



TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-specific technical assistance



Last updated: September 2025



Iceland:

Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management

Overview

Grant Size	€300,000
Duration	September 2024 – November 2025
Key hazard(s)	Wildfires
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

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

This Activity 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 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.

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 considers 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 benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

World Bank/GFDRR Team: Zuzana Stanton-Geddes, Senior DRM Specialist; Soraya Ridanovic, DRM Analyst
UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org

Counterparts: Ólafur Loftsson, Project Manager; Haukur Grönli, Civil Protection Department; Iceland Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management.

www.gfdr.org/en/taff

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 • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP