**WP5: Coppice forests ownership and governance**

CONTEXT: *Throughout Europe coppice forests have been installed and managed for centuries. Parallel to the physical management they developed in many cases special ownership and user rights frameworks. Many coppice forests started with the common use of all inhabitants of a village or settlement (right of commons). Some of these old rules have survived and are still in place today. Others have been developed further to physical or financial participation and concrete or abstract user rights with many different variations. These specific governance regimes guaranteed an intensive but still sustainable management of the coppice forests over decades. They may also be an excellent model case for future alternatives of managing small-scale forests in general and may contribute to overcome the negative consequences of highly fragmented land ownership patterns.*

*In WP5 the existing governance regimes will be explored, compared and evaluated. Because in many cases not all regulations may exist in a printed version, oral history and traditional knowledge will play an important role when collecting this type of information. Together with the different governance regimes, they will also analyse effectiveness and efficiency of these regimes towards sustainability, productivity and equal participation.*

*In this context gender issues will be of special importance: how far were men and women equally addressed by these regulations, and what was/is the specific role of women in this context?*

**To summarise:** *WP5 will explore and compare existing governance regimes including oral history and traditional knowledge. The impact on both men and women will be considered the specific role of women explored. We will examine the historical background to coppice management, for example common ownership and development of user rights frameworks which may serve as a model for future sustainable management particularly in the context of increasingly fragmented land ownership patterns.*

**GROUP MEMBERS**

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**The first WG5 meeting – 25/2/14 Florence, Italy**

The discussions during this, the first meeting, focused on three areas and led to the formulation of questions that need to be answered as recorded below.

**1 Historical background**

1.1 What is the earliest evidence of coppice management of woodland? What species? Pollen analysis different tree associations. Place names and expressions in daily language.

1.2 How was the access to the coppice woodland resource determined? (open, common, private & state)

1.3 Why coppice? Why in the past and why now? (coal; technology – chain saws)

1.4 How do we divide historical periods? Various suggestions were made leading to general agreement to structure by time epochs, i.e. I Pre 700; II 700 to 1500; III 1500 – 1800; IV 1800 – 1900; V 1900 to 2000; then the present considered in the next section.

1.5.Sustainability? Was coppice the first sustainable use of forests? Is rotational coppice – add in social and environmental impacts.

1.6 Who are the stakeholders? Who has the power? Has this changed over time and what impact has this had on local people?.

**2 The Current Situation:**

2.1 What was the last ‘milestone’ affecting coppice in your country

2.2 How is the access to the coppice woodland resource determined? (ownership categories: open, common, private & state)

2.3 What is the current driver for coppice woodland management?

2.4 What are the policy instruments affecting this coppice management and how are these impacting on the different stakeholders for example women and the different ownership groups ?

2.5 Sustainability? Was coppice the first sustainable use of forests? Is rotational coppice currently sustainable (include social and environmental impacts).

2.6 Who are the current stakeholders? Who has the power? What impact is this having on local people?

**3 The Future** this will be discussed in by email and in later meetings)

**4 OUTPUTS**

4.1 Internal: Individual country reports

4.1.1 A country summary regarding coppice woodland management

4.1.2 A literature review with the titles of all relevant papers translated into English and summaries in English of the most important ones.

4.2 External:

4.2.1 Review paper(s)

4.2.2 A synthesis paper to inform policy

**Recommendations for other groups:**

* PhDs from other countries are invited to undertake STSMs relating to topics relating to this topic
* MC members and substitutes are kindly requested to invite others from their countries to contribute to our working group

**Provisional Agenda for next meeting** Oral history, traditional knowledge and gender issues (Swedish women forest owners association)

* Define the topic of the first peer reviewed paper
* Topic for workshop school
* Links to other groups?
* Opportunities to present our paper for wider dissemination

**Areas requiring more work:**

The gender issue

Coppice related terms to WG1 database