Resilient Path

Strategic Planning for Wildfires in Jerusalem Mountains

Due to the climate crisis, extreme fire incidents are increasing all over the world. In August 2021, a destructive wildfire erupted in the Jerusalem mountains in Israel. This fire caused thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

From the analysis of the fire, it shows that the firefighters could have stopped the fire from progressing towered the settlements if they had used the existing forest buffer zones. This emphasizes the need for a systemic evaluation of the buffer zones. The project strategy is to design a new resilient path which will raise awareness to the buffer zones and to the rehabilitation of the forest.

The resilient path will connect the settlements around the forest and integrate the buffer zones into a structured system. In case of a fire, the path will function as a buffer, using fire resistant vegetation and connection points for water supply. On ordinary days, the path will be implemented as a hiking trail that will expose its travelers to the forest restoration process. The restoration will be ecological by promoting a transition into a sustainable forest, and historical by revealing ancient terraces that were once covered deep under the pines. The path will pass through four observation towers, which were used in the past to detect fires. By walking in the path and through the observation points, the visitors will reconnect to their surrounding landscapes. They will learn about the transformation of the forest- a mosaic of forest formations that creates a resilient system to preserve our nature from fires**.**