

The Role of the Tropical Forests

featuring

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ly accepted theories of early human evolution hold that human ancestors developed when Ice-Age climate change created huge savannas in the tropical belt of Africa. The idea is that a rainforest ape species ventured out of the savanna, developing stone tools and big-game hunting to survive there. Until all Paleolithic humans are assumed to have been big-game hunters, they were limited to the savannas, steppes, and tundras throughout the world. However, recent paleoecological and bioarchaeological research now show that