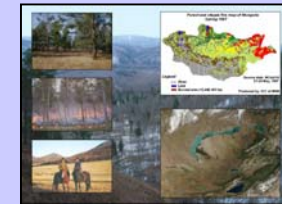
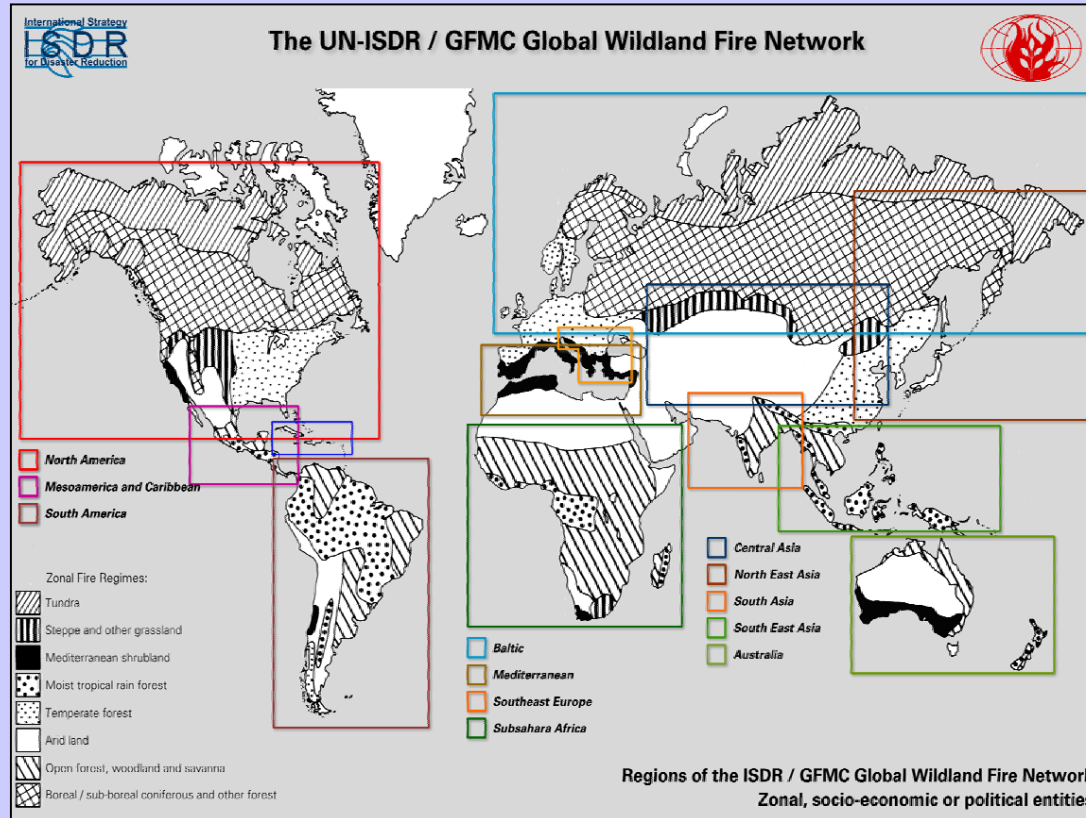
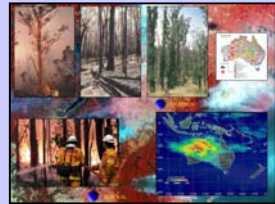
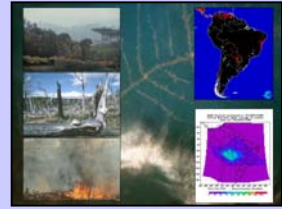
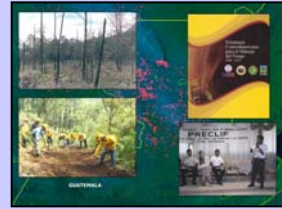


**4<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference**  
**Sevilla, Spain, 13-17 May 2007**



# **The Global Fire Situation:**

## **Report from the Regional Sessions: Situation Assessment, Conclusions and Recommendations**



## UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Networks

North America – Mesoamerica – South America – Caribbean – Mediterranean  
 Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Subsahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia  
 Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia - Baltic

## ***Global issues impacting the regions:***

- **Demographic changes involving increasing human-caused fires**
  - **Rural exodus vs.**
  - **Exurban migrations**
  - **Influence of “globalization”, coupled with a loss of traditional, sustainable land-use systems**

## ***Global issues impacting the regions:***

- **Widespread poverty involving increasing human-caused fires**
  - **Unemployment**
  - **Exurban migrations**
  - **Land tenure conflicts**

## ***Global issues impacting the regions:***

- **Land-use change**
  - **Increasing fire use for conversion of vegetation, notably in the tropics**
  - **Expansion of land use to fire-sensitive lands, e.g., peatlands, drained or otherwise desiccating wetlands, and other fire-sensitive vegetation**
  - **Exclusion of fire in fire-dependent ecosystems**

## ***Global issues impacting the regions:***

- **Fire suppression challenges:**
  - **steadily increasing costs**
  - **demographic changes (limited young recruitment)**
  - **increasing fire activity, and**
  - **greater demand on limited resources, equipment renewal and upgrades, and litigation**
  - **litigation against firefighters**
  - **in-efficient use of resources, I.e. government contracts without performance checks**

## ***Global issues impacting the regions:***

- **Expansion of the Wildland-Urban Interface in some countries**
- **Increasing vulnerabilities and greater exposure of rural settlements to fire regimes of increasing fire activity**

## ***Global issues impacting the regions:***

- **Consequences of and contribution to Climate change**
  - **Increasing occurrence of extreme droughts in most regions**
  - **Desiccation of wetlands**
  - **thawing of permafrost sites**
  - **General trend of increasing area burned, fire intensity, and fire severity, and longer and variable fire seasons**



## ***Global issues impacting the regions:***

- **Human Health and Security**
  - **Increasing wildfire activity and land-use fires causing release of greater amount of pollutants, resulting in greater public exposure to hazardous emissions**
  - **Transboundary transport of fire smoke pollution at regional to global levels**

## ***Global issues impacting the regions:***

- **Human Security and Peace**
  - **Radioactively contaminated lands**
  - **Disputed territories**
  - **Post-war hazards – landmines, unexploded ordnance**

**Regional Session A:**  
**Latin America**

**Patricio I. Sanhueza**

Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF)

Regional South America Wildland Fire Network

Santiago de Chile, Chile

# **Conclusiones y Recomendaciones para la IV Conferencia Internacional sobre Incendios Forestales:**

- 1. Ejecutar las Estrategias de Cooperación para el Manejo del Fuego de América Latina y el Caribe, invitando a los gobiernos de la región a contribuir en la implementación de acciones acordadas por los distintos Grupos de Trabajo**

- 2. Recomendar el reconocimiento oficial de los Grupos de Trabajo para el Manejo del Fuego de la Región, bajo el auspicio, entre otras, de la NU-EIRD y el GFMC, y su vinculación con la Red Mundial de Incendios Forestales y demás agencias y Organizaciones internacionales.**

- 3. Crear mecanismos financieros nacionales y regionales para el manejo del fuego e implementación de las estrategias, incluyendo mecanismos privados adicionales a las agencias de financiamiento existentes, promoviendo el uso de incentivos que estimulen las buenas prácticas de manejo de los recursos forestales, pecuarios, agroindustriales y del fuego.**

- 4. Fortalecer la cooperación e intercambio de conocimientos y recursos entre los países de la Región (gobiernos, ONG's, comunidades, sociedad civil, sector privado, agencias de coop.) alentando la participación de Universidades y entidades de ciencia y tecnología en todas las áreas del manejo integral del fuego.**

- 5. Fortalecer los conocimientos y las capacidades de las comunidades rurales y la cultura del riesgo de la sociedad en general, alentando la gestión participativa en el manejo del fuego y las buenas prácticas de su uso.**
  
- 6. Promover el desarrollo de políticas nacionales y regionales contemplando la integración del Manejo del Fuego a las políticas públicas de manejo de tierras, desarrollo sostenible y conservación de la diversidad biológica.**



- 7. Alentar el diálogo y la evaluación de las implicancias de proyectos de Manejo del Fuego respecto al potencial incremento en la captación de carbono, bajo el Mecanismo de Desarrollo Limpio, favoreciendo una mayor integración entre el manejo del fuego y la mitigación del cambio climático.**

**8. Promover el desarrollo de protocolos entre países de la región para operaciones de control de incendios forestales, los cuales representarán para los gobiernos nacionales principios guías para la asistencia durante emergencias.**

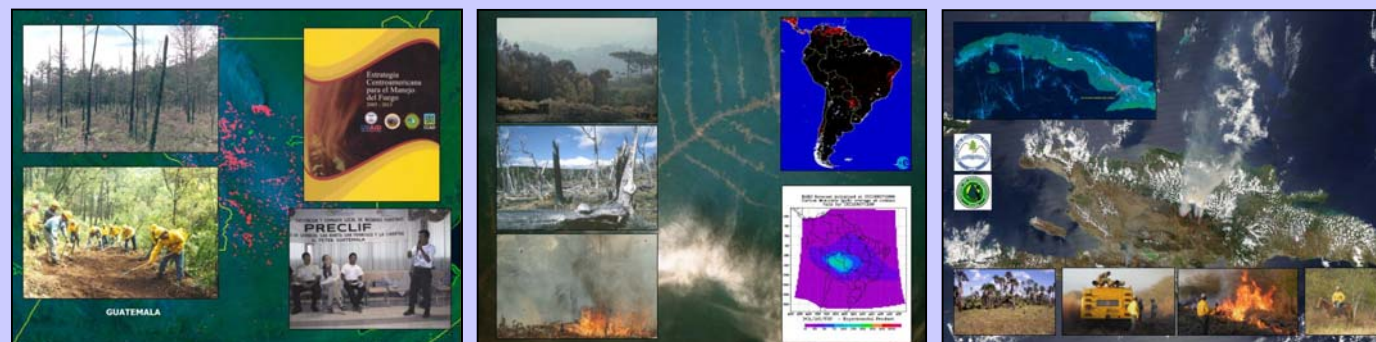
**9. Generar a nivel regional los mecanismos necesarios para que países, organizaciones multilaterales, agencias donantes y de cooperación, fundaciones, etc. apoyen con recursos la atención de emergencias en los países de América Latina y el Caribe.**

- 10. Promover la revisión de mecanismos existentes de colección de datos y el uso de terminología técnica y acordar entre los países un formato y glosario comunes a nivel regional.**
  
- 11. Alentar el desarrollo de programas de protección contra incendios forestales en el ámbito regional, contemplando la evaluación del peligro de incendios e identificación de áreas vulnerables, estableciendo un mapeo de información regional de incendios (sensibilidad / vulnerabilidad de ecosistemas, riesgo de incendios, etc)**

**Considerando los impactos globales en las regiones (cambios demográficos, climático, uso de la tierra, expansión de la pobreza, etc.), los participantes de la Sesión “A” recomiendan a la 4ta. Conferencia Internacional de Incendios Forestales:**

- **Avanzar mediante consultas regionales en la discusión de los temas globales que están impactando las áreas geográficas representadas en las Sesiones Regionales de esta 4ta. Conferencia, a través de la participación de las redes regionales.**
- **Apoyar la realización de la 2da. Cumbre Internacional sobre Incendios Forestales en los próximos 2 años bajo el auspicio de la comunidad internacional involucrada.**

**Los participantes de la Sesión Regional "A" instan a las autoridades y las organizaciones internacionales a proporcionar la ayuda financiera y técnica a la Red Mundial de Incendios Forestales, y en particular a los tres Grupos de Trabajo en Red de Centroamérica, Caribe y América del Sur representados en esta Sesión.**



**Regional Session B:**  
**Australasia and North America**

**Gary Morgan**

Australasian Fire Authorities Council  
Regional Australasia Wildland Fire Network  
East Melbourne, Australia



