

DEFORESTATION AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR LIVES

Abdulla Hamad Yassin, Imaduddin School / 7E

The International Year of Forests was declared by the UN on the 2nd of February 2011 to raise awareness for the development and conservation of all the forests of the world. Forests cover almost 31 percent (almost 4 billion hectares) of the Earth's surface, and almost 13 million hectares of forests disappear each year due to deforestation.

Deforestation is a major threat to human life. Sadly, we have to take the responsibility for this threat. Huge forests are cleared to enable us to live in comfort, to get more land to build houses and for other uses. We cut down trees to manufacture things like paper, furniture

continued on page 7

and textiles.

At least 1.6 billion people depend on the forests to live. The majority are poor people who live nearby forests, and the rest are tribes who live in the forests. Deforestation will affect their lives and in some cases may even wipe out whole tribes of people. The surviving tribes will find it difficult to adapt to urban life.

Forests contain the majority of animal and plant life of the world. If the forests are wiped out, we will lose millions of different species of plants and animals, some of which have yet to be discovered. In addition to this, it will have a detrimental effect on all the ecosystems of the world, including our own. It will affect our food chain, among other things.



A healthy, beautiful forest.....



.....looks like this after deforestation.

Trees keep the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at a low level. But due to deforestation, a large number of trees are lost. Thus, the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is increasing at an alarming rate. When the Sun's heat enters the Earth's atmosphere, most of it is reflected back, but the greenhouse gases trap some of the heat and make the Earth warmer. This is known as the greenhouse effect, which causes global warming.

Global warming causes the polar ice caps to melt, thus raising sea levels. This endangers the population of low-lying countries such as the Maldives. A rise in sea level affects the ecosystems too. Thus our very survival is threatened by deforestation.

We can prevent deforestation, by raising awareness. We can start campaigns, write articles, and upload information on to the Internet. For every tree that we cut down, we can plant several more trees to replace them. We can reduce paper consumption by reusing and recycling. Reuse furniture, wooden toys and cardboard boxes.

We must each do our part to conserve our environment and endow a Green Earth for future generations.

