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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'
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4. Duration	The activity started 1 / 1 2010 and ended 31 / 12 2010
5. Cost	SNS-grant: 9.000 € Total activity cost (estimate): 12.600 €
6. Description of activity (incl. objectives, results, conclusions)	<p>A meeting was arranged for members in the NOLTFOX network and some invited experts/guests. The meeting was hosted by METLA (the Finnish Forest Research Institute) in Vantaa, Finland in the beginning of September 2010.</p> <p>13 persons attended the meeting. Some invited guests could not participate due to other activities. All NOLTFOX members were represented at the meeting with the exceptions of UK Forest Research, Latvia State Forest Research and Skogforsk, Sweden.</p> <p>The "missing" members may be an indication of increasing difficulties for organisations to support activities related to forest field experiments. During the overview of member activities, several of the participants confirmed that heavy reductions had been made also in their research organisations. On the other hand, some participants spoke about new and better possibilities to provide information and data from experiments due to more efficient data systems.</p>

The NOLTFOX database has been maintained, updates had recently been made by Norway, Iceland and Ireland. The information on experiments in Ireland is being collected and processed within the NATFOREX project. This work was presented in more detail by Jacques Hamel.

The main objective for this meeting was to examine the possibilities for NOLTFOX to migrate from being a permanent network within SNS to EFINORD, a regional office of the European Forest Institute (EFI).

The present situation regarding SNS / EFINORD was presented by Mika Mustonen, head of the new EFINORD office. There seemed to be good possibilities for EFINORD to support NOLTFOX. The activities could increase substantially if support could be directed also to data collection and processing, not only on building and maintaining the network. The criteria for EFINORD network support had not been set at the time of this meeting. However, it was decided to proceed with an application to EFINORD for the year 2012. In order to do so, a meeting should be arranged in June 2011 in Denmark.

In the future, forest field experiments could be supported on a larger scale in Europe. Christophe Orazio, head of the EFI regional office EFIATLANTIC, participated in this meeting by means of a video conferencing system. He presented a project called REINFFORCE, where databases have been developed partly using the same basic concepts found in NOLTFOX.

Andreas Schuck, the head of the EFI office in central Europe has also expressed an interest in NOLTFOX. He was invited to the meeting, but could not participate. He has emphasized the importance of experiment information supporting research on climate change.

Other aspects of how to organise future work was on the agenda. It has been suggested that the NOLTFOX members should make and sign a formal cooperation agreement. This was encouraged very strongly in the latest evaluation report arranged by SNS.

A draft version of such a formal cooperation agreement had been made at Swedish Agricultural University (SLU). Fredrika von Sydow presented this draft as well as the background and some guidelines how to proceed. The most difficult issues concern costs, like travelling to annual meetings etc. Still, it was seen possible to go ahead, and we are trying to reach this agreement before applying to EFINORD.

Cooperation with other similar network groups has been discussed, also recruiting new members. Forest research in Poland was contacted before this meeting. They were actually invited to the meeting, but could not participate. They provided some information on forest experiments and other data they have – and it seems obvious that they could contribute to NOLTFOX. No decisions were made at this point.

Our future work will be directed from Forest & Landscape in Denmark as Vivian Kvist Johannsen was chosen as the next coordinator of NOLTFOX. The task has been circulating from one country to another over a period of years.

During the meeting, an overview of METLA was presented by Jari Varjo, head of the research unit in Vantaa. He described changes in the organisation and present research topics. A visit to some forest experiments and demonstration plots was arranged after the meeting.

<p>7. Evt. publication/ communication</p>	
<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 been extended to many parts of northern Europe. The latest member of the network is Ireland, and they have now contributed with information on their forest experiments.</p> <p>Further efforts are taken in order to establish NOLTFOX as a cooperation network both in northern and central Europe. Many of the challenges forest research is looking at, can be addressed with long-term forest field experiments. Intensified utilization of forest biomass and climate change are key research fields, where the results will depend on the possibilities to combine data form different conditions.</p> <p>The European Forest Institute was established some years ago with one main objective being to support networking and cooperation between research organisations. This has been further emphasized as this organisation now is establishing regional offices to initiate and support specific research activities in sub-regions of Europe. The recently opened office EFINORD is located at Forest and Landscape in Denmark. The regional focus and many of the objectives are the same for EFINORD and NOLTFOX.</p> <p>The present members of NOLTFOX feel that our research organisations would benefit if EFINORD can use its network building capabilities to support work with long-term forest field experiment within NOLTFOX.</p>
<p>9. Date and signature</p>	<p>Date: 31.1.2011</p> <p>Signature of project leader/coordinator:</p> 