

Agricultural Policy Forum 3th – 4th June Prishtina 2026

Agricultural Policy Coherence in South-East Europe: **EU Integration Dynamics, Institutional Reforms and Climate Adaptation**

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**Regional
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Integrating landscape fire management approach in the Western Balkans

Mr. Cvetan Nikolovski

Team Leader of the LFMWB Programme, FARMAHEM



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**LANDSCAPE FIRE
MANAGEMENT**
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Background and relevance of the topic

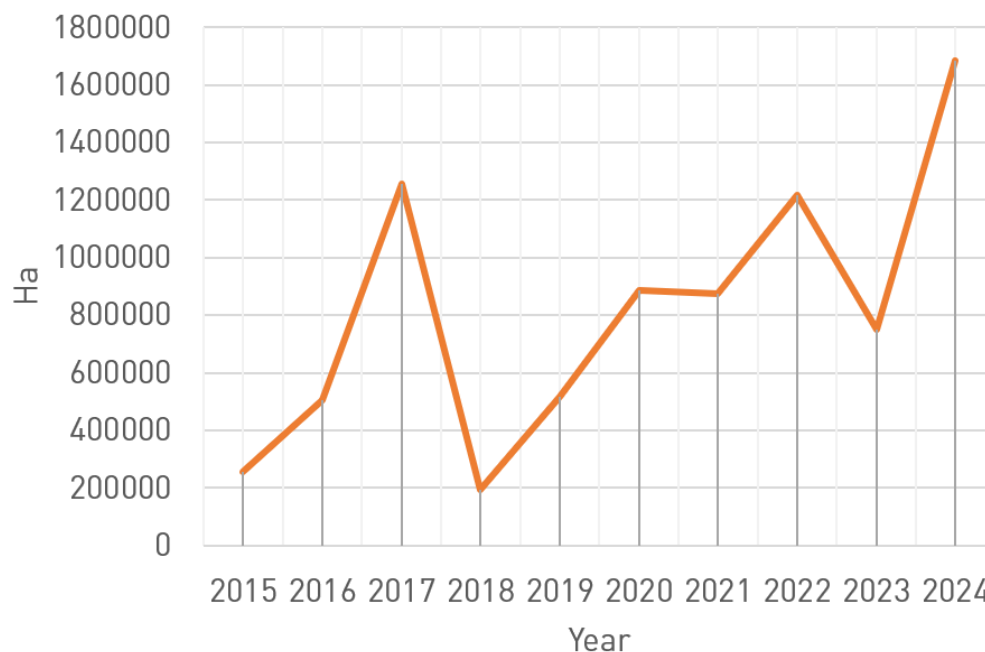


**LANDSCAPE FIRE
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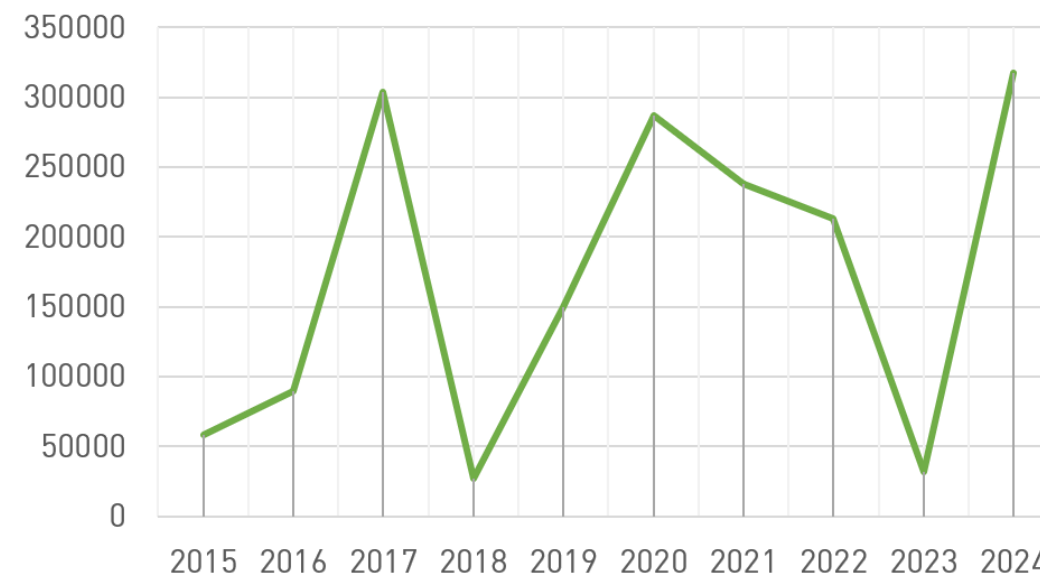


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Total burnt area in Europe (2015-2024)



Total burnt area in WB (2015-2024)



Total burnt area in Europe (2015-2024): **8.139.878 ha**

Total burnt area in WB (2015-2024): **1.196.812 ha**

More than \$215 billion in assets were exposed to wildfires globally (2024 and 2025). Source: WEF

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Paradigm shift (from suppression to prevention)



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SUPPRESSION

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN
EXTINGUISHING OR CONTROLLING
A LANDSCAPE FIRE.



