

8th International Wildland Fire Conference

Closing Ceremony and Launch of the Global Fire Management Hub

Video Message

by

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1. Catastrophic wildfires are destroying biodiversity, affecting ecosystems, leading to land degradation, greenhouse gas emissions, and deteriorated livelihoods.
2. It is critical that we keep our forests safe and healthy, and that we save lives, ecosystems, assets and infrastructure by reducing risk and enhancing resilience to forest disturbances.
3. A more integrated approach is greatly needed.
4. Sustainable forest management practices reduce risks, enhance readiness and facilitate recovery.
5. FAO advocates moving from emergency response to wildfire prevention, as reflected in the Landscape Fire Governance Framework.
6. I am pleased to officially launch today, together with UNEP, the Global Fire Management Hub to provide the needed capacities and support to our Members.
8. The Fire Hub will be a global reference for fire data, information and knowledge, bringing together the expertise of all partners to provide coherent, comprehensive and consistent information to help countries develop the most effective approaches.
9. Working with national governments, communities and institutions to strengthen capacity at all levels and provide access to technical excellence in fire management.
10. This new initiative will help implement the Landscape Fire Governance Framework, and accelerate implementation of the Integrated Fire Management approach,
14. To ensure integration into national policies and plans, across sectors, and involving diverse stakeholders, to ultimately reduce the negative impacts of wildfires on livelihoods, landscapes and global climate stability.
15. FAO currently leads the “Assuring the Future of Forests with Integrated Risk Management” Project, funded by the Korea Forest Service,
16. Currently being piloted in Asia to strengthen countries’ capacities to anticipate and manage wildfires and other risks to forests.
17. We look forward to continue working closely with Members and partners to address wildfires, save lives and protect the planet.
19. Thank you.