



This 35m high tree needed hundreds of years for its growth....

SOME LOGGING COMPANIES CLAIM THAT AS MANY TREES ARE REPLANTED AS HAVE BEEN CUT.

BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE, BETWEEN MERELY PUTTING PLANTS IN THE GROUND AND DEVELOPING A NATURAL FOREST. A FOREST IS MUCH MORE THAN A COLLECTION OF TREES!

NO LOGGING COMPANY COULD POSSIBLY RESTORE THE MANY ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES OR THE HABITAT OF THE FOREST DWELLERS.



...while this is the remains of the forest giant

Tropical timber is timber from tropical and sub-tropical forests of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Timber is a renewable raw material that we all use daily in paper products, furniture, housing, pencils and even food additives.

Much of the timber that we use comes from **very old rainforest trees**. They grew for hundreds and even thousands of years without human intervention.

Mahogany, teak or rosewood are crafted into high-quality furniture which is considered as symbols of wealth and luxury.

About **80 types of trees** are commercially logged, but **only 5 of these make up the main export** to industrialised nations. In Cameroon 30% of the exported consists of the tree species called Sapelli and Ayon, in Gabon 70% is Okoumé.

...and it land up as a breakfast tray.



Many rainforest timbers, such as Meranti, Gabon or Ramin, are used for specific products, including plywood, broomsticks and window frames.

Tropical timber is often cheaper than local timber, because the trees do not have to be planted first, but nature is merely plundered. Logging profits obviously also lies in the cheap man-power available in the tropics. Additionally, the giant rainforests trees are easier to handle for machining.

What is missing in the price paid for tropical timber is the **costs that follow** erosion of the land, loss of animal and plant species, and changes in the local - perhaps in global climate!

Those who buy tropical timber should understand the following: **Rainforests protect the largest treasure that we possess**. It is like a huge, ancient library of nature, holding books not yet read and from which some have already been lost.

The tropical timber we use come from **only a few countries**. It is evident, that these **exports are mainly responsible for the forest destruction there**. Each of these areas is managed by company representatives - so the companies play a key role in the future of the forests.

Local woods can be substitutes for tropical timber in all but a few cases!