

**UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2014
– FOREST FIRE –**

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM (length max two pages)	
1. Name:	Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
2. Period covered:	March 2013-June 2014
3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:	Leader: Johann Georg Goldammer (Germany) Deputies: Andrey M. Eritsov (Russian Federation), Nikola Nikolov (FYR Macedonia) Secretary: Pieter van Lierop (FAO)
4. Members:	38
5. Countries:	Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America. Detailed list which includes international institutions and associated experts: http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/team.html
6. Meetings held:	11-12 November 2013: International Congress and Trade Fair on Forest Fire and Climate Change: Challenges for Fire Management in Natural and Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia (hosted by Russia in Novosibirsk, in partnership with the ToS and GFMC) 27 November 2013: ToS Business Meeting 28-29 November 2013: UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-Boundary Fire Management
7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:	Preparation and organization of the UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-Boundary Fire Management (28-29 November 2013), financed by the Government of Germany (Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture) (€ 268,000), attended by 22 UNECE Member States and representatives from other regions, non-government organizations, regional and international organizations (ASEAN Secretariat, SADC Secretariat, Council of Europe, OSCE), and the United Nations (UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section; FAO; UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction / UNISDR; OCHA Environmental

Emergencies Section, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, Emergency Services Branch; Secretariat, UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution). Aim: To elaborate recommendations to UNECE member states and the international community to build resilience of nations and communities to wildfire emergencies and disasters by enhancing national and collective international fire management capability through exchange of expertise and develop a regional and possibly a global agreement on cooperation in fire management (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/team.html>). Outputs: Recommendations (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/UNECE-FAO-Crossboundary-Fire-Forum-Conclusions-Final-RUS-ENG.pdf>).

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

In following up the UNECE/FAO Regional Forum a Core Group of the ToS and associated experts / consultants are currently elaborating a roadmap for following up the recommendations of the Forum, to be discussed at the upcoming Joint Meetings of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG), in cooperation with and supported by the Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations University (UNU), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the U.S. Forest Service, Korea Forest Service (KFS) and Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), at the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Freiburg, Germany, 27-30 June 2014. After the meeting the ToS Forest Fire will phase out by 31 July 2014 (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/Report-UNECE-TIM-EFC-35-Session-23-25-April-2013.pdf>)

9. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party:

The Secretariat of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in fulfillment of the Arrangement signed between the UNECE and the Government of Germany and recipient of the grant for the project "Safeguarding Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE Region through International Cooperation in Fire Management", in cooperation with the implementing institution, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), will finalize the technical and financial reports after the termination of the project and the phasing out of the ToS after 31 July 2014.

10. Comments, lessons learned:

After termination of the TS Forest Fire, which has been supported by Germany with an estimated accumulated financial sponsorship by Freiburg University, the Max Planck Society and the Government of Germany (Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture) of around € 3.26 million during the last two decades, the impact of the ToS has become global. The patronage and auspice of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is greatly appreciated for the success of the work of the Team. Members of the Global Wildland Fire Network, GFMC and ToS are available to follow up the Regional Forum and to assist in the implementation. Both the financial and voluntary personal contributions reflect the willingness of governments and civil society to support the work of the United Nations System.

Date: 12/06/2014