



International Cooperation
Thematic Session – 17 May 2023

FoRISK

- Forest Wildfire Risk Management -

one aspect of the

“Pan-European Forest Risk Knowledge Mechanism”



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

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**Forest
Europe** growing life
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

30 years of FOREST EUROPE



- pan-European voluntary high-level political process
- Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe
- 45 European countries and the European Union
- 59 Observer (14 states and 45 organisations)
- promote sustainable forest management (SFM)

Criteria & Indicators for SFM



- RESOLUTION Strasbourg 1 in 1990: “European Network of **Permanent Sample Plots for Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems**”
- FOREST EUROPE has led to achievements such as the internationally agreed guidelines, **Criteria and Indicators for SFM**
 - National forest inventories as backbone
 - Focusing on SFM trends
 - Allow for trans-national comparability

Criteria & Indicators for SFM



- Criterion 2: Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality
 - 2.1 Deposition and concentration of air pollutants
 - 2.2 Soil condition
 - 2.3 Defoliation
 - 2.4 Forest damage →
 - 2.5 Forest land degradation
 - C.2: Policies, institutions and instruments to maintain forest ecosystem health and vitality



Foto: D. Kraus (BaySF)

- FOREST EUROPE, together with FAO and UNECE, produces the report “**State of Europe’s Forests**” (SoEF) every five years

Focus of new work programme

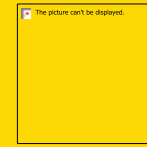
German chairmanship 2021 - 2024



8th Ministerial Conference 14/15 April 2021 in Bratislava:

- Revisit SFM, Criteria & Indicators and “State of Europe’s Forests” report
 - coherence of concepts, review indicators & uptake of results
- **Forest Risk Knowledge Mechanism (FoRISK)**
 - create a platform to cope with forest-related risks and prevention
- Green Jobs and Forest Education
- Rapid response
 - FE as forum to exchange on emerging, urgent issues such as the support for the Ukrainian forest sector
- Communications

Ministerial Decision on Ukraine



FOREST EUROPE signatories and observers endorsed the Ministerial Decision

"Supporting the recovery and sustainable management of Ukrainian forests and its forest sector" in 2022



**Supporting the
Ukrainian forests**

Aims:

- Building back better the forest sector in Ukraine
- Present a report during next Expert Level Meeting (21-22 June 2023)
- Increase awareness and knowledge sharing

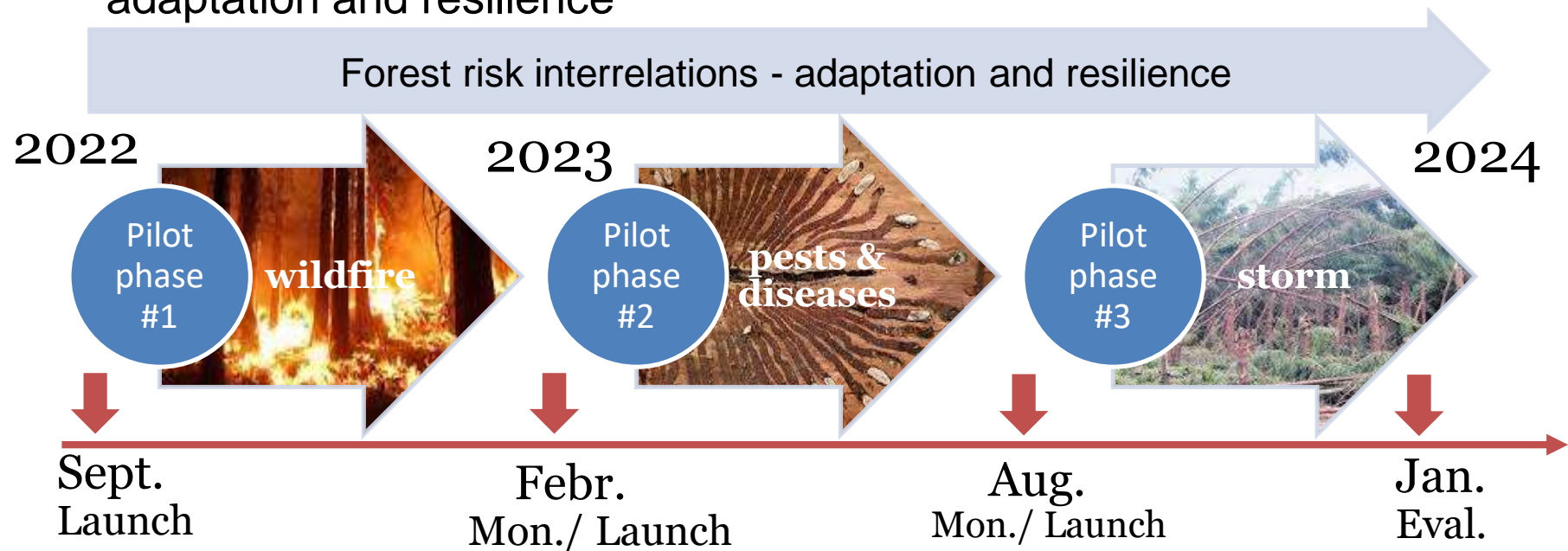
Achievements:

- Capacity building workshop on fire prevention in Ukraine resources allocation and trainings
- 1:1 meetings with international organisations, signatories and observers

FoRISK strategy



- FoRISK Pilot launch in September 2022 until February 2024
- Preliminary focus on **wildfire, pests & diseases and storm** while addressing interrelations of forest risks to strengthen forest adaptation and resilience



FoRISK Pilot phase testing



Output and added value

Policy briefs

Capacity
building

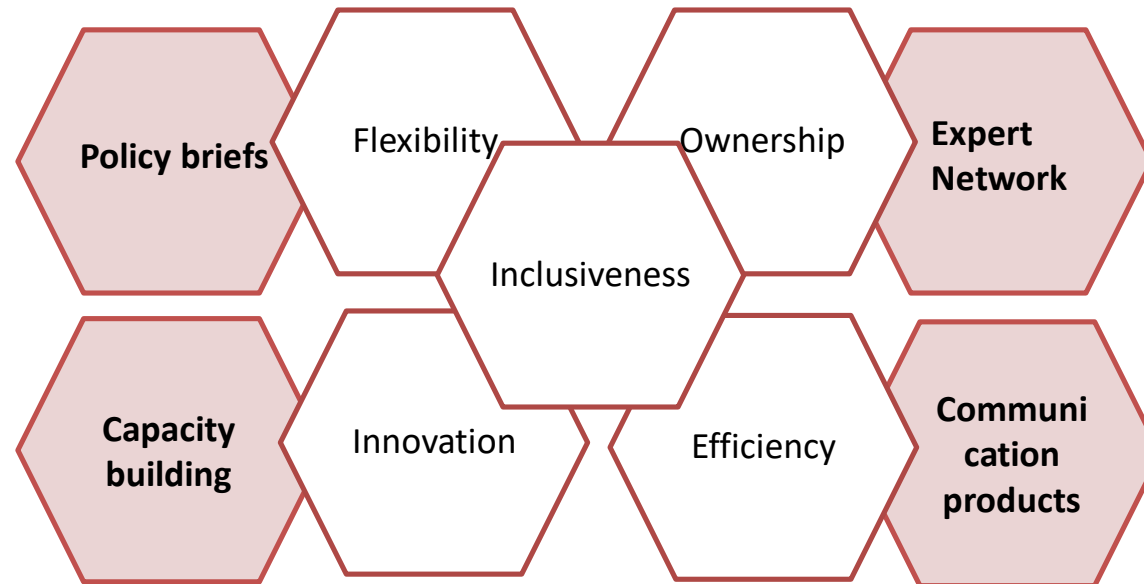
Expert
Network

Communication
products

FoRISK Pilot phase testing



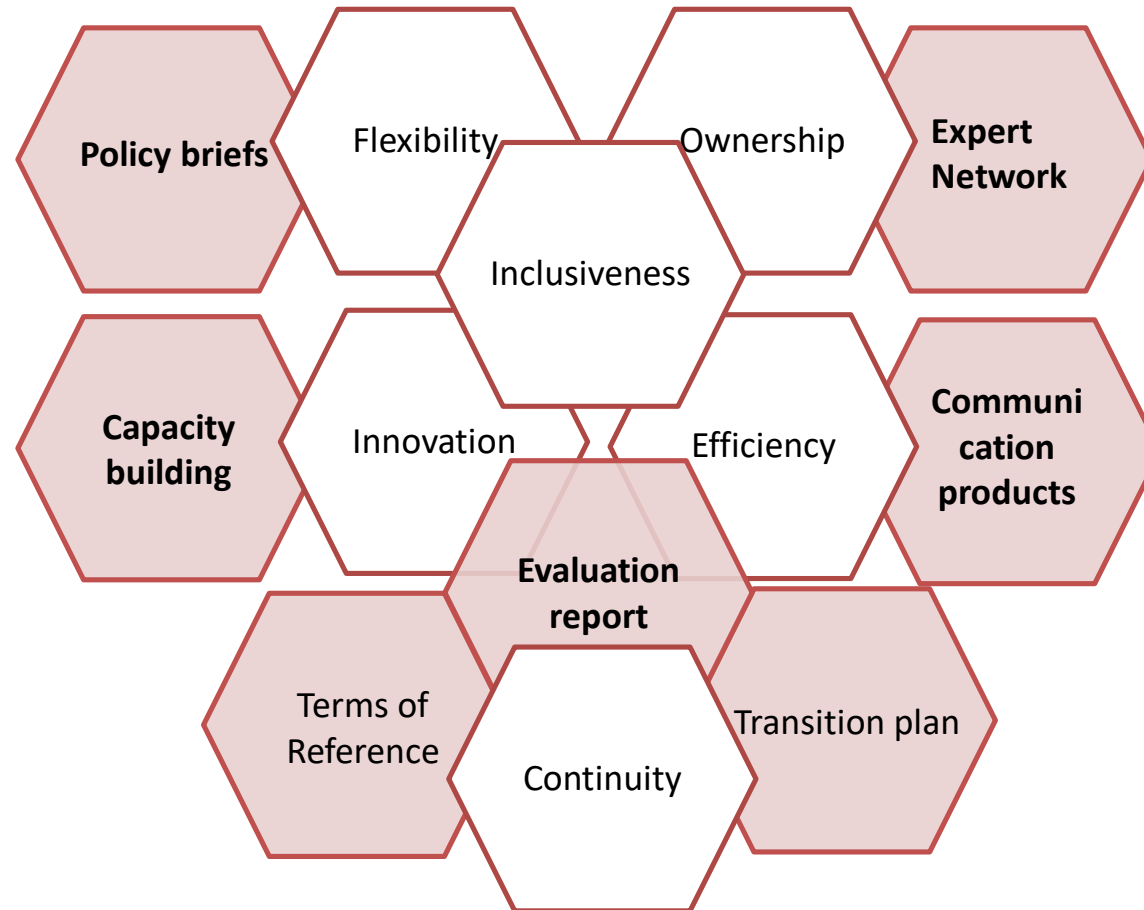
Output and added value



FoRISK Pilot phase testing



Output and added value



FoRISK Pilot phase #1 “wildfire” policy brief



The policy brief “**Reducing Wildfire Risk in Europe Through Sustainable Forest Management**” is an example here to organize a **common voice and understanding within Europe** and shows the common goal for one topic:

- Governments are called on to radically shift their investments in wildfires to **focus on prevention and preparedness**;
- **SFM can contribute to fire prevention**;
- Foresters can influence fuel (i.e. biomass) type, structure and density;
- **SFM will help create landscapes that are more resilient to future disturbances**;

➔ *Fire management and SFM is closely linked!*



Fire behavior triangle

FoRISK Pilot phase #1 “wildfire” policy brief highlights



- SFM and integrated fire management (IFM) must be **people-centered** and **locally adapte**.
- Strategies must address the whole risk cycle: **prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and monitoring.**
- Acknowledge that even the best managed forest might burn under extreme weather conditions: **There is no future without fire.**

FoRISK in a nutshell



- Develop a pan-European approach aiming at increased forest resilience and adaptation to climate change
 - stimulating the collaboration between research and operational-level disturbance risk management to develop recommendations and innovative practices
 - providing guidance to inform policy makers (policy briefs)
- Supporting cross border cooperation for future disturbance risk management (prevention, preparedness, response, recovery)
 - ensuring knowledge transfer /information sharing and peer-learning among countries through capacity building workshops
 - speeding up the responses to new and unexpected events/topics
- Increased capacity of countries to better communicate the forest disturbance risk issue to policy-makers and broad public.



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