**DEFORESTATION**

**INTRODUCTION**

The word deforestation is used to describe the process of cutting down and burning the trees in forest and woodland and converting the land to other use. It also means that the nature of trees have changed, such as replacing slow growing native trees with fast growing woods which means that the precious eco-system of the forest into less bio-diverse ecosystems such as pasture, cropland, plantations and removal of rainforest. Forests still cover about 30 percent of the Earth’s surface, but each year about 13 million heaters of forest (approximately 78,000square miles) are converted to agriculture land or cleared for other purposes.

There are two key issues that surround deforestation. Trees absorb CO2, helping to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. Carbon is one of the key causes of global warming and reducing these gases will help to slow and stop the greenhouse effect.

The other issue is that trees are often cleared and burned. The wood from the tree is simply destroyed and not put to any positive use. The burning of the wood releases carbon into the atmosphere and releasing harmful greenhouse gases, yet reducing the number of trees that would have helped to remove this form the atmosphere. It also contributes to global warming tropical deforestation for about 20 percent of all greenhouse gases and has an important impact on the global economy.

Rainforest Action Network (RAN) campaigns for the forests, their inhabitants and the natural system that sustain life by transforming the global marketplace through education, grassroots organizing, and non-volatile direct action. RAN estimates that 90 percent of the rainforest is already gone.

**EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION**

The effects of deforestation are mainly causing our environment worse, such as soil erosion, biodiversity impacts and social effects.

**SOIL EROSION**

Immediate effects of deforestation include the washing away of soil in the monsoon season. This is because trees are no longer anchoring and binding the soil and so mud slides take place. The earth is leached of minerals by the large amounts of water. The lack of vegetation also means that there will be very few animals in the area. Most of nutrients are stored in the vegetation and the trees, so if these factors getting bad cycle, our eco-system will be destroyed. Once the tree and plant are cut down, essential nutrients separate easily and are washed out by rainfall. Thus, we would lose the nutrients for our body needs for daily life. If the soil gets dries and cracks under the sun’s heat without the shade of the trees, we can’t grow any plats since it’s lost the soil elements. According to the statistics, nearly 80% of tropical forest soil is now infertile, and they will cause more and more bad eco-system which will effects the animals who live there and their habitats. It may change their genetic as well.

**BIODIVERSITY**

Although tropical forests cover only about 7 percent of the Earth’s dry land, they probably harbor about half of all species on Earth. Many species are so specialized to microhabitats within the forest that they can only be found in small areas. Their specialization makes them vulnerable, to extinction. In addition to the species lost when an area is totally deforested ,the plant and animals in the fragments of forest that remain also become increasingly vulnerable, sometimes even committed, to extinction. The edges of the fragment dry out and are buffeted by hot winds; mature rainforest trees often die standing at the margins. Cascading changes in the types of trees, plants, and inserts that can survive in the fragments rapidly reduces biodiversity in the forest that remains. People may disagree about whether the extinction of other species through human action is an ethical issue, but there is little doubt about the practical problems that extinction poses. First, global markets consume rainforest products that depend on sustainable harvesting: latex, cork, fruit, nuts, timber, fibers, spices, natural oils and resins, and medicines. In addition, the genetic diversity of tropical forests is basically the deepest end of the planetary genes pool. Hidden in the genes of plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria that have not even been discovered yet may be cures for cancer and other diseases or the key to improving the yield and nutritional quality of foods- which the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization says will be crucial for feeding the nearly ten billion people the Earth will likely need to support in coming decades. Finally, genetic diversity in the planetary gene pool is crucial for the resilience of all life on Earth to rare but catastrophic environmental events, such as meteor impacts or massive, sustained volcanism.

**SOCIAL EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION**

Deforestation has so many social effects on our society its impact not only affects us humans but also plants, animals and the surrounding environment. Deforestation causes and forces the surrounding to adapt in order to survive such difficult situations.

Indigenous people who consider the forests, as their primary habitats are rendered homeless when forests are rendered homeless when forests are depleted; we so many people as their primary habitat. The people living in this area are forced to move while their surrounding’s being altered. The cutting down of forest trees forces the people living around such areas to move and seek shelter elsewhere.

People and Animals who live in the rainforest areas depend on their natural environment; people living in this areas close to the forest usually depend on their natural environment for basic things live food, shelter, water etc. Cutting down the trees in those areas usually have a tendency to affect all the living things surrounding those areas. Forcing all living things to migrate and look for another conductive atmosphere.

**STATISTIC**

A basic statics showing the population growth as population growth as population grows so does the rise and demand of more forests to be cut down and this leads to deforestation. This is a breakdown of land area per sq.km 2002/2008.

**THE TREE OF HOPE**

Haiti is one of the developing countries and nearly 70 percent of the Haitians depend on agricultural sector. Extreme soil erosion and deforestation mean that Haiti’s environment is one of the most devastated in the world. Only 30 percent of the land is suitable for cultivation, with the result that the majority of the rural population have anxious struggle for survival. Forests used to cover over none tenths of Haiti: now only 1-2 per cent remains densely forested. Artist Relief Funds took the initiative to restore Haiti’s forest and educate local community about the overwhelming effect of deforestation on the land and the economy. The project involves working in deforested areas with local residents in Haiti, farmers who are promoting economic sustainable development in the region through reforestation, environment education, and wetland restoration.

**CONCULUTION**

There is some hope. Projects with solar-powered ovens reduce the need to cut the trees for fuel. Crops best suited for poorer soils are being introduced. People are being educated that how deforestation leads to environmental and economic hardships. Some reforestation projects are under way. But all these will need to take hold and spread like wild fire if major changes are to take place.