



Project no. GOCE-CT2003-505572

CarboEurope-IP

Assessment of the European Terrestrial Carbon Balance

Integrated Project

Thematic Priority 1.1.6.3 Global Change and Ecosystems

Second Annual Activity Report
Executive Summary

Period covered: from 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2005

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Duration: 60 Months

Project coordinator name: Prof. Dr. Ernst-Detlef Schulze

Project coordinator organisation name: Max-Planck-Institut für Biogeochemie



Executive Summary: Activities in the second year of the Integrated Project CarboEurope-IP (GOCE-CT2003-505572)

Main objectives of CarboEurope-IP

The overarching aim of CarboEurope-IP is to understand and quantify the present terrestrial carbon balance of Europe and the associated uncertainty at local, regional and continental scale. In order to achieve this goal, the project addresses three major topics:

1. Determination of the carbon balance of the European continent, its geographical patterns, and changes over time.
2. Enhanced understanding of the controlling mechanisms of carbon cycling in European ecosystems, and the impact of climate change and variability, and changing land management on the European carbon balance.
3. Design and development of an observation system to detect changes of carbon stocks and carbon fluxes related to the European commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

Contractors involved

CarboEurope-IP integrates and expands the research efforts of 61 European universities and research institutes from 17 European countries as project contractors (Figure 1) and around 30 associated institutes from all over the world. The updated list of contractors is given at the end of this executive summary. The project is co-ordinated by Ernst-Detlef Schulze and Annette Freibauer (project manager), Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany. The four main scientific components of the project are led by

- Riccardo Valentini, University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy: Ecosystem Observations
- Philippe Ciais, Laboratory of Climate and Environmental Sciences (LSCE), Gif-sur-Yvette, France: Atmospheric Observations
- Han Dolman, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: Regional Experiment
- Martin Heimann, Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany: Continental Integration and Modelling

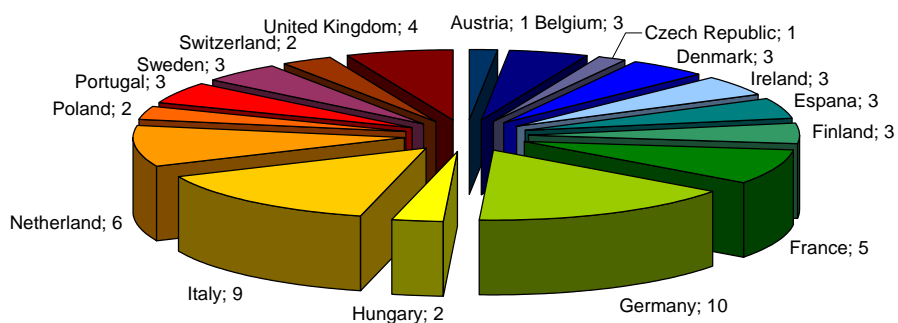


Figure 1: Countries of origin of CarboEurope-IP contractors

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Work performed and results achieved

CERES, the Carboeurope Regional Experiment Strategy in les Landes, South West France, May-June 2005 (Dolman et al., Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, in revision)

The CarboEurope Regional Experiment Strategy (CERES) aimed to produce aggregated regional estimates of the carbon balance of a region that can be meaningfully compared to those from the smallest downscaled information of atmospheric measurements and continental scale inversion results. A period 6 weeks in the spring of 2005 (from 05/16/05 to 06/25/05) was chosen for high intensity observations of boundary layer development and extra flux aircraft for enhanced spatial sampling. CERES has provided a wealth of data that on its own could prove useful, but should be particularly useful as a comprehensive dataset to narrow down uncertainties in regional carbon balance estimation. It provides considerable insight into the large variability of CO₂ fields (10-20 ppm over 200 km) and the considerable diurnal range in the boundary layer. Analyzing the data for the full experiment, after full quality control, is one of our major tasks.

European heat and drought wave 2003 (Ciais et al., Nature 437, 529-533)

Previous year's work on the European heat and drought wave has been continued and the results have been published in Nature: Severe heatwaves may become more frequent in a changing climate, yet their impact on terrestrial C cycling is unclear. A terrestrial biosphere simulation model was used to assess continental scale changes in primary production during 2003 and the consequences for the net carbon balance. A 30% reduction in GPP over Europe resulted in a strong net CO₂ source of 0.5 PG C yr⁻¹. Productivity reduction can be explained by rainfall deficit and extreme summer heat. An increase in future drought events could turn temperate ecosystems into carbon sources.

Component 1 Ecosystems

Activity 1.1: The database system is built up and data are delivered as planned. Centralized quality checked and gapfilled datasets production is somewhat delayed due to methods testing and improving but it will be finished in the next months. Updated u* threshold selection method and Artificial Neural Network as tools for gap-filling were the most important improvements. Optimal design and current network representativeness are under study, one workshop on the topic was organized in Levi, a second is planned in spring/summer.

Activity 1.2: The quality assessment and quality control issues were completed in 2005 and a web site created. Also the footprint analysis for most of the main sites and eddy software comparison were done and reports prepared. A new software TK2 for corrections and quality tests on raw eddy covariance data was developed and will be available in the beginning 2006.

The second advection experiment took place in Renon (IT-Ren) from April to September 2005 and data analysis is in progress. Other two experiments are planned in Wetzstein and Norunda in 2006. In waiting for a new criterion to detect the half hour measurements affected by advection, the u^* filtering remains the best way to correct data and for this reason is implemented in the database. The group working on this activity reported difficulties for budget limitations.

Activity 1.3: Soil sampling was performed on 7 additional Main sites (12 verification sites were sampled in 2004) and samples analysis started. Soil maps are not yet available but the georeferenced data on sampling points are ready. Stable isotopes analysis will not be possible due to budget problems.

Activity 1.4: In Levi there was a strong request to sites manager to submit LAI measurements and non-fluxes data and also to install web-cams on the towers to observe phenology. NPP and forest structure measurements are in progress but with some delay due to the hard work necessary. An intercomparison workshop of GPP, NEP, NPP & RA for all forest sites will be organised. Effects of management and disturbances are under study in thinned sites (Hyttiala, Griffin) and windthrows affected areas (Tatra mountains and Sweden). Model analysis, parametrization and simulation are also ongoing activities.

Activity 1.5: All the main sites submitted their measurements to the database. Additional local measurements and analysis were done to better understand different croplands properties related to NEE, GPP and TER and effect of management. An experiment was conducted in Oensingen to determine the sensitivity of the DNDC model to uncertainties in soil parameters. Information about uniqueness of the cropland sites were collected to support the model parameterization and up-scaling work and a joint grass/cropland workshop on the topic is planned.

Activity 1.6: Light use efficiency and GPP-TER relationship analysis were performed also comparing grassland sites from Europe and North America. Grassland information about main features of the sites in the network were collected to support the model parameterization and up-scaling work. The role of horizontal carbon fluxes has been investigated using modelling and direct measurements. The PaSim model has been also used and evaluated against site data to better understand the key parameters needed. Additional non-fluxes measurements have been planned for grazing, fertiliser and cutting managements.

Component 2 Atmosphere

During the reporting period, the CarboEurope-IP atmospheric network was strengthened and improved. Four continuous atmospheric stations were added to the core network, and several new tall towers have started their operations. Such a ground-based atmospheric network is complemented by regular vertical profiles at bi-weekly intervals, and by flask sampling at approximately 20 surface sites. Altogether, this information has been used successfully in synergy with inversion models 1) to quantify the continental-level changes in CO₂ fluxes over the recent years and, 2) to quantify the error reduction on regional fluxes delivered by quasi-continuous records. In itself, this second achievement is an important result because such a dense atmospheric network has yet no equivalent elsewhere in the world, and the results obtained over Europe will have implications for other regional networks.

