DIALOGUE
&ACTION
AGAINST WILDFIRES

MANGANIAKO

CASE STUDY

Dialogue, participatory planning and collective action to reduce the risk of disasters from wildfires within the framework of the project Dialogue and Action Against Wildfires: Empowering Communities for Resilience to Natural Disasters

NOVEMBER 2024

MANGANESE MESSINIA
CASE STUDY

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Message from the Project Team

As small mountain villages increasingly face the threat of wildfires, exacerbated by climate change, the role of communities as a first line of defense becomes more important than ever.

As part of the Dialogue and Action Against Wildfires: Empowering Communities for Resilience to Natural Disasters program, we collaborated with four communities in Messinia – Ancient Messini, Manganiako, Trikorfo and Koromilia – to reduce the risk of natural disasters and strengthen their readiness. Through participatory planning and collective action processes, we highlighted the specificities of each region, combining the experience of residents with innovative approaches.

These four communities are examples of small rural settlements that share challenges, such as an aging population and limited resources, but also have unique characteristics and potential. Based on these, we developed separate case studies that analyze the strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities of each area.

This case study aspires to be a source of inspiration and a tool for action for similar communities, strengthening their capacity to respond to the challenges of the future.

To access the remaining studies, the tools we developed and a practical action guide for organizing communities, visit the website: https://dock-sse.org/tool/disaster-risk-reduction.

The project team,

Elena Tzamuranou, Dock - Social Solidarity Economy Zone
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CONTENTS

The Manganiako case study is organized in a way that highlights the process, findings, and recommendations that emerged from the community engagement. The goal is to provide a comprehensive picture of the experience and lessons learned.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

2. COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS

MAR. '24

DEC. '23

1. ACQUAINTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING
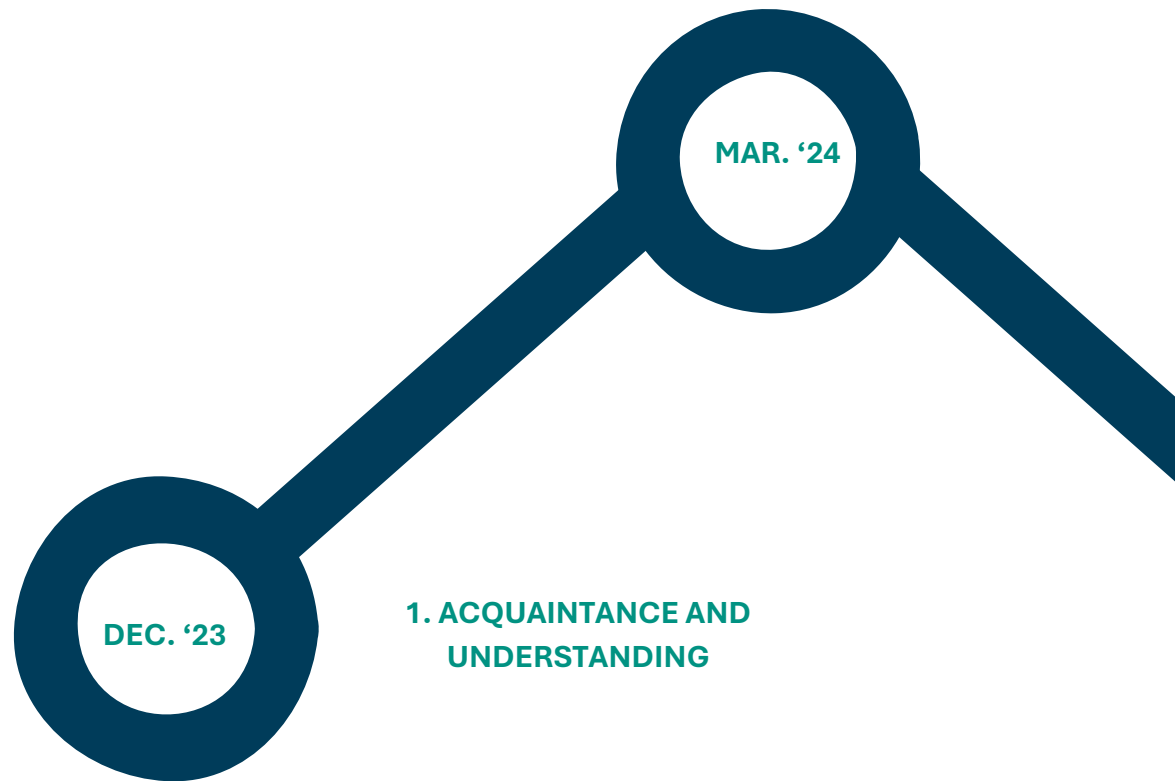
Connecting and getting to know the community, collecting stories and data, initial understanding of attitudes and needs

