

# Meeting of the ICP Forests Programme Co-ordinating Group (PCG)

Berlin, Germany, 23–24 November 2022  
Hybrid online and in-person meeting

## Minutes

### Opening and welcome note

- 1 Marco Ferretti (MF), Chair of ICP Forests, welcomed all participants attending the meeting in-person or online. He specifically welcomed Anna Kaplina, who had joined the UNECE Secretariat in Aug 2022.
- 2 Juliane Beez, lead country representative from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany, welcomed everyone to the PCG meeting and thanked the PCC for the meeting organization.
- 3 MF chaired the meeting on day 1, Kai Schwärzel (KS), Head of the Programme Co-ordinating Centre (PCC), on day 2.
- 4 The agenda was adopted including an additional item under AOB about a timelier distribution of meeting documents.

### PART I – REPORTING

#### Report of the PCC

- 5 KS gave a short overview on the latest activities of the PCC:
  - (a) **8<sup>th</sup> Joint EMEP/WGE meeting**, Geneva, 12–16 Sept 2022<sup>1</sup>
    - Workplan items concerning ICP Forests had been addressed through scientific publications and reports. KS asked the PCG to inform him about any activities or publications relevant to the Convention that may be included in ICP Forests' upcoming reporting on the implementation of the Convention's 2022/2023 Workplan.
    - The *Review of the Gothenburg Protocol*<sup>2</sup> had been finalized, including findings on black carbon and ammonia.
    - The new *Strategy for scientific bodies under the Air Convention*<sup>3</sup> was published for adoption by the Executive Body at their 2023 meeting in Geneva.
  - (b) **PCC staff changes**
    - Lena Wohlgemuth will start in January for a three-year full-time position. She will work on data evaluation for the Ecological Studies book and has worked with ICP Forests data before.
    - Andrea Schmidt left the PCC in May 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Air-Pollution/events/360936>

<sup>2</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE\\_EB.AIR\\_2022\\_3-2214963E.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE_EB.AIR_2022_3-2214963E.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2022/10/working-documents/strategy-scientific-bodies-under-convention-long>

### (c) Awareness raising and program development

- Submission of a proposal for a session on *Nitrogen depositions in European forests in a changing climate: Trends and implications on forest ecosystem services* at **XXVI IUFRO World Congress<sup>4</sup>**, Stockholm, 23-29 Jun 2024
- A **New EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans<sup>5</sup>** initiative was published with the aim to “develop an EU-wide forest observation framework to provide open access to detailed, accurate, regular and timely information on the condition and management of EU forests, and on the many products and ecosystem services that forests provide.” PCC contributed to the call of evidence and replied to the Commission’s questionnaire.
- **Biodiversa+ Call:** In November a pre-proposal had been submitted titled *Upgrading European-wide FOREst BIODIVersity monitoring infrastructure to support forest and biodiversity conservation policies*, with 17 ICP Forests member countries participating. The project duration is 3 years, the budget is 4.3 million EUR and will be covered by national funding organizations. The proposal focusses on e-DNA monitoring in soil, soil solution, deadwood, ambient air; plant strategies in response to stressors; and indicators of naturalness for mapping old-growth forests. Level I/Level II plots and data will be included.

### Report from the committees and working groups

- 6 Lars Vesterdal (LV), Co-Chair of the **Scientific Committee (SC)**, reported on the **FORECOMON 2022** preparation with 66 submitted abstracts from 22 countries and over 50 affiliations. The conference had been planned to take place in Helsinki but had to be postponed to 2023 due to the Russian attack on Ukraine. Finnish policy restricted the participation of Russian scientists, which contradicts the UN policy of inviting all nations. For FORECOMON 2023, please refer to section 33.
- 7 LV shared initial thoughts of the Scientific Committee on how to update the **ICP Forests Scientific Strategy 2024-2030**, incl. terminology revision, emphasis of the unique amount of data available for ground truthing, an update of the strategies and directives we contribute to, how ICP Forests fits into the landscape of initiatives at European scale, mentioning of stakeholders, adding a diversity statement, and distributing an online survey on objectives and actions rating achievements and relevance of the program. The core group to review the ICP Forests strategy will comprise MF, LV, Bruno De Vos, Nathalie Cools, and PCC. They will share a draft with the Scientific Committee, then NFCs. The aim is to have a new ICP Forests strategy adopted at the TFM 2023.
- 8 The SC will continue to review and compile summaries by EP Chairs used by the PCC to comply with reporting obligations and they suggested to include at least one key figure in each summary that emphasizes the take-home message from the respective field. They will continue to support international collaborations, e.g. with eLTER, EMEP/MSC-W.
- 9 Anna Kowalska (AK), Chair of the **Working Group QA/QC in Laboratories**, reported on latest activities. The history and the progress of the ICP Forests ringtests programme and the WG QA/QC in Laboratories was summarized by Alfred Fürst (AF) and AK in Chapter 8 of the Technical Report 2022.
- 10 The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of the Laboratories took place 11-12 May 2022 at the WSL in Switzerland. The meeting was attended by 58 participants (15 online) from 20 countries. The minutes and the presentations are available on the ICP Forests webpage<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup> <https://iufro2024.com/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13396-EU-forests-new-EU-Framework-for-Forest-Monitoring-and-Strategic-Plans\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13396-EU-forests-new-EU-Framework-for-Forest-Monitoring-and-Strategic-Plans_en)

