

## Wildfire Management Communication

Finnish Forest Association Leader, UNECE-FAO Forest Communicators Network

Porto 17th May 2023

#### A world on fire

Until politicians call a halt, Indonesia's forests will keep burning





#### Social media was on fire





Not on my watch! #Rakenews





#### #rakeAmericagreatagain

#rakenews

#makeAmericarakeagain

etc.

#### **Extensive media interest**

a good communication opportunity



### AND SO...

# EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BASICS

### AUDIENCE

### RELATIONSHIPS

### CONTEXT

### MESSAGING

## 10 POINTS for SUCCESSFUL COMMUNICATION

- 1. POLITICAL WILL
- 2. CAPACITY TO COMMUNICATE WELL
- 3. RESOURCES
- 4. STRATEGY
- 5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
- 6. SOLID EVIDENCE
- 7. UNDERSTAND YOUR STAKEHOLDERS
- 8. PARTNERSHIPS
- 9. BE IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE
- 10. PERSEVERE

## POLITICAL WILL

## 2 CAPACITY TO COMMUNICATE WELL

## 3 RESOURCES

## 4 STRATEGY

## 5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

## SOLID EVIDENCE

### YOUR STAKEHOLDERS

## FORM PARTNERSHIPS

## BE IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE

## 10 PERSEVERE

### AND HOW DOES ALL OF THIS APPLY TO WILDLAND FIRE?

### Meeting people where they are

- understanding where someone is emotionally, mentally, and physically
- connecting with and educating people in a channel that they're already frequenting
- using social media to reach different audiences
- using plain language to explain complex topics, or
- conducting community meetings in a language other than English to reach non-native speakers
- working with trusted community leaders to disseminate information or
- tailoring communication strategies to specific cultural practices or traditions

#### **Regional Forest Communicator Networks**



Forest fires regular part of daily business AND Climate change brings new dynamics



#### **Regional Forest Communicators Networks**



Sensing on Forest Fire Prevention Campaigns in all 6 World Regions, covering 21 Countries

## WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION

Regional Forest Communicator Networks' Global Sensing Results



U.S. >

### Smokey Bear turns 80 and he's burning up social media

#### USA 1943

Disney loaned 'Bambi' to US Forest Service for one year



#### USA 1944

1<sup>st</sup> Smokey Bear campaign poster



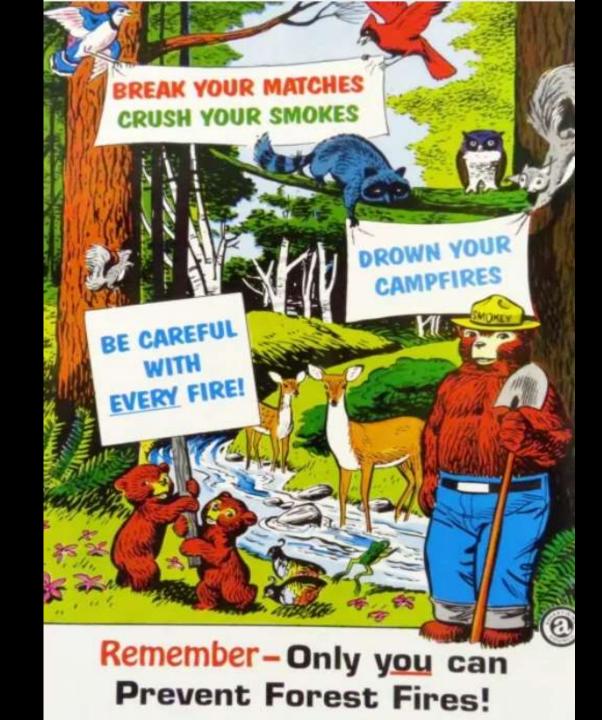
Care will prevent
9 out of 10 forest fires!

### Only You!

#### USA 1977

### "Only You" -campaign

- Matches
- Cigarettes
- Campfires



### The "Only You" approach

Finger-pointing

Addressing forest dwellers and visitors

Shifting responsibility to citizens



USA 1982

Bambi makes a comeback!

