



Integrate+

Welcome to issue one

Integrate+ is a demonstration project funded by the German BMEL to establish a European network of demonstration sites for the integration of biodiversity conservation into forest management.

The Integrate+ project runs from December 2013 to December 2016 and builds on a partner network from research and practice with a focus on implementation of integrative management and enhancing transnational exchange of experiences.

The network will be accompanied by the development of mobile training software applications which will allow to perform virtual tree selection exercises under different scenarios and forest management strategies.

The demonstration sites network provides unique opportunities for field visits and first hand information on practical approaches to integrate conservation aspects

into commercially managed forests.

Integrate+ intends to raise awareness and create visibility for integrative forest management approaches in Europe and support policy dialogue between different interest groups. The principle of “seeing is building better understanding” will find application. Taking into account societal demands it will create increased acceptance with the

general public that biodiversity can well be incorporated in managed forests alongside timber production.

Integrate+ is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL). It is a follow up activity of the Integrate project.



Activities at a glance:

Mar 14 Project kick-off and Micro-habitat workshop at Nogent-sur-Vernisson, France

April 14 Pilot demo sites installed in Ebrach, Germany

Dec 14 Establishment of demo sites completed jointly with partners

Feb 15 First prototype of mobile application available for field training and demonstration

Aug 16 Handbook on habitat structures and compilation of practice examples

Nov 16 Launching of Integrate+ Film

The **Integrate+** European demonstration network as a tool for knowledge exchange and training on integrative management approaches

Messages from Partners:

“Tree microhabitats provide a large range of ecological functions for a large number of species which are closely associated with them: nutritional substrate, temperature and humidity regulation, breeding, wintering and resting sites, and they are even sometimes the location of the full life-cycle for certain species. Thus, they are key structures for biodiversity and forest ecosystem functioning. Integrate+ is a great opportunity to get researchers together and to promote the importance of tree-microhabitats among forest managers”.

Laurent Larrieu
Forest engineer
INRA & CNPF
France

“Numerous forest management guidelines and strategies have been mapped in order to orientate foresters in their practical decision making. Yet, in face of a set of trees as components of a complex ecosystem and as main elements of human speculation, things might get somewhat fuzzy. Marteloscopes are promising tools for silvicultural training of foresters and forestry students to raise their skills in practical silviculture, but also for the dialogue with other stakeholders. Time is up for a standard set of required data and of common assessments as critical elements for the utility of a marteloscope. The first steps have been done and Integrate+ is most welcome to bring partners together all across Europe.”.

Georg Josef Wilhelm
Forestry Director
Landesforsten RLP
Germany



The identification of key habitat elements and structures is a crucial pre-requisite for the integration of biodiversity conservation aspects into commercial forest management.

To support this Integrate+ is establishing sites for both demonstration and training. They base on the French Marteloscope (M-scope) approach in which tree measurements and associated software are linked to provide a framework for simulation exercises and in-forest training. The identification of suitable sites is conducted in close cooperation with associated partners.

The M-scope sites are one hectare rectangular plots in which a complete enumeration of trees > 7.5cm DBH is carried out and locations recorded. Each stand is calibrated to set the ‘target’ rate of removal, and volumes are calculated. An appraisal of economic indicators for each tree is performed including price-size information by species and quality class.

Emphasis is given to recording the ecological value of each stem. This allows assessing the impact on economic indicators. The structural key elements of biodiversity are documented in a criteria catalogue.

Site specific information, structural key elements, and economic information are entered into the Integrate+ mobile software application. It enables virtual tree selection exercises under different scenarios and forest management strategies and gives the user direct feedback on economic impact and ecological effects. Users can review impacts of their decisions directly in the field through immediate access to a detailed description of the selection criteria for habitat features and structural elements. Further they can retrieve wood quality and economic values which are available for each demonstration site.



Q & A with Ritva Toivonen

Ritva is Director General at the Forestry Development Centre TAPIO, Finland

Q. What does your organisation do?

A. We provide R&D services related to forest based bio-economy. We employ the latest academic research in developing easy-to-implement models for analyses and tests, forest management planning tools and economic evaluations/studies for the needs of forest sector practitioners and political decision makers. Developing forest management concepts and best practices has been the core of our work since the foundation of Tapio in the early 1900s. We are a government-owned organization, and our customers and partners include both public and private organizations.

Q. Are integrative forest management approaches for biodiversity conservation discussed in Finland?

A. Yes indeed. In fact, the current forest management practices aim at resulting in multi-purpose forests providing wood and wood-related economic benefits but also scenic, recreational and ecological values. Naturally, the main purpose of forest management vary depending on land owner and holding. Forest legislation in Finland has undergone recently a major revision, which widens the selection of potential forest management practices including e.g. continuous-cover forestry and short-rotation forestry. This has geared vivid discussion, and opens new

potential to further development of integrative forest management practices.

Q. How can your organisation and your members benefit from such a European demonstration network

A. We and our partner organizations get new ideas and increased understanding of integrative forest management and conservation concepts and practices pursued in Europe. My expectation is that this will result in ideas for developing new and more efficient practices in Finland and even European wide. I also expect that the project brings about more coherent joint terminology and definitions/understanding of various forest management/conservation practices and concepts in Europe, which would be very important.

Q. Could you see further applications of the Integrate+ approach with its available mobile tools for other organisations? Who would be target groups?

A. Sure, many. The overall concept could be applied e.g. to water systems management planning, which is an increasingly important issue.

Thank you!
Editor

