



## 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 3: Emergencies and droughts: Fire and water

Wednesday 15 September 2021

#### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

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

**Summary:** Focusing on the megafires in the Pantanal Biosphere Reserve in 2020, the webinar considers the lessons to be learned from and the changing dynamics of water and fire in the Pantanal wetlands to consider the importance of groundwater management for fire management. Experts from UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme participate in a consideration of changing water, forest, climate, fire dynamics.

- Key case study: 2020 Fire emergency in Pantanal Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site and its partners in Paraguay and Bolivia (Partner: Pantanal Biosphere Reserve)
- 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](#), 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.

The Iberoamerican region has one of the highest incidences of wildfires in the world.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> Bilbao *et al.* (2020), pp. 441, 443

disputed.<sup>2</sup> 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

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

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 444

Agenda:

**Facilitator:** Glauco Kimura, Project Officer for the Natural Sciences, UNESCO National Office to Brazil

Time	Title	Speaker	Format
<b>Case study: 2020 Megafires in the Pantanal Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site</b>			
12:10	Pantanal Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site: 2020 Megafires	Profesora Catia Nunes da UFMT, Councilor of the Pantanal Biosphere Reserve, Mato Grosso State Committee, Brazil	Presentation
12:30	International Collaborations between Pantanal Biosphere Reserve and the Paraguayan and Bolivian Pantanal: An experience of large-scale wildfire events in the Paraguayan Pantanal	Ing. Fabiana Arévalos, Coordinator of the Conservation Programme of Habitants and Landscapes of Guyra, Paraguay	Presentation
	Conservation Vision in the Bolivian Pantanal Watershed	Marlene Quintanilla, Director of Research and Knowledge Management, Bolivia	
<b>Technical experts: Climate change and its impacts on hydrological and forest systems</b>			
13:00	Title to be confirmed	Roberto Pizarro, UNESCO Chair in Surface Hydrology, University of Talca, Chile; Coordinator, Water Forests Systems Group of Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) LAC	Presentation
13:20	Monitoring hydrology and droughts in Peru: a tool for adaptation in the face of variability and climate change	Waldo Lavado Casimiro, National Meteorology and Hydrology Service, Perú; Coordinator, Hydrogeomorphology group of the Andino-Amazonian Watershed, IHP-LAC	Presentation
13:40	Break		
<b>Roundtable – Facilitator: Massimiliano Lombardo, Programme Specialist for Natural Sciences, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean (Kingston, Jamaica)</b>			
14:00	Roundtable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Francisco A. Antonioli, Director General of Risk Management, National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), Paraguay</li> <li>2. Luis Besold, Regional Coordinator, NEA—Mesopotamia, National Fire Management Service, Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry, Yabotí Biosphere Reserve, Argentina</li> <li>3. Carlos Alberto Ibarra Murillo, Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark, México</li> </ol>	Panel discussion

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Carlos Pinto, Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza, Bolivia</li> <li>5. Osmar Bambini, CIO and co-founder, Umgrauemeio</li> <li>6. Mauro Rosi, Chief, Latin American and Caribbean Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO</li> </ul>	
14:55	Close		