

# THE CHALLENGE OF ASH-DIEBACK

A conceptual framework for  
practitioners in the Ortenaukreis

(State of Baden-Württemberg/Germany)

by

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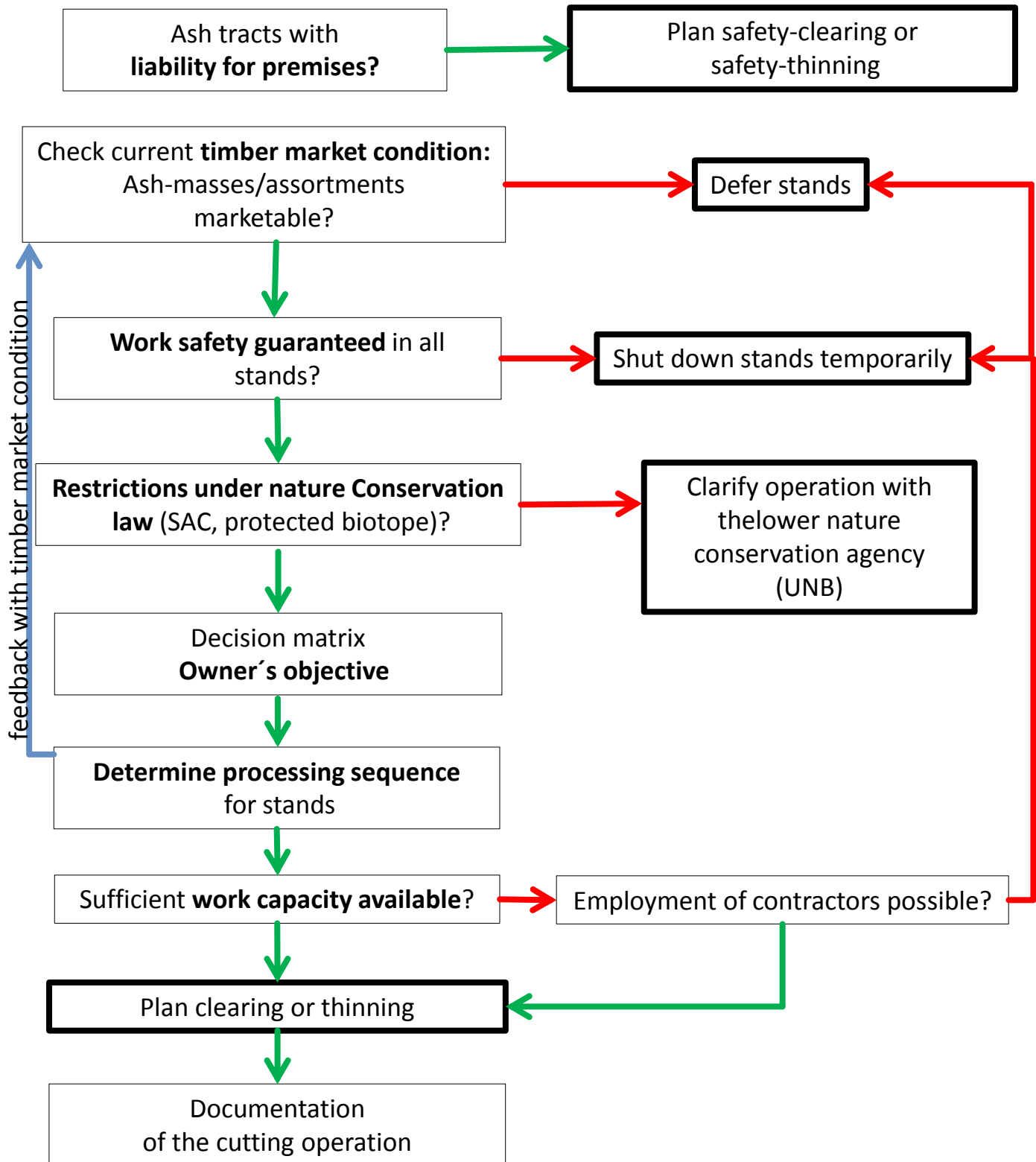
# Baden-Württemberg





- Ortenaukreis a focus of distribution of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in SW-Germany:
- 3000 ha of the common tree mostly between Black Forest and Rhine valley
- severe problems with ash die-back beginning in 2009
- die-back of the canopy of trees
- root infection causes instability (risk of unpredicted falling trees)
- danger of collapse of the timber market for ash
- heavy pressure on the economy of the forest owners (mostly communities)
- a big challenge to the forest staff concerning forest use and reforestation of clearing areas
- a working group of the forest office designs a conceptual framework to support foresters in their management decisions and improve communication with forest owners
- framework consisting of two parts: management of cutting operations in the damaged stands and reforestation of cleared stands

## Decision tree: cutting operation



**Table 1.** Fictitious community “Profit Town“ – Cutting operation

**Relevant criteria for the decision-making<sup>1</sup>**

Profit from timber harvesting	++	Preservation of healthy ashes and mixed tree species	-
Follow-up costs	++	Preservation of old and dead wood	-
Sustainability of quality wood production	++	Spatial structural diversity	-
Protection of the secondary stand	+	Recreational value	-
		Fuel wood supply	+

**Action alternative<sup>2</sup>**

	With nat. regen. <sup>3</sup>	Without nat. regen. <sup>3</sup>
Remaining quality wood <sup>3</sup>	1) Thinning 2) Clearing, Temporary shut-down	1) Thinning 2) Clearing 3) Temporary shut-down
No remaining quality wood <sup>3</sup>	1) Thinning, Clearing 2) Temporary shut-down	1) Clearing 2) Thinning 3) Temporary shut-down

## **The main criteria for the selection of introduced, non-native tree species are:**

1. adapted to certain site conditions
2. good increment
3. resistance to pests and diseases spread presently
4. good general quality of timber with existing or promising good prospects on the timber market
5. non-invasive behaviour of the species

## **The following tree genera and species were chosen as a result of the selection:**















THANKS  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION



