



Role of Forests and Biological Diversity

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(in consultation with the WWF International Global Forest Programme)



About WWF

- **Global network** active in 75 countries, over 1300 projects, 4800 staff, 5 million supporters
- **WWF's mission:** *To stop degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which human's live in harmony with nature.*
- **Biodiversity goal:** *By 2050, the integrity of the most outstanding natural places on earth is conserved, contributing to a more secure and sustainable future for all.*
- **Footprint goal:** *By 2050, humanity's global footprint stays within the earth's capacity to sustain life and the natural resources of our planet are equitably shared.*
- **Partnerships:** Governments, local communities, institutions and other NGOs, business and industry, among others





Content

- Overall status and trends of forest biodiversity
- Major threats
- Major achievements
- Major conservation challenges
- International forest conservation agenda and actors
- Roles and responsibilities of governments and civil society



Forest Biological Diversity: Status and Trends

- Alarming deforestation globally
- Declining species diversity: forest loss, major factor contributing to 40% of species extinction or endangered.
- Most threatened species: mountains or islands in the tropics
- 50-90% of all terrestrial species in the forest-rich tropics
- 87% of reptiles, 75% of mammals, 57% of amphibians, 44% of birds and 12.5% of plants worldwide threatened due to forest decline
- 'The latent extinction debt or risk'



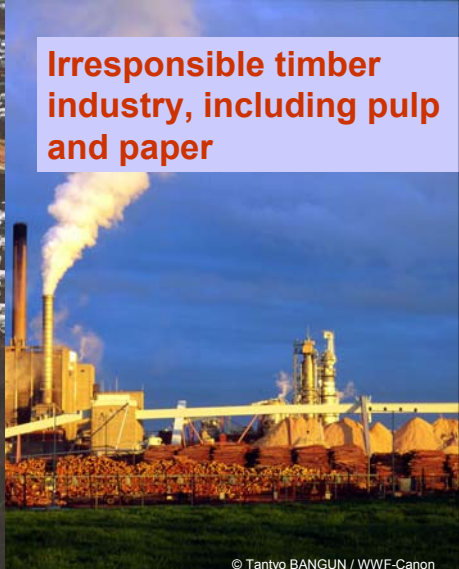


Major threats



**Agriculture expansion
(cattle, soy, palm oil, etc.)**

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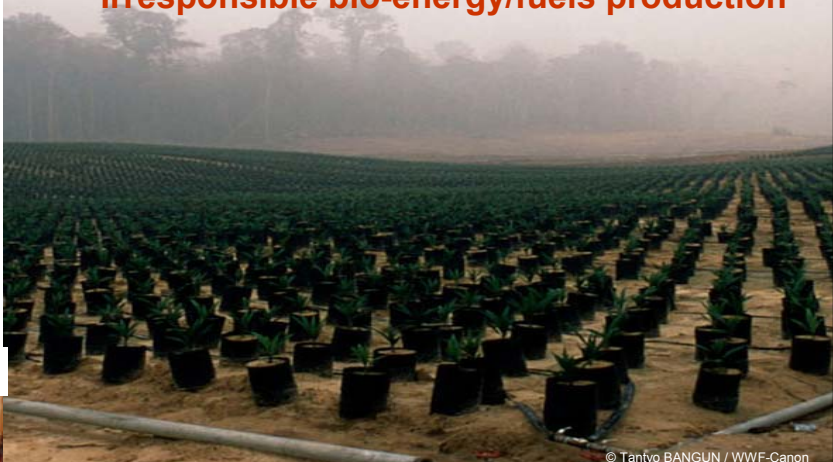
**Irresponsible timber
industry, including pulp
and paper**

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Major threats

Irresponsible bio-energy/fuels production



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Major threats



Forest degradation - unsustainable forest management, including illegal logging



What has been achieved? **Protected Area Network**

- About 12% of Earth's land surface now under protected area status
- PA management effectiveness
- Reasons of low effectiveness: lack of capacity, funds, responsibilities
- LIFE WEB: German Federal Ministry of Environment-led Global Initiative on Protected Areas
- Gap-analysis still needed





