



FRISK GO PROJECT

Inception Report

EFICIENT

Inception Report

Introduction

This project is a start-up project to develop the road map towards a European Forest Risk Facility FRISK.

The main aim of the FRISK-GO start-up project is to *define and elaborate in detail the core work pillars of a European Forest Risk Facility and develop a corresponding operational business plan and structural framework for the implementation of such a facility.*

FRISK-GO will interact with potential supporters for an operational 'European Forest Risk Facility', map their expectations and needs, and build those into the business plan. It will set conditions for a simplification of communication and information flow allowing the timely translation of research results into practice. Draft guidelines, standards and showcase examples will be produced to demonstrate the role, actions and added value of a future European Forest Risk Facility.

The FRISK-GO project logic is based on a cascading approach to present on how research, analysis and information provision and products determine operational procedures in disturbance management, highlight the crucial role of the liaison and communication function and demonstrate efficient disturbance response capacities for regional, national, European and interagency cooperation.

This approach will be exemplarily exercised based on two prominent disturbances (windstorms and wildfires) where sufficient data and information are available and showcase full management procedures and cycles. For insects and diseases, drought and wildlife a more generic approach is performed (expert workshops), developing concrete proposals for action.

The project structure mirrors the main functions of disturbance management and hence is organized along five work packages (WPs):

- WP 0: Project Management
- WP 1: Analysis and Information
- WP 2: Operational Procedures
- WP 3: Liaison and Communication and
- WP 4: Forest Risk Facility Business Plan

The project is built around a set of core work packages, WPs. WP 1 analyses scientific information and initiatives, and identifies analysis gaps on forest disturbances for various regions in Europe. It gathers data and improves the knowledge on the risk determining factors behind specific disturbance agents. WP 1 provides innovative proposals for action for a European Forest Risk Facility. It serves as input for WP 2 thus supporting the development of operational procedures in disturbance management. The liaison unit work package (WP 3) has the role to translate both research knowledge and operational procedures to practice to allow effective implementation and demonstrate efficient disturbance response capacities, in its role between European and national/regional level. Expert workshops, as a part of 'Project Management' (WP 0) support WPs 1, 2 and 3. **Final output** to which these three WPs and the workshops contribute will be the **operational business plan** for a European Forest Risk Facility (WP4).

The **main objectives** of this project are:

Collect and define the demand for the future user community of a European Forest Risk Facility. The initiative to establish a platform like FRISK is demand driven. The process to collect and define this demand has therefore to be open and inclusive, working with the future partners and users from the earliest possible stage. Each disturbance has specific demands, although some demands are cross cutting themes bridging all or most disturbances. The project will host thematic workshops and with this tool collect the required input for the operational business plan from the willing cooperating partners.

The project will analyse what products and services are needed and wanted for the specific disturbances, as well as activity fields that are applicable to all forest threats. The question of economic impact will be addressed.

The workshops will furthermore elaborate the needs for information sharing, communication, coordination and professional exchange for the partners and users. These results are important input for work package 3 and the model Liaison Unit.

All the above listed activities and results will form the core elements and guidance for the operational Business Plan and the outline of a Multi-Donor Trust fund of the future European Forest Risk Facility.

First Steps and Activities in Reporting Period

The work on the project started on 1 October 2013 where internal project management procedures, budget responsibilities, accounting and personnel responsibilities were clarified. An internal EFI project risk assessment was also conducted.

The various tasks were discussed and EFIMED, EFIATLANTIC as well as the OEF were consulted on their role and contribution to the FRISK GO Project. It is agreed that all EFI offices mentioned above, including the Headquarters will support particularly the work packages 0, 1 and 4.

A draft project **website** was developed and published. www.eficent.efi.int/portal/projects/frisk/. The content will grow and be adapted as the project progresses and collects available information, products and services. A special section will be dedicated to the Liaison Unit and its services.

The planning and preparing for the series of thematic workshops on storm, fire, drought, pest and disease and wildlife began with consulting the EFI network and members. A first list of European disturbance experts was prepared as preliminary list of workshop participants. In addition, to give each workshop motivation and atmosphere, we have invited well recognized experts to act as “champions” for the respective workshops. The thematic workshops will define demand and expected products and services for each disturbance. The participants and their institutions shape the future facility with their input. The workshops will deliver crucial input for the operational Business Plan.

