Committee: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Issue: Reversing Forest loss and degradation**.**

Student Officer: Angelina Kyrousi

Position: Deputy President

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PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

I extend my warmest greetings to all of you.

My name is Angelina Kyrousi, and I am a 16-year-old student who will be joining IB1 at The American College of Greece in the coming year. This is my first experience chairing in a conference, and I feel both delighted and honored to be serving as a Deputy President in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Given the gravity of the topic at hand, I would like to strongly encourage all delegates to delve deeper into the issue of deforestation beyond the confines of the study guide provided. While the guide offers valuable insights and a solid foundation, it is crucial that you expand your research and explore additional resources to obtain a comprehensive understanding of this issue.

I urge each of you to also make use of the bibliography as you conduct further research. I am here to assist and support you throughout the conference journey. If you have any questions, concerns, or require further clarification on any aspect of the topic or conference procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to provide guidance and address any queries you may have.

Lastly, I sincerely hope that as you dive deeper into the topic and conduct your research, you will find it as fascinating and thought-provoking as I do. Enjoy the reading process, gain valuable insights, and prepare yourselves for an engaging and fruitful debate during the conference.

Best regards,

Angelina Kyrousi A.Kyrousi@acg.edu

INTRODUCTION

Forest loss and degradation, the progressive decline in forest cover and quality, pose a significant threat to global ecosystems and human well-being. Forests, covering approximately 30% of the Earth's land area[1], play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity, regulating climate, and supporting livelihoods. However, the alarming rate of deforestation**,** which is, according to the FAO, estimated at 13 million hectares annually[2] an area approximately the size of Greece, has far-reaching consequences. It is often thought that environmental concerns are a modern issue, that humanity's destruction of nature and ecosystems is a result of very recent population growth and increasing consumption[3]. When it comes to some problems, such as climate change, it is true. However, it's not the case for forest loss and degradation. Humans have been cutting down trees for millennia.

Deforestation not only contributes to climate change through increased greenhouse gas emissions but also results in the loss of critical habitats for numerous plant and animal species. Furthermore, it adversely affects local communities and indigenous people who depend on forests for their substance and cultural heritage. Indigenous people have played a crucial role in forest conservation with their traditional knowledge and sustainable practices that have contributed to the preservation of forest ecosystems for generations. We must pay attention to the importance of the recognition of Indigenous people's rights and involvement in forest management must be seen as essential for effective conservation efforts.

[1] "Deforestation and Forest Degradation." *WWF*, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation. Accessed 17 July 2023.

[2] "Forest Loss: World Resources Institute Research." *Global Forest Review*, research.wri.org/gfr/forest-extent-indicators/forest-loss. Accessed 18 July 2023.

[3] Ritchie, Hannah, et al. "Population Growth." *Our World in Data*, 11 July 2023, ourworldindata.org/population-growth.

Deforestation removes the protection which natural forests provide against storms, floods, and extreme fluctuations in local weather patterns. It can also have negative social impacts on poverty, not just because many of the world's poor depend on forests for their livelihoods, but also because of the ecosystem services which forests provide. The negative impact of deforestation on human health through increases in air pollutants and the spread of insect-borne diseases like malaria is also significant.

Drivers of deforestation are diverse, complex and act in various combinations in different geographic locations. Some of the main forest loss and degradation factors are, commodity-driven deforestation, urbanization, shifting agriculture, forestry production and wildfires. The construction of roads, dams and other infrastructure projects has often resulted in forest loss and degradation. These projects facilitate access to previously inaccessible areas, leading to increased deforestation for resource extraction, settlement, and transportation networks. Reversing forest loss and degradation is of paramount importance to mitigate climate change, safeguard biodiversity, protect livelihoods and ensure sustainable use of natural resources for future generations.

Over time, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of forests and the need for their conservation. The establishment of national parks, protected areas and forest reserves has aimed to safeguard forest ecosystems and biodiversity. The United Nations Framework Convention for Climate change among other international agreements and initiatives such as the REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) have emphasized the importance of addressing deforestation and promoting sustainable forest management.

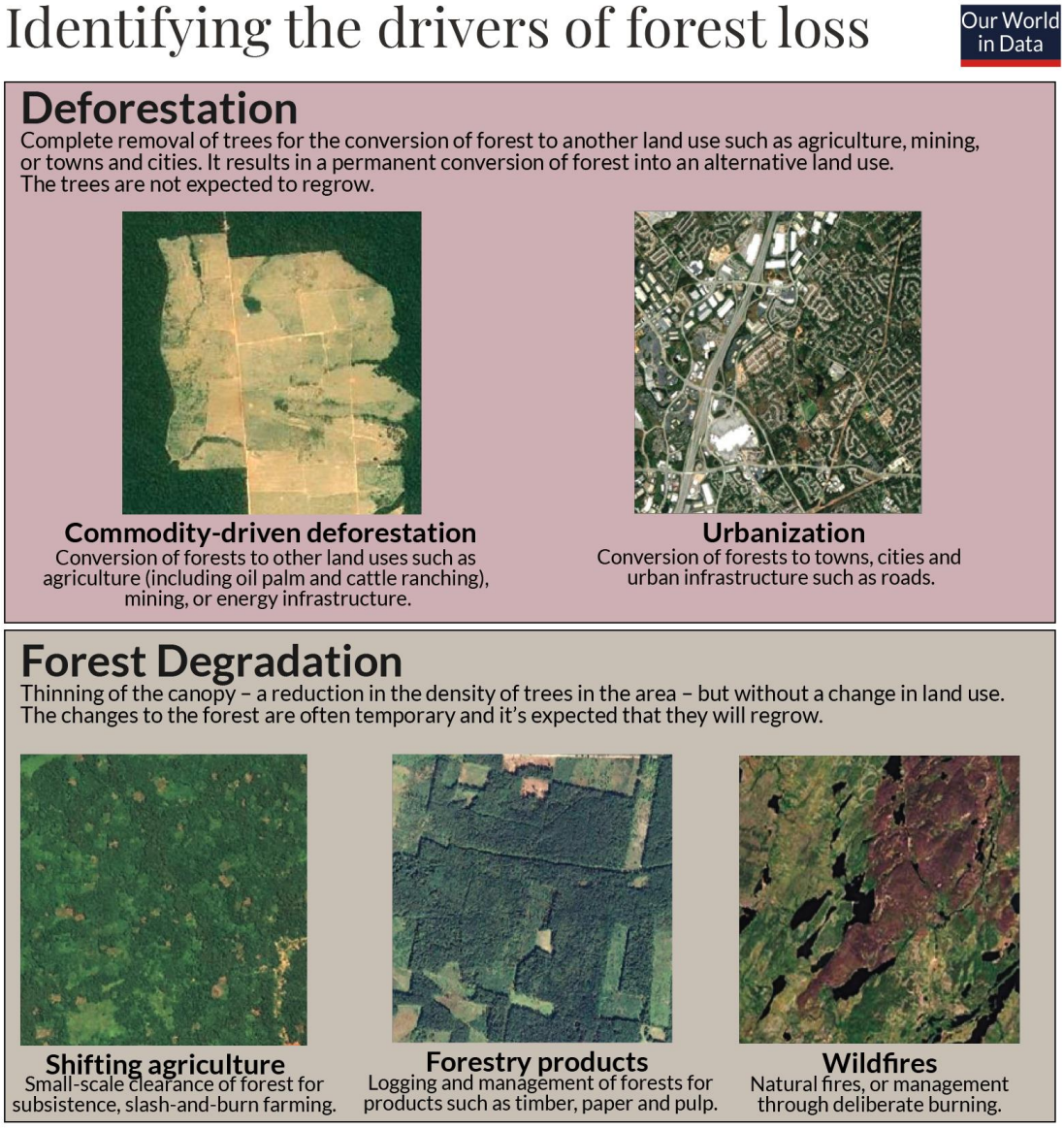

Image 1: Drivers of forest loss.[4]

[4] Ritchie, Hannah, and Max Roser. "Deforestation and Forest Loss." *Our World in Data*, 9 Feb. 2021, ourworldindata.org/deforestation.

Image 2: Deforestation in Myanmar. [5]

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Deforestation

Deforestation is the complete removal of trees for the conversion of forest to another land use such as agriculture, mining, or towns and cities. It results in a permanent conversion of forest into an alternative land use.[6]

Erosion

Erosion is the geological process in which earthen materials are worn away and transported by natural forces such as wind or water.[7]

Forest degradation

[5] "Deforestation and Forest Degradation." *IUCN*, 7 July 2022, www.iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/deforestation-and-forest-degradation.

[6] Ritchie, Hannah, and Max Roser. "Deforestation and Forest Loss." *Our World in Data*, 9 Feb. 2021, ourworldindata.org/deforestation.

