

UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
72nd Session, 18-21 November 2014
Kazan, Russian Federation

Preparation, Results and Follow-up of the

**UNECE Regional Forum on
Cross-boundary Fire Management**

Geneva, 28-29 November 2013

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Team of Specialists on Forest Fire (1980-2014)

Terms of Reference (extract)

To provide, in close cooperation and coordination with the
UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland
Fire Network, FAO, UNISDR, Council of Europe and other
partners, **guidance** to ECE member states on

- **Forest fire management**
- **Forest fire policies**
- **International cooperation in fire management**

Team of Specialists on Forest Fire (1980-2014)

Membership 2014: 23 UNECE Member States and 3 International Organizations

East / SE Europe, Balkans, Eastern
Mediterranean, Russia, S Caucasus

W Europe

N America

Azerbaijan

Poland

France

Canada

Belarus

Russia

Portugal

USA

Estonia

Serbia

Germany

Bulgaria

Slovakia

Greece

Croatia

Lithuania

Italy

Kazakhstan

Turkey

Spain

Macedonia, FYR

Ukraine

UK

Team of Specialists on Forest Fire

- Background and rationale for phasing out of the ToS by 31 July 2014:

Recommendation of ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission (ECE/TIM/2012/11, item 33):

“Discontinue the ToS on Forest Fires, as the issue of fires is no longer addressed by the ECE/FAO programme of work and is better addressed at the **global level and through other channels**”

Preparation, Results and Follow-up
 of the UNECE Regional Forum on
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The UN-ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network

United Nations
 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Regional Wildland Fire Networks within the Global Wildland Fire Network
 North America – Mesoamerica – South America – Caribbean – Mediterranean
 Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Sub Sahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia
 Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia – Eurasia – Euro-Alpine

Regions of the ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network
 Zonal, socio-economic or political entities

Zonal Fire Regions:
 Tundra
 Boreal and other grassland
 Mediterranean shrubland
 Moist temperate open forest
 Temperate forest
 Arid land
 Open forest, woodland and savanna
 Boreal / Sub-boreal coniferous and other forest

Legend for Regions:
 North America
 Mesoamerica
 South America
 Caribbean
 Central Asia
 North East Asia
 South Asia
 South East Asia
 Australia
 Baltic
 Mediterranean
 South East Europe
 Euro-Alpine
 Sub Sahara Africa

The Global Dimension and Threats of Fire

ISBN 978-3-941300-78-1

Vegetation Fires and Global Change

Challenges for Concerted International Action
 A White Paper directed to the United Nations
 and International Organizations

A Publication of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
 Edited by Johann Georg Goldammer

**Forest Fire and Climate Change:
Challenges for Fire Management in Natural
and Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia**

Novosibirsk, Russia, 11-12 November 2013



**Key Conclusion – A Warning of a Dangerous
Development:**

The governments of the UNECE Region **are alerted and warned by the scientific and the professional fire management community that the threat from wildfires in the region will become increasingly dangerous** in the coming years as a consequence of climate change and socio-economic and demographic changes

**UNECE Regional Forum on
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Project History (I)

1) Sponsor: Government of Germany, Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture

2) Project Title: Safeguarding Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE Region through International Cooperation in Fire Management

3) Project duration: 1 February 2013 – 31 July 2014

4) Budget: 268,700 Euro

Project History (III): Participating countries (UNECE Member States and other Regions)

1) Participating countries

- 22 UNECE Member States
- Australasia (Australia)
- Latin America (Brazil, Costa Rica)
- Subsahara Africa (Ghana)
- South and Southeast Asia (Nepal, Indonesia)
- Central Asia (Mongolia)

Project History (III): Participating countries (UNECE Member States and other Regions)

2) Regional Organizations

- ASEAN Secretariat (for ASEAN Agreement for Transboundary Haze Pollution)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat
- Council of Europe
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Project History (III): Participating countries (UNECE Member States and other Regions)

3) UN Agencies / Secretariats

- UNECE / FAO Forestry and Timber Section
- FAO Forestry Department
- UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction / UNISDR
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), Environmental Emergencies Section, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, Emergency Services Branch
- UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) Secretariat

Preparatory Products

- 1) Study:** “Contemporary and Expected Future Wildland Fire Problems in the UNECE Region“ (including a fire management survey in the UNECE Member States)
- 2) Proposal:** “Building Resilience of Nations and Communities within the UNECE Region to Wildfire Emergencies and Disasters”
- 3) Proposal:** “Adoption of Voluntary Guidelines for Fire Aviation”
- 4) White Paper:** "Fire Management Policies and International Cooperation in Fire Management in the UNECE Region"

