

CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

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

MINUTES

of the eighteenth meeting of the Programme Task Force
held from 25 to 29 May 2002 in Lisbon, Portugal

1. The meeting was attended by 76 experts from the following 34 countries:
Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
2. Also represented were the Secretariat of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (Mr. R. Chrast), the Working Group on Effects (Mr. H. D. Gregor and Mr. T. Johannessen), the ICP on Modelling and Mapping (Mr. T. Spranger), the ICP on Integrated Monitoring (Mr. L. Lundin), the ICP Waters (Ms. B. Kvaeven) as well as the ICP Vegetation (Mr. T. Ashenden). Moreover, Mr. H. Sase from the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), Mr. T.-B. Larsson from the European Environmental Agency (EEA), and Mr. M. Ferretti (IUFRO working group on the Impact of Air Pollution on Forest Ecosystems) were participating. A list of participants is attached as annex I.
3. Mr. T. Haußmann (Germany), Chairman of the Programme Task Force, opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Portugal for hosting it.
4. Mr. C. Morais (General Director of Forests, Portugal) welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Portugal. He stressed the political relevance of the work of ICP Forests and underlined the advantages and the importance of a close co-operation with the EU scheme and wished all participants a successful meeting.
5. The Task Force adopted the minutes of its seventeenth meeting held in Ennis (Ireland) from 19 to 23 May, 2001.
6. The Task Force adopted the agenda of the meeting (annex 2).

Item 2: Report by the Chairman and by PCC

7. Mr. T. Haußmann reported on main activities and major items under discussion within ICP Forests and thanked all countries for their active participation especially those in eastern Europe. He stressed that the widening of the ICP Forests mandate is acknowledged also from bodies outside the Convention and mentioned as an example the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the Biodiversity community. The importance of a close co-operation with other ICPs under the Working Group on Effects (WGE) and with other international organisations (e.g. the Acid Deposition Network in East Asia, EANET) was stressed. He mentioned further improvements of data quality aspects as one major task of the programme's work. Furthermore questions concerning the future co-operation with the European Commission (EC) remain to be solved in near future.

Mr. M. Lorenz (Germany), Head of the Programme Co-ordinating Centre (PCC) of ICP Forests, reported on activities of PCC since the seventeenth meeting of the Task Force. He focused on several reports by PCC, on the co-operation with other ICPs, on the editing and circulation of new parts of the manual, on the updated webpage of ICP Forests, on the International Cross-calibration Courses in 2001 and 2002 and on the co-operation with EANET. The Task Force considered and approved the report on the activities of PCC.

Item 3: Report by Chairman of WGE

8. Mr. H.-D. Gregor (Chairman of the WGE) thanked the ICP Forests for its valuable contributions to the WGE activities and reported that the work of ICP Forests and the quality of its contributions was highly appreciated. In particular he mentioned the joint report on cause effect relationships of the ICP Integrated Monitoring and ICP Forests, the joint folder on ozone damage prepared in co-operation with ICP Vegetation and the Level II monitoring activities. Mr. H.-D. Gregor informed on activities of the WGE including the joint report of the ICPs, plans for the "Substantive Report on Air Pollution Effects and their Recorded Trends" to be finalised until 2004 which aims at being used in the review processes for protocols under the convention. He also reported on new activities in the field of heavy metals, the medium term work plan of the WGE and its long term strategy.

Finally, he congratulated the programme for the scientific quality of its work and urged it to continue its effective co-operation with the other ICPs.

