REPORT ExpoMIF 2026

EXHIBITION OF BEST PRACTICES IN INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT

ACTO
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

AMAZON REGIONAL OBSERVATORY

RAMIF
Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

CoRAmazonia
Amazon Regional Cooperation

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Confederazione Svizzera
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FIRe
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UNGRD
Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres

IDB Group

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
AICS	Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo[1]
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung[2]
BPs	Best Practices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIAP	Fundación para la Internacionalización de las Administraciones Públicas[3]
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit[4]
ICMBio	Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade[5]
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFM	Integrated Fire Management
MMA	Ministério do Meio Ambiente e Mudança Climática do Brasil[6]
PASF	Programa Amazonía Sin Fuego[7]
RAMIF	Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UNGRD	Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres de Colombia[8]
WTREX	Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

1 Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

2 German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

3 Foundation for the Internationalization of Public Administrations.

4 German Development Cooperation.

5 Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation

6 Brazilian Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

7 Amazon Without Fire Program.

8 Colombia's National Unit for Disaster Risk Management.

01. Introduction

As part of a broad, long-term process for learning, exchange, and dissemination of Best Practices (BPs) in Integrated Fire Management (IFM), ExpoMIF brought together experiences, knowledge, and solutions developed in different Amazonian territories, contributing to the collective development and implementation of IFM across different spheres of society. The event took place from April 20 to 22, 2026, in Villavicencio, Colombia.

In this sense, ExpoMIF served as a space for knowledge exchange on IFM in the Amazon. Its main objectives included promoting coordination among local communities, public institutions, international cooperation organizations, academia, and the private sector, while integrating traditional knowledge, scientific knowledge, and innovation through collaboration agreements.



The event was held within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), in partnership with the CoRAmazonia project, implemented by German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and funded by the Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It also received support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through the FiRe Project and the Global Fire Management Hub; the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the Amazonía+ Program, funded by the European Union and implemented by Expertise France, the Fundación para la Internacionalización de las Administraciones Públicas (FIAP), and the Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS); and Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres de Colombia (UNGRD).

The challenges associated with wildfires in the Amazon require collectively developed responses that bring together knowledge, experiences, and capabilities across different territories and sectors of society.

In this context, ExpoMIF brought together representatives from the eight ACTO Member Countries — Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela — along with communities, fire brigades, governments, academia, and international cooperation agencies, with the aim of strengthening regional exchange and the joint development of IFM in the Amazon.

More than just an exhibition space, ExpoMIF served as a meeting point for practices, territories, and people who work with fire on a daily basis, each from different realities and at different scales of action.

This report presents the development and results of the activities carried out during the two and a half days of ExpoMIF, including the thematic working groups for exchange and discussion of different IFM-related topics, the establishment of collaboration agreements among diverse parties around the Best Practices (BPs) presented at the Expo, and the reflections and conclusions that emerged throughout the event.

Strengthening IFM involves recognizing the diversity of contexts, experiences, and relationships with fire present in the Amazon, promoting coordination, mutual learning, and collective action among different actors and territories, with the understanding that the region's challenges can only be addressed collectively.

This report systematizes the living record of that dialogue. It documents the institutional opening, the nine thematic roundtables that organized the collective work, the general conclusions of the meeting, the experiences most frequently requested for exchange, the collaboration agreements, what participants took away as learning, and the agreed-upon ten-point plan to ensure the continuity of ExpoMIF.

The complete list of participants is available for consultation in **Appendix 1**; the event program, available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, can be found in **Appendix 2**; the exhibitor guide, in Spanish and Portuguese, is available in **Appendix 3**. Photos, illustrations, and videos of the event are available in **Appendix 4**. The complete list of Best Practices presented at ExpoMIF can be found in **Appendix 5**, and the matrix of signed agreements in **Appendix 6**. This report, in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, is available in **Appendix 7**. The ExpoMIF Community on WhatsApp can be found **here**. More details are available on the **website**.

02. Opening

The opening of ExpoMIF 2026 brought together representatives from key institutions involved in building and strengthening regional IFM governance in the Amazon.

The opening remarks reflected the commitment of the Amazonian countries, the host institutions, and cooperation partners to regional exchange, multi-stakeholder coordination, and the joint development of pathways to advance IFM in the region.



