

# RAMIF's Newsletter

4th Edition - June 2026



Dear reader,

Climate projections associated with the **El Niño** phenomenon continue to warn of possible extreme scenarios in the Amazon, such as prolonged droughts, lower river levels, and increased risk of large-scale forest fires. According to the [Amazon Regional Observatory \(ORA\)](#) of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), various analyses agree on the need to strengthen monitoring, preparedness and coordinated response to fire-related emergencies.

In this context, this edition of the bulletin presents advances promoted by the Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management (RAMIF) of ACTO, such as the approval of the **Operational Understanding** for Preparedness and Timely Response to Forest Fire, an instrument that reinforces cooperation and mutual assistance among the eight Amazonian countries in the face of emergencies and cross-border events.

The edition also addresses the **ExpoMIF**, a regional platform for the exchange and exchange of Good Practices in fire management, which culminated in an in-person meeting in Colombia with more than 50 concrete cooperation agreements between institutions, experiences and international actors.

Likewise, this edition presents ACTO's progress in regional interoperability and capacity building with an IFM approach, including the **Regional IFM and Forest Fire Fighting Program in the Amazon, financed by the German Development Bank (KfW)**.

Finally, an invitation to learn about new publications and tools on resilience, regional cooperation and fire culture is included.

Enjoy reading!

## Amazon Countries Approve Operational Understanding for Forest Fire Preparedness and Response

*The mechanism strengthens cooperation and mutual assistance among the eight Amazonian countries to respond in a coordinated manner to cross-border forest fires and other associated emergencies.*



Photo: Frida Montalván/ACTO

In March 2026, within the framework of RAMIF's activities, the **"Operational Understanding (OU) on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance among the ACTO Member Countries (MC) for Preparedness and Timely Response to Forest Fire in the Amazon Region"** was technically approved.

The instrument represents one of the main regional advances in terms of interoperability for **coordinated wildfires response** and was the result of a technical and diplomatic process developed since the end of 2024 among ACTO MC. Throughout this period, countries participated in technical meetings, regional workshops and negotiation forums.

The OU seeks to facilitate coordination between Amazonian countries when the magnitude of forest fires requires a joint response.

Among other aspects, it includes mechanisms for institutional coordination, exchange of operational information and technical support.

One of the main instruments established within the framework of the aforementioned Understanding is the **Forest Fire Response Committee (CRIF)**, which is responsible for supporting the development of technical instruments, operational procedures and regional coordination mechanisms to strengthen preparedness and response to this type of emergency.

Currently, ACTO and its MC, with the support of cooperating partners, such as the CoAmazonia Project, of the German Cooperation (GIZ) and Switzerland (COSUDE); the Amazonía+ Program, of the European Union; and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Fire Management Hub, are making progress in the establishment and operationalization of the CRIF and other instruments derived from the EO, with the aim of strengthening regional fire preparedness and response capacity.

## Meeting Advances Interoperability for Fire Management in the Amazon Region

*Representatives of governments, international organizations and technical partners met in Brasilia to strengthen regional mechanisms for cooperation and mutual assistance in the face of forest fires.*



Photo: Frida Montalván/ACTO

From March 9 to 13, 2026, the Permanent Secretariat (PS) of ACTO, in Brasilia, hosted the **"Workshop on Interoperability, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance for Preparedness and Response to Forest Fire in Latin America and the Caribbean"**, with the aim of strengthening technical and operational coordination in the face of cross-border forest fires.

The Meeting was organized in coordination between the RAMIF of ACTO, the Global Fire Management Hub (FAO) and the Group of Experts on Forest Fires in Latin America and the Caribbean (GEFF LAC), of the European Union.

Throughout the week, delegations worked in different working groups to align approaches, tools, and procedures aimed at **strengthening regional cooperation on cross-border forest fires**. The discussions ranged from standards and coordination mechanisms to mapping capacities, resources and inputs for the joint response between countries.

In parallel, ACTO MC held technical discussions related to the Operational Understanding for forest fire preparedness and response within the framework of RAMIF, already addressed in the previous article of this edition.

