**Subject**: Invitation to Expert Workshop: Wildfire Risk Management in the Barcelona Metropolitan Region

We cordially invite you to participate in an expert workshop on May 26th focused on wildfire risk management in the Barcelona metropolitan region. Your invaluable practical experience and local knowledge are crucial for validating our initial research findings and further improving a decision support model aiming to assess the cost-effectiveness of salvage logging.

**Background**: The Barcelona metropolitan region is experiencing land abandonment, leading to increased biomass accumulation, which can act as fuel for wildfires. Simultaneously, future climate projections suggest longer drought periods, potentially increasing long-term fuel availability from dead vegetation while causing short-term tree mortality. While passive rewilding offers ecological benefits, it might elevate short-term wildfire risks. Salvage logging of drought-affected trees is a potential management option to reduce fuel loads, but its costs and benefits in terms of wildfire risk reduction remain largely unknown.

**Key Question**: What are the costs (e.g., in terms of labor) and the benefits (in terms of avoided damage and firefighting costs) of performing salvage logging compared to a business-as-usual scenario in the Barcelona metropolitan region? This research seeks to inform decisions about whether, when, and where to implement salvage logging.

**Method**: We are employing a cost-benefit analysis integrated with risk assessment using a formal mathematical model and Monte Carlo simulations. Our biophysical model incorporates factors like biomass fuel, fire connectivity, and simulates fire spread under different scenarios (with and without salvage logging) to estimate potential burned areas and associated costs. Our economic model explicitly addresses uncertainties in costs and benefits.

This workshop aims to:

* An open exchange on the practical relevance of our approach and exploring potential expansions or alternative questions that are pertinent from the perspective of practitioners and local decision-makers.
* Validate preliminary findings from our study
* Improve our understanding of what factors matter to inform the cost-effectiveness of wildfire mitigation strategies such as salvage logging
* Obtaining expert estimates for key economic input parameters of the model, drawing upon your field experience.

Preliminary Timetable for half-day Workshop (May 26th in Barcelona):

* [tbc, e.g., 9:00 - 9:15]: Welcome and round of introduction
* [tbc, e.g., 9:15 - 10:15]: Introduction to the study, methodological approach and preliminary findings, followed by Q&A
* [tbc, e.g., 10:15 - 10:30]: Coffee Break
* [tbc, e.g., 10:30 - 11:30]: Qualitative Elaboration of the Decision Support Model: Discussion on its Structure, Key Components, and Practical Relevance for Fire Management in Barcelona.
* [tbc, e.g., 11:30 - 13:00]: Expert Elicitation Session: Gathering your insights and estimates for key model input parameters (e.g., labor costs for salvage logging, potential damage costs to different land cover types, effectiveness of salvage logging in reducing fire spread).