

We Protect Tropical Forests Together!

Ito Family's Trip to the Amazon



Introduction of Characters



Etsuko Ito (Mother)

Teacher of an elementary school in Yokohama city. Knowledgeable and reliable. Very well informed about the Amazon and tropical forests.



Kazuo Ito (Father)

Hard-working salaried man. Cheerful and gentle father, but too optimistic at times. Planning a family trip to the Amazon.



Shotaro Ito (Big brother)

5th grade at elementary school, vivacious and very fond of football. Keenly interested in observing tropical forests and participating in the football championship which takes place during the trip to the Amazon.



Akiko Ito (Younger sister)

2nd grade at elementary school, bright and precocious. Getting interested in global environment issues and tropical forests.



Pepe

Son of Santos, same age as Shotaro. Very good at football, dreaming of becoming a professional player.

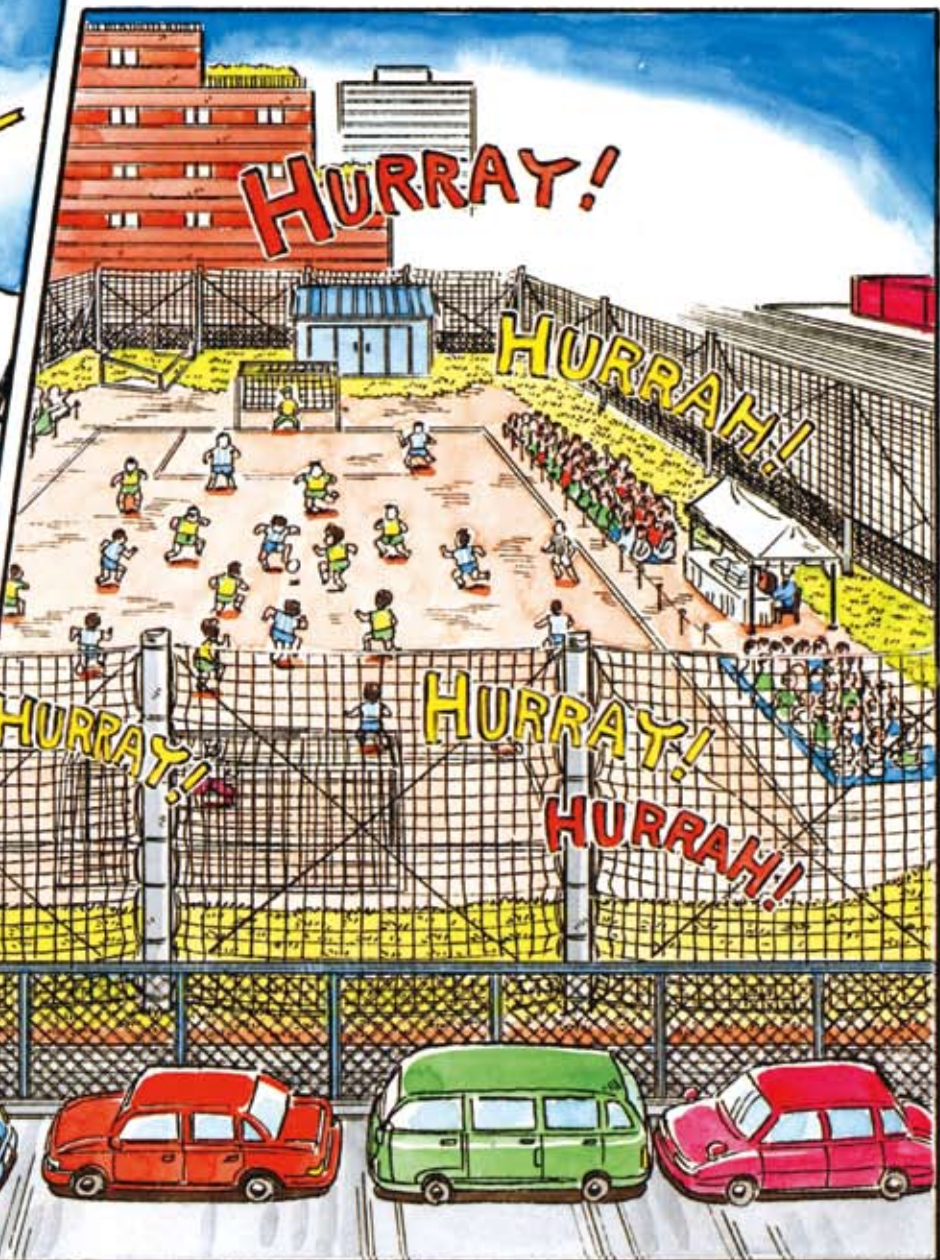


Santos

Became friends with Kazuo during his stay in Japan to study at a University there.

On his return to his country in the Amazon, he is engaged in a program for tropical forest management and conservation.

HURRAH!
HURRAY!
Kazama Children's Club
Parents / Children Football

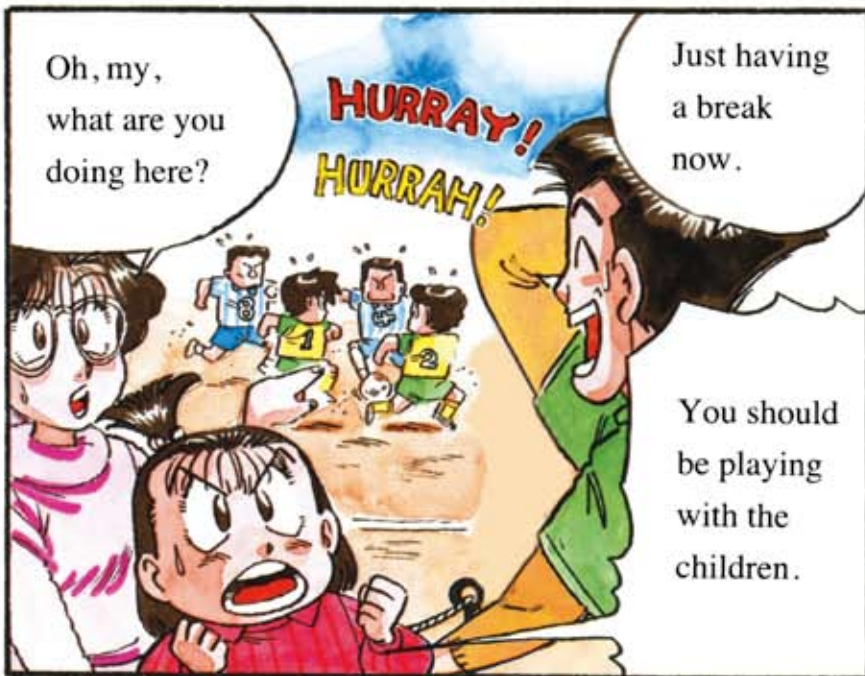
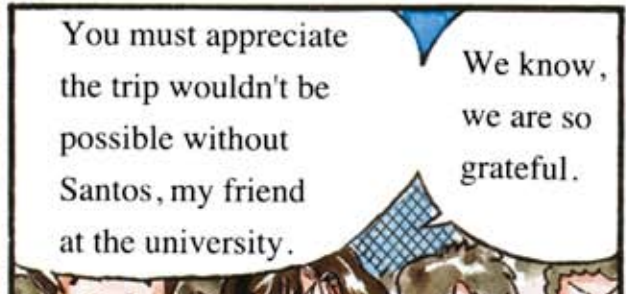


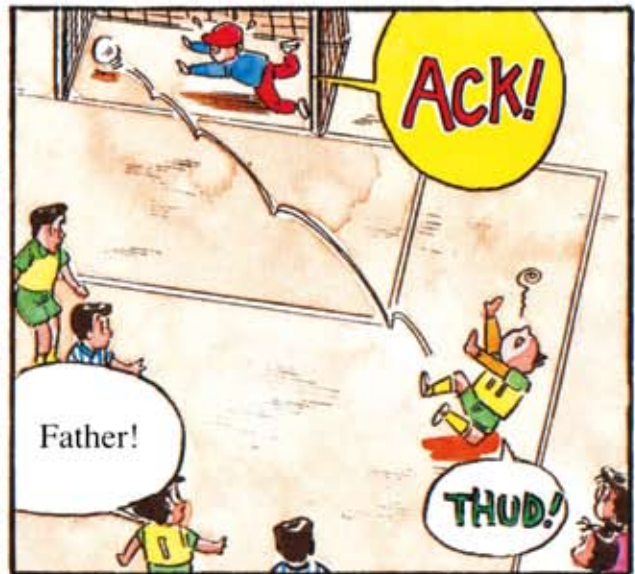
Pass
me
the
ball!



Shotaro
is in such
high
spirits.

That's
because of
the Amazon
trip.





Tropical Forest Information 1

The Tropical Forest is home to more than half of plant and animal species found on our planet, earth.

Scientists estimate that more than 50% of all life forms are to be found in tropical forests. This means several millions of plant and animal species. Thus tropical forest is like a huge reservoir containing precious genetic resources, most of which are unknown in terms of their potential use for medical science and food for the increasing world population.



