

STRATEGIC REVIEW
of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry

- QUESTIONNAIRE -

- Invitation to UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on to contribute to the Strategic Review and Plan -

UNECE / FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST FIRE

Questionnaire filled and delivered on 17 December 2007 by Team Leader J.G. Goldammer

I. Until 2008: Mandate, Activities, Impact

1. Did your Team of Specialists achieve the mandate for the period 2004-2008?

See Mandate in Annex I.

Yes [] Partly [] No []

1.1. In the case of “partly” or “no”, please explain below why the Team’s mandate was only partly or not achieved.

n.a.

2. Could the mandate of the Team have been different? (please select one)

Yes [] No []

2.1 In the case of “yes,” please explain below why the Team’s mandate could (or should) have been different. What could have been achieved differently, with a different mandate? Please explain below.

n.a.

3. Which were the primary activities undertaken and outputs produced by your Team of Specialists?

List of the primary activities undertaken and outputs produced (in chronological order).

Note: This is a reduced list of activities. More detailed activities, e.g. bilateral cooperation, is found in the GFMC Calendar at: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about4.html> or in the website of the Global wildland Fire Network: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>

1	29 March – 4 April 2004 GFMC/ECE/AO 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; Antalya, Turkey. Key activity of the Team. Antalya Declaration, subsequent implementation by Turkey, assisting Syria and Georgia in forest fire emergencies in 2004 and 2006
2	5-7 April 2004 Workshop on Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting synergy in the implementation of the three Rio conventions (organized by UNCCD and CBD secretariats, in cooperation with UNFCCC secretariat). Discussions between the Global Wildland Fire Network and the three Rio Conventions, on joint programmes and common work in the Wildland Fire Advisory Group; Viterbo, Italy.
3	7 April 2004 Meeting at FAO Rome on (a) discussion of modalities of the Global Forest Fire Assessment in the frame of the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2005; (b) cooperation in the Global Wildland Fire Network; Rome, Italy.

4	9-10 May 2004 Meeting of the Regional Baltic Wildland Fire Network, hosted by the Ministry of Interior, Finland; Helsinki, Finland. Helsinki Declaration on Cooperation in Fire Management in the Baltic Region.
5	25-27 November 2004 Regional Forest Congress “Forest Policy: Problems and Solutions”. GFMC contribution “Recent Trends of Forest Fires in Central Asia and Opportunities for Regional Cooperation in Forest Fire Management”; Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Conference resolution recommending Central Asian States to join the GWFN.
6	3-4 December 2004 Meeting of the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network; GFMC, Freiburg, Germany. Coordination meeting with all networks including ECE, recommendation towards development of an international accord on cooperation in wildland fire management (Ministerial Meeting on Forests and COFO 2005).
7	18-22 January 2005 UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR). GFMC / Global Wildland Fire Network contributions jointly with the ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning; Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. Inputs of the Team to the Hyogo Framework of Action.
8	12-21 March 2005 GFMC participation at the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Forests (14 March 2005) and the 17 th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) (15-19 March 2005), proposal of an international accord on cooperation in wildland fire management; FAO, Rome, Italy. Recommendation of COFO and Ministerial: Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines.
9	4-5 April 2005 International Technical and Scientific Consultation “Forest Fire Management in the Balkan Region” conducted by the Regional Balkan Wildland Fire Network; Ohrid, Macedonia. Key activity of the Team. Ohrid Declaration with proposals for enhancing regional cooperation in forest fire management.
10	20-22 April 2005 Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange - EASTEX FIRE 2005 with participation of the Fire Services of Bulgaria (host country), Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro, and Turkey, supported by the Global Fire Monitoring Center; Haskovo Region, Republic of Bulgaria. Second regional forest fire exercise (after BALTEX Fire 2000) under Team leadership.
11	16-19 May 2005 5 th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), with focus on an international arrangement on forests (16-27 May 2005). Wednesday, 18 May, 2005, the GFMC – representing the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and the Global Wildland Fire Network – organized a side event “Development of a Strategy or Agreement on International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management”, co-sponsored by the U.S: Forest Service and the German Foreign Office; UN Headquarters, New York. Informing UNFF process about the ongoing initiatives of the Team / GWFN.
12	6-17 September 2005 Regional Central Asia Wildland Fire Network consultation and study tour; participation at the 2 nd International Junior Forestry Prize Competition and the All-Russian Forest Day; Irkutsk, Susdal, Moscow, Russian Federation. Irkutsk Declaration on cooperation in fire management in Central Asia.
13	1-31 January 2006 Finalization of the UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Reports for the Thematic Report on Forest Fires, FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA-2005); GFMC contribution to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Wildland Fire Management and the Global Strategy for Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management. All focal points participating, also indirectly through publications of country reports in UNECE-FAO IFFN.
14	20-22 March 2006 FAO wildland fire expert meeting; FAO, Rome, Italy. Inputs follow up of COFO-2005 and preparation of COFO 2007, concerning Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines.
15	10-12 May 2006 FAO International Expert Consultation on Wildland Fire; Madrid, Spain. Same as above.
16	23-26 May 2006 Meeting of the Regional Southeast Europe Wildland Fire Network in tandem with the 33 rd Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission; Zvolen, Slovakia. Presentation of draft strategy for cooperation in forest fire management in SE

