





TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

BLOCK 1: Investing in Integrated Wildfire Risk **Management**

TAFF Workshop Brussels, October 2-3, 2025















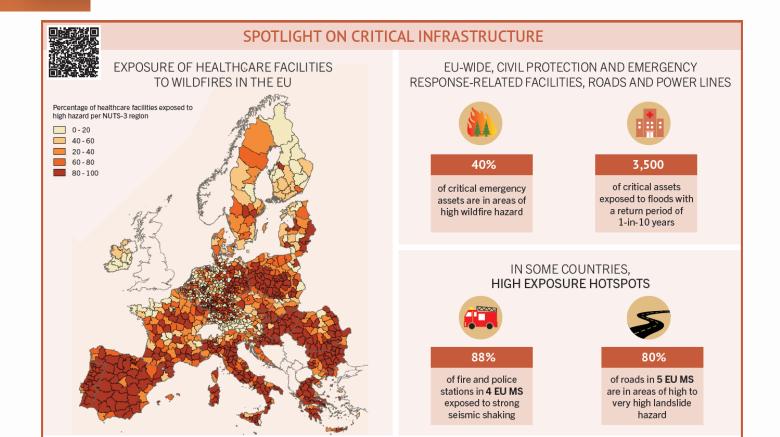
Wildfire risk management in the EU – Challenges, Good Practice and Priorities Going Forward

Why Focus on Wildfire Risk Management?

- Wildfires are an ever-increasing risk across Europe. In 2025, over 1 million hectares have been burned, 4x the post-2006 average
- Wildfires are becoming more frequent, intense, and widespread across Europe. Changes in the climate, abandoned farmlands, and expanding communities in forest areas are driving up the risk
- Europe is warming faster than any other region, fueling extreme fire seasons. 2022 saw the largest area burned this century (880,000 ha) and 2023 had Europe's biggest single fire on record (~96,000 ha in Greece)
- Mediterranean countries still see the most severe wildfires, but risk is now spreading northward into areas once considered lowrisk. Once low-risk areas and peatlands are now burning and/or at more risk



Why Focus on Wildfire Risk Management?

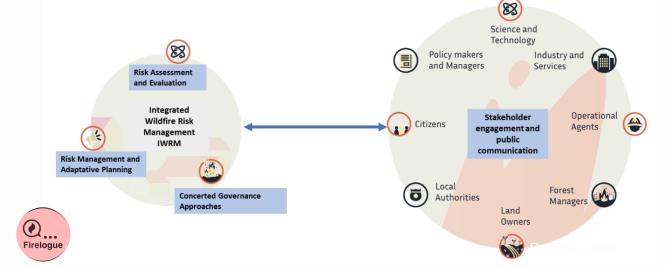


From Risk to Resilience: Strengthening Preparedness for Wildfires in Europe

- A new series of reports sets out measures to strengthen Europe's preparedness for wildfires and earthquakes. Drawing on case studies from Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania, the findings offer insights for governments worldwide on how to allocate resources more effectively and build disaster resilience in the decades ahead.
- The reports provide a rapid review of risk and risk management capacity, highlighting potential priorities to inform policy dialogue and future research. The review considers various dimensions, including governance, understanding of risk, risk reduction and mitigation, early warning and public awareness, preparedness and emergency response, recovery and post-disaster financing, and cross-cutting topics
- Each chapter reviews the current arrangements, key challenges, and opportunities across the EU for each of these dimensions, drawing on available information.

Why Focus on Integrated Wildfire Risk Management?

- Holistic strategy across all wildfire phases: prevention, preparedness, response, recovery
- Considers hazard, exposure, vulnerability, jointly
- Involves stakeholders: citizens, land managers, civil protection, private sector
- Uses science, data & adaptive planning including climate & socio-economic scenarios



Key Findings - Risk Governance & Understanding Risk

- **Fragmentation:** Many countries lack a unified wildfire risk management strategy. Responsibilities are split among agencies, and long-term planning requires improvement for effective prevention and preparedness efforts.
- Gaps in data and risk analysis: Countries often do not have the detailed data or tools needed to fully understand wildfire risk. Better risk mapping, analysis, and use of climate projections are needed to inform decisions. Currently, gaps in data and knowledge hinder early warning and planning.
- Wildfire risk information is not integrated across relevant policy areas such as land use, agriculture, forestry, climate adaptation, civil protection. This means development and sector plans are unable to effectively integrate wildfire threats, missing opportunities to reduce risk.



Key Findings - Preparedness & Prevention Challenges

- **Underinvestment in prevention:** Across the EU, countries spend far more on reacting to fires than preventing them. In some cases, fire suppression budgets are up to 6 times higher than prevention budgets. This imbalance leaves communities vulnerable, as proactive measures (like forest management and firebreaks) lag behind the growing threat.
- Coordination gaps: Wildfire preparedness is hampered by weak coordination both within and between countries. Agencies often operate in silos, and cross-border protocols are not fully in place. A 2022 fire on the Germany–Czechia border showed the need for better joint planning and resource sharing for transboundary fires. Gaps in clarity with engagement of volunteers
- Community engagement is limited: In many regions, the public is not sufficiently involved in wildfire preparedness. Few local drills, education programs, or volunteer initiatives exist, meaning residents may not know how to prevent fires or respond when one breaks out.
 Empowering communities can greatly improve on-the-ground prevention and quick response.

