

Effect of Deforestation on Economic Development

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ABSTRACT: *More carbons are released into the environment by deforestation, climate changes take place and soil is exposed to runoff, thereby encouraging erosion. By deforestation, more carbons are released into the atmosphere, climate changes take place and soil is exposed to runoff, thereby promoting erosion. For national and local governments, as well as traditional rulers and individuals, trade in wood products is an obvious source of substantial revenue. These are not without significant health effects. This also takes the form, either directly or indirectly, of export earnings, fees, royalties and personal income for those involved in exploiting these forest products. The secondary sources of data collection were used for this article. It is recommended, among other recommendations, that corrupt government officials responsible for forestry laws and policies should be prosecuted along with illegal loggers, that environmental education should be given to the general public on the dire consequences of deforestation on people and society as a whole, that a skills acquisition programmer should be organized for rural women.*

KEYWORDS: *Deforestation, Environment, Forest, Overgrazing, Plant.*

INTRODUCTION

Deforestation is an alternative to permanent non-forested land use, such as agriculture, grazing or urban development, for the conversion of forests. A forest is characterized as a land covered by more than 10% of the trees and more than half a hectare of land. A forest contains natural forests and plantations of forests and does not include tree stands built primarily for agricultural production. These trees include trees planted for various kinds of fruit, and trees planted for oil palm fruit. FAO has also acknowledged forest planting of trees established primarily for timber production and therefore does not identify the conversion of natural forests to planting as deforestation. However, FAO does not consider tree plantations that provide non-timber products to be forest although they do classify rubber plantations as forest. Forest degradation occurs when the ecosystem functions of the forest are degraded but where the area remains forested rather cleared[1].

Because of its negative contributions, which include loss of biodiversity and increased greenhouse effects, deforestation is mainly a problem for developing countries. Trees are the oldest, most durable, highly useful and widely used raw materials that play a key role in greenhouse gas supply and absorption of oxygen. Forests occupy thirty percent of the Earth's land area, or around 3.9 billion hectares. The initial forest cover was estimated to have been approximately six billion hectares. Tropical forest trees occupy only six percent of the surface of the Earth. Trees are alleged to produce between 70 and 90 percent of all the organisms in the world[2]. The loss of 50 to 100 animal and plant species per day has been caused by deforestation. Many of these animals, especially in the field of medicine, are now on the verge of extinction, even with their considerable importance to humans (Effects of Deforestation, 2010)[3]. Nigeria is ranked the worst country with the highest rate of deforestation, according to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) (2011). The deforestation rate in Nigeria is 3.5 percent annually and 400,000 hectares annually. According to the Federal Ministry of the Environment, every year, 400 out of every 1,000 forests are deforested and only 26 hectares are reforested, leaving 374 hectares deforested. Forest exploitation could strengthen the social asset base of dependent communities[4]. It is realised that people frequently lack such basic services and are often characterized by poor development because forests are located in remote areas where investment by national governments is limited (Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity, 2009). However, the social relationship developed through collaboration, through the exploitation and trade of forest resources, has formed the basis for the creation of social amenities, such as good roads, schools, electricity and good water supply, in forest fringe communities[5].

Direct causes of deforestation

Overgrazing

In drier areas of the tropics, where pastures ruined by overgrazing are subject to soil erosion, overgrazing is more common. In some dry areas of the tropics, stripping trees to provide food for grazing animals may also be a problem, but it is probably not a major cause of deforestation. Simple cutting and overgrazing have transformed vast areas in China's Qinghai province into a desert. Overgrazing causes vast areas of grassland north of Beijing to transform into a desert in Inner Mongolia and Qinghai Province. One man who lived in a

village on the eastern edge of the sand-swallowed Qinghai-Tibet plateau told the New York Times, "The pasture here used to be so green and rich,[6]. "But now the grass is disappearing and the sand is coming." The land is stripped of vegetation by large flocks of sheep and goats. For example, in Xilingol Prefecture in Inner Mongolia, the population of livestock increased from 2 million in 1977 to 18 million in 2000, rendering a third of the grassland area deserted. The entire prefecture could be uninhabitable by 2020 unless anything is done. "Sociological trends called "the tragedy of the common" intensify overgrazing. People share property, but raise animals for themselves and try to enrich them by rising as many as possible. Which leads to more animals than can be sustained by the ground? Grassland in Qinghai that can support 3.7 million sheep had 5.5 million sheep in 1997. Animals remove the vegetation and winds finish the job by blowing away the topsoil, transforming grasslands into desert. When a herder was asked why he was grazing goats next to a sign that said "Protect vegetation, no grazing," he said, "The lands are too infertile to grow crops—herding is the only way for us to survive[7]."