# ***The Australasia and North America Regional Session***

**Presented with, and subsequently  
supported the findings of the FAO Fire  
Management Global Assessments of  
2006**

**<http://www.fao.org/forestry/en/>**

## ***Memorandums of Understanding:***

- **Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and the United States Forest Service**
- **Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and the Australian - New Zealand Forest Fire Management Group**
- **Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre and the Australasian Fire Authorities Council**
- **United States Forest Service and the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre**

***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session recommends to the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference:***

- **That a series of Regional Consultations be held globally, within the next 1-2 years, to progress the global issues which are impacting on the geographic areas covered during this 4th International Wildland Fire Conference's Regional Sessions.**

***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session recommends to the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference:***

- **That the 2nd International Wildland Fire Summit be held within the next 2 to 4 years under the auspices of the United Nations, aimed at developing a non-legally binding international accord on cooperation in wildland fire management.**

***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session recommends to the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference:***

- **That 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.**

***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session recommends to the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference:***

- **Organizations present adopt the Strategies and the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines**

**and**

- **that the United Nations develops standards to assist with the implementation of the Guidelines.**

**(e.g. training, fatigue management)**

***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session recommends to the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference:***

- **Organizations present participate in the Fire Management Actions Alliance as one part of their adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines.**
- **That the United Nations promotes the global adoption of ICS including the publishing of an annual list of countries which have implemented ICS.**

***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session recommends to the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference:***

- **That a symposium be held for fire management training professionals, within the next 2 years, to encourage global collaboration on training.**



***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session advices the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference :***

- **In accord with the desire to see further action on global issues impacting on wildland fire within the geographic regions of Australasia and North America, the Regional Session proposed that the Australasia and North America collaborators shall hold a joint Regional Consultation, in 2008.**

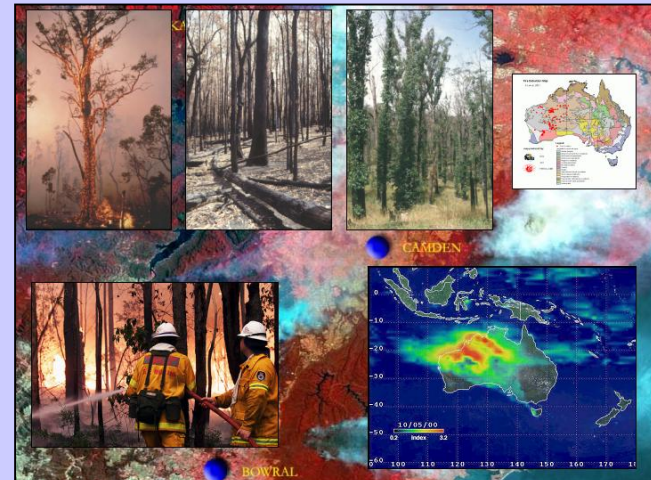
***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session advises the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference :***

- **The joint 2008 Regional Consultation will draw upon collective intelligence to provide specific regional actions for global issues including:**
  - **The impacts of climate change**
  - **Wildland-Urban Interface**
  - **Water availability**
  - **Management of the changing vegetative cover**

***The Australasia and North America  
Regional Session advises the 4th  
International Wildland Fire Conference :***

- **In recognition of the need for scientific evidence to underpin the management policies, the Regional Consultation will bring together researchers, fire policy decision makers and operational fire managers.**

# Thank You



**Regional Session C:**  
**Europe, Southeast Europe,**  
**Mediterranean North Africa and**  
**Caucasus**

**Ricardo Vélez**

Dirección General para la Biodiversidad

Ministerio de Medio Ambiente

European Region

Madrid, Spain

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- 1. The protection of the environment in Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and the Caucasus region cannot be effective without a Regional Strategy for Forest Fire Prevention designed according to the distribution and intensity of the danger and developed in cooperation with the public and private stakeholders of the Forest Sector.**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- 2. Rural abandonment and decline of the forest economy in the Mediterranean Basin is a major concern as climate change may aggravate the natural conditions of fire risk**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- 3. Special attention must be given to fires burning on radioactively contaminated lands, by fires on areas with unresolved conflicts and on territories with post-war hazards such as landmines and unexploded ordnance, as they affect human security and peace in the region**



## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- 4. Priority is to be given to the prevention of fires caused as a consequence of the socio-economic changes in rural areas, and the promotion of the participation of the local population**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- 5. Some issues to be included in this Regional Strategy are**
  - **Maintenance, improvement and enlarging of the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) with standardized procedures for data collection and use of remote sensing for quick appraisal of large fires impacts, as a tool to identify the high risk zones, covering all Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and the Caucasus region**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- **EFFIS to set a fire danger prediction network covering all Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and the Caucasus**
- **Definition forest fire risk areas taking into account the fire incidence, fuels, value of forests, protected areas and forest-urban interfaces**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- **Analysis of forest fire emissions and impacts on human health**
- **Studies on the silvicultural conditions of woodland areas, including forest fuel and biomass maps, in coordination with the National Forest Inventories**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- **Analysis of socio-economic impacts of fires**
- **Studies on fire causes, including the use of fire at the rural areas and possible preventive actions in cooperation with the local population**
- **Creation and distribution of awareness materials in several languages**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- **Programmes of preventive infrastructures: preventive silviculture, roads, lookouts, water reservoirs**
- **Joint actions on border areas, where appropriate, such as observation and monitoring networks with compatible communication systems (considering languages)**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- **Promotion of bilateral and multilateral agreements for cooperation, where appropriate, in suppression activities, including standardized procedures of integration of resources**
- **International training courses**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- **Programmes for burned areas restoration, giving priority to the surfaces destroyed by large, intense fires, where the environmental impact is the greatest**



## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- 6. These Recommendations for a Regional Strategy are to be presented to the international bodies competent in the Region, like a contribution to the build up of a Global (Regional) Strategy of Cooperation in Fire Management**

## ***Conclusions and Recommendations:***

- 7. It is also recommended that a Regional Consultation on Global Change and Wildland Fire will be convened within the next 2 years to progress to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference**

# Thank You



**Regional Session D:**  
**Eastern Baltic, Central Asia, and**  
**Northeast Asia**

**Leonid Kondrashov**

Pacific Forest Forum

Regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network

Khabarovsk, Russian Federation

## ***The Fire Situation in the Eastern Baltic, Central and Northeast Asia Regions***

- 1) An increase in fire occurrence, area burnt and environmental impacts caused by wildland fires - but in different patterns and extent in the regions;**

- 2) In most countries the damage from wildland fires and costs of suppression, their influence on human health and well-being are become more noticeable; the fires in vulnerable areas (radioactive contamination, peatlands) represent a high risk;**
  
- 3) The scale and transboundary effects of fires demand the development of international cooperation:**

- 4) In the majority of cases fires are caused by humans;**
- 5) There is no international (regional) operational mechanism in place allowing joint, multinational response to suppress large-scale, catastrophic fires;**
- 6) There is a noticeable progress in using prescribed fires**

## ***Recommendations of Regional Session “D”:***

**To foster the bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of wildland fire management, realization of joint research and practical projects advancing the knowledge on wildland fires;**

**To promote utilization of advanced methods and instruments of fire monitoring and taking fast decisions;**



- To develop a system of fire specialists training and awareness-rising of the population on the role and impacts of wildland fires and the rules of fire prevention;**
- To implement standards and guidelines aimed at harmonizing and coordinating international cooperation in fire management, notably the “Fire Management: Voluntary Guidelines. Principles and Strategic Actions”;**

**To support the efforts of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network, the Regional Wildland Fire Networks and the Secretariat of the global network, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), in fostering international cooperation in fire management, including in collecting and disseminating the fire information, arranging and enhancing the international policy dialogue, support of projects, etc.;**

**To promote the establishing of an International Wildland Fire Training Center, which would also have the function of a Regional Fire Monitoring Center in one of the NEA countries;**

**To invite members of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network as experts and technical specialists in the elaboration of solutions in complex national and international disputes and problems.**

**The participants of the Regional Session “D” urge authorities and international organizations to provide the financial and technical assistance to the Global Wildland Fire Network, and in particular to the three regional networks.**

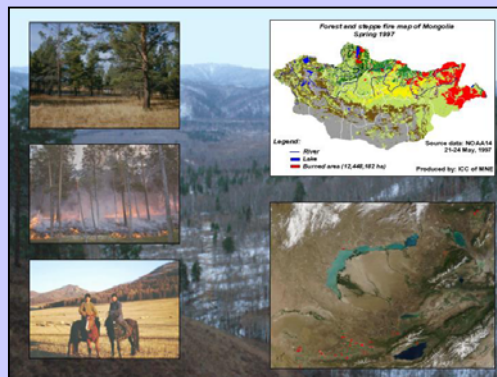
***The participants of the Regional Session  
“D” recommend to the 4th International  
Wildland Fire Conference:***

**That a series of Regional Consultations tentatively addressing “Global Change and Wildland Fire: Regional Solutions for Fire Management” – be held globally, within the next 1-2 years, to progress the global issues which are impacting on the geographic areas covered in this 4th International Wildland Fire Conference’s regional sessions.**

**That the 2nd International Wildland Fire Summit – tentatively addressing “Global Change and Wildland Fire: Fire Management Solutions for Mitigation and Adaptation” – be held within the next 2 to 4 years under the auspices of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group, aimed, among other, at developing a non-legally binding international accord on cooperation in fire management.**

**The Regional Session proposes that the participating networks shall conduct regional preparatory consultations within the next two years.**

# Thank You





**Regional Session E:**  
**South and Southeast Asia**

**Mr. Sundar Sharma**

Ministry of Water Resources

Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network

Kathmandu, Nepal

## **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

- **Develop human resources, formulate legal frameworks and strategies, conduct national fire and fire management assessments, build sustainable fire management capabilities and institutions**
- **Give emphasis to improvement of participatory / community-based fire management approaches**

- **Promote education and awareness-raising programmes**
- **Enhance cooperation among countries within the two regions and at inter-regional levels, aimed at sharing technology, expertise and data**
- **Encourage the endorsement and use of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines**

- **Endorse the objectives of work of the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network and Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)**
- **Support the implementation of building fire management capability at both local and national levels, as well as through bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements**
- **Establish a Regional Fire Monitoring Center**

- **Support the application of**
  - **the non-legally binding instrument under the auspices of the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF)**
  - **the International Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Fire Management**
  - **the recommendations by FAO-COFO / Ministerial Meeting 2005, and FAO-COFO 2007**

- **Encourage all possible donors, including national, international, bi-lateral, multi-lateral and private foundations, to provide financial and technical**
- **Promote rehabilitation and sustainable use of all vegetation types and support the implementation the existing management strategies, procedures, and practices (e.g. APMS, SOP, application of prescribed burning)**

- **Address issues on transboundary haze pollution, including biodiversity conservation, socio-economic development, alternative livelihoods, and multi-stakeholder and multi-agency involvement using an ecosystem approach at all levels**
- **Promote multi-stakeholder participation and coordinated efforts at international, regional, national and local levels**

