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# Nat Cat Validation Framework Working Party

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# Agenda

1. Working Party mandate
2. Observed pitfalls
3. What is validation?
4. Validation Framework
5. Case Studies
6. Next Steps

We need your  
feedback!



# Working Party Mandate

1. **Assemble** a group of cat modelling industry practitioners with relevant skill sets
2. **Consider** the complexity and constraints of cat models, available cat vendor validation documentation, Solvency II requirements and current issues.
3. **Provide guidance** to cat modellers, internal and external validators and business users of cat model outputs on what constitutes “good enough” validation of catastrophe risk.
4. **Provide** practical validation **examples** that illustrate the principle of proportionality



We need your  
feedback!

# Observed Pitfalls

*Incomplete  
validation  
scope*

*Meaning of  
“validation”  
unclear*

*How much is  
enough validation?*

*Conflicts of  
interest*

*Over-reliance  
on validation  
report*

*Validator bias*

*Pass / fail criteria  
designed with results in  
mind*

*Testing follows path of least  
resistance due to limited resource*

*Validation process  
not fit for purpose*

*So much to  
validate, where do I  
begin?*

*Fundamental model  
assumptions not challenged  
enough*

*Lack of model  
understanding*



*Incomplete  
validation  
scope*

*Meaning of  
“validation”  
unclear*

# What is Validation?

1. A means of gaining **confidence** over all material aspect of the modelling process
  - Inputs
  - Cat model components
  - Results
  - Purpose / Use: primarily in the internal model, for pricing, reinsurance purchase, exposure management and business planning
  - Control environment



# What is Validation?



*Validation  
process not fit  
for purpose*

*Meaning of  
“validation”  
unclear*

1. Evaluation of the suitability of the science underlying the model?
2. Validation of each model component’s “performance” against scientific and statistical expectations and empirical evidence?
3. Validation of modelled losses against historical losses?
4. Assess whether checks and controls were performed through the modelling process and that these are documented?
5. Assess the extent to which the modelling process complies with relevant internal guidelines?
6. Evaluate the firm’s understanding of cat models?
7. Validate adherence to Solvency II requirements?



*Testing follows path of least  
resistance due to limited resource*

# What is Validation?



1. Tick-the-box exercise.
2. Evidence selected to support the current approach and calibration
3. Heavily biased by previous choices
4. Little / no use by C-suite



1. Genuine attempt to find an alternative hypothesis to the adopted view
2. "Model inquisitiveness"
3. Unbiased / awareness of bias
4. A communication tool





*How much is  
enough validation?*

*So much to  
validate, where do I  
begin?*

# Validation Framework

Test Topics

Test Design

Test Tools





# Validation Framework

## Test Topics

1. Data
2. Model Design
  - hazard,
  - event set
  - vulnerability
  - financial
3. Results
4. Key drivers:
  - Expert judgements
  - Key assumptions
  - Key switches/options
  - Key distribution choices
5. Governance / Control environment (of items 1- 4 above)

## Test Structure

1. Test description
  - Context / Issue
  - Materiality
  - Scope
  - Objective
  - Limitations
2. Quantitative or Qualitative
3. Pass / fail criteria
  - what is the hypothesis / expectation?
4. Test result and rationale
5. Conclusion / Recommendation

## Test Tools

### What

- Analysis of change test
- **Back-test**
- **Benchmarking test**
- **Stress test**
- Scenario test
- **Sensitivity test**
- Functional test
- **Reverse Stress Test**
- Risk attribution test

### Why

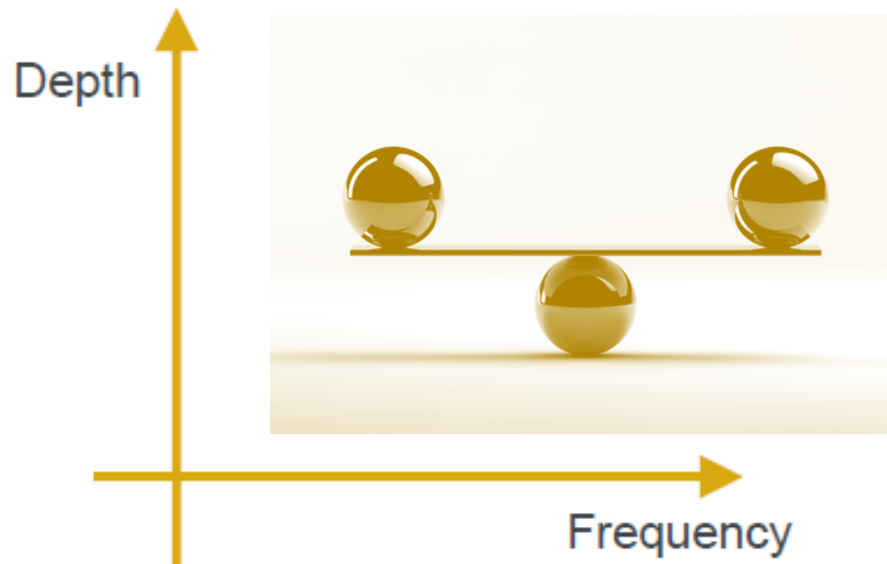
- Completeness
- Consistency
- Reconciliation
- Replication
- Transparency
- Stability
- Comparison of observed against modelled

What do you  
think?



# Validation Process

1. "Deep dive" of cat model component(s)
  - Leverage vendor validation
  - Infrequent (every 3 – 5 years)
  - Requires expert knowledge
2. *Basic* frequent:
  - Renewing tests (with each model run)
  - Does not require expert knowledge
  - Could be automated
3. *Intuitive* frequent
  - Rules of thumb
  - Easy to understand, hence more likely to be referenced in C-suite discussion



*Validation process  
not fit for purpose*



# Region-Peril Case Studies

Case Study 1: UK Wind back-test  
Case Study 2: Taiwan EQ sensitivity test  
Case Study 3: US Wind Stress test  
Case Study 4: JP Wind Stress test  
Case Study 5: Global Reverse Stress test  
Case Study 6: EU Wind Benchmarking test

Test Design

Results & Conclusions



All data and results are hypothetical

# Case Study 1

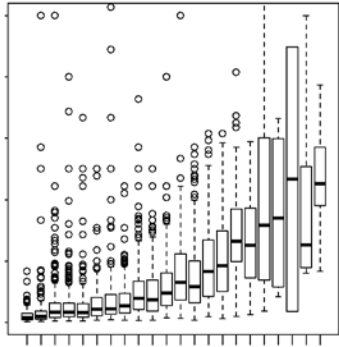
## UK Wind back-test Test Design

Design	Test Topic > Model design > UK Wind Vulnerability		Test Tool > back-test
<b>Context &amp; Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>fundamental component</b> of cat model is the assumed damage to insured property resulting from the operation of an insured peril.</li> <li>Vendors use <b>market claims data</b> to calibrate damage (as % of exposure) across hazard intensities, supplemented by risk engineer expert judgement where data is scarce.</li> <li>This test aims to assess the <b>appropriateness</b> of this calibration and <b>suitability</b> of expert judgements made for a sub-set of vulnerability curves</li> </ul>	<b>Test inputs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wind intensity data from your vendor model</li> <li>Location-level claims from the event(s)</li> <li>In-force exposures at time of event (s)</li> <li>Loss adjuster expertise</li> <li>Published Engineering studies</li> </ol>
<b>Materiality, Scope &amp; Limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>High</b> (&gt;5% impact on net cat risk 1:200 AEP VaR / 1:100 AEP TVaR, for example – depends on purpose)</li> <li><b>Property</b> class (PD + consequential loss (where applicable))</li> <li><b>UK Residential Windstorm</b> peril (most suited to residential property insurers) for specific events</li> <li><b>Scarce data</b> at high hazard intensities</li> <li><b>Data quality</b> / coding errors in wind damage claims</li> <li><b>Regional vulnerability</b> differences may be difficult to test</li> </ul>	<b>Test Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign wind intensity to internal claims data</li> <li>Calculate mean conditional damage ratio by wind intensity and vulnerability region for affected policies</li> <li>Compute claim frequency at above granularity</li> <li>Compute observed damage ratio and compare to modelled mean damage ratio (MDR) where data is credible.</li> <li>Validate assumed modelled damage at high hazard intensities with internal claims adjustors.</li> </ul>
<b>Nature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantitative (observed vs. modelled)</li> <li>Qualitative (evaluation of the suitability / reasonableness of engineering judgements at high hazard intensities)</li> </ul>	<b>Pass / Fail criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall <b>shape</b> of vulnerability curve (“...vendor residential curves reflect changes in the rate of damage across hazard intensities..”)</li> <li>Calibrated <b>damage ratios</b> (“...observed damage within x% of modelled...”)</li> <li>and observed exceptions don’t reveal any systemic bias</li> </ul>

