



REDD, or reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, is one of the most controversial issues in the climate change debate. The basic concept is simple: governments, companies or forest owners in the South should be rewarded for keeping their forests instead of cutting them down. The devil, as always, is in the details.

'The story of REDD: A real solution to deforestation?' considers the more complex issues that must be considered by any initiative to reduce deforestation. The video was made with the support of the Grundtvig Learning Partnership 'Can Carbon Trade save Forests?' This script includes links to reports, websites and briefings that explain the issues in more detail or outline where facts and figures come from. It is intended not to be comprehensive, but to give a flavour of the research and a starting point for finding out more information about these issues.



Forests cover about 30 per cent of the world's land area. They play a vital role in the water cycle and are home to most of the world's biodiversity.

National Geographic deforestation overview:
<http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation-overview/>

FAO, Forests and Water, 2008:
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0410e/i0410e00.pdf>

FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010:
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1757e/i1757e.pdf>

The Guardian, Humans driving extinction faster than species can evolve, say experts, 7 March 2010:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/mar/07/extinction-species-evolve>



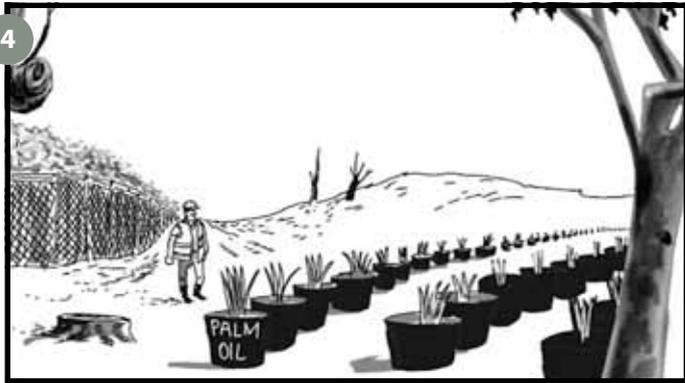
More than one in six people on the planet depend directly on forests for their livelihoods. Indigenous peoples and local communities living in the forests, have done most to protect them. But many do not have secure rights to the land they live on which means forests are under more and more pressure.

The Convention on Biodiversity booklet on forest biodiversity:
<http://www.cbd.int/idb/2011/booklet/#tab=1>



But forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Industrialised countries have destroyed most of their forests already, and ...

University of Michigan lecture on historical rates of deforestation:
<http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange2/current/lectures/deforest/deforest.html>



... pressure from growing global consumption is now driving deforestation in the South.

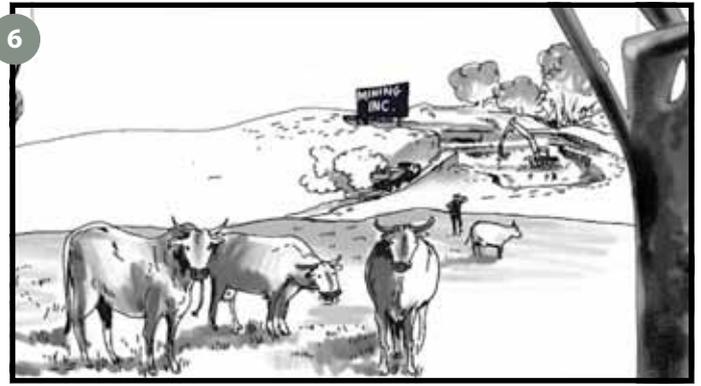
The Union of Concerned Scientists 'Root of the problem':
http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/solutions/forest_solutions/drivers-of-deforestation.html

WWF 'The UK's forest footprint':
http://www.equilibriumresearch.com/upload/document/UK_Forest_Footprint.pdf



Forests are being logged and converted into agriculture plots and plantations ...

UNESCO report on effects of plantations:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0010/001096/109608eo.pdf>



... producing feed for the meat industry and being cleared for mining.

