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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. 17**

**2009**

### **Forthcoming Events**

XIII Congreso Forestal Mundial

["Amazonía: el desafío de una política forestal más coherente con la realidad brasileña."](#)

"En los niveles regional y global, sobre todo en la Amazonía continental y en las demás regiones centro-meridionales de Brasil, si no se reducen las tasas de deforestación, la supresión de la cobertura vegetal podría afectar al régimen de lluvias, como ya se ha comprobado científicamente."

XIII World Forestry Congress

["Amazonia: The challenge of developing a forest policy more in tune with the Brazilian context."](#)

"At regional and global levels, especially in inland Amazonia and other regions in southern central Brazil, if the rate of deforestation is not reduced, removal of plant cover can affect rainfall, as has been scientifically demonstrated."

XIII Congrès Forestier Mondial

["Amazonie: Il reste toutefois l'enjeu d'une politique forestière plus conforme à la réalité brésilienne."](#)

"A l'échelon régional et mondial, et surtout en Amazonie continentale et dans les autres régions du centre-sud du Brésil, si l'on ne réduit pas les taux de déforestation, la perte de la couverture végétale est susceptible d'affecter le régime des précipitations, comme il a déjà été scientifiquement prouvé."

[11th Annual BIOECON Conference on "Economic Instruments to Enhance the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity"](#)

September 21-22, 2009 - Centro Culturale Don Orione Artigianelli - Venice, Italy

### **FAO**

[El futuro de los bosques madereros](#)

Las explotaciones de bosques locales se enfrentan al reto de competir con maderas extranjeras más baratas mientras surgen otros modelos de negocio relacionados con el ocio, la retención de dióxido de carbono o la conservación de la biodiversidad que plantean nuevos retos de gestión forestal. En los últimos veinte años la madera apenas ha subido de precio y los bosques madereros europeos, incluidos los españoles, son cada vez menos competitivos.

[Una región sin árboles](#)

El cambio climático obligará a América Latina a enfrentar una creciente deforestación y falta de agua, hechos que complicarán la seguridad alimentaria en una región, donde 53 millones de personas padecen hambre, alertó ayer la FAO.

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

**01 – 15 September 2009**

### **Africa**

#### [A rough guide to climate change in continent](#)

Reports and estimates of the impact of climate change appear almost daily, but those by the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change remain the authoritative voice.

#### [‘Climate change is here, it is a reality’](#)

As one devastating drought follows another, the future is bleak for millions in east Africa.

#### [“Fertilizer Tree” may revive African farmlands](#)

Growing trees—especially acacia— on farms can improve the lot of some African farmers. The tall, long-lived acacia tree *Faidherbia albida* could serve as a free source of long-lasting and crop-boosting nitrogen.

#### [Floods affect 600,000 people across region, UN reports](#)

The number of people hit by deadly floods across West Africa has now topped 600,000, and the heavy rains have also destroyed crops and infrastructure in a region already hard hit by poverty, the United Nations humanitarian arm reported.

#### [Managing an unpredictable environment](#)

The water available in the Limpopo River basin, which stretches across Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe and Mozambique, is both in great demand and highly variable. Managing it effectively and to the satisfaction of all users is a challenge.

### **Angola**

#### [Ministère de l'Agriculture produit de plantes de meilleure qualité](#)

L'Institut de Développement Forestier (IDF) va planter d'arbres, a partir de l'an 2010, pour créer de nouvelles espèces adaptables aux sols et climat d'Angola.

### **Argentina**

#### [Nuevos incendios arrasaron bosques en el centro y noroeste de Argentina](#)

Incendios forestales arrasaron bosques y pastizales naturales en el centro y en el noroeste de Argentina, según informaron autoridades de las provincias de Córdoba y Salta, afectadas por el fuego.

### **Bhutan**

#### [Bhutan action over prayer flags](#)

The Bhutanese government has warned its citizens not to cut down thousands of young trees every year to make poles for hoisting Buddhist prayer flags.

#### [Buddhist Bhutan warns felling trees a threat to happiness](#)

Bhutan has warned its citizens over cutting down thousands of young trees every year to make prayer flags, a threat to the tiny kingdom's lush scenery and the government's duty to bring "Gross National Happiness."

### **Brazil**

#### [20% of land deforested in the Brazilian Amazon is regrowing forest](#)

Analyzing high resolution satellite imagery, analysts at INPE found large areas of regenerating forest in Pará, Mato Grosso, and Amapá, states which account for the majority of Brazil's deforestation.

### [Activists target Brazil's largest driver of deforestation: cattle ranching](#)

One of the loudest voices calling for reduction of forest clearing in the Brazilian Amazon is Amigos da Terra - Amazônia Brasileira. Independent from Friends of the Earth International, an activist network, since 2008, Brazil-based Amigos da Terra - Amazônia Brasileira ("Amigos da Terra") has been at the forefront of raising awareness of environmental concerns among Brazilians, who have historically viewed foreign-led campaigns with suspicion, if not outright contempt.

### [Amazon deforestation drop claimed](#)

Brazil's environment minister says increased policing has brought a sharp drop in Amazon deforestation over the past year, despite July's jump in logging.

### [Amazon deforestation to fall 30% in 2009](#)

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon is likely to fall between 8,500 square kilometers (3,088 square miles) and 9,000 sq km (3,474 sq mi) for the 12 months ended July 31, 2009, a reduction of 29-37 percent from last year.

### [Amazon land law debate heats up](#)

Just over two months ago a controversial law took effect in Brazil allowing people who had illegally occupied land in the Amazon to seek proper ownership rights. Since then, more than 4,000 farmers have been registered and the aim is to reach nearly 300,000 farmers in three years.

### [Brasil anuncia un plan para frenar la deforestación en su segundo mayor ecosistema](#)

El Gobierno brasileño anunció un plan para combatir la deforestación en el Cerrado (la sabana central), el mayor ecosistema del país después de la Amazonía y uno de los más afectados por el avance de la agricultura y la pecuaria.

### [Brasil controlará por satélite la deforestación de los ganaderos en la Amazonía](#)

El Gobierno brasileño implementará un preciso control por satélite de los rebaños bovinos en la Amazonía para descubrir y castigar a las haciendas que talen la selva.

