

Building an integrated policy regarding forest risks at the regional level

First insights from a upcoming research project in Wallonia, Belgium

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Context

- European forests are facing manifold biotic and abiotic risks
- Multifunctional role of forests implies multiple stakeholders and concerns
- Climatic and market uncertainties jeopardize classical approach of risks
- Regional or supra-regional risk management policies still at embryonic state
- Need for methodology and framework for sound policy-making

Target of the project

Building a regional forest risk policy that conciliate economic, ecosystem and societal concerns, whilst taking in account long-term challenges and uncertainties and interrelations with other decisional levels

Methodology

- 1) Defining objectives at the policy level (i.e. regional scale)
- 2) Agreeing on a risk analysis framework (fig. 1)
- 3) Identification and assessment of current risk strategies (fig. 2)
- 4) Iterative and cross analysis (integrated approach, fig. 2-3)
- 5) Trade-offs at the policy level

Policy-building process

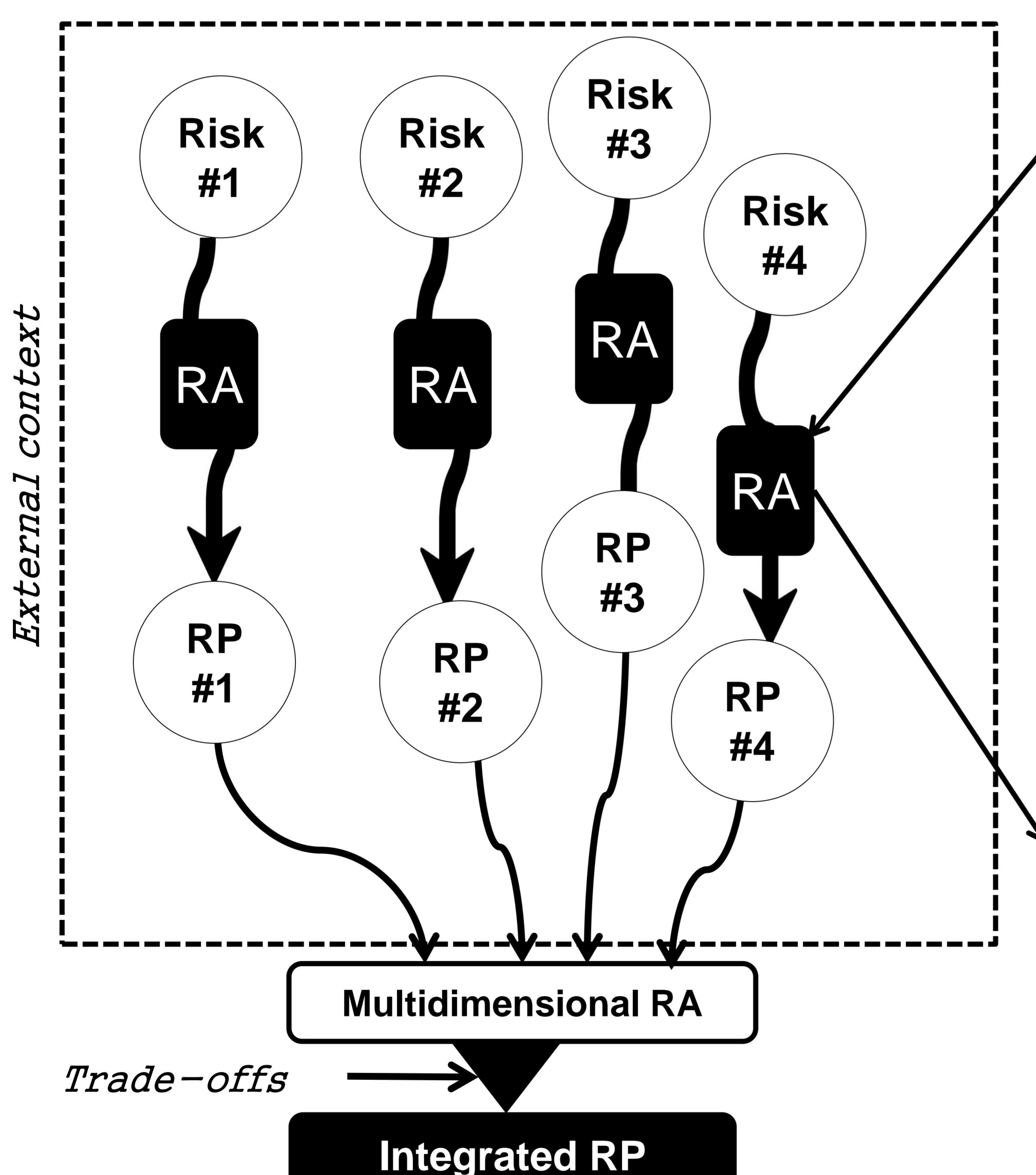


Figure 2: policy building process (RA: risk analysis ; RP: risk policy)

