

# Deforestation

## By Amanda Cui

Deforestation is devastating our planet. <sup>1</sup>Human beings cut down trees, not knowing how much harm they do to our planet, and our lives, and other lives of animals. People cut down trees for resources that we have enough of, and we always think when we cut down trees, “oh I’m not harming anyone! I just need extra wood!”, but it causes loss of animal habitat, overgrazing, lack of oxygen and useful resources that we need to survive. We could warn others, and limit the amount of trees we cut, so we could slow down the effect of deforestation so far, and it would make a difference.

<sup>2</sup>One reason why we should stop deforestation is trees provide us many things that we need. If the last tree gets cut down, we would lack the level of oxygen, and it would be harder for us to live, with only limited amount of oxygen. There would also be no rain without trees since trees absorb water from the soil and release it through evapotranspiration, so after time, we would be out of water. I think that if we maybe make or plant something that would absorb water itself, we wouldn’t have to worry more about losing water, but we still would lack oxygen. For the oxygen, we could try to restrict forests or put up signs or warnings, to not go in the forests for wood.

Another reason why deforestation is dangerous, is because farmers cut down many trees for more farming space, but if they keep cutting down trees and planting more crops, too much, in the same space, they would over graze, and it would harm the soil, leading to harmed crops. I think that we could solve this problem by first, warning farmers, and maybe putting signs or limits of how much you can farm until you over graze, and maybe having different spots where

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<sup>1</sup> "Goal 15 .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform."

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15>. Accessed 10 Apr. 2018.

<sup>2</sup> "No Trees... No Humans. | Our Science | Learn Science at Scitable." 12 Apr. 2011, [https://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/our-science/no\\_trees\\_no\\_humans](https://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/our-science/no_trees_no_humans). Accessed 10 Apr. 2018.

you can farm, so then you won't over graze as easily. We could also, (as I said before) make a law, that shows the limit of crops being able to be planted in one area, that could stop farmers from wanting to cut more trees, for more space, because they can't and instead they can find new space to farm.

The last reason why deforestation has to stop, is because it harms the life of many animals, and their habitats, most of all. Animal life is very important because after a period of time, if we keep destroying their habitats, they won't be able to live, and soon, they could die. Now, you might be thinking, "how does that affect me?", well, this might not happen to you all the time, but if we continue chopping off lives and homes, you'll be seeing wild animals all over the place, trying to find a home, and it can distract streets, parks, and local places where people go, that now animals have to go, because they don't have a home. I think that we should stop this, by putting small houses, or handmade houses for the animals that run off. We could put some all over, and when the wildlife come out, instead of wondering about everywhere, and having the chance of being killed, they could go in the little shelter, and stay there, until they could go on their own to get another habitat.

These are all the reasons why I want to stop deforestation. It is a major problem, and is growing in a fast rate. It is surprising that a massive <sup>3</sup>3.5 billion to 7 billion trees are getting cut down each year, and it is a huge problem. It is affecting our lives, and also hurting others. Animals, crops, and weather, is all getting affected, so if we each complete just a little task to help, we could get close to slowing down the amount of deforestation.

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<sup>3</sup> "How many trees are cut down every year? - Rainforest Action Network." 6 Mar. 2017, [https://www.ran.org/how\\_many\\_trees\\_are\\_cut\\_down\\_every\\_year](https://www.ran.org/how_many_trees_are_cut_down_every_year). Accessed 10 Apr. 2018.