



The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international organisation dedicated to promoting responsible forestry

The Forest Summit

A role play game

Equipment:

Each group needs a copy of Sheet 1, a role card and paper and pencils for note-taking.

Preparation:

There are 2 versions of the role play card:

- Card A provides a brief outline of the role.
- Card B provides cues to support thinking.

The leader of the activity should decide whether to hand out copies of one or both role play cards i.e. those groups needing most support should be given role play cards A and B. Groups that do not receive card B will have more opportunity to develop their own thinking.

One of the role play cards is blank – this may be used to create another group e.g. farmers, mining company, FSC etc.

The adult in charge of the activity should act as chairperson.

How to play

- Create 7 groups – one for each role play card.
- Give out copies of Sheet 1 and the role play cards and allow time for the players to think about and discuss their role as a group.
- Call the meeting to order, explain any rules (e.g. respect for speakers & listeners) and introduce the first item on the agenda.

After the game

Provide an opportunity for players to ‘come out of role’ and talk about the game.

Simpler Version

The activity can be adapted for use by younger/smaller groups.

- Create 3 groups – forest owners, indigenous people and environmentalists.
- Each group decides which three objectives they wish to achieve with regards the management of their forest. Support can be given at this stage if required.
- The requirements are shared and the groups work together to agree a final set of agreed outcomes.

FSC UK would like to thank Central Windsor Scouts for helping to develop this game.



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Sheet 1

Background information

The country owes a large debt to the International Bank. The bank has suggested that a large area of rainforest be developed to create money that can be used to repay the debt. The country already exports timber – much of it is illegally logged – the government receives none of this money. 1 in every 5 of the population lives in poverty.



Forest Plan A

A large area of rainforest will be developed to provide jobs and prosperity for the people of this country. New roads will be built. Logging companies will clear the forests and use the roads to bring the timber to the ports. The land will be turned into farms. Mining companies will search for oil, coal and minerals. This plan will bring jobs, money, schools and hospitals to the people of the forests.

Reminder

Forests provide natural, renewable resources which can be sustainably managed.

Forests play a vitally important role in tackling climate change.

Forests are home to thousands of species of plants and animals.

Forests can provide people with jobs and money.

Agenda

- Introductions – each group gives a brief introduction about themselves.
- Forest Plan A – the chairperson will explain the plan and invite groups to give opinions.
- Forest Plan B – groups will be invited to suggest and discuss any changes to Plan A.
- Agreement – groups will be asked to agree on a plan.
- Each group will be invited to issue a brief press statement to the media.

User Group Cards A

Forestry workers

Your work involves cutting down trees for the timber company.

Consumers

The forest provides things that you buy – wooden furniture & flooring, fruits and nuts, rubber, medicines, fibres....

Timber company

Your company employs forestry workers to cut down trees. The wood is sold to other companies e.g. paper manufacturers and furniture makers.

Forest users - bird watchers, mountain bikers, walkers, scout & guide groups

The forest provides lots of opportunities for recreation - a place to relax, study or play.

Indigenous people

You live in the forest – it provides your food, water, fuel, shelter, goods, medicines and clothes.

Government

You need to understand the interests of each of the different user groups and take decisions based on what you think is best for everyone.

Environmental organisation

Your aim is to safeguard the natural world and make sure that people and wildlife can thrive – both now and in the future.



User Group Cards B

Forestry workers

How will this affect my job/ will this make my job and more or less dangerous/ will there still be a job for me in the future?

Consumers

How much damage to the environment is caused by the things I buy / can I make a difference as a consumer/ what will that do to the price/ who wins – and who are the main losers from these changes/ do I still want to buy things that come from the forests?

Timber company

How will this affect our profits/ our workers/ our customers/ our competitors – both now and in the future?

Forest users - bird watchers, mountain bikers, walkers, scout & guide groups

How will this affect the forest – now and in the future/ how will it affect me/ what can we do about this?

Indigenous people

How will this affect our community/ how will this affect my children's future/ what are the benefits/ who are the winners and who are the losers?.

Government

How will this affect the different user groups/ are any of these groups more important than the others/ what will be the short and long-term effects/ will this make us more or less popular?

Environmental organisation

Is this sustainable/ how will it affect people and wildlife – today and in the future/ what changes will it cause – and what affects will those changes have?

