



# Modelling of carbon cycle in grassland ecosystems of diverse water availability using Biome-BGCMuSo

Lellei-Kovács E.<sup>1</sup>, Barcza Z.<sup>2</sup>, Hidy D.<sup>3</sup>, Horváth F.<sup>1</sup>, Ónodi G.<sup>1</sup>, Kertész M.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MTA Centre for Ecological Research, Institute of Ecology and Botany, Vácrátót, Hungary

<sup>2</sup> Department of Meteorology, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

<sup>3</sup> MTA-SZIE Plant Ecology Research Group, Szent István University, Gödöllő, Hungary

MACSUR Science Conference 2017, Berlin



Nature, to be commanded,  
must be obeyed.

*Francis Bacon*





- Forest-steppe ecotone in the Kiskunság
- Water as the main limiting factor
- Main characteristics of the Biome-BGCMuSo biogeochemical model
- Uncalibrated runs
- Pre-calibration of selected parameters by aboveground biomass
- Conclusions, outlook and further plans



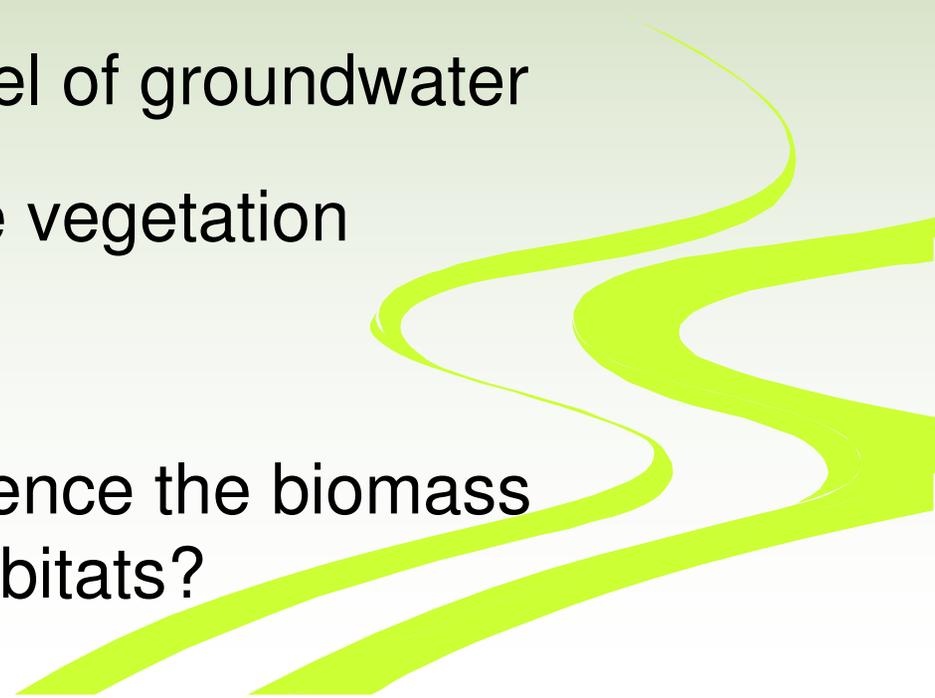
# Forest-steppe ecotone in the Kiskunság





# Water as the main limiting factor

- Water supply is highly variable in time and space
- Influence of the relief in fine scale
- Influence of the seasonal and interannual changes in the weather
- Long-term decrease in the level of groundwater
- Differences in habitats and the vegetation
- Differences in land-use
- What factors and how do influence the biomass production in the grassland habitats?





# Studied ecosystems





# Biome-BGCMuSo biogeochemical model

- Modelling of storage and flux of water, carbon, and nitrogen between the ecosystem and the atmosphere  
(BBGC, Thornton 2000)
- --> **Multilayer Soil Module** (Hidy et al. 2012, 2016)
- improved representation of soil hydrology
- ... and plant phenology (e.g. drought related plant senescence)
- improved parameterization of plant ecophysiology
- developed management modules (mowing, grazing, fertilization, cropland and forest management options)
- daily variable groundwater level



# Biome-BGCMuSo biogeochemical model

- **Input:** daily meteorological data
  - Initialization of the target ecosystem – geography, soil properties, phenology, maximum depth of rooting zone
  - Ecophysiological parameters
  - Groundwater
  - CO<sub>2</sub> concentration
  - N-deposition
  - Management





# Biome-BGCMuSo biogeochemical model

- **Output:** more than 500 possible output variables
  - Soil states (water, temperature, nutrients)
  - Variables of the water, carbon and nitrogen cycles and pools
  - Vegetation characteristics
  - Daily and annual





# Biome-BGCMuSo biogeochemical model

- **Process:** ecosystem by ecosystem
  - Uncalibrated runs
  - Selection of ecophysiological parameters and intervals to calibrate the parameters (by literature, sensitivity analyses)
  - Study of parameter distributions (first on 1000, later on 100 000 runs)
  - Study of parameter interdependences
  - Calibration to standing aboveground biomass data



# Calibration of selected parameters by aboveground biomass

Crop-scan instrument

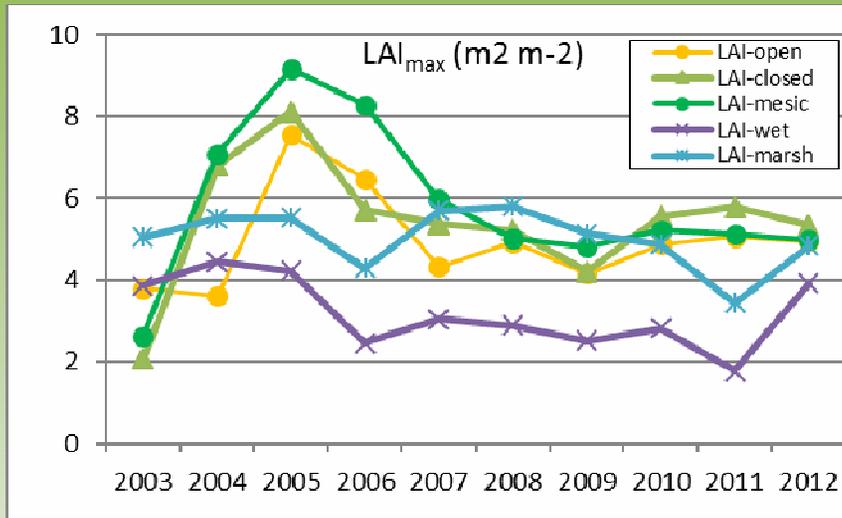


annual whole-plant mortality fraction  
new fine root C : new leaf C  
canopy light extinction coefficient  
canopy average specific leaf area  
bulk N denitrification proportion (DRY)  
symbiotic+asymbiotic fixation of N  
critical value of soilstress coefficient  
maximum depth of rooting zone  
root distribution parameter  
rate constant scalar of recalcitrant SOM  
(humus) pool

