



The whole world is **ON FIRE**, so now we have to learn to *“live with fire”*

SUMMARY

While humanity was aimed at warming the planet, fostering development in lands, and creating policies to combat fires, we totally forgot about forest management. Forest fires have become more lethal and destructive than never before.



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Climate change and its terrible consequences, gradually became part of the global agenda, particularly for its enormous power that directly attacks the welfare levels in the planet. Due to that, underprivileged people nowadays are among the most affected ones.



Let us listen the environment

Through a report published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), we found out that we all have to “learn to live with fire” and normalize forest fires, as well as its consequences and severity. This fact will definitely put our economy and our life at risk.

According to some estimates, forest fires around the world will increase 14% by 2030, while by 2050 the total increase would be 30%. Such increases, according to the analysis by UNEP, are something we have to take for granted, at least in the short-term.

Andrew Sullivan, editor of the last UNEP report and a research member at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, mentioned that the

damage caused is irreversible, although social groups that might become the target of those fires might be able to reduce risks and exposure to that. Additionally, he mentioned that even when fires are out of control, they start having cycles to appear in different parts of the planet. The main problem is that affectations caused on areas regularly affected by forest fires might become even worse.

In contrast to other phenomena and the consequences of climate change, fires cause more troubles since they do not only affect the environment, but they also affect public health, biodiversity, and they are the main responsible of changes in the weather and in regular water cycles in the affected regions.

Fires have a purpose if they are caused by natural

Since life started on the planet, fires have had a primordial purpose, like restoring nutrients in the soil, contributing to germination in some plants, and destroying organic matters that might be ready for decomposition. In that regard, without fires our environments might become vulnerable to overpopulation of plants, which in the long-term might cause severe fires and more terrible consequences.

Humanity has intentionally burnt the land in different moments of history through practices like controlled fires, or “slash-and-burn” practices. However, the increase of temperature in the planet in combination with null protection of forest environments contributed to have the ideal conditions for neglect and increase of those phenomena.

The world will have to get used to forest fires, according to recent studies developed by UNEP.

The changes that fires have triggered

Currently, fires have become more powerful, but the biggest surprise is that they take place in unexpected places like wetlands. Forest fires are less likely to be caused by lightning, the main causes are human beings and their activities.

Scientists discovered that climate change contributed to having the meteorological conditions that caused the seasons of destructive fires in Australia in 2019 - 2020 as it was responsible for increasing by 30% the probabilities for them to take place.



The expenses caused by fires



The main expenses caused by forest fires are detected in public health, since experts have explained that annual exposure to smoke produced by forest fires caused at least 30,000 deaths in the 43 countries that were analyzed. On the other hand, they also discovered that the increase of particles in air comes from smoke produced during fires, and in 2020, that caused a direct increase on COVID-19 cases and deaths in California, Oregon, and Washington; estates that have been considerably affected by those kinds of phenomenon.

In economic matters, according to the UNEP report, forest fires cause more expenses as developed countries had to increase by 170% their budget to combat fires. As an example, we can mention the United States of America, a country that reported an expenditure of 1,900 million dollars.

Introducing technology to improve

The first step to mitigate the impacts caused by climate change consists of promoting the introduction of technology to the fields in order to propose a sustainable world which is no longer related to slash-and-burn practices. For this reason, 25 years ago and aligned to the Sustainable Development Objectives, Con-



gregación Mariana Trinitaria started promoting different integral solutions and actions to protect our ecosystems, and also to encourage the development of the agricultural sector. Actions like providing equipment to promote operativity in the fields, encouraging value-added components on productions, distribution of liquid containers with different technology processes according to diverse productivity purposes, providing the seeds and fertilizers people need; were possible thanks to the collaborations with different parts. In that regard, CMT was able to help to rescue productive cycles and whole crops in the fields. This big effort encourages families who make a living from field production to keep and improve their living conditions, despite the negative effects caused by climate change.