

UNECE/FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST FIRE Reference to Integrated Work Programme: Work Area 5 <i>Programme element 5.6</i>	
A. OBJECTIVES	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote application of forest fire management methods and development of forest fire policies which are based on most recent science and connected to international processes; 2. To provide, in close cooperation and coordination with the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group, FAO, and other partners, guidance to member states and international organizations, notably the United Nations system, on forest fire management and forest fire policies, with core emphasis on the contribution of the fire management community to reduce the negative consequences of forest fires on climate change as well as adaptation and mitigation measures to address the consequences of climate change on fire regimes; 3. To organise and prepare seminars, workshops and educational programmes; and promote a continuous exchange of information and experience among country forest fire specialists from the policy, managerial and research spheres; 4. <u>Note:</u> In the context of this mandate the Team will continue to address all vegetation fires (“wildland fires”), including fires in the agricultural sector and in peatland / wetland biomes. 	
B. EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS	
<p>Follow up the recommendations of the International Wildland Fire Summit, particularly in the consolidation of the UNISDR Global and Regional Wildland Fire Networks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support to the development of a global vegetation fire inventory based on combined remote sensing and developing a national reporting methodology² 2. Cooperate with the UNEP-OCHA Joint Environment Unit in developing a forest fire component within the Rosersberg Initiative, which is aiming at streamlining and improving national and international response to environmental emergencies, including wildland fire. 3. Continue the bi-annual publication of <i>International Forest Fire News</i> (IFFN). 	
C. BACKGROUND	
ESTABLISHED / APPROVED BY	Joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission, Rome, 23 October 2008
DURATION	From 2008 to 2010, renewable to 2013
METHODS OF WORK	To be determined by the team
REPORTING	Once a year to the joint bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission
TEAM LEADER	To be nominated during the 1 st meeting of the Team
RESPONSIBLE SECRETARIAT MEMBER	Pieter van Lierop, FAO

² Differs from the version approved by the Special Session, taking account of subsequent remarks by the Team leader. The final version of the ToR is to be approved by the joint bureaux.

47. The Session decided that the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Forest Fires should not cover the global vegetation fire inventory as this was already covered by FAO.¹

Communications

48. The session stressed the importance of good communication. The secretariat benefited from the input of two members of the Forest Communicators' Network (FCN) who had helped the UNECE/FAO Timber Section to develop a communication strategy. The strategy has been complemented by the preparation of annual communication action plans that focus attention on the key target audiences and the key topics. The quarterly newsletter provides a regular flow of information about the work of the secretariat and its practical achievements. Improving communication is a main objective of the European Forest Week (EFW), which responds to the Warsaw Declaration that called for increased communication effort. The EFW is a deliberate attempt to increase the profile of the sector. There was recognition of the valuable support that countries will be giving to EFW. The Session invited countries to submit further ideas and suggestions for continued improvement in communication.

Resources

49. The Special Session considered the resources available to implement the integrated programme. With regard to the regular budget, it took note of the distribution of staff resources considered necessary by the secretariat to implement the agreed programme (ECE/TIM/S/2008/3, Table III). Some delegations considered more resources should be assigned to work areas 1, 2 and 3, but it was agreed to leave the responsibility of assigning regular budget staff time to the secretariat. It noted the contributions of extra budgetary

¹ Subsequent to the Special Session, this proposal was contested by the Team leader. The Terms of Reference of the Team will be discussed and finalized by the bureaux, subsequent to consultations with the Team leader and the FAO secretariat.