



INFOSYLVA is an information service of news clippings provided by the FAO Forestry Information Centre with news on forestry in English, French and Spanish.

INFOSYLVA est un service d'information à partir de coupures de presse, mis à disposition par le Centre d'Information sur les Forêts de la FAO et qui fait le point de l'actualité dans ce secteur, en anglais, français et espagnol.

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.

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Forthcoming Events

XIII Congreso Forestal Mundial

["La cuestión principal, si Ud. participa en el sector forestal, es la conservación de los bosques"](#)

"La cuestión principal al intentar abordar el tema del cambio climático, si Ud. participa en el sector forestal, es la conservación de los bosques." Escuche a Avrim Lazar, Presidente y Director General de la Asociación de Productos Forestales de Canadá (en inglés FPAC) y orador principal sobre Bosques y cambio climático en el XIII Congreso Forestal Mundial en Argentina.

XIII World Forestry Congress

["This single-biggest thing if you're in forestry is keeping the forest"](#)

"This single-biggest thing in trying to address climate change if you're in forestry is keeping the forest." Listen to Avrim Lazar, President & CEO of FPAC (Forest Products Association of Canada) and keynote speaker on Forests and Climate Change at the XIII World Forestry Congress in Argentina.

XIII Congrès Forestier Mondial

["La meilleure chose que nous puissions faire dans le domaine de la foresterie, est de conserver la forêt"](#)

«La meilleure chose que nous puissions faire pour affronter le changement climatique dans le domaine de la foresterie, est de conserver la forêt». Ecoutez Avrim Lazar, PDG de FPAC (Association des produits forestiers du Canada) et orateur principal sur le thème «Forêts et changement climatique» au XIII Congrès forestier mondial en Argentine.

[First World Congress of Environmental History](#)

From 4 to 8 of August 2009 at Copenhagen, Denmark.

[International Training Course on Participatory Integrated Watershed Management](#)

From 5 to 15 October 2009 at Godavari, Kathmandu, Nepal.

FAO

[El problema de los incendios forestales](#)

Enfoque integral de la lucha contra incendios para reducir las pérdidas por el fuego.

[Inclusión nativa en conflicto forestal latinoamericano](#)

La Amazonia es la región boscosa más sensible de América Latina y concita el interés mundial, según el secretario adjunto del Congreso Mundial Forestal, Olman Serrano, quien consideró que el conflicto por la tenencia de la tierra, que se acentúa con la explotación de recursos naturales, puede resolverse con inclusión.

[Le problème brûlant des incendies](#)

Une approche intégrée pour limiter les dégâts.

[Les incendies de forêts: fléau pour l'homme, l'environnement et le climat](#)

Comme en attestent les récents événements survenus dans le Sud de la France et la Corse, les incendies, tout particulièrement en cette période de l'année, sont un véritable fléau. Mais la France est loin d'être la seule touchée. D'après la FAO (1), chaque année, le feu détruit 350 millions d'hectares à travers le monde, hors déboisement, s'attaquant aussi bien aux terres boisées qu'aux friches et aux cultures.

[The wildland fire problem](#)

An integrated approach to reduce fire losses.

Press review/ Revue de presse/ Informe de prensa:

16 – 31 July 2009

Africa

[Continent must protect forests to mitigate global warming](#)

Various reports indicate that Africa will be disproportionately affected by climate change, with predictions of crises like sea rise, desertification, floods, droughts and crop failure. One adaptation option for Africa is to keep her forests standing so that they provide essential environmental services such as acting as carbon sinks, reservoirs of biodiversity, water catchments and regulation of climate and rain patterns.

[Dancing with the devil in Africa](#)

In 1935, the writer Graham Greene set off on a journey through Sierra Leone and Liberia. In his book *Journey without Maps*, Greene asked what were the Europeans doing there? What did the slogans about civilising the natives actually mean?

[Egypt should be realistic](#)

Egypt has again strongly opposed the changing of the colonial agreements that gives it undue advantage over the Nile water resources. While Egypt has always taken a radical stand against changing any clauses in the agreements, it should know that it is almost a century since these agreements were signed. Moreover, it was Britain, the then colonial master, that signed on behalf of the other states.

[The need to check deforestation in West Africa](#)

In many parts of West Africa, tropical forests are disappearing at a much faster rate than many of governments and their agencies are willing to admit. While some may argue that this is not peculiar to the region, findings indicate that the problem is more endemic in sub-Saharan Africa than in Asia and Latin America and the Carribbeans. Africa's forest and woodland of 1,339 million hectares, constitutes about 20 per cent of the world's total.

[Wall 'could stop desert spread'](#)

A plan to build a 6,000km-long wall across the Sahara Desert to stop the spread of the desert has been outlined. The barrier - formed by solidifying sand dunes - would stretch from Mauritania in the west of Africa to Djibouti in the east.

Algeria

[Algérie: nouveaux incendies de forêts, la canicule sévit toujours](#)

Une vingtaine d'incendies de forêt ou de maquis se sont déclarés pour la seule journée de lundi dans différentes régions d'Algérie sur le littoral ou plus à l'intérieur des terres.

[Incendies de forêt en Algérie: une catastrophe écologique](#)

Plus de 4000 hectares de végétation sont partis en fumée.

Angola

[Angola signs tripartite accord for Maiombe Forest preservation](#)

The Ministries of Environment of Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and of the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) will next Thursday sign, in northern Cabinda province, a tripartite accord for the preservation of the trans-border area of the Maiombe forest.

[Biodiversity resources can contribute to economic growth](#)

The 14 eco-regions (fauna and flora landscaping unit) distributed by some provinces of the country, which position Angola in first place, at African level, followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), can contribute to the economic development of the region.

Australia

[Tasmania gets Australia's first REDD deal](#)

Project will pay landowners not to log old-growth forests in Tasmania .

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh rare leopard cub freed](#)

A clouded leopard, previously thought to be extinct in Bangladesh, has been released after being caught by tribes people in a remote area of the country. The cat was considered extinct in the country because of habitat loss. Clouded leopards used to live in forests around Mymensingh, Sylhet, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Brazil

[Alcoa razes rain forest in court case led by Brazil prosecutors](#)

In the Juruti region of Para, everything changed in 2006. That's when New York-based Alcoa Inc., the world's second-largest primary aluminum producer, started to bulldoze a 56-kilometer (35-mile) swath of the rain forest across hundreds of families' properties to build a railway. This cleared corridor, 100 meters (109 yards) wide, will lead to a mine that will chew up 10,500 hectares (25,900 acres) of virgin jungle over three decades.

[Alertan que vigilancia brasileña por satélite puede colapsar](#)

Brasil posee uno de los mejores sistemas del mundo de vigilancia de áreas selváticas por satélite pero puede quedarse sin el mismo en cualquier momento, alertó un investigador del estatal Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciales (INPE).

[Amazon tribe already feels the pinch from climate change & deforestation](#)

For a really great image of how environmental changes are already affecting people, in fact destroying an entire culture - and no, not in some low-slung Pacific Island - The New York Times has a poignant piece about how the Kamayurá people in Brazil are struggling today with deforestation and climate change making their way of life less and less tenable

[An Amazon culture withers as food dries up](#)

Deforestation and, some scientists contend, global climate change are making the Amazon region drier and hotter, decimating fish stocks in this area and imperiling the Kamayurá's tribe very existence. Like other small indigenous cultures around the world with little money or capacity to move, they are struggling to adapt to the changes.

