



Silva Mediterranea

VI Meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee
Rome, 8th April 2016



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

WG 1 –Forest Fires

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Background of Forest Fires WG

- Research network FF management (1987, Zaragoza)
- ESTABLISHED as working group in **2002**
(18th Session of Silva Mediterranea, Rome)
- ROLE: Facilitate information **exchanges** on experiences, both successes and failures



Background of Forest Fires WG

- GOAL: **Forest fires prevention** through SFM practices at local level, and building forest resilience at landscape level (in a context of Climate Change)
- TOOLS: **National Focal Points** to raise awareness of the common problems in the same environment (Med basin)



Background of Forest Fires WG

Since 2002 to now:

The WG has increased visibility:

- . Mediterranean Region**
- . Fire related issues**



Background of Forest Fires WG

2003

- 3rd International Conference on Wildland Fire, Sydney, Australia ;
- EC/Silva Med/CIHEAM Workshop on Mutual Assistance between Border Countries against Forest Fires, Zaragoza, Spain ;

2004.

- 2nd International Symposium on Fire Economics, Planning and Policy, Cordoba, Spain;
- FAO/Silva Mediterranea/CIHEAM Advanced Seminar on International Cooperation Programs for Forest Fire Control in the Mediterranean Basin, Zaragoza, Spain ;
- Meetings of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, Zaragoza, Spain and Ispra, Italy ;

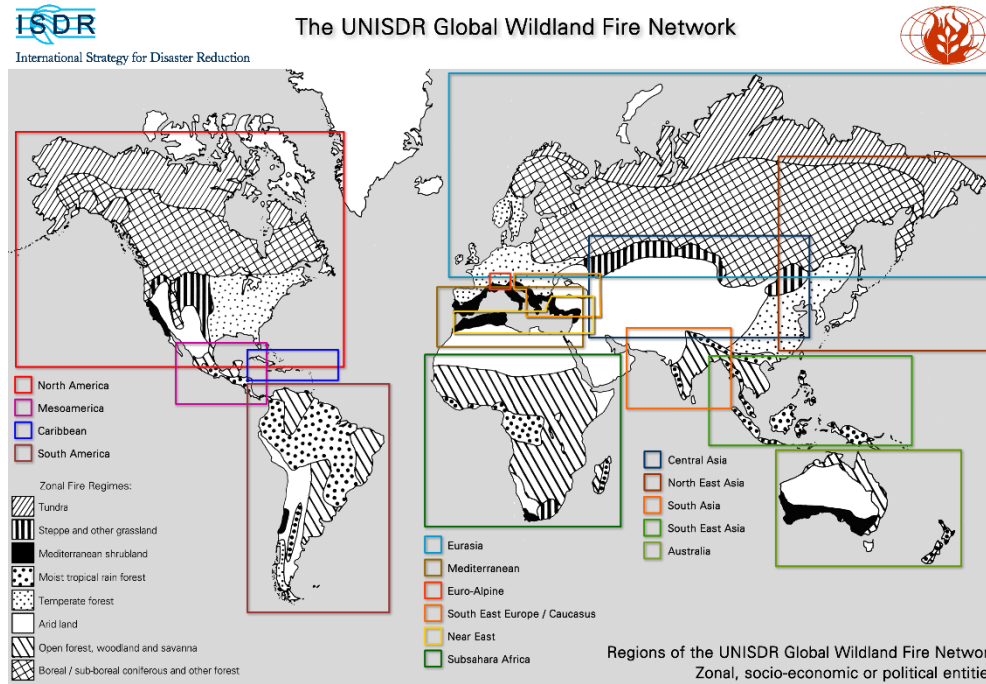


WG 1 FF: REGIONAL MEDITERRANEAN WILDLAND FIRE NETWORK

GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE NETWORK

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (UINN)

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>





Background of Forest Fires WG

2005.

- Meeting of the International Liaison Committee (ILC) for the International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC), Madrid, Spain ;

2006.

- Meeting of the ILC for the IWFC, Madrid, Spain ;

2007.

- 4Th International Conference on Wildland Fire, Sevilla, Spain;

Conclusions for the Mediterranean Region (FFGW).

