

PCG Meeting 28th - 29th of November 2013

Minutes

International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests)

Meeting of the Programme Coordinating Group (PCG)

of ICP Forests

Thünen Institute for Forest Ecosystems

Local Host: Thünen Institute of International Forestry and Forest Economics

Leuschnerstr. 91, 21031 Hamburg, Germany

Agenda

28 November 2013

13:00 Opening of the meeting (by chairman of ICP Forests Michael Köhl)

13:10 Item 1: Information about the PCC

- Administration and staff
- Responsibility assignment and synergies at the Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems
- Perspectives

14:10 Item 2: Data management

- Introduction of new data manager
- Status of the database (incl. substantial needs of data producers and data users)
- Presentation of new modules (in particular exchange platform for processed data)
- Recent data submission

14:40 Item 3: Future Monitoring from a current perspective

- Strength and weaknesses opportunities and threats (SWOT)
- Activities towards a more solid financing of the Programme (COST, national regulations, Calls HORIZON 2020, COST Richard)

15:10 Coffee break

16:00 Item 4: Data analyses

- Ongoing and future data analyses (EPs)

17:00 Meeting adjourned

29 November 2013 (item 5 and 6 reversed against original agenda)

10:20 Item 5: 30th Task Force Meeting at Athens and coming EP Meetings

- Coming Joint EP Meeting Growth, Crown, Biodiversity, Meteorology/Phenology

- Scientific workshop
- Task Force Meeting

08:30 Item 6: Reporting

- Technical Report 2013
- Executive Report 2013
- Executive Summary and other obligations against CLRTAP / WGE
- Revision of the reporting system

10:00 Coffee break

11:45 Item 7: Other businesses

- FutMon clearing

12:30 Closing

Minutes

Opening:

Chairman Michael Köhl opened this PCG meeting and welcomed all participants (Annex 1). He outlined the recent changes of the PCC of ICP Forests as a consequence of the reorganization within the Thünen Institute.

Item 1

Walter Seidling presented the new PCC staff at the Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems at Eberswalde. He himself is the designated head of PCC, Till Kirchner is the data manager, and Nicole Wellbrock is responsible of crown and soil surveys. Andreas Bolte (head of the institute) is supporting the work of the PCC. Synergies may arise from active working connections within the institute (forest ecology, NFI) and with other Thünen Institutes (e.g. 'Biodiversity' or 'International Forestry and Forest Economics' with respect to Natura 2000).

Nicole Wellbrock presented collaborating institutes outside the Thünen Institute like the German Environmental Agency (UBA), German Federal Inst. Geosciences/Natural Resources (BGR), and German Leibnitz Institutes.

Stefan Fleck, Sigrid Strich, Stephan Raspe, Michael Köhl, Andreas Bolte, Martin Lorenz and others: Concerns and decisions in respect to the PCC moving from the former Thünen Institute of World Forestry at Hamburg to the Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems at Eberswalde were discussed.

Item 2

Till Kirchner presented his concept on the database system (DBS) keeping all functional facilities working, while bringing the DB into the Thünen Institute. Also, the web-page related services will be maintained with all of its functionalities. Concerns about moving the database were discussed. Till Kirchner and other members of the Thünen Institute explained the reasons for moving the DB into

the Thünen Institute that includes risks of long-term financing of external DB hosting and data security in external systems.

Richard Fischer presented the newly developed data exchange module. This shall enable scientists to define datasets resulting from data processing or modelling and to transfer those 'aggregated data' to the database. These data can be shared on request with other interested scientists. Such data is not subjected to ICP Forests data policy, but rely on bilateral agreements between data provider and data user.

Till Kirchner informed about the status of the ongoing data transmission activities of the NFCs.

Item 3:

Walter Seidling presented short lists of strengths and weaknesses on one side and options and threads as external factors on the other side, referring to ICP Forests (initial part of a SWOT analysis). In a brief discussion additional points on internal and external factors were added. In general, it was accepted as a tool for strategic decisions (Marco Ferretti, Karin Hansen, Marcus Schaub, and others), however, it was considered neither complete nor for publication.

Richard Fischer reported on the COST proposal 'FORSERVICE', which has been declined. However, ICP Forests is participant of the COST action PROFOUND.

Richard Fischer (hand-outs) and Walter Seidling (presentation) gave an overview on forthcoming calls within the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon 2020'. The following sections within the "European research infrastructure (including e-Infrastructures)" will be adopted by the EU Commission on 10 December 2013 and are of relevance for ICP Forests:

- INFRADEV-4-2014: "Implementation and operation of cross-cutting services and solutions of clusters of ESFRI (Eur. Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) and other relevant research infrastructures initiatives; keywords are: data sharing and provision, architecture of distributed infrastructures, management of networks of observatories, sampling procedures; Till Kirchner will evaluate potential partners in that field of possible activities.
- INFRAIA-1-2014/2015: "Integrating and opening existing national and regional research infrastructures of European interest. Relevant chapters are: "Research infrastructures for long-term ecosystem and socio-ecological research" (Starting Communities, LTER mentioned) and "Research infrastructures for forest ecosystem and resources research" (Advanced Communities, air pollution effects, climate change, species diversity mentioned).
- ISIB-4-2014/2015 (hand-out): Improved data and management models for sustainable forestry". Under societal challenge there is stated that there is a "need [to] improve the record of forest data, systems of monitoring". Improvement and harmonization of forest data should be a core activity.

