



The International Liaison Committee (ILC) of the International Wildland Fire Conferences (IWFC) CHARTER

Revised February 2023

Preamble

With the 1st International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) held in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., in 1989, a series of conferences was initiated aimed at promoting exchange of expertise and international cooperation in wildland fire management. The International Liaison Committee (ILC) is serving as an advisory and liaison body to the hosts of the conferences. The ILC recognizes that wildland fire management is an international issue.

Mission and Goal of the International Wildland Fire Conferences

To provide an international forum serving as an interface between fundamental science, policy makers and the community of practitioners for sharing knowledge and expertise. The overall goal of the conferences is to support the development of policies and improvement of governance to reduce the negative impacts of landscape fires on the environment and humanity, and to advance the knowledge and application of the ecologically and environmentally benign role of natural fire in fire-dependent ecosystems, and sustainable application of fire in land-use systems.

Mission and Goal of the International Liaison Committee

To facilitate the sharing of wildland fire management, wildland fire research and wildland fire operational techniques in an international forum that will strengthen our individual nation’s abilities to protect our citizens, communities and natural resources and foster international cooperation. As custodians of the IWFC, the goal of the ILC is to provide:

1. Expert advice to the host nation of the IWFC based upon past experience and emerging issues;
2. Support to the host nation of the IWFC, including the option to assign an ILC member as a liaison; and
3. Review of proposed actions and insuring agreement with the host nation of the IWFC regarding conference theme and final program.



Past and Upcoming International Wildland Fire Conferences

- 1st IWFC – Boston, Massachusetts, USA, 16-19 May 1989
- 2nd IWFC – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 25-30 May 1997
- 3rd IWFC – Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 3-6 October 2003
- 4th IWFC – Seville, Spain, 13-17 May 2007
- 5th IWFC – Sun City, South Africa, 9-13 May 2011
- 6th IWFC – Pyeongchang, South Korea, 12-16 October 2015
- 7th IWFC – Campo Grande, Brazil, 28 October - 1 November 2019
- 8th IWFC – Porto, Portugal, 16-19 May 2023

Objectives of the International Liaison Committee

The ILC is intended to serve the following objectives:

- Bring together a global group of wildland fire specialists to advise the steering committee for the IWFC.
- Provide input and advice to the steering committee on emerging national, regional and global issues, themes, topics for the conference program.
- Promote equity, diversity, and inclusion among experts, speakers, sponsors, and attendees while:
 - Providing input and advice on experts and potential speakers.
 - Providing or recruiting sponsors from each region.
 - Recruiting conference attendees from all global regions.
- Provide sustainable seed source funding for conferences.
- Encourage the active conference participation of all groups that support the adoption of sound wildland fire management principles and practices (e.g. UNDRR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and FAO Regional Forestry Commissions)

Organization

The ILC was established to assist the local steering group of an International Wildland Fire Conference. The organization and structure of the ILC is flexible and should support the needs and purpose of the steering committee of the conference being planned. This organization is designed to provide the IWFC host country with Best Management Practices (BMP) from past conferences, combined with new ideas and plans for the upcoming international conference, and provide for program input from a more global base through other wildland fire groups and networks.

The ILC Core Group has established a position for the chairperson of the next IWFC. Although this position may be vacant for the majority of the planning period, it would encourage people around the globe to consider hosting the IWFC earlier and then provide a greater chance of success.



The ILC core group consists of the following members of fire management organizations:

- US Forest Service as Chair (as long as funding of ILC continues)
- Representative from each of the previous IWFC hosts:
 - 1st IWFC – United States
 - 2nd IWFC – Canada
 - 3rd IWFC – Australia/New Zealand
 - 4th IWFC – Spain
 - 5th IWFC – South Africa
 - 6th IWFC – South Korea
 - 7th IWFC – Brazil
- Representative from key global fire groups or organizations.
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
 - International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- Chair of the current IWFC steering committee
- Chair of the next IWFC steering committee

The working language of the ILC is English. To assure that the views, issues, and needs of the global community are represented in the themes, speakers, and programs of the IWFC the entire ILC will convene as needed. This larger ILC will include, but not be limited to, technical and regional representatives from the Regional Wildland Fire Networks.

Decisions regarding participation, meeting schedules, meeting agendas and funding are handled by the Chair.

Method of Operation

The numbers and locations of the ILC meetings shall be flexible and set to meet the steering committee needs and schedule. The core ILC should meet at least on an annual basis, but can meet more frequently as required. Meetings of the entire ILC will also be convened as needed. When possible, meetings will be held to coincide with other international events and where substantial numbers of ILC would attend.

Each IWFC will develop an Operating Plan to identify group memberships and standard operating procedures.



Appendix A – ILC Background Information

The North American Forest Commission – Fire Management Working Group has actively supported the International Wildland Fire Conferences (IWFC) series and sponsored the 1st IWFC in Boston, Massachusetts, USA and the 2nd IWFC in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The ILC was established to support the Steering Committee for the 3rd IWFC to plan and organize the Sydney conference. The ILC addressed an issue from the first two conferences. While certainly international in attendance and scope, they were planned and organized by the United States and Canadian sponsors with limited inputs from outside the North American region.

The Australian sponsors of the 3rd IWFC agreed that a group of international wildland fire experts representing the other regions would be useful in assuring that the issues, concerns, and participation from all areas was reflected in the conference program and design. The US Forest Service agreed to sponsor the travel costs for the ILC members as their sponsorship of the conference. The conference had a Steering Committee from Australasia responsible for overall objectives and oversight; a New South Wales Organizing Committee responsible for logistics and conference management, and a Program Committee that recommended speakers and topics to the Steering Committee. The ILC met with all three committees at various times in the planning and the Chair of the ILC was a formal member of the Steering Committee.

The membership of the committee was heavily North American and European. Most other areas were represented, but large areas in Asia and Africa were represented by only one or two people. The membership was somewhat fluid and flexible and in some cases meant attendees were whoever was available and able to travel from a particular region. The ILC tried to keep consistent attendance when possible in order to assure that each meeting was as productive as possible. The ILC was established to assist a very robust local group.

Following the Sydney, Australia IWFC the role and scope of the ILC changed, based on the Spanish processes and requirements. More of the planning for the 4th IWFC was done locally in Seville, Spain and the ILC met only a few times. The membership tended to stay the same. The ILC from Sydney became the ILC for Seville, with the addition of the Australians and New Zealanders. There were also some changes in the other participants, but the core group remained.

The US Forest Service has agreed to sponsor the travel costs for the ILC members requiring assistance, and serve as the ILC Chair, for the duration of US Forest Service sponsorship of the conference. By holding the ILC meeting with other international events, the US Forest Service is able to support attendance at both, through the ILC travel funds. A few examples: The Foundation Meeting of the Regional South American Wildland Fire Network in Curitiba, Brazil (2004); the 5th International Conference on Forest Fire Research in Luso, Portugal (2006); the Forest and Agriculture Organization (FAO) expert meeting on the Guidelines in Madrid, Spain (2006); and the Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) meetings in Freiburg, Germany (2008, 2014 and 2018).