A kick-off meeting in January 2014 will also serve as planning workshop where the champions prepare strategy and tactic for the thematic consultations.

A set of draft guiding questions for the overall project and specific for each disturbance workshop was developed and is currently under review with the relevant experts.

FRISK GO partners and workshop champions:

- Storm: Barry Gardiner (IRSTEA)/ Anton Fischer (TUM)/ MartJan Schelhaas (ALTEERRA)
- Fire: Marc Castellnou (EFI) / Johann Goldammer (GFMC)
- Biotics: Herve Jactel (INRA)/ Christophe Orazio (EFIAtlantic)
- Drought: Tom Wolgemuth (WSL)/ Guy Landmann (GIP ECOFOR)
- Wildlife: Michael Müller (TU Dresden)/ Philippe Ballon (IRSTEA)
- Liaison: Christoph Hartebrodt (FVA)

First planning also took place in terms of date and locations for the workshops. Preliminary dates and locations are listed below:

- Storm: April / May 2014, Bavarian Forest National Park, Germany
- Fire: March 2014, Tivissa, Spain
- Biotics: June 2014, Bordeaux, France
- Drought: May 2014, Switzerland
- Wildlife: open

Project personnel assigned to tasks and work packages.

- Andreas Schuck (EFI-cent): WP0
- Alexander Held (EFI-cent): WP0, WP3, WP4
- Frank Krumm (EFI-cent): WP1
- Daniel Kraus (EFI-cent): WP2
- Marc Castellnou (EFI-cent): WP2, WP3, WP4
- Christelle Rambour (EFI-cent): WP3, project communication, web presence
- Verena Quadt (EFI-cent): WP1, project administration and communication
- Jo Van Brusselen (EFI-cent-OEF): WP1, WP4
- Christophe Orazio (EFI-Atlantic): WP1, WP4
- Yvonne Chitoui (FVA): WP3, FVA liaison unit
- Simo Varis, (EFI-cent-OEF): WP1, database and web-service development
- Sergey Zudin (EFI-cent-OEF): WP1, database and web-service development

Associated project personnel:

- Mart-Jan Schelhaas (ALTERRA),
- Tomi Tuomasjukka (EFI FLEGT REDD),

There have been 7 meetings during the first reporting period:

- 2 meetings with PUMA and FVA, Germany
- 1 meeting with EFIATLANTIC, France
- 1 meeting with EFI OEF, France
- 2 meetings with WSL, Switzerland
- 1 meeting with BAFU Switzerland

Planned Activities in Next Reporting Period (1/2014-6/2014)

In addition to continuation of the work towards producing the necessary deliverables, there are several planned activities in the next reporting period.

1. 14. January 2014. Kick-off meeting with the champions of the thematic workshops within the EFI REPSCO meeting in Freiburg. Parallel with the FRISK GO kick-off workshop a meeting is arranged to discuss cross over and overlap with a planned EFI comparative study on climate change (CCC study)
2. Thematic workshops on 5 main disturbances storm, pest and disease, fire, drought, wildlife will be held in the first half of 2014. The aim of the consultations is to define the demand of the future user community and the envisaged products and services of a European Forest Risk Facility. The workshops will be arranged and conducted by EFICENT with network partners in Switzerland, Spain, France and Germany.
3. In September 2014 concluding workshop to conceptualize the results of the thematic consultations. Formulate input for WP4
4. WP3 Liaison Unit. FVA and EFICENT will collect and analyze work process descriptions of a liaison unit, collect feedback and input from PUMA members as well as from EFI network. The thematic consultations will answer specific Liaison questions and needs. FVA will prepare the guiding questions for this topic in cooperation with EFICENT.
5. Establish Cooperation with PLANAT, CH
6. Establish cooperation with EFETAC, US Forest Service. (Accomplished 12/2013)
7. Establish cooperation with EU Exchange of Experts

Work packages and Deliverables

WPO Project Management

Personnel assigned: Andreas Schuck, Alexander Held, Anu Ruusila, Christelle Rambour (EFI)

Objectives

Work Package 0 'Project Management' will cover the administrative, financial and legal aspects of the project towards the contracting body. It will monitor the progress of work package activities; ensure the implementation of five thematic workshops and the timely preparation of the deliverables.

