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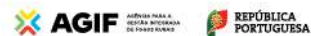
Towards an International
Framework

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

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Position paper on *Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean, a 2023 update*

Eduard Mauri¹, Elena Hernández Paredes², Irene Núñez Blanco³, Celia García Feced²

¹ European Forest Institute, Mediterranean Facility, ² Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transitions and Demographic Challenge, ³ Tragsa Group



First edition

2011, published by FAO, supported by 14 organizations, adopted during the II Mediterranean Forest Week

Position Paper

Wildfire Prevention in the **Mediterranean**

A key issue to reduce the increasing risks of Mediterranean wildfires in the context of Climate Changes



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First edition

Structure

Recommendations	Proposed actions
1. Enhancement of the international cooperation on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean	6
2. Integration of wildfire prevention in national forest programs/policies and in adaptation strategies to climate change	17
3. Promotion of knowledge and education on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean	7
4. Enhancement of sustainable financial mechanisms for prevention of wildfires in the Mediterranean	6
5. Enhancement of harmonized information systems to deal with new wildfire risks in the Mediterranean	3



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Update methodology

2 on-line surveys, 5 events

Recommendations

- On-line survey
- Round table at the 7th MFW

Proposed actions

- On-line survey
- 3 in-person workshops
- 1 on-line workshop

Draft text

- Participants & respondents invited to review full draft text

New recommendation needed: *Adoption of a governance model tackling the diverse drivers and systemic causes of wildfire risk*

Actions increased:
39 → 64



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Second edition

General perceptions of respondents (n = 75)

- **Changes in land use** together with **climate change** are seen as the major drivers of wildfires.
- **Suppression approaches** seem to dominate wildfire management.
- Sustainable forest management with special attention to **fire-smart landscape planning** is a priority for most experts.
- In most regions, top-down approaches are more dominant than **participatory approaches** to fire management.
- Improved **evaluation of existing financial mechanisms** is needed.
- **Knowledge and education** on wildfire prevention has improved in the past 10 years.
- **Politicians are unaware of the importance of prevention** and local citizens are potentially unprepared.
- Involvement in **international collaboration** is quite strong.
- While the recommendations of the first edition of the *Position paper* still hold importance, **community involvement and local participation** require more emphasis.



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Second edition

Comparison

Recommendation	Actions (1st ed.)	Action (2nd ed.)
Integration of wildfire prevention in national forest programmes and policies, in adaptation strategies to climate change and in other relevant and related sectors	17	13
Adoption of a governance model tackling the diverse drivers and systemic causes of wildfire risk	0 (new)	27
Enhancement of sustainable financial mechanisms for prevention of wildfires in the Mediterranean	6	8
Promotion and generation of knowledge and education on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean	7	9
Enhancement of harmonized information systems to deal with new wildfire risks in the Mediterranean	3	3
Enhancement of the international cooperation on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean	6	4

① Integration of wildfire prevention in **national forest programmes and policies**, in **adaptation strategies to climate change** and in other relevant and related sectors

Main updates

Sustainable forest management

- To make forests more resilient and resistant

More diverse integration

- Include any relevant sector (not only forestry and climate change)

Continuous process

- Adapt legislation to the evolving conditions

Responsibilities distinguished

- Between public and private actors



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② Adoption of a **governance model** tackling the diverse drivers and systemic causes of wildfire risk



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② Adoption of a **governance model** tackling the diverse drivers and systemic causes of wildfire risk

Main updates

Participatory governance model development

- Stakeholder participation is meant to set the focus on actual decision-making
- Use multi-disciplinarity and integrative approaches

Participatory assessment

- Mapping of risks perception
- Mapping of potential environmental and socioeconomic losses

Risks interactions

- Consider the interactions of more than one risk when assessing wildfire risk



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② Adoption of a **governance model** tackling the diverse drivers and systemic causes of wildfire risk

Main updates

Self-defense plans

- Foster and coordinate, but leaving local communities with options, responsibility and protocols of action

Avoid the institutionalisation of wildfires

- Engage with “fire stakeholders” as well as with the “non-traditional” stakeholders
- Link research and development with firefighters, civil protection and forest agencies

Build more resistant and resilient landscapes

- Consider as many adaptation/risk reduction strategies as possible



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② Adoption of a **governance model** tackling the diverse drivers and systemic causes of wildfire risk

Main updates

Science-to-practice communication

- To create an understanding of wildfire dynamics

Adapt communication to the needs of local communities

- Use the most appropriate communication channels and formats

Peer-to-peer

- For learning, communication and dissemination



③ Enhancement of sustainable **financial mechanisms** for prevention of wildfires in the Mediterranean

Main updates

Two ways to achieve financial sustainability

- Raise awareness of policy makers to allocate appropriate funds
- Foster self-sustained socioeconomic activities that prevent wildfires as a subsidiary effect

Compare prevention costs with extinction costs

- Use internationally accepted standards.
- Disseminate this information.

