

Advanced Seminar in Wildland Fire Management

Antalya, Turkey, 1-4 March 2010

Conducted by the General Directorate of Forestry (Orman Genel Müdürlüğü, Ankara)

in cooperation with and co-sponsored by
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)
Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) / United Nations University (UNU)
Faculty of Forestry, Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi, Trabzon, Turkey
UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network
UNECE / FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire

Background and Rationale

In the last decade wildfires have increasingly affected forests and other lands in the countries of the Southeast Europe / Balkan region, Turkey, the Southern Caucasus and the Near East. The increasing severity and extent of wildfires are attributed to consequences of land-use change, rural exodus, and climate extremes / climate change. Some countries in the greater Southeast Europe / Caucasus Region and adjoining countries have developed operational fire management systems (fire prevention and fire suppression), including the use of advanced tools in wildfire early warning, detection and monitoring, as well as high-tech ground-based and aerial fire suppression capabilities. Some countries, however, are still in the stage of building national fire management capacities.

The necessity of enhancing national capacities in fire emergency situations has prompted governments and international organizations to respond. In 2004 the „Conference on Forest Fire Management and International Cooperation in Fire Emergencies in The Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans and Adjoining Regions of the Near East and Central Asia” was held in Antalya, Turkey, resulting in the “Antalya Declaration on Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, Near East and Central Asia” (Annex I). One year later the “Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange 2005” (EASTEX FIRE 2005) was held in Bulgaria (Annex II) and the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network was founded (Annex III).¹

In responding to major fire emergency situations in the region Turkey assisted Syria (2004) and Georgia (2004, 2006 and 2008). Other countries in the Balkans received assistance from neighboring countries through the Community Civil Protection Mechanism, especially during the extreme fire season of 2007. While the dispatch of aerial firefighting assets in these cases was rather swift, it was recognized that the efficiency of out-of-area deployment of aerial resources was hampered by the insufficient firefighting resources on the ground, lack of air-ground coordination, language problems and different national approaches in fire suppression, including different incident management systems.

In order to enhance the national fire management capability aimed at securing sustainability and functioning of forest assets and protected areas, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) through the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network, supported by the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) / Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, conducted a series of national projects and regional activities, e.g. annual regional consultations between 2005 and 2009, including the recent Advanced Seminar “Wildfires and Human Security: Fire Management on Terrain Contaminated by

¹ A complete list of documents on the formation of the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network and related activities are found at:
http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope_1.html

Radioactivity, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Land Mines” (Kyiv / Chernobyl, Ukraine, 6-8 October 2009).

This first Advanced Seminar on Wildland Fire Management for the region of the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network, conducted under the frame of the United Nations University (UNU), will build on the experiences of the past activities and contribute a further step towards enhancing the common understanding in improving the efficiency of fire management on the national level.

Participants

The objective of this advanced seminar is to provide technical information and field demonstrations to key personnel from the South East European countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and FYR Macedonia) and South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia).

Venue

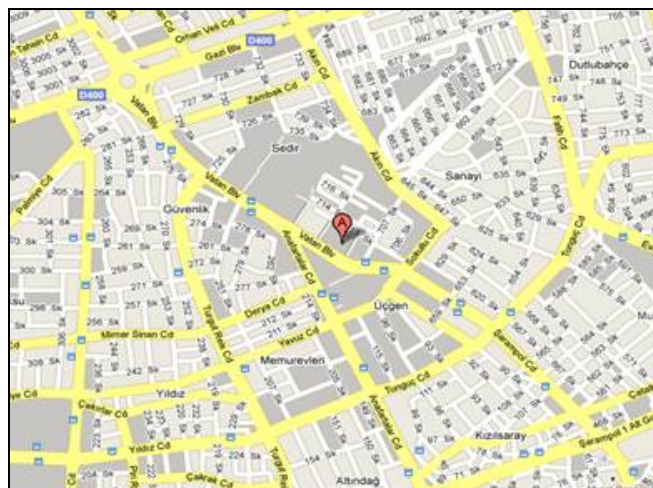
The venue of the Advanced Seminar will be the Antalya Regional Forestry Directorate Premises (Antalya Orman Bölge Müdürlüğü, Turan Kapanlı Eğitim Merkezi and Duzlercami Eğitim Merkezi). Participants will be met at the Antalya Airport by a representative of the General Directorate of Forestry with a sign (bearing the words: Advanced Seminar / OSCE) and transported to the Guest House.

