



# The Nordic-Baltic LULUCF project: overview & findings

**Joint Research Center  
technical workshop on reporting LULUCF**

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## The programme goal:

- Public sector cooperation and **capacity development**.

## The project is focused on:

- assessment of forestry and agriculture measures in the context of climate change,
- GHG UNFCCC/KP reporting for the LULUCF sector.

## The project aims at:

- strengthening cooperation, networking,
- sharing the regional experiences,
- identifying current difficulties & common challenges,
- and seeking for knowledge transfer and **practical solutions**.

## The project duration is 6 months (September, 2012 – February, 2013).

- 1st in Riga (Latvia) September 24-25, 2012.
- 2nd in Stockholm (Sweden) November 8-9, 2012.
- 3rd in Helsinki (Finland) February 11-12, 2013.





## Who we are?

**Project partners:** 5 countries involved in the Project are: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden. Latvia – leading partner.

**The project joins 24 public sector experts from 9 institutions.** Public institutions include ministries, universities, research institutes, environmental and forestry agencies. Also stakeholders were invited to participate. **In total 57 persons participated: including invited experts, the COM and JRC.**

Prominent scientists contributed, including:

- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU),
- Aarhus University, Denmark,
- Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla),
- Statistics Finland.



# What topics we discussed?



**UNFCCC/KP reporting - topical issues & challenges:** case studies

**LULUCF sector**

**Reporting agriculture land categories**

**Harvested wood products**, including Introduction to harvested wood products including the new CRF-tables (SLU)

**Forest data modeling**

Results from “Road map 2050 – no net emissions from Sweden” (SLU)

Forest data national modeling tool in Latvia (Silava)

**Yasso07 model** - estimating CSC

**LULUCF Decision:** the state of play

**Adaptation.** Latest results from Finnish adaptation research

**IPCCC Guidelines.**

Implementation of 2006 IPCC Guidelines. IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement and 2013 Kyoto Protocol Supplement

**Wetland drainage and rewetting** – the new activity under the Kyoto Protocol

# 1<sup>st</sup> seminar

## Riga, September, 2012



NORDIC-BALTIC MOBILITY PROGRAMME



Public administration

# ESTONIA - the project findings



- General co-operation: covering a lot of problems addressed to LULUCF reporting and climate change mitigation
- Professionalism: high qualification and knowledge base
- **Overview of scientific projects** in neighboring countries
- A lot of valuable presentations
- Regional co-operation effect: **countries with similar climatic and forest-related conditions**
- Learning from national systems of more experienced countries
- EU Commission members on-board: useful information and insights of the LULUCF Decision
- **Financial support** from the programme: also very important aspect
- Collaboration with professionals: **more closer and new contacts in the field of LULUCF**
- JRC experts: high quality recommendations

**Result: improved experiences and skills & overall increase of awareness: overview of the existing and future challenges, possible solutions and best practices related to LULUCF.**

## LITHUANIA - during the project we have learned:



- LULUCF is a complex therefore goals and preferences are slightly different
- Strong institutional arrangements (**the national systems**)
- **Mostly the same problems** occur in many countries
- Major uncertainties concerning emissions/removals accounting
- Many ongoing scientific projects in neighboring countries.

*..relevant and interesting topics selected, **efficient discussions**, valuable experience and remarks received, **increased cooperation** between neighboring countries, **new contacts established**.*

### **The main topics to develop with project partners:**

- **Yasso07 model adaptation.** Cooperation with FIN and all Baltic States
- **Harvested Wood Products.** Cooperation with SE
- **Cropland and Grazing land Management.** Cooperation of all countries
- **Wetlands Drainage and Rewetting.** Cooperation of all project partners.



## FINLAND on the project

- Ideas to solve **practical problems** in LULUCF GHG inventory
- **Ideas for future research** cooperation focusing on to improve and develop estimation of carbon stock changes on LULUCF sector
- Understanding of **national circumstances** increased (e.g. legislative environment, domestic policies)
- Sharing views, knowledge, experiences
- The project established new **networking possibilities** on the field of LULUCF GHG inventory
- Involvement of both **research oriented persons** and **administrative persons** in the same project
- Important **for new experts** to the LULUCF GHG inventory.

## SWEDEN on the project



Sweden has joined the project with 12 experts from the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Rural Affairs, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swedish Forest Agency and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

During the three meetings held in Riga, Stockholm and Helsinki we have **strengthening cooperation and networking** which will be very beneficial for the future. The Nordic and Baltic countries have **many commonalities**, e.g. high forest cover and long tradition of forest management traditions, although this project has shown there are **also differences**.

When sharing experiences on national systems we found that **the national systems** differ substantially among countries. Furthermore, it is clear that there is a need for continuous improvement.

We have **identified difficulties and challenges** associated with reporting/accounting on **e.g. agriculture soils, especially on organic soils**. Improving estimation of greenhouse gas emissions from organic soils is one of several possible themes for future cooperation.

We have initiated discussions on **sustainable forestry and agriculture measures** to mitigate climate change which is very relevant in the context of discussions on LULUCF within EU and UNFCCC. Sharing **experiences on forestry and adaptation**.

In summary, Sweden believes that **the Nordic-Baltic LULUCF-network has been very successful** and appreciates the interesting discussions with Latvia, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia and invited experts from the European Commission, JRC and Denmark.

# Experiences gained in LATVIA



**Capacity** of the national authorities and research institutions is crucial. Relatively narrow network representing similar climatic conditions makes **discussions more targeted** thus easier and efficient.

**Long term prospective** (2020-2050) and climate changes should be highlighted, especially in forestry.

Separation of **cropland & grassland** (pastures) is complicated in the whole region, as there are no actual border between them.

Land use **change to settlements** (not only deforestation) is important and hard to account source of emissions.

Reporting of **drainage & rewetting** is overcomplicated and overlapping in land use.

Clearer vision of GHG vision in **common agricultural policy (CAP)** - how to provide initiatives on individual level for farmers and private forest owners to reduce GHG emissions? National (or probably EC scale) initiatives should be elaborated to expand CAP approach to forest lands – motivation to manage forests to deliver wood products and continuous grow of annual increment.

# Even practical aspects for LATVIA



**The network inspired** for investigation of several, mostly agriculture related measures aimed to reduce GHG emissions.

There is an excellent **study on emissions from organic soils** in Estonia (will be referred to in Latvia).

**The network initiated several research projects in Latvia:**

- evaluation of the role of different approaches in **grasslands management** – late and early cutting for hay;
- separation of extensively managed cropland as **sub-category of cropland**;
- evaluation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from **drained organic forest soils** in old drainage research plots (*not funded yet*).



# General Conclusions

## Our experience shows, that

- projects definitely provides a platform for discussions, activates interaction of experts, also provides an opportunity to invite scientists.

## We have:

- Identified common challenges, broadened vision,
- raised capacity, strengthened cooperation and networking of experts,
- gained **inspiration**, but not only – also some **practical solutions**.

## For the future we are considering:

- Followed initiatives as a new project under the Nordic-Baltic mobility program;
- Other programs as (COST Action, LIFE + etc.).



**Visit our website:**

**<https://sites.google.com/site/lulucfnetwork>**

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sharing your knowledge!**

