



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

8th International Wildland Fire Conference

Global Wildland Fire Network – Statement of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Secretariat / Coordinator of the Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN)

16 May 2023

1. Introductory remarks

At the 7th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC-7), hosted by Brazil in Campo Grande 2019, the Global Fire Monitoring Center ([GFMC](#)), Secretariat / Coordinator of the Global Wildland Fire Network ([GWFN](#)) published a review of 30 years of International Wildland Fire Conferences.¹

In following-up the review and the Campo Grande Statement, which – among other – recommended:²

The integrated cross-sectoral approach described above supports the Sustainable Development Goals, the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This approach would be further strengthened by an appropriate United Nations instrument.

the GFMC and its partners of the GWFN and the Regional Fire Monitoring Centers / Fire Management Resource Centers cooperated towards fostering the international dialogue in cooperative fire management and addressing the need for the creation of an international instrument.

2. Specific landscape fire problems faced during the quadrennium 2019-2023

Compared to the post-conference work periods of the GWFN since 2003, the last quadrennium confronted the international community of fire management researchers, practitioners and decision makers with unprecedented challenges.

2.1 The COVID-19 pandemic

A few weeks after IWFC-7, the COVID-19 pandemic brought a standstill of in-person meetings, field missions and political activities. Furthermore, the pandemic resulted in weakening fire management activities.

The GFMC set up a portal with all relevant information, including shared experiences and advisories concerning safety of fire management personnel.³

Within the regions and at international level, a new culture of communication and cooperation evolved from the pandemic. Online meetings, webinars / seminars and consultations were developed and swiftly replaced in-person meetings. While for a certain time period the postponement of field missions and face-to-face meetings and trainings were quite disadvantageous, it was recognized that online meetings proved to be economic and environmental-friendly, thus creating unprecedented opportunities for saving resources in international exchange and communication.

¹ Goldammer, J.G. 2021. Thirty Years International Wildland Fire Conferences: Review and Achievements of a Circumglobal Journey from Boston to Campo Grande. [Biodiversidade Brasileira 11 \(2\), 2021, 6-52. DOI: 10.37002/biobrasil.v10i3.1743.](#)

² <https://gfmc.online/wp-content/uploads/IWFC-7-Statement.pdf>

³ <https://gfmc.online/eurofire/covid19.html>



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

2.2 Russia's attack war and invasion in Ukraine

Since the early 1990s, the fire science and the fire management establishment as well as policy makers of the Russian Federation have been long-standing partners in international exchange. In September 2021, the GFMC and the Russian Aerial Forest Fire Organization *Avialesookhrana* commemorated the 30th Anniversary of cooperation.⁴ With the invasion and occupation of Russian military in Ukraine in February 2022, the geopolitical situation changed. Collateral damages of the war resulted in extensive damages of rural landscapes of Ukraine including contamination of unexploded ordnance (UXO), land mines and wildfires. Damages of forest and fire management infrastructures and the death and injuries of forestry and fire service personnel resulted in unprecedented challenges to the nation.

Since the beginning of the war, the Regional Eastern Europe Fire Monitoring Center ([REEFMC](#)) and GFMC are monitoring the situation. Landscape Fire Bulletins include updates on fires on the territory of Ukraine (in ecosystems, agricultural lands and in cities, including monthly updated maps of active fires, updated fire statistics, maps and details of large fires). REEFMC issued Safety Advisories, which addressed the threats of wildfires burning on terrain contaminated with unexploded ordnance (UXO) and radioactivity. The maps show monthly-accumulated locations of fires depicted by satellites.