Discussion arose: Marcus Schaub underlined the importance of LTER-Europe network for future collaborations and combined applications for funds especially in the context of Horizon 2020. A list of contact persons was drafted (Annex 2).

Martin Lorenz advocated Natura 2000 as a further possibility for future cooperation; Harald Mauser was named as a contact person.

Life Watch and ICOS (Integrated Carbon Observation System) have an MoU; Walter Seidling will get in touch with ICOS.

Walter Seidling gave a short note on a national funding initiative (regulation) by Germany based on the federal forest law. In a short discussion it was stated that each country has its peculiarities and there is no precedent-setting in this respect.

Marco Ferretti pointed out the need for a more strategic perspective for securing adequate, long-term funding to monitoring. Although individual projects may help, they do not solve the financial

problems of the monitoring, neither in terms of amount of money nor in terms of long-term, large-scale support.

Item 4:

Karin Hansen reported on activities of the EP Deposition. In total, there are 19 different evaluations. Evaluations are progressing. A request has been sent to all NFCs to validate national deposition data and verify the plot locations correctly on a map.

Bruno De Vos reported on progress made in EP Soil. Part of the group published paper on the database, aggregation rules for sites, heavy metals, and trace metals cycles. A joint evaluation on mosses and trace metals is planned together with ICP Vegetation.

Stephan Raspe reported on recent evaluation activities und EP Meteorology, Phenology, and LAI. Quality control is still a focus. In the discussion a general need for water balance modelling was underlined; they are now available for 10 Level II plots. Stefan Fleck mentioned that the pF-curves from FutMon project are now evaluated and will be joined with the aggregated soil database prepared by Nathalie Cools.

Marcus Schaub reported about ozone risk assessments. For ozone flux modelling, there is an intensive cooperation with ICP Vegetation. In May 2014, the EP will present its work at the International Conference on Ozone and Plants in Beijing, China. A concept for future activities within the EP AAQ is being developed.

Tom Levanič reported on activities in the EP Forest Growth. At the moment the group is discussing its further lead. The new chair is planned to be determined on the combined expert panel meeting in Eberswalde.

Pasi Rautio reported on activities of EP Foliage and Litterfall. The next step in foliar data analysis is to combine foliar data with the data on damage assessment and phenological observations on Level II plots. Pasi Rautio will contact EP chairs (Peter Roskams and Urša Vilhar) to combine the data sets and to initiate data analyses.

Peter Roskams and Nenad Podočić gave a report on activities of EP Crown. International Cross Calibration course for crown condition assessments, Southern Europe was held in Follonica, Italy, from September 30 to October 2, 2013. International Cross calibration Course Crown Condition (Central Europe) will be held in Witzhausen, Germany, from 10-13 June 2014. The nomination of two co-chairs (candidates Volkmar Timmermann for northern and Nenad Potočić for southern Europe) will be discussed at the Joint EP in Eberswalde and the recommendation presented to the Task Force in Athens for approval.

Richard Fischer summarized activities of Roberto Cannullo from EP Biodiversity on state of the BiosSoil database, which will be included into the ICP Forests database.

Item 6 (pre-drawn)

Task Force Meeting will be held on 26 - 30 May at Athens. The last years' general time table with the excursion von Wednesday between the Scientific Conference and the actual Task Force Meeting

has been questioned as it becomes more and more difficult to justify an entire week being abroad for a conference. In order to respect the family life and precious free time of the participants, it is requested to allow travelling during the week, i.e. Mondays rather than Sundays. Thus, it has been suggested, to move the excursion at the beginning or to the end of the conference, to a) allow the participants travelling during the week and b) to leave it up to the participants, whether they choose to attend the excursion or not. A final decision will be made by Walter Seidling mainly based on experiences collected by Martin Lorenz and Richard Fischer.

It was confirmed that a combined (parallel partly back-to-back) EP Meetings of EPs Growth, Biodiversity, Crown, Meteorology and Phenology, Ambient Air Quality will take place in the week from 3-7 March at Eberswalde, Germany. The EP chairs are invited to propose provisional agendas in order to organise the frame of the events (e.g. excursion or joint sessions).

