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5th CPF – GFIS Steering Committee Meeting

October 21, 2009

MINUTES

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Document control

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Author	Peter Mayer IUFRO
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1.0	New document	Eero Mikkola, IUFRO	10/11/2009
1.0	Amendments	Peter Mayer, IUFRO	16/11/2009

CPF - Global Forest Information Service (GFIS)

5th CPF – GFIS Implementation Group Meeting,

October 21, 2009

WFC 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina

MINUTES

Participants:

Peter Mayer, IUFRO

Jose Antonio Prado, FAO

Peter Csoka, UNFF Secretariat

Eero Mikkola, IUFRO

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

Peter Mayer (IUFRO, chair of the GFIS Steering Committee) welcomed Jose Antonio Prado (FAO) and Peter Csoka (UNFF Secretariat) to the meeting. CIFOR and ICRAF had sent apologies. The agenda was adopted without changes. It was agreed that Eero Mikkola (GFIS Coordinator) made notes and should prepare the minutes of the meeting.

2. Current status of GFIS

Eero M. informed about the technical development of GFIS, partnership development, training activities and GFIS project proposals based on a written progress report provided to the GFIS Steering Committee (SC) before the meeting. The positive developments and activities were welcomed by the GFIS SC.

3. GFIS Gateway reform

Eero M. introduced to the GFIS gateway development proposal provided to the GFIS Steering Committee (SC) before the meeting. The proposal took in the following four main development components:

- Improved usability and layout
- New functions
- New information types
- Social media

The GFIS SC discussed briefly the proposal, recommended that the GFIS Coordination Unit should not proceed too fast with the social media and agreed that the upgraded gateway based on the proposal should be released by end of April 2010.

4. GFIS milestones

In a discussion about the implementation of the objectives for GFIS set by the GFIS SC for the years 2008/09 it was analysed that 2/3 of the objectives and actions have been implemented while 1/3 was only partly or not implemented. Building on the non implemented activities and the discussion about the core functionality of GFIS the GFIS SC formulated the following objectives, actions and actors for the years 2010/11:

Objective: All CPF members become GFIS partners
 Actions: IUFRO continues to contact those CPF members that are not a GFIS partners yet individually and encourage joint planning.
 Actor: IUFRO supported by GFIS SC

Objective: Create more awareness about GFIS in the forest community
 Action: Include information about GFIS in communication means of GFIS SC members and other CPF members
 Actor: GFIS SC members

Objective: Evaluate the utility and functionality of GFIS based on a user and partners survey at the end of 2010
 Action: Conduct survey and adapt GFIS accordingly
 Actor: GFIS coordination unit

Objective: Increase the involvement of African information providers in GFIS
 Action: Develop projects and conduct training courses
 Actor: GFIS coordination unit in cooperation with partners

Objective: Increase key Asian countries and the respective information providers
 Action: Contact and follow up with 20 potential information providers in key Asian countries. Add 3-4 Asian languages to the GFIS interface language on the gateway
 Actor: GFIS coordination unit

5. Next meeting and other matters

The GFIS SC did not discuss any other matters and decided that the next meeting should be convened in 2011 at the latest.

6. Closing of the meeting

Peter M. thanked all participants for the constructive spirit and effective discussions during the meeting. He then closed the meeting.