



# save or delete?

**A last chance to save the world's ancient forests**



**GREENPEACE**



# the future of ancient forests ...

Throughout the world, the ancient forests are in crisis. Many of the plants and animals that live in these forests face extinction. And many of the peoples and cultures who depend on these forests for their way of life are also under threat. But the news is not all bad. There is a last chance to protect these forests and the life they support.

**World governments can choose now to SAVE or DELETE the world's ancient forests. Help them to make the right choice by joining Greenpeace's global campaign to SAVE the world's ancient forests.**

[www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete](http://www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete)

## **A last chance to SAVE the world's ancient forests...**

The world's ancient forests are truly diverse. They include boreal, temperate and tropical forests; coniferous and broadleaved forests; rainforests, dry forests and mangroves. Together, they maintain environmental systems that are essential for life on Earth. They influence weather by controlling rainfall and evaporation of water from the soil. They help to stabilise the world's climate by storing large amounts of carbon that would otherwise contribute to global warming.

The ancient forests are home to millions of forest people who depend on them for their survival – both physically and spiritually. These forests also house around two-thirds of the world's terrestrial species of plants and animals. That's hundreds of thousands of different plants and animals, and literally millions of insects, whose futures depend on the ancient forests.

***"The forest is everything we have. Our houses. Our water. Our food. Our medicine."***

*Ceaser Adjako, Head of Kaayapati, Suriname*

These magnificent ancient forests are in crisis. More than 87 human cultures have been lost in Brazil alone; in the next 10 to 20 years, the world looks set to lose thousands of species of plants and animals. But there is a last chance to SAVE these forests and to SAVE the peoples and species that depend on them. That chance will happen at the United Nations' Ancient Forest Summit in The Hague in April 2002.

## **The ancient forest summit**

In 1992 world governments met at the United Nations (UN) Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to address the global environmental crisis recognised by scientists and politicians around the world. The largest environmental conference ever held, the Rio Earth Summit resulted in five separate agreements, including the legally binding Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). But ten years on, most of the 180 countries that formally committed to this Convention have done little to live up to their commitment to conserve the world's biological and cultural diversity.

In April 2002, these same world governments – the United Nations – will meet in The Hague, The Netherlands, to decide on an eight-year plan for the ancient forests. The outcome of this Ancient Forest Summit will determine the fate of the world's remaining ancient forests and of the plants, animals and people they support. In effect, these governments will be meeting to decide whether to SAVE or DELETE the ancient forests.

Help them to make the right choice.  
[www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete](http://www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete)



The future of hundreds of thousands of different plants and animals and literally millions of insects depends on ancient forests.  
© Greenpeace/Plowden

The world's ancient forests maintain environmental systems essential for life. Green Inlet Lagoon, Great Bear Rainforest, British Columbia, Canada. © Greenpeace/Hunter

The ancient forests are home to millions of forest people who depend on them for their survival – both physically and spiritually.  
© Greenpeace

# ... in their hands

## ...but we must act now

Around the world, there are still around 1,350 million hectares of ancient forest that remain undisturbed by large-scale industrial activities. This sounds like a lot – after all, that's an area bigger than all of China, and almost twice the size of Australia. But in fact this is only seven percent of the Earth's land surface – and it's only one-fifth of the forests' original size.



Fifty-nine countries – from the UK to Mozambique, and from El Salvador to Greece – have lost all of their large, intact ancient forest. In many other places these forests stand on the brink of extinction. Recently, rates of forest clearance and disturbance have increased dramatically: since 1950, 20 percent of the world's ancient forests have been cleared, and today around 10 million hectares are cleared or degraded each year. That's an area the size of a soccer pitch every two seconds. Ancient tropical rainforest in Indonesia and Central Africa could be gone in a few decades if forest destruction continues at the current pace.

Many scientists believe that the world is facing the largest wave of extinctions since the disappearance of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. It is estimated that nearly 24 percent of mammals, 12 percent of birds and almost 14 percent of plants face extinction. Most of these extinctions will be due to habitat destruction; most of these habitats are in ancient forests.

**The outcome of the Ancient Forest Summit will determine the fate of the world's remaining ancient forests and the plants, animals and people they support.**

Forest land turned to desert by deforestation. © Mark Edwards/Still Pictures

**“If forest clearing continues at 1990s rates, the forests will lose many of their remaining species by the middle of the 21st Century.”**

*Jeffrey McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN, May 2001*

## SAVE or DELETE?

Greenpeace is calling on world governments – the 189 United Nations – to choose to SAVE the world's ancient forests by:

- Stopping the destruction
- Cleaning up the timber trade
- Coming up with the money

## Can we afford it?

Leading scientists estimate that between US\$950 billion and \$1,450 billion are spent each year on 'perverse' subsidies – subsidies that keep prices of resources such as timber well below realistic market values, encouraging over-exploitation and destruction of the natural environment. If reform of these subsidies were linked to investment in environmental protection, just a small shift in government spending could have a major impact on conservation objectives.

