

Resource Sheet 2:

- An area of ancient forest the size of a football pitch is destroyed every 2 seconds.
- Forests (especially tropical rainforests) are the world's richest ecosystems – home to 90% of the world's land-based plant and animal species.
- Forest loss threatens many species with extinction - Orangutans may disappear within the next 20 years due to logging and turning forests into palm oil and rice plantations.
- Forests prevent soil erosion.
- Forests help to prevent climate change – trees and plants remove carbon from the atmosphere.
- 10% of the world's forests have disappeared in the last 25 years, mainly due to human activities.
- Deforestation feeds climate change – CO₂ is produced by fires used to clear the forests, trees no longer act as carbon sinks and forest soils often release CO₂ as they dry-out.
- About 33% of the world's forests are likely to be damaged by climate change.
- More than 20 percent of the world oxygen is produced in the Amazon rainforest.
- Every year an area half the size of the UK is cleared of natural forests.
- Forests are being removed at a rate 10 times higher than any possible level of regrowth.
- Only 10% of all forests are protected areas.
- Nearly half of the world's species of plants, animals and microorganisms will be destroyed or severely threatened over the next quarter century due to rainforest deforestation.
- Rainforests once covered 14% of the earth's land surface – this has fallen to 6%.
- Experts estimate that the last remaining rainforests could be destroyed in less than 40 years.
- About 16% of the wood delivered to building sites is never used and ends up in landfill sites as wood waste scraps.
- 25% of our medicines have been developed from rainforest ingredients. Less than 1% of rainforest trees and plants have been tested by scientists to see if they can be used to develop other medicines.
- At least 80% of the foods we eat come from plants that originated in the tropical rainforest e.g. oranges, lemons, bananas, tomatoes, corn, potatoes, rice, chocolate, sugar cane and nuts.
- Forests are often cleared to create farmland. Forest soils are often poor and require lots of chemicals to grow crops.
- Timber exporting countries like Indonesia, Brazil, Kenya and Cameroon lose an estimated €10–15 billion through illegal logging each year.

Resource Sheet 3:

- We all use things that are made from wood.
- Wood is a renewable resource.
- If people can't make money from the forests, by selling the wood, they may decide to chop all the trees down to use the land to grow crops or raise cattle.
- Forestry provides paid work for lots of people.
- Countries in Africa, Asia and South America sell timber to countries like USA, Japan, China, UK and Germany.
- Global wood consumption is projected to increase 50 percent by the year 2050.
- Forests support up to 1.6 billion of the poorest people in the world – providing things like food, jobs, medicines, fuel and materials used to make homes and household goods.
- Forestry can be sustainable – when a tree is cut down, another can be replanted or allowed to grow naturally.
- Sustainable forestry can provide the landowner with more income than they'd get if they cleared the forest and used the land for farming.
- 60 million indigenous people and countless species of plants and animals are completely dependent on forests for their lives.
- Organisations like WWF, Greenpeace and the Woodland Trust believe that it's OK to cut down trees to make things like furniture, building materials and paper – as long as it's properly managed.
- Timber is the only major building material that is renewable.
- Forests provide a huge sustainable source of environmentally friendly raw material - for a wide variety of products!
- Timber does not require lots of energy when it is being processed.
- It takes 8 times more kilowatt hours of energy to manufacture a PVC-U window compared to a timber window.
- Manufacturing a steel girder requires 4,000 times more energy than its timber equivalent.
- Concrete creates 5 times as much solid waste as timber.

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