D0.1 Inception report (Month 2)

D0.2 Progress report (based on the requirements of the contractor; e.g. month 9)

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 work

The technical management includes all aspects of communication, collaboration and coordination to meet the technical and quality targets of the project. We will ensure the coordinated cooperation and exchange of the WPs to achieve the overall project objective to develop an Operational Business Plan for a European Forest Risk Facility.

WP 0 will guarantee an effective project implementation, the organizing of internal project meetings and workshops. It will ensure timely reporting to the contracting party. We will cater for direct interaction with potential future supporters and in the communication of its role to strategic stakeholders. To support an effective project communication, a detailed communications plan will be developed. The communication plan will be supported by EFI headquarters.

A central task of WP 0 is the coordination of 6 targeted workshops with 10-15 participants per workshop. Five of the workshops will concentrate on individual disturbances windstorms, insects and diseases, fires, drought and wildlife. Main topics for each workshop are a gap/demand analysis and the potential role of a facility seen in the context of each risk. The analysis performed in the 5 workshops will give direct input to WP 1 (Information and Analysis) and WP 2 (Operational Procedures). For WP 3 (Liaison Unit Function) the workshops will investigate the role of a liaison unit in bridging between research/information, operational procedures and practical implementation. Workshop 6 will deal with the results and recommendation of the thematic consultations and ensure they are reflected in the Business Plan.

Policy makers from European and national levels will be invited to participate in the workshops to actively accompany the FRISK approach from an early stage.

D0.1 Inception report (Month 2)

An inception report was produced by the project manager. The report consists of a work plan and detailed description of tasks and investigation lines as well as the individual project deliverables. Assigned personnel and partner organizations are listed as far as it was possible at this early project stage.

WP1 - Analysis and Information

Personnel assigned: Tanja Baycheva, Frank Krumm, Christophe Orazio, Jo Van Brusselen (EFI)

Associated Partners: to be identified

Objective

The objective of work package 1 is to analyse demand for, availability, strenghts 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 will be 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 work

Activity 1.1 – knowledge bank of initiatives and expertise – will produce deliverable 1.2. An overview will be developed of existing initiatives dealing with specific risks in forests, or with specific aspects of risks. The term “initiatives” here covers e.g. operational programmes, research projects and programmes, organisations etc.. The types of outputs and expertise of such initiatives will be mapped, as well as the key experts involved.

Activity 1.2 – information gap analysis – will produce deliverable 1.1. An information needs assessment, complemented with an overview of existing information availability and accessibility will result in a critical information gap analysis. The information needs assessment will identify information requirements in terms of quality, timing, periodicity, methodology, geographical coverage, geographical resolution, and operational application, modalities for translation into practice and operational environments, amongst other types of metadata.

Activity 1.3 – Products and services portfolio recommendations – will produce deliverable 1.3. Based on the needs assessment and the gap analysis, recommendations will be made for products and

services that would be of operational use to the beneficiaries, the various types of users, of a European Forest Risk Facility.

Activity 1.4 – Pilot structure for information services and applications – will produce deliverable 1.4. A pilot structure for operational information services delivery will be demonstrated. The demo will be implemented on a case study basis and will make use of best existing data as well as novel types of information that may however not be available yet on an operational level. The demo will demonstrate the information service delivery e.g. with mobile web applications.

WP2 Operational Procedures

Personnel assigned: Daniel Kraus, Marc Castellnou (EFI)

Associated Partners: to be defined

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.

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 work

Activity 1 - Review operational procedures for management options for forest disturbance events, i.e. storm and/or fire.

