

**Inputs provided by:** Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

**General description of mandates and objective(s) of your organization / associated network with institutional structure**

*(Please provide information on organizational mandates and objective(s) of the organization / associated network with organizational/institutional structure, as explicitly and/or implicitly relevant to addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow onset events. Please feel free to expand the boxes as needed throughout the template. )*

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) is an institution of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science, located on the campus of Freiburg University, Germany. Since 2005 GFMC is an Associated Institute of the United Nations University (UNU). Since 2001 GFMC is serving as coordinator and facilitator of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network, a global voluntary network that is providing policy advice, and science and technology transfer to enable nations:

- to reduce the negative impacts of vegetation fires (“wildland fires”) on the environment and humanity; and
- to advance the knowledge and application of the ecologically and environmentally benign role of natural fire in fire-dependent ecosystems, and sustainable application of fire in land-use systems.

Under the UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction the GWFN is serving as a “Thematic Platform”. GFMC provides a global portal for wildland fire documentation, information and monitoring and is publicly accessible through the Internet (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de>). The regularly updated national to global wildland fire products of the GFMC are generated by a worldwide network of cooperating institutions. Web-based information and GFMC services include:

- Early warning of fire danger and near-real time monitoring of fire events (this includes the currently developing Global Wildland Fire Early Warning System and a global portal to existing national, regional and global fire weather and fire danger rating systems)
- Interpretation, synthesis and archive of global fire information
- Support of nations and international organizations to develop long-term strategies or policies for wildland fire management, including community-based fire management approaches and advanced wildland fire management training for decision makers, especially in the prevention and preparedness of wildfire disasters
- Serve as advisory body to the UN system through the coordination of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network
- Emergency hotline and liaison capabilities for providing assistance for rapid assessment and decision support in response to wildland fire emergencies under cooperative agreements with UN-OCHA, Emergency Services Branch, and the WSSD Environmental Emergencies Partnership.
- Methods of science and technology transfer for application in local fire management (wildland fire prevention, preparedness, suppression, rehabilitation) under different cultural, socio-economic and ecological environments
- Methods and application of people-centered participatory fire management (Community-Based Fire Management)
- Development of national strategies and policies for wildland fire management, including legislation
- Development of standards for international cooperation in wildland fire management (fire management guidelines, common terminology, standard procedures for cooperation in wildland fire emergencies)
- Training courses for international wildland fire management specialists, including experts for assessment and intervention missions
- Global fire assessments such as fire damage assessments in conjunction with climate change impacts on ecosystem properties and fire regimes

## Relevant operational framework(s)

See Box 1

And:

Resource allocation strategy: A critical point. Most of our services is cost free, but sometimes our partners need support. We are working with a number of international organizations / donours, such as those listed on our “sponsor page”:

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/partner.htm>

and GFMC is participating in a number of initiatives and projects led by UN agencies and other international organizations, e.g.

- the wildfire emergency preparedness and response through the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU), Emergency Services Branch
- the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme
- the UNISDR-led Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), with main emphasis of outreach work in fire management in developing countries
- GFMC has signed Letters of Agreement or Memoranda of Understanding on collaborative work with the WHO and FAO
- UNESCO was main sponsor at the foundation of GFMC in 1998 and is a partner of activities to protect cultural and natural heritage assets against destruction by wildfires
- Cooperative work with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) since the 1990s
- GFMC is member of the Network of Specialised Euro-Mediterranean Centres of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Council of Europe
- Policy advisor and field implementation for the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), in cooperation with the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) and UNEP
- Partnering with the World Bank through its former Disaster Management Facility (now Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery – GFDRR)

## Focus areas of risk management for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

- (a) *Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset impacts*; In conjunction with the global Wildland Fire Early Warning System (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/gwfews/index.html>) GFMC has started to develop “Annual Global Wildland Fire Fatalities and Damages Report” (last publication: Year 2011 - <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/media/GFMC-Bulletin-01-2012.pdf>)
- (b) *Identifying options and designing and implementing country-driven risk management strategies and approaches, including risk reduction, and risk transfer and risk-sharing mechanisms*; GFMC is supporting numerous countries to develop National Fire Management Policies and relevant implementation strategies and action
- (c) *The systematic observation of, and data collection on, the impacts of climate change, in particular slow onset impacts, and accounting for losses, as appropriate*; The long-term goal of GFMC is to expand gradually the global fire information repository which currently has ca. 160,000 online documents / pages
- (d) *Implementing comprehensive climate risk management approaches, including scaling up and replicating good practices and pilot initiatives*; In conjunction with the global Wildland Fire Early Warning System (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/gwfews/index.html>) GFMC is expanding its scope of development with partners to create capabilities of long-term (years, decades) forecasting of global fire danger / risk)
- (e) *Promoting an enabling environment that would encourage investment and the involvement of relevant stakeholders in climate risk management*; Encouraging investors to participate in carbon abatement / offset projects through fire management.
- (f) *Involving vulnerable communities and populations, and civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, in the assessment of and response to loss and damage*; Encouraging decision makers at national to local levels to involve local communities in fire management through participatory approaches, and encouraging civil society to take responsibility in preventing and combating the adverse effects of wildland fire and fire emissions to reduce climate change impacts and to increase terrestrial carbon storage.
- (g) *Enhancing access to, sharing and the use of data, at the regional, national and subnational levels, such as hydrometeorological data and metadata, on a voluntary basis, to facilitate the assessment and management of climate-related risk*. As stated above.

**Geographic coverage**

Global, with emphasis to assist developing countries and countries in transition.

**Key stakeholders**

Global: UN through coordinated efforts by GFMC

Other international: International organizations (non UN)

Regional: With the 14 Regional Wildland Fire Networks, regional entities (e.g., ASEAN, SADC, UNECE) are encouraged to play a key role for fostering cooperation between neighbouring countries within the region.

**Implementation modality / delivery mechanisms**

***Global Wildland Fire Network through 14 Regional Wildland Fire Networks***

As stated above: Difficult, GFMC is used to raise small funding for projects, but is rather building on the professional and devoted community of fire specialists (academia, administrations, land owners). Funding involved only for seed funding.

Internally to the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group.

**Key activities / outputs to date**

14 Regional Wildland Fire Networks are functioning within / under the Global Wildland Fire Network (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>), in various stages of development and financial support.

**Any additional information and contact details**

*Please provide the name and email address of a contact person.*

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