

Identification of environmental variables for use in monitoring and evaluation of land management practices

Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to identify and select quantitative environmental attributes for a monitoring programme that may be integrated into an evaluation of the environmental impacts of land management practices.

Approach to the study

Overall, the work programme will use a desk review to use information on current best practice in monitoring for environmental quality. A Project Group will advise on the ongoing development of the project. There will be a consultation process with national experts, and with a number of stakeholder organisations with an interest in the monitoring of the environmental impact of land management practices.

Scope of study

The study will *not* be directly addressing the design and implementation of a monitoring programme, which would require a detailed consideration of the sampling protocols, the experimental design of a sampling programme, and the data management and statistical treatment of the collected data.

The study *will* result in a report that will identify relevant and measurable environmental attributes and their targets, and significantly advance the ability to implement a monitoring programme.