



**Joint Meeting of the
Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network
International Liaison Committee (ILC)
Fire Management Actions Alliance Advisory Group
4-6 and 7 July 2008, Freiburg, Germany**

Final Draft Agenda
Status: 4 July 2008

Background, Rationale and Objectives of the Meeting

The Wildland Fire Advisory Group is serving as an advisory body to the United Nations system and is operating under the auspices of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). The group includes members of civil society and agencies of countries organized in Regional Wildland Fire Networks / Global Wildland Fire Network, as well as members of international organizations (UN, non UN). For details: See WFAG Member List (Status: 30 April 2008) on WFAG website: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/task%20force/tf-working-groups4-eng.htm>

The Wildland Fire Advisory Group is supporting the work of the International Liaison Committee of the International Wildland Fire Conferences. The 4th International Wildland Fire Conference concluded, among other (Annex):

- The UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network, the Regional Wildland Fire Networks and the Secretariat of the global network, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), be supported by national agencies and international donors aimed at fostering international cooperation in fire management, including collecting and disseminating fire information, arranging and enhancing international policy dialogue, and supporting projects;
- 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 that are impacting people, resources and livelihoods;
- 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 United Nations and partners.

Whereas the larger financial support for the Global Wildland Fire Network is not yet in place, there is a need to address the second and third recommendation.

The meeting will provide opportunity to discuss the necessary steps to be taken. Besides a presentation of the status of the fire situation in the regions the following items will be presented and discussed:

- Activities of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks 2007-2011, notably the Regional Consultations to address “Global Change and Wildland Fire: Regional Solutions for Fire Management”
- Creation of a sub-regional network in the European Alpine region
- Discussion about the options for a 2nd International Wildland Fire Summit
- Status of the Fire Management Actions Alliance (a business meeting for the Actions Alliance Advisory Group will be conducted separately without involving the whole WFAG group)
- Financing of the outreach activities of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks
- 5th International Wildland Fire Conference (South Africa, 2011) (a business meeting for the ILC will be conducted separately without involving the whole WFAG group, on 7 July 2008)
- Status and prospects for the Global Wildland Fire Early Warning System
- Global Wildland Fire Assessment 2010 (ground – with FAO, Space with GOFC-GOLD)
- The Rosersberg Initiative – towards improvement of preparedness to and governance in responding to environmental emergencies, including wildfires, through international cooperation

- Other topics to be added, general discussion

Outputs of the Meeting

The meeting outputs will include:

- Definition of priorities of actions of the Regional / Global Wildland Fire Network / Wildland Fire Advisory Group for the timeframe 2008-2011
- Proposal for enhanced financing / co-financing of the networks
- Proposal for a 2nd International Wildland Fire Summit
- Reflections and recommendations concerning the Global Wildland Fire Early Warning System and the Global Wildland Fire Assessment 2010
- Agenda for the contribution of the Global Wildland Fire Network to the "Rosenberg Initiative"
- Statement of the Meeting on Global Change and Wildland Fire prepared.

Furthermore, the ILC will agree on a strategic plan for the preparation of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference (South Africa, 2011).

Venue, Date and Logistics

The meeting will be held at the Fire Ecology Research Group / Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), at Freiburg University Airport Campus, Freiburg, Germany, on the weekend 4-6 July 2008. For information on hotel location, transport to Freiburg from and to Frankfurt and Basel airports, please see the separate logistic sheet, or: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about3.html>. Registration forms have been submitted by attendees. A registration fee will cover the basic expenses for catering of joint coffee breaks and snacks (cf. logistics sheet).

Draft Programme

Friday 4 July 2008

14:15-14:30 Opening address by Mr. Johann G. Goldammer, Convener

14:30-16:00 Network Presentations (I)
Reports from the Regional Wildland Fire Networks (ca. 20 min. each)

North America

- The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc - A Risk Management Partnership Based on Interagency Cooperation" (Dennis Brown, CIFFC)
- Major fire issues in the U.S.A. 2006-2008 (Dale Dague, USDAFS)
- Reports of the NAFC Fire Management Working Group (Bill de Groot, CFS)
- International Cooperation with Australasia and other countries (Denny Truesdale, USDAFS)

Australasia

- Major fire issues in Australia and New Zealand 2006-2008 and report on AFAC / CRC activities (James Lonergan, NSW Department of Environment)

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-18:30 Network Presentations (II)

South America

- Major fire issues and Networking in South America 2006-2008 (Patricio Sanhueza, CONAF, Chile)