Key Findings - Recovery and Financial Resilience

- Lack of recovery planning: Few countries have dedicated plans or funds for post-wildfire recovery. In most cases, there is no formal recovery strategy or fund at all. Without a prepared recovery framework, rebuilding and assisting affected communities is slower and less coordinated than it should be.
- Limited financial protection: Most wildfire losses are not covered by insurance or special funds, leaving governments and citizens to shoulder the costs. For example, in one country, public disaster compensation covered under 5% of damages, with very low insurance uptake. Overall, current financing mechanisms for wildfires are insufficient and often inflexible, exposing fiscal vulnerabilities.
- Data gaps on impacts: After fires, many countries lack consistent data on damage and economic losses. This makes it hard to assess needs and allocate resources for recovery. Better, standardized post-disaster data is critical to understand liabilities and plan for recovery

Key Opportunities - Strengthen Risk Governance & Data

- Adopt an integrated approach: Implement wildfire strategies that span all phases: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Clear roles across ministries and admin levels, coordinated under one framework, are key. Integrated agencies or task forces, like Portugal's, are good models.
- Improve wildfire risk assessment and data: hazard maps, vulnerability assessments, and predictive tools. Expand use of satellite monitoring and machine learning to strengthen early warning and decision support. Update analyses regularly considering climate projections and ensure data is widely shared and in user-friendly formats.
- Mainstream wildfire risk: Make wildfire a standard element of land use, forestry, agriculture, infrastructure, and climate policies. Require defensible space and evacuation routes in new developments, and ensure forest management addresses fire risk. Embed wildfire into sectoral planning



Key Opportunities – Boost Prevention & Preparedness

- Rebalance investment toward prevention: Increase funding for proactive measures like vegetation management, fire breaks, community education, and early warning systems. Every euro in prevention saves many more in avoided losses.
- Strengthen coordination and capacity: Adopt clear protocols and joint training across agencies. At EU level, expand cross-border exercises, pooled resources, and mutual aid. Locally, equip and integrate volunteer brigades into national response systems.
- Engage communities and the private sector: Run public awareness
 campaigns, evacuation drills, and promote defensible spaces.
 Incentivize private action: utilities insulating power lines, farmers
 maintaining fire breaks, and businesses preparing continuity plans.
 Public—private partnerships can bolster local firefighting and recovery.



Key Opportunities – Enhance Recovery & Resilience

- **Establish recovery frameworks and funds**. Plans should define roles for damage assessment, reconstruction, forest restoration, and support for affected people. Set aside contingency funds or insurance mechanisms that can be quickly activated so recovery is not delayed.
- Expand financial protection and insurance: Boost financial resilience with innovative financing and insurance tools. Governments can incentivize or require coverage in high-risk areas (e.g., Italy's mandatory catastrophe insurance for businesses). Public—private partnerships could support insurance pools or disaster bonds. Adopt risk-based budgeting to allocate resources to the most exposed regions in advance.
- Improve post-disaster data and learning; Build systems to consistently collect data on wildfire impacts (buildings, economic losses, environmental costs). EU-wide standards would enable comparison and highlight best practices. Use lessons from each event to update policies. For example, adjusting building codes after repeat losses. Regular after-action reviews and cross-country knowledge sharing will drive continuous improvement.

Good Practice Examples

- Integrated wildfire management. Portugal strengthened coordination through the Agency for the Integrated Management of Rural Fires, uniting officials, police, armed forces, and private forestry firms, while **Spain** runs pilot programs in selected regions.
- Wildfire risk analysis. High-risk areas in Attica in Greece have been mapped for hazard, vulnerability, and exposure, with projections under different climate scenarios guiding planning, investment, and awareness projects like LIFE AdaptinGR.
- Local prevention strategies. Portugal promotes native species and fuel mosaics, Spain uses recycled-water green firebreaks and grazing programs, Türkiye and Italy implement strategic zoning and community engagement, and the UK provides forest management guidance.
- Preparedness and awareness. Ireland's "Be Summer Ready" campaign and fire danger ratings, Italy's youth camps, Portugal's over 400 drills involving 120,000 citizens and CeaseFire app, France's school programs, Catalonia's farmer initiatives, and Slovenia's forecasting app enhance readiness.
- Fire danger rating systems. Portugal's IPMA, Spain's AEMET, France's Vigilance, Italy's Aqua UPC and FireAware app, Greece's SMS alerts, and Germany's Deutscher Wetterdienst are widely used, with northern countries developing similar systems.
- **Proactive surveillance. Croatia's** HOLISTIC system with predictive software, **Catalonia's** Alpha Plan with SMS alerts, and **Czechia's** Wildfire Early Detection System enhance early detection.

Thinking beyond Wildfire Risk Management – Multi-Hazard Benefits

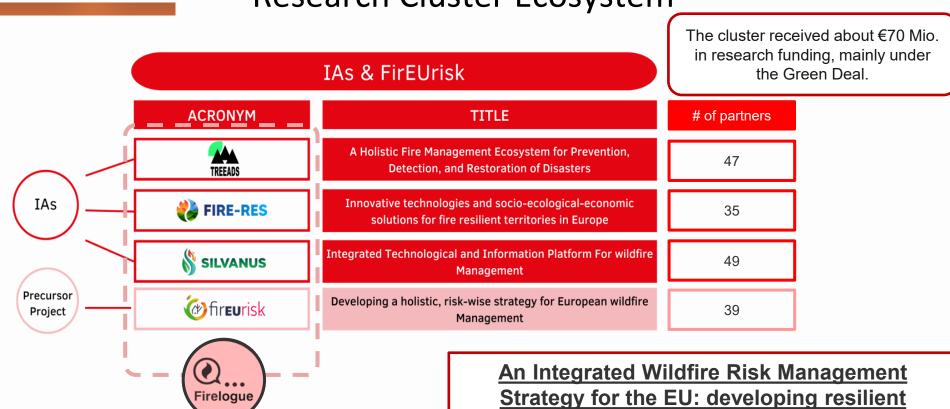
- Investing in risk data is key to any smart investment in prevention and preparedness
- Data and evidence can drive **prioritization and a systematic approach**
- An integrated approach can generate co-benefits. Improved forest and water resource management can align with climate adaptation and mitigation, generating wider socioeconomic benefits beyond whether a disaster happens.
- Public awareness is particularly important for wildfire risk management, but can be done also in multi-hazard manner
- Investments in capacity, early warning systems, and post-disaster financing strengthen all hazards. They improve resilience for also for other shocks
- The benefits of mechanisms such as adaptive social protection and private sector involvement extend beyond earthquake hazard.