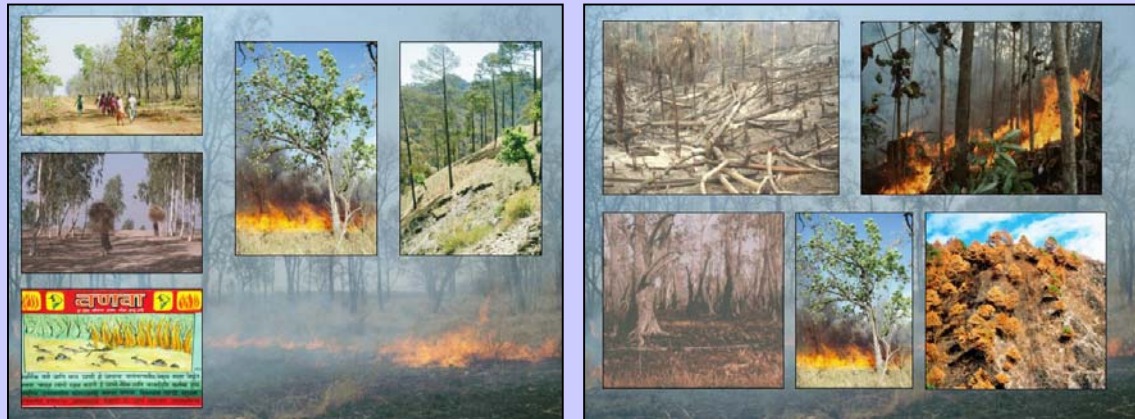
- **Disseminate controlled burning practices and alternatives for shifting cultivation for the local community**
- **Develop strategies to mobilise and channel resources to support preventive and mitigation measures and explore innovative financing options**
- **Ensure building and financing of sustainable structures and institutions at all levels responsible for fire management and / or inter-agency / multi-stakeholder involvement**



- **Provide the financial support to UNISDR GWAG the Global Wildland Fire Network and its secretariat GFMC, and in particular to the respective regional Networks by national authorities and international organizations**
- **Promote inter-regional cooperation, including joint investigations, joint fire management demonstration projects, consultations, and conferences**

- **Foster cooperation, including regular annual meetings of the regional networks and project implementation, regional consultations and summits addressing the issues in wider perspectives (e.g. Global Climate Change, development of an international accord) under the auspices of UNISDR**
- **Encourage countries to develop cooperative and collective actions**
- **Ensure that the outcomes of the previous meetings, conferences, consultations**

# Thank You



**Regional Session F:**  
**Sub-Sahara Africa**

**Mr. Mmaphaka Tau**

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry  
Regional Subsahara Africa Wildland Fire Network  
Pretoria, South Africa

## **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

- 1. In accord with the desire to see further action on global issues impacting on wildland fire within Sub-Saharan Africa, the Regional Session proposes that the collaborators from Southern, Central, East and West Africa South of the Sahara shall hold a Regional Consultation within the next two years under the auspices of AfriFireNet.**

- 2. To support actively regional fire management cooperation efforts. Namely the use and expansion of existing regional expertise within Sub-Saharan Africa countries.**
  
- 3. To support common regional standards, namely Standard Operating Procedures and organisational structures in fire management (i.e. ICS) in order to facilitate cross border cooperation.**

- 4. To actively support efforts in fire management capacity building, in order to build operational excellence including the purchase of basic fire management equipment, implementation of fire fighting training at all levels. (Suggesting the establishment of a Sub-Saharan Africa Wildland Fire Training College as a Centre of Excellence.)**

- 5. To confirm that Integrated Fire Management is defined as a series of actions that includes fire awareness activities, fire prevention activities, prescribed burning, resource sharing and co-ordination, fire detection, fire suppression and fire damage rehabilitation at local, provincial and national levels in order to create a sustainable and well balanced environment, reduce unwanted wildfire damage and promote the beneficial use of fire.**



- 6. To actively support the implementation of IFM including multi-partner organisational, institutional structures in Sub-Saharan Africa countries.**
- 7. To encourage the incorporation of the FAO Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines in national fire management plans.**
- 8. To integrate poverty reduction and social development efforts into fire management programmes.**

- 9. To link Carbon sequestration initiatives with integrated fire management.**
- 10. To promote and support the regional exchange of information, knowledge management, expertise and resources, including disaster assistance measures, through Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements with governments and the AfriFireNet network.**

