

Fire is here to stay

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PyroLife

North & South

Science & Practice

Water & Fire

Gender

Key challenges
What you can do to help



@dr_firelady

@PyroLife_ITN



**Commission Expert Group on
Forest Fires (EGFF)**



How I got into fire

- * Never thought about it
- * PhD on fire effects
- * Burning in Portugal opened my eyes



Schoorl, 2009

Learned about fire

- * Recognize fire risk
- * Manage and reduce risks
- * Understand fire dynamics
- * Good fire vs. bad fire
 - ~ threat to people



Look at my country differently



While people are aware & prepared for this...



... fire is here already

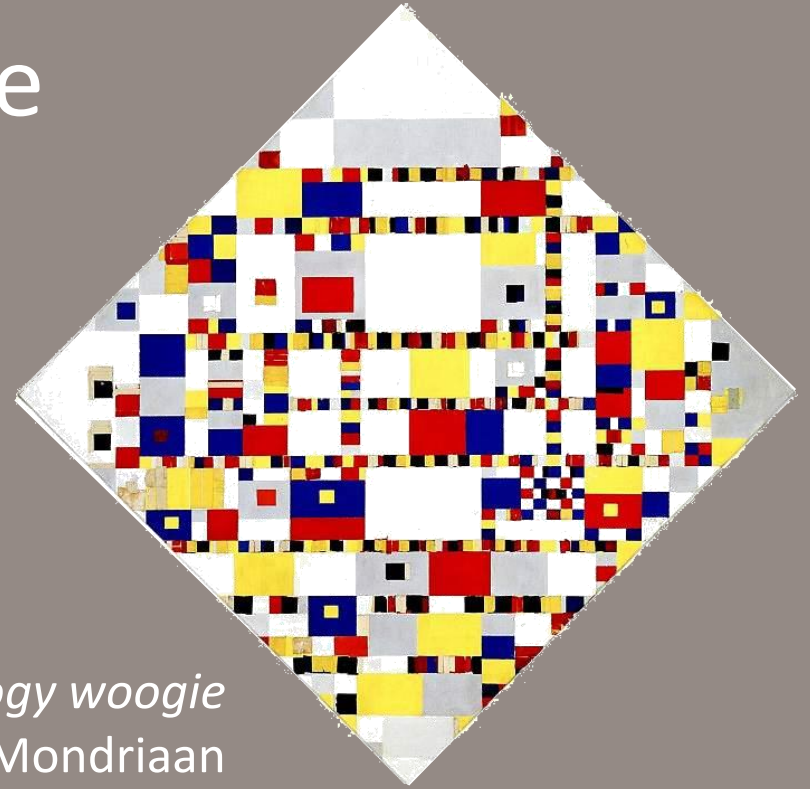
- New risk
- Climate change
- Low awareness & preparedness
- Densely populated region



We only have interface



Who's afraid of red, yellow & blue? Barnett Newman



VICTORY boogy woogie
Piet Mondriaan

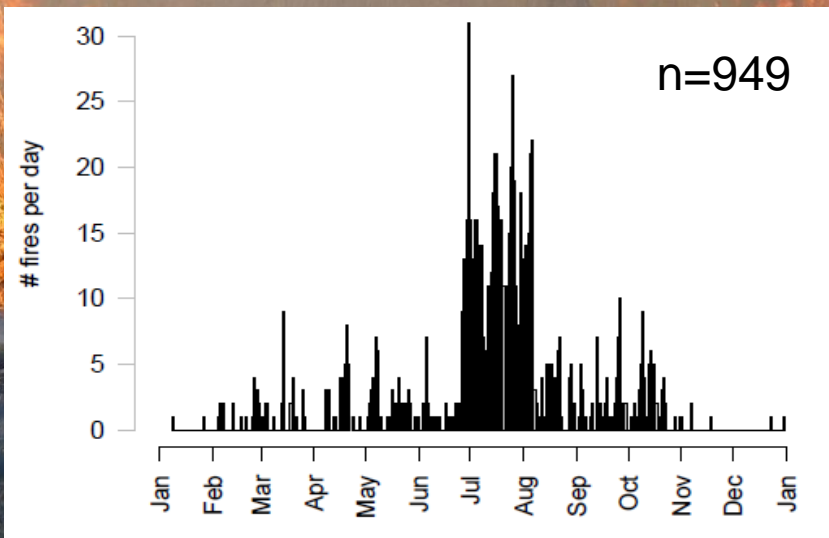


#Scheveningen bonfires

Key challenges for NW Europe

- Underestimation of fire occurrence
 - Focus on forest fires, shrub and crop fires not counted
 - Satellite does not capture small fires
- Cause often not reported

Expert Group (pan-European) standardizes data collection



French region orders harvest standstill after fields burn in heatwave



Table 42. Areas burned by fires of at least 30 ha in 2018 estimated from satellite imagery.

