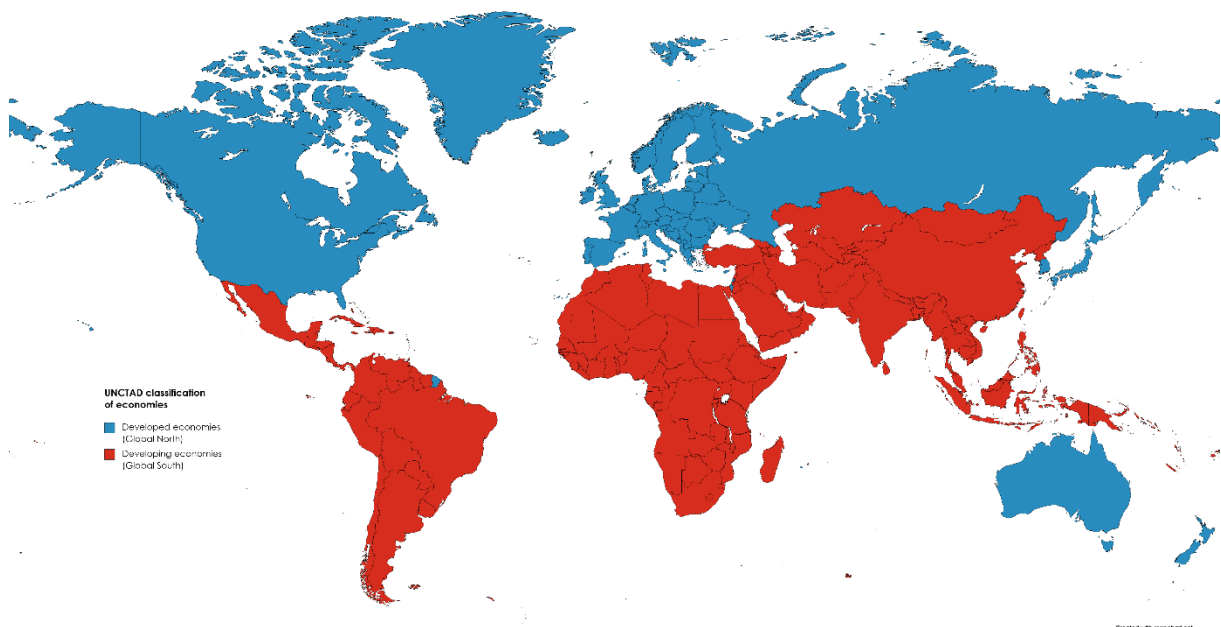


Topic #2: Creating incentives to stop deforestation in the Global South

I. Background information

The whole world is facing consequences resulting from deforestation in the Global South. Even though the process is going on mainly in Latin America, Asia and Africa, the effects spread all around our planet Earth and are mostly a result of human activities. To show some data, during 2015–2020 the scale of deforestation was predicted to be 10 millions hectares per year.



Deforestation is the way for individual people and (supra-national) companies to gain money, but even for countries to aid any problem it is facing from lack of residential area to financial support. These places take a huge amount of space, are filled with valuable resources and we aren't talking only about the Amazon rainforest – often called *the Lungs of the Planet*, but also for example Gran Chaco, an area around Kongo and Southeastern Asia.

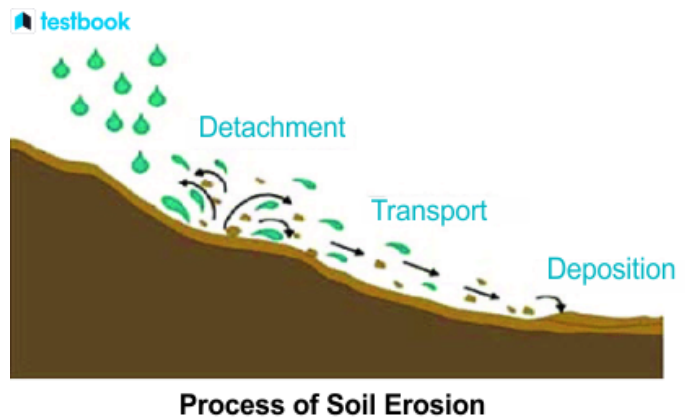
The wood is very valuable of course, but there is often also a deposit of mineral raw materials. And this fact is very tempting to the companies. The main reason for deforestation would, however, be creating/expanding farms and plantations, such as for cocoa, tea, ... To deforest, many different methods are used, more or less dangerous. Some affected countries would like to ban and slow down deforestation, but need to focus on different issues more important to them currently or their economies depend on logging and can't fully work without them. This shows us that the problem is not black and white.

This topic is considered as the second most important reason for climate change, ranging from 10 to 20% of global emissions are results of deforestation. That is because of trees taking up carbon dioxide from the air and releasing it back. And according to The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the Amazon rainforest only, over 10 years worth of greenhouse gases are generated by humans. Let's take a look at some other consequences.

