



Wildfire risk, observation and early warning in Cyprus

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We address the problem of provision of accurate and timely observations and forecasts of wildfire and drought risk through a holistic approach. The interaction between the two hazards, coupled with the estimation of vulnerability for periods ranging from the present to the distant future, can provide a comprehensive prevention and mitigation framework. In this context, we present a drought and fire observatory early warning system encompassing an integrated set of services to support prediction and promote prevention of drought and wildland fires. Our overall objective is to deliver an innovative, integrated observatory platform, acting as an early warning system, that will serve as a key tool for protecting the environment, thus allowing and promoting sustainable development in the region. Employing state-of-the-art approaches, as part of the trans-national DISARM project, we aim to contribute to the prediction of drought and wildland fire risk in Cyprus, as well as to the assessment of the fire danger under a changing climate. A rapid-response system for the short-term prediction of wildland fire behavior is under development, while an observatory for near real-time monitoring of wildland fire activity is established. The fire weather prediction is based on the use of high resolution meteorological forecasts, forest-fire spread models, satellite data for the detection of fires and the estimation of biomass, surface observations and monthly forecasting systems. Moreover, we aim at increasing the public awareness with respect to drought and wildland fires.