Illustration: Fernanda Barral/GIZ Consultant

In his opening remarks, **Martín von Hildebrand**, Secretary General of ACTO, highlighted how fire has historically accompanied humanity and the importance of understanding it as an ally in the relationship with nature. He also noted that the original bond with nature has weakened and that it is necessary to recover the role of guardians of nature.

For her part, **Yessica Díazgranados**, a representative of the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized that wildfires know no borders and that cooperation among countries is not optional but rather an indispensable commitment to scaling up solutions, generating greater impact, and taking concrete actions, with prevention as the central focus.

Along the same lines, **María Meza**, Deputy Director for Risk Reduction at the UNGRD, highlighted the importance of shifting perceptions of fire toward a more positive, preventive, and comprehensive approach, strengthening institutional capacities and recognizing the value of Indigenous knowledge and practices.

Mayra Falcones, representing the Programa Amazonía Sin Fuego (PASF), implemented by Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía del Ecuador[9], highlighted the importance of building resilience for the Amazon through cooperation and joint work, avoiding isolated responses and recognizing IFM as a concrete response to this challenge.

Finally, **Dr. Gustavo Wachtel**, director of the CoRAmazonia Project (GIZ), called for discussions on achievements, challenges, and proposals, as well as for building consensus and strengthening collective knowledge as a shared effort.

Subsequently, **Fernando Rodovalho**, technical advisor for the CoRAmazonia Project, delivered an opening presentation on the role of fire in the Amazon and the current

9 Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Energy.

challenges associated with wildfires. He noted that, over the past ten years, nearly 83 million hectares — approximately 10% of the Amazon — have been affected by fire, emphasizing the impacts on communities, biodiversity, and health.

He also shared the collective concern regarding the possible return of El Niño in 2026 and its effects on the intensification of wildfires, highlighting the urgency of strengthening regional cooperation and the exchange of knowledge among different sectors of society for the collective and participatory implementation of IFM as a key tool for addressing the climate crisis.

Three ideas were consistently reiterated: implementation of the IFM approach, cooperation, and participation by all sectors of society. Thus, the opening served as a symbolic and political framework and called for the event to provide the technical depth needed to support decisions and design concrete interventions.

03. Presentation of Best Practices

During the in-person meeting, fifty-four (54) Best Practices (BPs) were presented, divided into five categories:

- Capacity development
- Integrated Fire Management practices
- Innovation and digital tools
- Governance for sustainability
- Communication and awareness

3.1 Knowledge-sharing methodology

One of ExpoMIF's main purposes was to ensure that the event was not limited to a traditional exhibition. Instead, it was designed as a participatory space focused on knowledge exchange, collective learning, and the creation of concrete cooperation opportunities among different stakeholders in the Amazon region.

To this end, a peer-to-peer exchange methodology was implemented, in which each Best Practice (BP) had its own booth. These spaces were designed to be visual and concise, including key information such as the name of the Best Practice, country of origin, responsible institution, a summary of the experience, and a QR code that allowed visitors to access additional information through the ExpoMIF digital platform.

Each Best Practice was represented by two people. While one remained at the booth to present the experience and assist visitors, the other toured the other booths to learn about other initiatives, identify relevant lessons, and explore opportunities for cooperation, replication, or coordination.



Photo: CoRAmazonia Project/GIZ

To encourage participation and make the tour more engaging, each participant was given an exchange passport, which was stamped at each booth visited. This methodological tool encouraged movement between exhibits, facilitated direct dialogue, and promoted broader interaction between Best Practice exhibitors and other participants.

When opportunities for collaboration, replication, or knowledge exchange were identified during these dialogues, representatives approached the Agreements Hub to formalize the commitment by signing an exchange agreement. Once signed, the agreement was represented on the thread map, visually connecting the territories, institutions, or BPs involved. This process helped transform exchange into concrete commitments and made visible the cooperation network built during ExpoMIF.

04. Report on agreements reached

The Agreements Hub became one of ExpoMIF's key mechanisms by transforming dialogues and exchanges among participants into concrete collaboration commitments. As a result, **56 cooperation and exchange agreements were systematized**, organized by type of agreement, thematic category, level of coordination, and preliminary participation of women signatories. This result far exceeded the initial target of 10 to 15 agreements and demonstrates ExpoMIF's ability to activate strategic connections, identify opportunities for replication, and strengthen a regional cooperation network around IFM in the Amazon.



