



COST ACTION FP1301

“Innovative management and multifunctional utilization of traditional coppice forests - an answer to future ecological, economic and social challenges in the European forestry sector (EuroCoppice)”

SG Meeting MINUTES - Final

Advena Europa Hotel, Mainz, Germany

7th – 8th of April, 2016

Participants

Chair: Gero Becker

Organisation: Alicia Unrau

STSM Coordinator: Pieter Kofman

TS Coordinator: Karl Stampfer

WG 1: Dagnija Lazdina

WG 2: Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu

WG 3: Janine Schweier

WG 4: Florian Borlea

WG 5: Debbie Bartlett

Rapporteur: Alicia Unrau

Agenda

1. Welcome, approval of agenda & nomination of rapporteur
2. Work and Budget Plans (WBP) & Action Deliverables
 - a. Grant Period Budgets: GP3 (current), GP 4 (upcoming) & GP 5 (final)
 - GP3: Vote on Brno Trainers; review of spending; options for update to WBP
 - GP4: Info from COST Association; discussion of WBP proposal (sent ahead)
 - GP5: Consequences for the GP 5 budget; discussion of options
 - b. Revising Activities & Deliverables (MoU)
 - What MoU Deliverables are completed? What can still be achieved?
 - What changes should be made as a result of the budget cut?
3. Future Action Activities (taking into account the outcome of point 2b)
 - a. Progress Report – due May 1st; status and review of information required
 - b. Conferences – Antwerp (status), Limoges (timing and format?)
 - c. STSMs – what should we expect/accept in terms of reporting of results?
 - d. Training Schools – organisation and focus of upcoming Training Schools?
 - e. (Planned) publications – what is the status of each WG?
 - f. Project proposals – are there potential H2020 (or other) proposals?
 - g. IUFRO Working Party: application & representatives
 - h. Dissemination of results; IUFRO Session at Freiburg Congress...
4. Main Action output(s)
 - a. Policy Paper
 - b. Final Action Dissemination (FAD) e.g. Book
5. Data management: aggregating already collected data & identifying gaps
 - All WGs have been collecting data independently; important points are: what data has been collected & used? What is missing and how it can fit together coherently?
6. Closing remarks



Minutes

1. Welcome, approval of agenda & nomination of rapporteur

Chair GB welcomed the participants to Mainz. The agenda was approved; AU volunteered as rapporteur.

2. Work and Budget Plans (WBP) & Action Deliverables

a. Grant Period Budgets: GP3 (present), GP 4 (upcoming) & GP 5 (final)

GP3: Vote on Brno Trainers; review of spending; options for further activities

TRAINERS

The following Trainers were proposed for the Training School in Brno CZ, April 10 – 16:

- Andrew McEwan, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- Eduard Hochbichler, BOKU
- Radomir Klvac, Mendelu
- Radek Pokorny, Mendelu

VOTE: All Steering Group Members approve of the above Trainers. Absent SG Members (Raffaele Spinelli, Natascia Magagnotti and Peter Buckley) also approved the Trainers via email (06/07.04).

GP3 Work and Budget Plan

All of the original Work and Budget Plan (WBP) activities have been achieved / are planned, except for the 2024 EUR for published articles that were originally included in this period but that will no longer meet this GP deadline.

According to our current estimate, we have approximately 7500 EUR funds left to spend in this period (= 6500 EUR for activities + 15 % FSAC).

The suggested modification/extensions to the WBP are as such:

- 4250 EUR: an extension of the WG2 meeting (Pruhonice, April 25-26; already exists in the WBP) to a joint WG1-WG2 meeting (+ 6 participants) to work on common deliverables, f.e. glossary and typology
- 250 EUR: a small meeting with two persons (GG & AU) in Boppard (DE) to prepare the Training School that will take place there in July, 2016
- 1500 EUR: editing, printing and layout costs of WG4 materials
- 500 EUR: increase in budget for dissemination activities related to the factsheets (already exists in WBP).
- Furthermore, if it becomes clear that there are any further remaining funds (following a more exact spending calculation), these funds will be added to the Factsheet Dissemination (see previous point).

VOTE: The Steering Group unanimously approved the above proposal.

