) and present ICP Forests data uses are listed on the ICP Forests website (<http://icp-forests.net/page/project-list>). Mr Walter Seidling expanded on the latest data request (No. 73) from COST Action PROFOUND. Each country may decide as usual if they wish to provide their data to a whole actions or larger research groups or reject the requests.

Item 7 Status of the Database and Data Infrastructure and revised Data Policy

33. Due to time delay this item was drastically shortened (15 minutes instead of 45 minutes according to the agenda).
Mr Till Kirchner (PCC database manager) started with a brief overview of new functionalities on the ICP Forests webpage towards a transparent (data) infrastructure:

Project Database (<http://icp-forests.net/page/project-list>)

- As soon as the NFCs approve a data request all detailed information about this project will be updated in this list. Experts who are interested in getting involved in a particular project may filter for specific surveys and contact the data applicant.

Literature list (<http://icp-forests.net/page/scientific-publications>)

- All ICP Forests literature which has been sent to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de) will be added to the literature list on the ICP Forests webpage. The complete list can be searched for keywords and downloaded from the webpage.

Expert list (<http://icp-forests.net/page/expertlist>)

- The expert list provides contact details of national experts for each survey. The expert list that has thankworthily been circulated by Mr Peter Waldner during the Task Force Meeting will be used to update the official expert list on the webpage. Further changes of experts can be reported to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de).

It was decided on the last Task Force Meeting 2014 in Athens, that all data can be (re-) submitted continuously throughout the year, but in order to consider the data in the annual reporting the data has to be submitted until 15 February (strict deadline!).

Mr Till Kirchner gave a brief overview of the submissions in the last six months: there were 257 submissions in Level II, 38 submissions in Level I and 67 resubmissions. The following new functionalities help to give an overview of the data (re-) submission:

Docu of change (<http://icp-forests.net/page/changes-database>)

- In this documentation all updates and changes are listed.

Data documentation (<http://icp-forests.net/page/parameterlist>)

- This documentation gives a detailed overview of all surveys and parameters.

34. **Mr Till Kirchner** presented a revised **data policy** of ICP Forests. At the last PCG meeting in Berlin, he was asked to lead a group that discusses the revision of the data policy. The revised data policy was sent to the Task Force six weeks before the current meeting and has been discussed by the revision group. The general goal of the revised data policy was to contain a clear structure and easy wording to make the document as clear as possible. The new structure of the data policy presents short chapters with short and numbered paragraphs. It was extended to two pages (plus one page annex)

The following **changes in the revised data policy** were adopted by the Task Force:

- The applicant is allowed to keep the data for documentation (no deletion).
- The applicant is allowed to provide data to a reviewer on request.
- All information provided with a request will be made public on the website.
- Full coordinates are provided to the applicant if not denied by a country.
- Publication on full coordinates is denied in general.
- Publication of coordinates accurate to geographic minutes is allowed.
- ICP Forests partners have four weeks to react to a request (before it was two weeks).

35. In addition, the Task Force assigned Mr Till Kirchner to prepare a suggestion for a data policy with different options for data contributors to choose the kind of “openness” of their data and to present a proposal at the Task Force Meeting 2016. The proposal has to be sent around at least six weeks before the Task Force Meeting.

36. **Ms Sabine Augustin** (Switzerland) asked about the **role of the PCC in considering data requests**. Mr Till Kirchner ensured that the PCC only checks the data request forms for formal correctness and then sends it to all National Focal Centres which then have to decide if the request is accepted or rejected.

37. **Mr Peter Waldner** (Switzerland) pointed out that ICP Forests data restrictions for external projects must be articulated at earliest stage of any call e.g. under H2020. If the final proposal is submitted and no data restrictions have been included, then the data might be published at the end of the project.