<sup>6</sup> <http://icp-forests.net/group/qualityinlaboratories/page/document-archive#Birmensdorf>

- 11 The interlaboratory comparisons for foliar, soil, and deposition and soil solutions are carried out according to the predefined schedule. In 2022, the 10<sup>th</sup> Soil, 24<sup>th</sup> Foliar and 11<sup>th</sup> Deposition and Soil Solution comparisons were completed and final results together with the results of the requalification have been published online<sup>7</sup>. The 25<sup>th</sup> Foliar and 12<sup>th</sup> Deposition and Soil Solution comparisons are still ongoing in 2022. The next round of the ringtest is scheduled for 2023.
- 12 Manuel Nicolas, **Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee**, presented the current status of quality assurance of field activities and lab analyses. Implementations of new QA/QC procedures from Manual Part III into all other Manual parts and the review by EPs of data quality indicators are still ongoing. Progress has been slow since the last TFM as the focus of the EPs' work has been on data preparation and analyses for the ESB. The next QAC meeting will be held together with the PCGM in fall 2023.

### News from the data infrastructure

- 13 Till Kirchner (TK), data manager at PCC, gave an overview about data submissions, which had been finalized since Apr 2022. It had become clear that even though partners were very active, there is still a large amount of data, which is known to exist in the partners' national databases, but has not yet been submitted to the central ICP Forests database.
- 14 During the last few months, PCC has been informed by several partners that missing data in the central database had been submitted before. PCC analyzed the situation as well as possible. Some data from the past could be "recovered" from the system. In these cases, manually used scripts of the PCC contained errors in the past. This problem has already been solved several years ago by the current PCC. In other cases, data sent to the former PCC in the past has obviously never been added to the central database. This data would have to be resubmitted by the partners using the current data specifications (forms).
- 15 TK further explained a problem of missing dates for individual measurement periods in the surveys deposition and soil solution. This problem is already known for years and concerns about 50% of existing data. Together with the chairs of the EP Deposition the PCC developed a script, which solves this problem as well as possible.
- 16 Furthermore, the PCC and the EP Deposition chairs have improved the script to calculate annual deposition rates for all Level II plots. With the new script it is now possible to aggregate and visualize deposition rates for the Technical Report without manual steps. At the end, TK gave an overview about planned activities of the PCC data unit for the next year.
- 17 During the discussion, TK confirmed that only data submitted via the data portal is visible under "Changes Database"<sup>8</sup> on the ICP Forests website. He stays in close contact with EP chairs and NFCs and notifies them of other data changes. During the revision of the data portal, PCC plans to implement an API to better access data and upload data automatically from national databases. Some Level II data and quality information sent to FIMCI until 2003 is not included in the ICP Forests database. Although this data may still be available, PCC prefers that old data be resubmitted.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://icp-forests.net/page/working-group-on-quality>

