The Global Wildland Fire Network
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

The UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) and the Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG)

An International Platform facilitating International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management

History
- 2001 – UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, follows the proposal by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) to establish a Working Group on Wildland Fire
- Members of the Working Group: Core Group and Consultative Group – see graph
- December 2001: the Working Group decided to give priority to the establishment of the "Global Network of Regional Wildland Fire Networks" aimed at facilitating the functioning of a global fire management working programme or network

The Global Wildland Fire Network

By September 2003 11thm Regional Wildland Fire Networks are in place with different histories and institutional or legal arrangements

- 2003 – UNISDR Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction decides to transit the Working Group to the Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG) under the auspices of the UNISDR, which is
  • serving as an advisory body to the UN system to provide technical, scientific and policy-supporting advice to the United Nations
  • acting as a liaison between the United Nations system, the Global Wildland Fire Network and its supporting partners

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) is mandated to serve as convener and secretariat.

Consequences:
- Environmental degradation and secondary disasters
- Increasing vulnerability of human populations and the Earth System

Increasing occurrence of uncontrollable wildfires as a consequence of climate change and altered natural fire regimes?

Fire emissions, atmosphere and climate:
- Acceleration of destruction of vegetation cover and terrestrial carbon depletion, notably peat deposits

Climate Variability – the El Niño of 1997-98:
- Associated with excessive conversion burning and large-scale wildfires in SE Asia, Africa and the Americas

Northern Eurasia and Central Asia 2003 / 2015
- Combined effects of Societies, economies in transition and regional climate change increase of vulnerability of humans and environment to wildfires

Trends of Changing Fire Regimes and Impacts: Rationale for Internationally Concerted Action

Since the 1980s:
- Acceleration of large-scale land-use change involving burning of native vegetation in the tropics

Expected consequences of climate change, land use and land-use change in the 21st Century:
- Increasing occurrence of extreme droughts and fire severity

Consequences:
- Environmental degradation
- Increasing vulnerability of human populations and the Earth System

Increasing occurrence of uncontrollable wildfires as a consequence of climate change and altered natural fire regimes?

Fire emissions, atmosphere and climate:
- Acceleration of destruction of vegetation cover and terrestrial carbon depletion, notably peat deposits


2004-2014
WFAG biennial meetings at GFMC

2006: Regional Wildland Fire Networks conduct the Fire Management Global Assessment for FAO

2007: GWFN serving as Thematic Platform of the newly established Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction under the auspices of UNISDR

2015: The 6th International Wildland Fire Conference hosted by the Republic of Korea

2019: The 7th International Wildland Fire Conference will be hosted by the Ministry for Environment / IBAMA / PREVFIGO - Brazil: Wildland Fire and Climate Change


International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism

International Fire Management Resources Exchange

GFMC Regional Forums or Cross-Border Fire Management

WFAG 2014

GFMC Archive, NASA, Chisholm Fire Documentation Team (Alberta, Canada)

© Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) / UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group