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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

**THIRTY-SECOND SESSION**

**Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada**

**25 - 27 September 2023**

**Report of the Fire Management Working Group**

*Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:*

NAFC Secretariat  
Forestry Division

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## I. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Fire Management Manager	Mexico	National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)
Members Names	Country	Organization
Director General	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Executive Director	Canada	Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC)
Senior research scientist	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Provincial/Territorial Agency Director	Canada	CIFFC Management Committee
Strategic Projects Coordinator	Mexico	National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)
Coordinator of Fire Management National Research Network	Mexico	National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
Director of Forest and Watershed Conservation	Mexico	Mexican Nature Conservation Fund (FMCN)
USFS National Director of Fire and Aviation	United States of America (USA)	United States Forest Service (USFS)
Fire and Aviation Management Branch Chief	USA	USFS
International Programs Liaison	USA	USFS
National Program Leader	USA	USFS Fire Systems Research

## II. LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

Activity	Location	Date
56th Meeting of the FMWG	<i>Jalisco, Mexico</i>	<i>5-7 December 2022</i>
55th Meeting of the FMWG	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>9-10 December 2021</i>
54th Meeting of the FMWG	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>1-2 December 2020</i>

### Activities:

1. Developing a Memorandum of Understanding (on operating plans):
  - a. Mexico and Canada signed the Operating Plan in 2021 and 2022.
  - b. Mexico and USA signed the Operating Plan in 2022.
  - c. Canada and USA signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding in 2023.
2. North American Fire Science Blueprint:
  - a. Completed working document drafts on mapping the wildfire science landscape, challenges facing wildfire science and research gaps identified in the literature.
  - b. Completed the first round of pilot interviews with European fire stakeholders on science gaps, needs, and foresighting, which has informed the working group's protocol development.
  - c. Obtained ethics approval for the full phase of interviews.

- d. Currently finalizing recruitment lists for interviews across Canada, the United States of America and Mexico beginning autumn 2023.
3. North American Study Tour:
  - a. The delayed Australia-New Zealand Study Tour was held virtually in May 2023.
  - b. The North American Study Tour is expected to be held in-person in 2024.
4. North American Study Tour Mentoring Focus Group:
  - a. There have been 11 sessions in preparation of the initiative to create a Mentoring Focus Group to exchange experience and knowledge.
5. International Training Support, including Latin and South American countries:
  - a. In 2022, Mexico and the USA carried out the activity “HOT SHOT Technical exchange” in which three Mexican firefighters traveled for two months to California to work with the Kern Valley Hotshot Crew. This activity is a result of the collaboration between CONAFOR and USFS.
  - b. In 2023, Mexico and the USA carried out the activity “HOT SHOT Technical exchange” in which two Mexican firefighters traveled for two and a half months to California to work with the Kern Valley Hotshot Crew. This activity is a result of the collaboration between CONAFOR and USFS.
  - c. Canada is in ongoing discussions with Costa Rica to develop capacity in water application and crew leadership.
6. Review and expand of a glossary of terms to include in various languages.
7. North American Fire Danger Rating map is available at: <https://northamericanforestcommission.com/fire-management-and-forests/> in addition to agency websites.
8. Work Programme between CONAFOR, USFS/USAID and NORTHCOM:
  - a. Six activities have been proposed to be implemented between Mexico and the USFS with funding from NORTHCOM. It is planned for these activities to be implemented during the USA fiscal year 2023.
  - b. Six activities have been proposed to be implemented between Mexico and the USFS with funding from NORTHCOM. These activities will be implemented during the USA fiscal year 2024.

### III. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (done/ongoing)
Execute Trilateral Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Forum and expand it	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>Begin planning Autumn 2023</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Develop deployment guidelines to international assistance between North American Countries, Australia and New Zealand	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Latin America Women's Fire Management Workshop	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Rescheduled for 2024 (due to lack of funding)</i>	<i>Ongoing will expand to other countries</i>
Offer opportunities for broader engagement in bilateral skill development initiatives	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
Develop guidance and encourage/facilitate ongoing virtual knowledge exchange sessions	<i>tbc</i>	<i>Planning to begin in Fall 2023</i>	<i>tbc</i>
South American regional workshop is planned to discuss the development of an international wildfire classification system (crosswalk) to share resources in the region. Multiple countries from South America will participate with invites to Central American countries to observe.	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>March or April 2025</i>	<i>On going</i>
North American Fire Research Initiative	<i>tbc</i>	<i>2022-2023</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Develop a North American Fire Occurrence Database	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
Develop a multilingual, North American Fire Intelligence Pocket Guide as a cross-boundary briefing tool/resource. - Spanish and Portuguese Pocket Guide completed - Canada will complete French Pocket Guide	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>

### IV. WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS AND/OR NETWORKING

9. Members of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commissions (APFC) were invited to the fire management network (Australia and New Zealand) with the objective of exchanging knowledge and best practices.

### V. REQUEST FOR FUNDING

10. Mexico will submit a funding request to the USFS to finance the travel, food and lodging expenses of two representatives, who will participate in the annual meeting of the Fire Management Working Group (FMWG) in British Columbia, Canada on 23-27 October 2023.

### VI. CLOSING REMARKS

11. The FMWG will continue to actively support and participate in international fire management

programmes with fire management agencies throughout the world by developing and promoting activities that support international cooperation and development. It will promote and demonstrate equity, diversity, and inclusion in all fire management activities.