2008.

- FAO Workshop on Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Region, Sabaudia, Italy ;
- European Forest Week/*Silva Mediterranea Parallel Partner Event* , FAO, Rome;



Silva Mediterranea

Working Group on “Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Region”

2009-2012 Work Plan

Submitted by

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First Forest Fires Work Plan 2009- 2012

*Forest Fires: Prevention through Sustainable
Forest Management practices at local level,
and building forest resilience at landscape level,
a key issue to limit the increasing risks of
Mediterranean forest fires
in a context of Climate Change*



Background of Forest Fires WG

2009

- Meetings of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, March (Brussels) and October (Stockholm)
- XXIV Iberoamerican Course on defense against forest fires, September, Spain.

2010

- Joint meetings, June (Friburg). **Global Wildfire Fire Network (Mediterranean: FFGW Silva med)**. International Fire Aviation GW. Fire Management Actions Alliance (FAO).
- Meetings of Fire Paradox and FUME projects (as end user).
- Workshop on the Assessment of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention, May, Rhodes (Greece). Forest Europe, FAO, USSE, Silva Med.
- Meetings of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, May (Rhodes), November, (Ispra).
- XXV Iberoamerican Course on defense against forest fires, September, Spain.



Background of Forest Fires WG

2011

- Second Mediterranean Forest Week, April, Avignon, France.
- Meetings of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, April, Zaragoza (Spain), November, Ispra (Italy).
- 5Th International Conference on Wildland Fire, Sun City, South Africa;
Conclusions for the Mediterranean Region (FFWG).
- Workshop on the extension of EFFIS, October, Rabat, Morocco.

2012

- 21st Committee Silva Med, February, Antalya, Turkey.
- Meetings of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, February, Antalya (Turkey), November, Ispra (Italy).
- Training on FF causes and postfire investigation, Sabaudia, Italy.



Main activities and results of the six
Silva Mediterranea working groups during the
2009-2012 period.

Working group 1: “Forest fires”

Annex 5 of the Evaluation 2013 of
Silva Mediterranea Committee

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/40715-047527e39e3973e4853881fb38fbe95fc.pdf>



Presentation of the current work plan



Silva Mediterranea

Working Group on “Forest Fires
in the Mediterranean Region”

2013-2016 Work Plan

Forest Fires Work Plan 2013-2016

Forest Fires: Prevention through Sustainable Forest Management practices at local level, and building forest resilience at landscape level, a key issue to limit the increasing risks of Mediterranean forest fires in a context of Climate Change





Forest Fires Work Plan 2013 - 2016

- OBJECTIVE 1: **FFWG network**
- OBJECTIVE 2: **Forest Fire Prevention**
- OBJECTIVE 3: **Forest Fire Supression**
- OBJECTIVE 4: **Others**



Forest Fires Work Plan 2013 - 2016

O1. FFWG NETWORK

- Maintaining the **contacts** updated at the Silvamediterranea **website**
- Reinforce collaboration with the **Forest Fire Expert Group** (EC)
- Collaborate with **other Mediterranean regions** (Australia, Chile, State of California...)



Forest Fires Work Plan 2013 - 2016

O2. FOREST FIRE PREVENTION

- Promoting **forest fire causes investigation** and training
- Elaboration of **prescribed burning guidelines** in the Mediterranean
- Promote forest fires awareness and **Community Based Fire Management** (CBFiM) initiatives
- Continue promoting the **use and extension of EFFIS** to all Mediterranean Basin countries



Forest Fires Work Plan 2013 - 2016

03. FOREST FIRE SUPPRESSION

- Promote the adoption of the **Incident Command System (ICS)** in the Mediterranean
- Promote the adoption of **FAO Voluntary Guidelines** on Fire Management
- Promote forest fires **accidents investigations** and exchange of **lessons learned**
-
- Promote bilateral/multilateral **agreements between countries**



Forest Fires Work Plan 2013 - 2016

O4. OTHERS

- Dynamize **Silvamediterranea web page** regarding activities of the WG1
- Preparation of the forest fire chapter of the **State of Mediterranean Forests**



Activities during current WP

2013

- Meetings of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, April, Sezana, (Slovenia), November, Brussels (Belgium).
- **Global Wildfire Fire Network (Mediterranean: FFGW Silva med)**, April, Friburg, Germany.
- **Enlarged Committee Silva Mediterranea, December, Tunisia.**

2014

- Meetings of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, April, Athens, (Greece), November, Hannover (Germany).
- Joint meetings, June (Friburg). International Liaison Committee. International Fire Aviation GW. UN Advisory Group on Forest Fires.