The cost of global biodiversity conservation is well within our means – the only real obstacle is the lack of political will to change patterns of government spending in favour of conservation.



Forest clearcut in Canada's temperate rainforest. Recent research by the World Resources Institute concludes that industrial logging represents the single most important threat to the world's remaining ancient forests. © Greenpeace

Greenpeace investigating an illegal log raft in Brazil. Illegal logging is widespread in many ancient forest regions. © Greenpeace



# the Amazon Rainforest



## What's at stake

While much of the *Amazon Rainforest* falls within the borders of Brazil, this ancient tropical rainforest reaches into regions of Guyana, Venezuela, Colombia, Suriname, French Guiana, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. The largest remaining tropical forest in the world, the *Amazon Rainforest* is as large as Western Europe – or the whole of the USA. It is thought to be the most diverse ecosystem on Earth, supporting around 60,000 species of plants, 1,000 species of birds and more than 300 species of mammals. The forest and its famous river also support more than 2,000 species of freshwater fish and aquatic mammals such as the pink freshwater dolphin and the giant otter:



The *Amazon Rainforest* in Brazil alone is also home to some 20 million people, including an estimated 180,000 Amerindians and many more *caboclos* – traditional forest dwellers of Amerindian and Portuguese origin. These people rely on this ancient forest for their way of life. It provides everything from food and shelter to tools and medicines, as well as playing a crucial role in people's spiritual and cultural life.

## SAVE or DELETE the ancient forests?

[www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete](http://www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete)

During the rainy season, pink dolphins move out of the main river and into the flooded forest where they can be seen swimming among the trees. © Konrad Wothe/ Oxford Scientific Films

With recorded ranges of 800km, jaguars (*Panthera onca*) depend on large areas of undisturbed forest habitat. © Luiz Marigo/ Still Pictures

Butterflies in the Amazon. © Greenpeace

***“I have as my inheritance only the forest and my father's pains. If the forest is destroyed, only pain will remain.”***

*Raimundo Silva, Leader of the Piquia community, Amazon*

## Time to act

Fifteen percent of the *Amazon Rainforest* has already been destroyed. Since the 1970s, an area of ancient rainforest the size of France has been lost. A significant part of what remains is under direct threat.

Even since 1992, when Brazil hosted the UN Earth Summit in Rio, there has been little action to protect the *Amazon Rainforest*. Between 1990 and 1995 the Amazon lost several million

hectares of ancient forest. At the same time, Brazil increased its production of logs by almost one-fifth. Much of this timber would come from the destruction and degradation of the *Amazon Rainforest*.



The largest waterlily in the world, the leaves of *Victoria amazonica* grow up to more than a metre and a half wide. © Greenpeace

**“Deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon was greater last year (2000) than at any time since 1995, according to new satellite data released by the Brazilian government.”**

*Environmental News Service (ENS), May 2001*

In January 2001, the Brazilian government announced its plans for “Avança Brasil” (Advance Brazil) – a US\$40 billion plan to cover much of the Amazon Rainforest with 10,000 km of highways, plus an array of hydroelectric dams, power lines, mines, gas and oilfields, canals, ports, logging concessions and other industrial developments. Scientists predict that these planned developments will lead to the damage or loss of between 33 to 42 percent of Brazil’s remaining Amazon forest. Even if the Brazilian government and industry only manage to raise a portion of the funds needed for this project, the Avança Brasil proposals give an indication of government attitudes toward this threatened ancient forest and the people and creatures for whom it is home.

But it is not only the Brazilian government who is responsible for the demise of the Amazon Rainforest. Fuelled by demand for cheap supplies of plywood and tropical timber both at home and abroad, illegal timber is estimated to account for 80 percent of all timber produced in the Brazilian Amazon. Yet despite the publication of these figures by Brazil’s National Government in 1997, importing nations such as the US, Italy, France, UK, China and Japan have taken few steps to ensure that the products they import from Brazil come from even legal – never mind ecologically responsible – sources.

