

## **Cape fires: South Africa's Western Cape often falls victim to fires during the dry summer months.**

This Copernicus Sentinel-2B image from 6 January shows blazes near Cape Town (Lat 33.9°S). South Africa's Western Cape often falls victim to fires during the dry hot summer months.

Fires can ignite naturally but can also be the result of careless or deliberate human behaviour.

The Copernicus Sentinel-2B image from 6 January shown here indicates several blazes around the Kogelberg Nature Reserve to the east of Cape Town. Smoke from the fires can also be seen blowing across False Bay towards the Cape Peninsula in the extreme southwest of South Africa.

These fires are reported to be just some of those that firefighters have been dealing with in the region over recent weeks. The fires have posed serious risk to life, property and the environment, as well as incurring huge financial costs.

Roads and resorts, which experience high volumes of traffic and visitors during the holiday season, have also been closed. The Kogelberg Nature Reserve is currently closed because of the fires, but it is considered to be very beautiful with an array of different plant species, many of which are endemic.

The two Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellites carry multispectral cameras designed to monitor changes in Earth's vegetation and plant health.

*Credit: 'Title Cape fires.' Released 11/01/2019, 4:03 pm. Copyright contains modified Sentinel data (2019), processed by ESA.  
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## Heavy snow in Turkey

To go to the other extreme, more than 5000 statute miles to the north the cold snap has also reached Turkey as shown in this Copernicus Sentinel-3 image from 9 January. The snow, which started falling in Turkey on 6 January, has led to villages in remote areas being cut off and the authorities having to close offices and schools.

The snowfall mainly affected eastern and northern provinces, but big cities in the west, including Ankara (Lat 39.9°N), have not been spared a thick covering of snow.

The weather is also causing serious problems further west, in particular in Austria and Germany which are on a red alert to receive heavy snow. This is the most serious meteorological warning and means that it is likely the weather will cause damage, for example, to buildings and roads.

*Credit: 'Cold Turkey.' Released 10/01/2019 5:05 pm. Copyright contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2019), processed by ESA, CC BY-SA 3.0*

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