Short Database Report

Irish Vegetation Database

Úna FitzPatrick & Naomi Kingston

Abstract: The Irish Vegetation Database (GIVD ID EU-IE-001) was established in 2007 by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It aims to collate all of the vegetation data that has been collected over the years in Ireland onto a single TURBOVEG database, and to make the maximum use possible of this valuable resource. In Ireland, the national vegetation database is already being used as an important national baseline. The historical data capture phase will be completed in 2012, when the database is expected to have in the region of 28,000 independent vegetation relevés. Ongoing surveys over the coming five years should increase this to between 28,000 and 32,000 relevés. Initially, the database will be used to create map layers showing the distribution of habitats and vegetation communities in Ireland. It will assist with reporting on implementation of the Habitats Directive (Article 17), and will support the research community in Ireland. The long term aims are to use the database to create a national vegetation classification system for Ireland; and to inform the development of a national vegetation and ecosystem map.

Keywords: baseline; Ireland; vegetation classification.

GIVD Database ID: EU-IE-001		Last update: 2012-05-06
Irish Vegetation Database		
Scope: The Irish Vegetation Database contains vegetation sampling units based on a percentage cover abundance scale, collected within the Republic of Ireland. Relevés collected using the DAFOR scale are not accepted into the database. For inclusion, relevés must have the following mandatory information: species list, cover abundance scale used, date, recorder, grid reference, and relevé size.		
Status: ongoing capture	**Period:** 1949-2011	
Database manager(s): Úna FitzPatrick (ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie); Naomi Kingston (naomi.kingston@ahg.gov.ie)		
Owner: [NA]		
Web address: http://nationalvegetationdatabase.biodiversityireland.ie		
Availability: according to a specific agreement	**Online upload:** no	**Online search:** no
Database format(s): TURBOVEG	**Export format(s):** TURBOVEG	
Publication: Weekes, L., Kingston, N. & FitzPatrick Ú. (2012) Irish vegetation data in 2012, moving towards a national vegetation classification system. Irish Vegetation No. 1, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.		
Plot type(s): normal plots	**Plot-size range:** 0.1-20 m²	
Non-overlapping plots: 26,412	**Estimate of existing plots:** 28,000	**Completeness:** 94%
Total plot observations: 26,412	**Number of sources:** 165	**Valid taxa:** 1,931
Countries: IE: 100.0%		
Forest: 15% — **Non-forest:** aquatic: 7%; semi-aquatic: 23%; arctic-alpine: 0%; natural: 11%; semi-natural: 42%; anthropogenic: 2%		
Guilds: all vascular plants: 100%; bryophytes (terricolous or aquatic): 35%; lichens (terricolous or aquatic): 10%; algae (terricolous or aquatic): 4%		
Environmental data: altitude: 30%; slope aspect: 30%; slope inclination: 30%; soil depth: 20%; surface cover other than plants (open soil, litter, bare rock etc.): 10%; soil pH: 15%; other soil attributes: 5%; land use categories: 15%		
Performance measure(s): cover: 100%		
Geographic localisation: GPS coordinates (precision 25 m or less): 25%; point coordinates less precise than GPS, up to 1 km: 60%; small grid (not coarser than 10 km): 14%; political units or only on a coarser scale (>10 km): 1%		
Sampling periods: 1940-1949: 0.2%; 1950-1959: 1.4%; 1960-1969: 6.1%; 1970-1979: 13.2%; 1980-1989: 10.3%; 1990-1999: 34.9%; 2000-2009: 33.8%; 2010-2019: 0.1%		
Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from http://www.givd.info/ID/EU-IE-001		

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