

Memorandum of Understanding for the research project

ForHot: Natural soil warming in natural grasslands and
a Sitka spruce forest in Iceland (www.forhot.is)

between

the Icelandic steering committee of ForHot

and

**researchers and post-graduate students at the
University of Vienna**

COMMON AGREEMENT

The Icelandic steering committee

Bjarni D. Sigurðsson, Agricultural University of Iceland (AUI) is the coordinator of the Icelandic project and the chairman of the steering committee (bjarni@lbhi.is).

Other members of the steering committee are:

1. Edda S. Oddsdóttir, Icelandic Forest Research, Mogilsa (edda@skogur.is)
2. Úlfur Óskarsson, Agricultural University of Iceland (ulfur@lbhi.is)
3. Ásrún Elmarsdóttir, Icelandic Institute of Natural History (asrun@ni.is)
4. Brynhildur Bjarnadóttir, University of Akureyri (brynhildurb@unak.is)

Participants from the University of Vienna

Prof. Dr. Andreas Richter (andreas.richter@univie.ac.at), Department of Microbiology and Ecosystem Science, University of Vienna, Austria, and other scientists or students from the University of Vienna, who may be involved in the project in the future.

A formal bilateral contact group

The coordinator of ForHot, Bjarni D. Sigurðsson and one member of the Icelandic steering committee, Úlfur Óskarsson, and Andreas Richter will form a formal contact group which ensures bilateral communication between the Icelandic project group and the University of Vienna group. It reports to the steering committee of ForHot and ensures that all participating parties fulfil their obligations as agreed upon below towards the ForHot project and the University of Vienna.

Main objectives of both parties

Define and determine the major impacts of changed soil temperature on ecosystem structure and function. Also, to increase bilateral research and student cooperation between University of Vienna and other participants in the ForHot project.

Financing

Each participating institute will cover all the costs of their research and participants collaborating in the ForHot project, except if *a priori* agreement has been made, e.g. through shared application for research funding.

The participating parties also agree:

- a) to collaborate within the framework of the ForHot project.
- b) to cooperate in joint applications of the ForHot group to the Icelandic Research Council and other funding bodies, if requested.
- c) that possible spin-off projects are also encouraged and additional funding for such projects doesn't need to be divided between all participants of the ForHot project. In the case when such additional financial support is sought in the name of ForHot or to be carried out at the ForHot research sites, approval is, however, needed from the coordinator and the steering committee.
- d) that all spin-off projects should aim for dissemination of their research at national and international venues, via presentations and scientific publications in internationally acknowledged peer-reviewed journals.
- e) that all participants will annually send all data that can be of use for other participants and sub-projects of ForHot to a common database which is kept by the project coordinator, to prevent losing information and to maximize the synergy between different groups within the ForHot project.
- f) that all participants who use unpublished data from other ForHot participants from the common database will seek approval from the data owner (the student involved and/or the supervisor of the relevant sub-project) and the steering committee before the data are used in any publication. The same applies if unpublished data from the database is to be shared with anyone outside the ForHot project group. By this we want to guarantee an agreement on the authority of the relevant data and potential co-authorships before it will be published.
- g) that M.Sc. and Ph.D. students doing their research within the ForHot project will be allowed to use common unpublished data in their theses (if they make a monograph) with a reference to data owner in the acknowledgements. When (later) publishing their thesis-work, students should principally follow their university's policy regarding authorship. Only other researchers within the ForHot project that significantly contribute to the writing of his/her paper(s) or own unpublished data used in the paper should be offered a co-authorship.
- h) that each participating institute keeps an account of cost and time that is related to the project and to send this to the coordinator whenever it is needed.
- i) to send the coordinator a title, place and date of; posters, reports, scientific papers or press interviews that are associated with the ForHot project. In addition, all reprints or copies of published material from the project shall be sent to the coordinator as soon as they have been published. The coordinator will maintain a database where this information will be archived.
- j) that the coordinator of ForHot will send minutes in English from all formal project meetings held in Iceland or elsewhere to all formal participants.
- k) to invite all participants to attend common ForHot project workshops/symposiums that will be held at least biannually in Iceland or elsewhere.
- l) that this agreement will remain valid while the project is still ongoing. Any adjustments made to it at joint committee meetings need to be accepted by the steering committee of ForHot before becoming valid.

NOTE: In relation to the above rules, the following modifications or further clarifications to the MoU were accepted at the ForHot general meeting in Leiden, the Netherlands, on 2014.02.10:

As a participant in the ForHot project you have agreed:

* That all who use unpublished data from other ForHot participants from the common database will seek approval from the data owner (supervisor of the relevant sub-project and the student involved) and the steering committee **before** the data are used to write up any publication.

* The same applies (**i.e. a priory agreement with the data owner is needed**) if any unpublished data from the database is to be shared with anyone outside the ForHot project group.

*By this we want to guarantee an agreement on the authority of the relevant data and potential co-authorships **before** it will be written into a first draft of a manuscript.

* That B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. students doing their research within the ForHot project should normally be allowed to use common unpublished data in their theses (if they make a monograph) with a reference to data owner(s) in the acknowledgements. **They should, however, always ask for permission from the relevant data owner.** When (later) publishing their thesis-work, students should principally follow their university's policy regarding authorship. Only other researchers within the ForHot project that significantly contribute to the writing of his/her paper(s) or own previously unpublished data used in the paper should be offered a co-authorship.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PART OF THE DATA FOUND IN THE DATABASE ARE STILL PRELIMINARY - -THEREFORE THE DATABASE IS NOW MORE FOR GIVING OVERVIEW ON WHAT IS AVAILABLE AND FOR FIRST CHECK OF PRELIMINARY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN VARIABLES.

SIGNATURES

Place: Reykjavik, Iceland

Vienna, Austria

Date: 08-06-2015

Date: 08-06-2015

On behalf of the steering committee

On behalf of researchers and students
from University of Vienna

Bjarni D. Sigurðsson

Andreas Richter