GOFC-GOLD Fire IT Meeting
Canadian Space Agency, Montréal, Canada
7- 9 February 2005

Status of the Global Wildland Fire Network and the Development on an International Wildland Fire Accord

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Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
Wildland Fire Advisory Group
Global Wildland Fire Network

Objective of this presentation

- Goals of the Global Wildland Fire Network
- Status of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks
- Roadmap for the development of the International Wildland Fire Accord

The Global Wildland Fire Network

Objectives (I):

Establishment / support of Regional Wildland Fire Networks, aimed at

- Promotion of the dialogue between wildland fire scientists, managers and policy makers
- Promotion of formal agreements on cooperation in wildland fire management between countries (bilateral, multilateral)
- Sharing of wildland fire management resources (e.g., costly equipment such as aerial assets)
- Sharing effort in regional wildland fire early warning and monitoring
- Development of standards
- Joint fire management training

The Global Wildland Fire Network

Objectives (II):

- Establishment of an international dialogue / sharing of information and resources between regions and international organizations
- Implementation of recommendations of international conferences and the International Wildland Fire Summit
- Preparation of an international agreement on cooperation in wildland fire management

Main UN Partners of the Wildland Fire Advisory Group and the Global Wildland Fire Network

- UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- WHO, WMO, UNESCO
- UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) (since 2003)

- UN Conventions

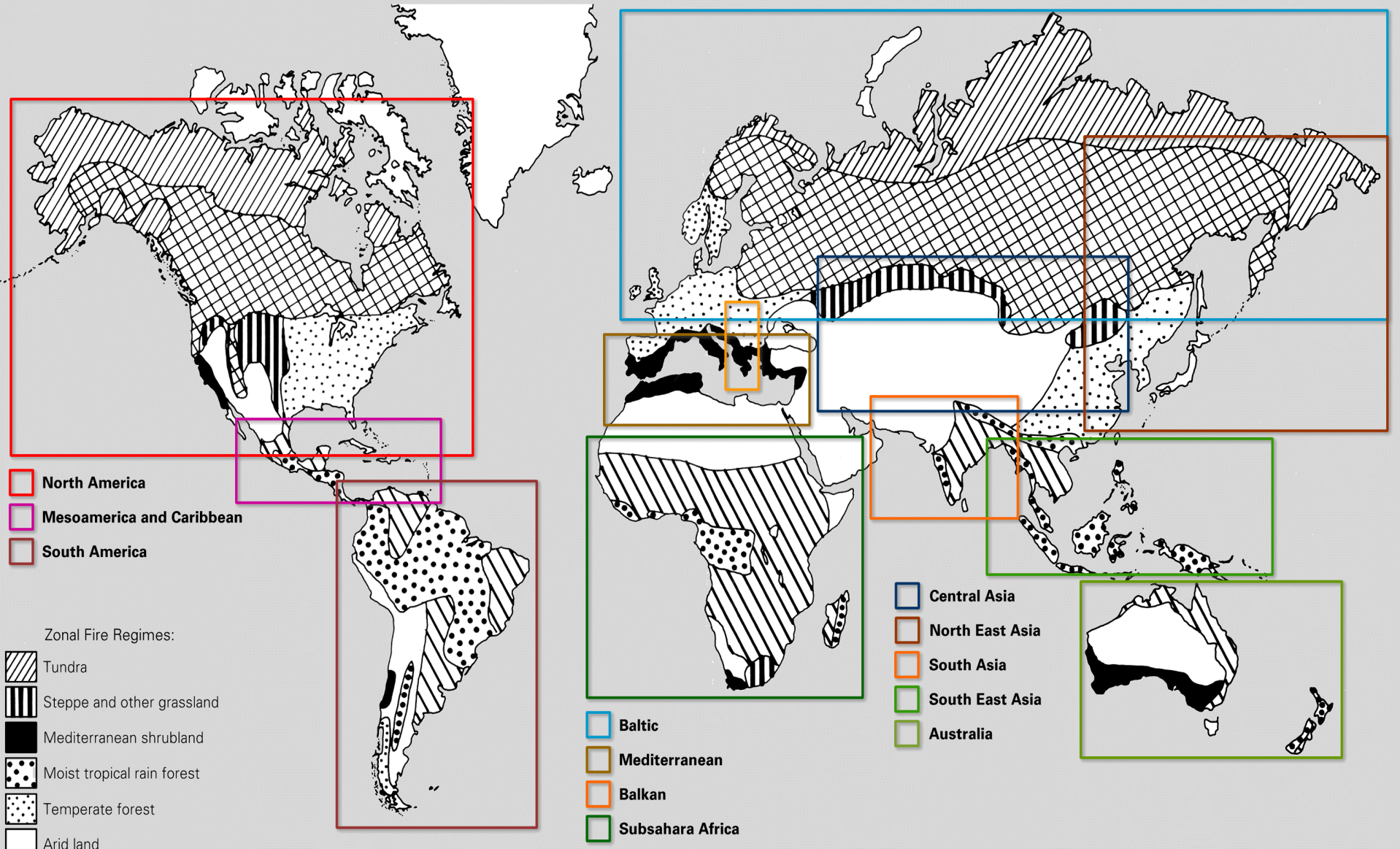
  - Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) (since2003)

  - Convention on Combat of Desertification (CCD) (since 2004)

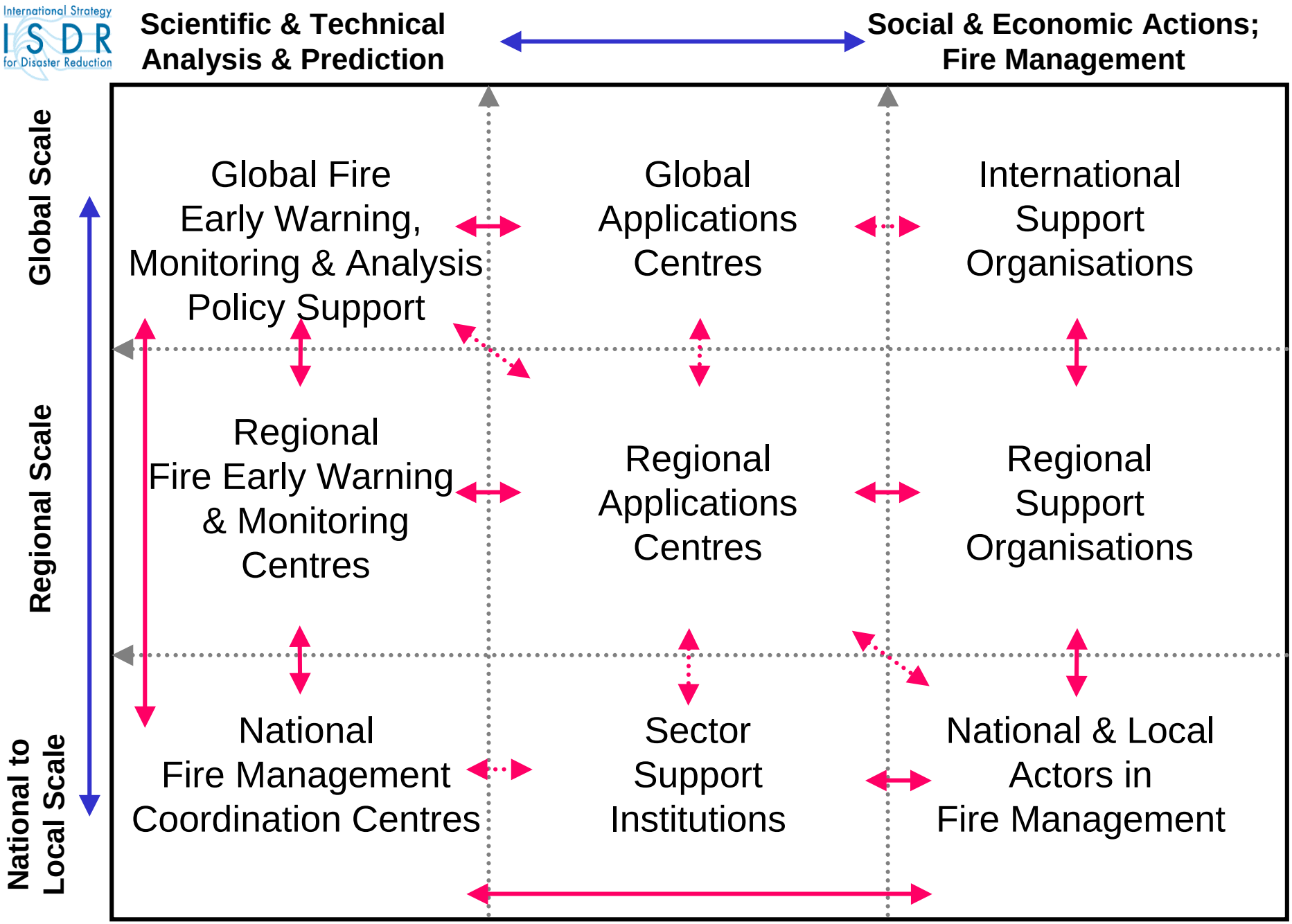
  - Framework Convention of Climate change (FCCC) (expression of interest, since 2004)

