



Monthly mean ozone in the lower troposphere in 2008, measured in Dobson Units. The red and yellow areas in June to November over first the west of Southern Africa and then the Amazon region of South America are caused by biomass (forest and savannah) burning in the dry seasons. The African continent is the single largest source of biomass burning globally, where the seasonally dry conditions, large unpopulated areas of savannah and lightning strikes provide the perfect ingredients for wildfires. In the Amazon region, biomass burning is largely anthropogenic in origin but they can also occur naturally during the dry season. Courtesy of Georgina Miles (RAL).