

DIAROD (Determining Invasiveness and Risk of Dothistroma)

COST Action No FP1102

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held in Estoril, Portugal, 29/09/2014

Welcome to participants by the chair, Anna Brown (AB). Those participants not eligible to attend the MC meeting left the room.

Adoption of agenda. No dissent.

Approval of minutes and matters arising from last meeting.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Matters arising:

1. Martin Mullett (not attending) and Irene Barnes (IB) to update diagnostic protocol. IB said she is happy with that, subject to
 - a) Action point – Piotr Boron to give IB details of water drop technique, and
 - b) Action point – Everybody to give IB details of any other techniques.

[At the W.G.1 meeting the following morning it was agreed that all such updates should be received **by the end of October.**]

AB reminded participants that the current document can be inspected in the DIAROD section of the Forest Research website. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/diarod>

2. Nicola La Porta (NLP) to write a standard sentence to insert in to joint COST publications . . . **Action completed – this will be put on to the DIAROD website.** No comments.
3. Request from DC for more Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). AB noted a significant increase in STSMs, with 14 in 2014 (against the target of 5). No comments.
4. Greater synergy with other COST Actions. AB noted that DIAROD has been represented at the COST Action FP1103 FRAXBACK, and will be represented at FP1002 PERMIT. No comments.
5. The outstanding need for more input to the Action outputs by all Action members. AB emphasised that a joint effort is required to meet our commitments.
6. Joint project to re-analyse European DNB samples on a single set of machines to ensure consistency. AB proposed that the UK machines be used for *D.septosporum*, but that IB's machines in South Africa would be better for *D.pini*.
7. Database to be filled in by all countries during 2014.

Update from the Action Chair

Status of Action. AB noted 27 COST countries, plus 12 institutes from non-COST countries. No comments.

Action budget status. AB noted:

Year 1 (2012): Budget €112,447 – 155,595; Spent €88,826 (79% of range low end)

Year 2 (2013): Budget €179,803; Spent €126,678 (70.5%)

Year 3 (2014): Budget €211,531; Spent €113,780 (54%)

STSM status. AB described STSMs, detailed their aims and qualifying requirements, and noted there were 2 in 2012, 5 in 2013, and 14 so far in 2014. AB recommended further STSMs left until next year. AB noted that STSMs to date have been and are a very good reflection of co-operation and information exchange.

STSM Manager is Tugba Dogmus Lehtijarvi tugbadogmus@sdu.edu.tr

Refer also to: http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fps/Actions/FP1102

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/diarod>

Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers. AB opined that both items are satisfactory. No comments.

Update from the Grant Holder. AB stated Action is on budget and without any major issues. AB noted that this year the Grant year ends at the end of November (not December). AB emphasised that you cannot be on two COST-funded activities at the same time. No comments.

Update from the COST Office. No comments.

Update from the DC Rapporteur. Nick McCarthy (NM) stated that COST is undergoing changes and suggested participants registered themselves as experts within e-COST, in order to support forestry. The importance of correct and targeted keywords was emphasised.

AB confirmed the importance of avoiding forestry getting lost in Agriculture.

Annual Progress Conference (preparation and/or feedback from DC).

Follow-up of MoU objectives & Progress report of working groups. AB stated that many components of the required Outputs for the various Tasks as yet have neither a clear delivery schedule nor even a person nominally responsible. There is still “lots of red” in the overall list.

Scientific planning:

Scientific strategy. Refer to individual Working Group minutes.

Action Budget planning. AB presented the following:

(1) MEETINGS	€ 97, 070
(2) SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS	€ 20,000
(3) TRAINING SCHOOLS	€ 63,870
(4) PUBLICATIONS, DISSEMINATION, OUTREACH	€ 3,000
B. TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE	€ 183,940
C. Financial & Scientific Adm. and Coordination	€ 27,591
D. TOTAL EXPENDITURE	€ 179,803

Long-term planning (inc. anticipated locations & dates of future activities). AB noted 2015 is the final year, and asked what was wanted re:

Training schools: Julio Diez Casero confirmed his ability to provide

Action Point – Julio Diez Casero to plan to include a component on development and maintenance of a GIS database.

Action Point – Anna Brown to establish (by email) how many would like to attend, and what they hope to have included.

STSM target: Rimvydas Vasaitis (RV) suggested the target should be greater than the current 10.

Action Point – Anna Brown to establish (by email) everyone's wants/needs re STSMs.

Possible 2 day workshop/Joint WG meeting in addition to the final conference

Final Conference: By show of hands, a majority were in favour of a joint meeting with FP1103 (FRAXBACK).

JDC suggested a possible linkage with the IUFRO Conference on Root and Butt Rot of Forest Trees, but this was generally disapproved of - in particular RV and AB were against, talking of "insufficient synergies" and (RV) "underwater rocks".

AB re-emphasised (see 'Update from the Grant Holder', P.2, above) the importance of NOT filling in both FRAXBACK and DIAROD applications for the joint event, noting that it will be the perpetrators who get prosecuted, not the administrators.

Action point – Everybody: Please follow the instructions given when meeting invitations are circulated in due course.

AB proposed (provisionally) the first week in October 2015 for the Final Conference. Mike Hale was the only nay-sayer. AB proposed Poland as venue: easy access, cheap, with two

excellent co-ordinators (Ania and Piotr, attending here at Lisbon). Warsaw venue approved by a unanimous lack of objection.

Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities). AB noted that forest industry representatives are good, but English-speaking.

AB reminded Committee that the terms of the COST Action will require us to produce Conference Proceedings (perhaps published as an on-line PDF?) as well as the relevant Papers (at least five that AB could think of).

AB proposed that other meeting slots/funds should be devoted to discussing and arranging delivery of outstanding outputs. "Breakout meetings" (to be arranged in WG meetings tomorrow). IB concurred. No objections.

AB spoke in favour of a Photo Library for the website – showing symptoms on different hosts in different countries. No objections.

AB made a further request for volunteers to take responsibility for outstanding outputs.

Requests for New Members. AB informed Committee that: Natalija Arhipova (NA) and Rasa Dace Kiesnere from Latvia have joined the Action, NA as a Committee member; Jorge Martín García from Spain has become a Committee substitute; Leopold Poljakovic-Pajnik is currently going through the internal procedure in Serbia to become a Committee member.

Marta Vasconcelos from Portugal was voted on to the Committee by a unanimous lack of objection.

Non-COST applications to the Actions. No discussion.

Any Other Business. NM proposed WG meetings scheduled for tomorrow p.m. should be re-scheduled for the morning, to ensure that they are done properly and not compromised by people having to leave to catch planes. Passed by unanimous lack of dissent.

Location and Date of Next Meeting. Already dealt with (see under 'Scientific planning: Long-term planning', final paragraph P.3, above.)