<sup>8</sup> <http://icp-forests.net/page/changes-database>

## PART II – Ongoing and planned activities

### Ecological Studies book (ESB)

- 18 For each ESB chapter, members of the PCG presented the core group members, meetings, activities, status of writing, parameters of interest, data gaps, problems with the data, and workplan for future work. The EP Ambient Air Quality was not represented at the meeting.
- 19 **EP Crown Condition and Damage Causes (Nenad Potočić, Volkmar Timmermann)**  
**ESB Chapters:** Crown Condition Level I, Crown Condition Level II, Relationship between Soil Conditions and Crown Condition Level I. **Focal point at PCC:** Anne-Katrin Prescher. **Data analysis at PCC:** Catherine Hilgers. **Core group:** Volkmar Timmermann, Nenad Potočić, Martina Pollastrini, Filippo Bussotti, Arthur Gessler, Jan-Peter George. **Meetings** so far: Introductory meetings with BDV and NC, Nadine Eickenscheidt, KS. Core group meeting: 14 Jul 2022. Level I chapter meeting: 23 Sept 2022. **Checking data completeness:** e-mails sent to EP members by chairs, all NFCs notified by PCC, e-mail correspondence by chairs with NFCs/experts in countries with known data gaps. Excel sheets prepared to document submissions of older data and to identify real gaps (e.g. assessments could not be carried out). **Parameters of interest:** (a) **Defoliation** trends per species/species groups selected for biogeo zones (Level I), more general approach for Level II; (b) **Damage** (both Level I and II): most important damage agent per species, intensity of damage per agent group and plot, percentage of trees damaged by a certain agent, over all species, for each year in the chosen timespan – this calculation potentially has issues (total number of trees in sample is lacking in previous years). **Workplan:** (a) continue working with countries on submission of missing data; (b) ask for assistance of PCC with running the check routines in order to produce a cleaned dataset from old, already submitted data; (c) work with PCC on providing trend analyses for the whole of Europe (TR) and by biogeographical zones (ESB).
- 20 **EP Forest Growth (Tom Levanič)**  
**Core group:** Tom Levanič, Tanja Sanders, Monika Vejpuskova, Inken Krüger, Mitja Skudnik. **Meetings:** 31.5.2022, 8.7.2022, 29.9.2022 of the core group (Tom, Monika, Tanja) discussing which analysis should be done and how to process data. **Activities:** checking dendrometer data (Monika), checking of inventory data (Tanja), connection Level II plots with ecogeographical regions (Tanja+Tom). They are still waiting for the database to be completed / updated before starting with data analyses. **Writing:** not yet done.
- 21 **EP Biodiversity and Ground Vegetation (Roberto Canullo)**  
Introduction draft almost ready for Level II. The group will address understory, vascular species only, plot-based richness; attributes (groups response) can be explored. Data checks have been started for the gross part (entries ≈390.000; ≈ 560 plots) after some quick co-ordination for Level II. Inken Krüger (Thünen) uploaded files with problems x Country x type. Surveyed area, and survey ID\number confusing; code\_species (≈120 not in list, 1995-2021 >3000 entries) only sometimes easy to understand; James Tsakalos (UNICAM) will add other details soon to address NFCs and Experts. Needed plot-datasets for drivers: total Ndepo throughfall? For climatic response, Climapp or model instead of local T will be tested. Next core-group full meeting LI+LII (DEC 12 or 13) aimed to: (a) define acceptable databases status, reconsider objectives and deadlines; (b) schedule steps, needs, and experts to help work. Pilot studies with Level II ready dataset (Italy, Slovakia, etc.) linking understory diversity with changing Ndepo and T. Level I drivers of vascular species richness (400sqm), spatial patterns; needs for experts assigned to introduction and analysis.
- 22 **EP Deposition (Arne Verstraeten)**  
The EP focused on enhancing the deposition dataset by elaborating and testing a method for the filling of dates and actions were taken to gather data for gap-filling (EMEP deposition data, ERA5T meteo data). A draft of the Introduction and M&M section for the ESB was written and in parallel an abstract

for the ACID RAIN 2020 conference was submitted. There is some progress with the data resubmission yielding a 100 additional plot-years, but overall, we are still advancing (too) slow in this process. Regardless of this, the deposition database should allow for a solid spatial-temporal analysis of about 25 years of data (1996-2020) for about 300 plots across the 5 best represented biogeographic regions. This accounts for N and S and base cations, which should enable to calculate annual depositions (throughfall and open field) and to run CBMs to estimate total depositions.'

### 23 EP Soil and Soil Solution (Bruno De Vos)

The 17 authors of the chapters on soil Level I, soil Level II, and soil solution represent large parts of Europe. Topics include e.g. spatial patterns of C and nutrient stocks that can be linked to crown condition and biodiversity on Level I; and temporal changes in forest soil condition and soil solution and the role of soil in the water balance on Level II. The WRB soil classification is not available for all plots, there was even a new WRB system published in 2022. Ecocluster classification is only possible at this stage on 16% of the Level I plots. At this stage, 255 Level II plots mostly from central Europe are available for water budget modelling, 296 for calculating C and N stocks, and 192 for temporal changes. For soil solution, the biggest challenge is to determine the limit of quantification-value for each variable, each lab/country, and each measuring period for trend analyses.

### 24 EP Foliage and Litterfall (Pasi Rautio (PR), Liisa Ukonmaanaho)

The core group for foliage comprises nine co-authors. Foliage data used for analysis starts in 1995; data 1990-2009 was already corrected by PR and AF but not resubmitted. There is generally plot-wise data, biannual data collected in uneven years, and C and C+1 needle data available. The core group for the litterfall chapter comprises 6 co-authors. They will focus on C, N, P, K, S; foliar and total litter; annual data; spruce, pine, beech, and oak dominated plots. Litterfall data used for analysis starts in 2009 and originates from 25 countries. Statistical methods have not yet been decided upon; a trend analysis based on the German data has been performed by Felix Heitkamp (NW-FVA).

### 25 EP Meteo, Phenology, LAI (Stephan Raspe, Stefan Fleck)

The goal of the chapter "Canopy leaf area and phenology" is to better describe the annual cycle of canopy leaf area - for the use in ecosystem models like Brook90, but also in order to better identify long-term trends in the data. The approach is to validate phenological models of leaf flushing and leaf fall with the observations in the database. This way, all observations can be used! In a second step, allometric models of canopy leaf area shall be validated with LAI measurements in the database. The data availability in the database is high and good enough for the 4 main tree species. The main aspects of the annual cycle of canopy leaf area are investigated with ICP Forests data: timing of budburst, duration of the leaf flushing phase, maximum canopy leaf area, timing of leaf discoloration, duration of leaf discoloration, timing of leaf fall, duration of the leaf fall phase, duration of the needle fall phase in conifers, minimum leaf area of pine and spruce in winter. While there are still problems with data availability for the LAI evaluation, the phenology evaluation can start right away, when the meteo data are available.

### Gap-filling of meteorological and deposition data

26 Catherine Hilgers (CH), data scientist at PCC, updated the PCG on gap filling of meteorological and deposition data for the preparation of the Ecological Studies book (ESB). The goals are to have gap-filled data available for both the ESB chapter related to the surveys, and to other surveys that may need the data as input for models. The gap-filled data will be downloadable from the PCC, and the scripts are documented and tidy. She shared a Missing Data Methods handbook, with work plans, literature review, and best practices for handling missing data.

27 Meteorology gap-filling is underway with ERA5 data. The fit for air temperature is good, and for precipitation it is not so good. CH will meet with the EP Meteorology to discuss further. ICP Forests partner countries with water budget modeling will help test the gap-filled data.

- 28 Deposition now has a script to prepare the survey data like for the Technical Report, but across all years of data collection. The script can also produce maps very quickly in R. Gap-filling will be done with EMEP data, and the gap-filling will be done in collaboration with Peter Waldner (PW), Co-Chair EP Deposition, and others from the EP. A test of the EMEP data is underway in Italy. CH will meet with the EP Deposition to share the Technical Report preparation and map-making workflows.

### Summary of ESB progress

- 29 KS presented the new timeline for the ESB publication in 2025. During the discussion, it was clarified that - among others - biogeographic will be used in all chapters for stratification. Because resubmissions take longer than anticipated, some EPs are already developing R scripts for data analyses that can be easily adapted later when more data are resubmitted. Other EPs prefer a final deadline to only handle data once. KS emphasized that preliminary analyses for the ESB can already start and that the aim is to develop scripts that can be rerun with updated data. The final publication date is still set for 2025. For data to be included in the analyses for the ESB, a final deadline for data submission will be set by the PCC by the next jEPM in Vienna, 27-31 March 2023. PCC will also send out another request for data submission to the NFCs which will help the EPs asking for data.

### 40-Year Assessment Report

- 30 MF presented a new proposal for an assessment report that is based on: an overview on the Air Convention and ICP Forests, a summary and infographics of main results that are already published, incl. ESB, for the three domains atmosphere, vegetation, and soil. He asked for support in developing a concept for the report.
- 31 During the discussion, the publication date was confirmed to be in 2025. KS will be the main contact at PCC; CH will help with data analyses. AV, PW, and NC also offered their support. MF will present a concept at TFM 2023 with the support of the above mentioned group.

