



EDITORIAL

This issue of IFFN is covering Part I of the activities of the Global Wildland Fire Network in 2012 and 2013 with emphasis on the outreach work of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks of Eurasia and Southeast Europe / Caucasus in Eastern Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkan Peninsula. These regions have been in the focus of the work of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Fire.

The ToS on Forest Fire was created in the early 1980s and reorganized in 1993. The Team's main task is to provide a critical link in communication and cooperation between fire scientists, managers and policy makers. The main activities embrace (1) the production of International Forest Fire News (IFFN) through the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC); (2) organization of seminars; and (3) promotion of synergistic collaboration between governments, non-government institutions, and individuals, with emphasis on science and technology transfer, and support for developing fire management policies. The scope of the work of the Fire Team includes the countries belonging to the six Regional Wildland Fire Networks geographically located within the ECE region, as well as countries and Regional Wildland Fire Networks outside the ECE. 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.

In 2012 the Bureaux of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission recommended “*to discontinue the ToS on Forest Fires, as the issue of fires is better addressed at the global level and through other channels*”.

In its final phase the GFMC in collaboration with the ToS on Forest Fire was mandated to prepare and facilitate the *UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management*, which was held at the United Nations, Geneva, 28-29 November 2013, and to follow-up on the recommendations of the Forum in 2014.

Since the follow-up of the Regional Forum is still underway at the end of 2013 (at the time of publication of this issue of IFFN) the outcomes of the Regional Forum will be presented in IFFN No. 44 (2014).