

European Space Agency's GlobBiomass User Consultation Meeting 2012



**Jena, Germany
9-11 October 2012**

Organized by:

ESA-ESRIN, Frascati, Italy
Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Department of Earth Observation, Jena,
Germany
and
Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PROGRAM

Draft: 3 August 2012



Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena



Content

1. Introduction.....	3
1.1. General.....	3
1.2. Objectives.....	3
2. Important Dates.....	4
3. Local host and venue	4
4. Working Language	4
5. Organizing Committee.....	4
6. Registration	5
7. Questions, problems?	5
8. Travel and Transportation	5
8.1. Jena – a city of science	5
8.2. Getting to Jena	6
8.3. Getting around Jena	7
9. Accommodation.....	8
10. Overview of Agenda (Preliminary)	10
11. Participants.....	12
Appendix I. Maps.....	19

1. Introduction

1.1. General

Vegetation biomass is a crucial ecological variable for understanding the status, condition, and potential future changes to the climate system. Vegetation biomass is a large global store of carbon. Changes in the amount of vegetation biomass have been identified as having an effect on the CO₂ content of the global atmosphere. Forest utilization and management activities, through harvesting, deforestation (conversion to non-forest land use), or reforestation impact and add complexity the nature of the flow of carbon between forests and the atmosphere.

The complex interaction between elements such as forest growth, decay, productivity, and disturbances result in forests acting as a source or sink of carbon to the atmosphere and having the potential either to sequester additional carbon in the future or to become a net source. Overcoming observation and measurement inconsistencies and uncertainties are critical to better understand the role of forests in the global carbon exchange. Therefore, a global assessment of biomass and related dynamics are essential inputs to climate change forecasting models and mitigation and adaptation strategies.

1.2. Objectives

Biomass is identified by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an Essential Climate Variable (ECV) and several requirements were defined to improve the reliability of biomass estimates and their utility for a better monitoring and understanding of climate change. A better characteristic of the distribution and changes, and an improved quantification of regional and global biomass will help in reducing uncertainties in calculations of carbon stocks and fluxes in the terrestrial biosphere. The GlobBiomass User Consultation Meeting will review the recent research accomplishments and pending issues in the field of satellite biomass retrieval and modeling. It will formulate concrete recommendations to improve quality and availability of data, products and approaches for biomass retrieval based on the user requirements.

The main objectives of the meeting are:

- To survey user requirements for global and regional biomass information;
- To explore the feasibility of meeting these requirements with available satellite data and techniques; and
- To set a list of priority requirements to be addressed by a future ESA-funded GlobBiomass project

ESA invites contributions primarily from users of biomass information and experts in satellite biomass retrieval and modeling. The Meeting aims at bringing together scientists, data providers and data users from a wide range of branches, such as timber industry and forest consulting, administrative institutions and agencies, international organizations and NGOs, insurance industry, carbon asset management, and REDD.

2. Important Dates

Date	Deadlines
24 August 2012	Hotel Booking Deadline (Best Western Hotel)
8 September 2012	Hotel Booking Deadline (IBIS Hotel)
9 September 2012	Registration Deadline
9-11 October 2012	ESA GlobBiomass User Consultation Meeting

3. Local host and venue

The Meeting is hosted by the Department of Earth Observation of the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena (FSU-DEO) and the Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena (MPI-BGC). It is jointly organized by FSU-DEO, MPI-BGC and the European Space Research Institute in Frascati (ESA-ESRIN). The meeting will be coordinated with the GOF-C-GOLD Working Group on Biomass.

The meeting venue will be the Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry. The Conference Dinner (10 October 2012) will be held as Knight's Banquet at Leuchtenburg Castle approximately 20 km south of Jena.

4. Working Language

The working language of the meeting will be English.

5. Organizing Committee

ESA-ESRIN Frascati, Italy

Frank Martin Seifert, *Frank.Martin.Seifert@esa.int*

Department of Earth Observation, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany

Christiane Schmullius, *c.schmullius@uni-jena.de*

Claudia Hilbert, *claudia.hilbert@uni-jena.de*

Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry Jena, Germany

Markus Reichstein, *mreichstein@bgc-jena.mpg.de*

Christian Beer, *cbeer@bgc-jena.mpg.de*

6. Registration

For registration, please fill the Registration Form and submit it until **9 September 2012**.

