

Week of MIF Brasília - March 2017

Workshop on Fire Management by Indigenous and Traditional Peoples of South America

11 and 13 March 2017

Venue: Casa de Retiro Assunção, SHCN SGAN 611, Asa Norte, Brasília

Objective

This workshop seeks to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences on fire management among representatives of Indigenous peoples, quilombolas, and traditional communities in Brazil, Venezuela and Guyana, researchers, and public policy managers. The aim is to discuss the aspirations and expectations of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities on how to conduct fire actions within their territories. Another expected result of this workshop is the creation of a South American network of intercultural and participatory fire management.

Introduction of the problem and background

Indigenous peoples and traditional communities, whose territories are part of several biomes (Cerrado (savanna), Amazon and others in South America) use fire for various purposes (agriculture, hunting, fishing, collection, livestock, protection of forests, rituals, etc.) and have done so for a long time. For many years these practices have been ignored or banned in protected areas as part of environmental policies and standards related to fire adopted by states and governments. A few years ago, the "zero fire" paradigm began to be questioned as there was increasing recognition by scientists and public managers of the fact that fire can be managed and become an ally of environmental conservation. In fact, despite state fire-fighting policies, the incidence and severity of fires in several biomes in Brazil and other South American countries have increased in recent decades, with serious socio-environmental impacts. At the same time, it is perceived that "traditional" knowledge and practices of fire management are being lost and/or have changed significantly in recent years. Thus, there is a growing interest on the part of researchers and managers of environmental policies to understand and strengthen the fire management practices of Indigenous peoples, quilombolas, and other traditional communities. At the same time, the communities of these peoples, whose socio-cultural and environmental realities are undergoing profound changes in the general context of climate change, seek partnerships and alliances to manage fires that are becoming more difficult to control.

Since 2012, the Brazilian government¹ has sought to experiment and disseminate Integrated Fire Management (known as *MIF - Manejo Integrado do Fogo* in Portuguese) in the protected areas of the Cerrado (savanna), where fire is no longer seen as an element to be suppressed, but a tool for managing protected areas. This is mainly through the setting of prescribed fires at the end of the rainy season or the beginning of the dry season, to prevent large-scale fires from occurring at the end of the dry season. In this context, new interfaces between "scientific" and "traditional"

¹ In Brazil, since 2012, the Ministry of the Environment, IBAMA, ICMBio, INPE, Semarh Tocantins, Ruraltins and Naturatins have implemented the cooperation project "Prevention, control and monitoring of irregular fires and forest fires in the Cerrado", also known as the "Cerrado-Jalapão" project, funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety of Germany (BMUB) through technical (via GIZ) and financial (via KFW) cooperation with the Brazilian government. The objective of the Project is to improve integrated and adaptive fire management in selected areas of the Cerrado, and to develop fire and deforestation monitoring systems.

knowledge are being explored through the use of maps, calendars, community agreements, experimental² protocols, etc.

In July 2015, at the invitation of Jay Mistry (Geographer, Royal Holloway University of London, UK) and Bibiana Bilbao (Ecologist, Simón Bolívar University, Caracas, Venezuela), groups of researchers, Indigenous representatives and public managers from Venezuela, Guyana and Brazil, met in Parupa, Gran Sabana, Canaima National Park, Venezuela, to share ideas, experiences and challenges on the theme of "Intercultural and Participative Fire Management", creating the **Parupa Network of MIF (Participatory and Intercultural Fire Management)**. Coordinated by Vincenzo Lauriola (Socio-economist, National Research Institute of the Amazon, Boa Vista, Roraima), Brazilian participants included Indigenous people from Roraima and Mato Grosso, and representatives from IBAMA / Prevfogo and Instituto Socioambiental (ISA).

Between the 10 and 17 March 2017, a group of members of the **Parupa Network of MIF** will meet in Brasilia to continue the discussions on fire management, with the objective of broadening and deepening it through the exchange of knowledge and experiences with contributions of other interested actors from Brazil. Thanks to the positive dialogue maintained over the last year with Brazilian actors such as IBAMA / Prevfogo, FUNAI and the University of Brasilia, and their contributions to this event, we are happy to provide a programme of activities and invite interested individuals and organisations to participate.