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The event concluded with a plenary session aimed at presenting recommendations, identifying next steps and **moving towards a regional roadmap on interoperability, cooperation and mutual assistance in IFM.**

*The meeting also had the technical and financial support of the CoRAmazonia Project of the German Cooperation (GIZ) and Switzerland (SDC); the Amazonia+ Program, of the European Union; and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).*

## ExpoMIF Connects Good Practices and Culminates in Face-to-Face Meeting in Colombia

*RAMIF's initiative brings together experiences to promote the exchange of knowledge in a face-to-face meeting in Colombia, culminating in the signing of concrete cooperation agreements.*



Illustration: Fernanda Barral/GIZ consultant

The "**ExpoMIF**" is a methodology and digital platform aimed at promoting initiatives and **Good Practices in IFM in the Amazon**. The project was developed within the scope of ACTO, through RAMIF and ORA. Its official launch took place in February 2026, during a virtual event that brought together representatives of governments, communities, international cooperation agencies and specialists in the field.

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The process reached a key milestone in April 2026 with the face-to-face event in Villavicencio, where representatives of **54 selected Good Practices**, from 10 countries, participated in spaces for exchange, dialogue and technical articulation.

This meeting made it possible to transform the exchange of experiences into concrete results of voluntary regional cooperation, including the **construction of 56 agreements** among the participants. Among them, technical cooperation initiatives, methodological and experience exchange, capacity building, as well as institutional and financial coordination actions were highlighted.

Currently, ACTO and its allies are making progress in monitoring and accompanying the agreements established during ExpoMIF, as well as in the development of new content — such as interviews and podcasts — aimed at expanding the dissemination of shared experiences and commitments made. These actions contribute to the **strengthening of the regional exchange network on IFM**.



Photos: CoRAMazonia Project/GIZ

*The initiative is organized within the framework of RAMIF and ORA, both instances of ACTO, and promoted by the German Cooperation (GIZ) and the Swiss Cooperation (SDC), through the CoRAMazonia Project. It also has the support of strategic allies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through the FiRe project and the Global Fire Management Hub; the Amazonia+ Program, of the European Union; the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) of Colombia.*

## Amazon Countries Conclude Regional Adaptation of the Forest Fire Prevention Backpack with a Focus on IFM

*The tool incorporates elements of the IFM to strengthen prevention, community awareness, and territorial management in the Amazon.*

Technical representatives from Amazonian countries met in Bogotá, Colombia, on April 23 and 24, 2026 to conclude the regional adaptation of the **"Forest Fire Prevention Backpack with an Integrated Fire Management (IFM) focus"**. The technology was developed by Peru's Supervisory Agency for Forest and Wildlife Resources (OSINFOR) as a participatory methodology for territorial awareness-raising. On this basis, the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP), also Peruvian, incorporated specific forest fire prevention content aimed at rural communities.

Within the framework of RAMIF, with funding and technical support from the CoRAMazonia project, of the German Cooperation (GIZ) and the Swiss Cooperation (COSUDE), the tool was updated between 2025 and 2026 to strengthen its application in the **Amazon**. The adaptation was built with SERNANP, the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama), the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) of Colombia and the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE) of Ecuador, with contributions from the National Fire Management Service (SNMF) of Argentina, the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) of Chile and the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) of Mexico.



Photo: Wilder Canales/SERNANP

During the meeting, the final contents were validated and the tool was officially delivered by OSINFOR and SERNANP. With this update, **RAMIF strengthens regional capacities for forest fire prevention and IFM in the Amazon.**

## ACTO Participates in Forest Governance Laboratory for Resilience to Wildfires in Ecuador



ACTO's PS participated in the **"International Workshop of the Wildfire Action Accelerator: Forest Governance Laboratory for Resilience to Wildfires"**, held from April 14 to 16, 2026 in Puenbo, Ecuador. The event aimed to exchange experiences and strengthen regional cooperation in the face of the growing risk of wildfires in tropical regions.

Government representatives, international organizations, civil society and specialists addressed issues related to strengthening fire governance, integrating IFM into climate and forest policies, recognizing traditional knowledge and leadership of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as sustainable financing mechanisms and regional cooperation.

The Permanent Secretariat highlighted the progress made by its MC through RAMIF, as well as the importance of strengthening interoperability, technical exchange, and regional coordination to promote preventive, comprehensive, and resilient approaches to forest fires in the Amazon.

