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 4: Indigenous fire management

Wednesday 22 September 2021

FINAL PROGRAMME

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

Summary: Indigenous peoples have been managing fire as a natural part of landscapes in Latin America for millennia as an integrated element of their productive and natural resource management system. Projects to exclude fire from these systems not only change ecosystems in unpredictable ways, but also have far-reaching impacts on traditional cultures and human well-being. Highlighting a project on indigenous fire knowledge of the Pemón people of the northern part of Amazon Region as an important tool for sustainable landscape management, this session will explore indigenous fire management as part of an integrated approach to fire management that moves beyond suppression and firefighting.

Key case study: Indigenous Pemón Culture: The fire that should not be extinguished, Professor Bibiana Bilbao, University of Simon Bolívar, Venezuela, LANDMARC Project, COBRA Collective
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.[1] 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

[1] Bilbao *et al.* (2020), pp. 441, 443

disputed.[2] 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

Agenda

[2] *Ibid.*, pg. 444

Facilitator: TBC

Time	Title	Presenter	Format
12:00	Spiritual Ceremony	Ana Francisca Conguache, Guatemala, Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network-Latin America and the Caribbean	Opening
12:10	Introduction	Nigel Crawhall, Chief, Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Programme, UNESCO	Presentation
Case Study -- Indigenous Pemon Culture, Venezuela			
12:30	Indigenous Pemón Culture: The fire that should not be extinguished	Bibiana Bilbao, Profesora, Universidad de Simón Bolívar, Venezuela, Proyecto LANDMARC, Colectivo COBRA	Presentation
12:50	Constructing Integrated Fire Management in Venezuela: An intercultural Vision	Cnel (B) Miguel Matany Luque Primer Comandante del Cuerpo de Bomberos Forestales del Instituto Nacional de Parques (INPARQUES), Caracas, Venezuela (TBC)	Presentation
13:10	Break		
Intercultural dialogue: Experiences of fire management in UNESCO Sites and indigenous territories in Latin America and the Caribbean. Moderator: María Eugenia Choque Quispe, Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network-Latin America and the Caribbean			
13:30	Roundtable	1. María Isabel Canabiri, Pueblo Kolla Tinkanaku, las Yungas Biosphere Reserve, Argentina (ICCA Project, UNDP-SGP) 2. Joaquin Meliñir Huaiquillan, Pewenche de Quinquen community, ICCA, Kutralkura UNESCO Global Geopark, Chile 3. Walter Mayorga Monterroso, Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala 4. Miqueias Santos de Souza, Amazonas Central Biosphere Reserve, Brazil 5. Gravin Villegas, La Amistad Biosphere Reserve, Costa Rica (TBC) 6. Dante Arturo Rodríguez Trejo, Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Estado de México 7. Laura Patricia Ponce Calderón, invited consultant, Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Estado de México 8. Jay Mistry, Professor of Environmental Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdon 9. Mauro Rosi, Chief, Latin American and Caribbean Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO 10. Indigenous Forum of Abya Yala (TBC)	Panel exchange
14:55	Close		