

PROBLEM



What is deforestation

Deforestation is the conversion of forest to another land use or the long-term reduction of the tree canopy cover. This includes conversion of natural forest to tree plantations, agriculture, pasture, water reservoirs and urban areas but excludes timber production areas managed to ensure the forest regenerates after logging.

What is happening

An estimated 13 million hectares of forests were lost each year between 2000 and 2010 due to deforestation.* In tropical rainforests particularly, deforestation continues to be an urgent environmental issue that jeopardizes people's livelihoods, threatens species, and intensifies global warming. Forests make a vital contribution to humanity, but their full potential will only be realized if we halt deforestation and forest degradation.

Effects of deforestation

Reduced biodiversity:

Deforestation and forest degradation can cause wildlife to decline. When forest cover is removed, wildlife is deprived of habitat and becomes more vulnerable for hunting.

Climate Change:

Trees play a major role in controlling Climate Change. The trees utilize the green house gases, restoring the balance in the atmosphere. With constant deforestation the ratio of green house gases in the atmosphere has increased, adding to our global warming woes.

Urbanization:

Overpopulation directly affects forest covers, as with the expansion of cities to meet the need of the ever-growing population, more land is needed to establish housing and settlements.