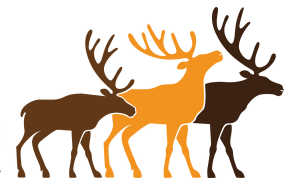


Arctic Council Wildfire Projects

Wildfires are increasing in frequency, severity, and area across the Arctic, bringing challenges as well as opportunities and requiring greater collaboration, knowledge sharing, and partnership. GCI is leading two projects to advance work on wildfires at the Arctic Council, in the CAFF and EPPR Working Groups.

Each project has unique objectives and intended uses, summarized below, as well as its own Steering Committee of State and Permanent Participant representatives. The projects are connected through their overarching goal of addressing wildfires in the Arctic and circumpolar focus. Knowledge sharing is a key component of both projects, and a workshop is planned to bring people working in ecology, management, and response together and review draft project deliverables.

	CAFF	EPPR
Sphere of impact	Management & mitigation of impacts Sharing knowledge systems	Operational readiness and response Economic development
Objective(s)	Understand extent and impacts of wildfires Understand good practices for wildfire management (to achieve social, ecological, cultural goals) from Western science and IK perspectives Share practices and ongoing work and learnings	Document and understand good practices for international cooperation agreements targeting operational activities Improve coordinated response by Arctic States and Permanent Participants, and promote international cooperation Create template for discussion of MOU for Arctic fire collaboration (response, training)
Activities	Map the extent and distribution of fires across the Arctic (look at data across jurisdictions and map key elements), currently and in the past Review practices from states/different jurisdictions to compile how they manage fires Invite PPs to document use of fire for management and impacts Assess who is doing what work/projects around fire in the Arctic Joint with EPPR Workshop to bring together fire ecologists, knowledge holders, and operational staff to share and discuss project work and deliverables across and within working groups	Compile and assess instruments (agreements, MOUs, policies) that enable cross-border responses Interview users, designers, and policy makers for what elements worked, recommendations for change, and what was most useful Draft a template to include necessary elements for consideration when discussing cross-border fire response Scope Phase II of the project Joint with CAFF Workshop to bring together fire ecologists, knowledge holders, and operational staff to share and discuss project work and deliverables across and within working groups
Deliverables	Map(s) of the extent and distribution of fires across the Arctic	Compendium and assessment of instruments and best practices



	<p>Compilation of guidelines and best practices for Arctic fire ecology and forest management</p> <p>Compilation, to be updated annually, of work on Arctic fire ecology and fire-related Indigenous knowledge products</p>	<p>Template with clauses relevant for wildfire response (including but not limited to operational and training response)</p> <p>Summary of how each Arctic state manages operational response and what, if any, interagency/state agreements are in place</p> <p>Summary of standard practices/training by state</p>
How work is intended to be used	<p>Reduce threats of catastrophic wildfires</p> <p>Increased options for mitigating and managing fires depending on desired outcomes</p> <p>Support cross-border conversations about management</p> <p>Advance Arctic conversation because extent of impact in Arctic is known</p>	<p>Enable cross border responses to fire, bringing more resources to bear and creating economic opportunities for crews that understand and are trained in Arctic fire response</p> <p>Create the framework for joint responses when fires cross borders</p> <p>Proactively have mechanism for sharing resources</p> <p>Enable international cooperation, training, and contracting of wildland fire resources across state boundaries</p>
Priorities	<p>Data compilation and standardization</p> <p>Ecological, management, social, cultural impacts and knowledge transmission</p>	<p>Understanding context for international cooperation on fire response, and drafting template to advance discussion</p>
Audience	<p>Public – understand how fires impact the Arctic</p> <p>Ecologists – better understanding of management practices and options, including from Indigenous perspectives</p> <p>Policy makers – understand scope of issue and levers of impact</p> <p>Academics –understand current work and gaps</p> <p>PPs – enable knowledge transmission</p>	<p>Policy makers</p> <p>Operational fire managers</p> <p>Government resource managers and planners</p> <p>Local fire crews and communities</p> <p>PPs –enable co-production of knowledge</p>
Partners	<p>CAFF Secretariat</p> <p>Natural resource agencies & departments of Interior, Resource Management, Forestry</p> <p>Knowledge holders</p> <p>Academics</p> <p>GIS specialists</p>	<p>EPPR Secretariat</p> <p>Wildland fire experts and managers (operations division)</p> <p>Law & policy specialists</p> <p>Training branches</p>
Timing	<p>Project approved September 2019</p> <p>Steering Committee established Nov 2019</p> <p>PSI Funding application Feb 2020</p>	<p>Project approved January 2020</p> <p>Steering Committee to begin early summer 2020</p>