- United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security

The UN-ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network



Regions of the ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network
Zonal, socio-economic or political entities


International Strategy
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Scientific & Technical
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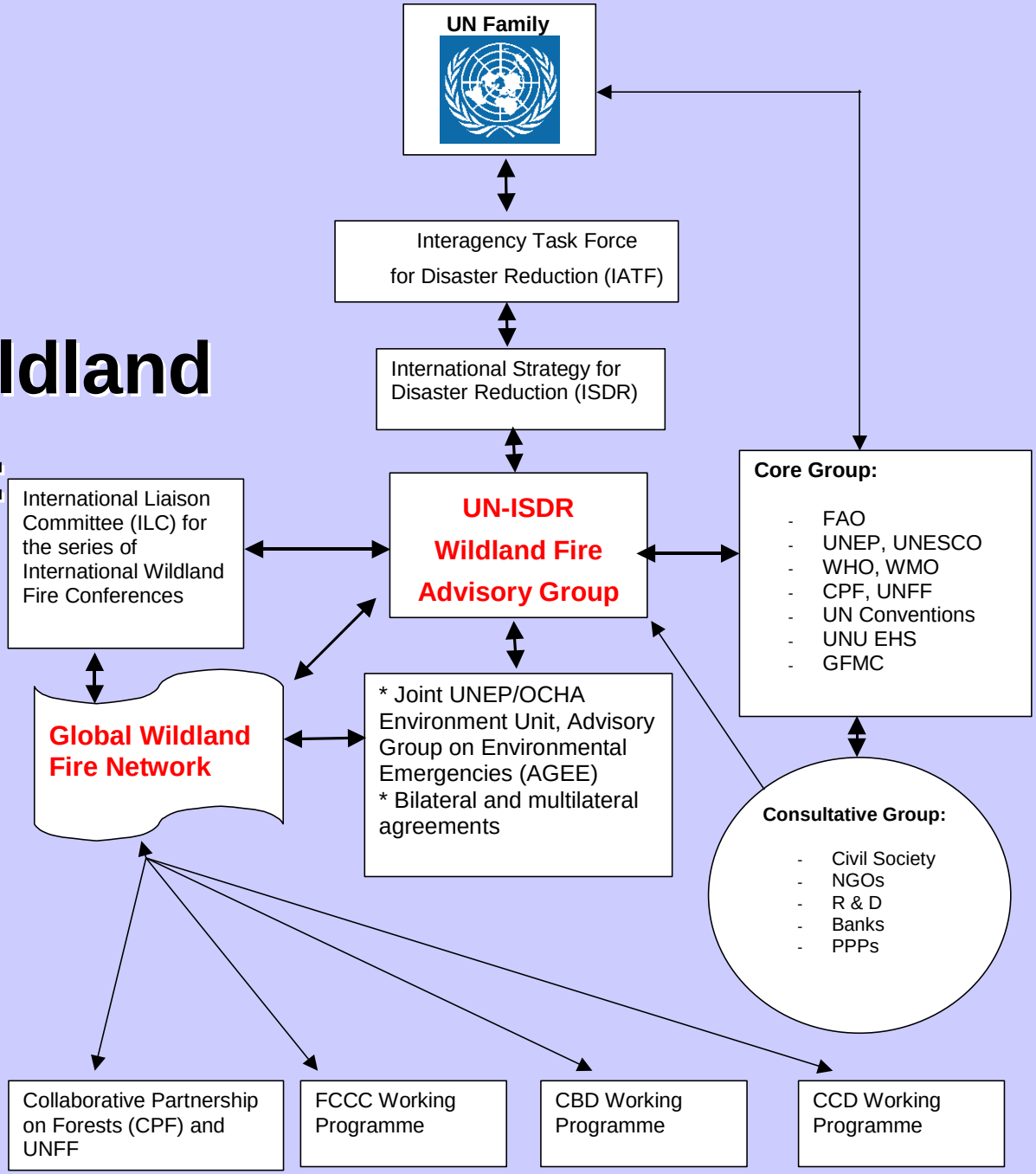
Towards developing an International Wildland Fire Agreement:

Partner organizations cooperating with the UN



Events supporting the Development of an International Wildland Fire Agreement (before 2004)

- International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR – 1990s)
- ECE/FAO Conference Forest, Fire and Global Change (Russian Federation, 1996)
- FAO Consultations (1998, 2001)
- International Wildland Fire Conferences in Vancouver (1997) and Sydney (2003)
- International Wildland Fire Summit (2003)

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (I)

- **Regional North East Asia Wildland Fire Network**

  Founded: March 2004

  Host: Korea Forest Service (with ISDR)

  2nd Meeting: 18 January 2005

  Members:

  South Korea

  Japan

  China

  Russia (Far East)

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (II)

- **Regional Balkan Wildland Fire Network**
  UN-ECE Region: Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
  Founded: 2002

  Monitoring Center
  Bulgaria 2004+

  Regional Wildland Fire
  Advisory Group
  Turkey 2004

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (II)

- **Regional Balkan Wildland Fire Network**
  UN-ECE Region: Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
  Founded: 2002

  Regional Consultation and Conference on Cooperation in Fire Management in Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans,Near East and Central Asia

  Antalya, Turkey
  30 March – 3 April 2004

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (II)

- **Regional Balkan Wildland Fire Network**

Antalya Declaration on
Cooperation in Wildland
Fire Management

Implementation:
Assistance provided by Turkey
to Georgia and Syria (Oct 2004)

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (III)

- **Regional Baltic Wildland Fire Network**
  Core Activity Region within the UN-ECE Region:
  FAO / ECE Team of Specialists on Forest Fire