[Brazil soy sector extends Amazon boycott for year](#)

Brazilian soy crushers said on Tuesday they have extended for one more year a ban to purchases of soybeans grown in newly deforested areas of the Amazon basin. The moratorium, which was set up as a response to pressure from activist groups and buyers to preserve the world's largest rain forest, applies to soybeans planted as of October 2006.

[CO2 emissions from deforestation in the Amazon on the rise](#)

A new study has suggested that carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from deforestation in the Amazon are increasing as loggers and land developers move deeper into dense regions of the forest.

[Industria de la soja renueva moratoria para impedir deforestación amazónica](#)

La gran industria de la soja de Brasil anunció este martes que renovó por tercer año consecutivo, hasta julio de 2010, el compromiso que les impide adquirir el producto plantado en áreas deforestadas de la Amazonía.

[La deforestación en la Amazonía brasileña cae un 90,1% en tres meses](#)

La Amazonía brasileña perdió entre febrero y abril de este año 197 kilómetros cuadrados de cobertura selvática, un área similar al territorio de una isla como Aruba y en un 90,1% inferior a la devastada en el mismo período del año pasado (1.992 kilómetros cuadrados).

["La mayor amenaza para la Amazonia hoy en día es el cambio climático"](#)

La ex ministra de Lula explica que su sistema de monitorización del mayor bosque tropical del mundo ha logrado reducir su deforestación un 59% en cuatro años.

[NASA photos show severe flooding in the Amazon](#)

Photos released by NASA highlight last month's severe flooding of the Amazon River near the Brazilian city of Manaus.

[Nike implements policy to avoid leather produced via Amazon deforestation](#)

Nike is working with Greenpeace to ensure its products don't contribute to destruction of the Amazon rainforest. The partnership comes after Greenpeace report accused Nike of using leather derived from cattle raised on illegal deforested Amazon land.

[Nike prohíbe cuero de ganado criado en selva del Amazonas](#)

Nike Inc. informó que sus proveedores brasileños de cuero tienen hasta el 1 de julio del 2010 para "crear un sistema viable, rastreable y transparente que proporcione garantías creíbles de que el cuero usado para productos Nike provenga de ganado criado fuera del ecosistema del Amazonas".

[Nike steps up to protect Amazon rainforest](#)

It won't be buying leather from cattle raised there.

[Nike's new leather policy: no sourcing from Amazon Rainforest](#)

Following a report by Greenpeace calling out a number of companies whose supply chains have been connected to rainforest deforestation, Nike has created a policy to not source leather from cattle raised in the Amazon rainforest (the company says it already does not source from there) and will require that suppliers create leather tracing systems.

[Timberland leather won't come from Amazonian cattle](#)

The policy will issue a moratorium on purchasing any cattle raised in newly deforested areas within the Amazon Rainforest, and it will force all of its suppliers to do the same. Brazil's top source of greenhouse gas emissions is currently its cattle industry, and it is also the largest driver of deforestation in the world.

Burkina Faso

[Bearing the brunt of climate change](#)

Salamata Sankara has been forced to watch for the last 50 years as the desert has swallowed her land. Salamata, 65, shoulders the blame for the destruction of her village in northern Burkina Faso, believing her people have brought the drought upon themselves.

Cameroon

[People steal meat from wild lions](#)

Lions in Cameroon are having their kills stolen from under their noses by hungry villagers. Incidences of such kleptoparasitism, the stealing of food from another, usually occur between top predators such as lion, hyena and cheetah. But people are increasingly getting in on the act, conservationists say.

Canada

[À la recherche des forêts perdues](#)

Le travail d'anciens arpenteurs -datant de plus de 200 ans- pourrait participer à la préservation des anciennes forêts québécoises. En effet, des chercheurs québécois compilent depuis deux ans des milliers de pages d'arpentage, les vieilles mesures de délimitation du territoire en cantons et en rangs.

[Canada fires: your experiences](#)

Huge wildfires near the western Canadian city of Kelowna have forced the evacuation of up to 17,000 people.

[Canadian wildfires bode ill if summer stays dry](#)

Calm overnight winds aided Canadian firefighters as they struggled to control forest fires that have displaced thousands in a wine-producing and resort region of central British Columbia. The three fires were likely sparked by human activity, and an official said they are a troubling sign of how the rest of wildfire season will go in the region, which is suffering some of the driest conditions in Canada this summer.

[Co-operative gives £53,000 to Canadian Cree for tar sands lawsuit](#)

A trust fund has been set up for the Beaver Lake Cree Nation, who are fighting the extraction of tar sands from their ancestral lands in the boreal forest of Alberta.

[Deux entreprises gaspésiennes raflent des contrats](#)

Deux importants contrats de déboisement pour l'aménagement de la nouvelle ligne de transport d'Hydro-Québec devant relier les futurs parcs éoliens de Mont-Louis et de Gros-Morne ont été accordés aux Entreprises agricoles et forestières de la Péninsule et à MC Forêt.

[Greenpeace accuse Xerox de contribuer à détruire les forêts vierges québécoises](#)

Les militants de Greenpeace ont ciblé, jeudi, la multinationale Xerox, dans le cadre d'actions visant à protéger la forêt boréale québécoise.

[Más 17.000 evacuados por los incendios forestales en Canadá](#)

Más de 17.000 personas han tenido que ser evacuadas de su casa en la provincia canadiense de la Columbia Británica, en la costa del Pacífico, debido a los importantes incendios forestales, según informaron las autoridades, citadas por los medios de comunicación locales.

[Thousands flee Canada wildfires](#)

Two wildfires near a western Canadian city have forced the evacuation of around 17,000 people, officials say.

China

[Beijing destinará 22 millones de dólares a plantar bosques para proteger sus fuentes de agua](#)

Las autoridades de Beijing han iniciado una campaña de plantación de bosques en la provincia vecina de Hebei (norte de China) a fin de proteger dos embalses que constituyen las principales fuentes de agua potable de la capital, informaron el miércoles fuentes oficiales.

[Chinese plant herb combats desertification, brings profit](#)

Cistanche, a kind of herb that has a symbiotic relationship with the desert plant, saxaul, is a herb used in Chinese medicine. Saxaul is effective against impeding erosion.

[Grassland deterioration strikes Maqu prairie in NW China](#)

The Maqu county government said that ninety percent or 747,000 hectares of grassland in county is experiencing desertification. The total area, which is in northwest China's Gansu province is 858,000 hectares.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

[L'ennemi de la forêt, c'est la misère et la pauvreté](#)

Le ministre congolais de l'Environnement, José Endundo Bononge, appelle la communauté internationale à soutenir la République Démocratique du Congo dans la conservation de sa forêt autant qu'elle le fait pour le Brésil. Il l'a dit jeudi à Okapi au cours de l'émission Dialogue entre Congolais consacrée notamment au rapport de l'ONG internationale Green peace sur la gestion des ressources forestières au pays.

[Les forêts de la RDC dans le contexte économique](#)

La République démocratique du Congo (RDC) est le deuxième pays le plus vaste d'Afrique et le troisième le plus peuplé. Elle a d'immenses ressources – forêts, eau, sols fertiles et forte pluviométrie – et des réserves minières considérables : cuivre, cobalt, coltan, diamants, or, zinc et autres métaux de base ainsi que du pétrole.

[Séminaire international sur l'impact de l'utilisation du bois de chauffe et du charbon dans la dégradation des écosystèmes](#)

Organisation pendant deux jours à Kinshasa d'un séminaire-atelier consacré à la problématique du déboisement désordonné pour obtenir du bois de chauffe et du charbon des besoins domestiques, cause du déséquilibre actuellement déploré des écosystèmes.

