



PLURIFOR



Transnational plans for the management of forest risks

Financing



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Cross-border collaboration to develop regional and transnational risk management plans for forest areas susceptible to biotic and abiotic hazards

BUDGET (€) 1.820.916	START DATE: 2016 END DATE: 2019
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ACTIONS PLANS

Pilot Tests

Portugal ● Spain ● France ●

CONTACT INFORMATION

Christophe Orazio

e-mail: c.orazio@iefc.net

Telephone +33 535385274 - Prof Mob.: +33 749362146





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»» **Goal** The project aimed to help with the development of regional and transnational risk management plans for forest areas susceptible to biotic and abiotic hazards. The project focused on eight risks: Chestnut gall wasp; Eucalyptus weevil; Fusarium; Pinewood Nematode; Emerging pests and diseases; Forest fire; Soil degradation and Storms

»» **Introduction** The project comprised 1 partners and 21 associate partners, uniting research institutes, universities, forest related organisations and regional governments and councils from the Interreg Sudoe countries of Portugal, Spain and France. The focus was on incorporating the latest scientific understanding of hazards to forests in the south-west of Europe into the civil planning mechanisms for dealing with these hazards and their impacts. It involved a direct transfer of knowledge between partner countries and partner institutions working alongside each other to develop evidence-based and up to date risk management plans. The Planted Forests Facility was providing guidance and direction for the project, having previously coordinated the Interreg Sudoe IV project FORRISK on forest risk management

Methodological approach The project started by identifying the needs of partners from regional forest services in terms of risk management and transnational workshops are organised in order to complete this information. The partners developed tools (cartography, insect traps, surveillance methods, management techniques, etc.), which have been integrated into existing risk management plans or new plans will be created to accommodate them. These new or improved plans have been tested, validated and presented to technical staff who will apply them between the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. As soon as the first versions were available, citizens have been invited to consult and comment on the proposed plans.

A four-step methodology was followed:



Surveys/interviews of public forest authorities and regional private forest owners' associations to identify current plans and tools used to manage prevailing forest hazards;



Evaluation workshops between forest experts and practitioners to exchange and improve existing protocols and to create new plans and tools





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Methodological

»» approach



Assessment workshops to test the efficiency of improved/new plans and tools through forest hazard simulation;



Training workshops to present the improved/new plans and tools to the end users.

»» Results

Fire – Risk management plans

The objective set for fire risk in the framework of the PLURIFOR project consisted of generating a guidance document -Guide of best practices- for those responsible for drawing up the Forest Fire Risk Plan for each region; mainly focused on the generation of tools for the evaluation of forest fire risk and the planning of preventive activities. To this end, work was carried out on the methodological development for the creation of forest fuel maps adapted to the SUDOE area and updated as far as possible on the basis of variables taken using new technologies (LiDAR sensors; Light Detection and Ranging), based on the 4th National Forest Inventory (IFN4) and taking into account the practical opinion of personnel responsible for prevention and extinction tasks.

In addition, regional reports describing how the forest fire risk was managed in the concerned regions at the beginning of the project in 2016 were also developed:

- Forest risk management in Asturias (2016) (ES)
- Forest risk management in the Basque Country (2016) (ES)
- Forest risk management in Galicia (2016) (ES)
- Forest risk management in Portugal (2016) (PT)

Forest fires tools:

- Good practices guide (EN)
- Good practices guide (PT)
- Fire maps in the Spanish Basque Country (EN)
- Silvalert (forest damage reporting) (EN)





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»» Results

Soil degradation

This developed plan includes the identification of the risk of soil degradation due to water erosion, compaction, loss of organic matter and landslides for the geographical area covered by this plan. It also presents a contingency plan with the following sections: prevention, monitoring, crisis management and rehabilitation. This plan has generated 9 tools (soil erosion maps, susceptibility maps...) for its implementation in the management of the risk of soil degradation in forest plantations, as the managers of territorial planning demand objective tools in order to be able to apply the current regulations. As in the previous point, regional reports describing how the soil degradation risk was managed in the concerned regions at the beginning of the project in 2016 were also developed:

- Soil degradation management plan V2 (ES)
- Soil degradation management plan V1 (ES)
- Risk management tools

Storms

The project have elaborated recommendations to the French storm risk national plan as well as a Storm risk management plan in the Basque Country and a Synthesis of Atlantic plans for the management of the storm risk plan. In addition, several tools have been developed like wind damage risk maps and models in different areas/regions of the project. As in the previous points, regional reports describing how the storm risk was managed in the concerned regions at the beginning of the project in 2016 were also developed:

- Storm risk management in Aquitaine (2016) (FR)
- Storm risk management in the Basque Country (2016) (ES)
- French storm risk national plan (FR)
- Recommendations to the French storm risk national plan (FR)





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»» Results

Other tools and reports

SILVALERT: Online platform to report damages in forest (fire damages...). This is an invaluable tool for risk management with a transboundary approach.

SUMMARY REPORT: a report summarising the management of the eight risks in the concerned regions at the beginning of the project were also developed.

Altogether, 13 plans and 27 tools were developed such as remote sensing and forest health protocols, forest damages reporting application, soil degradation and forest fuels maps, critical wind speed and height models, biological control protocols, genetic tools for fungus identification, ... Various communication tools were also implemented to create awareness, inform and promote citizen participation in forest risk management.

»» URL <https://plurifor.efi.int/>

»» Realted Websites Silvalert website to collect information about damages observed in forest
<https://silvalert.net/>

Project PLURIFOR on twitter
<https://twitter.com/plurifor>

