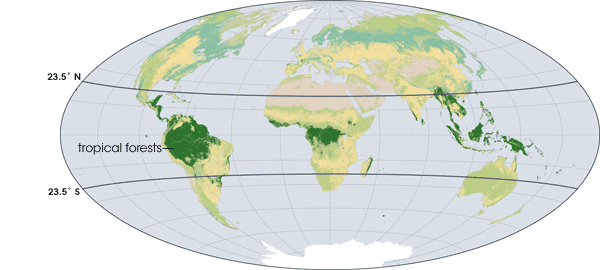
 Loss of Tropical Rainforests

**Why:**

* **Logging**   
  Commercial logging is the major cause of primary rainforest destruction in South East Asia and Africa. World wide, it is responsible for the destruction of 5 million ha. per year. Logging roads enable landless people to enter the forest. In Africa, 75% of land being cleared by peasant farmers is land that has been previously logged.
* **Cattle Ranching**   
  Ranching is a major cause of deforestation, particularly in Central and South America. In Central America, two-thirds of lowland tropical forests have been turned into pasture since 1950.
* **Hydroelectric Power**   
  An unlimited supply of water and ideal river conditions have led to the development of hydro electric power stations (HEP Stations).
* **Farming**   
  There are nearly 3 million landless people in Brazil alone. The government has cleared large areas of the Amazon Rainforest and encouraged people to move there. The scheme has not been successful. Farmers stay on the same land and attempt to farm it year after year. Nutrients in the soil are quickly exhausted as there is no longer a humus layer to provide nutrients. The soil becomes infertile and nothing will grow.
* **Mining**   
  The mining of iron ore, bauxite, gold, oil and other minerals have benefited many LEDCs. However, it has also devastated large areas of rainforest

**Where:**

Tropical rainforests are located around the equator where temperatures stay near 80 degrees year round. The largest rainforests are in Brazil (South America), Zaire (Africa) and Indonesia (South East Asia).

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**How much:**

Rainforests once covered 14% of the earth's land surface; now they cover a mere 6% and experts estimate that the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years.

One and one-half acres of rainforest are lost every second.

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