Global Fire Email Alerts

from FAO's Global Fire Information Management System

http://www.fao.org/nr/gfims/email-alerts/en/

Registration Instructions

1.0 Rationale

Fire is an important ecosystem disturbance resulting in land cover alteration and change, and in atmospheric emissions on multiple time scales.

Fire is also an important land management practice, as well as a natural abiotic agent in fire dependent ecosystems.

Information on vegetation fires is important for many different applications, from policy formulation to strategic land management; from detection and early warning, deployment of assets for fire suppression, follow up restoration planning, and strategy development for preparedness and prevention, to ecological monitoring; from modelling fire emissions to validating fire risk maps, all from global to local scale.
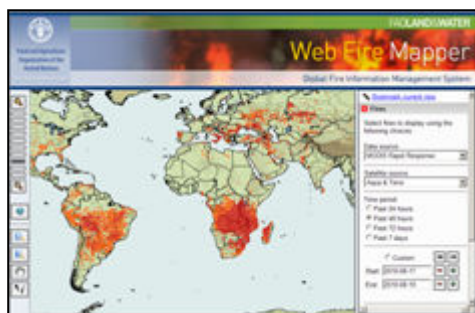
In line with the UNFCCC and UNCCD objectives, FAO-NRL is actively contributing to the monitoring and detection of wildfire through the **Global Fire Information Management System (GFIMS).** GFIMS integrates remote sensing and GIS technologies to deliver near real time hotspot/fire locations to managers, policy makers, and general public around the World. GFIMS data and services are completely free.

2.0 Fire Email Alerts

The Fire Email Alerts is an open source email alert service that FAO provides through GFIMS, which notifies registered users about MODIS-derived active fires recently detected in or around a specified area-of-interest. The email alert is sent directly to the users, by reading a database of user-entered subscription information (user profiles).

During the registration, users are required to provide information such as:
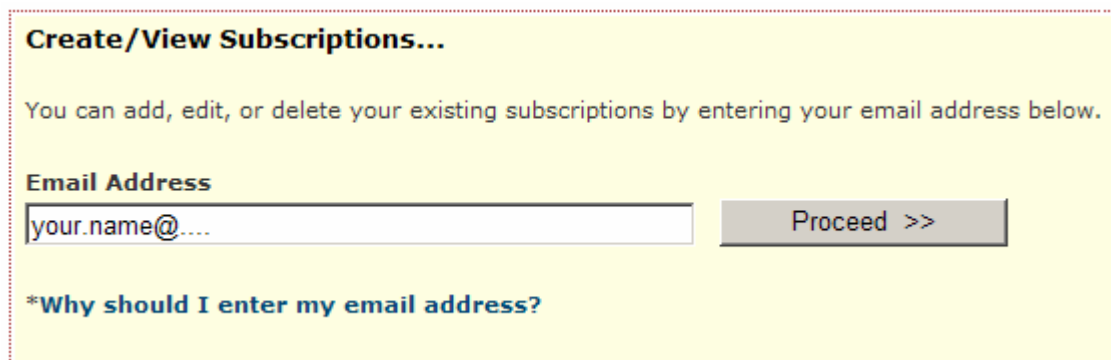- their area of interest,
- alert frequency (the options are: daily/weekly/near real-time),
- email delivery preferences (text-only, ,map and text), and
- language of the email (currently English, French and Spanish).

The email alert includes a summary of number of fires detected and an attached tabular list of fires with their attributes in Comma Separated Value (.csv) format as an attachment.

Daily and Weekly fire alerts are sent from the GFIMS system, whereas near real-time alerts are sent directly from the MODIS Rapid Response (MRR) facility to avoid any additional delays that could be caused by relaying the data from MRR to the GFIMS servers.

3.0 About subscriptions

You can subscribe to receive emails with different frequency notifying you of fires in or around your area-of-interest. At the Fire Email Alerts home page [http://www.fao.org/nr/gfims/email-alerts/en/], insert your email in the address input box and click on Proceed.