Accommodation will be provided by the Forestry Regional Directorate for free (each participant will stay alone in a room in Forestry Regional Directorate’s Guest House that is just next to the Forestry Regional Directorate’s building).

The full address of the venue is:

Antalya Orman Bölge Müdürlüğü Sedir Mah
Vatan Bulvarı 07002, Antalya
Tel: +90 242 345 14 62
Fax: +90 242 345 14 56

Location map of Antalya Orman Bölge Müdürlüğü



Turkish currency is the Turkish Lira (TL). The current exchange rate is: 1 Euro is equal to 2.1 TL, with slight daily fluctuations.

Internet Access during the seminar will be provided;

Visa: Those nationalities needing a visa to visit Turkey, please ask Ms. Aneta Baranowska (address on the registration form) for an official invitation letter.

Weather: Information about the average Mean, Maximum and Minimum Temperatures and the rainfall in Antalya:

Month	Mean Temperature (°C)		Mean Total Rainfall (mm)	Mean Number of Rain Days
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum		
February	6.2	15.4	160.7	10.8
March	7.8	17.7	96.8	8.9

Warm clothes and comfortable footwear suitable for walking outside is recommended for the field trip.

Draft Agenda

Monday, 1 March 2010

Arrival of participants in Antalya. All participants will be met at the International airport by a representative of the General Directorate of Forestry and transported to the Guest House.

20:00 Informal welcome meeting and dinner at Seminar venue

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

09:00-09:30 Opening remarks by

- Mr. Recep Kasan (Regional Forest Director of Antalya)
- Mr. Osman Kahveci (Director General, Directorate of Forestry)
- Prof. Dr. Johann G. Goldammer (GFMC / UNISDR / United Nations University)
- Mr. David Swalley (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)

09:30-10:30 Session I: Introduction – Forest Fire Problems in the Region

- Turkey (Mr. Nurettin Doğan, Head, Department of Forest Protection and Fire Fighting)
- Southern Caucasus (Prof. Dr. J.G. Goldammer, Director, Global Fire Monitoring Center - GFMC)
- Adjoining Balkan region (Prof. Dr. N. Nikolov, Coordinator, UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Regional Wildland Fire Network)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:00 Session II: Presentation of national and international approaches in fire management and capacity building

- Turkey I: Turkey's experiences in fire fighting and cooperation with neighboring/adjoining Balkan countries (Mr. N. Doğan, Head, Department of Forest Protection and Fire Fighting)
- Turkey II: Fire in Turkey: a retrospective analysis (Prof. Dr. Mr. Ertuğrul BİLGİLİ, Karadeniz Technical University)
- Bulgaria: Fire prevention and control on the ground (Mr. V. Konstantinov, Bulgaria)
- Azerbaijan: Aerial firefighting using fixed-wing aircraft (Mr. Agshin Kazimov, Azerbaijan)
- Russia: Aerial firefighting operations in Russia and possibilities for international fire fighting support (Mr. A. Eritsov, Russia / UNECE)

13:15-14:15 Lunch break

- 14:15-15:45 Session III: Introduction to training materials on basics in fire behaviour and fire suppression
- Introduction to fire behavior (Prof. Dr. Mr. Ertuğrul BİLGİLİ, Karadeniz Technical University)
 - Presentation and demonstration of fire suppression tools and safety equipment (I) (Mr. Ekrem Aydemir, Deputy Regional Forest Director of Antalya)
- 15:45-16:15 Coffee break
- 16:15-17:45 Session IV: Introduction to training materials on basics in fire behaviour and fire suppression
- Fire suppression techniques (the use of equipment and personnel) (Prof. Dr. Mr. Ertuğrul BİLGİLİ, Karadeniz Technical University)
 - Presentation and demonstration of fire suppression tools and safety equipment (II) (Mr. Ekrem Aydemir, Deputy Regional Forest Director of Antalya)
- 19:00 Official Seminar Dinner at a restaurant

