Why RUBICODE?

A key problem in developing policies to stop biodiversity loss is translating threats into a tangible factor for decision-making. RUBICODE will contribute to solving this by examining what biodiversity does for us. Biological units that provide specific services to society will be identified and their services valued, so that they can be compared with more traditional economic valuations. Therefore, RUBICODE will deal with the most significant European terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems by reviewing the impacts of global change on those components of biodiversity essential for maintaining ecosystem services. Practical objectives of the project are:

- To develop and apply concepts of dynamic ecosystems and the services they provide, covering both terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in a comprehensive framework.
- To explore relationships between service-providing populations, ecosystem resilience, function and health, and socio-economic and environmental drivers of biodiversity change.
- To improve and test indicators, building on those currently under discussion at European and international levels, which provide rapid assessment methods for monitoring ecosystem and habitat ecological quality.
- To characterise biological traits that lead to a population becoming threatened, rare or invasive.
- To develop habitat management strategies that take account of drivers of biodiversity change in order to maintain threatened populations or assist populations to adapt.
- To suggest priorities for habitat, ecosystem and landscape biodiversity conservation policy on the basis of dynamic ecosystems and the services they provide, including the perfection and maintenance of endangered habitat lists.
- To propose a roadmap for future research that is required to develop innovative pan-European conservation strategies for terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems

Which ecosystems to be covered?

The Workshop aims to cover the following ecosystems:

- Forest
- Soil
- Grassland
- Shrub/heath
- Agro-ecosystems/landscape
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Floodplains
- Wetlands

Who we are?

We are a group of natural scientists responsible for ecosystem indicators within RUBICODE. Our special interest covers the definition, identification, and classification of indicators, their relation to environmental policies, and their underlying ecological concepts.

The work package 4 is lead by **Dr. Daniel Hering**, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany, and **Prof. Dr. José Paulo Sousa**, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal.

The workshop on

"Assessing and monitoring ecosystems – concepts, policies and indicators"

will be held in

Essen, Germany, from 27 February until 1 March 2007.

The workshop is limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

Contact:

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