

EFI - INIA - International Conference:

“Resilient landscapes to face catastrophic forest fires”

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Resilient landscapes in Castilla y León:

Lessons learnt from



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First of all... who are we? And how?



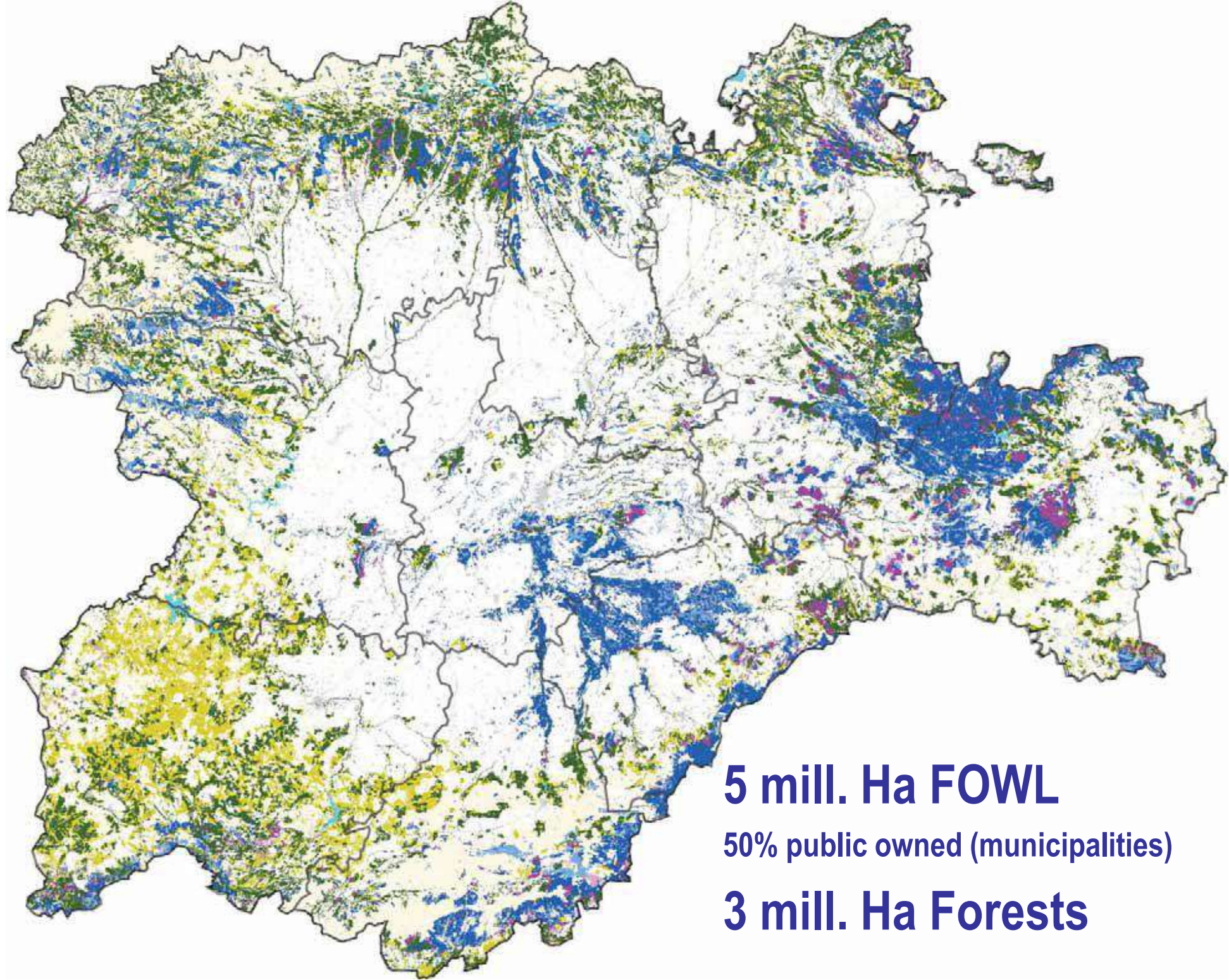
Castilla y León

Located in the interior N/NW Spain

2,500,000 inhabitants (26 inhab/km²)

2,250 municipalities

(99% less than 10,000 inhabitants)



5 mill. Ha FOWL

50% public owned (municipalities)

