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Network no: N2009-4

REPORT NETWORK ACTIVITY (meeting, conference etc.)

Please notice that the size of text sections in the form can be adjusted if needed.

The length of the final report should not exceed 3 pages. Supplementary information can be attached.

1. Aktivitetsens titel	Utveckling och vidhållande av NOLTFOX, den nordeuropeiska databasen med skogliga långsiktiga fältförsök
2. Activity title	Development and maintenance of NOLTFOX, the 'Northern European Database of Long-term Forest Experiments'
3. Coordinator /contact person (name, address, telephone, telefax. e-mail)	Kristian Karlsson Finnish Forest Research Institute, Kannus Unit, Box 44, FI-69101 Kannus, Finland +358-10-211 3413 kristian.karlsson@metla.fi
4. Duration	The activity started 1/1 2009 and ended 31/12 2009
5. Cost	SNS-grant: 4.000€ Total activity cost (estimate): n/a
6. Description of activity (incl. objectives, results, conclusions)	<p>The main goal for 2009 was to arrange a workshop / seminar in Dublin, Ireland, and it was originally intended as a side event of the EFI annual meeting. However, the relatively low funding (4.000 € compared to 20.000 € applied for) meant that this meeting could not be arranged.</p> <p>As a low-cost alternative we looked into the possibilities to meet in Poland. Polish Forest Research has been looking at the possibilities to join NOLTFOX and they were also prepared to arrange a meeting. An inquiry showed that the participation probably still would have been relatively small due to the ratio of costs compared to funding.</p> <p>Therefore, it was decided to arrange the next meeting in 2010, and in the future, members and invited experts would meet every second year in stead of each year.</p> <p>Thus, we apply that the unused funding 2009 (3436 €) should be transferred to 2010 even though this would call for an exception to the basic SNS rules.</p>

<p>6. Description of activity (incl. objectives, results, conclusions)</p>	<p>In 2010 the SNS funds should cover the meeting expenses, but travelling costs should be covered by the member organisations themselves. If possible, limited support for travelling could be paid to students or other special cases. These are very common approaches in SNS network activities, so we are adapting to more regular practices compared to previous years (Nolfox has also been supported as a SNS project).</p> <p>NOLTFOX members will continue to maintain and improve their datasets at their own cost. Any further development, structural changes, complementary type of data or information, etc. would call for additional project funding from SNS or other sources.</p> <p>Some basic activities 2009 in short...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The large datasets of SLU and Metla were updated. ‘About Forestry’ text was submitted by the new Irish members. Estonian experiment numbers was increased to about 400 (which could be close to 100 % of available). A total of more than 12.000 experiments are now included. • The publication ‘Noltfox proceedings 2008’ was presented in Metla Research Bulletin and other media as well. The average number of visitors on the website was 219 per month (236 in 2008). • The question of a ‘legal agreement’ between all participants could not be dealt with. If EFI will be involved with NOLTFOX in the future, then they would be responsible for any agreements, too? • EFI made an evaluation of NOLTFOX in 2008. One of the recommendations was for NOLTFOX to join the GFIS network. We looked into this and it can be done by submitting our meta-data and adding a ‘news-page’ to our website. Then GFIS users would find this information on their portal. The “linking” is not yet done, and the other recommendations from the evaluation also need to be considered. • A call for applications was announced within the EU research program FP7 “Infrastructures” on the theme ‘Sites and experimental platforms for long-term ecosystem research’. It was not possible for NOLTFOX to apply or participate in applications at this point. According to Prof. Eero Nikinmaa (Helsinki University) network projects like LTER (LifeWATCH), ANAEE and ICOS may be recipients of this EU funding. They are already supported by the ‘European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, ESFRI’. If new projects are accepted on the ‘ESFRI European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures’, then NOLTFOX should try to apply or join. Otherwise, we will just try to observe and maintain contacts to the projects mentioned, even if they focus mainly on “ecosystem functions and biodiversity”, which are only partly present in NOLTFOX. <p>New members issues...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Research in Poland seems to be one of the best candidates as new members for NOLTFOX. They should be represented in the next meeting. They have also expressed their intentions to participate in future activities connected to the EFI regional office for Northern Europe. • In Germany, each individual country (within the Bundesrepublik) has their own administration of experiments (monitoring systems etc.) according to Dr Hans Peter Kahle (Freiburg University), who informed us of potential contacts. <p>Relations to EFI networking...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the EFI annual meeting in Dublin 2009 it was decided that a new regional office will be established. They will support research and network activities in Northern Europe. This EFINORD office will open in April 2010, but after looking into the scope and outline, it is still not clear if and how this will benefit NOLTFOX. The newly appointed Head of Office could be invited to the next meeting?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In another regional office 'EFIATLANTIC' a database is being constructed with a similar content as we have in NOLTFOX. This was briefly demonstrated by Christophe Orazio, Head of Office, during the EFI annual meeting. Our sets of experiment information could obviously be combined if further cooperation is supported. The EFIATLANTIC database contains more information on projects, people and infrastructures compared to NOLTFOX. • The activities of the EFI knowledge centre CONFOREST have ended, but some initiatives to continue building a database of experiments has been presented. This could be yet another possibility for cooperation with NOLTFOX, but more specific information is needed.
<p>7. Evt. publication/ communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Forest Experiments. In Metla Bulletin Nr 1, 2009 & Metla Media Release 2.2.2009 • Ólafur Eggertsson 2009: NOLTFOX gagnagrunurinn: Langtímatilraunir í skógrækt. Ársskýrsla Skógræktar ríkisins 2008, 36-37.
<p>8. Activity summary (about 1/3 page) for possible use in the News & Views section of Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research</p>	<p>The NoLTFoX database contains basic information on long-term forest experiments. It was initiated by SNS as a purely Nordic cooperation activity at the beginning of the 21th century. Now the network consists of members from forest research in ten countries and more than 12.000 experiments have been included in the database.</p> <p>The geographical area has extended to most parts of Northern Europe. During 2009 further efforts to locate new partners has been made. The most supported growing strategy has been one, where the future NoLTFoX network and database would be supported by the European Forest Institute. This is now a more likely option than ever before, since EFI has decided to open a regional office supporting research in Northern Europe. This office will work in close contact with the SNS secretary, both located at Forest and Landscape in Copenhagen. The thematic scope for the new regional office is 'sustainable forest management', where research activities strongly rely on results from long-term forest experiments.</p> <p>Some members in the NoLTFoX network have emphasized the possibilities to expand further through other EFI regional offices in the Atlantic and Central European areas. Our investigations show that there already are similar efforts for presenting experiment information in these regions and there are possibilities for merging or increasing cooperation.</p> <p>If possible, NoLTFoX should also be linked to the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures. Supported projects have been able to receive EU funding for further developments. For NoLTFoX this could mean an opportunity to expand to the pan-European level – a goal that also has presented by some NoLTFoX members on occasions.</p>
<p>9. Date and signature</p>	<p>Date: 19.2.2010</p> <p>Signature of project leader/coordinator:</p> 