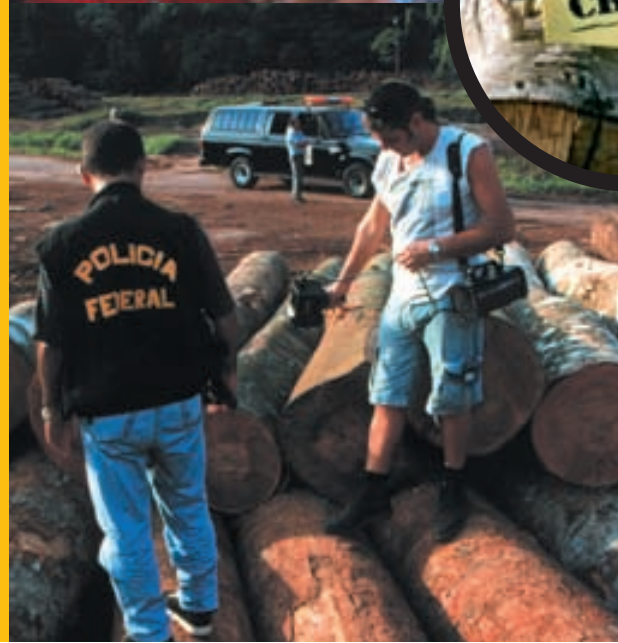
*The Deni Indians of Amazonas State, Brazil. © Greenpeace*

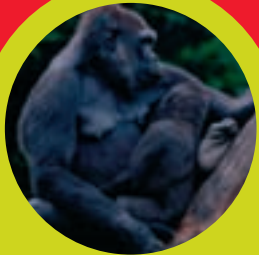
*Sloths are the most common large forest mammal. © Michel Gunther/Still Pictures*

*Forest destruction in the Amazon – 15 percent has already been destroyed. © Greenpeace*

*Greenpeace alerts Brazilian authorities to illegal timber. © Greenpeace*

*According to Brazilian government figures, up to 80 percent of timber produced in the Brazilian Amazon is illegal in some way. © Greenpeace*





# the African forest of the great apes



## What's at stake

The *African Forest of the Great Apes*, the spectacular lowland rainforest of Central Africa, stretches across regions of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. It is second in size only to the *Amazon Rainforest* and is the most species rich place in Africa. The forest in the Democratic Republic of Congo alone is home to over 1,000 species of birds and more than 400 species of mammals, many of which are not found anywhere else on Earth.

The *African Forest of the Great Apes* is critical to the survival of three of our closest animal relatives; the gorilla, the chimpanzee and the bonobo are all dependent on this ancient African forest. The forest is also home to magnificent forest elephants and other animals such as the okapi and the Congo peacock, which are barely known to science. Moreover, around 12 million forest-dwelling people, including the semi-nomadic Baka pygmies, depend directly on the forest for shelter, medicine, food and for their cultural and spiritual survival.

## Time to act

The *African Forest of the Great Apes* once stretched across Africa from Senegal to Uganda. No more. Most of these stunning forests are now gone and the future for the creatures and people which depend on them is uncertain. Around 85 percent of this ancient forest has been lost, and industrial logging threatens most of what remains.

Western lowland gorillas are found only in the ancient forests of the Congo Basin. There is widespread evidence linking logging to commercial hunting and illegal trade in bushmeat, including meat from apes. © Greenpeace

Forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) play an important role in seed dispersal and therefore the future life of the African Forest of the Great Apes. © Martyn Colbeck/Oxford Scientific Films

Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) are our closest animal relative. Of the world's great ape species, only homo sapiens – that's us – is not at risk of extinction. © Robert Henno/Still Pictures

Efe 'pygmy' smoking a banana stem pipe.  
© Andrew Plumpton/Oxford Scientific Films

**"If the forest dies, we will die as well because we are the People of the Forest."**

*Mbuti 'Pygmy', Democratic Republic of the Congo*



Since the Rio Earth Summit, tropical Africa has seen almost a 25 percent increase in the rate of forest destruction. And on average the region has seen its production of timber increase by more than half since the mid 1990s. At the same time, there has been no significant increase in the area of ancient forest designated for conservation. On the contrary, in the last five years, several million more hectares of this ancient forest have been allocated to industrial logging and may soon be logged out.

While the Cameroonian government has recently invited an independent monitoring body to help control its forestry sector, illegal and destructive logging practices are currently the norm in the region. Yet countries such as France, Italy, Germany, the UK and Spain continue to import huge amounts of African timber each year.

# the ancient forests of North America



## What's at stake

The *Ancient Forests of North America* are extremely diverse. They include the boreal forest belt stretching between Newfoundland and Alaska, the coastal temperate rainforest of Alaska and Western Canada, and the myriad of residual pockets of temperate forest surviving in more remote regions. Together, these forests store huge amounts of carbon, helping to stabilise the climate, and they provide a refuge for large mammals such as the grizzly bear, puma and grey wolf, which once ranged widely across the continent. In Canada it is estimated that ancient forest provides habitat for about two-thirds of the country's 140,000 species of plants, animals and microorganisms. Many of these species are yet to be studied by science.

