Payments for Ecosystem Services - Forests for water quality benefits (PESFOR-W) – MC4

Gregory Valatin
Centre for Ecosystems, Society & Biosecurity
Forest Research

Alice Holt Lodge
Farnham
Surrey
England
1) Welcome all!  2) Quorate?

MC Rules of procedure: 1 vote per COST signatory country

Austria [AT]
Belgium [BE]
Bosnia and Herzegovina [BA]
Bulgaria [BG]
Croatia [HR]
Czech Republic [CZ]
Denmark [DK]
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Poland [PL]
Portugal [PT]
Romania [RO]
Serbia [RS]
Slovakia [SK]
Slovenia [SI]
Spain [ES]
Sweden [SE]
Switzerland [CH]
United Kingdom [UK]
MC Observers:: Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Ukraine…
3) Adoption of the Agenda

1. Welcome to participants;
2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries or, if applicable, a quorum
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Matters arising from last meeting and recent Core Group meetings
5. Update from the Action Chair:
   a) Status of Action: start & end dates of Action, participating COST countries, participating NNC/IPC institutions and Specific Organisations.
6. Update from the Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) Coordinator
   a) GP2 calls & recommendations for future calls
7. Update from the Grant Holder: Action budget status
8. Update from the COST Association (if a representative is present)
9. Monitoring of the Action (12-month & 24-month reports)
10. Implementation of COST policies on:
    a) Promotion of gender balance and Early Career Investigators (ECI) & Inclusiveness (see list of ITCs) and Excellence
11. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups
12. Scientific planning
    a) Scientific strategy (MoU objectives, GP Goals, WG tasks and deliverables) – Spatial repository, online survey & case studies...
    b) Action Budget Planning – GP3
    c) Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities) – Norway, Bulgaria...
    d) Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities) – plans for woodlands & water PES session at the Ecosystem Partnership conference 14-19 October 2018 (San Sebastián, Spain); Dissemination & Exploitation plan
13. Requests to join the Action:
    a) COST countries
    b) Institutions in Near Neighbouring Countries, International Partner Countries, International Organisations, etc
14. AOB
15. Location and date of next meeting
16. Summary of MC decisions
17. Closing
1) **Additional STSM** (Martina Stabova) approved (Viera Baskova decided against resubmitting her application)

2) **Additional Dissemination meeting** (Native Woodland Conference, Ireland, 30\textsuperscript{th} April 2018)

3) **Forests & water session proposed** for the Ecosystem Partnership conference 14-19 October 2018 (San Sebastián, Spain);

4) **Call for ITC conference grants in GP3** (e.g. to encourage presentations at ESP 2018 woodlands for water PES conference session)
5) PESFOR-W time-scales

Grant Periods

Start of the Action: 18 October 2016 (1st MC meeting)

1. GP 1: 1 Nov 2016 – 30 April 2017
2. GP 2: 1 May 2017 – 30 April 2018
3. GP 3: 1 May 2018 – 30 April 2019
4. GP 4: 1 May 2019 – 30 April 2020
5. GP 5: 1 May 2020 – 30 September 2020

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Figure 2 – GANTT Diagram
5) Update on COST countries

31 COST countries have signed MoU:

**ITCs (16):**
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Croatia
- Estonia
- **Hungary**
- Latvia
- Luxembourg
- fYR Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia

**Other (15):**
- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

5 countries yet to join:
- Turkey
- Cyprus
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Iceland
COST countries:

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<th>MC Substitutes</th>
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Total: 59 MC Members, 47 MC Substitutes.
Current MC Observers:

**NNCs:**
- Morocco
- Jordan
- Tunisia
- Ukraine

**IPCs:**
- China
- New Zealand
- **Japan**
  - Prof Takuya Takahashi
    (University of Shiga Prefecture)

**IOs:**
- European Forestry Institute
- UNECE/FAO
6) Update on STSMs

- **5 STSMs in GP2**
  - **Ignacio Pérez Silos** (Sept/Oct 2017)
    - ‘Assessing the effectiveness of woodland creation for reducing agricultural diffuse pollution – developing value ranges to create look-up tables’
  - **Khrystyna Vasylyshyn** (Oct 2017)
    - ‘Experience of payments for ecosystem services implementation’ (Croatia)
  - **Martina Stabova** (Feb 2018)
    - ‘Exploring and identification of key factors and approaches of existing PES schemes’
  - **Cristian Accastello** (Feb/March 2018)
    - ‘Approaches to quantify the cost-effectiveness of forests for water PES’
  - **Guilia Amato** (March/April 2018)
    - ‘Utilities’ engagement in watershed investment and PES’
Short term scientific mission by Ignacio Perez-Silos (hosted at Forest Research):

• Review of Literature on impacts of woodland planting on agricultural diffuse pollution (61 studies published 1973-2015):
  • Nitrates
  • Phosphates
  • Pesticides
  • Fecal Indicator Organisms
  • Sediment

Effect of riparian & hillside woodland on nitrate concentration by buffer width

• **Short term scientific mission** by Khrystyna Vasylyshyn (at Croatian Forest Research Institute):


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**Figure 1. PES collection during 2005-2016 (Data of Croatian Forests Ltd)**

![Graph showing PES collection from 2005 to 2016](image)

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**Figure 2. Spent PES during 2005-2016 (Data of Croatian Forests Ltd)**

![Graph showing spent PES from 2005 to 2016](image)
Short term scientific mission by Martina Stabova (at University of Padova):

I. As a first step, check if each case meets a working definition for W-for-W PES, adopted by the PESFOR-W group, based upon 3 criteria:
   1. A transfer of resources between at least 2 actors;
   2. A transaction explicitly targeted at improving hydrological services;
   3. A transfer paying for actions related to trees either primarily for water services; or for bundled (including water) services.

The group has developed a dichotomous key for W-for-W PES, finalised at identifying cases to be survey and analysed:

Annex 1 The proposed descriptive framework

6) STSM plans

- **GP3 calls** for STSMs - deadlines envisaged:
  - May 2018
  - October 2018

- **Priority topics** (linked to MoU):
  - **WG1**: motivations and barriers for PES participants
  - **WG2**: environmental effectiveness of woodlands measures [models]
  - **WG3**: potential buyers’ motivations [e.g. Potential links to carbon markets]
  - **WG4**: Collecting case study information for spatial repository and fact sheets
  - **WG4**: best marketing & communication practices for PES
GP2 (May 2017 to April 2018):

**Total Budget:** €170000
- 15% for admin

**Total science budget:** €147826

- **STSMs (5):** €11650
- **Dissemination (Website):** €2400
- **Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities:** €100
- **Meetings:** €133576
  - IUFRO World Forestry Congress (Sept): €2080
  - Croatia (3 days: 63 participants @€944 incl LOS €3880): €59479
  - Italy (3.5 days: budgeted for 71 participants reimbursed): €71437
  - Native Woodland Conference, Ireland (new dissemination meeting) €680

- **anticipate ~€10k remains unspent**
  - **Italy:** >120 invitees; ~60 participants anticipated
7) use of any remaining GP2 funds?

1) *reimbursement of other eligible participants in Italy meeting*

2) Are further GP2 STSMs still feasible? (would need to be completed by end April)

3) *further development of the spatial repository?*

4) *Other suggestions* e.g. publication fees for ‘thought leadership’ article / collaborative journal article submission / open access fees?

Remaining funds cannot be transferred to GP3

Please ensure all expense claims are submitted by Friday 30th March 2018 (i.e. within 2 weeks)
Science Officer

Dr. Mónica Pérez-Cabero

monica.perez@cost.eu

Tel: +32 (0)2 533 38 22
9) Monitoring

REPORT AT MONTH 12 submitted: feedback not yet received
• COST inclusiveness policy
• Scientific committee recommendations

REPORT AT MONTH 24
• Co-authored publications & H2020 proposals
• Additional outputs & achievements
• Success stories?

