



Biodiversidade Brasileira

Editorial

7th International Wildland Fire Conference

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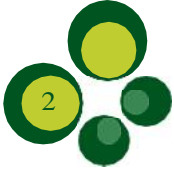
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The 7th International Wildland Fire Conference was held for the first time in Latin America in 2019. Brazil was the host of the event that took place in Campo Grande, MS, from October 28 to November 1, after going all around of the world. The series of conferences, also known as Wildfire, celebrated its 30 years of existence in this edition, being called Wildfire+30. The first Conference was held in Boston, United States, in 1989 as a response of the international community to several wildfires that happened in many countries in the 80s. The first conference was a milestone for the establishment of the bases for global and transboundary cooperation on fire management, which were gradually improved in the following editions: 2nd edition in Vancouver, Canada (1997); 3rd in Sydney, Australia (2003); 4th in Seville, Spain (2007); 5th in Sun City, South Africa (2011); 6th in the city of Pyeongchang, South Korea (2015).

The strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements established between the conferences fostered the creation of the Global Wildland Fire Network and the Regional Wildland Fire Networks. Nowadays there are 15 Networks (14 Regional Networks and the Global Network) around the world that dialogue, cooperate and promote the exchange of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned, improving national and regional cooperative fire management capacities and strategies, networking and strengthening interoperability of cross-border cooperation and multisectoral actions in integrated fire management.

Wildfire+30 tackled Integrated Fire Management (IFM) as its main point of technical and scientific discussion. IFM approach seeks the integration of the traditional knowledge and practices in communities, the academic and research activities and the paradigm shift in public and private institutions in charge of fire, evolving from a zero-fire point of view to a to a policy considering fire as a management tool. Considering the idea of ‘facing fire in a changing world’, the technical debates at the conference sought to bring up strategies for ‘reducing vulnerability of people and landscapes by IFM’.



The conference had five main subthemes (<https://www.ibama.gov.br/wildfire2019-theme>) for discussion. The role and contribution of civil society in the IFM (subtheme 1) permeated all debates, emphasizing the importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge for fire management. This issue is particularly important in Latin America, rich in traditional and indigenous peoples and populations with a centuries-old history of environmental conservation, respect for ecosystems and a dynamic knowledge about the use and role of fire in different landscapes.

Wildfire+30 highlighted and brought visibility to the role of women in integrated fire management. This issue still brings many challenges, but it has also advanced significantly thanks to the leadership of many brave women. The focus of the sessions related to this theme pointed out the challenges for women to jump into fire management, the ongoing advances and how we can improve even further, seeking balance, cooperation and integration of women and men aiming to minimize the damages of 'bad fire' and to promote 'good fire' for environmental conservation.

The role of private companies was also an important theme of the conference, aiming to show the opportunities for public-private partnerships as a possibility of strengthening the effectiveness of integrated fire management actions.

The IFM concepts for stabilizing fire affected landscapes and promoting resilient territories (subtheme 2), and for mitigating secondary impacts (subtheme 3), as well as the technological advances on prevention and fighting wildfires (subtheme 4) gave the scientific tone of the conference. In these subthemes were discussed: food security, environmental services, water security, atmospheric pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, human health and security, carbon credits, REDD+, recovery of areas affected by fire, remote sensing, fire propagation models, among other aspects of relevance to integrated fire management.

The integrated fire management was discussed as a key element in fire management policies (subtheme 5) for providing subsidies and innovations to the development of public policies based on identified and learned lessons. The lack of such policies can lead to disconnected actions of institutions and communities. It is through the development of coherent public policies that scientific, technical and community knowledge can be strengthened to promote global changes.