



**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.

**N. 19**

**2009**

#### **Forthcoming Events**

XIII Congreso Forestal Mundial

["La necesidad de adoptar enfoques integrales para la ordenación de la tierra y los bosques nunca ha sido tan urgente"](#)

"Considerando los bosques como parte integral de las metas de desarrollo social y económico más amplias, realizaremos pasos gigantescos en nuestros esfuerzos para reducir la pobreza, el hambre y la malnutrición." Lea la entrevista con el Dr Jacques Diouf, Director General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO) y orador principal durante la ceremonia inaugural del XIII Congreso Forestal Mundial.

XIII World Forestry Congress

["The need to adopt integrated, sustainable approaches to land and forest management has never been more urgent"](#)

"By considering forests as an integral part of wider economic and social development goals, we will make giant strides in our efforts to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition." Read the interview with Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) who will be speaking at the opening Ceremony of the XIII World Forestry Congress in Argentina.

XIII Congrès Forestier Mondial

["La nécessité d'adopter des approches intégrées de gestion des terres et des forêts, n'a jamais été aussi pressante"](#)

"En considérant les forêts comme partie intégrante des buts de développement économique et social, nous ferons des pas de géant dans nos efforts de réduction de la pauvreté, de la faim et de la malnutrition." Lisez l'entretien avec M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) et orateur principal à la cérémonie d'inauguration du XIII Congrès forestier mondial en Argentine.

[Conférence Annuelle de la Fondation pour La Coopération et Du Développement \(FCD\)](#)

23 -27 Novembre 2009 - Le West Hotel Centre de Congrès - Londres, Royaumes Unies

**FAO**

[El Congreso Forestal Mundial se reúne en Buenos Aires](#)

En el momento en el que las negociaciones sobre el cambio climático entran en la recta final hacia la conferencia de diciembre en Copenhague, Dinamarca, el Congreso Forestal Mundial se reunirá en Buenos Aires, Argentina, entre los próximos 18 al 23 de octubre de 2009.

#### [Out of the forest and into the oven](#)

Millions of trees, especially from the developing countries of the South, are being shipped to Europe and burned in giant furnaces to meet "green energy" requirements that are supposed to combat climate change.

#### [Save the forests, help save the planet](#)

With deforestation accounting for over 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, a senior United Nations agricultural official today called for preservation of an ecosystem that can play a major role in fighting global warming.

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

**01 – 13 October 2009**

### **Africa**

#### [África: un muro verde contra el desierto](#)

Actualmente, un tercio de la población mundial se ve afectada por la expansión de los desiertos. Un 40 % de las tierras son áridas, y la desertificación avanza a un ritmo alarmante. Sudamérica, Medio Oriente y Asia Central serán algunas de las regiones afectadas. Pero la que más sufrirá los efectos de la desertificación es África. Mientras las potencias se niegan a ampliar los presupuestos mundiales para tratar este problema, el desierto del Sahara avanza desenfadadamente obligando a poblaciones enteras a desplazarse ante la llegada de la arena. Una muralla de árboles de más de 7.500 kilómetros para contenerlo, parece ser la única esperanza.

#### [Redd in Africa: 'how we can earn money from air by harvesting carbon'](#)

Kenyan ranch shows how UN scheme could protect forests that absorb CO2 and earn billions of dollars for their owners.

#### [U.S. Aid funds conservation of Mara and Lake Victoria](#)

The East African Community has received a \$3 million grant to save the Mara and Lake Victoria Basin regions from environmental degradation. The United States Agency for International Development (USAid) grant will be used for ecosystem conservation which is dependent on the flow of the Mara River.

#### [US\\$3 million to save Mara Basin, vanishing new wonder of the world](#)

Fresh efforts have been launched to save East Africa's New Wonder of the World - the Mara River Basin ecosystem - from environmental degradation. A three-year funding agreement between the East African Community and the United States Agency for International Development is expected to ensure that the Mara River Basin is brought under sound management.

