

El Trapiche Tour NEWSLETTER 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Already for all is known the problems facing us already for several decades but for some global warming is something recent and up unknown; However at the end of the horizon looks a new hope: our forests and oceans, which they have achieved one way or another to mitigate the impact that we have been practicing since our existence. There is no beyond, we have to start working NOW, It is never too late. Take consciousness and seek the way to contribute.



FORESTS AND OCEANS ABSORB MORE AND MORE CO2

“Providing our small contribution in the environmental conservation”

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MAY 2012

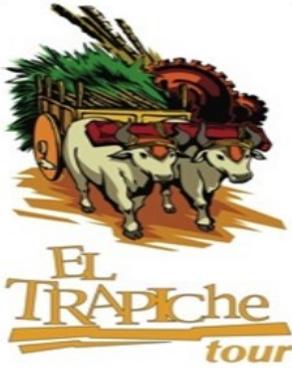


Figure 1. Arborescent fern in Monteverde the Cloud Forest.

FORESTS AND OCEANS ABSORB MORE AND MORE CO₂

Luckily for the environmental balance of the planet and, undoubtedly, for the human species too, the level of absorption of the water sinks and the forests is larger nowadays, concluded American scientists published by Nature magazine and signed by researchers and scientists from Colorado University, in Boulder .

As known, the oceans and plants, mostly forests, are of great help in the fight against climate change due to its power of absorption of carbon dioxide, the main component of the greenhouse gases that we emit with industrial activities and other human pollution. Thus, according to research, this would have been increasing in recent decades to absorb half of the carbon dioxide emissions.

In particular, the work argues that while CO₂ emissions have quadrupled, natural carbon sinks have dou-

bled their absorption in the last half-century. This means, as it can be deduced easily that nature is protecting us from the terrible impact that these emissions would be to climate change, although it is not known how long the trend will last. The reason for this increase could have caused the same increase in CO₂ emitted since the absorption by natural sinks associated with the pressure of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. "Makes sense, therefore, to some extent, the growth in CO₂ emissions causing an increase in the absorption by the sump", explains Ashley Ballantyne, leader of the research.

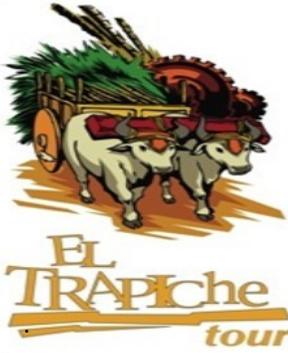
Not so beneficial aid.

But not everything is good news, because if on one hand the emissions continue to grow, the absorption in reality is not as beneficial as it might seem, and the reasons are many. For example, the CO₂ acidified waters, causing environmental imbalances and threatening valuable ecosystems such as coral reefs. Another problem lies in that plant absorption returns to the atmosphere within a few years, something that happens with emissions to save the seabed, where it can remain for hundreds or thousands of years. Worst of all, however, is that scientists hope that nature will no longer help us in the short to medium term, at least in a generous way.

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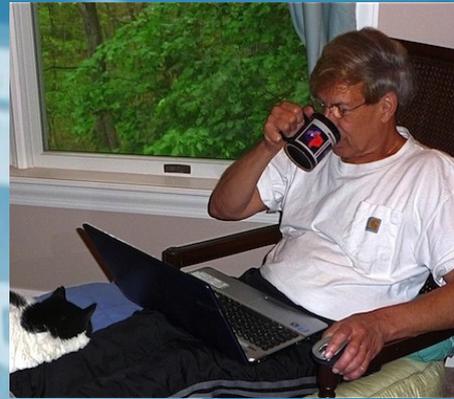


Use of Facebook for a month emits CO2 as a cup of coffee, five times less than Google

As things stay that way, the best known social network will have to change his emblematic blue by the green mossy, and is not can pollute less than them in the hectic and polluting ocean of internet. At least, is what the report just published by the company on its last year's carbon footprint, which is auto portrays as a great example in respect for the environment online. As light is its carbon footprint, or what is the same, their emission of carbon dioxide from their offices and their data centers, which have even received the praises of himself Greenpeace, before the main critic of the pollution emitted by Facebook. But what has changed, why criticism become compliments? Apparently, their data centers (72 per cent of their emissions) are becoming more efficient over the last year thanks to new facilities that allow you to reduce power consumption. The figures for 2010 explained the displeasure of Greenpeace because Facebook

issued 1.5 million tons in 2010, against the 285,000 tons of CO2 from 2011, which means one-fifth less than Google, its direct competitor. Addition, for Facebook the origin of this energy for the year 2011: 27 per cent came from coal, 23 per cent of renewable energy and a 17 per cent for gas and 13 percent of the nuclear. Facebook also makes a nod to Internet users through his blog by setting the comparison of the imprint issued by a cup of coffee and the use of Facebook for a month. **A lot, a little?** Not denying that they have greatly improved and that it is by pure and simple marketing or for ecological sensitivity, at least the subject concerned, although the carbon footprint of a cup of coffee seems a triviality, must think that the social network touches a billion users, so we are talking about billions of tons.

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