PREVENTION

ACTIONS TAKEN TO REDUCE THE
LIKELIHOOD OF LANDSCAPE
FIRES.



LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT

IS A HOLISTIC APPROACH THAT FOCUSES
ON FIRE PREVENTION AND REDUCING THE
IMPACT OF FIRES ON ECOSYSTEMS AND
COMMUNITIES.



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About the LFMWB Programme

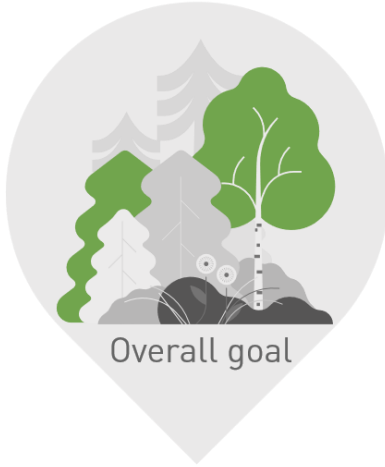


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Overall goal

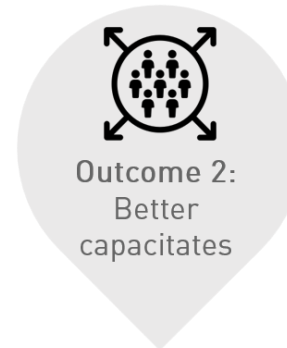
Increased resilience of Western Balkan forests and landscapes against fires to benefit the people who depend on these landscapes for their livelihoods and socioeconomic development.



Outcome 1:
Better
cooperation

Established a long-
lasting LFM
regional network

Duration: 5+4 years



Outcome 2:
Better
capacities

Strengthened
capacities on the
LFM approach

Phase I: 2022-2026



Outcome 3:
Better
policies

Revised LFM
policies and
strategies

Budget: 4.2 mil. CHF



Partners: Relevant Ministries from the WB, RFMC, GFMC, HAFL and Helvetas (as backstopper).

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Implementing approaches of the LFMWB



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PARTICIPATORY & MULTI-LEVEL APPROACH

Inclusion of LFM stakeholders and cross-sectoral collaboration on different levels.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Creating knowledge on local, regional and international level and sharing among relevant WB and Swiss stakeholders.

LANDSCAPE APPROACH

Managing landscapes with an emphasis on interconnections between social, economic, and environmental factors.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Capacity building at all levels, including training and education for fire management professionals, communities, and decision-makers.

NETWORKING APPROACH

Creating regional and national LFM networks.

COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

Involving local communities in better management of the landscapes and implementing LFM measures.

**Safeguarding
Landscapes
Through
Fire Prevention**



**Landscape Fire
Governance
Framework 2023**



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Developing LFM documentation basis

