



THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS ANNUAL REPORT

Barents Forest Sector Network

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period:

Sweden, 2017-2019

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

- a. Sharing experiences and increase common knowledge of the development of forest bio-economy and national strategies for forest bio-economy
- b. The implementation of the Climate Action Plan
 - i. Increased knowledge of policies on climate change
 1. mitigation in the forest sector
 2. adaptation for the forest sector
- c. To strengthen:
 - i. the focus on long term themes within the BFSN
 - ii. the regional connections and connections with other working groups
 - iii. the cooperation's with other organizations within the forest sector

2. Meetings (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)

Start meeting (2018-06-13 – 14; Umeå) of the Swedish chairmanship. The main topic was to share common knowledge concerning Forest Bioeconomy, go through common cooperative projects within the Barents and forest areas, and adopt a meeting agenda for the Swedish chairmanship 2018-2019. We also updated the work with the Climate Action Plan. Based on the discussions during the meeting The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences will develop an exchange in a research network concerning forest bio-economy in northern Europe.

Autumn meeting (2018-10-17—18; Luleå). The meeting focused on Climate adaptation and climate mitigation, with case studies considering forest wild fires (climate adaptation) and wood

as substitution material in house construction (forest climate mitigation and bioeconomy). We had an exchange with the working group of economics and working group of the environment.

3. Other activities (projects, events, programmes etc.)

The chair have initiated the planning for the Forest Forum that will be held in Umeå 2019-10-15
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The Chair have participated in other workings group meetings:

- a. Working group of Economics, 2018-02-20
- b. Working group of Economics, 2018-06-26
- c. Working group of Environment, 2018-11-13-14

4. Results of the year (decisions, new initiatives, improvements)

- a. The network has discussed how to update the mandate. The chair has started the process of updating the current mandate to the new format and will circulate the new version. A new version of the mandate will be finalized during the spring of 2019.
- b. An initiative to document the different international interchange projects with relevance to the Barents Forest Sector Network have been established. The ultimate goal is for the group to have documentation of past, present and planned projects of relevance, with information of partners and objectives of the project. However, the initiative is long term, and in development, with limited ambitions for the start period.

5. Evaluation of the work (What went well, what needs improvement)

The ambition to increase the exchange with related workings groups is fruitful and will continue. The current exchange is mainly between the Swedish chair with other Swedish chairs of other working groups. The ambition may be to increase the exchange also outside the chairmanship.

An increased cooperation between regional authorities may increase the relevance of the cooperation even further.

6. Other