

#### Introduction

Approximately 30% of the earth's surface is forested. Forests provide food security and shelter and are crucial in combating climate change, protecting biodiversity and are home to indigenous peoples. Human activities and climate change are leading to the loss of 13 million hectares of forest every year, posing major challenges to sustainable development. This goal seeks to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

#### The 12 aims of this goal are to:

- 1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems.
- 2 Promote sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and greatly increase afforestation and reforestation.
- 3 Combat desertification and restore degraded land and soil.
- 4 Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity, to enhance their ability to provide benefits for sustainable development.
- 5 Take urgent action to reduce degradation of natural habitats, stop the loss of biodiversity and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
- 6 Promote fair and equal sharing of the benefits coming from the use of genetic resources and promote access to these resources as agreed by the international community.
- 7 Take critical action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address the supply and demand of illegal wildlife products.
- 8 Introduce measures to stop the introduction and reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems.
- 9 Integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies.
- 10 Significantly increase financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.
- 11 Mobilize resources to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries for this.
- 12 Improve global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species.

#### Background information

Approximately 1.6 billion people (including 70 million indigenous peoples) depend on forests. The world's forests are also home to over 80% of terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. Of over 80,000 tree species known to science only 1 percent have been studied for their potential use. Over 80% of the human diet is provided by plants yet we are reliant on 3 crops (wheat, maize, rice) for 60% of our energy intake.

2.6 billion people depend on agriculture for an income, however drought and desertification are causing the loss of millions of hectares of land where crops could have been grown. This land degradation is significantly affecting the poor.

#### Further Reading/Linked Resources

- United Nations Environment Programme



For more information and to take part in the Global Learning Programme please see: [www.glp-e.org.uk](http://www.glp-e.org.uk) and @glp\_e

For more information on the support provided by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) please see [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org) and @RGS\_IBGSchools

All information and statistics taken from [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

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