Piranha



Orangutan



Sloth



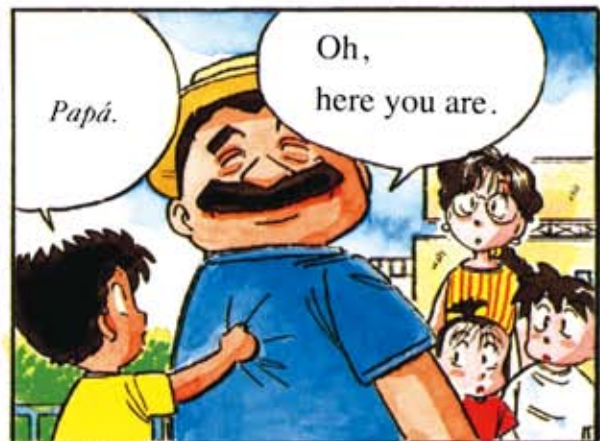
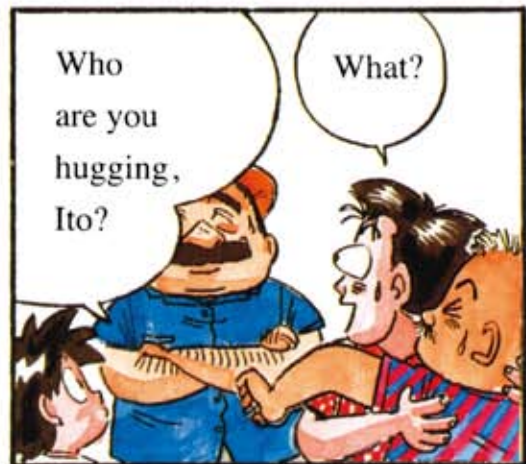
Victoria

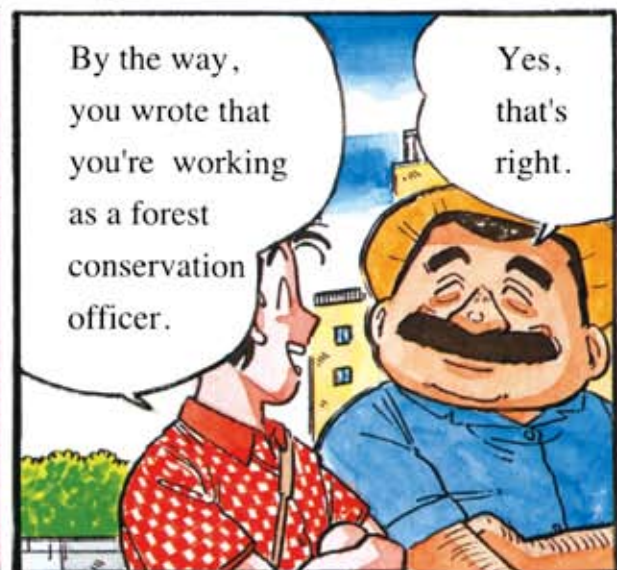
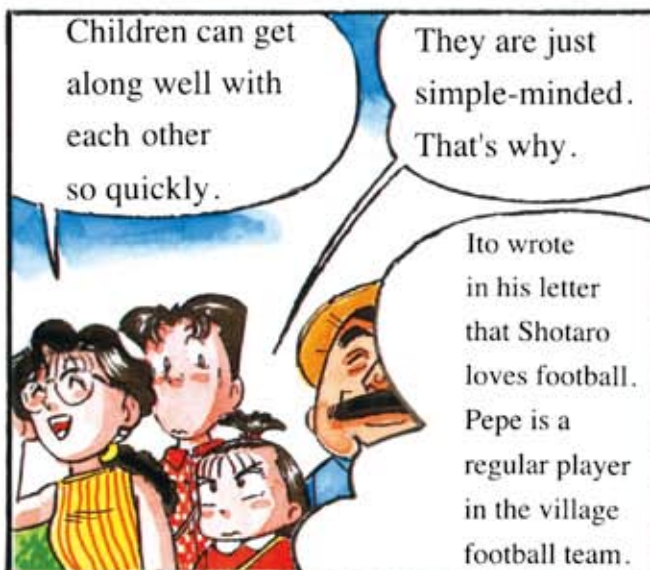
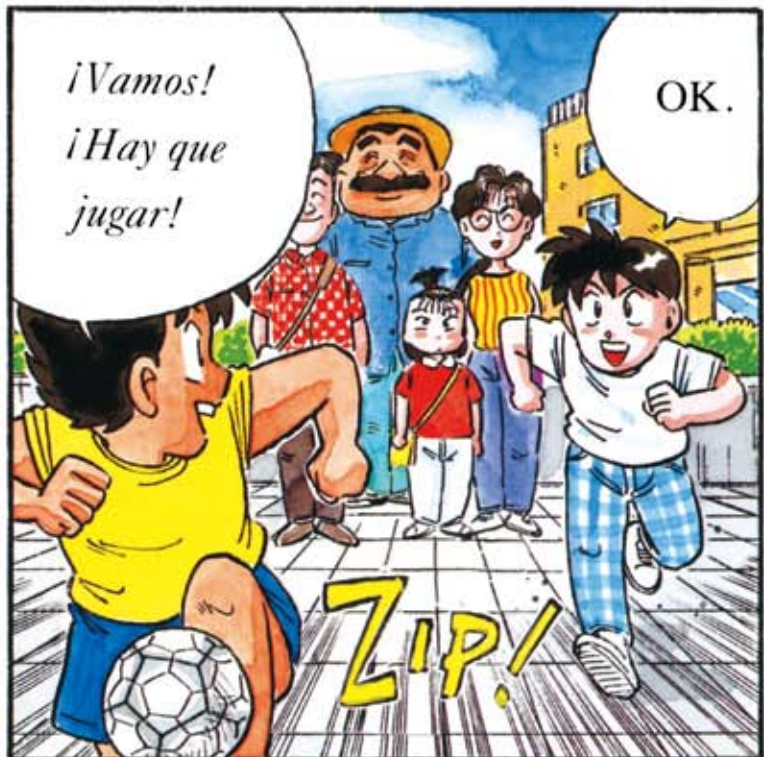


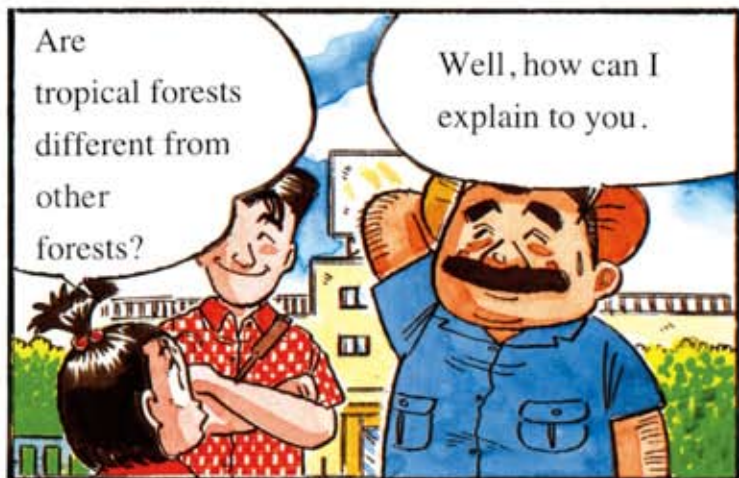
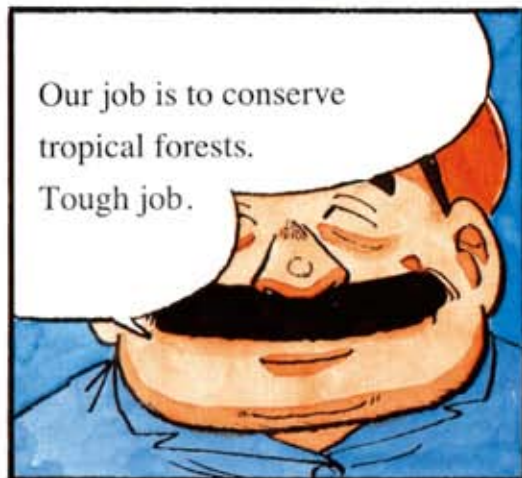
Cacao

WHIZZ!





