



South America Fire Fund

ANNEX: Cross-Border Collaboration



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Executive Summary

South America's fire regimes are undergoing rapid and profound transformation, driven by the convergence of deforestation frontiers, climate-induced drought, expanding agricultural systems, and increasingly interconnected socio-economic dynamics. These drivers transcend national borders, making forest and landscape fires not only an environmental challenge, but a systemic regional risk with implications for climate stability, public health, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

At the same time, the region has seen a rapid proliferation of initiatives: national fire programs, regional mechanisms such as OTCA's RAMIF, global platforms led by FAO, UNEP and UNDRR, and a dense web of projects supported by bilateral cooperation, NGOs, and socio-environmental funds. A South America Fire Fund (SAFF) and its Cross-Border Collaboration Plan are proposed against this backdrop: not as a new “solution” in isolation, but as an attempt to knit together, strengthen and reorient an already complex ecosystem toward prevention, equity and systemic change.

The proposed **South America Fire Fund (SAFF)** provides a strategic framework to align and amplify these efforts through a focused, time-bound test phase. The SAFF is being conceived on top of an already sophisticated, but fragmented, regional architecture for fire governance so its approach is anchored in three mutually reinforcing pillars:

- **Prevention & Resilient Stewardship**, emphasizing territorial solutions, Indigenous leadership, and behavior change;
- **Enhanced Detection & Coordinated Rapid Response**, strengthening cross-border operational capacity and early action;
- **Integrated Fire Information & Decision Systems**, building a shared, data-driven backbone for planning, response, and adaptive management.

To operationalize this vision, the **Cross-Border Collaboration Plan** establishes a three-tiered governance and learning architecture:

- At the **local/territorial level**, Operations' Innovation platforms support experimentation and knowledge exchange across Landscape Interventions for Fire Transformation (LIFTs),

grounding the strategy in real-world practice.

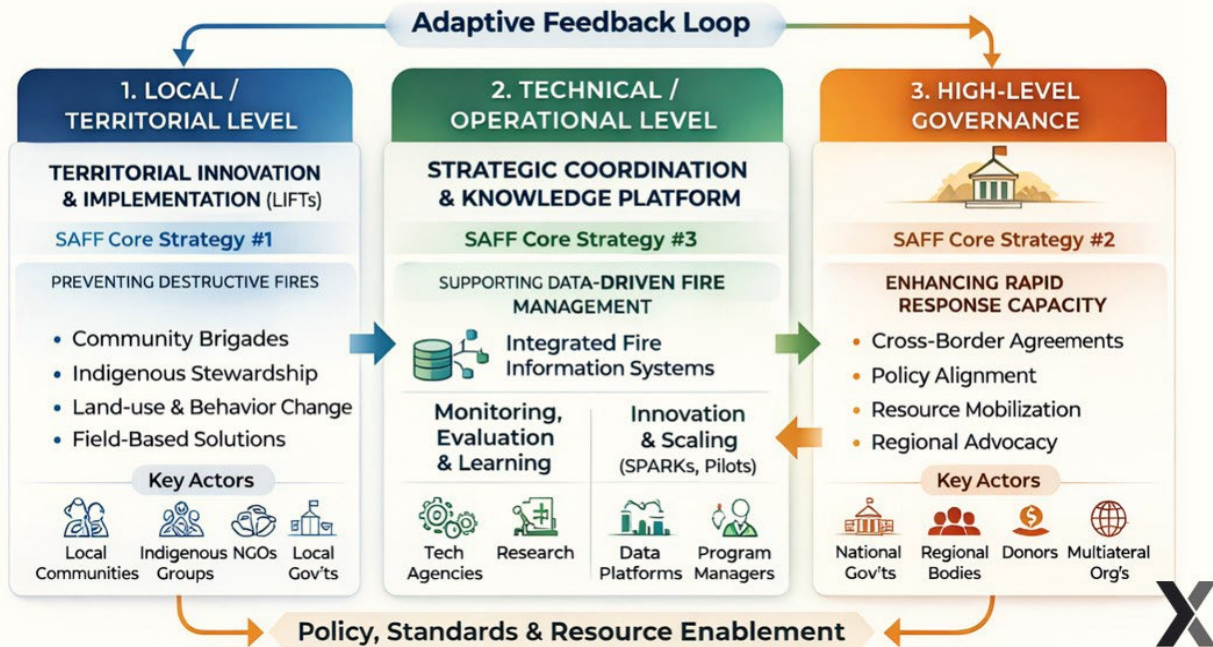
- At the **technical/operational level**, Strategic Coordination mechanisms integrate data systems, monitoring and evaluation, and innovation pipelines, transforming dispersed efforts into shared, scalable knowledge.
- At the **high-level governance layer**, political and institutional actors align strategies, mobilize resources, and enable cross-border cooperation.