Activities during current WP

2015

- Meeting of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, March, Barcelona, Spain. IV Mediterranean Forest Week.
- 13th International Summit on Safety in forest fires, held in Idaho (USA) from 20 to 24 April.
- International Conference of aerial means in fighting forest fires held in Zadar (Croatia) on 29 and 30 April.
- 6th International Wildland Fire Conference held in Pyeong Chang (Korea) from 12 to 16 October.
 - **Conclusions for the Mediterranean Region (FFWG).**
- International Seminar on Latin American Experiences in Use of Fire, Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), November.



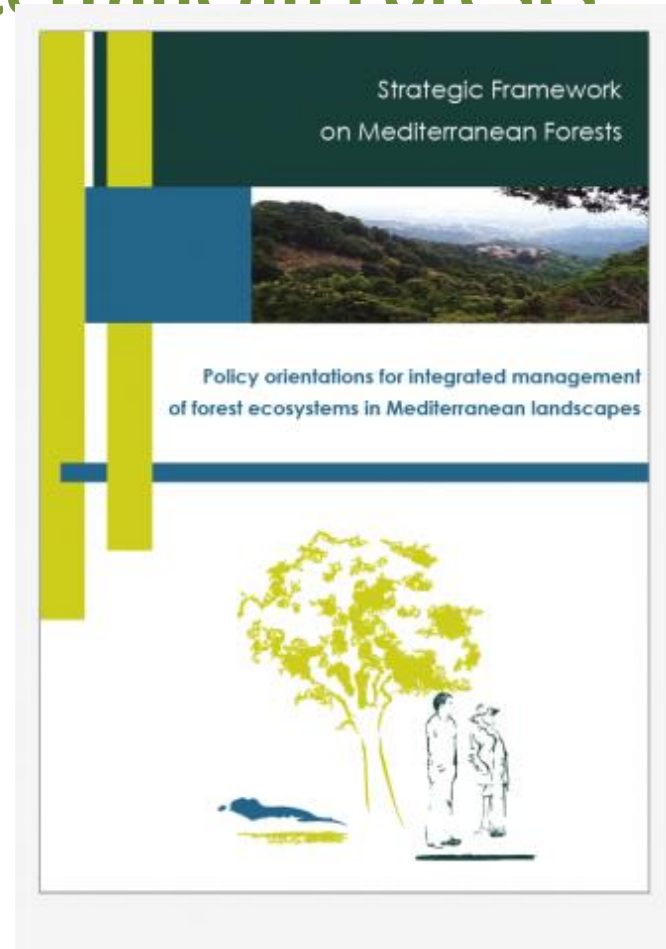
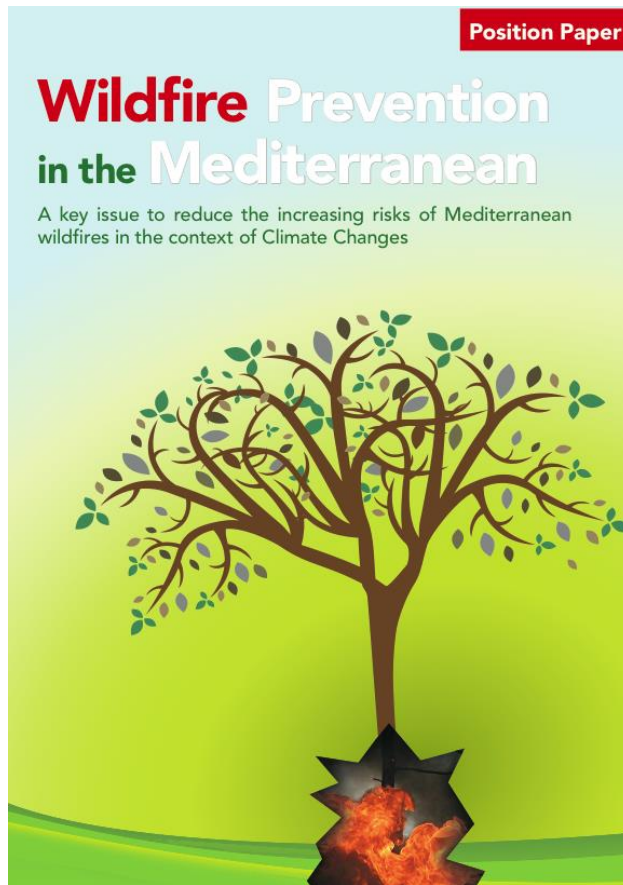
Activities during current WP

