



The interest in taking international positions has declined in Sweden. Finland has had an upgoing trend which has been broken downwards in the last few years. Fredrik Ingemarson, secretary of SIFI, demonstrates. Photo: Mats Hannerz.

Kick-start for new forest think tank

The Secretariat for International Forestry Issues (SIFI) will help the Swedish forest sector to understand how problems and opportunities in the world affect it. It will also encourage international careers.

- This is the first independent think tank dealing with forestry in Sweden. It is also the first in the Nordic countries, says Dr Fredrik Ingemarson, secretary of SIFI.

The secretariat was inaugurated in October 2010. The establishment has, however, been on the agenda for at least 10 years. Models were found in the USA, where think tanks such as World Resource Institute and Rights and Resources Initiative serve governments and industry with qualified analyses.

- SIFI is naturally a much smaller player, but the idea of a think tank is still comparable, says Fredrik Ingemarson.

Joint Swedish-Finnish seminar

One of the first actions of SIFI was to highlight the shortage of capacity and experience within the forestry profession for international positions. A joint seminar with Finland was arranged in Stockholm together with Jan Heino, former assistant Director General for Forestry at FAO, who was shepherding a Finnish delegation.

- The number of forestry professionals who show interest in working abroad has declined over time. Finland has had a better situation, but the interest has dropped in the last years, says Fredrik Ingemarson. Thus, we have a common interest. Finland has invited us to a follow-up seminar about international educational programs in May 2011.

An important player

Communication is one of the main tools for SIFI's networking efforts. A website has been established, and quarterly newsletters are distributed.

The newsletters have touched on issues such as REDD+, Chile's forest sector and climate negotiations. The success of the secretariat will be evaluated already this year, but Fredrik Ingemarson is convinced that there is future for SIFI.

- The secretariat is run by one person today, but in five years, we will have expanded, possibly also abroad. We will become an important player, he forecasts.

About SIFI

The Secretariat for International Forestry Issues is established under the auspices of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA), with funding from KSLA and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

The secretariat supports the Committee for International Forestry Issues, and together they comprise the think tank. The committee has representatives from the industry, forest owners, government and NGOs.

Read more and subscribe to newsletter: www.sifi.se

Brakes off for restyled CARs

Four new centres of advanced research (CAR) were granted financing from SNS for the period 2011–2014. They are all continuations of the original CARs funded during the period 2005–2010 or derived from parts of these. They have, however, been further developed and adapted to current requirements.



CARe-FOR-US II

Nordic-Baltic Centre of Advanced Research on Forestry Serving Urbanised Societies II

This CAR continues its successful work from the previous funding period, being a catalyst for research in the fields of urban forestry and forestry at large. In the first period, several emerging research topics were identified. These have been used to select four prioritised research themes in the new CAR: Forest governance (how decisions about forests are made and who is involved); Nature and human health relations; Forest, recreation and tourism; and Quality urban forest management.

CAR coordinator: Professor Cecil C. Konijnendijk, Forest & Landscape, Denmark, cck@life.ku.dk

Other partners: Estonian University of Life Sciences, Agricultural University of Iceland, Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA), Latvian State Forestry Research Institute (Silava), the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

A network of partner municipalities, at least one per country, will also be set up and act to provide reference data and as advisors.



CAR-ES

Centre of Advanced Research on Environmental Services from Nordic forest ecosystems

This CAR retains essentially the same partners and organisation as in the previous 5-year-period. The main aim will be to provide appropriate knowledge in order to make informed decisions about forest management with respect to its impact on major environmental services: carbon sequestration, water quality, biodiversity and soil quality. The previous CAR focused on the three former services. The addition of studies relating to soil quality is motivated by the increased extraction of bioenergy from forests, which may affect the long-term sustainability of soils.

CAR-ES will make use of the large number of field experiments conducted within the Nordic countries to deliver mutual benefit, and will integrate knowledge about environmental services at a broad scale. This could relate, for example, to a full rotation period or a landscape. The approach will be based on new mathematical models and decision support tools for up-scaling.

