



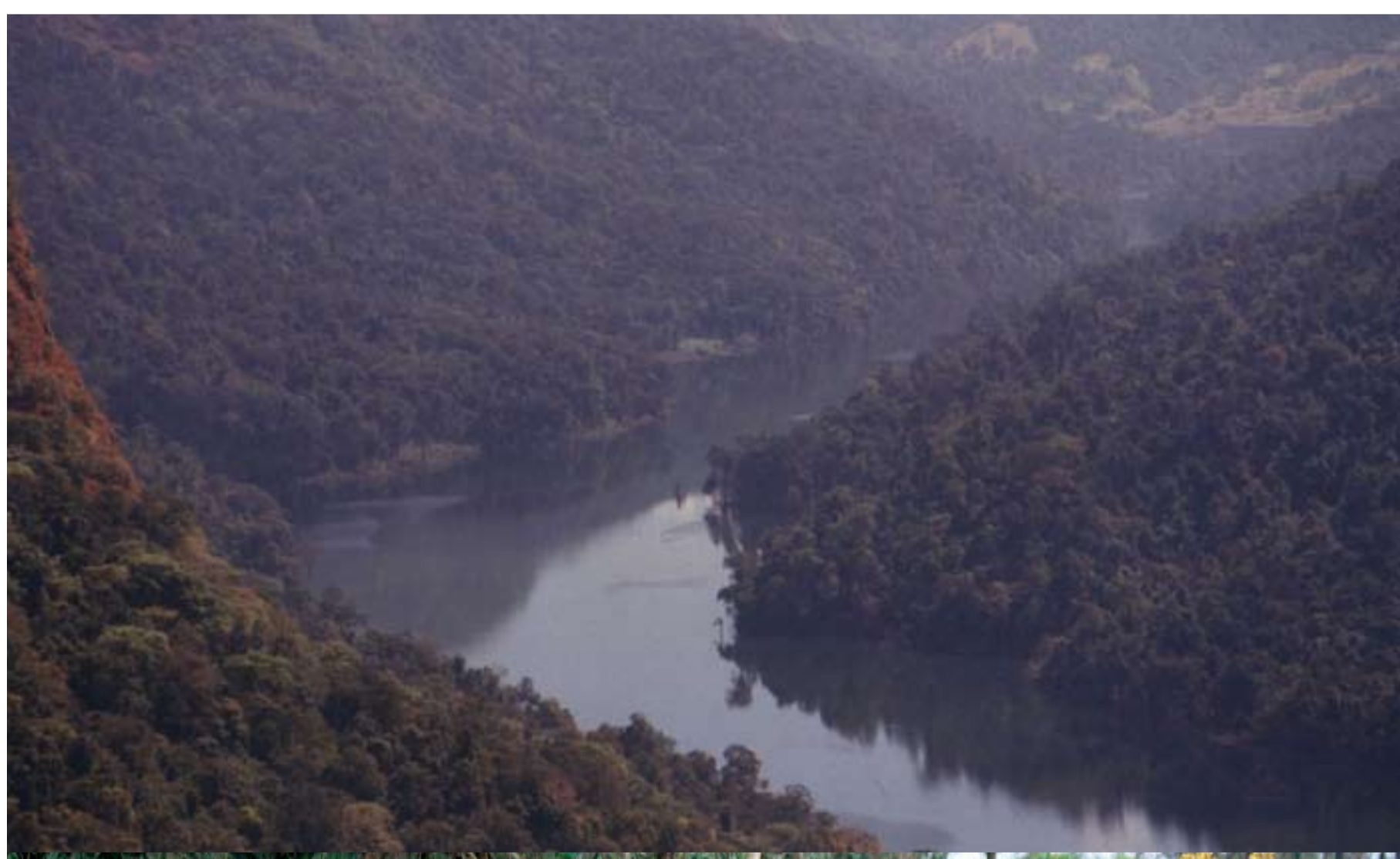
Convention on
Biological Diversity

FORESTS COVER 1/3 OF THE EARTH'S surface and are estimated **TO CONTAIN AS MUCH AS 2/3 OF ALL KNOWN TERRESTRIAL SPECIES**. Forest ecosystems also provide a wide array of goods and services.

In the last 8,000 years, about **45% OF THE EARTH'S ORIGINAL FOREST COVER** has been **CONVERTED**. Most of it was cleared during the past century.

FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

FORESTS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE BECAUSE even small changes in temperature and precipitation can have significant effects on forest growth. It has been shown that **AN INCREASE OF 1 DEGREE CELSIUS** in the temperature can **MODIFY THE FUNCTIONING AND COMPOSITION OF FORESTS**.



Many forest-dwelling large animals, **1/2 OF THE LARGE PRIMATES**, and nearly **9% OF ALL KNOWN TREE SPECIES** are already at some **RISK OF EXTINCTION**. Woody tree species are less able to shift poleward with changing climatic conditions.

FORESTS CONTAIN 80% OF ALL THE CARBON STORED IN TERRESTRIAL VEGETATION and deforestation and land-clearing activities emit about **1.7 BILLION METRIC TONS OF CARBON PER YEAR** into the atmosphere. Hence, the conservation of forests offers important opportunities to protect biodiversity and mitigate climate change.

Forests provide a perfect example of the links that exist between biodiversity and climate change. On the one hand, forests are threatened by the impacts of climate change, but on the other hand, have the potential to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration.

