



European Commission (EC)
GOFC GOLD Fire Implementation Team (GOFC Fire IT)

FirEUrisk ProjectOutcomes



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101003890

Managing wildfire risk in Europe

A stylized green leaf graphic with a small orange and red leaflet at the tip, positioned to the right of the title.

A project to reform wildfire guidelines

At FirEURisk, we will develop and evaluate a **novel 3-stage management strategy** that will update the current approaches to fight wildfires. This plan of action is risk-centred and will cover every relevant aspect of this issue while also considering the **environmental context** and **socioeconomic circumstances**.

Taming the impact of wildfires in Europe

The FirEURisk project combines the best practices for managing wildfire risk

Objectives



- Develop, test and disseminate an Integrated and Science-Based Strategy for wildfire risk management in Europe.
 - 1) expand the capabilities of existing wildfire **risk assessment** systems
 - 2) use risk-assessment to drive wildfire management and **reduce current fire risk conditions** , and
 - 3) **adapt fire management strategies** to expected future climate and socio-economic changes.
- Close collaboration between researchers, practitioners, policymakers and citizens.



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Our Partners



Australia:



Canada:

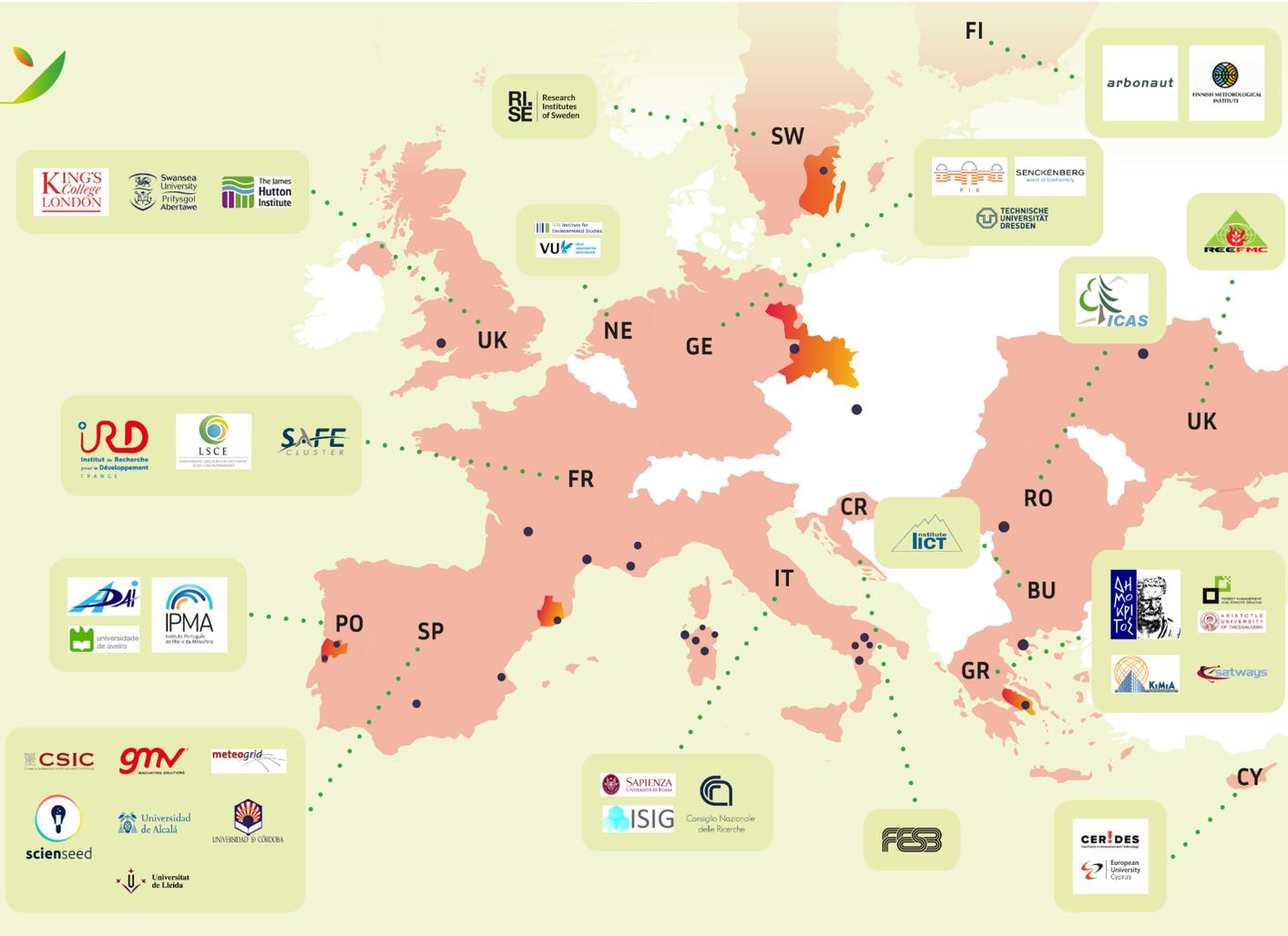


Israel:



● Demonstration Areas

■ Pilot Sites



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Find out more



Steering Committee

- **General Coordinator**

Domingos Xavier Viegas, ADAI-Univ. Coimbra, Portugal



- **Scientific Coordinator**

Emilio Chuvieco, Univ. Alcalá, Spain



- **Technical Coordinator**

George Eftychidis, KEMEA, Greece



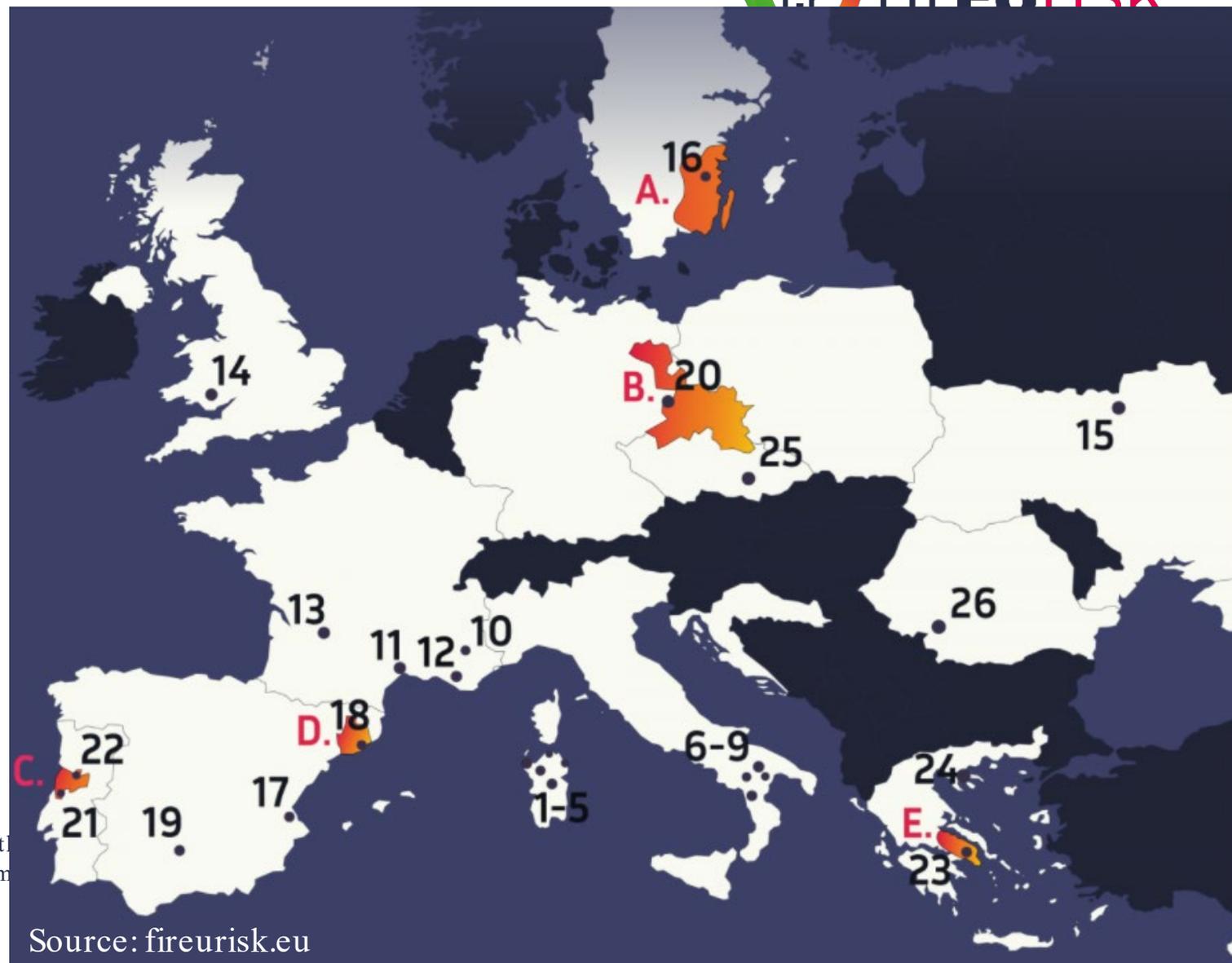
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Demonstration plan



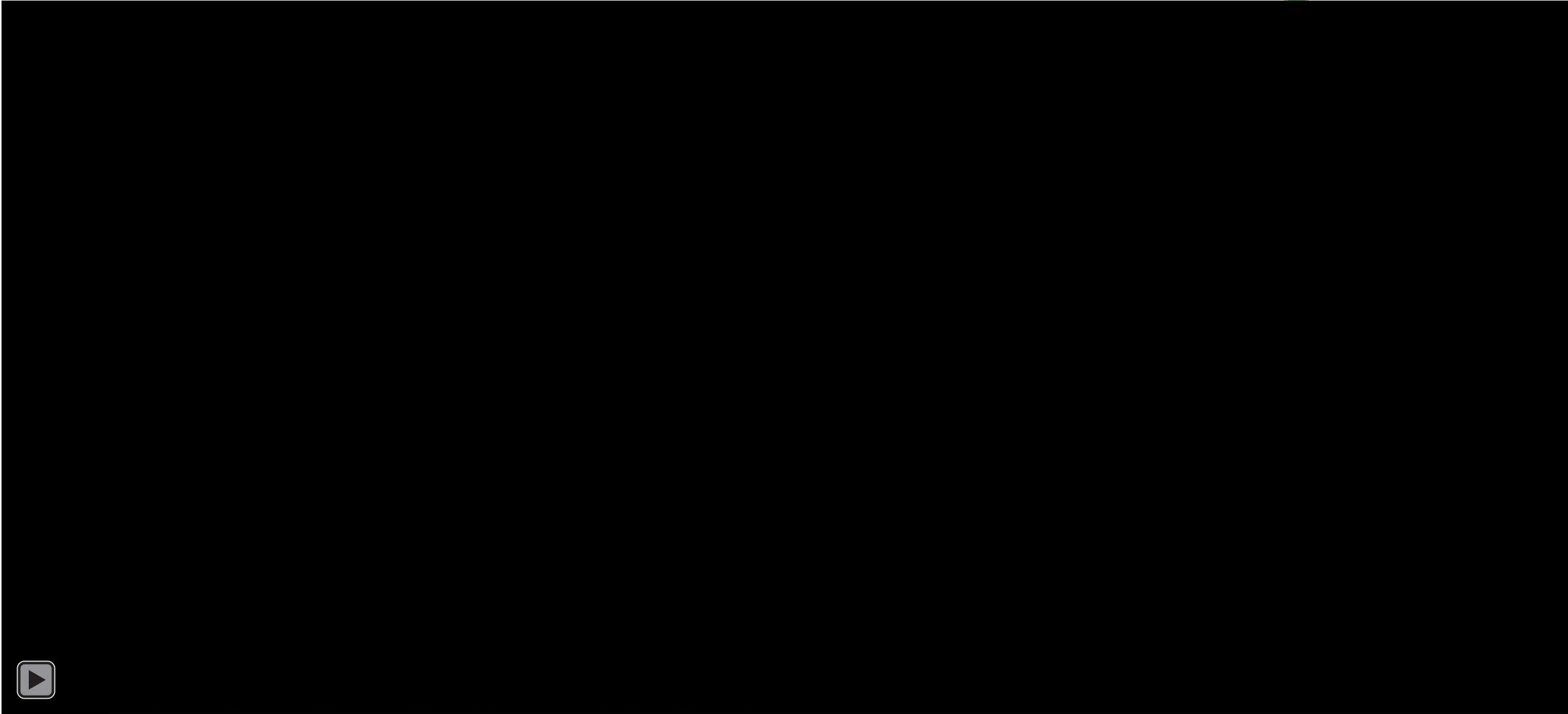
PS	Focuson
A.	Future fire risk scenarios
B.	Transboundary cascading effects
C.	Fire risk reduction and prevention, forest management and wildland urban interface (WUI)
D.	WUI forest and fuel management and resilient landscapes
E.	Catastrophic peri-urban wildfires



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Source: fireurisk.eu

FirEUrisk Webpage - fireurisk.eu



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Some FirEURisk Outcomes



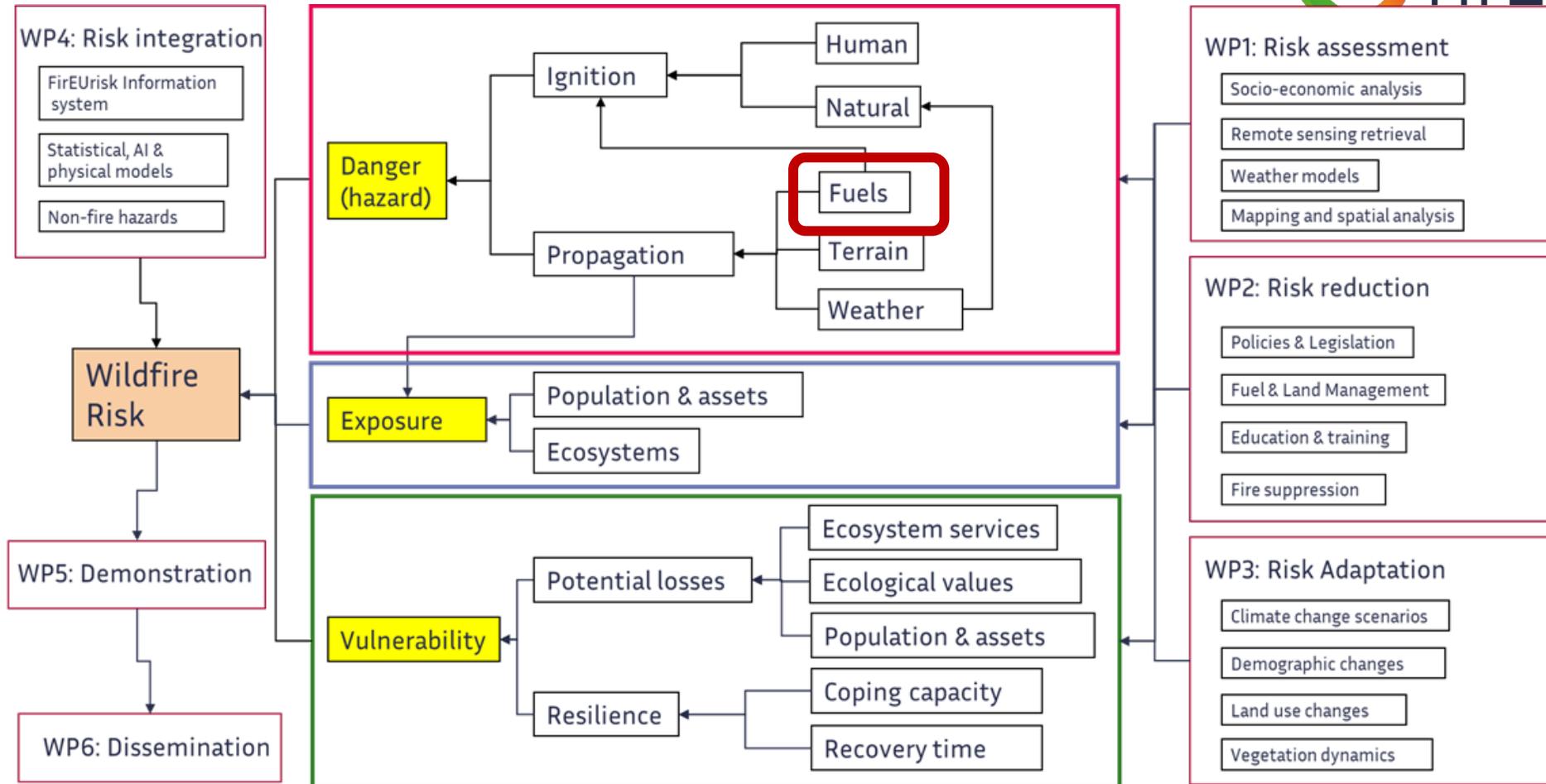
1. In spite of the fact that the project is running for only one year we have developed a large amount of work, some of it in preparation of future activities that will be delivered in the near future.
2. Among the products that we have already delivered I will present two that may be of greater interest for this Group:
 - A proposal of a Fuel Map of Europe
 - Analysis of some of the major fires in the Mediterranean Basin in 2021.



