

*“Develop, adopt and transfer innovative solutions and actions to prevent and control wildfires”*

*Antalya, Türkiye, 25 - 27 October 2022*

## REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CROSS-BOUNDARY FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: RETROSPECTIVE AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE WAY AHEAD

Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov<sup>1</sup> and Cvetan Nikolovski<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC), Head

<sup>2</sup> Farmahem, Team leader of the SDC's Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans Programme



- Regional cooperation in cross-boundary Fire Management in the Western Balkans: Retrospective (RFMC's main activities in the region), Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov (RFMC)



- Regional cooperation in cross-boundary Fire Management in the Western Balkans: Perspectives for the way ahead, MSc. Cvetan Nikolovski (Farmahem/LFMWB)



# ABOUT REGIONAL NETWORKING AND FIRE MONITORING CENTER (RFMC)

Regional networking in South East Europe has been initiated in 2002.

[http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope\\_0.html](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope_0.html)



## Antalya 2004, ECE / FAO / ILO Conference



## Regional consultation, Macedonia, 2005



20.04.2010

## Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)

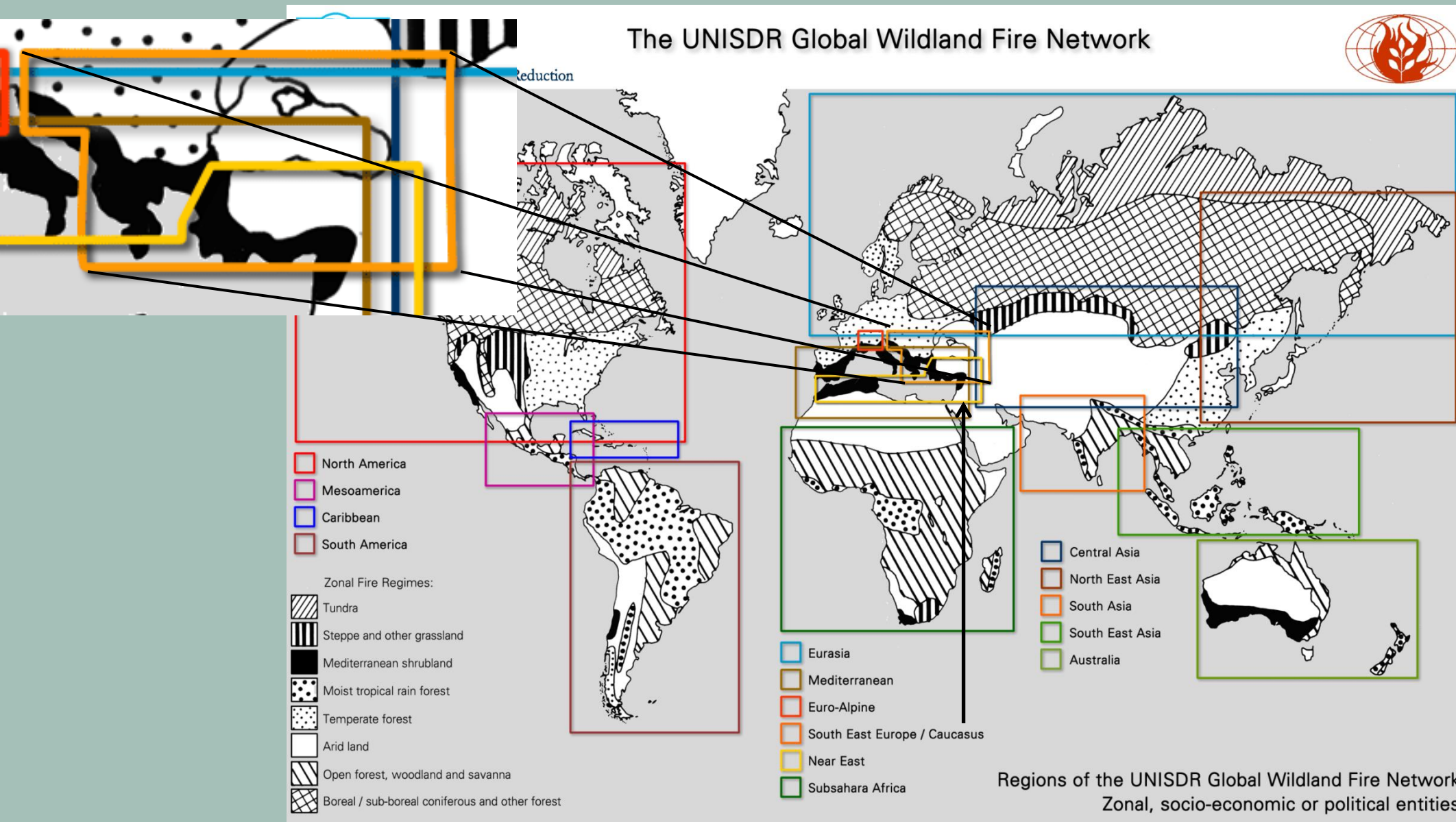






# THE UNISDR GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE NETWORK

## - THE SOUTH EAST EUROPE/CAUCASUS REGION -







# TRAININGS



## Antalya, Turkey 2010 and 2014



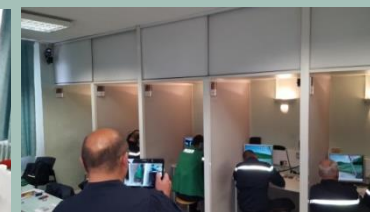