The REEFMC provides three dedicated portals in English language:

- [Fire Management on Terrains contaminated by Unexploded Ordnance \(UXO\)](#)
- [Fire management in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone \(on radioactively contaminated terrain\)](#)
- [Landscape Fire Monitoring and Advisories](#)

The GFMC provides four dedicated portals in English language:

- [Special post – based on REEFMC activities – mirroring the war-related situation in Ukraine](#)
- [Cooperation of REEFMC and GFMC in Ukraine before and during the war](#)
- [GFMC / REEFMC support of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe \(FOREST EUROPE\) to support Ukraine in rebuilding its forest sector](#)
- [GFMC / REEFMC cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe \(OSCE\) in the assessment of environmental impacts of the war against Ukraine and options for remediation](#)

2.3 Extreme fire weather and wildfires

With the onset of increasing occurrence of extended droughts in Europe and other regions globally, including Central Asia, North and South America, an increase of large-scale wildfires has been noted. Extreme droughts, coupled with heat waves and the consequences of land-use change, are creating conditions favorable for the wildfires burning with high intensity and severity, difficult to control.

The UNEP / GRID report *Spreading like Wildfire: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires*, published in 2022, provided a summary of science-based evidence on global trends of fire.⁵ However, the report is inconsistent with regard to terminology and thus concept, and does not mention or refer to the advances in fire management and policy development achieved by the community working under the umbrella of the Global Wildland Fire Network. There is no reference to the International Wildland Fire Conferences.

⁴ https://gfmc.online/globalnetworks/balticregion/BalticRegion_9.html

⁵ United Nations Environment Programme (2022). *Spreading like Wildfire – The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires*. A UNEP Rapid Response Assessment. Nairobi. <https://www.grida.no/publications/769>



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

On the other side, national statistics and reports reveal trends in detail that extended droughts result in lowering water tables and soil moisture, resulting in vegetation stress and increasing vulnerability of natural, cultural and urban-industrial landscapes to wildfires. In the frame of the G20 initiative *One Earth – One Family – One Future* under India's G20 presidency in 2023, a study "Restoration of fire-impacted areas for recovery of natural biodiversity" is underway in 2022-23. The study (not yet finalized) will provide the current state of knowledge on the subject and provide a roadmap for the G20 countries to share and collaborate in the coming years. One chapter of the study will provide an overview of restoration of fire-affected areas in G20 countries. In every country report, information is provided on fire occurrence in forests and other ecosystems, area affected annually by forest fires, causes and losses, restoration approaches for natural biodiversity recovery including nature-based solutions etc. Historical evidence of community / indigenous fire management practices are incorporated, and, where applicable, recognition of significant learning from such traditional fire use in managing ecosystems.⁶

3. Main advances achieved since the last International Wildland Fire Conference: Action taken between the 7th and the 8th Conference

3.1 Regional Fire Management Resource Centers

The family of Regional Fire Monitoring Centers / Regional Fire Management Resource Centers is growing. After IWFC-7, three centers have been established in South America and Africa:

- [Fire Management Resource Center – South America Region](#) (FMRC-SAR) (Gurupí, Brazil) (2020)
- [Regional Eastern Africa Fire Management Resource Center](#) (REAFMRC) (Antananarivo, Madagascar) (2020)
- Regional Western Africa Fire Management Resource Center (RWAFFMRC) (Kumasi, Ghana) (2020-23, website under construction)

The activities of the 8 Regional Centers and the 14 Regional Wildland Fire Networks are highlighted in detail in the Regional Statements of the GWFN, which were prepared for IWFC-8, will be presented either in posters or in oral conference presentations.⁷ Out of the activities in the regions, one flagship activity should be mentioned – the programme *Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans* (LFMWB). The LFMWB is supporting the development of national landscape fire management policies and development of cross-boundary cooperation in landscape fire management, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The first phase 2022-2025 is implemented by the Regional Fire Monitoring Center for Southeast Europe / South Caucasus (RFMC) through the Regional Executive Agency (REA) FARMAHEM, financed by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and supported by GFMC.⁸

⁶ Since the study is still underway at the time of IWFC-8, one example is quoted. The national report of Germany. The report elaborates on the underlying causes of increasing vulnerability of the country to wildfires, the use of fire in conservation, institutional responsibilities for fire management and the state of landscape fire research [G20 Study on Restoration of Forest Fire impacted Areas for Recovering the Natural Biodiversity: Country Profile – Germany](#)