Item 8 Co-operations with International Organisations

38. **Mr Marco Ferretti** reported on the contribution of ICP Forests to the **State of Europe's Forests 2016 report**. ICP Forests was one of the data providers in earlier reports. The pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management are now under revision and it is foreseen that all indicators will be kept even though some indicators (especially defoliation) have been proposed for deletion. Ozone will be considered as an indicator for future reporting. **Mr Michael Köhl** emphasized that ICP Forests has made a relevant contribution to this report which is very valuable for a positive image of ICP Forests.
39. **Mr Walter Seidling** reported on the following **co-operations with LTER, EANET, IUFRO, and COST activities**:

Cooperation with:	Details
LTER	After a first attempt to achieve a MoU between ICP Forests and LTER Europe, there have been no further activities recently. Indirectly ICP Forests plots might possibly be involved in the H2020 infrastructure project eLTER led by Michael Mirtl and Herbert Haubold (28 official Partners, budget 5 Mio €) with three main objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Infrastructure design – IT and data services – Scientific testing
EANET	Long-lasting co-operation with the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
IUFRO	Three presentations will be held at the IUFRO Conference in Nice this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sanders & Seidling: Accumulating influences on individual parameters of tree performance. – Ferretti et al.: Monitoring and modelling the long-term impact of air pollution on forest health and growth in Europe. – Schaub et al: Ozone risk assessment for European forests - A ten-year study on permanent monitoring plots.
COST	COST Action PROFOUND chaired by Christopher Reyer, PIK Potsdam, has recently applied for ICP Forests data; some ICP Forests members (WSL, Northwest German Forest Research Station, Thünen Institute) are participating.

40. **Mr Marcus Schaub** reported on a cooperation with EMEP and ICP Vegetation. Mr Walter Seidling suggested to present it on the ICP Forests webpage.
41. **Mr Manuel Nicolas** (France) suggested presenting a better overview of ICP Forests activities. He appreciated the list of publications in the Technical Report 2015 but would also like to have a **list of presentations** that have been given by the ICP Forests community. Mr Walter Seidling reassured to think about it.

Item 9 Obligations towards WGE / CLRTAP

42. **Mr Walter Seidling** presented the ICP Forests contribution to the **33rd Session of WGE**, 17-19 September 2014 summarized in ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2014/5.

In this report, the following **expected outcomes** over the next period and in longer terms are formulated:

- Continuation of data collection activities and further efforts to improve data quality
- Further development of the database and database management
- Further implementation the reporting/monitoring/ modelling approaches
- Continuation of exploring cause-effect relationships between deposition of acidifying and eutrophying substances as well as ozone and forest ecosystem as a whole and the more sensible parts of these
- Further contribution to the key issue of maintaining biodiversity
- Joint evaluation report with ICP IM; further joint activities with ICP Vegetation (ozone), IPC Modelling and Mapping (CL) and ICP Waters
- Continuation of production of integrated and thematic reports and brochures, popularizing scientific results

43. Mr Walter Seidling encouraged the Task Force to **establish or improve their relationships with Caucasus and Asian countries** as required by the WGE and the Executive Body (EB) of the Convention. He also highlighted that the data policy is of very high relevance to the WGE and that the WGE encourages ICP Forests to make its data available with no further restrictions. Mr Walter Seidling concluded that ICP Forests is generally in line with the demands of the WGE but can further be improved. The preliminary work for the coming **workplan 2016/17** will be finalized until the end of May and will then be discussed at the 34th WGE Meeting in Geneva, 14–18 September 2015. In a combined top-down and bottom-up process the final workplan will be fixed. Finally, Mr Walter Seidling reported on the **financial statement** from the LUA Trust Fund. ICP Forests has 107,500 USD in 2014 and 97,200 USD in 2015 at its disposal. The Task Force thanked all countries for their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund enabling the Convention work in general and due to the earmarked contributions especially the work of ICP Forests.

44. Mr. Walter Seidling informed the Task Force about the **CLRTAP Assessment Report**. A matrix derived from the WGE proposal has been circulated 6 week before the Task Force Meeting among the Expert Panel Chairs. Feedbacks from EP chairs will be gathered and become part of the ICP Forests input to the WGE/EB.

Item 10 Strategy 2016 - 2023 of ICP Forests

45. Mr Walter Seidling presented the revised **Strategy of ICP Forests 2016–2023** edited by Mr Walter Seidling and reviewed by an ad-hoc group determined at the last PCG meeting. As ICP Forests is part of the Convention, the Convention strategy fully applies for ICP Forests. Therefore excerpts of important paragraphs of the CLRTAP and the WGE strategies were included in the revised ICP Forests strategy.

