

# #team-4



NEWS / ENVIRONMENT

## Australia declares state of emergency as heatwave fans bushfires

## 2019 Was The Year The World Burned

Wildfires burned around the world this year from Australia, the Amazon and California. These forest blazes are part of nature but climate change is making them more frequent and more intense.

## Spain battles biggest wildfires in 20 years as heatwave grips Europe

Health officials warn 'the worst is still to come', with temperatures expected to exceed 44C in some areas



<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/27/hundreds-of-firefighters-tackle-blaze-in-north-east-spain>  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/australia-declares-state-emergency-heatwave-fans-bushfires-191219004935370.html>  
[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/wildfires-california-amazon-indonesia-climate-change\\_n\\_5dcd3f4ee4b0d43931d01baf](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/wildfires-california-amazon-indonesia-climate-change_n_5dcd3f4ee4b0d43931d01baf)

# 84%

Of wildfires are caused by humans

84% of wildfires in the United States from 1992 to 2012 were caused by humans.

Balch JK, Bradley BA, Abatzoglou JT, Nagy RC, Fusco EJ, Mahood AL. Human-started wildfires expand the fire niche across the United States. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*.

2017;114(11):2946–2951. doi:10.1073/pnas.1617394114

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5358354/>



Are **wildfires** more likely to start in places  
with a lot of **tourism**?



# Galicia, Northern Spain



# Approach

## Data

- Locations of wildfires
- Locations of tourism locations
- Locations on non-tourism human locations

## Compute distributions

- Estimate kernel density (Machine Learning!)

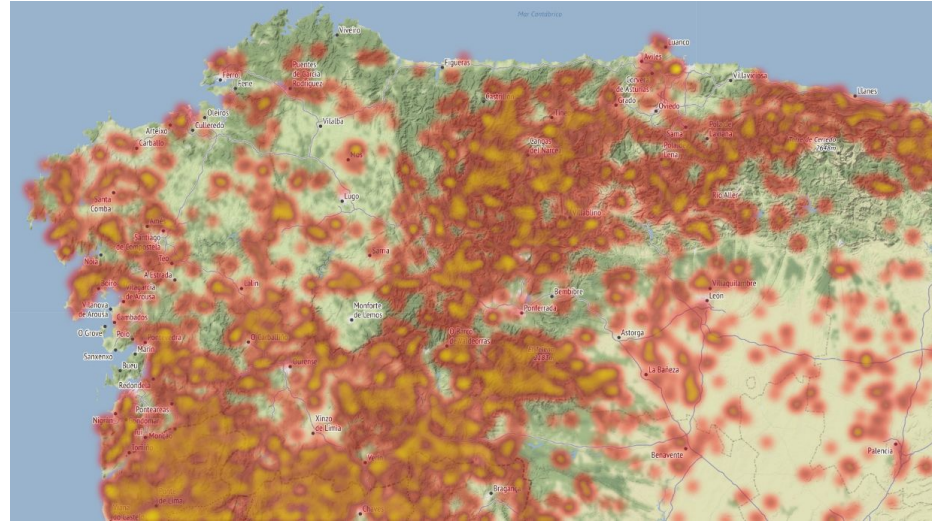
## Compare at locations of wildfires

- Distribution of tourism versus distribution of non-tourism human activity

# Wildfires in North-Western Spain

Data source: MODIS/Terra Thermal Anomalies (dataset MOD14A1)

