

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME ON ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF  
AIR POLLUTION EFFECTS ON FORESTS IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

**Kick-off Meeting of the “Forest Biodiversity Test-phase Assessments”  
(Forest BIOTA)**

held in Ispra 9<sup>th</sup> May 2005

MINUTES

1. The meeting was opened by Richard Fischer who welcomed the participants. He gave a retrospective view over the history of the project. After adoption through the Standing Forestry Committee the ForestBIOTA pilot project is now co-financed under the Forest Focus Regulation. Oliver Granke (BFH) was introduced as new coordinator of the "ForestBIOTA" project.
2. The draft agenda was adopted by the participants of the meeting (see Annex 1).
3. Pat Neville, Chairman of the ICP Forests Working Group on Biodiversity, gave a short introduction into the topic from view of the working group.
4. The experts from different countries reported on their national activities under ForestBIOTA (see Annex 2).
5. Gherardo Chirici presented the latest version of the deadwood monitoring protocol and first results from the Italian CONECOFOR monitoring network. With the help of simulation models different survey designs have been tested. As a result of the evaluations some minor methodological changes were proposed and adopted:
  - there will be no differentiation between lying fine wood and lying coarse wood. Both deadwood components are assessed in the four subplots. No line intersect sampling will be carried out.
  - stumps are only measured at the level of cut.
  - a deadwood definition will be included in the manual.The field manual will be changed accordingly by PCC. The National Focal Centres are invited to take contact with Marco Marchetti prior to carrying out the assessments in the field, as the Italian Academy of Forest Science is interested in getting acquainted with stands in different forest types.
6. Peter Meyer introduced the methodology of stand structure assessments to the participants. He also presented results from a simulation study based on the already submitted tree coordinates of 23 ForestBIOTA plots. This demonstrated well, that sampling of structural group of four needs a minimum number of samples which is too high for comparatively small plots. No structural group of four assessments will be carried out by the countries. Instead, the proposal for a full survey of all tree coordinates was adopted.

In case of very high tree number an individually derived sample size upon agreement with the NFV and BFH can used also.

7. Marco Marchetti presented a new project on developing the European Forest Types for Biodiversity Assessment (FTBA) for forest stratification which also offers a link to the EUNIS and the Natura 2000 habitats classification. The manual of the ForestBIOTA forest type classification remains unchanged. In addition, however, the Natura 2000 habitats will be recorded for ForestBIOTA plots. PCC in cooperation with the IASF has already supplied the relevant field manual for this classification. Additional six “non-forest” habitats will still be included into this manual. Not all plots can be classified into these habitats as they only cover specific forests.  
Marco Marchetti asked all participants for photos of different forest types.
8. Silvia Stofer presented the methodology for epiphytic lichen assessments as well as the latest results from the BIOASSESS project. The lichen manual remains unchanged except for the following amendment.  
For boreal forests of Scandinavia it is also possible upon agreement with the WSL and the BFH to adapt the threshold of the diameters for the prestratification classes of the sample trees to the regional conditions.
9. Oliver Granke presented the actual state of the new ForestBIOTA database, its components and the databasemodel. The database is a MySQL-DatabaseManagmentSystem (DBMS) on an own web server which can be accessed through a link on <http://www.forestbiota.org>. The link will be active from mid June 05.  
A WebStart application allows online-/offline work. The required programs (Java-Run-time-Environment and MySQL-Connector) are both available as download on the above named home page. Also an installation instruction is there.
10. Oliver Granke gave practical examples for the data submission for the topics “structure estimates”, “deadwood” and “ground vegetation”.  
The module "Lichen" will still be developed, based on a code list that will be developed by the WSL in June.
11. The database prototype will be fully operational by the mid of June. As a first test application, the Italian ForestBIOTA data will then be entered in close collaboration between the CONECOFOR and BFH. In August, the data base will be opened for all participating countries. Upon request the data base will be opened for countries still not formally participating in the project. In cases of interest these countries are asked to take contact with BFH, which will create the relevant plots in the data base prior to the external data submission by the countries.
12. Pat Neville and Annemarie Bastrup-Birk (JRC) informed about the present situation of the BioSoil project. They pointed to the importance of the constructive work done in the ForestBIOTA and the need to work together.

