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**INFOSYLVA** es el servicio de información de recortes de prensa suministrado por el Centro de Información Forestal de la FAO con noticias sobre las actividades forestales, en inglés, francés y español.

**N. 08**

**2009**

### **Forthcoming Events**

XIII Congreso Forestal Mundial - Cristina Fernández de Kirchner es la embajadora del XIII Congreso Forestal Mundial (CFM)

<http://www.wfc2009.org/es/detalle-novedad.asp?IdNovedad=79>

XIII World Forestry Congress - Cristina Fernández de Kirchner to be ambassador of the XIII World Forestry Congress (WFC)

<http://www.wfc2009.org/en/detalle-novedad.asp?IdNovedad=82>

XIIIe Congrès forestier mondial - Cristina Fernández de Kirchner est l'ambassadrice du Congrès Forestier Mondial (CFM)

<http://www.wfc2009.org/fr/detalle-novedad.asp?IdNovedad=83>

### **FAO**

#### **[Forest conservation gets Sh430 million](#)**

Uganda has received a \$200,000 (sh430m) grant from the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to implement forestry conservation activities between 2009 and 2012.

#### **[Shrinking forests: the many costs](#)**

Since 1990, the developing world has lost some 13 million hectares of forest a year. This loss each decade is an area roughly the size of Greece. Meanwhile, the industrial world is actually gaining an estimated 5.6 million hectares of forestland each year, principally from abandoned cropland returning to forests on its own and from the spread of commercial forestry plantations.

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**Press review/ Revue de presse/ Informe de prensa:**

**21 – 30 April 2009**

### **Afghanistan**

#### **[Afghanistan announces first national park on Earth Day](#)**

Afghanistan has announced the creation of the nation's first national park, Band-e-Amir, protecting a one-of-a-kind landscape encompassing six sky-blue lakes separated by natural dams.

## **Argentina**

### [Analizarán los aportes de la sociedad para reglamentar la Ley de Bosques](#)

Desde el Icaa adelantaron que analizarán los aportes realizados por distintos sectores productivos y ambientalistas durante las audiencias públicas que se realizaron para debatir la Ley de Bosques. Asimismo, advirtieron que existen varios proyectos productivos en suspenso hasta tanto no se reglamente la normativa.

### [Iniciativa para desalentar la especulación inmobiliaria en bosques nativos afectados por incendios](#)

Legislador considera imprescindible regular sobre las áreas afectadas a fin de salvaguardar el rol fundamental que tienen dichos bosques para la preservación del equilibrio medioambiental y la riqueza paisajística de la zona cordillerana.

### [Ley de Bosques Nativos: ambientalistas cuestionaron el ordenamiento territorial](#)

Organizaciones ambientalistas cuestionaron el proyecto de ordenamiento territorial elaborado para reglamentar la Ley de Bosques Nativos. Sostienen que es apresurado restringir la actividad agraria en áreas protegidas y llamaron a incentivar la producción sustentable.

### [Un nuevo mapa de enfermedades](#)

Brotos epidémicos de malaria en la provincia de Misiones, reaparición de fiebre amarilla en la frontera, son indicios de la migración de mosquitos y del impacto que están teniendo en Argentina factores como los cambios en temperatura y en regímenes de lluvias. Deforestación, uso de la tierra, monocultivos, todo esto ha tenido una influencia muy importante en la redistribución de los vectores causantes de estas enfermedades.

## **Botswana**

### [Strengthening river basin management](#)

The region faces a number of challenges around water management, among which climate change and variability are the most important. Evidence of this is found in the high frequency and intensity of both floods and droughts, such as those that have recently hit the Cuvelai, Okavango and Zambezi River basins.

## **Brazil**

### [Bird's eye view for deforestation](#)

Government expands program for aerial monitoring its biomes. While Brazilian officials have monitored the Amazon rain forest biome this way since 2002, the expansion will include its other biomes, mainly forest and grassland areas, called the Caatinga, Cerrado, Mata Atlantica, Pampa and the Pantanal.

