

**FACT!**

In Brazil alone, European colonists have destroyed more than 90 indigenous tribes since the 1900's. With them, centuries of accumulated knowledge about medicinal values of these rainforests have too disappeared. As their homelands continue to be destroyed by deforestation, rainforest peoples are also disappearing.

**Why is it so bad?**

* 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**.
* **Nearly half** of the world's species of plants, animals and micro organisms will be destroyed or severely threatened over the next quarter century due to rainforest deforestation.
* Experts estimate that we are losing **137 plant, animal and insect species every single day** due to rainforest deforestation. That equates to **50,000 species a year.**
* Most medicine men and shamans remaining in the Rainforests today are 70 years old or more. Each time a rainforest medicine man dies, it is as if a library has burned down. When a medicine man dies without passing his arts on to the next generation, the tribe and **the world loses thousands of years** of **irreplaceable knowledge about medicinal plants**.