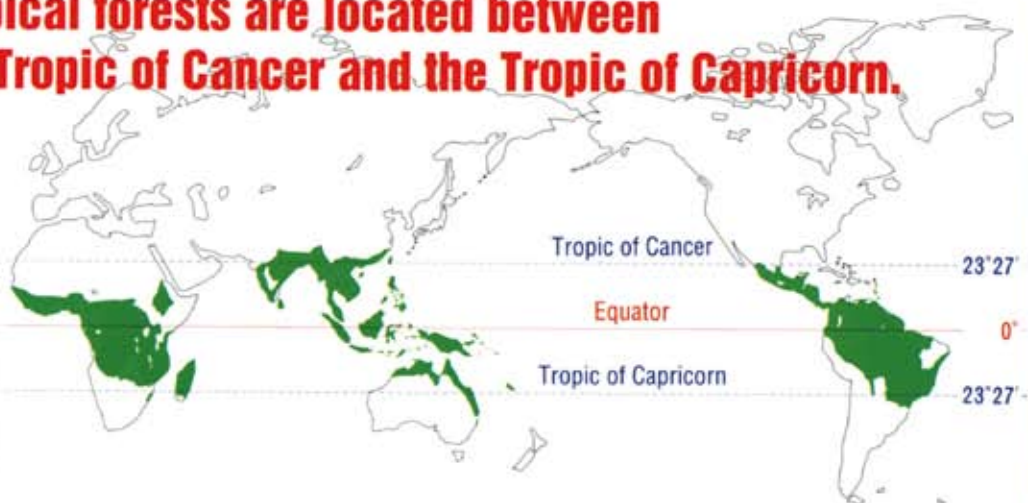


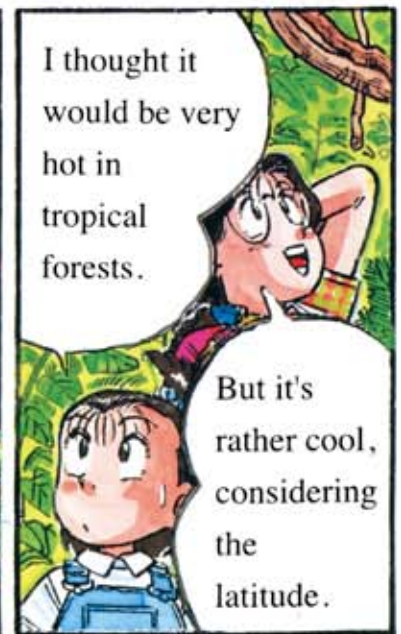
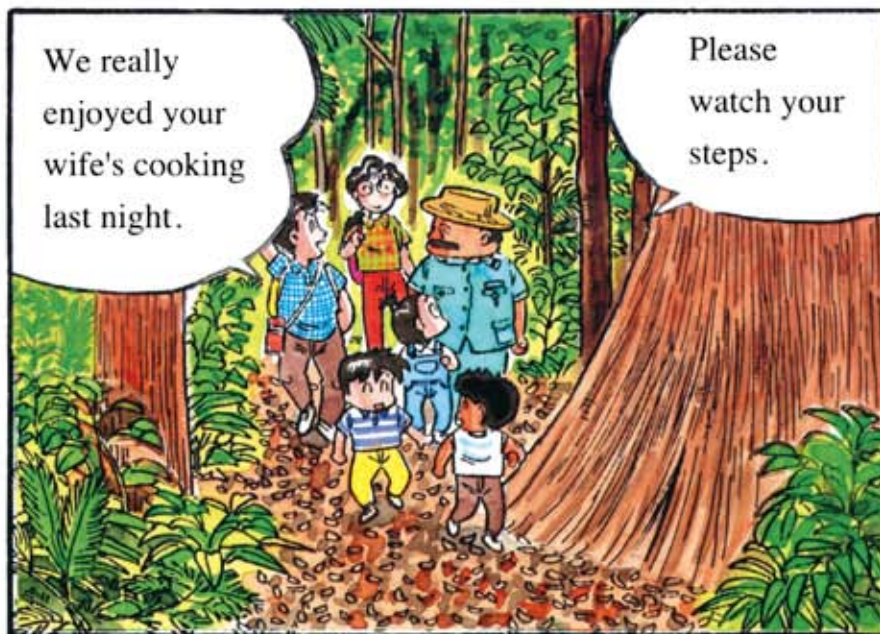


Tropical Forest Information 2

Tropical forests are located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

About 40% of all forests on the earth are tropical. They are mainly distributed between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, centering around the Equator.

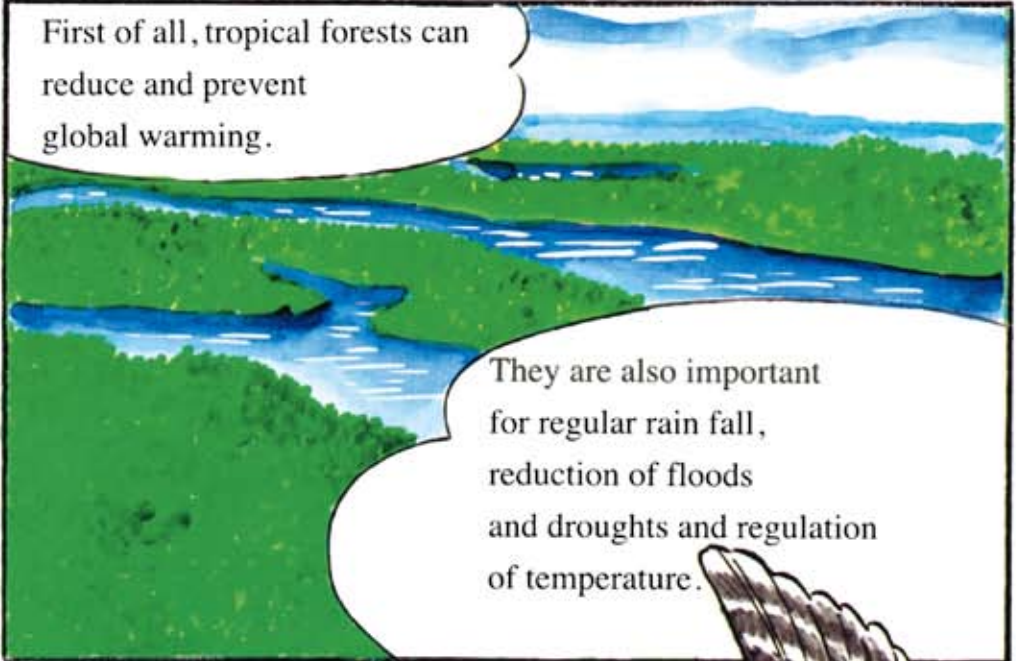




Tropical forests play many important roles for the global environment.



First of all, tropical forests can reduce and prevent global warming.



They are also important for regular rain fall, reduction of floods and droughts and regulation of temperature.

FLUTTER!
FLUTTER!

Look!
What a beautiful bird!



How lucky!
That's a "cock of the rock".
They seldom show themselves to us human beings.

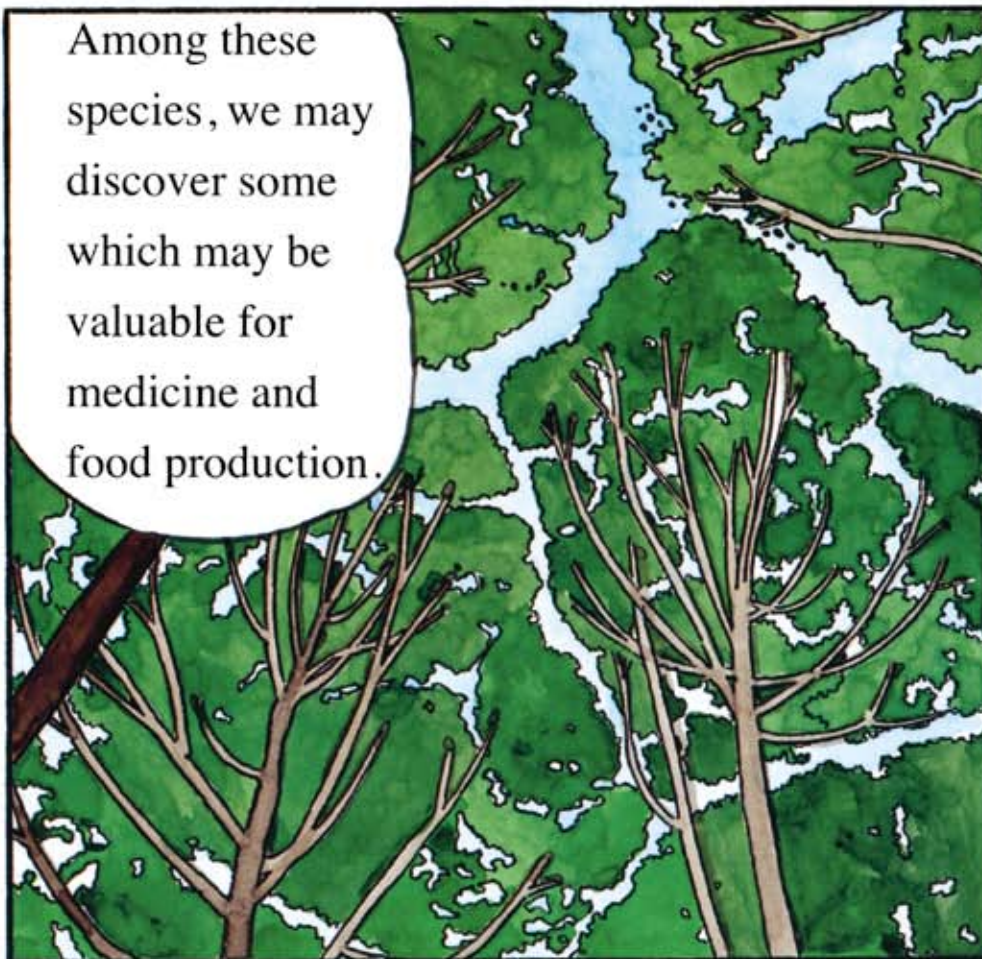


There must be lots of rare species in here.

Tropical forests are like a treasure house full of numerous forms of life, both plant and animal species.



Among these species, we may discover some which may be valuable for medicine and food production.



Maybe medicine for cancer and AIDS?

That would be fantastic.

Now...



... Let's look at the tropical forest from above.



BRRM



BRRRRM!



Yahoo!
Yahoo!

Don't be too excited.

But I've never been on a Cessna before, Father.

