

Translate the following article into Mandarin. (將下面文章翻譯為中文)

Deforestation – An Assault on Finite Resources

At one time, tropical forests cloaked regions that were, collectively, twice the size of Europe. For ten thousand years or more, they were home to an estimated 50 to 90 percent of all land-dwelling species. In less than four decades, human populations destroyed more than half of the forests, and most of their spectacular arrays of species may be lost.

Each year, another 38 million acres are logged over. That's the equivalent of leveling thirty-four city blocks every minute. Logging extends beyond the tropics. Highly mechanized logging is proceeding in the once-vast temperate forests of the United States, Canada, Europe, Siberia, and elsewhere.

We have a name for the removal of all trees from large tracts of land for logging, agriculture, and grazing operations. It is deforestation. Why are we doing this? Paralleling the huge increases in the size of the human population are rapidly increasing demands for wood as fuel, lumber, and other forest products; and for grazing land and cropland. More and more people compete for dwelling resources. As you read in related articles, they do so for economic profit, but also because alternative ways of life simply are not available to most people.

In tropical regions, clearing the forests for agriculture sets the stage for long-term losses in productivity. The irony is that tropical forests are one of the worst places to grow crops or raise pasture animals. In intact forests, litter cannot accumulate, for the high temperatures and the heavy, frequent rainfall promote the rapid decomposition of organic wastes and remains. As fast as the decomposers release nutrients, the trees and other plants take them up. Deep, nutrient-rich topsoils simply cannot form.