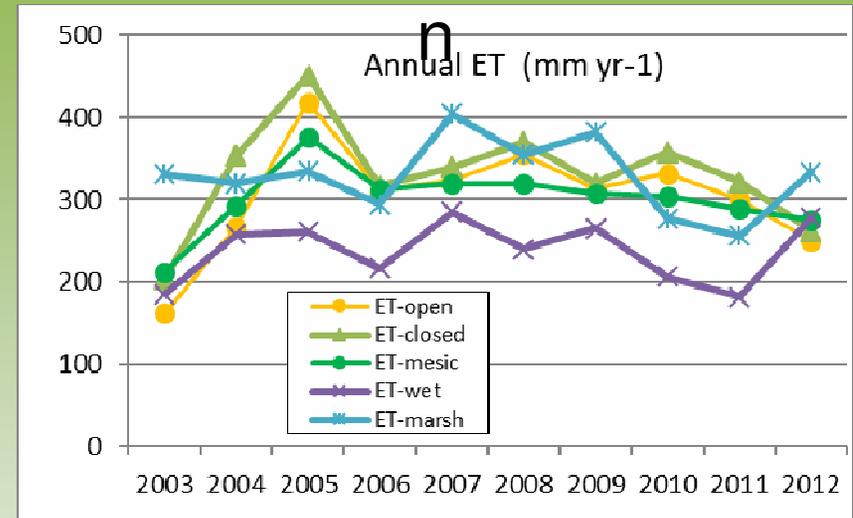


# Uncalibrated runs

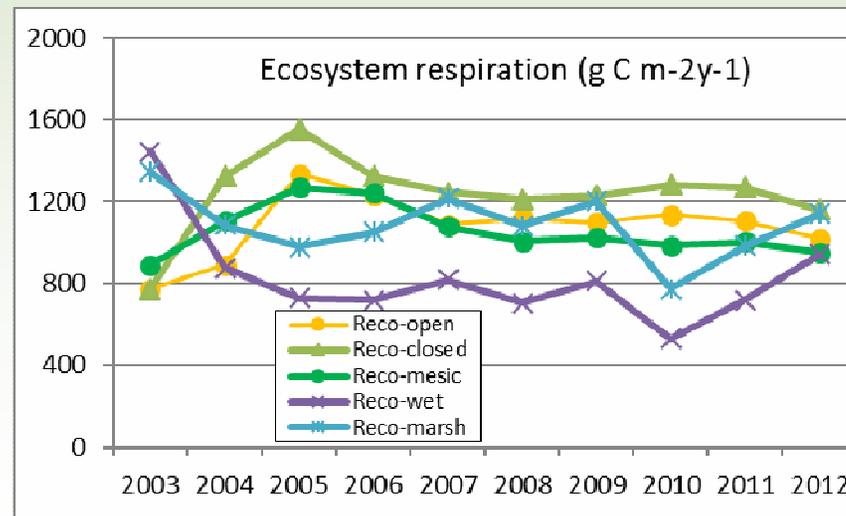
## Leaf Area Index



## Evapotranspiration



## Net ecosystem respiration

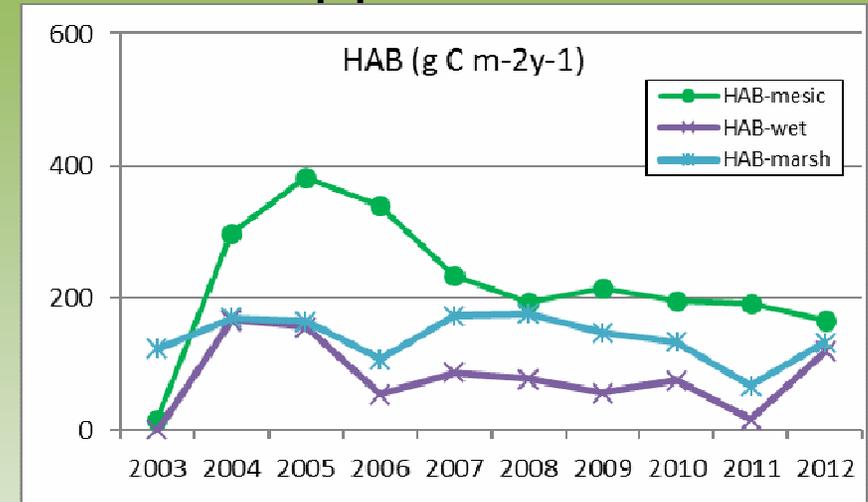
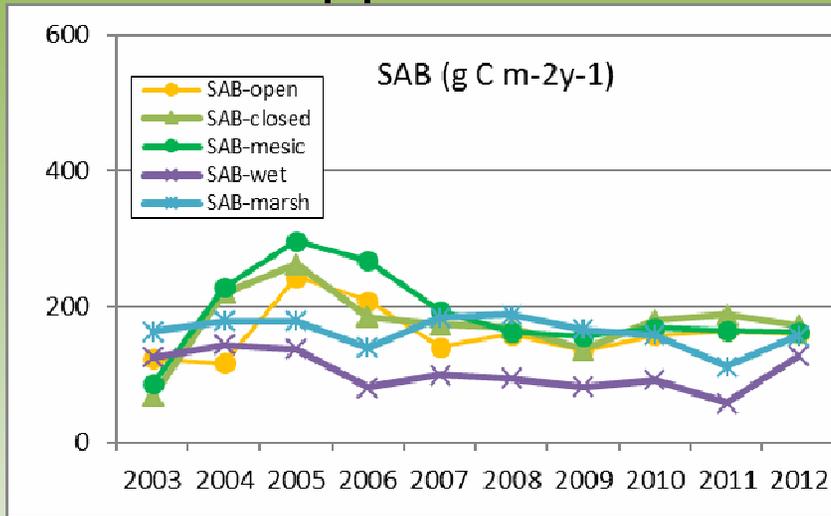