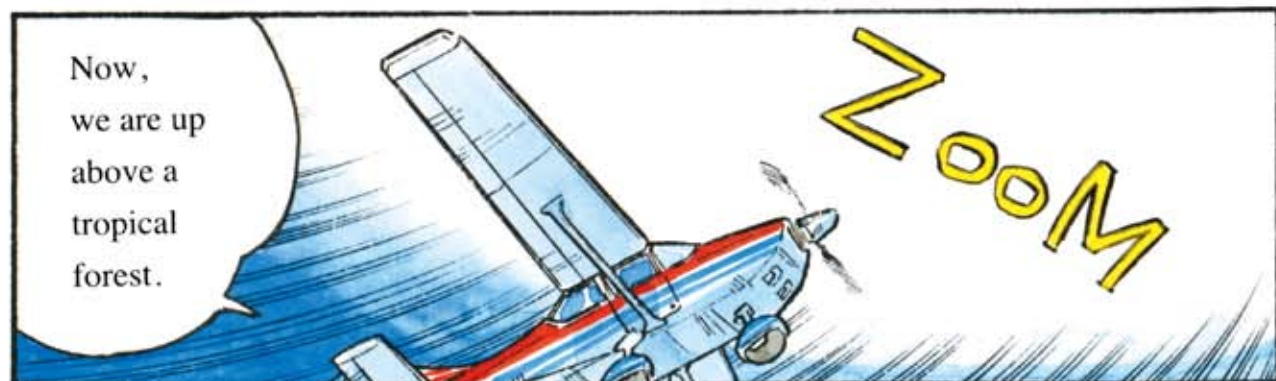
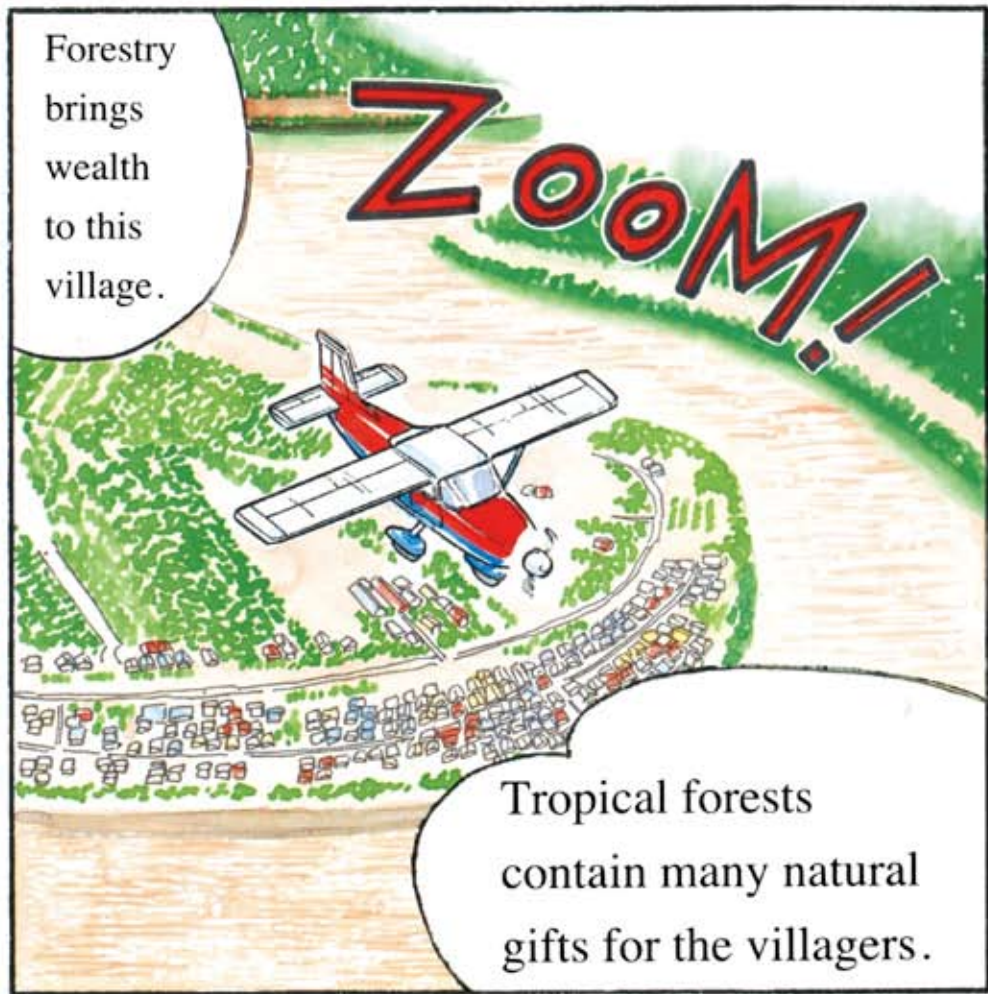
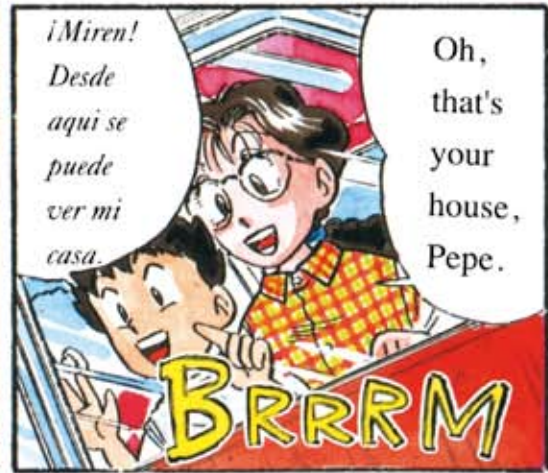
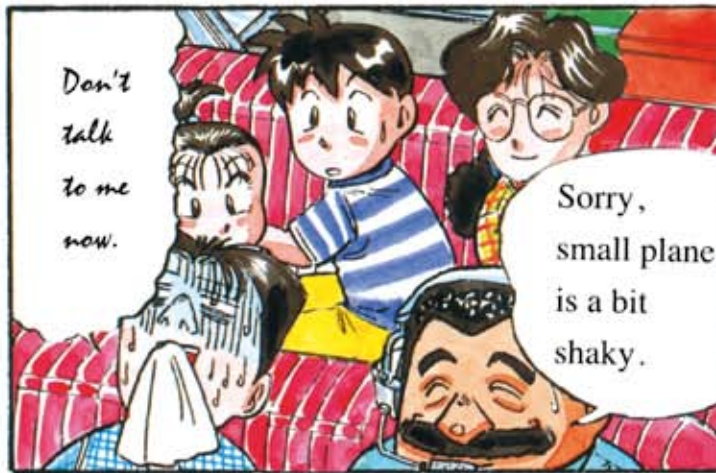


Tropical Forest Information 3

Timber from the Tropics is widely used for housing, furniture, musical instruments, etc.

Timber from the Tropics has been used as material for housing and furniture for a long time. Teak, lauan and rattan are especially popular. Ebony is used for black keys of quality pianos.

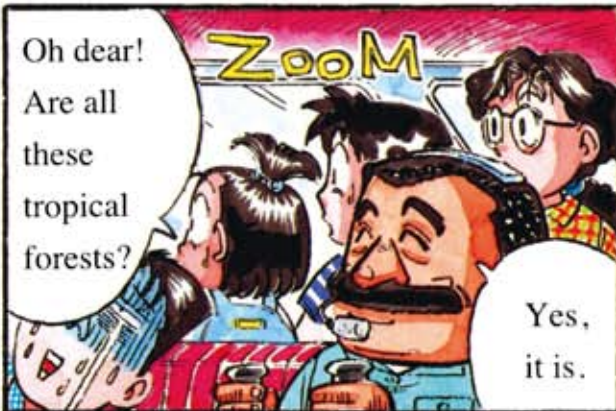




BRRRRM!!

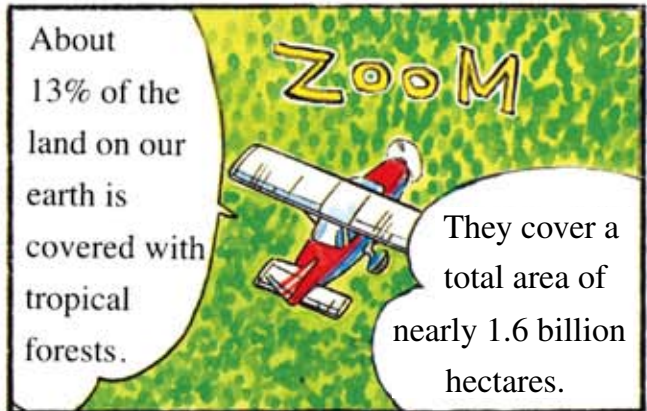


Gee!



Oh dear!
Are all
these
tropical
forests?

Yes,
it is.



About
13% of the
land on our
earth is
covered with
tropical
forests.

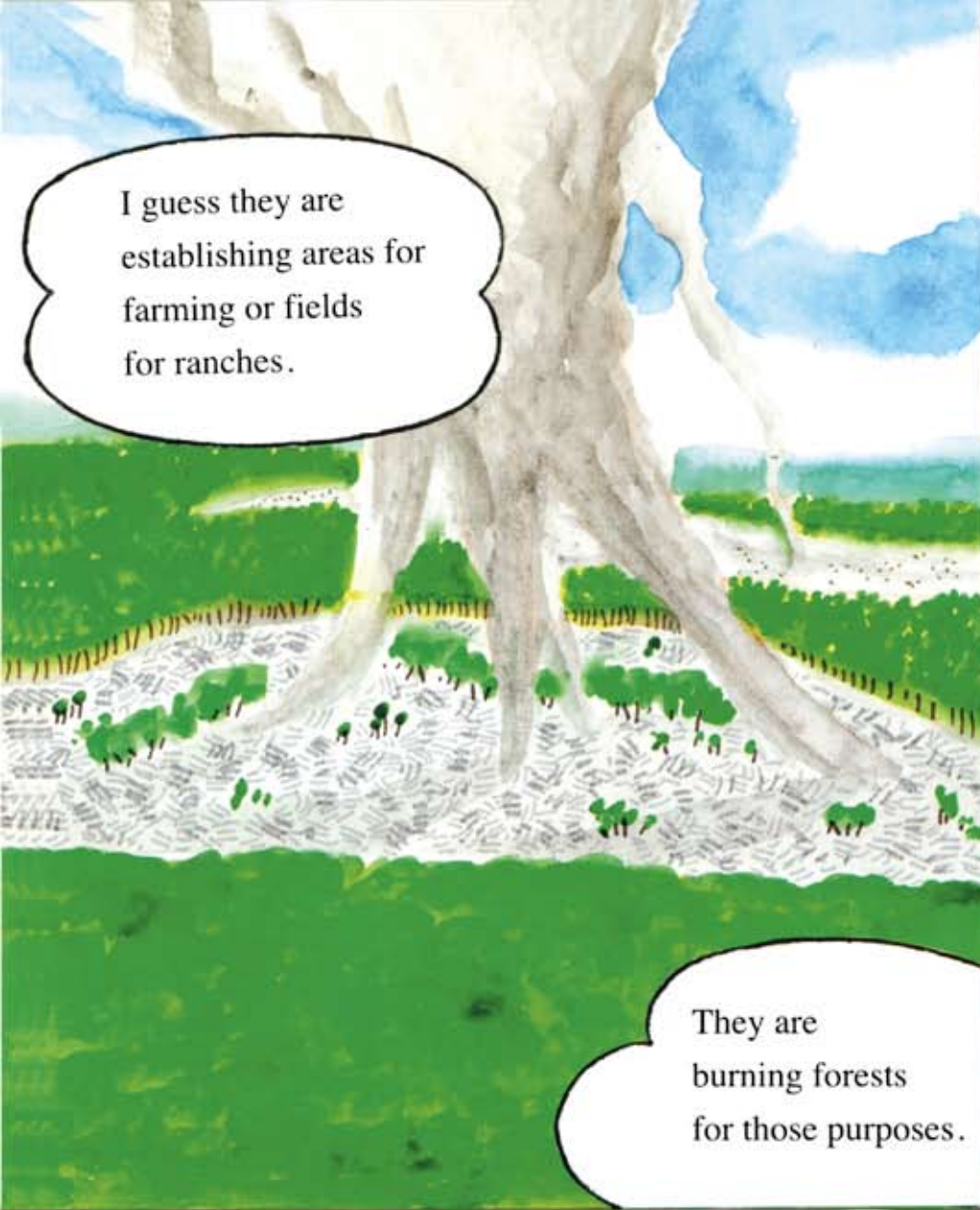
They cover a
total area of
nearly 1.6 billion
hectares.



