



Speakers gearing up for the side-event: Anne Toppinen, Helga Pülzl, Dick Sandberg, Anders Roos, Björn Hånell, Hans-Örjan Nohrstedt and Tom Lindström. Photo: Mats Hannerz

Nordic Bioeconomy promoted in Salt Lake City

Bioeconomy is a buzzword now fully adopted by decision-makers and politicians. But what is it, and in what way can the forest contribute to a new, green bioeconomy? This was the theme of an event organised by SNS and Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research (SJFR). The event was one of about 170 sessions at the 24th IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City in October 2014.

The IUFRO World Congress assembled more than 3500 researchers and experts from around the world. Over the course of one week, they shared experiences and learnt from about one thousand oral presentations and almost as many posters.

The SNS/SJFR event entitled *Bioeconomy in the forest sector – the Nordic example* attracted some 50 delegates who had the opportunity to listen to presentations from the entire field of science related to forest bioeconomy. The presentations were all based on a special issue of Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research (No. 4, 2014), to which the speakers had contributed as authors or guest editors.

Björn Hånell, SLU, moderated and opened the session with statements such as “warming is already ongoing”, “human influence is clear and carbon emissions must be radically reduced” and “forests have an important role in the transition to a fossil-free economy”.

Anders Roos, SLU, discussed the costs and benefits of a forest-based bioeconomy. Many other sectors, such as steel and concrete, claim to have a role in a green, sustainable economy. The competition is fierce, and we cannot rely on the assumption that all consumers believe that forestry is the environmentally friendly alternative. There is also a need to scale up new business ideas (and there are many!) based on forest resources.

Anne Toppinen, Metla, highlighted the prospects of green innovations that add value to forest-based resources. However, the forest sector shows little interest due to a limited pull from the market, as well as limited available resources. The



small size of many operators and unwillingness to take investment risks are other constraints.

Helga Pülzl, BOKU, asked if bioeconomy is a new global discourse, replacing earlier discourses on ecological modernisation or sustainable development. She came to the conclusion that bioeconomy is not a new discourse in itself, but rather a combination of “classic” forest discourses.

Hans-Örjan Nohrstedt, SLU, had edited four articles in the special

issue on forest biomass growth and utilisation. There are great opportunities to increase growth with the help of tree breeding, fertilisation and new, fast-growing tree species. Furthermore, harvest of different tree parts for energy purposes still has unfulfilled potential.

Dick Sandberg, Luleå University of Technology, advocated using more wood in the building and furniture industry, thereby increasing revenue. The value of a log is 20–30 times higher when used for joinery or furniture compared to sawn timber.

Only the imagination sets the limit for the future use of forest-based raw material.

Tom Lindström, Royal Institute of Technology, gave an inspiring exposé of the use of nanocellulose in fabrics, paper and boards. One of many innovative ways to make advanced use of the outstanding material produced in our forests.

The special issue of Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research Volume 29, issue 4, can be downloaded from www.tandfonline.com/sfor

SNS networked at the IUFRO World Congress...



Many curious visitors showed up at the SLU/SNS booth for discussions and for taking part in the quiz. Photo Mats Hannerz

A congress with 3 500 delegates from forest research throughout the world is an excellent arena for networking. SNS hosted a booth together with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, where the strategy for 2014–2017 was presented and latest updates about the organization were spread.

Inga Bödeker and Jonas Rönnberg from the SNS secretariat took the opportunity to inform all passing guests about Nordic forestry. A quiz that led the players also to the booths of Future Forests, Taylor & Francis, Metla and University of Utah was popular.

SNS-funded researchers participated themselves in several sessions at the congress. Topics ranged from watershed ecology in forests with its role in clean water supply; the ecological impact of dead wood in the forest; to topics such as implementing climate change in forest policy in Sweden.

– The active engagement from the researchers shows that SNS supports a wide thematic range of forest research, where all topics are equally important for a healthy environment and sustainable forestry, says Inga Bödeker.

