

Media Release

It would appear the World Wildlife Fund has some rather serious problems which are contributing to its rapidly declining popularity and credibility, especially in its role as an environmental activist.

One WWF report was the source of an insupportable claim that glaciers in the Himalayas were melting rapidly. This dubious revelation has since been the cause of considerable on-going embarrassment for the organization.

When renowned global environmental expert and statistician Bjorn Lomborg asked to view the research WWF possessed to support their claim that two thirds of the worlds forests had been lost, he was simply informed that none existed. The fact remains however; the conventional number was 20 to 25 percent. Quite a significant discrepancy by any means.

A decade ago, the Convention on Biodiversity stated quite clearly, that 10 percent of the world's forests need to be set aside to protect biodiversity. It reported a few years later that this target had been achieved.

In the poor countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America an average of at least 25 per-sent of forest is set aside. This is more than in Europe and well above the global target. It is however, only a fraction of the amount of native Eucalypt forest we have preserved in Australia, and yet we continue to suffer undue criticism from anti-timber activists and green extremists.

WWF, like many other environmental activist organizations, is totally disregarding the leading cause of deforestation. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation reports that between 60 and 70 percent of forest clearance is by poor people seeking shelter, food and firewood. That is the cause of deforestation they should be targeting.

WWF suffers constant criticism from many of its aid donors for seriously understating the importance of poverty alleviation in its programs. This and an obvious tendency to grossly exaggerate certain events and statistics seem to be the primary issues bringing about their severe lack of credibility.

Unless we put a stop to this type of grossly inaccurate information being peddled around by green extremists and anti-timber activists such as WWF, then we in Australia shall continue to be unnecessarily restricted from accessing sustainable native timber, creating new timber plantations, expanding existing and creating new farming operations. As a result, then we too shall most certainly experience massive job reductions, diminished prosperity, increased food prices and a drastic increase in the number of people living in poverty. Surely, not a situation the average Australian would find acceptable.

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