

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 second meeting of the Programme Task Force
held from 23 to 25 May 2006 in Tallinn, Estonia

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and of the minutes of the 21st Task Force Meeting

1. The meeting was attended by 76 experts from the following 31 countries:
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
2. Represented were the Working Group on Effects (Mr. H.-D. Gregor), the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. M. Johansson), the European Commission DG Environment (Mr. E. Schulte and Mr. P. Rautio), 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 International Union of Forest Research Organizations (Mr. M. Ferretti). The Chairman of the Programme Task Force (Mr. M. Köhl) could not participate for reasons of health. On his behalf the meeting was chaired by the Head of the Programme Coordinating Centre (PCC) of ICP Forests (Mr. M. Lorenz). A list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
3. Mr. Lorenz (Germany), opened the Task Force meeting on behalf of the Chairman, thanked the Government of Estonia for hosting the meeting and welcomed the participants.
4. Mr. O. Etverk (Estonia), Deputy Secretary General on Nature Conservation and Forestry, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Estonian Government and presented history and state of the Estonian forestry.
5. The Task Force adopted the minutes of its 21st meeting held in Rome, Italy (25-26 May 2005) and the agenda of the meeting (Annex 2).

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

6. Mr. Lorenz reported on the main activities of ICP Forests and PCC. He thanked all participating countries and bodies of the programme for their active participation. He underlined the importance of the cooperation with the EC and thanked the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for the good cooperation. Specific tasks during the past twelve months had been the management and evaluation of the latest data received from the participating countries, the updating of the Manual, the coordination of the ForestBIOTA project, the cooperation with the USDA Forest

Service, and the organization of the International Cross-calibration Courses in 2005. He highlighted the various reports produced and the work of the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products (BFH) in Hamburg as subcontractor of the “Consortium Forest Focus” aiming at the implementation of a joint EU/ICP-Forests database for Level I and Level II at the JRC in Ispra. The Task Force took note of the progress made by PCC and adopted its report.

Item 3: Report by the Chairman of the Working Group on Effects (WGE) and by the UNECE Secretariat

7. Mr. H.-D. Gregor (Germany), Chairman of the WGE, reported on major achievements of the bodies under the WGE and mentioned that the reports presented to WGE last year by PCC had been welcomed. He pointed to the presently ongoing review of three protocols and underlined the importance of the ICPs in this process. The main focus of the work under WGE is presently (i) on effects of N deposition, (ii) on climate change influences, (iii) on ozone effects on human health and vegetation (flux approach), (iv) on POPs in the aquatic environment, (v) on forest condition, and (vi) on the maps for critical loads on acidity, nitrogen and heavy metals. Also, the results on target loads for acidity, multipollutant effects on materials, and on health effects of particulate matter were summarized. The WGE welcomed the activities of ICP Forests in the field of nitrogen, dynamic modelling, ozone, and heavy metals and underlined the importance of effects-based approaches for the review/revision of the Convention protocols, dose-response functions and stocks at risk and the linkage between field observations to critical loads. A new long-term strategy 2005-2015 was developed during the last year. Work on new data rules is presently ongoing. A new joint report will aim at acidification, eutrophication and ozone.

8. Mr. M. Johansson (Switzerland), UNECE Secretariat, reported on the work under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and highlighted the outcome of three effect oriented workshops held in 2005 (Brighton, United Kingdom, on dynamic N processes; Obergurgl, Austria, on ozone; Braunschweig, Germany on nitrogen cascades). He pointed to the fact that for all ICPs a good balance between monitoring and data evaluation strategies is needed. In addition he referred to the set-up of the Convention and its bodies, the financing of the effect oriented activities, the development of new data rules and of a new long-term strategy of the Working Group on Effects and the review of the Gothenburg Protocol.

9. The Task Force of ICP Forests took note of the reports by the Chairman of the WGE and the Secretariat of the UNECE.

Item 4: Reports by other ICPs

10. Mr. L. Lundin (Sweden), Chairman of the ICP Integrated Monitoring, presented the programme's recent activities in 19 countries on 50 active sites. He reported on the recent Task Force Meeting of the ICP Integrated Monitoring held from 26 - 28 April 2006 in Riga, Latvia and mentioned that the future priorities of the programme were in the fields of (i) heavy metals, (ii) dynamic modelling, (iii) nutrient nitrogen loads and effects, (iv) ground vegetation indicator modelling, (v) budgets and trends in sulphur, nitrogen, acidity and base cations, and climate impacts on air pollution effects.