3 mill. Ha Forests

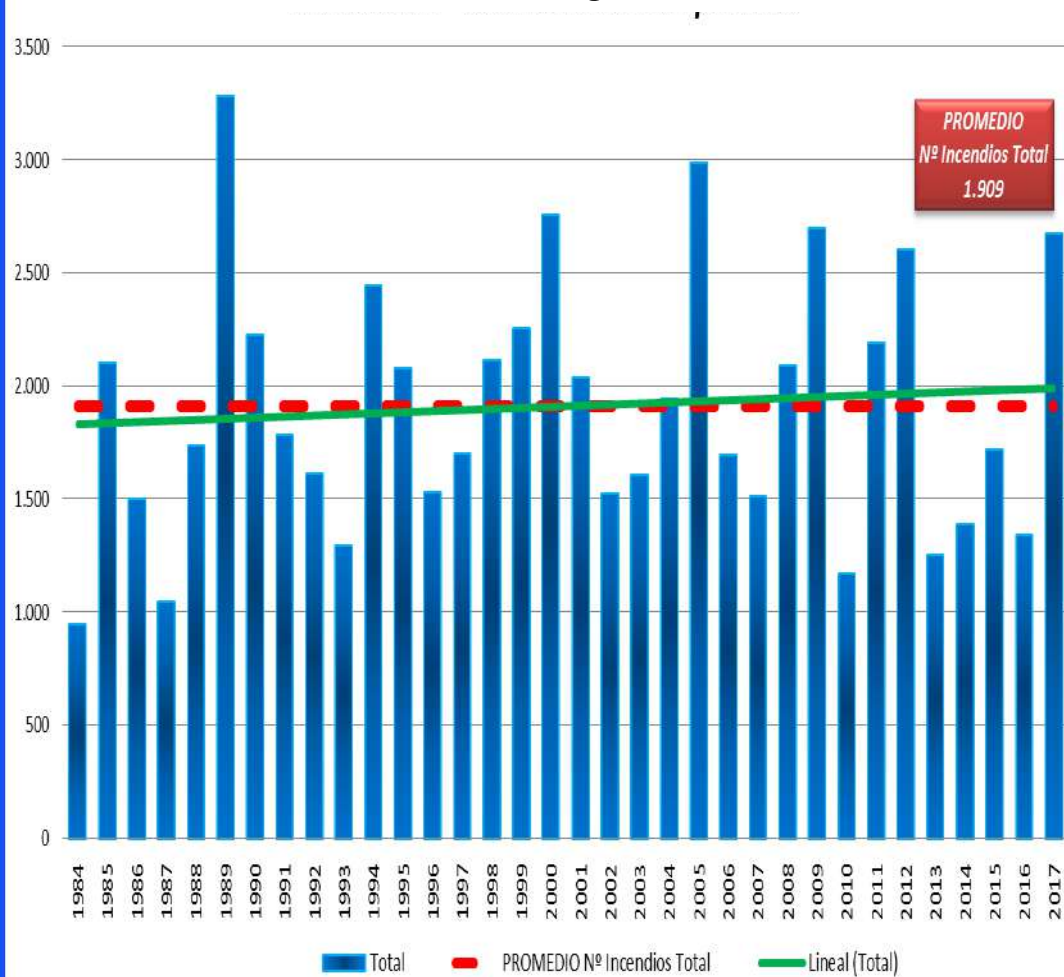




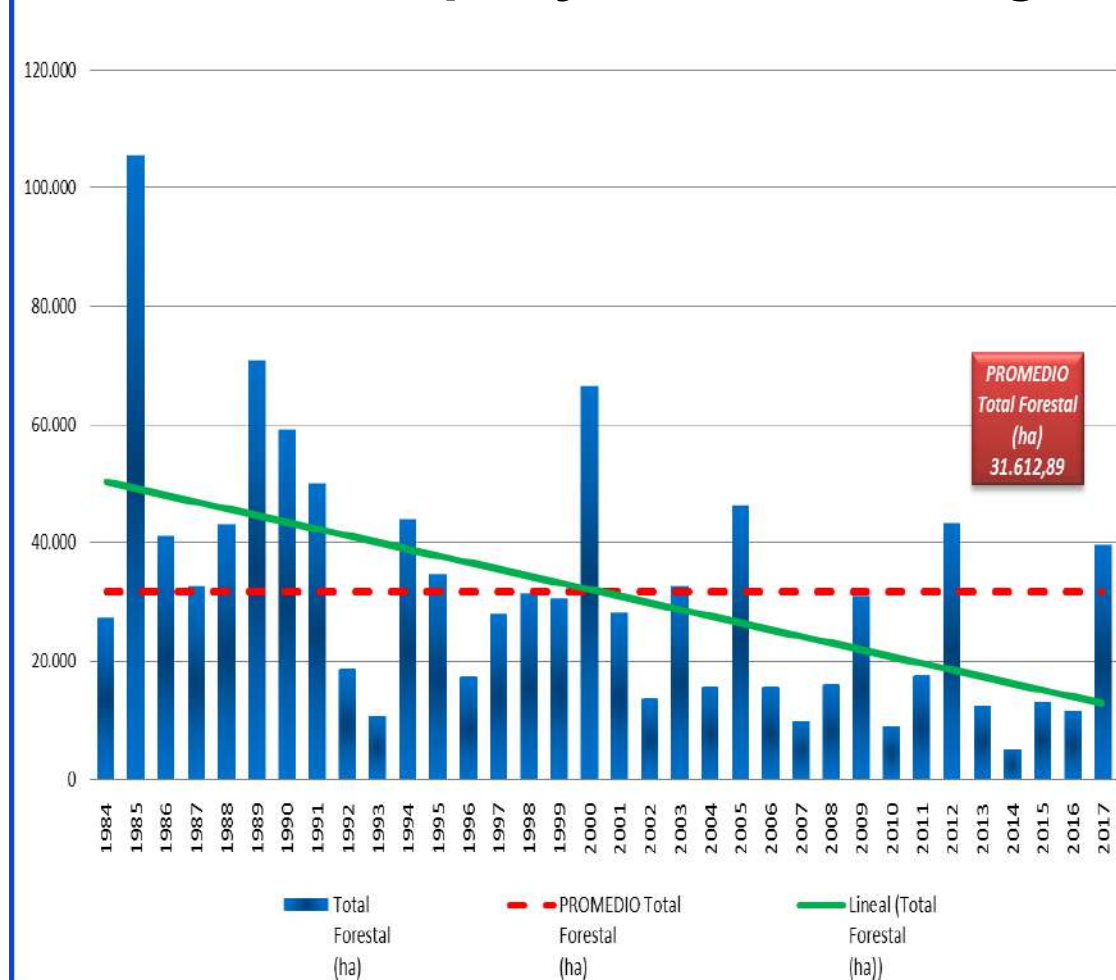
And what about our forest fires?

1984-2017: 1.900 FF/yr, 31.000 ha/yr (6.500 tree covered)

