

The UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network: Network Activities 2011-2015 – Progress Report

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Abstract

The Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network was established in 2002 as a part of the Global Wildland Fire Network. Through the years, many activities have been organized and conducted and the number of the country network members has been increased. As a consequence, in 2010 GFMC and the Council of Europe (CoE / EUR-OPA) supported the establishment of the Regional Fire Monitoring Center for the Southeast Europe / Caucasus Region, located in Skopje, Macedonia.

Between the 5th and the 6th International Wildland Fire Conferences the following activities have been accomplished: (1) Preparation and publication of the “Guidelines for the Defense of Rural Populations, Settlements and other Assets against Wildfires and Smoke Pollution”; the Guidelines are tailored for the use of local authorities (Part 1) and local population living in villages and otherwise across the landscape (Part 2). The project was funded by the Council of Europe and the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) and implemented by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Freiburg, Germany, and the Regional Fire Monitoring Centre (RFMC), Skopje, Macedonia. (2) In continuation of the implementation of the project “Enhancing National Capacity on fire Management and Risk Reduction in the South Caucasus”, a project under the aegis of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the GFMC (initiated in 2009) national training courses were conducted in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and at the Second Regional Advanced Seminar/Training in Wildland Fire Management which was held in 2014 in Antalya, Turkey. (3) The EuroFire competency-based fire management training standards and training materials were translated into almost all languages in the Regional Network. (4) The regional network was part of numerous meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops (UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management, UN Geneva, 2013; the First International Conference on Wildfire in Natural Resources Lands, Gorgan, Iran, 2011; Congress and Exhibition “Forest Fire and Climate Change: Challenges for Fire Management in Natural and Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia”, Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, 2013; International Aerial Firefighting Conferences, Aix-en-Provence, France, 2012, and Zadar, Croatia, 2015)

Key words: *Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network, Global Wildland Fire Network, Regional Fire Monitoring Center, Guidelines for Defense against Wildfires and Smoke Pollution, National Training Courses, Regional Advanced Seminar/Training in Wildland Fire Management*