

OVERVIEW OF THE FOREST FIRES SITUATION IN ROMANIA

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In order to create a general view over the forest fires in Romanian woods, a statistics analysis has been made, regarding the number of fires and the area swept by the fire. In this regard two periods of time have been taken into account: the period between 1990 and 2003 which is characteristic for the whole situation of forest fires that took place after the changing of property and the period of 1999 and 2003 relevant for the evolution of fires after the giving back of agricultural and forestry field at the rightful owners in 2000 and the changing of the climatic factors from the last period.

It is mentioned that in Romania agricultural and forest fields have been back to their former owners according to 2 laws from 1990 and 2000 (according to the last one large areas of agricultural and forest fields were assigned).

These retrocessions led to an increasing number of fires due to some cleaning actions with the help of fire of agricultural areas near the woods (some fires spread into the woods) and a poor organisation in the activity of preventing and putting down fires which were taken by owners.

The analyse has been made only at the level of administrative county (level 3 NUT) because the activity of preventing and putting down fires is organised at this level in Romania. To have an overall look on the distribution of those administrative units 3 type classes of dimensions have been established accordingly with the total number of fires: I > 200 fires; II 100 – 200 fires; III < 100 fires (table I).

This can be seen on the following map...

The distribution of the areas swept by the fire on administrative units and classes of dimensions is shown in table II and on the map.

Distribution of classes of number and area can be seen in table 1 and 2. 50% of the total number of fires took place in the area of the 6 administrative units, these fires representing 63% of the burnt area in Romania.

From the table 1 and 2 we can see an increasing tendency, in the last period, of the fires number and of the area swept by fire (the yearly average number has increased from 222 to 235, and the yearly average burnt area has increased from 905 to 1713 ha).

In the period between 2004-2006 in the national forests 217 fires have broken out and an area of 1290 ha has been swept by the fire. These data are irrelevant for the Romanian forests because there isn't a record of fires which have broken out in private forests and the precise total area that was given back is unknown, the process of retrocession is still going on.

Because 50% of fires are having their origin in the fields surrounding the forest (grasslands, stubble fields, meadows) due to some cleaning actions of these areas with the help of fires left unsupervised in favourable meteorological conditions, it is necessary to implement some integrate plans in order to prevent fires in areas with high frequency of fires.

Distribution of classes of number of fires in periods 1990-2003 and 1999 – 2003 in administrative county

Table 1

No.	Administrative county	Total no. of fires 1990-2003	Classes (ha)			Yearly Average of fires 90-03	Total no. of fires 99-03	Classes 1999-2003			Yearly Average 99-03
			I >200	II 100-200	III <100			I >100	II 50-100	III <50	
1	Alba-Iulia	223	X			16	110	x			22
2	Arad	38			x	3	10			x	2
3	Pitești	58			x	4	31			x	6
4	Bacău	28			X	2	14			x	3
5	Oradea	79			x	6	43			x	9
6	Bistrita N.	30			x	2	9			x	2
7	Botoșani	24			x	2	7			x	1
8	Brașov	59			x	4	30			x	6
9	Brăila	11			x	1				x	
10	Buzău	79			x	6	17			x	3
11	Reșița	230	X			16	158	x			32
12	Călărași	18			x	1					
13	Cluj	196		x		14	63		x		13
14	Constanța	108		x		8	12			x	2
15	Sf. Gheorghe	9			x	1					
16	Târgoviște	78			x	6	71		x		14
17	Craiova	96			x	7	49			x	10
18	Galăț	27			x	2					
19	Giurgiu	11			x	1	8			x	1
20	Târgu Jiu	311	x			22	209	x			42
21	Miercurea Ciuc	42			x	3	26			x	5
22	Deva	223	x			16	25			x	5
23	Slobozia	74			x	5	66		x		13
24	Iași	22			x	2	4			x	1
25	Baia Mare	68			x	5	8			x	1
26	Tr. Severin	272	x			19	250	x			50
27	Tg. Mureș	61			x	4	26			x	5
28	Piatra Neamț	22			x	2	15			x	3
29	Slatina	60			x	4	38			X	8
30	Ploiești	125		x		9	83		x		17
31	Satu Mare	21			x	2	3			x	1
32	Zalău	33			x	2	3			x	1
33	Sibiu	21			x	2	13			x	3
34	Suceava	36			x	3	24			x	5
35	Alexandria	21			x	2	9			x	2
36	Timiș	25			x	2	12			x	2
37	Tulcea	75			x	5	54		x		11
38	Vaslui	30			x	2	5			x	1
39	Vâlcea	99			x	7	70		x		14
40	Focșani	14			x	1	21			x	4
41	București	27			x	2	15			x	2
42	I.C.A.S	29			x	2	12			x	
	TOTAL	3113				222	1623				325