In addition to pursuing the path of improvement and dissemination of Participatory and Intercultural Fire Management, another objective of this meeting is to begin the construction of a South American network for intercultural and participatory fire management.

Co-organisers-contributors

- Lara Steil, IBAMA/Prevfogo, Brazil
- Gabriella Guimarães, FUNAI/CGMT, Brazil
- Ludivine Eloy, CDS / Uuniversity of Brasilia, Brazil
- Vincenzo Lauriola, INPA/MCTIC, Brazil
- Jay Mistry, Royal Holloway University of London, UK
- Bibiana Bilbao, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Caracas, Venezuela
- Arnaldo Carneiro Filho, INPA, Brazil

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² Such initiatives also exist in other countries with fire-dependent ecosystems, such as Venezuela, Australia, France and Portugal.

Programme

Friday 10/03/2017

Arrival of participants in Brasilia - Accommodation at Casa de Retiro Assunção (CRA)

SHCN SGAN 611, Asa Norte

Saturday, 11/03/2017 - Workshop of the Parupa Network of MIF - Day 1

Meeting rooms of CRA

8h30-9h00	Arrival and registration of participants
9h00-10h30	Presentations: Parupa Network and other participants - background and motivations
10h30-11h00	Break
11h00-12h30	Follow-up presentations - Workshop objectives and methodologies
12h30-14h00	Lunch
14h00-15h30	Working Groups: Theme 1
15h00-15h30	Presentation of results: Theme 1
15h30-16h00	Break
16h00-17h00	Presentation of results: Theme 1
17h00 - 18h00	Discussion and presentation of Theme 2
19h30 - 21h00	Screening of films on fire management

Sunday, 12/03/2017 - Visit to Brasilia and Botanical Gardens

Monday, 13/03/2017 - Workshop of the Parupa Network of MIF - Day 2

8h30-10h00	Working Groups: Theme 2
10h00-10h30	Break
10h30-12h00	Presentation of results: Theme 2
12h30-12h30	Discussion of results and outputs to be finalised
12h30-14h00	Lunch
14h00 - 16h00	Finalisation of outputs and/or discussion of strategies and plans for South American MIF network
16h00- 16h30	Break
16h30-17h30	Final discussion and closing
17h30-18h00	Planning and logistics for 2-day field trip

Tuesday, 14/03/2017 - Wednesday, 15/03/2017 - Fieldtrip to Cavalcante, Goias

Thursday, 16/03/2017 – Seminar – CET/University of Brasilia

08h00-8h30	Arrival and registration of participants
08h30-09h00	Opening: Parupa Network, Prevfogo, University of Brasilia, FUNAI
09h00-10h00	Round Table: results of the workshop (1 representative per group/region)
10h00-10h20	Break
10h20-10h50	Presentation by Jay Mistry, Bibiana Bilbao (title to be confirmed)
10h50-11h20	Presentation by Isabel Schmidt (UNB): scientific basis of MIF in the Cerrado (savanna)
11h20-11h50	Presentation by Prevfogo about MIF initiatives in Indigenous Territories debate
11h50-12h20	Presentation by ICMbio: MIF initiatives in conservation units and relations with communities
12h20-14h00	Lunch
14h00-16h00	Debate: How can you promote dialogue between different knowledge systems for fire management?
16h00-16h30	Break
16h30-18h00	Recommendations and closing of seminar

Friday, 17/03/2017 – Departure of participants

Workshop methodology (11 and 13 March)

The workshop seeks to favour the participation of community representatives, who are developing fire management actions in their territory.

The discussions will be guided by two main themes, developed from guiding questions. Each theme will be discussed in small groups with the possible help of drawings and videos, and then presented to all the participants.

Theme 1. Perceptions of fire changes: Have you observed changes in the behaviour and use of fire in recent years? If so, what are the causes and consequences? In terms of ‘changes’, consider changes in practices and behaviours of the fire, but also challenges and opportunities, such as policies, projects and experiences of management, climatic changes, etc.

Theme 2. Perspectives and action plans: Debate on concerns, expectations and development of action plans for a South American Network for the intercultural and participatory management of fire. How do participants assess the prospects of improving fire management in their regions? What needs to be done? Have members of the Parupa Network succeeded (or not) in advancing the plans drawn up in July 2015? Plans from 2017 onwards?