The 3rd Scientific Conference is planned back to back with the 30th Task Force Meeting 2014 in Athens. As chairman of the Scientific Committee, Marco Ferretti presented his conceptions based on the experiences made in Warsaw (2012) and Belgrade (2013), and inputs from UNECE and the scientific community. There will be keynote, standard and short presentations as well as flash presentations of contents from posters. All contributors to the discussion welcomed the proposal; Michael Köhl suggested adequate press release activities to attract additional attention via the public media. The Scientific Committee for the 2014 Conference consists of: Marco Ferretti, Nathalie Cools, Karin Hansen, Marcus Schaub, Michael Köhl, Nenad Podočić. Marco Ferretti will provide a first draft of the call in the coming week.

Item 5 (shifted)

Martin Lorenz shortly informed about the activities concerning the 2013 Technical Report. The work will be completed in cooperation with the new PCC and finalized as originally scheduled (Martin Lorenz, Georg Becher, Richard Fischer, Walter Seidling and others).

Richard Fischer shortly informed about the activities concerning the 2013 Executive Report. The work will also be finalized in cooperation with PCC as originally foreseen (Richard Fischer, Walter Seidling and others).

Obligations towards the WGE especially the Executive Summary will be finalized until the Extended Bureau will meet in March 2014 (Martin Lorenz & Walter Seidling).

Walter Seidling presented a summary of the Advanced Version of the "Review of the International Cooperative Programmes of the Working Group on Effects" initiated by the Executive Body of CLRTAP. The report had been circulated in advance of the PCG Meeting. Points discussed were:

- Possible changes of the reporting systems: a more thematically oriented system as proposed (brochures for policymakers and public, synthesis papers in scientific journals, scientific papers to provide „scientific legitimacy“ to the Convention) was welcomed. This could be complemented by press releases. This is already underway within the ICP Forests (Marco Ferretti). A future revision will be discussed and respectively changed in accordance with the requirements of the WGE. The scientific output will be improved through publication of syntheses papers, but basic papers will also be provided covering all activities of the monitoring programme.

- The recommendation to streamline the Programme and to focus on air pollution issues has been discussed. There was a common understanding that the ecosystem approach of ICP Forests should be continued.
- The recommendation to assess and coordinate deposition monitoring in relation to EMEP was welcomed by PCG. In-situ deposition measurements are seen as an important counterpart to modelling approaches.
- Importance of Level I monitoring and its relevance for air pollution impact assessment is mainly seen in connection with up-scaling approaches, impact of climate change and validation studies and studies aiming at demonstrating the value of abatement strategies.
- A possible inclusion of ICP Integrated Monitoring should further be discussed especially with their representatives. Closer and more intensive cooperation of both ICPs is considered as an alternative.
- Recommended cooperation with ICP Vegetation with respect to ozone impacts (including carbon sequestration) is in progress (Marcus Schaub).

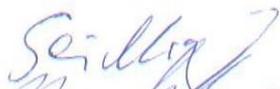
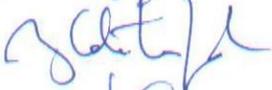
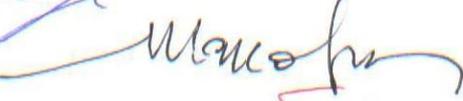
Item 7

Martin Lorenz gave a status report on the financial clearing of the LIFE+ FutMon project. Two main critics have been raised by the Commission and JRC: supposed gaps in data and irregularities in financial clearing. Both could largely be cleared out by the coordinating and the associated beneficiaries, however, some inconsistencies may remain (and may reduce final reimbursement).

Martin Lorenz and Richard Fischer were acknowledged as good friends and valuable partners for their effective and dedicated work for ICP Forests through many years.

Closing of the Meeting

Annex 1: List of Participants

Frau Strich	
Karin Hansen	
Walter Seidling	
Marcus Schaub	
Nenad Potocic	
Pasi Rautio	
Bruno DeVos	
Till Kirchner	
Vicent Catalayud	
Peter Roskams	
Herr Bolte	
Frau Wellbrock	
Richard Fischer	
Martin Lorenz	
Prof. Köhl	
Tom Levanic	
Stefan Raspe	
Marco Ferretti	
Stefan Fleck	

Annex 2: Provisional list of relevant Calls related to EU Work Programme "Horizon 2020" and others

Project	Main object	Partner in ICP Forests	outside ICP Forests	remarks
Call 1				
INFRADEV-4-2014	"data services"	Till Kirchner, NN	NN	
Call 2				
INFRAIA-1-2014/15	Environmental a. Earth Sciences, Starting communities			
	Research infrastructures for long term ecosystem monitoring and socio-ecological research	Marcus Schaub, Nathalie Cools	Micheal Mirtl (LTER Europe) MoC in preparation	
	Research infrastructures for forest ecosystem and resources research	Andreas Bolte	? Johannes Peterseil	
? ISIB	"merging" approaches"			
IPBES		Walter Seidling		
				depending on national focal points
	"participating in LTER database"		Michael Mirtl	
	"harmonizing methods"	Nathalie Cools		