



Case Study Report FRISK-GO

Title: Social interaction and decision making in transforming landscapes - methodological comparison in three European regions: Barcelona (Catalonia), Belfast area (Northern Ireland) and Northumberland National Park (United Kingdom)

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Adding value with a European Forest Risk Facility

Case study reports are a tool to investigate and document how a European Forest Risk Facility can add value to current actions using concrete examples based on real events/incidents

A) The role and value of case studies

A key tool for understanding the needs of the risk community and the role of a European Forest Risk Facility have been (and will continue to be) the collection of 'cases'. They can emerge from real events or be direct requests from corresponding communities and networks. Cases help in identifying needs for action, building and providing access to experts/networks and experience and constitute points of reference. They are documented as 'case study examples' and are used to formulate key services and products a European Forest Risk Facility could provide. In the following one key case study is presented which was initiated and implemented in the framework of the FRISK-GO project.

B) Description and background

During the wildfire workshop in Barcelona in May 2014 it was discussed what role a European Forest Risk Facility could fill in the context of wildfires and their impacts. The workshop focused besides other issues on collecting the needs for cooperation, modes for exchanging knowledge and experiences across country borders. It also investigated how to most effectively mobilise and connect actors in different networks dealing with risks resulting from wildfires. A set of case studies were outlined. One of them addressed the social interaction and decision making in transforming landscapes.

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Figure1. Eastern Mournes and the wildfire in May/June 2011

One of the case study examples (Eastern Mournes, Northern Ireland) was presented by a representative from the Eastern Mournes Heritage Trust. The region was under a severe fire storm on April-May 2011. The Eastern Mournes Heritage Trust initiated a pilot study which investigated management approaches for mitigating the effects of wildfire in the Eastern Mournes region where there are a multitude of land use interests including agricultural use and grazing, recreation, hunting, conservation and water catchment.

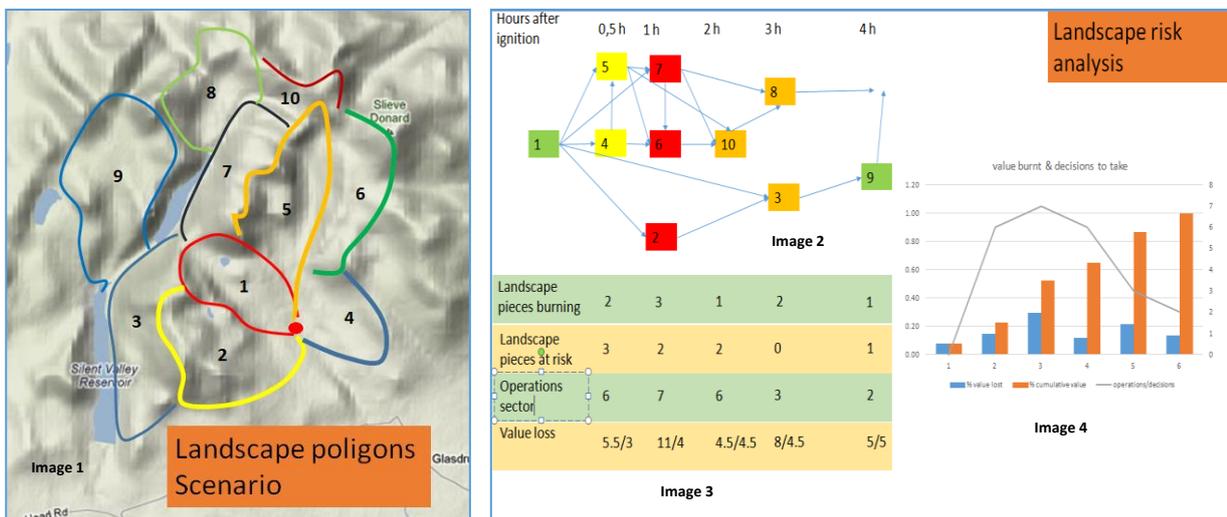


Figure 2. *Image 1:* Dividing study area in polygons based on fire regimes; *Image 2:* calculating risk for the identified landscape polygons in case of fire occurrence and related actions required; *Image 3:* developing management and decision making plans embedding resource input for fire suppression and suitable mitigation measures; *Image 4:* calculating related value losses of other relevant land uses in polygons. The output of compiling this information is input for consensus-based decision making.



C) Additional case study areas mobilised by FRISK-GO

Based on the interest amongst the wildfire workshop participants and the following networking activities of FRISK-GO two further study areas were mobilized. They are namely Northumberland National Park (United Kingdom) and Baix Montseny area, Catalonia, Spain. Wildfire is a risk for landscape management policies in both of the two high value areas, one being a strongly frequented recreational area (Northumberland National Park), while the Baix Montseny area in the vicinity of Barcelona is adjacent to residential areas and also used for recreation. Resulting from that, challenges exist at decision making level on how to manage fire risk and implement new strategies by integrating fire use in the context of a wide array of values that different stakeholders project on these particular areas.

The FRISK-GO further built links with the Social Sciences Department of the Humboldt University, Berlin. They expressed their interest in the study areas in order to apply and test a methodology of comparing social interaction and decision making in transforming landscapes. The approach developed by the Humboldt University is applied for better understanding social acceptance of different strategies. Preferred values are evaluated in consultation with all concerned actors in the case study landscapes. The result of the consultation plans to give insight to the favoured strategy for managing fire risk in the case study areas while ensuring to minimize the multiple values at risk. Humboldt University will use provided strategy information and corresponding plans prepared by the institutions representing the case study areas. That will allow identifying areas within the investigated landscape that have the potential to burn. In a next step Humboldt University will calculate a value for that particular area in consultation with those groups who are affected.

The consultation will be followed by a process of finding an agreement with which the different actors within that area feel heard and represented. The outcome will yield a consensus of trade-offs for all parties on which elements may be lost in order to ensure protecting other values of the landscape. The outcomes will be used for integrating the identified fire risk into landscape management policies of the test regions.

D) Added value

FRISK-GO acted in the role of a European Forest Risk Facility by '**connecting**' administrations, fire services and research institutions that were not aware of each other around a shared project activity. FRISK-GO with its actions network building, expert exchanges and knowledge sharing allowed to:

- connect nature protection agencies, fire services and social sciences and their complementary expertise across borders and
- release financial support and in-kind contributions to run the project

The project has started in November 2014. The first region investigated is Baix Montseny area near Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain). During December the evaluation will extend to the Northumberland



National Park, near Newcastle (United Kingdom). It will run until mid 2015. The results once available will be reported on via the FRISK-GO web site. Further spin-offs initiated by the FRISK-GO were:

- The extension of networking amongst northern European countries: A heather fire group was established between United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Norway with The Netherlands possibly joining in the near future
- The ongoing Northumberland National Park and Montseny Natural Park project created interest in Portugal and may join with its own case study region applying and testing the developed methodology.

Partners

- Bombers Generalitat Catalunya (Spain)
- Northumberland National Park (United Kingdom)
- Eastern Mournes Heritage Trust (United Kingdom)
- Humboldt Univeristy Berlin (Germany)
- Pau Costa Foundation (Spain)
- FRISK-GO project (EFICENT, Germany)

Study regions

Initiated in:

- Eastern Mournes, Northern Ireland (United Kingdom)

Extended to:

- Northumberland National Park, United Kingdom
- Baix Montseny area, Catalonia, Spain

Potential for an additional region in Portugal

- Contacts initiated with the following institutions: Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Centro de Ecologia Aplicada; Autoridade Nacional de Proteçao Civil; Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD); Ordem dos Engenheiro

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