



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)”

WG 4 Meeting MINUTES

Conseil Régional Nouvelle Aquitaine (Regional Council of New Aquitaine)
27 boulevard de la Corderie – 87000
Limoges, France
19th of June, 2017

WG 4 Participants: Peter Buckley (UK), Svetla Bratanova-Doncheva (BG), Alexander Feher (SK), Paola Mairota (IT).

WG Leader: Peter Buckley, co-leader Florian Borlea

Rapporteur: Jennifer Mills

Welcome: Peter Buckley welcomed participants to the meeting. Unfortunately, several WG4 members had been unable to attend the Limoges meeting, but the agenda had been sent to all, inviting comments.

Agenda:

Minutes from the Antwerp meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on June 15th, 2016, had been circulated and were also available on the Eurocoppice website.

Matters arising The WG4 contribution to training had been held between July 18th and 22nd, 2016 in Boppard, Germany, and had been very successful. There were no other matters arising.

WG4 deliverables and publications

The four WG4 deliverables and the outputs achieved or in preparation are:

(i) *Carry out a literature review on the mechanics of tree stability and rooting on steep terrain, with special reference to coppicing practices.*

The multi-author review on 'Root reinforcement dynamics in coppice woodlands and their effect on shallow landslides has been published in *Earth-Science Reviews*.

(ii) *Collect information on the protection functions of coppice forests (protecting infrastructures such as roads, railways and buildings), particularly in relation to maintained or abandoned coppices. Compare this framework with the technical issues arising in deliverable 1, and make recommendations for best practice.*

Another review of literature on the theme of protection from rockfall is being prepared as a separate paper for journal publication. This will be a multi-author paper by WG4 members, together with scientists from the Swiss Federal Research Institute and Berne University. A summary paper on the performance of coppice in preventing soil erosion and rockfall will be offered to the FAD.

(iii) *Compiling and evaluating critically existing literature and knowledge about the specific services of coppice forests to nature conservation (e. g. biodiversity, endangered species).*

The paper 'Integrating conservation objectives into forest management: coppice management and forest habitats in Natura 2000 sites' by PM and several Group 4 members has been published in *i-Forest*. A review paper, on the status of coppice in relation to Natura 2000 and biodiversity, was presented at the Antwerp conference by PB and will be offered for editing by Group 4 members before submission to the FAD.

PM pointed out that some publications by WG4 members had been listed in the Silvicultural Guidelines booklet. WG4 members had also contributed to the National Perspectives on Coppice publication.

(iv) *Compile and evaluate legal documents about specific rules and legislation related to coppice forests and conservation and biodiversity issues.*

Reviews of legislation and regulations in the following countries have been completed for 16 countries but not yet printed. Reviews are still needed for: Albania, Bosnia & Herzeg., Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine. A request was made during the SG meeting that morning for further contributions and AU will also e-mail requests to Eurocoppice members after the Conference. Spain was considered a particularly important omission and other potential contributors will be contacted by DB and VNN. It was thought a foreword was necessary to explain that some countries do not have regulations that allow coppicing. The deadline for further articles is **August 1st**.

Action outputs

The policy paper had already been published. PB reported that the earlier SG meeting had discussed the layout of the FAD, the 'Coppice Handbook'. This would consist of 350-450 pages and the editors would be AU, GB, RS, DL, VNN, NM, PB, DB, and PDK. A draft version of the structure for the Handbook had been circulated with the agenda. WG4 contributions would be mainly in section 4 'Services and Governance' with those from WG5. The Rules and Regulations will be in section 5, 'A closer look at coppice in Europe'.

Already published articles will not be included in the main chapters, but abstracts and references will be included in the Annex. Page number restrictions meant that only paper summaries or extended abstracts were desirable. Tasks would be given to each member concerning this. For example, the SG agreed that PB's unpublished article on Natura 2000, coppice and high forest conservation issues could be included, subject to its circulation for comment by WG4 members. PM will summarise or extend the abstract of the *i-Forest* paper on 'Integrating conservation objectives into forest management: coppice management and forest habitats in Natura 2000 sites'.

Regarding invasive species, AF confirmed that he will liaise with FB to prepare a summary of their paper on *Ailanthus* given at the Antwerp conference for publication in the FAD. SB-D would also make a contribution to this. PB would also ask JM to summarise her research on *Robinia*. RP had published papers concerning logging impact on soil relating to coppice harvesting operations, and PB would invite him for a summary which could be included in the FAD. PB will also ask RH to write a summary on his Czech papers on historical coppicing legacies. SB-D volunteered to write a piece on cultural system services. PB asked for further information about this topic. A paper was to be given during the conference about this.

As above, PB will summarise the soil stability and rockfall protection papers.

Full articles are to be reviewed by WG Leaders by Nov 30th so summaries will have to be ready before this date by **mid-October** and the Handbook will be printed and distributed by April 30th, 2018.

Further WG4 initiatives for completion before Oct 2017

There were none planned.

IUFRO Congress session on traditional coppice

PM will be giving a paper at the Congress session on traditional coppice.

PB thanked all WG4 members for their support and contributions over the course of the project.