



7th International Conference

Corporate Social Lisbon, Portugal
**Responsibility, Sustainability,
Ethics & Governance**

23-25 June 2021

The role of fire intelligence in climate change mitigation and adaptation

Maria João Sousa¹, Alexandra Moutinho¹, Miguel Almeida²

¹IDMEC, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa

²Forest Fire Research Center, ADAI, Universidade de Coimbra

Motivation



Climate change **mitigation**

Actions that **reduce the rate** of climate change:

- by limiting or preventing **greenhouse gas emissions**, and
- by enhancing activities that remove these gases from the atmosphere.

Important to assess fire risk and deploy **prevention** and **preparedness** strategies to:

- avoid the occurrence of large burnt areas and the associated emission of greenhouse gases;
- preventing the loss of natural ecosystems responsible for climate regulation through carbon sequestration.

Climate change **adaptation**

Actions to prepare for and adjust to both the **current effects** of climate change and the **predicted impacts** in the future:

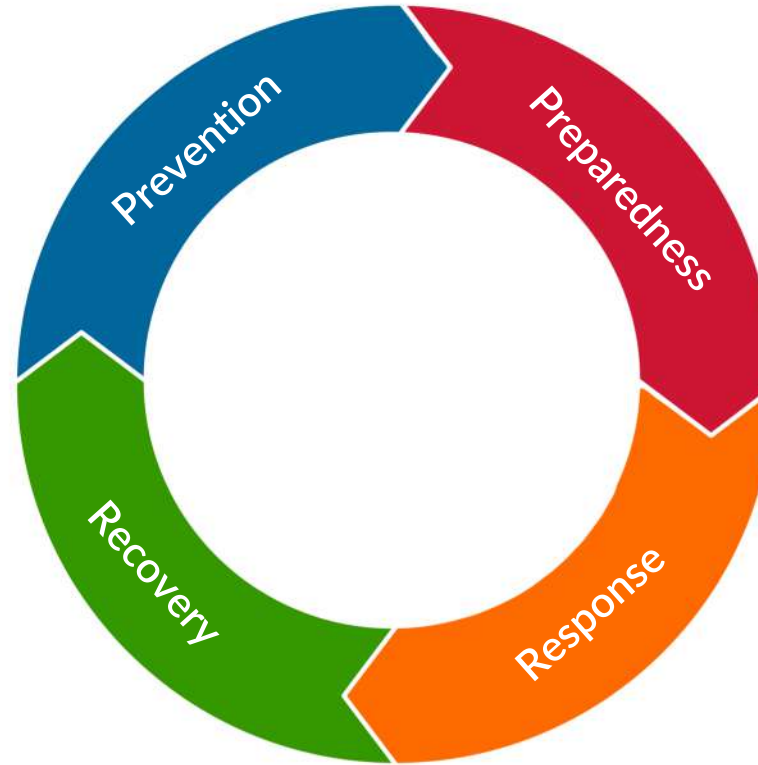
- by increasing resilience to natural hazards and extreme events;
- by enhancing disaster response to minimize social, cultural, environmental and economic effects associated with wildfires

Important to improve emergency **response** and **recovery** stages to:

- protect safety and well-being of communities and preserve ecosystems by enhancing decision support systems for wildfire management, firefighting and civil protection;

Fire Intelligence in Wildfire Management

- vegetation management to reduce fire severity such as: **fuel mapping**, or **tracking of vegetation fuel moisture content**.
- post-event analyses, e.g. **burned area mapping**,
- evaluation of cascading effects, e.g. **erosion risks** and **air-quality estimation**;



- risk assessment concerning **environmental conditions**;
- risk mapping based on **land-use** and **social patterns**;
- wildfire detection and monitoring, e.g., early identification of **flames** and **smoke plume**, **mapping of the fire front(s)**, detection of **spot fires** and identification of **hot spots**;

Emerging Solutions for Real-time Fire Intelligence

Environmental monitoring applications require increased levels of **automation** in **data acquisition** and **data processing** to be systematic and sustainable.

Key enabling technologies towards advanced applications for decision support systems:

- **Autonomous robotics** (e.g., sensor networks, ground robots, drones, high-altitude balloons)
- Leveraging current and future **satellite data** streams
- Harnessing the advances in **artificial intelligence** and **machine learning**

Eye in the Sky

Using High-Altitude Balloons
for Decision Support in
Wildfire Operations

FCT Fundação
para a Ciência
e a Tecnologia

 **REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA**

Pathways to Impact





Maria João Sousa

IDMEC, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa

maria.joao.sousa@tecnico.ulisboa.pt

To know more about this research, check out the Eye in the Sky project
@ adai.pt/eyeinthesky



Acknowledgments

This work is financed by national funds through FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P., through IDMEC, under project Eye in the Sky (PCIF/SSI/0103/2018), and through IDMEC, under LAETA, project UIDB/50022/2020. M. J. Sousa acknowledges the support from FCT, through the Ph.D. Scholarship SFRH/BD/145559/2019.

