

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language

Item 8.4 FAO’s work on integrated wildfire management (COFO/2024/6.4)

| Member Name  | Comments   |
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| <p><b>European Union and its 27 Member States</b><br/>Friday, 28 July 2024<br/>09:03 (CET)</p> | <p>In response to the written correspondence procedure, we are honoured to share with you a statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the three suggested actions by the Committee presented in the Secretariat document.</li> <li>• We recognize the interlinkages among climate change, land-use change, land abandonment, and human activities in landscape fires, which is driving to biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.</li> <li>• Landscape fire management is not a forestry issue only: it requires a multi-sectoral approach and coordinated actions agreed upon by several public and private actors.</li> <li>• Joint efforts on landscape fires should avoid duplications and overlaps while promoting collaboration, synergies and coordination at all levels. In this regard and referring to para 12 of the Document, we highlight the importance of the Landscape Fire Governance Framework (Porto, 2023) and support it being used together with the Fire Hub when implementing IFM.</li> <li>• Support the continued development of the Fire Hub and its five interconnected pillars, offering a one-stop shop to scale up action on Integrated Fire Management and further the use of the FAO fire management voluntary guidelines.</li> <li>• In reference to para 10 of the document, request FAO to also take the lead in implementing the regional and cross-border dimension, building on existing fire information systems and networks in Europe and globally, and already existing regional structures.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Japan</b><br/>Friday, 28 July 2024<br/>11:11 (CET)</p>                                   | <p>In recent years, extreme wildfires have become more frequent around the world, and the frequency and area burnt by fires are projected to continue to increase in the future. We would like to express our gratitude for FAO's leadership in this field in collaboration with other UN agencies and countries.</p> <p>Regarding forest fire management, Japan would like to share a range of activities, including technical assistance and capacity building, that are being implemented around the world in close collaboration with ITTO as well as through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).</p>   |

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| <p><b>United States of America</b><br/>Friday, 28 July 2024<br/>17:03 (CET)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The United States appreciates the efforts of the FAO on integrated wildfire management and welcome the development of the Global Wildfire Management Hub.</li> <li>• We encourage the Secretariat to include reference to the Landscape Fire Governance Framework in the executive summary and in suggested action “a.”</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Canada</b><br/>Friday, 28 July 2024<br/>20:36 (CET)</p>                   | <p>Canada is pleased to see that the committee has included wildfire management as a topic at this year’s session and that three key actions have been proposed within the discussion paper to strengthen global capacity for wildfire management. As countries around the world face increasingly challenging wildfire seasons largely driven by our changing climate, international cooperation on wildfire management is becoming increasingly important.</p> <p>A key tool for increasing international cooperation is the Global Fire Management Hub (“Fire Hub”). Since the Fire Hub’s launch in May 2023, Canada has actively supported its development. The efforts of the Fire Hub will strengthen an integrated approach to wildfire management and parallels Canada’s work on this subject, including Indigenous Fire Stewardship, promoting whole-of-society involvement, and the importance of prevention and mitigation. Canada looks forward to engaging with others through the Fire Hub on Indigenous Fire Stewardship and various science and technology topics.</p> <p>As such, Canada supports the suggested actions by the Committee.</p> <p>We would also like to take this opportunity to share that we in the process of establishing a Canadian Centre of Excellence for Wildland Fire Innovation and Resilience (CoE), which will be focused on knowledge exchange and mobilization; accelerating innovation and technology uptake; and supporting Indigenous Fire Stewardship and cultural use of fire. This platform will be a tool to facilitate sharing Canadian knowledge and expertise to the international fire community.</p> <p>We have one correction to request regarding the exact area burned by wildland fires in Canada in 2023. The COFO/2024/6.4 document, page 3, notes 18 million square hectares burned. The final number, as calculated by the Canadian Forest Service, is 14.6 million ha. This is based on the National Burned Area Composite (<a href="https://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/datamart/metadata/nbac">https://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/datamart/metadata/nbac</a>). This final number is in the <i>nbac_summarystats_1972_2023_20240530.xlsx</i> file located under “Dataset” at the bottom. The 2023 update was just released last week, so no official publications available yet. The long-term average annual area burned is just under 2 million ha (Mha) (1.96Mha for 1959-2015) <a href="https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/full/10.1139/cjfr-2018-0293">https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/full/10.1139/cjfr-2018-0293</a>. This average annual area burned is now at 2.0 Mha (1959-2023).</p> |