

Environmental Ethics and Land Management

ENVR E-120

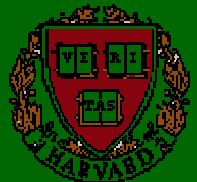
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Land Management and the Global Commons: Air, Oceans, Forests

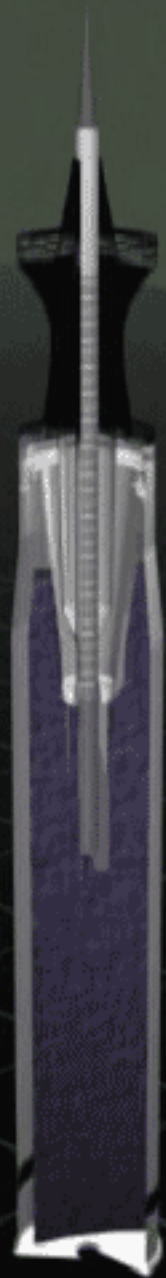
Timothy C. Weiskel

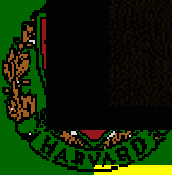
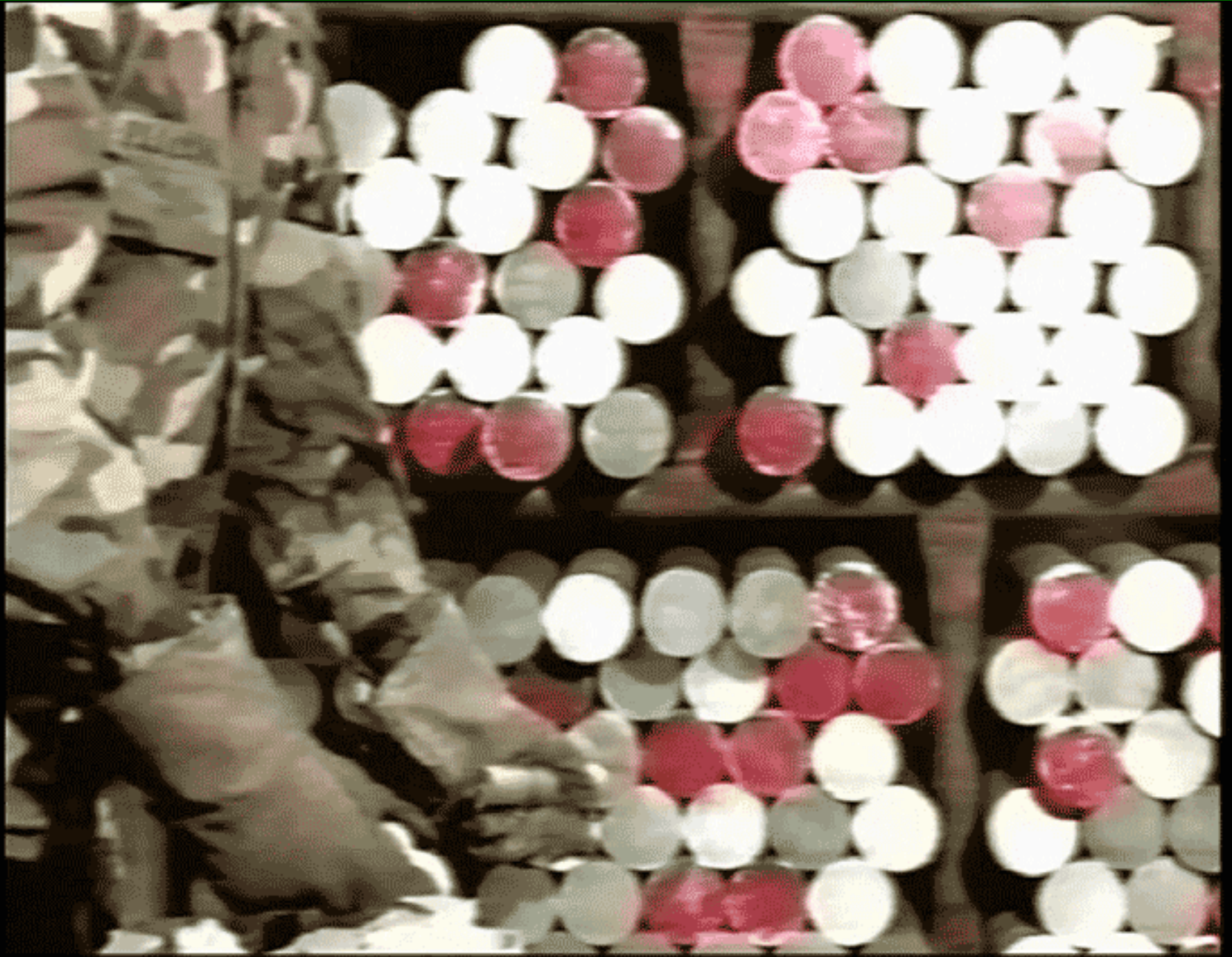
Session -10
30 November 2006