The *Ancient Forests of North America* also provide livelihoods for thousands of indigenous people, such as the Eyak and Chugach people of Southeast Alaska, and the Hupa and Yurok of Northern California. Of Canada's one million aboriginal people (First Nation, Inuit and Métis), almost 80 percent live in reserves and communities in boreal or temperate forests, where historically the forest has provided their food and shelter and shaped their way of life.



This area in Canada, was once forest. © Greenpeace

**"Many of the remaining US forests stand to lose their intact status within the next decade or two."**

*World Resources Institute, 1997*

## Time to act

The US has already lost more than 94 percent of its ancient forest. And up to 85 percent of its remaining forest is under immediate threat. What's more, the US has refused to make a formal commitment to the CBD – thus, in effect, refusing to commit to saving its remaining biological and cultural diversity.

Between 1990 and 2000 North America lost at least 12.3 million hectares of natural or ancient forest, and although, on paper, there has been some increase in the area of land designated for conservation – from 6.9 to 11.1 percent – little of this is within the remaining intact ancient forests.

Both Canada and the US are G8 countries, all of which committed at the 1998 G8 meeting in Birmingham to eliminate the trade in illegal timber. This commitment was reaffirmed at both the 1999 and 2000 G8 Summits. However, the US, in particular, continues to import indiscriminately from ancient forest regions – including the Amazon – where illegal logging is rampant.

## SAVE or DELETE the ancient forests?

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Canada's Nuxalk people demonstrated against industrial clearcut logging in their traditional territories. © Greenpeace

The Arctic wolf (*Canis lupus*) is also known as the grey wolf, the tundra wolf and the buffalo wolf. © Peter Weimann/Still Pictures

Western red cedar trees grow as tall as a 30 storey building and can live 1,000 years. © Greenpeace/Aikman

# the temperate jungle of South America



## What's at stake

The *Temperate Jungle of South America* which covers regions of Southern Chile and Argentina, represents the largest tract of essentially undisturbed temperate forest in the world.

Dominated by southern beeches such as ulmo and laurel, these ancient forests support large numbers of plant and animal species exclusive to this region. These include the Darwin frog, the Pudú deer, the Chilote fox and the Chilean pine – or monkey puzzle tree.

These forests are also home to indigenous communities such as the Pehuenche community of Chile's Quinquen Valley, the Mapuche Indians of Huitrapulli and other local communities who have long depended on the natural wealth of the forest for their physical, cultural and spiritual way of life.

## Time to act

A significant part of the *Temperate Jungle of South America* has already been lost or degraded and almost all of what remains is under immediate threat.

In Chile, where most of this ancient temperate jungle remains, little has been done since 1992 to protect this endangered forest region. The production of timber increased by 83 percent in 1996-1998 compared to the previous decade, while the percentage of land designated for conservation increased by only 0.4 percent.

**“Chile’s temperate forests contain at least 50 species of trees used for timber and more than 700 species of vascular plants – half of which do not occur elsewhere.”**

*World Resources Institute, 1997*



*Much of Chile's ancient forest has already been cleared to produce wood chips. © Greenpeace*

*The Northern Andean huemul (*Hippocamelus antisensis*) is a shy deer that lives high in the Andes and is now extinct in much of its former range. © Mark Jones/Oxford Scientific Films*

*This tiny Darwin frog (*Rhinoderma darwini*) was discovered by and named after Charles Darwin. © Michael Fogden/Oxford Scientific Films*

*The monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*), found only in Chile, can live for more than 2,000 years. © Edward Parker/Oxford Scientific Films*



# the last ancient forests of Europe



## What's at stake

The *Last Ancient Forests of Europe* combine Europe's few remaining tracts of ancient forest in Scandinavia with the adjoining forest of European Russia (from the western flanks of the Ural mountains). These boreal forests

represent Europe's last remaining intact ancient forest. These forests have ensured the survival of numerous plant and animal species, including bears, flying squirrels and the highly endangered eagle owl.

These ancient boreal forests are also home to tens of thousands of indigenous peoples. The reindeer-herding Saami live in northern parts of Sweden, Finland and Norway as well as the Murmansk region of Russia. The forests also support the traditional cultures of the Komi and Nenets (or Samoyeds) who inhabit the Arkhangelsk Region and Komi Republic of European Russia.

## Time to act

Some 30 countries throughout eastern and western Europe have no intact ancient forest left; Finland and Sweden retain only one percent and three percent of their original forest cover as large tracts of ancient forest. Only European Russia retains extensive intact ancient forest – and even this is under serious threat from industrial logging.

White-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). © Konrad Wthel/Oxford Scientific Films

**"Living forests form a central part of Saami culture. Old growth forests are of crucial importance for reindeer herding and should not be logged for pulp mills under any circumstances. In the Saami culture we have been taught to respect forests ever since our childhood."**

*Pekka Aikio, President of the Saami Parliament, Finland*

European governments have done little to ensure the conservation of the small areas of ancient forest which remain in their jurisdiction. Indeed, in Finland, the state owned Forest and Park Service itself is destroying its own last remaining ancient forest, while increasing its imports from the neighbouring ancient forest in Russia. In all, European consumers are responsible for the destruction of at least 15,000 hectares of ancient forest in European Russia each year. The Russian government is responsible for much of the rest.

Meanwhile Europe also remains a critical market for illegal and destructively logged timber from countries such as Indonesia, Brazil and Cameroon, despite well publicised accounts of the widespread nature of illegal and destructive logging in these regions.

**SAVE or DELETE the ancient forests?**

[www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete](http://www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete)



Nentsy people with their reindeer. The ancient forests of European Russia are home to numerous plants and animals and thousands of indigenous peoples. ©Richard and Julia Kemp/Survival Anglia

Today, large carnivores, such as this European brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), have only scattered tracts of ancient forest habitat remaining. © Philippe Henry/Oxford Scientific Films

Europe was once a broad mosaic of natural habitats. Today, some 30 countries have no intact ancient forest left. European consumers are responsible for the destruction of at least 15,000 ha of ancient forest in European Russia each year. © Greenpeace

# the snow forests of Asian Russia



## What's at stake

Asian Russia makes up the eastern third of the Russian Federation and covers over 663 million hectares – more than two-thirds the size of the continental United States. The *Snow Forests of Asian Russia* comprise areas of intact ancient forest ranging from the arctic zone in northeastern Sakha, to the subtropical region along the Amur and Ussuri river basins to the south. Forest makes up 45 percent of the territory, and ranges in type from shrublike tundra forest in the north to rich mixed forests in the south.

These diverse forests provide a home to many species of plants and animals, including the highly endangered Siberian (or Amur) tiger, Far Eastern leopard, the Himalayan bear and the musk deer. The Amur-Sakhalin region shelters more types of plants and animals than any other temperate forest in the world, with many of these species existing nowhere else. Like other forests, the *Snow Forests of Asian Russia* are also home to indigenous peoples including the Nanai of the Khabarovsk region.

**“Illegal logging and trade have been identified by international groups, including the World Conservation Union (IUCN), as a primary contributor to deforestation.”**

*Friends of the Earth Japan, 2000*

## Time to act

Logging and other resource extraction such as mining pose a serious threat to Russia's *Snow Forests*. Already some regions have been logged out, and in recent years, multinational logging corporations with a history of forest destruction have started to secure long-term logging agreements here. Indeed, the Malaysian giant Rimbunan Hijau, has just secured two 50-year leases to log forest along the Sea of Japan coast and is planning to export raw logs to markets in China, Japan, and South Korea.

Illegal logging and the consumption of specific timber species by Chinese and Japanese markets are now regarded as the primary threats to the rich temperate forests of the southern regions of Russia's *Snow Forests*. This, coupled with an expected increase in demand for Russian timber from Northeast Asia over the next 10 years, poses a serious threat to the survival of these stunning ancient forests.



*Logging and other resource extraction now pose a serious threat to Russia's Snow Forests. © Greenpeace*

*The Siberian tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) is the largest of all living tigers. The stripes on the tiger's face are similar to the human thumbprint – no two tigers have exactly the same stripe pattern. © Kevan Schafer/Stills Pictures*

*Greenpeace intercepts a shipment of timber from the Snow Forests of Asian Russia. © Greenpeace*

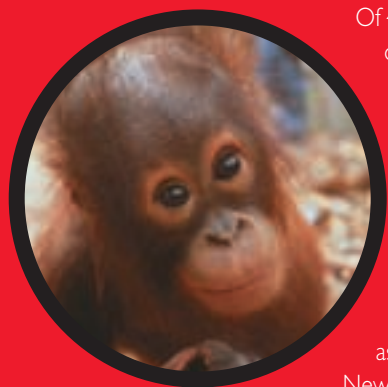
# the paradise forests of Asia Pacific



## What's at stake

The diverse tropical forests of Indonesia and New Guinea and the nearby archipelagos form the *Paradise Forests of Asia Pacific*. These predominantly evergreen rainforests include mangrove, coastal and swamp forests as well as lowland rainforests. Other forest types include monsoon and deciduous forests in the drier and more mountainous regions.

