

More trees now in US than 100 years ago

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The United States of America has seen a recent boom in [forest and tree numbers](#), according to new figures released by the [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO), which is a huge positive step in repairing the decimation of the country which took place over the last few centuries.

In the timeframe preceding the [17th Century](#), before large scale industrialization and logging were brought into effect, the United States of America boasted a rich and diverse landscape, which was [largely covered in forests](#). [Forests and man](#) learned to co-exist, but a great deal of damage was done.

This new report, however, offers a ray of hope amongst what was, up until recently, a very bleak situation.

“Forest growth nationally has exceeded harvest since the 1940s. By 1997, forest growth exceeded harvest by 42 percent and the volume of forest growth was 380 percent greater than it had been in 1920.”

[Starre Vartan](#), writing for [Mother Nature Network](#), stated in an archive feature relating to the findings:

This is great news for those who care about the environment because trees store CO₂, produce oxygen – which is necessary for all life on Earth – remove toxins from the air, and create habitat for animals, insects and more basic forms of life. Well-managed forest plantations like those overseen by the Forest Stewardship Council also furnish us with wood, a renewable material that can be used for building, furniture, paper products and more, and all of which are biodegradable at the end of their lifecycle.

The increase in trees is due to a number of factors, including conservation and preservation of national parks, responsible tree growing within plantations – which have been planting more trees than they harvest – and the movement of the majority of the population from rural areas to more densely populated areas, such as cities and suburbs.

Tree planting efforts begun in the 1950s are paying off and there is more public awareness about the importance of trees and forests. Finally, 63 percent of the forest land in the United States is privately owned, and many landowners are leaving their land intact instead of using it for agriculture or logging (at least partially because many of these activities have shifted overseas).

An additional study, carried out by the [Forest Inventory and National Analysis Program](#) gives a statistical breakdown of the current forestry figures, in an investigative report spanning over 200 years.

In any case, it's looking positive for the future of America's Forests and its future generations.