### Upcoming meetings

- 32 A date and venue for the **next joint Expert Panel meeting (jEPM)** in 2023 has not yet been fixed. KS had approached Spain but had not heard back from them. Parallel online meetings are not possible because members of the PCC data unit will need to participate in all meetings. PCC will keep looking for a host and collect requests from EPs to meet.
- 33 The **39<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting and the postponed FORECOMON 2022** cannot be held in Finland because Finnish restrictions on the participation of Russian scientists have not changed and UN policy is to not exclude anyone. PCC has started to look for other host countries. After the PCGM, Anna Kaplina (UNECE Secretariat) confirmed that the UNECE could organize a virtual meeting from Geneva if no host can be found.
- 34 MF submitted an abstract with a review of main results from ICP Forests to the **ACID RAIN 2020<sup>9</sup>** conference in Niigata, Japan. NP and TL offered their support. Anne-Katrin Prescher (PCC) and AV also submitted an abstract.
- 35 A meeting is planned with Hilde Fagerli, Project Leader of EMEP/MS-CHEM, on 18 Jan 2023 to generally discuss **co-operation between EMEP and ICP Forests**. Short presentations will be given on deposition (AV), heavy metals (BDV), ozone (Elena Gottardini), uncertainty issues (PW), a data comparison study (Aldo Marchetto), and a short presentation by EMEP.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.acidrain2020.org/>

- 36 TK was approached by eLTER to take part in a workshop in Vienna in January 2023 and share the ICP Forests perspective on standardized data products. There is a lot of activity and discussion also at EMEP level on how to make data better available.

### Ongoing and upcoming projects/studies

- 37 KS and MF reported on ongoing projects/studies in which ICP Forests partners are involved.
- 38 The EU HORIZON project **FORWARDS**<sup>10</sup> (The ForestWard observatory to secure resilience of European forests, 01.11.2022- 30.11.2027, EUR ~14 mio) is co-ordinated by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU leading 18 participants/partners. Its aim is to bring together the remote sensing and ground truthing communities and collect information on the vulnerability of forests to climate change. Data is based on existing networks (e.g. ICP Forests); 40% of the funding will be available as grants for 50 demo sites and countries for starting measurements. KS is in the review committee and will inform the ICP Forests community when calls for grants are being published. It is still not clear why the call specifically mentioned ICP Forests. Rubén Valbuena (SLU) will give a presentation latest at the TFM.
- 39 The EU HORIZON project **PathFinder**<sup>11</sup> (Towards an integrated consistent European LULUCF monitoring and policy pathway assessment framework, 01.09.2022-31.08.2026, EUR ~6 mio.) is co-ordinated by the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy NIBIO leading 22 participants/partners (some also from ICP Forests). The project's two main outcomes are consistent European forest monitoring and a carbon reporting system that combines field observations and remote sensing.
- 40 The EU COST Action **CLEANFOREST**<sup>12</sup> (Joint effects of Climate Extremes and Atmospheric deposition on European FORESTS, 28.10.2022-27.10.2026) is co-ordinated by the University of Bologna (Italy) with several ICPF partners involved. Besides many participants actively involved in ICP Forests (e.g. the Action Chair Rossella Guerrieri and Vice Chair Elena Vanguelova), many participants are from outside the ICP Forests community, which may result in new ideas valuable for the programme. The Action's aim is to establish a network, foster collaboration, and co-ordinate research efforts on the effects of climate extreme events and changes in carbon dioxide, reactive nitrogen and sulphur compounds of forest ecosystems while providing suggestions for next generation manipulation experiments and monitoring networks.
- 41 During the discussion, it was mentioned that some upcoming HORIZON calls will be relevant for ICP Forests. PCC will go through the respective documents and keep the ICP Forests community informed.

### PART III – Strategic questions

#### Ongoing processes at EU, UNECE/FAO damage assessment, and FOREST EUROPE levels, and how to contribute (MF)

- 42 The **New EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans**<sup>13</sup> initiative is the first approach to fund forest monitoring in the EU after expiry of the Forest Focus Regulation in 2007. However, neither the chair nor PCC were specifically invited to early meetings, still MF attended. The information input for the new framework was dominated by NFI representatives. ICP Forests was represented by

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<sup>10</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101084481>

<sup>11</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101056907>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21138/>

<sup>13</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13396-EU-forests-new-EU-Framework-for-Forest-Monitoring-and-Strategic-Plans\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13396-EU-forests-new-EU-Framework-for-Forest-Monitoring-and-Strategic-Plans_en)

PathFinder and FORWARDS participants but not invited as ICP Forests. Some participants did not even know about ICP Forests. ICP Forests needs to become more visible in each country especially at the political level. There will be a follow-up meeting in Sweden in February 2023.

