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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.

Forthcoming Events

[Conferencia Mundial de los Pueblos sobre el Cambio Climático y los Derechos de la Madre Tierra](#)
Cochabamba, Bolivia - 19 al 22 de Abril 2010

[Forests for the future: Sustaining society and the environment - 23d World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations \(IUFRO\)](#)

Seoul, Republic of Korea - 23–28 August 2010

[Taking stock of smallholder and community forestry: Where do we go from here?](#)

Montpellier, France - 24–26 March 2010

[Workshop on forest governance, decentralisation and REDD in Latin America](#)

Mexico City, Mexico - 31 August–3 September 2010

[World Water Week 2010: The Water Quality Challenge](#)

Stockholm, Sweden - September 5 – 11, 2010

New Publication

[Nature & Faune 24/1 – L'importance de la mangrove pour la pêche, la faune sauvage et les ressources en eau en Afrique](#)

Le 1er numéro du 24ème Volume de Nature & Faune offre une collection de 14 articles différents soulignant divers aspects des mangroves - des peuplements naturels luxuriants et des plantations d'enrichissement, aux diverses utilisations des écosystèmes de mangroves. L'article spécial met en relief un travail original effectué au Cameroun, qui fournit un aperçu de la gestion de l'écosystème de mangrove du niveau communautaire au niveau national. Le 'Pays à la Une' explique comment la faune sauvage, les ressources en eau et les pêches de Madagascar sont interconnectées avec les écosystèmes de ses mangroves. Et les défis que pose la gestion des mangroves dans la zone de la Mer rouge (côte nord-est de l'Afrique) font partie des divers sujets abordés.

FAO

[Eduardo Rojas estará al frente del departamento Forestal de la FAO](#)

Eduardo Rojas es el nuevo director de este departamento donde intentará reforzar la función normalizadora de la FAO para que el cuidado de los bosques tenga mayor protagonismo en el mundo y crear un marco legislativo común a todos los países.

Press review/ Revue de presse/ Informe de prensa: 1 - 28 February 2010

Africa

[El MARM impulsará la certificación forestal en África central](#)

El Director General de Medio Natural y Política Forestal del MARM, José Jiménez García-Herrera, ha mantenido una reunión con representantes de la organización para la conservación de la naturaleza "World Wildlife Fund", a los que ha trasladado el compromiso del Ministerio de apoyar la certificación forestal en África central y, de manera paralela, el impulso de políticas de compra pública que den preferencia a los productos certificados.

['Great Green Wall' to halt the spread of the Sahara](#)

A gigantic wall stretching over thousands of kilometres is being erected in Africa, which has no parallels in human history except the Green Wall of China designed to hold back the Gobi desert. The African fence - named the 'Great Green Wall', which will run through 11 countries - is purported to halt the southward advance of the Sahara. And it will be much more than a wall of trees stretching from Senegal to Djibouti.

Australia

[Australia starts 10 million dollar initiative to find new species](#)

Known as the 'Bush Blitz', Australia will spend 10 million Australian dollars (8.88 million US dollars) over the next three years to conduct biodiversity surveys in far-flung places. The program hopes to both uncover new species and gather more data about innumerable little-known plants and animals on the continent.

[Could toxins from plantation trees be causing cancer cluster, oyster deaths in Tasmania?](#)

A local medical doctor, a marine ecologist, and oyster farmers are raising an alarm that a nearby monoculture plantation of Eucalyptus nitens may be poisoning local water reserves, leading to rare cancers and high oyster mortality in Tasmania. However, the toxin is not from pesticides, as originally expected, but appears to originate from the trees themselves.

Bangladesh

[Realistic step to make Barind Tract free from desertification](#)

Speakers at a discussion unequivocally called for undertaking a need-based step to make the vast tract of barind area free from the possible desertification. They said that enriching the surface water resources by re-excavating the existing ponds and canals across the area could be the means of preventing the desertification process.

Botswana

[Permits needed for residents to sell firewood](#)

Residents have now come to an understanding with the department of forestry to sell firewood, on condition that they are in possession of the relevant permits. The harvest and dealer permits, which the residents are required to have in order to engage in the firewood business, have to be renewed every month

Brazil

[Agricultura eficiente, clave para salvar el Amazonas](#)

Mientras camina sobre un polvoriento arrozal que alguna vez fue una selva, el investigador Flavio Wruck explica de qué manera la agricultura, el mayor exterminador del Amazonas, puede convertirse en su mejor defensor.

[Amazon rainforest will bear cost of biofuel policies in Brazil](#)

Business-as-usual agricultural expansion to meet biofuel production targets for 2020 will take a heavy toll on Brazil's Amazon rainforest in coming years, undermining the potential emissions savings of transitioning from fossil fuels to biofuels.

[Brasil tardaría 250 años en pagar una deuda de carbono](#)

La extensión de plantaciones para producir biocombustibles, proyectada por el gobierno de Brasil para los próximos años, podría generar una deuda de carbono que el país tardaría más de dos siglos en pagar. Utilizando un modelo matemático, los autores estiman que la producción de etanol y de biodiesel será responsable de prácticamente la mitad de los 121.970 kilómetros cuadrados de deforestación proyectada para el año 2020.

[Brazil celebrates 72% drop in deforestation, credits it to green arch](#)

An area of 247 square kilometers (95 square miles) of Brazilian rainforest was cut down in the months of October and November 2009, which may seem like a lot, but it was a significant drop in Amazon deforestation. In fact, it was 72.5% less than in October and November 2008.

[Brazil grants license for controversial Amazon mega-dam](#)

The Brazilian government has granted an environmental license for the construction of the controversial Belo Monte hydro-electric dam in the Amazon. The dam, planned for the Xingu River in the northern state of Pará, will be the third largest in the world and is estimated to cost \$17 billion. It will flood 500 square kilometers of land, causing huge devastation to the rainforest, and have a major impact on fish stocks.

[Brazil to build controversial Belo Monte hydroelectric dam in Amazon rainforest](#)

Environmentalists and tribal leaders oppose massive flooding, while Brazil minister states 'not a single Indian will be displaced'.

[Brazil's biofuel expansion doesn't directly lead to deforestation - But the ranches it displaces do](#)

Here's an interesting one on the connection between biofuel expansion in Brazil, cattle ranching, and deforestation: the expansion of biofuel production in Brazil won't directly lead to more deforestation, but will indirectly do so as it takes over land previously used for cattle ranching.

[Brésil: feu vert à un barrage géant et controversé en Amazonie](#)

Un projet de barrage géant en Amazonie brésilienne, le troisième au monde, a reçu lundi le feu vert du ministère de l'Environnement, un projet très critiqué pour ses conséquences sur l'environnement et les populations indigènes.

[Environmentalists and indigenous groups decry approval of massive dam in Amazon](#)

The approval of the hydro-electric Belo Monte Dam from the Brazilian environmental agency, IBAMA, has raised condemnations from environmentalists and indigenous groups. The dam will divert the flow of the Xingu River, a tributary of the Amazon River, which runs through the Amazon in northeast Brazil. According to critics the dam will destroy vast areas of pristine rainforest, disrupt sensitive ecosystems, and relocate 12,000 people.

[From Savannah to saving the rain forest](#)

Albert George has gone from a childhood in the Hostess City to working with a wealthy Brazilian to restore portions of the Amazon jungle.

[Huge hydroelectric dam approved in Brazil's Amazon](#)

Brazil's government has granted an environmental license for the construction of a controversial hydroelectric dam in the heart of the Amazon rainforest.

[Smarter farming key to saving Amazon rainforest](#)

Walking on a dusty field of cut rice that was once rainforest, researcher Flavio Wruck explains how farming, the Amazon's biggest killer, can be turned into its best defender.

[Tribe sights uncontacted Amazon Indians](#)

A previously unknown Indian tribe has been spotted in the south-western Amazon. The group, who were encountered by members of a neighboring tribe known as the Katukina, were apparently short, long-haired, and had painted their bodies with urucum [red annatto] dye.

[Yanomami fear for their lives as miners invade their land](#)

Yanomami shaman and spokesman Davi Kopenawa has made an urgent appeal for support as the Yanomami territory in northern Brazil is being invaded by gold-miners.

Cameroon

[World Wetland's Day - Gov't announces reinforced conservation methods](#)

The government of Cameroon has promised to step up the fight against climate change to conserve the country's humid zones and consolidate biodiversity so as to contribute to the nation's development. The Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection, Pierre Hele made the disclosure while presiding at commemorative activities at the Yaounde Conference Centre to mark the 14th World Wetlands Day. He said efforts are deployed towards the rational use of water so that all in need of the precious liquid would have access to it.

Canada

[Canada creates massive new park in the boreal](#)

The government of Canada and the governments of the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador signed a memorandum of understanding to create a the new Mealy Mountains National Park. Larger than Yellowstone National Park, the new Canadian park will span 11,000 square kilometers making it the largest protected area in Eastern Canada.

[Grizzly bears move into polar bear territory, threatening polar cubs](#)

Two of the world's largest land carnivores are converging on the same territory. Grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) are moving into an area that has long been considered prime polar bear habitat in Manitoba, Canada.

[The space trees have landed](#)

The shuttle Endeavour's return to Earth on Monday (GMT) brought with it the first trees grown on the International Space Station (ISS). The weeping willows were a Canadian-led experiment to try to understand what makes wood.

Chile

[Medio ambiente, energía y sector forestal: Las promesas de Piñera](#)

Conozca cuál es la visión y postura del nuevo Presidente de Chile, Sebastián Piñera.

[Minagri lanza proyecto que resguardará patrimonio genético forestal](#)

La iniciativa promoverá el uso sustentable de los recursos, con el propósito de proteger su uso y facilitar su utilización en próximas aplicaciones productivas.

[Proyecto de optimización de Nueva Aldea genera polémicas](#)

Mientras los trabajadores esperan la creación de nuevos puestos de trabajo, detractores cuestionan la medida. Según Arauco, la ampliación generaría mil quinientos empleos directos e indirectos.