Photo: CoRAmazonia Project/GIZ

Of the total agreements documented, **15 were classified as collective or multi-stakeholder** agreements, and **41 as bilateral or expanded bilateral agreements**. Collective agreements take on special strategic importance by connecting regional networks, public institutions, international cooperation, academia, brigades, community organizations, Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, and information platforms. This composition highlights ExpoMIF's potential to bring together diverse actors and extend cooperation efforts beyond the event itself.

The specific Best Practice with the highest demand was the Meteorological Fire Danger Index applied to prescribed and controlled burns, which was associated with six agreements. As a cross-cutting trend, the greatest concentration of interest focused on strengthening volunteer and community fire brigades, a topic present in 17 agreements, reflecting the importance of expanding operational, technical, and institutional capacities for integrated fire management in Amazonian territories.



Photo: CoRAmazonia Project/GIZ

Regarding gender, although the agreement templates did not include a structured variable for this analysis, a preliminary review was conducted based on the official list of participants. As a result, **46 agreements recorded the**

participation of at least one female signatory; of these, **9 were signed exclusively by women**, 37 had mixed signatures, 9 were signed only by men, and 1 could not be determined. These data demonstrate significant female participation in the commitments made during ExpoMIF.

4.1 Analysis of the agreements

The agreement number assigned by the Agreements Hub was used for identification. For the analysis, the signatories, institutions, BP or requested topic, purpose of the agreement, and target date were identified.

The classification applied three criteria: i) main type of agreement; ii) ExpoMIF thematic category; and iii) nature of the relationship, distinguishing between bilateral, expanded bilateral, and collective agreements. Collective agreements were defined as those involving three or more institutions as parties or with an explicitly multi-stakeholder or regional structure



Photo: CoRAmazonia Project/GIZ

4.2 Quantitative results

Primary type of agreement	No. of agreements	% of total
Technology / digital tools	11	19.6%
Training / education	9	16.1%
Communication / awareness	8	14.3%
Technical / scientific collaboration	7	12.5%
Governance / institutional coordination	7	12.5%
Knowledge sharing	6	10.7%
Funding / resource mobilization	5	8.9%
Replication / scaling	3	5.4%

ExpoMIF Category	No. of agreements	% of total
Governance for sustainability	18	32.1%
Capacity development	14	25.0%
Innovation and digital tools	11	19.6%
Communication and awareness	10	17.9%
Integrated Fire Management practices	3	5.4%

Gender of Signatories	No. of agreements	% of total
Women only	9	16.1%
Men only	9	16.1%
Mixed	38	66.1%

4.3 Best Practices and most requested topics

The analysis distinguishes between specific Best Practices and thematic clusters. The most in-demand specific Best Practice was the **Meteorological Fire Danger Index**, while the cross-cutting topic with the highest volume was the strengthening of fire brigades.

Best Practice / Topic in Demand	No. of agreements
Volunteer and community fire brigades	17
Technology, data, geospatial analysis, and monitoring	11
Communication, Environmental Education, and Museology	11
Governance / institutional coordination	11
Funding / funds for IFM	8
Meteorological Fire Danger Index / early warning tools and prescribed burns	6
Rescue of wildlife affected by fires / rescue guide	4

The demand for the Meteorological Fire Danger Index reflects regional interest in early warning tools, burn planning, and evidence-based preventive management. The concentration of agreements on fire brigades shows that the operational core of IFM in the Amazon continues to depend on capacity building, resources, institutional recognition, and cooperation networks among local actors.

4.4 Strategic findings

ExpoMIF served as an effective mechanism for turning exchanges into commitments: the agreements include training initiatives, translation of guidelines, technology transfer, visits, workshops, funding, and institutional coordination.

The agreements reveal a high demand for operational capabilities within fire brigades, particularly volunteer and community brigades.

Technology emerges as a central avenue for scaling up: meteorological fire danger indices, drones, geospatial data, data platforms, and monitoring.

Communication and fire museology are emerging as tools for social change and the transmission of knowledge, beyond being merely viewed as communication products.

Governance agreements connect IFM with public policy, fire departments, the UNGRD, and regional networks, which can sustain the agenda after the event.

Women's participation is evident, particularly in agreements regarding leadership, women's networks, Indigenous fire brigades, communication, risk management, and institutional coordination.

4.5 Conclusion on the collaboration agreements reached

ExpoMIF generated high demand, resulting in 56 unique agreements, including 15 collective agreements of high value for the sustainability of the knowledge network and regional cooperation. The data show that participants' priorities focused on strengthening fire brigades, monitoring technologies, training, communication for social change, governance, and financing. To turn these agreements into verifiable results, the next step should be to establish a monitoring system with designated responsible parties, deadlines, evidence, and a progress indicator.

05. Thematic roundtables

Alongside the exchange of Best Practices and the dialogues to formalize collaboration agreements, ExpoMIF included parallel thematic roundtables on the following topics:

1. Cultural use of fire and traditional knowledge.
2. Technological innovation, data, and information systems for IFM.
3. Governance and regulatory frameworks for IFM.
4. Gender and inclusive policies in IFM.
5. Sustainable financing for IFM.
6. Environmental education, communication, and behavior change.

7. Training, professionalization, and learning pathways in IFM.

8. Community brigades, volunteerism, and territorial fire management.

9. Climate change and adaptation in IFM.

Each roundtable had a designated facilitator and addressed four key questions:

1. What are the main obstacles related to this roundtable's topic for implementing Best Practices (BPs) and IFM in the territories?

2. What recommendations can guide the adaptation or scaling up of these BPs and IFM in other Amazonian contexts?

3. What technical, institutional, community, or financial conditions are required for these BPs and IFM to function and be sustained?

4. What elements should remain active after ExpoMIF to strengthen the initiative's network of knowledge, cooperation, and sustainability?

The participation of different sectors of society, territorial experiences, and cultural perspectives throughout the thematic roundtables enabled diverse dialogues on the challenges and opportunities of IFM in the Amazon, reaffirming that its implementation and strengthening will only be possible through coordination, shared responsibility, and collective action among different actors and territories.

Moderator's Summary

The roundtables followed the same structure, replicating the four main stages of the facilitated dialogue. Below is a summary of the results:

panel 1

Cultural Use of Fire and Traditional Knowledge

Facilitator:
Johanna Murillo

Amazonía+ Program/Expertise France

Obstacles

The panel emphasized that indigenous and traditional knowledge regarding the use of fire continues to be overlooked and stigmatized due to regulatory restrictions, institutional fragmentation, and the loss of ancestral knowledge. They also highlighted the need to recognize fire as a cultural and territorial practice linked to Amazonian communities.

Recommendations

Proposals included strengthening community governance, recognizing communities as knowledge transmitters, improving communication through territorial approaches, and incorporating IFM into planning instruments. Additionally, recommendations were made to promote community participation in decision-making, strengthen institutional coordination, involve young people, and maintain permanent networks for exchange and cooperation following the ExpoMIF.

panel 2

Technological Innovation, Data, and Information Systems in IFM

Facilitator:
Alexis Vallejo

FAO

Obstacles

The panel highlighted structural problems in data management for IFM, such as a lack of standardization, disjointed systems, the absence of real-time data, and difficulties in validating, using, and ensuring the sustainability of information. Technological gaps, low institutional and community capacity, and a lack of coordination among stakeholders were also highlighted.

Recommendations

Proposals included strengthening community-based data validation, improving system interoperability and standardization, and ensuring free and meaningful access to information. The importance of strategic partnerships, local capacity building, the use of approaches such as Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL), and the development of financial sustainability mechanisms was also emphasized. Finally, it was recommended to consolidate exchange networks, information repositories, and common platforms for sharing best practices and to strengthen regional cooperation.

panel 3

Governance and Regulatory Frameworks of IFM

Facilitator:
Daniel Segura

FAO

Obstacles

The panel highlighted the weak institutional framework of IFM, marked by the absence of participatory policies, laws, and regulatory frameworks, as well as limited participation by communities and multisectoral stakeholders. The lack of coordination among institutions and the need to strengthen territorial fire governance were also emphasized.

Recommendations

Proposals included strengthening leadership and institutional capacities, promoting territorial planning within IFM, and advancing the legal recognition of traditional knowledge. Recommendations also included improving inter-institutional coordination, clearly defining roles and responsibilities, creating spaces for dialogue between institutions and communities, and gradually adapting regulatory frameworks with a participatory and regional approach.

panel 4

Gender and Inclusive Policies in IFM

Facilitator:
Maria Cecilia Estrada

Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (WTREX)

Obstacles

The panel highlighted deep-seated gender inequalities within IFM, marked by entrenched stereotypes, male-dominated leadership, a lack of female role models, and cultural and institutional barriers that limit women's participation. Fears were also identified among both men and women regarding changing roles and the exercise of shared leadership.

