

UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2011

Items for regular reporting to the WPFES (length max two pages)
1. Name of the team
UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
2. Period covered
2009-2010 (after inauguration meeting 1 April 2009 until end of 2010)
3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary
TL: Johann Georg Goldammer (Germany); Deputy TLs: Andrey M. Eritsov (Russia) and Nikola Nikolov (FYR Macedonia); Secretariat: Pieter van Lierop, FAO
4. Team members
See attached update of Team membership list (Status: 22 December 2010). See also Team website: http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/team.html
5. Meetings held (period 2009-2010)
<p><u>Note:</u> Low attendance at the inauguration meeting (1 April 2009, Geneva) revealed the lack of travel funding in the majority of countries which are represented by a focal point person. This situation is unchanged compared to previous years. Thus, main interactions between Team members took place in the frame of outreach activities of the Team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire Management Training Course – Southern Caucasus Region (Borjomi, Georgia, 21-27 June 2009) 2. National Round Table for the Establishment of a National Inter-Agency Fire Management Committee in Georgia (6 September 2009, Tbilisi, Georgia) 3. Meeting on Fire Management on Terrain Contaminated by Radioactivity, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Land Mines” (Kyiv / Chornobyl, Ukraine, 6-8 October 2009) 4. Team meeting as side meeting of the Closure Conference of the EU-IP “Fire Paradox (Freiburg, Germany, 26 February 2010) 5. Advanced Wildland Fire Management Seminar (Antalya, Turkey, 1-4 March 2010) 6. USSE/MCPFE/FAO/UNECE Workshop on Assessment of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention in Europe (4-7 May 2010, Rhodes, Greece): 7. Meeting of the CTIF Forest Fires Commission (International Association of Fire and Rescue Services / International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire) (Freiburg, Germany, 14 May 2010) 8. ECE-wide Video Conference “Recent Developments and Needs for Wildfire Fighting on the Ground: Tactics and Technologies” (broadcasted from Freiburg, Germany, and Athens, Greece, 10 June 2010) 9. International Conference on Cross-Boundary Fire Management (Irkutsk, Russia, 16-18 June 2010) 10. Joint Meetings of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG), the Fire Aviation Working Group (FAWG), International Liaison Committee (ILC) for the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference, with participation of the UNECE in cooperation with and supported by the Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) (Freiburg, Germany, 26-29 June 2010) 11. On site cooperation during the fire emergency in Russia (12-14 August 2010, Moscow Region, Russian Federation) and in evaluation of the fire episode in the Russian parliament (23 September 2010, State Duma of Russia, Moscow) 12. International Conference on Forest Fire: Management and International Cooperation in Fire Emergencies of the Asia Pacific (Khabarovsk, Russia, 3-7 October 2010) 13. Workshop “Open Burning and the Arctic: Causes, Impacts, and Mitigation Approaches” (8-9 November 2010; St. Petersburg, Russia)