China

[China marks year of tiger with drive to save biggest cat](#)

Chinese government, World Bank and NGOs co-operating on multimillion-dollar scheme to protect Amur tiger.

[China provoca lluvia artificial en el sur del país para evitar incendios forestales](#)

La provincia de Yunnan (sur de China) lanzó 1.555 cohetes que provocan lluvia artificial con el fin de frenar el riesgo de incendios forestales durante la peor sequía que azota la región en los últimos 60 años, informó la agencia oficial de noticias Xinhua.

[Clock ticks for South China tigers in symbolic year](#)

In the rugged hills of southern China, conservationists are battling to save the critically endangered South China tiger, an initiative given extra impetus as Chinese celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

[Looming water crisis in China threatens growth, report says](#)

China's growth may be imperiled unless the country addresses a deepening water crisis, according to a report released by the Asia Water Project. Scarcity and pollution of the resource will be particularly acute for water-intensive industries such as steel, textiles, paper and forest products, "Water in China: Issues for Responsible Investors," forecasts.

[New forests fend off desert encroachment at Great Wall in NW China](#)

Northwest China's Shaanxi Province has been successful in fending off desert encroachment with afforestation near the ruins of the Great Wall. Satellite images taken in August 2009 show the wind-and-sand zone along the ancient defence in Yulin City on the Loess Plateau has turned from yellow to green, according to the province's forestry department.

[The critically endangered South China Tiger roars again in 2010. the Chinese Year of the Tiger](#)

Today marks the Chinese New Year for 2010, and the start of the traditional "Year of the Tiger." The people of China might be celebrating future Years of the Tigers without their native and critically endangered South China Tiger (*Panthera tigris amoyensis*) if not for the efforts of Save China's Tigers (SCT), a grassroots conservation effort.

[Tiger farms in China feed thirst for parts](#)

The crowd-pleasing Year of the Tiger, which begins Sunday, could be a lousy year for the estimated 3,200 tigers that still roam the world's diminishing forests. With as few as 20 in the wild in China, the country's tigers are a few gun blasts away from extinction, and in India poachers are making quick work of the tiger population, the world's largest.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

[Arrivée de bois suspect provenant de forêts congolaises](#)

Une dizaine de militants de Greenpeace se sont approchés d'un stock de grumes de Wengé, une essence de bois provenant de la province de l'Equateur, en République démocratique du Congo (RDC).

[Magic dust - who benefits?](#)

If the gorillas inhabiting the Kahuzi Biega National Park located in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a World Heritage site and ecological sanctuary, could read, the bible may have come handy. Not the bible of God, mind you, but that of the free marketers religion: The Wall Street Journal.

Ecuador

[Ecuadorian judge changed on Chevron pollution case](#)

The provincial court in Ecuador's Amazon region that is hearing a \$27 billion environmental damages case against Chevron Corp has changed the judge in charge of the case.

Ethiopia

['Open the dam and let the water flow' – desperate plea from Omo Valley](#)

Many tribal people in the Lower Omo Valley in Ethiopia are starving as the region is in the grip of a drought and the river's annual flood has failed.

Finland

[Central Finland has succeeded in defining protection sites for Siberian Flying Squirrel](#)

Flying squirrels have survived equally well on identified and marked protection sites near fellings and in areas where no felling has been done, a study reveals.

[Forest industry returns as the top investor in Finland](#)

In 2009 the forest industry was the second largest investor among the Finnish manufacturing industries. This year it will again hold the top position.

[Metso Programme is up to full speed for the first time](#)

Both fixed-term and permanent tools for forest conservation are in use. Temporary conservation is an important tool for many forest owners.

France

[Espaces boisés classés: l'arbre qui cache une forêt de contraintes](#)

Certains propriétaires de bois, voire de haies, sont en train de découvrir que leur commune a classé ces espaces verts et qu'ils sont donc soumis à des autorisations de coupe préalable.

[La forêt ne gagne plus de terrain en France](#)

C'est la rupture d'une tendance historique de plus d'un siècle : en 2008, la forêt a cessé de gagner du terrain en France, après une progression continue pendant plus de cent cinquante ans. Ce tournant majeur dans l'occupation du territoire a été observé par les statisticiens du ministère de l'agriculture, dont l'enquête Teruti sur l'utilisation du territoire a été publiée fin 2009.

[La forêt rhénane, une zone humide remarquable sous la protection de Ramsar](#)

De part et d'autre du fleuve, la forêt est luxuriante: arbres immenses, lianes exubérantes, sources phréatiques... Végétation sauvage et atmosphère tropicale: ce qui reste du vieux Rhin est considéré comme une richesse d'importance internationale.

[Le lent réveil de la forêt](#)

Un an après l'ouragan Klaus, qui a dévasté 70 % de la forêt landaise, les sylviculteurs s'efforcent de sauver le bois qui peut encore l'être. Déçus par les aides annoncées, jugées insuffisantes, ils retroussent leurs manches. Et tentent de trouver de nouveaux débouchés.

[Les communes forestières s'alarment de l'absence de budget pour l'ONF en 2010](#)

La Fédération nationale des communes forestières (FNcofor) et les syndicats de l'Office national des forêts (ONF) ont déploré le fait que le budget de 2010 ne soit toujours pas voté, craignant une 'politique de gestion à très court terme de la filière du bois'.

[LGV Tours-Bordeaux, le déboisement commence](#)

Le compte à rebours des travaux est désormais lancé pour la LGV Tours-Bordeaux. En effet, depuis le début du mois de février, les premières opérations de déboisement sont en cours sur la trace de la future LGV Sud Europe Atlantique.

[Marion, garde de l'ONF: l'amour de la forêt](#)

L'histoire commence comme un conte de fée. Un jour de janvier 2000, la belle feuillette Cheval Star et pose son regard sur une « fiche métier » qui explique ce qu'est le métier de garde forestier à cheval, un travail sympathique mais une profession qui n'offre que très peu de postes à pourvoir. Qu'importe, à onze ans, la petite Marion a déjà le caractère bien trempé.

[Nicolas Sarkozy veut raccorder la Corse au développement durable](#)

En déplacement dans l'île de beauté, le Président de la République a annoncé un certain nombre de décisions pour l'avenir de la Corse et promis des emplois verts. Outre la création d'un institut euroméditerranéen des feux de forêt, Nicolas Sarkozy a validé le projet de raccordement de l'île avec le futur gazoduc GALSI et annonce la construction d'une centrale thermique le développement massif des énergies renouvelables.

[Tempête: 175 millions d'euros de décaissés après un an](#)

Dans le cadre du plan de solidarité nationale faisant suite à la tempête Klaus de janvier 2009, l'Etat a déjà dépensé 75 millions d'euros sur les 159 millions de subventions prévues. Les banques ont aussi décaissé 100 millions d'euros sur les 188 millions de prêts accordés, selon un communiqué du ministère de l'Agriculture, publié mercredi. Une réunion avec les responsables professionnels de la filière de la forêt et du bois du Sud-Ouest a permis de dresser un bilan d'étape du plan de solidarité nationale qui doit s'échelonner sur huit ans.

Gabon

[Le Gabon confirme l'interdiction d'export de bois en grumes, avec des compensations](#)

Le Premier ministre gabonais, Paul Biyoghé Mba, a confirmé l'interdiction d'exporter le bois en grumes, tout en promettant des mesures d'accompagnement lors d'un forum sur la gestion forestière à Libreville.

Ghana

[Desertification and deforestation: dragging down the financial economy of the people](#)

Desertification and deforestation are gradually creeping into the lands of the country, as each passing day, human, animal, and industrial activities contribute to activities of desertification and deforestation.

[Gov't begins community afforestation in bolga](#)

The government through the various assemblies and the Ministry of Forestry has begun a pilot scheme known as community afforestation to help check desertification and improve the environment.

[Protect our forest reserves](#)

The Western Regional Manager of the Forestry Services Division of the Forestry Commission, Mr. Kwakye Ameyaw, has called on people living around forest reserve areas in the region to protect the reserves, in the interest of the country. He said in order to maintain the rich and scarce resources in the forest reserves, we need to protect them.

[To conserve or not to conserve - nation's forests and climate change](#)

As the debate on how best to address climate change advances, experts have identified the role of forests as one of the solutions that has the potential to combat the phenomenon.

Guyana

[Guyana gold, gem miners protest tree felling rules](#)

Hundreds of gold and diamond miners in Guyana's main mining town protested against restrictions on tree felling proposed by the government as part of a \$250 million forest-saving carbon deal with Norway.

Haiti

[In devastated Haiti, a wary look to the sky](#)

Aid workers are warning that 1.2 million people left homeless by the powerful Jan. 12 quake still lack basic shelter and latrines, putting them at high risk of flash floods, mudslides, and diseases such as typhoid and malaria. Some rain typically falls every month in Haiti, meteorologists say, but heavy downpours could begin as early as this month. Deforestation on the towering mountains provides little to stop torrential rains from flooding Port-au-Prince below. This year, the earthquake has left tens of thousands of people sleeping under flimsy tents of bedsheets or plastic tarps, and surrounded by wreckage that could become projectiles in high winds.

Honduras

[ICF sólo tiene 144 personas para combatir los incendios forestales](#)

Aunque parece increíble, pero es la verdad, para este verano, el Instituto de Conservación Forestal (ICF) sólo cuenta con 144 personas contratadas para prevenir y combatir incendios en todas las regiones boscosas de los 18 departamentos de todo el país.

India

[Amnesty slams Vedanta Resources](#)

Amnesty International released a report condemning the behaviour of FTSE 100 mining company Vedanta Resources. The Amnesty report exposes gross human rights violations committed by the company in Orissa, India. Vedanta plans to build a bauxite mine on a mountain sacred to the Dongria Kondh tribe, and has already built a refinery at the base of the hills.

[Cats on camera](#)

Few wild animals are more charismatic than tigers and other big cats. And few are more threatened by habitat loss, poaching and other problems. So a new set of photos, made by automated cameras in a rain forest in northeast India are "an encouraging sign," according to group of conservation organizations aiming to protect biodiversity hotspots.

