

The background of the slide features a light gray graphic. On the left, there is a stylized globe with latitude and longitude lines. On the right, there is a stylized tree with large, rounded leaves. The text is centered over this background.

# Strategy to Reduce Vegetation Fire Disaster Risk

**Johann Goldammer**

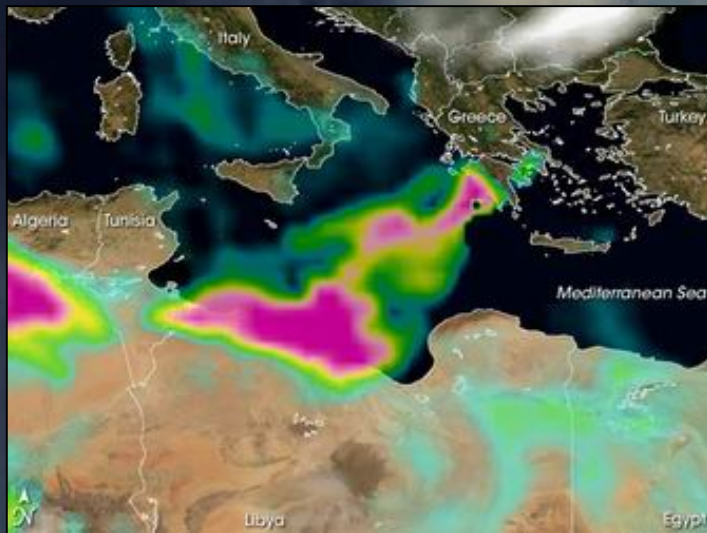
Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

