

Meeting of the Programme Coordinating Group (PCG) of ICP Forests

in Berlin, Germany, 7–8 October 2015

Minutes

Opening

1. Mr Walter Seidling (Head of the PCC) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He regretted that the Chairman of ICP Forests Mr Michael Köhl is not able to attend the meeting as it was previously announced by e-mail.
2. Before the agenda was adopted, Mr Marco Ferretti (Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee) wanted to express concerns about the management of this Programme, especially the collaboration between the Chairman and the PCC. Considering this concern, Mr Ferretti got support from all participating EP Chairpersons. The EP Chairs decided to write a letter of concern to the Lead Country emphasizing the role of different organs of ICP Forests and the necessary of a forceful and effective management. Mr Seidling pointed out that the PCC will not take part in any respective activity. The agenda was finally adopted.

Past and future meetings

3. Mr Seidling reported on the **First Joint Session of the Steering Body to the EMEP and WGE**, Geneva on 14-18 September 2015. The attempt of this first joint session was to achieve enhanced integration and cooperation between the Convention's bodies. Detailed information is found under <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39873#/> There, also a list of all 2015 contributions towards financing the activities of the WGE can be found¹. Mr Seidling pointed out that earmarked contributions are directly addressed to ICP Forests whereas non-earmarked contributions support the whole WGE community.
4. ICP Forests contributed to the **Trends Report** with four contributions regarding crown, foliar, ozone and deposition plus a general introduction. It is foreseen that the Trends Report is ready and printed in approximately half a year. The latest draft can be found in the internet². Corrections can be still made via the PCC as soon as possible.
5. Mr Seidling presented the **draft of the Workplan 2016/17** for the implementation of the Convention³. He pointed out that ICP Forests has to report at least on all listed tasks presented in the Workplan, however, additional reports are welcome. To enhance cooperation the WGE launched this time as many combined tasks between ICPs as possible. Thus, one common task between ICP Forests and ICP Vegetation has been included.

¹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/AIR/EMEP/ECE_EB.AIR_GE.1_2015_20_ECE_EB.AIR_WG.1_2015_4_ENG.pdf

² http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/AIR/EMEP/DRAFT_WGE_report_on_trends_v18_reduced.pdf

³ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/AIR/EMEP/ECE_EB.AIR_GE.1_2015_11_ECE_EB.AIR_WG.1_2015_14_ENG.pdf

6. Furthermore it was discussed how **data requests from bodies under the Convention** will be approached in the future. Mr Seidling pointed out that according to the Convention data policy all data has to be open among the ICPs of the WGE, EMEP and all other UN bodies. Mr Marcus Schaub (Chair of the EP on Ambient Air Quality) highlighted that he welcomes the collaboration with ICP Vegetation and supports the open data policy. However, he asked the PCC for a transparent communication policy and suggested to inform the ICP Forests community about any data use (project or continuous task under Convention) by means of the well established data application form, including a detailed project description and contact persons. Finally, it was agreed that all NFCs and EP Chairs will be informed about all data releases on the ICP Forests webpage and by e-mail. Mr Till Kirchner (PCC database manager) pointed out that the annual report further depicts a good opportunity to inform about all ongoing projects.
7. Mr Seidling informed about the **32nd Task Force Meeting 2016**, which will be held in Luxembourg from 10-13 May 2016. The chairman Mr Köhl already sent a letter to Mr Frank Wolter, the Director of the Luxembourgish Nature and Forests Administration, in order to express his gratitude for the kind invitation to the TFM 2016. Ms Liisa Ukonmaanaho (Co-Chair of the EP on Foliage and Litterfall) asked whether common Task Force Meetings with other ICPs have been planned. The idea was denied as ICP Forests is not in the position due to its size and structure as well as the fact that it is more an administrative meeting. However, common Scientific Conferences would be highly appreciated.
8. Mr Seidling informed on the planned **Scientific Conference 2016**, which will be held back to back with the Task Force Meeting in Luxembourg. Mr Ferretti had suggested to organize a common Scientific Conference with other ICPs. Unfortunately no common date for a possible joint meeting has been found with the other ICPs in the spring next year. However, the effort of Mr Ferretti is highly acknowledged by the PCG and the goal to arrange a common Scientific Conference will be further kept up for the following year. It was agreed on organizing the Scientific Conference 2016 as it was arranged in previous years back-to-back with the Task Force Meeting. The following title and topics were discussed and proposed for the next Scientific Conferences:

Title:

Tracing air pollution and its effects in forest ecosystems: trends and risks from past, recent and future impacts.

