



First Regional Symposium on Cross-Boundary Cooperation in Fire Management in South America

Parque Nacional Santa Teresa, Uruguay, 30 May to 02 June 2016

Background, Objectives and Agenda

Background and Rationale

Forests and other vegetation in South America are becoming increasingly affected by climate change and socio-economic and land-use changes. One of the major problems associated with this development is the increasing vulnerability, occurrence and damages caused by wildfires. In Southern South America fires used for cleaning agricultural and pasture lands are the main causes for uncontrolled wildfires entering natural forests, industrial forest plantations and protected areas. In the recent years large fires exceeded the response capabilities of nations and prompted governments to call for assistance by neighbouring countries in order to manage the wildfire emergency situations. Such mutual international assistance is effective and efficient if participating nations are prepared by bilateral agreements, protocols and commonly exercised procedures. The South America Regional Wildland Fire Network, which is operating as one of 14 regional networks under the Global Wildland Fire Network and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), has initiated the regional dialogue and exchange of information in fire management.



It is now important to take the next steps towards the creation of interoperability between neighbouring nations for wildfire crisis management. Common standards for training and firefighting operations are essential for enhancing the preparedness for cooperative safe, effective and efficient wildfire response.

Participants and Objectives

The regional symposium will be attended by representatives of the forest services and fire services of Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay (invited) and observers from other agencies of Uruguay.

The objectives include:

- **Regional exchange of information on wildfires occurrence, fire management and fire emergency response of the participating nations:** Representatives of each country will present the situation in their home country, including experiences in cooperation with neighbouring countries in training and responding to wildfire emergencies.
- **Briefing of participating countries about international initiatives in cooperation in fire management:** The work of the Global Wildland Fire Network operating under the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the voluntary International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM) will be introduced by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC).

- **Introduction of training materials for capacity building in cross-boundary fire management:** The EuroFire Competency Standards and Training Materials will be presented in Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese for future in national training, with emphasis for enhancing inter-operability between participating South American countries. Furthermore the concept and draft of the International Fire Aviation Guidelines will be introduced.
- **Regional fire management demonstration and exercise:** The presence of representatives of the different nations will be used to demonstrate firefighting and fire use techniques together with local Uruguayan fire service units and military.
- **Regional Fire Management Symposium:** Discussion about the future use of the EuroFire training standards for joint regional trainings, as well as the test of the International Fire Aviation Guidelines; development for recommendations for official bilateral agreements or multilateral frameworks within South America to systematically enhance preparedness and response to wildfire emergencies by cross-border cooperation

Organizers: Host and Supporting Organizations

The Symposium will be organized jointly by the

- Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Secretariat of the Global Wildland Fire Network and the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM), with financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Agriculture, by decision of the German Bundestag, within the frame of the project "Support of National and Regional Competency in Integrated Fire Management to Secure Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay and through Cross-border Cooperation with Brazil and other Neighbouring Countries of South America"
- Regional South America Wildland Fire Network (Coordinators: Ibama / Prevfogo, Brazil, and CONAF, Chile)

The Symposium will be supported by the

- Sistema Nacional de Emergencias (SINAE)
- Dirección General Forestal (DGF), Ministério de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca
- Dirección Nacional de Bomberos (DNB), Ministério del Interior
- Ejército del Uruguay

Draft Agenda

Sunday, 29 May 2016

Arrival of international participants in Montevideo

Monday, 30 May 2016

- 08:00** **Departure of the international group and Uruguayan participants from Montevideo to Parque Nacional Santa Teresa**
- 13:30-14:00** **Opening of the Symposium**
- Welcome remarks by the Sistema Nacional de Emergencias
 - Welcome remarks by the Ejército del Uruguay (host and manager of Parque Nacional Santa Teresa)
 - Welcome remarks by the Dirección Nacional de Bomberos, Ministério del Interior
 - Welcome remarks by the Dirección General Forestal, Ministério de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca
 - Welcome remarks and introduction to the objectives and expected outcomes of the Symposium by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), also on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture
- 14:00-19:00** **Presentations and discussions: Exchange of information at regional level**
- Wildfire threats, fire management and international cooperation in Uruguay (DNB)
 - Wildfire threats, fire management and international cooperation in Chile (Alfredo Mascareño and Patricio Sanhueza, CONAF)

- Wildfire threats, fire management and international cooperation in Argentina (Gabriel Schouas and Jorge Curiñanco, Bomberos Argentina)
- Wildfire threats, fire management and international cooperation in Paraguay (Jorge Galeano y Gabriel Ayala, Cuerpo Bomberos Voluntarios)
- Wildfire threats, fire management and international cooperation in Brazil (Lara Steil, Ibama, Prevfogo)

Tuesday, 31 May 2016

- 09:00-13:00 Presentations (II): Introduction to EuroFire Standards in Spanish and Brazilian**
- History of the development of the EuroFire Standards and Training Materials (Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC)
 - EuroFire Training Standards and Materials – Fundamental Fire Behaviour and Tactics (Rodrigo de Moraes Falleiro, Ibama / Prevfogo)
 - EuroFire Training Standards and Materials – Hand Tools (Esteban Beltrán, Chile)
 - EuroFire Training Standards and Materials – Fire Safety (Lara Steil, Ibama / Prevfogo)
 - EuroFire Training Standards and Materials – Ignition (Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC)

13:30-17:30 Fire management demonstration and exercise

Wednesday, 01 June 2016

Topics: Wrapping up and developing recommendations for regional and international cooperation in fire management

- 09:00-10:30 Presentations and discussion on international cooperation in fire management**
- International cooperation in fire management in Chile (Patricio Sanhueza, CONAF)
 - Climate change and consequences / challenges for regional and global cooperation in fire management Part I (Lara Steil, Ibama / Prevfogo, Brazil)
 - The International Fire Aviation Guidelines (Patricio Sanhueza, CONAF, member of the International Fire Aviation Working Group [IFAWG])
 - Wildfire threats, fire management and international cooperation at global level (Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC)

11:00-12:00 Discussion and drafting recommendations for formalizing and further advancing regional and international cooperation in fire management

14:30 Return of participants to Montevideo

Thursday, 2 June 2016

15:00-16:30 National Round Table on Fire Management in Uruguay
Hosted by the Dirección Nacional de Bomberos

National consultation on fire management with participation of line ministries and other key stakeholders to address

- Evaluation of the preceding symposium with regards to national needs and action
- Discussion of the utility and mandate of a standing Inter-Agency Task Force entrusted with fire management planning at national level
- Utility and objectives of a National Fire Management Policy

Participants

- Sistema Nacional de Emergencias
- Dirección General Forestal, Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca
- Dirección Nacional de Bomberos, Ministerio de Interior