



Secretaría de Coordinación
Ejecutiva de la Presidencia

GUATEMALA, C. A.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

between

the Mesoamerican Permanent Technical Group on Forest Fires (*Grupo Técnico Mesoamericano Permanente sobre Incendios Forestales*), represented by Mr. Ronaldo Herrarte, President of the Coordinating Council of the *Sistema Nacional de Prevención y Control de Incendios Forestales (SIPECIF)*, Guatemala, and Executive Coordinator of the Presidency of Guatemala.

and

the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Working Group on Wildland Fire, represented by the Chair, Dr. Johann G. Goldammer

concerning

Cooperation in the Global Wildland Fire Network through active participation of the Regional Mesoamerica Wildland Fire Network

In accordance with the recommendations of the *Reunión Mesoamericana de los Incendios Forestales* (Guatemala, July 2002), the results of the *Taller para el Desarrollo de un Plan Estratégico Regional para el Manejo del Gorgojo del Pino y los Incendios Forestales en Centroamérica* (August 2002, ESNACIFOR, Honduras) and the spirit of the *Declaración de Mérida (Declaración Conjunta de la Quintaumbre del Mecanismo de Diálogo y Concertación de Tuxtla, Mérida, Yucatán, México, June 2002)*

and

the objectives of Global Wildland Fire Network facilitated by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the Working Group on Wildland Fire, Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), considering the international cooperation in wildland fire management

the signatory parties agree the following:

Whereas the above mentioned regional declarations and agreements aim to enhance regional Mesoamerica cooperation in wildland fire management;

Whereas the Global Wildland Fire Network aims to facilitate regional and inter-regional dialogues and cooperation in wildland fire management,

Whereas the efficiency to improve international cooperation in wildland fire management the Global Wildland Fire Network relies on the active work of Regional Wildland Fire Networks,



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based on the consideration that main cooperative activities are taking place between countries that are neighbours, have common problems and may commonly share resources;

Whereas the Mesoamerica initiative is a very prominent example how a region has initiated the process of cooperation.

Therefore the signatory parties recognize:

- the needs to share experiences and solutions, and to establish cooperation in wildland fire management between regions;
- the Mesoamerica Agreement on Regional Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in accordance with the *Reunión Mesoamericana de los Incendios Forestales* (Guatemala, July 2002) constituting the regional platform within the Global Wildland Fire Network;

and agree:

- to mutually share information, data and publications;
- to use the network capabilities to promote bilateral and multi-lateral collaborative activities in fire management capacity building;
- to use the network capabilities to facilitate cooperation in emergency situations;
- to develop common political targets for reducing the negative effects of fire on the environment and humanity;
- to conduct consultations via the internet and meetings.

This MoU will not constitute any binding financial and other commitments or liabilities.

This MoU is considered a formal expression of the intent to improve international cooperation in the field of wildland fire management.

Guatemala City, June 1, 2003

Ronaldo Herrarte

President of the Coordinating Council, Sistema Nacional de Prevención y Control de Incendios Forestales (SIPECIF), and Executive Coordinator, Presidency of Guatemala

Freiburg, Germany, June 1, 2003

Dr. Johann G. Goldammer

Coordinator, UN-ISDR Working Group on Wildland Fire
Director, GFMC