

Progress Summary

Task Force 1: Ecology and Identification

Zagreb 18th – 20th February 2015

Current status and introduction

An introduction and recap was given outlining TF1's tasks as outlined within the MoU. The parallel session was attended by 19 TF1 participants from 14 COST countries. Five short presentations from TF1 participants were given outlining the identification and ecology of selected NWFP species.

Common Survey

A pre-analysis report of the TF1 data returned via the common survey was presented to the group. The received results are promising. Responses were received from 22 of the 29 participating COST countries, nominating 150+ unique species between the four working groups (WGs).

Working Group	Provisional species count
WG1 – Mushrooms and Truffles	40
WG2 – Tree Products	47
WG3 – Understory Plants	38
WG4 – Animal Origin	29
Total (9th Feb. 2015)	154

Problems and issues with the common survey were discussed; some issues may be resolved by the opportunity for MC members to take back surveys in the light of new information gained, a common deadline across all COST members must be sought in liaison with the SC. Cleaned and consolidated data will be made available to all COST FP1203 members.

Database

General discussion was held regarding the prototype databases that were presented in earlier sessions. TF1 participants had an opportunity to look closer at the prototypes functionality and provide comments to the database's designer. It was concluded that collecting and entering the required ecological data for all species (n=150+) as proposed within previous TF1 parallel sessions was considered to be too demanding. It was therefore proposed that the database can be used as a method of signposting people towards existing relevant information on the internet to include:

- Wikipedia (COST species experts can check the validity of the information given and update if required.)
- Books (both popular and scientific)
- Articles (peer reviewed and conference proceedings etc.)
- Grey literature (reports and websites)

A balance is needed between sufficient detail within each record and the time taken to input, but should represent the quickest way to the information, TF1 members agreed to pilot data collection to populate the prototype database with selected species in a dynamic way alongside TF leaders and the database designer.

TF1 Book Chapter

As agreed within the Krakow meeting the TF1 coordinators presented a draft outline of the proposed TF1 book chapter entitled “*the identification and ecology of NWFP species*”. The following approximate structure was proposed by the TF leader and accepted by the members.

Sub-chapter	Contents
Introduction	Rationale/need for the identification and exploration of NWFP species within this framework including a short summary of the state of the art for an identification and ecological perspective
Identification of NWFP	The definition of NWFP as a product and the NWFP resource as the derivative species. Identification of important NWFP species. Including content discussing how the issue of importance is defined. Also including a short discussion on sources of NWFP information.
Data Collection	Common Survey(s): Material and Methods, Results and Discussion.
Ecological requirements	Discussion on a general level about the ecological requirement of NWFP producing species (Generally no specific detail regarding individual species): Where do NWFP grow? Is there a requirement for other species to be present in the same system? NWFP presence within natural situations/ecosystems or man-made/ altered systems.
Case studies	Sub-sections concerning individual species or groups of similar species in a defined region, placing a large focus on the identification of the product/ derivative species and the required ecological situations. To include a spotlight on innovation, giving innovative examples of new products or a revival/rejuvenation of existing species/ products.
Summary & Outlook	Summary, outlook, future perspectives and recommendations for future study

Next Steps

- Consolidation of WG tasks and initiation of cross WG/TF collaboration (TF1 Members)
- Continued review of suitability of database fields as WG experts (TF1 Members)
- Resubmission of TF1 responses (ALL COST FP1203 Members)
- Cleaning and analysis of TF1 survey data and make available to all COST FP1203 members (TF leader)
- Collation of database content for selected NWFP (n≈20 species) and population of prototype database (TF1 Members). Deadline: **March 31st 2015** (guidance and Database user guide to be circulated by TF leader).
- Finalisation of TF1's database contribution (TF leader and Database Task Force)
- Data input of product details into final database (All COST FP1203 Members)
- Book chapter outline to be consolidated, an abstract formulated and presented to the SC (TF leader) **by end of April 2015.**

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