

2021 IBFRA Conference

Changing Boreal Biome



The science and policy of wildfires in the boreal biome

Friday, 20 August 2021 – Day 5, 15:00-17:00 CET

Background

Many people rely on boreal forests for subsistence, cultural practices, biodiversity, and economic development and the boreal biome contributes significantly to global climate stability. As the climate is changing, disturbance regimes, such as wildfires, in the boreal biome are increasing, which impacts the ecosystem's ability to regenerate. As a result, many boreal ecosystems are shifting to new ecological states, with profound socio-ecological and economic consequences.

It is vital to recognize that landscapes in which fires occur are dynamic and evolving due to the ever-changing drivers of wildfire risk - land use, combustible material, ignition sources and climate change. Thus, integrated and holistic wildfire management programmes are needed that include knowledge about the behaviour of the drivers of fire risk across different landscapes and regions.

Other sessions at the IBFRA conference will address fire-vegetation interaction and self-limitation, spatial quantification of forest integrity and disturbance monitoring. This session will complement them by adopting a global perspective to wildfires occurring in the boreal zone, and assessing current drivers, trends, and socio-ecological and economic implications of these fires.

The session will bring together the representatives of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests, including scientists and policymakers from seven boreal countries. This Team of Specialists is a unique intergovernmental entity that, through peer-to-peer learning and exchange, aims to address pressing challenges facing the boreal forests today and advance its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹ Wildfire definition: (1) Any unplanned and uncontrolled wildland fire which, regardless of ignition source, may require suppression response, or other action according to agency policy. (2) Any free burning wildland fire unaffected by fire suppression measures which meets management objectives (cf. Wildland, Wildland Fire, Prescribed Natural Fire, Prescribed Fire). [Definition source Terminology (A10.6)/CSCM, FAO, 2010. Wildland Fire Management Terminology, FAO (Updated July 2010)].



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Agenda (ENG | RUS – Zoom)

15:00-15:10	Opening <p>Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Mr. Florian Kraxner, President, International Boreal Forest Research Association</p>
15:10-15:12	Moderator' s welcome <p>Ms. Maria Sokolenko, Federal Forestry Agency of the Russian Federation</p>
15:12-15:45	State of wildfires in the boreal region <p><i>What are the current drivers and trends of wildfires in your region?</i></p> <p>North America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Denys Yemshanov, Research Scientist - Quantitative Spatial Modeler, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service• Mr. Frank Koch, Research Ecologist and Team Leader, U.S. Forest Service <p>Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Henrik Lindberg, Senior Lecturer, Häme University of Applied Sciences <p>Russian Federation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Roman Kotelnikov, Centre for Forest Pyrology, All-Russian Research Institute• Mr. Andrey Eritsov, Deputy Head for Aerial Forest Protection Service, Russian Federation
15:45-16:10	Moderated Discussion <p><i>How to deal with increasing risks of wildfires and manage its drivers?</i> <i>Can forest landscape restoration be applied to enhance the resilience of boreal forests to the increasing wildfire risk?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Lynn Johnston, Forest Fire Research Specialist, Canadian Forest Service• Mr. Anatoly Shvidenko, Sukachev Institute of Forest, Siberian Division of Russian Academy of Sciences• Mr. Alexander Kryshen, Forest Research Institute of the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences
16:10-16:20	The socio-economic and socio-ecological implications of wildfires in the boreal zone <p><i>What are socio-economic and socio-ecological implications of wildfires occurring in the boreal zone, and how should they be addressed by policy?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Johann Goldammer, Fire Ecology Research Group, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry and Head of the Global Fire Monitoring Center GFMC

16:20-16:45

Moderated Discussion

*How can local stakeholders be integrated into fire management strategies?
How can governments and international organizations improve communication around wildfires and what should be the key messages?*

- Mr. Vladimir Dmitriev, Federal Forestry Agency of the Russian Federation
- Mr. Edward Struzik, writer Island Press and fellow Queen' s Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy, School of Policy Studies, Queen' s University
- Mr. Johann Goldammer, Fire Ecology Research Group, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry and Head of the Global Fire Monitoring Center GFMC

16:45-17:00

Q&A and conclusions

For more information and registration please visit:

<https://unece.org/forests/events/science-and-policy-wildfires-boreal-biome>