9. The EC not being present at the meeting addressed the Task Force Meeting by a written contribution (annex 3). Mr. T. Haußmann added information on the main developments within the EC. He mentioned that the EU Scheme on the Protection of Forests against Atmospheric Pollution had been prolonged again for one year until end of 2002. The Directorate of Environment (DG ENV) will be responsible for the EU scheme from 2003 onwards. In general EC intends to continue the co-operation with ICP Forests. He mentioned the presently available new draft regulation. After short discussion the Task Force asked its Chairman to express general interest in further co-operation of the ICP Forests with EC. If needed the Programme Co-ordinating Group (PCG) of ICP Forests will be invited by the Chairman before the next Task Force Meeting to take urgent decisions. In the following discussion it

was underlined that during negotiations in Brussels all EU Member States as well as the candidate countries might as far as possible express their interest that both programmes continue its close co-operation.

Item 4: Co-operation with other ICPs

10. Ms. B. Kvaeven (Norway), Chairwoman of ICP Waters, introduced the objectives of this programme. Results from the ICP Waters Programme clearly show that surface waters respond to changes in atmospheric deposition. She reported from the Workshop on Heavy Metals and the Task Force Meeting held in March 2002 in Lillehammer, and gave an overview on the draft outline of the 15 years report (Acidification, heavy metals, dynamic modelling and POPs in aquatic systems are major topics besides the contributions to the WGE and the relevant protocols). She pointed to the importance of nitrogen when assessing recovery from acidification, and underlined the continued yearly intercomparison on chemistry and biology.

11. Mr. T. Ashenden (United Kingdom) reported on behalf of Ms. G. Mills (Chairwomen of ICP Vegetation) on recent activities including of the monitoring of effects of ozone on crops and seminatural vegetation, evaluations of economic effects of ozone damage, heavy metals and nutrient nitrogen. He informed on the ICP Vegetation/EMEP Expert meeting to be held in Harrogate, UK in June 2002. This meeting will discuss in a small group the actual methods used in flux and deposition modelling in preparation for setting Level II critical levels for ozone at the UNECE Critical Levels Workshop to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden on 19-22 November 2002. He welcomed the close co-operation with ICP Forests which had included the production of a colour brochure on ozone injury on vegetation. For 2002 onwards co-operation is foreseen in the fields of the further collection of photos on ozone injury, the exchange of data on ozone and information on ozone-sensitive species, and the exchange of knowledge in the fields of quality assurance, moss survey, and nitrogen deposition.

12. Mr. T. Spranger (Germany), Chairman of ICP on Modelling and Mapping, reported on recent activities in the fields of (i) steady state critical loads of acidity and nutrient nitrogen and their exceedance, (ii) critical levels of ozone and their exceedance, (iii) dynamic modelling of acidification and eutrophication, and (iv) heavy metals, the latter two being the main fields of the ICP's activities in the past year. Main fields of co-operation with ICP Forests in the coming year will be the application of dynamic models both, at Level II plots at national and international level and further data exchange concerning the other sub-programmes of ICP on Modelling and Mapping.

13. Mr. L. Lundin (Sweden), Chairman of ICP Integrated Monitoring, introduced the main objectives of this programme and reviewed past as well as future planned activities. He underlined the ecosystem oriented approach of ICP IM and the focus on unmanaged forests. The priorities of the programme's work are set on heavy metals, critical loads and levels for nitrogen, dynamic modelling, ground vegetation indicator modelling in co-operation with FIMCI, and the calculation of budgets and trends in sulphur, nitrogen, acidity and base cation (BC). He presented the joint cause effect relationship report of the ICP Integrated Monitoring and ICP Forests, reported that it had already been adopted by the Task Force of ICP Integrated Monitoring and thanked all the authors for their active contributions. It

was agreed to prepare a summary for submission as an official UNECE document. The full version will be an internal document mainly aiming to improve the collaboration between the National Focal Centres of the two programmes and to serve as a basis for the forthcoming WGE Substantive Report. The Task Force welcomed the report and asked the chairmen of the two programmes to submit the report to the WGE as amended.

Item 5: Forest biodiversity

14. Mr. T. Haußmann recalled that the Task Force of ICP Forests had amended its objectives in 2000 now including also programme contributions to the assessments of air pollution effects on forest biodiversity.