Key Take-Aways for Wildfire Resilience

- **Readiness:** Improved governance and investments in risk data, resilient landscapes and infrastructure, early warning and awareness, operational capacities, and recovery planning are necessary. They can be connected with other efforts e.g., water systems for firefighting also aid drought response, and stronger communication networks help in any emergency.
- Adopt an integrated approach: Integrated governance avoids hazard silos. Linking wildfire management with land use and natural resource planning also reduces flood and erosion risks. Structural retrofits can make buildings safer against both fire and earthquakes.
- **Build a culture of preparedness:** Regular drills, awareness campaigns, structured engagement of volunteers. Sharing data and lessons across hazards strengthens planning. The momentum and political will generated to address wildfires now can be leveraged to strengthen wildfire (and multi-hazard disaster) risk management



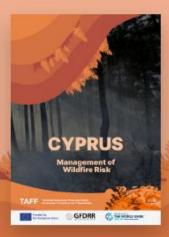
Example: Firelogue - the Wildfire Risk Management Research Cluster Ecosystem



landscapes and safer communities (10.09.2025).











European Commission Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

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World Bank and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

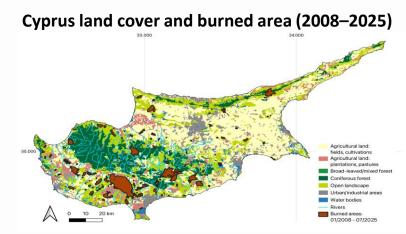






Country Highlight – Cyprus

- **High hazard island-wide**: Cyprus ranks 2nd in Europe for burned area relative to land mass; >50% chance of severe wildfire each year.
- Climatic pressures: Hot, dry summers and rising climate change impacts driving more frequent, intense fires.
- **Governance challenges**: Multiple agencies (Forests, Civil Defence, Fire Service) with overlapping mandates complicate coordination.
- Shift to a proactive approach: Pilots in prescribed burning, controlled grazing, and SEMEDFIRE strategy can reduce biomass and fuel loads.
- Integration into DRM reforms: Civil Defence restructuring and upcoming national disaster risk strategy provide a chance to embed Integrated Wildfire Risk Management (IWFRM) principles



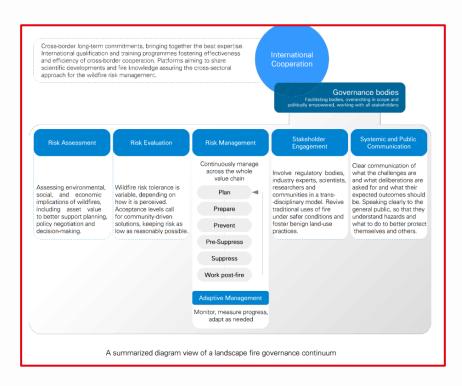
Country Highlight – Croatia

- Croatia faces high wildfire risk, expected to intensify under climate change. Croatia is one of the EU Member States most affected by wildfires. Between 2010 and 2021, wildfire damages totaled more than €249 million, and the 2022 season recorded 149 fires larger than 30 hectares.
- A solid legal framework for risk management has been established, with regular risk assessments undertaken and fire prevention and adaptation investments made by public and private stakeholders.
- The firefighting system has been effective and helped reduce fire impacts. Efforts are underway to deploy innovative technologies and strengthen public awareness.
- Gaps remain in national and local capacity for prevention and preparedness. There are
 opportunities to reduce disparities in local firefighting capacities, improve coordination among
 stakeholders, and ensure transparent funding.
- **Promote measures with environmental and climate co-benefits is crucial.** Wildfire prevention frameworks should integrate climate-smart and adaptation measures to address the intensifying wildfire risk while help preserve forest ecosystems.
- **Recovery planning and post-disaster financing.** Compensation and insurance for disaster damage are low, so investments are needed in forest restoration, resilience, and insurance solutions.

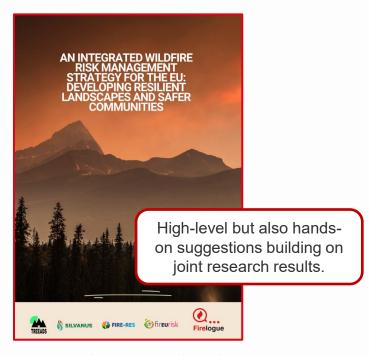
Country Highlight – Romania

- **Wildfire risk is growing** due to changes in the climate and rural depopulation, with over 99% of fires caused by anthropogenic burning of dry vegetation. Fragmented forest ownership.
- **National strategies and legislation in place.** Risk data remains fragmented. Advances being made prevention and mitigation efforts. Prescribed burning is not used due to regulatory & safety concerns.
- Local wildfire preparedness remains limited. Strengthening would require better-equipped local units, a national firefighting resource inventory, expanded training, and improved evacuation plans.
- A strong wildfire response system. This includes training programs and regular exercises but would benefit from stronger local capacity and volunteer involvement, while UCPM deployments abroad demonstrate solidarity and build experience.
- A comprehensive recovery framework. Work is underway on some critical components, including a unified disaster loss assessment methodology and IT system which could be leveraged for wildfires
- **Financial resilience to wildfire risks.** In 2024, it secured a €466.9 million Cat-DDO loan from the World Bank, yet the growing threat also requires stronger regulations, funding, and public-private engagement, with potential damages over €1.5 million in protected areas.