Ecuador

[Chevron expects to lose \\$27B suit but will refuse to pay damages](#)

Chevron Corp. expects to lose a multibillion dollar environmental lawsuit in Ecuador but has no intention of paying damages and will continue to fight for "decades". It caused environmental widespread damage in eastern Ecuador, leaving toxic waste pits and allows chemicals and oil to spill into local rivers.

[Oil gone, the devastation of the Ecuadorian rainforest...](#)

The giant ceibo tree looks strangely out of place among the high grasses, grazing cows and rusty pipelines on the outskirts of Lago Agrio, this ramshackle oil town in the north east corner of Ecuador. Standing at over 40 metres, the ceibo tree was here first, long before the oil industry arrived in the 1960s and perhaps decades before Francisco de Orellana set out on his Amazon expedition in 1542.

Eritrea

[Community-based reforestation activities in Adi-Keih Sub-Zone](#)

About 350,000 tree seedlings have been distributed in a number of administrative areas in Adi-Keih sub-zone with a view to promote reforestation activities and nurture the culture of tree planting on the part of the society.

Finland

[Allotment garden concept is being modernized](#)

A new allotment garden area to be built in the city of Lieksa, Eastern Finland, promotes building with wood. The cabins will be designed for year-round use.

France

[Corse: 4.000 hectares de maquis et de forêts parcourus par les flammes](#)

Les incendies qui font rage depuis jeudi après-midi en Corse ont d'ores et déjà parcouru 4.000 hectares de forêts et de maquis, selon un bilan établi dans la soirée par les services de secours. D'après leurs premières constatations, ces feux sont d'origine criminelle.

[Feux de forêt: avec les pompiers du ciel](#)

Les incendies dévastateurs de Corse et des environs de Marseille ont nécessité une intervention massive des bombardiers d'eau. Enquête sur ces pilotes qui, chaque été, traversent l'enfer.

[Feux de forêt: plus de 5.000 hectares brûlés en Corse; trois suspects interpellés](#)

Alors que les incendies qui ont ravagé depuis jeudi 5.000 hectares de végétation en Corse-du-Sud n'étaient pas encore éteints samedi après-midi, trois incendiaires présumés ont été interpellés sur l'île depuis vendredi soir et placés en garde à vue, a annoncé le ministère de l'Intérieur.

[Five held on suspicion of starting forest fires in Corsica](#)

Wildfires across southern Europe brought under control.

[French PM blames army blunder for summer wildfire](#)

French Prime Minister Francois Fillon condemned the army for sparking a raging brush fire near the southern city of Marseille with a firing exercise, and forcing hundreds to flee their homes.

[Incendie - Violent feu de forêt dans le Rhône](#)

Près de 200 hommes et d'importants moyens aériens ont été mobilisés pour lutter contre un feu, attisé par un vent de sud, qui a parcouru plus d'une quarantaine d'hectares de résineux. Déclaré maîtrisé jeudi matin, le feu continue à mobiliser entre 80 et 90 hommes pour éviter de possibles reprises.

[La forêt corse ravagée par plusieurs incendies](#)

Après Marseille, où le feu principal est maintenant éteint, c'est la Corse qui est en proie aux incendies. Le maquis et les forêts de l'île de Beauté, qui a connu des températures dépassant les 40° ces derniers jours, sont balayés depuis jeudi soir par des murs de flammes.

[Une forêt d'État à gérer avec diplomatie](#)

La forêt domaniale d'Olhain, comme son nom l'indique, est propriété de l'État. Elle est gérée par l'Office national des forêts (ONF). La vocation de cette forêt est dans un premier temps l'exploitation du bois et dans le même temps l'accueil réglementé du public.

Ghana

[Assin Apimanim traditional council pushes for timber royalties](#)

The Assin Apimanim Traditional Council on Tuesday resolved to fight for claims of accumulated timber royalties lodged with the Forestry Commission for a long time.

[Investors turn illegal miners](#)

It is true; the Chinese are into 'Galamsey' mining in the country. Not only that; they have mined into River Ankobra, a prominent river that serves as the only source of drinking water for the farming communities of Adansi, Dikoto and Konkorso all in the Wassa Amenfi East District of the Western Region.

[Let's check the desertification](#)

One of the major problems confronting North African countries today is the issue of desertification. The Sahara desert appears to have taken almost half of their lands, thus making food production difficult for them. Rivers and creeks are also not many, so they have to distil sea water at great cost for domestic usage. Fortunate for us in Ghana, we have abundant forest cover and can also boast of many rivers which we can depend on, to supply water to the people.

[New deal to help conserve forests](#)

The Ghanaian government has signed a landmark agreement which will help it stop the export of illegally-cut timber, thus helping to conserve the country's forests.

Greece

[Greek hunters take dim view of solar energy scheme](#)

Lignite power plants belch dust and smoke into the air above the southern Greek town of Megalopolis, but residents resistant to environmental arguments have blocked a scheme to build the country's biggest solar energy project on a nearby hillside. Local game hunters, angry that an earlier plan to grow a forest on the site was scrapped, have gone to court to try to stop the construction of a 50-megawatt solar panel park.

Guatemala

[Ancient Maya practiced forest conservation 3,000 years ago](#)

Not only did the Maya people practice forest management, but when they abandoned their forest conservation practices it was to the detriment of the entire Maya culture.

[Deforestation in Guatemala](#)

In the refugee town of Tzancha, Guatemala, the people are afraid of rain. It was rain that swept a wall of mud so huge and powerful that their village was left a mass grave, deemed too dangerous even to recover the dead.

India

[Activists call on Vedanta investors to oppose mine on holy site in India](#)

Local councils and the Church of England will come under fire for holding shares in the mining group which is opening a new mine in forests on the mountain of Niyam Raja in eastern India.

[Business as usual: Vedanta mine plans threaten India's poorest](#)

An ecosystem destroyed. A way of life gone forever. Private profit and public pain. And we call this progress?

[India PM tells Bangladesh will look at dam](#)

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has assured Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina that he will examine a dam project that is drawing fire from Bangladeshi politicians and pressure groups. Critics fear the dam in India's northeastern Manipur state could cause two Bangladeshi rivers to dry up, and desertification in eastern Bangladesh.

[India to assess climate gain; pump millions in forests](#)

India will spend some \$200 million to protect its forests and will announce how much carbon emission is being captured by its green cover.

[New lizard species found in India](#)

Scientists have discovered a new species of lizard in the lush Western Ghats mountain range in the Indian state of Maharashtra. But analysts say that the area is at risk of a biodiversity crisis, because it has long been under threat from logging and human encroachment.

[Protest held against Indian mine](#)

The Kondh tribe says the opening of the bauxite mine will destroy a large part of the Niyamgiri Mountain in the eastern Indian state of Orissa.

[Tribal land at threat from mine](#)

British company Vedanta Resources plans to mine 70 million tonnes of bauxite from the environmentally protected Niyamgiri Mountain in India's eastern Orissa province. Niyamgiri Hills is home to the Khondh, a tribal people whose entire life and culture focuses around their sacred mountain, which is a protected environmental site, with miles of pristine rainforest.

Indonesia

[Borneo orangutan release in jeopardy over fate of coal mining concession](#)

A plan to release orangutans in a 250,000-hectare (618,000-acre) tract of forest in the Heart of Borneo has been disrupted by uncertainty around BHP Billiton's decision to pull out of a coal mining project in Kalimantan.

[Burning by Asia Pulp & Paper contributes to haze in Indonesia, Malaysia](#)

One quarter of fire hotspots recorded in the Indonesia province of Riau on the island of Sumatra in 2009 have occurred in concessions affiliated with Sinar Mas Group's Asia Pulp & Paper (APP). The fires are contributing to the "haze" that is affecting air quality and causing health problems in Malaysia.

[Indonesia forest projects target 13 mln CO2 offsets](#)

Four forest-preservation projects in Indonesia backed by Australia's Macquarie Group and conservation group Fauna and Flora International aim to yield about 13 million carbon credits a year.

[Palm oil companies trade plantation concessions for carbon credits from forest conservation](#)

Indonesian palm oil producers are eyeing forest conservation projects as a way to supplement earnings via the nascent carbon market.

[RI may lose natural forest by 2015, says enviro expert](#)

Indonesia may lose its status as the world's third-largest forest nation by 2015 as the country's natural forests are likely to disappear due to deforestation and lax efforts to replant logged forest areas.

Iraq

[Desertification destroys Ninawa villages](#)

Whole villages in Ninawa province are being abandoned as a result of drought and increasing desertification which is making life impossible for those who remain on the once arable land.

[Drought takes toll on Iraq revival efforts](#)

What was known as history's fertile crescent, where lush farmland and abundant water gave rise to civilization, is today a dusty desert where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers crawl sluggishly toward the

sea. Vast tracts of Iraqi farmland are cracked and barren, precious marshes have dried up and sandstorms blot out the sun.

[Iraq in throes of environmental catastrophe, experts say](#)

Now-frequent dust storms are just one sign of the man-made damage that has taken the country from Middle East breadbasket to dust bowl, they say.

[Iraq struggles in fight against sandstorms](#)

Iraq is an arid, or a semi-arid zone. The absence of precipitation for several seasons has destroyed vegetation. And when there is a lack of vegetation to hold the soil or the sand, the wind prevails. Wars that have embroiled Iraq for nearly three decades are also to blame - military vehicles destroyed green areas in the south and the centre of the country, providing dust that was carried by a "shamal" wind that blows over Iraq in the summer.

Japan

[Quake machine shocks 7-story condo](#)

A seven-story condominium was tested on a 'shake table' in Japan, to see how well it could withstand a simulated 7.5 magnitude earthquake. The result provided strong evidence that mid-rise wood-frame buildings can be built to withstand major quakes.

Kenya

[400 to be evicted from Laikipia Forest](#)

The Kenyan Government will evict about 400 peasant farmers in Marmanet Forest of Laikipia West District. A case, in which the farmers had sought to block the eviction, was struck out for lack of merit since they had no title deeds.

[5,000 people still waiting for land](#)

More than 5,000 members of the Ogiek community expelled from public forests in the North Rift region are still waiting for resettlement. The families that were evicted from forests in Uasin Gishu and Nandi South districts over claims of wanton destruction of water catchments areas four years ago are camping on the border of the two districts.

[Decade that marked the darkest era for Mau Forest](#)

The period between 1996 and 2005 marked the darkest chapter in the history of Mau Forest Complex. This is the time the once dense forest, with unequalled influence on the country's and region's hydrological systems, suffered heavy destruction by individuals and groups.

[Destroy Mama Nature, and we all perish](#)

Why do Wangari Maathai, Noah Wekesa, John Michuki, Raila Odinga, Mwai Kibaki and other individuals speak with such passion about Mau? Not for any personal interest that I know of. For that reason alone, there must be something in what they are saying.

[Economy at risk unless damage is reversed](#)

Kenya's tourism, energy and agriculture sectors may be irreparably damaged unless the Mau destruction is reversed. The United Nations Environmental Programme recently put the nature-based assets exposed to decimation at \$300 million (Sh24 billion).

[Eject Mau settlers first, says report](#)

An all-out conservation effort involving the government and international players will start the process of rescuing the Mau Complex. The conservation work will begin immediately settlers in the forest have been removed. These are key proposals made by the taskforce set up by Prime Minister Raila Odinga on July 15, 2008, to establish the extent of destruction in the Mau and set out ways of restoring it.

[Forestry groups to get registration](#)

Community forest associations will now be required to seek registration at the attorney general's office to make them more accountable and help the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) in the management of forest resources.

[Institutes in major move to save the mangrove](#)

A local institute in collaboration with a UK research organisation are on a mission to save the mangrove forest, which is among the most threatened ecosystem in Kenya.

[Kenyans must protect Mau Forest](#)

The ongoing Mau Forest Complex environmental debate offers a simple lesson to Kenya; pay your water bills! It is estimated that the originally 988,000 acre forest complex acts as a “water tower” that supplies both the Lake Victoria region and lakes in parts of Rift Valley.

[Kibaki adds teeth to law protecting water resources](#)

The changes give sweeping powers to Environment minister and the National Environment Management Authority's (Nema) Director-General in the exercise of their mandate to protect the country's rivers, lakes and wetlands.

[Lake Naivasha is dying - Government, users wake up to nightmare reality](#)

Can Lake Naivasha be saved? This was the big question last week as the lake's users and water regulators convened in Naivasha to hammer out a formula to protect one of the world's most important sites amid concerns that it is just a matter of time before it dries up for the third time, and maybe forever, taking with it billions of shillings in investments and the livelihoods of millions of people.

[Loggers invade water catchment area as settlers' eviction looms](#)

Hundreds of new settlers are trooping into the controversial Mau Forest every day in a last attempt to cut down trees for timber and firewood as Government evictions loom.

[Low gas use to blame for poor forest cover, says vice president](#)

Kenya's forests are being depleted rapidly because competitively priced liquefied petroleum gas is not available in rural areas.

[Massive deforestation fuelling drought, famine in Kibaale](#)

The drought that hit the district in the last one-and-half years has made it perilous to farming. Environmentalists and local leaders partly attribute the problem to the excessive deforestation.

[Mau evictions to go on - Michuki](#)

Environment minister John Michuki on Friday insisted that squatters in the Mau Complex have to move out. The government, he stated, only recognised 1,962 squatters who would be compensated for their land.

[Mau list of shame](#)

Baringo Central MP and the Catholic Church are among the biggest beneficiaries of land allocations in the Mau Forest, according to a list tabled in Parliament by Kenya's Prime Minister. He named 49 individuals and companies given land in the forest, whose destruction has caused widespread public alarm as it poses a threat to water security in the country.

[Mau reforestation drive gets boost](#)

Local organisations have set up a kitty to boost the Mau forest rehabilitation bid. The Save the Mau Fund aims at planting one million seedlings in the catchment area as well as mooted campaigns to raise awareness on reforestation.

[Mau triggers simmering tensions](#)

It looked like a drastic fallout between Prime Minister Raila Odinga and Agriculture minister William Ruto. But the spat over the Mau Forest issue was just the trigger to bring to the open long-simmering tensions.

[New law to help country reclaim its forest cover](#)

The government is moving to reclaim Kenya's forest cover by enacting a law requiring all land owners to plant trees on at least 10 per cent of their holdings.

[No compensation for Mau, says Ntimama](#)

A Cabinet minister has called for the immediate eviction of those living within the Mau Forest complex without compensation.

[Ogiek elders offer conservation skills](#)

The Ogiek community - the original residents of the Mau Forest Complex - said it was ready to offer its traditional conservation knowledge to save the Mau.

[Paradise of clear water has shrunk to a toxic, muddy pool](#)

Lake Naivasha, Kenya's second largest freshwater lake, is an ecosystem in crisis. Its water level has dropped by three metres from its maximum and its surface area shrunk to half its size, and precious wetlands have been degraded.

