Wildfire Prevention Action Plan Led By Local Communities in Lebanon

Inspired By FIREWISE COMMUNITIES USA

IV MFW - Barcelona

Side event :

Engaging Mediterranean communities in Wildfire risk mitigation

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LEBANON REFORESTATION INITIATIVE

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION: Who We Are?

The Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI), is a program launched in 2011 by the United States Forest Services (USFS), Office of International Programs (IP) through the support and funding of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Wildfires and diseases, coupled with climate change, pose serious potential threats to Lebanon's forests

LRI is conceived as a partnership with Lebanese grassroots organizations and local communities to promote reforestation and prevent wildfires that threaten Lebanon's forests.

VISION & MISSION

VISION

The Lebanon Reforestation Initiative provides a successful participatory framework for long-term technical and financial assistance to expand and protect Lebanon's forests for a sustainable future.

MISSION

The Lebanon Reforestation Initiative aims to restore Lebanon's native forests and to instill commitment to reforestation and wildfire prevention and response, through capacity building of local communities and organizations.

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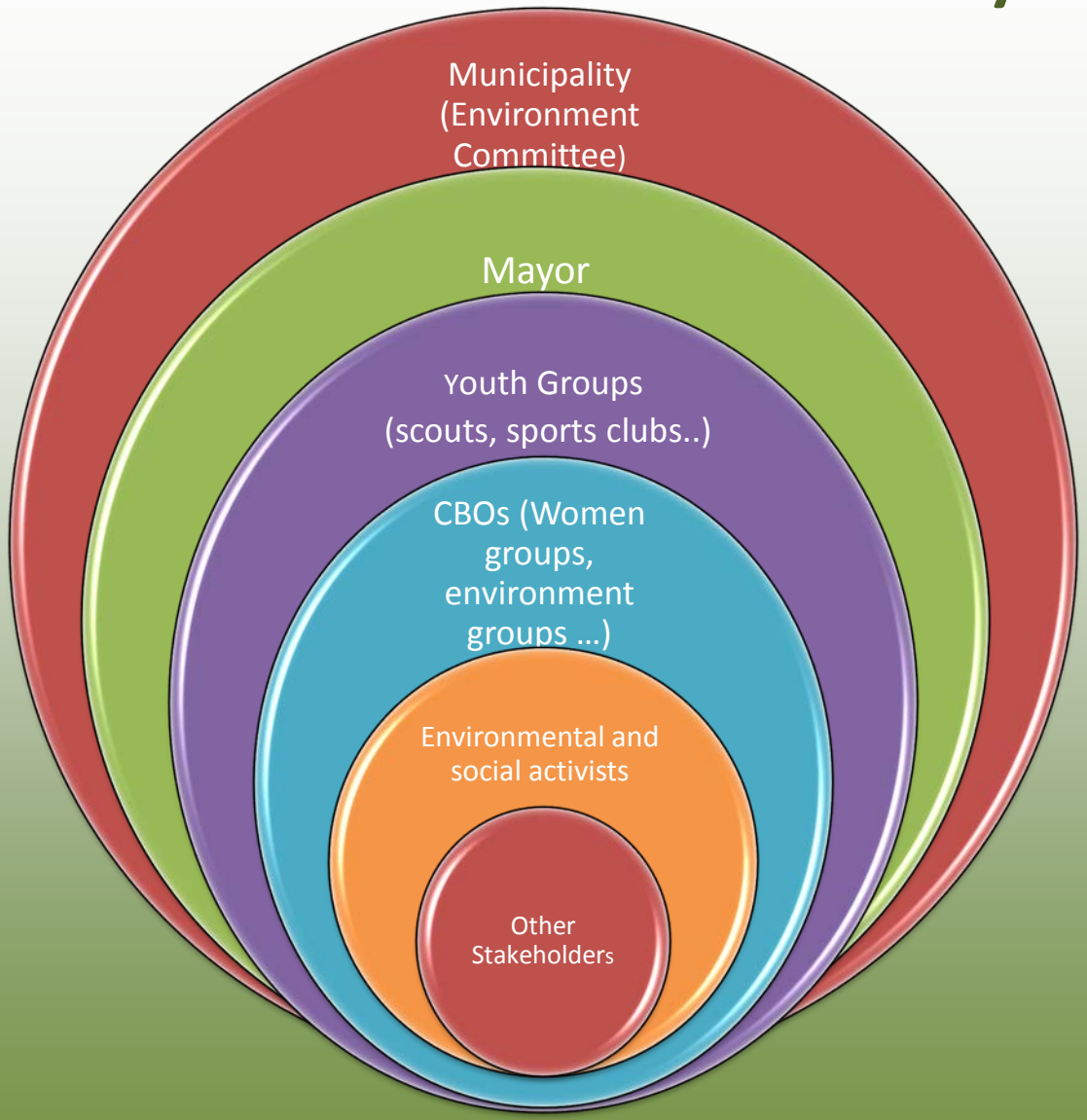
OUTPLANTING
NURSERY
WILDFIRE PREVENTION
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
MAPPING
COMMUNICATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Recognizing the municipality leadership
Informing the community about the project
Drafting an action plan for the implementation of the project
Validating the action plan
Determining the community' goals in line with LRI goals
Launching the action plan and starting implementation
Supporting in the carrying out of the action plan activities
Evaluating and following up after handover
Community Engagement Strategy
6 months
Protection
Sustainability
Multiplier effect