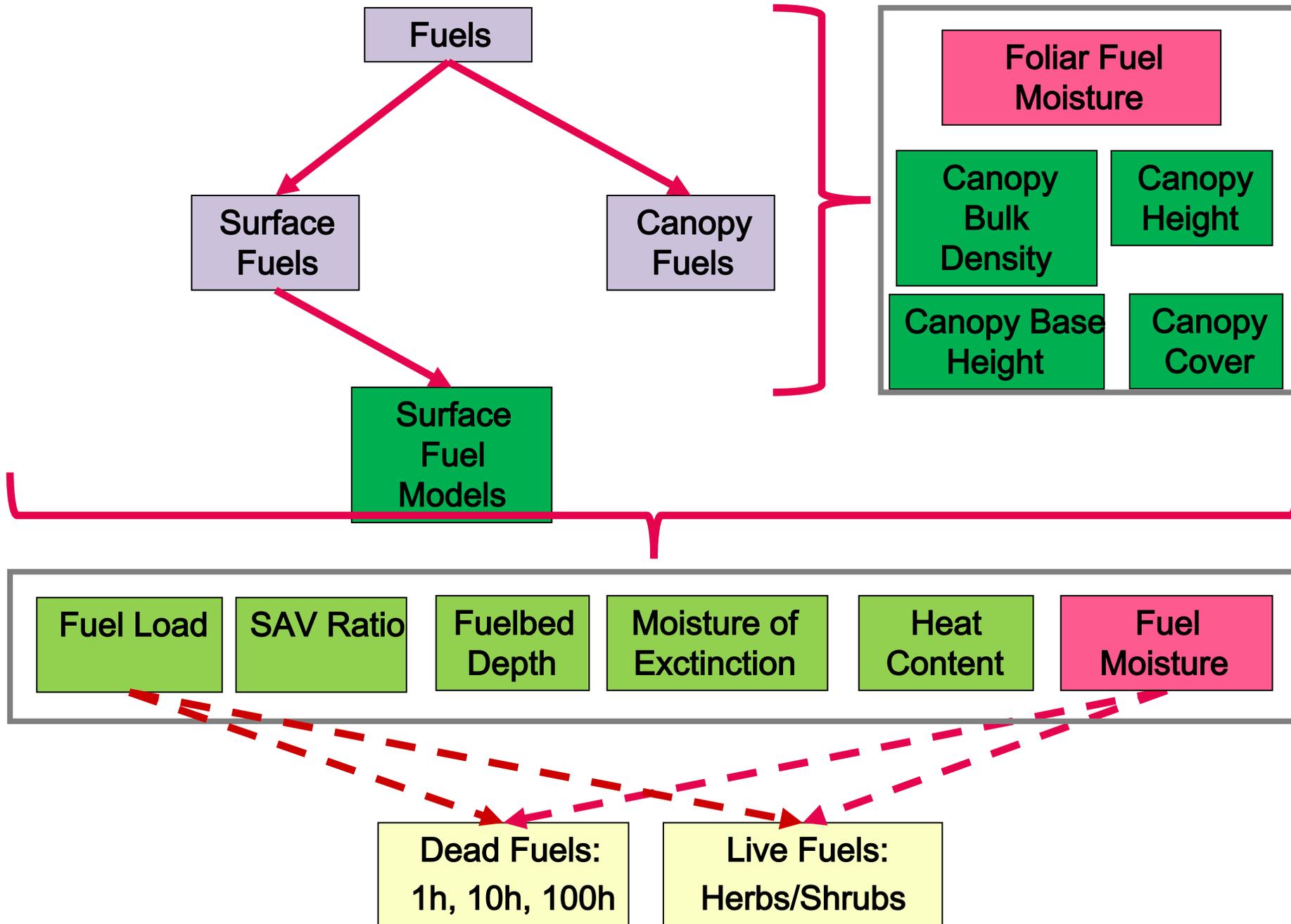
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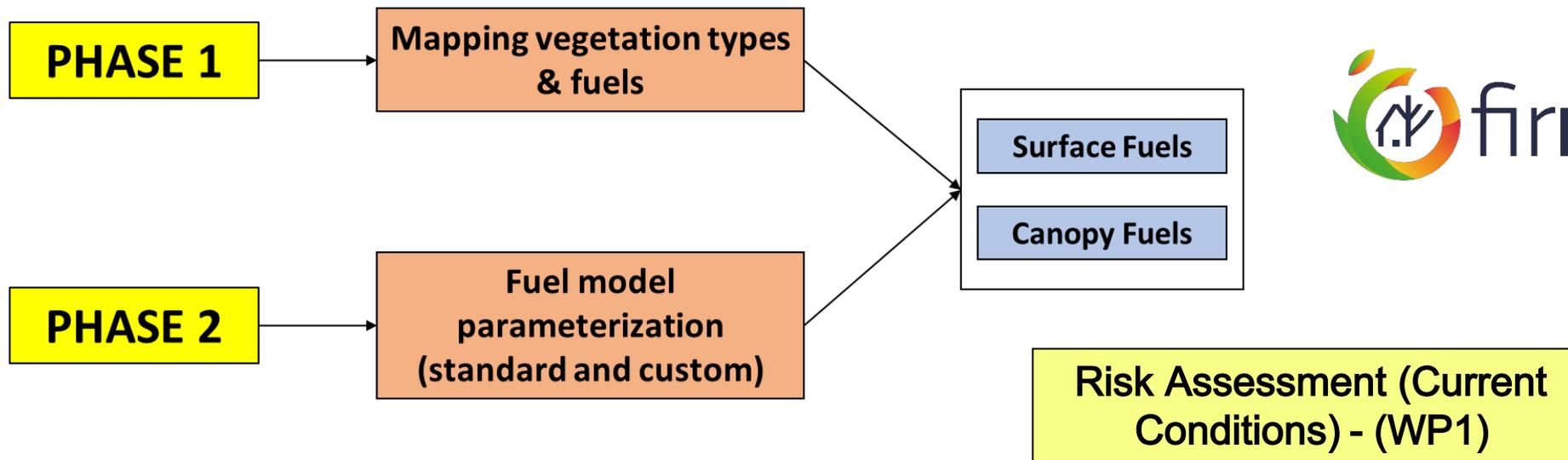


Fuel activities within FirEUrisk



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Inputs to Derive Fuel Maps and Parameters

- Fuel classes:
 - Land cover databases
 - Biomes
 - Forest maps
 - Passive remote sensing data
 - Satellite & airborne Lidar
 - Ground measurements
- Fuel Parameters:
 - Databases
 - Standard values (Scott&Burgan, NFFL, NFDRS...)
 - Satellite optical passive data (Sentinel-3, 2)
 - Satellite & airborne Lidar
 - Microwave (backscatter or interferometry)
 - Forest inventories
 - Drones
 - Ground measurements

Differences in data availability at the National/Regional scales (e.g.: high resolution Lidar data)



PHASE 1

Risk Assessment (Current Conditions) - (WP1)

Mapping vegetation types & fuels

Fuel Classification Scheme & Mapping Methods

Proposed by Elena Aragonese et al. in the framework of A114

Objective

- Propose a fuel classification scheme that will be:
 - Applicable at different spatial scales and European conditions
 - Used for diverse applications and activities (e.g.: emissions; propagation; danger)
 - Adapted to different input sources
 - Standardized for all FirEU risk WPs (and beyond)

Properties

- Hierarchical: different scales can be integrated
- Comprehensive
 - Surface and crown fuels
 - Urban fuels
- Compatible with existing fuel classification systems

Phase 1: Fuel typology



Main Cover
Forest
Shrubland
Grassland
Cropland
Wet and peat / semi-peat land
Urban

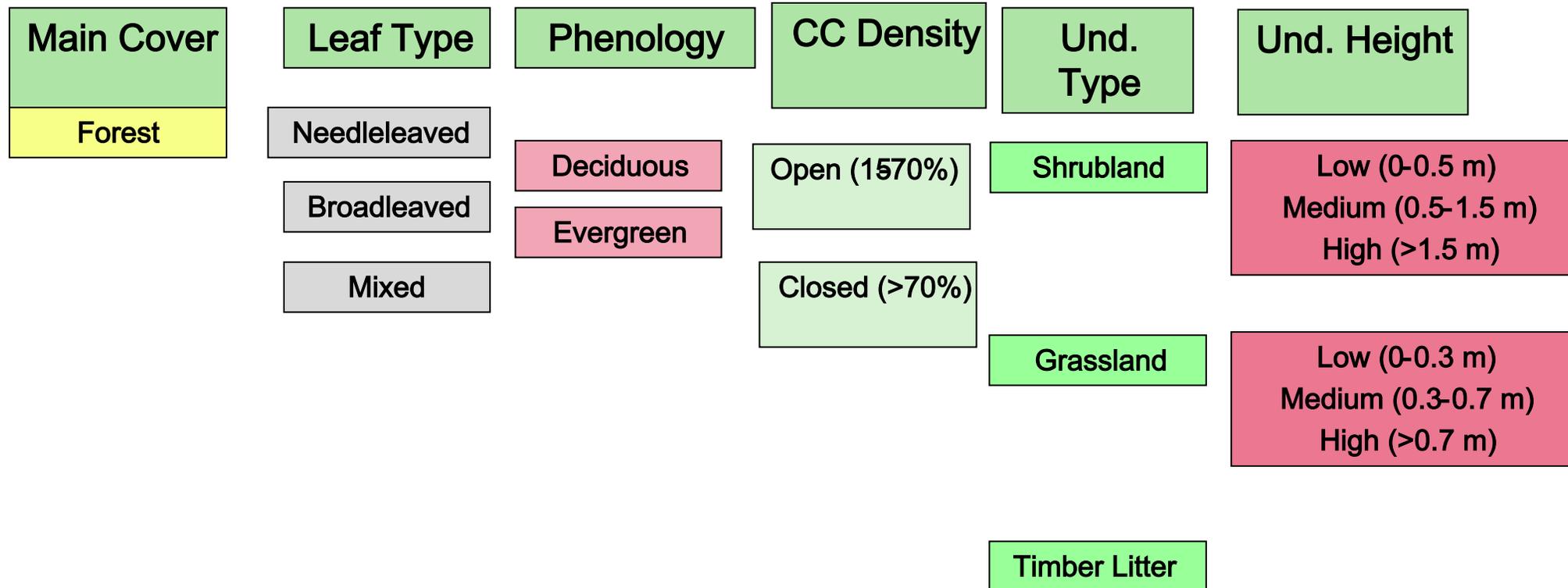
Fuel classes (cover type – 1st level)

1. Forest
 - Land with > 15% with trees > 2 m
2. Shrubland
 - Shrubs, tree cover <15%, height < 2 m
3. Grassland
 - Herbaceous vegetation
4. Cropland
 - Cultivated vegetation (irrigated or not)
5. Wet and peat / semi-peat land
 - Ecosystems with anaerobic conditions (presence of water or high decomposing organic matter)
6. Urban
 - Areas with > 15% buildings



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Phase 1: Fuel typology



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Input data

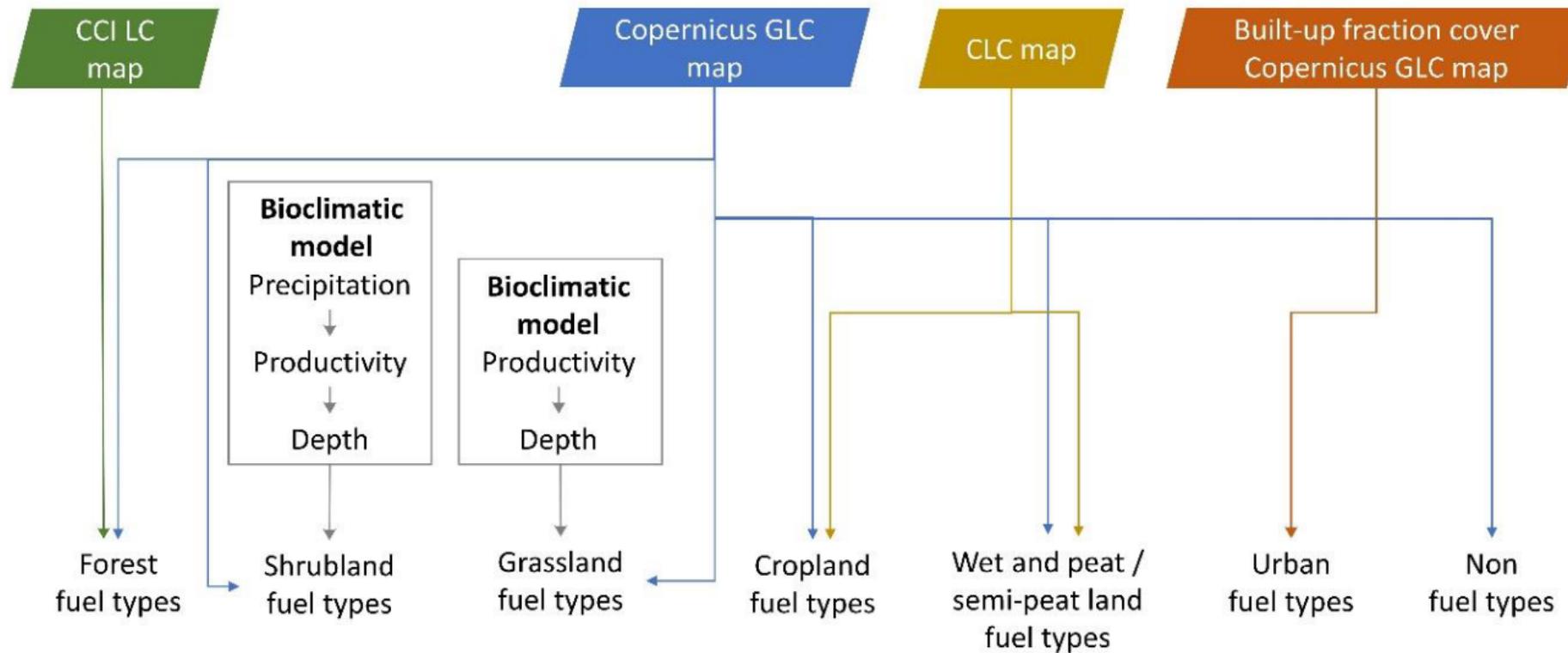
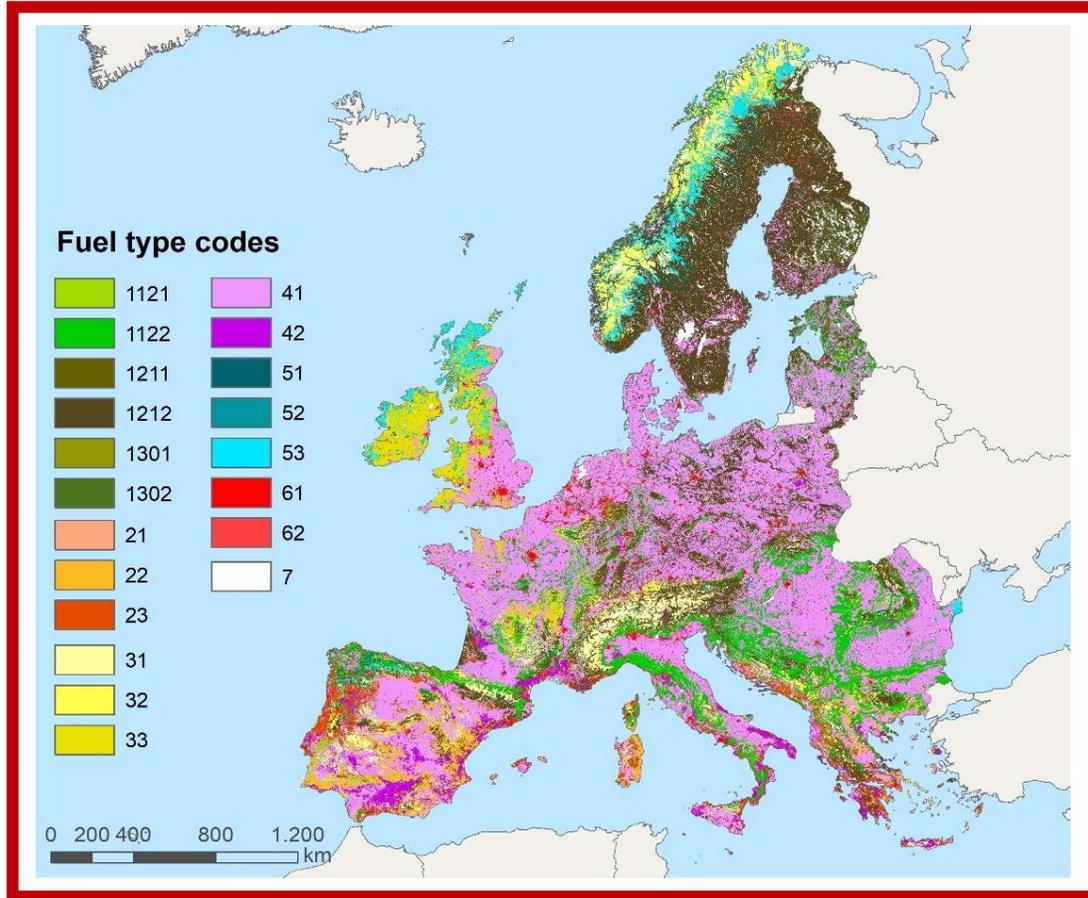


Figure 1: Flowchart of the methodology used to generate the European fuel map. The input datasets are the CCI LC map (Copernicus Climate Change Services, 2020), Copernicus GLC map (Buchhorn et al., 2020), CLC map (European Union Copernicus Land Monitoring Service, 2020), and Built-up fraction cover Copernicus GLC map (Buchhorn et al., 2020).