On-site inspection, identification of strengths and weaknesses, recording of local opportunities and problems

JUNE '24

4. EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

APR. '24

3. PARTICIPATORY PLANNING

Development of proposals and a prevention and response plan through collective processes and dialogue

Review of actions, discussion of results and formulation of proposals for next steps

PROFILE OF MANGANIAKO

Manganiako is a semi-mountainous village in the Municipality of Messini, in the prefecture of Messinia, at an altitude of approximately 400 meters. It is located 32 kilometers from Kalamata, on the southern side of Mount "Brinia" and east of the "Kalligas" mountain range. According to the 2021 census, the village has 80 residents, although in reality about 50 people, mainly elderly people, permanently reside in the village. The population increases seasonally during the olive harvest, the Easter holidays and the summer months.

An important role in the life of the community is played by the very active cultural association of the village, which organizes various cultural events throughout the year, that gather up to 3000 people. There is also a social cooperative enterprise in the village, which is involved in the promotion of the products of the Manganiako region and in the promotion of the place.

KEY FEATURES

- ☐ Altitude: 400 meters
- ☐ Administrative Subordination: Municipality of Messina
- ☐ Population (2021 Census): 80 residents

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

- ☐ Agriculture: mainly olives, figs and a few vineyards
- ☐ Traditional Cafe
- ☐ Social Cooperative Enterprise Nostos

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- ☐ Area: At the foot of "Kalliga", with rich natural vegetation.
- ☐ Vegetation: holly trees, oaks, holm oaks, wild holm oaks, linden trees, heathers, maples, cottonwoods, etc.

HISTORICAL FIRE

- ☐ 1956: the fire burned only forest land which was then very important for the livestock farming and logging that were flourishing at the time
- ☐ 1992: the most devastating fire which burned 32,000 acres.
- ☐ Many small incidents in which residents intervened before it became a fire.

THE DYNAMICS OF MANGANIAKO: AN EXAMPLE OF ORGANIZATION AND MOBILIZATION

Manganiako stands out for its experience in fire management and its early involvement in participatory planning actions. The close ties between the people of the village and those living in Kalamata and Athens strengthen the potential for mobilization and cooperation. The cultural association and the social enterprise function as hubs for community activation, demonstrating the village's potential in addressing critical issues.

Experience and Participation in Actions

Manganiako has significant experience in crisis management, having dealt with fires in the past and supporting neighboring communities. This experience, combined with its participation in participatory planning programs, has empowered the community and enabled it to organize and express its needs clearly.

Strong Social Cohesion and Bonds

Social cohesion is a cornerstone of the Manganako. Residents maintain strong ties with Messinia and Athens, with expatriates returning frequently, especially in critical periods, contributing to strengthening local mobilization and cooperation.

The Role of the President, the Association and the Social Enterprise

The active village president, the active cultural association and the social enterprise function as nuclei of motivation and coordination of the community's actions. Through these structures, Manganiako manages to activate the residents and highlight its collective strength in times of crisis.

Analyzing the content of the dialogue in the community of Manganiako, it appears that the residents realize that they have strong points that can form the basis for the development of a more effective strategy for preventing and dealing with forest fires.

STRENGTHS

☐ **Fire Experience and Community Memory:** Residents have experience with fires and have kept their collective memory alive, using it as a basis to improve their practices

☐ **Immediate Mobilization and Equipment:** The community is organized, with tractors and other equipment for immediate response in cases of danger. The ringing of the church bell acts as an effective alarm system

☐ **Strong Community Solidarity:** There is a mutual support network that is immediately activated, both to protect the village and to provide assistance to neighboring communities

☐ **Multidimensional Perception:** Residents link fires to socioeconomic challenges and climate change, demonstrating maturity and understanding of the need for holistic approaches

WEAK POINTS

☐ **Lack of Coordination with Local Authorities:** Although residents are active, they report deficiencies in cooperation and coordination with local authorities, especially on prevention issues.

☐ **Limited Education and Expertise:** Despite their experience, the community recognizes that they lack formal education and knowledge of modern prevention and treatment methods.

☐ **Infrastructure and Resources:** There is a lack of well-maintained infrastructure, such as firebreaks and water intakes, which reduces the effectiveness of the community in cases of fires

☐ **Passive Behavior & Non-Compliance with Measures:** Some non-permanent residents do not participate in collective actions and neglect rules, such as cleaning plots, increasing the risk

The analysis of the dialogue in the community of Manganiako highlighted the importance of community action, experience and understanding of the challenges related to fires. The community presents strengths such as immediate mobilization, community solidarity and a multidimensional perception of fires as a socio-economic and environmental issue. Residents demonstrate organization and commitment, which enables them to respond effectively in cases of danger.

However, problems remain such as lack of coordination with local authorities, limited infrastructure and resources, and the absence of systematic training. These issues highlight the need for enhanced cooperation, better organization, and the use of modern tools for fire prevention and response. **In conclusion, Manganiako is a model of mobilization and solidarity, providing a strong foundation for the formulation of holistic strategies that combine experience, adaptability, and the active participation of residents.**

Community Engagement: An Ongoing Process

The community of Manganaiko actively participated in all stages of the process, through a total of 11 actions that included online and in-person meetings, community events, the formation of a steering committee and the use of tools such as information boards, GIS maps and participatory planning canvases. In addition, interviews, on-site inspections, educational meetings and participatory planning sessions were carried out, while the submitted proposals were prioritized and validated by the residents themselves.

ΜΑΓΓΑΝΙΑΚΟ
ΔΗΜΟΥ ΜΕΣΣΗΝΗΣ

MANGANIAKO
MUNICIPALITY OF MESSINIS

ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS

The analysis of perceptions was based primarily on the content that emerged from discussions, interviews and open meetings with the community. The focus was on recording the opinions, needs and priorities of the residents. The data was organized and analyzed with the aim of highlighting the issues that concern the community, as well as the ethical dilemmas and attitudes related to forest fires.

ISSUES RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE DIALOGUE

☐ Causes of Fires and Effects   ☐ Community Solidarity

☐ Prevention and Infrastructure   ☐ Education and Awareness

☐ Cooperation with Authorities   ☐ Traditional Practices

> *When a fire breaks out, there is great participation. We run from all the villages, we have suffered and we run. We are all there together, there is no village that has not participated.*

ETHICAL DILEMMAS

The management of forest fires in the Manganiako region has highlighted ethical dilemmas without clear answers. Recognizing them is the first step towards more balanced policies that respond to the needs of communities. The following examples illuminate the complexity of these issues and the search for solutions by residents:

☐ **Balancing "life protection" and "property protection"** Residents recognize that protecting life is the absolute priority in cases of fire. However, they pose the ethical dilemma: How can the protection of property, fields and animals, which are essential sources of survival, be ensured at the same time?

☐ **Balance between "primary home protection" and "responsibility for holiday properties":** Permanent residents of Manganiako prioritize the protection of their primary home, as it is the basis of their daily lives. However, the ethical dilemma arises: How responsible are holiday home owners to actively participate in prevention and protection, in order to ensure the overall safety of the community?

☐ **Balancing "conservation of the natural environment" and "need to protect the community":** The community of Manganiako recognizes the importance of the natural environment to the identity and economy of the village. However, the need to create firebreaks, clear vegetation, and other interventions creates an ethical dilemma: How can lives and property be protected without destroying the natural beauty and ecosystem of the area?

The residents of the community of Manganiako focus on fire prevention and management, with an emphasis on clearing forest areas, maintaining infrastructure, strengthening collective action and improving cooperation with the Authorities. They recognize the importance of immediate mobilization and express the need for additional training and information, in order to enhance the effectiveness of their actions.

THE RESIDENTS OF MANGANIAKO EMPHASIZE PREVENTION, WITH INITIATIVES SUCH AS CLEARING FOREST AREAS AND MAINTAINING INFRASTRUCTURE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMEDIATE MOBILIZATION AND COOPERATION FOR THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires and Social Implications
The causes of fires and the influence of climate change were highlighted

Fire Zones and Infrastructure
The need for the creation and maintenance of firebreaks, as well as improving infrastructure, was emphasized.

Cooperation with Authorities and Legislation
The need for better cooperation with the Authorities and implementation of laws was highlighted

Community Solidarity and Volunteering
The importance of community cooperation and voluntary action was emphasized

Education and Information
The need for systematic education and information of residents was expressed

A survey was then conducted based on a questionnaire completed by permanent and temporary residents of Manganiako, with an emphasis on individuals who did not have the opportunity to participate in the meetings. The study focuses on their perceptions of fire risk, preparedness, collective action and education. The results provide valuable information on the needs and priorities of the community.
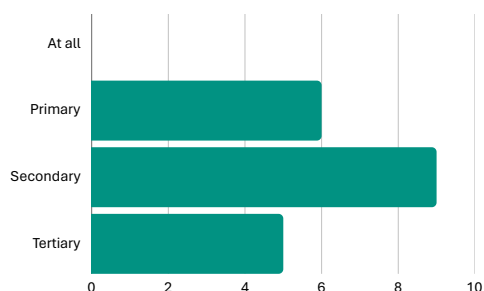
100%

The total sample consists of 20 people

In terms of gender, out of the 20 individuals, 9 were identified as female, 11 as male.
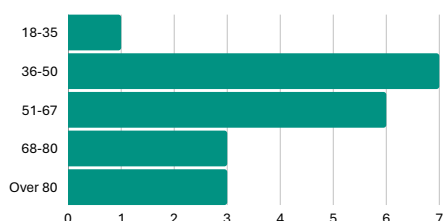
Regarding the ages of the respondents, 1 person belongs to the age group of 18-35, 7 to 36-50, 6 to 51-67, 3 to 68-79, while 3 people are over 80 years old.

Of the 20 people, 6 people completed primary education, 9 secondary education and 5 university education.

Convergence of Views and Complementarity of Methods

The results of the questionnaire confirm and enrich the conclusions drawn from the content analysis. The community of Manganiako presents an impressive convergence in the opinions of its residents, the greatest of the four communities, which reflects the strong spirit of collectivism and the deep understanding of the challenges it faces.

The lack of divergence in responses highlights the high coherence and stability of the community's perceptions regarding fire prevention and management. This unanimity not only strengthens the community's ability to act in a coordinated manner, but also makes it a model for the development of collaborative and participatory policies in rural areas.

The research highlights the need for enhanced education, improved infrastructure and better cooperation with the authorities, while underlining the importance of having a fire prevention and response plan. At the same time, the strong willingness of the residents of Manganiako for collective action constitutes a solid basis for sustainable and participatory solutions.

RISK PERCEPTION

The majority is very concerned about the risk of fires (100%)

95% consider a fire prevention and response plan important for the village

INDIVIDUAL & COLLECTIVE ROLE

Relative confidence in individual abilities (average value: 3.25 out of 5)

Relative trust in collective action (average value: 3.03 out of 5)

A balance is observed between individual responsibility and collective action, highlighting the combination of personal initiative and community cooperation.

90% **believe in the importance of equal participation of all**

45% **believe that community knowledge can contribute to fire management**

EDUCATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Insufficient education and information (average value: 2.2 out of 5)

Recognition of the importance of education (average value: 3.9 out of 5)

15% **refer to the need for investment in infrastructure and equipment in the community**

RELATIONS WITH AUTHORITIES

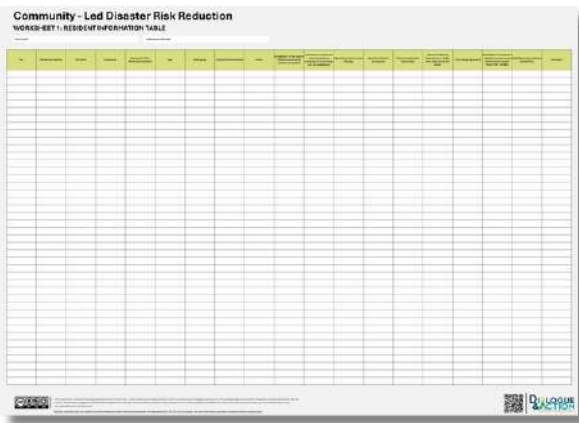Low trust in authorities (15% positive opinion)

15% consider cooperation with the Authorities a significant obstacle in managing fires

COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS

The collective analysis describes the existing situation of the community for the period 2023-2024 and constitutes the basis for understanding the current situation (Scenario 0) of the community of Manganiako. Its aim is to identify the key priorities and gaps that need to be filled to strengthen the resilience of the community against wildfires. The analysis focuses on identifying vulnerabilities and available resources, taking into account the experience of residents who actively participated in the process, the local geography and infrastructure. The process is based on the risk management cycle (prevention, readiness, response & recovery) and focuses mainly on the stages of prevention and readiness, which are crucial for reducing the likelihood of fire and better preparing the community.

Data collection was carried out by analyzing the content of posts from the community event, completing an information table by residents, marking critical points and resources on a detailed map using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), as well as an on-site inspection to evaluate existing infrastructure, which was carried out in collaboration with the Messinia Natural Disaster Response Team.
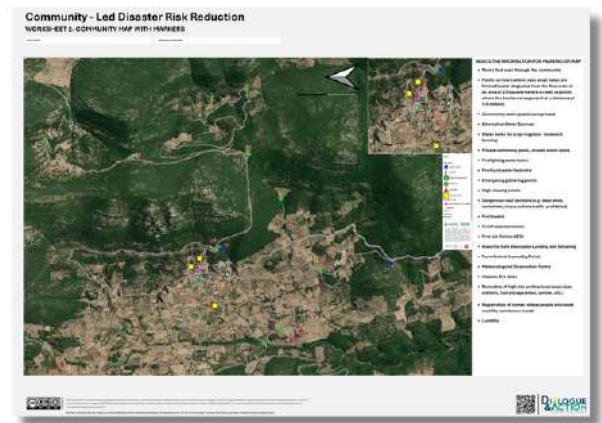
The main prevention and treatment issues that emerged are the following:

Prevention (preventive measures and practices aimed at minimizing the likelihood of a fire occurring)

☐ Vegetation Management (Roads, Private Properties, Forests)

☐ Management of Flammable Materials (Bulk Waste)

☐ Awareness (Information, Relevant Legislation)

Readiness (preparation for potential fire outbreaks to ensure quick and effective response)

☐ Infrastructure and Equipment Assessment (Repairs / Supplies)

☐ Fire Detection (Human Resources)

☐ Emergency Plan (Community Notification, Assembly Point)

On pages 18 and 19, a tool is presented that illustrates the prevention and response points, with critical points in orange and potential points in green. This categorization facilitates understanding and future action.

The on-site inspection in Manganiako revealed the adequacy of water infrastructure, such as taps, tanks and private supplies. Springs and reservoirs enhance the possibility of direct water abstraction.

Damage to valves and incompatibility of components were observed, while access to some points is obstructed by vegetation. Repairs and improvements are required to utilize the infrastructure.

Maintaining mountain trails to critical water points, such as the "river" and the "castle", will enhance community readiness and effectiveness.

Reducing the Risk of Disasters from Forest Fires

WORKSHEET 3: PREVENTION AND READINESS MEASURES

Community: **Manganiako**   Reporting Period: **2023 - 2024 (Scenario 0)**

PREVENTION

Preventive measures and practices aimed at minimizing the possibility of fire

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1. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Roads	Private Properties	Buildings	Forests
• Fire Zone • Access to some areas is obstructed by vegetation	• Gross Plots		
Cleaning of roads, rural roads and paths	Mandatory vegetation management for property owners	Removal of trees located near houses and buildings	Use of sustainable forest management practices & protection of biodiversity

2. MANAGEMENT OF FLAMMABLE MATERIALS

Bulky Waste	Construction waste	Waste Minimization	Junk
• People don't know the process			
Handling items that do not fit into standard waste collection systems	Waste from construction, demolition, renovation and remodeling	Changing social patterns of consumption and production	Cleaning and maintenance of public spaces, neighborhoods and natural areas

3. AUTONOMY IN BASIC SERVICES

Water Resources	Energy	Communication Systems	Infrastructure
	• Dependence on PPC		
Ensuring continuous access and effective management	Ensuring and maintaining an independent, reliable, local energy supply	Installation of alternative networks for redundancy and consistency	Increasing the strength and resilience of infrastructure

4. AWARENESS

Information	Fireproof Houses	Fire-Resistant Fields	Relevant Legislation
Informing & motivating behavior change towards prevention strategies	Presentation of the concept of fire-resistant homes and buildings	Presentation of the concept of fire-resistant fields and crops	Information & advice on relevant legislation issues

READINESS

Preparation for potential fire outbreaks to ensure quick and effective response

1. INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT EVALUATION

Documentation	**Infrastructure Inspection**	**Repairs / Supplies**	**Use of Technology**
	• 5-10 tractors • Community Tank	• Valve damage and component incompatibility	
Mapping of data and allocation of relevant resources	On-site thorough inspections of infrastructure and equipment	Depending on the results of the audit and the specific needs of the community	Leveraging technology to identify further vulnerabilities

2. FIRE DETECTION

Human Resources	**Viewpoints**	**High Risk Days**	**Monitoring**
Ensuring volunteer commitment and availability	Identification of suitable viewing points and possible patrol routes	Determination of days for performing actions for fire detection	Monitoring & performing patrols during high-risk days

3. EMERGENCY PLAN

Community Notification	**Gathering Points**	**Moving Assistance**	**Roles & Responsibilities**
			• Tank design
Procedures for quick and effective updating	Identification of assembly points for people and equipment	Identifying people who need assistance during evacuation	Assignment of coordination, equipment management and population relocation

4. INFORMATION AND TRAINING

Fire Protection Period	**Urge**	**Educational Activities**	**Readiness Exercises**
		• Update on 199 or 112 • Limited Education & Expertise	
Notification of the start/end of the fire season and useful instructions	Disseminating the Community Action Plan and encouraging active participation	Training seminars for basic skills and knowledge	Organizing preparedness exercises aimed at improving response capabilities

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PARTICIPATORY DESIGN

Participatory planning is the next critical step in strengthening the resilience of the Manganiako community to wildfires. The goal of the participatory planning was to capture the views of residents on the actions proposed for prevention and readiness, and to ensure that the resulting plan is the result of collective thinking and action, responding to the needs and capabilities of the community.

Based on the findings of the collective analysis, a framework of prevention and readiness actions (Scenario B) was developed, which focused on improvements and actions to address vulnerabilities, while being based on the real needs of the community and the active participation of residents. Through this process, it was sought to strengthen cooperation, leverage local knowledge and ensure that the proposed solutions respond to the specific conditions of the area.

Participatory planning included the following key steps:

INFORMATION SESSION	GROUP SEPARATION	RECORDING SUGGESTIONS
Before the start of the process, participants were familiarized with the risk management cycle (prevention, readiness, response, recovery), in order to facilitate understanding of the topics and focus on the areas that concern their community.	The participants were divided into two working groups, where through an open discussion they proposed specific actions to strengthen prevention and readiness. Although the areas of response and recovery were discussed to a lesser extent, specific instructions were given for the preparation of future actions.	The proposals submitted were recorded and graphically captured in the tool presented during the collective analysis, in order to provide a clear picture of the proposed actions and facilitate discussion and decision-making.

The key prevention and response issues that emerged through the collective analysis are listed below, while pages 22 and 23 present all the proposals that emerged from the planning in more detail.

Prevention (preventive measures and practices aimed at minimizing the likelihood of a fire occurring)

☐ Vegetation Management (Roads, Private Properties)

☐ Management of Flammable Materials (Bulk Waste)

☐ Autonomy in Basic Services (Water Resources)

☐ Awareness (Information, Relevant Legislation)

Readiness (preparation for potential fire outbreaks to ensure quick and effective response)

☐ Infrastructure and Equipment Assessment (Documentation, Repairs/Supplies, Use of Technology)

☐ Fire Detection (Human Resources, Observation Points, High Risk Days, Monitoring)

☐ Emergency Plan (Community Notification, Assembly Point, Assistance for Relocation)

☐ Information/Training (Fire Season)

Through participatory planning that leveraged collective knowledge and local experience, the community of Manganiako developed a wildfire prevention and response plan. The plan responds to the specific conditions of the area and incorporates the voice and priorities of the residents, strengthening its resilience to future risks.

Reducing the Risk of Disasters from Forest Fires

WORKSHEET 3: PREVENTION AND READINESS MEASURES

Community: Manganiako

Reporting Period: 2024 - 2025 (Scenario B)

PREVENTION

Preventive measures and practices aimed at minimizing the possibility of fire

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1. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Roads	Private Properties	Buildings	Forests
• Fire Zone • Access to some areas is obstructed by vegetation • Maintenance of paths to critical water points, such as the "river" and the "castle"	• Gross Plots		
Cleaning of roads, rural roads and paths	*Mandatory vegetation management for property owners*	*Removal of trees located near houses and buildings*	*Use of sustainable forest management practices & protection of biodiversity*

2. MANAGEMENT OF FLAMMABLE MATERIALS

Bulky Waste	Construction waste	Waste Minimization	Junk
• Gathering at a certain point and briefing the president			
Handling items that do not fit into standard waste collection systems	*Waste from construction, demolition, renovation and remodeling*	*Changing social patterns of consumption and production*	*Cleaning and maintenance of public spaces, neighborhoods and natural areas*

3. AUTONOMY IN BASIC SERVICES

Water Resources	Energy	Communication Systems	Infrastructure
	• Generator to ensure water supply		
Ensuring continuous access and effective management	*Ensuring and maintaining an independent, reliable, local energy supply*	*Installation of alternative networks for redundancy and consistency*	*Increasing the strength and resilience of infrastructure*

4. AWARENESS

Information	Fireproof Houses	Fire-Resistant Fields	Relevant Legislation
• Information campaign on waste management and recycling.			
Informing & motivating behavior change towards prevention strategies	*Presentation of the concept of fire-resistant homes and buildings*	*Presentation of the concept of fire-resistant fields and crops*	*Information & advice on relevant legislation issues*

READINESS

Preparation for potential fire outbreaks to ensure quick and effective response

1. INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT EVALUATION

Documentation	Infrastructure Inspection	Repairs / Supplies	Use of Technology
• Updated map and resident information board	• 5-10 tractors • Community Tank	• Valve damage and component incompatibility • Supply of Basic Equipment • Additional taps & tank	
Mapping of data and allocation of relevant resources	*On-site thorough inspections of infrastructure and equipment*	*Depending on the results of the audit and the specific needs of the community*	*Leveraging technology to identify further vulnerabilities*

2. FIRE DETECTION

Human Resources	Viewpoints	High Risk Days	Monitoring
		• Sharing on the association's social media	• Patrols only on dangerous days & times
Ensuring volunteer commitment and availability	*Identification of suitable viewing points and possible patrol routes*	*Determination of days for performing actions for fire detection*	*Monitoring & performing patrols during high-risk days*

3. EMERGENCY PLAN

Community Notification	Gathering Points	Moving Assistance	Roles & Responsibilities
	• At school/square		• Tank design
Procedures for quick and effective updating	*Identification of assembly points for people and equipment*	*Identifying people who need assistance during evacuation*	*Assignment of coordination, equipment management and population relocation*

4. INFORMATION AND TRAINING

Fire Protection Period	Urge	Educational Activities	Readiness Exercises
• Viber Group • Announcements in a cafe & Square • President: word of mouth		• Update on 199 or 112 • Limited Education & Expertise	
Notification of the start/end of the fire season and useful instructions	*Disseminating the Community Action Plan and encouraging active participation*	*Training seminars for basic skills and knowledge*	*Organizing preparedness exercises aimed at improving response capabilities*

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Learning from Manganiako

Risk management in Manganiako highlighted the importance of active citizen participation, leveraging local knowledge and experience, and collaboration through active initiatives and community structures. Despite the challenges faced by small settlements, Manganiako demonstrates a high level of adaptability and coordinated action, serving as an example for effective risk management and resilience building.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Local knowledge is a valuable resource for the community. Drawing on the experience and knowledge of the residents, Manganiako was able to map critical points and highlight its opportunities and vulnerabilities. This process showed that even small communities have the necessary knowledge to address complex challenges, as long as they are given the right guidance.

EXPERIENCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS

Manganiako has significant experience in crisis management, having dealt with fires in the past and supporting neighboring communities. This experience, combined with its participation in participatory planning programs, has empowered the community and enabled it to organize and express its needs clearly.

MOVEMENT WITHIN COLLECTIVE STRUCTURES

The local cultural association and the social cooperative enterprise of Manganiako are pillars of mobilization and cooperation for the community. Through their actions, the participation of residents is strengthened, collective responsibility is promoted and practices are formed that contribute to the protection and development of the area.

THE PERCEPTION OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The community of Manganiako understands that a fire in the wider area is not a low-probability risk but an immediate threat. Their timely mobilization in neighboring areas functions as an act of solidarity but also as a protection strategy, preventing the spread of the fire towards their village.

Manganiako is a role model, showing that small communities can overcome challenges and manage crises effectively. The combined power of local knowledge, organized action and strong community solidarity offers a comprehensive model that strengthens resilience. The mobilization to protect both the settlement and the wider region highlights the value of shared responsibility and cooperation to ensure a sustainable future.

As resilience is a dynamic process of continuous improvement, it requires systematic adaptation to new challenges and the utilization of available resources and knowledge. By implementing the following suggestions, Manganiako can further strengthen its ability to manage risks and shape a more resilient future.

Continuous Improvement of Information and Infrastructure

- ☐ Annual update of the information board and GIS map to ensure they remain accurate and up-to-date

- ☐ Annual on-site inspection to assess the condition of water tanks, fire hydrants and rural roads

Systematic monitoring of the progress of implementation of measures

- ☐ Immediate repair of the nozzles on the main hydrants and installation of compatible components, to ensure their effective use by fire engines.

- ☐ Clearing of vegetation and dirt roads near water intake points, in order to improve access and functionality of the infrastructure in cases of emergency.

Promoting Collective Action and Cooperation with Neighboring Villages

- ☐ Creation of a permanent inter-municipal group that will operate as a prevention and immediate response network in cases of fire.

- ☐ Once a group is created, investigate the possibility of certification by the Civil Protection, in order to increase the effectiveness of actions and strengthen cooperation with the competent Authorities.

Permanent Communication Channels with the Authorities

- ☐ Creating regular communication channels with the Municipality, the Fire Department and the Forestry Department, for better cooperation and faster response in cases of danger.

- ☐ Designating coordinators within the community who will ensure immediate and effective communication.

The study is part of a wildfire risk reduction toolkit that includes a guide for communities, a guide for trainers to implement a relevant workshop, worksheets and four case studies, so that communities can design and implement solutions that meet their own needs and capabilities.

The Wildfire Risk Reduction Toolkit is aimed at communities who wish to take action to reduce the risk they face from wildfires.

It focuses on self-activity and the taking of initiatives by the communities themselves while taking into account the knowledge capital, experience, available resources, as well as the structure and composition of the communities.

The toolkit is available online at:
dock-sse.org/tool/disaster-risk-reduction

The 12-month Dialogue and Action Against Wildfires project was implemented between 01/12/2023 - 01/12/2024 and is a pilot project of ACCTING (AdvanCing behavioural Change Through an INclusive Green deal), which is an EU-funded project (European Union's Horizon 2020, No 101036504) that analyzes the impact of Green Deal policies on vulnerable groups and generates knowledge and innovations to promote behavioural change at an individual and collective level. Partners of the Dialogue and Action Against Wildfires Project are: