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NEWSLETTER #3

*This quarterly newsletter is funded by the **European Union** through the **Amazonia+** program and serves to inform partners and stakeholders in the 8 countries of the Amazon region about strategic activities carried out as part of the program.*



## Second annual meeting of Amazonia+ (February 11-12)

The second annual Amazonia+ meeting was held in Brasilia at the ACTO headquarters with the goal of presenting the results achieved in 2024 and identifying priorities and possible actions to be carried out in the countries of the Amazon region in 2025.



The event was attended by 53 people, including two specialist delegates from each amazonian country, as well as representatives from ACTO, COICA, INTPA, the program Secretariat, the three implementing agencies, and representatives from the embassies of eight amazonian countries to ACTO.

The amazonian countries agreed to strengthen regional collaboration on fire management and forest governance, highlighting the importance of cross-border training and the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. These actions seek to improve forest management, protect natural resources, and promote sustainability in the region.

## Cross-border courses for wildland fire crews (February 18-27)

As part of regional efforts to prevent and control wildland fires, Ecuador held two cross-border fire brigade training courses in the provinces of Loja and Carchi, bordering Peru and Colombia, respectively.

A total of 16 representatives from local communities and institutions participated in the training sessions, held from February 18 to 27, where they received basic training in Integrated Fire Management (IFM), covering topics such as fire behavior, controlled fire techniques and prevention. This initiative was supported by the Pau Costa Foundation, the *Amazonía Sin Fuego* (Amazon without Fire) program, government agencies in Ecuador and Colombia, and the Italian Embassy.



<https://youtu.be/rqhOESlw6lo?si=pbW3IMTs-nKONX4t>

## Regional wildland fire crew training is being promoted during the BREMIF 2025 cycle (March 24–April 4).

Ecuador kicked off the 2025 training cycle in Integrated Fire Management (IFM) with three strategic courses from the BREMIF program focused on strengthening regional capacities for wildland fire prevention and control. Among these, the BREMIF 16 course stands out, held from March 24 to 29 in Latacunga, where 30 park rangers and firefighters participated in 60 hours of theoretical and practical training. Simultaneously, the third BREMIF Leaders course was held, featuring representatives from five Amazonian countries and focusing on community leadership and territorial fire management.

This work, carried out in coordination with national and international institutions, marks the end of the BREMIF 2025 cycle, consolidating a regional and intercultural approach for sustainable fire management in the Amazon.

## Amazonian countries reinforce cooperation to investigate and prosecute wildland arson (March 10-14)



Representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru participated in an intensive course on information management and the prosecution of wildland arson held from March 10 to 14 at the Spanish Cooperation Training Center in Cartagena.

Organized in collaboration with Spain's MITECO (Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge), the training was led by the Forest Fires Assessment and Advisory Team (FAST). The participants received training in data analysis, forensic techniques, and practical simulations, including the use of a fire simulation table.

The Spanish Civil Guard also conducted workshops on preventive intelligence and operational interviews. This activity is part of MITECO's 2024–2026 Training Plan, which seeks to strengthen the legal and preventive response to fires in the Amazon region.

<https://www.fiap.gob.es/noticias/los-paises-amazonicos-unidos-frente-a-los-incendios-forestales/>

## Amazonia+ promotes environmental protection during the third Regional Forum on Human Rights Defenders (April 7-10)



The Amazonia+ program actively participated in the third Regional Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters through an *Action Hub*.

During the Forum, which addressed the situation of leaders and communities protecting the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, Amazonia+ reported on progress made in gender, youth leadership, and environmental rights training in the eight Amazonian countries. Amazonia+ also supported the participation of indigenous leader Jamner Manihuari, from COICA, who shared experiences of territorial defense.

The Forum's contributions will serve as a basis for COP4 of the Escazú Agreement, scheduled for 2026, reaffirming Amazonia+'s commitment to territorial governance, human rights, and sustainability in the region.



## International webinar showcases best practices in fire management in protected areas in Latin America and Europe (April 23)

In commemoration of World Water Day, the first webinar in the series of cooperation between RedParques and EUROPARC was held, focusing on Integrated Fire Management (IFM) in protected areas. The virtual event brought together 210 participants from Latin America. Experts from 52 institutions in countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Germany, and Ecuador shared experiences on wildland fire prevention, response, and recovery, highlighting IFM as a key tool for conservation and ecological resilience.

This meeting marks the beginning of a technical and sustainable collaboration agenda between protected areas on both continents, which will include future webinars, in-person exchanges and a memorandum of understanding.

## Amazonian governors consolidate regional agenda on climate change and deforestation

Under the leadership of UNGRD (National Unit for Disaster Risk Management), a strategic summit was held that brought together the governors of Colombia's six amazonian departments, who agreed on a common agenda to address climate change, deforestation, and risk management. The governors of the departments of Amazonas, Caquetá, Guaviare, Guainía, Putumayo, and Vaupés signed a political declaration focused on integrated fire management, reducing deforestation, and coordinating environmental policies, which will be presented at the next GCF Task Force Assembly in Brazil.

The meeting also explored the integration of these territories into international climate cooperation networks, strengthening access to financing and strategic partnerships for forest protection.



<https://anpnoticias.com/para-enfrentar-la-crisis-climatica-y-fortalecer-la-conservacion-forestal-ungrd-lidero-cumbre-de-gobernadores-amazonicos/>

## 2nd RAMIF Regional Meeting in Ecuador (April 28–30)

The second meeting of the Amazonian Network for Integrated Fire Management (RAMIF) was held with the participation of 50 delegates from amazonian countries and international organizations. The objective was to coordinate actions to combat wildland fires in the Amazon basin.

Ecuador, as pro tempore president of RAMIF, led the event alongside ACTO and the Amazonia+ program, promoting a regional agenda based on Integrated Fire Management (IFM). The RAMIF's 2025–2026 Biannual Operational Plan was presented, and progress was made in creating a mutual support mechanism for forest emergencies.



The meeting concluded with a shared roadmap and a commitment by the countries to act jointly in international forums such as COP30, reaffirming the European Union's support through the Amazonia+ program.

## New publication - "Wildland Fire Crews: Capacity-Building Strategies for Wildland Fires Management in Amazonian Countries"

This publication is the result of the *Rapid diagnosis of the current state of wildland fire crews training and local fire management planning in amazonian countries*.



It showcases lessons learned and a roadmap aimed at harmonizing wildland fire crew training programs in the region, as well as strengthening institutional capacities for the development of local integrated fire management plans. The objective is to contribute to strengthening regional cooperation in integrated fire management (IFM).

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