15. Mr. T.-B. Larsson (European Environment Agency, EEA) gave an overview of the current international processes and discussions in the field of biodiversity (Convention on Biological Diversity, MCPFE, 6th Environment action programme of the EU). Furthermore the objective of the “6th EU Environmental Action Programme to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010” demonstrates the need for European-level data on the state and changes of biodiversity. The monitoring system developed by ICP Forests has a significant potential in this context.

16. Mr. P. Neville (Ireland), chairman of the ICP Forests Working Group on Biodiversity reported on the activities of the group during the past year and concluded that the ICP Forests could contribute by means of its already available data to the assessments of biodiversity.

The Task Force noted with appreciation the work of the Working Group on Biodiversity. The countries were invited to compile national experiences or if possible to carry out national desk studies in the field of forest biodiversity assessment. A feasibility study at European level will be carried out by ICP Forests during summer 2002. PCC in collaboration with FIMCI offered their readiness to conduct such a study.

The Task Force agreed to a test phase (2003-2005) aiming at specifying the possible contributions of the programme in the field of biodiversity assessments and keeping in mind the outcome of the feasibility study.

Austria, Belgium-Flanders, Denmark, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom already offered their participation in the test phase in order to contribute their national experience for the elaboration of feasible approaches and possible future methods. Other countries are still considering a possible participation in the future. In close co-operation with the national experts additional assessments on a limited number of Level II plots might be tested from 2003 on. The Working Group on Biodiversity was invited to assist the countries during the test phase, to elaborate further details including quality assurance aspects and to report the progress back to the Task Force in 2003.

ICP Forests expressed its readiness to co-operate in the field of air pollution effects on forest biodiversity with DG ENV, EEA, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and other relevant bodies of the EC.

17. Mr. W. de Vries (The Netherlands) presented the recent evaluations of the Forest Intensive Monitoring Co-ordinating Institute (FIMCI) related to ground vegetation assessments and environmental factors. The Task Force adopted the related chapters of the Technical Report on Intensive Monitoring and the Executive Report 2002 as amended.

Item 6: Calculation of critical loads for inputs of atmospheric deposition

18. Mr. T. Haußmann recalled that the calculation of critical loads was an important objective of ICP Forests. He pointed to several studies already carried out at national and European level.

19. Mr. H. D. Gregor gave an overview of the development of the critical loads approach, its application in the framework of the Convention and the central role of the critical loads concept in the successful development of effect-based emission reduction strategies for Europe in the fields of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone. He informed on current international processes and relevant projects in the field of critical loads calculations. He stressed in particular the increasing importance of dynamic modelling.

20. Mr. W. de Vries presented the recent evaluations of the Forest Intensive Monitoring Co-ordinating Institute (FIMCI) related to critical loads assessments. The Task Force adopted the related chapters of the Technical Report on Intensive Monitoring and the Executive Report 2002 as amended.

21. Mr. T. Spranger gave an overview of procedures for the proper application and understanding of the critical loads approach. He presented possibilities for further co-operation with ICP Forests, invited to the workshop "Empirical Critical Loads for Nitrogen deposition on (Semi-) Natural Ecosystems" in Bern, 11 – 13 November 2002 and pointed to the workshop on ozone critical levels (see para. 11). Furthermore he informed about an invitation to a workshop of the Joint Expert Group on dynamic modelling (Sitges, Spain, November 2002). Mr. W. de Vries on behalf of the ICP Forests will participate in the meeting of the ad-hoc expert working groups on critical limits and on transfer functions on Heavy Metals (tentatively Berlin, 2 – 4 December 2002).

22. Mr. G. Krause (Germany) presented a method for the estimation of risk of ozone damage, which he will present on behalf of ICP Forests at the Ozone workshop in Gothenburg. The participation of additional experts in Gothenburg is highly welcomed.

