Dear COST Member,

Enclosed I send you the Questionnaire on Riparian Vegetation Characterization and Assessment that we have prepared within WG1. The objectives of this Questionnaire are mainly two:

1) To collect information from different countries, as many as possible, on the methods they have been currently used in each country, to review protocols and available methodologies

2) To identify gaps and deficiencies in data collection and analysis that could be improved for a proper management and conservation of riparian vegetation based on their scientific based knowledge.

We are asking your help as a MC member of our COST CONVERGES. We invite you to collaborate according to your preference, just filling the questionnaire (acknowledged), or contributing in the data analysis and report writing (co-author).

The questionnaire have several blocks, each of them addressed to different issues:

**I PERSONAL DATA. OTHER RELEVANT PERSONS WORKING ON RIPARIAN VEGETATION:**

Please, indicate your name and affiliation, and those of other persons working in riparian vegetation in your country. Additionally, we try to evaluate until what extent there is fluent reciprocal communication between researchers and practitioners, to identify potential barriers for knowledge conversion.

**II. MANAGEMENT OF RIPARIAN AREAS**

In this block we are asking for purposes and type of maintenance works frequently carried on along the riparian zones, to search until what extent these maintenance works are preventing the improvement of the riparian vegetation status.

**III CHARACTERIZATION AND ASSESSMENT OF RIPARIAN VEGETATION**

We distinguish **“characterization**”, as the description of riparian vegetation status, which may be qualitative or quantitative, and more or less detailed, from “**assessment**”, which try to evaluate or rank the differences between the current status and the considered “optimal” or good status. Characterization may be due in many different ways, including more or less complete information (e.g. species composition, abundance, diversity, etc.). Assessment implies to decide if the riparian vegetation is in “good” or “bad” conditions and requires information on reference status according to river typologies.

**IV. RIVER TYPOLOGIES AND REFERENCE CONDITIONS**

In this section, we are asking you if you know the existence of river typologies established in your country, and if you know the existence of reference conditions of riparian vegetation for each river type, which should be necessary to assess the ecological status of rivers in the context of the Water Framework Directive

**V. PRESSURES AND IMPACTS**

Finally, we are asking you about the main pressures and impacts affecting the riparian zones, and your opinion on their relative importance.

We would greatly appreciate if you could **send your filled questionnaire before 31 May 2019**

 **THANK YOU FOR YOUR COLLABORATION ¡¡¡**