Fuel products

<https://doi.org/10.21950/YABYCN>



Spatial Scales and Resolutions
EU level (minimum resolution 1 km²)
PS level (minimum resolution 1 ha)
DA and WUI level (adaptable)

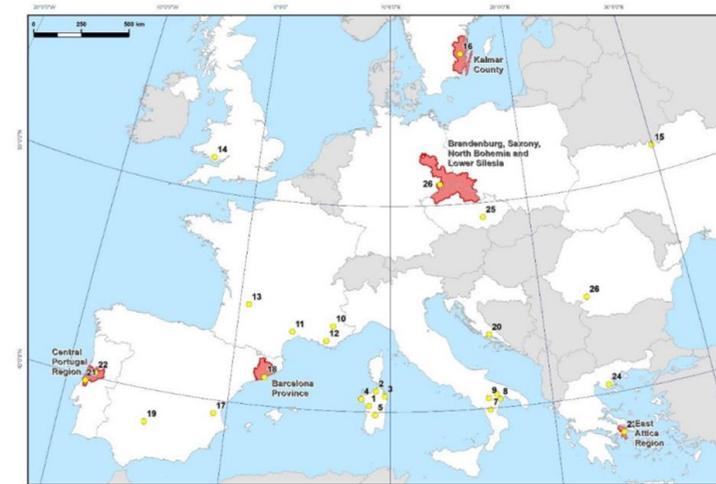


Figure 2: Location of PS (red) and DA (yellow dots and numbers)



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2021 Wildfire events



Navalacruz

Gonforon

Montiferru

Attica

Eubeia

Castro Marim

Jubrique

Manavgat

Kabylia

Arakapás



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Studied Cases



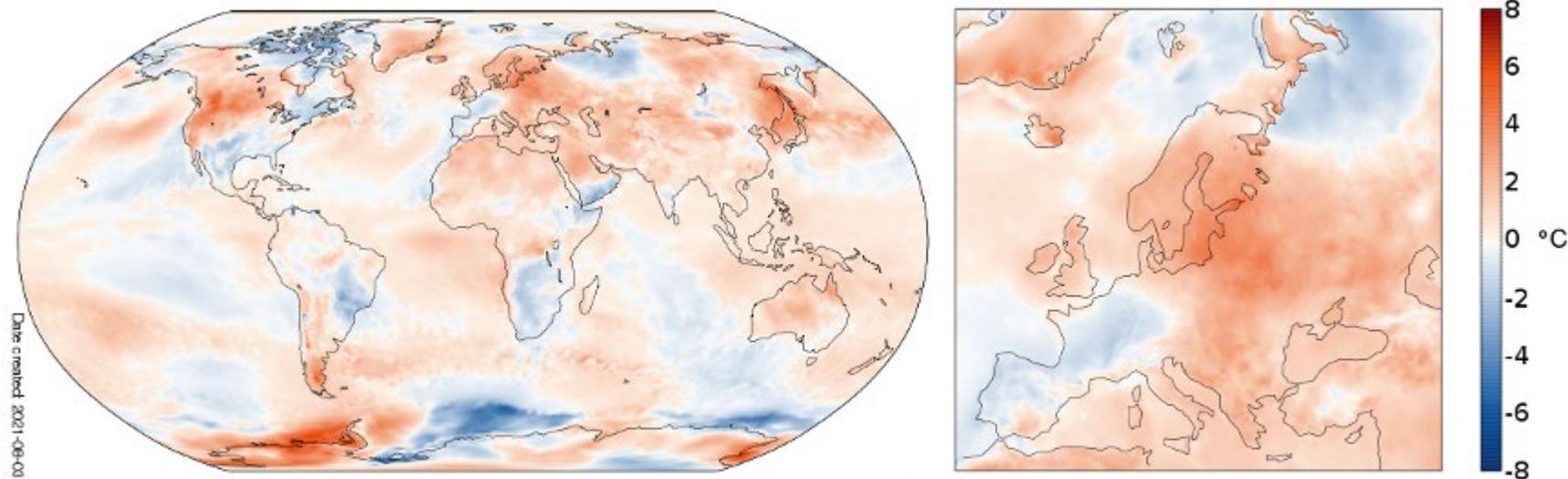
- Castro Marim (Pt) – ADAI
- Navalacruz (Sp) – MTO
- Jubrique (Sp) – MTO
- Gonforon (Fr) - SAFE
- Montiferru (It) – CNR
- Attica (Gr) – KEMEA
- Eubeia (Gr) – KEMEA
- Akapás (Cy) – EUC
- ArKabylia (Dz) – MTO
- Manavgat (Tr) – MTO



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- Very hot summer, July month of record temperature
- Record year in number of fires
- New areas that are not usually affected
- Coincident with an exceptional heat wave
- Intrusion of Saharan air with axis running through Italy-Greece
- Impact on central and northern European countries

Surface air temperature anomaly for July 2021



(Data: ERA5. Reference period: 1991-2020. Credit: C3S/ECMWF)



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Turkey



- Turkey has suffered one of the worst years in its history
- Widespread fires in the southern part of the country (more than 200 in a week)
- The worst fires in Antalya and Mugla
- Hundreds of houses affected, thousands of evacuees, 8 deaths
- Four deceased in the tourist area of the coast
- Manavgat a deceased 82 years old, in Akseki partner deceased.
- A 25-year-old volunteer in Marmaris
- Important impact on tourist areas
- Forced to evacuations by sea
- 58 people hospitalized

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on programme under the Grant

ALGERIA



- Kabylia region, August, more than 70 simultaneous fires, **90 victims**
- Worst event in Tizi Ouzou and Bejaïa
- On August 9 and 10, 59 civilians and 33 soldiers trapped in a rescue operation
- Extreme heat wave, above 47 °C



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Italy



- 08/11/2021 European temperature record in Sicily (48.8 °C)
- Fires since July in Palermo, Catania, Caltanissetta and Ragusa
- Many arson taking advantage of the heat wave
- Two deceased



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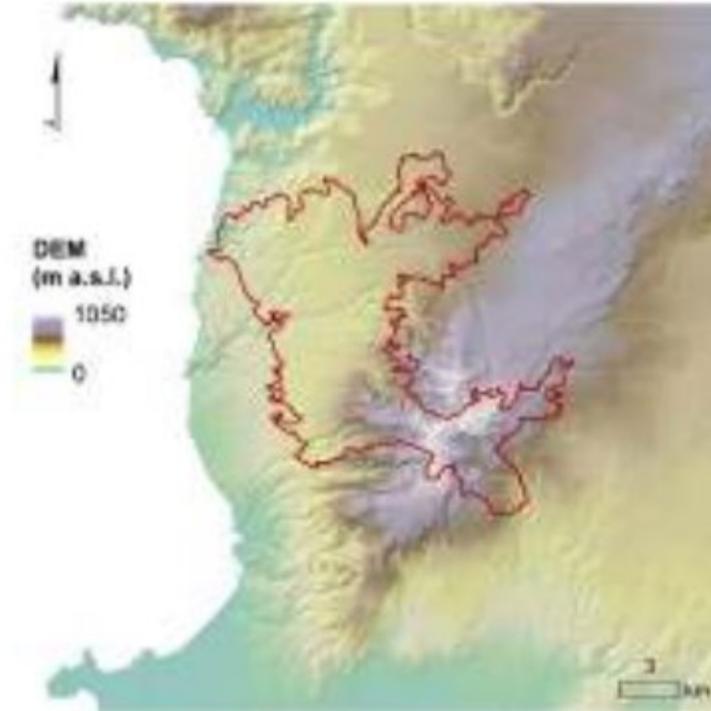


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Fire of Montiferru (Sardenna)



1. Started on the 23rd July by a vehicle fire.
2. Between 18.10h and 24.00h on the 24th the fire burned 9 100 Ha (1500 Ha/h).
3. Ended on the 25th July with a burned area of 13200 Ha.
4. It was finished only one month later.



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France



- Very fast fire, driven by the wind Mistral, Var region 08/16/2021
- More than 100 homes affected, 12 campsites evacuated
- More than 900 troops and 10 air assets activated
- Burned area 7,000 ha
- Thousands of evacuees, neighbors and tourists
- Two victims in a house in Grimaud



Cyprus



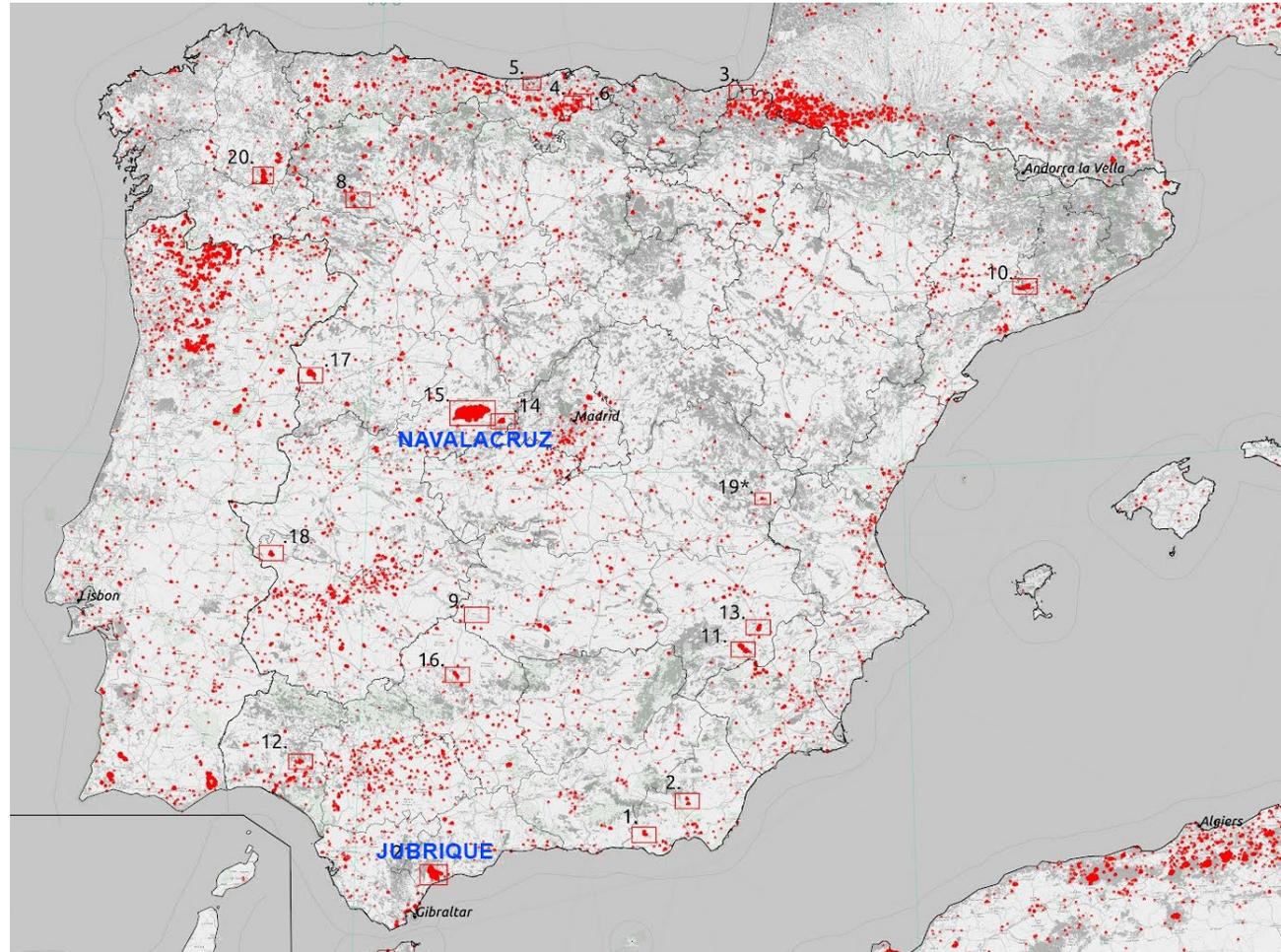
- Cyprus suffered an unusual period of high fire risk since June
- The worst event in the Troodos mountains, the worst in the history of Cyprus
- Four dead, 347 houses destroyed, more than 50 km² burned
- Burned area more than 3,000 ha



Fires of Nava de la Cruz and Jubrique (Spain)



David Caballero



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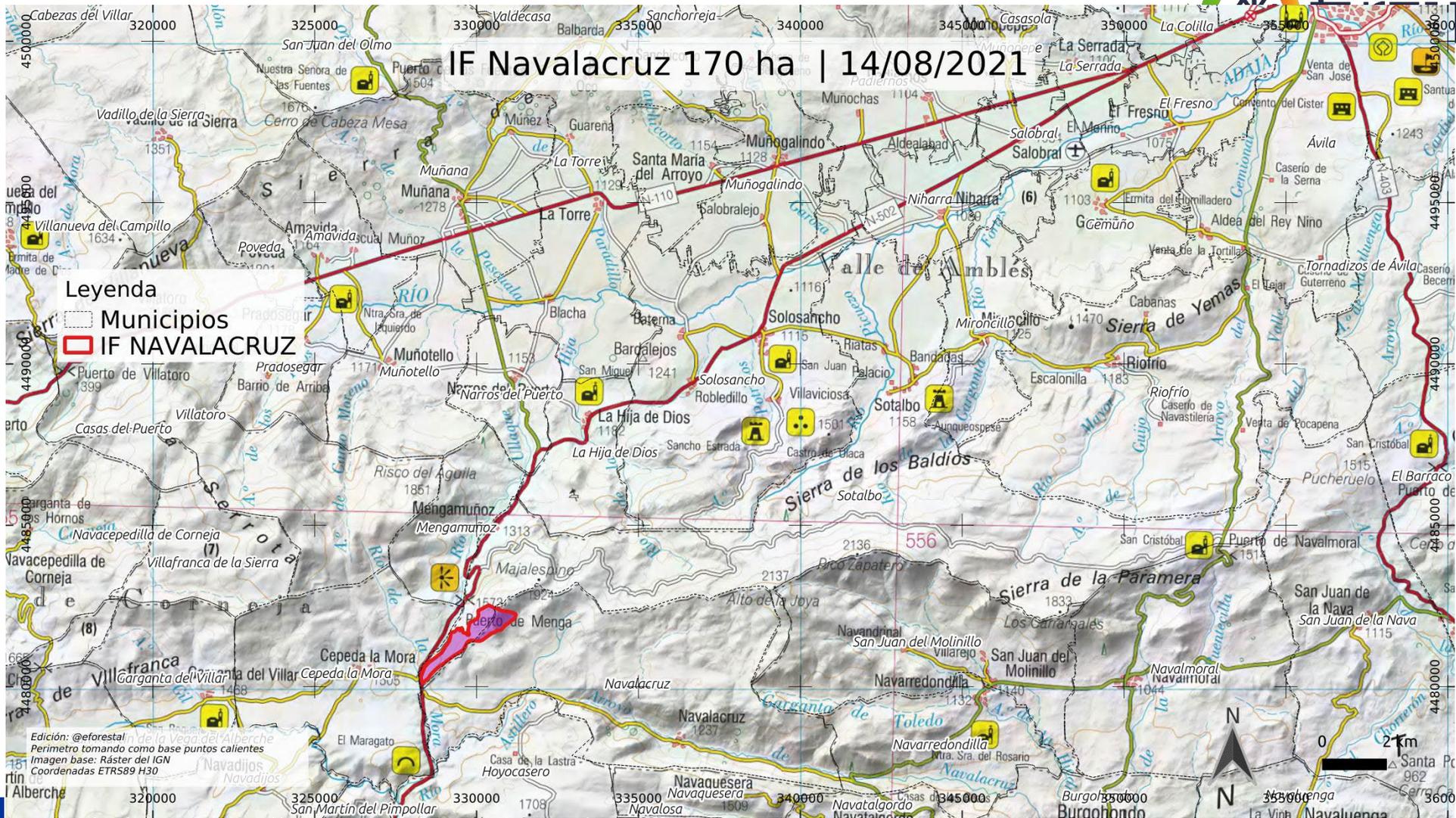
Fire of Nava de La Cruz



