

Forest fires and the destruction of trees 森林大火導致樹木被燒毀

一份新報告稱，在 2021 年，每分鐘約有面積相當於 16 個足球場的樹木被森林大火燒毀。

This report confirms what many people have long suspected. More and more trees are being destroyed as forest fires are getting worse all over the world.

這份報告證實了許多人長期以來的猜測：森林大火在世界各地頻繁發生，越來越多的樹木被燒毀。

In 2021, an area the size of Portugal was lost, almost **doubling** the level of destruction since the turn of the century. Climate change is seen as a key driver of these fires with the rising temperatures creating the drier conditions that make trees **susceptible** to burning.

在 2021 年，一片面積相當於葡萄牙的森林消失了，樹木被燒毀程度幾乎是世紀初的兩倍，氣候變化被視為森林大火發生的主要驅動因素，氣溫上升造成了更乾燥的條件，使樹木易於燃燒。

Forests in northern areas, including Russia, are warming at a faster rate than the rest of the world. And this leads to longer fire seasons. In tropical locations, such as the Amazon, cutting down trees for agriculture and logging **predominate**. But the removal of tree cover dries out the land and makes the area more **prone** to fires.

包括俄羅斯在內的北部地方的森林正以比世界其它地區更快的速度升溫，這會導致火災季節變長，在亞馬遜等熱帶地區，農業伐木和木材採伐很常見，然而，去除遮蔽地表的樹木使土地變乾，該地區因而更容易發生火災。

The researchers say that **curbing** carbon emissions globally is key to **stemming** these losses. They say priorities also need to change with too much money currently spent fighting fires, and not enough on planning and preparation.

研究人員們表示，抑制全球碳排放是止損的關鍵，他們說，資金用途的優先次序也需要改變，目前用於滅火的資金太多，而用於規劃和準備的資金不足。

1. 詞彙表

doubling	翻一倍
susceptible	易受傷害的
predominate	占主導地位
prone	易遭受（問題或疾病）的
curbing	抑制，遏制
stemming	阻止

2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。（答案見下頁）

1. In 2021, how big was the area of forest destroyed by fires?
2. Why is climate change seen as a key driver of forest fires?
3. Where in the world are forests warming at a faster rate?
4. What action do researchers suggest to reduce the number of forest fires?

3. 答案

1. In 2021, how big was the area of forest destroyed by fires?

An area the size of Portugal was lost.

2. Why is climate change seen as a key driver of forest fires?

Rising temperatures and drier conditions mean the trees are more prone to burning.

3. Where in the world are forests warming at a faster rate?

Forests in the northern part of the world are warming faster than elsewhere.

4. What action do researchers suggest to reduce the number of forest fires?

They suggest reducing carbon emissions and spending more money on planning and preparation for fires.