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Engaging Land Owners to Reduce Wildfire Risk at Landscape Level

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Message from the Guest Editor

Large wildfires often affect areas belonging to multiple landowners, private and public, non-industrial and industrial. This poses specific and complex problems for landscape management aimed at fire prevention and rehabilitation of burned areas, which has to reconcile diverse, potentially conflicting values and interests. This Special Issue is motivated by our recent experience with a 2017 wildfire in Central Portugal that burned 17,500 hectares. A small group of these landowners undertook the initiative of promoting collective action for forest management, whereby a large contiguous area with multiple landowners is meant to be subject to a single management plan, developed in collaboration with the University of Lisbon. The plan aims at rehabilitating the burned area with a landscape design to reduce its vulnerability to large wildfires. Key objectives are to protect local communities, while keeping plantation forestry as the main economic activity.

This Special Issue will include a series of papers describing various aspects of that collaboration. We welcome other researchers to share their experiences by submitting contributions to this Special Issue of Forests.









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