"Only You" has staying power



## The "Only You" - approach adapts and evolves



## South Africa 1980

- and stays (2015)

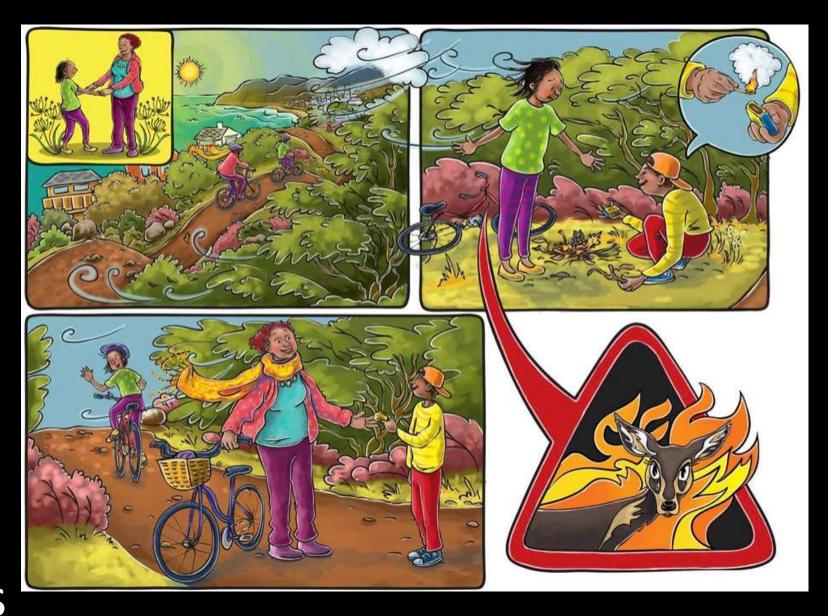
The "Only You" approach spreads to 'Bokkie'



# South Africa 2010

Bokkie Campaign

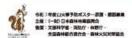
Don't play with matches



## Japan 2020

The "Only You" approach gains even more ground





## Scotland/UK 2022

# The "Only You" approach



# A burning issue

Campfires are nice to sit around but they can harm the forest and its wildlife

#### If you need to have a fire;

- Keep it small and controlled
- Put it out cold before you go
- Try to leave no trace



## Argentina: "Seamos responsables"

- In Argentina they connected the campaign against forest fires with the importance of native forest and the impacts of climate change.
- The phrase used is: "Seamos responsables".



https://youtu.be/8-SmjR97ekQ

# Perú: "Evitar los incendios forestales está en nuestras manos"

- In Peru they have the campaign of prevention against forest fires organized by SERFOR and the Fire Department.
- The slogan is: "Evitar los incendios forestales está en nuestras manos"

Data: Between 2009 and 2018, there were 1087 emergencies related to forest fires. (Source: INDECI)



## Education & Awareness

## Mediterranean and Middle East





## Campaign images 2022







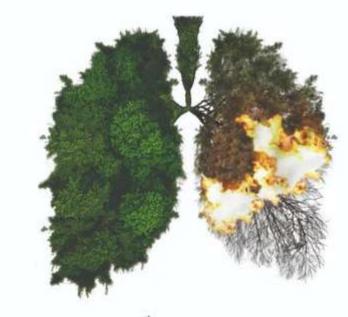
## WE LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES

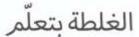
## A MISTAKE TEACHES YOU







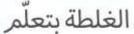
















## Corporation: Sinar Mas

## "Preventing forest and land fire together"



Pencegahan Kebakaran - PT Sinar Mas ... smart-tbk.com



Pencegahan Kebakaran - PT Sinar Mas ... smart-tbk.com



Pencegahan Kebakaran - PT Sinar Mas ... smart-tbk.com



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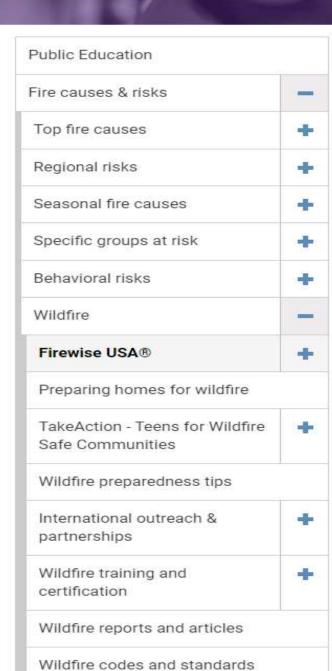


Mencegah Kebakaran Huta., sumatra bisnis com

https://www.smart-tbk.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/rumbun-dan-sahabat-rimba.pdf?source=fire-prevention-page



#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**



Public Education / Fire causes & risks / Wildfire / Firewise USA®





## FIREWISE USA®

#### RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk.







While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to protect your home and neighborhood as well as your family's safety. The Fire program is here to help you get started.

#### Prepare your home

Learn what action you can take to make your home safer from wildfire.

#### Get started

Understand more about the process and help your community get started on its wildfire preparedness journey.

#### Login to the portal

Create a new Firewise USA® site, complete your annual renewal application, or manage the communities you advise.

#### Get tips!



#### Firewise USA: Sites of Excellence

Challenges, best practices, and recommendations for

#### Firewise USA Sites of Excellence

In 2019, NFPA began a journey with seven active Firewise USA sites spread across the country, challenging them to improve their resilience to wildfire. The two-year pilot program, Sites of Excellence, was designed to increase participation in active wildfire risk reduction through a focused approach. At the end of the two years these communities showed that big goals of a focused approach are achievable.

Learn more

# Involving Communities

## Indonesia: Government-led campaigns





## **Our Fire Free Future**

Bringing communities together to prevent forest fires in South East Asia



## Corporation: APRIL's "Fire Free Village program"

#### The three stages:

#### Stage 1

- FAC: Fire Aware Community (FAC) is the first stage of the FFVP, allowing fire-free concepts and initiatives to be introduced to new communities through a range of community awareness and engagement activities.
- It is meant to be a powerful motivator to these communities to move into the FFV stage.

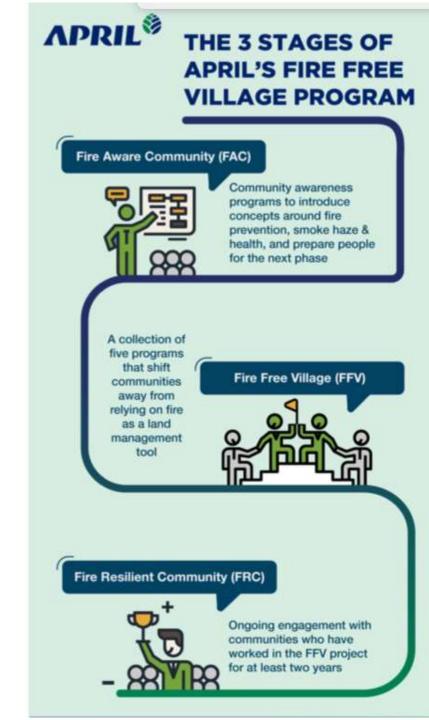
#### Stage 2:

- FFV: Fire Free Village (FFV) focuses on educating, equipping, and supporting villages to adopt no-burn agricultural practices.
- At this stage, participating villages are eligible to receive rewards, if communities are successful at achieving a zero-burn target for the year.
- Communities also receive assistance from APRIL to adopt sustainable agricultural alternatives – such as mechanical land clearing tools – in lieu of fire for land clearing.

## APRIL's Fire Free Village program

#### Stage 3:

 FRC: Fire Resilient Community is the final stage and comprises villages which graduate from the FFV stage of the program after spending two years at that stage.

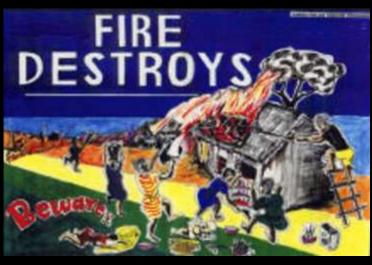


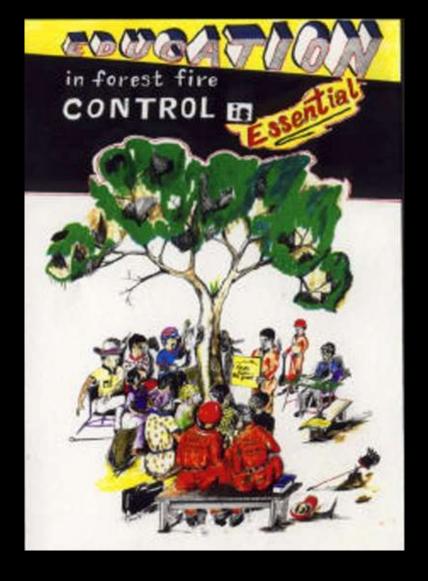
## 2020

Namibia 'on fire'



Wildfires in the Charcoal Zones





# Raising Awareness with Urban Citizens

## Indonesia & Malaysia: Stop the Haze Campaign Global Environment Centre



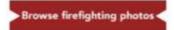
20 Years of Achievement

Programmes News Resources Get Involved DONATE

Stop the Haze Campaign



GEC undertakes the initiative to find solutions to avoid peatland forest fire and the haze by working with project partners and networks through APFP - SEApeat project. Funds will be channelled to patrolling of fire-prone peatlands in Southeast Asia, purchase of equipment and supplies to support community fire prevention and control teams, monitoring the activities of forest and oil palm plantations and promoting zero burning. GEC will also be providing regular reports on the haze and fire situation.











## Malaysia My Right to Haze-Free Air

#### MY Right to Haze-Free Air



in 1997, we first had our worst case of transboundary hape. Over 20 years later, we are still dealing with air pollution from hape almost yearly.

According to the Hearth Ministry of Malaysia, the 2019 hade led to a rapid rise in setting and conjunctivity passes nationwide.

Now in the middle of the wonderde Covid-19 pandemic that affects our lungs, can see really afford to live through another passon of air pollution from domestic and transformating head?



Clean and haze-free air is NOT a fuxury. It is a BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.

"The amole was unbearable. We were volven up by the choking steroit in the early morning and found the amole appearing late at right."

Suffering from repeated bouts of local haze pollution from 2010 to 2000 in the Katal Kemuning area, became too much to been for Dr. Technique Lin and has family, expectably for his elderly distinct mother-in-law and young daughter.

"My mother-in-law developed lung-cancer in the end we had no choice but to move out of the area. I made around 2 dozen this to visit the site of the burning and made

#### Your stories have an impact!

Empower yourself and others by sharing your stories to show your support for the campaign.

Like Dr. Lim. every voice counts and his matter how trig or amail, the problems we flow can create a greater impact, and touch the lives of others when it is shared.

From health issues, to the emotional and financial costs that have carried can inspire change.

Fight for a haze-free Malaysia.

Fight for clean air to be recognised as a basic human right!

Support the campaign by submitting your story of how have affected you.

Email Email

Full Name / Name Parutr

Phone County Code / No. Local Phone Number / No. Kod Negera Telefon Temparan

M1 (400)

Country / Negera

Meleysia

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Greenpeace Southeast Asia memeriusan maklumat yang telah biberinan supaya kami berah menghubungi anda harang produk dan serik kami. Anda berah berheri melanggan kanusiksa ini pasa siba-bita masa, Umusi intomias Bagamara berherit melanggan dan juga intomias tentang amalan privasi dan komtimen kami untuk melandungi privasi anda, alia semak Dasar Privasi karel.

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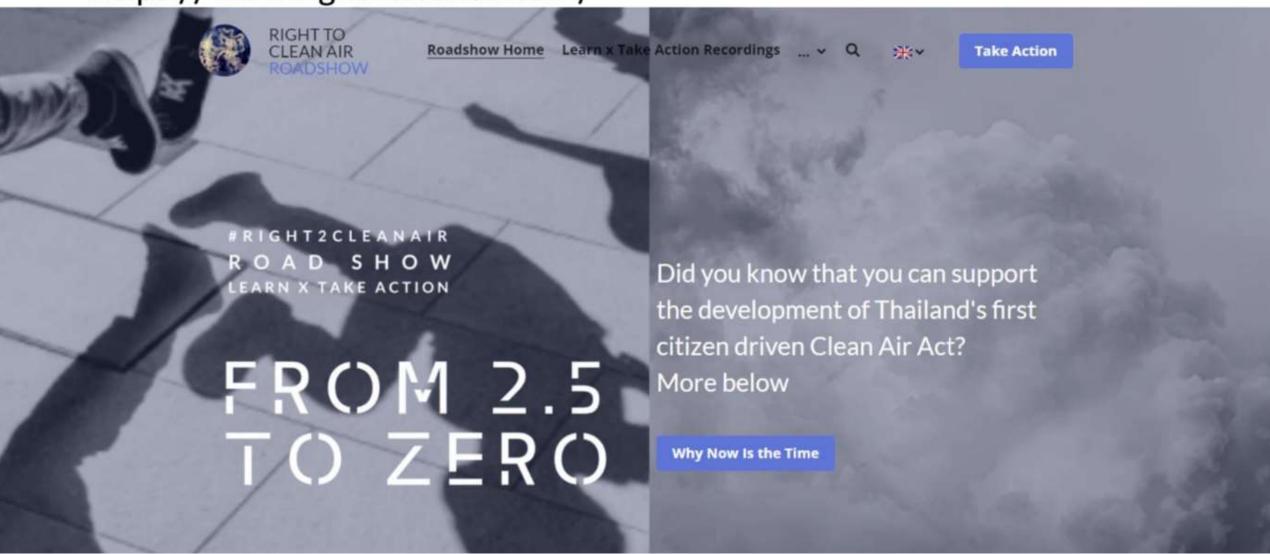




