

Revised mandate for the Task Force and the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests

1. The current terms of reference (mandates) for International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution had been specified in document *Future Development of Effects-Oriented Activities* (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, Annexes II-VIII) approved by the Working Group on Effects (WGE) and the Executive Body in 2000. The mandates need to be revised and updated to make them consistent with the current provisions and priorities of the Convention and of WGE set in the following documents:

- (a) Long-term Strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1);
- (b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;¹
- (c) Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3/Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4 forthcoming);
- (d) Guidelines for reporting on the monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects (ECE/EB.AIR/2008/11, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2008/16/Rev.); and
- (e) Draft 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/1, forthcoming).

The revised mandates will include key objectives and functions of the task forces and centres. The mandates are expected to be in force for the next 5 to 10 years. Specific activities and related deliverables on a shorter timeframe will be included in the bi-annual workplans for the implementation of the Convention.

2. Highlights of achievements of the Task Force and Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests) are:

- (a) Continuous data collection from the two levels of the forest ecosystem monitoring and research infrastructure, installed by the member states, is maintained. Quality assurance measures in the field, in laboratories as well as quality control measures during data submission are constantly improved;
- (b) Various research activities in- and outside the convention were supported via adequate data dissemination and evaluation support activities;
- (c) Joint evaluation activities comparing EMEP modelling estimates and ICP Forests field measurements is ongoing with important outcomes for both sides. Various publications have been launched during the years relating observed effects and modelled EMEP estimates and own on-site measurement of environmental conditions as deposition, climatic variables and soil conditions;
- (d) Joint activities with the ICP on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (ICP Integrated Monitoring; integrated study) and the ICP on Effects of Air

¹ See Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016) and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 – North America* (2016, online report).

Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation; ozone symptoms) have in recent years been intensified. Further co-operation with the ICP on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends (ICP Modelling and Mapping; critical loads) is intended;

(e) ICP Forests is increasingly concentrating on evaluations of long-term trends using data from its respective surveys (deposition, defoliation, meteorology, ozone concentrations, parameters from soil solution and foliar analyses, wood increment) under additional consideration of space;

(f) Various studies on cause-effect relationship have been and are conducted and supported by the Programme Coordinating Centre;

(g) Biodiversity aspects derived from ICP Forests field surveys have recently been evaluated with some positive result (influence of N deposition could be shown);

(h) Other aspects relevant for forest ecosystems like climate change effects are incorporated or even focused at in many cause-effect studies;

(i) Popularised publications are issued annually; additionally a technical report is published annually and contributions to various scientific publications are made;

(j) Co-operation with the European Union has recently been reinforced: under the new European Union National Emissions Ceilings Directive (Directive (EU) 2016/2284) activities have been launched and will be continued further in cooperation with ICP Integrated Monitoring, ICP Vegetation, the ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes (ICP Waters) and ICP Modelling and Mapping;

(k) The ICP Forests Manual² was updated in 2016 and 2017.

Annex

Revised mandate for the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests).

1. The Programme Coordinating Centre is hosted by the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Braunschweig (Germany), will be responsible for the assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests
2. The Centre will assume principal responsibility for coordinating the relevant activities under ICP Forests including development of technical projects, provision of deliverables according to the workplan (including annual reports and access to all relevant information and data), participation in the relevant task force meetings, organizing or supporting technical workshops and training workshops, and providing communication with and direct support to Parties.
3. The Centre will be responsible for the production and the provision with respect to processes set by the WGE (in particular regarding time lines) of all information and data necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the Parties.
4. The Centre will report on its activities and deliverables to WGE and to other bodies of the Convention as needed.
5. Specific scientific and technical activities developed by the Programme Centre should be discussed and approved by the WGE and be included in the biannual workplan.

² See <http://icp-forests.net/page/icp-forests-manual>.

6. The functions of the Centre will be to:

(a) Support Parties in installing and operating its forest monitoring and research infrastructures by providing and constantly developing respective technical and analytical guidelines (e.g. by up-dating the ICP Forests Manual or organizing or supporting inter-comparison courses);

(b) Permanently update and further develop the ICP Forests collaborative database, carry out quality control and quality assurance measures on data submitted by Parties, and provide assistance to the Parties directly and via adequate documentations and foster dissemination of high quality data in- and outside of the Convention;

(c) Contribute to the work and publications of other international institutions (European Union, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)) and research institutes to promote the visibility of the Convention and its aims. Such activities secure at the same time the further development of evaluation techniques and strategies regarding possible cause-effect relationships;

(d) Description of specific activities to support the Parties (in general), organize annual Task Force meetings, workshops and related activities to exchange views, experiences and suggestion to further develop the monitoring and research activities of ICP Forests at all levels of its activities;

(e) Description of specific activities to support specifically the Parties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia further encourage Parties in the region to intensify or build-up forests monitoring infrastructures following ICP Forests standards;

(f) Description of collaboration with internal (Convention) partners: further collaborate with thematically related ICPs (Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Mapping and Vegetation) and EMEP bodies (the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West) by designing joint evaluations, organizing common scientific events and producing joint publications;

(g) Description of collaboration with external (non-Convention) partners: Contribute to the work and publications of other international institutions (European Union bodies, FAO) and research institutes to promote the visibility of the Convention and its aims. A long-lasting co-operation with the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) is maintained. Such activities secure at the same time the further development of evaluation techniques and strategies regarding possible cause-effect relationships;

(h) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by WGE and the Executive Body.