Plots: Ours



Locations of wildfires in Galicia, Asturias, Castilla y  
Leon from 2010 to 2020

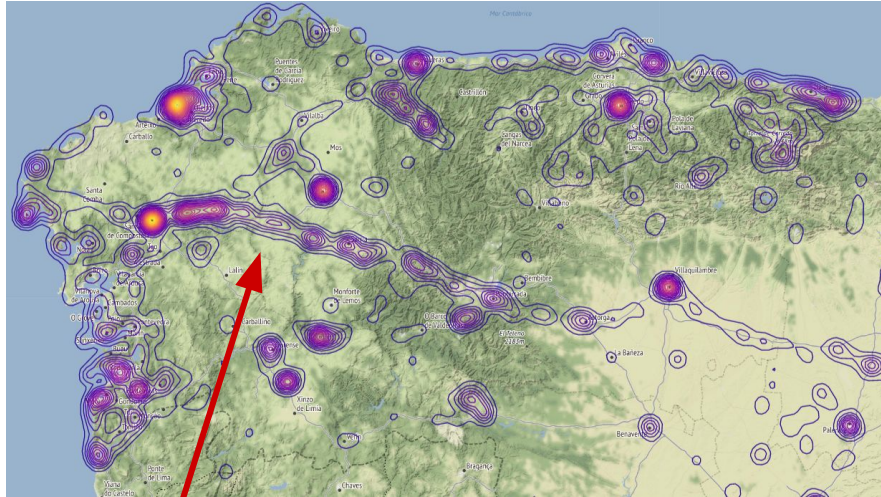
Dataset URL: <https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/products/mod14a1v006>

Giglio, L., Justice, C. (2015). MOD14A1 MODIS/Terra Thermal Anomalies/Fire Daily L3 Global 1 km SIN Grid V006 [Data set]. NASA EOSDIS Land Processes DAAC. Accessed 2020-04-25 from <https://doi.org/10.5067/MODIS/MOD14A1.006>



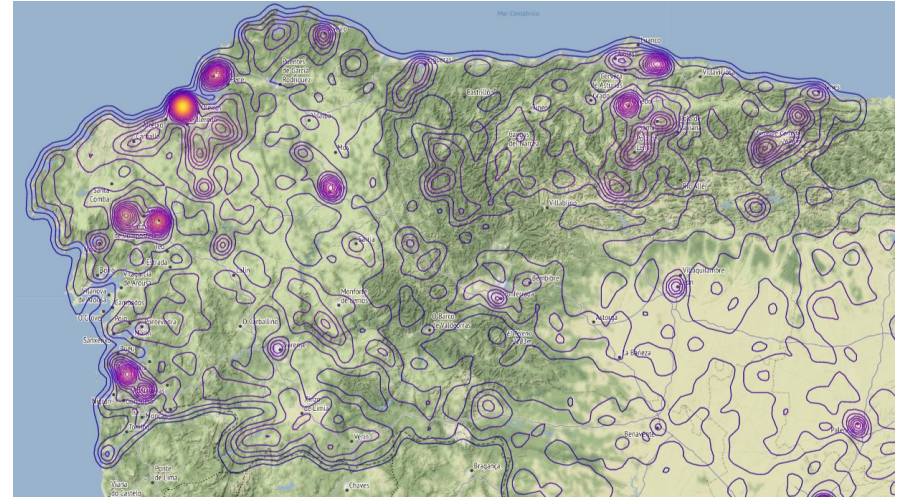
# Touristic Activity in North-Western Spain

Data source: Open Street Map, Plots: Ours



Tourist activity

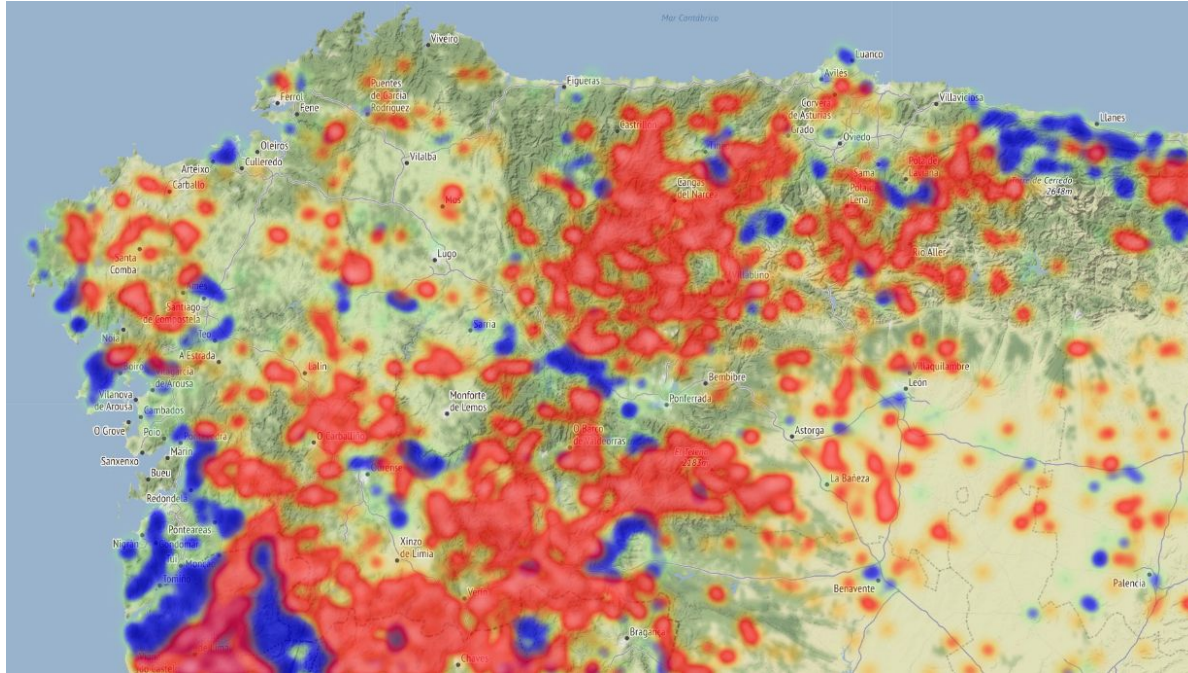
Camino de Santiago



Non-touristic activity



# At wildfire locations: Which human activity has a larger role?

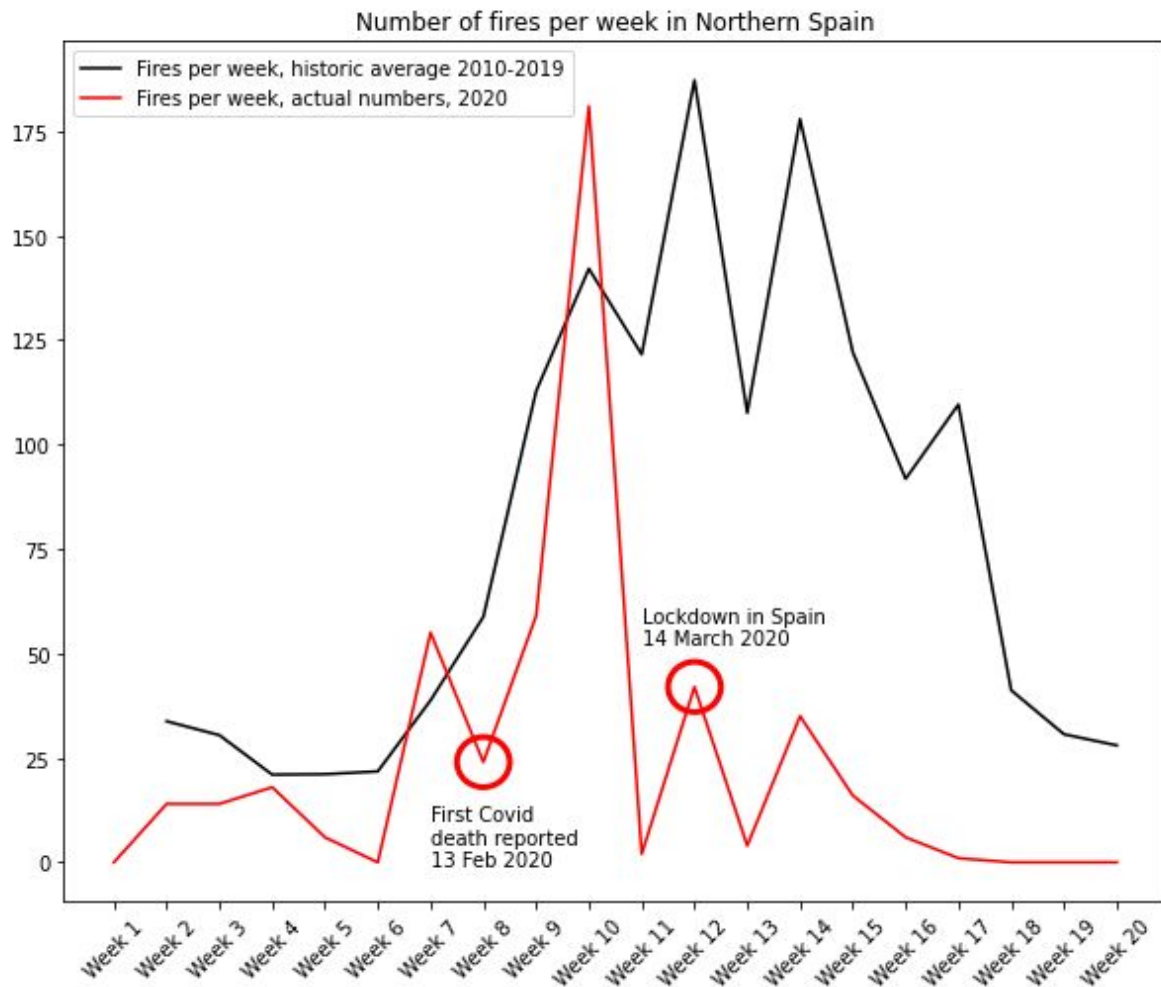


Higher KDE score at fire locations for  
**Tourist Distribution**  
**Non-Tourist Distribution**

So... are **wildfires** more likely to start in  
places with a lot of **tourism**?

Maybe? Maybe not?

Human activity  
in 2020?  
Well...



Seasonal  
change of  
tourism?

Long-term tourism  
change in Northern  
Spain?

Other regions  
of the world?



Which role does land  
cover type play?

Are tourist locations a  
good enough proxy for  
tourist activity?

What's a typical tourist's  
movement radius?

Other human factors? Agriculture,  
industry, transportation?

