

# Deforestation



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**Deforestation is defined as the removal and destruction of forests or stands of trees, often for non-forest uses such as agriculture, urbanization, or mining. It involves the clearing or thinning of forests by humans, contributing to habitat loss and environmental changes. In simpler terms, it refers to the decrease in forest areas across the world due to various human activities.**

**An estimated 6.3 billions hectares of forests were destroyed in the scholar year 2023/2024. It is the equivalent of 1/10 of the area of France.**

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# Commercial agriculture



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**73% of deforestation is caused by commercial agriculture, mainly due to agricultural expansion on forest land for the cultivation of cattle pasture, soya and palm oil.**

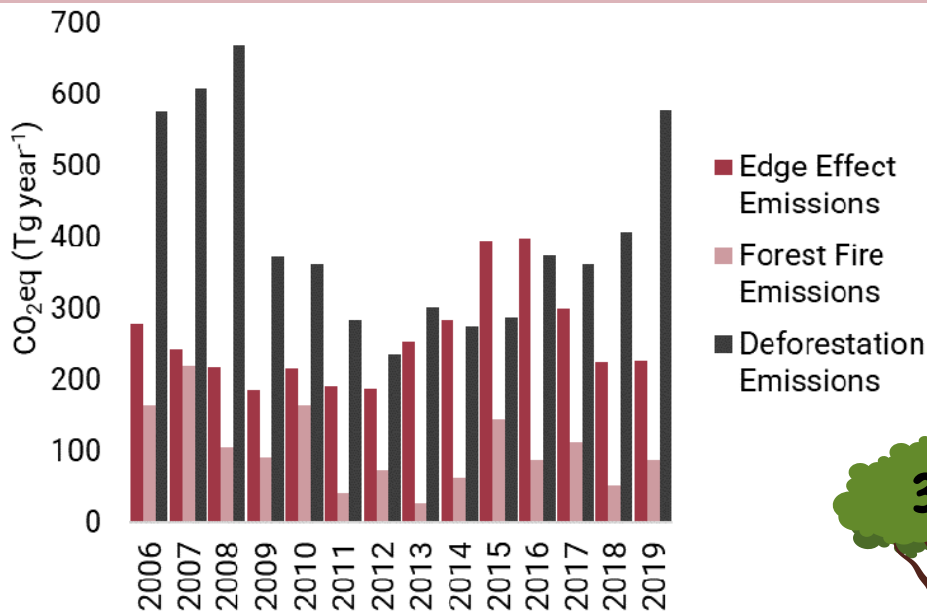
**Used for direct local consumption, or destined to exportation and livestock feeding, this expansion has a lot of harmful consequences : gas emission, water pumping, tropical forests and species disparition.**

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# CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



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**Deforestation and its consequences are responsible for 20% of greenhouse gas emissions. This significant share comes from two main sources :**

- Human emissions from the means employed in deforestation and the resulting exploitation of raw materials.**
  - The loss of the planet's capacity to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, as the loss of forests means the loss of precious carbon sinks, which are difficult to renew naturally.**
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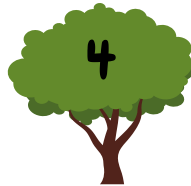
# Urban sprawl



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Demographic growth necessarily leads to an increase in the number of housing zones. Add to this the attractiveness of cities, and urban areas continue to spread out, organizing themselves into suburbs and residential neighborhoods, which expanse on natural zones in which forests and animal species were formally flourishing.

It is an estimated a 130% growth of the urban area each 30 years in the most developped country, a figure that is likely to rise even higher in the coming years.





# Habitat destruction



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**Forests are essential to biodiversity. Deforestation removes a large part of their identity, modifying the whole ecosystem cycle.**

- **Species lose their habitat, their food and their ability to reproduce.**
  - **Invasive species flourish, and new diseases can spread easily.**
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# Mining



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Forest soils, rich in valuable or useful minerals, are subject to mining, which accounts for 7% of global deforestation. What's more, since a lot of these areas are located in protected zones, it is estimated that a third of the earth's surface is affected by mining.

Finally, as mining requires deep drilling, the soil is severely damaged, prone to erosion, and may never be able to be reforested.

