

# *How can we protect our forests?*

## *By*

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There are various ways how Governments together with some organizations are working to protect forests. Some things done are:

✓ **Afforestation** (the establishment of a forest or stand of trees in an area where the preceding vegetation or land use was not forest)

**Reforestation** (the reestablishment of forest cover either naturally or artificially by direct seeding or planting, usually maintaining a same or similar forest type, and done promptly after the previous stand or forest was removed)

✓ **Developing markets** that capture sources of income from things other than logging, such as ecotourism and carbon credits.

✓ **Enforcement of laws** regarding purchased forest land. Also, enforcing laws regarding global trade combats insects and diseases which invade the trees.

✓ **Combating illegal logging and advancing sustainable forest trade**

Each year, more than 32 million acres of natural forest around the world are logged, often illegally and unsustainably. Much of this wood then enters international markets. As a result, many consumers unwittingly contribute to environmentally and socially destructive forest practices.

Organizations work to improve forest management, strengthen policies affecting forests, and help business and consumers make informed purchasing decisions.

✓ **Restoring the forest**

In forests that have been degraded, such as the Atlantic Forest in Brazil, organisations work with public and private landowners to restore forest ecosystems through fire management practices, and other restoration projects that take off natural disturbances and restore ecosystem integrity.

✓ **Managing the forest**

In forests where forestry and timber harvesting is compatible with conservation of biodiversity, organizations work with landowners and other partners to promote responsible forest management practices.

There are also things which you can do to protect the forest.

✓ **Use less paper.**

Since most paper comes from trees, using less paper can help save the rainforests. Use recycled 100% post-consumer waste (PCW) paper whenever possible. Better yet, use tree-free paper. Tree-free paper uses no trees—it is made from plants like kenaf, or from farmers' leftovers like corn stalks and wheat straw. Save paper by writing on both sides of the sheet and by using half-sheets and scratch paper. Remember to always recycle.

✓ **Use less gasoline and plastic.**

Gasoline and plastic are two things that are made from petroleum. A lot of oil comes from the forests. Since oil extraction is very harmful to the forests, using less oil products can help save the rainforests. Instead of using gasoline to drive somewhere in a car, ride your bike, walk, carpool, or take the bus whenever possible. Also make sure your family's car tires are inflated properly, because a car uses less gas than necessary if the tires have the right amount of air. Reduce the amount of plastic you use by choosing glass bottles and containers whenever possible and by re-using the plastic containers and bottles that you already have.

✓ **Educate yourself and others.**

**Sources:**

[http://ran.org/fileadmin/materials/education/factsheets/RAN\\_SevenThings.pdf](http://ran.org/fileadmin/materials/education/factsheets/RAN_SevenThings.pdf)

<http://www.nature.org/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afforestation>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest\\_protection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_protection)