

## Workshop 1 Good Fire, Bad Fire

16 participants from 10 countries

### 1. Main successes and Challenges raised by the participants during the workshop

Fire is a natural process and thus there is not a good or bad fire. However, the frequency of wildfires seems to be increasing, in Mediterranean areas due the high temperatures and low level of precipitation over the summer, and in central European countries, due to climate change. **Invasive species, intensive areas of monocultures and instability at national level in forestry policies** were highlighted as some of the main challenges.

However, fire might also be a management tool, and this was one of the main topics discussed during the workshop. How can fire prescription reduce the damages of wildfires in the Mediterranean region?

- Fire management must be a long-term strategic plan, with defined goals and objectives. It must be integrated in the Protected Area Management plan, based on the conservation objectives and size.
- Fire management must be an adaptive process: implementing, evaluating and adapting measures.
- Invasive species, especially pyrophytes, must be better monitored.

### 2. What new voices, new visions are needed to be brought in and heard on this topic?

#### Some solutions based on landscape management:

- transforming shrub lands into pastures, hence, reducing the organic fuel available.
- Stimulate the plantation of less flammable species and removal of invasive pyrophyte species.
- Avoiding monocultures.
- Making fire prescription a management practice, especially in regions where the risk of wildfires is higher (Mediterranean).

#### Better engagement with the civil society:

- active involvement in fire prevention through environmental education and participation in management activities. Better communication with fire workers is also needed.

**Look at the economic argument:** what is the cost of not investing in prevention?

Attribute fiscal benefits for cleaning privately owned land or attribution of rents for increasing biodiversity.

### 3. How can EUROPARC enable this “new voices” to be included?

- Develop a toolkit for fire prescription for Mediterranean Protected Areas.
- Lobby the EU to have fiscal benefits for Landowners making their land more resilient to fire.