

# Many Amazon trees endangered

At current deforestation pace, 57 percent of species could be threatened, study suggests

By [Chris Samoray](#)  
2:50pm, November 20, 2015



**PERIL** Trees like these across the Amazon are threatened by deforestation and development.

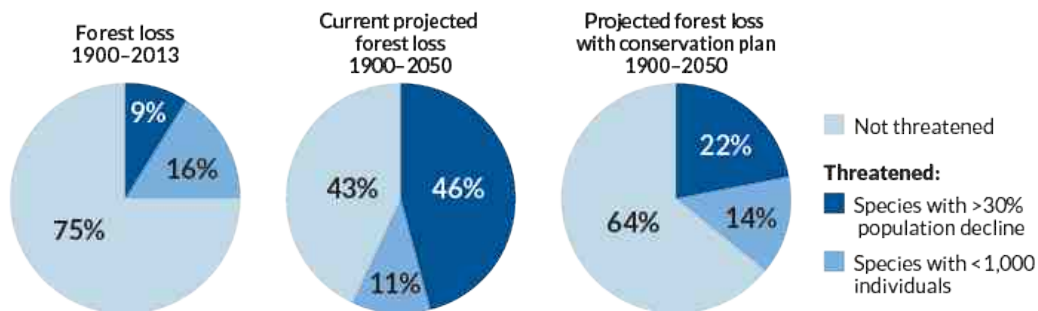
© Marcelo F. Simon

Between [36 and 57 percent of all tree species in the Amazon](#) probably meet International Union for Conservation of Nature standards for being a threatened species, new findings show.

Under current deforestation trends where [40 percent of the original Amazon forest](#) is lost by 2050, as much as 57 percent of tree species there could be threatened.

But with better governing and conservation, expected forest loss by 2050 drops to 21 percent. Even so, in this scenario, at least 36 percent of Amazon tree species can be considered threatened, an international team of researchers reports November 20 in *Science Advances*.

## Amazon trees at risk



A quarter of the 15,200 tree species growing in the Amazon are currently at risk (left), some facing a more than 30 percent population decrease to date and others with fewer than 1,000 trees remaining. A new study looks at projected threat to these trees under two scenarios: current deforestation rates (center) and conservation efforts that would slow the deforestation rate (right).