[Dongria Kondh tribe hold mountain festival and vow to stop Vedanta's mine](#)

The Dongria Kondh tribe in India held their annual festival of worship on the top of their sacred mountain, which UK company Vedanta Resources is determined to mine for aluminium ore.

['Govt abetting deforestation for illegal mining'](#)

Opposition leader Manohar Parrikar has lambasted the state government, alleging that it is abetting deforestation even as rampant illegal mining continues.

[Highest diversity of cats in the world discovered in threatened forest of India](#)

Using camera traps over a two-year period, wildlife biologist Kashmira Kakati has discovered seven species of wild cats living in the same forest: the Jeypore-Dehing lowland forests in the northeastern Indian state of Assam. Yet the cat-crazy ecosystem is currently threatened by deforestation, unsustainable extractive industries, including crude oil and coal, and big hydroelectric projects.

[India to track every tiger death on-line](#)

Due to increased problems with poaching, the conservation organization TRAFFIC has joined with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to begin tracking every tiger mortality in India with a new website called Tigernet.

[India's contribution pushes UN global campaign to over 10 billion trees planted](#)

India, the world's second most populous country, announced today that it is coming on board the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) campaign to cover the world with billions of trees, pushing the total number planted so far to more than 10 billion since the movement started in 2006.

[Orissa tops list of states diverting forest land for mining](#)

Over 18,000 hectare of forest land has been diverted for mining purpose in the last three years across the country with Orissa topping the list of states. Orissa saw 5,151 hectare of forest land being diverted since January 2007 followed by Andhra Pradesh (3431 hectare), Karanataka (3359 hectare), Jharkhand (3275 hectare) and Goa (1065 hectare).

[Rare Indian wild cats are caught on film](#)

India's Eastern Himalayan rainforest could have one of the world's largest number of wild cat species, after seven species were recorded in two years.

[The battle with Vedanta is not over yet](#)

Although the Joseph Rowntree trust has pulled its investments in the mining company, other shareholders need to follow suit.

[With 2.5 bn trees planted, India joins UN initiative](#)

By planting 2.5 billion trees since 2007, India has joined the Plant for Planet: The Billion Tree Campaign of the UN.

[WWF pide protección para un bosque indio que alberga a 7 especies felinas](#)

Al menos siete especies de felinos salvajes han sido documentadas en un mismo bosque en el estado nororiental indio de Assam, reveló hoy la organización ecologista WWF, que consideró el descubrimiento como razón suficiente para garantizar la protección de este hábitat.

Indonesia

[BBC documentary leads Unilever to blacklist Indonesian palm oil company](#)

Unilever has told Indonesian suppliers to stop sourcing palm oil from Duta Palma due to concerns over deforestation.

[Can palm oil help Indonesia's poor?](#)

Are these palm oil saplings on cleared rainforest a sign of hope or of doom? Panorama last week reported on the disturbing destruction of orangutan habitats in Indonesia for palm oil plantations. But are there benefits from these plantations for local people?

[Conflicting signals out of Indonesia on whether palm oil plantations will be classified as forests](#)

Indonesia will not allow the conversion of natural forest for oil palm plantations, claimed the country's Forestry Minister Zulkifli Hasan in comments reported by the Jakarta Post.

[Déforestation en Indonésie: ce que nous pouvons faire](#)

La déforestation est un fléau d'ampleur mondiale. Pourquoi alors, vous parler spécifiquement aujourd'hui de l'Indonésie ? La première raison, c'est que ce pays en détient le triste record, avec près de 2 millions d'hectares qui disparaissent chaque année. Il ne reste ainsi aujourd'hui que 48 millions environ d'hectares de forêt sur les 160 millions que l'Indonésie comptait encore en 1950.

[Dying for a biscuit](#)

This deforestation releases huge amounts of greenhouse gases into the global environment. As the forest disappears, at a rate of two football pitches every minute, so too does the habitat of man's closest cousins, the critically endangered orangutan.

[El aceite de palma 'quema' los bosques de Indonesia](#)

El aceite de palma no tiene buena prensa. Cada año, millones de hectáreas de bosque y selva son destruidas para poder cultivar la palma aceitera, con terribles consecuencias para el medio ambiente. Además, se trata de un aceite poco saludable debido a su alto contenido en ácidos grasos saturados.

[Four tigers found at suburban Jakarta home](#)

Indonesian conservation officials have discovered four fully-grown tigers at a house in Jakarta, along with several rare cockatoos and birds of paradise.

[Half of Indonesia's species remain unknown](#)

Incorporating 17,000 tropical islands, Indonesia is one of the world's richest areas of biodiversity. However, many of these species may vanish without ever being known. Indonesia's forests, and in turn its species, are facing unparalleled pressures. Rampant deforestation for tropical wood, oil palm plantations, mining, and fuel have taken a great toll on Indonesia's environment. Fifty years ago 82 percent of Indonesia was covered with forests. As of 2005 that percentage has dropped to 48 percent. Illegal logging is a huge issue in the nation: even its protected areas have been infiltrated in the past.

[Illegal loggers hit community reforestation project in Indonesia, spurring questions about REDD](#)

Illegal loggers are targeting community-managed forests in South Sumatra, renewing questions over forestry governance and law enforcement as the Indonesia prepares to capitalize on payments for conservation and reforestation under a proposed climate change mitigation mechanism known as REDD.

[Indonesia allows mining, other projects in forests](#)

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has signed a decree to allow projects including mining, power plants, transport and renewable energy deemed strategically important to take place in protected forests.

[Indonesia asks Freeport to submit forest permit](#)

Indonesia's forestry ministry has asked Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc to submit a request to use land in a protected forest area.

[Indonesia encourages tiger adoption](#)

With fewer than 500 Sumatran tigers left in the wild, Indonesia's government is considering a scheme that will allow people to keep the critically endangered animals as pets. The forestry ministry says all that is required is \$1,000 and a large cage.

[Indonesia forest minister vows land permit crackdown](#)

Indonesia's forestry minister said he had revoked the land use permits for 23 mining and other firms operating in forested areas and may crack down further, indicating a tougher stance on environmental protection.

[Indonesian eco-resorts go for wildlife wow factor](#)

While on honeymoon in Indonesia, Australian newlyweds Richard and Clair Webb decided to go somewhere truly exotic: not a luxury resort on an idyllic beach, but an eco-friendly lodge surrounded by wild orangutans.

[Palm estate is forest, says ministry](#)

The Forestry Ministry is drafting a decree to include oil palm plantations in the forest sector to comply with international standards in mitigating climate change. The ministry said it believed the policy would not lead to massive forest conversion into palm oil plantations as many critics feared.

[Pregnancy gives new hope for rhino on-the-brink of extinction](#)

Though they grew up world's apart, Sumatran rhinos Ratu and Andalas have given conservationists new-found hope for saving the embattled species. The rhino couple is expecting, according to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary at Way Kambas, Indonesia. One of the world's most endangered big mammals, Sumatran rhinos are unique due to their hairy bodies and small size (at least compared to other rhinos). The last surviving members of the genus Dicerorhinus, only 200 Sumatran rhinos are estimated to survive in the wild.

[Preserving Indonesia's forests](#)

Indonesia's forests are home to a wealth of species and are one of the world's biological treasures. But the rate of deforestation there is faster than anywhere else in the world.

[Scores die in Indonesia landslide](#)

At least 72 people have been killed on Indonesia's main island of Java after heavy rains triggered major landslides in a tea plantation. The landslide had been caused by rain water and compounded by deforestation in the area.

[Unilever stops buying palm oil from Indonesian planter](#)

Consumer goods giant Unilever has told dealers not to source palm oil from Indonesian planter Duta Palma on concerns over rainforest destruction.

Israel

[Local vegetation can point to the consequences of climate change, Israeli scientists say](#)

A recent study by a team of researchers from Bar Ilan University suggests that endangered plants in water-saturated habitats can be taken as indicators for climate change in the Levant region. They present a picture particularly of the consequences of changes in precipitation.

Italy

[Sans prise de conscience, le sud de l'Italie menacé par la boue](#)

70% des communes italiennes sont soumises à un risque élevé dans le domaine hydrotechnique. Le territoire italien est rendu encore plus fragile par les abus, le déboisement et une urbanisation irrationnelle, selon les experts. Les régions les plus à risques, selon l'expert, sont la Calabre et la Campanie ainsi que la Sicile.

Kenya

[Conservationists warn of Mara ecological disaster](#)

Maasai Mara is one of the most visited and best known reserves in Africa. However, in the recent past, environmental destruction, especially of the Mau water catchment, is posing a major threat to the crucial ecosystem. River Mara's water volume, which is the lifeline of the park, has recently reduced, threatening the great wildebeest migration -- a global attraction.

[Demonstrations in Kenya against Ethiopian dam](#)

Demonstrators have protested in four towns in Kenya, against the construction of a controversial dam that threatens the survival of a hundred thousand indigenous people throughout the Lower Omo Valley in Ethiopia and around Lake Turkana in Kenya. Independent experts say it will disrupt the seasonal flooding of the Lower Omo Valley, decimating the forests around the river and making it almost impossible for the tribes of the valley to grow their crops.

[Do fence me in: 250-mile barrier helps protect Kenyan water sources](#)

Structure originally intended to save endangered black rhino succeeds in protecting forest and river sources.

[Failure to save wetlands puts lives at risk, say experts](#)

Countries all over the globe mark World Wetlands Day, but experts are yet to find solutions to the wanton destruction of wetlands. They have lamented over the lack of a clear policy guideline to help in the conservation drive.

[Fresh round of Mau evictions set to start](#)

Preparations for the third phase of Mau Forest evictions are in top gear. Among those targeted are owners of huge tracts of land, many of whom have title deeds. The Interim Coordinating Secretariat, did not, however, say when the evictions would begin. The third round follows last year's repossession of about 21,000 hectares during Phases I and II that involved South Western Mau and Eastern Mau Forest reserves.

[Landmark ruling says Kenya tribe's eviction for nature reserve illegal](#)

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has recommended that the Endorois tribe in Kenya be given back its land, after they were evicted from it to make way for a nature reserve in the 1970s.

