

Thirty Years International Wildland Fire Conferences:  
 Preparation of Participation of Landscape Fire Management Project  
 in the Western Balkans (LFMWB) at IWFC-8 in Portugal  
 04 May 2023  
 Johann Georg Goldammer, GFMC



**INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE**  
 GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES  
 8th International Wildland Fire Conference  
 2023


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The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)




**Boston 1989**

*Meeting Wildland Fire Challenges:  
 The People. The Land. The Resources*

- Co-organized by agencies of the U.S.A., Canada and Mexico
- 400 leaders of public and private organizations from 32 countries
- Discuss issues, programs, and strategies to reduce serious wildland fire losses
- Promote international cooperation in the decade of the 1990s and beyond.

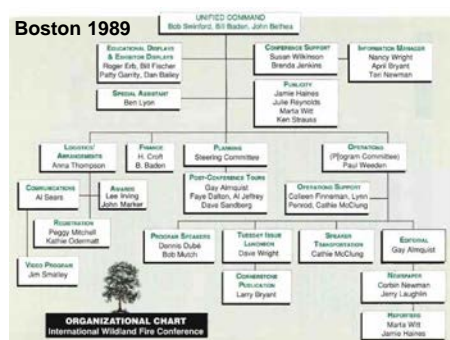

**Boston 1989**

Through participation of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) (> predecessor arrangement of UNDRR / UNISDR and custodian of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030):




- Official recognition of the Boston conference as an activity of the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

**Boston 1989**

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**  
 International Wildland Fire Conference

**Vancouver 1997**



- Hosted by Canada in Vancouver
- Recommendation

*"That a group formally established under the auspices of the United Nations to facilitate addressing global wildland fire needs"*

- **1998:** Establishment the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) (seed funding: Government of Germany, Foreign Office)
- **2001:** Working Group on Wildland Fire in 2001 established within the UNISDR Interagency Task Force for Disaster Reduction
- **2003:** Main outcome – the Global Wildland Fire Network and its Wildland Fire Advisory Group

**2001 Initiation of the follow-up of Boston and Vancouver**


- Formation of the Wildland Fire Advisory Group
- Joining hands with the International Liaison Committee (ILC) of the conferences
- Meeting at the UN Geneva, hosted by WMO
- Decision to go ahead to Australia in 2003



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**Sydney 2003**

3rd International Wildland Fire Conference




In 2003 the international community of wildland fire scientists, managers and policy makers reconvened at the IWFC-3 in Sydney, Australia, and provided the stage for the International Wildland Fire Summit, at which an agenda for strengthening international cooperation in fire management was set for the coming years. Endorsement by

- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity

**Sydney 2003**

International Wildland Fire Summit:



Agreement of an agenda for strengthening international cooperation in fire management for the coming years. Main outcomes – Four Strategic Papers:


- Guiding Principles for Wildland Fire Management
- International Wildland Fire Management Agreements Template
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- A Strategy for Future Development of International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management
- Community Based Fire Management (CBFIM)

**Sydney 2003**








**IWFC 4 – Sevilla 2007**



The conference was held in Sevilla, Spain, 13-17 May 2007 – attended by 1531 participants from 88 countries. Recommendation – among others:

- The international wildland fire community pursue the development of a global-scale international resource sharing strategy to assist countries with fire management planning activities (including prescribed fire for ecological purposes and fuels management), and active support during periods of wildland fire

**IWFC 5 – Sun City, South Africa 2011**




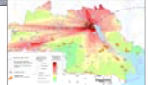

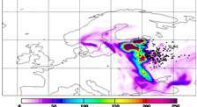
Participants defined key areas of concern:

- Rural and industrialized societies have altered the natural environment and fire regimes. Vice-versa, humans are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the consequences of wildfires.
- Increase of efforts on securing peat bog / wetland ecosystems that are subjected to drainage and climate-driven desiccation to become affected by fire





Key areas of concern (continued):

- This is calling for: Increase of fire management efforts on terrain contaminated by radioactivity, unexploded ordnance, land mines and chemical deposits, notably in the regions affected by the nuclear fallout of the nuclear power plant failures in Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima (2011)
- Increase of effort to reduce unnecessary burning on croplands, fallow and other lands to reduce the negative impact of greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions on the regional, arctic and global environment
- Provide necessary awareness and means to protect human health and security from wildland fire smoke pollution







