

N2009-10

SNS network

Short overview

Forestry is an essential component in the ecological, economical, and social structure of both the Nordic Countries and the Baltic States. Sustainable ecosystem management requires an understanding of the generative ecosystem process. These include natural disturbance processes and the responses of ecosystems to disturbances.

Our goal in forest research is to develop and promote an active network in both the study of natural disturbance regimes and in an ecosystem based approach to forest management in the Baltic region. The main aim is to gain new knowledge in the area of natural disturbance regimes and forest ecosystem processes. An ecosystem understanding integrates physical and chemical processes with an understanding of the adaptations of individual organisms. An understanding of these ecosystem processes in a social and economic context requires both a multidisciplinary and an interdisciplinary approach. The challenge is to bring a wide range of subject matter experts together to develop a shared understanding of the ecosystem processes. The resulting understanding will lead to improved forest resource utilization and planning.

Network activity is focused on the SNS target item: environmentally friendly forest management. Traditional forest management focused on a few commodities. The resulting forests raise concerns with respect to the resilience and sustainability of the forest ecosystem. These concerns of ecosystem resilience are particularly relevant in the context of global climate change. Changing social and economic conditions further challenges traditional forest management. Society expects a broader range of forest values to be sustained. This research explores the opportunity of studying natural disturbance processes and the response of forests to disturbance to create sound management plans for our future forests.

Activities: A common understanding of the responses of forests to disturbance process will be generated through a set of focused workshops and conferences. The workshops will reflect thematic groupings that bring together researcher with overlapping interests, methods, and data. The workshops held over last years have taken place in different countries. The workshops usually include field trips which is an important part in perceiving forest realities.

Grant by Estonian Environmental Center to create permanent sample plot network is a part of activities. Work was started in 2002. The methodology was developed for field studies.

VIII international meeting of SNS network Natural Disturbance Dynamics Analysis for Forest Ecosystem Management 21 . 25 September 2009, Vihterpalu, Estonia

Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering of Estonian University of Life Sciences is organizing a VIII international workshop of SNS network Natural Disturbance Dynamics Analysis for Forest Ecosystem Management.

The workshop will include a group of people who jointly will cover a wide range of knowledge and experience related to the workshop topic. Hope your expertise can contribute to cover some of the workshop topics and objectives.

We encourage you to notify us on your interest in joining our workshop and in case you are - to submit an abstract (approximately 250 words) of a 15 min. presentation for the workshop as soon as it is possible for you. Please include your name and co-authors, title, affiliation, postal address, e-mail, and phone.

Presentations

We invite oral and poster presentations in subtopics that are following the methodological setup of the research:

- Studies connected to permanent sample plots
- Case studies
- Chronosequence studies
- Environment manipulation studies
- Time window studies

The reviews and case studies can be included. We try to publish papers in a special issue of peer-reviewed journal based on the topics considered on the meeting.

This year the meeting is supported by the SNS that has made it possible to organize our workshop in Vihterpalu. In addition, the forests of Western Estonia offer many interesting sites and relevant cases about the forest disturbances.

The workshop-program is a full three-day program 22-24 September 2009 including oral and poster presentations, discussion session and field excursions. Participants are requested to arrive on 21 September at Vihterpalu. If necessary we can organize pick-up in Tallinn Airport or Tallinn Harbour. Departure from Vihterpalu will be on 25 September in the morning.

Agenda

21 September - arrival and registration

22 September - plenary sessions and poster session

23 September - field excursion

24 September - second day field excursion

25 September - departure