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<th>MoU objective</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Yes/Partially/No</th>
<th>Evidence of (partial) achievement including hyperlink to enable assessment of the achievement. Justification if full achievement is not foreseen</th>
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<td>For each objective insert evidence of (partial) achievement including hyperlink to enable assessment (by the Action Rapporteur) of the achievement and access by end users</td>
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9) Monitoring: GP1 goals

Period 1 (Nov 2016 – April 2017) goals:

1) Define a **Dissemination & Exploitation Plan**

2) Create Website & Spatial hub

3) State of the Art: Commence **evidence review on the effectiveness of woodland creation for reducing agricultural diffuse pollution**

4) State of the Art: Commence **discussions on a common protocol to assess cost-effectiveness of woodlands for water PES schemes**

5) State of the Art: Commence **characterisation of design & governance aspects of European woodlands-for-water PES**
9) Monitoring: GP2 goals

Period 2 (May 2017 – April 2018) goals:

1) Explore potential investors’ perceptions of what would be needed to attract them to purchase credits

2) Populate and publish preliminary look-up tables on the effectiveness of woodland measures to reduce agricultural diffuse pollution

3) Write a thought leadership article on assessing the cost-effectiveness of woodlands for water PES

4) Launch an online web survey to gather information on woodlands for water PES schemes

5) Maintain and add to the website and spatial hub
1) **EXCELLENCE**: contribute to improvement of existing EU legislation

2) **IMPACT**
   - greater recognition of *agricultural sector impacts*
   - recognition of relevance of creating *new opportunities in value chains*
   - strong *involvement of water management sector*
   - plan for *involvement of stakeholders* (water management / agriculture)
   - incorporation of *experts from other sectors*
   - clear *plan for the exploitation* of the results & management of IPRs
   - clear *assessment of how woodland creation measures are capable of reducing agricultural diffuse pollutants needed to encourage business involvement*
10) COST Policies: MoU aims

1) Geographic balance:
   - **Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)**
     - Leadership of WG activities
     - Host activities
     - Short-term scientific missions

2) Early Career Investigators (ECIs)
   - encouraging ECIs (<8yrs experience after PhD) through **training + leadership** of activities

3) Gender
   - overcoming an acute imbalance in forestry
     - >40% representation of women in the MC
     - Positively selecting women for:
       - **Leadership** roles
       - **Training** schools (>50%)
     - dissemination plan

4) low **Carbon footprint**
   land travel rather than air encouraged
## 10) Italy: ITCs % of participants

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<th>MC Members</th>
<th>MC Substitutes</th>
<th>Other</th>
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| Total                    | 20/32      | 9/18           | 5/10  | 31/60 |
### 10) COST Policies: leadership roles

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PESFOR-W aims to:

improve Europe’s capacity to use Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to achieve Water Framework Directive (WFD) targets & other policy objectives through incentives for planting woodlands to reduce agricultural diffuse pollution to watercourses.
Research Coordination:
1) **Characterize & evaluate governance models & design of W-for-W PES**
2) **Evaluate environmental effectiveness of targeted woodland planting**
3) **European PES repository of Case Studies** drawing together European & international examples into an open access, trans-disciplinary learning platform
4) **User Guidance** on suitability of pollutant, ecosystem service & catchment scale models to quantify the effectiveness of tree planting to reduce diffuse pollution

**Capacity Building**

i) **Training in technical & economic skills:** ‘PES-engineers’ of the future
ii) **Interaction between specialists with different skill sets**
iii) **Stakeholder understanding** (regulators, governments, land owners...)
12a) WG1 tasks & deliverables

GP2 (May 2017-April 2018) includes:

- STSM exploring potential investors’ perceptions of what would be needed to attract them to purchase credits & interest in providing finance
  - ‘Utilities’ engagement in watershed investment and PES’

- Characterising design & governance aspects of woodlands for water PES (complete end 2018)

- Identifying best practice in PES design & governance (complete late 2019)

GP3 (May 2018-April 2019) envisages:

- STSM exploring motivations & barriers of potential PES participants
GP2 (May 2017-April 2018) includes:

- Agreeing value ranges for impacts of woodlands in reducing diffuse pollutants to watercourses
- Populating & publishing look-up tables

GP3 (May 2018-April 2019) envisages:

- STSM completing review of pollutant & ES models
- Training school on model applications
• Agreeing common protocols for evaluating the cost-effectiveness & socio-economic impacts of woodlands for water PES
• Publishing a thought leadership article

**GP3** (May 2018-April 2019) envisages:

• **STSMs on demand-side (buyer) motivations**
  - Potential for linking payments for water with carbon

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<td>Agree common protocols; to estimate the cost-effectiveness of W-for-W PES (by month 6) and for socioeconomic evaluation (by month 12).</td>
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<td>T3.2</td>
<td>13-27</td>
<td>Evaluate demand-side (buyer) motivations.</td>
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<td>T3.3</td>
<td>16-30</td>
<td>Evaluate impact of applying climate change scenarios on PES cost-effectiveness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3.4</td>
<td>31-48</td>
<td><strong>Training and guidance</strong> on Best Practice for socioeconomic evaluation and cost-effectiveness analysis of W-for-W PES; chapter for ‘User Manual’.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M3.1</td>
<td>STSMs (G&amp;H) on demand-side (buyer) motivations of W-for-W PES.</td>
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<tr>
<td>M3.2</td>
<td>STSMs (I&amp;J) on demand-side and climate change investigations into PES cost-effectiveness completed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>M3.3</td>
<td>3rd Training School on Best Practice (socioeconomic evaluation and cost-effectiveness analysis of W-for-W PES).</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D3.2</td>
<td>Reports on demand-side and climate change STSM results.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D3.3</td>
<td>Journal paper, newsletters &amp; trade articles on socioeconomic evaluation and cost-effectiveness analysis of W-for-W PES.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GP1-2:
• Dissemination & exploitation plan
• Spatial repository - existing case studies (to end 2018)
• Case study fact sheets (to end 2019)

GP3 (May 2018-April 2019) envisages:
• STSM collecting financial, socio-economic and other information for case study fact sheets
• STSM on best marketing & communication practices for PES
12b) Work & Budget Plan: GP3

- **Budget** for May 2018 - April 2019: €174000
  - 15% for admin

- **Total science budget:** €151304

- **STSMs:** 5 (WG1: 1; WG2: 1; WG3: 1; WG4: 2) €12500

- **Training school:** €25298
  - ~29 participants + 3 trainers reimbursed

- **Dissemination**
  - **Website** €1500

- **Meetings:** €108139
  - assumes:
    - 2 x full meetings (MC+WG+case study visit - 3 days)
    - 50 participants reimbursed (63 Croatia; 58 France...)
  - **Norway** (July 2018) - **T&S:** €1030/participant €54740
  - **Bulgaria** (September 2018) - **T&S:** €883/participant €47336
  - ESP conference session (dissemination) €4000

- **ITC Conference grants:** €4000
  - 1-day workshop on spatial repository/case studies €1800
Period 3 (May 2018 – April 2019) goals? eg:

1. Explore motivations and barriers of potential participants in woodlands for water PES (e.g. farmers, water utilities, landowners and the general public)

2. Organise a training school on the effectiveness of woodland measures to reduce agricultural diffuse pollution

3. Evaluate demand-side (buyer) motivations including potential for linking water payments with those for forest carbon

4. Collect key data, including financial & socioeconomic information, on existing W-for-W PES schemes for Case Study fact sheets

5. Explore best marketing & communication practices for PES
i) Stavanger, **Norway** 3rd–5th July 2018

ii) Albena, **Bulgaria**: 25th – 27th Sept 2018

iii) dates & location for WG2 training school: e.g. Porto, Portugal autumn 2018

iv) which woodlands for water PES case studies would we like to visit? e.g. Denmark?

   - Locations & dates for future meetings e.g. May/June & Sept/Oct 2019 in Austria, Ireland or Denmark?
12d) Dissemination planning

1) Stakeholder engagement:
   • plan for involvement of stakeholders in water management & agriculture
     • strong involvement of water management sector
   • Engaging policy makers
     • contribute to improvement of existing EU legislation
   • Engaging private sector

2) Dissemination & Exploitation Plan

3) Proposed Session (‘Forests for Water: scientific evidence & economic mechanisms for encouraging ecosystem service provision’) submitted for the Ecosystem Partnership conference 14-19 October 2018 (San Sebastián, Spain)
Dissemination: flyers available

Please print copies of the PESFOR-W flyer to distribute at other events (pdf on website)

Objectives:

- Characterize & evaluate governance models
- Evaluate environmental effectiveness of targeted woodland planting
- Explore cost-effectiveness of woodland planting for reducing diffuse pollution
- Create an European PES repository of case studies
- Develop User Guidance on suitability of pollutant, ecosystem service & catchment scale models to quantify the effectiveness of tree planting to reduce diffuse pollution

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework programme of the European Union

COST Action CA15206:
Payments for Ecosystem Services: Forests for Water

RESEARCH NETWORK

PESFOR-W COST Action [CA15206]:
(2016-2020) covering 40 countries

Chair: Gregory Valatin, Forest Research, gregory.valatin@forestry.gov.uk

Home page: https://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/pesforw

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework programme of the European Union
Towards a Woodland Water Code?

Encouraging tree planting for water quality benefits

Gregory Vailant and Tom Mislet of Forest Research provide insights into collaborations in the PESFOR-W project.

Diffuse pollution from agriculture is a major environmental problem. It is a significant issue for the environment and the health of water bodies, posing a threat to the integrity of our water resources. The problem is exacerbated by the rapid development of the agricultural sector, which has led to increased use of chemicals and fertilizers. The impact of diffuse pollution is particularly acute in areas with high levels of agricultural activity, such as the UK, where the majority of diffuse pollution originates from agricultural land.

The effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of woodland planting to reduce diffuse pollution is a subject of intensive research and has led to the development of a number of projects aimed at reducing diffuse pollution in agricultural areas. One such project is the PESFOR-W project, which is supported by the European Commission’s Environment and Climate Action (ECA) programme.

PESFOR-W aims to improve the efficiency of water quality management in agricultural areas by developing and implementing a range of measures that can help reduce diffuse pollution. The project aims to achieve this by developing and testing new approaches to diffuse pollution management, including the use of tree planting as a means of reducing diffuse pollution.

The project is currently underway in several countries, including the UK, where it is being implemented in collaboration with local farmers and landowners. The project is expected to provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of tree planting as a means of reducing diffuse pollution, and will help to inform future policies and strategies for the management of diffuse pollution.

As the diagram illustrates, the project focuses on three key areas: the provision of ecosystem services (PES) to farmers, the use of agri-environment schemes (AES) to encourage tree planting, and the use of market-based instruments (MBIs) to incentivize tree planting.

The project is expected to generate significant benefits for farmers, who will benefit from reduced diffuse pollution and improved water quality. The project will also provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of tree planting as a means of reducing diffuse pollution, and will help to inform future policies and strategies for the management of diffuse pollution.

Further details about the project can be found on the PESFOR-W website (www.pesfor-w.org) and the Forest Research website (www.forestry.gov.uk).
13) Requests to join Action

Currently 4 MC Observer applications:

**IPCs (2):**
- USA
  - Margaret Shannon
- Canada
  - University of Alberta
  - University of Waterloo

**IOs (1):**
- International Water Management Institute, Ghana
Collaborative funding opportunities?
• H2020, LIFE, Interreg...
Location: Stavanger, Norway

Date: 5th July 2018

Thanks very much to Paola G., Alessandro, Guilia & team for organising Castelfranco Veneto meeting
• draft Minutes expected to be circulated within 3 weeks