Photo: Augusto Dauster/Ibama

South America Fire Fund

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION ARCHITECTURE



Together, these three committees function as the institutional “nervous system” of the South America Fire Fund. They align directly with the Fund’s vision and theory of change: the High Level Committee provides the cross-border governance scaffolding for the three Core Strategies; the Strategic Coordination Committee underpins Core Strategy 3 and the cross-cutting M&E and innovation agenda; and the Operations’ Innovation Committee ensures that Core Strategies 1 and 2, and the behavior-change ambition, remain grounded in and driven by territorial practice.

The SAFF is therefore not simply a financing instrument, but a **coordination and learning platform** designed to:

- Accelerate the transition from reactive fire suppression to proactive prevention;
- Bridge fragmentation across countries, sectors, and knowledge systems;
- Elevate Indigenous and community-based fire stewardship;
- Generate and scale innovations with regional relevance; and
- Build the institutional foundations for long-term, systemic impact.

By linking local innovation, technical coordination, and high-level governance within a coherent regional architecture, the SAFF aims to catalyze a step change in how South America anticipates, manages, and ultimately reduces destructive fire dynamics.

1. Technical Analysis

This work is based on a review of existing literature and comparable initiatives in integrated fire management and territorial collaboration and was further shaped by the outputs of two dedicated working meetings. These meetings, held in Lima (Peru) and Panama, brought together LIFT representatives, technical experts, and strategic partners of the Fund to co-validate the analysis, refine the proposed collaboration structures, and ground the recommendations in real territorial experience and institutional practice.

1.1 Key Findings

Our learning through this planning process confirms that cross-border collaboration is not a “nice to have,” but a strategic necessity for transforming fire dynamics in South America. First, the analysis shows that the main drivers of destructive fire - deforestation frontiers, climate-driven drought, commodity and road expansion, and smoke and health impacts, are fundamentally transboundary, while most responses and financing remain fragmented and short term. Second, there is already a dense ecosystem of initiatives (RAMIF/OTCA, FAO Fire Hub, SERVIR-Amazonia, RAISG, MapBiomass, GCF Task Force, among others) generating data, guidance and pilots, but without a structured mechanism to connect these assets to territorial practice in LIFTs and to one another in a coherent, learning-oriented way.

The proposed Cross-Border Collaboration Plan directly addresses this gap by offering a light, time-bound structure that links political decision-makers, technical systems and territorial experimentation.

1.2 Comparative Insights or Case Examples

Experience from other regions and programs suggests that the Cross-Border Collaboration Plan is both realistic and high-leverage. OTCA's RAMIF, for example, has already shown that an Amazon-wide political and technical platform can harmonize concepts (Integrated Fire Management), create common guidance, and convene countries around shared fire challenges. FAO's Global Fire Management Hub demonstrates how a light, networked structure can curate dispersed knowledge, standardize methodologies, and channel technical support into priority territories without building a heavy new bureaucracy. Similarly, SERVIR-Amazonia, RAISG, MapBiomass and Global Forest Watch Fires illustrate how regional data infrastructures can underpin multiple national and local initiatives when there is a clear interface that translates information into operational tools and territorial practice.

The Cross-Border Collaboration Plan mirrors these success factors while tailoring them to the Fund's three-tier architecture. The Plan aligns a **local/territorial level** (Operations Innovation), a **technical/operational level** (Knowledge Generation & Coordination), and a **national/international level** (High-Level Political Guidance) in continuous feedback loops. This structure echoes arrangements that have worked elsewhere: local brigades and communities co-producing practice (as in many FAO Hub pilots), regional technical bodies integrating data and protocols (as RAMIF and SERVIR do), and high-level political fora setting common goals and

unlocking resources (as in the GCF Task Force). By explicitly wiring these three levels together, rather than treating them as separate projects, the Plan increases the probability that innovations emerging from LIFTs will be standardized, politically endorsed, and financed at scale, making it more likely that the Fund's three-year test phase will generate durable, regionally relevant change.

1.3 Gaps and Risks

Once we look past monitoring and high-level concepts, **several structural gaps** become clear:

1. Under-financing of prevention and long-term risk reduction: budgets remain heavily skewed toward emergency suppression rather than prevention, preparedness and recovery—even where IFM is formally endorsed. Structural measures such as community-based fuel management, restoration, fire-smart agriculture and support to Indigenous fire stewardship receive **limited, project-based funding**. Euroclima+ and a few bilateral programs are partial exceptions, but their scale is modest.

