



## THE ISTANBUL REPORT ON INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNTRY LED INITIATIVE(CLI) OF TURKIYE IN SUPPORT OF THE UN FORUM ON FORESTS

Istanbul, Türkiye – 20-22 October 2025

### Introduction

1. From 20 to 22 October 2025, the Government of the Republic of Türkiye hosted an International Conference on 'Forest Fires: Preparedness and Innovative Technologies' within the framework of a Country-Led Initiative (CLI) in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)."
2. The Conference addressed the following themes:
  - (a) Strengthening the dialogue on international cooperation and policy solutions related to Integrated Fire Management (IFM);
  - (b) Fire resilience of forest ecosystems;
  - (c) Innovative approaches and advanced technologies for IFM;
  - (d) Community-based approaches in fire management and risk awareness

### Observations and Assessments

3. Participants noted that land use and global change are increasing the vulnerability of natural and cultural landscapes—including forests—across all continents to increasingly severe wildfires. Participants also acknowledged that in many regions, the scale and severity of wildfires have already surpassed manageable levels.
4. It was expressed with concern that this trend leads to increasing biodiversity loss, economic and social costs, a reduction in terrestrial carbon sequestration capacity, and the degradation of forests, peatlands, and other fire-sensitive ecosystems.
5. It was emphasized that wildfires and the improper use of fire in land management have both direct and indirect impacts on food security, biodiversity, human health, settlements, and safety, causing large-scale premature deaths, especially through fire-related air pollution.
6. It was noted that extreme weather events associated with climate change—such as drought, heatwaves, intense rainfall, and reduced snow cover—are amplifying risks after wildfires, including erosion, floods, landslides, land degradation, pest outbreaks, and economic losses.
7. It was emphasized that forests are often intertwined with other land use systems in many regions, making sustainable land use, risk management, and preventive measures crucial to preventing uncontrolled fires from spreading into forested areas.
8. Participants acknowledged that fire plays a natural role in some ecosystems, and highlighted the need to integrate the sustainable fire use practices of local and traditional communities with modern scientific approaches.
9. Participants welcomed the increasing engagement and shared responsibility of international organizations, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, and the media in fire management.



10. It is well known that the vast majority of wildfires are human-induced and result from careless habits. Given that the most effective and efficient method of combating wildfires is to prevent them from occurring in the first place, the need to prioritize awareness-raising activities—through formal and informal education, publications, and digital platforms—was emphasized as essential for preventing wildfires.
11. The progress achieved in scientific research and technological innovation concerning the impacts of fire on the environment and society was noted with appreciation.
12. The necessity of reviving traditional and developing innovative land-use systems was acknowledged in order to adapt to climate change, safeguard food security, and reduce fire risks and hazards.
13. Participants expressed their support for the integration, resilience, science, and technology-based approaches highlighted at the Istanbul Forest Innovation Week (IFIW 2025) and previous international meetings (e.g., the International Wildland Fire Conferences - IWFC), and the Global Fire Management Hub 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary.
14. The contributions of United Nations entities, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and civil society organizations to fostering a culture of fire risk and hazard reduction were acknowledged with appreciation.
15. The joint contributions of the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD) to Integrated Fire Management (IFM)—in terms of mitigating and adapting to climate change, conserving biodiversity, and combating desertification—were highlighted.
16. The role of the Global Fire Management Hub, established in 2023 by FAO and UNEP, in enhancing countries' IFM capacities was emphasized.
17. The recognition that Türkiye has the potential to lead regional cooperation on technical aspects given its experience as also expressed at the International Cooperation on Forest Fire Management workshop in Ankara in June 2025.
18. It was recalled that the Porto Declaration, adopted at the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference held in Porto in 2023, underscored the need for a global framework for integrated fire management. The Global Fire Management Hub was developed to support the application of IFM.
19. Consistent with the provisions of the UNSPF, participants emphasized the need for the inclusion of IFM in their national development strategies.
20. It was noted that the 2025 Kananaskis Wildfire Charter, adopted during Canada's G7 Presidency, reinforced political will to enhance fire resilience through a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach.

## Recommendations

21. Acknowledging that wildfires are complex and transboundary phenomena affecting all regions, participants emphasized the necessity for all stakeholders—governments, communities, the private sector, academia, and international organizations—to act in a coordinated and science-based manner in the review and analysis, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery phases of wildfires.
22. The importance of regional cooperation for effective wildfire response was highlighted, and it was recommended that geographically proximate countries



establish joint response capabilities. The development of voluntary protocols and guidelines for enhancing international interoperability in fire management and particularly wildfire emergency response – an activity of the Global Fire Management Hub – was welcomed.

23. The establishment of the International Forestry Training Center (IFTC) in Antalya by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye through the General Directorate of Forestry was welcomed. Türkiye's strengthened cooperation with the UNFF was also appreciated.
24. Participants invited the UNFF to consider issues related to wildfires including IFM at its 21<sup>st</sup> session, as appropriate.
25. The Global Fire Management Hub was encouraged to develop science-based and inclusive fire governance approaches, serving as an inter-agency coordination platform within the United Nations system.
26. Participants welcomed Brazil's work to agree the Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience, to be launched at the Belém Climate Summit, in the context of COP30. Willing countries and international organizations were invited to endorse it at Leaders' level. It was noted that effective Integrated Fire Management contributes to adaptation and mitigation by maintaining ecosystem functions and protecting carbon stocks.
27. The Call to Action was presented as a voluntary and non-prescriptive document that aims to elevate international cooperation on wildfire resilience, while respecting national sovereignty and seeking to complement and enhance coherence among existing international and regional frameworks.
28. Member States, governments, and all relevant stakeholders were invited to increase investments, research, technology transfer, and capacity-building activities in the areas of wildfire review and analysis, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. International organizations, financial institutions, and development partners were called upon to enhance the mobilization of financial resources to support fire-resilient landscapes and communities.
29. Participants declared their commitment to collaborate with the UN system, regional organizations, scientific institutions, and all stakeholders in a spirit of shared responsibility, solidarity, and global partnership.
30. Participants also underscored that preventing wildfires through sustainable and adaptative landscape management is an effective and sustainable means to protect lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

## Conclusion

31. Participants reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening international cooperation, policy coherence, and collective capacity for a safer, more resilient, and sustainable future for forests, people, and the planet.
32. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye and the General Directorate of Forestry (OGM) for hosting



this Country-Led Initiative (CLI) on IFM, and for their leadership and valuable contributions to advancing global dialogue on this critical issue.

33. Gratitude was extended to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its Bureau for their continued leadership in promoting the global forest agenda, facilitating knowledge exchange, and strengthening international solidarity, and the support of the UNFF Secretariat.

Advanced Unedited