

Minutes from the 3rd CG Meeting: Pushing forward

June 9 and 10, 2022

Type: Face to face

Venue: University of Belgrade - Faculty of Forestry

Address: [Kneza Višeslava 1](#), Belgrade, Serbia

Goals

1. GAPG1 - ForestRestoration Wiki – A wiki-style website dedicated to issues on climate adaptive forest restoration and reforestation (ALL WGs)
2. GAPG2 - A review of existing empirical evidence regarding climate adaptive forest restoration and reforestation published in a scientific journal (WG1)
3. GAPG3 - A review of case studies on the introduction of new species and transfer of FRM, published in a scientific journal (WG2)
4. GAPG4 - Meta-analysis on the effect of different restoration and reforestation strategies on genetic diversity and genetic gain, and tree improvement practices (WG2)
5. GAPG5 - Review of impact of planted forests on environment and climate change mitigation, published in a scientific journal (ALL WGs)
6. GAPG6 - Established team of authors for the writing of the Scientific book which will provide an evidence base and an overview of the Action's most important results (ALL WGs)

Description

A Core Group face to face meeting. 1st day 4 hours meeting with reporting on progress of ongoing activities. 2nd day 4 hours meeting on coordination and decisions on future activities with special regards to the organization of the next combined MC, CG, and WGs meeting.

Attendees

1. Vladan Ivetić, Chair
2. Barbara Mariotti, Vice Chair
3. John Stanturf, WG1 Leader
4. Pedro Villar-Salvador, WG3 Leader
5. Elisabeth Pötzelsberger, CG Advisor
6. Ivona Kerkez Janković, Science Communication Manager
7. Angelo Basteris, Science Officer

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

09/06/2022	
09:00	Update from COST by Angelo Basteris (SO) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angelo has explained the Annotated Rules emphasizing issues most relevant to PEN-CAForR Action.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were informed that researchers affiliated in Russian Federation are not eligible for any activities, including those in WGs. • There is a list of sanctioned people (including their aliases) which should be consulted on evaluation of WG membership applications. • Applications for WG membership should be approved by the MC, but this could be done by the CG if the Action MC mandates CG. Vladan explained that this should be covered by the MC decision MC-003-2021: MC mandates to CA19128 Core Group to define application and evaluation procedure, and evaluation criteria for Action's networking tools. At the vote Started on 24/06/2021 at 11:48 and ended on 01/07/2021 at 23:59, the question was: Do you agree with the following mandate given by the MC to the CG: to evaluate received applications and select grants for a) STSM, b) Training Schools, c) ITC Grants, d) Virtual Networking Support, and e) Virtual Mobility? However, since there is no explicit mention of evaluation and approvals of applications for the WG membership, this could be voted at the next MC meeting. • The Action's Progress Report should be submitted in period between October 7 and November 7, 2022. This progress report should contain more detailed information on overall Action progress with special attention to the scientific progress and deliverables. This will require help and contribution of all Core Group members, especially the WGs Leaders.
09:20	<p>Overall progress report by the Action Chair and Vice Chair</p> <p>Vladan and Barbara informed CG members on overall progress of PEN-CAForR Action. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Action website is regularly updated. Elisabeth made some important and useful comments on necessary changes and updates of our website. • There is a large portion of MC members not yet applied for any WG. • There is 38 MC members who accepted invitation for the Combined Meeting in September 2022 in Florence. Since in W&B is based on projected 55 participants, this leaves us with 17 available invitations for the most active WG members. It is agreed that WG leaders suggest the most active members of their WGs, which will be invited to Florence for the WG Meetings. • There are two deliverables that we failed to deliver in the GP1. • The most important deliverable which we failed to deliver is ForestRestoration Wiki. Vladan has explained that this is due to fact that our GP1 was last one calendar year as it should, but that we received only a half of the budget. Specifically, our annual budget is approved for approximately 122,000 EUR, but in the 1st year (from 2020-11-01 to 2021-10-31 our allocated budget was 59,892.00 EUR. Because of that, for GP2 which also last one calendar year (from 2021-11-01 to 2022-10-31) our allocated budget is 182,438.30 EUR. Anyway, the work on the Wiki has been started earlier this year and all technical preparations will be finished by the September. • The second deliverable that we failed to deliver on time is the Report on evidence base and definition of terms regarding climate adaptive forest restoration and reforestation. This is due to slow and inadequate response of Action's member on questionnaire prepared and sent by the WG1. This activity is still ongoing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remaining deliverable scheduled to be delivered by the month 12 is Report on existing experience or possibilities of using innovative, effective, and environmentally sustainable materials for growing media. This report was submitted on time by Claudia Coccozza and Barbara Mariotti who coordinated this activity of WG3 members. This activity will finally result in published review (the manuscript is in preparation and close to be submitted). • The only deliverable scheduled to be delivered by the month 18 is A review of case studies on the introduction of new species and transfer of FRM, published in a scientific journal. This activity under WG2 was coordinated by Antonio Montagnolli and finished on time. The manuscript is under final revisions before submission to the appropriate scientific journal. • All deliverables scheduled to be delivered by the month 24 are in progress and should be finished on time. • The CG members were informed also on use of Action's networking tools in the GP1, according to our Action financial reportm which is available in the e-service. • Changes in leadership positions are following: 1) former ITC grant manager – Elisabeth Pötzelsberger now takes the position of Core Group Advisor (MC decision MC 004-2022); 2) the new Science Communication Manager is Ivona Kerkez Janković (MC decision MC 002-2022), and the new Grant Awarding Coordinator is Gordana Kaplan (MC decision MC 005-2022 made by e-mail voting ended on June 1, 2022).
09:45	Grant Awarding Manager report Since Gordana Kaplan is recently appointed to this position, Vladan who was by default covering this position informed CG on finished and ongoing grants.
10:15	Science Communication Manager report Ivona presented her Science Communication Strategy. Since she was too recently introduced to this position, she will deliver more detail strategy soon, but basically the plan is to be more visible and to reach existing and potentially new participants on time.
10:45	Coffee break
11:00	WG1 report by the WG's leaders John has presented activities by the WG1. The supporting presentation is attached.
11:45	WG2 report by the WG's leaders Vladan has presented activities by the WG2. Specifically, those related to the deliverable scheduled for month 18.
12:30	WG3 report by the WG's leaders Pedro has presented activities by the WG3. The supporting presentation is attached.
13:15	WG4 report by the WG's leaders John has presented activities by the WG4. The supporting presentation is attached.
14:00	Official lunch
16:00	Unofficial visit to Belgrade's urban forests
10/06/2022	
10:00 (With coffee break at 11:30)	Coordination and decisions on future activities with special regards to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd MC Meeting in Florence