Like other ancient forests, the *Paradise Forests* shelter regions of unusually high biodiversity, including many plants and animals that are found nowhere else. They support well over 500 species of mammals and more than 1,600 species of birds – not to mention around 30,000 species of higher plants. These include biological treasures like Indonesia's giant rafflesia flower that can grow up to one metre across, and more than 2,000 species of orchids.



Of 43 known species of the exotic bird of paradise, 38 occur in New Guinea. Indonesia's remaining ancient forest is a refuge for the last populations of man's fourth closest relative – the orang-utan – and for the Sumatran and Javan rhinoceros that once roamed across much of Southeast Asia. The cultural diversity of these forests is as astounding as their natural wonders. In New Guinea alone there are more than 1000 languages – one-third of all the languages

The orang-utan – the only great ape found in Asia – may vanish from the wild within a decade unless illegal logging of its habitat and poaching can be greatly reduced. © Greenpeace

**“Generations of my people have said no to logging. We rely on many different bush materials and don't want logging to damage them.”**

*Simon Okai, Zongo clan chief, Solomon Islands*

spoken on Earth. Many of these cultures depend on these forests for their livelihood – and have done for untold generations. Their future and the future of the forest are intimately linked.

## Time to act

Indonesia and New Guinea have already lost around 65 percent of their ancient *Paradise Forests*, and the region as a whole has seen a 25 percent increase in timber production in 1996-1998 compared to the previous decade.

Here, illegal logging and corruption within the logging industry remain widespread. Indeed, in Indonesia, it has been estimated that as much as 70 percent of the raw timber supplying the country's wood processing industry is logged illegally, while in Papua New Guinea the government has consistently failed to enforce existing forest legislation. The latter has repeatedly broken its own national forestry laws, in order to allow powerful companies access to areas of ancient forest.

A 2001 World Bank report warns that some of the richest areas of forest in this region could disappear within 3-10 years unless government action is taken to halt the rampant illegal logging and habitat destruction.

## SAVE or DELETE the ancient forests?

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There are more than 2,000 species of orchid in New Guinea's Paradise Forests. © Michael Viara/Stills Pictures

Of 43 known species of exotic bird of paradise, 38 occur in New Guinea. © Tony Tilford/Oxford Scientific Films

Almost one metre wide and weighing about 9 kg, Indonesia's rafflesia flower (*Rafflesia arnoldii*) is by far the largest in the world. © Compost/Visage/ Still Pictures

# the ancient forests ...



## United Nations: ten years on and what have you done?

It is now almost 10 years since the Rio Earth Summit. Some 180 countries have committed to protect the diversity of the world's plants and animals as well as its human cultures. But in those 10 years what have the United Nations really done for the world's remaining ancient forests – and the millions of plant and animal species and people that depend upon them?

## Have the world governments ...

### ... Ensured that sufficient areas of ancient forest have been designated for conservation? NO

- "It has been particularly difficult to obtain protected-area status for southern Siberia's large forest ecosystems. This is owing to opposition by forest service agencies and other local government bodies." Vselvod Stepanitskii, head of Russia's system of natural reserves, 1998
- "Protected areas are fast becoming islands of dying biodiversity .... Many animals need the ability to migrate in order to survive. Limited reserve areas cannot fill this need."

Jeffrey McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN, May 2001

**"In absolute terms, it appears that more tropical forest was lost in the 1990s than in the 1980s."**

World Resources Institute, 2001

The jaguar is endangered or extinct over most of its former tropical rainforest range. © Greenpeace

Papua New Guinea has lost 60 percent of its intact ancient forest, with 84 percent of what remains now threatened. Its main threat is export-based logging. © Greenpeace/Dorreboom

The Baka 'pygmy' communities of Cameroon are under threat from a logging industry in which corruption and the violation of the indigenous people's rights are widespread. © Greenpeace/Morgan



Despite their commitment to stamp out illegal logging, G8 countries such as Germany continue to import uncertified products from ancient forests where illegal and destructive logging is known to be the norm. © Greenpeace

### ... Provided adequate protection for existing national parks? NO

- A recent survey carried out for WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and the World Bank concluded that only three percent of protected areas within Russia are well managed.
- In Cameroon, thanks to an EU-funded road, the Dja reserve – a World Heritage site – is being rapidly destroyed by large-scale industrial logging and poaching of gorillas and elephants.

