The United Kingdom has long been a world leader in the fight against forest destruction and the promotion of sustainable and legal trade in forest products, and the UK has played an important role in helping local people to uphold their rights and reduce poverty. The national and global importance of maintaining this leadership role has never been greater.

Depletion of forests is a major threat to our global environment. The destruction of forests is critical to the climate and its functioning, and the loss of forests has far-reaching impacts on biodiversity, water flow, and wildlife. In the poorer parts of the world, women continue to be very dependent on forest goods and maintain their presence in the forests. As trees are felled, forest-dependent people can lose their livelihoods, and be drawn to major conflict. The illegal trade in wildlife is one of the greatest illicit trades, consuming a US$15-20 billion per year. Protecting the world’s forests has also been one of Britons’ most popular conservation causes over the last three decades. Achieving the Paris Agreement goal to avoid dangerous climate change is essential to prevent millions more people falling further into poverty alongside negative social, environmental and economic impacts across the world.

The United Kingdom has long been a world leader in the fight against forest destruction and the promotion of sustainable and legal trade in forest products, and the UK has played an important role in helping local people to uphold their rights and reduce poverty. The national and global importance of maintaining this leadership role has never been greater.

Depletion of forests is a major threat to our global environment. The destruction of forests is critical to the climate and its functioning, and the loss of forests has far-reaching impacts on biodiversity, water flow, and wildlife. In the poorer parts of the world, women continue to be very dependent on forest goods and maintain their presence in the forests. As trees are felled, forest-dependent people can lose their livelihoods, and be drawn to major conflict. The illegal trade in wildlife is one of the greatest illicit trades, consuming a US$15-20 billion per year. Protecting the world’s forests has also been one of Britons’ most popular conservation causes over the last three decades. Achieving the Paris Agreement goal to avoid dangerous climate change is essential to prevent millions more people falling further into poverty alongside negative social, environmental and economic impacts across the world.