23. Mr. H. D. Becker (Germany) presented national critical loads (CL) evaluations, which were conducted as a close co-operation between the German National Focal Centre of ICP Modelling and Mapping and ICP Forests. The use of models of varying complexity (SAFE, PROFILE, Simple Mass Balance (SMB)) showed that Critical Load exceedances in Germany had decreased for sulphur whereas for nitrogen no reduction was observed. Additionally he gave an introduction into the possibilities of dynamic modelling.

24. In the ensuing discussion the importance of the critical load approach was stressed. The Task Force emphasised the need to make the presented and other available national experiences available to FIMCI as a basis for the transnational evaluations for the forthcoming Technical Report on Intensive Monitoring. In addition the need to apply critical load calculations also at national level was stressed.

Item 7: Implementation of Level II activities

25. Mr. G. Landmann (France) gave an overview of progress made within the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) since the seventeenth Task Force Meeting. He announced the upcoming combined SAG/NFC meeting on 31 October to 1 November 2002 in Heerenveen, The Netherlands and pointed to a paper concerning "The Pan-European Monitoring Programme on Forest Ecosystems: Current and Future Issues" (so-called "Evans paper") elaborated by the SAG. Data requests by external persons and groups could be satisfied in nearly all cases.

26. Mr. E. Vel (The Netherlands) on behalf of FIMCI gave a brief overview on the actual status of the Level II data submission and on the gaps within the database which should be filled as soon as possible by the NFCs including the completion of the DARQs.

The Task Force asked all NFCs to submit their Level II data of 2001 until 31 December 2002 at the latest and to update data gaps as soon as possible. All questions concerning the data of 2000 should be solved with FIMCI before 1 July 2002.

Mr. Vel also referred to the inclusion of the Level II data in the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS).

27. Mr. E. Ulrich (France) presented the document "Proposed Evolutions within the Expert Panel on Deposition (2001-2004)". He pointed to the fact that currently only minimum recommendations are given by the ICP Forests manual and that it is intended to further harmonise analyses and the field methods following a work plan and a new strategy. The next Expert Panel meeting was announced to be held on 19 June 2002 in Fontainebleau, France, following a two days workshop on quality assurance in the laboratory.

In the ensuing discussion the ambitious efforts of the Expert Panel were highly appreciated and supported. The necessity of close co-operation with other deposition monitoring programmes in particular EMEP was underlined.

28. Mr. G. Krause (Germany) reported on progress made within the Working Group on Ambient Air Quality. Ms. M.J. Sanz (Spain) introduced the improved webpage of this group and informed on activities in the countries in the field of passive sampling.

The Task Force acknowledged the importance of ozone related activities within the ICP Forests programme, encouraged the co-operation with other bodies under the Convention (in particular EMEP, ICP Vegetation and ICP Modelling and Mapping) and supported in principle the inclusion of a first evaluation of data of the test phase (ozone concentration data/visible ozone injury data) in the technical report on intensive monitoring 2003 in order to assess the possibility for further use of the data on ozone injuries. A final decision will only be taken after discussion at the 3rd Intercalibration course on ozone injuries in Villefranche-sur-Mer in September 2002 and at the meeting in Heerenveen, NL in October 2002. FIMCI in close co-operation with the WG on Ambient Air Quality will prepare a proper proposal.

The Task Force invited the countries to submit their data on passive ozone sampling and visible ozone injury to FIMCI not later than 31 August 2002, preferably by 1 July 2002 according to the agreed data

format.

Due note should be taken of relevant conclusions and recommendations of the mentioned workshop on Level II critical levels for ozone in Gothenburg, Sweden, 19 – 22 Nov. 2002.

29. Mr. J. Derome (Finland) presented the updated Submanual on Soil Solution Collection and Analysis and underlined the importance of the soil solution survey regarding temporal changes of ecosystem conditions. Standardisation of field work and laboratory analysing methods is an important but difficult task. A ring test conducted in co-operation with the EP deposition with 59 laboratories participating will give valuable results and will reveal areas of further improvements. Mr. J. Derome stressed the importance of the ad-hoc working group on analytical quality assurance which had been established in Ispra (Italy) in May 2001. This group might verify also the need to restructure the ICP Forests manual in order to concentrate all quality assurance (QA) aspects in one sub manual.