...and so did Taylor & Francis



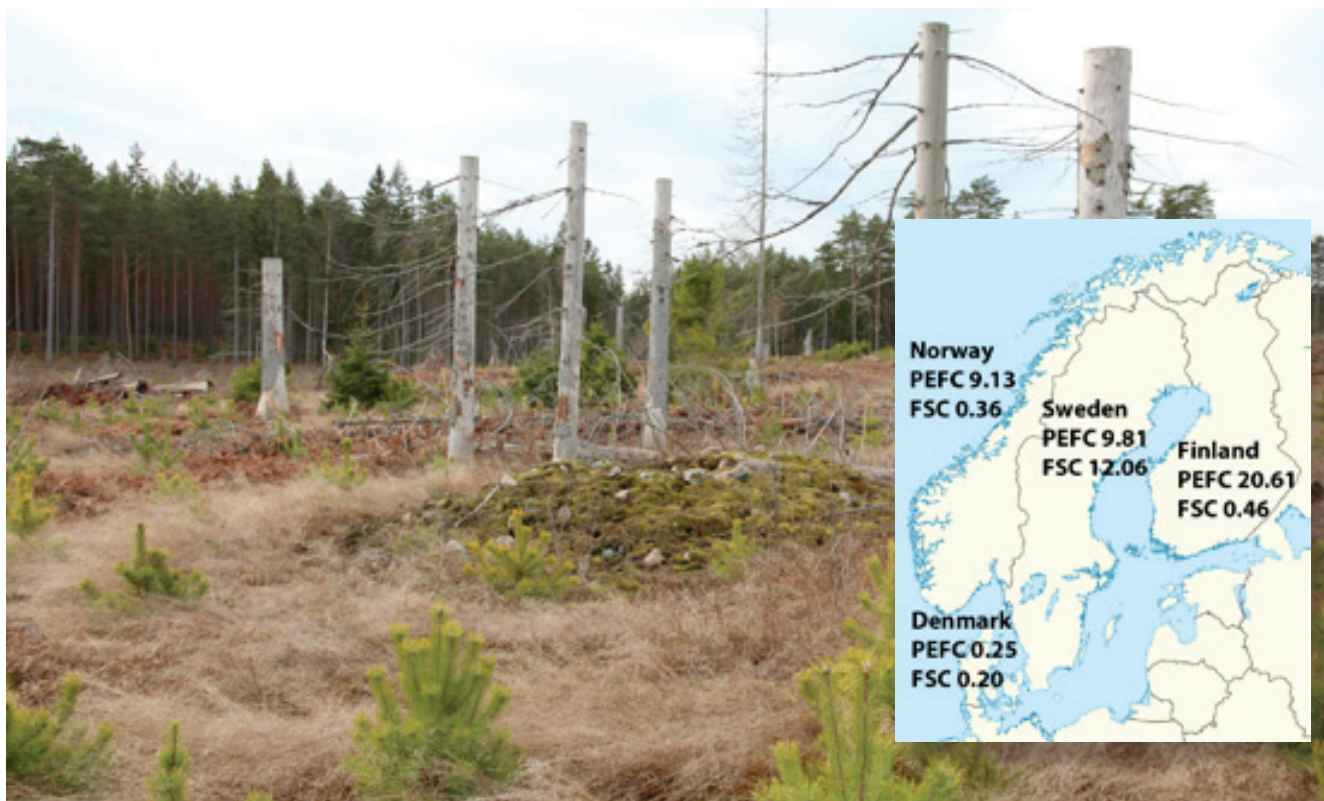
Sofie Wennström, Taylor & Francis, informed visitors about books and journals with a forest touch. Photo Mats Hannerz

Taylor & Francis is one of the leading international academic publishers with more than 1800 journals and about 2000 new books published each year. Two of the journals are published in co-operation with SNS: *Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research* and *Wood Material Science and Engineering*.

The booth at the IUFRO World Congress was one of the most visited, with a display of selected books and journals of relevance for forest science. Editors Dick Sandberg (WMSE) and Mats Hannerz (SJFR) were on hand to answer questions about the journals.

Sofie Wennström, production manager with these two journals in her portfolio, had a busy time.

