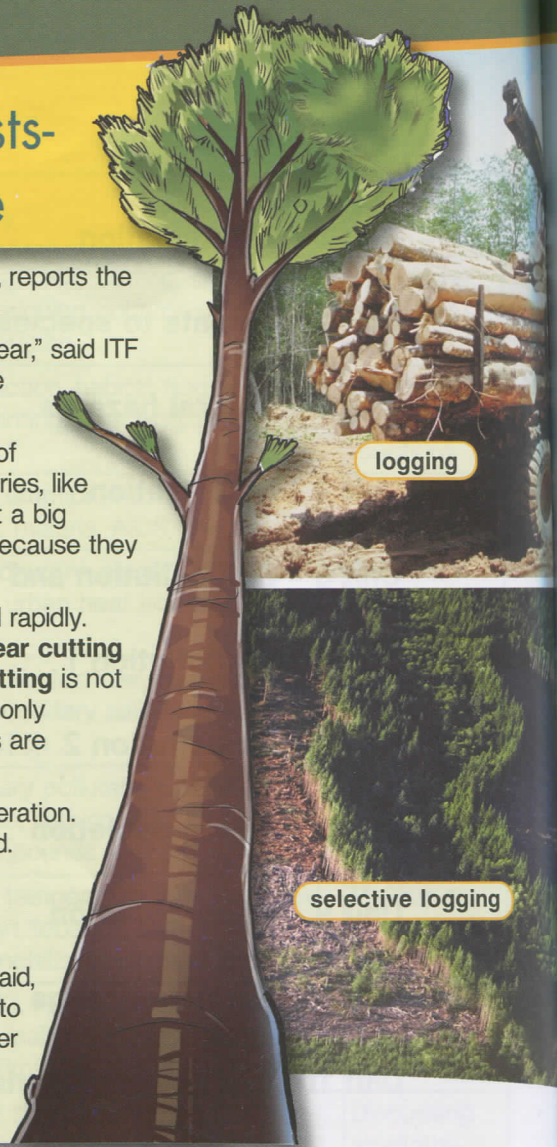


## Destroying Our Forests- One Tree at a Time



developing country



forest fire



tree plantation



old-growth forest



**Deforestation** continues to be a worldwide problem, reports the International Tree Foundation.

“Over 78 million acres of trees are cut down every year,” said ITF representative Melissa Franks. “That’s bigger than the country of Poland!”

Deforestation is worst in the **developing countries** of Latin America and Africa. However, developed countries, like the U.S. and China, are not guilt-free. “**Logging** is not a big problem in those countries,” Franks said, “but that’s because they get much of their wood from other places.”

The world’s **old-growth forests** are being destroyed rapidly. This is due to poorly managed logging practices. **Clear cutting** can wipe out a forest in just days. And **selective cutting** is not much better. “People think it’s less destructive since only specific trees are cut down. However, leftover plants are harmed in the process,” Franks said.

**Strip cutting** is the best method. It allows for regeneration. “Even **tree plantations** are preferable,” Franks added. “They are less harmful, but still profitable.”

The ITF says that **forest fires** are another problem. **Surface fires** generally do not destroy mature trees. However, **crown fires** destroy entire forests. Franks said, “Since global warming is getting worse, we are going to see more crown fires. Conditions are just too dry.” After a forest fire has ended, it may be necessary to plant a **second-growth forest** in its place.

logging

selective logging

### Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What type of logging targets certain trees but not others?
- 2 In what type of countries does most logging take place?

### Reading

2 Read the newspaper article. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 \_\_\_ Developing countries often get wood from the U.S. and China.
- 2 \_\_\_ Selective cutting damages plants left in the ground.
- 3 \_\_\_ Crown fires will be more frequent because of global warming.

### Vocabulary

3 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- 1 The trees in this area were destroyed by a fire that burnt the vegetation at the canopy.  
\_ \_ o \_ \_ \_ \_ r e
- 2 Less than 10% of the world’s forests are forests that have been growing for hundreds or thousands of years.  
\_ \_ d \_ \_ r \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ e \_ t s
- 3 This area where trees are cut down and then replanted grows and sells Douglas Firs.  
\_ r \_ \_ \_ l \_ n t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4 Agriculture is often the main source of income in places that are not highly industrialized.  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ o p \_ \_ g c \_ \_ \_ \_ r \_ \_ s
- 5 Illegal cutting and selling of wood from trees is a big problem in Brazil. \_ o \_ \_ \_ n \_
- 6 The process of removing many trees all at once ruins animals’ natural habitats.  
\_ \_ e \_ r \_ u \_ t \_ \_ \_

4 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- 1 \_\_\_ deforestation
- 2 \_\_\_ forest fire
- 3 \_\_\_ surface fire
- 4 \_\_\_ strip cutting
- 5 \_\_\_ selective cutting
- 6 \_\_\_ second-growth forest

- A cutting down a small number of fully grown trees
- B any fire that is started in a forest by human or natural causes
- C a forest that has had a major disturbance but is growing back
- D a fire that destroys plants near the ground level of a forest
- E a process in which many trees are cut down, but not replaced
- F cutting down a narrow area of trees and allowing more to grow before cutting again

5 Listen and read the article again. What kind of forest fire is the most serious?

## Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between two environmental scientists. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the conversation mainly about?
  - A causes of recent forest fires
  - B a decline in the rate of deforestation
  - C the increase in clear cutting operations
  - D the costs of tree plantations
- 2 Which of the following is the man most concerned about?
  - A illegal logging operations
  - B clear cutting operations
  - C tree plantations
  - D forest fires

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Env. Scientist 1: Have you seen this report?

Env. Scientist 2: The one on the 1 \_\_\_\_\_?

Env. Scientist 1: Yes. That's the one. It's very 2 \_\_\_\_\_.

Env. Scientist 2: What does it say?

Env. Scientist 1: It says deforestation 3 \_\_\_\_\_ in the last year.

Env. Scientist 2: Wow! That is good news. It helps that there has been more 4 \_\_\_\_\_ of logging.

Env. Scientist 1: Yeah. They've been monitoring the forests 5 \_\_\_\_\_, looking for illegal logging operations.

Env. Scientist 2: That's really great, but land management practices aren't 6 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

*Have you seen this report?*

*On the one hand/On the other hand ...*

*What worries me ...*

**Student A:** You are an environmental scientist. Talk to Student B about:

- the current deforestation rate in the area
- the improvements that have been made
- the problems that still exist

**Student B:** You are an environmental scientist. Talk to Student A about your concerns about deforestation.

## Writing

9 Use the newspaper article and the conversation from Task 8 to write an article about deforestation. Include: statistics about deforestation rates, how land management is improving, and what problems still need to be addressed.