



# Forest Fires in Bolivia

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WWF BOLIVIA  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

# Local Context



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# General Situation

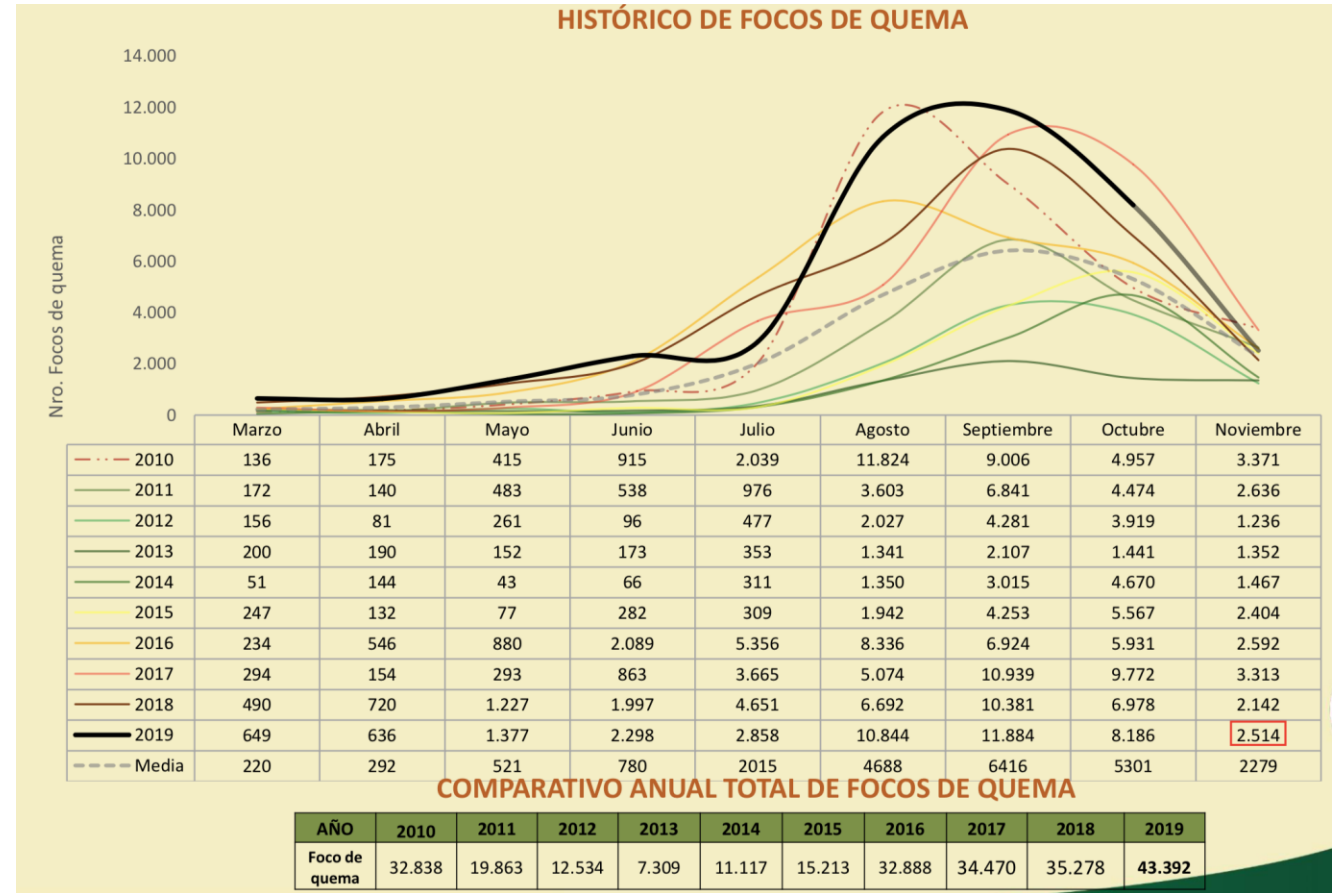
(Source: Departmental Autonomous Government of Santa Cruz and local media).

- Fires started in **August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**
- **5 million hectares** were affected **nationwide**.
- **3.5 million hectares** correspond to the department of **Santa Cruz**, of which:
  - **1.6 million** hectares correspond to **protected areas**.
  - **2.2 million** hectares correspond to **forest**.
  - More than **1 million** correspond to **grasslands**.



