

## eFIRECOM mission to Tunisia forests

During the middle of April (13th to 22th April 2016), a CTFC researchers team traveled to Tunisia in the frame of the e-FIRECOM Project, hosted by the General Directorate of Forestry of Tunisia (DGF).

The aim of the mission was to share knowledge and contexts between experts and common user of the forest fires risk information, according to the work axis of the project. In this sense, DGF technicians shown the present forest fire risk through visiting many burned forest and its rural areas with a strongly socio-economic relation with forestry activities.

CTFC staff could analyze the forest defense structure and prevention system deployed along the country, with special attention to the northern part, which concentrates the 84% of national forests. Almost 90% of forests are public ownership and 40% develops and important protection function in front erosion, watersheds or soil fixation (marine dunes).

In particular they could visit the regions of Kef, Jendouba, Bizerte, Siliana and Zaghouan, comparing the past, current and future situation of forest fires and the involvement of local stakeholders and inhabitants as a key point to prevent and minimize forest fires impacts at multiple levels.

In parallel it has been organized a work meeting with members of the local radio of Kef region, to discuss and evaluate the treatment and management of forest fire risk information. The session helped to define the crucial role of media and journalists during an emergency such a forest fire, and to detect the existing gaps and opportunities to be implemented in order to perform and improve the coordination and communication between journalists and official emergency services. It has been also analyze the role of journalism in disseminate information of forest resources, values and risks, in order to increase the society awareness, and improve the resilience of communities in risk.

The event was a success, and some initiatives are envisaged to be self-implemented in the short term by the radio, such as create a space where to meet journalists and forest fires experts from the DGF, in order to share relevant information about forest fires (fire statistics, fire tendencies, forest fire prevention policies and measures...).

The mission was fruitfully and the expected objectives were achieved properly, reason why it is envisaged to develop a second workshop coming soon, to mainly focus on the involvement of children and youth into the forest fire risk cycle.

## Photo gallery of the mission



Visit of a forest with a successful firebreak work implemented in the region of Zaghouan



Visit of a wildfire's resilient forest of *Pinus halepensis*, resulting from a low intensity fire, in the region of Bizerte.



Visit of the Ghardimaou's Forest Protection Centre (Jendouba), with forest crews and members of the DGF.



Example of wildland urban interface in the National Park of Boukornine, region of Tunis.



Work meeting with the journalists of Radio Kef.



Visit of the National Park "El Feija" with a high ecological value due to the mixed broadleaf forest reserve composed by *Quercus suber* and *Quercus faginea*; in the region of Jendouba.