### ... Provided subsidies that promote ecologically responsible forest management? NO

- Many European countries contribute to the destruction of the world's remaining ancient forest through aid programmes and subsidies for projects such as for road building in Central Africa, which numerous scientific studies have shown results in serious harm to the tropical forest and wildlife of the region.
- In Canada, subsidies to the forestry industry amounting to an estimated US\$2 billion to \$2.7 billion every year are believed to contribute to the destruction of ancient forest.

# ... in their hands

## ... Controlled deforestation? NO

- "In absolute terms, it appears that more tropical forest was lost in the 1990s than in the 1980s." World Resources Institute, 2001
- "If forest clearing continues at 1990s rates, the forests will lose many of their remaining species by the middle of the 21st Century." Jeffrey McNeely, May 2001

## ... Controlled the logging industry? NO

- "At the international level, the availability of cheap, illegally felled logs from Indonesia has led to a huge decrease in international plywood prices. As a result, plywood producers committed to legal, sustainably managed log supplies have been unable to compete and are effectively becoming excluded from international markets." Tropical Timbers, January 2000
- It is now generally accepted that illegal logging has become the norm rather than the exception in the Brazilian Amazon. The government's own investigations, published in 1997, estimate that 80 percent of the logs cut are illegal in some way.

## ... Implemented ecologically responsible procurement policies? NO

- In March 2000, UK Prime Minister Tony Blair stated "We have already promised that as a Government we will only purchase timber from legal and sustainable sources." Today the UK is still Europe's largest importer of tropical plywood from Brazil where up to 80 percent of wood production is illegal.

## ... Provided proper funding for conservation? NO

- Worldwide, perverse subsidies that encourage over-exploitation and destruction of the natural environment total between US\$950 billion and \$1,450 billion every year. This compares to only US\$1,450 million spent each year on reforestation, environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. Biodiversity itself receives only one-tenth of this – that's 0.01 percent of the amount spent on environmentally destructive subsidies.

Malaysian forest. More tropical forest was lost in the 1990s than in the 1980s. © Greenpeace/Barrington

If forest clearing continues at 1990s rates, the forests will lose many of their remaining species by the middle of the 21st Century. © Greenpeace

Illegal timber flooding the international market is undermining the value of timber produced in an ecologically responsible way. © Greenpeace

**"Many experts believe that biodiversity is more threatened now than at any time since the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago."**

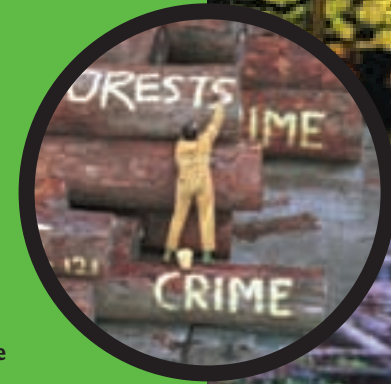
Jeffrey McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN, May 2001

## ... So are they protecting the world's forest and the life that depends upon it? NO

- "Today's species extinction rate is comparable in scale to the loss of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago." Russell Mittermeier, President, Conservation International
- "The number of species threatened with extinction far outstrips available conservation resources, and the situation looks set to become rapidly worse." Norman Myers, 2000

**Your government can choose now to SAVE or DELETE the world's ancient forests**

[www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete](http://www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete)



# greenpeace demands to the world leaders



The UN Ancient Forest Summit will take place in April 2002 in The Hague. At this summit, ministers, politicians and government representatives will decide on the future of the world's remaining ancient forest. It is time for them to live up to the commitments they made in Rio 10 years ago. Time for them to stop talking and start acting now to SAVE, not DELETE, the world's remaining ancient forests and the plants, animals and human cultures that depend upon them.

The world's remaining ancient forests will not be saved with words alone. Greenpeace is seeking a commitment from world leaders at the Ancient Forest Summit to:

- **Stop the destruction** – by stopping any further industrial activities in intact ancient forest until responsible plans for forest conservation and sustainable use have been agreed
- **Clean up the timber trade** – by ensuring that timber is produced and traded in a legal and ecologically responsible way
- **Come up with the money** – by providing at least US\$15 billion each year to pay for forest conservation and sustainable development

## **Certification: ensuring legal and ecologically responsible timber supply**

On a global scale, industrial logging has long been dominated by illegality and corruption, and so far the logging industry has largely resisted demands for its reform. With at least 50 percent of wood produced illegally in many regions, this means that getting hold of responsibly produced wood can be difficult.

But the responsibility for ensuring that timber supplies are from legal and ecologically responsible sources lies as much in the hands of consuming nations as in those of producers. And in practice, the only way to do this is to demand that all wood and wood products from ancient forests have been independently certified to at least the standards required by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This is the only way it is possible to trace the chain-of-custody from production to final consumption.

