

IUPAC Project No. 2007-025-1-300

CHEMICAL ISSUES IN BIOMASS BURNING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

This is a new **call for contributions** for a collaborative book exploring all the aspects relevant to biomass burning in Sub-Saharan Africa, with special (but not sole) focus on the chemistry aspects, and including also the search for realistic alternative options. The project is endorsed by the IUPAC Sub-committee on Green Chemistry. The book will be published by Springer.

The book is meant as a **resource material** to disseminate information on the various aspects of the biomass-burning problem and on the interconnections between the various aspects, so as to provide a comprehensive picture and to foster awareness. Thus, besides being expectedly interesting for researchers focusing on specific aspects of the problem, the book aims at targeting other groups of readers with adequate science background: tertiary-level students in science disciplines, science teachers at all levels, and also policy/decision makers. Ideally, it is expected to include contributions from many African countries, to better highlight the continent-wide relevance of the problem and the importance of a continental perspective in investigating and addressing it.

Up to date, 19 contributions have been proposed. However, they are not yet covering all the envisaged scopes and the desired representative-ness across countries. The present call is thus meant to invite more contributions, and to invite potential contributors to choose any theme that they consider relevant for the provision of a comprehensive picture on the fire-practices in Sub-Saharan Africa. An envisaged plan of the book is attached as reference.

The new **deadline** for the submission of contributions is **February 15, 2011**.

For any clarification that might be needed, please contact the project chairperson at
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For updates and more information, see www.iupac.org/web/ins/2007-025-1-300



ENVISAGED PLAN OF THE BOOK

SECTION 1 – GENERAL ASPECTS

This is an introductory section considering general character themes. It will comprise:

- An introductory chapter, outlining the overall issue of fires in Sub-Saharan Africa. It has the role of providing basic background information for the reader to understand the motivations of the concern about fires and to gain a global picture, so that he/she can be better motivated to read the other chapters and better equipped to understand them.
- Other chapters having general character (e.g., chapters reporting studies on the hazards generally posed by fires, studies on fires without specific reference to a particular area, studies considering the entire Sub Saharan subcontinent, etc.).

SECTION 2 – INFORMATION FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

This section is devoted to the current situation in specific countries or groups of neighbouring countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It may comprise a variety of issues, such as:

- Reasons and/or objectives why people use fires in that country/region.
- Patterns in the use of fires (time patterns during the year; patterns in terms of geographical distribution).
- Chemical aspects, like the composition of emissions (greenhouse gases, particulate, heat-pollution, estimated or predicted effects on climate, etc.).
- Observed impacts on vegetation (e.g., on trees-growth, on biodiversity in a given area, etc.).
- Review of the studies on fires for that specific country or group of neighbouring countries.

SECTION 3 – SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

This section is devoted to the search for alternative options. It may include:

- Information on already attempted or already functioning options.
- Discussion of options that are potentially considered viable (including the motivations for considering them viable).
- Expected benefits from proposed alternative options.

SECTION 4 – THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

This section is devoted to the dissemination of information and to educational aspects in general. It may include themes like:

- Search for optimal pathways to disseminate information (target groups, preparation of material, dissemination channels, information within formal instruction, information through other channels, etc)
- Inferences from previous initiatives aimed at disseminating information.
- Options to foster communities' active participation in the search for alternative options that may be beneficial specifically to a given community.
- Interactions and collaborations between specialists in different fields, both at investigation level (studying the different aspects of the phenomenon) and for the dissemination of information.