Recommendations (I)

1) Promote the understanding of and the response to the transboundary effects of fire

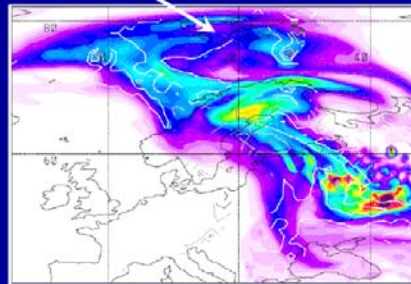
The cross-boundary effects of wildfires require jurisdictions at all levels to cooperate in fire management and to define collective solutions. While prime emphasis should be given to cooperation in fire management between jurisdictions sharing common borders, **the long-range consequences of fire emissions are calling for strengthening existing and, if necessary, developing additional protocols addressing the reduction of adverse consequences of wildfire at international level. This call is supported by the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)** and the recommendations from the international congress “Forest Fire and Climate Change” (Novosibirsk, 11-12 November 2013).

Agricultural Burning - A major source of black carbon deposits on the Arctic environment

Early April- early May 2006 biomass burning

Stohl et al., Atmos. Chem. Phys., 7, 511, 2007.

Meteorology allowed for efficient transport to Arctic,
as measured at Zeppelin station, Spitzbergen (78.9°N, 11.9°E)



Satellite-derived CO and aerosol optical depth show transport of biomass emissions into Arctic



Лед и снег отражают солнечные лучи.



Отложения черного углерода затемняют поверхности и сокращают их отражательную способность.

Impacts of “Black Carbon” (soot) on the Arctic:

The carbon deposits are darkening the snow / ice surface in the Arctic region and reduce reflectivity, thus accelerate melting of snow and ice cover.

Source: A.Pettus / CATF
Agricultural Fires and Arctic
Climate Change: A Special
CATF Report



Agricultural Burning - A major source of black carbon deposits on the Arctic environment



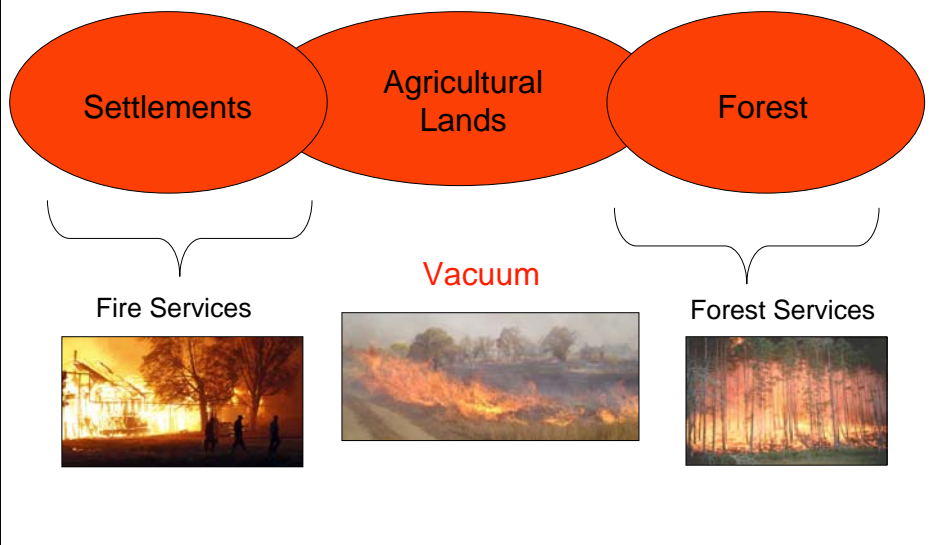
Recommendations (II) Recommendation (2): cf. further below

3) Application of a holistic approach to wildland fire management

This approach must include activities directed at wildland fire prevention, preparedness, response and post-fire recovery and restoration at landscape level including all ecosystem types, land uses and land tenure. Emphasis should be given on people-centered (participatory) approaches.

- **Physical landscapes: Cultural / natural landscapes**
- **Administrative landscapes: Fire management solutions across the sectoral responsibilities / capabilities**

In many countries of Eurasia:
Legal / technical vacuum for managing agricultural fires



Recommendations (III)

2) Expanding the scope and strengthening of international cooperation in fire management

Calling for the development of a voluntary regulatory institutional and policy framework aimed at building resilience of nations and communities within the UNECE region.

Note:

Elements of action have been included in the “Rovaniemi Plan for Action”

Recommendations (IV)

4) Adoption and continued development of the **International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM) and the **Voluntary International Fire Aviation Guidelines****

The mechanism will provide a platform / framework from which to cascade improved knowledge, good practice, experience and training throughout the global wildfire community for the benefit of all.

The Forum recommends that UNECE member states adopt in principle the Draft Fire Aviation Guidelines and support their continued development.

Recommendations (V)

6) Explore options for the transition from voluntary rules to a more formalized regulatory framework

It is proposed to explore options to establish a UN Secretariat mandated with the implementation of a global fire management programme that should have a key role in facilitating the free and open global transfer of knowledge.

A key task of such a Secretariat will be to host and implement the proposed International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM) and the maintenance and application of the Fire Aviation Guidelines. It will be built on a common, coordinated approach with the UN agencies and programmes and those of other international organizations that are mandated or involved in addressing the problems.

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/iwpm/>



International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM)

Welcome to the Portal of the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism!

The IWPM, currently hosted by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), is a non-financial instrument serving as a broker / facilitator between national and international agencies, programmes and projects to exchange expertise and build capacities in wildland fire management and particularly in enhancing preparedness to large wildfire emergency situations.

National agencies responsible for the management of vegetation fires as well as projects seeking or offering expertise are encouraged to use the contact form

- [IWPM Contact Form](#) (to follow)

Related:
[International Fire Aviation Guidelines](#)

EuroFire
[Competency Standards and Training Materials in 10 Languages](#)

The International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (I)

➤ Mission

The mission of the IWPM is to support, on request, agencies and countries to build national capacity and resilience to wildfire through the exchange of best practice.

➤ *Modus operandi*

The IWPM acts as an enabler / portal to provide countries and/or authorities around the World with access to support that can assist in the enhancement of knowledge, understanding and capacity to manage wildfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (II)

➤ Strategic Objectives

In order to achieve its mission, the IWPM has three key strategic objectives, which are to:

- Establish a sustainable global mechanism for knowledge exchange and continual global improvement in wildfire risk reduction and preparedness.
- Promote the global adoption of a holistic approach to wildfire risk reduction and management.
- Through exchange of expertise from countries of different regions of the world promote a culture of common understanding and cooperation in fire management, which would ultimately lead to enhanced inter-operability

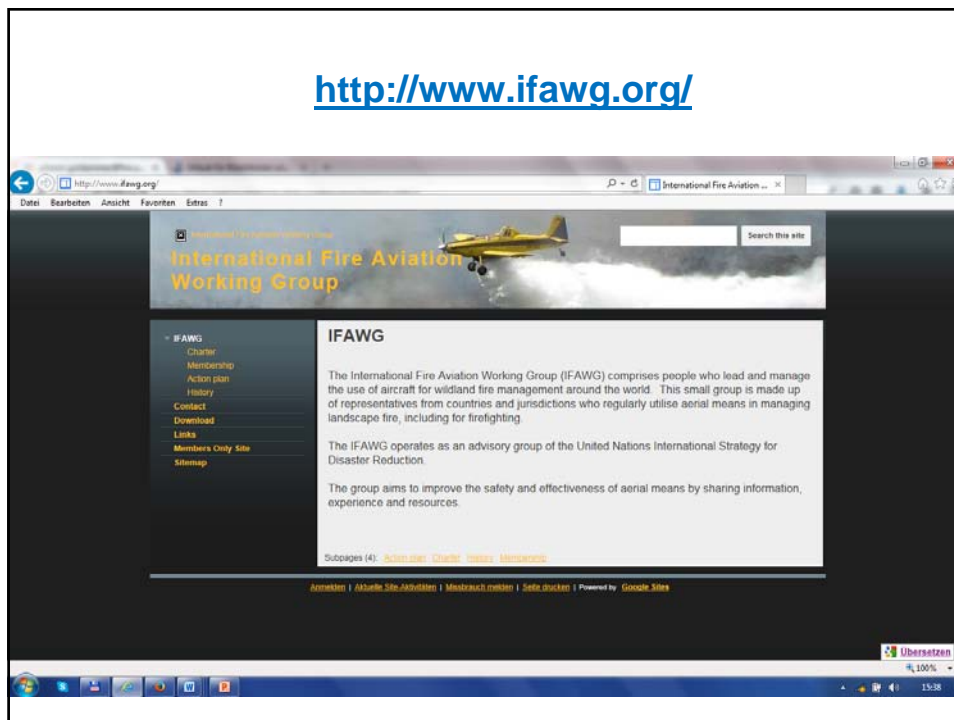
The International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (III)

➤ Finances

The IWPM is not a financial instrument and currently has no core financing.

