

CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

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

MINUTES

of the twenty first meeting of the Programme Task Force
held on 25 and 26 May 2005 in Rome, Italy

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and of the minutes of the 20th Task Force Meeting

1. The meeting was attended by 93 experts from the following 35 countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA.
2. Represented were the Working Group on Effects (Mr. H.-D. Gregor, Mr. M. Johansson), the European Commission DG Agriculture (Mr. T. Szedlak), the European Commission DG Joint Research Centre (Mr. J. San Miguel, Mrs. A. Bastrup-Birk), the ICP on Vegetation (Mr. H. Harmens), the ICP on Integrated Monitoring (Mr. L. Lundin), as well as the ICP on Modelling and Mapping (Mr. T. Spranger, Mr. M. Posch). Furthermore, the European Network for long-term Forest Ecosystem and Landscape Research (Mr. N. Kräuchi) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (Mr. M. Ferretti) were participating. A list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
3. Mr. Haußmann (Germany), Chairman of the Programme Task Force, opened the meeting, thanked the Government of Italy for hosting it and welcomed the participants.
4. The Task Force adopted the minutes of its twentieth meeting held in Växjö, Sweden (22-26 May 2004).
5. The Task Force adopted the agenda of the meeting (Annex 2).

Item 2: Reports by the Chairman and the Programme Coordinating Centre (PCC)

6. Mr. Haußmann reported on the present main activities within ICP Forests and thanked all participating countries and bodies of the programme for their active participation. He underlined the positive development in the cooperation with the EC and thanked the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for the good cooperation.
7. Mr. Lorenz (Germany), Head of the Programme Co-ordinating Centre (PCC) of ICP Forests, reported on activities of PCC since the twentieth meeting of the Task Force. Specific tasks during the past twelve months had been the updating of the Manual, the organization of the 2004 photo exercise, the launch of the ForestBIOTA project, and the cooperation with USDA Forest Service. He highlighted the various reports produced in cooperation with National Focal Centres and various experts. The cooperation with the EC under the Grant Agreement had been

implemented and in addition PCC started to work as subcontractor of the “Consortium Forest Focus” in order to support the development of a Joint EU/ICP-Forests database for Level I and Level II at JRC. He informed on the participation in the IUFRO World Congress “Forests in the Global Balance”, the International Botanical Congress and the Acid Rain Conference during summer 2005. The Task Force took note of the progress made by PCC and adopted its report.

Item 3: Reports by the Chairman of the Working Group on Effects (WGE) and the Chairpersons of other ICPs of the WGE

8. Mr. M. Johansson (Secretary to the WGE) reported on the present state of the work under the CLRTAP and underlined that the communication among the bodies of CLRTAP is an important precondition for a successful cooperation. He drew the attention to the streamlining of reports.

9. Mr. H.-D. Gregor (Chairman of the WGE) reported on the outcomes of the 23rd session of the WGE (EB.AIR/WG.1/2004/2) and the 22nd session of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/83). He gave an overview on the reports of the different ICPs and the main findings concerning acidification, nutrient N, ozone, particulate matter, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and cross-cutting items. Specific emphasis was laid on the main findings as summarized in the Substantive Report (EB.AIR/WG.1/2004/14). The WGE supports a workshop to stimulate modelling of nutrient nitrogen processes and their effects to meet its medium-term work-plan (aiming to support the work on dynamic models of nutrient N). He underlined the need to unite forces to contribute to the ozone flux approach and concentration, and informed that CCE will issue a call for data on critical loads of heavy metals. The medium term work plan of WGE (EB.AIR/WG.1/2004/4) aims on the harmonization of efforts of WGE and EMEP with the EC programme CAFE. The link of observations from ICP network sites to critical load mapping (ICP M&M) and the need for commonly agreed land-cover data as well as pollutant loads and their scenarios were emphasized.

10. The Task Force of ICP Forests took note of the report by the Chairman and the secretary of the WGE including the medium term work plan and reiterated the importance of the cooperation between the ICPs.