## Fire Management Trainings – Southern Caucasus Region: 2009, 2011, 2012 (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan)



## Forest Fire Management for Training of Trainers October 2015, Seoul, Republic of Korea



## Valabre, France, 2017



## Training Course on Integrated Fire Management, May 2016, Islamic Republic Iran







# PUBLICATIONS



## Defence of Villages, Farms and Other Rural Assets against Wildfires

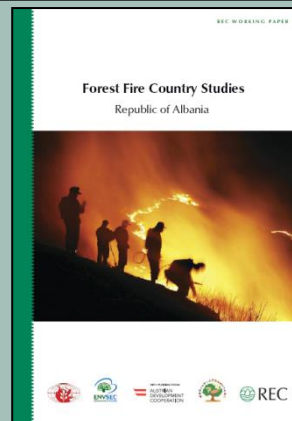
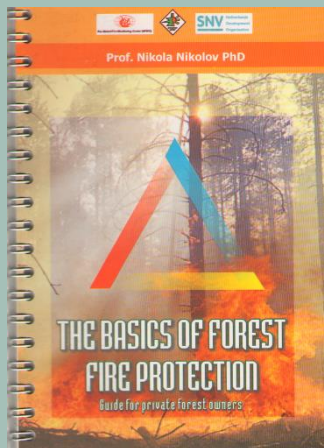
Guidelines for Rural Populations, Local Communities and Municipality Leaders in the Balkan Region



Published by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) on behalf of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) Council of Europe

Supported by

Maria Tsakos Foundation, International Centre of Maritime Research & Tradition



## Forest fire Country studies (2015):

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kosovo\*
- Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia

## EuroFire

Միավոր EF4. Ձեռքի գործիքներ

## HAND TOOLS AND HOW TO APPLY HAND TOOLS TO CONTROL FOREST (VEGETATION) FIRES



Nikola Nikolov, Prof.Dr  
Regional Fire Monitoring Center  
Skopje, Macedonia



## Forest Fires in South Eastern Europe Regional Report



# EuroFire





## MISSIONS

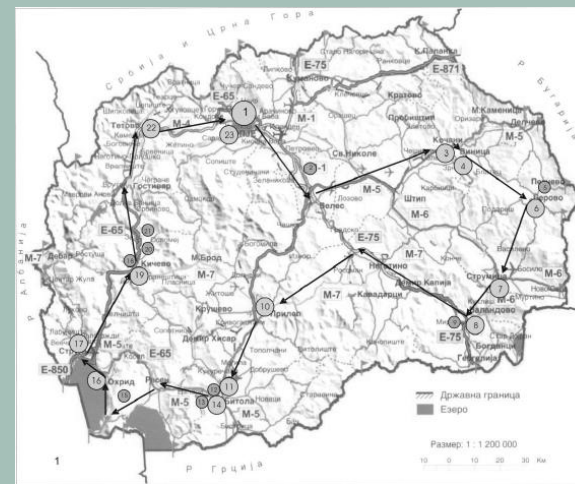
### OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to fire affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region - 2006



