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PAWS-MED Newsletter

PAWS-MED presents fire, desertification and climate change activities

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In the past few months PAWS-MED partners had the opportunity to include the themes of forest fires, desertification and climate change as new key chapters of PAWS-MED pedagogic materials, as well as to update some information due to the relevant ecologic differences between northern Europe and Mediterranean countries.

The duality of fire was introduced in PAWS-MED products. First of all it has to be raised awareness of foresters on the need of informing their target audience during the education, information and communication activities about the high risk of misuse of this element and how it can lead to tragic consequence: huge, uncontrolled forest fires put at risk human lives, natural heritage and infrastructures. At the same time, however, it has also to be explained that fire can be a very useful and cheap tool to manage land forests and agricultural fields and to shape the landscape, but under the condition of being used only by skilled and certified professionals.

The approach to the risks of desertification and climate change impact was also addressed in order to guide foresters to inform people about the consequences of these two phenomena's and their relationship with the Mediterranean forest. It was also emphasized the enormous importance and contribution that forest education can play in combating them as a broad, prevention measure.

In October, a team of foresters involved in forest pedagogy from each partner country will receive training in PAWS course in Austria, learning how to train other foresters in PAWS-MED concept and materials. These will be the first "graduates in PAWS-MED" and its multipliers. Upon conclusion of the course the multipliers will conduct PAWS-MED training courses inside their own countries and organisations: later on, this knowledge and products will be used by foresters, students and teachers of forestry schools, educators of environmental centres, technical staff from the national forest authorities

or forest owners organizations (non foresters) wanting to learn how to organize forest pedagogic activities in the forest according to a concept that is already used in other European countries. The first results of the new project will be presented in a conference expected to take place in Italy during the autumn of 2011, declared by UN as the “*International Year of Forests*” (IYF).

More details on the project(s) are available on <http://www.paws.daa-bbo.de/>

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