

Report
IEFC Annual General Assembly 2007
Palencia, March 15th

The IEFC annual general meeting was organised in partnership with the University of Valladolid, and took place in Palencia, Thursday, March the 15th 2007.

It was chaired by the IEFC Chairman Inazio Martinez.

There were 21 delegates attending the assembly (see enclosed file), a sheet of paper was signed by all those who were present. From the 27 organisations members of the IEFC 15 were represented. 1 associated member was present.

Participants

Members:

USC: Agustin Merino
USSE: JL Martres, C. Pinaudeau
UCP: Américo Mendes
INRA: Jean Michel Carnus
GAVRN : Carmen Traver
NESF: Fernando Puertas Tricas
NEIKER : Inazio Martinez
CRPF: Amélie Castro

ISA: Margarida Tomé
FGUVA: Felipe Bravo
UCD: Ted Farrel
TRAGSA : Francisco Iario
USC Lugo : Agustin Merino
Bosques 2000 : Carlos Tejedor
RAIZ: Carlos Valente

Associated Members:

Western Forestry Coop : Ray Gallagher

Non members:

EFI Scientific Advisory board members attended to the reporting session. Also some of the FORSEE participants and non IEFC members attended.

Decisions

The following deliberations were submitted to a vote session:

D1: The moral report presented by Inazio Martinez was accepted by the Assembly.

D2: The financial report presented by Christian Pinaudeau, treasurer of the IEFC, was accepted by the Assembly.

The following resolutions were approved:

R1: The thematic groups of the IEFC are reorganised according to the criteria expert group. Only genetic and models remains as before;

R2: The next IEFC Annual Meeting will take place next year in Lisbon (March 2008).

Welcome address

Special thanks were given by the chairman Inazio Martinez to Ted Farrel who organised this joint meeting with EFI SAB. Welcome address was also given by the vice-rector of the university and by Ted Farrel who emphasised the interest for the SAB of such common meetings.

Joint session with EFI Scientific Advisory Board

Moral Report:

Inazio Martinez presented the moral report of the IEFC for the year 2006. The main comments were:

2006 was a good year for IEFC. Because

1 FORSEE is a very good project lot of results and lot of work. Finances are also on track...

Thanks to FORSEE we have better visibility (contacts with NFI agencies...)

Bilbao Congress and Oporto Congress where good

IEFC-CONFORREST debate, very interesting.

2. DEFOR has been approved

Involves groups not in FORSEE

Assures continuity for the management team

This analysis reveals some IEFC weakness

1. Activity has been mainly on Forsee. Non forsee members have been non active.

2. Working groups worked only on Forsee. Some of them are totally inactive

3. Web-discussions are very week few public debate within IEFC

4. Management team is heavily dependent on funds from projects and was in jeopardy till DEFOR was approved.

5. IEFC has/ is doing Research and Knowledge Transfer (FORSEE&DEFOR)... Education and training not well developed.

On the other hand changes in EFI and in the European forest R+D arena (FTP...) means that IEFC needs to accommodate and to rethink its structure and function. Participation of research units (INRA... , knowledge based companies (Tragsa, IKT...) and stake holders and manager's is seen as a strategic value of IEFC:

Priorities for 2007 are:

Activities:

- Enter into FP7 thought Regions of Knowledge (will help define IEFCs role and position)

Marie Curie RTN.../ new INTERREG proposal (will strength education and training)

- Research & transfer projects: preparation of new INTERREG project... collaboration in other projects (USSE proposals?)

Explore other funds ie. LIFE+ to put in value the wealth of Pilote zones...

- And Adequately disseminate FORSEE results in proper publications/books or what so ever.

Internal organization:

1. Clarify position of IEFC in relation to the new EFI and other project centres...
2. Redefine and activate thematic groups around common goals and tasks (no necessarily related to big projects)
3. Look for means to assure bigger stability for the management team, maybe developing new fundraising approaches

Annual Report:

The annual report was presented by Christophe Orazio, director of the IEFC.

The FORSEE project

As most of the SAB members didn't know FORSEE project, objectives, partnership and example of results were displayed by Christophe Orazio

A few questions about administrative status and dissemination issues were postponed to the management council.

The DEFOR project.

DEFOR means "Development FORestier". This project aims at making innovation transfer action at each step of the forest chain: seed selection (Portugal), plant production (Galicia), Sylviculture (Valencia), Harvesting (Midi-Pyrénées), Logistics (Aquitaine). C. Orazio reminded that the project was initially submitted in July 2004, to be accepted in January 2007. Then he presented the technical and financial development of the project.