	Europe.
17	12-14 July 2006 Follow-up work with FAO Forest Department on the development of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines and the Strategy for International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management; FAO Rome, Italy.
18	6-8 September 2006 Follow-up work with FAO Forest Department on the development of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines and the Strategy for International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management; FAO Rome, Italy.
19	28-30 September 2006 First International Northeast Asia Forest Fire Conference and Third International Meeting of the Regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network; Khabarovsk, Russia. Regional meeting with declaration on cooperation in forest fire management for the Far East countries of ECE.
20	2-13 October 2006 OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to Fire-Affected Areas in Nagorno-Karabakh, in Fulfilment of the UNGA Resolution A/RES/60/285 “The Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan: Revised Draft Resolution / Azerbaijan” (7 September 2006); Azerbaijan, Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia (Baku, Ganja region, Armenia border region, Tbilisi, Stepanakert / Khankendi region, Yerevan). First support mission of two Team members in compliance with a UNGA resolution.
21	9-10 November 2006 Kick-off meeting of the European Wildland Fire Management Handbook, EU Leonardo da Vinci programme, a joint effort of GFMC and the Commission on Forest Fires, International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire (CTIF); London, UK. Start of the development of competence standards for wildland fire management in the EU.
22	13-16 February 2007 Country - Led Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests “Multi Year Programme of Work of United Nations Forum on Forests: Charting the Way Forward to 2015”; Bali, Indonesia. Inputs of the Team.
23	12-15 March 2007 18 th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO): Discussion of the non-legally binding Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Fire Management, including the (a) Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines; (b) Implementation Partnership; (c) Global Assessment of Fire Management; and (d) Review of International Cooperation in Fire Management; FAO, Rome, Italy.
24	18-21 March 2007 Regional Wildland Fire Consultation on the Development of a Strategy on International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in the Regional South East European / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network, coordinated by GFMC and the UNISDR Regional South East European / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network, hosted by Bulgaria; Sofia, Bulgaria. Follow-up of the Caucasus mission (2006) to include the Caucasus states into the network.
25	12-18 May 2007 4 th International Wildland Fire Conference with meeting of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network; Sevilla, Spain. Meeting of the Tam and all GWFN regional networks. Sevilla Declaration on global fire issues and particularly a regional session of the Team.
26	25-28 July 2007 International Meeting on “Reduction of Disaster Risk from Catastrophic Wildfires in the Chernobyl Irradiated Forests” under the auspices of the National Agricultural University of Ukraine, Yale University, GFMC / UNISDR; Kiev, Ukraine. Development of a strategic plan for radioactively contaminated forests fire prevention and mitigation.
27	July-August 2007: Three fire emergency assessment and coordination mission to Balkan member states 29 July - 1 August 2007 Deployment of GFMC staff to assess the wildfire situation in Kosovo and to coordinate fire response, on request by the UN and on behalf of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit; Prishtina, Kosovo. 19-26 August 2007 Fire assessment mission to Serbia in the frame of the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network; Beograde, Vojvodina, Tara-Mitrovac, Vodena poljana, Kopaoniku, Vlasina, Serbia. 28 August–2 September 2007 Fire assessment mission to Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on request by the UN and on behalf of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment

	Unit, in conjunction with the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network; Skopje, Macedonia.
28	20-23 October 2007 Training course "Use of Fire Suppression Hand Tools" at the Croatian Fire Service within the framework of the FAO TCP "National Strategy for Forest Fire Protection" (3-XII-CRO-201); Split, Croatia.
29	4-5 December 2007 UN OCHA Rosersberg Initiative Working Group Meeting; La Marsa, Les Côtes de Carthage, Tunisia. Forest fire component within the Rosersberg process aiming at streamlining and strengthening preparedness and response to environmental emergencies globally.

4. What impact was achieved through the Team's activities?

In accordance with the mandate (... consolidation of the Global and Regional Wildland Fire Networks), the Team has provided all resources necessary to

- (a) bring the Team's expertise from the ECE region to other regions
- (b) support / contribute to international processes requiring technical, scientific and policy expertise (FAO mandate, ISDR strategy, UNFF goals, Rio Conventions [CBD, FCCC, CCD] objectives and implementation needs, ...), and
- (c) implement knowledge transfer to ECE member states in need and countries in other regions of the world.

The results of the reporting period are speaking for itself.

5. How can the impact achieved through the Team's work be demonstrated? Has the impact of activities undertaken by the Team been measured?

See GFMC Calendar with website publication links of each activity listed in Section 3.

6. What resources were made available?

The main resources for personnel and travel were made available by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (Team leader) and its basic financing sources (Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science; German Foreign Office, Task Force for Humanitarian Aid). The production of UNECE-FAO International Forest Fire News (IFFN) has been financially supported by the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) until 2006; financial support for 2007 has not yet been requested due to delay of IFFN production.

7. Were you satisfied with the UNECE/FAO secretariat support provided to the functioning of the Team? (please select one)

Yes [] No []

Please explain below any possible improvements.

Speeding up IFFN publication is underway. Assistance is requested in recruiting finances for IFFN Editor's Office in the case that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would not be able to continue its financial support (to be clarified in early 2008).

II. After 2008: Mandate, Activities, Possible Changes

8. Do you believe the work of the Team should continue during the period 2008-2013?
(please select one)

Yes No

8.1 If yes, do you believe the mandate of the Team should be maintained, for the period 2008-2013, or modified?(please select one)

Maintain mandate Modify mandate

8.2 If you would like to modify the Team’s mandate, please explain and propose a revised mandate below.

Elements of new mandate	
A. OBJECTIVES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote application of methods in forest fire management and development forest fire policies based on most recent science and connectedness to international processes; • To provide, in close cooperation and coordination with the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and FAO, guidance to member states and international organizations, notably the United Nations system, on forest fire management and forest fire policies, with core emphasis on the contribution of the fire management community to reduce the negative consequences of forest fires on climate change as well as adaptation and mitigation measures to address the consequences of climate change on fire regimes; • To organise and prepare seminars, workshops and educational programmes; and promote a continuous exchange of information and experience among country forest fire specialists from the policy, managerial and research spheres. 	
<p><u>Note:</u> In the context of this mandate the Team will continue to address all vegetation fires (“wildland fires”), including fires in the agricultural sector and in peatland / wetland biomes.</p>	
EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow up the recommendations of the International Wildland Fire Summit, particularly in the consolidation of the UNISDR Global and Regional Wildland Fire Networks; 2. Support the development of a global vegetation fire inventory based on combined remote sensing and national reporting methodology, in cooperation with the international panel for Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOF-C-GOLD); 3. Cooperate with the UNEP-OCHA Joint Environment Unit in developing a forest fire component within the Rosersberg Initiative, which is aiming at streamlining and improving national and international response to environmental emergencies, including wildland fire. 4. Continue the bi-annual publication of <i>International Forest Fire News</i> (IFFN) 	

8.3 If you believe the Team’s work should continue, which primary activities do you envisage the Team should engage in during the period 2008-20013? Please list and explain below.

