

# Have the forest fires in Argentina become bigger and harder to control over the years?

In light of the fires currently affecting Argentinian Patagonia, particularly in the province of Chubut, now one of the most severely affected areas, many residents who have lost their belongings, homes, and land are raising concerns about the recurring nature of these fires each year.

High temperatures, drought, and strong winds have complicated firefighters' efforts to contain the fires in Chubut, including the blaze in Los Alerces National Park. This is not the first time the province has been so devastatingly impacted by this phenomenon.

From 2019 to 2024, there were varying degrees of territory burned by forest fires, with a noticeable increase in both intensity and frequency toward the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026.

In 2020 and 2022, wildfire activity was unusually high, with reports indicating around 1.1 million hectares burned in 2020 and more than 1.8 million hectares in 2022. Although 2021 showed a decrease, the fire season at the end of 2024 and early 2025 was considered the “worst in over 30 years,” with 32,000 hectares affected—nearly four times the amount burned the previous season. The current wildfires, which began at the end of 2025 and continue into early January 2026, reflect the persistence of larger and more frequent burned areas in southern Argentina. As of yesterday, 36,000 hectares have been affected, and the fires continue to burn.

Currently, 400 brigadiers are deployed in Chubut alone, supported by 15 aerial resources, including helicopters and planes dedicated to water distribution.