

Phase II – Enhancing regional capacity on fire management and wildfire disaster risk reduction in the Southern Caucasus

Background

Statistical data and reports of the last decade indicate forest fires are increasingly common in the South Caucasus. The lack of dedicated policies and implementation strategies in the region make forest fire management efforts less effective. Wildfires may pose not only immediate risk to the population, but can also have serious consequences in terms of increased threats of landslides, mudflows or floods. Fires burning on terrain contaminated by unexploded ordnance and land mines – remnants of military activities – pose an additional threat to the personnel involved in firefighting and civilians. In politically sensitive areas, forest fires and their management may also become a source of tensions between countries and negatively affect the overall security situation in the region. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Global Fire Monitoring Centre.

Objectives

To enhance capacity of the countries to efficiently respond to wildfires and improve forest fire management and help countries formulate national forest fire management policies and implementation strategies.

Results

1. Improved national and local capacities to manage forest fires
2. Improved cooperation between agencies responsible for forest fire management
3. Improved regional cooperation and dialogue beyond forest fire management.

Highlights

1. Draft national wildfire management policy and implementation strategy and roundtable meetings (Georgia, 2010)
2. Wildfire vulnerability assessment of forests in Armenia, roundtable and national wildfire conference (Armenia, 2010-2011)
3. National training programme based on EuroFire standards (<http://www.euro-fire.eu>) for national fire-fighters and fire management agencies (Georgia 2009, Armenia 2011)
4. Wildfire vulnerability assessment of Forests in Azerbaijan and roundtable meeting (Azerbaijan, 2011)
5. Advanced Seminar on Wildland Fire Management (including field exercise) for South Caucasus and Southeastern European countries. The training was organized in cooperation with the Turkish General Directorate of Forestry (Antalya, Turkey, 2010).
6. Seminar on Wildfires and Human Security - Fire Management on Terrain Contaminated by Unexploded Ordnance and Land Mines conducted by the Global Fire Monitoring Centre (Ukraine 2010).



Implementing ENVSEC partner:

OSCE

Duration:

February 2010-December 2011

Region:

Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)

Other partners:

Global Fire Monitoring Centre (Germany)

ENVSEC budget:

130,000 USD

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