

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
Evaluation / Self-Assessment of the Teams of Specialists
Geneva, Palais des Nations, 27 March 2012**



Team of Specialists on Forest Fire Self-Assessment, Evaluation and Future Work

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Team of Specialists on Forest Fire (I)

Terms of Reference (extract**)**

To provide, in close cooperation and coordination with the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network, FAO, UNISDR, Council of Europe and other partners, **guidance to ECE member states on**

- Forest fire management**
- Forest fire policies**
- International cooperation in fire management**

Team of Specialists on Forest Fire (II)

First activities of the Team are dating back to the early 1980s

Membership 2012: 21 countries

East / SE Europe, Balkans

Russia & Caucasus

Azerbaijan

Belarus

Estonia

Bulgaria

Croatia

Macedonia, FYR

Poland

Russia

Serbia

Slovakia

Lithuania

Turkey

Ukraine

W Europe

France

Portugal

Germany

Italy

Spain

UK

N America

Canada

USA

Team of Specialists on Forest Fire (III)

Membership 2012: 3 International Organizations

- Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD)



- European Commission (JRC)



- Global Wildland Fire Network
Focus: SE Europe / Caucasus and
Central Asian Regional Networks)



UN - ISDR / GFMC Global Wildland Fire Network
Regional Southeast European / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network

Team of Specialists on Forest Fire (IV)

Sponsors / partners 2012

- Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
 - Financed by Germany (Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science & Fed. Ministry Agriculture)
- UN Int. Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- Council of Europe (CoE / EUR-OPA Agreement)
- Org. Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Environment and Security Programme (ENVSEC)
- United Nations University (UNU)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



Bundesministerium für
Ernährung, Landwirtschaft
und Verbraucherschutz



United Nations

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY



Self-Assessment / Evaluation (I)

Reply: **12** of 21 ToS member countries = **57%**

East / SE Europe, Balkans Russia & Caucasus

Azerbaijan

Belarus

Estonia

Bulgaria

Croatia

Macedonia, FYR

Poland

Russia

Serbia

Slovakia

Lithuania

Turkey

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W Europe

France

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N America

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USA

Self-Assessment / Evaluation (II)

Membership duration

Quite broad range in history of involvement:
1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 30 years

Connectedness / feedback to national government

All positive

Support of ToS Members by national authorities

Positive in terms of thematic and political feedback, but majority of ToS members do not receive financial support for their participation

Sustainability of Members

Should be guaranteed by appropriate appointments

Self-Assessment / Evaluation (III)

**Mandate, *opus moderandi*
and expected outputs**

Understood and clear

**Country membership
representative for UNECE?**

Only 21 of 56 UNECE
Member States represented

Currently considered to be
adequate concerning sub-
regional focus of ToS work in
the Eastern Europe /
Caucasus / Central Asian
(EECCA) countries

Shortfalls

Lack of financial support of
Team work

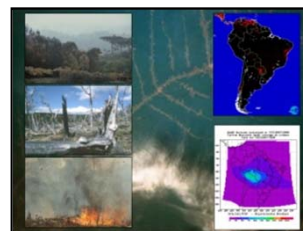
Self-Assessment / Evaluation (IV)

Topics / themes of the ToS evaluated as appropriate and successful:

- Promotion of East-West fire science dialogue
- Key problem: Fire use in the agricultural and pastoral domain
- Newly arising fire problems in cultural landscapes
- Fire management in contaminated terrain (e.g., radioactive, chemical and UXO contamination)
- Enhancing transboundary cooperation in fire management, especially through regional networks

