

**Intensive Forest Management and  
(Tree) Plantations: views from the  
perspective of the  
*Global Forest Coalition - GFC***



# ***Global Forest Coalition***

- **Our mission:** *“to influence policy makers, governments, corporations and individuals to halt deforestation and forest degradation.”*

# Deforestation and Forest Degradation

These phenomena continue unabated mainly due to the following underlying causes:

- the opportunity cost of soils is much higher than that of the forest, in present economic valuation systems, and

- the mistaken notion that tree plantations can replace forests

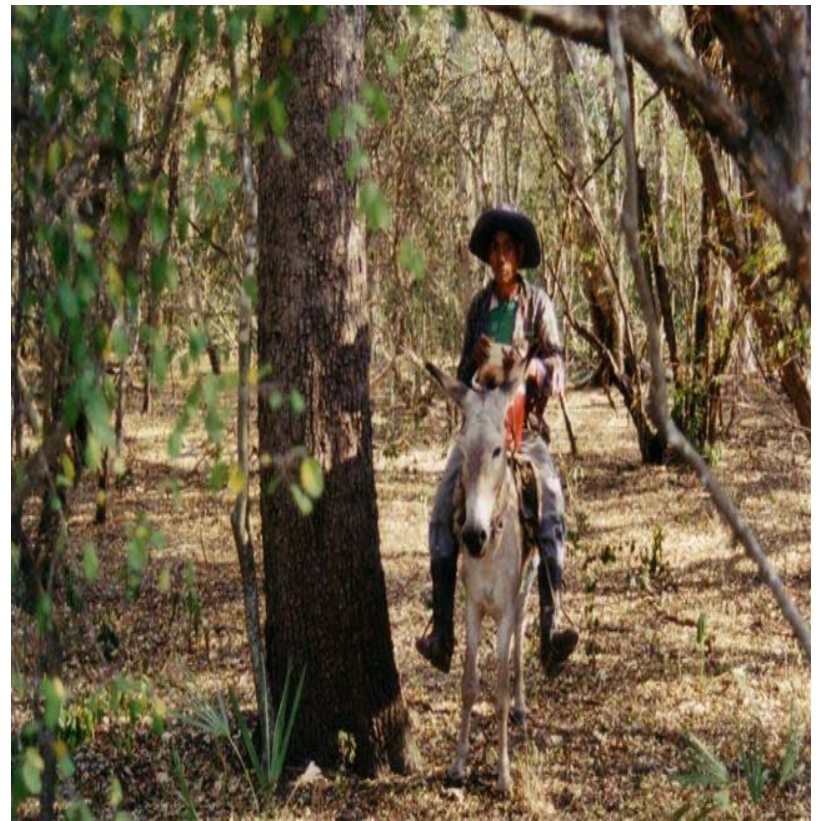


You tell the difference.

# The role of the Corporate Actors (probably not all, but most!)

- To exploit these aberrations on the valuation and perception of forests – and probably of nature in general – and fuel the cravings of consumerist societies, regardless of the obvious unsustainability of their activities (e.g. massive clear cutting, replacement of forests for fast-growing tree monocultures and trials of genetically engineered trees.)
- Outcompeting the competition to maximize profits is the only ‘serious’ objective. Sustainability or even social and environmental impact, are relegated to secondary levels.

“Is time to minimize corporate control and let the small guys also get their share.”



# The question of sustainability

Theoretically, timber can be a sustainable product, but currently, unsustainable production and consumption patterns dilute that potential.

- Large scales are almost always unsustainable: environmentally (e.g. massive introduction of alien spp), socially (e.g. displacement of villages), economically (e.g. uneven competition conditions).
- We have to acknowledge that we can not consume endlessly: 'there is enough for the world's needs but not enough for the world's greed.'

**A way forward: eradicating the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, especially wasteful consumption, for example:**

- The average US family receives 553 pieces of junk mail per year (1997)
- In the US: 10 billion mail order guides are discarded
- Unfair division North-South:
  - Developing countries: 0.095 m<sup>3</sup>/person/year
  - Industrialized countries: 1,141 m<sup>3</sup>/person/year



# Addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation

- By reassessing the 'need' for forest products, much of the need for unsustainable planting (of trees and other crops) can be avoided.
- Adequately valuing the full range of values of forests to avoid sacrificing them for the sake of a narrow set of values: income, cash, money...

# Addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation

- Correct definitions: lumping forests and plantations on one heap encourages the current valuation trends: 'let's cut it and use the soil and sale the timber as we please, someone else will plant the forest again.'