# #team-4



Fork and play at  
<https://github.com/florianletsch/fire-tourism>

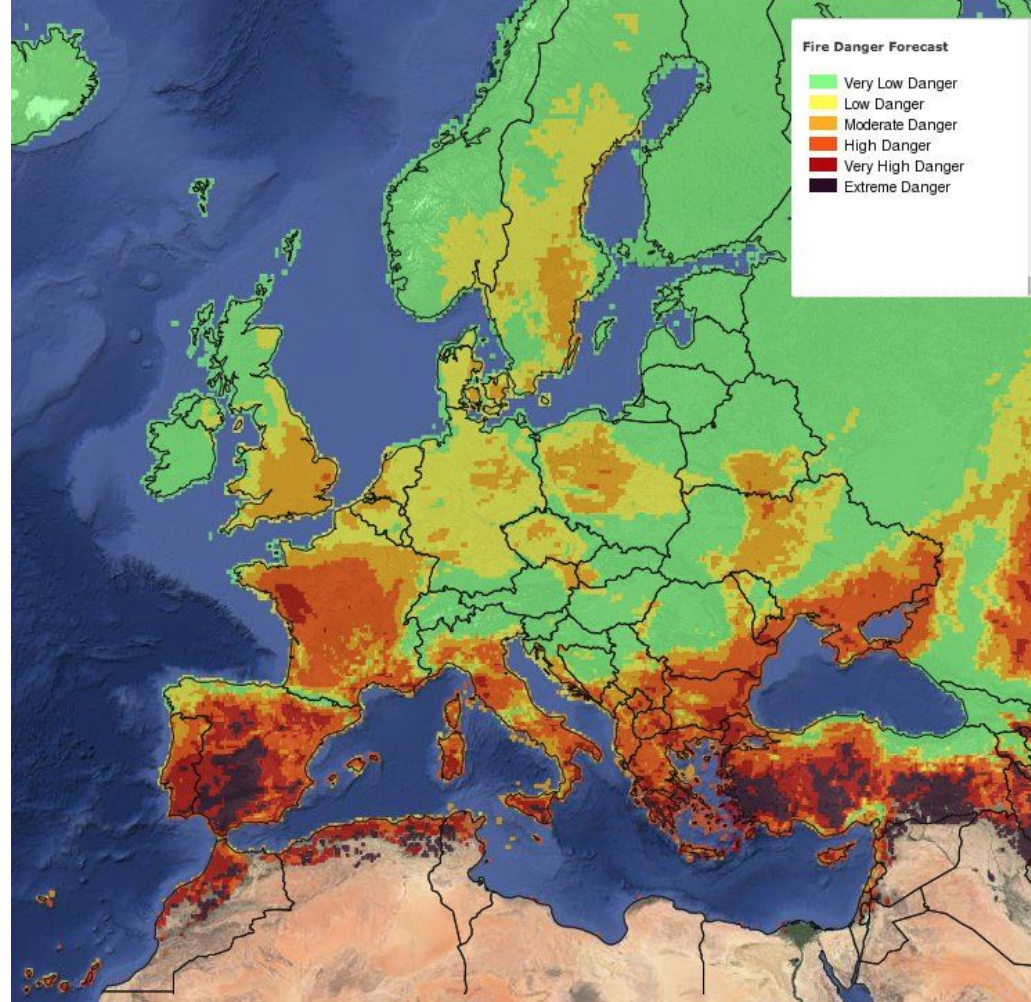




# “2019 Was The Year The World Burned”

-- Laura Paddison, Huffington Post

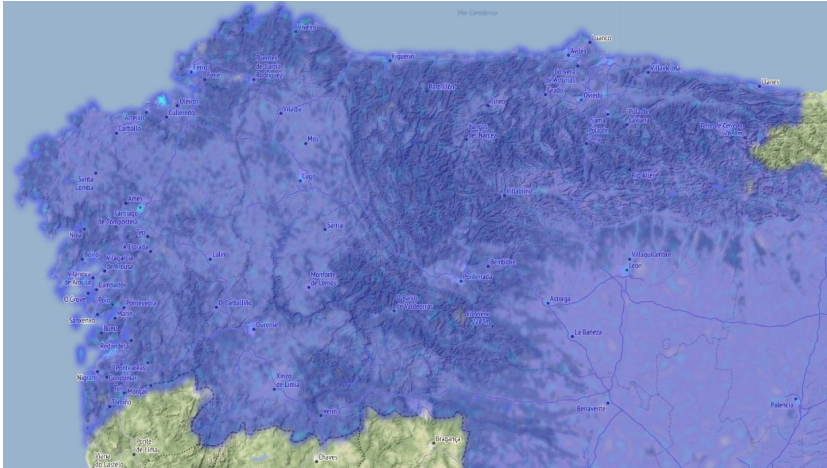




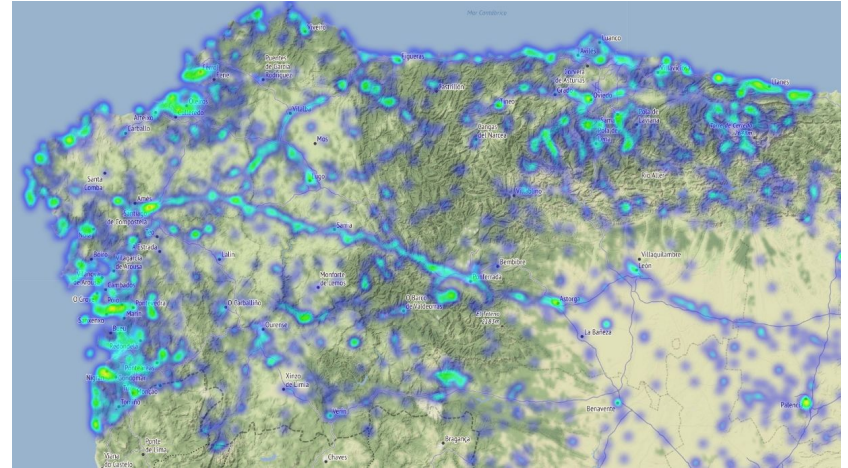
Fire Danger Forecast across Europe, August 2016 <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/effis-supports-eu-efforts-tackling-recent-wildfires-across-europe>

# Touristic Activity in North-Western Spain

Data source: Open Street Map, Plots: Ours



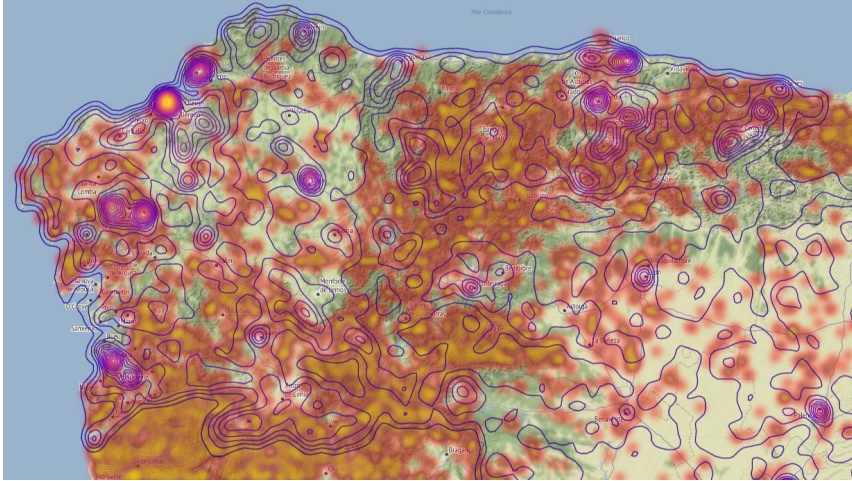
Locations with human activity



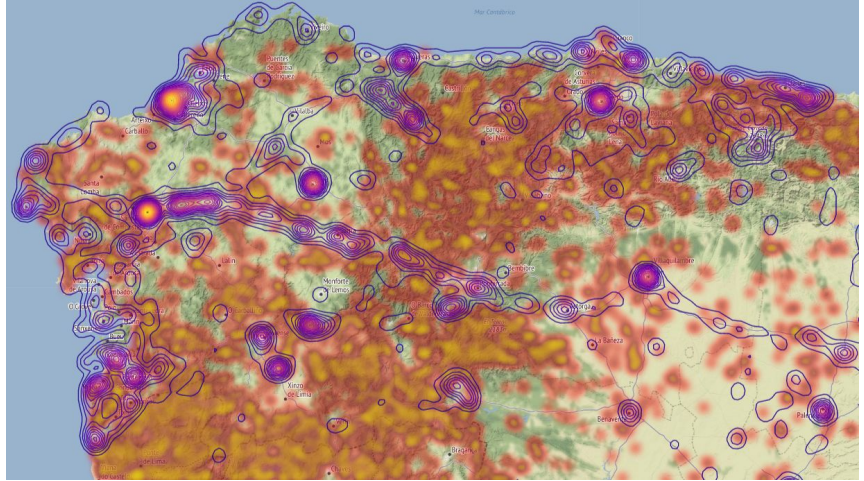
Tourist activity

# Results: Distributions Overlay

TODO



Locations with human activity



Tourist activity