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Effects of land use, fuel loads and fuel moisture on fire intensity and fire emissions in South America derived by reconciling bottom-up and top-down satellite observations

EGU 2023, Vienna, 24. April 2023

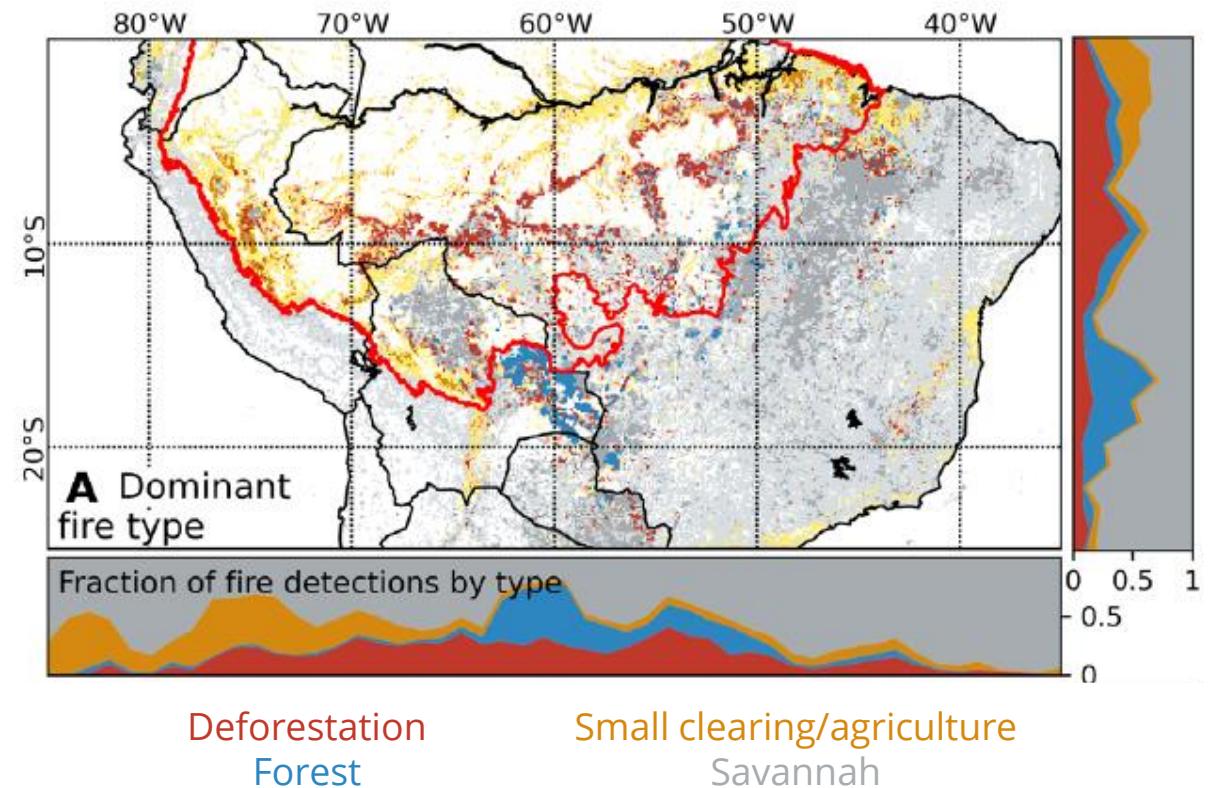
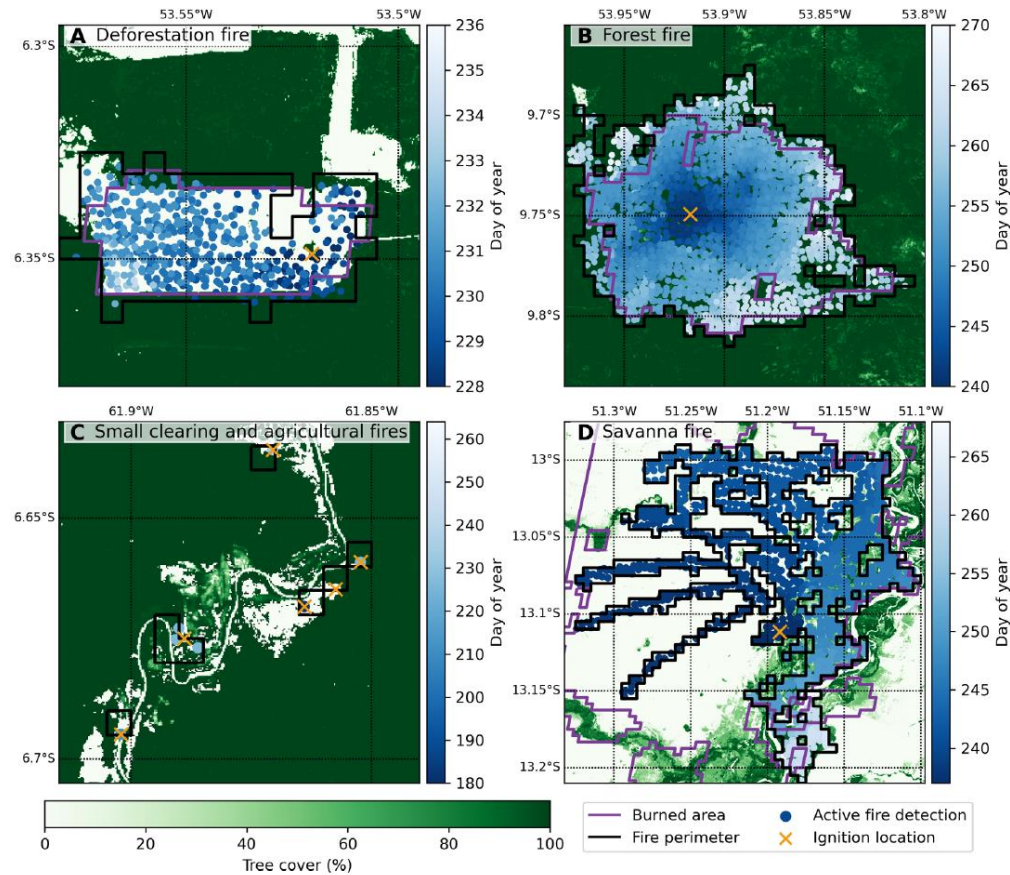
Tracking and classifying Amazon fire events in near real time

