

The UNISDR Regional Mesoamerica Fire Network: Activities 2011-2015 – Progress and Prospects

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Abstract

The countries belonging to the Mesoamerican region are affected year after year by forest fires, mainly caused by anthropogenic actions. The Mesoamerican Region between 2005 and 2014 registered more than 81,500 wildland fires that affected an area of 2.1 million ha, many of them recurrent. Because of this, the countries have been carrying out enormous efforts at the national level through their institutional Fire Management Programs. Detailed below are some regional and international cooperation efforts:

- Experience exchange in fire management between SINAC-CONIFOR of Costa Rica and Instituto de Conservación Forestal de Honduras (Tegucigalpa, Honduras 2011)
- Joint work in fire management in the area of Trifinio between Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, with support of the German Technical Cooperation (since 2011)
- Integrated Fire Management project in Panama, supported by the ITTO (since 2011)
- Joint work and experience exchange with the Fire Management Working Group of North America (joint meeting in Canada 2011 and 2014)
- Joint work and experience exchange with the Caribbean and South American networks in an IBAMA supported event (Brazil 2012)
- *Foro Latinoamericano de Manejo Integral del Fuego*, organized by USAID/OFDA-LAC (Colombia 2013)
- UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management (UN, 2013)
- *Primer Ejercicio Centroamericano de Movilización de Brigadas Forestales*, with the participation of 19 brigades of four Mesoamerican countries and two from Colombia plus observers from five Latin American and Caribbean countries (Costa Rica, 2013)
- *Taller Planificación para la Prevención de Incendios Forestales*, sponsored by the *Estrategia Mesoamericana de Sustentabilidad Ambiental* (EMSA) (Colombia, 2014)
- Participation in the Global Wildland Fire Network meetings (GFMC, 2012, 2014)
- Training course for personal from Guatemala and Honduras taught by the U.S Forest Service and Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR) of Mexico (2014- 2015)
- Trilateral cooperation between Germany, Morocco and Costa Rica for the establishment of a Fire Risk Cartographic System Costa Rica (2014-2015)
- *Tercer Foro Latinoamericano de Experiencias en la Aplicación del Sistema de Comando de Incidentes (ICS)*, organized by USAID/OFDA-LAC (El Salvador, 2015)
- *Taller de Política Pública en Materia de Incendios Forestales*, supported by CONAFOR of Mexico, under the cooperation for fire management proposed by the *Estrategia Mesoamericana de Sustentabilidad Ambiental* (EMSA) (Mexico, 2015)

The *Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD)* in 2014 initiated the review of the Mesoamerica Fire Management Strategy 2005-2015.

Key words: *UNISDR Regional Mesoamerica Wildland Fire Network, Global Wildland Fire Network*