

Global Fire Management Hub
1st Technical Workshop
Tuesday 14 November 2023 – Thursday 16 November 2023
FAO Headquarters - Rome

Background

Wildfires are burning longer and with increasing severities in forests, open landscapes such as savannas and peatlands, and unprecedentedly on northern permafrost sites. Fire seasons are now extending in many parts of the world. Climate change and land-use change are projected to create framing conditions for more frequent and intense wildfires. Collectively, we must shift the focus of attention and investment on wildfire prevention and preparedness opposite the currently prevailing priority on reaction and response.

FAO promotes an integrated approach to landscape fire management centered on five elements (also known as the **5Rs**): **R**eview and analysis, **R**isk Reduction, **R**eadiness, **R**esponse, and **R**ecovery, directed to meet the priority actions of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Given the long-term experience of FAO and its key partners in integrated fire management and from the international fire community, FAO and UNEP are co-developing a Global Fire Management Hub. This was announced by FAO Senior Management at the XV World Forestry Congress and welcomed by FAO Members during the 26th session of the Committee on Forestry (<https://www.fao.org/3/nk728en/nk728en.pdf>, para 20). It was then launched by FAO and UNEP during the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC-8) in Portugal in May 2023.

The aim of the Global Fire Management Hub is to strengthen countries' capacities to implement integrated fire management with the overall goal of reducing the negative effects of wildfires on society, landscapes, and global climate.

The Fire Hub will support the application of principles laid down by guidelines and best practices developed by the community of scientists and practitioners over the last decades, including the principles of the Landscape Fire Governance Framework, a document presented at IWFC-8. The Hub will function as a UN mechanism to promote the implementation of a global program that will:

- i. Support governments to develop policies that promote integrated landscape fire management and address multiple / secondary risks (e.g. fire and subsequent damages to forest ecosystems) in a holistic way;
- ii. Provide access to and application of the accumulated knowledge and expertise in integrated landscape fire management;
- iii. Bolster international cooperation on integrated landscape fire management and strengthen networks and thematic resource centers at the global level, where the state-of-the-art, future work and innovation can be shared among policy and decision-makers and with the broader community of practitioners; and
- iv. Develop instruments to fund application of integrated fire management actions at multiple scales.

A series of technical workshops will be held between now and the 27th Session of FAO's Committee on Forestry (22-26 July 2023). This first Technical Workshop aims to discuss the Fire Hub pillars and roadmap with key partners, along with integration of the 25-year work experience of the [Global Fire Monitoring Center](#) (GFMC) and [its related networks](#) into the Fire Hub.

Programme

Day 1 – 14 Nov Opening and Overview Sessions

10:00-12:00	Opening Session	Austria (theatre setting)
	FAO Forestry Director – opening remarks	On-site
	BMEL – opening remarks	On-site or virtual
	UNEP – opening remarks	On-site or virtual
	UNDRR – opening remarks	On-site or virtual
	FAO Fire Management Team – Fire Hub Roadmap	On-site
	Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)	On-site
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-15:00	Overview Session: Fire Hub’s Five Pillars and Roadmap	Hybrid
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30	Overview Session: Monitoring, early warning and fire danger rating systems	Hybrid

Day 2 – 15 Nov – Technical Sessions NFO Meeting Room D440

8:30- 10:00	Technical Session: Integration of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) to the Fire Hub	On-site
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-12:00	Technical Session: Integration of the GFMC into the Fire Hub	On-site
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-15:00	Technical Session: Forest Assessment	Hybrid
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30	Technical Session: IT issues	Hybrid

Day 3 – 16 Nov – Technical Sessions NFO Meeting Room (D440)

8:30- 10:00	Technical Session: Initial proposal for Fire Hub Governance and Roadmap	On-site
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-12:30	Technical Session: Initial proposal for Fire Hub Governance and Roadmap	On-site