

INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE



Tuesday
July 25
Boston,
Mass.
USA

International Cooperation

International cooperation is certainly a hot topic in today's society. It seems to be mentioned in every facet of global relations. The focus of interest at this conference is cooperation in the realm of wildland fire management.

International cooperation is the second half of our purpose for being here. The purpose statement for the conference states, in part: "To bring together leaders of public and private organizations from around the world to...promote international cooperation."

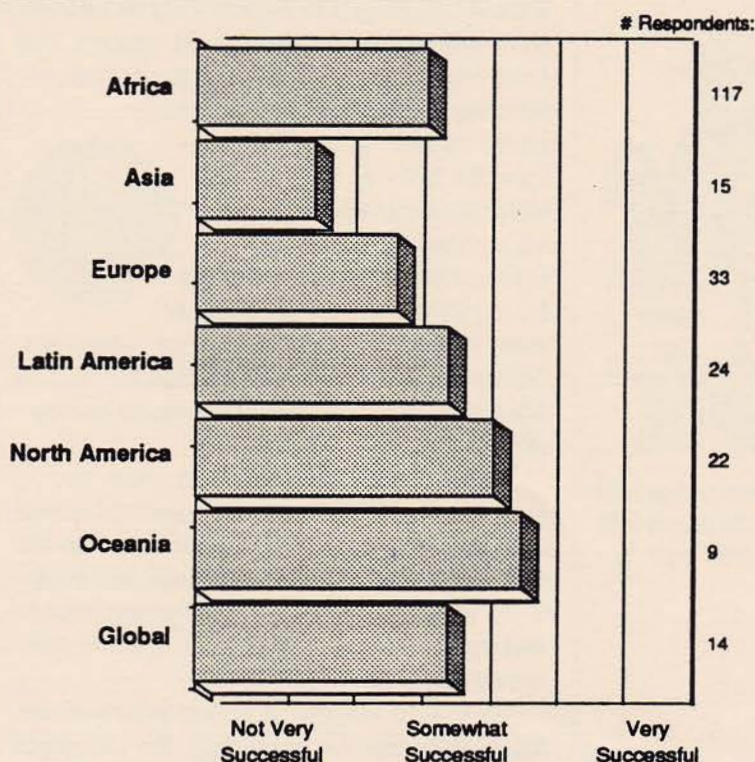
This will be the focus for today's sessions. It is becoming increasingly clear that only through international cooperation can we understand and deal with the global impacts of wildland fire. On the preconference survey of international wildland fire managers, every region of the globe identified international cooperation as a problem in managing and dealing with wildland fire. For this reason, the working luncheon scheduled for today will focus in part on what opportunities exist for increasing international cooperation.

Is International Cooperation Working?

The chart to the right was excerpted from the responses to the global survey of wildland fire managers. It identifies an area of concern that spans the globe. There is, however, a glimmer of hope contained in this figure. It clearly shows that some international cooperation is occurring in all regions of the world.

This conference alone is evidence of the growing awareness of the necessity for increasing international cooperation to deal with the destructive impact of wildfire. As our global community becomes smaller and our interdependence grows, we will be ready to move forward to meet the challenges that face us in wildland fire management.

Figure below: Success of International Fire Cooperation by Region.





Tuesday

From the Floor:

There is a time for planning and a time for aggressive action...

—Dale Robertson

MEETING GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE CHALLENGES

Ghana: International Cooperation at Work

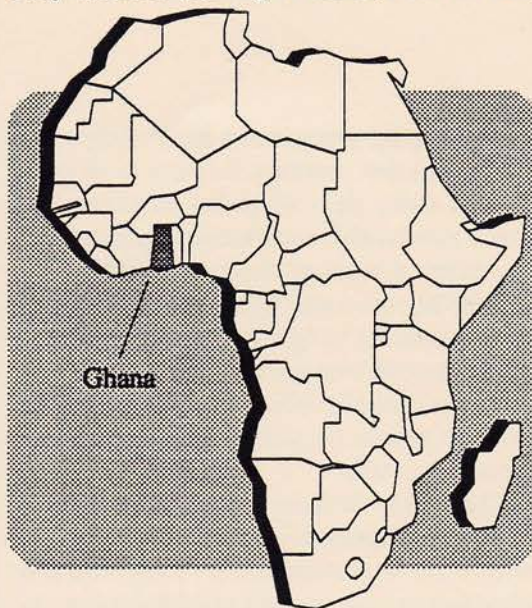
International cooperation is alive and well, according to Mr. Kofi Portuphy, Director of Operations, National Mobilization Program in Ghana. Beginning in the late 1970's, severe drought struck Ghana. For the next 5 years the drought continued. As Ghana struggled to deal with the worsening drought, major losses in their food and cash crops mounted.