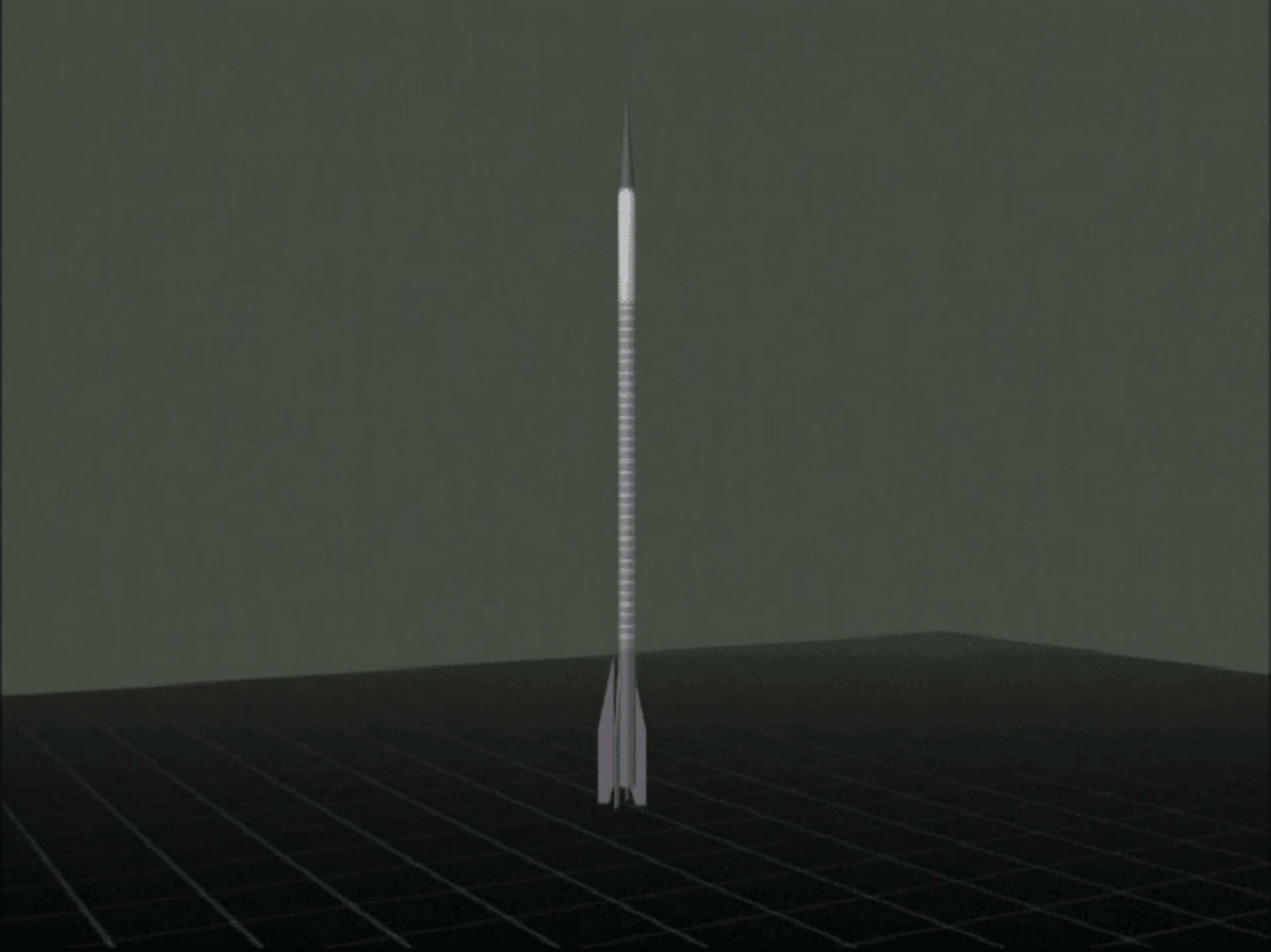
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Fall Semester 2006












