10 Fascinating Facts About the Amazon Rainforest

1. The Amazon is the world’s largest rainforest – roughly the size of the continental United States.
2. The Amazon influences rainfall patterns as far away as the United States.
3. 70% of plants found to have anti-cancer properties are found only in the rainforest.
4. Just 1% of 40,000 plant varieties in the Amazon have been tested for medicinal properties.
5. Most of our food originally comes from the Amazon rainforest, including coffee, bananas, chocolate, corn, pineapple, rice and tomatoes.
6. 10% of the world’s known species live in the Amazon rainforest.
7. 20% of the world’s bird species live in the Amazon rainforest.
8. Around 400-500 indigenous tribes call the Amazon rainforest home, and about 50 of these have never had contact with the outside world.
9. More than 20% of the world’s oxygen is produced by the Amazon.
10. Due to the thickness of the Amazon’s tree canopy, it takes about ten minutes for rain to reach the ground!
Time is of the Essence

- In the past 40 years, nearly 20% of the Amazon rainforest has been cut down – more than in the previous 450 years.
- Deforestation accounts for nearly 20% of greenhouse gas emissions, more than all of the world’s cars, buses and planes combined.
- Deforestation results in soil erosion, drought, and an increase in the strength and frequency of wildfires.
How We’re Battling Deforestation

- Partnering with all levels of government to create protected areas, such as the 977,660 acre Maijuna-Kichwa Reserve in the Amazon of Peru (larger than Yosemite National Park).
- Working with local and indigenous communities to develop and implement sustainable industries that leave the forest intact. To date, we’ve worked with seven of Ecuador’s 13 indigenous groups.

Nature and Culture International

We are dedicated to conserving Latin America’s most extraordinary yet highly threatened ecosystems and cultures by saving endangered habitats, developing and strengthening local institutions, and helping communities preserve their way of life. Learn more at www.natureandculture.org.
Here’s How You Can Help:

1. Make a donation online today at www.natureandculture.org/donate.

2. Stay informed by following us on Facebook, where you’ll get a dose of conservation inspiration along with updates from the field.

3. Be conscious of the products you buy. Are they rainforest certified?