Joint proposal for an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management Strategy for the EU







Source: An Integrated Wildfire Risk Management Strategy for the EU: developing resilient landscapes and safer communities (10.09.2025).



Wildfire risk
management in the EU
– Lessons from the
UCPM Peer Review
Program

Cristina Brăilescu, Team Leader Prevention & Preparedness Programme, DG ECHO

2 October 2025 - Brussels

What is a peer review?



It is an opportunity for a country or a region to...



...reflect on its **readiness** to cope with natural and human-induced related disasters



...identify ways of improving risk management systems and disaster risk management governance and capabilities



A peer review is an **independent analysis** carried out by a team of experts, the "**Peers**", often civil protection practitioners proposed by national civil protection authorities

In partnership with the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change (CMCC).

Peer reviews 2020-2024





LAND BRANDENBURG (DE)

- · Peer team from IT, PT, ES (x2),

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

- · Comprehensive peer review on all thematic areas of disaster risk management
- Peer team from FR. PL. LV. RO. SE. DE
- Mission April 2023
- · Report published October 2023





- Peer team from FR, PT (x2), ES, CZ





- · Peer team from ES, FR, PT, NO and OECD



- · Thematic peer review on disaster risk management governance and prevention
- · Peer team from ES, FR, PT, HR
- Mission October 2022
- Report published February 2023





Work in progress

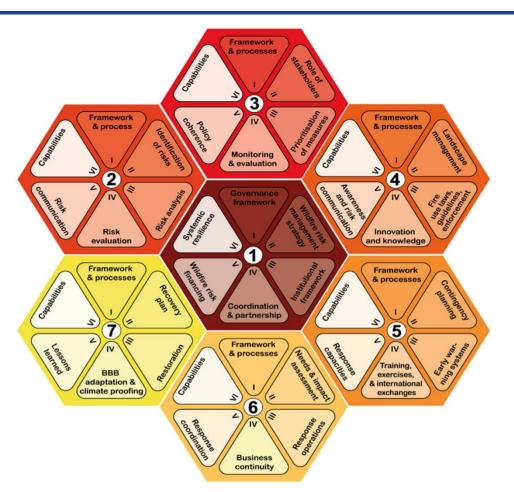
- Two first reviews selected after call for expression of interest: Kosovo followed by Czechia
- Interested countries in peer review starting in 2026 may contact DG ECHO bilaterally
- The Peer Review Assessment Framework (PRAF) and the Wildfire PRAF will undergo a significant revision





Wildfire peer review assessment framework – 7 areas





Wildfire peer review teams





Governance of wildfire risk management – Strengths



- Good understanding of the importance of a whole-ofsociety and a whole-of-government approach
- A National Forest Strategy is in place.
- A Wildfire Competence Centre was established.
- Good uptake of EU funds in some countries
- Cross-border collaboration fosters common operational procedures for wildfires and the implementation of joint risk awareness initiatives.
- Specific efforts devoted to protecting cultural heritage, through cross-sectorial cooperation



Governance of wildfire risk management - Recommendations





- Overarching wildfire risk management strategy, with a clear investment plan.
- Closer collaboration with scientific and research bodies
- Increase prevention funding
- Look into legal and financial options to deal with poorly managed forest lands, land abandonment, or unclear ownership.
- Use cost-benefit analysis before fund allocation
- Common minimum standards, capacities, terminology and processes at national level
- **Update legal framework** to catch up with new definitions, risks, mandates
- Capacity building for sub-national level administration
- Use of Key Performance Indicators



Wildfire risk assessment – Strengths & recommendations



Strengths

- The National Forest Cadastre is being finalised.
- Good risk assessment and mapping are used for forest fire risk management planning at regional level

Recommendations:

- Update the national wildfire hazard map.
- Prepare a comprehensive wildfire risk assessment at the national level through a
 joint initiative of research and academia and public institutions.
- Common minimum standards in conducting forest fire risk assessment at regional level

Wildfire risk management planning – Strengths & Recommendations

Strengths

- Hazard and risk analyses are recommended and conducted at the different territorial levels
- Legal framework in place on regional plans

Recommendations

- Perform a yearly analysis of regional plans
- Integrated IT platform for a better decision-making
- Local wildfire risk management plans for wildlandurban interface areas could be developed.
- Reinstate the principle that fire is a landscape modelling agent and a natural process.



Wildfire prevention - Strengths



- There is a good capacity to implement prevention measures within public forests. Associations of forest owners can support private forest owners.
- A **forest conversion process** is in place, replacing monoculture with mixed forest stands.
- The publicly available **web-GIS 'Geoportal Forst Brandenburg"** is an excellent tool.
- Risk awareness campaigns have been implemented
- The **criminal justice system** severely punishes arson, serving as a strong deterrent.