[Marking of Mau borders begins](#)

Marking of the Mau Forest Complex boundaries started. It is after completion of the demarcation being undertaken by 12 government surveyors that settlers targeted in the third phase of the evictions will know whether they will be ejected from the country's largest water tower. The surveyors seek to mark forest blocks that form the great Mau complex.

[Saving Kenya's healing medicine plants](#)

The mission to save Kenya's dwindling medicinal plants. The researchers are working with the Samburu people to help them understand and protect their medicinal plant resources.

Madagascar

[French company prepares to ship illegally logged rainforest wood from Madagascar](#)

Delmas, a French shipping company that has been under pressure for facilitating the destruction of Madagascar's rainforest parks, has been cleared to begin picking up contraband rosewood. Leaders behind last year's military coup — which displaced the autocratic, but democratically elected President Marc Ravalomanana — have signed off on the shipment.

[How to end Madagascar's logging crisis](#)

In the aftermath of a military coup last March, Madagascar's rainforests have been pillaged for precious hardwoods, including rosewood and ebony. Tens of thousands of hectares have been affected, including some of the island's most biologically diverse national parks: Marojejy, Masoala, and Makira. Illegal logging has also spurred the rise of a commercial bushmeat trade. Hunters are now slaughtering rare and gentle lemurs for restaurants.

[What will you do when the trees are gone?](#)

Madagascar's transitional government is allowing the export of illegally harvested precious hardwoods as a source of revenue to keep itself afloat. Conservationists say the cost is incalculable, and the huge Indian Ocean Island stands to lose its status as one of the world's biological hotspots.

Malaysia

[Ancient wood carving resources under threat](#)

Indigenous wood carvers in Malaysia say their livelihood is under threat from deforestation. One tribe says ancestral land is being taken away from it for development.

[Des images inédites d'un léopard tacheté de Bornéo](#)

Un léopard tacheté, issu d'une espèce encore méconnue, récemment découverte sur l'île de Bornéo (Malaisie), a été filmé pour la première fois par des caméras dans la forêt. Ce léopard, long de trois mètres de long et pesant une quarantaine de kilos, a été saisi par les caméras d'une équipe de scientifiques malaisiens circulant de nuit dans la réserve naturelle de Dermakot, dans l'Etat du Sabah.

[Oil palms threaten survival of Malaysia's tribal arts](#)

Their artworks have been recognized as part of the world's heritage and can fetch thousands of dollars in auctions, but the Mah Meri tribe, and their wood carving tradition, are increasingly falling victim to Malaysia's lucrative palm oil industry.

[Sunda clouded leopard caught on film for the first time](#)

Carnivore researchers have captured the first footage of the Sunda clouded leopard (*Neofelis diardi*) in Malaysia. The island's largest predator was only proclaimed a unique species in 2006 when genetic evidence and analysis of its markings proved it was distinct enough from its mainland relative—the clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*)—to be considered a new species.

Mexico

[Alertan sobre daños severos en bosques por actividades agropecuarias](#)

El avance de actividades agropecuarias y la extracción de recursos forestales han favorecido la deforestación y degradación de los bosques en México.

[Reality of Mexico's green battle](#)

Felipe Calderón's fight against climate change should start at home, where pristine natural landscapes are hard to find.

Namibia

[Converting bush encroachment problem into clean energy](#)

Invasive bush species in Namibia makes large areas of land unusable and creates a problem for rural farmers. The bush infestation in Namibia affects 26 million hectares and has led to a 60 percent decline of commercial livestock over the last 40 years, causing losses to the national economy, according to Combating Bush Encroachment for Namibia's Development (CBEND).

[Germany supports de-bushing](#)

Germany will support efforts in Namibia to fight bush encroachment and a new project will be implemented in due course, according to that country's Minister for Economic Co-operation, Dirk Niebel.

Nigeria

[Cross River votes N1 billion for five million trees](#)

Cross River State government has earmarked N1 billion for the planting of five million trees across the state from now to end of 2012.

[Crusading against desert encroachment](#)

As climate change continues to threaten world safety, experts note that the impact of desert encroachment is becoming a major factor that must be given desired attention. This, they suggest, becomes necessary if the earth is to survive attendant effects of environmental calamities ranging from bio-diversity losses; declining soil fertility; massive destruction of arable land; depletion of water resources and global warming.

[Farmers cautioned against bush burning](#)

Prof. Nebath Tanglang of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) has advised farmers against the use of fire to clear farmlands prior to a new planting season.

[FG releases N5 billion for afforestation](#)

The federal government has released the sum of N5 billion for the afforestation programme of the present administration.

[FG to use 'Cactus Opuntia' plant to combat environmental degradation](#)

The Federal Government has recommended that "Cactus Opuntia" plant should be used to combat desertification in Nigeria. The plant was selected, due to its potential in erosion control and land rehabilitation, especially in the arid and semi-arid zones of the country.

[Niger campaigns against tree felling](#)

Niger State government has embarked on massive awareness campaign to sensitise the people on the dangers of indiscriminate felling down of trees.

[Nigeria, Tunisia partner on desertification](#)

Nigeria and Tunisia are to collaborate in an effort to fight desertification in Nigeria especially among the states in the northern parts of Nigeria. At a sensitization workshop on the utilization of Cactus opuntia to combat desertification held in Abuja, the Ambassador of Tunisia to Nigeria Mr. Moncef

Gouja, said the partnership is to further build on previous agreements between Nigeria and Tunisia on how best to fight the menace of desertification which has continued to cause more loss of land in Nigeria.

[Tunisia to help Nigeria combat desertification](#)

Nigeria could learn from the Tunisian experience in fighting off desert encroachment, the Tunisian Ambassador to Nigeria Moncef Gouja has said. Mr Gouja, who visited Media Trust Corporate Headquarters in Abuja yesterday, said the region of Regime Maatong located in the extreme south of Tunisia is a desert with no water but that the huge development and management of oasis in the area over the decades has turned it to a business hub.

[WEP wants green wall Sahara programme](#)

An NGO, Women Environmental Programme (WEP), urged the Federal Government to speed up the implementation of the Green Wall Sahara (GWSP) Programme. GWSP is an African initiative, aimed at combating desertification in the arid north of Nigeria.

[World Bank, US hail Cross River's forestry programme](#)

The task force put in place by Cross River State government to address climate change has attracted the attention of the World Bank and United States government.

Papua New Guinea

[Asia's biggest logging company accused of bribery, violence in Papua New Guinea](#)

A local organization in Papua New Guinea, known as Asples Madang, is fighting against one of the region's biggest industrial loggers, Rimbunan Hijau (RH) chaired by billionaire Tiong Hiew King. Aspeles Madang has accused Malaysian company, RH, of acquiring land illegally and of using brute force and bribery in its dealing with locals.

[Cargill sells palm oil business in Papua New Guinea](#)

Cargill will sell off its palm oil holdings in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to focus on operations in Indonesia, reports the Star Tribune. The \$175 million sale involves 62,000 ha of oil palm across three plantations and several mills.

Paraguay

[Deforestación puede cortar el ciclo de suministro de agua en el Chaco](#)

El Chaco es un ecosistema en proceso de evolución y el suministro de agua es fundamental para mantenerlo como lo conocemos hoy. La deforestación puede cortar este ciclo; esta es una amenaza real.

[Es hora de poner punto final a la devastación que afecta al Chaco](#)

El Gran Chaco Americano es un ecosistema que comparten Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil y Paraguay. Cada uno de ellos tiene una responsabilidad similar en el momento de proteger un medio ambiente único. Paraguay, lamentablemente, lidera la destrucción de la porción que le corresponde del Chaco.

[Especulación está llevando a la deforestación del Chaco paraguayo](#)

El precio de la tierra es uno de los componentes de la especulación, el verdadero negocio incluye la habilitación de pasturas. El año pasado, las empresas de servicio recaudaron 100 millones de dólares. Este ingreso no tiene sustento a mediano y largo plazo. La destrucción generada por la deforestación está causando estragos en la fauna y la flora silvestre, que ya no cuenta con la protección del monte.

Peru

[Amazon set for second hydrocarbon boom](#)

The Peruvian Amazon is in the early stages of a second hydrocarbon boom, which could have damaging effects on biodiversity and indigenous people, according to researchers from the US and Spain.

[Atribuyen desbordes de río Huallaga a deforestación producto del cultivo de hoja de coca ilegal](#)

El periodista tingalés Sergio Madueño atribuyó a la deforestación que produce el cultivo ilegal de hoja de coca, el desborde del río Huallaga que viene causando grandes pérdidas en campos de cultivo y

poblados de la provincia huanuqueña de Leoncio Prado, pues dijo que las lluvias intensas que se vienen presentando no llegan por sí solas a causar los desastres que se observan actualmente.

[Illegal logging rampant in Peru](#)

A survey of 78 forestry concessions in Peru found that 46 (59 percent) were in breach of their concession contracts, reports the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

[Researchers say 2nd energy boom underway in Peru](#)

Peru, which is working to become an exporter of oil and natural gas, is in the early stages of a second energy boom and on track to hand out concessions covering up to 70 percent of its resource-rich Amazon jungle.

[Under siege: oil and gas concessions cover 41 percent of the Peruvian Amazon](#)

A new study in the Environmental Research Letter finds that the Peruvian Amazon is being overrun by the oil and gas industries. According to the study 41 percent of the Peruvian Amazon is currently covered by 52 active oil and gas concessions, nearly six times as much land as was covered in 2003.

Portugal

[Portuguese cork gets wings as stoppers war rages on](#)

Making cork fly is easy, just pop a bottle of bubbly. But imagine a plane with wings largely made of pressed cork soaring through the skies.

Republic of Congo

[Stopping wildlife trafficking in Congo](#)

The bushmeat trade in the Congo basin has been widely publicized but poorly addressed. While fines and sentences exist for wildlife trafficking, they have traditionally been poorly enforced due to corruption, poor governance, and attentions focused on other priorities. Major traffickers, who tend to be rich and well-connected, trade with impunity, knowing that a well-placed bribe or a phone call can get them off with little more than a slap on a wrist.

