



# WILDLAND FIRE RISK ANALYSIS FROM THE TERRITORIAL POLICIES PERSPECTIVE: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN EUROPEAN REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Aguilar, S.; Galiana, L; Lázaro, A. (Research Group UCM-Forest Policy and Socioeconomics)

## BASIC CONCEPTS

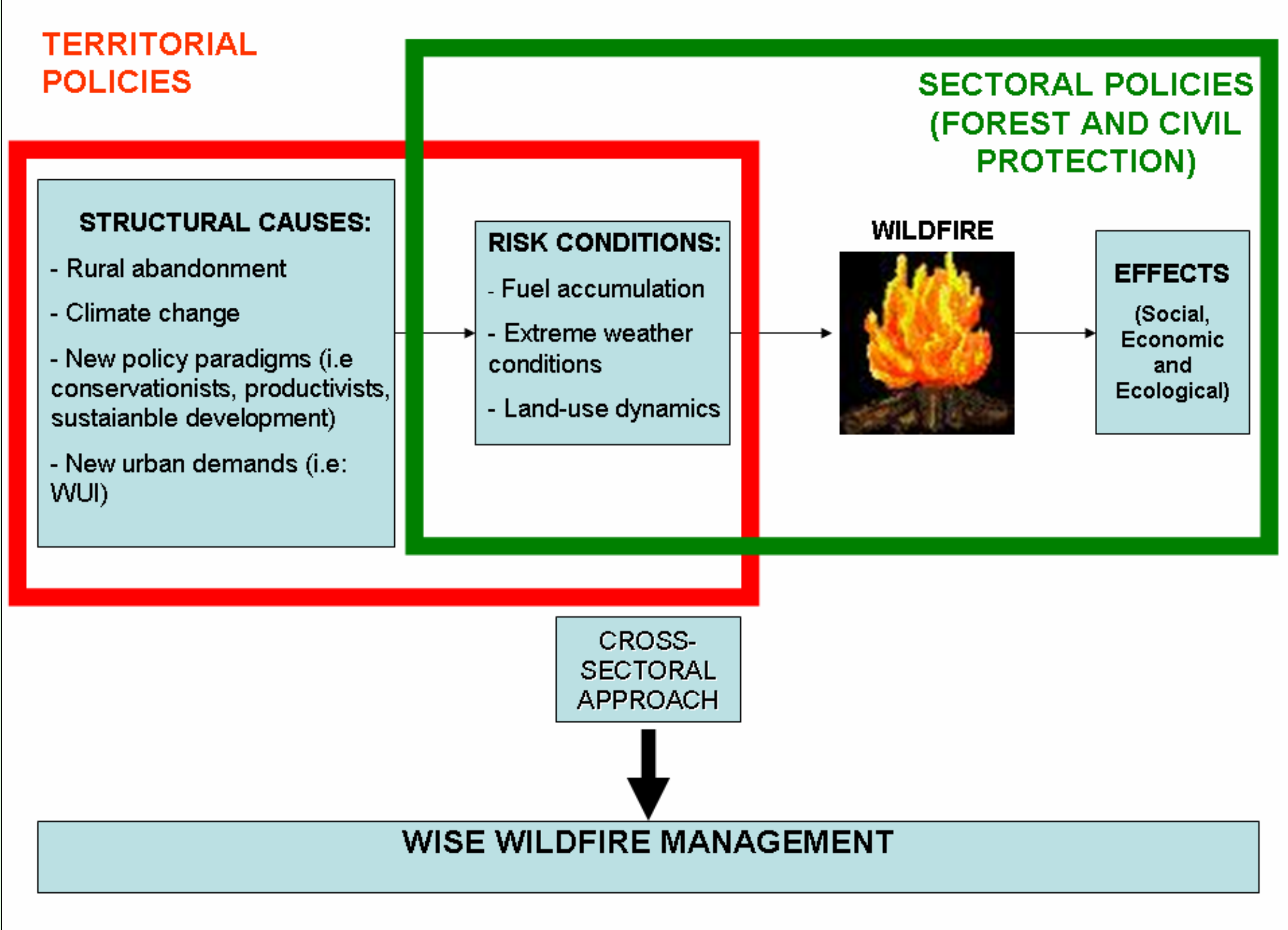
Conventional wildland fire policies are usually developed by national governments as an ad-hoc reaction to specific a situation already created, leaving behind structural factors basic in wildland fire initiation and propagation. Taking into account a **cross-sectoral approach** of policies with incidence in the territory, would provide the opportunity to address the long term social, legal and economic factors with incidence in the way land is managed, which are out of the scope of sectoral policies.

*Territorial Policies* are development policies undertaken by public authorities - the central state as well as regional and local governments - with the aim of promoting a more efficient use of resources within specific geographical areas (OECD, 2003).

The aim of the study is to identify and analyze policy measures external to the forest sector with potential influence in wildland fire prevention and propagation in the **European framework**, where a cross-sectoral approach is crucial since no EU Treaty provides for a comprehensive common forest policy.

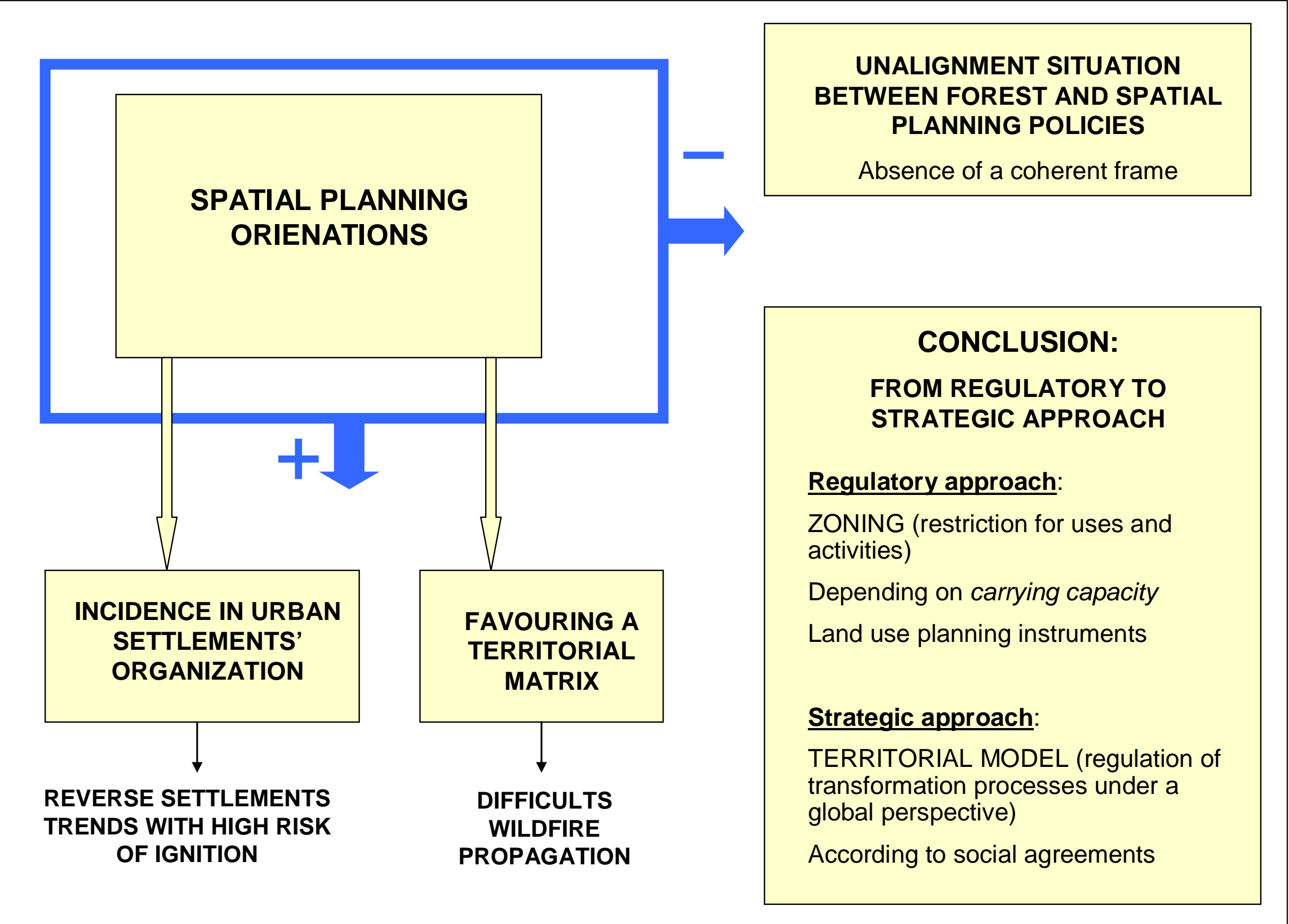
An assessment of the main regulatory instruments is developed, out of a selection of European policies with greater incidence in wildland fire management, where the analysis is focused in:

- The consideration of wildland fires within the policy
- An assessment on the main strengths and weaknesses for Integrated Wildland Fire Management

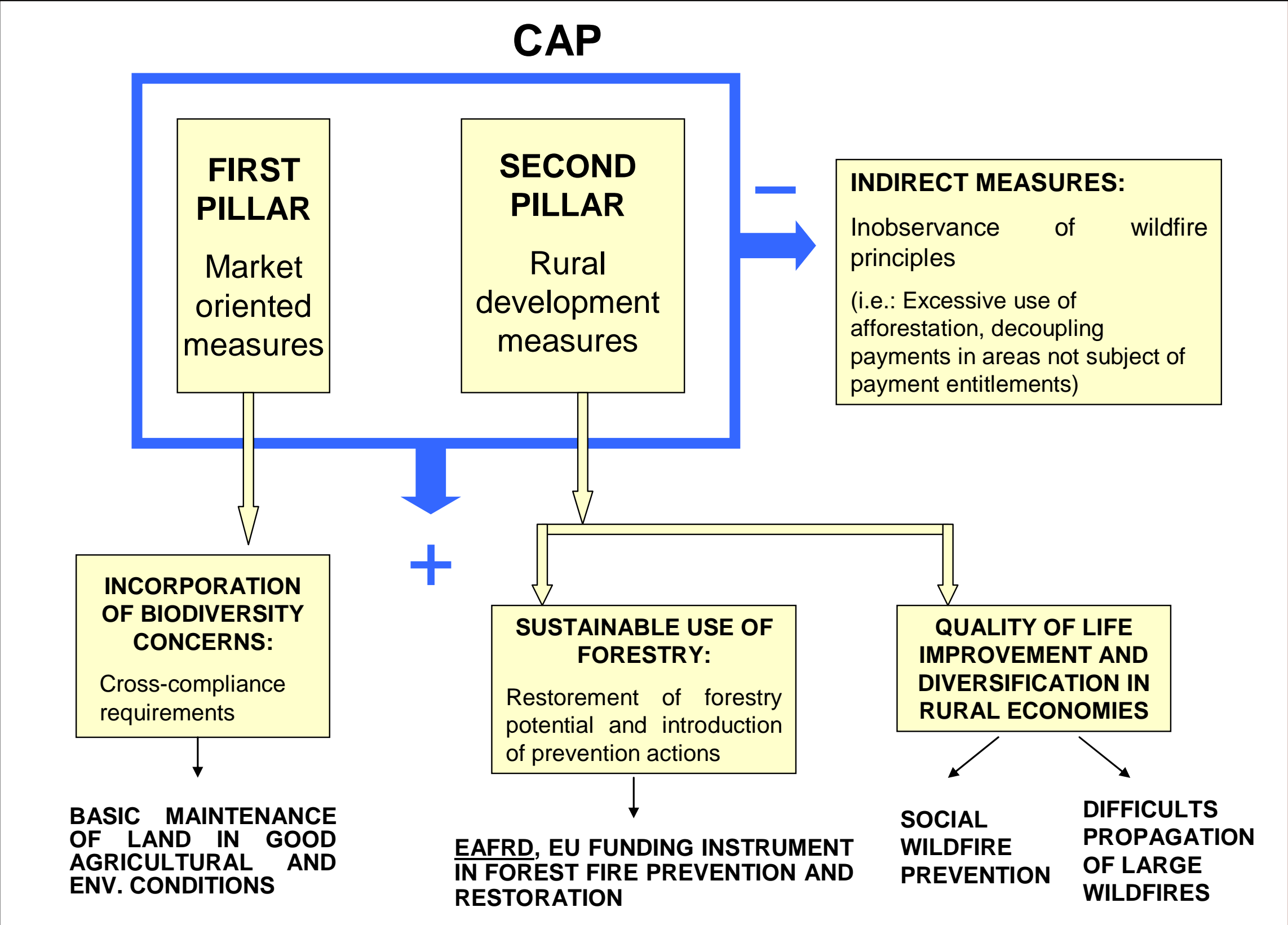


## TERRITORIAL POLICIES AND WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

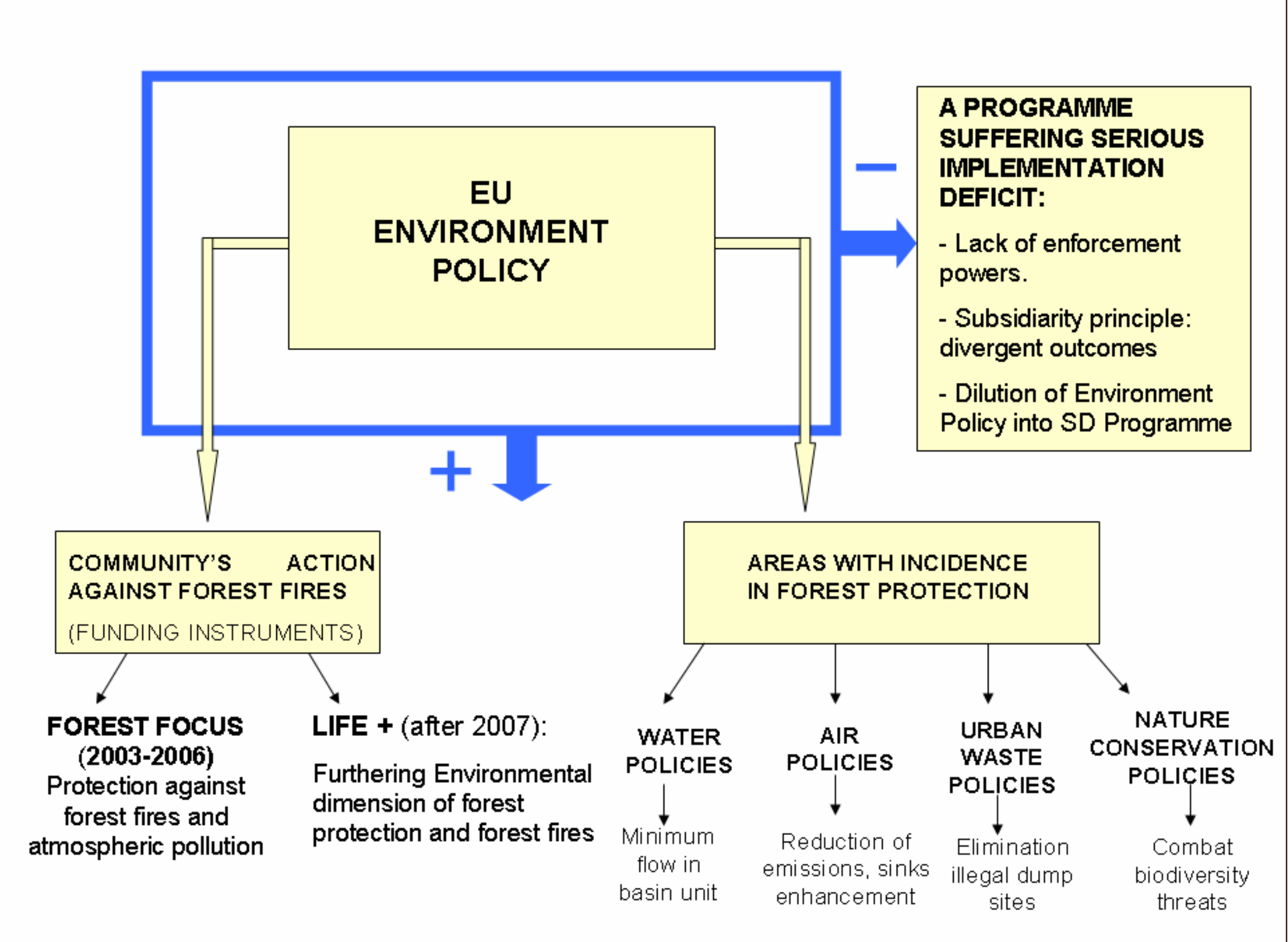
### A. SPATIAL PLANNING POLICIES



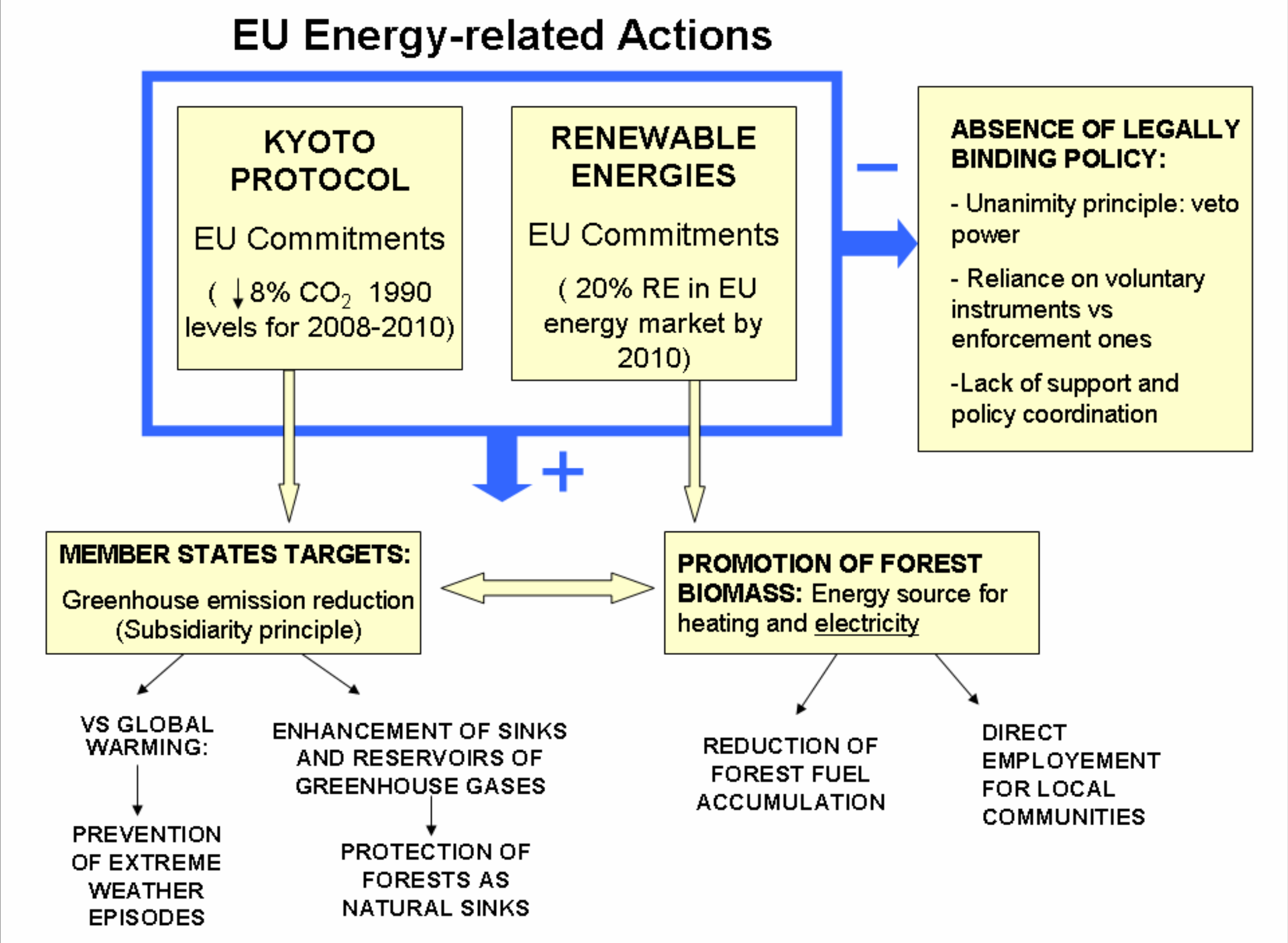
### B. AGRICUL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES



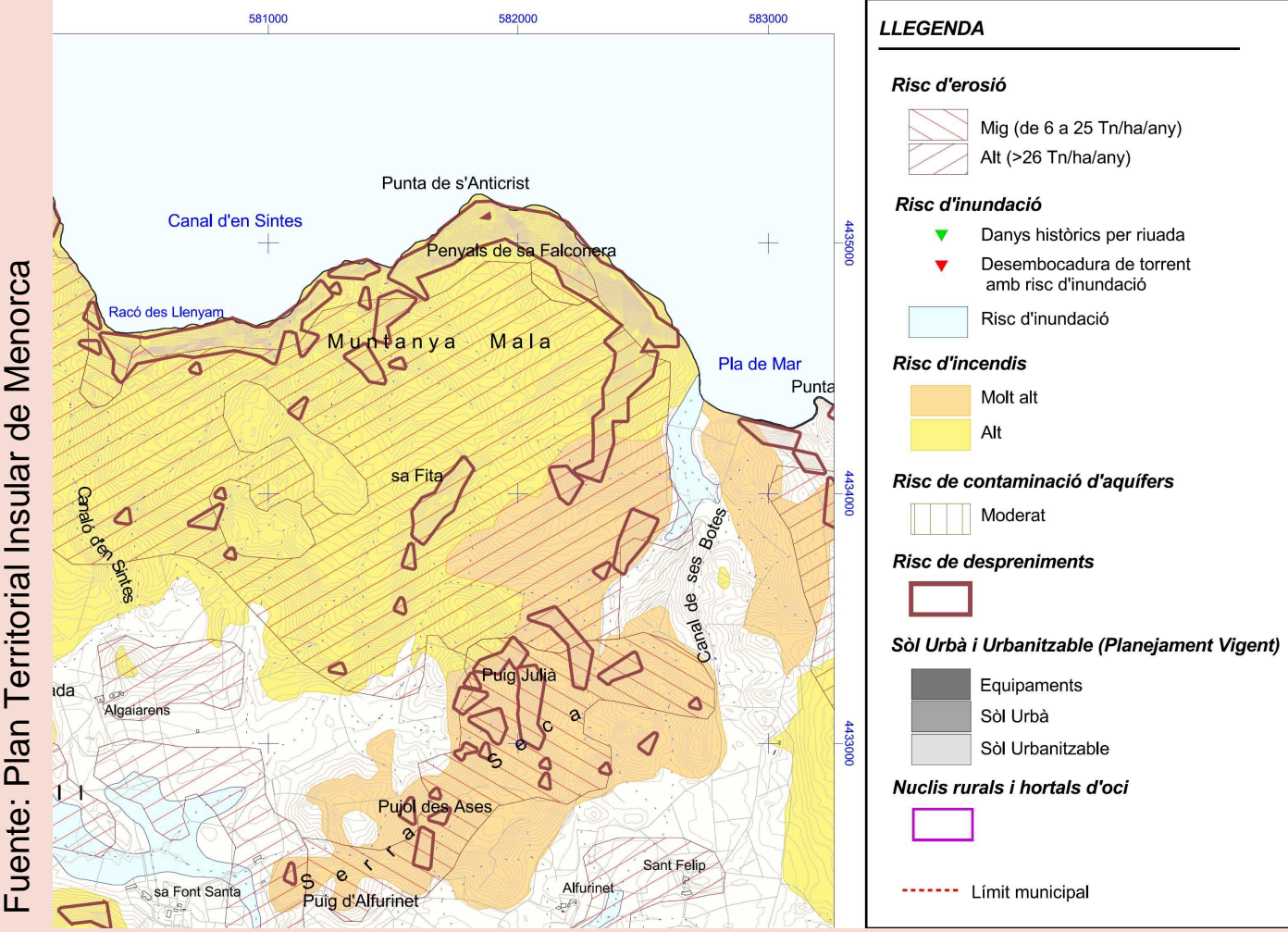
### C. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES



### D. ENERGY POLICIES



A TERRITORIAL MATRIX TO WILDFIRE-PROPAGATION



RISK ASSESSMENT IN TERRITORIAL PLANS



WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE REGULATION

## CONCLUSIONS

- Territorial policies show great potential in solving **structural causes** affecting wildland fire initiation and propagation which cannot be envisaged in conventional approaches (forest and civil protection).
- Coordination needed to achieve a cross-sectoral approach is however hindered by the different nature of territorial policies. To overcome this difficulty, **territory** should be placed in the centre of the sustainability debate, this entailing making some headway towards territorial governance and policy coordination.
- In general, territorial policies are far from strictly considering **fire-related objectives**. In those cases where these objectives are contemplated, a vague approach seems to be the norm; wildland fires are frequently included among natural hazards in general. Moreover, the neglect of wildland fire objectives in these policies may set the conditions for more devastating fires.
- Further, European policies that impinge most directly upon fire management (i.e. forest-related policies) are not part of the **acquis communautaire** and lack therefore a compulsory nature. In this respect, the absence of specific EU wildland fire management legislation plus the little Europeanization affecting those policies, leads us to conclude that a concerned effort on this front is not likely to be anticipated in the foreseeable future. The most Europeanized policies analyzed in this document (i.e. the CAP and certain environmental policies) have only a marginally effect upon fire-related issues.

### Bibliography

Badia A.; Sauri D.; Cerdan R. and Lluïdes J.-C. 2002. **Causality and management of forest fires in Mediterranean environments: an example from Catalonia**. In: Global environmental change, Part B: Environmental Hazards, Vol.4 Issue.1; 23-32 p.

Davoudi S. 2004. **Experiencias de planificación del desarrollo territorial en Europa: Gran Bretaña**. In: Romero, J. & Farinós, J. (eds). Ordenación del territorio y desarrollo territorial. El gobierno del territorio en Europa: tradiciones, contextos, culturas y nuevas visiones; 173-190 p.

Elands, B.; O'Leary, T.N.; Boerwinkel, H.W.; Freerk Wiersum, K. 2004. **Forest as a mirror of rural conditions; local views on the role of forests across Europe**. In: Forest Policy and Economics, Vol.6 Issue 5; 469-482 p.

FAO 1999. **Report of meeting on public policies affecting forest fires**, 14<sup>th</sup> session, Rome, Italy, 1-5 March 1999, I. Preamble 3.

Folch, R. 2003. **La aproximación sostenibilista. Evolución de la mirada y del proyecto sobre el territorio**. In: Folch, R. (Coord.). El territorio como sistema. Conceptos y métodos de ordenación. Barcelona, Diputació de Barcelona; 91-99 p.

Galiana Martín, L. 2004. **La incorporación de los sistemas y planes forestales a los documentos de ordenación del territorio**. In: Domínguez, G.; Plana, E.; Pecurul, M.; De Miguel, S. (eds.) Boscos i societats. Actes del V Forum Internacional de Política Forestal. Solsona 16-18 de juliol de 2003). Solsona, Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya; 28-43 p.

Montiel, C.; Galiana, L. 2005. **Forest policy and land planning policy in Spain: a regional approach**. In: Forest Policy and Economics, vol. 7/2; 131-142 p.

Zdanowicz, A.; Baldock, D.; Gay, S.H.; Osterberg, B. 2005. **Recent evolution of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): state of play and environmental potential**. En: MEACAP Project [www.ieep.eu/project/MiniSites/meacap/index.php](http://www.ieep.eu/project/MiniSites/meacap/index.php)