

# Impacts of Deforestation on Socio-Economic Development

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**ABSTRACT:** *Deforestation has contributed to the collapse and disintegration of forests in many countries, with a high degree of vulnerability affecting forest habitat, plant systems and wildlife extinction. Unfortunately, deforestation has a more negative impact on developing countries in terms of environmental sustainability on a global scale. Global warming, flooding, climate change, water and air pollution are among the effects of deforestation. Human life, which can lead to hunger, is endangered by the loss of trees without proper replacement with new ones. According to the findings, at least 70% of the developing world lives below the poverty line. This paper addresses global deforestation, how it impacts human life, its benefits, and how we can join hands with the appropriate authorities to avoid environmental destruction by cutting down trees.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Deforestation, Development, Environment, Forest, Tree, Environment.*

## INTRODUCTION

It is an undisputed truism that the dependency of millions of people on forests contributes to destruction and deforestation, with many benefits accruing to indigenous people's sustenance from such losses (in terms of livelihoods, income and employment). Approximately 60 million indigenous people are estimated to be almost entirely dependent on forests, according to the World Bank (2004), while 350 million people rely on forests for a high degree of subsistence and profits, and around 1.2 billion people rely on agroforestry farming systems. Sustainable livelihoods guarantee the access and entitlement of the United Nations Environmental Protection Program (UNEP) (2006) to a variety of assets and possibilities that are important for achieving human well-being[1]. This is important for most indigenous people, especially in forest-side communities, who often lack the basic necessities for sustaining a decent standard of living, such as adequate and nutritious food, adequate shelter, access to health care, electricity, clean drinking water, education and a healthy environment.

For national and local governments, as well as traditional rulers and individuals, the trade in wood products is an obvious source of significant income. This also takes the form of export profits, taxes, royalties and personal income for those involved in the exploitation of these forest products, either directly or indirectly[2]. Exports of tropical wood contribute approximately US\$ 100 billion annually, about 0.5 percent of global gross domestic product, according to the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development. The sale and distribution of chainsaw timber, in the form of market tolls, income tax, taxes from waybills and customs duties within national economies, is argued to produce some un-estimated revenue. CIFOR Poverty Environment Network (PEN) research has found that forest income accounts for about one-fifth of the total household income of rural households living in or close forests[3].

## IMPACTS OF DEFORESTATION ON ENVIRONMENT

Forest exploitation could strengthen the social asset base of dependent communities. It is realized that people often lack some basic facilities and are often characterized by poor growth, since forests are located in remote areas where investment by national governments is limited. However, the social relationship developed through partnership has formed the basis for the creation of social amenities such as good roads, schools, electricity and good water supply in forest fringe communities through the exploitation and trade of forest resources, illegal logging causes economic sabotage to the government and also exposes the nation to an eventual shortage and low quality of planks[4]. Sustainable management of forest resources has been of

primary concern over the past few decades because of its possible effect on biological diversity and its role in sustaining global ecological functions (Areola, 1987).

Despite its importance, the natural high tropical forests of the African plateau have continued to decline rapidly, thus reducing the sustainable management of forests. Fuel wood is used by the majority of people living in Africa as their main source of cooking energy. The current wood resources are over-exploited in many areas due to the growing population. It is reported that there are now places in the Sahel region where fuel wood has become so costly that it consumes about half of some poor families' monthly budget in urban areas[5]. By the end of the century, Nigeria could face the possibility of shortages of timber and fuel wood. It has been estimated that the majority of the humid tropical forest land in Africa will be turned into unproductive land within the next fifty years, unless appropriate steps are taken, and the degradation of the savannah into a desert would accelerate. Often the degree of community nutrition is related to the availability and cost of fuel wood, with most people living on the African continent using fuel wood as their primary source of cooking energy. The current wood resources are over-exploited in many areas due to the growing population. It is alleged that there are now places in the Sahel region where fuel timber has become so costly that some poor families in urban areas consume about half of the monthly budget. As a result of the high cost of fuel wood and other alternative sources of energy for cooking, some families were only able to afford one meal per day[6].

Villagers are forced to walk long distances to fetch fuel wood with significant deforestation and are ultimately tempted to substitute dried animal dung and crop residues for fuel wood. This appears to have significant implications for local agricultural production and productivity because, in order to increase soil fertility, rural communities often rely on this substitute resource. There are other more subtle consequences that threaten the existence of humans on this planet, besides the decline in the quality of life associated with forest destruction. Nearly 500 million people worldwide rely on forests for their livelihoods, including a significant number of forest workers and forestry workers[7]. Sustainable forest management must therefore include secure, healthy employment with sufficient wages and environmental issues in working conditions that are collectively referred to as degradation, such as desert invasion, erosion, flooding and drought, etc., all of which have a strong connection with deforestation. Academics, academics and researchers agree that reducing the risk of deforestation is a systemic approach to recognizing, resolving and reducing a community's risk of disasters. In our culture today, deforestation poses different environmental issues. The current and long-term consequences of human activities such as mining, bush burning and land deforestation on the clearance of construction for socio-economic growth are factors that lead to deforestation that are almost certain to jeopardise our lives on earth[8]. As a result of the exploding population, the deforestation rate is becoming very worrying, because of the rise in aridity caused by deforestation, fertile agricultural land is gradually being taken over by unfertile land, resulting in a decrease in land productivity.

A strong hazardous wind that destroys and damages the construction of roofs and developing plants, which has been occasional for a long time, is increasingly becoming an annual phenomenon. Also, due to the growth of urban population and the rapid increase in agricultural practices, the problem of flooding that cannot be assumed to be a new problem has taken on a more dominant dimension. Nigeria, which is also regarded as Africa's giant, is well endowed with the abundance of natural resources. Sadly, about 45 percent of Nigeria's population lives below the poverty line[9]. This is why economists refer to the enormous abundance of natural resources and extreme poverty as the 'resource curse' in a country such as Nigeria. With a population of 162.5 million, Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria has the world's worst deforestation rate, which can be attributed to its rising population with agriculture at a high poverty level. This could not be unrelated to Nigeria's high level of poverty in the midst of ample natural resources. A relationship between poverty and increased forest loss appears to exist. Debarati Guha Sapir argued that vulnerability to natural disasters is basically a direct function of poverty by unfavorable behaviors caused by poverty. These practices include the felling of trees to

be used for cooking as firewood because of the inability to afford kerosene and cooking gas much of the time as a result of cost and unavailability. There are already seventy percent of Nigerians living below the poverty line[10].

Deforestation creates many issues in society and the climate that can make human life intolerable. The threats involved include the depletion of biodiversity, the degradation of societies dependent on forests and climate change. Deforestation is a global issue that, due to its high rate, threatens environmental sustainability with a greater effect on Nigeria. Deforestation has a detrimental impact on the entire environment, on the economy and on people.

## CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

Natural and anthropogenic causes are instigated by deforestation that contributes to global warming, but human beings are the main contributory factor to climate change that has become the current truth. Humans also burn bushes to farm, and without due regard to the climate, practice agriculture. Without recognizing that they are altering the eco- system and nature, trees are logged by humans. Both of these human actions endanger nature, and we ourselves must face the repercussions and be blamed at the end of the day. Nigerian leaders are the key culprits in the deforestation problem, in line with the above argument, because they have refused to provide people with the abundance of natural resources endowed by God. No wonder economists refer to Nigeria as being under what they term the curse of wealth. Poor citizens turn to practices caused by poverty that lead to deforestation, notwithstanding all the adverse effects, as a potential way out of their dilemma.

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