



Dear Readers,

As we are approaching the end of the first year of the ALTERFOR project, we are happy to update you on some of the latest activities and findings.

To gain new insight on forestry stakeholders' power resources and interests in forest ecosystem services, ALTERFOR researchers have conducted an in-depth stakeholder analysis in all ten participating countries. In addition, they have investigated and described the forest management models at stand level, finding a big diversity of models across Europe.

To move the project forward, more than forty representatives of research organisations and non-academic experts (forest owner associations, forestry authorities and other) met in Zvolen, Slovakia in November 2016. In addition to the project meeting sessions, Travellab, an innovative format for cross-regional learning, was introduced here. In October this year the consortium will meet for the second cross-project meeting in Galway, Ireland.



ALTERFOR project partners attending the Travellab in Zvolen, Slovakia

CROSS-PROJECT MEETINGS AND TRAVELLAB SESSIONS IN SLOVAKIA AND IRELAND

The first cross-project meeting took place in Zvolen, Slovakia on 8-10 November 2016. The researchers and non-academic partners discussed, among others, how to implement the future scenarios in the ten case study areas.¹ **These scenarios**, provided by the Austrian partner IIASA², cover a wide range of future trajectories for global development of climate change mitigation, economic growth, population development and overall use of natural resources. The forest modellers will utilize the scenarios to upgrade the different decision support systems used in the participating countries; mainly in terms of climate modelling, forest owner behaviour, and ecosystem service provision.

Another focus of the meeting was laid on the analysis of the interests of actors in the case study areas and their power resources. Furthermore, the project partners presented and discussed the identified stand-level forest management models in the different case study areas.³ Travellab, an event format for cross-regional learning and knowledge transfer, was first tested in Zvolen. It combined the conventional field excursion with round table discussions. Local stakeholders and project partners could discuss advantages and disadvantages of currently used forest management models and alternative options with regard to the Slovak Case Study Area "Podpoľanie". Representatives of local forest enterprises, the National Forest Centre, the organisation "Poľana Protected

¹Bavaria (West Augsburg) in Germany; Brandenburg (Lieberose/Schlaubetal) in Germany; Barony of Moycullen, County Galway in Ireland; Veneto in Italy; Telšiai in Lithuania; Vale do Sousa in Portugal; Podpoľanie in Slovakia; Kronoberg County in Sweden; Gölcük in Turkey.

²International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

³For stand-level forest management models: a forest management approach applied at the stand level, normally spanning a silvicultural regime over decades.

Landscape Area” and the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development shared their experience with the ALTERFOR consortium in lively discussions.

Read more about Travellab and the Slovak Case Study Area here: <https://www.alterfor-project.eu/events/id-11-2016-cross-project-meeting-and-travellab.html>

The University College Dublin and Coillte (the Irish State forest company) will host the next cross-project meeting and Travellab sessions in Galway, Ireland in October 2017.

The Irish case study area the Barony of Moycullen is located in Connemara, in the county of Galway. The forested area comprises of pine (mainly Lodgepole pine), spruce (mainly Sitka spruce) and larch species. The majority of the case study area consists of blanket bogs, where peat harvesting has taken place in some parts (Figure 1). The area encompasses the Cloosh Valley Forest, Ireland’s largest continuous forest, while along the coast and along the shores of Lough Corrib, agriculture is prevalent, mostly as pasture land (Figure 1). The state-owned forests were mainly established in the 1960s and 1970s and many are now in their second rotation. The private forest is younger; their planting began in the 1980s. One particularly interesting aspect of the area is the presence of a viable Freshwater Pearl Mussel population.

The Barony of Moycullen is a popular destination for tourism. There are several walking trails located in the area, most notably the Western Way, as well as mountain bike routes and pony riding trails.

The combination of tightening forest regulations, forests that have been managed for a relatively long period of time (in an Irish context), the presence of a viable Freshwater Pearl Mussel population, tourism and recreational usage, and the potential for wind farm development, makes the Barony of Moycullen a very interesting case study area in the ALTERFOR project.

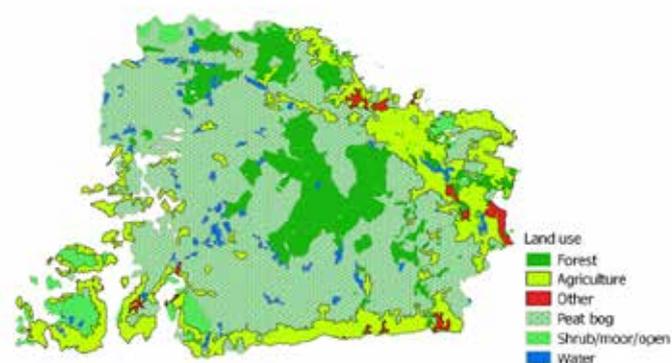


Figure 1: Land uses within the CSA (EPA, 2014. Corine Landcover 2012 - National. Environmental Protection Agency, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Ireland)

IUFRO 2017

Numerous ALTERFOR researchers will attend the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress, which will take place in Freiburg, Germany from 19 to 22 September 2017. They will present different aspects of their current work in forest research, also referring to activities and results in the project. In addition, various information materials will convey an overview about our work on site.

AVAILABLE ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE:

ANALYSIS OF STAKEHOLDERS´ INTERESTS

www.alterfor-project.eu

ALTERFOR explores the potential to optimise forest management models currently in use in different forested areas in European countries. For this reason, the research partners in the participating countries have studied the stakeholders´ interests in the case study areas and their power resources. In the context of this study, power is defined as “the capability of an actor to influence other actors”.⁴ In addition, the researchers have analysed current forest policy issues and the institutional settings for forest management in all areas.

The case studies show that forest management challenges in the 21st century might require new and adapted forest management models, which optimize the ecosystem service basket provided by forests. Especially the challenges resulting from climate change and the increasing importance of renewable energy sources provided by forests impact⁵ forest management in the many of the case study areas. In several cases, catastrophic events (like forest fires or windfalls), related to climate change, constitute a major threat. The results in a form of a comprehensive report can now be [downloaded from the project website](#).

This analysis is the first step to pave the way to transfer scientific knowledge to the practice. By 2018, the partners will organise a series of local workshops aimed to enhance the capacity to implement alternative forest management models, taking into account the interests of the concerned stakeholders.

ALTERFOR GLOSSARY

To enhance the common understanding, the project partners compiled a list of the core terms and their definitions as an internal knowledge transfer instrument. Initiated by Edwin Corrigan (University College Dublin, Ireland) and supported by the research partners in ALTERFOR, the glossary is primarily meant as a supporting tool for the members of the consortium. It is also available to any interested parties under <https://www.alterfor-project.eu/glossary.html>.

⁴Krott, M., Bader, A., Devkota, R., Maryudi, A., Giessen, L., Aurenhammer, H., 2014. Actor-centred power: The driving force in decentralised community based forest governance. *Forest Policy and Economics* 49, 34-42.

⁵E.g. timber for energy use, wind turbines within forests, large-scale solar panel farms within forests.

Project Title

ALTERNATIVES MODELS AND ROBUST DECISION-MAKING FOR FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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