Meat and leather: Greenpeace 'Slaughtering the amazon':
<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/reports/slaughtering-the-amazon/>

Mining: Gaia Foundation 'Opening Pandora's Box':
http://www.gaiafoundation.org/sites/default/files/documents/Pandorasboxlowres_0.pdf



This forest destruction is displacing forest dependent peoples, often destroying their livelihoods and resulting in human rights abuses.

FERN 'Forests of Fear':
<http://www.fern.org/pubs/reports/fear.pdf>



Deforestation is also one of the main causes of climate change.

Although the majority of global carbon dioxide emissions come from burning fossil fuels, cutting down trees also contributes to carbon dioxide accumulating in the atmosphere.

WWF 'Living forests report':
http://www.wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/forest_climate/

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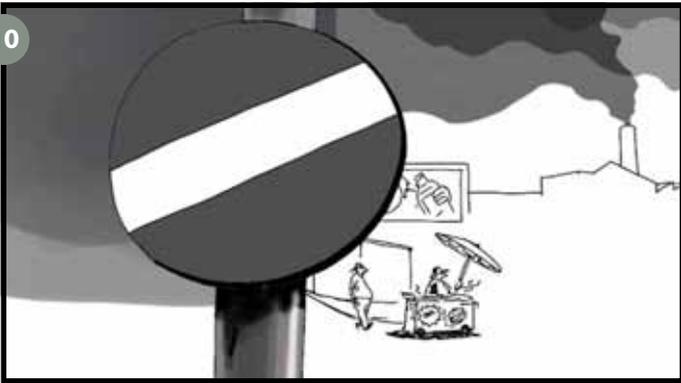


When forests are burnt or chopped down, the carbon they had been storing is released back into the atmosphere.

NASA 'Escaping carbon':

http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/LBA_Escape/escape2.php

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In order to reduce deforestation, it is first necessary to know what's causing it.

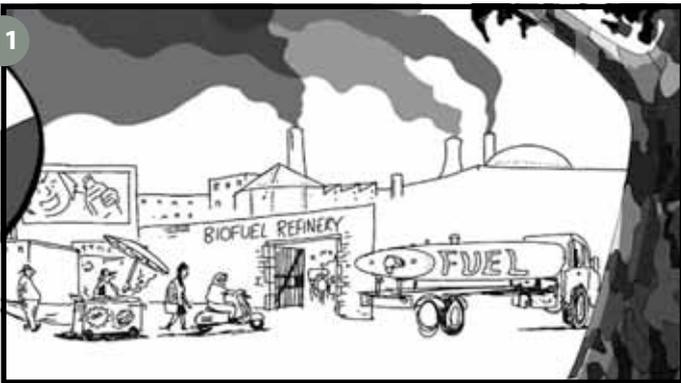
World Rainforest Movement 'Causes of deforestation':

<http://www.wrm.org.uy/deforestation/>

Rainforest Foundation Norway 'Beauty and the beast':

http://www.regnskog.no/nyheter/nyhetsarkiv/regnskogfondet/_attachment/29989?_ts=13660256314

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Global consumption of forest and agricultural products is one of the main drivers of deforestation. Seventy per cent of previously forested land in the Amazon is occupied by cattle pastures.

Food and Agriculture Organisation 'Livestock impacts on the environment':

<http://www.fao.org/ag/magazine/0612sp1.htm>

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Paper supplies, processed foods, and many other things for sale in high streets and supermarkets directly or indirectly cause deforestation.

Paper: FERN 'EU Ecolabel allows forest destruction':

<http://www.fern.org/node/4684>

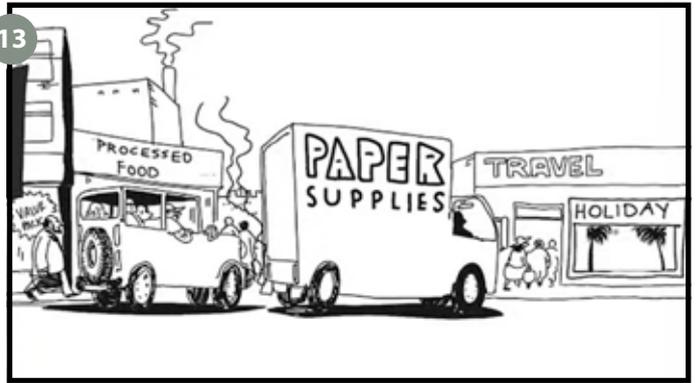
Greenpeace information about Asia Pulp and Paper:

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/tags/APP>

Palm oil: Greenpeace information about Palm Oil:

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/forests/palm-oil>

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And that creates pressure on land in the global South which is increasing deforestation.

International Fund for Agricultural Development 'Environment and Natural Resource Management':

<http://www.ifad.org/pub/enviorn/EnvironENG.pdf>

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Deforestation is also driven by a lack of clarity about who owns the forest.

Eliasch Review page 44 onwards:

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108507632/9780108507632.pdf>

Rights and Resources Initiative 'Who owns the world's forests':

<http://www.rightsandresources.org/programs.php?id=237>

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Poor governance leads to bad government land use policies ...

Science Direct 'Assessing the Relationship between Government Policy and Deforestation':
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0095069685710017>

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... often fed by high levels of corruption.

IFAD 'Governance and corruption':
<http://www.ifad.org/operations/pf/finance/governance.htm>

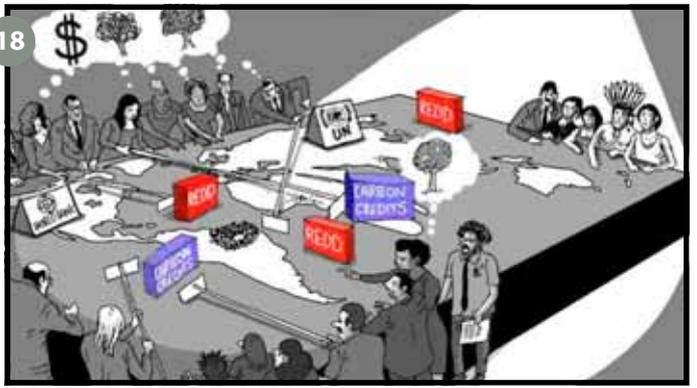
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How can we stop this? To tackle deforestation you need to tackle the causes of deforestation, but the United Nations and the World Bank have something else in mind ...

Client Earth 'Tackling causes of deforestation':
<http://www.clientearth.org/climate-and-forests/causes-of-deforestation/tackling-causes-of-deforestation-1027>

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Following global concern about the effect of deforestation on climate change, the United Nations and World Bank began pushing REDD, a solution to reduce the EMISSIONS from deforestation and forest degradation.

REDD-monitor – REDD an introduction:
<http://www.redd-monitor.org/redd-an-introduction/>

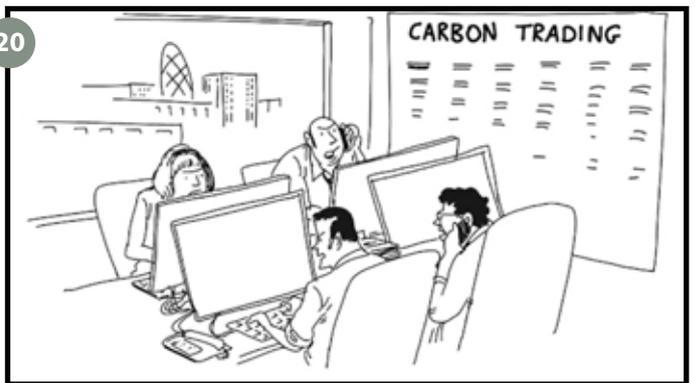
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The present focus of REDD is to get money for forest protection by quantifying emissions reductions from not cutting down forests ...

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change REDD Web Platform:
http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php

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... and then selling 'forest carbon credits' on a 'carbon market'.

REDD carbon credits as defined by seller of forest carbon credits:
<http://www.reddcarboncredits.co.uk/carbon-offsets/credits>

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Polluting companies or industrial countries who need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions will then buy these 'credits' so they can continue emitting greenhouse gases.

FERN 'Designed to fail':
<http://www.fern.org/designedtofail>

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This means lots of profit for middlemen and traders ...
 But very little for the people who live in the forest.

FERN 'Carbon markets will not deliver':
<http://www.fern.org/carbonmarketswillnotdeliver>

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In order to see whether their plan for reducing deforestation through REDD will work, we should start by looking at how it deals with the causes of deforestation:

Does it strengthen the land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities who have historically protected their forests?

No.

Although REDD could in theory do this, in practice by increasing the value of forests, the promise of REDD money has meant that forests are much more under threat of governments taking state ownership of forest lands and erasing the chance for communities to get their land rights recognised.

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Any 'solution' to deforestation that disrespects the rights of local peoples is not only unjust, it is also deeply ineffective.

Accra Caucus 'Realising rights':
<http://www.fern.org/realisingrights>

Forest Peoples Programme 'Lessons from the field: REDD+ and the rights of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities':
<http://www.forestpeoples.org/topics/redd-and-related-initiatives/publication/2011/new-briefing-lessons-field-redd-and-rights-indi>

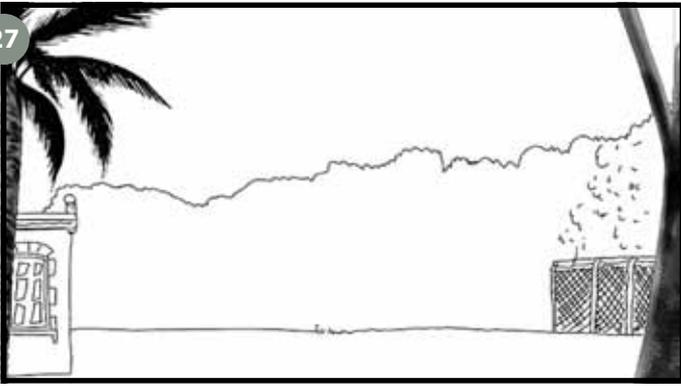
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Reducing deforestation will require unsustainable consumption of meat, fuel, food and fibre to be reduced. This has to be an initiative of global North and must be prioritised in government policies. It cannot be a short-cut or dealt with by someone else, somewhere else.

New Economics Foundation 'Enough is Enough':
<http://neweconomics.org/publications/enough-is-enough>

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The best way to save forests is to respect forest peoples' rights to collectively held land.

Accra Caucus 'Is REDD-readiness taking us in the right direction':
http://www.fern.org/sites/fern.org/files/Accra%202011_eng.pdf

Rights and Resources Initiative:
<http://www.rightsandresources.org/>

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The first step must be to ensure forest communities have secure rights to the land they live on ...

FERN 'lessons learnt from FLEGT for REDD':
http://www.fern.org/sites/fern.org/files/Lessons%20from%20FLEGT%20summary_internet.pdf

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So rather than trying to tackle the problem by focusing on counting carbon and then selling it ... solutions must focus on removing the pressure on forests. REDD is currently not doing that and so risks creating more problems than it solves.

Reducing meat: Meat Free Monday: An initiative to help people reduce their intake of meat and meat products:
<http://www.meatfreemondays.com/>

Reducing paper: Shrinkpaper: An initiative to help consumers reduce their paper consumption:
<http://www.shrinkpaper.org/pages/tips-and-tools/index.shtml>



... it will require political will and national consultative processes, but it is the best chance we have to achieve a just long term reduction in deforestation.

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Any attempt to reduce deforestation must work with, not against forest peoples.

Accra Caucus 'Realising Rights':
http://www.rightsandresources.org/documents/files/doc_1590.pdf



Education and Culture
Lifelong learning programme
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