



## DEFORESTATION

### What is Deforestation

Deforestation is defined as the destruction of forested land. It has proved to be a major problem all over world. However, the rates of destruction of forests are particularly high in the tropics.

### Causes of Deforestation

The causes of deforestation vary from place to place. The most common causes, however, are logging, agricultural expansion, wars, and mining,

### Effects of Deforestation

Deforestation has been the cause of many problems facing the world today such as erosions, loss of biodiversity through extinction of plant and animal species, and increased atmospheric carbon dioxide.

### Importance of Vegetation

Deforestation consequently decrease the supply of oxygen found on earth. Oxygen is essential to the existence of all living things and without it every living creature (including humans) will not be able to sustain life. In addition, forests provide homes for many important species such as the Northern Spotted Owl which can only survive in the northwestern United States . Furthermore, forests prevent desertification by replenishing nutrients in the land. These are just a few reasons why forests are soon important.

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## THE EUROPEAN CONTEST

### Introduction

Europe has a vast amount of deforested area. Hungary , Romania , The U.K, Austria , Ireland, Scotland , Russia , Finland , and Poland are all deforested countries in Europe . The UK is one of the least forested countries of Europe . The average European country has 24% of its land area covered by forests. Deforestation in these areas is leading to destruction all over the country, and if the government, and the society doesn't do anything about it, chances are that all trees would be damaged and people will die and the world will come to an end.



## Deforestation Figures for Europe

### Forest Cover Statistics for 2000

Total Forest Area ('000 ha)	1,039,251
Forest Cover (% of land)	46.0
Plantations ('000 ha)	32,015
Tropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Tropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Subtropical Forest Cover (% of land)	5%
Subtropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	51,963
Temperate Forest Cover (% of land)	22%
Temperate Forest Cover ('000 ha)	228,635
Boreal/polar (% of land)	73%
Boreal/polar ('000 ha)	758,653

## Hungary

There are 8 deforested countries in Europe and they all have different causes and effects leading them. Hungary once had forests covering over 85% of national territory, and it was reduced due to clearance of agriculture in the 1930s. Wars have always been a major cause for deforestation and since World War II forest covering are reducing and forests are ruining and this is causing natural forest degradation. Native tree species have difficulty growing and the cause for this is the agricultural growth in the lowlands which is serviced by the intensive water management system. Another underlying cause of deforestation is air pollution resulting from industries and transportation boundaries which is causing a lot of damage to natural species including trees. Oriented forest management systems have given very little priority to biodiversity or ecological values and that is leading into more ruination of forests. Harvesting and mechanization has reduced biological diversity and this has caused forests to be scrappy.

Today 40% of Hungary's forests have been passed in private hands. Since, they are now owned mostly by people who don't know what they are going to do with it or how they are going to use it and manage it will result in more deforestation which will lead to that about 20% of country's forest are unmanaged. By having an openness situation, the weakness of these forests has been increased a lot in illegal harvesting and mechanization. Current forests owners have little knowledge of how to handle and manage the forests and this is increasing the risk of forest quality that it will be soon damaged.

Nowadays, marketing and financing are the underlying causes of forest loss in Hungary and new markets and new values are increasing this pressure. Non-timber forest products use is now heading for supplying foreign markets and is becoming unsustainable. People in Hungary today don't really



care much about their forests and how much damage and problems they are bringing to their environment, *"people want a wealthy society and not a healthy society."*

#### Deforestation Figures for Hungary

##### Forest Cover Statistics for 2000

Total Forest Area ('000 ha)	1,840
Forest Cover (% of land)	19.9
Plantations ('000 ha)	136
Tropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Tropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Subtropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Subtropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Temperate Forest Cover (% of land)	100%
Temperate Forest Cover ('000 ha)	1,840
Boreal/polar (% of land)	0%
Boreal/polar ('000 ha)	-

### Romania

Romania is another largely deforested country in Europe . Just like Hungary, it once had forests covering three quarters of Romania, but currently it has been reduced down to 27%. Out of that, 2% are plantations and 25% are natural forests and managed woodland. Romania has lost basically 5 million hectares of its forests in the last three centuries. Half were lost due to end of World War I. Currently the country is trying its best to save the forests, but half of them are owned by private owners. Even today these forests are facing many problems, and the causes are same as they were which are extended droughts, industrial pollution, and over grazing and damage brought by mechanization. Pine tree species have been planting beech and oak for over 60 years and today they constitute 30% tree cover. The government recently had planned to have 27% forests under conifers. Most people are trying to simplify forests for production, but they don't know that it is leading the forests in danger to be damaged by cockroaches, rats, wind, and snow.