### [Brasil no huirá de la responsabilidad de discutir metas en Copenhague](#)

Brazil no huirá de la responsabilidad de debatir metas para la reducción de sus emisiones de gases con efecto invernadero en la cumbre del Clima de Copenhague en diciembre. Brasil es uno de los actores clave en ese debate, ya que se le considera el cuarto mayor emisor de gases con efecto invernadero del mundo, principalmente debido a la deforestación de la Amazonia, la mayor selva tropical del planeta, que cuando es devastada reduce la fijación de CO<sub>2</sub>, que vuelve a la atmósfera.

### [Brazil says U.S. climate goal unacceptable](#)

Brazil's Environment Minister said that U.S. targets for greenhouse gas emissions are unacceptably weak and that Brazil will place new restrictions on its huge farm sector to cut deforestation.

### [Brazil to impose new agriculture restrictions](#)

Brazil will this month impose new restrictions on sugar cane planting and ban refineries in the Amazon rain forest and the Pantanal wetland area.

### [Brazil to step up efforts to save the cerrado grassland](#)

Brazil will try to reduce deforestation of the cerrado, a wooded grassland ecosystem in Brazil that is being destroyed twice as fast as the Amazon rainforest.

### [Brazil to use satellites to control Amazon deforestation](#)

The government plans to use satellites to monitor cattle herds in the Amazon and punish ranchers who illegally cut the rainforest.

### [Concerns over deforestation may drive new approach to cattle ranching in the Amazon](#)

The globalization of commodity supply chains has created links between consumer products and distant ecosystems like the Amazon. Shoes sold in downtown Manhattan may have been assembled in Vietnam using leather supplied from a Brazilian processor that subcontracted to a rancher in the Amazon. But while demand for these products is currently driving environmental degradation, this connection may also hold the key to slowing the destruction of Earth's largest rainforest.

### [Could land law stoke Amazon conflict?](#)

Violence in the Amazon was brought to the world's attention in February 2005 when American nun and land rights activist Dorothy Stang was killed in the city of Anapu in Para.

### [Farmers face Amazon challenges](#)

Looking at the rolling fields and jungles of the Amazon, it is tempting to think that such a vast area has endless resources.

### [In Brazil, the meat industry searches for a solution to deforestation](#)

A contributor to the problem also tries to be part of the solution by changing behavior in the Amazon.

### [La deforestación amazónica es la más baja de los últimos años](#)

El ministro de Medio Ambiente señaló que los datos difundidos por el Instituto Brasileño de Estudios Especiales (INPE) muestran los índices de tala más bajos desde 2004.

### [La déforestation baisse en Amazonie](#)

Selon les derniers chiffres communiqués par l'Institut brésilien des études spéciales, la déforestation en Amazonie a baissé de 46% entre août 2008 et juillet 2009.

### [Le "cerrado" perd sa couverture végétale](#)

Le "cerrado, une savane tropicale recouvrant huit Etats du centre du Brésil, a perdu près d'un million des 2,04 kilomètres carrés de sa vaste étendue de végétation broussailleuse et herbeuse selon les derniers chiffres publiés par le quotidien local O Globo.

### [Progress on Amazonian deforestation and land reform](#)

President Lula's targeted vetoes to controversial but landmark legislation mark significant progress towards protecting the Amazon forest.

### [Región de sabana brasileña ya perdió la mitad de su vegetación](#)

La región brasileña de "cerrado" (una sabana tropical que constituye el segundo mayor bioma del país) ya perdió la mitad de su cobertura vegetal original ante el avance de la agricultura, en particular de la soja.

### [Social causes of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest](#)

Understanding the web of social groups involved in deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon is key to containing forest loss.

### [The Amazon road: paving paradise for progress?](#)

At the corner of an inauspicious turnoff onto a narrow road lined by a few simple houses sits a signpost reading: "Welcome to the Inter-oceanic Highway South. Sao Paulo, Brazil 4601 kilometers." The sign marks the beginning of a stretch of road that, when completed, will provide the final link to a highway that will stretch from Brazil's Atlantic coast to Peru's Pacific ports. In the meantime, it is fueling concern among conservationists anxious over the potential impact on Peru's Amazon rainforest, one of the most biodiverse places in the world.

## **Burundi**

### [Burundi: remplacer le charbon par des sources d'énergie moins coûteuses](#)

Devenu trop cher pour les familles modestes, le charbon de bois, dont le prix a doublé depuis deux mois à Bujumbura, commence à être remplacé par d'autres sources d'énergie telles que les briquettes de déchets ménagers, l'électricité, la tourbe... Ce qui a aussi l'avantage de limiter la coupe des arbres.

## **Cameroon**

### [Forestry officials commissioned to fight climate change](#)

Members of the Environment and Forestry Sectoral Programme (PSFE) for the North West region were recently commissioned with the main challenge to fight climate change.

## **Canada**

### [500 scientists call on Quebec to keep its promise to conserve half of its boreal forest](#)

This March, the Canadian province of Quebec pledged to conserve 50 percent of its boreal forest lying north of the 49th parallel, protecting the region from industrial, mining, and energy development. Now, 500 scientists and conservation professionals - 65 percent of whom have PhDs - sent a letter to Quebec's Premier calling on him to make good on his promise.

#### [Des nouveaux riverains continuent à déboiser](#)

Tandis que des efforts de sensibilisation se poursuivent pour éviter le déboisement en bordure des lacs, certains citoyens résidant dans de nouveaux développements domiciliaires n'hésitent pas à adopter des comportements contraires puisqu'ils arrachent le couvert forestier qui se trouve le long des rives des plans d'eau.

#### [Western Canadian forestry labor talks to resume](#)

Talks will resume next week on what could become the pattern agreement for labor contracts in British Columbia's interior sawmills.

### **Chile**

#### [Seed collectors return from Chile](#)

Conservationists from Kew's West Sussex garden have taken delivery of seeds from more than 90 species of threatened trees and shrubs in Chile.

### **Colombia**

#### ['Afros' e indígenas cuidan 38 mil hectáreas de bosques en programa Midas, de Usaid](#)

La Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional, les da 20 dólares por cada hectárea de bosque conservado a campesinos del Valle, Antioquia, Chocó y Nariño.

#### [Colombia: se queman 13.000 hectáreas de bosques y cultivos](#)

Casi 13.000 hectáreas de bosques y cultivos han sido devastadas por las llamas en lo que va de año debido a la sequía que afecta a Colombia, según las autoridades. Los incendios se han producido en 24 de los 32 departamentos del país y han consumido 12.919 hectáreas.

