

European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)

Joint Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and
Directors of the Specialized Centers – 3-4 November 2020 – Online



Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

Project Results 2017-20

Plans for 2021

Johann Georg Goldammer



The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (I)

Two main themes are addressed

- Enhancing the National Interagency and International Cross-boundary Dialogue and Interoperability in Fire Management in Southeast Europe and Eastern Europe
- Improving governance of wildfire disaster risk reduction through cross-border cooperation in and between CoE member states, adjoining countries and globally

Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (III)

Example National and Cross-boundary: Greece

- 2018-2019: Independent Committee tasked to **Analyze the Underlying Causes and Explore the Perspectives for the Future Management of Landscape Fires in Greece**
- Stakeholder consultations and Report delivery (Feb 2019)



- 2020: Planned – CoE Greek Chairmanship – High-level Consultation on Enhancing Governance in Landscape Fire Management (**cancelled to due to the Pandemic**)

Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (III)

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Social distancing between firefighters in the field, the role of coupled effects of landscape fire emissions on the respiratory system and individuals suffering COVID-19 infection are key concerns.
- 2020: Supported by EUR-OPA, GFMC has set up a dedicated information portal:

<https://gfmc.online/eurofire/covid19.html>



Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (IV)

Example Regional: Russian Federation

- 2017: International Conference *Protection of Human Settlements and Social Infrastructure from Wildfires*, Moscow, Russia (organized and hosted by EMERCOM)



- 2019: Inauguration of the Regional Eurasia Fire Monitoring Center at the «Krasnoyarsk Science Center SB RAS



Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (V)

Examples Cross-boundary: South America

- Promotion of EUR-OPA in South America (facilitated by GFMC) – Regional Consultation on Transboundary Cooperation in Fire Management and Regional Agreement drafted (Chile 2017)



Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (V)

Examples Cross-boundary: Eastern and Southeast Europe

- Cooperation with OSCE in cross-boundary management of fires burning in radioactively contaminated terrain: Project “Improving Radiological and Environmental Awareness in Territories Affected by the Chernobyl Accident in Belarus and Ukraine with a Focus on Wildfire Management”
- Table-top exercise in Gomel, Belarus (May 2018)



Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (V)

Examples Cross-boundary: Eastern and Southeast Europe

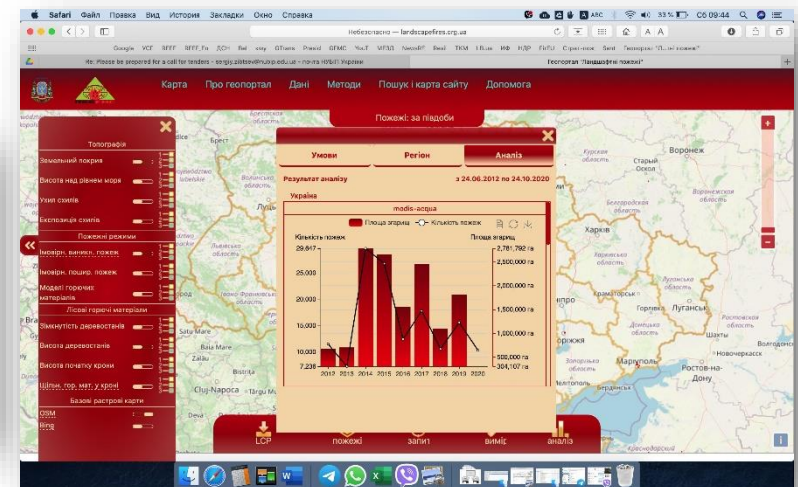
- Cooperation with OSCE and Switzerland (SDC) in the upcoming regional cooperation project “Landscape Fire Management Programme in the Western Balkans” (2020-ca. 2023+)



Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (VI)

Example Holistic Landscape-level Approach in Fire Management: Ukraine

- Development of recommendations for fostering the national inter-agency and civil society cooperation in fire management, notably address agricultural burning as the main cause of wildfires affecting the landscape and source of atmospheric pollution



Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (VII)

