

Lungs of Earth on Fire



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The world is made up of biotic and abiotic components, interacting with each other in a way that gives a meaning to the planet Earth. Being the only life supporting planet till known in the galaxy, it relies on the great Amazon rainforest in order to receive 20% of the whole earth's oxygen single handedly, which is why it is also termed as the "lungs of the earth".

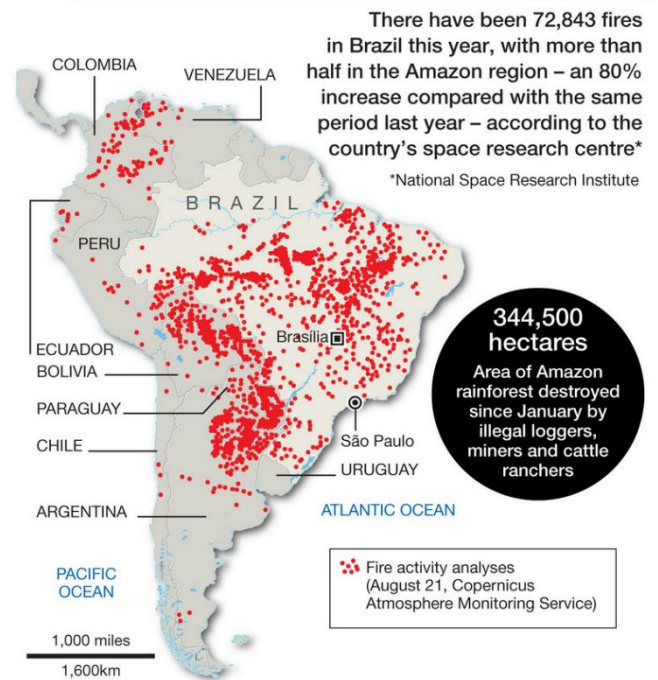
Besides being a vital contributor to the global oxygen cycle, the Amazon Rainforest also stores an estimated 100 billion tons of Carbon, preventing the harsh impact of greenhouse gas in climate change and holds over 50% of global biodiversity.

However, this vital organ of the planet is threatened by fire which puts it on the risk of

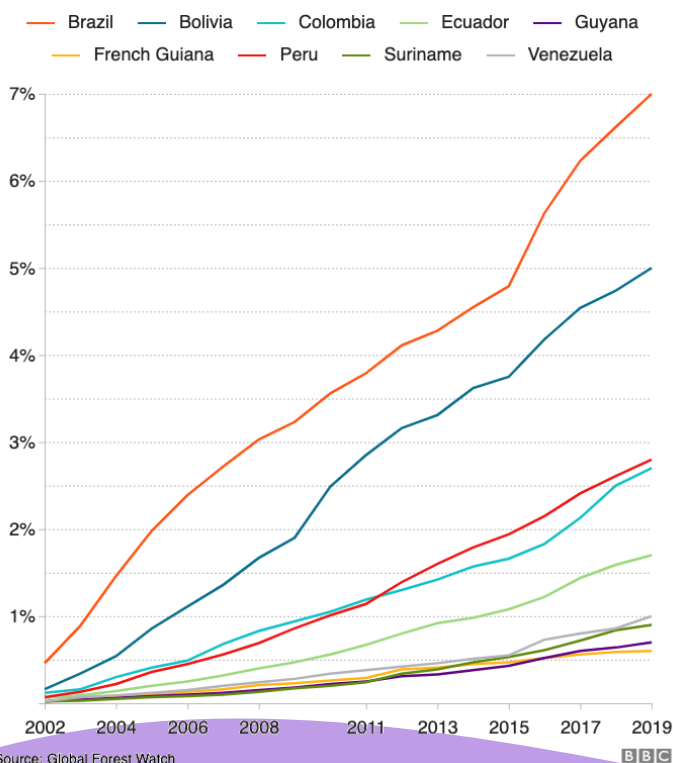
getting burned out. But who is responsible for it?

Although, fire outbreaks in Amazon forest is a common event during the period of dry season, the ever-increasing rate of this forest fire is what puts the whole system at risk. This increasing rate of forest fire is a direct result of human actions which are either accidental or on purpose.

Amazon rainforest fires surge



Annual loss of primary forest in the Amazon between 2002 and 2019



The most common example is the use of fire by farmers in order to clear the field before every agricultural season. Meanwhile, the most suitable time to fire the land are the dry seasons as the vegetation is dry. But many a times this goes out of hand and ends up burning the whole forest.

In Brazil, there have been around 72,843 forest fires by the year 2019 amongst which more than half was experienced in Amazon Rainforest. This not only affects the forest vegetation but also risks the overall oxygen production of the planet.



Besides, it also adds up harmful pollutants, particulate matter and ample of greenhouse gases in the environment, increasing the temperature of the atmosphere immediately, while leading to a potential decrease in the natural carbon level as a

long term impact.

Following the issue, many international forums such as G7 have taken their stand to address the crisis in order to provide help and protection to the rainforest in many ways such as by providing funds and aids to the neighboring countries in order to fight the crisis.

Last but not the least, Brazil is not the only nation which is facing forest fires at an alarming rate, but the other nine sovereign nations have also been facing the same situation in the Amazon.

Hence, it's the need of the time that the International organizations and communities come together in order to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of The Great Amazon Rainforest and the Lungs of earth so that the future generations do not face the devastating impacts of climate change and global warming.

 **NASA** @NASA · Aug 21
Smoke from wildfires in the #AmazonRainforest spreads across several Brazilian states in this natural-color image taken by a @NASAEarth instrument on the Suomi NPP satellite. Although it is fire season in Brazil, the number of fires may be record-setting: go.nasa.gov/2zbd9f9



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