

**The UNISDR Regional Mediterranean Wildland Fire Network
(Silva Mediterranea Network):
Network Activities 2011-2015 – Progress Report**

Elena Hernandez

*Forest Fire Service, General Directorate of Rural Development and Forest Policy,
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Madrid, Spain
Correspondence address: ehparedes@magrama.es*

Abstract

The UNISDR Regional Mediterranean Wildland Fire Network was implemented in 2004 through the Forest Fire Working Group of Silva Mediterranea (FAO). Active networking in information sharing, capacity building and preparation of bilateral and multilateral agreements are some of its main objectives within the region. Cooperation is based on the principle of partnership between the participating countries and the international community.

In the Mediterranean region, wildfires destroy both protective and productive elements of forests and forested areas, significantly affecting population linked to rural and forest areas. Wildfires in the region are a priority concern. Additionally, arising armed conflicts in the region must also be considered with specific approaches.

Between the 5th and the 6th International Wildland Fire Conferences, many events and initiatives have taken place where the relevance of wildfire issues internationally and particularly in the Mediterranean Region have been highlighted, among them, the following: Climate Change & Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Basin: Risk Reduction & Management (24-26 January 2012, Nir Etzion, Israel); IV International Conference. Strategies on Forest Fire Prevention in Southern European Forests (7-9 January 2013, Bordeaux, France); Regional Fire Management Training for the South Caucasus, Western Balkans and Eastern Europe / Central Asia (15-17 October 2014, Fire Management Training Center, Antalya, Turkey); Euro-Mediterranean Conferences on Wildfires (18-20 November 2013, Barcelona, Spain); VII International Conference on Forest Fire Research (17-20 November 2014, Coimbra, Portugal); International Workshop on Large Forest Fires and Field Exercise (19-21 May, 2015, Olympia, Greece) ; II International Conference on Fire Behaviour and Risk (26-29 May 2015, Alghero, Sardinia, Italy).

The aim of the Regional Mediterranean Network is to continue working in order to identify key factors that will improve the wildfire situation in the region and internationally as well. To do so, significant efforts in collaborative approaches and exchange of expertise are required.

Key words: *Regional Mediterranean Wildland Fire Network, collaboration, key factors, initiatives, expertise, fire management*