

Second and final announcement of

Biodiversity of the boreal forest ecosystems: assessment, present state, conservation

The course is intended for MSc students from the Nordic countries. The course will consist of 5 days for lectures and practical group work and one field day. The course is arranged by Saint Petersburg State Forest Technical Academy in will be held in Saint Petersburg, Russia, 12-18 June 2005.

Conservation and restoration of biodiversity become the very important issues of the forest policy in all forest countries. Knowledge on the survey methods, monitoring programmes, current state and management of biodiversity is needed.

Both theoretical basics and practical implications will be studied during the course. The students will learn about natural forest dynamics, role of different kinds of disturbances in the biodiversity. The components of natural (pristine, old-growth, virgin) forests changing or disappearing in managed forests like coarse woody debris, large coniferous and deciduous trees etc. will be described. Working with experimental data acquired from case studies students will calculate the biodiversity indexes and make comparative analysis of different biodiversity components. During the field day students will look at different indicators of biodiversity and make an attempt to reconstruct the forest history. The human impact on biodiversity, present state and conservation of biodiversity will be discussed.

Course program

June, 12.

Ü Arrival.

June, 13.

- Ü Introduction to the course.
- Ü Students' short presentations about their work and interests.
- Ü Introduction to ecology of boreal forests.

June, 14.

- Ü Different conceptual models of forest dynamics.
- Ü Natural disturbance regimes – a reference for biodiversity management.
- Ü What is a natural forest? Natural components changing or disappearing in intensively managed forests.

June, 15.

- Ü Characterization of biodiversity. Key concepts and terms.
- Ü Methods of biodiversity assessment and monitoring.
- Ü Indicator species in biodiversity assessment.
- Ü Case studies. Comparative analysis of biodiversity of forest ecosystems on the base of experimental data. Calculation of the *H* indexes.

June, 16.

- ü “The Last of the Last” Analysis of sizes and distribution of the old-growth forests in Europe.
- ü Human impact on biodiversity. Present situation and future prospects.
- ü Excursion to museums of the Saint-Petersburg Forest Academy (insects, birds, mammals)

June, 17.

- ü Presentations of the group projects. Final discussion

June, 18.

- ü Field day. Lisino experimental forest. Some experience in the studying history of forest ecosystems using different methods.

June, 19.

- ü Departure.

Course organizer

Saint Petersburg State Forest Technical Academy

Course location

The course is held in Saint Petersburg Forest Technical Academy, Saint Petersburg, Russia. It has to be emphasized though, that in principle, almost all time is scheduled so there is little spare time. Accommodation will be arranged mainly in hostels of SPbFTA.

Lecturers

Ekaterina Shorohova, Saint-Petersburg State Forest Academy, Department of General Ecology, Anatomy and Physiology of Plants

Kalev Jogiste, University of Helsinki, Department of Forest Ecology,

Igor Drobyshev, Institutionen för sydsvensk skogsvetenskap

Number of participants

Approximately 20 students from all over the region, preferably from all the main universities. Half of the students will be chosen from the Nordic countries and half from the Baltic States and NW Russia.

Course language

The course will be given entirely in English, and good working knowledge in English, both spoken and written as well as reading is a prerequisite.

Who is eligible to apply?

The students should have basic education in biology, ecology or forestry.

How the participants selected?

The arrangement aims to find the widest variety possible amongst the participants with regard to university and subject area. Half of the participants will be chosen from the Nordic countries and half from the Baltic States and NW Russia.