

## FOREST FIRES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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During the period 1997-2008, each year is burned in the world average of 3.71 million km<sup>2</sup>, of which 210.000 km<sup>2</sup> corresponded to South America, which represents 5.81% of the total.

During the period 1997-2009 as a result of biomass burning in the world have issued an annual average of 2.013 Tg C, of this amount can be estimated that 500 Tg is "Net" emissions, not offset by the regeneration of vegetation, which represents approximately 50% of global emissions due to changes in land use (LUC), mainly caused by deforestation and degradation of tropical forests.

From these figures one can deduce the enormous importance of forest fires as a factor in deforestation and forest degradation in the world and has a strong interest in monitoring and studying the implementation of REDD + mechanism.

With respect to South America biomass burning emitted on average in the period above 271 Tg C, which represents 13.46% of global emissions, double the proportion corresponding to the burned area, due to the large accumulation biomass present tropical forests in the region.

The impact of C emissions due to biomass burning ranges from 241.6 Tg C of Brazil to the 4 Tg C of Colombia until a minimum of 0.2 Tg C in Ecuador. The largest emitters in absolute terms by biomass burning are Brazil (241.6 Tg C), Bolivia (36.8 Tg C), Argentina (16.8 Tg C), Paraguay (14.4 TgC) and Mexico (11.8 TgC).

In this conference will outline the relationship posed by wildfires to climate change because of its influence on the global carbon balance.Emphasis will be placed in the case of Latin America.