You will enter the *Subscriptions* page.
It allows to create/edit your profile, and to create/edit subscriptions to email alerts.
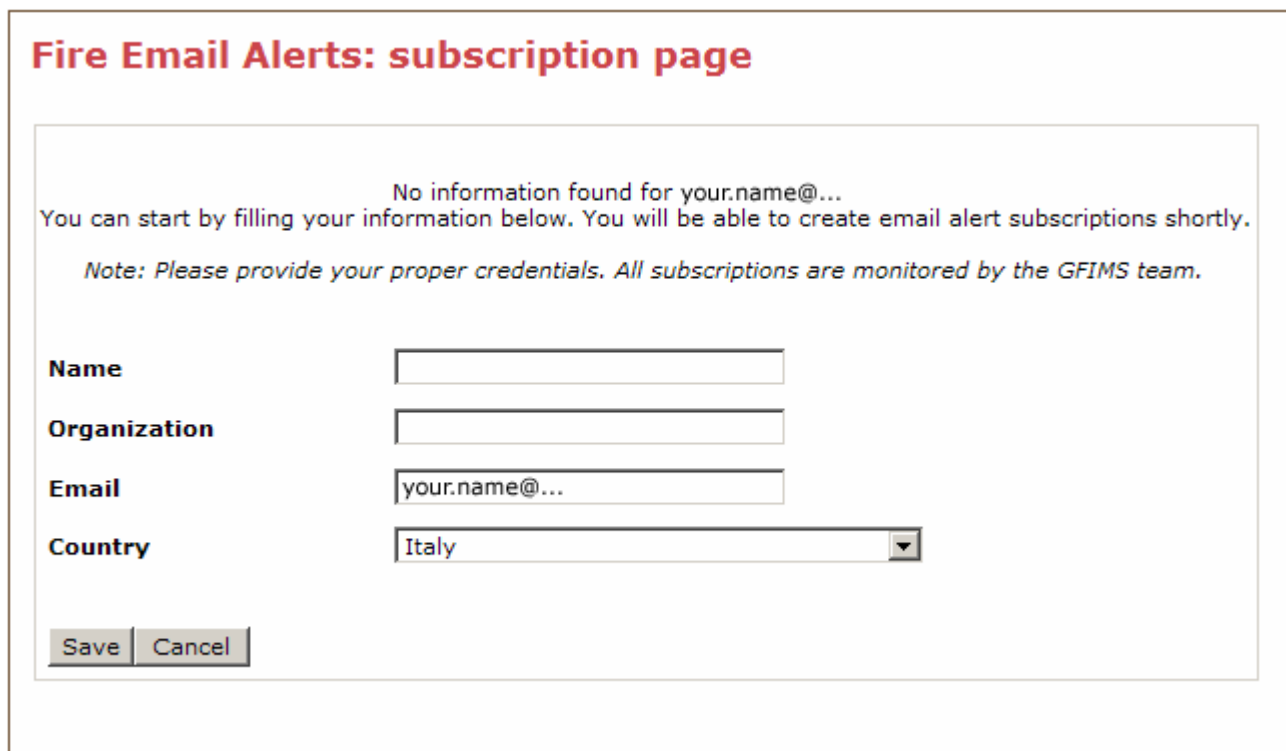
There are two possibilities:
    a.   you are a new subscriber
    b.   you have already subscribed for email alerts

3.1 NEW SUBSCRIBER

If the input email is not found in the database, you will be required to fill up personal information (see example below):

Insert your name, organization, email where you wish to receive the alerts, and the country of reference, and then click on the *Save* button. When this step is completed, you will have your profile in the system and will be

able to add new alert subscriptions or edit existing ones. At any time this profile can be updated (see later instructions).

3.2 EXISTING SUBSCRIBER

If you are an existing subscriber, you may edit your profile or/and create/edit subscriptions.
A subscription is basically the registration to receive email alerts for a specific area of interest and with specific email content (map of fire locations in the email body or not, tabular list of fire locations and attributes in the email body or only as an attached text file, etc..). The language can be also set.

The figure below shows an example of existing subscriber with two subscriptions:

In details, through this page you can:

a) **edit your profile**
   Click on the Edit link, change information, and click on the Save button.

b) **create a new subscription**
   See following section.

c) **modify status of existing subscriptions**
   You may have as many subscriptions as you wish and they will be listed as you see above.
   From this section you can:

   ✎ Edit one subscription (see following section),

   ✖ Delete it,

   ✔ Change its status from *Active* to *Not active* (still there but deactivated).

   Actions (delete/activate) on multiple records can be applied using the checkboxes and the selection list box. Summarized information on subscription settings is also provided.

