



# HABITAT DESTRUCTION

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# What is habitat destruction?

Habitat destruction, also known as habitat loss and habitat reduction is the process where natural habitat is destroyed by human activity and becomes incapable of supporting native species. Habitat loss is one of the most prominent threats to biodiversity. It is the main cause of animal and plant extinctions around the world.



After logging

Before logging





# Problems and the Causes

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Clearing land for agriculture is the main cause of habitat destruction. Other major causes of habitat destruction include mining, logging, cattle ranching, trawling and urban sprawl. Through these various human activities natural habitats are destroyed to harvest natural resources for urbanization and industrial production.



Habitat destruction through mining



Habitat destruction through logging



Urban sprawl causing habitat destruction



Cleared land for cattle ranching

Humans have a great impact on habitat destruction, we are the main reason for the problems that have been started. For example an average of 137 species go extinct every day in the world's tropical rainforests. Logging and cattle ranching have all contributed to these devastating extinctions along with the loss of millions of acres of tropical rainforest. Logging has had an especially devastating effect as many people and animals alike lose their homes whenever trees are cut down. More than 150 acres of the rainforest is cut down every day, imagine the amount of species that have gone extinct that we didn't even know existed.

# Future Issues of Habitat Destruction

Reduction and extinction of animal and plant species are also some of the future effects.

If deforestation continues into the future many acres of forests will be gone, this means that animal and plant species will continue to disappear and go extinct. Another consequence of habitat destruction is that the amount of carbon in the air will begin to increase. Trees remove most of the carbon dioxide from the air through photosynthesis. When so many trees are removed the amount of greenhouse gases in the air increases. If the carbon dioxide stays within the atmosphere it creates more air pollution that will then warm the Earth causing climate change.

## 4 ANIMALS THAT WENT EXTINCT DUE TO HABITAT LOSS



**Spix's Macaw**



**Mount Glorious Torrent Frog**



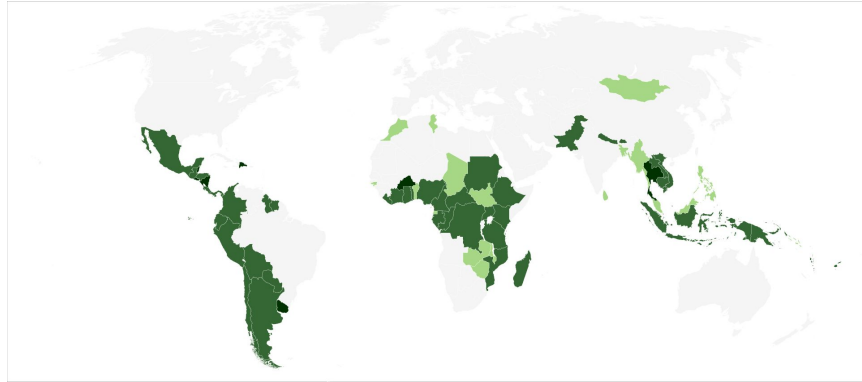
**Cryptic Treehunter**



**Formosan Clouded Leopard**

# Methods to Resolve Habitat Destruction

The REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) program is one of the ways of solving habitat destruction; it is a United Nations-backed framework that aims to curb climate change by ending deforestation/ destruction of forests. Cattle ranching is also a big issue regarding deforestation. Some solutions for this are fencing off forested areas and waterways from livestock, reducing the use of fire in land management, acquiring no-till cropping systems, and the use of terracing.



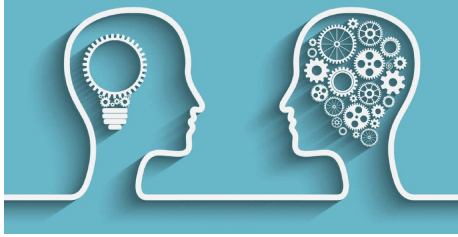
Countries participating in the UN-REDD program and/or Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

- UN-REDD participants
- Forest Carbon Partnership Facility participants
- participants in both



**Between 2003 and 2012, approximately 67 million hectares of forest land burned annually.**

Forest management now selectively removes trees to reduce fire risks, this can prevent large wildfires.



Educate others about the situation!



Plant trees in deforested areas!



Encourage others to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle!

## What YOU can do to help:

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As an individual you can help habitat destruction in various ways. Teaching others about the importance of our environment and how they can help stop or slow down the process of habitat destruction is one way you can help. By planting trees in deforested areas, it will aid to restore the ecosystem and, it will begin to heal and flourish overtime. Encouraging your friends, family and the people around you to think of eco-friendly ways of living. Support others and companies who are helping to protect the environment.

# Sources:

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