

**Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics
Fire Mapping and Monitoring Implementation Team Meeting**
NCWCP, College Park, Maryland, USA, 29-31 July 2014

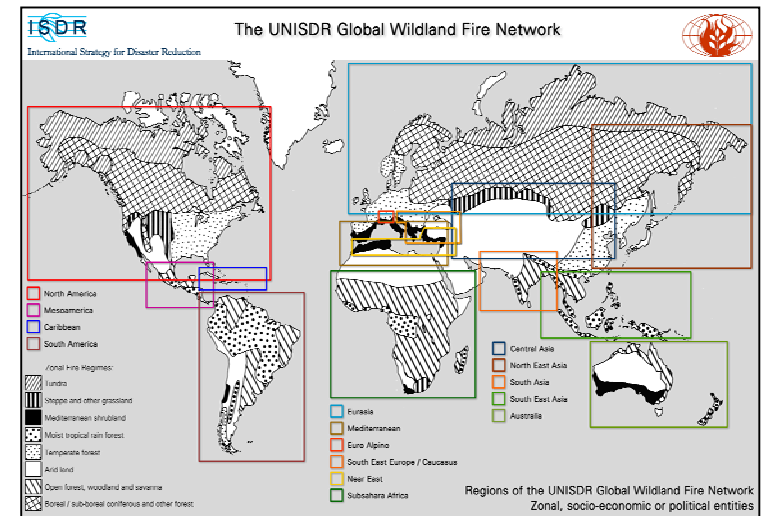
International Cooperation and Coordination in Wildland Fire Management

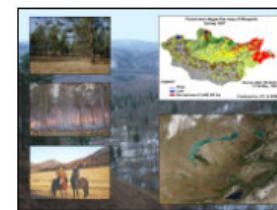
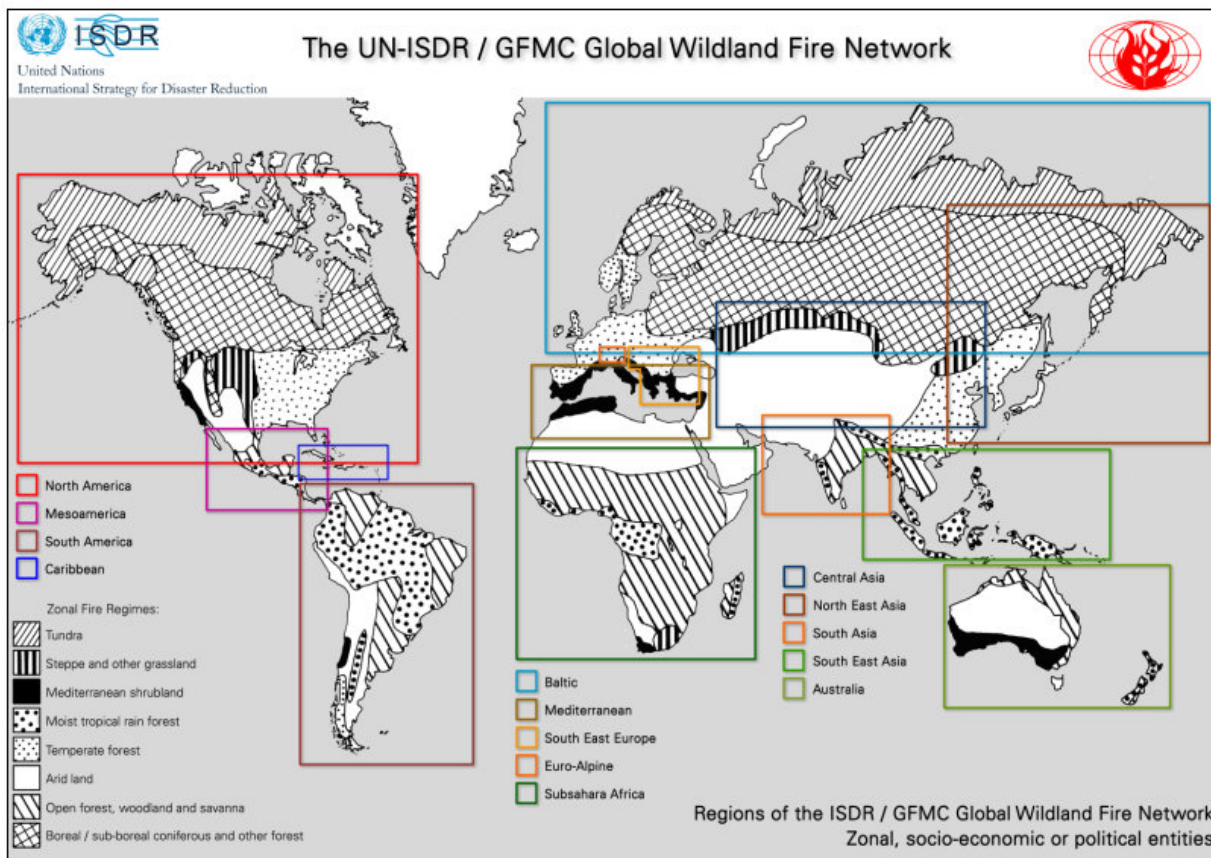
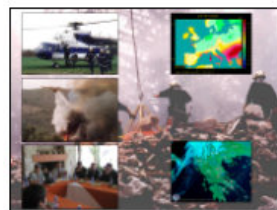
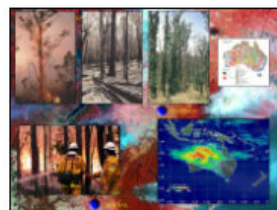
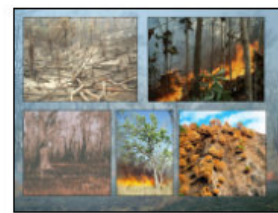
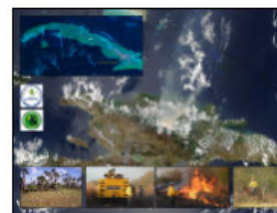
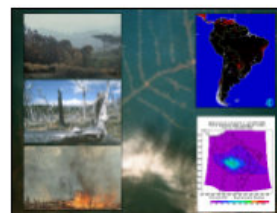
Johann Georg Goldammer
Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