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Barbara presented the venue for the meeting and unofficial (private event). Some of the information presented will be published at Action's website and in social media. ○ The registration form will be prepared for the Meeting. ○ The WG leaders will suggest the most active WG members to be invited to the WG meetings in Florence. This process should be finished as soon as possible, no later than end of the 1st week of July. ○ Participants interested in the private social event will be informed on the price and all relevant details. Payment will go through the GH Institution. The GH will pay necessary costs in advance, based on the list of registered participants. ● ForestRestoration Wiki <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contributions are expected by the all PEN-CAFORR members. ○ The Administrators will be assigned depending on topic to check and revise the content before publishing. ○ On the important topics the requests for contribution will be sent to the selected experts. ○ ForestRestoration Wiki could be a bridge to the gateway which will be produced by the SUPERB Project. ○ The ForestRestoration Wiki could have a potential to be recognized for the COST Innovators' Grant, but this should be further investigated and developed. ● Other deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The PEN-CAFORR members will be encouraged to contribute to the webpage with resources for the forest restoration and reforestation. ○ To make it easier for the PEN-CAFORR members to contribute to the list of projects, an excel file on Google Disk will be available. The link to this file will be available at our website. ○ On the webpage with gallery, the pictures should be licensed by the CC BY license. ○ A separated project's account will be established at the ResearchGate. ● Scientific book <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is the final deliverable of this Action. ○ The book should be based on scientific evidence but mainly focused on forest practitioners. ○ The editors will be WG leaders, plus Action Chair and Vice Chair. This list can be modified. ○ Number of pages should be limited for sections and topics, based on their importance and available information. ○ The minimum and maximum requirements and limits will be set for the authors contribution. ○ The book will be written in English, but translation to the languages used in the Action will be encouraged. ○ The idea on how the book should look needs to be further developed. ● 3rd MC meeting
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The proposal to organize the next combined meeting in the Azores Island is rejected due to high travel costs. This location will be considered for the smaller meetings. ○ The next combined meeting should be organized in Central Europe to reduce travel costs for most of the participants. ○ The next combined meeting should be organized in September 2023, following the WGs meeting that should be organized in March 2023. ● Virtual Networking Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VNT are not represented in the W&B Plan, but they are anticipated, fully legitimate and should be maximally used. ● Cooperation with other projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are many opportunities for cooperation with the SUPERB Project, funded by the EU Commission and Horizon Europe, and led by the Elisabeth. The most obvious are the link between SUPERB's Gateway and PEN-CAFORR's ForestRestoration Wiki, and cooperation in activities of WG1 and WG4. For example, the SUPERB demo area in Serbia could be incorporated to the network of experiments proposed in WG4.
14:30	Final discussion and conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The minutes from this meeting will be sent to the MC members in form of Meeting's report.
15:00	End of the official program
17:45	Presentation of ongoing Climate Adaptive, Nature based Solutions, and Forest Landscape Restoration Projects in Serbia and Western Balkan
19:00	An unofficial social event to improve networking and understanding

Minutes prepared by

Vladan Ivetić

In Belgrade, June 12, 2022