REPSECO

A power point prepared by Hervé Jactel was presented by C. Orazio. The objective of this project is the Development of an environmentally friendly method to prevent bark beetles attacks on pine logs. It is a collaborative Euskadi, NEIKER Vitoria – Aquitaine INRA Bordeaux, research project; the coordination is done by the IEFC. Status of the project and first results were commented.

The Maritime Pine Monograph was presented.

Christophe Orazio presented the status of the Maritime Pine Monograph prepared by J. Timbal. It was clear that most of the chapter are written and translated in French. An effort is required from people working on models and risk. The problem of translation from French to English was not solved. Participative tools for translation can be studied. The second book can be considered in Standby for an undefined period.

The proposal of Americo Mendes of writing a chapter on economics of forest that could be included in the first part was accepted.

Formation et société

It is a project between the University of the Bask country and ENITA of Bordeaux. The two schools will study for one week the results of the studies done in cooperation with the Bask country. It will be done during the spring of 2007 and it will be for Master students.

Conference: Adaptation and mitigation of climate Change : the role of silviculture and of the forest (Palencia, April)

This conference organised by the University of Valladolid was a success and a field trip was organised to show all the participants the FORSEE pilot zones and the main results available at this stage.

IEFC/CONFOREST meeting (Frieburg, May)

The conference “Plantation or Conversion – The Debate!” brought together scientists from all over Europe to discuss the relative merits of plantation forestry and converting forests to more natural structures. It comprised scientists from ConForest, and the IEFC, the two Project Centres dealing with the evaluation of forests for sustainability, though clearly, under opposite principles. So using all the work done by the IEFC members, it was interesting to discover that on many aspects (biodiversity, forest health, ...), the points of view were the same, and that CONFOREST members did not all focus only on unevenaged forests but also on close to nature forestry that is a broad concept.

Conference on Cultivated Forests (Bilbao, October)

USSE with IEFC organised the first world conference on cultivated forests. It was a conference with two parallel events: politics and market conference and scientific conference.

Conference on the Indicators for the Sustainable Management

This conference was the occasion to present the results of the FORSEE project to the scientific community. It was a **three days conference** that gathered more than 70 person from more than 10 countries.

2007 activities and events:

Region Of Knowledge

Jean-Michel Carnus presented the Region Of Knowledge for FORestry proposal that will be coordinated by IEFC in relation with the other regional project centre. The aim of this tool of the 7th framework programme is to set up a cluster of clusters (project centres). This 100% funded activities can include regional policies analysis, development of research agendas, cooperation and knowledge transfer. The deadline is April 2007.

Marie Currie Proposal

Agustin Merino presented briefly the Marie Currie proposal he was working on: Environmental services of planted forest. This tool can fund PhD and post-Docs.

Agustin said that he agreed to finish the proposal BUT THAT HE IS LOOKING FOR A LEADER. Indeed, as he has new responsibilities, he will not have enough time to lead the network, even with the support of IEFC team. He is in contact with few potential candidates and will let us know by end of March the new leader.

LIFE Opportunities

Inazio Martinez de Araño presented the various funding opportunities that will appear in LIFE+. An idea can be to use the FORSEE pilot zones for defining and applying environmental practices and make them eligible. Definitive programme will be validated in September. He will be aware of calls for projects.

Future INTERREG

C. Orazio commented the draft for INTERREG Atlantic area:

- After discussions with potential partners, we should focus more on protection and risk, removing the soft values and environmental services of the scope of the project.
- The main topics become: adaptation to climatic changes, pest vulnerability and trap forests, wind susceptibility, landscape and silviculture mitigation, cost of the natural hazards...
- Deadlines : the new programme must be validated by EU before end of September 2007, then the new management team must be organised in Lisbon, then, it will have to prepare the call, that will probably occur in spring 2008. So a new draft will be circulating between the potential partners (that have to contact Christophe!) in the next weeks. The plan is to bring a complete proposal at the next general assembly in 2008.
- Support from the genetic group will be required to define the arboretum properties...

C. Pinaudeau announced that USSE plans to apply for to INTERREG SOE dealing with fire prevention and biomass. In both cases, support of IEFC network will be required.

Books: Ted Farrel

Ted Farrel thanked all the IEFC members who hosted him in 2005-2006 when he was travelling across Europe to prepare his book on multifunctionality of Atlantic forests. He collected a lot of information and will keep us informed of the status of his work.

