

Occurrences of Vegetation Fires in the Protected Areas of the Brazilian Amazonia

(Ocorrência de Fogo nas Áreas Protegidas da Amazônia Brasileira)

Alberto Setzer and Fabiano Morelli

CPTEC - Center for Weather Prediction and Climate Studies INPE – National Institute for Space Research S.J.Campos, SP, Brazil

alberto.setzer@cptec.inpe.br

fabiano.morelli@cptec.inpe.br





Summary

This study presents a first evaluation of the occurrences of vegetation fires of anthropic origin in the Protected Areas (PA) of the Brazilian Amazonia (AMZ).

The PAs comprise ~2.1 x 10⁶ km², or ~42.2% of AMZ's ~5 x 10⁶ km². Federal Conservation Units (FCU) account for 585.6 x 10⁶ km², State Conservation Units (SCU) for 559.8 km² and Indian Territories (IT) for 1,077.8 x 10⁶ km². The Conservation Units (CU) include parks, forests, ecological stations, biological reserves, units of sustainable management, etc., and are under the National System of Conservation Units, SNUC, while the ITs are under the National Foundation for the Indian, FUNAI. These PAs were recently compiled into a digital basee by ISA, "Instituto Sócioambiental", from Sao Paulo. INPE, the Brazilian National Space Institute monitors fires in satellite images since the late 1980s, and the NOAA-12 AVHRR data provides a particularly long and reliable database of 16 years, until July/2007. Combining these unique two sets, an overall analysis of fire events in the PAs was obtained.

For the 674 PAs, 473 of them, or **70.2%**, were affected by fire when using just the detections made with the more consistent AVHRR/NOAA-12 series. Using fire data from all satellites, these values rise to 617 areas with fires, or **91.5%** of them. For the percentage of the areas with NOAA-12 fire occurrences inside them, the 137 FCUs showed the highest value, **79.6%**, followed by the 159 SCUs with **77.4%**, and by the 378 ITs with **78.4%**. The extent of the fire effect in the PAs affected varies widely, from cases when over 70% of the area shows fires almost every year, to those when only isolated fires are identified at the boundary of the area.

Occurrences of illegal man-caused fires in the Protected Areas of Amazonia present a definite case for scientific, environmental, ecological and administrative concern.

Objective

To present a first evaluation of the occurrences of vegetation fires in the Protected Areas of the Brazilian Amazonia.