# Case Study 1

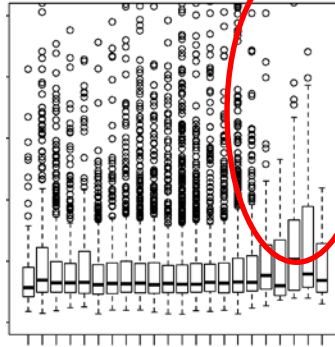
## UK Wind back-test Results & Conclusion

Claim Frequency



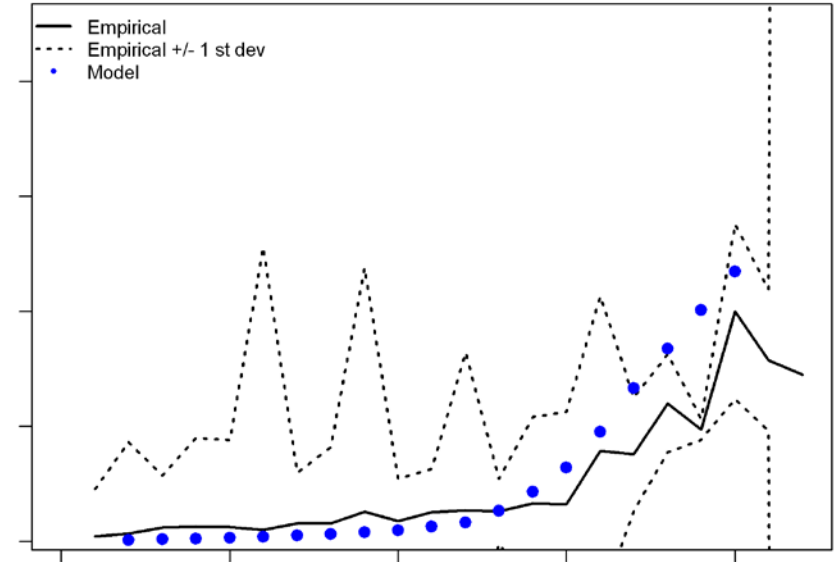
\*

CDR



=

MDR



$$MDR = \overline{claim} / \overline{SI} = \overline{cf}_{v,dc} * \overline{CDR}_{v,dc}$$

For illustration: execution will depend on cat model used and data available

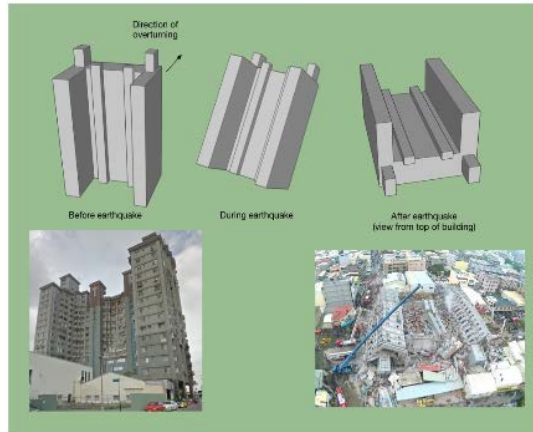
$cf$  = claim frequency

$v$  = peak gust / wind intensity measure

$dc$  = damage curve (vulnerability) region

CDR = conditional damage ratio

# Case Study 2

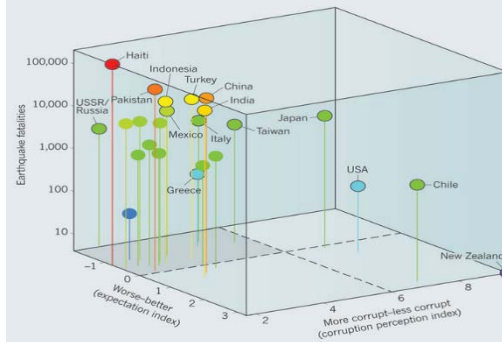


M6.3 Tainan, Taiwan, 2016



M7.6 Chi-Chi, Taiwan, 1999

Ambraseys & Bilham, *Nature*, 2011



## Taiwan EQ (TWEQ) Type: sensitivity test Context

Modelled vulnerability of insured property assumes seismic resistance based on specified building characteristics.