Wildfire prevention - Recommendations





- Prevention measures in WUI areas should be increased
 Guidelines on building wildfire-resilient WUI areas for landowners and communities.
- Consider revising the legislative framework to facilitate the implementation of wildfire prevention measures. Regulations should allow exceptions for the use of prevention measures.
- Guidelines for fuel management and prescribed burning.
- Network of forest firebreaks.
- A wildfire risk communication strategy, should be developed & inclusion of key elements in school curricula.
- Allow bioeconomy activities that contribute to local employment and reduce fuel load





Wildfire preparedness - Strengths



- Significant investments have been made in early detection, supported by improvements in data collection, analysis, and sharing.
- A wildfire fighting training programme has been established.
- Large number of volunteer firefighters & clear SOPs for their mobilisation.
- Implementation of **dynamic firefighting maps**, accessible through a web-geoportal.
- Development of Special Forest Fire Operational Units -EMODE.
- Training and preparatory meetings are organized at national level





Wildfire preparedness - Recommendations



- Single risk index.
- Strengthen the **incident command system**.
- Create **teams of well-trained firefighters** focused on wildfire firefighting operations and forest fire analysis.
- Expand the curricula of training courses to include additional topics (fire behaviour, prescribed burnings, and technical fire).
- Standards regarding wildfire PPE for firefighters should be clearly defined & a greater investment in such PPE.
- Clearer **standard operating procedures** for request and activation of resources (aerial means from the army or police).
- Review roles and mandates to allow firefighters taking prevention measures, and foresters participating in response
- National certification for the Directors of Suppression
 Operations



Wildfire Response – Strengths & Recommendations





Strengths

- New cooperation arrangements between the Forest Service and the Fire Corps.
- Specific procedures for **preventive evacuation**.
- The National Fire and Rescue Service ensures common procedures in the response phase, operating from the national to the local level.
- The country's state aerial forest fire capacity proved to be wellstructured and coordinated by the national level.

Recommendations

- Standardised requirements at national level for regional fleets
- Implementing minimum operating procedures for aerial assets
- Involving fire analysts in field response operations





Recovery & lessons learned – Strengths & Recommendations



Strengths

- Guidance for forest restoration after wildfires.
- The importance of data collection, analysis, and sharing is very well understood.
- The **Arson Crimes Response Directorate** established within the Hellenic Fire Corps is fully operational.
- Carabinieri Forestali (CUFAA) are responsible for collecting, verifying and validating data

Recommendations

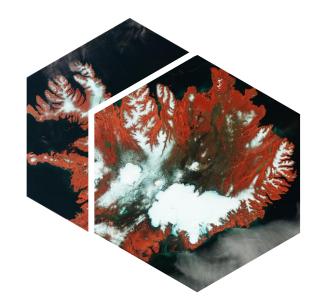
- A systematic lessons learnt process.
- The establishment of **specialised multidisciplinary post- fire investigation units**.
- Centralisation in a joint repository open to all key stakeholders of all data and information





Thank you!

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TOWARD AN INTEGRATED WILDFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT

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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness



TAFF WorkshopBrussels 2-3 October, 2025

https://www.gfdrr.org/en/taff



Context: Wildfire risk is increasing in Iceland

- Major risks in Iceland: Volcanic activity, earthquakes, glacial and river flooding floods, avalanches, landslides, extreme weather & climate change impacts
- Wildfire risk is increasing due to climate change, evolving land use patterns, and growing vegetation.
- More trees and bushes from afforestation and less sheep grazing contribute to higher fuel load.
- High-risk areas include campsites and recreational zones.
- **Iceland is warming rapidly**: +0.47°C per decade since 1980 (nearly 3× global rate).
- There is less reliable precipitation and moisture in-crease wildfire vulnerability
- Awareness of this increasing risk is not as high as for other hazards

Iceland has already been affected by wildfires:

- 2023-2024 Moss fires in Grindavík: linked to Reykjanes volcanic activity
- In 2021 Heiðmörk fire (56.5 ha) led to the first-ever national wildfire 'danger alert. At least 26 wildfires burned over 7,450 ha between 2006 and 2021.
- In 2006 Mýrar fire: 6,700+ ha of wetland burned, largest recorded wildfire. Four days to extinguish and farmers evacuated to protect livestock.



Project Summary

- Name: Iceland: Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management
- Funded through the 2024 call under the TAFF
- **Duration:** September 2024 November 2025
- Size EUR: €300,000
- Implementation agency: Civil Protection Department; Iceland Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management.
- **Objective:** provide analytics and recommendations for adopting an integrated wildfire risk management (IWFRM) approach in Iceland
- Key Activities:



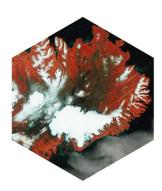
Review of capacity in governance, planning, risk understanding, prevention, early warning, preparedness, response, recovery, and financing, with technical recommendations for short- and long-term action

Rapid assessment of wildfire risk management capacity in Iceland based on UCPM PRAF and integrated wildfire risk management principles.









ICELAND

TOWARD AN INTEGRATED WILDFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT DIAGNOSTIC AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness







Toom of intermetional and local experts

Methodology

- Stakeholder consultations: 2 in country missions + online ensured extensive consultations were held with ministries, fire brigades, local authorities, and civil society to gather diverse insights.
- Field Visits in High-Risk Areas: Field visits to Grindavík, Kerið, and Skorradalur helped collect practical insights from fire chiefs and local officials.
- Alignment with international good practice and fitting Iceland's context
- Training and knowledge transfer to support operationalization of recommendations







Key challenges in a nutshell

CURRENTLY LACKING A PLAN	WILDFIRE LEGAL FRAMEWORK
While various stakeholders have initiated efforts to address wildfire risk, these actions remain fragmented, lacking an	The legal framework, though robust from many natural hazards, has not been y adequately adapted to address wildfin

k, though robust for ds, **has not been yet** l to address wildfire-

collection that allows better understanding of wildfire risk and trends. This in turn can inform prevention actions, including better public awareness and public outreach, wildfire preparedness (including strengthening of capacities) and response. **RESILIENT RECOVERY AND**

REHABILITATION

NEED FOR DATA COLLECTION

There is also a **need for systematic data**

agreed plan or roadmap of priorities with dedicated

specific challenges. This creates gaps in and institutional mandates.

strategic planning, resource allocation,

funding.