If you need an invitation letter for visa application, please also fill and submit the Visa Invitation Letter Form. We will immediately send the required letter to the related German embassy or consulate via fax.

Both forms are available at the website of the GlobBiomass meeting 2012.

Registration Form:

http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/wg_biomass/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/registrationform.pdf

Visa Invitation Letter Form:

http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/wg_biomass/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/invitationletterform.pdf

Please use the "Submit Form" button in your Adobe Acrobat Reader to submit the filled forms. If you are using a desktop e-mail application (e.g. MS Outlook) the forms will be directly sent via e-mail to claudia.hilbert@uni-jena.de. If you are using an internet e-mail service (e.g. GoogleMail, Hotmail), you will have to save the filled form and send it manually as e-mail attachment to the above e-mail address.

7. Questions, problems?

For more information, please visit the website: http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de/wg_biomass/globbiomass2012/

If you still have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Claudia Hilbert, claudia.hilbert@uni-jena.de, phone: +49 (0) 3641 9 48885, fax: +49 (0) 3641 9 48882

8. Travel and Transportation

8.1. Jena – a city of science

Jena is a lively university town with about 104,000 inhabitants including 26,000 students (2011) at two universities. Jena was first mentioned in the 9th century and can look back on a changeful history. At the end of the 18th century, Jena became one of the most important intellectual and cultural centers in Germany. Close relationships to the nearby residence town Weimar and the encouragement by the famous German poet and secretary Johann Wolfgang Goethe promoted a period of prosperity



for Jena and its university which was founded in 1558.

Due to the close collaboration between Carl Zeiss, Otto Schott and Ernst Abbe, Jena developed to an important industry town in the second half of the 19th century. Since this time Jena is world famous for optics, precision engineering and glass making. Still today, the economical and scientific life is dominated by the close relations between university, research institutions and local companies which make Jena to a well-respected place for science and high-tech. The brisk and successful activities of Jena's science institutions were finally rewarded when the city became the title "City of Science 2008".

8.2. Getting to Jena

By airplane

The large international airports providing onward national flights and good train connections to Jena are Frankfurt/Main (310 km away), Berlin (260 km away) and Munich (360 km away). Two smaller commercial airports close to Jena are Erfurt (69 km away) and Leipzig/Halle (90 km away).

By train

If you arrive from north or south (e.g. Berlin or Munich): Get off at "Jena Paradies", the ICE railway station located in the city center. Trains stop here on the long distance routes Munich – Nuremberg – Halle/Leipzig – Berlin – Hamburg.

If you arrive from west or east (e.g. Frankfurt/Main): Get off at "Jena West", the regional railway station located about 1 km from the city center. Trains stop here on the regional train routes Chemnitz – Göttingen. If you travel from Frankfurt/Main, take the ICE to Erfurt and change there to the regional train to Jena.

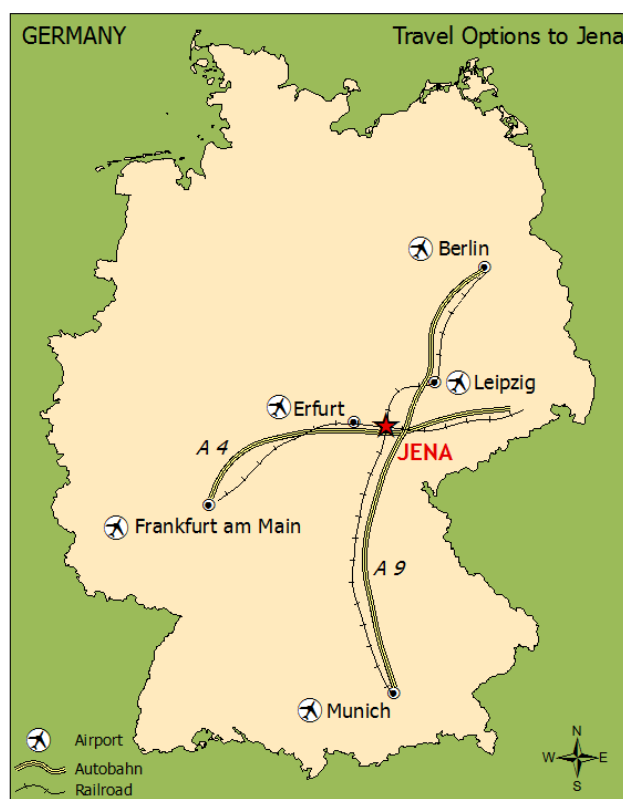
Online ticket service of the German railway company Deutsche Bahn: [Click here](#)