#### Deforestation Figures for Romania

##### Forest Cover Statistics for 2000

Total Forest Area ('000 ha)	6,448
Forest Cover (% of land)	28.0
Plantations ('000 ha)	91
Tropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Tropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-




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Subtropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Subtropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Temperate Forest Cover (% of land)	100%
Temperate Forest Cover ('000 ha)	6,448
Boreal/polar (% of land)	0%
Boreal/polar ('000 ha)	-

## The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is less deforested than most countries in Europe. According to history, woodland would have predominated much of the country, but trees such as oak, ash and lime have dominated most forests. On the other hand, 90% of this cover has been lost from past 5,000 years due to the need of firewood, clearance for agriculture, and due to terrible management by humans. Total woodland makes up 2.5% of the land area of Great Britain, since 45% of the ancient and semi natural woodland that existed in 1945, has been lost since that time.

Currently government of UK has a policy aiming to increase woodland cover, plantations of exotic species, and native woodland for production and environmental purposes. Each year they have different forest creation projects that tend to plant 5,000 hectares of new native woodland. Some of the forest creation projects are the National Forest, Central Scotland Forest, and the Millennium Forest.

Forests in the UK are divided between private and public. Government owned forests service manages about 35% of the country's woodland, 10% is owned by public voluntary bodies, 20% is owned by farmers, and the rest 35% is owned by other private industries.

Currently the UK produces around 15% of its timber needs from domestic forests, and efforts have brought and increase in the timber industry. It is expected that the volume of wood will be increase from a 9 million cubic meters per year today to 15 million cubic meters per year by the year 2020.

Since, more animals and plants depend on woodland, which includes about 300 vascular plants and 5,000 animal species, the nation's biodiversity is deeply affected. An important portion of woodland that remains today is under poor management and biodiversity has decrease many times. In 1990, a government survey was taken and it showed a drop of almost 20% in species diversity.

### Deforestation figures for UK

#### Forest Cover Statistics for 2000

Total Forest Area ('000 ha)	2,794
Forest Cover (% of land)	11.6
Plantations ('000 ha)	1,928
Tropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%



Tropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Subtropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Subtropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Temperate Forest Cover (% of land)	87%
Temperate Forest Cover ('000 ha)	2,431
Boreal/polar (% of land)	13%
Boreal/polar ('000 ha)	363

Road building in the UK has brought a major threat to its woodland. There are many causes behind this, which include lack of protection and essential value given to nature, road building policy, priority of economic interests, and political structures and relations.

UNDERLYING CAUSE	RELATED TO:	RELATED TO:
1) Lack of protection and intrinsic value given to nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Poor designation of woodland sites</li> <li>-Inadequate laws to protect designated sites</li> <li>-Society based on financial values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Failure of nature protection authorities</li> <li>-Political will and prioritization</li> <li>Land ownership and power of landowners and farming lobby</li> </ul>
2) Roads-dominated transport policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Inherent advantages of car</li> <li>-Power of car/roads lobby</li> <li>-Failure to include true costs of road transport (externalities); the vehicle tax system</li> <li>-Greater demand for transport</li> <li>-Lack of public debate on key issues</li> <li>-Capitalist philosophy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Link between transport and economic development</li> <li>-Globalization of markets and consolidation of industries</li> <li>-Increased living standards and aspirations of population</li> <li>-Urban degeneration and town planning (out-of-town development)</li> </ul>
3) Lack of policy integration and priority of economic interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Structure of government and election cycle (leads to short-term policies focusing on economic prosperity)</li> <li>-Materialistic society</li> </ul>	
4) Political structures and personal interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Power of social/financial elite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Existence of unelected body in Parliament (House of Lords)</li> </ul>

### Austria

Austria tend to cover forests all over the country including the mountainous side 13, 00 years ago, but time changed and deforestation began to occur. The Neolithic farmers began the clearance of in



low land areas, and in the middle ages, the upland areas started to get clear, which decrease tree lines. In prehistoric period, forests were used by its communities, but since the middle ages, they have been taken over by the government and other private owners. Most of the forests were taken advantage of by industries and salt works. The revolution of 1848 changed that by giving ownership to aristocrats, farmers, partly to the state, and villages and towns. Currently 1% of 214,000 forest owners hold area more than 200 hectors, and 65% holds are lot less than 5 hectors, but still 80% of the forests are in private hands and the rest 20% is in state owned.

