



# TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Project brief



Last updated: September 30, 2024

## Iceland - Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management

### Overview

Grant Size	€300,000
Duration	September 2024 – November 2025
Relevant DRG	Anticipate; Prepare
Key hazard(s)	
Key word(s)	Integrated wildfire risk management; Smart governance; Smart policies and investments

### Context

Considering the growing impact of wildfires across Europe and expected impacts of climate change, the adoption and implementation of an integrated approach to wildfire risk management is becoming an increasingly important priority across Europe, including in Iceland. Although volcanic eruptions remain Iceland's predominant hazard, recent years have seen occasional wildfires in the southern, eastern, and western regions due to dry summer conditions. Wildfires are an increasing risk due to summer houses in forested areas. In the context of climate change, to effectively enhance Iceland's wildfire risk management capabilities necessitates a review of current arrangements and the identification of key gaps/challenges as well as opportunities to improve the framework for integrated wildfire risk management and to inform a future strategic framework and possible stakeholder-led actions.

### Objective

The grant objective is to provide analytics and recommendations for adopting an integrated wildfire risk management (IWFRM) approach in Iceland.

## Key Activities and Expected Results

### COMPONENT 1

#### Developing a diagnostic analysis and roadmap of recommendations with short, medium, and long-term priorities

This component includes analytics to review and assess the current state of wildfire risk management in Iceland, and to identify key gaps and opportunities for future action. A set of recommendations will be included in a roadmap with short, medium, and long-term priorities to inform stakeholder dialogue and eventual implementation. Consistent with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) [Wildfire Peer Review Assessment Framework \(PRAF\)](#) and the goals of the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 \(SFDRR\)](#), and taking into account good practice across various initiatives and examples in Europe and beyond, the analysis will consider different facets of IWFRM. These will include understanding of wildfire risk, risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (including financial arrangements), as well as governance, coordination, and current initiatives and investments related to wildfire risk management. The results can inform policy dialogue and planning in Iceland and showcase to other countries practical way to diagnose and identify key areas for future action.

## Government Counterpart(s)

Iceland Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management

## Sustainability and Coordination

This project is aligned with priorities and ongoing disaster risk management related initiatives in Iceland, including the ongoing Host Nation project. The approach is fully aligned with the methodological approach of the UCPM Wildfire PRAF, as well as higher-level EU Disaster Resilience Goals, and the SFDRR. The project will consider knowledge generated under previous wildfire PRAF and existing country wildfire risk management practice assessments, as well as EU/country-funded projects and initiatives such as FIRE-RES for fire resilient territories in Europe, and the SAFERS PROJECT. The findings of the project will contribute to the broader knowledge base on IWFRM to further inform and refine its strategies and facilitate the uptake of such practices across UCPM countries. Overall, the activities will benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

## Contacts

**World Bank/GFDRR TAFF:** [UCPM\\_TAFF@worldbank.org](mailto:UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org)

**World Bank:** Zuzana Stanton-Geddes, Senior DRM Specialist; Soraya Ridanovic, DRM Analyst

**Counterparts:** Ólafur Loftsson, Project Manager; Haukur Grönli, Civil Protection Department

## About TAFF

The **Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF)** is a partnership between the European Commission through its Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the World Bank, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to strengthen the disaster risk knowledge and management capabilities of countries participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The TAFF provides technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities under the UCPM to scale up investments in disaster and climate resilience.

# TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility  
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness



Funded by  
the European Union

GFDRR  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

Administered by  
THE WORLD BANK  
IBRD • IFC • WORLD BANK GROUP