

Pro Silva Annual Meeting

Křtiny, Czech Republic, 17 – 20th September 2015

Presentation about Pro Silva Bohemica (hereafter PSB)

- Roots of PSB
 - Understanding natural processes of SFM
 - Ideas gained in old growth forest such as Boubín (Bohemian Forest National Park)
- History of PSB
 - 1920's - Roots in foreign works of e.g. Biolley and Möller
 - 1930's - Konšel; first Czech forester outlining silvicultural concepts based on natural and biological processes
 - 1950's - Influence of ANW
 - 1960's – small scale shelterwood as main silvicultural system used
 - 1960's - Communist normalisation: significant changes due to intensification of management and 'industrialisation' of many forests (mainly even-aged management)
 - 1989 – Pro Silva Europe established
 - 1995 – Pro Silva Bohemica established
- PSB foundation:
 - Negative feedback shown by peers due to the pressure to produce high timber volumes from intensively managed even-aged forests (especially 1970 - 1980's)
 - First opportunity to see experiences abroad (in e.g. SK, SLO, AT)
 - Focus on research site that were established in 1960's but abandoned
 - 1st phase (1995 – 2000):
 - Time to look for new literature sources and new experiences
 - Broadening the context of excursions and discussions
 - Building foundations for future acceptance
 - Started without any previous experience but felt even-aged management was not the correct way -> very innovative thinking at that time as they tried to do something differently
 - 2nd phase (2000 – 2005)
 - 'underground movement'
 - First excursions, both home and abroad, organised to uneven-aged forests
 - Participants to abroad excursions returned home totally surprised 'what is actually possible in terms of uneven-aged silviculture'
 - The number of members grew
 - Initiating of policy related work
 - Reports from visits published in widely read and available Forestry Journal in the Czech Republic
 - 3rd phase (2005 – 2015)
 - Advancements in terminology
 - Improvement of future goals
 - Widening perspectives from shelterwood to a wider range of silvicultural systems (e.g. single tree selection); until then shelterwood was considered as the 'most complex silvicultural system' in Czech forestry

- Increase in participation in policy related projects
- Future questions
 - PSB principles are ‘on the edge of forest law’ - necessity to be active in terms of forest policy in order to facilitate for changes
 - Barriers between the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment obvious
 - Support from EU is key for PSB

Pro Silva India application

- Silvicultural systems adopted from Europe and considered as ‘scientific forestry’
- Most silvicultural systems adopted were based on natural regeneration, which poses an issue in India where many forests are degraded
- From previously adopted principles, Pro Silva ones seem most convenient as they consider a range of ecosystem services and are based in sustainable forest management
- Indian foresters don’t comprehend sustainable forest management as well as forest management where broader ecosystem services are considered

Meeting discussion notes

- Phil Moprgen’s opening speech
 - EU vs. Natura 2000; EU level gives confidence and value
 - Improved communication necessary
 - A lot of discussion amongst Pro Silva members but poor communication of issues outside of the organisation
- Eckart Senitza’s points
 - What did we do? What did we want to do? What was actually accomplished?
 - Items put on agenda continuously each year but rarely sorted
 - Reduce the number of field excursions and give more time to strictly chaired and time-kept discussions on future agenda and goals
 - Strengthen team - create tasks and assign them to specific people or groups of people where one takes the responsibility to deliver the task properly and in timely manner
 - Take political responsibility - PS needs to be more serious; i.e. the word has to be spread beyond field excursions
 - Better developed strategy
 - Proactive approach to tasks and issues
- Willem Pliese’s points
 - Individual PS groups struggle to be recognised and acknowledged
 - If experimental plots are to be established they have to be maintained in order to gain long-term data that strengthen arguments
- AFI spreading across Europe but proper communication is an issue due language barrier
- Network of demonstration sites necessary to showcase best practice, two levels:
 - Exemplary forests - 30 – 50 forests where ideas and goals are clearly explained
 - Exemplary forest stands - detailed measurements carried out
 - A wide range of examples to be included: successful as well as unsuccessful examples to be showed

- Try including people from academia -> dissolve the feeling that PS is somewhat a ‘suspicious’ organisation
- Important to set targets for future; i.e. what happens in 2020 (again, assigning tasks to individual people to deliver things is in place)
- Transformation of mind sets of people outside of PS network
- Report writing (information gathering from individual country members) (Bill)
- Ensure each country PS group has a constitution and a reasonable number of active members
- PS principles and the influence of European level policy
 - EU commission has 23000 civil servants and only 5 of them have forestry background
 - Strong voice and focused call to be created in order to be heard
 - PS principles sometimes not heard as they are applicable to only small proportion of European forests; also low intervention doesn’t create a severe impact enough to be heard (fibre production lobby vs. PS principles)
 - Correct way to connect PS principles to policy creation in Brussels is necessary
- Jurij Diaci’s views
 - Put pressure to explore PS principles (both in academic and practical sense)
 - *INTEREC* and *STARTER* projects (long-term and short-term projects)
- Website:
 - Needs to be updated
 - Share materials (externally and internally)
- Involve European networks of silvicultural training to train and promote specific ideas related to PS principles
 - E.g. marteloscopes – this training exercise cuts through a lot of layers and
 - Promote silvicultural skills and biodiversity management
- Knowledge needs to be expanded further and more effectively but how is this executed? People are listening but they need to take active approach (Rene)
- *HAMMER* - used for training students in silvicultural skills (Christine)
- CCFG conference in Britain last year – big success and large impact. Therefore, PS conference/congress should be held in order to spread the word (Bill)
- Produce press release after meetings (Hinrich)
- Who do we aim out communicate at? (Lucie)
 - Academics
 - Professionals
 - Young people
 - More experienced individuals
- PS principles more pronounced in Alsas (FR) due to societal not economic demand! (Mark-Etienne). However, the time has to be right to secure maximum effect.
- Establish task force assigning tasks to individual people making representatives responsible for tasks effective and timely delivery