Save the dates: 25-29 May 2020!

Study tour and forest carbon modeling workshop in the Baltic States

Advancing the dialogue on pathways towards development of sustainable forest landscapes for production of wood for energy and the bioeconomy

- collaboration, data, research, monitoring and governance

Goal: Engage stakeholders and bring them together around the following:

1) Dialogue on which governance structures, collaborations, monitoring and knowledge could be improved in the near term to make progress towards more sustainable management of boreal and temperate forest landscapes, including a range from intensively managed to conservation forests. Focus will be on forests of Northern Europe, with a view to North American forests and their management.
2) Identification of ways to improve collaboration around regional, national and international research programs, data and data sharing for documenting sustainable forest management, informing policy review, revising standards, and developing sustainable domestic and international wood-based supply chains for energy, products and materials.
3) Exploring the opportunities offered by models to quantify carbon and climate benefits from forests, in the context of governance, and identifying gaps requiring further model development moving forward.

Intended audience: Cross-section of forest sector and society involved with and concerned about the governance of sustainable forest bioenergy and bioeconomy feedstock supply chains and data to document sustainable forest management practices, including forest landowners, wood pellet companies, bioenergy producers, wood, wood chip and wood pellet traders, private, state and federal foresters, forest industry, state conservation organizations, public and private providers of relevant spatial data, academia, NGOs, forestry certification system staff, policy makers and the general public.

Registration details: Forthcoming for both events on the SNS Nordic Forest Research events website and a University of Copenhagen website. See planning committee and contact details in the last page of this document.

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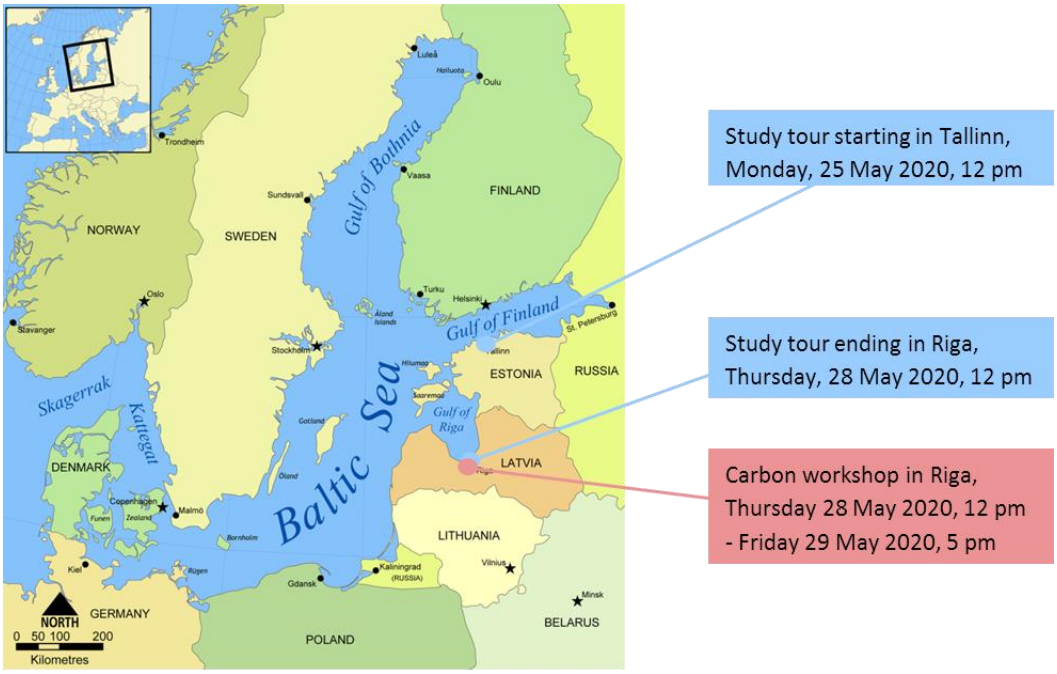

Map: NormanEinstein

Introduction to study tour in Estonia and Latvia, 25-28 May 2020

European demand for woodfuels as feedstock in energy production has grown to 23 million metric tonnes in 2019, and continues to grow. Wood chips and wood pellets sourced from the Baltic States provide a significant share of this market, and are expected to provide a considerable share of the growth, in the longer term as feedstock for the broader bioeconomy. Expectations are thus increasing that forest management can deliver a wide range of industry raw materials, wood fuels and societal services. At the same time, the public increasingly requires documentation that forests are managed sustainably with no harm to biodiversity, soil, water and climate, and that climate benefits from whole supply chains are significant. Such documentation is being provided through public and private governance systems. In terms of biodiversity, the protection of so-called Woodland Key Habitats (WKH) is important in the Baltic States. In terms of carbon and climate, forests in East-European countries with economies in transition have generally been owned by the State, with forests being managed according to prescriptive laws and relatively low levels of harvesting compared to, for example, Sweden and Finland. Restitution of forest land to thousands of small private forest owners together with deregulation and increased access to international wood markets have given rise to concerns about "over-harvesting" of forests.