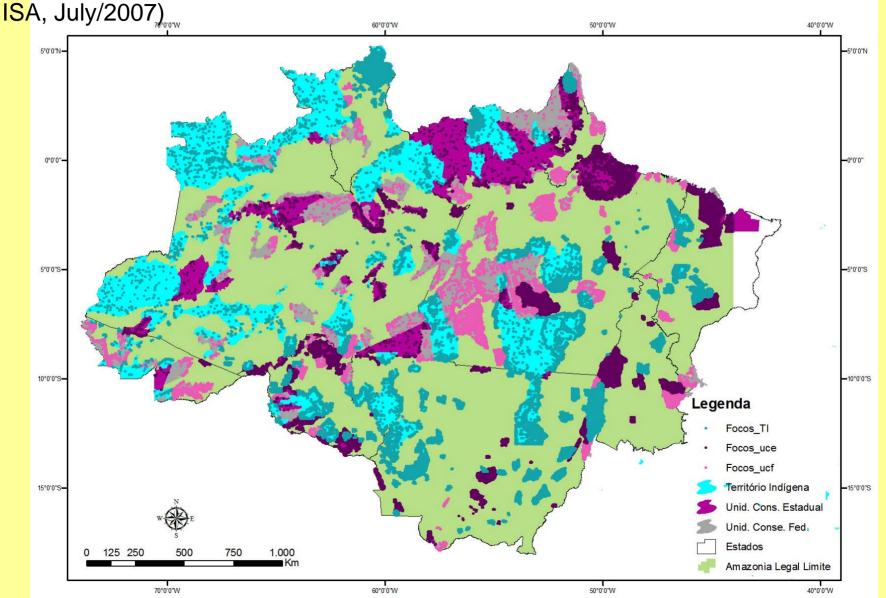
Input Data

- Geographical coordinates of fire pixels in the period of 2000-2007 provided by INPE's operational system, http://www.cptec.inpe.br/queimadas and http://www.dpi.inpe.br/proarco
- <u>Comments:</u> fire pixel location with ± 01 km accuracy for ~85% of the cases in the NOAA-12 AVHRR detections, and up to ± 03 km with GOES and MSG imagery; western Amazonia (Acre, Rondonia, west Amazonas) limited coverage in 2000; only the late-afternoon NOAA-12 overpasses used in the main series.
- Digital Cartographical Database of the Protected Areas of Brazil provided by ISA, "Instituto Socio Ambiental", Sao Paulo, Brazil, July/2007; ISA-INPE authorization term, 02/Aug/2007. http://www.socioambiental.org
- <u>Comments:</u> best available database in Brazil; only areas >1000 ha included; data compatible with the 1:1,000,000 scale; some Protected Areas not yet mapped or with undefined boundaries.

Processing tools

Commercial Geographical Information System to analyze coordinates of fires and limits of Protected Areas.

The Brazilian Amazonia with ~5 million km² and its 674 Protected Areas: 137 Federal Conservation Units with 585.6 x 10³ km²; 159 State Conservation Units with 559.8 x 10³ km², and; 378 Indian Territories with 1,077.8 x 10³ km². (Source:



Summary of AMZ fire occurrences for ITs, State CUs and Federal CUs.

| State | AC | AM | AP | MA | MT | PA | RO | RR | ТО | Total AMZ |
|---|--------|---------|-------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| State area, 10 ³ km2 | 152.5 | 1,570.7 | 142.8 | 331.9 | 903.3 | 1,247.6 | 237.5 | 224.2 | 277.6 | 5,088.2 |
| State area in the AMZ(Legal Brazilian Amazon) 10 ³ km2 | 152.5 | 1,570.7 | 142.7 | 262.3 | 903.3 | 1,247.6 | 237.5 | 224.2 | 277.6 | 5,018.4 |
| Total protected area,10 ³ km2 | 72.0 | 716.7 | 101.1 | 79.5 | 172.4 | 691.1 | 110.6 | 117.5 | 57.6 | 2,118.9 |
| Total no. of NOAA-12 fires in the state, AMZ | 10,089 | 16,065 | 5,749 | 80,113 | 328,862 | 240,370 | 71,395 | 15,503 | 72,660 | 840,806 |
| % of protected areas in the state | 47.2% | 45.6% | 70.8% | 24.0% | 19.1% | 55.4% | 46.6% | 52.4% | 20.7% | 41.6% |
| Number of protected areas in the state | 44 | 215 | 16 | 34 | 108 | 109 | 86 | 40 | 22 | 674 |
| Number of protectec areas with NOAA-12 fires | 22 | 88 | 10 | 27 | 99 | 88 | 82 | 36 | 21 | 473 |
| % of protected areas with NOAA-12 fires | 50.0% | 40.9% | 62.5% | 79.4% | 91.7% | 80.7% | 95.3% | 90.0% | 95.5% | 70.2% |
| Number of protected areas with fires, all satellites | 41 | 178 | 14 | 30 | 106 | 101 | 85 | 40 | 22 | 617 |
| % of protected areas with fires, all satellites | 93.2% | 82.8% | 87.5% | 88.2% | 98.1% | 92.7% | 98.8% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 91.5% |

Indian Territories

| State | AC | AM | AP | MA | MT | PA | RO | RR | TO | Total AMZ |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| IT area, 10 ³ km2 | 23.8 | 427.1 | 11.7 | 21.2 | 134.4 | 283.4 | 49.4 | 103.1 | 23.7 | 1,077.8 |
| % of protected areas, ITs | 15.6% | 27.2% | 8.2% | 8.1% | 14.9% | 22.7% | 20.8% | 46.0% | 8.5% | 21.5% |
| % of ITs with NOAA-12 fires | 39.3% | 35.3% | 60.0% | 94.1% | 92.9% | 73.3% | 100.0% | 93.8% | 88.9% | 63.8% |
| % of Its with fires, all satellites | 92.9% | 79.3% | 80.0% | 100.0% | 98.6% | 93.3% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 89.9% |

Conservation Units (State CUs and Federal CUs)

| State | AC | AM | AP | MA | MT | PA | RO | RR | TO | Total AMZ |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|
| CU area, 10 ³ km2 | 49.3 | 337.2 | 89.5 | 58.8 | 42.9 | 411.6 | 75.3 | 43.0 | 37.5 | 1,145.5 |
| % of protected areas, CUs | 32.3% | 21.5% | 62.7% | 17.7% | 4.7% | 33.0% | 31.7% | 19.2% | 13.5% | 22.5% |
| % of CUs with NOAA-12 fires | 68.8% | 53.8% | 63.6% | 64.7% | 89.5% | 85.9% | 93.8% | 75.0% | 100.0% | 78.4% |
| % of CUs with fires, all satellites | 93.8% | 90.8% | 90.9% | 76.5% | 97.4% | 92.2% | 98.4% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 93.6% |

Tables of NOAA-12 fire detections for the ITs and CUs in the Jan/2000-Jul/2007 period.

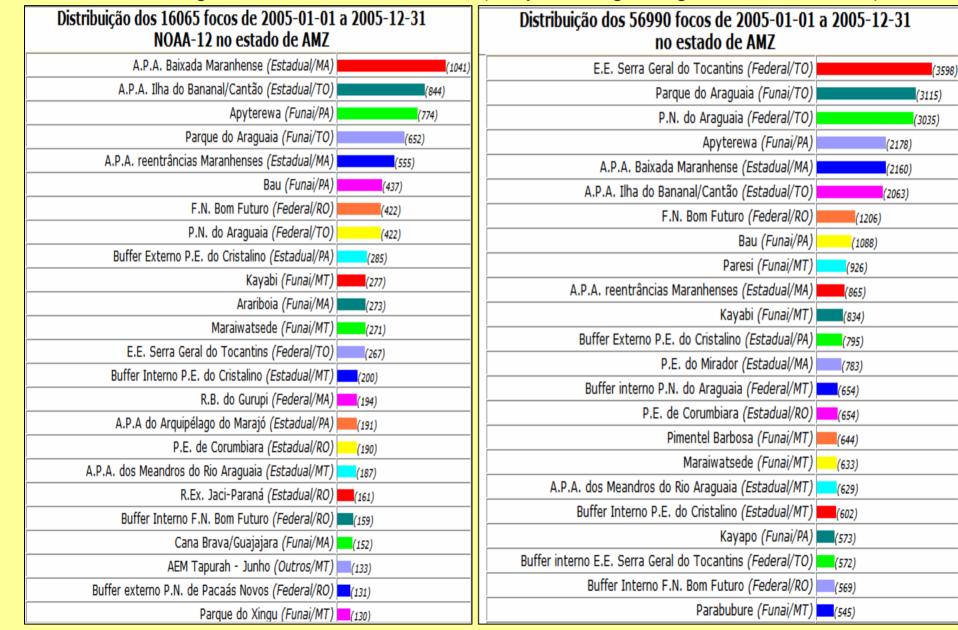
Indian Territories

| State | AC | | AM | | AP | | MA | | MT | | PA | | RO | | RR | | TO | | Total AMZ |
|--|-----------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|--------------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|--------------|--------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| NOAA-12 fires in Indian Territories | no. Focos | no. Tis | no. Focos n | o. Tis | no. Focos | no. Tis | no. Focos | no. Tis | no. Focos no | . Tis | no. Focos n | o. Tis | no. Focos r | o. Tis | no. Focos no | o. Tis | no. Focos r | 10. Tis | |
