



The Global Wildland Fire Network
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
Regional South East European / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network

COUNTRY REPORT
of Republic of Serbia

Notice: The data and information should to be for the last ten years, with accent on updated information of the year 2007

1. Assessment of fire situation in the country, including:

1.1 Extent: Number, area and types of forests and other vegetation affected by fire

Please provide the best statistical information based on earlier country reports (last 10 years).

Please provide data of 2007, even if preliminary!!

Period	Total No. of Fires on Forest, Other Wooded Land, & Other Land	Total Area Burned on Forest, Other Wooded Land, & Other Land	Area of Forest Burned	Area of Other Wooded Land Burned	Human Causes	Natural Causes	Unknown Causes
	No.	Ha	Ha	Ha	% of No.	% of No.	% of No.
2005	15	63	53	10	100	0	0
2006	29	569	537	31	94	0	6
2007	482	34 001	16582	17 414	80	2	18

Republic of Serbia	Fires on Forest Other Wooded Land No.	Total Area Burned on Forest, Other Wooded Land						Kind of forests fire		
		State forests ha			Private forests ha			Total Area Burned on Forest, Other Wooded Land, & Other Land Ha	Crown Ha	Ground Ha
		Area of Forest Burned Ha	Area of Other Wooded Land Burned Ha	Total Area burned Ha	Area of Forest Burned Ha	Area of Other Wooded Land Burned Ha	Total Area burned			
		Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	
487	7 878	4 682	12 560	8709	12732	21 441	34 001	2837	31 164	

1.2 Causes of wildfires, reasons or underlying causes of human-ignited fires

Please focus on 2007, but compare with earlier years.

Forest fires in Serbia were in 80% caused by human in 2007. . Agriculture burning was the main reason or inobservance. Very similar situation were in past.

Climat changes also influenced on forest fire situation and caused so big number of fires (very low level of rainfall in period autumn-winter 2006. and spring-summer 2007. as well as unusual high temperature, unrecorded in last 100 years in summer months).

Looking at the graph we can see periods with less and larger area of forest burned and when we compared it with meteorological data, we concluded that area of forest burned was larger in years of drought and less in usual weather condition for our country.

Also, according to the graph, maximums of burnt forest area (from 1990-2007) rapidly going up in droughtly years.



Data sources: Directorate of forests

1.3 Description of selected extreme fires in 2007

Extreme fire situation in 2007 only.

2007./ Month	Fires on Forest, Other Wooded Land	Total Area Burned on Forest, Other Wooded Land
	No.	Ha
January- April	231	3 946
May	2	69
June	23	357
July	208	28773
August	7	856
Total 2007.	487	34 001

During the year we had two crucial period when fire were flaming everywhere.

First extreme fire situation happened in April, caused in most cases by agricultural burning, after autumn and spring without rainfall.

Second extreme fire situation was in July.

Drought period was proceeding, while high temperature got maximum (in urban regions 44-45⁰ C, in mountains about 30⁰C and more).

Review of number forest fires and surfaces burned areas by month

1.4 Fire Damages in 2007 (social, economic and environmental)

Please focus on 2007, but also compare with earlier years.

:

Review of preliminary data of damages

Republic of Serbia	Total Area Burned on Forest, Other Wooded Land	Area of Forest Burned	Direct Damages	Indirect Damages	Costs of Extinction-Blackout-	Recovery-Rehabilitation Sanacija	Total costs
	Ha	Ha	€	€	€	€	€
	34 001	16582	4 336 039€	20 902 118€	422 863€	5 869 811€	31 530 831

Compared with damages in earlier years (1990.-2007.), considering on area of forest burned, we have maximum this year, also is the same with direct damages, indirect , costs of recovery and total costs.

Especially, this year we had a very big numbers of fires in National parks and protected areas.

National park	Number of fires No.	Total Area Burned on Forest, Other Wooded Land Ha
PE NP „Đerdap“	82	707
PE NP “Tara”	5	95
SRN “Deliblato sands”	1	592
Park of nature “Stara planina”	5	1 390
Total	90	2 784

1.5 Fire prevention measures in 2007

Please focus on 2007: Please describe the public, organizational and technical measures of prevention of fires at the time when the heat and drought escalated in summer 2007.