Today, only 47% of the country is covered with trees, out of which 3% is old forest, 22% semi natural and 8% artificial plantations. Forest clearance is not a major problem for Austria because of the strict laws, but forest degradation is a major conflict. Industrial pollution including Sulphur and nitrogen oxides is widely spread and is causing a gargantuan amount of damage to plant life, ecosystem, and mainly forests. It is estimated that today 93% of Sulphur pollutants come from Austrian borders and that is causing danger to all the countries surrounding Austria. Since hunting is a very famous sport in Austria, it is leading to deforestation including damage to forests, loss of biodiversity, and a decrease in soil quality.

#### Deforestation figures for Austria

##### Forest Cover Statistics for 2000

Total Forest Area ('000 ha)	3,886
Forest Cover (% of land)	47.0
Plantations ('000 ha)	0
Tropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Tropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Subtropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Subtropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Temperate Forest Cover (% of land)	100%
Temperate Forest Cover ('000 ha)	3,886
Boreal/polar (% of land)	0%
Boreal/polar ('000 ha)	-

## Russia

During the Soviet period, land and water resources went through a lot of degradation. Areas, like the Kuznetsk Basin, and the lower Volga River, were poorly degraded, and nuclear weapons caused permanent damage in Southern Siberia, and Ural Mountains. Another cause is airborne-pollutants which have affected vegetation in many areas of Russia, and once again Sulphur is one of the deadly pollutants causing damages around the country. Winds spread these pollutants all over the country and countries bordering it and damage the environment. Besides just air- pollutants, forests in some areas are facing deforestation due to logging and since the rate has increased foreign



logging operation activities have been formed. Besides just the damaging of trees, air pollutants have accumulated in lakes, rivers, and oceans damaging the water and killing the animals.

#### Deforestation figures for Russia

##### Forest Cover Statistics for 2000

Total Forest Area ('000 ha)	851,392
Forest Cover (% of land)	50.4
Plantations ('000 ha)	17,340
Tropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Tropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Subtropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Subtropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Temperate Forest Cover (% of land)	14%
Temperate Forest Cover ('000 ha)	119,195
Boreal/polar (% of land)	86%
Boreal/polar ('000 ha)	732,197

### **Finland**

Finland is facing deforestation just like other countries and causes are pretty much same as other countries. One different cause which is causing damage to forests, buildings, soil, fish and other wildlife is Acid Rain, and just like Russia, sulphur and air pollutants are damaging the environment. The government is playing a relevant role to control the timber industries to maintain the country's valuable forest resources and the good thing about Finland now is that it has a very low deforestation rate which is just 0.10%. If we have a rate of this in every country, we could prevent deforestation. Finland is facing other environmental issues, such as air pollution, loss of biodiversity, climate change, whaling and many more.

#### Deforestation figures for Finland

##### Forest Cover Statistics for 2000

Total Forest Area ('000 ha)	21,935
Forest Cover (% of land)	72.0
Plantations ('000 ha)	0
Tropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Tropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Subtropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Subtropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-




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Temperate Forest Cover (% of land)	2%
Temperate Forest Cover ('000 ha)	439
Boreal/polar (% of land)	98%
Boreal/polar ('000 ha)	21,496

## Scotland

Scotland used to cover 80% of the land 2000 years ago, but several causes lead the country towards deforestation. After World War I, the forest covering rate fell down to 5% and in 1918 the British government faced with national security suggestion of a tree less country to re-establish tree plantations. By the end of 1980, the government published specific and clear environmental guidelines, but they showed no effect. The original plant bio-diversity of Scotland was a lot more than what it is today. Below woods and above the rivers there used to be Elm, Ash, Oak, Guelder Rose, Spindle, Gean, Raspberry, Bramble, Elder, tree Willows and Osier. On the high-level ground there were many native woods of Holly, Hazel, Sessile Oak, Hawthorn, Bird Cherry, Aspen, Pendulous Birch, Goat Willow, Ash, and Common Alder. In the direction of liven up this listing of species, a Scottish Natural Heritage Ranger gave the following statement in 1997: "Much of the forest would have been tangled and irregular due to the natural wastage, disease and physical forces of wind, fire, and floodwaters. From what we know of northern Canada, Russia, and Poland, at any time up to 60% of the forest trees and bushes would be dead or dying, providing a habitat for thousands of different kinds of fungi, ferns and flowering plants, insects and other invertebrates, mammals and birds."