By car

South of Jena passes the east-west connection A4 autobahn (Frankfurt/Main – Dresden) with two exits "Jena Zentrum" and "Jena Göschwitz". The north-south A9 autobahn (Berlin – Munich) is just a few kilometers away and can be arrived via the motorway junction Hermsdorfer Kreuz.

Airport Shuttle Service

A shuttle service will be provided for free between Leipzig-Halle (airport) and Jena, and Berlin (airports Tegel and Schönefeld) and Jena for 8 October 2012 and 11 October



2012. If you would like to use the service, please mark the option in the Registration Form and provide us with your detailed arrival and departure times as soon as possible.

General information about travelling to and in Germany, Visa regulations

The following website describes details about electricity, vaccination, customs and other relevant travel information: [Click here](#).

According to visa issues, please visit the website of the German Federal Foreign Office: [Click here](#).

8.3. Getting around Jena

Jena is also called a city of short ways - many destinations are within walking distance. Moreover, there is a good network of public transportation with several bus and tram lines.

How to get to the conference venue Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry:

If you stay in "Best Western Hotel": Take bus line 13 from the stop "Winzergasse" in direction to the city center and get off at the stop "Beutenberg Campus" (8-minutes-drive). Then walk 6 minutes upslope.

If you stay in "IBIS Hotel" or any other hotel in the city center: Take bus lines 10, 11, 12, or 13 from the stop "Teichgraben" and get off at the stop "Beutenberg Campus" (10-minutes-drive). Then walk 6 minutes upslope.

How to get from the Best Western Hotel to the city center:

You have 2 possibilities: Either take bus line 13 from the stop "Winzergasse" almost in front of the hotel (18-minutes-drive) or take tram lines 2 or 3 from the stop "Winzerla" which can be reached by an 8-minutes-walk from the hotel (11-minutes-drive).

How to get to the Leuchtenburg Castle for the conference dinner:

A shuttle bus will be provided.

Download information about public transportation in Jena (Click to open links)

[Homepage of the public transport company JeNah \(only in German\)](#)

[Public transport network](#) (provided as PDF file)

[Routing of bus line 13](#) (provided as PDF files)

Timetables of bus line 13 (all provided as PDF files) – please always refer to the timetable "Schule" (school)

[from stop "Teichgraben" \(city center\) in direction to the conference venue and the Best Western Hotel](#)

[from stop "Winzergasse" \(Best Western Hotel\) in direction to the conference venue and city center](#)

[from stop "Beutenberg Campus" \(conference venue\) in direction to the city center](#)

[from stop "Beutenberg Campus" \(conference venue\) in direction to the Best Western Hotel](#)

Prices for public transportation in Jena:

Single ticket 1.80 Euro, 4-trip ticket 6.50 Euro, day ticket 4.20 Euro, week ticket 16.20 Euro

Tickets are available in the JeNah Service Center (Holzmarkt 1), the Tourist Information (Markt 16) or at the ticket machines located next to most stops. Single and day tickets are also available inside the busses and trams, but they have to be paid either in cash (only coins) or with money card.

