



ALTERFOR NEWSLETTER

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ALTERNATIVE MODELS AND ROBUST DECISION-MAKING FOR FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT

ISSUE 10/2018



1. CROSS-PROJECT MEETING IN PORTO

The third cross-project meeting took place in Porto, at the Catholic University of Portugal on 12-14 June 2018. It focused on alternative ways to manage forests at stand level, and the simulations of current approaches to management on the landscape level, under different market and climate scenarios. In addition, the project partners presented the “lessons learnt” from the first round of stakeholder workshops¹ conducted in several European countries.

The Portuguese project team² organized [TRAVELLAB sessions](#) shedding light on the local conditions in the Portuguese Case Study Area “Vale do Sousa” and exploring the needs for alternative forest management models. The project partners visited different forest stands in the case study area, e.g. short rotation coppice eucalyptus and maritime pine forests, including plots heavily damaged by forest fires under 2017. The current forest management challenges and possible solutions were discussed in forests as well as at the subsequent stakeholder roundtable that

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included representatives of state forest administration, private forest owners, municipal foresters, environmental NGO, and researchers. The biggest challenges are posed by high risks of fire and the fragmented ownership, where many holdings are unmanaged due to passive or unknown ownership.

2. SECOND ROUND OF STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS IN ALTERFOR IN AUTUMN 2018

ALTERFOR explores the potential to improve approaches to forest management in different areas in Europe. For this reason, the project partners have studied the stakeholders’ interests and their power resources in case study areas in the participating countries. The analyses show that a multitude of external factors (resulting e.g. from climate change, the growing importance of renewable energy

¹ Learn more about stakeholder workshops in ALTERFOR in the next article: “Second Round of Stakeholder Workshops in ALTERFOR in Autumn 2018”.

²Partner organizations: University of Lisbon (School of Agriculture) and the Forest Owners Association AFVS.



sources or catastrophic events) necessitate the search for new forest management models, both at stand and landscape levels. The local workshops create venues for multiple forest stakeholders to express their views on the possible alternatives to forest management, to scrutinize their future impacts, and to discuss the possibilities and the hindrances to implement the desirable alternatives.

In Brandenburg, Germany, the next workshop will address challenges resulting from the climate change such as drought damage and wildfires. In addition, the project partners (Georg-August-University Göttingen, Technische Universität München and the German Forest Society) will discuss different mechanisms for forest protection. Modelling the effects of three alternative future scenarios (set-aside, multifunctional forestry and increase in timber production) will form the basis of the workshop.

This event shall take place in Eberswalde within the „Eberswalder Waldwerkstatt“ on 15 November 2018. It will contribute to the development of the forest conversion strategy of the Land of Brandenburg. Representatives of forest-related associations and forest administrations, responsible decision makers, mayors and civil society groups are expected to attend the workshop. The event will be organised in cooperation with the Brandenburg Ministry for Rural Development, Environment and Consumer Protection. Further stakeholder workshops will be organised in all case study areas in ALTERFOR during autumn 2018.

3. REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT MODELS FOR TEN CASE STUDY AREAS IN EUROPE

This report provides details about the alternative forest management models (FMMs) that the project partners identified at stand level. The overview of the results shows that concern for biodiversity is among most frequent rationales for alternative FMMs in all areas, followed by increased timber production for mainly economic reasons. Regulatory ecosystem services and especially protection of water is another frequent motivation. Many of the alternative FMMs aim at raising the proportion of broadleaves in mixed species stands whereas monocultures of broadleaves are more unusual.

The report is available on the ALTERFOR website under:
<https://www.alterfor-project.eu/deliverables-and-milestones.html>

4. LANDMAN CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE

ALTERFOR uses advanced decision support systems (DSSs) to analyse the implications of alternative forest management models (FMM) in the sense of silvicultural concepts and strategies. The computations are based on the forest's status quo in each of the ten case study areas (CSAs) in the project extending from a couple of thousand hectares to more than half a million hectares. Projections for a period of hundred years are made where the growth of forests and the provision of ecosystem services are projected following the prescriptions of alternative FMM under different climate and market scenarios.

The complexity and uncertainty make it necessary to review the most critical assumptions that support the projections. This was discussed at the [LandMan conference](#) arranged by the Czech University of Life Sciences 17-19 September 2018. Experts on remote sensing, silviculture, forest planning, and forest policy were present at sessions where model details and relevance were scrutinized. The general impression is that the DSS have been successfully upgraded to take account of changing market conditions and climate change effects on growth and yield. Still, much research would be needed to verify that the response to climate change is fully predicted. A positive signal from the review is that ALTERFOR projections appear to have high policy relevance. The ALTERFOR project incorporates stakeholder workshops in each CSA where alternative FMM are developed and ecosystem services outcomes are discussed. These workshops seem to be a real chance that new forest management principles make inroads into the national policy processes.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN ALTERFOR

Lundholm, A., Corrigan, E., Harper, Ch., Nieuwenhuis, M. 2018 Ireland's western peatland forests in a changing world. *Forestry & Energy Review*, Vol. 8 Issue 2, Autumn/Winter.

Poschenrieder, W., Biber, P., Pretzsch, H. 2018 An Inventory-Based Regeneration Biomass Model to Initialize Landscape Scale Simulation Scenarios. *Forests*, 9, 212.

Schwaiger, F., Poschenrieder, W., Rötzer, T., Biber, P., Pretzsch, H. 2018 Groundwater recharge algorithm for forest management models. *Ecological Modelling*.

For further ALTERFOR publications please visit the project website: www.alterfor-project.eu/publications.html

Project Title

ALTERNATIVE MODELS AND ROBUST DECISION-MAKING FOR FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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Duration of the Project

54 Month (01/04/2016 - 30/09/2020)

Funding Scheme

The European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 676754)

Project Website

www.alterfor-project.eu

ALTERFOR Project Newsletter

Issue 10/2018

Publication, editorial and design

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