Who is the Community?



WILDFIRE PREVENTION

A collaborative approach that connects all those who play a role in wildfire education, planning and action with comprehensive resources to help reduce risk.

Fire Adapted communities

Firewise adapted to Lebanon → A collaborative process that empowers communities to work together in order to prevent and reduce wildfire risks and their negative economic, social, and ecological impacts on local communities (UOB/LRI, 2014).

Structure of the wildfire prevention action plan

Technical activities for wildfire risk reduction

Community and Social activities

Wildfire Risk Assessment

FIRE RISK CONCEPT

Risk = Hazard x Vulnerability

Fire hazard assessment involved the use of data related to

1) number of fires/plot during the last decade,
2) density of buildings,
3) various ignition factors,
4) slope,
5) aspect,
6) density of forest fuel.

Fire vulnerability assessment comprised a number of environmental and socio-economic sensitivity factors (e.g. protected areas, presence of homes, infrastructure, among others).

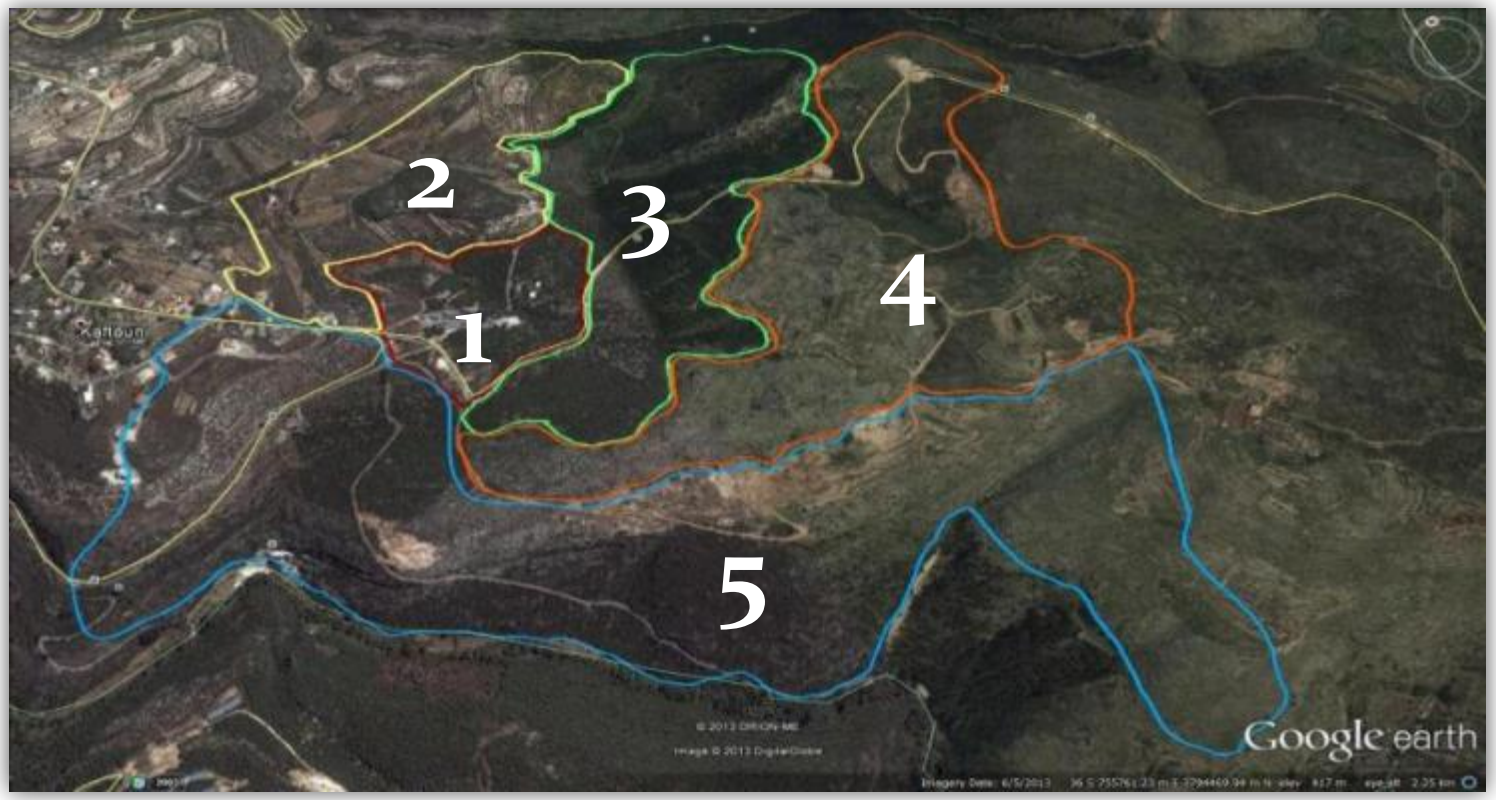
Hazard (i.e. dense fuel)

Vulnerability
(i.e. A Natural Reserve of high environmental and socio-cultural value)

