
Webinar Series: Lessons learned on Wildfire Risk Mapping, Integrated Fire Management Systems and Value Chain Assessments from Northern Thailand (and Globally)

Dates: 13 September, 20 September, 27 September 2024

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 am (Bangkok Time)

Format: Virtual

Platform and Access Information: The meeting link will be send to registered participants

Working languages: Thai/English

1. Overview

This webinar and webinar series aims to enhance the wildfire risk management capabilities and to promote and explore effective burn-free incentive policies and measures within agricultural and non-timber forest product value chains in Northern Thailand by fostering collaboration among key stakeholders, including government agencies, technical experts, and local communities. The series will focus on sustainable wildfire prevention practices, the integration of a Fire Risk Map and Management Information System (FMIS), and the development of early warning systems. Simultaneously the webinar series will also emphasize the sustainable practices and incentive mechanisms for policies and measures promoting burn-free agriculture and non-timber forest product value chains including other alternatives.

The series of events will consist of three online sessions, each targeting specific aspects of wildfire management and featuring perspectives from local, regional and global experts in the field. The topics include:

- An overview of global and national sustainable wildfire prevention practices and measures
- The development and use of wildfire risk maps: how can these products be used to identify wildfire high risk areas and early warning systems for local communities, government agencies responsible for wildfire management
- Suggestions for integrated FMIS for wildfire monitoring, reporting, and emergency response with local communities, government agencies, provincial government, and local government authorities responsible for wildfire management.
- Incentive policies and measures promoting burn-free agriculture and non-timber forest product value chains and alternatives.



2. Background

This online webinar series is part of the Activity I: Wildfire Risk Map and Management Information System of the Spatial Informatics Group (SIG) under the Technical Assistance to Improve Knowledge and Innovative Policy for Wildfire Reduction in Northern Thailand and Activity II: Value Chain Assessment implemented by RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests.

Wildfires in Thailand, particularly in the northern provinces, are a significant environmental and public health concern. These fires are primarily driven by human activities, such as open burning for agricultural clearing and traditional practices. The frequency and intensity of these fires have been exacerbated by climate change, leading to prolonged dry seasons and increased temperatures. The recurring wildfires result in severe air pollution, loss of biodiversity, and damage to forest resources, impacting both ecosystems and human communities.

To enhance wildfire management, the PROGREEN multi-donor trust fund, managed by the World Bank Group, is supporting a project aimed at integrating environmental and socioeconomic indicators into a comprehensive Fire Risk Map (FRM) and developing a robust Fire Management Information System (FMIS). The Royal Thai Government has sought this support to increase the effectiveness of wildfire management, particularly in early warning systems and emergency response. The key outputs include improving the accuracy of the wildfire risk map and the early warning system, as well as integrating DNP MIS information with other agencies' MIS systems on wildfire reporting and emergency response in the nine northern provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lamphun, Lampang, Payao, Phrae, Nan, Tak, and Mae Hong Son.

3. Objectives

The objectives of these webinars are to:

1. Disseminate information and ideas synthesized during the course of the project to fire management stakeholders in Thailand, with a focus on examples of fire risk map (FRM) and fire management information system (FMIS) tools from both international and local Thai contexts.
2. Foster collaborative relationships between Thai fire management professionals across agencies, as well as between Thai and international fire experts.
3. Explore opportunities to promote incentive policies and measures on burn-free agriculture and non-timber forest product value chains and other alternatives.

The expected outcomes are an enhanced understanding of sustainable wildfire prevention practices and improved strategies for utilizing wildfire risk maps (FRM) and developing fire management information systems (FMIS).

4. Content

Session 1: Global and National Sustainable Wildfire Prevention Practices and Measures

- Introduction to global and national sustainable wildfire practices.
- Demonstration of global examples of sustainable wildfire prevention.
- Q&A session and interactive discussion.

Session 2: Fire Risk Map for Identifying Wildfire Risk and Incentive policy for agriculture value chains and alternatives

- Demonstration of the proposed FRM and its applications in identifying high-risk areas.
- Presentations of global and local examples of FRMs and their applications.
- Presentations of incentive policies and practices that promote burn-free and sustainable agriculture value chains. Global examples and lessons from Thailand
- Q&A session and interactive discussion.

Session 3: Fire Management Information System for Wildfire Monitoring and Response

- Demonstration of the proposed FMIS and its applications in wildfire monitoring, reporting, and emergency response.
- Presentations of global and local examples of FMISs and their applications.
- Presentations of incentive policies and practices promoting burn-free and sustainable forest management including non-timber forest product value chains.
- Q&A session and interactive discussion.

