

Rainforest Action Network Spokeswoman

- Biodiversity in Tropical Rainforests – Lesson Plan:
 - One and one-half acres of rainforest is lost every second!
 - Biodiversity is the sum total of the genetically based variety of all organisms in the biosphere.
 - Habitat destruction in the tropical rainforest is reducing biodiversity, leading to species extinction.
 - Human activity reduces biodiversity by altering habitats , hunting species to extinction, introducing toxic compounds into food webs, and introducing foreign species to new environments.

- Rainforest Foundation UK-goal
- With whom they work
- Logging
- Peoples' rights

**How can we influence the
refocusing of the economy away
from the rainforest economy?**



World Trade Organization Representative

- The World Trade Organization is a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other through formal negotiations.
- The WTO can refocus the economy away from the rainforest economy by impacting trade agreements between nations and monitoring them.



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

World Trade Organization Representative

In the current “round” of negotiations, WTO’s member countries favor trade policies that discourage environmentally harmful agricultural practices, such as the “slash and burn” farming methods used in tropical rainforests.

- WTO members also support “sustainable agricultural practices,” including land conservation, management of water resources, and preservation of biodiversity and habitats.



- Strongly advertise eco-friendly alternatives to rainforest-made products.
- Educate people about the rainforest
 - The rainforest is one of the most bio-diverse ecosystems
 - Creates many products that we may lose if not used wisely
- Once again: The Brazilian economy can't handle and drastic changes right now, but with education and time we may be able to save the rainforest.



Would it help to establish taxes on Amazon rainforest exports that would support biodiversity research efforts? What is the best way to implement this plan?



World Trade Organization Representative

- The WTO believes the best way to encourage sound environmental practices in the tropical rainforest is by supporting nations to develop trade agreements that include export and tax policies designed to support biodiversity.
- Since 2002, the policies of the WTO have allowed member governments to give subsidies to agricultural conservation projects under a program called “the Green Box.”



The “Green Box” would allow for biological diversity research to be provided by member countries.

Immediate Causes

- Logging
- Agriculture (crops and cattle ranching)
- Fuelwood
- Mining and Industry
- Tourism



• **5 key steps to save rainforests:**

1. Knowledge
2. Replanting mass amounts of trees
3. Eco-friendly lifestyle
4. Forest preservation-oriented parks and areas
5. Eco-friendly companies



- Promote ecotourism
- Expand protected areas
- Increase surveillance of and patrols in protected areas
- Encourage eco-friendly entrepreneurship



- Illegal logging in Malawi
- Proven, alternative method
- Larger electricity grid



Sustainable Agriculture

- A method of farming is humane & socially ethical, and sustains itself.
- Sustainable agriculture puts back into earth what it takes out – requiring no inputs from outside.
- For example, fertilizer from petroleum products is not sustainable, because the fertilizer was not produced within the agricultural cycle.
- Composted manure from animals would be an example of a sustainable fertilizer.
- The World Bank supports this as a viable way of combatting tropical rainforest destruction.

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