Niels Andela^{1,2*}, Douglas C. Morton³, Wilfrid Schroeder⁴, Yang Chen⁵, Paulo M. Brando^{5,6,7}, James T. Randerson⁵

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Fire types in the Amazon

Mapping of fire types and behaviour from VIIRS Fire Radiative Power (2019)



Quantifying fire emissions



Main approaches to quantify fire emissions

1. Burned area (BA) based approach

Emissions = burned area x fuel load x combustion completeness x **emission factor**

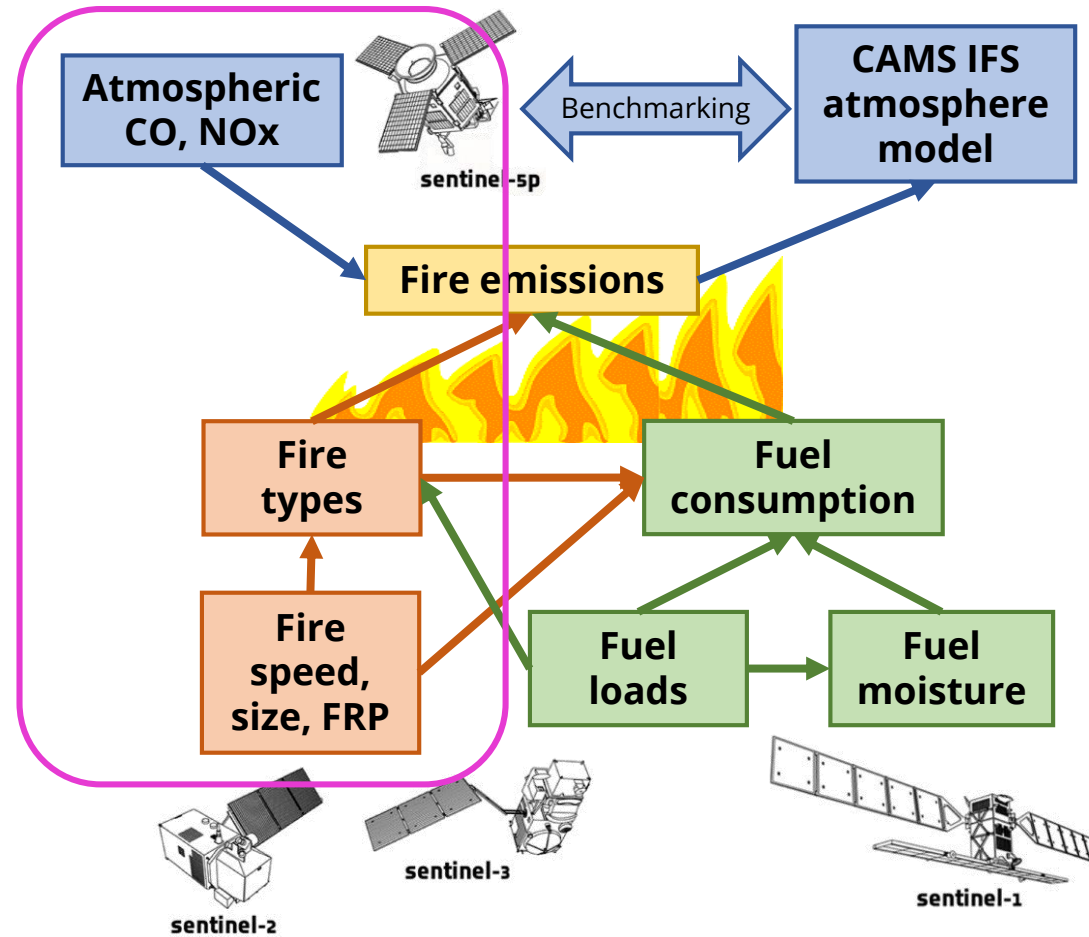
2. Fire radiative power (FRP) based approach

Emissions = fire radiative power x **conversion factor**

Emission or conversion factors are usually *average values per biome*.

→ Effects of fire types, fuel moisture, fuel types/chemistry, combustion efficiency on fire emissions?

Sense4Fire approach



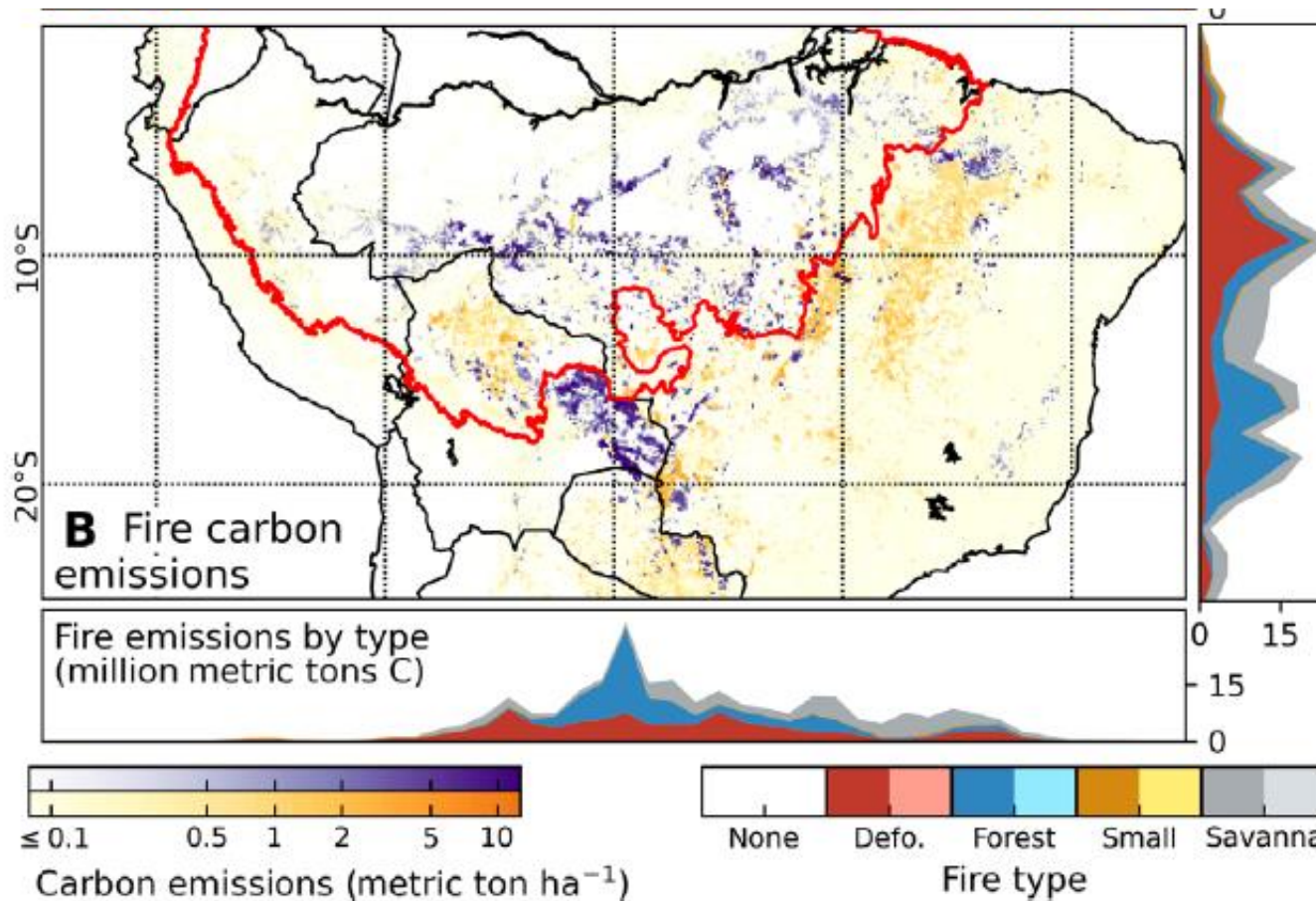
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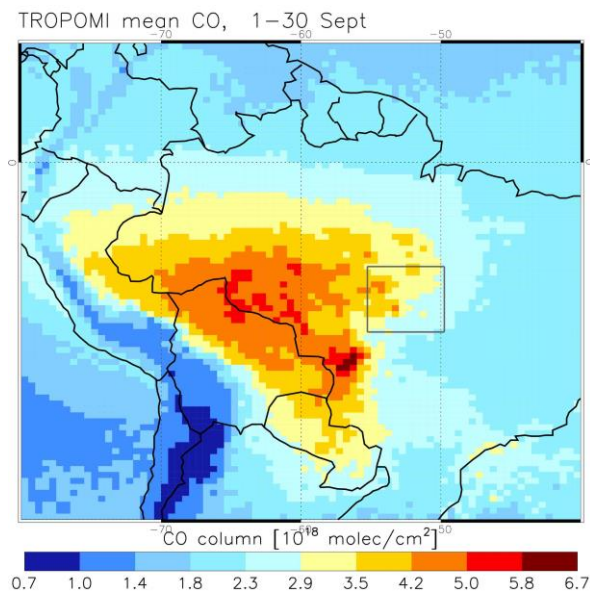
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Fire emissions from fire types

Fire emissions (2019)



Evaluation against TROPOMI (year 2020)