LACKING WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC PREVENTION AND **PREVENTION** Some relevant pilot activities in

prevention and preparedness have

been undertaken, but these need to be

conducted more strategically.

Iceland's strong emergency response system has managed recent incidents effectively, but the country lacks specialized wildfire management

Iceland does not yet have specific guidance for resilient recovery and rehabilitation efforts following major wildfires, nor systematic after-action

Key Findings - Governance & Planning

- **Iceland is in a unique position** to improve its management of wildfire risk to protect people's lives, lessen impacts on the natural and physical environment, and manage financial implications.
- The current environment is characterized by **strong interest and momentum among various stakeholders**, emerging data and analytics, various initiatives, and knowledge gained from past wildfire emergency response.
- While Iceland has a **robust legal framework covering the management of multiple natural hazards**, the existing framework has not yet been fully adapted to consider wildfire-specific challenges.
- Despite various ongoing efforts, Iceland does not yet have a **vision for improving wildfire risk management**, nor have stakeholders agreed on relevant priorities.



Key Findings - Risk information, Communication & Awareness

- Information relevant to understanding and managing wildfires is being collected and analyzed, yet it is not systematic and does not **inform actions across wildfire risk management**.
- The IMO has strong technical capacities to monitor natural hazards and has in place a contingency plan for wildfires; notified events trigger the issuance of a site-specific forecast to aid responders.
- Wildfire-related public awareness and self-preparedness is nascent among the population; however, there are many opportunities to scale up, especially through promotion of a bottom-up approach to increase outreach.



Key Findings – Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery

- Iceland has **several pilot activities related to wildfire prevention**, but these are not yet conducted strategically or in a prioritized manner corresponding to wildfire risk.
- Action and coordination during fires has been strong thanks to a robust emergency response and coordination system, but more needs to be done to upgrade capacities for wildfire.
- Currently, there is no specific guidance for **recovery and rehabilitation** efforts following major wildfires.



PLANNING

GOVERNANCE & appropriate coordination mechanisms.

3. Enhance coordination across stakeholders in Iceland, as well as international cooperation and exchange on wildfire analysis and prevention, preparedness, and response, including research and training. 4. Improve wildfire risk understanding: consolidate existing information across institutions, conduct rapid wildfire risk scenarios for high-risk areas, and systematically use post-fire analysis.

5. **Deepen wildfire risk understanding:** develop a wildfire risk assessment methodology and a full risk **ANALYSIS &** assessment considering climate change impacts; develop a wildfire risk information system (platform) to COMMUNICATION serve various entities. 6. **Improve monitoring of wildfire risk:** develop a wildfire danger index and enhance available data and

tools for early detection. 7. Adapt landscape management, land use planning, and climate change adaptation actions to reflect wildfire risk information and risk management tools; pilot and scale up a range of activities led by different

PREVENTION

entities, including bottom-up approaches.

8. **Develop a public awareness and communications strategy** and pursue activities for target groups with the help of different stakeholders and tools.

implementing agreed priorities as well as funds.

9. Increase capacities for preparedness and response, including basic and specialized training, human **PREPARATION &** resources, decision-support tools, and equipment. RESPONSE

1. Agree on a common vision and roadmap (action plan); confirm lead and contributing entities for

2. **Update laws and regulations** with respect to known gaps, identify further key reform areas, and establish

Key Recommendations - Governance & Planning

10 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:GOVERNANCE AND
PLANNING

Update legal and coordination frameworks to include wildfire risk while working on more ambitious reforms that may require more time.

Agree and develop a strategic roadmap with shared short- and long- term priorities. This can reflect responsibilities and mandates as of now and indicate ambition to update/expand responsibilities

Strengthen national coordination and **expand** international cooperation on wildfire research, prevention, and response, leveraging existing and new opportunities, including research and training



Key Recommendations - Risk Analysis & Communication

10 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

ANALYSIS AND COMMUNICATION

Consolidate and use existing data and research to map wildfire risk, especially in high-risk areas, to improve understanding of wildfire risk

Prepare for detailed risk assessment and create a system to share wildfire risk information across stakeholders, e.g. via a database or

Develop a wildfire danger index and improve tools for **early detection** and monitoring



Key Recommendations - Prevention

10 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:PREVENTION

- Adapt landscape management, land use planning, and climate change adaptation (CCA) actions to reflect wildfire risk information and tools, pilot and scale up a range of activities, including bottom-up approaches
- Strengthen public awareness and communications, developing a strategy and pursuing awareness activities focusing on different target audiences with the help of different stakeholders and tools.
- Invest in prevention, such as forest/landscape management, wetland restoration,



Key Recommendations - Preparedness and Response

10 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:PREPAREDNESS &
RESPONSE

- Strengthen preparedness and response capacities through basic and specialized training, staffing, and equipment upgrades
- Scale up response planning and drills on response plans, and promote public self-preparedness in line with multi-stakeholder coordination