Example Holistic Landscape-level Approach in Fire Management: Ukraine

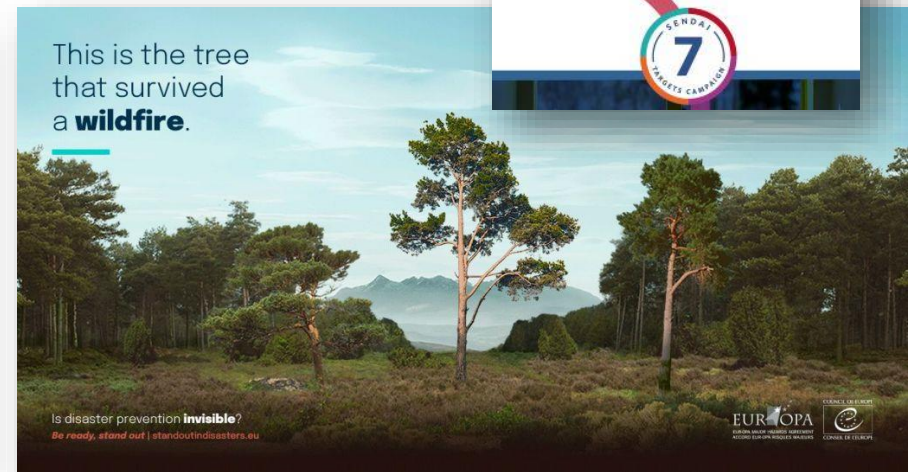
- 2017-2019: National Round Table on Fire Management Fires in the Natural and Cultural Landscapes of Ukraine
- 2020: Creation of two Working Groups in the Parliament and under Ministry for Environment to develop a Strategy for Landscape Fire Management in Ukraine
- October 2020: GFMC appointed Co-Chair of the Ministerial WG, REEFMC member in both WGs



Retrospective of Results 2017-2020 (VIII)

Public Outreach

- 23 January 2020: Launch of a web page “Natural Hazards – Landscape Fires” as part of [BeSafeNet](#)
- 13 October 2020: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction – with EUR-OPA outreach



Looking ahead to 2021+ (I)



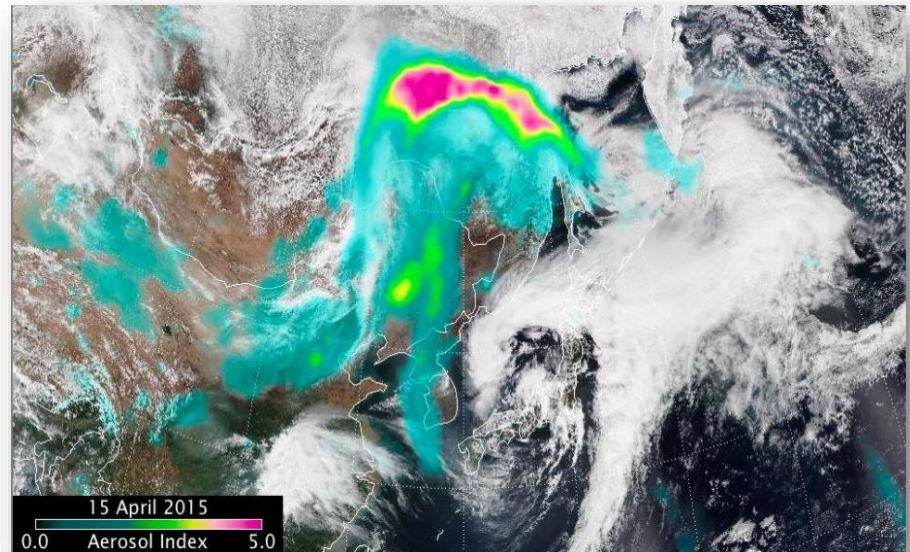
Following-up the 7th International Wildland Fire Conference (2019) – Campo Grande Statement: ***Building Sustainable and Fire-Resilient Societies and Landscapes***

- Unified and integral planning must ensure and strengthen societal, environmental and economic resilience to landscape fires by addressing:
 - Risk governance and ownership
 - Dialogue of knowledge, including traditional knowledge
 - Socio-economic innovation in rural landscapes, favoring nature-based solutions
 - Strengthening local action
 - Creation of resilient ecosystems and communities

Looking ahead to 2021+ (II)

Catching up after COVID-19 Pandemic

- Council of Europe – High-level Consultation on Enhancing Governance in Landscape Fire Management
- Reactivation of transboundary cooperation in fire management in Central Asia – countries adjoining the Russian Federation: Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China



Looking ahead to 2021+ (III)

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The work of GFMC at the Science-Policy-Practitioners Interface (SPPI) has advanced in CoE Member States and globally
- The decentralization of GFMC by establishment of Regional Fire Monitoring Centers in North Macedonia (2010), Ukraine (2013) und Russia (2019) allowed effective continuation of the outreach work during the Pandemic
- The three Regional Fire Monitoring Centers should be explicitly included in the portfolio of GFMC as EUR-OPA Specialized Center – without implications on budget or participation in regular meetings



Looking ahead to 2021+ (IV)

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Special event “Integrated Landscape Fire Management: Towards Creating Wildfire-Resilient European Landscapes and Society” at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), Matosinhos, Portugal (November 2021)



**European Forum for
Disaster Risk Reduction**

2-5 November 2021
Matosinhos, Portugal

First announcement

WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE DISASTER RISKS

 **UNDRR**
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

 **EFDRR**
EUROPEAN FORUM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
Portuguese Chairmanship

 **AUTORIDADE NACIONAL
DE EMERGÊNCIA E PROTEÇÃO CIVIL**

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Thanks for Your Attention



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