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# COFFEE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

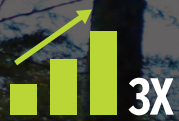
The growing demand for coffee will require the coffee industry to increase its production by as much as a factor of three by mid century. In doing so, however, coffee production could become a more significant driver of deforestation in the future. Many forests today will be prime regions for coffee cultivation tomorrow. To keep up with demand, coffee production could threaten some of the last remaining intact forest areas, which would impact the services these forests provide, including carbon storage and the provision of fresh water and wildlife habitat.

The coffee industry will need to produce between 4 million and 14 million additional tons of coffee per year to meet demand by 2050. Unless growers can significantly increase coffee productivity per hectare, the industry will need to double the area under coffee production by 2050. During this same period, climate



Conservation International Report Summary  
**WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCREASED DEMAND LEAD TO NEW DEFORESTATION?**





Coffee producers will have to triple their production by 2050 to meet demand



At current productivity levels, an area four times the size as Costa Rica would be needed for coffee production



60% of the area suitable to grow coffee in 2050 is covered by forest



The Andes, Central America and Southeast Asia are at the highest risk of deforestation from coffee production



change is predicted to create conditions where half of the land currently suitable for growing coffee becomes unsuitable.

Currently, less than 2% of the land suitable for coffee farming is used to produce coffee, which suggests that there is more than enough land available to meet future demand. Climate change, however, will shift prime production geographies, which will impact current coffee producers and potentially cause them to migrate production to areas currently covered by forest. Tropical forests currently cover 60% of the landscapes that have climate amenable to coffee plantations. This value, which is relative, is expected to remain approximately the same, even as coffee-producing geographies shift in elevation and latitude, and become smaller in overall area.

The challenge over the next 35 years will be to achieve our goal of zero net deforestation while satisfying increasing demand from coffee consumers, even though the area suitable for coffee cultivation will shrink in size and be displaced by climate change. “Coffee in the Twenty-First Century” serves to guide investments to ensure the protection of critical forest habitats that may be threatened by coffee production as it reacts to climate change. Regions of particular concern are the Andes, Central America and Southeast Asia. To avoid deforestation, the coffee sector need to increase productivity on existing coffee lands and provide farmers with incentives so they benefit from conservation initiatives that protect forest in shared and sustainable landscapes.

Find out more at [conservation.org/coffeereport](https://www.conservation.org/coffeereport)

