

# Climate change consequences in South America



## South America

Fires and rising oceans

The two great oceans that flank this continent are warming and becoming more acidic, with rising sea levels. This erodes shorelines and threatens coral reefs.

Because of climate change, Latin American rainfall patterns are changing and temperatures are rising, with impacts ranging from droughts to melting glaciers.

Since 1990 the world has lost 178 million hectares of forest - an area the size of Libya. This is a huge problem because 45 per cent of all carbon on land is stored in trees and forest soil. In 2020, the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest surged to a 12-year high and a record 2500 major fires burned across the Brazilian Amazon.

The majority were on cleared land but a startling new trend also emerged - more than 41 major fires occurred in standing Amazon rainforest usually too damp to burn.

Source: <https://www.smh.com.au/interactive/2021/how-the-world-ran-out-of-time/>