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NEWSLETTER #4

*This quarterly newsletter is funded by the **European Union** through the **Amazon+ 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.*



Training on Forest Fire Analysis in LAC. Santa Cruz, Bolivia (May 19–23)

Representatives from nine Latin American countries met in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, for specialized training aimed at strengthening the fight against wildfires. The event was organized by the European Union with the support of the Amazon+ program. As part of the activities of the Group of Experts on Forest Fires (GEFF LAC), this event addressed prevention strategies, landscape management, and traditional use of fire in response to the increasing number of wildfires in the region. International experts shared technical knowledge to improve the response capacity to the effects of climate change.

<https://www.fiap.gob.es/noticias/9-paises-de-la-cuenca-amazonica-y-america-latina-y-el-caribe-se-unen-para-frenar-los-incendios-forestales/>



Workshop on the Subnational Public Policy Exchange Mechanism for Sustainable Environmental Management, Rio Branco, Brazil (May 19–23)

As part of the annual meeting of the GCF Task Force, this workshop brought together governors, environment secretaries, and forest experts from Amazonian subnational governments. This event was an opportunity to present and further develop the design of a new Regional Cooperation

Mechanism aimed at facilitating the exchange of experiences on key issues such as combating deforestation, sustainable forest management, climate resilience, and the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). This space contributes to building joint agendas for a more sustainable and resilient Amazon.

EGIIF Ecuador 2025 Education and Awareness-raising (May 29)

This session presented the results of the Ecuador Forest Fire Management Team (EGIIF) project, which was implemented over a two-month period to enhance response and prevention capacity for wildfires and to promote a culture of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Ecuador. The event was organized by the Pau Costa Foundation, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, and the Amazon+ program.

https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/library/proyecto-egiif-en-ecuador_en?refqid=250150

Intercultural Dialogues on Integrated Fire Management. Leticia, Colombia (June 5-7)

The city of Leticia, in the Colombian Amazon, hosted the Intercultural Dialogue on Integrated Fire Management, an event that brought together Indigenous Peoples, rural communities, and Afro-descendant groups, along with authorities, academia, and international cooperation actors.



Delegations from six Amazonian countries shared knowledge on the traditional use of fire as a tool for community life, ecosystem conservation, and fire prevention, underscoring the importance of integrating this ancestral knowledge into fire management policies.

The event addressed issues such as the role of women, community governance, and the development of public policies with an intercultural approach.

In addition, the Amazon+ program and Expertise France stressed the importance of incorporating gender perspectives and environmental rights into forest governance, promoting an intercultural, generational, and territorial vision with indigenous leadership in fire management across the Amazon.

<https://www.fiap.gob.es/noticias/dialogo-intercultural-sobre-el-manejo-del-fuego-en-la-amazonia-una-apuesta-nacional-con-escala-regional-apoyada-por-el-programa-amazonia/>

Integrated Wildfire Management Strategy (June 10)

In June, the Pau Costa Foundation launched a project in Bolivia that will run until April 2026 in the Chiquitanía region of Santa Cruz. Its objective is to strengthen local capacities for prevention, planning, and response to forest fires through a territorial strategy based on strategic zoning and aligned with public policies.

The first actions have already started in the municipality of Roboré, with progress in territorial planning and inter-institutional training. Further activities will include technical assistance and the updating of training materials during the 2025 wildfire season.

This project is supported by FIAP within the framework of the Amazon+ program.

Participation of Amazon+ in the FAO Global Fire Management Hub, Rome (June 12)

Within the framework of the FAO Global Fire Management Hub, ACTO and the Amazon+ program co-organized a side event where the Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management (RAMIF) was presented. The Indigenous elder Lucinda Vargas, a Tikuna guard from Km 11 of Leticia and a member of the transnational indigenous brigades, played a prominent role as a local representative. The event also featured interventions from Zhimin Wu, Director of the FAO Forestry Division, and Vanesa Grazziotin, Executive Director of ACTO. Representing Ecuador's Ministry of Environment, Daniel Segura presented the progress of RAMIF and stressed the need for greater operational coordination among Amazonian countries in addressing the challenge of fire management.

Forest Degradation in the Amazon (June 26)

A regional webinar brought together representatives of Amazonian countries and international organizations to strengthen knowledge and response to forest degradation in the Amazon. The activity was convened by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), with the support of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Amazon+ program, funded by the European Union.



The event served as an opportunity for the exchange of experiences, concepts, tools, and challenges related to forest and biodiversity protection, as well as the restoration and recovery of degraded areas in the region.

RedParques: Similarities and Differences Between Sustainable Forest Management Models in Protected Areas (June 28)

This dialogue space analyzed forest management approaches in different protected areas of the region, underscoring shared lessons and specific challenges. The event was promoted by RedParques with the support of the Amazon+ program.

Consolidation of the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism and Challenges for the Amazon at COP 30. Cobija, Bolivia (July 2–3)

The city of Cobija, in the Bolivian Amazon, welcomed a meeting that convened representatives of Indigenous Peoples, government authorities, and international organizations to consolidate the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism and prepare for their participation in COP 30 on climate change. The event, organized by ACTO with the support of Amazon+ and Expertise France, marked a key step toward more inclusive, sustainable, and intercultural regional governance. During the meeting, various discussions addressed issues such as the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights, the incorporation of a gender perspective, the protection of ecosystems, and the promotion of development models that respect Amazonian cultures and territories.



Challenges in Consolidating the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism of ACTO (July 15)

During the 18th session of the UN Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the side event "Challenges in Consolidating the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism of ACTO" was held. The activity was organized by ACTO, the ILO, and the Permanent Mission of Bolivia, with the support of the Amazon+ program and the technical assistance of Expertise France.

The meeting sought to present progress in the development of this Mechanism, in line with the commitments made in the Belém Declaration.

The event also promoted the exchange of experiences and best practices to ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples in international governance. This exchange made it possible to identify challenges and strengthen coordination among Indigenous Peoples, governments, and multilateral organizations, with the aim of building Amazonian governance that is more inclusive, representative, and respectful of collective rights.

Inclusion and Participation of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples in Forest Governance and Conservation: Comparisons Between Europe and the Amazon Region (July 23)

As part of the activities of REDPARQUES, and in collaboration with the Amazon+ program, FAO, and Europarc, 50 attendees from Amazonian countries gathered in a webinar held on July 23.



The Amazon+ Program Approves Six New Local Initiatives for Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Amazon Region

We are pleased to announce that the Amazon+ program has approved six new Third-Party Financial Support (AFT) pilot projects aimed at strengthening community-led initiatives in Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador. These pilot projects seek to restore ecosystems, reduce wildfires, foster sustainable production, and reinforce local governance in key Amazonian territories. A total amount of €372,000 was granted to grassroots organizations committed to sustainable development and socio-environmental resilience in the Amazon.



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