Romania

[Almost 80,000 hectares of woods are deforested following return of property](#)

In the time to come Romania has to afforest about 700,000 hectares of land, which can no longer be used in agriculture, of the more than three million hectares of calamity-stricken land, which accounts for one third of Romania's arable land, experts say.

[Environment Ministry to invest over 50 million euros in afforestation in 2010](#)

The Ministry of the Environment and Forestry will invest over 50 million euros in afforestation in 2010 as against an unimportant sum of money in 2009.

Russian Federation

[Protección de bosques en Siberia – Uso del frío contra el calentamiento global](#)

El valle del río Bikin es el último territorio virgen que pervive en el extremo oriental de Rusia y hábitat de numerosas especies amenazadas. En su función de almacén gigante de carbono, el bosque contribuye a la protección del medio ambiente. Sin embargo, se encuentra amenazado por la deforestación: los habitantes de la región, junto con organizaciones ecologistas, pretenden frenar la devastación y han arrendado el valle.

Seychelles

[Keeping wetlands from becoming wastelands](#)

Swamps, marshes and other wetlands are beginning to be recognised as a country's 'green jewels', even in a tropical paradise like Mahé Island here in the Seychelles, with its stunning beaches and dramatic granite outcrops.

Spain

[Aprobadas las ayudas para el sector forestal guipuzcoano](#)

Con ello se pretende, además, reactivar el sector forestal que padece en estos momentos una profunda crisis en toda su cadena de producción.

[Certamen Nacional de Fotografía "Una Mirada al Bosque"](#)

El CIDEU, con motivo de la celebración del Día Forestal Mundial, organiza por cuarto año consecutivo el Certamen Nacional de Fotografía "Una Mirada al Bosque", se pretende sensibilizar a la sociedad sobre el aprovechamiento y conservación de los Bosques y promover la difusión del Día Forestal Mundial.

[El bosque de Poblet rebosa de leña caída en los temporales](#)

Hay agitación en el bosque de Poblet, antigua propiedad de los monjes cistercienses y ahora Paraje Natural Protegido por la Generalitat. Las brigadas forestales trabajan a buen ritmo, posiblemente porque, con este frío, lo mejor es no detenerse. Agrupan junto al camino restos de troncos, ramas quebradas, madera desparramada por el suelo, abatida por el peso de la nieve durante el temporal del pasado enero.

[El Gobierno asturiano rechaza aumentar la superficie para plantar eucaliptos](#)

"Al monte se le puede y debe sacar más partido". El diagnóstico lo comparten Principado, ayuntamientos y Ence, el problema surge después de pronunciar la frase. El director de la papelera, Juan Luis Arregui, aseguró el martes que la región tiene 300.000 hectáreas desaprovechadas, un tercio de todo el territorio. En ellas reclama sembrar especies como el castaño, pero también eucalipto, "que es la madera más bondadosa".

[El pino negro se expande por el Pirineo catalán por el abandono de los pueblos](#)

La superficie ocupada por el pino negro - 'Pinus uncinata' - en el Pirineo catalán aumentó en los últimos 50 años un 15 por ciento, como consecuencia de un abandono progresivo de los pueblos que conllevó una reducción de los terrenos dedicados al pastoreo y a la agricultura. De este modo, la superficie de pino negro pasó de las 55.725 hectáreas contabilizadas en el Pirineo en 1956 a las 64.074 en 2006, lo que supone un crecimiento de 8.350 hectáreas en cinco décadas, a razón de 167 cada año.

[El rebollo gana espacio en El Bierzo y ocupa una sexta parte de la superficie de la comarca](#)

El castaño pasa por ser posiblemente el árbol más significativo de El Bierzo, pero no es, ni de largo, el más numeroso. El número de sotos está en regresión y una especie está ocupando lentamente los terrenos donde se asentaban los castaños. Se trata del rebollo. Este primo lejano (ambos pertenecen a la familia de las fagáceas) ocupa actualmente la sexta parte de este territorio, enclavado en el oeste de la provincia de León.

[El Senado aprueba ayudas urgentes para paliar los daños por incendios](#)

La Comisión de Interior del Senado ha aprobado hoy por unanimidad el dictamen sobre el proyecto de ley que regula las medidas urgentes para paliar los daños producidos por los incendios forestales y otras catástrofes naturales ocurridos en varias comunidades autónomas.

[El viento abate uno de los árboles más emblemáticos de España](#)

Es la sabina de la localidad segoviana de Moral de Hornuez. En los últimos diez años ha desaparecido el 20% de los árboles singulares, según Bosques sin Fronteras.

[Ence quiere más plantaciones de eucaliptos en Asturias](#)

El presidente de ENCE, Juan Luis Arregui, aprovechó la firma del convenio para construir un nuevo ramal de ferrocarril a la papelera de Navia para solicitar el Principado ayuda para aumentar la producción de madera en Asturias. Según ENCE hay 300.000 hectáreas sin uso en las que se podrían plantar bosques, fundamentalmente de eucalipto.

[Extremadura invertirá 13 millones de euros para combatir "la seca"](#)

La Consejería de Agricultura destinará 13 millones de euros para garantizar la protección de la dehesa ante la enfermedad fitosanitaria Phytophthora, más conocida como 'la seca', que afecta a más de 10.000 hectáreas en la región.

[La madera gallega ve esfumarse tres mil empleos y 640 millones](#)

La advertencia se lanzó hace exactamente un año: el sector de la madera gallego temía por tres mil empleos si no se tomaban medidas a lo largo de 2009. Poco o nada se hizo, como en las tres décadas anteriores, y tristemente, se cumplió el negro pronóstico: el año pasado se esfumaron 3.300

puestos de trabajo, mientras rebajaba en 640 millones la facturación de las empresas de esta cadena productiva, la tercera más importante de Galicia.

[Los bomberos plantean si hay que arriesgar vidas por un fuego](#)

El jefe de los GRAF cuestiona si hay que anteponer el servicio público a la seguridad. Los expertos aseguran que dejar arder un bosque no siempre es nocivo.

[Los bosques gallegos en crisis](#)

Las cortas de madera cayeron un 22%, y la industria acusó la falta de materia prima.

[Los madereros reclaman un sello de calidad para el chopo de Teruel](#)

Los empresarios madereros de la provincia de Teruel se han propuesto conseguir una certificación forestal para el chopo de la provincia de Teruel, lo que supondrá que la madera de este tipo de árboles se comercialice con un sello que garantice su calidad.

[Más de 1.000 pozos ilegales siguen secando Doñana](#)

Más de un millar de pozos ilegales continúan "secando" las reservas hídricas del Parque Nacional de Doñana, provocando el descenso de los niveles del acuífero de la comarca y reduciendo en un 90% su aporte de agua a las marismas del parque.

[Paterna exigirá un plan de reforestación antes de conceder licencias de talas a las eléctricas](#)

El Pleno del Ayuntamiento de Paterna ha aprobado una moción consensuada entre los tres grupos políticos del Consistorio para atajar el grave problema medioambiental que suponen las talas de árboles en un espacio protegido como es el bosque de La Vallesa. A partir de ahora, las eléctricas deberán presentar un plan de reforestación detallado si quieren conseguir la licencia municipal para iniciar sus trabajos.

[Plantar nogales, la madera más cara de Europa, sería una apuesta firme de la comarca de Benavente](#)

El enorme potencial de la comarca de Benavente (Zamora) para producir maderas de calidad, singularmente el chopo, podría ser una alternativa económica importante para la zona.

["Tenemos unos bosques que son un peligro"](#)

Cinco vecinos de Horta de Sant Joan (Terra Alta) comparecieron en el Parlament para ofrecer sus impresiones sobre el incendio que, en julio del año pasado, acabó con la vida de cinco bomberos de élite de la Generalitat. Dos de ellos fueron especialmente críticos con la gestión del fuego y denunciaron que hubo "relajación" y "descoordinación" en el dispositivo. Los otros tres aseguraron, en la línea de lo que sostiene el Departamento de Interior, que el viento que sopló momentos antes de la tragedia fue "excepcional" y, por tanto, difícil de prever.

[Un informe afirma que los montes comunales inutilizan la mitad de la superficie de Asturias](#)

Los montes públicos y los montes vecinales de Asturias suman más de 500.000 hectáreas: el 48 por ciento de la superficie regional. Se localizan en los concejos más montañosos, menos poblados y más empobrecidos. Y están, casi todos, abandonados a la maleza.

[Una carretera pone en peligro una dehesa de Huelva de alto valor ecológico](#)

Colectivos sociales, particulares y ecologistas se oponen a la construcción de una variante que enlazaría la N-435 con la A-493, que une Valverde del Camino con la Palma del Condado. La vía de comunicación atravesaría la Dehesa de las Capellanías y supondría la pérdida de decenas de hectáreas de encinas centenarias.

Sudan

[Sudan taps into gum arabic growth](#)

To the great annoyance of its rival Pepsi, Coke is one of the most well-known words in the world. But both drinks make use of a little known ingredient found in Africa - and in particular in Sudan. Gum arabic, which comes from some types of acacia trees, puts the fizz in your drink, carries flavour in foods, and can even be used as a lickable adhesive for postage stamps.

Tajikistan

[Tajikistan facing water shortages and climate extremes](#)

Falling supplies due to rising temperatures and retreating glaciers could spark conflict between water-stressed countries in the region, says Oxfam.

Tanzania

[Costs now the main issue in ivory debate](#)

As the debate rages worldwide over if Tanzania should be allowed to sell its stockpile of ivory, internal attention is now focused on the practical question of costs. Does it make sense for the country to continue spending \$75,000 annually to secure its stockpile of 12,131 tusks - weighing 89,848.74 kilogrammes and estimated to be worth \$12 million in the Asian markets?

Uganda

[100 encroachers face eviction from Lutoboka forest](#)

The parliamentary Committee on Commissions and Statutory Authorities has given a go ahead to the National Forestry Authority to evict the over 100 encroachers in Lutoboka Forest Reserve in Kalangala District.

