

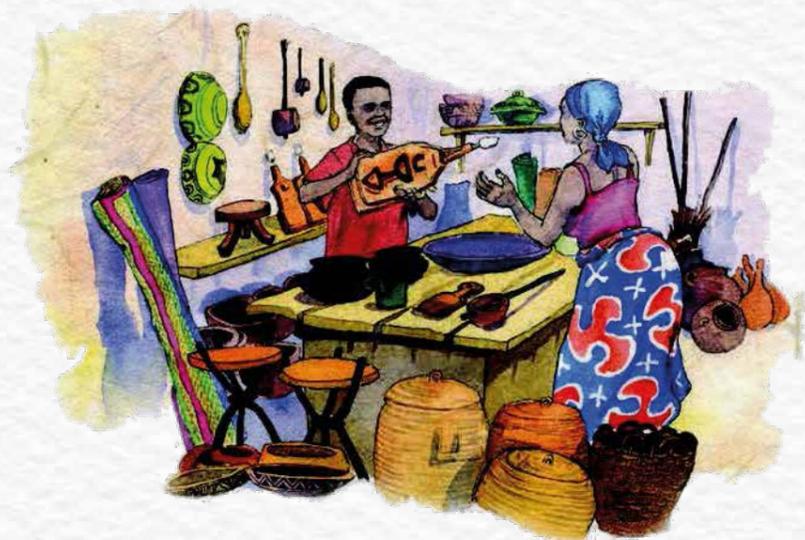
GOOD WOOD



Throughout Africa, brilliant craftsmen and women and artists carve gorgeous ornaments, household utensils, drums, masks, and weapons. When sold, carving makes wood into money, and therefore food, medicine, warmth and all the other things money can buy. Wood carving is a very important industry. In Kenya 60,000 people carve, producing products which bring in an income of US \$20 million each year.

To increase the value of wood, nothing is better than carving, but to be sure of ongoing success, carvers need to protect the resource upon which they depend.

The Good Woods project in Kenya changed a situation in which the forest was being lost. Wild hardwoods like ebony and mahogany (muhuhu) growing in the coastal forests of East Africa, were starting to suffer from over-exploitation for carving to sell to tourists. However, many tourists who travel to see Africa's wildlife and animals feel strongly about the environment. They would not wish to buy carvings that might be partly responsible for the destruction of a natural forest. The Good Wood Project, just like the Fairtrade and Sustainability standards provide a choice, because some carvers switched to carving wood from fast-growing trees that can be grown on farms. The trees provide farmers with useful resources and shelter and protect their soil.



If you grow trees on farms, instead of harvesting them from the wild, you can be sure of a sustainable supply. Now, carvings made of mango, neem and jacaranda are becoming more popular, and because of an advertising campaign on aeroplanes, more and more tourists coming to Kenya know that it is better to buy carvings from farm-grown trees. By buying carvings with a Forest Stewardship Council certificate, which traces the wood from the farm to carving workshop to the stall where it is sold, they can be sure that their new carving is forest-friendly. They may even pay more for that knowledge! Many other forest products, like charcoal and commercial timber, are now being certified in this way, as buyers take responsibility for the impacts of their purchases.

Another important way to look after forests is to reduce the amount of wood needed for cooking by using efficient stoves and alternative cooking methods. These are described in the **Energy chapter**.

i ACTION SHEETS - 47: Managing Forest Resources, 48: Forest Product Certification, 51: Neem, 35: Agroforestry