Overview: The Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) 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





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

GWFN 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 (GCI)
- Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC / GOLD)



GWFN Objectives of Work 2011-2015 (Extract)

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

GWFN Work Programme 2011-2015 (I)

Provision of sound background information for decision makers:

- Development of the UN White Paper “Vegetation Fires and Global Change”
 - A product of 52 leading scientists from around the world (some of them represented at this GOFC-GOLD Fire IT meeting)
 - Took more than 4 years to finalize (2010-2013)
 - www.forestrybooks.com

The Global Dimension and Threats of Fire

ISBN 978-3-941300-78-1

Vegetation Fires and Global Change

Challenges for Concerted International Action
A White Paper directed to the United Nations
and International Organizations

A Publication of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
Edited by Johann Georg Goldammer

GWFN Work Programme 2011-2015 (III)

Provision of sound background information for decision makers:

- Conveying core messages to policy makers, e.g. to
 - International Congress “Forest Fire and Climate Change: Challenges for Fire Management in Natural and Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia”



**Forest Fire and Climate Change:
Challenges for Fire Management in Natural
and Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia**
Novosibirsk, Russia, 11-12 November 2013



**Key Conclusion – A Warning of a Dangerous
Development:**

The governments of the UNECE Member States **are alerted and warned by the scientific and the professional fire management community that the threat from wildfires in the region will become increasingly dangerous in the coming years as a consequence of climate change and socio-economic and demographic changes**

GWFN Work Programme 2011-2015 (III)

Encouragement of policy makers to take action:

In following up the recommendations of ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission “*to address wildland fire at the global level*”

- Strengthening and formalizing the international dialogue and efficient action on Transboundary Cooperation in Fire Management
- Preparation, convention and follow-up of the UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management with international (global) participation

“UNECE Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management”

Geneva, 28-29 November 2013



United Nations

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Preparatory Products

- 1) Study:** “Contemporary and Expected Future Wildland Fire Problems in the UNECE Region“ (including a fire management survey in the UNECE Member States)
- 2) Proposal:** “Building Resilience of Nations and Communities within the UNECE Region to Wildfire Emergencies and Disasters”
- 3) Proposal:** “Adoption of Voluntary Guidelines for Fire Aviation”
- 4) White Paper:** "Fire Management Policies and International Cooperation in Fire Management in the UNECE Region"