The animals lose their natural habitats and are getting confronted by the human world. The (rain) forests and savannas are also rich in its biodiversity but with ongoing deforestation it is decreasing. That leads to local animals losing their natural habitat and being added to the official international lists of endangered species. And their predators, maybe not directly affected, end up being indirectly added too, because of losing their natural prey. We also shouldn't forget we still have many species both from flora and fauna to explore so we are also losing the ones that we may have not explored yet. It is a full cycle which needs to be stopped.

Soil erosion would be another aspect. The roots system of trees are defending (fertile) soil from destroying effects of water and wind. Without them and other vegetation, soil is exposed to both listed forces. The upper layer is swept away leaving the soil damaged and infertile.

Forests also provide much needed shade for both animals and people with their plantations. The soil dries and heats up unnaturally.

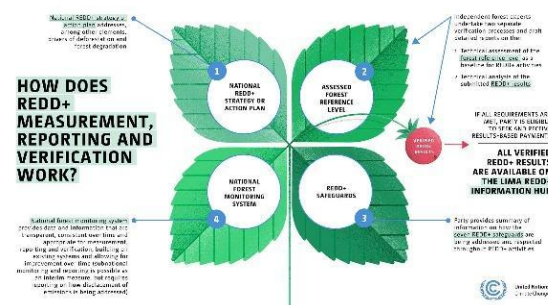


As we can see, the topic discussed can be viewed from different angles, but in every scenario, must be handled and that is what The United Nations are trying to do.

II. United Nations Involvement

Here are examples of how UN tried to contribute to solving the matter. First of all, the **REDD+** (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, „+“ meaning additional supporting activities) program.

It is a mitigation solution supported by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its framework was presented in polish capital Warsaw, showing its financial guidelines for setting the REDD+ events. It is recognized by The Paris Agreement in Article Five. The program tries to decline deforestation by ecological management and support for developing countries to focus on the issue. The process itself can be seen on the picture on the left or i salso accessible to click on in the link below.



The following enumeration are parts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests released in 2021.

The New York Declaration on Forests Global Platform. This Declaration, adopted in 2014, is trying to restore the already damaged forests and prevent in continuation. Its ten goal plan consists of, for example restoring 350 million hectares of affected areas, reducing emissions from deforestation or halting deforestation by 2030.

Another example would be *The Forest and Farm Facility* connects smallholders, small farmers, local communities to international United Nations programs. This action believes in cooperation and transparency between the local, affected people and global heads. It is also part of FAOs agenda.

The Global Landscapes Forum is the biggest global platform on sustainable landscapes. Its purpose is to share information on the issue all over the world and show people how important it is to restore the forests and together reach the goal.

These are just to name a few to show how the United Nation thinks of the issue.

III. Questions to consider

- How is my country affected by deforestation in the Global South?
- What is my country's official stand on the problem?
- Any evidence or statistics to my country's position on the topic?
- Has my country already taken any action to prevent deforestation?
- Are there any companies taking part in the topic residing in my country?
- Is my country making any profit from deforestation?
- How do other countries' stands affect my country's position on the issue?
- Are there UN actions that my country supported or opposed before regarding the topic?

IV. Useful links and Sources

The Reasons why is deforestation happening

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/summer-2018/articles/what-are-the-biggest-drivers-of-tropical-deforestation#:~:text=Beef%20and%20soy%20production%20are.and%20Paraguay's%20Gran%20Chaco%20region>

Assessing Uneven Environmental Improvements (in 1993–2013)

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0731121420908900>

Global South by countries

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/global-south-countries>

Impacts

https://justdigg.it/deforestation/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaQobChMI3u-gn4iqigMVfwsGAB1Y9BdPEAAAYASAAEgKp5fD_BwE

Example of public organisations: Rainforest trust organisation

https://www.rainforesttrust.org/our-impact/rainforest-news/devastating-truths-of-deforestation-and-how-you-can-help/?utm_source=google-grant-uk&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=our-impact-uk&utm_term=rainforest%20deforestation&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaQobChMIoPDdh4yqigMVOZmDBx3OuA3EEAAYAiAAEgIRq_D_BwE

Source of picture describing soil erosion process

<https://blogmedia.testbook.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/process-of-soil-erosion-5c51db5e.png>

Source of the Global South picture

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/61/UNCTADclassificationofeconomies.png>

The UN Environmental Program

<https://www.unep.org/>

About REDD+

https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/redd/what-is-redd?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaQobChMI6-Hsv5aqigMV_GxBAh2wdwxZEAAYASAAEgJAp_D_BwE

The Initiatives

<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CPF-brochure-COP26-flagship-initiatives.pdf>

The New York Declaration on Forest

https://unfccc.int/news/call-to-endorse-new-york-declaration-on-forests?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaQobChMIlfWCwZyqigMVtJODBx35BQ8XEAAAYASAAEgJcX_D_BwE

<https://forestdeclaration.org/about/new-york-declaration-on-forests/>

The Farm and Facility

<https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/>

The Global Landscapes Program

<https://www.globallandscapesforum.org/>