

Deforestation

Forests cover about of the planet. And the ecosystems they create play an in supporting life on But deforestation is clearing earth's forest on a massive scale. And at the rate of destruction, the world's rainforest can completely disappear within years. Why care about ? Together, forestry and agriculture are of greenhouse gas emissions, making deforestation a significant contributor to Deforestation impacts the amount of in the atmosphere in two ways. First, when trees are felled, they release the carbon they are storing into the Second, trees play a critical role in absorbing the greenhouse gases that fuel Fewer forests mean larger amounts of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere, and speed and severity of global warming. In addition to helping regulate the earth's climate, forests provide for over 80% of the plants and animals that live on But deforestation destroys these habitats, diminishing Some estimate that four to six rainforest go extinct each year. This also affects the more than two billion people who rely on forests as sources of food and shelter. The biggest driver of deforestation is Farmers chop down trees in order to plant crops like soybeans, palm trees and cocoa, or to make room to raise livestock for beef. Logging operations which the world's wood and paper products also cut countless trees each year. Forests are also destroyed growing urban sprawl, as land is developed for dwellings. The effects of deforestation are grave, but not irreversible. Efforts such as managing forest , eliminating clear-cutting and planting new trees to replace those removed, are already being made to reduce deforestation's on our planet. And some plant and animal species are gone forever, combating deforestation can help further loss of biodiversity.