Training & Knowledge Transfer

- TAFF facilitated the participation of team of Firefighters to participate in training in Poland in May 2025
 - The training provided hands-on experience in advanced wildland firefighting techniques and safety protocols.
 - Participants gained exposure to the latest equipment and exchanged best practices with international peers.
 - The team returned better prepared to respond to wildfire emergencies and share updated knowledge with their home departments.
- TAFF organizing a 2.5 training with European Forest Institute on wildfire risk management, focusing on practical skills and knowledge sharing



- Next Steps Forward:
 - Final wrap up in October 2025 meeting of key stakeholders to advance agreed priorities
 - Implement IWFRM strategy, update laws, expand training, and develop wildfire information systems.
- Key Lessons from TAFF:
 - Very useful exercise, rapid and strategic. Helps to focus stakeholders and build consensus & momentum.
 - International examples help introduce certain solutions
 - Pilot activities are critical for starting the process and delivering results.



Thank You & Contacts

Ólafur Loftsson, Project Manager, Iceland Civil Protection Department

For an overview of the project:









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TAFF WorkshopBrussels 2-3 October, 2025

https://www.gfdrr.org/en/taff



FRISC

Strengthening Albania's Fire Risk
Management and Search and
Rescue Capacity

Ministry of Internal General Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue

TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness



TAFF WorkshopBrussels 2-3 October, 2025

https://www.gfdrr.org/en/taff



Country Context

- Albania is at high and continuous risk of forest fires, especially in the dry summer season
 June-September. In the decade ending in 2020, forest fires have burnt over 200,000 hectares
 (equal to 19 percent of the total remaining forests in Albania).
- According to World Bank estimates, 23% of crop area in the country is already under medium to high wildfire risk with 10 municipalities having the highest exposure. In 2021 alone, 329 wildfires were recorded, burning a total of 31,275 ha of land.
- 2025 was the worst year measured on burned area and only with support of the EU the situation could be contained.



Country Context

Summer 2025 fires:

BULETINI MBI RREZIQET NATYRORE (Bulletin on Natural Hazards) Qendra Kombëtare për Parashlikimin dhe Monitorimin e Rreziqeve Natyrore Escobook page: Lastbut (Gjeathkerae, Mebagae, mmr.ppc.edv.al.

Buletini Nr. 225/ 2025, 12-08-2025 Parashikimi nga 12-08-2025, ora 12:00 deri 13-08-2025, ora 23:59.

LEGJENDA: Reshjet 24-orëshe

Niveli i Rrezikut	(mm / 24 orē)
S'KA RREZIK	të dobëta (0 – 15 mm / 24 orë) Nuk priten fenomene hidro- meteorologjike problematike,
1 ULET	mesatare (15 - 45 mm / 24 orë) Mundësi që të shfaqen fenomene hidro- meteorologjike problematike.
I MODERUAR	intensive (45 – 90 mm / 24 ore) Moti parashikohet i rrezikshem. Parashikohen fenomene të pazakonta hidro-meteorologjike.
I LARTE	shumë intensive (> 90 mm / 24 orë) Moti është shumë i rrezikshëm. Parashikohen fenomene të pazakonshme hidro-meteorologjike mjaft intensive.

LEGJENDA: Ziarre në nyie

LEGJENDA	LEGJENDA: Zjarre ne pyje		
S'KA RREZIK	Zjarret e mundshëm janë t kontrollueshëm lehtësisht.		
ULÉT	Barërat e thatë dhe pyjet mund t digjen lehtë. Flakët janë te mesme n pyje dhe të shpejta në zonat ekspozuara.		
I MODERUAR	Ndezja e zjarreve mund të ndodhë leht dhe me përhapje të shpejtë. Zjarre mund të jenë shumë të nxehtë, m kurora përhapje të vogla dhe të mesme.		
1 LARTE	Ndezja mund të shkaktohet edhe ng një shkëndijë. Zjarret janë shumë t nxehtë me përhapje shumë të shpejtë t flakëve si rrjedhim kontrolli i tyre ësht shumë i vështirë.		



SIMBOLE

	Shtrëngata: reshje mbi 20 mm/3orë. Moti mund të krijojë probleme të ndryshme	
	Përmbytje urbane ose nga përrenjtë dhe lumenjtë e vegjël Përmbytje nga lumenjtë e mesëm dhe të mëdhenj	
<u> </u>		
A	Rrëshqitje toke	

igeo	Instituti i Gjeoshkencave - 10360	- 1GJEO	
Operator: Indrit Rexhepi	Koordinator: Elona Abazi	fage 3 / 3	



Project Overview

FRISC:

Strengthening Albania's Fire Risk Management and Search and Rescue Capacity

- Duration from October 2024 to September 2026
- Size EUR: 500.000 €
- Implementation / coordinating agency:

Ministry of Internal, General Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue

National Civil Protection Agency as part of the Steering committee for the TAFF grant

- Objective / or Challenge being addressed
 - Strengthening the Institutional and Policy Framework for Fire Risk Management and Search & Rescue interlinked with the National Civil Emergency Plan and Civil protection Strategy
 - Strengthening Operational Readiness through Fire Protection and Rescue Service Infrastructure and Equipment
 - Improving FP&RS Capacity and Communications

Project Overview

Expected outputs

- Assessment of Gaps and Opportunities for proposed investment project (AL-FiRe)
- Capacity support on vertical and horizontal structures (unified intervention strategy)
- Application of the standard intervention capacity sizing to assess equipment needs based on multi-risks
- Guidance on Intervention Capacity Sizing (Train the Team and Gap Analysis)
- Assess the Intervention capacity in the case of wildland fires and support during season
- Requirements listing and presentation of findings including Seminar and Workshop
- Other ongoing or complementary initiatives
 - Definition of a new Fire Service Legislation aligned with the overall operational civil protection needs
 - General strengthening of the intervention capacity and competence of the Fire Protection and Rescue Service