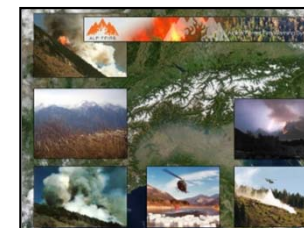
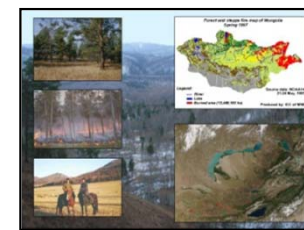
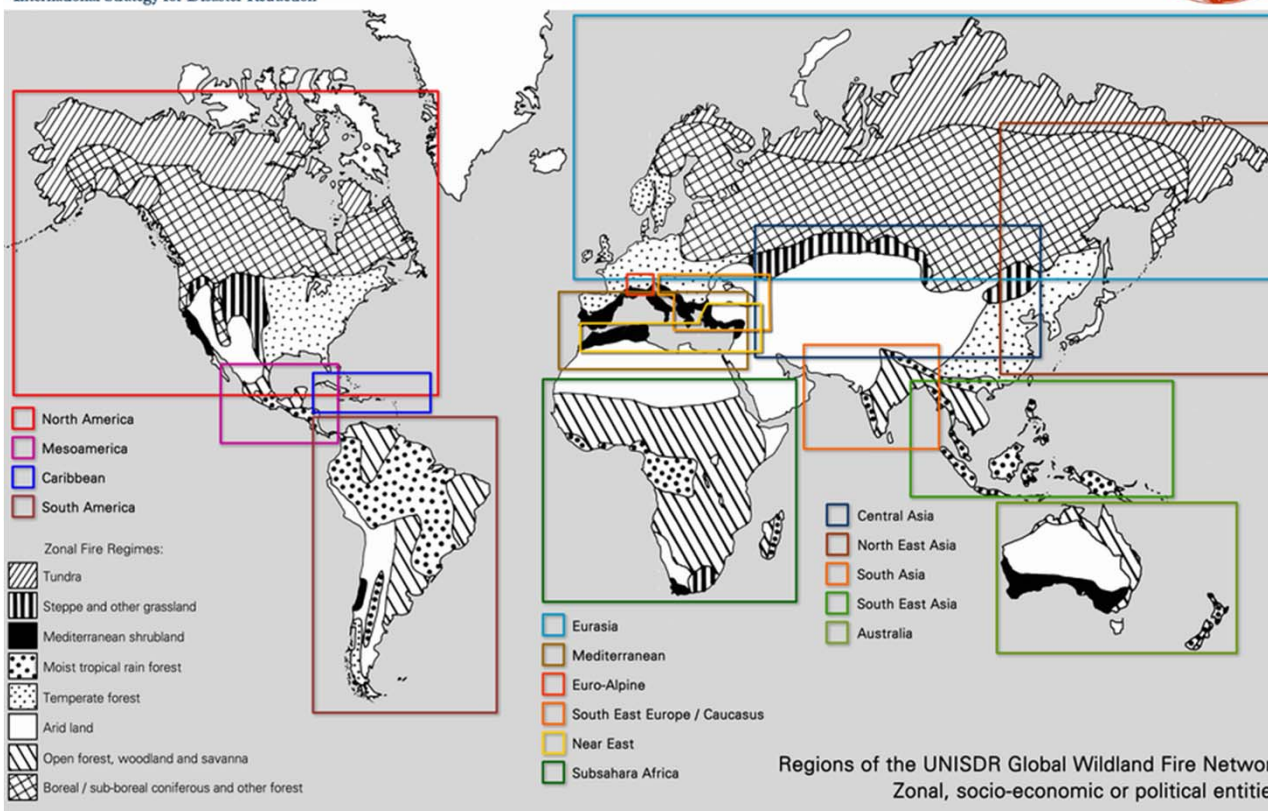
Conclusions and Recommendations (I)

- **A priority goal of the Team has been accomplished:** Consolidation of the Transatlantic dialogue by exchanging expertise in fire management between North America and Europe
- **Regional / sub-regional cooperation is operational:** Regional Wildland Fire Networks provide a suitable mechanism for exchange between countries and at regional level
- **The UNECE Region in the global context:** The ToS created the **Global Wildland Fire Network** within which the the UNECE Region is playing a key role for the promotion of cooperation in fire management at **global level**



