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geospatial data derived from analysis of satellite imagery each year since 2000 forests are estimated to have removed an average of 2 billion metric tons of carbon from the atmosphere 1 this carbon sink function of forests is slowing climate change by reducing the rate at which co 2 mainly from fossil fuel burning builds up in the atmosphere forests are a major requisite front of action in the global fight against catastrophic climate change thanks to their unparalleled capacity to absorb and store carbon forests capture carbon dioxide at a rate equivalent to about one third the amount released annually by burning fossil fuels the global forest review gfr is a living report that provides peer reviewed analysis and insights generated from the best available geospatial data on the state of the world's forests to support the global community working to protect and restore forests worldwide more about the gfr tropical primary forest loss persisted in 2023 quantifying planetary warming from carbon emissions global climate models highlight natural forests high carbon storage potential supporting conservation policies however some model outcomes effectively deprioritize conservation of boreal and temperate forests by suggesting that increased albedo upon deforestation could cool the planet forests cover one third of the earth's land mass serving as critical pillars for both environmental health and human well being these ecosystems are not only the home to over half of the world s terrestrial species but also play a pivotal role in combating climate change through their natural processes of carbon sequestration forests are a stabilising force for the climate they regulate ecosystems protect biodiversity play an integral part in the carbon cycle support livelihoods and supply goods and services that can drive sustainable growth forests role in climate change is two fold a comprehensive quantification of global forest fragmentation is urgently required to guide forest protection restoration and reforestation policies june 23 2022 a new study paints a vivid image of how forests developed over centuries

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and contribute to earth s carbon balance a crucial component to maintaining a steady global climate take action rainforests are home to half the world s biodiversity rainforests provide critical habitat for millions of species large and small from elephants to insects yet they cover just 12 of the earth s land surface we depend on rainforests for life sustaining clean air water rainfall and global carbon storage small grants fund this year marks 10 years of impact for global forest watch gfw and the small grants fund sqf since 2014 the sqf has made grants to 102 projects in 30 countries that have monitored around 851 million hectares of forests the impressive impact of these community based efforts illustrates the power of community land the spring initiative comes ahead of global talks in colombia in october that aim to accelerate efforts to protect and restore nature as part of a global biodiversity framework deal reached in 2022 researchers found overwhelming evidence that in seasonally dry mixed conifer forests in the western u s reducing surface and ladder fuels and tree density through thinning coupled with prescribed burning or pile burning could reduce future wildfire severity by more than 60 relative to untreated areas the new law aims to restore at least 20 of the eu s land and seas with specific targets including reversing the decline of pollinators and restoring 25 000 kilometres of rivers to free flowing conditions this target is instrumental to align eu policy with global commitments made by almost 200 countries to restore and protect at least 30 of

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at the global scale the net annual carbon dioxide co 2 flux from anthropogenic land use and land cover change driven mainly by tropical deforestation is estimated in ipcc reports 1 2 and

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globally 18 percent of the world s forest area or more than 700 million hectares fall within legally established protected areas such as national parks conservation areas and game reserves iucn categories i iv

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