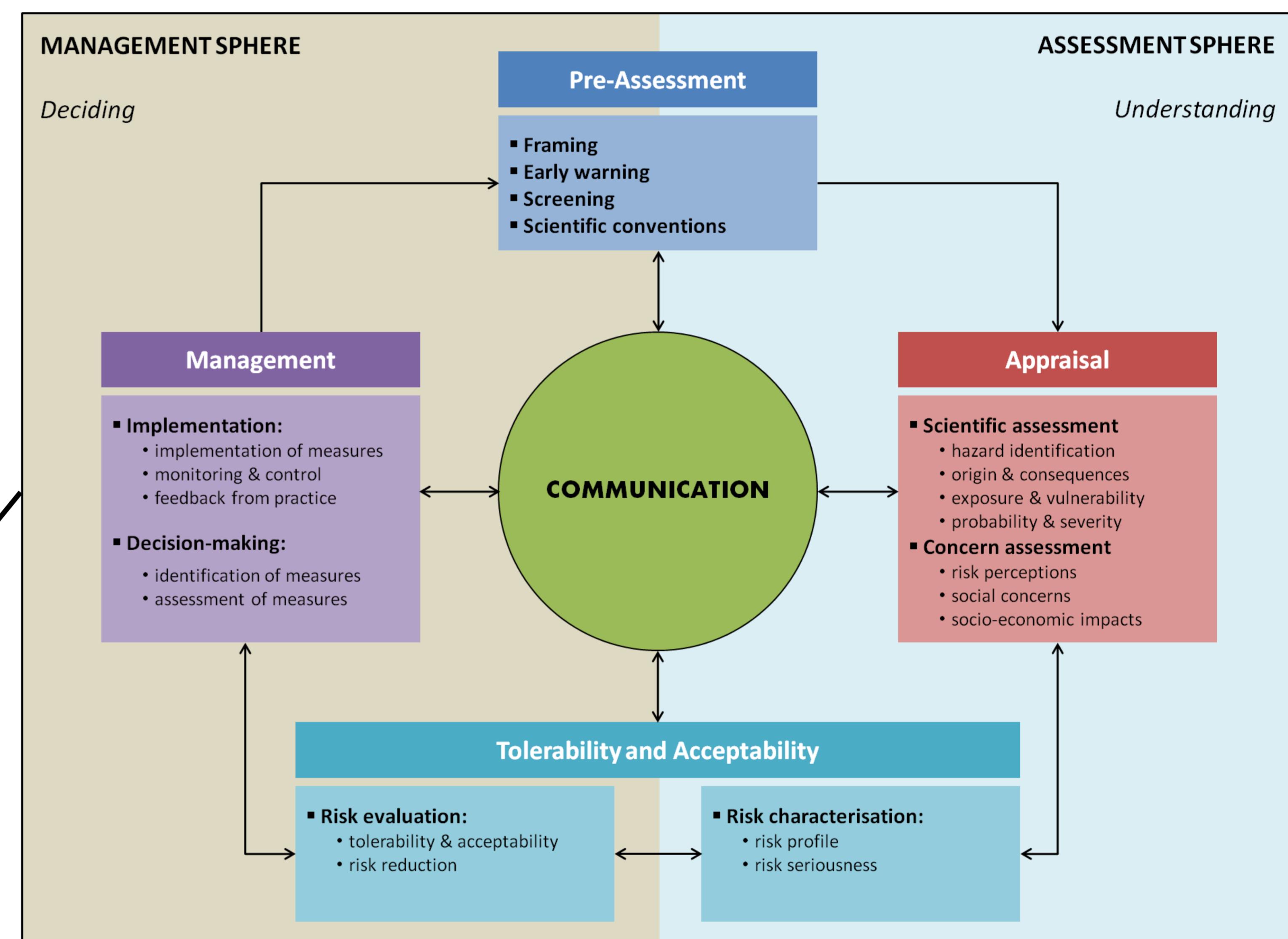


Figure 1: risk analysis framework (IRGC 2007)

