

Tropical Forest Fire Expert Group Meeting

Thursday, 25 July 2024, 09:30 – 17:30 CET (a satellite event of FAO COFO 27)
Nigeria Room (C215), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Organizers: International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in collaboration with FAO

Background

Wildfires in tropical forests face heightened risks due to increased land-use fires and climate change. The growing severity and frequency of wildfires have extensively damaged ecosystem services and biodiversity, adversely affecting the environment, economies, and human health. Urgent local and global collaboration is needed to mitigate these impacts through capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

Since the 1980s, ITTO has actively tackled tropical forest fire challenges. Initially focusing on damage assessment and rehabilitation, ITTO published the "ITTO Guidelines for Fire Management in Tropical Forests" in 1997, developed with experts such as Dr. Johann Goldammer and Prof. Manan. ITTO has since implemented numerous fire management projects, including recent initiatives in Indonesia and Peru, funded by Japan.

Building on this experience, ITTO is collaborating with FAO and other CPF members on a Joint Initiative to promote integrated landscape fire management. ITTO is revising its 1997 guidelines to address new developments in fire management and the changing factors driving fires, including climate change. The updated guidelines will incorporate insights from recent guidelines and policy frameworks, such as the WHO/WMO Health Guidelines for Vegetation Fire Events (1999), FAO Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines (2005 and 2024), and the Landscape Fire Governance Framework presented at the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference in May 2023.

Objective

Effectively managing landscape fire requires integrated approaches, including robust policies, institutional arrangements, legal frameworks, and stakeholder incentives. The Tropical Forest Fire Expert Group Meeting aims to:

- Share enabling policies, strategies, best practices, and lessons learned from the implementation of integrated landscape fire management in the tropics.
- Identify the changing drivers of forest fire and factors influencing fire behavior in the different regions of the tropics, as well as challenges specific to the tropics in implementing integrated fire management.
- Review and gather feedback on the implementation of the ITTO Guidelines for Fire Management in Tropical Forests (1997).
- Provide input and discuss key guiding policies, principles, and recommended actions leading to an updated revision of the ITTO Guidelines for Fire Management in Tropical Forests.
- Enhance knowledge and partnerships between existing fire initiatives, including on the FAO-UNEP Global Fire Management Hub.

AGENDA

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:30-09:35	Opening remarks by ITTO	<i>Ms. Jennifer Conje, Director, Forest Management, ITTO on behalf of ITTO ED Sheam Satkuru</i>
09:35-09:40	Opening remarks by FAO	<i>Mr. Zhimin Wu Director, FAO Forestry Division and CPF Chair</i>
09:40-09:50	Introduction of Agenda and Meeting Structure by Moderator	<i>Ms. Jennifer Conje</i>
09:50 – 10:05	Round of Introduction by Participants	<i>All Participants</i>
10:05 -11:00	Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire Management Planning - Fire Management Options 	Short Intro on existing Principles and Actions, and proposed changes by <i>Dr. Johann Goldammer, Executive Director, Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC), Germany (5-10 min)</i> <i>followed by Group Discussion</i>
11:00 – 11:05	Group Photo	All Participants
11:05 – 11:20	Coffee Break	
11:20 – 12:00	Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire Suppression - Role of Communities - Other? 	Short Intro on existing Principles and Actions, and proposed changes by <i>Dr. Johann Goldammer (5-10 min)</i> <i>followed by Group Discussion</i>
12:00 – 13:30	Buffet Lunch (Indonesia Room)	All Participants
13:30 – 14:00	Monitoring and Research	Short Intro on existing Principles and Actions, and proposed changes by <i>Dr. Hwan-Ok Ma, ITTO Consultant (5-10 min)</i> <i>followed by Group Discussion</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Socio-Economic Considerations	Short Intro on existing Principles and Actions, and proposed changes by <i>Dr. Hwan-Ok Ma (5-10 min)</i> <i>followed by Group Discussion</i>
14:30 – 15:15	Land Resources Management and Utilization	Short Intro on existing Principles and Actions, and proposed changes by <i>Dr. Ma (5-10 min)</i> <i>followed by Group Discussion</i>

15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30 – 16:00	Training and Public Education	Short Intro on existing Principles and Actions, and proposed changes by <i>Dr. Johann Goldammer (5-10 min)</i> <i>followed by Group Discussion</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Institutional Framework and Capacity Building	Short Intro on existing Principles and Actions, and proposed changes by <i>Dr. Johann Goldammer (5-10 min)</i> <i>followed by Group Discussion</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Policy and Legislation	Short Intro on existing Principles and Actions, and proposed changes by <i>Dr. Johann Goldammer (5-10 min)</i> <i>followed by Group Discussion</i>
17:00 – 17:15	Discussion on Recommendations on Overall Structure and Appendices	
17:20 – 17:30	Wrap-up and close	Ms. Jennifer Conje Director, Forest Management Division, ITTO