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UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Opening Statement to the  
Fifth International Wildland Fire Conference (2011)



*"The transboundary effects of wildland fires associated with long-range smoke transport and emissions are prompting the international community to strengthen cooperation in fire management.*

*International organizations and civil society groups are working to build capacity, develop advanced technologies and promote sustainable land-use practices.*

*The UN system is strongly committed to this effort. Our work encompasses many aspects of fire management.*

*We welcome the efforts to build a culture of prevention and to develop a spirit of global cooperation.*

**IWFC 6 – South Korea 2015**




Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 12-16 October 2015

Attended by representatives of 73 countries and international organizations who discussed

- How science and management could address the challenges ahead, to contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- How to assist countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 15, and
- To deliver inputs to the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (COP 21) (December 2015)

**IWFC 6 – South Korea 2015**




Pyeongchang Declaration directed to COP 21 (Paris): An appeal to the international community to consider two tiers of response:

**International policies and concerted action:**

- Collective international efforts are needed to address impacts of vegetation fires that are of transboundary nature and currently affecting at an unacceptable level common global assets.
- Systematic application of principles of Integrated Fire Management (IFM): The COP 21 is encouraged to acknowledge the role and endorse the support of IFM as an accountable contribution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maintain or increase terrestrial carbon pools in all vegetation types and ensure ecosystem functioning.

**IWFC 6 – South Korea 2015**



**Capacitation of nations to address the challenges in fire management:**

- In order to implement IFM there is a demand for capacity building, investments and outreach work at global level.
- Since traditional and advanced knowledge of IFM principles is available for all vegetation types, the systematic application of IFM, notably community-based fire management approaches, could be promoted by exchange of expertise between countries.
- The development of regional programmes and / or resource centres for capacity building including training in fire management should be supported by countries and international organizations. Bilateral agreements and multilateral voluntary exchange instruments should also be supported.


**IWFC 7 – Brazil 2019**



**Campo Grande Statement** (01 November 2019)  
**Building Sustainable and Fire-Resilient Societies and Landscapes**

- The paradigm of addressing the problem through individual and disconnected services and actions in fire prevention or suppression should be reframed.
- Unified and integral planning must ensure and strengthen societal, environmental and economic resilience to landscape fires by addressing:
  - **Risk governance** and ownership
  - Dialogue of knowledge, including traditional and indigenous knowledge

**IWFC 7 – Brazil 2019**




**Campo Grande Statement** (01 November 2019)  
**Building Sustainable and Fire-Resilient Societies and Landscapes**

- Risk governance and ownership
- Dialogue of knowledge, including traditional and indigenous knowledge
- Gender, diversity and inclusion
- Socio-economic innovation in rural landscapes, favoring nature-based solutions
- Strengthening local action
- Creation of resilient ecosystems and communities

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**IWFC 8 – Portugal 2023**



**Landscape Fire Governance Framework**  
**Guiding Principles for Adjusting Strategies, Policies, and Management, to Global Change**

**Shift from**

- traditional state-centric and response-focused approaches with hierarchically organized governmental agencies

**to**

- multi-tiered systems involving different societal, institutional, and political actors, with their different expectations and perceptions, based on the inclusion of diversity of knowledge, values and political interests that will frame international guiding principles of integrated landscape fire management.

**IWFC 8 – Portugal 2023**



**Landscape Fire Governance Framework**  
**Guiding Principles for Adjusting Strategies, Policies, and Management, to Global Change**

- The international Landscape Fire Governance Framework and its Guiding Principles will help country leadership to develop policies and governance that take advantage of existing knowledge of integrated fire management and allow the development of adequate legal provisions, finances, and support programmes, building of institutional structures and active participation of civil society.
- This is also an instrument for using the best technical knowledge, harmonizing technical references, training, creating mutual aid protocols at international level and renewed risk governance mechanisms.

**IWFC 8 – Portugal 2023**



**Landscape Fire Governance Framework**  
**The way ahead**

High-level endorsement by

- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres
- UNDRR SRSG Undersecretary General Mami Mizutori
- Council of Europe – Major Hazards Agreement
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Other (OECD, FAO .....