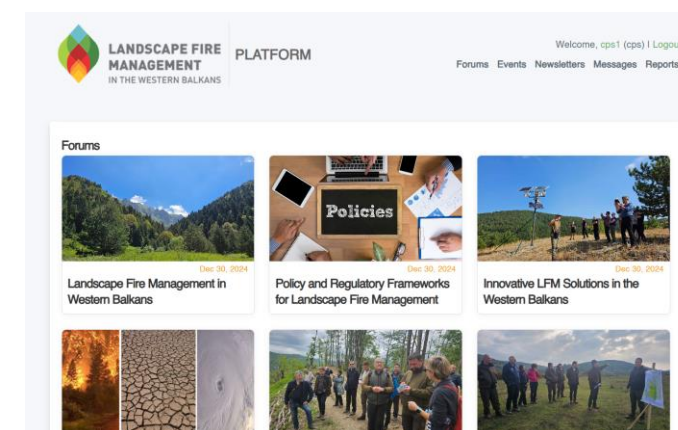
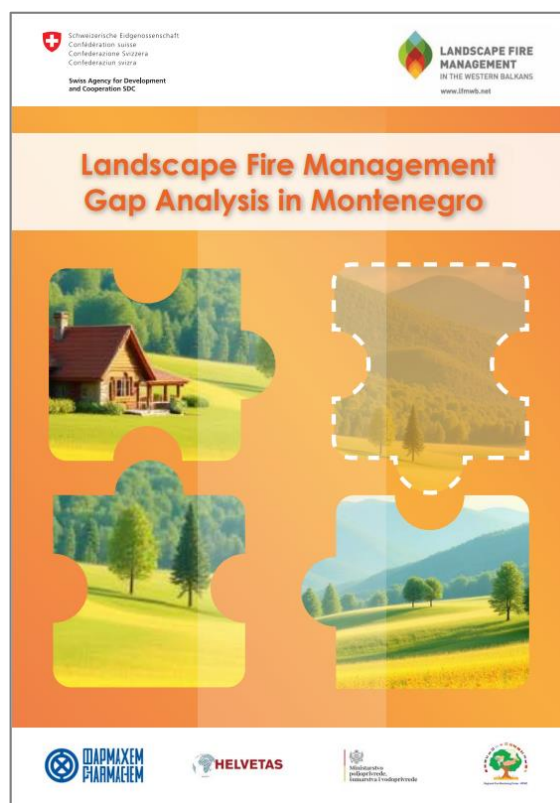


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KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM



Publication



LFM in WB



LFM country data

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Establishing (7) LFM Networks and (1) regional

