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Amazon forest fire 2019 report

Image copyright Roland HughesBBC Newsmedia CaptionBrazil's highly biodiverse Cerrado is destroyed by soybean production, conservationists sayDark clouds of smoke stifle cities in Brazil, as parts of the Amazon burned at a rate not seen for years, and the world responded with outrage. For several weeks in August, the eyes of the world were down in Brazil and its government's response. But what is the latest with fires now, almost two months? And why can the problem be worse than it first appeared? When amazon burning was the largest in August, there were thousands of individual fires, almost three times more that month - 30,901 - compared to the same period last year. What caused this? Forest fires in the Amazon take place in the dry season from July to October. They can be caused by natural events such as lightning strikes, but it is believed that this year most of them have started farmers and logs clearing land for crops or grazing. This is important because the Amazon is the largest tropical forest in the world and a vital carbon storage facility that slows the pace of global warming. The world has reacted with fury to the fires - in dozens of cities there have been protests, threats of financial penalties and widespread condemnation of Brazilian President Jairo Bolsonaro's environmental policy.Media caption It is very upsetting ... To see this kind of devastation - the BBC's Will Grant flew over the northern Rondonia stateIn late August, Mr Bolsonaro deployed troops to the Amazon and ordered a 60-day ban to set fires to clear land there. The measures have had an impact - the number of fires in the Amazon fell by a third between August and September. The pace has slowed down further this month and is likely to do so even more now that annual rains have begun. However, there are indications that the situation is worse than it seems. This is because the burning of tropical forests is not the biggest problem - deforestation is. Traditionally, the Amazon rainforests are felled, left to dry and then set on fire. Before the moratorium, there had already been a major deforestation. The only thing the insurance did not allow was to burn more. They have reduced the level of combustion, but not the level of deforestation, says Ane Alencar, scientific director of the not-for-profit Amazon Institute for Environmental Research (Ipam). By the end of August, most deforestation in the current year had already occurred. Ane Alencar believes the actual figure may be at least 30% higher, making it the worst year since 2008. Amazon deforestation in Brazil. Much of the wood has yet to be burned, it feels, because of the moratorium and the fact that the annual rain is now starting. There are many areas that have been thrown away but have not been burned, but they can be burned next year, says Mr Alencar. Although the fires eased in the Brazilian Amazon, it was a different story in another fragile region to the south - cerrado savannah. WWF calls it one of the endangered ecosystems on the planet, but there were more fires than the Amazon last month. Image captionSwathes from Cerrado have been transformed into soybean farming in Cerrado is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world - about 40% of animal and plant species there cannot be found anywhere else on the planet, and it is populated by jaguars, anteaters and macaws. However, according to the Amazon Institute for Environmental Research (Ipam), about half of the forests, wetlands, forests and meadows have already been lost - most of them are for soybean cultivation. While the Brazilian Amazon is in danger, the vast majority of it remains intact. Cerrado is about half the size of the Brazilian Amazon, and the land is lost much faster. Cerrado was not subject to the same ban on fires enforced in the Brazilian Amazon in late August. Thus, from August to September, the number of fires in savannah increased by 78% to 22 989. When the public looked at the Amazon, they thought [Cerrado], everything was fine, we could do whatever we want here, says Ane Alencar. There have been nearly 1,800 fires in Cerrado so far in October, but the worst may have passed. By the end of the month, the region will be hit by heavy annual rainfall. Brazil's environment minister told the BBC the government is doing an excellent job protecting the Amazon, but campaigners say it could do more than just stop fires in one region for 60 days. Fires in the Amazon may have slowed down after Brazil's response to the fires, but this short-term response is not enough, says Christian Poirier, program director of the US-based non-profit group Amazon Watch.mediaWATCH, Brazil has done an excellent job in the Amazon We need a real commitment from the Bolshar government to protect Brazil's forests and their local and traditional communities, which are the real guardians of the Amazon. Bolsonaro promised to zero tolerance for explosive deforestation and subsequent widespread arson; however, his policies and rhetoric have indeed led to such crimes. Media captionDrone footage shows when damage to Bolivia's AmazonAlthough Brazilian fires grabbed most of the headlines, it's far from the only South American nation to have experienced fires - or to face controversy over how they started. Paraguay has lost many hectares of protected forests from Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland, endangering its biodiversity. WWF Paraguay says it's a man-made problem, as farmers burn grassland to improve the quality of cattle pastures, causing forest fires. Brazilian satellite agency data shows more than 18,200 fires in Paraguay in 2019, up 16% from this time last year.Media captionBolivians are launching a long protest march over fires in Bolivia - some set deliberately - since May that have destroyed more than four million hectares, but heavy rains can now ease the situation. Tuesday said fires in the east were quenching, and footage showed firefighters badly hit by Chiquitanía jumping out of joy. The Fires in Bolivia have sparked mass protests against President Evo Morales, who recently passed a decree allowing farmers to clean up four times more agriculture - a process completed by