Active since the 1990s

Established by the
UN-ECE/FAO Team of
Specialists on Forest Fire

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (III)

- **Regional Baltic Wildland Fire Network**
  Core Activity Region within the UN-ECE Region:
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Regional Consultations:

Russia 1996
Poland 1998
Finland 2000
Finland 2004

Regional Baltic Wildland Fire Conferences

1996 Russian Federation

Forest, Fire and Global Change

1998 Poland

First Baltic Conference on Forest Fires

2000 Finland

Baltic Exercise in Fire Information and Resources Exchange - BALTEX FIRE 2000

2004 Finland

Baltic Wildland Fire Meeting: Towards increasing efficiency of regional cooperation in wildland fire management

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (IV)

- **Regional Subsahara Africa Wildland Fire Network**
  Afrifirenet / SAFNet
  Founded: July 2002

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (IV)

- **Regional Subsahara Africa Wildland Fire Network**

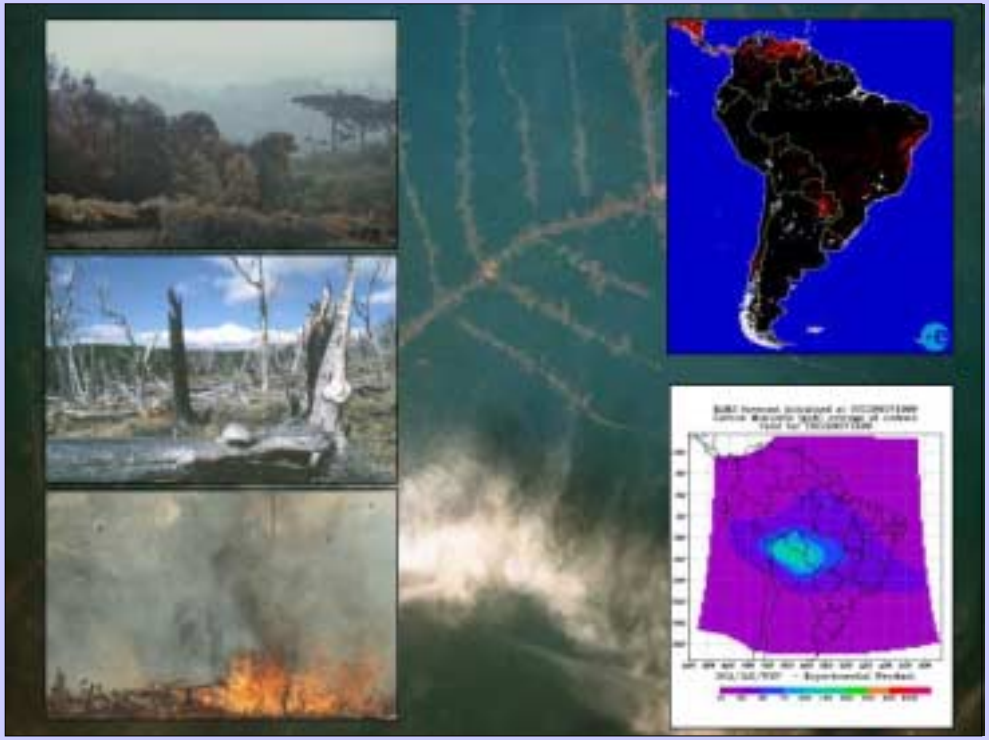
Activities in 2004

Joint UN Inter-Agency
Training Course in
Advanced Fire Management
(June 2004)

Training Course for Instructors
in Community-Based
Fire Management (CBFiM)
(November 2004)

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (V)

- **Regional South America Wildland Fire Network**



Regional Wildland Fire Networks (V)

- **Regional South America Wildland Fire Network**
  Start: 17 June 2004
  Curitiba, Brazil

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  Consolidation at the
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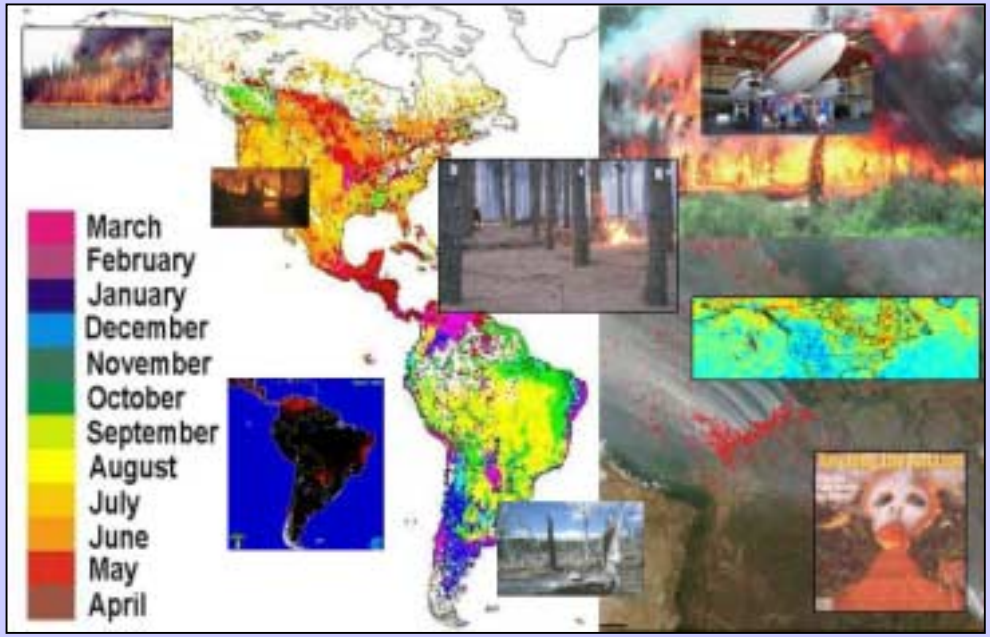
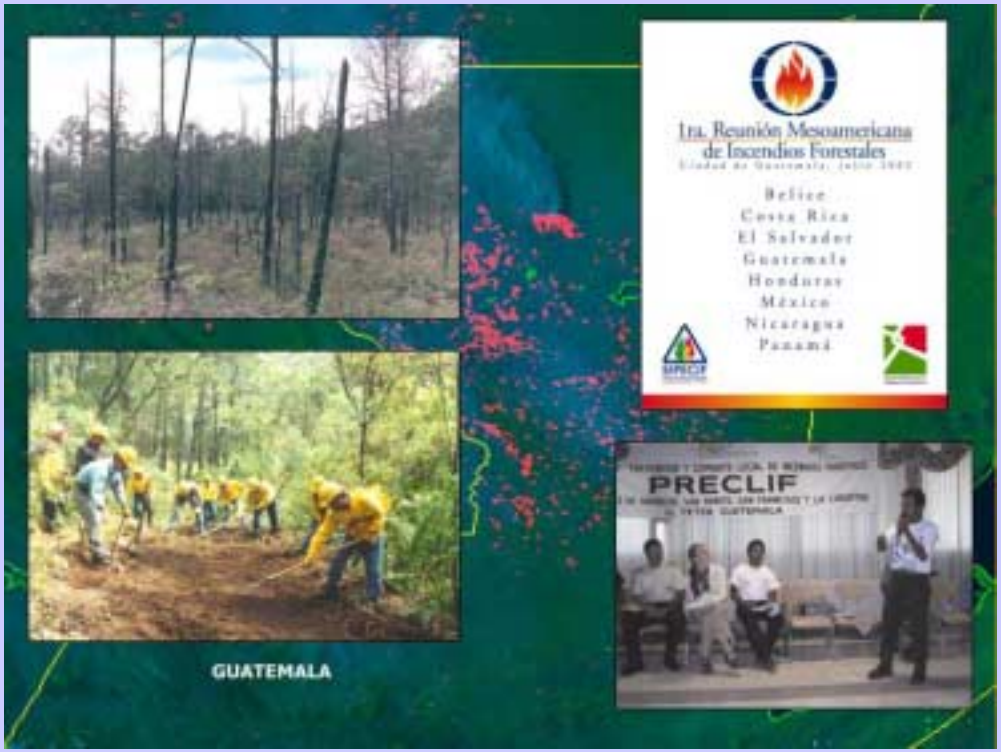
  San José, Costa Rica
  23 October 2004



