

SUSTAINABLE USE OF FORESTS

Forests are vital for us. They make the world liveable by producing oxygen, clean water and air and by binding carbon. Forests are home to thousands of organisms. They fight soil erosion and protect water systems from eutrophication by binding nutrients. Timber is our most important renewable domestic raw material and the foundation of our economic prosperity. Forests promote our health and offer opportunities for many types of recreation. Forests also play an important aesthetic and spiritual role in our lives.

There are three principles that should be followed in the sustainable use of forests: ecological, social and economic. Forest use is ecological when the biodiversity of forest habitats and species is safeguarded. Social sustainability means that the forests provide well-being, work and livelihood, recreation, cultural experiences and opportunities for pursuing hobbies to all population groups fairly. A precondition for economic sustainability is that we exploit forest resources ensuring that future generations will have the same possibilities of using them as we do.

How can sustainable forest use be implemented in practice?



STORY CARD

INFO CARD

INFO CARD

FIRST THOUGHTS

Write down your first thoughts and use the white cards to create more issue cards.

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POSITIONS

- 1 Forests should primarily be treasured as valuable ecosystems in a natural state and habitat for species living in them. We should cut back on using all natural resources, also wood-based products..
- 2 Domestic timber should be favoured as a raw material, as it is a better alternative for the environment and in terms of employment than manufacturing similar products from non-renewable natural resources. Biodiversity and the landscape values of forests should be secured by means of various protection and forest management measures.
- 3 Focus should be on research and product development so that we can make a more efficient and versatile use of wood-based raw materials. The surface area of forest should be expanded to safeguard the availability of raw material and to increase the carbon binding capacity.
- 4 Position developed by your group.

ISSUE CARD

ISSUE CARD

CHALLENGE CARD

INSTRUCTIONS

- You have the right to have your say: say it as it is, but avoid long-windedness.
- Value your own life experience.
- Respect others.
- Let them finish talking before you start.
- Take delight in differing opinions.
- Welcome surprises and confusion, you may learn something new from them.
- Find issues that you can agree upon.
- 'But' stresses a differing opinion; 'and' stresses consensus.



IN THREE STEPS

1. INFORMATION

Make up your mind about what your opinion of the theme is. Read the cards and select the ones you feel contain the most important information. Lay your cards on the placemat and then read them aloud to the other players.

± 30 MIN.

2. DISCUSSION

Start the discussion with one or several general themes that you think are essential. Everybody gets a turn. Lay your cards on the table to have arguments ready for each theme.

± 30 MIN.

3. GROUP POSITION

Gather the arguments for various topics together. Can you, as a group, achieve a positive consensus and formulate a single, joint position? If you wish, you can create a completely new position.

± 20 MIN.

... AND ONE MORE

4. ACTION

- Log on to www.playdecide.eu and:
 - enter the results of your group in the Decide data bank;
 - see what other Europeans think about a particular theme;
 - read more on the subject of sustainable forests;
 - download a new game for yourself and your friends;
 - find out how you can exert influence after playing Decide.