11. Mr. L. Lundin (Sweden), Chairman of the ICP Integrated Monitoring, presented the programme's recent activities on heavy metals, dynamic modelling, and nutrient nitrogen loads effects. In this context he underlined the importance of the litterfall component. He also mentioned activities regarding acidification trends, climate change, and biodiversity. The most important challenges are: climate change, the description of forest management effects, and hydrological modelling.

12. Mr. T Spranger (Germany), Chairman of ICP Modelling and Mapping, reported on the outcome of the Task Force Meeting held on 28 and 29 April 2005 in Berlin, Germany. As main activities of the ICP he highlighted the links and cooperations with various bodies under CLRTAP. Important fields of cooperation with EMEP are base cation deposition, land cover mapping, and heavy metals (HM). He reported on further activities on nitrogen (critical loads and dynamic modelling) and pointed to the fact that exceedances of critical loads for acidity have been reduced considerably, whereas exceedances of critical loads for eutrophication will remain high in the near future.

13. Mr. H Harmens (United Kingdom), Chairman of ICP Vegetation, reported on recent monitoring of ozone, heavy metals and nitrogen. Ozone concentrations were related to visible

injuries and biomass ratios on clover. Heavy metal depositions will be examined by a European wide moss survey. Also correlations between N deposition and N contents of mosses were found.

Item 4: Cooperation with the EU scheme “Forest Focus” – Reports by the European Commission and the Joint Research Centre

14. Mr. J. San Miguel (Joint Research Centre) presented the latest developments and the present responsibilities of JRC under the Forest Focus regulation. He informed that the set up of the integrated Forest Focus data base is ongoing and mentioned BFH as a subcontractor of the responsible consortium. He reiterated the offer to also include data from non-EU countries. All countries are invited to submit data to both institutions: JRC and PCC. ICP Forests will have the status of an internal data user with no restrictions. Whilst the data validation is split up (PCC: validation Level I – JRC: validation Level II) the data will be stored in one joint data base which will be set up by November 2005 at JRC. Raw data import of the years later than 2001 will start in 2006. JRC will invite to a data base meeting. Non-EU countries will be invited to participate on own costs.

15. Mrs. N. Cools (Forest Soil Coordinating Centre) presented the outline of the soil part of the BioSoil project. It will be open to EU-Member States and non-EU countries. Consultations are ongoing with JRC. In the ensuing discussion it was stated that the link to the biodiversity part of the project is important. The Task Force noted that the Standing Forestry Committee had not yet formally decided how to proceed with the monitoring of biodiversity. JRC was asked to also take the question of an inclusion of Level II plots into consideration for the forthcoming kick-off meeting. In this respect, the inclusion and coordination of nationally funded Level II assessments could be possible. The central role of the FSCC together with the JRC was underlined by the Task Force. A number of technical questions still need to be clarified. It still needs to be checked, whether possible temporal changes can be detected by a re-analysis of old samples.

16. Mr. P. Freer-Smith (United Kingdom) reported on the ongoing activities for the compilation of the Forest Focus mid-term review. Objectives are (i) to review the requirements under different international obligations (ii), to analyse ongoing activities (ICP Forests and beyond), (iii) to analyse the achievements under Forest Focus (iv), and to give specific recommendations in the field of biodiversity. Provided the agreement of the EC, the results of the review will also be presented to the Task Force in 2006.

17. Mr. T. Haußmann informed that the EU Life+ programme is presently still negotiated on the basis of a commission proposal. It was recommended that NFCs should get into contact with their national parliament and council members in order to influence the process. The Task Force asked its Chairman of to further actively participate in the negotiations.

Item 5: Executive Report 2005

18. Mr. R. Fischer (Germany) presented the draft of the 2005 Executive Report of the ICP Forests making reference to earlier discussions and revisions and thanked in particular the authors and National Focal Centres for their valuable contributions. The Task Force adopted the Executive Report as amended and thanked Mr. R. Fischer for his excellent work in preparing the draft. PCC was asked to produce the printed version in time before the 23rd session of the WGE.