11. Mr. H. Harmens (United Kingdom), Chairman of ICP Vegetation, reported on the outcomes of the Task Force Meeting of ICP Vegetation held from 30 January to 2 February 2006 in the United Kingdom and on the monitoring activities from 35 countries in the UNECE region. ICP Vegetation is concentrating on the biomonitoring of ozone by using ozone sensitive species and communities like *Trifolium repens* and *Centaurea jacea*. Additional activities are biomonitoring of heavy metals and nitrogen mainly through a moss survey.

12. The Task Force took note of the reports by ICP Integrated Monitoring and ICP Vegetation.

Item 5: Cooperation with other International Organizations

13. Mr. M. Ferretti (Italy) reported on activities of IUFRO bodies related to forest condition and the co-operation between ICP Forests and IUFRO. He focussed on the book “Forests in the Global Balance – Changing Paradigms” and the forthcoming meeting of IUFRO section 7.06 in Riverside, California (10-16 September 2006).

Item 6: Cooperation with the European Commission (EC)

14. Mr. P. Rautio (Belgium), DG Environment, reported on the “Update of Forest Focus legislation, agreements, and reports” and emphasized that the co-financing of monitoring activities by EC under Forest Focus is depending on an adequate data submission. The Forest Focus programme phase 2006 was adopted on 24 March 2006 by the Standing Forestry Committee. The adoption by the EC is about to be launched. Agreements are expected in August- September 2006. The new Implementing Regulation (Final version on 31st May 2006) is foreseen to be adopted in July 2006. Translations are available for all EU languages. The present ICP Forests manual has been the basis for the Forest Monitoring Database. The formal elaboration of a Forest Focus manual is ongoing but will not replace the more detailed ICP Forests manual.

15. Mr. J. San Miguel and Ms. A. Bastrup-Birk (Italy), Joint Research Centre, provided an overview on the implementation of Forest Focus and presented an overview on studies carried out under this regulation. Future European forest policies will rely on forest monitoring at Level I and Level II and on the participation of ICP Forests, in particular the chairpersons and experts of the Expert Panels. Ms. Bastrup-Birk reported on the BioSoil demonstration project. Objectives as well as planned evaluation studies were presented.

16. Mr. E. Schulte (Belgium), DG Environment, reported on the preparation of the LIFE+ programme. He presented background, objectives and planned financial instruments of the LIFE+ regulation. Monitoring and in particular monitoring of forests are now mentioned in the draft regulation. The EC will present multi-annual strategic programmes (2007-2010 and 2011-2013). National agencies will have to implement national annual work programmes in the context of those multi-annual strategic programmes. Detailed implementation provisions will be adopted for the implementation and evaluation of the programmes. A proposal for first multi-annual strategic programmes has been sent out to the EU-Member States. The EU-Member States will be responsible for the financial management (with 50% co-financing). On 3 July 2006 an informal meeting will be held in Brussels related to LIFE+. A LIFE+ committee will be implemented. There will not be a continuous transition from Forest Focus to a possible co-financing under LIFE+ as the 2007 national programmes can earliest be adopted in autumn 2007.

Item 7: Strategy of ICP Forests

17. With the 22nd Meeting of the Programme Task Force, the strategy of ICP Forests for the years 2001-2006 expired. Mr. Lorenz presented a draft interim strategy paper of ICP Forests for 2006/2007 as prepared by the Programme Coordinating Group (PCG) at its meeting on 7-9 December 2005 in Hamburg, Germany. He underlined that the proposed interim strategy

- pursues in principle the same objectives as the expiring strategy, though with several amendments;
- aims at the development of a new strategy of ICP Forests from mid 2007 to mid 2013 by an ad hoc Expert Group including the PCG;
- should take into account the possibilities of a cooperation with EC under its Regulation LIFE+ to come into force in 2007;
- foresees several revisions and further development of the monitoring, database management, quality assurance, data analyses and reporting.

18. Based on the information provided by Mr. Lorenz, the Task Force saw no need to adopt an interim strategy, but decided to prolong the 2001-2006 strategy for one more year until May 2007.

19. The Task Force decided that the paper prepared by the PCG should be converted by PCC into an action plan for the period between the 22nd and the 23rd Task Force Meeting. It recommended in particular that the action plan should

- describe the planned work of ICP Forests in the context of the needs of CLRTAP and distinguish clearly between CLRTAP needs and needs of other bodies;
- make provisions for a strong participation of all 40 countries in the development of the strategy for the years 2007-2013 and to provide countries with directions how to participate in that development;
- make provisions for a concrete planning and further development of future monitoring activities of the countries with respect to the needs of CLRTAP and EC within the expected changes in financing under LIFE+;
- foster the involvement of the 15 non-EU countries in parallel to the planned cooperation with the EC.

20. Mr. Lorenz announced that PCC will incorporate the comments by the Task Force into the action plan and circulate it among the NFCs for further comments and that he will consider with the Chairman of ICP Forests to host the next PCG meeting in Hamburg at an early date and as an extended one (i.e. including participation of all countries).

Item 8: Reports of 2006

21. Mr. Fischer (Germany), PCC, introduced into the draft 2006 Forest Condition Reports.

22. Mr. V. Mues (Germany), PCC, presented latest results of the crown condition survey and of the evaluation of deposition data from the intensive monitoring plots.
23. Mr. M. Dobbertin (Switzerland), presented results of annual growth measurements from Level II plots in the years 2002 and 2003.
24. Mr. H.D. Nagel (Germany), presented results of dynamic models calculated for 37 Level II plots. In addition SAFE models and first evaluations with the BERN model based on Level II data were presented as well. The completeness of the Level II database as a basis for further modelling will be checked by PCC before the next Task Force Meeting. The Task Force encouraged PCC to proceed further with the application of dynamic models.
25. Mr. Fischer presented results of the evaluation of ground vegetation data in relation to deposition and soil as well as preliminary results of the ForestBIOTA project.
26. The Task Force adopted the Executive Report and the Technical Report as amended. PCC was asked to produce the printed version of the Executive Report and the internet version of the Technical Forest Condition Report in time before the 25th session of the WGE. No press release should be made before de-restriction of the report by the Working Group on Effects (1 September 2006).

Item 9: Monitoring activities

27. The following changes in the Expert Panel Chairs and Expert Panels' set up were adopted:
28. Mr. N. Clarke (Norway) will replace Mr. E. Ulrich as Chair of the Expert Panel on Deposition.
29. Mr. S. Raspe (Germany) will replace Ms. Bastrup Birk as Chair of the Expert Panel on Meteorology and Phenology.
30. The previous Expert Panel on Foliar Analysis will be changed into an Expert Panel on Foliar Analyses and Litterfall.
31. The previous Expert Panel on Ground Vegetation Assessments will be changed into an Expert Panel on Biodiversity and Ground Vegetation. This Expert Panel will be chaired by Mr. P. Neville (Ireland) and Mr. B. Petriccione (Italy) as Co-chair. The code lists for vegetation species will be one specific responsibility of the Co-chair.
32. Mr. B. de Voss will act as Co-chair of the Expert Panel on Soil.
33. The Task Force thanked all retiring Chairpersons for their valuable work and thanked the new Chairpersons for their engagement.
34. Mr. J. Eichhorn (Germany), Chairman of the Expert Panel on Crown Condition, reported on the Expert Panel meeting held in February 2006 in Mora de Rubielos (Spain) and invited to the planned Expert Panel meeting on 25 – 28 October 2006 organized back to back with a symposium "Forest Condition in a Changing Environment" to be held in Göttingen/Germany. Furthermore, he introduced into the update of the part II of the ICP Forests manual on Crown Condition Assessment, and announced an evaluation of the 2005 International Cross-calibration Courses (ICCs) for summer 2006. Three ICCs will be held in late summer 2006 in Norway, Slovakia and Spain. The Task Force (i) adopted the update of the part II of the ICP Forests manual as proposed to be applied from the year 2006 onwards, (ii) took note of the resolution of the Expert Panel on Crown Condition Assessment (Annex 3) and asked the ad hoc Expert group

of ICP Forests to take into account this resolution during its work on the medium term strategy of ICP Forests and (iii) agreed that codes for causal agents (Table A2-12 of the submanual) will be routinely updated by the ad hoc Group on Assessment of Biotic Damage Causes and will be made available to the NFCs via the Internet.