### **Argentina**

#### [El avance del desierto](#)

"Las fronteras de la desertificación no coinciden necesariamente, ni en el espacio ni en el tiempo, con las de las instituciones encargadas de gestionar el problema..."

#### [La desertificación continúa preocupando a los productores](#)

La desertificación se constituye en estos momentos en uno de los mayores problemas que los productores argentinos deben afrontar. Se trata de una problemática que surge a partir de la sobreexplotación de los suelos, donde la actividad petrolera y la ganadera tienen mucha incidencia.

### **Australia**

#### [Australia braces for "highest-risk" bushfire season](#)

Australia has begun preparing more than 1,000 fire refuges and will recast its national alert system to warn of "catastrophic" bushfires as a new fire season threatens to eclipse blazes this year which killed 173 people.

#### [Australia prepares fire refuges as 'worst ever' bush fire season starts](#)

Australians fleeing dangerous bush fires this summer will be urged to gather in 1,000 new fire refuges that are being prepared by the authorities in advance of what is predicted to be the country's worst ever bush fire season.

### **Brazil**

#### [Brasil refuerza sus lazos con la UE por el cambio climático](#)

13:55Lula acordó con el bloque europeo llevar una estrategia conjunta a la cumbre sobre el clima que se realizará en Copenhague. Y se comprometió a reducir en un 80% la deforestación.

#### [Brazil to continue reducing deforestation: President Lula](#)

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Tuesday that Brazil will continue its effort to reduce deforestation rate by 70 percent by 2017, and by 80 percent by 2020.

#### [Lula quiere reducir deforestación contra cambio climático](#)

El presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva afirmó el lunes que Brasil pretende reducir la deforestación en 80% hasta el 2020, lo que permitirá disminuir 4.800 toneladas de emisiones de dióxido de carbono causante del calentamiento global.

#### [Redd in the Amazon: 'We have the chance to set an example for Brazil and to make money from this'](#)

Amazonian cattle ranchers are starting to replant trees with funding from Norway.

### **Burkina Faso**

#### [Burkina farmers successful in fight against advancing desert](#)

As African policy makers demand compensation for the effects of climate change at a forum in Burkina Faso's capital, the country's farmers fight a daily struggle to halt the advancing Sahara desert.

### **Cameroon**

#### [Our lives are defined by this forest](#)

While logging concessions are designed to foster sustainable timber exploitation - in fact, operators are supposed to plant 10 trees for every one felled, although the provision is frequently violated - national parks create even stricter restrictions, as access is forbidden. These restrictions pose a threat to the Bakas, who now have to grapple with new challenges.

### **Canada**

#### [Little beetle a big puzzle for Canadian lumber](#)

Investors in Canada's forestry sector should pay attention to the speed skating competition at next year's Winter Olympics in Vancouver because it could help them with an insect problem. Western Canada's mountain pine beetle infestation has left forestry firms with both the short-term problem of how to make money in a tough market from beetle-killed trees, and the long-term risk of a fiber shortage.

### **Chile**

#### [Chile forestry to raise \\$1 bln to fund purchase](#)

Chilean forestry group plans to sell \$1 billion in shares and debt to finance the purchase of a Brazilian pulp business that will make it the world's No 3 cellulose producer.

### **China**

#### [Rare dove trees found in China](#)

A grove of more than 5,000 rare dove trees - some of them at least 800 years old - has been identified in southwest China.

### **Colombia**

#### [Colombia recibe del BID US\\$250 millones para adelantar plan contra el impacto del cambio](#)

El Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) anunció este jueves que Colombia lanzará un programa que reduzca la vulnerabilidad del país frente al calentamiento global. Según estudios, el nivel del mar

podría subir de 40 a 60 centímetros para 2050 en las costas colombianas, además de que las variaciones de los periodos de lluvia podrían acelerar la desertificación de hasta 3,5 millones de hectáreas.

#### [First neotropical rainforest was home of the titanoboa - world's biggest snake](#)

Researchers working in Colombia's Cerrejón coal mine have unearthed the first megafossil evidence of a neotropical rainforest. Titanoboa, the world's biggest snake, lived in this forest 58 million years ago at temperatures 3-5 C warmer than in rainforests today, indicating that rainforests flourished during warm periods.

#### **France**

##### [Des projets pour mieux assurer les forêts](#)

D'ici à la fin de l'année, le gouvernement devrait proposer des mesures concrètes pour couvrir les sinistres exceptionnels.

##### [Malgré le réchauffement...](#)

Oui, nos massifs forestiers souffrent ici et là de la hausse du mercure. Mais l'effet de serre et le CO2 ont surtout fait progresser de 50% leur productivité et leur croissance ! Du jamais vu ! Mieux : de récentes recherches assurent que les hêtres, chênes, pins sylvestres ou sapins ont des ressources génétiques insoupçonnées pour s'adapter.

#### **Gambia**

##### [Saaba man plants 22,000 cashew trees](#)

Foday Gassama , a 35-year old man resident of Saaba in Lower Niumi North Bank Region, has responded positively to the president's call for massive tree planting, by planting 22,000 cashew trees in a 6-hectare plot of land in Saaba village in North Bank Region.

#### **Japan**

##### [DoCoMo goes natural with wooden cell phones](#)

NTT DoCoMo is experimenting with using compressed wooden cases for cell phones. The wood used to make the Touch Wood prototypes comes from trees that are felled in forest-thinning operations, rather than being cut for commercial use. The felled trees are then chopped into blocks, which are then cut into the desired shape.

##### [Japanese maples under threat from climate change](#)

Japanese maples, which provide one of the most spectacular autumn colour displays, could be under threat from climate change, conservationists have warned.

#### **Kenya**

##### [Carnet de route - Dans le parc de Nakuru, les animaux malades de la sécheresse](#)

Après les villages massai et le camp de réfugiés de Dadaab et la forêt de Mau, nos reporters parcourent la réserve de Nakuru.

##### [Country moves to reclaim Mau](#)

The conservation of the Mau Forest begins in earnest next week when the government repossess 2,430 hectares of land grabbed by individuals.

##### [Drought: Kenya's own banking crisis](#)

The drought which has hit East Africa is wreaking havoc among the region's pastoralists. Their herds of livestock have been decimated. Even the hardy camels are dying.

##### [Team set up to find true size of forests](#)

An inventory to establish the size of forests in the country has been launched. The decision by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife follows conflicting reports over how much land is under forests and discrepancies in the definitions of "forests" and "woodlands".

##### [Team yet to speak out over Mau](#)

The eviction of settlers from the Mau Forest remained shrouded in secrecy a week after the government promised to unveil its action plan. The Interim Coordinating Secretariat charged with

handling removal of settlers, their compensation and resettlement has remained tight-lipped on the progress made.

## **Madagascar**

### [Climate change solutions come to life through new Google Earth tour](#)

The power of forests to deliver climate change solutions was displayed in a new virtual tour of Madagascar launched today by Google Earth in partnership with Conservation International (CI). Mixing satellite images with photos and videos, the tour shows initiatives to protect tropical forests and calls on citizens and governments to support these types of projects at the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen in December.

## **Malaysia**

### [Palm oil industry pledges wildlife corridors to save orangutans](#)

In an unlikely—and perhaps tenuous—alliance, conservationists and the palm oil industry met this week to draw up plans to save Asia's last great ape, the orangutan. As if to underscore the colloquium's importance, delegates on arriving in the Malaysian State of Sabah found the capital covered in a thick and strange fog caused by the burning of rainforests and peat lands in neighbouring Kalimantan.

## **Mexico**

### [Participa México en iniciativa para protección de bosques](#)

México participa con otros países en una iniciativa para pedir que la protección de los bosques y selvas tropicales sea la prioridad del programa de Reducción de Emisiones de Carbono por Deforestación y Degradación de los Bosques (REDD). Representantes de organizaciones no gubernamentales denunciaron intereses por desviar las prioridades en la materia.