#### [Incendios forestales han afectado 13.045 hectáreas de bosques y cultivos en Colombia](#)

Las conflagraciones han afectado a 150 municipios, de 25 departamentos. El Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales (Ideam) reportó que los departamentos con mayor número de emergencias por incendios forestales son Cundinamarca, con 70; Tolima con 38; Valle del Cauca, con 35; Nariño, con 30; Huila, con 26, y Boyacá, con 19.

#### [Los ríos caleños afrontan un caudal de problemas](#)

Los ríos Cali y Meléndez tienen los niveles más bajos de los últimos diez años. Preocupa la contaminación en la cuenca del Cauca. La deforestación acabó con las reservas de agua.

### **Costa Rica**

#### [Científicos costarricenses buscan bosque eficaz para limpiar el ambiente de Co2](#)

Científicos costarricenses trabajan para encontrar un tipo de bosque que sea más eficaz para limpiar el ambiente de co2. Ellos empezaron un ambicioso proyecto que mide la capacidad de absorción de este gas, en los diferentes tipos de bosque que tenemos.

### **Dominican Republic**

#### [Deforestación y conuquismo se comen Cordillera Central](#)

El conuquismo y la deforestación se han incrementado en la Cordillera Central, principalmente en el parque José del Carmen Ramírez, en el que se observan amplias zonas devastadas por esas prácticas.

#### [Pide ayuda de Agricultura y Ganadería para enfrentar deforestación](#)

Con la ley forestal se prohibirá la agropecuaria en zonas altas donde sólo habrá árboles.

### **Ecuador**

#### [Alta tecnología para un bosque que se mueve](#)

Helicópteros a control remoto y cámaras con sensores son algunos de los medios que utiliza un proyecto pionero en Ecuador, para ayudar a conservar una de las zonas de mayor biodiversidad del planeta.

### [Amazon tribes have long fought bloody battles against big oil in Ecuador](#)

The promotional efforts ahead of the upcoming release of the film *Crude* have helped raise awareness of the plight of thousands of Ecuadorians who have suffered from environmental damages wrought by oil companies. But the conflict between oil companies and indigenous forest dwellers dates back to the 1940s.

### [Germany to pay Ecuador \\$650 million to forgo oil drilling, protect rainforest reserve](#)

Germany has apparently agreed to fund a significant portion of Ecuador's scheme to leave Amazon rainforest oil reserves in the ground.

### [Oil and wildlife don't mix in Ecuador's eden](#)

What harm can a simple road do in a pristine place such as Ecuador's Yasuni National Park, home to peccaries, tapirs, monkeys and myriad other wildlife species? A great deal, it turns out. Specifically, it can turn subsistence communities into commercial hunting camps that empty rainforests of their wildlife.

### [Oil road transforms indigenous nomadic hunters into commercial poachers in the Ecuadorian Amazon](#)

Oil company in Ecuador transforms indigenous community into commercial poachers, threatening wildlife in a protected area.

## **Ethiopia**

### [Eliminating eucalyptus to aid Ethiopia](#)

Today Ethiopia is classified as having over 70% severe desertification, according to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). While there are several reasons, one major one is thanks (or no thanks) to eucalyptus brought over from Australia. But, the folks over at the Entoto National Park project, want to see that eucalyptus is replaced with indigenous plants in an effort to restore the soil and save water.

## **Finland**

### [900 Finnish schoolkids spent a day in the forest](#)

Schools' interest to participate in the four-day event, organised for the eighth time in the capital region, is twice as high as can be accommodated.

### [Finns want more from their forests](#)

An opinion survey of Finns' forest attitudes shows that they want to increase the use of timber, but support for additional biodiversity protection has gone up as well.

### [Government decisions to support forest sector coming soon](#)

However, the main responsibility of competitiveness lies on forest sector itself, says the Ministry of Employment and Economy in Finland.

## **France**

### [Après la tempête, des équilibres à repenser](#)

Dominique Graciet, président de la Chambre régionale d'agriculture d'Aquitaine, s'est récemment déclaré favorable à un « remembrement » du massif landais. L'objectif est de redonner du foncier à l'activité agricole, dont le potentiel est entamé par l'urbanisation, sans pénaliser pour autant l'activité forestière.

### [Des pâturages fleuris pour les abeilles](#)

À Storckensohn, le Chauvelin a étéensemencé en fleurs sauvages et horticoles : des parcelles d'épicéas ont été déboisées pour recréer des pâturages propices à la biodiversité.

### [Nos forêts sont-elles menacées ?](#)

Un coléoptère asiatique, découvert pour la première fois en Côte-d'Or, qui s'attaque aux arbres sains et pouvant provoquer la mort de ceux-ci en quelques années.

### [Risque de feux de forêt: interdiction de l'emploi du feu](#)

Le préfet du Gard a décidé de prolonger l'interdiction d'emploi du feu (y compris fumer une cigarette) à l'intérieur et jusqu'à une distance de 200 m des bois, forêts, landes, maquis, garrigues, plantations et reboisements jusqu'au 15 septembre inclus.

#### [Vous avez dit "remembrement"?](#)

Dominique Graciet, président de la Chambre régionale d'agriculture d'Aquitaine, s'est récemment (notre édition du 10 septembre) déclaré favorable à un « remembrement » du massif landais. L'objectif est de redonner du foncier à l'activité agricole, dont le potentiel est entamé par l'urbanisation, sans pénaliser pour autant l'activité forestière.

#### **Gambia**

##### [Thirteen wild animal species extinct](#)

The Forestry and Environment minister said as in all other natural processes, extinction could be both natural and human driven. For most of the wild animals of The Gambia, he said, the major cause of extinction has been loss of habitat by basically human beings.

#### **Ghana**

##### [11-member committee to track illegal timber operators](#)

Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Alhaji Collins Dauda, has inaugurated an 11-member Board of the Forestry Commission tasked with preserving the nation's natural resources by dealing urgently with the activities of illegal timber operators.

##### [Country's forest reserves can deplete in the next 23 years](#)

If care was not taken to halt the current deforestation rate of 65,000 hectares per annum, the country's forest cover of 1.6 million hectares would be depleted within the next 23 years.

##### [Project to sustain country's forest reserves](#)

An afforestation Project, aimed at replenishing the depleting forest reserves in the Ashanti Region at a sustainable rate, has been launched in Kumasi. Dubbed "Carbon Credit Project", it seeks to involve individuals, families, and civil society groups in the sustenance of the country's forests, through a proposed "Plant a Tree for Cash" system.