Special attention was directed to improve the dialogue between experimentalists and inverse modelers within the whole programme, and to design effective data selection strategies for interpreting the atmospheric records, in particular for removing local influences. To answer that question, two dedicated workshops were held in Heidelberg and Paris. Models were

compared with the available CO₂ records, on different characteristic time scales for the variability. In that comparison, higher resolution regional models appeared to have a better degree of agreement with the data than global models did. A surprisingly large coherence scale of the synoptic changes in CO₂ was also discovered when comparing mountain stations over Western Europe more than 1000 km apart.

The long-term intercomparison project of "Sausage Flask" distribution and analysis was very successful in monitoring systematic differences between flask measuring labs, which may now allow us to merge Eurasian and global flask networks. The first rounds of large volume (Grapefruit) intercomparison flask air samples successfully finished. High pressure cylinders rotations have been started lately. A number of ²²²Radon intercomparisons have been performed/are planned to harmonize the ²²²Radon observations in Europe.

The use of tracers for quantifying the fossil fuel component of atmospheric CO₂ has delivered very interesting results. Both pollution events and systematic 'integrated' samples were measured. First results indicate that CO is applicable as a proxy for fossil fuel CO₂, even in the study region of Heidelberg with spatially highly variable CO/CO₂(fossil) emission ratios. At a larger scale, routine measurements of ¹⁴C across Europe will enable independent testing of transport models and fossil fuels inventories in the year to come.

Finally, the CarboEurope atmospheric component results were the object of many talks and posters at the WMO expert CO₂ meeting and at the International Carbon Dioxide Conference held in Boulder, in Sep. 2005. In particular, the effects of the summer 2003 climate conditions on the continental scale CO₂ fluxes were quantified by assimilating the CarboEurope data into inversion models, confirming that important losses of CO₂ were caused by heat and drought

Component 3 Regional Experiment

The main activity in 2005 was the execution and initial analysis of the regional experimental campaign in Les Landes, South West France during May-June 2005, to determine the variability in concentration gradients and fluxes of CO₂.

We deployed several aircrafts to sample the CO₂ concentration and fluxes over the whole area, while fixed stations observed the fluxes and concentrations at high accuracy. Several (mesoscale) meteorological modeling tools were used to plan the experiment and flight patterns. We ultimately aimed to produce aggregated estimates of the carbon balance of a region that can be meaningfully compared to those obtained from the smallest downscaled information of atmospheric measurements and continental scale inversions.

All of our equipment worked well, some initial problems were solved in the first week of the campaign. Initial results show that at regional scale the relation between profiles and fluxes is not obvious, and is strongly influenced by air mass history and mesoscale flow patterns. This implies that concentration measurements such as taken over land in the atmospheric component need to be treated with care for impact of land surface and mesoscale flow heterogeneity. For the experiment, we were able to show from an initial analysis of data for a single day, that taking either the concentration at several locations as representative of local fluxes, or taking the flux measurements at those sites as representative of larger regions would lead to incorrect conclusions about the distribution of sources and sinks of carbon. We conclude that joint consideration of the synoptic and regional flow, fluxes and land surface is required for a correct interpretation. This calls for an experimental and modeling strategy that takes into account the large spatial gradients in concentrations and the variability in sources and sinks that arise from different land use types.

We started an intercomparison of modeling schemes to be able to quantify the transport error involved in regional inversions. This comparison involves three mesoscale models, several versions of one, and has already attracted attention. A similar intercomparison for the surface fluxes showed some differences and led us to use a single software to calculate all fluxes in a single coherent manner.