Radioactivity

US ARMY TRAINING FILM

The image features a glowing blue radioactivity symbol, which is a trefoil shape with a central starburst. The symbol is set against a dark background and has a bright, ethereal glow. The word "Radioactivity" is superimposed over the center of the symbol.

Radioactivity

US ARMY TRAINING FILM

A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a human head and neck in profile, facing left. The head is dark, while the neck and jawline are light. The background is a dark, textured brown with faint, repeating text. Overlaid on the lower part of the neck is the text "Heavy Metal Toxicity" in a bold, white, serif font with a black outline.

**Heavy Metal
Toxicity**



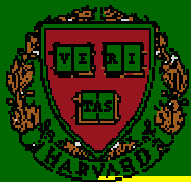
Open Wounds

Inhalation

Ingestion

But first,....

Nuclear Waste → Weapons → Dirty Bomb Update

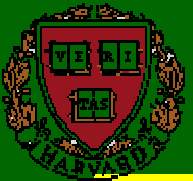




Not limited to Abram's Tank –

The Airforce A10 - 630,000 pounds? of it

Tim Weiskel - 11





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NEWS GLOBAL

Features

Washington's secret nuclear war

By Shaheen Chughtai

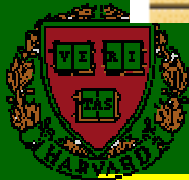
Tuesday 14 September 2004, 22:17 Makka Time, 19:17 GMT

Illegal weapons of mass destruction have not only been found in Iraq but have been used against Iraqis and have even killed US troops.

But Washington and its allies have tried to cover up this outrage because the chief culprit is the US itself, argue American and other experts trying to expose what they say is a war crime.



The US has dropped tonnes of



"Man admits 'dirty bomb' plot," BBC News Online, (12 October 2006).



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WORLD

Litvinenko Inquiry Centers on 12 Sites, 5 Airplanes

by Rob Gifford

Audio for this story will be available at approx. 7:30 p.m. ET

All Things Considered, November 30, 2006 · British police investigating former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko's death in London say they have found traces of radioactivity at a 12 sites in the city -- and in five aircraft, as well. The Kremlin has consistently denied any involvement in the death of Litvinkeno, who blamed President Vladimir Putin for his death.

The apparent murder of Litvinenko has unfolded into a story with very broad implications, even involving public health. And in Russia, doctors believe a former Russian prime minister may have been poisoned as well.

In Parliament, Britain's Home Secretary John Reid linked the contamination in London to polonium-210, the radioactive element found in Litvinkeno's body. He said that about 24 sites were being investigated and 12 of them had shown traces of radioactivity.

Reid said, "It is at very low levels in some cases, at higher levels

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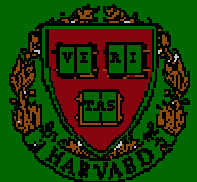
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Land Management and the Global Commons: Air, Oceans, Forests

Timothy C. Weiskel

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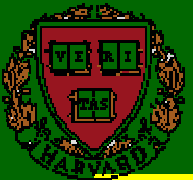


Global Commons: Air, Oceans, Forests

The commons represent those aspects of nature which humanity as a species inherited as a legacy in evolutionary time.

The management of these “natural resources” has been a sad failure for the human community. So far a global management regime to protect humanity’s common heritage has not proved successful with respect to air, oceans or forests.

