



MINISTERIO  
DE MEDIO AMBIENTE



International Strategy  
**ISDR**  
for Disaster Reduction



4ª Conferencia Internacional sobre Incendios Forestales  
13-17 de mayo de 2007, Sevilla, ESPAÑA  
[www.wildfire07.es](http://www.wildfire07.es)

4<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference  
13-17 May 2007, Sevilla, SPAIN  
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**IWFC4-Update 30 June 2006**  
**4 TH INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE**  
**13-17 MAY 2007, SEVILLA, SPAIN**

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**1. Introduction**

The protection of the world' environment cannot be effective without national and international fire management policies for natural, semi-natural and cultural landscapes and ecosystems that constitute an essential part of the habitable land and the functioning of the global system. National and international policies must be designed to meet both the specific local and the common global threats from wildfires and excessive application of fire in land-use change. These policies must be developed cooperatively with all the stakeholders involved in the protection of the environment and humanity.

A series of International Wildland Fire Conferences was initiated in the late 1980s aimed at bringing together both the technical members of the fire community and the authorities concerned with policy and national practices in wildland fire management to realise their common interests of wildland fire risk management and disaster reduction at local, national, regional and global scales.

During the International Wildland Fire Summit, held in Sydney, Australia, on 8 October 2003, the invitation presented by the representatives of Spain to organize and host the 4<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference in 2007, was accepted.

The first general announcement of the Conference was presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry, Rome, 15 March 2005, and at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, New York, 18 May 2005. The Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) at its 12<sup>th</sup> Session (22 November 2005) welcomed the proposal that the 4<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference (Madrid, May 2007) be held under the auspices of ISDR and FAO.

**2. Objectives**

Building on the objectives and outputs of the previous International Wildland Fire Conferences (Boston 1989, Vancouver 1997, Sydney 2003), the objectives of the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference will be to:

- Provide a forum for forest fire management leaders, politicians, professionals, researchers and practitioners from throughout the globe to discuss and work on critical fire issues affecting people, communities, resources and ecosystems in all Regions and work on a cooperative way in the consolidation of a Global Wildland Fire Management Strategy.



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- Strengthen the effectiveness of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks and support their links into the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network
- Provide a forum for the fire management industry, research organizations and fire specialists to display innovations, new technologies, products and methods for wildland fire management and interact with the Conference participants.

### 3. Organizers

The hosts and organizers of the Conference are the Ministry of Environment and the Junta de Andalucía of Spain, in cooperation with the International Liaison Committee (ILC), sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the Fire Management Working Group, which was also responsible for organizing the previous three International Wildland Fire Conferences (Boston 1989, Vancouver 1997, Sydney 2003), the Wildland Fire Advisory Group of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the International Association of Wildland Fire.

The Conference will be held under the auspices of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Commission.

### 4. Committees

#### **ILC: International Liaison Committee**

Members: Representatives of countries, regions and international organizations.

Tasks: International promotion of the Conference, cooperation with the Spain's International Liaison Committee (CE) in the role of the Scientific Programme Committee.

#### **CE: Spain's National Liaison Committee**

Members: Representatives of the Ministry of Environment and the Andalusia Regional Government.

Tasks: Providing local logistics of the Conference and cooperating with the ILC in the role of the Scientific Programme Committee.

#### **CA: Spain's National Support Committee**

Members: Representatives of the Ministry of Environment and the 17 Regional Governments.

Tasks: Organization of technical visits and promotion of participation in the Conference from all Regions.



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## 5. Participation

The conference is open to public participation. The conference will be of particular interest to forest fire managers, natural resource managers, politicians, professionals, researchers, and academics. The participation of Regional Wildland Fire Networks members – government agencies, non-government organizations, research institutions, industry and other representatives of civil society – will contribute to the success of the conference.

## 6. Conference structure

The Conference is organized in Thematic Sessions, devoted to general global wildland fires issues, Regional Sessions, devoted to special issues of special interest in the different Regions of the World, and Lectures by keynote speakers on general issues.

All sessions will begin with a 20-minutes presentation by an expert, introducing the main issue or concern to be addressed in the session; this will be followed by several 10 minutes presentations, and a 20-minutes discussion period.

Two Plenary Sessions devoted to International Cooperation will allow to prepare the Conference conclusions.

A Technical Exhibition will run continuously during the Conference where vendors will present new technologies, products, equipments and methods for wildland fire management planning, preparedness and suppression activities.

Several study tours or technical visits of one or more days in duration are planned after the conclusion of the conference. The length of the tour or technical visit will depend on the distance from Seville.

## 7. Conference place

Conference and Exhibition Centre of Sevilla  
Sevilla, Spain  
[www.fibes.es](http://www.fibes.es)



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## 8. Conference dates

13-17 May 2007, after the fire season in the Southern Hemisphere and just before it in the Northern Hemisphere.

## 9. Working languages

English and Spanish with simultaneous translation.

