

## **Deforestation and Its Effect on the Environment**

### **Анотація**

*Розглянуто негативні наслідки проблеми вирубування лісу та як їм запобігти.*

**Ключові слова:** *знищення лісонасаджень, дерева, запобігання, лісовідновлення, ефект.*

### **Abstract**

*Effects of Deforestation and how to prevent it are considered in this article.*

**Keywords:** *deforestation, trees, preventing, reforestation, effect.*

Deforestation is clearing Earth's forests on a massive scale, often resulting in damage to the quality of the land. Forests still cover about 30 percent of the world's land area, but swaths the size of Panama are lost each and every year.

The world's rain forests could completely vanish in a hundred years at the current rate of deforestation [1].

There are many causes of deforestation. The WWF reports that half of the trees illegally removed from forests are used as fuel.

Some other common reasons are:

- To make more land available for housing and urbanization
- To harvest timber to create commercial items such as paper, furniture and homes
- To create ingredients that are highly prized consumer items, such as the oil from palm trees
- To create room for cattle ranching

Common methods of deforestation are burning trees and clear cutting. These tactics leave the land completely barren and are controversial practices.

Clear cutting is when large swaths of land are cut down all at once. A forestry expert quoted by the Natural Resources Defense Council describes clear cutting as "an ecological trauma that has no precedent in nature except for a major volcanic eruption."

Burning can be done quickly, in vast swaths of land, or more slowly with the slash-and-burn technique. Slash and burn agriculture entails cutting down a patch of trees, burning them and growing crops on the land. The ash from the burned trees provides some nourishment for the plants and the land is weed-free from the burning. When the soil becomes less nourishing and weeds begin to reappear over years of use, the farmers move on to a new patch of land and begin the process again. [2].

Let's consider some effects of Deforestation:

1. **Climate Imbalance:** Deforestation also affects the climate in more than one ways. Trees release water vapor in the air, which is compromised on with the lack of trees. Trees also provide the required shade that keeps the soil moist. This leads to the imbalance in the atmospheric temperature further making conditions for the ecology difficult. Flora and fauna across the world are accustomed to their habitat. This haphazard clearance of forests have forced several of these animals to shift from their native environment. Due to this several species are finding it difficult to survive or adapt to new habitats.

2. **Increase in Global Warming:** Trees play a major role in controlling global warming. The trees utilize the green house gases, restoring the balance in the atmosphere. With constant deforestation the ratio of green house gases in the atmosphere has increased, adding to our global warming woes.

3. **Soil Erosion:** Also due to the shade of trees the soil remains moist. With the clearance of tree cover, the soil is directly exposed to the sun, making it dry.

4. **Floods:** When it rains, trees absorb and store large amount of water with the help of their roots. When they are cut down, the flow of water is disrupted and leads to floods in some areas and droughts in other.

5. **Wildlife Extinction:** Due to massive felling down of trees, various species of animals are lost. They lose their habitat and forced to move to new location. Some of them are even pushed to extinction. Our world has lost so many species of plants and animals in last couple of decades [3].

So how to prevent deforestation?

You don't have to live in the middle of a rainforest to do your part in preventing deforestation. Below are a few suggestions to consider when you are interested in preserving the amount of forests located in the rest of the world, as well as right in your own backyard:

a) **Use Recycled Items:** Today, a consumer can purchase a variety of recycled items, including notebook

paper, books, toilet paper, and shopping bags. When people use recycled products and make a conscious effort not to waste, the demand for new raw material to replace these items can decrease.

b) Tree Care: When cutting down trees are single out full-grown specimens and spare younger varieties. In the event that you must remove a tree for a legitimate reason (for safety issues or power line interference), make sure that for every tree lost is planted in its place.

c) Farming Practices: Those who plant crops at a farm can participate in putting a dent in deforestation by rotating crops. It is suggested to replace the habit of using different portions of land each year with using the same portion of land to plant different crops. This practice has proven effective in maintaining soil fertility. Farmers may also embrace many other options, such as high-yield hybrid crops and hydroponics, which relies on a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions instead of soil.

d) Cut Back on Palm Oil: In Malaysia and Indonesia, an increasing amount of trees are cut down in order to generate the palm oil used in the production of some breads, chocolates, and shampoos. As a result, the native orangutans are losing their habitat. You can spread awareness and limit your consumption of products containing this type of oil.

e) Coals: As the chill of winter takes over the autumn season, try using coals instead of firewood in your fireplace. While it only takes a couple of hours to consume a few logs here and there, keep in mind that it takes years for one tree to fully grow.

f) Reforestation: Take a page from the People's Republic of China, where the government has in the past set a requirement that every able-bodied citizen between the ages of 11 and 60 is responsible for planting three to five trees per year or complete an equal amount of work in other areas of forestry. Since 1982, the government claims that at least one billion trees have been planted in China as a result of the program.

g) Become an Advocate: Become an advocate of reforestation. Learn how you can spread the word. For instance, a middle school in Washington took to the streets asking people for just one penny. They explained that the money would go towards purchasing acres of Amazonian rainforest. If successful, this move ensures that no deforestation can take place on the bought land. The effort was twofold spreading information and collecting money for a good cause.

h) Arbor Day Foundation's Rain Forest Rescue: Support programs, such as this Arbor Day Foundation gem, which assists in the prevention of deforestation. Donated money is used to purchase and preserve rainforest space before lumber companies can get a hold of the land. As a result, the Arbor Day Foundation is able to protect the land from deforestation.

i) Support Conservation Organizations: Lend your support through donations of your time, money, or actions to organizations that run programs concentrating on the preservation of forest habitats, such as Greenpeace, World Wide Fund for Nature, Community Forestry International, and Conservation International.

#### СПИСОК ВИКОРИСТАНОЇ ЛІТЕРАТУРИ

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