



Wood of Life Exhibition

Follow-up Classroom Projects



After your visit to the Wood of Life Exhibition we want action for change

Now that you have visited the Wood of Life exhibition it is important that you put what you have learnt into practice.

Classroom projects based on the messages contained in the exhibition can be practical, enjoyable and have a very positive, long-lasting effect. The activities suggested in the following project examples are designed to help you to turn the information you gained during your visit to the exhibition into real action for change.

Where to start

Think about the people and companies in your locality that sell, use or recommend timber as part of their everyday livelihoods. There are architects, timber traders, builders, joineries, carpenters, furniture makers, DIY stores, builder's providers, garden centers etc.

Write a letter

- ▶ Architects recommend timber when they draw plans for houses and other buildings, like schools and churches - BUT do they realise that the timber they recommend may be affecting people and wildlife in developing countries?
- ▶ Timber traders, DIY stores, garden centers and builder's providers sell timber and wood products - BUT do they know where the timber they sell comes from?
- ▶ Carpenters, joiners, and furniture makers use wood to make items for our homes and schools - BUT unfortunately many might not know that the wood they use may come from forests where illegal-logging is common.

So why not write to one or more of the above and tell them how important it is that they get their timber and wood products from well-managed forests. Writing letters can be very powerful!

- ▶ Organize a Sound of Wood concert in school. Did you know that many of our musical instruments are made from tropical wood? Such as guitar parts, mandolins, flutes, clarinets and numerous other musical instruments. International pupils and Irish pupils could play their traditional instruments and music. You could invite well known local musicians to play with you.
- ▶ Develop and write a 'Timber Policy' (in association with Just Forests) which will be adopted by school management as part of their commitment to sustainable development and *Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-'Ensure Environmental Sustainability'*.
- ▶ Write to your local authority and local politicians requesting them to adopt a responsible 'Timber Policy' as part of their commitment to sustainable development and *Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-'Ensure Environmental Sustainability'*.

Don't forget your parents & family members!

If your parents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts decide to build a new house, or extend or renovate their present home ask them to insist on timber and wood products that have been certified according to the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). To find out more about the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) visit Just Forests website and follow the links.

Help

If you need any help with your classroom projects you can contact Just Forests by clicking on to: www.justforests.org

Or email: woodlife@justforests.org