CO columns from
Sentinel-5p TROPOMI

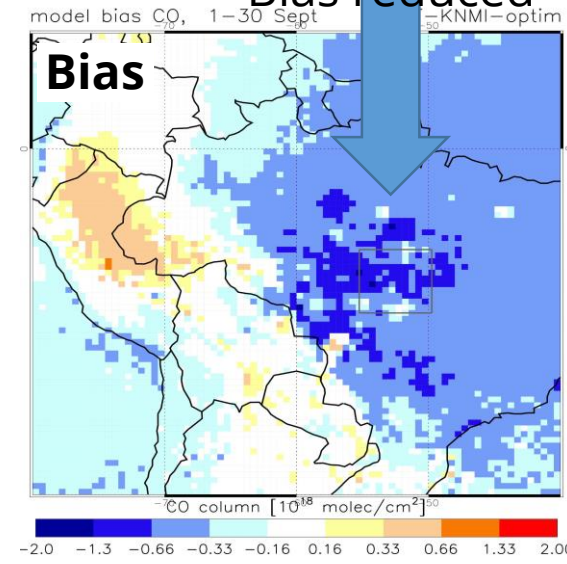
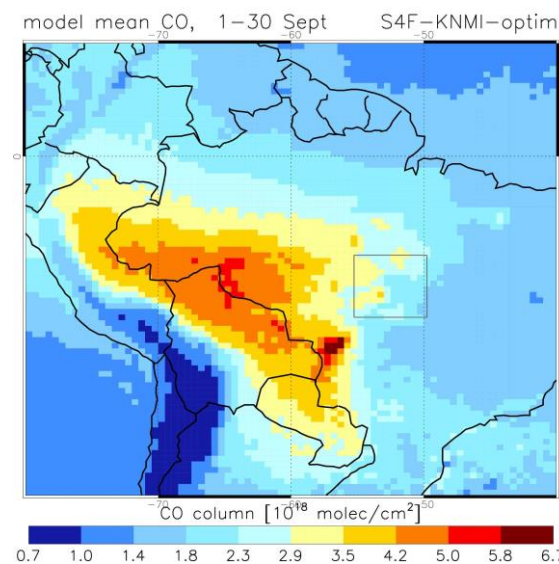
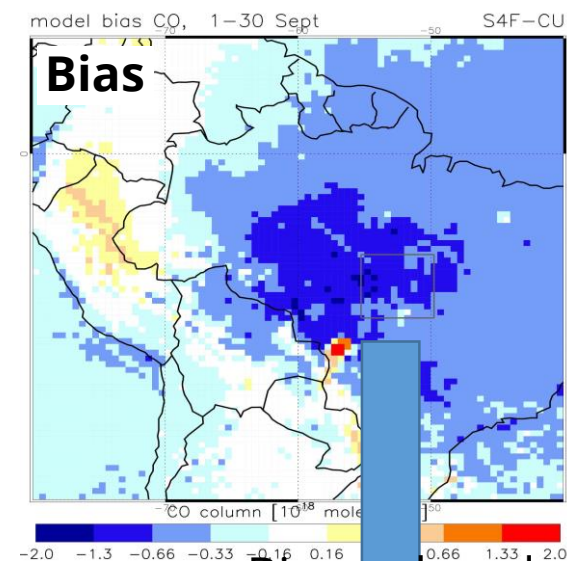
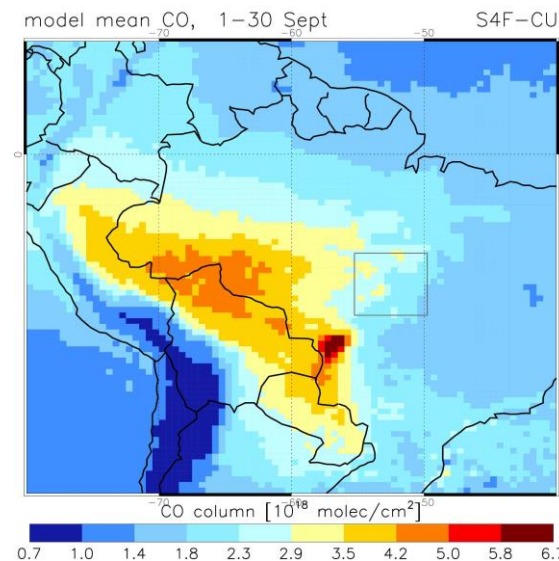
CO columns from fire
type-based emissions

CO columns from
optimized emissions

Estimating optimized emissions E from TROPOMI column observations X (CO or NO_x):

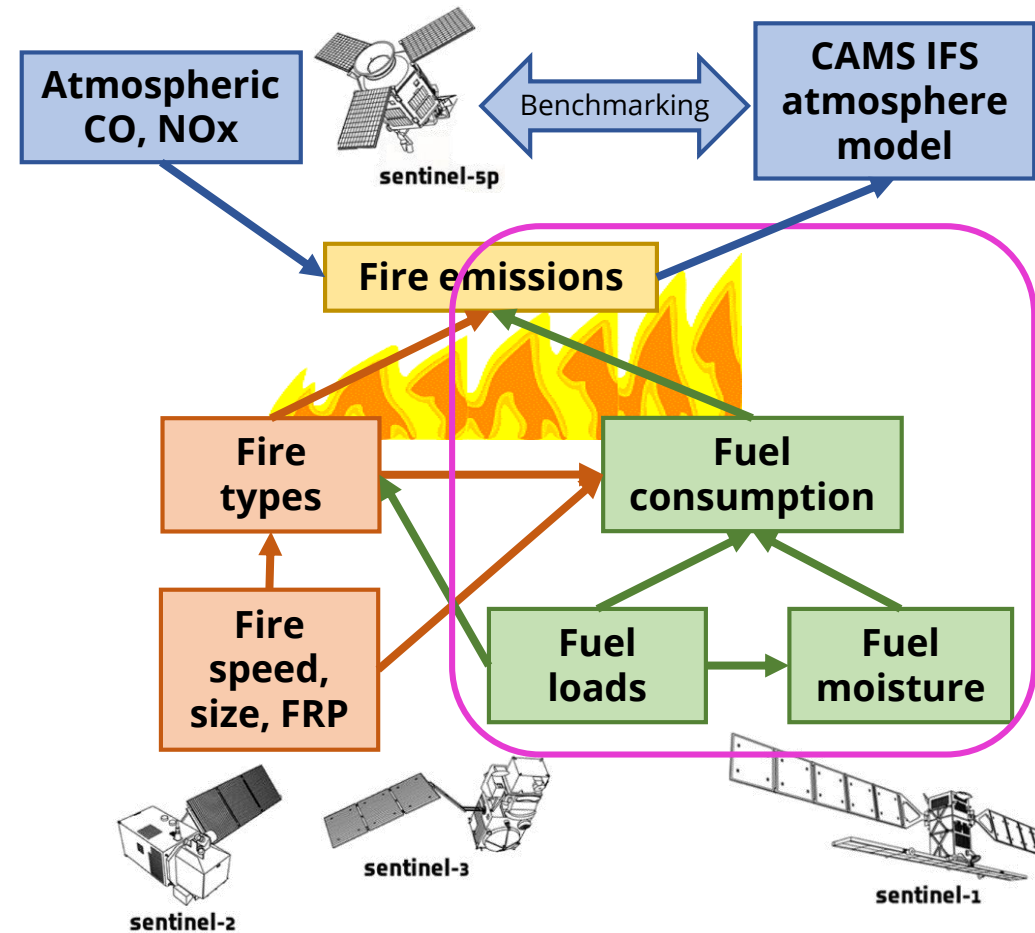
$$E_{opt} = E_{prior} \times \beta \times \frac{X_{sat} - X_{IFS}}{X_{IFS}}$$

