Wild Ungulates in Forests – European Forest Risk Facility: Workshop report

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7-9 July 2014, Nogent sur Vernisson, France

Venue: IRSTEA Campus, Nogent sur Vernisson

Attendees:

Michael Müller	University of Dresden (Germany)
Marco Apollonio	University of Sassari (Italy)
Anders Marell	Irstea (France)
Philippe Ballon	Irstea (France)
Ciaran Nugent	Ministry of Agriculture (Ireland)
Goran Ericsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Science (Sweden)
Christoph Hartebrodt	Research Institute of Baden Württemberg FVA (Germany)
Yvonne Chtioui	Research Institute of Baden Württemberg FVA (Germany)
Alexander Held	European Forest Institute (EFI) Germany
Verena Quadt	European Forest Institute (EFI) Germany
Soubieux Jean Michel	ONCFS (France)
Guy Landmann	GIP-ECOFOR (France)
Michael Kohl	University of Hamburg (Germany)
Gaelle Darmon	CEN Rhône Alpes (France/Canada)
Marie Baltzinger (field visit)	France
Agnès Rocquencourt	France
Jean-Pierre Hamard	France
Christophe Baltzinger	France

Excused:

Friedrich Reimoser (Austria), Carlos Fonseca (Portugal), Peter Watson (UK), Christian Ammer (Germany)

Purpose of Meeting:

a) Defining the added value of a European Forest Risk Facility to the ungulate-forest community in Europe.

b) Defining role, products and services, specific to Ungulates in Forests.

Agenda and Presentations: All ppt available online at: www.friskgo.org

Opening

Philippe Ballon and Andres Marell opened the meeting with an introduction to the venue and the IRSTEA activity fields in ungulate management.

Introduction to Vision and FRISK GO Project (A Held)

Alex presented how the idea of a European Forest Risk Facility (FRISK) evolved, shared background and frame of policy and research, presented the vision of a FRISK. Alex explained the purpose of this workshop.

Video will be soon available under www.friskgo.org

Video statement was shown from the Fire Workshop participant Prof Johann Goldammer and his view, ideas and expectations on how a FRISK could work. The video served to share impressions from previous workshops and to illustrate the role of these video statements. The participants were asked to volunteer to present their expectations on video during the Ungulate Workshop.

Participants Positioning Exercise

The risk management matrix that was used in all previous workshops was presented. Due to the relatively small group it was only displayed and used as frame for own introduction of participants. The introduction with positioning showed participants from research, practice and policy. Represented were wildlife biologists, hunters, foresters, communication experts from 6 wildlife –rich countries, namely Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Ireland with a presented case study from Canada.

Europe-wide analysis of ungulate situation (Marco Apollonio)

Marco opened the plenary session with an impressive Europe-wide analysis of historical and actual developments in wildlife populations, socio-cultural context and provided an outlook on challenges for ungulate management in the complex and divers context of ungulates and human society in Europe. The presentation revealed the diversity across Europe and at the same time the common challenges in ungulate-human interaction. He provided strong arguments why a platform like a FRISK is useful: Europe-wide increase in ungulate populations, increasing damages, increasing opposition to hunting, variety of situations - but common problems – require variety of approaches.

Case Study Hatzfeld project (Michael Mueller)

Michael shared experiences and results of various pilot areas in Germany where so called "Targeted-Hunting" was and is applied. The core element of targeted hunting is of course to hunt in "targeted areas" as for example newly established reforestations, but more so in adapted hunting seasons. In the project areas the hunting and shooting seasons were synchronised to minimise disturbing effects of every-day-present hunting pressure. He showed that with an adapted hunting system the efficiency can be increased despite reduced hunting pressure. He further presented that this system can be applied with neighbouring forest owners having other management objectives (in this case high ungulate densities). The value for the FRISK in providing real life examples that show: it can be done and it does work!