Taxi services

Taxis are located at special taxi stations, e.g. at train stations and in the city center (Nonnenplan, next to the central tram and bus station at Holzmarkt). The taxi price will always include a basis fee of 2.70 Euro plus 0.85-2.30 Euro per km, depending on the day time and the total distance. Some useful contacts:

City Taxi Jena, phone: +49 (0)3641 5566-0

Taxi Genossenschaft Jena, phone: +49 (0) 3641 458888

9. Accommodation

In the following hotels a limited allocation of rooms at special rates has been reserved for meeting participants. You may book a room for you by using the keyword "Biomass". If you wish to participate, you are kindly requested to book as soon as possible, **latest until 24 August 2012 (Best Western Hotel) and 8 September 2012 (IBIS Hotel)**. Please contact us if you have any problems with the booking of a room.

Best Western Hotel Jena	
Address:	Rudolstädter Straße 82, 07745 Jena
Phone:	+49 3641 660
Website:	Click here
Location:	Location in the city map: Click here The hotel is located 5 km south of the city center. The city center and the conference venue can be easily accessed via local public transport.
Price:	65 Euro per night and person in a single room including breakfast
Misc.:	The hotel offers free W-LAN.

IBIS Hotel Jena	
Address:	Teichgraben 1, 07743 Jena
Phone:	+49 3641 8130
Website:	Click here
Location:	Location in the city map: Click here The hotel is located in the city center and the conference venue can be easily accessed via local public transport.
Price:	75 Euro per night and person in a single room including breakfast
Misc.:	The hotel offers W-LAN (chargeable when using in the room).

If you would like to book another hotel, please visit the website of the Jena Tourist Information who offers a list of hotels and pensions in the city:

[Homepage Tourist Information Jena](#) (Click to open link)

[List of accommodation in Jena and online booking portal](#) (Click to open link)

We can assist with booking hotels.

10. Overview of Agenda (Preliminary)

The meeting will be organized into sessions according to possible groups of user communities' needs. Please find below a draft agenda. Further details will follow within the next weeks.

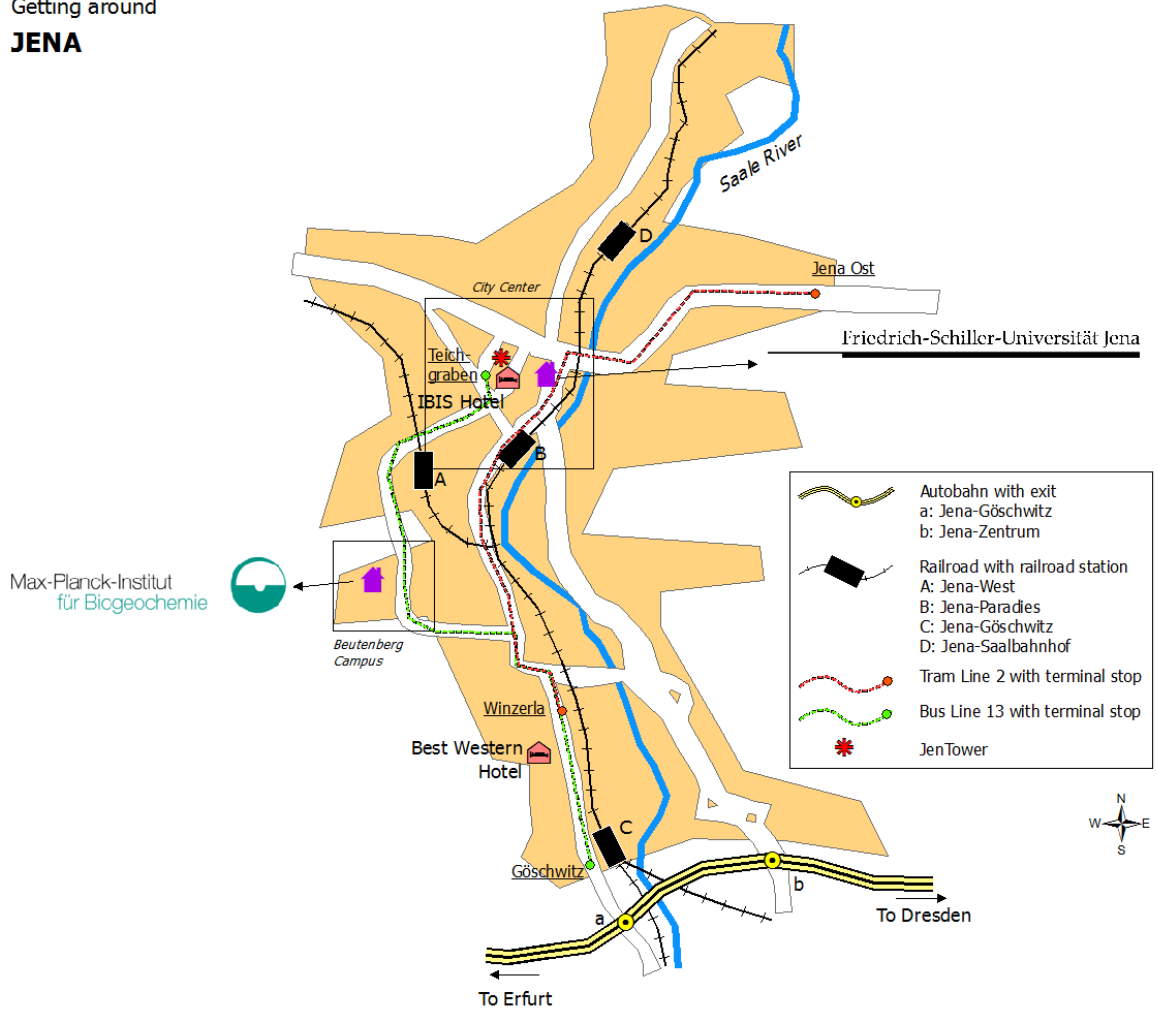
Day	Time	Workshops	Venue
Monday, 8 October 2012		Arrival of participants and hotel check-in	
Tuesday, 9 October 2012	8:00-9:00	Registration and Logistics	Auditorium at Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena
	9:00-10:30	Opening by Sponsors on the need for Biomass Monitoring: ESA/DLR/NASA/JAXA Representatives, GOF-C-GOLD Land Cover Office and Biomass Working Group, MPI Biogeochemistry and Univ. Jena	
	10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
	11:00-12:30	International Programme Representatives on implementations: GEO FCT, GEOCarbon, FAO TCOS/TCO, REDD, GCP...	
	12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
	13:30-15:00	Overview "Super User" Presentations I (national level) on the relevance of biomass measurements	
	15:00-15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
	15:30-17:00	Overview "Super User" Presentations II (international level) on the relevance of biomass measurements	

