

# A LETTER FROM JUAN

I HAVE MADE MANY GOOD FRIENDS ON MY TRAVELS. THIS IS A LETTER FROM MY FRIEND JUAN IN SOUTH AMERICA.

1 DEAR EARTHBIRD, I HAVE WRITTEN YOU TO TELL YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT FARMING IN MY AREA. AS YOU KNOW, MY FAMILY HAS FARMED COFFEE FOR MANY YEARS. WE SELL OUR COFFEE TO COMPANIES WHICH SEND IT TO COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. LIKE OTHER FARMERS IN OUR AREA, WE GREW ONLY COFFEE. WE USED THE MONEY WE EARNED FROM THE COFFEE TO BUY FOOD.

2 A FEW YEARS AGO THE PRICE OF COFFEE WENT DOWN! WE WERE NO LONGER ABLE TO BUY THE FOOD AND OTHER THINGS WE NEEDED.

WE TRIED TO GROW MORE COFFEE BUT WE COULD NOT. THE SOIL BECAME LOW IN NUTRIENTS. EROSION WASHED SOIL FROM THE HILLS.

WE HAD MANY PROBLEMS!

FOOD AT THE MARKET IS TOO EXPENSIVE!

WE CANNOT GET ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE COFFEE AT THE MARKET.

IF WE REMOVE COFFEE PLANTS TO GROW FOOD CROPS THEN WE WILL EARN EVEN LESS.

AND THE LAND MAY BE DESTROYED. THERE MAY BE NOTHING LEFT FOR THE FUTURE.

I WANT MORE WOOD!

WE NEED WOOD TOO!

## Forests For US

MANY FORESTS AND GRAZING AREAS ARE SHARED BY PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. THESE ARE CALLED COMMUNAL LANDS.

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**WE DECIDED HOW TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.**

WE FOUND THAT THERE WERE MANY PLACES ON OUR LAND WHERE WE COULD GROW TREES. WE PLANTED TREES ALONG THE BORDERS OF THE FARM AND ON STEEP HILLS. WE PLANTED THEM AROUND THE HOUSE TOO.

NOW WE HAVE BANANAS AND AVOCADOS TO EAT.

WE HARVEST SOME TREES FOR FIREWOOD AND BUILDING MATERIALS WHICH WE SELL AT MARKET.



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THEN I HELPED MY MOTHER AND FATHER PLANT TREES WITH THE COFFEE. WE KNEW THAT TREES WOULD HELP SHADE THE COFFEE FROM THE SUN. THE TREES ALSO HELPED TO PROTECT THE SOIL FROM EROSION. WE HARVEST SOME OF THE TREES FOR FIREWOOD, BUILDING MATERIALS AND CHARCOAL. WE ALSO CUT LEAVES FOR FODDER.

THESE TREES WILL PROTECT OUR CROPS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.



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WE BEGAN GROWING FOOD CROPS BETWEEN ROWS OF COFFEE. THE PEAS AND BEANS WE GREW IMPROVED OUR DIETS. WE GREW ENOUGH TO SELL SOME AT THE MARKET. WE USED THE MONEY WE EARNED TO BUY THINGS WE NEEDED.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS NOW HAVE A GOOD SUPPLY OF BEANS AND PEAS. OUR SOIL IS IMPROVED TOO!

6 WE ARE STILL COFFEE FARMERS BUT WE HAVE MUCH MORE NOW. I AM TELLING OTHERS HOW TO USE TREES TO FARM WISELY. IF MORE PEOPLE LEARN HOW, MAYBE FEWER FORESTS WILL BE DESTROYED FOR FARMLAND.

your friend,  
JUAN



WHEN PEOPLE BEHAVE THIS WAY THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

WHAT WOULD WE DO THEN?

TO MANAGE WISELY, PEOPLE MUST LEARN WHAT THE LAND CAN PROVIDE. THEY MUST RESPECT EACH OTHER'S NEEDS.

IF WE PLAN CAREFULLY, THIS LAND WILL PROVIDE FOR US NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

