

Life+ / Further Development and Implementation of an EU-level Forest Monitoring System (FutMon)

Action C1-QALab-30(NWD): Quality assurance in Laboratories

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European Union / United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests

Meeting of the Working Group QA/QC in Labs

June 1st 2010, Garmisch, Germany

Minutes (Combined FutMon and ICP-Forests Meeting)

0. Introduction

Nils König welcomed the members of the Working Group in Garmisch and thanked the local host for the preparation of the meeting.

1. Final version of the manual QA/QC in Labs

Nils König thanked Anna Kowalska and the subgroup of the WG QA/QC in Labs for the great work. Tamara Jacovljevic will finish the work on annex 5.4. (definitions and terminology) together with Anna Kowalska.

2. Results of the 4th water ring test

Aldo Marchetto gave an overview about the results of the 4th water ring test 2010. Samples were sent on March 1st and results were gathered from 42 labs in April 16th. Eight samples were distributed, five natural samples and 3 synthetic samples for alkalinity. More than 80% of the results met the requirement for precision and 26 laboratories were asked to requalify for one or more variables. The requalification window is still open. An improvement in data quality between the 3rd and the 4th WRT was detected in particular for DOC, total N and alkalinity.

Alfred Fürst gave a very short overview about the results of the last foliar ring test.

Erwin Ulrich thanked the whole group for their very good work during the last years that has led to a better quality of most of the labs.

It was discussed how to finance the next ring tests after the rejection of the ForEU-project. If FutMon will be prolonged for another year the 2011 water and foliar ring tests should be payed with FutMon money.

3. Plausible ranges for water samples

In the manual Part XVI (Quality Assurance and Control in Labs) there are lists of plausible ranges for all parameters in soil and plant samples. For plant samples they are differentiated for the different species. But there are no plausible ranges for water samples. It was discussed how to produce such a list. Oliver Granke offered to have a look at all the data for water samples in the FutMon database and to make a list of the concentration ranges of all parameters. This information will be send to all members of the group to discuss this topic again at the next meeting.

4. helping program for labs

Nils König reported that 2 helping programmes are running with labs from Romania together with colleagues from Italy, Austria and Germany.

There is another ask for help from a laboratory from Romania (problems: foliar analyses: digestion, measurement of Ca, Mg, K, P; soil analyses: aqua regia extract, exchangeable cations, particle size distribution; measurement: AAS Perkin Elmer Analyst 400).

Bruno De Vos offered to consider if somebody of his institute or another institute from Belgium can give this help. If there is no possibility, Nils König offered to give some help to the Romanian colleagues but at the earliest in October 2010.

5. Testing phase for new analytical methods in ICP Forests manuals

Nils König informed the members of the group about the following part of the minutes of the soil expert panel, Brussels 2009:

“Chemical measurements (see Annex 1 of Manual IIIa, version 6.1)

For changings of chemical analytical methods or integration of new methods it was decided that applications for new methods or changings/corrections of actual methods should be sent to the WG QA/QC. The WG will discuss these proposals and decide if the proposals should be adopted or if they should run through a testing phase.”

The first method to be tested is X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy for total elements in soil.

6. Miscellaneous

- a. The date of the next WG meeting will be decided together with vTI.
- b. For the next meeting of the heads of the labs Tamara Jacovljevic offered to arrange this meeting in Croatia in Sept/Oct 2011.

24.06.2010

N. König

List of participants of the meeting:

no.	name	country
1	Ceccini	Italy
2	Devos	Belgium
3	Fürst	Austria
4	Granke	Germany
5	Jacovljevic	Croatia
6	König	Germany
7	Marchetto	Italy
8	Ulrich	France