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# Populations and species



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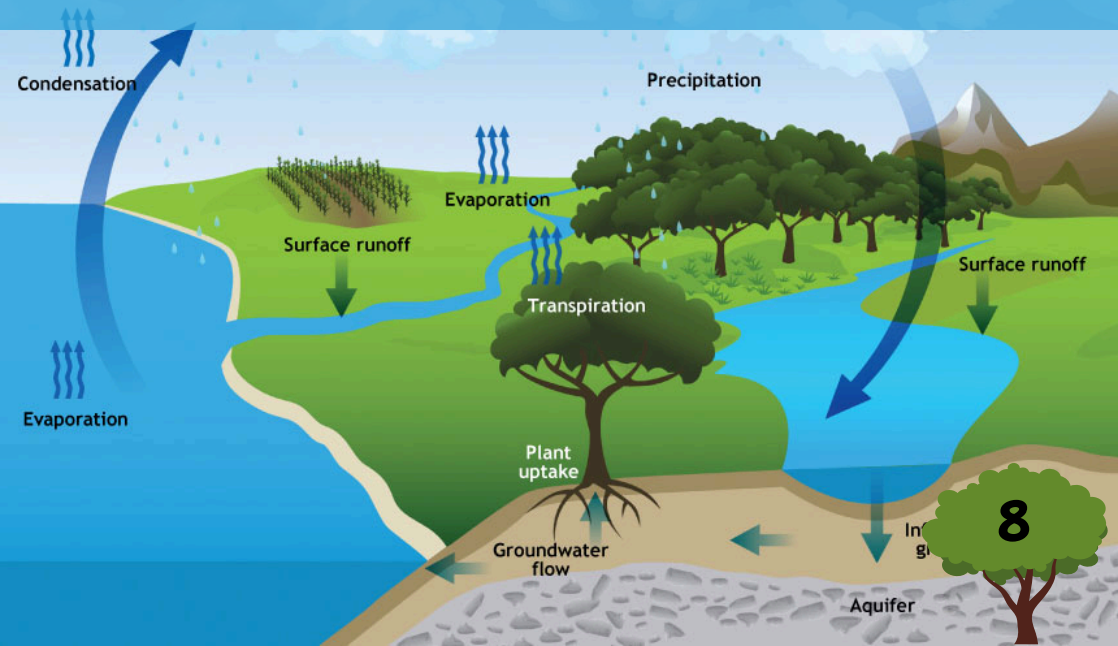
**Human activity in normally wild areas, such as forests, drives out and reduces the extent of habitat for animal species and indigenous populations. It is estimated that 137 animal species disappear every day due to deforestation.**

**Indigenous populations, for their part, find themselves at the center of socio-economic issues and are forced to mingle with the modern world, as the resources on which they relied are now disappearing.**

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# Water cycle perturbation



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**Reducing the number of trees in forests greatly reduces the transpiration component of total evaporation, and therefore less precipitation and an increase in frequency and intensity of droughts. Moreover, the lack of roots encourages erosion and the movement of sediment towards rivers, which can cause landslide and flooding.**

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# Global warming



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**Without the carbon sinks that forests represent, the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere worsens, reinforcing global warming.**

**Global warming can be explained by the fact that certain types of radiation remain in the atmosphere for longer, thus heating it up. This global warming is itself becoming a cause of the degradation of natural areas.**

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# Feux de forêt

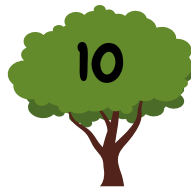


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**Forest fires have been increasing in frequency and intensity since 2001. They now account for 3 million hectares of forest loss, or almost a third of all forest loss worldwide.**

**They are self-sustaining in that they also generate CO<sub>2</sub>, contributing to global warming, which reinforces them.**

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# Consumption and dependance



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The vast majority of deforestation is driven by our need for raw materials (meat, wood, minerals). It is estimated, for example, that the average French person's consumption causes the degradation of 350 square meters of forest per year.

This system, to which we became accustomed but which is nonetheless destructive, prevents us from breaking out of a consumption loop in which a large proportion of the population finds comfort.

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