

# DIALOGUE ON WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

## COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES

The European Union (EU), through its Joint Research Centre, a science and knowledge center that provides scientific advice and supports EU policies, has comprehensive long-term expertise in facing global challenges, such as wildfires.

The Joint Research Centre, in collaboration with other EU services, developed the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) and established the Expert Group on Forest Fires (EGFF), which are currently under the umbrella of Copernicus – the EU's Earth Observation Programme.

**EFFIS and EGFF are instruments to prevent and tackle wildfires from a regional perspective, in line with the EU Green Deal and the Digital Transition Strategy.** These initiatives promote collaboration between countries on the basis of harmonised information collected in EFFIS and the exchange of good practices through the EGFF, both of which contribute to forest and ecosystem resilience and to the mitigation of wildfires.

## GWIS: COLLECTS COMPARABLE DATA ON A GLOBAL SCALE

The Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS) processes multiple data sources, including satellite imagery, and converts them into real-time information on wildfire management, convergent to different national systems.

**GWIS is a joint initiative of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the EU Copernicus Programme. It brings together existing information sources at national and regional levels to provide a comprehensive overview and evaluation of fire regimes and fire effects on a global scale.**

GWIS's compatibility with national systems makes it a flexible and adaptable tool for specific methodologies and needs. As such, the system can promote international collaboration in the LAC region through harmonised data in support of regional policies.

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE AMONG EXPERTS

A regional group of experts on wildfire management in LAC would increase the capacity to prevent the full cycle of fires in the region. Acting as knowledge exchange platform, this group would use information from national systems, complemented with data from GWIS, to converge and share essential information and lessons learned on wildfire management with other countries.

The EU and LAC regions both have extensive expertise in wildfire management. **By creating an expert group on wildfire management, countries can share essential wildfire management knowledge and work together towards establishing a comprehensive and comparable database on wildfires.**

To learn more, please visit <https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>



European Union funded initiative

# In 2020, more than 200,000 wildfires broke out in Latin America

destroying unique ecosystems, such as the Amazon. Wildfires are raging in many regions of the world. It is estimated that wildfires burn 400 million hectares (ha) worldwide each year, resulting in significant human, environmental and economic losses. The need to address this global issue requires the implementation of instruments that improve international collaboration among countries, which is a core element of this dialogue between the EU and LAC.



## EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

The EU and LAC experts on wildfire management will have access to:

- Efficient instruments for increasing fire prevention and enhancing preparedness for forest fires.
- Data for designing regional policies on forestry and fire management.
- Flexible monitoring and early warning methods that can be adapted to national systems.
- An established network of national fire experts to enhance national and international wildfire management and monitoring capacity.
- Reliable tools to manage and monitor the full fire cycle in real time, starting with a fire danger forecast and ending with the analysis of post-fire vegetation regeneration.