➤ Secretariat

The IWPM Secretariat acts as a facilitator and does not provide financial assistance to participating parties. All arrangements between participating parties must be negotiated and mutually agreed.



<http://www.ifawg.org/>

Fire Aviation Guidelines

incorporating the

International Manual of Common Rules for Fire Aviation

PLEASE NOTE: THIS COPY OF THE DRAFT FIRE AVIATION GUIDELINES IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE FURTHER DISTRIBUTED. THE MATERIAL IN THIS DRAFT IS PRELIMINARY AND IS SUBJECT TO FURTHER EDITING AND APPROVAL BY IFAWG

Follow-up of the Forum (I)

The GFMC is negotiating with

- FAO
 - Cooperation agreements with the GFMC / Global Wildland Fire Network
 - Dedicated thematic support of GFMC to FAO
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
 - Continuation and enhancing fire management exchange and cooperation in the EECCA region, thus securing continuity of the **regional** work of the ToS 1993-2014

Follow-up of the Forum (II)

The GFMC is negotiating with

- European Forest Institute (EFI)
 - Support of the establishment of and cooperation with the proposed European Forest Risk Facility (FRISK) (2014-15)

- UNISDR & International NGOs
 - Provision of patronage and auspice for the GFMC / Global Wildland Fire Network in the post 2015 HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action)

Follow-up of the Forum (III)

The GFMC is lobbying to

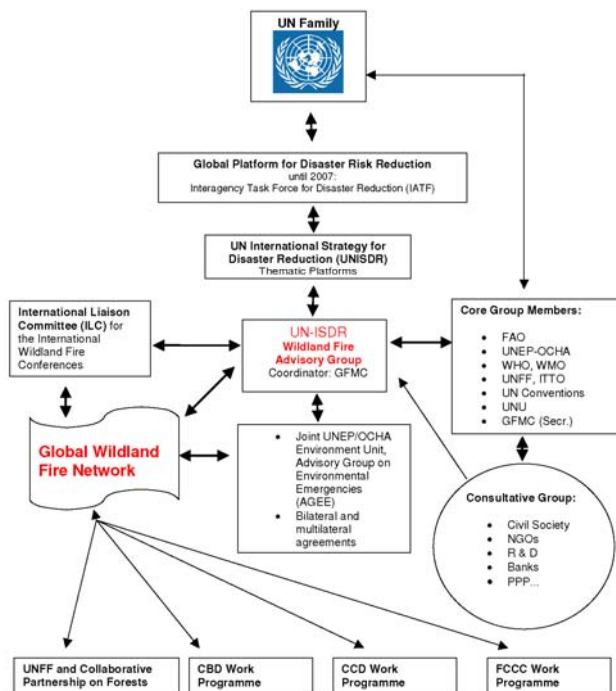
- Securing inputs to the proposed Legally Binding Agreements (LBA) on Forests in Europe or an LBA at global level through an
 - Annex or Protocol on Fire Management

Progress (Status November 2014)