1.6
billion?

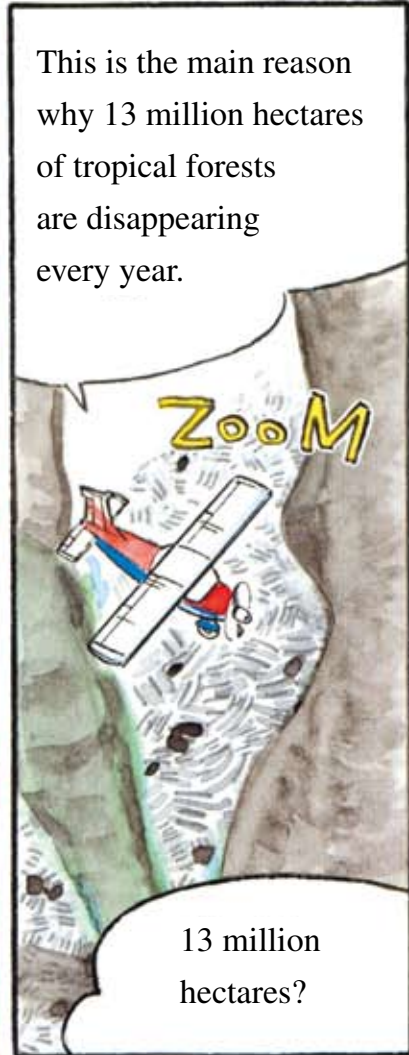
It's
so huge!

Look!
What's that
smoke?



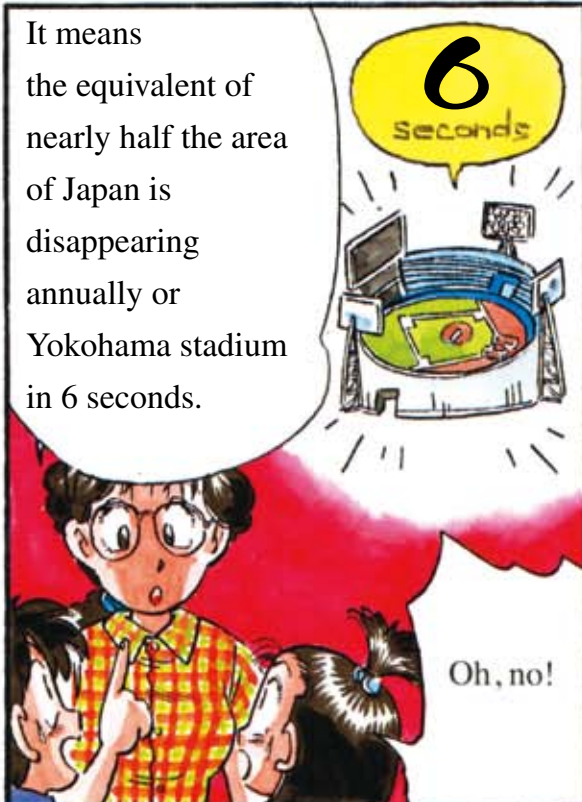
I guess they are establishing areas for farming or fields for ranches.

They are burning forests for those purposes.



This is the main reason why 13 million hectares of tropical forests are disappearing every year.

13 million hectares?



It means the equivalent of nearly half the area of Japan is disappearing annually or Yokohama stadium in 6 seconds.



Oh, no!



Uncle Santos, isn't it your job to conserve tropical forests? Why are they being destroyed?

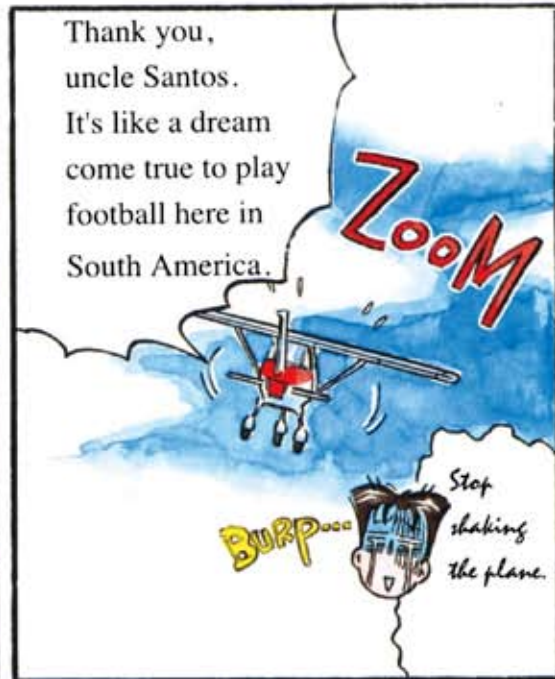
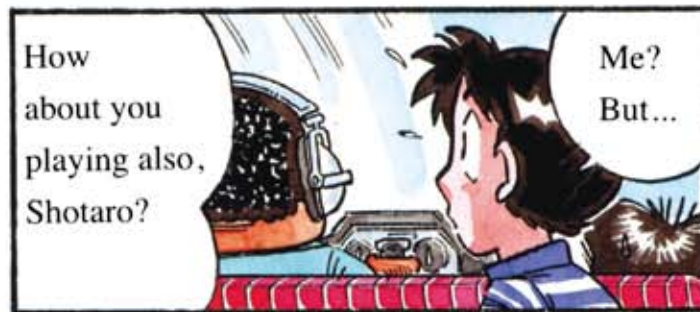
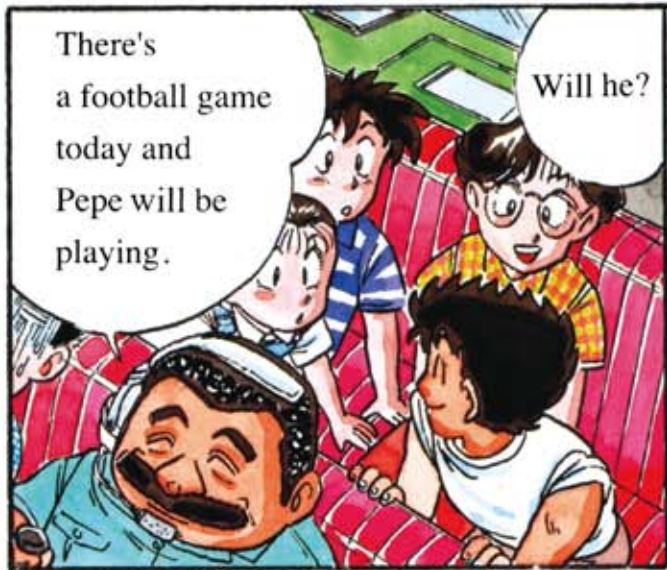
Oops.



You said tropical forests are very important.

Yes, indeed, but...

Please stop shaking.



Tropical Forest Information 4

Global warming and tropical forest



① Earth's atmosphere contains carbon dioxide, which prevents global heat from escaping into space.



③ If temperature continues to rise, our life and global environment can be badly affected.



② Nowadays much carbon dioxide is produced by burning petroleum, coal, and natural gas on a large scale and also by forest destruction. As a result, it becomes thicker and the heat stays on the surface of the earth which causes a rise of temperature. This phenomenon is called global warming.



④ By increasing area of forest on a global scale, including tropical forests, we can delay and reduce the progress of global warming since the trees absorb carbon dioxide.

Football Stadium



What wild supporters!
No wonder this is the best place for football.



But who expected they would play in the finals?



Shotaro and Pepe are playing so well.

