

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION AND THE AGÊNCIA PARA A GESTÃO INTEGRADA DE FOGOS RURAIS ON BEHALF OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC, ON WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION INITIATIVES

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Agência para a Gestão Integrada de Fogos Rurais (AGIF, IP) (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Partners);

WHEREAS the Partners share common geographic and climatological characteristics, and recognize that climate change presents worldwide challenges and risks to the environment and economics; impacting human health, increasing extreme weather events and wildfires and threatening natural resources of the affected territories;

WHEREAS this joint partnership and agreement between the Portuguese Republic and the State of California may provide a broad framework for cooperation and support between the Partners in reducing vulnerabilities and increasing resilience to climate change and wildfire threats, and builds on a solid foundation that enhances initiatives in wildfire management and prevention, and fire and resource assessment;

WHEREAS CAL FIRE is founded in emergency response and resource protection, and exists to protect lives, property and natural resources of California from fire, respond to emergencies of all types, and protects timberlands, wildlands, urban forests, and the State's critical watersheds;

WHEREAS AGIF, under the Prime-Minister, serves to plan, strategically coordinate and evaluate the Portuguese Rural Fire Management System, through related public policy integration;

WHEREAS cooperation between the Partners and governmental agencies plays a fundamental role in implementing solidarity between the people and the joining efforts of the public and private sector in times of crisis;

WHEREAS both Partners share a common interest in enhancing wildfire management and prevention initiatives and collaborate to protect the welfare of their populations and environment;

WHEREAS in the well-established spirit of friendship and cooperation, the Partners intend to cooperate to effectively reduce the occurrence and risk of wildfires, and respond to, threats created by wildfire to the public health, safety, and welfare of their respective states; and

WHEREAS collaboration and mutual exchanges of wildfire management and prevention best practices, technologies, and research ensures that linkages are established to further increase capacity, enhance protection, and reduce the loss of life.

With this Memorandum of Understanding, the Partners pledge their intention to:

1. Share best practices of communication strategies, research and technologies, and training opportunities in California and Portugal that enhance and promote wildfire prevention and wildland-urban interface awareness to at-risk populations, according to available economic and technical resources.
2. Share advances in training material and opportunities, technical expertise, geographic information systems and technology, communication strategies, scenarios, and simulations in all phases of wildfire protection and management, including projects in the area of community risk and hazard assessment, and exchange programs, including the preparation of community-level wildfire prevention plans; risk governance and risk management.
3. Share best practices, expertise, and technical assistance to improve the capacity in all areas of wildfire suppression, including Wildfire Meteorology, Aerial Resources Coordinator and Dry Wildfire Fighting, to enhance response and recovery efforts in coordination with the relevant authorities of each territory in accordance with applicable domestic laws.
4. Share and explore innovations in fuel management methods, including prescribed burning, pre-fire management, data collection and analysis, tools and equipment, best practices, technology, and policy developments to mitigate and

lessen effects of increased wildfires due to climate change, developing activities with the objective to build communities resilient to climate impacts and improving the coordination of resources.

Clause 2

This Memorandum of Understanding may be changed or amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Partners expressed in writing.

Clause 3

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect from the date of its signature.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding shall cease to take effect when any of the Partners expresses their will accordingly, notifying the other in writing.
3. The Partners acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding is only intended to provide for cooperation and collaboration between the Partners and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations. To the extent that any other provision of this Memorandum of Understanding is inconsistent with this paragraph, this paragraph shall prevail.


Signed on April 25th, two thousand twenty-two, in 2 originals in English and Portuguese languages, both texts being equally authentic originals.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY AND FIRE
PROTECTION,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



Joe Tyler
Director

AGÊNCIA DE GESTÃO
INTEGRADA DE FOGOS
RURALS,
REPÚBLICA DE PORTUGAL



Tiago Martins Oliveira
President