

# Education for Survival

-cherishing our natural resources

## Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 7-Ensure Environmental Sustainability!

**Presenter:** Tom Roche - Just Forests.  
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# The Millennium Development Goals and natural resources management: reconciling sustainable livelihoods and resource conservation or fuelling a divide?

Dilys Roe<sup>(1)</sup>

1. Natural resource management is central to the achievement of most of the Millennium Development Goals.
2. Natural resources provide food and a wide range of other goods (fuel, fodder, timber, medicines, building materials, inputs to industries, etc).
3. Natural resources provide services on which all human activity depends (including watersheds, carbon sequestration and soil fertility).
4. Natural resource exploitation provides the livelihoods for a high proportion of the world's population.
5. 1.6 billion people rely on forest resources for all or part of their livelihoods, while around 150 million people count wildlife as a valuable livelihood asset and 200 million derive part or all their livelihood from fishing

# The importance of forests...

## 2.2 Forestry

### Importance of the Sector in Africa

Over 70% of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa is rural and depends on forests or woodlands for its livelihoods. Sub-Saharan Africa also contains 25% of the world's remaining rainforests and 20% of the world's biodiversity hotspots.<sup>4</sup> African forests are of social, economic & environmental importance. Trade and the way it is managed by countries can have a positive or negative impact on sustainable forest management. Demand for wood and wood products is outstripping the sustainable level of supplies in all the countries in the sub-region, although no realistic estimates are available on the actual consumption as also the level of sustainable supplies. Forest certification and Ecolabelling schemes have gained significant currency as a market-based instrument to address a number of problems in the forestry sector that have led to a depletion and degradation of the resource. Sustainable forest management (SFM) has been a core objective of both inter-governmental initiatives on forest policy and forest certification schemes. Forestry certification and labelling will become critical if Africa has to maintain its traditional wood markets in Western Europe.



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<sup>3</sup> Feasibility Study: Ecolabelling of Artisanal Coastal Fisheries in Senegal, commissioned by GTZ, conducted and elaborated in conjunction with BlueYou & ENDA, Zurich & Dakar, May 2007

<sup>4</sup> <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/EXTFORESTS/0,,contentMDK:20628792~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:985785,00.html>

# Nature and survival

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Few recognise that biological diversity (which includes all living things) represents the natural wealth of the Earth. It provides the basis for life, economic development and prosperity for the whole of mankind.

But, biodiversity is currently vanishing at an alarming rate all over the world. According to Stavros Dimas, EU Commissioner for Environment, *“we are, so to speak, erasing nature’s hard drive without even knowing what data it contains.”*

# Decades of concern?

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Despite decades of concern, the world's forest cover is more endangered than ever. Forests are disappearing rapidly in the tropics with about 13 million hectares – that's an area the size of the Republic of Ireland felled every seven months or so. Between 1980 and 2000 tropical forest cover declined by up to 2.5 million square kilometres.

An EU-commissioned study entitled *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* was published in October 2008. It concluded that annual cost of forest loss alone is running at \$2 - \$5 trillion. This is double the putative total losses to date on Wall Street, but the natural capital losses are occurring year after year.

# It's time to ACT

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***“One of the ways we can promote sustainable development is to highlight the links between deforestation and global poverty... Irish Aid is committed under its environment policy to ensure that climate change and other environmental challenges are responded to and this is why it is one of our four priority issues that cut across the work of all our programmes.”***

**Micheál Martin TD, Leader of Fianna Fail and (former) Minister for Foreign Affairs**

The world's forests contain more carbon than the atmosphere – an estimated 638 billion tonnes. If this carbon were released, it would be equivalent to roughly 90 years of global carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and cement production (based on the average yearly global emissions from 2000-2005). Much of the world's forest carbon is locked up in tropical forests, which contain 45% of all aboveground terrestrial biomass.

# Summary points...

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The 'development' rationale of Just Forests work pivots around a number of key issues and challenges: wood and poverty, wood and energy, wood and livelihoods/ construction, wood and health, wood and education, wood and biodiversity, wood and sustainability, wood and climate-change, wood and conflict/ war and wood and 'sustainable' economic development.

1. Tackling Climate Change is the biggest challenge of our age. Ireland has made commitments internationally which we have not lived up to, as the record shows. The Kyoto Protocol commits Ireland to remaining 13% above 1990 levels. Recent figures show we are currently 25.5% above 1990 levels.

2. Good intentions are simply not enough. What we require is a robust framework which will translate aspirations into action. It needs to be driven from the very top in a coordinated integrated fashion and it needs to be grounded in legislation.

3. Biological diversity represents the natural wealth of the Earth, and provides the basis for life and prosperity for the whole of mankind.

4. The OECD has praised Ireland's overseas development programme as a "cutting edge" model for others to follow. (page 10, The Irish Times, Friday, May 8, 2009)

- **It's time to put the significance role of natural resources at the center of the Irish education curriculum**

# Education for Sustainable Development and the Millenium Development Goals



*Children in India monitoring access to safe water in their community in an ESD activity.*

## *ESD builds knowledge of MDG issues*

ESD brings issues of society, environment, economics and culture to the fore in education and learning. The core objective of the MDGs is the alleviation of poverty. ESD, through education and training, enables children and adult learners everywhere to investigate MDG issues:

- ◆ Strategies for addressing poverty and hunger;
- ◆ Issues affecting maternal and children's health;
- ◆ Factors leading to and sustaining gender inequalities;
- ◆ Issues affecting the empowerment of women;
- ◆ Human rights, social justice and environmental issues;
- ◆ Strategies for combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- ◆ Principles and practices of sustainable development;
- ◆ Strategies to gain access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;
- ◆ Urbanisation challenges; and
- ◆ Principles and practices of production, consumption, fair trade, good governance etc.

## ESD and the Millenium Development Goals

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# Just Forests education resources

- Wood of Life -hands-on & INTERACTIVE
- KNOW - WOOD Board
- Thinking TREES
- Posters for T4 (woodwork)
- WoodMOBILE - woodwork in the school
- Sound of WOOD-concerts in school
- KNOW Your Wood Guide 2012



# DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION DAY



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School of Education, NUI Galway

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# Thank You

[www.justforests.org](http://www.justforests.org)