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network



UNECE Region: Initiator of the Global Wildland Fire Network

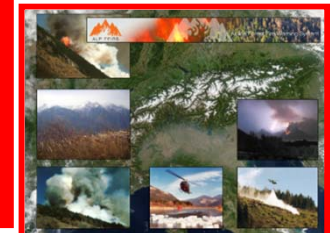
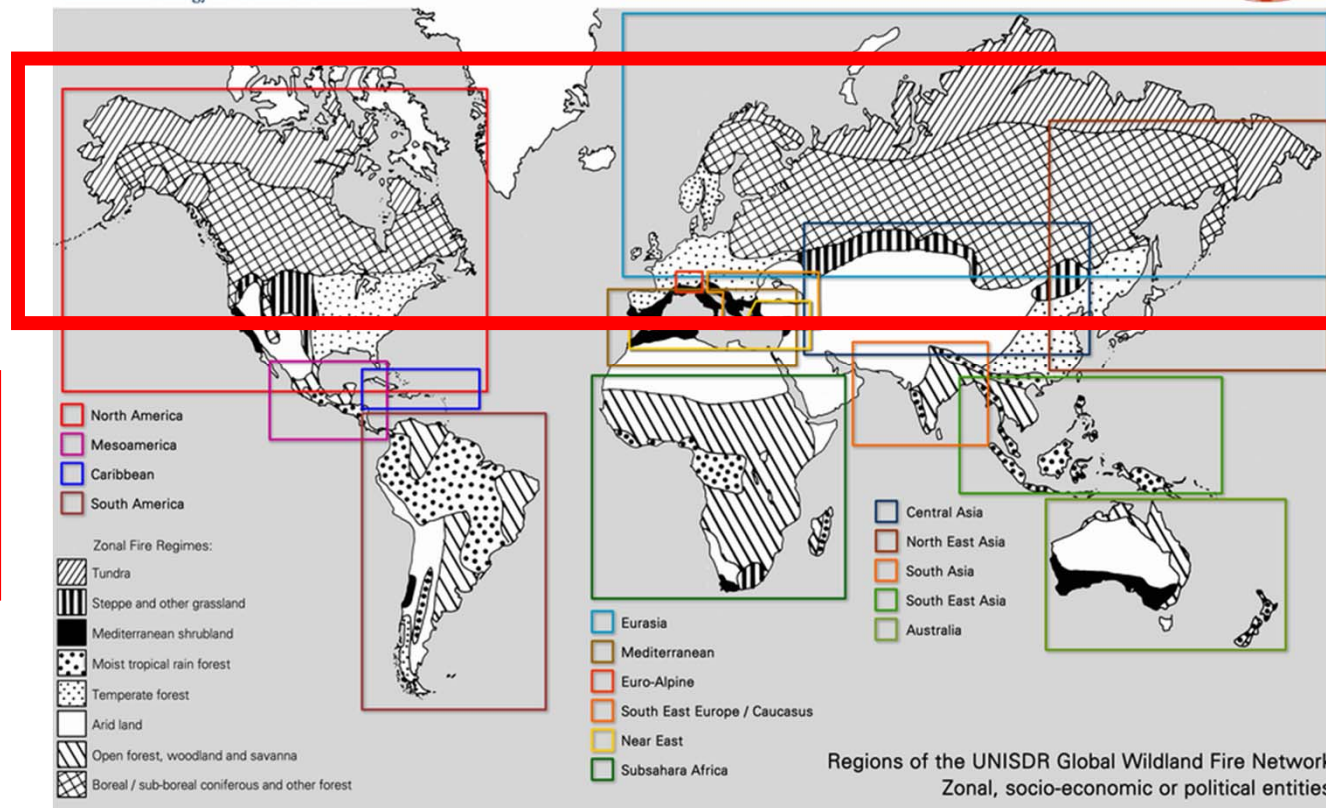
North America – Mesoamerica – South America – Caribbean – Mediterranean – Near East – Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Subsahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia – Eurasia – Euro-Alpine

The UNECE Region in the Global Wildland Fire Network



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network



Regional Wildland Fire Networks within the UNECE Region
North America – Mesoamerica – South America – Caribbean – Mediterranean – Near East –
Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Subsahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia
Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia – Eurasia – Euro-Alpine