2. Limited direct resourcing and decision-making by Indigenous and local communities: many initiatives recognize Indigenous and traditional knowledge, and some pilots (RAMIF, FAO Hub) work with community brigades. Yet communities are mainly **implementers or consultees, not decision-makers or primary grantees**. Funds flow through governments, multilaterals or large NGOs. Compliance barriers and cultural gaps mean very few mechanisms provide **direct, scalable funding with governance roles for communities**—a central equity gap a regional fund focused on locally led fire management could address.

3. Weak integration with climate, development and social agendas: fire programs often remain **siload in environment or emergency agencies**, with limited connection to agriculture, finance, social protection or planning. This hinders efforts to tackle **underlying drivers** (agricultural expansion, insecure tenure, rural poverty) and reduces access to larger climate and development finance. A regional fund treating wildfire as a **cross-cutting resilience issue** and requiring multi-sector collaboration could help close this gap.

4. Coordination and accountability deficits: no single framework systematically maps, aligns and tracks fire-related investments against shared indicators. This creates **both overlaps** (similar trainings in the same geography) and **blind spots** (neglected communities or biomes). Learning is fragmented: successful pilots are not consistently documented and transferred. A regional fund with a mandate to act as a **learning and coordination hub**, in partnership with OTCA, FAO, UNEP and regional networks, could reduce duplication and **incentivize complementary investments**.

South America has strong assets in monitoring, a convergent IFM paradigm, and multiple coordination forums. A South America Fire Fund should **leverage these overlaps, not replicate them**. Its most strategic value lies in addressing the **gaps between data and action, between policy and territory, and between high-level narratives and direct resourcing of local actors**, by investing in prevention, empowering communities, expanding beyond the Amazon, integrating sectors, building long-term financing, and strengthening regional learning and coordination.

2. Proposed Intervention Strategy

The proposed three-level committee structure is designed to make cross-border and cross-institutional collaboration on forest fires in South America both politically viable and operationally effective. It starts from a simple premise: fire dynamics are systemic and transboundary, but most responses in the region are still fragmented by country, sector, and project. It also recognizes that the legal and operational framework at different South American Countries are vastly different, which brings huge opportunities for collaboration and collective learning. Changing this pattern requires an architecture that can work simultaneously at the levels of political mandate, technical strategy, and territorial practice, and that constantly circulates learning between them. The three committees, the High-Level Committee for Cross Border Institutional Collaboration, the Strategic Coordination for Knowledge Generation Committee, and the Operations' Innovation Committee, are the core of this architecture.

The Strategic High-Level Committee for Cross Border Institutional Collaboration responds to the political and institutional fragmentation that currently characterizes wildfire governance in South America. Forest fires routinely cross national and subnational borders, yet responsibilities remain divided between separate ministries, agencies, regional blocs, and levels of government. By creating a dedicated space for political and strategic institutional alignment, the High-Level Committee offers a forum where national governments, regional organizations, subnational coalitions (such as the Governors' Climate and

Forests Task Force), and the governance bodies of South American Integrated Fire Funds (LIFTs) can define shared goals, principles, and priorities for integrated fire management across borders.

Its mandate is not to manage individual projects, but to enable international and subnational collaboration and process improvements that no single actor could drive alone, for example, converging positions in regional climate fora, aligning regulations on controlled burning seasons, or agreeing common standards for early-warning systems. Here, existing entities like OTCA/ACTO's RAMIF (the Amazon Regional Fire Management Network) and UNEP's "Spreading Like Wildfire" agenda are critical partners: RAMIF focal points can be integrated as permanent members to harmonize fire policies across Amazon countries, while UNEP's regional commitments (e.g., an Amazon Fire Pact) can serve as a baseline for SAFF's political targets. The GCF Task Force adds a crucial subnational dimension: by bringing governors and provincial leaders into the High-Level Committee, SAFF can bridge national and regional commitments with jurisdictional implementation, ensuring that fire prevention and resilience are embedded in state- and province-level climate and forest strategies. Periodic high-level meetings, rotating between countries, LIFTs, and GCF Task Force jurisdictions, create visible political ownership and keep fire management high on national, regional, and subnational agendas, while providing clear guidance to the more technical and operational committees.