In addition, the Republic of Ecuador, which holds the Pro Tempore Presidency (PPT) of the Network, officially <sup>Photo: PS/ACTO</sup> launched its **"National Strategy for Integrated Fire Management"** aimed at guiding the IFM to reduce forest fires, promote the appropriate use of fire and guarantee environmental conservation through inter-institutional coordination.

The Workshop, convened by the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Ecuador, was supported by the international initiative Wildfire Action Accelerator, presented during COP30 that seeks to accelerate prevention, climate resilience and territorial governance actions against forest fires, promoting inclusive approaches and South-South cooperation among tropical forest countries.

## Regional IFM Program in the Amazon

The Regional Program for IFM and Fighting Forest Fires in the Amazon, financed by the German Development Bank (KfW) and executed by ACTO, with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), is preparing to launch a call to **support initiatives in Amazonian territories**. The call will be aimed at projects focused on the strengthening and systematization of IFM practices, covering their technical, ecological and sociocultural dimensions, and should contribute to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Integrated Fire Management among ACTO MC.

As part of the preparatory actions for the program, IICA and ACTO are preparing the terms of reference for the reception of project proposals on IFM, which is scheduled to be launched in July 2026. Likewise, within the framework of its component 2, the Program has a series of activities aimed at supporting the implementation and strengthening of the 2024-2026 Biennial Work Plan of the ACTO RAMIF..



Photos: Programa Amazonía Sin Fuego/Ecuador



Photo: Mayangdi Inzaulgarat Suárez/Ibama

## From Wildfire Risk to Resilience: The Investment Case for Action (World Economic Forum)

The World Economic Forum published the report From Wildfire Risk to Resilience: The Investment Case for Action, a publication that analyzes the growing impact of wildfires worldwide and the need to expand investments aimed at prevention, preparedness, recovery and resilience.

The paper **brings together data, trends, and case studies to highlight how wildfires pose a growing challenge** to governments, economies, and ecosystems, while proposing integrated approaches and financing mechanisms to strengthen risk management and climate adaptation.

Available (in English) [here](#).

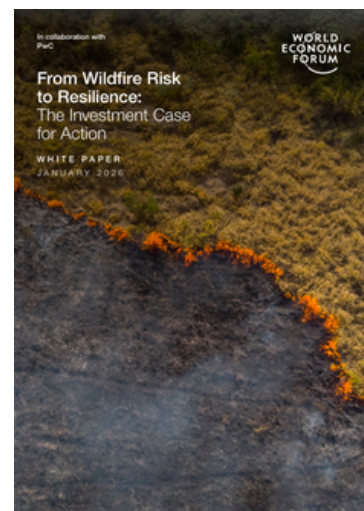


Photo: World Economic Forum

## Ancestral Knowledge for a Resilient Amazon: The Role of Fire Culture in Forest Fire Management (IDB)

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) published an article on the role of fire culture and ancestral knowledge in territorial management and climate resilience in the Amazon. The publication highlights how indigenous peoples and traditional communities have developed historical practices related to the use of fire, providing relevant perspectives for the construction of more inclusive, intercultural and **IFM strategies adapted to Amazonian territories**.

The article also includes a [video](#) developed in the context of the Culture and Community Fire Management meetings held in 2025, an initiative that was later presented during COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

Available (in Spanish) [here](#).

## Mutual Aid for Fighting Forest Fires in Latin America and the Caribbean: Experiences, Comparative Analysis and Recommendations (IDB)

The IDB publication brings together **regional experiences** of cooperation and mutual assistance in the face of forest fires, presenting lessons and coordination mechanisms applied in different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The document analyzes international cooperation frameworks, operational mechanisms, and experiences of joint emergency response, offering **relevant inputs to strengthen interoperability and regional coordination in forest fire management**.

Available (in Spanish) [here](#).



Photo: IDB

*This bulletin is part of the efforts to articulate and disseminate knowledge promoted by the Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management (RAMIF), with the aim of strengthening regional cooperation and the exchange of experiences among the eight Amazonian countries.*

*Its development has the support of the **CoRAmazonia Project**, promoted by the German Cooperation (GIZ) and Switzerland (SDC), within the framework of its actions to promote Integrated Fire Management in the Amazon.*

*Through these initiatives, the project seeks to contribute to a more coordinated, preventive and sustainable management of fire, in response to the growing socio-environmental challenges of the region.*