



**Management guidelines and recommendations for sustainable beech forest management and policy
deliverable 38 and 39 of the NatMan project**

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Management Guidelines and Recommendations for Sustainable Beech Forest Management and Policy

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*Deliverable 38 and 39 of the Nat-Man Project
Produced under Work-Package 14
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1. Introduction

This NatMan working report describes the objectives, working processes and dissemination activities of the NatMan management guidelines and recommendations for sustainable beech forest management and policy. The produced six guidelines are attached to the report in the appendix.

2. Objectives

The objectives of D38 and D39 in the NatMan project were to evaluate the project results, decide upon their implications, and produce a set of guidelines and policy recommendations for sustainable forest management. Moreover, the publication and dissemination of the guidelines and recommendations should be done in various ways, including meetings with practitioners, workshops, internet discussion groups, homepage and reports and publications.

The basic idea was to extract the main "take-home messages" from each work-package in the NatMan project, and turn these messages into a limited number (5-7) of small pamphlets written in a clear and straight forward way to "people out there" in practice (policy-makers, forest managers and nature conservationists). The goal was to produce one overall pamphlet aimed towards policy and 5 topic-pamphlets each covering an important topic of the NatMan project. Moreover, the guidelines should all be oriented towards practice – e.g. policy makers, forest managers and people working with nature conservation, thus fitting in nicely with all the other dissemination activities of the project (see Table 1 for overview of dissemination activities of the NatMan project).

Table 1. Nat-Man dissemination products for End-User
(‘xxx’ = most important target group, ‘xx’ = important target group, and ‘x’ = less important target group)

	Scientists	Students	Policy Makers	Forest Managers	Nature Conservation
Working reports	xxx	Xxx	x	x	x
Scientific papers	xxx	Xx			
Nat-Man book	xxx	Xxx	xx	x	x
Man. guidelines	x	X	xxx	xxx	xxx

The format for the guidelines was from the beginning decided to be 5-7 pamphlets, each containing no more information than what could be on 2 A4 sheets (folded), they should contain many figures, the text should preferably be with short bullets, the guidelines should be easily available at the web-page in pdf-format, and they should be written in English, with possibilities for later translation into other relevant languages.

3. Description of working process

The first drafts of the pamphlets were produced in June 2004 (Phase 1). The first step of the working process was that the responsible WP-leaders each produced a short extract of the main conclusions, and interesting results for practice - the "take-home messages". To secure the relevance of what we produced, Core End-users and other WP-leaders were contacted in order to get input for the style and content of the guidelines. The extracts, in the form of bullets and precise and illustrative figures were supported by key-persons to produce or deliver specific input. The first draft pamphlets were prepared during two workshops in Denmark in June 2004, organized by Danish centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning. Draft guidelines for all pamphlets were ready by the end of June.

The guidelines were first time launched at the joint NatMan / Prosilva Conference, held in Denmark 4-8 August 2004 (Phase 2). Here, a group of 70 people from policy and practice in Europe was present and interested in discussing the matters. This group was considered the primary target group for the product. A series of workshops were organised at the conference, and the guidelines were discussed in these "practice meets research sessions". The sessions were lead by those persons responsible for each pamphlet. Typically 8-15 persons participated in each session.

Thereafter an iterative process between those responsible for the pamphlets, the WP-leaders, the End-users and the coordinators took place, in order to finalize the guidelines (Phase 3). The dialog and discussions were primarily based on internet forums and e-mail. The written English text (and figures) of the guidelines was ready by the end of August 2004.

4. Description of dissemination activities

After the actual production of the pamphlets, additional work was done in order to technically design and disseminate the pamphlets to a broader audience (Phase 4). The final guidelines were distributed over the internet in pdf-format, and can now be downloaded from the NatMan homepage at www.flec.kvl.dk/Natman (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Screen print of the NatMan homepage where the guidelines are available for download.

At a later stage, the guidelines are expected to be translated into other relevant languages, and distributed nationally by the participating NatMan countries (Phase 5). This phase will take place in close coordination with Pro Silva, national research institutes and/or forest organisations. Some organisations have already expressed their interest in supporting these dissemination activities, i.e. the Danish Forest Association. At the national level it is already planned that the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning will translate and publish the guidelines in their series of Information Sheets for the Forest Management Sector. By using such kind of collaborations for future dissemination activities, the NatMan project will reach a much broader audience.

5. Conclusions

At the beginning of the process – when we formulated the project proposal - we were a bit uncertain (some even sceptical) on how to extract or concentrate the results of 4 years of coordinated EU-research into 6 small “10-minute pamphlets”? However, we decided to give it a try and formulated this intention into the Work-package 14 of the Nat-Man project. Now, after the process we can really recommend to do it – it has really been a good and constructive learning process. The exercise of extracting towards practice is valuable in it self for researchers and give rise for good reflection on the research carried out – and where to go next. The dialogue between researchers and practitioners brings about inspiration for all. And the final product is valuable for communicating research results to busy people (out in practice).

To conclude, we have produced 6 pamphlets summing up the Nat-Man guidelines. The are easily available at the internet in English – and we expect them to be translated into several languages and distributed through a variety of national and international forestry and conservation organisations in the years to come.

6. Appendices: NatMan guidelines 1-6

All the NatMan guidelines are available at <http://www.flec.kvl.dk/natman/html/menu.asp?id=147>.