The Coordination for Knowledge Generation Committee addresses a different but equally persistent problem: South America already has many data platforms, guidelines, and technical pilots on fire, but they are often disconnected and unevenly used. This Committee is conceived as the engine of operational alignment and knowledge generation across the ecosystem of Landscape Interventions for Fire Transformation (LIFTs) and partner institutions. Its role is to translate the broad political directions set by the High-Level Committee into coherent technical approaches – shared indicators, compatible monitoring frameworks, agreed methodologies for integrated fire management in different biomes, and joint learning agendas.

By convening technical leads from fire, forest, climate, agriculture, and disaster-risk agencies alongside key knowledge partners (such as FAO's Global Fire Management Hub, SERVIR-AmaZonia, Global Forest Watch Fires, RAISG, GFMC, SilvaCarbon, and relevant research institutes and universities), it becomes the place where technological and process improvements and enhanced collaboration within, between, and beyond LIFTs are actively pursued. In practical terms, this means leveraging existing tools instead of duplicating them: for example, using SERVIR's satellite data, GFW Fires' alert systems, and RAISG's Amazon-wide maps rather than building new platforms; or adopting FAO's Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines as a reference for harmonizing national technical standards. The Committee's primary working modality, solutions- and process-oriented technical workshops, rotating between countries, LIFTs, and GCF Task Force jurisdictions, is intentionally practical: mixed teams work through specific operational challenges based on identified gaps (for example, designing or analyzing community-based early-warning systems, integrating Indigenous fire calendars with risk models, creating

practical models for collaborative fire management across country and jurisdictional borders, or embedding fire-risk indicators into jurisdictional REDD+ programs championed by the GCF Task Force) and co-develop improved tools and processes that can be replicated elsewhere.

The Operations' Innovation Committee ensures that the entire structure remains anchored in real-world practice and that innovation is driven from the territories upward, not only from the top down. Much of the most relevant knowledge about fire in South America resides with those who work on the ground: Indigenous and community brigades, municipal teams, protected-area staff, producer associations, local NGOs, and subnational programs associated with the GCF Task Force and Euroclima+. Yet their experiences and innovations rarely feed back into regional strategies or technical standards. This Committee is designed precisely to create a formal space for on-the-ground learning and knowledge exchange, where practitioners from different LIFTs, GCF Task Force jurisdictions, and countries can share what is working, what is failing, and why. Through collaboration and knowledge-sharing workshops, again rotating between countries, LIFTs, and subnational regions, participants visit operational sites, reflect together on practices, and document lessons and innovations. These workshops can explicitly include community-led programs supported by NGOs such as WWF and TNC, Euroclima+ projects with existing brigades and local networks, and Indigenous organizations (for example, via COICA and the GCF Task Force's Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities networks). The Committee's focus on operational knowledge sharing and enhanced collaboration within and between LIFTs helps avoid duplication of mistakes, accelerates the spread of effective models (such as successful community brigades, fire-smart production systems,

or sustained funding mechanisms for local brigades), and surfaces the practical constraints, including those in under-served biomes like the Cerrado, Chaco, Caatinga, Andean dry forests and the urban–rural interface, that must be addressed at strategic and political levels.

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Taken together, the three committees form a coherent system specifically tailored to foster innovation and systemic change in forest fire dynamics. The High-Level Committee creates the enabling environment for cross-border collaboration by aligning institutions and securing political will – not only at the level of national governments and regional organizations like OTCA and UNEP, but also at the level of governors and provinces through the GCF Task Force. The Strategic Coordination Committee turns that mandate into shared technical foundations and scalable solutions, making deliberate use of existing platforms (FAO Hub, SERVIR, GFW, RAISG, GFMC, SilvaCarbon) to avoid

fragmentation and “alert fatigue.” The Operations' Innovation Committee continuously injects field-based evidence and experimentation into the system, ensuring that locally tested practices – including those emerging from jurisdictional REDD+ programs and subnational climate policies – are recognized, compared, and refined.

Information, priorities, and innovations move vertically between these bodies: practical insights from territories inform regional technical strategies; those strategies, once validated, inform political decisions and joint commitments; and political backing, in turn, unlocks resources and legitimacy for further experimentation on the ground. Horizontally, the committees help integrate rather than duplicate efforts among existing initiatives: OTCA's RAMIF and UNEP's wildfire agenda for political and regional alignment; FAO's Hub, SERVIR, GFW, RAISG, GFMC, and SilvaCarbon for technical coherence; Euroclima+, GIZ, JICA, WWF, TNC, and community funds for operational pilots and community engagement; and the GCF Task Force as the key subnational bridge that links SAFF's cross-border fire agenda to jurisdictional climate and forest strategies and to climate finance (e.g., GCF, CAF, REDD+).