In late 1983, at the height of the drought, Ghana was struck by wildfire. Widespread wildfire continued to devastate Ghana through early 1984 destroying 60% of the country's cocoa crop, - their major export. "Due to the destruction of food crops by fire, hunger spread throughout our country and we knew we must act" according to Mr. Portuphy. Mr. Joseph Nat Yezu, Coordinator of Fire Volunteers in the National Fire Service in Ghana, also in attendance, stated "We found that our fire skills were in fighting structure fires. Our natural resource managers had little

experience in wildland fire management."

In 1985, Ghana requested help through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Help was quick in coming. In May of 1985, a team from OFDA arrived in Ghana to assess impacts of the wildfires. As a result of the assessment, financial and technical assistance began to arrive.

Mr. Portuphy pointed out that they quickly realized they must increase their skills in managing wildfire. Ghana set up a training cadre, including Mr. Portuphy, which came to the United States in May of 1987 to begin intensive training. They attended training in Idaho, New Mexico,



Baseball Game Tonight

Baseball! A truly American game is on tap for tonight. Boston's own Red Sox will play the Kansas City Royals in Fenway Park in a match-up of two of the best teams in the country. The game begins at 1935. This is also an excellent opportunity to see one of the top professional athletes in the U.S. perform: Bo Jackson. He is the only active professional athlete playing both baseball and football in the same year. Bo plays left field for the Royals during the summer when he is known for his towering home runs. During the fall he is a running back for the Los Angeles Raiders, where he is known for his powerful runs through the line.



Guides will be available to assist you in getting to the ballpark. Anyone interested should meet at the conference registration desk on the 4th floor by 1830 (6:30 pm). Groups will depart every 10 minutes until 1850. Wear comfortable walking shoes; the walk will take approximately 30 minutes.

A limited number of tickets remain at the registration desk for \$6.00 each. For the sports enthusiast, this is one you shouldn't pass up.



Look for Smokey and Sparky to throw out the game ball tonight!

and Arizona. Mr. Portuphy also attended a disaster management course at Oxford in England. In 1988, U.S. Forest Service experts headed by John Chambers visited Ghana to train the trainers.

Since their training, the cadre has begun to train other agencies within their government who are responsible for natural resource management.

One of the major results of this trying time for Ghana has been the establishment of a fire volunteer corps and fire posts manned by permanent employees of Ghana's fire service. They in turn have organized volunteer fire groups in villages and towns throughout the country for the express purpose of wildland fire control.

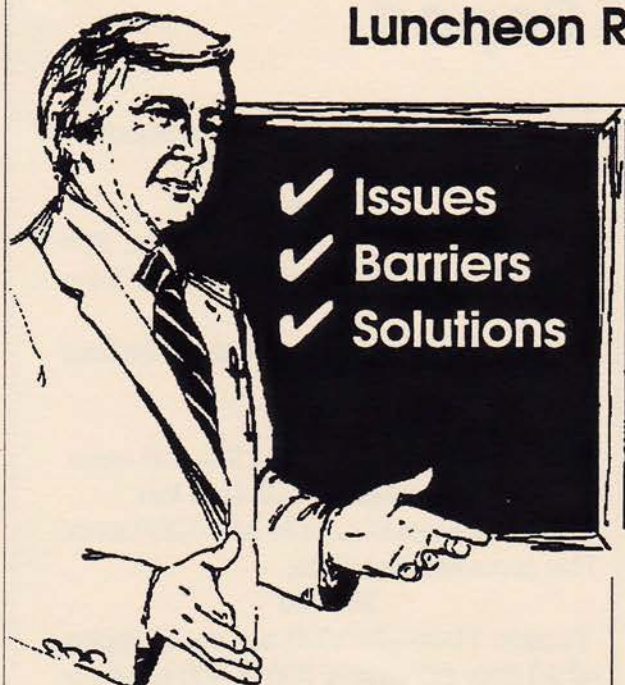
This is certainly evidence that, as Mr. Portuphy says "Yes indeed, International cooperation is alive and well!"

MEETING GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE CHALLENGES



Tuesday

Luncheon Roundtable



Today's luncheon will be a working lunch for conference participants. The focus of the luncheon will be to discuss the issues, barriers and solutions to the wildfire problems identified in the global preconference questionnaire.

Thanks to the efforts of those involved in the survey, many issues common throughout the world were identified. The results of the survey will be shared with everyone at the luncheon and then the work will begin.

