

# Impact of Deforestation on Environment

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**ABSTRACT:** *Owing to the lack of tree roots to absorb water, deforestation causes the earth's soil to wash off into water supply systems, causing water contamination. Furthermore, the absence of tree roots deprives the soil of essential nutrients required for new vegetation to grow. More carbons are released into the environment by deforestation, climatic changes take place and soil is exposed to runoff, thereby promoting erosion. The trade in wood products is an apparent source of significant revenue for national and local governments as well as traditional rulers and individuals. These are not without serious health consequences. This often comes in the form of export earnings, taxes, royalties and personal income for those engaged either directly or indirectly in the exploitation of these forest products.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Biodiversity, Deforestation, Environment, Forest, Socio-Economic, Environment.*

## INTRODUCTION

Deforestation 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[1]. 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 brink of extinction, even with their considerable significance to humans. According to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) (2011), Nigeria is ranked the worst country with the highest rate of deforestation.

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[2]. 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 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[3].

The transfer of forests to alternative permanent non-forested land use such as agriculture, grazing or urban development is deforestation. A forest is characterized as an area covered by more than 10% of trees and more than half a hectare of land (FAO, 2005). 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 fruits, trees planted for oil palm fruit and trees planted for agroforestry[4]. 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. FAO does not, however, regard tree plantations that provide non-wood products as forests, while rubber plantations are categorized as forests. Forest loss happens when the ecosystem functions of the forest are degraded, but rather cleared when the land remains forested.

The general theme of Neo-Marxism occurred in the middle of the HEP/NEP controversy. Cross pollination has occurred. In the failed revolts of the 1960s and the emergence of many new social movements that failed to fit into many Marxist theoretical structures of conflict sociology, Neo-Marxism

was focused on the loss of the widespread legitimacy of the Marxist social movement. With observational studies on these novel social tensions, sociologists have joined the fray. In the 1970s, Neo-Marxism stressed the relative autonomy of the state from capital control rather than being only a manifestation of the economic determinism of class struggle, giving rise to this new theoretical point of view [5]. Neo-Marxist ideas of conflict sociology were applied to capital/state/labor/environmental conflicts instead of only labor/capital/state conflicts over production. Therefore, some sociologists tried to stretch Marxist ideas of social conflict from this materialist context to examine environmental social movements instead of interpreting environmental movements as distinct from material issues as a more cultural "New Social Movement." Therefore, "Eco-Marxism" was focused on the use of the principles of Neo-Marxist conflict sociology of the relative autonomy of the state. Contrary to previous claims that classical sociological thinkers had all collapsed into the Human Exemption list Model, Foster argued that the materialism of Marx led him to theories labor as the metabolic mechanism between humanity and the rest of nature (Buttel, Frederick, and Humphrey, 2002).

There was an impression that his analysis was very close to the anthropocentric views criticized early on. Instead, Foster argued that Marx himself was concerned with the Metabolic Rift caused by the social metabolism of capitalist society, particularly in industrial agriculture. In the interdependent process of social metabolism, Marx described a "irreparable rift in the interdependent process of social metabolism" created by capitalist agriculture that destroyed the land's productivity and created waste in urban sites that failed to reintegrate into the land and therefore contributed to the destruction of urban workers' health at the same time (Diamond and Jared, 2005). Pillow and Brehm conclude that "The metabolic rift is a productive development in the field because it connects current research to classical theory and links sociology with an interdisciplinary array of scientific literature focused on ecosystem dynamics" by examining the contribution of this thread of eco-Marxism to current environmental sociology[6].

#### *Poverty:*

Poverty is also a strong factor in the deforestation crisis. Poverty contributes to the illusion that trees are burning for food. To make ends meet, charcoal created from the burnt trees is sold for money. Felled trees, on the other hand, are often sold as timber; cleared land is used as livestock grazing, community plantations and settlements. Processes of industrialization contribute to deforestation, along with oil production and mining. Paper goods are manufactured from trees. During the war, deforestation was a defensive measure and deliberate activity to open up closed areas with trees that might have served the enemies as a hiding spot. Rising population growth and demographic pressure in Nigeria contribute enormously to deforestation processes[7]. With a population of 162.5 million, the most populous nation in Africa is Nigeria. When population growth coincides with the high level of poverty, this becomes a serious issue. Around 70 percent of Nigerians (105 million) now live below the poverty line (Central Intelligence Agency) (CIA). In the development of residential and public areas, overpopulation triggers a corresponding rise. It allows the field to become loose and more vulnerable to the risk of running off and flooding. The outcome can be devastating. The United Nations Environmental programmer (UNEP) posited that Africans are suffering deforestation at the rate of two times that of the world[8].

#### *Agricultural Practices:*

Weak farming practices also lead to deforestation, such as cutting and burning. Research shows that, because of the high cost of kerosene, about 60 percent of Nigerians use firewood for cooking. Some people ignorantly set fire to trees, thereby leading to deforestation. According to the FAO, between 2000 and 2005, developing countries in the tropics suffered the most from deforestation. This indicates a link between deforestation and poverty. The major causes of deforestation in Nigeria are poverty-induced human operations[9].

*Urbanization:*

Another strong factor in the problem of deforestation is the urbanization process. The lack of understanding of the detrimental effects of deforestation has contributed to the irreversible annual loss of over 8.5 million hectares of tropical forest for buildings and new urban areas. This leads to uncontrollable and persistent forest resource degradation. In Nigeria, 81% of the initial forest cover has been removed. Other causes of deforestation in Nigeria include the clearing of forests for logging, agricultural activities, the felling of trees by rural dwellers for sale as a means of subsistence due to poverty and the use of trees as fuel wood, resulting in significant damage resulting from desertification[10].

**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. In parallel with our everyday work, human actions are detrimental to the climate, and residential, industrial and even agricultural behavior threatens the stability of the environment as well as the balance of the ecosystem. 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.

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