## **Mongolia**

### [Swiss aid experts face Mongolian challenge](#)

Swiss refocus humanitarian aid Almost half of Mongolia is desert – and increasing. Switzerland, Mongolia's first non-socialist trading partner, is trying to stop this and save struggling herdsman.

## **Nigeria**

### [Deforestation - Sokoto government embarks on construction of shelter beds](#)

Determined to fight desertification and deforestation, Sokoto State Governor has directed the 23 local government councils to construct 2km shelter beds in their areas. He also warned individuals against indiscriminate cutting of trees in the state.

### [FG urged to declare Yobe desert area](#)

The Federal Government has been called upon to declare Yobe State a desert area due to the worsening drought in the state. Another food crisis is imminent if the situation is not handled properly.

### [Sokoto to create 46km shelterbelt](#)

The Sokoto state governor, has said that the 23 local government councils in the state are planting trees to create a 46-kilometre shelterbelt.

## **Russian Federation**

### [Siberian volcano 'wiped out world's forests' 250m years ago](#)

A huge Siberian volcano destroyed the world's forests 250 million years ago in what scientists say was the worst extinction event the planet has ever witnessed, new research has disclosed.

## **Rwanda**

### [100 firms to be evicted from Gikondo wetland](#)

The government has decided to relocate close to 100 commercial entities located in Gikondo wetland to another industrial park. According to the survey carried out earlier, the firms were found to be poorly constructed and hazardous to the surrounding environment.

## **Spain**

### [Alerta contra la amenaza que supone el Nematodo del pino](#)

La enfermedad puede penetrar con los muebles o la madera que vienen de Portugal por las provincias de Ourense o Pontevedra.

### [El valor económico de los montes de la región supera los 13.900 millones](#)

El 50% de esta cifra proviene de su aporte ambiental y el resto de aspectos productivos o vinculados al ocio. La superficie forestal arbolada supone casi la mitad de todo el territorio de la comunidad autónoma de Extremadura.

### [La temporada de setas alcanza su mejor momento después de un mal arranque](#)

El 'rovelló' ha caído de los 25 euros el kilo que se pagaban la semana pasada a 15 euros. Los entendidos afirman que este año podrían cerca de crecer 40 kilos de 'bolets' por hectárea.

## **Sweden**

### [Saving forests one of the most efficient climate remedies](#)

WWF Sweden is urging its government – holding the current EU Presidency - to get behind an effective international agreement on halting forest loss as a key and highly cost effective measure on climate change.

## **Thailand**

### [Thai villagers in bid to halt disappearing coast](#)

Caused by a combination of expanding fishing industries such as shrimp farms and global warming that has raised sea levels, the erosion has wiped out many of the mangrove forests that once offered a natural buffer on the Gulf of Thailand coast.

## **Uganda**

### [El-Nino rains begin, more areas to get landslides](#)

Heavy rains, expected to be disastrous in the mountainous areas and the eastern parts of Lake Kyoga, have started as predicted by weather experts. In mountainous districts, such as Mbale in eastern Uganda, landslides are expected.

### [Foresters' powers to be trimmed](#)

District authorities should no longer be allowed to grant permits for cutting trees, according to Uganda's environment minister .

### [World Bank to reward Uganda for planting trees](#)

Uganda is undertaking a reforestation project that will help reduce global warming emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. The Nile Basin Reforestation Project is a ground-breaking project being implemented by the National Forestry Authority (NFA) in association with local community organisations.

## **United Kingdom**

### [£20m sawmill gears up for action](#)

Operations have started at a £20m sawmill site in southern Scotland. Larbert-based James Jones and Sons will employ 85 people at its new Lockerbie plant once it is fully up and running.

### [A rainforest SOS to the world](#)

The Prince's Rainforest Project launched a global campaign to raise awareness for deforestation. The public campaign was originally launched back in May, garnering over 4 million views of their campaign frog videos and a long line of celebrity and corporate endorsements.