The luncheon will be chaired by Dave Wright of the U.S.A. The objectives of the luncheon will

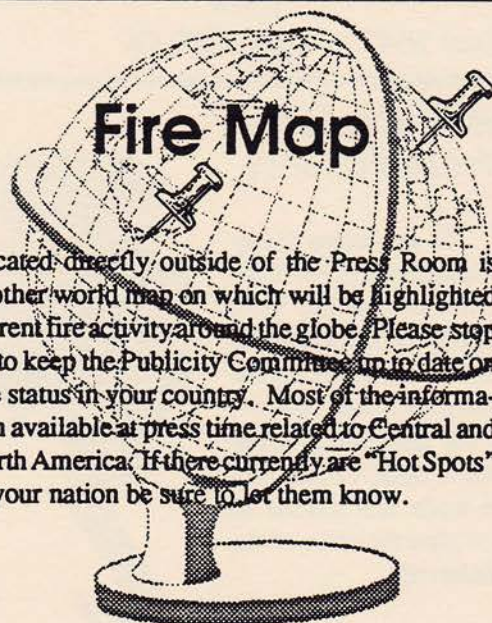
be to identify opportunities to address these four basic issue statements:

1. How can we reduce communication and geographic barriers that presently limit international cooperation?
2. How can we better share personnel and equipment across regional boundaries in emergency situations?
3. How can we develop and share applicable research, training and appropriate technology to enhance global wildland fire preparedness?
4. To improve the management of natural resources:
 - How can we improve our understanding of the global economic and ecological relationships with wildland fires?
 - How can we increase public awareness?

The opportunities identified will then be included in the *Exploring Global Cooperation* document to be published at the conclusion of the conference.

Everyone should come prepared to eat a fine meal and to share your thoughts on how to improve international cooperation.

Avoid Delay...
Allow a few extra minutes to get your translation headset before the session starts.



Located directly outside of the Press Room is another world map on which will be highlighted current fire activity around the globe. Please stop by to keep the Publicity Committee up to date on fire status in your country. Most of the information available at press time related to Central and North America. If there currently are "Hot Spots" in your nation be sure to let them know.

See You at the Fair

Remember tonight's Video Affair from 1900 to 2100 in the main conference auditorium on the 4th floor. The feature video on the Yellowstone fires will be presented by Richard Rothermel. Come enjoy the videos and stimulating discussion to follow.

**Have a few minutes?
Don't forget to see the
Educational Displays**

**TODAY'S HOURS:
4:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.**



Tuesday

MEETING GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE CHALLENGES

Daily SIT Report

NEW FIRE ACTIVITY:

Canada

78 fires burned a total of 808 hectares in the last 24 hours.

U.S.A.

261 fires started and burned 859 acres in the last 24 hours.

CURRENT LARGE FIRES OF INTEREST:

Canada

Webb Lake Fire—No reported size. Fire still growing. Outcamp at Walton Lake destroyed.

Hargrace Lake—No reported size. Fire lines are holding.

U.S.A.

Johnson Butte, Nezperce N.F.—500 acres. Fire blew up yesterday. All lines lost.

Star Butte, Boise District BLM—6,889 acres. Fire contained last night.

Mexico

Yucatan Fires—240,000 acres+. Complex of 10 fires growing at 300 to 400 acres per day.

Tuesday's Schedule Changes

■ 0905 David Harcharik, staff director of International Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, will give the presentation on Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region for Jale Baba.

■ 1035 Omar Tesolin of Argentina will make the presentation on Latin America in place of Hugo Kugler.

■ 1430 Lee Barkow, chief of fire management for the Bureau of Land Management, U.S.A., will chair the afternoon session of the conference.

■ 1440 Ken Dittmer, director of the National Advanced Resource Technology Center, will assist Jay Perkins, fire planning officer of the Klamath National Forest, U.S. Forest Service, in presenting Latin America Fire Suppression Courses.

Additional Presentations

■ 1515 William I. Jones (U.S.A.) with the World Bank will make a presentation on China/International Cooperation

■ A presentation titled "Forest Fires in Spain's National Parks" by Francesco Rodriguez of Spain will be added to this afternoon's program.

FIRE WEATHER OUTLOOK

Fire activity expected to increase with additional holdover fires from lightning activity. Expect higher temperatures, lower humidity and increased winds.

YEAR-TO-DATE

Canada

Fires: 6,592 Hectares: 1,776,914

U.S.A.

Fires: 36,423 Acres: 1,300,490

State of Emergency Declared in Manitoba

Due to the continued worsening of the forest fire situation, Albert Driedger, Minister responsible for the Emergency Measures Organization declared a general state of emergency for the province of Manitoba on Sunday. In the past five days approximately 18,000 Manitobans have been evacuated. According to Driedger, "This is the largest forest fire evacuation ever conducted in Manitoba, and there appears to be no immediate end to the weather conditions that have led to these damaging fires."



Want Copies of Presentations?

To get copies of any presentations given at the conference, simply print the names of speakers of interest on the back of your business card and leave it at the conference registration desk. Copies will be made and mailed to you after the close of the conference.

