



FRISK GO PROJECT

Progress Report

EFICIENT

August 2014

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1. Introduction

1.1. Vision of a European Forest Risk Facility

Keeping in mind the predictions towards global change and the growing demands of society, sustainable forestry will only be able to meet such developments and expectations with highly resilient forests. Resilience of forest can be achieved by integrating risks into forest management and mitigation processes, and accepting disturbance as part of forest management. Proper embedding of disturbances in forest management should allow reducing disaster impact, damage levels and uncertainty.

Vision of a European Forest Risk Facility

The vision of a European Forest Risk Facility is thus to promote the intelligent handling of natural disturbance related risks as integral part of sustainable management of resilient forest landscapes enhancing Europe's adaptive capacity.

This vision will contribute to life in a world where the sustainability of our forests and societies is secured. In order to achieve this, a European Forest Risk Facility (FRISK) aims at bringing together the best possible cross-boundary knowledge and expertise, and actively contributes to the ongoing dialogue on forests.

The vision of a European Forest Risk Facility is motivated by:

- Forests being an integral part of Europe's environment, economic activity and society
- facilitating collaboration and interaction between research, policy and practice around abiotic and biotic forest risks at European, national and local levels
- presenting a platform for knowledge and information exchange on natural forest disturbance risks for a broad range of target audiences
- providing actors at policy, science and operational level with services and outputs in order to support their activities having impact on forests protection

The FRISK-GO project aims at helping to provide an operational framework for the above vision. This may allow moving forward in a next step following FRISK-GO to establish a FRISK which targets to support various actors in mitigating disturbance impacts to Europe's forests.

FRISK has the goal of strengthening the forest risk management capacities and resilience of forests and forest management organisations through systematic preparation for the threats that pose the

greatest risk to Europe's forests. Underlying principles and overarching cohesive goals for forest risk management are: *resilient landscapes, adapted communities¹ and adequate response.*

The FRISK-GO project helps to meet the FRISK vision (www.friskgo.org) and objective of resilient forests and forest managers that are optimally prepared to prevent and mitigate disturbance impacts in Europe's Forests. To achieve this, the FRISK-GO project is preparing an operational business plan, which outlines the role, products and services including options for a *modus operandi*. This includes the description of the coordinating structures and alignment of key roles and responsibilities for the whole forest risk community ensuring interoperability across all disturbance areas. This is central as the various disturbances may require a wide spectrum of activities. Currently the communities dealing with the different disturbances around one disturbance agent (research, practical operations, landowners, administrations) but especially across disturbance agents are operating interdependent, on personal contact or needs basis. Therefore there should be regular coordination among departments and agencies working to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from all threats and hazards in a more integrated approach. Here a FRISK has a pivotal role.

A FRISK will aim at providing an information and exchange platform for decision makers and forest practitioners at all levels of government, private- and non-profit forest sector partners and individuals to prevent, avoid, and mitigate the impact of a threat or actual disturbance. It will develop and support guiding principles for a strategy towards building, sustaining and delivering core capabilities for forest risk management through increased resilience. The FRISK-GO project will outline roles, products and services in this context.

Based on the above three key themes are in focus of the FRISK-GO project: (1) engaged partnership with the whole forest risk community, (2) scalability, flexibility, and adaptability in implementation and (3) integration among the disturbances:

- 1) Engaging the whole forest risk community is critical to successfully achieving a secure and resilient forest and forest administrations, and individual and community (network) preparedness is a key component. An effective partnership relies on culturally appropriate communication and shared situational awareness. Participation within these partnerships should include advocates for all elements of the whole forest risk community. The most effective partnerships within the forest risk community capitalize on all available resources—identifying, developing, fostering, and strengthening new and existing coordinating structures to create a *unity of effort*.
- 2) Core forest risk management capabilities should be scalable, flexible, and adaptable and executed as needed to address the full range of threats and hazards as they evolve. Scalable, flexible, and adaptable coordinating structures are essential in aligning the key roles and responsibilities to deliver the core capabilities. The flexibility of such structures helps ensure

¹ (The "community" includes individuals, families, and households; communities; the private and nonprofit sectors; faith-based organizations; and local, state, territorial, and Federal governments. Whole community is defined as "a focus on enabling the participation in preparedness activities of a wider range of players from the private and nonprofit sectors, including nongovernmental organizations and the general public, in conjunction with the participation of Federal, state, and local governmental partners in order to foster better coordination and working relationships)

that communities across the continent can organize efforts to address a variety of risks based on their unique needs, capabilities, demographics, governing structures, including also non-traditional partners.