46. After some discussion, the Task Force decided that the revised strategy will not be approved. The Task Force decided to continue working on the revised strategy: The current strategy paper will be uploaded on the ICP Forests webpage (in a newly created group) in the beginning of June by the PCC. The Task Force is then invited to join the discussion group and take part in the discussion about the new strategy. All comments and suggestions will be gathered by the PCC and integrated in a new revised version of the strategy called “Version_end.2” until end of August. This version will present all phrases with differences in opinions in brackets. This version will be sent to the Task Force 4 - 6 weeks before the next PCG meeting in order to be finally discussed there. It was further decided by the Task Force that the final strategy should not expand 5 - 6 pages and should not be named “strategy paper” but “strategy” instead. Detailed information should be amplified in annexes or as supplementary electronic material. It was also strongly suggested to continue to work on the preliminary document and to write the strategy in a more general style. In general the strategy was seen as crucial for the ICP Forests community.

Item 11 Other business

47. As demanded by the Task Force, the **Technical Report 2015** was discussed chapter by chapter. All comments and suggestions made will be considered. Further comments can be sent to **Ms Alexa Michel** until **30 June 2015** (alexa.michel@ti.bund.de). The Technical Report 2015 was adopted under the reserve of further changes as requested until the above deadline.
48. **Mr Michael Köhl** suggested to introduce ‘**policy briefs**’ as a new outreach opportunity of ICP Forests. ICP Forests publications have a high scientific level and results need to be transferred into messages that can easily be understood by politicians and the public. The Task Force welcomed the idea and Mr Walter Seidling underlined that this would be in line with the WGE policy. Thus, Mr Michael Köhl suggested that all Expert Panels summarize their main results on two pages on a voluntary basis and he will search for a professional who can transfer the scientific results into a suitable outreach format. He will provide detailed information as well as some examples of ‘policy briefs’ by e-mail after the Task Force Meeting.
49. Mr Walter Seidling announced that the **host country** of the Task Force Meeting 2016 could not be fixed yet due to the very short-dated cancellation of the planned host country for next year. However, efforts have been already made to find a new host country as soon as possible which will then be announced by e-mail as soon as possible. The **32nd Task Force Meeting** of ICP Forests will be held in **May 2016**.

Closing

50. On behalf of the Task Force, Mr Michael Köhl thanked especially the Slovenian organisers for their hospitality and the professional arrangements of the 31th Task Force Meeting. Thus, Mr Michael Köhl confirmed that it was a very wise decision to have the Task Force Meeting on two half days which will be adopted for future meetings as well.
51. **Michael Köhl** closed the meeting.

The minutes of the 31st Task Force Meeting have been written by Serina Trotzer (PCC).

Actions Points

Topic	Task	Responsible persons	Timetable
Assessment Report	- to send inputs and suggestions to Mr Walter Seidling (walter.seidling@ti.bund.de)	Expert Panels	as soon as possible
What is considered to be a ICP Forests literature?	- to send comments and suggestions to the PCC (pccicpforests@ti.bund.de) - PCC will provide a document with possible solutions and distribute it per e-mail	Task Force PCC	as soon as possible
Technical Report	- to send comments and requests for changes to Ms Alexa Michel (alexa.michel@ti.bund.de)	Task Force	latest 30 th June 2015
Format of the Executive Report	- to discuss the future format of the Executive Report by sending suggestions to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de)	Task Force	as soon as possible
Anniversary Report	- to write comments and short notes to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de) stating their experiences in ICP Forests and/or their visions for the future	Task Force	as soon as possible
International Photo Cross-Calibration Course in 2015	- to send photos of tree crowns to Mr Nenad Potočić (nenadp@sumins.hr) or Mr Stefan Meining (mail@stefanmeining.de): <i>Picea abies</i> and <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> for Northern Europe and <i>Pinus pinaster</i> with higher defoliation for southern Europe	Task Force	as soon as possible
Data Policy	- to prepare a suggestion for a policy with different options for data contributors to choose the kind of “openness” of their data	Till Kirchner	send around 6 weeks before the Task Force Meeting 2016
Co-operations with International Organisations	- to report all further co-operations to the PCC (pcc-icpforests@ti.bund.de)	Task Force	continuously
Collaboration to Caucasus and Asian countries	- to establish or improve relationships with Caucasus and Asian countries	Task Force	continuously
Strategy of ICP Forests 2016–2023	- PCC will establish an online discussion group - to discuss the current version of the new strategy in the discussion group - PCC will gather all comments and suggestions and integrate it in a new version - to discuss new version at the PCG Meeting	Task Force PCC	continuously
Policy Brief	- to provide detailed information/ examples by e-mail - EPs summarize their main results on two pages - to search for a professional translator	Mr Michael Köhl Expert Panels	continuously

