

The UNISDR Regional South America Wildland Fire Network: Network Activities 2011-2015 – Progress Report

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Abstract

The South America Wildland Fire Network was established in 2004 as a working group to develop agreements on wildfires in the region through implementing technical cooperation and training programs. Between the 5th and the 6th International Wildland Fire Conferences the following activities have been accomplished: (1) Program for Reduction of Wildfires and Promotion of Alternatives to Fire-Use in the Amazon (Italy, Brazil, Bolivia and Ecuador); (2) 2nd Meeting of Regional Networks (South America, Caribbean and Central America) in Brasília, Brazil, 2012; (3) International cooperation and assistance for suppression of fires: In 2012, firefighters from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay supported Chile in the suppression of the wildfires that affected various provinces of the country. A Chilean CONAF Fire Response Strike Team supported Ecuador in the Loja and Cuenca Fire Emergency (2012). A C-130 of the Brazilian Air Force helped suppression activities in Ecuador (2012) and Chile (2014). 2015: Extended air and ground support from Argentina to the Chilean Forest Service. This task force, reinforced with crews of *bomberos* from Uruguay, have become an important means of international cooperation in the Region; (4) Framework agreement among the eight countries of the Amazon Basin, under the auspices of OTCA; (5) Fire Management Cooperation Agreement between CONAF (Chile) and the City Fire Department of Distrito Metropolitano de Quito (Ecuador) initiated a long-term cooperation agreement in the Andes Community; (6) The South American network was represented in three international: UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network / Wildland Fire Advisory Group, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), June/July 2012 and 2014; UNECE / FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management, United Nations, Geneva, November 2013; (7) Community Adapted to Wildfires Project, a bilateral agreement between California (USA) and CONAF-(Chile) in 2015; (8) Development of a project between Mexico and Chile: “Strengthening technical capacities of forest fire protection” (2015); (9) Cooperation Agreement between Pau Costa Foundation (Spain) and CONAF (Chile); (10) RedLaTIF – Latin America’s Remote Sensing and Forest Fires Network has been established in 2002 as a participant of the GTOS panel of GOFC-GOLD. The main current activities include a web site to assist users in their access to different international sources of near-real time satellite fire monitoring data; (11) Support of National and Regional Competency in Integrated Fire Management to Secure Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay and through Cross-border Cooperation with Brazil, Chile and other neighbouring countries of South America: this project is an initiative of GFMC in partnership with Uruguay, Brazil and Chile and in synergy with projects of GIZ; (12) Brazil is developing an approach of integrated fire management (IFM) considering community/indigenous people involvement, prescribed burning of low intensity for conservation of protected areas, and addressing prevention of wildfires and decreasing of GhG emissions. A National Policy on IFM is being developed as a Federal Decree. The achievements of Brazil are shared with other countries and it is expected that they will permeate all regional cooperations.

Key words: *Regional South America Wildland Fire Network, Global Wildland Fire Network*