- 3) All forest disturbance areas integrate with each other through interdependencies, shared assets, and overlapping objectives. Coordinating structures based on a FRISK 'community of practice' can facilitate problem solving, improve access to resources, and foster coordination and information sharing.

Further a future FRISK will aim to establish a common platform and forum for coordinating and addressing how foresters manage risk through *mitigation* and *adaptation* capabilities. It describes mitigation roles across the whole forest risk community. A FRISK will address how foresters develop, employ, and coordinate mitigation core capabilities to reduce loss of timber and biodiversity by lessening the impact of disturbances. Building on a wealth of objective and evidence-based knowledge and community experience, it will support the increase of risk awareness and leverage mitigation products, services, and assets across the whole forest risk community. When regarding the coordinating structures for mitigation they should focus on creating a ***broad culture shift*** that embeds forest risk management and mitigation in all planning, decision making, and development. Regardless of the level of the coordinating structure, consideration of forest risk management and mitigation will reduce the forest's risk and associated consequences. Coordinating structures at the national level, particularly the national Governments, should always strive to make national programs more useful and reduce the time it takes to go through processes.

A future FRISK can act as catalyst to promote effective response and recovery, particularly for those incidents that are large-scale or catastrophic. It can provide guidance that enables effective response and recovery support to disturbance-impacted states, regions, and local jurisdictions. It provides a flexible structure that enables disturbance response and recovery managers to operate in a unified and collaborative manner. It also focuses on how best to restore, re-develop, and revitalize forest health, social, economic, and environmental services of forests and builds a more resilient future.

A FRISK can provide focal points for incorporating forest recovery considerations into the decision-making process and monitoring the need for adjustments in assistance where necessary and feasible throughout the recovery process. It can be a coordinating structure that facilitates un-bureaucratic, easy-access problem solving, improves access to resources, and fosters coordination among areas, states and forest administrations, nongovernmental partners, and stakeholders.

Based on the above a FRISK can support all efforts to achieve the highest levels of prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response; partners across the whole forest risk community are encouraged to develop a shared understanding of broad-level strategic implications that can inform critical decisions in building and sustaining forest risk management capability and capacity. The FRISK-GO business plan, which will lay out the framework for the FRISK should thus be seen as a living document which will undergo regular review and thus ensure evaluating consistency with existing and new policies, evolving conditions, and real-world application. This is essential in order to promote a unity of effort to build, sustain, and deliver the core capabilities central to achieving the aim of secure and resilient forests in Europe.

2. Project activities

2.1. Activities in reporting period (1/2014 - 8/2014) – summary

Below a summary is presented of the main activities during the reporting period:

1. 14. January 2014. Kick-off meeting with the champions of the thematic workshops in Freiburg. A bilateral exchange was organized during the kick-off with the Joint Research Centre who attended the meeting. Options for cooperation and synergies were presented and discussed. Further a side meeting was arranged where EFI presented a planned comparative study on climate change effects based on case study investigations. Contact will be ensured between FRISK-GO and the EFI Study once it is initiated to allow for exchange and synergies.
2. Thematic workshops on 4 main disturbances storm, pest and disease, fire, and wildlife were held by July 2014. The aim of the consultations was to define the demand of the future user community and the envisaged products and services of a European Forest Risk Facility. The workshops were arranged and conducted by EFICIENT with network partners in Spain, France and Germany. The thematic workshop on drought is planned to take place a virtual conference during the second reporting period 2014.
3. A workshop to conceptualize the results of the thematic consultations and to synthesize the results for the business plan has been agreed and will take place during week 44 in the second reporting period.
4. WP3 Liaison Unit. During the thematic workshops the FVA and EFICIENT collected and analyzed work process descriptions of a liaison unit, collected feedback and input from the FVA members of the projects *PUMA* / *KONNEKTIV* as well as from EFI expert networks. The thematic consultations did answer specific Liaison questions and needs. FVA will prepare the guiding questions for this topic in cooperation with EFICIENT during week 35.
5. A set of case studies have been identified, initiated and completed. Further case studies are in progress. Case studies are a very effective tool to engage a extensive number of actors in order to show what a FRISK could do if operative.
6. The EU Exchange of Experts Program has been contacted and utilized for implementing real exchanges of experts in the course of the ice storm damages in Slovenia February 2014. Exchanges between Germany/UK and Slovenia took place in March and April.
7. A constructive, open and transparent cooperation has been established with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) following the kick-off. JRC participated in the thematic workshops (wildfire and storms)
8. Based on the Russian Workshop on wildfires organized jointly with EFIMED And EFI contacts have been built to the forest administrations in the Russian Federation. One main outcome emerging from the successful workshop in March was the participation of Russian experts in the thematic workshops.