– We are pleased to show the congress that we take forest science seriously. Currently, Taylor & Francis publishes 42 journals in the botany and plant science field, many of them devoted to forest science, she says.



High stumps on harvested plots are often required by the certification standards. Photo Mats Hannerz

Forest certification celebrates 20 years

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was established in 1994 and, since then, has become one of the leading certification schemes for forests and forestry.

The organisation started off as a response to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro 1992. The incentive was the failure of the Rio Summit to address the challenge of deforestation. Over the last 20 years, the world has lost seven percent of its forest cover, particularly in the tropics.

– There are many tools needed to prevent deforestation in tropical forest countries. One of these tools is

certification, says Kim Carstensen, Director General of FSC in a press release.

– We currently have 20 million hectares certified in tropical timber countries, and about 10% of the total FSC certified forest is in the tropics. This is not nearly enough, he continues.

Globally, over 180 million hectares are FSC certified. The organisation works with 150,000 small holders around the world, and about 25,000 companies are certified worldwide.

Read more on www.fsc.org

Certification in the Nordic countries

Two certification schemes are applied in the Nordic countries. Besides FSC, The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) was launched in 1999 as an alternative. It is considered the certification system of choice for small forest owners. With more than 240 million ha of certified forests worldwide, PEFC is the largest forest certification system based on area.

FSC is the dominant system in Sweden with 12.1 million hectares certified (about half of the productive forest area). Sweden has also adopted PEFC, with almost as much certified land. Finland and Norway have both focused on PEFC (see the figure).

"Certification – the provision by an independent body of written assurance (a certificate) that the product, service or system in question meets specific requirements." Definition by ISO.

The map above: Million hectares of certified forest land in the Nordic countries according to PEFC and FSC. Data are from September 2014. Several forest owners in Sweden are certified to both standards.

Metla becomes Luke

On 1 January 2015, Metla (the Finnish Forest Research Institute) will disappear as an independent institute. It will instead be merged with three other institutes to form Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke).

According to the new institute's website, the "rationale for establishing the new Natural Resources Institute Finland is to boost natural resources research which is fundamental for building a future for bioeconomy and welfare state."

The new institute will be the second largest research organisation in the country, right after VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. In the initial phase, the personnel will number 1700 and the yearly budget will be 150 million euros. Metla has a permanent staff of 600 and a temporary staff of 150 (figures from 2012).

Metla was formed in 1917 and started its activities in 1918. It has thus served society with forest research for 96 years. News & Views will be back with more details about the consequences for forest research once Luke is established.

The institutes that will be merged are:

- Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla)
- MTT Agrifood Research Finland
- Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (RKTL)
- Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Tike)



"Our merger project is one of historic dimensions and great challenges. It is no easy task to fuse together four old and proud expert organizations with different cultures and traditions. But we can't stick to the old ways. We have to ask innovatively, what kind of organizational structures and practices are best for meeting the challenges of this era. Luke is our answer to this question." Hannu Raitio, General Director Metla, blogging on the IUFRO World Congress website.

Photo Mats Hannerz

More information on www.luke.fi

Shortcuts

Changes in the IUFRO board

At the final day of the IUFRO World Congress 2014, the new board for the coming five years was disclosed. Professor Niels Elers Koch from Denmark, a long-stand board member of SNS, handed over the presidency of IUFRO to Mike Wingfield, South Africa.

Professor Björn Hånell, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, was appointed Vice President Divisions and John Parrotta, USDA Forest Service, became Vice President Task Forces.

Niels Elers Koch says goodbye after 4 years as President. Photo Mats Hannerz



New executive director of Skogforsk

Charlotte Bengtsson, currently head of SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, will take over as executive director of the Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk) in January 2015. She is replacing Jan Fryk who will retire. Charlotte Bengtsson is also Professor in timber engineering at Linnaeus University.

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News & Views is a newsletter from SNS containing short, popularized articles covering Nordic forest research and forestry. Articles presenting SNS-supported activities are prioritized. The newsletter is published eight times per year, and is available for download from the SNS and Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research websites.



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