Forest-Ungulate conflicts – analysis and recommendations by C Ammer (Alex Held)

Alex presented on behalf of the study author Prof Christian Ammer. The presented study was published in 2010 and gave the public discussion on the forest-ungulate conflict of interest in Germany a new push. It is a situation analysis and providing recommendations to mitigate the conflict. It is focused on the forest environment as most ungulates depend on forests as their habitat. Alex linked this study and the following discussion to a national (Germany) forum that was held in 2012 (next in autumn 2014) on this topic by the German ANW (Pro Sylva). The study by Ammer, related case studies across Germany and future upcoming projects and demo-sites with adapted targeted hunting are providing a great opportunity for exchange and inspirations across borders.

Field trip and case study: Sologne Project (Marie Baltzinger)

The field trip took the participants to various sites in the vicinity of Nogent. We visited state forest land, private forest and fenced areas. Different forest management objectives were presented by Philippe and discussed on-site with the group. The differences between the 3 visited sites were clearly visible and related ungulate density obvious. The close vicinity of the areas initiated a lively discussion on effects on neighbours of either form of ungulate management. Marie presented her study on the reasoning why owners build fences around their forest property. Comparing experiences from the field trip with fencing from other countries was a good exchange of expertise and as well on socio-cultural background and conditions. Comparing analysis between countries could provide options and incentives for future action and new approaches.

Adaptive moose management – Integrated Ungulate management in Sweden (Göran Ericsson)

Sweden has extensive knowledge, research and management expertise of moose and is lately experiencing a step increase in other ungulate species as well. Göran shared the history of moose management and explained in detail the organisational structure for moose (and other ungulates) management in Sweden. He elaborated the system of adaptive moose management. In the following discussion it was asked if the system of adaptive management with its adaptive elements could also be used for the organisation of the Forest Risk Facility...a proposal that will be discussed during the development of the FRISK Business Plan.

Sylvafaune project (Jean Michel Soubieux)

Jean Michel as representative of the hunting authority in France presented a new project that is exploring the means for conflict management between hunters and land owners / foresters. It is an interesting concept and the similarities to initiatives like ROBA (Roe deer management without quota set by authorities) in Germany were discussed. It will be very interesting to follow the project developments and to share the experiences across borders.

Deer management in Ireland (Ciaran Nugent)

Ireland is a country with a relatively short history of forest and wildlife. Therefore it is imperative for the stakeholders to assess and evaluate experiences and traditions from the continent to avoid making unnecessary mistakes. Ciaran stated that in Ireland it is more an organisational problem than a deer problem. The role of a Forest Risk Facility as a platform to exchange and support developments of forest and wildlife policies and operating procedures was obvious. Ciaran shared the irish approach of developing a wildlife policy in a bottom-up approach with the participants, an interesting multi-agency and multi-stakeholder communication exercise. An example for other countries.

Deer Management on Anticosti Island, Canada (G Darmon)

Whitetail deer population on Anticosti Island are in the range of 20 animals / 100ha and hunting tourism is one of the main income sources for residents. The influence of deer is so immense that the habitat and carrying capacity may no longer sustain a deer population that is large enough to provide income as a hunting resource. The project presented by Gaelle is elaborating how forestry and deer management can work together to maintain the forest habitat in a structure that can sustain enough deer. It is a case study where deer, not forests, are in the focus. However it was clear that both, hunting and silviculture toned to work hand in hand to achieve commonly agreed objectives.

Discussions and Summary(M Köhl)

Michael presented a summary of the discussions that followed the case study presentations. It was highlighted that a facility first and foremost needs to develop and work on its own credibility, starting on local levels to grow into the European role expected by participants. Focus should be on options, products and services that can be implemented with low risk and high confidence within a starting phase of a FRISK. This will serve to build credibility, trust and support to enable FRISK in a second phase to approach more complicated challenges.