1	Basically the Team will continue its work in the <i>modus operandi</i> of the previous period, i.e. give first priority to fulfil the mandate within the ECE region. In this context UNECE/FAO is requested specifically to support the Team to develop a strategy for cooperation within the ECE, with main emphasis of cooperation between the EU and non-EU member states in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and particularly with the Russian Federation.
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2	Since the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network has been created based on the networking expertise of the Team, pursue the consolidation of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) and its Wildland Fire Advisory Group as a key contributory body to the UN-driven processes, as well as partner of non-UN international organizations and initiatives.
3	Cooperate in the development of the GOFCC-GOLD satellite-based global fire assessment and support the special report on forest fire of FRA-2010.
4	Take a lead role in developing a new global fire reporting format aimed at serving various users (UN, non-UN)
5	Draft the concept of the wildland fire component within the UNEP-OCHA-led Rosersberg Initiative (to streamline national and international response to environmental emergencies, including wildland fire disasters), with emphasis on governance and training.

9. Please provide below any additional comments or suggestions you may wish to make on any aspect of the work of your Team of Specialists. You may also comment on the Strategic Review and Planning process.

n.a.

Annexes

1. Mandate of UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
2. Activities of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire

Appendices

1. Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) Calendar: Extract of UNECE Team of Specialists on Forest Fire 2004-2008 with links to documents, products or dedicated websites (a more detailed calendar of activities as the events listed in Section 3 of this questionnaire)
2. Report of the UNECE-FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire to the European Forestry Commission Meeting, Zvolen, May 2006

Annex 1

Mandates of UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists 2004-2008

- as decided by the Strategic Review 2004 -

UNECE / FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST FIRE Reference to Integrated Work Programme: Work Area 5 <i>Programme element 5.5</i>	
A. OBJECTIVES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To promote scientific methods in forest fire management and forest fire policy;• To provide guidance to member states on forest fire management and forest fire policies;• To organise and prepare seminars, workshops and educational programmes; and promote a continuous exchange of information and experience among country forest fire specialists from the policy, managerial and research spheres.	
EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Follow up the recommendations of the International Wildland Fire Summit, particularly in the consolidation of the Global and Regional Wildland Fire Networks2. Bi-annual publication of <i>International Forest Fire News</i> (IFFN)	
B. BACKGROUND	
ESTABLISHED / APPROVED BY	The joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission, Geneva, 5-9 October 2004 endorsed the proposal of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training's Steering Committee (16 th session, October 2003 in Slovakia, Ref. Doc: TIM/EFC/WP.1/2003/2)
DURATION	<i>From 2005 to 2008</i>
METHODS OF WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations dealing with forest fire questions in the region (FAO, Silva Mediterranea, UN-ISDR, IUFRO, the European Union and others)• Cooperation with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN ISDR), Wildland Fire Advisory Group and the Global Wildland Fire Network• Criteria for harmonization and reporting of forest fire statistics
REPORTING	To annual Bureaux meetings and to both the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission when work is completed
TEAM LEADER	Mr. J.G. Goldammer (Germany)
RESPONSIBLE SECRETARIAT MEMBER	<i>Jorge Najera</i>

Annex 2

ACTIVITIES OF TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

- *as submitted to the Timber Committee at its 65th session (ECE/TIM/2007/8), October 2007 –*

The subprogramme has seven Teams of Specialists. All were founded during the second strategic review in 2004 and have a termination date of 2008. Their mandates were formally approved by the Committee and the European Forestry Commission in 2004 and are posted on the website. This Annex sets out the activities of the teams in 2006-2007.

6. TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST FIRE (Work area 5)

Between October 2004 and March 2006 the team concentrated its work on the follow-up of the UNECE/FAO 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" (Antalya, Turkey, 30 March - 3 April 2004) and the consolidation of the UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Networks that are being built in the UNECE region (Baltic, Southeast Europe, Mediterranean, Central Asia). See EFC paper "Cooperation and networking on forest fires, with a focus on the Balkan and Mediterranean areas". Most important was the regional consultation in the FYR of Macedonia in 2005 where members of the Balkan Network decided to invite neighbouring countries and to expand its area of joint activities to Southeast Europe. The consultation was followed by the first regional wildland fire exercise "Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange - EASTEX FIRE 2005" which was a direct follow-up of the Antalya conference.

The coordinator of the team continued to produce UNECE-FAO International Forest Fire News (IFFN).

