

Landscape Fire Governance Framework

Guiding Principles for Adjusting Strategies, Policies, and Management, to Global Change

The Landscape Fire Governance Framework is a voluntary, legally non-binding set of principles and goals, towards better integrated fire management. It offers countries, policy, and decision-makers a set of ideas to better manage the land and reduce losses from landscape fires.

The Landscape Fire Governance Framework inherits several past FAO principles and guidelines, such as those in the “Fire Management: Voluntary Guidelines – Principles and Strategic Actions” of 2006, and FAO’s integrated fire management “5 R’s”, *review and analysis, risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery*, whose actions are found throughout the framework. As such, ticking the boxes on this checklist satisfies not only previous objectives on IFM, but also newer ones, with added focus on governance.

Checklist

Concepts and ideas contained in the framework can be simplified into a checklist helping you understand how close you are to having an integrated fire management system. Checklist items are not scored, as not all of them are needed everywhere, depending on previous progress. Moreover, not all items are applicable to all landscapes, however, as you determine which items are applicable to you, checking them out will help you lay out the road ahead into the goal of loss reduction.

Checklist items have original framework paragraphs as reference, [in light blue](#), but not all framework paragraphs are mapped to checklist items, as some of them don’t necessarily translate into verifiable actions, rather present a concept, or serve as introduction, or an extension, to one. The exact way each country gets to complete each item in the checklist is entirely dependent on their sovereign options.

Whereas the main document lays out a case for integrated fire management and renewed fire governance, this checklist is an operational tool, grouping actions under their main topic.

You will find the items in the checklist grouped in the same way as in the Landscape Fire Governance Framework:

- Guiding Principles;
- Priorities for Action
 - Strengthening the Governance Model
 - Valuing Rural Areas
 - Actively managing rural areas
 - Changing attitude and behaviour
 - Training and Qualification
- Governance
 - Fire risk assessment
 - Wildfire risk evaluation and tolerance
 - Wildfire risk management
 - Integrated fire management (IFM) – The Value Chain
 - Adaptive management
 - Stakeholder engagement

- Systemic and Public Communication
- International Cooperation

Please note that for the sake of brevity, the value chain section is heavily summarized, as the value chain annex in the Landscape Fire Governance Framework already provides most of the items that should be present or developed for it to be considered in place.

Guiding Principles

- There is an integrated budget for fire management ⁽²¹⁾
- National policies are politically neutral and long term ⁽²²⁾
- Worldwide good practices feed into budgeting and responsibility attribution ⁽²¹⁾
- Actions are oriented towards long term impact, benefiting citizens ^(23a)
- Future scenarios are considered in risk assessment and evaluation ^(23b)
- The know-how, expectations and needs from local communities are considered in policy making ^(23c)
- Capacities and skills are specialized and qualified to support the change in the governance model ^(23d)
- Scarce resources are used in accordance with current conditions, as needed ^(23f)
- Resources are rationally used, observing quantifiable and measurable objectives ^(23g)
- Everyone carries out missions for which they hold the required qualification, including physical, medical, and psychological conditions ^(23h, 30)
- Everyone has access to the material resources required for well succeed missions ^(23h)
- Resource readiness follows foreseeable necessity rather than a fixed calendar ⁽²³ⁱ⁾
- All procedures are auditable and subject to public reporting ^(23j)
- Improvement is continuously monitored and fed by experience ^(23k, l, o)
- Policy and strategy are multi-disciplinary and make use of latest scientific knowledge ^(23m)
- Planning and activities consider existing national fire management plans ⁽²³ⁿ⁾

Priorities for Action

Strengthening the governance model

- Governance models have been, or are being, developed or revised ⁽⁷⁾
- The governance model is multi-tiered and decentralized ⁽⁹⁾

- Governance engages all relevant stakeholders (9, 43)
- The governance model counteracts silo mindsets (21)
- There is a cross-sectoral body leading governance of integrated fire management (25)
- Dialogue and coordination mechanisms are in place (25)

Valuing Rural Areas

- Multifunctionality and circular economy drive policy options (26)
- Policy aims at valuing rural areas, to foster their protection (26)

Actively Managing Rural Areas

- If ancestral use of fire exists, it is done under more secure practices, revived as needed (15)
- Fire is used as a sustainable and inexpensive tool for fuel management (15)
- Land is managed to make it more resilient to fire (16)
- Communities are empowered to manage their land, technically and financially (27)

Changing Attitude and Behaviour

- The most vulnerable populations are kept safe from the negative impacts of fire (28)
- There is an offer of alternative fuel management methods when fire use is best avoided (28)
- Citizens are informed on best practices to manage their land and their flammable fuels (28)

Training and Qualification

- Expertise and the latest knowledge are integrated into land and fire management (17, 43)
- A training and qualification program (QP) exists, on all steps of fire management (29)
- A multi-agency partnership regulates, implements, monitors, and evaluates the QP (30)

