



UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network

Between the 5th and the 6th International Wildland Fire Conferences the following activities have been accomplished:

1st International Conference on Wildfire in Natural Resources Lands

Islamic Republic of Iran, Gorgan, October 2011

The Conference was organized from 26 to 27 October 2011 in Gorgan, Iran, with participation of more than 200 participants from Iran and nine other countries. The Regional Southeast European/Caucasus Wildland Network and Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC) was represented by Macedonia, Turkey and Greece.

Enhancing National Capacity on Fire Management and Wildfire Disaster Risk Reduction in the South Caucasus Azerbaijan

Forest Fire Management Training and Second National Round Table on Forest Fire Management Baku and Gabala, Azerbaijan, September 2012

In the frame of the project, GFMC in partnership with the Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC) and experts from the UNISDR Regional SE Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network a training courses was organized in Gabala, Azerbaijan, followed by a Local and the Second National Round Table on Fire Management.

International Symposium on Strategy Development of Advanced Forest International Symposium on Strategy Development of Advanced Forest Fire Policy and Organization

Seoul, Republic of Korea, January 2013

This symposium was hosted by the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and co-sponsored by the Korea Forest Service (KFS) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), with inputs of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire and the UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe and Eurasia Wildland Fire Networks.

The GREEN STAR Awards 2013

Geneva, September 2013

A select group of outstanding individuals and organizations from around the world, who have confronted environmental emergencies ranging from the Fukushima nuclear disaster and Hurricane Sandy, to forest fires and climate change, were honoured on 2 September 2013 as recipients of the third Green Star Awards. The biennial Green Star Awards are a joint initiative between the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Green Cross International and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Joint award for Wildfire Disaster Risk Reduction: Nikola Nikolov (Macedonia), Sundar P. Sharma (Nepal) and Sergiy Zibtsev (Ukraine)

International Congress on Forest Fire and Climate Change: Challenges for Fire Management in Natural and Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia

Novosibirsk, Russia, November 2013

and

UNECE / FAO Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management

United Nations, Geneva, November 2013

Project: Development of Guidelines for the Defense of Rural Populations, Settlements and other Assets Against Wildfires and Smoke Pollution – with the EuroFire Standards

2012-2013

Funded by the Council of Europe and the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) in cooperation with the

- European Centre on Forest Fires (ECFF), Athens, Greece
- Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Freiburg, Germany
- Regional SE Europe / Caucasus Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC), Skopje, Macedonia
- Regional Eastern European Fire Monitoring Center (REEFMC), Kiev, Ukraine

Regional Fire Management Training for South Caucasus and Western Balkans

Antalya, Turkey, October 2014

The training was held in the frame of the OSCE/ENVSEC project "Enhancing National Capacity on Fire Management and Wildfire Disaster Risk Reduction in the South Caucasus" in the Fire Management Training Center, Antalya. The Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC), through the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), was actively engaged in all phases of the organization of the training. About 60 participants were part of the training as representatives of 11 countries of the Regional Southeast European/Caucasus Wildland Fire Network (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and Kosovo) and OSCE. The host institution of the training was Turkish General Directorate of Forestry.

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Within the last five years wildland fires in the region of Southeast Europe/Caucasus have a significant influence to the environment and economy. Especially it is the case with the Balkan region in the fire season of 2012. Around 16,000 wildland fires occurred and burned around 232,000 ha of forest and other land. Cases of wildfire-caused fatalities were experienced in Macedonia (4) and Serbia (12) and large numbers of people (civilians and firefighters) have been injured, as well. Large number private and public properties were destroyed, as well.

The main reason for wildland fires in the region are agricultural burning, negligence and in some countries arson. Arson is mainly motivated by illegal logging and low price of timber harvested by after the fires; political discontent is also a motivation for arson. Natural caused fires (lightning) are less than 3% from the total number of wildland fires in the Region of Southeastern Europe/Caucasus. A special issue in the region is fire management on terrains contaminated by land mines and unexploded ordinance-UXO.



Regional Wildland Fire Networks: North America – Mesoamerica – South America – Caribbean – Mediterranean – Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Euro-Alpine – Near East – Sub-Sahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia – Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia – Eurasia

