EU Forest Focus Demonstration Project 'BioSoil' Taks FSCC in phase 2005

June 2006 – mid Apr'07

1. Networking

The networking activities aim at improving contacts and communication between the partners.

Activity	Description/objective
1.1. Develop coaching system for laboratories	Organised by FSCC with maximal participation of the countries: • selection of laboratories which need follow-up • selection of laboratories prepared to help • contact between FSCC, MS's and laboratories
1.2. Establish working groups and/or email discussion groups	• Aimed at problem solving, organised when necessary (or conduct small workshops, e.g on QA/QC, etc.) • Establish contacts with existing working groups eg. Humus Research Group, QA/QC working group of ICP Forests

2. Quality assurance and quality control

The QA/QC activities aim at improving the overall data quality and try to ensure the transnational comparability at the highest achievable level.

Activity	Description/objective
2.1. Create and implement tools for QA/QC	Facilitate exchange of information between laboratories related to QA/QC, ring test results and follow-up
2.2. 4th Interlaboratory comparison	Organised by FSCC with maximal participation of the MS's
2.3. Training in the laboratory	Facilitated by FSCC based on exchange of personnel between laboratories. Similar training can be organised at national level, under responsibility of the MS, fitting local needs, in local language etc.
2.4. Further harmonisation of methods	Specification/additions/changes to the manual, Update of the manual will take into account the results of the test phase
2.5. Develop QA/QC mechanisms	To control the quality in the field and in the laboratory (e.g. request for control charts, long-term storage of soil samples)

3. Technical aspects and improvement of inventory techniques

These activities aim at further clarification and specification of the forest soil survey methodologies

Activity	Description/objective
3.1. Humus classification	Investigate possibilities for application of a common humus classification system and include the agreed system in an amendment to the manual
3.2. Soil Classification	• Define data needs for WRB classification • Organise and conduct a workshop for field personnel (WRB classification and humus classification) • Participate in WRB Summer School in July (2005)
3.3. Sampling forest floor and processing of humus samples	Add specifications to the manual
3.4. Preparation of reporting forms and guidelines	Add specifications to the manual
3.5. Field forms	Prepare and test field forms Incorporate forms and relevant guidelines into the manual
3.6. Sampling for soil Carbon parameters	Clarify which parameters need to be gathered from the soil pit, and which from depth class or genetic horizon

4. Supporting studies

To facilitate the interpretation of the data collected during the BioSoil survey, supporting studies will be required. Activity 4.1 falls under the responsibility of the MS's, but will be supported by FSCC. Activities 4.2 and 4.3 will and 4.5 will provide essential information to assess the uncertainties for the collected dataset and will be conducted simultaneously with the survey in the member states.

Activity	Description/objective
4.1. Develop/review research on regional PTF's	In case PTF's for bulk density or other variables are used, they should be regionally calibrated and clearly documented (responsibility of Member States, supported by FSCC)
4.2. Study spatial variability	Literature study combined with individual MS initiatives
4.3. Study on storage of soil samples	Literature review on "the long-term storage of soil samples and its impact on analysis results" combined with individual MS initiatives
4.4. Uncertainty analysis/ Error assessment studies	•Provide guidance for the assessment of and reporting on systematic error components (methodological variation) •Implement error assessments based on local data

EU Forest Focus Demonstration Project 'BioSoil' Taks FSCC in phase 2006

mid Apr'07 – mid Apr'08

1. Networking

The networking activities of the preparatory phase will be continued:

Activity	Description/objective
1.1. Technical preparation of meetings with project responsibles	Preparation of technical aspects, presentation of progress of work done by FSCC
1.2. Apply coaching system for laboratories	Organised by FSCC with maximal participation of the countries
1.3. Meetings and/or email discussions of working groups	Aimed at problem solving, organised when necessary (or conduct small workshops, e.g. on data management, on QA/QC, etc.)
1.4. Web-meeting	Organise web-meeting with survey responsible when need exists

2. Quality Assurance and quality control

Activity	Description/objective
2.1. 5th FSCC Interlaboratory comparison 2007	Ring test samples to be analysed by the national laboratories together with the survey samples
2.2. Apply QA/QC mechanisms	Application and follow-up of QA/QC mechanisms developed during the preparation of the survey on national and international level = FSCC soil reference sample

3. Supporting studies

To facilitate the interpretation of the data collected during the BioSoil survey, supporting studies will be required. These studies will provide essential information to assess the uncertainties within the collected dataset and can be conducted simultaneously with the survey in the member states.

Activity	Description/objective
3.1. Review on spatial variability	Literature study combined with individual MS initiatives
3.2. Review on storage of soil samples	Literature review on "the long-term storage of soil samples and its impact on analysis results"
3.3. Uncertainty analysis/ Error assessment studies	• Provide guidance for the assessment of and reporting on systematic error components (methodological variation) • Implement error assessments based on local data