

DEFORESTATION (REASONS, PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS)

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Deforestation is a clearing of Earth's forests on a massive scale, often resulting in damage to the quality of the land. Forests still cover about 30 percent of the world's land area, but swaths the size of Panama is lost each and every year.

Forests are cut down for many reasons, but most of them are related to money or to people's need to provide for their families. The biggest driver of deforestation is agriculture. Farmers cut forests to provide more room for planting crops or grazing livestock. Logging operations, which provide the world's wood and paper products, also cut countless trees each year. Loggers, some of them acting illegally, also build roads to access more and more remote forests—which lead to further deforestation. Forests are also cut as a result of growing urban sprawl. Some can be caused by a combination of human and natural factors like wildfires and subsequent overgrazing, which may prevent the growth of young trees.

Deforestation has many negative effects on the environment. The most dramatic impact is a loss of habitat for millions of species. Forest soils are moist, but without protection from sun-blocking tree cover they quickly dry out. Trees also help perpetuate the water cycle by returning water vapor back into the atmosphere.

Deforestation also drives climate change. Trees play a critical role in absorbing the greenhouse gases that fuel global warming. Fewer forests mean larger amounts of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere—and increased speed and severity of global warming.

There are also problems with deforestation in Ukraine. The most struggling areas are Carpathian region and northern part of country. Deforestation is carried out by private companies which operate illegally mostly. Two problem zones may be selected. Mass deforestation in Carpathians causes large floods and high soil erosion every year. Trees which are cut down in Chernobyl zone are used for making furniture in further. It is very dangerous for people's life and has a negative influence on animals that live in forests.

The quickest solution to deforestation would be to simply stop cutting down trees. Though deforestation rates have slowed a bit in recent years, financial realities make this unlikely to occur.

A more workable solution is carefully forest resources management by eliminating clear-cutting to make sure that forest environments remain intact. The cutting that does occur should be balanced by the planting of enough young trees to replace the older ones felled in any given forest. The number of new tree plantations is growing each year, but their total still equals a tiny fraction of the Earth's forested land.