

Regional Wildland Fire Networks: North America – South America – Mesoamerica / Caribbean – Mediterranean – Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Euro-Alpine – Near East – Sub-Sahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia – Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia – Eurasia



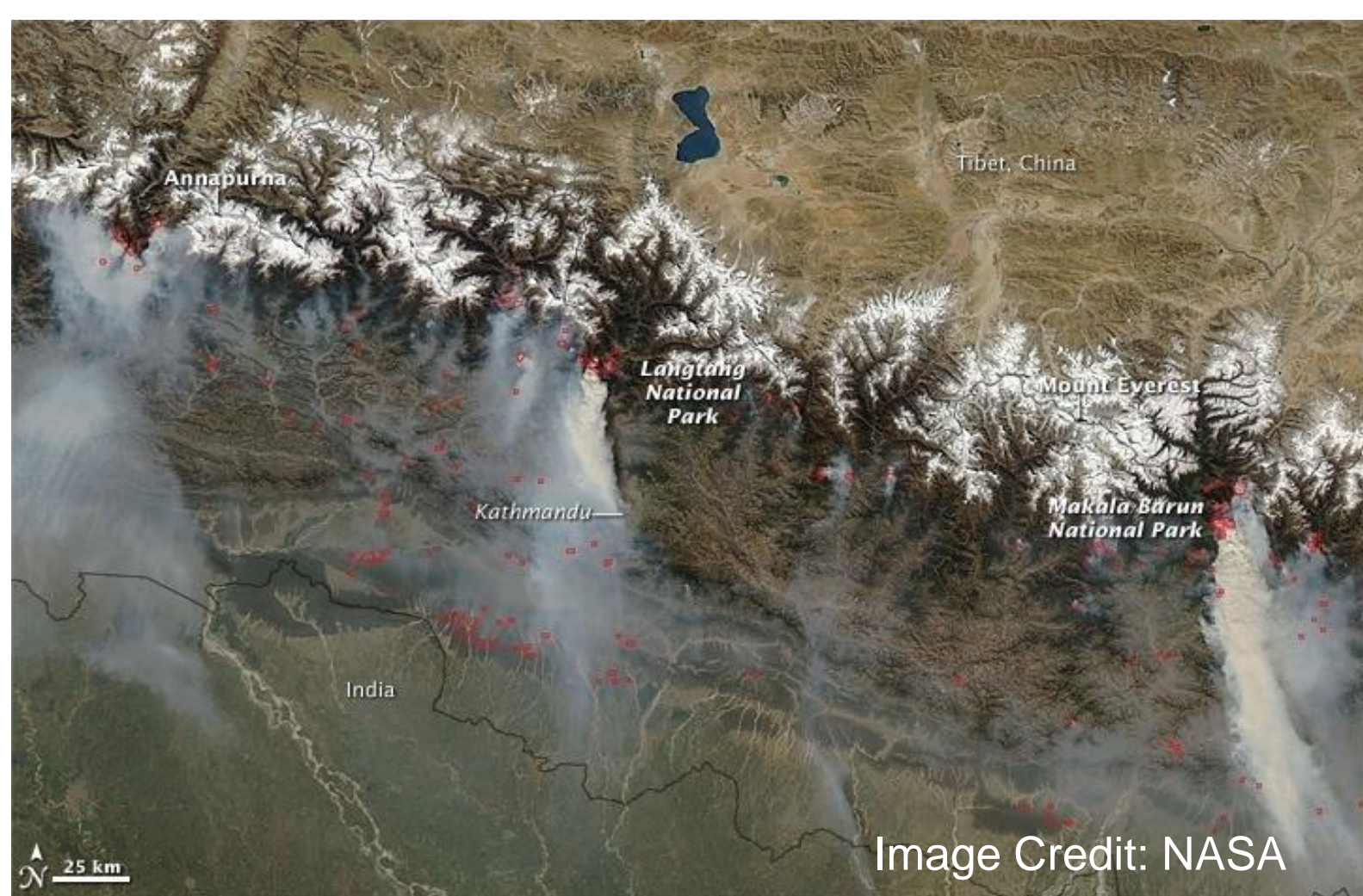
Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network



Major Landscape Fire Issues in South Asia

The South Asia Region

- Diverse ecosystems, socio-economic and cultural settings and forest types
- Diverse fire regimes and vulnerabilities due to its geographical and climatic variations