Recommendations

Proposals included strengthening gender-sensitive education starting in childhood, promoting women's leadership and increasing its visibility, and advancing gender-balanced systems and institutional equity policies. Recommendations also included fostering deconstruction processes for men and allies, creating safe spaces and support pathways for women, eliminating institutional barriers, securing resources, and strengthening support networks, training, and exchange programs such as WTREX and other training initiatives.

panel 5

Sustainable Financing for IFM

Facilitator:
Rodrigo Falleiro

Ministério do Meio Ambiente e Mudança do Clima do Brasil (MMA)

Obstacles

The panel highlighted that the main challenge regarding financing for IFM is the difficulty in accessing, structuring, and managing resources, due to technical, bureaucratic, and knowledge-related limitations. Participants also emphasized the lack of continuity in funding, insufficient investment in prevention compared to response efforts, a lack of awareness regarding funding sources, and the absence of recognition of IFM in certain legal frameworks.

Recommendations

Proposals included strengthening technical capacities for project development, improving access to information, and diversifying sources of funding. Recommendations also included creating platforms and mechanisms for sharing best practices, incorporating community brigades into national policies, promoting partnerships among governments, communities, and international cooperation, and refocusing efforts on prevention and IFM.

panel 6

Environmental Education, Communication, and Behavior Change

Facilitators:
Ramilla Yamanaka and Cinthia Brazão

Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (ICMBio)

Obstacles

The session highlighted weak integration between institutions and communities, difficulties in communicating IFM to new generations, the negative influence of media sensationalism, and resource constraints for implementing actions.

Recommendations

Proposals included strengthening institutional partnerships, improving advocacy on environmental policies, and creating regional networks to promote IFM approach. It was also recommended to tailor communication to different audiences, strengthen training, and ensure that communication and IFM are priorities in resource allocation.

panel 7

Training, Professionalization, and Learning Pathways in IFM

Facilitator:
Henrique Nogueira do Vale Costa

IDB

Obstacles

The panel highlighted the lack of international harmonization in the training and recognition of fire brigades, as well as the absence of clear protocols and robust standards. Issues such as inadequate training for communities, precarious working conditions for Indigenous brigades, the lack of a gender perspective, and limitations in infrastructure and equipment were also emphasized.

Recommendations

Proposals included strengthening community training through shared curricula, creating university programs and firefighter training programs for Indigenous communities, and allowing communities to request training directly. Recommendations also included institutionalizing and officially recognizing Indigenous brigades, improving gender equity, standardizing training at the national and international levels, and ensuring stable hiring and funding to support their sustainability.

panel 8

Community Brigades, Volunteering, and Territorial Fire Management

Facilitator:
Arianna Lombari

Amazonía+ Program/AICS

Obstacles

The panel highlighted that community brigades face significant financial and employment instability, dependence on donors, regulatory gaps hindering their institutionalization, and logistical and resource constraints such as equipment, travel allowances, and operating costs. It also emphasized high staff turnover and the lack of stable operating conditions.

Recommendations

Proposals included strengthening ongoing and specialized training, guaranteeing social security, and standardizing regulations for brigade members. Recommendations also included advancing the institutionalization of the brigades, promoting their recognition as key actors in prevention and awareness-raising, and ensuring contractual frameworks and sustainable funding. Furthermore, the importance of involving communities, young people, and regional networks in the training, communication, and sustainability of the brigades' work was emphasized.

panel 9

Climate Change and Adaptation in IFM

Facilitator:
Fernando Rodovalho
GIZ

Obstacles

The panel highlighted difficulties in adapting fire use in the face of climate change, resource constraints, a lack of coordination among institutions, and a still-reactive approach to risk management. Weaknesses in communication and in the social ownership of IFM were also highlighted.

Recommendations

It was proposed to identify actions with immediate high impact, strengthen adaptation capacities, and improve strategic communication. It was also recommended to integrate traditional knowledge, prioritize vulnerable populations, and move toward participatory and multisectoral governance, incorporating IFM into climate adaptation policies with a state-led approach.

06. General conclusions from the thematic roundtables

Upon concluding the work of the nine roundtables, the plenary session consolidated the responses into five main areas — Coordination and Governance; Financing; Technical and Human Capacities; Territories and Culture; Information and Communication — and cross-referenced them with the four structural questions. What follows is an exact summary of the overall overview.

