



14-18 March 2015
Sendai, Japan

Voluntary commitment

Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM)

Goal: Goal 1 - Risk prevention: the adoption of risk-informed development pathways that minimize the generation of new disaster risks

Scope: Global

Country(ies)/territory(ies): Not applicable

Description

An enabling international environment is vitally important for providing nations around the world with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to develop and implement more effective and more coordinated approaches to wildfire prevention, preparedness and response. While there is evidence of some excellent recent examples of international collaboration and cooperation on wildfire issues, the UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management (United Nations, Geneva, 28-29 November 2013) and its follow-up consultations identified that the international exchange of knowledge on wildfire could be significantly improved through the creation of an International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM).

It was proposed at the Geneva Forum that the IWPM should be created as soon as possible to act as a central knowledge exchange gateway for wildfire professionals across the World.

The IWPM was formed in July 2014 and is currently hosted by the Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG). The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) currently performs the role of an interim secretariat. The IWPM now provides a platform/framework from which to cascade knowledge, good practice, experience and expertise throughout the global wildfire community for the benefit of all.

The IWPM complements and builds upon international agreements in disaster management and, in particular, it coordinates activities that align with the priority areas identified within the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and aims to contribute to the post-2015 HFA.

Targets

The mission of the IWPM is to support, on request, agencies and countries to build national capacity and resilience to wildfire through the exchange of best practice. The IWPM acts as an enabler to provide countries and/or authorities around the World with access to support that can assist in the enhancement of knowledge, understanding and capacity to manage wildfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Indicators

- 1) Formation of a national cross-sectoral platform (inter-agency, with civil society involvement) involving all stakeholders, tentatively "National Inter-Agency Fire Management Advisory Board" (or Council, Task Force, ...)
- 2) Initiation of a cross-sectoral dialogue on fire management
- 3) Development of a national fire management policy
- 4) Development of relevant legislation
- 5) Development of an implementation strategy and securing finances
- 6) Connecting and strengthening national measures in fire management by legal bilateral or voluntary regional and / or international agreements on cooperation in fire management

Means of verification

- 1) A national cross-sectoral platform (inter-agency, with civil society involvement) involving all stakeholders, tentatively "National Inter-Agency Fire Management Advisory Board" (or Council, Task Force, ...) has been established
- 2) A cross-sectoral dialogue is established on a permanent, sustainable level
- 3) A national fire management policy is in place
- 4) Relevant legislation is in place
- 5) An implementation strategy is in place and finances secured
- 6) The national measures are embedded in a framework of legal bilateral or voluntary regional and / or international agreements on cooperation in fire management

Timeframe

Open end

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Editorial Note:

GFMC Website: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/>

IWPM Website: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/iwpm/index.htm>