
In the Rainforest

By Chris Rose

Catherine Caufield's In The Rainforest is the first readable book which answers the key questions of rainforest destruction. Based on her extensive research and two years spent visiting the ruins of rainforests from Bali to Brazil, it gives a clear and horrifying account of what must be humanity's greatest ecological blunder.

Ms. Caufield is a news reporter who writes well and can tell a good story. If it does nothing else but put on record the ways and means of rainforest destruction, her book is undoubtedly a major contribution to conservation. It may also spur action to save the rainforests but in most places it is already too late.

Ms Caufield points out that rainforests originally covered 14 per cent of the earth's surface but in recent years they have been reduced to less than half that. In countries such as Ivory Coast, 90 per cent has been lost in 30 years. Satellite pictures show that 60 per cent of the total deforestation in Brazil up to 1978 took place in just three years from 1975. Forest and Bird here reproduces an extended review of the book from the magazine Envirowatch. The book is published by Heinemanns (\$30.75).



Will these forests still be in existence when these children become adults? Pacific Islanders are becoming aware that the wholesale logging of their forests threatens their traditional lifestyle, and only benefits multi-national logging companies.