Recommendations (I)

1) Promote the understanding of and the response to the transboundary effects of fire

Among other: Including aspects addressed by the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)

2) Expanding the scope and strengthening of international cooperation in fire management

Calling for the development of a voluntary regulatory institutional and policy framework aimed at building resilience of nations and communities within the UNECE region

Recommendations (II)

3) Application of a holistic approach to wildland fire management

This approach must include activities directed at wildland fire prevention, preparedness, response and post-fire recovery and restoration at landscape level including all ecosystem types, land uses and land tenure. Emphasis should be given on people-centered (participatory) approaches.

- Physical landscapes: Cultural / natural landscapes)
- Administrative landscapes: Fire management solutions across the sectoral responsibilities / capabilities

Recommendations (II)

4) Adoption and continued development of the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM) and the Voluntary International Fire Aviation Guidelines

The mechanism will provide a platform / framework from which to cascade improved knowledge, good practice, experience and training throughout the global wildfire community for the benefit of all.

The Forum recommends that UNECE member states adopt in principle the Draft Fire Aviation Guidelines and support their continued development.

Recommendations (III)

6) Explore options for the transition from voluntary rules to a more formalized regulatory framework

It is proposed to explore options to establish a UN Secretariat mandated with the implementation of a global fire management programme that should have a key role in facilitating the free and open global transfer of knowledge.

A key task of such a Secretariat will be to host and implement the proposed International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM) and the maintenance and application of the Fire Aviation Guidelines. It will be built on a common, coordinated approach with the UN agencies and programmes and those of other international organizations that are mandated or involved in addressing the problems.

Recommendations (IV)

7) Seek interest of UN Organizations

The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire to jointly prepare a set of possible organizational scenarios that will **ensure that the successful work it has carried out so far will not be interrupted, creating a vacuum, but will rather go global with a new mandate and a different setup.** Based on these scenarios the leader of the Team will approach and seek the interest of UN organizations. The results of the consultation could be discussed at a team of specialists meeting to be organized before July 2014.

Follow-up of the Forum (January – July 2014) (I)

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) is negotiating with

➤ OSCE

- Continuation and enhancing fire management exchange and cooperation, thus securing continuity of the work of the ToS 1993-2014 in the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region

Follow-up of the Forum (January – July 2014) (II)

The GFMC is negotiating with

➤ FAO

- Cooperation agreements with the GFMC / Global Wildland Fire Network
- Establishment of a collaborative (UN inter-agency / international) partnership on Fire Management (timeframe: 1.5 years)
- Dedicated thematic support of GFMC to FAO

Follow-up of the Forum (January – July 2014) (III)

The GFMC is negotiating with

- European Forest Institute (EFI)
 - Support of the establishment of and cooperation with the proposed European Forest Risk Facility (FRISK) (2014-15)

- UNISDR & International NGOs
 - Provision of patronage and auspice for the GFMC / Global Wildland Fire Network in the post 2015 HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action)

Follow-up of the Forum (January – July 2014) (IV)

The GFMC is lobbying to

➤ Securing inputs to the proposed Legally Binding Agreements (LBA) on Forests in Europe or an LBA at global level though an

