User Needs Perspectives – Fire Management

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

Regional Networks

- Subsahara Africa
- South East Asia
- South Asia
- Central Asia
- North East Asia / Pan Asia Network Cluster
- Australasia
- Eurasia
- South East Europe / Caucasus
- Mediterranean
- Euro-Alpine
- South America
- North America
- Mesoamerica
- Caribbean

Relevant Network outside GWFN:

- European Union Forest Fire Expert Team / EFFIS
Partners (II)

International Organizations

- UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- UN Specialized agencies: WMO, WHO, UNEP, OCHA, UNESCO
- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- United Nations University (UNU) / GFMC
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- Council of Europe (EUR-OPA)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative
- Green Cross International
- Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC / GOLD)
Objectives of Work 2011-2015 (I)

Implement the recommendations of the International Wildland Fire Conferences, notably the development of:

- Common international principles or standards in fire management
- A Global and a set of Regional Agreements on Transboundary Cooperation in Fire Management
- Sharing resources in capacity building in fire management, including cooperation in wildfire emergency response
- International policies addressing global change and fire
Objectives of Work 2011-2015 (II)

Emphasis to address:

- Impacts of institutional reforms / reorganization on governance in fire management

- International financing schemes for supporting the fire management sector as a contributor in environmental protection

- Increasing impacts of interactions in land use / fire use, wildfires and climate change on natural and human-altered wetlands (peat bogs, mires, marshes), high-altitude fires, and society (human health and security)
Objectives of Work 2011-2015 (III)

Strengthen intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation in fire management:

- Building of Regional Fire Centers
  - Centers of Excellence for operating at the science-management-policy interfaces at regional neighborhood level
Main functions of “Regional Fire Centers” (I)

- A Regional Fire Center (RFC) is serving as a regional open fire information repository:
  Public provision (online and on request) of all information relevant to vegetation fires, e.g.,
  - Conventional databases, statistics
  - Scientific and technical literature, narratives, reports
    (often / mainly grey literature, which is normally hardly accessible)

- Science-technology interface
  Provision of an instrument in the region that will serve the need bring wildland fire and related sciences into a readable format to policy makers and practitioners.
Main functions of “Regional Fire Centers” (II)

- **Monitoring and information dissemination**
  In the ideal case an RFC would have own capabilities or a partner institution delivering information / monitoring
  - Fire precursors (fire early warning, fire danger rating)
  - Active fires (ongoing fires, current situation)
  - Fire impacts (area burned, fire damage / impact assessment)

- **Capacity building: Training and outreach**
  Following the philosophy and the economic needs for sharing resources in the region:
  - Conducting national and regional training courses, continuous education, seminars, workshops, conferences on ....
Main functions of “Regional Fire Centers” (III)

- **Advisory support to nations and to the regional entities: Building of national and regional fire management policies**
  - The RFCs serve countries and regional bodies on request and will provide advice to governments or governing bodies of regional entities to develop and implement fire management policies
  - Support participating countries of the region to develop informal or formal agreements / protocols for cross-boundary cooperation in fire management

- **International nexus: Regional and global networking**
  RFCs are supporting or serving as Secretariats of Regional Wildland Fire Networks and ensure inputs of regional interests in the Global Wildland Fire Network
Regional Fire Centers

- South East Europe / Caucasus: Based in Skopje, FYROM (since 2009)

New partnership with the Balkan Environment Center (BEC) / Aristotelion University of Thessaloniki and the National Observatory of Forest Fires

See next presentation by Ioannis Gitas and George Zalidis
Regional Fire Centers

- South East Europe / Caucasus: Based in Skopje, FYROM (since 2009)

Enhanced partnership with the Fire Management Training Center (Antalya, Turkey)

- Regional fire management training for SE Europe, South Caucasus, Near East and Middle East
Use of Competency-based Training Materials for Firefighters: EuroFire Standards

http://www.euro-fire.eu/
Use of Competency-based Training Materials for Firefighters: EuroFire Standards

http://www.euro-fire.eu/
Regional Fire Centers

- Regional Eastern Europe Fire Monitoring Center (REEFMC)
- Регіонального Східноєвропейського Центру моніторингу пожеж:
- Based in Ukraine

