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WELCOME MESSAGE

We have an excellent project, recently proved during the two days discussions with the group of external evaluators appointed by the Commission. The positive spirit, high ambitions and loyalty towards our common objectives among the project partners is obvious from my horizon. Project activities are at full speed and I look forward to continuing to work with you all in striving towards a successful end result.

The sentiments expressed in the quotation below are appropriate for us on our EFORWOOD journey.

"I feel that you are justified in looking into the future with true assurance, because you have a mode of living in which we find the joy of life and the joy of work harmoniously combined. Added to this is the spirit of ambition which pervades your very being, and seems to make the day's work like a happy child at play." (Albert Einstein)

Prof. Kaj Rosén
Coordinator of the EFORWOOD project

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MEET PROJECT MODULES

MODULE 2:

The focus of this part of the EFORWOOD project is on the assessment of the sustainability of the management of forests in different parts of Europe.



Module 2 leader:

*Jean Michel Carnus
INRA, France*

The emphasis is placed on types of forest where wood production is an important objective, so that the interactions between timber management and other services provided by forests (recreation, wildlife) can be explored. Forests included in this investigation range from boreal forests in northern Sweden through mixed conifer-broadleaved woodland in southern Germany to intensive Eucalyptus plantations in Portugal. Other examples include plantation forests in southern France and Scotland, and mixed forests in Catalonia, eastern France, Austria and Poland.

The overall objectives of this module are to characterise existing forest management strategies in the various countries and to consider how they affect the economic, environmental and social outputs from forests. A range of alternative management strategies will be developed and their potential impact upon the various outputs will be explored using models that predict the growth and development of for-

ests in the various regions. This will include examination of the risks that may be involved with different strategies. The risks covered may be due to climatic factors such as wind or fire, or to biological aspects such as insect pests or fungal diseases.

In order to achieve these objectives, our module is divided into five main work areas. The first deals with **forest management strategies** and has been developing a framework that can be used across all forest types to describe the different stages of forest development and the processes that are used to manage them. It is now seeking to articulate a common scheme for describing alternative approaches to management and, in the future, will be looking to explore the impact of these approaches upon chosen factors that are used to indicate sustainability. The second area of investigation considers the wide range of **environmental services** that are provided by forests (water quality, biodiversity, nutrient status of soils, carbon sequestration) and their sensitivity to forest management practices. A comprehensive review is being carried out which will inform the evaluation of alternative management approaches. The third work area covers a similar task, but with an emphasis upon the **social and cultural values** provided by forests. This covers aspects such as a range of non-timber products (mushrooms, fruits, hunting) and formal and informal recreation. This is a subject where information is quite limited and so the initial focus will be on recreational visits to forests and the interaction with management. The fourth topic covers **risk assessment** and the work recognises that European forests are vulnerable to a wide variety of hazards. The first task has been to synthesise the

extensive information on damage caused by various agents and relate these to different forest types and growth stages. By building on this synthesis it will be feasible to evaluate risks associated with different management approaches proposed elsewhere in this module. Lastly, work on **integrated modelling tools** will provide the means for exploring the effects of management strategies upon the multifunctional outputs provided by forests, taking into account variation over space and time. A benefit of this part of the module is allowing comparison between different modelling approaches used by the various partners and to see which are more appropriate for evaluation of multifunctional forest management.



Work in this module is undertaken in close collaboration with those working in module 3 (Forest to Industry Interaction) since forest management influences both the quality and quantity of wood produced. Information upon the effects of management on different indicators of sustainability is also provided to those groups working on the whole forestry wood chain. Finally, the various case studies in our module provide an invaluable means of testing the predictions from EFORWOOD at a regional or country level.



EFORWOOD CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2007



The first EFORWOOD Conference took place in Brussels on 1st and 2nd October 2007, hosted by three confederation partners in the project, CEPI, CEI-Bois and CEPF.

The event attracted more than 100 participants from different spheres of the Forest Based Sector (FBS) and beyond: scientists and researchers from research organisations, universities, political decision makers from national, private and public funding institutions, decision makers from EU Commission and related agencies, decision makers from national and regional ministries and administrations, SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and industry.

The aim of the conference was to transmit the global project message to those who should be the potential users of the project results and to position the EFORWOOD project as a possible instrument for increasing sustainability and competitiveness of the FBS.

It was a cooperative event between policy and scientific communities, which sought to provide a forum to debate

the existing project achievements, the interaction between policy, economic and research communities, as well as the implementation of project results in the future.

The first day of the conference offered the topics presented by external stakeholders - from industry to policy makers and sector's NGOs.

The keynote speakers, such as Maria Gafo Gómez-Zamalloa from EU Commission, Mikael Eliasson from CEI-Bois and Tamas Marghescu from IUCN, highlighted some of the top issues that FBS sector faces. Climate change, sustainability and competitiveness of the sector, importance of renewable energy use and recycling materials, biodiversity and conservation aspects, were just some of the topics discussed.

The overall conclusion of day one was that there is a significant need for more interaction between different stakeholders involved in FBS. More common approaches and initiatives should be adopted. It was concluded that the EFORWOOD project could offer the knowledge base needed to meet the competitiveness and sustainability challenges facing the sector.



EFORWOOD CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2007

KEY SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS VIEW

The first day of the conference included a general discussion on sustainability issues. The climate changes, conservation of biodiversity, the bio-economy perspectives, multifunctionality of the forest resource, its competitiveness and sustainability, were only some of the concepts that were discussed during the key note speakers sessions.

Maria Gafo Gómez-Zamalloa

talked about competitiveness and sustainability in the Forest based sector in the context of EU policy perspectives. She stressed how important it is to strengthen the efforts from the forest-based industry to be sustainable and competitive, and the role of the sector in the use of renewable and recycled raw materials.

She also pointed out that a new tool to assess the sustainability impact of the policy development in the sector will be extremely useful.



Maria Gafo Gómez-Zamalloa and Kaj Rosen



Mikael Eliasson and Kaj Rosen

Mikael Eliasson, Chairman of CEI-Bois, gave the view of industry on sustainability in the forest-based sector. He highlighted the key challenges that FBS faces today and its "unique" position (since the FBS is in the hot spot of climate change, energy and raw material related issues, the forest industry businesses represent a powerful tool in the work towards true sustainable development).

One of the vital factors that is going to influence the future development of the sector will be the changing of consumer attitudes.

In concluding his presentation Mr Eliasson summarises three points: "The forest sector is a vital part of a true sustainable development. The different value chains are in many cases integrated and eventual recycling adds interesting dimensions but brings complexity. It is important to have a holistic view on the sector when evaluating the "sustainability" performance. Measurements, indicators and analysis must all reflect this".

Tamás Marghescu, Regional Director of IUCN Regional Office for Europe, gave presented the NGO's perspective of the sustainability issues. He stated in his presentation that our actions should be quick and immediate.

Only the balance between all three sustainability factors could bring the improvement in conservation of natural resources. "Nature must have a price. The forest should be supplying what is in demand and not what it is used to supply", stressed Marghescu. Our actions should be coordinated and based on a more common approach .



Maria Gafo Gómez-Zamalloa and Tamás Marghescu

The conclusion of day 1 was that stakeholders expertise should be more taken on board in future decision making. Only a common strategy of all important players in the sector and beyond could give the positive movement towards the more sustainable society.





EFORWOOD PARTNERS IN ACTION

On the second day of the EFORWOOD conference the participants had a chance to hear more about project results and some key issues that the project is currently dealing with. The project module leaders and some of the leading experts in the EFORWOOD scientific team put significant effort into demonstrating the main project goals and achievements to the conference audience. Topics such as ToSIA tool development, scenarios and indicators attracted a lot of interest from the stakeholders present. They provided constructive feedback and recommendations on principal EFORWOOD developments and outcomes.



The debate provided a valuable experience for both the stakeholders and the project partners. More common actions and communication should be established in the future if the project results are to have the broader application and that is desired.



Carl Olsmats presenting the market perspectives on forestry – wood chain sustainability.



Frits Mohren (Expert Advisory Panel) and Gero Becker (Module 3)

One of the invited speakers on the second day was Karen Tscherning, leading scientist in the SENSOR project. (SENSOR is a FP6 Project that is working on sustainability assessment tools for multifunctional land use in European Regions). Her address was an opportunity for the EFORWOOD partners and other stakeholders to get to know more about the SENSOR project in general but also to hear about indicators, designed SIA tool and project case studies.

EFORWOOD WEEK



The traditional project partners gathering, EFORWOOD week was organised in conjunction with the EFORWOOD conference.

During the event the partners evaluated the conference results but also discussed the current progress of the project tasks and deliverables. The October EFORWOOD week mostly consisted of plenary sessions that gave partners an opportunity to get a better overall picture of the project progress.

It has been announced that the next EFORWOOD meeting will take place in Vienna, hosted by BOKU.



POSTER SESSION—EFORWOOD CONFERENCE



During the EFORWOOD conference the participants also had chance to see some project results presented through posters. In total 18 posters from all EFORWOOD modules tried to communicate visually the up-to-date project achievements and some general project matters.



The visitors had an opportunity to get know more about the project structure and its main objectives and also about some specific content such as the Database Client; Harvesting system for specific test chains and its impact on environmental, social and economical aspects; Use of sustainability tool in wood fibre chain; Forest management alternatives; Marketing perspectives of the forest based sector.

DATABASE CLIENT

The EFORWOOD Database Client is a tool designed to allow EFORWOOD partners to enter data into the common EFORWOOD database and to design chains.

The EFORWOOD database was built by work package **Data co-ordination and validation(WP1.2)**. It contains information describing forestry wood chains (FWC) provided by respective EFORWOOD modules and will be used by the ToSIA . The first version of its structure was designed in February 2006.



It is based on the client-server technology to enable multiple on-line access to the actual database that is maintained on a dedicated computer located in IFER (Institute of Forest Ecosystem Research). Currently the database is structured according to the specification of "single test chains".