### [Great Forest vision is unveiled](#)

A project to recreate an ancient native woodland that covered central Scotland thousands of years ago has been officially launched. The forest will be created in the heart of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

### ['Great' Scottish forest to be resurrected](#)

A project to recreate ancient native woodland that covered central Scotland thousands of years ago has been officially launched.

### [New images of 'ghost forest' art](#)

Computer images of a "ghost forest" art installation planned for Trafalgar Square show the vast scale of a project designed to highlight deforestation.

### [Prince Charles' Rainforest Project launches celebrity-studded frog video campaign](#)

The Prince Charles' Rainforest Project launched its SOS campaign to raise support for a global effort to protect rainforests as a way to fight climate change. The campaign includes a series of videos featuring politicians, business leaders, celebrities, environmentalists, and concerned citizens discussing why it is important to save rainforests.

### **United States of America**

#### [After a devastating fire, an intense study of its effects](#)

The Station fire, which in over a month has burned away nearly a quarter of this vast, mountainous backdrop to the Los Angeles skyline, is finally just about out, sending all but a handful of firefighters home. Now, the scientists swoop in.

#### [Ancient rainforests resilient to climate change](#)

Climate change wreaked havoc on the Earth's first rainforests but they quickly bounced back, scientists reveal. The findings are based on spectacular discoveries of 300-million-year-old rainforests in coal mines in Illinois, USA.

#### [Biggest California forest owner enters carbon trade](#)

The largest private forest owner in California, Sierra Pacific Industries, is entering carbon markets with a deal to preserve redwoods and other trees and sell credits for soaking up greenhouse gases to power companies and investors.

#### [Boise River's cottonwoods in decline](#)

The black cottonwood trees that hold the banks of the Boise River together and shade its water are in decline. Dams constructed on the river have reduced the flooding that scours the river banks and creates seed beds for new trees. Today's trees grow from root suckers rather than seeds and are not as vigorous or healthy.

#### [Certification standards take hard line on forest products](#)

Once upon a time, the levies along the rivers in Sacramento, California were becoming unstable, so the city planted Eastern white oak trees to help root and hold them in place. The trees grew to maturity, but eventually the city re-evaluated them and realized they were no longer stabilizing the levies. The trees needed to be taken out.

#### [Curtailing tropical deforestation vital to U.S. interests](#)

Curtailing tropical deforestation is vital to U.S. national interests as a cost-effective means to slow climate change, argues a new report issued by the bipartisan Commission on Climate and Tropical Forests. Deforestation accounts for more than a sixth of global carbon dioxide emissions, more than the entire transportation sector.

#### [Ginkgos culled for turning streets 'stinky'](#)

Americans cities have begun chopping down ginkgo trees after complaints from residents that they caused a "sticky, slimy, smelly mess" every year when they shed fruit.

#### [Growth in mountain biking may put western park trails off limits](#)

As the number of mountain bikers has soared in recent years, the bikes have become lighter and more nimble — to the benefit of riders and the detriment of forest lands recommended for wilderness designation

#### [Hybrids of invasive Australian plant species casuarina found growing widely in Florida](#)

Hybrids of the invasive Australian plant species Casuarina exist in Florida. It has also become an environmental problem, invading and altering natural habitats including Everglades National Park, home to many threatened and endangered species.

#### [Lumber company enters carbon market](#)

Sierra Pacific Industries, the second largest lumber producer in the United States, has announced it is creating a carbon sequestration project on 60,000 acres of California forest land.

#### [Pathways of movement of sudden oak death pathogen described](#)

The pathogen that causes sudden oak death disease in California has a different genetic fingerprint than fungal strains found in nurseries in Oregon and Washington. This discovery will allow scientists to distinguish infections in other states as likely having originated from either California or the Pacific Northwest.

