

## Illegal deforestation obliterates forests and jungles

95 percent of the deforestation in the country is surrounded by illegality as it is related to the use of wood for commercial purposes. Only in 2020, we lost more than 127 million hectares of forests

Deforestation and degradation of soil conditions are the main reasons why we lose natural patrimony in Mexico. However, in the report delivered by SEMARNAT it was revealed that the deforestation processes that caused the biggest impact were the ones related to commercial farming activities.



Last year, Mexico lost more than 127 million hectares of forests, which is an alarming number in matters of environmental care. For this reason, the country is ranked in the first positions in the list of countries with the highest rates of deforestation, according to reports made by the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR).

According to the track records in that department; in 2010 and 2015, 91 thousand 600 hectares got lost, while in 2018 the annual rate of deforestation was 166 thousand 337 hectares. Nevertheless, the year with the highest rate of deforestation was 2016 with 350 thousand 298 hectares. Such a loss of natural patrimony was mainly caused by deforestation and degradation of soils, the report reveals.

Year	Hectares lost
2010 and 2015	91 thousand 600
2016	350 thousand 298
2018	166 thousand 337

## Illegal logging

That department mentioned that 95 percent of deforestation in Mexico is illegal and criminal groups are in charge of that activity in states like Oaxaca, Guerrero, State of Mexico, Durango, Sinaloa, Querétaro, and in the north side of Veracruz.

Illegal extractions and the illegal activities regarding forest raw materials, particularly wood, have commercial purposes. It is important to mention that the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) allows the use of only 12 or 13 thousand hectares every year.

### Interesting fact



95 percent of deforestation in Mexico is illegal and it is developed by criminal groups.

On the other hand, forest pests are an important factor and one of the main causes of degradation and loss of ecosystems. Over the last decade, affectations took place in approximately 99 thousand 968 hectares, as revealed by the Special Program related to the SEMARNAT National Development Plan 2019 - 2024.

Meanwhile, the deforestation processes with the biggest impact are the ones related to profitable commercial farming activities like: growing avocados, palm oil, soy, and also the production of meat; as mentioned in that special program.

Additionally, it was mentioned that meat production is one of the activities with the highest impact, but it causes minimal affectations on deforested areas. Activities like mining, tourist development projects, real estate projects, and cultivation of illegal drugs are also considered an affectation to ecosystems.

## Climate change

Due to climate change, forest fires became more frequent and severe. Between 2009 and 2018, 7 thousand 871 forest fires took place every year, which affected 385,815 hectares.

Nevertheless, that report states that in the years 2017, 2019, and 2019; those phenomena occurred more frequently, which jeopardized flora and fauna.

We must remember that Mexico is considered one of the 12 megadiverse countries as it hosts 70% of terrestrial flora and fauna around the world.

In almost 70 percent of the territory, that is to say in 137.8 million hectares, it is possible to find specific kinds of forest covers, SEMARNAT mentioned. 41 percent of it hosts xerophilous scrubs, ecosystems with temperate forests are located in 25 percent of it, jungles in 22 percent, and other ecosystems in 1 percent.

More than 11.04 million people live in forest areas, however, they live in conditions of poverty and marginalization. To be precise, 35.6 percent; which means a third of those people; are indigenous people and they live in extreme poverty, as mentioned in the report developed by the Center of Social Studies and Public Opinion in the Deputies Chamber.

## CMT successful case



CMT pretends to add value to agricultural and forestry production, through the mechanism called "Supportive Contribution".

## Public participation

Society does not react to face the serious problems in the environment; such as deforestation and illegal logging. We lack the culture to prevent, manage, and protect ecosystems; as mentioned on the Special Program related to the National Development plan 2019 - 2024.

In those matters, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) started the promotion of its networks related to Water, Energy, and Environment; which are part of the Welfare Ecosystem Model and also have diverse and multiple purposes. On one hand, they encourage collecting, adequate use, and sanitation of water resources in order to avoid exploitation of forests and jungles as they are the main "water producers", and therefore, they prevent pollution of rivers, seas, and water tables.

In the network of Energy, efficient actions are made to encourage the inclusion and use of technologies to avoid the use of fossil fuels, which cause excessive pollution, and they also encourage logging because wood is used as domestic and semi-industrial fuel.

In the network of environment, through the mechanism called "supportive contribution", CMT pretends to add value to agricultural and forestry production so that producers could improve their production processes. Additionally, it prevents the implementation of methods that harm their environment, and that might also cause severe damage to the whole ecosystem, the flora and the fauna in those areas.

We should reflect on our actions because we all are responsible for the preservation of the environment we live in, the protection of species and human beings. We all should understand that If we cause damage to ecosystems, we directly affect humankind.