



## Were Rainforests and Orangutans Killed for Your Lawn Chairs?

Much of the outdoor furniture sold in the US is made from ripped from the dwindling rainforests of Southeast Asia and South America. The demand for this wood is driving logging and subsequent deforestation, violent conflicts with and the destruction of customary lands of indigenous people, as well as driving hundreds of species to extinction. Nyatoh is a term given to a number of species of wood that is now commonly used for outdoor furniture now being sold in the US. The species occur throughout Southeast Asia but the vast majority of exports are coming from Indonesia, where over-logging has had a catastrophic effect on rainforests. Amazon rainforests are also being logged for other woods now commonly used in outdoor furniture.

### ENDANGERED RAINFORESTS & PEOPLE

Indonesia has the third largest area of tropical rainforests in the world. Southeast Asian rainforests combined are larger than those of West Africa. But logging and other development has destroyed over half of the former rainforests of the region. Logging is the largest direct cause of rainforest loss in Southeast Asia and also plays a precipitating role as loggers bulldoze new roads into pristine forests, 'paving the way' for further destruction. Loggers have come into violent conflict with indigenous people such as the Penan and Dayak in Malaysia and Indonesia, and the Xikrin, Kayapo, Tembe and others in the Amazon, who have tried to stop logging on their customary lands. The governments have often sided with the loggers, arresting and even beating indigenous protestors. Loggers in Indonesia are eliminating the last habitat of endangered orangutans and other unique wildlife. It's estimated that at the current rate of destruction, orangutans could be extinct within 15 years.

### ILLEGAL LOGGING

It has been estimated (and confirmed by the Indonesian and Brazilian governments, UN and World Bank) that 80% of logging in Indonesia and Brazil is being done illegally. Threats, intimidation and bribes keep the logging going.

### THE CONSUMER'S ROLE

Nyatoh and other woods from Southeast Asia, such as balau, kapur and Shorea and jatoba ("Brazilian cherry") and garapera, logged from Amazon rainforests, are now being sold as replacements for dwindling teak in outdoor furniture by a number of companies. These woods are not logged from plantations, but from old-growth rainforests. The companies include Wal-mart, Target, Pottery Barn, Restoration Hardware, Sears, Kmart, Cost Plus, Vons, Frontgate, Wood Classics, Smith & Hawken, Stacks & Stacks and others. **Rainforest Relief** has so far convinced Crate & Barrel, Improvements, Alsto's and Gardener's Supply to end their sales of wood from endangered rainforests.

### What You Should Do

Don't buy outdoor furniture made of wood from endangered tropical forests (such as nyatoh, teak, balau, kapur, Shorea, garapera or jatoba) or endangered temperate rainforests (western red cedar, Alaskan or yellow cedar). Recycled plastic is great for outdoor furniture and will last far longer than any wood. Contact the above companies (see [www.rainforestrelief.org](http://www.rainforestrelief.org)) and tell them you will not buy from them until they declare policies to end the sales of wood from endangered tropical forests. Support **Rainforest Relief** with a donation and volunteer to help us stop imports of rainforest wood.

*Exposing and Challenging Rainforest Consumption*

**RAINFOREST RELIEF**

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