

8th International Conference on Building Resilience – ICBR Lisbon'2018 Risk and Resilience in Practice: Vulnerabilities, Displaced People, Local Communities and Heritages 14-16 November 2018 – Lisbon, Portugal



DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR INCREASING RESILIENCE OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS EXPOSED TO WILDFIRE RISK



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THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

TODAY'S TALK

- 1. Context Wildfire prone urban-rural interfaces and informality
- 2. Method Participatory action research in Agüita de la Perdiz Chile
- 3. Results Report with guidelines and key actions
- 4. Discussion Contribution to improve resilience to wildfires ex-post
- 5. Conclusion Blend of physical and social systems

Contribute to the exploration of practical ways that promote the development of resilience to wildfires for communities living in informal settlements exposed to wildfire risk.



Disasters number and impact increase

Wildfire hazard

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Greater disaster risk at the urban-rural interface
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Wildfire risk and consequence greater in informal settlements





Consensus about spatial planning's capacity to integrate wildfire risk management

However, its implementation is challenging for spatial planning





Existing settlements constrained to provide separation from fire source

Retrofitting measures to modify fuel levels or increase buildings' resistance

Informality adds complexity

Additional challenges and possibilities

Need to explore practical ways for developing resilience to wildfires in informal settlements

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Report on the production of guidelines

Risk-based procedural approach informed by evidence-based and risk-based planning

Practical ways that promote the development of resilience to wildfires for communities living in informal settlements

| Evidence-based planning procedure | Risk-based planning procedure |
|--|---|
| Analysis of the circumstances and problem/opportunity identification | Establishing the context |
| Identification of goals and objectives | Risk assessment – identification |
| Design of alternatives | Risk assessment – analysis |
| Evaluation and selection of goals | Risk assessment – evaluation |
| Implementation | Risk treatment |
| Monitoring effects and adjusting. | Communication and consultation & Monitoring and review (to take place during all previous stages) |

Table 1: Evidence-based and risk-based planning procedures parallels(based on ISO 31000, 2009; March, Kornakova, & Handmer, 2017)



Participatory action research

Seminar 'Prevention of Forest Fire Risks in Urban Settlements and Buildings: A Planning and Design Approach'

Participants from divers backgrounds













Study case is Agüita de la Perdiz in Concepcion Chile

1958 commenced as an illegal settlement

Enclosed gully and significant physical challenges to manage wildfire risk

Community's self-organizing capacity





Three-day workshop and a visit to the study site

Activities were developed using a **risk-based approach**, informed by evidence-based planning and risk-based planning

A protocol of three stages was used



Establishing circumstances and problem



Identifying the risk, objectives and design alternatives



Selecting the actions to implement for treating risk



Context

Built environment resilience

Wildfire, landscape and weather

Interaction with settlements

Initiation and fire progression on structures





Assessment

Site visit guided by a community representative and supported by local officials

Workshop and SWOT analysis of the site applying principles of fire behaviour and house destruction









Specification

Site improvement

Settlement improvement

Community development









Report

- (1) general principles that influence the behaviour of fire and house destruction
- (2) applying the principles by analysing wildfire risk and developing a design response





Key actions for:

House and site improvement

Settlement improvement

Community development



echumbre

ajo de estructura

Electricidad

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DISCUSSION

Guidelines contribute to improve the resilience to wildfires ex-post

Process contributes to the dissemination of wildfire risk management knowledge and to building local capacities

Replication of the process can address context-specific issues in other places

Approached in a **comprehensive manner** No "complete" failsafe mechanisms Untreated weak points can lead to catastrophic outcomes

Community leaders with experience in fighting fires, along with sympathetic **local government and other agencies** provided a strong base for initial action



Expected to contribute to the exploration of practical ways that promote the development of resilience

Highlights the challenges faced in informal settlements:

location, morphology, design materiality

Wildfire risks are typically ignored in the process of settlement establishment and incremental growth based on self-organisation and autonomy.

Introduction of risk reduction actions is a blend of **self-organisation and acceptance of external inputs**, that may eventually lead to a level of formalisation while loosing some autonomy

Blend of physical and social systems



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