Wednesday, 3 March 2010

- 09:00-13:00 Field exercise I (by host country)
- Field presentation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Introduction of hand tools and mechanized equipment
 - Fireline construction
 - Fire suppression and mop up
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-18:00 Field exercise II (by host country)
- Prescribed burning for wildfire hazard reduction
 - Suppression firing (counter fire)
- Note: In case of adverse (rainy) weather conditions the field exercise may be shortened and replaced by an excursion to burned sites and fire prevention demonstration plots
- Evening Dinner

Thursday, 4 March 2010

- 08:30-09:30 Continuation of Session II:
- FYR Macedonia: Cooperation between P.E. "Macedonian Forests" and the Directorate for Protection and Rescue (Mr. Mr. Jovan Cakovski and Mr. Ljupco Petroski)
 - Fire problems and fire management in Albania (Mr. Genci Hoxhaj)
 - International procedures: EU Community Civil Protection Mechanism, UNEP-OCHA, proposed international standards such as EuroFire and ICS (Prof. Dr. J.G. Goldammer, GFMC)
- 09:30-10:30 Session V: Evaluation of training approaches
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-13:00 Session VI: Discussion on enhancing cooperation in fire management
- Training, study tours, exercises
 - Recent transnational cooperation in fire emergencies: Lessons identified
 - Proposal for the development of bilateral protocols
- Final discussions
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- Afternoon / next day: Departure of participants

Annex I



**Antalya Declaration
On Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean,
Near East and Central Asia
Antalya, 1 April 2004**

The Conference:

- Recalling the rationale and recommendations of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg – 2002) concerning the international endeavours to secure sustainable development of the global vegetation resources,
- Expressing concerns about the increasing occurrence and destructiveness of forest fires in the regions between the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, Near East and Central Asia,
- Recognizing that the reasons for this development are due to increasing population pressure in many countries, increasing socio-economic problems of rural populations, increasing vulnerability of humans and the occurrence of extreme fire seasons that can possibly be explained by climate change,
- Recognizing the endeavours of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) to address the fire problems in the Northern Hemisphere, notably through the work of the UN-ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire since 1993,
- Endorsing the endeavours of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and its Wildland Fire Advisory Group in supporting to harmonize and strengthen efforts by the United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as other international organizations including non-government organizations, to reduce the negative impacts of wildland fires on the environment,
- Endorsing the goal of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to promote and strengthen bilateral and multilateral agreements for cooperation in fire management,
- Recognizing and supporting the goals and joint endeavours of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Forum of Forests (UNFF) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, to protect the global vegetation resources and the global atmosphere from negative influences by vegetation fires, as well as the promotion of knowledge and techniques to utilize the beneficial role of fire in ecosystem management,
- Endorsing the recommendations of the International Wildland Fire Summit (Sydney – 2003) concerning common international standards for fire management and the strategy for strengthening international cooperation in wildland fire management,
- Supporting the objectives of the ISDR Global Wildland Fire Network and its Secretariat, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), to systematically enhance the intra- and inter-regional cooperation in wildland fire management throughout the world,
- Welcoming the availability of the government of Turkey -- the host country of this conference -- and the delegates of participating nations to actively cooperate to share experience and resources in wildland fire management

- Concluding from the national case studies and analyses on the wildland fire situation in the participating countries, as well as from the discussions held at the conference, that the majority of countries in the region are available to establish and strengthen a regional dialogue on cooperation in wildland fire research and management
- Expressing the intent to jointly overcome the currently existing gaps and deficits in
 - Early warning systems of wildland fire
 - Spaceborne fire monitoring systems
 - Decision-support systems for fire management
 - Wildland fire research
 - Training / capacity building in wildland fire management
 - Transnational agreements and operations for bilateral and multilateral assistance in wildland fire emergency situations

Recommends the following Antalya Plan of Action for the region between the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, Near East, Western and Central Asia:

(1) The countries participating at the conference encourage governments to develop or strengthen, and international organizations to support

- Bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation in wildland fire management, based on international standards as proposed by the FAO and the International Wildland fire Summit
- Introduce the Incident Command System (ICS) as the international standard for all wildland incident management participating in international or interagency agreements and exchanges.
- Regional systems for early warning and satellite monitoring of wildland fires
- Cooperative regional wildland fire research projects and programmes
- Decision-support systems
- Training / capacity building in wildland fire management

(2) To regularly conduct follow-up activities aimed at further promoting collaborative efforts and procedures

- Multilateral wildland fire emergency exercises, starting with the multinational exercise EASTEX FIRE 2004 in Bulgaria and the tri-national exercise in Croatia in 2004
- Regional workshops aimed at further defining priority issues to be jointly addressed, especially considering the needs of collaboration with countries of the region that were not represented at the conference

(3) To develop arrangements to support collection and dissemination of wildland fire information, facilitation of regular regional dialogue and joint projects between the countries, and to technically support countries in need of aerial assets for wildland fire suppression by the creation of

- A Regional Fire Monitoring Center, hosted by the Government of Bulgaria
- A Regional Advisory Board of Senior Fire Officers, hosted and facilitated by the Government of Turkey in Antalya
- Special regional mobile airborne fire response units, based on Public-Private Partnership arrangements, e.g., those companies participating at the conference (Russian Irkut Corporation [fixed-wing aircraft – BE-200] and UT Air [helicopter assets])

(4) To inform national governments about the need to prepare statements in favour of enhancing international cooperation in wildland fire management at the following forums:

- The forthcoming Meeting of the three Rio Conventions (UN CBD, UN CCD, UN FCCC) (Viterbo, Italy, April 2004)
- The forthcoming 16th Session of the FAO Near East Forestry Commission, with regard to establishing networking structures in Western Asia (May 2004)
- The World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) (Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, January 2005)
- The FAO Ministerial-Level Meeting, devoted to wildland fire management and international cooperation (Rome, Italy, March 2005)

Participating Countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine. International Organizations: ECE, FAO, ISDR Global Wildland Fire Network

Annex II



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR DIRECTORATE NATIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SAFETY SERVICE

Bulgaria

171A, Pirotska str., 1309 Sofia, BULGARIA, Tel: 00 359 2 822 15 25; 00 359 2 9821 206, Fax: 00 359 2 822 01 53; 00 359 2 988 50 76, E-mail: nspab@mvr.bg

Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange 2005 (EASTEX FIRE 2005)

Report and Analysis by the Host Country Bulgaria

The International exercise "EASTEX FIRE 2005" on forest fire extinguishing was held at the field exercise area "Koren", Haskovo Region, Bulgaria, 20-22 April 2005, with the participation of forces and equipment of fire services from the Republic of Bulgaria and the neighbouring Balkan countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey.

This exercise was held in pursuance of the written statement approved by the "Conference on Forest Fire Management and International Cooperation in Fire Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans and adjoining Regions of the Near East and Central Asia", which was held in Antalya, Turkey, 30 March - 3 April 2004.

This event was organized in accordance with the "Working plan 2005 of the Standing Committee for management of forces and equipment of Ministry of the Interior during crisis situations", as well as the "Annual working plan 2005 of the Standing Committee on population protection in case of disasters, emergencies and crashes at the Council of Ministers" of Bulgaria.

The exercise was a practical drill with imitation of real situation. Participants in this event were the institutions responsible for the prevention and extinguishing of forest fires in the Republic of Bulgaria and fire crews from the Balkan countries.

Objectives of this exercise were as follows:

1. Improvement of the interaction between competent bodies from Balkan countries during forest fires management.
2. Carrying out of united management of forces and equipment in the conditions of forest fires and working off the procedures on interaction and co-ordination between institutions responsible for crisis management in the Republic of Bulgaria and the leaders of international crews.
3. Provision of logistics for the needs of participants in similar operations.

This exercise was held in two main stages:

- First stage – organization actions and staff drill.
- Second stage – practical actions of specialized crews within the zone of the wildfire crisis.