⁷ <https://gfmcc.online/iwfc/portugal-2023.html>

⁸ <https://gfmcc.online/wp-content/uploads/EDA-SDC-Landscape-Fire-Management-Western-Balkans-litaiive-Phase-I-2019-2025.pdf> and <https://gfmcc.online/wp-content/uploads/IWFC-8-GWFN-Statement-Region-03-Southeast-Europe-Caucasus.pdf>



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

3.2 Regional multilateral / intergovernmental organizations

During the reporting period, GFMC continued to cooperate with and supported multilateral/ intergovernmental organizations in advancing cross-boundary cooperation in fire management:

Council of Europe

The work under the mandate of the Council of Europe, through the Secretariat of the the [European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement](#) (European Open Partial Agreement – EUR-OPA), continued soon after IWFC-7, with focus on the cooperative work between the GFMC and the Regional Eastern Europe Fire Monitoring Center (REEFMC) in Ukraine:⁹

- First meeting of the *Working Group of the Committee on Environmental Policy and Nature Management and the Committee on Law Enforcement on the Causes of Forest Fires and their Prevention in the Future*, in the Parliament (*Verkhovna Rada*) of Ukraine (June 2020)¹⁰
- National Round Table on the Future of Landscape Fire Management in Ukraine (December 2020)¹¹
- Ministry of Environment of Ukraine opening the public consultation on the Draft State Strategy for the National Landscape Fire Management System for 2021-2035 (June 2021)¹²
- Thematic contribution to the *World Forum on Democracy – Can Save Democracy our Environment* of the Council of Europe, the GFMC contribution addressed *The Global Wildland Fire Network: A contribution of civil society to build sustainable and fire-resilient societies and landscapes* (November 2021)¹³

The engagement of the EUR-OPA Secretariat in support of the development of an *International Landscape Fire Framework* is highlighted below (para 4).

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

In 2018, the OSCE launched the project *Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia*. The project aims to reduce climate change-related security risks in the four project regions by raising awareness, developing capacities, and sharing knowledge within and among the project regions. It also aims to do so through the implementation of climate-change adaptation measures in the geographic areas that are most vulnerable to climate change. In 2021, OSCE and GFMC, supported by the Germany-based think tank Adelphi, initiated cooperation in the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus. The South Caucasus projects address bilateral fire management cooperation between Armenia / Georgia and Azerbaijan / Georgia (kickoff: 20 October 2021). The project contributes to the implementation of the various provisions of the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No.3/21 on *Strengthening co-operation to address the challenges caused by climate change*.¹⁴

⁹ Narrative of cooperative work with EUR-OPA since 2007: <https://gfmc.online/programmes/europe-org/coe.html>

¹⁰ <https://gfmc.online/wp-content/uploads/REEFMC-Verkhovna-Rada-11-June-2020.pdf>

¹¹ <https://gfmc.online/wp-content/uploads/Ukraine-National-Round-Table-Landscape-Fire-Management-Strategy-01-Dec-2020-NUBIP-Report-ENG.pdf>

¹² <https://gfmc.online/wp-content/uploads/Ukraine-Ministry-Environment-New-Landscape-Fire-Management-Approaches-PR-17-June-2021.pdf>

¹³ <https://gfmc.online/wp-content/uploads/GFMC-CoE-World-Forum-Democracy-09-November-2021.pdf>

¹⁴ More details: https://gfmc.online/globalnetworks/seeurope/SEEurope_8.html



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

In December 2021, the OSCE-led cross-regional Workshop *Wildfire Management for Enhancing Climate Resilience and Security* was organized within the framework of the OSCE project. The workshop brought together climate change and emergency management experts from the South Caucasus, South-Eastern Europe and Mongolia, to raise awareness and strengthen capacities on fire management and climate resilience and their implications for security, and to identify opportunities for further co-operation on wildfire management to enhance climate resilience and climate adaptation.¹⁵

In early 2023, the regional component *Enhancing wildfire risk reduction in Mongolia and strengthening regional and cross-regional co-operation on landscape fire management* was launched. Implementation will start in 2023.

