

Cambridge IGCSE[®] (9–1)

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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0990/01

Paper 1 Reading

For examination from 2020

2 hours

INSERT

Amazon deforestation 'at highest level in a decade'

Deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon has hit the highest annual level in a decade, according to new government data which highlights the impact the president, [Jair Bolsonaro](#), has made on the world's biggest rainforest.

The new numbers, showing almost 10,000 sq kms were lost in the year to August, were released as emboldened farm owners scuffled with forest defenders in [Altamira](#), the Amazonian city at the heart of the recent devastation.

The assault on the planet's biggest terrestrial carbon sink by land-grabbers, agribusiness, miners and loggers is accelerating. In the year until 30 July 2019, 9,762 sq kms were lost, an increase of 29.5% over the previous 12 months, the Brazilian space agency INPE said.

The clearance rate – equivalent to about two football fields a minute – is the fastest since 2008, pushing [Brazil](#) far off course from reaching its Paris agreement goals to cut carbon emissions.

Environmental groups blamed the government for “every inch of the increase because it weakened environmental protections, supported loggers and encouraged land-grabbing”.

“It is no surprise this is happening because the president has defended environmental crime and promoted impunity,” said Adriana Ramos of the Socio-environmental Institute.

“Proposals like legalising land-grabbing, mining and farming on indigenous lands, as well as reducing the licensing requirements for new infrastructure will show that the coming years will be even worse,” Carlos Rittl, its executive secretary, said. “The question is how long Brazil's trading partners will trust its promises of sustainability and compliance with the Paris agreement, as forests fall, indigenous leaders are killed and environmental laws are shattered.”

Dozens of farmers and landowners attempted to disrupt the opening by surging forward, waving Brazilian flags and chanting nationalist slogans. They were rebuffed by indigenous warriors in war paint and women's groups who formed a human barrier between the speakers and the hecklers. Police intervened to calm the situation, but with the protesters hoping to boost their numbers later in the day, tensions continued.

TEXT B – Text from a website about a chimpanzee sanctuary in the Gambia, describing dinner time at the sanctuary.

In the lush and little-visited interior of The Gambia, a remarkable woman created a safe haven for maltreated chimpanzees.

Back at Badi Mayo food was being prepared for the afternoon feeding. At 4pm we headed out to Island 2, where camp manager Edirissa was throwing out watermelon slices, maize cobs and pumpkin. To my delight one of the first chimps we spotted was Frankie, up in a tree with Felix. She was thrown a bottle of liquid multivitamin drink, mixed with sugar to make it appealing.

Baboons were descending from the trees, snatching any food left lying on the ground. One male chimpanzee gathered up as much maize as he could hold in his arms and retreated up a tree, some falling out of his grip as he climbed. Mature female Stella, 27 years old and known as a gentle soul, let out a satisfied hiccup, followed by what sounded distinctly like a burp.

We headed upriver a short way, pulling up at the base of a hill. It didn't seem a long way up, but the view from the top over the river was stunning. As the sun went down we supped on some cold beers, overlooking a small, lush island, dubbed "Little Africa". In the water we could see a dozen hippos and a crocodile or two.

The next morning I woke up to the hoot of chimps on Island 1 and monkeys crashing in the trees around my tent. I'd grown to think of the baboons as the enemy, so it was a surprise to find that the camp had taken in a couple of rescue cases. I met eight-month-old Sarjo, an orphan with the face of a little old man. Each day he goes out in a boat with a park patrol - I saw him sitting in the launch, a serious expression on his face, as if he too was a park ranger. Word had spread that Badi Mayo had taken the baboons in and they were being offered yet more pitiful cases - a whole new dilemma to wrestle with.

I was leaving mid-morning so elected to have breakfast out on the boat so that I could squeeze in one last trip. Buba and I chugged around the islands, pointing out fresh chimpanzee nests to each other - the chimps make a new one every night.

We turned off the main river and up a palm-fringed creek into real African Queen territory. Every few metres there was another bird to exclaim over; an African darter, an osprey in a tree, the flash of a pygmy kingfisher. I lost count of how many palm nut vultures we saw, surely the most handsome vulture around.

As we headed back past Island 2 I was thrilled to see Frankie again, hanging around in exactly the same spot as the previous night, cute little Felix not far away. I wouldn't have wanted to leave without saying goodbye to her; somehow she had become a symbol of what Stella was achieving here, both for the animals and the local people.

Text C: A biography of Sir David Attenborough, a famous scientist and natural history expert

David Attenborough, the Godfather of natural history TV, has introduced generations to the world's furry and feathered friends.

Beyond natural history he's had a huge influence as a broadcaster, introducing colour TV when he was Controller of BBC Two.

Born in London in 1926, Attenborough collected fossils as a child and gained a Natural Sciences degree from Cambridge. Since the launch of his famous *Zoo Quest* series in 1954 to the recent *Planet Earth*, he has surveyed almost every aspect of life on earth.

Most Renowned For

Whether he's chilling with chimps or freezing with polar bears, Attenborough always reassures with his signature dulcet tones. Many have tried – and most failed – to capture his hushed, reverential whisper, full of barely contained excitement. This unique voice has formed the soundtrack to millions of childhoods and TV dinners.

Cultural Impact

Attenborough's trophy cabinet has recently acquired the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, he has been knighted, had species named after him and the Sir David Attenborough Studio is planned for London's Natural History Museum in 2008.

With warmth and intelligence, Attenborough has brought the world to our doorstep. An estimated 500 million people worldwide watched *Life On Earth*.

Long before environmental issues were making daily headlines, he was a fervent eco campaigner both on and off screen.

In His Own Words

"I just wish the world was twice as big and half of it was still unexplored."