6.1 Main obstacles to implementing IFM

The main challenges identified were weak institutional coordination, regulations not sufficiently adapted to IFM, limited community participation, and insufficient funding, with resources still focused more on response than prevention. Technical and human-resource limitations were also highlighted, such as intermittent training, high turnover among response teams, and lack of equipment, in addition to the marginalization of ancestral knowledge, territorial conflicts, and problems with access to, monitoring of, and communication of information.

Recommendations for Adaptation and Scaling Up

It was recommended to adapt actions to local realities through participatory assessments, strengthen partnerships among communities, governments, and international cooperation agencies, and promote permanent spaces for exchange and learning. It was also proposed to implement demonstration projects, document experiences, and promote simple, innovative, and context-appropriate solutions.

Summary of the questions and conclusions from the dialogue

Conditions for IFM to function and be sustained

The need for reliable information, monitoring, and clear protocols was emphasized, as well as the need to strengthen regulatory frameworks, institutional coordination, and sustainable financing. In addition, the importance of community participation, recognition of local knowledge, gender equity, inclusion, and education aimed at behavioral change was highlighted.

Elements that should remain active after ExpoMIF

It was proposed to maintain an active regional exchange platform and a repository of best practices, strengthen partnerships and cooperation mechanisms, promote communication and the dissemination of results, consolidate networks of brigades and ongoing training processes, and ensure strategies for sustainability and advocacy in public policy.

The general conclusions play an important role, as they consolidate patterns that emerged across all nine roundtables. The convergence is clear and consistent: IFM does not fail due to a lack of ideas, but rather due to institutional fragmentation, reactive funding, operational precariousness, cultural devaluation, and weak information systems. However, the main limitation of this section is that it does not establish a hierarchy. Everything appears on the same level, as if all obstacles carried equal causal weight and could be addressed simultaneously.

From a strategic perspective, this is insufficient. A roadmap needs to distinguish between structural causes, operational bottlenecks, and enabling actions. For example, the lack of preventive funding and the absence of adapted regulatory frameworks appear to be structural conditions; the lack of protocols, equipment, and training are operational bottlenecks; the platform, newsletters, and inspiring stories are support tools. If this distinction is not made, the continuity plan may become a collection of good intentions without a clear sequence for implementation.

The section also has one strength: it recognizes that adaptation to the context and innovation driven by communities are necessary. This avoids falling into a one-size-fits-all technocratic model for the entire Amazon. But once again, precision is lacking: it does not define how participatory assessments will be conducted, who will lead them, how they will be funded, what indicators will be used, or how decisions will be made based on those results. In summary, the conclusions are coherent as a policy synthesis, but they do not yet function as an operational roadmap.

07. Dialogue on the most sought-after experiences for exchange

One of the most revealing findings of ExpoMIF was the snapshot of actual demand: the experiences that partner organizations prioritized for sharing with one another. The conversation shed unexpected light on the issue and also highlighted critical points.

What the plenary session highlighted

- 56 agreements.
- An agreement among 26 partners in a network.
- Surprise at the high demand for exchanges.
- The agreements were very diverse.
- Possibility of a future event in Brazil.
- Intention to create the Latin American Network of Volunteer Firefighters through ExpoMIF.

Shared concerns

- Not all firefighters have sufficient safety protections.
- Investigate genotoxic and mutagenic effects on firefighters caused by exposure to fire.
- Concern about the health impacts on firefighters.
- Concern for the land.

A shared belief and a symbol of hope

- We care about animals and about returning them to the wild.
- The common belief that we can rescue animals burned in wildfires.
- The fight for conservation must continue.

The discussion also highlighted the need to expand the tools, capabilities, and courses of action available for various contexts within the MIF, including the rescue and care of wildlife affected by fires, as well as research, monitoring, and protection against the impacts of fire on the health of firefighters and communities.

Moderator's summary

This section is one of the most revealing because it shows what emerges when the dialogue shifts from the institutional level to lived experience. The safety and health of firefighters emerged as shared concerns. If those who sustain IFM on the ground are exposed without sufficient safeguards, then the priority cannot be limited to the network, the platform, or visibility; it must include comprehensive protection for those who make IFM possible.