Conclusions and Recommendations (II)

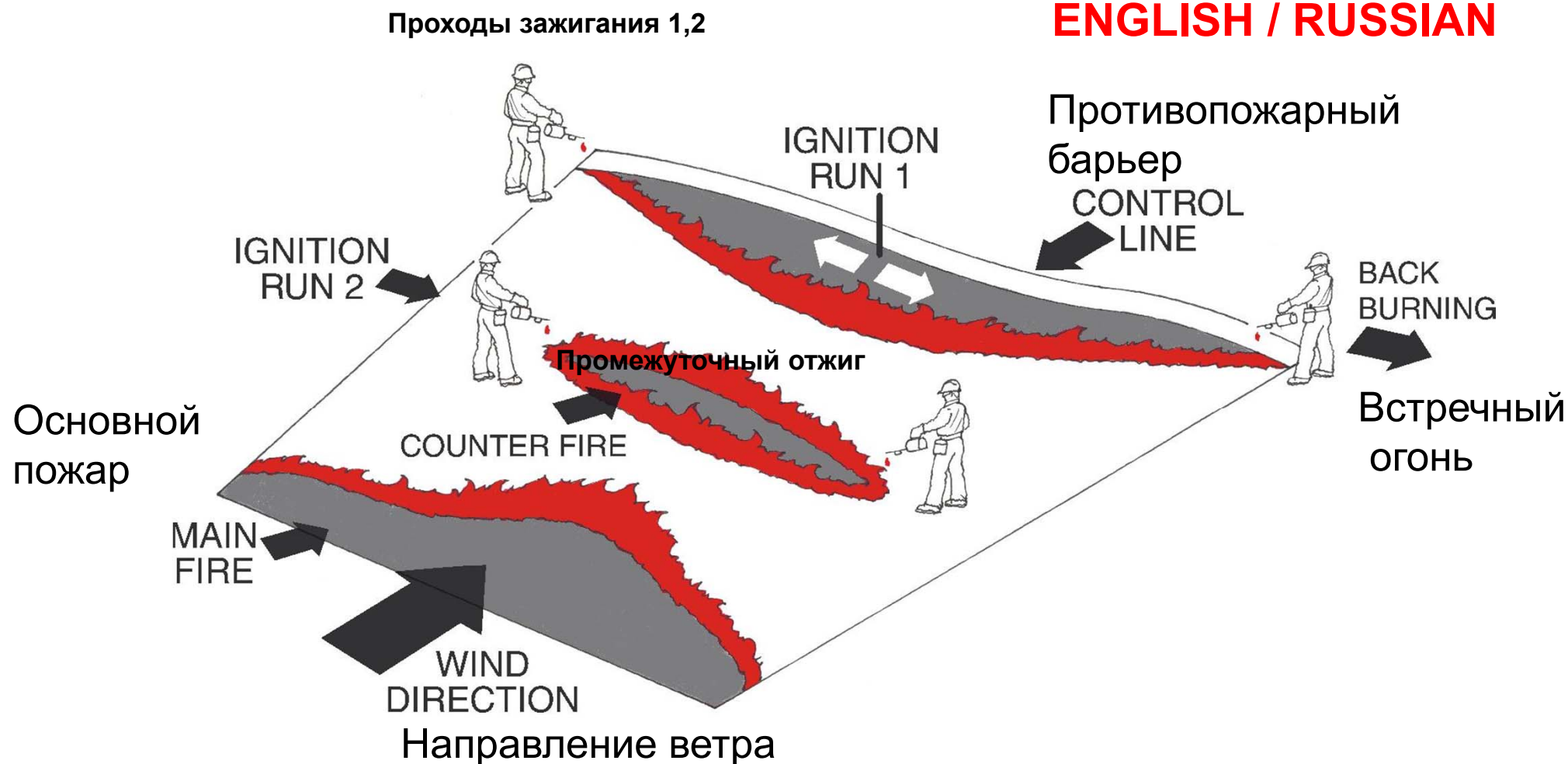
Activities ahead (I):

