

Portuguese Federation of Forest Owners (FPFP) – National Forest Council ¹

Federação dos Produtores Florestais de Portugal – Conselho Nacional da Floresta²

Abstract

Since 1994 FPFP worked close to the forest owners to promote the forest and most of all to expand the influence of the production sector. Most of the Portuguese forest owners didn't know their rights and obligations to forest. After the year 2000 the massive legislation about forest, improved the work of local organization of forest owner's. FPFP is now an important allied of the Portuguese Government in the matter of forest laws. In spite of this, FPFP insures the protection of the forest owner's rights. With the number of forest fires occurred in Portugal, mostly in the years of 2003 and 2005, the civil society waked up for the problems regarding the Portuguese forest. In this matter, FPFP made an effort to develop projects concerning forest fires prevention.

Introduction

Portuguese Federation of Forest Owners is a non-profit organization founded in 7 of July of 1994 and it's the main representative entity of the Portuguese Private Forest Owners Associations. FPFP has 79 Forest Owners Organizations affiliated, from a total of 130 existing in Portugal. The work is based in the support of this organization and most of all in the development of Forest sector. FPFP build up several projects to assure the right prosecution of the forest intents.

¹ Title footnote style

² FPFP -Av. Colégio Militar Lt. 1786, 6°. 1549-012 LISBOA. www.fpfp.pt

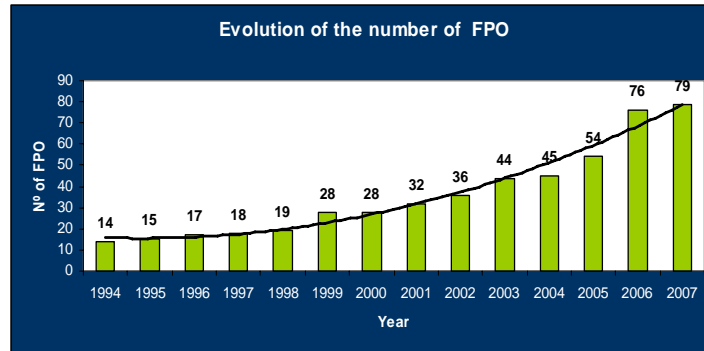


Table 1—Evolution of the number of Forest Owner's Organization, affiliated in FFPF .

Our Misson

- Representing and defending forests owner's organizations interests, at national and international level.
- Promote innovations and research that can address interesting results to forest owners.
- Contribute to promotion and qualification of the social, economical and environmental conditions regarding the Private Forest Owner incomes.

Our Goals

- . Promoting an active Forest Management - Systems and Forest Management Plans
- . Improving a National Plan for Prevention and Protection of Forests from fires
- . Providing technical support to Forest Owners.

Our Work

Defend and represent on behalf of Private Forest Owner:

- Technical support;
- Institutional suport;
- Juridical suport;

Information

Professional learning

Promoted Events concerning forest fires

- Promoting an Informational National Campaign, called RESPIRAR (BREATHE);
- Supervision of the National Campaign “Voluntariado Jovem para as florestas” (Youth Voluntary for forest surveillance) – Portuguese Youth Institute;
- Coordination of the Foral Program intended for Municipal Forest Technicians;
- Promotion and co-organization of the conference “New Forest Challenges”;
- Organization of the seminar “ Security in the Forest”;
- Organization of “ 1st National Gathering of Municipal Forest Technicians;
- Organization of “ 1st Forest Interventional Areas Gathering”

Developed Projects concerning forest fires prevention

Forest Multi Variety, Exploring Forest Resources, Tourism, Sylvopastoralism

This project has been developed in three distinct areas, Mycology, Biomass and Goat Grazing.

Regarding to Goat Grazing, this projects intents to evaluate the capacity of goat shepherding in reducing the amount of biomass, therefore decreasing forest fires risks. The evaluation is between four different statistic treatments (different values concerning number of animals/area/ grazing time), to compare the most effective method to reduce forest fire risk. This project tries to compare animal capacity to reduce biomass fuel.

In the Biomass sector it was made a forest inventory, in a pre decided burned area from fire occurred in the year 2005. This forest inventory devolved in two species, *Eucaliptus Globulus* Labil and *Pinus Pinaster* Aiton. The main objective was to develop a mathematical formula that was able to give the amount of biomass placed in a pre established burned area.

Forestry Signal Normalization

The main objective of this project is to promote the normalization of the signals used in forestry, regarding the increase of the efficiency when used by forestry professionals, firemen and other forest visitors.

The public and private investments in forests concerning forestry signals, demand a great synergy between fire fighting and fire prevention, because this persons will be the main users in the Forestry Defense Against Fires (FDAF/DFCI).

Agri-forest Local Abandon and the Municipal Forestry Defense Against Fires

The objective of this project is to find a reflection/intervention model, capable to induce an effective reduction of the catastrophic effects of forest fires in the Portuguese rural space utilization. The main preoccupation is to lay down the model in real context. In other words, is to establish a Plan and his practical implementation concerning the Municipal Forestry Defense Against Fires.

Professional Learning

In 2006 occurred the following Professional Learning:

- Forestry Defense Plan Against Fires (Length: 21 hours; Place: Lousã e Caminha; Students: 32):
 - Main Objective: Acknowledge the preventive forestry techniques and preventive organizations actions concerning surveillance, forestry fire fighting.
 - Program: Plan components; Sharing the chain of responsibility; Plan implementation; Communication; Field demonstrations
- Burned Areas Regeneration (Length: 35 hours; Place: Alcobaça; Students: 16):
 - Main Objective: Provide the students, knowledge in main actions to regenerate forest burned areas.
 - Program: Pos-fire diagnostic; Erosion risk evaluation; Natural regeneration evaluation; Alternatives to re-established productive potential; Integration of the guidelines orientations of National Reforestation Council and regional Plan for Forest Organization; Recovering Plan elaboration designated to a burned area.
- Fire Prescription (Length: 105 hours; Place: Penela e Tapada de Mafra; Students: 32)
 - Main Objective: Promoting qualifications to give a credential for technicians by the National Authority in this matter.
 - Program: The use of Fire Prescription – Introduction; The fire behavior; Fire Prescription implementation; Fire Prescription in *Pinus pinaster*; Field experience; Operational Planning of a Fire Prescription.