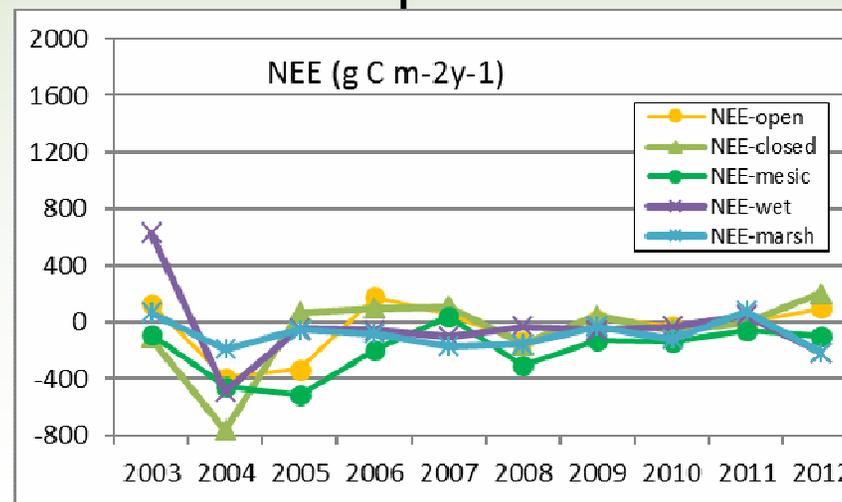
# Uncalibrated runs

## Standing aboveground

## Harvested aboveground



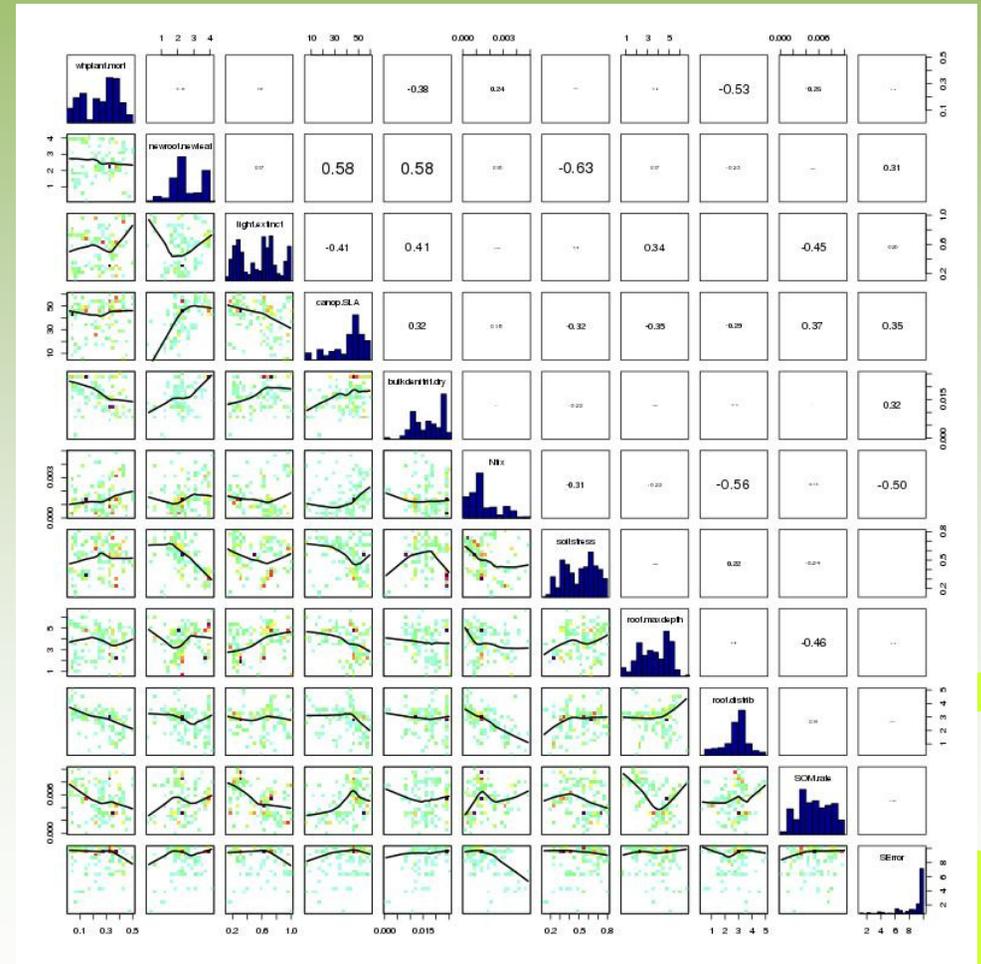
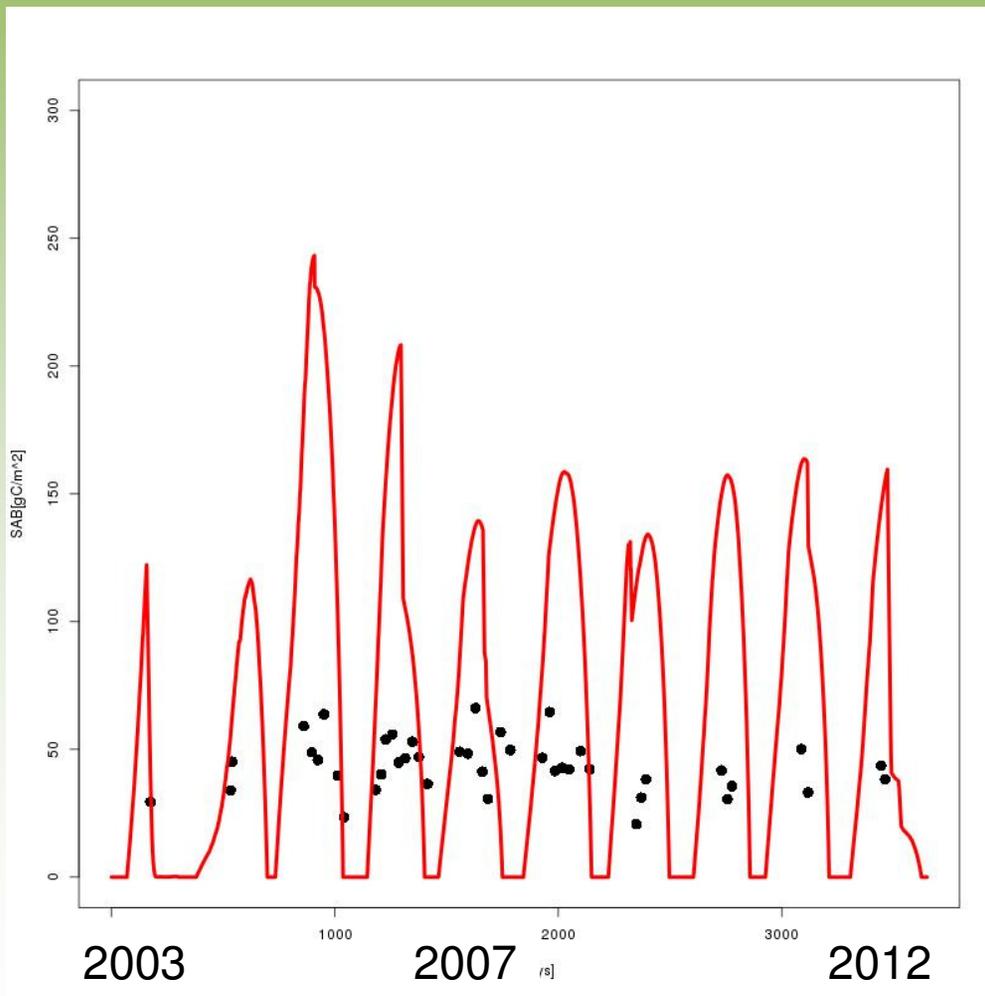
## Net ecosystem





