



It was the biggest wild goose chase in history: the Conquistadors' search for El Dorado, a fabulous kingdom of gold that Indians said lay somewhere in the Amazon jungle. But now at last, archaeologists have uncovered the truth behind that myth. They have found evidence of a huge society, as advanced as the Egyptians or the Incas, right in the heart of the rainforest. And this is more than the story of a lost civilization rediscovered. For it seems that the people of the real El Dorado possessed a secret - something with the power to transform our world.

About the “The Secret of El Dorado” documentary film made for BBC-2 Horizon Series (by award winning director David Sington):

“The Secret of El Dorado” programme summary

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/horizon/2002/eldorado.shtml>

“The Secret of El Dorado” - questions and answers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/horizon/2002/eldoradoqa.shtml>

“The Secret of El Dorado” – transcript

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/horizon/2002/eldoradotrans.shtml>

Amazonian Dark Earths

Some useful links to more information about Amazonian Dark Earths as seen in the documentary film “The Secret of El Dorado” (also known as black earths, dark earths, terra preta, terra mulata, plaggen soils):

Excellent articles by science journalist Charles Mann about the importance of Amazonian Dark Earths:

Mann, Charles 2002 The Real Dirt on Rainforest Fertility. Science 297:920-923.
<http://www.css.cornell.edu/faculty/lehmann/publ/Mann%20Science%20August%209%202002.pdf>

Mann, Charles 2000 Earthmovers of the Amazon Science. 287:786-789
<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cerickso/baures/Mann2.html>

Mann, Charles 2000 The Good Earth: Did People Improve the Amazon Basin? Science 287(5454):788.
<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cerickso/baures/Mann2.html>

Mann, Charles

2002 1491: Before it Became the New World, the Western Hemisphere was vastly more populous and sophisticated than has been thought.. . Atlantic Monthly March, pp. 41-53.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/2002/03/mann.htm>

Detailed Scientific Information about Amazonian Dark Earths:

Two new published books about Amazonian Dark Earths: Detailed encyclopedic summaries of the scientific literature and recent research on the topic (over 800 pages total):

Lehmann, Johannes, Dirse C. Kern, Bruno Glaser, and William I. Woods editors
2003 *Amazonian Dark Earths: Origin, Properties, Management*. Edited by Johannes Lehmann, Dirse C. Kern, Bruno Glaser, and William I. Woods editors Kluwer, Dordrecht.
<http://www.wkap.nl/prod/b/1-4020-1839-8>

Glaser, Bruno and William Woods, editors
2004 *Explorations in Amazonian Dark Earths in Time and Space*. Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag.

Other Websites about Amazonian Dark Earth:

Johannes Lehmann's Dark Earth website (Cornell University)
http://www.css.cornell.edu/faculty/lehmann/terra_preta/TerraPretahome.htm

Terra Preta (Black Earth) website: University of Bayreuth, Germany
http://www.geo.uni-bayreuth.de/bodenkunde/terra_preta/

Energy & Agricultural Carbon Utilization Symposium
<http://www.georgiaitp.org/carbon/>

EPRIDA: Eprida offers a revolutionary new technology that will allow us to remove CO₂ from the air by putting the carbon into the topsoil where it is needed.
<http://www.eprida.com/index.html>

Miscellaneous information about Amazonian Archaeology, Historical Ecology, and Applied Archaeology:

Archaeologist Clark Erickson's homepage: Applied Archaeology (Andean Highlands of Peru and Bolivia; Bolivian Amazon): images, maps, publications as pdf files, etc.

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cerickso/>

Publications by Clark Erickson: (including his summary chapter "Historical Ecology" in the 2003 Lehmann et al. book on ADE as a pdf file)

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cerickso/articles/articles.html>