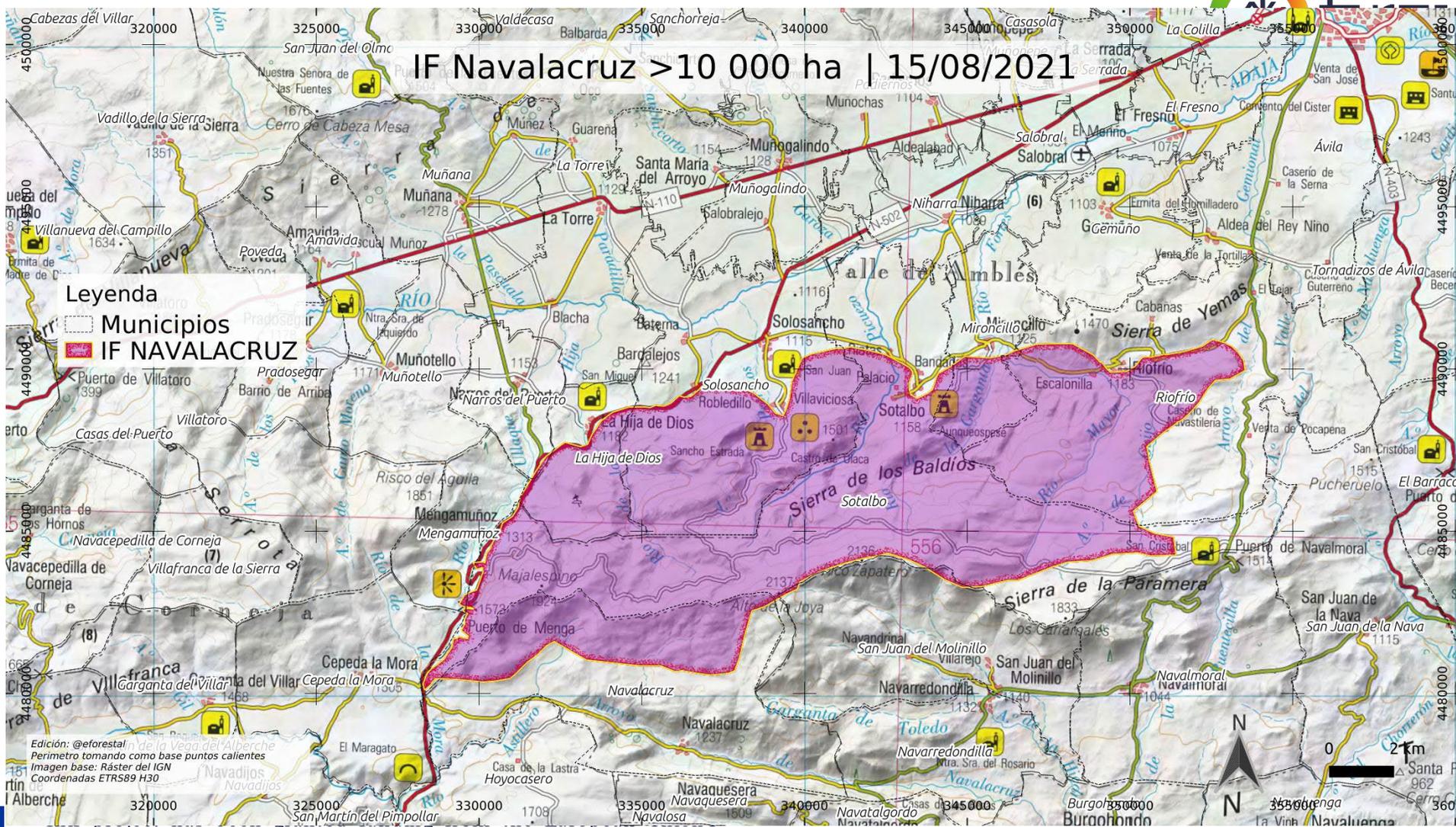
- Initiated by a car that started to burn on the road 08/14
- Delayed first response of helicopter
- In full Saharan intrusion, terrestrial winds
- Total burned 22,000 ha, duration 13 days



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IF Navalacruz 22 038 ha

Leyenda

IF NAVALACRUZ (22 038 ha)

SIOSE 2014

- Casco (1 ha)
- Ensanche (0,2 ha)
- Discontinuo (2 ha)
- Instalación agrícola y/o ganadera (1 ha)
- Industrial (1 ha)
- Red viaria o ferroviaria (16 ha)
- Infraestructura de suministro (3,5 ha)
- Cultivo herbáceo (49 ha)
- Combinación de cultivos con vegetación (276 ha)
- Bosque de frondosas (238 ha)
- Bosque de coníferas (880 ha)
- Bosque mixto (76 ha)
- Pastizal o herbazal (4615 ha)
- Matorral (8 409 ha)
- Combinación de vegetación (1298 ha)
- Roquedo (5401 ha)
- Temporalmente desarbolado por incendios (549 ha)
- Suelo desnudo (229 ha)

INICIO

Edición: @eforestal
Actualización por metro según Copernicus
Imagen base: Ráster-SIOSE/IGN
Coordenadas ETRS89 H30



0 2 km



Jubrique fire

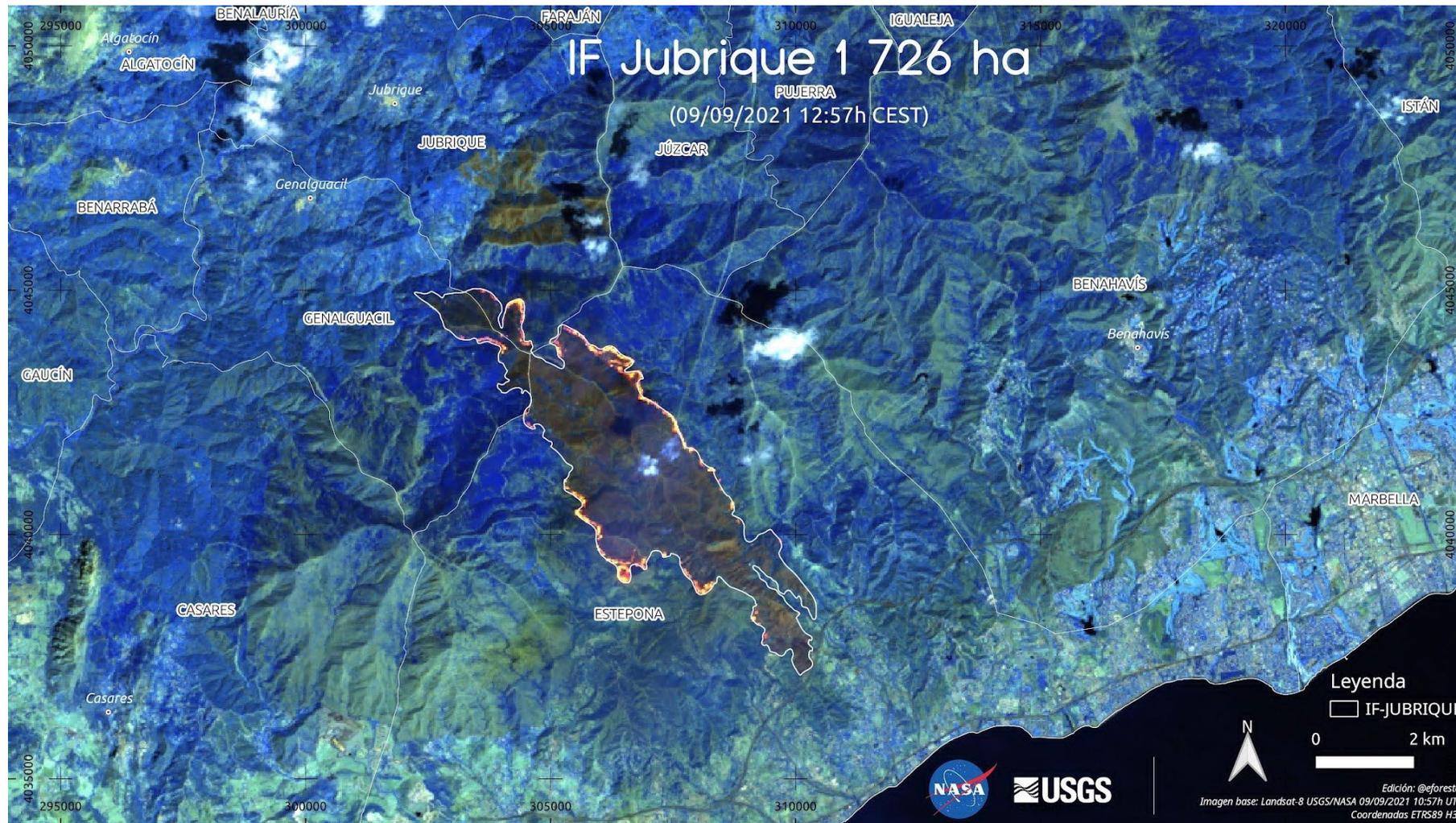


- It starts on 09/08, intentional.
- Drought 76 days without rain, terrestrial winds
- Strong, dry NW component wind
- Burns 9000 ha,
- One victim (firefighter)

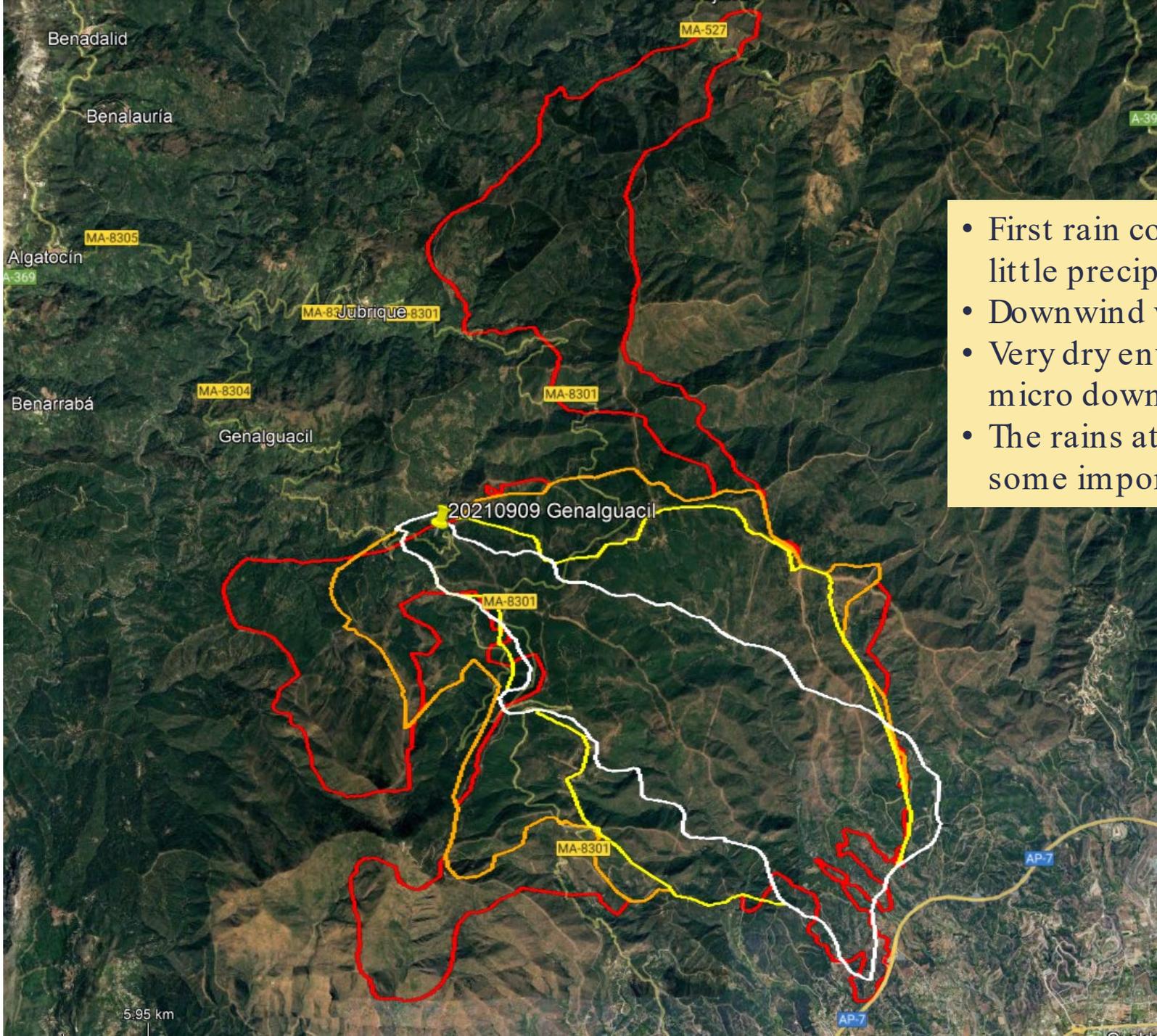


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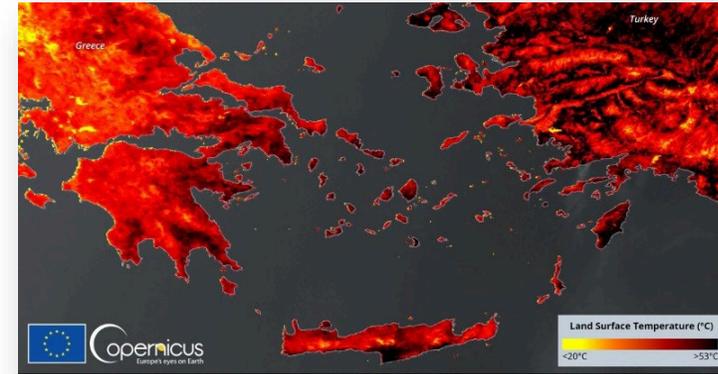
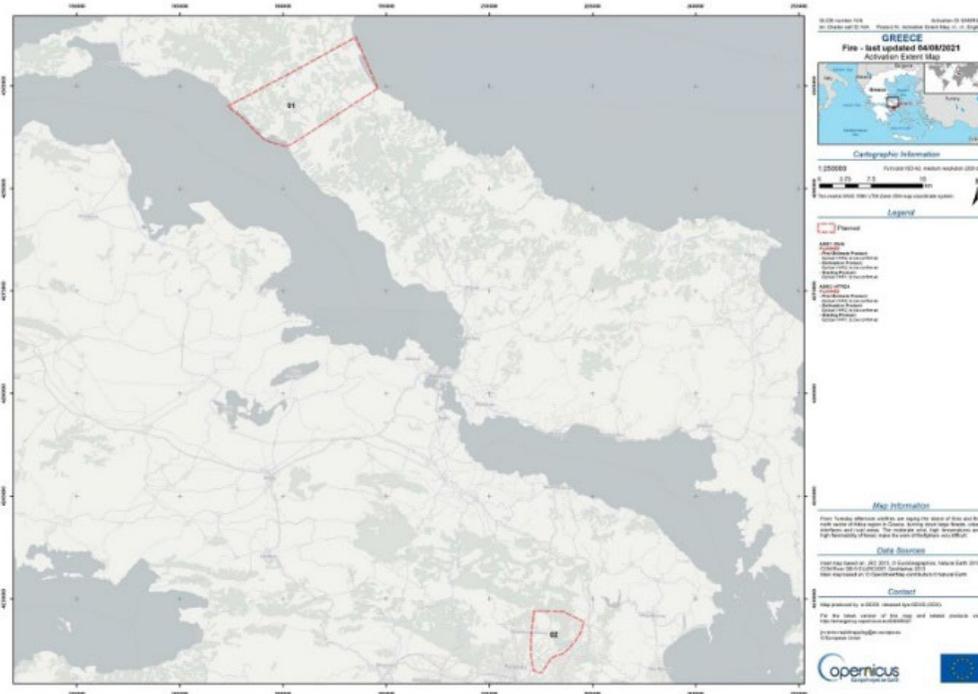


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- First rain cores approaching the fire area, with little precipitation
- Downwind winds leave dry lower layers
- Very dry environment , evaporation, potential micro downbursts
- The rains at dawn on the 14th generalized and of some importance

Greece



Attica and Evia

In 2021 wildfires from April till October burned 125,000 hectares, which is one of the worst records in the country. The fire season was quite similar to that of 2007, when 270.000 hectares burned and 84 people killed. This time the life loss were limited to three. Major fires occurred after a historic heatwave for the country with temperatures reaching up to 47.1 °C (worst since 1987).