In response to the war in Ukraine, the OSCE initiated the project *Assessment of Environmental Impacts of the War against Ukraine and Options for Remediation*. Aim of the OSCE project is to assess the environmental impacts of the war and contribute to the remediation of the damages to and the degradation of the environment in Ukraine, in order to address and reduce future safety and security risks. REEFMC and GFMC are responsible for the component “Rural Environment – Landscape Fires”.^{16 17 18}

In May 2023, the OSCE *High-Level Conference on Climate Change* was in the preparatory stage for 7 July 2023 (Vienna, Austria). The GFMC contribution will address climate change, security and wildfire risk management.

OSCE will contribute to the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference, represented by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities at the OSCE.¹⁹

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (FOREST EUROPE)

In the context of the development of the pan-European Forest Risk Knowledge Mechanism (FoRISK) the workshop *Develop, Adopt and Transfer Innovative Solutions and Actions to Prevent and Control Wildfires* was jointly organized by the General Directorate of Forestry of Türkiye, FAO Silva Mediterranea and FOREST EUROPE (24-27 October 2022, Antalya, Türkiye). Contributions by [REEFMC](#), [RFMC](#), Ukrainian partners and GFMC offered the expertise and services of the Regional Fire Monitoring Centers / GFMC to FoRISK.²⁰

With regard to support Ukraine in rebuilding its forest sector: On 30 August 2022, a Ministerial Decision was adopted by the 44 Member States of FOREST EUROPE at the first High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD), an inclusive dialogue among interested actors to exchange on the latest scientific findings, best practices, and specific national policies.²¹

On 01 March 2023, FOREST EUROPE organized the capacity building and knowledge exchange workshop *Ukraine Forest Fire Prevention in Times of War*. GFMC and REEFMC supported the workshop by addressing collateral damages of the war resulting in extended wildfires and presenting the preparation of the fire season 2023.

¹⁵ [OSCE press release](#) (7 December 2022) / [OSCE press release mirrored at GFMC repository](#) (PDF)

¹⁶ <https://www.osce.org/blog/518037>

¹⁷ <https://nubip.edu.ua/en/reefmc>

¹⁸ https://gfmco.online/globalnetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope_1_radio.html

¹⁹ OSCE statement prepared for IWFC-8: <https://gfmco.online/wp-content/uploads/IWFC-8-OSCE-Statement.pdf>

²⁰ <https://gfmco.online/programmes/europe-org/mcpfe.html>

²¹ <https://gfmco.online/wp-content/uploads/Forest-Europe-HLPD-2022-Ministerial-Decision-Ukraine-30-August-2022.pdf> and <https://foresteurope.org/forest-europe-to-support-ukraine-in-rebuilding-its-forest-sector/>



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) / Organização do Tratado de Cooperação Amazônica / Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica (OTCA)

In response to the public and political attention on use of fire in land use and land-use change in South America, notably conversion of forests and other ecosystems to agro-industrial plantations or pastures in the Amazon region, the leadership of the Regional South America Wildland Fire Network, the GFMC and the Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO/OTCA) had met at IWFC-7. At the conference, the ACTO Secretariat had presented a Technical Report, describing the past and envisaged future involvement and cooperation in fire management in Amazonia.²²

On 12 August 2021, the International ACTO/OTCA Seminar *Integrated Fire Management: Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance for Integrated Fire Management among ACTO / OTCA Member Countries* was held with support of the [Regional South America Wildland Fire Network](#) and GFMC. The MoU was signed in 2021.²³ In 2020, a first attempt to launch a regional program “*Actions for the Reduction of Forest Fires in the Amazon Region and their Impacts on Amazon Biodiversity and Climate Change*”. In 2023, a preparatory mission towards defining an Integrated Fire Management Program for the Amazon region is underway, in which ACTO member states will cooperate, financially supported by Germany.

4. Development of the “International Landscape Fire Framework”

In the frame of the efforts towards the implementation of the Campo Grande Statement (cf. footnote 2), the GFMC and its partners of the GWFN and the Regional Fire Monitoring Centers / Fire Management Resource Centers cooperated towards fostering the international dialogue in cooperative fire management and addressing the need for the creation of an international instrument.

