

8. Evaluation of measures

8. EVALUATION OF MEASURES UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO ACUTE FOREST DAMAGE

Principles

Most people involved in an acute forest damage incident will not have had previous experience of such damage on a large scale but will learn valuable lessons from the experience. These lessons should be properly evaluated and recorded so that the experience is not lost.

The review of the lessons learnt may best be carried out by someone not directly involved in responding to the initial incident who can take a fresh look at the preparations made for dealing with acute forest damage and the effectiveness of the subsequent action.

The topics to be considered in a post damage review are:

Preparations prior to forest damage:

- ◆ What preventative measures had been and could be undertaken?
- ◆ What advice was available on responding to acute forest damage?
- ◆ Was the advice followed?
- ◆ Was the advice valid?

Immediate measures:

- ◆ Was immediate action clearly identified and carried out with due urgency but without panic?

Damage survey

- ◆ Was the initial assessment carried out on time, at an acceptable cost and with an acceptable level of accuracy?
- ◆ Was the required information obtained?
- ◆ Should more or less information have been collected?

Damage reporting and action planning

- ◆ Was the report ready in due time and did it meet the real requirements of the people concerned?
- ◆ Were the proposed actions implemented and the timetable realistic?

Harvesting operations

- ◆ Was the assessment of priorities for harvesting correct?
- ◆ Were the operations carried out efficiently, cost-effectively and safely?

Marketing

- ◆ Did the market manage to absorb a high proportion of the harvested timber?
- ◆ Was there significant loss due to degrade?
- ◆ Was the price reduction significant and in line with predictions?

Reafforestation following forest damage

- ◆ Is reafforestation being carried out in an effective manner?

Lessons for future incidents

- ◆ In the light of recent experience what changes need to be made to preventative measures, advice available following acute forest damage and actual practice in responding to acute forest damage?