

GREENPEACE

Call for Action for the Ancient Forest Summit

at the Convention on Biological Diversity's 6th Conference of the Parties

The Hague, 8 – 19 April 2002

The world's original forests are in an alarming situation. Of the original forest cover half is gone and only 20 % remain as large tracts of ancient forest – i.e. intact and fully functioning areas of primary/ natural/ old growth forest ecosystems dominantly shaped by natural events and with comparably small human impacts.

There is an urgent need to protect the ecological integrity of the remaining ancient forests for this and future generations. Ancient forests are the natural habitat of up to 80 % of the world's terrestrial diversity of plant and animal species. Indigenous peoples and traditional forest dwellers depend on these ancient forests for their traditional livelihoods and their culture. If humankind is to protect ancient forest biodiversity and traditional cultures, ancient forest loss must be stopped during the coming decade.

Ancient forest conservation is achieved through enforcing existing and establishing new laws and policies on conservation and sustainable use, assessing and identifying conservation needs, ensuring that local peoples' benefit from conservation efforts; applying the ecosystem approach and integrating ancient forest conservation into all relevant sectors.

The conservation of ancient forests is a common concern of humankind. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, Governments have a common but individual and differentiated responsibility towards protecting the world's ancient forests.

The 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is the ANCIENT FOREST SUMMIT of the CONVENTION OF LIFE ON EARTH.

**Greenpeace calls on
Governments to decide at the 6th Conference of the Parties
of the Convention on Biological Diversity:**

To secure a permanent global ancient forest estate, Governments must:

I. Implement immediate MEASURES to halt ancient forest degradation and loss and promote ancient forest conservation and sustainable use by COP 7 in 2004, including:

1. Full enforcement of existing laws which control activities that may have significant adverse effects on ancient forests.
2. Improvement of management of existing protected areas.
3. Establishment of a comprehensive, adequate, representative, effective and extensive system of protected areas, applying the ecosystem approach.
4. Elimination of perverse subsidies, trade measures and development assistance that lead to ancient forest destruction.
5. Measures for ecologically responsible sustainable use.
6. Following the full implementation of measures to protect ancient forests, initiation of efforts to restore native forest biological diversity.

II. Provide at least US \$15 Billion in new MONEY annually to establish a global Ancient Forest Fund to begin immediate implementation of measures and moratoria.

III. Immediately establish MORATORIA on industrial logging and other industrial development activities¹ in intact² ancient and other key ecological forest areas, until representative protected area networks and areas of sustainable use are fully established (precautionary principle). In order to achieve protected area networks and areas of sustainable use, a comprehensive system of maps has to be developed with the participation of forest indigenous peoples, other forest dwellers, and scientists.

And establish a Working Group on Ancient Forest Biodiversity under the CBD to support and monitor implementation of the above.

¹ Such as large-scale clearing and burning, mining, road building, new highways, drainage, pipelines, dams, and agriculture.

² Pending final designation of intact status, reference the Global Forest Watch definition of "potentially intact ancient forest areas" (www.globalforestwatch.org).