##### [Task force set up to check illegal timber felling](#)

The Brong-Ahafo Regional Forestry Manager has said the judiciary had failed to support the forestry department in preserving forest reserves in the region. He alleged that the judiciary at times freed chainsaw and other illegal forest operators.

#### **Greece**

##### [Greek farmer charged with starting big forest fire](#)

A Greek farmer has been indicted for allegedly starting a fire that ravaged forests and communities north of Athens last month.

#### **Haiti**

##### [Haïti: Le déboisement, un frein au développement durable](#)

Mauvaise exploitation du sol, sécheresse, désertification et disparition d'espèces végétales et animales, etc., voici l'impact de la déforestation à outrance de nos reliefs à travers tout le pays.

#### **Honduras**

##### [2 nuevas especies descubiertas en un hábitat en disminución](#)

El Centro Zamorano de Biodiversidad anunció el descubrimiento de dos nuevas especies –una lagartija y una salamandra– encontradas en el remoto Parque Nacional Montaña de Yoro. El rango de estas especies parece estar restringido al bosque en el Parque Nacional Montaña de Yoro, el cual es seriamente amenazado por la deforestación.

#### **Indonesia**

##### [40% of Indonesian forests damaged on deforestation](#)

As many as 40 percent of Indonesia's forests are ruined due to deforestation, triggering threat to environment preservation.

##### [DNA technology could help save endangered forest species](#)

New technology is providing some hope to those battling to stop Indonesia's massively devastating and hugely costly illegal logging activity. In recent years, unlawful forest destruction has resulted in undermining the rule of law and deprived the state of substantial revenues. The World Bank estimates the illicit practice costs more than a staggering Rp 100 trillion each year.

#### [Indonesia, el tercer país más contaminante](#)

El objetivo es reducir un 40 por ciento sus emisiones de CO2 con vistas a 2030 mediante la protección de sus selvas.

#### [Indonesia needs to refine forest-CO2 rules](#)

Confusing and conflicting regulations are scaring away investors from Indonesia's fledgling forest carbon credit scheme aimed at curbing deforestation.

#### [Paper giant promises green curbs on expansion](#)

Asia Pulp and Paper, one of the largest paper producers in Asia, said it has no immediate plans to expand its two Indonesian pulp mills and would only do so if it secured sustainably produced timber. The Indonesia-based company is a target for green groups because some of its products are made from wood from natural forests and peatlands, which release huge amounts of greenhouse gases when cleared.

### **Kenya**

#### [Action on the Mau must be stepped up](#)

Friday's inauguration of a team to spearhead the rehabilitation of the Mau Forest marks a turning point in the country's reforestation programme. The team must quickly roll out the programme of moving families settled in the forest, compensate the deserving, reclaim the land and plant trees. Carrying out this mandate needs planning, resources and tact. All along, as the debate raged, it was clear that the common denominator was the preservation of political and personal interests.

#### [Animals no safer inside Kenya's parks than outside?](#)

Wildebeests, antelope, and other iconic African animals are declining just as quickly in Kenya's parks and reserves as in the country's unprotected lands. Many of Africa's protected parks are seeing wildlife declines as a result of poaching for trophies and bush meat, habitat destruction, and human encroachment.

#### [Another water tower on the verge of being wiped out as Mau saga rages](#)

Even as the country is engrossed with the fate of the Mau water tower, another key forest in the North Rift is on the verge of being wiped out. This time, however, the finger of blame is pointed directly at forest guards. Koibatek forest, a catchment area for six major rivers, is under threat from illegal loggers who have been indiscriminately harvesting trees, leaving behind ugly empty patches.

#### [Drought and deforestation push Kenyan tea prices to record high](#)

Drought has decimated crops, including tea, and, as output has fallen, so prices have risen in accordance with the most basic rules of supply and demand. At a tea auction in August in Mombasa, where more than a third of world tea exports are valued, prices reached a record \$3.97 (£2.45) a kilogram.

#### [Kenya launches \\$400 mln appeal to save Mau Forest](#)

Kenya launched a \$400 million appeal with the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) to save the Mau Forests Complex, the country's biggest closed-canopy forest and a vital water catchment area.

#### [Kenya seeks millions to save Mau Forest, avert water crisis](#)

A multimillion dollar appeal to save the Mau Forests Complex, the most important source of water for human consumption in the Rift Valley and Western Kenya, was launched by the government of Kenya at a forum hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme. Continued destruction of these forests will lead to a water crisis of national and regional proportions that could extend far beyond the borders of Kenya.

#### [Kenya's wildlife threatened by drought](#)

Serious threat to elephants as rivers dry up and grasslands shrivel in parched game reserves.

### [Le Kenya lance un appel pour sauver les grandes forêts de Mau](#)

Le Kenya a lancé un appel pour obtenir une aide internationale de 400 millions de dollars afin de sauver les forêts de Mau, "poumon vert" du pays, dont la superficie a fortement reculé ces dernières années.

### [Low forest cover hurts small towns](#)

Destruction of tree plantations in the Mau Forest Complex has shattered economies of the small towns around the natural resource.

### [Mau team seeks Sh7.6 billion](#)

The team set up to coordinate the restoration of the Mau Forest Complex will on Wednesday meet donors to appeal for Sh7.6 billion for the programme. The proposed Mau evictions will result in the repossession of more than 100,000 hectares in the country's major water tower.

### [PM seeks global help over Mau](#)

A day after he launched the Secretariat to reclaim the Mau, Kenya Prime Minister Raila Odinga has widened his net to rope in the global community. Mr Odinga wants to put efforts to save the Mau at par with similar ones to save other rainforests, particularly the Amazon and the Congo, officials in his office told the Nation.

### [Roadmap on the Mau signals hope](#)

By releasing an elaborate roadmap for the removal of settlers from the Mau complex, the government has signalled that it is not about to back-track on its decision to save the vital water tower.

### [The last nomads: drought drives Kenya's herders to the brink](#)

In the isolated border lands between Kenya and Somalia, families have always clung to a precarious existence. Now a decade of droughts has tested their endurance.

### [UN backs appeal for U.S.\\$ 81 million to restore critical forest area](#)

Kenya launched an appeal for \$81 million to fund efforts halting the degradation of its Mau Forests Complex.