Mesoamerica

- Major fire issues and Networking in Mesoamerica 2006-2008 (Luis Diego, SINAC-MINAE / CONIFOR, Costa Rica)

Caribbean

- Major fire issues and Networking in the Caribbean 2006-2008 (Marcos Pedro Ramos, Universidad de Pinar del Río, Cuba)

Europe / Mediterranean

- Major fire issues and networking in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, including North Africa and Near East 2006-2008 (Ricardo Vélez; FAO Silva Mediterranea; Pieter van Lierop; FAO; N.N., JRC, European Commission)

Southeast Europe / Caucasus

- Major regional fire and networking issues 2006-2008 (Nikola Nikolov, Faculty of Forestry, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia)

Europe / Alpine

- Major fire issues in the Euro-Alpine Region: Rationale for the creation of a specific Alpine Wildland Fire (Sub-) Network Activity in Europe (Hartmut Gossow, University of Agricultural Sciences, Vienna, Austria)

18:30 Wrap up of Day 2

18:45 Joining the Summer Party of Freiburg University; alternatively icebreaker i.a.w. weather conditions

Saturday 5 July 2008

10:00-11:20 Network Presentations (III)

South Asia

- Major fire issues and networking in South Asia 2006-2008 (Sundar P. Sharma, Ministry of Water Resources, Nepal)

Northeast Asia

- Major fire issues and networking in North East Asia 2006-2008 (Dong Hyun Kim, Korea Forest Research Institute, Seoul, South Korea)

Central Asia

- Major fire issues and networking in Central Asia 2006-2008 (Leonid Kondrashov, Pacific Forest Forum, Russia)

Baltic Region and Russia

- Major fire issues and networking in the ECE Baltic Region / Russian Federation 2006-2008 (Nikolay Kovalev, Eduard P. Davidenko, Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC)

11:20-12:50 Coffee Break

11:50-13:00 Network Presentations (IV) and 5th International Wildland Fire Conference

South Africa

- Major fire issues and networking in Sub-Saharan Africa 2006-2008 (Alexander C. Held, AfriFireNet)
- Short information on the status of preparation of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference (South Africa, 2011) (Alexander C. Held, AfriFireNet)

Note: This presentation will precede a specific side meeting of the ILC on 7 July 2008.

14:00-15:30 Thematic Issues / Cooperation with International Organizations (I)

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

- Decisions and ongoing projects concerning ITTO's activities in forest protection (John Leigh, ITTO)

International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF)

- Recent initiatives of the CTIF Forest Fires Commission, including the EuroFire project (Mark Jones, CTIF Forest Fires Commission)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Thematic Issues / Cooperation with International Organizations (II)

UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR)

- Recent developments and prospects of the Multi-Hazard Global Early Warning System (Douglas Pattie, UNISDR Platform for Promotion of Early Warning)

International Consortium for the Development of the Global Early Warning System for Wildland Fire

- Status report on the development of the proposed Global Early Warning System for Wildland Fire (Bill de Groot, CFS)

Global Wildland Fire Assessment

- Basic discussion on procedures with GOFC-GOLD

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-18:00 Thematic Issues / Cooperation with International Organizations (III)

The Rosersberg Initiative (UN OCHA / AGEE)

- Towards improvement of preparedness to and governance in responding to environmental emergencies, including wildfires, through international cooperation (Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC)

Financing of the outreach activities of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks

- UN ISDR Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction: Resources mobilization for the envisaged „Regional scenarios on the expected impacts of global change, notably climate change, on altering fire regimes and increasing vulnerability of ecosystems to altered fire regimes” (Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC)

18:00 Wrap up of Day 2

Visit of Freiburg Summer Wine Festival

Sunday 6 July 2008

Field trip with final discussions, conclusions and wrap-up in the Black Forest.

