

Read the text and mark the statements

True (1),

False (2),

Not Stated (3).

Amazon Rainforest Deforestation Shows Positive Trends

While destruction of rainforests is causing concern (беспокойство) in many parts of the world, nowhere is it worse than in the Amazon. Often called the *lungs of the planet* the 1.2-billion-acre rainforest produces about 20% of the Earth's oxygen and is therefore, not just crucial for its own ecosystem, but also, for the survival of all living creatures, including humans! Fortunately, the deforestation is slowly starting to reverse (поворачиваться в противоположном направлении). As in many parts of the world, population growth had resulted in clearing out large parts of the Amazonia to make space for cattle ranches, mining, agriculture. By 2003, about 20% of the Amazon rainforest had been destroyed and disappeared forever, taking along with it, numerous species of plants, animals and insects. Experts feared that if the pace (темп) continued, the Amazon rainforest would be destroyed forever. Something had to be done and very soon!

Fortunately, the authorities in Brazil along with environmentalists took immediate action and things began to change. In July 2011, the Brazilian government announced that deforestation had been reduced sharply from the peak levels. The data received from satellite images showed that from August 2011 to July 2012, there was a further reduction of 23%. Both the authorities and environmentalists hope that they will be able to achieve their goal of zero deforestation by 2016!

The Amazon rainforest gets its name from the 4,080-mile long Amazon River, the largest freshwater source on Earth. Not surprisingly, it is home to a large variety of exotic plants and animals.

1. The Amazon rainforests are important for the world ecosystem.
2. The rainforests hold back the development of agriculture.
3. South American countries joined their efforts to stop deforestation.
4. People in the Amazon area didn't understand how important the rainforests are for the world survival.
5. People destroyed all species of animals and plants in the area which led to the forest destruction.
6. Experts are sure that in ten years' time all the rainforests would disappear.
7. The Brazilian government established the Amazon Fund to save the rainforests.
8. Ecologists are quite optimistic about the future of the area.

