

# Fire in the Tropical Biota

## Ecosystem Processes and Global Challenges

1990. Approx. 470 pp. Approx. 118 figs. (Ecological Studies, Vol. 84) Hardcover in preparation. ISBN 3-540-52115-1

The aim of the book is to provide the state of knowledge about the role and the impact of fire on tropical ecosystems.

In addition, the book considers the impact of tropical wildland fires and biomass burning on global ecosystem processes. In a cooperative approach an international group of 46 scientists met at the 3rd International Symposium on Fire Ecology at Freiburg University, May 1989, and discussed their work which now appears in the 21 chapters of this monograph.

In the first part of the book regional contributions cover the origin and the ecological effects of fire in the main tropical vegetation types of Asia, Latin America, Australia and Africa.

Both the prehistorical and the historical perspectives are added in order to clarify the role of man in the evolution of tropical wildland fire regimes. The magnitude and impact of today's escalating tropical vegetation degradation by fire is described by contributions on remote sensing of tropical fires. The quality of emissions from biomass burning and an overall pantropical assessment of gaseous emissions from vegetation burning highlight their role in the changing global atmosphere. The final chapter demonstrates that global climate change may have considerable effects on vegetation and fire regimes.

What is new in this book is a multi-disciplinary approach to tropical and global fire ecology. The reader can expect to find a unique and comprehensive introduction to original information and secondary sources on the wildland fire phenomena and fire problems in the tropics.

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