# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 1 Why are Forests of Global Concern? Part C**

## **Transcripts Duration: 00:09:17**

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[Module 1: Lecture 1 Part C]

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Now what are the causes of this deforestation I’ve been talking about, this 13 million hectares annually which is a huge area. It’s mainly socio-economic in nature, like poverty could lead to more forest loss or deforestation for poor people when they want money, they go and cut trees to sell them as fuel wood or carving or whatever. Lack of tenure security when forest communities do not have a title to the land, they do not own the forests, they tended to do deforestation themselves or sell it to somebody who is willing to do deforestation and pay them. Also, the inadequate recognition of the rights of forest-dependent people could lead to deforestation. So either the tenure is not clear, or even some countries do not recognize that the rights of forest-dependent people to own the land. The third and most important reason is the undervaluation of the forest products and ecosystem services. In many parts of the world, many countries, actually the majority of the countries of the world do not account for the wealth in the forests in their natural national budget. You don’t find a national budget with an item that our forest is worth so much, not only the physically, like the timber, how much like we have so many billions of millions of cubic feet of timber at a value of so much, like the value of the stock is so much, because this doesn’t appear in the national account. And in the meantime, the ecosystem services by the forests, certain values. We do appreciate that the forests contain a lot of biodiversity, actually 60-80% of the biodiversity in the world are found in the forest. But again we don’t see this reflected in national accounting. We don’t see value for the water in many cases that is originated or regulated by the forest. We don’t see the value, for example, the food that people obtain from the forest, mushrooms, leaves, sugar and so on. We don’t see in the national account value for recreation. It’s becoming a big business now that people go and enjoy walking in the forest or camping in the forest and this is not really valued in many cases. There are some studies that they asked people how much you would pay to be in the forest and so on, but this is the simplified way. In other words, valuation of the forest and forest service leads some parts of the world to do more deforestation.

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Also, the lack of participation of forest communities in forest management. Many parts of the world they find that the forest communities are not part of the forest management plans. It’s very unfortunate. Governments govern and dictate the management plan without consulting with the forest communities. And of course the illegal logging could lead to deforestation, this is one of the major reasons of deforestation, it’s illegal logging when some people or some companies became multinational ones, they just sent their people in a region, or a part of the country, to do some illegal logging and ship the logs outside the country and sometimes oppress the locals to keep quiet, and the same with illegal trade. All these illegal activities increase the deforestation. And finally related to this, is that weak governance and law enforcement where so many countries around the world, especially some of the forest-rich countries, they don’t have enough man-power, or enough authority or enough financial means to protect their forests, and they can’t enforce the law. You would find the law in many countries that we are not supposed to steal that timber, we are not supposed to cut the tree illegally, but to enforce this law, it is quite expensive, and that’s why it could lead to deforestation.

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This is some pictures of illegal logging. But if you ask these people, they may say that we bought it somewhere. But anyway, this is kind of chance like this maybe a source of illegal logging.

### Slide/Screen 5

Collecting firewood is another deforestation because people when they are desperate for firewood, for cooking, this is in Africa in Sudan. When they are desperate to collect firewood to cook the food or heat the water, whatever, it leads to deforestation in many cases to desertification, like you see in this picture.

### Slide/Screen 6

Forest fire, as I said, a main source of deforestation, because after a while, whether it is natural fire or intentional, as in many parts of the world, people go and burn the forest, so that it is converted from a forest to degraded land, and then they can replace the trees or something different.

### Slide/Screen 7

Sometimes even the controlled burning which is needed to get rid of the brush so that we reduce the fire hazard or sometimes this controlled burning is needed as part of the ecosystem management. But sometimes it gets out of hand and causes deforestation.

### Slide/Screen 8

Another cause of deforestation is agriculture expansion when the forests are converted into other uses. And this is still called deforestation but actually it is a conversion. It happens mostly for agriculture purpose. Whether it’s going to be converting the land to produce some corps like soybean, like crops for bioenergy, this is spreading around the world now. And the most important is converting to pasture or grassland to raise animals because there is an increasing demand for meat now. Some ethnic groups of some countries who used to not to eat meat now, they are demanding to eat meat because of the change in incomes. And as I mentioned, the illegal activities also. Why we worry about deforestation? There is a high cost attached to it. It’s very costly. Not necessary monitoring terms, but also ecological terms like with deforestation, the country loses its ecosystem services of the forests. There is a lot of GHG emissions and soil erosion associated with deforestation, because in most cases, deforestation happens by extracting the valuable timber and then burning everything behind, which causes a lot of emissions, and when we expose the soil especially the peat land, we lose a lot of carbon, irreplaceable within foreseeable future, or even in the dry areas, when the top soil, which is the fertile top soil is eroded either by running water because there is no regulation by trees, or windblown on the top soil, and we see this in many parts of the world, when the top soil is removed by wind or by water, the land becomes, or the soil becomes infertile, it does not produce anything. And finally, because all of these losses, the people who live in the forest lose their livelihood, their source of live, their source of food, their source of income, employment and so on. The deforestation is very intensive, people live in the area or their livelihood is affected.

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This is the list of readings that if you want more information about what I have been talking about in this lecture, you can consult these readings. They are available at FAO sources as well, so these will give you some very good information about what’s happening. Ok thank you!

### Slide/Screen 10

[End of Module 1, Lecture 1, Part C. Thank you for watching.]