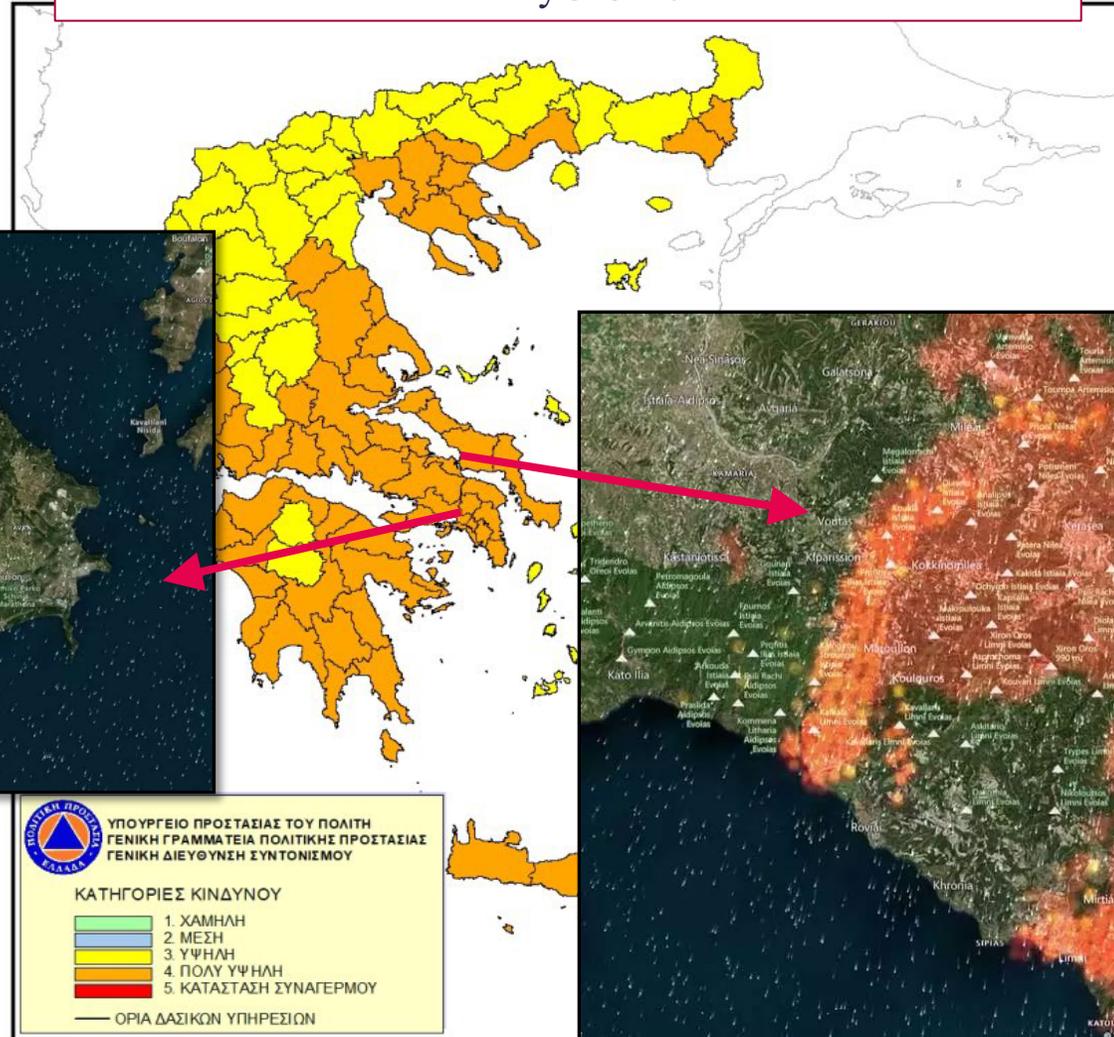
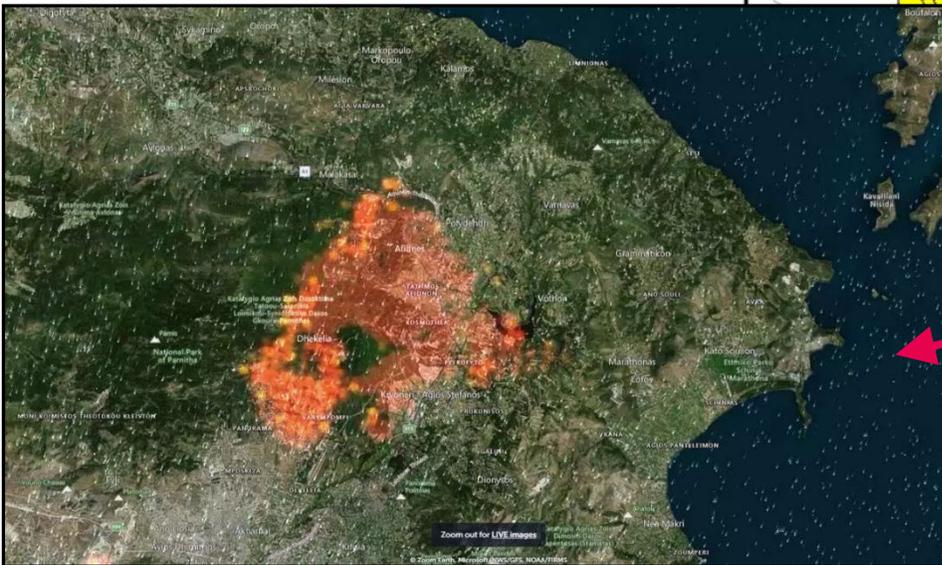
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National wildfire risk map (issued daily by GSCP)
 Tuesday 3/8/2021



3-7/8/2021

North Attica WUI fire



3-14/8/2021

North Evia island RUI fire




ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΟΛΙΤΗ
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΣΥΝΤΟΝΙΣΜΟΥ

ΚΑΤΗΓΟΡΙΕΣ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟΥ

	1. ΧΑΜΗΛΗ
	2. ΜΕΣΗ
	3. ΥΨΗΛΗ
	4. ΠΟΛΥ ΥΨΗΛΗ
	5. ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΣΥΝΑΓΕΡΜΟΥ

— ΟΡΙΑ ΔΑΣΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ



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Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:



Varybopi WUI fire, 3-7 August 2021



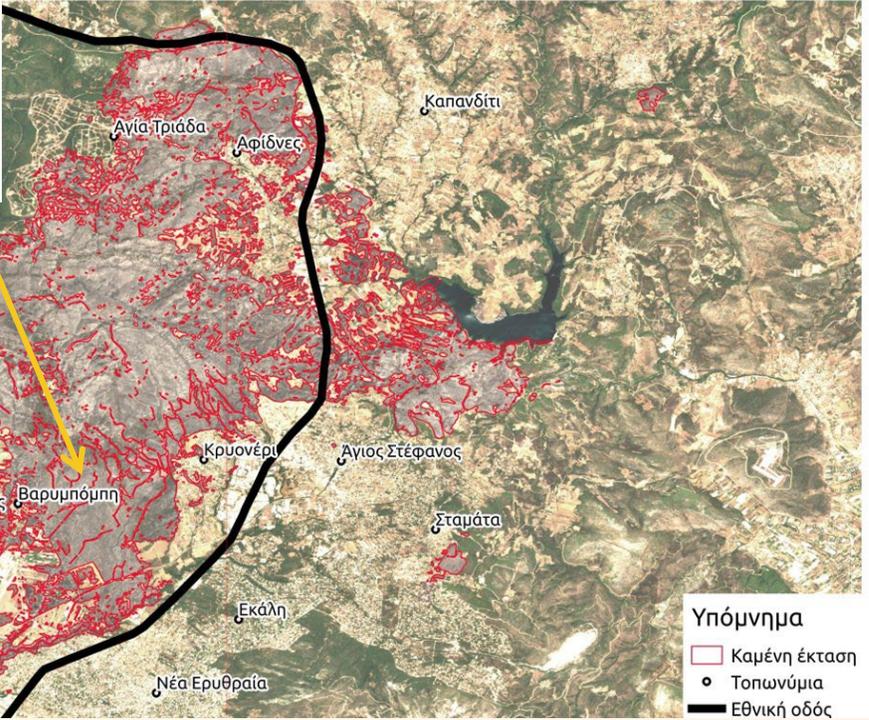
Miva
@clockwork_mina

Καίγομαστε λίγο στην Βαρυμπόμπη



2:23 pm · 3 Aug 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Burnt area: 8453.8 ha.



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- The fire propagated as an active crown fire, due to heavy forest fuel load, extensive presence of ladder fuels, dense and stressed vegetation and extremely low FMC (<8%)
- Propagation driven by fire-induced wind and embers
- Erratic behavior due to the long fire duration (residence time), in the very heavy fuel load ahead the fire and contribute to explosive and accelerated propagation



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North Evia Megafire, 3-17 August 2021

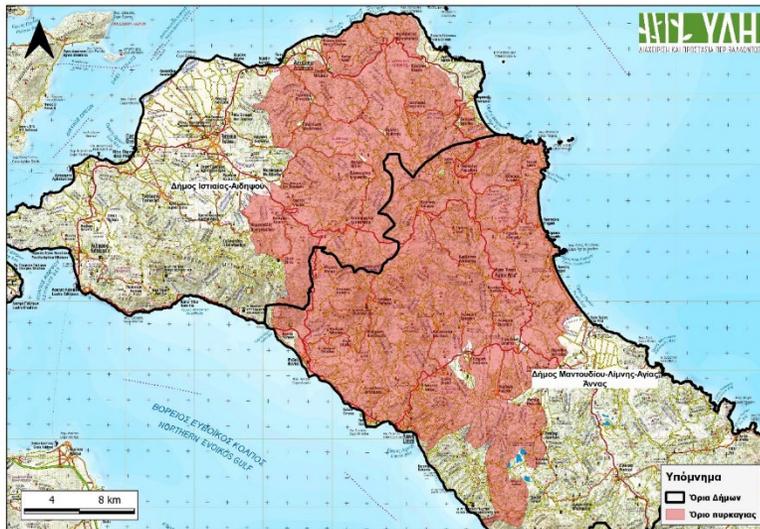


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North Euboea 03/08/2021 – 17/08/2021



- **Burned area:** 51244,93 ha
- **Two municipalities:** Istiaia-Aidipsos & Mantoudi-Limni-Agia Anna
- **Date and time of ignition:** 03/08/2021, 15:30
- **Date and time of suppression:** The fire was finally contained, suppressed and secured on the 17th of August.



in the European Union's programme under the Grant

- Lack of resources, on the first two days, due to the fire of Varybopi at the same time.
- Pressure on the evacuation of settlements.
- Refusal of the population and self-organization

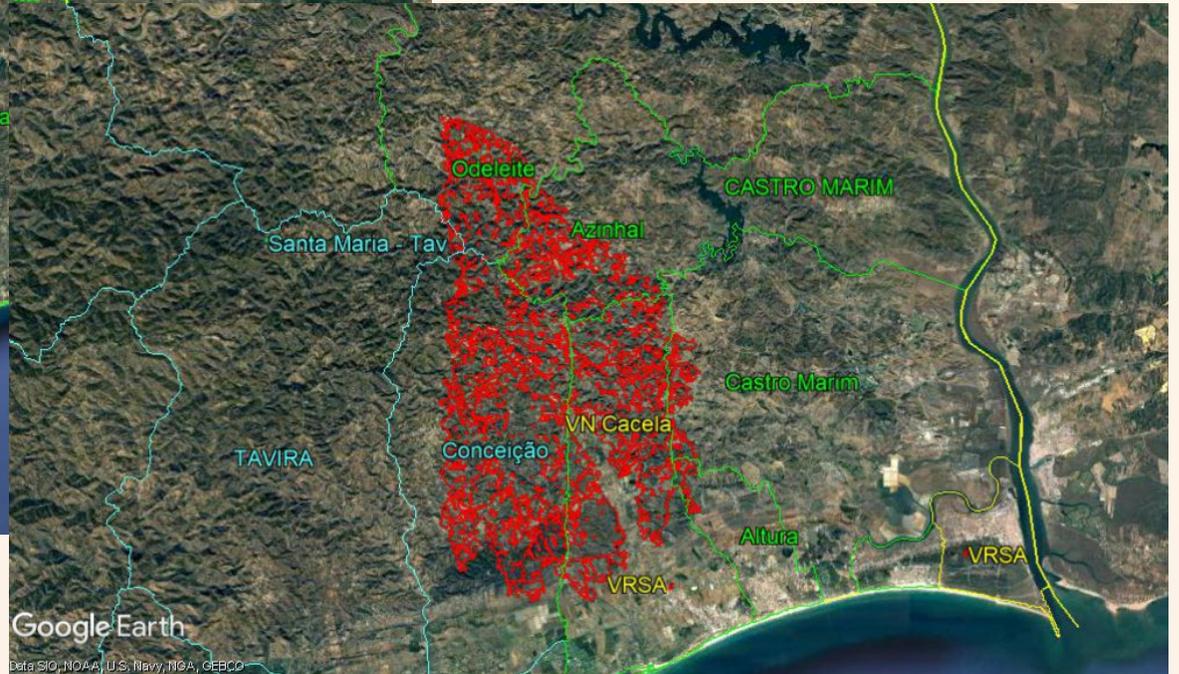
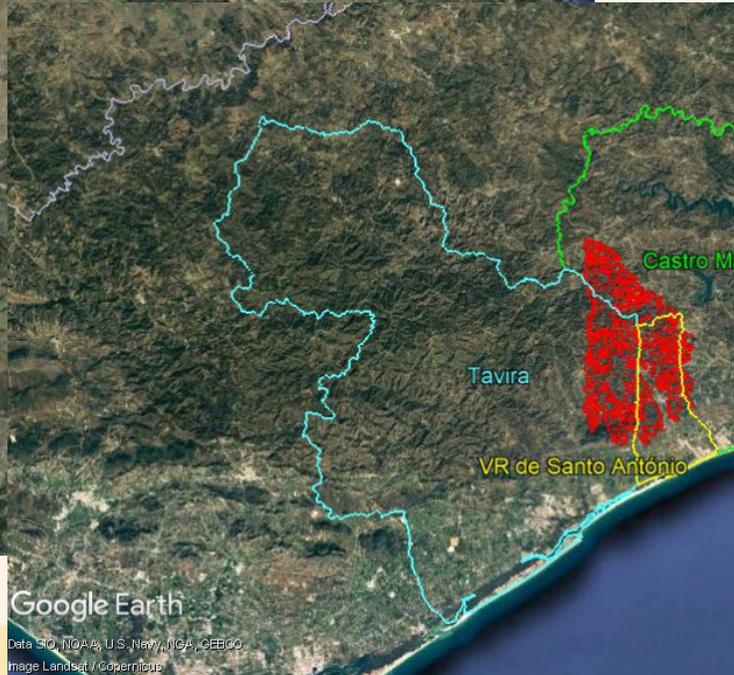


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Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

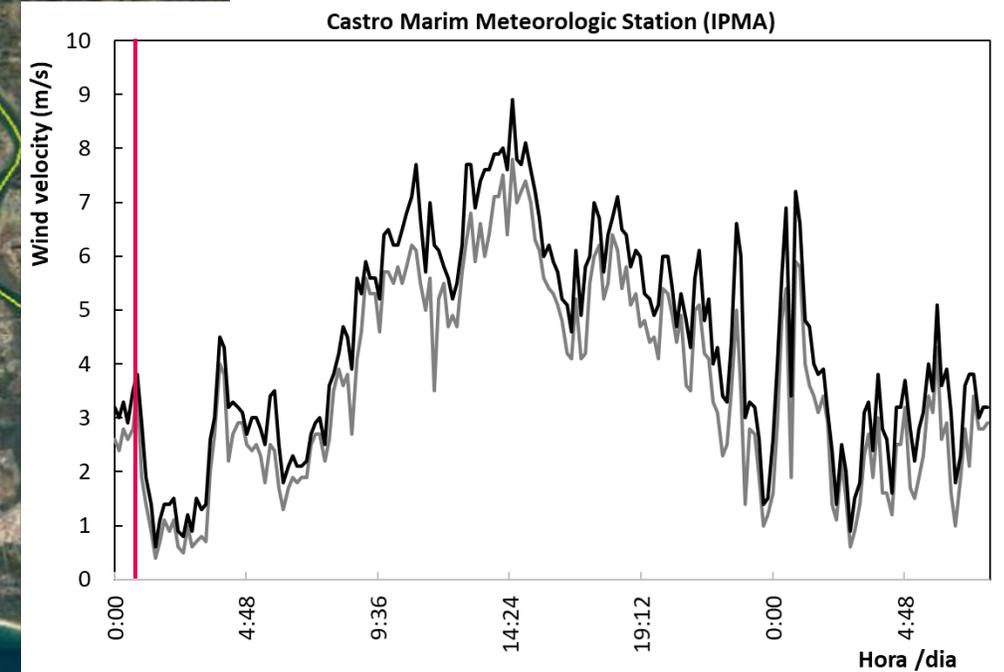
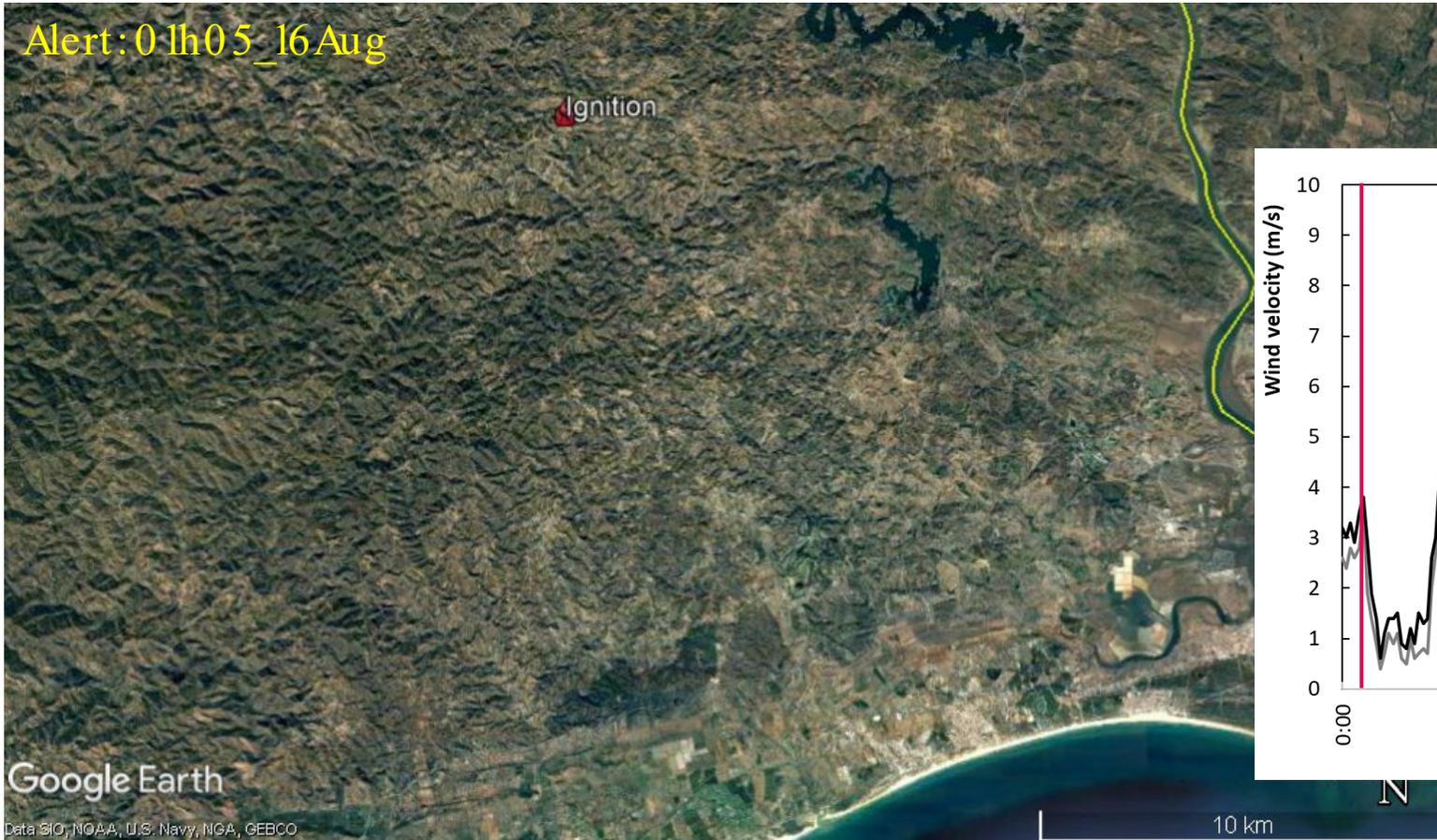
Fire of Pernadeira – Castro Marim: 16Ago2021

- 6,648 ha burned
 - 31% forest
 - 13% agricultural
 - 53% shrubland
 - 3% other
- 0 fatalities
- 10 houses in use damaged
- 105 people displaced



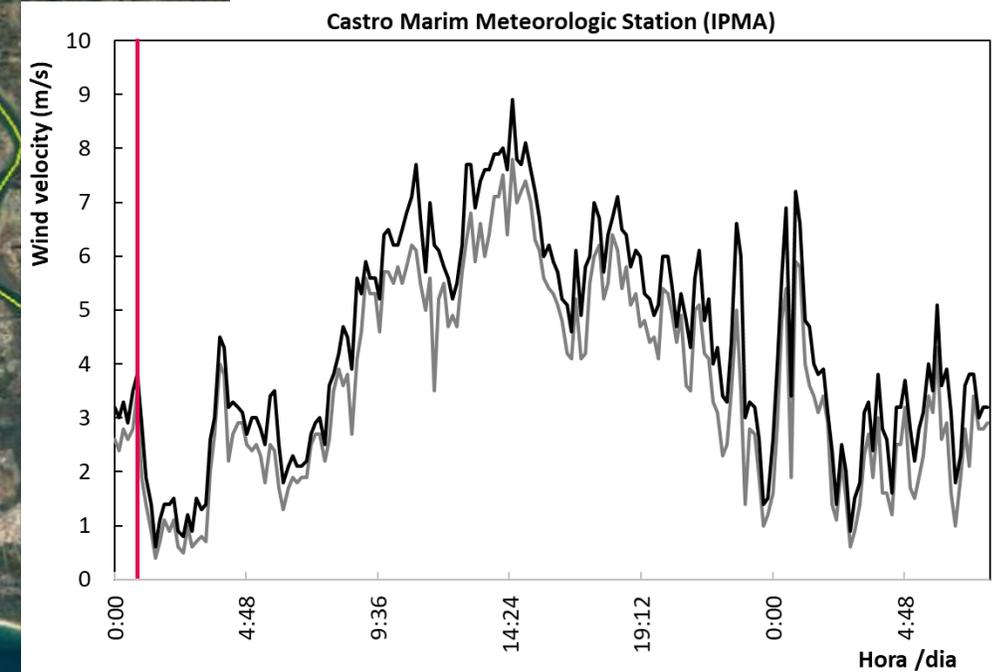
Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

Fire spread (based on ANEPC)



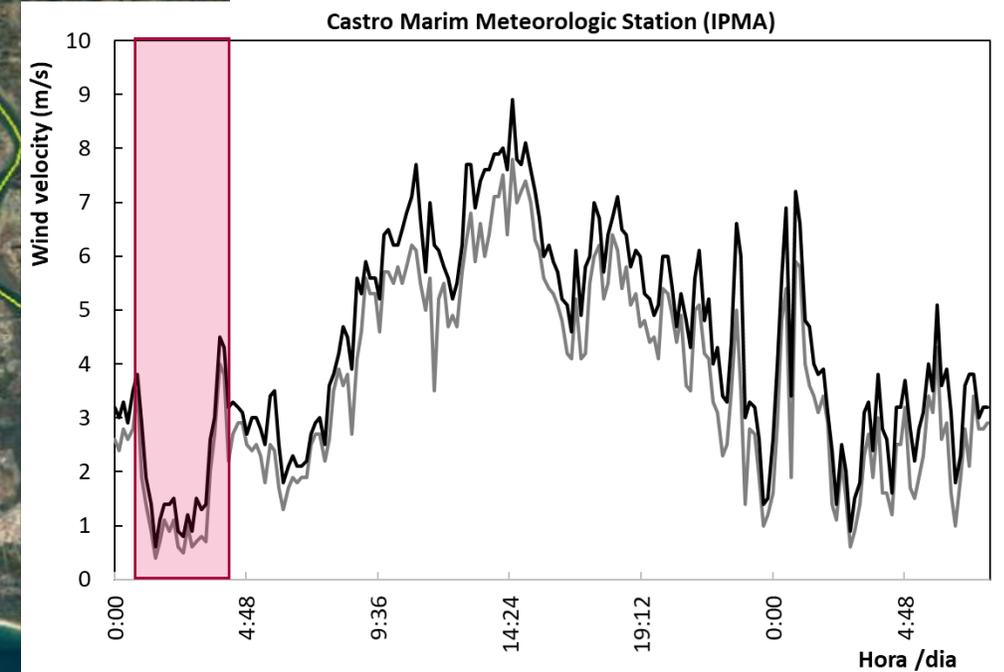
Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
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Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
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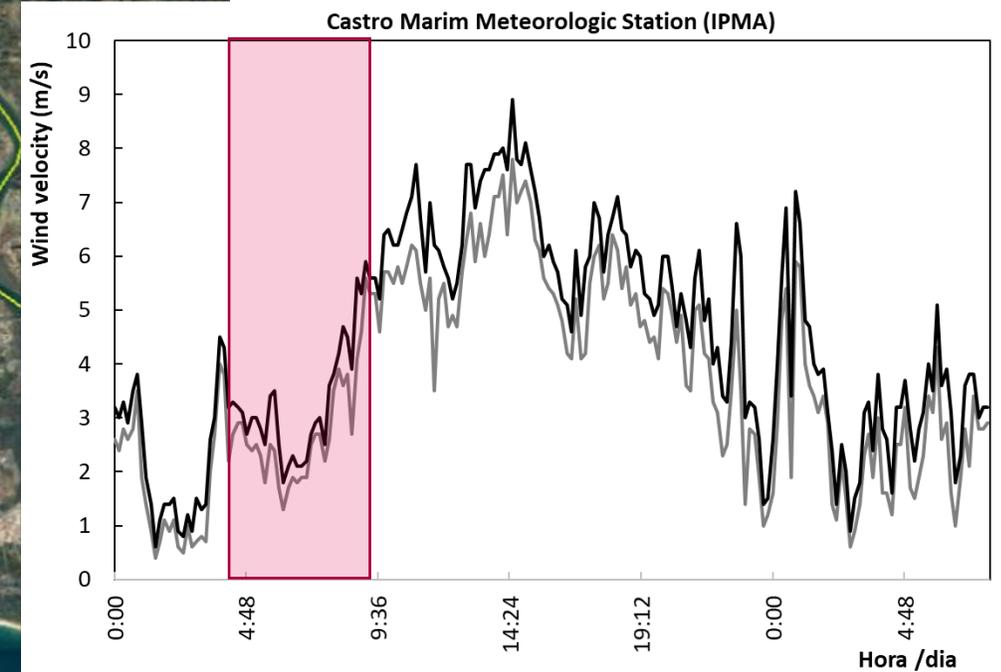
Fire spread (based on ANEPC)



Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
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Fire spread (based on ANEPC)

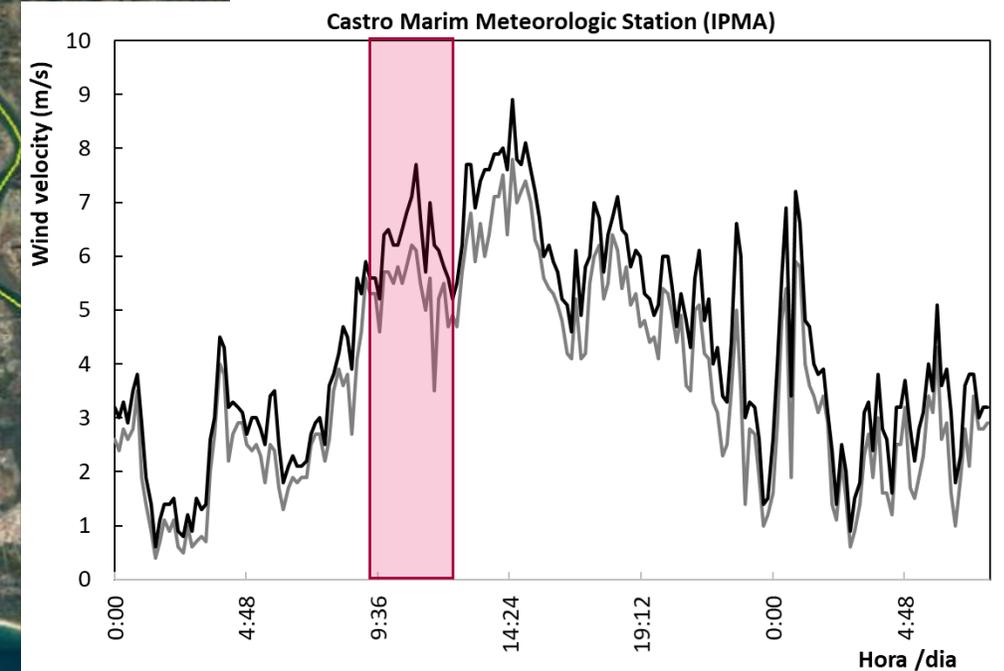
10h 10 : Fire stabilised



Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

Fire spread (based on ANEPC)

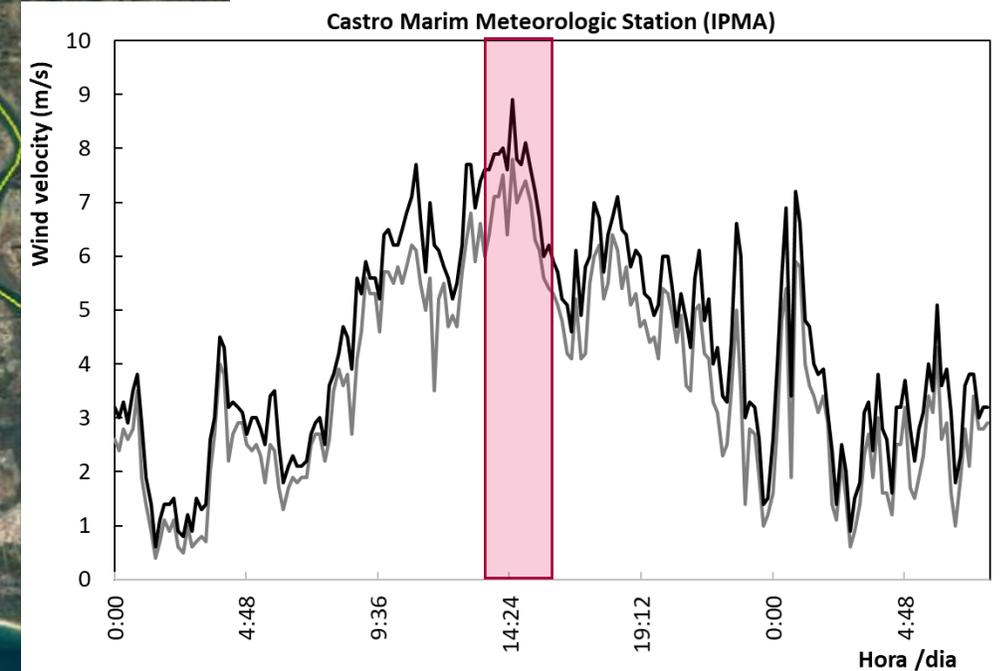
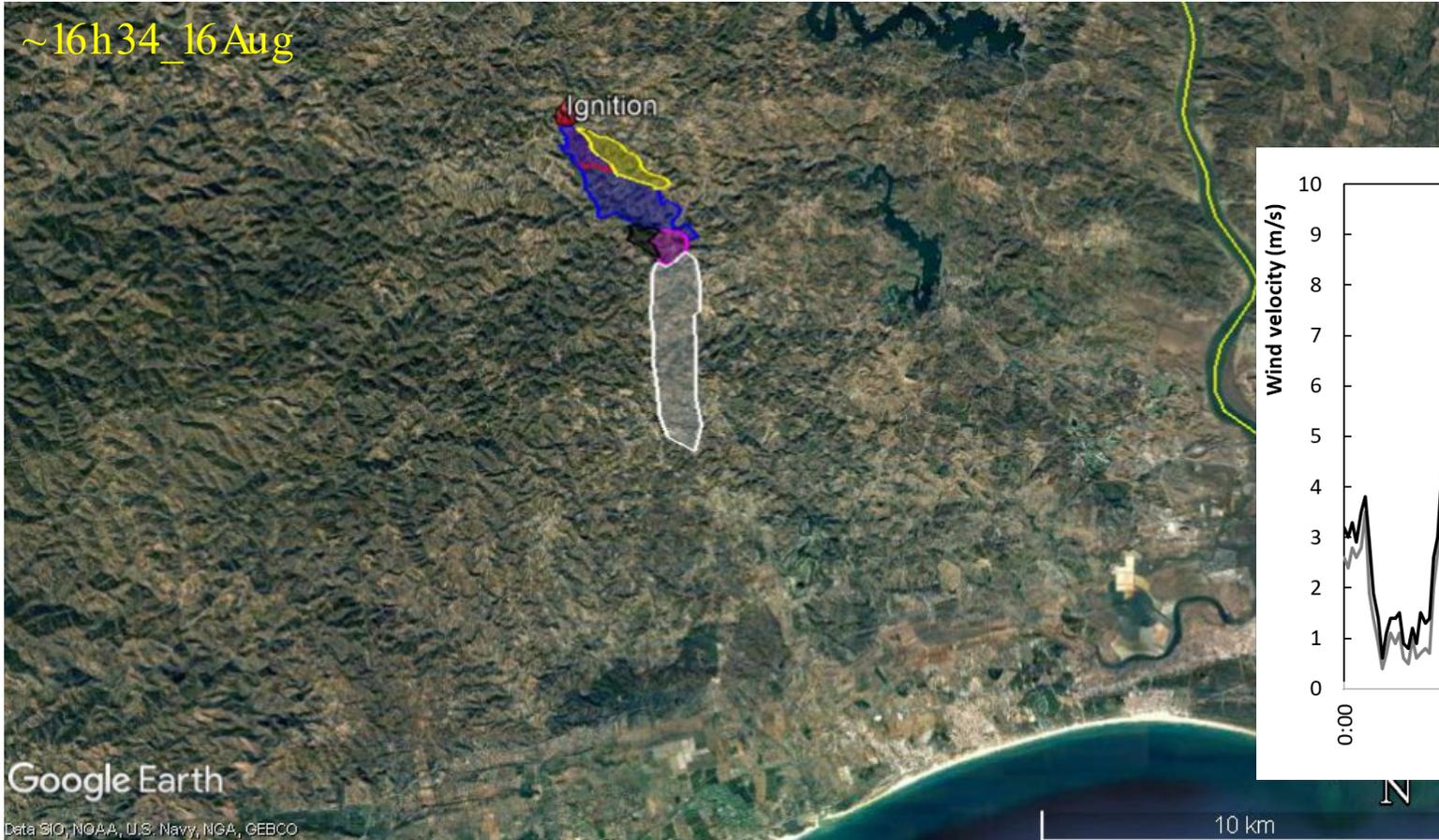
12h23: 6th reactivation



Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

Fire spread (based on ANEPC)

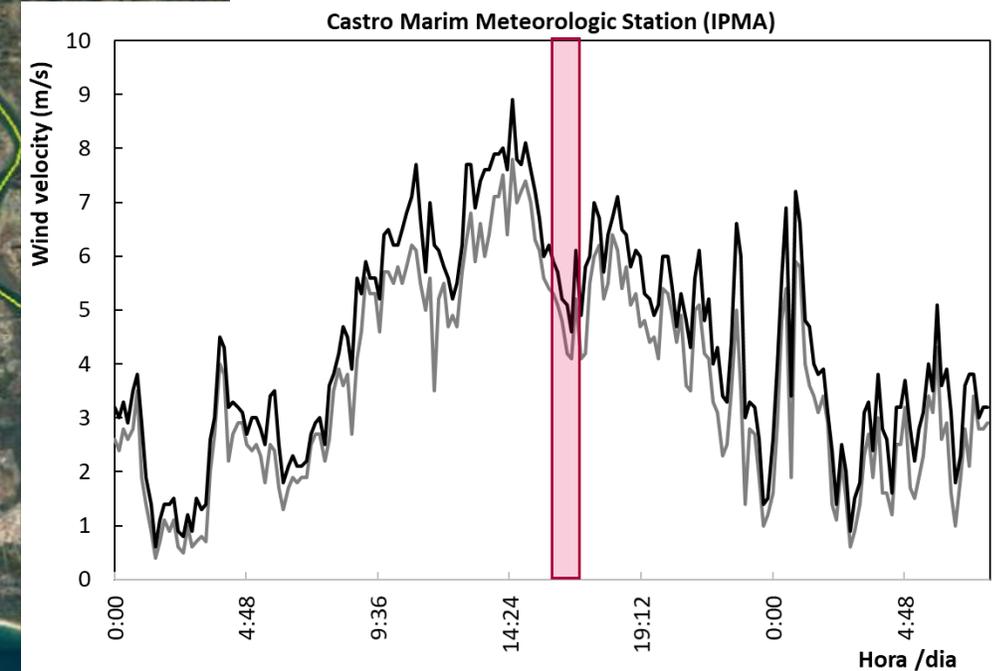
Public water and electricity supply fails in several locations



Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

Fire spread (based on ANEPC)

Fall the public water supply network
- difficulties in the supply of vehicles

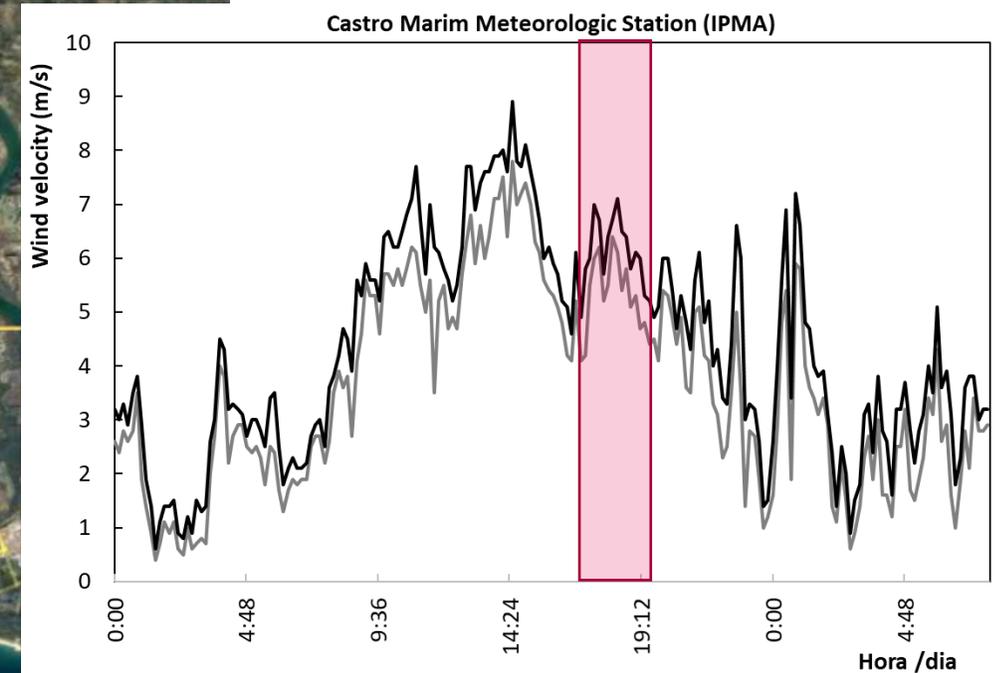
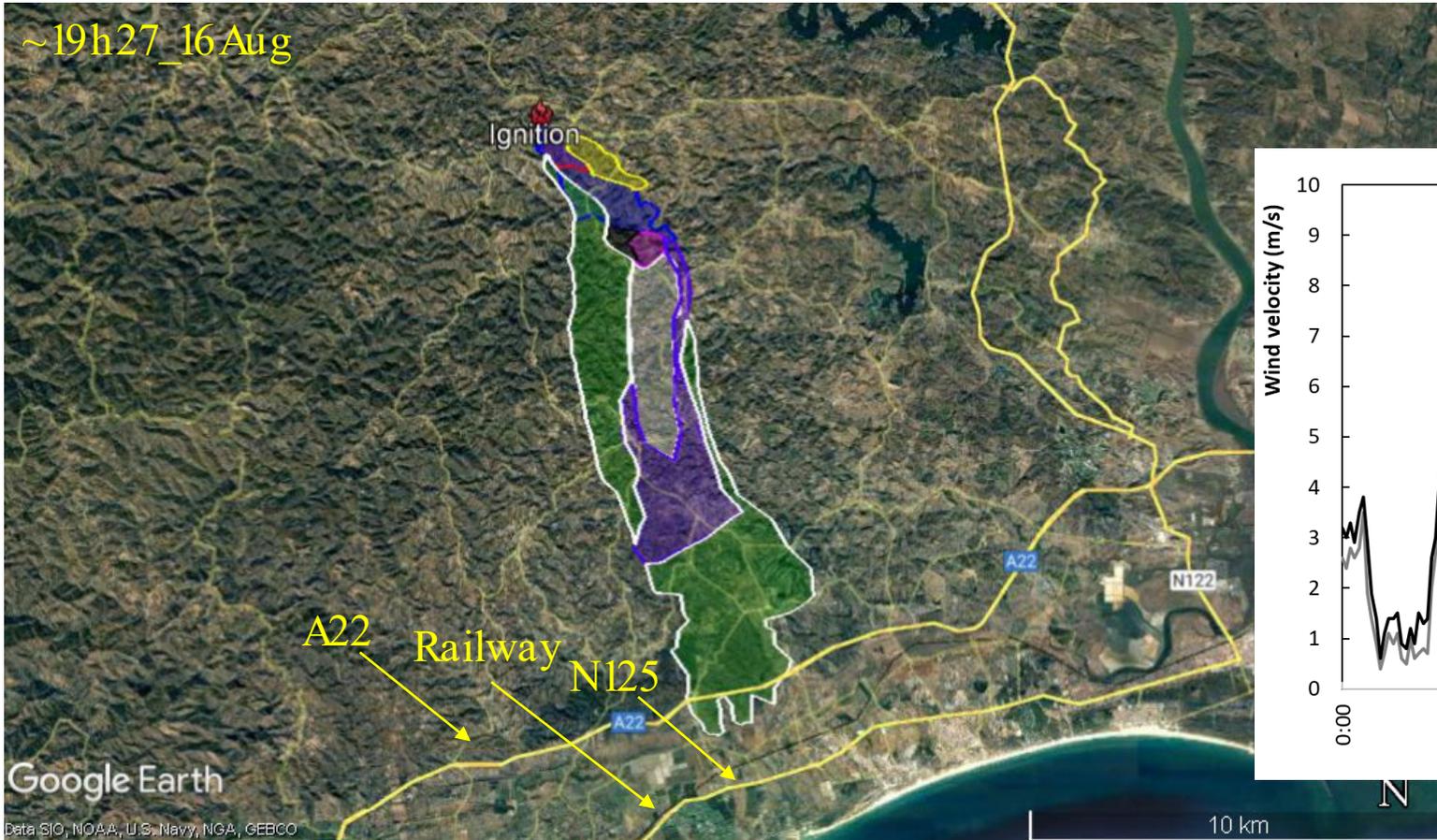


Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

Fire spread (based on ANEPC)

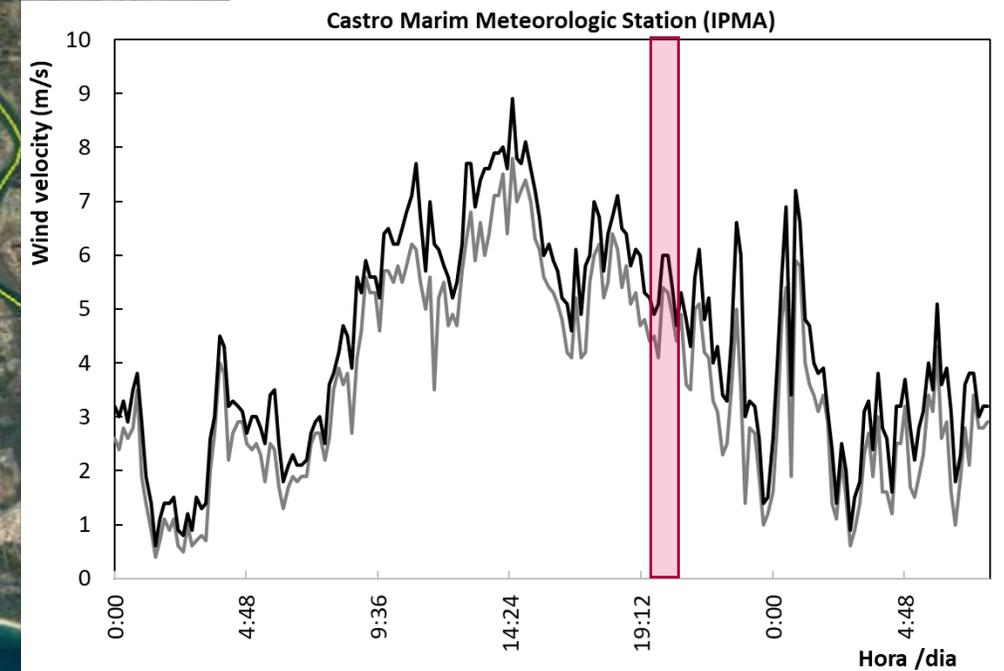
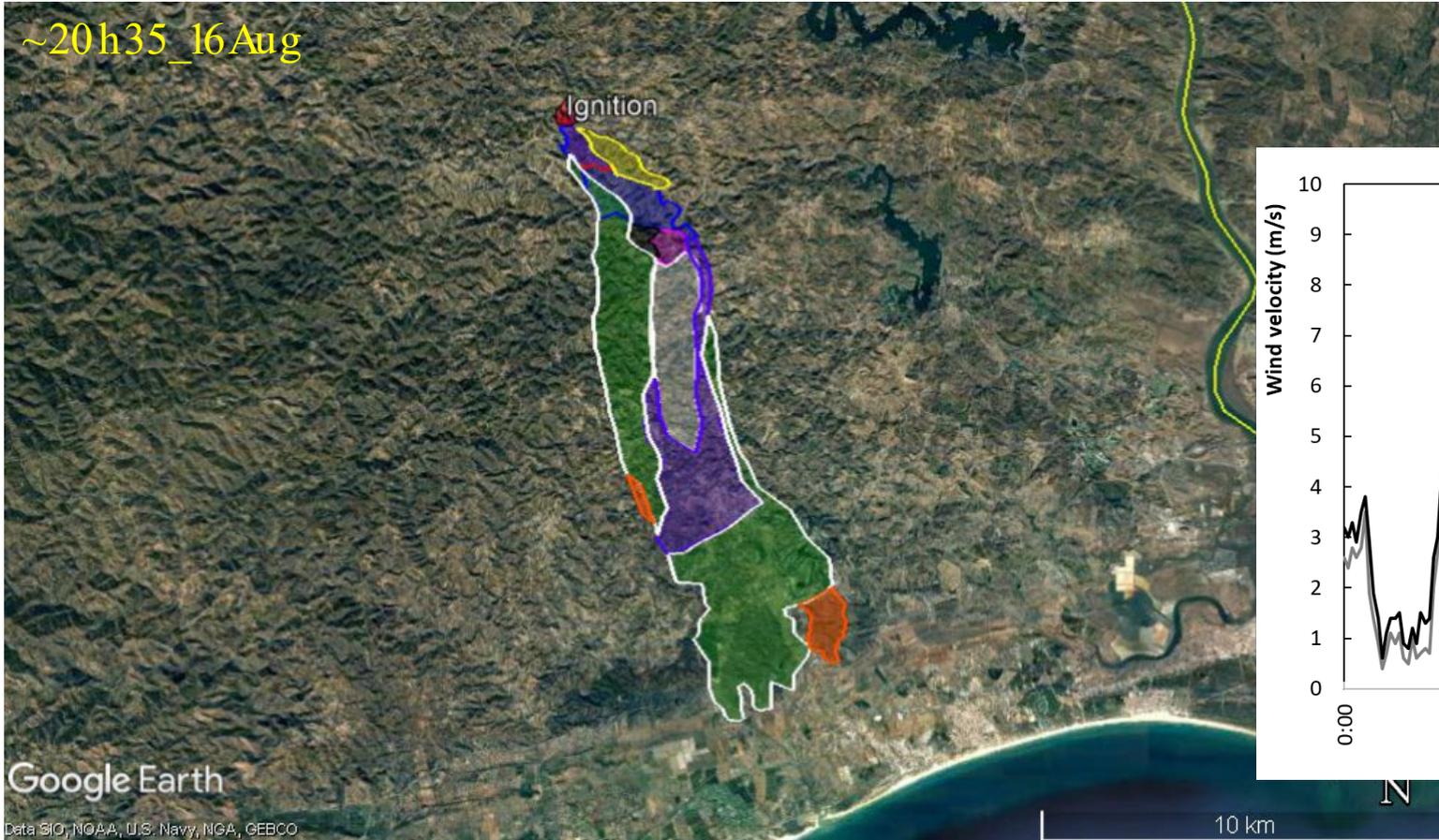
18h00

- A22 cut in advance
- Railway and EN125 under monitoring



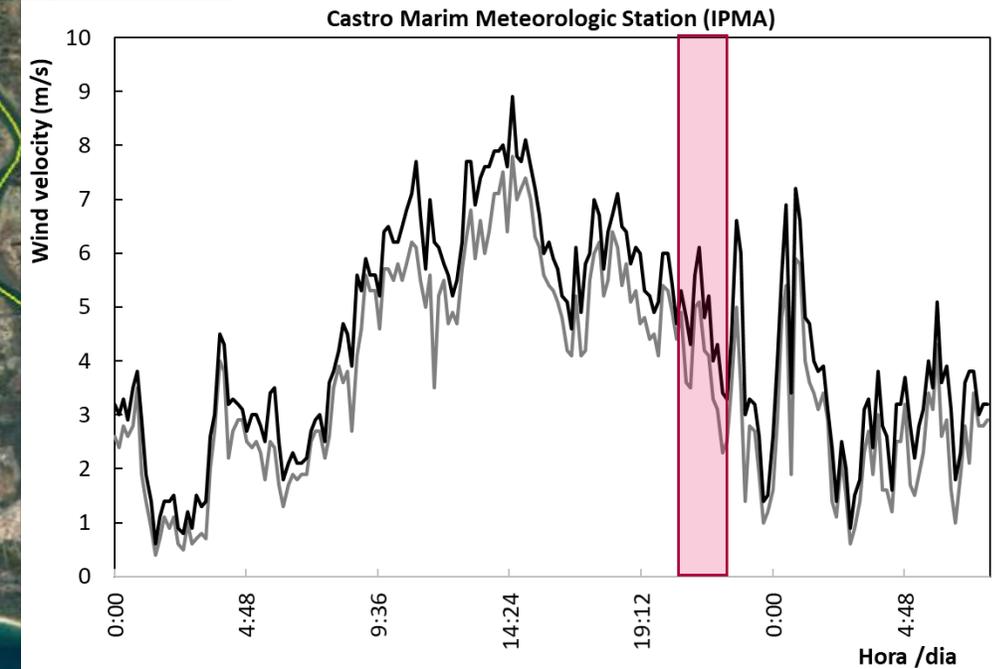
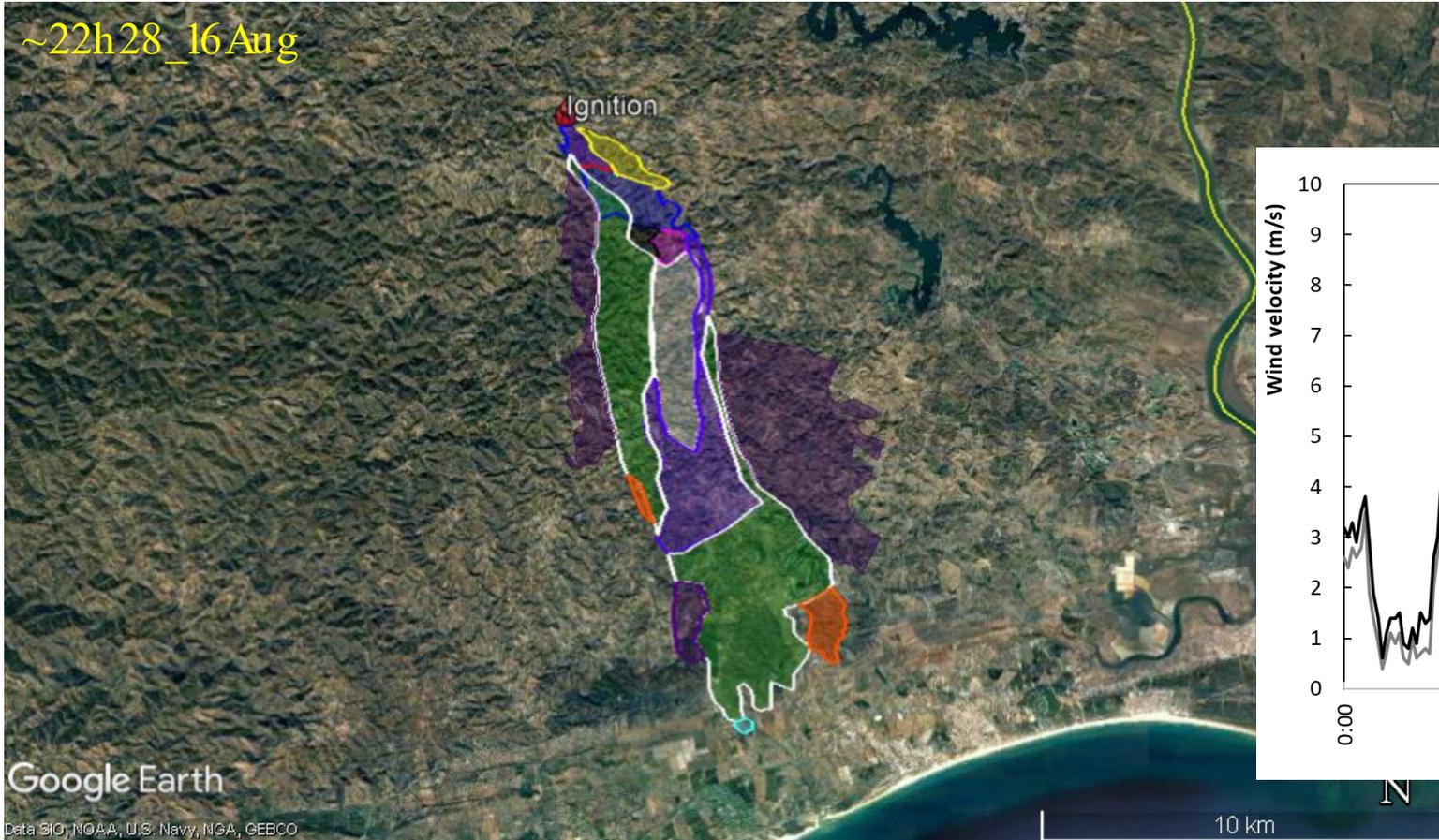
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Fire spread (based on ANEPC)



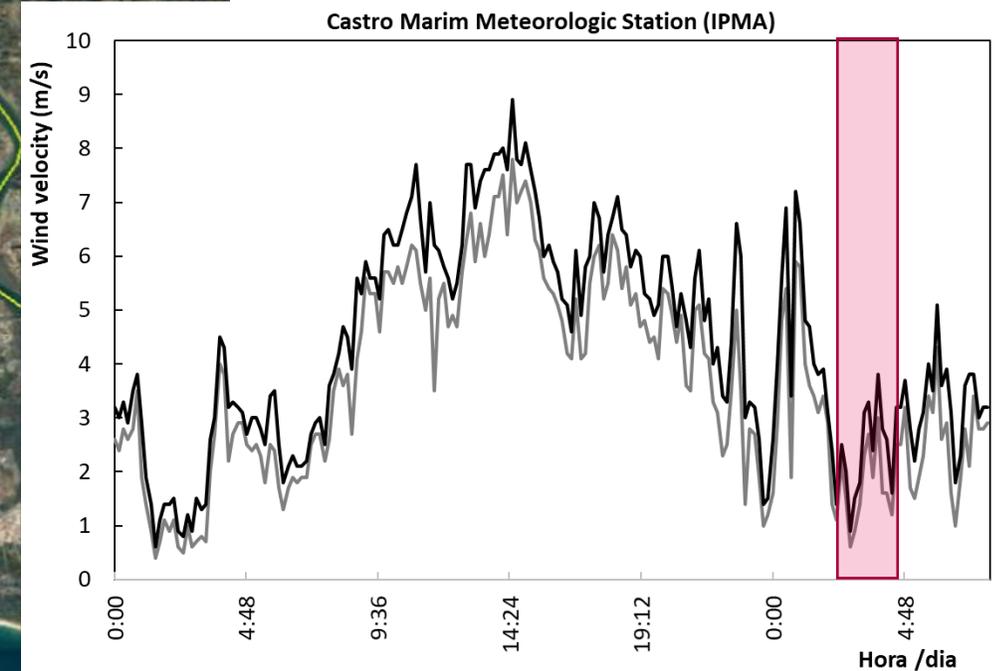
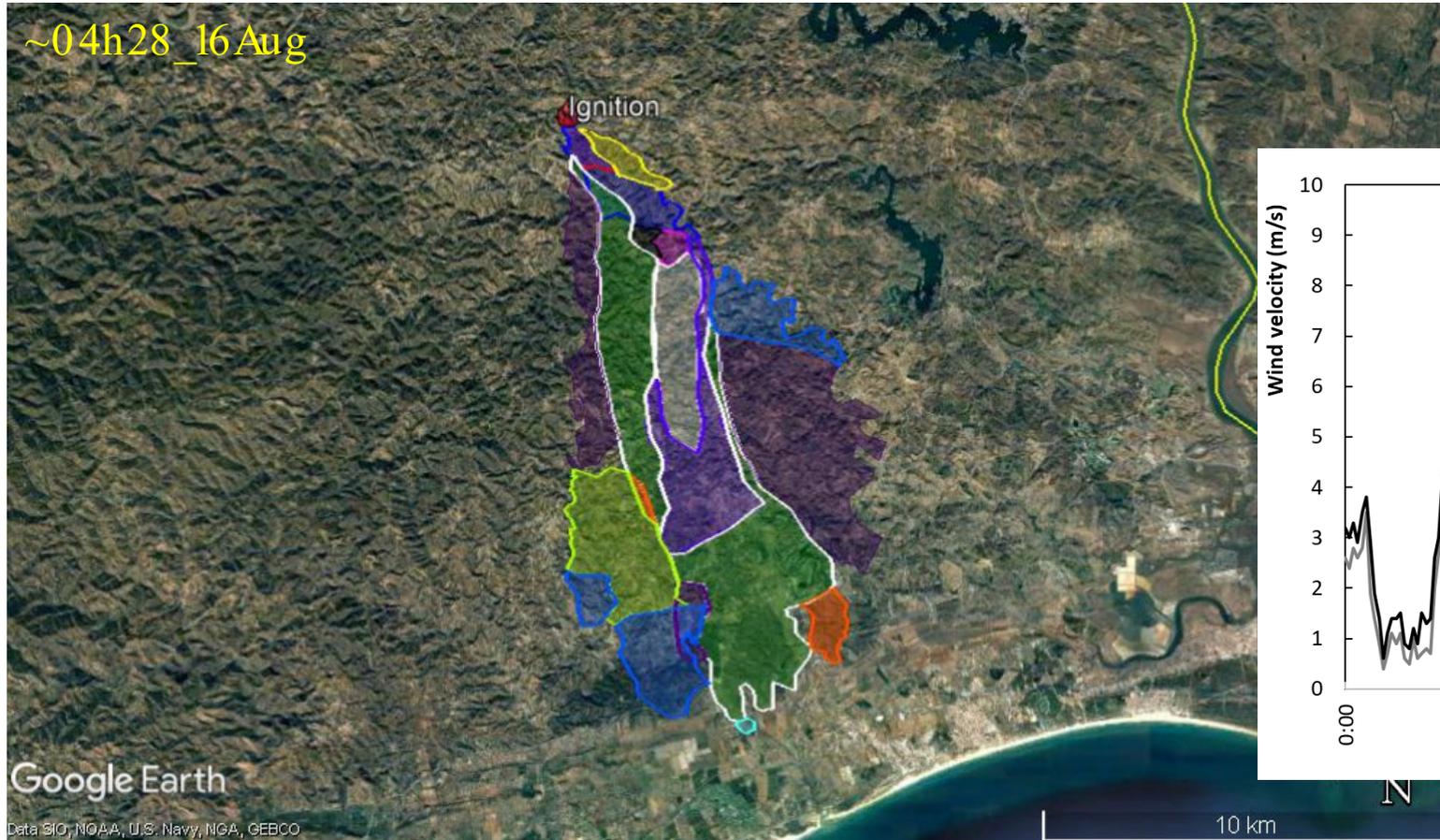
Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

Fire spread (based on ANEPC)



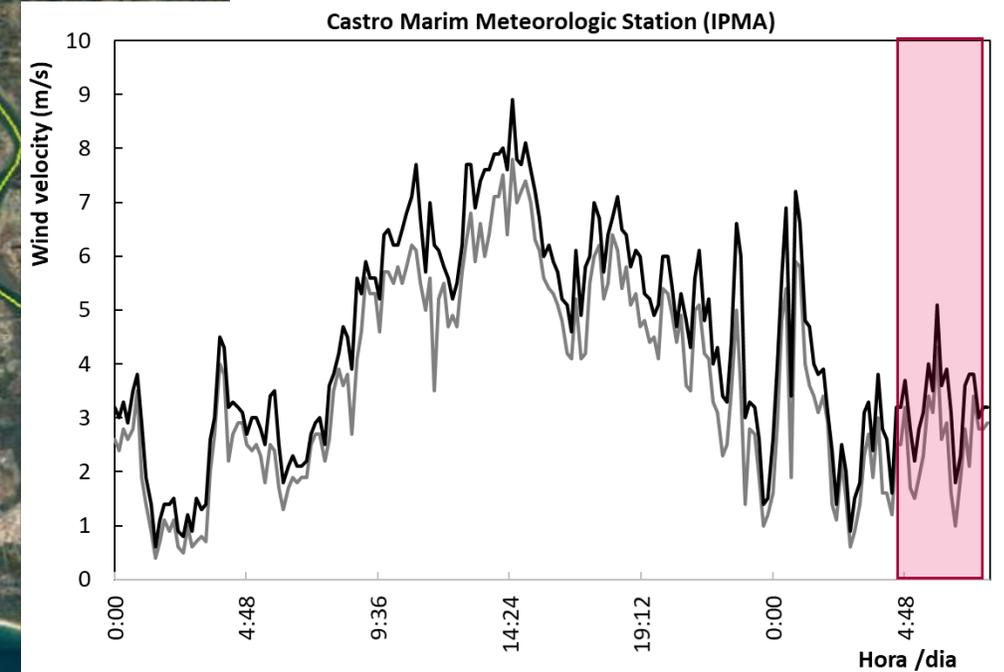
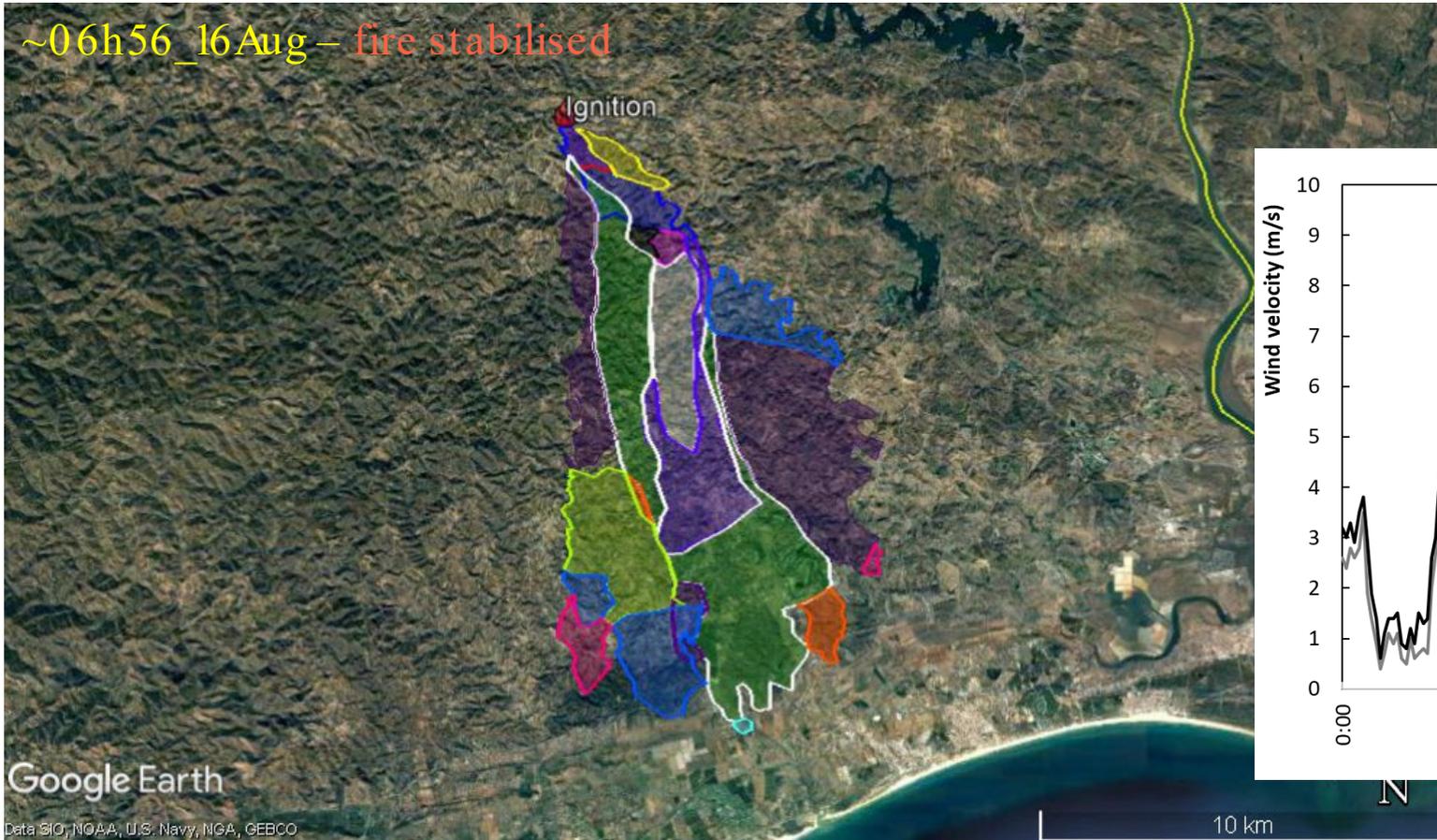
Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

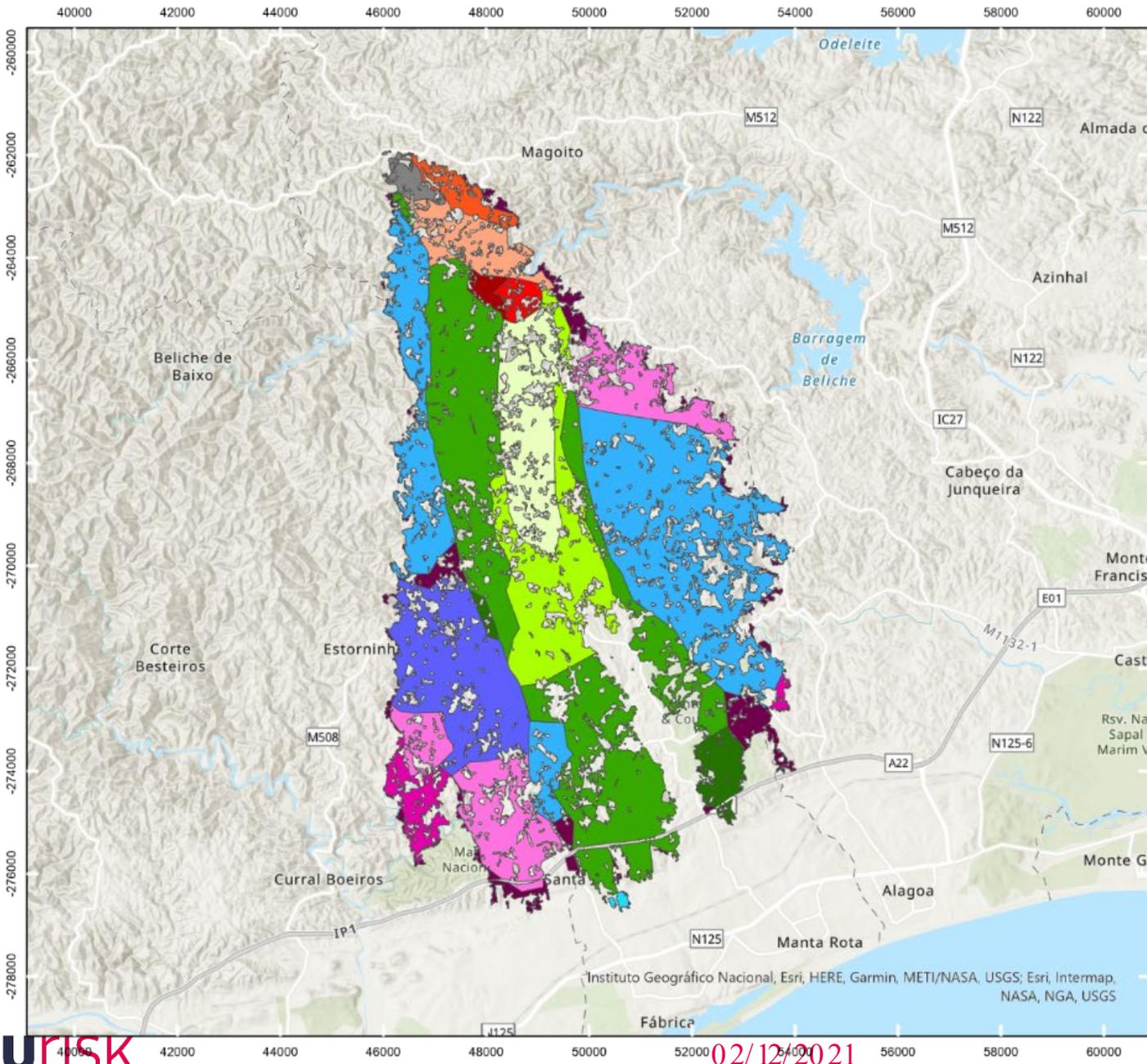
Fire spread (based on ANEPC)



Major fire events of 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin:
Lessons learned and new challenges

Fire spread (based on ANEPC)





Legend

Fire propagation 2021

TimeCode

- 20210816_01h07
- 20210816_04h30
- 20210816_09h30
- 20210816_12h20
- 20210816_13h22
- 20210816_16h34
- 20210816_17h28
- 20210816_19h27
- 20210816_20h35
- 20210816_22h04
- 20210816_22h28
- 20210817_02h36
- 20210817_04h28
- 20210817_06h56
- final

Meters

0 1 250 2 500

N

Castro Marim wildfire

Coordinate system:
ETRS 1989 Portugal TM06

Conclusion



- The FirEURisk project is working on the overall management of wildfire risk.
- Among its outcomes during the first year of activity we produced a proposal of a Fuel Map of Europe that intends to be a standard in fuel classification and fuel mapping for fire research and fire management activities in Europe.
- We delivered a study on some of the major fires that occurred in 2021 in the Mediterranean Basin.



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