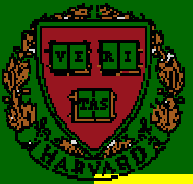
Let’s consider them in reverse order -- that is, from the most “stable” or “fixed” to the most fluid and moving

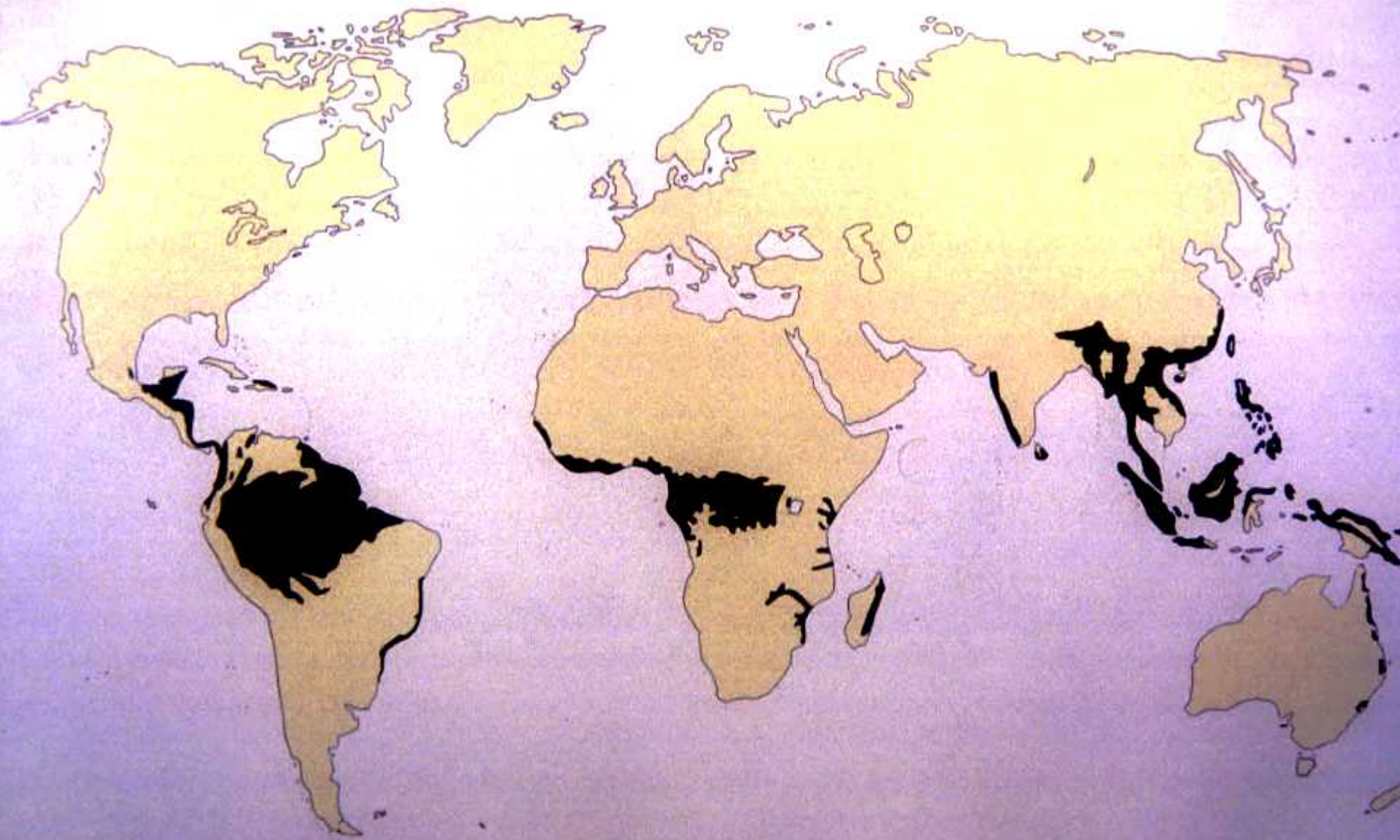








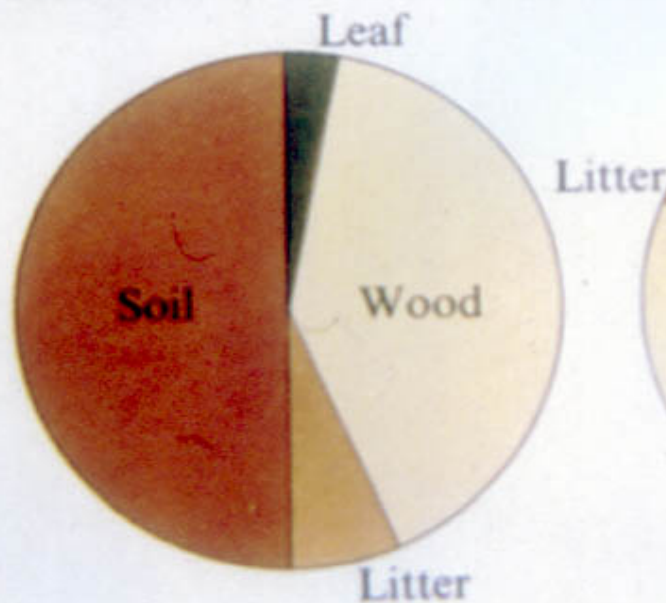




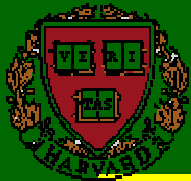
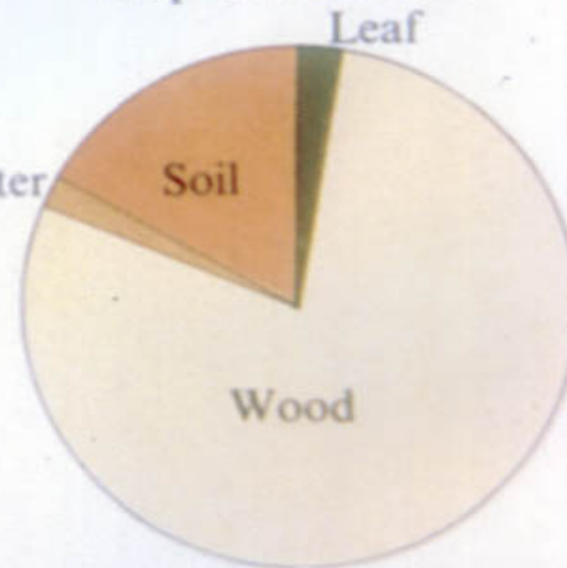
NUTRIENT CYCLING

In the tropical rain forest most of the mineral nutrients are not held in the soil. When a plant or animal dies, soil fungi, the micorrhiza, quickly break down the dead organic litter and transfer it to the living cells of plant roots. This rapid recycling allows few minerals to be leached out of the soil by the high rainfall. Nutrient distribution in a northern coniferous forest and a tropical rain forest is shown below.

Northern coniferous forest



Tropical rain forest

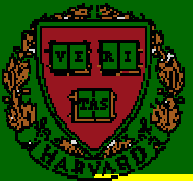


Forests...



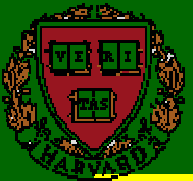
One might think that forests are “fixed” assets, but forest preservation has been a thorny issue in many parts of the United States.

Consider the ethical issues to home -- in the state of Maine... * *



Forests...

In the American west
the problems of forest
use have not been
solved either.
Consider the “Great
Bear” rainforest. *



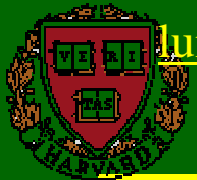
Forests...

Even when policy in one country can be decided there are major problems across borders for the preservation of regional forests.

Landmark deal to save Canadian forest

US slaps Canada with stiff

lumber tariff



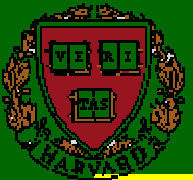
Forests...

Even when agreements can be made and some equitable forms of exploitation can be devised between nation-states, there is an emerging problem when nature does not “cooperate.”

Wildfires have become an increasing problem in the American west -- threatening inhabited areas *

[US braces for fire storm](#)

[Overseas experts boost fire effort](#)



Forests...

What about the global situation?