Topics:

- Nitrogen in forests ecosystems
- Sulphur and basic cations in forest ecosystems
- Ozone impact on forests
- Heavy metals in forests – still a challenge?
- Climate change and biodiversity
- Growth of forests

An ad-hoc Scientific Conference Committee has been established with the following volunteers: Mr Ferretti, Mr Potočić, Mr Schaub, Mr De Vos and Mr Fleck. Preparations should start as soon as possible.

9. The participation of ICP Forests at the **IUFRO Conference 2015** in Nice, France was considered as very successful. There were six direct contributions from the ICP Forests community, but also many other contributions have used ICP Forests data.

A next IUFRO Conference of the Division 7 (Forest Health) will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 25-29 April 2016. Mr Seidling encouraged that scientists from the ICP Forests community should get involved. Generally, attempts should be made to get a session organized by ICP Forests members.

He also informed about the two other upcoming IUFRO meetings:

- 4-10 September 2016: *Disease/environment interaction in Forest decline: “integrated ecosystem approach”* in Perth, Australia
- 24-28 October 2015: *2015 International Symposium on Forest Soils: Linking Soil Processes to Forest Productivity and Water Protection under Global Change* in Fuzhou, China.

10. Ms Ukonmaanaho also announced the first planned **IUFRO all division 8 meeting** in China, 24-28 October 2016, as a scientific conference entitled forest environment under changing climates and societies. Session proposals can be sent until 1 December 2015. More information can be found under: <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-8/80000/activities/>

11. Mr Seidling asked everybody to announce ICP Forests related conferences and meetings on the ICP Forests webpage.

ICP Forests Strategy

12. As discussed at the last Task Force Meeting, Mr Seidling prepared a cleaned synthesis version of the **ICP Forest Strategy 2016-2023** including all contributions from the previous discussions. This draft titled “strategy 2015_cleanedVersion_extended” was sent around prior to the PCG Meeting.

Mr Seidling generally declared that ICP Forests is the only ICP within the WGE which develops a strategy itself. All other ICPs refer to the strategy of the WGE and the strategy of the Convention. Neither the WGE nor the Convention asks the ICPs to establish their own strategy papers. However, an updated ICP Forests strategy is generally wanted by the ICP Forests community. Mr Ferretti added that the attempt of the ICP Forests Strategy is not to replace the strategy on higher levels but to drive the ICP Forests community to a common goal. Moreover, it may be a good reference for the National Focal Centers and to networkers or stakeholders who want to get informed about the common tasks of ICP Forests.

13. The latest version was discussed at the PCG meeting. There was a common consent that the latest draft is too long and circuitous. It should be more direct and concrete. After two hours of intensive discussion, Ms Karin Hansen (Chair of the EP on Deposition) volunteered to rewrite the discussed draft. The final version prepared by Ms Hansen can be annotated until 14 October 2015. All comments and suggestions will be considered in a final version and then circulated by the PCC for proof reading.

Collaboration and Integration

14. Mr Seidling reported on the **ecological research infrastructure in Europe and beyond and options for possible sustainable long-term financing options**. In 2015, Thünen received ca. 97,000 USD from the UNOG funds fed by contributions of the member states to run the PCC. All other expenses, especially the operation of the monitoring at the sites are covered by the member states.

The latest EU funded project “LIFE+ FutMon” was finalized in 2011. Mr Seidling emphasized in this context that for future funding ICP Forests has to adopt an open data policy.

15. Mr Seidling presented **activities** within the last 2 years **towards short-term or medium-term financing** of certain aspects of the ICP Forests Monitoring:

- H2020 (2014): INFRAIA-1-2014/2015, FORESTING which was rejected. However, Ms Hansen and Mr Seidling will attend a brainstorming meeting next week in order to reckon chances under INFRAIA 2016/17
 - H2020 (2014): WASP (Lichens as Warning Signal to reduce Air Pollution and climate change pressure) was rejected, however a rework of the issue may be coordinated by the University of Genova, Italy
 - H2020 (2015): PRIME: “PRocess-based Integrated forest Modelling for sustained Ecosystem service” was successful in the first round and is now again under further assessment. The project is coordinated by the University of Leiden, Netherlands
 - INTERREG Central Europe (2015): “Conservation and sustainable utilization of tree diversity in climate change” (CONSUSTDIV) was successful in the first stage and is now getting prepared for the second stage.
16. Mr Seidling also presented some of his **activities towards a long-term financing** of the ICP Forests Monitoring, which are as follows:
- planned MoU with LTER Europe, but currently no activities are maintained
 - Participation at the Workshops on the ‘in-situ networks in the field of environmental/ecosystem research and monitoring’ which is organized by Michael Mirtl (LTER Europe) in connection with ExpeER
 - Participation at a follow-up meeting at Hyytiälä/Finland organized by Werner Kutsch (ICOS) and Jaana Bäck (University of Helsinki)
 - Participation at workshops of the working group “International networks” of the German “Allianz Group Terrestrial Ecological Research Infrastructure” organized by Helmholtz Centre Potsdam
17. Finally Mr Seidling presented some **organizations with research infrastructures similar to those of ICP Forests**:
- CZEN (Critical Zone Exploration Network) may present multilateral funding opportunities as it is a network of „people and field sites“ allowing to investigate the critical zone of the earth in physical, chemical and biological terms
 - NEON (National Ecological Observatory Network) is an independent corporation created to manage large-scale ecological observing systems and experiments on behalf of the scientific community which will also use the experience and knowledge gained through LTER research
 - TERN (Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network) is delivering research infrastructure and supporting national and international networks of scientists, environmental managers and stakeholders, needed to improve understanding and management of Australia’s ecosystems
 - ICOS RI is a European research infrastructure (RI) to provide harmonised high precision data for advanced research on carbon cycle and greenhouse gas budgets and perturbations. Organizationally ICOS is considered as an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium).
18. The **financing situation of ICP Forests** was discussed. Mr Tom Levanič (Chair of the EP on Forest Growth) mentioned that ICP Forests should try to be earlier involved in joint activities and organization and take the lead instead of joining already existing groups. ICP Forests is doing a great job but we have to present it on European level.
- Mr Ferretti questioned that neither of the listed funding opportunities can secure a long-term funding of ICP Forests nor can all member states of ICP Forests be involved. He encouraged that the leading positions of ICP Forests have to take more action in EU lobbying. Mr Schaub asked for a more active leadership from the chair and PCC in lobbying on EU level, thus complementing and supporting the national initiatives. Mr Nils König (Chair of the Working Group on Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Laboratories) remarked that the listed activities include extra work to the basic monitoring program. But first of all the basic monitoring program has to be secured. In Germany, Switzerland

and Croatia, this issue is not quite acute as these national monitoring programs have a legal basis. Solutions have to be found in other countries as well. He suggested that the EU has to be convinced to pass a directive that countries have to finance the basic forest monitoring. However, this attempt needs much effort on the leading level of ICP Forests.

Ms Sigrid Strich (Ministry and NFC of Germany) mentioned that the draft NEC Directive of the EU, which is under negotiations in Brussels since several months, contains provisions on ecosystem monitoring in Article 8 and Annex 5. While in the past months other topics were discussed, it comes now to the discussion of Article 8. Mr Nenad Potočić (Chair of the EP on Crown Condition and Damage Causes) presented the latest version of the proposal (Article 8) as it was circulated to all respective ministries in the EU. It was decided that an ad-hoc group out of this meeting will formulate a statement concerning the role of ICP Forests in this respect. The statement will be sent to all NFCs in the EU countries asking to include it in the country-specific advice given to their delegates.

Mr Seidling concluded that efforts have to be made in multiple ways. Thus, additional ideas towards a more basic funding are always welcome.

19. Referring to the letter of Mr Marcus Lindner, Ms Karin Hansen presented the project **H2020-INFRAIA-2016/17: FORESTING 2** where ICP Forests is asked to participate and provide **open data**. She suggested to write a letter to every NFC asking if they are willing to open their data for this particular project. Mr Schaub supported her suggestion. Countries which are not willing may disagree until a fixed date. Only countries that agree have a chance to participate in the INFRAIA call. Mr Kirchner was of the opinion, that the question of opening up the data should be based on a general decision, which can be decided by each country and the decision has to be made at the next Task Force Meeting. Ms Strich added that the discussion will probably need more time to come to a decision.

