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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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<b>AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION</b>
<b>NINETEENTH SESSION</b>
<b>THIRD AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK</b>
<b>WINDHOEK, REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA</b> <b>30 September - 4 October 2013</b>
<b>Theme: Development of the Forest and Wildlife Sectors for effective contribution to Food Security and a Green Economy in Africa</b>
<b>SHAPING THE FAO FIRE MANAGEMENT UMBRELLA PROGRAMME, MANAGING WILDFIRE-RELATED RISKS AT THE LANDSCAPE LEVEL, AND IMPROVING INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION</b>
<b>Secretariat Note</b>

*Summary*

The FAO fire management programme, reflects an integrated approach which deals with vegetation fires throughout all land uses. As a consequence, not only the Forestry Department is supporting the fire management activity but several other units are supporting it (like the Departments of Natural Resources Management and Environment, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and the Legal Office), however, the Forestry Department is coordinating the activities. It is also integrated in that sense that it does not concentrate on suppression only but also on prevention, monitoring, preparedness and restoration. The “Smart Fire” Fire” Umbrella Programme: Managing Landscapes and Fires in a Changing Climate (the Umbrella Programme), seeks to strengthen the FAO programme in this field.

**FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NINETEENTH AFWC SESSION AND ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION RELATED TO THE FAO FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

1. During the last session Commission members shared information on good practices involving communities in fire management and stressed that emphasis should be placed on pro-active approaches rather than repressive methods. Actions to prevent and fight vegetation fires should include traditional simple methods and income generation activities based on farming and landscape management (e.g. beekeeping and fruit tree plantations). FAO's projects in the Futa Djallon

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watershed, in Tanzania in the Kagera basin, and in Syria build their fire management activities on recognizing traditional fire knowledge and management.

2. Countries expressed the need to exchange information on good practices at national, regional and international level. Since the last session FAO has organized a regional (2012, Arusha Tanzania) and a global workshop (2012, HQ, Rome) on Community Based Fire Management good practices, as a first step to develop regional and global guidelines.

3. The Commission also supported the establishment of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund in FAO to better respond to the increasing and changing demands in fire management. The proposal has now been endorsed by FAO as the Umbrella Programme. Analyzing CPF's and country requests show that west Africa and southern Africa might have to be prioritized under this program.

4. The Commission requested FAO to assist Members in developing national strategies, policies and action plans, based on multisectoral stakeholder involvement in an integrated landscape management approach. This approach, together with a community participation approach has been and is being used in FAO projects in Tanzania, Swaziland, the Kageera basin (Tanzania and Zambia) and Futa Djallon watershed (West Africa). Project activities in Tanzania on fire management have been completed and final reports are being prepared. The Great Green Wall initiative may be another opportunity to integrate fire management in a broader landscape approach.

5. With support from GIZ (Germany), the Joint Research Centre of the EU in Ispra, Silva Mediterranea and FAO, three countries in Northern Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria) and one in the Near East (Lebanon) are being included in the European Forest Fire Information System. This includes training on investigation of fire causes and developing national fire data bases. A better understanding of fire causes and history should at the end lead to better prevention.

6. A regional project funded by the French Global Environmental Facility with a component focuses on REDD+ issues in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia focuses on the importance of fire prevention measures on climate change mitigation particularly in Algeria, where every year 50,000-80,000 ha are burning during the summer period.

7. A Morocco-funded FAO project in Morocco on the implementation of forest policy is developing early warning systems for the fire prone regions of the country.

8. Projects with fire management components are in pipeline for the Futa Djallon basin (second phase GEF-5), Zimbabwe (Forestry Development including Fire Management) and The Gambia (GEF proposal regarding Community Forestry including Community Based Fire Management).

9. FAO was invited to participate at the regional SADC Forestry Stakeholder Workshop in South Africa (2013) organized by the SADC secretariat with support from GIZ (Germany) and JICA (Japan). The workshop developed recommendations for JICA to support the SADC Forestry strategy, the SADC Fire Management and REDD+ programmes. Based on the results JICA developed a program proposal to be discussed with SADC and presented at the Tokyo International Cooperation for African Development donor meeting in June 2013.

10. During this meeting, FAO was asked by the SADC secretariat to help implement the Community Based Fire Management component of the SADC Fire Management Programme, developed in 2010 in Maputo, Mozambique. This would fit very well under the new "Smart Fire" Umbrella Programme, and FAO is waiting for the official request from the SADC secretariat.

