



THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ECO-FORESTRY FORUM

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Media Release

Current large-scale logging unsustainable

A new report commissioned by the Eco-Forestry Forum, confirms that current large-scale logging is both ecologically and financially unsustainable and will soon exhaust all of PNG's available commercial forest resources.

The Report, *"Wasting our Heritage"*, which has been written with the cooperation of the Forest Industries Association, finds that financial benefits to landowners and the government will start to fall sharply within 6-7 years and that new concessions will be largely logged out by 2020.

"This is a further indictment of the current Government and its irresponsible mismanagement of the forestry sector", says Kenn Mondiai, Chairperson of the Forum. "Sustainable forest management is a key requirement of our Constitution and Forestry Laws, yet the Minister is content to see our heritage unlawfully destroyed by the logging industry".

The Report states that by 2012 all available commercial forest will have been committed to large-scale logging and that these new projects will not be logged sustainably because resources have been overstated by the Forest Authority. These findings match those of AusAID and other independent experts.

The Report also undermines Government justifications for not reigning in the logging industry. The findings are that net revenues to the State from the industry are less than 2% of total government receipts and will fall to less than K20 million a year by 2015. These sums could be easily replaced by adjustments to the tax base.

"Wasting our Heritage" also confirms that the environmental destruction and natural resource depletion caused by the logging industry are passed on to landowners and the global community and are not paid for by the logging industry.

The full Report by Dr Colin Hunt, *"Wasting our Heritage: An economic analysis of current forest management, future implications and possible alternative strategies"*, will be published in September.

For more information, contact the Forum on phone 323 9050 or email: teff@global.net.pg

PNG Eco-Forestry Forum

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The Papua New Guinea Eco-Forestry Forum supports integrated rural community development and sustainable resource use through a viable and sustainable eco-forestry industry