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English summaries

The aim of the working group on forest typologie

Section 21 of the I.U.F.R.O.

Condensed report of the first meeting held in Warsaw, 1959

A. Introduction

1. The meeting took place in Warsaw from 20th to 31st July 1959 contemporary with the session of Standing Committee of the Union.

At the meeting were present many members of the group that had taken an active part in the foundation of the Union in its time at Oxford. There were also representatives of most institutions that had agreed in principle with the cooperation.

There had been:

- (1) Prof.Dr.DE PHILIPPIS, Alessandro, Firenze, Istituto di Selvicoltura, Università di Firenze (President of the Section)
- (2) Prof.Dr.ANIC, Milan, Zagreb, Sumarski Fakultet, Maksimir (P.P. 95)
- (3) Prof.Dr.ELLENBERG, Heinz, Zürich, Geobotanisches Institut der ETH, Zürichbergstrasse 38
- (4) Prof.Dr.HARTMANN, Friedrich-Karl, Hann.Münden, Institut für Waldbau-Grundlagen der Universität Göttingen
- (5) Dr.KOPP, Dietrich, Eberswalde, Schwappachweg 1, Institut für Forsteinrichtung und Standortserkundung
- (6) Prof.Dr.KUJALA, Viljo, Helsinki, Forstliche Forschungsanstalt
- (7) Prof.Dr.LEIBUNDGUT, Hans, Zürich, Institut für Waldbau der ETH
- (8) Prof.Dr.MROCZKIEWICZ, Leon, Poznan, Instytut Hodowly Lasu
- (9) Dr.PASSARGE, Harro, Eberswalde, Institut für Forstwissenschaften
- (10) Prof.Dr.RÜHL, Artur, Hann.Münden, Institut für Waldbau-Grundlagen
- (11) Dr.TRAMPLER, Tadeusz, Warsaw, Instytut Badawczy Lesnictwa

2. The President of the Section reminded:

- a) that a discussion of the special problems which arise for forest science from the application of different methods in vegetation research had already started on the occasion of the 11th Congress of the Union (Rome 1953),
- b) that in accordance to a resolution passed at the World Forest Congress at Dehra Dun in 1954—at the suggestion of the Russian delegation—the Union has assumed the task to set up a plan of procedure for the comparison of Sukachev's method with other proceedings of investigation in forest typology,
- c) that on the occasion of the 12th Congress of the Union at Oxford in 1956, a Working Group formed by the scientists: M.ANIC (Yugoslavia), V.L.HARPER (United States), G.D.B.HARRISON (Canada), E.W.JONES (Great Britain), C.F.KORSTIAN (United States), J.KÖSTLER (Germany), H.LEIBUNDGUT (Switzerland), Ch.LETOURNEUX (French Equatorial Africa), M.OHMASA (Japan), A.DE PHILIPPIS (Italy), R.SARVAS (Finland), P.SILVY-LELIGOIS (France), V.SUKACHEV (Russia) had defined their attitude regarding the plan of Prof.SUKACHEV. In accordance with a resolution of this group, an abstract

of the project SUKACHEV annexed to a questionnaire and an informative paper were sent to the member-institutes by the President of Section 21.

Finally, the President suggested that a new Working Group should be constituted. These experts might be chosen among the partakers of the Warsaw Meeting. Prof. L. MRO-CZKIEWICZ (Poznan) was elected chairman and Dr. KOPP (Eberswalde) secretary.

B. Report of the colloquies of the Working Group

The following problems were discussed:

1. Delimitation of spheres of activity
2. Inventory of methods
3. Comparison of methods

After discussion, the following conclusions were reached:

1. *Delimitation of spheres of activity*

The Working Group will study methods of exploring and mapping forest biochores (in the following abbreviated in BC) or biogeocenoses (BGC). By the biochore (PALLMANN), the biogeocenosis (SUKACHEV) or the ecosystem (TANSLEY) is meant the whole complex resulting from site factors (biotop) in addition to the system of its whole organic life (biocen). The sphere of activity of the Working Group will thus comprise all methods of research into forest sites as well as methods for mapping those sites and methods which can be ranged under the term of forest typology.