### [Brasil tiene como prioridad frenar la destrucción del Amazonas y se prepara para efectos del cambio climático](#)

El Gobierno brasileño tiene como prioridad frenar la destrucción de la selva amazónica, porque eso reduciría fuertemente las emisiones contaminantes globales, aunque también se está preparando para los efectos del cambio climático.

### [Brazil's endangered species list triples in size](#)

Deforestation and illegal animal trade have done enormous damage to Brazil's wildlife.

### [Brazilian explorers search 'medicine factory' to save lives and rainforest](#)

Quest for cancer cure may also protect rainforest by providing alternatives for those who once earned money by destroying it.

### [Contact with Amazon tribes inevitable, says Brazilian protection agency](#)

Illegal loggers have put the survival of the last isolated indigeneous groups increasingly at risk.

### [Disney to plant 2.7 million trees](#)

The Brazilian rainforest is about to become bigger by some 2.7 million trees, according to Walt Disney Studios. The studio had said it would arrange to plant a tree for every ticket sold for its eco-documentary "Earth" in the first week of release.

### [Land use emissions should not hurt ethanol](#)

Making ethanol in Brazil does not cause new greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and should not slow blending of the fuel in the United States.

### [New legislation in Brazil opens up road-paving across country, threatening Amazon](#)

Brazil's Chamber of Deputies has approved a measure that would speed up paving roads across the country, including paving a road that environmentalists have long-fought, BR-319.

## **Cameroon**

### [Cameroon forest elephants face extinction](#)

Forest elephants in Cameroon and the Congo Basin could be extinct within 10 years without measures to fight the illegal ivory trade and curb habitat loss.

## **Canada**

### [Canada calls "unfair" a US tax break to paper makers](#)

A U.S. tax break being used by paper manufacturers who use a "black liquor" byproduct to fuel their plants is unfair and should be stopped, Canadian Trade Minister said.

### [Forêt à vendre](#)

La papetière Smurfit-Stone a entrepris des démarches pour vendre une forêt de 3500 kilomètres carrés, évaluée à 1 milliard de dollars, qu'elle possède au nord de La Tuque.

### [Y-aura-t-il une récolte en forêt en 2009?](#)

Les entrepreneurs forestiers lancent un cri d'alarme. Un arrangement doit absolument intervenir avec le gouvernement du Québec et AbitibiBowater afin qu'il y ait une récolte en forêt en 2009.

## **Chad**

### [Daily needs squeeze dwindling resources in East](#)

In eastern Chad, where arable land is scarce, groundwater is difficult to access and trees are disappearing, it is increasingly tough for local residents and some 250,000 people who fled neighbouring Darfur to meet their most basic daily needs.

## **China**

### [China's forests have role in soaking up CO2](#)

China's forests and other vegetation absorbed around a third of its greenhouse gases in the late 20th century, but the rate may now be falling because of a surge in industrial emissions.

### [La lutte contre l'incendie de forêt dans le nord-est de la Chine s'intensifie](#)

Le nombre de personnes luttant contre l'incendie de forêt qui s'est déclaré dans la province du Heilongjiang (nord-est) a atteint 3 347, dont 1 245 gardes forestiers.

## **Colombia**

### [Colombia acusa a Europa y EEUU de destruir la selva con su adicción a la coca](#)

El vicepresidente de Colombia, Francisco Santos, acusó hoy a las "narices" de los adictos europeos y estadounidenses de ser las responsables de que su país haya perdido en 15 años más de dos millones de hectáreas de selva a manos de los productores de coca.

### [El narcotráfico y la corrupción están acabando a la Amazonía](#)

El Contralor General de la Nación, Julio Cesar Turbay Quintero, declaro como enemigo del ambiente y los ecosistemas en Colombia a los cultivos ilícitos luego de revelar que sembrar una hectárea de coca significan destruir cuatro hectáreas de su entorno, situación que esta generando una acelerada deforestación en la región amazónica colombiana.

