



Resource sheet: Forests – a renewable resource?

Viewpoints to consider

- If stop people making money from the forests, the forests lose their value and when that happens, people will want to get rid of the forests and find other ways to use the land to make money.
- Forests belong to the species that live there – they're not ours to exploit.
- When a forest is clearcut, it can change the soil and the climate of the ecosystem - new trees can't grow, plants die, and animals lose their habitat and die or leave the area.
- Trees can be burned as wood fuels – renewable energy with low carbon emissions.
- We need forests to protect us against climate change – we should be protecting them not harvesting them.
- As soon as you build roads into the forests for the 'sustainable loggers' you open the door to everyone else - illegal loggers, wildlife traders, squatter farmers.
- Forests belong to the people who live in them – it's up to them to decide what happens to them.
- Forestry gives people jobs and money. The wood and timber trade helps poorer countries – it's worth US\$200 billion worldwide per year.
- Wood should be used more and more for building schools and homes and offices – it's renewable and it creates lots less greenhouse gas emissions than steel or brick or concrete.
- Sustainable forestry doesn't work - 10% of the world's forests have disappeared in the last 25 years and timber exporting countries like Indonesia, Brazil, Kenya and Cameroon lose an estimated €10–15 billion through illegal logging each year.
- Waste and overconsumption are the biggest problems - about 16% of the wood delivered to building sites is never used and ends up in landfill sites and the world uses 1 million tonnes of paper every day.
- We need things from the forest – lots of the foods and medicines that we use were discovered in the forests. There are lots more things to discover.
- We can't 'farm' the forests and protect species like the gorilla and the orangutan.

