

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT IN GREECE

What it is about

Copernicus Sentinel data is being used to help in assessing the impact of wildfires and efficiently planning related relief efforts. With the continued prevalence of hotter summers across all of Europe, wildfires are becoming a bigger and bigger concern for many regions. The regional authority on the island of Crete have adopted the use of a

Sentinel-enabled platform which helps in providing accurate assessments of affected areas, both in terms of area-extent and land-type. This means that the regional authority can conduct thorough post-event analysis, make effective decisions when it comes to the management of relief efforts, and plan impactful future mitigation measures.



What we found

- The total cumulative wildfire burnt area in the EU from January to September 2022 had already amounted to over 750,000 hectares, compared to an average of just over 260,000 hectares in 2006-2021.
- A particularly devastating wildfire occurred around the town of Melabes, in July 2022. The Sentinel-enabled platform "GIS Crete" was used to support the regional authority in planning and decision making in its aftermath.
- Thanks to the rich data obtained from Sentinel-2 following the disaster, actors involved in relief efforts could obtain a comprehensive overview of the most and least affected areas, helping them to make better informed decisions.

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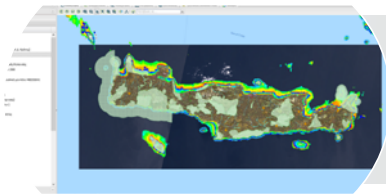
The Satellite Data

Copernicus Sentinel-2 provides free-of-charge frequent wide-swath, high-resolution multispectral imagery with 13 spectral bands over Greece.



The Service Provider

Geospatial Enabling Technologies (GET) is an SME specialising in the supply of geospatial products and software services. In 2021 GET developed the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) called "GIS Crete".



The Primary User

Region of Crete is a local self-government authority of Greece who are responsible for strategic planning for the island. They utilise GIS Crete for several applications, including natural disaster assessment and future planning.



Secondary Beneficiaries

Following a wildfire, emergency and relief services can get a comprehensive view of the most affected areas, the least affected areas, and potential further issues they could be facing.



End User Beneficiary

Citizens of areas affected by wildfires benefit from better executed disaster relief efforts. The planning and resources needed to rebuild communities after a wildfire can be distributed more efficiently.

About the project

Through a series of case studies, EARSC aims to gather quantitative evidence that the usage of Copernicus Sentinel data provides an effective and convenient support to various market applications. These studies are undertaken in the frame of the project "Showcasing the benefits brought by

the usage of Sentinels data to society, environment and economy: a bottom-up assessment based on traceable impacts along selected value chains", under an assignment from the European Space Agency (ESA) funded by the European Union as part of the Copernicus Programme.

Download the full report from the project website



<http://earsc.org/sebs>