## **Côte d'Ivoire**

### [Environmental campaign blocks palm oil project in Cote d' Ivoire wetland](#)

Environmentalists have thwarted plans to establish an oil palm plantation in the Tanoe forest wetlands of southern Cote d' Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

### [Batwa: Suffering from deforestation](#)

The provinces of Northern and Southern Kivu are amongst those most affected by deforestation and soil degradation in the DRC, and the Batwa who live there are most at risk from international efforts to combat the problem.

### **Ethiopia**

#### [Tree "found" in Ethiopia raises hopes for species](#)

The acacia fumosa tree, which grows in an area the size of the island of Crete, was not "found" for scientific purposes until 2006-7, mostly likely because its main habitat is a war zone.

### **Finland**

#### [Camping centre for youth in Evo state-owned forests](#)

The Guides and Scouts of Finland and the state forests administration have decided to establish a camping centre for youth in the forests of Evo in southern Finland.

### **France**

#### [Incendies à répétition : la forêt méditerranéenne en danger](#)

Les chercheurs sont finalement parvenus à la conclusion que ce n'est pas tant un feu isolé qui est dommageable à la forêt que la répétition de celui-ci.

#### [Sarkozy favorable à une nouvelle forêt francilienne à Roissy](#)

Nicolas Sarkozy a marqué mercredi son intérêt pour la création d'une forêt dans le cône de bruit de l'aéroport de Roissy, avec la plantation d'un million d'arbres.

### **Gambia**

#### [National forest programme launched](#)

The National Forest Programme (NFP), designed to halt the rapidly degrading forest environment amidst a growing threat of desertification particularly in the Western and Lower Regions of the country, was launched last Tuesday.

### **Ghana**

#### [Who benefits from mining laws?](#)

A question that has been asked for the umpteenth time by social and economic rights activists is whether state institutions in the extractive sector tend to lower regulatory standards and practice for mining and timber companies at the expense of legitimate concerns of local communities, and the protection of the environment.

### **Haiti**

#### [Haiti-environnement: une marche, pour célébrer la journée mondiale de la terre](#)

Des militants de la lutte contre la dégradation de l'environnement, le déboisement en particulier, prendront la parole lors de cette marche de sensibilisation.

### **India**

#### [Can tourism save the tiger?](#)

As India's big cats face the growing threat of extinction, Kevin Rushby is both inspired and underwhelmed by its national parks' approaches to conservation.

### **Indonesia**

#### [Economic woes may damage moves to slow deforestation](#)

Growing economic pain may increasingly force consumers to turn to palm oil, one of the cheapest cooking oils, a move that could scupper nascent plans to slow deforestation in Southeast Asia.

#### [Indigenous forest management offers lessons in fighting global warming](#)

A new book written by members of indigenous communities across Indonesia argues that traditional forest management practices can provide important lessons in the effort to slow climate change.

#### [Indonesia to allow underground mining in forests](#)

Indonesia plans to issue a presidential decree to allow miners to carry out underground mining in its protected forest.

#### [Sustainable logging to solve deforestation](#)

Environmental group main focus is to persuade illegal loggers to adopt a long-term approach to the management of the forests, so they can feed their families without breaking the law.

## **Iraq**

### ["Cradle of civilization" in peril](#)

Iraq's southern marshes were largely restored after Saddam Hussein drained them following the 1991 Gulf War. But now a drought threatens the ancient wetlands' recovery.

## **Kenya**

### [Animal numbers fall in Kenya's Maasai Mara](#)

Numbers of wild grazing animals in Kenya's world-renowned Maasai Mara National Reserve have fallen substantially in 15 years as wildlife competes with neighboring human settlements.