9. Active cooperation has been built with the German Aeospace (DLR), with Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya (ICGC), Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (US Forest Service) and Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren (PLANAT), Switzerland.
10. It has been decided in March to produce a collection of video statements from experts ranging from practice, research, communication and policy elaborating on what they see as added value of a FRIS. The approach follows the web platform TED: <http://www.ted.com/>
11. Requests to a future European Forest Risk Facility: These requested were real cases and addressed and responded to by the FRISK-GO project as would have been by a FRISK with its available products and services. This was done in order to collect experiences and feedback from potential clients of a future FRISK and ask their feedback for developing particular products/services. Real cases are showing highly supportive when developing a facility framework.
12. Online Survey on experts, institutions and initiatives, data and information is ongoing.

2.2. Activities related to the work packages

WP 0: Project Management

Objectives

WP 0 'Project Management' covers the administrative, financial and legal aspects of the project towards the contracting body. It monitors the progress of work package activities; ensures the implementation of the thematic workshops and the timely preparation of the deliverables.

List of deliverables

- D0.1 Inception report (Month 2)
- D0.2 Progress report (August 2014)
- D0.3 Final report (Month 18)
- D0.4 Workshop synthesis reports, Workshop 1-5 (Month 11)
- D0.5 Presentations to relevant fora, organizations, authorities etc. (continuous)
- D0.6 Well designed website and other visual communication material including brochures, handouts in various languages etc.

Description of activities

Thematic disturbance consultations to define role, products and services of a European Forest Risk Facility:

- Thematic Workshop on Wildland Fires held in Barcelona, Spain, and surroundings (May 2014)
- Thematic Workshop on Biotic damages held in Arcachon, France, and surroundings (June 2014)
- Thematic Workshop on Storms held in the Bavarian Forest National Park, Germany, and surroundings (June 2014)

- Thematic Workshop on wild Ungulates held in Nogent sur Vernisson, France, and surroundings (July 2014)

Workshop reports and participant lists are online at www.friskgo.org . The consultations on 'Drought' will be held as an online Forum as it was not possible to find suitable dates for a physical meeting of the selected drought experts. *Go2 Meeting* license for drought online forum was acquired with support of the EFI member organisation 'Pau Costa Foundation'. Note: 25.8.2014, latest chapter versions with GIP ECOFOR, Guy Landmann.

Website

The Website www.friskgo.org was developed and set-up. It is currently filled with content including manuals, documents, reports, case studies, videos, links, etc as the project evolves. A Flyer in English language has been produced and is disseminated at appropriate events, meetings etc.

Cooperation and presentation

The project was presented to fora, organizations, authorities which resulted in cooperation agreements or in their initiation. These include the Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya (ICGC), the Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren (PLANAT), Switzerland, The EU Exchange of Experts Program (EU EoE) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the EC. Further presentations of the FRISK were given at various meetings and conferences.

WP 1 - Analysis and Information

Objective

The objective of WP 1 is to analyse demand for, availability, strengths and weaknesses of best existing information services, and to identify opportunities to improve these services and to exploit potential synergies between services, in the field of forest disturbance risk and response. Where quality information or the accessibility/delivery thereof might be lacking, proposals for novel approaches are developed.