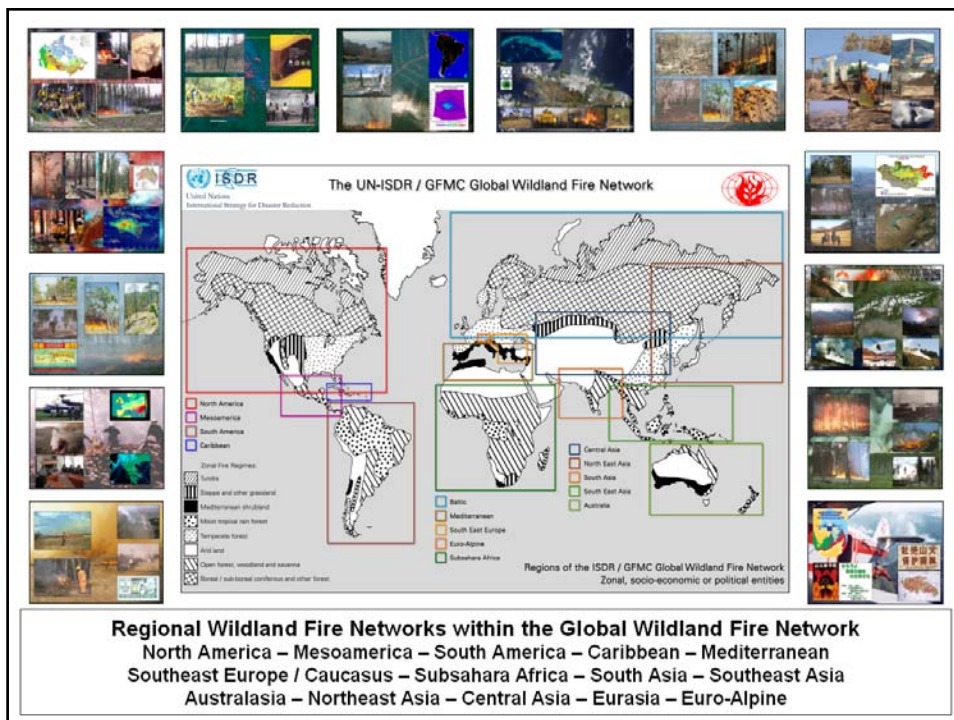
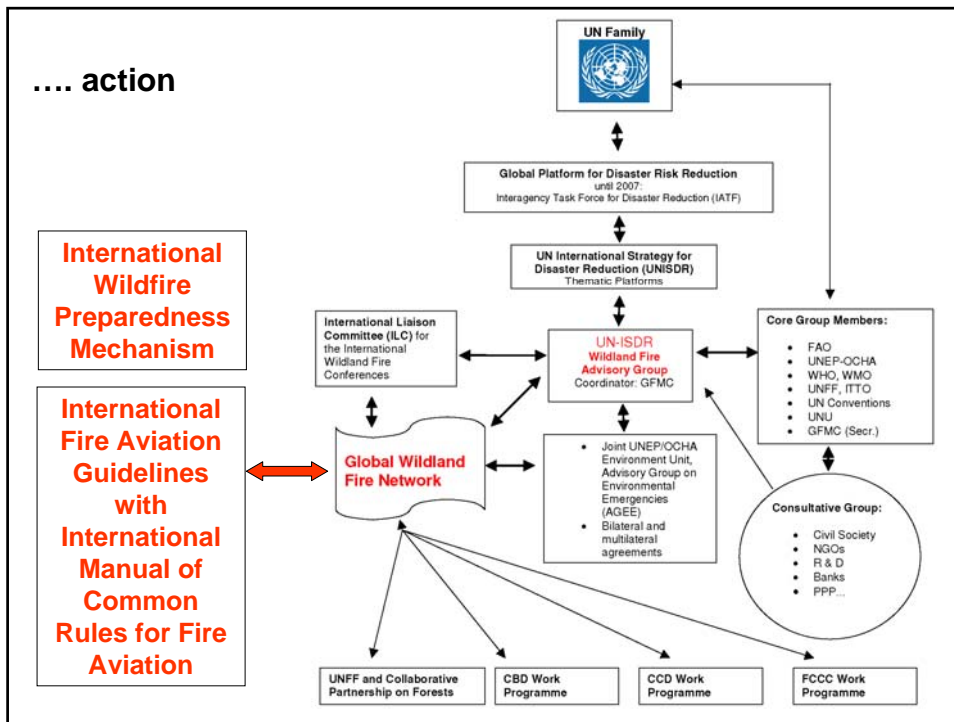
Progress has been made in the conceptual development of the

- International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM)
 - Interim Secretariat: GFMC, experimentally online since August 2014
- International Fire Aviation Guidelines and International Manual of Common Rules for Fire Aviation
 - International Fire Aviation Working Group (IFAWG; Secretariat: GFMC), Final Draft online in December 2014
- Post-Forum Evaluation of the Preparatory Enquiry / Questionnaire
 - See website of IWPM

The inter-agency and international policy dialogue initiated by the UNECE ToS and successively becoming global is now transiting to



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First activations of the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism in 2014 (I)

Regional Fire Management Training Course for
ASEAN Member States: Republic of Korea
(September 2014) (AFoCo – KFS – KRFI – GFMC)



First activations of the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism in 2014 (II)

Regional Fire Management Training Course for the
South Caucasus and Western Balkans: Fire
Management Training Center, Antalya, Turkey
(October 2014) (OSCE – ENVSEC – GFMC)



Related activities of the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism in 2014 (III)

Capacity building of rural communities in safe fire application in the South Caucasus (June-November 2014) (GIZ – OSCE – ENVSEC – GFMC)