# Fires History

- This is the year with the **highest amount of heat sources** compared to the previous years.



Early Forest Fire Alert System (SATIF), elaborated by the Departmental Autonomous Government of Santa Cruz



# Impact

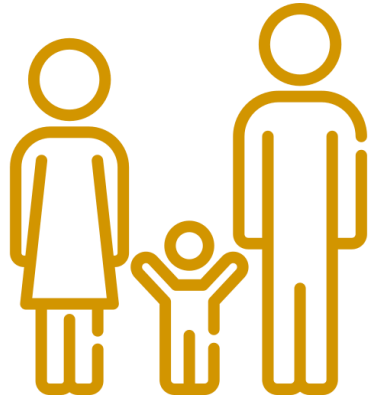
(Source: SATRIFO, FAN).

The following map, shows the scars (in yellow), left by the fires in August, 2019.



# HUMAN COSTS

(Source: Departmental Autonomous Government of Santa Cruz).



18 municipalities (4 declared in emergency and 6 in disaster), **4.472 families affected**.



161 families were **evacuated from risk areas** due to respiratory problems (mainly children, elderly and nursing women) and the proximity of fires.

**Absence of students to schools** due to stomach conditions, mainly caused by water pollution.



**14 homes were destroyed** by fire and **98 injured people** were reported.

# -62%

- There is an extreme **water deficit due to precipitation levels that are 62% lower than normal**. This is part of a trend of more intense and prolonged droughts in Chiquitanía, in the last 39 years.
- Currently, **31 communities** in the Department of Santa Cruz, affected by fires, **receive drinking water through tanks**, due to drought.



# Economic Loses

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- The Foundation for the Conservation of the Chiquitano Dry Forest (FCBC), reported that the affectation to the forests, would mean more than **600 million dollars in economic losses.**

# Risk to Fauna

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- It is estimated that **2.413 species** could be at risk, due to the loss of their habitat.

# Risk of fires continues

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- Despite of the rain that fell a week ago, fires have reactivated in some point, and risks continues.