## Ireland

Forests in Ireland today cover 470,000 hectares or 7% of Ireland's landmass. At the turn of the century, Ireland was just like Scotland, even worse; it was covering only 1% of the landmass. Today, 80% of Ireland's forests are owned publicly, just like most countries in Europe. The Irish Forestry Board has been responsible for the management of these forests since 1989 and 20% of forests are currently in private hands. Reforestation is a major current issue in Ireland and includes many problems out of which mainly are government concerns which are that due to Ireland's extensive use of land, forestry is likely to take in archaeological importance. Today, Ireland produces only 55% of its wood needs.

### Deforestation Figures for Ireland

Forest Cover Statistics for 2000	
Total Forest Area ('000 ha)	659
Forest Cover (% of land)	9.6
Plantations ('000 ha)	590
Tropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%
Tropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Subtropical Forest Cover (% of land)	0%



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Subtropical Forest Cover ('000 ha)	-
Temperate Forest Cover (% of land)	100%
Temperate Forest Cover ('000 ha)	659
Boreal/polar (% of land)	0%
Boreal/polar ('000 ha)	-

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## PREVENTION

This page is created for the people that feel very strongly against deforestation and want to do something about it. We provide a list of a global and local organizations as well as individual contributions that you can make in order to prevent Deforestation. It is very important that we safeguard our planet and our planet cannot survive without forests, but most of all WE cannot survive without forests. So please do not hesitate and act to make a change for the better of everyone including you as an individual.

### Individual Contributions

- **Recycling** : we should recycle all the thing that are made of tree ex. Paper, bags, furniture, etc. because it lead to the less cutting of tree and also the products of trees will be used wisely.
- **Wood factories:** we should stop or lessen the production in those factories that cut down trees to make their products ex. paper, furniture, etc.
- **People's basic needs:** we all know that the colossal cause of deforestation is people's needs from the forests. Even though we depend on the forests, we should learn to lessen our dependency on the forests and their environment. So we need to use a little of them as possible and wisely.
- **Paper:** paper is one of the most important things in the world without it we can't do almost anything. We can't study, write, learn and a lot of stuff which is impossible to do without paper, but many of the forests are destroyed just to make paper out of them. So lessen your dependency on the paper and try to use as less as possible and recycle them.
- **Reforestation:** after cutting down a tree we should plant two because this way there will be a balance of ecosystem and the rate of deforestation will diminish.



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## NGO Organizations

### [Environmental Investigation Agency](#)

**Website:** <http://www.eia-international.org>

(located in London , United Kingdom ) Environmental Investigation Agency is an independent, international organization that investigates and exposes the illegal trade in endangered species, timber and ozone depleting substances.

### [Friends of the Earth International](#)

**Website:** <http://www.foei.org>

(located in Amsterdam , Netherlands ) Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) is the world's largest federation of environmental groups, uniting close to one million activists worldwide.

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Watch the Earth from the sky:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/eye/index.html>

Explore the video library of the National Geographic collection on Deforestation and Wild Fire in the Environment Video section:

<http://video.kids.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/news/culture-places-news/brazil-satellite-apvin.html>



## Deforestation -- The Dark Side of Europe's Thirst for Green Fuel

New America Media, News Analysis, Paolo Pontoniere, Posted: Feb 28, 2006

*Bio-diesel fuels are helping reduce carbon emissions, but some production of the "green" energy source is contributing to rain forest destruction in Malaysia and Indonesia. NAM contributor Paolo Pontoniere is U.S. correspondent for Focus, Italy's leading monthly.*

President George Bush's declaration that Americans are addicted to oil puts the spotlight on the use of alternative and renewable energy sources. But a closer look reveals a dark side to merely tapping so-called green energy sources without resorting to energy conservation. Europe's quest for green fuels is a case in point.

European countries are very proud of the inroads they've made in recent years in reducing their dependence on fossil fuels and their overall carbon emissions. These were achieved mainly through the adoption of green fuels for automotive needs.

More Europeans are using bio-diesel fuels produced by refining vegetable oils. These oils come mainly from processing rapeseed and palm. It is in the refining of palm oil for fuel that the unforeseen dark side to the European desire to go green is revealed.

