



Green Alert



March - April 2021 Vol.8 Issue 1

Eco-Product

The focus of Environment Information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner focuses on 'Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products' This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

Soap Based Fire - Fighting

A soap manufacturer in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, developed the world's first soap-based Fire-fighting foam in collaboration with other manufacturers, academic researchers and local governments. The foam biodegrades rapidly, because naturally sourced surfactant is used and the basis of the foam, binds with mineral components in nature, thus reducing the environmental impacts. Another advantage is that the amount of water needed to extinguish fires is significantly less than the conventional methods. The petroleum-based surfactants found in fire extinguisher produce foam with poor biodegradability, this then flows into rivers and rice paddies, resulting into serious loss of microscopic organisms of water and soil. Soap based fire-fighting foam can extinguish fires using less water, therefore addressing the problem of a lack of water available to douse flames in many wildfires. The foam also retains high permeability and helps moisture to reach embers buried within peat, thus also offering the potential to extinguish peatland fires that continue to smolder deep underground.

Source: <https://bit.ly/371ImjL>



Green Issue

Forest Fire

Forest fire plays a mixed role for ecology & economy since some ecosystems depend on natural fires to maintain their dynamics, biodiversity and productivity. Every year, forest fires burn millions of hectares of forest woodlands and other vegetation, causing the loss of many human and animal lives and an immense economic damage, both in terms of resources destroyed and the costs of suppression. There are also impacts on society and the environment, such as damage to human health from smoke, loss of biological diversity, release of greenhouse gases, damage to recreational values and infrastructure.

Although wild fires are destructive forces, Fires are a great way of clearing out the clutter. It opens the forest canopies to allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, it can break down nutrients and minerals in burning plants and restore them to the soil, thus making for a more fertile area. It also helps create the perfect condition to boost microbial life in the forest floor. Fire often clears out any invasive weeds, insects and disease. The natural order of species within the food chain adapts and re-establishes to the changed ecology. And Life goes on. (<https://bit.ly/3s0TxGC>)

By December 18, 2020 there were about 57,000 wildfires compared with 50,477 in 2019, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. More than 10.3 million acres were burned in 2020, compared with 4.7 million acres in 2019. Five of the top 20 largest California forest fires occurred in 2020, according to 'CalFires list. Forest fires in California have burned a record 4.2 million acres, damaging or destroying 10,500 structures and killing 31 people. According to the India State of Forest Report 2019, over 30,000 incidents of forest fires were reported in India using MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer) sensor data in 2019. (<https://bit.ly/37hJ1CK>)

There is a great need to promote forest fire prevention policies and measures across the globe and an urgent need to place forest fire prevention on the policy agenda. To achieve this, vigorous and sustained actions at different levels are required.

Source:

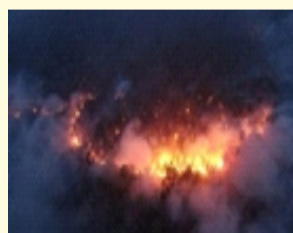
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Eco News

Wildlife emergency in Bolivia as fires threaten animal sanctuaries

The Ambue Ari Sanctuary of Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi (CIWY) is under severe fire threat. It is one of three CIWY-run sanctuaries caring for a total of over 500 rescued animals across 39 species, some of which are endangered. CIWY is a Bolivian non-profit that rescues and protects wild animals.



The area where the fires started as slash-and-burn clearing by locals is made up of a mix of hills and valleys bounded by a mountain. Winds and burning embers accelerated the fire through the canyons, quickly expanding the blaze that now threatens the 2,100-acre sanctuary.

The area is a natural corridor for big cats and other endangered animals, and at least one jaguars was seen crossing roads in a mad exodus of scorched and frightened wildlife. Voracious flames and choking smoke kill animals outright and also chase them from their habitat, making them susceptible to opportunistic predators as they flee.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2NwI42A>

NASA data tool could revolutionize Amazon fire analysis

The new Amazon Dashboard fire monitoring tool, initiated August 19 by NASA, boasts some major advances over the way fires were monitored in the past. The platform utilizes automated data collection and computer analysis to identify the number of significant fires burning in the Amazon (instead of just hotspots), what type of fires are burning, and how many new fires start each day. Carbon emissions are counted too.



Using more sensitive infrared data from night time overpasses by the Suomi NPP and NOAA-20 satellites, NASA can now spot these destructive wildfires in near real time.

NASA's quickly accessible and pinpointed data can help land managers identify and suppress forest fires in remote locations before they get too big, while also helping expose perpetrators of large-scale arson. The filtering out of fire used on small-scale family farms and in traditional communities allows enforcement operations to focus exclusively on fighting large-scale criminal deforestation networks, and in preventing and combatting forest fires in high-risk areas.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2ZitwWZ>

Eco-Tips

Save the forest to save yourselves.
Protect forest because it is not just a resource, it is life itself.

Visit CERC-ENVIS website www.cercenvis.nic.in and <https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling> to know more about our activities.

Consumer Education and Research Centre

507-8, Sakar II Building, End of Ellisbride, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad – 380 054. Tel : 079-48905898/ 48907898

Email : cerc-env@nic.in, cerc@cercindia.org