- 43 ICP Forests had been invited to a symposium of **UNECE and FAO assessing forest damage and disturbance**. Delegates from the UNECE attended but not from the Air Convention. Discussions were mostly based on NFI input but MF was invited to give a talk on the part of ICP Forests and contribute to the discussion.
- 44 ICP Forests has not yet been approached to contribute to the next **State of Europe's Forests (SOEF) 2025 report** by FOREST EUROPE but we expect to be informed in time. The chapter on Forest Health and Vitality has largely been based on ICP Forests deposition, ozone, crown condition, and soil data in the past.

### ENFIN and ICP Forests

- 45 During the discussion, the need to collaborate with the European National Forest Inventory Network (ENFIN)<sup>14</sup> with its 33 organizations from 30 countries was emphasized. The NFI community is very active at EU level. They make field observations on a much higher number of plots and are very strong in remote sensing but lack the annual resolution for ground truthing. A collaboration could be advantageous for both communities. The information which ICP Forests plots coincide with NFI plots in the system installation files may be outdated. For example, it would be valuable to know if tree information from NFIs can be matched with soil information from ICP Forests. Some members of the ENFIN steering committee informally expressed that they may be in favor for starting a collaboration. The PCG agreed that MF and KS approach ENFIN's steering group and discuss possible collaborations and their advantages.

### Reporting & Outreach

- 46 Alexa Michel (AM) presented the status of ICP Forests reporting activities. One long-term goal for the preparation of the Technical Report (TR) is to develop scripts for all surveys together with the EP chairs to annually present the status and trends with key statistics and maps. Scripts in R will presumably be ready for presenting deposition, crown condition, and meteorology data in the TR 2023. The TR 2023 will include survey chapters from deposition, crown condition, meteorology, foliage and litterfall, and the data unit. In general, the timelines and plans for contributions of the monitoring activities are decided at the PCG meetings 1-2 years in advance until automated scripts are available. The PCC will automatize the handling and presentation of the national C1 data and will prepare and discuss a draft for a more concise chapter on crown condition with the EP CC chairs.<sup>15</sup>
- 47 An ICP Forests Brief on heavy metals will be prepared together with an article in a scientific journal by BDV, NC, and a new staff member at INBO.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://enfin.info/>

<sup>15</sup> After the meeting, it was agreed between the EP CC chairs and PCC that changes to the layout of the crown chapter need to be delayed because there was still uncertainty about the amount of time needed for data analysis after the leaving of Mladen Ognjenović.

### Proposal for EP chairs switchover

- 48 CH presented a proposal for how to improve the Expert Panel leadership switchover process, on behalf of the PCC and after discussing with the Chair of ICP Forests MF. The proposal was to add something to the next version of the ICP Forests Manual, even if it is only to confirm how the program currently performs switchovers in leadership. Ideas presented were: giving more notice that a leadership position is coming up, explicitly asking for diverse candidates (according to our statement in the current version of the Manual), communicating the open post on the ICP Forests website/to National Focal Centres/to Expert Panel members, routinely confirming or changing EP leadership positions - possibly every five years after a new manual version is published, defining how to apply, and defining how to confirm candidates (for example, by a vote).
- 49 During the discussion, attendees of the PCG meeting generally agreed to add something to the Manual, perhaps as bylaws. Other suggestions were made, such as defining a fixed term for leadership positions, whether or not co-chairs should have precedence for chairperson positions, or whether to consider geographical distribution of candidates to aim for good coverage of Europe in leadership positions. The Expert Panel Soil and Soil Solution volunteered to test a leadership switchover protocol when a co-chair position comes up in the near future. The PCC agreed to send a draft to the EP Soil and Soil Solution and all PCG members for comment. The agreement will remain informal for the next few years, and the PCG aims to include a protocol or statement in the upcoming 2025 version of the ICP Forests Manual to be approved by the TF.

### AOB

- 50 The PCG approved that meeting documents have to be shared at least one week before ICP Forests meetings (i.e., TFM, PCG, jEPM).
- 51 The date for the next PCGM was set on 21-23 November 2023.

### Closing of the PCG meeting

- 52 MF thanked the PCG for their input and fruitful exchange and the BMEL for hosting and financing this meeting.

