MIAPPE Steering Committee Meeting Notes 16th June 2017

Present: Paul Kersey, Pawel Krajewski, Matthias Lange, Cyril Pommier, Bjoern Usadel

Apologies for absence: Elizabeth Arnaud.

1. Operational Practice.

A general discussion of operational practice established our initial mode of operation.

1. info@miappe.org to be converted to a general-purpose mailing list, for the use of anyone interested in the project. We should aim to publish relevant information to the mailing list: steering committee minutes, meeting announcements, proposed standards revisions, new tools, etc. Members should also be allowed to post to use the list to discuss with each other.

If traffic becomes high, we can think of potential solutions (e.g. a separate developers mailing list, a weekly digest of news) but this would be a sign of success.

1. Meeting minutes will be stored in the MIAPPE GitHub account, and referenced from the website.
2. Collaborating projects and individuals can propose revisions/extensions to the MIAPPE standard. The procedure for adoption will be as follows:
3. Document proposing changes is proposed.
4. Brief review by steering committee, to ensure:
5. Appropriate attention has been paid to maintaining backwards compatibility where possible
6. Changes are not redundant with other existing proposals
7. Changes are in scope.

(iiI) Revised version is published on MIAPPE website, publicised and comments are requested

(iv) Developing group are encouraged to respond to comments.

(v) Further rounds of RFC are possible at the choice of the developing group

(vi) When the developing group believes it has reasonably responded to comments, a new proposal is submitted to the steering committee to approve, and if approved, issue with a version.

For the next year, we plan to keep this process (and other governance processes) informal. We can adjust these later based on our initial experience.

1. Co-option of an additional plant biologist to the steering committee.

This was a strong recommendation of the meeting at Gatersleben. Someone has been approached, Bjoern will chase up.

1. General Discussion about the nature of MIAPPE

We had some discussion about the diverse needs of different communities. The value of a modular structure, which promotes the use of common solutions for common problems but which allows divergence for particular communities, was agreed. Indeed, as a steering committee, we are better placed to define this structure, within which domain-specific solutions can be proposed, than to tell individual communities what they should be reporting. Clear versioning is very important to allow tool development. Backwards compatibility is describable where possible.

1. ELIXIR-EXCELERATE proposals for MIAPPE 1.1.

The ELIXIR-EXCELERATE project is close to agreeing an extension to MIAPPE for internal use. This will be proposed shortly for potential adoption as MIAPPE 1.1 in accordance with the procedures discussed above.

1. Environment Ontologies

The EPPN2020 project has identified that there a portion of the possible environmental that needs to be described with specified variables – Pawel has been tasked to develop an Environmental Variables Ontology to address this problem. XEO has previously been used in MIAPPE implementations but its development of appears to be somewhat stalled and there are other possibilities that could be used in future, including the Plant Environmental Ontology.

1. MIAPPE website

We should add logos of all collaborating projects to the website (if the projects agree).