Thematic groups

The general assembly accepted the proposal of the IEFC president to reorganise the thematic group according to the FORSEE expert groups. MT commented that group on models should remain, and also group on genetic.

The new groups are as follow:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ○ Carbon and resource assessment | Margarida Tomé |
| ○ Forest health | Julio Diez |
| ○ Forest products and silviculture | Roque Rodriguez |
| ○ Biodiversity | Hervé Jactel |
| ○ Forest, soil and water | Inazio Martinez |
| ○ Socioeconomics and politics | Américo Mendes |
| ○ Genetic | Maria helena Almeida |
| ○ Models | Margarida Tomé |

People wishing to contribute to the leading of this group are welcome. Mailing list registration will be available at the online contact list of IEFC (so please register on a group online).

The first work of these groups will be to contribute to FORSEE dissemination.

They are also invited in organising summer courses.

Open discussion with SAB

On the request of IEFC Board, Konstantin Van Teufle, chairman of EFI did a general presentation about the organisation of new EFI, explaining the role of council, associated members, Board, SAB, project centres, EFI Offices.

Then it started a very animated debate between the SAB and the IEFC Members:

Ted Farrel started giving a strong Support to ROKFOR initiative saying that it was a very good opportunity to increase synergy between the Project Centres of EFI. He also asked how SAB can not only evaluate PC but also support them for new projects or new initiatives in relation with there aim or geographical approach.

Antoine Kremer asked to IEFC and EFI what the link is in everyday life between IEFC and EFI.

CO answered that the links are at many levels:

- Administrative: there is a memorandum of understanding defining the link between IEFC and EFI. According to this memorandum of understanding IEFC should report its activity to EFI and disseminate EFI information to its members. EFI should facilitate IEFC for promotion of its work, and have it evaluated by SAB.
- Financial: No link.
- Technical: Marcus Linder is supposed to follow the activities but discussions are no more than twice a year.

LR: At the question about the strategy of EFI regarding the PC and Regional Office, she answered that 5 RO and 10 PC appeared as reasonable numbers for EFI.

ML reminded that PC are supposed to be short term

Then it has been discussed a lot about the existing Regional Office in Spain that doesn't fit with the national objectives as an excellence research centre for Mediterranean forestry was created in Madrid.

At the same time it doesn't appear logical that indirectly, members of EFI MED get money and support for research coordination from the Spanish government when at the same time members of IEFC don't receive the same.

LR argued that EFIMED was receiving money for the whole Mediterranean area, not only for Spain. All people wanting to join them are welcome.

ML noticed that the concept of RO is more regional than thematic as with PC

CO noticed that with RO we have moved from a selection process of the regional coordination based on excellence to a selection process based on political influence.

AK noticed that with the RO a risk of competition for local or national research funds exists.

It appears that as long as no research action is implemented by the Regional office, but only coordination activities, this risk disappear. But the general aim of EFI is not that clear!

Then a lot of comments have been done about the case of EFICIENT that would be based in Nancy, France. This RO would join Nancy to Freiburg around the CONFOREST network. Why IEFC was not informed of this initiative? What future for IEFC if the process is accomplished? No clear answers were given.

MT broke the debate saying that people in Spain are not satisfied with EFIMED.

Business Meeting (IEFC Members only)

A short discussion after the debate was done between the partners. It was decided that IEFC should apply as Regional Office to get involved in the on going negotiation process.

Financial Report:

The IEFC treasurer C. Pinaudeau presented the financial report of the IEFC for the year 2006. The accountancy for the year 2006 was reviewed by the accountant M. Minjon (member of the French Accountancy Association) and was supervised by our official accountant: M. Giraud, also member of the French Accountancy Association.

Incomings:

The total amount of incomings for the year 2006 was of 149117.41 euros. Most of the incomings of the IEFC come from the subventions that are received for the project that are organised. Some of the incomings also come from the membership's fees that in the year 2006 corresponded to 8400 euros. For the incomings of 2006 we should also take into account the registrations fees of the conference: "Indicators for Sustainable forest management" that was organised by the IEFC during the month of December 2006.

Expenditure:

Most of the expenditure of the IEFC is related to overheads, rent, insurances and travel expenses, but the main amount goes to the human resources for an amount of 131977.67€.

The net balance for 2006 was of 11068.03 euros.

There were no more presentations.

Afterwards the assembly was closed at 2PM.

Palencia, March 15th 2007

The IEFC President,
Inazio Martinez de Araño