In that sense, SAFF's governance and collaboration structure is deliberately conceived as a bridging mechanism – connecting institutions across scales and countries, turning scattered projects into a more integrated system, and creating the feedback loops that are essential for genuine systemic change in how South America understands and manages fire.

2.1 Core Activities by Objectives

Primary Objective: to facilitate horizontal (LIFT-to-LIFT) and vertical (field-to-strategy) exchange of practical knowledge, co-create innovative tools and methods, and strengthen collaborative networks among practitioners. Below, suggested agenda items and main convenings to promote stakeholder integration, collaboration and innovation..

1. Operations' Innovation Committee

(5 workshops | 40–50 participants | Focus: territorial implementation, behavior change, brigades, applied innovation)

Year	Phase	Location	Focus	Operational Link
1	Grounding & Early Implementation	Corumbá – MT – Brazil	Fire ecology, brigade capacity, and initial tech deployment	Brigade Capacity Framework; Tech Level 2 rollout – Annual LIFTs' meeting
2	Grounding & Early Implementation	Paragominas – PA -Brazil	Fire-smart production & behavior change design	BC strategy development; formative research – Annual LIFTs' meeting
2	Integration & Applied Learning	Roboré – Bolivia	Indigenous fire stewardship & brigade integration	BC + Indigenous knowledge; brigade systems
3	Integration & Applied Learning	Iñapari – MDD - Peru	Early warning & community communication systems	Detection systems; mobile app; last-mile comms
3	Consolidation & Replication	Santarém – PA - Brazil	Community fire management models & innovation showcase	Innovation pipeline; Fire Grand Challenge; BC campaigns – Annual LIFTs' meeting
Year	Key Outcomes			
Year 1 Foundation	• BC strategies designed and piloted • Brigades begin transition to Capacity Level 2 • Initial technology adoption pathways defined			
Year 2 Integration	• Integrated behavior change + detection + response systems • Tested cross-border communication practices • Strengthened community–brigade coordination			
Year 3 Scaling	• Consolidated replicable territorial models • Peer-reviewed LIFT innovations ready for scaling			

2. Coordination for Knowledge Generation Committee

(5 workshops | 40–50 participants | Focus: data systems, M&E, interoperability, innovation ecosystem)

Year	Phase	Location	Focus	Operational Link
1	Foundations & System Design	Santarém – PA - Brazil	Data systems mapping & interoperability	Data & Monitoring Framework; platform alignment
2	Foundations & System Design	Corumbá – MT - Brazil	M&E framework and baseline indicators	MEL system; KAP baseline; learning agenda
2	Integration & Co-Development	Roboré – Bolivia	Intercultural knowledge systems & training tools	BC integration; training modules
3	Integration & Co-Development	Iñapari – MDD – Peru	Early warning systems integration	Detection + communication systems; app integration
3	Consolidation & Legacy Systems	Paragominas – PA - Brazil	Toolkit finalization & innovation pipeline	Open-access tools; knowledge systems; scaling
Year	Key Outcomes			
Year 1 Foundation	Shared data architecture and standards • Fund-wide M&E framework established			
Year 2 Integration	Integrated data + behavior + response frameworks • Improved interoperability across systems and actors			
Year 3 Scaling	Finalized decision-support tools and toolkits • Established regional knowledge and innovation backbone			

3. High-Level Strategic Committee for Cross-Border Institutional Collaboration

(3 meetings | 25–30 participants | Focus: governance, financing, strategic alignment)

Year	Phase	Location	Focus	Operational Link
1	Alignment & Strategic Framing	Cruzeiro do Sul – AC - Brazil	Strategic alignment & collaboration framework	Cross-border governance; coordination architecture
2	Strategic Review & Resource Alignment	Iñapari – MDD – Peru	Progress review & financial pathways	jREDD, credit systems, OBF design
3	Institutionalization & Scaling	Santarém – PA - Brazil	Endorsement of scaling strategy & financing mechanisms	Guarantees, insurance, OBF, scaling roadmap
Year	Key Outcomes			
Year 1 Foundation	• Agreed shared vision, priorities, and collaboration principles			
Year 2 Integration	• Adjusted resource allocation toward high-impact pathways • Alignment on financial innovation instruments			
Year 3 Scaling	• Formal endorsement of scaling and financing strategy • Strengthened regional institutional alignment			

