Amazon's 'tallest tree' safe from fires, say scientists

September 4 2019

Handout picture released by SETEC (Science and Technology Secretary of Amapa State) showing the giant Dinizia Excelsa tree, found in the Paru State Forest in the Amazon basin, on August 21, 2019

Intrepid Brazilian and British scientists say they have located the Amazon's tallest tree in northern Brazil, untouched by a spate of

wildfires that have raged in the rainforest for weeks.

The scientists say they located an unusually large specimen of the giant Dinizia Excelsa species—measuring 88 meters (288-feet) with a circumference of 5.50 meters—in a sanctuary of other Dinizia trees.

"The species generally reach a height of 60 meters. We have a great discovery here and now a commitment to preserve the largest trees in the Amazon," said research coordinator Eric Bastos.

Bastos led research conducted in August by scientists from the Federal University of the Valleys of the Jequitinhonha and Britain's Cambridge University and the University of Swansea.

The discovery was made by using aerial sensors over Paru State Forest, which is shared by the Brazilian Amazon basin states of Amapa and Para.

The sanctuary of Dinizia Excelsa trees lies outside the areas affected by the wildfires which have caused international concern, Amapu State scientific sourcees told AFP.

According to National Geographic, scientists earlier this year discovered the world's tallest tropical tree, a 100 meter meranti tree in Sabah on the island of Borneo.

The tallest known trees are California redwoods, which have been measured up to 379.7 feet, or 115.7 meters.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: Amazon's 'tallest tree' safe from fires, say scientists (2019, September 4) retrieved 10 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2019-09-amazon-tallest-tree-safe-scientists.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.