Harness the knowledge of forest firefighters

- Firefighters should contribute to fire prevention actions



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④ Promotion and generation of **knowledge and education** on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean

Main updates

Communication specialists now mentioned

- In addition to researchers and educational specialists

Consider local and regional specificities

- Use the appropriate channels to convey information to specific target audiences

Use social networks

- To communicate about wildfire prevention

Education specialists must collaborate with researchers

- To produce science-based training material



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⑤ Enhancement of **harmonized information systems** to deal with new wildfire risks in the Mediterranean

Main updates

European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

- Data and applications coverage should be extended to comprehend at least the Mediterranean biogeographical region

Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS)

- Promote its development



⑥ Enhancement of the **international cooperation** on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean

Main updates

Exchanges on governance

- Not only on management practices
- Target policy makers and authorities



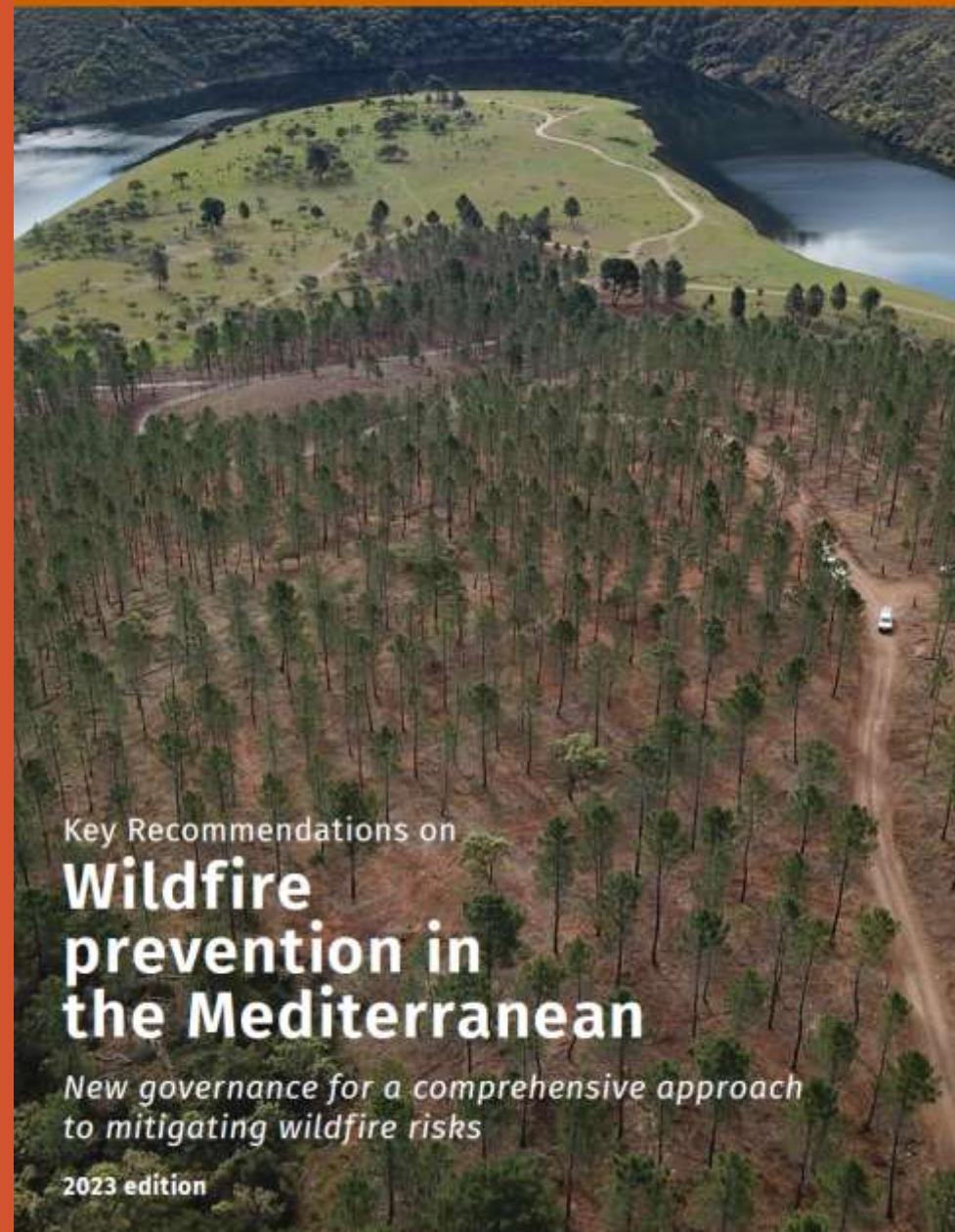
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efi.int/efimed/resources/wildfire

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Key Recommendations on

Wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean

New governance for a comprehensive approach to mitigating wildfire risks

2023 edition

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Eduard Mauri, European Forest Institute – Mediterranean Facility
eduard.mauri@efi.int



Elena Hernández Paredes, Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transitions and Demographic Challenge



In the framework of FAO Silva Mediterranea Working Group



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