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Nordic Forest Research Cooperation Committee

Network no:N2012-08

Send the report to SNS-secretary Katrine Hahn Kristensen
(hahn@life.ku.dk)

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.

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| 1. Aktivitetsens titel | |
| 2. Activity title | Social indicators in forestry –further development in the North European context (SOSIN) |
| 3. Coordinator /contact person (name, address, telephone, telefax. e-mail) | Tuija Sievänen, senior scientist, Finnish Forest Research Institute, PL 18 01301 VantaaFinland, , tel. +358 40 8015269, tuija.sievanen@metla.fi |
| 4. Duration | The activity started 1/1 2012 and ended 31/12 2012 |
| 5. Cost | SNS-grant: 14 000 euros Total activity cost (estimate): |

6.
Description of activity (incl. objectives, results, conclusions)

Project objectives:

The aim of this networking project was to gather scientists and other experts from Northern Europe to discuss how to proceed with the challenge of social indicators and monitoring of changes to social issues, particularly recreation and tourism, in forestry and forest use. Evaluation of the current MCPFE indicators in the North European context, and assessment of need to develop new indicators was included in the task. The main task was to make a project plan for standardization and harmonization of social indicators for monitoring and management of sustainable forestry and forest use, and for sustainable nature-based recreation and tourism.

Action Plan:

The networking project planned to have two two-day meetings, and produce one project plan and one state of the art report in 2012. The third action was to create a network of experts of social indicators and related monitoring.

Implementation of the action plan:

The first SOSIN meeting was held in Metla, Vantaa, Finland, 25.4-26.4.2012. The meeting program: 1) finalizing and confirmation of the tasks and work plan; 2) presentations of state of art of social indicators and monitoring by each participating country, 3) discussion and evaluation of MCPFE (Forest Europe) and other similar sets of social indicators, and plan for writing an evaluation/review report; 4) discussion of possible social indicators, and evaluation of the suitability of the current 'stage' in monitoring; 5) tasks for experts to be prepared for the second meeting. The meeting was chaired by Tuija Sievänen and Frank Jensen. The memorandum of the meeting was done by Marjo Neuvonen and Tuija Sievänen. The home works after the first meetings was to write the first drafts of the country reports.

The second SOSIN meeting was taking place in Djurönäset conference center in Stockholm in 20-21.8.2012. The program was following: 1) discussion of the country report materials prepared by different country experts, and 2) discussion of content of review report. The main part of the meeting concerned 3) the project plan, which was discussed and the first draft of it was compiled. The meeting included also a guest presentation by Hubert Inhaizer (EFI CENT) and Markus Lier from CI-SFM project. The presentation introduced their project of forest indicators. There was a discussion of possible co-operation between the projects, of which the planned common meeting in spring 2013 did not work out (because the EFI meeting was cancelled). The meeting was chaired by Tuija Sievänen and Frank Jensen. The memorandum of the meeting was done by Liisa Kajala, Marjo Neuvonen and Tuija Sievänen. The home work after the second meeting was to deliver the country reports by the end of September, and to make contributions to the review report by the end of November. The 'core groups' (Sievänen, Edwards, Fredman, Jensen and Vistad) compiled the first draft of review report, which included review of social indicators in literature, summary of country reports and an evaluation and conclusions of the status of indicators and monitoring.

Results:

The main task of the project was to create a network of experts to discuss of social indicators in forestry: 16 experts from 9 countries participated in the meetings. The second task was the compile an evaluation of current situation in different countries, and a draft of the review report was produced. Also, a good start for a project plan was worked out. The project applied for the second year project from SNS/EFINord, and the applications was successful. The finalizing of both the review report and the project plan can be done in 2013.

Conclusions:

The main conclusion of the project was that there is a need for harmonization and standardization of social indicators for monitoring and management of sustainable forestry and forest use, and for sustainable nature-based recreation and tourism. The indicators used now are very different in North European countries, and there are countries with no experience of monitoring social indicators. In the review report, the project experts provide analysis of the Forest Europe indicators, and can now demonstrate the problems related to their use. Further development is highly needed, and a European project for the task is the next challenge.

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| <p>7. Evt. publication/ communication</p> | <p>Tuija Sievänen, David Edwards, Peter Fredman, Frank S. Jensen & Odd Inge Vistad (eds.) 2013. Review of Social indicators in Forestry and Management of forests – focus on nature-based recreation and tourism. (forum for publishing is not decided yet). about 100 p.</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 aim of SOSIN (Social Indicators in forestry) networking project was to gather scientists and other experts from Northern Europe to discuss how to proceed with the challenge of social indicators and monitoring of changes to social issues, particularly recreation and tourism, in forestry and forest use. One of the objectives was to evaluate of the current situation of MCPFE (Forest Europe) indicators in the North European context, and to discuss about a need to develop new indicators, and also how to monitor indicators. The network of North European experts made a review report, and also started planning a project to further development of nature-based recreation and tourism indicators North Europe or Europe wide, to make comparisons between countries, and in order to improve monitoring and management of sustainable forestry and forest use, and to provide indicators for sustainable nature-based recreation and tourism. The project have had 16 participants from nine countries (Estonia, Finland, Denmark, Lithuania, Norway, North Germany, Northwestern Russia, Scotland and Sweden). The project group has held two meetings (in Finland and in Sweden). The project will have a second year in 2013, when the review report will be published.</p> |
| <p>9. Date and signature</p> | <p>Date: Signature of project leader/coordinator: Vantaa 28.2.2013 <i>Tuija Sievänen</i></p> |