## Action Points

| Topic   | Task   | Responsible  | Due date   | Status (23/02/2023) |
|---|--|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| UNECE/WGE   | PCG informs PCC about any activities or publications relevant to the Convention for the upcoming reporting on the implementation of the Convention's 2022/2023 Workplan. | PCG          | 31/01/2023 | In progress         |
| TFM 2023  | Find host and set date   | PCC          | 01/2023    | Done                |
|   | Discuss option for <b>online conference</b> with UNECE Secretariat   | PCC          | 12/2022    | Done                |
| jEPM 2023   | Find host and set date   | PCC          | 01/2023    | Done                |
| ESB   | Decide on <b>deadline for data</b> used in final analyses  | PCC          |            | In progress         |
| 2025 Anniversary Report                                       | MF develops <b>concept</b> together with AV, PW, NC, PCC; shares it with PCG; presents it at TFM 2023  | MF           | TFM 2023   | In progress         |
| TR2023  | Prepare template for new CC chapter and share with EP CC   | PCC          | 12/2023    | Postponed           |
| EU HORIZON  | PCC will look out for calls relevant to ICP Forests community  | PCC          | NA         | In progress         |
| ICP Forests Strategy 2024-2030                                | Set up meeting with core group: PCC, MF, LV, MS, BDV, NC to review strategy; share drafts with SciCom, PCG, then with NFCs; present for adoption at TFM 2023             | PCC          | TFM 2023   | In progress         |
| Proposal EP Chairs switchover                                 | PCC will prepare a draft and share with PCG  | PCC          |            | Done                |
| NFC contacts  | Get <b>NFC contacts</b> for US, Russia from UNECE Secretariat; reactivate Netherlands participation  | PCC          | 01/2023    | In progress         |
| New EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Planning | Find contact persons at national level. PCC will contact BMEL.   | PCC          |            | New                 |
| ENFIN   | Contact steering committee for first meeting with ICPF Chair and PCC   | PCC, MF      |            | In progress         |
| All ICP Forests meetings                                      | <b>Send meeting documents and presentations</b> to meeting participants one week in advance.   | PCC, PCG, MF | NA         | NA                  |

## List of Participants

| Last name    | First name  | Institution   | Country     |
|--------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Canullo      | Roberto     | University of Camerino  | Italy       |
| Cools        | Nathalie    | Research Institute for Nature and Forest INBO                               | Belgium     |
| De Vos       | Bruno       | Research Institute for Nature and Forest INBO                               | Belgium     |
| Ferretti     | Marco       | Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL  | Switzerland |
| Fleck        | Stefan      | Nordwestdeutsche Forstliche Versuchsanstalt NW-FVA                          | Germany     |
| Haggenmüller | Katrin      | Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems                                       | Germany     |
| Hamberg      | Leena       | Natural Resources Institute Finland LUKE                                    | Finland     |
| Henry        | Juliane     | Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture BMEL                               | Germany     |
| Hilgers      | Catherine   | Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems                                       | Germany     |
| Jakovljević  | Tamara      | Croatian Forest Research Institute  | Croatia     |
| Kaplina      | Anna        | UNECE Secretariat   | Switzerland |
| Kirchner     | Till        | Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems                                       | Germany     |
| Kowalska     | Anna        | Forest Research Institute   | Poland      |
| Levanič      | Tom         | Slovenian Forestry Institute SFI  | Slovenia    |
| Michel       | Alexa       | Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems                                       | Germany     |
| Nicolas      | Manuel      | Office national des forêts ONF  | France      |
| Nieminen     | Tiina M.    | Natural Resources Institute Finland LUKE                                    | Finland     |
| Potočić      | Nenad       | Croatian Forest Research Institute  | Croatia     |
| Prescher     | Anne-Katrin | Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems                                       | Germany     |
| Raspe        | Stephan     | Bavarian State Institute of Forestry LWF                                    | Germany     |
| Rautio       | Pasi        | Natural Resources Institute Finland LUKE                                    | Finland     |
| Schmitz      | Andreas     | State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection of NRW (LANUV) | Germany     |
| Schwärzel    | Kai         | Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems                                       | Germany     |
| Timmermann   | Volkmar     | Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research NIBIO                            | Norway      |
| Ukonmaanaho  | Liisa       | Natural Resources Institute Finland LUKE                                    | Finland     |
| Vejpustková  | Monika      | Forestry and Game Management Research Institute                             | Czechia     |
| Verstraeten  | Arne        | Research Institute for Nature and Forest INBO                               | Belgium     |
| Vesterdal    | Lars        | University of Copenhagen  | Denmark     |
| Waldner      | Peter       | Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL  | Switzerland |
| Wohlgemuth   | Lena        | Umweltbundesamt   | Germany     |
| Zimmermann   | Lothar      | Bavarian State Institute of Forestry LWF                                    | Germany     |

## Meeting of the Programme Co-ordinating Group (PCG) of ICP Forests

Venue: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Wilhelmstr. 54, entrance at Französische Str. 2, 10117 Berlin

Hybrid meeting

Date: 23 -24 Nov 2022

Please note:

- Prior to the PCG meeting, the Scientific Committee (9:00 to 12:00) will meet at the same venue.
- The meeting will be recorded for internal note-taking purposes only.