No press release should be made before de-restriction of the report by the Working Group on Effects (30 August 2005).

19. The Task Force adopted the 2005 Technical Report as amended and agreed to forward both reports to the next meeting of the Working Group on Effects for derestriction.

Item 6: Implementation of the monitoring activities at Level I and Level II

20. Mr. E. Ulrich (France), Chairman of the Expert Panel on Deposition, presented the efforts in the field of quality assurance and quality control within the Expert Panel.

21. Mr. Eichhorn (Germany), Chairman of the Expert panel on Crown Condition, reported on the latest manual update. He announced an Expert Panel meeting for October 2005 in Spain as well as an Expert Panel meeting in 2006 back to back with a symposium "Forests Condition in a Changing Environment" to be held in Germany. The steering committee for the foreseen symposium consists of the following persons: M. Ferretti, G. Sanchez, M. Lindgren, S. Solberg, V. Mues, and M. Dobbartin. Mr. D. Durrant (United Kingdom) presented preliminary results of the Photo Exercise 2004 in which 84 participants from 31 countries had participated. The exercise had been organized and was currently evaluated in cooperation with PCC. The results will be circulated to all participants in August 2005 for comments and may later lead to a publication. Mr. Durrant underlined the importance and perspectives of photo QA.

The Task Force adopted the following mandate for the Expert Panel Crown Condition (2005-2006):

- a) the preparation of a symposium "Forest Condition in a changing environment planned for end 2006 in Germany; this would be a back to back meeting with a regular Crown Condition Expert Panel meeting,
- b) the continuation of QA/QC development including photo QA exercise for possible inclusion in the next update of the manual,
- c) the organization of the ICC in 2005 and 2006
- d) the discussion of future evaluation strategies (e.g. laser work, age and mortality, concept of ecoregions)
- e) the elaboration of a proposal to the Task Force for future crown condition assessments on Level I and Level II (e.g. frequency, density, method).

22. Mr. P. Rautio (Finland), Chairman of the Expert Panel on Foliage, presented the latest results on Needle/Leaf Interlaboratory Comparison Tests. The Task Force supported his proposal to include quality information for each data set into the Level II data base, based on new columns in the data submission forms. Mr. Rautio announced a meeting of the Expert Panel on 20-21 June 2005 in Dublin, Ireland.

23. Mr. S. Raspe (Germany) was elected as new co-chairman of the EP on Meteorology, Phenology and Litterfall, with a specific responsibility in the field of meteorology.

24. Mr. M. Dobbartin (Switzerland), Chairman of the Expert Panel on Forest Growth, reported on the progress of the RECOGNITION project. The final report is currently under review and will be printed in 2005. Partners of the project will be informed by the project coordinators as soon as the publication is completed and will then be offered access to data of their plots. Mr.

Dobbertin announced a meeting of the Expert Panel to be held on 20-22 October 2005 in Igls, Austria.

Item 7: Activities of ICP Forests in relation to assessment of ozone concentrations

25. Mr. G. Krause (Germany), Chairman of the Working Group on Ambient Air Quality, and Mrs. M. J. Sanz (Spain) presented the results of the test phase 2002 – 2004, referring to the passive sampling and ozone visible injury assessment. They made special mention of the work of the three validation centres, of the training courses, of the evaluations and publications in the reports of ICP Forests as well as of the elaboration of the submanual. Passive sampling of ambient air quality proofed as a valuable tool to assess air concentrations at remote sites and thus to fill gaps of under CLRTAP within the UNECE Convention.

26. In response to the presentations of Mr. Krause and Mrs. Sanz, Mr. Johansson (UNECE) stressed the importance of effects monitoring such as leaf injury and growth reductions in addition to ambient air quality measurements.

27. The Task Force adopted the following mandate for the Working Group Ambient Air Quality (2006 – 2008):

28. Ambient air quality measurements at Level II sites should be continued for a new three year period (2006 – 2008). Emphasis should be given to ozone concentration measurements.

29. The assessment of ozone injury on main tree species as well as on ground vegetation at the light exposed sampling sites should be focussed on a limited number of Level II sites where sensitive main tree species as well as ground vegetation with sensitive species are prevalent and the sites coincide with comparatively high ozone concentrations. The Working Group is asked to steer the continuation and further development of the monitoring approach for a period of three years.

30. The Working Group follows the perspective to link the information of the two information systems ambient air quality and ozone injury effects assessment. The working group will elaborate such a system in close cooperation with other cooperatives under the umbrella of CLRTAP such as the ICPs on Modelling and Mapping or Vegetation.

31. Due to his retirement Mr. Krause handed in his resignation from the Chairmanship. He thanked for the good cooperation within the ICP Forests. The Task Force thanked him for his work and elected Mrs. M. J. Sanz (Spain) as Chairwoman and Mr. M. Schaub (Switzerland) as Co-chairman of the group of the Working Group on Ambient Air Quality .

Item 8: Activities of ICP Forests in the field of Biodiversity

32. Mr. P. Neville (Ireland), Chairman of the Working Group on Biodiversity, presented the latest developments within the Working Group and informed on the present state of the plans for the biodiversity part of the BioSoil project. The respective proposal will be circulated to the countries during summer 2005 with the invitation to react and comment. A workshop is foreseen to be held at JRC in Ispra, Italy, in September. The Task Force asked the Working Group to

ensure links to the Expert Panel on Crown Condition in the fields of plot delineations and ecoregions/forest types.

33. Mr. R. Fischer presented the present state of the ForestBIOTA project. He underlined that the test phase is an open system and that the countries are invited to participate and to contribute data also from single plots and surveys. The minutes of the last project meeting including the internet address for the database will be circulated in June 2005. The Task Force decided to prolong the testphase until 2007. With respect to the database management for ground vegetation, cooperation with ICP Integrated monitoring was supported.

34. Mr. B. Petriccione (Italy) informed about ongoing international processes related to biodiversity issues.

Item 9: Results of the Programme Coordinating Group and follow-up work

35. Mr. M. Lorenz presented the main results of the latest Programme Coordinating Group (PCG) meeting held on 8-9 December 2003 in Hamburg, Germany. He reported on the editing of the paper on Quality Assurance (QA) and urged belated Expert Panel Chairpersons to submit their contributions soonest. Referring to the expiration on the current strategy of ICP Forests in 2006, Mr. Lorenz emphasised the need for the development of a new strategy. He stressed that a new strategy must take into consideration the Medium Term Work Plan of WGE, the changes in the cooperation with EC and the cooperation with other processes of international environmental policies. He made special mention of the importance of data quality assurance, data management, data evaluation, reporting and of the identification of target groups as discussed by the PCG. The Task Force took note of the progress made by the PCG. The PCG will meet again in Hamburg in late 2005 and, under the lead of its chairman, will elaborate a draft strategy for the years after 2006 for presentation to the Task Force in 2006.

Item 10: Cooperation of ICP Forests with other International Organisations

36. Mr. A. Ribeau and Mr. A. Bytnerowicz (USA), on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDAFS) presented their work in the field of biomonitoring with emphasis on ozone and the calculation of critical loads in Canada and in the USA. They referred to the recent critical loads meeting with ICP Forests and ICP Modelling and Mapping hosted by USDAFS on 16-18 February 2005 and announced a follow-up workshop in September 2006 in Riverside, USA.

37. Mr. H. Hirvonen (Canada) reported on research on the effects of acid rain and critical loads calculations in Canada.

Item 11: Organisational matters

38. The Chairpersons of the Expert Panels were asked to use the updated mailing lists available from PCC for the invitations to their meetings. These lists also include the addresses of the partners such as JRC.

39. The Task Force took note of the financial statements given by PCC for 2004 (Annex 3). The Task Force agreed on the revised budget of ICP Forests for 2005/2006 (Annex 4).