**Denny Truesdale**

U.S.D.A. Forest Service

**Fire disasters globally:**

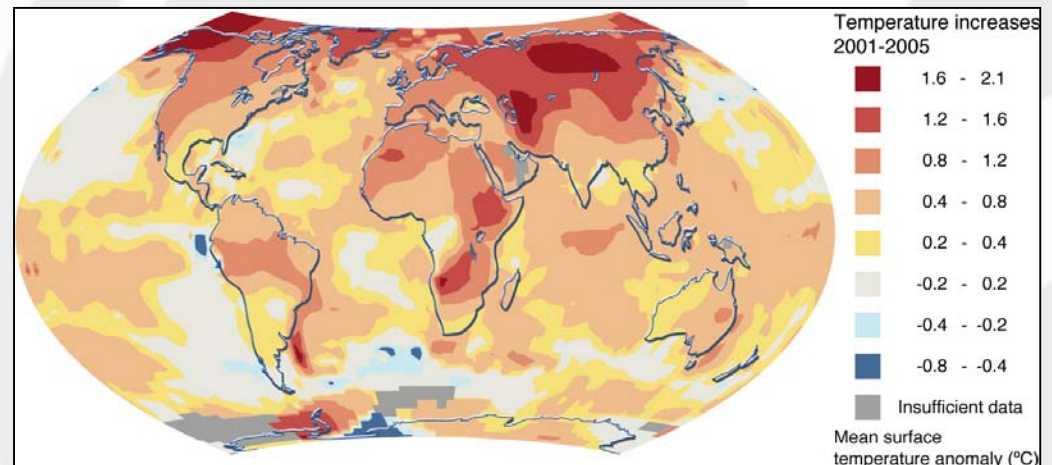
**Multi-faceted**

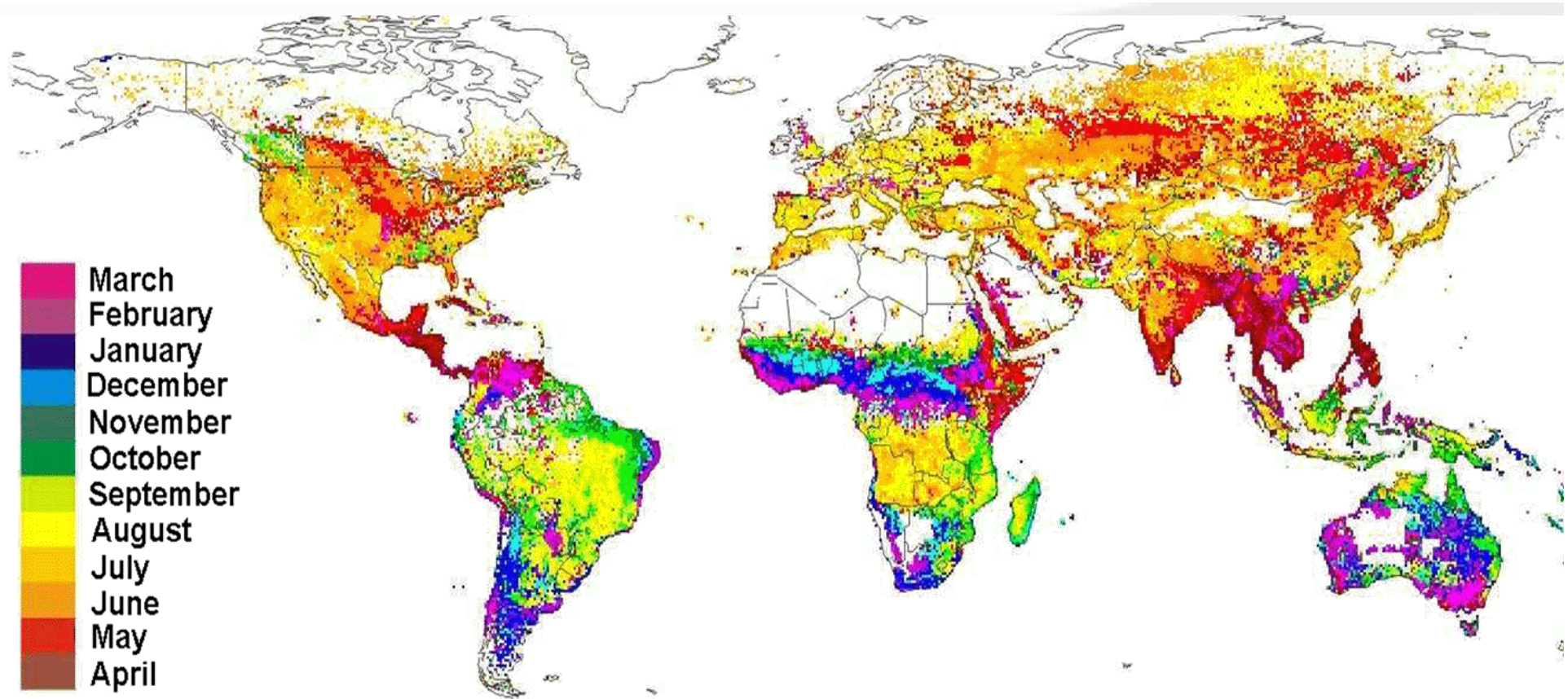


# Climate Change and Fire

With climate change, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent

As a result, there is a growing incidence and impact of destructive fires that affect food security, human health, livelihoods, and lives