List of deliverables

- D1.1 Reporting structure and templates for existing knowledge/information and gaps in research and management in practical formats (Month 8)
- D1.2 Establishment and maintenance of a database of existing initiatives, potential partners and its related knowledge and expertise (Month 10)
- D1.3 Recommendations to practice for products and services of a European Forest Risk Facility based on current scientific and practical knowledge and expertise (Month 14)
- D1.4 Pilot structure for provision of basic information from partner institutions (e.g. meteorological services, forest administrations etc.) to establish permanent information services based on e.g. web, mobile applications (Month 16)

Description of activities

A background study presents the current scientific knowledge by disturbance agents, linked potential gaps and potential products and services. This is performed in close cooperation with GIP-ECOFOR (France) and an extensive set of expert authors for the different disturbance agents. The

chapters are close to finalisation and will be reviewed and published as report under D1.1 during December. Drafts of the chapters have served as background material to the disturbance workshops.

The report as well as the workshops are complemented by an online survey and questionnaire that is currently (ongoing) conducted by the project team (Jo van Brusselen). The project team is collecting the information for D1.2 'Establishment and maintenance of a database of existing initiatives, potential partners and its related knowledge and expertise'. It is supported by the above survey results and is planned to be combined with combined D2.3 'specialists and interventions database'. The workshop synthesis is analysing and evaluating the information for D1.3. During the course of the project and confirmed in the workshops a new tool is suggested, namely a social network based information platform designed for forest risk management. See Annex "Geotest Offer and "From Hierarchy to Wirearchy"). This is seen as a useful tool, by the forest disturbance community and the project team but may require additional funding.

WP 2 Operational Procedures

Objective

The overall objective of WP 2 is to review operational procedures and develop standards for international cooperation and exchange in areas of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in selected disturbances (storm and wildfire). Furthermore, the aim is to identify the current needs and gaps in large scale interventions and international cooperation.

List of deliverables

- D2.1 Sourcebook for forest risk operational procedures (Month 15)
- D2.2 Draft set of standards for the management of forest disturbances (Month 12)
- D2.3 Specialists and interventions database (Month 8)
- D2.4 Tools for exchange of specialists (guiding principles) (Month 12)

Description of activities

To meet the above deliverables the project adapted to current issues and real cases. Implemented examples are e.g. the Ice Sleet storm in Slovenia February 2014. It proved highly valuable and illustrative to describe various case studies of forest risk management in order to extrapolate the information for the above deliverables. A number of case studies have been collected or are under preparation (e.g.: wildfires in Norway and Sweden January and August 2014; let burn wildfire Spain, flooding in Croatia, see below for details). The approach of FRISK providing options to the affected actors in particular engaging other with hands on experience has been received very well and not as a FRISK attempting to provide solutions to those requesting assistance.

List of case studies

FRISK-GO is implementing and compiling a number of real-life case studies where the value of cooperation, sharing and exchange is visualising the added value of a European Forest Risk Facility. The described cases vary in nature and approach taken, but all show that with targeted action and resources and engagement of individuals or teams with required expertise, the resilience of a whole organisation can be improved and situations/events can be dealt with in an more efficient and interactive way when cooperating within a trusted network. It is intended that a library of case studies will provide for show cases of risk management *options*, instead of imposing *solutions*.

Case Study 1: Slovenia Ice sleet storm, Slovenia (January 2014)

Following the major ice sleet storm in Slovenia and exchange of experts between Slovenia and Germany was organised between February and April 2014. This allowed for sharing experiences collected in Germany on storm events and post storm actions. Funding from the EU Exchange of Experts Programme was acquired to support the initiative. Organisations involved in the exchange were: INRA (France), the Forest Research Institute of Baden Wuerttemberg (Germany) and EFICENT. See full report at www.friskgo.org.

Case Study 2: Multi-National-Workshop on Fire management (March 2014)

The workshop brought together a scientists, practitioners and private industry and business from Russia, Spain, United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany to address experiences and approaches in fire suppression, mitigation and operational management procedures. One important outcome has been the interest of Russian authorities in the FRISK-GO project and the willingness to collaborate. See www.friskgo.org for more details.

