

Where timber slips away unnoticed

Environmental groups say uncontrolled logging hastens climate change and contributes to floods and landslides. In some countries, tough laws are undercut by lack of enforcement or unclear land ownership. Areas of particular concern include:



Brazil:

Home to the bulk of the Amazon rainforest, which is disappearing at a rate of 3 million acres a year. An estimated 80 percent of all logging in the Brazilian Amazon is illegal.

Congo Basin:

The second-largest tropical forests in the world span six nations: Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Republic of the Congo. Illegal logging is one factor in deforestation that claims 9.8 million acres a year.

Russia:

Home to one-fifth of the world's forests. The government estimates illegal loggers cut 950,000 cubic yards of timber last year. Environmental groups suspect the actual figure is much higher.

Indonesia:

Illegal or semilegal logging accounts for an estimated 70 percent of timber harvested.

SOURCES: World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council, Global Forest Watch.

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