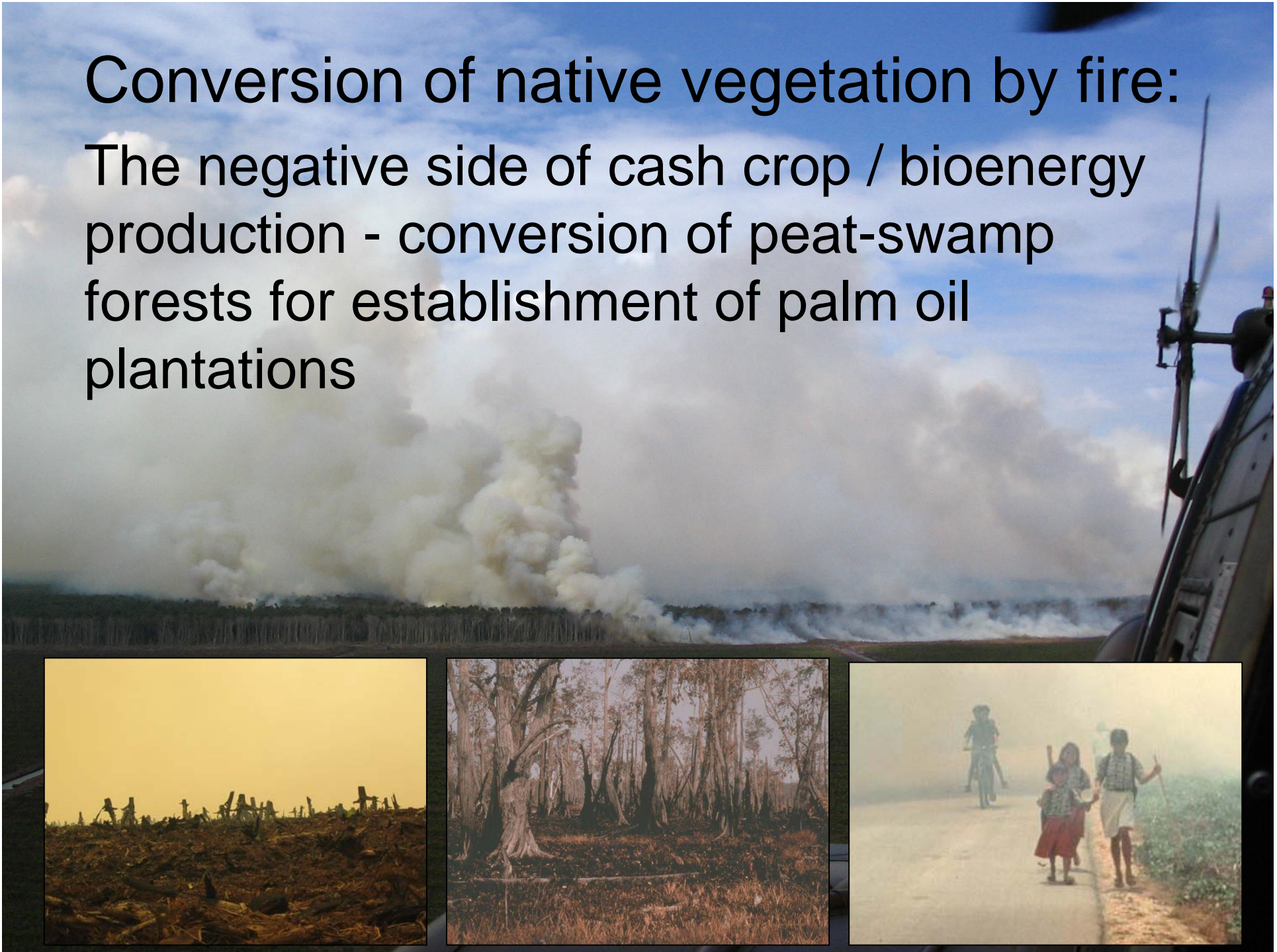


- 300-400 million hectares burned every year
- People with least capability to respond are most at risk and have the least capacity to recover

Megafires: almost uncontrollable fire events – consequences of historic and current land / forest management, reinforced by climate extremes



Conversion of native vegetation by fire:  
The negative side of cash crop / bioenergy  
production - conversion of peat-swamp  
forests for establishment of palm oil  
plantations



# Global Context

- Healthy systems (both ecological and social) are more resilient and better able to adapt to change
- All sectors must work together – at all levels
- Fire is needed by many and the negative impacts affect many

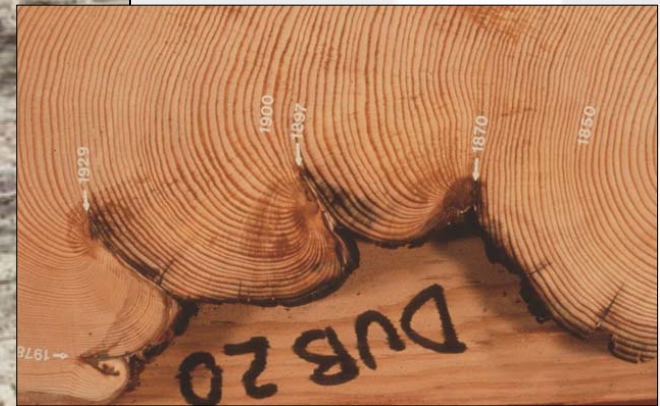
# Fire Management

- Not all fires are bad: Fires is a tool and an important part of healthy ecosystems
- Other disasters may predispose the environment to fire (insect and disease outbreaks, droughts, damage from storms)
- Fire Management has a broad definition: from planning – detection – prevention – preparedness – suppression – recovery to the use of fire on a sound ecological basis



# The Benign Side of Fire

Recurrent fires in fire-dependent or adapted ecosystems  
Example: Eurasia's Coniferous Forests



