

Review of the Mivegec1point5 WG

2019-2024

The Mivegec1point5 WG (6 members) has been working since the end of 2019 to reduce the unit's environmental impact. The leader of Mivegec1point5 is the sustainable development referent for the IRD, CNRS and UM. Since 2019, an annual carbon footprint evaluation has been carried out with GES1point5, which serves as a basis for defining the actions to be taken. The main sources of emissions are purchases and missions (55% and 39% respectively in 2022).

In terms of awareness-raising, Mivegec1point5 has produced a Charter, a chapter of the welcome booklet, a booklet of Good Environmental Practices and posters entitled 'My low-carbon life in the Lab'; a seminar; forty Green Minutes during in-house scientific seminars, promoted in 2022 by an exhibition. Communication also takes place via the quarterly newsletter and the unit's General Assembly. Mivegec1point5 has taken part in seminars organised by other Montpellier units (Hydrosciences, PHIM, LPHI).

In 2022, Mivegec1point5 created a 'Digital Clean-Up Day' event with a workshop and methodological sheets. At its suggestion, this event was taken over by the DDUNI since 2023.

ULT freezers went from -80°C to -70°C (30% reduction in consumption) at the end of 2022. In 2023, the unit took part in a 'Freezer challenge', an international competition that identified areas for improvement. An annual schedule for defrosting -20°C freezers has just been introduced.

In terms of travel, bicycles have been purchased for the Païre site to facilitate connections with the DRO. A decision tree tool has been introduced to help reduce the impact of missions.

With regard to waste, Mivegec1point5 has introduced a reusable cup kit for social occasions; kraft paper instead of aluminium in the laundry; reusable rather than single-use bench waste bins; and a pilot composting project, with the hope of extending it to the DRO. Since 2024, empty tip boxes have been collected and recycled with the supplier. Broken laboratory glassware is repaired locally.

With regard to purchasing, Mivegec1point5 has set up the Ressourcerie, an in-house tool for exchanging lab equipment, reagents, screens, etc., and communicates about second-hand lab equipment platforms. A list of ethical service providers for coffee breaks and meals is available to seminar organisers.

At the end of 2024, the Greenstorming project was launched, with the aim of coming up with more engaging proposals for the group and putting them to the vote of the unit's members.