Country	Area (Ha)	Number of Fires
The Netherlands	182.95	3

Key challenges for NW Europe

- Fire absent in planning, design and education
- Problem ownership is unclear
 - Which DG, ministry, government level is responsible?
- Enthusiasm but resistance to knowledge
 - Reinventing the wheel, ill-informed projects
- Disconnect between formal and informal leaders
 - Untapped potential
- Belief that all fire is bad, can be suppressed, fire service will rescue us (they won't)



I worry about this... and Brexit

When will people wake up?



Mallacoota, Australia, Dec 2019

From suppression to Living with Fire

- **Accept:** fire as a natural process to be managed
- **Understand:** fire statistics to be required by law
 - Location – size – cause – effects
 - All fires (incl. small fires, regardless of vegetation type)
- **Plan:** fire resilient management plans (rural and urban) and building design
- **Manage:** fuels, keep people in the landscape, bioeconomy
- **Balance:** fire risk vs. biodiversity, climate action
- **Educate & prepare:** individuals, communities, stakeholders
- **Collaborate:** across disciplines, sectors, borders

Wildfire guidance – informs – good practices – prevention

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How you can help



@dr_firelady

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- Facilitate integrated fire management using an integrated approach across disciplines, departments. Takes time.
- Make responsibilities and leadership clear
- Help connect formal and informal leaders
- Stimulate knowledge exchange for knowledge-based action
- Keep those Brits involved – for our safety

- Fire is here to stay
- Do not underestimate it

Innovative Training Network
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019
EU grant #860787

PyroLife



PyroLife (2019-2023)

- Training new generation of integrated fire management experts – towards living with fire
- 4 M€: salary & training of 15 PhD candidates
- 21 partners, coordinated by Wageningen University
- PhD vacancies fall 2019, start April 2020