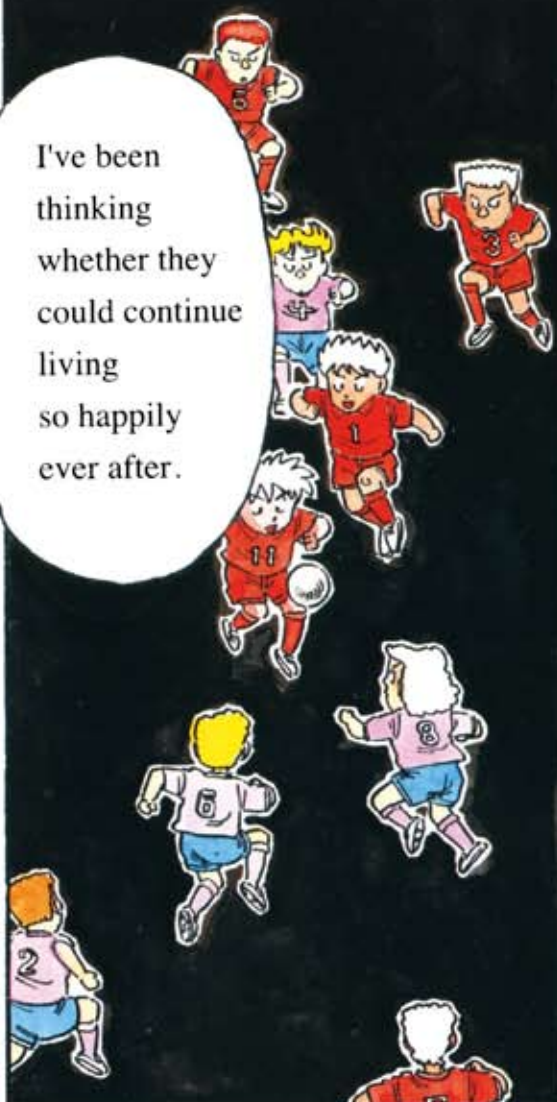
What's the matter, Santos?



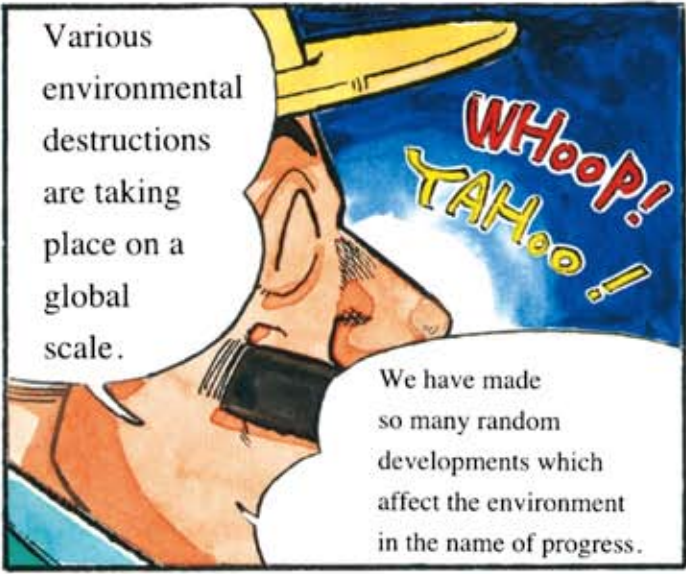
Mrs. Ito, I've been thinking.



Watching those children running around so happily.




I've been thinking whether they could continue living so happily ever after.




Various environmental destructions are taking place on a global scale.

Whoop!
YAHOO!!

We have made so many random developments which affect the environment in the name of progress.



It is those children who will have to deal with the outcome of environmental destruction in the future.



I'd like to do my bit to help them. That's why I work for forest conservation.

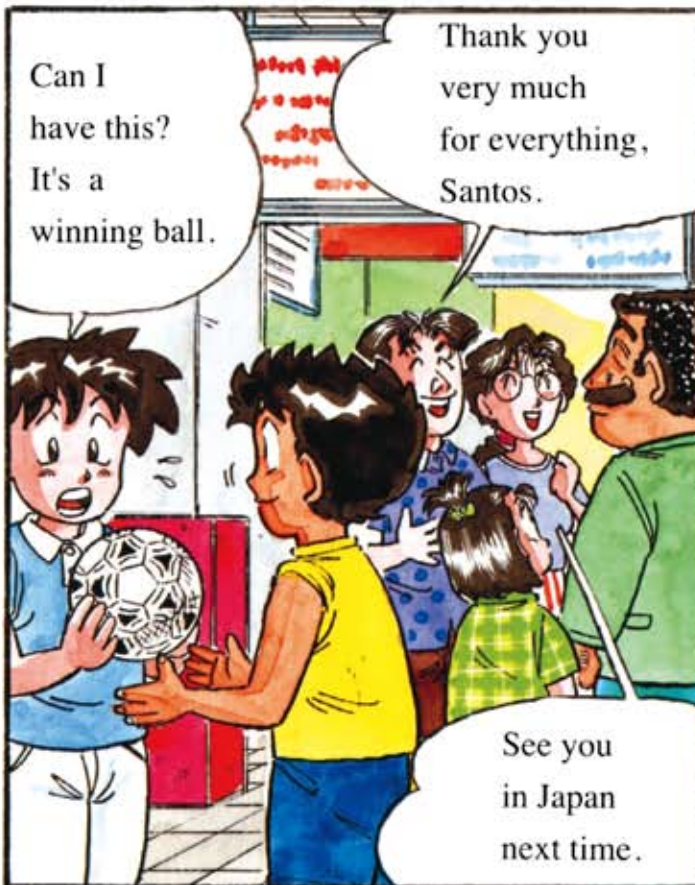
Oh, Santos.

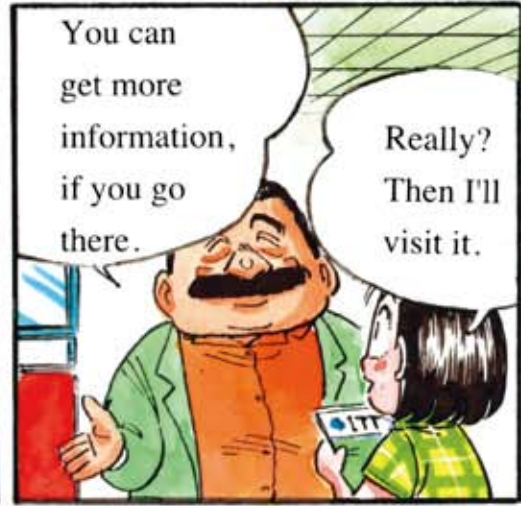
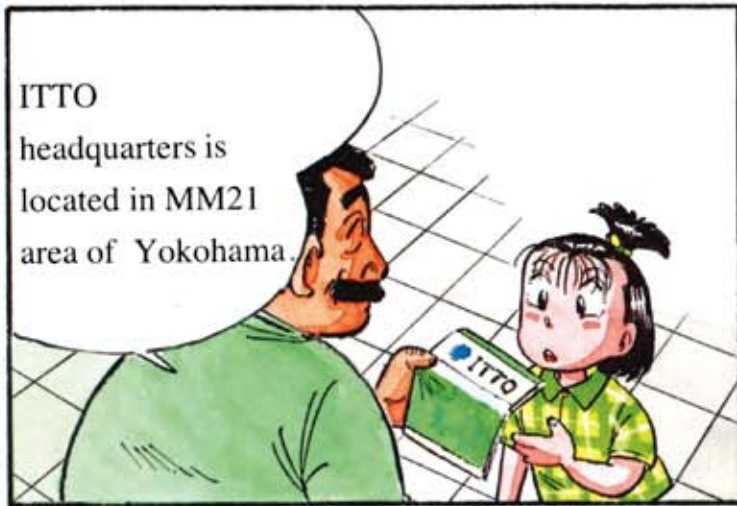
Whoop!



GOAL!

Pepe's team has won the championship!

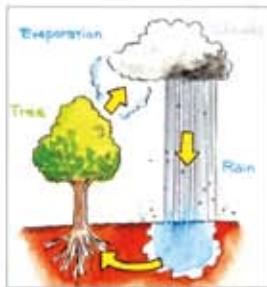




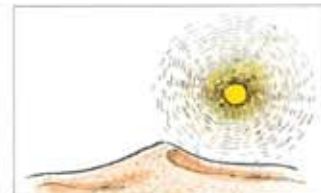
Tropical Forest Information 5

More floods and droughts without tropical forest!?

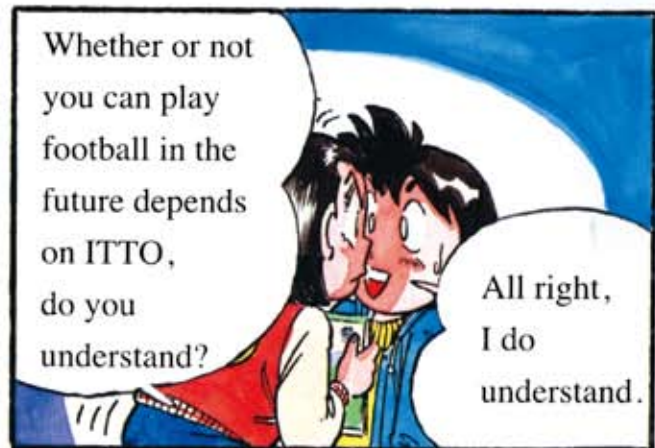
① As rain falls from the sky, it can flow down slowly to the ground with the help of trees. In tropical forest, trees absorb large quantities of water. The absorbed water evaporates from leaves into the air which forms clouds and develop into rain.

