



Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans



Aerial fire suppression in Macedonia
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Country/Region

Western Balkans / Global

Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans aims to increase resilience of Western Balkan forests and landscapes against fires to benefit the people who depend on these landscapes for their livelihoods and socioeconomic development.

Due to a changing climate and unsustainable land use practices, landscape fires have been on the rise in the Western Balkans, while fire management

remains generally weak and not adapted for mounting challenges. This initiative will improve capacities in landscape fire management through regional cooperation and strengthen policy and action at national level by articulating the region with multilateral efforts and Swiss know-how and expertise. Local communities, most concerned by landscape fires, will be an integral part of the initiative's approach to facilitate the establishment of long-term strategies for resilient landscapes.

Sustainable management of natural resources



Phase Duration

01.03.2021 to 28.02.2025 (Phase 1)

Financial contribution of SDC

CHF 3'980'000

Target groups

- Public management in charge of landscape/fire management in the six Western Balkan countries
- national stakeholders (associations, NGO, farmers, forest and pasture owners)
- Selected rural population groups

Achievements so far

Project activities are about to start.

Project Objectives

Outcome 1: Better Cooperation

A lasting regional network is established and contributes to cross-boundary knowledge exchange and cooperation in landscape fire management (LFM)

Outcome 2: Better Capacities

Strengthened capacities on broader LFM approaches allow for an effective cross-sectoral collaboration at multiple levels

Outcome 3: Better Policies

Revised policies and strategies on LFM are in place to support sustainable landscape management at local, national and regional levels

Expected results for 2021–2025

- Country Focal Points contributing to the initiative are established within national institutions dedicated to forest/landscape fire management
- A regional cooperation mechanism, facilitated by the Regional Fire Monitoring Centre in Skopje, is established and active
- Cooperation between the Western Balkan region and relevant international stakeholders/initiatives is established and active
- Policy guidelines for landscape fire management are prepared at regional level

How this will be achieved

The aim of this initiative is to sustainably establish a network-like regional cooperation in the WB region that fosters knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and concerted action on landscape fire management in the six countries involved. The Initiative's approach is to articulate the local, national, regional and international levels by systematically combining state-of-the-art knowledge and policy with local evidence and experience. A specific element is the knowledge and experience exchange between the Balkan region and Switzerland, which is equally facing increasing forest and landscape fires of higher intensity, and is strengthening its response to this threat, particularly in the Alpine regions of the country.

Additional information

No additional information available yet



Drone launching for fire behaviour assessment during its suppression in Macedonia ©Regional Fire Monitoring Centre (RFMC)

Partners

Regional Fire Monitoring Centre FMC, (Ministries), Global Fire Monitoring Centre, School for Agriculture, Food and Forest Sciences HAFL, SDC (HQ and Skopje)

Regional Implementer: Farmahem

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