

Forest inventories in the Nordic-Baltic region

Forest inventory professionals from the Nordic, Baltic and other EFINORD countries met in Lithuania to have traditional meeting and scientific conference of the Nordic-Baltic Cooperation group for Forest Inventory. The status of forest inventories and management planning in the region, methods, issues, solutions, the role of innovative techniques, research and education was discussed and made available for everyone on the web.



Photo: A.Kaupas

Information – a prerequisite for sustainable forest management

Availability of timely and accurate information on the forest and its surroundings is a general prerequisite for sustainable forest management. Such information is essential to draw global climate change mitigation strategies and achieve targets for biomass energy from forest resources. The sampling based national forest inventories (NFIs) and the forest inventories in general in the Nordic countries have a good reputation and are well recognized worldwide. However, it is extremely important that the inventory methods used are continuously updated in order to strengthen the role of the NFIs

and scientists from the region both internationally and locally. Thus, research scientists and practitioners from the Nordic, Baltic and other countries in the EFINORD area met in Lithuania, at Aleksandras Stulginskis University to have their traditional bi-annual meeting and scientific conference of the Nordic-Baltic Cooperation group for Forest Inventory.

Current challenges for forest inventory in the region

Current global and local challenges for forest inventories and the role of specialists from Nordic-Baltic countries were among the topics of the meeting. The focus was on current and emerging methods to estimate the status and the dynamics in forests and forest landscapes emphasizing the impact of climate change, land-use and land use changes and forestry, and their effects on wood supply and biodiversity, as well as on advanced solutions of integrated management of forest landscapes in the region.

Current status of forest inventory in the Nordic-Baltic region

The status of forest inventories and forest management planning in the region, focusing on methods, issues, solutions, underlining the role of innovative techniques, research and education was introduced and discussed by more than 50 participants from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Ireland, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania attending the meeting. Poland and Ireland were two new countries in the EFINORD area which joined the network activities. 26 oral and 7 poster presentations were made to cover such topics as “Forest Inventories for Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Modelling for Forest Inventories”, “Current Status and Future Prospects of Remote Sensing in Forest Inventories”. There were also 8 country reports pre-



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sented. EU FP7 Project “Future-Oriented Integrated Management of European Forest Landscapes” (INTEGRAL) was introduced at the conference, too. All presentations including the country reports were video-recorded and made available at http://www.asu.lt/forest_inventory_conference/en/56146. Brief profiles of participants and abstracts of presentations are also made available from the website mentioned above. Selected papers based on the presentation done at the conference will be published in peer reviewed journal.

Forest inventory in Lithuania

The network started its activities several decades ago. The last meeting in Lithuania was the first time for forest inventory colleagues to meet in the Baltic countries. The event coincided with the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2013, thus the organizers had a great pleasure to introduce the country as well as the methods for multisource and multipurpose inventories in Lithuania. We visited Dubrava forest where the roots of Lithuanian sampling based inventory, the ancient woods, Lithuanian forestry and protected areas were presented in details. Lithuanian stand-wise forest inventory and carbon accounting issues were discussed during the field excursion.

Regional synergies in the Nordic and Baltic regions

The network was initially intended to develop good relationships and cooperation between the NFIs and scientists working in the field of forest inventories and forest management planning in the Nordic countries. Joining other countries in the EFINORD area will not only increase

the geography of the network, but automatically will open new spaces for exporting Nordic concepts of forest inventories and management, simultaneously incorporating new ideas developed outside the Nordic region. One of the corner stones of the forest inventory network is the willingness of participants to exchange information regarding new research results and running projects to avoid or share the costs in solving common problems. The network is a good venue for initiating new projects, strengthening professional and personal contacts, knowledge and technology transfer, harmonization of definitions and methods – all these contribute to the increase of regional synergies in the Nordic-Baltic and European regions. The next meeting of the Nordic-Baltic Cooperation group for Forest Inventory is planned for year 2015 at the Finnish Forest Research Institute.

More information

More information on the meeting and scientific conference is available at http://www.asu.lt/forest_inventory_conference/en/56374.

The report

<http://www.nordicforestresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Network-activity-reporting-N2013-02.pdf>

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