



# Southeast Asia fire dialogue

20-23 May 2025, Kanchanaburi, Thailand

The Southeast Asia region faces increasing challenges related to wildfires, smoke and haze which have significant environmental, social and economic impacts. Most fires are human-induced and as climate change intensifies, fire seasons become longer and more extreme, leading to substantial greenhouse gas emissions. Transboundary haze from wildfires threatens public health and the environment. Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who play a crucial role in reducing wildfire risk, are most affected by these wildfires.

In response to these challenges, [RECOFTC](#), [Tropenbos International](#) and [APFNet](#) are organizing the 'Southeast Asia fire dialogue' to help identify strategies to reduce wildfire risks and scale up effective solutions. The event will bring together Indigenous Peoples and local communities to share experiences, best practices and challenges in preventing and managing wildfires. These insights will directly inform policymakers, donors, nongovernmental organizations, researchers and private sector representatives, who will also participate in the event.

## Objectives

The dialogue provides a platform for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to engage with one another and with research, government and private sector stakeholders.

Specifically, it aims to:

- reflect and share lessons and best practices in fire management, focusing on Indigenous and community-based approaches to reduce wildfire risks
- identify strategies and enabling conditions for scaling up and collaboration on effective solutions, including alternative livelihoods and accessible tools and technologies
- link fire management efforts to climate goals, Nationally Determined Contributions and regional frameworks like the ASEAN haze-free initiative and explore sustainable financing mechanisms
- promote inclusivity by amplifying the voices of youth, women and marginalized groups in shaping equitable and sustainable wildfire management approaches and strategies

## Guiding framework

The dialogue will be guided by several relevant international frameworks and processes. It is guided by a landscape approach and the Integrated Fire Management (IFM) framework based on the 5Rs – review, risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery. A climate-smart landscape maximizes synergies between mitigation and adaptation objectives by combining climate-smart practices at the farm level, a diversity of land uses and deliberate management of ecological, social and economic interactions among different parts of the landscape<sup>i</sup>.

This framework seeks to build a shared understanding of wildfire resilience by emphasizing: (i) community resilience; (ii) social inclusion and equitable governance of landscapes, and (iii) climate adaptation through sustainable practices.

## Two interlinked dialogues

The dialogue is structured into two interconnected parts designed to foster knowledge exchange and actionable strategies for wildfire risk reduction.

Part 1: Community fire dialogue	Part 2: Multi-stakeholder fire dialogue
<p>The community dialogue will bring together Indigenous Peoples and local communities to share their experiences, best practices and challenges in wildfire prevention and management. The focus will be on identifying scalable solutions that integrate traditional and cultural burning practices with scientific knowledge and alternative non-burning practices.</p> <p>Discussions will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ community lessons from integrated approaches to fire management, with an emphasis on Indigenous fire management practices and community-based fire management</li><li>▪ risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery strategies</li><li>▪ alternative livelihoods that reduce reliance on burning and promote low-emission enterprises</li><li>▪ use of accessible tools and technology for fire management, including communication platforms, early warning systems using geospatial data and mechanical tools for infrastructure development</li><li>▪ enabling conditions and governance structures necessary for managing wildfire risks at the landscape level</li></ul>	<p>Insights from the community dialogue will directly inform this segment, which involves community representatives, researchers, policymakers, donors and other stakeholders. The goal is to bridge local practices with policy frameworks and research to align ground-level realities with broader environmental and climate objectives.</p> <p>Discussions will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ financing mechanisms that support community-driven wildfire risk reduction efforts</li><li>▪ opportunities for climate finance investments, addressing gaps in accessibility for Indigenous Peoples and local communities</li><li>▪ linking fire management efforts to Nationally Determined Contributions and carbon emissions reduction initiatives</li></ul>

The event will conclude with a forward-looking session with a call to action on climate finance, youth-led conversations and participants' reflections.



## About the organizers

RECOFTC is an international nonprofit organization working towards a future where resilient communities with respected rights thrive in forest landscapes that they manage sustainably and equitably. RECOFTC takes a long-term, landscape-based and inclusive approach in supporting local communities to secure their land and resource rights, stop deforestation, find alternative livelihoods and foster gender equality. With more than 37 years of experience, they have built trusting relationships with partners from communities, governments, businesses, academia and civil society organizations. Their innovations, knowledge and initiatives enable countries to foster good forest governance, mitigate and adapt to climate change and achieve the UN Global Goals. RECOFTC's work is made possible with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Government of Sweden. To combat transboundary haze and wildfires, RECOFTC employs the community-based fire management (CBFiM) approach guided by the integrated fire management framework<sup>ii</sup>.

Tropenbos International (TBI) has been working on reducing wildfire risks in the tropics through its Fire Smart Landscape Governance programme since 2021 in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia and Uganda. TBI's innovative approach brings stakeholders together to develop customized fire management strategies, fostering collaborative learning and inclusive governance. For this dialogue, communities from Indonesia and the Philippines will participate, accompanied by Tropenbos Indonesia and the Forest Foundation Philippines. The event will also incorporate knowledge from fire management efforts in Africa and Latin America, including insights from the recent Amazon Fire Dialogue held in Bolivia from 28 to 31 January 2025. TBI's work is made possible with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Netherlands through the Working Landscapes programme.

The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) is an international nonprofit organization established in 2008. Initiated by China and co-sponsored by Australia and the United States of America, APFNet was endorsed at the 2007 APEC leaders' meeting and formalized in the Sydney Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development. The network addresses knowledge and capacity gaps in sustainable forest management, which is crucial for green growth, poverty reduction and climate change mitigation. APFNet promotes improved regional forest fire management through dialogue, capacity building and expertise sharing. It has implemented projects and technical demonstrations on forest fire management in Cambodia, China and Lao PDR, showcasing effective strategies to enhance forest resilience and reduce fire incidents across the region.

## Contact

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## Tentative agenda

Time	Tuesday, 20 May	Wednesday, 21 May	Thursday, 22 May	Friday, 23 May	Saturday, 24 May
08:00-08:30	Registration	Field day	Topic 3: Landscape governance	Registration	Return travel
08:30-9:30	Opening			Opening	
09:30-11:00	Topic 1: Traditional and cultural burning practices		Closing for the Community Fire Dialogue	Insights from the Community Fire Dialogue	
11:00-12:00					
12:00-13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13:00-14:00	Topic 1 continued	Field day	Preparation for marketplace	Topic 4: Scaling up and financing opportunities	
14:00-15:00	Topic 2: Tools and technology			Registration for the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue	
15:00-16:00					
16:00-17:00					
17:00-18:00			Marketplace		
18:00	Dinner reception		Dinner reception	Dinner reception	

<sup>i</sup> Pasiecznik N and Goldammer JG (eds.). 2022. Towards fire-smart landscapes. Tropical forest Issues 61. Tropenbos International, Ede, the Netherlands. xiv +191 pp

<sup>ii</sup> FAO (2024) Integrated Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines – Principles and strategic actions. doi:10.4060/cd1090en.