



8TH
INTERNATIONAL
WILDLAND FIRE
CONFERENCE

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:
Towards an International
Framework
www.wildfire2023.pt

Porto-Portugal
May 16-19th
2023

8th International Wildland Fire Conference, Porto, Portugal

Porto Statement

“Towards the Development of an International Landscape Fire Governance Framework”

19 May 2023

The 8th International Wildland Fire Conference “Governance Principles: Towards an International Framework” took place in Porto, Portugal, between 16 and 19 May 2023. The conference discussed governance principles and guidelines, necessary to further develop institutional arrangements and public policies to address the consequences of environmental and socio-economic changes and climate change on fire regimes, systemic wildfire risk and fire management in the natural, cultural and urban-industrial landscapes at global scale.

The conference mobilized fire management experts – including policy and decision-makers, scientists, operational and technical professionals – from throughout the world. Like the preceding conferences between 1989 and 2019, the event served as a forum for sharing experience among representatives of national agencies, inter-governmental organizations, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders. The main conference topics included themes such as the application of governance principles, with emphasis on Integrated Fire Management like ecosystem-based solutions, stakeholder engagement, inclusion, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Conference contributions elaborated on measures that should be taken to prevent and mitigate the effects of wildfires affecting the environment, society and security at global scale and to promote environmentally and socially benign use of fire in land management.

In following-up and in line with the statements of the 6th and 7th International Wildland Fire Conferences and in preparation of the Porto conference, the document „Landscape Fire Governance Framework – Guiding Principles for Adjusting Strategies, Policies, and Management, to Global Change” was prepared, circulated and discussed among experts and government and non-government institutions. By revisiting the document at the conference, the participants concluded that the Framework should be brought forward to the United Nations and international and regional intergovernmental organizations to be formally recognized as a guiding framework for enhancing governance in Integrated Fire Management.

As stewards of the International Wildland Fire Conferences, the International Liaison Committee (ILC) has coordinated the development of a global statement as an output from each conference. These statements have been used to inform important UN documents such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Paris Climate Agreement. In this scope, the ILC can and will steward the Landscape Fire Governance Framework. Individual and organizational members of the ILC will work toward endorsement by appropriate UN organs, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Environment Programme UNEP, and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), with support of the Wildland Fire Advisory Group and the Global Wildland Fire Network.