

verbatim



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“When you look at where the oil and gas blocks [in the Amazon] are, they overlap perfectly on top of the peak biodiversity spots.”

Matt Finer of US-based environment group Save America's Forests, commenting on a survey of land earmarked for exploration by energy companies

“For many developing countries, avoiding deforestation is pretty much the only way they can engage in the climate change regime and reap some benefits.”

Yvo de Boer, head of the U.N. Climate Change Secretariat

“[The deforestation talks are] a ploy by developed countries to shy away from their commitments to reduced carbon emissions.”

Ishaku Huzi Mshelia, head of the Nigeria-based Clean Energy and Safe Environment Initiative

“The discovery of such a large population [125,000] of western lowland gorillas [in the Republic of Congo] is absolutely fantastic news for the sub-species and for conservationists, but we should be careful not to be too complacent.”

Jillian Miller, executive director of conservation group The Gorilla Organization

“We lose our identity when we're displaced. We feel lost in the big cities and it's an alien habitat for us. Our ties and traditions are with our Mother Earth. Once we leave our lands, our language and family structures begin to break down.”

Luis Evelis Andrade, president of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC)

“Indonesia will have an additional potential to absorb 2.4 million tons of carbon if the government is successful in its efforts to mobilize the people to plant 100 million trees by the end of 2008.”

Indonesian Forestry Minister M.S. Kaban

“The biggest challenge now for the cedars of Lebanon is climate change.”

Nizar Hani, scientific coordinator of the Barouk Cedar Nature Reserve in Lebanon

“The key to saving the Amazon and the rest of the world's great rainforests is actually very simple: just put a fair price on the role they play in providing a quarter of the world's oxygen, a fifth of fresh water and 60 per cent of its species.”

Swedish millionaire Johan Eliasch, who has bought 400,000 acres in the Brazilian Amazon, near the river town of Manicore

numbers

30
percentage of the planet's land area that is forested – just under 4 billion hectares, at least one-third less than before the dawn of agriculture 10,000 years ago. — *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

18
percentage of world greenhouse gas emissions caused by deforestation. — *Stern Review*

13 million
worldwide deforestation rate per year in hectares – an area the size of Greece or Nicaragua. — *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

60
percentage of extra carbon dioxide stored by untouched natural forests compared to plantation forests. — *Australian National University*

700
amount of paper in pounds that the average American uses every year (310 kg). Average per capita paper use worldwide is 110 pounds (50 kg). — *industry figures*

125,000
number of western lowland gorillas found in remote forests in the Republic of Congo on 5 August. — *Associated Press*

48
percentage of the 634 known species and subspecies of primates at risk of extinction. Previous estimates 5 years ago put the figure at 39 per cent. — *World Conservation Union (IUCN)*

\$21 billion
amount that Brazil wants to raise over the next 13 years for the Amazon Fund, launched on 31 July by Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to fight deforestation. — *Reuters*

115.55
height in metres (379.1 ft) of the world's tallest tree, a redwood discovered in a remote California forest which has been named 'Hyperion'. — *San Francisco Chronicle*

45
percentage of all print-outs and photocopies that are thrown out before the end of the day. — *shrinkpaper.org*