Blue Planet 25

September 8, 2017

The problem with fragments

SPLINTERSAMAZON

Decades after Thomas Lovejoy isolated fragments of the Brazilian rainforest in a grand experiment, researchers are building on his legacy around the world.

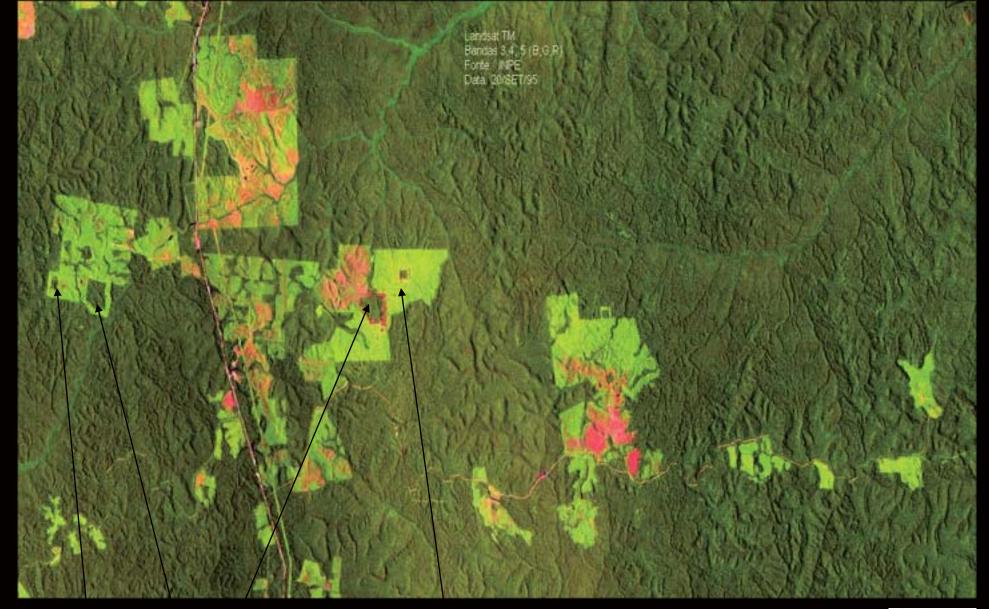
> BY Jeff Tollefson

cologist Thomas Lovejoy tucks his trousers into his socks with a casual warning about chiggers and then hikes off into the Arnazon jungle. Shaded by a tall canopy and dense with ferns and underbrush, the oldgrowth forest looks healthy, but Lovejoy knows better. Three decades ago, the surrounding forest was moved generation of 'fragmentologists', who are working around the world to understand the cascade of ecological impacts that follow human development. Most notably, in early April, an international team started chopping down trees in Borneo as part of an nearly £6-million (USS9-million) experiment that replicates and extends the Brazilian one.

> "It's the most important ecological experiment ever done," says Stuart Pimm, a conservation ecologist at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, who has collaborated on the project. "We knew that small and isolated was bad, but we needed to know how bad."



NATURE | VOL 496 | 18 APRIL 2013



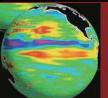
Fragments of different sizes

Pimm, S. L. 1998. The forest fragment classic. Nature 393:23.









100 Ha. fragments lose half of forest interior bird species in less than 15 years



Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe





GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

Linking life in soil to sustainability www.globalsoilbiodiversity.org.

Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas, 2016

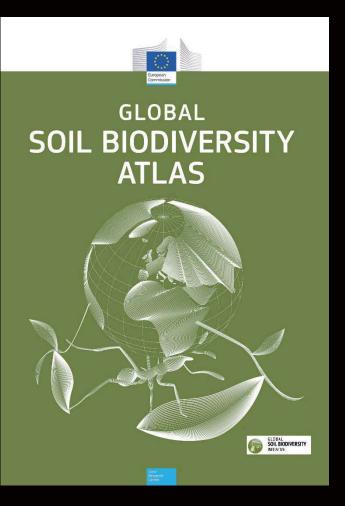




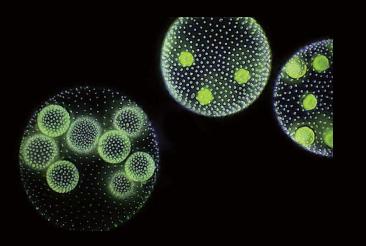
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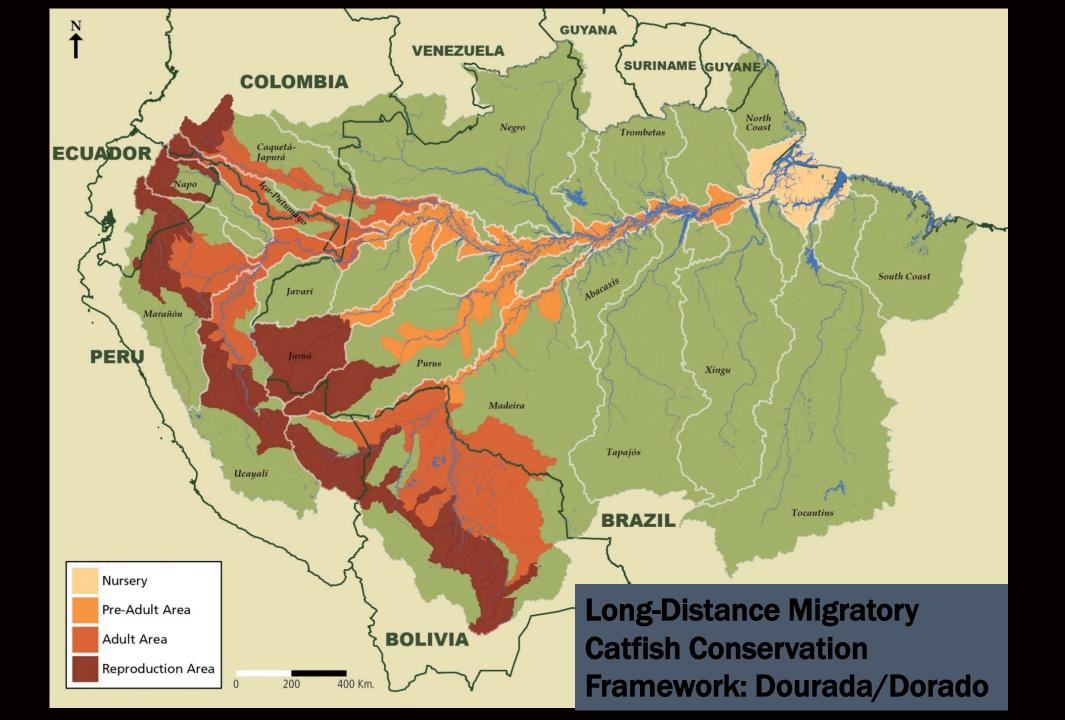
Freshwater Biodiversity Volvox



Largest Management Scale: Long-Distance Migratory Catfish

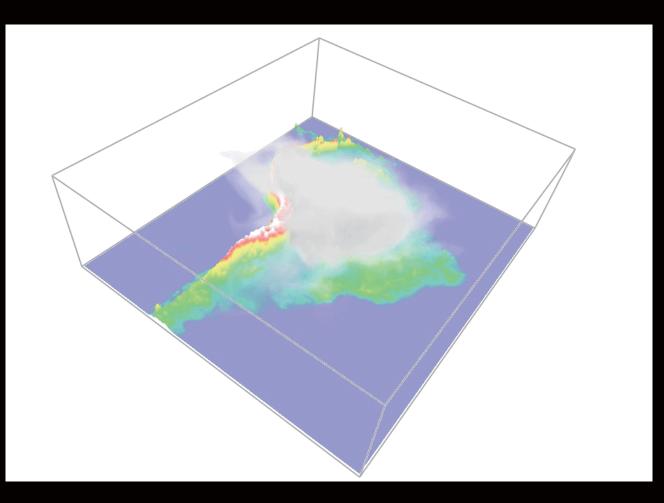


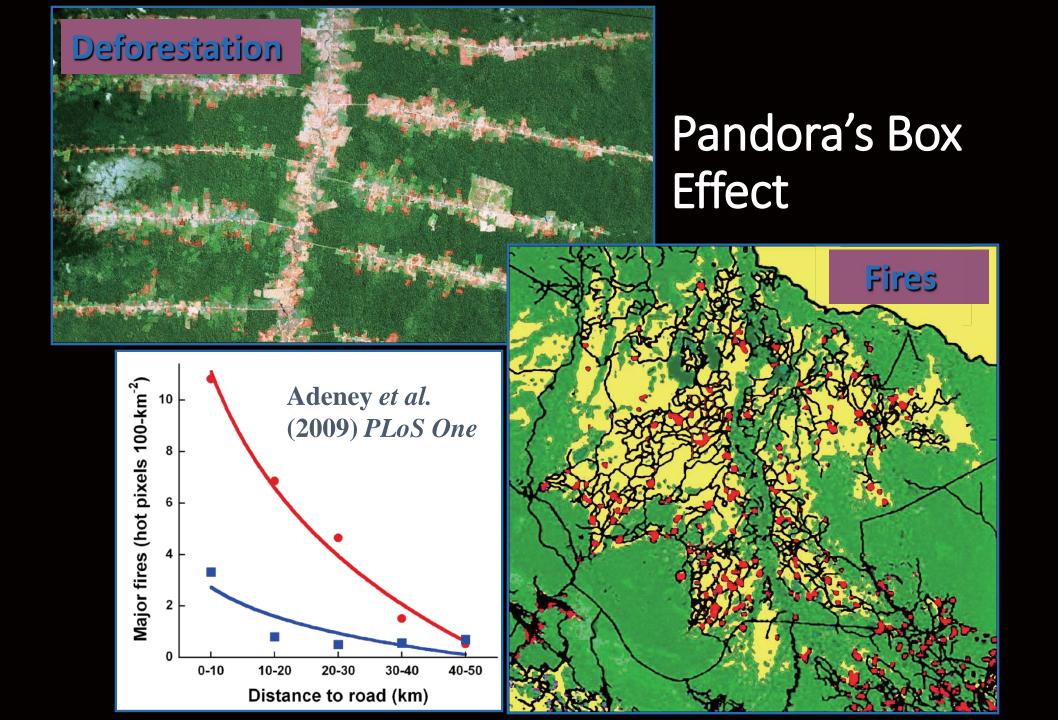
A. Piramutaba/Piramutón C. Babão/Mota Flemosa B. Dourada/Dorado D. Zebra/Zungaro Alianza



Using the tracers, we can quantify the amount of water vapor that originates in the Amazon and travels through the continent.

2006-01-01 to 2006-01-10





Nature (2004) 427: 630-633

Diclofenac residues as the cause of vulture population decline in Pakistan

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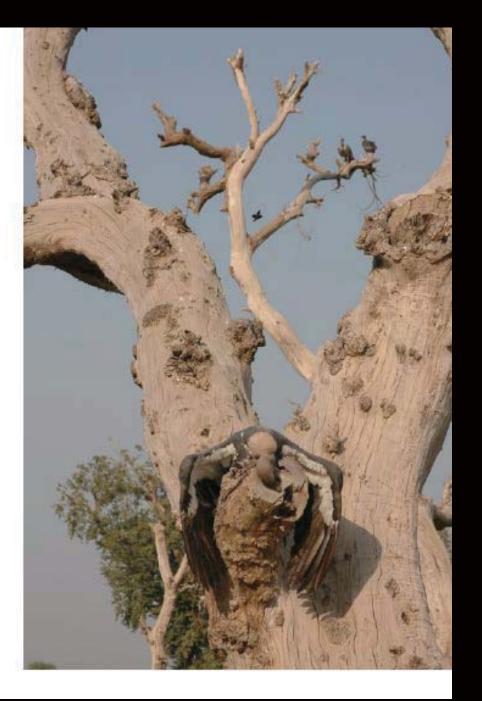
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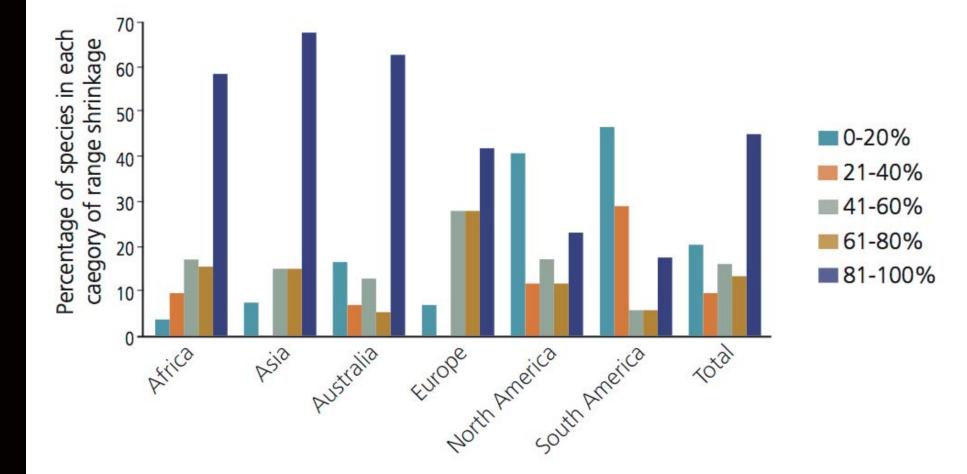
³ California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System–Freeno Branch, University of California at Davis, 2789 S. Orange Avenue, Freeno, California 93725, USA

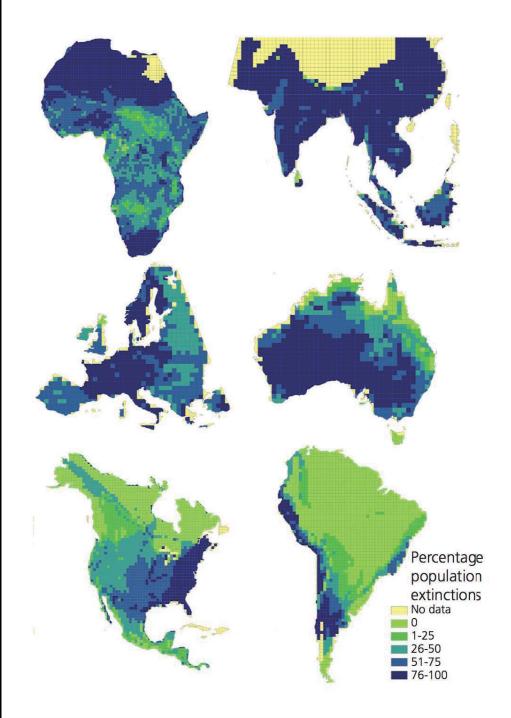
*Zoology Division, Institute of Pure and Applied Biology, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan





White-rumped vulture (Gyps bengalensis)











Elevated night time temperatures magnify bark beetle impact



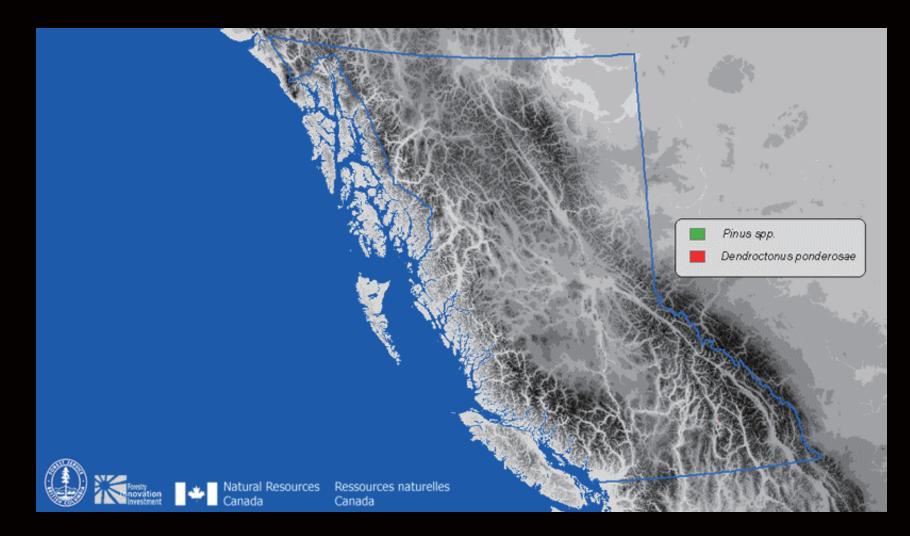
QUESNEL, B.C. Millions of acres of Canada's lush green forests are turning red in spasms of death. A voracious beetle, whose population has exploded with the warming climate, is killing more trees than wildfires or logging.

'Rapid Warming' Spreads Havoc in Canada's Forests



Source: D. Struck 3/1/2006, *Washington Post*, pA1





Courtesy of Mike Bradley, Canfor Corporation



A PROPOSIO BIOLOGICAI, MEASURE OF STRNAK CONDITIONS, HASED ON A SURVEY OF THE CONESTOGA BASIN, LANCASSIE COUNTY, PRAESTLVANIA *

BY RUPPI FAIRIAN Cumular of Lipskology, The Anademy of Natural Sciences of Philodelogica

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^{*} Automatical provides—The sciences of this study is due in large instance to the authorizatio composition and hard work of gaugy individuals. The stillar of this report takes this opportunity to express the innerse gravitation to all those who took part in this program. In addition to the persecuted and computation on the following marks, the in also individuals of the persecuted and computation on the following remote the program of the science of the following remote the individuals along the following remote the program of the following remote the following remote the program of the science of the following remote the following remote the following remote the following remote the science of the following remote the following the program of the work.



Planetary Boundaries