However, corrupt business practices may lead to certain buildings displaying no seismic resistance despite classification as “reinforced concrete” thus potentially under-stating losses.

While systemic non-adherence due to corrupt practices will likely reflect in historic claims, this sensitivity test assesses impact on TWEQ results due to sporadic non-adherence where construction practices are generally adequate.



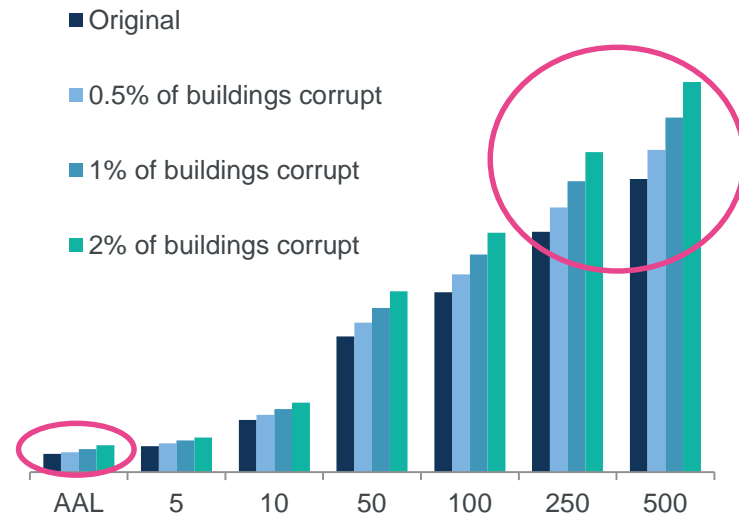
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# Case Study 2

## Test Topic > Model design > Construction Data

Key question	Is the sensitivity of modelled losses to different levels of assumed corrupt building practices sufficiently high to apply an uncertainty loading to modelled results?
Scope	Taiwan Quake property portfolio, however as per <i>Ambraseys &amp; Bilham</i> (2011) the test could be applied to other countries where there are concerns about corrupt construction practices
Nature	Quantitative
Pass/Fail Criteria	If ratio of original loss to loss under sensitivity test > some pre-defined X then apply a loading factor of Y (consider non-linear adjustment if necessary)
Test Steps	Recode X amount of locations or replacement value within a country portfolio with a construction code that provides little/no seismic resistance

Taiwan EQ (TWEQ)  
Type: sensitivity test  
Test Design and Results



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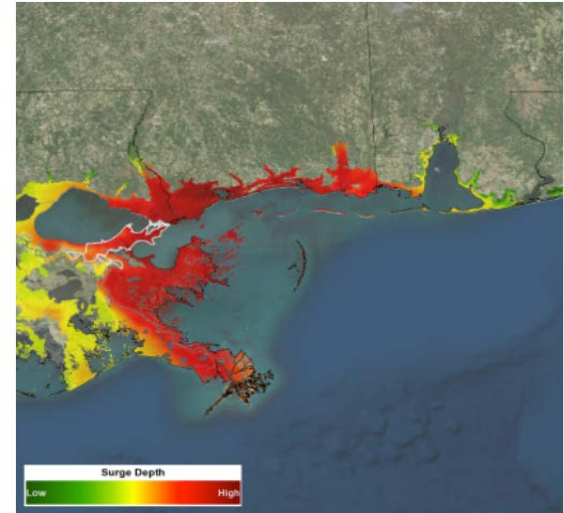


# Case Study 3

## Test Topic > Results

Context	2005 Hurricane Katrina was the worst natural disaster the insurance industry faced (Insured loss = \$41bn). While property exposures and as-if claims costs are significantly higher, levee enhancements, tighter policy wordings and improved building code adoption reduce severity significantly. The new levee system provides protection for water levels with a return period of 100 years
Key question	Does the Katrina levee failure scenario produce losses within the range of modelled outcomes / within 1:250 OEP VaR?
Materiality	High (US Wind is a peak peril)
Nature	Quantitative
Scope	US Wind + Surge. Property class
Pass/Fail Criteria	Test passes if the estimated loss scenario is within the range of modelled loss outcomes
Test Steps	Use vendor published losses and apply market share or run historical event ID where available.