CAR coordinator: Professor Per Gundersen, Forest & Landscape, Denmark, pgu@life.ku.dk

Other partners: Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA), Agricultural University of Iceland and Icelandic Forest Research, Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute, The Forestry Research Institute of Swedish (Skogforsk), Institute of Forestry, Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Latvian Forest Research Institute (Silava).



OSCAR2

Operating Systems for Centre of Advanced Research

The achievements from OSCAR's first five-year-period were presented in News & Views No. 6, 2010. Its networking activities will continue with a similar organisational structure, the main purpose being to maintain the technological leadership of the Nordic countries. Research on competitive and environmentally sound raw-material supply is of central importance to meet fierce competition from other regions. Preliminary project areas for this CAR are: energy efficiency in forest operations; reduced impact on soil and water; extracting forest bioenergy; training machine operators; mechanised and improved silvicultural operations; and forestry business engineering (to purchase and sell services in forestry).

CAR coordinator: Dr Magnus Thor, Skogforsk, Sweden, magnus.thor@skogforsk.se

The core of the network consists of: The Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute, Metsäteho, Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA), Latvian State Forestry Research Institute (Silava), Forest & Landscape Denmark and Skogforsk. Other institutions involved are Copenhagen Business School, University of Jyväskylä, SLU, University of Helsinki, University of Joensuu, MEKA, SP, Standard Norge, and others.

OSCAR also welcomes other participants in its activities. In the first period, researchers from Italy, Austria, Germany, Canada, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania and South Africa, for example, took part in various conferences and workshops.



AdapCAR

Centre for Advanced Research in forest genetics, breeding and regeneration for adapting and mitigating climate change

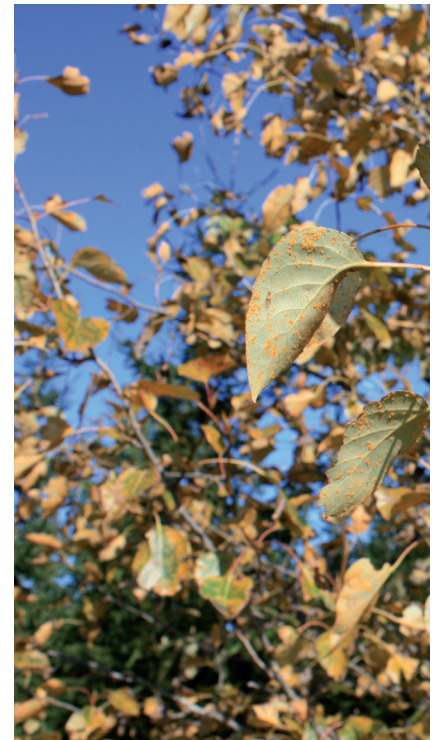
Many of the core group members of this new CAR were involved in the former GENECAR group, which was active between 2005 and 2010. The scientific motivation behind AdapCAR is the need to increase knowledge about the adaptation of forest trees to global warming. Maladapted trees are prone to diseases, and the genetic variability

associated with adaptable traits is essential for the health of trees in a changing climate. The overall aim of AdapCAR is to support development and implementation of good practices for use and management of forest genetic resources.

CAR coordinator: Professor Erik Dahl Kjaer, Forest & Landscape Denmark, edk@life.ku.dk

Other participants in the core group are: Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA), the Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute and Icelandic Forest Research.

Adaptation of trees to environmental and biological stress is central in AdapCAR.
Photo: Mats Hannerz



Network activities supported by SNS 2011

Nordic working group on the history of primeval boreal forests (PRIFOR)

Activities:

- Excursion to northeastern Finland and westernmost Russia.
- Special issue of *Silva Fennica* based on presentations at the PRIFOR 2010 conference.
- A new workshop.

*Coordinator: Bengt Gunnar Jonsson
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Nordic Network on Forest Regeneration

Activities:

- A PhD-course in Forest Regeneration in the Nordic and Baltic Region, organised in the form of a tour of field research stations in Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Denmark.
- A two-day workshop on the same theme, in southern Sweden.