Regional Wildland Fire Networks (VI)

- **Regional Mesoamerica Wildland Fire Network**
  Mesoamerica Regional Agreement
  Signed: July 2002



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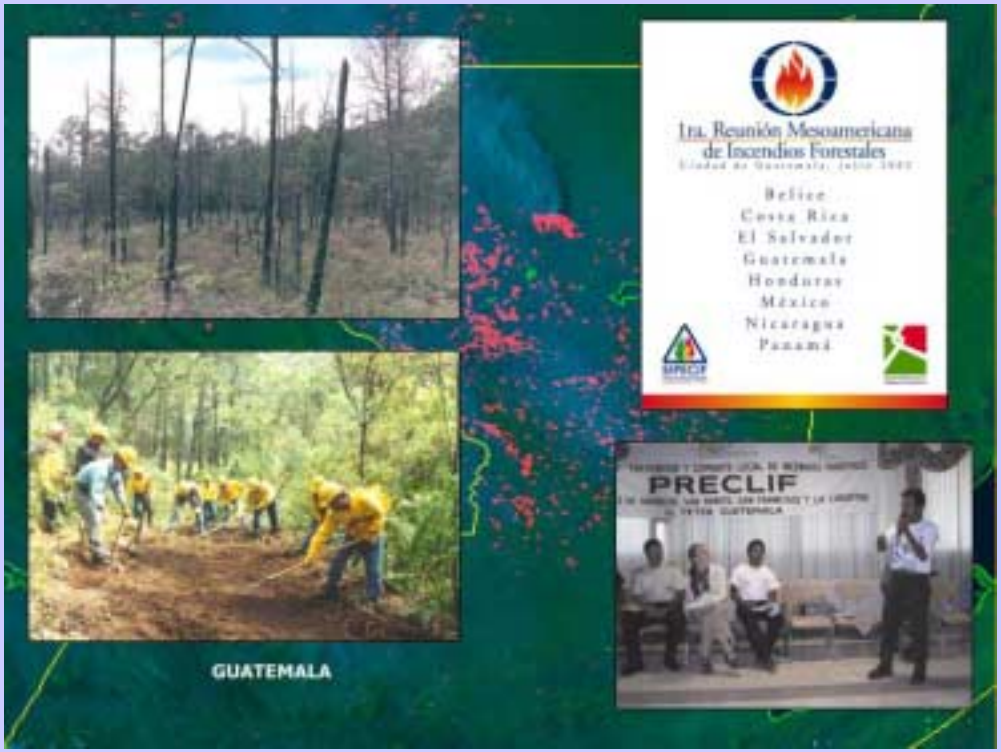


Regional Wildland Fire Networks (VII)

- **Regional North America Wildland Fire Network**
  FAO North American Forestry Commission (NAFC)
  Fire Management Working Group (established 1962)

  Regional Partner of the
  Global Wildland Fire
  Network since 2004

  Participation at the
  Pan-American
  Wildland Fire Conference
  San José, Costa Rica
  23 October 2004

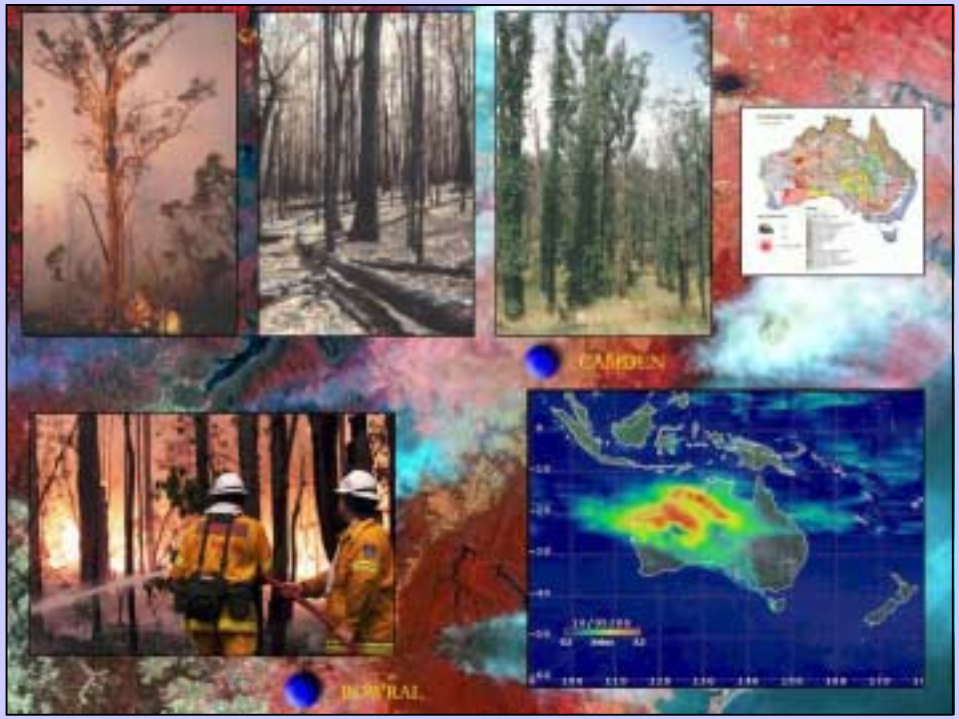
Regional Wildland Fire Networks (VIII)

- **Regional Australasia Wildland Fire Network**
  Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC)

  Since 1993: Australia, New Zealand
  Pacific Region

  AFAC Decision of
  7 October 2004:

  AFAC becoming
  Regional Partner
  in the Global Wildland Fire
  Network



Regional Wildland Fire Networks (IX)

- **Regional Mediterranean Wildland Fire Network**
  FAO *Silva Mediterranea*

Strategic Meetings
on Regional Cooperation
in Fire Management

June 2003

27 September –
1 October 2004

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (X)

- **Regional South East Asia Wildland Fire Network (ASEAN)**
  ASEAN Transboundary Haze Agreement
  Signed: June 2001
  In Force: Nov 2003

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (XI)

- **Regional South East Asia Wildland Fire Network (ASEAN)**
  ASEAN Transboundary Haze Agreement
  Signed: June 2001
  In Force: Nov 2003

