
Prize for fire expert Stoof

Cathelijne Stoof, who does research on wildfires, was awarded a prize by the International Association of Wildland Fire for her work as a 'promising young scientist'. Stoof was presented with the prize, a glass flame, during a global online conference. She has made a name for herself with the broad scope of her research and her interdisciplinary approach. Stoof is making an impact internationally, for example with the PyroLife project, in which 15 PhD students from all over Europe are being trained as experts in fire

research. 'We aim to increase our understanding of how wildfires start and can become so extreme, and how we can design the landscape and prepare the population so that we can anticipate such situations.' Wildfires are coming in for more attention in the education programme too. In January Stoof will launch a new Master's course in Pyrogeography. 'In this course we shall study the biophysical and social aspects of fires. We'll go to the Peel nature reserve, for instance, where a big fire broke out last year.' RK