The world’s last intact forest landscapes

Life depends on ancient forests. They will not survive unless we protect these last of the world's ancient forests.

See the full report on: www.greenpeace.org/forestmaps
For high resolution maps and a detailed methodology: www.intactforests.org

Summary of findings

- Only one fifth of the world's forest biomes* remain as intact forest landscapes.
- 44% of the great boreal forests of Russia, Canada and Alaska.
- 49 percent are the tropical forests of Latin America, Africa, Southern Asia and Pacific.
- 46 percent are the great boreal forests of Russia, Canada and Alaska.

* Forests from regions which would be destroyed by fires in the absence of human impact.

Intact Forest Landscapes

- Open forests, woodlands and savannas
- Closed forests

Other Forest and Tree Cover Area*

- Open forests, woodlands and savannas
- Closed forests

*This includes damaged forest areas, tree plantations and intact forest areas smaller than 500 km²

We are destroying the world’s precious ancient forests at an unprecedented rate. An area of intact forest the size of a football pitch is cut down every 2 seconds. Logging and deforestation for agriculture are amongst the key threats.

Half of the forest lost in the last 80 years has been destroyed in the last 80 years and half of that destruction has taken place since the mid-1970s alone.

Since then, world maps have not been sufficiently accurate or consistent to reveal which forest areas remain intact, which have been damaged and in what extent. This task is difficult to see which forest areas most need of protection.

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Based on the most up to date, high-resolution satellite imagery and a consistent set of criteria, Greenpeace has created a new map of the world’s last remaining intact forest landscapes. It shows us the remaining large forest areas and lets us compare them directly and astonishingly for the first time. It is the only map for intact forest areas of the future and the baseline of a roadmap to recovery.

In this global assessment, the term ‘intact forest landscapes’ refers to areas larger 500 square kilometres. Many smaller forest areas with a high conservation value and in need of protection are not shown on this map. They are, however, included under the term ‘ancient forests’.

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