



# **small scale landscapes in Western Europe**

methodological developments  
in habitat recording and monitoring

## **Seminar & Short Course**

**11-13 May, 2011**

**Escola Superior Agrária de Ponte de Lima (IPVC)  
Ponte de Lima, Portugal**

### **Organisation:**

Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo  
Associação Portuguesa de Ecologia da Paisagem  
Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos

*The small scale landscapes of Atlantic Europe are not only famous for biodiversity but also because of their distinctive appearance and agricultural products. Whilst they have been much studied e.g. in Brittany, North-West France, there has been no meeting or publication drawing the available information together-hence the idea of this conference.*

*Such landscapes have developed under different national identities but the common environmental characteristics have led to convergent structures and patterns .Furthermore the heterogeneity of the countryside with many small patches of different habitats in close proximity presents problems for surveillance and subsequent monitoring. The problems may be summarized as follows:*

- 1. The large number of small parcels*
- 2. The extent and number of linear features.*
- 3. The overlaps between lines and areas.*
- 4. The number of habitats present within a given unit.*

*Surveillance and monitoring have been carried out over the last 25 years in Northern Ireland and this experience, together with other European studies since 1998, have led to commencement last year of a Portuguese initiative which will be presented at the meeting as well as in the field. In both countries the adoption of 0.25 km square rather than the usual 1 km square is a recognition of the small scale of the landscape.*

*The conference will start with presentations from six people describing the main characteristics of the landscapes of their regions starting in Ireland and finishing in Portugal. The remaining sessions will be used to give practical demonstrations of the procedure in the field by visiting a range of situations and providing instructions on the recording protocol. A robust basis for monitoring must ensure that recording is consistent over a given time period so that real change doesn't get masked by background noise.*

*Bob Bunce*

# Seminar Program

## 11 May

**09:00h** *Opening of the Seminar*

**09:20h** *Policy needs in landscape management and monitoring*  
(I. Ramos, T. Pinto Correia & J. Honrado)

**09:50h** *Overview of the N. Portugal cultural landscape*  
(T. Andersen)

**10:20h** *Discussion*

**10:40h** *Coffee Break*

**11:00h** *Landscapes and biodiversity: from pattern to process, and then back to pattern*  
(J. Honrado)

**11:30h** *Ecosystem services and their relation to the landscape*  
(C. Guerra & J. Alonso)

**12:00h** *Morning session closure and discussion*

**12:30h FREE LUNCH**

**14:00h** *The development of landscape monitoring schemes in small scale mountain landscapes*  
(J. Busque)

**14:30h** *Small Scale Landscapes in Great Britain*  
(B. Bunce)

**15:00h** *Discussion*

**15:20h** *Coffee Break*

**15:40h** *Landscape monitoring in N. Ireland*  
(Allan Cooper)

**16:10h** *Landscape monitoring in France*  
(J. Baurdry)

**16:40h** *Landscape monitoring in Belgium*  
(G. Blust)

**17:10h** *Discussion*

**17:40h** *Seminar closure*

# Course Program

## 12 May

**09:00h** *Introduction to the Course*

(T. Pinto Correia & C. Guerra)

**09:30h** *A framework for habitat and biodiversity monitoring in Portuguese landscapes*

(J. Honrado)

**10:10h** *Introduction to field recording protocol*

(B. Bunce)

**10:30h** *Field Trip: field recording protocol*

B. Bunce (areal, linear and point features)

P. Alves (GHCs and Annex I habitats)

C. Guerra (field mapping)

**12:30h** *Morning session closure*

**12:30h FREE LUNCH**

**14:00h** *Field Trip: field recording protocol*

B. Bunce (areal, linear and point features)

P. Alves (GHCs and Annex I habitats)

C. Guerra (field mapping)

**16:00h** *Integration and discussion*

## 13 May

**09:00h** *Selection of vegetation plots*

(C. Guerra)

**09:30h** *Field Trip: field recording protocol*

B. Bunce (vegetation plots)

P. Alves (vegetation plots)

**12:30h** *Morning session closure*

**12:30h FREE LUNCH**

**14:00h** *Data input and databasing*

(C. Guerra)

**14:30h** *Data analysis*

(C. Guerra & J. Gonçalves)

**17:00h** *Course closure*

(T. Pinto Correia & C. Guerra)