Component 4 Continental Integration

Work during the reporting period focused on:

1. Compilation of driver data (WP 4.1). The most important new data sets established are the new FAPAR fields and the land cover and land use history data sets compiled by partner JRC (see report WP4.1). In addition a new homogenous, high-resolution meteorological driver data set for the ecosystem models was compiled in a cooperation of MPI-BGC with a German partner institution (see report WP 4.4, objective 3).
2. Compilation of a spatially explicit database of forest inventories for several countries of Europe (WP4.2). This unique database, covering up to now more than 90'000 plots will be used in several activities in the CE continental integration component: e.g. for validating bottom-up model results, for sectorial (forest) carbon balance estimates, and potentially will provide an important novel data stream for the data assimilation activity later in the project (WP 4.5).
3. Two top-down atmospheric inversion experiments by two partner groups have been performed in order to estimate the net carbon balance of Europe with this approach (WP 4.3). As new atmospheric data become available from the atmosphere component, these calculations have been extended in time for the year 2003. A preliminary comparison with bottom-up calculations shows an encouraging agreement between the two methods (see below).
4. A series of bottom-up simulation experiments have been performed (WP 4.4). Models employed in this activity belong to two classes: diagnostic models, which are primarily data driven (i.e. using FAPAR data, or eddy flux data), and prognostic process based ecosystem models, which, in principle can estimate the carbon balance at a particular location given the prevailing meteorology/climate, vegetation and soil properties.

At a workshop the first bottom-up and top-down estimates were compared and a revised iteration took place at the annual meeting of CarboEurope in November 2005. A preliminary comparison of the modeled seasonal cycle over continental Europe (average 1998-2002) as calculated by two "bottom-up" prognostic terrestrial ecosystem models (BIOME-BGC, LPJ), a diagnostic, FAPAR-driven bottom-up model (MOD17+), and two top-down atmospheric inversion models (INV-BGC, INV-LSCE) shows satisfactory agreement is considering the completely different methods and driver datasets employed by the different modeling approaches.

The magnitude of the anomaly of 2003 with respect to a reference period 1998-2002 is shown in Figure 2. Shown on the left are the modeled climatological (1998-2002) seasonal cycles (red lines) and the seasonal flux cycle in 2003 (dashed blue lines) for the "Western Region" (see map inset) in which the drought anomaly was most prominent. A comparison of the anomalies between the bottom-up and the top-down model shows remarkable agreement, both in phase and magnitude, considering that the two approaches are completely independent, i.e. use entirely different driver data and observations.