Forest PAs: Identifying and Closing Global Conservation Gaps

- **Study** by UNEP-WCMC, WWF, World Resources Institute, Institute of Forest and Environmental Policy
- **Aim:** Assess global forest protection gaps in view of CBD target to effectively conserve “*at least 10% of the world’s forest types*”
- **Progress** towards achieving target: overlay up-dated datasets
- **Assessing** worldwide forest conservation gaps, highlighting forests where global conservation measures urgently needed
- **Results** use to inform national-scale gap assessment and forest conservation planning



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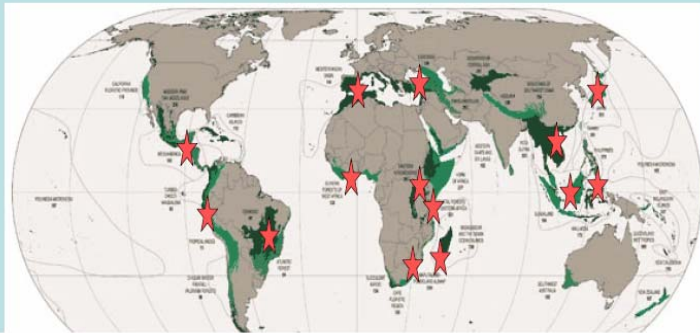


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Biodiversity hotspots

Biodiversity hotspots are where at least 70% of the habitat has been lost and at least 1,500 endemic plants occur



Fourteen forested hotspots fall below the 10% target



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Conclusions

- *Global gaps in forest protected areas in Congo Basin, East African Coastal forests and Eastern Afrotropical in Africa, New Guinea in SE Asia, Many temperate forest types, Cerrado in South America*
- *Picture changes as you alter the scale of the analysis (from global to regional). Regional planning is essential*
- *Global average figures for the protection of a forest type are not that helpful. Need to make analysis at finer resolution, for example within an ecoregion*
- *Many reserves lack an IUCN Protected Area category and have been excluded here. But they offer a potential to expand the forest protected area network*



What has been achieved?

Sustainable Forest Management

- Better understanding of SFM
- Comprehensive sets of C and I
- Achievements relevant to the MCPFE process
- Certification: WB – only 2% of forests are certified (2004), 6% has management plan
- Illegal logging: several initiatives – EU FLEGT, ENA FLEG
- BUT due to new global challenges **SFM has limitations:**
 - forest sector not able to reduce forest loss
 - issues beyond control of forest sector due to emerging global trends
 - influencing sectors - agriculture, energy, *etc.*
 - SFM very important mechanism, support biodiversity goals but should be integrated with other sectors





What has been achieved?

Case studies

- Europe: forest area expanded by about 660,000 ha/year (FRA)
- Nepal: community-based forest helps reverse forest loss
- Paraguay: "Zero Deforestation Law"



Major challenges:

Climate Change & Forests

- **Forests:** largest terrestrial carbon store, third largest source of carbon emissions, after coal and oil, tropical forests' role
- **REDD** as a part of the solution
- **Climate perspective:** Reducing deforestation a highly cost-effective way of reducing GHG emissions
- **Forest perspective:** REDD initiatives can clearly benefit biodiversity conservation
- **CBD Parties:** a new and powerful incentive to invest in forest conservation and sustainable forest management





Major challenges: REDD

- REDD included within post-2012 climate treaty.
- Funds for developing countries prepare and implement REDD asap.
- **Critical factors** in designing forest-carbon projects:
 - ✓ carbon accounting system to assure accurate measurement of climate benefits (**additionality, leakage, permanence**)
 - ✓ key **socio-environmental safeguards** (eg. HCVs, legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples and rural populations, stakeholder-based landuse planning processes)
 - ✓ design of appropriate mitigation actions when needed and system to ensure **independent and credible validation** of the design
 - ✓ sound basis for **monitoring** during project implementation