# Pre-calibration 1

## Open sand grassland

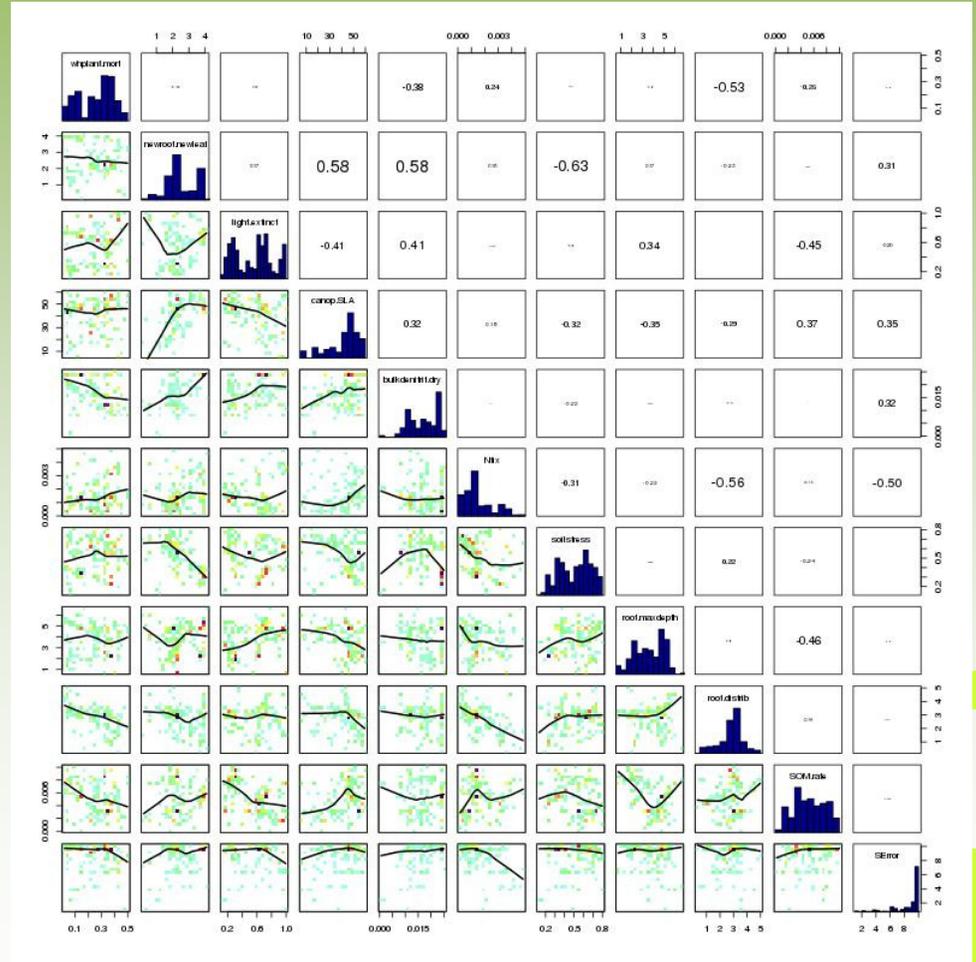
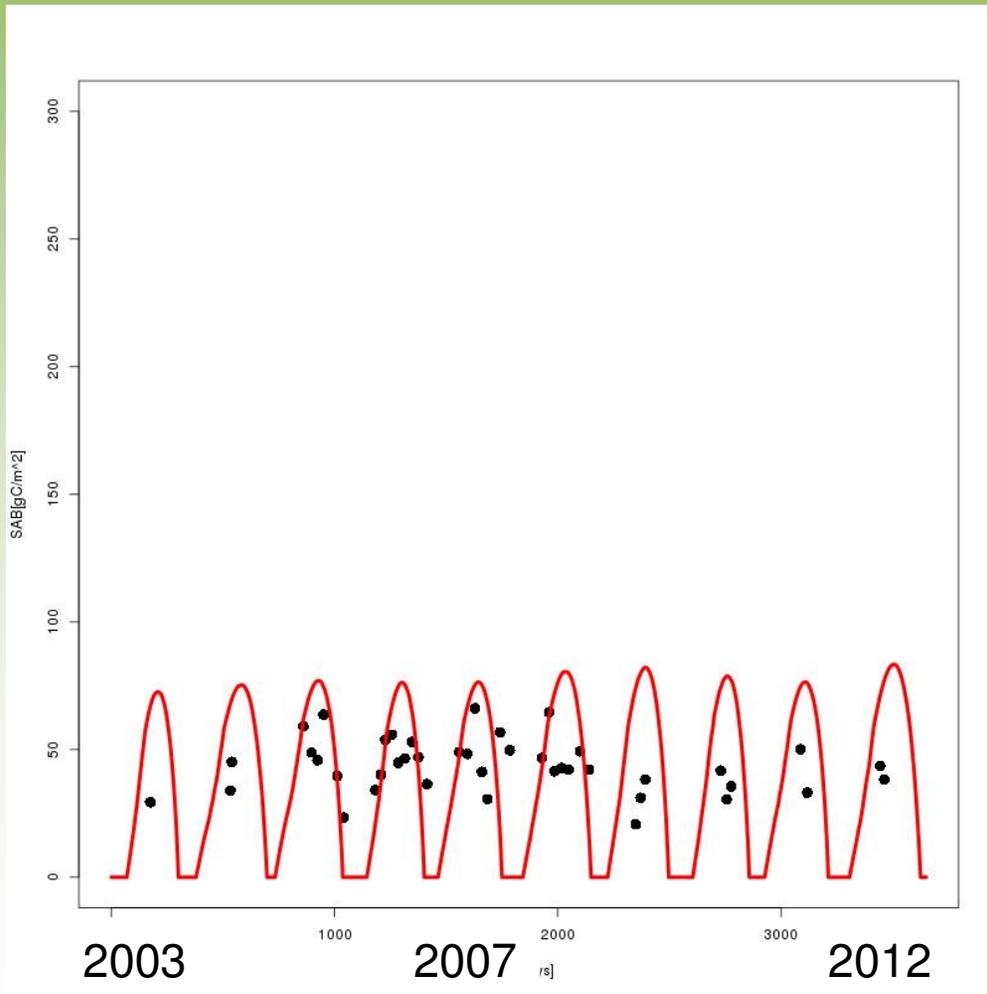


Standing aboveground biomass



# Pre-calibration 1

## Open sand grassland

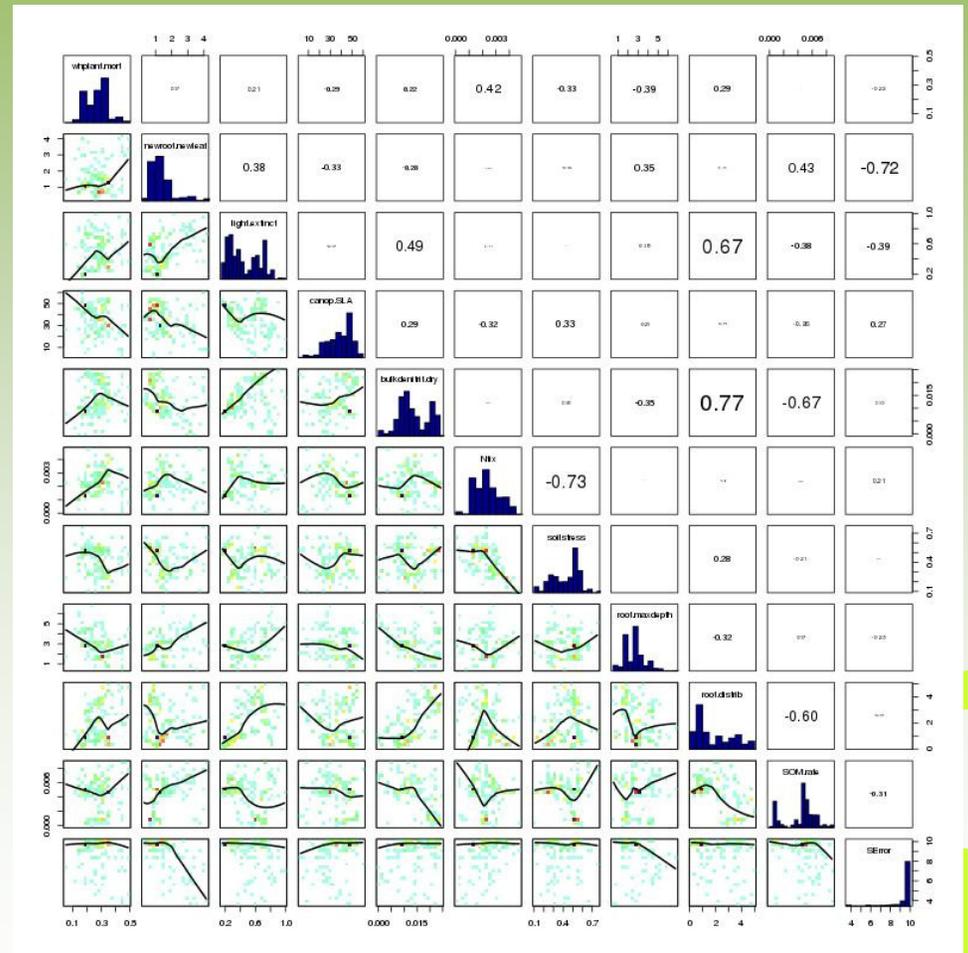
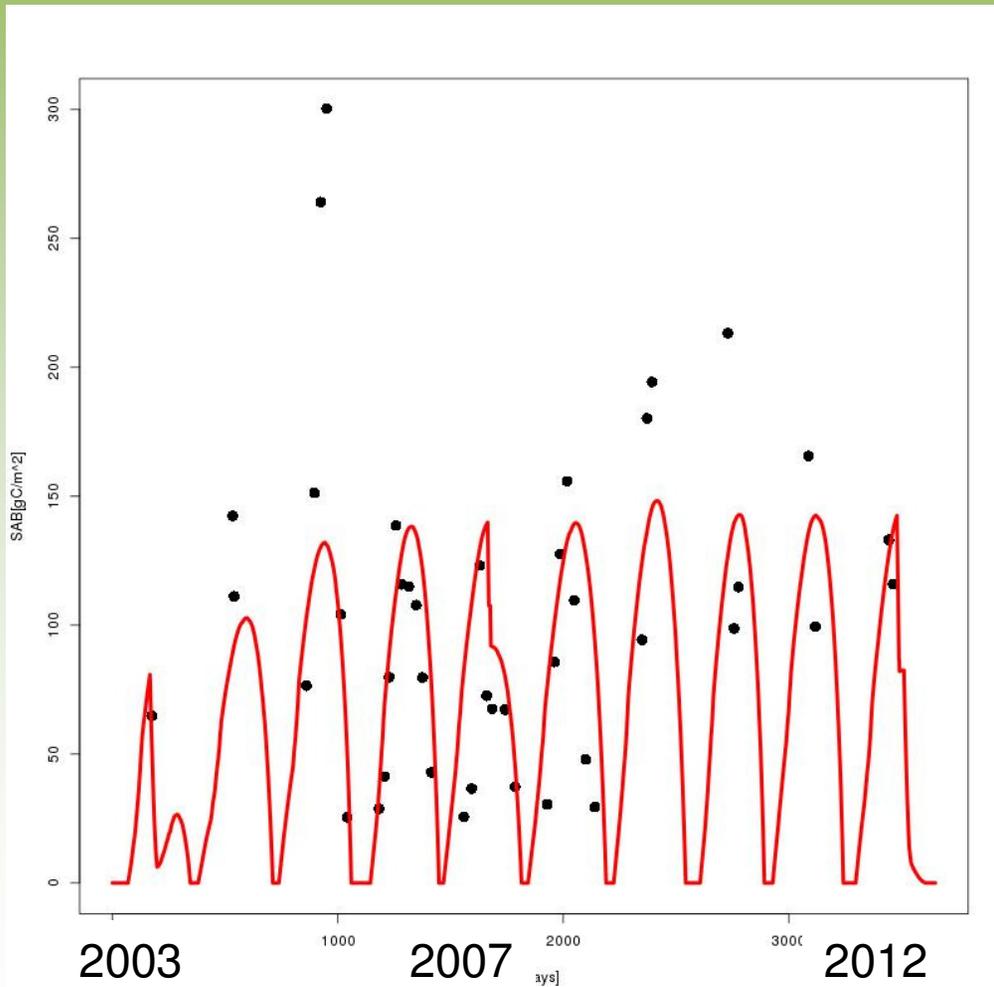