6. Outputs during period by mandate item and impact achieved
<p>A) Time period 2008-2010 All events listed above have been organized within the ToRs of the Team in accordance with the Team's mandate (last amendment: 11 June 2010: http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/ToRs-ToS-Forest-Fire-2008-2013-Revised-June-2010.pdf)</p> <p>B) Time period 2011-2012</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively contribute to the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference (South Africa, May 2011 - http://www.wildfire2011.org/) with presentations on fire management in ECE member states 2. Organize and conduct the "ECE Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management" in 2011, to build on the results of the Irkutsk, Khabarovsk and South Africa conferences (http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/UNECE-Fire-Forum-2011-Agenda-v6.pdf).
7. Expected outputs over next period by mandate item
Main emphasis in 2011-12 will be on furthering the dialogue towards the development of a UNECE-wide regional agreement on cross-boundary fire management
8. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party
As laid down in the report of the Report of the Timber Committee on its sixty-eighth session (ECE/TIM/2010/7) the TL asked the Committee to help the Team in securing resources for its work.
9. Comments, lessons learned
Financial resources for most Team members are limited to attend full-scale team meetings. Thus, for the time being and until more financial resources can be secured, team work will concentrate on electronic communication and side meetings at thematic events (conferences, workshops and training courses).
Items as basis for discussion at the zero meeting (length max three pages)
10. Main forest policy priorities as seen from the ToS work's perspective
We think that the majority of fire problems are related to the inappropriate fire use in the agricultural and pastoral domain, including the increasing problem of fires burning on abandoned agricultural lands; and the demographic changes in the rural space affecting sustainable land cultivation. How to address this in the context of a new WP on Forest Policy and Management needs to be discussed.
11. Priority areas for ToS work and subjects addressed
The priorities are reflected by the draft agenda of the upcoming "ECE Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management" in 2011. Emphasis is the long-term goal of developing an ECE-wide agreement on Cross-border cooperation in fire management", a process which will require a number of successive steps, e.g. developing voluntary guidelines for cross-border cooperation in fire management.
12. Main recommendations to the UNECE TC and the FAO EFC
According to item (9) it is important that the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division, will assist the TL to secure funding for the work of the team. A project proposal will be submitted before the 'Zero Meeting'.
13. Cooperation with other ToS
None at moment. However, since the major efforts of the Team's work are in the eastern part of the UNECE Region, the cooperation with the ToS "Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia" must receive a priority, since the EE(C)CA countries urgently need to address the fire problem through their national policies. While all other Teams are rather dealing with "classical" aspects of forestry (certainly relevant to the work of the ToS Fire) we think that the major fire problems are related to the fire use in the agricultural and pastoral domain (see remarks above).

14. Cooperation with other organizations

Main cooperative efforts are implemented through:

- Continuous networking within the seven Regional Wildland Fire Networks covering the UNECE region:
 - [Regional Eurasian Wildland Fire Network](#)
 - [Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network](#)
 - [Regional Central Asia Wildland Fire Network](#)
 - [Regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network](#)
 - [Sub-regional Euro-Alpine Wildland Fire Network](#)
 - [Regional North America Wildland Fire Network](#) (North American Forestry Commission, Fire Management Working Group)
 - [Regional Mediterranean Wildland Fire Network](#) (*Silva Mediterranea* Forest Fire Working Group)
 - Note on regional cooperation with the European Commission: Some of the members of the Team are also focal points of the EC Forest Fire Expert Group. They ensure informal / unofficial information flow between the activities of the European Commission and the Team. However, representatives of the European Commission and the JRC stated at the Team meeting in Freiburg, Germany, 26 February 2010, that joint meetings and opening of the EC expert group meetings to attendees not nominated by EC member states are not possible. On the other side, two members of the ToS (Mark Jones and the TL) worked closely with the European Commission, Civil Protection Disaster Response Unit, in the preparation of the study “Study on wildfire fighting resources sharing models” [in the European Union] (through GHK Consulting, London).
- UNISDR Secretariat: [The Global Wildland Fire Network](#) is a thematic platform within the [Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). The UNECE region is represented by seven out of the total 15 Regional Wildland Fire Networks.
- Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), notably through OSCE and UNEP: Main areas of Team work are in the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), where national fire management policies, implementation strategies and fire management training are conducted (2006-2011).
- Council of Europe (CoE), Secretariat of the [Network of Specialised Euro-Mediterranean Centres](#) of the [European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement](#) (EUR-OPA): Main financial supporter of the Team’s activities in the [international consultations on fire consequences and management in radioactively contaminated forests](#) (2007-2010) and the establishment of the [Regional Fire Monitoring Center \(Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network\)](#) in FYR Macedonia.
- United Nations University (UNU): Various outreach activities, e.g. fire management training courses, are conducted under the academic shield of UNU ([GFMC is UNU Associated Institute](#)), latest example: [Workshop „Ecosystems, Livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction“ \(21-23 September 2010, Bonn, Germany\)](#).
- [Emergency Assistance](#) through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (Joint Environment Unit) and the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE). Example of mission: [Georgia 2008 \(post-conflict fire situation assessment\)](#)
- Multiple activities in the Russian Federation and its neighbor countries on transboundary cooperation in fire management, e.g. following the conferences in [Irkutsk \(16-18 June 2010\)](#) and [Khabarovsk \(4-6 October 2010\)](#), during the extended wildfire crisis in [July-August 2010](#), and post-fire consultations, e.g. in [Nizhny Novgorod \(GFMC mission, November 2010\)](#).