



# International Conference on Cross-Border Forest Fires

Irkutsk, Russian Federation  
16-18 June 2010



UNECE / FAO Team of  
Specialists on Forest Fire



Global Fire Monitoring  
Center (GFMC)



United Nations International  
Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
(UNISDR)  
Global Wildland Fire Network /  
Regional Central Asia Wildland  
Fire Network





## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **International Conference on Cross-Border Forest Fires and Cooperation in their Suppression**

16-18 June 2010, Irkutsk, Russian Federation

The International Conference on Cross-Border Forest Fires and Cooperation in Their Suppression, accompanied by a Forest Fire Suppression Exercise, was held 16-18 June 2010 in Irkutsk.

The Conference was organized by the Federal Forestry Agency (Rosleshoz, Russia).

28 representatives from seven countries and two international organizations took part in the Conference. Besides the plenary meetings, an exposition "Protection of Forests from Fires" and a Forest Fire Suppression Exercise were held. Russian and Foreign participants listened to over 20 reports on matters of international cooperation in forest fire management and experience in organization of forest fire protection.

Among the principal speakers at the Conference there were representatives of Rosleshoz, its subordinate organizations and territorial subdivisions under its jurisdictions, executive bodies of some constituent entities of the Russian Federation, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations and Mitigation of Consequences of Natural Disasters, Frontier Service of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as well as representatives of ministries and agencies responsible for forest and fire protection of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Mongolia, Republic of Belarus, Ukraine, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea and the United States of America (USA).

The Conference among others things discussed topical problems which were as follows:

- international experience in provision and receiving of assistance to suppress forest fires;
- development of information system of remote fire hazard monitoring in forests;
- modern technologies for fire prevention in forests;
- inter-agency and inter-regional interaction in matters of fire prevention in forests;
- Russian and foreign experience in organization of interaction in forest fires suppression;
- procedures for simplified State border crossing procedures to render assistance in forest fires suppression management.

**The participants of the Conference, having discussed topical issues of organization of cooperation between border countries in suppression of forest fires affecting territories of contiguous States, been acquainted with experience of the Russian Federation in forest fires suppression, as well as modern systems of remote fire hazard monitoring and technologies designed to prevent forest fires, and informed about the capabilities of participating country delegations in fire management and their expressed willingness to enhance international cooperation in fire management, recommended the Participating States to consider options to:**

- conclude international agreements on mutual assistance in suppression of forest and landscape fires;
- create working groups of experts from interested countries on matters of cross-border fires;
- carry out joint assessments of border segments with cross-border forest fire potential;
- exchange information on critical active forest fires and forest disease outbreaks in border forest segment, except on those segments of statutory limited access concerning national information;
- exchange experience and techniques of assessing origin and projection of progression of forest and landscape fires;
- initiate joint scientific research on development of methods of potential probability of forest fires expansion to a contiguous territory;
- jointly develop proposals and measures to organize interaction in case of a forest fire threatening facilities and other values at risk, as well as living quarters in populated areas;
- exchange of information and development of common standards of technology and practice of forest fires suppression;
- carry out regular joint exercises and training of forest fire services of States Parties to international agreements on emergency response to potential disasters and forest fire suppression in border territories with the objective to develop interaction arrangements;
- develop procedures for the use of air drones to monitor fire hazards in border forests in the contiguous territory;
- carry out prophylactic fire preventive operations in border territories;
- organize rapid exchange of information between duty shift services of the Parties related to emergency situations during forest fire suppression or a danger of an emergency in contiguous territories; appoint competent persons and exchange contact data of the Parties;
- arrange participation of experts of the Parties in joint conferences and work-shops to exchange information and consult on issues within their competence;
- organize instant notification of the Parties, through the channels of shift duty services, on the situation in case of a threat or a proved fact of expansion of forest-steppe or forest fire to the contiguous territory, and a threat of its expansion to populated areas;
- provide simplified border crossing procedures, if necessary, for manpower and resources to limit the area of and suppress forest fires in a cross-border zone, as well as to prevent the expansion of the fire to contiguous territories of the Parties;
- promote the regional and international cooperation in fire science, capacity building and management through the networking, notably through the UNISDR Regional Euro-Siberian, the Central Asian and the Northeast Asian Wildland Fire Networks, and collectively within the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network;
- conduct a series of international fire management training courses for participation of countries belonging to the three regional networks by using latest state-of-the art competency-based training standards;
- member countries contribute actively to the success of the International Wildland Fire Conferences (the next to be held in South Africa, May 2011 [WildFire 2011]);
- contribute to the development of an International Wildland Fire Accord as a voluntary (non-legally binding) framework for cooperation in fire management at regional and global levels.