

## New scientific editor

Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research has a new scientific editor. Anders Ericsson left the position at the turn of the year, handing over the editorship to Hans-Örjan Nohrstedt. News & Views had a chat with both the old and the new editor. Read more about their experiences below and on the following page.

### Incoming editor

Hans-Örjan Nohrstedt is an Associate Professor in forest soil science. He is an agronomist, and took a doctorate with a thesis on nitrogen-fixation in forest soils.

Since 1984, he has worked at SkogForsk, The Forest Research Institute of Sweden. His research has concentrated on environmental effects of forestry, especially the effects of



nitrogen fertilisation.

Today, he is manager of the "Environmental Impact" research programme, dealing with issues like

wood-ash fertilisation, prescribed burning, and regeneration under shelterwood, as well as nitrogen fertilisation. He will continue this research in parallel with the editorship.

Hans-Örjan Nohrstedt has a long record of publication, stretching in the last 15 years to some 30 articles in international journals. He is often engaged as a referee for a number of journals.

"I have always liked working on my own articles—and also with others", says Hans-Örjan Nohrstedt. "I'm certain the editorship of Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research will be a stimulating complement to my ordinary work at SkogForsk. I'll do what I can to make the Journal better and more widely read".

## Interview with the outgoing editor overleaf

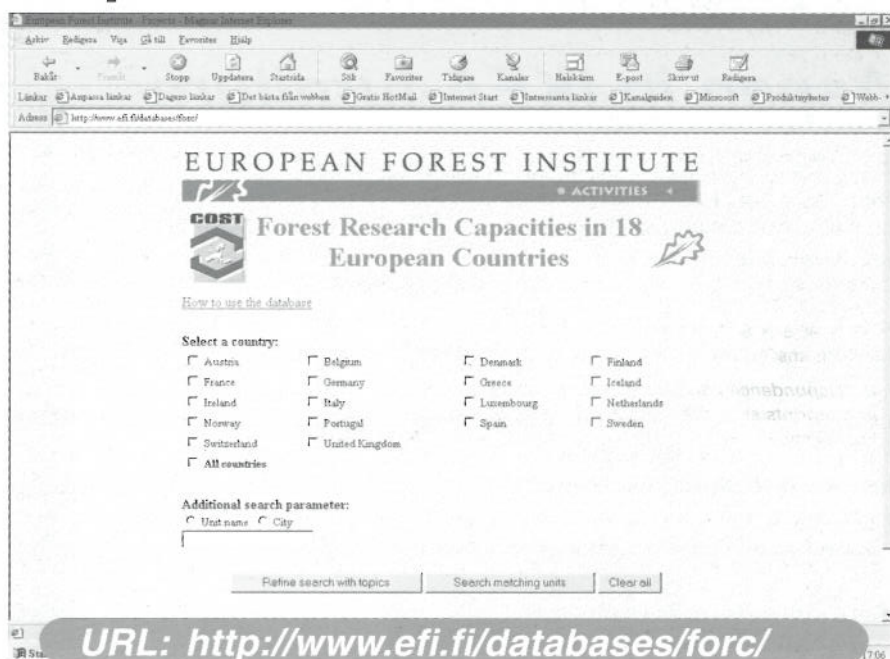
## Database on European Forest Research

EFI, the European Forest Institute, has published a database of forest research capacities in 18 European countries on the Internet. The database contains information on nearly 800 institutions working with forest research.

Tailor-made queries can be made in order to extract contact information and links to each institution's home-pages. For a considerable number of the research organisations listed, more detailed information is available, including a list of research topics they are addressing etc.

The database, which can be used free of charge, is a spin-off from a project financed by COST.

Source: EFI News, Number 2, December 1999.