Sustainable forest management is governed at local to international levels by a variety of laws, regulations, best practice guidelines, recommendations, and private certification systems. Certification systems providing 3rd party verification include systems focusing on forest management, chain of custody, or woody biomass used for energy. In recent years, various regulations and certification systems have evolved innovatively to develop risk-based approaches, which verify low risk of non-compliance with legality or sustainable forest management criteria. The obligation to conduct the risk assessment and mitigation for a country or supply area is on downstream actors, and does not solely rest at the forest management level. Risk-based approaches provide opportunity to source sustainability

certified forest biomass from larger areas, even if forest management units are not certified. This is important in the Baltic States, as in the southeast USA, because it is unlikely that a large share of new small, privately owned forests will become individually certified. It is also important in relation to protection of WKH and maintenance of carbon stocks that are both issues which can be better addressed at a landscape scale, rather than individual stand or forest management unit level. Systems to document sustainability of wood energy also collect information about greenhouse gas emissions throughout the supply chains for documentation of emission savings.

The question is if the tools, data, research and monitoring systems currently in place are adequate to create public trust in credible and effective governance of sustainable forest management and sustainable forest-based supply chains for all end-uses and ecosystem services of wood uses, including carbon storage and climate impacts.

This tour will take you through the two Baltic States and their vast forest areas, with both production and conservation forests, to explore the possible challenges for different actors in the forest supply chain to document sustainability and the opportunities for improving governance and public trust in sustainable forest management and supply chains. We will examine if new collaborative efforts can be useful for developing and implementing identified realistic, practical, and yet credible and effective solutions.

Introduction to forest carbon modelling workshop, 28-29 May 2020

Forests can contribute to climate change mitigation through storage and substitution of fossil fuels and fossil intensive materials. Modelling tools, methodologies and people skilled in quantifying both of these contributions are important to manage forests for such benefits, and document the impacts in a credible and efficient manner. This workshop/course will take a starting point in related existing and possible future governance requirements, that are in place to account for the climate impacts of forests and forest management. Within the context of governance, the aim is to explore the opportunities offered by existing tools, such as CBM-CFS3, EFISCEN, CO2Fix, FORMICA, Yasso17, Biograce II, eTool LCA, etc. The questions are thus:

1) What are the needs to further develop forest carbon modelling tools (conceptually) to get a more accurate picture of the climate impacts and improve the model's usefulness for meeting governance requirements?
2) What are challenges and opportunities to make the needed data available?

This workshop/course will introduce you to the concept of forest carbon modelling, and give participants some initial hands-on experiences, with the aim of better understanding and taking part in discussions on challenges and opportunities to quantify forest carbon balances and climate benefits. Focus is especially on the role of models in relation to governance with requirements for forest carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emission savings.

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Preliminary program

Study tour in Estonia and Latvia	
Monday, 25 May 2020, afternoon, starting at 12 pm in Tallinn	Lunch at venue (tbd) in Tallinn at noon, 12 pm. Seminar and field tour in Estonia – Introduction to forestry in the Baltic countries
Tuesday, 26 May 2020	Seminar and field tour in Estonia - Forest management and conservation in Estonia, shipping of wood chips for export in Pärnu and tracing sustainability documents.
Wednesday, 27 May 2020	Seminar and field tour in Latvia - Forest management at sensitive sites, and wood pellet production and mitigation of sustainability risks at the forest and mill level, including secondary residues
Thursday, 28 May 2020 Morning ending at 12 pm	Seminar and field tour in Latvia – "Finding balance" and identification of ways to collaborate in the future.
Forest carbon modelling workshop	
Thursday, 28 May 2020 afternoon, starting at 12 pm	Forest carbon modelling workshop in Riga
Friday, 29 May 2020, ending at 5 pm in Riga	Forest carbon modelling workshop, including identification of ways to collaborate in the future, Riga Ending at 4 pm

Planning committee

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