

Minutes Working Group on Barents Forest Sector WGBFS, May 21st, 2021.

Working Group on Barents Forest Sector, WGBFS, digital meeting on May 21st, 2021, had the following agenda:

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda
2. [Forest fires in Fennoscandia under changing climate and forest cover \(IBA-ForestFires\)](#). Presentation of the project and main results by Prof. Juha Aalto, Finnish Meteorological Institute.
3. Brief update on the developments in the forest sector in member countries.
4. WGBFS input to the Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Cooperation
5. Preparations for Barents Forest Forum scheduled for 20-21 October 2021
<https://nibio.pameldingssystem.no/barents-forest-forum>
6. Any other business

Chair of the WG, Anne Delphin opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The agenda was adopted.

Participants:

Sweden:

Lars Andersson, Skogsstyrelsen

Camilla Widmark, SLU/EFI bioeconomy network

Maria Rosario Garcia, SLU

Kristina Nilson, Skogsstyrelsen

Finland

Sanna Panukoski, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Pasi Poikonen, LUKE

Russian Federation

Maria Sokolenko, Federal Forestry Agency

Natalia Demidova, Northern Research Institute of Forestry, Federal Forestry Agency, Arkhangelsk

Ivan Nedbaev, St. Petersburg Forestry Research Institute

Elizaveta Kushnir, St. Petersburg Forestry Research Institute

Norway

Anne Delphin, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Knut Øistad, NIBIO

Forest Fires in Fennoscandia under Changing Climate and Forest Cover

Research professor Juha Aalto from the Finnish Meteorological Institute presented the main results from the project [Forest fires in Fennoscandia under changing climate and forest cover \(IBA-ForestFires\)](#). The project synthesizes the current knowledge on the occurrence, monitoring, modelling and extinction on forest fires. Furthermore, the project cover forest fires as a source of black carbon. The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland IBA Funding scheme.

Key findings of the project cover factors affecting occurrence of forest fires, recent fire history of Fennoscandia, impacts of climate change on fire risk, mitigation damages by forest fires and forest fires as a source of black carbon.

The presentation and recommendations from the project are attached to these minutes.

Developments in the forest sector in member countries

Members of WGBFS informed about recent developments in the forest sector in their respective countries. A lot of information on topics ranging from policy discussions, market developments and research and development activities was shared in the meeting. Some countries provided presentations and others provided the information verbally. The presentations and a summary of the information from other countries are attached to these minutes.

WGBFS input to the Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Cooperation

WGBFS submitted its first preliminary input to the Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Cooperation in February 2021. The working group elaborated on action points during the meeting and submitted the result to IBS after the meeting. WGBFS input to the action plan is attached to these minutes.

Preparations for Barents Forest Forum scheduled for 20-21 October 2021

WGBFS considered the format for a digital version of Barents Forest Forum and possible elements for a program. First announcement of the event is on this link:
<https://nibio.pameldingssystem.no/barents-forest-forum>

Any other business

Maria Sokolenko, Russian Federation raised the issue of outreach and the possibility to establish a digital room for sharing information among members of the group. IBS, Roy Hoyem replied that this has been tried in other groups, but the experience has been some problems with the updating

of the information. WGBFS Focal Point will explore the possibility for increased interaction between members of the group between meetings. This should be done in cooperation with Finland as the next chair of the group.

Maria Sokolenko, Russian Federation, further informed about the plans of Federal Forestry Agency of Russia to hold next International Junior Forest Contest in November 2021 in a hybrid form. There is a plan to continue the 2020-experience and invite the WGBFS to take part in the International Jury for the contest.

Camilla Widmark, Sweden, informed about a video produced by Nordic Forest Research (SNS) on forestry and reindeer herding in the Nordic countries. The video is available at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fA9jA2lNHs>

Background and information is to be found here:

<https://nordicforestresearch.org/blog/2021/06/01/reindeer-and-forestry-new-film-focuses-on-solutions/>