2016: Programmed activities

- First meeting for the second edition of the SOMF and Enlarged Committee Silva Med, April, Rome, Italy.
- International Conference on forest fires and WUI, May. Aix-en-Provence, France.
- Meeting of the EC Working Group “Forest Fire Prevention”, November.
- Meetings for the preparation of the SoFM
- International Seminar on Latin American Experiences in Use of Fire, November.



Link of the current work plan to the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests





STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
(Strategic line 4)
POSITION PAPER
Recommendations

FFWG WORK PLAN

Objectives

Enhance international cooperation

FFWG Network: update contacts.
Reinforce EC collaboration.
Collaborate with other Med regions.
Promote agreements between countries.

Integration of Wildfire Prevention in National Forest Programs/Policies

Promote: causes investigation, guidelines prescribed burning, Community Based Fire Management.

Promotion of knowledge and education on wildfire prevention

Training (ICS, suppression), adoption of FAO voluntary guides, shared lessons learned from accident investigation.

Enhancement of sustainable financial mechanisms for prevention of wildfires

No connection

Enhancement of harmonized Information Systems to deal with new wildfire risks

Promoting extension and use EFFIS

OTHERS: Dynamize Silvamediterranea web page.
Preparation of the forest fire chapter of the State of Mediterranean Forests



Activities achieved

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK POSITION PAPER

FFWG WORK PLAN

Enhance international cooperation

FFWG Network: update contacts.
Reinforce EC collaboration.
Collaborate with other Med regions.
Promote agreements between countries.

FFWG network: contacts updated for National Focal Points (exceptions) and Institutions (EFFIS (CE), EFIMED).

Close relationship through EC WG, Global Wildland Fire Network and at The International Conferences on Wildland Fire.

Reinforce EC collaboration: FAO and FFWG represented in all the EC FFWG meetings (update information, on-going activities), close collaboration in MFW (BCN).

Collaborate with other Med regions: Global Wildland Fire Network, Iberoamerica Seminars.

Promote agreements between countries: spreading the FAO voluntary guides and the ICS.



Activities achieved

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK POSITION PAPER

Integration of Wildfire Prevention in National Forest Programs/Policies

FFWG WORK PLAN

Promote: causes investigation, guidelines prescribed burning, Community Based Fire Management.

Causes investigation: Training on FF causes and postfire investigation, Sabaudia, Italy (2012).

Elaboration of the Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention on the Mediterranean.

On going draft in Spanish Guidelines on prescribed burning.

Promoting FAO guidelines on CBFM: Papers about Integral wildfire prevention at the VI IWFC in Korea (needed link Website)



Activities achieved

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK POSITION PAPER

Promotion of knowledge and education on wildfire prevention

FFWG WORK PLAN

Training (ICS, suppression), adoption of FAO voluntary guides, shared lessons learned from accidents investigation.

Causes investigation:

Training on FF causes and postfire investigation, Sabaudia, Italy (2012).

Promoting FAO voluntary guides and Prevention Position Paper during the Iberoamerican Seminars and International Conferences.

Accidents lessons learned at the Spanish Ministry Web page (link in Silva Med and translation should be done).



