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# Addressing stakeholder needs in the Mediterranean climate services: the wildfires case studies

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One of the case studies in EU funded project CLIMRUN aims at the provision of climate services for the forest fires sector in the Mediterranean. An iterative and bottom-up (i.e. stakeholder led) approach for optimizing the two-way information transfer between climate experts and stakeholders has been adopted from the start of the project in March 2011 with a workshop in Athens helping to define the framework for the forest fires case study.
In the forest fires, stakeholders can be broadly split into two main categories: those engaging in long term planning, forest fire research and education and those engaging in day-to-day fire fighting activities.
Extensive discussions during and after the workshop between the climate experts and the first stakeholder category provided fire data, necessary for the evaluation of the meteorological fire danger index. More specifically it was evaluated whether fire danger index is a skillful predictor of actual fire risk as judged by fire occurrence and area burnt data provided by the stakeholders. Additionally, critical thresholds of the fire danger index were established for various vulnerable regions.
As part of the workshop, a perception and data needs questionnaire was filled by the stakeholders mainly to solicit information about their climate services needs. The questionnaire results processing as well additional personal communication with them facilitated the identification of 2 ways to address their needs in CLIMRUN:
1) To link the fire danger index with meteorological forecasts already provided by the National Observatory of Athens operationally on a daily basis for the Greek territory (www.noa.gr/forecast). This will adequately address the needs of fire fighting stakeholders requiring forecasts of fire risk on an operational basis.
2) To update the public website of the Greek WWF on climate and forest fires (www.oikoskopio.gr) with near-future (2021-2050) fire risk projections using output from available regional climate models. This will adequately address the needs of long term policy makers and education stakeholders requiring information on the impacts of climate change on forest fire risk.