



*Endangered ancient cedar, East Creek, Vancouver Island, BC, 2003*

## **Scientists' Declaration to Protect Canada's Coastal Temperate Rainforests (2000)**

We the undersigned agree that:

1. Coastal temperate rainforests cover just one fifth of one per cent of the earth's land area. These are among the rarest and most biologically productive ecosystems on earth, containing more biomass (weight of organic matter) per hectare than any other ecosystem. The estuaries, intertidal and subtidal zones of this region contain some of the world's greatest coastal marine-life diversity.
2. The northwest coast of Canada contains twenty-five per cent of the earth's remaining coastal temperate rainforest - among the least-studied ecosystems on earth. This rich and vulnerable ecosystem has given rise to some of the most complex human civilizations ever to emerge without the benefit of agriculture.
3. More than fifty-three per cent of the coastal temperate forests of British Columbia have already been industrially clearcut logged, an activity which disrupts or destroys complex vulnerable ecosystems of global significance.

Therefore:

With these broad ecological and cultural facts before us, we the undersigned call for the immediate cessation of large-scale clearcut logging in the watersheds of the northwest coastal temperate rainforests of Canada, to be replaced by ecosystem-based forestry which includes areas of biological refuge, maintains the ecological characteristics of the original forest, respects and considers traditional knowledge, and provides for the long-term sustainability of local communities.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Wade Davis, Ph.D., ethnobotanist  
Bristol Foster, Ph.D., ecologist  
Thomas Reimchen, Ph.D., ecologist  
David Suzuki, Ph.D., geneticist  
Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D., biologist