

Agricultural to 80% of  
current deforestation  
rates. there

[Business](#), [Industries](#)



**Agricultural Expansion** One of the major cause of deforestation is the conversion of forest into agricultural activities. Due to overincreasing demand for commodities, such as soybeans and palm oil, huge amount of trees are being cleared to grow such crops. For example, palm oil which is an ingredient that are highly prized consumed from food to cosmetics and even heralded as a biofuel. So, oil palm growers had cleared massive swaths of natural forests to make room for oil palm plantation.

According to the WorldWatch Institute, Malaysia which is the world's largest producer of palm oil until 2006 has led deforestation to skyrocket due to rapid expansion of oil palm plantation. Logging involves legal and illegal logging which occur around the world. Illegal logging includes harvesting timber, transporting, purchasing or selling of timbers in violation of law. Especially wood based industry has a higher demand for timbers for making their commercial items such as matchsticks, papers and furniture. Also, wood is being used for fuel. Therefore, some of the industries will thrive on illegal wood cutting to meet the demands. It was reported that half of the forest trees were illegally removed for fuel.

**Livestock Ranching** Another driving force behind this deforestation is livestock ranching. Cattle ranching is common in every Amazon country, amounting to 80% of current deforestation rates. There are estimate 200 million head of cattle ranching in Amazon Brazil, one of the largest cattle exporter in the world.

Because of the low investment in which grass is already growing, easy transportation and high returns, ranching has become an appealing economic

operation in the forest frontier. Farmer, nowadays, uses slash and burn techniques to clear land in order to provide pasture for livestock. Mining Important resources such as gold, copper, diamonds and other precious metal are found in the rainforest in the world. As such, private mining sector and governments start to mine, resulting in deforestation. This is because, in order to mine, trees and vegetation are to be cleared and burned. With the ground completely bare, then can metals and minerals be extracted from the soil. Often, this project is accompanied by large infrastructure construction, such as road, railways and power systems which further contribute to deforestation. Mining happens in many places around the world and is very active in Amazonia region, Guyana, Suriname and other South American countries.

Even Indonesia and other S. E. Asian countries are heavily involved in mining. Urbanization Due to overpopulation, there is a rapid increase in global needs leading to expansion of cities.

As a result, forest land again has to be cleared to establish more settlements and housings. Apart from it, countless trees are chopped to construct roads and highways so as to make way for urbanization. The road expansion usually leads to logging and illegal logging which further lead to deforestation.