Data management

20. Before Mr Kirchner gave his presentation on data management issues, Mr Bruno De Vos (Chair of the EP on Soil and Soil Solution) opened up a general discussion concerning the database structure and data policy. He recalled the suggestions made at the last combined EP meeting in Göttingen to implement three data layers in the ICP Forests database structure. Layer 0 contains the data which is provided by the member states. This layer can have immediate open access. Layer 1 comprises the harmonized data which is processed by the ICP Forests experts and checked by the EP chairs and can be opened after a fixed period (e.g. 2 years according to data policy). Layer 2 contains of the aggregated datasets predominantly for internal evaluations. As much time and effort is put into Layer 2 data, it can be justified that this layer is used just by the members of the ICP Forests community. However, society asks more and more for open data so this should be provided by Layer 0 (and optionally 1). The concern that experts may end up with different results and conclusions depending on the applied data layer is according to Mr De Vos a common phenomenon in science. The scientific debate is driven by multiple inferences of original and derived datasets.
21. Mr Kirchner presented the content of the new **Data Policy** which was already adopted at the Task Force Meeting 2015. In addition he was further asked to prepare a suggestion for a data policy with different options for data contributors to choose the kind of “openness”. In order to do so, he will need the help of the NFCs in the following points:
 - A list of all institutions contributing data in order to properly dignify all contributing parties on the webpage (see IPPP).
 - A notice of partners denying access to exact coordinates of the plots for external users in general or per default.

22. Mr Kirchner opened the discussion on the following sentence and asked whether “processed datasets” created within the ICP Forests network should be available for internal partners only.

„Based on the measurement data collected during the monitoring activities several processed datasets have been created by members of the ICP Forests Network. Those datasets can only be requested for Internal Evaluations.“ (IPPP)

This sentence has not been changed in the new Data Policy. However, Mr Kirchner would like to reassure if the PCG still approves this sentence because soon the first processed soil database will be published and there will be a need of regulation. In the discussion that followed it became apparent that the term “Internal Evaluation” was understood differently. Considering the current Intellectual Property and Publication Policy (IPPP), which was sent around prior to the PCG Meeting and the last Task Force Meeting, Internal Evaluations are defined as “*Evaluations initialized by the Chairperson of ICP Forests, the PCC, the Expert Panel Chairs and/or other bodies under the LRTAP Convention*”.

23. Mr Kirchner continued to report on the **new online documentation**. Until now the ICP Forests community is facing the problem that the „Explanatory Items“ (including forms, dictionaries and further information) are documented in a static Word document. But descriptions of forms and dictionaries are also stored in the database. As a result, information in the database and the Word document differ a lot. Mr Kirchner suggested that the complete documentation has to be created based on the information coming directly from the database. Therefore, the PCC created a new online documentation which is available under: link <http://icp-forests.net/page/parameterlist>. This online documentation is structured as the known “Explanatory Items“ and allows a full text search. Mr Kirchner invited everybody to read the introduction beforehand and to comment via e-mail in case anything is unclear.

Mr Kirchner asked each Expert Panel to fulfill the following tasks until 15 November 2015:

- EPs need to compare the forms (= Explanatory Items) with the old documentation and inform Mr Kirchner about inconsistencies
- EPs are asked to provide a list of ecosystem-related parameters based on the current online list <http://icp-forests.net/page/parameterlist>
- As there has been undocumented changes of units over time, EPs are asked to provide these information to Mr Kirchner in order to provide a documentation and maybe to further consider possible mutual actions to solve the problem

24. He further presented the two open questions considering Soil Level I and Growth Level I data which have to be discussed and clarified with the responsible Expert Panels as soon as possible. Moreover, changes of forms in 2016 should be announced by the respective Expert Panels as soon as possible.

25. Mr Kirchner stated on **future developments of the data infrastructure and data correction mechanisms**. The data will be submitted to the central database with implemented check routines during the submission. Thereby, the new online documentation will hopefully help to avoid misunderstandings.

Mr Kirchner proposed to replace the fixed format file with a csv file and to replace the “Universal Translator”. Both changes have found a general agreement and were highly welcomed.

Considering the evaluation during the analysis and reporting procedure, minor changes will be done by the PCC upon consultation of the respective country. Major changes can only be changed by resubmission and should be conducted as soon as possible. Furthermore, the PCC would highly

appreciate if each Expert Panel could evaluate the submitted data as soon as possible and as good as possible with own check routines, statistical analyses, etc. Thus, a good quality of the data can be assured. Data can be submitted until 15 February and are available for all Expert Panels two weeks later.