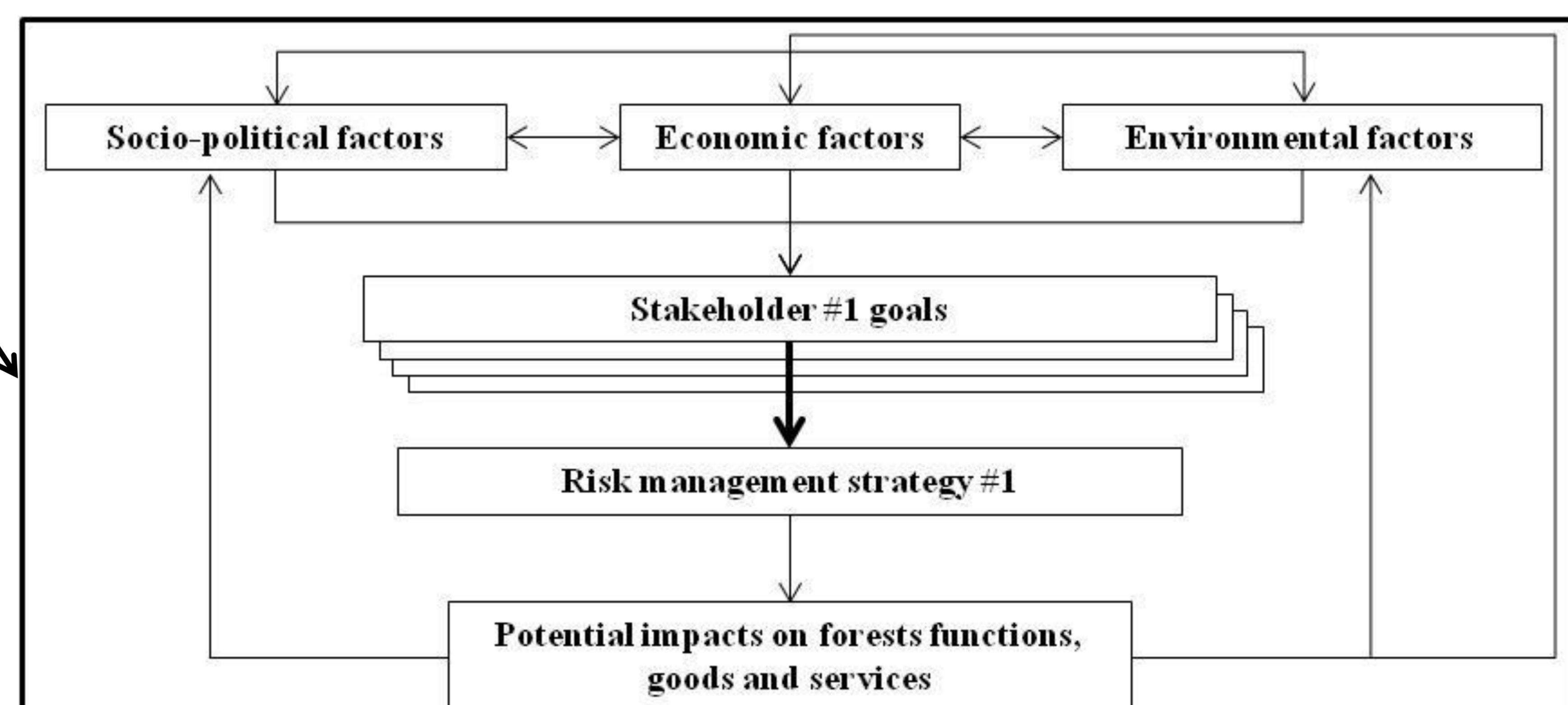


Figure 3: Inclusive governance(Riguelle et al. 2016)

Key Challenges

- Increase forest risk awareness at the policy level
- Bridge knowledge gaps through appropriated researches
- Develop and/or implement risk analysis tools
- Listen to stakeholders' concerns (inclusive governance)
- Share good practices among forest community at the European level