

West Papua

West Papua has been under Indonesian military-backed rule since 1963. The Indigenous people are struggling for freedom and justice through peaceful protest and diplomacy. There is growing support among Pacific nations and peoples for West Papua's freedom. However, the Papuan people are subject to arbitrary arrest and grave human rights abuses in a territory largely closed to foreign journalists and humanitarian workers.

For more about West Papua:

www.etan.org
www.freewestpapua.org
www.tapol.org
www.radionz.co.nz/international

For more about kwila and deforestation in West Papua:

www.mightyearth.org
www.mongabay.com
www.greenpeace.org

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Relaxing with friends this summer?



Chances are you're sitting on a deck, eating from an outdoor table made from stolen rainforest timber.

TAKE ACTION

Protect the rainforest.

Don't buy kwila.

Demand the government bans kwila imports.

The facts about kwila

Kwila (also known as merbau or ipil) is a staple of the outdoor furniture and decking market in New Zealand.

Kwila is a tropical hardwood timber sourced from Indonesia-controlled West Papua and neighbouring Papua New Guinea.



Kwila comes from the last remaining tracts of undisturbed and unique biodiverse rainforest in the Asia-Pacific region. The forests are the home and food basket of the Indigenous Papuan people. Papuans are driven off their ancestral land to make way for logging companies and palm oil plantations.

Kwila trees take 75 years to reach commercial size. One hectare of its range may contain only one tree.

Kwila trees are under threat of extinction if logging continues. Major environmental groups, including Greenpeace, are calling for the species (*instia.spp.*) to be registered as endangered with the international *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES).

Indonesia has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. In West Papua the rate of forest destruction continues to escalate, to make way for palm oil plantations. Powerful agribusiness companies such as the notorious Korean-Indonesian conglomerate Korindo ignore the views of local people whose lives depend on the forests.

In 2015, widespread fires razed over 2 million hectares of forest in Indonesia including in West Papua – an environmental catastrophe. Illegal forest clearance is endemic and often involves Indonesian security forces.

New Zealand does not ban the import of illegally logged timber, instead relying on voluntary industry initiatives.

Several major retailers (including the Warehouse, Harvey Norman and Devon Furniture) no longer stock kwila-made furniture and decking. Pressure is now needed to encourage other retailers to stop selling products made from kwila.

