



Acronym	RIGOR-MED
Full Title	Remotely-sensed and Statistically Rigorous Monitoring of Disturbances in Mediterranean Forests
Partner(s)	Agresta Sociedad Cooperativa, Spain
Grant Theme	Characterization of European forest disturbances
Start Date	September 2024
Duration	12 months
Description	RIGOR-MED aims to enhance the understanding of forest disturbances in Mediterranean forests and to support sustainable forest management efforts in the region. This project focuses on comparing and validating forest disturbance products to assess the effectiveness of remotely sensed data to monitor changes, especially in regions facing unique challenges like the Mediterranean forests. Available existing disturbance products as well as internally created change products, using satellite time series and change detection algorithms, are compared and validated towards harmonisation and fusion processes. To assess the quality and consistency, and to validate the different products, an unbiased reference forest disturbance database, publicly available, is generated by visual interpretation of high-resolution images. To this end, an interpretation guide will be elaborated as an objective protocol to ensure there is no bias. Finally, the high-quality reference data source created will serve to achieve a statistically rigorous estimation of forest disturbances areas. A dedicated project website and scientific articles play a crucial role for sharing information and disseminating findings and the outcomes as open-source products.