26. Mr Seidling proposed a **database management workshop** in order to clarify open questions led by Mr Kirchner. This is planned as soon as possible.

News from the EPs and committees incl. proposals for manual changes in 2016

27. It was generally agreed that drafts of the planned manual changes, which should be adopted at the TFM 2016, have to be send until 15 March 2016 to the Task Force.
28. Ms **Karin Hansen** briefly reported on the latest activities in **EP Deposition**. As reported on the last TFM 2015, evaluations are still ongoing towards a higher correctness and completeness of national aggregated data. No manual updates are foreseen for the next year.
29. Mr **Marco Ferretti**, Chair of the **Quality Assurance Committee**, informed about the current activities in 2015, including his presentation at the last IUFRO conference, as well as the planned activities in 2016.
30. Mr **Marcus Schaub** reported on the progress made in the **EP Ambient Air Quality**. He presented the ISI publications, reports and proceedings that have been published in 2015. He further presented important collaborations with bodies under CLRTAP. A number of projects are already planned for 2016 but beforehand the ozone symptoms database has to be checked and aggregated. Suggestions for manual changes will be presented at the next TFM.
31. Mr **Stephan Raspe**, Chair of the **EP Meteorology, Phenology and LAI**, reported on the status of the data submission as well as on ongoing projects especially the water budget modelling (Project NitLeach2). Mr Raspe and Mr Stefan Fleck (Co-chair) expect a few manual changes for Meteorology and Phenology but two major ones for LAI, which will be presented in detail at the **next combined Expert Panel Meeting** (EP Meteorology, Phenology and LAI, EP Growth, EP Biodiversity and Ground Vegetation) in Romania, 18-22 April 2016.
32. Ms **Liisa Ukonmaanaho** (Co-Chair) informed about the updated news in the **EP on Foliage and Litterfall** since the last TFM. Data submission has started for the 18th ring test (53 participants from 25 countries). She further reported on all publications in press or under preparation. The planned manual changes have been already prepared for the last TFM. Planned manual changes are ready to be adopted by the Task Force.
33. Mr **Volkmar Timmermann** briefly reported on the latest activities in the **EP Crown Condition and Damage Causes**. The EP contributed to various ICP Forests reports and also contributed to the IUFRO conference. Manual changes are foreseen for next year and will be worked out.
34. Mr Seidling reported on behalf of **Mr Roberto Canullo** about the latest news in the **EP Biodiversity and Ground Vegetation**. He presented the reworked list of projects in process within this EP. The BioSoil Biodiversity database has reached an advanced stage, but still needs some input/ amendments from some countries. No Co-Chair of this EP has been found so far.

35. Mr **Nils König**, Chair of the **Working Group QA/QC in Laboratories**, reported on the last meeting of the heads of the labs and on respective results of the ring tests. No members of other ICPs participated in these tests, however, ICP Forests has taken part in the EMEP ring tests for waters. He further announced Ms **Anna Kowalska** from Poland as the **new organizer of the deposition and soil solution ring tests**. He also proposed Mr **Alfred Fürst** as new **Chair** and Ms **Anna Kowalska** as **Co-Chair** for his replacement in 2017. The next meeting of the heads of the labs will be in autumn 2017 in Madrid, Spain. No changes in the manual are foreseen for the next year. Mr De Vos suggested to publish the latest results of the ring test on the ICP Forests webpage as the EPs are interested in having those results.
36. Mr **Bruno De Vos** reported on the activities of the EP **Soil and Soil Solution**. The 19th Meeting of the EP Soil and Soil Solution was part of the combined Expert Panel Meeting in Göttingen in April 2015. The draft of the minutes and the presentations are available under <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. Ms **Tiina Nieminen** added to the manual changes on **soil solution**. Mr Kirchner would highly appreciate if the Chairs of this EP could sit together with him beforehand in order to bring the complex structure of old and new soil condition databases into format and how to implement the corrected soil solution database.

Future reporting

37. Ms **Alexa Michel** (PCC) gave an overview of the latest reporting of ICP Forests including the Technical Report, Executive Report, and Anniversary Report. The **Technical Report 2015** was published online in August 2015 and is now also available as hardcopies. It will be distributed to all NFCs, EPs and on demand. Ms Michel thanked all contributors of the last Technical Report. Any comments and/or suggestions for the Technical Report 2016 are welcome. For the next Technical Report, the data entry for the national crown condition survey, which is listed in the annex of the report, will be changed to an online form as the transformation was very time consuming and error-prone. The online form is in development right now.

For the TR 2016 the following timeline is foreseen:

Strict deadlines

31 January 2016	EPs must inform Alexa Michel by the end of January at the very latest whether they will contribute to the TR 2016
15 February 2016	Final deadline for submission of data to be included in TR 2016
31 March 2016	Deadline for final contributions to first draft of TR 2016
12 April 2016	First draft of TR 2016 (w/o major editing) will be distributed 4 weeks before TFM
22 May 2016	Final deadline for comments from the Task Force
12 June 2016	Final deadline for contributions Start of copy-editing and publication process

38. Mr Ferretti encouraged to change the structure of the Technical Report and asked the PCC to take the lead in this matter. The PCG agreed that each EP, Working Group and Committee of ICP Forests will contribute to the next Technical Report with a short overview on their activities. Ms Michel will distribute an outline by email for discussion. Planned chapters to the TR should be announced to

Ms Michel until 31 January each year at the very latest. After that deadline she will again directly approach members of the PCG if less than three EPs/WGs/committees have expressed their willingness to contribute with a specific chapter. Furthermore the idea came up to complement the national reports on national crown condition surveys by giving each member state the chance to report also on other ICP Forests activities. Ms Michel will present an outline for EP and member state contributions to the future Technical Reports soon after the meeting. Possible changes in the structure and content of the national reports have to be adopted at the TFM 2016. Mr Levanič already announced that the EP on Forest Growth is willing to contribute to the next TR.

39. The **Anniversary Report 2015** is currently in the layout process. The PCC will distribute the draft to all authors after the finalization of the layout. Thus, all authors will have the chance to give their final comments.
40. The **Executive Report 2014** was already published online when issues after the layout process were realized. Ms Tanja Sanders (PCC) has sent the latest version of the ER to all authors and asks for comments and corrections until 13 October 2015. Mr Schaub asked to add the correct citation on the last page of the report as it has been done for the 2014 Executive Report. The exact structure of the citation will be discussed by e-mail beforehand. The corrected version will be circulated among EP chairs for proof reading before printing the report.
41. Considering the organization of the next Executive Report 2016, Ms Alexa Michel presented the following two options for discussion. Due to time constraints, the issue was not discussed. The PCC will provide further information by e-mail.
 - Option 1: Thematic brochures that will be combined once a year
Throughout the year EPs can send their results to the PCC. The PCC will publish glossy leaflets from those. Every April the PCC will combine those glossy leaflets to the annual ER and present it at the TFM.
 - Option 2: Online submission of chapters in a predefined table format
The ER will consist of chapters from the EPs, which have to be submitted online in a predefined table format.

Closing of the Meeting

42. Mr Seidling thanked everybody for their contributions to the fruitful discussions and closed the meeting.

The following planned agenda topics have to be postponed due to time delay:

- Past and future meetings: International Photo Cross-Calibration Course
- Future reporting: what makes a publication an ICP Forests publication? (TFM)
- Future reporting: list of presentations on the website (TFM)

Please note that the structure of the agenda was not fully complied at the PCG Meeting. Therefore, the minutes represent the final results of the meeting.

The minutes of the PCG Meeting 2015 have been written by Serina Trotzer (PCC)

Actions Points

Topic	Task	Responsible persons	Timetable
Scientific Conference	- to prepare and announce the SC 2016	Scientific Conference Committee	as soon as possible
conferences and meetings concerning the ICP Forests community	- to announce it on the ICP Forests webpage (http://icp-forests.net/)	ICP Forests community	continuously
Strategy	- to annotate the latest version of the strategy - to prepare a final version and circulate it	PCG/ PCC	latest 14 th Oct 2015/ as soon as possible
Data Policy	- to list all institutions contributing data in order to properly dignify all contributing parties on the webpage - to name partners denying access to exact coordinates of the plots for external users in general or per default	NFCs	as soon as possible
New online documentation	- to compare forms (= Explanatory Items) with old documentation and inform Mr Kirchner about inconsistencies - to provide a list of ecosystem-related parameters based on the current online list - to inform Mr Kirchner about changes of units over time	EPs	latest 15 th Nov 2015
Manual changes	- to send planned manual changes, which should be adopted at the TFM 2016, to the Task Force	EPs	latest 15 th March 2016
Technical Report	- to present an outline for EP and member state contributions to the future Technical Reports	Alexa Michel (PCC)	as soon as possible
Anniversary Report	- to distribute the final draft to all authors	PCC	as soon as possible
Executive Report	- to provide further information about the future planning of this report	Alexa Michel (PCC)	as soon as possible