Major challenges: Adaptation Strategies

- Climate change: biggest single threat to Earth's ecosystems, especially forests
- Two-pronged approach in conserving forest biodiversity:
 - GHG emissions must be reduced to slow down rate and extent of global climate change and its impact on forests
 - need to respond through **adaptation strategies**
- Creating adequate PA systems, buffer zones, corridors to aid species migration
- Designing protection strategies that address traditional land use, existing threats, climate change stresses
- Limiting all non-climate stresses i.e. overharvesting, pollution





Major challenges: Reverse Forest Loss

- 67 countries, EC pledged support for zero net deforestation by 2020 at CBD COP9
- Can be achieved collectively, needs support and cross-sectoral integration of various govt policies from industrial and developing countries, producers and consumers, public, private + finance sectors, other important processes and stakeholders.
- Collaboration with international processes eg. UNFCCC and UNFF



Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity who signed to the WWF Postcard Calling for Zero Net Deforestation by 2020. This list is as at 30 May 2008.

1. Afghanistan	26. India	51. Sierra Leone
2. Australia	27. Indonesia	52. Slovenia
3. Austria	28. Iran	53. South Africa
4. Benin	29. Japan	54. St Vincent and Grenadines
5. Bosnia and Herzegovina	30. Kenya	55. Sweden
6. Brazil	31. Latvia	56. Tajikistan
7. Burkina Faso	32. Lesotho	57. Tanzania
8. Cambodia	33. Liberia	58. Tchad
9. Colombia	34. Madagascar	59. Timor Leste
10. Congo-Brazzaville	35. Mauritania	60. Turkmenistan
11. Costa Rica	36. Mexico	61. Uganda
12. Croatia	37. Namibia	62. Ukraine
13. Cyprus	38. Nepal	63. UK
14. Czech Republic	39. Netherlands	64. Vietnam
15. Denmark	40. New Zealand	65. Yemen
16. Ecuador	41. Nigeria	66. Zambia
17. Ethiopia	42. Oman	67. Zimbabwe
18. Finland	43. Pakistan	68. European Commission
19. France	44. Panama	Others:
20. Gambia	45. Paraguay	• CBD Secretariat
21. Germany	46. Peru	• COMIFAC
22. Guatemala	47. Poland	• Ramsar
23. Guinea-Bissau	48. Samoa	• UNEP
24. Guinea (West Africa)	49. Senegal	• IUFRO, etc.
25. Hungary	50. Serbia	



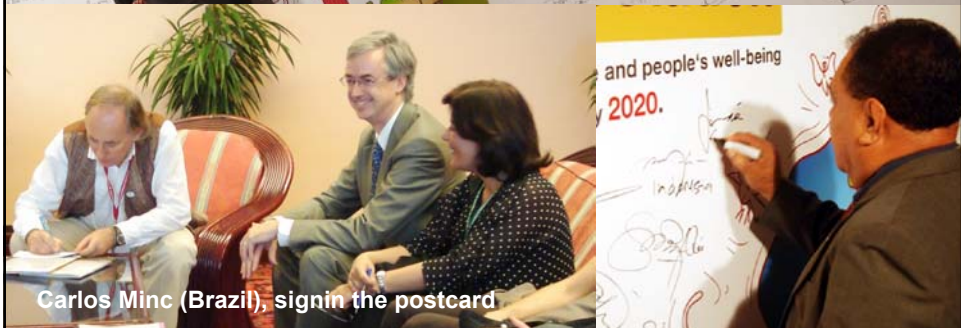
WWF for a living planet®

STOP Deforestation

to safeguard biodiversity, the climate and people's well-being



Ministers of 67 countries attending CBD COP9 in Bonn signed on to WWF's postcard calling for zero net deforestation by 2020!



Carlos Minc (Brazil), signing the postcard



EC: Commissioner Stavros Dimas



Germany: Minister Sigmar Gabriel




UK, Joan Ruddock MP

Dear Mr. James Leape,

I share your concern at the dramatic consequences that deforestation of the planet is causing on biodiversity, global climate, and the health and security of millions of people. I agree we need to reverse and stop this trend.