### [Why I'm not convinced the Mau debate is quite genuine](#)

For the first time since the battle for Karura Forest in the 1990s, environmental activists in Kenya must be celebrating. The Mau Forest saga has captured the imagination of the nation in ways only similar to political campaigns. Could this mean environmental conservation is finally taking its rightful place in Kenyans' psyche or is Mau just another political fad in a country with a penchant for ceaseless disagreements?

## **Liberia**

### [Liberia interested in Cameroon's community forestry policy](#)

A delegation from that country visited Cameroon recently to get abreast with the said policy.

### [LRCFP convenes partnership confab on community forestry](#)

The Land Rights and Community Forestry Program (LRCFP), convenes a day-long 'Annual Review Meeting' with its partners. The meeting aims to retrospect, reflect, and look to future developments on LRCFP and Community Forestry (CF) in Liberia, and will ultimately provide a platform for partners to make presentations from the perspectives of their organizations, in relation to community forestry in Liberia.

### [U.S. spends U.S.\\$10 million on forest reform - USAID acting boss claims](#)

The Liberia Forest Initiative funded by the United States Aids for International Development (USAID) has contributed US\$10 Million in support of the forestry reform programs in Liberia since 2004.

## **Malaysia**

### [Deforestation threatens the environment in Borneo](#)

Environmental concerns are in conflict with the Malaysian government's economic interests. Large swaths of tropical forest are being cleared for the timber and palm oil industries. And locals are demanding a greater share of the profits. In addition to deforestation activities, a dozen hydroelectric dams are also in the works.

### [Penan tribe to continue blockade against loggers with blowpipes and spears](#)

A meeting between the Penan indigenous tribe, Malaysian government officials, and representatives of a logging company ended without an agreement. The meeting was the latest news in a long standoff between the Penan people of the Malaysian state of Sarawak on the island of Borneo and government officials who have leased land the Penan say is theirs to logging and plantation companies.

### [Plight of Borneo's Penan](#)

Armed with spears and blowpipes, hundreds of indigenous tribesmen in the jungles of Borneo island have mounted a last-ditch attempt to try to save their land from logging.

### [Power, profit, and pollution: dams and the uncertain future of Sarawak](#)

The plan, which calls for a network of 12 hydroelectric dams to be built across Sarawak's rainforests by 2020, is proceeding despite strong opposition from Sarawak's citizens, environmental groups, and indigenous human rights organizations. By 2037, as many as 51 dams could be constructed.

### [Spears versus bulldozers in Borneo](#)

In the jungles of central Borneo, loggers and native tribes, environmentalists and plantation companies, rights lawyers and government developers are now locked in an increasingly desperate battle.

## **Mali**

### [Protection des forêts: S.O.S. POUR NARENA](#)

La mairie a décidé de s'attaquer à l'exploitation abusive des immenses ressources forestières de la zone. Le soutien n'est pas venu de ceux qui auraient dû être en première ligne dans ce combat. Rien ne va plus entre les autorités municipales de Naréna et les services de la conservation de la nature (SCN). L'on pourrait appeler le conflit qui les oppose "crise du bois".

## **Mexico**

### [Eyes turn to Mexico as drought drags on](#)

The Ciénega de Santa Clara wetland in Mexico could be threatened by a decision to activate a Yuma desalination plant.

### [México: la deforestación amenaza la biodiversidad y la vida](#)

En México se deforesta cada año desde el 2001 unas 314 mil hectáreas de bosques, selvas y zonas áridas, advierte un estudio sobre el tema divulgado en esta capital. Esta cifra recuerda que una de las amenazas recién mencionadas por el gobierno para la seguridad nacional, son los daños medioambientales y el cambio climático.

## **Mongolia**

### [Trying to green the growing Gobi Desert](#)

Desertification knows no boundaries, especially when it entails the Gobi Desert. Not only is Asia's largest desert expanding from north to south across China, it's creeping south to north, too, farther into Mongolia

## **New Zealand**

### [Firefighters battle South Island forest fires](#)

South Island firefighters have been kept busy trying to control several forest fires as gales threaten to spread the flames. Crews have been at Berwick Forest, 40km south west of Dunedin.

## **Nigeria**

### [Commissioner warns against indiscriminate felling of trees](#)

The Kwara State Commissioner for Environment and Forestry has called on the people of Kwara State to avoid indiscriminate felling of trees in order to check environmental hazards in the society.

### [Forestry department appeals to animal poachers](#)

The Forestry Department of the Federal Ministry of Environment, last week called on animal poachers and hunters to desist from indiscriminate killing of wild species.

## **Panama**

### [Canal de Panamá invertirá en proteger los bosques](#)

La Autoridad del Canal de Panamá (ACP) anunció que invertirá 18.5 millones de dólares para la protección forestal de 20 mil hectáreas de bosque, lo cual ayudará a reducir en seis millones de toneladas de bióxido de carbono (CO2).

## **Papua New Guinea**

### [Lost world of fanged frogs and giant rats discovered in Papua New Guinea](#)

A team of scientists from Britain, the United States and Papua New Guinea found more than 40 previously unidentified species when they climbed into the kilometre-deep crater of Mount Bosavi and explored a pristine jungle habitat teeming with life that has evolved in isolation since the volcano last erupted 200,000 years ago.

## **Peru**

### [Consideran que verdaderos depredadores del bosque son los agricultores migratorios y no los madereros](#)

El responsable del área forestal de la Cámara Nacional Forestal sostuvo que los verdaderos responsables de la depredación de los bosques amazónicos no son los madereros sino que esto es culpa de los agricultores migratorios que muchas veces necesitan tener chacras en zonas protegidas.

## **Plurinational State of Bolivia**

### [Pino de monte en peligro por irracional actividad humana](#)

El pino de monte (*Podocarpus rosby*), es una de las especies de la flora silvestre que se encuentra en la categoría de amenaza En Peligro, debido a la constante deforestación, según la lista preliminar del Herbario Nacional de Bolivia.

## **Portugal**

### [Une douzaine d'incendies au Portugal](#)

Une douzaine de feux de forêt ou de broussailles faisaient rage aujourd'hui en fin de journée dans le nord et le centre du Portugal, mobilisant 430 pompiers appuyés par 120 véhicules et six avions, selon la Protection civile.

## **Russian Federation**

### [Russia's plan to mine peatlands for energy could release 113 gigatons of carbon](#)

Wetlands International, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the world's wetlands, has warned of drastic environmental consequences if the Russia government goes ahead with plans to begin large scale peat mining, including the potential release of 113 gigatons of carbon.

## **Somalia**

### [Government adds voice to drought appeal](#)

Thousands of drought-affected people in Somalia's central and southern regions need urgent help after losing most of their livestock.

## **Spain**

### [El consumo energético aleja a los bosques españoles de la sostenibilidad](#)

España es, junto a Suecia, uno de los países europeos con mayor producción de madera para pasta papelera, pero usa grandes cantidades de energía. Científicos españoles y suecos han comparado las cargas ambientales procedentes de las operaciones forestales para concluir que el escenario español requiere más energía que el sueco. Proponen mejoras como el uso de biocombustibles para una producción forestal más sostenible.

### [Incendios cada vez más virulentos y mortales](#)

El fuego está arrasando los bosques este verano. A falta de estadísticas actualizadas, a principios de julio ya eran 70.000 las hectáreas calcinadas, frente al total de 40.000 que ardieron en todo el 2008. Sin embargo, en un balance global, los expertos afirman que en los últimos años el número de incendios forestales y la superficie quemada han disminuido en España.

### [La madera dañada por el temporal de enero sigue en el monte](#)

Los efectos del temporal que azotó Galicia a finales de enero siguen siendo visibles en los montes de la comunidad. Siete meses después, tan sólo se han retirado 23.000 metros cúbicos de madera

dañada y son muchas las zonas en las que los efectos del vendaval se aprecian todavía a simple vista.

#### [La tinta y la grafiosis secan olmos y alisos de los bosques de ribera](#)

Infecciones llegadas por las raíces o por los insectos, obstruyen los vasos por donde circula la savia de los árboles. Los hongos arrasan alamedas urbanas y masas fluviales que deberán sustituirse por arces, fresnos o abedules.

#### [La UE financiará un plan para evitar que desaparezcan las hayas trasnochadas](#)

Los bosques no se renuevan por la desaparición de leñadores y carboneros. La Diputación reservará 50 hectáreas para la tala de ejemplares jóvenes.

#### [Los incendios forestales han calcinado 84.000 hectáreas en lo que va del año](#)

En lo que va de año el fuego se ha llevado por delante 84.000 hectáreas de la cubierta vegetal del país entre arbolado, monte bajo o matorral. Y lo que es peor, los incendios han segado 11 vidas humanas, nueve de ellas en el transcurso de las labores de extinción.

#### [Los incendios forestales han quemado en Navarra 1.354 hectáreas desde junio](#)

El fuego ha quemado en Navarra un total de 1.354 hectáreas en incendios de componente forestal, de las que 865,81 hectáreas son de arbolado (437 hectáreas) y matorral, y 489,23 de terrenos agrícolas, desde que el pasado 2 de junio se activó la campaña forestal de verano.

#### [Los productores de madera denuncian precios hasta un 25% por debajo de su valor real](#)

La madera del eucalipto debería alcanzar los 41 euros la tonelada cuando va sin corteza y los 35 con ella, si es vendida en cargadero de camión y si su destino será la fabricación de pasta de papel.

#### [Un estudio refleja el alto consumo energético del sector forestal en España](#)

Una investigación llevada a cabo por científicos españoles y suecos ha concluido, tras comparar las cargas ambientales procedentes de las operaciones forestales, que el escenario español requiere más gasto energético que el sueco, indica el Servicio de Información y Noticias Científicas (SINC).

#### [Vegetation indicates desertification in Spain](#)

A team of scientists in Spain has analyzed 29 esparto fields from Guadalajara to Murcia and has concluded that perennial vegetation cover is an efficient early warning system against desertification in these ecosystems.

### **Uganda**

#### [Carbon trading scheme pushing people off their land](#)

As the world's attention increasingly turns to the impact of climate change, at least one project intended to reduce global carbon emissions is accused of displacing indigenous persons from their home in Uganda.

#### [Country needs local, not foreign teams to monitor its resources](#)

The United Nations declared 2009 as the Year of the Gorilla to create awareness about this very close cousin of man. Uganda has half the population of mountain gorillas worldwide and they are a key tourism attraction.

#### [Explain NFA evictions, environment minister told](#)

Parliament gave Environment Minister Maria Mutagamba one week to explain the fate of over 700 stranded families in Kibaale District that were evicted by the forestry officials. He was also requested to bring to Parliament an official explanation on the more than 2,000 people who face eviction from the forest reserves by the National Forestry Authority.

#### [Govt, UNDP to protect lakes, regional wetland systems](#)

The government has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a number NGOs to protect two lakes and their wetland systems in Southwest and Eastern Uganda that may be extinct due to degrading activities by the surrounding communities.

### **United Kingdom**

#### [Britain bans palm oil ad campaign](#)

Britain's Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), a group that regulates advertisements, has again banned a "misleading" ad by the palm oil industry.

#### [Charles calls deforestation halt](#)

The Prince of Wales has called for "an emergency package to halt deforestation" to be developed in time for the international climate summit in Copenhagen later this year.

#### [Palm oil power plants become burning issue thanks to UK's crazy 'green' policy](#)

Newport power station plans have devastating consequences that reach far beyond south Wales.

#### [RSPB accused of damaging British environment in bid to save birds](#)

Charity accused of damaging the environment as it takes the axe to hundreds of acres of conifer woodland to restore traditional open heaths. Opponents say the scheme threatens UK's fight against global warming.

#### [Stone-age landscape forest plan](#)

A project in mid Wales aims to recreate the bogs, heath and ancient wet woodlands that stone-age man would have recognised.

#### ['Sustainable' palm oil campaign banned by ASA](#)

Advertorial claimed that controversial oil business was 'green answer' and was important to alleviating poverty. Palm Oil, which is used in a third of all groceries, has been at the centre of an environmental debate over its role in the destruction of rainforest in areas such as south-east Asia.

#### [UN conference to hear about News of the World tree-planting push](#)

Seeds for Schools campaign aims to get schools in the UK to plant 1 million trees.

### **United States of America**

#### [A wooded prairie springs from a site once piled high with garbage](#)

South of the Belt Parkway near Exit 15 in Brooklyn, approaching Kennedy International Airport, an unassuming hill slopes upward, dotted with small, scraggly trees and bushes. A quarter-century ago, the hill was a more memorable sight. It was the Fountain Avenue Landfill.