The structure of the EFORWOOD database reflects informational content and logical relationships as they are formulated by respective EFORWOOD modules. The database describes both static and dynamic parts of the FWC. The use of client-server technology makes the process of data collection and database building as effective as possible and provides partners with instant access to the database.

To implement this solution, two new software applications in addition to an existing EFORWOOD database were developed. These applications are the EFORWOOD Application Server and the EFORWOOD Database Client.

It is planned to add more functionality to the database client when it is used for the Case studies; especially the possibility to provide authorized users with overviews of collected data. There is also a strong call for a function that would enable bulk import of the data. Taking into account various sources and formats it would be very difficult to implement this functionality.



EFORWOOD EVENTS

ISA LISBON HOSTED TRAINING SESSION ON INDICATORS

The Training session on indicators was held from 29-30 November 2007 in Lisbon Portugal. The event was hosted by ISA, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, one of the partners in the project. The aim of the session was to share experiences on best practices in data collection and to provide guidance on how to calculate/estimate indicator values for which data are not readily available.



Instituto Superior de Agronomia, ISA , Lisbon

Experiences from the indicator data collection for Single FWCs demonstrated that not in all cases the necessary indicator values are readily available per production process.



Partners during one of the sessions

There was a need, therefore for discussion and sharing the experience between partners especially now when the following step in data collection will be the data collection for Case Studies. The training session provided stimulating discussion in a very positive atmosphere. The timetable focused on general data collection issues but also on particular indicators (socio-economic, waste, energy and transport indicators). It was one day and a half of valuable experiences and progressive work. The event feedback showed partners interest in continuing of such events.



Speakers: Martina Roubalova and Marcus Lindner

A DVD including all individual sessions from the training will be available to all partners in February 2008.

IN MEMORIAM CHRIS VAN RIET



At the start of 2008, we mourn the loss of our esteemed colleague and partner, Dr Chris Van Riet from CEI-Bois, who died on December 20th following a long illness.

Those of us who worked with Chris and all who met him will remember him as a competent, thorough individual who never left an important question un-explored and whose sharp wit often brought long-running discussions to an amusing end.

He will definitely not be forgotten.

May he rest in peace.



PARTNERS CORNER

EFORWOOD

INCO PARTNERS: FROM COSTA RICA TO INDONESIA

By involving partners from developing countries (Costa Rica, Republic of Congo and Indonesia) in regional case testing, the SIA applications will also access global aspects of the impact of changes in the European FW. The INCO country partners, CATIE, UR2PI and CIFOR, contribute to the EFORWOOD objectives by bringing local and regional knowledge into the consortium.



CATIE's main building on the Turrialba campus, Costa Rica

CATIE's roots stretch back to 1942 with the founding of IICA in Turrialba, Costa Rica. In 1973, CATIE became a separate center with the mandate of research and education, especially in its member countries.

CATIE's Department of Natural Resources and Environment has been involved in research and implementation projects oriented to planning and monitoring of the use and conservation of natural tropical forests for more than 20 years. During this time it has contributed to data on dynamics of natural forests under different forest management regimes, using this information to promote reduced impact

logging techniques. It has developed strong capacities in the development and use of forest management standards and guidelines, playing an important role in the formulation of forest management norms and monitoring systems in several Central American countries. More recently it is using its expertise to study and promote forest management and its relation to forest value chains in a landscape context, aimed at increasing the contribution of forest management to local livelihoods and increasing the ability of rural populations to contribute to the mitigation of climate change (through less deforestation) and adapt to future changes in their natural environment (water, soils, vegetation) due to climate change.

Through its participation in the EFORWOOD project, CATIE hopes to establish links with European partners that will lead to a study of forest value chains and their relation to forest policies and markets in the American tropics.



Collecting fruit from the forest, Brazil; photo Flavio Contente

Sustainable policies and technologies are crucial to ensuring forests continue to contribute to the well-being of

people in the tropics.

CIFOR's forestry research provides the scientific knowledge needed to develop such policies and technologies.

CIFOR has helped produce the standards used to certify 5.8 million hectares of forest and improved governance and livelihoods in 30 sites in 11 countries. Its findings have influenced the design of \$200 million in forestry projects and helped shaped forestry laws in Peru, Indonesia, Nicaragua and Mexico. As a 'centre without walls,' CIFOR conducts most of its work through a series of decentralized partnerships with key institutions and individuals in both developing and developed countries. CIFOR is committed to building the research capacity of developing country organizations and scientists so that they can formulate their own solutions to forest problems.



Land clearing for agriculture land in Kuantan Sengingi district, Riau – Indonesia, photo Rian Woo

Effective knowledge sharing is crucial to promoting the role of sustainable forest management in reducing poverty. CIFOR uses a range of communication strategies to deliver its findings to hundreds of thousands of stakeholders throughout the world.

Comments, suggestions and article ideas from the project partner community are most welcome and should be sent to: office@innovawood.com