Wednesday, 10 October 2012	9:00-10:30	Technical Presentations from Users and Earth Obs Community: State-of-the-art for local biomass measurements and future needs	Auditorium at Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena
	10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
	11:00-12:30	Technical Presentations from Users and Earth Obs Community: State-of-the-art for national biomass measurements and future needs	
	12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
	13:30-15:00	Technical Presentations from Users and Earth Obs Community: State-of-the-art for continental/global biomass measurements and future needs	
	15:00-15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
	15:30-17:00	Discussion on International Development of and Contributions to a Biomass Monitoring Concept	
	17:30	<i>Shuttle transfer to Leuchtenburg Castle</i>	Leuchtenburg Castle, 20 km south of Jena
	18:00	<i>Guided Tour and Conference Dinner as Knight's Banquet</i>	
	<i>Afterwards</i>	<i>Return to Jena</i>	
Thursday, 11 October 2012	9:00-10:30	Focus on Biomass Validation: What is available? Inventories, GOFCC-GOLD Regional Networks, REDD Actions, FAO FRA, GEO FCT, GCP, ...	Auditorium at Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena
	10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
	11:00-12:30	Biomass Validation cont.	
	12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
	13:30-15:00	Biomass Validation cont.	
	15:00-15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
	15:30-17:00	Formation of a possible GlobBiomass Proposal Team	
	17:00-18:00	Questions & Discussions, Recommendations & Action Items, Next Meeting	
	18:00	Concluding Remarks & Closing of the Meeting	

