

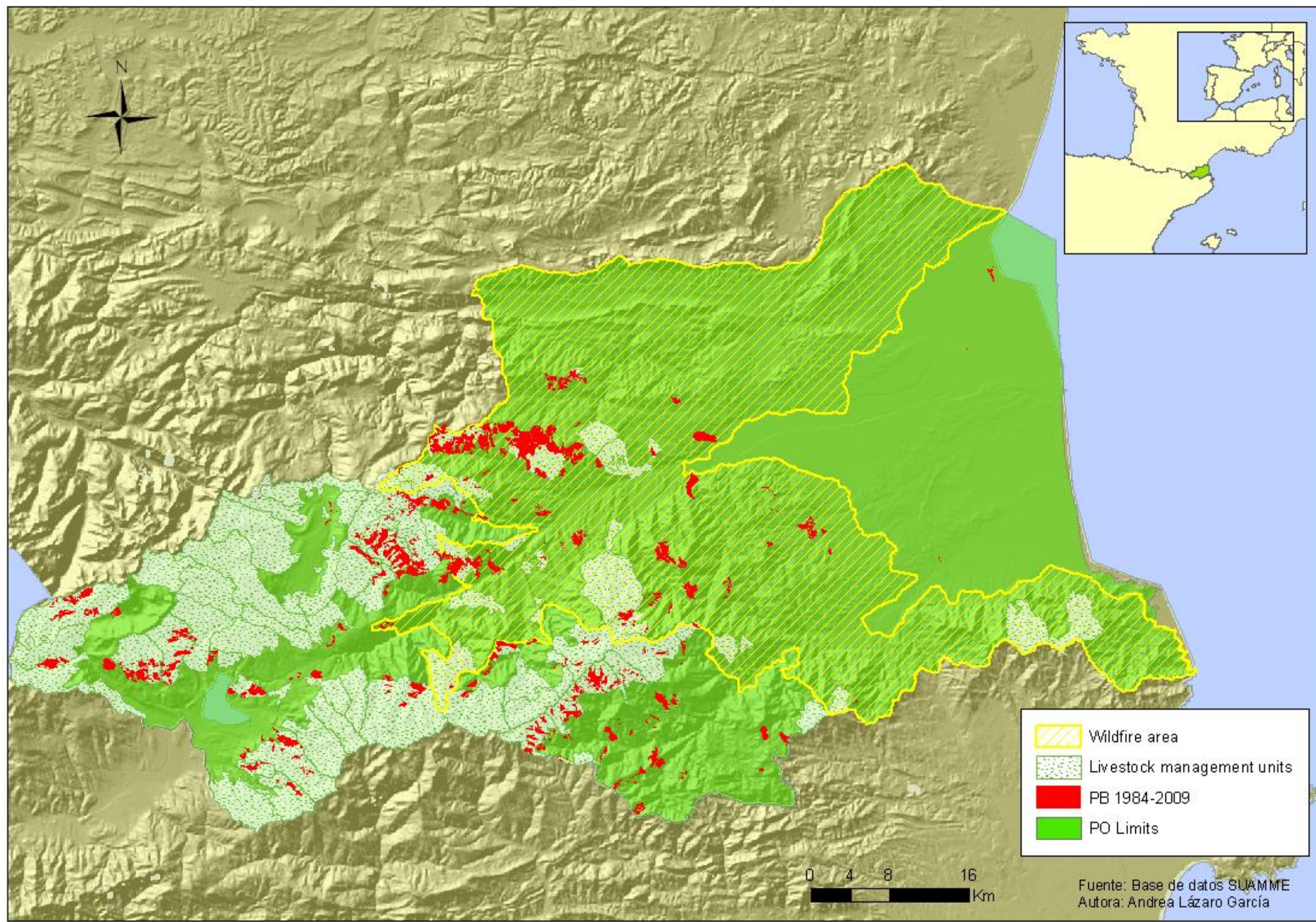
DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG-TERM FIRE USE PROGRAMME IN EASTERN PYRENEES (FRANCE): ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS FOR GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

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THE PRESCRIBED BURNING PROGRAMME IN THE EASTERN PYRENEES



The prescribed burning (PB) programme initiated in 1986 in the Eastern Pyrenees is one of the most consolidated examples of Southern Europe. This initiative, framed within a pastoral agency, has served different management objectives (grazing improvement, fire prevention, management of endangered habitats etc.) and groups of stakeholders (livestock breeders, municipalities, managers and fire fighters).

After 23 campaigns of experience, the practice is well established in the Department, with more than 18.600 ha managed and 1,028 interventions between 1986 and 2009.



Grazing improvement (Targassone)



Habitat management (Massif de Madres)

ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

The PB programme has been supported on several economic instruments coming from different policy areas and levels. This fact has enabled the multi-functionality of the practice but has also meant an increasing complexity in its implementation:

❖ **Mediterranean Forest Conservation Fund (1987):** co-financed by the State and the local authorities, has financed the programme since its creation due to its contribution to wildfire prevention (**47% Total Budget**).

❖ **Agri-environment Measures (1997) and a specific fund for livestock farming (2007):** derived from the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the National Rural Development Plan, have broaden the scope of application towards pastoral and biodiversity management objectives (**14% Total Budget**).

❖ **Experimental and training funding (1987):** financed both by the participant institutions and by Civil Protection or Military organisms interested in the training of fire fighters (**28% Total Budget**).

❖ **Beneficiaries (1987):** co-finance the interventions covered by the Mediterranean Forest Conservation Fund (**11% Total Budget**).

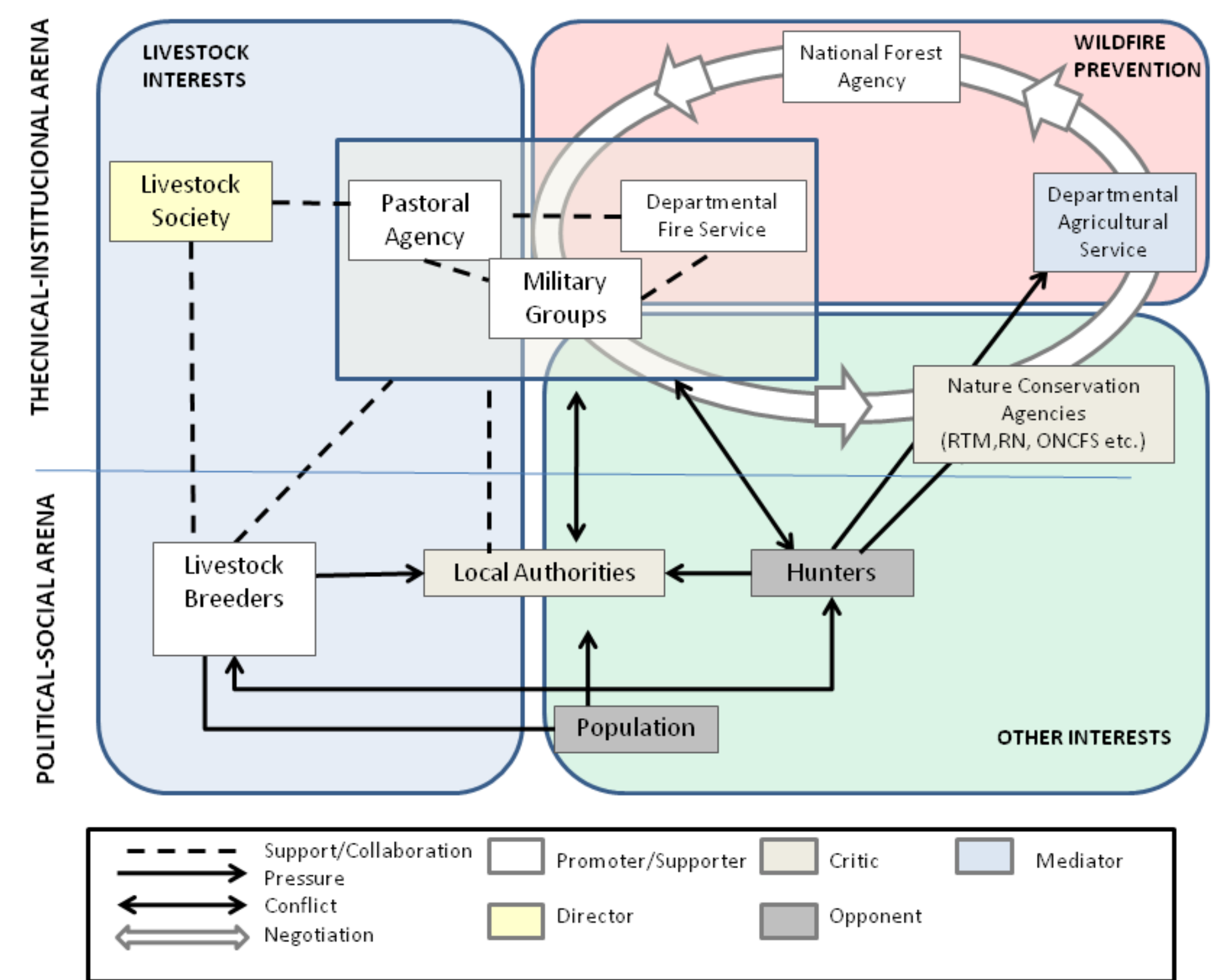
PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS

At the local level, the participation of livestock breeders, hunters and municipalities constitute a solution for enduring conflicts deeply uprooted in the territory. At the department level, the participation of the departmental agencies involved enable the setting of the management and financial priorities for PB intervention in the department, as well as the incorporation of environmental criteria in the programme procedures.



THE POLICY PROCESS

During the last decade, the programme has encountered different type of deadlocks due to the complex structure of stakeholders involved and the new environmental and social limitations that affect mountain areas. To overcome these situation, the programme has adopted new procedures which include improved participation mechanisms.



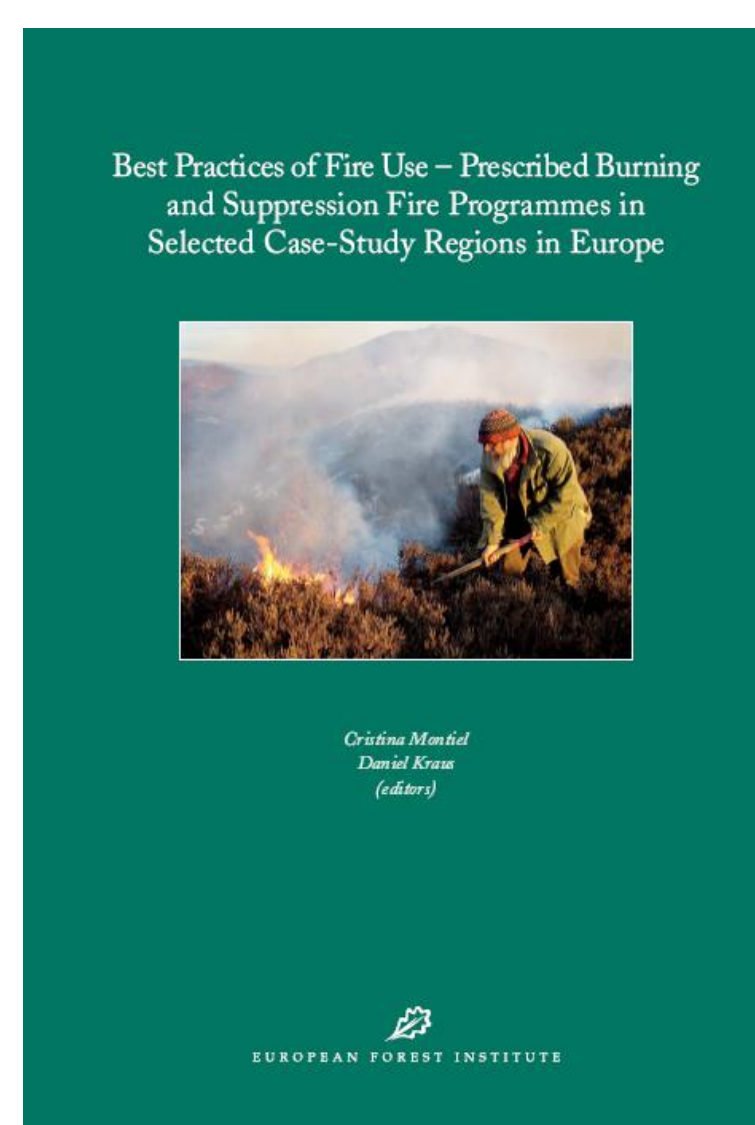
Meeting with local stakeholders (Valcebollère)

A GOOD PRACTICE PROGRAMME: KEYS FOR SUCCESS

❖ **Institutional framework:** a multi-disciplinary team framed within the agriculture and forest policy, which allows the programme to respond to different objectives.

❖ **Adaptation to a changing territorial and cultural context:** through the adoption of new social and environmental criteria and flexible structures.

❖ **Policy process:** participation mechanisms to conciliate different interests and diffusion processes for the incorporation of PB as an innovative practice.



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