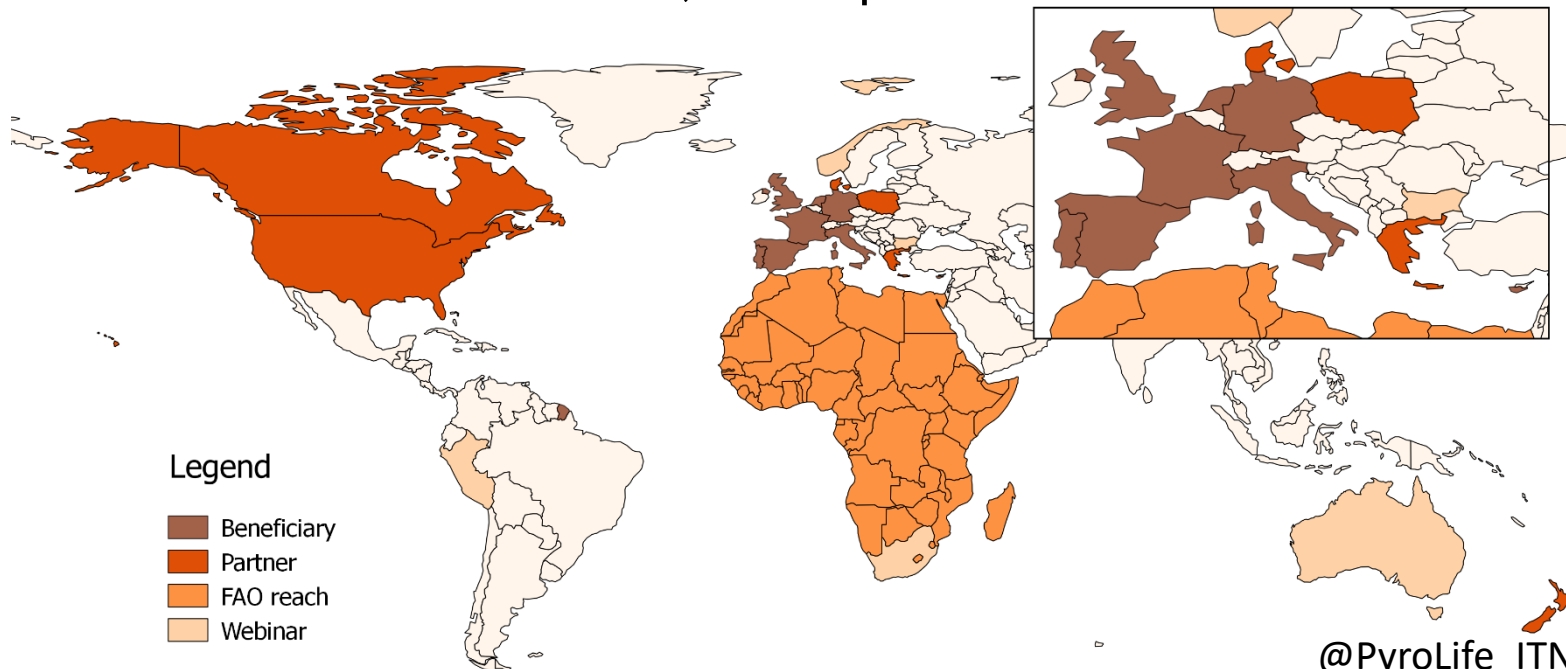
Key concepts

Understanding fire

Uncertainty

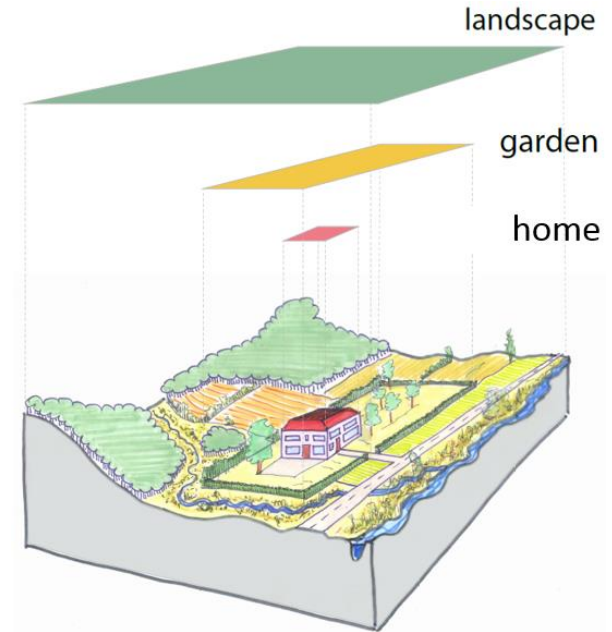
Risk communication

Integrating across disciplines, scales, sectors, countries



What we will do

- **Science:** 15 PhD theses
 - Risk perception, fire danger rating, fire behavior NW Europe, megafires, environmental impact, economic impact
 - Home ignition zone, landscape design, prevention, fire-resilient governance
 - Transdisciplinary science, interagency exchange, engaging vulnerable communities, risk communication
- **Practice:** 15 policy/management briefs
- **Activities**
 - 4 training events
 - 4 short workshops
 - 2 conferences
 - Online training, monthly webinars



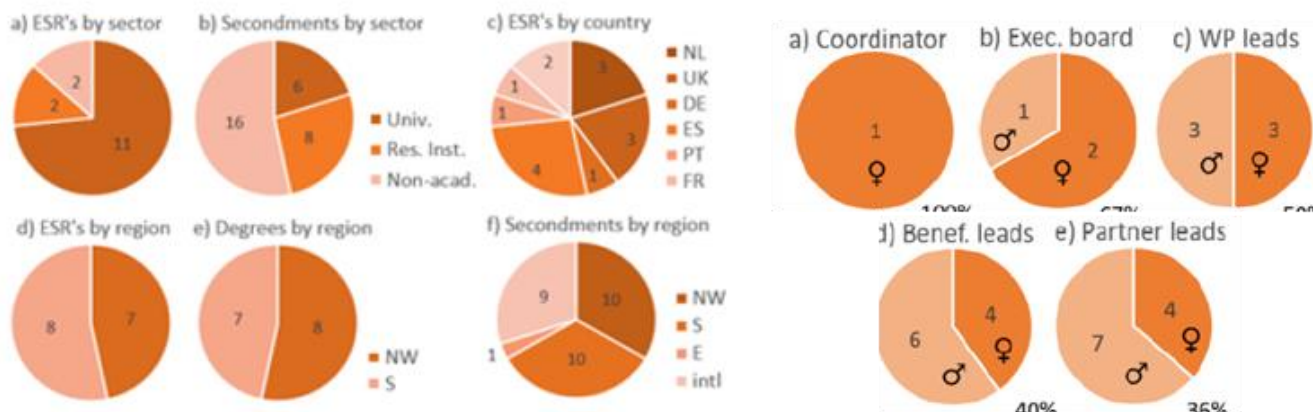
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Diversity is key

- *Inter & transdisciplinary*
- *Cross-geography*
- *Cross-risk*
- *Science-practice*
- *Social diversity* – building collaboration based on trust & respect
- Integral part of training, methods and recruitment





Fire Chief Darrell Reid @FireChiefReid · 19 jan.

Als antwoord op @hansummers

Good morning! I heard your four y/o #daughter was discouraged because she felt she had to be a boy to be a #firefighter.

In #Vancouver🇨🇦, we have awesome firefighters who happen to be women!

& Nanaimo's @Karen_Fry is a great Chief who happens to be a woman!

Pic @StraithDane



Women firefighters prove existence to girl

Four-year-old Esme said she thought only men joined the fire service and wished she could be a boy.

bbc.co.uk



pamela oparocha @PamPamo7 · 18 jan.

Als antwoord op @hansummers

Hannah!! Saying a big Hi to your little girl. I am one of 339 women in the #LondonFireBrigade #ThisGirlCan



3 52 1.107

Recognizing Women Leaders in Fire Science

by Alistair M.S. Smith * and Eva K. Strand

College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844, USA

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Fire 2018, 1(3), 45; <https://doi.org/10.3390/fire1030045>

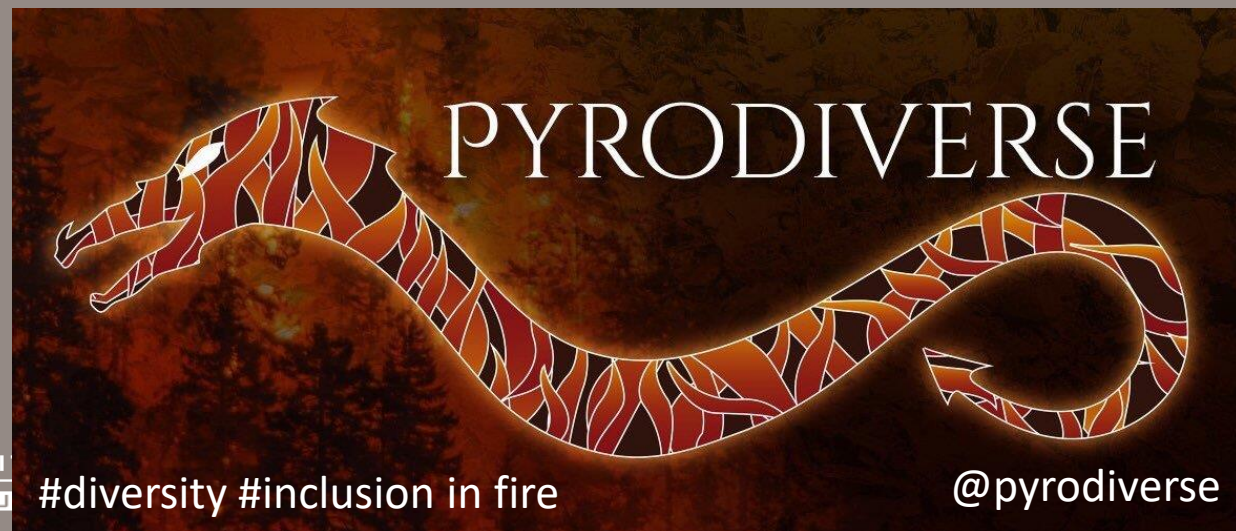
Do I belong here?



Social diversity

Age, gender, sexuality LGBTQI+, nationality, race, body shape/size, introvert/extravert, first-generation college students/PhD's, rural/urban

- Diversity increases the quality of science
- Diversity is awkward – but moral & quality obligation
- **Visibility – Combating bias – Safe working climate**



Keeping people in
the landscape

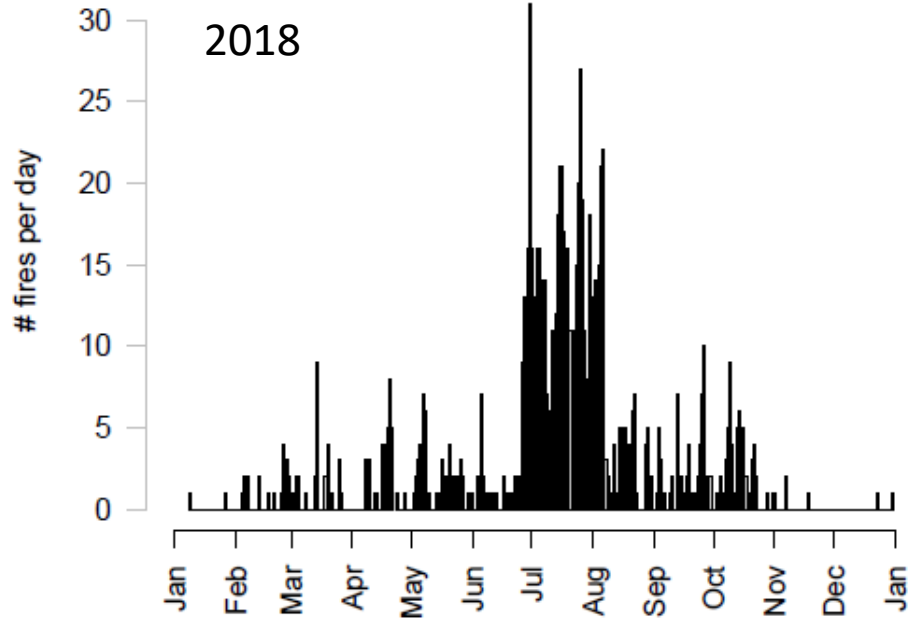
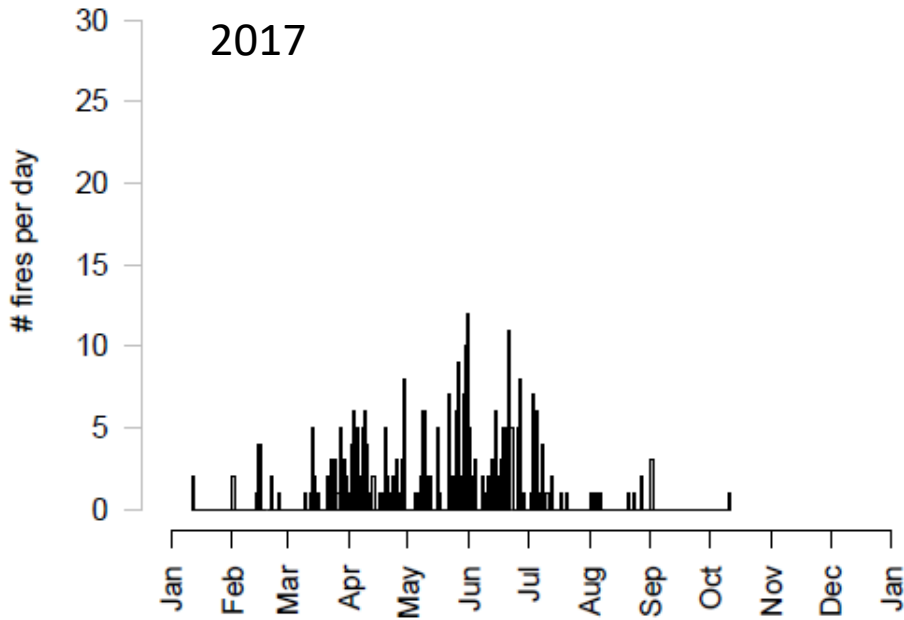
In Mediterranean
& beyond



Revitalizing
rural areas

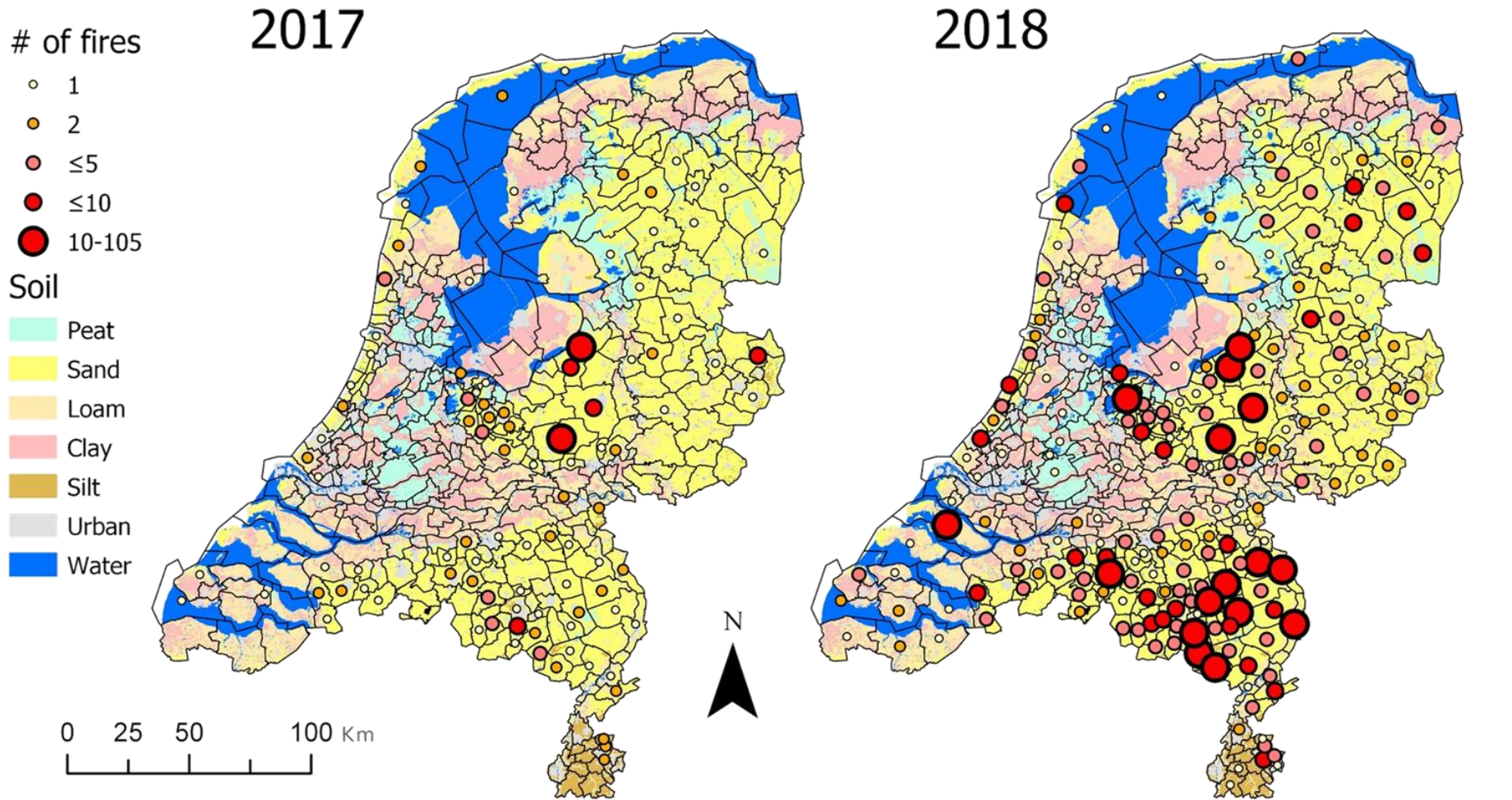
Internet
Services
Connectivity

Netherlands: daily fire occurrence



1000 fires in 2018

Fire occurrence by municipality



On sandy soils
High population density & low awareness