



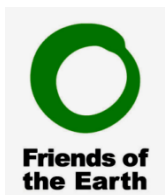
“The Environmental Impacts of Cigarettes – Broadly Framed”

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**IUCN- DCMC October 20, 2011 Panel at Legacy on
Marine and Coastal Impacts of Cigarette Butt Waste**

FOE's Mission and our Work



Environmental Impacts of Cigarettes

- Throughout the life cycle of a cigarette, the environmental impacts are wide-ranging:
 - Tobacco growing and pesticides
 - Deforestation
 - Impacts on food production
 - Pre-consumption pollution and fire risks
 - Hazardous, toxic cigarette butt waste



Tobacco Growing/Pesticides

- With tobacco plants sensitive and prone to a variety of diseases, tobacco farmers use a large amount of fertilizer, herbicide and pesticides, a number of which are very hazardous and toxic.
- Tobacco growers , as well as the environment, are at risk from exposure to pesticides. This also includes “green tobacco sickness” (GTS), an illness caused by absorbing nicotine through skin contact with wet tobacco leaves – affecting adults and child workers



Deforestation/Food Production Impacts

- In various developing countries, trees are cut down to make room for tobacco crops, and also for use as firewood during the curing process.
- Around 600 million tree are cut down annually to produce tobacco products – a sizeable CO2 footprint given the reduced available of forests for carbon sequestration.
- More land for tobacco, less land for food crops
- As many as 10-20 million people could be fed by food crops that are grown instead of tobacco

Pre-Consumption Pollution and Fire Risks

- Cigarette manufacturing results in large amounts of waste, e.g. tobacco slurries, solvents, oils, paper, wood, plastics, packaging and airborne pollution.
- Chemical waste during manufacturing releases produces million of tons of hazardous chemical waste, with substantial amounts released into the environment.
- Cigarettes are a common cause of fires, and US data indicates that smoking materials are the number one cause of fire-related deaths., and property losses total hundreds of millions of dollars annually.



International Scope of Environmental Impacts

- Reports by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and others have done yeomen's service in exposing big tobacco's targeting of developing countries to circumvent developed country controls and maintain global sales
- Those probes also expose the industry ties to smuggling networks used to evade taxes and increase market share in the developing world

Stop Butting Around: What's Next?



**Friends of
the Earth**



Thank You!!!!