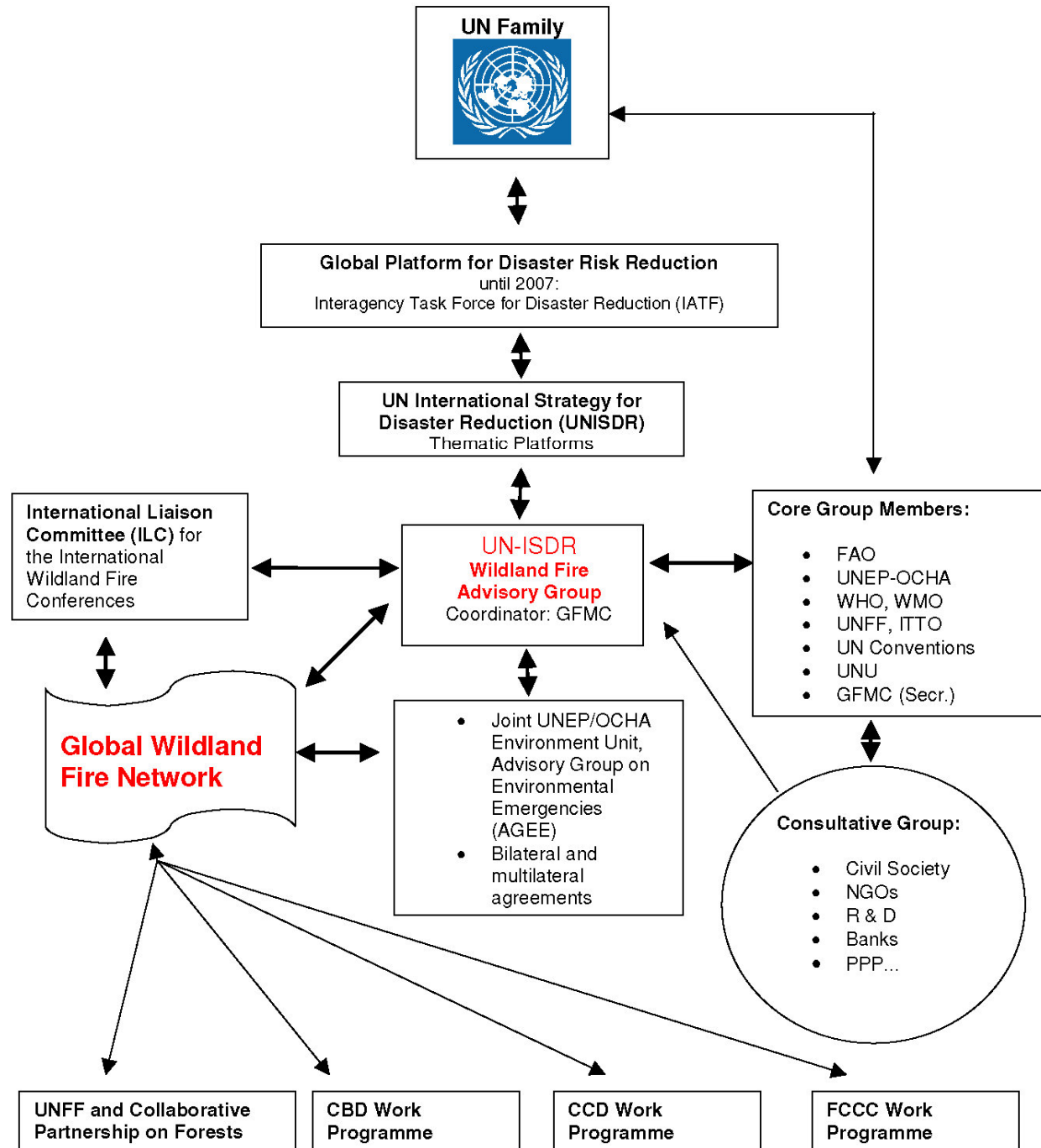
- Annex or Protocol on Fire Management

Follow-up of the Forum (January – July 2014) (V)