#### [Private U.S. landowners may qualify for carbon payments under proposed legislation](#)

Have you ever found yourself wondering what your backyard is worth in carbon? It may seem like a silly question – especially when deforestation in rainforest nations with millions of acres of tropical forest are spewing more CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere than any single industry – but small-scale deforestation in the developed world adds up. Now, US Senators aim to prove that small-scale forest projects are nothing to sneeze at.

#### [Smell has some cities ripping out ginkgo trees](#)

The ginkgo tree is renowned for its hardiness, surviving everything from road salt to an atomic bomb, but it may be undone by another trait -- it reeks.

#### [Staples and Home Depot join effort to save U.S. forests](#)

Staples, the office products company, and Home Depot, the home products retailer and one of the leading sellers of wood, will provide funding to pay private landowners in Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina to conserve and manage their forested land.

#### [Tennessee foresters helping to return chestnuts to American forests](#)

The American chestnut was a dominant species in eastern U.S.'s forests before a blight wiped it out in the early 1900s.

#### [U.S. companies may look abroad to fight global warming](#)

U.S. companies could save tens of billions of dollars by investing in efforts to combat deforestation in developing nations instead of cleaning up their own domestic carbon dioxide emissions.

### **Zambia**

#### [Zaffico engages community to fight deforestation](#)

The Zambia Forests and Forest Industries Corporation (ZAFFICO) has engaged two communities on the Copperbelt to participate in the K4 billion tree planting exercise. Communities from Ndola's Mansansa area and Kamfinsa in Kitwe had been engaged in the exercise to create a sense of ownership to avoid deforestation.

### **World**

#### [A tree's response to environmental changes: what can we expect over the next 100 years?](#)

The many environmental issues facing our society are prevalent in the media lately. Global warming, rainforest devastation, and endangered species have taken center stage. Our ecosystem is composed of a very delicate network of interactions among all species and the non-living environment. Predicting how each component of this complex system will respond to the many environmental changes sweeping the globe is a challenging problem today's scientists face.

#### [Cambio climático: expertos exigen liderazgo a EEUU](#)

Un grupo de expertos de Estados Unidos llamó a poner como prioridad en las políticas sobre cambio climático a la lucha contra la deforestación, y pidió al gobierno de Barack Obama que asuma el liderazgo.

#### [Cultivar biocarburantes en bosques genera más CO2 del que evita](#)

Puede ser de dos a cuatro veces más catastrófico que con el recurso de los carburantes fósiles debido a la tala de bosques tropicales para producir aceite de palma.

#### [Desarrollan un nuevo método para mejorar la conservación de los bosques](#)

Herramienta permite identificar las unidades de manejo (unidades de conservación) dentro de una determinada área forestal al definir de modo objetivo la escala en la que se debe actuar y las islas de vegetación más importantes para el mantenimiento de la diversidad genética.

#### [Desertification: goes hand to hand with climate change](#)

The Latin American region has not escaped the threat of desertification. According to a 2005 study by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 25 percent of the regional territory is arid, semiarid, or sub-humid, and of that total 75 percent suffers erosion.

#### [Development agencies call for indigenous people to play role in forest management](#)

A new report calls on industrialized countries to ensure financial support to efforts to conserve and manage forests. The report says indigenous people in Asia should play a key role in forestry, to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### [Early hominid first walked on two legs in the woods](#)

Among the many surprises associated with the discovery of the oldest known, nearly complete skeleton of a hominid is the finding that this species took its first steps toward bipedalism not on the open, grassy savanna, as generations of scientists – going back to Charles Darwin – hypothesized, but in a wooded landscape.

#### ["El avanzado proceso de deforestación es la mayor amenaza de extinción para el orangután"](#)

Con una población de apenas 25.000 individuos repartidos entre las islas de Borneo y Sumatra, en 2007 se descubrió un grupo de cerca de un millar de ejemplares en el bosque de Sungai Putri, en la región indonesia de Kalimantan, en Borneo. El animal más inteligente después del hombre, el orangután está en grave peligro de extinción, principalmente a causa de la destrucción incontrolada de su hábitat.