40. 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. The payments by cheques are not encouraged. Some bank transfer costs can be avoided by making use of the correct currency account:

Account number:	485-001802
Account currency:	USD
Account title:	UN Geneva General Fund
Bank name and address:	JP Morgan Chase Bank, New York International Agencies Banking 1166, Avenue of the Americas, 17 th Floor New York, N.Y. 10036-2708, USA
ABA (US Bank Code):	021000021 (Specific for US use)
Swift Code:	CHAS US 33
Reference	"Credit LUA Trust Fund-ECE/EOA, Allotment account: LUC-25-270"

41. 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.

42. Whatever the method of payment, a separate communication should be sent to UNECE secretariat specifying the amount contributed, the currency, the date and the purpose of the payment (including the year for which it is made).

43. Mr. T. Haußmann informed the Task Force, that he had already changed into a new position within the German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture and that he therefore would have to withdraw from his position as Chairman of ICP Forests. The Task Force thanked Mr. Haußmann for his very committed and fruitful work for ICP Forests and wished him all the best for his future.

44. The Task Force elected Mr. Michael Köhl (Germany), Director of the Institute for World Forestry at the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products (BFH) in Hamburg, as its new Chairman. Mr. Köhl thanked for the appointment and for the confidence the Task Force placed in him. With respect to the future work of ICP Forests, he emphasised that synergies between forest monitoring at Level I and Level II and other monitoring programmes (e.g. national forest inventories) have to be strengthened. Because of its comprehensive experience and high degree of harmonisation he expected ICP Forests to play a main role in the field of forest monitoring in the forthcoming years.

45. The Task Force expressed its gratitude to the host authorities and to the Italian Government for their perfect meeting arrangements and for their hospitality, as well as for having organised an excellent excursion.

46. Mr. R. Reinberg (Estonia) on behalf of the Estonian government invited the Task Force to hold its 22nd Task Force meeting on May 22 – 24, 2006, in Tallinn, Estonia. The Task Force thanked Estonia for the invitation.

Annex 1: List of participants

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Annex 2

Agenda

Opening, welcome by the host country and technical announcements

- Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and of the minutes of the 20th Task Force Meeting**
- Item 2: Reports by the Chairman and the Programme Coordinating Centre**
- Item 3: Reports by the Chairman of the Working Group on Effects (WGE)**
- Item 4: Cooperation with the EU scheme “Forest Focus”, Reports by the European Commission and/or the Joint Research Centre**
- Item 5: Executive Report 2005**
- Item 6: Implementation of the monitoring activities on Level I and Level II**
- Item 7: Activities of ICP Forests in relation to assessment of ozone concentrations**
- Item 8: Activities of ICP Forests in the field of biodiversity**
- Item 9: Results of the Programme Coordinating Group and follow-up work**
- Item 10: Cooperation of ICP Forests with other International Organisations**
- Item 11: Organisational matters**
- Item 12: Any other business**

Annex 3

Financial Statement of PCC

Period from 1 January to 31 December 2004

	US\$
Balance per 01.01.2004 (debit)	327 333
Expenses	133 684
Funds received	96 000
Balance per 31.12.2004 (debit)	365 017

<i>Expenses</i>	US\$
Consultants	13 027
Scientific staff/Administrative support personnel	107 112
Assistance to NFCs and CINT	0
Travel on official business	10 048
Expendable equipment	180
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0
Group training and meeting costs	0
Miscellaneous	3 317
Printing costs	0
Total	133 684

Annex 4

Revised Basic Budget of PCC
Period from 1 January to 31 December 2006

Item	US\$
Consultants	0
Scientific staff and administrative support personnel	80.000
Travel on official business	5.000
Expendable equipment	7.500
Operation and maintenance of equipment	7.500
Group training and meeting costs	0
Assistance to NFCs of ICP Forests	45.000
Printing costs	0
Miscellaneous	5.000
Total	150.000