Standing aboveground biomass



# Pre-calibration 2

## Closed sand grassland

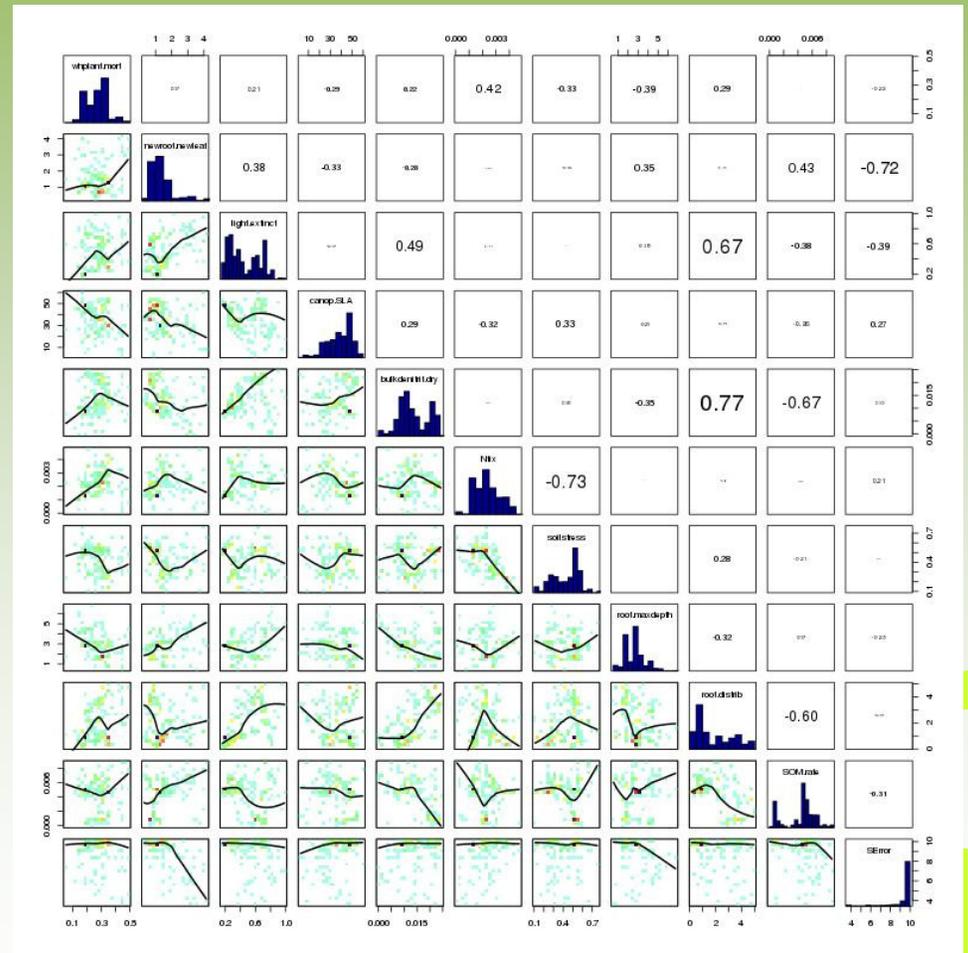
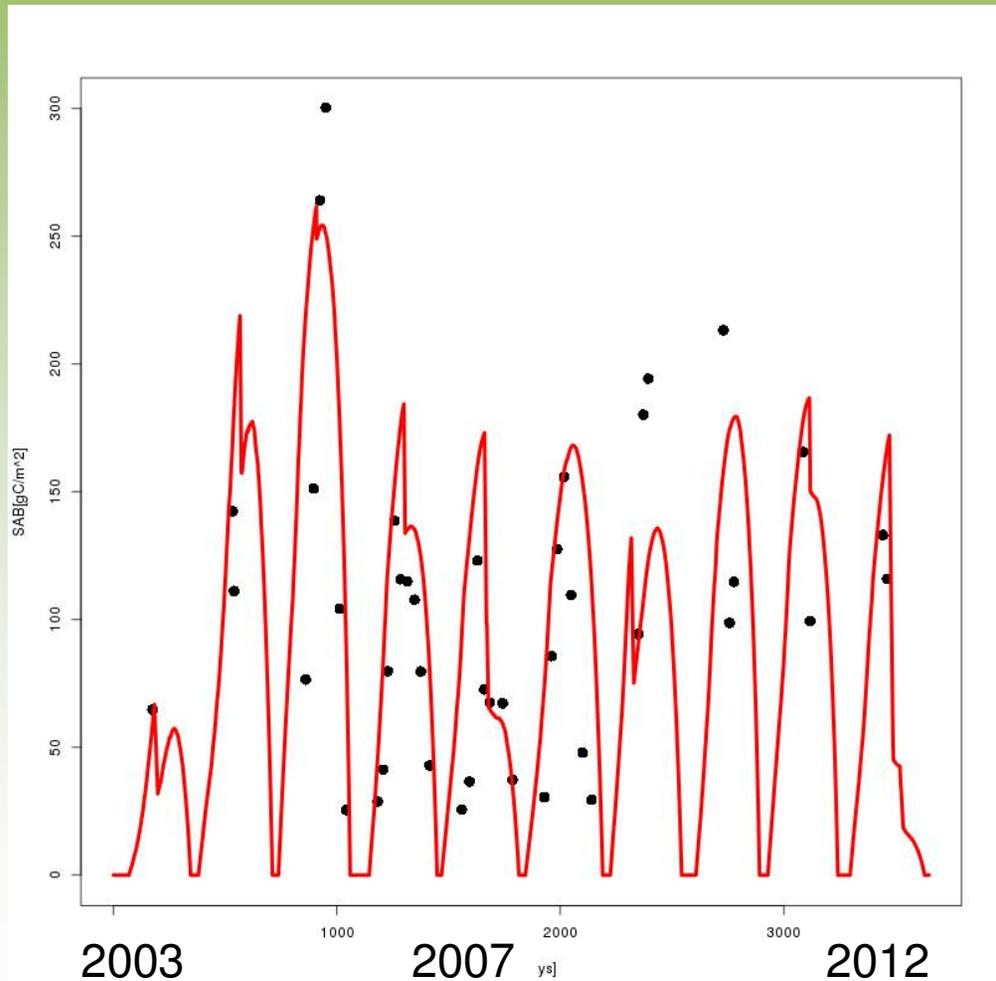