(following Lamsal et al. 2011 and Castellanos et al. 2014)

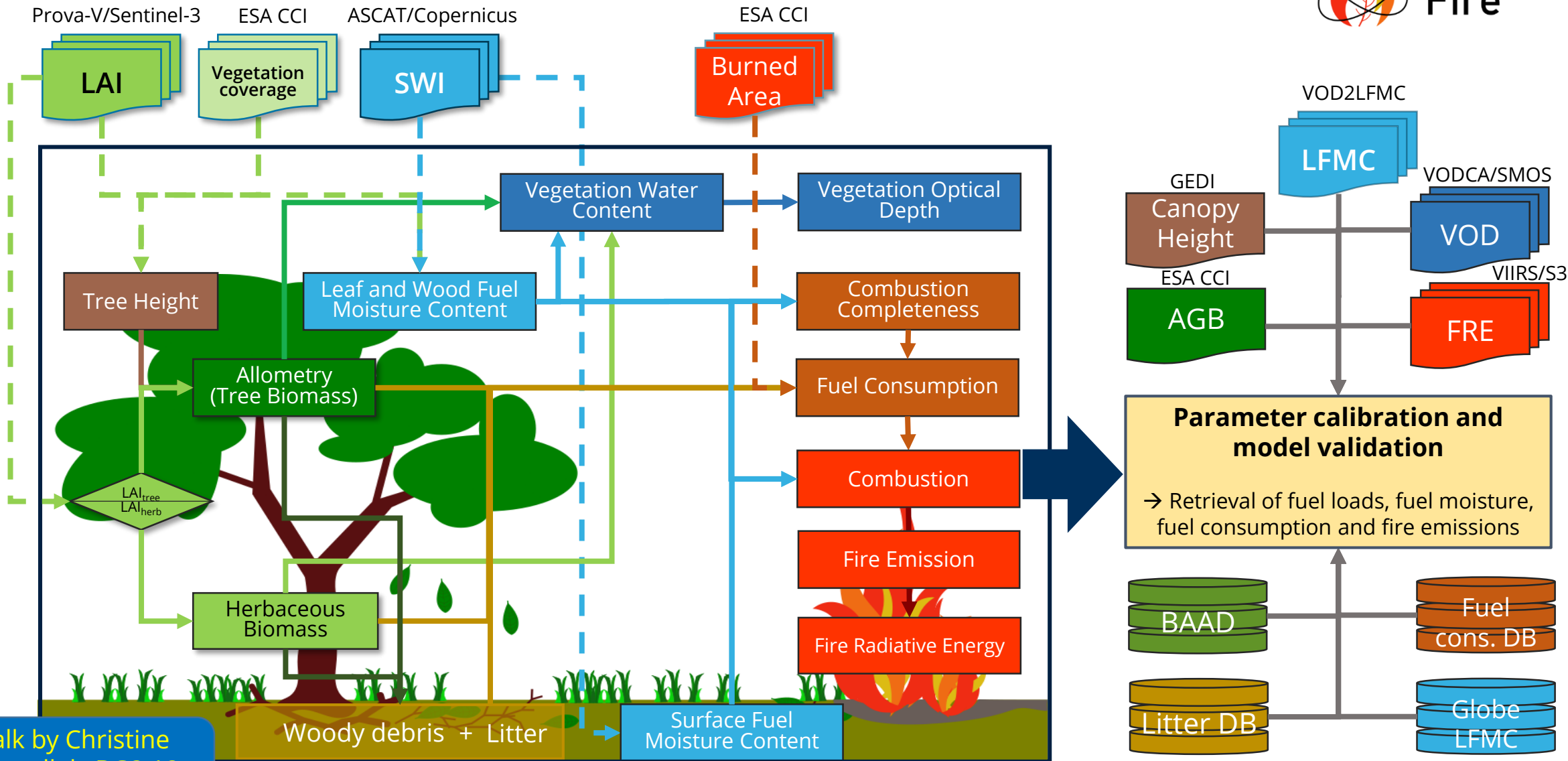


Bias reduced

Sense4Fire approach



S4F Fuel and Fire Emissions Data-Model Fusion