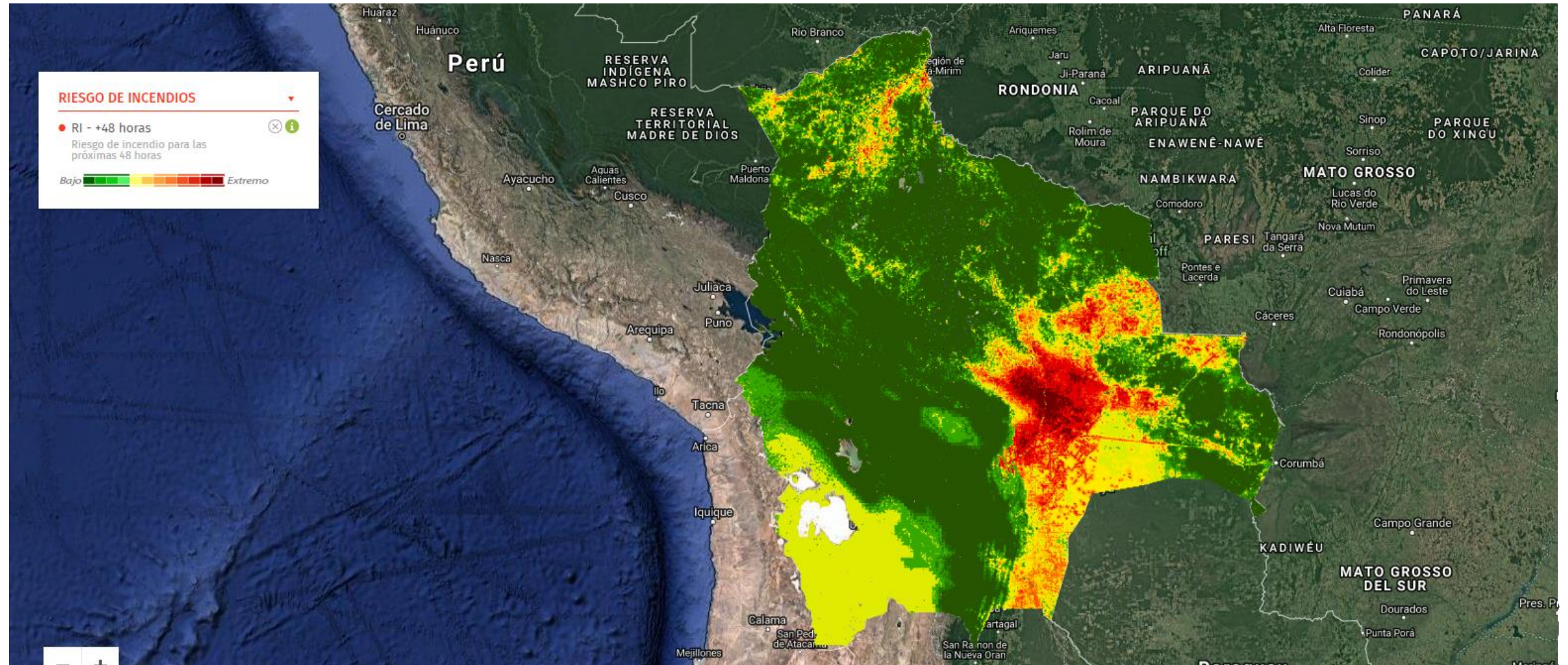




# Risk of Fires

(Source: SATRIFO, FAN).

Due to the rains and since we are close to the rainy season, fire risk has reduced.