Governance

Fire Risk Assessment

- Hazard and exposure are determined (33)
- Environmental, social, and economic impact of landscape fires are assessed (33)

- Scenarios are run to assess outcomes under different socio-economic and environmental conditions ⁽³³⁾
- Early warning mechanisms are in place and convey easily understandable information ⁽³⁴⁾
- Risk management and communication are guided by the social perception of risk and corresponding level of acceptance ⁽⁶⁾

Wildfire Risk Evaluation and Tolerance

- Risk perception and tolerance among the population is assessed ^(34, 36)
- A community driven “as low as reasonably possible” accepted risk is defined ^(36, 37, 51)

Wildfire Risk Management

- Institutions recognize risk must be minimized ⁽⁵⁾

Integrated Fire Management (IFM) - The Value Chain

The value chain annex to the landscape fire governance framework has more detailed information on what comprises each step of the full landscape fire value chain.

- Policy makers understand that improvements are needed in policies and processes ⁽⁶⁾
- Investment and prioritization focus on planning, prevention, and preparedness ⁽⁸⁾
- Legal provisions exist in support of integrated fire management ⁽¹¹⁾
- Sufficient funding is provided for integrated fire management ⁽¹¹⁾
- There are tasks assigned to actors across the whole value chain ⁽³⁸⁾
- Working processes have been defined across a value chain broader than prevention and suppression ⁽³⁸⁾
- There is a planning step where strategy and guidelines are set ^(38a)
- There is a preparation step building capacity of self-protecting and safety at the community level ^(38b)
- There is a prevention step reducing susceptibility, exposure, and/or vulnerability ^(38c)
- There is a pre-suppression step, readying response and informing populations ^(38d)
- There is a suppression step extinguishing landscape fires and providing relief ^(38e)
- There is a post-fire step investigating causes, identifying failures, and recovering ^(38f)

Adaptive Management

- Plans are monitored over the long term and reassessed, based on changes in the context or the results achieved ⁽³⁹⁾
- Improvement is continuously sought as corrections are implemented ⁽⁴⁰⁾
- Impacts are regularly monitored and incorporated into planning ⁽⁴¹⁾
- Status reports on measures taken are periodically published ⁽⁴²⁾
- As conditions change, planning is adapted rather than immutable for a set period ⁽³⁹⁾

Stakeholder Engagement

- Public policies engage different policy sectors ⁽⁴⁶⁾
- Stakeholder's expectations and perceptions are assessed and considered ^(9, 43, 45)
- Civil society is invited into active participation ^(11, 43, 45)
- Cultural heritage is considered in planning ^(24, 44)
- Landscape fire risk is negotiated among stakeholders ^(31, 43, 45)
- Objective targets are negotiated with stakeholders ^(41, 45)

System and Public Communication

- Media is engaged in risk communication ⁽⁵⁰⁾
- Risk is clearly communicated to the public ⁽⁴⁷⁾
- Landscape fire causality is used to tailor public messages towards risk reduction ⁽⁴⁸⁾
- A community driven "as low as reasonably possible" accepted risk is defined ^(36, 37, 51)
- Populations are regularly surveyed for risk perception and behavioral changes ⁽⁴⁹⁾

International cooperation

- International cooperation mechanisms are in place ^(10, 52, 55)
- International agreements exist for sharing knowledge and best practices ^(11,17, 52, 53)
- Participation in international training and qualification programmes and courses ⁽⁵³⁾
- Participation in international platforms for knowledge and data sharing ^(54, 55)
- Standards of operation are followed for better cross-border cooperation ⁽⁵³⁾

Governance Bodies

- Politically empowered intermediary and transversal bodies to adapt national strategy and planning to rural fire management have been or are being created ⁽⁵⁶⁾

Measuring progress

As previously stated, checklist items are not scored, however, if you want to have a sense of progress, you might be interested in adopting a measuring method, informing you of how far you are into the integrated fire management governance. As a suggestion, for each group, you could consider the percentage of items already covered, and the stage they are at, classifying each group and/or item, as per your choice, into categories as those in the table below:

Our stage	Where we are
NO	We don't have actions in this group, or there is no information available
Plan	Actions are planned but not yet implemented
Act	Actions have been planned and are being implemented
Check	Actions have been carried out and impacts are now being assessed
Adjust	Impacts have been assessed and adjustments have been made
OK	All actions have been performed and impacts assessed, our integrated fire management is now an ongoing process with the expected outcomes.

A few key performance indicators should also be considered and could be expanded depending on what stage of IFM implementation you have at your jurisdiction. As a proposed minimum, IFM could initially be measured from:

- Investment (local currency or other) in each step of the value chain
- Number of resources employed in each step of the value chain
- Number of human resources with qualification for each step of the value chain
- Number of governance bodies at each administrative level
- Losses (trend over a period)