3.3 CREATE/EDIT SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you create a new subscription or edit an existing one, the system will lead you in the *subscribe* page. This page is divided in three sections:
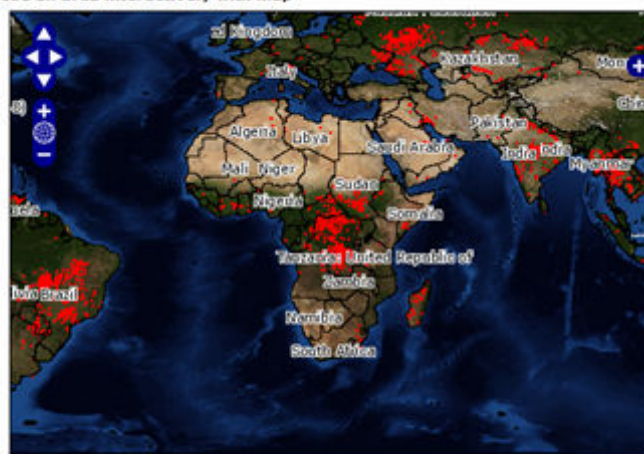
- Choose the area of interest
- Customize the email alert
- Subscription confirmation

a) Choose the area-of-interest

If you choose the Interactive map, an open source mapping interface will display allowing you to zoom and/or pan until the desired window is defined. The service will send email alerts for new fires detected in the selected window.

This window will be also used to define the graphic map to send with the email, if requested by the user.

If you choose to select a predefined boundary, country/territory or protected area, you will use the lists. In case of a protected area(PAs), you can also define buffers of 5, 10, or 15 Km around the PA. The protected areas list is the latest available from the World Database of Protected Areas.

b) Customize your email alert

In this section you define a name for your subscription, the map size to be sent (eventually) with the email, the language to be adopted in the email (currently English, French and Spanish), the alert type (daily, weekly, or real near time), and the email content (only text or text and graphic, see example in the next page). Consider that below 50 fires, a table will be displayed in the email; if there are more than 50 fires then they will only be listed in an email attachment as comma delimited text file. CSV files can be easily opened in either spreadsheet or desktop GIS software. The tabular report of the fire locations in the email alerts includes the geographic coordinates of pixels flagged as containing one or more fires, the time and date of data satellite acquisition and a confidence value.

2. CUSTOMIZE YOUR EMAIL ALERT

Name your alert (Optional)

Output Map Size — 400 [W] x 300 [H] pixels

Language Preference — English

Alert Type — Daily

Email Preferences — Send Text and Map Image

☑ Attach a **.CSV file** with Fire Points to the Email

c) Subscribe to receive emails

In this section you may request the system to send you back an email of confirmation of your new/edited subscription, summarizing the user-defined settings above.

3. SUBSCRIBE* TO RECEIVE EMAIL

☑ Send Email Confirmation for this Subscription

[Cancel] [Save Subscription]

*YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS WILL NOT BE SHARED, DISCLOSED, OR DISTRIBUTED TO THIRD PARTIES.

4.0 Contacts

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Telephone: +39 (0)6 5705 3450
Fax: +39 (0)6 5705 3369

Global Fire Information Management System (GFIMS)
WEB: http://www.fao.org/nr/gfims/gf-home/en/
E-mail: GFIMS@fao.org

Team – FAO Land and Water Division
- John Latham - Senior Land and Water Officer (Geospatial)
- Antonio Martucci - Information Systems Officer
- Renato Cumani - Environment Officer

FAO Forestry Department
Forest Management Team
- Pieter van Lierop - Forestry Officer (Fire Management), focal point
  Email: Pieter.vanLierop@fao.org
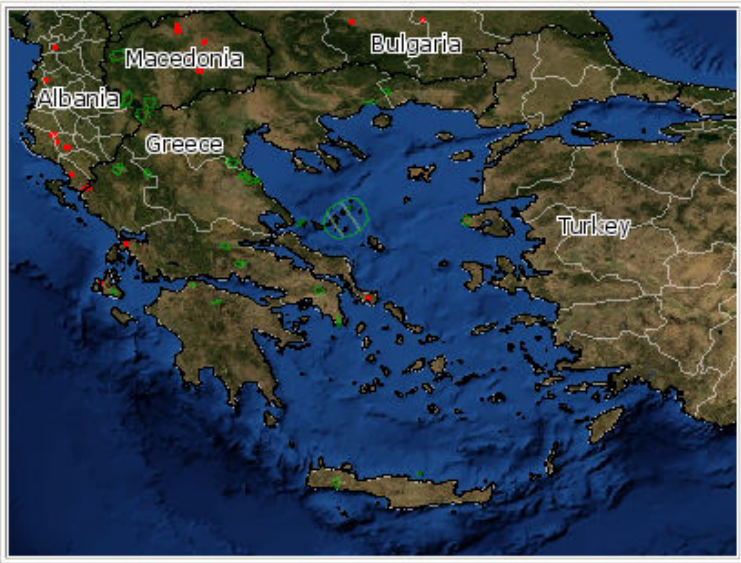
Example of email alert: