

# Meeting report FORBIO first follow up committee 3Oct 2008

## *Present:*

M. Van Heuckelom (BELSPO), M. Carnol (Ulg), E. Branquart (BELSPO), JC. Grégoire (ULB), L. Dekeersmaeker (INBO), Q. Ponette (UCL), K. Verheyen (UGent), M. Hermy (KULeuven), T. Anthonis (KBBM and Landelijk Vlaanderen), W. De Maeyer (Bosgroepen), F. De Meersman (Fedemar), F. Baar (Forêt Wallone), K. Ceunen (UGent)

## *Excused:*

B. Muys (KULeuven), M. Aubinet (FSGAX), M. Letocart (Pro Silva Wallonie), Guy Geudens (Pro Silva Vlaanderen)

### **1) Presentation of BELSPO cluster projects**

#### **2) Presentation of FORBIO project (see attached powerpoint)**

In WPI, task 1.1 (systematic review and synthesis) there has been a change compared to what had been initially proposed in the accepted project proposal. The initial idea was to make a review paper to be published in a high-standard international scientific journal. However, given the fact that recently such a synthesis has already been published in a book by Sherer-Lorenzen *et al* (2004), it seemed more relevant to produce a so-called white paper on the relationships between forest / tree diversity and ecosystem functioning (cf. the white paper produced by Pfisterer *et al.* (2005; see attached document).

The big advantage is that the format of such a paper is much more flexible and would, for instance, allow the inclusion of the results of a questionnaire (see also point 3) in which the opinion of the various stakeholders on the differences between mixed forests vs monocultures are sensed. The idea is, therefore, still to make a synthesis of the scientific knowledge on (tree) diversity and ecosystem functioning and, in addition, to confront the results of this synthesis with the ideas on this topic that circulate in the stakeholder community. Furthermore, this white paper can – in a straightforward way - be used as input for Task 1.3 (conference and brochure)

### **3) Discussion on questionnaire**

#### **Comments on draft questionnaire:**

- The idea is very good and can be very useful
- T.A. remarked that one must think very carefully about the way the questions are formulated so that we don't guide people in a certain direction.
- M.H. said that the questions must be very clear so that they can't be understood in different ways.
- L.D. mentioned that we can control for consistency in answering the questions, by formulating some questions again but in another way.
- W.D. mentioned that the open remarks under the Q. are very difficult to analyse (a lot of work). M.C. agrees that it is more work to analyse the open remarks but that it can result in useful information and will help to see the different points of view

#### **How to spread the questionnaire?**

- Through existing channels ( different organisations like VBV,FEDEMAR, KBBM, etc. )
- W.D. thinks that there will be more feed-back when the questionnaires are handed out during activities (e.g. courses of INVERDE, meetings of the 'Bosgroepen, etc. ...'-

**Next Meeting:** March – April 2009. At this meeting, the first results of the questionnaire will be discussed

**Appendices:**

- Powerpoint of project
- White paper by Pfisterer et al (2005)
- Answers of Follow Up Committee + project members on draft questionnaire