I. List of Participants

	Surname	First name	Country	Position	e-mail
1	De Vos	Bruno	Belgium	EP Chair on Soil and Soil Solution	bruno.devos@inbo.be
2	Ferretti	Marco	Italy	Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee	ferretti@terradata.it
3	Fleck	Stefan	Germany	EP Co-Chair on Meteorology, Phenology and LAI	Stefan.Fleck@nw-fva.de
4	Gottardini	Elena	Italy	EP Co-Chair on Ambient Air Quality	elena.gottardini@fmach.it
5	Hansen	Karin	Sweden	EP Chair on Deposition	karin.hansen@ivl.se
6	Kirchner	Till	Germany	PCC database manager	till.kirchner@ti.bund.de
7	König	Nils	Germany	Chair of the Working Group QA/QC in Laboratories	nils.koenig@nw-fva.de
8	Levanič	Tom	Slovenia	EP Chair on Forest Growth	tom.levanic@gozdis.si
9	Michel	Alexa	Germany	PCC	alexamichel@ti.bund.de
10	Nieminen	Tiina	Finland	EP Co-Chair on Soil Solution	tiina.m.nieminen@luke.fi
11	Potočić	Nenad	Croatia	EP Chair on Crown Condition and Damage Causes	nenadp@sumins.hr
12	Raspe	Stephan	Germany	EP Chair on Meteorology, Phenology and LAI	Stephan.Raspe@lwf.bayern.de
13	Sanders	Tanja	Germany	PCC	tanja.sanders@ti.bund.de
14	Schaub	Marcus	Switzerland	EP Chair on Ambient Air Quality	marcus.schaub@wsl.ch
15	Seidling	Walter	Germany	Head of PCC	walter.seidling@ti.bund.de
16	Strich	Sigrid	Germany	Ministry and NFC of Germany	sigrid.strich@bmel.bund.de
17	Timmermann	Volkmar	Norway	EP Co-Chair on Crown Condition and Damage Causes	volkmar.timmermann@nibio.no
18	Trotzer	Serina	Germany	PCC	serina.trotzer@ti.bund.de
19	Ukonmaanaho	Liisa	Finland	EP Co-Chair on Foliage and Litterfall	liisa.ukonmaanaho@luke.fi

II. Agenda of the PCG Meeting 2015

7 Oct 2015, Wednesday	
13:00-13:10	Opening - Adoption of the agenda
13:10-14:10	Past and future meetings 2 <1:00> - First Joint Session of the Steering Body to the EMEP and WGE, Geneva, 14-18 Sept, incl. draft workplan 2016/17 - Task Force Meeting 2016 - Scientific Conference 2016 - Reports from other meetings (IUFRO etc.)
14:10-15:10	ICP Forests Strategy <1:00> - Results from the online discussion group - New Proposal
15:10-15:40	Coffee break <0:30>
15:40-16:40	Collaboration and Integration <1:00> - Ecological Research Infrastructure in Europe and beyond - H2020-INFRAIA-2016/17: FORESTING 2 - Any other collaborations planned/ongoing
16:40-18:00	Data management <1:20> - Data policy - Online documentation - Potential future developments of the database
19:30	Social Dinner
8 Oct 2015, Thursday	
08:30-10:30	News from the EPs and committees <2:00> - incl. proposals for manual changes in 2016
10:30-11:00	Coffee break <0:30>
11:00-11:30	Past and future meetings 1 <0:30> - 5 th Meeting of the Heads of Laboratories, Vienna, 17-18 Sept - International Photo Cross-Calibration Course 2015
11:30-12:15	Future reporting <0:45> - TR, ER... (Proposal for TFM) - What makes a publication an ICP Forests publication? (TFM) - List of presentations on the website (TFM)
12:15-13:00	AOB <time buffer>