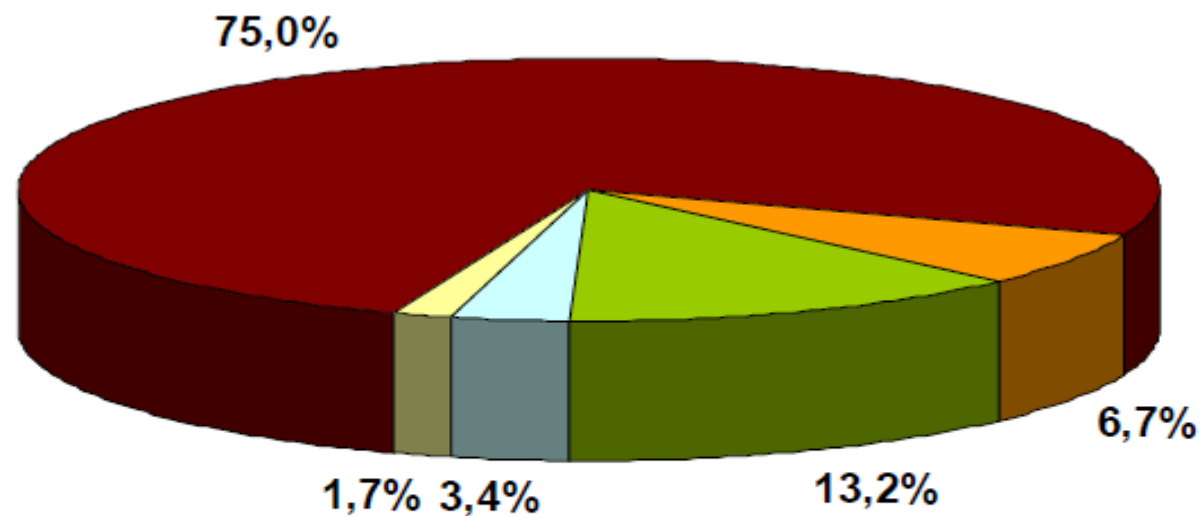
Number per year: stable



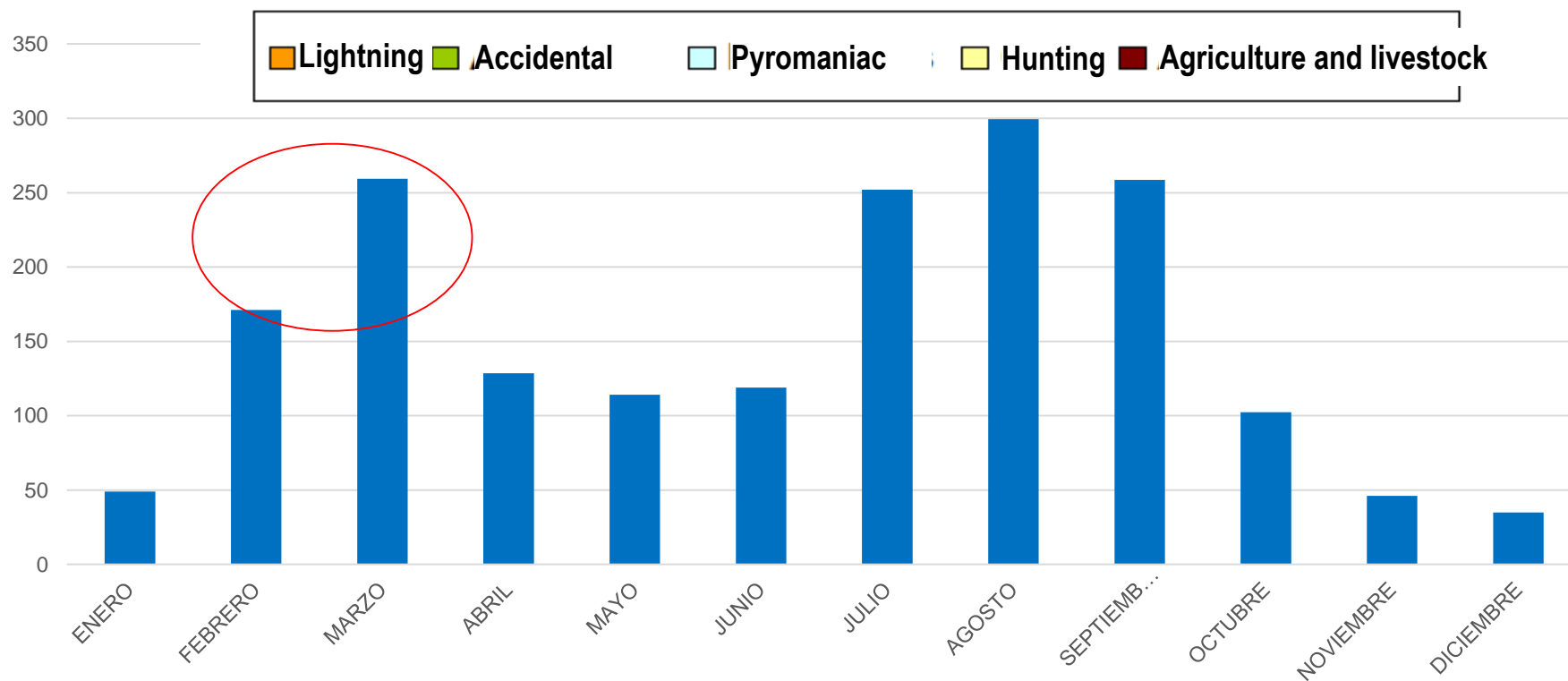
Burned area per year: decreasing



A suspicious seasonal pattern... and a high degree of deliberateness



Rada (2009)



The problem does not affect different landscapes in the same way

León, NW: almost ever



Soria, SE: almost never



These differences made us wonder

Why do some landscapes not burn?



Finland or Sweden	versus	Siberia or Canada
Basque hills	versus	Asturian hills
Aquitaine	versus	Galice or N. Portugal
Soria	versus	Zamora

Same climate, different landscapes & resilience

What are the truly main components of risk?

Forest fires are a social problem . . .



that requires social action !

Landscapes with a serious problem of forest fires use to share several characteristics:

1.-A vegetation landscape in a high risk stage

2.-A rural culture of frequent use of burnings

3.-A local economy not based in forests

4.-A rural society scarcely sensitive to the problem of forest fires . . .