### [Famous Kenyan park experiencing large declines in wildlife](#)

In Masai Mara, one of Africa's most treasured parks, researchers have found significant, in some cases catastrophic, declines of wild grazing animals. In fifteen years six of seven hoofed animals—giraffes, warthogs, hartebeest, impala, topis and waterbucks—showed declines.

### [Mara in danger: 'Some animals refuse to drink from the river'](#)

Deforestation and agriculture have affected the quality and the quantity of the water in the Mara river and other smaller rivers and streams. WitneThere were cases of animals refusing to drink from the river and also animals dying from pesticide poisoning.

### [Mara wildlife in serious decline](#)

Wild grazing animals in Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve are steadily disappearing, a study has found.

## **Nepal**

### [72.000 hectares de forêt détruits par des incendies](#)

Plus de 72.000 hectares de forêt ont été détruits et des personnes ont péri dans des incendies au Népal.

### [Vicious forest fires in Nepal raise climate change questions](#)

The forest fires that recently flared up in Nepal raise important questions about the effects of climate change on the Tibetan Plateau.

## **Nigeria**

### [Company faces prosecution for cutting trees](#)

For illegally cutting about 50 economic trees along the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Road, authorities of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), have commenced a process to prosecute an oil company.

### [Forestry institute moves to check erosion in Anambra](#)

The state was the worst hit in erosion disaster in the Sub-Sahara Africa, with its attendant huge economic loss and havoc on the psyche of the people, who ordinarily were full of entrepreneurial spirit.

## **Paraguay**

### [El 90% de los bosques del Paraguay ha desaparecido](#)

En los últimos 50 años Paraguay perdió el 90% de sus bosques, que equivale a la extinción de casi la totalidad de los recursos forestales a causa de la deforestación.

### [El país 'celebra' Día de la Tierra con 90% menos de bosques](#)

Más que festejar, Paraguay tiene que lamentar la pérdida de gran parte de sus riquezas naturales, afirma el ambientalista Elías Díaz Peña, quien aboga en esta fecha por una mayor conciencia ecologista.

## **Peru**

### [Peru mulls new reserves to protect Amazon tribes](#)

Peru's government, which is encouraging energy companies to develop the resource-rich Amazon, is considering creating five new reserves to protect jungle tribes that are living in voluntary isolation.

## **Plurinational State of Bolivia**

### [Bolivia, líder en certificación de bosques](#)

Informe del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo titulado La otra frontera - Usos alternativos de recursos naturales demuestra que Bolivia ya es el líder mundial en la certificación de bosques tropicales y es uno de los 12 países con la mayor superficie de agricultura orgánica en el mundo.

### ['If there is no water, the Chipaya have no life'](#)

Rory Carroll speaks to members of the Uru Chipaya tribe, whose lifestyle in the Bolivian Andes is being threatened by the effects of global warming.

### [ONU advierte que en Bolivia se desforestan 300.000 hectáreas cada año](#)

Naciones Unidas alertó hoy, con motivo del Día de la Tierra, que la deforestación en Bolivia alcanza cada año una cifra de 300.000 hectáreas anuales, si bien destacó el liderazgo de este país en aspectos como la certificación de bosques tropicales.

## **Republic of Korea**

### [South Korea lights the way on carbon emissions with its £23bn green deal](#)

Seoul's huge financial stimulus package pledges 81% for a swath of environmental projects. But activists fear a wave of construction may increase the country's carbon footprint.

## **Rwanda**

### [Utexrwa targets 500 hectares of mulberry trees in Kigali](#)

This will represent a 75 percent increase of the total area where the silk producing tree is planted.

## **Senegal**

### [Can 'green charcoal' help save the trees?](#)

An environmental NGO in northern Senegal is about to go to market with "green charcoal" - a household fuel produced from agricultural waste materials to replace wood and charcoal in cooking stoves. According to Senegal's Department of Water and Forestry, 40,000 hectares of forest are cut every year for fuel and other commercial uses.

## **Sierra Leone**

### [Deforestation threaten Sierra Leone](#)

The environment in Sierra Leone is seriously threatened by extraction, deforestation and land degradation as a result of ineffective policies and enforcement, the cutting down of trees for charcoal burning and farming - activities that are proving very devastating to sustainable livelihoods.

### [National Petroleum Company damns deforestation, says it's dangerous](#)

Representative of the National Petroleum Company declared that deforestation is a recipe for environmental destruction and therefore a danger to society.

## **Spain**

### [El sector forestal pide ayuda a las administraciones](#)

Los ingenieros forestales han pedido a las administraciones un esfuerzo económico que ayude a resurgir el sector ante la actual coyuntura económica, además de fomentar la generación de energía con biomasa o potenciar el uso de la madera en obras públicas.

### [El sector forestal pide potenciar la madera en obras públicas como ayuda contra la crisis](#)

El Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros Técnicos Forestales ha pedido a las distintas administraciones que ayuden al sector a combatir la crisis con fondos del Plan E, fomentando la generación de energía con biomasa o potenciando el uso de la madera en obras públicas.

### [La madera que tiró el 'Klaus' sigue en los montes a la espera de las ayudas](#)

La práctica totalidad de los árboles que cayeron por el ciclón Klaus a su paso por A Mariña los días 23 y 24 de enero siguen en las fincas sin recoger, según confirmó la Asociación de Productores de Madera de Galicia (Promagal).

### [Medio Ambiente dedica 3 millones de euros para dar salida a la madera dañada](#)

La conselleria de Medio Ambiente de la Generalitat destinará 3 millones de euros a dar salida en el mercado a las cerca 300.000 toneladas de madera de los bosques dañados por los temporales de nieve y viento de los pasados meses de diciembre y enero que afectaron a 30.000 hectáreas de varias comarcas catalanas.

## **Uganda**

### [Local council system killing forests](#)

1994 forest cover evaluation report revealed that local council's had contributed to deforestation.

### [Tapping money in commercial forestry](#)

In the last five years, over 10,000 hectares of softwood have been planted nationwide. The initiative has triggered major interest in commercial tree planting and investors in the tree sector are now referring to themselves as the forest billionaires.

## **United Arab Emirates**

### [New park in United Arab Emirates to protect rare mammals](#)

With only 2,500 individuals in the wild, the Arabian tahr is certainly in need of the sanctuary just established by the United Arab Emirates. The country's first mountain reserve, Wadi Wurayah Fujairah covers 129 square kilometres.

## **United Kingdom**

### [A walk on the wild side](#)

Horses are increasingly being used rather than machines to log land as traditional forestry skills make a comeback.

### [Andrew, the unlikely eco-warrior](#)

The Duke of York has been hailed by scientists for his role in developing a camera to expose illegal logging in the Amazon basin and the Congo. The British-built, £1m, 64-megapixel camera will be placed on a satellite and deployed to stop illegal logging.

### [Once there were swarms of butterflies in our skies](#)

... but if you go out for a walk today, you will be lucky to spot one or two. Patrick Barkham, a passionate lepidopterist, laments the dramatic decline of these most extraordinary insects – and wonders if there is any chance of saving them.

### [Orchard losses 'threaten species'](#)

Traditional fruit orchards are vanishing from England's landscape - with serious consequences for wildlife, conservationists have warned.

### [Unlikely allies at last: Prince and Pope](#)

Charles warns of 'new Dark Age' if global warming cannot be tackled.

### [Wild harvest reaps big rewards in foraging rush](#)

It has quietly become something of a green gold rush. In woods and forests across Britain, wild garlic is being harvested for soup makers, wood sorrel gathered for Michelin-starred chefs, and spruce needles picked to infuse hand-made chocolates.

## **United States of America**

### [Al Gore calls on world to burn less wood and fuel to curb 'black carbon'](#)

Soot from engines, forest fires and partly burned fuel is collecting in Arctic and causing north pole to warm at alarming rate.

### [An effort to save Flint, Michigan, by shrinking it](#)

A city built to manufacture cars would be returned in large measure to the forest primeval.

### [Black Liquor: The paper industry's new best friend](#)

Paper manufacturers looking for a break from the global recession finally have one -- a tax break. A loophole in a federal law, intended to encourage the use of biofuels along with fossil fuels, has helped the industry fill its coffers with large tax rebates.

### [Manhattan 1609 vs. 2009: natural wonder to urban jungle](#)

Before it was an urban jungle, Manhattan was home to the Lenape Indians, who called the island Mannahatta, or "land of many hills."

### **Zimbabwe**

#### ['Impose mandatory jail sentences on starters of Veld fires'](#)

Environment and Natural Resources Management Minister said mandatory jail sentences would go a long way in discouraging people from burning the country's vast swathes of vegetation and killing animals in the process.

### **World**

#### [100 pictures for Earth Day](#)

By extinguishing hotbeds of biodiversity - rainforests, wetlands, coral reefs, and grasslands - we are destroying a part of ourselves. Biodiversity will recover after humanity is gone, but in the meantime, the continuing loss of our fellow species will make Earth an awfully crowded, but lonely place.

#### [40% of Amazon will disappear despite climate change efforts](#)

Forty percent or more of the Amazon rainforest will be "decimated" by the middle of the next century even if we cut all CO2 emissions by 2050.

#### [Avoided deforestation projects highly desirable for carbon offsets finds survey](#)

91 percent of companies rated avoided deforestation as the most desirable forestry projects for carbon offsets.

#### [Central Asia fails in water talks](#)

The leaders of the five Central Asian states have failed to agree on the best way to share their water.

#### [Central Asian leaders to gather for water summit](#)

The dispute over cross-border water sharing in the vast region north of Afghanistan is a worry for its leaders who know how much stability in their ethnically diverse and potentially volatile nations depends on the scarce commodity.

#### [Climate change drying up big rivers, study finds](#)

Rivers in some of the world's most populated regions are losing water, many because of climate change.

#### [EU lawmakers call for tough watch on illegal timber](#)

Europe should push for tighter laws to curb the illegal timber trade by making both importers and exporters get licenses to show their wood does not come from endangered rainforests.

#### [Experts feud over how to save apes](#)

Orang-utans are facing extinction as farmers wipe out their last habitats. Hundreds of rescued youngsters could be the best hope of survival, but there are fears the orphans may not adapt to release back into the wild.

#### [Fire contributes 20% of global warming emissions](#)

Fire accounts for roughly half of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and about twenty percent of total emissions from human activities, report researchers writing in the journal *Science*.

#### [Fire is an important and under-appreciated part of global climate change](#)

Intentional deforestation fires alone contribute up to one-fifth of the human-caused increase in emissions of carbon dioxide, a heat-trapping gas that increases global temperature.

#### [Fires seen making climate change worse](#)

Climate experts have known that a warmer world would spawn more fires, but in a new research scientists reported that fires - especially those set by humans to clear forests - influence climate change.

#### [G8 and poor nations vow to tackle species loss](#)

The Group of Eight (G8) industrial countries and major developing economies signed a charter pledging to tackle deforestation, trade in illegal wildlife, and to boost research into the rate of species loss.

#### [Global warming to cripple Southeast Asia economically](#)

The study states that Southeast Asia is particularly susceptible to extreme weather, higher temperatures, and rising sea levels due to its extensive coastlines, economies dependent on agriculture, and rampant large-scale deforestation.

#### ["Greener" palm oil: pricey and not green enough?](#)

A drive to improve the green credentials of palm oil, used in foods and cosmetics but tainted for some by links to deforestation, could make it too expensive for shoppers and may anyway be of limited environmental benefit.

#### [Greenhouse gas goals for major nations](#)

The major nations meeting for discussions on climate change in Washington have different goals for curbs on greenhouse gas emissions.