The team participated in the sessions of COFO-17 and the Ministerial Meeting on Forests (March 2005) and is currently working for the FAO to implement the recommendations of these meetings, i.e., the development of a Fire Management Code and a Strategy for Enhancing International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management. The team provided support to the FAO Expert Consultation on Wildland Fire (Madrid, Spain, 10-12 May 2006). At the EFC meeting the team presented a proposal for the development of a "Regional Strategy for Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in Southeast Europe".

APPENDIX 1

Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) Calendar: Extract of UNECE Team of Specialists on Forest Fire 2004-2008

GFMC Calendar: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/>
Team Website: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/team.html>

Note: The following events are an extract of the GFMC Calendar and are those that are relevant for the Team's work in the ECE region. Besides the main activities that are listed in Section 3 of the Questionnaire of the Strategic Review, the following list includes some bilateral and multilateral activities in fire management between ECE member states that were organized or attended by one or more Team members.

2004

29 March – 4 April 2004

GFMC/ECE 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; Antalya, Turkey.

GFMC contributions:

- Opening Address of 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 (on behalf of the ECE / FAO / ILO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire and the Wildland Fire Advisory Group, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR))
- A Prototype of an Innovative Decision Support System for Forest Fire Emergency Management in Germany
- The Wildland Fire Situation and Problems in Hungary
- The Global Wildland Fire Network: Building the Regional Wildland Fire Networks of the Mediterranean, Balkans and Central Asia Regions
- Forest Fire Statistics: International Compatibility
- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/meeting/meet2004_05.htm

1-2 April 2004

Meeting of the European ISDR National Platforms on Disaster Reduction, facilitated by the ISDR Secretariat and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction; Bad Honnef, Germany.

5-7 April 2004

Workshop on Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting synergy in the implementation of the three Rio conventions (organized by UNCCD and CBD secretariats, in cooperation with UNFCCC secretariat). Discussions will be held with the Global Wildland Fire Network and the three Rio Conventions, on joint programmes and common work in the Wildland Fire Advisory Group; Viterbo, Italy.

- <http://www.unccd.int/workshop/menu.php>
Workshop report by Earth Negotiations Bulletin / IISD Linkages:
- <http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cwfee/>

7 April 2004

Meeting at FAO Rome on (a) discussion of modalities of the Global Forest Fire Assessment in the frame of the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2005; (b) cooperation in the Global Wildland Fire Network; Rome, Italy.

4-5 May 2004

Ninth Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). GFMC to report on the progress of formation of the ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and the Global Wildland Fire Network; Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

- <http://www.unisdr.org/unisdr/WGroup4.htm>

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>

9-10 May 2004

Meeting of the Regional Baltic Wildland Fire Network, hosted by the Ministry of Interior, Finland (J.G. Goldammer); Helsinki, Finland.

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/BalticRegion/BalticRegion_7.html
- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/BalticRegion/BalticRegion.html>

19-22 July 2004

Field research and support mission for the World Bank and government of Kazakhstan in the fire management component of the Kazakhstan Forest Rehabilitation and Protection Project; Almaty, Astana, Semey, Kazakhstan.

7-8 September 2004

Workshop on “Large-Area Forest Fires”, organized by the Polish Forest Research Institute and the PROFOREST Centre of Excellence. GFMC contributions on monitoring of large fires and on the fire problems in Hungary; Rudy Raciborskie, Poland.

- www.ibles.waw.pl/proforest/

5 October 2004

Conference “Wildfire – A National Strategy?”, organized by the Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, in partnership with Her Majesty’s Fire Service Inspectorate for Scotland; Aberdeen, Scotland.

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/meeting/meet2004_21.htm
- http://www.grampianfirebrigade.co.uk/index/wildfire_a_national_strategy.htm

7 October 2004

Mr. J.G. Goldammer receives the Award for Distinguished Service to the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology Management and Training, at the occasion of its 50th Anniversary; Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/team.html>

25-27 November 2004

Regional Forest Congress “Forest Policy: Problems and Solutions”. GFMC contribution “Recent Trends of Forest Fires in Central Asia and Opportunities for Regional Cooperation in Forest Fire Management”; GFMC presentation on “Recent Trends of Forest Fires in Central Asia and Opportunities for Regional Cooperation in Forest Fire Management”; Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/CentralAsia/CentralAsia.html>

3-4 December 2004

Meeting of the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network; GFMC, Freiburg, Germany.

- UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/About2.html>
- Global Wildland Fire Network: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>
- Framework for the Development of the International Wildland Fire Accord: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Global-Wildland-Fire-Framework-2004-2005-05-Nov-2004.pdf>

2005

17 January 2005

International Symposium View of Northeast Asia Forest Fire from Cosmos (in conjunction with the Second Meeting of the regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network), GFMIC Contribution on (a) Global Wildland Fire Monitoring and (b) Lecture for Citizens "Impacts of Wildland Fires on People in Northeast Asia: Views from Space and on Ground"; Sendai, Japan.

- <http://asiadb.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/symposium/home.html>

18 January 2005

Second Meeting of the regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network; Sendai, Japan.

18-22 January 2005

UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR). GFMIC / Global Wildland Fire Network contributions jointly with the German Foreign Office / German Committee for Disaster Reduction within the ISDR and the ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning; Kobe, Hygo, Japan.

- Conference website: <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/wcdr-index.htm>
- GFMIC Poster Session (PS 032) <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/public-forum/poster-session.htm>
- GFMIC brochure for WCDR: http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/GFMIC_brochure.pdf (PDF, 2.2 MB)

12-21 March 2005

GFMIC participation at the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Forests (14 March 2005) and the 17th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) (15-19 March 2005), in preparation of an international accord on cooperation in wildland fire management; FAO, Rome, Italy.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/RationaleandIntroduction.html>

4-5 April 2005

International Technical and Scientific Consultation "Forest Fire Management in the Balkan Region" conducted by the Regional Balkan Wildland Fire Network; Ohrid, Macedonia.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Balkan/Balkan.html>

19 April 2005

GFMIC selected as partner for the EU-PHARE Twinning Light Project HU2004 IB AG02-TL "Implementation of the new regulation - Forest Focus – Forest Fire", Hungary, with German Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture; to be implemented in Budapest, Hungary.

20-22 April 2005

Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange - EASTEX FIRE 2005 with participation of the Fire Services of Bulgaria (host country), Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro, and Turkey, supported by the Global Fire Monitoring Center; Haskovo Region, Republic of Bulgaria.

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope_4.html
- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/emergency/International%20Wildland%20Fire%20Exercises.htm>

16-19 May 2005

5th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), with focus on an international arrangement on forests (16-27 May 2005). On Wednesday, 18 May, 2005, the GFMIC – representing the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and the Global Wildland Fire Network – organizes a side event "Development of a Strategy or Agreement on International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management", co-sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the German Foreign Office; UN Headquarters, New York.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/programmes/un/unff.htm>
- <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>

18-19 July 2005

Preparation and kick-off meeting of the Twinning Light Project “Implementation of New Regulation – Forest Focus – Forest Fire” (HU2004 IB AG02-TL), with German Federal Ministry of Consumer protection, Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, Hungary, State Forest Service; Budapest, Hungary.

30 August 2005

Second IFFN / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network Bulletin distributed:

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/media/bulletin_news.htm

6-17 September 2005

Regional Central Asia Wildland Fire Network consultation and study tour; participation at the 2nd International Junior Forestry Prize Competition and the All-Russian Forest Day; Irkutsk, Susdal, Moscow, Russian Federation.

27 September - 1 October 2005

Fire Management Study Tour of a Hungarian delegation to Germany in the frame of the Twinning Light Project “Implementation of New Regulation – Forest Focus – Forest Fire” (HU2004 IB AG02-TL). Participants: Mr. Zsolt Szilagy, Mr. Zoltan Kovacs, Mr. Attila Horicsany, Mr. Sandor Varga, Mr. Peter Debreceni; Brandenburg State, Braunschweig, Freiburg, Germany.

7 October 2005

Signing ceremony of an agreement between the United Nations University (UNU) and the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry / Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) for functioning of the GFMC as an Associated Institution of the United Nations University; UNU Institute for Environment and Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn, Germany.

- UNU-GFMC Website: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/programmes/un/unu/unu.htm>

10 October 2005

Civil Protection & Public Health Workshop of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES); European Space Agency, Brussels, Belgium.

