Further information

Project acronym: FIRE PARADOX
Project full title: An Innovative Approach of Integrated Wildland Fire Management Regulating the Wildfire Problem by the Wise Use of Fire:
Solving the Fire Paradox
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http://www.fireparadox.org

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REGULATING THE WILDFIRE PROBLEM
BY THE WISE USE
OF FIRE

"Fire is a bad master but a good servant"

Finnish proverb

Members of the FIRE PARADOX Consortium

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International: EFI, European Forest Institute

An Innovative Approach
of Integrated Wildland Fire Management
- A joint European initiative -
Fires are the most destructive factor in the Mediterranean countries’ forests. Every year around 400,000 hectares of forests and other rural areas are burnt. Fire Paradox is a European integrated project on fire management, coordinated by the Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Lisbon, Portugal.

**The Fire Paradox**

Wildfires can be very destructive. Humans have always resorted to fire to attain management objectives and regulate natural ecosystems, but such fires often go out of control and have detrimental impacts. The attempt to exclude fire can, on the other hand, lead to catastrophic wildfires in the future. European research and experience highlight the need to design fire management policies and practices that mitigate wildfire severity.

**Solving the Fire Paradox: using fire to prevent fire**

Fire Paradox sets the basis for a fire management policy in the European Union. The central objective of Fire Paradox is to prevent the current disastrous social, economic and environmental consequences of wildfires in the Mediterranean environments. The approach is innovative: the regulation of the wildfire problem is based on the wise use of fire.

**Learning the different views of fire**

- **Prescribed burning**, A versatile and powerful tool, used especially to reduce fuel hazard
- **Wildfire initiation**, The outcome of early fire detection and suppression is crucial to the success of policies focused on readiness and response
- **Wildfire propagation**, With a special emphasis on important issues related to large wildfires, such as the spread by spotting or the threat to structures and people in the wildland–urban interface
- **Suppression fire**, A technique to expand the wildfire control capacity of firefighting operations.

**Research**

The research domain is based on the understanding of the processes associated with fire, obtained from experimentation, sampling and modelling efforts, according to the nature of the investigated processes.

- towards a 3D fire model
- coupling physical and biological mechanisms for fire effect modelling
- socio-economic and anthropological analysis of traditional versus future use of fire

**Development**

- technological and software developments concerning the various aspects of fire (Fuel editor and fire effect visualisation system; European Fire Simulator; hazard assessment)
- method to produce fuel maps using satellite imagery
- spatial analysis and vulnerability assessment at the wildland–urban interface
- hazard assessment and mapping by combination of daily and structural factors
- setting the bases for new legislation and long-term policy measures for wildland fire management
- European field bases for fire monitoring
- demonstrations of prescribed burning and suppression fires

**Dissemination**

- Fire Paradox project will have an impact on policy making and initiative with regards to integrated wildland fire management
- academic and professional training on prescribed burning and suppression fires
- public awareness strategies analysis
- the Fire Paradox white book