Case Study 3: Ireland Exchange to South Africa

The FRISK GO partner 'Working on Fire International' made an exchange training visit from Ireland to South Africa possible. The wildland fire responsible officer from Ireland was spending 10 days of intensive on the job training on various aspects of integrated fire management. See www.friskgo.org Organisations involved in the exchange were: Northern Ireland Fire and rescue Service, Wildfire programme (UK), Working on Fire WoF (Germany and South Africa) and EFICENT. See full report at www.friskgo.org.

Case Study 4: Ireland Wildlife Policy development

For the first time in history, Ireland is developing a deer management policy. The forest service used a very interesting multi-stakeholder approach do deal with such a sensitive and emotional issue like wildlife. Using references from across Europe was helpful for Ireland to support decision making in showing various options from other countries. In return, the Irish approach with multi-stakeholder and bottom-up approach can serve as model for other countries to resolve the often conflict-ridden situation in forest and wildlife management. Organisations involved in the exchange are: EFICENT (Germany), GRAF (Spain), PCF (Spain).

Case Study 5: Norway cooperation after wildfire (January 2014)

The FRISK GO fire network will be visiting Norway in November this year. FRISK-GO was invited to discuss the fire situation and future disturbance management with stakeholders in Norway. The visit will likely be combined with a mission to the latest fire in Sweden to foster a broader discussion on wildland fires in Scandinavia. Participants: Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB), Forest Fire Advisory Board, forest land owners associations, Norwegian Fire Protection Association, Incident Command Forest Fire Support, aerial support (entrepreneurs helicopters and planes), the Norwegian Armed Forces, The Norwegian Civil Defense, Forest insurance companies, Norwegian Meteorological Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. FROM FRISK GO: EFICENT, GRAF, Fire Service Denmark, University of Glasgow and the National UK Wildfire group.

Case Study 6: Storm management – case study from France (2 events)

EFIATLANTIC as a FRISK-GO partner is providing a case study on the development and adaptations in storm management between two large storm events in Aquitaine. A detailed analysis of both events and approaches taken are provided, including lessons learned. Delivery during 2014.

Case Study 7: Biotic damages to forests, case study from France example

Due in September/October

Case Study 8: Multiple disturbance event in the Tatra mountains, Slovakia (May 2014)

Due in September/October

Case Study 8: Large wildfire in Sweden (August 2014)

See Norway. The latest fire in Sweden can be seen as an indicator of a changing forest risk world, where even Scandinavia is now exposed to fire situations never expected. Within the FRISK-GO case study with Norway, a Norwegian fire officer was sent to Sweden as observer during the incident and his findings will be presented in the Norway meeting in November. A visit to Sweden may be combined with the trip to Norway in November.

Case Study 9: Utilising storm statistics for analysis and modelling (Europe dimension)

Comparison of large scale storm events across Europe will be performed by ALTERRA, Netherlands jointly with EFICENT in order to illustrate the value of collecting data on storm events and what analysis/modelling can be performed and how utilised. Due in September/October 2014.

Case Study 10: Wildfire in Tivissa (Spain) - the first case of a 'let-burn-approach' (June 2014)

In June 2014 a large fire in the vicinity of Tivissa village tested and proved a new approach for fire management in Europe. Due to environmental conditions, safety considerations and forest management goals a new approach was tested. As the observed and expected fire behaviour did have effects that actually met the goals of forest management in the particular area, the fire was allowed to burn freely within previously defined prescriptions. A detailed report of this case study will be elaborated, the advantages, cost savings and forest management goals of increased future resilience documented. Case study report is due in October 2014. FRISK-Go will ensure to be engaged in follow-up research activities performed on the burn site.

Case Study 11: UK Wildfire Strategy

This case study presents on how the United Kingdom analysed the expected change in the fire situation and how the country developed, prepared for this future based on cooperation, integration and exchange of experts. The UK formed a national wildfire group and developed an extensive integrated capacity building campaign. A case study of high interest for countries in similar situations, i.e. Germany. Case study report is due in October.

Case Study 12: Northern Ireland. Utility service companies (Water)

The informal fire network addressed a “new” situation through cooperation, exchange, capacity building and defining of shared objectives by various stakeholders. Case study report is due in October.

