

OPENING REMARKS

UNFF 19 SIDE-EVENT

Principles and Strategies for integrated Landscape
Fire Management through Collaborative Governance

New York
May 6th, 2024

Tiago Oliveira

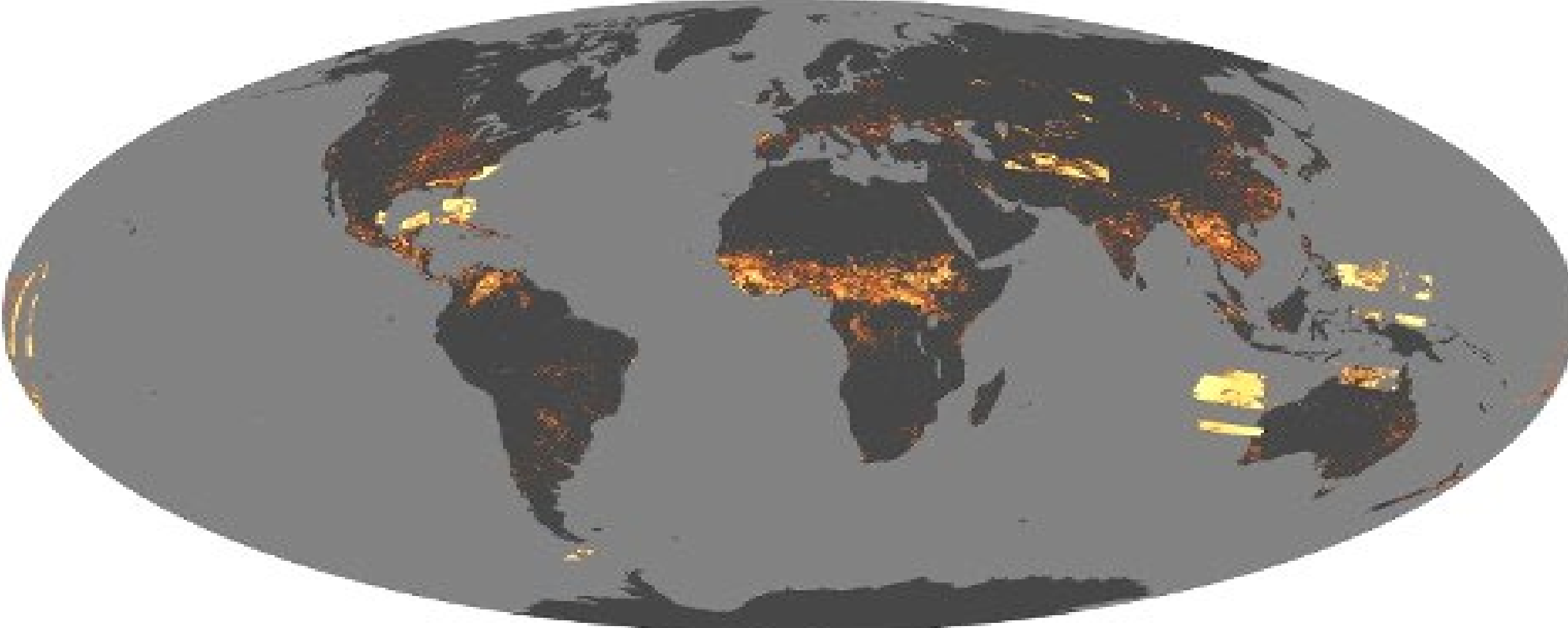
PT, AGIF Chairman



AGIF

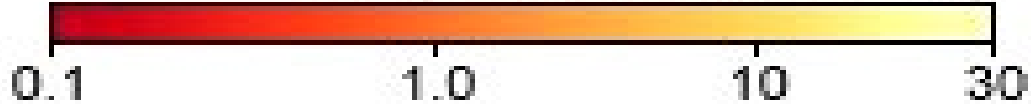
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On Earth, something is always burning



Active Fires

fire pixels / 1000 km² / day



March 2000

From: https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/global-maps/MOD14A1_M_FIRE

LANDSCAPE FIRE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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Challenges

- ✓ **Governments are under pressure** as fire losses unfolds and GW + WUI expose more people.
- ✓ Growing real and perceived value of forest, biodiversity and water will **challenge existing system to delivery beyond** protection of people, as **ambivalence** pop's in.
- ✓ **Simple solutions and quick fixes won't work**, as **complexity & uncertainty** steps in
- ✓ **Knowledge to tackle fire wicked problem is available** in academia / experts **but not embedded at local/national institutions**, undermining effective integration of policies, budgets priorities and procedures.
- ✓ Multitude disciplines, sectors, stakeholders, conflicting their **assymetric power and agendas**
- ✓ **Lack of societal wildfire literacy** and institution weakness drives **political solutions to short term tech-fixes that have unintended consequences**, amplifying the wildfire problem in long run (Fire Paradox).



