Tiffany Chen 12/16/14

700 ELA

“No Trees, No Life”

Can you imagine life without trees? No paper, no wood - nothing. The world just wouldn’t be the same without trees. Deforestation is an issue we need to pay attention to. It’s happening internationally, and at a very fast rate. Deforestation is harmful to the planet because animals are at risk. More than half of the world’s animals live in the forests, so the loss of trees will affect animals too. Also, deforestation changes our climate: Irregular weather patterns, unexpected natural disasters, and so on. Lastly, if deforestation continues, it will lead to future problems. We won’t be able to imagine ourselves living on this planet anymore. Deforestation is harmful to the planet and we need to put an end to it.

Deforestation is harmful to the planet because animals are at risk. Mountain gorillas are on the brink of extinction due to deforestation. According to the book *Resources and Conservation* by Michael Chinery, it states, “The mountain gorilla… lies in the mountain forests of Central Africa, where it is threatened with extinction…” This quote shows how the Mountain gorillas are changing stages endangered to extinction. Mountain gorillas are not only being threatened by deforestation, but by war too. Trees have been cut down for refugees during war, and it is a major contributor to the extinction of mountain gorillas. There are less than 600 mountain gorillas worldwide because their habitat is being destroyed. Also, the tiger population has changed due to the recent loss of trees. There are only 3,200 tigers left in the world, and this is because of deforestation. Deforestation has decreased the tiger population drastically. According to the website, “TigersinCrisis.com” it states that in 1990, deforestation got so extreme, there was a decline of nearly 100,000 tigers. Because of this situation, the tiger population has been unsteady ever since. Deforestation not only puts animals at risk, but it can also alter their population drastically.

Another reason why deforestation is harmful to the planet is because deforestation changes our climate. Global warming is another big issue that we need to pay attention to, and that evolved from deforestation. According to the book *Resources and Conservation* by Michael Chinery, trees soak up carbon dioxide from machines used to chop down trees. Scientists have shown that the decrease of trees have increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. This can disturb the icecaps, and cause irregular weather in our climate to form. This is already causing our climate to warm up. Also, if deforestation continues at this rate, it will bring floods and droughts throughout the world. The rain that falls in the forest is quickly soaked up by the trees. The loss of trees would allow the water to wash the soil into the river, creating floods along the way. This is happening to parts of the world already. While there are floods, there are also droughts. The heat trapped in the forests will alter the air circulation, changing the climate. There would be less rain close to the equator, and more in the Caribbean. This makes places like America and Europe drier. Not only does deforestation change the climate, but it will affect the way we live.

Lastly, deforestation is harmful to the planet because it will lead to future problems. Forests have helped people survive for years, and people rely of it for its resources. They use leaves to make covers, branches to create fires and keep warm. The people who live near forests know how to cut down trees, but not destroy the whole thing. However, many people are chopping down extra wood that don’t need to be cut down. The amount of trees that are being cut down will lead a lot of trees to extinction. It is estimated that 3531 million cubic feet (100 million cubic meters) are being cut down from forests each year. At this speed, more than 20% of the different tree species have become extinct. Not only has this problem been affecting trees/plants, it’s affecting everything around it. Also, this will lead to agricultural problems. Soil helps trees keep their moisture, leaving the trees healthy. If the tree population keeps going down, the soil around the trees will erode, and become unusable. It’ll become harder to grow crops, and is predicted for more crop failures in the future. This’ll affect how we eat, and what we eat. If deforestation continues like this, then forests won’t be able to provide help to anyone, anymore.

Some may say that cutting down trees is good for us humans because it will improve our society economically. Cutting down trees can help people make a living out of wood chopping. It is estimated that 30% of the people living in America don’t have jobs. This can provide jobs to hundreds worldwide. Also, trees allow us to make paper, pencils, wood, etc. Companies can sell these items, and improve the economy. Overall, trees provide jobs and supplies, which improve our society, economically.

Trees do help us with our economic lives; however, cutting down too much is too bad for the environment. Around 34.6 million acres of land is being cut down yearly. That’s getting too extreme too quickly. Instead of getting these jobs, people can get jobs such as foresters, or workers at national parks. This’ll help the fact that people don’t have jobs. Foresters know how to cut down trees, but also know how to save it. This can improve our economy by using the “just-right” amount, instead of more than we need to like we currently are. It’ll still feel the same, but not as many trees will be gone. Overall, preserving trees will still help our economy grow.

In conclusion, deforestation is harmful to the planet. Animals are at risk, our climate is changing. Lastly, deforestation will lead to future problems. Deforestation is a worldwide problem we need to put an end to. We can help by recycling and reusing to reduce the amount of cutting. We can join organizations to raise awareness of this problem too. Lastly, we can help by planting trees. Do you really want our trees and forests to go extinct? If so, will there even be a future to look at?

Sources:

* TigersinCrisis.com
* Rainforestconcern.org
* Worldwildlife.org
* *Secret of the Forests: Resources and Conservation* by Michael Chinery
* Onegreenplanet.org
* Treehuger.com