

Exchange of Experts

Irish and German foresters (1/IR-DE/Nov2015)



An exchange of experts facilitated by EFICIENT (www.eficient.efi.int) team took place in the last week of November as a part of project *In-Tree* (www.in-tree-org) where foresters from Ireland came to exchange on expert knowledge and experiences with their colleagues to Germany.

This Exchange of Experts (EoE) included several site visits to community, state as well as private forests where various topics on introduced tree species were discussed. Forest management aiming at biodiversity enhancement and the need for wildlife management were also included as key topics of the exchange as they are essential components of ecosystem management. Four different forest districts across Baden-Württemberg where 19 different forest sites were visited during the exchange clearly demonstrated the link between silviculture of introduced tree species, biodiversity and wildlife management.

The **major aims** of this EoE were to:

- Facilitate the transfer of skills and experience between Irish and German forestry practitioners in terms of:
 - Introduced tree species
 - Deer management
 - Incorporating and enhancing biodiversity in managed forests
- Facilitate the adoption of specific forest management practices in terms of introduced tree species.
- Enable adoption of appropriate and effective deer management practices that minimize hunting pressure and reduce the impact on forest ecosystem.
- Discuss the relationship between forest management approaches applied in order to enhance biodiversity in the forests.
- Enhance and/extend contact network.

Programme

Date	Location / Host	Activity
24.11.2015 Tuesday	N/A	Travel from Ireland to Germany. Travel to Steinenbronn, Schönbuch.
25.11.2015 Wednesday	<i>Schönbuch</i> Christian Kirch (Forst BW)	Wildlife management, planning, organisation and implementation with regards to silviculture.
	<i>Böblingen</i> Wolfgang Steier (ÖJV & BaWü)	Workshop on Sitka spruce in Ireland with special regard to Sika deer influence on tree species selection for afforestation.
26.11.2015 Thursday	<i>Klettgau/Hochrhein, Waldshut Tiengen</i> Helge von Gilsa (Forst BW) & Volker Jungmann (Klettgau City Council)	Forest protection, Sika deer management and silviculture.
	<i>Klettgau City Council</i> Volker Jungmann (Klettgau City Council)	Policy meeting, workshop on processes and strategies for silviculture with introduced tree species.
	<i>Bernau</i> Wolfgang Steier (Forst BW & ÖJV BaWü)	Roe deer management and silviculture in high altitude forests.
27.11.2015 Friday	<i>Freiburg City Forest,</i> Nicole Schmalfluss (Forst BW), EFICIENT team	Management of Douglas fir in Freiburg City Forest. Marteloscope exercise and management for biodiversity.
	<i>St. Ulrich Communal Forest</i> Matthias Kern & Johannes Wiesler (Forst BW)	Silviculture, forest protection, natural regeneration of mixed mountain forest.
28.11.2015 Saturday	<i>Emmendingen</i> Axel Winking & Jurgen Schmidt (Forst BW)	Wildlife management, planning, organisation and implementation with regard to silviculture.
	<i>Geiersnest</i> Hubertus Nimsch (IG Alternative Baumarten)	Informal workshop and exchange on exotic tree species relevant for European forestry.
29.11.2015 Sunday	N/A	Travel from Germany to Ireland.

Participants

- *Hosts:* for details, please see the programme
- *Visitors:*
Ciaran Nugent (Forest Service, Ireland)
Seppi Höna (Forest Service, Ireland)
- *Facilitators:*
Alexander Held (European Forest Institute – EFICIENT, Freiburg, Germany)
Lucie Vítková (European Forest Institute – EFICIENT, Freiburg, Germany)
Frank Krumm (European Forest Institute – EFICIENT, Freiburg, Germany)

Conclusion

Despite the low costs, four days of intensive programme provided all participating parties with plentiful opportunities to exchange information, knowledge and expertise. This successful EoE inspired new ways of thinking and approaching specific tasks. It also provided foundation for a variety of options on future decision making for all involved in this EoE. Given the range of topics covered, the clear link between various topics was demonstrated and showed that all relevant stakeholders need to be involved in order to adopt a successful approach.

It is important to note that shared expertise and knowledge provides more options (but not necessarily solutions). However, it also provides tools for decision making that support policy, practice, teaching and research. EoE's are therefore considered as showcases for cost effective tools for knowledge transfer.

This EoE helped to substantially broaden contacts network and established the basis for further cooperation and mutual support. Importantly, the Irish foresters came as guests and left as friends.

Contact details:

The full report on the exchange of experts is available upon request. If you have any questions regarding the programme, topics covered, organisation of the expert exchange, etc. please do not hesitate to contact us:

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