11. FAO has started this year to pilot Regional initiatives for each new Strategic Objective. For Africa, Strategic Objective 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, is piloted in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. Although fire management will fall mainly under this strategic objective no specific activities were included in the pilot. Countries are encouraged to link this regional initiative with the fire management issue.

## **FOLLOW-UP OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF TWENTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AT GLOBAL LEVEL AND ELSEWHERE**

12. The Committee requested FAO to strengthen the FAO fire management programme by actively seeking financial support for the Multi-Donor Trust Fund proposal, now called the “Smart Fire” Umbrella Programme. This Programme will be mainly included in the new FAO Strategic objective 5 (SO5): Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. As such, it will be part of the efforts of both the Forestry Department and of the Strategic Objective core team to search for funding.

13. The new GEF-6 cycle, which will start in June 2014, has included Disaster Risk Reduction and Fire Management as areas of work. Preparatory work has started to come up with good proposals by then and FAO is planning to initiate discussion with potentially interested countries and regions. In order to strengthen the program more intensive contacts with donor countries are foreseen as well during this year.

14. The Committee also requested FAO to propose a coordination mechanism between the different UN agencies and programmes working on topics related to fire management by making full use of its comparative advantages and avoiding duplication with the work of other agencies such as the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC). In implementing this decision, discussions have started with UNISDR on this issue and more progress and tangible results are expected in the next year.

15. The Committee (COFO) had described forest fires as a major source of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and called upon countries to include forest fire management in their programmes for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). The “Smart Fire” Umbrella Programme has one pillar related to emerging issues like climate change. In implementing this pillar FAO has started a project in Kalimantan, Indonesia, funded through REDD funds from Norway to reduce GHG emission by substituting fire with other methods in agriculture on and nearby peatlands and by preventing wildfires in the community owned rubber plantations. More focus on alternatives for using fire was a recommendation also of the last International Wildland Fire Conference in South Africa, 2011.

16. FAO was requested by LACFC to update regional statistics on wildfires. The next Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 will include trends of fire incidence and areas burned over the last 12 years as measured from satellite data. This analysis will provide information on the total area burned and on forest area burned. Data will be made available to countries for revision as part of the FRA 2015 reporting process.

17. Since the last COFO session fire-related projects were concluded in Syria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Outside Africa, projects on integrated fire management projects or with a component on fire management have started or are ongoing in Chile and Indonesia.

18. Finally the Committee requested FAO to develop, in partnership with other relevant institutions and based on the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines, a set of international guidance tools for managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level, including transboundary fire issues. Taking into account other ongoing activities two initial themes were selected to implement this decision. One is the development of Community Based Fire Management Guidelines for District Officers and NGO's. An initial meeting took place with global experts end 2012 to define the outline and focus of such a tool. The guidelines re planned to be ready and launched at the International Wildland Fire Conference in 2015 in the Republic of Korea. The guidelines will be based on successful field experiences and be prepared with support from experts from all regions of the world who will also contribute to its review process.

### **OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

19. At HQ level, human resources related to fire management are now assigned in considerable extent to the development of the new FAO Strategic Objective 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods

to threats and crises. Although at the short time it limits efforts to the ongoing Fire Management programme, it will help, at the long and medium term, both the program (at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels) and the Forestry Department in general to be involved also in this strategic objective. However as the contribution to the SO5 core team will be a long term task, additional human resources will be needed in the fire management field to maintain the support to the (sub)regional and national officers and projects.

20. FAO is strongly involved in the preparation of the next International Wildland Fire Conference in 2015 in the Republic of Korea. Like during the last Conference in 2011 in South Africa, the Forestry Department will again promote a strong participation from Africa and advocate for a programme which reflects Integrated Fire Management including a Community Based Fire Management approach.

#### **POINTS FOR DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION**

21. Forest and other vegetation fires continue to be a severe concern for the countries Africa. It can be anticipated that the expected climate will increase the intensity and frequency of wildfires. Increasing vegetation fire will contribute to more greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. The Commission may wish to:

- discuss the increasing risk of uncontrolled wildfires in the region and what measures could be suggested counter this development for example through increasing intraregional cooperation as well as the close linkage of fire management in climate change related initiatives;
- mandate FAO with identifying more and additional financial and human resources;
- propose that investments in REDD+ and other climate change related initiatives include a component on fire management
- facilitate south-south collaboration, both within Africa as with other regions of the world, to support and implement projects on fire management.

22. The Commission may also wish to discuss ways and opportunities to include fire management in a broader landscape approach.

23. Commission member may further wish to propose themes for the programme of the next International Wildland Fire Conference.