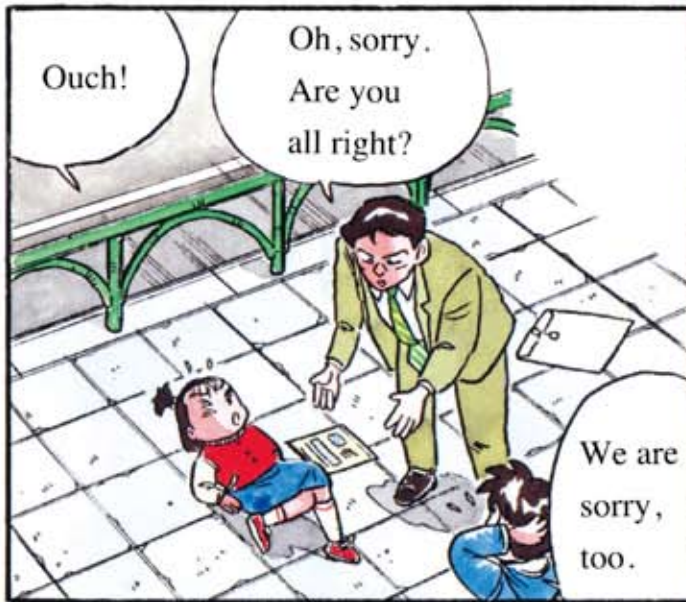


② Without trees, this natural water circulation will be disturbed. When trees are cut down, rain water will be directly drained off into rivers and may cause floods. Soil erosion also becomes a problem further increasing flood levels as rivers become shallower because of siltation.

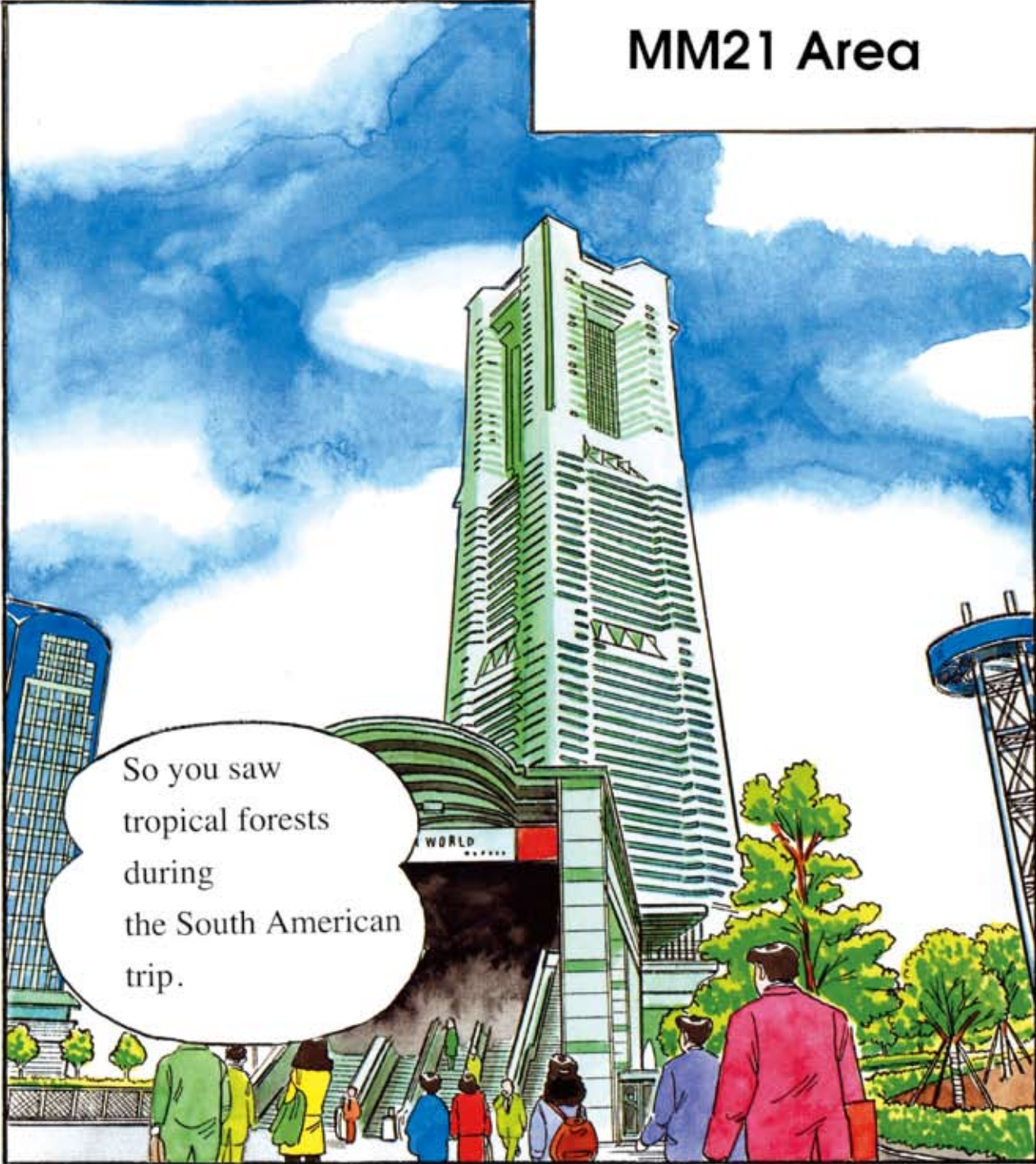


③ With soil erosion, nutrients are also washed away from the soil and humus. Without forests cover, rain water rapidly flows into rivers causing floods and reducing ground storage water. Droughts become more severe during the dry season.





MM21 Area



Pacifico-
Yokohama



He's going to explain about the Organization.

How Nice!

First of all, I'll explain about ITTO's activities.

Categories of tropical forests

- ① Conservation forests; fully protected and no disturbance
- ② Productive forests; under management for timber and other products
- ③ Degraded forests; destroyed through shifting cultivation, firewood collection, forest fires, animals browsing, indiscriminate logging etc.

Tropical forests are generally divided into 3 categories and ITTO deals with each of them.

As for forests in category ①, we preserve and protect them. Absolutely no development or human disturbance is allowed but studies may be conducted. Such forests are for conservation of wildlife and plant species, and other services.

Development

ITTO

1
TROPICAL
FORESTS

Conservation Forests



sustainable management

As for forests in category ②, we promote "sustainable management" so that these forests will continue to produce timber and non-timber products together with other beneficial values forever. We take advantage of the forests' ability for natural recovery and growth for sustainable management.

Rehabilitation and/or Restoration

As for forests in category ③, rehabilitation and/or restoration is often necessary to restore the health of the forests to produce timber and other beneficial effects derived from forests.

TROPICAL FORESTS

800 PROJECTS

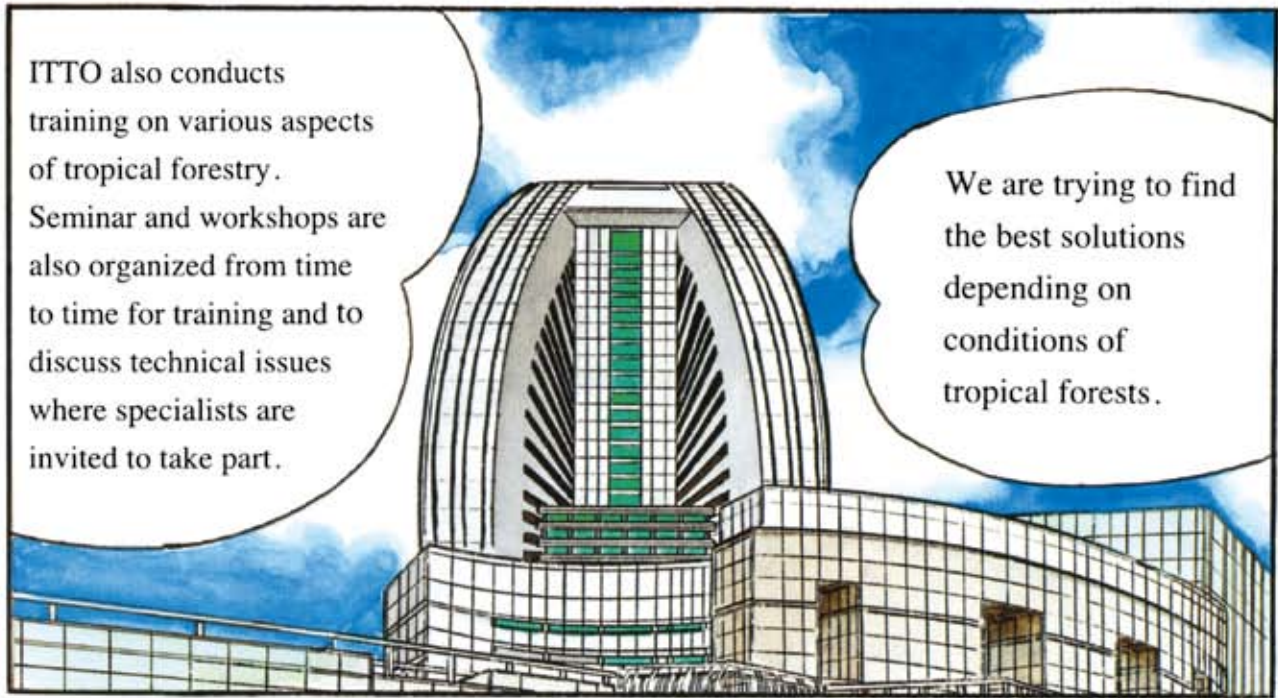
ITTO is helping many member countries to implement various projects to promote conservation, sustainable management and better utilization of tropical forests. There are now altogether more than 800 such projects.

ITTO has been established under an international treaty which was negotiated under the United Nations.

Through the ITTO a framework for cooperation is established between producer and consumer countries of tropical timber to discuss and assist tropical countries through various activities and projects to save tropical forests. Better trade is also promoted to ensure sustainable development in tropical forest countries.



As of January '09, 33 producer countries and 27 consumer countries have become members of the ITTO and hold Council meetings every year.