**Distribution of classes of area swept by fires in periods 1990-2003 and 1999-2003
in administrative county**

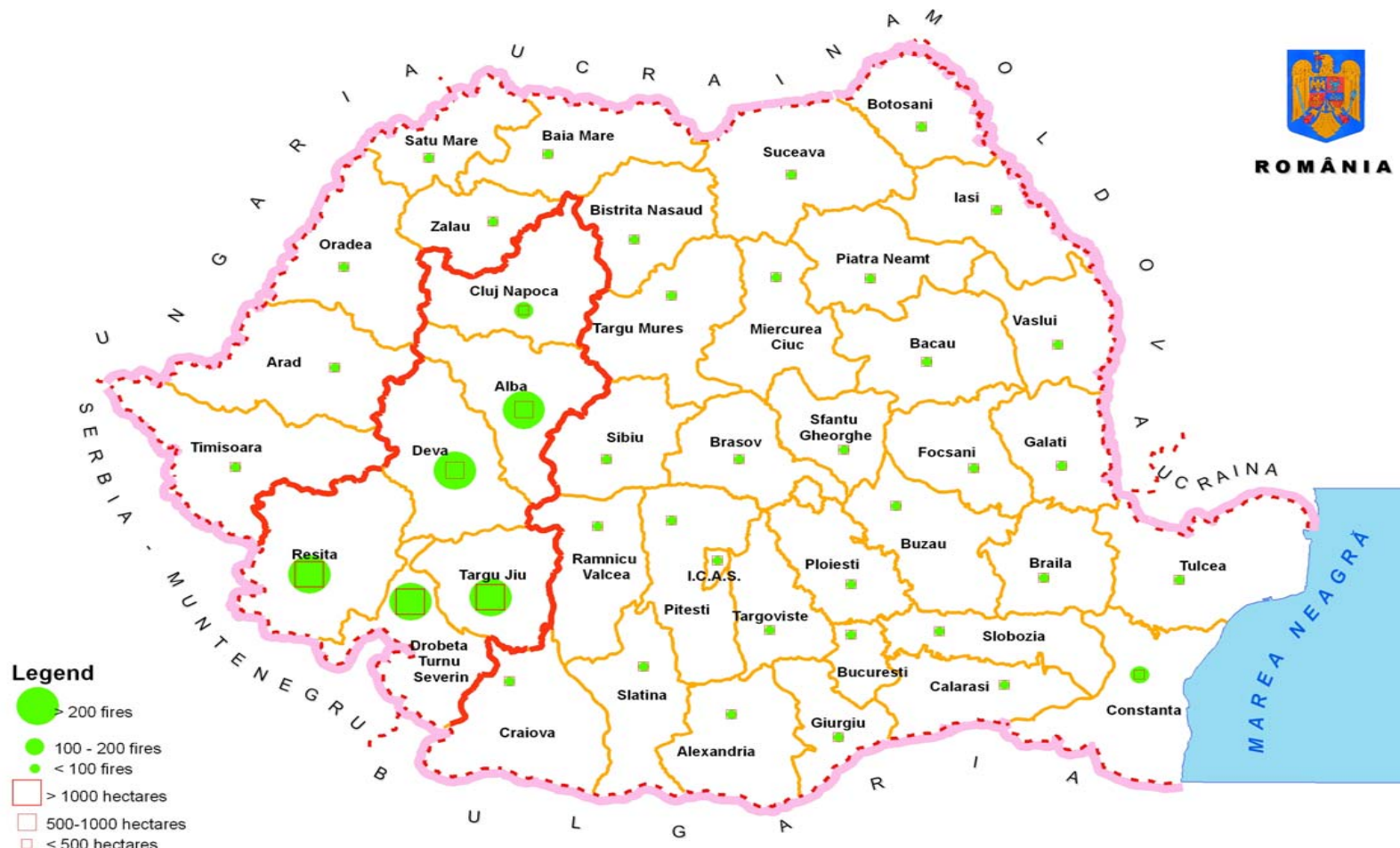
Table 2

No.	Adminis- trative county	Total area Swept by Fire (ha) 1990-2003	Classes (ha)			Yearly Average Burnt Area (ha) 90-03	Total area Swept by Fire (ha) 1999-2003	Classes (ha)			Yearly Average Burnt area (ha) 99-03
			I >1000	II 1000- 500	III < 500			I >500	II 250- 500	III <250	
1	Alba-Iulia	847,9		x		60,6	417,26		x		83,5
2	Arad	198,1			x	14,1	59,2			x	11,8
3	Pitești	123			X	8,8	97			x	19,4
4	Bacău	107,4			x	7,7	70			X	14,0
5	Oradea	225,4			x	16,1	111,75			x	22,3
6	Bistrita N.	104,7			x	7,7	25,9			x	5,2
7	Botoșani	26,4			x	1,9	10			x	2
8	Brașov	258,6			x	18,5	151,74			x	30,3
9	Brăila	72,7			x	5,2					
10	Buzău	275,2			x	19,7	53			x	10,6
11	Reșița	1499,7	x			107,1	1564,5	x			312,9
12	Călărași	50,7			x	3,6					
13	Cluj	342,5			x	24,5	171,0			x	34,2
14	Constanța	334,2			x	23,9	27,6			x	5,5
15	Sf. Gheorgh	26,8			x	1,9					
16	Târgoviște	163,8			x	11,7	149,8			x	30,0
17	Craiova	330,6			x	23,6	197,9			x	39,6
18	Galați	94,9			x	6,7					
19	Giurgiu	28,9			x	2,1	59,5			x	11,9
20	Târgu Jiu	968,8	x			69,2	989,5	x			197,9