35. Mr. E. van Ranst (Belgium), Chairman of the Expert Panel on Soil, reported on main activities of the Expert Panel, including the update of Manual Part IIIa “Sampling and Analysis of Soil”, the development of field guidelines for forest soil profile description based on FAO guidelines and classification according to WRB, the organisation of 3 field training courses, the coordination of the 4th FSCC Interlaboratory Comparison 2005-2006, and the 13th Forest Soil Expert Panel Meeting, 29-30 March 2006, in Alton, United Kingdom. The Task Force (i) adopted the update of part IIIa of the ICP Forests manual as amended and (ii) supported the activities of the FSCC and asked the centre to continue its work.

36. Mr. J. Derome (Finland), Chairman of the Working Group on Soil Solution presented the main activities of the group. The Task Force (i) adopted the update of the part IIIb of the ICP Forests manual (data submission forms) as proposed to be applied from the year 2006 onwards and (ii) extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Soil Solution.

37. Mr. P. Rautio, Chairman of the Expert Panel on Foliage, presented the latest results on Needle/Leaf Interlaboratory Comparison Tests. The Task Force supported the proposal to include quality information for each data set into the Level II data base, based on new columns in the data submission forms.

38. Mr. N. Clarke, Chairman of the Expert Panel on Deposition, reported on the current update of the part VI of the ICP Forests manual and on the last meeting of the Expert Panel in Rovaniemi in 2005. The Task Force adopted the update of the part VI of the ICP Forests manual as proposed to be applied from the year 2006 onwards. Mr. Clarke reported from the latest activities of the Working Group on Quality Assurance in Laboratories mentioning specifically the improved results from the 2nd Working Ring Test as compared to the first test and presented as well the main activities of the Working Group on Ambient Air Quality. The Task Force adopted the new mandate for this group (see Annex 4).

39. Mr. M. Ferretti reported on the Task Force meeting of ICP Vegetation and on the outcome of the CLRTAP workshop on critical loads for ozone in Obergurgl, Austria. He informed on the efforts towards an update of the Mapping Manual. The Task Force took note of the planned update of the Manual of ICP Modelling & Mapping and welcomed the outcome of the joint meeting in Obergurgl.

40. Mr. M. Dobbertin (Switzerland), Chairman of the Expert Panel on Forest Growth, reported on the progress of the Expert Panel, specifically mentioning the efforts towards annual and seasonal stem growth measurements with girth bands as discussed at the Expert Panel meeting in Igls, Austria. The Expert Panel proposed changes to the part V of the ICP Forests manual. The Task Force asked the Expert Panel to develop a proposal for a manual update including the respective forms. In view of ongoing forest growth surveys, the new forms may be already applied in 2006 if agreed upon by the Expert Panel.

41. Mr. S. Raspe, Chairman of the Expert Panel on Meteorology and Phenology reported on recent activities of the Expert Panel mentioning in particular the latest meeting of the group in Cademario, Switzerland.

42. Mr. P. Neville, Chairman of the Expert Panel on Biodiversity and Ground Vegetation reported on the recent progress of the Biodiversity part of the BioSoil demonstration project and on the further development of the ForestBIOTA project. The Task Force decided that (i) the ForestBIOTA manuals shall be transferred into ICP Forests format until the next Task Force Meeting, and that (ii) the ForestBIOTA online database will now be closed. Future data submission will be possible via ICP Forests data submission forms from 2007 onwards. (iii) The project data base will be kept at PCC. Participating ForestBIOTA countries can ask for the data under the same data rules applying to Level II. (iv) Project reports will be made available on the internet (www.forestbiota.org).

43. Mr. Mues made three proposals for a better temporal consistency of the ICP Forests manual updates:

- a) Each updated version of a manual part will contain a section “Amendment index” in which all amendments compared with the preceding version are listed.
- b) Introduction of comment lines in all forms in the ICP Forests manual. These lines will result in a specification of the particular data that are submitted within each data submission.
- c) in section 1 of the ICP Forests manual the following text in section 3.2 Monitoring activities should be amended, at end of “General considerations” :
 ”The NFCs are asked to submit the names of the parameters which are submitted in the first line of any submitted data file. This “documentation line” has to start with an exclamation mark. A proposal for such a line is given in front of each form definition in the respective manual parts.”

The Task Force adopted the three updates of the ICP Forests manual as proposed. The respective changes to all manual parts will be implemented by PCC during summer 2006 and will be applied from the year 2006 onwards.

44. Ms. B. McAfee (Canada) reported on current forest monitoring activities in Canada.

45. Mr. A. Riebau (USA) reported on the current development of monitoring activities in the USA, mentioning specifically the implementation of the intensive monitoring and the critical loads approach.

46. Mr. B. Lomsky (Czech Republic) presented the book “Forest Condition Monitoring in the Czech Republic”, which was prepared by the NFC.

Item 10: Organisational issues

47. Future activities remain linked to the obligations of the CLRTAP. The medium term work plan 2006 to 2009 of WGE (see Item 3) was presented by Mr. Lorenz. PCC was asked to formulate annually for the Task Force a list of activities and tasks of ICP Forests for the coming year referring to the medium term work plan of WGE. The Task Force took note of the list of activities and tasks of ICP Forests prepared by the PCC of ICP Forests (Annex 5).

48. 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.

49. Contributions should be made by bank transfer. Four currency accounts are available (US dollar, Swiss franc, Euro and Pound sterling). The contributions should be addressed to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Each contribution must be clearly referenced **indicating the year for which the contribution is made** and stating “**LUA-ECE/EOA**” as well as an earmark for **ICP Forests**, if applicable.

To ensure that all contributions are allocated to the correct fund, each time payment is made it is important to send details specifying the amount contributed, the date and purpose of the payment to the secretariat (Mr. Matti Johansson, UNECE, Office 350, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, or e-mail: matti.johansson@unece.org).

The four currency accounts are:

a) US dollar deposit:

Account number: 485-001802

Account currency: USD

Account title: UN Geneva General Fund

Bank name: JP Morgan Chase Bank, New York

Bank address: International Agencies Banking

1166, Avenue of the Americas, 17th Floor

New York, N.Y. 10036-2708, USA

ABA (US Bank Code): 021000021 (Specific for US use)

Swift Code: CHAS US 33

Reference: "**LUA-ECE/EOA**"

b) Swiss franc deposit:

Account number: 240-C0590160.0

Account currency: CHF

Account title: UN Geneva General Fund

Bank name: UBS AG

Bank address: Rue de Rhone 8

CH-1211 Geneva 2

Bank clearing code : 240

Swift Code: UBSW CH ZH 12A

IBAN Number: CH92 0024 0240 C059 0160 0

Reference: "**LUA-ECE/EOA**"

c) Euro deposit:

Account number: 23961901

Account currency: EUR

Account title: UN Office at Geneva

Bank name: JP Morgan Chase Bank

Bank address: 125 London Wall, London

EC2Y 5AJ,

United Kingdom

Swift Code: CHAS GB 2L

Sorting Code: 60-92-42

IBAN Number: GB25 CHAS 6092 4223 9619 01

Reference: "**LUA-ECE/EOA**"

d) Pound sterling deposit:

Account number: 23961903

Account currency: GBP

Account title: UN Office at Geneva

Bank name: J.P. Morgan Chase Bank

Bank address 125 London Wall, London

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United Kingdom

Swift Code: CHASGB2L

Sorting Code: 60-92-42

IBAN Number: GB68 CHAS 6092 4223 9619 03

Reference: "**LUA-ECE/EOA**"

50. 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.