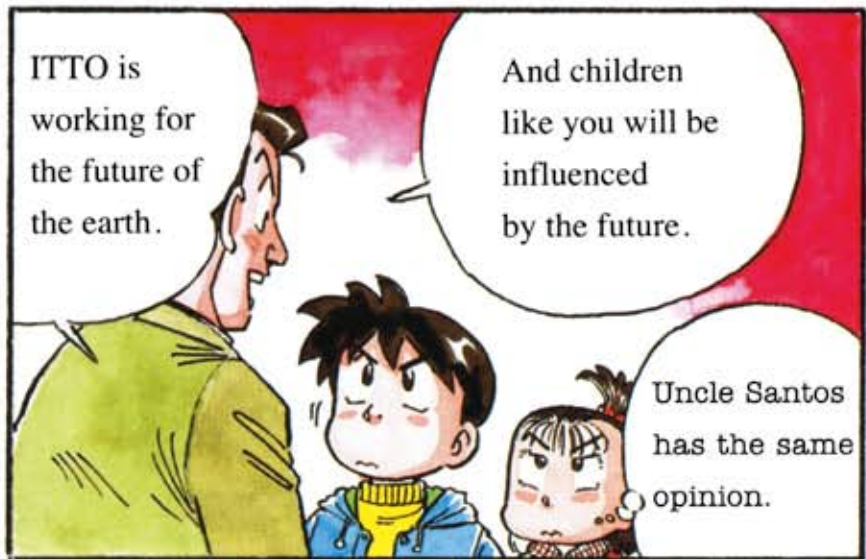
ITTO also conducts training on various aspects of tropical forestry. Seminar and workshops are also organized from time to time for training and to discuss technical issues where specialists are invited to take part.

We are trying to find the best solutions depending on conditions of tropical forests.



It's a very hard task.

Were you impressed?



ITTO is working for the future of the earth.

And children like you will be influenced by the future.

Uncle Santos has the same opinion.



Tropical Forest Information 6

Member countries of ITTO

33 producer countries of tropical timber and 27 consumer countries including the EU have joined ITTO. (As of January 1, 2009)

Producing countries

Africa

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo
Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Togo

Asia & Pacific

Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar
Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vanuatu

Latin America

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana
Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela

Consuming countries

Australia, Canada, China, Egypt

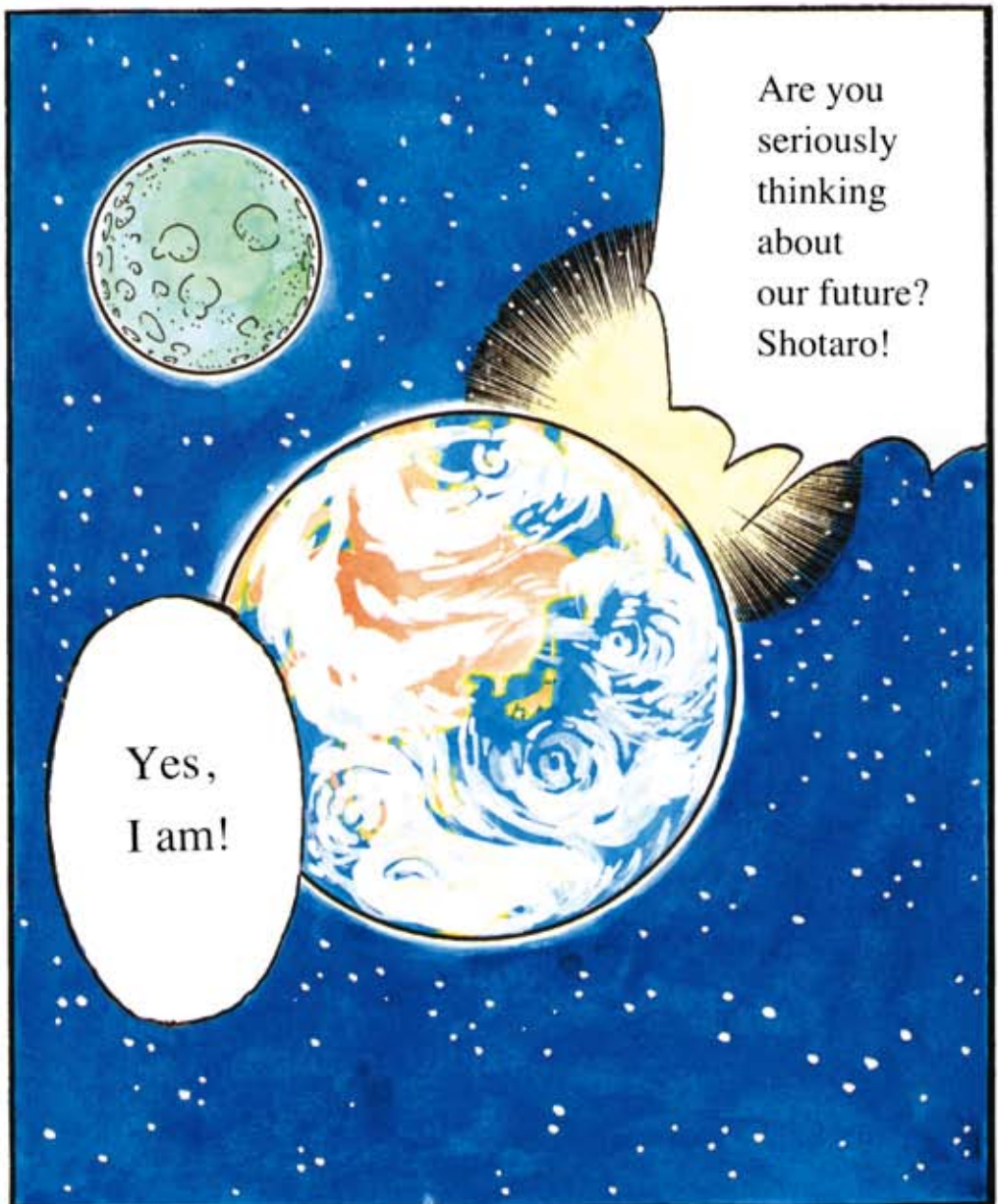
European Community

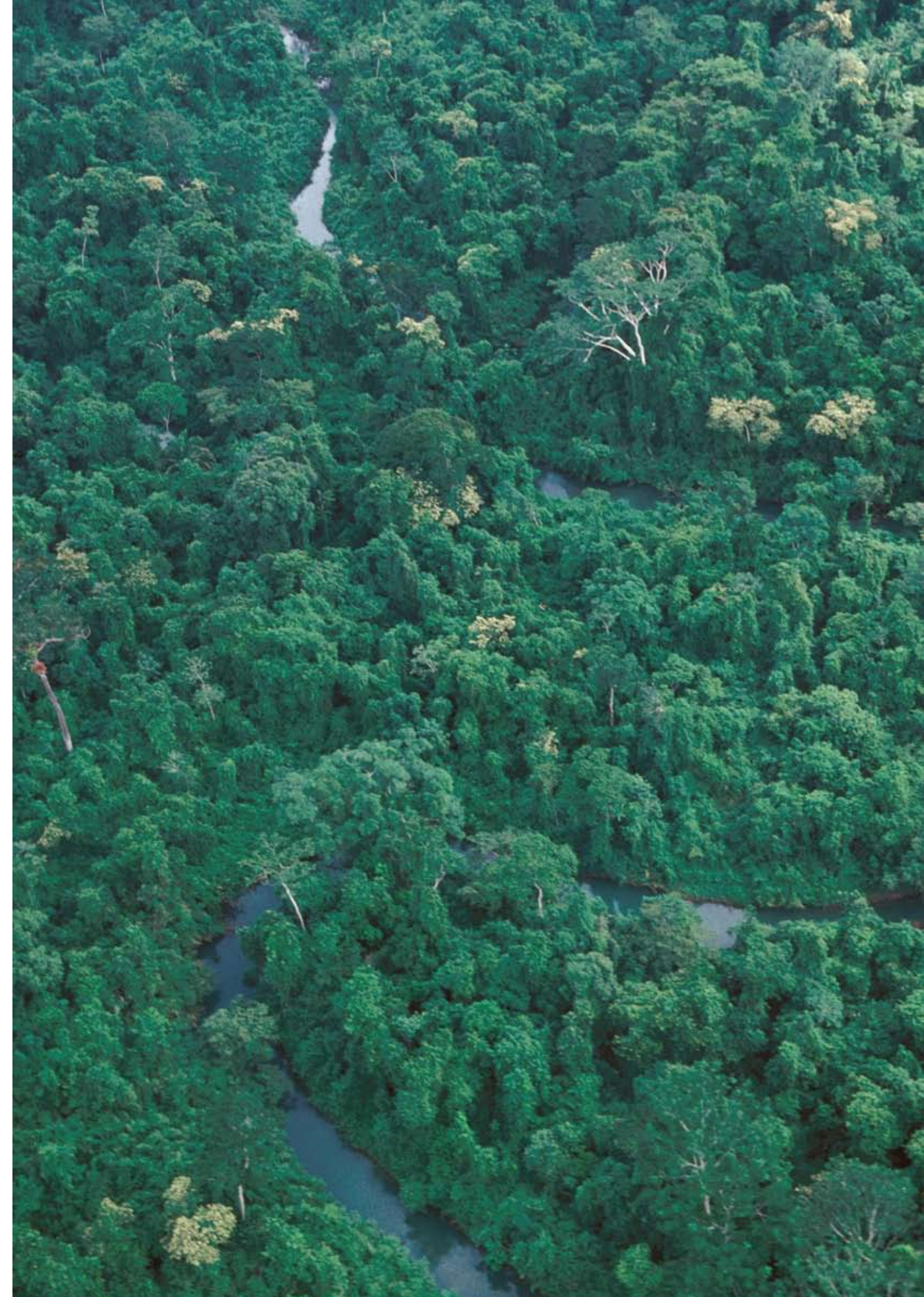
(Austria, Belgium/Luxembourg, Denmark
Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland
Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal
Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom)

Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway

Republic of Korea, Switzerland

United States of America







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