The Mesoamerica isthmus with its 533,000 km² is covered by 21.63 million ha of forests, equivalent to 42% of the Mesoamerica territory.

The region has unique natural and physical characteristics with a high biologic and climatic diversity that are of global significance.

The characteristics of the Mesoamerica region are determined by the shape of the Isthmus, climate variability and its location in the neotropical zone.

The combination of these conditions have resulted in the development high biological diversity. The region constitutes a geographic, biological and cultural bridge between the Americas.

The main causes of the wildfires in the Mesoamerican region are human activities. Burning of agricultural lands, grasslands, stubble and trash burning are the most important cause, followed by arson intentionally. Other causes include forest residue burning, fires used by beekeepers and bonfires.

During the last years several fires have been started by natural causes (lightnings) specially during the transitory period of dry season to rainy season (May-June).

In May 2019 a regional workshop was held in Costa Rica, with the participation of the country focal points and other key actors.

The workshop was held as an activity of the 2017-2018 Mesoamerican fire management agenda.

According to the bushfire management system, the following activities should be carried out in the bushfire management system:

1. Certification and homologation of the training process by country.
2. Systematization of information by country.
3. Establishment of information network.
5. Training materials.
6. Approval of the methodology.
7. Approval of the training program.
8. Approval of the workshop.
9. Approval of the training agenda.
10. Approval of the training course.

Real-time technical exchange at the six Regional Fire Management Centers of CONAFOR, Mexico (2016).


Activities 2016 - 2019 organized or with the participation of the Mesoamerican Fire Management Group.