*And a urban society that lives unlinked to the countryside
and does not understand the problem*

5.-Some administrative descoordination

The Regional Forest Plan (2001)

meant a *deep reflection on*

how to face forest fires in our landscape

around **2 main axes:**

1.-An efficient **suppression organization**

- ✓ based in the Forest Service
- ✓ integrated with prevention
- ✓ permanently trained

2.-A new concept of fire prevention

- ✓ that we call «**active prevention**»
- ✓ focused on **reducing the number of fires**
- ✓ from the **exhaustive analysis of causes and motivations**
- ✓ through **social action on local people**
- ✓ trying to **increase their appreciation and care for forests**

The Regional Forest Plan

established an innovative program called



1.-Launched in **2002**

2.-Geographically focused on the most dangerous areas:
*the **42 municipalities** (4,4% of the regional area) accounting for **40% of the fires***


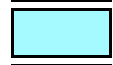

3.-Of social action with **local people** and the «risky groups»

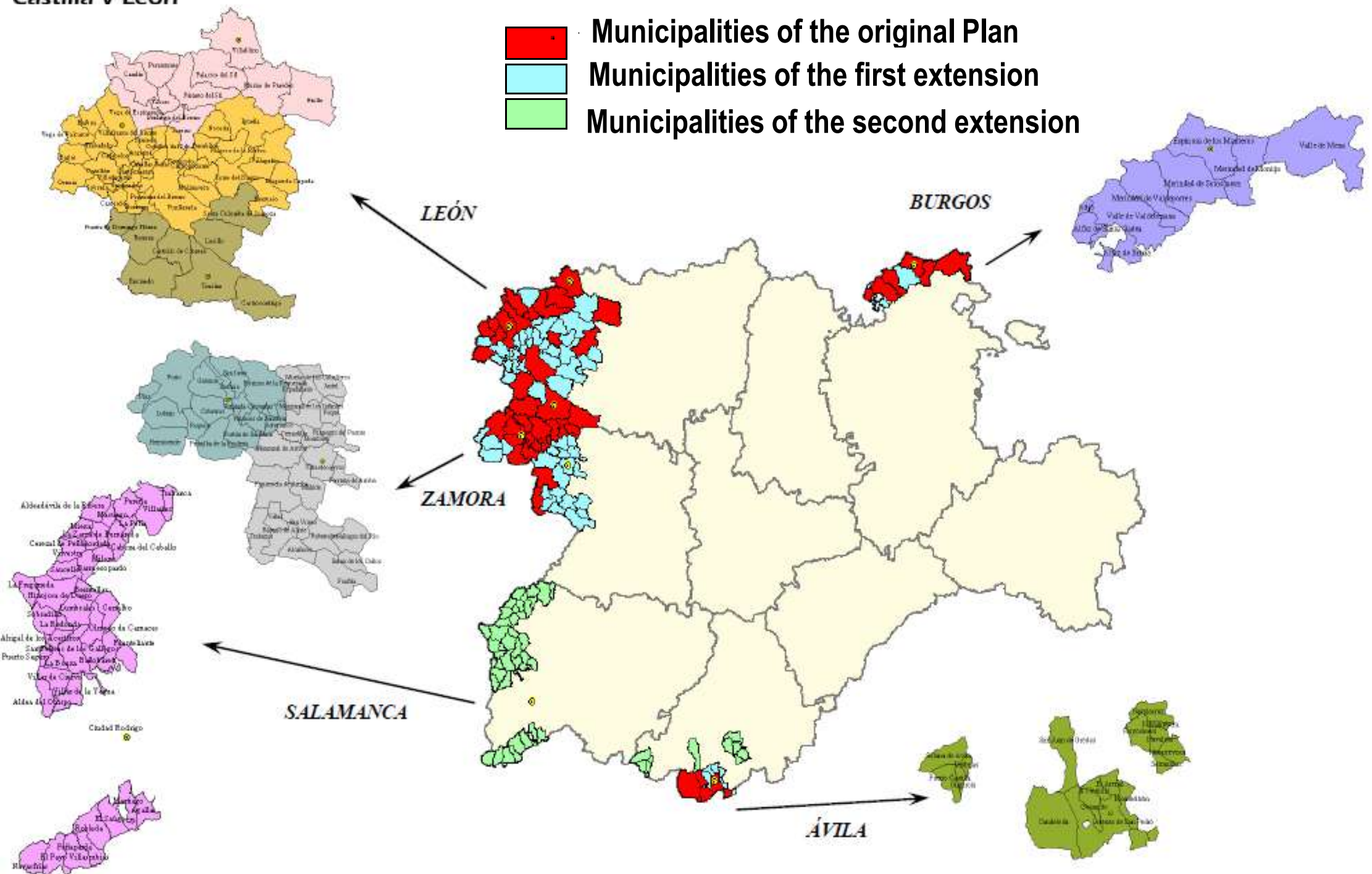
4.-Through a team of **8 «mediators»** living in the «risky areas»

5.-Oriented to improve the ways of using the land and
to **substitute** the «culture of the use of fire»

6.-Promoting alternative tools to burning,
like **mechanical brush clearings**

7.-Promoting alternatives for rural development

-  **Municipalities of the original Plan**
-  **Municipalities of the first extension**
-  **Municipalities of the second extension**



How did it work –the active prevention?

Strategy:

1. Cultural change: the fire as a problem, unregulated use of wild fire forbidden ...
2. Ongoing forest valuation: new chances, better management, resources mobilisation...
3. Felony persecution: exhaustive causality analysis, coercive measures...

Tools:

Mechanized brush clearings & Controlled burnings
Education, Publications
Discussion & dissemination sessions
Stakeholders training
Promotion of public aids
Sustainable development participative problems
Promotion of cooperation and association
Technical and administrative support



1ª Quincena gastronómica de setas

Días de setas en Sanabria...

Demstración y degustación de platos a base de los setas recogidas en Sanabria, Carballeda y Los Valles

en la colaboración de restaurantes de la comarca.

del 25 de Octubre al 9 de Noviembre

SINOPSIS

El Plan 42 es el primer instrumento de planificación y gestión forestal que se elabora en Castilla y León. Desde su origen, que surge a raíz de la Ley de Montes, el Plan 42 ha sido el instrumento que regula el uso del monte en Castilla y León.

Conocer y valorar el monte es el primer paso para su gestión. Este es el objetivo principal del Plan 42, que busca proporcionar a los gestores forestales la información necesaria para tomar decisiones sobre el uso del monte.

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MONTES Y PASTOS

Reflexiones ganaderas en torno al medio ambiente en Castilla y León

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cuarenta y dos*

al boletín del Plan 42

Trabajar juntos, una clave para la mejora de las explotaciones.

El ejemplo de la ADS ovino-caprina CARBALLEDA-SANABRIA

En este número...