The reference to investigating genotoxic and mutagenic effects on firefighters caused by exposure to fire serves as a warning sign regarding occupational and environmental health; this should be strengthened as a regional line of research, surveillance, and protection. Exposure to smoke, particulate matter, and other pollutants resulting from combustion can have respiratory, cardiovascular, and genotoxic effects. Therefore, this concern directly links IFM to public health, workplace safety, and environmental justice.

Attention to wildlife affected by fires emerged as a recurring theme across various experiences, highlighting the need to strengthen capacities, protocols, institutional coordination, and post-fire monitoring and recovery efforts.

08. What did we take away from ExpoMIF?

The final question of the meeting asked each participant to summarize in a few words what they were taking away from ExpoMIF. The resulting board is perhaps the most intimate record of the event: a collection of statements that blend analysis and emotion, strategy and poetry. They are transcribed here in their original order.

- Coordination with Indigenous communities is necessary.
- ExpoMIF as a seed for beyond the Amazon.
- Smiles and glances.
- A vision and the importance of cooperation.
- Emotions beyond ExpoMIF.
- Exchange between the public sector and communities.
- Most importantly: cooperation as a practice.
- Working with IFM in a holistic way.
- A heavy heart for not being able to participate in every experience.
- A shared vision among all stakeholders.
- The ExpoMIF to expand into other regions.
- Don’t expect a single vision: let’s keep moving forward.

- Goal: from isolated efforts to coordinated action.
- Agreements are a practical approach.
- Building a common language.
- We've discussed challenges: improving strategies.
- "The hummingbird joins the line and leaves, setting the dry trees on fire."
- Traveling the world to shed light on the proper use of fire.



Illustration: Fernanda Barral/GIZ Consultant

"Fire is what unites us"

This section is more emotional and symbolic in nature, but that doesn't make it any less important. The phrase "***don't expect a single vision: let's move forward,***" by María Meza (UNGRD), is perhaps one of the most important in the document, because it acknowledges that in a complex socio-ecological system, there will be no total consensus before taking action. That is a mature idea. However, moving forward without a single vision requires clear rules for coordination, decision-making mechanisms, and shared minimum criteria. If these do not exist, diversity can turn into fragmentation.

The idea of "from the isolated to the coordinated" effectively captures the essence of ExpoMIF. But, once again, coordination cannot be merely relational or emotional; it must become institutional, budgetary, and technical. "Smiles and glances" and "emotions beyond ExpoMIF" show that the gathering fostered trust, and that trust is a real political asset. However, that trust must be institutionalized before it fades.

The greatest risk in this section is turning the event's symbolic power into an inspiring memory without operational consequences. Its greatest value lies elsewhere: it demonstrates the existence of an emerging community of practice. The challenge is ensuring that this community does not depend solely on the enthusiasm generated by the gathering, but instead has mechanisms for continuity, exchange, training, and accountability.

09. Agreed-upon ten-point plan to support the continuity of ExpoMIF

Looking ahead to the post-ExpoMIF agenda, the closing question was specific: What is needed to ensure the continuity of the ExpoMIF initiative? The response agreed upon by the plenary session is organized as a set of ten commitments. They are transcribed here in the order in which they were agreed upon.

1. Use the results of ExpoMIF as a living, shared assessment to guide future actions.
2. Include Indigenous peoples and other traditional peoples and communities in dialogue processes from the outset.
3. Build IFM policy jointly among peoples, cooperation partners, and governments.
4. Establish a consensus agreement with explicit continuity and purpose: Mobilize new allies and expand the model.
5. Define cooperation mechanisms that ensure the process's continuity: Implement a system to monitor progress and commitments.
6. Develop a deliberate, multilingual, and long-term communication strategy.
7. Hold international meetings to broaden participation.
8. Maintain the current cooperation group and support networks.
9. Promote BPs from the local to the regional level.
10. Take on the challenge of ExpoMIF: maintain, expand, and improve.

The Decalogue is a strong political conclusion, but it is not yet a continuity plan. Its ten points are consistent with what was discussed during the event, especially on three issues: early community participation, multilevel cooperation, and monitoring of commitments. Point five is key, because it recognizes that without follow-up, the process may remain merely declaratory. However, it does not define who will monitor, how often, using which indicators, with what authority, or what the consequences will be if commitments do not move forward.

