Primary forests are irreplaceable for sustaining tropical biodiversity

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Tropical forests are increasingly being degraded by logging or lost and replaced with cattle pastures, palm oil plantations, and other agricultural lands. We conducted a comprehensive review to measure how these different human activities affect biodiversity in tropical forests. Not surprisingly, almost all forms of human disturbance greatly reduce the number of species found in tropical forest habitats. We conclude that preserving what undisturbed tropical forests remain is essential for sustaining biodiversity in tropical forests.

The full paper can be accessed via
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