

Concept Note for UNFF19 Side Event

6-10 May 2024, UNHQ, New York

Title: Principles and Strategies for Integrated Landscape Fire Management through Collaborative Governance

Organized by:

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), India, jointly with the Agency for Integrated Rural Fire Management (AGIF), Portugal, the Korea Forest Service (KFS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Date: Monday, 6 May 2024 (1:15-2:30 pm)

Venue: Conference Room 4

Background

The increasing frequency and severity of landscape fires¹ pose pressing global challenges, resulting in CO₂ emissions, biodiversity loss, land degradation and socio-economic damage and loss. Proactive measures, effective governance models and international collaboration are crucial for preventing and managing these fires to ensure healthy ecosystems in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

The 8th International Wildland Fire Conference, held in Porto, Portugal in May 2023 and hosted by the Agency for Integrated Rural Fire Management (AGIF), Portugal, introduced a Landscape Fire Governance Framework. This framework advocates for collaborative fire governance, involving governments, businesses, academia, and civil society. It emphasizes developing guiding principles, promoting integrated fire management, developing capacities, enhancing stakeholders, and strengthening international cooperation.

Moreover, the establishment of the FAO-UNEP Global Fire Management Hub underscores international efforts towards integrated fire management, incorporating Review and Analysis, Risk Reduction, Readiness, Response, and Recovery (the 5R approach). The Fire Hub facilitates knowledge and data sharing, fire risk assessment, early warning, and provides technical and policy support. It will utilize updated guidelines and best practices, including the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines: Principles and strategic actions (FAO 2006) and ITTO Guidelines for Fire Management in Tropical Forests (ITTO 1997), currently under revision. The AFFIRM (Assuring the Future of Forests with Integrated Risk Management) Mechanism, a project implemented by the FAO and funded by the Republic of Korea, also contributes to the Fire Hub by integrating outputs such as risk assessment methodologies and recommendations for

¹ Landscape fires refer to fires that occur over extensive areas of land, often affecting various types of vegetation, ecosystems, and terrain. These fires can be natural or human-caused and encompass a range of fire types, including wildfires, prescribed burns, and agricultural fires.

determining risk reduction activities.

At the G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' meeting held at Chennai, India, on July 28, 2023, there was a strong emphasis on scaling up collaboration and action at local, regional, and international levels to prevent and mitigate the impacts of forest fires/wildfires and restore affected lands. Additionally, the G20 highlighted the importance of implementing sustainable forestry practices, incorporating community involvement and Indigenous Knowledge and techniques as an important strategy, to conserve natural resources and minimize the impacts of forest fires/wildfires.

The UNFF Country-Led Initiative (CLI) hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), in Dehradun, India, October 2023, emphasized the urgent need for integrated fire management strategies. These strategies require a comprehensive approach to the prevention, and management of forest fires/wildfires, as well as restoration of fire-affected areas, alongside guiding policy interventions at local, regional, and global levels.

Climate change, human behaviour and other factors are increasingly driving more frequent, intense, and devastating wildfires and longer fire seasons that affect a growing number of countries, people, and sectors. As a result, many nations face escalating challenges in fire management, compounded by climate change and phenomena such as El Niño. Therefore, strengthening landscape fire prevention and management policies and capacities and establishing effective governance models are crucial to addressing these threats. This requires enhancing guiding policy principles and frameworks in the context of integrated fire management and sustainable forest management.

Objective

Effectively managing landscape fire requires integrated approaches, including robust policies, institutional arrangements, legal frameworks, and stakeholder incentives. These strategies are crucial for preserving ecosystems while addressing the social, economic, and health needs of communities. Additionally, exploring innovative technologies to detect, monitor, and manage fires is imperative.

This side event seeks to facilitate knowledge exchange and discussion on recent initiatives, strategies, and best practices in promoting integrated landscape fire management, including through collaborative governance according to the Landscape Fire Governance Framework, as well as explore innovations in early warning, detection and control. Specifically, the event aims to:

- Share enabling policies, strategies and best practices and lessons learned from India and Korea
- Discuss policy development and guiding principles for integrated landscape fire management through collaborative governance and the Landscape Fire Governance Framework

- Strengthen partnerships between existing fire initiatives, including the FAO-UNEP Global Management Hub

Tentative Programme; Monday, 6 May 2024 (1:15-2:30 pm)

Moderator: Ms. Sheam Satkuru, ITTO Executive Director

Duration	Subject	Speaker
2 min	Welcome	Ms Sheam Satkuru ITTO Executive Director
4 min	Opening remarks	Mr Tiago Oliveira President of the Agency for Integrated Rural Fire Management (AGIF), Portugal
4 min	Setting the scene	Mr. Jitendra Kumar Director General of Forests Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), India
7 min	Strategies for Forest Fire and Wildfire Control and Management to Safeguard India's Ecosystems	Mr R. Raghu Prasad Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), India
7 min	Forest Fire Control Policies in the Republic of Korea	Ms Jina Kim Director of International Cooperation Division, Korea Forest Service (KFS)
7 min	Landscape Fire Governance Framework: Outcome of the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference	Mr Tiago Oliveira President of the Agency for Integrated Rural Fire Management (AGIF), Portugal
7 min	Global Fire Management Hub	Mr Zhimin Wu Director of Forestry Division FAO
4 min	Evolving wildfire risk in Europe and Central Asia: Shifting from Suppression to Prevention	Mr Sebastien Penzini Deputy Chief, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia UNDRR
26 min	Q&A with audience	
4 min	Closing remarks	Ms Jina Kim Director of International Cooperation Division, Korea Forest Service, Korea
3 min	Wrap up and conclusion	Ms Sheam Satkuru ITTO Executive Director