Needs identified and priorities for a Forest Risk Facility
- Networking
- Understanding
- Strategic planning
- Supporting
- Capacity building

- Information and Communication
- Assisst nations for improving their disturbance management sytems
- Provide frame work for response
- Overall objectives need to be identified
- Countries' contributions
- Donor's objectives
- Credible/ legitimate partner, mandate, completences,

Networking

- Mapping existing organisations, initiatives and groups related to forest risks
- Exchanging experiences and knowledge, providing feedback on further needs for information and know-how
- Supporting regions, countries and organisations in designing their (contingency) plans from the platform knowledge
- Supporting multi-stakeholders dialogue
- Augment/ add value to existing networks

Understanding

- Gathering most **reliable *sources* of data and analyses** on risk occurrences and damages and encouraging the collection of up-to-date information on important forest disturbances, related risks and damages.
- Offering a **"place"** where scientists and other groups can meet to carry out joint pan-European evaluations (data and models from various sources)
- Set priorities/ consider all elements

Strategic Planning

- Develop a **conceptual framework** for addressing forest disturbances and their related consequences on risks
- Coordinate the design of **contigency plans** between countries to share know-how and consider interactions
- Develop **strategies for long-term risk mitigation** in order to allow timely and efficient allocation of resources to confront risks
- Facilitate the **incorporation of risk into forest policies and into management plans** for decision makers and forest managers
- Couple/ integrate forest management, land management and risk management
- Adaptive scenario planning (www.mindofafox.co.za)

Supporting

- **Building reference centre(s) in order to** facilitate access to and the use of best available methods and built a reference documentation
- "In time" support services

Capacity Building

- Individual level
- Institutional level
- Societal level
- Education

Communication

- Develop suitable format reporting on current trends (absence of any report), collaboration with relevant actors/organisations

- Raising awareness among forest managers and customers
- Dissemination of the information to the concerned publics, reporting to competent authorities and policy makers
- School children and communities to be aware of forest vulnerabilities and risks
- Communication on social and economic impacts of risks

Potential Role and Activity fields of a European Forest Risk Facility

The following list of potential activities of a FRISK is also reflecting discussions at the previous workshops on fire, storm and biotic damages. Note: there are synergies with with the discussions on 'Liaison function': What in a first phase of a FRISK is fulfilled by the Liaison units and what role is fulfilled by a FRSIK secretariat has to be elaborated for the Business Plan.

- Exchange of Experts: similar to EU EoE, but for foresters, un-bureaucratic and flexible
- Capacity Building: be and provide an access point to available on-the-job training, knowledge, experts, advice
- Act as 'Honest Broker', assist in coordination of stakeholders, serve as mitigator
- Provide a platform for informal un-bureaucratic interaction ("club atmosphere"), avoid complicated (governance) structures
- Stress mitigation and adaptation, shift currently high emphasis away from response and recovery
- Host case study library to provide options, **not** solutions
- Fast tracking of experience to mitigate mistakes and not needing to leans lessons that others have already made
- Point of reference – credibility to be built through ground activities (see case studies)
- Develop, maintain and provide access to demonstration sites, in order to allow showing that innovative approaches exist and how they have been implemented and with are the lessons learned
- Cross linking of disturbances, linking experiences and approaches between disturbances
- Provide Decision Support
- Provide Policy development support
- Constitute a support mechanism for communication and support for Coordination of stakeholders
- "Wirearchy" instead of hierarchy (see Annex). No new role of leadership etc, FRISK to be a node in the existing networks, providing support, framing and enabling resources to the networks....
- Advocate the message of **Resilient Landscapes-Adapted Communities-Adequate Response**
- Support local level actors to build credibility towards higher levels; advocating for forest risk management
- Mobilizing of specialists / assistance teams (read: incident management team)
- Adaptive management approach of a FRISK: i.e. FRISK as a lean and small secretariat on with Liaison function via existing initiatives and structures in the countries. (see section on Liaison Function)

Liaison function of a FRISK (WP3) (C Hartebrodt)

A list of topics on the liaison function was collected during the wildlife workshop. It was compared with results from the previous workshops. These Agreements are presented for a more comprehensive picture and to visualise the overall direction of thoughts and expectations.

In the workshop session the *Products, Services, Vision and Primary Functions* of the Liaison function (unit) for a Forest Risk Facility were discussed. An overlap to the general discussion about a Facility is obvious and prioritising of results will be done in due course. These results will be presented at www.friskgo.org . The current list in Annex II is presented for overview purposes.