The Task Force adopted the updated version of the sub manual on soil solution sampling as amended and asked the PCC to publish it in summer 2002.

30. Mr. D. Aamlid (Norway), chairman of the EP Ground Vegetation, presented the main activities of the Expert Panel since the 17th Task Force Meeting including (i) first evaluations of ground vegetation data in co-operation with FIMCI (ii) further in depth evaluations of the data by the team of Mr. J. L. Dupouey (France) and (iii) amendments of the code list for data submission.

He presented elements for an update of the Ground vegetation Sub-manual. The Task Force adopted the updates to the sub manual on Ground Vegetation as amended and asked the PCC to publish it in summer 2002.

31. Mr. E. Beuker (Finland), Co-chairman of the EP Phenology and Meteorology, invited countries to submit to him any data on phenology, if available for an evaluation of this data within a test phase.

32. Mr. G. Landmann (France), chairman of the Working Group Litterfall assessment, pointed out that it was planned to present a manual including forms for a subsequent data submission to the Task Force in 2003. Future focus will have to be put on the submission of the already collected litterfall data in the countries after the adoption of the sub manual.

33. Mr. J. Eichhorn (Germany), chairman of the EP on Crown Condition Assessments invited to the workshop and EP meeting from 3 – 6 February 2003 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The ICCs in 2002 are scheduled to be held by Spain, Norway, and France. Mr. M. Ferretti (EP Crown Condition) volunteered to chair an editorial group which will prepare operational guidelines for the ICCs in 2002 until end of June 2002.

34. Mr. H. Raitio (Finland), chairman of the EP on Foliar Analyses, informed that the results of the 5th ringtest were available on the webpage of the Expert Panel and announced the next EP meeting to be held in Prague in April 2003.

35. The Task Force thanked all the Expert Panels for their valuable work and underlined the importance of the expert work carried out.

Item 8: Level I related matters

36. Mr. V. Mues (Germany) presented main results of the current Level I evaluations. The Task Force adopted the Technical Report "Forest Condition in Europe – Results of the 2001 Large-scale Survey" and the relevant chapter of the Executive Report, as amended and agreed to submit crown condition data for the year 2002 to PCC already by 15 November 2002.

37. Mr. E. van Ranst (Belgium) reported on the progress made at the Forest Soil Co-ordinating Centre (FSCC). The Task Force agreed that an interlaboratory ring test will be organised by FSCC in 2002/03 based on the updated manual and adopted the suggestions summarised in annex 4.

ITEM 9: Executive Report 2002

38. Mr. D. Durrant (UK) presented the Folder of ICP Forests which was produced in order to address a wider public, members of EC and the EU parliament with a short and comprehensive presentation of the programme. The Task Force appreciated the excellent work. The editorial group (Mr. D. Durrant, FIMCI, Chairman of ICP Forests, PCC) will check the final version. The Task Force adopted the draft of the folder as amended.

39. PCC will finance a print-run of 4000 copies and circulate the copies as agreed. The publication of a PDF-file version on the ICP Forests webpage is foreseen. Countries interested in receiving extra copies on their own expenses may contact PCC.

40. Mr. R. Fischer (Germany) presented the Executive Report on Forest Condition 2002. After an in-depth discussion the Task Force adopted the report as amended for submission to the Working Group on Effects. All press releases should not be made before 1 September 2002. EC has indicated that translation will be made as in previous years.

Item 10: Co-operation of ICP Forests with other international organisations

41. Mr. N. Kräuchi (Switzerland) presented the programme of ENFORS (COST Action E25) which is a European wide network for long-term Forest Ecosystem and Landscape Research. He stressed a common data, information and knowledge access policy as a necessary precondition for a successful implementation. ICP Forests will cooperate in future with ENFORS.

