

## Deforestation, When Will it End?

By Ava Quinn

What is deforestation? Deforestation is the action of removing a large quantity of trees. The reason that it is a critical problem is in the definition, that's how easy it is to understand the problem. Although the human race as a whole is the problem, we are also the only solution.

This worldwide epidemic seems to be never-ending, almost like a void. Every time we think we have a solution; it becomes just another brick in the wall. So, what can we do to stop this void like problem, let alone slow it down?

At a first glance, re-planting the trees or plant five for every one that has been chopped seems like a good start. While yes, it is, but this cannot be the only option. Companies through out the world have made it possible for consumers to shop with an eco-friendly store or product. This ensures that no trees were harmed in the process of making these products and that the company wants to save the trees. Recycling is another huge help to stop the epidemic as plastic can be reused after it has been recycled. Choosing to eat less meat and to eat more sustainable foods can severely help save the trees. All of these options above can be done by everyday ordinary people like us. It does not take one single billionaire to stop deforestation, but it can help.

With all of that to one side, why is deforestation happening? Although the vast majority of us see hundreds if not thousands of trees during our everyday lives, we do not see what is happening to the big groups of them in countries such as India, Africa, Brazil etc. The forests, preserves and loan groups of trees are being chopped down for a list of reasons, that consist of the following few: The newly made land is being used for companies to build there, the newly chopped down wood is used to make said companies, the wood is also being used to make paper for places around the world and just to name a few. Some of the said companies have changed their ways for the most part and have started planting trees to make up for what we have lost, but as I mentioned earlier this by itself cannot stop the void like epidemic.

Several newly found studies show us how our choices are affecting the natural wildlife and animals alike. Countless images of vulnerable monkeys, kangaroos, bears, tigers, lions, pandas and the iconic koala. These animals are only a few amongst many affected by our choices and lifestyles. Australia's wildlife for example, not only have to worry about the constant threat of wildfires but are also forced to worry about their homes being chopped down too.

Deforestation is also linked in with climate change, as trees give us the oxygen that allows us to breath. Climate change is also the result of our actions and lifestyles,

and yet again we as a species are the only solution. What is climate change? Climate change a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced using fossil fuels.

What can we do to prevent climate change from evolving? There, yet again, are a list of simple yet effective changes to our everyday lives we can do. Just to name a few examples, we can: walk or cycle instead of driving, use environmentally friendly products, shop at eco friendly stores, buy foods that are sustainable, recycle etc.

Unfortunately, since we are so far into climate change's wrath, there seems to be no end in sight. Although this might temporarily paralyse our changes and make us feel unmotivated, our actions will have an affect in the long run as we can see from before.

Climate change as well as deforestation go hand in hand with similar solutions, but do we know for sure when they will both end? The answer is no, if we ever get close to fixing these problems we cannot just go back to life as it was before, we must continue to adapt our lives to eco friendlier options.

Even though ordinary people like us can change our choices and ways of living to help mother nature and the environment as a whole. But what are our governments doing? Governments all over the world are listening to climate change activists and taking their advice such as Greta Thunberg, Adenike Oladosu and just to name a few. Countries such as China and the European Union all have carbon taxes. What is carbon tax? Carbon tax is a tax on fossil fuels, especially those used by motor vehicles, intended to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide. Although this is a tax, it shows that our governments are aware on climate change and that we must all come together to become our solution.

However, some countries like the United States of America do not have a carbon tax, but they do make sure that there is a lack of emissions in the trading system.

Unfortunately, as mentioned earlier, deforestation is a factor in climate change's evolution. But once we as a whole change our live styles buy simple and small yet effective choices, then we should stop deforestation and climate change evolving in its tracks.