



EU-LAC Policy Dialogue Support Facility

Support to wildfire management in the Amazon and LAC region

Kick-off meeting

Place: Zoom

Date: 04/03/2021

Time: 15.00-17.00 CET

The meeting followed the proposed agenda, with three main topics of discussion:

1. Introduction by the Heads of Unit of JRC E1 (Disaster Risk Management), A3 (Inter-Institutional and International Relations and Outreach) and Head of Division of EEAS Americas 3 (South America)
2. Presentation of the initiative (JRC E1)
3. Presentation of the outreach campaign (FPI/ EU-LAC Policy Dialogue Support Facility)

1. Introduction

Alessandra Zampieri, Head of Unit JRC E1, welcomed the participants to the kick-off meeting. She presented JRC scope as the European Commission's science and knowledge service that supports EU policies with independent scientific evidence through the whole policy cycle.

She explained that wildfire management is a component of the Copernicus EU Program, and the importance of this initiative. It is estimated that wildfires yearly burn 400 million hectares worldwide and in the Amazon 76 million hectares yearly. She stressed the importance of addressing this situation that causes huge environmental impact and human loss.

She highlighted the importance of JRC supporting the EU Delegations and countries in the Amazon and LAC region to replicate successful EU models.

Emanuela Bellan, Head of Unit JRC A3, restated the strategic importance of replicating these successful EU initiatives in the Amazon and LAC region, and remarked that this is the first project backed by the EU-LAC PDSF to support the EU Green Deal in the region, the EU-LAC informal meeting at ministerial level of December 2020 and EU-CELAC cooperation on research and innovation.

She expressed the need to guarantee sustainability by ensuring the effectiveness of the actions and creating ownership of the Amazon countries. In this context, the role of EUDEL contact points will be essential by giving EU Delegations the power to pass key messages on the ground.

She informed that JRC will provide technical knowledge and scientific support, and simultaneously, showcase and ensure that this project contributes to both the overall action of the EU and the extended dialogues in the LAC.



EU-LAC Policy Dialogue Support Facility

Veronique Lorenzo, Head of Division EEAS Americas 3, remarked on the importance of sharing inhouse expertise by putting it in practice through very concrete examples: wildfire management aligned with the EU policies.

She referred to the importance of the Amazon as a key factor for the EU-MERCOSUR agreement, which is an essential priority for the EU. These activities can contribute to coherence-building, which fits within a number of key EU policies such as the Green Deal, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, etc.

Furthermore, she mentioned that this project has an extra added value that consists of international showcasing based on expertise that at the same time, creates a positive cooperation not only between the EU and LAC but also among the LAC countries and even other international organisations.

2. Presentation of the initiative

Jesus San-Miguel, Project Manager of the initiative, remarked that JRC has wide long-term expertise in wildfire assessment and monitoring, which led to the implementation of successful initiatives on a EU scale with worldwide relevance.

Among some of these initiatives, JRC developed the **European Forest Fire Information System** (EFFIS) that acts as the basis for all EU policy decisions regarding wildfire management. He mentioned that JRC created the **European Union Expert Group on Forest Fires** (EGFF) for coordinating wildfire management activities at European level.

JRC will promote these successful EU initiatives during the next 18 months to the Amazon and LAC region with the strategic collaboration of the EU Delegations through encourage participation of counterparts in each country to the Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS) and the support to the creation of an expert group on wildfire management in the Amazon and LAC region.

The expected role of the EU Delegations is that of:

- (1) Being the contact point for JRC & EEAS in each country in relation to the EU wildfire management project,
- (2) Providing the contacts and liaise with the relevant fire management services in each country in order promote the initiative and have them actively involved in the next phases of the project
- (3) Liaising with other fire-related activities on which the Delegation is working in each country, to ensure coordination with future actions around the LAC – Expert Group on Forest Fires (LAC-EGFF)

3. Presentation of the outreach campaign

Simona Obreja, Team Leader of the EU-LAC PDSF, presented the FPI funded Action and the support that will be provided to the project. She explained that the first step consists of implementing an outreach campaign and will be followed by support the creation of an Expert Group on wildfire management in the Amazon and LAC region.

This campaign addresses key stakeholders on wildfire management with the aim of enhancing the knowledge on EU successful initiatives and sensitising on the benefits of adapting these initiatives in the Amazon and LAC region.

3. Questions and answers





EU-LAC Policy Dialogue Support Facility

- After the initial 18 months of the JRC's wildfire management project, the continuity of its activities will be ensured through Team Europe (INPA).
- Management and characteristics of the expert group are still to be defined together with the LAC experts on wildfire management in the Amazon and LAC region.
- It is important to involve FAO and other international organizations such as ACTO, UNEP, etc. to create synergies with other similar initiatives and avoid overlaps.
- GWIS is compatible with other national systems and flexible to be adapted. Interoperability of the system with other national/regional systems is guaranteed.
- Cooperation and articulation is needed with other functioning initiatives that may exist in the countries, such as the Green Climate Fund.

4. Next steps

3.1. EU Services

JRC will work in close collaboration with the EU Delegations to develop a stakeholders mapping, of strategic importance for implementing the proposed activities. The stakeholders mapping will mainly target institutional wildfire management services in the Amazon and LAC countries.

3.2. EU-LAC PDSF team

The EU-LAC PDSF team will develop outreach material consisting of a technical and visibility toolkit, and content for GWIS project website by April 12, 2021.

5. Documents

Two presentations explaining the project and the implementation of the outreach campaign, attached to the minutes.



EU-LAC Policy Dialogue Support Facility

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

DG ECHO, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

DG ENV, Environment

DG DEFIS, Defense Industry and Space

DG INTPA, International Partnerships

DG JRC, Joint Research Centre

DR RTD, Research and Innovation

EEAS Americas

EU Delegation ARGENTINA

EU Delegation BOLIVIA

EU Delegation BRAZIL

EU Delegation CHILE

EU Delegation COLOMBIA

EU Delegation ECUADOR

EU Delegation GUYANA & SURINAME

EU Delegation PARAGUAY

EU Delegation PERU

EU Delegation URUGUAY

EU Delegation VENEZUELA

FPI, Foreign Policy Instruments

FPI EU-LAC Policy Dialogue Support Facility

Other organizations

Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS)

....