#### [As ash borer claims more trees, researcher works for species survival](#)

As the devastating insect emerald ash borer is working its way across North America destroying almost all the native ash trees it encounters, a researcher is rapidly collecting and storing ash tree seeds.

#### [California encourages buildings that are sure to burn](#)

In a classic case of a perverse incentive, California state law actually encourages homeowners to build in brushy canyons prone to massive wildfires like the "Station fire", which burned over 350,000 hectares and destroyed dozens of homes near Los Angeles this month.

#### [California fire is pushed back](#)

Residents began returning to their homes Wednesday in several neighborhoods that had been threatened by a large wildfire chewing through the foothills near Los Angeles as cooler temperatures and moister air allowed firefighters to begin gaining in their battle to control the blaze.

#### [California inferno](#)

A giant wildfire raging above Los Angeles grew in size, threatening some 12,000 homes and the lives of hundreds of firefighters.

#### [California wildfire declared arson, homicide](#)

A huge wildfire burning in the mountains above Los Angeles, now the largest ever in the county, was started by arson and will be investigated as a homicide. The so-called Station Fire has killed two firefighters, destroyed 64 homes and torched an area the size of Chicago in the nine days it has roared across the rugged San Gabriel Mountains overlooking Los Angeles.

#### [Cartels clear-cutting U.S. national parks for marijuana plantations](#)

Marijuana growers are chopping down U.S. national forests to establish plantations for illicit drug production.

#### [Cost of fighting L.A. wildfire tops \\$92 million](#)

The financial cost of battling a deadly arson fire in the mountains above Los Angeles topped \$92 million, with full containment of the stubborn blaze expected by week's end.

#### [Costo de combatir incendio en Los Angeles supera los 92 mln dlrs](#)

El costo financiero de combatir un mortal incendio provocado por humanos en las montañas sobre Los Angeles superó los 92 millones de dólares.

#### [Drought makes California vulnerable to busy fire season](#)

Even as a mammoth wildfire still burns in the San Gabriel Mountains, California hasn't seen this year the level of destruction that flames delivered the past two years. That could change soon however, fire officials say. A prolonged drought, which is drying up vegetation and fueling a seemingly endless fire that has burned more than 250 square miles of Los Angeles County, could be the start of a fall siege in Southern California.

#### [Fall colors fade in U.S. west as aspen trees die](#)

The American West is losing its autumn colors as global warming begins to bite and there is far more at stake than iconic scenery. Aspen, the white-barked trees with golden leaves that gave their name to the famed Colorado ski resort, have been dying off across the Rocky Mountain states. The die-off is puzzling but some foresters point to climate change.

#### [Feeling the heat](#)

California's raging wildfires this summer are a sign of the climate changes already drying up America's great outdoors.

#### [Firefighters making "great progress" on L.A. blaze](#)

Firefighters taking the offensive against a nine-day-old wildfire in the mountains near Los Angeles focused on steering flames away from newly menaced communities as they made more headway enclosing the blaze.

#### [Forest ecologist sees climate consequences](#)

Many people worry about the link between rising bark-beetle infestations and an increase in western wildfires. But a researcher at the University of Washington, adds another concern: what happens after the fires go out?

#### [Heat fuelling California wildfire](#)

Firefighters tackling an intense wildfire north of Los Angeles say the blaze remains "very dangerous".

#### [LA firefighters 'making progress'](#)

California emergency workers have made progress overnight in their battle against the huge wildfire blazing north of Los Angeles.

#### [Las autoridades revelan que el incendio de California fue intencionado](#)

El Servicio Forestal de EEUU ha informado en Los Angeles de que fueron intencionados los incendios que durante una semana asolaron sectores cercanos a la ciudad. Añadieron que, como resultado, se ha iniciado una investigación por homicidio tras la muerte de dos bomberos que perecieron al caer a un barranco el vehículo en que se dirigían a extinguir un fuego.

#### [Los Angeles wildfire drives wildlife to backyards](#)

As the threat to humans from the 10-day-old Station Fire subsides, allowing displaced families to settle back into their homes, four-legged refugees are starting to emerge dazed, injured and hungry from the charred chaparral of the San Gabriel Mountains.

#### [Los Angeles wildfire ruled arson](#)

A huge wildfire which has devastated a large area north of Los Angeles was started deliberately, say the authorities in California. The fire is the largest in the history of Los Angeles county.

### [New Obama pick for USDA undersecretary criticized for roadless views](#)

The Obama administration's new pick to lead the Forest Service and farmland conservation programs has drawn criticism from environmental and hunting and fishing groups concerned about his past role in controversial roadless rule decisions.

### [Pollution from California wildfires spreads across the United States](#)

Beginning August 26, 2009, and continuing into September 2009, a large wildfire in the Angeles National Forest north of Los Angeles known as the Station Fire burned more than 140,000 acres through September 3. Carbon monoxide in the smoke from this large fire was lofted as high as 8.3 kilometers (27,000 feet) into the atmosphere, where it was observed by JPL's Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) instrument onboard NASA's Aqua satellite.

### [Shroud of smoky haze hangs over much of the west](#)

A smoky gray soup settled over Denver and other towns and cities across the West this week, a byproduct of fires that continue to blaze in California, Utah and Colorado.

### [Tonos otoñales se apagan en oeste EEUU por muerte álamos](#)

El oeste de Estados Unidos está perdiendo sus colores de otoño, mientras el calentamiento global empieza a hacerse sentir y pone mucho más en riesgo que el mero paisaje icónico.

### [Weather lends a hand fighting California fire](#)

A wildfire threatening thousands of homes in the Los Angeles suburbs, which firefighters were making progress in controlling on Tuesday, is likely to be remembered as not the biggest, not the worst, but one of the weirder blazes in Southern California in recent years.

### [White House action puts on hold dozens of mountaintop mining projects](#)

The Obama administration took its strongest action to date against highly destructive mining practice today, putting a hold on dozens of mountaintop removal projects in the Appalachian region. Mountaintop removal involves dynamiting the tops of mountains - leaving mounds of debris in neighbour rivers and waterways - razing forests and cutting off hundreds of feet of rock to reach narrow seams of coal.

## **Viet Nam**

### [Vietnam outsources deforestation to neighboring countries](#)

In conserving its forests while its growing export-oriented wood products industry, Vietnam outsources deforestation to Laos, Cambodia, and China.