| 2000 | 8 | 3 | 100 | 25 | 14 | 1 | 252 | 13 | 914 | 53 | 390 | 26 | 220 | 16 | 77 | 9 | 566 | 6 | 2.541 |
| 2001 | 3 | 1 | 51 | 18 | 38 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1363 | 52 | 763 | 24 | 218 | 18 | 318 | 23 | 1253 | 6 | 4.008 |
| 2002 | 3 | 2 | 99 | 22 | 37 | 2 | | | 2637 | 58 | 909 | 28 | 278 | 17 | 412 | 22 | 1087 | 7 | 5.462 |
| 2003 | 1 | 1 | 128 | 17 | 39 | 2 | 572 | 15 | 1853 | 52 | 550 | 22 | 279 | 17 | 426 | 25 | 1122 | 7 | 4.970 |
| 2004 | 2 | 2 | 78 | 15 | 112 | 2 | 500 | 15 | 3298 | 58 | 889 | 24 | 382 | 17 | 355 | 22 | 1104 | 6 | 6.720 |
| 2005 | 12 | 7 | 201 | 21 | 44 | 2 | 994 | 15 | 2337 | 55 | 853 | 25 | 501 | 21 | 154 | 18 | 1274 | 8 | 6.370 |
| 2006 | 1 | 1 | 134 | 16 | 14 | 1 | 246 | 14 | 1376 | 52 | 666 | 26 | 308 | 20 | 145 | 16 | 700 | 6 | 3.590 |
| 2007 | | | 12 | 5 | | | 86 | 6 | 480 | 31 | 131 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 287 | 22 | 302 | 6 | 1.304 |
| Total | 30 | 11 | 803 | 53 | 298 | 3 | 2.651 | 16 | 14.258 | 65 | 5.151 | 33 | 2.192 | 22 | 2.174 | 30 | 7.408 | 8 | 34.965 |
| Total number of fires, all satellites, 2000-2007 | 305 | 26 | 5.639 | 119 | 1.303 | 4 | 15.140 | 17 | 74.906 | 69 | 21.504 | 42 | 7.910 | 22 | 7.175 | 32 | 44.457 | 9 | 178.339 |

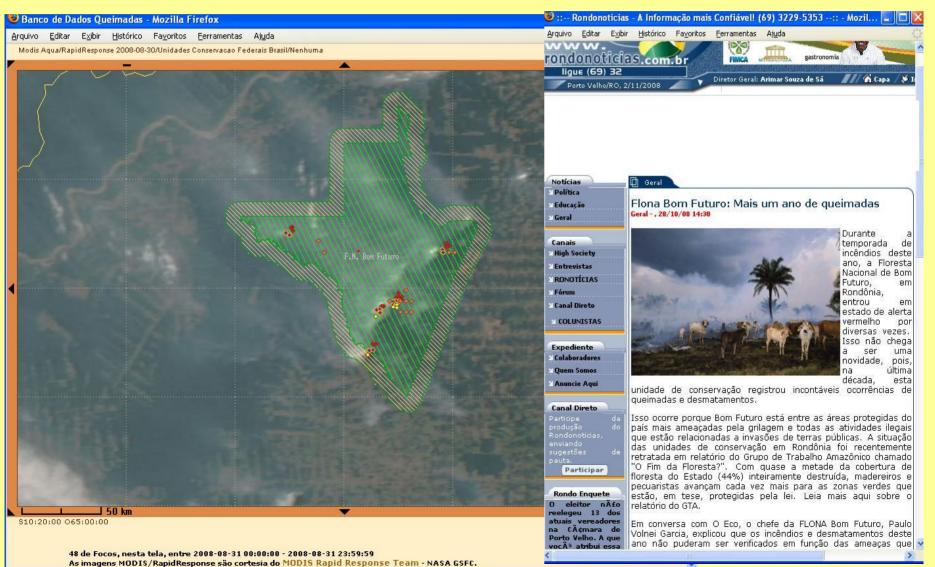
Conservation Units (State CUs and Federal CUs)

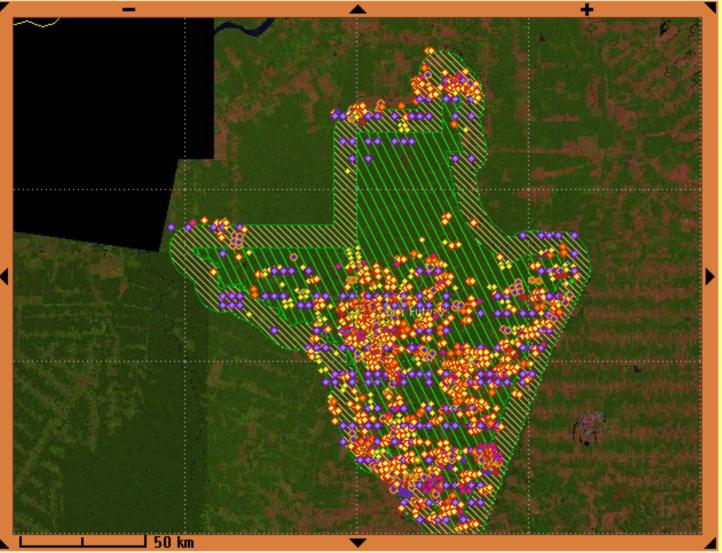
| State | AC AM | | AP | | MA | | MT | | PA | | RO | | RR | | TO | | Total AMZ | | |
|--|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| NOAA-12 fires in Coservation Units | no. Focos | no. UCs | no. Focos r | 10. UCs | no. Focos n | o. UCs | no. Focos n | o. UCs | no. Focos r | io. UCs | no. Focos | no. UCs | |
| 2000 | 6 | 2 | 93 | 15 | 42 | 4 | 964 | 10 | 392 | 20 | 1.194 | 39 | 813 | 36 | 1 | 1 | 841 | 13 | 4.346 |
| 2001 | 25 | 2 | 68 | 18 | 444 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 614 | 17 | 1.864 | 42 | 799 | 35 | 107 | 6 | 1.131 | 12 | 5.053 |
| 2002 | 36 | 7 | 99 | 14 | 228 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 724 | 22 | 3.166 | 40 | 1.446 | 37 | 31 | 3 | 1.470 | 13 | 7.201 |
| 2003 | 42 | 5 | 139 | 17 | 217 | 7 | 2.244 | 9 | 576 | 20 | 2.670 | 45 | 1.528 | 39 | 472 | 4 | 1.257 | 13 | 9.145 |
| 2004 | 32 | 3 | 61 | 13 | 286 | 6 | 2.282 | 10 | 927 | 22 | 4.407 | 44 | 2.290 | 36 | 28 | 4 | 1.737 | 13 | 12.050 |
| 2005 | 185 | 10 | 147 | 15 | 91 | 4 | 2.184 | 10 | 668 | 20 | 4.360 | 43 | 3.682 | 47 | 10 | 3 | 1.801 | 13 | 13.128 |
| 2006 | 38 | 6 | 112 | 12 | 49 | 5 | 1.393 | 10 | 336 | 16 | 2.732 | 40 | 2.229 | 40 | 3 | 2 | 770 | 13 | 7.662 |
| 2007 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 138 | 7 | 44 | 11 | 474 | 19 | 150 | 12 | 238 | 5 | 428 | 10 | 1.486 |
| Total | 368 | 11 | 727 | 35 | 1.359 | 7 | 9.207 | 11 | 4.281 | 34 | 20.867 | 55 | 12.937 | 60 | 890 | 6 | 9.435 | 13 | 60.071 |
| Total number of fires, all satellites, 2000-2007 | 3.200 | 15 | 6.507 | 59 | 4.461 | 10 | 33.917 | 13 | 22.068 | 37 | 82.154 | 59 | 58.715 | 63 | 1.967 | 8 | 50.852 | 13 | 263.841 |

Ranking of fire events in the Protected Areas of the Brazilian Amazonia in 2005 according to INPE's monitoring of fires. On the left, only NOAA-12 detections, and on the right, all satellites available. (Only the beginning of the list shown.)



National Forest "Bom Futuro", Rondonia: dozens of fire pixels and the associated smoke plumes along fire fronts of many km, as detected by the INPE monitoring system on 31/August/2008. On the right, a news clipping reporting the same event. This is a critical example of illegal fires inside a Protected Area that occur every year. Note the development projects with the "fish-bone" pattern surrounding the area.