burning. Additional reporting by Rebecca SealesWorld explained Amazon rainforestBrazilAmazon fires Smoke billows from a fire in the Amazon rainforest area near Porto Velho, Rondonia state, Brazil.SAO PAULO: The number of fires in the Amazon rainforest increased by 30.5% in 2019 compared to last year, according to data published Wednesday by space research agency INPE. According to INPE, in 2019 There were 89,178 fires in the Amazon region, compared with 68,345 in 2018. While the number of fires has increased, it was still below the historical average of 109,630 fires in the Amazon each year. The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest and is considered to be crucial in the fight against climate change due to the huge amount of carbon dioxide that the planet is warming, which it absorbs. The urgent need to protect the Amazon has found itself in the spotlight as deforestation in Brazil, home to the largest share of the Amazon, has risen to its highest in more than a decade in 2019 under the administration of President Jair Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro has accused scientists and environmentalists of emboldening ranchers and loggers by calling on the Amazon to be developed and weakened by the Environmental Protection Agency's Ibama.INPE fire monitoring program also identified a growing number of fires last year in other Brazilian ecosystems such as Pantanal and Cerrado. Brazil and Bolivia struggled in 2019 to curb massive forest fires. (Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by NDTV employees and is published from a syndicated channel.) Charred areas of the Amazon in Brazil, August 27, 2019 JOAO LAET/AFP/Getty Images Record fires loote through the Amazon - an ecosystem on which the whole world depends. The Verge will update this page with news and analysis of fires and the impact that can persist when the ash settles. Contents: Why amazon burning? In 2019, an unprecedented number of fires raged across Brazil, intensifying in August. That month, the country's National Space Research Institute (INPE) reported that there were more than 80,000 fires, the most it has ever recorded. This was a jump of almost 80 percent compared to the number of fires the country experienced during the same period in 2018. More than half of these fires originated in the Amazon. The number of blazes fell in September, after President Jair Bolsonaro bowed to mounting pressure to tackle the flames and announced a 60-day ban to set fires to clear the ground. Some exceptions have been made to indigenous peoples who practice livelihood agriculture and those who have received permission from environmental authorities to use controlled burning larger fires. There is no doubt that this increase in fire activity is due to a sharp increase in deforestation These are deliberate fires to clean up the forest, says Cathelijne Stoof, coordinator of the Fire Service at Wageningen University (WUR) in the Netherlands. People want to get rid of the forest, make agricultural land so that people can eat meat. INPE found that deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon reached 11-year highs in 2019. There is no doubt that this increase in fire activity is associated with a sharp increase in deforestation, paulo Artaxo, an atmospheric physicist at the University of São Paulo, told Science Magazine. He explained that fires are expanding along the borders of new agricultural development, which is often seen in fires associated with deforestation. President Jairo Bolsonaro's administration, which promised to open up the Amazon for more development, sought to divert attention away from deforestation. Mr Bolsonaro initially pointed the finger at NGOs who opposed his policies for allegedly deliberately setting fires on the protest, without providing any evidence to substantiate his claim. In August, he fired the Director of the National Space Research Institute over a dispute over data he had released showing a sudden failure in deforestation that had occurred since Bolsonaro took office. On August 20, Brazilian Environment Minister Ricardo Salles reported in the flood that the fires had spread so widespread due to dry weather, wind and heat. However, even in the dry season, large fires are not a natural phenomenon in the Amazon rainforest ecosystem. Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest, August 2019 CARL DE SOUZA/AFP/Getty Images Why is this a big deal? Everyone on the planet benefits from amazon health. As its trees take carbon dioxide and release oxygen, the Amazon plays a huge role in pulling the planet's warming greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere. Without it, climate change will accelerate. But since the world's largest rainforest is eaten by logging, mining and agrobusiness, it may not be possible to provide the same buffer. Amazon has bought you some time to stop buying it, Carlos Quesada, a researcher at The Brazilian National Amazon Research Institute, told Public Radio International in 2018. Scientists warn that tropical forests can reach breaking point, turning into something more like a savannah when it can no longer last like rainforests. This would mean that it can't soak up almost as much carbon as it is now. And if Amazon, as we know it is dying, it wouldn't be quiet. As trees and plants perish, they would spend billions of tons of carbon that has been stored for decades - making it almost impossible to avoid a climate catastrophe. Everyone on the planet benefits from amazon health course, those who are near fires will have a direct impact. Smoke from the fires got so bad it seemed to turn day night in Sao Paulo on 20. Residents say that air quality still complicates breathing. In addition, a massive global study of air pollution showed that between the two dozen countries it observed, Brazil showed one of the sharpest increases in mortality rates when there are more mosquitoes in the air. Since fire is not a natural phenomenon in the region, it can have an outsized effect on local plants and animals. One in ten all animal species on Earth calls amazon homes, and experts hope they will be severely affected by fires in the short term. In the Amazons, plants and animals are exceptionally sensitive to fire, Jos Barlow, a