



## DEFORESTATION

### 1.

#### Deforestation is permanent forest loss.

Deforestation is the clearing of forests to make way for non-forest land uses, such as urban development or agriculture. It is different from temporary forest cover loss from things like harvesting, insect outbreaks or forest fires, where the forest will grow back. Deforestation is serious because it reduces biodiversity and wildlife habitat, affects water and soil quality, and has an influence on climate change.

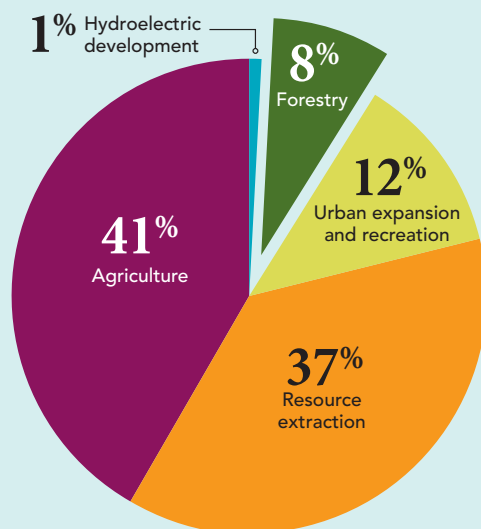
### 2.

#### Deforestation in Canada is tiny.

Canada's 348 million hectares of forest lands represent about 9% of the world's forests, but contribute just 0.3% to deforestation globally. In 2010, about 46,000 hectares of Canadian forest were converted to another land use. **Annually, this represents less than 0.02% of Canada's forest land.**

## Five things you need to know about deforestation in Canada.

Of the less than 0.02% of Canada's forests lost to deforestation each year, these are the causes:



### 5.

#### Forestry isn't a top cause.

In 2010, forestry was responsible for about 8% of Canada's deforested area, primarily through the creation of forestry roads. Harvesting does not cause deforestation, as trees are required to be regenerated after harvest. Clearing forests for agricultural use accounted for 41% of deforestation in Canada in 2010. The remaining causes of deforestation in Canada are resource extraction (37%), urban expansion and recreation (12%), and hydroelectric development (1%).

### 3.

#### Canada monitors deforestation closely.

Natural Resources Canada–Canadian Forest Service (NRCan–CFS) tracks what is happening to Canada's forests, using a combination of satellite data, aerial photos and other information. NRCan–CFS tracks where and when deforestation has occurred and the causes of land-use change, such as urban development, agriculture or resource extraction.

### 4.

#### Deforestation rates in Canada are declining.

Over the past 20 years, annual deforestation rates in Canada have declined, dropping from 64,000 hectares in 1990 to about 46,000 hectares in 2010. Since 1990, about 0.33% of Canada's total forest area has been converted to other land uses. Governments and industry are trying to better understand and reduce deforestation in Canada by planning land uses over an entire landscape and encouraging different land users to work together.