Strengths

- Courage and bravery
- Cooperation between municipalities
- Willingness to adopt a new skills and upgrade personal safety,
- Military resources, rangers, AFPRA (NGO) networking
- Advanced technology drone and satellite

Weaknesses

- Under-staffed/under-equipped/underpaid
- No fire school
- No integrated Wildfire Risk Management
- Execution of chain of command
- Lessons identified, dissemination,
- AIR/ground coordination no proper deployment of GFFF module

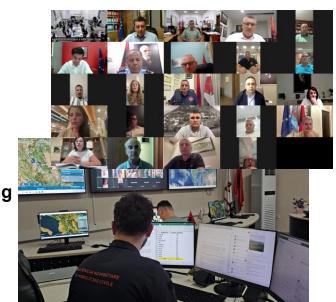


Opportunities

- Political momentum for a change
- The role of the prefect for knowledge management and dissemination
- New tools and technologies NICS/drones/satellite
- ICS development
- International cooperation

Threats

- Climate trends more extreme fire behavior
- Remain focus only on the response phase
- Motivation for change will decrease if quick wins are lacking



- Strategic / operational relevance or contribution
 - Prevention:
 - Non existence of a wildfire risk assessment
 - Programs/plans are said to exist forestry sector/civil protection/fire fighters BUT not supported without budget and implementation monitoring
 - Road infrastructure in forested areas need to be known
 - Early Warnings coming from national level but not proper send out
 - Recovery of burned areas to avoid cascading effects landslides
 - Data is there
 - Priorities are there.
 - Youth potential unexplored BUT...great willingness to help



- Knowledge/innovation relevance or contribution
 - Institutionalize Fire Weather Analysis as a routine input for preparedness and daily readiness decisions.
 - Use a common operating picture (COP) and digital tools (e.g., NICS) plus drones/satellite to improve interoperability and air—ground coordination.
 - Apply "intervention capacity sizing" to guide siting, fleet mix, staffing, and quantify equipment needs.
 - Adopt/standardize modern equipment & specs (EN 1846 / DIN) and define module configurations
 and water-management practices—so procurement and training align with best practice.
 - Develop multi-stakeholder SOPs & ICS to codify roles and coordination mechanisms across agencies.
 - Leverage Al/ICT to enhance operational readiness for fires and wildfires.
 - Strengthen knowledge creation & sharing (analytics, technical reports, workshops, media/social dissemination)

- Stakeholder engagement relevance or contribution
 - **National actors:** Ministry of Interior / DG FP&RS, National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA), Police, Armed Forces; work through multi-stakeholder SOPs and a national ICS to clarify roles and coordination.
 - **Regional & local:** Prefectures and municipalities lead/host coordination; prefects can drive lesson-learning and dissemination across fire chiefs, police, and civil protection.
 - **Communities & citizens:** Engage communities and regions during municipal-level fire risk strategy work (planning, specs, TA needs); incorporate citizen engagement and community participation.
 - **Volunteers & youth:** Include volunteers in capacity building and training; youth participation highlighted as an untapped asset for prevention/awareness.
 - **Gender & inclusion:** Analyze gender participation in FP&RS and propose actions to close gaps; factor universal access/disability inclusion in station retrofits.
 - Knowledge sharing & outreach: Use roundtables, workshops, media and social channels to disseminate
 results and good practices.
 - **Interagency tech integration:** Coordinate with NCPA on COP tools (e.g., NICS), drones/satellite; integrate with existing systems from other projects.

- Albania Wildfire Risk Assessment 2023 has already raised the alarm of what is to be expected
- 2025 fires and the work in the project did trigger need for action up to top level.
- Towards an integrated approach to wildfire risk management where the focus is not only to fire response
- Leadership and accountability for the topic
- Fatigue from waiting for the change
- Creating a Fire school is an imperative
- Equipment and fire stations on a unified standard and quality level
- Fire Weather Analysis key trend to accept and develop further



Need to Strengthen the interaction between actors

- During the workshop and the on-site wildfire intervention the need for enhancing the workflow within the Disaster Cycle could be observed.
- The processes of the NCPA have been observed and as next step the intervention and coordination structure of the FP&RS has to be aligned with the general guidelines of the UCPM and best practices
- In consultation between NCPA and FP&RS the first gap-analysis has been drafted which will be mapped with executable actions, leading to a higher effectiveness in preparedness and response.
- Also, for the mitigation phase initial processes have been started triggered with the existing tools at NCPA



Min. of Def. Mr. Pirro and Gen. Dir. FP&RS on-site supervising together the situation

Recommendations for other countries

- **Intervention capacity sizing** to right-size stations, crews (incl. volunteers), and fleets using multi-factor models; hand over a simple template so local teams can keep updating it.
- Apply the model in a few pilot municipalities, train counterparts, and institutionalize continuity (top-down model + staff coaching)
- Standardization & specs for vehicles/equipment (EN 1846 / DIN) and basic water-management doctrine to align procurement and training
- Field-visit "proof of concept" to transfer practices from comparable EU services.
- Leverage existing tech stacks (COP, remote sensing) for prediction, mapping, early detection across hazards; integrate rather than procure anew
- Pair quick wins with reforms (prefect-led learning loops; equipment + training + command discipline) to sustain momentum.

Thank You & Contacts

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