

## Regional Mesoamerica and Caribbean Wildland Fire Network



Belize



Guatemala



Honduras



El Salvador



Nicaragua



Costa Rica



Panamá



República Dominicana



### Biophysical Features of Mesoamerica

The Mesoamerica Isthmus with its 533,000 km<sup>2</sup> is covered by 21.63 million ha of forests, equivalent to 42% of the Mesoamerica territory.

The region has unique natural and physical characteristics with a high biologic and climatic diversity that are of global significance.

The characteristics of the Mesoamerica region are determined by the shape of the Isthmus, climate variability and its location in the neotropical zone.

The combination of these conditions have resulted in the development high biological diversity. The region constitutes a geographic, biological and cultural bridge between the Americas.



### Wildland Fire Problems

The main causes of the wildfires in the Mesoamerican region are human activities. Burning of agricultural lands, grasslands, stubble and trash burning are the most important cause, followed by arson intentionally. Other causes include forest residue burning, fires used by beekeepers and bonfires.

During the last years several fires have been started by natural causes (lightings) specially during the transitory period of dry season to rain season (May-June).



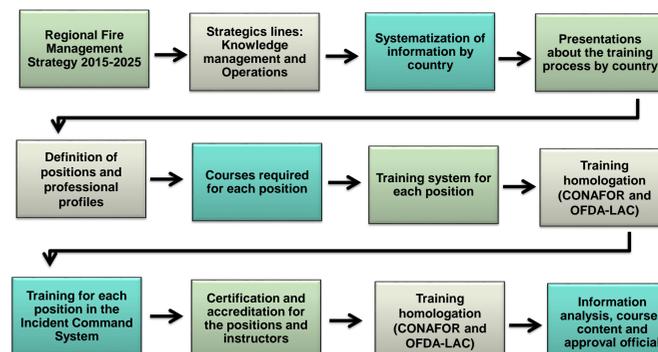
### Guide to Training in Fire Management in the Mesoamerican Region



Cargo	Cursos CONAFOR	Cursos USAID/OFDA-LAC	Otra entidad	Especialización	Complementario		
Bombero Forestal	CBCF	CBF	Primeros Auxilios	Equipos de combustión interna (motosierras, motobombas, etc.)	Legislación (cada país)		
Combatiente Forestal	SMI-100	CB-SCI					
Debe contar con los cursos de Bombero Forestal o Combatiente Forestal							
Jefe de Cuadrilla	S-130 /190	COPCIF	Uso del GPS		Comunicaciones operativas		
	S-211	CUEA-EIF			Curso de Prevención		
Jefe de Brigada	SMI-200				Materiales Peligrosos		
	Debe contar con los cursos del Jefe de Cuadrilla						
	SMI-300	CI-SCI	Curso Incendios Urbano Forestal	S-271			
	L-280		Determinación de Evidencias y Causas de Incendios Forestales				
S-290							
Coordinador	Debe contar con los cursos de Jefe de Brigada						
	CPCIF		Gestión del Riesgo	CIQP			
	SMI-300	CA-SCI	Sistemas de Información Geográfica	S-371 y S-390 S-430 y S-440			

In May 2019 a regional workshop was held in Costa Rica, with the participation of the country focal points and other key actors.

The workshop was held as an activity of the 2017-2018 Mesoamerican fire management agenda



### Activities 2016 - 2019 organized or with the participation of the Mesoamerican Fire Management Group



Real-time technical exchange at the six Regional Fire Management Centers of CONAFOR, México (2016)



51<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Fire Management Working Group  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (2017)



Preparation of the Mesoamerican Agenda in Fire Management 2017-2019  
Jalisco, México (2017)



Workshop for the preparation of training in fire management in the Mesoamerican Region  
San José, Costa Rica (2018)



Course and Workshop on the Effective Use of Water in the Extinction of Forest Fires  
Guatemala (2018)



Central America and Mexico Regional Forum Preparing for the Response (USAID/OFDA-LAC)  
Puerto Vallarta, México (2019)

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Network Website and Link to the Global Wildland Fire Network: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>

Regional Wildland Fire Networks: North America – Mesoamerica – South America – Caribbean – Mediterranean – Southeast Europe / Caucasus – Euro-Alpine – Near East – Sub-Sahara Africa – South Asia – Southeast Asia – Australasia – Northeast Asia – Central Asia – Eurasia