D2.1 Sourcebook for forest risk operational procedures (Month 15)

The review will take into account to what degree an intervention is desired and acceptable and which common standards are in use in disturbance management. Operational procedures for the following elements of disturbance management will be reviewed:

- Prevention / Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response and
- Recovery

Activity 2 - Develop generic standards for mutual assistance for the management of disturbances (before, during, after).

D2.2 Draft set of standards for the management of forest disturbances (Month 12)

These standards are a basis for common training and exchanges for:

- Prevention specialists

- Incident analysts
- Crisis managers
- Damage assessment units
- Restoration specialists

Activity 3 – Mobilizing specialists

D2.3 Specialists and interventions database (Month 8)

D2.4 Tools for exchange of specialists (guiding principles) (Month 12)

Build a pool of specialists who are available to support member countries with advice and action. These specialists are listed in a database with a track record of their knowledge, experiences and exchanges. Additionally, the tools for the exchange of specialists and mutual assistance in case of a severe event will be developed and a database of interventions with a strong emphasis on lessons learned to improve future operations will be created. This initiative will link into the EU Exchange of Experts programme.

WP3 Liaison and Communication

Personnel assigned: Yvonne Chitoui (FVA), Christoph Hartebrodt (FVA) Alexander Held (EFI)

Associated Partners: PLANAT (CH), EFETAC (USA), EU EoE (EU)

Objectives

WP 3 will initiate and establish 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.

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 work

The Liaison Unit facilitates the national and international relations, involvement and exposure of a European Forest Risk Facility with European level organizations (e.g. EC-JRC, EEA) and national/regional organizations. It coordinates and promotes the exchange and partnership agreements, both formal and informal, with organizations, research institutions and companies around the forest risk community in Europe and beyond. The exchange of information and knowledge on forest risk with partner countries is thus a core function. Addressing the economic implications of forest risks not only with forest owners but with insurance companies will be part of the Liaison Unit's tasks.

Activity 1 – Identification of strategic partners

In cooperation with WP 1 and 2 define the key strategic partners in the international forest risk community. Using results of the FORRISK project, information and data from the EFI regional offices and partners (i.e. FVA) will enable the assigned staff to produce a comprehensive overview on European forest crisis management expertise.

Activity 2 – Liaison unit requirements for communications and information management

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)

Identify the requirements for a standardized framework for the Liaison Unit function with regard to communication and information management – 'a Knowledge Exchange Platform' (collection, analysis, dissemination, and information sharing) - at all levels of forest risk management. Collecting feedback and identifying the challenges for cooperating partners engaged in mutual exchanges for the evaluation of possible improvements and adaptations of the processes, in cooperation with WP 2.

We will collect, assess and adapt existing work descriptions, Terms of Reference, operating procedures, concepts and standards from existing concepts to describe the core functions of a Liaison Unit for a European Forest Risk Facility. The Liaison Unit will start to work as focal point for communication within the project partners, facilitate exchange

Activity 3 – Expert workshop liaison unit framework requirements

D3.2 Concept for a 'Knowledge Exchange Platform' (Month 12)

D3.3 Expert Workshop "Liaison" with workshop synthesis report (Month 9)

It was planned to host an expert workshop to support the development of framework requirements for the Liaison Unit based on good practice examples (e.g. PuMa and PLANAT initiative). The workshop outcomes (WP 0) will give input to framework requirements and operations of a Liaison Unit, the planning, coordination and organization for collaboration (vertical: regional/national/European; horizontal: regional/national), and advise on mechanisms for exchange and training programs (Input to Activity 4).

Amendments: The planned specific workshop for "liaison" will be split and integrated as a discussion topic into the thematic workshops. This will ensure to cover the relevant needs of the specific

disturbance community and save costs as the specialists won't have to attend two workshops within the short project duration. The same approach will be used for the economic questions and assessment.

In addition, the agreed cooperation with PUMA www.waldwissen.net/waldwirtschaft/schaden/fva_ratgeber_forstliches_krisenmanagement_startseite/index_EN, the Swiss PLANAT www.planat.ch and the US EFETAC www.forestthreats.org and the EU Exchange of Experts Program www.exchangeofexperts.eu/ will deliver models, expertise and also serve as backstopping function.

