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Subject: No Subject
Date: Thu, 12 Mar 1998 11:43:51 +0100

Dear Keith

Yesterday we had the final meeting to a national research program climate and natural catastrophies. Local authorities and Grassel, WMO summarised the major open questions on which Switzerland could work:

- Changes of Forest and treeline borders eg. subalpine, or invasion of evergreen species in the chestnut forests in the Tessin
- long term chronologies (they spoke about climate)
- seasonal chronologies
- frequency and intensity of extreme climatic events.
- amount of anthropogenic input on climate and natural catastrophies.
- reconstruction of precipitations
- influence of natural phenomena as volcanoes and el nino on climate

Nowbody said anything about growth but few were aware of the local validity of the studies made in Switzerland.

Our actual studies fit perfectly to this topics. For the future (discussion in Kopenhagen) I see the following condensation points:

-continue millenial temperature sensitive chronologies. Some money should go to Taimyr and Yamal and perhaps French Alps.

-start with a precipitation sensitive network in Eurasia. Pinus, Juniperus in a transect from Spain to Tibet including dry sites in Sibiria. Partner could be Inst. of Geography, Bonn (Jan Esper) and Birmensdorf.

-Analysis of recovery of upper timberlines in Putorana mountains in north-central Sibiria, (similar study like Shiyatov in Polar Ural). A Vice director of the Inst. of Forest in Krasnoyarsk made a little Proposal (Dr. Abraimov). I have a PhD Student who make the same in the Swiss Alps near St. Moritz.

-Growth-climate studies in a test region in central Sibiria. Very good is the baikal region. There is a very steep precipitation gradient, 200mm - 1800mm in a distance of 40 km. and in accordance a steep vegetation gradient from the steppe to pine forest to Abies sibirica stands. Victor Voronin made a little proposal) At least one valley in the Abies region in the south of lake Baikal is heavily polluted. An almost identical study has been made in southern Germany (Spiecker) in a transect from Lorraine to the black forest mill, (SO2).

-Reconstruction of extreme events in Central Europe (R. Vogels thesis shows how to do it) I am convinced that we could gather much more material across Europe. That could be a topic for a thesis. It must not be part of an EU-proposal.

Can we discuss these suggestions at Kopenhagen?

Sincerely Fritz