2006

1-31 January 2006

Review of UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Reports for the Thematic Report on Forest Fires, FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA-2005); GFMC contribution to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Wildland Fire Management and the Global Strategy for Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management. GFMC.

- <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/fra2005/en>
- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>
- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/RationaleandIntroduction.html>

8-10 February 2006

Final meeting of the Twinning Light Project “Implementation of New Regulation – Forest Focus – Forest Fire” (HU2004 IB AG02-TL), with German Federal Ministry of Consumer protection, Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, Hungary, State Forest Service; Budapest, Hungary.

20-24 February 2006

United Nations Forum on Forests, 6th Session (UNFF-6); UN headquarters, New York, USA.

- <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>
- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/programmes/un/unff.htm>

6-10 March 2006

Kick-off meeting EU FIRE PARADOX; Lisboa, Portugal.

- http://www.mtda.fr/fire_paradox/index.php
- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/programmes/other/FireParadox.html>

20-22 March 2006

FAO wildland fire expert meeting; FAO, Rome, Italy.

29-29 March 2006

Third International Early Warning Conference (EWC-III); Bonn, Germany.

- <http://www.ewc3.org/>
- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/meeting/meet2006_1.htm

2-7 April 2006

On-site work in the PHARE Institution Building Programme - Twinning Project “Strengthening of the Administrative Capacity of the State Forestry Administration of Bulgaria” (BG/2004/IB/AG/04/UE) (Fire Management); Sofia, Bulgaria.

10-12 May 2006

FAO International Expert Consultation on Wildland Fire; Madrid, Spain.

23-26 May 2006

Meeting of the Regional Southeast Europe Wildland Fire Network in tandem with the 33rd Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission; Zvolen, Slovakia.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope.html>

13 June 2006

Meeting with the Executive Secretary of the European Council Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Mr. Eladio Fernandez-Galiano, concerning cooperation with the European Centre on Forest Fires; GFMC.

18-24 June 2006

On-site work in the PHARE Institution Building Programme - Twinning Project “Strengthening of the Administrative Capacity of the State Forestry Administration of Bulgaria” (BG/2004/IB/AG/04/UE) (Fire Management); Sofia, Bulgaria.

12-14 July 2006

Follow-up work with FAO Forest Department on the development of the Fire Management Code and the Strategy for International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management; FAO Rome, Italy.

6-8 September 2006

Follow-up work with FAO Forest Department on the development of the Fire Management Code and the Strategy for International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management; FAO Rome, Italy.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/media/2006/GFMC-Bulletin-02-2006.doc>

28-30 September 2006

First International Northeast Asia Forest Fire Conference and Third International Meeting of the Regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network; Khabarovsk, Russia.

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Northeast-Asia/Northeastasia_7e.html

2-13 October 2006

OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to Fire-Affected Areas in Nagorno-Karabakh, in Fulfilment of the UNGA Resolution A/RES/60/285 “The Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan: Revised Draft Resolution / Azerbaijan” (7 September 2006); Azerbaijan, Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia (Baku, Ganja region, Armenia border region, Tbilisi, Stepanakert / Khankendi region, Yerevan).

- <http://www.osce.org/item/21681.html>
- <http://www.osce.org/item/21702.html>
- <http://www.osce.org/item/21703.html>
- <http://www.osce.org/item/21728.html>
- <http://www.osce.org/item/21729.html>

16-20 October 2006

Fire Management workshop, PHARE Institution Building Programme - Twinning Project “Strengthening of the Administrative Capacity of the State Forestry Administration of Bulgaria” (BG/2004/IB/AG/04/UE) (Fire Management); Sofia-Borovetz, Bulgaria.

9-10 November 2006

Kick-off meeting of the European Wildland Fire Management Handbook, EU Leonardo da Vinci programme, a joint effort of GFMC and the Commission on Forest Fires, International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire (CTIF), facilitated by Rural Development Initiatives; London, UK.

- www.leonardo.ecotec.co.uk/
- <http://www.ctif.org/>
- http://www.ctif.org/index.php?page_id=2024

2007

13-16 February 2007

Country - Led Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests “Multi Year Programme of Work of United Nations Forum on Forests: Charting the Way Forward to 2015”; Bali, Indonesia.