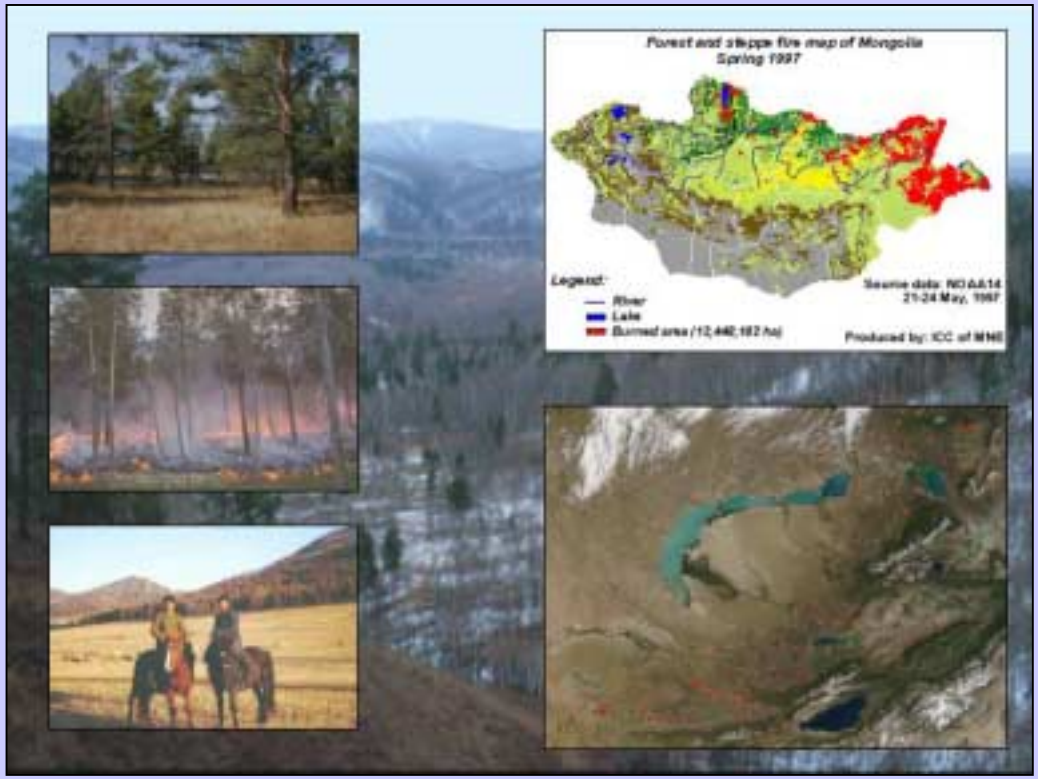
  Meeting of the ASEAN
  Haze Technical Task Force (HTTF)
  and
  ASEAN Ministerial Meeting
  on Haze (AMMH) / Conference
  of the Parties (CoP)

  Hanoi, Viet Nam
  November 2004

Regional Wildland Fire Networks (XII)

- **Regional Central Asia Wildland Fire Network**
  UN-ECE Region: Team of Specialists on Forest Fire

  Central Asia
  Forestry Congress
  Bishkek, Kyrgisia
  25-27 November 2004



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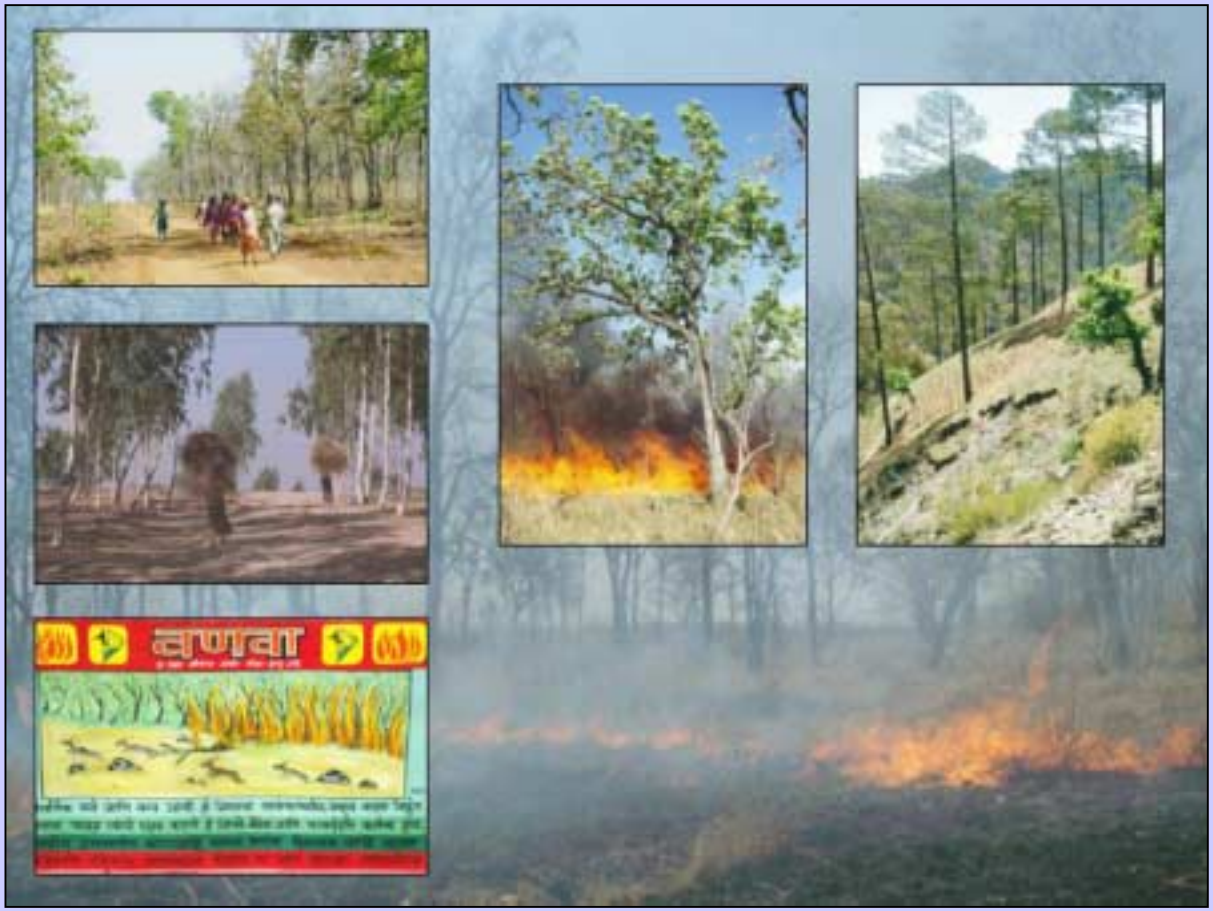
Regional Wildland Fire Networks (XIII)

- **Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network**
  t.b.d.