## 10. Keynote lectures

- Global change
- Fire impact
- Fire ecology and cultural landscapes
- Prevention and community involvement
- Efficiency in fire management

## 11. Thematic sessions

Several key words define under every title the content:

1. Global change civil society and wildland fire risk  
Climate, demography, education, economy, environment, forest health, fire risk
2. Public administration / local communities: Models of organizations for wildland fire management  
Fire management in forest policy/civil protection, community based fire management, decentralized/centralized forest policy, ICS
3. Forestry, ecology, biodiversity, societal needs: the keys of wildland fire prevention and management  
Ecosystem management, uses of fire/exclusion of fire, plantation protection, biodiversity
4. Wildland Fire Information: A basic tool for the Global Strategy  
Data bases, early warning, remote sensing, simulation models, communicating agencies and communities, internet



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5. Fire at the wildland/residential and urban interfaces  
Risk definition, communities/owners awareness, evacuation/non evacuation, land arrangement/materials, homes/people safety
6. Safety in wildland fire suppression  
Firefighters/citizens safety, lessons learnt from fatalities, doctrines/check lists, myths, accidents investigation, protection equipment
7. Cost-efficiency in wildland fire management (prevention, preparedness, suppression)  
Efficiency measurement, risk assessment, decision support tools, training, balancing suppression and prevention
8. Recovery and restoration of burned areas  
Landscape/community/habitat recovery, environmentally sensitive suppression actions, timber salvage and regeneration, peat land restoration, damage assessment , insurances

## 12. Regional sessions

General issue for all Networks: General reports from the regions (what are the main issues and problems in the regional wildland fire arena) and proposals for a Global Strategy of Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management

Specific suggested issues for regional presentations:

- A. Latin America (Mesoamerica, Caribbean and South America): Underlying causes of fire use and wildfires
- B. Australia and North America: Standardisation in fire management, a key for cooperation.
- C. European Union, Mediterranean and Balkans: Standardisation in fire management, a key for cooperation. Development of bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation in wildland fire management.
- D. Russia, Central Asia, Northeast Asia. Countries in transition: Problems in wildland fire management as a consequence of recent socio-economic developments, decentralization and institution building.
- E. South / Southeast Asia: Experiences in community-based fire management. Prospects of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.
- F. Sub-Saharan Africa (savannas, tropical forests). Implications of civil wars, poverty and AIDS on sustainable land use and fire management.



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### 13. Plenary sessions

1. The International Fire Management Code and the Global Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management.
2. International cooperation and fire management

### 14. Side events

On request of fire management related organizations other sessions will take place. Two of them will be the following:

- Research session 1: European based projects, May 14, 16:00-18:00
- Research session 2: Other regions based projects, May 15, 16:00-18:00

### 15. Call for papers

- Address for reception of abstracts:  
[papers@wildfire07.es](mailto:papers@wildfire07.es)
- Deadline for reception of abstracts:  
November 30, 2006
- Final selection of papers (oral presentation/posters):  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007
- Deadline for reception of definitive version of selected papers:  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

### 16. Programme

#### Sunday, 13 May

- |               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 15.00 – 18.00 | Registration of participants        |
|               | Opening of the Technical Exhibition |
| 18.00 – 19.00 | Welcome reception                   |



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**Monday, 14 May**

9.00 – 11.00	Opening ceremony Opening lecture
11.00 – 11.30	Break
11.30 – 13.30	<b>Lecture</b> <b>Thematic sessions</b>
13.30 – 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 16.00	<b>Plenary session: Code &amp; Strategy</b>
16.00 – 18.00	<b>Regional sessions</b> (Simultaneous) A.- Latin America: Mesoamerica, Caribbean and South America D.- Russia, Central Asia, Northeast Asia F.- Sub-Saharan Africa <b>Research Session 1</b>

**Tuesday, 15 May**

9.00 – 11.00	<b>Lecture</b> <b>Thematic sessions</b>
11.00 – 11.30	Break
11.30 – 13.30	<b>Thematic sessions</b>
13.30 – 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 16.00	Visit to the Technical Exhibition / Posters
16.00 – 18.00	<b>Regional Sessions</b> B. Australasia and Northamerica C. European Union, Mediterranean and Balkans E. South/Southeast Asia <b>Research Session 2</b>

**Wednesday, 16 May**

9.00 – 11.00	<b>Lecture</b> <b>Thematic Sessions</b>
11.00 – 11.30	Break
11.30 – 13.30	<b>Thematic Sessions</b>
13.30 – 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 16.00	Lecture
16.00 – 18.00	<b>Thematic Sessions</b>



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**Thursday, 17 May**

9.00 – 11.00	<b>Lecture</b> <b>Thematic Sessions</b>
11.00 – 11.30	Break
11.30 – 13.30	<b>Thematic Sessions</b>
13.30 – 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 18.00	<b>Plenary Session: International Cooperation</b> Conclusions <b>Closing lecture</b>
18.00 – 20.00	Closing Ceremony Closing Reception

**Friday, 18 May**

Technical visits to forest areas



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ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE FORETS MEDITERRANEENNES



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MAY	SUNDAY 13	MONDAY 14			TUESDAY 15			WEDNESDAY 16		THURSDAY 17		FRIDAY 18
		Opening ceremony			KL			KL		KL		Technical visits
9:00		Opening lecture			TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS		
11:00					BREAK/TEV							
11:00-11:30		KL			TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS		
11:30		TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS			
13:30		LUNCH/TEV			KL		PS; International cooperation & fire management		Conclusions			
13:30	TEV	PS/CODE & STRATEGY			TEV/Posters			KL		Closing lecture		
15:00	Registration of participants	RS A	RS D	RS F	RS B	RS C	RS E	TS	TS	Closing ceremony		
18:00	Welcome reception									Closing reception		
19:00												
20:00												

**TEV:** Technical Exhibition Visit  
**RS:** Regional Session  
**PS:** Plenary Session  
**TS:** Thematic Session  
**KL:** Keynote Lecture

May 14, 16:00; Research session 1  
May 15, 16:00; Research session 2



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## 17. Provisional list of technical visits

- Environmental education and prevention (1 day)
- Restoration of burned areas (3 days)
- Helicrews, EPRIF Program, Research on fire behaviour (3 days)
- A Regional Plan for Prevention (3 days)
- Air resources (1 day)
- Forest Fire management techniques in a Fire Service (2 days)
- Others (to be designed)