



Latin American and Caribbean UNESCO Sites Climate, Risk and Resilience Platform

Capacity-Building Webinars: Climate change and fire management in UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves

Webinar 2: Monitoring, observation, early warning

Wednesday 8 September 2021

Time: 12h00-15h00 (Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina)

Summary: A top conclusion of the RIOCCADAPT report was that few Iberoamerican countries have robust fire monitoring systems. It found that “monitoring makes it possible to prevent catastrophic effects...[and]...[reduces] risks and maximize(s) the sink effect of our forests and wild or managed ecosystems, given that many of the region’s countries include these in their climate change mitigation policies.”¹. It is therefore a top priority to consider ways to improve monitoring, observation and early warning systems. How this works for UNESCO sites, with their special mandates for conservation, sustainable development, geological and cultural heritage and knowledge generation, as well as their differing scales, is a uniquely challenging question. In the LAC region, the question of how to achieve this in contexts where resources may be limited is also key. The presentations from different sectors and different scales offer a range of possible solutions, while the roundtable discussion provides the opportunity for exchange by partners from a range of contexts.

- Key case study: Western Regional Forest Fires Center of Interinstitutional Operations (CROIF RFO) and Early Alert Platform, (Partner: National Institute of Conservation, Forestry Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife [ICF], MAB-Honduras)
- Roundtable: UNESCO site experts and affiliated experts

Languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese interpretation will be provided throughout

Background

Within the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean UNESCO Sites Climate, Risk and Resilience Platform and with the kind support of [umgrauemeio](http://umgrauemeio.org), UNESCO is proud to organize a series of capacity-building webinars primarily for managers and stakeholders of UNESCO sites in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean that are responsible for fire management.

¹ Bilbao *et al.* 2020, pg. 438

The Iberoamerican region has one of the highest incidences of wildfires in the world.² An analysis of changing patterns in wildfires in the Americas during recent decades by the Iberoamerican Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC) has found diverging patterns and reasons for these trends remain disputed.³ Drivers of fire patterns across the Americas include agricultural patterns, deforestation, and climate change related factors.

Nevertheless, climate change is changing fire patterns across the LAC region, directly increasing wildfire risk in some areas, with longer wildfire seasons, that are dryer and more severe. Whereas indirect drivers may be at play in others, such as invasive pests killing trees, causing fuel build-up. The displacement of people due to the impacts of climate change can lead to forest clearing and anthropogenic fires.

At a regional level, monitoring of fires is inconsistent and fire management is only beginning to move beyond fire suppression and firefighting to incorporate integrated fire management plans that may be based on indigenous fire knowledge.

Drawing on science, good practices, lessons-learned and innovations from across Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, this webinar series will focus on case studies in UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves with presentations and discussions from experts focussed on supporting site managers to better plan and implement integrated fire management in their sites. It will also feature innovative research and tools that can be applied in UNESCO sites or translated into policy-making and solutions across the region.

This series will bring together global, regional Biosphere Reserve and UNESCO Global Geopark stakeholder experts and others to consider these emerging issues from the perspective of their experiences. The overall aim is that participants will emerge with new knowledge and perspectives that can be applied in UNESCO designated sites and in wider contexts.

Objectives:

- UNESCO site stakeholders expand their knowledge of tools and the impacts of climate change and fires on the sites;
- UNESCO site stakeholders and affiliated experts exchange knowledge and tools to improve integrated fire management;
- UNESCO site stakeholders share good practice examples of fire management

Format:

- 5 webinars of three hours
- Case study based, with international and multistakeholder roundtable panel discussions
- Participants have plenty of time for questions, answers and inputs

Target participants:

- UNESCO Global Geopark, Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site stakeholders;
- Managers and technical officials for climate change, fire management at international, national and local level;
- Stakeholders from other sites and protected areas;

² Bilbao *et al.* (2020), pp. 441, 443

³ *Ibid.*, pg. 444

- Technical staff and Officials of national forestry ministries, environmental ministries, climate change divisions.
- Other interested technical experts and professionals

Agenda:

Facilitator: Mónica Barillas Rodas, Director, Climate Change Unit, National Protected Areas Council, Guatemala

Time	Title	Speaker	Format
12:00	Introduction	Liana O. Anderson, CEMADEN, Brazil	Formal
12:20	Case Study: Western Regional Forest Fires Center of Interinstitutional Operations (CROIF RFO) and Early Alert Platform, National Institute of Conservation, Forestry Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF), Honduras	Julio Cesar Castellanos, Institute for Forest Conservation, Santa Rosa Region, Honduras	Presentation
12:40	Using VIIRS and MODIS data to investigate wildfires on Global Forest Watch	James MacCarthy, Global Forest Watch	Presentation
13:00	1.5°C Solution--Fire Management as a Platform The impact of fires on Greenhouse gas emissions	Osmar Bambini, umgrauemeio Bruno Brazil, Technical Director, BRCarbon	Presentation
13:30	Break		
13:50	Roundtable	Moderadora: Bibiana Bilbao, Professor, Simón Bolívar University, Venezuela, LANDMARC Project, COBRA Collective 1. Elizabeth Hernández Borges, Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark, México 2. Rodrigo Belo, IEF-MG, Serra do Espinhaço Biosphere Reserve, Brazil 3. Lara Steil, Coordinator, Coordinadora, Interagency Department and Burn Control, Prevfogo, IBAMA, Brazil (TBC) 4. Walter Mayorga Monterroso, Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala	Panel Discussion
14:55	Close		