

Expert Panel Ground Vegetation & Forest Biodiversity

Pat Neville
Chairman



coillte



Forest Service



Department of
**Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food**
An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Iascaigh agus Bia**



Outline

- Summary of EP activities 2009 / 2010
- Manual Updates
 - Data QA / QC
 - Forest biodiversity & dead wood

Expert Panel Activities

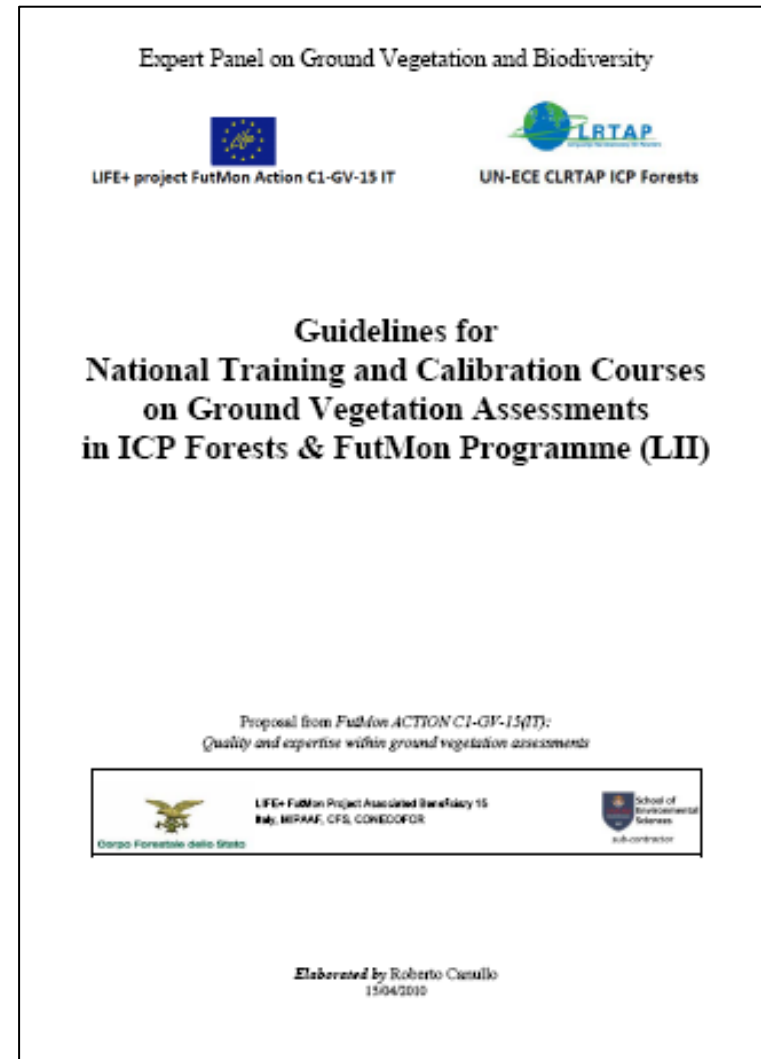
- Questionnaire delivered to all countries
 - Info on national methods gathered **May / June 2009**
- Trans-National Training & Intercalibration Course
 - Cansiglio **July 2009**
- PCG Meeting of ICP Forests
 - Hamburg **July 2009**
- European Commission BioSoil Conference
 - **November 2009** Bruxelles
 - Chaired special session on biodiversity
 - Conclusions from BioSoil biodiversity prepared & presented

Expert Panel Activities

- Future Forest Monitoring Conference
 - Uppsala **November 2009**
- Combined FutMon ICP Forests Meeting
 - Tampere **February 2010**
- Expert Panel Meeting
 - Tampere **February 2010**
- National Forest Monitoring Meeting Ireland
 - Ireland **March 2010**
- Conference on the protection of forests in Europe
 - Spain **April 2010**

QA / QC Guidelines

- Guidelines on National Training and Calibration on GV Assessments in the field
 - From National Field Manual
 - to Field Exercises



Manual Updates

- Draft updated version of manual
 - Harmonised definitions
 - Procedure for species code lists
 - QA / QC issues
 - Short time in Tampere meeting for discussions

