

# Fire Paradox Closing Meeting

## Round Table “Future Synergies and Cooperation”

25 February 2010, Freiburg, Germany



## Rationale and Reasons (I)

- Fire Paradox and other previously EC-funded fire R&D projects are phasing out
- No centrally (EC) funded immediate successor arrangements (*sensu* Fire Paradox) in place



## Rationale and Reasons (II)

- Implementation of the recommendations of the project, which are aimed to advance the development of European policies and implementation strategies in fire management
- Strengthening capacities of human resources by dedicated academic and professional training must be secured

## Rationale and Reasons (III)

- Several post-project initiatives have been proposed
- The academia and institutions, which participated in the project, intend to cooperate and develop synergies with other ongoing fire research projects in Europe as well as regional and professional organizations working in the field of fire management.

## Objectives of the Round Table

- Discuss the goals of the follow-up / implementation process
- Develop recommendations for the *modus operandi* and the institutional arrangements
- Include the proposals of professional organizations and networks which would implement and carry on

## Participants (I)

- Fire Paradox (F. Rego, E. Rigolot, J. Goldammer)
- Fire Paradox IAC (A. Gonzales-Cabán)
- Fire Paradox TTC (N. De Ronde)
- ALPFFIRS (M. Conedera)
- FUME (N. Koutsias)
- IAWF (G. Xanthopoulos)
- ICFFR (D. Viegas)
- EUFEX (A. Simeoni)

## Participants (II)

- FIREMAN (M. Niklasson)
- UNISDR Regional Baltic Wildland Fire Network (A. Eritsov)
- UNISDR Regional SE Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network (N. Nikolov)
- UNISDR Regional Central Asia Network (L. Kondrashov)
- CTIF / EUROFIRE (M. Jones)
- WoF (A. Held)
- JRC (J. San Miguel, A. Camia)
- GFMC / GWFN / EFNCN (J.G. Goldammer)



## Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (I)

- Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda:  
Key challenges defined (i):
  - Assess the risk of forest fires in time and space
  - Plan forests and landscapes to be more resistant and resilient to fire.
  - Develop integrated strategies and policies that provide 'reasonable' trade-offs between environmental, social and economic elements, and allow us to 'live' with wildfire risk



## Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (II)

- Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda:  
Key challenges defined (ii):
  - Identify future forest responses to changed regimes as well as new areas subject to forest fires
  - Define appropriate post-fire management strategies and practices

## **Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (III)**

### **The proposed European / Eurasian Fire Experiment (EUFEX) proposal (submitted to ESF in 2009) (i):**

- Validation and improvement of satellite tools.
- To conduct coordinated “open” experiments bringing together scientists working at “global” levels of emissions modelling, and those working on the ground.

## **Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (IV)**

### **The proposed European / Eurasian Fire Experiment (EUFEX) proposal (submitted to ESF in 2009) (ii):**

- Revival of BIBEX. ESF funding for coordination of field experiments only. Experiments to be open. Network on fire emissions research to become operational even w/o central funding for research or for coordination.

## Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (V)

### Further proposals to address research:

- Impacts of wildland fires on human health
- Fire safety (firefighters, civilians)
- Economic costs of fire (cultural, public health)
- Fire in contaminated terrain (radioactivity, hazardous chemicals, land mines, UXO)

## Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (VI)

- Fundamental combustion science
- Fire management technologies
- Insurance problems in relation to use of RX fire (fire professionals; forests)
- Address the connectedness at the landscape level:  
Increasing trend of rural exodus and the need for land / forest management

## Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (VII)

- Support to developing countries:

Example Central Africa:

- Deforestation & burning
- Reforestation in large scale dimensions
- Role of prescribed burning

EC is funding activities (infrastructure, technologies) for Africa. Currently problems are addressed in national parks.

## Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (VIII)

- Lack of analysis of “where, when and why” of extreme fires (synergies of factors) in many countries, notably also in the high-elevation / mountain zones (socio-economic, climate, landscape data)
- Need initiatives to go beyond our community, e.g. fire safety (building codes etc.)

## Discussion: Future Synergies in Fire Research (IX)

- Need for developing synergies between projects and related communities
- Possible instrument: COST actions
- Avoid to reinvent the wheel! Clearing House?
- Develop a communication strategy
- Address novel fire environments (e.g., the northern boreal permafrost zone)
- Support the call for development of a new generation of satellite sensors (e.g., BIROS)



## Capacity building in in fire management within Europe and with international partners (professional & academic training) (I)

- Working on Fire and others profited from Fire Paradox, fire management exchanges, e.g. between UK, Portugal, South Africa ....
- Problem of funding the exchange after termination of Fire Paradox
- Who is to act as “coordinating body”? Currently volunteering activity. Future: The regional networks?



## **Capacity building in in fire management within Europe and with international partners (professional & academic training) (II)**

- Bottom-up approaches (definition of needs at the ground)
- Joint training and dissemination through 14 regional networks of the Global Wildland Fire Network (partners: govt., academic, NGOs, i.e. all layers of society represented, also individuals)
- Finances to be sought within individual projects, with facilitation through the network secretariat

## **Capacity building in in fire management within Europe and with international partners (professional & academic training) (III)**

- Joint regional capacity building will contribute to overcome political conflicts between countries
- Need to take advantage of support through international organizations / donors (e.g. CoE, OSCE....)
- Need of an open forum for exchange

## **Capacity building in in fire management within Europe and with international partners (professional & academic training) (IV)**

- Expanding the role of regional wildland fire networks
- Increase involvement in the International Association of Wildland Fire (IJWF, Firenet...): Currently restricted participation from Europe, more contributions to Wildfire Magazine, BoD, etc. desired

## Capacity building in in fire management within Europe and with international partners (professional & academic training) (V)

- Support of and contribute to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference “WildFire 2011” (South Africa 2011)
- Signing of exchange agreements at WildFire 2011



**WILDFIRE** 2011

The 5th International Wildland Fire Conference



## **Proposals to the “wildland fire community”, policy makers and international organizations towards promoting principles of integrated fire management and institutional support**

- Include the EC Fire expert group in the follow-up
- CTIF >> Fire services
- OSCE, CoE, FAO, World Bank
- JRC for EU fire research coordination and repository
- Private sector (Europe, developing countries)
- EFI information platform