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

**COST** Forest Research Capacities in 18 European Countries

How to use the database

Select a country:

<input type="checkbox"/> Austria	<input type="checkbox"/> Belgium	<input type="checkbox"/> Denmark	<input type="checkbox"/> Finland
<input type="checkbox"/> France	<input type="checkbox"/> Germany	<input type="checkbox"/> Greece	<input type="checkbox"/> Ireland
<input type="checkbox"/> Iceland	<input type="checkbox"/> Italy	<input type="checkbox"/> Luxembourg	<input type="checkbox"/> Netherlands
<input type="checkbox"/> Norway	<input type="checkbox"/> Portugal	<input type="checkbox"/> Spain	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweden
<input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland	<input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom		
<input type="checkbox"/> All countries			

Additional search parameter:

☐ Unit name ☐ City

Refine search with topics Search matching units Clear all

URL: <http://www.efi.fi/databases/forc/>

## **Anders Ericsson: a nine-year perspective**

Anders Ericsson took up as scientific editor in 1991. During the following nine years, he helped some 800 to 900 articles from manuscript to publication. And rejected another 200 to 300.

"It has been a time of change", says Anders Ericsson. "During these years, Nordic forest research has become an integral part of the international scientific process".

"Before, many Nordic forest researchers lived in a cosy little world of their own, publishing their findings in internal reports, often in the domestic language, seldom peer reviewed. But in the 80's the Nordic research community realised that an approach to the international community was a necessity".

"When I started as scientific editor, many of the manuscripts I received were the authors' first attempts at international scientific publication. Sometimes I got manuscripts written by a young researcher, whose supervisors had no experience of international publication either".

"Some manuscripts were technically bad. The language was poor, and there were serious deficiencies in layout.

This has become much better during my years as editor".

### **More international**

Another trend, is towards increased levels of international contribution to the journal. It has been my ambition to engage at least one peer reviewer outside the Nordic countries for each article. This may have contributed to the fact that the Journal today is more internationally well known. We certainly receive many more manuscripts from non-Nordic researchers than we did just a few years ago, says Anders Ericsson.

### **Harder to find peer reviewers**

A scientific journal depends on a network of skilled peer reviewers. This might become a problem in the future, says Anders Ericsson. It has become harder to engage reviewers. Everyone seems to be extremely busy today.



### **No problem with spare time**

When leaving the editorship, Anders Ericsson doesn't have any worries about what to do with his spare time. "I am an Associate Professor, and I have my research at the Department of Forest Genetics and Plant Physiology to occupy me. I am also the head of the department. Furthermore, I have recently been appointed vice dean of the Forest Faculty".

## **Aspen in IKEA-furniture**

IKEA, the global chain of furniture stores based in Sweden, has recently launched their first piece of furniture made from solid aspen.

Traditionally, pine and spruce have been key parts of the IKEA image. And they will be in the future too, says Russell Johnsen, former environmental manager at IKEA, in an interview in a Norwegian Journal. But he believes there will be a growing market for aspen in the future too.

IKEA is a substantial consumer of forest products. In 1998 the company used 1 million m<sup>3</sup> of sawn products,

and 1,5 million m<sup>3</sup> of chipboard. Furthermore, 60,000 tons of paper was used to produce its catalogue.

IKEA today has 158 stores in 28 countries.

Source: Norsk Skogbruk  
No. 12 1999





**NOLTFOX:****Nordic data-base for field experiments**

News & Views (Vol. 14:5) reported that the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee (SNS) had appointed a working party to examine the possibility of establishing comprehensive, uniform and easily accessible documentation of existing forest field experiments in the Nordic countries. This resulted in a plan that SNS has recently decided to fund.

**Long-term field experiments in the Nordic Countries**

In the Nordic countries, a large number of long-term field experiments have been undertaken on forest land (see table below). The experiments have generated important and interesting results that have been widely applied in practical forest management, planning and silviculture. Many of the Nordic long-term experiments have also generated great interest on an international scale.

**Co-ordination important**

Co-ordination of these field experiments is important for the future development of forest science in the Nordic countries. However, increasing the shared use of experimental facilities and results among the neighbouring countries requires easily accessible information about the experiments. At present, the records of long-term field experiments are in most cases written and kept in the host country's native language.

**Comprehensive, uniform and easily accessible documentation**

The working party has considered the problem of how existing documentation should be merged, and has found that a single database at a Nordic level would be the best practical solution. This would be better than maintaining five independent databases, even with improved communication between them. A prototype that could be used as a basis for a Nordic database is already in use in Finland.

**Database on the Internet**

The plan, approved by SNS, is to establish a database containing records based on common principles of classification. According to this proposal, experiments will be grouped into one of seven subject fields and then subdivided into more specific objectives (with 2–15 keywords).

The database will also contain information on research activities undertaken at each experimental site

(up to 200 keywords). For every experiment, information will also be given about its location, the research organisation and department running it, the year it commenced, the experimental area, main tree species involved, number of plots, etc.

**NOLTFOX**

The database, called NOLTFOX (Nordic Long-term Forest Experiments), will be easily accessible and available on the Internet. Users will be able to search interactively through a web page for experiments that satisfy certain criteria (e.g. regeneration experiments, altitude, country etc.).

The first version of the NOLTFOX web-site is planned to be operational by May, 2001.

Contact: Petter Nilsen, Norwegian Forest Research Institute  
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Country	Total number of active experiments
Finland	6,000
Sweden	3,800
Norway	700
Denmark	550
Iceland	70





# Cuttings from

## Sweden:

### Key habitat inventory completed

In 1993, the National Board of forestry started an inventory of key habitats of family-owned forest properties. The inventory is now complete. More than 40,000 key habitats have been registered covering some 100,000 hectares, corresponding to 0.8% of the total forest area. This is probably the world's most extensive inventory of environmentally important habitats ever.

A key habitat is defined as "a forest area where you find or can expect to find red-listed species (normally excluding mammals and birds)". A typical key habitat is an older forest with a lot of dead and decaying trees at various stages of decomposition.

A similar key habitat inventory on company-owned forests is in its final phase, and will be completed in a couple of years. These inventories are being carried out by the companies themselves, but under the supervision of The National Board of Forestry.

It is estimated that the total number of key habitats identified in Sweden will be 70,000–80,000, with a total area exceeding 200,000 hectares. The average area will be some 3.0 hectares.

The key habitats have, so far, no legal status. The forest owner is free to cut the forest. But a majority of the forest owners in Sweden have declared that they intend to leave the key habitats unharvested: the bigger companies as a part of their FSC-certification-commitment; the family forest associations in a five-year moratorium, awaiting the government's decision on how to compensate the land-owners.

*A typical Swedish key habitat with a lot of dead and decaying wood.*

*Photo: C H Palmér*

## Denmark

### Forest inquiry this year

This year, some 30,000 Danish forest owners will participate in an inquiry. The answers will give a snapshot of the present status of the forests in Denmark, and show changes that have occurred since the last inquiry in 1990.

The forest owners are to give information on matters such as:

- Distribution of tree species
- Age distribution
- Site quality
- Methods for regeneration used since 1990.

## Denmark

### National forest programme initiated

In the next few years, Danish forest policy will be revised, and a national forest programme is to be formulated.

The government will initiate a public discussion about the future for the Danish forests. The objective is to engage a large number of interest groups in this debate. In the year 2000, this will hopefully lead to a consensus for "operational guidelines for sustainable forestry in Denmark".

Amongst other things, the forest programme will lead to new guidelines for managing the State-owned forests. It may also form the foundation for a forest certification programme.



## Finland

### Forest programme runs on

As a consequence of the newly approved Finnish Forest Programme, a number of sub-committees have been appointed. The issues being addressed by four of these groups are as follows:

#### Lower than expected economic benefits from the Forest Programme.

According to expert evaluators who have assessed the ecological, social and cultural consequences of the Forest Programme, the economic effects of the initiatives taken, measured in terms of exports and employment generated, will be much lower than initially promised. This is now being debated by economists.

**Summer cuttings.** A committee will evaluate how harvesting in summer-time affects the environment, forest health and supply of wood to industrial users.

**Forum for innovations.** This forum has been established to improve communication between innovators and consumers of new ideas and technologies. It will also define key goals for developing the forest sector.

**Protection of forests in southern Finland.** A working group will decide whether the area of protected forests in southern Finland is appropriate, or not. They will also assess how

improved environmental concern in industrial forestry can be used to complete a network of protected areas.



# Nordic forestry

SNS October 1999

## Iceland New Act facilities afforestation

A comprehensive Regional Afforestation Act is being passed in Iceland. The new Act makes it possible to set up regional afforestation projects without requiring special legislation in every case.

The regional projects are designed to provide means by which the state can support afforestation on privately owned land. Each project is to have a local board of directors to guarantee public participation in both the planning and implementation phases.

*Increasing wood consumption and value is the goal for a new Norwegian programme.*

Photo: C H Palmér

## Norway Added value from wood products

In Norway, an "increased value" programme for the forest sector is launched. The goal is to increase the value of wood products. The programme focuses on three areas:

- Boosting the amount of high-value processed and specialised wood

products with higher value – and reducing unsophisticated bulk production

- Increasing the use of wood products
- Improving communication between the forest and the market.

The programme will run for five years.



## New Forest Resource Database

Interested in constructing your own European forest scenarios? Or a forest forecast for a single European country? If so, a visit to the newly published EEFR database is a must. It is a database detailing 2,689 European forest types, now available on the Internet.

The forest types are distinguished by country, region, ownership, structure and site class.

For each forest type, you find information on area, mean volume and current increment per age class and tree species.

The web-site is published by EFI, The European Forest Institute. The background data is obtained with the help of a great number of institutes, located in 30 countries, that compile inventories of national forests. On the EEFR database, you can also find links to the contributing institutes.

Source: EFI News No. 2, 1999

EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

ACTIVITIES

The EFISCEN European Forest Resource Database (EEFR)

Country: Greece

Age class structure: Volume class system

Period of inventory: 1961-1987

Select the item(s) you want to see:

Area (ha)

Total volume (m3)

Mean volume (m3/ha)

Total annual increment (m3/yr)

Current annual increment (m3/ha/yr)

Continue

Greece

Contact information

URL: <http://www.efi.fi/projects/eefr/>

# Re-organization of Swedish research funding proposed

In Sweden today, a major part of the government funding for forest research is allocated by the Swedish Council for Forestry and Agricultural Research, which supports both basic and applied research.

But in the near future, different bodies might finance different kinds of forest research. This would be a consequence of proposals in a recently published government report, recommending a major reorganization of the Swedish government's research funding.

## New council emphasises scientific values

If the report's proposals are implemented, the basic forest research will be funded through a new scientific council. The council will be strongly anchored in the scientific world, the majority of the board will be active researchers, and it will cover three separate areas:

- Technology and natural sciences
- Medicine
- Arts and social sciences

In future, basic forest research will have to compete with projects concerned with other scientific fields under the technology and natural sciences umbrella.

## New authorities for sector-oriented research

But research is not just a purely scientific matter. There is also a need for applied knowledge to drive advances in socially important sectors. Parallel with the scientific council, the report recommends that three other new authorities should be established. They are to allocate government funding for research of special interest to a number of sectors.

One of these new sector-oriented authorities is to support research concerned with the environment, agriculture and natural resources. If the report's proposals are implemen-

ted, this authority will be an important source of funds for applied forest research.

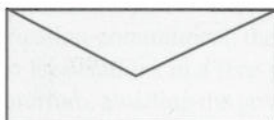
## Sceptical voices

The Council for Forestry and Agricultural Research is sceptical about the report's suggestions. "Our mix of basic and applied research has been very successful for the agricultural sector", says Hans Ekelund, retiring chairman of the council. "If the new sector-oriented authority neglects basic research, then the applied projects designed to meet the sector's requirements will be less effective".

*Gene technology: pure or applied forest research? A requirement for the sector, or research for its own sake? The answer may in the future decide which funding body finances the research.*



## Letters to the editors



### Send your letter to

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- short
- relevant to the Journal
- interesting for the readers.

**Examples:** comments on papers published in the Journal, views on ongoing research, trends in research policy, opinion about forestry practice etc.

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