

THIS IS MY FRIEND MANUEL. HE LIVES IN LATIN AMERICA. PEOPLE IN MANUEL'S COMMUNITY ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE THEIR FOREST SUSTAINABLY. LET'S VISIT THIS SPECIAL COMMUNITY.

THIS FOREST HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY IMPORTANT TO MY COMMUNITY AND OUR NATION. FOREST TREES HELP TRAP RAINWATER AND KEEP THE SOIL FROM BEING WASHED AWAY. THE WATER THAT WE NEED FOR OUR FAMILIES, CROPS AND ANIMALS COMES FROM THE WATERSHED THAT THE FOREST PROTECTS.

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, WE HAVE HUNTED FOREST ANIMALS. THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR DIET. FOREST TREES PROVIDE MANY NUTS, FRUITS, RESINS OILS AND BUILDING MATERIALS THAT WE NEED. IMPORTANT MEDICINES COME FROM A VARIETY OF FOREST TREES AND PLANTS.



SEVERAL YEARS AGO, PEOPLE IN MY VILLAGE WANTED TO BURN OUR FOREST TO CLEAR LAND FOR FARMING AND RANCHING! OTHERS WANTED TO CUT THE TREES AND SELL THEM TO TIMBER AND PAPER MERCHANTS. WE NEEDED TO PRODUCE MORE FOOD FOR OUR GROWING POPULATION AND WE WANTED TO EARN INCOME FROM THE FOREST LAND.

MANY VILLAGE MEETINGS WERE HELD TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF OUR FOREST. WE AGREED THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD GET THE RESOURCES IT NEEDS AND EARN INCOME FROM THE FOREST. WE ALSO DECIDED TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO DESTROY THE FOREST AND THE RESOURCES THAT IT GIVES US.

THE LAND WILL EARN MORE MONEY FOR US IF IT IS USED FOR RANCHING AND TIMBER PRODUCTION.

OUR FOREST LAND WOULD BE GOOD FOR RANCHING AND FARMING FOR ONLY A FEW YEARS. WHERE WOULD WE GET THE FOREST RESOURCES THAT WE NEED? PEOPLE LIVING IN THE FOREST WOULD BE FORCED TO MOVE!



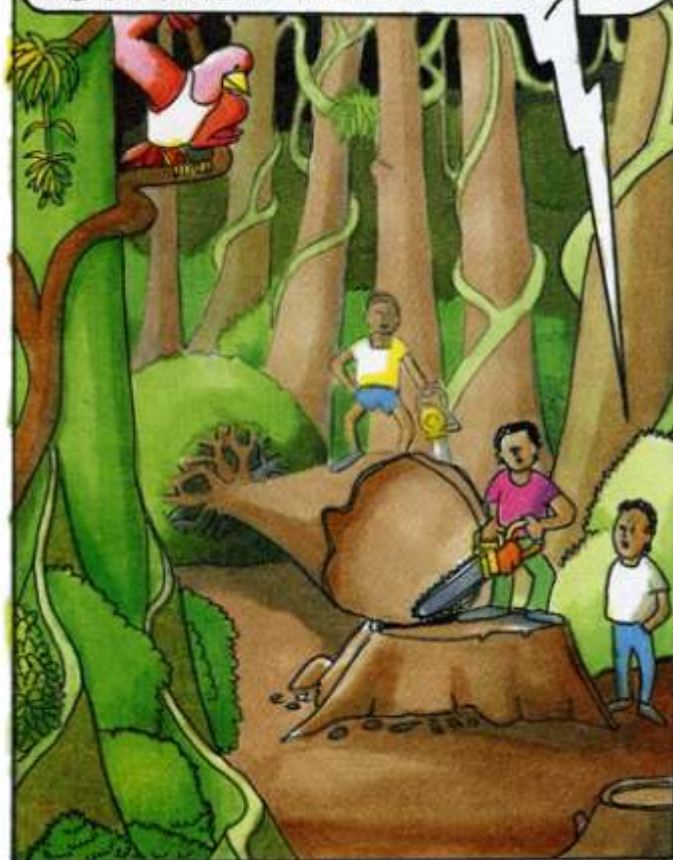


WE DISCOVERED HOW TO EARN MONEY FROM THE FOREST WITHOUT DESTROYING IT. WITH HELP FROM THE FOREST OFFICER, WE MADE A PLAN TO MANAGE OUR FOREST SUSTAINABLY.

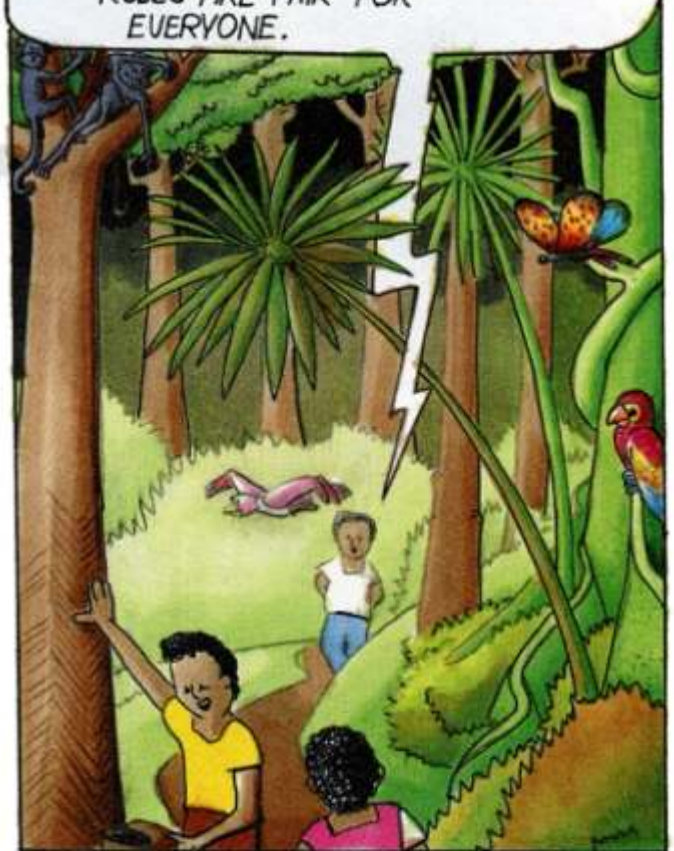
GOOD IDEA!



WE ALSO EARN INCOME THROUGH CAREFUL LOGGING OF THE FOREST. WITH HELP FROM THE FOREST OFFICER, WE CUT SELECTED TREES. MOST TREES ARE LEFT UNDAMAGED AND WE PLANT SEEDLINGS TO REPLACE TREES THAT HAVE BEEN CUT. THE MONEY WE EARN HELPS PAY FOR SCHOOLS AND MEDICAL CARE. PARTS OF THE FOREST ARE SET ASIDE AS PROTECTED RESERVES.



WE HARVEST RUBBER FROM FOREST TREES TO SELL AT THE MARKET. WE HUNT AND GATHER FOOD AND OTHER PRODUCTS FROM THE FOREST AND WE HAVE MADE RULES THAT LIMIT HOW MUCH HARVESTING OF FOREST PRODUCTS IS ALLOWED. WE HAVE MEETINGS TO ENSURE THAT THE RULES ARE FAIR FOR EVERYONE.



THIS FOREST EARNS INCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY, SUPPLIES IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND PROTECTS THE WATER SUPPLY. ARE THERE FORESTS NEAR YOUR HOME? WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR? WHO OWNS THEM? ARE THERE ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN HELP YOU TO MANAGE THE FOREST SUSTAINABLY? FIND OUT!