I offer my personal support to WWF's call for achieving zero net deforestation by 2020.

Sincerely,

 (name)

Minister of *Environmental Protection of Ukraine* (country)

Kyiv, Ukraine, May 26, 2008 (place, date)

NB: You can also drop your signed postcard at the WWF "Plaza of Diversity" Pavilion during the CBD COP9 Conference in Bonn.



To
Mr. James Leape
 WWF International's
 Director-General
 Ave du Mt. Blanc
 1196 Gland
 Switzerland

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Major challenges: Poverty Reduction

- Linking Forests and Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
- MDGs: ensure environmental sustainability (Goal 7) and integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies + progs, reverse loss of environmental resources.
- Progress towards achieving goal measured inter alia by proportion of land area covered by forest.
- The UN MDG Report 2007: Deforestation continues, especially in biologically diverse regions. The UN 2006 Progress Chart drew alarming picture that 8 of 10 regions showed no progress, with a deterioration or reversal against target of reversing forest loss.



Major Challenges: Energy Crisis

- Bioenergy as sustainable alternative to fossil fuels
- Bioenergy production not necessarily sustainable, can cause significant negative environmental impacts including deforestation, forest degradation, biodiversity loss.
- Uncontrolled production + consumption of bioenergy can lead to further deforestation and degradation of forests.
- Imports and domestic production of bioenergy need to be based on principles and criteria of SFM + other existing tools eg. HCV concept
- Forest sector not involved in discussion on biofuel
- CBD agricultural work: forest not involved





Major Challenges: Integration of Policies

- Forest/Environment ministers alone cannot solve problem
- Policies on forest, agriculture, trade, finance, etc.
- Forest sector to bring all sectors on board
- Due to emerging climate change threat should join forces (environment and forest) to start to reconsider approach which is beyond just forests



Role of International Actors: CBD (Programme of Work on Forests)

- Reduce loss of forest biodiversity associated with forest loss and degradation
- Substantial improvement in implementation
- Deep discord of positions among various parties resulting in vague recommendations and no clear strategy to achieve 2010 Biodiversity Target
- Significant threats of biofuel production to forest biodiversity: from land conversion, issue of biofuels should be integrated into expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity
- Programme lacks clear, time-bound targets





Role of International Actors: UNFF

- Set global objective to *reverse loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.*
- Committed to *work globally, regionally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievement by 2015.*
- The 2020 zero net deforestation target is natural next step to translate progress by 2015 into final objective
- Enhanced collaboration with CBD



Role of International Actors: UNFCCC

- Acknowledged need to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)
- Zero Net Deforestation should translate to zero net GHG emissions from deforestation and degradation
- Achieving this by 2020 is recognized as critical contribution to an early peak and decline in total global GHG emissions.





Roles and Responsibilities: Governments/Policies

- **REDD:** clear standards to ensure environmental and social co-benefits, transparent carbon accounting practices, valid and subject to verification
- **Illegal logging & related trade,** initiate and/or further engage in approaches based on voluntary partnership agreements such as FLEGT Action Plan, public procurement
- **International conventions and processes,** eg. CBD, UNFCCC, EU, G8
- **National political instruments** (laws, subsidy systems, etc.)
- **Stakeholder participation**
- **Integrated Policy** (Agriculture, Energy, Finance, Trade, Forest, Environment, etc.)
- **Development cooperation and aid**



Roles and Responsibilities: Governments/ Society

- **Production:**
SFM, credible certification, ecosystem/landscape approach, maintaining and enhancing critical environmental and social forest values e.g. biodiversity
- **Consumption:**
responsible purchasing, credibly certified products, reduction/recycling/durable products, awareness raising/ consumer guidance
- **Responsible Markets:**
credible certification, roundtable on sustainable biofuels, WWF Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN), payments for environmental services, responsible financing (credits, investments)





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