GP4: Info from COST Association; discussion of WBP proposal (sent ahead)

Despite the very low budget compared to previous years and the higher budget needs of the Action to complete activities planned (especially at the end of the Action), the budget allocated for GP4 will remain at the 141 000 EUR for GP 4. Although efforts made by the GB, AU & RS to increase the budget were not successful at the moment, they will follow up with the Officer Federica Ortelli in autumn 2016 to see if there are more funds available (as was indicated by FO may be the case).

The following proposal, which was circulated to SG Member prior to the meeting, was discussed:

| Proposed budget GP4 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Conf. Antwerp * | 58.950,00€ |
| 7 STSM | 13.300,00€ |
| 2 Training Schools | 41.000,00€ |
| 1 Small WG meetings | 5.200,00€ |
| Dissemination/material | 2.500,00€ |
| Website | 1.500,00€ |
| Bank fees | 160,00€ |
| Total activities | 122.610,00€ |
| FSAC 15% Coordination | 18.391,50€ |
| Total | 141.001,50€ |

The proposal may be subject to small changes if these are necessary to apply the budget to the e-COST reporting format.

VOTE: The Steering Group unanimously approved the above proposal.

The WBP will be drafted in e-COST and sent to Officer Federica Ortelli next week. Once she approves it, she will send the WBP to the MC for their vote.

GP5: Consequences for the GP 5 budget; discussion of options

There are no official figures from the COST Association for GP5 available; they are expected early 2017.

| <u>GP5 budget if proportional to GP4</u> (01.05.2017 - Oct.2017; 6 months) | |
|---|-------------------|
| Total budget: | 70.500,00 € |
| FSAC 15% for Coordination | 9.195,65€ |
| Budget available for activities | 61.304,35€ |
| If Limoges takes place in GP5 and is the final conference, funds for further activities will be very limited | |
| <u>Following the Action</u> | |
| For final Dissemination Activities we can apply for up to 10,000 € (1 year) | |

No budget decisions on GP5 can be made at present. For information on the Limoges Conference, see agenda point 3b.

b. Revising Activities & Deliverables (MoU)

Each WG Leader presented the status of their WG Deliverables. This information will be incorporated in the upcoming Progress Report (see following point). In addition, there will be a page added to the website with "Action Outputs" (or similar), where the progress and results will be presented. Please see the Progress Report and/or website for details on this subject.

3. Future Action Activities (taking into account the outcome of point 2b)

a. Progress Report – due May 1st; status and review of information required

The next progress report encompasses Months 1 – 30 and is due by May 1st. A new Rapporteur has been assigned by the COST Association to review the report: Prof Jörn Eler. The previous report (May 1st, 2015) will be used as a basis. It will be updated as much as possible by AU and GB and then circulated to the SG for comment. Information will also be collected from other Action Members if necessary (eg. publications). AU is updating the website and any missing data/information should be sent to her.

b. Conferences – Antwerp (status), Limoges (timing and format?)

Antwerp

Several of the SG members were in Antwerp at the beginning of March to discuss the presentations, logistics and facilities of the Conference in June. The venue chosen made a very positive impression and the Local Organisers are doing an excellent job thus far. The minutes of that meeting can be found on the EuroCoppice website:

http://www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de/intern/pdf/minutes_wg/minutes-wg-meeting-antwerp/meeting-antwerp-preconf-minutes

Limoges

The Conference to be held in Limoges in 2017 was originally offered as WG3 Conference, but with the change in budget it must be the final conference. The Chair and SG are very grateful to the French Team that they have agreed to take on this task and also for their flexibility.

Limoges will be fairly difficult to reach for many Members (= one day arrival + one day departure) so it was decided that the Conference should be two days rather than three. Since there will only be little time, no WG meetings should take place and an MC meeting should only take place if required.

The following format was determined appropriate by the SG and will be proposed to WG3 Leader NM and the Local Organisers:

Day 1:

- 9:00 – 12:00 conference with a focus on WG 3;
- Lunch (underway if necessary);
- 13:00 – 18:00 excursion;
- Dinner before returning to hotel

Day 2

- 9:00 – 11:00/12:00 sessions – conference sessions cont.
- 14:00 – 18:00 “political” conference
- Conference Dinner

(Day 3)

- Optional extra full-day excursion for those able to stay longer
- It could be combined with the trip back to Bordeaux (???) (Paris is too far away)

DATES: The Conference will take place in GP5, so after May 1st; the French colleagues are open to dates before July 1st, which is the beginning of the Summer Break. Since the beginning of the GP is difficult to manage and Pentecost is the first week of June, the following dates are suggested:

1st choice: in the week of 19 – 23 June, 2017

2nd choice: in the week of 12 – 16 June, 2017

→ SG Members and Local Organisers should make sure there are no major international conflicting events at that time.

c. STSMs – what should we expect/accept in terms of reporting of results?