The study and mapping of the forest BC has as its object the examination of forest management on a basis of natural production and has to represent it in convenient fashion on maps and in verbal descriptions and explications. In the evaluation and classification of BC, therefore, silvicultural qualities are of special importance. Study and mapping of BC will be based on works on plant sociology, pedology and climatology. The methods of these auxiliary sciences are thus the groundwork of our investigations but are not considered as their procedure unless they serve directly the mentioned silvicultural purposes. BCs will be identified and classified according to their productivity, their capacity for improvement and the possibility they offer for the selection of tree species. This can be accomplished by researches for the vegetational factors, for site factors or for combination of both.

Whenever possible, BCs should be classified according to their potential and their actual productive capacity. To incongruity of potential and actual productivity should be paid attention additionally. If the determination of potential productive capacity makes serious difficulties, the actual productivity may be used as a basis for map-making. A note should then be made of the deviations from the productive capacity.

2. *Inventory of methods* (omitted)

3. *Comparison of methods*

As suggested by Professor SUKACHEV, an examination of the various methods will be carried out to study their suitability under different conditions. The Working Group, therefore, proposes to compare the following methods:

1. The method of BRAUN-BLANQUET school as an example of a phytosociological method taking into account the combination of species.
2. AICHINGER's method, as an example of a phytosociological method with special stress on the dynamics of the plant associations.
3. SUKACHEV's method as an example of a method, which for determining the biogeocenosis, lays stress on phytosociological research and takes into account the dominance of species.

4. A *combined* method (site factors plus vegetational factors equally taken in consideration).
5. A method with emphasis on research of *site factors*, especially soil qualities.

These methods have been chosen so as to cover the full range of methodical possibilities.

The comparison of methods will be effected in several stages. In the first period—1960/61—it is proposed to carry out mapping in the following countries:

1. A region in *Poland*. Organizing Institute: Instytut Badawczy Lésnictwa, Warsaw.
2. A region in *Switzerland*. Organizing Institute: Geobotanisches Institut ETH, Zürich.
3. A region in the *Soviet Union*. Not yet allocated. The question of organization has not yet been settled.

For future stages of the work, Italy, Yugoslavia, Finland and non-European countries are being considered. The programme for the second period will be fixed at the Congress of I.U.F.R.O. at Vienna 1961, or later.

For the comparison of methods in the first period, areas of about 500 hectares will be set aside in one block or in two or three plots. The site factor aspect should be as rich as possible; in addition to natural BCs, there should also be modified ones.

The choice of sample areas will be made by the organizing institute in the host country which will also be responsible for the supply of topographical maps and information about the historical data of the forest.

The author or institute sponsoring any of those given methods must nominate one person who will be responsible for the three areas. The work of mapping may be entrusted to different persons in the three areas and discretion is given to the number of cartographers to be employed.

The appropriate institute in the host country will make regulations for the work of the cartographers engaged on the five methods and will arrange their contacts with the local forest authorities. It will be responsible for recording the work-hours of the cartographers and their assistants. Field-work should be terminated as far as possible in summer 1961.

Cartographers will receive their salaries in the normal way from the institute which delegates them for the work. The wages of the assistants, wherever possible, will be paid by the organizing institute in the host country which will also meet the additional cost of subsistence for the cartographers.

For *final evaluation* of the methods, there are four points which shall be regarded as decisive:

1. the practical value of the methods for silviculture and other forest disciplines,
2. the cost,
3. the possibility of adapting the method to future modifications of the techniques of silviculture (improvement, fertilizers etc.),
4. the value of the method for related sciences such as land use planning, pure phytosociology, pedology, geology, etc.

This evaluation will be done by a special commission of experts designed by the Section after a thorough examination of the reported data in the forest areas.

The President of the Section
sig. A. DE PHILIPPIS

The order of the following summaries corresponds to the final evaluation of the methods used by the authors.