

GREENPEACE

M for Measures

Greenpeace calls on Governments to adopt at the Ancient Forest Summit in The Hague in April 2002 six main MEASURES to secure a permanent global ancient forest estate. Governments should implement these immediate MEASURES to halt ancient forest degradation and loss, and promote ancient forest conservation and sustainable use by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2004.

Governments should establish a Working Group on Ancient Forests under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to support and monitor the implementation of such measures.

These measures include:

1. Full enforcement of existing laws that control activities that may have significant adverse effects on ancient forests.

A great many laws on conservation and forest resource management are currently not respected. Illegal logging and trade in illegally harvested timber is rampant¹. Illegal activities also refer to non-timber forest products. The bushmeat crises, i.e. the prohibited hunting of gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and other apes, birds, deer etc. for trade and food is one of the most urgent problems threatening forest wildlife, particularly in Africa. The need for action has been recognised recently at various political meetings². Such illegal activities cause serious social and economic damage.

Without enforcement of laws, the adoption of any rule on conservation of ancient forests is pointless. Law enforcement is the most basic, indispensable requirement to conserve ancient forests. These laws vary from country to country and cover different issue areas related to ancient forests. They include laws on nature conservation, biodiversity and protected areas, logging permits and operations, laws on tax and accounting, laws to fight corruption, fraud, bribery and theft.

Full enforcement of laws means for most countries additional human resources, better training, decent equipment and, most of all, the political will to do so, a will that countries should express in the future work programme on ancient forests of the CBD.

¹ Forest Monitor (2001): *Sold down the river. The need to control transnational forestry corporations: a European case study*, www.forestsmonitor.org; Greenpeace (2001): *Logs of war*, www.greenpeace.org/~forests/forests_new/html/content/reports/logs_of_war; Friends of the Earth – Japan, Bureau for Regional Oriental Campaigns, Pacific Environment and Resources Center (2000): *Plundering Russia's Far Eastern Taiga. Illegal Logging Corruption and Trade*, www.pacificenvironment.org; Greenpeace (2000): *Against the law*, www.greenpeace.org/~forests/forests_new/html/content/reports/illegalog.pdf; Callister, D. (1992): *Illegal Tropical Timber Trade: Asia-Pacific (TRAFFIC Network Report)*.

² Participants of the South East Asia Ministerial Conference on Law Enforcement (11 – 13 September 2001, Bali) declared to: "Take immediate action to intensify national efforts, and to strengthen bilateral, regional and multilateral collaboration to address violations of forest law and forest crime, in particular illegal logging, associated illegal trade and corruption, and their negative effects on the rule of law". [http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/eap/eap.nsf/Attachments/FLEG-Declaration/\\$File/Declaration.pdf](http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/eap/eap.nsf/Attachments/FLEG-Declaration/$File/Declaration.pdf); G8 Communiqué, July 2000, Okinawa: „ We will also examine how best we can combat illegal logging, including export and procurement practices“. See also UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/7.

2. Improvement of management of existing protected areas

A great many protected areas are not well managed. They are either “paper parks” and are not managed at all, or are badly managed. Hence, the biodiversity, including the ecosystem health they should protect, is eroded or destroyed. Effective protected areas management is a key requirement for implementing the Convention’s obligation of conservation.³

3. Establishment of a Comprehensive, Adequate, Representative, and Effective system of protected areas, applying the ecosystem approach. (Ancient Forest CARE)

Conservation of biological diversity is one objective of the CBD (Article 1). The main approach to conservation is *in-situ* conservation. *In-situ* conservation means conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats, and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings. One key measure for *in-situ* conservation is protected areas, as required for in Article 8 of the CBD. A protected area does not necessarily mean exclusion of all activities in such an area, but excludes industrial-scale and other activities that lead to a long-term decline of the ecosystem.

Protected areas established in isolation from each other lack the connectivity across the landscape needed to ensure the long-term well being of the biodiversity they harbour. They need to be linked through corridors with each other, thus creating a comprehensive network. This allows enough space for wide-ranging wildlife species succession and migration. Ancient Forest CARE means the establishment of protected area networks that are: Comprehensive – including all forest types, ecosystems and communities; Adequate – of sufficient size to maintain viable populations of associated species and ecological processes; Representative – covering the full spectrum of biological and environmental variation within forest types and ecosystems; and Effective – managed to ensure their long-term ecological integrity. Ancient Forest CARE is needed so that humankind has a reference point for all forests still in the 22nd and 23rd century and even beyond.

Governments should take the necessary steps at the Ancient Forest Summit for the establishment of such systems of protected areas in every country that hosts ancient forest, i.e. (natural, primary, old growth) forests dominantly shaped by nature and with small human impact.

