



**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
AND THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR CHEMISTRY
GLOBAL FIRE MONITORING CENTER
FOR PARTICIPATION AS AN ASSOCIATED INSTITUTION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY**

THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (hereinafter referred to as "UNU"), an autonomous organ of the General Assembly of the United Nations; and

THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR CHEMISTRY, GLOBAL FIRE MONITORING CENTER (hereinafter referred to as "GFMC"), an internationally recognized centre of excellence in the field of wildland fire science, global wildland fire monitoring, technology transfer and international policy support;

CONSIDERING that the mission of UNU is to contribute through research and capacity development, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States;

CONSIDERING that GFMC, as an institute specialized in fundamental fire ecology and global processes research, international education, and development of international fire management policies, aims at capacity building and institutional development for and in countries that are economically and/or technologically less developed by means of problem-oriented education, training and research;

DESIRING to establish the terms of reference for the participation of GFMC as an Associated Institution of UNU with main links of collaborative work to the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (hereinafter referred to as "UNU-EHS");

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

GFMC shall function as an Associated Institution of UNU in conformity with UNU's principles and objectives, including academic freedom, scientific excellence, and commitment to the general purposes and philosophy as outlined in the Charter of UNU.

Article 2

Within the framework of this relationship and in accordance with the above principal considerations, UNU and GFMC shall cooperate with each other in the execution of their institutional responsibility for the promotion of research, advanced wildland fire management training, policy and disaster reduction advisory services and dissemination of knowledge.

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Article 3

UNU and GFMC shall carry out a capacity building programme on Wildland Fire Disaster Management (hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Programme") to support and complement the UNU mission, specifically directed at sustainable development.


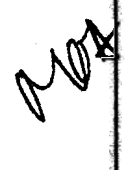
Article 4

The activities of the Joint Programme shall include capacity building activities in disaster management, and the dissemination of knowledge on this and directly related issues (see Annex for a description of the Joint Programme Activities).

Article 5

The Joint Programme shall

- a. organize workshops aimed at generating awareness among decision-makers about the importance of disaster management, and of land administration as a prerequisite for the implementation of a country's land policy;
- b. conduct advanced wildland fire management training courses combined with in-service field practice and practical support aimed at professionals working in the institutions with a task in wildland fire management or disaster reduction;
- c. conduct training courses combined with demonstration of real life examples aimed at providing professionals with knowledge and experience on the application of land administration systems in the context of land policy, at the conceptual, strategic and operational levels;
- d. organize national, regional and international meetings, workshops and symposia on topics of interest and of relevance to the Joint Programme;
- e. develop and maintain communication among developing countries to further the dissemination and application of practical knowledge in the activities of the Joint Programme;
- f. advise on and assist in the setting up of capacity building programmes, and dissemination of knowledge, including their evaluation, that can benefit developing countries;
- g. advise on and assist in the setting up of cooperation among scientists and institutions in different countries to promote the exchange of information, visits of scientists, and other means of communication and collaboration;
- h. provide, under the responsibility of its Programme Coordinator, the annual reports to the UNU; and

- i. identify and display prominently the designation of GFMC as an Associated Institution of UNU.

Article 6

Whenever, in the implementation of the functions outlined above, specific measures of cooperation are considered necessary, especially in connection with the implementation of research projects, the conduct of training activities, the holding of conferences, seminars, workshops and panels, or the dissemination of knowledge, the Rector of UNU or his/her representative, and the Director of Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Biogeochemistry Department, or the Head of the GFMC, shall agree on the concrete terms and methods of such cooperation.

Article 7

In the field of dissemination of knowledge, UNU and GFMC shall exchange information, selected publications, reports and other documents relating to matters of common interest. UNU and GFMC shall also endeavour to provide each other with technical and consultative services for the planning and implementation of their respective activities and functions.

Article 8

To ensure the efficient planning and execution of the Joint Programme, the Director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Biogeochemistry Department, shall, with the concurrence of the Rector of UNU, designate the Head of the GFMC to serve as Programme Coordinator for all activities carried out jointly with the UNU. The Director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Biogeochemistry Department shall supervise the work of the Programme Coordinator and be responsible for the overall direction of the programme and its judicious implementation. The Programme Coordinator, in the performance of his/her functions related to this Agreement, shall act in close consultation with the UNU Rector or his/her designated representative, in conformity with the policies established by the UNU Council.

