

Regional Wildland Fire Networks:
 Eurasia - Central Asia - Northeast Asia - Australasia - Southeast Asia - South Asia - Sub Sahara Africa - Euro-Alpine - Near East - Southeast Europe / Caucasus - Mediterranean - Caribbean - South America - Mesoamerica - North America

Regional Mesoamerica Wildland Fire Network



Biophysical Features of Mesoamerica

The Mesoamerica Isthmus with its 533,000 km² is covered by ca. 21.63 million ha of forests, equivalent to 42% of the Mesoamerica territory.

The region has unique natural and physical characteristics with a high biologic and climatic diversity that are of global significance. This diversity is shaped by

The characteristics of the Mesoamerica region are determined by the shape of the Isthmus, climate variability and its location in the neotropical zone. The combination of these conditions have resulted in the development high biological diversity. The region constitutes a geographic, biological and cultural bridge between the Americas.



Wildland Fire Problems

The main causes of the wildfires in the Mesoamerican region are human activities. Burning of agricultural lands, grasslands, stubble and trash burning are the most important cause, followed by arson and other intentionally set fires. Other causes include forest residue burning, fires used by beekeepers and bonfires.



During the last years several fires have been started by natural causes (lightnings) specially during the transitory period of dry season to rain season (May-June).

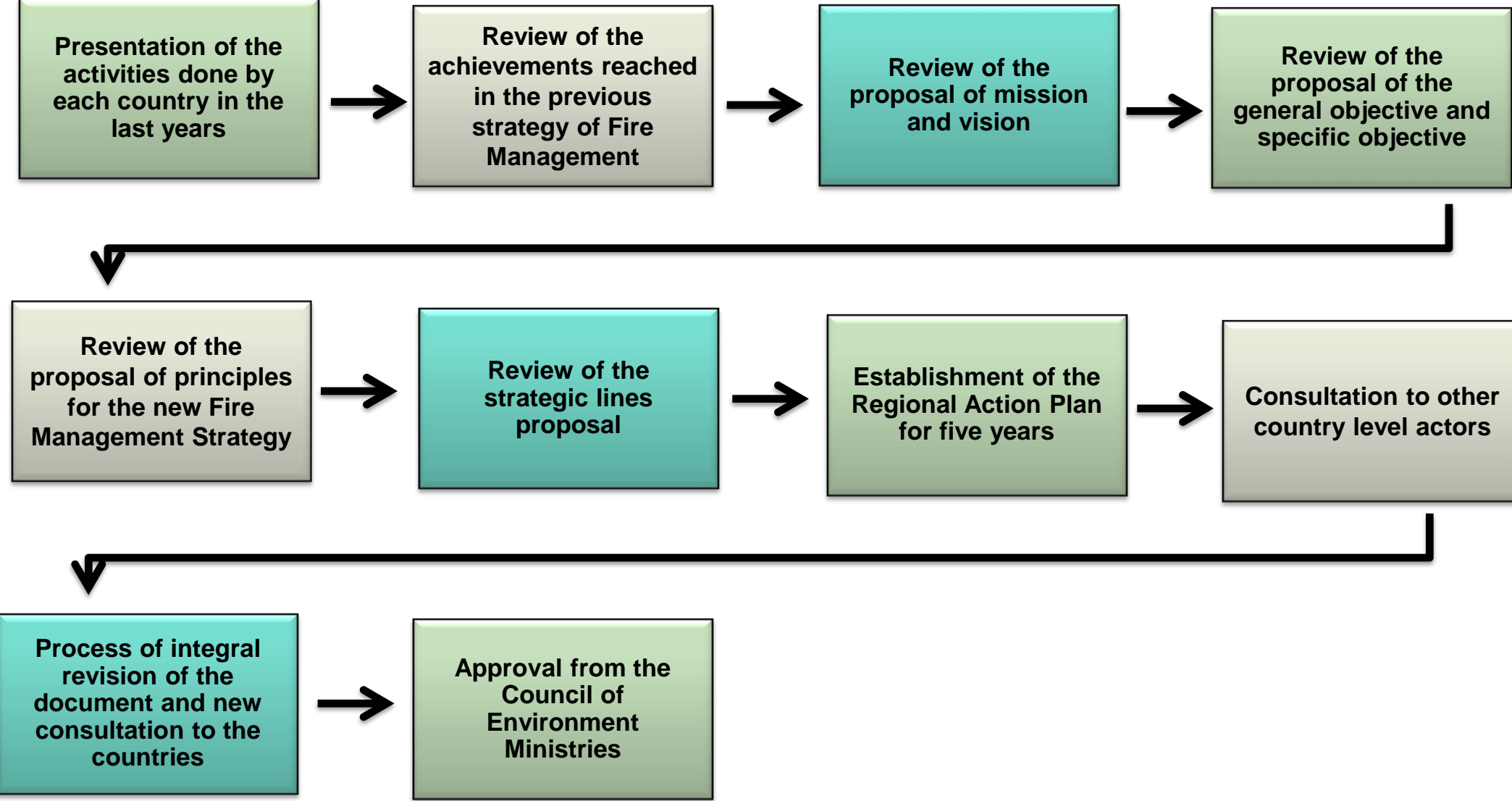
Fire affected area by forest fires by country (ha)

Pais	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL:
Belize	106,400.00	40,600.00	84,500.00	74,600.00	55,900.00						362,000.00
Guatemala	94,441.00	15,054.00	56,046.00	28,838.00	19,424.00	9,681.00	21,717.00	7,075.00	11,372.00	7,000.00	270,648.00
El Salvador	4,903.00	5,876.00	4,257.00	733.00	2,725.00	1,693.00	851.00	3,058.00	7,140.00	1,593.00	32,829.00
Honduras	153,847.00	59,166.82	63,948.91	65,467.15	49,475.73	37,047.25	90,586.42	21,376.25	58,113.60	82,129.40	681,168.73
Nicaragua	180,554.90	107,718.60	57,452.93	46,471.12	20,125.55	18,406.70	21,458.94	6,521.09	25,545.65	16,825.85	499,081.33
Costa Rica	14,822.24	15,191.60	32,421.89	23,416.85	13,795.10	18,683.40	9,498.78	34,715.51	55,610.13	30,440.00	248,595.50
Panamá	5,999.70	7,637.77	9,014.53	3,628.11	4,827.51	2,302.53	2,023.76	2,095.86	5,109.14	3,730.73	46,369.64
TOTAL:	560,967.84	263,250.78	309,648.26	246,162.23	168,281.89	86,813.88	146,136.90	74,841.71	162,890.72	141,718.98	2,140,682.20

Process of revision and update of the *Estrategia Centroamericana de Manejo del Fuego*

In 2014-15 four workshops were held in San Salvador, El Salvador, with the participation of the country focal points and other key actors:

- 27-29 October 2014
- 25-27 November 2014
- 10-12 December 2014
- 13-15 January 2015



Principles of the current Strategy

- Commitment
- Planning
- Strengthening
- Equity
- Responsibility
- Biodiversity
- Protection
- Cooperation

Strategic Lines of the current Strategy

- National and regional management
- Cooperation
- Social management
- Knowledge management
- Risk management
- Operations
- Area rehabilitation
- Information management

Activities 2012 - 2015 organized or with the participation of the *Grupo Centroamericano de Manejo del Fuego*



Second meeting of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks of South America, Mesoamerica and the Caribbean Brasilia, Brazil (2012)



Course and workshop for the formation of instructors "Effective Use of Water" Guanacaste, Costa Rica (2013)



First Latin American Forum Integrated Fire Management Call, Colombia (2013)



First Central American Exercise Mobilization of Forest Fire Brigades Cartago, Costa Rica (2013)



Workshop "Forest Fire Prevention Planning" (EMSA) Bogotá, Colombia (2014)



48th Annual Meeting of the Fire Management Working Group, North American Forestry Commission (NAFC) Halifax, Canada (2014)



Third Latin American Forum Experience in the Use of the Incident Command System Salinitas, El Salvador (2015)



Workshop "Public Forest Fire Policies in México and Central America" (EMSA) Jalisco, México (March 2015)

Note: EMSA – Estrategia Mesoamericana de Sustentabilidad Ambiental = Mesoamerican Strategy for Environmental Sustainability

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Network Website and Link to the Global Wildland Fire Network: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>