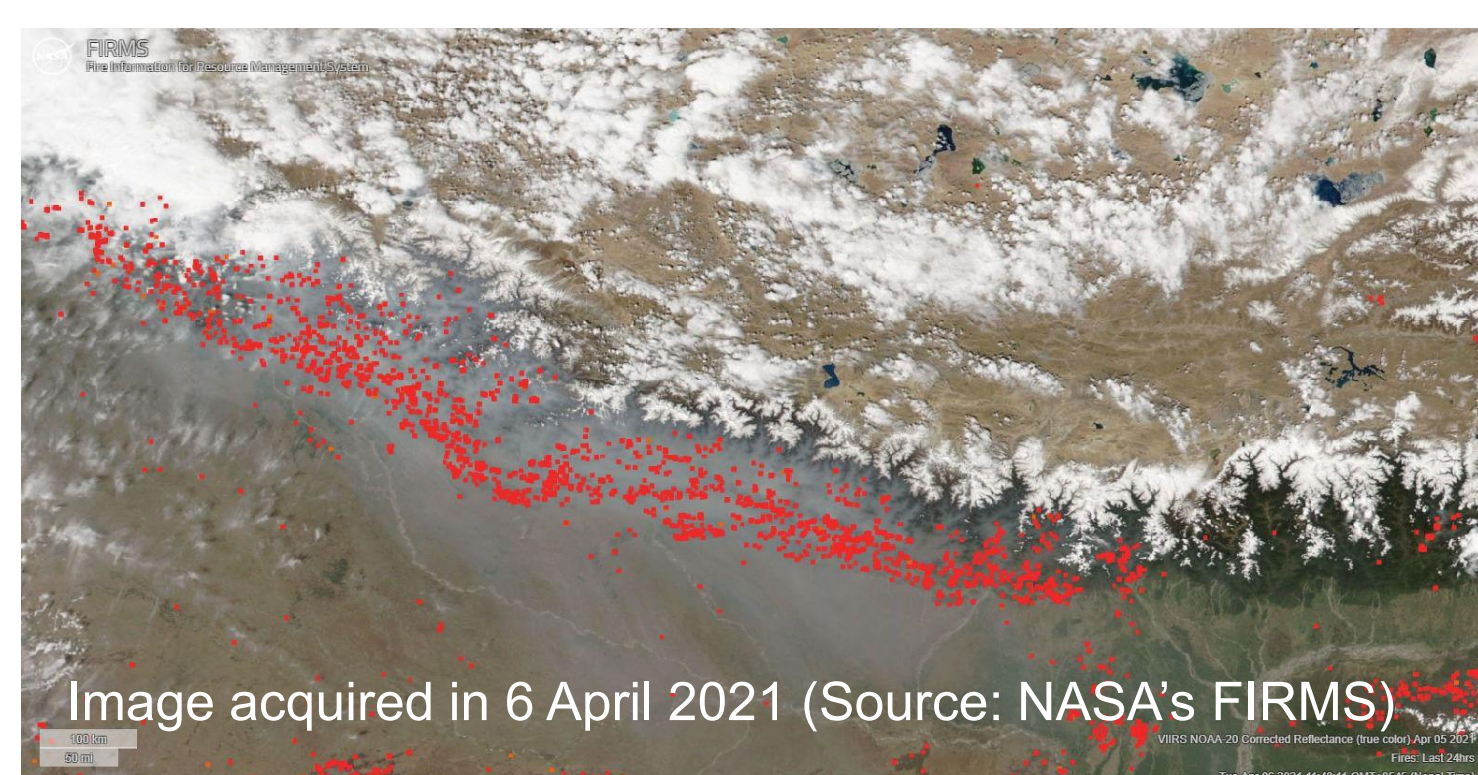


Fire Situation

- Almost all fires are human-induced
- Increased settlement-wildland interfaces
- Low fire management capability at local and national levels
- General perception of people in the region is that fire is the main cause of forest destruction and degradation
- High expectations from sustainable vegetation cover for livelihoods
- Large-scale land-use change involving burning of native vegetation in the tropics

Key Issues

- Human resource development
- Funding for fire management activities
- Fire and climate change interaction
- Fire and REDD+ Mechanism
- Fire management and livelihoods of local communities