13. A ForestBIOTA evaluation meeting will be convened for the experts (NFV, BFH, IAFS, WSL) and for interested National Focal Centres as soon as data submission is complete in late 2005.
14. A project time schedule was adopted which as an important deadline foresees data submission by the countries until end of September 2005 (see Annex 4)

**Most important deadlines:**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| - Termination field assessments:         | 30 <sup>th</sup> of September 2005 |
| - Termination field assessments lichens: | 31 <sup>st</sup> of October 2005   |
| - Termination data submission            | 31 <sup>st</sup> of October 2005   |

## Annex I Agenda

### 10.30 – 13.00: session 1 – **State of the project**

10.30 – 11.30	Opening of the meeting Welcome by the ICP Forests WG on Biodiversity	Richard FISCHER Pat NEVILLE (to be confirmed) Richard FISCHER
11.30 – 13.00	Overview on the latest developments (“Forest Focus”, administrative questions of the project, methodologies, time schedule, responsibilities, general design of the database and data submission, envisaged evaluation and reporting) Country reports: please prepare a table to report shortly (< 5min): Number of ForestBIOTA plots? assessments already conducted? Did you have any problems? what do you expect from this meeting? As an example, please find below an overview from Italy and Germany. Please do not prepare more than that!!	country participants

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

### 14.00 – 18.30 session 2 - **Surveys and data submission**

14.00 – 14.30	general plot layout and deadwood assessment: presentation of the ForestBIOTA methodology	Gherardo CHIRICHI, Marco MARCHETTI
14.30 – 15.00	stand structure assessments: presentation of the ForestBIOTA methodology	Peter MEYER
15.00 – 15.30	the ForestBIOTA database and submission of deadwood/stand structure data	Oliver GRANKE
15.30 – 16.00	questions/discussion	
16.00 – 16.20	coffee break	
16.20 – 16.40	ForestBIOTA methodology for epiphytic lichen assessments	Silvia STOFER
16.40 – 17.00	ForestBIOTA methodology for ground vegetation assessments	Oliver GRANKE
17.00 – 17.20	ForestBIOTA methodology for forest type classification: EUNIS (completed) and Natura 2000 habitats (new!!)	Gherardo CHIRICHI, Marco MARCHETTI
17.20 – 17.40	Submission of lichen and ground vegetation data	Oliver GRANKE
17.40 – 18.10	questions/discussion (“adoption” of the time schedule)	
18.10 – 18.30	coffee break	

### 18.30 – 20.00: session 3 - **Future perspectives and BioSoil**

18.30 – 19.00	State of the BioSoil project	Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK and/or Pat NEVILLE (to be confirmed)
19.00 – 20.00	Open discussion: expected outputs of the ForestBIOTA related to BioSoil and/or other possible future directions	Richard FISCHER

### Annex 3 Overview over the assessments in different countries.

	Deadwood	Structure	GV	Lichen	EUNIS	Natura 2000
<b>Spain (12)</b>	10 plots	coord.	o.k.	2 new, all: old	o.k.	
<b>CZ (3)</b>	o.k.	coord.	o.k.	o.k.	o.k.	
<b>FIN (8)</b>		coord.	400 m2 o.k.		o.k.	
<b>IT (12)</b>	o.k.	coord.	o.k.	o.k.	o.k.	
<b>DK (4)</b>		coord.	o.k.		o.k.	
<b>CH (16)</b>		coord.	400 m2 o.k.	400 m2 o.k.		
<b>Greece (4)</b>					o.k.	
<b>DE (18)</b>		5 plots coord.		3 plots	o.k.	
<b>FR (15)</b>					o.k.	
<b>Slovakia (6)</b>					o.k.	
<b>Russia (12)</b>					o.k.	
<b>Ukraine (3)</b>		coord			o.k.	
<b>NL (6)</b>		coord	400 m2 (?)		o.k.	

### Annex 4 Time schedule

