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GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

Towards an International
Framework

Porto - Portugal | **May 16-19th**, 2023

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People and Fire: Aspects of Social Participation and Community Leadership in Fire Prevention"

*In the Mediterranean Model Forest Network
Toni Ventre MFMN Secretary*



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- 1. Brief overview of MMFN**
- 2. Specific aspects of Med Region and Climate Change**
- 3. What's the point to face new challenge?**
- 4. Two MFs examples (best practices)**



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Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN)
Born in 2008, it currently has 7 MF members + 2 MF candidates + 4 MF initiatives.



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REGARDING WILDFIRES...MED AREA....

Different countries....different points:

- governance system
- climate
- social and economic canvas
- environmental topics
- etc...

..but also ...shared points and, above all criticities:

- urbanisation of rural population
- lack of forest management and, in general, of rural territories - and MAINLY

....**climate change/crise**





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MMFN and Climate Change in Med Area

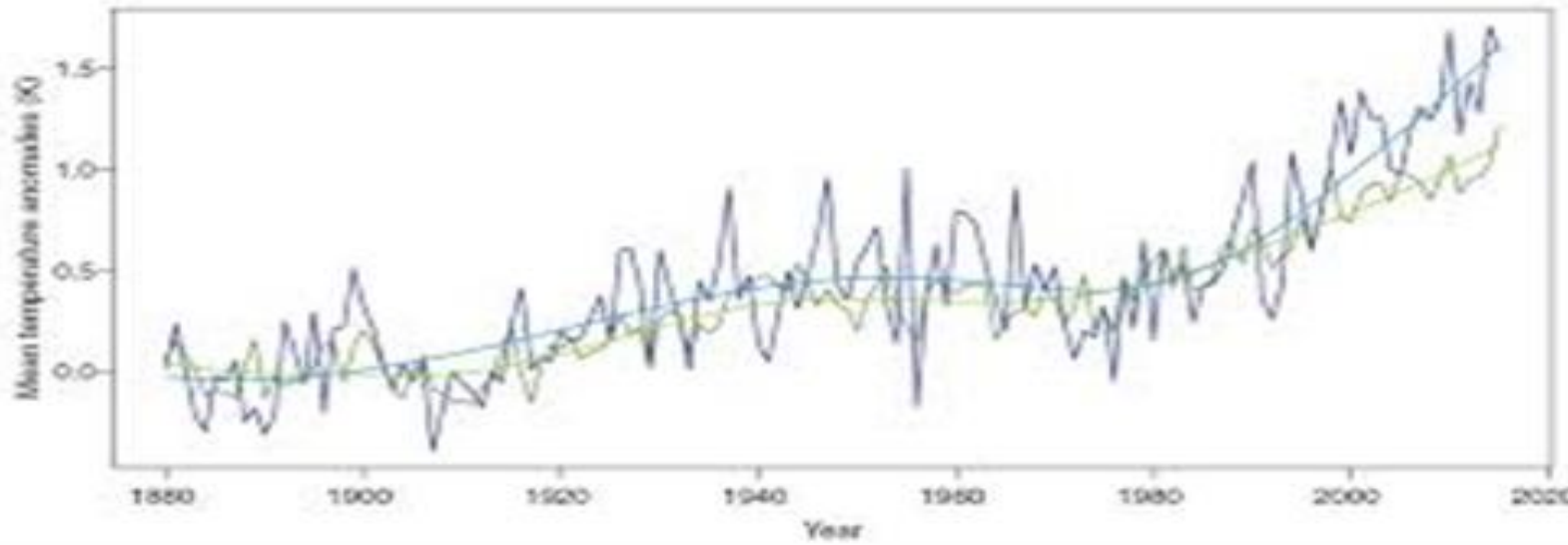
The MMFN for many years has placed among its priorities the identification of actions to be taken to fight Climate Change. **In particular in an area such as the Mediterranean one that for its specific environmental characteristics, particularly varied, represents a real synthesis of the effects of climate change at global level.** In fact, in a fairly limited area we find at the same time the processes of desertification and melting of high altitude glaciers, the exponential increase in the frequency of extreme weather events and the rise in sea temperatures, consequent tropicalisation of the seasons **and this is leading to a rapid change in fires** .

And all this in a basin that has been densely populated for over 3,000 years....



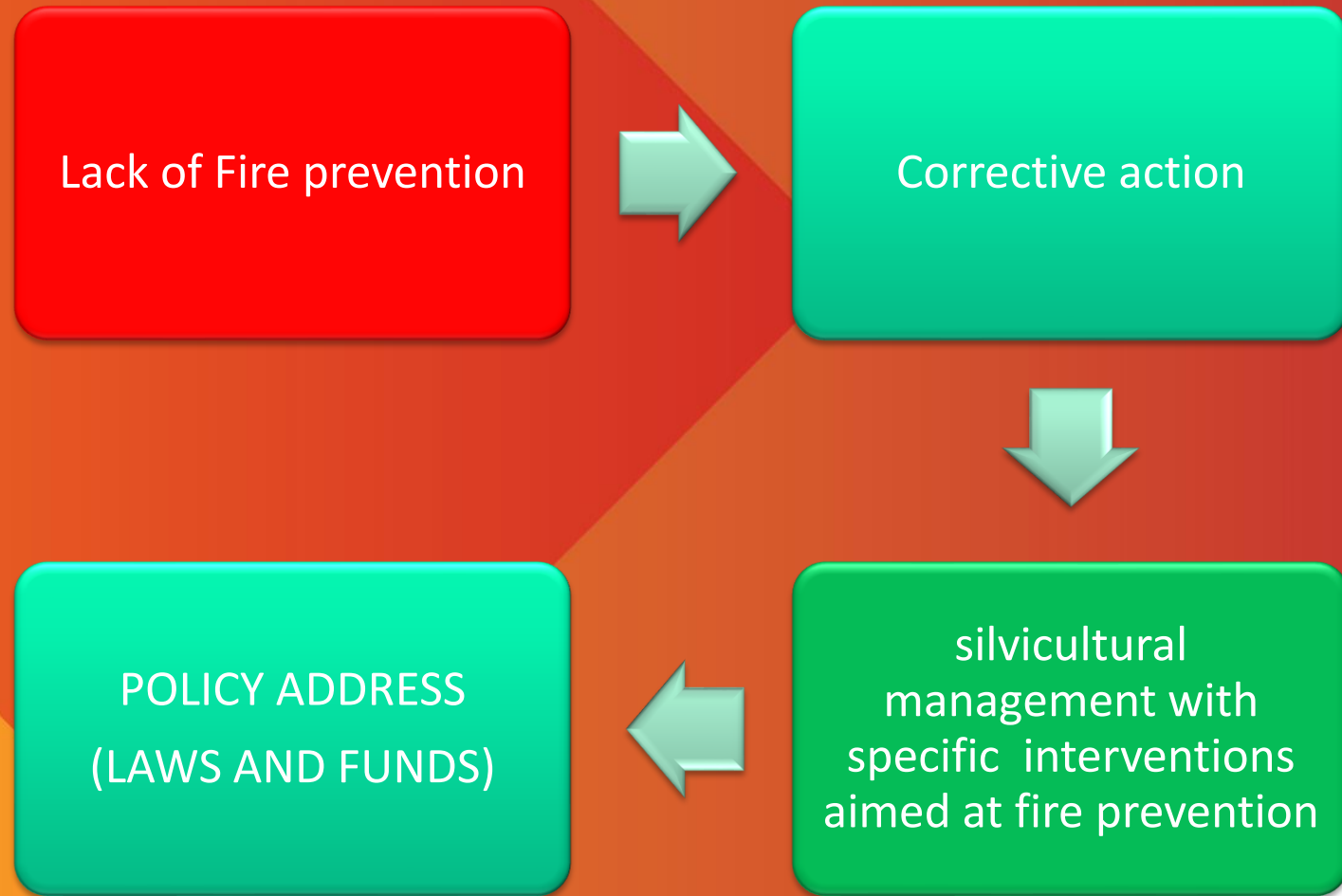
MMFN and Climate Change in Med Area

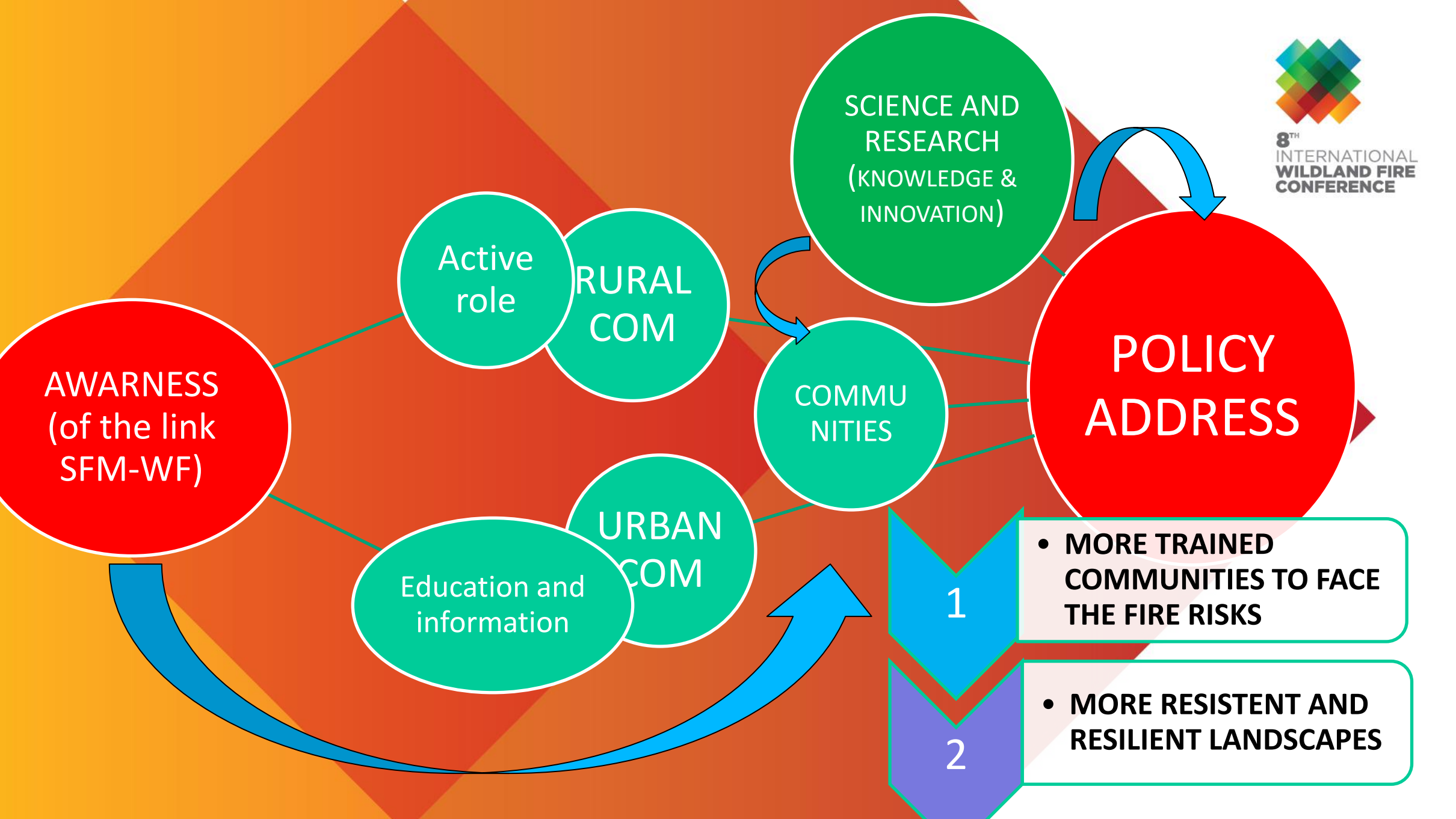
- average temperatures in this region have already risen by 1.4°C since the pre-industrial era, 0.4°C more than the global average.
- Even if future global warming is limited to 2°C, as prescribed by the Paris Agreement, summer rainfall is at risk to be reduced by 10 to 30% in some regions, thereby enhancing existing water shortages and decreasing agricultural productivity, particularly in southern countries.
- Due to climate change alone, the irrigation demands in the region are projected to increase between 4 and 18% by the end of the century. Population growth may escalate these numbers further to 22-74%. Tourism development, new industries and urban sprawl may increase water pollution, too.



Green : world
Blue: med area

Therefore, beyond the strategies put in place by the central government, local administrations and communities have to face these challenges...focusing on one point shared in the majority of Med Area: the progressive loss of management of rural and forest territories





AWARNESS
(of the link
SFM-WF)

Active
role

RURAL
COM

SCIENCE AND
RESEARCH
(KNOWLEDGE &
INNOVATION)

POLICY
ADDRESS

Education and
information

URBAN
COM

COMMU
NITIES

1

- MORE TRAINED
COMMUNITIES TO FACE
THE FIRE RISKS

2

- MORE RESISTENT AND
RESILIENT LANDSCAPES



Strenght of the MMFN approach to face Climate and wildfire change

close link between a participatory approach

greater widespread awareness of the shared critical issues to be addressed

greater contamination of skills

mediation of different interests and priorities of the stakeholders (and public..)



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A brief overview of MFs'actions in Med Region



Contribution of the Ifrane Model Forest In the prevention and control of forest fires

(Forêt modèle d'Ifrane - Maroc) – Abdelkrim Marzouk

GENERAL INFORMATION



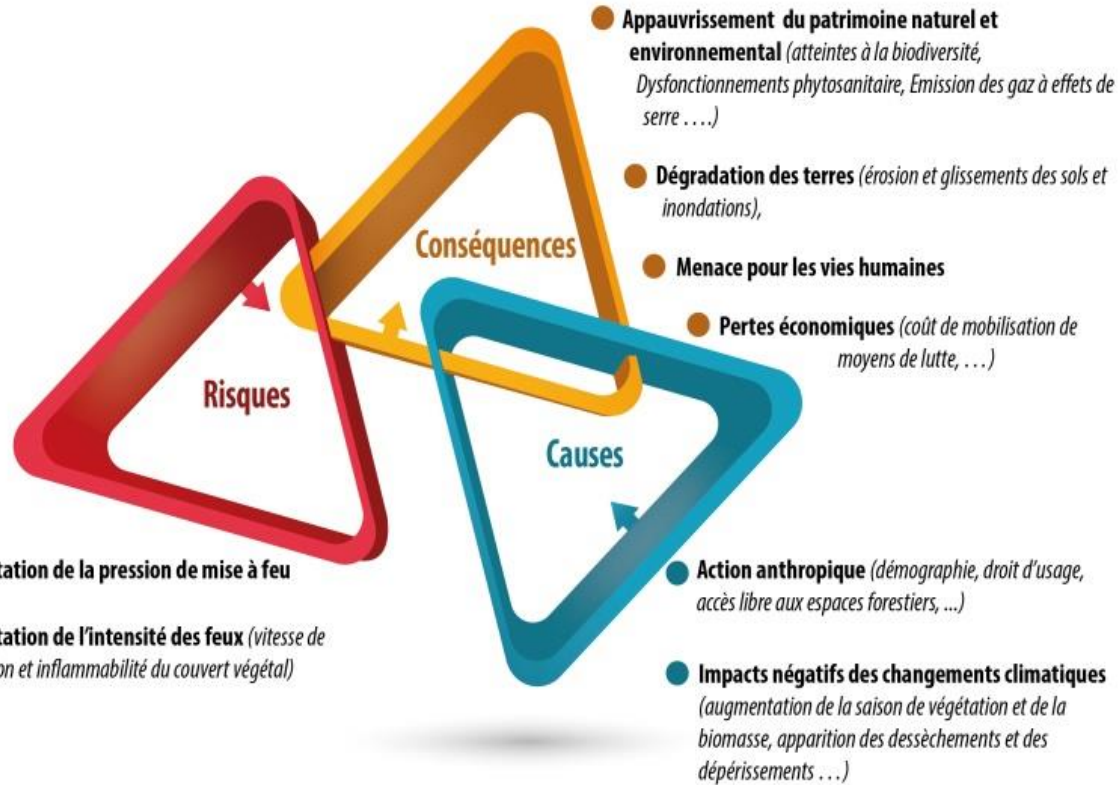
Forest fire management governance

The management of forest fires has long been a major concern of public authorities. The year 2001 marked the beginning of a process of continuous improvement that led to the development of the Forest Fire Management Plan (FFM).

