

Global Fire Management Strategy

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The United Nations FAO Ministerial Meeting on Forests at the 17th Session in March 2005 (Rome, Italy) called upon FAO, in collaboration with countries and other international partners, including the UNISDR, to develop a strategy to enhance international cooperation in fire management, that advanced knowledge, increased access to information and resources and explore new approaches for cooperation at all levels. They also requested preparation of a voluntary guidelines on the prevention, suppression and recovery from forest fire. The need for such tools to assist in international cooperation had also been highlighted at the 3rd International Wildland Fire Conference, and the International Wildland Fire Summit in Sydney, Australia in October 2003. In addition the increasing incidence and severity of impacts of major fires globally has reinforced this need.

An international expert consultation group in wildland fires met in Madrid in May 2006 and agreed that the non-legally binding Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Fire Management include the overarching framework for component parts of: i) Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines; ii) Implementation Partnership; iii) Global Assessment of Fire Management; and iv) Review of International Cooperation in Fire Management.

These tools have been tailored primarily for land-use policy makers, planners and managers in fire management, including the Governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to assist in the formulation of policy, legal, regulatory and other enabling conditions and strategic actions for more holistic approaches to fire management. Their scope includes the positive and negative social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of natural and planned fires in forests, woodlands, rangelands, grasslands, agricultural and rural/-urban landscapes. The fire management scope includes early warning, prevention, preparedness (international, national, sub-national and community), safe and effective initial attack on incidences of fire and landscape restoration following fire. This presentation will provide further background and understanding on the FAO Voluntary Fire Management Guidelines.