#### [EU pushes for logging in forest conservation program](#)

Without safeguards to protect natural forests from conversion to plantations and industrial logging, REDD may fail to deliver promised reductions in emissions.

#### [Give forests back to local people to save them](#)

Give tropical forests back to the people who live in them – and the trees will soak up your carbon for you. Above all, keep the forests out of the hands of government. So concludes a study that has tracked the fate of 80 forests worldwide over 15 years.

#### [Going green on hold: human activities can affect 'blue haze,' world's weather](#)

"Blue haze", a common occurrence that appears over heavily forested areas around the world, is formed by natural emissions of chemicals, but human activities can worsen it to the point of affecting the world's weather and even cause potential climate problems

#### [How cities drive plants extinct](#)

How towns and cities cause the extinction of local plants has been revealed for the first time.

#### [Indígenas reclaman sus derechos en el Amazonas en reunión cambio climático](#)

La Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA) exigió que se reconozcan sus derechos sobre las tierras ancestrales en las conversaciones sobre cambio climático que se celebran en la sede de la ONU en Bangkok.

#### [La amenaza que viene del suelo](#)

La desertificación provoca a nivel mundial una pérdida del 1 por ciento de la productividad del suelo por año. El 68% de la superficie de América del Sur tiene problemas vinculados a la degradación del suelo, lo que impacta gravemente en la productividad de una de las principales regiones agro-exportadoras del mundo.

#### [La desertificación también distingue entre ricos y pobres](#)

El alimento de uno de cada tres habitantes del planeta peligra por la desertificación del suelo. El 40% de las tierras es árido, entre un 15% y un 25% más que en 1990. Además, esos terrenos secos están concentrados en países en vías de desarrollo o pobres. La Convención de la ONU de Buenos Aires denuncia el doble rasero.

#### [La NASA certifica que la tala de bosques hundi6 el imperio maya](#)

Los efectos de una severa sequía fueron catapultados por la deforestación. Los investigadores creen que las lluvias bajaron un 30% por el maltrato ecológico.

### [Leaders from Indonesia, Brazil join 3 U.S. states in deforestation accord](#)

Three U.S. governors and eight regional leaders from Brazil and Indonesia have drafted a memorandum they intend to make official today that calls on the presidents of their nations to write generous forestry provisions into an international climate change pact in Copenhagen in December.

### [Livestock can help rangelands recover from fires](#)

A study found that rangelands that have been grazed by cattle recover from fires more effectively than rangelands that have been protected from livestock. These surprising findings could impact management strategies for native plant communities where ecological dynamics are shifting because of climate change, invasive weeds and other challenges.

### [Mexican forest owners develop their organisations with Finnish help](#)

A cooperation project between Finnish and Mexican forest owner organisations aims at improving the provision of advice and lobbying in Mexico.

### [New ancient fungus finding suggests world's forests were wiped out in global catastrophe](#)

Tiny organisms that covered the planet more than 250 million years ago appear to be a species of ancient fungus that thrived in dead wood.

### [Nitrogen deposition limits climate change impacts on carbon sequestration](#)

Forests are important in reducing the green house gas carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). For the period 2000-2007, it has been estimated that from the 8.9 billion ton of carbon released by human activities, approximately 46% is found back in the atmosphere. The removed 54% is due to an estimated equal amount absorbed in oceans and taken up by forests and other natural vegetations. The role of forest growth is assumed to increase in the future due to climate change and increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

### [No rainforest, no monsoon: get ready for a warmer world](#)

By 2055, climate change is likely to have warmed the world by a dangerous 4°C unless we stop pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere the way we do now. Climate change, deforestation and fires spreading from degraded land into pristine forest will conspire to destroy over 83 per cent of the Amazon rainforest by 2100.

### [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.

### [Plataforma indígena denuncia su exclusión del diálogo del cambio climático](#)

La plataforma Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) denunció hoy que los grupos indígenas han sido excluidos de las conversaciones sobre cambio climático que se celebran en Bangkok auspiciadas por la ONU para establecer la agenda de la próxima Cumbre de Copenhague, en diciembre. Según IEN, los proyectos piloto de REDD han provocado casos de fraude, conflicto y militarización en países como Perú y Papúa Nueva Guinea, al apropiarse de parcelas de bosques.

