



Case Study Report FRISK-GO

Title: Making scientific and practical knowledge and know-how easily accessible through innovative publications

Andreas Schuck¹

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

Wind is a major disturbance agent in forests and a key part of the dynamics of many forest ecosystems, particularly in temperate forests. However, it can also be the cause of high levels of damage with important economic, environmental and social consequences. For example, in Europe more than half of all the damage to forests by volume is due to wind. There is a worrying increasing trend in damage levels. Therefore, understanding the process of wind interactions with forests, the impact of forest damage, the potential for preventative responses, and the prospects for the future are important for people engaged in the forest based economy, for forest ecologists, for regional planners, and for anyone concerned with the continued sustainability of forests and the forestry sector.

¹ EFICIENT



Figure 1. Storm damage in Les Landes, France following the storm of January 2009 ©DRAAF Aquitaine

C) Approach taken

An initiative was taken to collate expertise from science building on the current state of knowledge from various research fields. That would then allow a holistic overview of where science stands today. The fields of interest covered wind susceptibility (airflows, mechanics, stand structures), storm impacts (economical, ecological and social), response and prevention approaches and strategies and a look into future prospects due to climate change, forest sector development and resulting challenges towards managing forests.

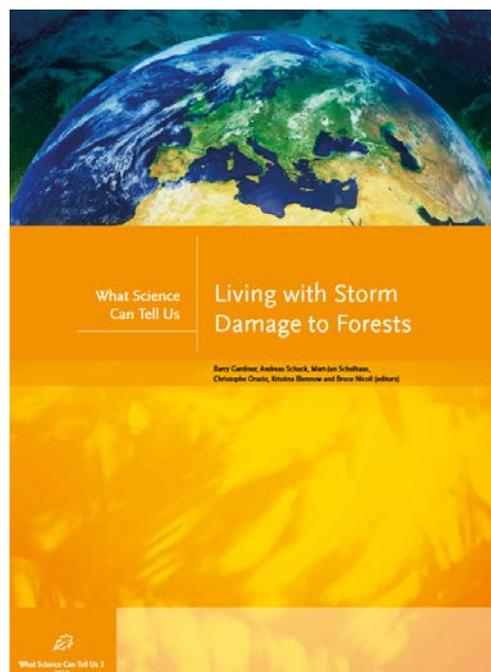


Figure 2. Title page of the 'What Science Can Tell Us No.3: Living with storm damage to forests. 2013



The book was finalised end of 2013 and prepared by 27 experts from throughout Europe. It was published under the European Forest Institute Series 'What Science Can Tell Us' (EFI, 2013). The result was well accepted and thus has been a successful attempt to bring together in one place the latest scientific understanding of the many facets to the issue of storm damage to forests. It provides a thorough and wide-ranging review of each topic in a format and style that is readily accessible to specialists and non-specialists alike and provides recommendations for further reading for those who wish to explore topics in more details. An earlier publication under the EFI Series 'Discussion Papers' went into a similar direction addressing wildfires (Biro, 2009).

D) Added value

The FRISK-GO project that was initiated at a time overlapping with the release of the What Science Can Tell Us book on storms regards the value of such publications as a highly relevant tool to ensure cross border exchange of expertise on a particular topic in this case forest disturbances. The products was presented and discussed in the different FRISK-GO risk workshops. Options discussed how to utilise the tool and which fields would be appropriate to initiate scientific knowledge collection. Besides that it was proposed to find also other outlets for more practice oriented knowledge collected in different countries and share such experiences. Such types of outputs would well complement scientific summary publications. Examples are e.g. a best practices handbook on the use of prescribed burning (Montiel and Kraus, 2010), prevention of large wildfires using the fire types concept (Costa et al, 2011) or the 'Storm Handbook – Coping with Storm Damaged Timber' elaborated by the Forest Research Institute of Baden-Württemberg, Germany².



Figure 3. Selected examples for types of publications a European Forest Risk Facility produce and/or support.

² http://www.waldwissen.net/waldwirtschaft/schaden/sturm_schnee_eis/fva_sturmhandbuch/index_EN



The role of a future European Forest Risk Facility can be to enhance, promote and either co-ordinate or support the elaboration of such outputs with and for the forest risk and related communities. This has been given high attention when developing a set of products and services outlines within the FRISK-GO project. A second important element linked to such initiatives is the building and maintaining of novel expert networks which a European Forest Risk Facility can build further activities on.

E) References

- Costa, P.; Larrañaga, A.; Castellnou, M.; Miralles, M.; Kraus, D., 2011: Prevention of large wildfires using the Fire Types Concept. EU Fire Paradox Publication, Barcelona, 83 pp. Download
- EFI, 2013. Living with Storm Damage to Forests. Barry Gardiner, Andreas Schuck, Mart-Jan Schelhaas, Christophe Orazio, Kristina Blennow and Bruce Nicoll (editors). What Science Can Tell Us No. 3. European Forest Institute. 129p.
- EFI, 2009. Living with Wildfires: What Science Can Tell Us. Yves Birot (ed.). Discussion Paper 15. European Forest Institute, 2009. 82p.
- Montiel, C; Kraus, D. (Eds.) 2010: Best practices of fire use - Prescribed burning and suppression fire programmes in selected case-study regions in Europe. European Forest Institute. EFI Research Report 24. 170p.

For more information contact: frisk-go@efi.int