- On 26 November 2021, the 2021 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR-21) provided an opportunity of organizing the Side Event *Strengthening Governance in Landscape Fire and Boosting Citizen’s Awareness*.²⁴
- In 2021/2022, the GFMC successively developed a proposal for the creation of an **International Landscape Fire Framework – Background, Rationale for Action and Objectives** (last update: 27 February 2022).²⁵
- This proposal was presented by the Secretariat of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) of the Council of Europe at the 2022 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (Bali, Indonesia, 23-28 May 2022), Sendai Framework Mid-Term Review Plenary Session 3 (27 May 2022).²⁶

The decision by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in partnership with UN Environment (UNEP), to set up the *Global Fire Management Platform* that will serve countries’ capacities to implement Integrated Fire Management, constitutes a key driver of this process.²⁷

²² <https://gfmco.online/wp-content/uploads/IWFC-7-Global-Session-ACTO.pdf>

²³ <https://gfmco.online/wp-content/uploads/OTCA-ACTO-MoU-MIF-ENG.pdf>

²⁴ <https://gfmco.online/course/meeting/2021-04.html> and <https://efdr.undrr.org/2021/strengthening-governance-landscape-fire-management.html>

²⁵ <https://gfmco.online/wp-content/uploads/Global-Landscape-Fire-Framework-Introduction-2023.pdf>

²⁶ <https://rm.coe.int/global-forum-drr-bali-2022-midterm-review-plenary-3-rethinking-sustain/1680a876b8> / <https://gfmco.online/wp-content/uploads/EUR-OPA-GPDRR-2022-SFMTR-Plenary-3-27-May-2022-Statement-Rethinking-Sustainable-Development-1.pdf>

²⁷ 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>, par. 20)



8TH INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

At the 2022 meeting of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) initial suggestions were discussed to consider integrating the expertise, repository and services of the GFMC.²⁸ In early 2023, FAO and GFMC initiated the preparatory dialogue for the – meanwhile entitled – *Global Fire Management Hub*.

Along with this endeavor, the GFMC supported the preparation of the Guiding Principles of Landscape Fire Governance. In preparation of the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference, the concept paper *The Landscape Fire Governance Framework – Guiding Principles for Adjusting Strategies, Policies, and Management to Global Change* was available to the Global Wildland Fire Network for review and suggestions.²⁹ The GFMC position paper *The Global Landscape Fire Framework. Towards the Development of an International Instrument* intended to highlight the significance of the follow-up of IWFC-7 and expected outcomes of IWFC-8.³⁰

5. Other exemplary activities

The GFMC repository provides access to activities of the GWFN in following-up the International Wildland Fire Summit of 2003.³¹ A few selected events and activities:

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) *Flying Forest Fire Fighting (I4F) Dialogue* (22 November 2021): The I4F Dialogue aimed at exchanging the information on existing activities, technologies and arrangements and facilitating the cooperation on aviation forest fire fighting activities among States and other relevant stakeholders, by sharing knowledge, experience and resources as well as by discussing possible areas of improvements and cooperation under the auspices of ICAO. The preparation of the I4F Dialogue was supported by the [UNEP / OCHA Joint Environment Unit](#) (JEU), the [Global Fire Monitoring Center](#) (GFMC) and the [International Fire Aviation Working Group](#) (IFAWG). JEU and GFMC are cooperating in [international response to wildfire emergencies](#).³²
- In following-up the establishment of the *Vegetation Fire and Smoke Pollution Warning Advisory and Assessment System* (VFSP-WAS), the WMO continued to cooperate with GFMC and GWFN. In early 2023, the VFSP-WAS Global Steering Committee (GSC) was established.³³
- The International Aerial Firefighting Conferences served as a thematic platform before and after the COVID-19 pandemic continued serving the dialogue in wildfire incident prevention, preparedness and response.³⁴
- In January 2020, the website “Natural Hazards – Landscape Fires” was launched as part of [BeSafeNet](#) to provide basic understanding of the fundamentals of landscape fire and how people can protect themselves and their assets from the threats of wildfires.³⁵

In November 2022, the monograph *Towards Fire-smart Landscapes* (Tropical Forest Issues TFI 61, edited by N. Pasiecznik and J.G. Goldammer) was presented at COP-27, Sharm El-Sheikh, at the Global Landscapes Forum, Session “Fire-smart landscapes as promising approach for effective adaptation and mitigation”.³⁶ The volume includes contributions from representatives of the GWFN and several Regional Fire Management Resource Centers.

