



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

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# Reflections on Fire Management Networks – Enduring and Not So

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## Some Points

- Networks – definition:
    - a group or system of interconnected people or things
  - All of us have at least one enduring network – our family and extended family connections.
  - No systematic study on networks that I have become aware of so some examples are explored to identify some characteristics.
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# Dwellingup 1961





## Historical Example

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- **Prescribed Burning Management Western Australia**
    - Debate on prescribed burning for some years.
    - 24th January 1961 the towns of Dwellingup, Holyoake and Nanga Brook all burned down and 394 000 hectares was burned.
    - Royal Commission into the fires of 1961
      - A.G.McArthur acted as technical adviser; R.H.Luke accompanied McArthur
      - A.C.Harris (Conservator), W.R.Wallace (Deputy Conservator), B.J.Beggs (Previous Divisional Forest Officer at Dwellingup), W.H.Eastman (Divisional Forest Officer), H.G.Styles (Forester at Dwellingup), J.C.Meachem (Senior Divisional Forest Officer), A.J.Milesi (Fire Control Superintendent), J.H.Rate (Forester) and D.W.R.Stewart (Forests Department Officer). G.B.Peet had commenced as a forester a week before the fire
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- FAO North American Forestry Commission Fire Management Working Group (FMWG)
    - Established in 1962 and will hold its 55th meeting in November 2021
    - It has a charter that was revised in 2020 with the objectives:
      - Exchange experiences and technological advances regarding prevention, wildland fire management and fire use.
      - Provide mutual aid and technical exchanges between, Canada, Mexico and the United States.
    - FMWG is three countries who agreed on fire as a thematic area and have continuously supported a working group.
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## European Commission EGFF

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- European Expert Group on Forest Fires (EGFF)
    - The EGFF was set up in 1998, and will have its 43rd meeting later in 2021.
    - Includes experts from member countries' environmental or forestry administrations.
    - Over 40 countries from the EU and its Eastern and Southern neighbourhood
    - Continuous support from the EC Directorate-General Environment and with the Joint Research Centre as Secretariat.
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## Latin America and Caribbean Region (LAC)

- Invitation from North American Forestry Commission (NAFC) to initiate an activity 2004
- Plan to invite colleagues from LAC to meeting in North America – not possible
- A Regional Strategy of Cooperation prepared in consultation in 2004.
  - Objective to strengthen international cooperation in wildland fire management.
- Some interaction but in effect very little follow up and limited results.
- Currently EC is supporting an effort to create a network of experts in LAC



## Some Reflections

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- Rick Scott - liaison officer for all the working groups of the NAFC. He noted the following on forming and maintaining working groups:
    - The working group needs a concrete task and objective(s)
    - Continuity, consistent group membership for a good period of time
    - Compatibility/collegiality, the group needs to like each other and work well together
    - Cooperators, made up of people willing to work cooperatively
    - Communication, no or few language barriers, minutes of the meeting kept and posted, etc.
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**Thank you for listening**

**Any questions?**

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