Standing aboveground biomass



# Pre-calibration 2

## Closed sand grassland

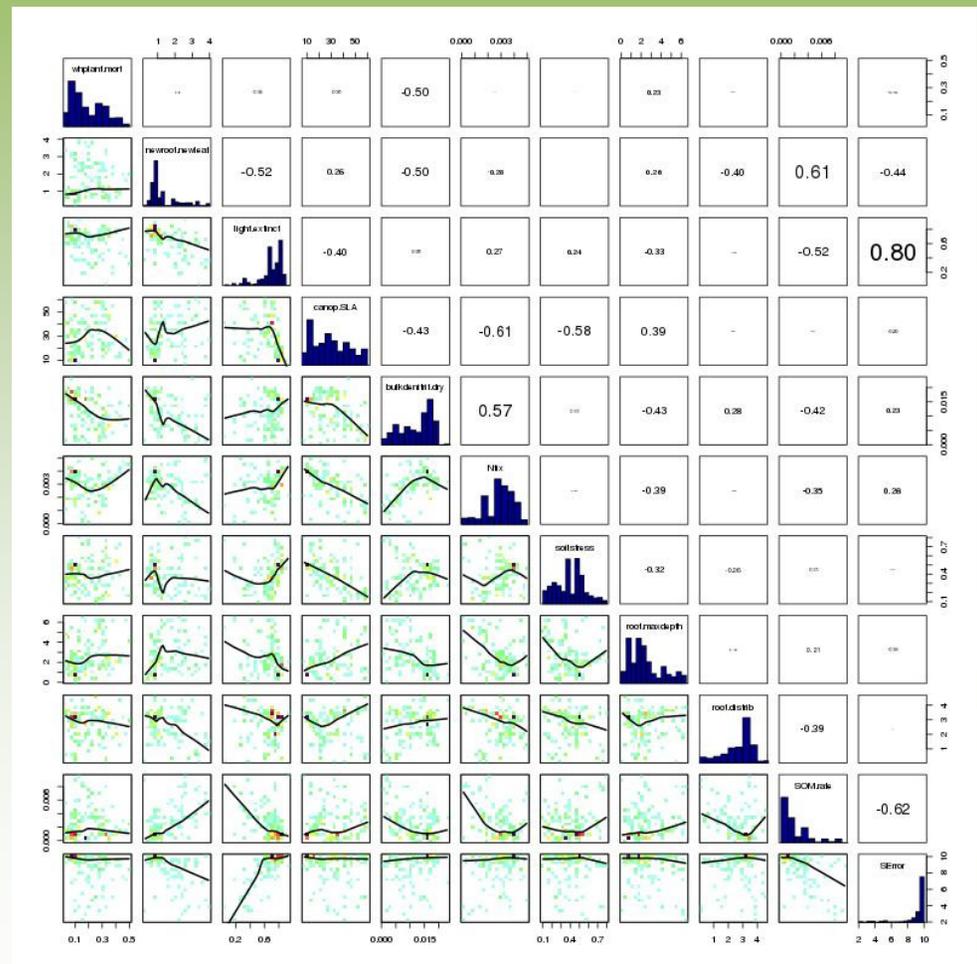
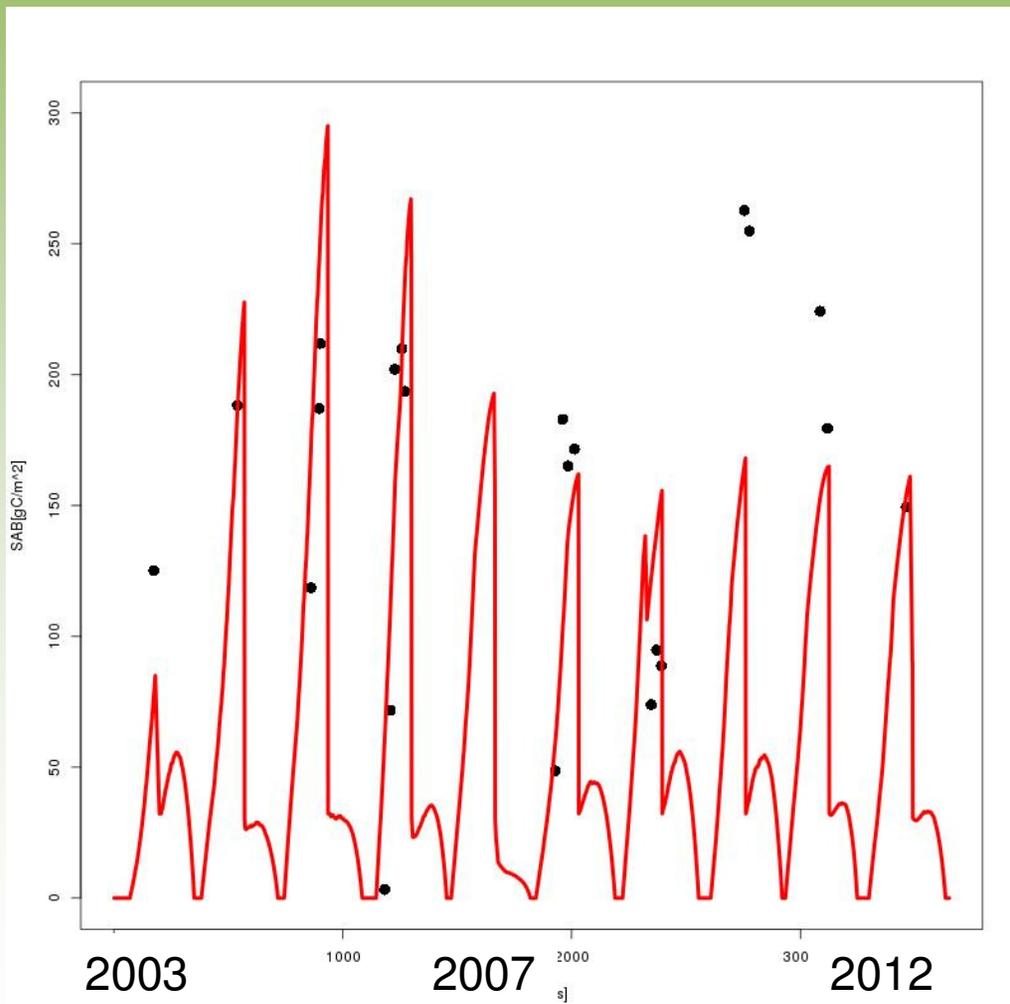


