VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS
SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

The Global Wildland Fire Network

8TH INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE | GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES: Towards an International Framework | www.wildfire2023.pt | Porto-Portugal May 16-19th 2023

United Nations International Strategy / Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

A Voluntary Commitment to the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

North America – Mesoamerica – South America – Caribbean – Mediterranean – Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Euro-Alpine – Near East – Subsahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia – Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia - Eurasia

Regional Wildland Fire Networks:

Sub-Regional Euro-Alpine Wildland Fire Network

Landscape Fire Issues in the Alpine Region

Wildfires are an emerging issue in the Alpine region that can lead to high damages in protection forests, increasing natural hazards and resulting in high costs up to millions of euros for fire suppression and restoration measures. The expected increasing intensity of drought periods and heat waves together with the increasing hazard resulting from rural abandonment and more recreational activities will increase forest fire activity in the Alpine region in the near future. Current efforts to manage forest fires are unable to prevent the occurrence of extreme forest fire events. The implementation of a foresighted and integrated forest fire management for the Alpine region is highly needed. Therefore the EUSALP - EU Strategy for the Alpine Region Action Group 8 has launched an initiative to improve fire management by enhancing existing cooperation. The white paper for policy makers "Forest fires in the Alps: State of knowledge and future challenges" was worked out by the members of the Action Group 8 and the Sub-Regional Euro-Alpine Wildland Fire Network.

Forest Fires in the Alps: State of Knowledge and Future Challenges

LAndscape Fire Situation in the Alps

- Increasing temperatures, recreational activities and rural abandonment effect fire regimes in Southern / Northern Alps (Fig. 1)
- Fire danger rating systems are improved to cover the different drivers (Fig. 2)
- Investments in prevention, suppression, and post-fire management are going to increase (Fig. 3)
- Fire management practices differ (Fig. 4)

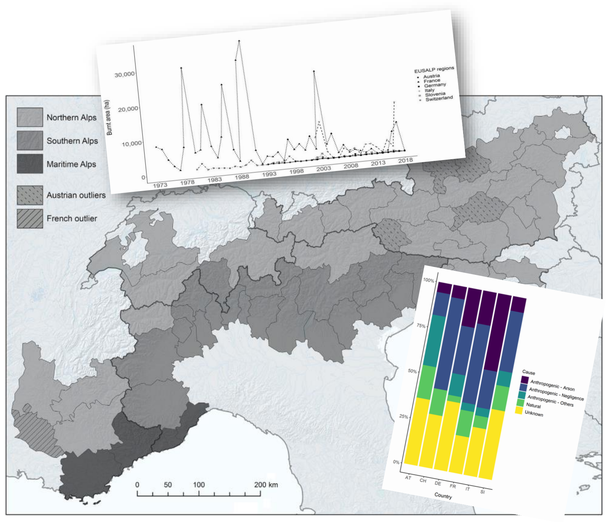


Figure 1. Distribution of Alpine fire regime clusters (Conedera et al., 2018) and main ignition causes (Müller et al. 2020)

- Outcomes from Alpine wide survey among 80 fire experts indicate challenges (Fig. 2)
- Forest fire workshop allowed discussion of survey results, identification of main challenges, and sharing of success stories on fire management (Fig. 4)
- White paper for policy makers (Fig. 5) and framework for integrated fire management (Fig. 6)

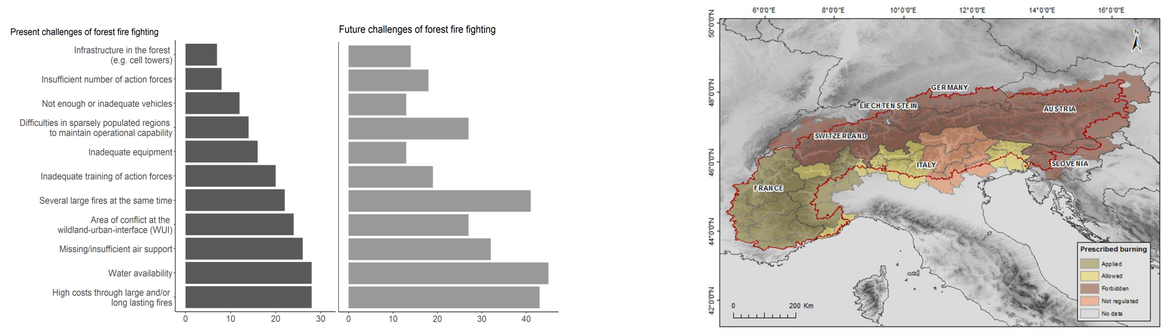


Figure 3. Main challenges for fire fighting and legal framework for prescribed burning in Alpine region

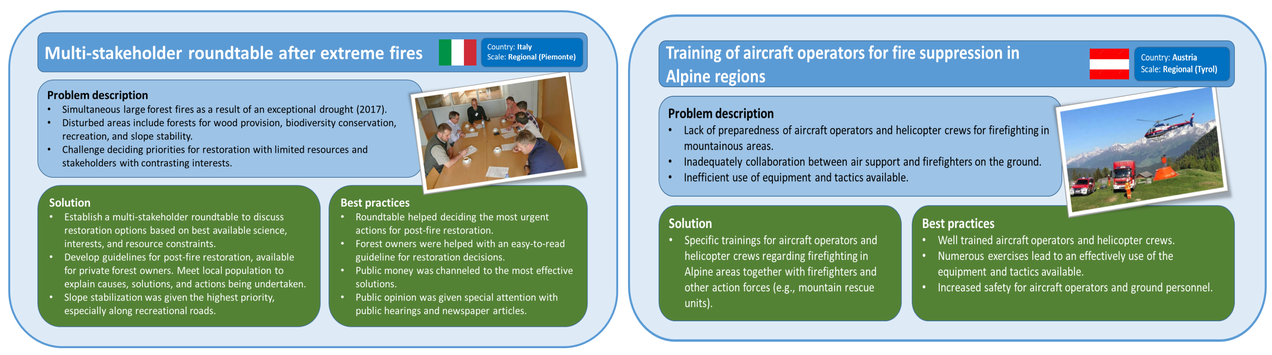


Figure 4. Examples of success stories on fire management in the Alpine region

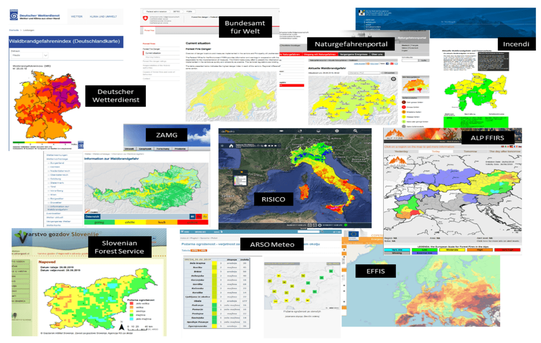
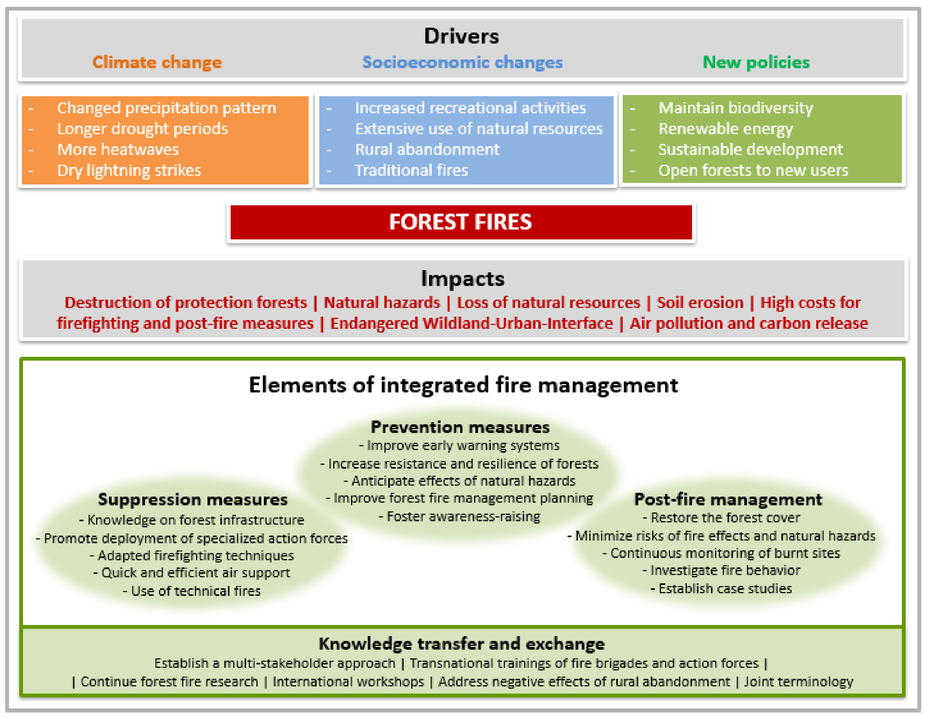


Figure 2. Various fire danger dating systems in the Alpine Region (Müller et al. 2020)

Figure 5. Participants of forest fire workshop for finalizing white paper for policy makers.



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Neunkirchen, 01.08.2013 | © einsatzdoku.at

Gries am Brenner, 28.12.2015 | © FF Gries/Brenner

Figure 6. Drivers and impacts of forest fires and elements of an integrated fire management for the Alpine region

Key Options for Integrated Forest Fire Management in the Alpine Region

1. Enhance or establish **knowledge transfer** and a **multi-stakeholder approach** on a transnational and collaborative basis, including widespread exchange activities.
2. Improve the **training of fire brigades** and specialized action forces, including scenarios with several large fires at the same time in difficult terrain and with the participation of helicopters.
3. Minimize the risks of **natural hazards** after forest fires and improve **post-fire restoration** activities.
4. Address and minimize negative effects of **rural abandonment** and **recreational activities**.
5. Adapt **forest management**, including prescribed burning, and establish protection measures at the WUI.
6. Improve education and **awareness-raising activities** for stakeholders and the population.

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EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION www.alpine-region.eu

MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Website of White paper: https://www.alpine-region.eu/results/forest-fires-alps-state-knowledge-and-further-challenges

Website of Regional Euro-Alpine Wildland Fire Network: http://gfmc.online/GlobalNetworks/EuroAlpine/EuroAlpine.htm