

# Deforestation of the Paraguayan Chaco by Guyra Paraguay

Produced by Juan Alberto Miltos in collaboration with Guyra Paraguay's communications team

After two years of constant satellite monitoring of deforestation in the Gran Chaco, Guyra Paraguay have put together this video, which was subsequently published on "youtube", in order to continue to raise global awareness regarding the massive destruction that is taking place every day in one of the most threatened ecoregions on the planet.

## In this video:

Highly respected cultural Paraguayan **public figures call for the urgent need for national and international support to protect the rapidly disappearing Chaco.** These figures include:

- Sanie López Garelli (Reporter, CNN and Reuters Correspondent for Paraguay),
- Bibi Landó (TV presenter and journalist),
- Carlos Martini (sociologist and journalist),
- Arnoldo Wiens (high profile environmental journalist),
- Mario Ferreiro (famous journalist and TV news reporter)
- Luis Szarán (Orchestral conductor and composer).

## Content summary:

### Some statistics:

- 228,000 hectares were deforested in the Paraguayan Chaco in 2008
- 267,000 hectares were deforested in the Paraguayan Chaco in 2009 at an average rate of 716 hectares or 1200 football pitches a day.
- This year, up until November 2010, 241,000 hectares have been cut down in the Gran Chaco, 90% of this was in Paraguay. 769 hectares a day / 24,000 football pitches a month

### The role of the Chaco:

Land use change is causing loss of biodiversity in the Chaco, forever. **The forests also have an extremely important role to play in the water cycle**, facilitating rainfall and capture of water, for instance. Loss of such ecosystem services will result in a decrease in productivity in the Chaco, which is highly reliant on water. Furthermore, **the Chaco is home to a number of ancestral communities** and cultures. These communities have survived thanks to the forests and are currently threatened by their loss. They are the true owners of the land, and it is being taken away from them every day through habitat destruction.

### Land use change activities need to involve strict and controlled planning.

The State needs to play an important role in this process in order to protect not only the threatened biodiversity of the Chaco, but also the communities that live there. **Measures taken must be positive, and promote cooperation** and consensus between all interested parties, through incentives for land owners to end massive deforestation in the Chaco, **engage in sustainable land management and understand the importance of the ecosystem services** the forests provide.

### Guyra Paraguay's work

Guyra Paraguay is working every day to **continue to find solutions and incentives for sustainable use of natural resources** in order to maintain productivity, whilst protecting biodiversity. Furthermore, Guyra Paraguay wants to **continue to raise international awareness** in order to seek support and resources to continue their work to preserve the Chaco.