



# 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 – 1 (6 months September, 2012 – February, 2013)

Riga (LV) Sep, 2012. Stockholm (SE) Nov, 2012. Helsinki (FI) Feb, 2013.

### The project – 2 (9 months October, 2013 – June, 2014).

Riga (LV) Oct, 2013 and upcoming in Kaunas (LT) May 12-13.



## Who we are?

**Project partners:** 8 countries involved in the Project are: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland. Latvia – leading partner.

**The project joins experts from 17 institutions.** Public institutions include ministries, universities, research institutes, environmental and forestry agencies. Also stakeholders were invited to participate.

Prominent scientists contributed, including:

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

**SWEDEN:** Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, The Swedish Board of Agriculture, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, The Swedish Forest Agency; **DENMARK:** Aarhus University, COWI agency; **LATVIA:** Ministry of Agriculture, Latvia Forest Research Institute “Silava”, University of Agricultural Sciences; **ESTONIA:** Ministry of Environment, Environmental information Centre; **LITHUANIA:** State Forest Service; **FINLAND:** Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, MTT Agrifood Research Finland, Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla); **ICELAND:** Environment Agency of Iceland, Icelandic Forest Research, Agricultural University of Iceland, **NORWAY:** Ministry of the Environment, Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute, The Climate and Pollution Agency.

# 1<sup>st</sup> seminar

## Riga, September, 2012



**NORDIC-BALTIC MOBILITY PROGRAMME**



**Public administration**



# ESTONIA - the project findings

## 1<sup>st</sup> project stage (September, 2012 – February, 2013)

- General overview of experts, scientists and institutions involved in the LULUCF reporting in the project partners countries → **new useful contacts** and ideas how to improve national reporting system
- Insight into **overall LULUCF reporting issues** and individual country solutions
- Overview of **scientific projects and relevant publications** → found publications, which data is applied in the Estonia's GHG report currently (filling data gaps!)
- Regional co-operation effect: **countries with similar climatic and forest-related conditions**
- EU Commission members and JRC experts on-board: exhaustive information on the LULUCF Decision and practical recommendations.

## Resulted in:

- fruitful discussions;
- improved experiences & overall increase of awareness: overview of the existing and future challenges, possible solutions and best practices related to LULUCF;
- several LULUCF issues clarified;
- future research possibilities and extended co-operation.



## ESTONIA - the project findings

### 2<sup>nd</sup> project stage (October, 2013 – June, 2014)

- More project partners (Norway, Iceland joined) → increasing experts network
- More detailed insight into national forestry measures
- **HWP accounting**: assessment and accounting issues → questions raised, about which we hadn't thought about but need addressing
- **Technical correction of FMRL (JRC)** → highly useful information, which can't be found in the IPCC guidelines.

### Upcoming topics:

- **Cropland and Grazing land Management**
- **Wetlands Drainage and Rewetting**
- **LULUCF Actions**

... topical issues that need to be further discussed in the frame of the II KP reporting and accounting

Based on the knowledge and information gained through the project, **Estonia's LULUCF team was able to increase national LULUCF funding and human resources**, as well as transfer information to local level and demonstrate **the importance of LULUCF to national decision- and policy-makers.**



## Norway on the 2013 meeting in Riga

- Exchanged knowledge among countries about forest carbon trends throughout Europe.
- Exchanged knowledge among countries about methodology for carbon reporting from harvested wood products.
- Received key perspective from the European Commission.
- The project established **key networking opportunities** for future collaboration on LULUCF and related issues.
- Planned future collaboration on methodology development for LULUCF.
- Built interest in upcoming meeting **in Tromsø, Norway** where LULUCF personnel will meet to discuss **uses of satellite imagery** to aid in LULUCF reporting.



## “Land-use applications of satellite imagery in the North”

- A meeting in Tromsø, Norway in September 2014. The meeting’s regional foci are Scandinavia and the Baltics.
- A discussion at the Riga LULUCF meeting took place to agree on **LULUCF-relevant topics for discussion and training in Tromsø.**
- The meeting will focus on:
  - dissemination of academic research findings
  - building capacity among government institutions through training to **utilize satellite imagery for existing institutional needs.**
- This will be the **kickoff meeting for BARIN** (Baltic-Arctic Regional Information Network), with point person Gregory Taff.
  - This is a new regional network as part of GOFC-GOLD (Global Observation of Forest Cover, Global Observation of Land Dynamics). (<http://www.fao.org/gtos/gofc-gold/>)
  - A new regional network of researchers and government personnel for collaboration, data sharing, exchanges, meetings/conferences, etc.

***Gregory Taff at the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute is the meeting organizer. (gta@skogoglandskap.no)***



## Iceland on the 2013 meeting in Riga

- The benefits of the project are establishment of contacts between experts working within the LULUCF sector;
- Acquaintance with **the issues important in other countries;**
- And the opportunity to present to others the issues important to the LULUCF sector in our country.
- The project has **already lead to common project on methods to identify land subjected to WDR being developed –**  
A new project is being developed **on applying remote sensing to monitor changes in wetlands both drained and undrained / rewetted.**  
Presently Iceland and Norway are involved.

## 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*).



- Implementation of **Yasso model** could help on many issues especially on non-forest lands; however, drained and naturally wet forest soils (50 % of forests in Latvia) needs other or improved solution for CO<sub>2</sub> and non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- There are preconditions for joint Nordic – Baltic (boreal and hemi-boreal) further cooperation on LULUCF sector;
- **Wetlands** including wet forests seems to be very challenging topic, to be further analyzed;
- **Wood products** need more detailed understanding, especially as a part of projections in rapidly changing assortments structure.

# LITHUANIA - what we succeeded so far



- Established good relationships between colleagues participating in the project;
- Exchange of ideas and methods helps to develop own GHG estimation methods, i.e. for **carbon stocks in soils, HWP** etc.

## WHY TO CONTINUE

- The new EU LULUCF Decisions and 2nd CP of Kyoto Protocol will require more effort from MS, considering new CM, GM, HWP and WDR accounting;
- Not all problems could be solved in rather rare and broad, including most of the MS, meetings;
- **Small regional cooperation are extremely important for purely technical knowledge exchange;**
- Members of regional cooperation are usually connected with similar climatic, geographical etc. conditions, **what allows to share and easily to adapt methodologies between each other.**



# 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.).



## The Nordic-Baltic LULUCF Network for Climate Friendly Land Use Measures

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

*if you are interested in topic related to*

- *HWP*
- *WDR*
- *National system*
- *Adaptation*
- *Forest data modeling*
- *Yasso07 model*
- *Forestry measures*
- *Agriculture measures - are coming*

**Thank you for  
sharing your knowledge!**