Activities achieved

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK POSITION PAPER

Enhancement of harmonized Information Systems
to deal with new wildfire risks

FFWG WORK PLAN

Promoting use EFFIS

2012:FFWG contact the EC to invite countries join EFFIS.

2012-2015: extension (members and no-members of the EU),
improvements, info sharing and standarization developed.

Silva Mediterranea Secretariat and FFWG members of the EC FFWG.



Activities achieved

FFWG WORK PLAN

OTHERS: Dynamize Silvamediterranea web page.
Preparation of the forest fire chapter of the State of Mediterranean Forests

On going .

FF chapter of the SoMF:

First edition: EFFIS, institutions.

Second edition: FFWG coordination.



Main results and delivered outcomes

- **POSITION PAPER ON WILDFIRE PREVENTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**
- **CONCLUSIONS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION AT THE IWFC:**
 - Sun City, South Africa, 2011
<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/southafrica-2011/04-Wildfire-2011-Recommendations-Regional-Session-IV.pdf>
 - Pyeongchang, Korea
<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/korea-2015/Files-Korea-2015/Statements/IWFC-6-Regional-Statement-Mediterranean.pdf>
- **PROGRESS REPORT ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES 2011-2015 OF THE UNISDR REGIONAL MEDITERRANEAN WILDLAND FIRE NETWORK (SILVA MED).**
<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/korea-2015/Files-Korea-2015/Abstracts/IWFC-2015-Reg-Session-IV-Abstract-Mediterranean.pdf>



Main results and delivered outcomes

POSTER ABOUT THE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEAN WILDLAND FIRE NETWORK (FF WORKING GROUP): IV IWFC, KOREA

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/korea-2015/Files-Korea-2015/Posters/GWFN-Regional-Poster-IWFC-6-2015-Mediterranean.pdf>



Regional Wildland Fire Networks: North America - Mediterranean - South America - Caribbean - Southeast Europe / Caucasus - East Africa - Near East - Sub-Saharan Africa - South Asia - Southeast Asia - Australia - Northeast Asia - Central Asia - Turkey

Regional Mediterranean Wildland Fire Network (Silva Mediterranea Network)

Between the 5th and the 6th International Wildland Fire Conferences the following initiatives have continued and taken place:

- European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) - European Commission**
The extension of EFFIS to all Mediterranean countries, members and non-members of the European Union has continued. Improvements in information sharing and harmonization of fire data have been developed. The platform is an excellent tool for all countries in the Region in order to be aware of the wildfire situation in the past, present and possible future.
- European Union Civil Protection Mechanism - European Commission**
With the objective of civil population protection this mechanism supports all countries facing disaster and emergency situations such as wildfires in the Mediterranean Region supporting wildfire suppression in one of its main roles. Many field exercises, training and exchange of resources are channelled through the mechanism structure.
- 1st Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Wildfires (18-20 November 2013, Barcelona, Spain)**
Born with the intention of establishing a meeting point between the operative wildfire community, that university researchers and the society, with the aim of trying to find a way to our common needs. Based on the promotion of a continuous learning culture focusing on safety and effectiveness within our wildfire community.
- VI International Conference on Forest Fire Research (17-20 November 2014, Coimbra, Portugal)**
The Conference is organized every 4 years since 1980, bringing together scientists from all around the world to present and discuss advances on Forest Fire related research topics. A short course on fire safety and a short course on the behaviour took place as side events.
- Aerial Fire Fighting Europe (AFF) (29-30 April 2015, Zadar, Croatia)**
Aerial Firefighting Conferences take place every year. On this particular event one of the objectives was to focus global attention on wildfire aerial resources in disaster mitigation, demonstrations and Presentation of the Wild Darter Award to Colonel Dobro (France) for his merits in safe, effective and efficient aerial firefighting were part of the Conference.
- 1st International Workshop on Large Forest Fires and Field Exercise (19-21 May, 2015, Olympia, Greece)**
The workshop was organized with the aim to improve capacity building, based on exchange of experiences and reports. Several fire-site and simulations, including a real-time evaluation took place.
- 8 International Conference on Fire Behaviour and Risk (26-29 May 2015, Agrigato, Sardinia, Italy)**
The Conference involved scientists, researchers and policy makers whose activities were focused on different aspects of fire and their impacts such as Fire Behaviour and Risk, Modeling and Monitoring fuel characteristics and fire, Fire Management and Climate and Fire.

In the Mediterranean region wildfires are part of the ecosystems. They ensure both protective and productive roles of forests and forestry areas, affecting significant population linked to rural and forest areas. Wildfires in the region are an issue of much concern. Our countries are facing big challenges related to climate change and arising armed conflicts in the region, which need specific approaches. An increase of extended dry periods and increased heat waves is likely to take place in the coming years. The severity of wildfires in the Mediterranean is expected to increase. In order to face these situations greater efforts on collaborative approaches and exchange of experiences is needed within the region and at international level too. Main causes of wildfires in the Mediterranean are based on human related activities such as agricultural and livestock burning. Preventive measures, awareness and education campaigns and training to the public, firefighters and politicians should be one of the main action lines. The development of common standards and protocols of operational level is another aspect in which Mediterranean countries should take a step forward.



Current situation of the FFWG

The current situation regarding members, focal points and coordinators is the following:

- 28 countries members of SM, plus the EU.
- FFWG: 16 focal point identified (Europe, Near East, North Africa).

This info must be updated annually.

- Coordinator : Spain
- FAO Secretariat: active support



Communication tools

Websites:

- **Silva Mediterranea**

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/en/>

- **UNISDR Regional Mediterranean Wildland Fire Network**

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>

- **SPANISH FOREST FIRE SERVICE**

<http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/politica-forestal/incendios-forestales/lucha.aspx>

Others: email



Outlook for future activities 2016-2017

DEVELOP: FFWG WORK PLAN 2017-2020

according to the

- **Strategic Framework of Mediterranean Forest**
- **Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention On the Mediterranean**
- **State of the Mediterranean Forests (SoMF)**



Strategis topics to be developed 2016-2017

Related with **ENHACE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:**

- Strengthen cooperation between FFWG members, sharing information.
- Promoting knowledge exchanges.
- Develop FAO voluntary guidelines fire management.



Strategis topics to be developed 2016-2017

Related with **INTEGRATION OF PREVENTION IN FOREST PROGRAMS AND IN ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE:**

- Put into practice *Position paper Wildfires prevention*.
- Promoting integrated approaches including causes investigation and use of prescribed burning.
Developpe *Prescribed burning guidelines*.
- Sharing regional, national and local experiences about prevention. Knowledge exchanges.



Strategis topics to be developed 2016-2017

Related with **PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING ABOUT WILDFIRE PREVENTION:**

- Carry out technical exchanges about prevention and the adoption of ICS (conferences, seminars, etc).
- Activities related with education and awareness.
- Spread technical documents.



Strategis topics to be developed 2016-2017

Related with **ENHANCE HARMONIZED INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO DELA WITH NEW WILDFIRE RISKS:**

- Continue promoting use of EFFIS
- Using SilvaMediterranea Web page to spread and share updated information about prevention.



Should a thematic group be conserved or should the group evolve to a task force?

- It would be convenient the continuity of the WG:
 - Networking for Focal points.
 - Coordination with the EC WG on Fire prevention.
 - Several tasks to be accomplish in the short and medium term (adaptation strategies to climate change).

Although, maybe some tasks may need to have a time limit to be achieved. To decide with members and FAO Secretariat (Work Plan).



Interactions with other working groups

Strategic topics of common interest across groups

- WG3: Forest management and sustainable development
- WG5: Forest and climate change
- WG8: Desertification and restoration

Coordinate guidelines/programs/policies
(integrating Wildfire prevention on Forest policy).

Strategic topics:

- Conservation of Mediterranean forests resources
- Adaptation to global/climate change
- Education and awareness



Interactions with other working groups

Support and interaction with FAO Officers

Relevant support of FAO Secretariat

Relevant support with Forest Fire Management Officer at FAO

Relevant support of EC FF WG (EFFIS)



Thank you!

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