# **Deforestation in the Amazon is influencing climate in Tibet**

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**Body**

Like the ***Amazon***, the Tibetan Plateau could also be approaching a tipping point.Photo: AFP - AFP

AgencyDeforestation in the ***Amazon***, a phenomenon that has worried activists and governments in the region, is apparently also having an effect on the climate in regions such as Tibet, more than 15,000 kilometers from the jungle. In a study published in the journal Nature Climate Change, researchers described how the ***Amazon*** Rainforest Area (ARA) has "strong correlations" with the Tibetan Plateau (TP) and the West Antarctic ice sheet.

The models they used to identify the impacts that the transformation of the ***Amazon*** is having on other parts of the world allowed them to find associations between rainforest ***deforestation*** and rising temperatures in Tibet.

"We found that several climate extremes between the ARA and TP are synchronized under climate change," the authors of the new study stated. (

AlsoResearchers analyzed global climate data between 1979, as well as teleconnections between the two regions. "Teleconnections describe remote connections between components of the complex climate system and reflect the transport of energy or materials on a global scale," the study indicates.

In that sense, the researchers found a possible propagation path of this teleconnection, which can be divided into three parts: from central South America to southern Africa; from southern Africa to the Middle East; and the last one from the Middle East to the Tibetan Plateau. The length of the route is approximately 20,000 kilometers.

Among other findings, they identified that the ***deforestation*** phenomenon correlates with rising temperatures in Tibet and the West Antarctic ice sheet. In addition, they found that when it rained more in the ***Amazon***, there tended to be less precipitation in the other two regions.

The study also highlights that the extent of the TP snow cover has been losing stability since 2008 and that this may be one of the indicators that this region is increasingly closer to reaching a tipping point. (You may be interested in: ***Deforestation*** of the Brazilian ***Amazon*** increased 150% in Bolsonaro's last month)

This refers to a moment where all changes in an ecosystem (such as ***deforestation*** in the ***Amazon***) affect it, changing its characteristics forever, with no possibility of returning it to its initial state. This concept is also known as the "point of no return" and has been extensively studied in the case of the ***Amazon*** rainforest.

The latest Amazonia Viva report warned that "the processes of ***deforestation***, as well as the degradation of its forests and rivers, are taking the ***Amazon*** to a point of no return". Currently, of the 7 million square kilometers that comprise the ***Amazon***, 18% of the forests have been lost and an additional 17% are degraded. In Brazil alone, which is home to 60 % of the rainforest, more than 1,600,000 hectares were deforested in 2021, 59 % of which corresponded to the ***Amazon***.

The researchers warned, then, that it is possible that if this region reaches a tipping point, it could also trigger a tipping point in Tibet

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