



For Immediate Release  
Office of the Press Secretary  
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## President Bush Discusses New Initiative to Stop Illegal Logging

Statement by the President

Today, my Administration has announced a new international initiative to help developing countries stop illegal logging. Illegal logging destroys biodiversity and hundreds of thousands of acres of forest habitat annually. It releases millions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Last year, I directed Secretary Powell to develop a plan to address this serious issue. I thank him for his efforts in establishing this initiative. Working with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and other nations, the United States will help identify and reduce threats to protected forest areas and other high value conservation forests. These efforts will serve as a foundation for future actions to eliminate illegal logging, corruption in the forest sector, and the sale - including for export - of illegally harvested timber products. They will also help us protect forests and the livelihoods that depend upon them.

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