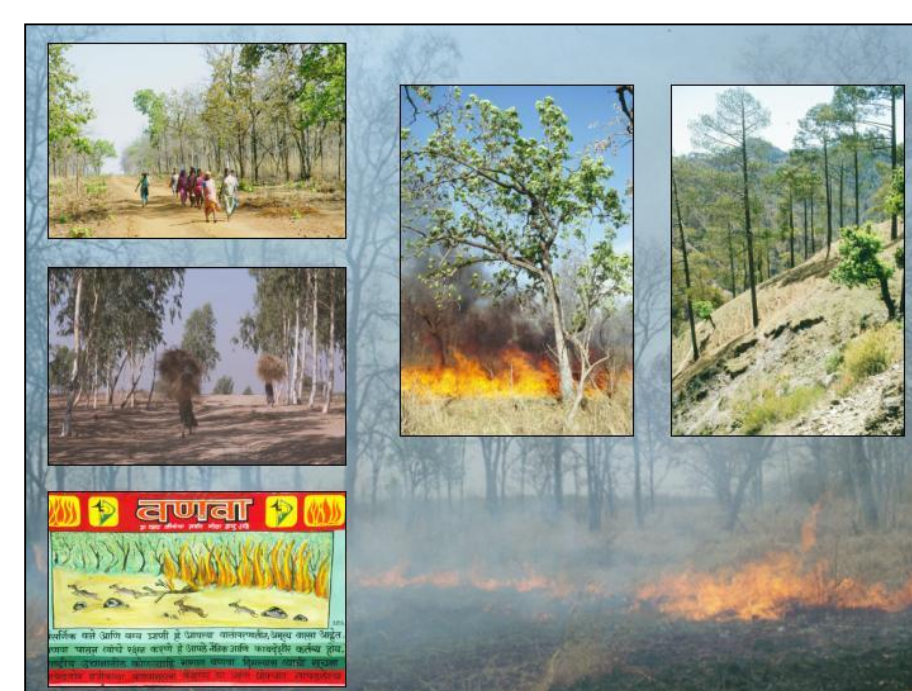
Forest Fires and Air Pollution in Hindu Kush - Himalaya region – a cross-boundary problem

Future Threats

- Increasing occurrence of uncontrolled fires as a consequence of climate change and altered natural fire regimes
- Increasing occurrence of extreme weather (droughts and precipitation) and fire severity
- Increasing vulnerability to human populations, negative impacts in social, ecological systems and secondary disasters
- Deterioration of watersheds in Hindu Kush - Himalaya region and land-use patterns

The South Asia Regional Network

The Network was founded in 2007 in line with several declarations made in international conferences/ summits and the decision made in the meetings of UN-ISDR Working Group on Wildland Fire (WG-4), UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network and is intended to bring together both the technical members of the fire community and the authorities concerned with policy and national practices in wildland fire management to realize their common interests of fire risk management and disaster reduction at global scale. Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) is serving as its Secretariat.



Objectives of the Network

Enhancing and strengthening cooperative resource mobilization in fire management for creating synergies and enabling environments, and sharing knowledge within a guiding framework

Enhance existing national / regional capability in fire management, including early detection, monitoring, early warning, fire response and impact assessment.

Partners:

- GFMC, FAO
- NIFoS, APAFRI, ITTO, USAID, AFoCo,
- SAARC, ICIMOD, WWF,
- UNDP/UNEP, World Bank, GOFC/GOLD

Enhance cooperation among countries within the region and at inter-regional levels, aimed at sharing technology, expertise and data exchange in fire management; the activation of the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM)

Integrate fire as a component of land use and forest management tool by giving emphasis on:

- **Improvement of participatory / community-based fire management approaches and institutional and technological capabilities at all levels;**
- **Building capacity to 'wise-use-of-fires' for habitat management and biodiversity conservation; and fuel management**
- **Promoting education and awareness-raising programmes on wildland fires;**
- **Supporting countries to conduct national fire and fire management assessments, formulate legal frameworks and strategies, build sustainable fire management capabilities and institutions, develop fire management plans and human resources;**
- **Developing policies, strategies and action plans aimed at building capacities in local, national and transboundary forest fire management.**

Regional Network Activities/ Events



Regional consultative workshop on cross-boundary cooperation in fire management in South Asia, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2016



Aerial Fire-fighting operation by Simrik Air Helicopter (9N-AJZ) in Pathivara Temple Area in Taplejung, Nepal in 28 Dec 2020 (First time in Nepal!) Photo: Simrik Air



Community-involved Forest Fire Management Training (Nepal)



Community-engagement in Forest Fire Management (Bhutan)