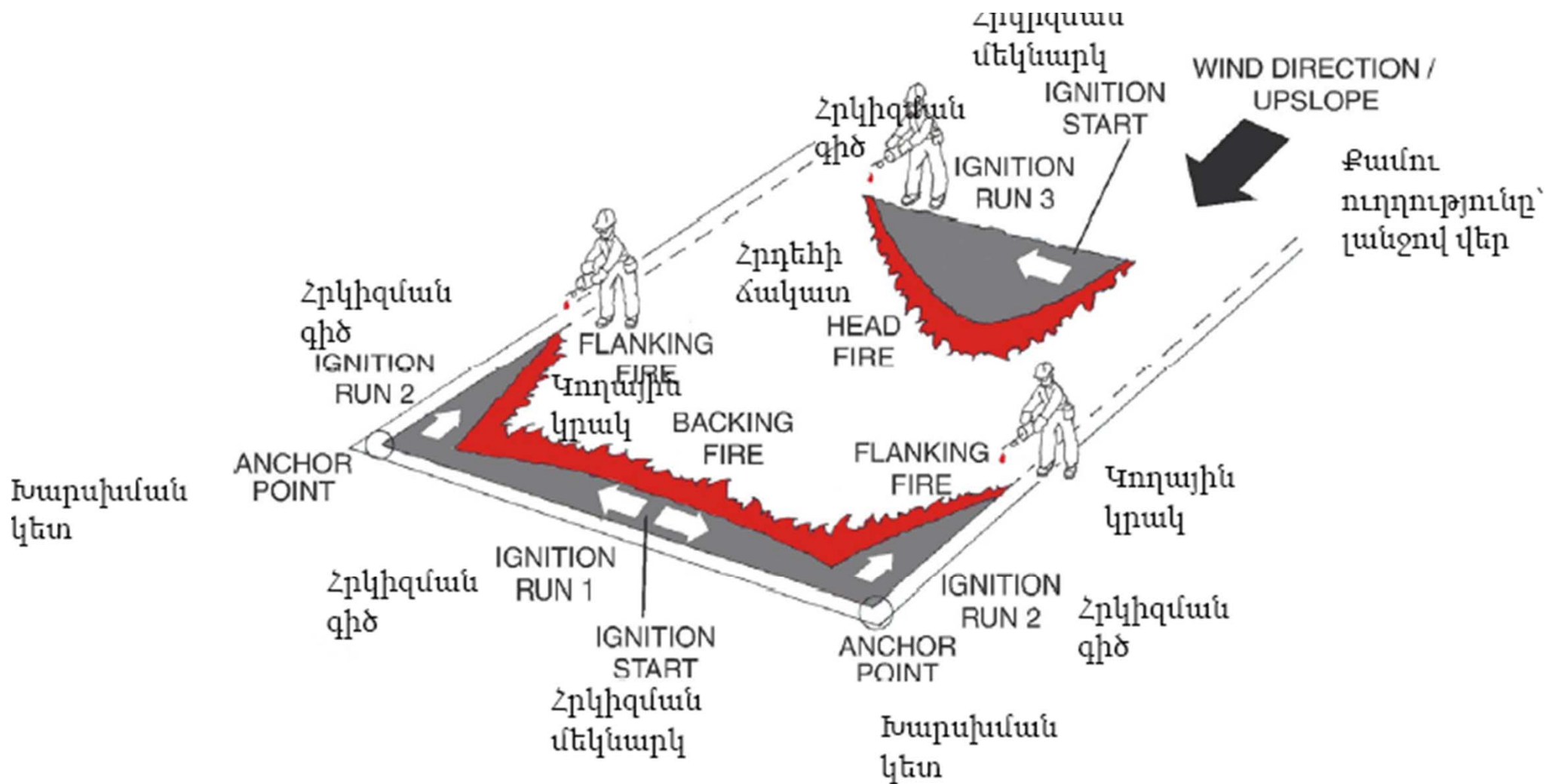
- Continue support to member UNECE states in developing national fire management policies and implementation strategies notably in EECCA region
- Capacity building – a continuing priority, e.g. by using competency-based EuroFire standards for national training, allowing also to exchange fire management specialists at regional level

Key financial supporters

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
and the Environment and Security Programme



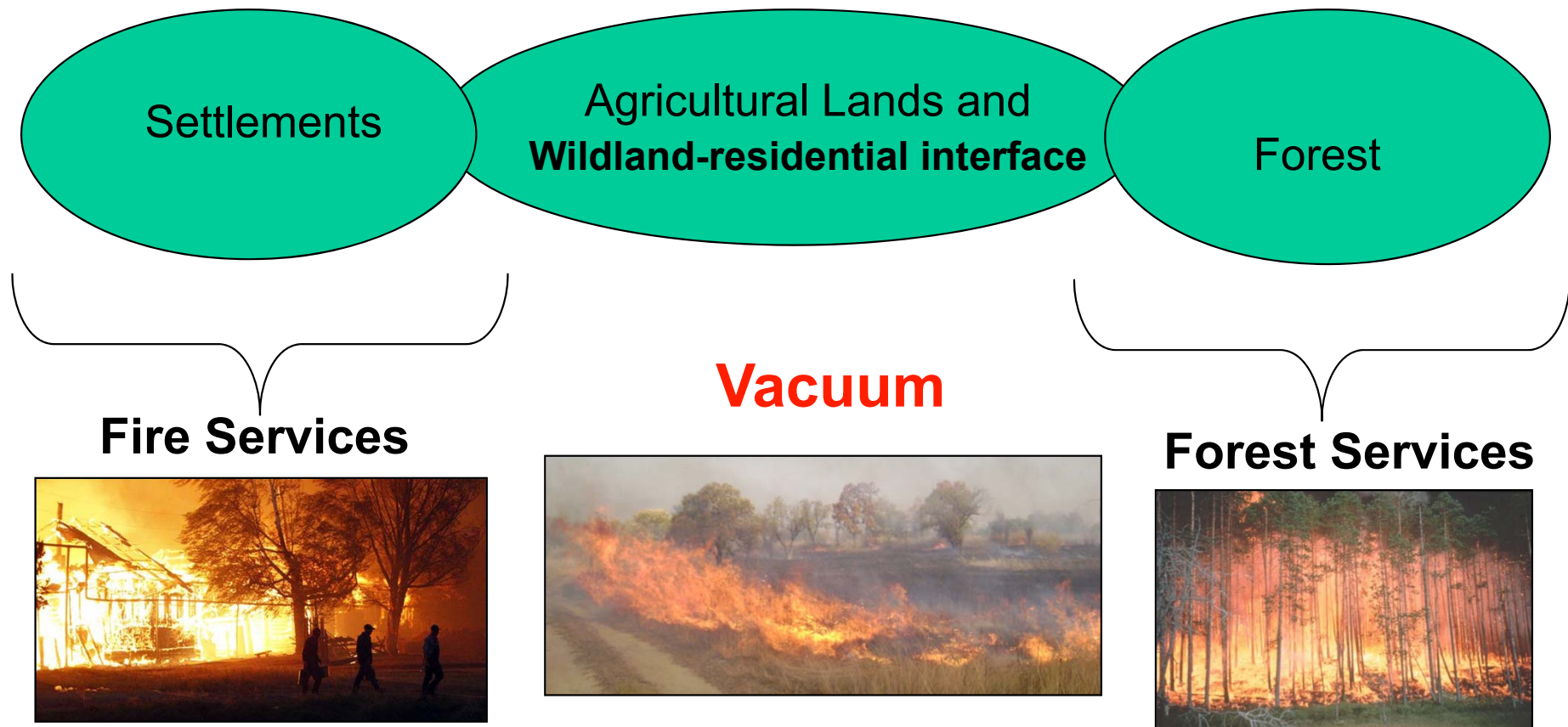




6.2.6 Ճակատապի՛ն հրկիզում

Activities ahead (II) :

- Addressing the role of land-use change (rural exodus and abandonment of agriculture) on changing fire regimes and the legal / technical vacuum for managing agricultural fires, which are the main cause of forest fires





Russia 2010

3000 villages abandoned

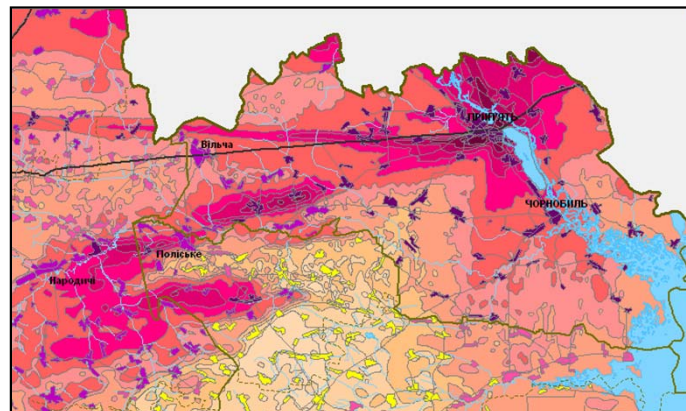
Russia 1991-2009

**27 million ha of
agricultural land
abandoned and
subjected to fallow**



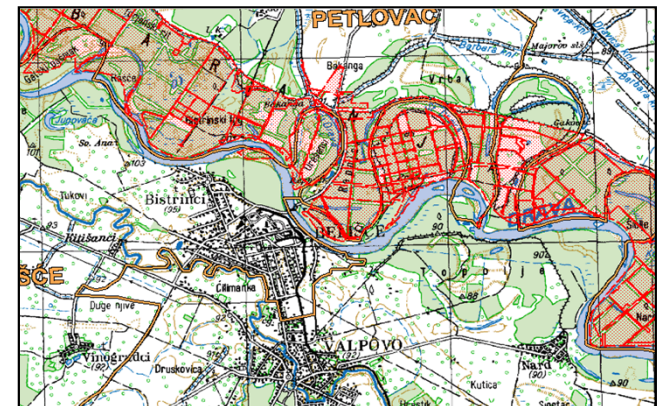
Activities ahead (III) :

- Addressing human health and security problems of fires burning on terrain modified or contaminated by
 - Drained or otherwise desiccated peat lands
 - Houses, infrastructures, plastics, landfills
 - Agricultural areas treated with pesticides, fungicides or fertilizers
 - Radioactivity



Activities ahead (IV) :

- Supporting countries and international organizations in managing wildfires during conflicts and severe disaster, including post-fire forest and land management
 - Wildfires occurring as collateral damages
 - Fires burning on terrain contaminated by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)
 - Wildfires burning in areas contaminated by land mines



Activities ahead (V) :

- Promote the integration of natural and use of prescribed management fire in wildfire hazard reduction and nature conservation



Activities ahead (VI) :

- Enhancing the regional dialogue and organize fire management policy meetings based on previous activities



Translation of multilingual fire management glossary to additional languages

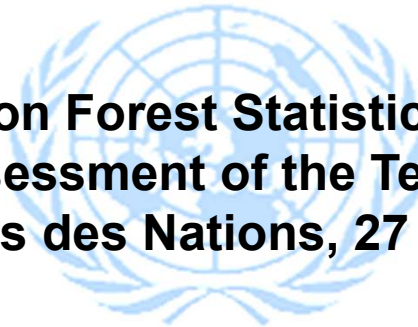


Regional dialogue & policy meetings within UNECE and neighbours such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Activities ahead (VII) :

- **Organization of a “UNECE Regional Conference on Cross-boundary Fire Management”**
- **Objective (I):** Sharing views and solutions for developing Public Policies affecting the Protection of Forests and other Vegetation Resources in the UNECE Region in the Third Millennium
- **Objective (II):** Initial proposal for a UNECE Agreement on “Cross-boundary Fire Management”, built on the results of the regional conferences of Irkutsk and Khabarovsk and the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference (2011)
- **Organizer & Host:** ToS Forest Fire, United Nations, Geneva, January 2013

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Thanks for Your Attention

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