

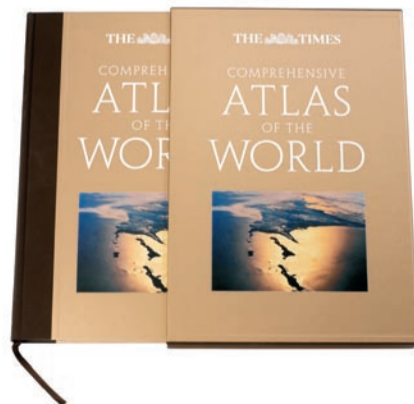
# WHICH DO YOU WANT FIRST?

## The good news...

- 13% of the world's land surface (19 million km<sup>2</sup>) is now within over 107,000 designated Protected Areas worldwide.
- The world's wind power capacity increased by more than 20% between 2004 and 2005.
- Large areas of the Mesopotamian Marshlands in Iraq – one of the world's great wetlands – that were drained by Saddam Hussein's regime are now being re-flooded to their former state.
- A dam has been built to stop water flowing out of the rapidly shrinking Northern Aral Sea causing levels to rise. The fishing industry is reviving, diets have improved and people are healthier.
- This year, 22 new sites were added to UNESCO's World Heritage List of outstanding cultural and natural sites, including the Sydney Opera House and the Old Town of Corfu, bringing the total to 851.

## ... or the bad?

- Up to 40% of known coral reefs have been destroyed or degraded in the last few decades.
- Over 1% (1.23 million km<sup>2</sup>) of tropical forest is destroyed every year, mainly to clear land for food production.
- In less developed countries, such as Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Liberia, an average of 87 out of every 1,000 babies die before their first birthday – compared to only 6 in North America.
- The lowest country in the world – Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean – is only 5 metres above sea level at its highest point. This country is already feeling the effects of sea levels rising and may one day be wiped from the map completely.
- Demand for renewable resources has exceeded the Earth's capacity to provide them since the late 1980s.



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