

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Not everyone appreciate a piece of paper as a Christmas present so I thought this one might require a bit of an explanation...

I bought you some rainforest at the frontier of where the forest is being logged. It's now been put in a trust and is protected from logging by law with the assistance of locals. Every portion of land protected helps protect a much larger area of land behind it. I bought it for you because I care and I hope you care too. Deforestation affects you, me and the rest of the world. Here are just a few reasons why:

Every second, a slice of rainforest the size of a football field is mowed down. That's 86,400 football fields of rainforest per day, or over 31 million football fields of rainforest each year. (nature.org)

Rainforests once covered 14% of the earth's land surface; now they only cover 6% and experts estimate that the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years. (rain-tree.com)

Rainforests are one of the world's primary carbon reservoirs. By absorbing carbon dioxide from the air, storing the carbon and giving us oxygen, tropical forests act as the world's thermostat, regulating temperatures and weather patterns. The loss of our forests contributes to approximately 17 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions each year -- more than all the world's trains, planes and automobiles combined. (Rainforest Alliance)

They are critical in maintaining the Earth's limited supply of drinking and fresh water. (nature.org) Without rainforests continually recycling huge quantities of water, feeding the rivers, lakes and irrigation systems, droughts would become more common, potentially leading to widespread famine and disease. (Rainforest Concern)

Tropical rainforests took between 60 and 100 million years to evolve and are believed to be the oldest and most complex land-based ecosystem on earth, containing over 30 million species of plants and animals. That's half of the Earth's wildlife and at least two-thirds of its plant species! (Rainforest Concern)

Experts estimate that we are losing 50,000 plant, animal and insect species a year due to rainforest deforestation. (rain-tree.com) Our world is facing the greatest extinction crisis since the fall of the dinosaurs some 65 million years ago. (Rainforest Alliance)

Unless we take action now to stop deforestation, the lives of 8 billion people and our future as a species will be threatened by climate change as soon as 2050. But it's not too late to do something about it. I hope you enjoy the difference you've helped to make with this gift. Merry Christmas ☺