Forest Dead Wood

- Request from PCC to EP at Tampere meeting to draft forest dead wood chapter into ICP Forests Manual
- Suggestion to use existing approaches
 - BioSoil @ Level 1
 - ForestBiota @ Level 2

Forest Dead Wood

- Consultation with Experts in this field indicated
 - ForestBiota approach may not be suitable
 - Not useful to have different approach for Level 1 and Level 2
 - Future upscaling problems
 - Proposed methods should be compatible as far as possible with existing methods elsewhere
 - As no dead wood survey planned in 2010
 - Decision to postpone chapter until agreement reached

Future

- Meeting planned under
 - FutMon LIFE + Action C1-GV-15(IT)
- Ongoing consultation with co-chair
 - Meeting proposed Ireland / Italy Autumn 2010
- Resolve forest dead wood questions
- Resolve biodiversity issues
- Incorporate approach into manual
 - Following agreement with all the countries



Biodiversity & ICP Forests ~ a future vision

- Consolidate existing successful approaches fully into ICP Forests Manual
 - Based on agreement with the experts
- Build onto existing biodiversity platform
 - Adopt and harmonise successful National approaches for the European level
 - e.g. Key habitat approach
- Develop real biodiversity “presence”
 - Translate our approach to outside world
- Integrate into and improve other schemes & approaches
 - e.g. further validate European Forest Type Classification
 - e.g. added value opportunities, Natura 2000 Network

ICP Forests Manual Updates

Part VII

Assessment of Ground Vegetation

Manual Updates

- Draft updated version of manual
 - Emphasis on QA / QC
 - Harmonised definitions
 - Procedure for species code lists

A little bit of QA / QC history in the EP.....

- First endorsed in Lillehammer 2000
 - Defined needs for standard species code
- Chambery 2002
 - “further harmonisation required”
 - Definition of CSA
- Lüneburg 2004 ~ “importance of ICC”
- Nicosia 2006 ~ stated “QA/QC extremely important”
- Florence 2007
 - Adoption of common species code (QA/QC again recc!)
- Value of FutMon project
 - Development of ICC & National Guidelines

New QA / QA Procedures (i)

- QA / QC procedures now clearly outlined
- Preparation of National Field Manuals
 - Document assessment parameters
 - Sampling design
 - Rules of data treatment & transmission
- Criteria for field team selection
- National training & calibration of field teams
 - Theoretical practical training
 - Calibration of field teams

Expert Panel on Ground Vegetation and Biodiversity



LIFE+ project FutMon Action C1-GV-15 IT



UN-ECE CLRTAP ICP Forests

Guidelines for National Training and Calibration Courses on Ground Vegetation Assessments in ICP Forests & FutMon Programme (LII)

*Proposal from FutMon ACTION C1-GV-15(IT):
Quality and expertise within ground vegetation assessments*



Dopo Foreste dello Stato

LIFE+ FutMon Project Associated Beneficiary 15
Italy, MIPAAF, CFS, CONEDOFOR



sub-contractor

Elaborated by Roberto Castillo
1504/2010

New QA / QA Procedures (ii)

- Data Plausibility Limits & Checks
 - Data quality objectives & data quality limits
 - Especially species nomenclature & codes
- Field controls / checks
 - Independent re-survey of 5-10% of plots
- International Cross Calibration Courses
 - Aimed at National Reference Teams
- International Reference method outlined
 - Performed in addition to national method on sub-set of plots

Harmonised definitions

- Definitions of terms typically used in GV assessments
 - Level 1 plot
 - Monitoring site
 - Plot
 - Sub-plot
 - Buffer zone
 - Sampling unit

Species Codes & List

- Information on certainty (& uncertainty) of identification
 - Codes 1 to 7 with explanatory variables
- Updating species list ongoing process
- Guidelines for updates outlined
- Update of data transmission forms

Proposal of new co-chair for EP

Departure of Bruno Petriccione

Nomination

of

Prof. Roberto Canullo

Università degli Studi di Camerino

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Thank you!!!



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