Challenges


Risk Governance

Focused on the institutional arrangements of **how risk information is collected, analyzed and communicated** and **how risk management decisions are taken** (IRGC 2005).

Miller B. A. Yung L. Wyborn C. Essen M. Gray B. Williams D. R. (2022)

Move from a trivial simple risk problem, approached by one top-down organization that implement a Integrated Fire Management system **towards a multi-agency policentry governance system** dealing with a complex and ambiguous problem

Harnessing Co2 in trees and promoting biodiversity is not possible only with a Integrate Fire Management (IFM) System in place, but with a landscape / regional approach with long term budgets for planning, education and fuel treatment:

- ✓ Strengthening institutional capabilities to be fire-smart (political and operational)
 - ✓ Balanced budget (prevention and suppression)
 - ✓ Results are being monitored
- 

Who's the **framework** for?

This is a framework for country/regions policy makers, & institutional leadership

Its **scope** and **purpose**?

The framework is a **whole-of-society** approach for Integrate fire management, aiming at a **common understanding** of **good practices** and **processes** that facilitate domestic handling of fire and international **cooperation** through well understood **standards**.

... and, **why**?

More than 300Mha burnt annually are creating social, economic, and ecological **impacts**. **Traditional organization are being overrun by scale and complexity**, demanding institution evolution to adopt knowledge, redesign of process and improve articulation, dialogue and integration.

Societies can benefit from an **IFM approach in adapted risk governance, that improve x- cooperation to manage risk, coping with uncertainty and adapting working process** (planning, prevention, pre-suppression, suppression and recovery) going beyond the traditional prevention vs suppression.

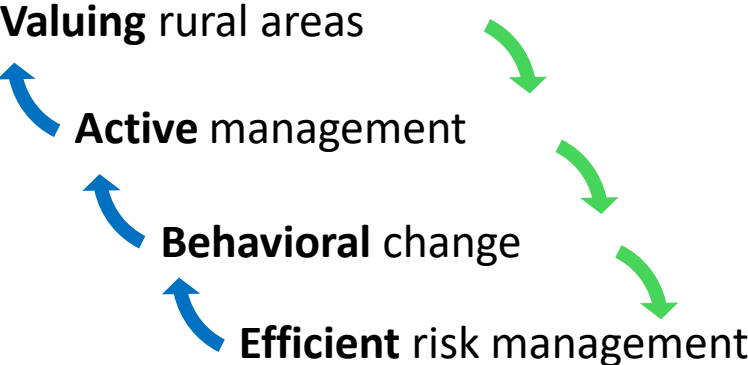







What's the expected **outcome**?

A significant **reduction of losses** driven by added **expertise** on each phase of process (planning, prevention, preparedness, pre-suppression, suppression and post fire) enhanced **risk management** upon state-of-art **knowledge**, and clear set **responsibilities, transparency** and **accountability**.

Each stakeholder participates under good **governance**, where institutional **cooperation** is agreed upon, **communities** are involved, and **communication** is clearer, objective, and transparent and **results are monitored** and **public reported**

To that end, our **call to action** is...



-  **Reduce bad fire**
-  **Reduce carbon emissions**
-  **Increment carbon sequestration**
-  **Strengthening the Governance model**
-  **Training and Qualification**



How can the **international community** support?

1. Recognizes the **role of integrated fire management** and strengthened its governance
2. **Set the Ambition** to protect people and the environment with a balanced budget covering prevention and suppression, making sure institutions cooperate and make good use of science, and that results are monitored: **promote widespread use of the framework**
3. The more **Nations endorse the Landscape Fire Governance Framework** and adopt it, as well as KPI are monitored, closer we are, globally, to reduce the losses from wildland fire

“Fire is the Synthesis of the context. If you want to control fire, you need to change the context”

By Stephen Pyne



In short...

- Wildland fire is a **whole-of-society** and **whole-of-government** challenge, asking for good governance, to reduce losses and contribute to support societies achieving sustainable development goals
- The Landscape Fire Governance Framework (“framework”), aims at preparing communities for better tackling landscape fires, and has been **widely supported** (FAO, UNEP, and several countries around the world...)
- The “framework”,
 - Supports the notion of a multisectoral risk governance
 - Calls for long term dedicated funding with balance budgets (prevention/suppression)
 - Calls for a shift in investment from response to prevention
 - Calls for improved risk management, strong institutional and decision made by trained and qualified staff
 - Calls for community engagement, respecting heritage and traditional use of fire
- **Breaking silos** is needed, getting people training and working together, complementing their roles
- Further **support** would lay ground for broader adoption of the guiding principles
- **International cooperation** is paramount!



wildfire2023.pt



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Thank you

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