Point two is fundamental: including Indigenous peoples and other traditional peoples and communities from the outset, not afterward. This approach corrects a common

practice in environmental policy, where communities are consulted only after the design has already been finalized. But for this to be meaningful, it must translate into rules for co-design, consultation, binding participation, and respect for Indigenous forms of governance.

The Decalogue also highlighted challenges related to the sustainability and continuity of the proposed actions, including aspects related to financing, monitoring, and implementation mechanisms.

Although it establishes relevant guidelines for strengthening cooperation and ensuring the continuity of exchanges, one of the main challenges moving forward will be to transform the intentions for collaboration developed during the meeting into truly actionable political and cooperative commitments, supported by more structured instruments for coordination, monitoring, and sustainability.

10. Recommendations regarding the process

These recommendations are offered subjectively and do not claim to present a single perspective on the issues and suggested strategies; they merely aim to contribute to the various viewpoints on the situations and topics addressed:

1. Throughout the meeting, the importance of strengthening the effective participation of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities in IFM governance was repeatedly emphasized. As a challenge moving forward, the need emerged to advance concrete mechanisms that allow their knowledge, experiences, and forms of territorial management to be integrated into planning, decision-making, and implementation processes.

2. Another recurring point was the need to strengthen governance and coordination mechanisms that would translate the intentions for cooperation developed during the meeting into concrete actions, commitments, and implementation processes across different territories and scales.

3. The need to strengthen regulatory, technical, and institutional frameworks related to IFM in different countries and territories also emerged repeatedly. In this context, the potential of mechanisms for cross-border coordination and cooperation to promote exchanges, convergence, and common governance strategies was discussed.

4. We must build on the high regard already placed on the importance of data and translate this into a decision-making system. It is important to achieve clarity regarding “the purpose of the data” and the way in which data can inform decision-making.

5. The importance of strengthening mechanisms for international cooperation and cross-border coordination for IFM in the Amazon was also highlighted, particularly through regional forums such as RAMIF and ACTO, to promote greater coordination among countries, institutions, and territories.

6. With regard to gender and other diversity and inclusion policies, it is important in the future to define equity indicators and evaluation mechanisms, and to design tools that integrate these policies into existing systems (for example, national risk management or environmental systems).

7. Some of the collaboration agreements may be implemented through the commitment and determination of the parties involved, but many others will require various forms of support. An effective way to ensure the continuity of ExpoMIF is to explore ways to support the implementation of established agreements that require it, through a monitoring system that includes responsible parties, deadlines, evidence, and a progress indicator.

8. Regarding funding and financing, it is important to mention mechanisms such as trust funds, payments for ecosystem services, parametric insurance, and integration with carbon markets or climate finance. At various points during the discussions, the need to economically quantify the impacts of fire was raised.

11. Epilogue

ExpoMIF 2026 consolidated a regional community of practice, cooperation, and learning centered on IFM, bringing together representatives from Amazonian countries and international partners. The event highlighted that many of the challenges associated with wildfires in the Amazon are shared and that addressing them requires regional coordination, dialogue across different knowledge systems, and sustained cooperation.

Rather than creating new practices, ExpoMIF highlighted and brought together existing experiences from Indigenous communities, traditional peoples and communities, fire brigades, public institutions, academia, research centers, international cooperation agencies, and technology platforms. Its main contribution was to connect this knowledge, identify opportunities for replication, and forge collaboration agreements.

The challenge moving forward will be to transform the momentum generated by the event into a sustainable agenda, including follow-up on agreements, strengthening the digital platform, documenting best practices, and establishing regular forums for exchange. To achieve this, it will be necessary to move toward an operational framework with designated leaders, indicators, monitoring mechanisms, and institutional conditions that enable cooperation to translate into verifiable results.

ExpoMIF also provided strategic messages for the regional agenda: prioritizing prevention; strengthening and recognizing community, volunteer, and Indigenous brigades; ensuring the effective participation of women; and guaranteeing that technical and scientific information is shared back with local communities. In summary, the event demonstrated that there is a regional foundation of knowledge and commitment; the next step will be to transform this into a sustained implementation agenda to strengthen IFM in the Amazon.

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ExpoMIF

ACTO
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

AMAZON REGIONAL OBSERVATORY

RAMIF
Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by
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CoRAmazonia
Amazon Regional Cooperation

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Peru

International Cooperation - SDC
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Global Fire Management Hub

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UNGRD
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