

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry - Written Correspondence Procedure

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

Secretariat response to written inputs from Members

The secretariat appreciates the support expressed by the EU and its Member States (EU), Canada, Mexico and Australia for the suggested actions as contained in document COFO/2024/6.4

The secretariat noted the EU's recognition of 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. The note on landscape fire management being cross-sectoral and the advice that joint efforts on landscape fires should avoid duplications and overlaps while promoting collaboration, synergies and coordination at all levels, as well as the support to using the Landscape Fire Governance Framework, are also duly noted. The secretariat also noted the guidance related to paragraph 10 of the above document.

The secretariat appreciates the EU, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand, Mexico and Australia supporting the continued development of the Fire Hub.

Japan's appreciation for FAO's leadership in dealing with wildfires, in collaboration with other UN agencies and countries is noted with gratitude. The secretariat welcomes the proposal for sharing a range of related activities that are being implemented around the world in close collaboration with ITTO as well as through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The secretariat noted the United States of America's appreciation for FAO's efforts on integrated wildfire management. The secretariat noted the recommendation for including reference to the Landscape Fire Governance Framework.

The secretariat noted Canada's anticipation for engaging with others through the Fire Hub on Indigenous Fire Stewardship and various science and technology topics. The information on establishing a Canadian Centre of Excellence for Wildland Fire Innovation and Resilience (CoE) is also much appreciated. FAO looks forward to exploring synergies between the Fire Hub and the Canadian CoE. The secretariat took note of and acknowledged the final number of area burned by wildland fires in Canada (14.6 million hectares), as calculated and released by the Canadian Forest Service, after the publication of the COFO document (COFO/2024/6.4). This will be further reflected in the future knowledge products accordingly.

New Zealand's appreciation for FAO's work on integrated fire management, and FAO's efforts to support Members in carrying out fire management initiatives is noted with thanks. The Integrated Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines are published on the FAO website (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1090en>) and will be featured in a side event focused on the Fire Hub during the 9th World Forest Week on Friday, 26 July 2024. The secretariat appreciates New Zealand's support to the development of the Landscape Governance Framework, as a member of the International Liaison Committee. The secretariat welcomes New Zealand's support to FAO on future regional capacity building and technical exchange related to integrated fire management.

The secretariat noted New Zealand's and Australia's support to FAO to continue working with partners to lead the paradigm shift from a focus on fire suppression to a holistic approach.

The secretariat noted Mexico's efforts to promote integrated fire management and welcomes the proposal to FAO to organize regional exchanges on traditional fire management practices, which could be done in the context of the Fire Hub's third pillar on wildfire-resilient communities.

The secretariat appreciates Australia's support for FAO's work on integrated fire management, including the Global Fire Management Hub. Given Australia's experience with controlled fire that

includes Indigenous land management practices in fire-adapted ecosystems, the recommendation to include such practices into holistic approaches is well noted.