



Framework for reporting identified practices

Partner: Epirus

	Section	Indication of Content
1	Title of the practice	Spatial Mitigation Instruments for forest fires in the Region of Epirus
2	Precise theme/ issue tackled by the practice	The spatial mitigation instruments for forest fires which are used in the Region of Epirus
3	Objectives of the practice	<p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot factors that make a forest vulnerable to fires Measures for the prevention of fires Instruments for extinguishing a fire Measures for recovery
4	Location	Greece Region of Epirus
5	Detailed description of the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotted factors that make a forest vulnerable to fires Morphology of the area (high mountains etc) Dry climate Number of people living near the forest and number of visitors Number of human activities taking place near or in the forest Type of vegetation. Forests with pine trees are thought extremely vulnerable Little forests around cities combine some of the above factors and that makes them vulnerable. The instruments proposed for the prevention of forest fires include the following Clean the forest from "dead organic material". This is proposed for little forests around cities. Creation of fire protection zones. These zones prevent forest fires from expanding Creation of observatories in the forest. In this way arsonists might be spotted. Moreover, fires are spotted before they expand The instruments proposed for helping the quick extinguishing of fires include the following Creation of water tanks in the forest Creation of little buildings in the forest, where equipment can be stored. In this way there is no need for transferring the equipment from distant places and action can be taken earlier.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Creation of forest-roads, offering the fire brigade vehicles better access to the forest. These roads can also be used as ways of evacuation.  Creation of net of pipes and water points in little forests around cities <p>Actions that help the recovery of a forest after a fire include the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Works that prevent the water from taking the soil down from the burnt mountain sides. These works must be done before the first winter after the fire.  Reforestation of the burnt area. Planting species of trees that didn't exist before the fire in the area can reduce the danger of fires in the future. <p>Bodies involved in the implementation of the instruments mentioned above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Region of Epirus  Ex-Prefectures  Forestry inspection
6	Evaluation	<p>Ways/indicators of evaluating the produced results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Fraction of burnt area during a period to burnt area during the same period of the year, after the measures have been taken. That fraction gives an overall view of the problem year by year  Number of incidents (fires). That number, if it is compared with the number of incidents during previous years, shows how much is increasing or decreasing the probability for a fire to occur in an area.  Average area burnt per incident. The decreasing of that number show effectiveness in the way of distinguishing forest fires. <p>Difficulties encountered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Lack of funding  Luck of human resources  The morphology of the ground in Epirus (high mountains, canyons)  Making the people aware of the fact that their activities could result to forest fires.
7	Lessons learnt from the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  The funds are always limited but we should make the best use of it.  It is vital to keep the fire protection zones and the forest roads in good condition. The necessary actions should be taken very early in spring.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Cleaning the forests around cities from “dead organic material” decreases the danger of fires  Changing the type of trees in forest is an action which might have positive effects in the prevention of fires, but should be done after an environmental study.  All the instruments mentioned above (water tanks, system of pipes) can be really useful only if there is a well organized fire brigade.  The awareness of people about the dangers caused by human activities near/in the forest is important, since many fires are caused due to human negligence.  It is important to involve local societies in the procedure of preventing/extinguishing fires and in the procedure of the recovery of an area after a fire.
8	Contact information	<p>Batzias Nikolaos Region of Epirus Regional Unit of Thesprotia</p> <p>e-mail: nimpatzi@thesprotia.gr Tel: +30 26650 99 912</p>
9	Other possible interesting information	<p>More information about forest fires in Greece and spatial mitigation instrument against them can be found in the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  http://www.gscp.gr/ggpp/site/home/ws/promote/fisikes/pirkagies.csp the official site of the General Secretariat for Civil Protection (in Greek)  http://epirus.dasi-ydata.gr/4portal/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1 site for the forestry inspections in the Region of Epirus. Data about the existing infrastructure against forest fires in the Region of Epirus can be found here (in Greek).  Paper from the General Secretariat for Civil Protection about the prevention of forest fires and the preparedness of authorities for dangers caused by forest fires (Athens 29-03-2011 prot. No 2046). The paper is in Greek