



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)”

WG5 Meeting MINUTES

Faculty of Forestry, Madrid, Spain, 9th – 11th of December 2015

Action participants:

- Debbie Bartlett
- Indrek Jakobson
- Ruben Laina
- Alicia Unrau
- Eduardo Tolosana (one day)
- Miljenko Zupanic

Other participants / presenters:

- Verónica Rodríguez-Vicente, PhD Forest Engineer, Department of Agroforestry Engineering, University of Santiago De Compostela, (participant and presenter)
- Victor M. González Glez de Linares, Professor on Harvesting and Forest History, School of Forestry, Technical University, Madrid (presenter)
- Patricia Gomez, COSE - Spanish Forest Owners Association (presenter)

Rapporteurs: Debbie Bartlett, Alicia Unrau

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday the 9th of December 15:30 – 19:30

The group discussed the agenda for the coming days and the next goals of the Working Group, mainly pertaining to the Fact Sheet. Work accomplished since Bucharest was presented. A basic plan for the coming days (meeting) and months (fact sheet) were established.

Thursday the 10th of December 09:00 – 20:00

Two local experts presented and discussed the following topics:

- **“Brief History of the Spanish Forests” with a focus on coppice** by Victor M. González Glez de Linares, Professor on harvesting and forest history at the School of Forestry, Technical University, Madrid.
 - **“Modelling non-industrial private forest management in Galicia: A new approach for forest research”** by Verónica Rodríguez-Vicente, PhD Forest engineer
- Notes on the presentations can be found in a separate document

Meeting participants went through the country case studies to decide on a more detailed common structure for the reports and fact sheet.

Friday the 11th of December 10:00 – 18:00

There was a presentation/discussion with a local expert on:

- **COSE, the Spanish Forest Owners Association and coppice** by Patricia Gomez, General Manager of COSE, Spanish Forest Owners Association, which is a national confederation of all forest owners from all of the forest owners associations in Spain

The structure of the country case studies were finalised and the group decided on the schedule to meet the deadline of uploading the fact sheet to the EuroCoppice site (March 30th).

Meeting Minutes

It was decided that there would be a three-step process in regards to the data and information collected within the WG:

1st Step: Report

- This is the most extensive of the three steps (in terms of amount, i.e. number of pages) & will include as much information as possible
- Information feeding into the report:
 - General information on forests and coppice in Europe (only in the case studies?)
 - Country Case Studies (Spain, England, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Serbia)
 - Forest Policy Context (Debbie)
 - Students' work on European Policy and Ownership (Alicia)
 - Green Sheets from the Chatham Conference

2nd Step: Fact Sheet

- To be finished by March 30th, 2016
- This will be a very condensed version of the information collected in the report
- Approximately four A4 sheets
- Should be "facts" – focussing mainly on the current situation rather than the future
- It is to be published on the website
- It is mainly for a target group similar to the participants in the Action
- It should be in the same layout/format as other Fact sheets in the Action
 - A suggestion is to have them similar to the British "Post Notes"

3rd Step: Potential paper(s) (e.g. review)

- This is optional and has not yet been decided
- Could be a review paper (or several)
 - not a systematic review or (pure) literature review
- The only fixed topic thus far is "coppice forest governance"
- It would be nice to have a similar paper that we could use as a model
- One idea for a review paper is: where and how is coppice mentioned in European and Regional Policy, divided into explicit and implicit mentions

Things to take into account for the report, fact sheet and potential papers:

- There may be overlap with other WGs. The data collection should be coordinated, especially with WG1 & WG2 (e.g. Management Plan) (What about WG 3?). Perhaps this could be discussed at the Steering Group Meeting in Frankfurt in April 2016 (by extending the meeting with necessary participants to Wednesday or the weekend?)
 - Debbie / Alicia will send around info we're collecting to Dagnija and Noro
 - When can/should this be discussed with them in detail?
- France is missing in this working group. Would Philipp Ruch be able to help? An STSM?
- The recently published book, *Europe's Changing Woods and Forests*, edited by Keith Kirby and Charles Watkins (2015) contains some data on coppice forests
- Debbie has a student from Spain who is interested in Ecosystem Services who could apply for an STSM in Bulgaria to deliver information for WG 5

Alicia presented the students' work on (1) coppice in European policy documents and (2) coppice forest ownership. She has sent around the pdf and excel sheet results to WG 5 members (10.12.2015).

Comments on the European Policy Documents:

- There are not many mentions of coppice, which was expected
- There could, however, be implicit mentions of coppice
- We could look at their mention of (sustainable) forest (management) to see if it could/does (implicitly) include coppice

- DB suggested that coppice maybe less likely to be mentioned in national documents in countries where most of the forest is conifer or where this is the dominant productive forestry as, for example, the Forestry Commission in England own little broadleaf woodland. MZ and IJ don't agree

Comments on the ownership information collection:

- Data should be preceded by the proportion broadleaved to conifers, since one cannot coppice conifers; so one can see which countries have the potential to coppice
- This data will likely fit under the umbrella data at the beginning, but maybe it will fit better in or together with WG 1. We are not *required* to use the data.