Agenda Architecture and Principles

1. Progression: Test - Integrate - Scale
2. Each committee maps to:
 - Operations: LIFT implementation (BC, brigades, tech)
 - Innovation: systems, data, M&E, innovation
 - High-Level: governance, finance, scale
3. Learning Loops:
 - Year 1: Design + baseline
 - Year 2: Integration + adaptation
 - Year 3: Consolidation + scaling
4. Explicit Cross-Border approach:
 - Border LIFTs (Roboré, Iñapari) anchor integration moments
 - Brazilian LIFTs anchor scaling and system consolidation agendas

2.2 Implementation Model

High Level Strategic Committee for Cross-Border Institutional Collaboration

This Committee is the political and strategic anchor of SAFF's cross-border collaboration strategy. It focuses on securing high-level alignment around shared priorities for wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery across LIFTs and participating countries, and on enabling the kind of cross-border institutional collaboration that no single project or country can achieve alone.

Dimension	Description
Objectives	Secure political and strategic institutional alignment on integrated fire management across South American countries and LIFTs; define shared priorities, principles, and targets for cross-border wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery; foster international and subnational collaboration and process improvements at a scale beyond individual projects.
Participants	Senior officials from <u>national and subnational governments</u> (environment, climate, agriculture, civil protection, Indigenous affairs); <u>regional cooperation bodies</u> (e.g. OTCA/ACTO, Amazon/Chaco initiatives, GCF Task Force); <u>international organizations and development partners</u> (FAO, UNEP, UNDRR, development banks); representatives designated by LIFT governance bodies; with seats or observer status, where appropriate, for Indigenous and traditional peoples' organizations and national associations of municipalities.
Opportunities	<u>Align national strategies and regional agendas</u> around shared fire priorities; reduce duplication and fragmentation among existing initiatives; create joint action on issues such as common positions in multilateral fora, harmonized regulations on controlled burning, shared standards for early-warning systems, and coordinated investment in cross-border fire corridors; give political backing to technical and operational innovations emerging from other committees.
Methodologies	<u>Periodic high-level meetings</u> (e.g. annual or biannual), rotating between countries and/or LIFTs to foster ownership and visibility; sessions structured around (i) strategic decision-making on cross-border priorities and resource allocation, (ii) review of progress and bottlenecks in institutional collaboration, and (iii) structured dialogue with the Strategic Coordination and Operations' Innovation Committees to ensure political guidance is informed by field-level learning and innovation.

Coordination for Knowledge Generation Committee

This Committee is the operational and technical engine of SAFF's cross-border architecture. It translates political guidance from the High-Level Committee into coherent technical strategies, shared methods, and joint learning agendas, and coordinates how data, tools, and research are used and improved across LIFTs and partner institutions.

Dimension	Description
Objectives	Translate high-level political guidance into coherent technical strategies and operational standards ; promote operational alignment and knowledge generation across LIFTs; harmonize indicators and methodologies for integrated fire management across biomes; coordinate the use and enhancement of data platforms, tools, and research; structure joint learning and evaluation so that innovations in one country or LIFT can be transferred to others.
Participants	<u>Technical leaders</u> and managers from fire, forest, climate, agriculture, and disaster-risk agencies; representatives of <u>regional and international technical partners</u> (e.g. FAO Global Fire Management Hub, SERVIR-Amazônia, research institutes, universities); <u>focal points from each LIFT</u> responsible for monitoring, evaluation, and learning; other knowledge-generating institutions as relevant.
Opportunities	<u>Identify and support technology and process improvements</u> within and between LIFTs; harmonize core indicators and monitoring frameworks; develop shared methodologies for IFM across biomes; coordinate use of existing platforms (e.g. satellite and alert systems) to <u>avoid duplication</u> ; align and combine research, pilots, and evaluations into <u>joint learning agendas</u> ; make scientific and local knowledge more usable for decision-makers at different levels.
Methodologies	<u>Solutions- and process-oriented technical</u> workshops, rotating between countries and/or LIFTs, designed as working sessions rather than conferences; mixed teams jointly analyze concrete operational problems (e.g. community-based prevention, cross-border early warning, post-fire restoration), compare approaches, and prototype improvements in tools, protocols, or institutional arrangements; between workshops, smaller thematic working groups continue collaboration virtually to maintain momentum and refine outputs.

Operational Innovation Committee

This Committee is the territory-facing component of SAFF's architecture. It connects practitioners on the ground—brigades, municipal teams, Indigenous and community organizations, NGOs, protected-area managers—so that practical experience and innovation in day-to-day fire management drive the broader strategy from the bottom up.

