

Colombia moves to protect Amazon

Colombia has taken a groundbreaking step by becoming the first country to declare its entire Amazon region off-limits to new large-scale oil and mining projects

Amazon biome



Acting Environment Minister **Irene Vélez Torres** (above) says entire Colombian Amazon will be made a reserve for renewable natural resources

Decision halts 43 pending oil blocks and 286 mining requests, as well as future projects in six Colombian departments

500,000 square km

Approximate area of Colombian Amazon protected from new oil and mining projects – **area roughly equivalent to size of Sweden**