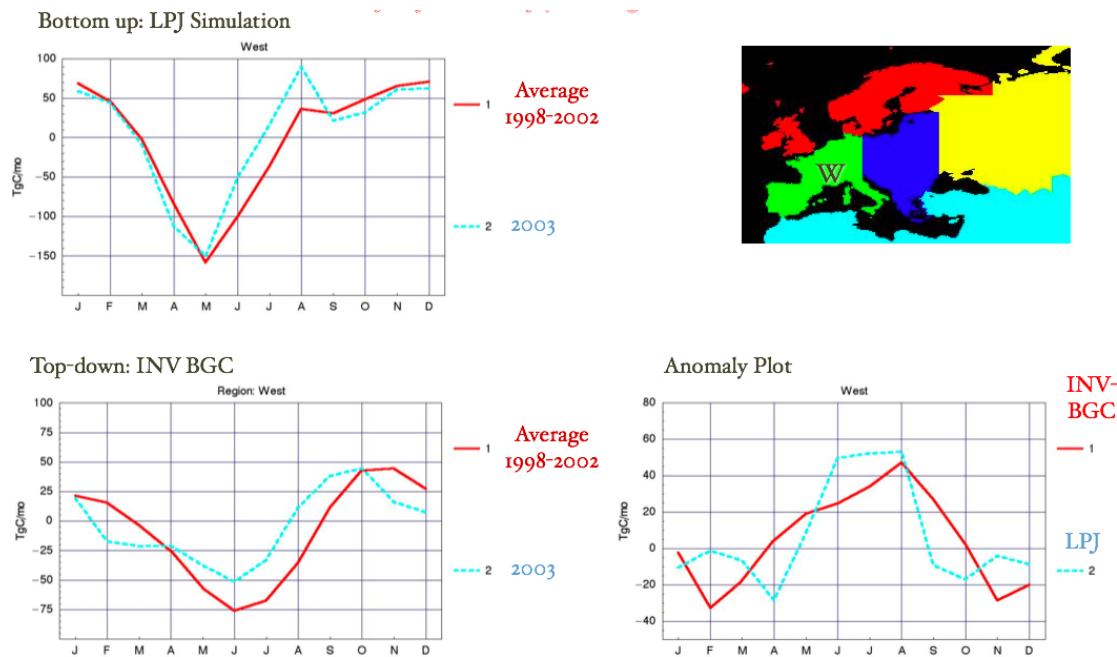


Figure 2: Left panels: Seasonal cycle of the integrated net carbon flux from the “Western Region” (positive: flux to the atmosphere) predicted by a bottom-up model (LPJ) and a top-down atmospheric inversion model (INV-BGC). Red lines: climatological average 1998-2002, light blue dashes: 2003. The “Western region” is indicated on the map inset with the letter “W”. Lower right panel: Anomaly (2003 minus average 1998-2002) as computed by the two models.

The spatial pattern of the anomaly (average over the growing period May-September) is similarly predicted by the top-down model (INV-BGC) and the bottom-up model LPJ. Quantitatively, evaluated over the “Western Region”, the May-September anomaly is estimated between 50-150 TgC by the various models, thus somewhat smaller than estimated previously. These are preliminary data, which need a more thorough analysis and confirmation, which is to be completed in the next phase of the project (months 25-36). Work during the next phase of the project (months 25-36) in the continental integration component will focus on:

- Consolidation of the bottom-up and top-down model intercomparison simulations
- Improved error/uncertainty analysis of the bottom-up and top-down model simulations
- Begin of work for inclusion of forest inventory plot level data into the bottom-up models.
- Begin of work pertaining to the development of data assimilation schemes for the simultaneous, consistent inclusion of different data streams into the modelling frameworks. This will build on the experience gained in the completed FP5 CAMELS project.

The opportunity of the “drought year 2003” provided a natural experiment which allows an in-depth investigation of how this anomaly is represented by the various methods. Therefore it was decided that this event should constitute a second focal work activity in phase 2 (months 19-36) in the continental integration component.

List of publications related to CarboEurope-IP

The publications listed below result from scientific activities related to the first activities within CarboEurope-IP. They are not an exhaustive list but those indicated to the coordinator.

