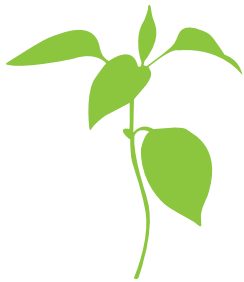


FORESTS FOR A LIVING PLANET

During 2011, the International Year of Forests, WWF's *Living Forests Report* will examine the drivers of deforestation and the opportunities to shift to a new model of sustainable forestry, farming and consumption.



**FORESTS ARE
A VITAL PART
OF LIVING
IN HARMONY
WITH NATURE.**

OUR LIVING FORESTS VISION

WWF believes in a future where people use natural resources at a level the Earth can sustain, and share them fairly. Today, we are overburdening these resources. If current trends continue, we'll need the equivalent of two planets by 2030.

Forests are a vital part of living in harmony with nature. But if they are to continue to provide us with the goods and services we depend on, we urgently need to stop deforestation and forest degradation.

WWF has set a goal of **Zero Net Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ZNDD) by 2020**. That means no overall loss of forest area or forest quality. ZNDD accounting means comparing "apples to apples," so a new heavily managed plantation doesn't offset the loss of pristine rainforest habitat. In the next decade, we want to see the loss of natural or semi-natural forest reduced to near zero, down from 13 million hectares a year.

In this and subsequent chapters, we will discuss **key questions** about achieving this ambitious goal by 2020 and maintaining it over time.

- Can we sustain ZNDD as the **human population rises**?
- Does producing more on less land mean more **pollution and water stress**?
- How will ZNDD affect **food prices**?
- What role do **diet and lifestyle choices** play in achieving ZNDD?
- How will ZNDD affect **forest products companies**?
- Can we achieve 100% **renewable energy** without deforestation?
- Will ZNDD keep enough **carbon** out of the atmosphere?
- Will saving forests increase the pressures on **biodiversity** outside forests?
- Can we halt deforestation and safeguard people's **livelihoods**?



THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN
THE LIVING FORESTS REPORT
CAN'T BE PUT OFF FOR
ANOTHER GENERATION.
THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.

THE LIVING FORESTS MODEL

To understand what ZNDD would mean in practice, we've developed the Living Forests Model, with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). The model allows us to explore various global land-use scenarios. It calculates the effect of forces such as population growth and consumer demand, and describes possible consequences on key areas such as food production, climate change, biodiversity, commodity prices and economic development.

The Living Forests Model helps us understand the implications of certain choices, but also raises questions. As we seek answers, we must remember that models can't account for the idiosyncrasies of real life, and be alert to any unintended harmful side effects to people and the wider environment.

The Living Forests Model suggests:

- It is possible to achieve ZNDD by 2020, through better governance, a shift to sound forest stewardship and more productive use of arable non-forest land. By failing to make that shift, we squander valuable forests.
- Maintaining ZNDD after 2030, as population and incomes grow, requires forestry and farming practices that produce more with less land and water, and new consumption patterns that meet the needs of the poor while eliminating waste and over-consumption. With such changes, ZNDD can be maintained without creating shortfalls in food, timber, biomaterials or bioenergy.
- Delaying ZNDD until 2030, or taking "half-measures", would lead to huge and irreversible losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services. To prevent runaway climate change, we need to address emissions from deforestation and forest degradation now; the longer we leave this, the harder it will become.

Of course, there's a gap between theory and practice, findings and solutions. Our analysis identifies five **key issues** that are crucial to achieving ZNDD and avoiding negative consequences:

- **Biodiversity:** ZNDD should never be at the expense of biodiversity conservation; for example, agricultural expansion in highly biodiverse grasslands to take pressure off forests. Strategies should immediately prioritize forests with highest biodiversity, so these are not lost during the time it takes to achieve ZNDD.
- **Governance:** ZNDD is only possible under good governance: forests with secure land tenure, effective laws and policies, and empowered, committed local communities whose rights are respected.
- **Market demand:** much destructive forest use is encouraged by market demand, but markets can also drive better management. Incentives for high social and environmental standards in forestry and farming, and bans on trade in illegally sourced timber can help achieve this.
- **Lifestyle and consumption:** crop and livestock production play a major role in forest loss. Strategies are needed to reduce food waste, meat and dairy intake, energy use and over-consumption among richer people, and to ensure poor people have the food, energy and materials they need to lead healthy, productive lives.
- **Local livelihoods:** global plans must recognize local needs. ZNDD needs to be adapted nationally, regionally and locally to ensure that conservation doesn't harm people's welfare.

Conserving our forests is possible – and urgent. But it won't be easy. We face some uncomfortable choices and trade-offs, and WWF doesn't have all the answers. But the questions raised in the Living Forests Report can't be put off for another generation. The time to act is now.

Read the full report online at
panda.org/livingforests.

	<p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony and nature. www.panda.org/livingforests</p>
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