A human-driven decline in global burned area

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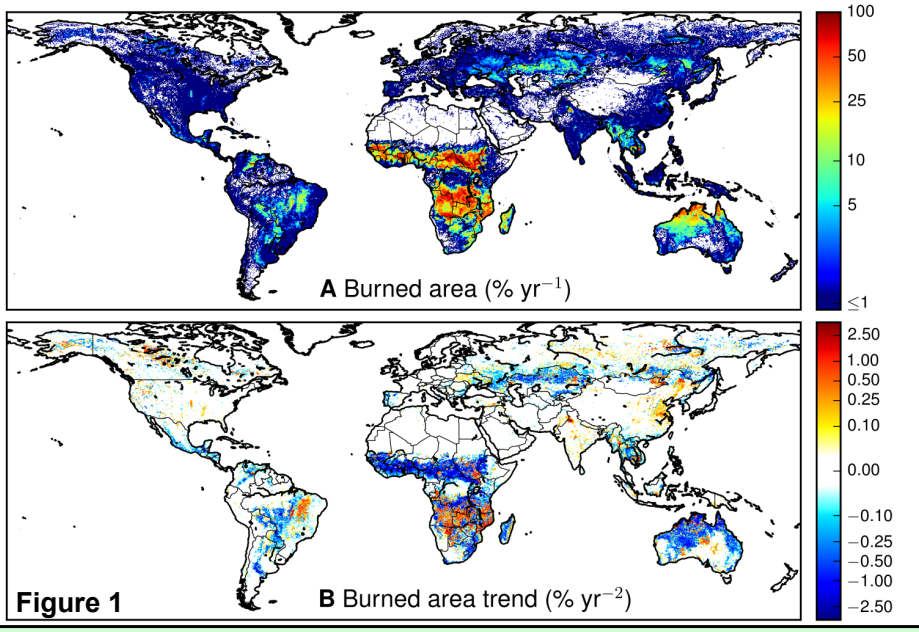

Figure 1

Figure 2

- Satellite data show a 24.3 ± 8.8% decline in global burned area over the past 18 years (Figure 1).
- Fewer and smaller fires reduced aerosol concentrations, modified vegetation structure, and contributed ~7% to the estimated land carbon sink.
- Agricultural expansion and intensification were primary drivers of declining fire activity (Figure 2).
- Changing fire use in human-dominated landscapes may sustain lower fire activity, with important consequences for the Earth system and biodiversity conservation.