Standing aboveground biomass



# Pre-calibration 3

## Mesic meadow



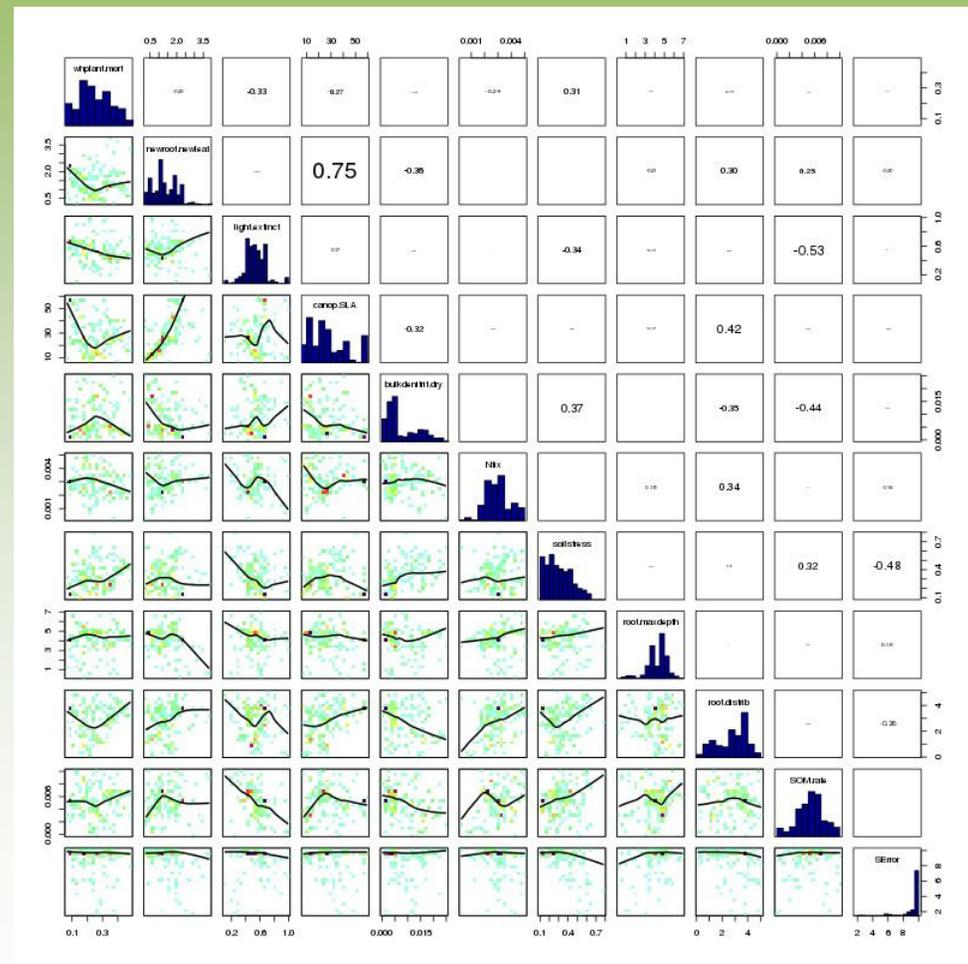
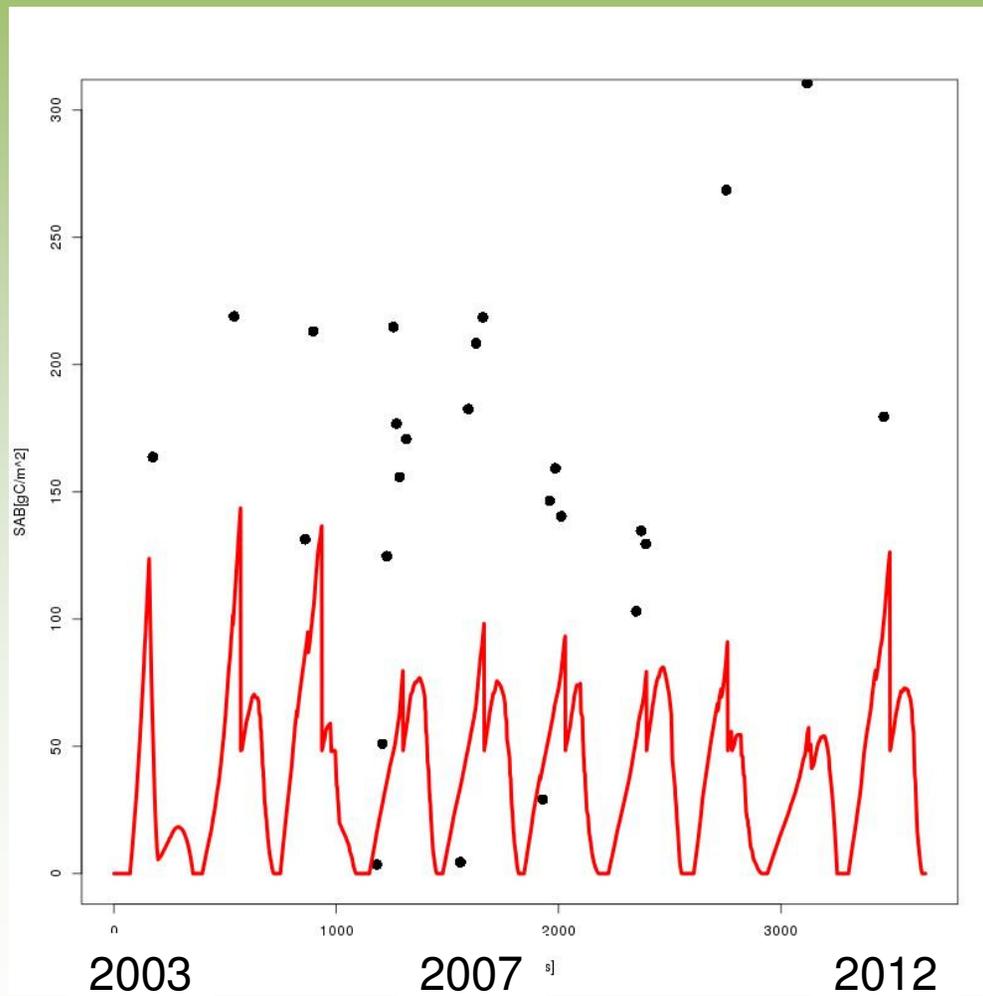
Standing aboveground biomass





# Pre-calibration 4

## Wet meadow



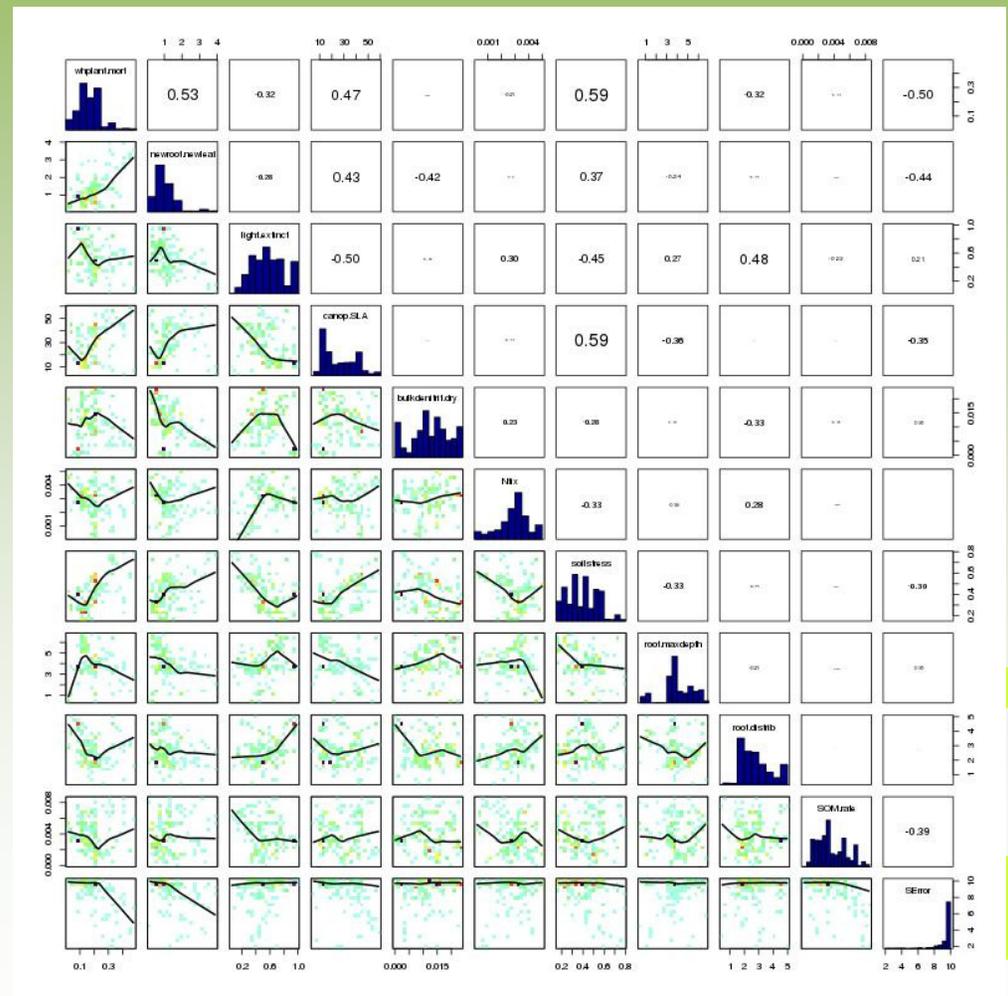
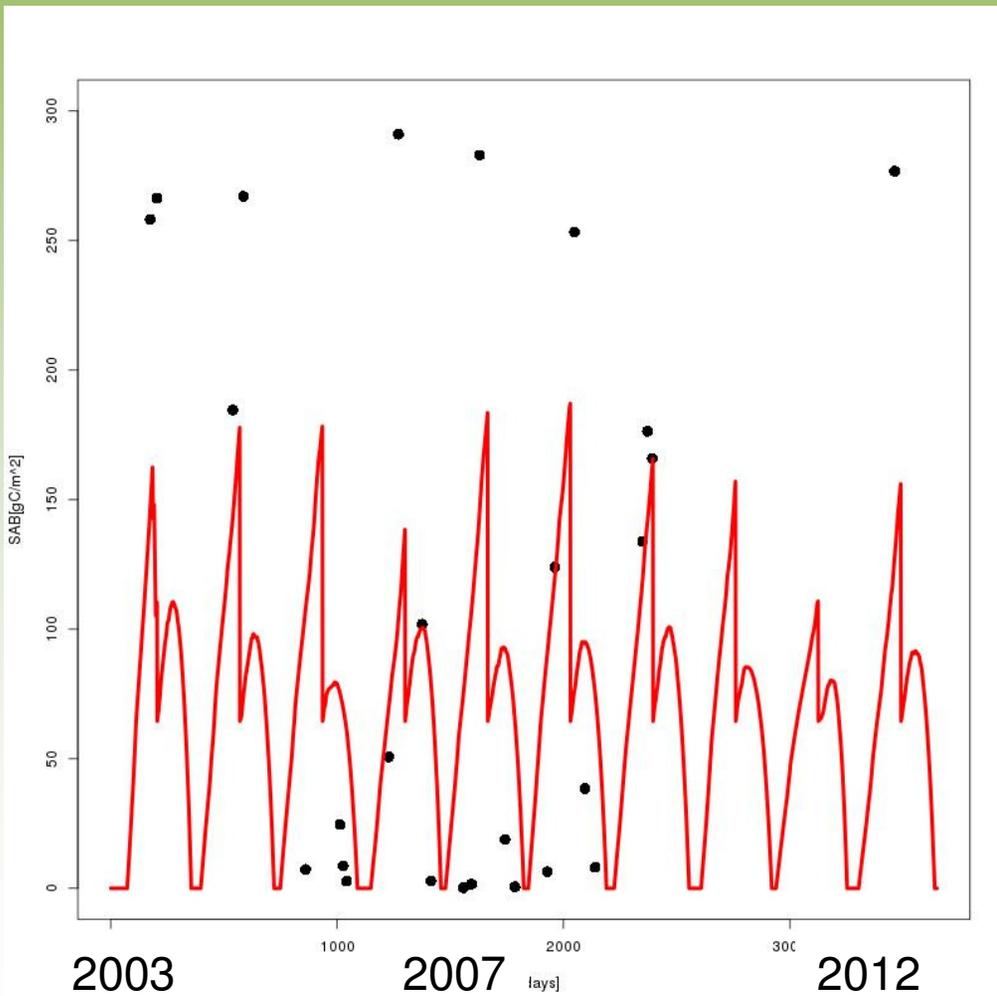
Standing aboveground biomass





# Pre-calibration 5

## Marshland



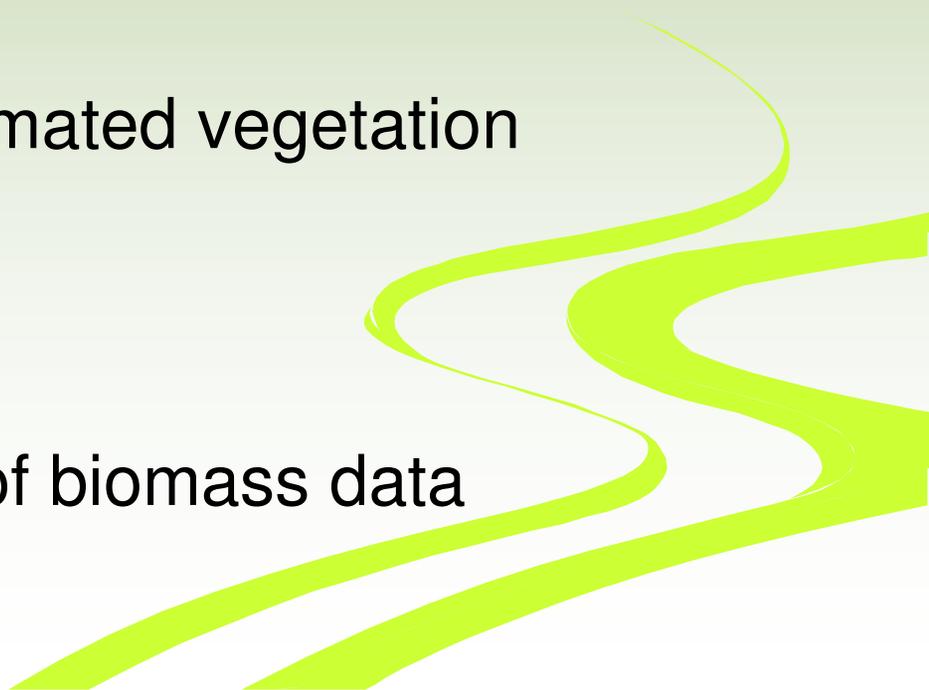
Standing aboveground biomass





# Conclusions, outlook and further plans

- Aboveground biomass estimation is mostly realistic and may be further improved by calibration
- LAI is systematically overestimated by the model
- Open grassland has overestimated vegetation development
- Wet meadow has underestimated vegetation development
- Continue the calibration...
- Validation on further years of biomass data





Thank You for Your attention!



For further information  
please visit: [www.macsur.eu](http://www.macsur.eu)

#### Acknowledgement

The research was supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA K104816 and PD115637)