B. Ammann (University of Bern) gave an overview of methods and approaches in paleoecology. Subsequent presentations covered topics such as tree migration, impacts of climate and humans on vegetation changes, and reconstruction of historical fire regimes. The second session focused on the historical time scale. M. Bürgi (WSL, Birmensdorf) showed how environmental history and historical ecology extend palaeoecological approaches up to the present time. Other presentations focused on past disturbance patterns in forest ecosystems, with an analysis of fire history and ecology. In the afternoon, J. Dearing (HITE Leader, University of Liverpool, UK) presented the Lac d’Annecy project in France, a study of the impact of changes in historical land use and climatic shifts on sediment deposition. Other presentations on linking past with present ecosystem dynamics included approaches using aerial photographs, tree rings and genetic markers. The last session focused on assessing future ecosystem dynamics using modeling. H. Bugmann (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich) discussed how approaches for evaluating past ecosystem dynamics could be used to project future trajectories of terrestrial systems. Case studies covered predicting future fire regimes and using models of insect outbreaks to derive sustainable management strategies.

The workshop revealed a wealth of approaches and data sources and illustrated the importance of an integrated approach. The need for multi-site studies, meta-analyses and comparative approaches was also recognized.

For more information see: www.wsl.ch/HITECH.

MATTHIAS BÜRGI
WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland
matthias.buergi@wsl.ch

Fig. 1: Proposed matrix for regionalization of global case studies with geographical examples.

Thank you for organizing the meeting and to all the participants for their full contributions.

JOHN DEARING
University of Liverpool, UK
j.dearing@liverpool.ac.uk

PAGES NEWS, VOL.13, N°1, APR. 2005