[Raila faces tough new challenges in Mau saga](#)

Prime Minister Raila Odinga appeared to have scored a victory in the battle to reclaim Mau Forest after he got Rift Valley MPs to support a conditional relocation of people currently living in the forest last week. Under the terms of the deal agreed with the MPs on Monday, the settlers including those the government considers illegal by virtue of their not possessing valid title deeds are to be compensated and the relocation done without the use of force.

[Raila's Gamble - Saving the Mau Forest](#)

Interview - This country has five water towers: the Cherangany, Mt Kenya, the Aberdares, Mt Elgon and of course the Mau. Of these, the Mau is the largest, covering 400,000 hectares and is a source to 25 rivers, a livelihood to large numbers of people, bird life and game life. This is why it is very critical to the national environment and if it is not conserved, the consequences will be far reaching: The rivers will dry, bird and game life destroyed and agriculture adversely affected.

[Reclaim the Mau fast](#)

A lot of time has been wasted as petty politics and selfish vested interests stymied efforts to save East Africa's most important water catchment from total destruction. Now that MPs from the Rift Valley have ended their opposition to reclamation of the Mau Forest, the authorities must move with speed to remove all illegal settlements and restore the forest to its natural state.

[Ruto alleges foul play in Mau saga](#)

Agriculture minister William Ruto said the renewed Mau debate was a move by top government leaders to intimidate MPs from the Rift Valley to toe the line. He said although there are several other forests facing destruction in the country, the treatment of the Mau forest squatters was raising eyebrows.

[State agencies take action over ruined forest](#)

A plan to involve squatters in the management of Embobut forest in Marakwet district could see the end of its destruction. Kenya Wildlife Service and the national forest conservator - the Kenya Forest Service have come up with the proposal to conserve the key water tower. As part of the plan, KWS will introduce buffalos to the forest in a move aimed at restoring wildlife resources in the area and earn revenue for the local residents. Residents are set to benefit from jobs created after tourist hotels are set up in the forest.

[The Mau is too vital for political games](#)

There are few issues in Kenya more emotive than land. Because of differences over how to ensure the removal of all those who have encroached on and endangered the Mau Forest ecosystem, we are yet being reminded that Kenya is yet to heal from the wounds of the post-election bloodbath.

[Want an extra U.S.\\$250 a year? Adopt fuel-efficient stoves](#)

A Kenyan-registered company is working on reducing greenhouse gases by promoting the use of fuel-efficient stoves that use less firewood, thereby reducing the amount of trees felled by rural communities.

[We will protect our land, say Rift Valley MPs](#)

Some Rift Valley MPs on Tuesday said they would vigorously resist forced evictions from the Mau Forest. They also launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Raila Odinga, accusing him of targeting the Kalenjins for eviction.

[We won't be cowed forever by thieves of the Mau](#)

Just the other day, we were celebrating the deal that would eventually see the long-delayed rescue of the Mau from the disastrous human invasion visited on the most important water catchment area.

Lebanon

[Report identifies political discord as aggravators for water shortage](#)

Study reveals that desertification and air pollution is not a primary concern for Lebanon – thanks to its mountainous terrains. Water scarcity however proved to be a serious concern, further aggravated by the recent decline in average rainfall. The report identifies political tensions and ongoing conflict as main aggravators of water shortage.

Liberia

[Govt poised to hand forests to timber pirates](#)

Two firms linked to Malaysian timber giant Samling, a company notorious for destroying tropical forests and abusing local communities, are being considered for major logging contracts in Liberia because of flaws in the bid evaluation process.

Malaysia

[Controversial palm-oil plan may save the orang-utan](#)

Orang-utan researchers and conservationists in Sabah, in Malaysian Borneo, may have to do what had until recently been unthinkable: join forces with the palm oil industry whose plantations have eaten into much of the orang-utan's habitat.

[Malaysia's rainforests being insidiously replaced with plantations of clones](#)

Malaysia is systematically replacing its natural forests with plantations of GMO latex-timber clones without affecting official "forest" cover.

[Une tribu de Bornéo se mobilise contre la déforestation](#)

Des chasseurs-cueilleurs penan de Bornéo ont érigé de nouveaux barrages routiers pour empêcher la destruction de leurs dernières forêts par les compagnies d'exploitation forestière.

Mexico

[Cada año se pierden 500 mil hectáreas de bosques y selvas](#)

México es uno de los cinco países con mayor tasa de deforestación del mundo y que cada año se pierden alrededor de 500 mil hectáreas de bosques y selvas, como lo indicaron investigaciones recientes elaboradas por académicos de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

[Severa, la deforestación en el país: Greenpeace](#)

La deforestación en el país es severa. En Veracruz la ganadería extensiva ha llevado a la pérdida de 90 por ciento de las selvas y bosques, mientras que en la meseta purépecha el cultivo de aguacate ha crecido de tal manera que ocasiona la desaparición de 509 hectáreas al año; en tanto que la mancha urbana que invade el gran bosque del agua afecta una importante zona de recarga.

Mongolia

[Mongolian wilds inspire UN's Ban](#)

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon primary reason for visiting the north Asian country is to learn how climate change affects the far-flung corners of the globe. Desertification and deforestation are major threats to Mongolia's nomads, despite recent flooding in the capital.

[UN chief in flood ravaged Mongolia](#)

Ban Ki-moon, the UN chief, has arrived in Mongolia in order to highlight the impact climate change is having on people's everyday lives, his office has said. Ban planned to spend time in a traditional Mongolian herder community, meeting people whose livelihoods are being hit by water shortages and desertification.

Nepal

[Nepal probes elephant 'attacks'](#)

Nepalese officials are visiting an area in the far east of the country to investigate attacks by elephants migrating from neighbouring India. With the onset of the annual monsoon, herds of wild elephants have crossed into Nepal from the forests of India. They are following traditional migratory routes.

New Zealand

[Le chocolat Cadbury boycotté en Nouvelle-Zélande](#)

Le zoo d'Auckland boycotte la marque de produits agroalimentaires Cadbury depuis qu'elle a inclus de l'huile de palme dans son chocolat.

[New discovery suggests trees evolved camouflage defense against long extinct predator](#)

Many animal species such as snakes, insects and fish have evolved camouflage defences to deter attack from their predators. However research published in New Phytologist has discovered that trees in New Zealand have evolved a similar defence to protect themselves from extinct giant birds, providing the first evidence of this strategy in plant life.

[Sale of NZ's Matariki forests scrapped](#)

The sale of New Zealand's third-biggest forest estate worth as much as NZ\$1 billion (\$653 million) has been scrapped because of ongoing tightness in credit markets, the part owners said.

Nigeria

[Aggressive tree planting will check desertification](#)

The Director of the British-American Tobacco Nigeria (BATN) Foundation, has noted that the problem of desertification, which is threatening lives of about 35 million Nigerians, can only be addressed through aggressive planting of trees.

[Embrace tree planting, citizens urged](#)

As the effects of global warming become more glaring, Nigerians have been enjoined to embrace tree planting to reduce the consequence of greenhouse gas.

[Help fight deforestation, FG tells states](#)

The Federal Government has urged states to collaborate with it in its effort to arrest the growing impact of desertification, land degradation and effects of climate change.

[Katsina Emir leads tree planting campaign to varsity](#)

The Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Dr Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, last weekend led a campaign of planting one million trees at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University in Katsina to fight the menace of desertification and desert encroachment in the state.