## **Zimbabwe**

### [Forestry Commission needs U.S.\\$5 million for recapitalisation](#)

The Forestry Commission needs a recapitalisation package of US\$5 million for the procurement of vehicles to boost mobility of officers in the discharge of conservation and extension services, buy state-of-the-art software, maintain infrastructure and forests and introduce conservation awareness programmes across the country.

### [Starting veld fires indiscriminately criminal](#)

Government will introduce stiffer penalties for those who are caught indiscriminately starting fires.

### [Veld fires are the cost of negligence](#)

The loss of lives to veld fires encapsulates the extent of the lawlessness that has become synonymous with land invasions, compounded by the government's tardy response. Four innocent lives have been lost and 46 000 hectares of land have been destroyed in 29 incidents of veld fires recorded so far this year.

### [Veld fires destroy over 46.000 hectares of land](#)

More than 46 000 hectares of land and vegetation have been destroyed by veld fires countrywide from 29 incidents recorded so far, the Environmental Management Agency has revealed.

## **World**

### [A green bailout to stop deforestation](#)

Economic incentives for countries such as Brazil and Guyana could provide the answer to a complex environmental problem.

#### [Bid to make 'green' palm oil advances](#)

Idyllic scenes of palm trees swaying in the breeze over sandy beaches have long decorated brochures designed to lure tourists to Indonesia and Malaysia. But few visitors see the giant palm plantations away from the shore.

#### [Carbon firm highlights risk, appetite of forest credits](#)

An Australian firm hoping to broker A\$1.6 billion in carbon credit sales from saving tropical forests highlights the promise and peril of a U.N.-backed scheme that rewards projects for curbing deforestation.

#### [Cities trap more carbon than rain forests, study says](#)

Compared with tropical rain forests—the densest natural ecosystems—cities store more carbon, acre for acre, in their trees, buildings, and dirt.

#### [Climate-change-combating potential of the world's ecosystems described in new report](#)

Investing in restoration and maintenance of the Earth's multi-trillion dollar ecosystems - from forests and mangroves to wetlands and river basins - can have a key role in countering climate change and climate-proofing vulnerable economies.

#### [Climate change mitigation strategies ignore carbon cycling processes of inland waters](#)

Researchers argue that current international strategies to mitigate manmade carbon emissions and address climate change have overlooked a critical player - inland waters. Streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands play an important role in the carbon cycle that is unaccounted for in conventional carbon cycling models.

#### [CO2 is not the only cause of climate change](#)

As the UN climate summit in Copenhagen approaches, we must remember that 50% of climate change is caused by gases and pollutants other than CO2.

#### [Discovering nature's wonder in order to save it, an interview with Jaboury Ghazoul](#)

Sometimes we lose sight of the forest by staring at the trees. When this happens we need something jarring and eloquent to pull us back to view the big picture again.

#### [Electrical circuit runs entirely off power in trees](#)

You've heard about flower power. What about tree power? It turns out that it's there, in small but measurable quantities. There's enough power in trees for University of Washington researchers to run an electronic circuit.

#### [Environmental groups spar over certifications of wood and paper products](#)

For more than a decade, the nonprofit Forest Stewardship Council generally has been viewed as the premier judge of whether a wood or paper product should be labeled as environmentally friendly. But to the dismay of major environmental groups, that label, known as F.S.C., is facing a stiff challenge from a rival certification system supported by the paper and timber industry. At stake is the trust of consumers in the ever-expanding market for "green" products.

#### [Forest a desert, cool the world](#)

For more than a century, a few scientists have occasionally daydreamed of transforming much of the Sahara desert green, with a lush inland sea or vast tracts of farmland. Now researchers say they have actually found a way to make such a scheme work with forests across the desert--and to slow climate change in the process.

#### [Getting to the heartwood](#)

If a tree falls in the forest and no one is present to listen, does it make a sound? Today's modern version of this childhood treefall conundrum might be: If one tree is logged in a woods, will the surrounding forest remain healthy?

#### [Investing in conservation could save global economy trillions of dollars annually](#)

By investing billions in conserving natural areas now, governments could save trillions every year in ecosystem services, such as natural carbon sinks to fight climate change.

#### [La elección de una zapatilla puede repercutir en el futuro de la Tierra](#)

Porque si proviene de una de las 70 millones de vacas que pastan en tierras recién deforestadas del Amazonas brasileño, por guais que resulten las bandas de ante color rojo fosforescente, esas bambas pueden perjudicar seriamente la credibilidad de quien las calce. Por no decir nada del daño al pulmón más importante del planeta.

#### [Meat consumption per capita](#)

Links between meat consumption and climate change have been widely known for many years, partly due to deforestation in the Amazon rainforest to make room for the livestock.

#### [Mideast climate change and its strategic implications](#)

The strategic implications of climate change in the Middle East focus on a few key issues – fresh water resources, increasing desertification and shifting weather patterns. In the past, these issues were divisive on the regional level. With climate change, their strategic implications become more prominent.

#### [Perú y Ecuador acuerdan conservar los bosques y la biodiversidad en la región Andina](#)

Los Gobiernos de Perú y Ecuador suscribieron hoy un acuerdo bilateral para impulsar la conservación sostenible de los recursos naturales comunes, como los bosques y la biodiversidad en la región andina.

#### [The rat is great, but the trees matter more](#)

The rainforests are the planet's green lifebelt. We must pay countries billions of pounds now to stop the slashing and burning.

#### [Total forest coverage by country](#)

Alarm over deforestation has grown as world population figures continue their inexorable rise. Our data reveals the extent of forest decline over the last 20 years country by country.

#### [Trees could be the ultimate in green power](#)

Shoving electrodes into tree trunks to harvest electricity may sound like the stuff of dreams, but the idea is increasingly attracting interest. If we can make it work, forests could power their own sensor networks to monitor the health of the ecosystem or provide early warning of forest fires.

#### [UN's Ban calls deforestation summit](#)

UN chief Ban Ki-moon said he planned to bring together leaders of the world's most forested nations, including Brazil and Indonesia, for a meeting to discuss deforestation.

#### [Wood versus plastic pallet battle increasingly focused on green supply chain](#)

The battle between the wood and plastic pallet industry continues to move in interesting directions, with the "Green Supply Chain" now being front and center.

#### [World Bank's IFC suspends lending to palm oil companies](#)

The World Bank has agreed to suspend International Finance Corporation (IFC) funding of the oil palm sector pending the development of safeguards to ensure that lending doesn't cause social or environmental harm.

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