Dimension	Description
Objectives	Create a dedicated space for on-the-ground learning and knowledge exchange; connect practitioners across territories and LIFTs to share concrete experiences, test new approaches, and improve everyday fire management practices; ensure that practical insights and innovations from the field feed back into strategic and technical coordination.
Participants	<u>Operational staff from national and subnational fire and forest agencies; leaders and members of community and Indigenous fire brigades; protected-area managers; municipal teams; local NGOs and socio-environmental funds; private actors involved in land and resource management (e.g. producer associations); operational focal points from each LIFT-supported project or program.</u>
Opportunities	Foster <u>knowledge sharing and collaboration</u> at the operational level within and between LIFTs; <u>make visible what is working and what is not</u> in specific territories (e.g. early-burn regimes, community-led alert systems, cross-municipal arrangements); <u>avoid repetition of mistakes; accelerate scaling</u> of effective models and practices; <u>strengthen horizontal ties</u> among practitioners that can support rapid collaboration in crisis situations.
Methodologies	<u>Collaboration and knowledge-sharing workshops, rotating between countries and/or LIFTs and hosted in or near operational sites; field-anchored exchanges where participants visit project areas, observe practices in situ, and engage in structured reflection sessions to extract lessons, adapt methods, and co-design small-scale innovations; systematic documentation of case studies, operational guides, and peer-to-peer recommendations, which are then fed back to the Strategic Coordination Committee and, through it, to the High-Level Committee, closing the loop between practice, learning, and strategy.</u>

2.3 Integration with LIFTs

Strategic High-Level Committee and LIFTs

The Strategic High-Level Committee will interact with the LIFTs primarily through periodic, in-person meetings held in or near LIFT territories and through direct engagement with their focal organizations. Its role is not to manage projects, but to listen to what is emerging from the territories and then align expectations, priorities, and support around that reality. In practical terms, LIFT representatives will participate in High-Level Committee sessions to present key lessons, emerging opportunities, and bottlenecks.

Coordination for Knowledge Generation Committee and LIFTs

The Strategic Coordination Committee will work with LIFTs as the technical backbone that helps them turn scattered data and pilots into coherent, shareable tools. Each LIFT will designate technical focal points (for monitoring, evaluation, and information systems) who will participate in the Committee's workshops and working groups. Together, they will co-develop and share field-data protocols, and practical decision-support tools that can be used across sites.

Operations' Innovation Committee and LIFTs

The Operations' Innovation Committee is the closest to the LIFTs' day-to-day reality; it essentially "lives" in the territories. Workshops and exchanges are hosted by the LIFT focal organizations themselves, bringing together brigade members, community leaders, municipal teams, and local NGOs from multiple LIFTs to learn directly from one another. Through field visits, technique demonstrations, and peer problem-solving, the Committee helps LIFTs test new approaches, compare operational models, and refine practices around prevention, response, and behaviour change. These territorial insights are then documented as concrete knowledge products, practice notes, protocols, field guides, which are fed upward to the Coordination Committee and Strategic High-Level Committee, ensuring that LIFT-driven innovation shapes the Fund's technical standards and strategic direction.

2.4 Key Stakeholders

Government agencies	NGOs / Funds	Research institutions	Technology providers	Local communities / organizations
Municipal government of Corumbá; state environment and civil defense agencies (MS); federal fire/ IBAMA–PREVFOGO units; Brazilian space/ meteorological agencies; links to OTCA/RAMIF and GCF Task Force through national reps	Instituto Homem Pantaneiro (IHP); national NGOs (e.g., WWF, TNC) when relevant; socio-environmental funds	Embrapa Pantanal; Brazilian universities; collaborations with FAO Global Fire Management Hub	National “Queimadas” system operators; SERVIR-Amazonia partners; Global Forest Watch Fires integrators; local telecom/ radio companies	Pantanal ranchers; traditional fishers (pescadores); community brigades; Indigenous/quilombola communities where present
Paragominas municipal gov.; Pará state environment and rural extension agencies; IBAMA–PREVFOGO; links to OTCA/RAMIF and GCF Task Force via Brazil	Aliança da Terra; TNC; producer associations; national climate and forest funds	Embrapa Amazônia Oriental; UFPA and other Brazilian research groups; cooperation with FAO/Fire Hub	Remote sensing and farm-monitoring firms; “Queimadas” system; SERVIR-Amazonia products; GFW Fires	Small and medium farmers; large producers; rural workers’ associations; local fire brigades
Santarém municipal gov.; Pará state environment/civil defense; IBAMA–PREVFOGO; articulation with OTCA/RAMIF	IPAM; local NGOs in extractive reserves; national socio-environmental funds	IPAM teams; UFOPA and other Amazonian research institutions; links to RAISG, MapBiomass	Satellite and geospatial platforms (RAISG, MapBiomass, GFW Fires); SERVIR-Amazonia; local IT/ communications providers	Extractive reserve communities; ribeirinhos; Indigenous communities; community forest and fishing councils