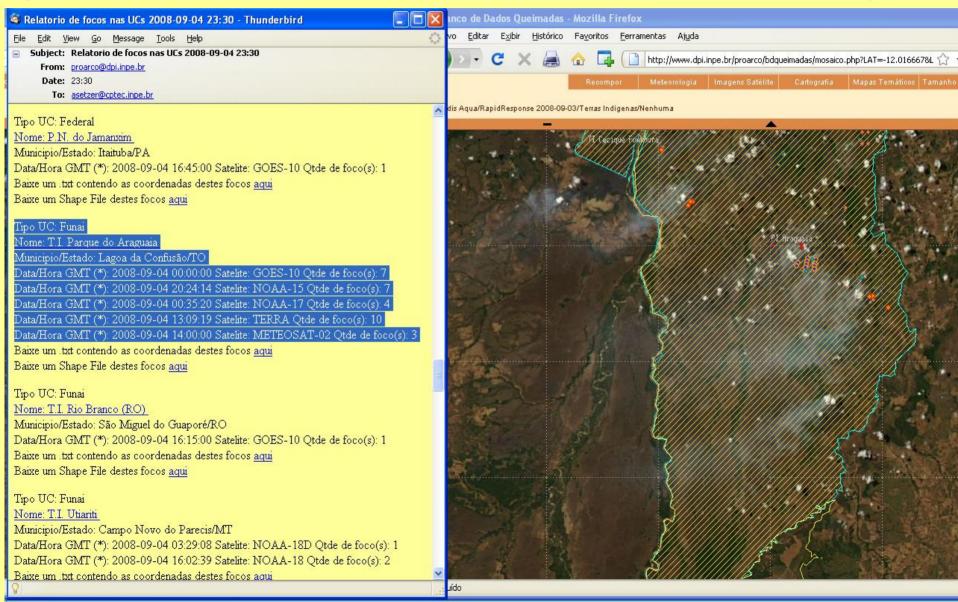




Fire occurences inside the conservation unit of Floresta **Nacional Bom** Futuro, in the state of Rondônia, with 1775 fire pixels in 2005. The detection and location of the fire pixels is delivered to users in near real-time.

S10:00:00 O64:40:00

Vegetation fires in the Indian Territory of Parque do Araguaia, Lagoa da Confusão, Tocantins, on 04/September/2008, as detected by the INPE monitoring system. On the left, the email of alert sent to users indicating fire detection by 5 different satellites; on the right, the fire pixels and the smoke plumes from the fires on a MODIS/AQUA image.



Fires in the Protected Areas of the Brazilian Amazonia are reported very often in the press and TV. The situation is widely know, but was not quantified until this study using INPE's system to monitor vegetation fires with satellites.





Conclusions

- Occurrences of man-caused vegetation fires inside the Protected Areas of the Brazilian Amazonia were analyzed for the first time. The period of interest was 2000-2007. The results show that all types of Protected Areas, in all Amazon states, and in all main vegetation ecosystems are affected by fire.
- For the 674 Protected Areas, 473 of them, or **70.2%**, were affected by fire when using just the detections made with the more consistent AVHRR/NOAA-12 series. With data from all satellites, these values rise to 617 areas with fires, or **91.5%** of them.
- For the percentage of the areas with NOAA-12 fire occurrences inside them, the 137 Federal Conservation Units showed the highest value, **79.6**%, followed by the 159 State Conservation Units with **77.4**%, and by the 378 Indian Territories with **63.8**%.
- The extent of the fire effect in the Protected Areas affected varies widely, from cases when over 70% of the area shows fires almost every year, to those when only isolated fires are identified at the boundary of the area.
- The Protected Areas of the Brazilian Amazonia comprise about 2.1 million km², or ~42% of the region. In general, these Protected Areas have no practical means to prevent or combat fires.
- Occurrences of illegal man-caused fires in the Protected Areas of Amazonia present a definite case for scientific, environmental, ecological and administrative concern.

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MCT/CNPq Bolsa AP



MCT/CNPq Projeto Milênio 2 (P.E.Artaxo)



Grande Escala da MCT/LBA

Conferência LBA

