

The Amazon in graphics

AMAZON RAINFOREST






The Amazon rainforest is the biggest tropical forest in the world, covering some 40% of the continent of South America, spread across nine countries and 6.6m square kilometres.

More than 40,000 plant species, including 1,000 different trees, have been identified in the rainforest. According to figures from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), it is also home to 427 different mammals, 1,294 birds, as well as 30 million people, including more than 220 indigenous groups.

DEFORESTATION

About 65% of the Amazon rainforest lies within Brazil and is home to 13% of the country's population. Since 1970 almost 700,000 square kilometres of the Brazilian Amazon have been cleared.

The area shown in squares below represents the 4.1m square kilometres of the Brazilian Amazon and shows how much has been cleared or is at risk. Each square measures 2,500 square kilometres.

-  Land cleared by deforestation 1970-2007
-  Likely to be lost by deforestation and drought by 2030 (WWF 2007)
-  Untouched forest
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Area of Amazon Rainforest