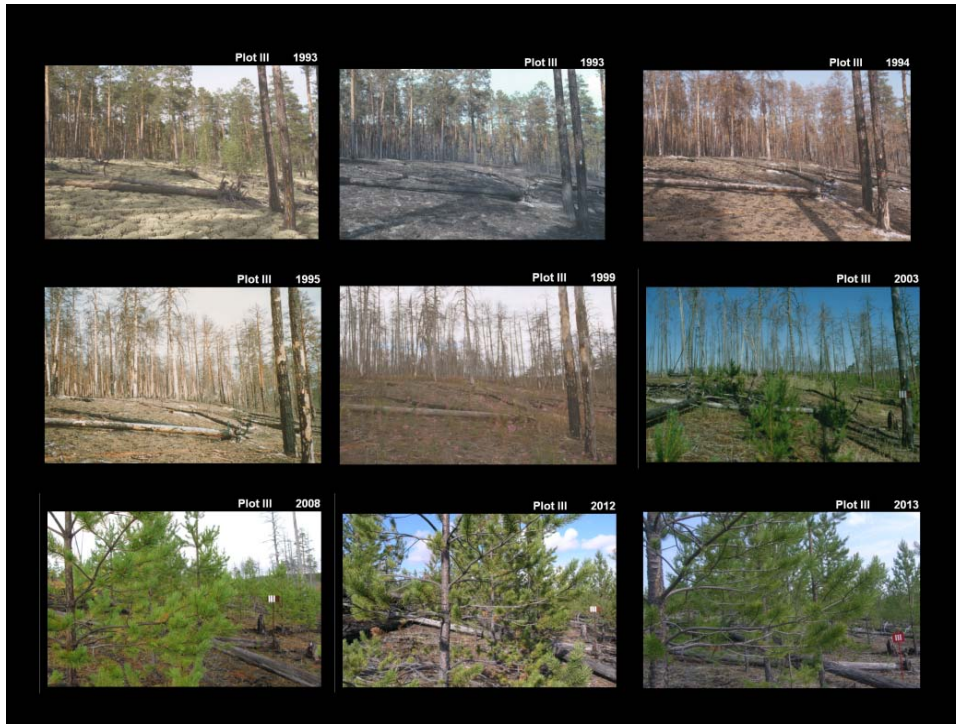


History of Involvement of the Russian Federation (I)

- Historically the first conference addressing “Fire in Ecosystems of Temperate-Boreal Eurasia” (Krasnoyarsk, 1993)



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History of Involvement of the Russian Federation (II)

- Historically the first international conference addressing “Forest, Fire and Global Change” (Shushenkoe, 1996)



History of Involvement of the Russian Federation (III)

- International Conference on Cross-Border Forest Fires and Cooperation in their Suppression (Irkutsk, Russian Federation, 2010)



First and Second International Fire Management Weeks Krasnoyarsk Krai, September 2012 and June 2013

- Theme: “The Nature of Fire”
- Prescribed burning demonstration
- Evaluation of a long-term forest fire experiment
- Round tables: Future fire management policy for Russia



Krasnoyarsk – 2012

Round Table: Development of recommendations for future fire management policies



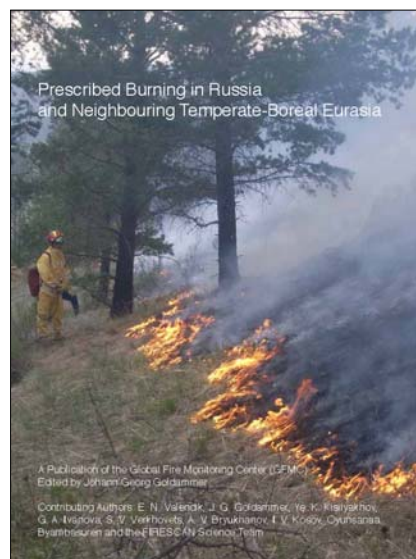
Scientific evidence reveals that some forest types in the different eco-regions of Eurasia have co-evolved with natural fires (lightning fires) and even human-set fires.

The effects of fire disturbances include removal of dead and live accumulated biomass, recycling of nutrients, stand thinning and regeneration of forest stands



German-Russian Cooperation in Fire Management

Publication of the Book
“Prescribed Burning in
Russia and Neighbouring
Temperate-Boreal Eurasia”
(English, 330 p.)
Publication Date: 6 May 2013



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Thanks for Your Attention

Спасибо

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