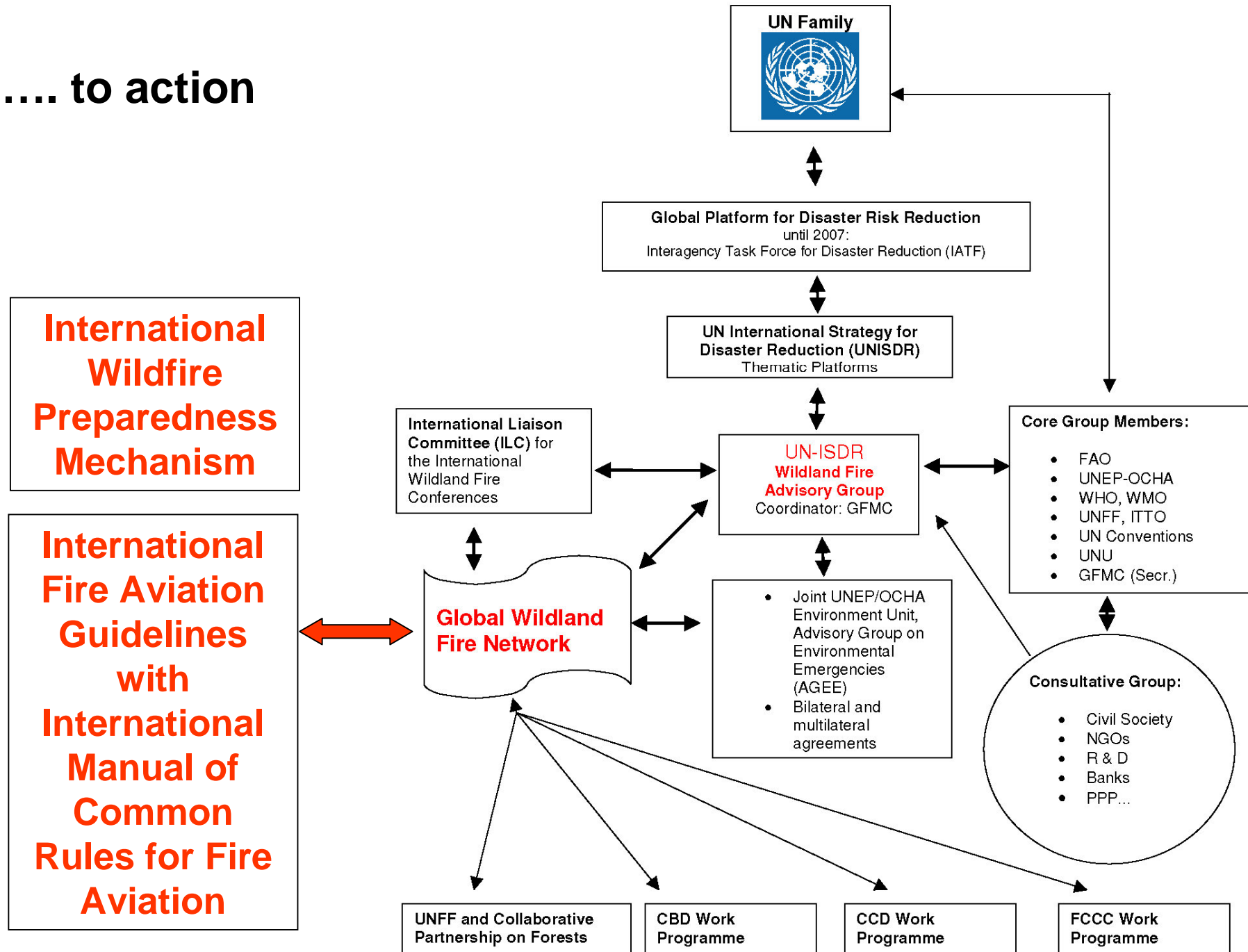
Progress has been made in the conceptual development of the

- International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM)
 - Interim Secretariat: GFMC, online August 2014
- International Fire Aviation Guidelines and International Manual of Common Rules for Fire Aviation
 - International Fire Aviation Working Group (IFAWG; Secretariat: GFMC), online August 2014
- Post-Forum Evaluation of the Preparatory Enquiry / Questionnaire
 - See website of IWPM, online August 2014

Thus, we are
transiting from
inter-agency and
international
policy dialogue
....



.... to action



Realization through “Regional Fire Management Resource Centers” with main functions (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)