5. Participants

The webinars will be open to any fire management stakeholder who is interested in attending. It will gather as many representatives as possible from interested stakeholders in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar including:

- Department of National Parks
- Royal Forest Department
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- Ministry of Digital Economy and Society
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation
- Ministry of Finance
- Charoen Pokphand Group (CP)
- Siam Cement Group (SCG)
- PTT Company
- World Bank - country offices in Cambodia and Lao PDR
- World Bank - Social Development & Agriculture teams
- International Finance Corporation
- Spatial Informatics Group
- RECOFTC
- Pollution Control Department
- Land Development Department
- Ministry of Commerce

6. Draft agenda

Date	Theme	Speakers and Topics
Sept 13 (Friday) 9:30-11 am	Global and national sustainable wildfire prevention practices and measures	<p>Opening: Thailand Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and World Bank [5 mins]</p> <p>Global fire prevention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of proposed FRM/FMIS ideas [10 mins] - Dr. Karis Tenneson (SIG) 2. SMOKE policy tool - Dr. Tianjia Liu (University of California, Irvine) [10 mins] (<i>pre-recorded</i>) 3. Fire Suppression Difficulty Index - Dr. Kayla Johnston (SIG) [10 mins] 4. Potential Operational Delineations (PODs) - Dr. Solomon Dobrowski (University of Montana) [10 mins] 5. SEPAL - Erik Lindquist (FAO) [10 mins] 6. Burn Check & Smoke Watch - Dr. Nion Sirimongkonlertkul (Rajamangala University of Technology, Thailand) [10 mins] 7. Q & A [15 mins] <p>Synthesis and Closing Remarks - World Bank</p> <p>Host: Dr. Daniel dela Torre, SIG</p>
Sept 20 (Friday) 9:30-11 am	Presentation on the proposed fire risk map (FRM), how it can be used to identify wildfire high risk areas and develop early warning systems with local communities, government agencies such as DNP and RFD, provincial government, and local government authorities responsible for wildfire management. Proposed incentive mechanisms and policies to reduce fires in agricultural value chains and promote burn-free, sustainable practices will also be shared and discussed.	<p>Opening: Thailand Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and World Bank [5 mins]</p> <p>Fire risk map:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of proposed FRM ideas and demo [10 mins] - Enikoe Bihari (SIG) 2. Quantified Wildfire Risk Assessment - Shane Romsos (SIG) [10 mins] 3. Fire Danger Forecasting System for Thailand and Lower Mekong Region: Overview and Progress - Dr. Kasemsan Manomaiphobon, The Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi [10 mins] 4. Q & A and Synthesis [15 mins]

		<p>Burn-free value chains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of proposed policies for agricultural value chains and alternatives 2. Thailand's bio-circular-green economy policy to monetizing agricultural crops and residues - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thumrongrut Mungcharoen, President of Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production Foundation (APRSCP Foundation) 3. Towards a haze-free future: engaging communities in sustainable practices with a Participatory Guarantee System - Assistant Prof. Dr. Tansiphorn Na Nan, Chulalongkorn University 4. Q & A and Synthesis <p>Closing Remarks - World Bank</p> <p>Host: TBD (Ate)</p>
<p>Sept 27 (Friday) 9:30-11 am</p>	<p>Presentation on the proposed integrated fire management information system (FMIS) for wildfire monitoring, reporting, and emergency response with local communities, government agencies such as DNP and RFD, provincial government, and local government authorities responsible for wildfire management. Proposed incentive mechanisms and policies to reduce fires in non-timber forest product value chains and promote burn-free, sustainable practices will also be shared and discussed.</p>	<p>Opening: Thailand Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and World Bank [5 mins]</p> <p>Fire management information system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of proposed FMIS ideas [10 mins] - Dr. Kayla Johnston (SIG) 2. Prevfogo, Brazil - Lawrence Nobrega de Oliveira (IBAMA) [10 mins] (<i>pre-recorded</i>) 3. FMIS design considerations for SEA - TBD [5 mins] 4. A carbon market protocol for Reduced Emissions from Megafires (REM) & research directions for SEA? - Dr. Thomas Buchholz (SIG) [15 mins] 5. Q & A [15 mins] <p>Burn-free value chains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of proposed policies for non-timber forest product value chains and alternatives 2. Inclusive policy and mechanism for controlled burning and sustainable forest management - Assistant Prof. Dr. Kobsak Wanthonchai, Kasetsart University 3. Financing sustainable landscape management through public-private-people partnership on carbon and ecosystem services - Dr. Jain



		<p>Chanarong, Chair of Ananda Mahidol Alumni Club and Harn Engineering Solutions Public Company</p> <p>4. Q&A and Synthesis</p> <p>Closing Remarks - World Bank</p> <p>Host: Dr. Daniel dela Torre, SIG</p>
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7. Contact persons

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