Following activities were included in the first stage of this exercise:

- Receiving of a call with a report on the outbreak of the fire. Undertaking of due measures by the competent institutions from the Republic of Bulgaria. Concentration of forces and equipment at the fire location.
- Provision of permanent information exchange concerning fire development between the head of firefighting operations and representatives of executive and local authorities. Alerting, information

and taking immediate measures for the deployment of forces and equipment in the zone of crisis situation.

- Introduction of action plans for crisis situations intended for institutions responsible for extinguishing of forest fires, which might develop into emergency situations.
- Provision of information to neighbour countries about the crisis situation and implementation of procedures for request of assistance. Creation of organization for reception and escorting of foreign crews.

Following practical actions of participants were included in the second stage:

- Survey and observation of the fire region; management of forces and equipment; emergency rescue and fire fighting operations; closing off the disaster area; provision of escorting and movement of crews taking part in the operation; creation of additional organization of moving within crisis zone; medical and psychological assistance for the sufferers and personnel, taking part in firefighting and their transportation to the hospitals; specifying the places of natural and man-made barriers suitable for fire spread stopping; determination the needs of equipment for making of cuttings.
- Creation of organization for reception of foreign fire crews from neighbour countries at border control checkpoints and their escorting to the place of crisis situation. Provision of communication with the forces, dispatch to render assistance for fire elimination. All participating crews were instructed about labour safety measures during extinguishing of a forest fire.

In the course of exercise different tactical actions intended for extinguishing of forest fires were worked off depending on the equipment of participants. Representatives of the countries having predominant deciduous vegetation like the Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina used backpack fire extinguishers and impulse fire extinguishing systems for fighting forest fires of low intensities. Representatives of fire service of Romania used equipment for water supply from the natural and man-made water sources. Crews from the Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Greece and Republic of Turkey, where coniferous vegetation is predominant, used fire vehicles with high cross-country capability and larger quantities of fire extinguishing media, owing to the lack of enough water sources at the territories of their countries. Heavy engineering equipment was used for cutting firebreaks with the purpose of limiting the fire spread.

Following results were achieved during the exercise:

- There was good organization for efficient co-ordination and interaction between institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria responsible for the forest fires elimination and leaders of foreign crews during the operations for limitation and elimination of the forest fire.
- United centralized management of all operations and efficient communication between all participants in the exercise EASTEX FIRE 2005 were realized.
- This exercise contributed to the strengthening of cross-border co-operation with respect to management of forces and equipment of Balkan countries during elimination of forest fires developed into crisis situations.
- EASTEX FIRE 2005 was a further step towards the establishment of the Regional Southeast Europe Wildland Fire Network under the Global Wildland Fire Network of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster reduction (UNISDR) and its cooperative activities between the Balkan countries. It is closely related to the initiative of Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) within the framework of European Union program INTERREG III B, priority zone 4 "Environment Protection, Resources Management and Risk Prevention". The Central Adriatic Danube Southeast Region (CADSES) is referred.
- This exercise contributed to the strengthening of international co-operation with respect to forest fire management and mitigation of their consequences; the improvement of co-operation between competent institutions at the Balkans responsible for extinguishing of forest fires; the consolidation of capacity for fire management.

EASTEX FIRE 2005 demonstrated the capacity of Balkan countries to cope with forest fires, spreading on large areas and having undesirable environment impact.

Annex III



UNITED NATIONS



UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network

Coordinator and Secretariat: Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Freiburg, Germany

Regional Balkan Wildland Fire Network / Global Wildland Fire Network International Technical and Scientific Consultation

“Forest Fire Management in the Balkan Region”

Ohrid, Macedonia, 4 to 5 April 2005

Conclusions

On 4-5 April 2005 the Republic of Macedonia hosted the International Technical and Scientific Consultation “Forest Fire Management in the Balkan Region”. The conference was sponsored by the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network through its Coordinator and Secretariat, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC). Funding of the consultation was provided by the German Foreign Office (represented by the GFMC) and contributions by the participating and contributing countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey).