- 08:50 h departure from Hotels; 09:10 h. Departure of local train from the Main Railway Station to the Black Forest; 09:44 Arrival Hinterzarten
- Transit by car / taxi to the Experimental Station of the Faculty of Forest and Environmental Science, Freiburg University
- Introductory presentation “Cultural and Fire History in the Black Forest and Central Europe” (Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC)
- Forest Walk, Coffee Break
- Final Discussions of WFAG meeting (open end)
- Bye-bye party with specialties from the Black Forest and Kaiserstuhl vineyards; Return to Freiburg by car / taxi > train

Monday 7 July 2008

Business side meeting of ILC (preparation of 5th International Wildland Fire Conference) and the Fire Management Actions Alliance Advisory Group (at GFMC building)

4th International Wildland Fire Conference

Sevilla, 17 May 2007

Conference Statement

As agreed by the Representatives of 13 Regional Wildland Fire Networks and Participants of the Joint Regional Sessions

The 4th International Wildland Fire Conference was held in Sevilla, Spain, 14-17 May 2007. The conference was held under the auspices of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Commission and hosted by the Government of Spain and the Regional Government of Andalusia. The conference brought together 1531 participants from 88 countries from throughout the world, representing government organizations and civil society from all regions of the world, the United Nations and other international organizations.

The participants of the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference presented the state-of-the art in fire science, fire management and fire management training in all continents. A commercial exhibition provided insight in innovative fire management technologies, including fire detection, monitoring, suppression, and firefighters and public health and safety. A number of organizations and international associations involved in the wildland fire arena held side meetings and recommended enhancing the international dialogue.

The FAO and partners presented progress in the development of a Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Fire Management, requested by the Ministerial Meeting in 2005. The Strategy is being progressed through a multi-stakeholder process and includes a Global Assessment of Fire Management, a Review of International Cooperation and Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines. During the Conference, and as part of the Strategy, the Fire Management Actions Alliance was launched to promote, implement and update the Voluntary Guidelines. At the time of the launching event 35 partners – national agencies, universities and international organizations – had signed up to the Alliance.

Fire management specialists, many of them organized and cooperating in Regional Wildland Fire Networks, reported the state of the fire situation in their home countries and in the 13 regions. With reference to the global developments impacting on the fire situation in the regions of the world, the national and regional analyses of the fire situation and a self-assessment of fire management capabilities, the representatives of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks and the participants of the joint regional sessions recognized the global issues impacting on fire occurrence and the consequences of fire on the environment and humans in the regions of the world, notably the

- Demographic changes resulting in alterations of sustainable fire regimes, e.g. the consequences of rural exodus or – vice-versa – exurban migrations, coupled with a loss of traditional, sustainable land-use systems;
- Widespread poverty associated with unemployment, exurban migrations and land tenure conflicts and resulting in increasing human-caused fires;
- Land-use change involving increasing fire use for conversion of vegetation, notably in the tropics, and expansion of land use to fire-sensitive lands, e.g., peatlands, drained or otherwise desiccating wetlands, and other fire-sensitive vegetation;
- Increasing costs of fire suppression;
- Expansion of the wildland-urban interface in some countries and increasing vulnerabilities and greater exposure of rural settlements to increasing occurrence of severely damaging fires;
- Consequences of, and the contribution to, climate change, resulting in increasing occurrence of extreme droughts in most regions, desiccation of wetlands, thawing of permafrost sites, and a general trend of increasing area burned, fire intensity, fire severity, and longer fire seasons;
- Human health and security threatened by increasing wildfire activity and land-use fires causing release of a greater amount of pollutants and resulting in greater public exposure to

hazardous emissions, including transboundary transport of fire smoke pollution at regional to global levels;

- Human security and peace threatened by 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.

Being cognizant of the global issues, as listed above, the representatives of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks and the participants of the joint regional sessions agreed to the need to develop synergies through coordinated and collective action to address the most pressing problems related to fire management globally. Further the conference participants recommend 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 FAO promote the global adoption of Incident Command System (ICS) including the publishing of an annual list of countries which have implemented ICS;
- Regional strategies for fire management be developed and designed to the specific needs of regions;
- An international framework for fire management standards be developed and regional wildland fire training be supported, especially to meet the needs for capacity building in developing countries;
- Scientific research programmes addressing the consequences of changes of climate, land use and land cover, and socio-economic changes on fire regimes, environment and society must be supported at all levels;
- The Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management and the implementation of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines be encouraged and endorsed;
- Agencies and groups be encouraged to participate in the Fire Management Actions Alliance in support of their adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines;
- The UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network, the Regional Wildland Fire Networks and the Secretariat of the global network, the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), be supported by national agencies and international donors aimed at fostering international cooperation in fire management, including collecting and disseminating fire information, arranging and enhancing international policy dialogue, and supporting projects;
- 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 that are impacting people, resources and livelihoods;
- 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 United Nations and partners.

The conference participants thanked the organizers and hosts of the conference for bringing together the international community responsible for wildland fire management. The participants welcomed the offer of South Africa to host the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference, tentatively in 2011.