Activity 4 - Liaison unit development (test case)

D3.4 Liaison Unit established for pilot region (with PuMa) (Month 16)

D3.5 Partnership and exchange agreement template (Month 14)

In cooperation with the PUMA initiative and the FVA the project will develop and symbolically operate a small Liaison Unit as a test case between a national/regional forest risk organization (PuMa) and the future European Forest Risk Facility. This small unit will serve as practice example for other regional/national forest risk initiatives that are interested to engage in a European Forest Risk Facility and thus both willing to share and benefit from mutual exchange and cooperation.

WP4 Forest Risk Facility Business Plan

Personnel assigned: Marc Palahi, Andreas Schuck, Jo van Brusselen, (EFI)

Associated Partners: n.a.

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 work

Based on the content and outputs of WPs 1, 2 and 3, the targeted expert workshops and evaluation of model businessplans, FRISK-GO will develop an (1) **operational business plan** and (2) a draft outline for **a multi donor trust fund**. The FRISK-GO operational business plan and the set up of a

multi donor trust fund will take into account the extensive experiences that have been gained in the establishment of currently running ‘Facilities’ at the European Forest Institute: the FLEGT and REDD facilities. The operational business plan development is supported by the workshops and the good practice examples for a Liaison Unit function European Forest Risk facility (WP 3). Further the project will develop, jointly with the European Forest Institute’s Communications Unit, a well designed plan for dissemination and communication as part of the overall operational business plan. This will be established in close cooperation with WP 3.

Activities

Collection and evaluation of existing expertise and models, for instance the EFI FLEGT / REDD Facility as well as other comparable organisations.

Results and recommendations from the thematic workshops will be assessed and evaluated to be reflected in the Business Plan.

Compile Business Plan and outline of a Multi Donor Trust Fund

The operational business plan will undergo extensive scrutiny by the project team and the involved experts, as well as policy makers. It will be distributed and/or presented to appropriate fora. This will include well structured interaction with interested collaborators, donor organizations and clients at regional, national and European level. The aim of the consultation is to ensure the operational business plan development being an open and transparent process thus enhancing the understanding and acceptance of the European Forest Risk Facility initiative and potential establishment and support. An operational business plan for the Facility may include, but is not limited to, the following headings:

European Forest Risk Facility – Operational Business Plan

- 1.** Overall objective, the purpose and institutional set-up
- 2.** Description of operational work and expenditures
 - 2.1 Structuring the operational work of the Facility
 - 2.2 Description of its operative functions
 - 2.3 Layout of themes of strategic importance to the Facility
 - 2.4 Detailed description of themes
 - 2.5 Setting out the guiding principles of the Facility
 - 2.6 Dissemination and communication plan for the Facility
 - 2.7 Categories of expenditures of a Facility
- 3.** Governance structures
 - 3.1 The structural set-up of the Facility
 - 3.2 Facility steering bodies
 - 3.3 Sub-steering bodies with responsibilities for particular actions / activities of the facility
- 4** Donor profiles
- 5** Work Planning
 - 5.1 Facility rolling work plan

Review and evaluation cycles

Project synthesis

The Business Plan will be the project synthesis, reflecting all deliverables reached during the project duration. The Multi Donor Trust Fund will be part of the Business Plan. The model Liaison Unit will be described in an Annex document as well as in the online web presence of the Liaison Unit. The web presence, developed tools, first products and services and communication channels etc. will stay online and in use after the project duration on the EFI and FVA web servers.

Timetable

The outline timetable and key dates for the project is shown in the following chart. These dates are subject to change as the details for the workshops for instance will be clarified and defined only in January 2014.

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
WP 0*		D0.1						D0.2		D0.4								D0.3
WP 1							D1.1		D1.2				D1.3		D1.4			
WP 2							D2.3				D2.2 D2.4			D2.1				
WP 3								D3.3			D3.2		D3.5		D3.1 D3.4			
WP 4																		D4.1 D4.2
Workshops (WS)							WS Liaison function	WS Storm; WS Insects	WS Fire; WS Drought	WS Wildlife								

*D0.5 and D0.6 are implemented throughout the project