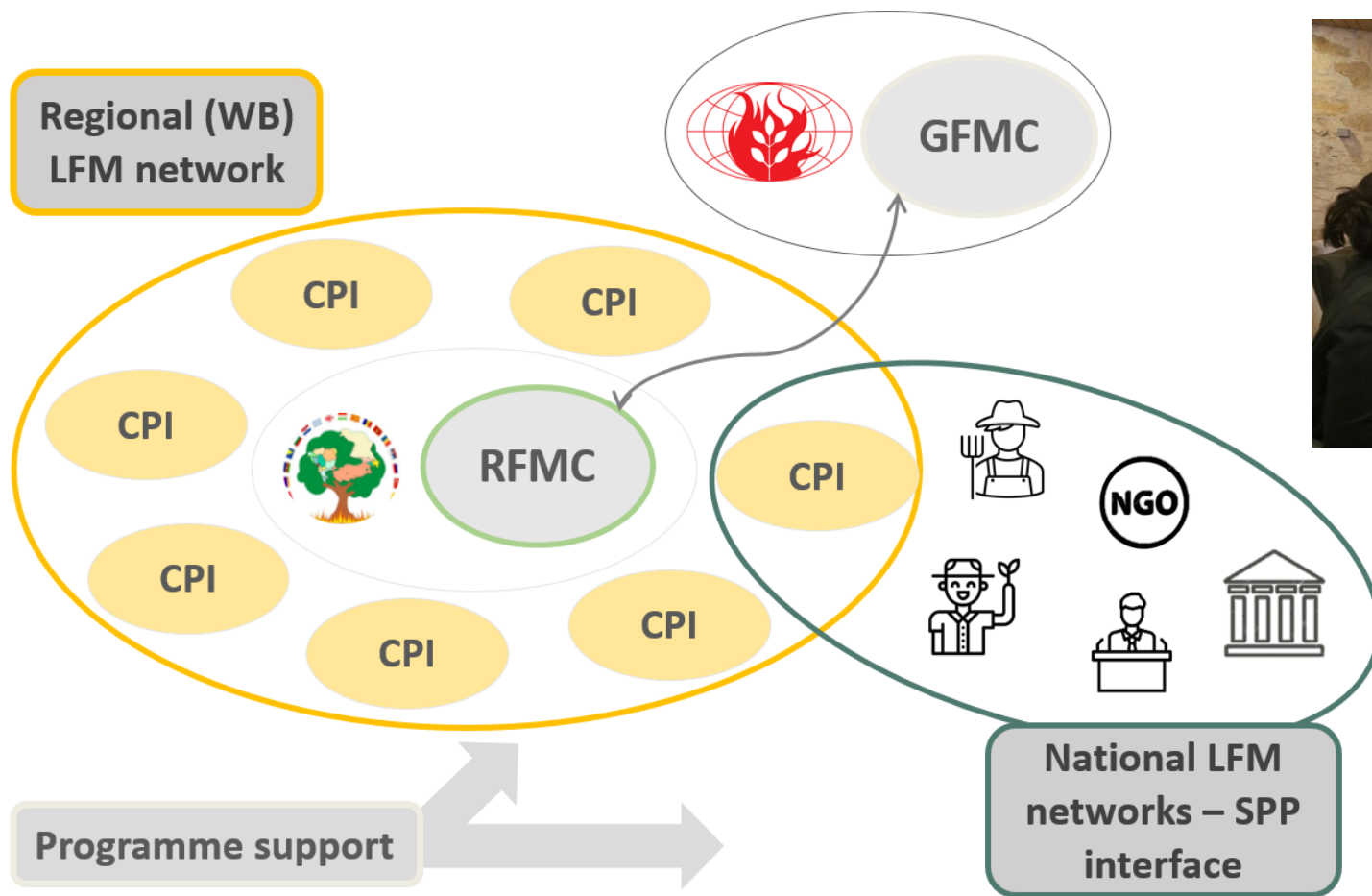


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LFM knowledge exchange in the WB



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Student Joint Research Grants Initiative

Aim: To support young researchers across the Western Balkans in conducting joint research related to landscape fire management, fostering cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange, academic development and filling the LFM gaps.

About the Students:



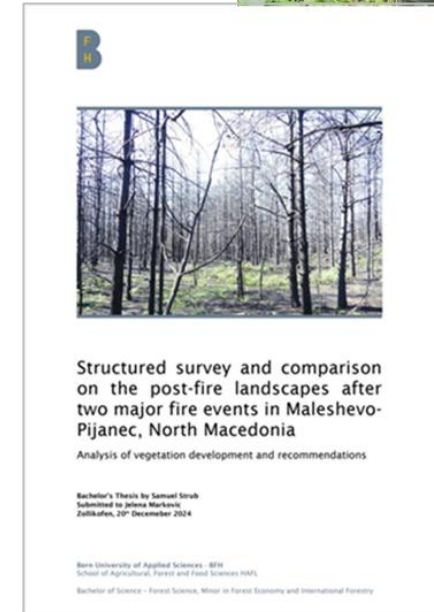
10 students selected

5 joint research pairs



Representing 6 universities from 5 countries:
North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo

- Engaged in both Bachelor (BSc) and Master (MSc) thesis research
- Each pair includes students and mentors from the same or different countries, strengthening regional cooperation and interdisciplinary insight.



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Knowledge exchange Switzerland-WB

In May 2025, the LFMWB Programme facilitated a knowledge exchange visit to Switzerland, where stakeholders from the Western Balkans engaged with Swiss experts and practitioners.

During the event, LFMWB Programme partners visited strategic locations and institutions in the cantons of Ticino, Valais, and Bern.

Each was selected to showcase different models of governance, community involvement, fire prevention, post-fire restoration measures, and integrated fire risk management practices.

The knowledge exchange combined field visits with institutional meetings and concluded with a joint workshop in Bern.



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Regional public awareness campaign

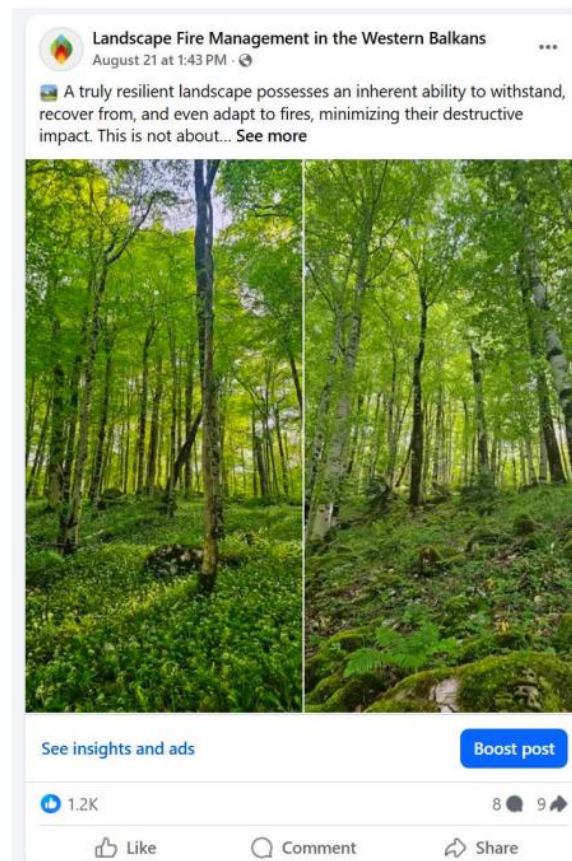


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Zbatimi I Nismës Rajonale Për Menaxhimin E Zjarreve Në Ballkanin Perëndimor

5 Gusht, 2025 • Lajmet

Prishtinë, Gusht 2025 – Për shkak të rritjes së rrezikut nga zjarret, nisma rajonale për menaxhimin e zjarreve natyrë në Ballkanin Perëndimor është duke u zbatuar aktualisht. Zjarret në...