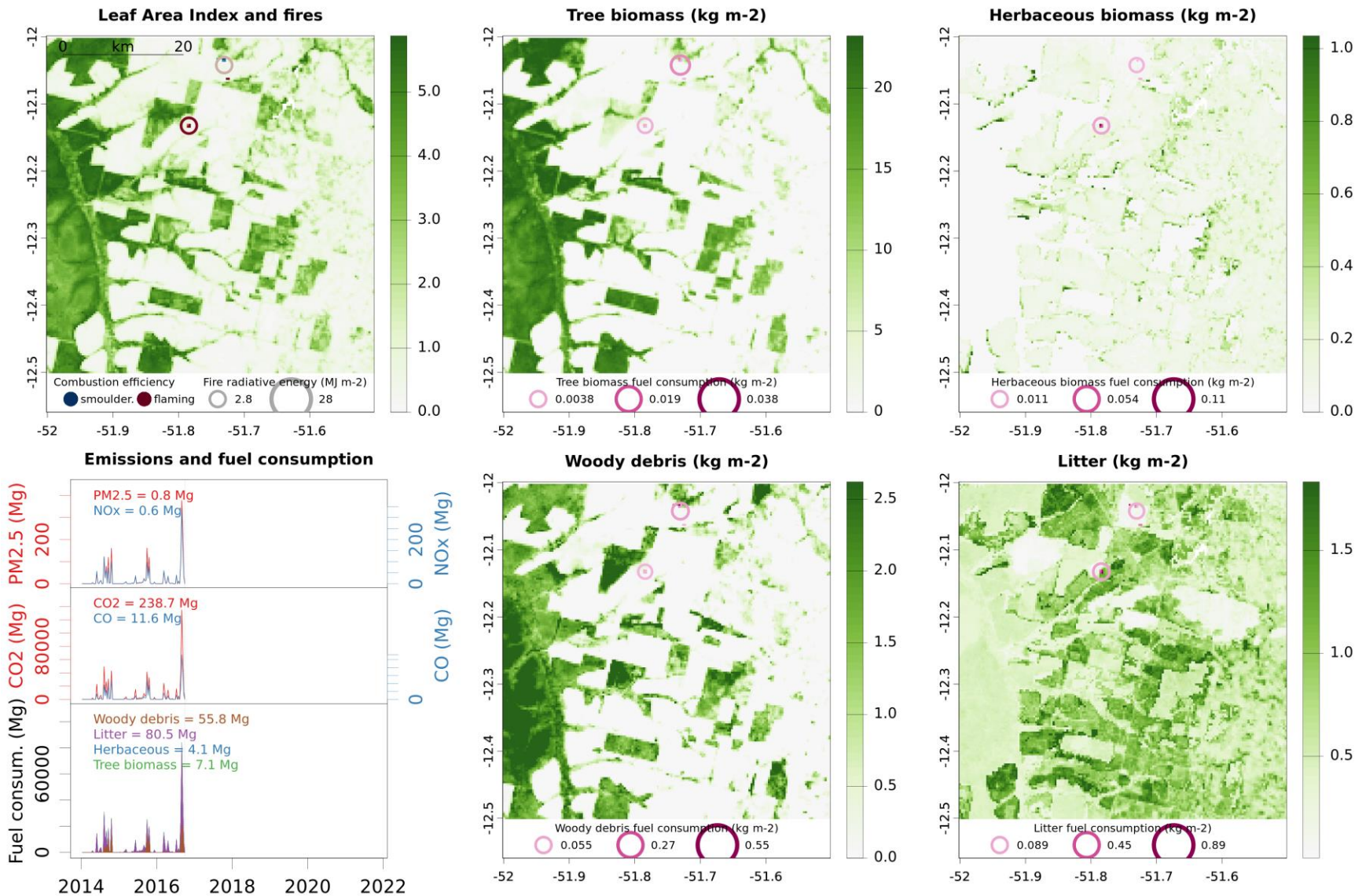


talk by Christine Wessollek, BG3.18, Thu, 17:05, N2

S4F Fuel and Fire Emissions Data-Model Fusion



2016-09-30



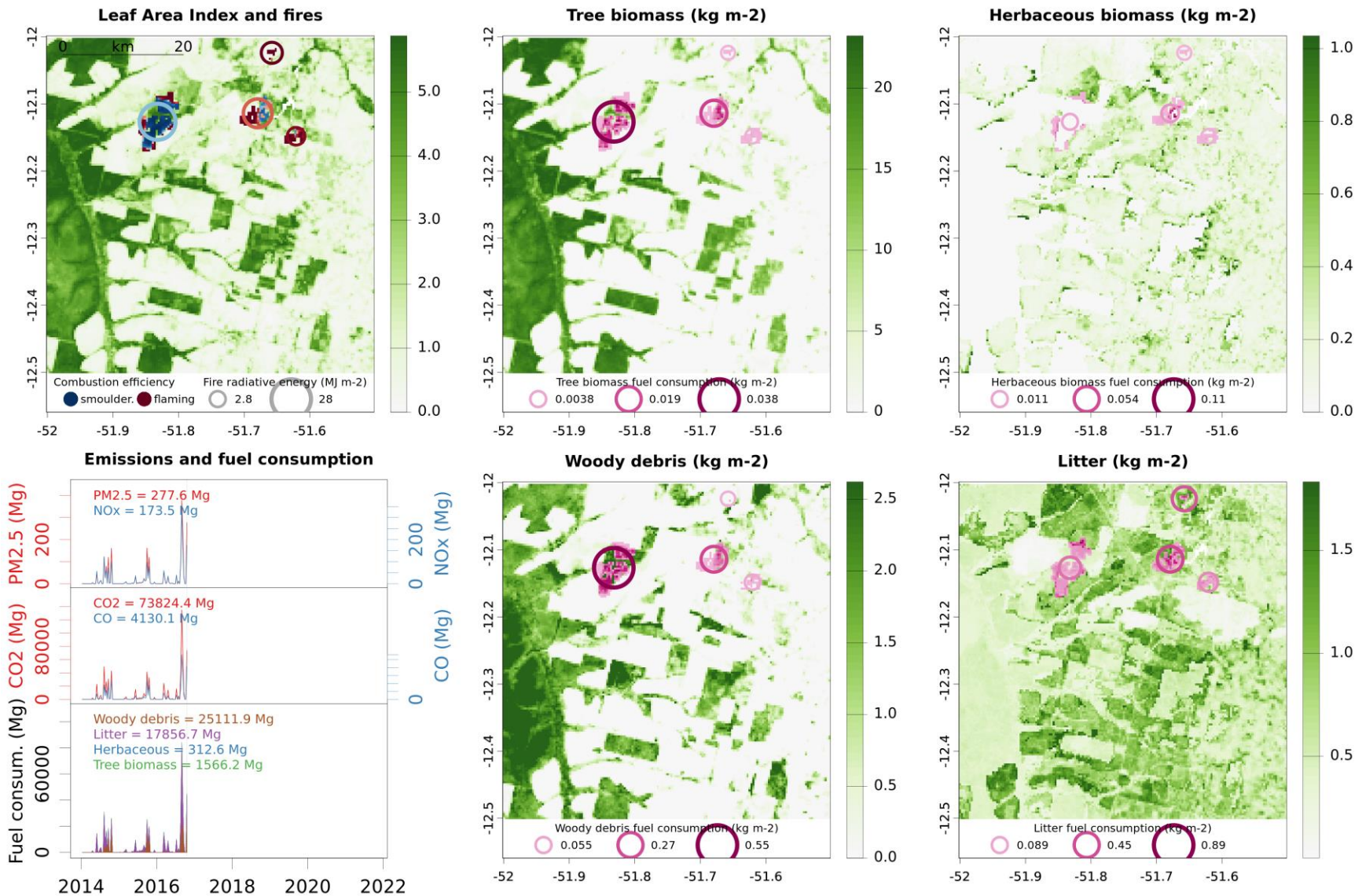
Full video
online:



S4F Fuel and Fire Emissions Data-Model Fusion



2016-10-20



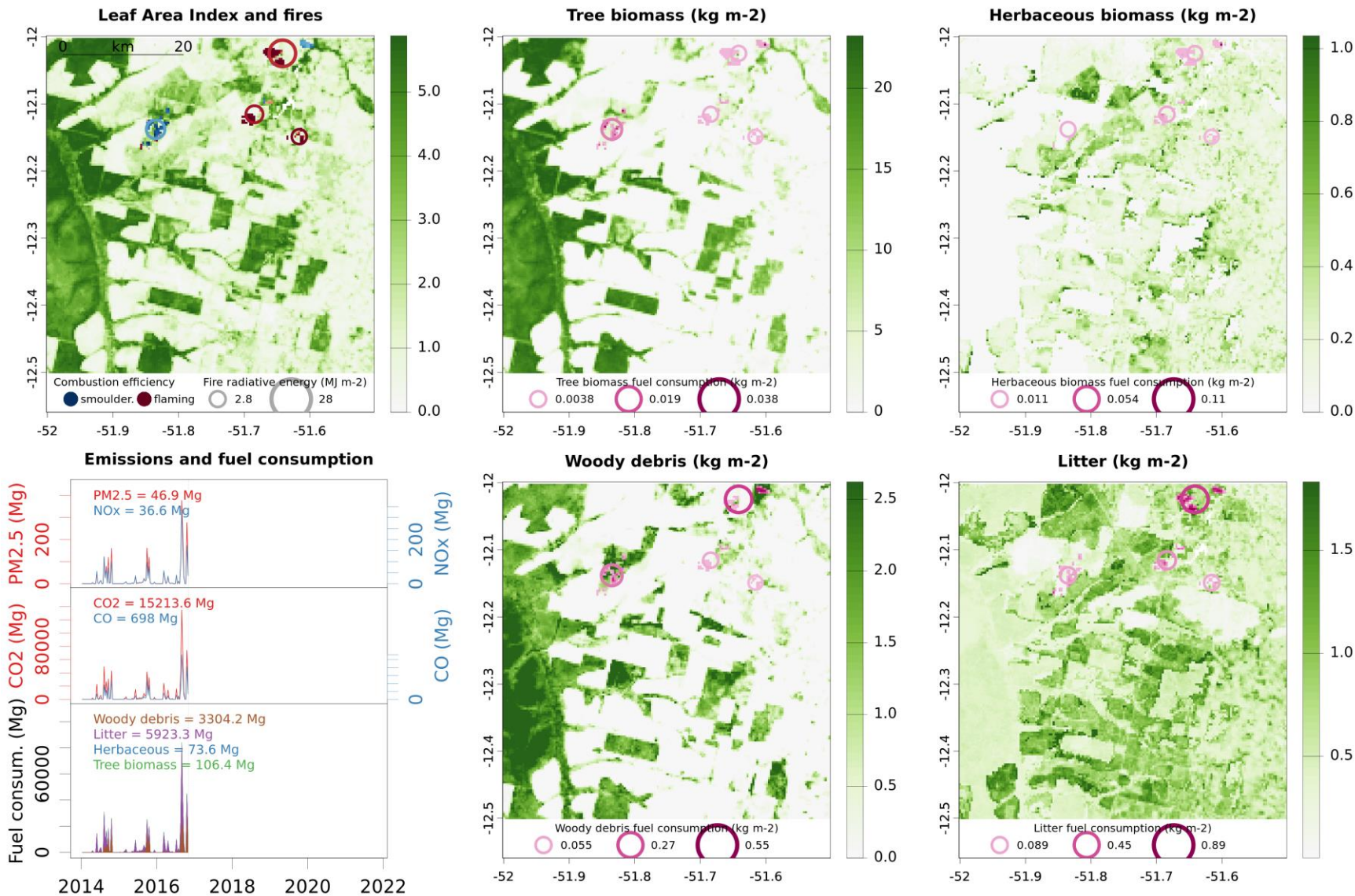
Full video
online:



S4F Fuel and Fire Emissions Data-Model Fusion



2016-10-31



Full video
online:



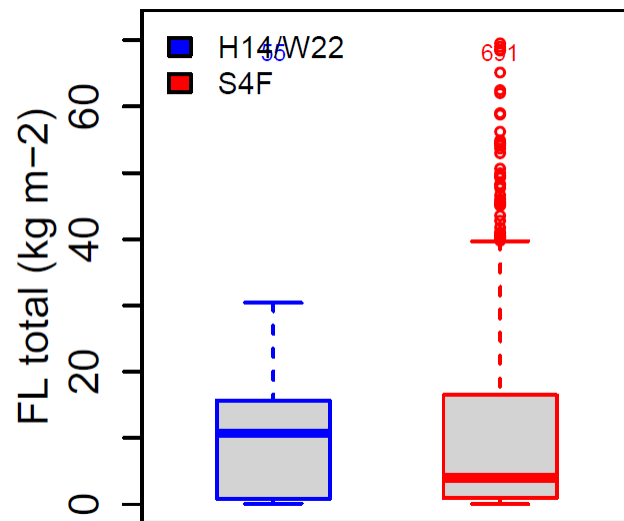
Validation against databases



Validation of fuel loads, fuel consumption, combustion completeness and emission factors against databases

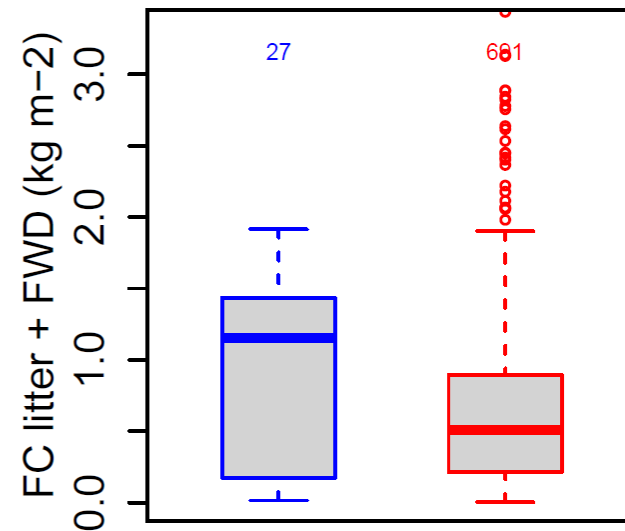
Fuel loads

(Holland et al. 2014, van Wees et al. 2022)



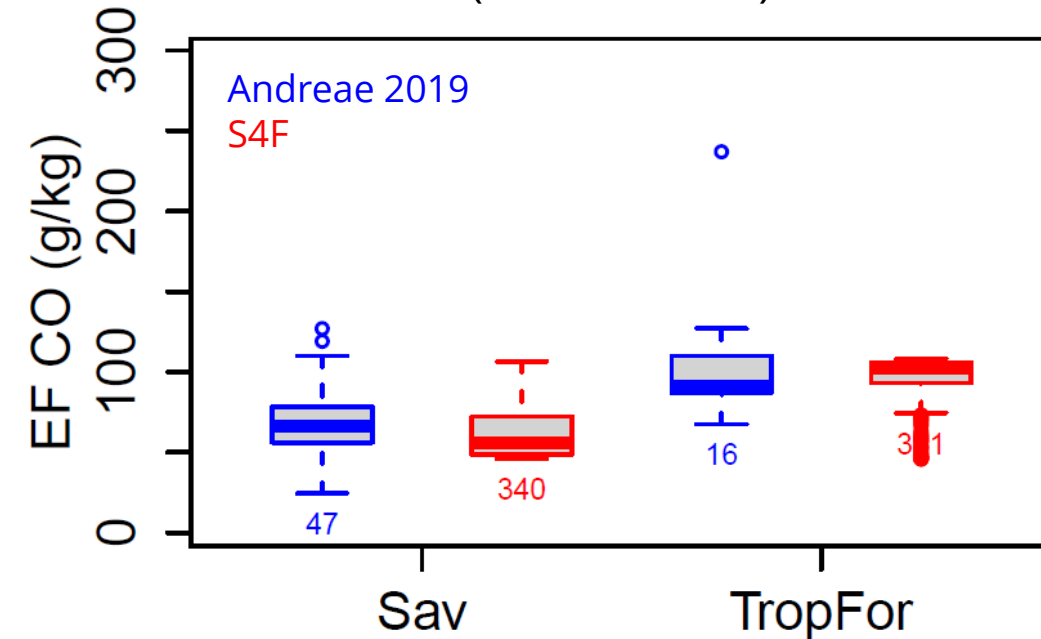
Fuel consumption

(van Wees et al. 2022)



Emission factors and combustion efficiency

(Andreae 2019)



Conclusions



- Three new emission estimates based on complementary approaches
- Outperform GFAS in comparison to Sentinel-5p (evaluated for CO and NO_x)
- Allows investigating fire dynamics and composition of fire emissions for individual fires
- Tropical deforestation fires:
 - Higher burning of wood and woody debris
 - Lower combustion efficiency (smouldering)
 - Higher emissions of CO than in savannah fires
- Algorithm descriptions, validation report and experimental database available in May 2023 at sense4fire.eu

