

# **The Importance of forests**

Forests are an important component of the ecosystem and have many advantages.

Forests are a barrier against erosion and landslides. They give us fresh air, clean drinking water in rivers and they also attract rain which we need to grow crops. Forests also provide food and shelter to many rural people.

## **Forest cover**

World wide, forest cover is being lost at a fast rate but this makes us loose the most important buffer against climate change.

In a forest, each individual tree has a role to play and does each animal, plant and every living being. Trees breathe taking in excess carbon dioxide that humans produce and using it to produce healthy branches, fruits, nuts and a beautiful landscape.

The roots of trees keep the soil structure avoiding flood which would wash way fertile soils that are needed to grow food, both for us the humans and wild animals.

## **Tree monocultures**

Tree monocultures are not forests because the soil suffers in monocultures and the monocultures can not efficiently absorb carbon dioxide from the environment.

To protect forests, there is need to support indigenous groups or associations. This helps them defend themselves against outside pressures, consuming less meat or choosing plant diets and being informed about reforestation and deforestation.