- <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>

12-15 March 2007

18th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO): Discussion of the non-legally binding Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Fire Management, including the (a) Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines; (b) Implementation Partnership; (c) Global Assessment of Fire Management; and (d) Review of International Cooperation in Fire Management; FAO, Rome, Italy.

- www.fao.org/forestry/site/35915/en
- <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/35488/en/>
- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/programmes/un/fao/fao.htm>

18-21 March 2007

Regional Wildland Fire Consultation on the Development of a Strategy on International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in the Regional South East European / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network, coordinated by GFMC and the UNISDR Regional South East European / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network, hosted by Bulgaria; Sofia, Bulgaria.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope.html>

12-18 May 2007

4th International Wildland Fire Conference with meeting of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network; Sevilla, Spain.

25-28 July 2007

International Meeting on “Reduction of Disaster Risk from Catastrophic Wildfires in the Chernobyl Irradiated Forests” under the auspices of the National Agricultural University of Ukraine, Yale University, GFMC / UNISDR; Kiev, Ukraine.

29 July - 1 August 2007

Deployment of GFMC staff to assess the wildfire situation in Kosovo and to coordinate fire response, on request by the UN and on behalf of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit; Prishtina, Kosovo.

- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GFMCnew/2007/07/0728/20070728_ba.htm
- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GFMCnew/2007/07/0730/20070730_ba.htm
- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GFMCnew/2007/07/0731/20070731_ba.htm
- http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GFMCnew/2007/08/0802/20070802_ba.htm

19-26 August 2007

Fire assessment mission to Serbia in the frame of the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network; Beograde, Vojvodina, Tara-Mitrovac, Vodena poljana, Kopaoniku, Vlasina, Serbia.

- <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope.html>

28 August – 2 September 2007

Fire assessment mission to Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on request by the UN and on behalf of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, in conjunction with the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network; Skopje, Macedonia.

20-23 October 2007

Training course “Use of Fire Suppression Hand Tools” at the Croatian Fire Service within the framework of the FAO TCP "National Strategy for Forest Fire Protection" (3-XII-CRO-201); Split, Croatia.

4-5 December 2007

UN OCHA Rosersberg Initiative Working Group Meeting; La Marsa, Les Côtes de Carthage, Tunisia.

- <http://ochaonline.un.org/ToolsServices/EmergencyRelief/EnvironmentalEmergencies/RosersbergInitiative/tabid/2647/Default.aspx>

APPENDIX 2

UNECE-FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire

Report to the European Forestry Commission Meeting, Zvolen, May 2006

Date: 23 March 2007

Between October 2004 and March 2006 the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire concentrated its work on the follow-up of the UNECE/FAO 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" (Antalya, Turkey, 30 March - 3 April 2004) and the consolidation of the UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Networks that are being built in the ECE region (Baltic, Southeast Europe, Mediterranean, Central Asia). Reference is made to the EFC paper "Cooperation and networking on forest fires, with a focus on the Balkan and Mediterranean areas". Most importantly was the regional consultation in Macedonia FYR in 2005 where members of the Balkan Network decided to invite neighbouring countries and to expand its area of joint activities to Southeast Europe. The consultation was followed by the first regional wildland fire exercise "Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange - EASTEX FIRE 2005" which was a direct follow-up of the Antalya conference. The coordinator of the team continued to produce UNECE-FAO International Forest Fire News (IFFN). The last two issues that have been printed and distributed focus on "Prescribed Burning in Northwest Europe and the Baltic Region" (IFFN No. 30) and the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network (IFFN No. 31). The next issues to be printed soon include a special issue on the Russian Federation (No.32) and Southern Europe / Mediterranean (No. 33). The team participated in the sessions of COFO-17 and the Ministerial Meeting on Forests (March 2005) and is currently working for the FAO to implement the recommendations of these meetings, i.e., the development of a Fire Management Code and a Strategy for Enhancing International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management. The team is supporting the FAO Expert Consultation on Wildland Fire (Madrid, Spain, 10-12 May 2006). At the EFC meeting the team will present a proposal for the development of a "Regional Strategy for Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in Southeast Europe".