Energy loss: UN ‘Turn to wood to save planet’

Rome, July 22 (Reuters): For the millions of people who work in the forest products sector, the United Nations has a clear message: stop cutting trees or risk losing your job.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said a report published on Friday by its UN-FAO Forest Products and Wood Industry Association showed that while forest products were essential for the global economy, they were also a major contributor to climate change.

The report said that the amount of deforestation in the world’s forests had increased by 20% from 2000 to 2010, and that the rate of deforestation was expected to continue to increase in the coming years.

The report also said that the use of natural forest products for energy was increasing, and that this was one of the main drivers of deforestation.

“Forest products are vital for the global economy, but they are also a major contributor to climate change,” FAO Director-General GRAHAM N. Low said in a statement. “We need to act now to reduce the deforestation and to shift our reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.”

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