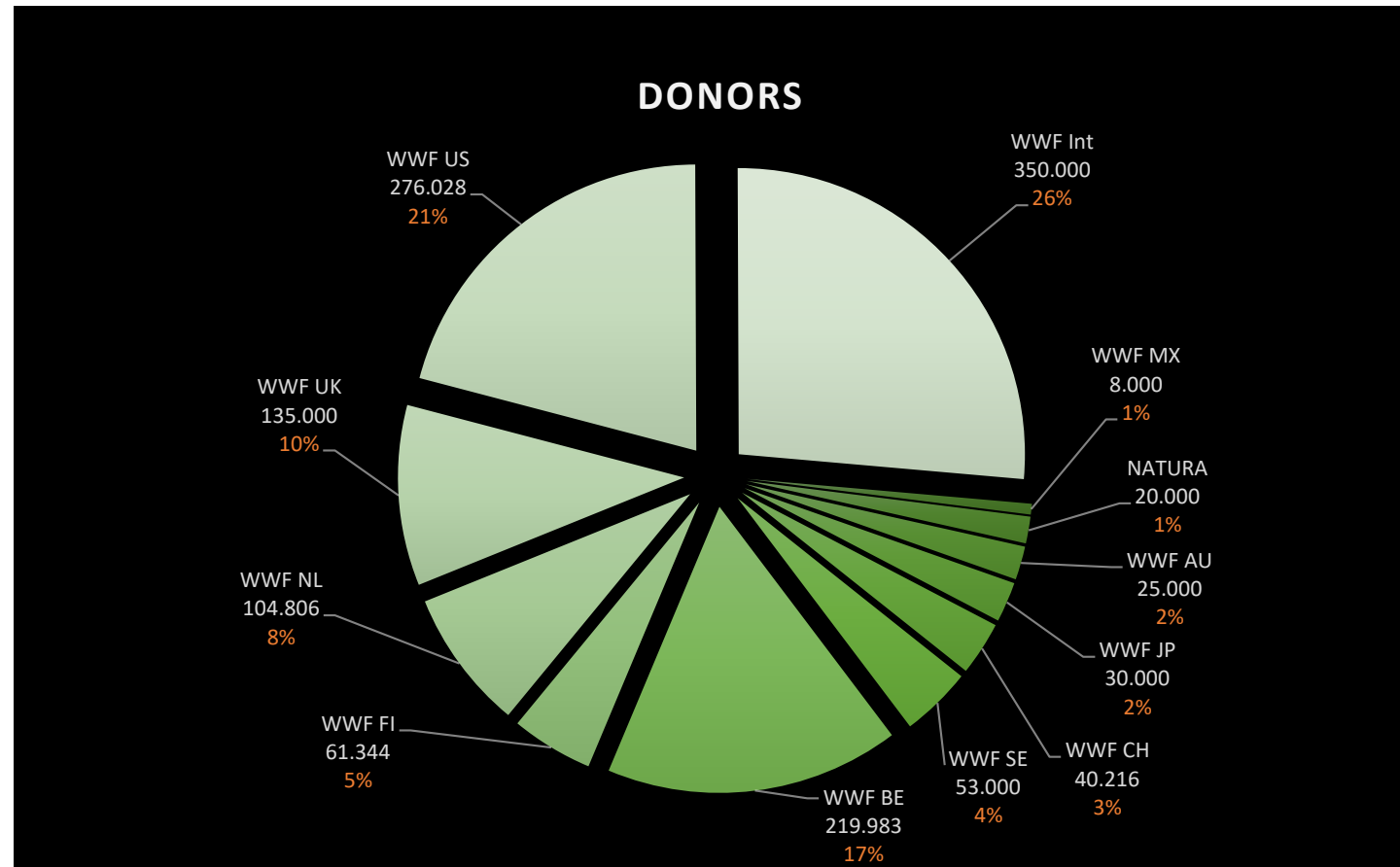
# FUNDS

WWF Bolivia, has established the forest fire program, which looks for the implementation of actions, to face this emergency and the consequences in the future. This emergency program, will operate with the funds raised with the support of 10 WWF offices and a company.

**43% of the funds committed.**

Donor	Contract not yet signed with donor	Signed contract with donor
WWF MX		8.000
NATURA		20.000
WWF AU	25.000	
WWF JP		30.000
WWF CH		40.216
WWF SE	53.000	
WWF BE	166.024	53.959
WWF FI	61.344	
WWF NL		104.806
WWF UK		135.000
WWF US*		276.028
WWF Int		350.000
Total Funds	<b>335.368</b>	<b>988.009</b>
TOTAL		<b>1.323.377</b>

# FUNDS





# WWF BOLIVIA ACTIONS

WWF Bolivia emergency program got activated, the second week of August, with the first task of monitoring impacts on the ground in communities and protected areas in the Amazon, Chiquitano Dry Forest, Pantanal and Chaco.

Since then, the following actions took place in the landscapes we work:

# Chiquitano Dry Forest

- Delivery and **distribution of food, water and medicines** in communities of the Monte Verde Indigenous Territory, in the Department of Santa Cruz.
- **Equipment of 20 communal brigades** with tools for rapid attention and continuous monitoring of forest fires, in different points of the affected areas.

# Chiquitano Pantanal and Chaco

- **Distribution of equipment to park rangers**, to fight fires in the protected areas of Otuquis, San Matías and Tucabaca, in the Department of Santa Cruz.
- Support to the National Service of Protected Areas in **logistics and transportation** for fire monitoring in protected areas.
- **Forest fire management** will also be strengthened in the Tucabaca Conservation Unit and the Paquió National Reserve.

# Amazon

- Food supply, a water pump and communication radios to the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, to support their fire prevention efforts.
- Support to the animal rescue center, located in the Municipality of Aguas Calientes and documentation of biodiversity stories and people affected by the fires.

# Institutional Actions

- Compilation and dissemination of information related to the emergency, distributed to WWF Network in a regular basis.
- WWF is also part of the platform of environmental and social NGOs, which was formed in the city of Santa Cruz, with the intention of carrying out emergency and post-emergency actions in a coordinated manner.





# Next months: Chiquitano Dry Forest

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- **Communal pumps will be repaired** to restore water access for families in two communities.
- **Reactivate Indigenous livelihoods and income**, supporting indigenous communities and women's groups to put in place measures to generate income in the short term.
- **An immediate attention center with two water tanks will be established in Concepción**, one of the most affected towns, and equipment will be provided for fire attention and monitoring.
- **Food and medicines of first need will be provided to 237 families affected by fires**. Food, a pump and communication radios will be delivered to Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, to support their fire prevention efforts.
- Indigenous communities will be **supported to strengthen and recover their Maderable Forest Management Plan** in communities affected by fires.



# Next months: Cerrado, Pantanal y Chaco

- In the Ñembi Guasu Conservation and Ecological Importance Area, **permanent monitoring of heat sources and alert reporting** will be carried out.
- **Social and environmental monitoring of the effects of fire** will be carried out and the technical capacities of the Charagua Yyambae Indigenous Autonomous Government will be strengthened.
- **Food supply to indigenous communities** in the Bolivian Pantanal region.



# Next Months: Amazon

- **First response equipment will be delivered to communities** with the greatest threat of fire, living in the Departmental Park and Integrated Natural Management Area Iténez, to create prevention capabilities in the Amazon.
- **A disaster assistance strategy will be established** with equipment and training for community members and park rangers, along with inter-institutional agreements between the local government, the protected area, the national army, involving the association of cattle producers.
- **Equipment for forest fires prevention** will be delivered to the National Service of Protected Areas, for prevention in Manuripi Protected Area.
- **Strengthen operational capacities to fight forest fires** in Noel Kempff Mercado National Park.