Inaugurated
6 March 2013
Regional Fire Centers

- Regional Eastern Europe Fire Monitoring Center (REEFMC)
- Регіонального Східноєвропейського Центру моніторингу пожеж:
- Based in Ukraine
Regional Fire Centers

- South Asia: Based in Nepal (under construction)

Precursor activities:

Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network with emphasis on Community-Based Fire Management and self-generated satellite intelligence

- **2009**
  - Burning days: 126
  - Total active fires: 2137 (1 Jan - 31 Dec 2009)

- **2010**
  - Burning days: 154
  - Total active fires: 2793 (1 Jan - 31 Dec 2010)

- **2011**
  - Burning days: 148
  - Total active fires: 1613 (1 Jan - 31 Dec 2011)

- **2012**
  - Burning days: 151
  - Total active fires: 3247 (1 Jan – 5 Nov 2012)
Regional Fire Centers

- South Asia: Based in Nepal (under construction)

**ICIMOD and Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation launch near real-time forest fire alert system**

Kathmandu, 12 April 2013

Officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan received training from USFS, NASA, and SERVIR-Himalaya (an initiative at ICIMOD supported USAID and NASA) - on operational forest fire detection and monitoring systems equipped with SMS and email alerts.
Regional Fire Centers

- Central Asia: Based in Mongolia (under construction)

Fire escaped from RUSSIA to MONGOLIA, 21 April 2008

Переход пожара из России в Монголию, 21 апреля 2008
Regional Fire Centers

- Central Asia: Based in Mongolia

Delivery of operational fire maps

02 April 2013
Regional Fire Centers

- Central Asia: Based in Mongolia

Regional Dialogue in Cross-Boundary Fire Management
Regional Fire Centers

- Central Asia: Based in Mongolia

Regional Dialogue in Cross-Boundary Fire Management

International Multi-Lingual Fire Management Glossary: Russian and Mongolian added
Regional Fire Centers

- Southern Africa: Component 1 of SADC Regional Fire Management Programme (evolving with SAFNet support)

- Encourage Philip Frost (SAFNet) and Anja Hoffman (GOFC-GOLD Regional Fire Networks Coordinator) to comment
Recent experiences of inter-regional exchange (I)

Inter-regional Network Cooperation

➢ South America / Africa:

Transcontinental dialogue started in 2012
Recent experiences of inter-regional exchange (II)

Inter-regional Network Cooperation

- Pan-Asia: 4 Regional Networks interacting (NE Asia, SE Asia, South Asia and Central Asia) with participation of the Eurasia Network
Major recent international / UN activities (I)

WMO / IGAC / ILEAPS

Definition of a new activity
“Interdisciplinary Biomass Burning Initiative” (IBBI)

- Scientific consultation at the UN
  (5-6 July 2012, Geneva, Switzerland)

- See presentation by Johannes Kaiser

**IGAC**: International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Project
**ILEAPS**: Integrated Land Ecosystem Atmosphere Processes Study (ILEAPS)
Major recent international / UN activities (II)

UN Inter-Agency Coordination

Consultation on “Global Wildland Fire”, led by UNISDR and UNECE, facilitated by GFMC (29 June 2012)

- Participation: UNEP, OCHA, FAO, WHO, World Bank, OSCE

- The meeting discussed in an informal open setting issues related to UN coherence, role and responsibilities related to wildland fires
Upcoming Activities (I)

UNECE / FAO Regional Conference on Cross-boundary Fire Management to be hosted by the United Nations, Geneva, (27) 28-29 November 2013

Objectives – Regional and Global

- Elaboration of a proposal for the development of an UNECE-wide agreement on “Cross-boundary Fire Management”
- Receiving advisory inputs from other regions (e.g., ASEAN, SADC, EU, APEC …)
- Resulting in mutual benefits for UNECE and other regions for enhancing transboundary cooperation in fire management
Upcoming Activities (II)

6th International Wildland Fire Conference

Korea Forest Service and the Korea Forest Research Research Institute will host the Conference
Date: 12-16 October 2015

http://www.wildfire2015.kr