

FIRST-AID FOR FORESTS

A 90-minute Habitat Game helps us get started.

No matter where forests grow or how old they are, they make our planet habitable. Forests differ from continent to continent. They are a hub of biodiversity. No matter which species grow in an area, all forests offer us the same benefits: they take in carbon dioxide, provide oxygen, filter water, recycle nutrients and serve as habitats for plant and animal communities. For a long time forests were mainly seen as a source of building material.

However, worldwide forests are endangered: bark beetle infestation, droughts, storms, fire and clear-cuttings to grow crops on like soya, all threaten forests.

Forests are an excellent example of 'circular economy': no waste is produced. Natural regeneration from self-sown seeds is cost-free but can take years. However, for that we have no more time. Today many of us know from our own experience that a walk or a hike in the forest stimulates our senses and refreshes our souls.

Basic First-Aid Steps to Help Forests Recover / Topics for Discussion

1. Manage deer populations to encourage growth of young trees
2. Plant site-specific broadleaf saplings grown in a nursery
3. Reduce CO₂ emissions: leave the car in the garage, use your bike instead, walk
4. Demonstrate for better bus services for commuters, renewable energy
5. Communicate facts and figures to decision-makers
6. Think twice: do we really need new clothing, new furniture and other stuff?

In an interactive Habitat Game © we recreate indoors our local forest with its typical plants and animals. We look at what happens when there is too little rain: Bark beetles might invade the forest or a fire might sweep through. We plant broadleaf trees to help the forest recover. We ask: Are there other steps each of us take?

Further reading:

<https://www.ibiology.org/ecology/future-of-forests/>

Dietrich, William: The Final Forest. - 1992

ISBN 0—671-72976-5 (hc)

ISBN 0 14 01,7750 7 (pbk)

Gore, Al: An Inconvenient Truth. - 2006

ISBN 978-3-570—50115-3

Henson, Robert: The Rough Guide to Climate Change. - 2nd ed. - 2007.

ISBN 13: 9-781-85828-105-5

ISBN 10: 1-85828-105-9

Louv, Richard: Last Child in the Woods : saving our children from nature-deficit disorder - 2005

ISBN-13: 978-1-56512-605-3

Stern, Horst: Rettet den Wald. - Kindler Verlag.

ISBN-10: 345 3018051

ISBN-13: 978-3453018051

Visitors Welcome

Walderlebniszentrum (WEZ) Tennenlohe

Phone: 0911-99 715 -2100

wez.erlangen@aelf-fu.bayern.de

Check your carbon footprint @

www.footprintnetwork.org

Forests around the world

- Africa —> Sahara - Congo Basin
- South America —> rain forest
- USA Appalachian Mountains
- Europe
 - Black Forest
 - Bavarian Forest
 - Nuremberg Reichswald
 - Nuremberg - Bamberg - Gunzenhausen - sand deposits

Der Schwarzwald im TV mdr am 3. Juli 2022

Baden-Württemberg - 2021 wurde Nationalpark -

threats: fires, water shortage, managed forests = grow crops like soja

<https://www.habitatspiel.de/angebote/oekosystem-wald-erwachsene-2/>