### Forest fires capacity estimation -Serbia 2007-



### Ecological Damage Assessment of the Wildfires in the Republic of Macedonia in 2007 Joint Mission by the UNEP-OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNEP, UNDP and GFMC



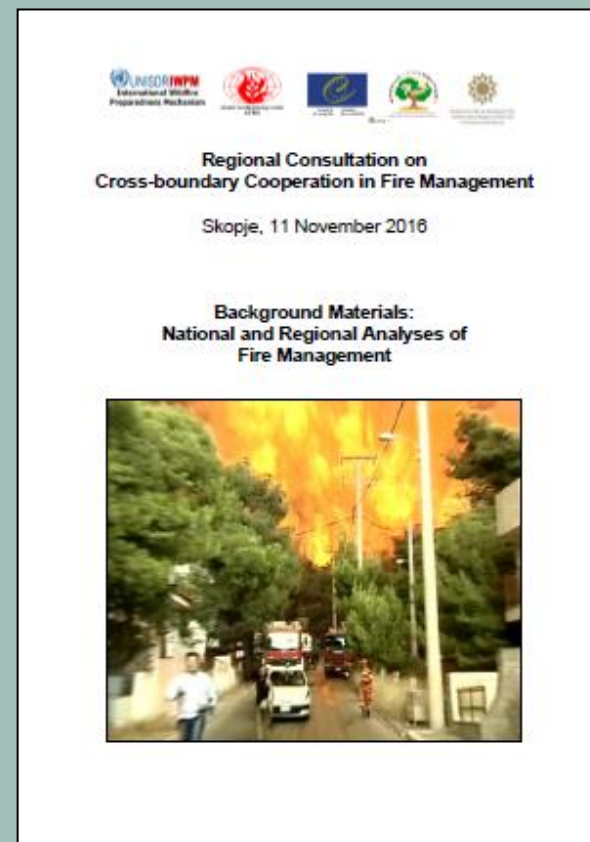




# REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON CROSS-BOUNDARY COOPERATION IN FIRE MANAGEMENT



2016, Skopje, Macedonia



Albania, Bulgaria, Greece,  
Kosovo, Serbia and Macedonia





# REGIONAL WORKSHOP: LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE, 2018



Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)



Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia





# THE MAIN ISSUES CONCERNING LF MANAGEMENT IN THE WB REGION

Issue	Short explanation
Institutional set-up	complex institutional set-up with unclear responsibilities
Rural abandonment	lack of fuel management, fuel loading, increase of wasteland and unclear LF management responsibility
Cross border fires	no monitoring and assessment, lack of regional cooperation
Forest management	lack of inclusion of climate change adaptation and LFM in forest management planning
Agricultural burning	main cause of LF ignition in the whole region when uncontrolled
Access into forest areas (road net)	insufficient road infrastructure into forest areas
Illegal land use	Illegal logging, illegal landfills raising the risk of LFs and source of ignition
Early warning system	missing early warning system or inefficient use; lack of transboundary cooperation
Unexploded ordnance (UXO)	contaminated land, missing mapping of the locations, fire management with high risks
Firefighters	lack of volunteer and professional firefighters, lack of young people in rural areas
Training	lack of LF-fighting training
Equipment	insufficient equipment for combating LFs
Research	missing research concerning LF (measures and impact)
Awareness	lack of LFM awareness in the population and political / authority level
Landscape fire management	lack of landscape management (to make it fire resilience)
Climate change	





# WORKSHOP: CLIMATE CHANGE AND LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia  
2020, Skopje





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Swiss Intercooperation



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## REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CROSS-BOUNDARY FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: PERSPECTIVES FOR THE WAY AHEAD

Mr. Cvetan Nikolovski, MSc in Forestry

Farmahem, Team leader of the SDC's Landscape Fire Management in  
the Western Balkans Programme







# LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS PROGRAMME

The **Western Balkans**, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, is one of the **most affected regions in Europe** by landscape fires.



## Western Balkans



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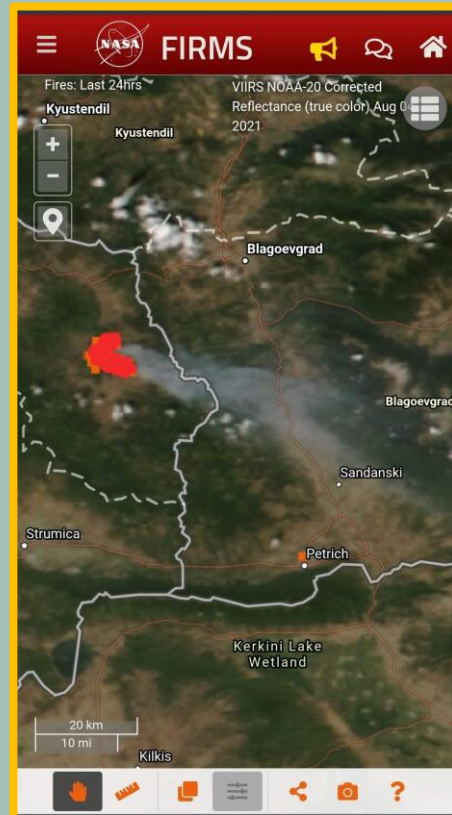
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



# LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS PROGRAMME



Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans is a project financed by the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation GPCCE** and implemented by **Farmahem** from Skopje (*acting as a Regional Executive Agency*) with backstopping support from **Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation**.



The total burned area in the WB region in 2017:  
**215.000 ha**



The total burned area in the WB region in 2011-2018:  
**683.000 ha**



Landscape Fire Management is overarching term for fires burning in natural and cultural landscapes and also affecting urban-industrial landscapes (especially the peri-urban and rural residential areas). **More prevention than suppression!**



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## Landscape Fires in the Western Balkans - Goals

### Overall goal

Increased resilience of Western Balkan forests and landscapes against fires benefit the people who depend on these landscapes for their livelihoods and socioeconomic development



Encouraging the integration of LFM as an essential part of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

### Outputs



Better cooperation



Better capacities



Better policies



Duration: 4+4 years

Phase I: 2022-2025



**Budget for Phase 1:** approx. CHF 3.7 million



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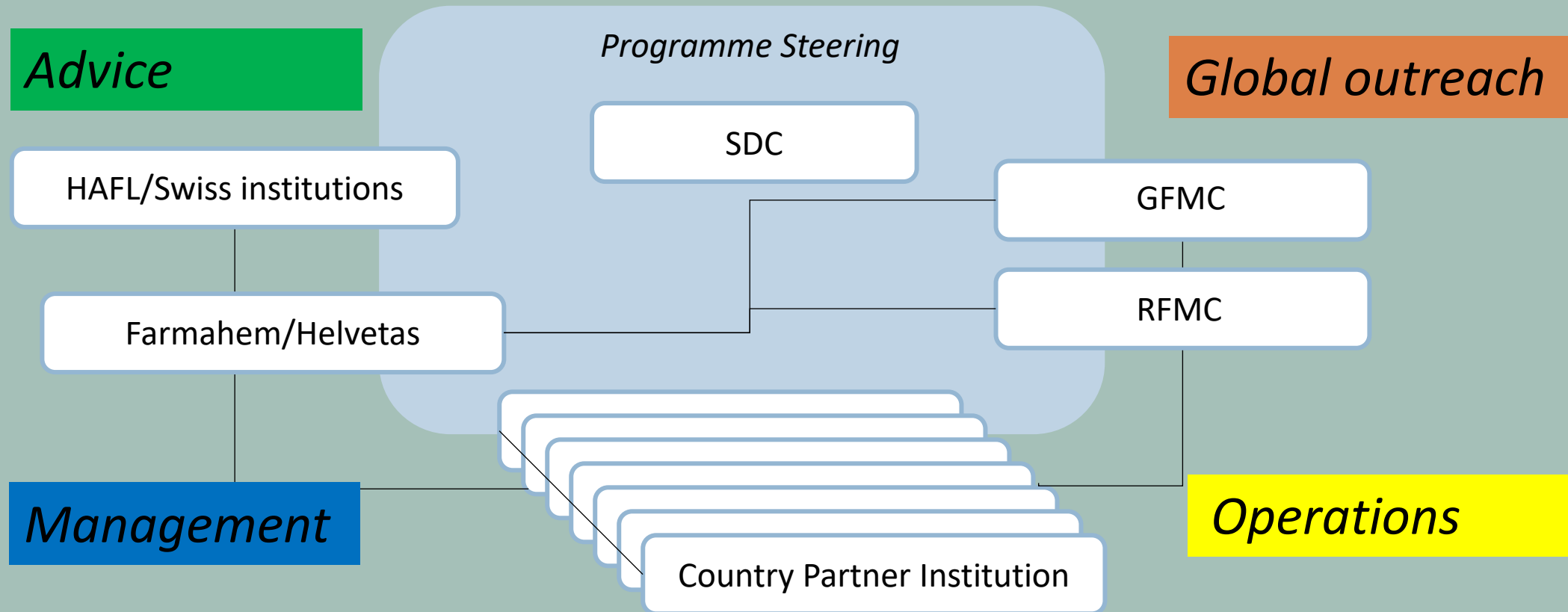
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Swiss Intercooperation





# LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS PROGRAMME

## Main partners and overall organization







# LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS PROGRAMME



## LFMWB Country Partner Institutions



Country	Country Partner Institution
Albania	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republika Srpska
Kosovo*	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
Montenegro	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
North Macedonia	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
Serbia	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management



Other Regional, Swiss and International Partners

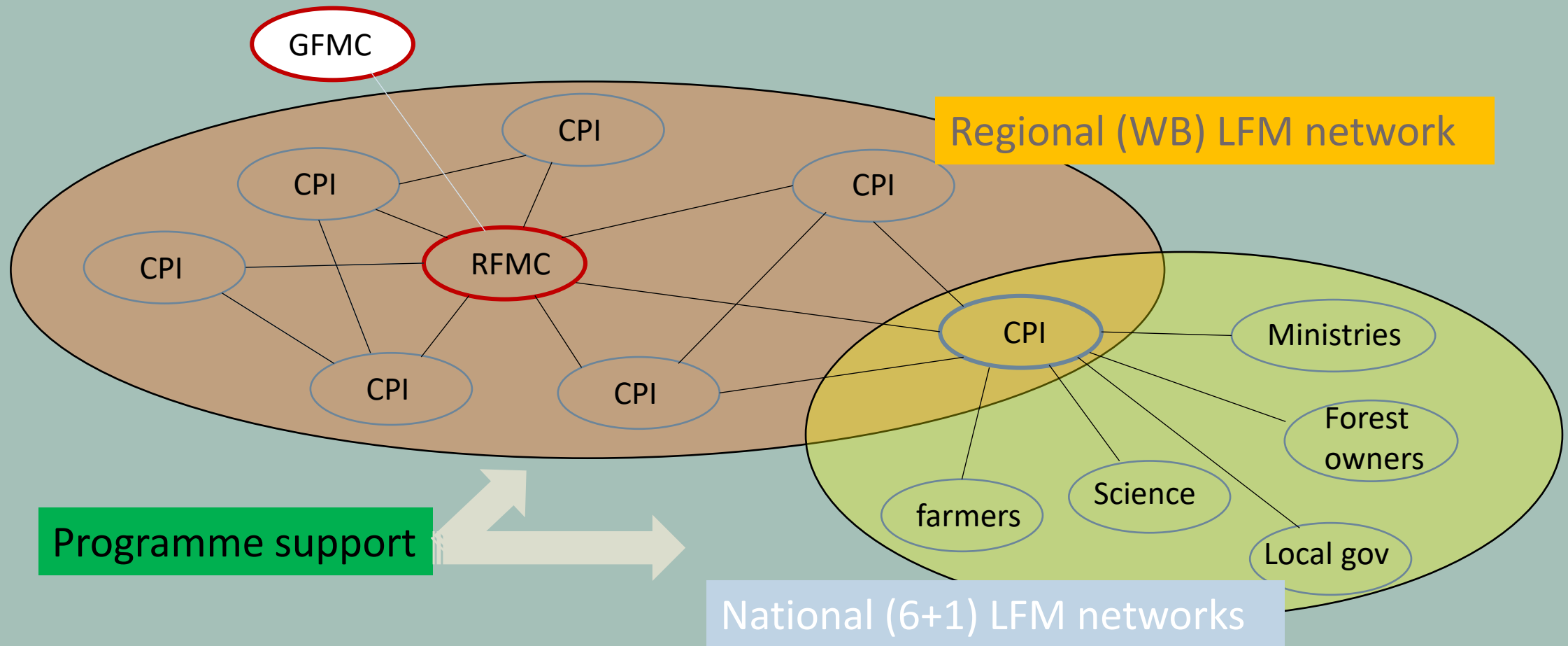


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# LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS PROGRAMME