Case Study 13: RobA rehwildbewirtschaftung ohne behördlichen Abschussplan

The successful test run in some states of Germany to manage roe deer without official culling quota planned by the hunting authorities (RobA) resulted in the adoption of this tool as regular management approach. The official hunting quota plan is replaced by agreement between the local stakeholders, namely the hunting right holder and the hunter. A important tool in the decision making is the in-field discussion between hunter and forest owner. The RobA model met a lot of interest during the wildlife workshop in France. Consequently a case study description was prepared for a French manual on managing forest-deer conflicts. It is currently under editing in France.

Case Study 14: Hatzfeld Project. Harmonising hunting seasons.

The Hatzfeld project was presented during the FRISK GO wildlife workshop. The project demonstrated that with a change in hunting season (namely harmonizing hunting season with the actual shooting times) and hunting techniques (interval vs every day hunting pressure) it is possible to reduce hunting pressure, increase hunting efficiency and allow natural regeneration of most tree species without protection. The project was a demonstration project and opened doors, inspired for follow up initiatives. It was regarded as an interesting approach for all stakeholders. A newly planned, similar designed demonstration project across the main forest types in Germany will be closely followed by the FRISK-GO project and serve as a basis for initiating international exchange. A detailed presentation can be found at www.friskgo.org.

Video statements

During the workshops the project team initiated the recording of expert opinions from research, practice, policy as well as representatives from adjacent sectors to express their views on the vision of a European Forest Risk Facility, its niche and role it can play in the field natural disturbances to forest and related risks and challenges. This action to elaborate short video messages was inspired by the highly successful website TED – being a platform for ideas worth spreading via the Internet (<http://www.ted.com/>) . So far the following persons listed below were interviewed. The project team will continue to select and engage experts for interview during the remainder of the project.

1. Cirian Nugent, Forest Service, Ireland
2. Cristina Parraga, German Aerospace (DLR), Germany/Spain
3. Johann Goldammer, Global Fore Monitoring Center (GFMC), Germany
4. M. Appolonio, University of Sassari, Italy
5. Matthew Davis, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom
6. N. Bushby, Northern Ireland Land Trust
7. Pepa Moran, University of Barcelona, Spain
8. S. Green, Forestry Commission, United Kingdom
9. Sebastien Lahaye, Fire Service, France
10. Sigrid Netherer, University Vienna (BOKU), Austria
11. Mart-Jan Schelhaas, Alterra, The Netherlands

12. Barry Gardiner, INRA, France

WP 3 Liaison and Communication

Objectives

WP 3 initiates and establishes a pilot structure/framework for the facilitation of communication, cooperation and coordination of forest risk management activities including the mutual exchange between the future European Forest Risk Facility members at national, regional and European levels.

List of deliverables

- D3.1 ToR Liaison Officer / Job Description / liaison functions (jointly with D3.4; Month 16)
- D3.2 Concept for a 'Knowledge Exchange Platform' (Month 12)
- D3.3 Expert Workshop "Liaison" with workshop synthesis report (Month 9)
- D3.4 Liaison Unit established for pilot region (with PuMa) (Month 16)
- D3.5 Partnership and exchange agreement template (Month 14)

Description of activities

The request for assistance from Slovenia following the ice sleet event in January 2014 provided a real life scenario for a Liaison Unit. It was decided that the FRISK-GO project and its associated partner the Forest Research Institute of Baden-Wuerttemberg (FVA) act under the premise "as if" a FRISK would exist and would respond to a given request. This allowed for firsthand experience and collecting input for the WP3 deliverables.

The real life scenario was possible due to the elaboration of a cooperation agreement with the EU Exchange of Experts Program EU EoE that covered all costs for a 10 day bilateral exchange between Slovenia-Germany. Further an external expert from France (INRA) was invited to support with in depth knowledge on storm damages. The authorities involved from Slovenia were: State Forest Service, Forest Research Institute, Ministry of Forest, Ministry of Finance, Forest Chamber (private owners). The experts organisations/administrations involved in Germany were: EFICIENT, FVA, Forst BW and Ministry of Rural Affairs BW). The outcome of this real case was seen highly productive by the Slovenian participants and thus support for a FRISK strongly emphasised. The full report on the exchange can be found at www.friskgo.org.

