ToS Forest Fire to the Bureaux – Report 2009
February 2010

1	**Name of Team**	Forest Fire
2	**Reporting to**	Bureaux/Working Party (date)
3	**Period covered**	January to December 2009
4	**Leader** **Deputies** **Secretariat**	Leader: Prof. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer, Germany Deputies: Mr. Andrey Eritsov, Russian Federation Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov, FYR Macedonia Secretariat: Mr. Pieter van Lierop, FAO Forestry Department, Rome Supported by: UNECE/FAO (Matthew Fonseca)
5	**Team members**	Attachment 1. The majority of Team members have corresponded to circular mailing by the TL
6	**Meetings held**	(1) 1 April 2009, Geneva, inaugural meeting. (2) Seminar on fire management on terrain contaminated by radioactivity, unexploded ordinance and landmines (Ukraine 2009). Note: This was not a full-scale Team meeting with a dedicated team agenda, but a meeting to which the Team was invited and some attended. (3) Cooperation between ToS: One Team member participated at the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook meeting 23-24 November 2009. (4) In June 2009 a fire management training course (financed by OSCE / ENVSEC) was organized for the Southern Caucasus countries in Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park (Georgia), a region which suffered forest fires in 2008 (collateral damages of the war). Four Team members served as resource persons (GFMC, FYROM, Turkey, Russian Federation).
7	**Outputs during period by mandate item and impact achieved**	**(a) Development of a proposal and follow up for a Global Vegetation Fire Inventory (<u>Output 1</u>: detailed proposal to be elaborated with GOFC-GOLD)**: Proposal is underway. Besides TL serving as co-chair of the GFOC- GOLD Fire Implementation Team (Fire IT) a ToS Team member (Jesús San Miguel, JRC) was appointed and has accepted membership. In this context a "Fire Risk Assessment Technical Workshop" was held in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, December 2009, with the TL and three ToS members attending (Bill de Groot, Jesús San Miguel, Chris Justice). Global Wildland Fire Early Warning System planning was further developed and consolidated. **(b) Cooperation with the UNEP-OCHA JEU (<u>Output 2</u>: Development of a wildfire emergency module under the Rosersberg Initiative, focusing on training and competence)**: Since the Rosersberg Initiative is evolving as an activity of the international Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) (under the auspices UN OCHA / UNEP and Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) the TL attended in his function of member the First Meeting of the AGEE Steering Committee, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 8 December 2009. Results: Contribution of the Team and the Global Wildland Fire Network in various activities including the building of a dedicated wildland fire segment in the proposed Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC). GFMC presented the Fire Aviation Working Group, which was proposed in 2007 (4th Int. Wildland Fire Conference, Sevilla, Spain) and again in 2008 (at the Aerial Firefighting Conference, Athens, Greece) and which became operational in 2009 under the auspices of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group (Secretariat: GFMC). UNEP/OCHA JEU proposed to initiate a dialogue on standardization of international aerial firefighting procedures between UN, and EC-MIC and GFMC, to be initiated probably in the second half of 2010 (after completion of an EU study on organizing aerial firefighting in Europe). (c) continue production of UNECE / FAO International Forest Fire News

		(IFFN) (Output 3: Production of the journal, procedures of financing production and printing to be clarified). TL and UNECE/FAO (M. Fonseca and E. Pepke) met in Geneva on 6 December 2009 to discuss phasing out of IFFN printing at the Palais des Nations. The procedures of in-house clearing within the UNECE and the UN publication system in Geneva is extremely bureaucratic and resulted in multi-years delay of printing. Printing outside is too expensive. Printing at FAO in Rome an option. Digital publication on the IFFN website probably sufficient and meeting the demands of the majority of international readers. However, libraries and countries with still limited internet access prefer printed hard copies. TL and E. Pepke to make a final decision in 2010 and inform IFFN subscribers by a circular mail.
8	**Expected outputs over next period by mandate item**	(a) Output 1: A dedicated GOFC-GOLD Fire IT meeting is scheduled for March 2010 (at ESA/ESRIN, Frascati, Italy). Three ToS members will contribute. Output: Consolidation of approach of the Global Vegetation Fire Inventory. (b) Output 2: Preparation and implementation of the "Study on Wildfire Fighting Resources Sharing Models" (GHK Consulting Ltd., with ToS members GFMC and CTIF) (January-June 2010) (c) Output 3: Preparation of the delayed IFFN issues for online publication (http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/iffn/iffn.htm). Further activities in 2010: (a) ToS invited to attend the closing meeting (internal and external for policy and decision makers) of the EU IP "Fire Paradox" (www.fireparadox.org) at GFMC, Freiburg, Germany (23-26 February 2010). (b) ToS will be invited to attend the joint meeting of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG), the International Liaison Committee (ILC) of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference, the UNISDR-WFAG Fire Aviation Working Group (FAWG), the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire and the Secretariat of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) (Open Partial Agreement on the Prevention of, Protection Against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters), Council of Europe, to be held at GFMC (26-29 June 2010). (c) Consolidation of the UNISDR Regional Euro-Alpine Wildland Fire Network, which was founded as the 14th network under the Global Wildland Fire Network (http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/EuroAlpine/EuroAlpine.html) (d) International consultation on transboundary / border-crossing cooperation in fire management, hosted by the Federal Forestry Agency of Russia, Irkutsk, Russia, tentatively 14-18 June 2010.
9	**Comments, lessons learned**	Comment 1: The high degree of coordination / integration of ToS members with the activities of major groups / networks that are actively working in wildland fires issues in the ECE region and globally. Comment 2: Lack of financial resources in most ToS member countries does not allow an active participation in the meetings.
10	**Issues for attention of Bureaux / Working Party**	- none -