Urbanization/industrialization and infra-structure

Expanding towns and cities need land to provide the necessary infrastructure to sustain an increasing population by forest clearing (Mather, 1991; Sands, 2005). Tropical forests are a major objective of infrastructure developments for the extraction of oil, forestry concessions or the construction of hydropower dams, which eventually contribute to the expansion of the road network and the construction of roads in pristine areas. Building highways, railways, bridges, and airports opens up the land for growth and takes the forest frontier to a growing number of people[8]. Whether supported or not by the governmental programmers, these settlers have usually colonized the forest by using logging trails or new roads to access the forest for subsistence land (Wilkie et al., 2000; Amor, 2008; Amor and Pfaff, 2008). (Wilkie et al., 2000; Amor, 2008; Amor and Pfaff, 2008). The development of these infrastructure projects are of worldwide concern, since tropical forest clearing accounts for roughly 20 percent of anthropogenic carbon emissions destroying globally significant carbon sinks (Anon., 2001c) and around 21 percent of tropical forests have been lost worldwide since 1980[9].

Tourism

National parks and sanctuaries certainly protect the forests, but it is dangerous not to be careful and inappropriately open these areas to the public for tourism. Unfortunately, for simple ways of making revenue, the national governments of tropical and subtropical countries embrace tourism, sacrificing strict management strategies. In addition, the forests are currently exploited for benefit by many corporations and resorts that market themselves as eco-tourist establishments. In Cape Tribulation, Australia, for example, excessive tourism is threatening the rainforest. Similarly, eco-tourism is promoted in the Terai Duars of eastern India's foothill Himalaya, and we fear that this is achieved without creating appropriate management plans. For example, because of its ancient ruins deep in the forest and a *Myristica longifolia* tree species that exudes a blood like sap when wounded, the Chilapata Reserve Forest in this area is opened for eco-tourism. Due to the ruins and this blood-exuding tree, the site has become a popular eco-tourist destination. Just eight people were found in the entire forest, but two of the trees in the near vicinity of the ruins dried up entirely due to frequent injuries caused by the curious visitors to the plants (Shukla, 2010). In reality, in the name of eco-tourism, the construction of infrastructure is mainly carried out by private actors in these wilderness areas, which are further counterproductive in terms of attracting people other than tourists, causing deforestation, especially deep in the forest[10].

Air pollution

The destruction of some European and North American forests is associated with air pollution. The condition is called "Waldsterben" or death from forests. Eight percent of all West German trees showed damage in 1982, which increased to about 52 percent by 1987 (Raloff, 1989), and half of the trees registered Waldsterben's death in the Alps (Lean, 1990). High altitude forests, including forests in the north-east and central United States, show the earliest damage.

It is well known that deforestation during the Vietnam War and elsewhere was triggered by military operations. More recently, ties between Myanmar's civil war and the timber trade between Myanmar and Thailand have been reported. To fund its civil war against the Karen hill tribe, the Myanmar regime is selling timber to the Thais. In El Salvador, forest loss has resulted from war. In Southeast Asia and South America, in addition to military involvement in wars, the role of the military in deforestation has been recorded. The authors also noted that the presence of strong military forces in Brazilian politics is a major cause of forest destruction in the Amazon[2].

CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

Deforestation that leads to global warming is instigated by natural and anthropogenic factors, but humans are the key contributory factor to climate change that has become the current reality. Humans often burn bushes to farm, and practice cultivation without due regard to the environment. Trees are documented by humans without realizing that they are altering the ecosystem and nature. Both of these human acts put nature at risk, and at the end of the day, we ourselves must face the consequences and be blamed. In line with the above statement, Nigerian leaders are the main culprits in the deforestation crisis, because they have refused to provide people with the abundance of God-endowed natural resources. No wonder Nigeria is referred to by economists as being under what they call the riches curse. As a possible way out of their dilemma, poor people turn to activities caused by poverty that contribute to deforestation, despite all the adverse effects.

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