Following the Slovenia case study a request from Croatia was received to arrange and host a training workshop for the assessment of flood damage to forests in Croatia. The "as if" approach will be applied and a workshop held in autumn 2014 in Croatia. As a further "as if" situation, the FRISK GO project facilitated a training exchange Northern Ireland-South Africa and could cover all costs through partnership arrangements and will be active with a visit to Norway following unprecedented wildfires during the winter months (More detail, see case study descriptions).

During all thematic workshop consultations, a dedicated session was held for WP3 to define "Liaison". It was obvious in all workshops that FRISK and Liaison unit are not two separate initiatives but rather a merge of services between various levels (local-national-international) and languages. A detailed report and analysis of workshop results for Liaison and WP3 will be drafted by week 36.

Important issues discussed were the high relevance for exchange of experts, access to capacity building, support for/to existing networks, access to information, skill and knowledge transfer and building a culture of trust and respect as a basis for cooperation and exchange facilitated by FRISK.

WP4 Forest Risk Facility Business Plan

Objectives

To ensure the development of an Operational Business Plan that incorporates the main elements allowing for the transition from a start-up phase (FRISK-GO) towards a fully fledged European Forest Risk Facility.

- D4.1 Fully fledged Operational Business Plan for a European Forest Risk Facility (Month 18)
- D4.2 Draft outline for a multi-donor trust fund (Month 18)

Description of activities

First activities have taken place to draft a structural outline of a operational business plan. Consultations with experts within EFI were initiated. Important in this context are the experiences and lessons learned from the EFI FLEGT/REDD unit which have set up such plans. Based on the thematic workshops and their outcomes and a set of internal meetings a drafting of the business plan has been initiated. In particular the workshop synthesis will provide valuable input for the business plan development. A targeted meeting with the thematic workshop champions and selected further experts will address the business plan during week 44. It is planned to include besides the operational plan and a general introduction a section presenting a draft strategy of the European Forest Risk Facility.

3. Additional Activities

Letter of Support

A draft Letter of Support (LoS) has been developed, reacting to the fact that a number of organisations and countries wanted to express their support of the FRISK vision. With a LoS they would like to express their interest and the importance of the FRISK approach.

Requests: Reality check (actual requests and cases that show relevance of a FRISK)

The FRISK GO project is only a start-up project towards a European Forest Risk Facility. However, the word is spreading and request came in from a number of countries and organisations for FRISK GO to cooperate. These requests that come in before a FRISK even exists, show the need and added value of this endeavour. The following is a short list of cases that demonstrate the value of a future European Forest Risk Facility. Note: Some of the listed requests are already described in text above.

Norway

Biggest Wildfire in history in early 2014. FRISK GO and the related fire network are invited to visit the fire areas, discuss the approach taken and exchange with Norwegian stakeholders future cooperation, training, and cooperation to prepare for such situations.

The large fire in Sweden in August is just emphasising the fact that even Scandinavia is not immune to fires in a changing world. Sharing and cooperating with more exposed and experienced countries and organisations can save money, avoid mistakes and make incident management safer and more efficient. FRISK GO is promoting an integrated approach of *Resilient Landscapes – Adapted Communities- Adequate Response*

Slovenia

Ice sleet in March 2014. Facing the biggest forest damage in history, the FRISK GO project assisted in facilitating an exchange of experts from Slovenia to Germany. A full report of the exchange and a case study report is available on the website. The exchange was financed by the EU EoE programme, facilitated through the FRISK GO project.

Croatia

Croatia and Serbia experienced serious flooding in spring 2014. After exchanging with the FRISK GO network, namely the FVA of Forst BW, the FRISK GO project is invited to arrange and host a training workshop on flood damage assessment in the affected forests in autumn 2014.

Scotland

Scotland is gearing up due to its increasing wildfire situation. FRISK GO has initiated an exchange and workshop in Scotland where fire managers from South Africa sharing their expertise in aerial support for fire management, namely the management and use of helicopters.

In that frame, the FRISK GO project could also send a forest fire officer from Ireland to South Africa for training. See www.friskgo.org