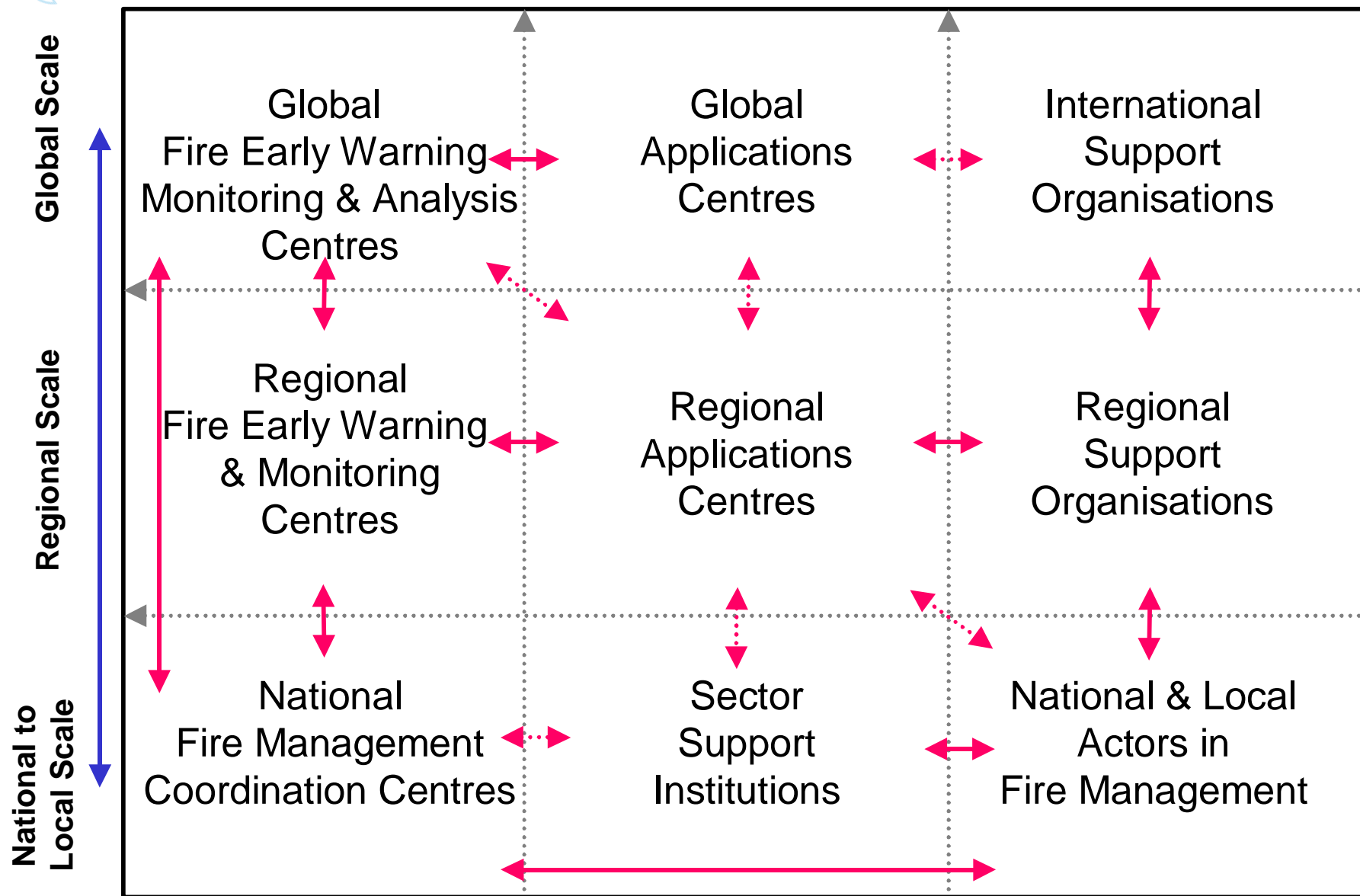
➤ Advisory support to nations and to the regional entities: Building of national and regional fire management policies

- 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

**Scientific & Technical
Analysis & Prediction**

**Social & Economic Actions;
Fire Management**



Sharing of Information and Resources within the Global Wildland Fire Network

Regional Fire Management Resource Centers

- Regional South East Europe / Caucasus Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC): Based in Skopje, FYROM (since 2009)
- Regional Eastern Europe Fire Monitoring Center (REEFMC): Based in Kiev, Ukraine (since 2013)
- Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center (RCAFMRC): Based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (under construction starting August 2014)
- Regional Northeast Asia Fire Management Resource Center (RNEAFMRC): Based in Seoul, Korea (under construction starting 2014)

Need for more active involvement of GOFC-GOLD Regional Fire IT capabilities

- Increasing demand of national and regional actors for near-real time / real time fire early warning and monitoring information
- Establishment of joint activities with the Regional Fire Management Resource Centers should be considered

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Thanks for Your Attention