



ENDANGERED ANCIENT FORESTS

WE HAVE A PROBLEM:

- Over 80 percent of the world's ancient forests have been destroyed. The rest are being ravaged by destructive and illegal logging, agricultural expansion and large development projects.
- Since 1970, an area the size of Texas has been deforested in the Brazilian Amazon.¹
- At current levels of logging, Indonesia's lowland rainforests will be gone by 2020.²
- In the U.S., outside of Alaska, less than 5 percent of ancient forests remain.³
- America is the largest importer of forest goods yet has no laws to safeguard consumers from unwittingly purchasing illegally logged products.

SOLUTION:

- Set up a global network of protected areas encompassing all important forests.
- Stop new industrial development in intact ancient forests until the network is created.
- Ban imports of forest products from illegal or destructive sources.
- National governments must contribute more money for conservation while subsidies that threaten forests must be eliminated.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Tell Congress, your state governor and legislators to ban the import of illegally logged wood products.
- Ask for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) seal on wood products.
- If a store doesn't stock FSC wood, tell the manager you won't return until it does.
- Reuse, reduce, recycle, stay informed and get involved. The more you know the more you'll do.

"Every acre of old-growth forest we lose is one that we're not going to see again for several generations. The question is, is this worth it over the long haul, when we look at forests not in election cycles but in decades and even centuries?"

Mike Dombeck,
former U.S. Forest Service chief



TAKE ACTION TO SAVE OUR FORESTS

The Issue

From the Amazon to the boreal forest of Alaska and northern Canada, ancient forests are being razed for short-term profit. Yet forests are vital to the future of life on our planet. They play a key role in regulating climate and are home to two-thirds of all known species of land plants and animals. In fact, forests provide an incredible wealth of non-timber products, including foods such as chocolate, peanuts and coffee; medicines such as aspirin and cancer treatments; rubber, oils and organic pesticides. But the earth's surviving ancient forests are being cut down at an astonishing rate; half of the global forest lost in the last 10,000 years has disappeared since the 1920s. And half of that destruction has taken place since the mid-1970s. In remote regions, this devastating logging is often linked to murder, slavery, child labor, civil war, land theft, drug trafficking and the traumatic death of indigenous peoples. Stained with blood, this wood finds its way onto U.S. store shelves, where the public is denied information about where it originated.

The Solution

This tragedy is avoidable. Alternatives exist for many wood products and there is a growing global demand for Forest Stewardship Council-certified products, which ensure forests are logged in an environmentally and socially responsible way. If the U.S. can protect its borders from terrorists and drug runners, then it should also stop illegally and destructively logged timber products from entering the country.

The Opposition

Under the Bush administration, publicly owned forests have suffered an all-out assault by unscrupulous timber companies. This administration has overseen the most significant dismantling of environmental regulations in U.S. history, including the gutting of the landmark Roadless Rule, which prevented the devastation of key U.S. forests. Unbelievably, the Bush administration has even attempted to "harvest" some of the last big tree stands in California's Giant Sequoia National Monument. Meanwhile, in Africa, Asia and Latin America, many loggers kill to protect their ill-gotten profits; the murder of U.S.-born nun Sister Dorothy Stang in the Brazilian Amazon shows the price paid for attempting to save forests.

What You Can Do

SEND A MESSAGE: Call Congress at 202-224-3121 to demand an immediate moratorium on logging in federal forests and tell them we need laws preventing illegally logged timber products from entering the U.S.

SHOP SMART: Make sure that the wood products you buy carry the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) seal and paper products have high "post consumer" recycled content. If a store doesn't stock FSC wood, tell the manager you won't return until it does.

GET INVOLVED: Either on campus or online at:
www.greenpeaceusa.org/getinvolved

Greenpeace Victories



- In 2006, the Brazilian government sets aside 16 million acres of the Amazon for conservation, thanks to campaigning by Greenpeace and others.
- In the same year, after a decade-long campaign, Canada bans logging in 5 million acres of the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia.
- In 2002, Russia declares 180,000 acres of the Kalevala Forest, home to brown bears, wolverines, reindeer and lynx, a national park.
- In the early 1990s, Greenpeace plays a key role in founding the FSC, the only forest-friendly certification you can trust.

GREENPEACE
www.greenpeaceusa.org/forests