**IWFC 8 – Portugal 2023**



**Landscape Fire Governance Framework**  
**The way ahead**

GFMC Proposal

- Development of an International Instrument, tentatively called

**Global Landscape Fire Framework**



**IWFC 8 – Portugal 2023**

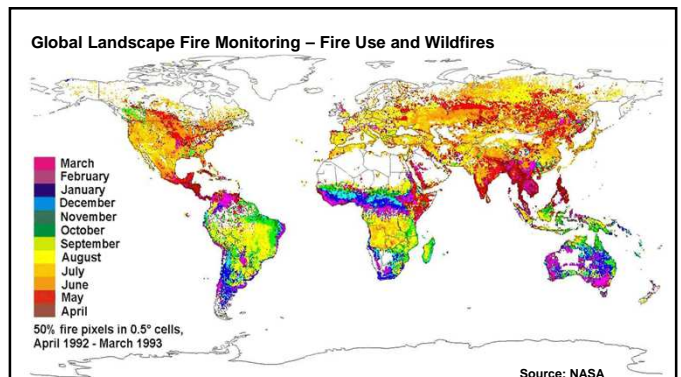


**Landscape Fire Governance Framework**  
**The way ahead**

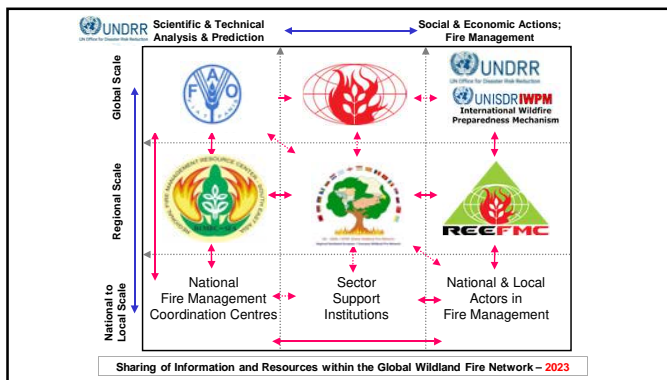
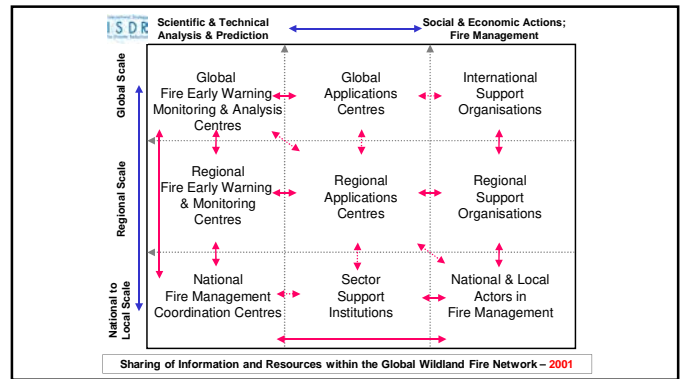
LFMWB to become

- Regional Prime example for Europe
- Using the opportunity of the Portugal Conference to liaise with other regions
- Exporting WB experience to other regions
- Import experiences for other regions to the Western Balkans





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**Functions of “Regional Fire Monitoring Centers” (RFMC) / Regional Management Resource Centers” (RFMRC)**

➤ **Advisory support to nations and to the regional organizations:**

- Development and implementation of fire management policies
- Support of participating countries of the region to develop informal or formal agreements / protocols for cross-boundary cooperation in fire management

**Establishment of Regional Fire Monitoring / Fire Management Resource Centers (I)**

- 2010: Establishment of the first Regional Fire Monitoring Center for Southeast Europe / Caucasus Region (Skopje, North Macedonia)
- 2013: Establishment of the second Regional Fire Monitoring Center for Eastern Europe (Kyiv, Ukraine)
- 2015: Establishment of the Regional Fire Management Resource Center in Central Asia (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)
- 2017: Establishment of the Regional Fire Management Resource Center in South East Asia (Bogor, Indonesia)

**Establishment of Regional Fire Monitoring / Fire Management Resource Centers (II)**

- 2017: Regional Central Eurasia Fire Monitoring Center and Russia (Krasnoyarsk, Russia)
- 2020: Fire Management Resource Center – South America Region (FMRC-SAR) (Gurupi, Brazil)
- 2020: Regional Eastern Africa Fire Management Resource Center (REAFMRC) (Antananarivo, Madagascar)
- 2021-2023: Regional Western Africa Fire Management Resource Center (RWAfMRC) (Kumasi, Ghana)