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Vlada Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine 7 Aug •

Regionalna inicijativa za podizanje javne svijesti o upravljanju požarima na otvorenom u regi... See more



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Community-based Projects in the WB



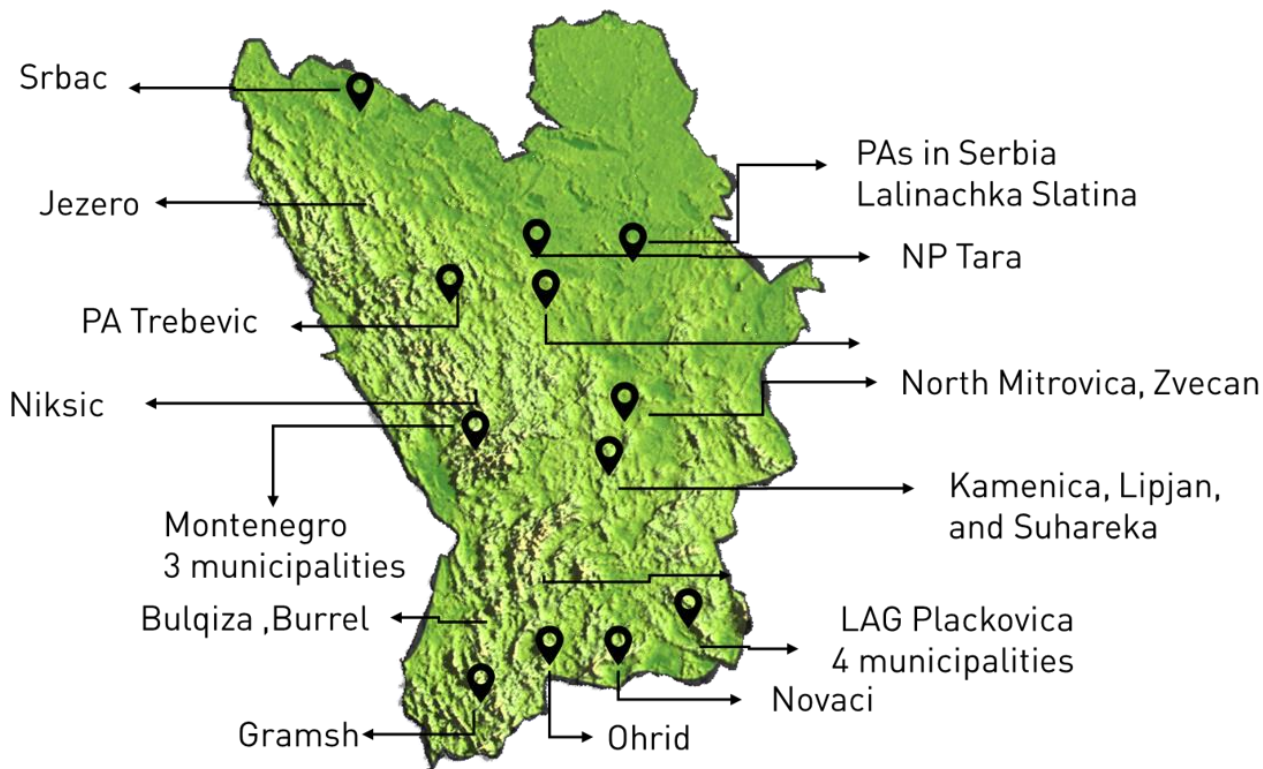
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- ◆ 12 National Projects
- ◆ 2 Cross-border Initiatives

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Impact of the Community-based Projects



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Involved 30 local
communities with
around 1 million
inhabitants all over
the WB

More than 600 youth
and 450 adult
directly trained.

14 awareness-
raising campaigns
(local/national)



6 protected areas:
NP Tara, PA Trebevic, PA
Lalinachka Slatina, Piva
Nature Park, Dragišnica and
Komarnica Nature Park, PA
Belchishko blato

3 Mob app, Early Fire
Detection Systems and
Maps, 9 Landscape Fire
Management Plans



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Capacity building on LFM



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Covered topics on :

- Landscape fire management approach
- Landscape fire management in protected areas
- Networking and Communication
- LFM and sustainable forest management
- LFM case in Greece, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Switzerland
- Prescribed burning
- Training for trainers
- Project cycle management
- Climate change, land use and gender and LFM (6 trainings)

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www.lfmwb.net



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