professor of conservation science at Lancaster University in the UK, told the Verge by email. According to Barlow, even low-intensity fires with flames only 30 centimeters high can kill up to half of the trees burned in tropical forests. Why is this a hot topic politically? When Jairas Bolsonaro campaigned for the post as a far-right candidate, he called for less land in the Amazon for local tribes and conservation, instead of easing the industry into tropical forests. Since its election in October 2018, Bolsonaro's Ministry of Agriculture has placed responsibility for the demarcation of indigenous territories, not the Ministry of Justice, essentially allowing fox to take over the chicken co-worker, according to one lawmaker. His policies were politically popular among industry and agricultural interests in Brazil, even though they were condemned by Brazilian environmental groups and opposition lawmakers. Hundreds of indigenous women stormed the country's capital on August 13 in protest at Bolsonaro environmental restoration and encroachment on development in indigenous lands. The hashtag #PrayforAmazonia blasted on Twitter. Indigenous women take part in a protest against Bolsonaro's environmental policy on August 13, 2019 tuane fernandes / picture alliance photo via Getty Images About 60 percent of the Amazon can be found on the Brazilian border, which gives the nation a huge influence on the region. It is not surprising that the fires have drawn international attention to the difficult situation of the Amazon and turned the heat into Bolsonaro's environmental policy. French President Emmanuel Macron took to Twitter to call for action at the G7 summit pushing for urgent international talks on amazon. On August 26, seven of the world's largest economies offered Brazil more than \$22 million in aid to help it manage the fires. Bolsonaro promptly rejected the money, accusing Macron on Twitter of treating Brazil as a colony. Some in Brazil, including Bolsonaro, see international aid as an attack on Brazilian sovereignty and its right to decide how to manage land on its territory. By allowing fox to take over the chicken co-worker, President Donald Trump, on the other hand, congratulated Bolsonaro on his treatment of fires. He works difficult because of the Amazon fires and in every way doing a great job for the Brazilian people, - the 27th fence he wrote. Bolsonaro has since said that he will renegotiate the deal until Macron withdraws his insults and Brazil has control over how the money is spent. 27 June 2015 Bolsonaro accepted EUR 12.2 million. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro Photo credit should read EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images How are fires fought? After weeks of international and domestic pressure, Bolsonaro deployed troops to help fight the fires on August 24, sending 44,000 troops to six countries. Reuters reported the next day that warplanes were dousing the flames. We have many challenges, Paulo Barroso tells The Verge. Mr.M Barroso is chairman of the National Forest Fire Brigade Management Committee of the Brazilian National Military Fire Corps League. He spent three decades fighting the fires in Mato Grosso, one of the regions hardest hit by the ongoing fires. According to Barroso, more than 10,400 firefighters have spread thin over 5.5 million square kilometers of amazons and hotspots go out to places they can't cover. We do not have the

right structure to prevent, control and fight forest fires, Barroso argues that they need more equipment and infrastructure to fight the flames properly. There are 778 municipalities across the Amazon, but according to Mr.M Barroso, only 110 of them have fire services. We do not have the right structure to prevent, control and fight forest fires, says Mr.M Barroso. He wants to create a forest fire protection system in the Amazon that bring together government entities, indigenous peoples, local communities, military, large companies, NGOs, education and research centres. We need to integrate everyone, says Mr Barroso.M and adds: We need money for this, we need to get big investments. Mr.M Barroso and other experts agree that it is important to look ahead to avoiding fires, as we can see now. After all, August is the only brazilian with mostly artificial fires at the beginning of the season, when the relentless and burning of the country peaks and coincides with drier weather. Military firefighters in Brazil, August 2019 Photo credit should read SERGIO LIMA/AFP/Getty Images Controlled burns are also a popular deforestation technique in other countries where the Amazon is burning, including Bolivia. There, the government brought a modified Boeing 747 supertanker to extinguish the flames. Using planes to quench fires in the Amazon is not a typical way of fighting fires in tropical forests, and can get expensive, Lancaster University's Jos Barlow tells The Verge. He says that large-scale fires in areas cleared by deforestation are best with widespread firefighters, created bulldozers - not easy in remote regions. If the fires fall into the forest itself, they need different tactics. As a general rule, they may Clearing narrow fire breaks leaf litter and fine fuel, Barlow says. However, this is a large amount of manpower on large scales, and fires need to be reached faster before they get too high. Fires that have been deliberately detected, as we see in Brazil, can be even more difficult to control compared to a sudden wildfire. They are designed to be deliberately destructive, says Timothy Ingalsbee, co-founder and executive director of Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology and Research Associate at the University of Oregon. Slashing before burning produces a lot of very dry, highly flammable fuel. And to such an extent, Ingalsbee calls fires an act of global vandalism. Barlow says: The best firefighting technique in the Amazon is to prevent them in the first place – by controlling deforestation and managing agricultural activities. WUR's Cathelijne Stoof agrees: Fighting fires is of course important now, she says. For a longer period of time, it is more important to focus on deforestation. deforestation.

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