4. Elimination of perverse subsidies, trade measures and development assistance that lead to ancient forest destruction.

One of the major requirements in the CBD is the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (Article 6 (b) of the CBD). Such sectors include the forest sector, the agricultural sector, the investment and trade sector, and infrastructural development to name but the most important ones. Subsidies, trade measures, development assistance and other policies, plans and programmes in these sectors very often cause direct detriments to ancient forests⁴. They are called “perverse” because they are environmentally harmful. In the context of forests, they lead to forest loss, degradation and inefficiency. Often local communities and wider society

³ WWF (2000): *Beyond the trees, An international conference on forest protected areas*, www.panda.org; cf. Carey, C., N. Dudley, S. Stolton (2000): *Squandering Paradise? The importance and vulnerability of the world’s protected areas*, WWF; Parks Vol. 9 (1999), No. 2, „Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas“, IUCN.

⁴ For example: Subsidies: World Resources Institute (2000): *Perverse Habits: The G8 and subsidies that harm forests and economies*, www.igc.org/wri/forests/pdf/g8_sizer.pdf; Investment: Greenpeace Netherlands (March 2000): *Funding Forest Destruction : The involvement of Dutch Banks in the Financing of Oil Palm Plantations in Indonesia*, Sizer, Nigel; D. Plouvier (2000): *Increased investment and trade by transnational logging companies in Africa and the Caribbean and the Pacific: Implications for the Sustainable Management and Conservation of Tropical Forests*. A WWF/ WRI report. On Export Credit Agencies: Berne Declaration; Bioforum; Center for International Environmental Law et. Al. (1999): *A Race to the Bottom: Creating Risk, Generating Debt and Guaranteeing Environmental Destruction*, www.environmentaldefence.org/programs/International/ECR/ecareportcov.html.

bear the costs of these subsidies and their effects, while privately owned companies reap the benefits. For example, WRI estimates that in Canada alone, the government wastes at least US\$2 billion a year subsidising logging industry activities that are environmentally and economically damaging through, inter alia, under-priced stumpage⁵. Financed by US\$12 billion in direct capital loans and international bond offerings, Indonesian conglomerates of pulp and paper take their supply from ancient forests. This is aggravated by the Indonesian government that subsidises ancient forest destruction directly by giving companies cheap access to natural forests, allocations from country's Reforestation Fund and low-interest loans from state banks.⁶

Perverse subsidies, trade measures and development assistance counter and undermine the obligation of the Convention to adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for ancient forest conservation and sustainable use (Art. 11 of the CBD). Governments should stop the most destructive subsidies immediately and establish an immediate phase-out plan for such subsidies, trade measures and development assistance in all relevant sectors.

5. Measures for ecologically responsible sustainable use.

Sustainable use refers to the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. Sustainable use is the second main objective of the CBD. All goods that ancient forests provide should be used sustainably and Governments should adopt mechanisms that guarantee sustainability and create incentives (Art. 10 and 11 of the CBD). With regards to timber, it should be harvested according to criteria of sustainable management that are credible and transparent, include ecological, social and economic criteria, and are supported by all main stakeholders. For example, credible and independent certification schemes that are internationally recognised such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)⁷ not only ensure sustainability, but create an incentive to do so. Government procurement should be sustainable for all forest products, not only timber, but pulp and paper, medicinal plants, fibre, fodder, firewood. All forest products need mechanisms that ensure ecologically responsible, sustainable management. Ecologically responsible sustainable use also includes the protection of traditional knowledge and the encouragement of customary uses of biological resources in accordance with sustainable traditional cultural practices and the (Articles 8 (j) and 10 (d) of the CBD).

6. Following the full implementation of measures to protect ancient forests, initiation of efforts to restore native forest biological diversity.

Once countries with ancient forests have taken the above steps, but the situation of their ancient forests is still not satisfactory, efforts should be initiated to restore native forest biodiversity (Art. 8 (f) of the CBD). Countries with low forest cover that have lost all their ancient forests in the past should also begin efforts to restore native forest biodiversity.

STEPS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION:

In order to establish a comprehensive network of protected areas and to decide where sustainable use is possible, countries need to undertake conservation value and needs assessments of their ancient forests. They must prevent biodiversity loss until such

⁵ See WRI (2000), footnote 4 and Sierra Legal Defence Fund (2001): *Stumpage Sellout. How forest company abuse of the stumpage system is costing B.C. taxpayers millions*, www.sierralegal.org.

⁶ Barr, Chris (2000): *Profits on Paper: The Political Economy of Fiber, Finance and Debt in Indonesia's Pulp and Paper Industries*, www.cifor.org.

⁷ www.fscoax.org/principal.htm

assessment, proper planning and the establishment of protected areas have been completed. Moratoria are therefore needed for large-scale industrial development (See "M for Moratoria"⁸)

Many countries currently lack the resources to implement all the above steps. They should therefore be supported by the international community in their efforts to save ancient forests (See "M for Money"⁸).

Measures, Money, and Moratoria are needed to turn the tide on ancient forest destruction. The time has come for governments to act NOW to ensure that ancient forests are still on this planet in 2050.

**For further information see
www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete**

⁸ www.greenpeace.org/saveordelete/