

## Recitation C

### Deforestation

Deforestation is an environmental issue that happens all over the world. It is the destruction of forests in order to make the land available for other uses or simply to extract timber. Agriculture and urbanization play an important role in deforestation as most of land clearing occurs because of them.

Cutting down forests has many negative effects on the environment. The most dramatic impact is the loss of habitat for millions of species. Seventy percent of Earth's land animals and plants live in forests. With the loss of habitat, many species end up isolated without enough food and shelter to sustain their existence and many become extinct.

Another side effect of deforestation is climate change. Many environmentalists believe that deforestation is also directly connected to global warming. One technique used to clear a forested area is called "slash and burn", where the trees and plants are cut down and burned. In addition, with the reduction of forests, not only is the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the atmosphere reduced, but also the CO<sub>2</sub> retained by the trees is released into the atmosphere. In fact, the process of deforestation releases as much CO<sub>2</sub> into our atmosphere as all the cars, trucks, and buses on our planet.

More than serving as home to animal life and cleaning our air, forests are essential to secure a stable and adequate food supply for our growing population, protect the soil against erosion and drought, and allow for sustainable agriculture.

One of the proposed solutions to deforestation is reforestation. Still, only planting trees is not enough to rebuild a forest. As with many other environmental issues, a huge effort is necessary to alleviate the damage that has already been done by deforestation all over the world.

(290 words)