The participants of the consultation:

Recognizing the importance of forests as providers of environmental services and social, economic, and ecological benefits to humankind in Southeast Europe;

Expressing concern about the increasing frequency and destructive force of wildfires in Southeast Europe affecting human health and wellbeing, economic assets, property, biodiversity, water resources, soil, atmosphere and climate;

Noting that changing land use and rural exodus in some parts of the region is resulting in increased wildfire hazard and vulnerability of ecosystems; likewise urban encroachment in wildlands resulting in increased vulnerability of human populations to fire, notably at the rural-urban interface;

Noting an increase in vulnerability of humans and ecosystems to secondary disasters following fires, including floods, landslides and soil erosion;

Noting that the effects of climate variability and climate change caused by human activities are already producing periods of extreme drought resulting in an increase in the severity of fires in some ecosystems;

Concluding from the analyses and reports of the countries of the Balkan region presented at this consultation, it is evident that the majority of countries in the regions are ready to establish and strengthen a regional dialogue on cooperation and exchange of information, research and wildland fire management as a contribution to forest and environmental protection, stability and peace; bilateral and multilateral agreements should be considered;

Expressing the intention to overcome **current gaps and shortages** in:

- Consistent information and statistics about fires, their causes and their effects
- Applied research in social sciences and humanities, including finances for research
- Integration of social, economic, environmental considerations and institutions in developing tangible policies and practices related to wildland fire
- Integration of fire as a component of land, resource, and forest management
- Community-based approaches to fire management
- Training in the appropriate use of fire (for example, prescribed burning for fuel reduction and nature conservation)
- Training in the safe and efficient use of resources for fire suppression (for example, appropriate equipment for fire suppression, wildland fire safety)

- Compatible approaches, e.g., global implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS) and the International Wildland Fire Agreements Template

Recalling the recommendations of the International Wildland Fire Summit (Sydney, 2003), the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network (2004), and the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Forests (2005) with respect to the management of wildland fires and the strategy to strengthen international cooperation in wildland fire management;

Endorsing the efforts of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) and its Wildland Fire Advisory Group to assist and strengthen the efforts of United Nations bodies, other international organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the negative impacts of wildland fires;

Supporting the objectives of the ISDR Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) to systematically increase the intra- and inter-regional cooperation in wildland fire management for the world;

Expressing gratitude to the Faculty of Forestry of Skopje, represented by Mr. Nikola Nikolov, for the preparation and organisation of the consultation;

Recommend to governments, international organizations and non-government organizations the following action plan for cooperation on wildland fire research and management in Southeast Europe:

Research

- Secure financing of a regional wildland fire research programme
- Strengthen wildland fire research cooperation between neighbouring countries
- Develop standardization of terminology and procedures
- Develop standardized data collection i.a.w. the further development of global wildland fire data collection
- Encourage increased involvement of the science community in wildland fire-related research programmes (interdisciplinary research)
- Support the establishment of national or regional (international) wildland fire research centers
- Establish a regional wildland fire weather network
- Approach the EU Erasmus / Sokrates programme for developing a dedicated programme for wildland fire exchange

Consolidation of the Regional Network

- Expand the current focus on the Balkan Region to a “Regional South East European Wildland Fire Network” and invite countries adjoining to the Balkan region to cooperate
- Establish a network of country Focal Points, preferably with one representative of a government agency and a representative of the academia
- Support the network co-coordinators that are representing the main stakeholders involved (Mr. Nikola Nikolov, Macedonia, Research; Mr. Vladimir Konstantinov, Bulgaria, Forest Service; Mr. Dulijano Grum, Croatia, Fire Service) (initially nominated for a 1-year period)
- Seek for widespread membership in the network
- Maintain a publicly accessible website of the network (communication language: English)
- Produce an initial publication of this regional consultation and the network foundation, to be published in UN-ECE/FAO International Forest Fire News, including a summary of previous activities in international cooperation in the SE European Region
- Conduct a first Regional Advanced Wildland Fire Management Training Course not later than 2006, based on experiences in other regions and the FAO courses in Bulgaria; seek support from the German Foreign Office
- Request a FAO Technical Development Project (TCP) on “Development of a Regional SE European Strategy for International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management”, preferably to be conducted before 2007
- Improve access and reliability of regional and country / ecosystem specific early warning information, including automatic distribution
- Participate at the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference, Madrid, Spain (May 2007)
- Convene the next network meeting not later than 2006