Cruzeiro do Sul municipal gov.; Acre state environment and Indigenous affairs agencies; IBAMA–PREVFOGO; national interface with OTCA/RAMIF and GCF Task Force	IPAM; Indigenous organizations; regional NGOs	IPAM; UFAC and allied research centers; partnerships with FAO Hub/Fire Hub	Providers of community monitoring tools, drones, early-warning platforms; national “Queimadas” system	Indigenous peoples (e.g., Kaxinawá, Ashaninka and neighbors); smallholder colonists; community brigades and associations
Regional gov. of Madre de Dios; SERFOR and SERNANP; civil defense; Peru’s interface to OTCA/RAMIF and GCF Task Force	Conservación Amazónica – ACCA; Peruvian environmental NGOs; local funds	ACCA scientific teams; Peruvian universities; collaborations with SERVIR-Amazonia and FAO/Fire Hub	SERVIR-Amazonia; national satellite agencies; tech providers for alerts and monitoring	Indigenous and communal reserve organizations (e.g., Amaraeri-related groups); community monitors; smallholder farmers and concessionaires
Municipality of Roboré; departmental gov. of Santa Cruz; Bolivian forest and environment agencies; civil defense; Bolivia’s interface with GCF Task Force and regional dialogues	Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (FAN); Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC); other local/regional NGOs	Bolivian universities and research institutes; partnerships with international centers (e.g., RAISG members, FAO Hub where relevant)	Providers of fire-risk mapping tools; satellite-data users; local telecom/radio	Chiquitano Indigenous communities; campesino communities; community and Indigenous brigades; neighborhood associations in wildland–urban interface

3. Budget and Resource Requirements

3.1 Sustainability

The Cross-Border Collaboration Plan is designed specifically to serve the **three-year test phase** of the South America Fire Fund. Its purpose is to create an intensive, time-bound structure, through the three committees and a series of in-person workshops and meetings, that helps the Fund learn quickly from LIFTs, generate and refine practical tools, and validate its core strategies in real territories. In other words, the plan is a **support mechanism for the pilot**, not a permanent governance architecture: it exists to give the test fund a coherent way to coordinate actors across borders, organize knowledge flows, and build an initial portfolio of innovations that can inform a larger, more permanent fund design.

Beyond this three-year period, the intention is not to maintain the Cross-Border Collaboration Plan as a parallel, stand-alone system. Instead, its methods, tools and lessons are meant to be **absorbed and taken up by existing regional and thematic forums**. Platforms such as OTCA/RAMIF, the GCF Task Force, FAO's Global Fire Management Hub, SERVIR-Amazonia, RAISG, MapBiomas and others already provide spaces for political dialogue, technical coordination and data integration. As the test fund concludes, these forums, along with national mechanisms and LIFT-level consortia, can selectively incorporate the most effective elements of the Cross-Border Plan (e.g., peer-learning formats, shared indicators, toolkits), ensuring continuity of collaboration without locking the Fund into a heavy, bespoke structure beyond the pilot phase.



3.2 Leveraging Opportunities

The Cross-Border Collaboration Plan also opens important opportunities for **fundraising and institutional partnerships**. By systematically connecting LIFTs with regional and global actors, such as OTCA/RAMIF, the GCF Task Force, FAO's Global Fire Management Hub, SERVIR-Amazonia, RAISG and MapBiomass, the plan creates a clear, investable architecture through which donors can channel complementary resources into territorial practice, shared tools and cross-border learning. The three-committee structure makes collaboration attractive to funders and institutions: the Strategic High-Level Committee offers an entry point for political and financial commitments; the Coordination Committee provides a platform for technical agencies, data initiatives and philanthropy to co-invest in interoperable systems and common metrics; and the Operations' Innovation Committee gives corporate, philanthropic and public partners a concrete way to support community-led innovation on the ground. In this way, the Plan not only accelerates learning within the three-year test fund but also positions SAFF as a **natural hub for aligned funding and joint programs**, helping to crowd in additional finance and long-term institutional support around successful cross-border approaches.



4. References

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