

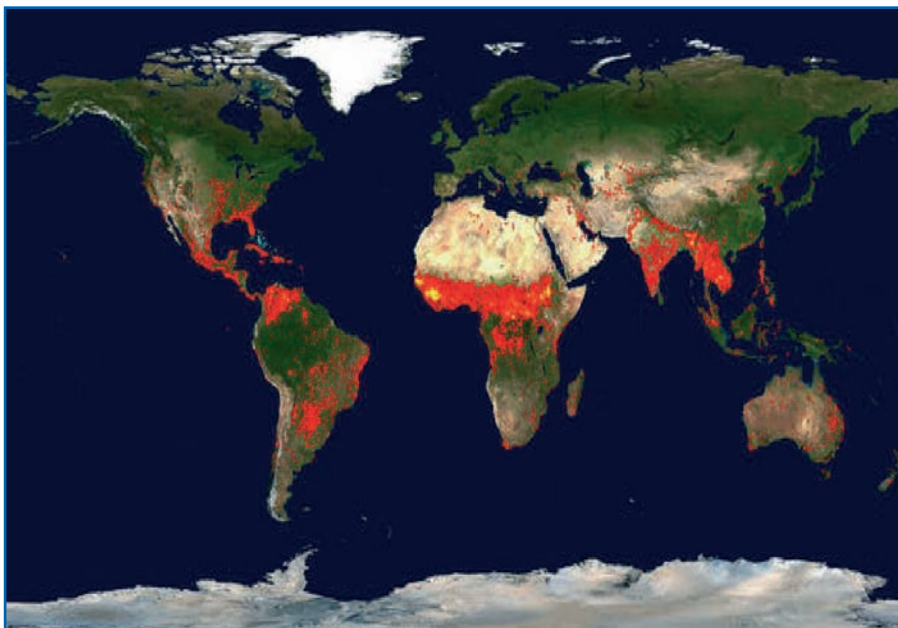
Global Wildland Fire Early Warning System – African Component

Description

Wildland Fire is a Global Source of Multiple Hazards. In fact it is at the origin of:

- Significant Ecosystem damage, such as degradation in forest/grassland health due to uncontrolled burning, agriculture and land degradation with losses in production, hydrological changes resulting in desertification and flooding
- Significant loss of life, including negative societal impact and economic losses, such as increased vulnerability at urban-rural interface, global health impact due to smoke and emissions, disruption of transport due to changes in visibility, costly fire suppression programs
- Significant contribution on climate change through global carbon cycle impact

The objective is to develop a global early warning system for wildland fire based on existing and demonstrated science and technologies, with an associated technology transfer program to provide training for global, regional, national, and local communities to enable the use of the System for prevention, preparedness, detection, and fire response decision-making.



World's Regions affected by Wildland Fires

Added Value

- GEO facilitates international cooperation, providing additional political framework for activities execution, in particular when transfer of knowledge and capacity building are involved.
- Direct contribution to is the availability and use of GEONETCast to disseminate daily products.

Relevance to GEO

- Relevant to the Disaster SBA, with clear inputs from and outputs to other SBA's such as Weather, Climate, Ecosystems and Agriculture. High socio-economic value in reducing vulnerability and associated impacts. Importance of Early Warning Systems in the 10-year plan.
- GEO Work Plan reference Task DI-06-13

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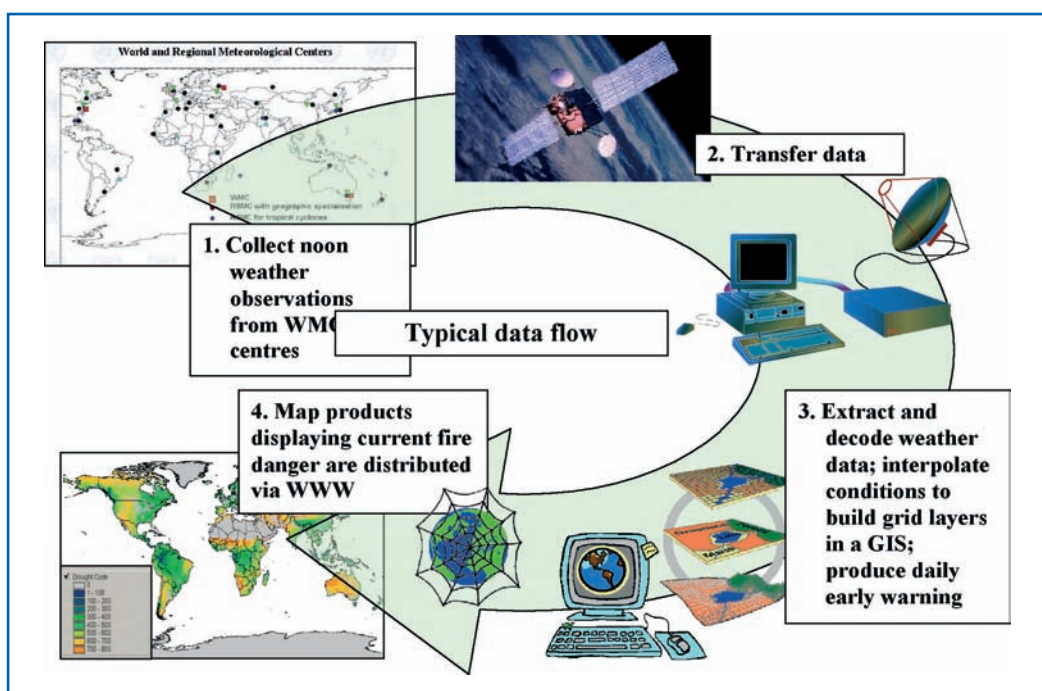
Participants

The project "Global Early Warning System for Wildland Fire", within the UN-ISDR initiative is considered as the reference, the relevant team includes:

- Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, c/o Freiburg University / United Nations University, Germany on behalf of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network
- Canadian Forest Service (CFS), Edmonton, Canada
- Bushfire CRC, Australia
- Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD) Secretariat, Edmonton, Canada
- University of Maryland (UMD), USA
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
 - World Weather Research Programme (WWRP)
- Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre (BMRC), Melbourne, Australia
- European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF)
 - Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia, Spain; Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finland, MetOffice, UK

Current Status and Next Steps

The schedule of activities foresees definition of the Global System and its implementation by progressive inclusion of regional/national systems, that are today at different stages of design and implementation. GEO focus will be to support definition and implementation activities in regions where identified gaps to have the system in place are higher. The GFMC website <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/> is periodically updated with all the progressive contributions.



Daily Fire danger maps production