

# Reforestation & Deforestation

**Sao Paulo dehydrates; the city/state suffers because of a water crisis. What about deforestation?**

Members of the LinkedIn discussion group '[Sao Paulo is running out of water](#)', come from all over the world. They all have large networks and want specialized people in their network to get involved in order to get more knowledge, power and world wide support and tackle this world issue of increasing dehydration.

**Sergio Correa de Jesus**  
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## **Deforestation**

São Paulo was once known (and friendly nicknamed in Portuguese) as "drizzle land". Moisture reaching the plateau where it is situated (about 760 meters above sea level) never failed raise from the Atlantic which is about 70 km down to the coast. This is no longer the case.

**Maria Alice van  
Genne-Bogado  
Fernandes**

Although we must invest in better technologies to improve the use of water in our cities, what's happening is Brazil has its roots in a much more complex system. Do have a look in [this TED talk](#)

Deforestation is asking its share. Many rivers that gave the needed water supply had almost vanished thanks to the deforestation. It is amazing that nobody proposes sound measures to reverse this situation. People talk about the decreasing of the deforestation process, although this year it has increased. Scientists know the benefits of forests. Still, deforestation continues; the burning of the vegetation takes place each year, preventing natural regeneration of the forests; dams and rivers get more and more silted; springs run dry (see what happened with the water springs of São Francisco River. They ran dry for the first time in history, this year!) New technologies must be used, of course, but on the long run, they won't solve the problem. They will only help us to last a little longer.

## **Natural regeneration of the rain forest – avoid fire**

It doesn't take very long to have a forest where we had one before. You don't even need to plant it. Natural regeneration would do the work. It is amazing how fast this can happen. **But there is a huge problem: fire!**

Keep the fire away, allow the natural coming back of the vegetation and you will have in a very short time the forest back. Not with the same amount

of species (the same flora and, of course, the same fauna) but enough to prevent the continuation of soil erosion. The rain will also stay longer in the soil underneath and it will flow gently to the rivers. The whole year!

Of course you can speed the return of the forest. There are many techniques for this. But **the cheapest of them all is to avoid the systematic burning**. Fire is usually made to renew the already extra poor pasture, to feed some cattle; or it is made by people who wants to have fun; or it is the result of careless behavior from people (cigarettes, etc.). I wish all the land that it is not in use, in Brazil, could be saved from fire. What a fantastic recovering for our previous forest area!!