Published papers in peer-reviewed journals

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Updated list of contractors

No.	Code	Institute name	Country
01	MPI-BGC	Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry	Germany
02	UNITUS	U. of Tuscia, Dept. of Forest Environment and Resources (DISAFRI)	Italy
03	VU-A	Free U. Amsterdam, Dept. Geo-Environmental Sciences	Netherlands
04	CEA-LSCE	CEA, LSCE, Laboratory of Climate and Environmental Sciences	France
05	UEDIN	U. of Edinburgh, School of GeoSciences	UK
06	UABDN	U. of Aberdeen, School of Biological Sciences	UK
07	INRA	INRA - National Institute of Agronomic Research	France
08	FUSAGx	Faculty of Agronomic Sciences Gembloux (UPB)	Belgium
09	CNRM	Météo-France/CNRM	France
10a	CNR-IBIMET	CNR, Institute of Biometeorology	Italy
11	ECN	ECN - Energy Research Center of the Netherlands, Dept. Air Quality	Netherlands
12	UHEI-IUP	U. Heidelberg, Inst. for Environmental Physics	Germany
13	ALTERRA	ALTERRA (Wageningen University and Research)	Netherlands
14	JRC-IES	EC-Joint Research Centre, IES	Italy
15	JR	Joanneum Research	Austria
16	MET-OFFICE	MetOffice, Hadley Centre	UK
17	PIK	Potsdam Inst. for Climate Impact Research	Germany
18	APB	Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen South Tyrol - Forest Department	Italy
19	CEALP	Centre of Alpine Ecology	Italy
20	CEAM	Foundation CEAM	Spain
21a	CEH-WAL	Centre of Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) - Wallingford	United Kingdom
21b	CEH-EDIN	Natural Environmental Research Council, CEH-Edinburgh	UK
22	CNRS-CEFE	National Centre of Scientific Research, DREAM CEFE CNRS	France
23	CTFC	Forest Technology Centre of Catalunya, Laboratory of Plant Ecology and Forest Botany	Spain
24	FAL	Swiss Federal Research Station for Agroecology and Agriculture (FAL)	Switzerland
25	FMI	Finnish Meteorological Institute, Air Quality Research	Finland
26	ILE	Acad. of Sciences of Czech Republic, Inst. of Landscape Ecology	Czech Republic
27	IST	Superior Technical Institute	Portugal
28	LUND	Lund U., Dept. of Physical Geography and Ecosystems Analysis	Sweden
29	RISOE	Risoe National Laboratory	Denmark
30a	SLU-DEER	Swedish U. of Agricultural Sciences, Dept. of Ecology and Environmental Research (DEER)	Sweden
30b	SLU-FS	Swedish U. of Agricultural Sciences, Dept. of Forest Soils	Sweden
30c	SLU-PE	Swedish U. of Agricultural Sciences, Dept. for Production Ecology	Sweden
33	SRON	SRON National Institute for Space Research, IMAU	Netherlands
34	SUN	Second U. of Napoli, Dept. of Environmental Science	Italy
35	TCD	Trinity College Dublin	Ireland
36	TUD	TU Dresden, IHM-Meteorology	Germany
37	TUM	TU Munich Dept. of Soil Science	Germany
38	UA	U. of Antwerp (UIA), Dept. Biology	Belgium
39a	UBT-MET	U. Bayreuth, Chair of Micrometeorology	Germany
39b	UBT-PE	U. Bayreuth, Chair of Plant Ecology	Germany
41	UCC	U. College of Cork	Ireland
42	SZIV	Szent István U. of Gödöllő	Hungary
43	UH-DPS	U. of Helsinki, Dept. of Physical Sciences	Finland

No.	Code	Institute name	Country
44	ISA-UTL	TU Lisboa, Superior Inst. of Agronomy	Portugal
45	UPOZ	U. of Poznan	Poland
46	UPS-Orsay	CNRS - U. of South Paris, Systematic Ecology and Evolution Unit	France
47	WUR-NCP	Wageningen U., Nature Conservation and plant Ecology	Netherland
48	MLU	Martin-Luther-U. Halle-Wittenberg, Inst. of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition	Germany
50	ULG	U. de Liège - LPAP	Belgium
52	CESI	CESI Business Unit - Environment	Italy
53	CIO	Center for Isotope Research (CIO); Rijks-U. Groningen	Netherlands
54	ELU	Eötvös Loránd University, Dept. of Meteorology	Hungary
55	ENEA	ENEA, Global and Mediterranean Environment Division	Italy
56	SU	Stockholm U., Dept. of Meteorology, Arrhenius Lab.	Sweden
57	UBARC	U. of Barcelona, Climate Research Group	Spain
58	UBECLIM	U. Bern, Physics Institute, Climate and Environmental Physics	Switzerland
59	UKRAK	U. of Mining and Metallurgy, Faculty of Physics and Nuclear Techniques	Poland
61	USTUTT-IER	U. Stuttgart, Institute of Energy Economics and the Rational Use of Energy	Germany
62	EFI	European Forest Institute	Finland
63	NERI	National Environmental Research Institute, Department of Atmospheric Environment	Denmark
64	LAWUF	Thuringia State Forest Research Station	Germany
65	SAUG	International educational projects	France
66	UKBH.GI	U. Copenhagen, Inst. of Geography	Denmark
67	UAV	University of Aveiro, Departamento de Ambiente e Ordenamento	Portugal
68	UCD	University College Dublin	Ireland
69	UHAM	Uni Hamburg	Germany
70	UBOL	Bologna	Italy
71	CNR-ISAC	CNR-ISAC	Italy
72	CNR-ISAFoM	CNR-ISAFoM	Italy

