



**Wildfire2024**

UK Wildfire Conference

12-13 November • Aberdeen, Scotland

**Programme**



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UK Wildfire Conference  
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A man in a dark suit and glasses is speaking at a light-colored wooden podium on a stage.

**Wildfire2024**  
UK Wildfire Conference

The Heather Trust



ROOM ONE 16:50  
**UP NEXT**

Summary and Closing Remarks  
**Michael Bruce, Scottish Wildfire Forum**  
**Gareth Clay, England and Wales Wildfire Forum**



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# Special thanks to our sponsors

We extend our gratitude to our generous sponsors. Their support has been instrumental in making this conference possible and whose commitment has helped bring this vision to life.



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## MARK-3 WATSON EDITION: THE FUTURE OF FIRE PROTECTION IS HERE



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### Wildfires Fire Ecology and Crisis Management



#### Training and Operations

Empowerment of organizations and training of professionals for better prevention and suppression of wildfires.

#### Knowledge and Applied Science

Generation and dissemination of knowledge through international projects.

#### Resilient Landscapes and Societies

Analysis and proposals for action to create landscapes and communities prepared for wildfires.

#### Education and Awareness

Educational programs to create social awareness about the need to manage the risk of wildfires from the perspective of fire ecology.

- Design & manufacture of Fire Fighting & Rescue Vehicles •
- Specialised Fire Equipment • After Sales Service Support •
- Global Distribution •



Fighting fire with innovation since 1965



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# Global Perspective

8:45 Registration

9:30 **Formal opening**  
Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

9:45 **Opening address**  
Katrina Candy, The Heather Trust

## ROOM ONE

Session Chair  
Michael Humphreys, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

10:00 **KEYNOTE**  
**The new normal: Communities learning to live with fire**  
Val Charlton, Landworks South Africa

10:30 **SPEAKER**  
**UK wildfire forecasts and risk assessments within an international context and in a changing climate**  
Will Lang, Met Office

10:50 **SPEAKER**  
**Building wildfire resilient communities in Europe: Insights from the UK and Ireland**  
Christine Eriksen, University of Bern

11:10 COFFEE

11:30 **SPEAKER**  
**Creating resilience for buildings and people in the re-wilded coastal heathlands of Norway – copying and modernising the Vikings land management practises**  
Torgrim Log, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

11:50 **SPEAKER**  
**Not just water, but also fire! Wildfire management in The Netherlands**  
Edwin Kok, Netherlands Institute for Public Safety (NIPV)

12:10 Q&A

12:40 LUNCH

## ROOM ONE

Session Chair  
Claran Nugent, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Ireland

13:40 **KEYNOTE**  
**The Portuguese wildfire challenge and the landscape fire governance framework**  
Tiago Olivera, President AGIF

14:10 **SPEAKER**  
**Perceptions of wildfire science, policy, and management: A pilot study**  
Sarah Cowan, University of York

14:30 **SPEAKER**  
**Shining a light on prescribed fire: claims versus evidence**  
Andreas Hainemeyer, University of York

14:50

COFFEE

15:10 **KEYNOTE**  
**Peat fires: How we can respond a growing threat**  
Anton Benaslavskiy, Pyrocene Alliance

15:40 **SPEAKER**  
**Assessing wildfire vulnerability of touristic infrastructures**  
Bruno Guillaume, Efectis France

16:00 **SPEAKER**  
**Adapting international ideas to help develop wildfire strategies in Scotland / UK**  
Michael Bruce, Firebreak Services Ltd

16:30 Q&A and announcements

16:45 CLOSE

*More events and social opportunities for Day One continued over the next page*

## ROOM TWO

Session Chair  
Carmen Sanchez-Garcia, Swansea University

14:10 **SPEAKER**  
**Creating an international evidence-based strategy for UK community wildfire resilience**  
Victoria Amato, SWCA Environmental Consultants  
Linda Kettley, Firewise UK  
Fiona Newman-Thacker, PhD Candidate, Wageningen University & Research, NL

14:30 **SPEAKER**  
**State of wildfires**  
Douglas Kelley, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

15:10 **SPEAKER**  
**Limited spatial co-occurrence of wildfires and muirburn across Scottish moorlands**  
Stuart Smith, The James Hutton Institute

15:30 **SPEAKER**  
**The great fuel moisture survey: Developing fundamental wildfire science and sustainable community owned agency in traditionally non-fire prone societies**  
Nicholas Kettridge, University of Birmingham

15:50 CLOSE

# Hovedtrekk Dag 1

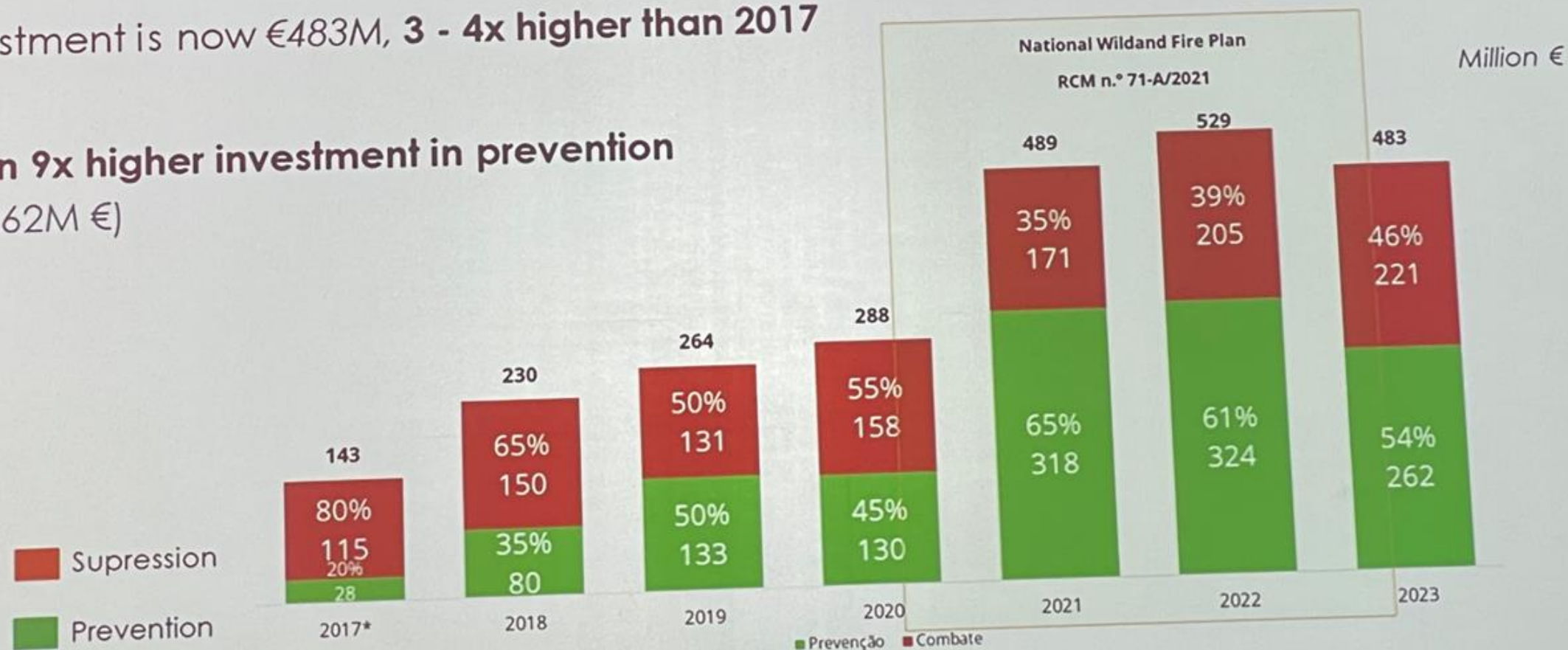
- Helt andre utfordringer, f.eks. i Sør-Afrika, enn her på berget...
- Det jobbes veldig bra med varsling av brannfare i UK (Met Office)
- Svært viktig å ha med seg lokalbefolkningen (C. Eriksen, Bern)
- (Deler av mitt foredrag kjenner de fleste av dere)
- "Enhver brann i terrenget i Nederland er en brann i randsonen..."
- Veldig interessant utvikling i Portugal etter ekstrembrannene i 2017
- Forskjellige oppfatninger i samfunnet ift vernebrenning og "muir burns"
- Utfordringer og muligheter ift torvmark i brann
- Utfordringer med storbranner og turisme
- Viktig å lære fra andre land (inkl. Norge)

# Paradigm Shift | Balancing investment

Investment in prevention is now higher, solving prior imbalances between prevention and suppression

Total investment is now €483M, 3 - 4x higher than 2017

More than 9x higher investment in prevention  
(28M to 262M €)



## Spotlight on research

The following posters represent important contributions from professionals, researchers, and students in the fields of wildfire science and environmental studies. Please take the opportunity to connect with the presenters to discuss their research and findings.

### **Towards a UK fire danger rating system: New empirical data and a framework for predicting fire behaviour directed at firefighting infrastructure requirements**

Claire Belcher, University of Exeter

### **Wildfire wise South Wales – integrated landscape management**

Becky Davies, Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

### **Legal liability for wildfires in Scotland; Requirements, risks and mitigations.**

Kate Donachie, Brodies LLP Solicitors

### **No smoke without fire – but where is the smoke? Forecasting wildfire pollution with the Met Office atmospheric modelling system**

Benjamin Drummond, Met Office

### **A decision support system for forest fire danger notices in Ireland**

Padraig Flattery, Met Éireann

### **The potential role of the COSMOS-UK national soil moisture monitoring network in improving wildfire risk assessment**

Helen Houghton-Carr, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

### **Extreme weather breaks phenological control on temperate fuel moisture; Implications for wildfire regimes under future climates**

Katy Ivison, University of Birmingham

### **A synoptic climatology of wildfires in England—implications for extended forecasting of wildfire danger**

Kerryn Little, University of Birmingham

### **Responses of the UK woodland ecosystems to forest-fire: The case study of the roaches nature reserve**

Luigi Marfella, Loughborough University

### **Dynamic fuel mapping in the South Pennines using an Earth observation multisensor and multitemporal approach**

Gail Millin-Chalabi, The University of Manchester

### **Climate analogues: Unearthing a climate twin for the 2022 UK summer wildfires**

Stacey New, Met Office

### **Investigating the impact of ecological restoration activities on wildfire behaviour metrics**

Fiona Newman-Thacker, Wageningen, University & Research

### **National fuel vegetation products and their importance to understand fire regimes in the UK**

Ana Pacheco Pascagaza, The University of Manchester

### **Comprehensive study on ground and underground smouldering forest fires - smoke gas emissions and combustion processes**

Kira Piechnik, Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg

### **The role of integrated fire management on climate change adaptation for ecosystem services in tropical and subtropical regions**

Núria Prat-Guitart, Pau Costa Foundation

### **Moor change, moor resilience: Working with nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency.**

Paul Titterton, Peak District National Park



# The UK Story

## ROOM ONE

Session Chair  
Becky Davies – Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

9:15 **SPEAKER**  
**Welcome to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire**  
Chris Foy, VisitAberdeenshire

9:30 **KEYNOTE**  
**Wildfire: Adapting and increasing resilience within the landscape**  
Francesca Osowska, NatureScot

## ROOM ONE

Session Chair  
Becky Davies – Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

10:00 **SPEAKER**  
**Wildfire impacts on upland vegetation**  
Robin Pokeman, The James Hutton Institute

10:20 **SPEAKER**  
**An integrated wildfire management plan for the Cairngorms National Park**  
Colin McLean, Cairngorms National Park Authority

## ROOM TWO

Session Chair  
Carmen Sanchez-Garcia, Swansea University

10:00 **SPEAKER**  
**The drivers of urban wildfires in London in the summer of 2022**  
Jamie John, Imperial College London

10:20 **SPEAKER**  
**Raising awareness of the public health impacts of wildfires in the UK**  
Iestyn Jones, UK Health Security Agency

10:40  
COFFEE

11:00 **SPEAKER**  
**Towards a UK fire danger rating system: Developing tools for a resilient future**  
Gareth Clay, The University of Manchester

11:20 **SPEAKER**  
**Fighting future fires: Integrating sensors, machine learning and satellite earth observation to combat wildfire risk**  
Tia Crouch, The National Trust

11:00 **SPEAKER**  
**What is the IDEAL UK Fire for?**  
Sarah Baker, University of Exeter

11:20 **SPEAKER**  
**Landscape controls on fuel moisture variability in fire-prone heathland and peatland landscapes**  
Kerryn Little, University of Birmingham

## ROOM ONE

11:40 **SPEAKER**  
**Developing local multi-agency arrangements to respond to the wider consequences**  
Martin Ogilvie, Dumfries and Galloway Council

12:00 Q&A

12:30 LUNCH

Session Chair  
Liam Wilson, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service

13:30 **SPEAKER ROUNDTABLE**  
**Prescribed burning to create resilient landscapes**  
Craig Hope, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters  
Steve Maynard, Peak District National Park Authority  
Nadia Flaherty, Scottish Land and Estates  
Donna Smith, Scottish Crofting Federation  
Alex Held, European Forest Institute  
Eric Baird, Glen Tanar Ranger Service

15:00 COFFEE

15:20 **SPEAKER**  
**Challenges to controlled burning by crofters in the Scottish Highlands**  
Cathy Smith, Royal Holloway, University of London

15:40 **SPEAKER**  
**Wildfire recovery through conservation grazing: Building resilience in an upland habitat**  
James Fisher, The National Trust

16:00 **KEYNOTE**  
**Policy and technology for more resilient communities - opportunities and risks**  
Mark Jones, Aberdeen City Council

16:30 Q&A

16:50 **Summary and closing remarks**  
Michael Bruce / Gareth Clay

17:00 CLOSE

# Hovedtrekk Dag 2

- Nature Scot viste bilde av treplanting..., ellers mye bra
- Vapor Pressure Deficit (VPD) langt bedre forklaring på brannene i London sommeren 2022 enn relativ luftfuktighet og temperatur. (Ref. vår kurve.)
- Faremomenter ved røyk fra store utmarksbranner
- FireInSite (brannfare) → meget lovende metodikk også for norsk lyngmark
- Interessant uttesting av røykdetektorer i felt
- Roundtable: Meget positive til vernebrenning, men det synes å være mindre forståelse for at gamle dagers landskap var/er meget robust.
- Crofting and crofters. Her ble det litt skuffelse...
  - Aldrende crofters, noen kjøper en croft men ønsker ikke å drive den
  - Alt for mange restriksjoner på brenning, f.eks. forbudt ved dypere enn 40 cm torv
  - Alt for mange kommende krav til formelle kurs, søknader, etc etc
- Utfordringer: einstape & blåtopp. Lovende tester med sauer og kyr sammen (Nofence)
- Annet: Svært god tilbakemelding på mitt (DYNAMIC) foredrag og det som skjer her(!)

# UK/Skottland vs Norge?

- Spørsmål til meg:
  - Why does it seem like the Norwegian authorities have a much better insight in the issues discussed?
  - How, Norwegian agricultural agency supporting prescribed burning by 300 £ per ha?
  - Why is there now more acceptance among non-farmers regarding prescribed burning in Norway?
  - Have they (brannvesenet i Sveio) really trained on prescribed burning for 3 decades? (Siden brannen på Hopsfjellet i 1992)
- På mange måter ligger vi (dvs. dere) mange år foran de andre i løypen 😊

Stay static?



Or become

**DYNAMIC**

and copy the Vikings?



**Thank you for your attention!**

**Prof. Torgrim Log, Dr.ing.**

The DYNAMIC project

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Western Norway  
University of  
Applied Sciences