The story is not encouraging:

– Consider other “developed” areas:

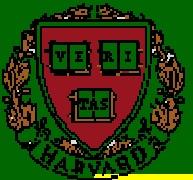
Forest fire smoke blankets Moscow *

Russia's threadbare forests revealed

– Further problems appear in Third World

– *Amazon*

- (Amazon damage 'worse than feared' vi.)
- Amazon Forest could vanish fast
- Amazon destruction surges



Forests...

Southeast Asia

Indonesia fails to tackle logging

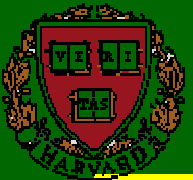
Illegal logging boom in Cambodia

Illegal loggers resort to violence

Problem has led to global appeal for preservation, but little has been accomplished except in exceptional circumstances.

UN call to save key forests

Robin Hood's forest protected





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CLIMATE CHANGE: Will Forests Adapt to a Warmer World?

Stephen Leahy*

TORONTO, Nov 20 (IPS/IFEJ) - Deforestation remains the greatest current threat to the world's forests, claiming 10 to 15 million hectares of tree-covered areas every year, but climate change may represent a bigger challenge in the long term, scientists say.

"We're like a two-year-old playing with fire... We're messing around with something dangerous and don't really understand what will happen," says William Laurance, of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Balboa, Panama, in reference to climate change and the Amazon rainforest.

Forests and other forms of life are now living on an "alien" planet where the levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are higher than they have been for a million years.

These unprecedented levels of greenhouse gases are creating a new, hotter planet with weather that is much more extreme than in the past.

What does this mean for the 20 percent of the Earth's original forests that are still standing? Some scientists believe forests will grow faster in a warmer world. Others say they are more likely to burn, or suffer from disease or die from drought.

Laurance and his colleagues have shown that the higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are changing the very nature of the existing forest in the Amazon.

"Trees in the rainforest are growing faster and dying faster, and changing in species composition," he said, adding that the long-term implications of these changes are not known.

MDGs

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30 November 2006 10:59

Amazon rainforest 'could become a desert'

And that could speed up global warming with 'incalculable consequences', says alarming new research

By Geoffrey Lean in Manaus and Fred Pearce

Published: 23 July 2006

The vast Amazon rainforest is on the brink of being turned into desert, with catastrophic consequences for the world's climate, alarming research suggests. And the process, which would be irreversible, could begin as early as next year.

Studies by the blue-chip Woods Hole Research Centre, carried out in Amazonia, have concluded that the forest cannot withstand more than two consecutive years of drought without breaking down.

Oceans...

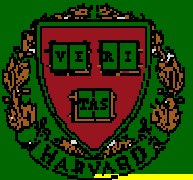
The commons of the oceans have been devastated even more dramatically than the forests.

The issues surrounding over fishing are apparent in reference to the North Atlantic. The cod industry makes the case clear.

[Extinction threat to cod](#)

[North Sea cod at crisis point](#)

["The Future of Fish,"](#) NPR - WBUR - On Point, (7 November 2006).



Oceans...

The Europeans have faced this problem more directly and limited the catch quite drastically.

Fish 'massacre' in North Atlantic

Deep fish 'trawled to oblivion'

Extinction threat to cod *

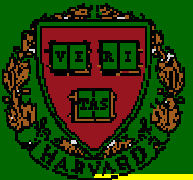
EU proposes radical fishing cut

Furthermore, killing fish is not the only issue with the Oceans as “commons”:

Should whaling be permitted?

US Navy sued over new sonars

Navy to Limit Sonar Testing Thought to Hurt Sea Mammals



Air and Atmosphere...

Beyond oceans and forests, however, the largest “commons” in the earth’s ecosystem is without a doubt its atmosphere.

Global warming 'worse than feared'

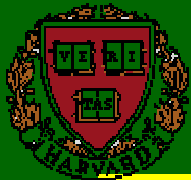
Keith Shine, "The overwhelming majority of people accept the evidence ...

Co-chairman of the panel, Sir John Houghton "The 1990's were the warmest decade...."

"It's the American people who are the chief culprits ..."

Despite American non-participation, the world reached a “deal” on the Kyoto accord...

Climate conference reaches deal



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