The current governance system for forest fire management, **based on coordination between actors**, is carried out at the national level by a Steering Committee that meets once or twice a year, before the fire season, or as needed. The departments and institutions that are active and permanent members are

the Department of Water and Forestry (DEF),
the Ministry of Interior
the Ministry of Economy and Finance
the Civil Protection
the Royal Gendarmerie
the Royal Armed Forces
the Royal Air Force
Auxiliary Forces
the Ministry of Equipment

Civilian Society



Incendio forestal en Ifrane



Large bush fires (*Genista Quadriflora*) recently broke out in the Lkoudyate forest in the province of Ifrane.

The flames devastated about 20 hectares of forest and destroyed about 600 hectares of shrubs and secondary species,

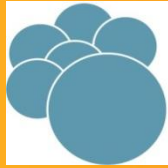
The ground intervention teams, made up of more than 600 elements from different agencies, including AFMI, supported by 4 Canadair aircraft, managed to encircle the flames at the level of 4 main sources, thus preventing the fire from spreading to the neighbouring cedar and holm oak forest.

Ifrane Model Forest contribution

True to its role as a leader in the preservation of the environment and biodiversity, AFMI mobilised all its human and logistical resources to help extinguish the fire.

AFMI mobilised 50 workers in the forest fire prevention and extinguishing operation, clearing of roadside verges; Effective participation in extinguishing fires in the forests of the province of Ifrane. All workers are equipped with small earthmoving and extinguishing equipment,





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Associazione
FORESTA MODELLO
delle MONTAGNE
FIORENTINE

SPECIFIC FOREST FIRE PREVENTION PLANS

A new tool for a new situation

*Tuscany Region (applied in the Montagne Fiorentine Model Forest) -
Cacciatore – Calvani – Cerchiarini - Pacini*

Wildfires are changing

- The **Specific Prevention Plan** is an innovative strategic approach that aims to respond to the evolution of fires due to changes in vegetation (fuel) and climate change. In the presence of predisposing weather conditions, fires are difficult to tackle with available resources and technology.



Forest Management

It is therefore necessary to shift the focus to identifying the strategic points of the territory that need to be optimally managed in terms of silvicultural interventions aimed at preventing the risk of forest fires.

Interventions aimed at limiting the horizontal and vertical continuity of fuel to reduce the effects of fire and keep forest fires within the extinguishing capacity of the regional wildfire service organisation.



BEFORE



AFTER

Specific prevention plan AIB (L.R. 39/00, art. 74 bis)



The Specific Prevention Plan of the AIB, referring to a minimum period of ten years, defines the extraordinary cultivation interventions to improve the vegetation structure of the natural and forest environments and the works and plants aimed at the prevention and extinction of forest fires, taking into account the general and site-specific conservation measures in force, as well as the needs of the local communities and the forms of forest management and exploitation traditionally adopted and carried out in the territory covered by the Plan.

Actions and interventions of the specific AIB prevention plan



- The actions and interventions included in the plan must pursue the following objectives
- maintenance and/or improvement of the wildfires prevention structures present in the territory and considered strategic for the purposes of the Plan;
 - identification of strategic forest management points;
 - identify the interventions to be carried out, specifying their implementation methods, priorities and necessary resources;
 - providing useful indications for the elaboration of municipal civil protection plans;

PIANI SPECIFICI
DI PREVENZIONE
AIB



Planes específicos de prevención del AIB en la Toscana

Nº 20 Specific Prevention Plans

- Total planned area: 90,425 ha, of which 69,868 ha are forested (77%).
- Interventions cover an area of 4,761 ha, equivalent to 6.8% of the forested area.
- Total forest area in Tuscany: 1,163,057 ha.
- With the first 20 plans we have planned 6% of the regional wooded area.



CONCLUSION

1. The growing danger of forest fires due to climate change and fuel accumulation is evident in all the experiences in the Mediterranean area.
2. The desire to change the focus of the prevention strategy due to the impossibility of constantly increasing financial and human resources to fight fires of uncontrollable dimensions
3. the need to involve citizens and local communities (rural or not) in the planning prevention phases.

In all this, Model Forest process is one of the tools available that improves sharing knowledge, skills and **AWARNESS REGARDING FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRES PREVENTION.**



Thank you very much for your attention, and thanks to all colleagues of the Mediterranean Network and Tuscany Region for their contribution for this presentation.

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