



Investigating the value of fire indices for decision making on seasonal timescales

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As part of the FP7 EUPORIAS project we are considering the use of fire indices to provide climate information to relevant decision makers on seasonal timescales. This work is composed of several elements. Firstly we seek to better understand the information needs on this timescale from land and fire management communities, focusing on the Mediterranean region, but also learning from experience in other countries. From this we define a clear decision-making need.

We then investigate the skill of two fire indices, the MacArthur Forest Fire Danger Index and the Fire Weather Index, in representing fire danger, and the skill of seasonal forecasts at forecasting the relevant climate variables at relevant lead times. We use this to evaluate the value of such index forecasts in the decision-making situation identified.

This work is part of a wider effort in the EUPORIAS project which is considering the use of climate impact indices in the place of either direct seasonal forecasts or more complex impacts models.