

NYC Parks' Destruction of Amazon Rainforests Continues!



AN AREA OF RAINFOREST THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALL FIELD IS DESTROYED EVERY SECOND – THAT’S AN AREA THE SIZE OF MANHATTAN EVERY THREE HOURS. – UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

PROMISES MADE

In January of 2008, NYC Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe proclaimed an end to the use of tropical hardwoods for benches and new boardwalks in City Parks. But look at the wood along our recently renovated parks: the High Line, the Coney Island boardwalk, Washington Square Park, Union Square Park and sections of Hudson River Park. It’s been nearly two years since Benepe’s promise, yet almost every piece of wood installed in these parks since then has been gutted from the ancient forests of the Amazon. That’s tens of thousands of board feet of rainforest wood.

LOGGING IN THE AMAZON

NYC Parks' Amazon woods of choice are ipê and cumaru. An extensive network of roads is carved into the Amazon to access the scattered individual trees of these species. One study showed that 28 trees are destroyed for each high-value tree that is logged. The next cycle of destruction occurs when criminal cartels, land speculators, and slash-and-burn industrial farmers follow these logging roads into formerly inaccessible, ancient forests.

Estimates are that 80% of logging in the Peruvian Amazon is done illegally. The criminal cartels involved don't just cut luxury wood – they steal land from indigenous tribes and murder those who get in their way.

There are so many readily available alternatives – including black locust, Kebony and recycled plastic lumber. All we need is the political will to get the job done.

YOU CAN STOP THIS!!

CALL OR WRITE NYC PARKS COMMISSIONER ADRIAN BENEPE

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