I. List of Participants of the 31st Task Force Meeting

	First Name	Surname	Institute	Country	e-mail
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II. Agenda of the 31th Task Force Meeting of ICP Forests

Thursday, 21 May 2015 Excursion (morning), Task Force Meeting (TFM, afternoon),

Venue: GRAND Hotel Union

08:00 – 08:30 Registration for Task Force Meeting in the Foyer

14:30 – 18:00 Task Force Meeting

Opening

14:30 – 14:40 Opening by Chairman Michael Köhl and the Host Country

Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

14:40 – 14:50 The Head of PCC Walter Seidling will present the agenda for adoption and will give an overview of the meeting documents. Also to be adopted are the minutes of the 30th TFM

Item 2 Status Report by PCC

14:50 – 15:10 PCC will report on activities and progress since the 30th Task Force Meeting.
Walter Seidling

Item 3 Reporting Activities of the PCC of ICP Forests

15:10 – 16:00 PCC will inform on the implementation of the 2014/2015 workplan of WGE. (W. Seidling)
PCC will inform on contributions to the WGE Trends Report (Walter Seidling)
PCC will present the latest draft of the 2015 Technical Report (Tanja Sanders)
PCC will report on the 2014 Executive Report (Tanja Sanders)
PCC will report on the 30-Year Anniversary Publication (Tanja Sanders, Marco Ferretti)

16:00 – 16:20 Coffee Break

Item 4 Status Reports of Sister ICPs

16:20 – 16:40 Franc Batic (ICP Vegetation) will report on recent activities and developments of ICP Vegetation.

16:40 – 17:00 Lars Lundin (Chairman of ICP Integrated Monitoring) will report on recent activities and developments of ICP Integrated Monitoring.

Item 5 Activities of Expert Panels and Other Bodies of ICP Forests (evtl. Manual Changes)

17:00 – 18:00 The chairs of the Expert Panels, the Quality Assurance Committee (Marco Ferretti), the Working Group on Quality in Laboratories (Nils König) and Chair of the Scientific Evaluation Committee (Marco Ferretti) will present overviews on on-going and planned activities including data analyses.

19:30 Conference Dinner with 30 Years' Anniversary Statement(s)

Friday, 22 May 2015 Task Force Meeting (Continued), Venue: GRAND Hotel Union

- Item 6 Data Analyses by External Institutions and ICP Forests Expert Panels**
09:00 – 09:15 On-going studies based on ICP Forests data will be presented (Walter Seidling)
- Item 7 Status of the Database and Data Infrastructure and revised Data Policy**
9:15 – 10:00 Overview by PCC on recently submitted data (Till Kirchner)
Overview by PCC on current and future developments of the data infrastructure (Till Kirchner)
- Experiences with manually operated data up-dates by PCC in correspondence with the data owner
 - Experiences with changeover towards a continuous data submission system
- Revised Data Policy of ICP Forests (Till Kirchner)
- 10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break
- Item 8 Co-operations with International Organisations**
10:30 – 11:00 Marco Ferretti: Report on contribution ICP Forests to “State of Europe’s Forests 2016”
Reports on co-operations with LTER, EANET, IUFRO, and COST activities will be given by PCC (Walter Seidling and others).
- Item 9 Obligations towards WGE / CLRTAP**
11:00 – 11:30 Reporting towards WGE will be presented.
PCC will inform about CLRTAP Assessment Report 2016.
- Item 10 Strategy 2016 - 2023 of ICP Forests**
11:30 – 12:30 Strategy edited by Walter Seidling and reviewed by ad-hoc group will be presented and discussed.
- Item 11 Other business**
12:30 – 13:00 TBD
- 13:00 Closing of the Task Force Meeting**
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch