

Minutes INFLAMES Management Meeting

Date: 13 July 2026

Present: Gerbrand, Martin, Otto, Nick, Peter, Folkert. **Apologies:** Marloes

Key decisions

- The WP1 work plan will be revised, subject to alignment with the dependencies and requirements of the other work packages.
- A single, project-wide overview will be prepared of the emission inventories used throughout INFLAMES.
- A generic workflow for automated wildfire case selection will be developed.
- External co-supervisors will be structurally involved in project progress meetings through regular participation.

1. Status of personnel

Current staffing:

- **WP1:** Manouk Geurts (PhD) – started 1 April 2026
- **WP2:** David Verbruggen (PhD) – started 1 May 2026
- **WP3:** Annabel Chantry (PhD) – started 15 November 2025
- **WP4:** Nele Gaertner (PhD) – started 1 June 2026

Recruitment:

- **WP5:** Recruitment for the postdoctoral researcher has started. Expected start: end of 2026 / early 2027.
- **WP6:** Tawamda Muhamba (Zimbabwe) is expected to start on 1 October 2026.

2. Progress WP1

a. Revision of WP1 planning

Folkert proposed to revise the order of activities within WP1 by postponing WP1.1 (top-down emission estimates) to Year 3, while bringing forward WP1.2 (plume height) and WP1.3 (in-plume chemistry). This change may affect WP2 and WP5, which currently depend on the availability of top-down emission estimates according to the original project plan.

It was agreed that WP leaders will jointly review which emission inventories will be used as:

- primary input,
- scientific objective,
- independent verification.

Special attention should be given to spatial and temporal resolution, geographical coverage and consistency between work packages. Peter emphasized the importance of using a coherent set of emission inventories throughout the project.

	Primary input	Objective	Verification	Preliminary focus
WP1	GFED v5.2	Top-down update of emission factors	GFAS v1.2, literature	Europe, multiple vegetation types
WP2	...			
WP3	...			
WP4	...			
WP5	GFED v5.2	Input for improving modeled emissions by JSBACH-SPITFIRE	INFLAMES WP4 product	Large, vegetated regions that are relevant from a climate perspective (I think Amazon and Canada as two major contrasting cases).
WP6	LOTOS-EUROS	Quantify effects of smoke on air quality	Satellite data	Smoke plumes affecting selected urban areas in Eastern Africa

b. Automated fire-case selection

Geurts and Chantry are developing an automated workflow for selecting suitable wildfire cases. The proposed workflow consists of:

1. identifying fires with sufficiently large FRP and/or burned area using VIIRS;
2. selecting cases with maximum spatio-temporal overlap with SPEXOne and ATLID observations;
3. ensuring coverage of a wide range of vegetation types.

The software should generate a database (NetCDF and/or Excel) containing, for each selected case, relevant information such as: location, timing, FRP, burned area, NO₂ plume, CO plume, aerosol optical depth, plume height, vegetation type. Development will start using 2024 and 2025 data with an initial focus on Europe, while keeping the software sufficiently generic for application to other regions.

3. Progress WP3

Martin presented two case studies (Portugal, September 2024; Australia, 2026) developed by Annabel Chantry. The objective is to investigate whether SPEXOne and ATLID observations can provide empirical evidence for aerosol plume ageing over consecutive days. Current challenges include:

- the snapshot nature of satellite observations;
- day-to-day changes in plume altitude and geometry;
- the robustness of aerosol properties (e.g. SSA and Ångström exponent) under low-AOD conditions.

4. Planning Early Career Event #1

Otto proposed that Nele Gaertner coordinates the organisation of the first Early Career Event together with the current PhD students. Agreed framework:

- **Participants:** PhD candidates and postdocs (up to three years after PhD)
- **Location:** SRON
- **Timing:** after BBOS (late October 2026)

Proposed programme:

- keynote lecture on biomass burning and atmospheric impacts (Maarten Krol will be invited);
- short presentations by early-career researchers;
- social activity after 17:00 (budget available through UU: €500).

5. Co-supervision

Strengthening interaction between institutes through co-supervision is one of the commitments made in the INFLAMES proposal. It was agreed that principal supervisors will actively involve external co-supervisors in progress meetings. Meetings should preferably take place every one to two months.

Current external co-supervisors:

- WP1: Gerbrand, Martin
- WP2: Marloes
- WP3: Otto
- WP4: Nick
- WP6: Gerbrand

Action List

	Action	Responsible	Deadline
A1	Review and complete the overview of emission inventories (input, objective and verification) for all WPs (these minutes)	All WP leads	ASAP
A2	Update new personnel in NWO ISAAC	Folkert	Next mgmt meeting
A3	Finalize automated fire-case selection	Manouk, Annabel	October 2026
A4	Early Career Event Organization	Otto, Nele	Next mgmt meeting
A5	Provide names of whom to invite for Early Career Event to Otto and Nele	All WP-leads	ASAP
A6	Schedule regular meetings with external co-supervisors for each WP.	WP1-4 & 6 Leads	ASAP

Next management meeting: September 2026 (date to be confirmed: 7, 14 or 21 September).