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### Thailand: #RIGHT2CLEANAIR

https://www.right2cleanair.com/





From August-December 2020 we hosted a "digital roadshow" - a series of online sessions with the authors of the Blue Paper, yet also those working in the space from a creative angle. We heard from entrepreneurs, artists, musicians and others from international organizations. More below. All recordings and summaries are below. The goal is to raise awareness and gain more citizen signatures to support establishment of the first Clean Air Act of it's kind in Thailand.





#### INHALE AND LEARN

#### ABOUT THE LEARNING TRACK

In this part of the Roadshow series, that took place from August - December last year, participants gained an understanding of the multiple causes and effects of air pollution as well as what the options are for sustainable solutions- particular in the context of South East Asia. The audience also was equipped to understand the process to drive legislative change as a group of citizens, and have an idea where they may be able to support the work being done.

ROADSHOW

This track of the Roadshow series was designed to accelerate the understanding of air pollution issues - particularly PM2.5 - in Thailand by diving deep into the Clean Air Blue Paper written by Thailand Clean Air Network (TCAN), an interdisciplinary group of volunteers working to affect change and ensure the right to clean air for all, at the highest policy level. The Blue Paper authors were featured speakers- so we could learn from the scientists, environmental lawyers, health workers and researchers who have been working closest to the issue.

#### **EXHALE AND ACT**

#### ABOUT THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY AND ACTION TRACK

In this part of the Roadshow series we expanded on the materials covered in the INHALE and LEARN sessions by providing creative and interactive space, workshops and forums to help participants protect themselves against air pollution as well as get involved in the solutions.

The workshops also pulled knowledge and work from volunteer groups, NGOs, companies and social enterprises working on initiative around the issues in Thailand and beyond. The offline workshops featured citizen science components (DIY Air Filters for the most vulnerable-funded by the International Development Innovation Network) and Systemic Design Workshops for those who wanted to develop more possible interventions. We are happy to feature and amplify existing and ongoing efforts too-reach out if you would like to collaborate or have us share your work.





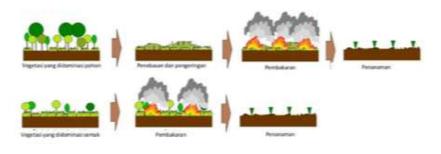
# Strategic Approaches

## CIFOR study

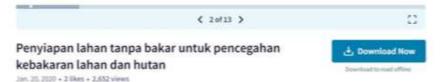
## Land Preparation Without Burning (PLTB)

 A widespread campaign used by Indonesian government, NGOs and private sector

#### Kebiasaan Membakar Lahan



- Banyak dipraktekkan karena mudah, cepat, dan murah.
- Membantu menghilangkan hama dan penyakit tanaman.
- Sisa bakaran dapat mengurangi keasaman tanah dan dipercaya dapat menyuburkan tanah.



#### Kelebihan Ekologis Cara Tebas Imas





January 2022





#### Forest Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

January 2022



## WHAT ELSE?

## There is quite a lot on

- Shifting responsibility to individuals
- Involving communities
- Raising awareness with urban citizens
- Education, e.g. for kids
- Some strategic backing

## There is not so much on

Underlying drivers and causes of forest fires



## Ecological Factors – fire-prone alien/invasive species?







### COMMUNICATING PREVENTION VS. RISK...

in many parts of the world, the focus is on prevention, perhaps because risk is complicated for small communities that have forest-dependent livelihoods

→ prevention is pretty straight-forward to grasp

## TAKE HOME TIPS

- Work with government and local leaders before the blaze
- Multi-leadership and multi-stakeholder environment of risk and fire means relationships and communication channels need to be in place before you need them
- Campaigns take a long time to gain traction, but can be very effective
- Meet people where they are at with messaging they can understand

# Thank you

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