

UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire Report 2012

Items for regular reporting to the WPFES (length max two pages)
<p>1. Name: Team of Specialists on Forest Fire</p>
<p>2. Period covered: 2011 and January 2012</p>
<p>3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary: Team Leader: Mr. Johann Georg Goldammer (Germany) Deputy Team Leaders: Mr. Nikola Nikolov (FYR of Macedonia) and Mr. Andrey Eritsov (Russian Federation) Secretariat: Mr. Pieter Van Lierop (FAO)</p>
<p>4. Members: (a) <u>Countries</u>: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, FYR of Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America; (b) <u>International Organizations and Networks / NGOs</u>: Global Observation of Forest Cover / Global Observation of Land Cover Dynamics (GFOC/GOLD), Fire Implementation Team; European Commission - Joint Research Centre; UNISDR Regional Central Asia Wildland Fire Network; UNISDR Eurasia Wildland Fire Network. Detailed list: http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/team.html</p>
<p>5. Meetings held: No special Team meetings have been scheduled, but side events organized, or co-sponsorship and other support through the TL, deputies or Team Members were given to:</p> <p>(a) Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) (Open Partial Agreement on the Prevention of, Protection Against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters), Council of Europe; Paris, France, 3-4 February 2011.</p> <p>(b) International conference “Hot summer 2010: lessons learned”: Evaluation of international cooperation in forest fire emergencies in 2010, hosted by the Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian federation (EMERCOM); Moscow, Russia, 21-23 March 2011.</p> <p>(c) UNECE Forest Week, Presentation of the ToS work, Geneva, 21-25 March 2011</p> <p>(d) International Conference “Twenty-five Years after Chernobyl Accident. Safety for the Future”, with dedicated presentation on radioactivity and wildfires; Kiev / Chernobyl, Ukraine, 20-21 April 2011.</p> <p>(e) 5th International Wildland Fire Conference, South Africa, 9-13 May 2011, with a UNECE (“Eurasian”) regional meeting; in conjunction and linked by a videoconference and panel discussion on Forest Fires with the</p> <p>(f) Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland, 8-13 May 2011.</p> <p>(g) 9th Meeting of the UN Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE). Bern, Switzerland, 18-21 May 2011.</p> <p>(h) Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Workshop on Confidence Building Measures, addressing the ToS / GFMC’s cooperative work in the South Caucasus, South Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe funded by the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC); OSCE Headquarters, Vienna, Austria, 30 May 2011.</p> <p>(i) International Conference “A Decade After Forest Fires in Korean East Coast”, the 2nd UNSIDR Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network Meeting and the 7th UNISDR Regional North East Asia Network Meeting (partly UNECE region); Sol Beach, Gangwon-do, Republic of Korea, 5-10 June 2011.</p> <p>(j) 80th Anniversary of Aerial Forest Fire Fighting Service, Aerial Forest Fire Center of Russia; Pushkino, Russia, 16-17 September 2011.</p>

(k) Conference on “Climate Change & Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Basin: Risk Reduction & Management”; Nir Etzion, Israel, 24-26 January 2012.

Direct cooperative work and outreach activities:

(a) Wildland Fire Assessment Mission and First National Round Table for developing a National Fire Management Policy for Azerbaijan (sponsored by OSCE / ENVSEC); Baku and field sites, Azerbaijan, 30 June - 6 July 2011.

(b) Fire management training course, national forest fire exercise and National Conference & Round Table for developing a National Fire Management Policy for Armenia (sponsored by OSCE / ENVSEC); Kapan, Yerevan and field sites in Syunik Marz, Armenia, 10-15 September 2011.

(c) Study course “Wildfire Management in the APEC Region”; Academy of State Firefighting Service, EMERCOM of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation, 7-11 November 2011.

6. Outputs during period by mandate item (Mandates 1 to 3):

(1) To promote a continuous exchange of (new) knowledge and practices on fire management through the organization of meetings on emerging issues in Fire Management in the UNECE region (**Complied – see list of activities above**) and the publication of the International Forest Fire News (**Complied – IFFN issues 2009 and 2010 published online**);

(2) To provide, in close cooperation and coordination with the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network, FAO, UNISDR, Council of Europe and other partners, guidance to ECE member states on forest fire management and forest fire policies, including bilateral / international cooperation of ECE member states (**Complied – see list of activities above**);

(3) To organize regional seminars and training workshops in fire management (**Complied – see list of activities above**);

Impact achieved: The policy of the Team to preferably organize and support targeted thematic meetings and outreach events has continued in 2011 and January 2012.

7. Expected outputs over next period by mandate item: Preparation of the postponed “UNECE Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management” (now planned for 2013). Intensified activities in fire management training. Currently scheduled: International Conference in Pushkino "Vocational Education and Training in Forest Management for State Forestry Personnel" [Pushkino, Moscow, Region, Russia, March 2012]; national training in Russia, Germany, Azerbaijan; and a regional training course in Turkey).

8. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party: Financial support for meetings of the Team of Specialists and support for major activities such as the preparation and organization of the planned regional Forum is urgently needed, because the institutional funding by the Team Leader is limited.

9. Comments, lessons learned: Cooperation with UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network, and regional organizations and programmes such as the Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) of the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the financial support through ENVSEC are essential for the accomplishments of the Team’s work. Main emphasis of the work of the Team is in assisting countries of the **Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia** (EECCA) region in building national capacity in fire management, development of national policies and addressing the specific problems in the region, including transboundary cooperation in fire management. With this regional focus it is intended not to overlap with the ongoing work of the European Commission through its European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) in the Western part of the UENECE region, notably in the Mediterranean space (in conjunction with the Silva Mediterranea Fire Group) and the North American Forestry Commission “Fire Management Working Group”. However, the overall intent of the ToS is to bring all these regional (or “sub-regional”) networks together under the umbrella of the planned “UNECE Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management”.