Scope: US Wind region-peril  
Type: Stress test  
Test Design



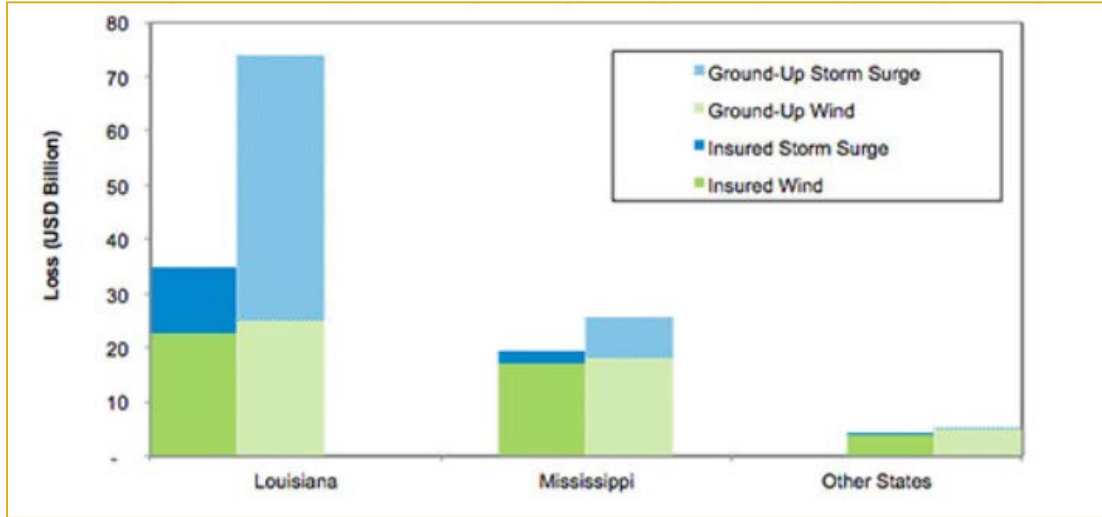
Storm surge footprint for Katrina scenario with levee failure



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# Case Study 3



Insured and ground-up losses by wind and storm surge for a storm with the characteristics of the 2005 Hurricane Katrina, with the New Orleans flood defenses failing. (Source: AIR)

Scope: US Wind  
Type: Stress test  
Test Result

Apply market share  
to \$60bn loss  
estimate considering  
possible portfolio  
biases

Pass: Resulting loss  
corresponds to 1: 150  
on modelled OEP  
VaR



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# Case Study 4

## Test Topic > Results

Context	Typhoon Vera (1959) is the costliest weather-related event in Japanese recorded history.
Key question	Does the vendor derived stress scenario (Vera track with increased intensity and more proximal Tokyo path) produce losses within the range of modelled outcomes?
Materiality	Medium / High
Nature	Quantitative
Pass/Fail Criteria:	Stress test passes if estimated losses are within the range of modelled outcomes?
Test Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Source AIR extreme-disaster scenario (EDS) for the modified Vera path and wind speeds and apply an appropriate market share</li><li>2. Alternatively, find closest stochastic match from event set of chosen cat model vendor.</li></ol>

Scope: JP Wind  
Type: Stress test  
Test Design

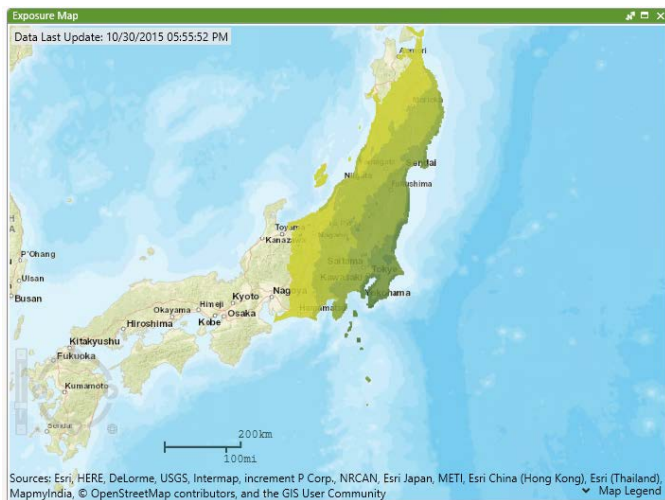
- Track shifted to hit between Tokyo & Kagoshima
- Vera's central pressure reduced by 10mb
- Astronomical tide phased to cause max surge height