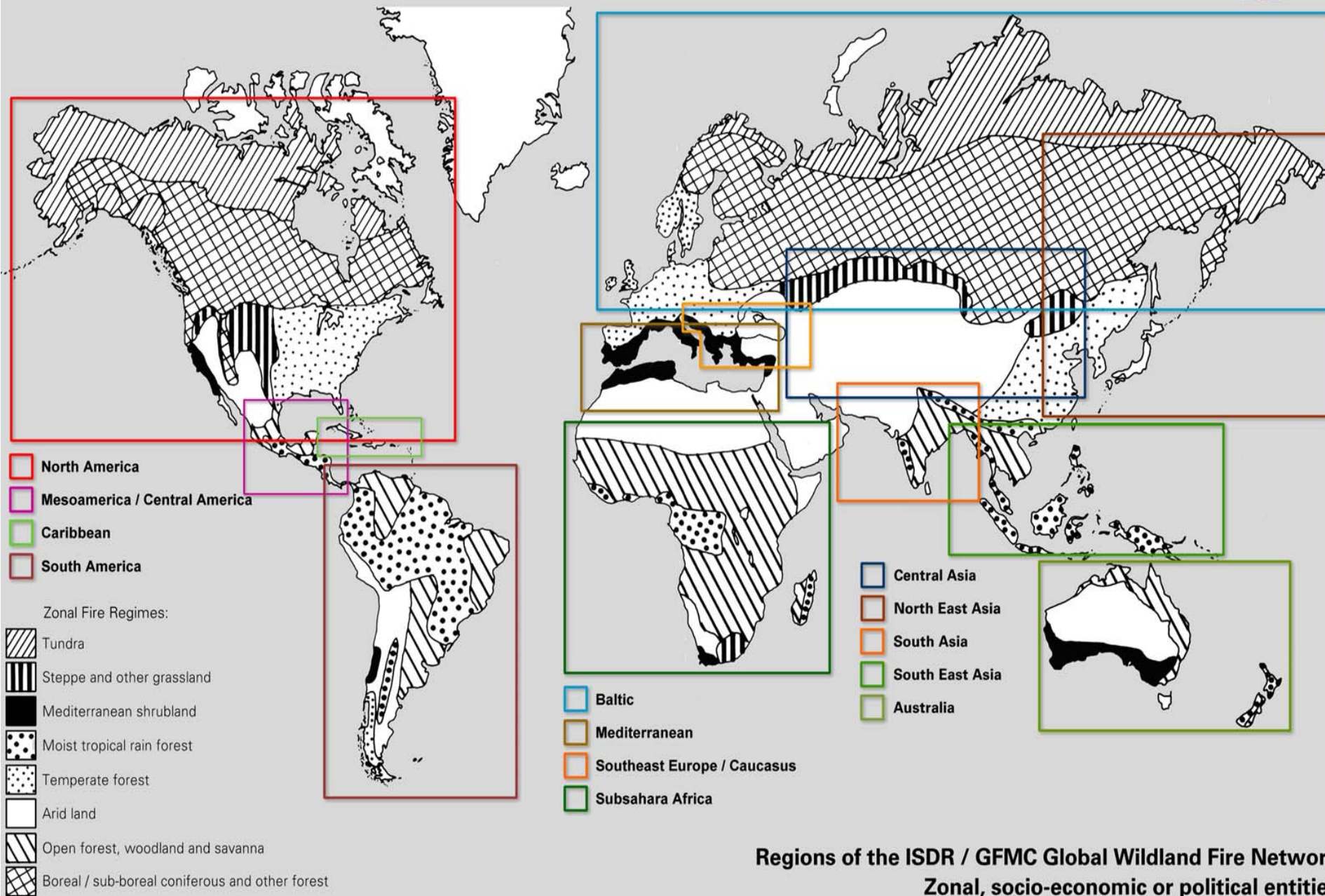
- 11. To strengthen and to harmonize the initiatives of the Global Wildland Fire Network, its regional initiative AfriFireNet and the Southern African Fire Network SAFNET.**
  
- 12. To highlight the need for skill transfer into communities and community participative approaches in order to counter the growing number of unwanted fire ignitions.**

**We are announcing that  
AfriFireNet with partners will  
host the 5<sup>th</sup> International  
Wildland Fire Conference in  
South Africa in 2011**

# Thank You



# The UN-ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network



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