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# Other Integral Actions

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- **Policy advocacy:** Development of a strategy to **influence policies tied to deforestation**. This could include measures that involve transboundary collaboration between the three countries affected. Also engaging the private sector (agricultural and cattle ranching) will be important, to act, support and influence government policies and align deforestation free approaches across borders. Make presence in climate COP in Chile, should be a priority, too.
- **Post fire strategy:** The development of **proposals and fundraising** for post fire recovery support is one of the main actions. Post fire strategy for protected areas will include providing them with equipment to monitor biodiversity that is returning, as well as developing fire management plans for protected areas in WWF Bolivia priority landscapes.

# Other integral actions

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- **Assessment of impacts:** We will support partners and government organizations in the efforts to **assess the social and environmental impacts of forest fires**. Based on these assessments, recommendations will be developed on next steps.
- **Reforestation and restoration:** Where needed, we will support **reforestation and restoration efforts in protected areas** and community lands, in order to enable forests and biodiversity to recover.



# Other Integral Actions

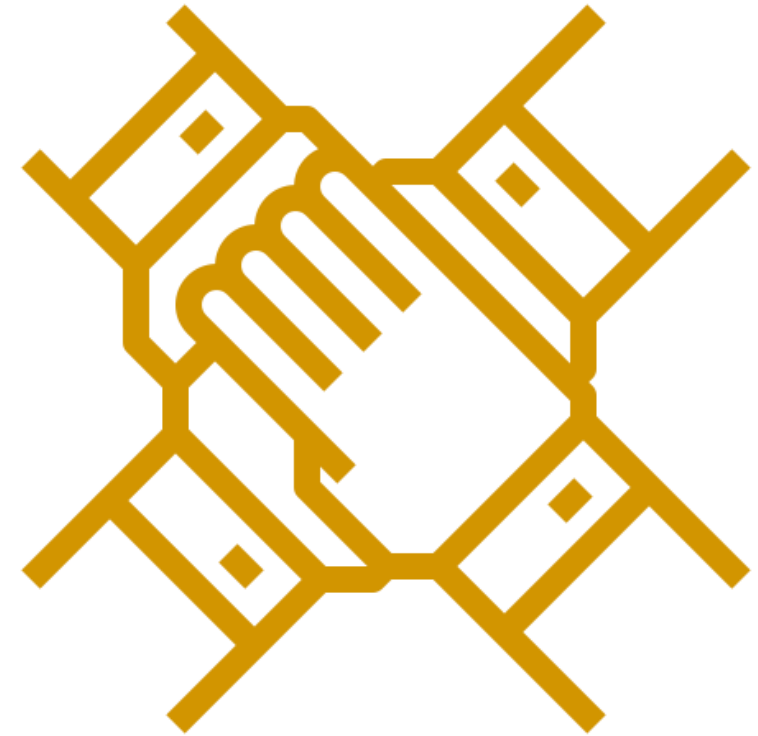
- **Implementation of early warning system** to monitor threats including deforestation and fires with indigenous communities in Amazon and Chaco (based on system we have already developed with COICA at Amazon scale).
- **Engaging the public** and especially youth through environmental educational and to build on awareness and energy generated by fires, including why fires highlight the need for a new deal for nature and people.
- **Participation in multi stakeholder platform** to coordinate response and develop strategy to address impacts of fires.



# Our Partners

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- National Protected Areas Service (SERNAP)
- APCOB
- Fundacion para la Conservacion del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC)
- Fundacion Amigos de la Naturaleza (FAN)
- Nativa
- FUNDEPCO
- Sociedad Boliviana de Derecho Ambiental (SBDA)
- Centro de Investigacion del Campesinado Agricola (CIPCA)
- Natura
- Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado
- Regional and local governments
- CEJIS



# What are the possible consequences after the fires?

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- Intensification of the climate change effects: **Floods, longer droughts and temperature rise.**
- Important **species lost** due to reduce their habitat and lack of food and water.
- Decline in agricultural and food production.
- Less absorption of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- **Increased poverty** and decline in human development conditions.
- **Economic losses** because of the services that nature provides.





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