### Preliminary Agenda

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| <b>23 Nov. 2022,<br/>Wednesday</b>             | Chairperson Day 1: Marco   |
| <b>Start: 13:00</b>                            | <b>Opening &lt;0:10&gt;</b> (Marco)<br>- Adoption of agenda<br><b>Welcome note &lt;0:05&gt;</b> (Juliane Henry)  |
| <b>Part 1 - Reporting</b>                      |  |
| 13:15 – 13:30                                  | <b>Report of the PCC &lt;0:15&gt;</b> (Kai, Alexa)   |
| 13:30 – 14:00                                  | <b>Report from the committees and working groups &lt;0:30&gt;</b><br>•Scientific Committee (Marcus, Lars)<br>•Working Group on QA in Labs (Anna, Tamara)<br>• Quality Assurance Committee (Manuel)   |
| 14:00 – 14:30                                  | <b>News from the data infrastructure &lt;0:30&gt;</b> (Till)   |
| 14:30 – 15:00                                  | <b>Coffee break &lt;0:30&gt;</b>   |
| <b>Part 2 – Ongoing and planned activities</b> |  |
| 15:00 – 17:00                                  | <b>Ecological Studies Book. &lt;2:00&gt;</b><br>Presentations from the EP chairs/co-chairs related to the ESB (5 min per ESB chapter)<br>•EP Crown Condition and Damage Causes (Nenad, Volkmar, <0:10>)<br>•EP Forest Growth (Tom, Tanja, <0:05>)<br>•EP Biodiversity and Ground Vegetation (Roberto, Leena, <0:10>)<br>•EP Ambient Air Quality (Diana, Elena, <0:10>)<br>•EP Deposition (Arne, Peter, Andreas, <0:05>)<br>•EP Soil and Soil Solution (Bruno, Nathalie, Tiina, <0:15>)<br>•EP Foliage and Litterfall (Pasi, Liisa, <0:10>)<br>•EP Meteo, Phenology and LAI (Lothar, Stephan, Stefan, <0:10>)<br><br>Presentations from the PCC/editors<br>- Gap-filling of Meteorological and Deposition data (Catherine)<br>- Summary of Progress (Anne, Kai) |
| 17:00 – 17:15                                  | <b>Assessment Report (Marco, Kai) &lt;0:15&gt;</b><br>- 40th Anniversary of ICP Forests in 2025  |
| 17:15 – 17:30                                  | <b>Upcoming meetings &lt;0:15&gt;</b><br>- Next JEP meeting<br>- TFM and FORECOMON<br>- ACID RAIN 2020, Niigata (Japan), 17-21 April 2023  |
| <b>ca. 19:00</b>                               | <b>Social Dinner</b>   |

## Preliminary Agenda (cont.)

|  |  |
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| <b>24 Nov 2022,<br/>Thursday</b>                       | Chairperson Day 2: Kai   |
| <b>Part 2 – Ongoing and planned activities (cont.)</b> |  |
| 08:30 – 08:50  | <b>Ongoing and upcoming projects/studies &lt;0:20&gt;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FORWARDS (Kai)</li> <li>- Pathfinder (kick-off) (Marco)</li> <li>- Cost-Action CLEANFOREST (Marco)</li> <li>- Other</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Part 3 – Strategic questions</b>                    |  |
| 08:50 – 10:00  | <b>Strategic questions &lt;1:50&gt;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction (Kai, Marco)</li> <li>- Future forest monitoring               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) ongoing processes at EU, UNECE/FAO damage assessment, and FOREST EUROPE levels, and how to contribute (Marco).</li> <li>(ii) ENFIN and ICP Forests (Marco).</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Implementation of the workplan of the Convention (Kai)</li> <li>- Reporting &amp; Outreach (TR, Briefs, events, etc.)</li> <li>- New ICP Forests Strategy (Anne)</li> <li>- Proposal for EP chairs switchover &lt;0:30&gt; (Catherine)</li> </ul> |
| 10:00 – 10:30  | <b>Coffee break &lt;0:30&gt;</b>   |
| 10:30 – 11:40  | <b>Strategic questions (cont.)</b>   |
| 11:40 – 12:00  | <b>AOB &lt;0:20&gt;</b>  |
| <b>End: 12:00</b>                                      | <b>Closing of the PCG Meeting</b>  |