

EX TROPICIS



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

AE
AGÊNCIA ESTADO

APRIL FEATURES MENU

1. BAND OF RARE ENDANGERED BLUE MACAWS PHOTOGRAPHED IN NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL

The rare and endangered blue-lear macaw (*Andorhynchus leari*) species was traced and photographed by an Agencia Estado photographer and journalist. The blue-leari live in the interior of a region in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia, a sort of Brazilian far west. Only 61 specimens of the 70-centimeter bird are left in the wild. The species was rediscovered in its natural habitat in 1978, by a group of Brazilian ornitologists (bird specialists). Until then, the blue-lear macaw was believed to be extinct. Text by Carlos Navarro. Photos by Agliberto Lima. (Color slides and B&W photos) 800 words.

2. CONSERVATION - "WILD" AMAZON HORSE GENES MAY SAVE WEAKENED DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

Hundreds of Portuguese and Spanish explorer's horses escaped or were released more than two centuries ago in the Amazon savannah region, now part of the Brazilian Amazon state of Roraima. Survivors became "wild again" and populated in the area. Very resistant to diseases and physical efforts, they are now being selected in an embryo freezing program, for storage in a genetic bank. Text and photos by Celio Junior. (Color slides and B&W photos) 1200 words.

3. ANTHROPOLOGY - INDIAN COMMUNITIES SURVIVE NEAR LARGE URBAN CENTERS

The first Guarani language course begins in April. Taught and coordinated by Guarani indians, the course is living proof of how a culture has been able to survive cultural and physical genocide, over a 500-year period. The Guarani were the first native Brazilian tribe to come into contact with the Portuguese settlers. Throughout the colonization years, they were forced into slavery, subjected to the catechization of the jesuits, and the diseases brought to them from Europe. Yet, they have been able to maintain their cultural identity and integrity. By Priscilla Siqueira. Photos by Carla Barbosa. (Color slides) 1200 words.

4. NATURAL RESOURCES - DESERTIFICATION THREATENS NORTHEASTERN AND SOUTHERN BRAZIL REGIONS

Burnings, deforestation and intensive agriculture are cutting desert-like clearings into the Brazilian landscapes. In the semi-arid northeastern region, important river springs are already surrounded by pure sand. The population of 40 counties depend directly on that water supply, but do nothing to stop the desert from growing. A long way down to the south, in Rio Grande do Sul, about six thousand acres (3000 hectares) have already turned into reddish sand dunes. How fast, and why the desert is growing, by Carlos Garcia, Ayrton Centeno and Gilberto Melo. (Color slides) 2000 words.