Comments on National Study Cases:

- Are local/regional governments interested in coppice or not?
 - o can we answer it? Is it useful?
- Can we somehow include Ecosystem Services? The coppice-specific ES are cultural & biodiversity & local livelihoods (perhaps soil and/or erosion protection, but it's not clear)
- If we don't define clear tasks, we won't be able to compare them
- Rubin: Coppice is a problem in Spain because it isn't dealt with in National or Regional policy (law)
- At least three types of access were discussed:
 - 1) Access to the resource; access by people wanting to cut it (e.g. joint owners)
 - 2) Open access (→ public can walk anywhere)
 - 3) Physical access (e.g. Galicia – no roads)
- Comments from Spain: There are alternatives to coppice products, so they have lost value; profits (prices and subsidies) and fire prevention is a main driver

Extra notes:

- In UK: woodland = forest
- UKWAS UK Woodland Association Scheme is the national expression of FSC
- A motivation (or value) can be an emotional link to the land (linked to background and occupation, economical situation...)

COUNTRY REPORT STRUCTURE

Country context:

- Area of woodland/forest
- Proportion of conifer/mixed/broadleaf
- How is coppice defined in your country?
- Is there any official figure for area of coppice? How reliable is this?

National policy context

- Is policy for forestry at national/region/local or none? i.e. is policy centralised or devolved?
- Are the most important policy document affecting coppice at national/region/local or none?
- Is coppice or SRC mentioned in National Legislation (if so where and in what context?)
- Is coppice or SRC mentioned in National forestry policy (if so where and in what context?)
- Is coppice or SRC mentioned in related policies? – such energy, biodiversity (as appropriate)

→ While no precise time has been set recent and current should be considered, as appropriate

- Are there any other national initiatives affecting coppice? (either positive or negative)
- Are National certification standards relevant to coppice (i.e. is coppice mentioned; and is it able to be certified in your country?)
- Taxes: inheritance tax; capital gains (income) tax; VAT

Regional policy context

- Is coppice found specifically in one or more regions?
 - Is the policy context the same in each of these?
 - Select case study region(s) + map; Rationale for selection – could include traditional use
 - Brief description (e.g. area of woodland & proportions of conifer/mixed/broadleaf, species)
 - Is coppice mentioned in forestry law and policy ?
 - Is coppice mentioned in related policy? E.g. energy, biodiversity (as appropriate)
- While no precise time has been set recent and current should be considered, as appropriate
- Taxes set at below national level
 - Regional initiatives – e.g. subsidies; coppice owners associations
 - Is there are specific coppice-product-using industry?
 - If coppice is not specific referred to in policy documents how is it categorised (e.g. other woodland, agriculture or scrub?) and dealt with?

Management plan aims

- Do area based or landscape based management plans exist? And do they relate to coppice?
- Are single ownership management plans formally approved? (Public and private)
- Are single ownership management plans required?
- Do single ownership management plans exist? How frequently?
- Is coppice considered?
- To what extent can the landowner decide how existing coppice is managed?
- Are there any additional recently planted areas managed as coppice e.g. highways, rivers?

Ownership

- public/private; single/group
- Size?
- Farming/rural (family) or non-farming/new rural
- How do owners get advice?
- What owner groups exist?
- What proportion of owners are members of a woodland owners association?
- Do these owners have coppice?
- Gender balance?
- Ownership unknown? (woodland in general or coppice)

Other Issues affecting coppice management

- Permission to cut
- Certification (access to markets - are there some markets that require certification?)
- (Seasonal) constraints imposed by nature conservation, fire or other objectives (e.g. no summer cutting)
- Availability of workers – (must working in this sector be) combined with other livelihood options? Are these different from timber harvesting companies?
- Are there worker associations? Do these involve only companies or individuals too?
- What sorts of resources (e.g. capital investment) are involved in maintaining coppice?
- Edaphic/access/slope?

Drivers of coppice existence and continuation (actual & potential) (this should be fairly short)

- What is the current paradigm regarding sustainable forest management?
- Where does coppice fit into this?
- How secure is the future of coppice (in your country) for the next 10, 25, 50 years?
- What is likely to influence this?

Some examples were discussed in the context of the immediately preceding section, these are listed below:

- Grants and incentives?
- Taxation of ownership, VAT, inheritance tax/capital gains tax and Insurance (liability)
- Markets
- Profitability? (explain why)
- demand for firewood/biomass/renewable energy
- Price of land – coppice vs SRC vs high/coniferous forest
- Urbanisation – is abandonment of coppice increasing forest fires?

It might also be useful to list key publications from your country relating specifically to coppice since 2000

DEADLINES:

The fact sheet is going to be brief – no more than 4 sides of A4

It will be uploaded to the website end of March so

- All country reported completed and circulated 15th January ALL
- Plan for fact sheet drafted and circulated 1st February DB
- Comments back by 15th February ALL
- 1st draft of fact sheet circulated 25th February DB
- Meeting in Croatia 3rd -4th March ALL
- Draft circulated to all for comment 10th March DB
- Comments returned 20th March ALL
- Final draft completed 25th March DB/AU