

Summary notes from the Barents Forest Sector Network, 29-30 January 2019, Umeå, Sweden

Participants

Tatu Tornianen, Sanna Pannukoski, Pasi Poikonen, Finland
Terje Hoel, Norway
Göran Sjöberg, Jonas Rönnberg, SLU, Sweden
Staffan Norin (Chair), Per Hallgren (coordinator), Lars Andersson, Peter Blombäck, SFA Sweden

Invited but unable to attend

Vladimir Dmitriev, Victoria Zubkova, Russia

Notes from the meeting

Overview of the program and presentations

During the two days meeting we had the opportunity to work with the update of the BFSN mandate (see separate draft and final version of the mandate), take part in the conference about “Forestry and Water in the Baltic Sea Region” and discuss the development of forestry in the different countries. The theme of the meeting was sharing experiences, views on, and development of forestry, forest authorities and legislations in the Barents Region. As shown in the attached presentations (see below) there are many similarities, but also important differences between the countries. The meeting agreed on that understanding the development of the forest sector, similarities and variations, is important for understanding and developing Bioeconomy, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Attached to this note is the slides shown at the meeting, which the meeting had the opportunity to take part of and discuss:

1. Short review of the work in the network during the Swedish Chairmanship (Wellcome bfsn jan 2019; Per Hallgren and Staffan Norin).
2. Country presentations of how forestry is performed in practice, how these practises have developed, how regulations have changed and developed over time, and how the current national and regional forest authorities are organised
 - a. Development and practice of forestry in Norway (BFSN_Stockholm_praktisk-historisk_29012019, Terje Hoel, Norway)
 - b. Finnish forest policy and sustainable forest management (Stocholm SFM Finland 22.1.2019, Tatu Tornianen, Finland)

- c. How Finnish forest owner can manage his forests based on the internet site service “MyForest” (not presented at the meeting due to time constraint, Pasi Stockholm My Forest BFSN 29012019, Pasi Poikonen, Finland)
 - d. Forestry in Sweden (Forestry in Sweden - bfsn 2019 ph, Per Hallgren, Sweden)
3. Presentation of outline for Forest Forum, 15-17 October 2019 (Presentation BFSN January 2019_JR_forest_forum, Jonas Rönnberg, Sweden)

Conclusions and summary

1. During the review of the network activities 2018, the yearly report to the Barents secretariat were highlighted. All attending country focal points were satisfied with the activities that were completed during 2018. It was also pointed out the importance of including the regional perspective in future BFSN-work, and that regional organisations are included and targeted in the Forest Forum program.
2. Updating the Barents Forest Sector Network mandate:
 - a. Lars Andersson gave the background about the mandate, and the need of updating it.
 - b. A second draft of a new mandate, based on Russias comments on the first draft, was developed at the meeting. It was decided that this draft will be circulated by e-mail, and if consensus is established the conclusive version will be sent to IBS, by the Chair. It will then be valid when approved by the CSO on 27 March, and then included in the BFSN documentation on the webpage.
3. Reflections from the WAMBAF-meeting
 - a. Important to bring people together from different levels of different organisations.
 - b. Water is a common responsibility and thus a concrete subject to cooperate over.
 - c. The development of a follow up project to WAMBAF, Wambaf Tool Box, have started, and different organisations are coming together
 - d. It was good to have the BFSN meeting together with WAMBAF, good practice for future meetings
4. The attending focal points expressed that there is great value to consider differences and similarities in how forestry is performed in practice, how these practises have developed, how regulations have changed and developed over time, and how the current national and regional forest authorities are organised. The meeting conclude that it is important to include this perspective in upcoming reports and discussions considering bioeconomy.
5. Planning of Forest Forum and upcoming network meetings
 - a. Another network meeting will be planned as a distance meeting, were the focus is on the planning and invitations to Forest Forum speakers and attendances (especially how to attract young people). Communication about this meeting will be sent out through e-mail. Preliminary date for the meeting is during May.
 - b. A smaller reference group for the Forest Forum 2019 will consist of Lars Andersson, Staffan Norin, Terje Hoel, Sanna Pannukoski and Pasi Poikonen

6. Lars Andersson will continue as BFSN Chairmanship coordinator, because Per Hallgren will work with other duties.