X

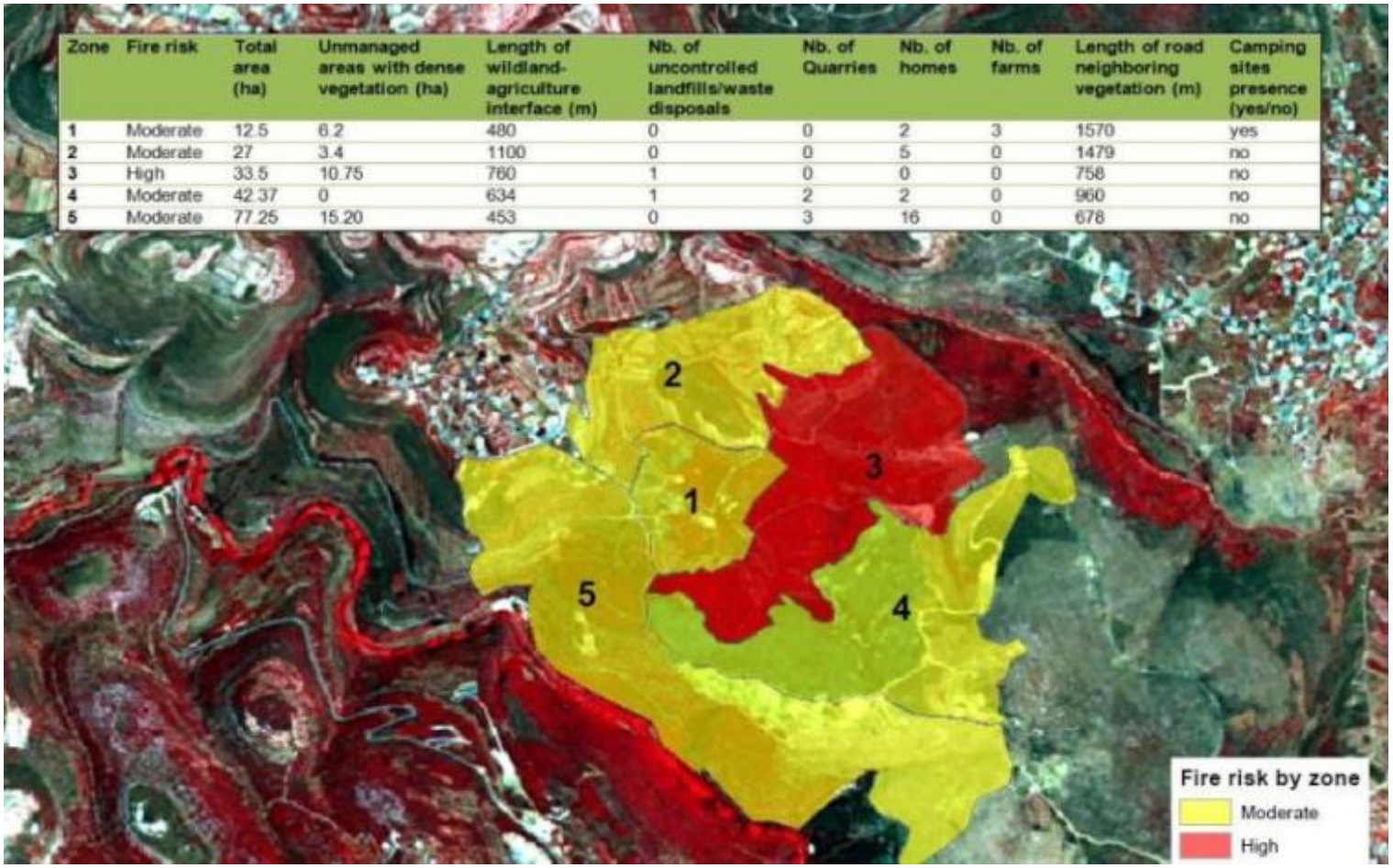
Methodology for assessment

- Field survey for data collection
- Fire hazard assessment
- Fire vulnerability assessment
- Overall wildfire risk assessment



Grouping plots into five general zones and fire risk categorization

Zone	Fire risk	Total area (ha)	Unmanaged areas with dense vegetation (ha)	Length of wildland-agriculture interface (m)	Nb. of uncontrolled landfills/waste disposals	Nb. of Quarries	Nb. of homes	Nb. of farms	Length of road neighboring vegetation (m)	Camping sites presence (yes/no)
1	Moderate	12.5	6.2	480	0	0	2	3	1570	yes
2	Moderate	27	3.4	1100	0	0	5	0	1479	no
3	High	33.5	10.75	760	1	0	0	0	758	no
4	Moderate	42.37	0	634	1	2	2	0	960	no
5	Moderate	77.25	15.20	453	0	3	16	0	678	no



FIRE RISK REDUCTION TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

Best Practices For Managing Fire Risk in dense forests

A: Unmanaged dense forest

A1. Breaking horizontal and vertical fuel continuity (Pruning, thinning, cleaning)

A2. Creating fuel breaks

A3. Installing signs to increase awareness

A4. Increasing water sources and accessibility around these areas

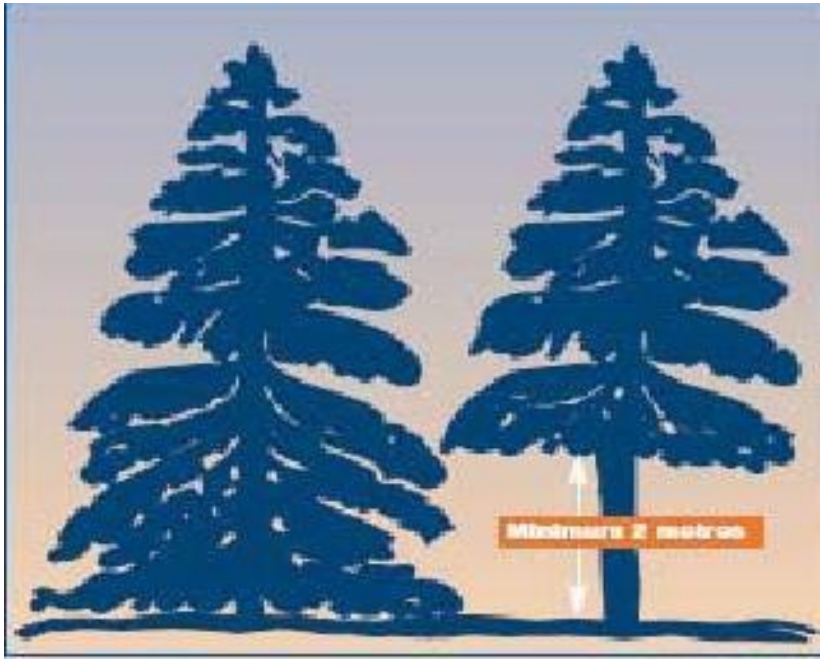
A5. Introducing controlled grazing

Best practices for managing fire risk in abandoned agricultural land

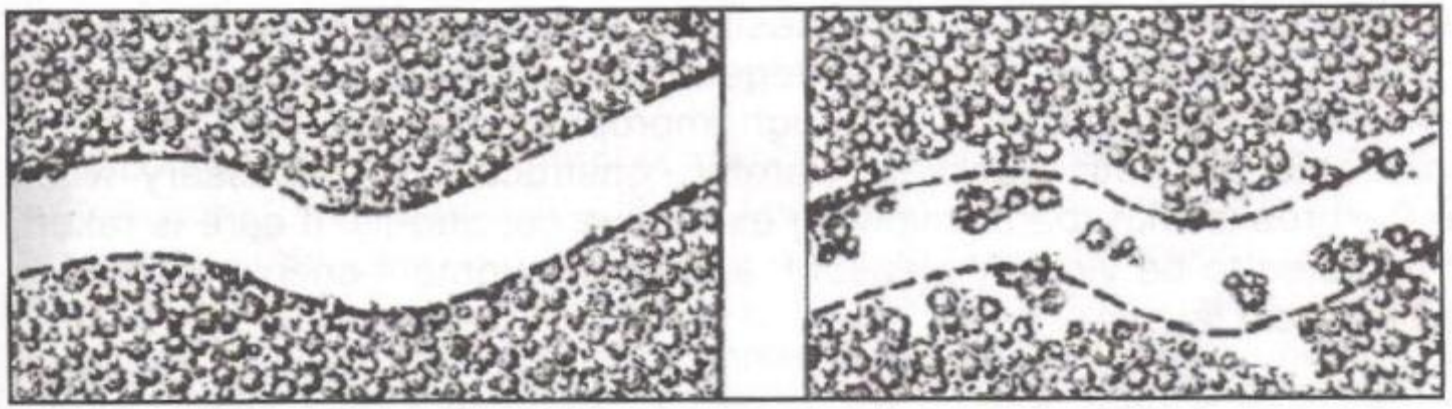
B: Wild land neighboring agricultural lands and abandoned agricultural lands.

B1. Creating fuel breaks neighboring agricultural land
B2. Introducing/encouraging agro forestry activity on abandoned and/ or marginalized private lands.
B3. Implementing of fuel management practices.
B4. Preventing fire incidence (economically viable alternatives to burning crop residues)
B5. Prescribed burning (low cost land management techniques but not recommended)

Pruning



Fire Breaks



Controlled grazing

Wildland Rural Interface, the agricultural Interface

Application on abandoned terraces

COMMUNITY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Hand tools museum

Volunteers Day

Training

Roundtable

Awareness campaign

Certificate distribution

Public events

Theatrical shows

Replication In New Areas

Currently, LRI is starting to replicate the community led wildfire prevention approach in two areas in Lebanon with managed valuable forests

Bkassine

Bentael

Thank you