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Supplementary file S1: Interview guide

The interview guide was created to support the interviewer, who asked questions drawn from the guide along with unspecified follow-up questions.

| TOPIC | QUESTIONS |
|---|---|
| Icebreaker | What is your educational background? |
| | What is your role today? |
| | When did you start working in forestry? |
| HCG-related processes and decisions HCG and the concept machine X19 | How did your organization start working with harwarders? |
| | How did your organization start working with the Komatsu X19 machine concept? Describe how you started. |
| | Who was involved in the decision? |
| Specific decisions in the HCG and the users | What happened after that? |
| | From your organization's perspective, how did you decide to increase/reduce/not change the resources you contributed to HCG decisions? Who made the decision? When? |
| | X users supported decision Y in the HCG. Would your decision have changed if the number of users involved was Z? If so, how? |
| | How did you judge the HCG's relevance after decision X? |
| The structure of "unstructured" decision | |
| processes The routines | What prompted your involvement in the harwarder question? Did you see the introduction of the harwarder as a crisis, problem, or opportunity? (recognition) |
| | What prior knowledge did you have about harwarders? What did you discover before you started searching for a suitable technical composition of the X19 concept machine? (diagnosis) |
| | What alternatives were available? (search) |

| | If there were many alternatives, how were they screened? (screening) |
|---------------------|---|
| Decision support | What consequences were estimated for each alternative? Which consequences were considered and how? Were there uncertainties and risks? How were they estimated and how large were they? What objectives/criteria did you apply? How did you balance them? How many decisionmakers and/or stakeholders were involved and how? Who/which stakeholders made the decision? (judgment-analysis-bargaining) |
| | Was the decision process anchored before you proceeded? (authorization) |
| Resource allocation | How did this process compare to other decision processes you have participated in? |
| | What was the decision based on? Why was the decision made on that basis? |
| | Who/which did the analysis/decision basis? Who/which were involved, such as a reference group and/or board? |
| | Which resources are available for this kind of development efforts? How were the resources distributed in the decision process? What proportion of these resources were allocated to HCG activities? |
| | From today's perspective, would you do anything differently? Would you consider more/fewer/other |

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factors when making your decision?