[Nigeria's \\$750 million climate change loss](#)

Nigeria loses about \$750 million annually to the depletion of its 350,000 hectares of forest land by direct human activities and climate change.

Pakistan

[Land degradation may lead to increase in poverty](#)

With majority of country's population linked to the agriculture and agri related professions, unchecked land degradation may rise the poverty level. This phenomenon threaten the human security, depriving people of their means of life by taking away food, access to water, the means for economic activities, and even their homes. Experts see linkages among desertification, land degradation and drought and term these three as a source of threat to the human security.

Peru

[Perú pagará a las comunidades indígenas por la conservación de la Amazonía](#)

El Gobierno peruano pagará a las comunidades indígenas por su trabajo de conservación de la selva amazónica y como parte de un ambicioso programa que busca proteger 55 millones de hectáreas de bosques en el país.

Poland

[Climate change clouds fate of ancient Polish woods](#)

Europe's last ancient forest, home to its largest herd of bison, faces an uncertain future because of climate change, but residents worry that tougher conservation efforts will damage the local economy.

Rwanda

[Rwanda beekeeper 'sparked fire'](#)

Emergency crews in Rwanda have contained wildfires that they say were set off by a beekeeper collecting honey by smoking out bees from a hive.

[Virunga fires contained](#)

A Rwanda Development Board (RDB) official said that the wildfires which engulfed the edge of the Volcanoes National Park since had been contained. The wildfires broke out in Volcanoes National Park, destroying an anticipated 150 hectares of the 160 sq km forest on the Rwandan side.

[Wildfires spread into Uganda](#)

The wildfires which broke out in Volcanoes National Park have spread into the Virunga Massif, reaching the Ugandan side, of Mugahinga national Park. An estimated 100 hectares have so far been gutted on the foot hills of Muhabura Mountain on the Ugandan side.

Senegal

[Herbes envahissantes sur le fleuve Sénégal: Un projet pour substituer la *Salvinia molesta* au charbon de bois](#)

Passer du simple nettoyage des berges du fleuve à un processus de revalorisation des herbes arrachées, voilà le pari de S3IC, une société scientifique de Sénégalais au Canada qui entend s'investir dans le combat contre ces herbes envahissantes dans la Vallée. Le projet ainsi initié vise à terme un objectif commercial de substitution de plantes envahissantes au charbon de bois dans la cuisson domestique des familles.

Somalia

[Somalia's eco-warrior](#)

For two decades Fatima Jibrell has fought Somalia's 'charcoal terrorists', armed gangs who run a lucrative trade burning Somalia's meagre forest reserves in order to export charcoal to the desert states of the Gulf. Swathed in traditional Islamic veils, this 62 year old woman may not appear the most likely eco-warrior but her efforts to stop Somalia's environmental devastation have been vital for Somalia's pastoralist communities.

South Africa

[Remote sensing coming of age](#)

The use of remote sensing and satellite imaging looks set to become more widespread in South Africa as sustainable agriculture and natural resource management become more urgent in the face of climate change.

[Rights to the river](#)

Millions of litres of water are being unlawfully diverted into dams set up by South Africa's major industries, big mining companies and commercial farmers - with potentially devastating consequences for management of the resource.

Spain

[Arden 12.000 hectáreas en España en una semana](#)

Los incendios forestales han puesto a prueba este fin de semana a los equipos de extinción que dependen de las comunidades autónomas y de la Administración del Estado. Las altas temperaturas de la canícula de julio han disparado el número de incendios en campos y montes en menos de una semana, y ha obligado a un intenso despliegue de equipos terrestres y aéreos, con cientos de personas movilizadas para luchar contra el fuego.

[CC.OO demanda cambios estructurales en gestión de lucha contra incendios](#)

El sindicato CC.OO ha demandado hoy cambios estructurales en la gestión de la lucha contra los incendios forestales ya que según un estudio que han realizado la media de la superficie forestal recorrida por los incendios en los últimos tres años ha subido con respecto al periodo 1996-2005.

[Cerca de la mitad de los bomberos forestales tienen contrato temporal](#)

Cerca de 56.000 trabajadores se dedicarán este año a la extinción de incendios - de cada cuatro trabajadores, tres se dedican a la extinción y sólo uno a la prevención-, de los cuales cerca de la mitad tiene un contrato temporal o fijo discontinuo.

[Ecologistas denuncian que el 70% de los Ayuntamientos españoles "carece de planes de emergencia"](#)

Ecologistas en Acción y WWF denunciaron hoy que el 70 por ciento de los Ayuntamientos españoles "carece de planes de emergencia para enfrentar los incendios forestales" y exigieron un "mayor implicación política" para la conservación y gestión de un medio "completamente olvidado" y del que, según aseguraron, han ardido alrededor de 40.000 hectáreas forestales en lo que va de año, superando la cantidad total que se registró en 2008.

[En los últimos días han ardido 18.000 hectáreas](#)

Los incendios avanzan por distintos puntos de la Península. Teruel, Almería, Tarragona, Cuenca... En lo que va de año ya se han quemado más hectáreas que en todo 2008: más de 41.530 hasta julio frente a las 41.000 de todo 2008. Y aún quedan por delante dos meses marcados por el calor.

[Incendios forestales o más de lo mismo](#)

Como cada año y ligado irremediamente al mercado de fichajes deportivos, llegan los incendios forestales.

[La leña del árbol caído, para generar electricidad](#)

Se inaugura la primera planta piloto de biomasa forestal en España.

[La superficie quemada por los incendios casi dobla la de 2008](#)

La intensidad con la que se avivaron los incendios la semana pasada ha provocado que el número global de hectáreas quemadas en lo que va de 2009 esté a punto de doblar a las que ardieron en todo 2008. A falta de datos oficiales del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (la estadística sobre incendios alcanza por ahora hasta el 5 de julio), la suma de superficie carbonizada en los principales siniestros sobrepasa de largo las 70.000 hectáreas. En todo el año pasado se quemaron menos de 40.000.

[Los fumadores han provocado más de 3.000 incendios en una década](#)

Un total de 3.038 incendios han sido provocados por fumadores en la década correspondiente a 1997-2006 y, de ellos, 1.555 se iniciaron junto a las carreteras.

[Two killed in Spain forest blaze](#)

Forest fires have claimed at least eight lives this summer in Spain. Officials suspect the forest fire was started deliberately in central Spain's Castilla y Leon region.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Water crisis uproots Syrian farmers](#)

Syria's worst drought in decades has displaced hundreds of thousands of people and raised calls for a coordinated water policy for the Middle East as the region faces a dryer climate and water supplies depleted by damming and water well drilling.

Thailand

[Saving the forest tree by tree](#)

Enjoying a brief moment of shade, local government official Satien Jaikum sits counting his money. As well as being involved in local government, Satien owns Thai Elephant Home in Maedtaman, in northern Thailand. But the money he counts will not be lining his pocket. Instead he will use it to buy trees to restore the nearby forest. Satien is on a one-man mission to save his local forest.

Tunisia

[Tunisia hosts UN conference on fight against desertification](#)

Tunis is currently hosting the preparatory meeting to the 9 th conference of the parties which signed the agreement to combat desertification which is due to take place from September 21 throughout October 2, 2009 in Argentina.

Uganda

[Lake Victoria tree project commences](#)

The Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation has started a campaign to plant trees in the Lake Victoria Basin. The initiative, according to an official, is one of the ways the authorities are using to conserve the lake resources and environment.