#### [Identifican un gen implicado en la regulación de la floración de las plantas perennes](#)

Investigadores han identificado un gen implicado en la regulación de la floración de las plantas perennes (las que viven varios años). El trabajo permite comprender mejor los mecanismos moleculares que determinan las diferencias reproductivas entre plantas anuales y perennes, un problema fundamental en la biología vegetal.

#### [Illegal wood soon excluded from EU markets](#)

European Parliament to support strict rules to eliminate illegally harvested wood from the European market.

#### [Importante avance para eliminar la madera de origen ilegal en la UE](#)

El Parlamento Europeo votó a favor de fortalecer la legislación contra el comercio ilegal de madera en la UE. A partir de ahora, las empresas madereras tendrán que aportar información sobre el origen de los productos que venden en la UE, uno de los principales mercados para los productos forestales.

#### [Indigenous people serve as guardians of forest carbon, must be involved in climate solutions](#)

Indigenous people serve as guardians of forest carbon throughout the Amazon. Research has shown that deforestation rates in indigenous reserves are considerably lower than in unprotected areas.

#### [In search of forestry's El Dorado](#)

The world's tropical forests face the double challenge of climate change and deforestation, says Andrew Mitchell. In this week's Green Room, he explains why he is not giving up on the "impossible dream" of convincing governments that these trees are worth more alive than dead.

#### [Los incendios provocan un 20% de las emisiones de CO2](#)

Los incendios forestales, además de provocar la deforestación y la pérdida de hábitats, son también los responsables del 20% de las emisiones de dióxido de carbono que se producen como consecuencia de las actividades humanas.

#### [Mangroves 'protect coastal villages during cyclones'](#)

Mangroves cut coastal deaths during cyclones — but their effectiveness during tsunamis is inconclusive, says a new study.

#### [MEPs adopt rules to keep illegal timber off the EU market](#)

Stricter rules on timber sold in the EU are needed to combat illegal logging - the main cause of deforestation. All the operators in the timber supply chain must prove the legality of their timber and illegal timber suppliers must pay penalties that reflect the degree of environmental and economic damage.

#### [No 'burp' accelerating climate change? Wetlands likely source of methane from ancient warming event](#)

An expansion of wetlands and not a large-scale melting of frozen methane deposits is the likely cause of a spike in atmospheric methane gas that took place some 11,600 years ago, according to an international research team led by Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego.

#### [Plants could override climate change effects on wildfires](#)

Changes in the types of vegetation covering an area play a major role in determining how often that area is burned by fires and could even counteract the effects of changes in temperature and moisture.

#### [River systems worldwide are losing water due to global warming](#)

Large populations depend on some of the rivers for everything from agriculture to clean drinking resources, including the Yellow River, the Ganges, the Niger, and the Colorado, which have all shown significant declines.

#### [Stemming the water wars](#)

Water shortages will not go away by themselves. They are a global problem and demand a global response.

#### [Threat to European biodiversity 'as serious as climate change'](#)

Most of Europe's species and habitats are in poor condition and the risk of extinction continues to rise, environment chiefs are to warn at a major biodiversity conference in Athens this week.

#### [Timber walls mitigate climate change, concrete walls speed it up](#)

Carbon emissions during construction and the manufacturing of materials for it are not taken into account when comparing the environmental impacts of buildings.

#### [Tropical storms affect carbon sinks by knocking down forests](#)

Studying nearly a hundred and fifty years of tropical storm landfalls in the United States, researchers have discovered that the storm systems have a sizeable impact on forest carbon sinks due to the large-scale destruction of trees.

#### [What's the best way to protect orang-utans?](#)

Rehabilitation and reintroduction into the wild – or buying up land for conservation?

#### [World's major rivers 'drying up'](#)

Water levels in some of the world's most important rivers have declined significantly over the past 50 years, US researchers say.

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