  Countries to be involved

  India
  Bhutan
  Nepal
  Sri Lanka
  Pakistan



Global Wildland Fire Network

- **Meeting of all Regional Wildland Fire Networks**
  As Members of the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group

  @ Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
  3-4 December 2004

Global Wildland Fire Network

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  As Members of the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group

  @ Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
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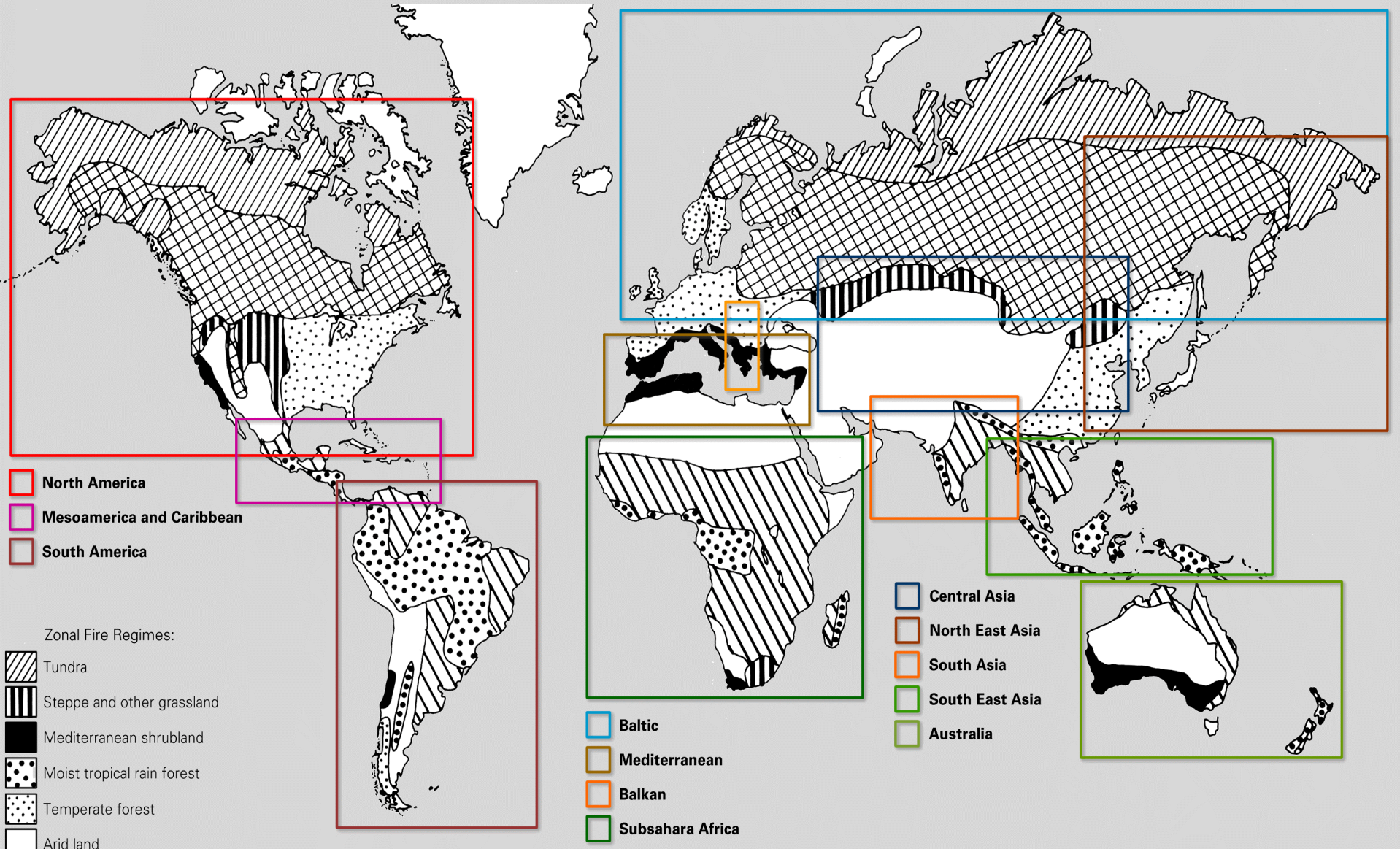
  With other Members:
  - ISDR
  - FAO
  - WMO
  - UNU
  - Rio Conventions
  - UNFF

The UN-ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network



Regions of the ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network
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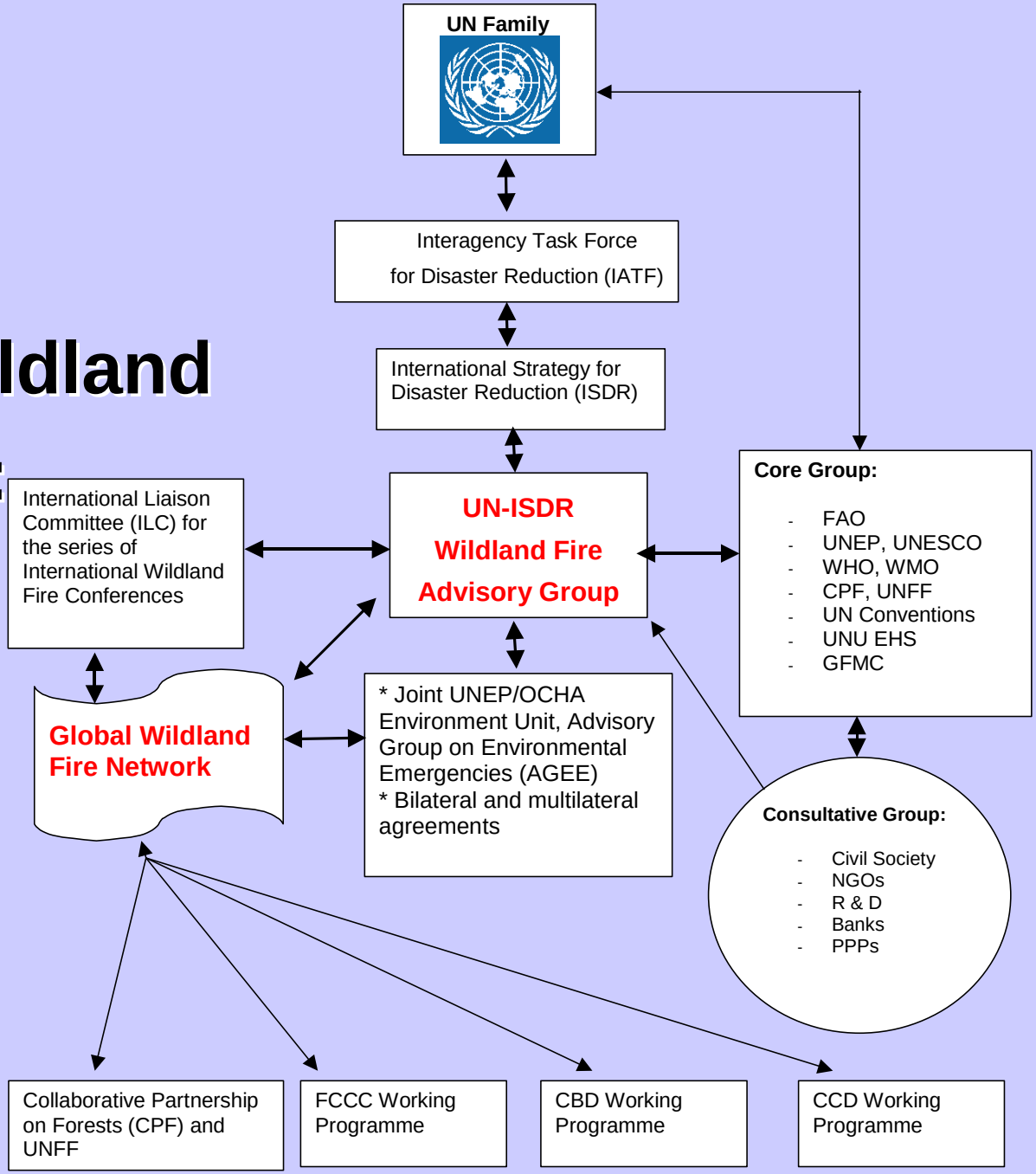
Towards developing an International Wildland Fire Agreement:

Partner organizations cooperating with the UN



Roadmap to support the Development of an International Wildland Fire Agreement (2005)

- **Regional conferences and consultations (early 2005):**
  - **Second Meeting of the Regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network (Sendai, Japan, 18 January 2005)**
  - **UN ISDR World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) (Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005)**
  - **GOFC-GOLD Fire IT Meeting, Canadian Space Agency, Montréal, Canada, 7-9 February 2005**

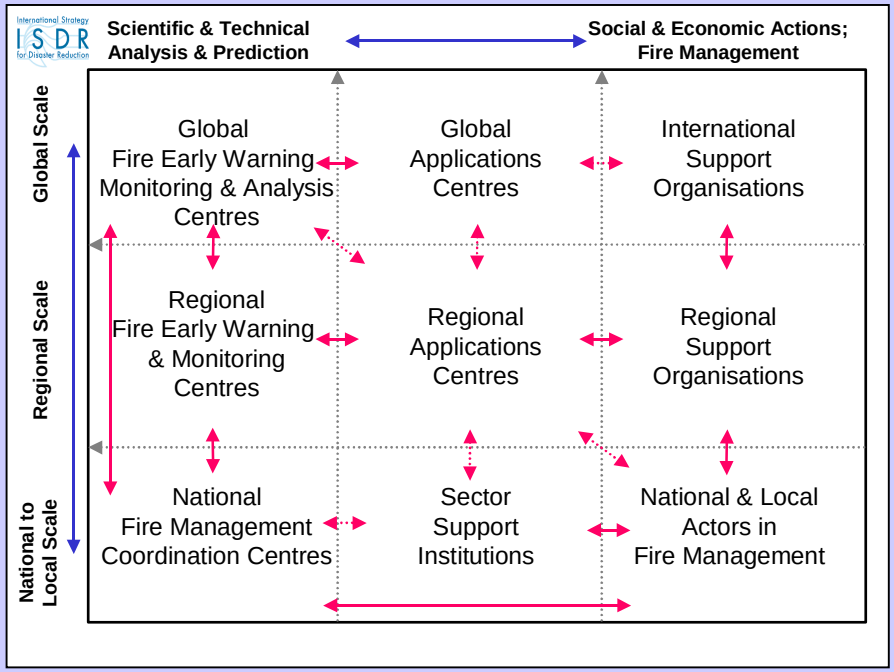
Roadmap to support the Development of an International Wildland Fire Accord (2005)

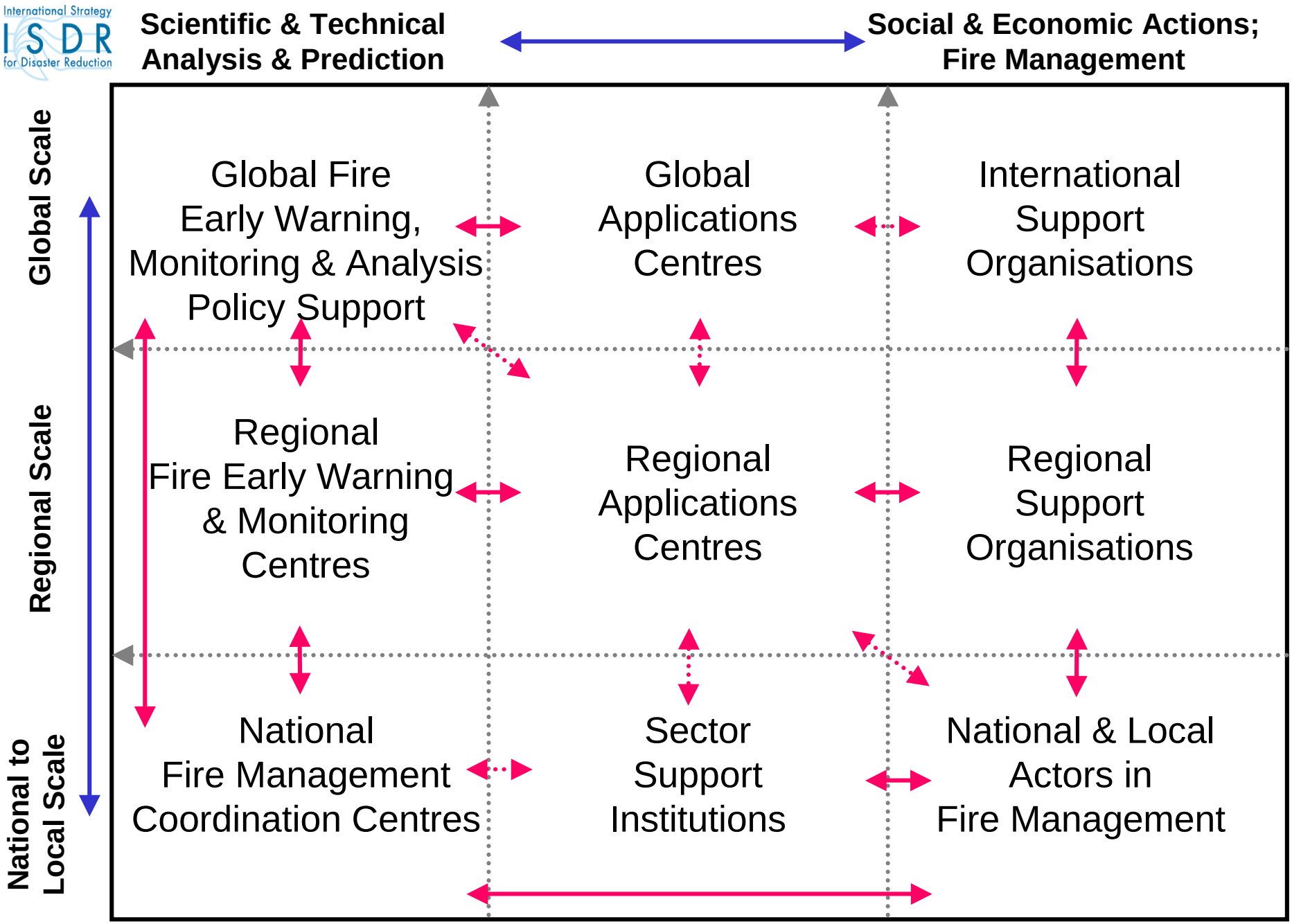
The final leg in 2005:

- FAO Ministerial Meeting (Rome, 14 March 2005)
- UNFF Ministerial Segment (New York, May 2005) ?
- UN General Assembly Resolution on Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management ?

Synergies with GOFC-GOLD

- **Building / consolidation of interface mechanisms between producers and consumers (national, regional, global)**

