

## **COST Action FP0603: “Forest models for research and decision support in sustainable forest management”**

### **Draft minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, 13 July 2010, 14:00 - 18:00 hrs**

**NH Hotel – Zandvoort, The Netherlands**

#### **0. Opening of the meeting and welcome of participants**

Prof. Frits Mohren and prof. Margarida Tomé welcomed the participants to the meeting. Present at the meeting: prof. Margarida Tomé (chair), prof. Hubert Hasenauer, prof. Annikki Mäkelä, prof. Frits Mohren (host, minutes). Apologies received from dr. Marc Palahi, who was unable to come because of other obligations.

#### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted, based on the suggestions by the chair as circulated by Email prior to the meeting (see details as minuted below).

#### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting in Helsinki (February 5, 2008) are formally approved.

#### **3. Matters arising**

Any matters arising from the Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee have been taken up at successive Management Committee meetings, and were not discussed further.

#### **4. Report from the COST Office**



The Chair explained the change to the Grant system, and the budget adjustments made (using tacit approval by the MC members).

The interim feedback from the Domain Committee will be discussed under point 8 of the agenda.

## **5. Action budget and Action Planning status (incl. finalization of the Action)**

Review of Action work program, based on Memorandum of Understanding. End of the Action will be December 11, 2011.

Budget period June 2010-May 2011: € 88.000. This consist of meeting reimbursements: € 34.800, STSM's € 21.750, training schools € 20.000, giving total science expenditure € 76.550 and FSAC (coordinators overhead): € 11.450

Final meeting tentatively planned for October 2011, proposal to be decided at next MC meeting. Tentative title: Models and their role within sustainable forest management.

Budget for remaining part after June 2011 yet unknown, to be clarified before MC meeting in September 2010, by the Action chair.

## **6. STSM status, applications**

STSM (call June 2010): 5 applicants, one STSM taken up under the current budget (agreed under previous call); one more call to be issued in September 2010; total budget will allow for 8-10 STSM's (June + September call, total budget € 21.750), STSM budget for the September call consists of the remainder of the total STSM budget, after evaluation and approval of current applications.

After discussion on applications it was decided to accept all five applications (3 male, 2 female); with the inclusion of the costs of the STSM already approved under the previous call, but allocated to the budget of the current period, this gives a total of an expenditure of € 10.900. This implies that the remaining budget for the September call will be € 10.850.

Upcoming 2011 calls are to be decided as part of the budget preparations for June-December 2011 during MC meeting in September in Prague.

## **7. Publications, annual report**

Final report to COST consists of incremental progress report, and outcome of Working Groups as several review papers, at least one per WG.

## **8. Evaluations**

DC evaluation report on FP0603 (Rome, March 2010) as received from the COST secretariat:

“The Action is well conducted and highly productive. Its excellent use of the STSM scheme and management of the database were praised by the DC. The Action is encouraged to increase attention to administrative timeframes, in particular with respect to STSM’s and to organize a Training School. The DC would like to see more interaction with other COST Actions (eg those focusing on climate change) for example through cross Action STSM’s to generate joint publications. As the Action moves towards its end attention should be given to increasing the involvement of end users, perhaps through a specific targeted event to ensure that the model is of use to end users”

The comments are well received and appreciated. Actions to improve administrative procedures are undertaken. As to the interaction with other COST Action is was decided by the SC that upcoming STSM calls under the Action are sent to the chairs of related Actions, with the suggestion to distribute this under the Action participants. It would then be considered an advantage if an STSM would address issues relevant to both Actions.

Several SC and MC members of the Action FP0603 are active in other COST Actions, thereby ensuring coordination between Actions although this may not always be visible to the MC or DC. It was decided that at the MC meeting in Prague in September 2010 a table will be presented by the Action Chair, based on an survey amongst MC members on their involvement in other COST Actions; based on this, further collaboration will be discussed at the MC meeting. In addition, it will be considered to invite speakers from the other Actions. As part of this, the Chair will contact dr. Elena Paoletti (Chair of COST FP0903) to ask for a key-note contribution for the Prague meeting, and dr. Jean-Luc Peyron (Chair of FP0703) to ask for a key-note contribution from ECHOES.

## **9. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)**

Gender balance is explicitly considered as part of the STSM evaluation procedure, and is also monitored and reported as part of the regular reporting scheme. The gender balance appears to be rather good for the Action.

Options for Early Stage Researchers (ESR) will be brought under the attention of MC members again, and it will also be clearly announced on the Action website.

## **10. Non-COST country participations**

New Zealand is participating in the Action, and an application from Australia has been received and approved by the MC.

### **11. Web news**

The website (<http://www.isa.utl.pt/def/fp0603forestmodels/>): is being used less than would be possible. The SC will notify WG leaders and MC members once more on the website options.

### **12. Progress report of working groups**

Progress reports have been included in the last annual report (June 2009 – May 2010); all WG are active in preparing review papers, for presentation at the final meeting and for submission to scientific journals.

### **13. Long-term planning**

As the Action is coming to an end in 2011, the long-term planning is less relevant now; the final meeting is being planned according to the MoU of the Action.

### **14. Place and date of next meeting**

The next MC meeting will take place in Prague from 23-24 September. The local meeting organizers will be asked to circulate an announcement at short notice, before the summer holidays. The Chair will take action to contact them immediately following the SC meeting, to clarify organizational issues. The WG leaders are asked to organize parallel WG meetings, although parallel sessions will be limited as all COST participants will need to get the opportunity to participate in the discussion. Hubert Hasenauer, Margarida Tomé and Frits Mohren will prepare a more detailed proposal immediately following the SC meeting.

Preparation of the final meeting: to be planned for October 2011; location either Lisbon or Bordeaux, to be decided at the MC in September in Prague. Local organizer to be decided accordingly. Title: Models and their role in sustainable forest management. Possible back-to-back organization with MC meetings of related COST Actions (FP0703: ECHOES; FP0903: Air pollutants and climate change effects on tree growth). Each working group will make a presentation on the state of affairs, including an invited presentation from the working group. End users, (people using models) should have a presentation at the final meeting as well.

### **15. AOB**

Organization of 1 or 2 training schools: it was decided to focus on one training school, with a total budget of € 20.000. When the training school will be held in May 2011, it may benefit from additional funding associated with budget surplus of other Actions. As to the topic of the training school, this should be relevant for the participants in the entire cost action, and it should be sufficiently specific to allow hands-on exercises and applications. Topics could include general introduction of forest modelling, and model uncertainty and sensitivity, use of data e.g. with Bayesian techniques, and relevance of calibration and uncertainty for support of model applications in forest management. The Steering Committee will act as the organizing committee for the training school, focusing on 7-8 days with 15-20 participants (PhD students) and 5-7 lecturers, depending on financial support. The organization would allow for self-paying participants as well.

For the location of the training school, a preference was expressed for a location in the Alps. It was decided that Hubert Hasenauer will prepare a more detailed proposal for the MC meeting in September.

Concerning the Email distribution list: Wageningen University has announced that the Listserv distribution lists operation will be abandoned by the end of 2010. For practical purposes, an Email distribution list for MC members has been established by the vice-chair. The WG leaders will need to consider setting up individual WG distribution lists.

## **15. Closing**

The Steering Committee meeting was closed at 18:00 hrs.

Minutes take by Frits Mohren, with corrections and additions SC members present at the meeting, 16 July 2010.