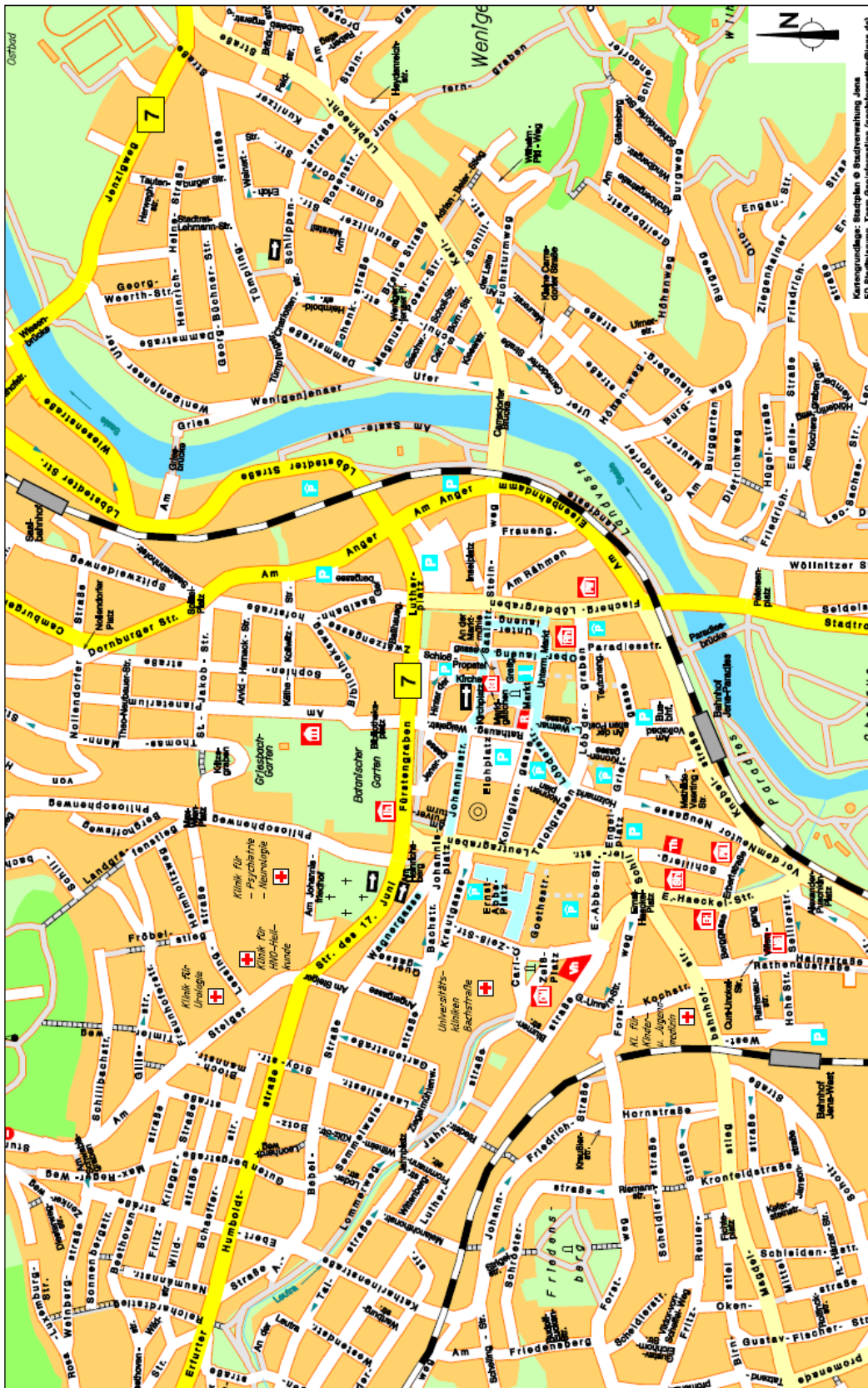
Appendix I. Maps

Getting around

JENA



Overview Map of Jena and the location of facilities relevant for the conference



Map of Jena City Center

http://www.jenawirtschaft.de/fileadmin/website/media/City_Guide/Dokumente/ausschnitt_spl_wir%C3%B6B6.pdf



Map of Beutenberg Campus

Building 1 refers to the conference venue Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry.

The orange star marks the bus stop “Beutenberg Campus”.

Source: Beutenberg Campus e.V.