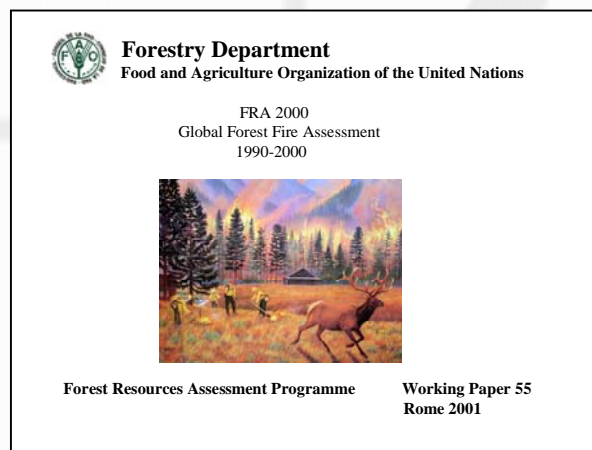
# Tools

- Global Statistics and Assessments
- Monitoring and Early Warning
- International Protocols and Standards
- Technical Assistance
- Community-Based Fire Management (CBFiM)
- Response and Recovery

# Global Statistics and Assessment



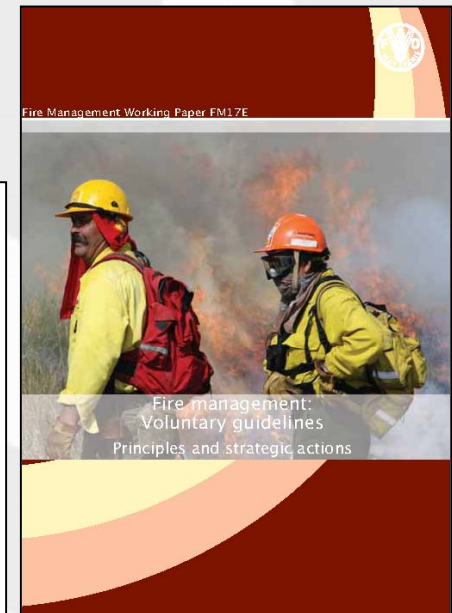
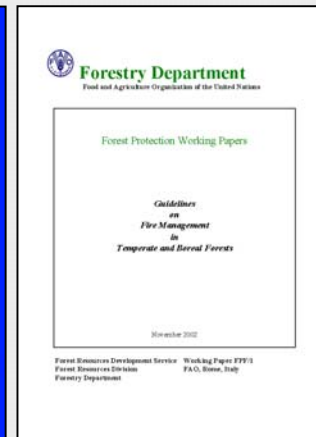
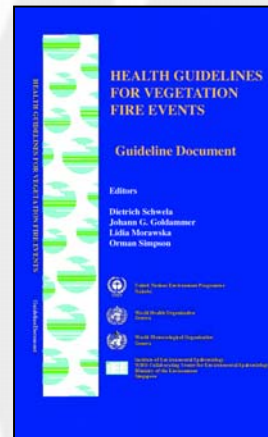
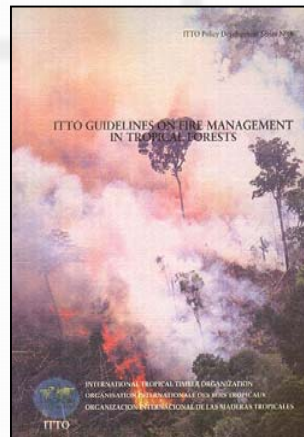
## Joint products of FAO, UNECE and GWFN / GFMC





# International Protocols and Standards

- Strategies
- Guidelines
- Terminology
- Agreements templates
- Incident Command system - ICS



# Technical Assistance

- Education and training
- Program assessments
- Technical exchanges
- Projects in developing countries



# Community-Based Fire Management (CBFiM)

- Programmes active in:
  - Africa
  - Central America
  - Asia
- Objectives: Empower communities to develop programs and organizations to meet local and national needs and goals
- Involve communities of interest



# Response and Recovery

- Local, national, Regional, and global responses to wildland fire disasters.
- Many agencies respond to emergencies.

## **Example: Challenges for intra-EU and inter-European Harmonization**

- EU Forest Focus
- UNECE Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
- FAO Technical Cooperation Projects
- European Council / European Open Partial Agreement (EUR-OPA)
- NATO / Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre
- UNISDR Regional Southeast Europe Wildland Fire Network

