

DIALOGUE ON WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

Each year, wildfires burn 400 million hectares worldwide

resulting in significant human, environmental and economic losses. In 2020, more than 200,000 wildfires broke out in Latin America, destroying unique ecosystems, such as the Amazon. The European Union (EU), through its Joint Research Centre, a science and knowledge hub that provides scientific advice and supports EU policies, has comprehensive long-term expertise in facing global challenges like wildfires.

COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES

The Joint Research Centre, in collaboration with other EU services, developed the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) and established the Expert Group on Forest Fires (EGFF), which are currently under the umbrella of Copernicus – the EU's Earth Observation Programme.

EFFIS and EGFF are instruments to prevent and tackle wildfires from a regional perspective. These initiatives promote collaboration among countries on the basis of harmonised information collected in EFFIS and the exchange of good practices through the EGFF.

These two initiatives contribute to forest and ecosystem resilience and to the mitigation of wildfires, and they are in line with the EU Green Deal and its digital transition strategy.

COLLECTING COMPARABLE DATA ON A REGIONAL SCALE



"EFFIS covers the full fire circle"

EFFIS is an information system that provides reliable, up-to-date information on wildfires to the extended European region. It makes available historical, comparable and real-time information about the full fire cycle, including pre-fire conditions and post-fire damage assessment. With more than 20 years of proven efficiency, EFFIS now operates across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. EFFIS has become an essential open tool of comparable information across these countries, supporting national and regional wildfire-related policies.

EXCHANGE OF EXPERT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

EGFF is a stable network of wildfire management experts from 43 countries in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

This group, created in 1998 and supported by information from these countries and EFFIS, is an essential part of wildfire management. EGFF is a platform that allows countries to exchange ideas, lessons learned and best practices through regular meetings between experts. Through this network, countries can engage in a dialogue that improves their ability to effectively monitor and manage wildfires. EGFF meets twice a year to discuss wildfire prevention and develop national preparedness campaigns. Furthermore, workshops and training courses on wildfire management are organised on relevant topics identified by the experts.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Efficient instruments for increasing fire prevention.
- Effective systems for enhancing preparedness against wildfires.
- Efficient instruments for designing regional policies on forestry and fire management.
- Flexible methods that are adaptable to national systems.
- Effective networks to enhance national wildfire management and monitoring capacity.
- Reliable tools to manage and monitor the full fire cycle in real time, starting with a fire danger forecast and ending with the analysis of post-fire vegetation regeneration.

To learn more, please visit <https://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu>



European Union funded initiative