

Report for annual networks

Submit the report to sns@slu.se by 24:00 CET, 1st of March the year after the activities.
The report should not exceed 2000 words.

Please adjust the size of the boxes to the length of your answer.

1. Title of the network:	Nordic Cooperation Group for Forest Inventory
2. Network number:	N2918-07
3. Main applicant:	Aksel Granhus
Email:	Aksel.granhus@nibio.no
Address:	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), P.O.Box 115, 1431 Ås, Norway

Activities

4. Place of the activity:	Sundvollen, Norway
Duration of the activity (start date, end date):	May 19-23, 2019

5. Provide a short network summary, including:
<p>a) The purpose of the project/main problems/background</p> <p>The overall aim of the Nordic Cooperation Group for Forest Inventory is to maintain relationships and cooperation between scientists working in the field of forest inventory and planning in the Baltic and Nordic countries. The cooperation is leading to more coordinated appearance of specialists from these countries when they participate in international events, e.g. at the European level. The network also provides a platform for harmonization and exchange of experiences between the National Forest Inventories (NFI) in the Baltic and Nordic countries. The Baltic countries became part of the network during the last 10-15 years.</p> <p>The Nordic Cooperation Group for Forest Inventory was established in the 1970s and has previously received funding from SNS for meetings at regular intervals. The specific focus of individual meetings has been changing according to national and international agendas, although the fundamental idea has been to build bridges and integrate across disciplinary boundaries of forest inventory, forest planning and forest management – a strategy that has been unique in an international context and placed Nordic research in the forefront in these areas.</p> <p>b) A description of the main activities of the network</p> <p>The main activity in 2019 in this network was to participate in the organization of the international scientific conference held May 19-23 at Sundvollen, Norway, to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Norwegian National Forest Inventory (<i>A century of national forest inventories – informing past, present and future decisions</i>, link to program: https://nibio.pameldingssystem.no/nfi100years#/home). The conference gathered over 200 delegates from all continents, including many scientists and other NFI staff from the Nordic-Baltic countries. The network funding allocated from the SNS allowed us to cover the conference fee, accommodation and travel costs for an additional two delegates from each of the Nordic-Baltic countries Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This also included the costs of some technical staff from several of the countries participating in the network. They had a major role by demonstrating NFI field work procedures of their respective countries to the international conference delegates on the field excursion on the last conference day.</p>

Outcome

6. Published outputs achieved as a consequence of the network (peer-reviewed articles, other publications)

Several of the delegates who had their conference and travel costs paid by the allocated SNS funding participated with oral presentations or posters at the conference. Submitted manuscripts are currently being reviewed for publication in a special issue of Forest Ecosystems (Springer).

7. Other practical outputs of the project (workshops, conferences, scientific meetings, policy recommendations, conferences, large-scale project applications, databases or websites etc.)

The meeting of NFI personnel from the countries participating in the network allowed for several informal discussions on joint research proposal initiatives, as well as on the future continuation of the network activities. During the conference, the responsibility of coordinating future network initiatives was transferred from Norway to Finland (contact person Annika Kangas).

The day after the conference, an ENFIN "back-to-back" business meeting was held at Sundvollen, that also involved several of the participants in the SNS Forest Inventory Network.

8. How and within which areas was the network beneficial for the Nordic region?

"The Forest Inventory Network has a long-lasting tradition and has met several times for meetings and workshops, usually through biannual meetings which in recent years also has included the Baltic countries. Besides facilitating the creation and maintenance of personal contacts and networking, these meetings contribute to the exchange of ideas and joint projects initiatives, and thus to strengthen the participating institutions within the field forest inventory research. In turn, contributes to the development of new concepts and methodologies that in turn will benefit the region by securing more efficient assessment of the available timber resources and the health status and climate mitigation potential of the regions forests, as well as contributing to better understanding of our forests environmental status."

Consenting your request to categorize the participants as to whether they are researchers, students or stakeholders, I here choose to provide a list of the total number of participants at the conference split by gender and nationality, instead of just giving the overview of the attendees per country whose conference and travel costs that were supported by this grant (as in the submitted report). I hope this is sufficient for the reporting requirements (any further categorization of the attendees by profession was not required when they signed up for the conference, and would therefore require a lot of effort at this stage). A fair estimate from my side on the proportion of different "professions" would be that close to 80 per cent of the attendees were researchers including PhD students and postdocs, 15 per cent were technical staff from different Nordic and Baltic NFIs, and 5 per cent were stakeholders (both EU level and Norwegian representatives from Ministries, directorates and county-level forest administrations). We also had two participants from the press (both were journalists representing different Norwegian forestry magazines), and two communication officers from the NIBIO communication staff who joined the conference.

* Nordic is defined here as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous areas of the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland Islands.

9. Provide a popular science piece for dissemination in SNS' various channels (maximum 700 words) with emphasis on application of results and benefits for the Nordic society.