42. Mr. M. Ferretti on behalf of the IUFRO working group "7.04.01 Impact of Air Pollution on Forest Ecosystems – Diagnosis, monitoring and evaluation" gave an overview of the coming IUFRO meeting on 'Long Term Air Pollution Effect on Forest Ecosystems' in Zvolen, Slovak Republic, 30 August – 1 September 2002. The Task Force underlined the importance of IUFRO which is also reflected in the preface of the Executive report 2002, and urged its members to participate at the workshop in Zvolen if possible.

43. Mr. H. Sase on behalf of the EANET presented the activities on Acid Deposition Network in East Asia, especially issues on soil including the inter-laboratory comparison project, development of the

strategy paper, and co-operation with ICP Forests. A joint workshop by ICP Forests and EANET is scheduled in Hanoi, Vietnam in 9-13 December 2002.

44. Mr. A. Riebeau (USA), USDA Forest Service Research, presented his organisation and reported on major activities. He underlined the need for a co-operation with ICP Forests.

Mr. A. Bytnerowicz, USDA Forest Service / Pacific Southwest Research Station, presented methods and results of air pollution research in California emphasising the experiences on ozone and nitrogen monitoring.

ITEM 11: Organisational matters

45. Mr. N. Potocic on behalf of the Croatian government invited the Task Force of ICP Forests to hold its 19th annual meeting from 24 – 28 May 2003 in Zagreb, Croatia. The Task Force thanked Croatia for the invitation.

46. Mr. T. Haußmann presented a proposal for future data access rules. The Task Force in general supports a wide use of the data in line with the Convention's rules e.g. via internet and invited its data centres to elaborate a more concrete proposal on basis of the presented document and present it to the 19th Task Force Meeting.

47. The Task Force took note of the financial statements given by PCC for 2002 (annex 5).

48. The Task Force agreed on the revised budget of ICP Forests for 2002/2003 (annex 6).

49. A list of all voluntary financial contributions received so far by the UNECE secretariat for ICP Forests is attached as annex 7. Countries are invited to verify if all their payments are included in the list and to report any differences to the chairman of ICP Forests.

50. The Task Force reiterated its invitation to all participating countries to provide their voluntary contributions through the UNECE secretariat as early as possible in the year. Contributions should be made by bank transfer in US dollars as follows:

Bank Name:	JPMorgan Chase Bank
Address:	International Agencies Banking e1166, Avenue of the America, 17 th floor New York, N.Y. 10036-2708, USA
ABA code:	021000021 (Specific for US use)
SWIFT code:	CHASUS33
Account Name:	UN Geneva General Fund
Account Number:	485-001802

Each contribution must be clearly referenced:

“Credit LUA Trust Fund-ECE/EOA, Allotment account: LUC-25-270”

The Task Force urged countries to clearly state in the transfer documents that the contribution is made towards financing the ICP Forests of UNECE and indicate the year for which it is made.

Alternatively, contributions may also be made by cheque made payable to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, clearly earmarked as indicated above, and addressed to:

Executive Office (Office 333)
Office of the Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

51. On request by the Task Force a list of relevant web addresses was elaborated by PCC (see annex 8).

52. The Task Force expressed its appreciation to the Lead Country, the Programme Co-ordinating Centre, FIMCI, and the Expert Panels for their scientific and co-ordinating work and acknowledged their important contributions to the successful implementation of the programme.

53. The Task Force thanked Mr. R. Chrast, in view of his forthcoming retirement, for the good co-operation and for the support which he provided for ICP Forests over many years.

54. The Task Force also expressed its gratitude to the host authorities and the Portuguese Government for their excellent meeting arrangements and their hospitality, as well as for organising an instructive excursion.

55. The Task Force Meeting was closed by Mr. C. Morais, General Director of Forests, Portugal.