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Applications
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International
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Centres
Regional
Applications
Centres
Regional
Support
Organisations
National
Fire Management
Coordination Centres
Sector
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Institutions
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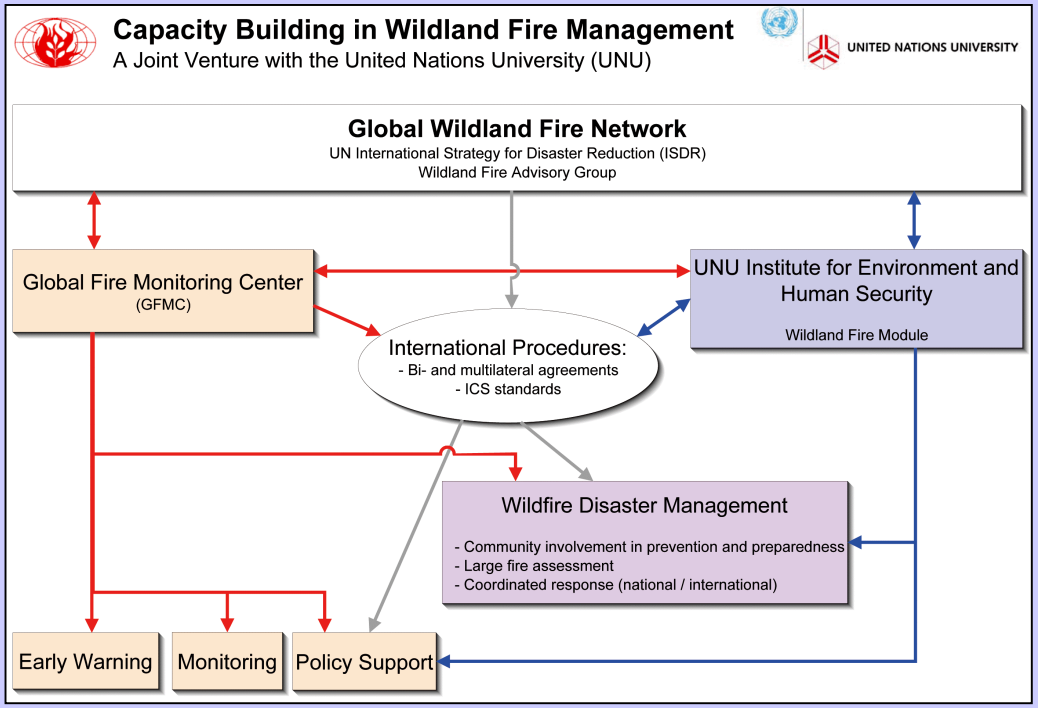
Synergies with GOFC-GOLD

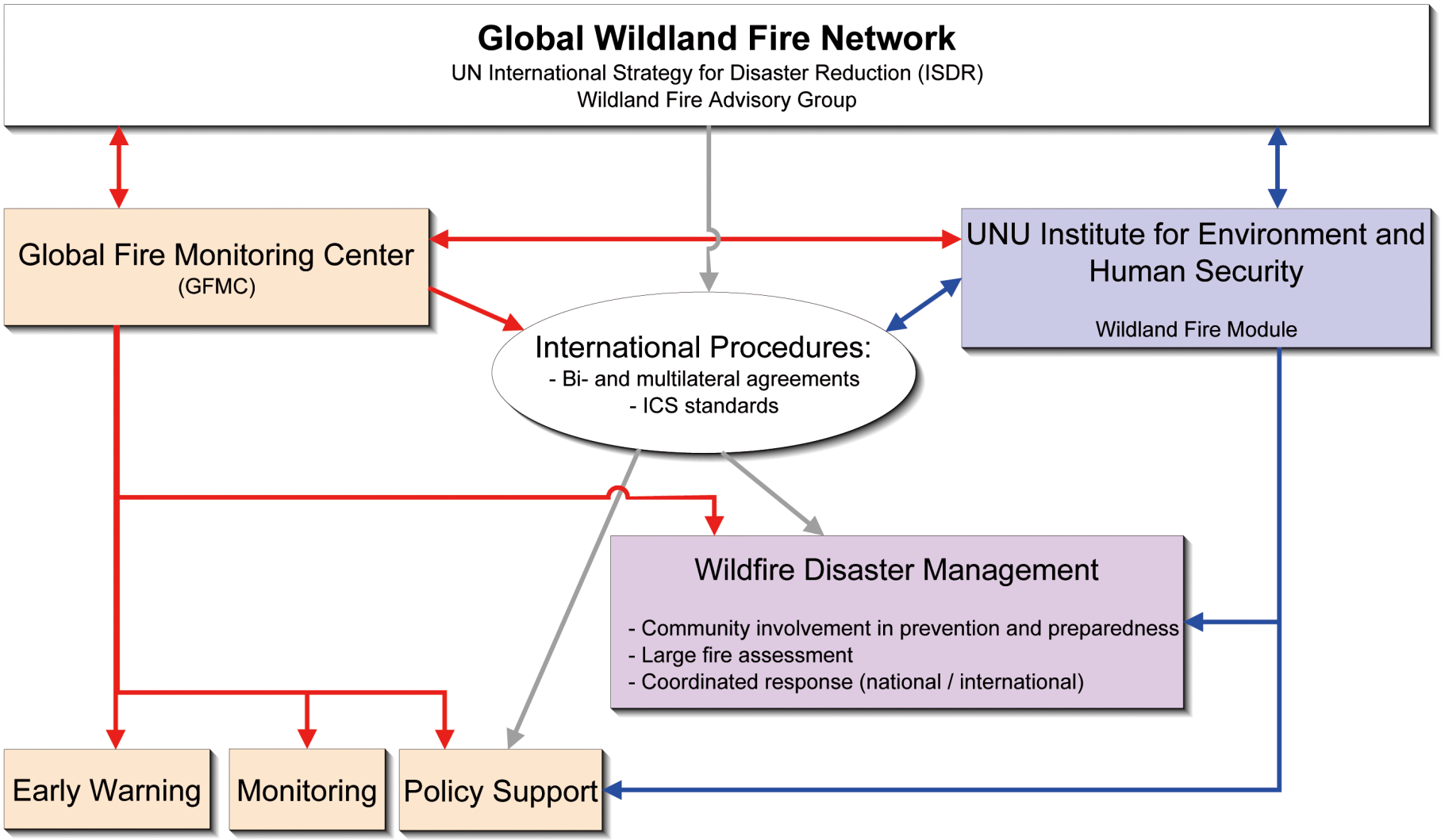
- **Capacity building**



Capacity Building in Wildland Fire Management

A Joint Venture with the United Nations University (UNU)

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY



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The Way Ahead

Improvement of a coordinated approach between GOFC-GOLD and

- UNISPACE III Action Team 7
- Application of the Charter ...

Recommendations

(extracts from Fire Hazard Gaps Analysis – STSC 2003)

1. Improve satellite technologies and methods by designing systems optimal for fire hazards monitoring (linking spatial, spectral, temporal requirements)

2. Provide high-resolution data sets to validate existing methods and test models in forestry environments

3. Develop data weather models to facilitate daily and 1-2 day prediction of dead and live fuel moisture to augment or replace requirements for ground weather stations

4. Provide data for decision support models on prescribed fire smoke management and air quality assessment

5. In geographic areas where rapid response is required, develop operational satellite fire detection, monitoring, and data distribution systems…

Recommendations (cont.)

6. Provide affordable and rapid access to all high-resolution data streams (30m and higher) for burned area assessment and rehabilitation applications

7. Institute comprehensive global coverage of wildland fires to assess the scale of biomass burning

8. Develop sensors to monitor smoke to determine impacts on lower atmospheric chemistry - potential climate change, human health, & human safety

9. Ensure the continuity of the current civilian satellite systems to maintain their spectral, temporal, and spatial characteristics

10. Examine opportunities to develop and release declassified information products

Recommendations (cont.)

11. Develop international agreement to improve access to timely and affordable data for the fire management

12. Develop regional fire remote sensing expertise to provide leadership and direction in the use technologies

13. Increase funding and better coordination between research groups

14. Build on existing efforts to improve education, training, & communication between different users and providers

15. Integrate priority for processing satellite data for fire hazards monitoring into national and international processing facility operations

Finally: Mangroves protecting coasts against Tsunami impacts (Phung-Nga Provinz, Thailand, 1 January 2005):

Implications of vegetation destruction on extreme natural events

Thank you for your attention