[7] "Erosion." *Education*, education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/erosion/. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.

Forest degradation measures a thinning of the canopy – a reduction in the density of trees in the area – but without a change in land use. The changes to the forest are often temporary and it's expected that they will regrow.[8]

Hectare

A unit used for measuring land. One hectare is the same as 10,000 square meters.[9]

Shifting agriculture

Shifting agriculture is the small to medium-scale conversion of forest for farming, that is later abandoned so that forests regrow. This is common of local, subsistence farming systems where populations will clear forest, use it to grow crops, then move on to another plot of land[10].

Timber

Trees that are grown so that the wood from them can be used for building..[11]

Urbanization

Urbanization is the long-term, permanent conversion of forests to towns, cities, and urban infrastructure such as roads.[12]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical deforestation

Early civilizations such as the ancient Mesopotamians and Egyptians who cleared forests for agriculture and urbanization. The expansion of empires and

[8] Ritchie, Hannah, and Max Roser. "Deforestation and Forest Loss." *Our World in Data*, 9 Feb. 2021, ourworldindata.org/deforestation.

[9] "Hectare." *Cambridge Dictionary*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hectare. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.

[10] Ritchie, Hannah, and Max Roser. "Deforestation and Forest Loss." *Our World in Data*, 9 Feb. 2021, ourworldindata.org/deforestation.

[11] "Timber." *Cambridge Dictionary*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/timber. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.

[12] Ritchie, Hannah, and Max Roser. "Deforestation and Forest Loss." *Our World in Data*, 9 Feb. 2021, ourworldindata.org/deforestation.

colonization further contributed to widespread deforestation for timber, fuel, and land conversion.

Between two million years ago and approximately 12,000 years ago, the entire human population resided in nomadic communities engaged in hunting and gathering activities[13]. However, a significant cultural transition occurred when humans started to settle in permanent locations and cultivate their own crops. This shift to agriculture resulted in a remarkable increase in population growth[14]. Unfortunately, this change not only led to a decline in the overall quality of life for many individuals but also marked the beginning of the widespread practice of deforesting land for timber and space, a practice that persists to the present day. Large-scale clearing of forests, often through slash-and-burn practices, occurred during the 20th Century due to the expansion of agriculture, particularly for commercial crops such as soy, palm oil and cattle ranching. Prior to the 20th century, deforestation was predominantly observed in the temperate areas of Europe, North America, and Asia. This phenomenon has significantly transformed landscapes across the globe over an extended period. Approximately 2,000 years ago, forests covered 80 percent of Western Europe; however, presently, only 34 percent of these forests persist. During the colonization of the New World by Europeans from the 1600s to the 1870s, nearly half of the woodlands in the eastern part of America were lost. Similarly, in China, a mere 20 percent of their forests have survived to this day[15]

[13] "Hunter-Gatherer Culture." *Education*, education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/hunter-gatherer-culture/#. Accessed 17 July 2023.
[14] "Hunter-Gatherer Culture." *Education*, education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/hunter-gatherer-culture/#. Accessed 17 July 2023.
[15] "Deforestation." Education, education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/deforestation/. Accessed 17 July 2023.

Image 3: Deforestation. Trees are chopped down to be sold as timber.[16]

Modern deforestation

In modern times, deforestation remains primarily driven by agricultural activities. However, it is the tropical regions that bear the brunt of tree loss. Since the 1950s, over half of the world's rainforests have been lost, with tropical regions accounting for two-thirds of global forest cover loss. The rate of deforestation has intensified, with an alarming 43 million hectares of forest - an area equivalent to Morocco - being cleared between 2004 and 2017. This concerning trend is largely fueled by rapid population growth and the resulting increased demand for food, space, and commodities. The conversion of land for beef, soy, palm oil, and timber products represent the primary drivers of deforestation. In the last five decades, approximately 17 percent of the Amazon rainforest[17] has been destroyed, and this

[16] "Deforestation." *Education*, education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/deforestation/. Accessed 17 July 2023.

[17] "Deforestation and Forest Degradation." WWF, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation. Accessed 17 July 2023.

rate of destruction is currently accelerating. If this trajectory persists, it is projected that all of the world's rainforests will disappear within the next century.

