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## **\$12 Billion Investment Required For Amazon Environmental Conservation Programs**

*by Barbara Khol*

*Category/Department: General*

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On July 3, at the inauguration of a regional environmental congress in Brasilia, Maria Tereza Jorge de Padua, president of the Pro-Nature Foundation, told participants that the conservation of Amazonian flora and fauna will cost about \$12 billion. The congress, organized by the Foundation, is a precursor to the United Nations-sponsored global environmental and development conference, scheduled for next year in Rio de Janeiro. According to Jorge, on a world-wide level, an average 15 million ha. of tropical forest are destroyed every year. She noted that destruction of the planet's tropical forests threatens 90% of the 30 million species inhabiting these eco- systems. Jorge asserted that representatives of the 170 nations to participate in the UN-sponsored conference must sign a treaty to conserve bio-diversity. Proposals for treaty contents are being discussed in Brasilia and other world region meetings. Jorge said the Latin American draft document recommends increasing the number of ecological reserves throughout the world, as well as dedicating \$1 billion per year toward reserve management. (Basic data from EFE, 07/03/91)

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