[Banda wetland investor in dispute with residents](#)

Property Services Limited has dumped murrum and debris in a wetland in defiance of the environment watchdog. Angry residents protested against the dumping in Kawoya wetland, a flood-prone area which separates Banda and Kireka, both Kampala city suburbs, on the Kampala - Jinja highway.

[Norway to support tree planting](#)

The Norwegian Private Forest Growers (NORSKOG) has signed a partnership with the Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) to support commercial timber growing with the aim of protecting forests.

[Pallisa restores wetlands](#)

Residents of Ariet village in Agule sub-county, Pallisa district have embarked on a campaign to restore depleted wetlands. The campaign championed through the Ariet anti-wetlands destruction unit, will sensitise residents to stop cultivating in wetlands.

[Uganda asks oil firms to move camps from game parks](#)

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has asked firms exploring for oil to move their camps outside of game reserves to prevent poaching.

[Uganda's environment dilemma as the country's forest cover dwindles](#)

Human activity is main cause of deforestation, largely exacerbated by a high population growth rate of 3.2 percent per annum.

[Uncertain future ahead as wetland destruction speeds global warming](#)

Environmentalists have raised an alarm over the rapid destruction of wetlands and warned of dire consequences if immediate action is not taken to arrest the situation.

[Wetland encroachers to be evicted this week](#)

The Minister of Water and Environment, Maria Mutagamba, has given encroachers on wetlands up to today to vacate. She named Nakivubo, Lubigi, Kawoya, Munyonyo, Kansanga and Ntinda wetlands, located in Kampala and Wakiso, as areas that need to be cleared.

[Wetland encroachers told to vacate](#)

The government has issued an ultimatum to people occupying wetlands to vacate by the end of this month. Although the country had scored success preserving the environment, the wetlands had shrunk due to encroachment.

[Wetlands down 30 percent in 15 years](#)

Uganda has lost 30% of its wetlands in the last 15 years, according to the Wetlands Commissioner Paul Mafabi. Mafabi said wetlands covered 15% of Uganda in 1994 and this has reduced to only 10% in 2008.

United Kingdom

[Britain's green spaces under threat from water shortages and house prices](#)

Parts of the UK could face water shortages, rapidly rising house prices and threats to wildlife and landscapes without major changes to how land is managed.

[Campaign to stop foreign plants invading UK ponds](#)

Advertisement Many foreign species that have been introduced to the British countryside are overpowering native plants in UK rivers and lakes.

[Church of England drops mining company Vedanta due to indigenous rights concerns](#)

The Church of England has dropped its 3.8 million pound stake (5.9 million US dollars) in controversial mining company, Vedanta Resources, citing concern over the company's human rights record. The Indian company has come under considerable criticism for its plan to build a bauxite mine on Niyamgiri Mountain, threatening the mountain, forests, and the local tribe Dongria Kondh tribe.

[Cold weather hits wildlife across the UK](#)

The coldest January in years is wreaking havoc among deer, but the National Trust says this year's spring promises to be the most spectacular in years.

[Environmentalists join Avonmouth biofuel plant protest](#)

Proposals to build a biofuel plant at Avonmouth near Bristol have attracted 900 formal complaints, including opposition from environmentalists.

[Palm oil deal 'a threat to the rainforest'](#)

Hundreds of millions of tonnes of palm oil look set to be pumped into Britain's vehicles despite scientific evidence showing that chopping down rainforests to make way for plantations exacerbates climate change, according to a leaked report.

[Penan feature in Eden Project oil palm exhibit](#)

A new exhibit at the world famous UK visitor attraction the Eden Project features the Penan of Sarawak and the destruction of their forests to make way for oil palm plantations.

[Rare species recorded in Highlands forest](#)

Surveys of a Highlands estate and its forests have recorded 56 priority species for conservation, its charity owners have said.

[The Amazongate fiasco](#)

A claim published in the Sunday Times over the veracity of a statement published in an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report may land the British newspaper in hot water.

United States of America

[Around the redwoods, the fog is dissipating](#)

Since the early 20th century, fog frequency in summers has declined by about one-third. Redwoods lose a lot of water through transpiration, and rely on the high humidity in fog to slow, stop or even reverse the process. So less fog, the researchers say, means the trees have less ability to conserve water during the drier summer months.

[Conserving the Florida Everglades](#)

A controversial restoration plan designed to improve the water quality of the Florida Everglades is proving unpopular with local sugar cane farmers and some environmentalists.

[Decline in fog threatens California's iconic redwood ecosystems](#)

A surprising new study finds that during the past century the frequency of fog along California's coast has declined by approximately three hours a day. Researchers are concerned that this decrease in fog threatens California's giant redwoods and the unique ecosystem they inhabit.

[Desperate California to get more water at last](#)

Drought-stricken farmers and cities across California were granted a measure of relief when federal and state officials said they expected to supply significantly more water this year than last.

[Estudio revela un aumento del crecimiento en los árboles del este de Estados Unidos](#)

Los bosques en el este de Estados Unidos parecen estar creciendo más rápidamente en respuesta a los crecientes niveles de dióxido de carbono en la atmósfera, según los datos que un nuevo estudio ha encontrado. El estudio se centró en los árboles en masas mixtas de madera en el borde occidental de la bahía de Chesapeake, en Maryland, que son representativos de la mayor parte de los de la costa este.

[Fog decline threatens US redwoods](#)

Scientists in California say a drop in coastal fog could threaten the state's famed giant redwood trees.

[Forest conservation in U.S. climate policy: an interview with Jeff Horowitz](#)

The Copenhagen Accord signed in December is widely seen as a disappointment. The Accord set no binding targets for greenhouse gas emissions targets and did not even commit to a legally binding treaty in the future. Serious work is needed to bring the process back on track.

[Giant redwoods may dry out; warming to blame?](#)

Among the tallest and longest-lived trees on Earth, redwoods depend on summertime's moisture-rich fog to replenish their water reserves. Declining fog cover on California's coast could leave the state's famous redwoods high and dry, a new study says.

[Industria forestal de EE.UU. dejará de recibir subsidios](#)

La Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), organismo medioambiental de Estados Unidos, decidió esta semana no considerar al denominado "licor negro" -subproducto de la producción de celulosa que se usa como biocombustible- entre los insumos que accederán entre este año y 2012 a un crédito fiscal, que busca favorecer el uso de energías limpias.

[Receding fog may leave redwoods in the lurch](#)

Receding coastal fogs may threaten the next generation of California's mighty redwoods. A new analysis of cloud cover over California reveals that fogs are 30 per cent less frequent today than 50 years ago. "The large trees intercept the fog, and much of it drips onto the soil, watering young redwoods.

[Reducing forest emissions](#)

The U.S. contribution to this effort will be one billion dollars over the next three years.

[Saving the Amazon may be the most cost-effective way to cut greenhouse gas emissions](#)

If the U.S. adopts a cap-and-trade program, companies facing carbon controls could meet part of their obligations by preserving Earth's largest tropical forest.

[Senator suggests truce in California's water fight](#)

Senator Dianne Feinstein, who angered environmentalists, fishing groups and other Democratic lawmakers by proposing to divert more water to California's farmers, said she was working to avoid controversial legislation.

[Study finds a tree growth spurt](#)

Forests in the eastern United States appear to be growing faster in response to rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, a new study has found.

[Tropical timber imports to the U.S. plunge](#)

U.S. tropical lumber imports plunged by nearly half between 2009 and 2008, reports the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

[USDA to boost wildlife habitat, trim cropland](#)

The federal government will maximize enrollment in the land-idling Conservation Reserve, said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a policy that would reduce U.S. cropland by 1.5 percent if successful.

[Weather model shows where California will burn](#)

This year, southern California will burn - you can count on it. But we may now be able to predict which areas will be worst hit, thanks to a map, the first to take into account fire-friendly weather.

Uruguay

[Alianza de Arauco con Stora Enso invertirá US\\$2.000 millones en Uruguay](#)

La papelera finlandesa Stora Enso dio a conocer la semana pasada, que en conjunto con Arauco iniciará un estudio de viabilidad en Uruguay para la construcción de una planta de celulosa en Punta Pereira, para lo cual se estima una inversión de entre US\$1.500 millones y US\$2.000 millones.

Venezuela

[New spiny pocket mouse discovered in the mountainous rainforests of Venezuela](#)

Researchers have discovered a new species of spiny mouse that lives on four mountainous forests in the Cordillera de la Costa mountain range, which runs along Venezuela's northern coast.

Viet Nam

[Vietnam implements project to save one of the world's rarest mammals, the shy saola](#)

Vietnam's central province of Thua Thien-Hue has approved a project to save the enigmatic saola. Listed as Critically Endangered, the saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*)—a type of forest antelope—is so rare and secretive that it was only discovered in 1992. It is considered by many to be one of the world's rarest mammals.

Yemen

[Yemen threatens to chew itself to death over thirst for narcotic qat plant](#)

Water already causes armed conflict in the capital, but there is worse to come for a hungry country when the oilfields run dry.

[Yemen's water crisis eclipses al Qaeda threat](#)

Yemeni water trader Mohammed al-Tawwa runs his diesel pumps day and night, but gets less and less from his well in Sanaa, which experts say could become the world's first capital city to run dry.

Zimbabwe

[Tobacco farmers must grow trees](#)

Tobacco is a valuable crop, both for the farmers who can grow it and the nation as a whole. But it is also a high-energy crop, and land can be devastated, especially if the farmer uses wood for curing, as almost all tobacco farmers now have to do. Smaller farmers cannot obtain coal at all easily, and even the larger growers have almost insurmountable problems with coal deliveries.

[UN official: Zimbabwe security forces poached 200 rhinos](#)

Last week the secretary of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Willem Wijnstekers, announced that security forces in Zimbabwe had poached approximately 200 rhinos in a two year period. He did say how many elephants were poached by security forces.

World

[38 percent of world's land in danger of turning into desert](#)

What are the culprits? Overgrazing, extracting too much water from aquifers, rerouting of water from its natural sources to population centers, and a warming climate.

[A new strategy for saving the world's wild big cats](#)

Populations of many of the world's wild cats are plummeting, with the number of tigers falling to roughly 3,200. In an interview, Alan Rabinowitz, a leading wild cat biologist, lays out a vision of how populations of these magnificent creatures can be brought back from the brink.

[A third of the world could become a desert](#)

Global warming is more familiar to people for its potential effects in melting the polar ice caps, and in endangering low-lying countries and coast lines. However, one of its most devastating aspects is the fact that it can effortlessly promote desertification in areas that are already arid, and therefore prone to such a calamity. According to a new survey, 38 percent of the world's surface meets this criteria, which means that people living here are in danger of eventually becoming trapped in an ever-expanding desert.

[A warning on Europe's forests](#)

Europe's forests have been expanding for the last 60 years. But the rate at which forests are growing in Europe is slowing, and forested areas face even more acute challenges in the future because of climate change

[Almost half of all primates face 'imminent extinction'](#)

Of 634 primate species, 48% are on the IUCN's 'red list' of animals under threat as loggers, hunters and smugglers thrive.

[Amenazas sobre la selva amazónica](#)

La deforestación a lo largo del río Amazonas en Sudamérica está disminuyendo la caída de las lluvias y causando cambios climáticos pues llega menos agua evaporada a la atmósfera, lo que genera menos precipitaciones además de afectar el calentamiento global de la Tierra pues la supresión de estos árboles implican la emisión de millones de toneladas de dióxido de carbono que contaminan la atmósfera pues la cuenca del Amazonas regula el clima de casi toda la América del Sur y sus árboles son los grandes procesadores de dióxido de carbono y suministradores de oxígeno.

[Asian affluence endangers world tiger population](#)

Demand by a newly rich Asian population for such goods as tiger bone tonic wine and tigers' skin, meat and teeth is putting pressure on these endangered creatures worldwide.

[Bien en metas ambientales; mal en deforestación y emisiones](#)

Un nuevo informe de Naciones Unidas muestra que América Latina y el Caribe han progresado en la extensión de áreas protegidas, reducción de consumo de sustancias que agotan la capa de ozono y cobertura de servicios de agua y saneamiento.

[Big business leaves big forest footprints](#)

Consumers around the globe are not aware that they are "eating" rainforests. In this week's Green Room, it is explained how many every-day purchases are driving the destruction of the vital tropical ecosystems.

[Big cities and global farming now driving deforestation, study finds](#)

The drivers of tropical deforestation have shifted in the early 21st century to hinge on growth of cities and the globalised agricultural trade, a new large-scale study concludes. The observations starkly reverse assumptions by some scientists that fast-growing urbanization and the efficiencies of global trade might eventually slow or reverse tropical deforestation.

[Cash for carbon](#)

Imagine a way to save tropical rainforests without having to reduce greenhouse gases. Imagine a way to make environmental conservation profitable. Some claim carbon trading is the best option for major corporations to pay for emitting pollution. They can do this by buying a forest, or funding a conservation programme in a developing country. But critics say this billion dollar business will only benefit banks and investors and allow polluters to keep on polluting.

[Certified palm oil sales accelerate](#)

For the first time, sales of certified sustainable palm oil have nearly met production, reports the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a group that has developed the leading environmental certification standard for palm oil.

[Científicos consiguen elaborar un papel más blanco y menos contaminante](#)

Para blanquear pastas de celulosa en la fabricación de papel los métodos químicos convencionales utilizan reactivos costosos o compuestos clorados que se caracterizan por la emisión de sustancias tóxicas y difíciles de eliminar del medio ambiente. Ahora, científicos han desarrollado un método de blanqueo de pastas con un reactivo natural no contaminante, como son las enzimas. De esta forma, es posible disminuir el uso de otros productos perjudiciales o que tienen un coste elevado para la industria como el peróxido de hidrógeno.

[City dwellers drive deforestation in 21st century](#)

Satellite data reveals that demand from urban areas may be the primary driver of the loss of trees - a shift from the patterns of the past.

[Clima: La deforestación galopante de América Latina](#)

La región registra tasas en la pérdida de bosques de más del doble del promedio mundial. La Cepal advierte que la deforestación se acerca a una situación irreversible. Además, las condiciones para los 105 millones de personas que viven en la región comienzan a ser inaceptables para la vida humana.

[Commodity trade and urbanization, rather than rural poverty, drive deforestation](#)

Forest conservation via REDD may be ineffective without addressing commodity consumption and trade, argues a new paper that looks at the implications of changing drivers of deforestation on new policy measures to protect forests.

[Companies disclose deforestation risk in their supply chains](#)

An initiative that aims to root out deforestation by increasing the transparency of global supply chains released the results of its first survey, finding that most companies were not previously looking at the issue. Of 217 companies contacted by the Forest Footprint Disclosure project, only 35 responded with full data disclosure.

[Croissance urbaine: une cause de la déforestation](#)

La croissance de la population urbaine est l'une des principales causes de la déforestation dans les pays tropicaux.

[Deforestation pushing Amazon to its ecological limits](#)

Many of the risks and ecological processes are poorly understood, studies warn.

[Desertification threatens 38 percent of the world](#)

Over one third of the world's land surface (38 percent) is threatened with desertification. Study found that eight of fifteen eco-regions are threatened by desertification, including coastal areas, the prairies, the Mediterranean region, the savannah, the temperate steppes, the temperate deserts, tropical and subtropical steppes, and the tropical and subtropical deserts.

[DNA sequencing unlocks evolutionary origins, relationships among flowering plants](#)

A study unravels 100 million years of evolution through an extensive analysis of plant genomes. It targets one of the major moments in plant evolution, when the ancestors of most of the world's flowering plants split into two major groups.

[ECLAC releases report of deforestation, gas emission in Latin America](#)

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) published a report Thursday about the advances and difficulties of fulfilling the seventh Millennium Development Goal (MDG7) concerning environment sustainability in the region. Despite the significant advances in some areas, continuous deforestation and non-stop rising of carbon emissions here are compromising the achievement of the goals, according to the ECLAC.

[Ecologistas denuncian que la UE plantea llamar "bosques" a plantaciones de aceite de palma, causantes de deforestación](#)

La organización Amigos de la Tierra denunció que de acuerdo a un documento filtrado de la Comisión Europea, los Veintisiete planean denominar "bosques" a las plantaciones de aceite de palma para utilizarlos como agrocombustible, al tiempo que recordó que la expansión de este cultivo es la principal causa de la deforestación de los bosques tropicales.

[¿En qué consiste una Xiloteca?](#)

Una Xiloteca es una colección de maderas (xylos = madera). Pero así como una biblioteca es "algo más" que una mera colección de libros, también una xiloteca es algo más que una mera colección de maderas.

[EU: rainforests can be converted to palm oil plantations for biofuel production](#)

The European Union may be planning to classify oil palm plantations as forests, raising fears among environmental groups of expanded conversion of tropical rainforests for biofuel production.

[Extinct animals are quickly forgotten: the baiji and shifting baselines](#)

In 2006 a survey in China to locate the endangered Yangtze River dolphin, known as the baiji, found no evidence of its survival. Despondent, researchers declared that the baiji was likely extinct. Four

years later and the large charismatic marine mammal is not only 'likely extinct', but in danger of being forgotten.

[Forest tree species diversity depends on individual variation](#)

It's a paradox that's puzzled scientists for a half-century. Models clearly show that the coexistence of competing species depends on those species responding differently to the availability of resources. Then why do studies comparing competing tree species draw a blank?

[Forests are growing faster, ecologists discover; Climate change appears to be driving accelerated growth](#)

Speed is not a word typically associated with trees; they can take centuries to grow. However, a new study has found evidence that forests in the Eastern United States are growing faster than they have in the past 225 years. The study offers a rare look at how an ecosystem is responding to climate change.

[Google Earth boosts deforestation monitoring capabilities](#)

Google has taken a step towards boosting the deforestation monitoring capabilities the Google Earth Engine by contracting Massachusetts-based Clark Labs to develop an online version of its Land Change Modeler application.

[Greening deserts for carbon credits](#)

Man has already degraded about five billion acres of land on the planet by misguided farming practices and overgrazing. In fact, many of the world's deserts were once rich land. Desertification from overgrazing, plowing and growing annual crops has greatly reduced the carbon retained in the earth's soils. Many of our deserts started as forests that were cut or burned down to clear the land and then ruined by overgrazing. If we could reclaim these ruined lands we could restore the carbon balance of our planet.

[Guatemala, Guayana y Surinam acceden al club de países con más bosques](#)

Guatemala, Guayana y Surinam ingresaron hoy en el club de países con grandes áreas forestales, el denominado F-11, al que pertenecen también países como Perú, Brasil, Colombia y Costa Rica.

[Humans push half of the world's primates toward extinction, lemurs in particular trouble](#)

Of the known 634 primate species in the world 48 percent are currently threatened with extinction, making mankind's closest relatives one of the most endangered animal groups in the world.

[Jane Goodall: 'There is no problem in having empathy'](#)

Half a century after Jane Goodall began studying chimpanzees in Tanzania, she talks to her former student Charlotte Uhlenbroek about chimpanzee fire-dancing, the peril of bushmeat and the empowerment of local people.

[La croissance urbaine et la mondialisation, moteurs de la déforestation](#)

Les grandes cités et le commerce mondial grignotent les forêts tropicales. Une étude américaine à grande échelle révèle ce changement des moteurs de la déforestation au 21^{ème} siècle. Les politiques de lutte contre ce phénomène devraient donc s'adapter à cette évolution.

[La déforestation due à la croissance urbaine et aux exportations agricoles](#)

Les deux principales causes de la déforestation dans les pays tropicaux sont la croissance de la population urbaine et les exportations agricoles, selon une étude publiée dans la revue spécialisée Nature Geoscience.

[La forêt boréale, un allié de taille contre les changements climatiques](#)

Même si la forêt boréale pousse beaucoup moins vite que la forêt feuillue ou la forêt tropicale, elle dispose de certains avantages qui en feraient un territoire par excellence pour séquestrer le carbone des émissions de gaz à effet de serre (GES).

