

- Clearing of forests for agriculture or buildings; cleared areas may be mined for mineral ores; timber obtained may be used for paper, charcoal, furniture, building material
- Reduces transpiration, rainfall, humidity
 - Increases risk of fire
- Increases velocity of rain reaching the soil
 - Soil erosion / leaching of ions
- Reduces biodiversity
 - More extreme environment / abiotic factors increase / unstable ecosystem
 - Change in (micro)climate / levels of light / temp / humidity
 - Loss of niches/habitats and complex food webs
 - Animals move away/higher death rate/extinction
- Lower biomass and productivity per hectare

Effect on Nitrogen Cycle

- Growth in human population is increasing the demand for agriculture
 - for land for farming
 - for grazing land to provide animal protein
- Many decomposing fungi live in association with roots of trees
 - Less NH_4^+ can be absorbed by plants from decomposition
 - The soil itself is often a poor source of mineral ions
 - Thus, reduced input in the nitrogen cycle; slower and less recycling of NH_4^+
- Nitrogen in soil is lost as smoke but ash is still rich in nutrients for crops
 - Yield falls with subsequent crops
 - Crops are harvested before they die/decompose
 - Nitrogen is not recycled and not returned to the soil
 - Fertilisers (NO_3 , NH_4^+) make up that loss
 - Ions from fertiliser readily leach out of the soil by rain into lakes and rivers
 - Increases growth of algae and water plants
- [EXAM] Ploughing increases the activity of nitrifying bacteria in the soil
 - Oxygen enters the soil
 - Nitrifying bacteria are aerobic
 - Convert ammonia/ammonium ions to nitrite, nitrite to nitrate