51. The Task Force took note of the financial statements given by PCC for 2005 (Annex 6).

52. The Task Force agreed on the revised budget of ICP Forests for 2006/2007 (Annex 7).

Item 11: Other business

53. Mr. Themessel (Austria) announced that the Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) will meet in Austria on 28-29 June 2006. The main topic will be the discussion of the Forest Action Plan with the representatives of the stakeholders.

54. Mr. T. Priwitzer (Slovak Republic) Director of the national forest centre on behalf of the Slovak Minister of Agriculture invited the Task Force to hold its 23rd Task Force meeting on May 12 – 16, 2007, in Zvolen, Slovak Republic. The Task Force thanked Slovakia for the invitation.

55. Mr. M. Lorenz on behalf of the Task Force thanked the Centre of Forest Protection and Silviculture and the Estonian Government for their perfect meeting arrangements and for their hospitality, as well as for having organised an excellent excursion and closed the meeting.

Annex 1

List of participants

Name	First name	Country	Position	Institution	Email
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Annex 2

Agenda

Opening by the Chairman, welcome by the host country and technical announcements

- Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
- Item 2: Reports by the Chairman, the Lead Country and the Programme Coordinating Centre (PCC)
- Item 3: Report by the Chairman of the Working Group on Effects (WGE) and by the UNECE Secretariat
- Item 4: Reports by other ICPs
- Item 5: Cooperation with other international organisations
- Item 6: Cooperation with the European Commission (EC)
- Item 7: Strategy of ICP Forests
- Item 8: Reports of 2006
- Item 9: Monitoring activities
- Item 10: Organisational issues
- Item 11: Other business

Annex 3

Resolution

Expert Panel on Crown Condition Assessment (EPC)

The following statements were agreed on by the experts at the meeting on Crown Condition in Spain (13-15 Feb. 06).

1. Both Level I and II are needed in the future to provide information about the MCPFE indicators (defoliation, damage). Defoliation is the only MCPFE indicator for which comprehensive temporal information is available (annual defoliation estimates on Level I and Level II plots). In 2005, 30 pan-European countries participating in the Level I monitoring, reflecting 11 climatic regions. Recently implemented quality control measures show good results, e.g. regarding the consistent detection of temporal differences in defoliation data.
2. Level I is the only system in Europe that attempts to quantify tree vitality which is of course a theoretical concept. Estimation of crown condition including fruiting and growth assessment and the survey of annual tree mortality rates are relevant indicators of tree vitality and forest health. However, annual growth information is only regularly available at part of level II plots.
3. The guidelines for the assessment of damage causes, officially implemented in 2005, help in interpreting the assessed crown condition variables. Selected national or regional lists for damage causes help improving cost effectiveness and with only low additional time better insight is gained. The new damage coding system got positive feedback from field observers and contributes to the MCPFE indicator on forest damage.
4. Better utilization and understanding of the European data can be obtained through regional analyses. We need to define different evaluation approaches in different regions and identify common problems. Level I could act as bridge between national and European levels.
5. On an annual basis Level I and Level II both make an essential contribution to the assessment of climate change effects on forests. Examples include:
 - Tree mortality levels are usually very low in Europe, and we have long term mortality series for investigating future changes (e.g. effect of climate change). They can serve as a reference.
 - Detection of regional drought effects is a strength of the Level I system. Defoliation occurs in many cases one year after the event, annual growth and mortality data confirm the information. This information can add to the national inventory data. Further elucidation of interacting factors can be obtained on the basis of the Level II data.
 - In addition, annual response to drought is probably of great significance for C balances (size of stocks).
6. Stand structure information adds to the interpretation of vitality estimates and the linkage between Level I and Level II, and can help to improve existing deposition models. Such information will be provided by forthcoming project e.g. Biosoil project on the assessment of soil condition and biodiversity at Level I. Information on chemical soil condition and soil texture supports our understanding of differences in tree condition (e.g. acidification risk, drought).

7. Future plans: The link between Level I and NFIs requires much more discussion and planning. Norway and Sweden offer information on experiences of cooperation between NFI and Level I.
8. Experts are invited to elaborate joint evaluation projects (e.g. regional approach) for EPCC Symposium in October, 2006.