The networking approach (science-practice-policy interface)







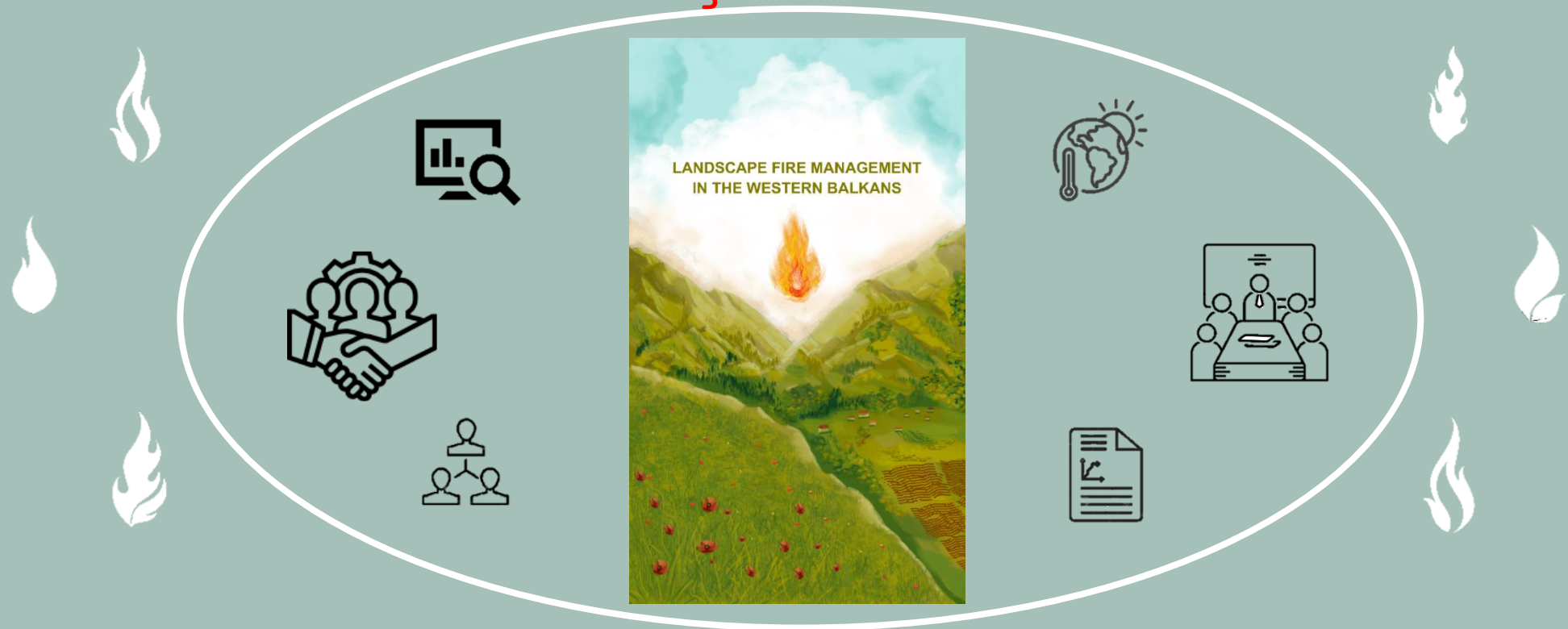
## LFMWB Programme - Expected results



- Supported **Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)** in developing and implementing a better regional LFM network coordination strategy and linking with other international initiatives.
- Strengthened capacities of LFM stakeholders (RFMC, CPIs and others) in the WB on **LFM, adaptive landscape management and climate change**.
- Established **fully operational national and regional networks for LFM**.
- Conducted **knowledge exchange on LFM** among RFMC, GFMC, and HAFL, and other Swiss stakeholders.
- Developed **country reports, national and regional strategy and policy guidelines**.
- Initiated multi-stakeholder **policy dialogue for integrating LFM into broader frameworks** at national level.
- Established and managed the **competitive fund for community-based LFM** in highly vulnerable regions to fire.



*Thank you for your attention*  
*Teşekkürler*



With joint efforts to fire-resilient landscapes!



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