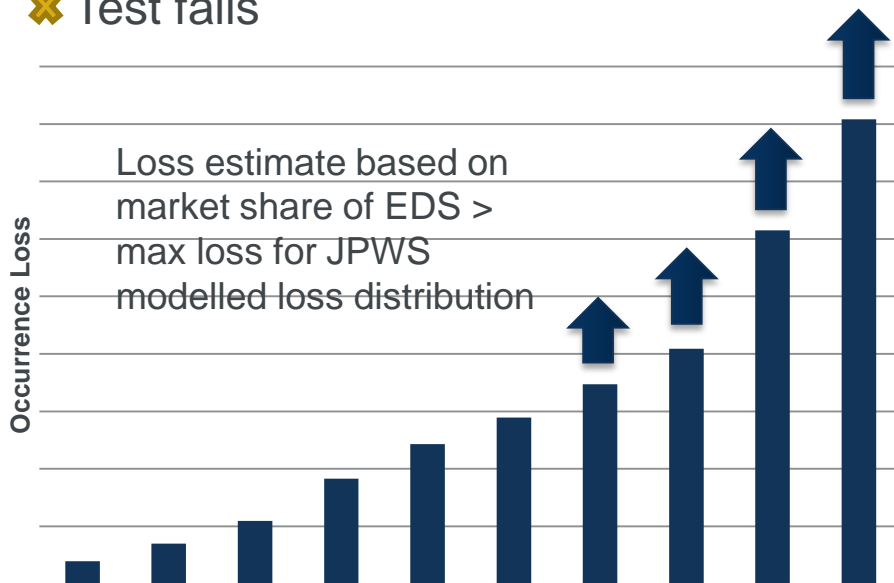
# Case Study 4

Scope: JP Wind  
Type: Stress test  
Test Results

Extreme Disaster Scenario:  
Typhoon Vera variant  
*wind speed footprint*



✘ Test fails



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# Case Study 5

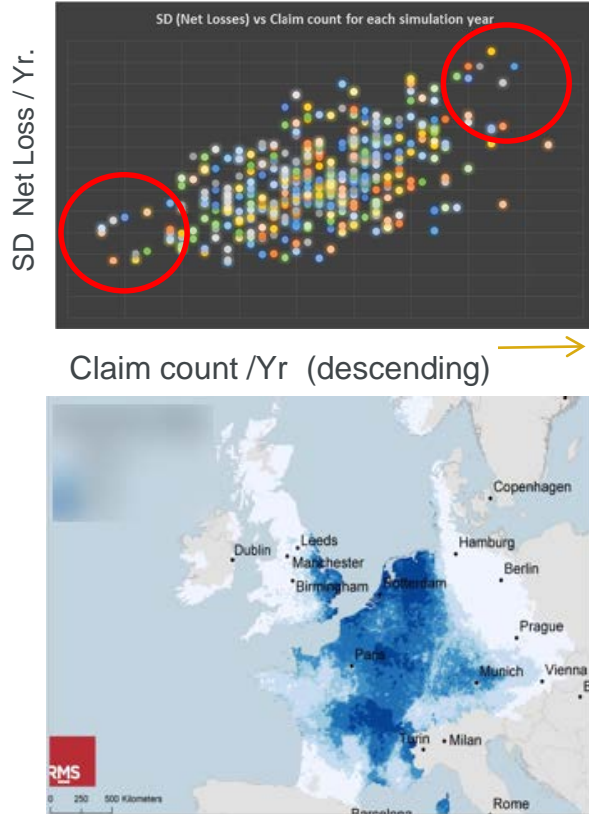
Scope: Global perils  
Type: Reverse Stress test  
Test Design

