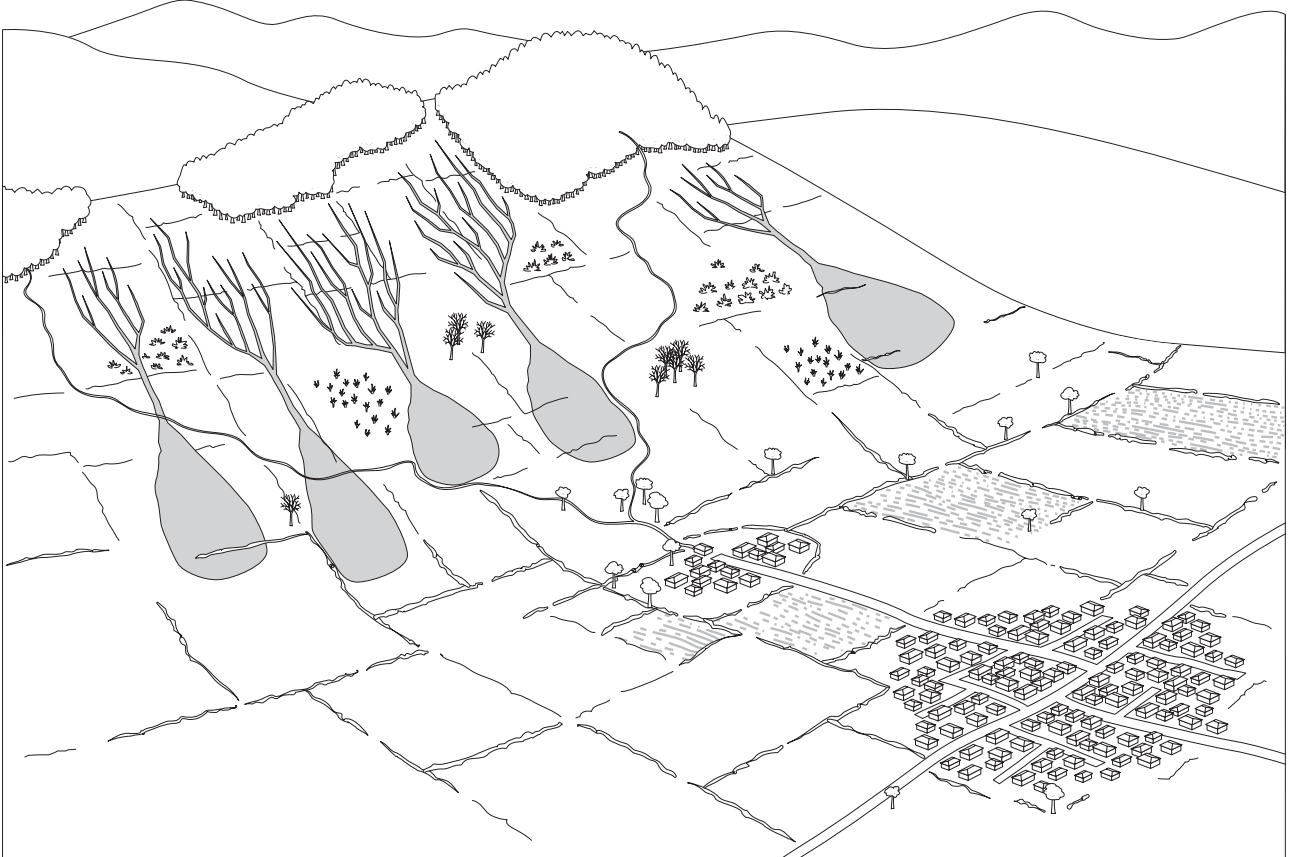


# Saving energy, land and trees

**When you are poor, you use whatever energy you can find.**



Imagine you are a student at a school in the village shown in the diagram. It is four kilometres to the forest at the top of the steep hill. There you will have to collect enough fallen branches to make a fire to cook your family's food.

Write a story on going to collect the wood and bringing it back every day after school.

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## Answers

**This will depend on the story each student writes. But answers might include:**

**How much time it takes to get there and back.**

**How heavy the wood is to carry (i.e. several kilos).**

**How there is less and less wood to collect.**

**How there is little time for play or even homework when wood collecting has to come first.**

**How the land looks more and more bare and more and**

**more eroded.**

## Notes

This is a very important topic, but as it introduces people and lands that will be unfamiliar to the students, you may need to give it some preparation in terms of locating a suitable place. If you want to use the location on which this diagram is based, then it is in hill lands of Kenya about midway between Mombasa and Nairobi. It is called the Sagalla Hills.

The key thing is to show students how having little money alters one's entire perspective about energy and where to find it. They can also see that trying to get energy results in many other parts of the environment being affected, causing further hardship. For example, deforestation causes soil erosion and ultimately loss of fertility, lower food yields and a less healthy society.