



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF WILDFIRES ON GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL SCALES

Apostolos VOULGARAKIS

Fire is the greatest terrestrial disturbance on Earth. There is no vegetate environment that does not experience wildfires, while the number, intensity and extent of wildfires is increasing, primarily as a consequence of climate warming. The consequences of wildfires are immediately noticeable when it comes to damage to property and infrastructure, economic losses, and often even loss of human lives. At the same time, wildfires can also impact the environment in a variety of ways.

In this talk, the main environmental impacts of wildfires will be outlined, starting from influences local to a fire, all the way to the global scale. Effects on air quality, climate, soils, water quality, and flooding, are amongst the areas that will be covered, and future directions of research will be presented.