*Coordinator: Johanna Witzell
johanna.witzell@ess.slu.se*

The SNS funding covers cooperation costs, such as arranging seminars and meetings.

Nordic Cone and Seed Insect Network (NCSI)

Activities:

- Meetings will be held in Sweden and Estonia to exchange ideas and new research results on cone insects that damage the seeds of coniferous trees

*Coordinator: Olle Rosenberg
olle.rosenberg@skogforsk*

Nordic Forest Water Mercury Network (Nor-ForM)

Activities:

- Joint visits to important field sites in Norway (Långtjärn), Finland (Lakkasu) and Sweden (Balsjö), where forestry effects on mercury contamination have been studied

*Coordinator: Kevin Bishop
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Nordic Co-operation Group for Forest Inventory

Activities:

- Network meeting in Sweden including a field trip focusing on monitoring biodiversity.

*Coordinator: Mats Nilsson
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Network for communicators at Nordic and Baltic Forest Research Institutes

Activities:

- Meeting and building-up web-based channels for research news and communication, in collaboration with EFINORD.

*Coordinator: Erkki Kauhanen
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Nordic-Baltic Network for Wood Science and Engineering

Activities:

- A two-day workshop on wood-science and engineering, with publication of the proceedings.

*Coordinator: Erik Larnøy
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Workshop with the editorial board of Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research

Activities:

- A two-day workshop with the editorial board and invited guests in Denmark.

*Coordinator: Mats Hannerz
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Why Nordic Cooperation?



We asked Johan Wester, the new SNS board member, who replaces Håkan Wirtén, why the Nordic countries should cooperate in forest research.

– The forest sector faces huge challenges worldwide, for example climate change, increasing demand for forest products including bioenergy and maintenance of ecosystem services provided by the forests.

– Even though the Nordic countries are important forest nations, we need to cooperate so as to create synergies and to use limited resources more efficiently. We also need to strengthen the role of Nordic forest research in European collaboration, and to improve communication of research results. Thus, Nordic cooperation is essential.

Johan Wester

Board member, Head of the Forest Division, Swedish Forest Agency.

Shortcuts

High demand to study sustainable energy systems

Nordic Energy Research, a sister organisation to SNS, closed its 100-million NOK call on 16 December, and were happy to have received 90 qualifying proposals for integrated sustainable energy system projects. In total, these pre-proposals contained applications for 375 million NOK, and 29 of them were selected to compete in a second application phase.

The successful applicants will set up a project resulting in the expansion of knowledge and development of solutions supporting the transition to a sustainable energy system for 2050. The project must have a Nordic perspective and include participants from at least three Nordic countries.

“The number of applications for integrated sustainable energy system projects should be a clear message to all decision makers – both governmental and industry – that there is a huge need for, and interest in, common Nordic research within energy resources and solutions”, says senior adviser Mikael Forss at Nordic Energy Research on the organisation’s webpage.

It remains to be seen how many of the selected projects will be linked to forest resources.

Read more: www.nordicenergy.net

NordGen recruits new Director

Dr Jessica Kahle has left her position as Director of NordGen – the Nordic Genetic Resource Center. Dr Árni Bragason has been appointed acting Director during the recruitment process.

NordGen is an institution under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers, with responsibility for safeguarding the genetic resources of plants, farm animals and forests. NordGen Plants has its office in Alnarp in southern Sweden, while the Farm animals and Forests branches are located in Ås, southern Norway.

The institution is, inter alia, responsible for management of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, where seed collections from valuable crops and species throughout the world are stored under controlled conditions.

Nordgen has suffered from a shortfall in funding for several years.

Read more: www.nordgen.org

Nordgen is responsible for the operation of Svalbard Global Seed Vault.



Photo: Simon Jeppson, Nordgen

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More info about SNS:

www.nordicforestresearch.org

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- short
- relevant to the Journal
- interesting for the readers.

Examples: comments on papers published in the Journal, views on ongoing research, trends in research policy, opinions about forestry practice etc.

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