[Ministers under investigation over grabbing forest land](#)

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament is investigating circumstances under which ministers and public officials allocated themselves land from the Namanve forest reserve.

[MPs probe Namanve Forest land giveaway](#)

MPs are investigating allegations that Namanve forest reserve has been given out to 50 individuals. The land, measuring about 600 acres, had reportedly been allocated to ministers and top government officials.

[Palm oil producer Wilmar launches plantation in Uganda](#)

Wilmar, one of the world's largest palm oil traders, is investing \$10 million to establish an oil palm plantation in Kalangala, Uganda over the next three years. The investment is the first in Uganda by a Malaysian oil palm developer.

[Pine trees are Katwera's future](#)

Located at Bubeke on the Katikamu-Kikyusa Road, Katwera's mixed farm sits on 15 acres. On the last three acres of his farm lies the future of his agriculture ambitions. He has planted three acres of pine trees there. He got the seedlings from nearby Wobulenzi market.

[Stop the practice of burning bushes](#)

A fire that was threatening to ravage Mgahinga Gorilla Park has been stopped. Apparently, the fire which came from Mufumbiro Mountains in Rwanda, was started by a farmer who was extracting honey in the Volcanoes National Park.

[Tougher laws could keep environmental degradation in check](#)

Wetlands in Bushenyi District are endangered as farmers start preparing land for the millet planting season. This can be seen as you travel through the district; the sky is covered by smoke from the burning bushes.

[We need a forestry protection unit](#)

The emerging deaths of forestry workers can, in part, be ascribed to the skyrocketing demand for timber as a result of the flourishing construction industry. While the demand is on the rise, the supply is not sufficient to support the current construction needs. This perhaps explains the depletion of forest reserves. This is exposing forestry officials and their families to great danger. Long term measures are needed to protect our forests plus the lives of forestry workers and their families.

United Kingdom

['Chainsaw vandals' tree mystery](#)

"Mindless vandals" armed with a chainsaw are being blamed for a spate of illegal tree felling.

[Children able to eat their words](#)

A specialist education supplier based in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, is producing eco-friendly school exercise books made from sugar cane waste. The eco-friendly books cost the same to produce as wood pulp ones, with the advantage of reducing deforestation, and helped protect fragile ecosystems that would otherwise break down as a result of logging in forested areas.

[Hunt hopes to find ancient trees](#)

One of the UK's biggest landowners is embarking on a comprehensive survey to identify previously unrecorded ancient trees on its properties. The National Trust hopes to find 40,000 of them during the three-year project. The UK has a high proportion of important ancient trees, like Newton's apple tree.

[Rare butterfly makes a comeback](#)

A rare butterfly has been officially recorded at a forest in Hertfordshire for the first time in 50 years.

[Road diverts timber from village](#)

A £4.5m road designed to take timber lorries away from a rural Dumfriesshire village has been opened.

[Six of Britain's oldest trees](#)

The yew that inspired Wordsworth, Ankerwycke where the Magna Carta was signed, and the apple tree that helped Newton, these national treasures are still standing today, sharing as many stories as the rings in their trunks.

[The plight of Britain's ancient trees](#)

We are home to some 100,000 of the oldest trees in Europe. But is our neglect and ill-treatment in danger of killing them off?

[Wolf reintroduction proposed in Scottish Highland test case](#)

Researchers are proposing in a new report that a major experiment be conducted to reintroduce wolves to a test site in the Scottish Highlands, to help control the populations and behavior of red deer that in the past 250 years have changed the whole nature of large ecosystems.

[Woodlands 'losing biodiversity'](#)

British woodlands are less biologically distinctive than they were 70 years ago. Researchers fear that the diversity found in woodlands could be lost forever.

United States of America

[Alaska's biggest tundra fire sparks climate warning](#)

The fire that raged north of Alaska's Brooks mountain range in 2007 left a 1000-square-kilometre scorched patch of earth – an area larger than the sum of all known fires on Alaska's North Slope since 1950. Now scientists studying the ecological impact of the fire report that the blaze dumped 1.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere – about the amount that Barbados puts out in a year.

[Coal demand cools](#)

The U.S. coal sector will need to cut production 50 million tons this year due to falling demand.

[Douglas-fir, Geoducks make strange bedfellows in studying climate Change](#)

Scientists are comparing annual growth rings of the Pacific Northwest's largest bivalve and its most iconic tree for clues to how living organisms may have responded to changes in climate.

[Global warming-induced forest fires to increase health risks in western U.S.](#)

Warmer, drier climate in the American West will increase the incidence and severity of forest fires, worsening air quality.

[Large trees declining in Yosemite National Park, U.S.](#)

Large trees have declined in Yosemite National Park during the 20th century, and warmer climate conditions may play a role.

[Limits on logging are reinstated](#)

In a move to protect endangered species, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that his department had reversed a Bush administration decision to double the amount of logging allowed in and around old-growth forests in western Oregon.

[Lumber recovery to be dictated by housing](#)

When the U.S. housing market was booming earlier this decade, lumber prices were too. When the housing market went into a slump so, too, did lumber. Now, with nascent signs of a housing recovery, it's natural to assume lumber prices will follow suit. But experts say that it may be years before lumber recovers in any substantive way, thanks mostly to conservative production mixed with unpredictable demand.

[Mapping America's giant trees](#)

Scientists in California have set up a unique experiment to track the life histories of some of the world's oldest and tallest trees.

[Mountaintop mining legacy: destroying Appalachian streams](#)

Scientists are now beginning to understand that mountaintop mining operations' most lasting damage may be caused by the massive amounts of debris dumped into valley streams.

[Stem-destroying insect may help conquer climbing fern](#)

Throughout much of Florida's famed Everglades, an invasive, light-green vine called Old World climbing fern now cloaks the forest floor. Besides smothering shrubs and even small trees with its dense, spongy mats, the intrusive fern, known to scientists as *Lygodium microphyllum*, also forms soft, twining stems that climb tree trunks. Underneath this layer of living fern, dry, dead *lygodium* stems accumulate, boosting the wildfire hazard.

[Universities turn to Kindle — Sometimes to save paper](#)

In May, Amazon introduced the electronic book reader Kindle DX, touted as a new way to read textbooks, newspapers and other large documents. This fall, six colleges and universities will test the technology in a pilot. One reason that some institutions jumped at the chance to try it out: the technology could substantially reduce their use of paper.

[U.S. approves logging of 381 acres of primary rainforest in Alaska](#)

The Obama administration moved this week to allow clear-cutting of 381 acres (154 ha) of primary temperate rainforest in Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

[US enters debt-for-nature swap with Indonesia](#)

The United States has signed an agreement to forgive nearly \$30 million in Indonesian debt in return for the large Southeast Asian country agreeing to protect forests on Sumatra Island. The deal is the largest debt-for-nature swap the U.S. government has organized so far under the U.S. Tropical Forest Conservation Act.

[Wooded bliss](#)

If US representative Ed Markey of Massachusetts has his way, poor countries in Africa, Asia, and South America will soon send emissaries to far-flung forest hamlets to compensate villagers and sustainable farmers who do not cut down the trees. This is one of the most laudable, if overlooked, goals in the climate bill recently passed by the House.

Viet Nam

[World's biggest cave found in Vietnam](#)

A massive cave recently uncovered in a remote Vietnamese jungle is the largest single cave passage yet found.

Zimbabwe

[National Forestry Programme launched](#)

Zimbabwe has launched the National Forestry Programme consultative process that will give birth to a national policy framework on the management of forests and natural resources in the country.

