



WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEOPLE AND FORESTS



Two kitchen worktops on sale in the UK both started life as iroko trees in a rainforest in the Congo Basin in Africa. One is FSC-certified, one isn't. So how does your choice make a difference?

# ? AN UNCERTIFIED WORKTOP



Without certification or another system of tracking the timber through the supply chain, we just can't be sure where it came from and how it was harvested and processed. The tree may have been felled illegally or without due care for the local environment or any benefit to the community.

## Uncertain future

Illegal and unsustainable logging may mean short-term gain for local people who can rent their land, or work for the loggers, but in the long term it can be devastating. Eventually the loggers will move on, leaving the community with degraded forest and no income.

## Endangering lives

Simple safety measures are unlikely in illegal or poorly managed logging operations, putting workers at risk of serious injury. Iroko sawdust can also cause respiratory problems, but the workers may not have proper safety equipment to protect themselves.

## Devastation and pollution

The wood may be from primary rainforest where high-value timbers like iroko are taken out like a cash crop and the land cleared for other uses. Forest clearance increases CO2 emissions and can leave the land degraded – changing its value permanently for people and wildlife.

## Unstable economy

Illegal and unsustainable logging diverts revenue away from the government – which means less money is spent on local social infrastructure such as education and healthcare. Once the high-value timber is taken, no one is making sure there is any resource for the future.

# WHAT WOOD YOU CHOOSE?

Rainforests provide food, shelter and fuel for millions of vulnerable people. They help regulate the climate. And they're home to amazing and often endangered wildlife. But rainforests face increasing threats – such as clearance for soy and cattle farming, mining and infrastructure developments, and illegal and unsustainable trade in timber and wood products.

But there are solutions. Such as the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) which WWF helped set up in 1993, in response to public concern about deforestation. FSC certification requires that forests are managed in ways that create environmental, social and economic benefits.

You can make a difference. By choosing products with the FSC logo – from furniture to toilet paper – you'll ensure that you're helping forests, communities and wildlife thrive.

[WWF.ORG.UK/WHATWOODYOUCHOSE](http://WWF.ORG.UK/WHATWOODYOUCHOSE)

## AN FSC-CERTIFIED WORKTOP



Choosing the FSC-certified kitchen worktop gives you the assurance that it has been sourced responsibly and is not the result of illegal logging. It helps care for the forests and the people and wildlife who depend on them.

### Safeguarding wildlife

FSC-certified logging is highly selective. Trees are felled in a way that ensures little damage to neighbouring trees or young growth. And important habitats must be maintained or enhanced to make sure endangered species are protected.

### Working with local people

Forest certification means local people's traditional rights to the forest are respected – they can, for example, collect food, fuel and medicinal plants from the forest. Logging companies must work with local communities and indigenous groups to make sure they can also benefit from employment.

### An unbroken supply chain

An FSC-certified kitchen worktop can be traced through the supply chain, from forest to sawmill to factory to UK shop. So you know it's been harvested and processed according to FSC environmental and social standards. This ensures that forest resources are available for many years to come.

### Ensuring health and safety

Logging is a dangerous job – but FSC-certified companies must have good health and safety standards, so workers have the right equipment.