IMPACTS OF FOREST LOSS AND DEGRADATION

The impacts of forest loss and degradation are much more significant than one could ever think. Forests play a crucial role in the carbon and water cycles, which are essential for sustaining life. When forests are destroyed, it triggers a series of changes that affect both local and global ecosystems. Some of the key impacts include:

Reduced Biodiversity

Forests house more than three-quarters of the world's documented land-based species[18]. When forests are lost, many species are unable to survive in the remaining fragmented forest areas. This makes them more vulnerable to hunting and poaching, leading to dwindling populations and eventual extinction. Even localized deforestation can result in extinction, as unique species often exist in isolated geographic locations.

Increased Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Tropical forests alone store a vast amount of carbon, several times more than the annual emissions from human activities. However, when forests are cut down, burned, or removed, they release carbon into the atmosphere instead of absorbing it. Deforestation and forest degradation account for approximately 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions[19], contributing to climate change, altered weather patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events.

[18] "Deforestation and Forest Degradation." WWF, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation. Accessed 17 July 2023.
[19] "Deforestation and Forest Degradation." WWF, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation. Accessed 17 July 2023.

Disruption of Water Cycles

Disruption of Water Cycles: Trees play a crucial role in maintaining the balance between land and atmospheric water. Deforestation and degradation disrupt this balance, leading to changes in precipitation and river flow patterns.

Increased Soil Erosion

Forests help prevent soil erosion by anchoring fertile soil. However, when trees are removed, the soil becomes susceptible to erosion, leading to its loss and its eventual deposition in rivers. The agricultural plants that replace the trees often fail to hold onto the soil, exacerbating the problem. It is estimated that around one-third of the world's arable land has been lost due to soil erosion and degradation since 1960, perpetuating a cycle of soil loss as more forests are cleared for agriculture.[20]

Disrupted Livelihoods

Forests are vital for the livelihoods of 1.25 billion people worldwide who depend on them for shelter, water, fuel, and food security. This includes approximately 60 million indigenous people[21]. Deforestation has devastating consequences for these communities, leading to social conflicts, migration, and exploitation. Examples include social conflicts and forced labor in soy plantations in Brazil and disruptions in the Greater Mekong region in Southeast Asia.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Brazil

[20] "Deforestation and Forest Degradation." *WWF*, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation. Accessed 17 July 2023.

[21] "Deforestation and Forest Degradation." *WWF*, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation. Accessed 17 July 2023.

Brazil is a country that has been closely associated with discussions on forest loss and degradation, primarily due to its vast Amazon rainforest. Brazil is home to the largest portion of the Amazon rainforest, which is known for its exceptional biodiversity and critical role in regulating the global climate. The Amazon rainforest is under constant pressure from various factors contributing to deforestation and degradation. Brazil has experienced significant deforestation in the Amazon region. In the past, the main drivers of deforestation included agricultural expansion (especially for cattle ranching and soybean cultivation), illegal logging, mining activities, and infrastructure development. Over the years, Brazil has implemented several environmental policies and initiatives to combat deforestation and promote sustainable forest management. One notable policy is the Forest Code, which outlines rules and regulations for land use and protection of forests. Additionally, Brazil has established protected areas and indigenous reserves to conserve forest ecosystems and support the rights of indigenous peoples. Furthermore, Brazil has invested in monitoring systems to track deforestation in the Amazon. Brazil's deforestation rates and forest policies have attracted significant international attention and concern. The Amazon rainforest is considered a global resource, and its preservation is crucial for climate regulation and biodiversity conservation. Debates and discussions on the Amazon often involve international organizations, governments, NGOs, and indigenous rights advocates. Lastly, Brazil has launched various initiatives to address deforestation and promote sustainable development in the Amazon region. For example, the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon (PPCDAm) outlines strategies to reduce deforestation rates and support sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Image 4: Aerial view of a devastated area of the Amazon Forest between the cities of Xapuri and Rio, Acre, Brazil.[22]

Indonesia

The primary cause of deforestation in Indonesia is the expansion of agriculture. Indonesia is the world's largest palm oil producer, and the industry has rapidly expanded, leading to extensive land clearing for palm oil plantations. The logging industry is also a significant contributor to deforestation, with illegal logging occurring in many protected areas. Additionally, mining activities, such as coal and gold mining, have led to the destruction of large areas of forests and the pollution of waterways. Indonesia's forest cover has been severely impacted, with only 65% remaining of the original forest. In the last 20 years, forest cover has significantly declined, and it shows no signs of slowing down. On the island of Borneo, for example, more logs were felled between 1985 and 2000 than in all of Africa and South America combined.

[22] "Devastated Amazon Forest." *WWF*, www.worldwildlife.org/photos/devastated-amazon-forest. Accessed 17 July 2023.

Nigeria

Nigeria has been extremely affected by deforestation, with only 1% of its original forest remaining and 90% of its trees cut down. Since 1990, 36% of Nigeria's trees have been removed. The country's deforestation is mainly caused by illegal logging, agriculture, and infrastructure development. Nigeria is taking steps to address deforestation through the establishment of protected areas with reforestation programs and promoting sustainable land management practices however, further efforts are needed to strengthen policy enforcement and community engagement to actively combat deforestation and promote sustainable forest management.

Myanmar

The forests of Myanmar are home to incredible biodiversity, including important tiger and Asian elephant populations. But from 2010 to 2015 Myanmar had the third highest annual net loss of forest area in the world, losing an average of half a million hectares of forest every year. Agricultural conversion, logging and infrastructure development threaten the forests that millions of people rely on directly for their livelihoods.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The vast forest of the Congo basin is the second largest tropical rainforest on earth and serves as the lungs of Africa. It's an incredibly rich and diverse ecosystem that provides food, freshwater shelter, and medicine for tens of millions of local and indigenous peoples and is home to critically endangered wildlife species. However, the Congo Basin's forests are under threat. The Congo Basin is the target of several international industrial scale agriculture developers who are looking to cash in on new reparations in Africa. These plantations, however, often fuel wide-scale deforestation and spark social conflict. Furthermore, unsustainable, and illegal logging in the Congo Basin Forest by both big and small companies is leading to deforestation, destruction of wildlife habitat, diminished resilience to climate change and damaging local communities. For too long, valuable trees have been illegally cut for timber and

exported for products like furniture and flooring. Currently, illegal timber cut in the Congo Basin is being sent around the world, including the European Union member states, the United States, and increasingly to China. Both the United States and the EU have banned importing illegal timber. The Lacey Act and EU Timber Regulation respectively are beginning to be enforced and changing how companies assess the timber they are buying. However, if the legal timber can flow into China, be turned into finished consumer goods and then resold on the global market, the incentive to illegally log the Congo Basin Forest will remain.

WWF (WorldWide Fund for Nature)

WWF, or the WorldWide Fund for Nature, is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental conservation and sustainable development. With a presence in over 100 countries, WWF works to protect the world's natural resources, promote biodiversity, and combat issues such as climate change, deforestation, habitat loss, and unsustainable practices. Through collaboration with governments, businesses, communities, and individuals, WWF strives to create a future where people and nature can thrive in harmony. WWF has been working to protect forests for more than 50 years. WWF works with governments, companies, communities, and other stakeholders to promote certification for responsible forest management practices, combat illegal logging, reform trade policies, protect forested areas, and more. WWF employs a range of strategies to combat forest loss and degradation. This involves engaging with governments through programs like REDD+ and collaborating with agricultural producers through market-based certification schemes. WWF also focuses on influencing infrastructure financing decisions, promoting proper management of conservation areas through Project Finance for Permanence (PFP), advocating for sustainable bioenergy alternatives, and influencing policies that value natural resources and ecosystem services. Through these approaches, WWF strives to address the drivers of deforestation and preserve the world's forests.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

IUCN is a global network of governmental and non-governmental organizations committed to biodiversity conservation; it plays a vital role in providing scientific expertise, policy guidance and conservation strategies related to forests including addressing deforestation, protecting forest ecosystems, and promoting sustainable land use practices. One of IUCN'S most recognized actions is the Bonn Challenge.

What is The Bonn challenge?

The Bonn Challenge is a global effort aimed at restoring degraded and deforested landscapes. It was launched in 2011 by the Government of Germany and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) during a ministerial conference held in Bonn, Germany. The goal of the Bonn Challenge is to restore 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2030 and to contribute to the global target of restoring 1 billion hectares by 2030, as set under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The Bonn Challenge seeks to bring together governments, international organizations, civil society, indigenous peoples, and the private sector to commit to and support large-scale restoration initiatives. It focuses on forest landscape restoration, which involves restoring ecological integrity, enhancing biodiversity, and improving the livelihoods of local communities.[23] The IUCN plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the Bonn Challenge. It provides technical expertise, guidance, and policy support to countries and facilitates knowledge sharing among stakeholders. The IUCN also assists in mobilizing resources, fostering partnerships, and advocating for supportive policies to accelerate restoration efforts.