World

[A plan to cut carbon emissions from deforestation](#)

As policymakers prepare for the Copenhagen conference on climate change in December, the proposed program for reducing emissions from deforestation is considered among the more promising ways to reduce atmospheric carbon. The program would allow heavily polluting nations to offset their emissions by paying developing tropical countries to store carbon in forests, providing economic incentive to stop deforestation and regenerate damaged landscapes.

[A tale of two autumnal displays](#)

The swathes of beautifully coloured leaves produced by trees each autumn are one of nature's great displays. But why trees in Europe tend to produce yellow leaves, while those in America and eastern Asia produce red leaves, has remained an enigma.

['Are we here just for your amusement?'](#)

Our increasing demand for adventure is pushing back the frontiers of tourism, but is it also posing a threat to tribal people?

[Are we on the brink of saving rainforests?](#)

Until now saving rainforests seemed like an impossible mission. But the world is now warming to the idea that a proposed solution to help address climate change could offer a new way to unlock the value of forest without cutting it down.

['Barcode' to help identify plants](#)

An international team of scientists has agreed on a standard "DNA barcode" for plants that will allow botanists to identify species quickly and easily.

[Bush fires blaze around southern Europe](#)

Bush fires raged across swathes of southern Europe, with a prolonged spell of hot weather turning woodland around the Mediterranean coastline tinder dry. Hundreds of fires in Spain, France, Italy and Greece have killed at least seven people this week, destroying thousands of hectares of forest and gutting dozens of homes.

[Can non-timber forest products help conserve the Amazon?](#)

Industrial-scale logging and resource exploitation continue to plague the South American rainforests, contributing to their systematic destruction. Today, indigenous inhabitants and other local residents of the rainforests and their surrounding areas, faced with the enormous pressures of the global economy, often find themselves in a crucible.

[Climate change could have negative effects on stream and forest ecosystems](#)

A rare April freeze in 2007 provided researchers at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory with further evidence that climate change could have negative effects on stream and forest ecosystems.

[Ecological restoration substantially boosts biodiversity and ecosystem services](#)

A new analysis reports that ecological restoration generally deliver benefits for both conserving biodiversity and supporting human livelihoods, but does not completely reverse degradation caused by humans.

[EU could provide billions for forests](#)

The European Union could provide up to 2.5 billion euros (\$3.55 billion) a year to help poor nations protect tropical forests, the EU executive said in a report to ministers meeting in Sweden. Forests and finance for poor countries will be important issues at the Copenhagen talks, which are intended to find a successor from 2102 to the Kyoto protocol on limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

[Europe wildfires](#)

Summer wildfires have been raging across southern Europe, leaving at least seven people dead, destroying homes and scorching thousands of acres of countryside.

[Extinction crisis looms in Oceania](#)

Governments must act urgently to halt loss of habitats and invading species that are posing major threats to biodiversity and causing species extinctions across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, according to a landmark new study.

[Fertile Crescent 'will disappear this century'](#)

Is it the final curtain for the Fertile Crescent? This summer, as Turkish dams reduce the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to a trickle, farmers abandon their desiccated fields across Iraq and Syria, and efforts to revive the Mesopotamian marshes appear to be abandoned, climate modellers are warning that the current drought is likely to become permanent. The Mesopotamian cradle of civilisation seems to be returning to desert.

[Grandes incendios forestales se extienden en 5 países mediterráneos, y fuertes tormentas y aguaceros azotan los países de Europa Oriental](#)

Desde hace más de una semana, graves incendios forestales se extienden en 5 países mediterráneos a causa de factores climático y humano provocando hasta ahora la pérdida de 8 vidas humanas. La persistente alta temperatura y el fuerte viento seco son factores que provocan los grandes incendios forestales en los cinco países mediterráneos: España, Italia, Francia, Grecia y Crocia. Pero el archicriminal del catástrofe son seres humanos.

[How to stop desertification?](#)

Build a giant wall. 6,000 kilometers long. Made out of sand. Stuck together with bacteria. No, seriously.

[Hundreds evacuated as Med coast wildfires spread](#)

Summer wildfires have forced more than 1,000 people from houses and holiday homes along the Mediterranean coast this weekend. At least 10 people - including six firefighters - have died in fires in Spain, France, Greece and the Italian island of Sardinia in recent days.

[Is Tetra Pak better for the environment than tin cans?](#)

Only if it doesn't end up in a landfill. Does your council offer kerbside recycling collection for Tetra Paks?

[Land use offers valuable solutions for protecting the climate](#)

It's well-known that the trick to reducing net carbon emissions relies on not emitting so much of the stuff and finding a way to get it back where it belongs.

[Last chance to save the gorilla](#)

Despite all the film footage, fieldwork and fund-raising, and the efforts of park rangers and conservation NGOs, the number of gorillas continues to plummet. Hunting, logging, mining and disease are taking a terrible toll on the greatest of the great apes, and if things continue as they are, they may be reduced to nothing more than a series of small, highly vulnerable populations within decades.

[Model predicts evolution of Mediterranean landscape following fires](#)

An international research team has developed a mathematical and cartographical model that make it possible to view how Mediterranean landscapes evolve in the aftermath of forest fires.

[Orangutans unique in movement through tree tops](#)

Movement through a complex meshwork of small branches at the heights of tropical forests presents a unique challenge to animals wanting to forage for food safely. It can be particularly dangerous for large animals where a fall of up to 30m could be fatal. Scientists found that dangerous tree vibrations can be countered by the orangutan's ability to move with an irregular rhythm.

[REDD shouldn't neglect biodiversity say scientists](#)

Schemes to mitigate climate change by protecting tropical forests must take into account biodiversity conservation.

[Scientists expect wildfires to increase as climate warms in coming decades](#)

As the climate warms in the coming decades, atmospheric scientists at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and their colleagues expect that the frequency of wildfires will increase in many regions. The spike in the number of fires could also adversely affect air quality due to the greater presence of smoke.

[Smaller plants punch above their weight in the forest](#)

New findings from Queen's University biologists show that in the plant world, bigger isn't necessarily better.

[Smart biofuels that don't hurt people or the environment are possible](#)

Sustainable biofuels can be a reality but only in combination with reductions in fuel demand and increased productivity on existing agricultural lands.

[Temperate forests store more carbon than tropical forests, finds study](#)

Temperate forests trump rainforests when it comes to storing carbon.

[Tires made from trees: better, cheaper, more fuel efficient](#)

Automobile owners around the world may some day soon be driving on tires that are partly made out of trees – which could cost less, perform better and save on fuel and energy.

[Un estudio predice el futuro del paisaje mediterráneo tras los incendios forestales](#)

Paisajes arrasados por las llamas pueden convertirse en tan sólo unas décadas en bosques de encinas, pinos o castaños. Así lo afirma un equipo de investigadores que ha desarrollado un modelo matemático y cartográfico que permite visualizar la evolución de los paisajes mediterráneos considerando la influencia de los incendios forestales.

[Wildfires on Mediterranean coast](#)

Summer wildfires have forced more than 1,000 people from houses and holiday homes along the Mediterranean coast.

[Wildfires rage in southern Europe](#)

Thousands of firefighters are battling to bring under control summer wildfires that are spreading across parts of southern Europe.

[Wood stoves - A viable home heat source?](#)

The stress of rising natural gas prices is leading many consumers to rethink how they heat their homes. For some this means moving towards modern alternative energy options, while others have been turning to a more traditional method for a solution to these rising costs. In Canada and the United States, wood burning stoves have been reevaluated as a potentially viable option for home heating.

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