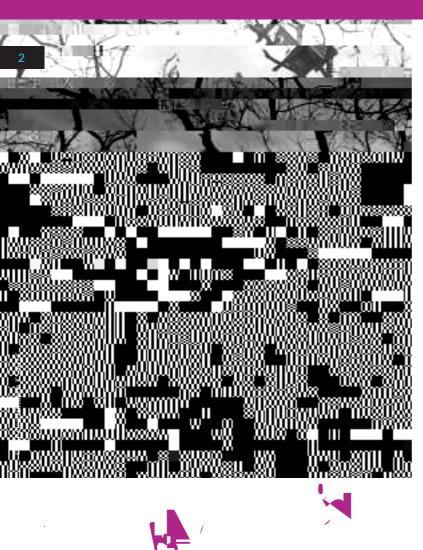
# news: the Indian Ocean tsunami



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Contact: Channa Rambaradeniya cnh@lignsl.org



## news: the Indian Ocean tsunami



Australian bush fires: January's bush fires in the Eyre peninsula, South Australia, burned 100,000 hectares of mostly grazing land and claimed nine lives. A combination of high temperatures and strong winds made this the country's worst bush fire incident since 1983. Scientists from Macquarie University's Natural Hazards Research Centre analyzed data from previous bush fires and estimated that 500,000 Australian homes are at high risk of being destroyed by fire because of their proximity to the bush.

Source: www.theaustralian.news.com.au, January 15, 2005

Indonesia ups logging quota: Indonesia's Minister of Forestry is pushing for an increase in the country's logging quota from 5.45 million m³ to between 20 and 30 million m³. "Reducing the logging quota is not a wise way to curb illegal logging. The low quota has prompted most forestry-based companies to seek illegal timber to meet



**Source:** www.unep.org, February 22, 2005. Both IUCN and WWF are on the UNEP Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force and have contributed to the UNEP report.

New PAs in Brazil: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced in February the creation of two new major protected areas in the Amazon, totalling 3.7 million hectares. The decision was made in an effort to fight deforestation and land conflicts and came less than two weeks after the murder of a US-born nun known for her outspoken efforts to support peasant farmers and wildlife conservation in the region.

Source: www.panda.org, February 21, 2005

Icelandic PA – Europe's largest: The Icelandic government has announced plans to create Europe's largest national park, protecting some of the island-nation's key habitats and natural landscapes. Covering more than 10,000 km² – nearly one tenth of Iceland's land area — the proposed national park will include the Joekulsa, a Fjoellum watershed encompassing the largest free-flowing rivers in Iceland, and will protect the central highland glaciers to the country's northern coastline.

Source: www.panda.org, January 26, 2005

Peru's first sacred PA: The first Natural Sacred Site in Peru was launched in December as a Community Conservation Area. Kechua communities from Cusco established the site in the Vilcanota region with technical support from Peruvian and international conservation organizations. This model of protected area aims to recognize and promote Kechua values and principles in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Vilcanota region includes the second most important glacier system in Peru and is recognized as a hotspot of biodiversity.

Source: www.iied.org, December 7, 2004

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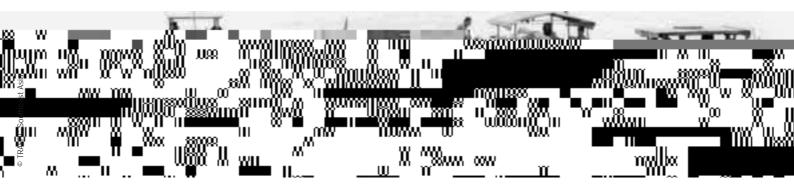
# news: meetings and international initiatives





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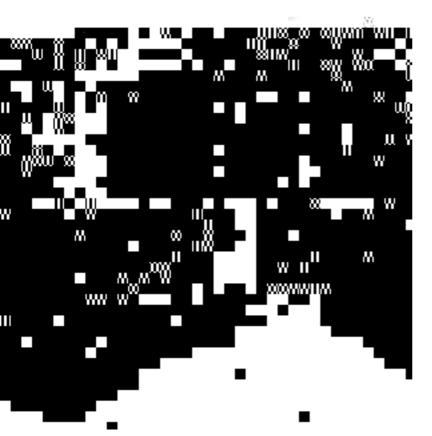






Contact: Hin Keong Chen, hkchen@pc.jaring.my







# feature: forests and natural disasters



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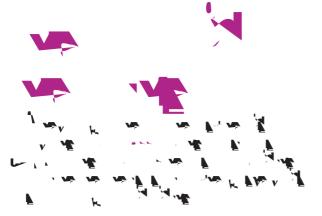
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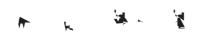




Contact: T. Mitchell Aide, tmaide@yahoo.com; H. Ricardo Grau, grau@yahoo.com.ar. This article is based on a paper published by the authors in \_\_\_\_\_\_, September 24, 2004. For a copy of the article contact the authors.









### Forests and Floods: Collecting the Evidence

Available from: www.cambridge.org

The flood prevention qualities of forests are given a thorough examination in Editors Mike Bonell and Sampurno Bruijnzeel have

pulled together contributions from a wide range of specialists, covering fields as diverse as tropical anthropology, environmental economics, human geography, climatology, hydrology, meteorology and

forestry. The editors'wlogyca15.s-14.1(haptrs fhe Hbook's]TJ T\* 0(mink sctinns fnd Sheir own aonocludng f(haptrsmane)Tj T\*



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The next issue of be produced in June 2005 (copy deadline end of May 2005). If you have any material to send or comments please contact: Jennifer Rietbergen-McCracken 85 chemin de la ferme du château, 74520 Vulbens, France. jennifer.rietbergen@wanadoo.fr

Back issues of " " or an be found on: www.iucn.org/themes
/fcp/publications/arborvitae/avnewslett er/avnewsletter26\_30.htm

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