

A landscape photograph showing a fire burning in a deforested area. In the foreground, there is a field of tall grass and some green plants. In the middle ground, a line of fire is visible, with bright orange and yellow flames. Thick white smoke rises from the fire, partially obscuring the background. In the background, there are several mountains or hills under a cloudy, overcast sky. A few bare, skeletal trees are visible against the smoke and mountains.

*Deforestation*

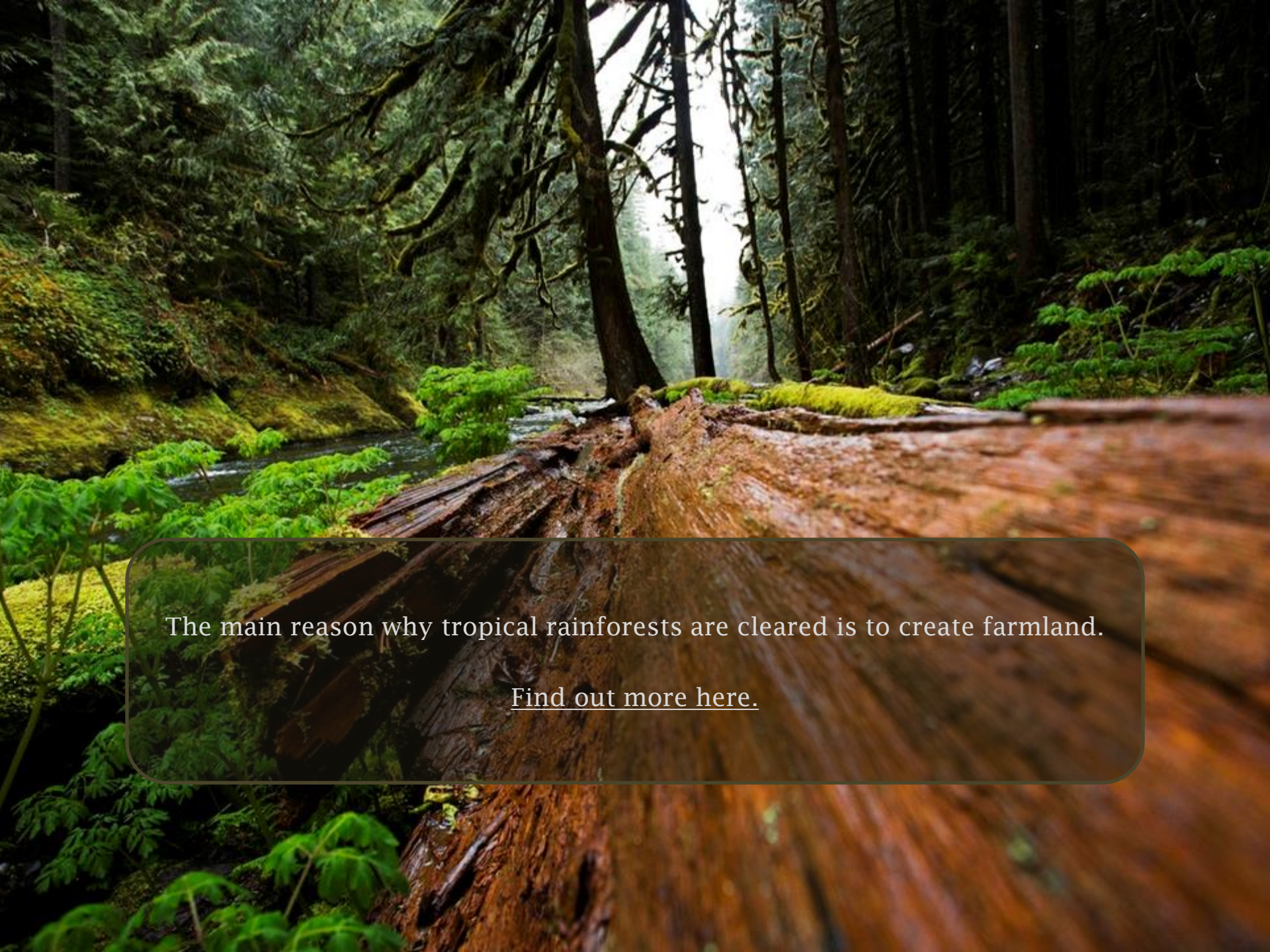
A WEBQUEST



The world's forests are the lungs of the earth and they contain much of its biodiversity.


About half of the world's original forests have been lost during the last fifty years.

[Learn more about the effects of this loss and what can be done to protect the forests that remain.](#)



The main reason why tropical rainforests are cleared is to create farmland.

[Find out more here.](#)



A commodity is a raw material or agricultural product.

See which commodities drive rainforest destruction [here](#).

A photograph of a palm oil plantation. The foreground is filled with tall, green grass. Several tall palm trees with long, feathery fronds are scattered throughout the scene. The background is slightly hazy, suggesting a misty or overcast day. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green.

Palm oil plantations are taking the place of rainforests in Indonesia, Malaysia and elsewhere.

Palm oil has many uses on the world market but most of it is not yet produced sustainably.

[Learn more.](#)



Many people are not aware that beef production is a major cause of rainforest clearing.

[Learn more here.](#)

[And here.](#)