Article 9

The Programme Coordinator shall provide UNU with an annual report on the research and training activities of the Joint Programme to the extent that they relate to this Agreement, including an analysis of the relationship between the existing and proposed activities and a statement on the use of programme grants which may be provided by UNU.

Article 10

Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, which cannot be settled amicably, shall be submitted, at the request of any Party to the dispute, to arbitration in accordance with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules then obtaining. The Parties agree to be bound by the arbitration award rendered under this Article as the final adjudication of the dispute.

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Article 11

The provisions of this Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual consent in writing.

Article 12

Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges or immunities of the United Nations or of UNU, which is an autonomous organ of the General Assembly thereof.

Article 13

This Agreement shall be deemed to have entered into force on 1 May 2005 for an initial period of five (5) years and may be subject to extension by mutual consent. Either Party may terminate the Agreement by giving one year's written notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Agreement.

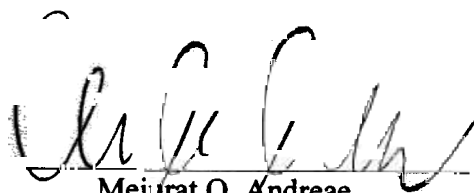
DONE in duplicate, in the English language, in Bonn on 7 October 2005

For the United Nations University

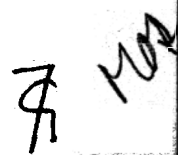


J. A. van Ginkel
Rector

For the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry,
Global Fire Monitoring Center



Meirrat O. Andreac
Director



Description of the Joint Programme Activities

The activities of the Joint Programme shall include:

The objectives of the envisaged cooperation are within the scope of the UNU mandate as stipulated by the Strategic Directions of the University. The five thematic areas of UNU, namely, (i) Environment and Sustainability, (ii) Science, Technology and Society, (iii) Development and Poverty Reduction, (iv) Good Governance – from Local to Global, and (v) Peace and Security, will receive contributions from the Joint Programme in a cross-cutting and synergetic way.

(i) Environment and Sustainability

This theme area is the key area: Local to global functioning of ecosystems and the environment is increasingly threatened by excessive burning and uncontrolled wildfires. Fire is one factor in vegetation and subsequent land degradation, often in conjunction with other disturbances by humans.

The partners and members of the GFMC and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) Wildland Fire Advisory Group are mandated in their sectoral responsibility. Some selected examples: the three Rio Conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) are concerned with the role of fire threatening biodiversity and climate, and contributing to desertification. The FAO is mandated to promote sustainable management of vegetation cover. The WHO is concerned with the impacts of fire-smoke pollution on human health. The WMO is concerned with fire-weather prediction and forecasting of smoke transport. UNEP/OCHA is mandated to respond to environmental and humanitarian crises. UN-ISDR is mandated to promote the development of concepts for disaster reduction with emphasis on preventive measures.

These UN agencies have joined the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and cooperate with the GFMC. Through these agreed mechanisms we can make sure that our potential for providing information, capacity building and policy advice can be shared synergistically and in a cross-sectoral approach.

This thematic area is included in the majority of the programmatic contributions of UNU-EHS, as laid out in its Strategic Directions for the period 2005-2008 (refer to Human Security in a Changing Environment, Strategic Directions 2005-2008 of UNU-EHS).

(ii) Science, Technology and Society

Science and technology are critical components of the work of the GFMC and the Global Wildland Fire Network. The already existing and continuously further developing information tools for wildland fire early warning, monitoring, modelling and damage assessment need to be transferred to the user community. An informed and capacitated user community is able to utilize the existing, internationally available tools at the full extent. Their broader use will justify costs

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for developing these tools and avoid costly duplication of efforts. The most striking example is the satellite-generated information that is already in place and is not yet adequately used in the developing world. Together with the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) and its GOFD/GOLD (Global Observation of Forest Cover/Global Observation of Land Cover Dynamics) project, a substantial contribution can be made in capacity building in the use of remote sensing information in wildland fire management and disaster reduction.

(iii) Development and Poverty Reduction

Excessive use of fire in land clearing/land-use change is an expression of poverty and land ownership/tenure conflicts (and of course other reasons such as illegal activities, land speculation, impact of global markets for cheap cash crop production etc.). Poverty reduction is one of the key elements in participative approaches in wildland fire management = Community-Based Fire Management (CBFiM). Traditional community structures and traditional knowledge of sustainable land-use and fire-use methods have to be considered, as well as modern approaches in community participation in fire prevention and fire application. This is a very key issue of the envisaged activities – as GFMC did in the first training course in Southern Africa in 2004.

