

ID508

OC28 - IMPROVING WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS: LESSONS FROM A SCHOOL RADIO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

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Objectives

To examine the relationship between participation in a wildfire education program and levels of risk perceptions, and preparedness by comparing students in four high schools.

Methods (Three steps method)

1. A survey (risk perceptions, wildfire experience and household preparedness) high school students- 4 different locations Portugal.
2. A 14 sessions school program workshop about wildfire awareness and preparedness through a participatory radio production was performed in 4 participant schools. Topics: a) wildfires awareness and preparedness, b) radio production, c) creation of a participatory radio program.
3. Interviews with participants considering their evaluation of the experience and learnings acquired.

Results

Wildfire awareness and practices were found to be poor. The research highlights areas of change for future wildfire education programmes and provides support for the continued inclusion of this topic in the curriculum. Using radio as a tool seems to have a high potential for integrating climate change and wildfire topics across the curriculum with a focus on civic action. In other words, this learning approach will help build the mindsets and know-how of the world's young people to be the drivers now and in the future of climate-smart nations.

Conclusions

The paper offers insight into the effectiveness and benefit of incorporating fire preparedness education into the school curriculum in Portugal. Together with an emphasis on multiple domains of knowledge, including indigenous, place-based, and intergenerational knowledge, wildfire education can become an important entry point to developing a breadth of "green skills" and pro-environmental behaviors.

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OC48 - SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS (SNA) AND ADAPTIVE CO-MANAGEMENT TO FOREST FIRES: A CASE STUDY OF SERRA DE MONCHIQUE, PORTUGAL

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This communication presents the results of a master dissertation on Social Network Analysis (SNA) and Adaptive Co-management to forest fires. The research was developed under the scope of the BRIDGE project (PCIF/AGT/0072/2019), focusing on the case study of Serra de Monchique (Portugal). It aimed to carry out an in-depth study about the structure and the dynamics of the actors' network that intervene, directly or indirectly, in the management of forest territories in Monchique, enabling the analysis of the actors' network characteristics that may contribute to promote collaboration and social learning, key aspects of adaptive co-management to forest fires. The SNA method was adopted in the actors' network involved in the management of Monchique forest territories, including entities of the Integrated Rural Fire Management System (SGIFR) and local landowners, enabling to identify patterns of interaction (structure), connectivity and dynamics/flows of the actors network, as well as the role (influence and/or articulation) played by the actors within network. As a result, were identified aspects of the current actors' network that may contribute to an initial phase of adaptive co-management, namely the high density of interactions and the potential role of central actors to promote social learning and articulation among actors less integrated in the SGIFR Network. On the other hand, aspects such as the predominance of low intensity and/or frequency interactions between actors (weak ties) and the peripheral position (less integrated to the network) of local entities and local landowners represent constraints for adaptive co-management to forest fires in the long-term perspective.