

## **SAVE PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S TROPICAL RAIN FOREST- SPECIES TOO**

There are plenty of animals. Butterflies, birds fly through every stratum of the forest, small creatures rustle around in the undergrowth. Watch carefully, and you will surely count dozens of animals in a single day, many more than in a forest outside the moist tropics. Until quite recently, scientists reckoned that all tropical forests contained several million animal species, at least half of all species on Earth- and in a mere one-fifteenth of Earth's land surface.



The forest could well contain many more species than the rest of other tropical countries put together. But we do not know for sure. The minimum certain estimates for now are no more than 5 million species.

### **PNG'S TROPICAL RAINFOREST IS DISAPPEARING - SPECIES TOO**

What we do know is that tropical forests are disappearing. As the forests disappear, so do their species. If present exploitation patterns persist- and indeed they are likely to accelerate –



there could be little left of these forest by the end century, except four large remnants: one in the Zaire basin, another in the western half of Brazilian Amazonia, a third in the Guyana countries of northern South America, and a fourth in New Guinea. Worse still, even these four extensive areas may not survive more than a few decades into next century. The result will be the extinction of millions of species of animals and plants.

Already we are losing several species a day in the forest. Eventually the toll will surely represent a greater setback in the abundance and variety of life forms on Earth. These types of environmental degradation such as pollution and desertification are intrinsically reversible - albeit at much cost to us - but extinction of species is another matter. Once gone, a species is gone for good - and all too often, that will be bad for us and even worse for our children; for we enjoy hundreds of products that we owe their origin to the genetic materials from tropical forest. Tropical forest amount to much more than living space for birds, butterflies and host of ornamental plants such as orchids. They contribute to our daily lives in ways we are not always aware of.



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS REGARDED AS ONE of the LAST FRONTIERs IN THE WORLD,** because it still has large untouched tropical rain forests something which many other countries no longer have today

Our Island of New Guinea too, is regarded to have the best plants life compared to many other countries. There are 45 different types of forests and woodlands which have been identified in PNG. These contains most of PNG'S approximately 20,000 different kinds of plants and perhaps 7.5% of the world's total number of species

But with the ever increasing dangers and green house effect, a result of man's neverending "cruelty" against nature, our unique biodiversity is continuously being threatened. Preservation of the environment and sustainable use of our forests and other resources is a global concern.

We should always take pride in the fact that we provide a natural theatre for world renowned researcher and other learned personalities concerned for the survival of our planet, to carry out their work here.

We the citizens of this country, we too, must do our part towards this great human effort.

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