Critics contend that Europe's path to a greener future is being paved by the rapid destruction of rain forests around the world, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia. This destruction in turn is leading to the erosion of natural habitats for many endangered and unique animal species, such as Borneo's orangutan, Sumatra's rhinoceros, tigers, tapirs, gibbons and proboscis monkeys, which live in the forests of Southeast Asia.

A report released at the end of last year by the Friends of the Earth International, an environmental grassroots network active in 70 countries, charged that between 1985 and 2000 the rise of oil-palm plantations accounted for 87 percent of Malaysian deforestation.

During the same period, 6 million hectares of rain forest in Borneo and Sumatra were converted into oil-palm farms. Furthermore, in Borneo and Malaysia an additional 6 million hectares are scheduled for clear-cutting.

In Indonesia the development of new plantations will cause the deforestation of an additional 16.5 million hectares. Every year about 2 million hectares of Indonesian virgin forest, a total area half the size of Belgium, are turned over to palm oil production.



Experts working for the Ape Alliance and the Orangutan Foundation International interviewed by the British daily the Guardian say 5,000 apes die every year because of oil-palm deforestation. In addition, human rights groups based in the affected areas believe that hundreds of indigenous people have been tortured and maimed for their opposition to the expansion of the plantations into indigenous territory. Friends of the Earth charge that palm planters threaten even the Tanjung Puting national park in Kalimantan, an internationally renowned wildlife sanctuary in Borneo.

Oil palm plantations, 89 percent of which are based in Malaysia and Indonesia, according to the U.K. Food and Drink Federation, generate every year 29 percent of worldwide production of vegetable oil.

The Malaysian Star reported that most of Malaysia's palm oil is bound for Europe. The growth of that market compelled last year Malaysia's largest refiner of palm oil, the IOI Group, to expand its operation in Europe, opening a refinery able to process 2,500 to 2,000 tons of palm oil daily near Rotterdam.

"Palm oil demand is growing very steadily in Europe and we expect it to continue," Michael Van Sallandt, IOI director for Europe, told Reuters.

This year the European Union will import 4.5 million tons of refined and crude palm oil to satisfy its bio-fuel needs. The EU mandates that 5.75 percent of automotive fuels must come from plants. At the same time, European demand for diesel cars has been growing steadily, currently accounting for 49 percent of the continent's market. Diesel cars are very popular in Belgium (72 percent), France (70 percent), Spain (68 percent), and Austria (66 percent). Many diesel engines can run bio-diesel fuel or a blend of bio-diesel and petroleum-based fuel with few engine modifications.

Experts estimates that palm oil bio-diesel in a few years could account for 20 percent of Europe's automotive consumption and cause the destruction of some of the most valuable and pristine forests of the world.

The British government, in a report published last year, recognized that any large-scale expansion of bio-fuel feedstock production would pose huge environmental risks to Brazil and Southeast Asia, where large swaths of undeveloped land are being cleared to make room for feedstock plantations.

Uncritical embrace of green fuels worries Lester Brown, president of the Earth Policy Institute and author of "Plan B 2.0." Brown fears that current feedstock consumption at the gas pump will end up competing with -- and outpacing -- consumption for nutritional purposes. He fears that in the long run, consumption for fuel will not only cause further famine in poor countries, but it will also lead to the desertification of some the most fertile lands of the planet, particularly in Southeast Asia.

"This is another situation in which the brilliant solution of today may become the nightmare of tomorrow," Brown says. "This is true for Indonesia and Malaysia, which are deforesting at a speed never seen before."



Conferenza Internazionale della Gioventù sull'Ambiente  
**"Prendiamoci cura del Pianeta"**  
<http://confint2010.mec.gov.br/>

Brasilia, 5-10 Giugno 2010

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"This could also be true for the United States, where President Bush proposes to expand bio-fuel programs to include feedstock, and Brazil, which in a few years could see of millions of acres of wasteland."

"Europeans should put the problem of their increasing automotive energy consumption in the right perspective," says Tad Patzek, an engineer at the University of California, Berkeley and a fuel expert.

"Thinking that bio-diesel, rather than conservation, can be the answer to the growing need of energy for transportation, is naïve," Patzek cautions. "The reality is that an increasing number of million of hectares of rain forest are being destroyed to feed automotive needs."