El chanco del castaño

Un chanco de castaño... un chanco de castaño... un chanco de castaño...

El Plan 42

El Plan 42 es el primer instrumento de planificación y gestión forestal que se elabora en Castilla y León. Desde su origen, que surge a raíz de la Ley de Montes, el Plan 42 ha sido el instrumento que regula el uso del monte en Castilla y León.

CURSO DE GANADERIA E Y MEDIO AMBIEN

En EL PUENTE, del 27 de octubre al 1 de noviembre

PROGRAMA

1. Conceptos administrativos y legales de la ganadería
2. Oportunidades para la ganadería extensiva en Castilla y León
3. Montes y ganadería extensiva

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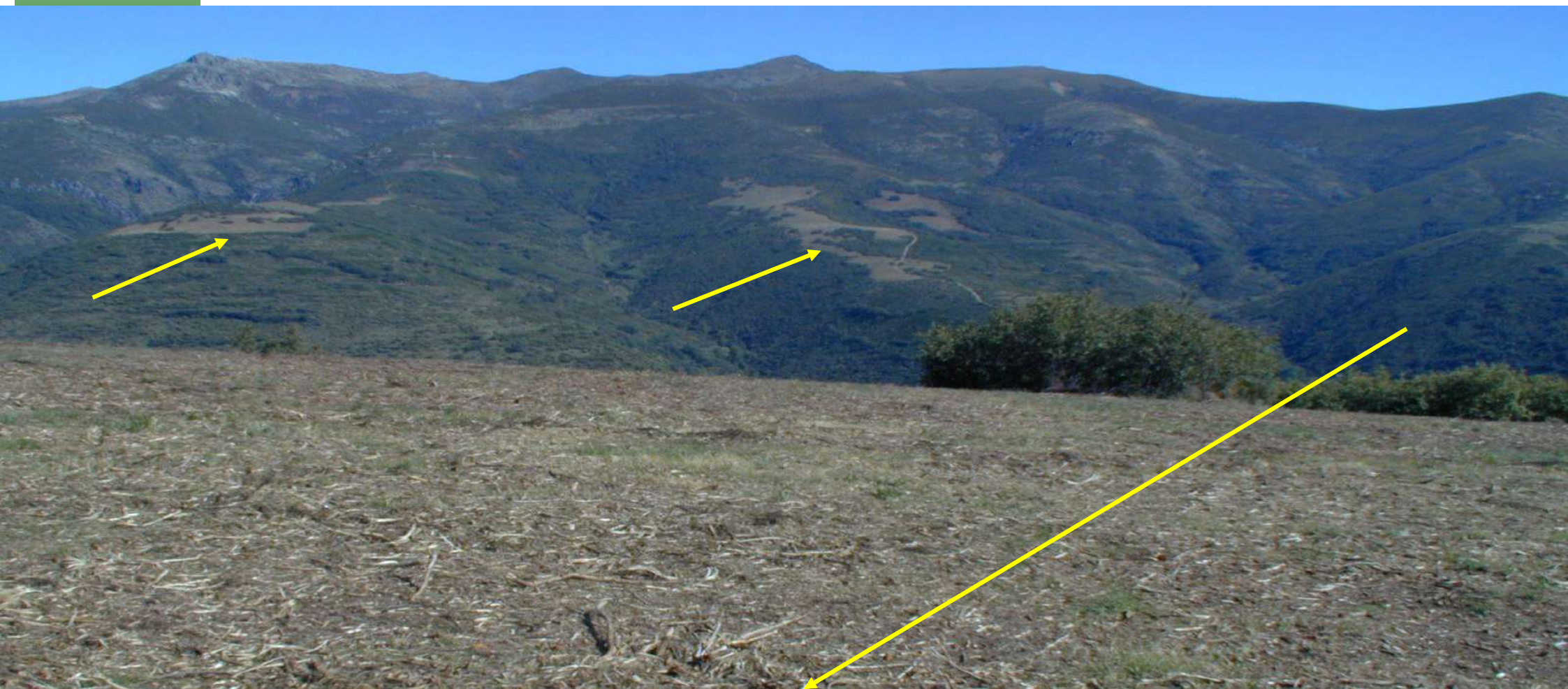


The 225 measure of the Rural Development Programs (EAFRD): quite a significant aid

17

Objective: better managing extensive livestock, reducing forest fires. Prioritized in P42 area.

Tool: an economical aid to farmers for brush clearings without use of fire, and other ranching improvements

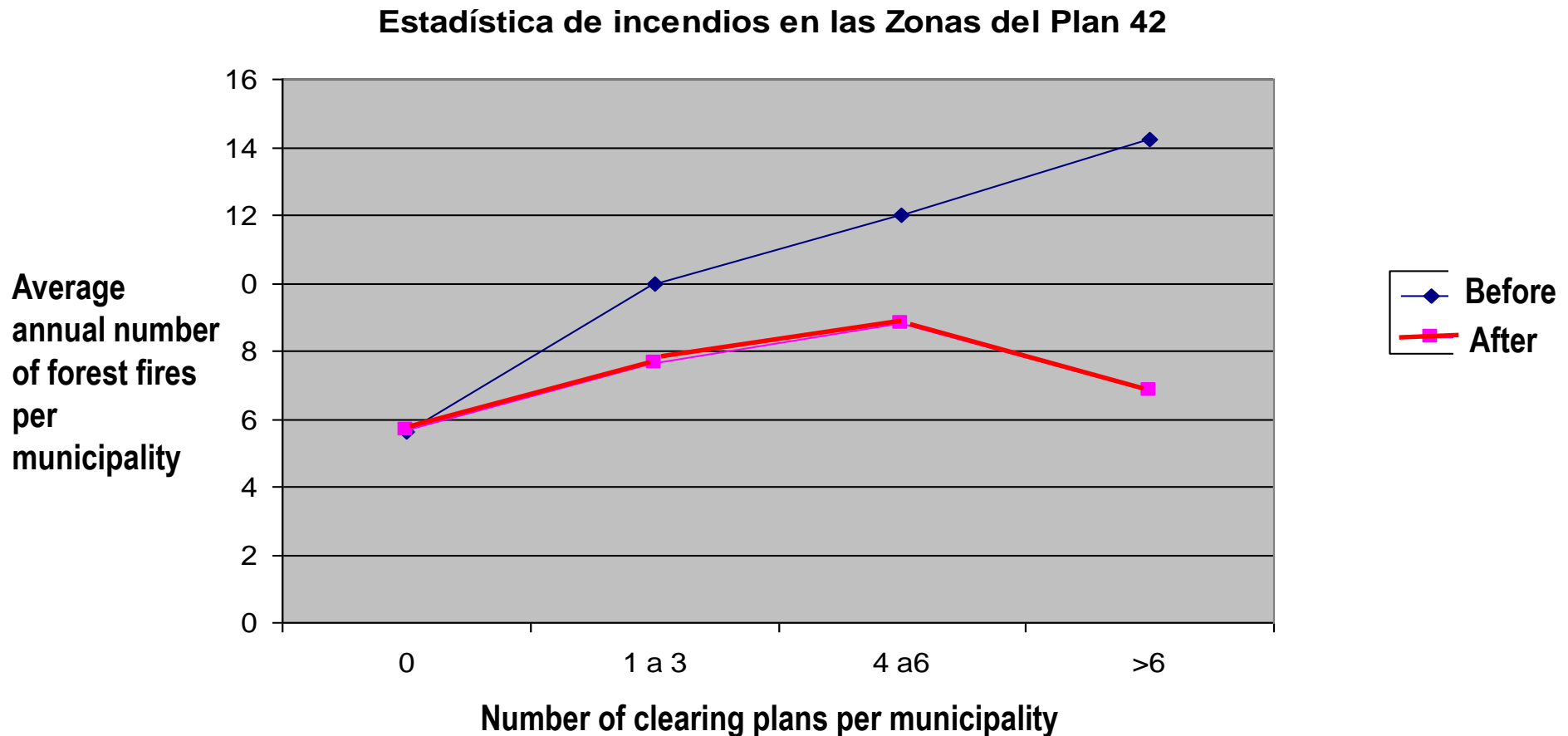


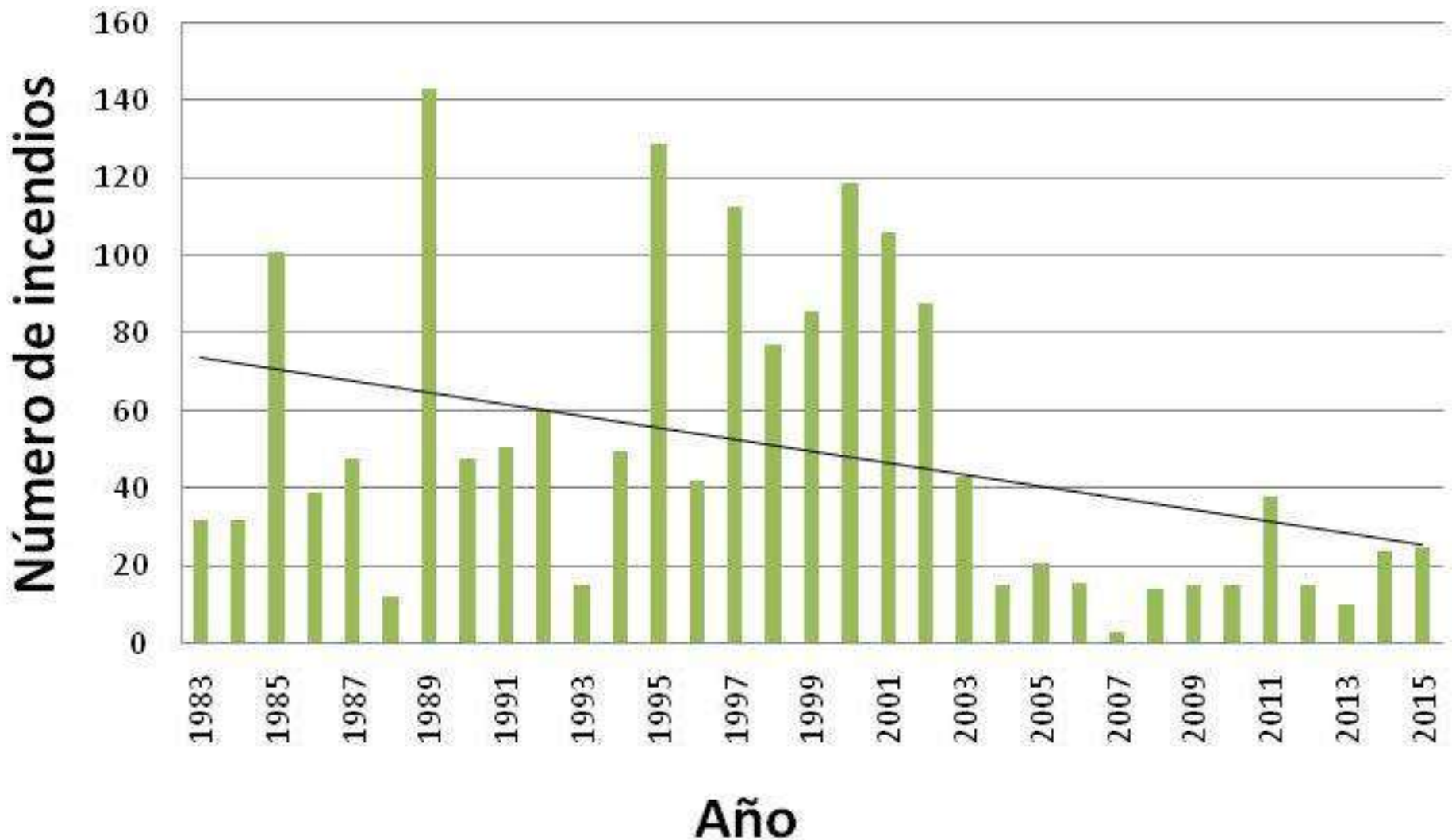
The 225 measure of the Rural Development Programs (EAFRD): quite a significant aid

Efectiveness Analysis 1998-2011 (Burgos, León, Palencia, Salamanca, Zamora):

Municipalities benefited: **-38%** number of forest fires

Municipalities not benefited: **+27,5%** number of forest fires

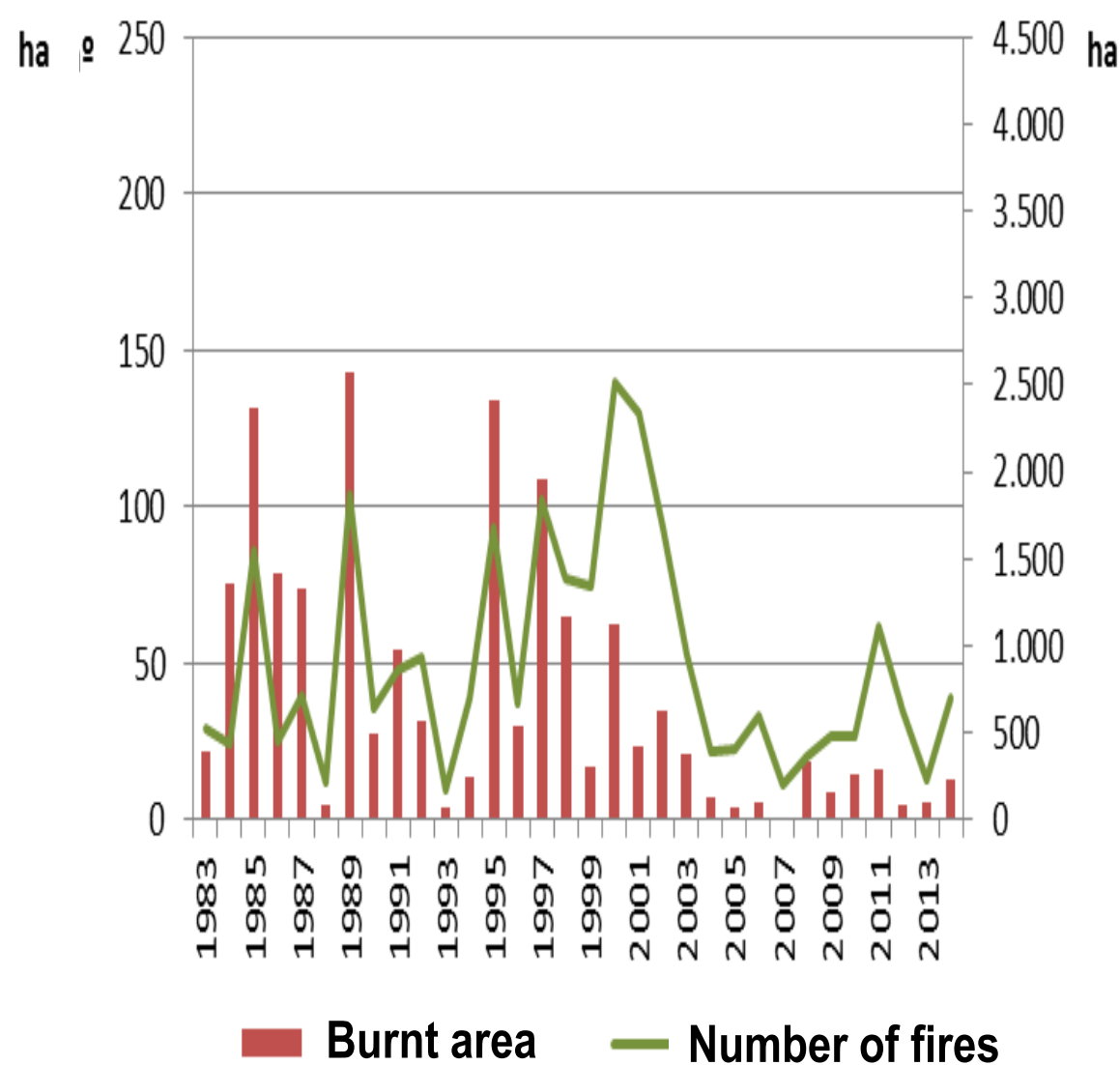
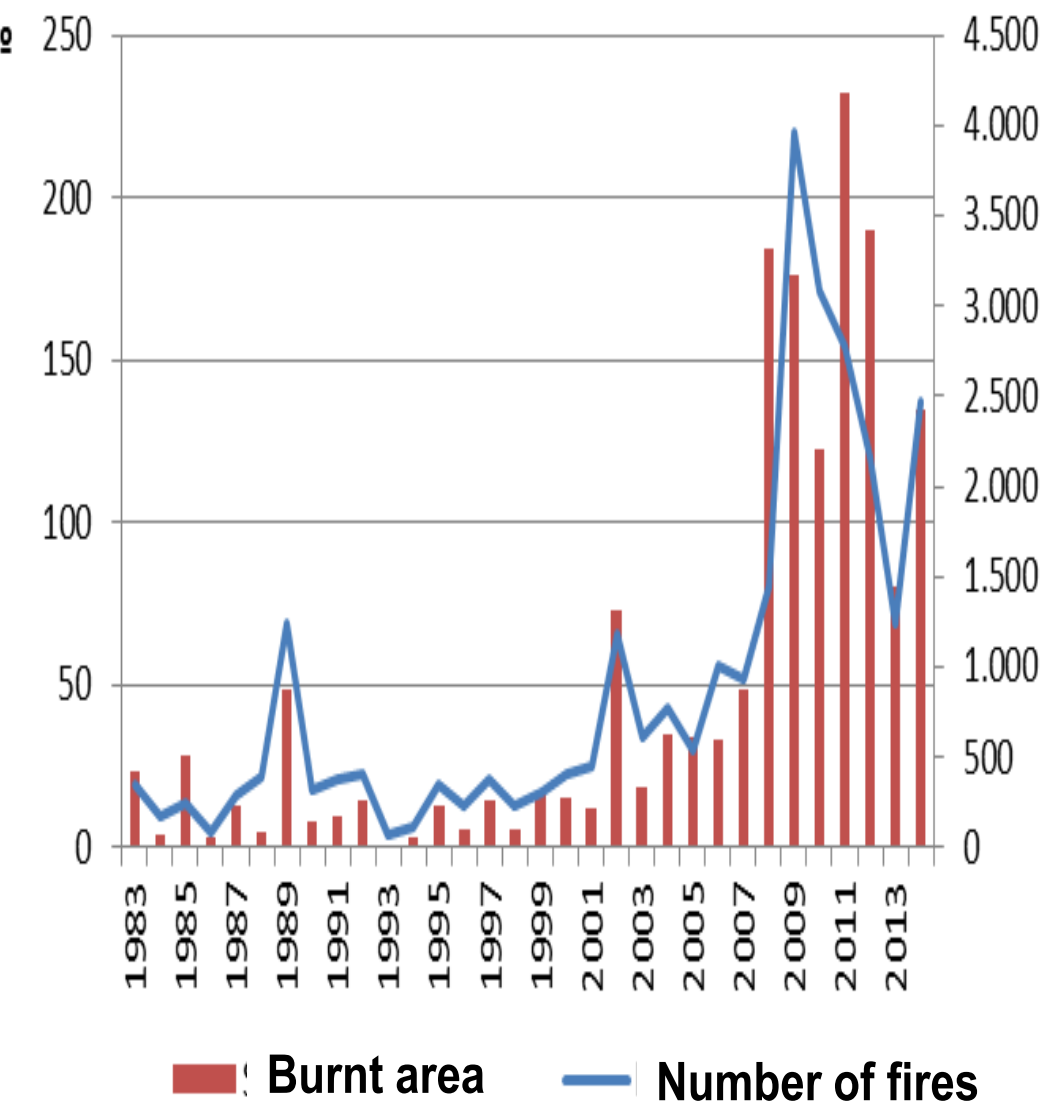




The **number of fires** in the **North of Burgos** province shows a **clear reduction** that is the most evident positive result of Plan 42



Cantabria and Burgos: difference between adjacent areas with the same traditional practices but different administrative management (right with Plan 42, shrub clearings, closure of burn lands to livestock and cattle farming control). Sevilla & Carracedo, (2018)



1.-The general approach is adequate.

The Plan 42 has achieved a **global consensus**, in

- ✓ **Political**
- ✓ **Technical and**
- ✓ **Social** **terms**



***Reducing the
number of forest
fires***



***Generating a
change of habits
in the use of fire***



***Boosting a
forest culture***



***Generating
initiatives for
sustainable rural
development***



***Increasing the
appreciation for
forests and
forest activities***



2.-Social intervention

locally adapted

with **concrete actions** that address

the specific problems of each landscape and

the **underlying factors** that explain local forest fires

*during a **large enough period of time** (minimun 15 years)*

gets to reduce both

the number and

the risk of forest fires



3.-First of all, it is essential to **understand**
Causes and
Motivations of forest fires
specific and singular **of each landscape**



4.-It is necessary to work with and to **involve** the **local people**

In order to identify and to collaborate with the **risky groups**
to substitute **risky practices**,

but also to **mobilize a social majority**,
to rise:

- **social rejection of fires** and
of people setting fires
- **appreciation for forests** and
forests activities



5.-The strong effort with extensive livestock farmers trying to integrate their management with forestry was really worthwhile

The combination of:

- **subsidies to mechanical brush clearing** and fences (RDP) with
- **grazing ban in burnt areas**, in order to allow for ecosystem recovery

has clearly reduced the number of fires linked to pastoral burning



Voluntary exclusive grazing fencing after a fire

6.- ***"Endemic" Forest fires are not a problem that forest services can solve by themselves***

It is needed

- the **concerted action of several administrations**

and particularly of:

- ✓ **local administrations** and elected charges
- ✓ the **different regional (or national) departments** with territorial action:
 - ✓ Agriculture
 - ✓ Forestry
 - ✓ Environment
 - ✓ Civil protection
- ✓ and the implication of all local foresters and technicians
- ✓ It is also important **planning the activities** and
- ✓ the role of **mediators**, to better connect with local stakeholders

In 2018, on demand of

- ✓ the political groups of the Regional Parliament and
- ✓ some municipalities in El Bierzo (León)

the Plan was recovered
and its reactivation is a commitment of the present legislature



<https://www.rtvcyt.es/Noticia/2B19DFCC-D1CF-4284-8ED92176BBA0EE63/junta/reactiva/plan/incendios/forestales/cinco/municipios/bierzo/oeste>

7.- We are convinced that managing the landscape as a whole is essential

But there is no public budget capable of affording that.

Public authorities have to understand that the **main action** is

- to **promote sustainable activities,**

specific for each landscape, and

- to **involve local economic stakeholders**

For instance, *instead of contracting shepherds to graze on firebreaks or security stripes . . .*

let's promote extensive livestock production

as a viable economic activity and

solve the barriers that the CAP

(Common Agricultural Policy)

imposes for extensive grazing

Let's concentrate our efforts in promoting a **viable biomass and wood market** and solve the serious **defficiencies of the value chains**

better than investing in firebreaks clearings

**8.-To promote forest resources mobilization
is well more effective
that any traditional «passive prevention»**

Forest biomass and wood mobilization

- generates employment and richness in rural areas
and therefore local appreciation for forests and forest activities,

Resin, cork, mushrooms, truffles, chestnut or pine nuts
production **creates VALUE in the landscape ...**

and everybody cares for what is valuable



But nobody
cares for a
brushland that
has seen
burning every 5
to 10 years



**«Living forest landscapes
are landscapes without fire»**

We wish to acknowledge to the people who adopted the decision and launched the Plan 42 initiative in the first steps, and all those who shaped it daily working in the field; they all dedicated their promising youth to achieve the golden goal: reducing forest fires in a participative way: Mariano Torre, Javier Muñoz, Lorenzo Rodríguez, Juan Espinosa, Olga Rada, Rosi Cadenas, María Turiño, Angel de la Fuente, Pedro Abati, Nica, Luz Morandeira, Angel Sánchez, etc.



Thanks for your attention !

¡ Gracias por vuestra atención !