Provide pictures (size at least 500x500 pixels and resolution at least 72 pixels) as separate files (.jpg). Include caption to each picture, including the name of photographer.

In May 2019, Norway's National Forest Inventory at NIBIO hosted a large international scientific conference at Sundvolden Hotel outside Oslo, that gathered more than 200 delegates from all over the world. The conference was held to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Norwegian NFI, which was a pioneer in forest inventory in the sense that it was the first nation-wide forest inventory program in the world. Established in 1919, the Norwegian NFI was soon to be followed by similar forest inventory programs in Finland (1921) and Sweden (1923), placing the Nordic region at the forefront of forest Inventory already in the early 20th century. During the jubilee conference, the participants could listen to many interesting talks and scientific presentation about the history of forest inventory and monitoring, technological, statistical and methodological innovations, as well as past and present use of data from the NFIs. The latter spanning from traditional forest resource assessment to the integration and use of data that enables better monitoring of ecosystem services and the climate mitigation potential of forests. On the last day of the conference, a conference tour was arranged to the beautiful forest east of Hønefoss, where NFI personnel from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark demonstrated how the respective countries conduct their field measurements, illustrating both similarities and country-specific adaptations in field plot design as well as work routines. The organizers at NIBIO highlight the practical and logistic support provided by their network colleagues, which contributed to make the fieldtrip demonstrations possible to manage. Being financed in part by the SNS through funding to the Forest Inventory Network in 2019, the conference contributed to the exchange of new findings and novel concepts and ideas within forest inventory and planning. Several of the presentations given at the conference are currently under review, to be published in the Springer thematic series Ecology.

Participation and inclusion in the network activities

10. Participants								
Country	PhD students & Post-docs	Senior researchers	Stakeholders	Communication officers	Gender			Total
					Women	Men	Other	
Denmark								2
Finland								2
Sweden								2
Norway								2
Iceland								2
Estonia								2
Latvia								2
Lithuania								2
Total								16

Economic report

11. Received grant from SNS (SEK): 255 000

In addition to the share paid by the conference delegates themselves to cover travelling, conference fee and accommodation (not included in the overview provided in Table 12), funding was obtained from several sources, including NIBIO (work hours to organize the conference), grants from the Norwegian Research Council, as well as other external funding (company sponsors) and the SNS.

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12. Costs	SNS funding (NOK)	SNS funding (SEK)	Co-financing (NOK)	Co-financing (SEK)	Total (NOK)	Total (SEK)
Travel/ accommodation			90 977.00	94 916.30	90 977.00	94 916.30
Meeting costs	255 000.00	266 041.50	209 380.00	218 446.15	464 380.00	484 487.65
Communication						
Other costs (hours			1 121 403.00	1 169 959.75	1 121 403.00	1 169 959.75
Total SUM	255 000.00	266 041.50	1 421 760.00	1 483 322.21	1 676 760.00	1 749 363.00

Note: Exchange rate as of February 26. 2020 (100 SEK=104.33 NOK)

13. Allocation of SNS funding				
Country	Partner organization	NOK	SEK	% of total
Denmark	University of Copenhagen	22 608.23	23 598.17	8.87
Finland	LUKE + University of Eastern Finland	21 371.49	22 296.88	8.38
Sweden	SLU	27 235.56	28 414.86	10.68
Norway	NIBIO	76 064.93	79 358.54	29.83
Iceland	Icelandic Forest Service	25 760.00	26 875.41	10.10
Estonia	Estonian Environment Agency	23 975.13	25 013.25	9.40
Latvia	Latvian State Forest Service "SILAVA"	28 660.66	29 901.67	11.24
Lithuania	Alexandras Stulginskis University	29 324.00	30 593.73	11.50
Total SUM		255 000.00	266 041.50	100

Note: Exchange rate as of February 26. 2020 (100 SEK=104.33 NOK)

14. Economic result (deficit or surplus)
Deficit = 11 041.5 SEK

Optional: Comments to the economic reporting
Note that in addition to funding allocated through this network, the conference was supported financially by the SNS CARISMA network budget (NOK 300 000) and by the Norwegian Research Council (grant = NOK 100 000). These contributions are not included as "co-financing" in Table 12

I hereby declare that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge

Signature of the main applicant		
-----	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)	-----
Signature	Institution	Date
Aksel Granhus		
Printed name		

Signature of the department head at the department of the main applicant		
-----	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)	-----
Signature	Institution	Date
Aksel Granhus		
Printed name		

Second applicant's signature, place and date		
	Aleksandras Stulginskis University / (State Forest Service)	

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Signature	Institution	Date
Gintaras Kulbokas		
Printed name		

Third applicant's signature, place and date		
	Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)	
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Signature	Institution	Date
Tuula Paakkala		
Printed name		