

## Role-Playing Activity: Where are the Forests?

### CHARACTERS:

1. **Minister** – Your role is to balance the physical and economic development of the country with the needs of the people. There are times when you need to compromise either people's needs over development or vice versa. You are treading on very thin ice and whatever decisions you make will affect the people of the nation, both present and future, and the state of the nation.
2. **Environmentalist** – As the name suggests, your main role is to protect the environment. You tend to see the problem on a much broader/global scale, and maybe somewhat remote, in terms of time. You understand how a current action can affect the world a few decades later. For instance, the release of too much greenhouse gases now will cause climate change in the future (a few decades later). Nevertheless, you aim to educate people on the impacts and outcomes of certain decisions on the environment and inevitably, on people.
3. **Planner** – Your role is to plan the land use for Singapore. In other words, you are to balance all the different land use to ensure that every space is accounted for. The main land uses in Singapore are industrial, commercial, residential, recreational and natural. If you increase the land use of industrial, commercial and residential, you need to increase the land use for recreational and natural because everyone needs a place to relax and de-stress. Before you increase any land use, it is important to know which land use takes up more space and if this land use is still relevant in the future.
4. **Foreign Investor** – Your role concerns dollar-and-sense. Basically, you need to make calculated decisions to help your business grow. You are a foreign investor from the commercial sector, offering high value-added goods and services. In looking for a place to set up your business, you will consider the following factors – infrastructure (physical and telecommunications), environment (political and physical) and cheap labour (to reduce overhead costs). Keeping in mind the recent movement towards greening of businesses, locating your business to a place where the physical environment supports this movement is also key in your decision-making.
5. **Man-on-the-Street** – Your role is simply about bread-and-butter issues. In other words, it is all about survival. You are concerned about how you can put food on the table and live your life from day to day. You are not interested in politics or the environment but you are open enough to consider issues from both sides. Decided if the decisions for these issues affect you and the way you live your life.
6. **Moderator** – Your role is to ensure that every character keeps to his/her role. You are also a mediator when a conflict ensues and a time-keeper to make sure that all the necessary tasks are done within the time stipulated.



## SCENARIO:

Singapore is facing some uncertainties regarding her future. Being such a small city-state, she has been fighting hard since her independence just to keep afloat amidst all the larger nations, rich in natural resources. She has no natural resources and is highly dependent on her people.

One of her survival tactics is to be unique. That is why she is also known as a garden city-state. She never ceases to amaze the many visitors with lush greenery that lines her streets and expressways. Her geographic location also puts her at an advantage. In terms of accessibility, she is the midway point between the West and the East. In terms of biological diversity, she is located in a region where biodiversity is very rich and abundant.

As she begins to progress, she is attracting more and more foreign talents and investors. She needs more space to develop. Maybe some of the nature areas will have to go but these nature areas are also the reason why the foreign talents and investors decide to set up companies in Singapore. What should be done?

The government has gathered 4 groups of people together to discuss the future of Singapore. In the discussion, these 4 groups of people are to decide if the nature areas should be kept or if they should be cleared for development.

Write a one-page report on the decisions made and reasons for the decisions.

