

# THE CONCERN OF DEFORESTATION IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

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Deforestation is a major concern in today's society. The destruction of the world's forest areas is leaving millions of acres uninhabitable. The varied species of animals and insects that use to live and thrive from these forests are rapidly becoming extinct. The destruction of the forest is also having a disadvantageous effect on the people through displacement thus forcing them to seek new living accommodations. Many of these people are losing their heritage and cultures leaving them with a sense of hopelessness. The barren land left by deforestation is also causing many ecological problems. Increased flooding and soil erosion are two of the other problems facing several countries like China, Brazil, and the Philippines. To gain a better understanding of the immense significance of this matter perhaps a look at the

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past, present and future are needed.

The public and environmentalists are realizing that deforestation is taking their tolls in more ways than ever before. With the reduction of 70 percent of the world's forests since the thirteenth century the effects have been linked to such things as mass soil erosion, substantial growth in desert and arid lands, as well as global warming. Although many environmentalists are making headway the battle seems at times pointless. Countries such as Japan, China and Vietnam as well as American owned companies do not share the same view as the environmentalists. In 1994 Japan obtained cutting rights to 1.5 million acres of dense timberland in Borneo alone (Wagner, 1998).

New problems are faced in countries every day concerning the environment. Today it is global warming; tomorrow it could be anything from nuclear devastation to lack of oxygen. Nobody really knows what is coming next but, one thing that is known is if the environmental problems of today cannot be dealt with in a constructive manner for all humanity, than how people are going to deal with the problems of tomorrow. Deforestation "Future Trends" Even though countries like the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom have made the most evident progress on environmental issues there must be a greater awareness on a global scale.

Among the obvious consequences of deforestation is the loss of living space. Seventy percent of the Earth's land animals and plants reside in forests. But the harm doesn't stop there. Rain forests help generate rainfall in drought-prone countries elsewhere. Studies have shown that destruction of rain forests in such West African countries as Nigeria, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire may have caused two decades of droughts in the interior of Africa, with attendant hardship and famine.



Environmental problems endanger every nation and if mother earth is going to survive than future technology may be the answer. The environmental future lies in "Sustainable Development" which is an interdisciplinary concept that springs from three intellectual sources, the ecological sciences, economics, and from philosophy and ethics Although we may be able to use new technology to enhance ways to rejuvenate the environment, people must still take the first step.

From the beginning of time man has utilized and destroyed every resource that they have come to acquire; people throughout the world are slowly realizing the inevitability of their indiscretions. Progress in areas of deforestation and reforestation are creeping along in small steps most of the time but it is progress all the same. The hope of many environmentalists is that these positive results will be widely replicated by others and will gradually replace practices that cause more severe environmental impacts or problems. The unanswered question is whether such a hope is realistic in the face of the impersonal, price-driven forces of global markets and the reality that even the best production processes today still require the use of growing amounts of materials, energy and the continued transformation of the landscape for the expanding human population.

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