The tropical rainforest are the oldest and richest natural habitats in the world. They cover only about 6 percent of the Earth's surface, but are home to more than half of animal and plant species.

The tropical rainforest used to cover more than twice more area than now. Their destruction has accelerated mainly in the last 40 years and has become alarming. In 1976, experts estimated the size of the rainforest disappearing at 57,000 km2. By 1990, this process became so large that the annual drop already reached 142,000 km2.

We'll throw away a biological treasury. Scientists are also concerned because the shrinkage of tropical rainforests can accelerate the climate change on our planet. For example, afforestation contributes to an increase in the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere, thereby increasing the greenhouse effect of global warming.

A few thousands of years ago, while mankind did not begin to transform the landscape, 40% of the Earth's land was a forested, green area, which has now halved.

One of the main causes of deforestation is the large-scale exploitation of valuable tropical wood species such as the Mahogany and Teak. Timber harvesting uses more powerful machines, making wrecking more and more ruthless. Lumbermen are followed by landless peasants who burn huge forest areas. The mining contractors stow the forests with openwork. Some build dams and reservoirs to generate electricity. In addition, there are those who want to get a livestock farming area. They are cutting down the trees so as to graze cattle and get cheap beef.

Evolutionary effects of rain forest destruction

Researchers believe that the process can be accelerated by the decline in the number of large birds in the forests that feed on the fruits of the trees and help to disperse the seeds. Fruit-bearing toucans and quails played a major role in the dispersal of seeds. But as the rainforest area has been reduced, these birds disappeared, and only small birds stayed like thrushes.

The consequences of deforestation

As the forest is a highly complex ecological system, its disappearance will result in the extinction of many animal and plant species. Unnecessary, irresponsible rainforest has several serious consequences. After removing the natural vegetation cover from the soil that remains uncovered, heavy rain will wash off the nutrients, making it soon infertile. The abundant precipitation also causes severe soil erosion. Rainwater, which is no longer absorbed by plants, spills the surface, causing floods and landslides.

Rainforest protection:

Until these days, 145,000 square kilometres of land have been declared a national park, ecological centre, or biological reserve, and it is under strict protection.

If there is no change, after half a century, the rainforests can disappear from the Earth!