[23] "The Bonn Challenge." *Global Landscapes Forum*, 10 Sept. 2020, www.globallandscapesforum.org/bonn-challenge/.

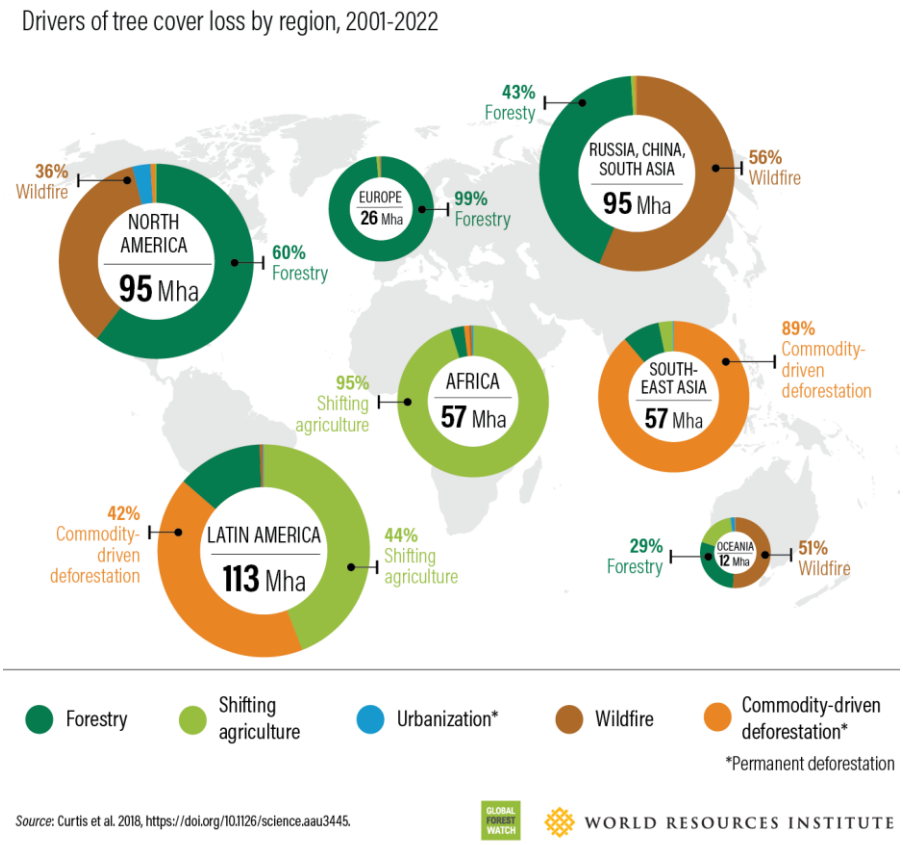

Image 5: Drivers of tree cover loss by region , 2001-2022.[24]

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1600-1800	Extensive deforestation during the colonial era as forests are exploited for timber and resources.
1892	Establishment of Yosemite National Park, a milestone in the conservation movement.
1940-1970	High rates of deforestation driven by rapid economic development and population growth.

[24]"Forest Loss: World Resources Institute Research." *Global Forest Review*, research.wri.org/gfr/forest-extent-indicators/forest-loss. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.

1972	The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment highlights the need for global environmental cooperation.
1992	The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development introduces sustainable forest management.
1997	Inclusion of REDD in the Kyoto Protocol, recognizing the role of forests in climate change mitigation.
2002	Establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) as a platform for international dialogue.
2005	25th Anniversary of the Forest Stewardship Council (NYDF0 with commitments to halt deforestation and restore degraded forests.
2015	Inclusion of provisions for supporting REDD+ initiatives in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
2016	The Bonn Challenge, a global initiative, sets a target to restore 350 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2030.
2019	The United Nations General Assembly declares 2021-2030 as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, emphasizing the importance of restoring degraded ecosystems, including forests.
2020	The COVID-19 pandemic raises concerns about increased deforestation due to economic disruptions, illegal activities and weakened monitoring and enforcement capacities.
2021	The Global Assessment Report on Forests and Sustainable Development is published, providing a comprehensive analysis of the state of forests and progress towards sustainable forest management goals
2022	The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) emphasizes the role of forests in mitigating climate change and pledges increased financial support for REDD+ initiatives

