



WOODLAND
TRUST

The Woodland Trust and Copenhagen

The global view

As governments from all around the world meet to negotiate a deal on reducing CO₂ emissions at Copenhagen in December, global forest destruction - which accounts for nearly 20% of human induced CO₂ emissions - will be high on the agenda. World media attention will be focused on reporting negotiations to stop the loss of global forest cover.

International events such as the Copenhagen Conference impact on our profile as a UK focused woodland conservation charity. Although we don't campaign on an international ticket, a simple test of the success of the Copenhagen Conference should be to ensure:

- Absolute protection for all old growth forests from destruction
- No net loss of all forest area, including plantations
- Sustainable management of existing forests
- International trade in unsustainably-produced timber is made illegal
- A simple, long-term financial solution to make protecting forests more worthwhile than their destruction

The UK view

In all likelihood, the deal on forests at Copenhagen will be felt most in developing countries. But what of the relevance of such a deal to the UK?

Like every signatory to the Copenhagen Conference the UK must be prepared to cut its carbon emissions using every possible strategy. In July 2009 the UK Government published its flagship plan to drastically reduce the UK's carbon emissions. As the UK lost most of its tree cover long ago and has one of the lowest amounts of woodland cover in Europe, preventing deforestation is a far less pressing problem for the UK than creating new woods. Happily, this plan includes a welcome commitment around creating new woodland as a cost effective way of tackling climate change, something we have long wanted to see.

So we are calling on the UK Government in response to the Copenhagen summit to:

1. Make good its intention in the Low Carbon Transition Plan to help reforest the UK
2. Reject plans for carbon-intensive infrastructure especially any that directly threatens ancient woodland, (for example, expansion of Stansted airport).