[La hojarasca de los eucaliptos afecta negativamente a la vida fluvial](#)

Los efectos del eucalipto sobre el medio natural siguen acaparando estudios y, si hace unos meses un grupo de investigadores de las universidades de Santiago y Vigo alertaban de su grave impacto sobre las aguas superficiales y subterráneas, en especial cuando se plantan en las cuencas altas de

los ríos, ahora científicos vascos aportan sus conclusiones sobre la propia ecología de los ríos cuando los eucaliptales sustituyen a otra vegetación. Tras 20 años estudiando cursos fluviales, concluyen que la hojarasca del eucalipto puede tener efectos negativos sobre el desarrollo de algunos organismos, tanto por su propia composición como por la cantidad y momento en que llega al agua.

[La mitad de los primates está en peligro de extinción, según la IUCN](#)

La mitad de las 634 especies conocidas de primates están en peligro de extinción y, además, los gorilas están entre las 25 especies con mayor riesgo de desaparición, según se desprende de un informe difundido por la Unión Internacional de Conservación de la Naturaleza (IUCN, por sus siglas en inglés).

[La presencia de caracoles indica que los bosques se recuperan tras un incendio](#)

Un equipo de investigadores catalanes ha estudiado los cambios en la composición de los animales después de un incendio y ha concluido que la fauna malacológica es buena indicadora de la recuperación forestal. Los resultados del estudio permitirán gestiones post-incendio que no dañen estas especies de moluscos, que son sensibles a las condiciones microclimáticas del suelo y a la estructura vegetal.

[Le réchauffement climatique n'a pas que des inconvénients](#)

La nouvelle devrait conforter les exploitants forestiers. Selon une étude récente publiée dans les Pnas (Annales de l'académie nationale américaine des sciences), émanant du centre de recherche Smithsonian (Maryland), le réchauffement climatique accélère la croissance des arbres.

[Les citoyens mangent la forêt](#)

Des chercheurs de l'université américaine Columbia affirment que l'urbanisation est la cause principale de la déforestation. Leur étude révèle que l'augmentation du niveau de vie provoque une augmentation de la consommation de produits agricoles et que cette pression sur l'environnement contribue à la déforestation.

[L'Europe met en balance forêt et huile de palme](#)

Tout est affaire de définition... Dans un document qui provoque un débat au sein de ses services, la Commission européenne essaie de déterminer les règles définissant le caractère "durable" des biocarburants. L'enjeu est de taille : d'ici à 2020, l'Europe veut tirer 20 % de sa consommation finale d'énergie des sources renouvelables, c'est-à-dire respectueuses de l'environnement. Concernant les sols affectés aux cultures pour les biocarburants, le document estime que forêts et plantations d'huile de palme sont interchangeable. Et considère donc que faire disparaître les premières au bénéfice des secondes n'irait pas à l'encontre des critères de durabilité.

[L'huile de palme ne veut plus être le mouton noir de l'environnement](#) Identifié à la déforestation et à l'extinction des orang-outans, l'huile de palme souffre d'une piètre réputation, mais les producteurs contre-attaquent en vantant les qualités de cette culture "stratégique" pour plusieurs pays du sud.

[Loss of species hits economy; new U.N. goals needed](#)

Losses of animal and plant species are an increasing economic threat and the world needs new goals for protecting nature after failing to achieve a 2010 U.N. target of slowing extinctions. Damage to coral reefs in the tropics, creeping desertification in Africa or felling of the Amazon rainforest were among threats to wildlife and so to human livelihoods.

[Making it more profitable to leave a tree alone than to cut it down](#)

The Sierra Club and American Electric Power, the nation's largest coal-burning utility, don't agree on much, but there is this: Money does grow on trees. Along with other big environmental groups and such businesses as Duke Energy and El Paso Corp., they are part of a coalition that wants to use markets to protect the world's forests and curb climate change.

[Meet the world's endangered primates](#)

Nearly half of all primates are in danger of becoming extinct, according to a study by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Habitat destruction and hunting for food and the illegal wildlife trade are the main threats to the world's 634 primate species – 303 of which are now classed as vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered.

[Monkeys, butterflies, turtles... how the pet trade's greed is emptying south-east Asia's forests](#)

Whole species disappear from the wild as millions of animals are illegally exported round the world in a business with profit margins that rival the drugs trade.

[More frequent fires could aid ecosystems](#)

With a changing climate there's a good chance that forest fires in the Pacific Northwest will become larger and more frequent - and according to one expert speaking at a professional conference, that's just fine.

[New study: why plants produce different sized seeds](#)

The longstanding belief as to why some plants produce big seeds and others small seeds is that in this case bigger-is-better, since large seeds have a better chance of survival. However, if big seeds were always the 'right' evolutionary path than why would any plants evolve small seeds?

[Orangutan survival and the shopping trolley](#)

The challenge of saving the orangutan - man's closest relative - from extinction is trickling down to the weekly shop.

[Plantations can provide the same ecosystem services as natural forests](#)

Not all plantations need to be the biological deserts that have come to characterize large-scale, industrial plantations. According to scientist, well-planned plantations can actually alleviate some of the social, economic and ecological burden currently being placed on natural forests.

[Presence of snails points to forest recovery](#)

A team of Catalan researchers has studied the changes in the make-up of animal populations following forest fires, and have concluded that malacological fauna are a good indicator of forest recovery. The conclusions of this study will help to ensure that post-fire forestry operations that do not harm these species of molluscs, which are sensitive to microclimatic conditions of the soil and vegetation structure.

[Pricing carbon insufficient to save tropical forests from deforestation](#)

Putting a price on carbon emissions from deforestation is unlikely to prevent tropical forests being cleared for palm oil production, according to a recent study. Additional measures should be included in climate policies to protect forests from increasing global demands, such as biofuels.

[Putting a value on nature could set scene for true green economy](#)

Much environmental damage has been caused by the way we do business. Is there a way of changing our economic models from being part of the problem into part of the solution?

[Rainforest expert agrees with IPCC: warns of 'tipping point' for Amazon](#)

Amid questions over the Amazon forests' capacity to survive climate change, a renowned tropical biologist says that in fact the fears are real.

[REDD may not provide sufficient incentive to developers over palm oil](#)

Payments for forest conservation under the proposed REDD mechanism are unlikely to provide a viable economic alternative to oil palm agriculture at current prices.

[Region advances in environmental goals, deforestation and CO2 emissions keep rising](#)

Despite significant progress in some areas, the constant reduction of forest areas and the sustained increase of CO2 emissions in the Caribbean region are impeding compliance with the seventh Millennium Development Goal (MDG7) on environmental sustainability, according to a report of United Nations organizations and agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Scientists scathing on coastal tree planting](#)

Natural coastal ecosystems have been widely destroyed by the planting of alien trees in the mistaken belief that they will work as 'bioshields' against storms and tsunamis, says an international group of scientists.

[Seeds from the moringa tree can be used for water purification, study suggests](#)

Pure water is a key requirement for good health and alternative cheap, safe methods are required in many countries. In a paper that has just been published, researchers describe how extracts from seeds of the Moringa oleifera tree can be used for water purification.

[Seeds of discontent: the 'miracle' crop that has failed to deliver](#)

A new 'ethical' biofuel is damaging the impoverished people it was supposed to help. Jatropha was said to be resistant to drought and pests and able to grow on land that was unsuitable for food production. But researchers have found that it has increased poverty in countries including India and Tanzania.

[Small family farms in tropics can feed the hungry and preserve biodiversity](#)

Conventional wisdom among many ecologists is that industrial-scale agriculture is the best way to produce lots of food while preserving biodiversity in the world's remaining tropical forests. But two University of Michigan researchers reject that idea and argue that small, family-owned farms may provide a better way to meet both goals.

[Thirty-eight percent of world's surface in danger of desertification](#)

Researchers have measured the degradation of the planet's soil using the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), a scientific methodology that analyses the environmental impact of human activities, and which now for the first time includes indicators on desertification. The results show that 38 percent of the world is made up of arid regions at risk of desertification.

[Threat to monkey numbers from forest decline](#)

Monkey populations in threatened forests are far more sensitive to damage to their habitat than previously thought, according to new research.

[Un estudio revela las dificultades de regeneración de los pinares resineros](#)

Desde el año 2004, la Universidad de Valladolid lleva haciendo un seguimiento de un pinar ubicado en Mata de Cuéllar con el objetivo de conocer la evolución de dicha masa forestal. Centrándose en varias parcelas, los investigadores hacen un seguimiento de las semillas de pino resinero que germinan y de las que fracasan, descubriendo los motivos de su evolución. Las conclusiones del trabajo señalan que los primeros años de vida de un pino resinero son "los más complicados" debido, en gran parte, a la escasez de lluvias.

[Uncontacted tribes' land: 'most biodiverse' in South America and threatened by oil](#)

New research by scientists has found that a vast region of the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Amazon is the most biodiverse in South America. But this region, home to some of the world's last uncontacted tribes, is gravely threatened by oil exploration and drilling.

[Une étude révèle les causes de la déforestation](#)

Une équipe de chercheurs américains tire la sonnette d'alarme concernant la déforestation dans les pays tropicaux.

[Urbanization, export crops drive deforestation](#)

The drivers of tropical deforestation have shifted in the early 21st century to hinge on growth of cities and the globalized agricultural trade. The observations starkly reverse assumptions by some scientists that fast-growing urbanization and the efficiencies of global trade might eventually slow or reverse tropical deforestation.

[Urban poor's struggle for survival limits options for curbing climate damage](#)

The double pressures of climate change and poverty threaten to make Africa one of the regions hardest hit by coming climate-related problems. Nowhere is that more evident than in Zimbabwe, where the urban poor already struggle to survive in a harsh economic climate.

[Warmer seas may rob corals and rainforests of clouds](#)

Just 2 °C more and reefs stop producing a cloud-seeding gas, which could leave corals hotter still and rainforests drier.

[Why top predators matter: an in-depth look at new research](#)

Few species have faced such vitriolic hatred from humans as the world's top predators. Considered by many as pests—often as dangerous—they have been gunned down, poisoned, speared, 'finned', and decimated across their habitats. Even where large areas of habitat are protected, the one thing that is often missing are top predators.

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