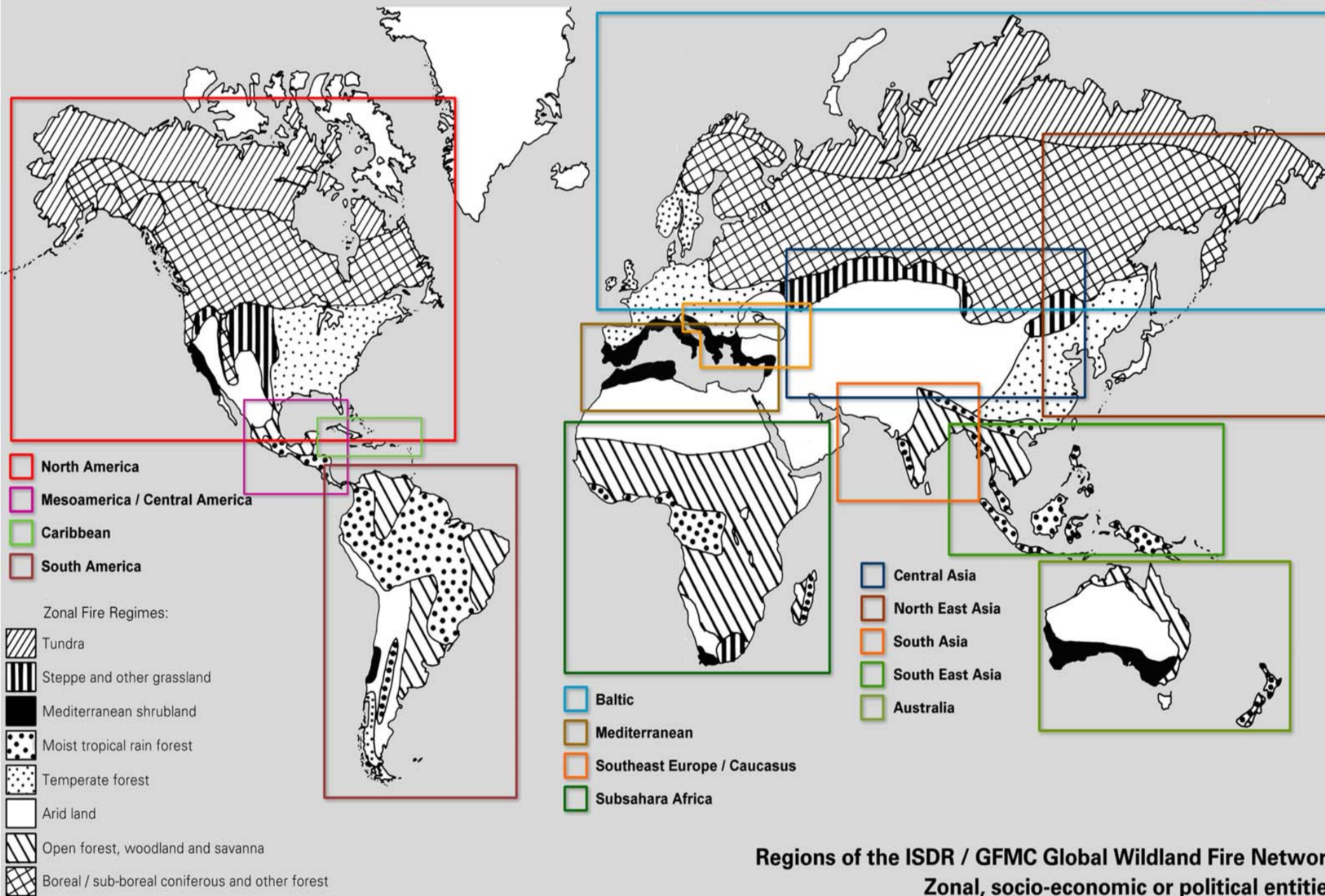




# Partnerships and Cooperation

- International:
  - Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN)
  - Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG)
  - Fire Management Actions Alliance
- Bilateral – Multilateral – National:
  - Bilateral Agreements (e.g., US – AU/NZ)
- Local:
  - CBFiM
  - Networks from local to international

# The UN-ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network



**Regions of the ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network**  
 Zonal, socio-economic or political entities

# Fire Management Today

- We increasingly understand the situation, the causes, the impacts, and the trends
- A framework for cooperation exists
- We have proven and effective tools

# What is Needed?

- Recognition and response to the growing incidence and impact of extreme weather events that increase the risk of vegetation fires
  - Early warning, prevention, preparedness
- Understanding and policy commitment at the highest political levels for greater investments in planning, preparation, and capacity building – not just response

# What is Needed?

- Strengthen existing mechanisms - don't make new ones
  - Cooperation (vertical and horizontal)
  - Partnerships and networks
  - Education and training

Thanks for your Attention