

**2<sup>nd</sup> CPF – GFIS Steering  
Committee Meeting**  
June 23, 2005

**MINUTES**

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## Version Control Page

### Document control

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### Version history

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1.0	New document	Eero Mikkola, IUFRO	23/06/2005
1.1	Amendments	Peter Mayer, IUFRO	24/05/2005
1.2	Amendments	Michael Martin, FAO	27/05/2005
1.4.	Amendments	Michael Hailu, CIFOR	27/06/2005

CPF - Global Forest Information Service (GFIS)

**2nd CPF – GFIS Steering Committee Meeting,**  
Telephone Conference,  
June 23, 2005

## **MINUTES**

### **1 Opening of the Meeting**

Peter Mayer opened the meeting and welcomed Michael Martin (FAO) and Michael Hailu (CIFOR) as participants of the meeting. It was agreed that Eero Mikkola (IUFRO) takes the minutes of the meeting.

### **2 State-of-art**

#### **Technical development**

The Steering Committee (SC) welcomed the excellent work and progress made by the GFIS Implementation Group (IG) especially in terms of agreed metadata standards and data exchange formats for data types "news", "meetings" and "vacancy announcements".

The SC then discussed the work regarding the bibliographical data of GFIS with regard to

- Migration of the GFIS Africa metadata records from the current database into the new environment.
- The adoption of AGRIS application to GFIS.

When FAO has investigated the GFIS bibliographic resources of the GFIS Africa Service Centres, FAO has noticed a serious encoding problem related to the French metadata. Because of the limited time before the IUFRO World Congress in Brisbane it was agreed that FAO will migrate only the English metadata records before Brisbane. The problems with the French metadata will be solved after Brisbane. In this context the SC thanked FAO for its significant efforts to transfer of the metadata of GFIS Africa partners.

It was then discussed how the adaptation of AGRIS Application Profile to GFIS could be done the most effective way before Brisbane. It was proposed that FAO could have a representative from the AGRIS team in the GFIS Implementation Group. This

would reduce the work load of the FAO Forestry Department and also make a direct contribution from the team of FAO involved in AGRIS possible. Based on that proposal the SC agreed that Johannes Keizer (GILW) will be invited as a new member of the GFIS Implementation Group.

### **Working modalities and recent meeting of the IG**

Peter M informed the SC of the very positive communication and work done by the IG at its last meeting in Oxford. Michael M. and Michael H. expressed their appreciation for IUFRO's commitment to this meeting and the GFIS process in general. In this context the SC encouraged the IG to continue the constructive partnership approach.

As agreed by the SC in its first meeting IUFRO has contacted some CPF members regarding their possible contribution to GFIS. Peter M. informed that based on these contacts CBD, IUCN and ITTO have shown their interest to provide metadata to GFIS. Peter M. also informed about the positive reaction from current information providers (e.g. NBII and USDA Forest Service) to the progress of GFIS and their willingness to provide fresh metadata to GFIS before Brisbane. The SC welcomed those developments.

### **3 Future issues**

The SC discussed the importance of developing a GFIS business plan, a financial strategy, roles and ToR of GFIS bodies, incl. potential new members at a general level. Based on that discussion it was agreed that IUFRO will draft a GFIS concept which among others contains the discussed elements. The draft of GFIS concept should be complete in September and will then be distributed for comments to the SC members.

All partners (CIFOR, FAO and IUFRO) confirmed that their staff resources for GFIS after Brisbane until end of 2005 will be as agreed at the first SC meeting. Michael H. informed that Joris Siermann is leaving from CIFOR in this month and CIFOR is looking for a replacement. During an interim period CIFOR also considers options such as providing consultant work for GFIS.

### **4 Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the SC should be a "face to face" meeting and should take place in October 2005 when the draft of the GFIS concept is available. Peter M. will co-ordinate the meeting dates with the SC partners and offered to host the meeting at the IUFRO HQ in Vienna.

## **5 Closure of the meeting**

Peter M. thanked all partners for the productive meeting and closed the meeting.