



**7<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference**  
**Facing Fire in a Changing World: Reducing Vulnerability of People and Landscapes by**  
**Integrated Fire Management**

Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, 28 October - 1 November 2019

**Campo Grande Statement**  
**“Building Sustainable and Fire-Resilient Societies and Landscapes”**  
1 November 2019

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference “Facing Fire in a Changing World: Reducing Vulnerability of People and Landscapes by Integrated Fire Management” took place in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, between 28 October and 1 November 2019. The conference was attended by more than a thousand government officials, scientists, practitioners, the private sector and civil society from 37 countries, and by UN agencies and other international and regional organizations. The International Wildland Fire Conferences were initiated in 1989 in the United States of America and hosted in Canada, Australia, Spain, South Africa and South Korea since then. The 7<sup>th</sup> conference in Brazil evaluated three decades of international cooperation facilitated by these conferences, their aim to create a global science-policy-practitioners interface, the achievements and the gaps in fire management globally.

In response to fire and smoke episodes, people around the world are becoming concerned about wildfires.<sup>1</sup> The participants of the conference confirmed that in many regions of the world, wildfires are a growing threat to communities and to natural, cultural, rural, urban and industrial landscapes. The problem is increasing due to the consequences of social, economic and ecological change (land-use change, demographic change, ecosystem degradation), as well as climate change. This is impacting human health and security and resulting in the loss of public and private assets, including critical infrastructure. Current risk governance and institutional arrangements are inadequate to cope with this growing trend. Cross-sectoral approaches are required.

The paradigm of addressing the problem through individual and disconnected services and actions in fire prevention or suppression should be reframed. Unified and integral planning must ensure and strengthen societal, environmental and economic resilience to landscape fires by addressing:

- Risk governance and ownership
- Dialogue of knowledge, including traditional and indigenous knowledge
- Gender, diversity and inclusion
- Socio-economic innovation in rural landscapes, favoring nature-based solutions
- Strengthening local action
- Creation of resilient ecosystems and communities

Decision-making must be evidence-based and supported by monitoring and evaluation systems. Implementation should be coherent, cohesive and coordinated.

The integrated cross-sectoral approach described above supports the Sustainable Development Goals, the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This approach would be further strengthened by an appropriate United Nations instrument.

It is expected that during the forthcoming years tangible results in the policy arenas will be reached and reported back to the next International Wildland Fire Conference, which will be held tentatively in 2023.

The conference participants thanked the Government of Brazil, the State of Mato Grosso do Sul and the city of Campo Grande for hosting the conference and congratulated IBAMA and Prevfogo for preparing and organizing the conference. The conference participants welcomed the offer of Portugal to host the 8<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference in 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> Other terms such as landscape fires, vegetation fire, bushfire, forest fire, grass fire or peat fire are also used to describe the same phenomenon depending on the type of vegetation burned. The term “wildfire” is used when fires are unwanted and unplanned.