## Test Topic > Results

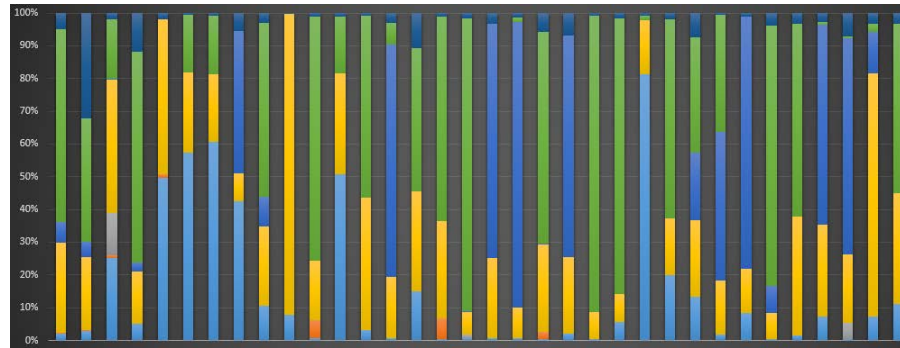
Context	As part of the demonstration that the capital requirements resulting from the internal model are appropriate, ...undertakings shall <b>compare the coverage and scope</b> of the internal model... Identify the <b>most probable stresses</b> that would threaten the <b>viability</b> of the insurance or reinsurance undertaking.” (Art 242 (6))
Materiality	High
Nature	Quantitative, while pass / fail criteria assessed qualitatively
Pass/Fail Criteria	Type 1: Test fails if available capital eroded by an as-if historical event / series of events not considered extreme – further management action required (e.g., buy additional Cat XoL protection) Type 2: Test fails if Internal model simulation years around the 1:200 VaR are not reflective of the firm’s cat risk profile (e.g., results not driven by key risk drivers)
Test Steps:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Compute independent of the cat model the largest as-if historical losses and compare against available capital (including allowance for expected non-cat losses)</li><li>2. Extract net losses for simulation years exceeding a capital threshold / in a defined range and assess the suitability of how losses in the each simulation year are composed</li></ol>

# Case Study 5

Scope: Global perils  
Type: Reverse Stress test  
Test Results



Evaluation of modelled simulation years



Selected



Assess Management Action

Plausible, but too extreme  
(~5x Windstorm Daria)  
therefore not selected



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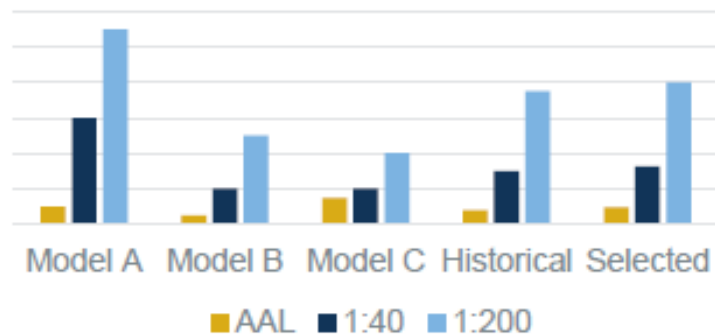


## Case Study 6

Scope: EU Wind  
Type: Benchmark test

### Benchmark test: Clustering

1. Benchmark selected choice against vendor models and history
2. Various perspectives available:
  - AEP / OEP
  - Var (Claim count/yr) / mean claim count per yr
  - Your AEP / Poisson AEP
  - AEP clustered / unclustered (where vendor provides these views)
  - Likelihood of having 2 events as large as [Daria] in the same year (benchmark models)
  - Likelihood of having 3 events as large as [Herta, Vivian, Kyrill] – EU wide / country level



Despite the uncertainties, is our selection in a reasonable range?



## Next steps

- Volunteers to apply framework and conduct tests for region-perils globally that illustrate principle of proportionality
- Consider tests applied in the validation of ESGs, internal model dependencies and banking models that could be applied in the validation of nat cat risk
- Conduct a literature review of relevant material to help cat risk validation practitioners / C-suite
- Provide examples of what a high-level / executive summary to a validation report could look like to aid engagement by C-suite members

# Questions

# Comments

Expressions of individual views by members of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and its staff are encouraged.

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter.

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