There have been many positive STSMs, but also a few examples of poorly implemented STSMs. The SG decided that for reports that are of poor quality and cannot be improved, the report on the website will be replaced with the statement “STSM report did not fulfil the standards required by the Action”.

d. Training Schools – organisation and focus of upcoming Training Schools?

General points that were agreed upon during the discussion:

- Participants should be able to receive ECTS points upon successful completion
- TS “Learning outcomes” should be developed first, then search for appropriate Trainers
- The focus of the coming TSs should be new and reflect the variety of topics in the Action
- The TSs should be planned well in advance in order to assure quality and competition
- The background of applicants is more important than their level of education
- “Less is more” → TS should concentrate on a few specific things + unique local characteristics
- Trainees should receive mainly hands-on training and few(er) demonstration/lectures
- The TS reporting format (used for the previous two TSs) should be kept as it is

Two proposals for Training Schools in GP4 were presented and discussed:

Proposal 1: Boppard, Germany, 17 – 23 July 2016 (dates are set)

Topic: Coppice Biodiversity and Conservation: Inventory and Assessment

Training and lectures on: traditional inventory as a tool for conservation/biodiversity, comparison of different biodiversity assessment methods on different stands (e.g. younger & older), for example: ecology impact assessment, European Protected Species (imp. in UK, DB?) ...

Logistics: The town of "Boppard" is in the middle Rhine Valley (close to Koblenz), which is in the centre of coppice forests of Rhine-Palatinate. A simple AWO- Hotel with 25 beds for ca 25 €/night incl. breakfast has been pre-booked and the plan has been discussed with the local forest administration, who is willing to provide support in teaching and logistics/field work.

Trainers: Local Trainers have been contacted; international Trainers are needed, especially from WG4 (DB might be able to recommend an ecologist from her faculty).

Proposal 2: Lativa, 19 – 23 September 2016 (dates are set)

Topic: Short Rotation Coppice (SRC): Alternatives for the establishment and tending of SRC

Training and lectures on: SRC definitions, choosing clones, weed control, fertilisation, pre-harvest measurements, non-wood forest products, shorter vs. longer rotation periods...

Logistics: (Possibly at) two different camps; 3 hour drive between each (approx. 1000 € for bus)

- o Eastern area: many forests; cooler, no beech
- o Western area: close to airport; beech and different experimental plots
- o Campus: 16.40 € / shared room or 25.20 € / single room per night, meals ca. 5 € / day

Trainers: Local Trainers have been contacted; international Trainers are needed, especially from WG3. Thus far, international Action Members P.D. Kofman and J. Hytönen have agreed to be Trainers.

VOTE: All Members of the SG support both TS proposals.

e. (Planned) publications – what is the status of each WG?

WG Leaders reported the following peer-reviewed publications:

WG1: no peer-reviewed publications planned

WG2: A joint publication on the loss of traditional coppice forests planned

WG3: 5 peer-reviewed publications (different leading authors)

WG4: one accepted publication in iForest on Natura 2000, others planned

WG5: Publication in the International Review of Forestry (draft submitted by end of year) – “Review of alternative approaches to coppice governance”

STSMs: Publications that resulted from STSM (at least 4 until now) have been posted on the website, following the respective report. AU will send a reminder to completed STSMers to inform us of any (further) publications and how to acknowledge the Action. This information will also be added to the Grant Letter.

f. Project proposals – are there potential H2020 (or other) proposals?

It was acknowledged that proposals should be a priority for the remainder of the Action.

Everyone agreed to send around relevant Calls to all SG Members and that the Calls would be posted on the Action website.

AU distributed two calls from H2020 Cultural Heritage; GB announced ERA-NET calls; and DB mentioned H2020 Calls and that one INTERREG call is out.

There will be a timeslot in Antwerp to work on project proposals.

g. IUFRO Working Party: application & representatives

Application

GB & AU sent around a draft application prior to the meeting. The draft was discussed and several terms will be added: ecosystem services, supply chain development, forest dependent people (after sentence on “ownership”).

VOTE: All SG Members are in favour of applying for an IUFRO Working Party on traditional coppice.

VOTE: All SG Members agreed to the title “Traditional coppice: ecology, silviculture and socio-economic aspects”.

The application should be submitted as quickly as possible, in order to apply for a technical session at the Congress in IUFRO (see next point). **It was agreed the proposal should be submitted to IUFRO by April 30th.**

Representatives:

The following positions must be filled in the Application:

- 1 Coordinator*
- 2 – 4 Deputy Coordinators*
- Other scientists to collaborate with new WP

* The Coordinator and Deputies must have an IUFRO membership (institutional or personal). The Officers should span as many continents as possible and relevant and gender balance is given a high priority.

Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu volunteered to be Coordinator of the Working Party. He has experience with IUFRO divisions and since the WP will fall under the Silviculture Division he is particularly suited to the position.

VOTE: All SG Members in favour to nominate Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu as Coordinator of the WP.

Contacts from continents outside of Europe are needed. DB will contact a potential member from Burkina Faso who is working with the Green Wall (especially Kenya) and will add VN and AU to the email in CC.

VN will be in charge of the submission of the application. Supported by the Coordinator, he will also be in charge of identifying and contacting potential international deputies and interested scientists.

AU will send VN the current draft, list of names and results from the email to IUFRO.

h. Dissemination of results; IUFRO Session at Freiburg Congress...

The Call for Technical Sessions to the 125th IUFRO Congress in Freiburg has been published: <http://iufro2017.com/>

Applications are due June 15th.

Since VN will be coordinating the IUFRO Working Party, it was decided that he will lead the application for the Technical Session, supported by GB & AU.

4. Main Action output(s)

a. Policy Paper

It was agreed that the Policy Paper should:

- Be fairly short → aim for 2 pages; max 4 pages
- Concentrate on the specifics of coppice (as opposed to forests in general)
- Target the European, rather than National level
- Have 1 – 5 key messages (e.g. Coppice is important and not adequately represented/addressed)
- Advocates for coppice (issues)
- Provide the context of coppice: what and where it is + how it is considered in (EU) policy
- Describe why coppice is beneficial (using ecosystem services if possible)
- Provide links (arguments) to existing policies (e.g. Natural 2000)
- Provide clear recommendations: e.g. coppice should be recognised; reliable data is needed; its importance in each country should be explored and this should involve stakeholders...
- Differentiate recommendations through “zoning” – i.e. go beyond a pure conversion or promotion mentality
- Differentiate between actively managed coppice vs. “abandoned”

It should involve a two-stage process with different stakeholders:

- 1) Endorsement Stage: Approach stakeholders who can endorse the policy paper
- 2) Advocate Stage: Approach policy-makers & identify lobby representatives

Personal contacts should be used as much as possible.

The following DGs from the EC were identified as important: environment, growth, energy, agriculture.

The FAO UNECE is also an important stakeholder to target.

- 1) DB will take the lead on the Policy Paper.**

- 2) **The 1st Draft will be sent to the SG prior to the Antwerp Conference.**
- 3) **A one hour SG meeting will be reserved at the Antwerp Conference for the Policy Paper.**

b. Final Action Dissemination (FAD) e.g. Book

GB and AU had compiled a rough proposal prior to the meeting, which was presented by GB here. The proposal is to produce a book that incorporates all Action outputs. It was decided that the book will be max 200 pages, the title will be "Coppice Forests in Europe" (or similar) and will be complemented by smaller handbooks (WG 2 & 3) in the same format. The first draft of the book should be completed before the Limoges Conference and all reports must be completed before the end of the Action.

- 1) **An updated proposal will be sent to SG Members before the end of April.**
- 2) **AU will send SG Member basic templates for reports (especially Factsheets) by June 1st.**
- 3) **The idea, content and format will be presented at the Antwerp Conference (June 15th) and will be voted on by the MC.**

5. Data management: aggregating already collected data & identifying gaps

There is still data missing on coppice area in the respective countries. GB and AU will employ a Master's student for this task. The student will compile all existing data before it is sent to Action/MC Members for update.

Data to be collected:

Country area: ha
Forest area: ha / %
Broadleaf: ha / %
Conifers: ha / %
Mixed forest: ha / %
Coppice: ha / % (with definition / categories)
Forest ownership - forest (categories?)
Forest ownership - coppice (same as above)

6. Closing remarks

GB thanks all participants for the productive meeting. It was generally acknowledged that discussions and progress could not have been achieved via video or telephone conference.