



LIFE OrgBalt - Demonstration of climate change mitigation potential of nutrients rich organic soils in Baltic States and Finland

LIFE18 CCM/LV/001158



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Project description:

Background

Managed nutrient-rich organic soils are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in both boreal and temperate cool and moist (TCM) climate zones in Europe. However, scientifically based accounting methods for GHG emissions have been developed and activity data made available mainly for organic soils in the boreal climate zone. This creates a risk of inconsistency in GHG inventories and hinders the planning and implementation of effective climate change mitigation (CCM) measures relating to land use.

Objectives

The aim of the LIFE OrgBalt project is to implement innovative CCM measures in nutrient-rich organic soils in the TCM climate zone. Theoretically, these measures have the potential to reduce GHG emissions by almost 20 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year, including in the agriculture sector, which accounted for 63% of emissions from organic soils in 2015. The project will evaluate whether this is realistic.

Its specific objectives are to:

- improve the GHG accounting methods and activity data for nutrient-rich organic soils under conventional management conditions;
- identify and demonstrate sustainable, resilient and cost-effective CCM measures suitable for nutrient-rich organic soils; and
- provide tools and guidance for elaborating, implementing and verifying the

impact of the CCM measures.

By reducing GHG emissions from cropland, grasslands and forest land on nutrient-rich organic soils, LIFE OrgBalt will contribute to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement, EU policies (e.g. Regulation (EU) 2018/841) and national climate policy targets in the post-2020 period. The project will also help implement EU climate action targets in the agriculture and LULUCF (land use, land use change and forestry) sectors post-2020. These include reducing GHG emissions by 40% by 2030 and by 80-95% come 2050, compared to 1990.

Results

Expected results:

- creation of afforested areas on organic soils; increase in the area with sustainable forest management;
- sustainable management of forests and agricultural land on organic soils;
- a methodology for characterising GHG-related peat properties using the infrared screening method;
- improvements adopted in national LULUCF action plans, emissions projections, forestry accounting plans and GHG inventories in the Baltic states, Germany and Finland;
- a replicable and transferable simulation model for a single field or regional projections of GHG emissions, for a business-as-usual scenario and different management options (based on a catalogue of CCM measures and elaborated emission factors); and
- a methodology using high-resolution terrain data and satellite images to evaluate the moisture regime and probability of GHG emissions from soil.

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Environmental issues addressed:

Themes

Land-use & Planning - Forest management

Climate change Mitigation - GHG reduction in non EU ETS sectors

Keywords

land use planning, emission reduction, greenhouse gas, forest management, agroforestry, carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation, climate mitigation strategy, greenhouse gas accounting

Target EU Legislation

- Climate Change & Energy efficiency
- COM(2014)15 - Policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 (22.01.2014 ...

Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	Latvia State Forest Research Institute "Silava"
Partners	LULSaT(Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies), Latvia Luke(Natural Resources Institute Finland), Finland UT(University of Tartu), Estonia BaltCoasts(Association Baltic Coasts), Latvia LRCAF(Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry), Lithuania MA(Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia), Latvia MSF(Michael Succow Foundation), Germany

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE18 CCM/LV/001158
Duration	01-AUG-2019 to 31-AUG -2023
Total budget	3,360,948.00 €
EU contribution	1,844,004.00 €
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