Implications for the FRISK GO Project and a later FRISK

Participants feedback: EFI managed to host a wildlife meeting with foresters, hunters, biologists without a fight; we are challenged to keep this role

During the workshop the idea was born and discussed to produce a "across-Europe" publication and a film project, displaying the divers situations and settings in ungulate management and forests across Europe. A dedicated book publication and film will serve to open up the discussion, share experiences and inspire new thinking and new approaches. It was stated that the film should be produced from a neutral perspective and display the various management objectives from all stakeholders. In the FRISK sense to "provide options, not solutions."
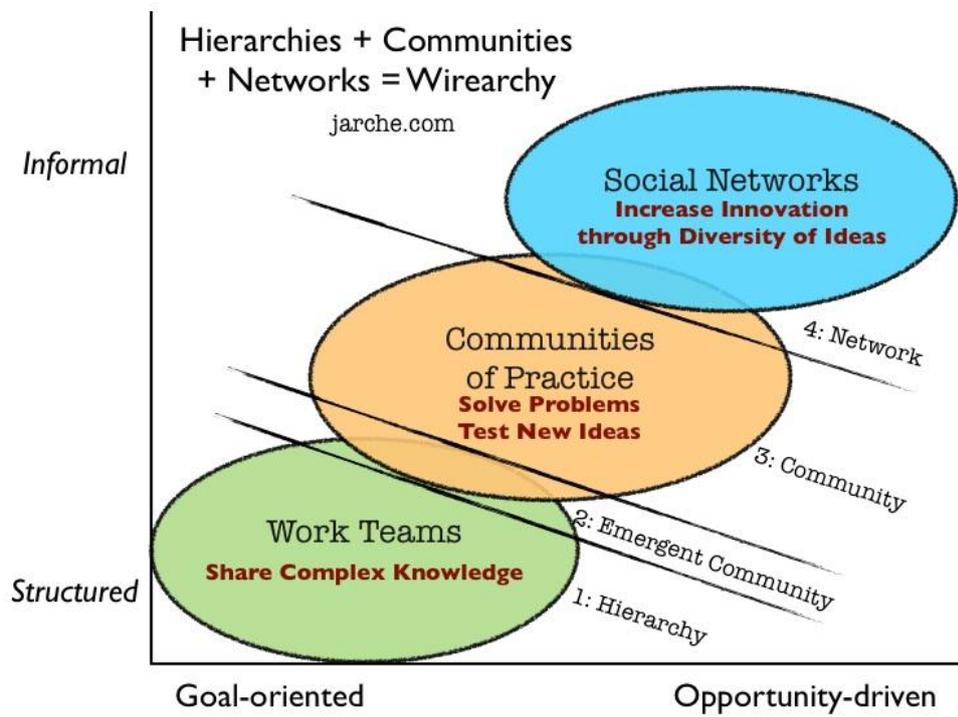
ANNEX I

Fig.1. Potential FRISK role between and within Hierarchies, Communities and Networks.
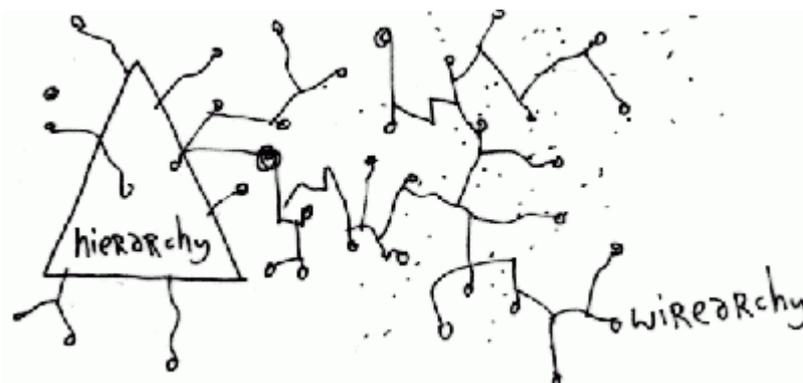

Fig. 2. "Controlled Chaos" Strategy to increase system resilience by increased individual resilience.

ANNEX II

Liaison Function (FRISK GO WP 3) discussion topics:

A Products

- List of existing network
- Best practice data-base (case studies)
- Multi-level feedback system
- Building science-practice interface

Agreements with Fire/Biotics/Storm-Community:

- Virtual meetings in local languages
- Provision, documentation, Validation of case studies and best practice solutions
- Establishment and maintenance of demonstration objects/ plots
- Local/ national expert Database / phone book
- Organisations of Job shadowing offers in their own region
- Best practice data-base
- Rating system for best practice solutions
- List of correspondents for specific questions/ monitoring
- Provision of data that fit in commonly used information (data bases) N/R -> FRISK
- Short manuals for response to various disturbances
- List of representatives of relevant institutions

Disagreements about:

- Rating system for experts

B Services

- Enhancing networks
- "Dating agency" (facilitate regular professional exchange, see EU EoE)
- Organizing workshops
- Fundraising
- providing Access to training, exchange, local expertise
- Validation from external perspective
- Translation Eng→others/ others→Eng
- advisory service in cultural aspects to facilitate international exchange of experiences
- Involvement of external experts
- Policy advise
- credible messenger/trust → confidence building
- Contextualisation to practical level
- Job shadowing
- organize exchanges of experts, on a regular, coordinated basis with operational budget

Agreements with Fire/Biotics/Storm-Community:

- Adaptation of existing information, tools and strategies to local situation
- Advice, supervision for e.g. risk assessment
- Make calls for WS and other services
- Exchange students from forestry-schools
- Facilitation of access to national data for (joint-) research activities
- Information of neighbouring countries in case of cross border-disturbances
- Non Profit, not commercial, profit check!!!!
- Hosting of visitors, arrange agenda and programme, local hosts
- Identification of stakeholder needs
- Identification of further research needs
- Support targeted research with seed funding

C Organization-Affiliation-Processes

- Trust in people/ liaison function
- Give liaison options
- Organizational adaptive to donor's requirements
- Rely on national partners
- affiliate to existing organisation

Agreements with Fire/Biotics/Storm-Community:

- Basic rule: Liaison is officially part of FRISK (FRISK is formed by Liaison units?)
- New institution, if needed. Preferred to link it to existing bodies.
- Overtaking the liaison function means need for/ supply with resources
- Umbrella for existing and new initiatives
- Affiliation to an existing (nat., reg., loc.) structure/institution. Best solution
- Provide complementary synergistic system to existing structures and institutions
- Funding for networking
- Institution offers part-time jobs
- Institution as host FRISK is funding
- Centralized unit coordinating/ subunit FRISK
- Support local contact persons
- Liaison is adaptive
- Champion Approach --> Expertise
- Champion Approach --> Trust /Appreciation/Credibility
- National Forest Service
- Contact to existing organisations
- Easy system
- Adaptive system Organisation

D Name - Vision-Mission

- Topic related
- Contribution to common understanding, buttom up
- Focus on options, not solutions

- Show opportunities
- Integration in land-use management
- Enhance pro-active actions

Agreements with Fire/Biotics/Storm-Community:

- No Competition to existing networks/ structures
- Off the records approach, easy communication, no hierarchies, no bureaucracy
- Open access policy
- Liaison to level of practitioners
- Focal point
- No additional bottleneck that prevents the use of informal information channels
- Institutional arrangements are better than individuals for reasons of continuity
- trust in institutions
- Promote human interaction
- Enhancing Visibility
- Connect- Collect - Exchange

E Primary Functions

- Promotion of risk-related topics
- Bridging initiatives, experts, disturbances
- Technology transfer
- Lobbying
- Building credibility

Agreements with Fire/Biotics/Storm-Community:

- Link to FRISK
- Awareness raising
- Link between local internal networks
- Accelerator for knowledge exchange and access to external experts
- External communication. Interface Experts-Society
- Link to external networks and stakeholder groups. Honest broker
- Continuity Institutionalisation overcoming networking by chance
- Development of new structures (portal functions for externals)
- Access-Point for potential Users/ First Stop Shop in case of natural disturbance
- Organize Cooperation
- Promotion of counter flow principle
- Evaluator of importance of individual topics
- Network initialisation