*The Far Eastern leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) – take a good look while you can. Fewer than fifty animals remain to roam the black fir forests along the Russian-Chinese border.  
© Lynn Stone/ Oxford Scientific Films*

*Greenpeace is asking consumer – as well as producer – nations to stop their role in the trade of illegal and destructively logged wood.  
© Greenpeace*

*The only way to ensure that wood has been produced responsibly is to demand that it has been certified to at least the standards required by the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)*

**“Greenpeace calls on the 189 United Nations to create a global ancient forest fund worth US\$15 billion every year – about 1% of the money governments spend in subsidies that promote the destruction of the natural environment. This small shift in government spending would accomplish major conservation objectives that benefit us all.”**

## UNITED NATIONS



# time to get active what can you do



Greenpeace is approaching governments worldwide, asking them to live up to their commitment to SAVE the world's remaining ancient forests and the plant, animal and human life that depends upon them. But we need you to help put pressure on governments to act:

### Lobby your government ministers and head of state

Write to your Head of State, your Minister of Environment, and other key political people and ask them to support Greenpeace's demands at the April 2002 Ancient Forest Summit in The Hague.

### Don't buy ancient forest destruction – demand FSC

Write to construction companies, furniture stores and DIY stores. Tell them not to use timber from ancient forest destruction. Ask them to use wood and wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

### Start an ancient forest project in your school

Teachers and students can work together on ancient forest projects and ways they can help SAVE the plants, animals and human cultures that depend upon these forests. Contact your local Greenpeace office for details.

### Come to the Ancient Forest Summit in The Hague

Lobby your government's delegation at the Summit. Contact your local Greenpeace office for details.

### Become a cyberactivist

Log on to [www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete](http://www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete) to vote to SAVE the ancient forests and join our global cyberactions..

### Spread the word

Tell your friends and family about Greenpeace's global campaign to SAVE the world's ancient forests. Ask them to register their votes to SAVE the world's ancient forests and the life that depends upon them.

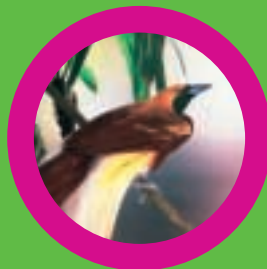


*There are many ways to help put pressure on governments.*  
© Greenpeace

*Getting active with Greenpeace to SAVE the ancient forests*  
© Greenpeace

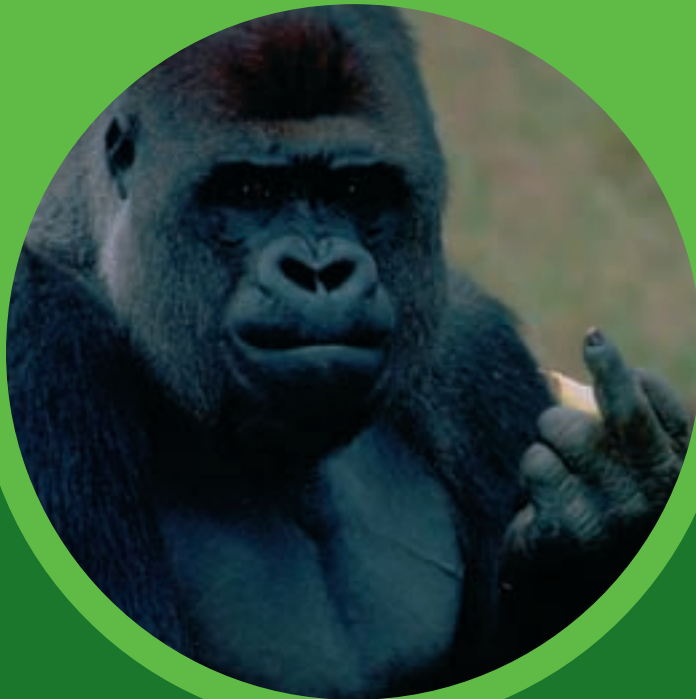
## STOP DESTROYING OUR FOREST HOMES

Your government can choose now to SAVE or DELETE the world's ancient forests. Help them to make the right choice.



# save or delete?

united nations stop destroying our forest homes



***“The clock is standing at one minute to midnight for the great apes. Some experts estimate that in as little as five to ten years time they will be extinct across their range.”***

*Klaus Toepfer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), May 2001*

***World governments must choose now to SAVE or DELETE the world’s remaining ancient forests. Help them to make the right choice by joining Greenpeace’s global campaign to SAVE the world’s ancient forests.***

[www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete](http://www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete)

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