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) serves as a vital platform for international dialogue and policy development on forest related issues. its advantages include facilitating knowledge sharing, promoting cooperation among member States and supporting the implementation of sustainable forests forest management practices. However, its voluntary nature and lack of legally binding authority limit its effectiveness. The slow progress and absence of enforcement mechanisms are notable disadvantages that hinder its ability to address urgent forest-related challenges.[25]

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD)

The UN-REDD Programme supports countries in developing REDD+ strategies, building technical capacities and accessing international funding for forest conservation. It promotes transparency, knowledge sharing and multi stakeholder participation, however challenges exist in ensuring equitable benefit sharing addressing governance issues in securing long term financial commitments and reliance on voluntary contributions poses potential limitations in terms of predictable and sufficient funding.

The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)

The United Nations decade an ecosystem restoration aims to mobilize global efforts for larger-scale restoration of degraded ecosystems, including forests. It provides a framework for collaboration, knowledge exchange and financial support to enhance restoration initiatives worldwide. By focusing on ecosystem restoration, it acknowledges the importance of addressing forest loss and degradation

[25] "United Nations Forum on Forests." *United Nations*, www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.

comprehensively. Challenges include securing the necessary commitment and resources from member states overcoming political barriers and ensuring that restoration efforts are environmentally and socially sustainable.[26]

LIFE Program

The EU's LIFE Program provides funding for environmental and nature conservation projects including those aimed at addressing forest loss and degradation. It supports initiatives related to the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of forests, as well as activities promoting biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.[27]

Man and the Biosphere program (MAB)

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme designates biosphere Reserves which are areas aimed at reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with sustainable development. Biosphere Reserves often include forested areas and promote sustainable practices to combat forest loss and degradation.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Strengthening forest governance and institutions

The battle against forest loss and degradation must be fought on several fronts. A more general, possible solution could be strengthening forest governance and institutions at local and national level. This would be a pre-condition for any effective policy response. Strengthening forest governance and institutions means improving the way forests are managed and governed by putting in place better rules, regulations, and organizations. The reason why it's a precondition for any effective policy response is because before any effective solutions or actions are taken in order to address issues related to forests it is essential to have strong governance and

[26] "Un Decade on Restoration." *UN Decade on Restoration*, www.decadeonrestoration.org/. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.

[27] "Life." *European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency*, cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.

institutions in place .Without proper governance and institutions policies and actions may not be implemented efficiently by strengthening forest governance and institutions it becomes easier to make decisions enforce regulations and manage forest sustainably it helps ensure that the right policies and practices are in place and that everyone involved included local communities in national authorities are working together towards the common goal of preserving and protecting forests.

A Regulation that minimizes the risk of illegally harvested timber and timber products entering the supply chain.

Another measure (under the FLEGT Action Plan) is a Regulation that minimizes the risk of illegally harvested timber and timber products entering the supply chain. By implementing this regulation authorities and businesses put in place rules and processes to verify the legality of timber and timber products. This helps prevent legal logging which can lead to forest loss and environmental damage.

Assistance for capacity building to LEDC's

To effectively tackle forest loss and degradation, it is crucial to secure substantial additional funding. This funding will be utilized to provide essential support for capacity building in less economically developed countries and offer incentives to combat the causes of forest loss and degradation. While the specific financial requirements are yet to be determined, it is evident that developed countries must allocate significant resources to assist developing nations in their efforts to tackle deforestation within their future global climate framework. This funding will work in conjunction with financial and other initiatives undertaken by developing countries and should come from both public and private sources.

The application of REDD+ strategies

REDD+ is an initiative that provides financial incentives to developing countries that create and implement strategies to manage and use their forests responsibly. These strategies include a range of activities commonly used in conservation efforts,

such as establishing protected areas, adopting sustainable forest management practices, combating illegal logging, and implementing agricultural practices that prevent encroachment on forest areas. What sets REDD+ part are 4 key features. Firstly, countries develop "baseline" to estimate the current amount of emissions from their forest regions, allowing for the measurement of progress in conservation. Secondly, payments are offered as a reward for achieving quantifiable reductions in emissions. Lastly, strategies are developed and implemented through a participatory and transparent approach, involving the active engagement of different stakeholders. These characteristics ensure that REDD+ efforts are effective inclusive and environmentally beneficial.[28]

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[28]Deforestation and Forest Degradation." EU REDD Facility, 30 June 2022, euredd.efi.int/about/about-redd/deforestation-forest-degradation/.

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