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SDGs and Wildfires: the role of soils in Sustainable fire management

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Abstract

Wildfires are part of the natural system and geology, vegetation and climate has been co-shaped by it. However, due to human action the fire frequency is much higher that would naturally occur. And moreover, climate change is bringing fire to places where it previously did not occur, or at least in lower frequency and extend. Currently, 3–4% of the Earth's surface is affected by fire each year. The majority in agricultural land where it is used as a tool for land clearing and burning of agricultural wastes. The rest are wildfires in natural grassland and forests. This number is likely to increase under the foreseen climate change and societal changes ahead. The UN Sustainable Development Goals that have been endorsed in 2015, do not take wildfire into account as part of nature, and part of society. While many Goals are affected by the beneficial and adverse effects of fire on ecosystems. Especially SDG3, good health, SDG 6, clean water, SDG 13, climate Action, SDG14, life under water, SDG15, life on land and SDG are affected by fire. Therefore, the plans to reach these goals should take fires into account.

Keywords: Sustainable development goals, climate change, land degradation, agriculture