Usual measures we carried out in the beginning of the year, according to the Fire protection Law and Forestry Law :

- Public enterprises made Plans of protection against forest fires and , conveyed them to the commanders of units of fire department in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as to commanders of fire brigades and representatives of the Community.

- Republic forest inspectors in January-March controlled Plans..., objects and equipment for the fire protection of forests.

Also, Directorate of forests and Sector for fire prevention and rescue improved cooperation in the beginning of the year. We organised seminars with all subjects involved in forest fire protection. (analysed current state and equipment, as well as possibility of communication improvement).

New measures were established when the heat and drought escalated in summer :

- The Fire Suppression Headquarters established by Government and also at local level .

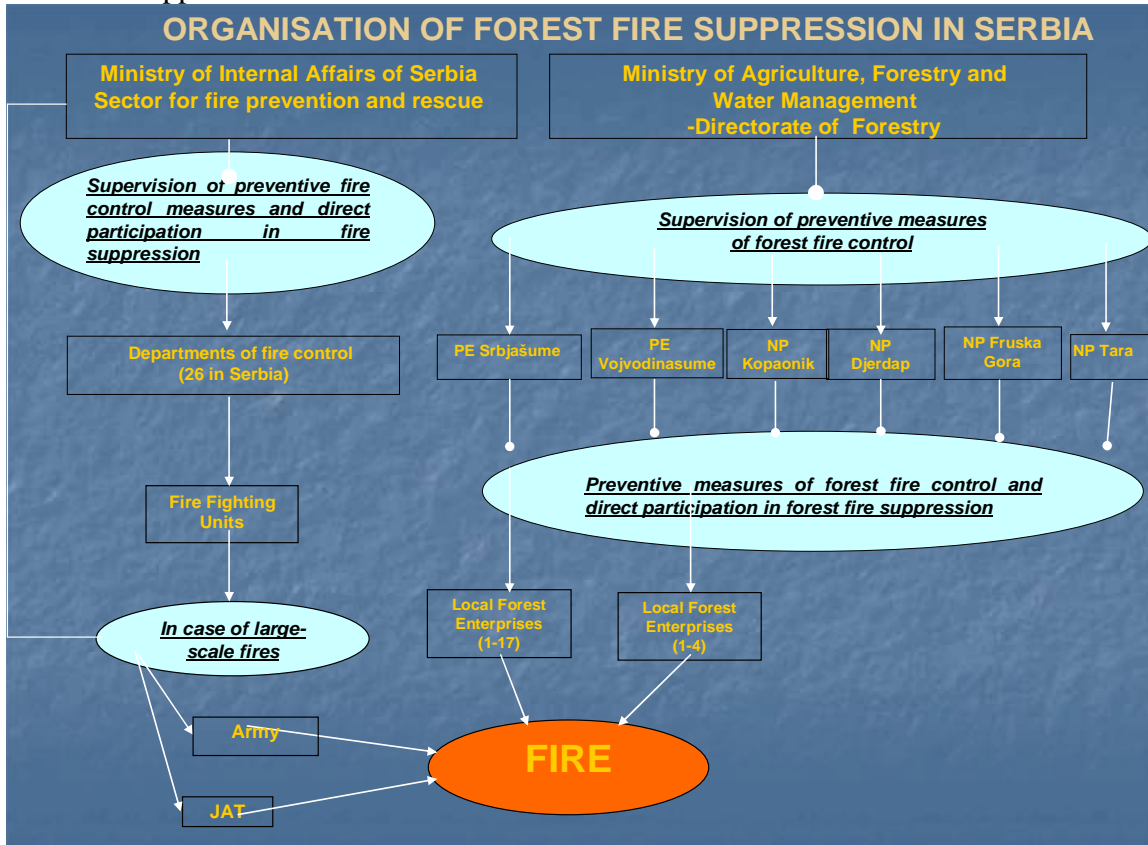
- Public enterprises established active attendance during 24 hours.

- Forest sector organised Press conferences every day in July with intention to inform and appeal ...public.

1.6 Response to fires in 2007 : Fire suppression

Please focus on 2007: Please describe the response to fires in 2007 only.

Pursuant to Law of Fire protection and Law of Forestry we have next scheme of organisation of forest fire suppression:



When the lookout observers (foresters) detect a forest fire, they immediately inform the fire warden unit, headed by the forest officer. The crew goes to the site of forest fire and undertakes fire suppression. The action of forest fire fighting is directed by the chief forest officer, who is in permanent contact with the officer on duty within the local forestry enterprise.

If it is estimated that the unit cannot extinguish the fire on their own, they inform the Fire Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia. Then, pursuant to the Fire Protection Law, the action of forest fire suppression is undertaken by the Commander of the fire crew unit.

If it is the case of a large-scale fire, the responsible officers at the Headquarters of the Public Enterprise are informed, i.e. the Executive Director of the Sector for Forestry and Wildlife Management. The authorised sector of the Headquarters can demand the engagement of the Army, and also of other institutions, for the jobs of forest fire suppression. In the case when several institutions participate in the suppression of forest fires, it is obligatory to form the Fire Suppression Headquarters, consisting of the presidents of all institutions.

Organisational structure and units/persons responsible for organization of protection from forest fire and extinction in PE "Srbijašume" or PE "Vojvodinašume" are:

- *General direction - Sector for silviculture and protection of forests;*
- *Forest estate - independent officer for silviculture and protection of the forest;*
- *Local forestry enterprises or Forest Managing Unit (FMU) – chief of FMU;*
- *Forest section – forest engeneer;*
- *Operation units – forester.*

Moreover, regular police, Army, hunters, organised in Hunting Association of Serbia, participated in fire suppression this year, as well as local population and others.

2. National cooperation in responding to the 2007 fires (inter-agency, involvement of civil society)

Please describe very **briefly** the involvement the following actors and partners:

Cooperation between Sector of forestry (MAFWM-Directorate of forests, Public enterprises and National parks) and Ministry of Internal Affairs -Sector for fire prevention and rescue and Ministry of defense was very efficient.

Civil society didn't have important role in fire suppression this year. The most number of civil societies exist in AP Vojvodina (traditionally), but this year we have very little number of forest fires there.

Also, in another part of Republic civil societies are occuring individually and thay haven't inportant role.

2.1 Role / action of agencies at national and provincial level

Please focus on 2007 and describe the response to fires in 2007 only.

Cooperation between agencies at national and provincial levels was very efficient.

2.2 Role / action of local communities

Please focus on 2007 and describe the response to fires in 2007 only.

It is interesting to say that earlier years it was better response of local communities than this year.

3. International cooperation

Please focus on 2007 and describe the cooperation with neighbouring countries / other countries and organizations in responding to the 2007 wildfires.

Ministry of Internal Affairs had good cooperation with Republic of Bulgaria in border line (fire was crossing the border few times) .

3.1 Receiving assistance

Please summarize the assistance received from neighbour countries and other countries (if any), please describe the role and functioning of the mechanisms to request and receive assistance in 2007.

Republic of Serbia received assistance from Russia. They sent us plain "Iljusin", which we used in fire suppression in July, at locations where we cannot stop fire long time and it takes big areas.

Plane was used in next location: Stara planina, Svrliške planine, Kuršumlija Deliblatska peščara.

3.2 Providing assistance

Please summarize the assistance provided to neighbour countries and other countries (if any), please describe the role and functioning of the mechanisms to successfully provide assistance in 2007.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia, Sector for fire prevention and rescue sent in Greece help which include 55 firemans and 6 special motor vehicle for fire suppression.

4. Analysis and recommendations

Please provide an official or personal analysis of the situation in 2007 and give recommendations for actions needed at local, provincial, national and regional / international levels

Defined problems:

1. Inadequacy in the application and outdated legal principles regarding to protection of forest fires;
2. Lack of human resources for preventive and repressive measures,
3. Inadequacy in material and technical equipment of all subjects to enforcement measures for fire protection
4. Lack of educational measures for firemans and headquarters
5. Lack of unique way of informing
6. Unless Weak information for public
7. Most of forests did not enough opened with communication net, especially roads (insufficient of approach when needed) firebreak tracks

Recommendation interesting for international cooperation:

1. Organisation of training courses for firemans and headquarters
2. Definition of procedures for receiving and providing assistance from neighbour countries and other countries
3. Establishment of unique terms definition and elements for data base.

5. References / Sources

Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management, Directorate of forests
Public enterprises "Srbijašume", "Vojvodinašume",
National parks "Tara", "Fruška Gora", "Djerdap"