21	Miercurea C	211,1			x	15,1	149,6			x	29,9
22	Deva	553,3		x		39,5	94,6			x	18,9
23	Slobozia	323,1			x	23,0	311,04		x		62,2
24	Iași	45,1			x	3,2	8,6			x	1,7
25	Baia Mare	417,1			x	29,8	73,2			x	14,6
26	Tr. Severin	2329,3	x			166,3	2263,6	X			452,7
27	Tg. Mureș	145,1			x	10,4	41,9			x	8,4
28	Piatra Neam	49,7			x	3,6	30,9			x	6,2
29	Slatina	244,6			x	17,5	188,3			x	37,7
30	Ploiești	275,6			x	19,7	259,62		x		51,9
31	Satu Mare	50,9			x	3,6	1,4			X	0,28
32	Zalău	161,8			x	11,6	4,2			X	0,8
33	Sibiu	246,5			x	17,6	92,5			X	18,5
34	Suceava	105,9			x	7,6	64,0			x	12,8
35	Alexandria	78,9			x	5,6	23,4			x	4,7
36	Timiș	127,7			x	9,1	34,2			X	6,8
37	Tulcea	473,2			x	33,8					
38	Vaslui	102,9			x	7,3	34			x	6,8
39	Vâlcea	438,1			x	31,3	340,8		x		68,2
40	Focșani	65,3			x	4,7	79,4			x	15,9
41	București	83,9			x	6,0	23,2			x	4,6
42	I.C.A.S	57,9			x	4,1	28,1			x	5,6
	TOTAL	12667,3				904,8	8563,5				1712,7

DISTRIBUTION OF CLASSES OF NUMBER OF FIRES AND SURFACES SWEEPED BY FIRES IN PERIOD 1990 - 2003 IN ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY



ROMÂNIA



- Legend**
- > 200 fires
 - 100 - 200 fires
 - < 100 fires
 - > 1000 hectares
 - 500-1000 hectares
 - < 500 hectares