²⁸ e.g.: Statement of Government of Mongolia at the 26th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 2022), Plenary 04 October 2022 “Forest Fires and the Global Fire Platform”, Item 7.2: <https://gfmcc.org/wp-content/uploads/FAO-COFO-2022-Item-7.2-Mongolia-Statement-Global-Fire-Platform.pdf>

²⁹ <https://gfmcc.org/wp-content/uploads/Landscape-Fire-Management-Framework-Paper-Preview-16022023.pdf>

³⁰ <https://gfmcc.org/wp-content/uploads/Global-Landscape-Fire-Framework-Introduction-2023.pdf>

³¹ Summaries of annual activities of the GWFN can be accessed through the linked specific GFMC post: <https://gfmcc.org/globalnetworks/globalNet/activities.html>

³² <https://gfmcc.org/course/meeting/2021-03.html>

³³ <https://gfmcc.org/programmes/un/wmo/wmo.html>

³⁴ <https://gfmcc.org/course/meeting/aerialfirefighting.html>

³⁵ <https://besafenet.net/hazards/landscape-fires/>

³⁶ <https://gfmcc.org/wp-content/uploads/TFI61-Towards-Fire-Smart-Landscapes.pdf>



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

6. Conclusions and recommendations

During the quadrennium between IWFC-7 and IWFC-8, we have recognized several trends that already have or will impact landscape fire regimes globally:

- The climate crisis is resulting in accelerating changes of weather patterns, including droughts and heat waves, and the long-term changes of hydrological regimes
- Increase of extent and severity of droughts in some regions, e.g. in North America, Europe and Central Asia, have resulted in an increase of occurrence of large wildfires difficult to control
- Geopolitical changes, including armed conflicts, contribute to increasing wildfire threats to environmental and public security
- Land-use change and demographic trends – rural exodus and aging rural populations – are contributing to changing fuel regimes and in many cases an increasing wildfire risk

Scientific-technical and public debates reveal in increasing interest to identify solutions. The last IWFCs have been addressing the need for prioritizing the application of principles in integrated fire management. The recommendations of IWFC-7 – the Campo Grande Statement – called, among other, for addressing risk governance and ownership. With the presentation of the paper “Landscape Fire Governance Framework 2023” at the conference, guiding principles will be discussed and added to the international dialogue.

In 2023, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), established in Germany with the financial assistance of the German Foreign Office and inaugurated at the FAO meeting *Public Policies Affecting Forest Fires* in 1998, is looking back to 25 years of work at the Science-Policy-Practitioners Interface (SPPI).³⁷ The Global Wildland Fire Network, which was established under the auspices of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in 2003³⁸, is looking back to two decades of successful work serving the SPPI in 14 regions globally. Since 2010, this work is being supported by the – meanwhile eight – Regional Fire Monitoring / Fire Management Resource Centers.

These voluntary arrangements are carried and supported by volunteers, academic institutions, national agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and by numerous partnering projects with the UN family. They are now available serving the establishment and operationalization of the Global Fire Management Hub.

The coming four years will be devoted to identify and operationalize an international instrument – tentatively following the concept of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³⁹ and accordingly called *The Global Landscape Fire Framework* – to reach consent and agreement by the international community to address an increasing global challenge.

³⁷ <https://gfmc.online/wp-content/uploads/GFMC-Profile.pdf>

³⁸ <https://www.unisdr.org/2005/task-force/tf-working-groups4-eng.htm>

³⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>