(iv) Good Governance – from Local to Global

Good governance is a key to the success of a government/agency in implementing those laws and land-use plans that are available in most countries but often not worth the paper they are printed on. Since vegetation degradation by fire and other factors has complex underlying causes, and the many sectoral responsibilities of agencies often result in non-action or failure of implementation, it is an important aspect to bring the stakeholders together to jointly define common, overlapping and complementary activities that contribute to the reduction of fire damage. The GFMC has already conducted successful “National Round Tables on Wildland Fire Management” in which all the agencies of a country, plus the NGOs, representatives of local communities and international organizations/donors have jointly formulated national strategies and programmes in fire management. This tool of “National Round Tables on Wildland Fire Management” and “National Guidelines for Wildland Fire Management” can be systematically utilized in other countries, especially in the developing world and countries in transition.

(v) Peace and Security

It is considered that the work of the Global Wildland Fire Network is a contributor for the peace process. For example, it has brought together countries in some of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks which have not spoken to each other too much. A good example was the recent border-crossing assistance in the Near East when Turkey dispatched firefighting resources to Syria, including crews, airplanes and helicopters, to assist in fighting a large and very destructive forest fire at the end of October 2004.

At the same time, a commitment was obtained from the Government of Israel to assist Syria. That assistance was not needed anymore because of the successful intervention of Turkey. But this case reveals the result of our regional dialogue, which was the outcome of the so-called

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“Antalya Declaration on Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, Near East and Central Asia” (April 2004). In April 2005 the GFMC successfully organized the multinational wildland fire exercise EASTEX FIRE 2005 (Eastern European, Near East and Central Asian States Exercise on Wildland Fire Information and Resources Exchange) in Bulgaria. In this unique exercise regional wildland fire crews from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey participated.

It is believed that governments are willing to cooperate in responding to disasters – even between nations that have political tensions. The recent international and intra-national tsunami disaster response confirms that joint efforts in disaster management may contribute to overcoming hostile relationships.

Applied Research and Training Courses in Advanced Fire Management: Contents and Target Groups

The contribution of the GFMC to the UNU-EHS mandate includes applied research for the development of concepts for capacity building in advanced wildland fire management. Depending on projects and requests the GFMC services would be able to cover:

- Methods of science and technology transfer for application in local fire management (wildland fire prevention, preparedness, suppression, rehabilitation) under different cultural, socio-economic and ecological environments
- Methods and application of people-centred fire management (Community-Based Fire Management)
- Development of national strategies and policies for wildland fire management, including legislation
- Development of standards for international cooperation in wildland fire management (common terminology, standard procedures for cooperation in wildland fire emergencies)
- Training courses for international wildland fire management specialists, including experts for assessment and intervention missions

These activities coincide with the three activity clusters of the Strategic Directions and Work Plans of UNU-EHS:

- Developing policy-relevant and practical knowledge
- Capacity building
- Generation and dissemination of knowledge-based information

As the present Work Plan of UNU-EHS focuses predominantly on hazards like floods and droughts and on creeping environmental degradation processes, the thematic scope of GFMC is clearly complementary. Thus, the Joint programme will both strengthen and broaden UNU's activities in the area of environment and human security. The same affinities can be found in the identified target audiences.

The key target groups for applied research and capacity building include:

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- Officials **responsible** for land and forest management at medium to high levels, including those responsible for community involvement, e.g., Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) and Community-Based Fire Management (CBFiM)
- Other representatives of public administrations
- Private industry (e.g., private land owners, industrial forest, agricultural and pastoral enterprises)

At national **and** regional levels, GFMC will support multi-stakeholder Round Tables for devising the development of

- wildland **fire management** policies
- wildland fire management **strategies**
- local **to national** wildland fire management guidelines

In addition, the GFMC **will be available** to conduct UN Inter-Agency round tables/discussion fora with involvement of non-UN international organizations, NGOs and civil society.

GFMC is supported **by the Foreign Office of Germany**, including its capacity building activities, which are also undertaken in cooperation with the UN agencies and other donor institutions. Through the association, GFMC and UNU-EHS will be in a stronger position to consolidate their respective funding **bases and to generate additional funding** for common endeavours.

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