Annex 4

Mandate for the Working Group on Ambient Air Quality

The assessment of ozone visible injury has proven to be a valuable tool and a unique effects monitoring system at European scale. In accordance with the previous mandate of the 21st Task Force of continuing and further developing the monitoring approach (2006-08), **the Task Force reaffirms the mandate of the WG and asks the WG to develop an active bioindicator survey at selected sites** (at least 1 or two per participating country, depending on the available funding) by providing protocols and materials for a pilot phase, starting in 2007.

Passive sampling of ambient air quality proofed to be an inexpensive and valuable tool to assess ozone concentrations at remote sites. Other pollutants are also measured at selected Level II plots, but up until now, data are not being assessed. Nitrogen compounds are recognized as important compounds that can induce changes in forest ecosystem processes while the information on concentrations of gaseous nitrogen compounds in forested areas is very limited. In accordance with the previous mandate of the 21st Task Force, to continue and further develop the monitoring approach (2006-08), the continuation of the air quality measurements by passive sampling was extended and **the Task Force mandates the WG to asses the existing information on further gases other than ozone from the period 2001 to 2005.**

In respect to the previous cooperation and the available information form the pilot phase of the visible injury monitoring system, **the Task Force encourages the WG to contribute to the review activities proposed by the Task Force of ICP-Vegetation in Wales 2006.**

Annex 5**Activities and Tasks of ICP Forests in 2006/2007****ICP Forests strategy**

- (a) Elaboration of a medium term strategy 2007-2012 for adoption by the Task Force 2007
- (b) Programme Coordinating Group Meeting (Hamburg, Germany)

Deposition

- (c) Annual Assessment of trends in deposition of N and S*
- (d) Assessment of trends in deposition of N, defoliation and forest growth*
- (e) Continuing assessment of the impact of N depositions on species diversity*
- (f) Participation in the IUFRO Conference „Forests Under Anthropogenic Pressure - Effects of Air Pollution, Climate Change and Urban Development”, Riverside, USA.

Ozone

- (g) Contribution to calculation of critical levels of ozone*
- (h) Continuing ozone test phase with a new consideration of bio monitoring with ozone sensitive plant species
- (i) Assessment of impacts of ozone on forest vegetation and intercalibration course on assessment of visible ozone injury*

Quality assurance and control

- (j) International Intercalibration Course on crown condition assessments in the Mediterranean region (annual data quality assurance for defoliation assessment)*
- (k) International Intercalibration Course on crown condition assessments in the central European region (annual data quality assurance for defoliation assessment)*
- (l) International Intercalibration Course on crown condition assessments in the northern European region (annual data quality assurance for defoliation assessment)*
- (m) 9th laboratory comparison for foliage analysis

Biodiversity

- (n) Finalisation of the ForestBIOTA project
- (o) Contributions to the development of the BioSoil project
- (p) Development of future biodiversity monitoring und LIFE+ taking into consideration the MCPFE indicators

Data management

- (q) Submission of Level I and Level II data by NFCs to PCC
- (r) Continue work on Level II data base set up in collaboration with the “Consortium Forest Focus” under a contract of the Joint Research Centre of the EC.

Reports

- (s) Publication of the 2006 Executive Report
- (t) Publication of the 2006 Technical Report
- (u) Drafting of the 2007 Technical Report
- (v) Drafting of the 2007 Executive Report

*Task according to the provisional medium term work plan 2006 – 2009 of the WGE

Annex 6**Financial Statement of PCC****Period from 1 January to 31 December 2005**

	US\$
Balance per 01.01.2005 (debit)	365 017
Expenses	87 760
Funds received	99 000
Balance per 31.12.2005 (debit)	353 777

<i>Expenses</i>	US\$
Consultants	0
Scientific staff/Administrative support personnel	78 486
Assistance to NFCs and CINT	0
Travel on official business	417
Expendable equipment	1 808
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0
Group training and meeting costs	0
Miscellaneous	7 049
Printing costs	0
Total	87 760

Annex 7

Revised Basic Budget of PCC
Period from 1 January to 31 December 2007

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
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Total	150.000
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