### [Redd comes with risks but there is no other choice than to try](#)

By rewarding transparency and accuracy, we can make the UN's forest protection scheme work.

### [Sales of certified palm oil grow](#)

Sales of palm oil certified as being produced at less cost to the environment have accelerated after a slow start.

### [Satellite data instrumental in combating desertification](#)

With land degradation in dryland regions continuing to worsen, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification has agreed on scientist-recommended indicators for monitoring and assessing desertification that signatory countries must report on.

### [Scorched earth: Wildfires will change the way we live](#)

The fossil record shows that fires started to occur soon after vegetation was established on Earth during the Silurian, about 420 million years ago. Ancient terrestrial life's exposure to fire gives us good

reason to think fire is an important evolutionary factor and, more controversially, that life co-evolved with fire.

#### [States push into global climate talks over forests](#)

States and provinces with half the world's tropical forests told their national governments to act fast on deforestation, forcing their way into international climate talks that they said were moving too slowly.

#### [The Maya 'did it to themselves'](#)

In spite of their reputation, archaeological evidence convinced experts that the Maya Civilization in fact deforested large swaths of land near their settlements, for three main reasons: to make way for more farm lands, so as to grow corn for an ever-expanding population; to obtain firewood; and for construction materials.

#### [The other inconvenient truth: the crisis in global land use](#)

As the international community focuses on climate change as the great challenge of our era, it is ignoring another looming problem - the global crisis in land use.

#### [Un hongo confirma que hubo una gran destrucción de los bosques en el Permiano-Triásico](#)

Un equipo de investigación del Imperial College de Londres afirma que la masiva aparición de fósiles del hongo "Reduviasporonitas", que vivió en el periodo Permiano-Triásico, podría confirmar que la masiva destrucción de especies animales se extendió también a las plantas.

#### [UN meeting reaches agreement on measuring desertification](#)

The world's countries have agreed to a minimum set of indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, drought and land degradation in what a United Nations official has called a "groundbreaking achievement" in the battle against a problem afflicting nations on every continent.

#### [UN warns of 70 percent desertification by 2025](#)

Drought could parch close to 70 percent of the planet's soil by 2025 unless countries implement policies to slow desertification.

#### [UN's forest protection scheme at risk from organised crime, experts warn](#)

International police, politicians and conservationists warn that the UN's programme to cut carbon emissions by paying poor countries to preserve their forests is 'open to wide abuse'.

#### [Unión Europea impide protección de bosques naturales en cumbre de cambio climático en Bangkok](#)

Las negociaciones sobre el Programa de Reducción de Emisiones de Carbono causadas por la Deforestación y la Degradación de los Bosques (REDD, por las siglas en inglés) terminaron explosivamente esta semana cuando, a pesar del apoyo explícito de 20 países, la Unión Europea impidió la inclusión de una salvaguarda para evitar la conversión de bosques naturales en plantaciones.

#### [Using satellites to predict water problems in developing countries](#)

Many of the world's river basins are not subject to accurate monitoring, especially those in developing countries. The few measurements that have been taken in these areas are often uncertain, incomplete or chronologically inconsistent. This makes it difficult to construct sound hydrological models. Such models are essential to predict drought, high water and the availability of water.

#### [Where the dust blows and settles](#)

Reducing desertification — keeping the dust on the ground as soil, part of a stable, living ecosystem — will be a critical task faced by every country capable of raising the dust and every country where the dust eventually settles. That list includes most of the world.

#### [Zero net deforestation by 2020](#)

WWF will highlight the urgency of global leaders committing to a zero net deforestation by 2020 target at the XIIIth World Forestry Congress. This includes a complementary climate change target of reducing gross forest-based greenhouse gas emissions by at least 75 per cent by 2020.

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