

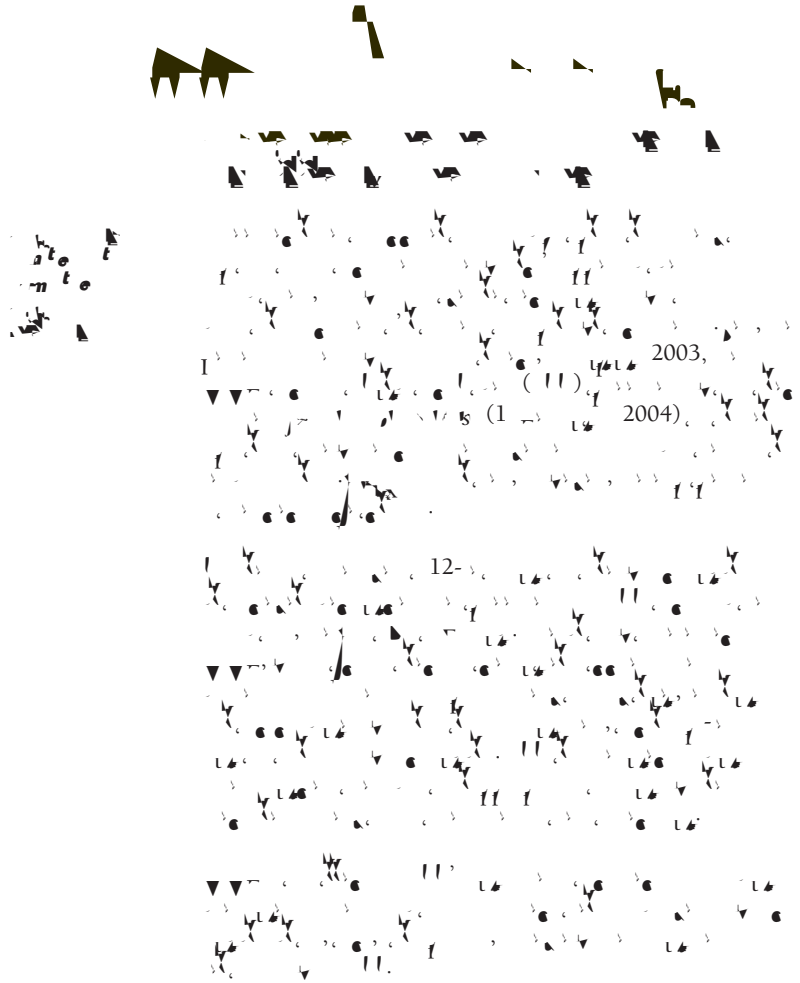
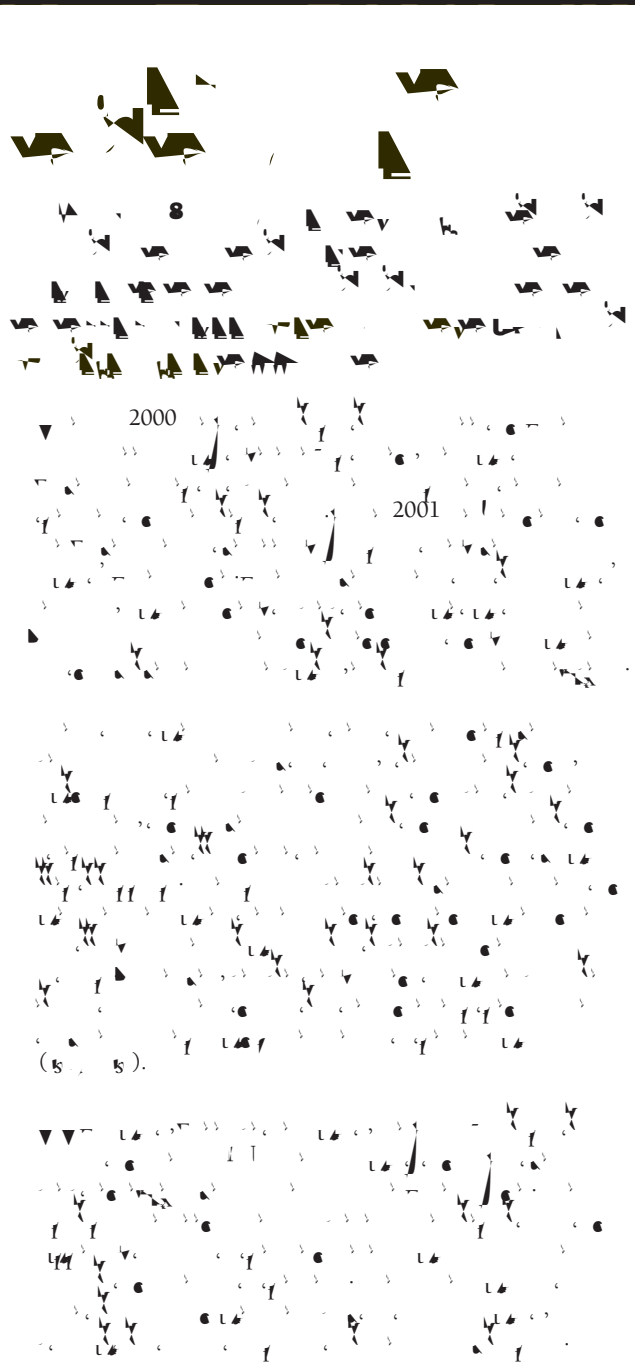
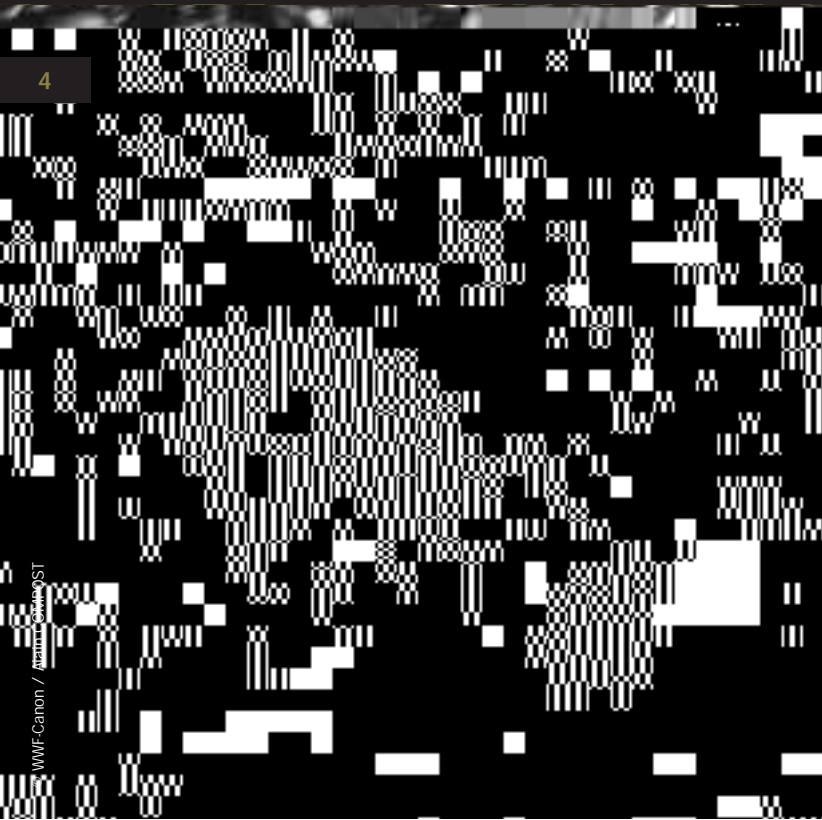
Contact: Alison Cameron, [bgycaca@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:bgycaca@leeds.ac.uk) and Chris Thomas, [c.d.thomas@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.d.thomas@leeds.ac.uk). Thomas et al. (2004): Extinction risk from Climate Change. *J. Biogeogr.* 427: 145-148



# news from around the world

4

WWF-Carion / Asian-Cowbird



Contact: Victor Teplyakov, vkt@iucn.ru and Vladimir Dmitriev, VDMitriev@wwf.ru

Contact: Nazir Foad, WWF Indonesia's Director of Species Programme, Nfoead@wwf.or.id, also see [http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/forests/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=11451](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=11451)

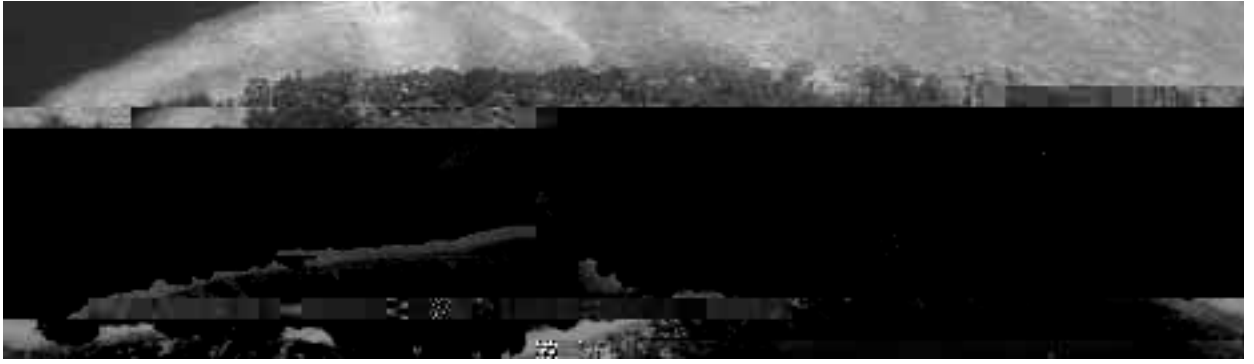
**China new parks:** In 2003, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) approved 64 new national forest parks across China to protect natural resources and boost tourism. China now has 503 national forest parks covering 10 million ha, and 1,700 forest parks covering 14.8 million ha.

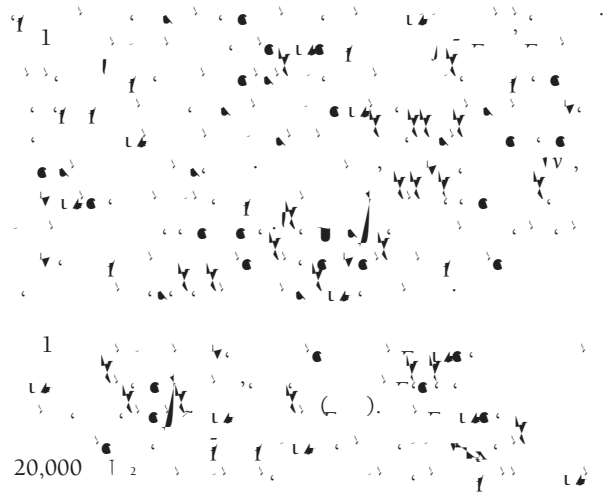
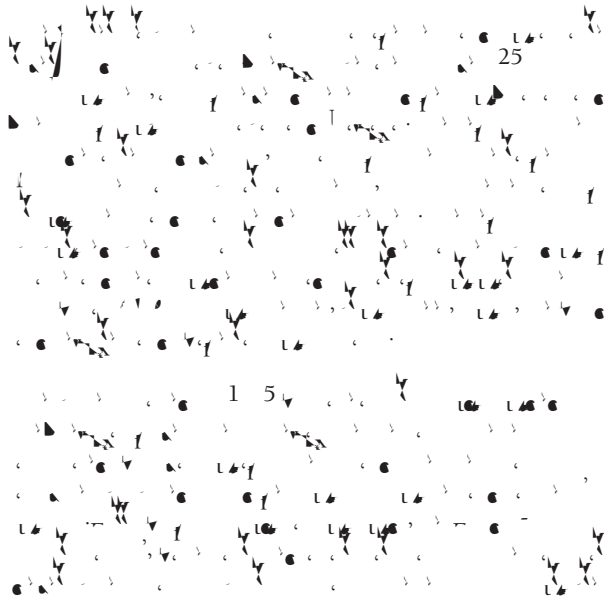
Source: [news.xinhuanet.com](http://news.xinhuanet.com)

**Bhutan forest management:** A comprehensive forest management code has been agreed in Bhutan to act as a basic tool for forest management planners and implementers. The code includes elements for laying down short, medium and long-term planning along with socio-economic surveys, monitoring and evaluation, operational planning, forest management inventory, and health and safety issues.

Source: Kuensel Online, [www.kuenselonline.com](http://www.kuenselonline.com)







# feature: climate change and forests



## Introduction

Forests play a crucial role in the global carbon cycle, acting as a significant carbon sink. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that forests store approximately 861 GtC (250 GtC in above-ground biomass and 611 GtC in soil) globally. However, deforestation and forest degradation are releasing carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.

The loss of forest carbon stocks is a major concern. Between 2001 and 2012, the world lost approximately 1.2 billion trees, equivalent to 100 billion tonnes of carbon. This loss is primarily due to deforestation for agriculture, logging, and urban expansion.

Deforestation is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2011, deforestation and forest degradation accounted for approximately 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This is equivalent to the emissions from 1.5 billion tonnes of coal. The loss of forest carbon stocks is a major concern, as it reduces the planet's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

## Definitions and general modalities

The Paris Agreement (2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize the importance of forests in addressing climate change. SDG 15 (Life on Land) aims to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, conserve and enhance freshwater ecosystems and watersheds, and protect and restore the world's biodiversity.

Forests are a vital part of our planet's natural heritage. They provide a wide range of ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, water regulation, soil conservation, and habitat for biodiversity. The loss of forests is a major threat to the planet's health and the well-being of future generations.

## Non-Permanence

Non-permanence refers to the risk that carbon stored in forests will be released back into the atmosphere. This can occur through natural disturbances such as fires, droughts, and insect outbreaks, or through human activities such as logging and land-use change.





## Socioeconomic and Environmental Impacts

Widespread destruction of forests and infrastructure, leading to displacement of communities and loss of livelihoods. Significant environmental damage, including soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and increased risk of landslides and wildfires. Economic losses due to destruction of property and infrastructure, and increased costs for reconstruction and disaster relief. Psychological trauma and stress among affected populations, particularly in rural and indigenous communities. Disruption of local ecosystems and loss of natural resources, impacting food security and traditional practices.

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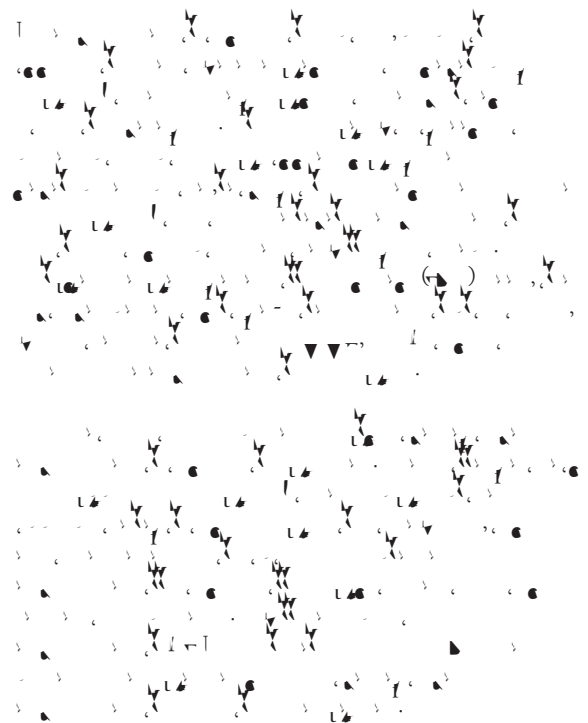
... 11 ... 2003 ...



### Reaching consensus



### Small is beautiful?





#### WWF and IUCN Response

WWF and IUCN have responded to the findings of the study. WWF has provided funding for the study and IUCN has provided technical support. The study is a joint effort of WWF and IUCN, and is a landmark in the history of marine mammal research. The study has provided valuable information on the status of the population and the threats to its survival. WWF and IUCN are committed to protecting the species and its habitat, and will continue to work together to address the challenges facing the population.

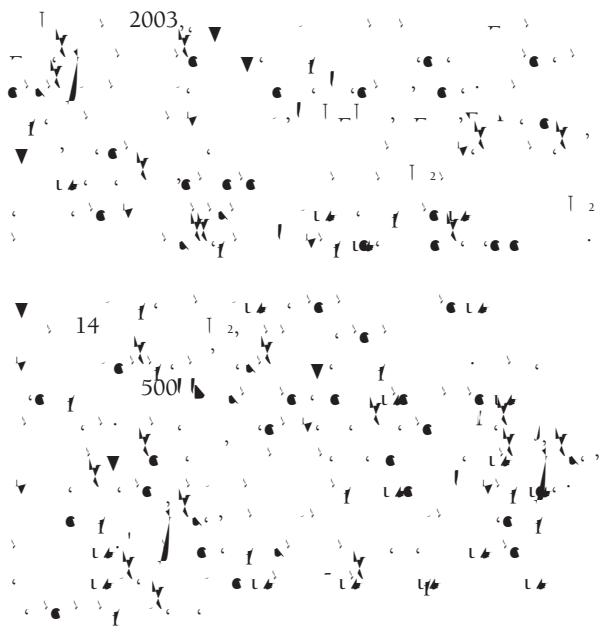
The study has also provided information on the distribution and abundance of the species, which is essential for developing conservation plans. WWF and IUCN will use this information to develop targeted conservation measures, such as habitat protection and monitoring programs. The study is a landmark in the history of marine mammal research, and it is hoped that it will lead to improved protection and management of the species.

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Contacts: Brett Orlando ([brett.orlando@iucn.org](mailto:brett.orlando@iucn.org)), Stephen Kelleher ([stephen.kelleher@iucn.org](mailto:stephen.kelleher@iucn.org)) and Jill Bowling ([JBowling@wwfint.org](mailto:JBowling@wwfint.org))

Indications of climate change continue to be reported in the science journals. The level of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere has reached a record high according to new data from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with average levels of carbon dioxide rising to about 376 parts per million (PPM) for 2003, a steady annual increase of 2.5 ppm over the previous two years ([www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov), 22/3/04). The global surface temperature of the earth for all of 2003 was +0.45°C above the 1961-90 annual average, making 2003 the third warmest year on record, according to the records maintained by Members of the World Meteorological Organization ([www.wmo.ch/index-en.html](http://www.wmo.ch/index-en.html)). In Europe, 2003 was by far the hottest year on record, and research on monthly and seasonal surface temperature for Europe show that the late 20th- and early 21st-century European climate is warmer than that of any time during the past 500 years ([www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com), Vol 303 5/3/04).





**Staff Changes:** Chng Soh Koon joined the WWF Forests for Life Programme in January as Communications and Marketing Manager, based in Switzerland. Soh Koon was previously Programme/Communications Officer for the Asia-Pacific Programme. In March, Nils Hager also joined the Forests for Life team as Target Manager – Forest Management and Certification. A Swedish Forester, Nils spent the last six years in Bolivia, the last three with WWF Bolivia coordinating a Regional Community Forest Certification Project.  
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